

The Orbs

By: Vasundhara Ravishankar

Illustrated by: Vasundhara R



Chapter 1: Anaskit

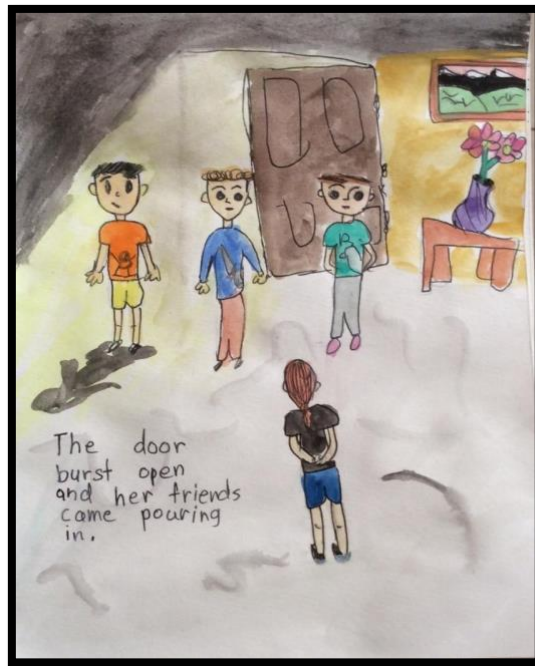
There is a place in this world called Anaskit. No one knows where it is, but it might be in the middle of the Southern-ocean and the Indian ocean. Well, in Anaskit there is no religion, no rich or poor, no government, and no technology. You might be wondering how Anaskitians manage to run things properly without government. Four orbs and their masters technically control everything going on in Anaskit. The four orbs are all mental emotions and each of their masters are very strong in whatever quality their orb contains. Each of the orbs have their own colors too. Sky blue for loyalty, White for peace, Yellow or pink (based on how old you are) for laughter and empathy, and Red for generosity – all of them together are the orbs of harmony. The orbs not only could support Anaskit but also have the power of teleporting things or people.

Qandex was annoyed, she was the only female master of the orbs. Her fellow orb masters: Avuy, Kud, and Xolt, were driving her crazy. According to them, her orb-loyalty wasn't a proper quality. Qandex sat on her head- upside down , ever since she was a child she had been with her friends. As the blood rushed to her head, she thought about how it would be if she wasn't stuck in an invisible mansion with four orb trainers and a bunch of brainless friends. Suddenly, the door burst open and Mawl, one of her trainers appeared in the doorway. "What are you doing here! You should either be playing or studying!" he bellowed, with that he shot a quick look around the room like he was searching for something then slammed the door shut and walked away. Qandex sighed. She slowly trudged outside the humongous room she and her friends shared, and started down the stairs. She didn't want to leave this room. All the trainers called her a lazy, useless, good for nothing human being. As she walked down the brightly lit corridor, she stared at all the paintings depicting the wars and how the previous orb masters stopped them.

She abruptly stopped to look at her favorite picture, it showed four orb trainers all together using the orbs to stop the war between two states in Anaskit (Anaskit had only four states). She wished that she and her fellow orb masters would get along together- so far that was *not* happening. While she looked at the painting, she wondered when the orb trainers would let them go and hunt for the orbs. In orb history it said something like every orb master had hidden the orbs for their 'heirs' to find. Only then would they be a qualified orb master. By now Qandex was near the front door, she had wanted to chillax near the lake in the garden. When she was about to turn the knob of the front door, her friends came pouring in.

"What's wrong?" asked Qandex. From the faces of her friends something had happened and it wasn't good. "Nothing much except that when we were playing one of the balls might have hit Mawl (one of the orb trainers along with Lidlun, Puly, and, Twatch.) on the head. "What! You guys have to tell me EVERYTHING" yelled Qandex. "We told you – we were playing, then Xolt hit the ball and it hit Mawl on the head!" they all said together. "Ok, I got the point. But, Mawl is going to kill all of you and there is probably no way you can get out of this." said Qandex. "And that is why we came to you for help." Replied Kad.

'I could help them, but they just hit Mawl on the head and are soo gonna get busted. But they are my friends I should help them, right?' thought Qandex. "Hellooo. Qandex!" called Xolt. "Fine I'll help you just this time, but I still don't know HOW to get out of this." said Qandex. "Yeah, whatever but shouldn't we be planning in secret? I mean like, what if Mawl or Puly or someone's overhearing this?" said Avuy. Qandex looked around. They were standing in the hall it would be easy for someone to overhear them. "And where should we talk?" said Qandex. Kad and Xolt looked at each other and started grinning from ear to ear. "What other place is better than the bathroom?" they chorused. "The bathroom?" questioned Avuy. Qandex caught on, "Of course the bathroom. We could just lock



it then talk in peace!". "All right." sighed Avuy looking irritated.

Chapter 2: Busted

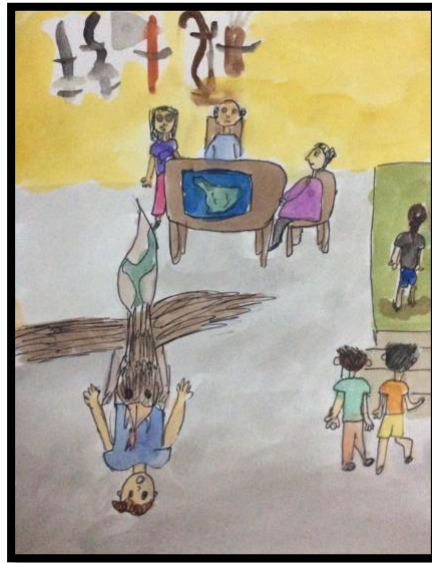
They all headed for the bathroom and went into it, and locked it. Xolt sat down on the toilet seat while Qandex and Kad stood in the bathtub. Avuy kept staring

around him and stood straight up not sure what to say. Once they got comfortable, "So now we are in a safe place to talk and I say that Xolt goes up to Mawl and explains everything to him and apologizes. Maybe if Mawl is in a good mood he will let Xolt off?" suggested Avuy who would try to do anything to not get punished. "Who would let someone who just bashed him on the head, let anybody go." Said Qandex sarcastically. "It was just an idea." Muttered Avuy. "Stop squabbling people. I know that's the worst idea anyone could think of but you should listen to people to." Said Kad in his best 'empathetic guy' voice. "I have an idea! How about ... we blame it on the gatekeeper!" exclaimed Xolt. "Soo..... We just blame it on the gatekeeper? What-a-terrible-idea." Said Avuy clearly not impressed. Qandex stared at him, as much as he was brainy, he totally hated doing something untruthful. "Sure. We'll blame it on the gate keeper but let's get out of here it stinks!" said Kad. "Yup. I totally agree with you dude" said Xolt. Qandex was the nearest to the door she opened the door and found herself face to face with an angry and bleeding Mawl.

'Uh oh' thought Qandex. Immediately her brain started whirring into action. Qandex looked behind her, Avuy, Kad, and Xolt were looking terrified. "Mmm. You have all started planning to escape huh? This time I'll tell Puly and I'm sure that you will either get extra homework, or get whipped." said Mawl. Qandex froze in fear, Puly was the only trainer who whipped them. Once Kad had accidentally spilled two drops of tea on a piece of homework and she had whipped him so severely that Kad had to walk with crutches for 3 months. Qandex gulped there was no way they could get out of this. If Mawl gave them more homework, then Qandex would almost happily take whipping. They already got so much homework from only three subjects (Fighting, Orb history, and Math-English-Science.) that Qandex found it hard to believe that they got more homework. "All of you out of here!" growled Mawl dragging them all out of the bathroom. Mawl was a tall strongly built man. He had dark skin like he had been in the sun for centuries and dark hair. His eyes were pitch black and had no mercy in them.

Qandex asked Mawl "Where are you taking us?". Mawl didn't look at any of them, "The basement." He replied. Qandex looked at Avuy, everybody always looked up to him because he was the smartest of them all. Qandex could practically hear Avuy's brain working to find a way out of this. Mawl stopped them and took out a clear orb- a key to anywhere in the mansion. He unlocked the door and pushed them in front of him. When she entered the room Qandex saw all types of evil looking weapons looking back at her. Right next to them she saw Lidlun, Puly, and Twatch huddled around a table murmuring to each other. When they entered the room Twatch whirled around and said "Mawl what are they doing here?". Mawl grunted and mouthed something across the room to her and walked swiftly out of the room. Twatch studied Qandex and the others and started inspecting whatever Lidlun and Puly were staring at. Twatch was the only orb trainer who wasn't from Anaskit, she was actually from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Twatch was a tall, thin kind person. She was tanned and had brown hair and

black eyes full of compassion unlike Mawl. Puly looked up, "Well? What are you standing there for? I'm telling you; you're going to get a cramp." She said annoyed. Qandex was dumbstruck, never before had Puly ever spoken to them like this. It had always been – Get out of here! Or something like that. "Um.... I guess we'll be going?" said Xolt clearly as surprised as Qandex was. Qandex saw something move in front of her and it had bid round red eyes. She tried to see more clearly but Lidlun's head was blocking it. Suddenly the thing jumped forward knocking down Avuy. Avuy started screaming. Qandex didn't spare a moment -she started sprinting as fast as she could and the others followed. Qandex looked back, Lidlun and Puly were not looking worried. Twatch was looking anxious, she beckoned to Qandex to move forward. Qandex took the cue and didn't stop running until she



had reached the attic, the others scrambled after her.

Once they had all reached the attic and locked it, Qandex said "I think I peed a bit" the others stared at her. Was this really what she had to say after they almost got killed? "I don't really understand what happened, it was all so fast." said Kad who was looking as calm as ever. Qandex took up the chance. "Basically" she started "basically when we were down there waiting to be busted, an alien monster came out of nowhere and attacked Avuy, then Twatch told me to run and all of you followed me." "Uh... I'm not sure about the alien part?" said Kad. "Avuy? How did you escape? I mean like one second you were screaming your head off. And the next moment you are running your legs off." Said Xolt. Avuy looked uncomfortable. "Well, the monster was an umm.... A Coupoto. "What!! Said Kad clearly astonished "What the duck is a Coupoto" he said.

Xolt looked amused "Exactly! I totally agree with Kad cause what-in-the-name-of-Vanilla-ice-cream-is-a-Coupoto!". Avuy stared at him like he was an alien, "This proves that you have never paid attention to ancient Anaskit mythology." "Ok." Said Avuy. "How about we all go down to the lake in the garden and chillax there for a bit because right now we are getting are BP up which causes"- (He said something like Cards-O-Circular). Unwillingly Qandex and the others agreed.

They all went down to the lake and lay down on the rocks. Qandex let the sun sink into her skin, none of them were aware that an unwanted pair of eyes were watching their every move...

Chapter 3: The orbs

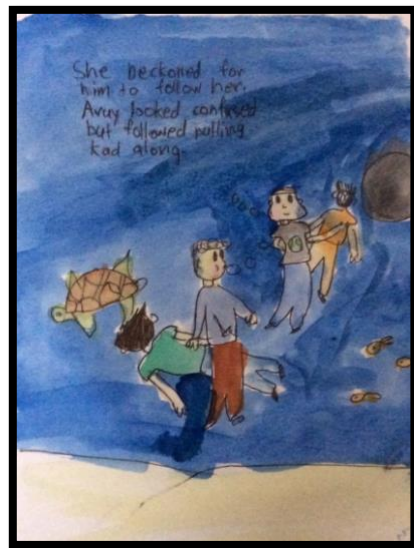
Meanwhile the orb trainers had been discussing something among themselves. "So, we know that the orb masters are a useless bunch who can't even piece 1+1 together right?" said Lidlun. The orb trainers were busy trying to find where the orbs were. "Yeah! We have the map to find the orbs so we can find them before those squid brains do." Said Mawl. Puly spread the map out in front of her, she pointed to the Tis dog park and said "The orb of loyalty has to be in the dog park. What can be more loyal to you than a dog. Huh?". "Well, we've got that figured that out so now we have to find the rest" chimed in Twatch. "Just shut your mouth and use your big brain to think." Snarled Puly. Twatch went redder than an apple. "Think where would the others be huh?" said Lidlun as he paced back and forth. "I've got it!" yelled Twatch her eyes shining her eyes wider than a football. "speak more sense girl" growled Lidlun. "I know where the generosity orb is!". "If you know where it is then show us !!" shouted Lidlun his eyes bulging. "Ok don't get so worked up it's in a homeless shelter! I don't know which one but I know it's in a homeless shelter! Like which place can be more generous than a homeless shelter?????" said Twatch excitedly. Lidlun considered this, "I see that you have used that brain of yours but there are no homeless shelters in Anaskit as there are no rich or poor. And stop thinking that Anaskit is like the Andimi and Nicosus islands or whatever it's called." He said snidely. Twatch's face sagged, whatever she said was no use to him. Or that's how Lidlun acted.

Chapter 4: A hideout

Qandex heard something, she swiveled her head around and almost twisted her neck. The next second Kad screamed Qandex turned back to look at him. There was a big six footed creature with a croc like face with large wings hovering over Kad. Xolt pushed past her and shoved Kad into the water. In the confusion Qandex stepped back and tripped over a stone she fell into the water with an immense splash. The cold of the lake got to her. 'Why was the lake so dark and cold when its sunny'. Qandex could feel something was not right. She felt something behind underwater and saw Avuy, in the water beside her. Qandex kicked in the water and propelled herself forward she saw Kad floating eerily. She dragged him to Avuy and signed that she was going to look for Xolt. Avuy nodded, Qandex slowly swam through the water and saw a shadow above her shimmering slightly. The shadow disappeared and Qandex turned away. She felt something bump into her softly and she saw a half conscious Xolt and slowly dragged him towards Avuy. While she was floating, she saw a dark space (darker than the water was) that

looked suspiciously like a tunnel. Qandex swam as fast as she could (dragging Xolt behind her) to Avuy. As she was swimming, she crashed into something. She let out some bubbles in surprise, she pushed the thing into a beam of light and saw Avuy. She beckoned for him to follow her. Avuy looked confused, but followed Qandex anyways pulling Kad along.

She led him to the dark space and shoved herself inside it pushing Xolt along before her. She looked behind to check if Avuy was following her- he was. Qandex swam through the tunnel and saw a chink of darkness (brighter than the tunnel) and went closer. When she reached, she turned around once more just to check if Avuy was following-again he was. Qandex pushed Xolt out and squeezed out of



the tunnel. Avuy was close behind her, he pushed Kad out and followed himself. Qandex was pleased to see that this room wasn't underwater finally she could breathe again. Qandex heard voices and motioned to Avuy. Both of them hid. Xolt and Kad were slowly coming back. Xolt sat up and looked around confused. "Where in the world am I?" he said loudly-loud enough for those people to hear. "Who's there?" snapped a voice. In her head Qandex imagined a guy like Mawl. "Umm... I am Xolt? One of the umm orb masters." Said Xolt frightened. "An orb master?" echoed one of the voices. All of the people started to whisper among themselves. "Capture him!" said a guy with the deepest and loudest voice. "capture me?" stammered Xolt. "Of course," said one of the guys "you don't know how valuable they are these days". One of the guys flicked on a light illuminating the room. Qandex saw a group of strong built men, it looked like she was seeing a million Mawl's. A few of the men strode up to Xolt and bound him tightly. Xolt's eyes were wide with fear. He found Qandex and Avuy and mouthed 'help me!'. The men left the room with Xolt -Qandex followed, just as she was about to go through the doorway, Avuy grabbed her "It's not safe here. Don't follow them, we'll get Xolt later" he said in a low voice. Qandex shook him off, the loyalty to her friends made her want to go and save Xolt though she knew that this was a risk. She sprinted after them as Avuy looked after her anxiously. Qandex caught

up with them but stayed in the back of the crowd. Qandex couldn't see Xolt anywhere near her so assumed that he was up front with the captain of this group. "All of you" announced the captain "take the prisoner with you, I have to check on the orbs." The orbs? Echoed Qandex in her head. 'I have to follow him to see if he has the orbs.' Qandex followed the captain. He walked to a lavishly decorated room. In the center were four orbs-all glowing brightly in a box. 'If I get the orbs than we can go back to the mansion and show the trainers then we can be free from them.' thought Qandex. Qandex hid under a table. The captain examined the orbs than headed over to a TV which Qandex hadn't noticed. He pressed a button and a face appeared on the screen-a face that Qandex knew very well. It was Lidlun. Qandex could barely keep herself from gasping. "Well, the others think that the orbs are still lost. But if you give the orbs to me, then you can take the mansion instead of that stinky place." Said Lidlun in a businesslike tone. 'So, Lidlun is tricking the other orb trainers to think that the orbs are lost, if the captain gives them to him then, anything could happen. This sooo makes getting the orbs crucial.' thought Qandex. The captain and Lidlun started talking in a strange language. Qandex couldn't understand anything. They spoke about something, the captain turned the TV off then left the room and locked it. Qandex quickly got out from under the table.

Qandex looked around and saw the orbs she slowly took the lid off. Qandex picked up the sky- blue orb-loyalty. It felt like water balloon. Qandex took the other orbs then slipped them into her pocket. She walked to the door then brought out a thin wire she pushed it in and turned it. The lock clicked. She opened the door and was about to step out of the door when a pair of arms caught her. They belonged to the captain. "I don't think you can get away" said the captain. "Oh, I'm sure she can" said Avuy suddenly appearing behind the captain. Avuy sprang forward and landed on the captain freeing Qandex. Qandex took the chance and ran in the way the men had carried Xolt. Qandex stopped at the first door she saw. It was halfway open. Qandex could hear the loud noises of the men. 'They are having a party, perhaps Lidlun told them to capture us' she thought. Qandex saw piece of cake on the floor. She flung to the far side of the room. All the men went charging to the corner and examined the piece of cake. 'what fools they are' thought Qandex. Qandex moved cautiously towards Xolt and untied him. Xolt ran outside the room and into the hallway and vanished from sight.

Qandex tiptoed to one of the men holding the keys and took them out. Thankfully he didn't notice anything. Qandex went out into the hallway and locked them in. The sound of the lock turning reached the ears of the men. They started banging on the door shouting at Qandex. Qandex ran back to Avuy where she saw Xolt, Kad, and Avuy trying to fight the captain. Qandex jumped in the fight she and the others slowly pushed the captain into the room where the orbs had been. When they pushed him in Qandex handed the keys over to a surprised Avuy. "You can lock him in." she said. Avuy took the keys and locked the extremely angry captain

in. "Can we get out of here?" said Xolt hopefully. "Sure, we will" replied Kad. They all ran out and swam up to the surface of the lake and clambered out.

Chapter 5: A safe place

Qandex sat in the sun to dry herself. She took out the orbs in her pocket said- "Look guys, I have all the orbs!". Kad snorted, "If you have them then show us." Qandex gave him the empathy/laughter orb. Kad looked at it like it was the source of his life. "OMG this is sooo cool." He remarked. Xolt grabbed the generosity orb from Qandex. He too stared at it with amazement. Qandex gave the brilliantly white peace orb to Avuy. Avuy took it, but looked at it with confusion. "We have the orbs now, but we shouldn't keep them somewhere safe? So that the captain of those men does not get them?" said Avuy. "Of course, we should- but where?" said Qandex. "I know where keep it." Said Kad calmly. "Not the bathroom!" cried Avuy. "Course not you mongoose. We'll keep them in one of the mountain ranges. There is no place safer than there." Replied Kad looking proud. Qandex, Avuy, and Xolt looked at one another.

How were they supposed to hide the orbs in a mountain range? "I know what you're thinking, we could just use the orbs to teleport ourselves to a secretive place in a mountain." Kad said. "Of course! How could I have forgotten that!" said Avuy smacking himself on his head. "Not such of a surprise." Muttered Qandex. "If we are going to do it then what are we waiting for?" said Xolt enthusiastically. "Yeah, yeah, we have to wait to figure out how to teleport ourselves" said Qandex darkly. "I think I know." Said Avuy, "I think you just have to focus on your destination while expressing the quality of the orb you choose." 'It does make sense though' thought Qandex, 'Maybe Avuy's right.' "Now, which orb are we going to choose?" wondered Kad aloud. "Not me!" said everyone except Xolt. All of them looked at Xolt. "You guys can teleport through my orb." Said Xolt airily.

As soon as he said this, the generosity orb began glowing. A wide transparent circle slowly spread out. All of them were sucked inside. The teleportation was much more uncomfortable than Qandex had thought. Her knees and elbows were jammed together in a weird pose. All she could see was a whirl of colors changing rapidly so it became a rainbowish blur. Qandex suddenly couldn't breathe and she kept bashing into Xolt's abnormally large head. Qandex concentrated on the most secular place in the mountains she could think of. They finally came to a halt and all of them tumbled onto the rocky ground below them. Qandex jumped back up and looked around, they were in a quiet rocky hill with large canyons surrounding it, half covered in moss making it very slippery. Qandex spotted a rocky ledge jutting out from one of the canyons. She looked at the ground Xolt, Kad and Avuy were still lying on the rocky ground looking green. 'What couch



potatoes, can't even handle a teleporting thing' Qandex thought. Qandex slowly made her way to the ledge she had seen earlier, treading carefully on the slippery ground. Qandex reached the ledge and looked at it closely, it wasn't natural. Qandex stuck her hand out to under the ledge, she touched around there but instead of feeling rough stone she felt cold air. Qandex peeked under the ledge and found herself peering at a black hole.... again.

Qandex pulled herself in the hole and pushed herself through, she slid down a short slide and landed on her knees. Qandex scrambled to her feet and found that she was on a massive rock surround by a bubbling red liquid, lava. Qandex immediately started searching for a way out. 'I just discovered the safest place to keep the orbs, if only I could get out.' She thought. Qandex found the hole she had come from, she found many stones jutting out one after the other. Qandex had practice in rock climbing. She easily climbed out of the cave. Qandex went carefully back to where the others were. They had gotten up now and were searching everywhere for her. Kad saw her first. "Where did you go!!! We were searching everywhere for you!" he yelled. "I know just where to keep the orbs" said Qandex breathlessly. She led them over to the ledge and slipped through the hole. They all followed. She landed on the ground heavily and began massaging her bottom. Somehow Xolt reached after Qandex first. He got up and his jaw dropped in wonder. Kad and Avuy followed, Qandex loved the look of astonishment on their faces. "Qandex! You-are-a-genius!" cried Avuy trying to control his admiration. "This place is brilliant! We can keep the orbs here and nobody will know!" said Kad taking the pink orb and placing it in the middle of the 'island'. Seeing him everyone placed their orbs on the ground. Looking at the orbs Qandex had a strange sense of peace and harmony. The orbs would be safe here- for now.

The End

About the Author



Vasundhara Ravishankar is a 9 year old author who has been an avid reader since 4 years of age. She prefers to read fantasy, adventure and about animals. She is trying her hand in writing fictional stories usually, always adding colorful and imaginative illustrations to her books. She loves spending time observing nature and likes to have fun with her family and friends.

Blurb

Qandex, **Kad**, **Xolt**, and **Avuy** have the weight of finding and protecting the Orbs from Evil eyes, they are stuck with merciless masters to train them. Will they succeed??