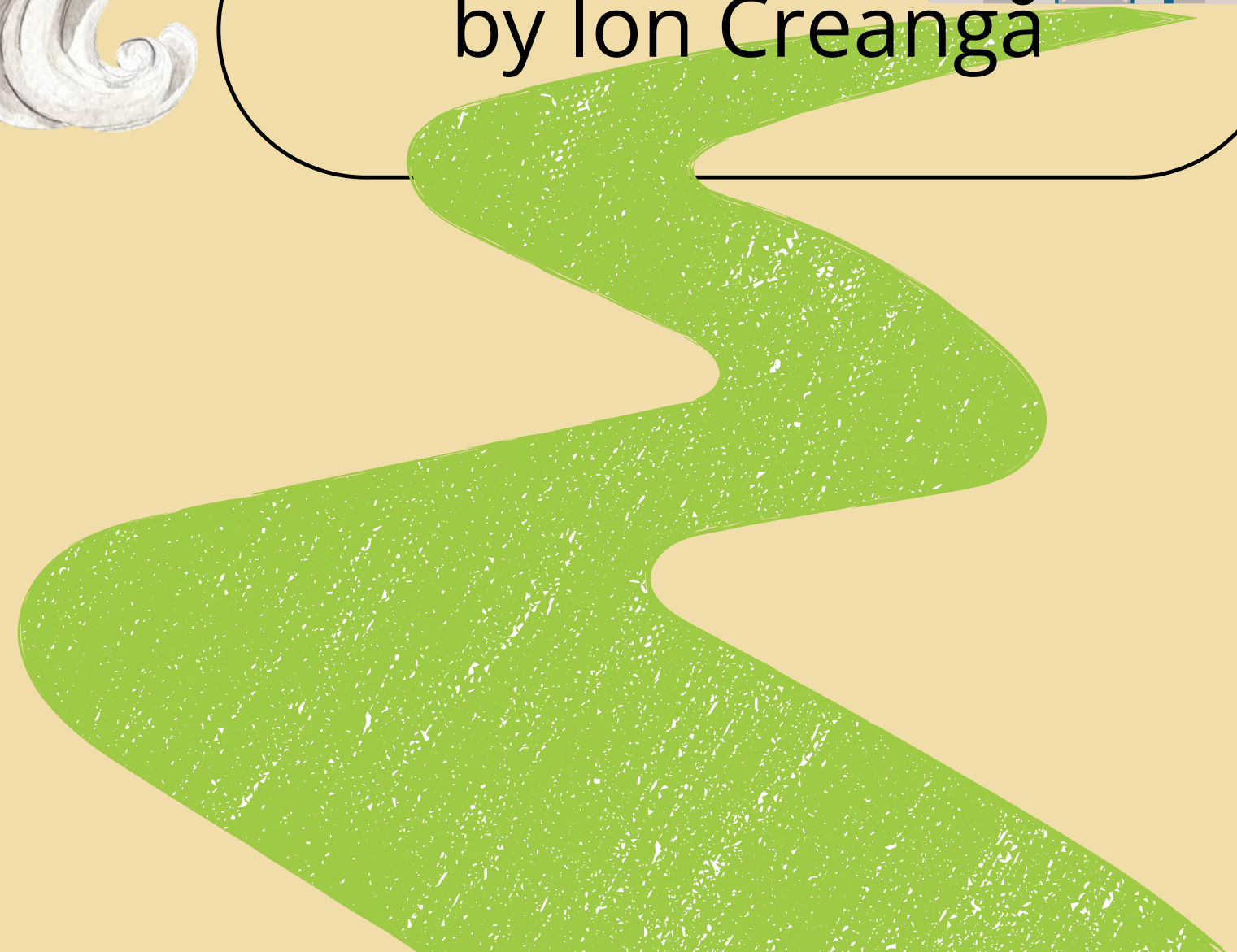


# THE STORY OF HARAP-ALB



A bullying case from the national  
literature

by Ion Creangă





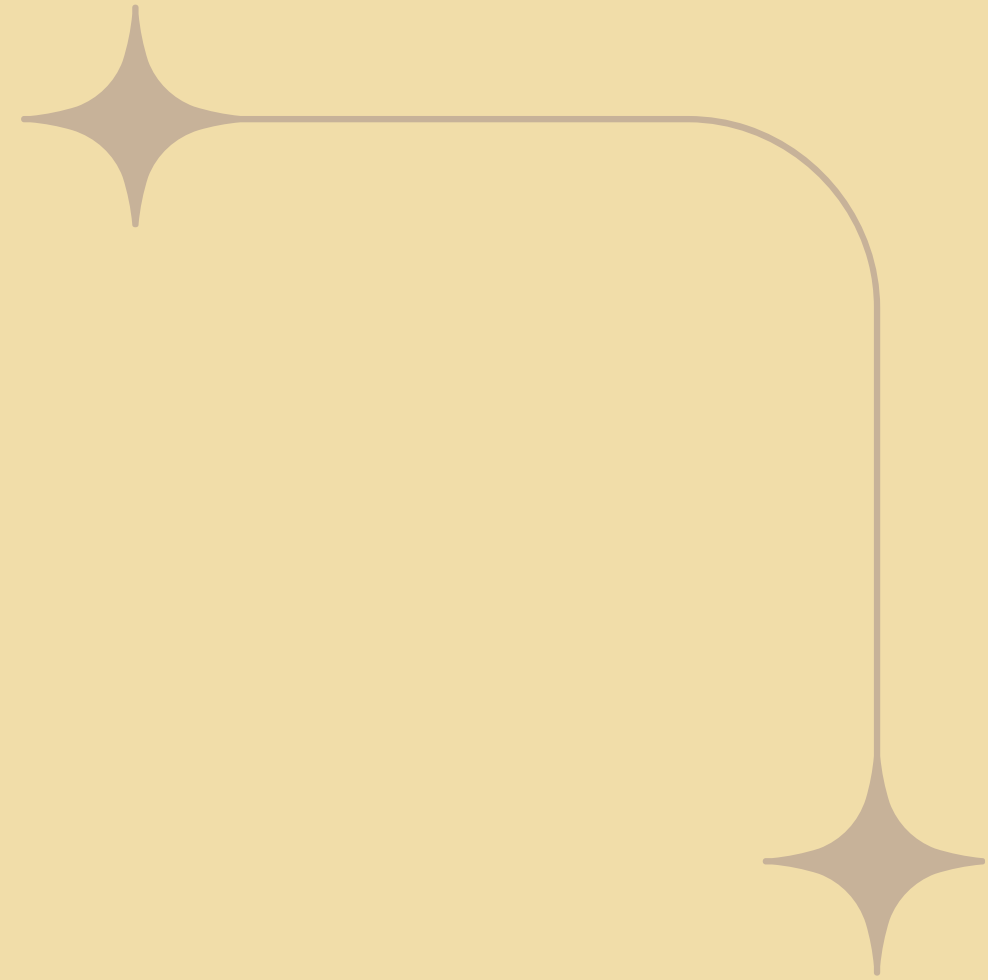
Harap-Alb is a prince who goes on a journey to become king in another kingdom, while on this journey he has many challenges and meets a lot of new friends that help him overcome his obstacles.

In the end, he succeeds in his mission, but throughout his story we can see that the theme of bullying is very present.



In “The Story of Harap-Alb”, the first episode of bullying is when his father, the king, thinks that his sons are unworthy of going on the journey to their uncle’s kingdom to become kings themselves. Harap-Alb is very sad about these remarks and learns to talk badly to those that are beneath him.





When Harap-Alb goes to pick a horse for his journey, the ugliest one comes to him and Harap-Alb bullies him for how he looks and hits him, calling him useless. He has learned to judge others the way his father did to him, but the horse will prove to be a good friend and help him in his journey.



Later on, while on the journey to his uncle's kingdom, he meets a villain, the Spân, who tricks him and turns him into a servant. The Spân lies about being the prince sent to become king, and when Harap-Alb's uncle tries to give him challenges, the Spân sends Harap-Alb to fulfill them. The Spân keeps bullying Harap-Alb by calling him names and making him do dangerous things he doesn't want to do.



For the last challenge, he has to go and get the daughter of the Red King. On his journey, Harap-Alb meets different men that look silly and have different abilities:

- Gerilă, who is always cold
- Setilă, who is always thirsty
- Flămânzilă, who is always hungry
- Ochilă, who only has one eye but can see everything
- Păsări-Lăți-Lungilă who can stretch himself until he reaches the Sun

Because everybody around him keeps bullying him, Harap-Alb does the same with his friends when he first meets them. Later on, he accepts them as they are and they help him defeat the Spân.

