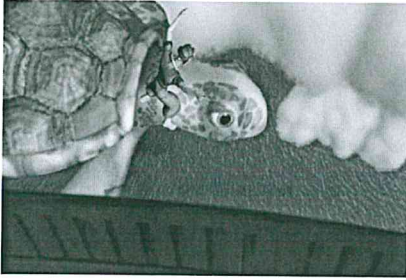


## Once in a lifetime continued



Hansen Notchav clung on for dear life as he began to draw away from the sky galleon 'Away'. He had come to feel fond of her, but now the rudder had broken off it was time to leave the magnificent ship. Maybe one day I will find her again, he thought.

His turtle was the smallest, but it easily kept up with the others.

Suddenly, he gave a small jump. "Who are you?" a gentle voice spoke into his mind. "Who are you?" it repeated. Hansen looked around, half fearful, half hopeful. "I am Leaf Shell, one of the great Green Backs of the sky." ✓

"M-my name is Hansel Notchav, the renowned explorer. If you don't mind, where are you taking me?"

"To our sky citadel of course!"

"But where is it and why are you taking me there?"

"Hush little human. All questions shall be answered once we are there."

Hansen did not talk again until he saw the city. It was made of cloud coloured bricks, but was adorned with pearls, so shiny that Hansen nearly had to close his eyes. Massive towers which were made of compact star dust climbed upwards to dizzying heights and were topped with what seemed to be rainbows for flags. ✓ *lovely description*

Leaf Shell seemed unfazed by the grandeur of it all and soon Hansen found himself in an amazing hall, with <sup>a</sup> polished cedar wood floor. The walls were made of a kind of air stone that he would later <sup>^</sup> learn was called minhrind that was cultivated in the special gardens. Soon another turtle appeared, only this one had a red line around the base of its shell.

"Please come with me," it projected into Hansen's mind in a courteous tone. "Our leader shall see you."

Hansen followed and found himself in an even more astonishing room. This one had emerald and rubies inlaid in silver for a floor and a high vaulted roof with birch wood beams. "So you are here at last. We have been waiting for you many centuries." Hansen spun round at the sound of the deep majestic voice. "W-who are you?"

"My name is Sky Lord. I lead the Green Backs."

*Wow: what a wonderful piece of writing.  
This is very accomplished writing  
indeed!*

Fleur