

## **2. The story is started by Yannis, Penny, Aella, Eleni P., Angie (Greece)**

It was a warm April morning when Nikolaos Komninos set out to go to work. The sun was shining and the birds were singing. It was spring so there were beautiful, colourful flowers everywhere. Nikolaos Komninos was the best jeweller. His jewels were the most expensive and everyone loved them.

He was walking and thinking. He was so excited! Only a few days earlier the Emperor had ordered him to make new crowns for him and his wife. He used to walk through the streets of Constantinople to go to work.

As always, he went to the port, where his shop was. He had built it there because he liked watching the ships come and go. He was a little nervous about the crowns, but also happy because the king had trusted him with something so important.

However, when he reached his workshop, he saw a huge crowd outside. Worried, he ran towards the shop and tried to elbow his way through the crowd to see what was happening.

When he finally managed to push his way through, an unpleasant surprise was waiting for him and the first things he saw were the shop windows and the door, which had been broken by thieves. All the shelves were empty!

He did not know what to do! But his problem became worse! The thieves had found and stolen the gold that Nikolaos would use to make the crowns for the Emperor and his wife! This was a real disaster! He felt upset and could not decide how to handle the situation, but he decided to visit the castle and explain everything to the Emperor.

As he was walking through the old streets of his beloved city, he knew that they would probably punish him and they might even send him away. For this reason, he went to his house first, he explained everything to his wife, and then they said goodbye. After that, he tried to be calm and he continued his way to the castle.

On his way to the castle, he passed through the market of Constantinople. It was one of the biggest in the world those days. He thought that a walk there would help him relax. So he went in. Many merchants sold their products there. While walking around, trying to keep his mind busy with what he saw, he noticed a merchant selling some shining stones.

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### **The story is continued by Sanita, Monta and Signe (Latvia)**

He walked forward and thought about what he could do, because he was afraid of the Emperor's reaction. Nikolaos Komninos knew that if he did not make crowns, the Emperor and his wife would be mad and might send him and his family out of the country. Then he remembered shiny Livonian stones, "amber", and he thought, what if he went to the castle and told his story to the Emperor, and mentioned amber, which was much cheaper than gold but looked just as great as gold would.

Jeweller went in the castle, but the Emperor and his wife were not very happy for the news, however, they understood that it was not his fault and they let him make crowns from ambers, but just with the jeweller's own money. Nikolaos did not know where to get money, because all the money Nikolaos made came from selling jewellery, but now all of that was stolen and broken.

When people in the city heard about Nikolaos Komnino's big disaster, they decided to help him because everyone loved the jeweller. Nikolaos did not receive much but was thankful for every coin he got.

A few weeks went by but Nikolaos did not know where he could get amber for the crowns. He had spoken to many people who travelled to different countries but none of them went to Livonia. One day the man sat down, took a sheet of paper, and started writing a letter where he wrote that he would send some money along the letter and in return, he wanted to receive amber.

After that was done, the man took the letter to a local sailor but he knew that he did not sail to Livonia, so he told him to give the letter to someone who was. Nickolas wanted to trust these people though he had some second thoughts, too.

A few months went by but Nikolaos did not receive anything. All his hopes had almost faded when he heard a knock on his wooden door. As Nikolaos opened the door, he saw that there was no one there. He looked around and noticed a wooden chest on his threshold. The man thought that maybe someone got the wrong address so he opened the chest in order to find a letter but as he lifted the lid, he saw a lot of amber that was shining at him. Nikolaos did not know if this was from a sailor or someone else but he would have liked to find out.

Nikolaos dug through the amber to find a letter. There it was under the shiny pail of Livonian gold. It just said that it was for Nickolas and had someone's signature. He had no clue who the contributor was.

As the amber was meant for Nikolaos, he decided to keep it. In a few weeks, the crowns for Emperor and his wife were finished. They really liked the crowns.

Jeweller was rewarded for his masterpieces, yet he never found out who had given him the chest of amber.



**The end**