

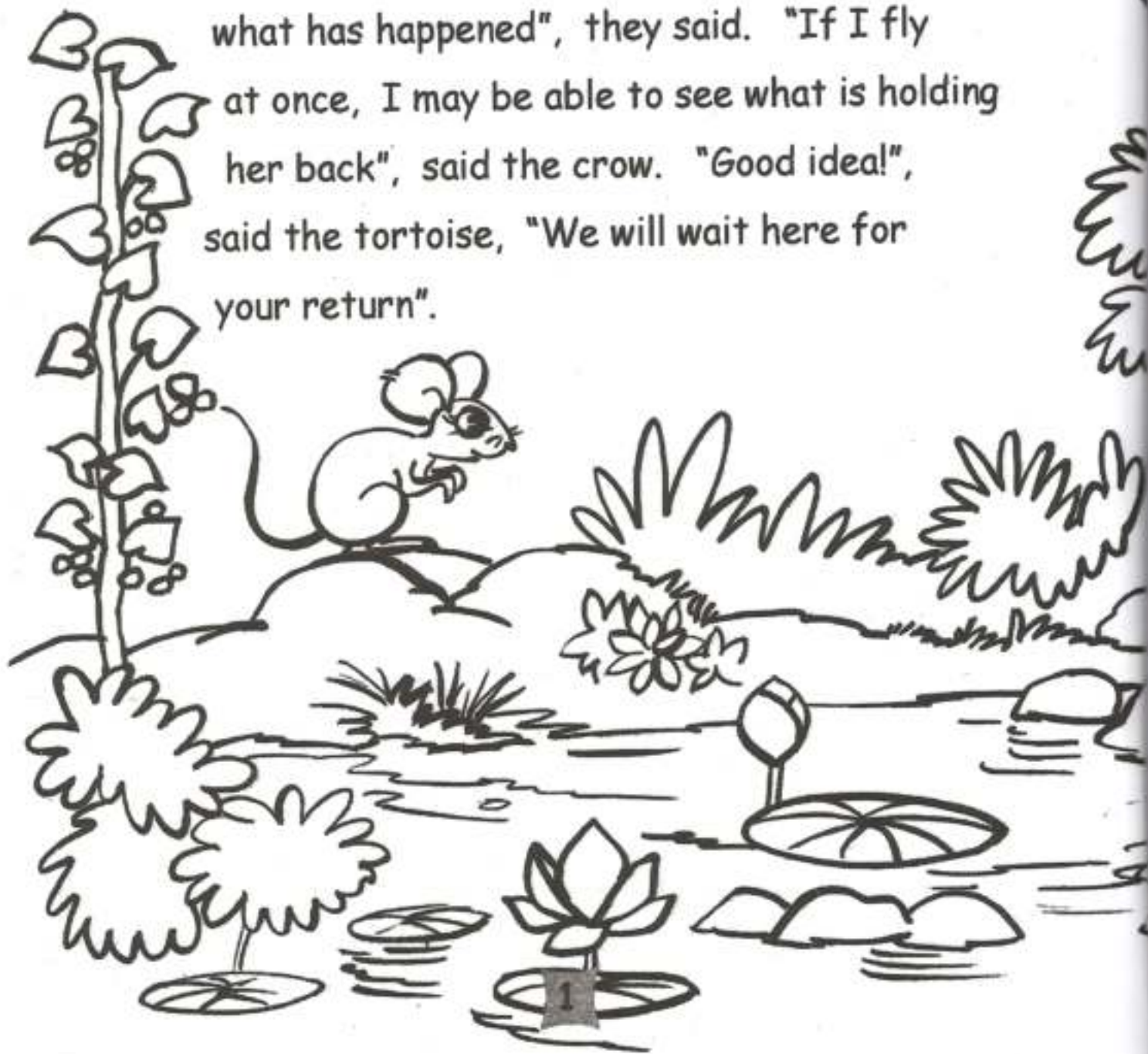
Pañcatantra for the Young

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One hot day, three friends — a mouse, a crow, and a tortoise met by the lake. They waited for their fourth friend, the deer. But there was no sign of her. They sensed danger, "We must find out what

what has happened", they said. "If I fly at once, I may be able to see what is holding her back", said the crow. "Good idea!", said the tortoise, "We will wait here for your return".



The crow returned soon. "Yes, our friend is trapped in a hunter's net. She needs our help at once", he said. Each one looked at the other for ideas. The mouse squeaked, "If someone can take me there, I will bite the net and free her". "Come on, I will carry you there", offered the crow. They wasted no time and flew off.

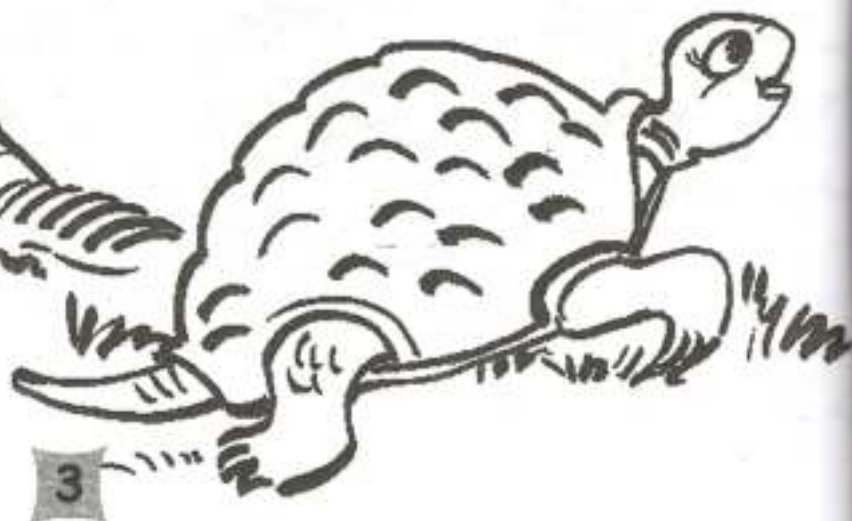




The mouse nibbled away at the net.

The deer was freed. The four friends were together again. Suddenly, they heard footsteps.

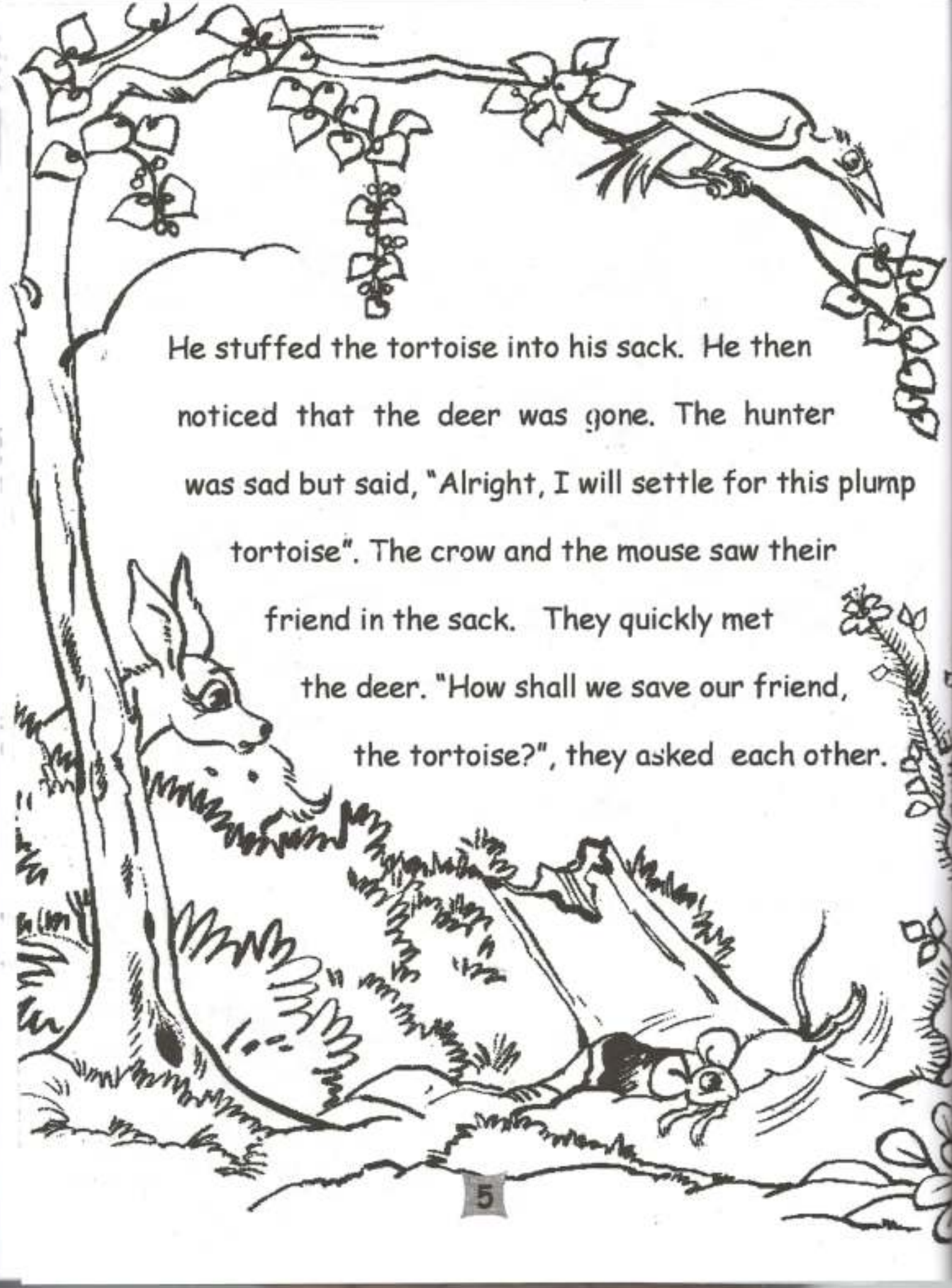
It was the hunter. "Oh dear!", they cried, "Quick, let's hide". The crow flew to the top of the tree, the deer jumped and leapt away, the mouse ran off to the nearest tree stump. The poor tortoise was slow, as she tried to take shelter behind some bushes.





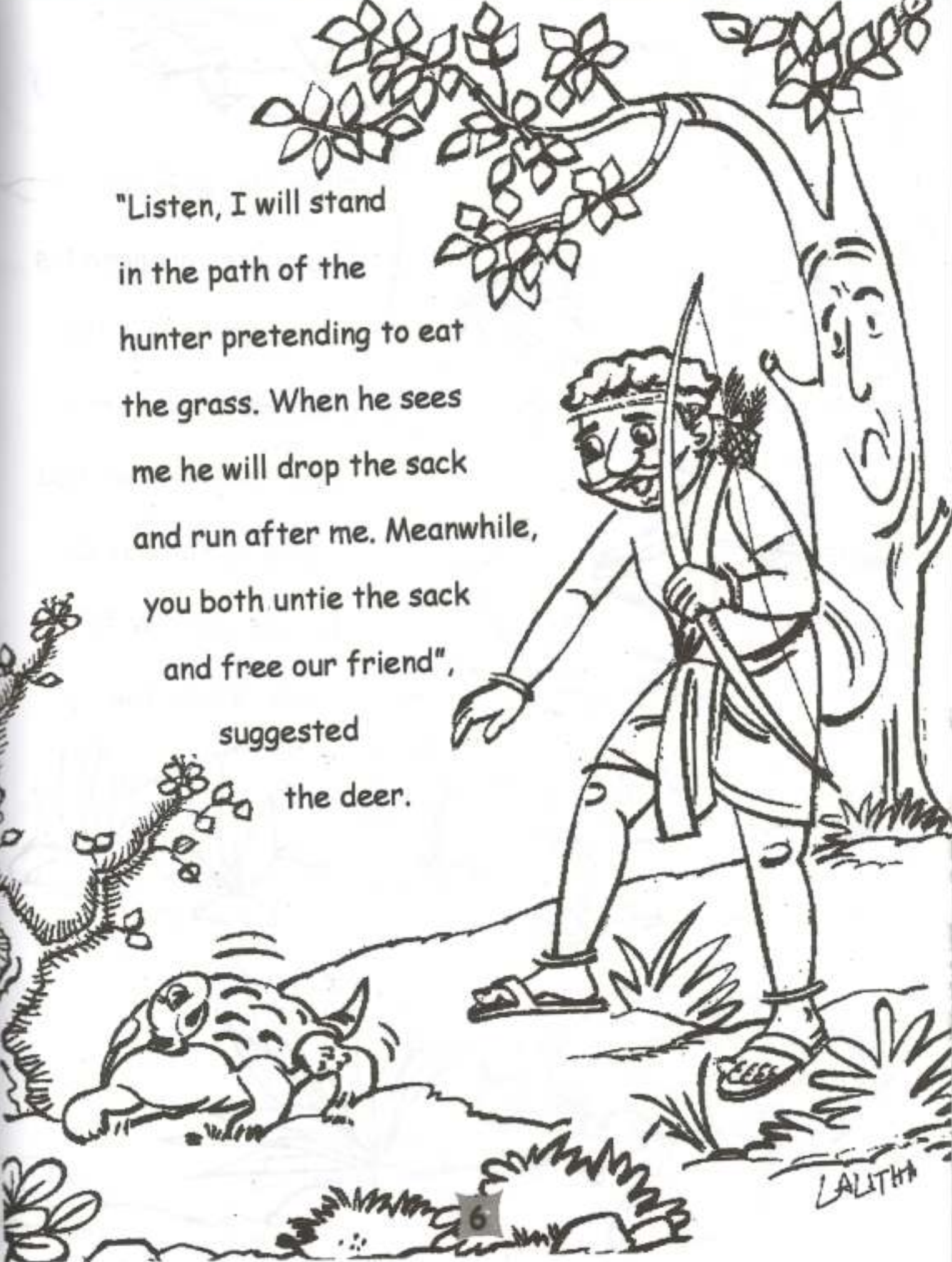
The hunter spotted her. "Ah! Yet another catch. Tonight, I will have a hearty dinner", thought the hunter.



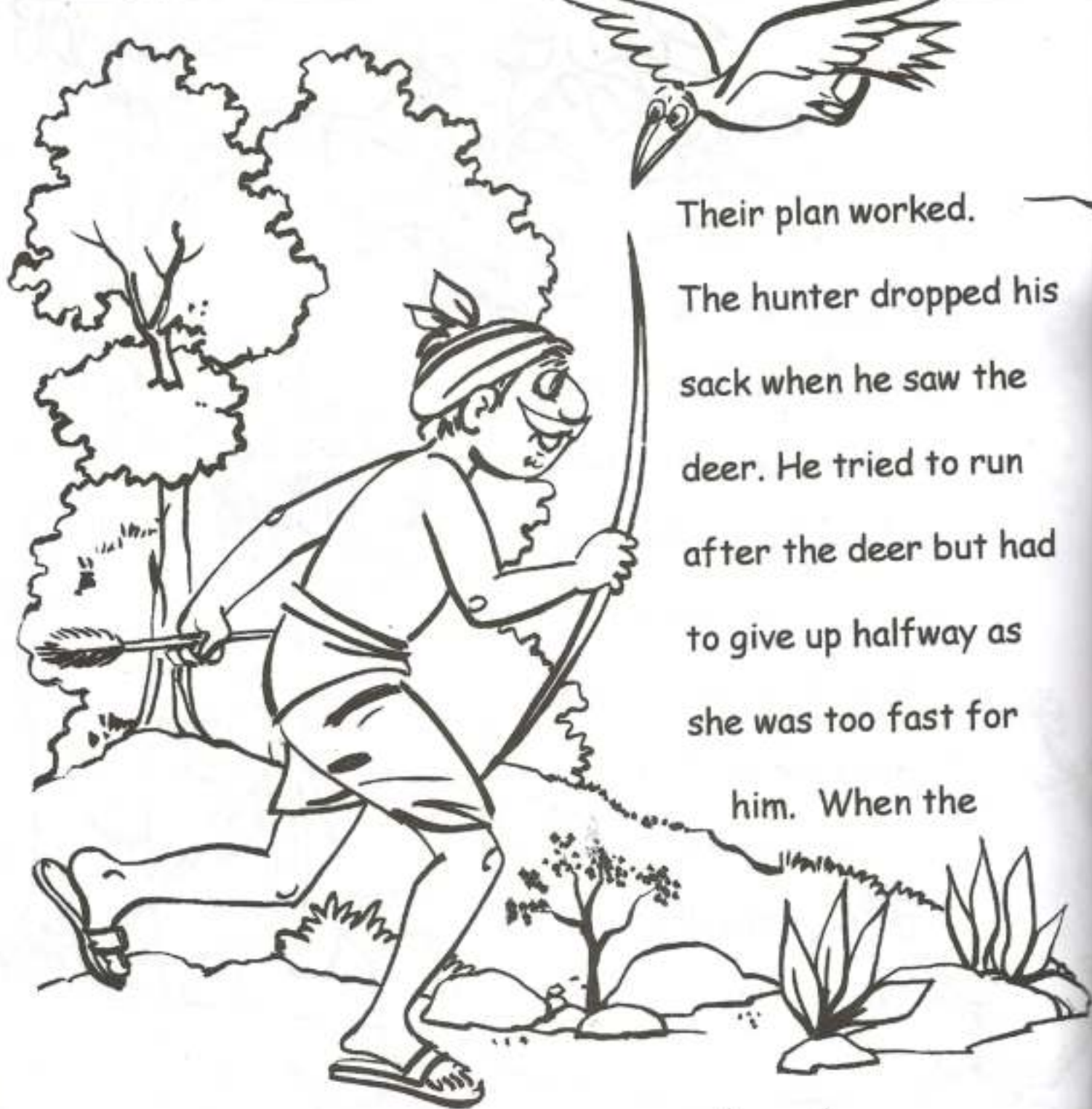


He stuffed the tortoise into his sack. He then noticed that the deer was gone. The hunter was sad but said, "Alright, I will settle for this plump tortoise". The crow and the mouse saw their friend in the sack. They quickly met the deer. "How shall we save our friend, the tortoise?", they asked each other.

"Listen, I will stand
in the path of the
hunter pretending to eat
the grass. When he sees
me he will drop the sack
and run after me. Meanwhile,
you both untie the sack
and free our friend",
suggested
the deer.





LALITHA



Their plan worked.

The hunter dropped his sack when he saw the deer. He tried to run after the deer but had to give up halfway as she was too fast for him. When the






hunter came back,
he found that the
tortoise also was gone.

"I should have been
satisfied with the tortoise.

I wanted too much and now I have
nothing", he grumbled.



Message

*United as friends, we can overcome
all odds.*



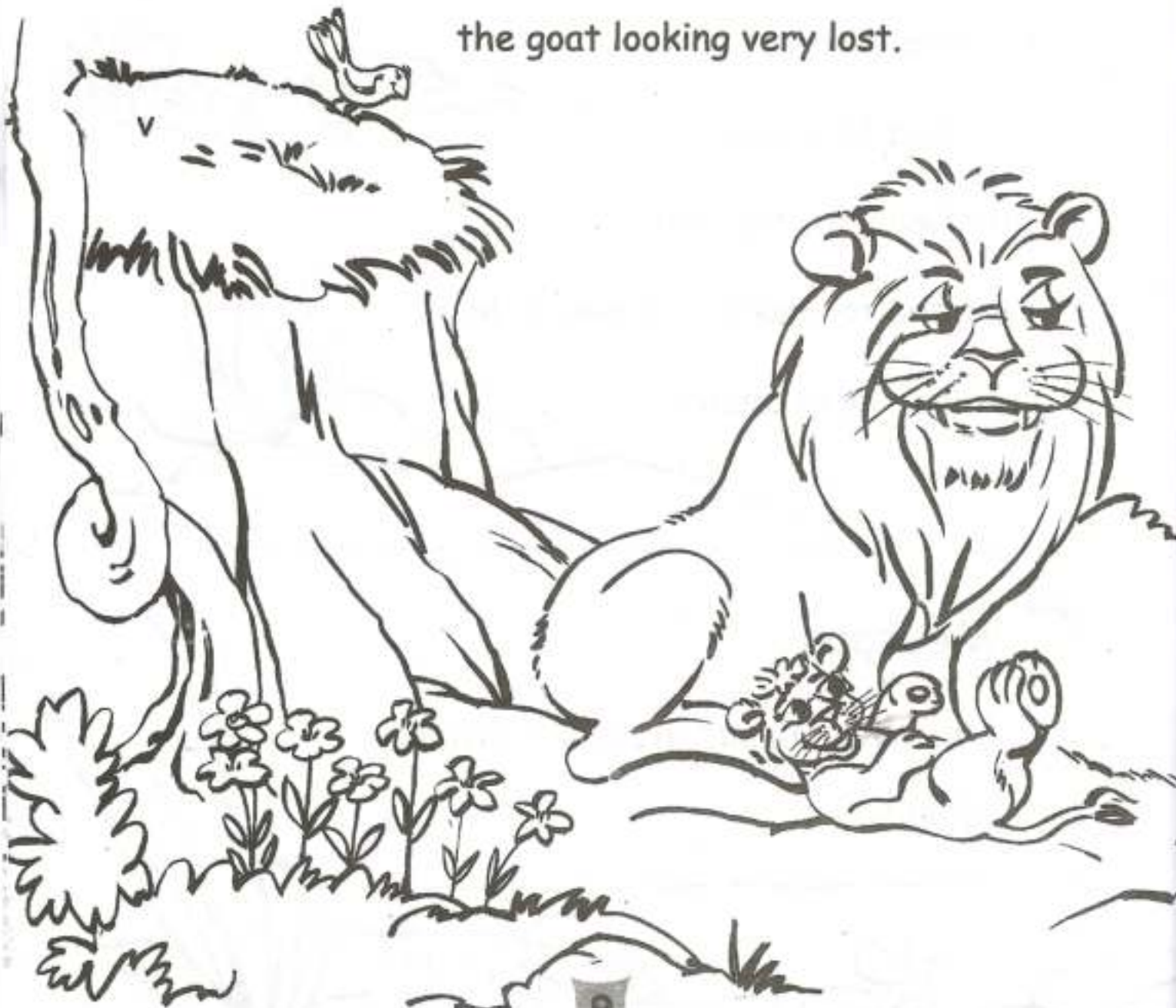


There was once a baby goat,

which had lost his parents. One day, when a lion was

searching for food in the jungle, he saw

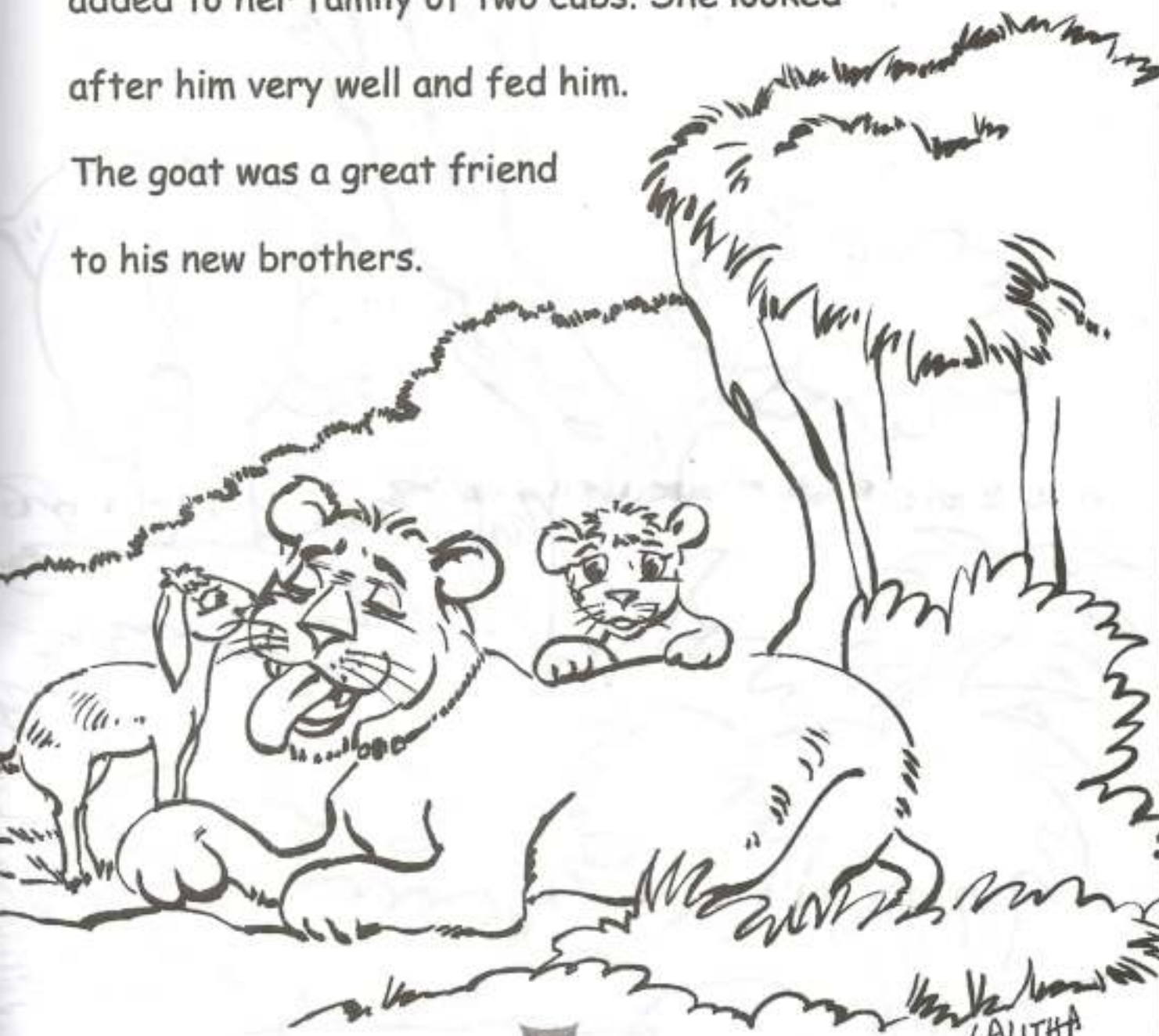
the goat looking very lost.



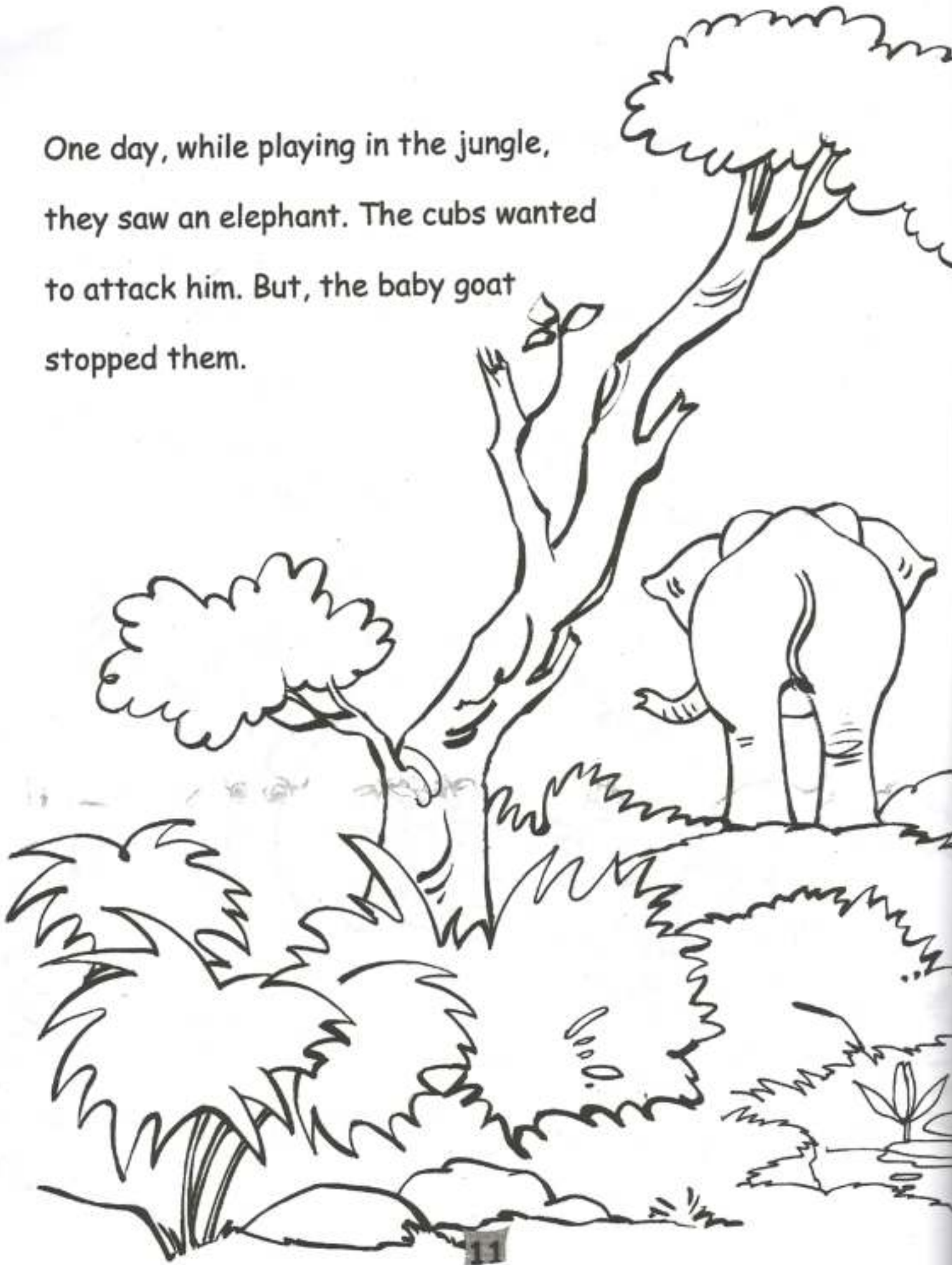
The goat too was looking for food. The lion took pity on him and brought him home.

The lioness was happy to have another member added to her family of two cubs. She looked after him very well and fed him.

The goat was a great friend to his new brothers.



One day, while playing in the jungle,
they saw an elephant. The cubs wanted
to attack him. But, the baby goat
stopped them.



The cubs made fun of the goat saying that he was scared and had no courage. This made him angry and he grunted, "Who says I am weak? If you want to test my strength, come let us fight. I will show you who is stronger".

The lioness was worried.

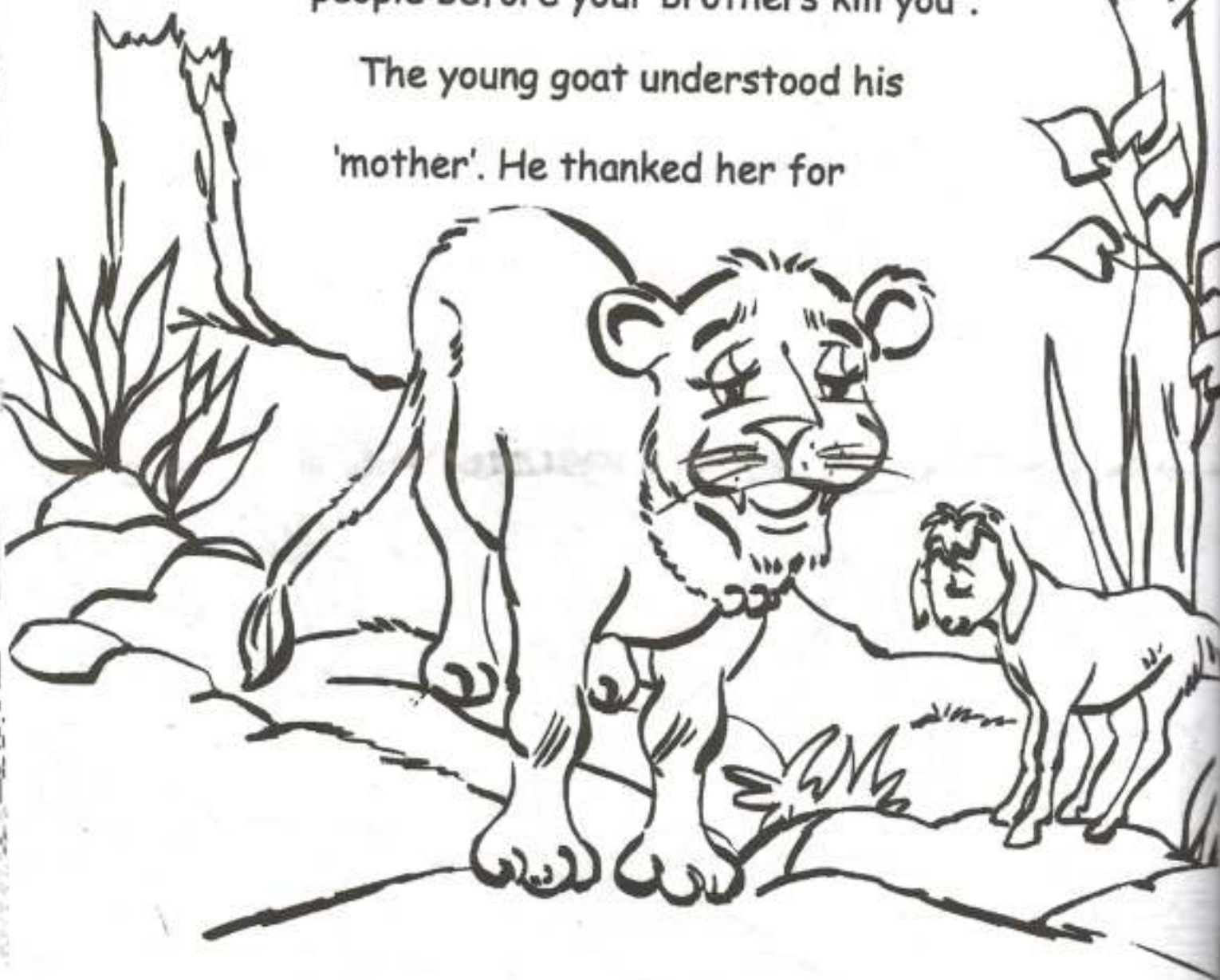



She pulled the baby goat aside.

She sat with him and told him the truth about how he was found and how a goat is different from a lion. "Now you should go and live with your own

people before your brothers kill you".

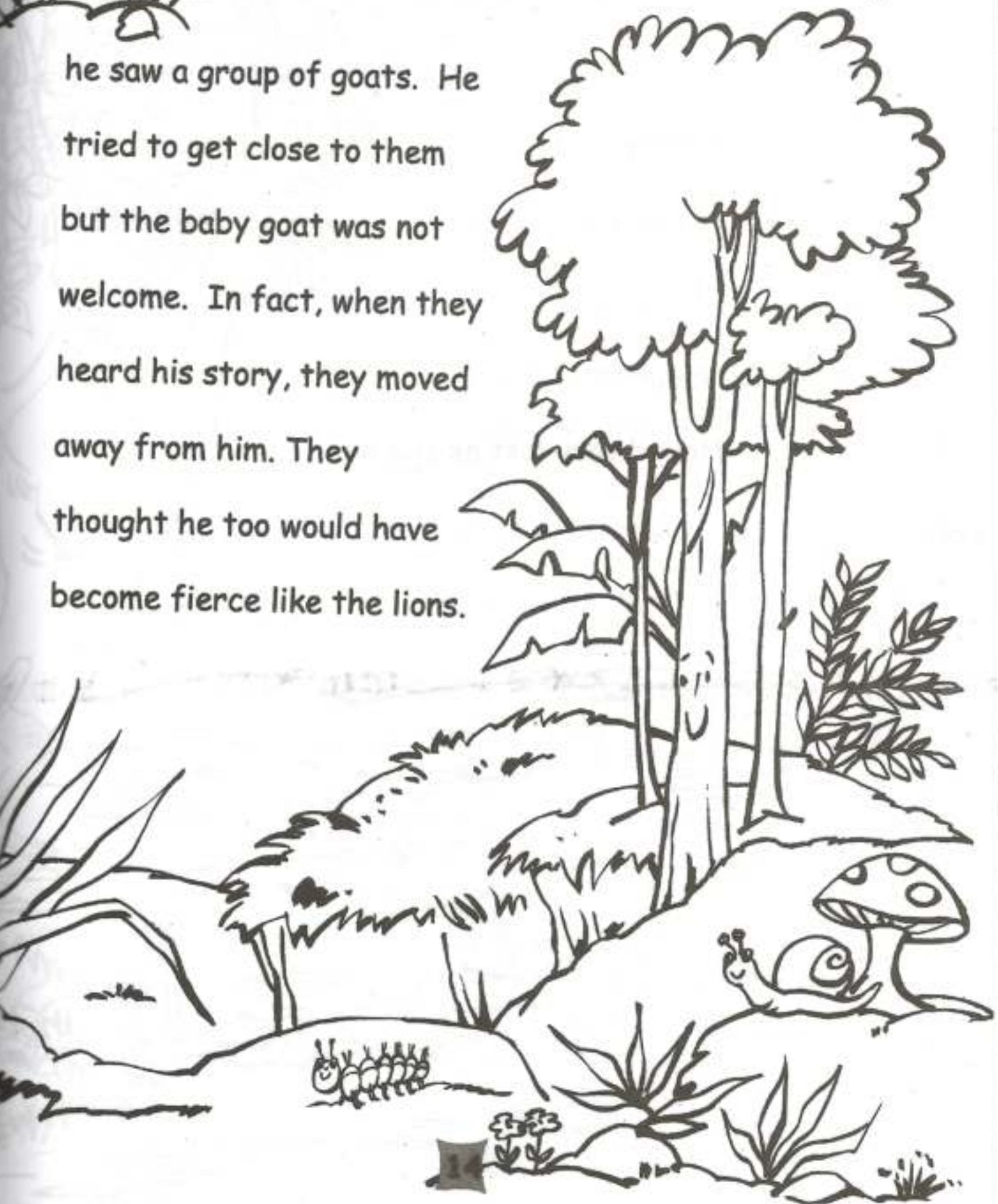
The young goat understood his 'mother'. He thanked her for





looking after him so well. He gave her a big hug and left. Close by,

he saw a group of goats. He tried to get close to them but the baby goat was not welcome. In fact, when they heard his story, they moved away from him. They thought he too would have become fierce like the lions.



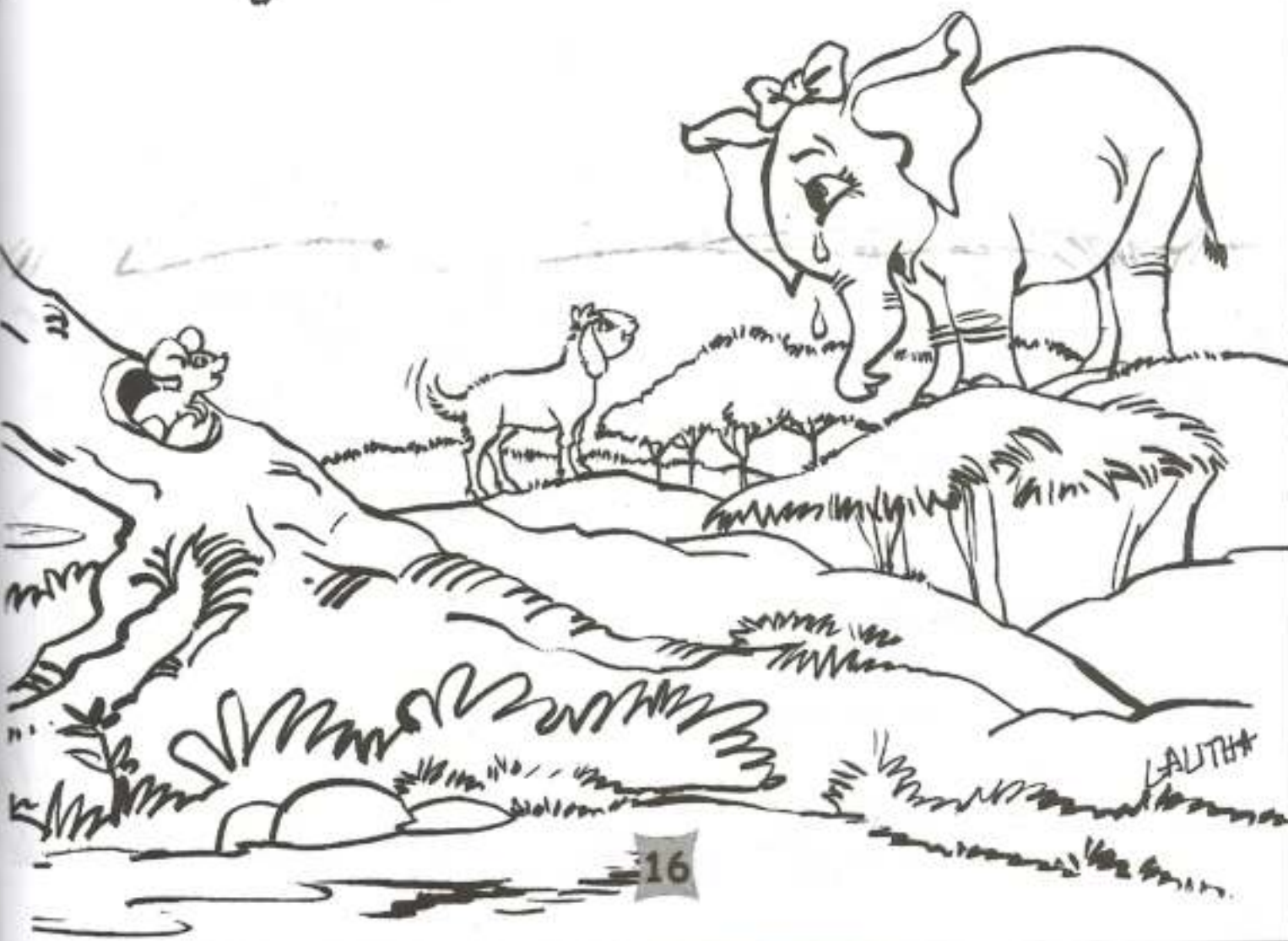
So, the poor goat was forced to a life all by himself. He patiently waited to prove to his fellow-goats that he was not like the lions. One day, a baby elephant suddenly appeared. She looked very lost as she had been left behind by her family.





This was the test for the young goat.
The other goats watched to see
if he would attack the elephant.

To their surprise, he went along with
the baby elephant to the jungle
and helped her join her family.



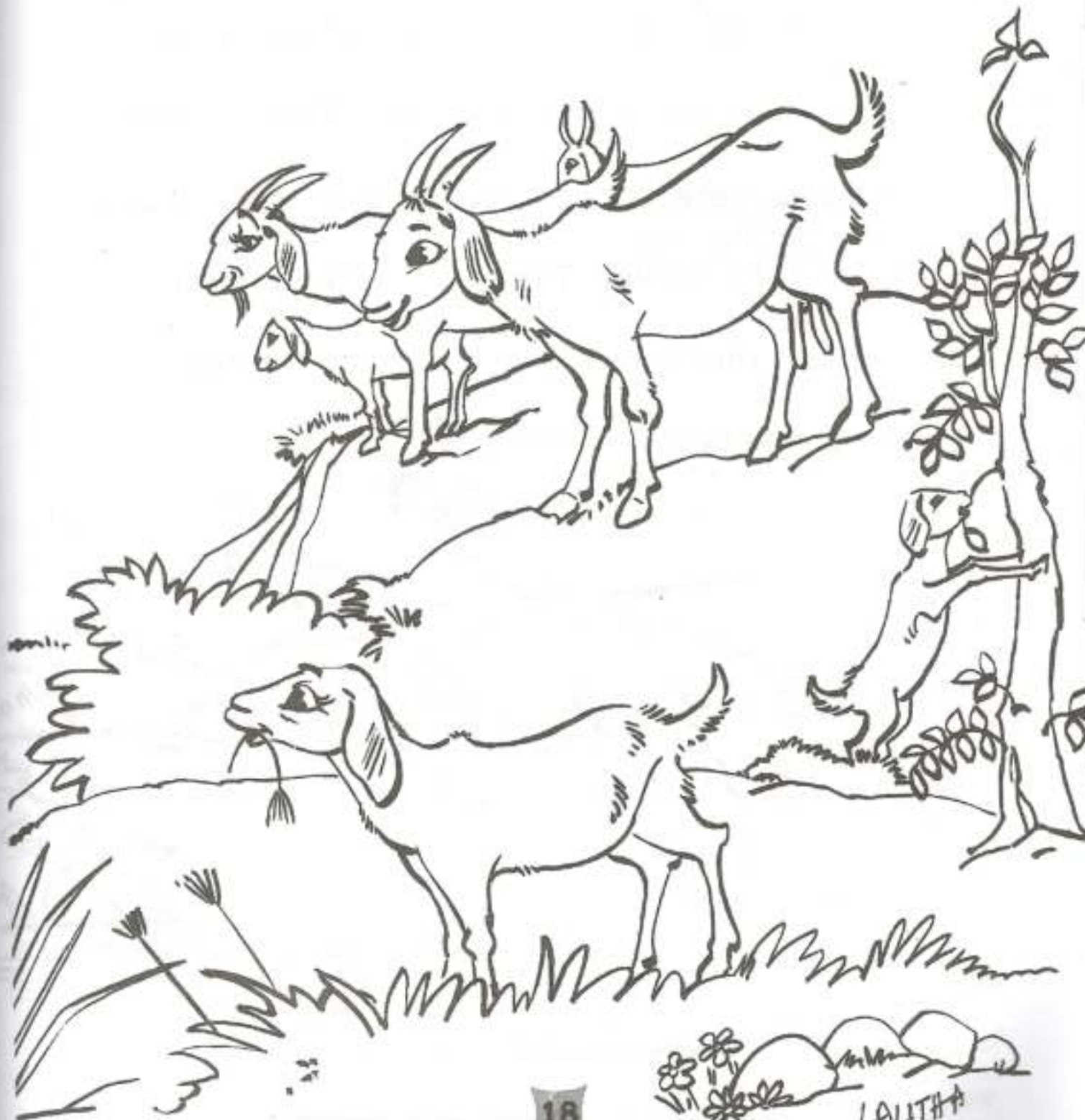
As he returned, the young goat was surprised to see the whole herd of goats waiting to welcome him. They understood that he was not fierce. He found his home and family at last.



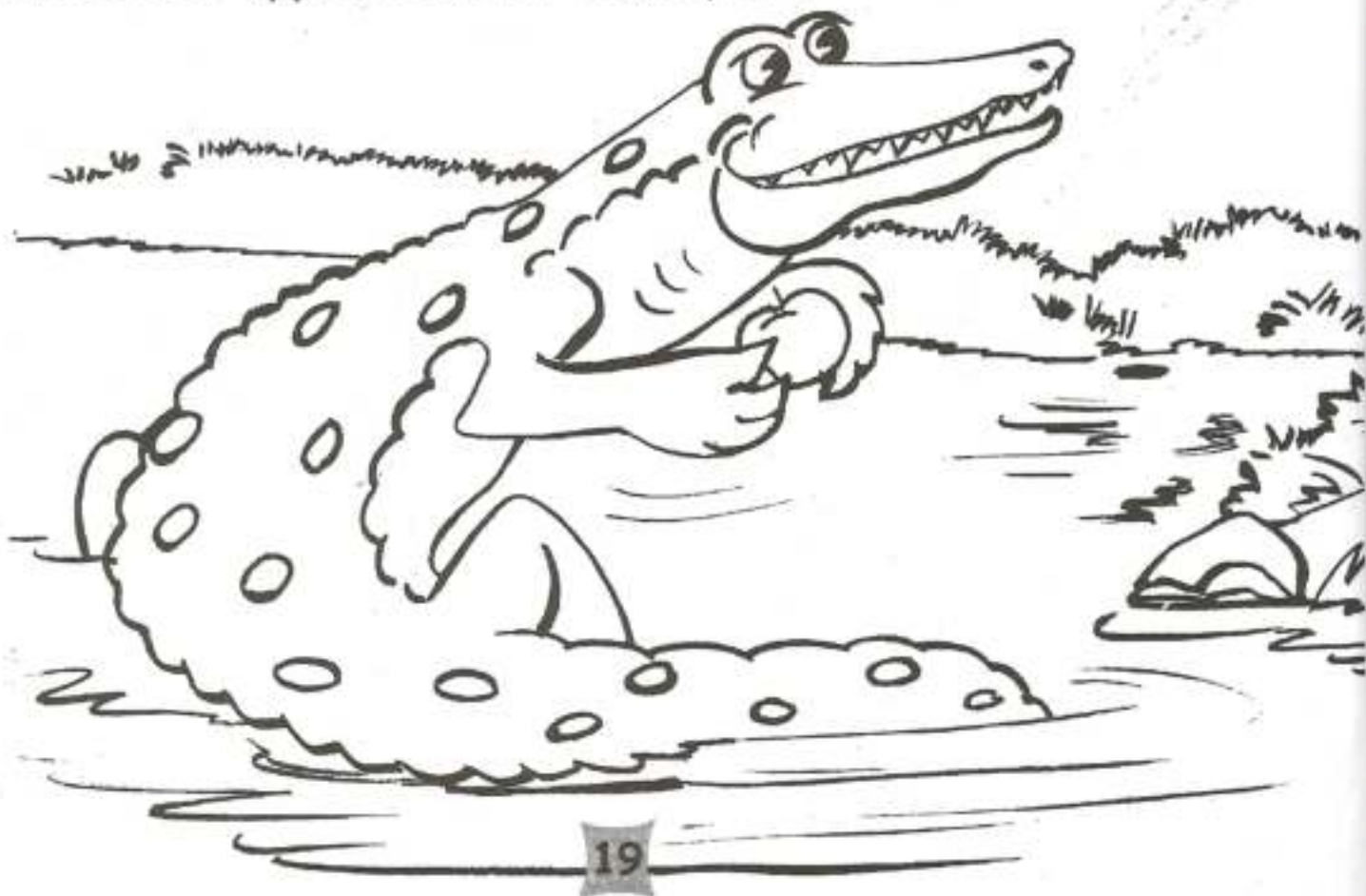
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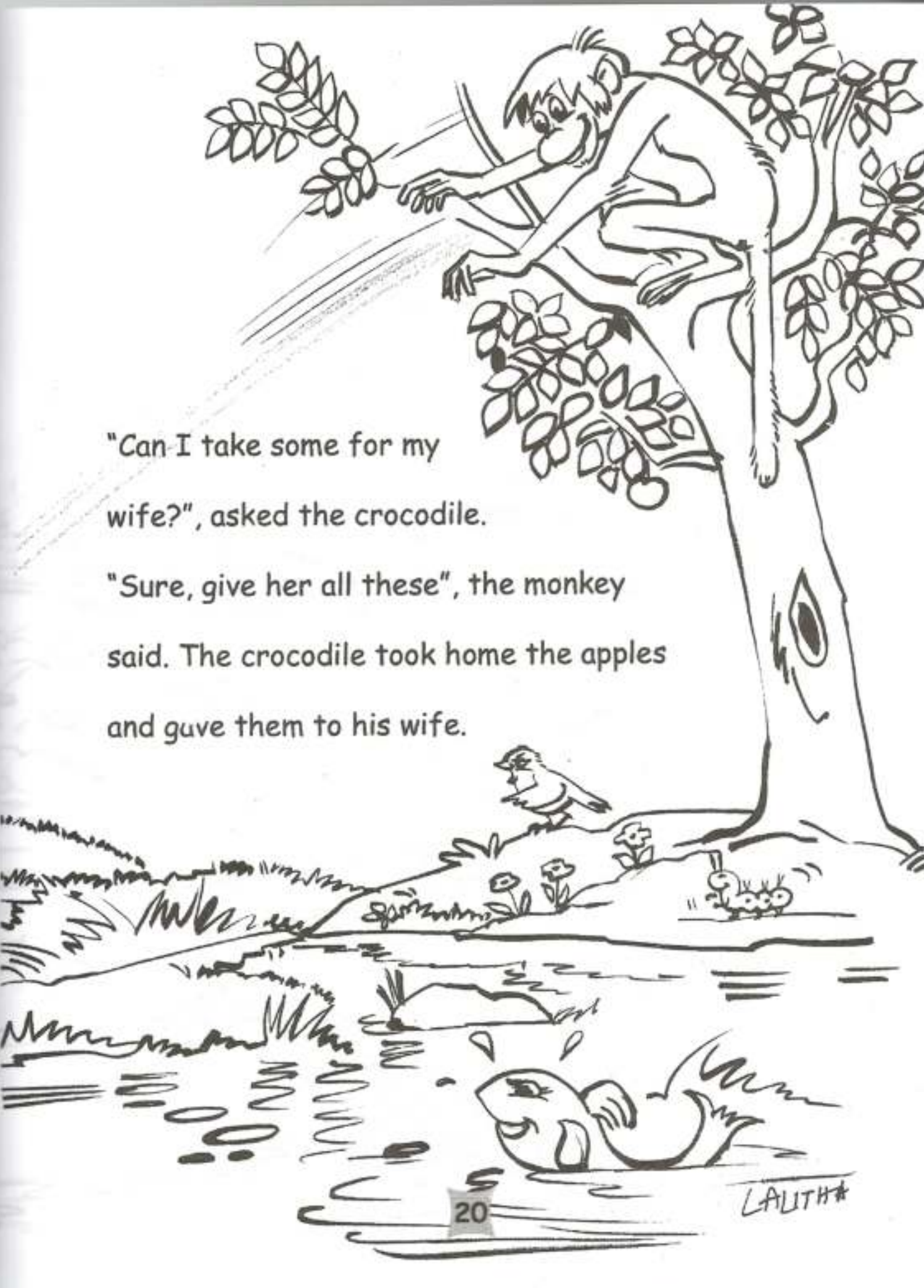
Patience brings rich rewards.





Once, a monkey lived in a big apple tree. Apples were his favourite fruits. One day, a huge crocodile living in the nearby river, asked the monkey for food. "Food? I have plenty of apples. Here, try one. You can have as many as you want", said the monkey. The crocodile bit into one and said, "Wow! These are great. I have never eaten such sweet apples before. Thank you".





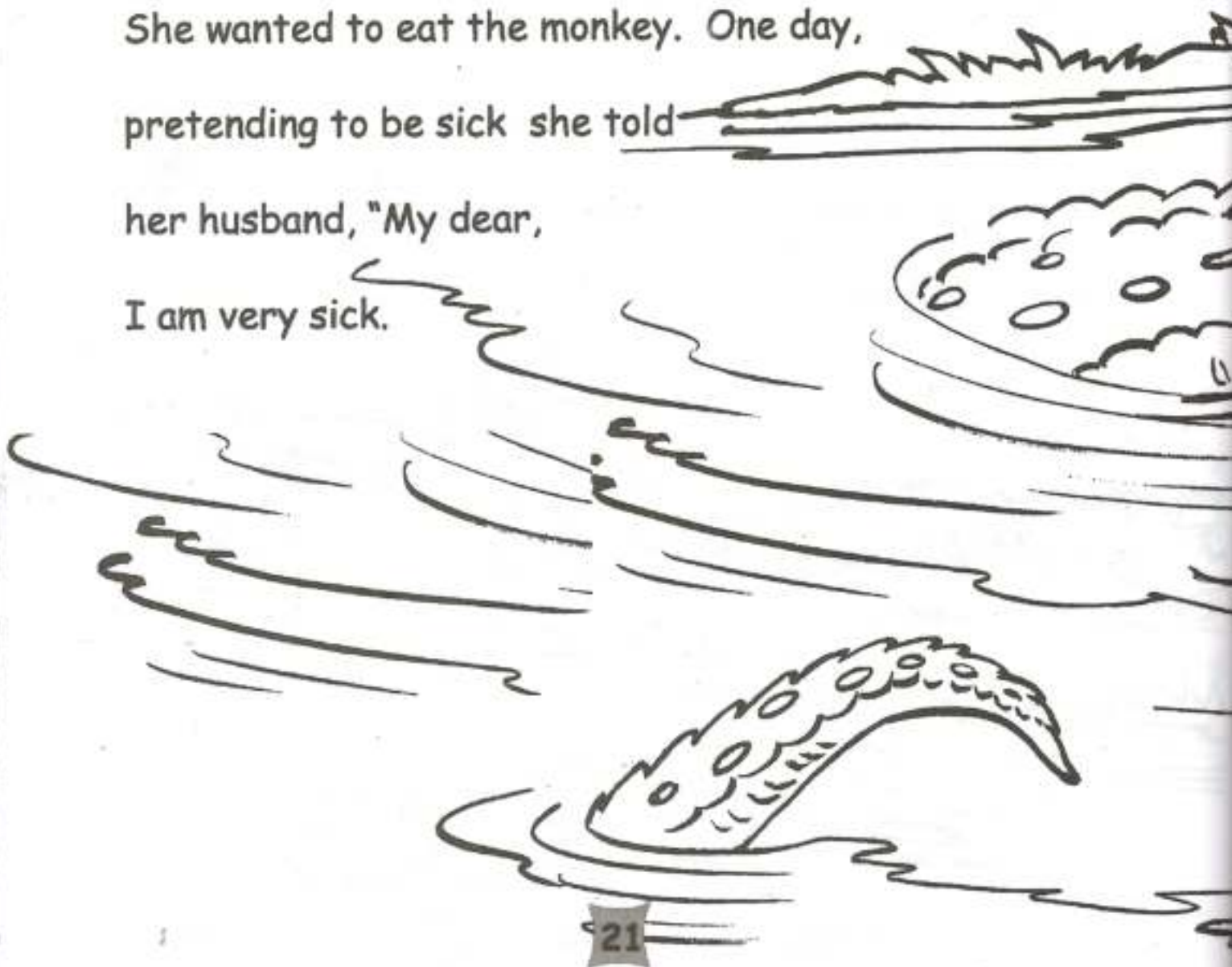
"Can I take some for my wife?", asked the crocodile.

"Sure, give her all these", the monkey said. The crocodile took home the apples and gave them to his wife.

"Hmm! They are so sweet. Does your friend eat only these apples and nothing else?", she asked. "Yes, he eats only apples for every meal", replied the husband. "Then, his flesh must be equally sweet", she thought to herself.

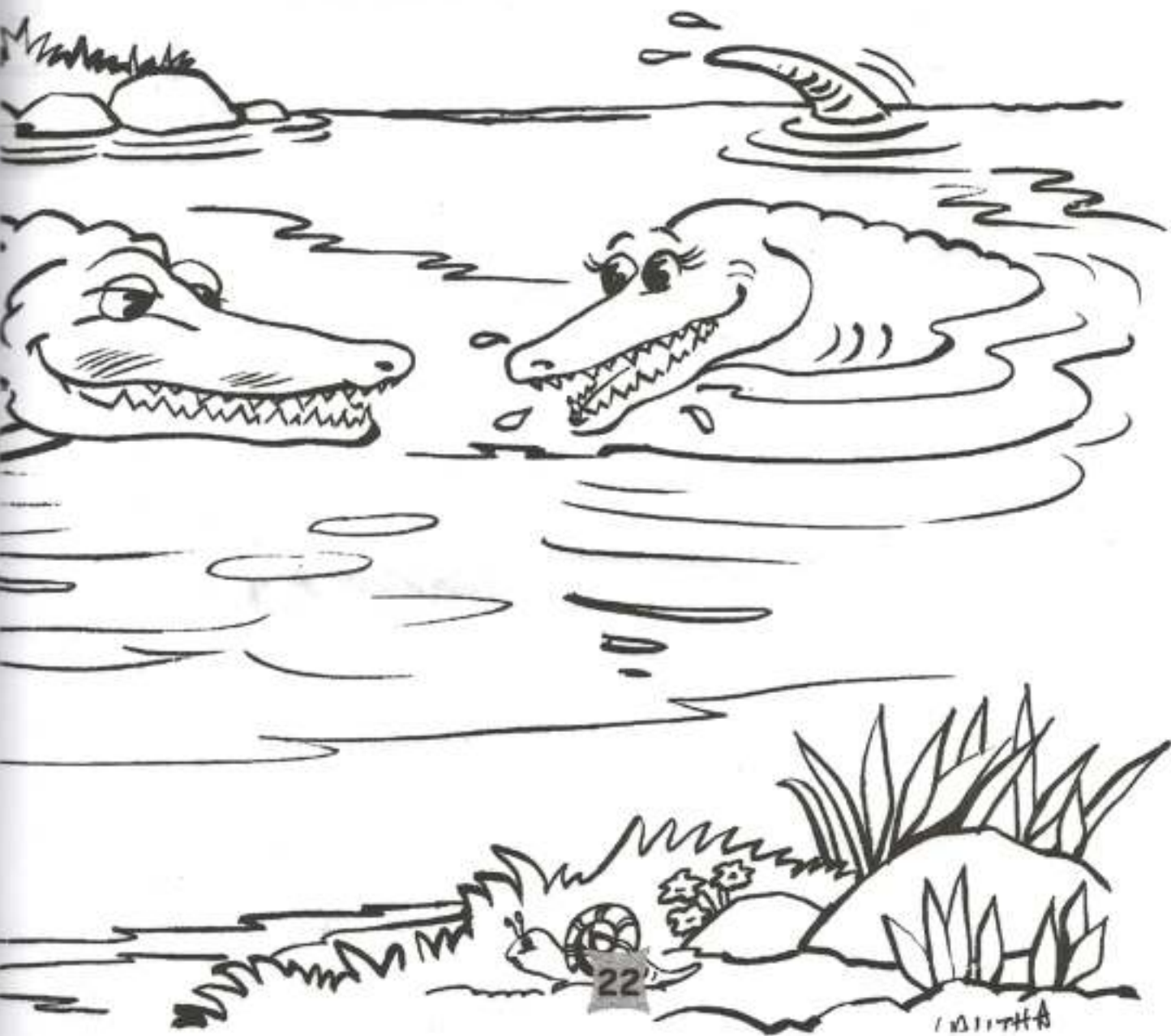
She wanted to eat the monkey. One day, pretending to be sick she told

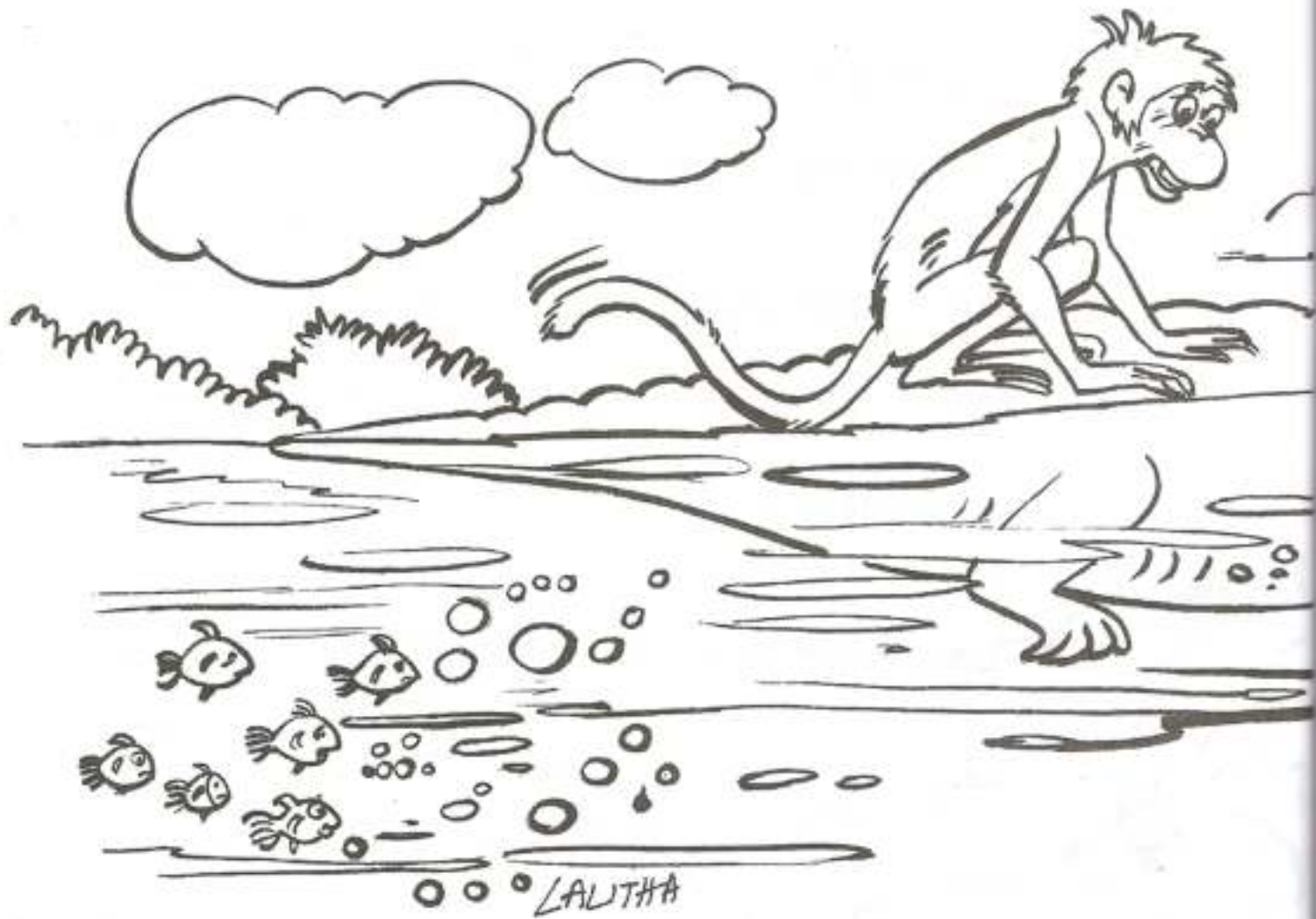
her husband, "My dear, I am very sick.



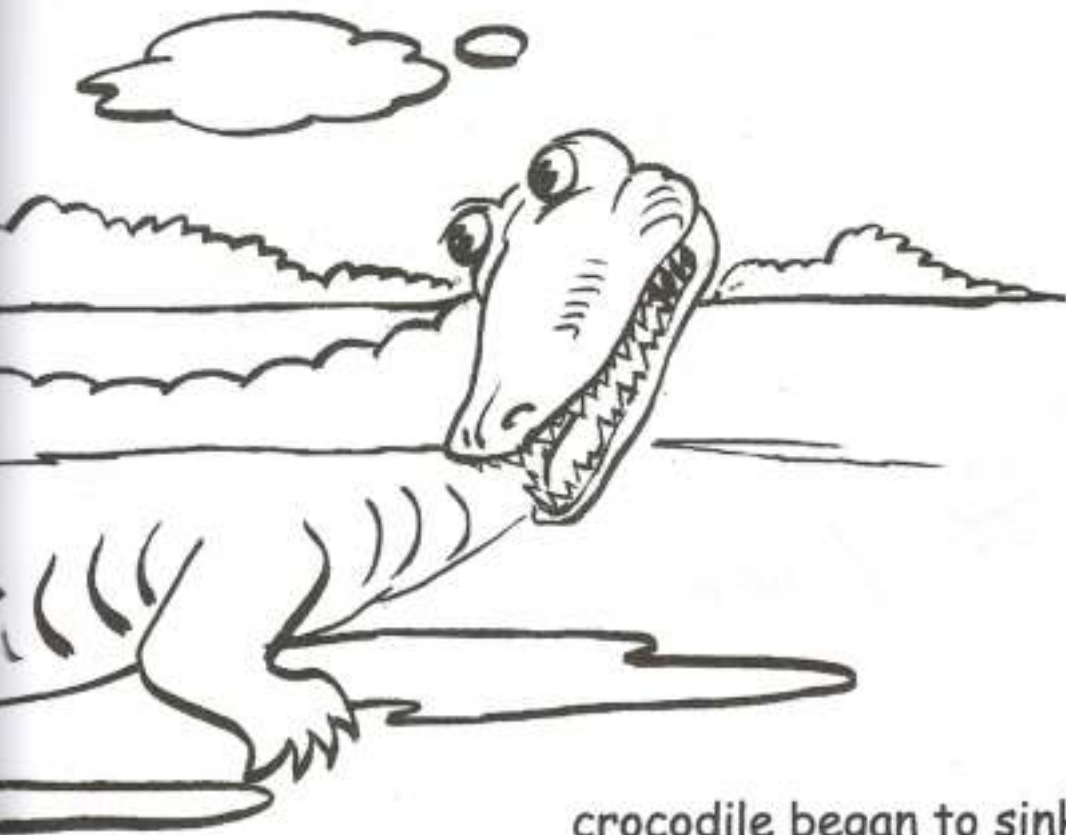
The doctor says I will get better only if I have a monkey's heart. Can you bring your friend, the monkey over?"

The husband was upset. "Must I kill my friend for my wife to get better?", he wondered.





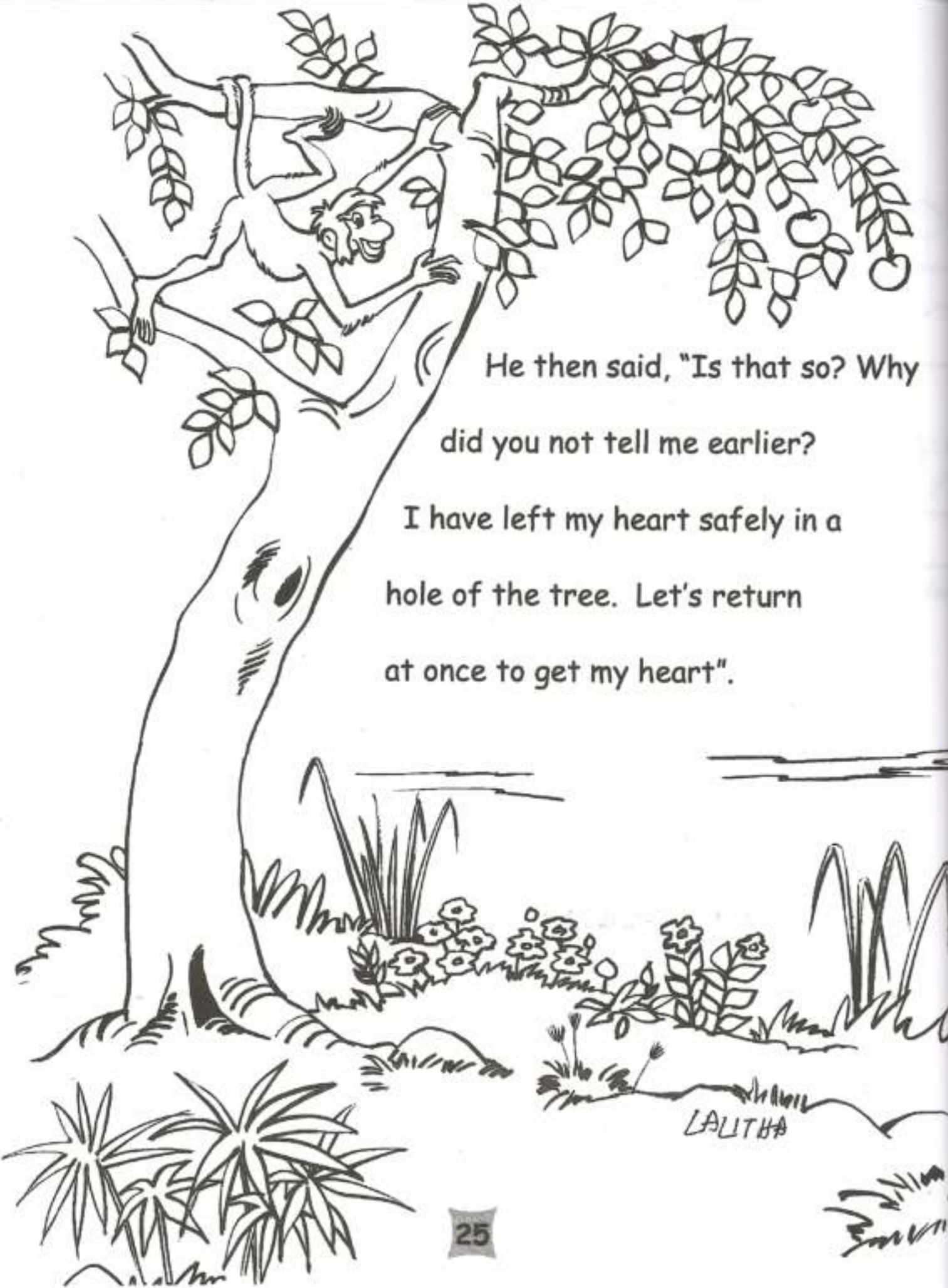
But she kept asking everyday. So, one day he invited the monkey to visit his wife. The monkey agreed. He jumped onto the back of the crocodile. When they came to the middle of the river, the



crocodile began to sink slowly.

"Hey! What's happening?", asked the monkey, "I cannot swim".

"I am sorry friend, I have to kill you. My wife is sick. She will recover only if she has a monkey's heart", said the crocodile. "Oh, Oh! I am in danger", thought the monkey to himself.



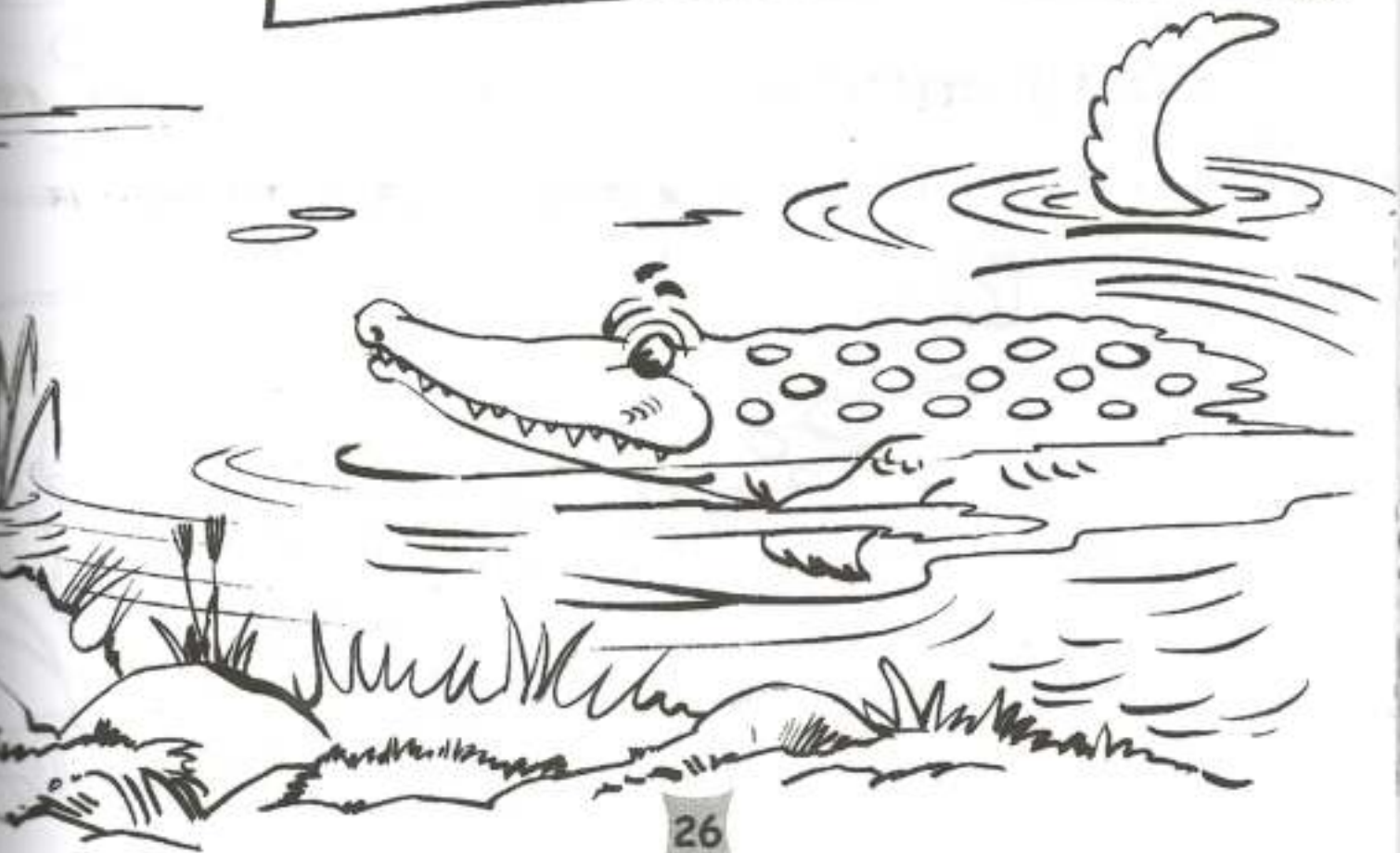
He then said, "Is that so? Why did you not tell me earlier?"

I have left my heart safely in a hole of the tree. Let's return at once to get my heart".

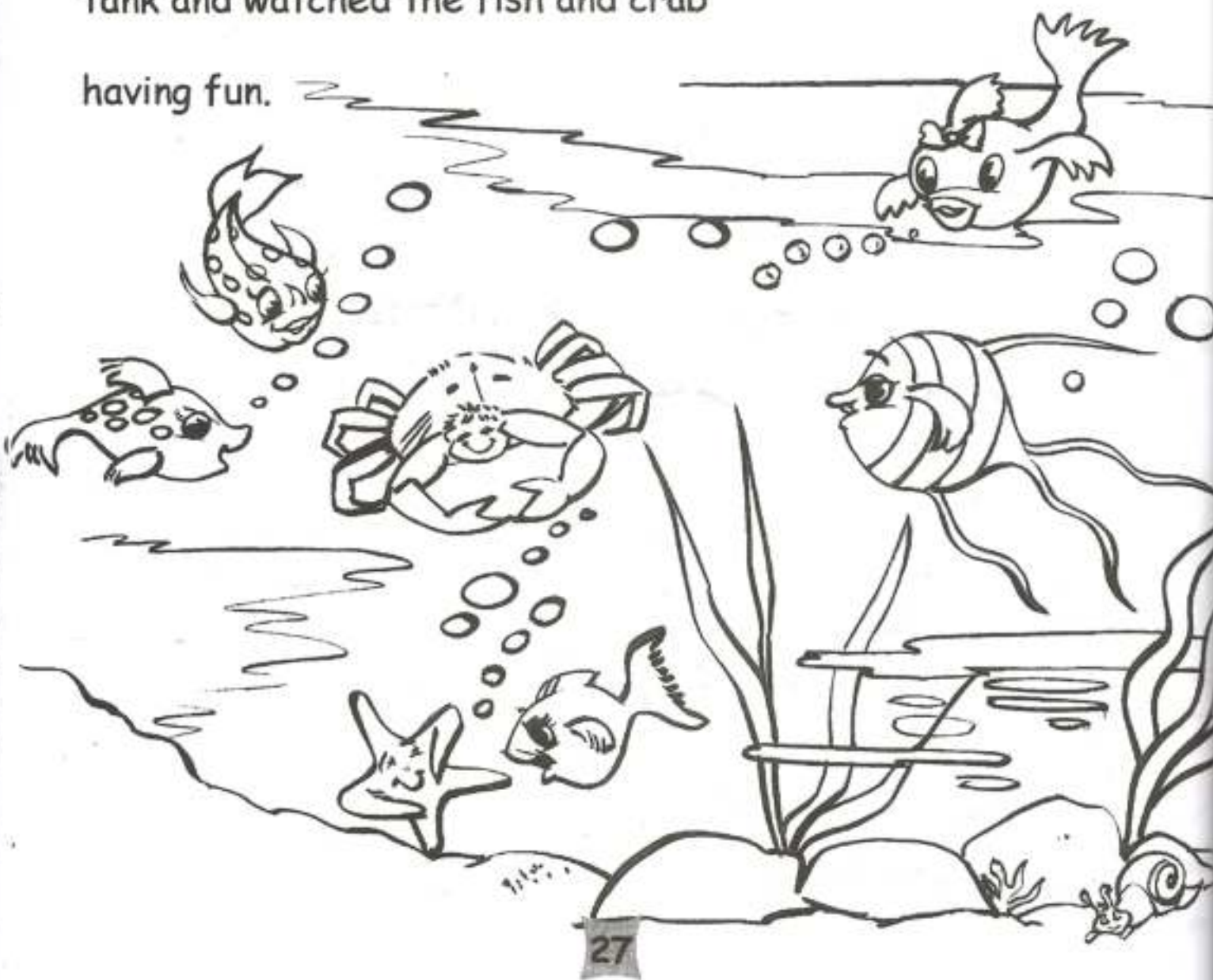
The hopeful crocodile turned back. He swam at such a speed that the monkey thought he may topple over. Upon reaching the shore, the monkey jumped off and ran up the tree. From atop he called out, "Hey! Good friend, go tell your unkind wife that she cannot have her way all the time".

Message

Wise people are not easily fooled.

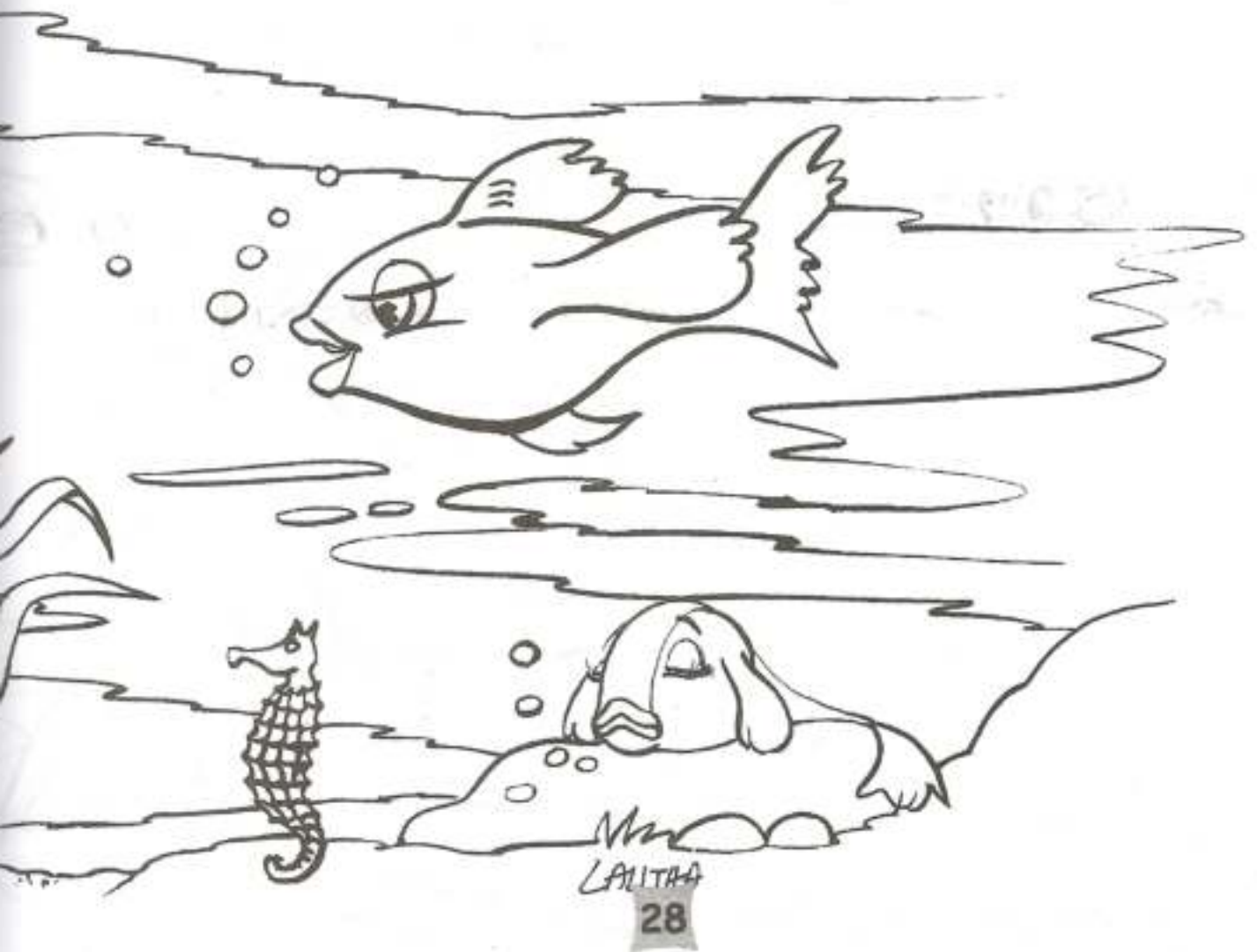


A school of fish and a crab lived a happy and carefree life in a huge water tank. They splashed around and played in the water all day. One day, a stork stood by the tank and watched the fish and crab having fun.



He thought, "They would make a perfect meal for me". He wondered, "How do I get them out of this tank?" A plan struck him.

The stork said, "Hello! Friends, this tank will not be your home for long. Soon it will become dry. So, you will have to move out."



"Can you do something to help us out?",
the crab and the fish asked the stork.

He pretended to think for a while.

"Let me take care of your worries.

Not far from here, there is a large rock.

Just behind that rock, is a water tank.

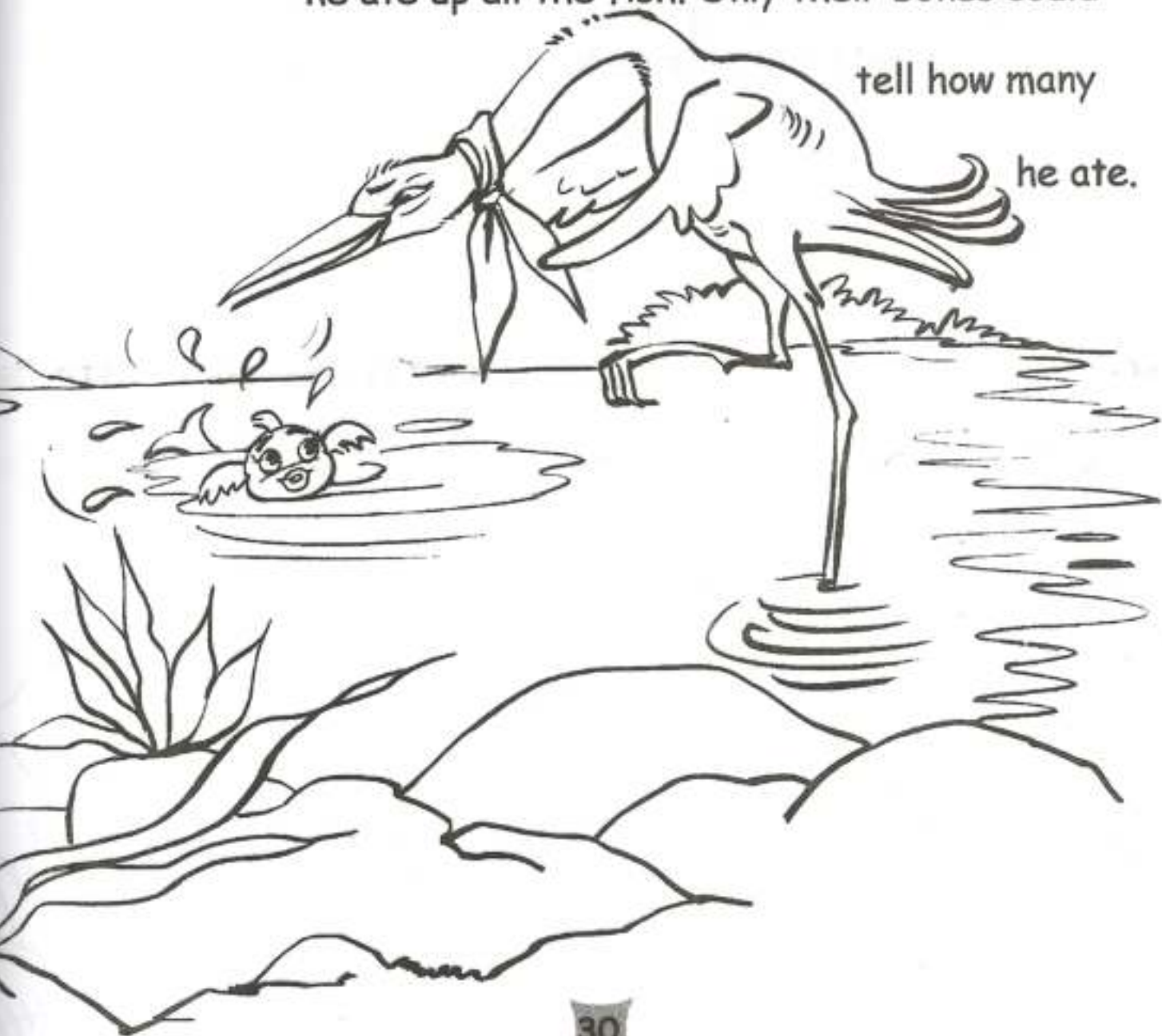
I will lift you in my beak and take

you there", said the stork.



The underwater friends agreed. They waited for the stork to airlift them. On his first trip, the stork picked up half a dozen fish and flew off to the new tank. Half way through his flight, the stork stopped at the large rock. There, he ate up all the fish. Only their bones could

tell how many
he ate.

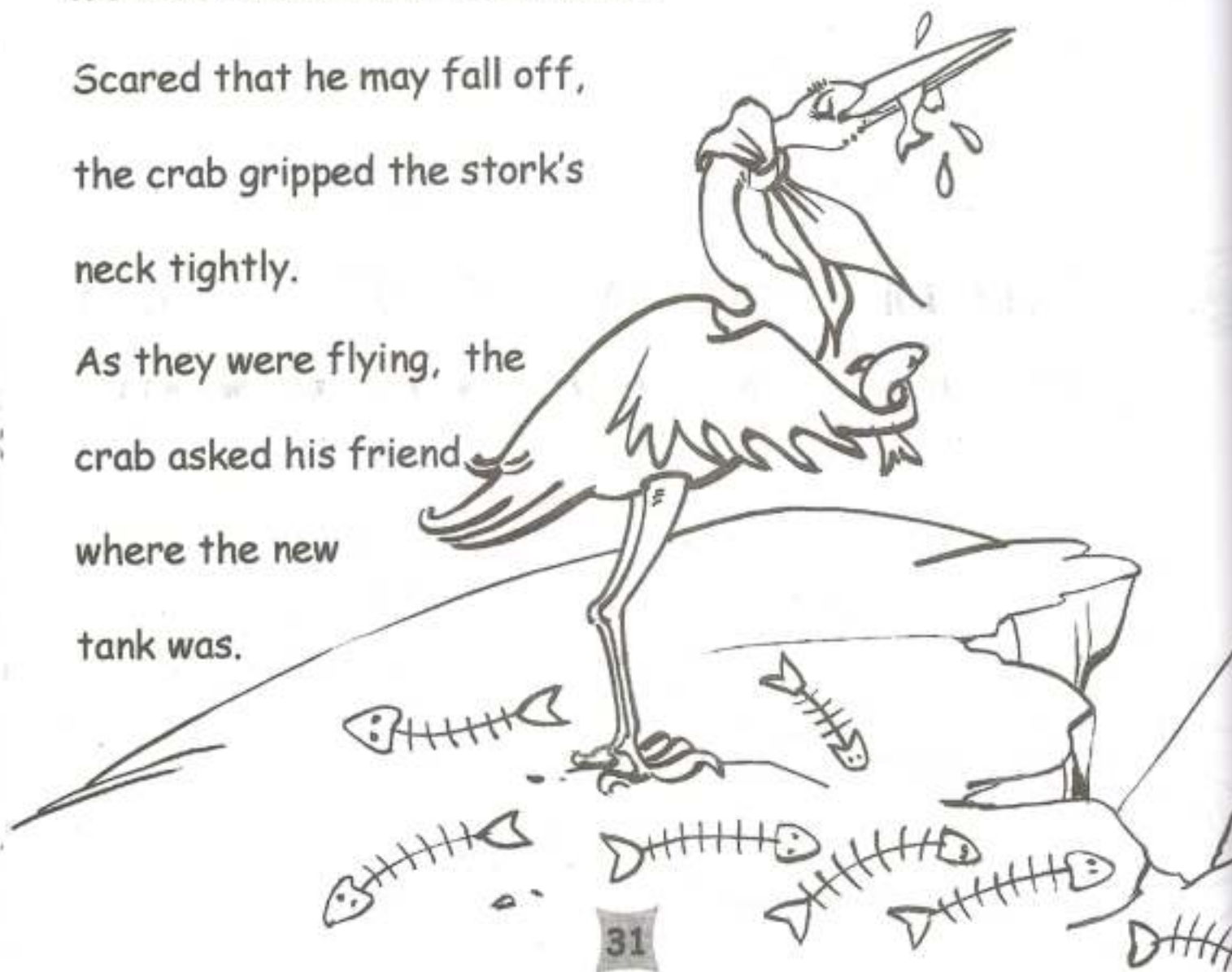


Then, he flew back for the remaining fish.

He again stopped by the rock and had his 'meal'. By this time the stork was tired of eating fish and wanted to eat a crab. So, he told the crab to sit on his back and hold on to his neck.

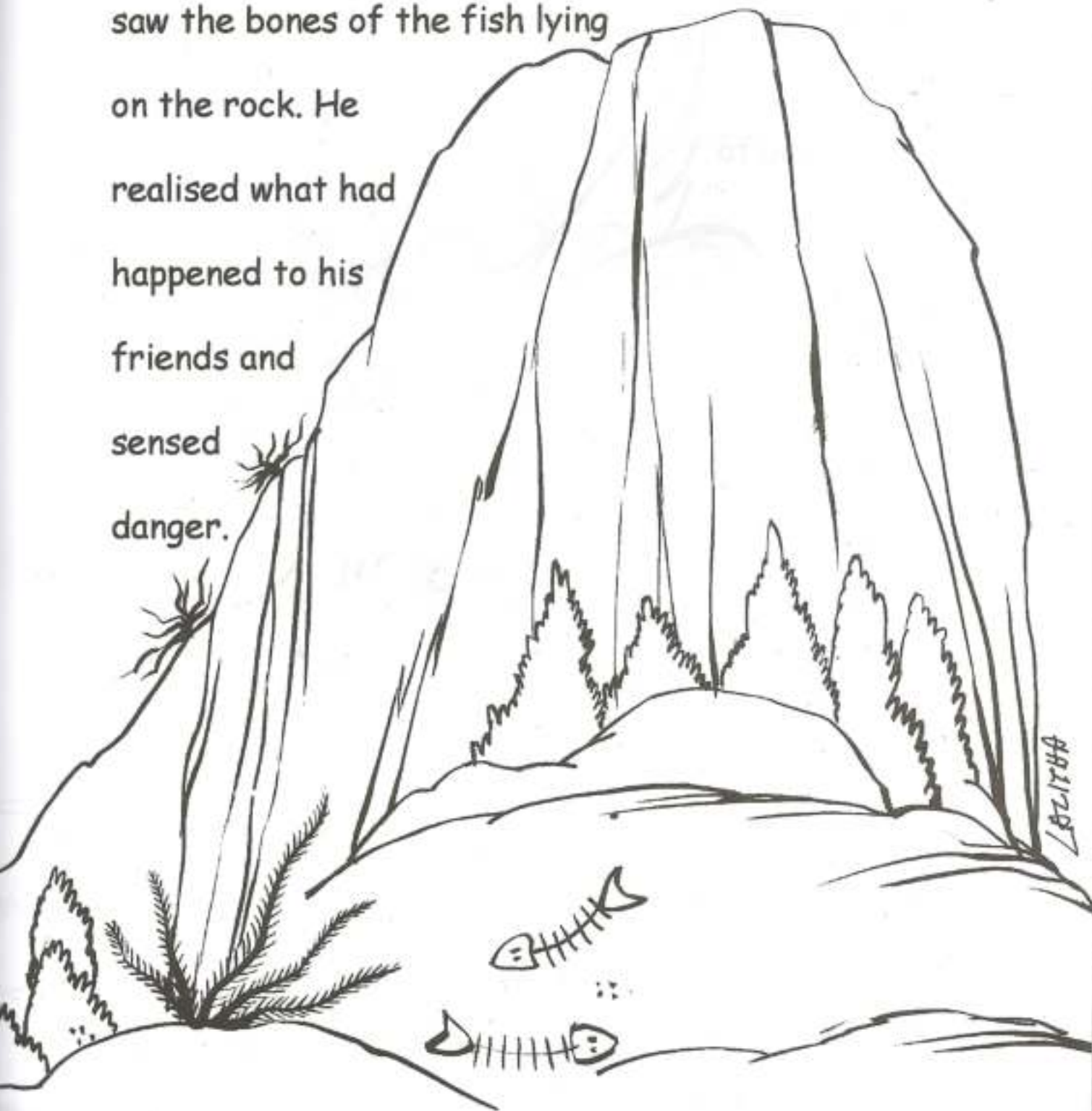
Scared that he may fall off, the crab gripped the stork's neck tightly.

As they were flying, the crab asked his friend where the new tank was.



"The tank is not very far off. Do you see that large rock over there? We will land there", said the stork. Just then, the crab

saw the bones of the fish lying on the rock. He realised what had happened to his friends and sensed danger.



He quickly squeezed the stork's neck. "Hey!

What are you doing? You are choking me",

said the stork.

"Good, I want you to

feel how my

friends would

have felt

when you

swallowed

them alive",

said the crab

and squeezed

him further.



LALITHA

The stork fell on top of the fish bones
and died. The crab quickly jumped off.
He was happy that he could kill the stork
for cheating his friends.

But he was also
sad that he could
not save his friends'
lives.



Message

Trickery and

deceit ultimately

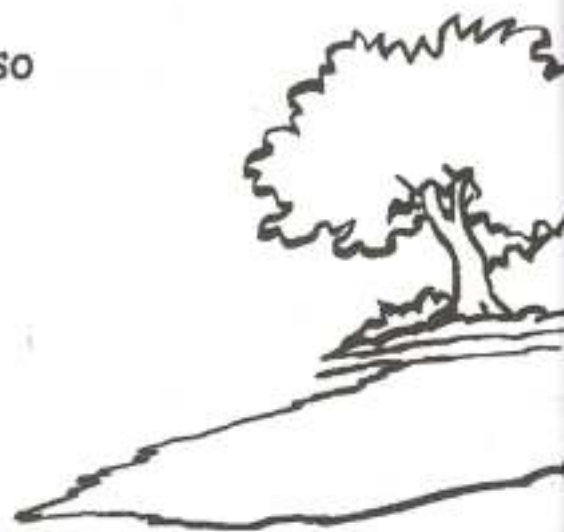
lead to ruin.



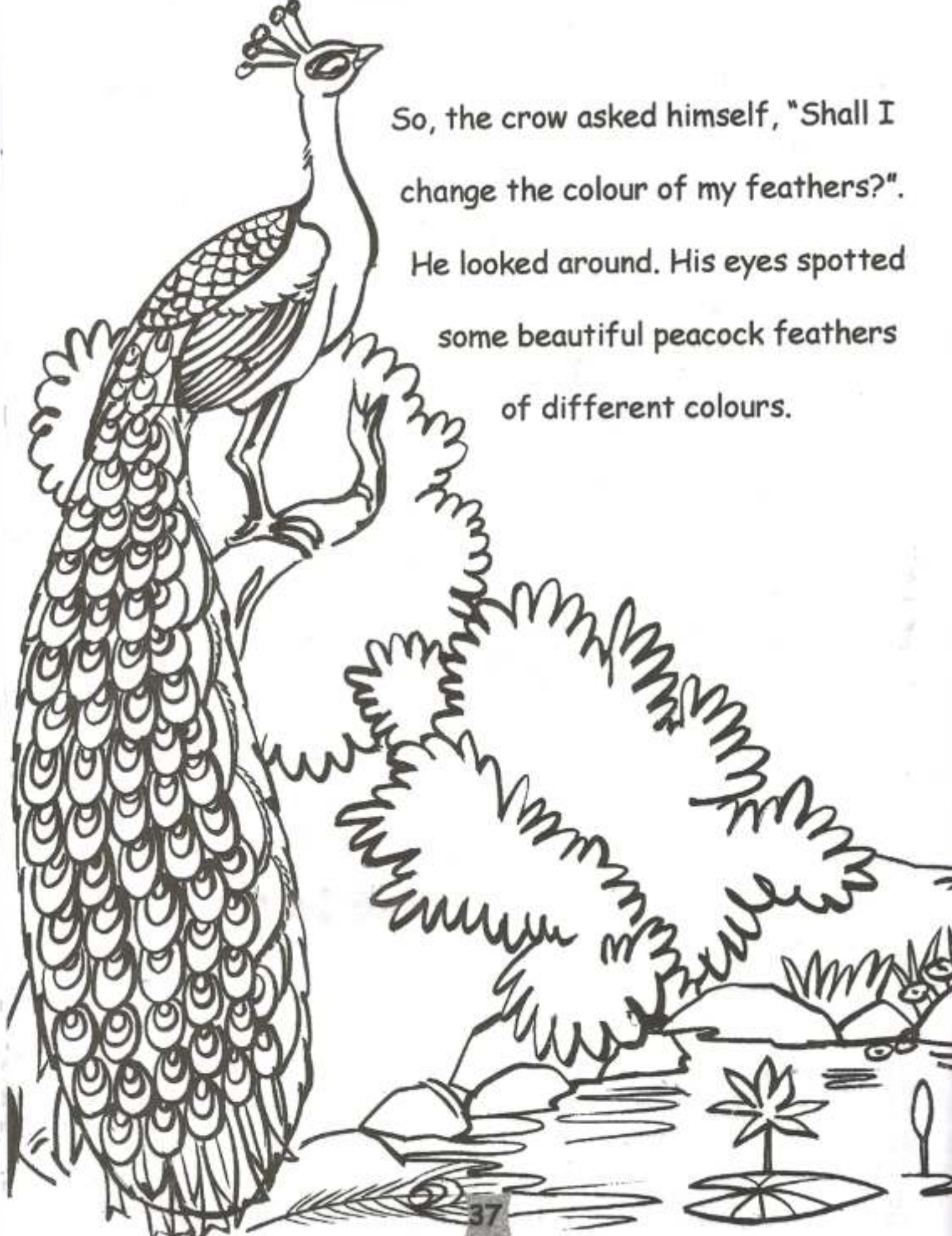
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THE CROW AND THE PEACOCK

There was once a crow who did not like his black feathers. One day, he spotted some peacocks dancing in the forest. He wondered, "How is it that their feathers are so colourful? Mine are so dull and black". The crow was fed up of his dull looks, he too wanted to have colourful feathers. He thought that he would become a hero amongst his family and friends if only he could look different.

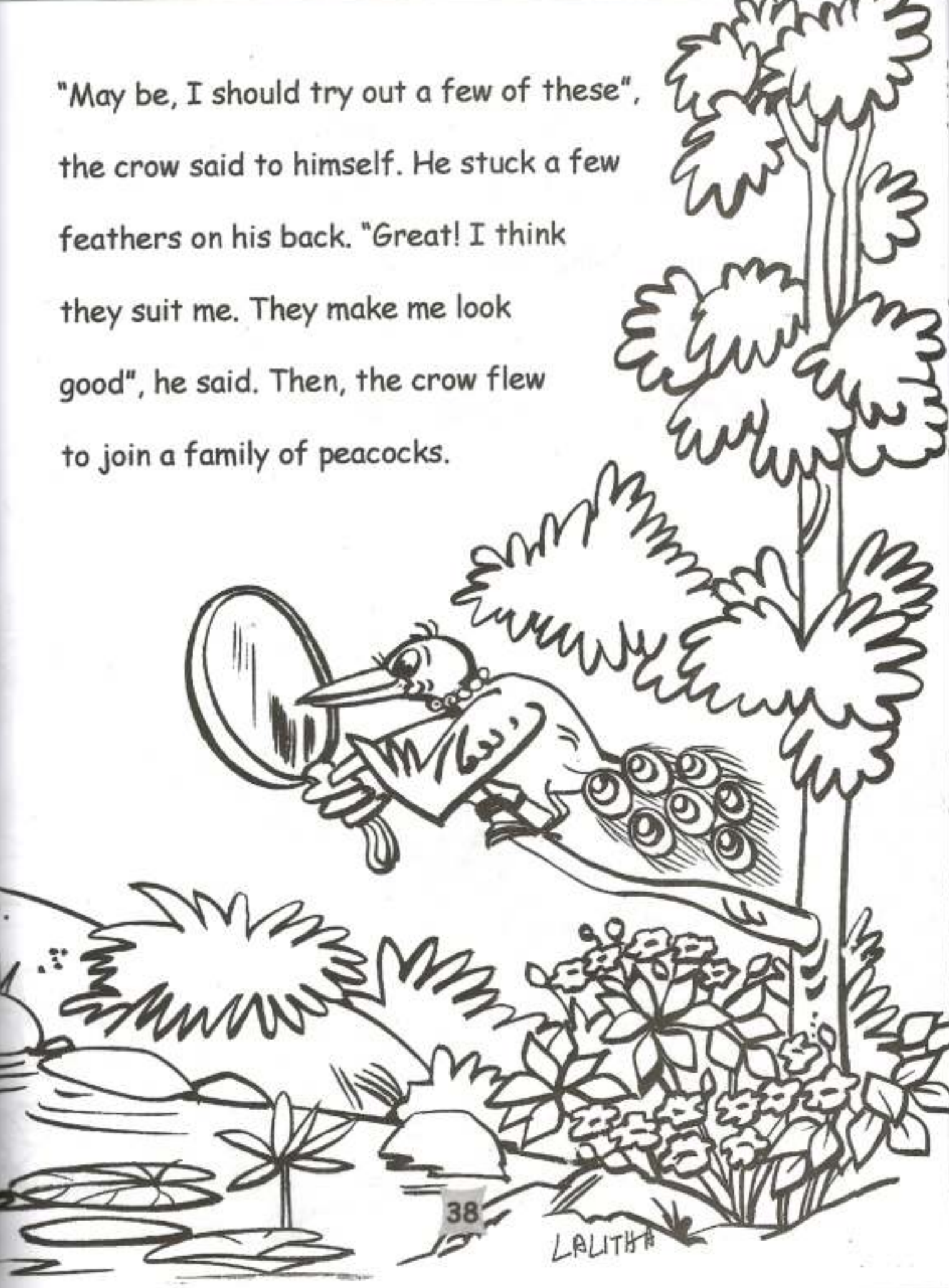




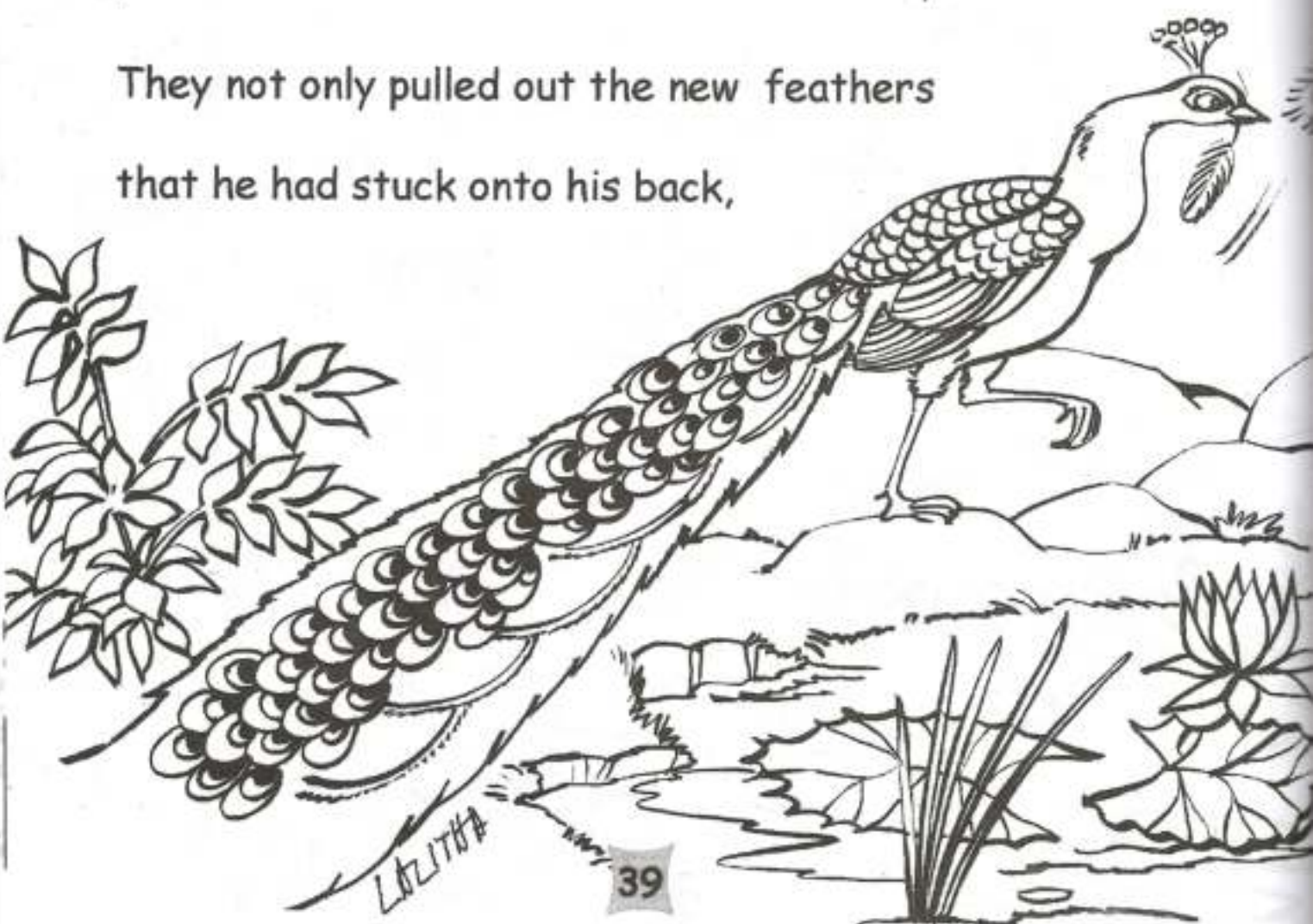


So, the crow asked himself, "Shall I change the colour of my feathers?". He looked around. His eyes spotted some beautiful peacock feathers of different colours.

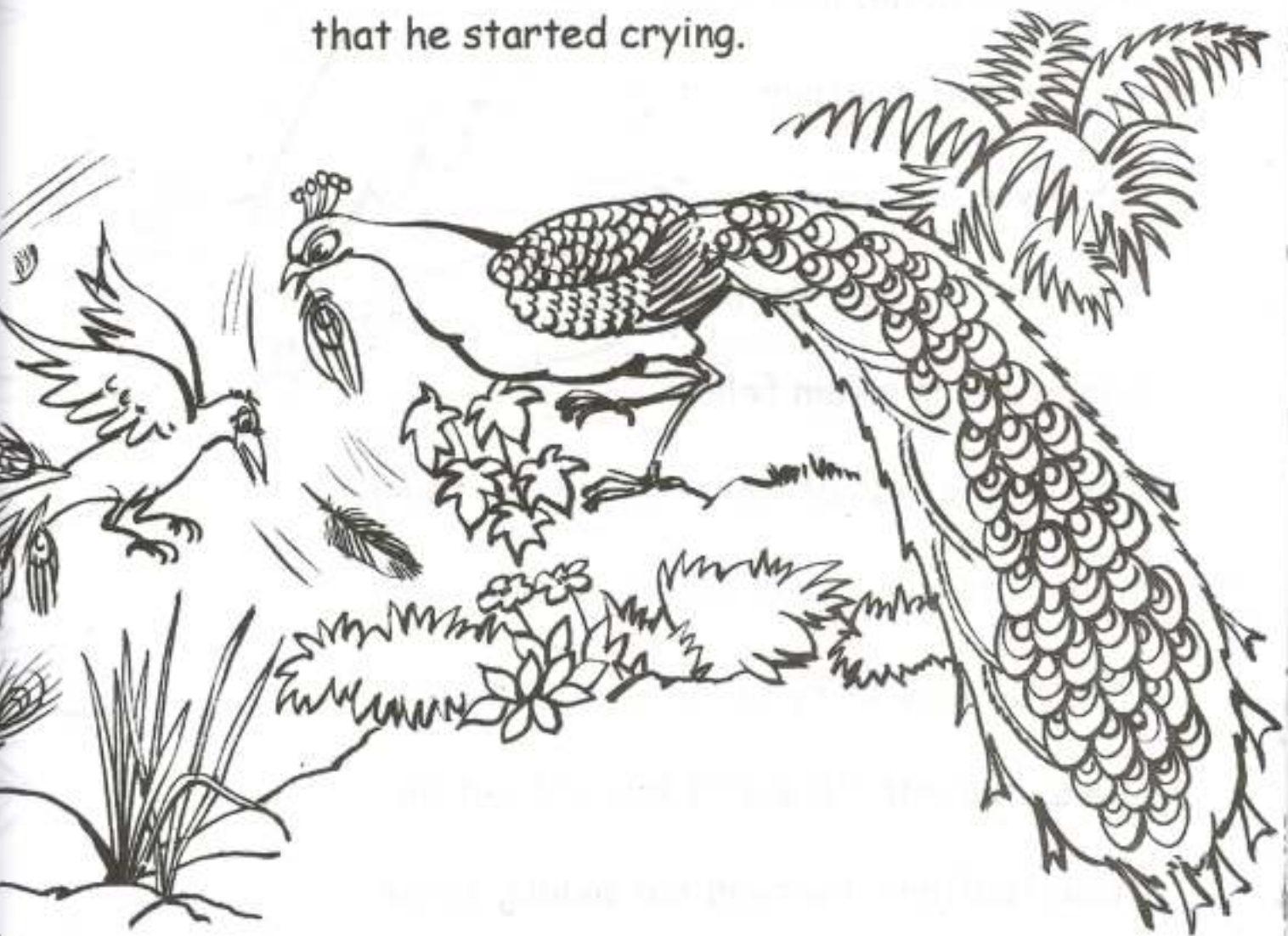
"May be, I should try out a few of these",
the crow said to himself. He stuck a few
feathers on his back. "Great! I think
they suit me. They make me look
good", he said. Then, the crow flew
to join a family of peacocks.



But, the proud birds were not pleased to see a crow in peacock feathers. In fact they were angry. "How dare you put on our feathers? You look very funny", they said. The whole group of birds closed in on the crow. Then they all pounced on him, pecked at his feathers and drove him away. They not only pulled out the new feathers that he had stuck onto his back,



they had also pecked out his own plain black feathers. The crow was unhappy and felt helpless. He was so miserable that he started crying.



He now wanted to return to his own family.

But, his family and friends were very

angry with him. "Did you

think you would look good

in borrowed feathers?

Don't you like your own?",

they asked. They accused

him of being a vain fellow.



The family did not want to have anything

to do with him and chased him away.

The crow was sorry for his mistake but

it was too late. "I wish I had not put on

those feathers that did not belong to me.

I made a mistake in believing that I would

look good with a few borrowed feathers", he

thought, "I should have been happy with

what God had given me".

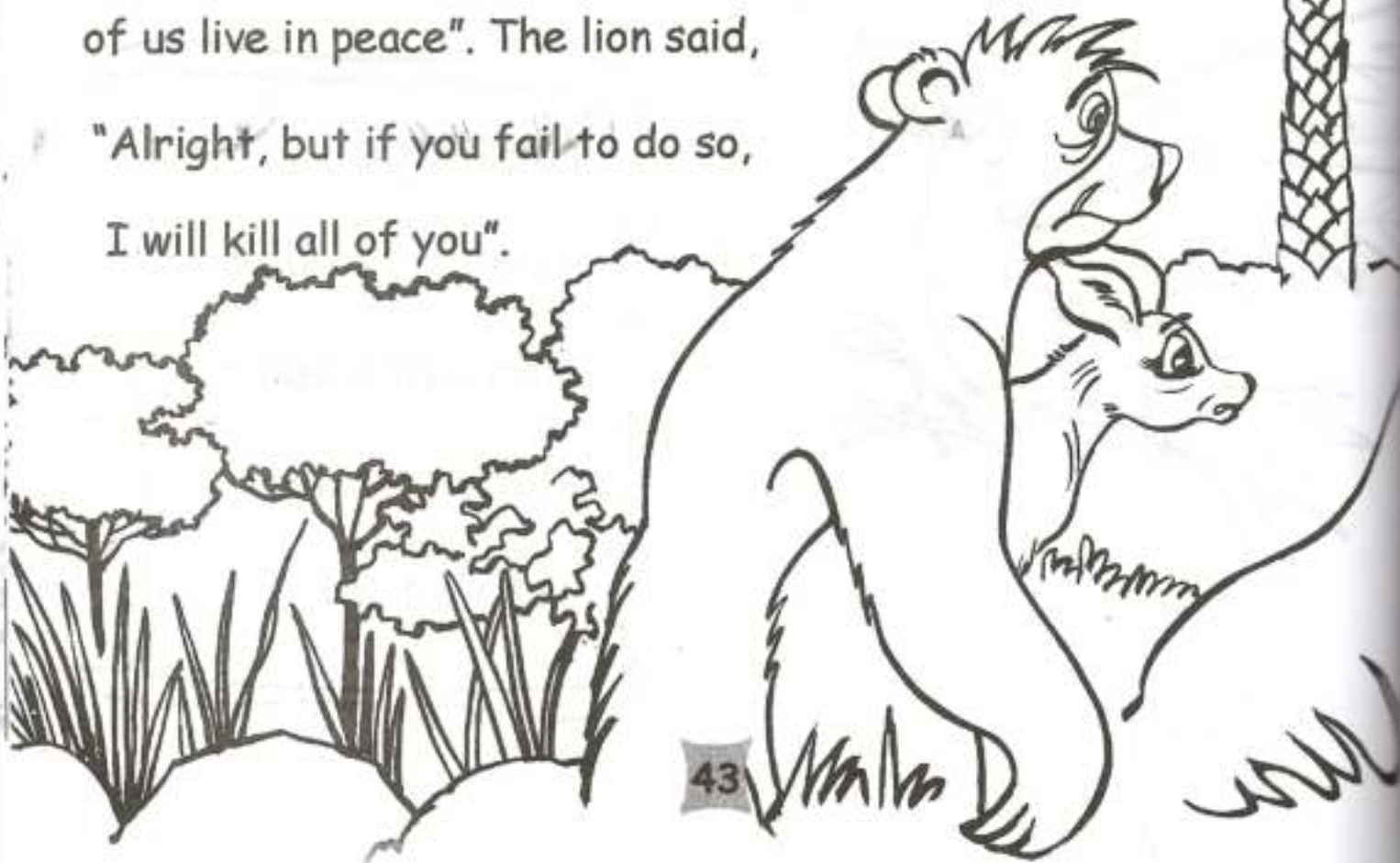


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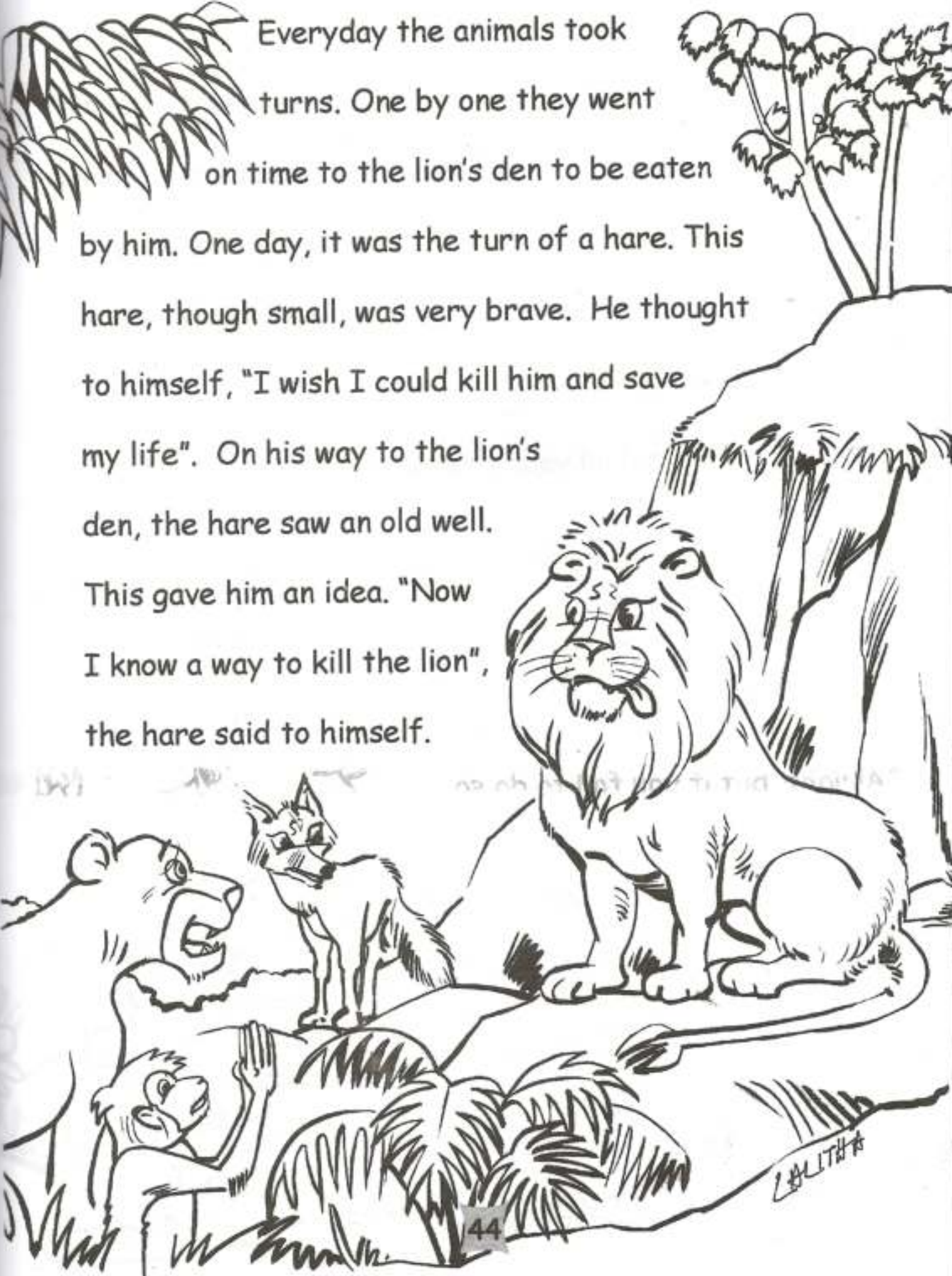
*Don't try to shine in
borrowed feathers.*

*Be content with
who you are.*

Once there lived a lion who killed animals for fun. The other animals tried to keep away from him. "Why does he have to kill us when he is not hungry", they asked themselves. "We can't live in peace like this", they grumbled. One day, they all went to him and said, "Master, from today each one of us will come to you one by one for your daily meal. Please let the rest of us live in peace". The lion said, "Alright, but if you fail to do so, I will kill all of you".



Everyday the animals took turns. One by one they went on time to the lion's den to be eaten by him. One day, it was the turn of a hare. This hare, though small, was very brave. He thought to himself, "I wish I could kill him and save my life". On his way to the lion's den, the hare saw an old well. This gave him an idea. "Now I know a way to kill the lion", the hare said to himself.



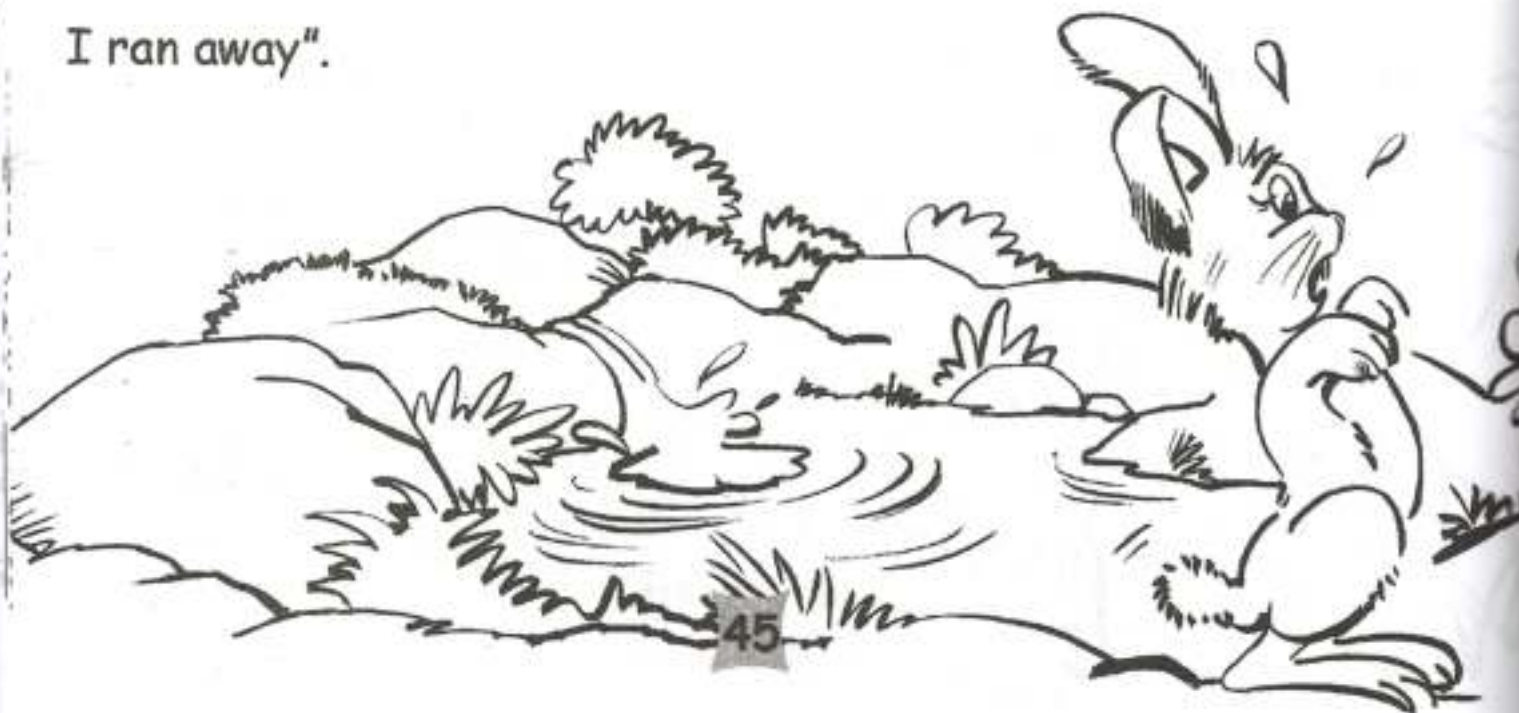
By the time the hare reached the den, the lion was in a rage. "Why are you so late?", he roared. "My apologies for coming late, master", said the hare. The lion looked at the hare fiercely and said, "As it is you are so small, and on top of it you have to come so late. I have no choice but to kill you today and all your friends tomorrow".

"But master, it is not my fault. Please let me explain", stuttered the rabbit. "Explain what?", the lion asked.

The hare continued, "On my way, I met a big lion.

He stopped me from coming to you, but somehow

I ran away".



The lion glared at the hare and
grabbed him by the neck.

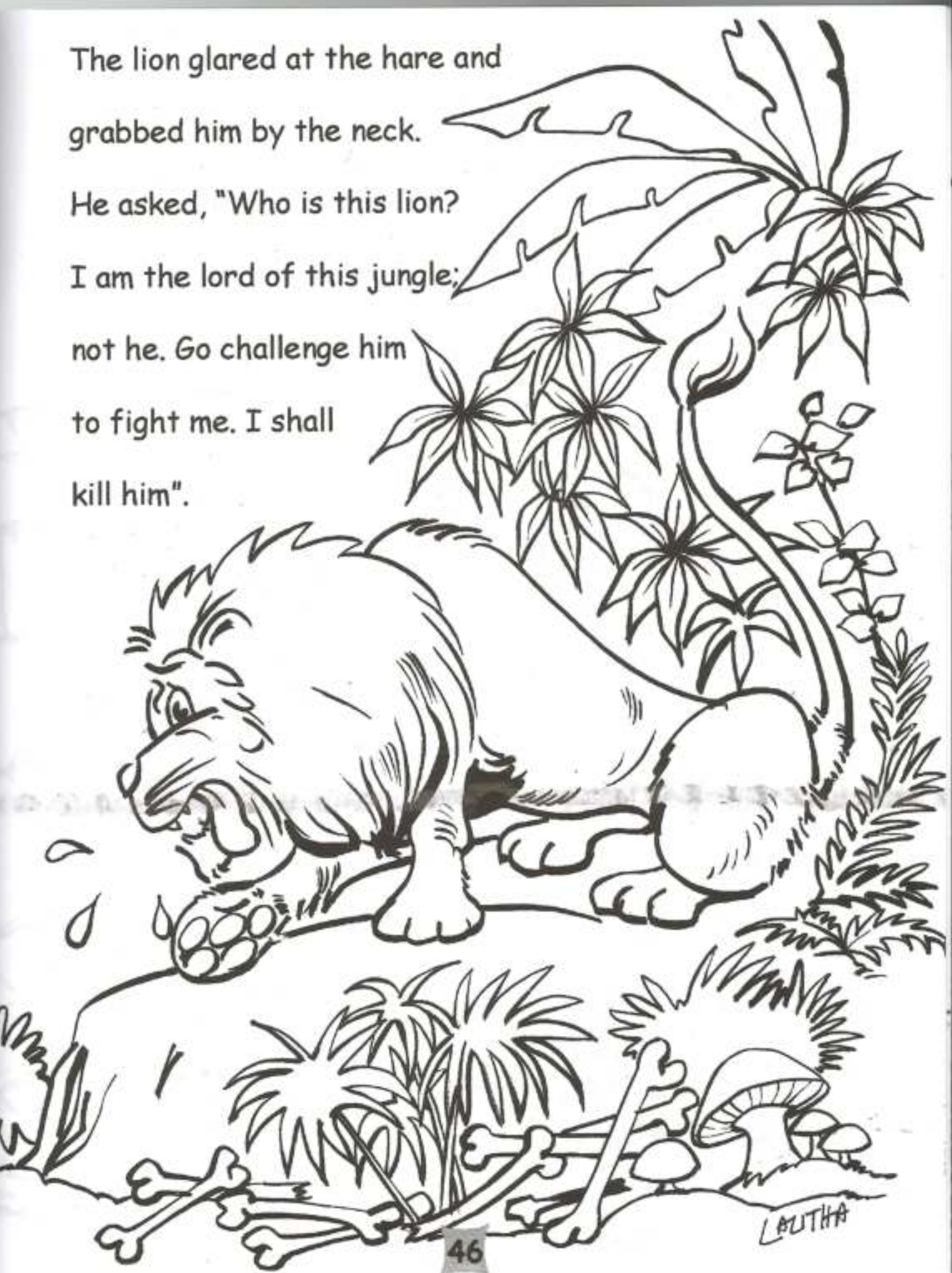
He asked, "Who is this lion?"

I am the lord of this jungle;

not he. Go challenge him

to fight me. I shall

kill him".



"You see master,
where I can't go",

he lives in a place
said the rabbit.

"Just take me
to me",

there and show him
roared the lion.



"Very well master", the hare said and led the lion to an old well near his den. "Look master, that smart lion is hiding inside the well". The lion peeped in and seeing himself in the water he said, "Oh! I will kill him". So saying he jumped in and got drowned.

"Ah! The King of the forest is dead.

I am now safe. I must tell this to all my friends", said the hare and ran to cheer up his friends.



Message

Where there's a will, there's a way.

Gangadatta, the King of frogs lived in a well with his relatives and friends.



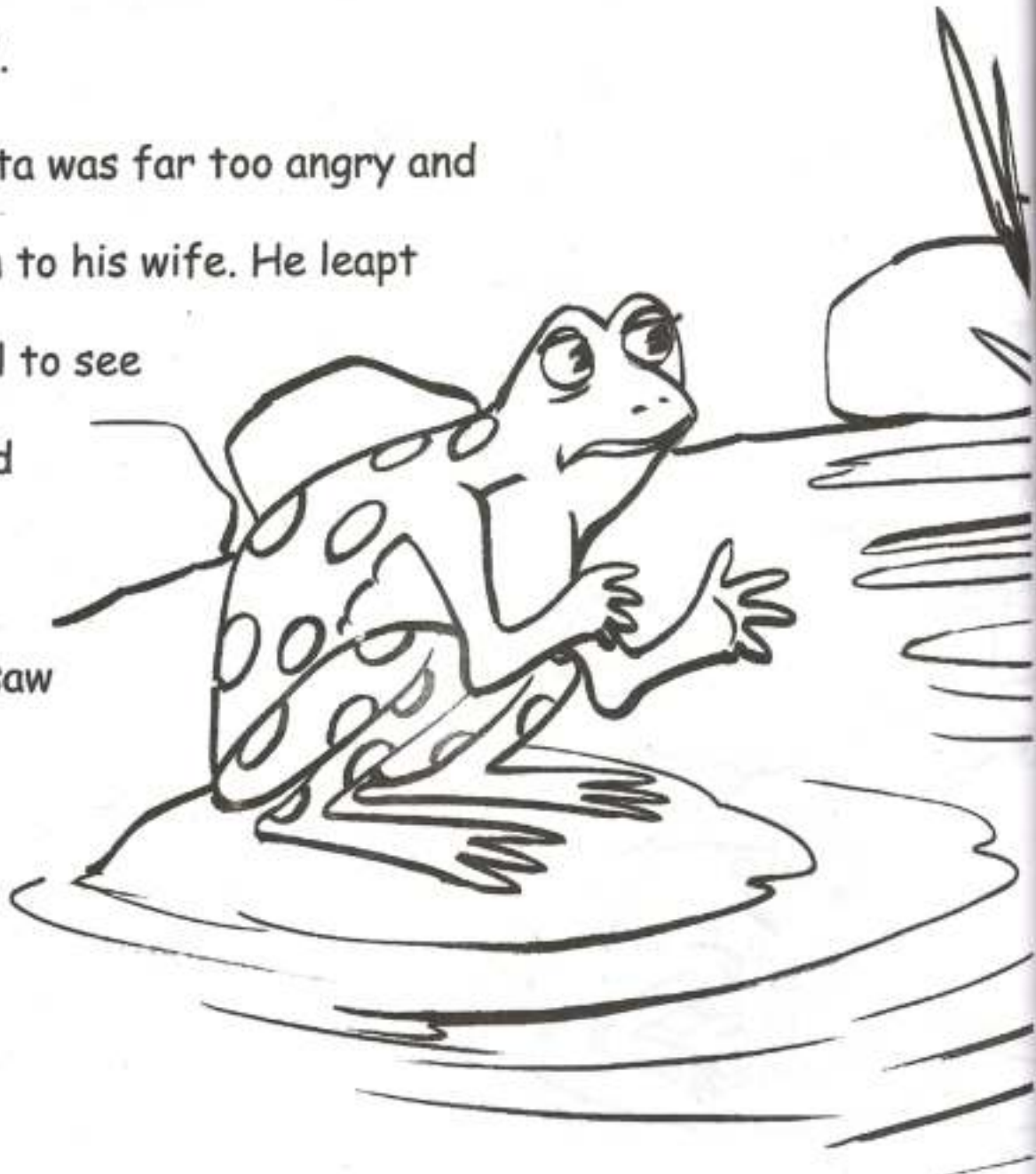
He found it difficult to get along with his relatives. They treated him unkindly. One day he told his wife, "How dare they treat me, their King, like this? I must teach them a lesson".



His wife listened to him patiently. Then she told him, "Be careful dear, you shouldn't get into trouble while trying to teach them a lesson".

But, Gangadatta was far too angry and hasty to listen to his wife. He leapt out of the well to see where he could get help.

Just then he saw a snake slide into its hole.

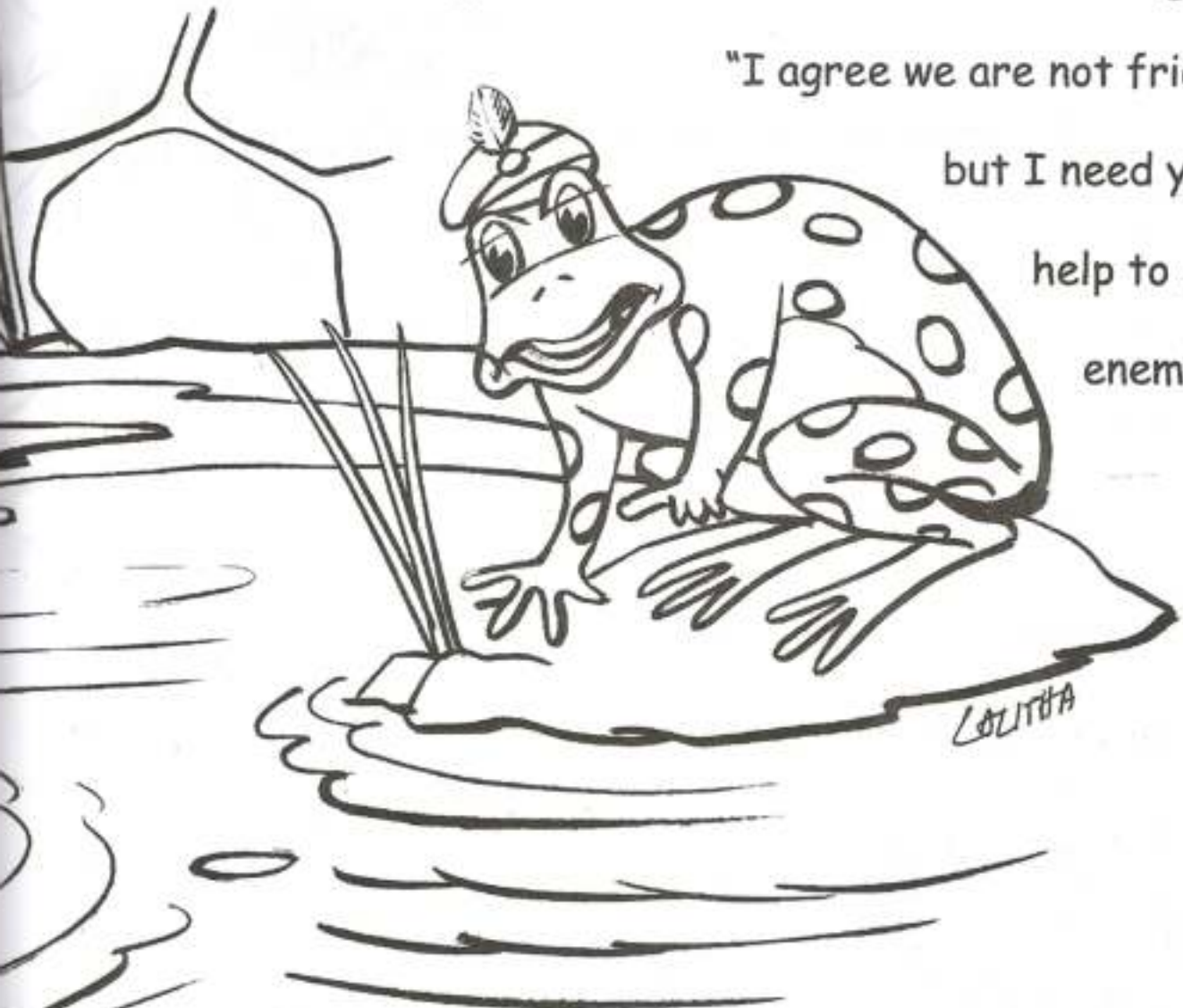


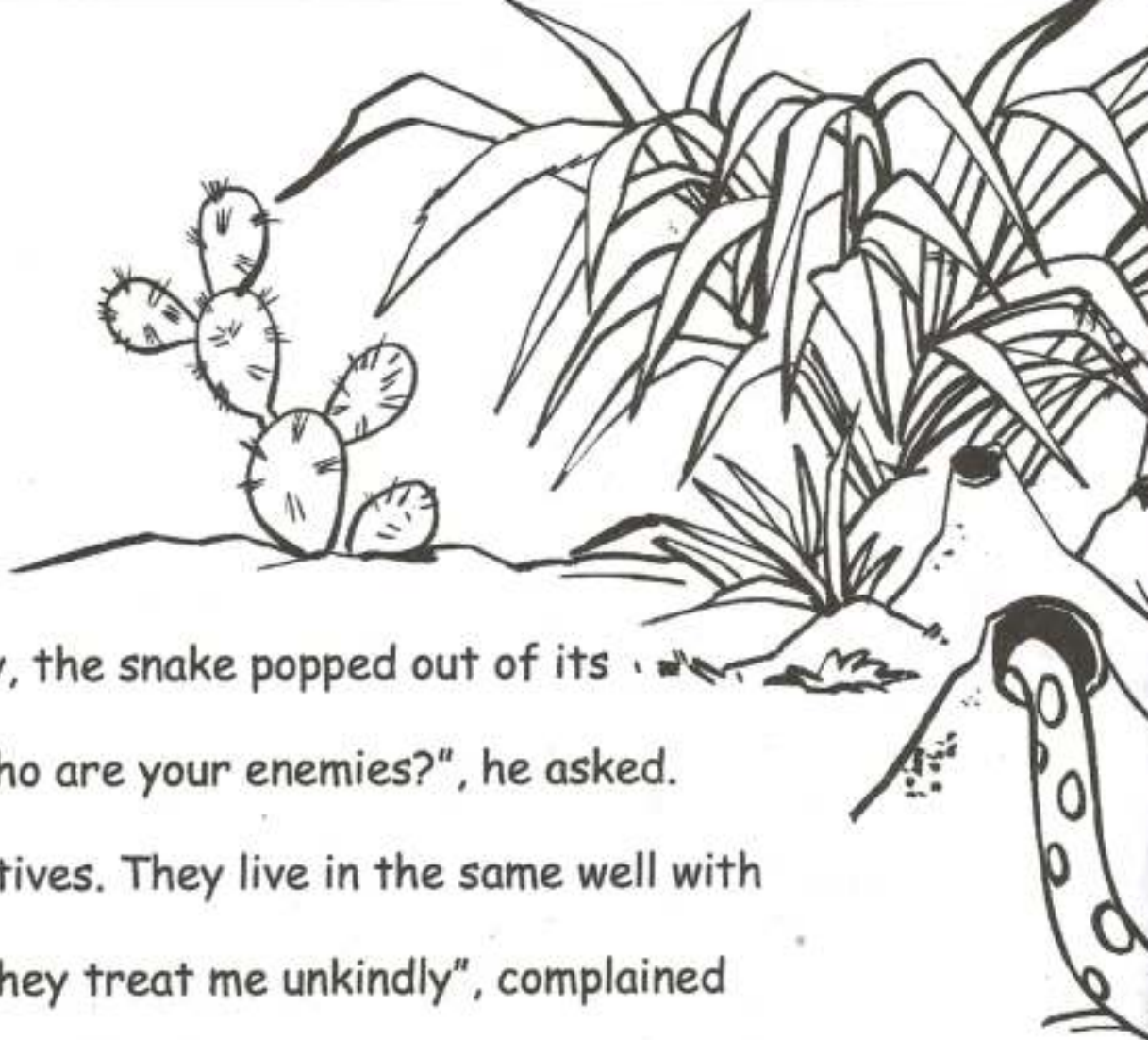
"Ah! I'll ask him to be my guest and eat these people",
thought the frog.

He called out to the snake and said, "I am the
Frog King. I want to become your friend". "Impossible!
You and me being friends?", said the snake. The frog said,

"I agree we are not friends

but I need your
help to eat my
enemies".

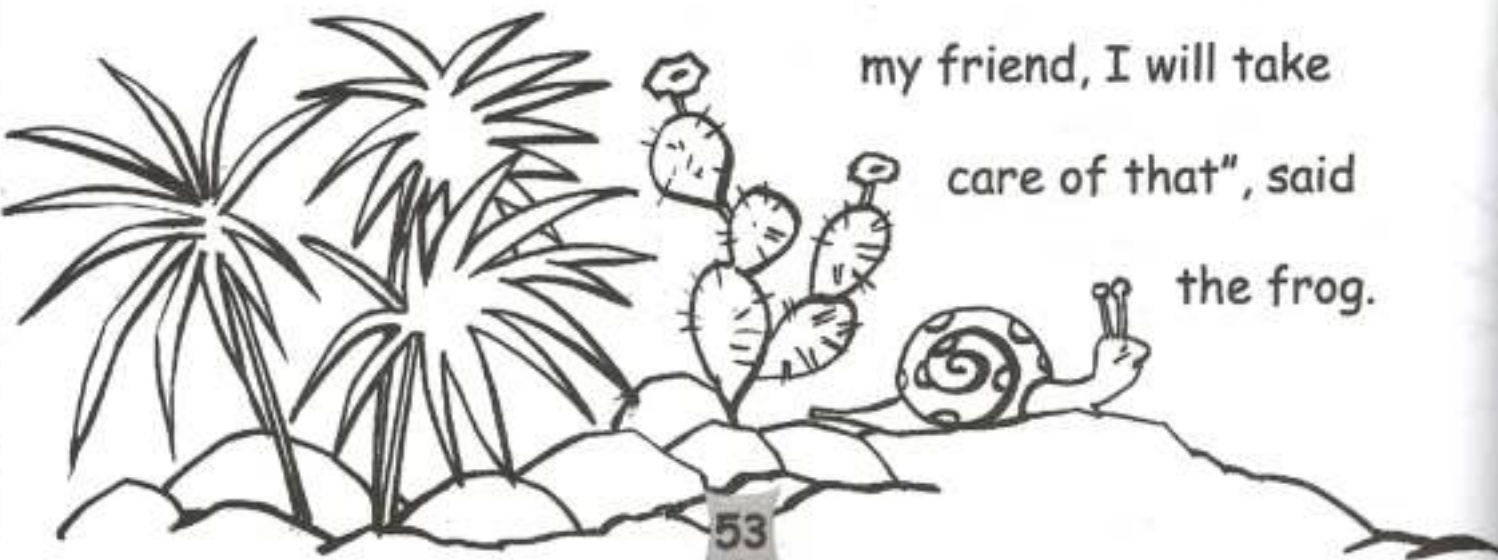





Suddenly, the snake popped out of its hole, "Who are your enemies?", he asked.

"My relatives. They live in the same well with me but they treat me unkindly", complained the frog. "You live in a well! Where would I stay while killing your enemies?", the snake asked. "Oh! Leave that to me

my friend, I will take care of that", said the frog.





The frog's offer was too good to miss for
the old snake. So he agreed,

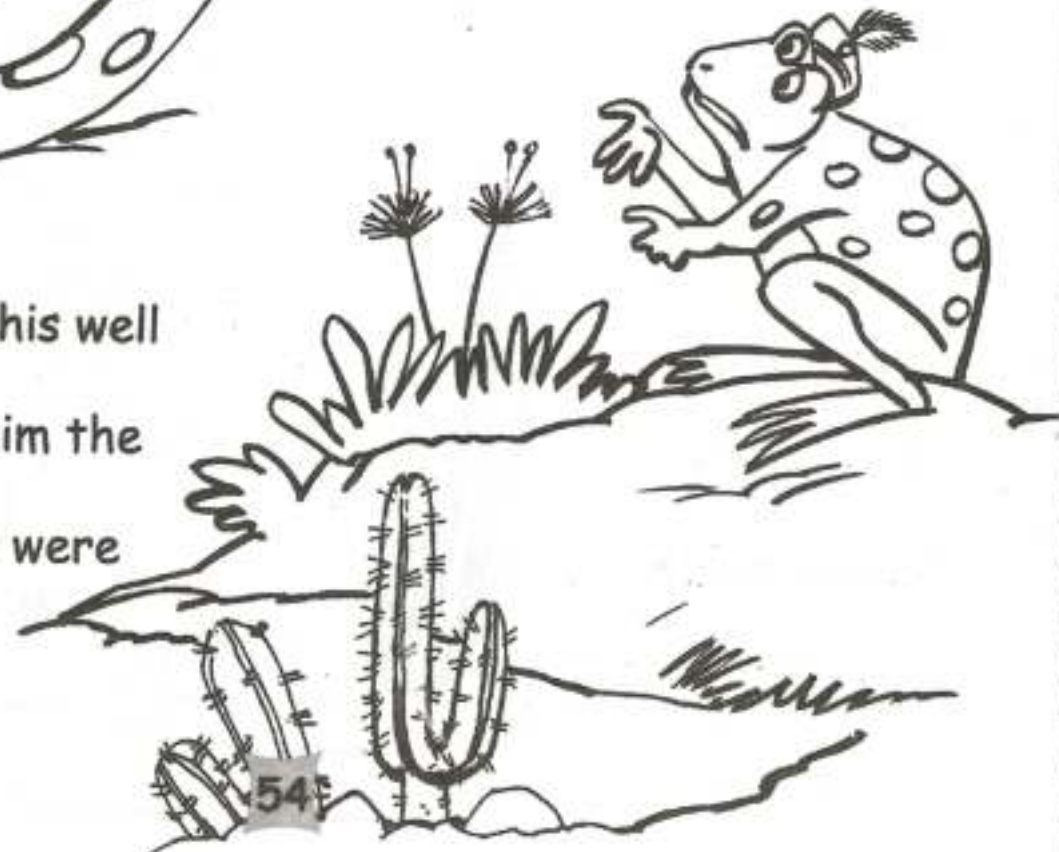
"Alright I will come, lead the
way". "Thank you my friend.

Remember one thing, you
must not eat my family

members. You can eat only those

whom I tell you to eat",

said the frog. He led



the snake to his well
and showed him the
relatives who were
to be eaten.

The snake was in for a feast. He ate up all the frogs one by one. The frog too was pleased.

He had no more relatives. "Well, thank you friend for your help. Now you may return to your hole", said the frog. "Return to my hole, you must be joking. By now another snake would have moved in".

The snake suddenly hissed, "You must feed me with more frogs", so saying he

pounced upon the frog's son.

"Oh! What have I done!", the frog sighed.

"I wanted his help to teach my relatives a lesson.



Now he is after my own
son. I should have
not trusted an enemy."

Message

*What is done cannot
be undone. So, think
before you act.*



Once, a donkey named Kusalaya and a dog named Nanda, lived with their master called Ekalavya.

He was a good master and both the animals loved him. Ekalavya too was fond of them. He treated them equally.

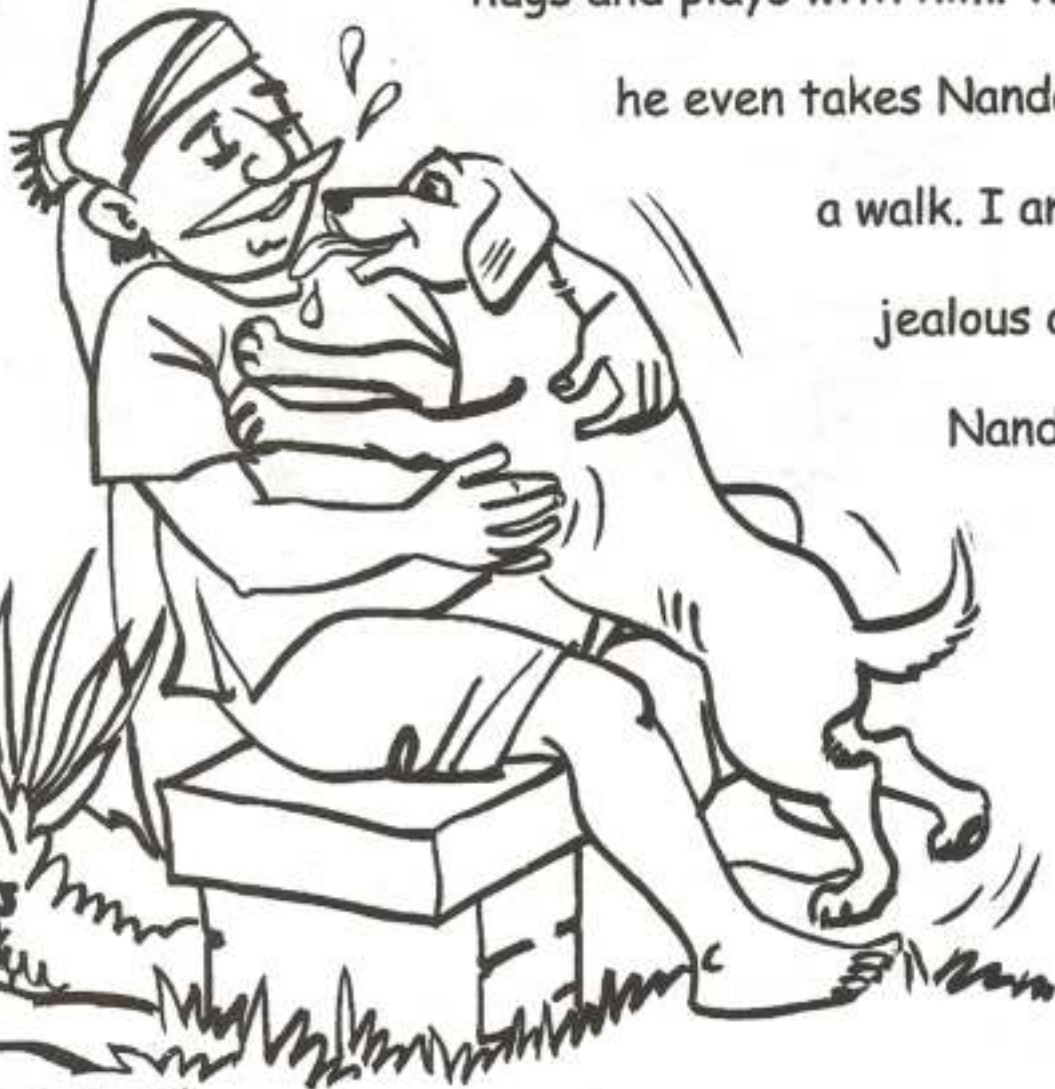


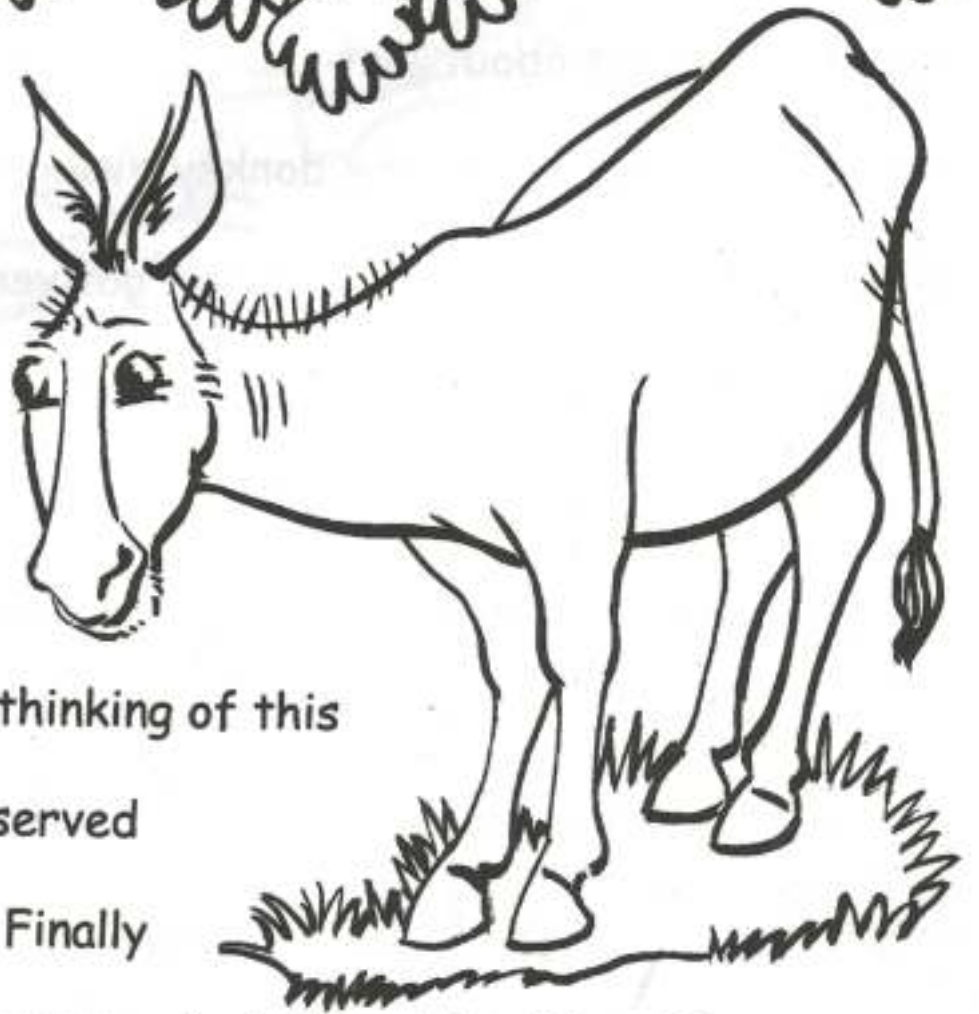


He always praised and patted
them for their good actions.



One day, Kuvalaya
said to himself, "My master only pats
my sides and sometimes he tickles me
behind the ears. But, look at Nanda, he
gets to sit near the master. The master
hugs and plays with him. Why,
he even takes Nanda for
a walk. I am
jealous of
Nanda".

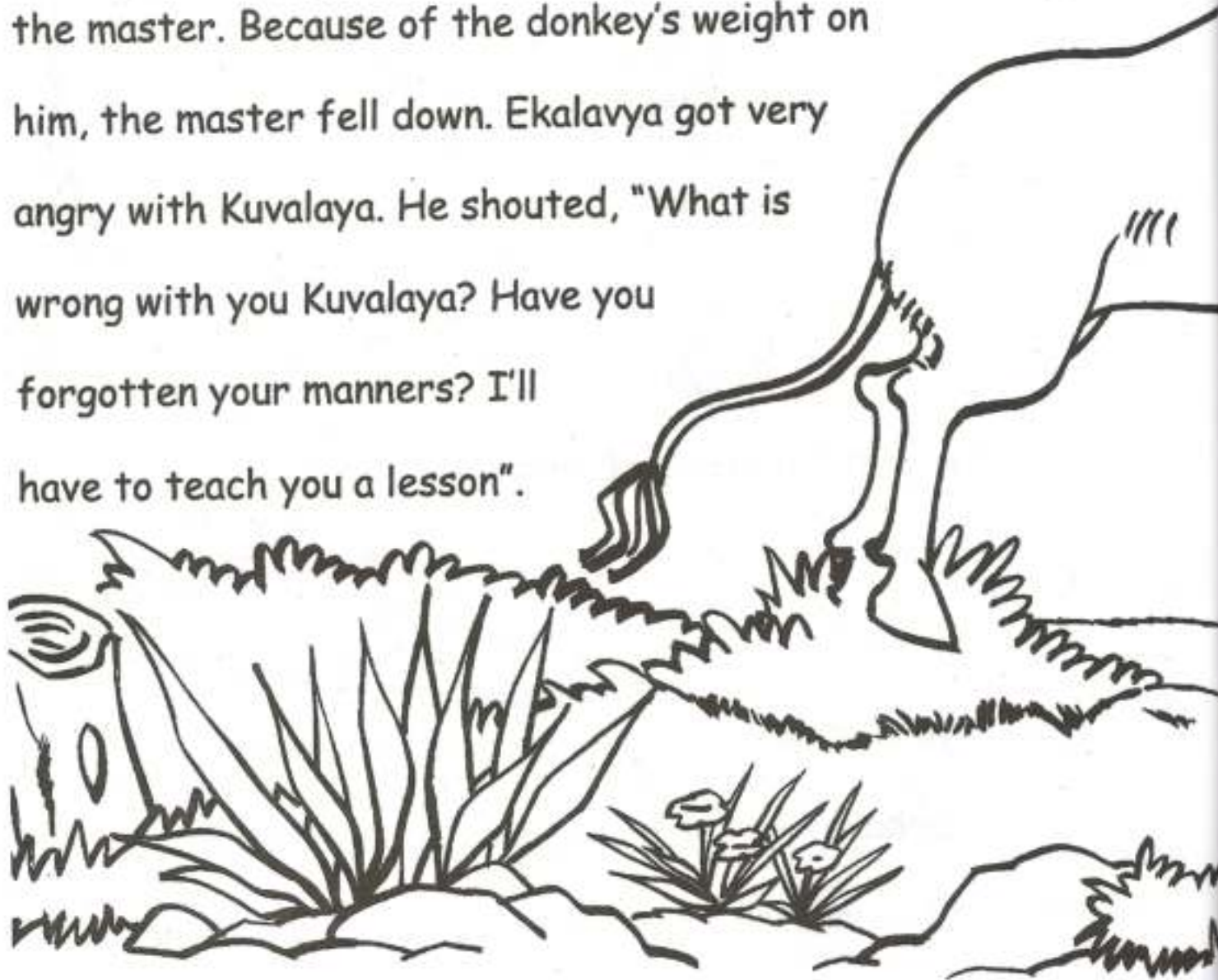




Kuvalaya kept thinking of this matter. He observed Nanda closely. Finally Kuvalaya made up his mind. He said to himself, "I will behave like Nanda and play about cheerfully around the master just as Nanda does. I will sit near the master and lick his face. Then my master will pat me and play with me too".

Kuvalaya waited for the most suitable time. Ekalavya returned home after a tiring day from the wheat fields. Kuvalaya brayed loudly and kicked up his heels. He tried to put his feet on his master's chest and lick his face.

But this brought about just the opposite reaction from the master. Because of the donkey's weight on him, the master fell down. Ekalavya got very angry with Kuvalaya. He shouted, "What is wrong with you Kuvalaya? Have you forgotten your manners? I'll have to teach you a lesson".

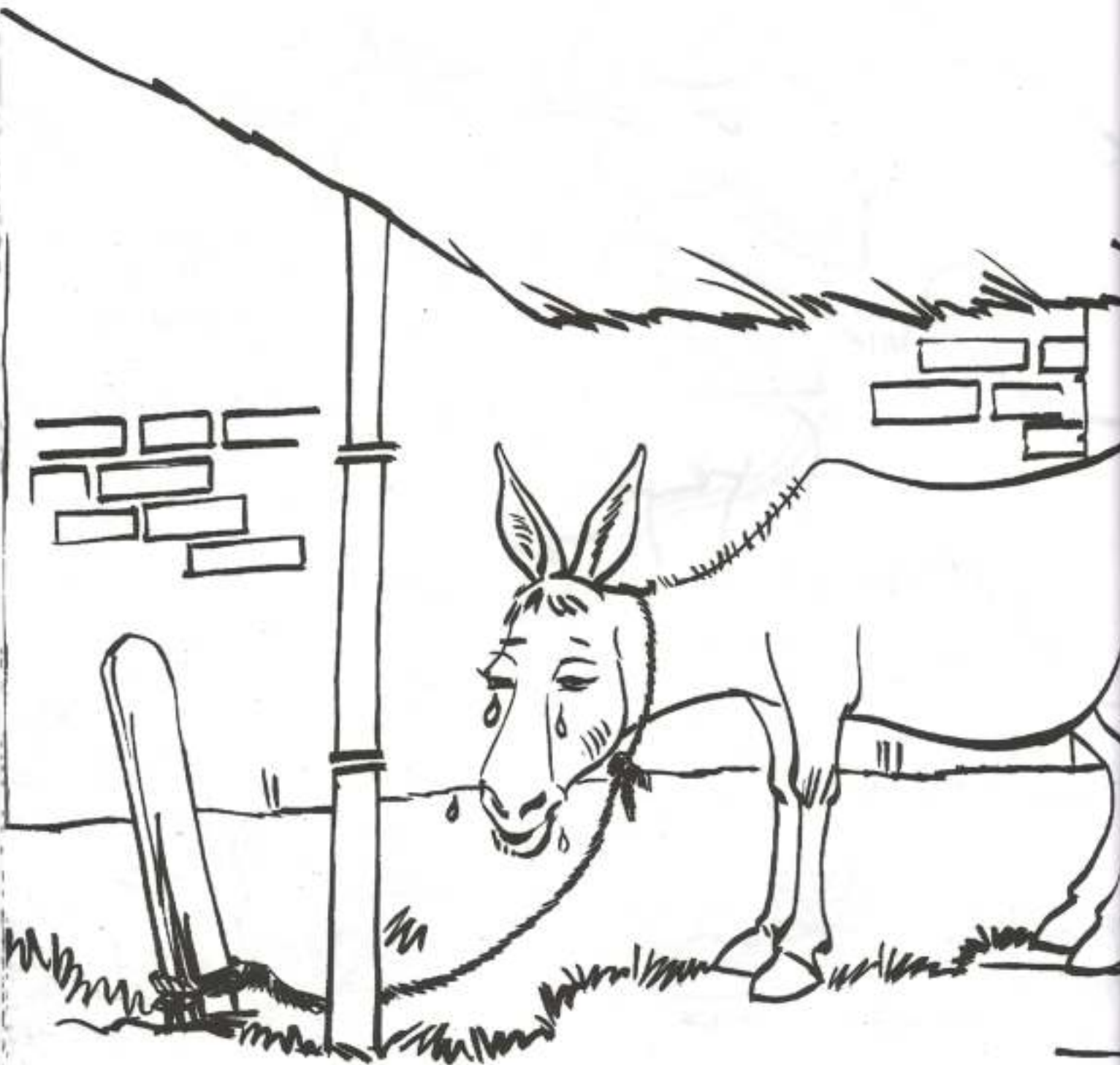





LALITHA

He beat him soundly for his bad behaviour.

He then tied Kavalaya in his barn.





"Oh dear!", sobbed Kuvalaya, "What have I done! Trying to behave like a dog has done me no good at all. At least when I was my natural self, my master patted me. I made a big mistake in trying to copy somebody else. Now, my master thinks I am rough and ill-mannered. Oh Lord! I hope he still loves me. I will never act like any other animal. I will be my own self".

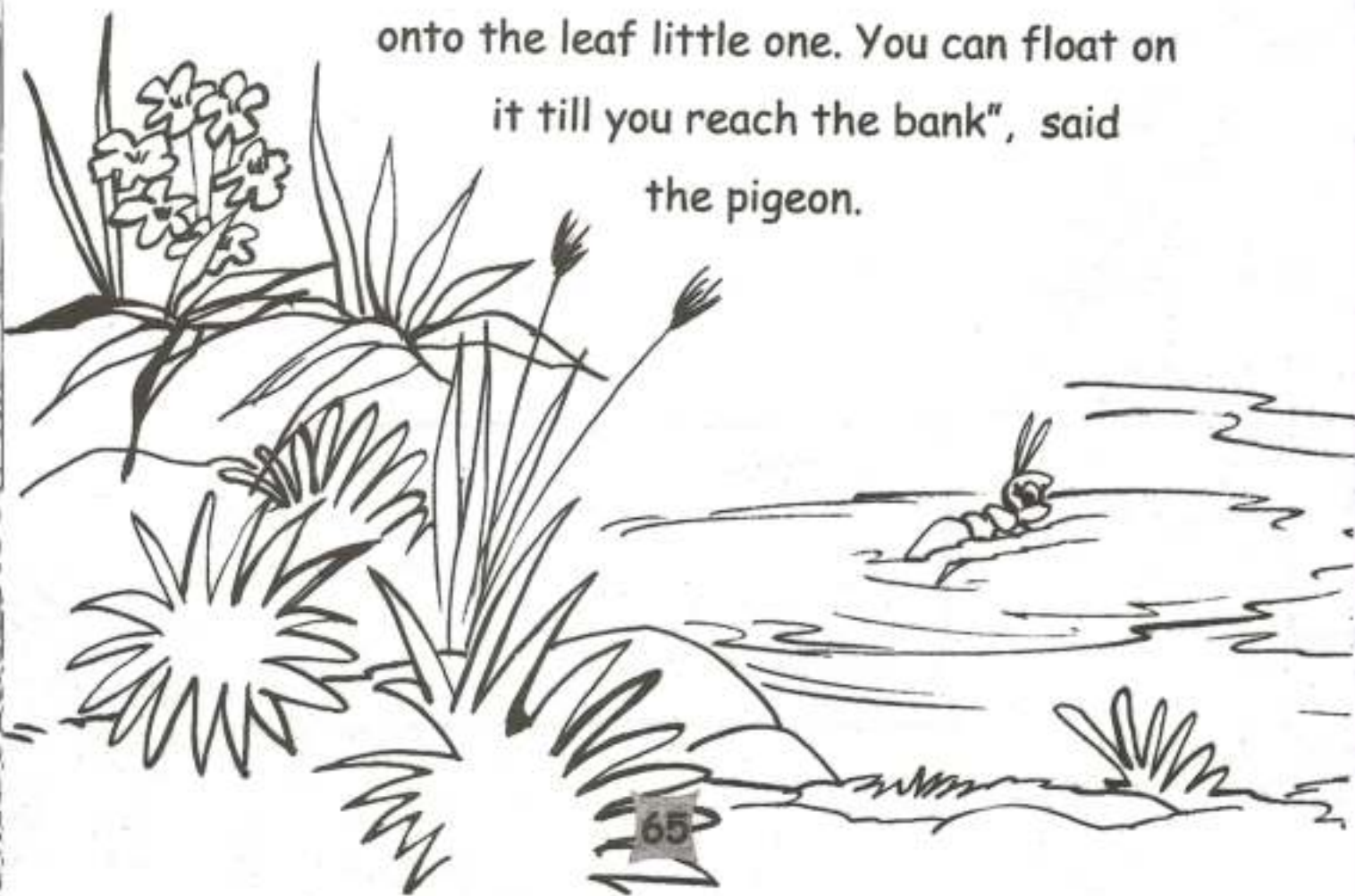
Message

If you imitate others, you will be in trouble.

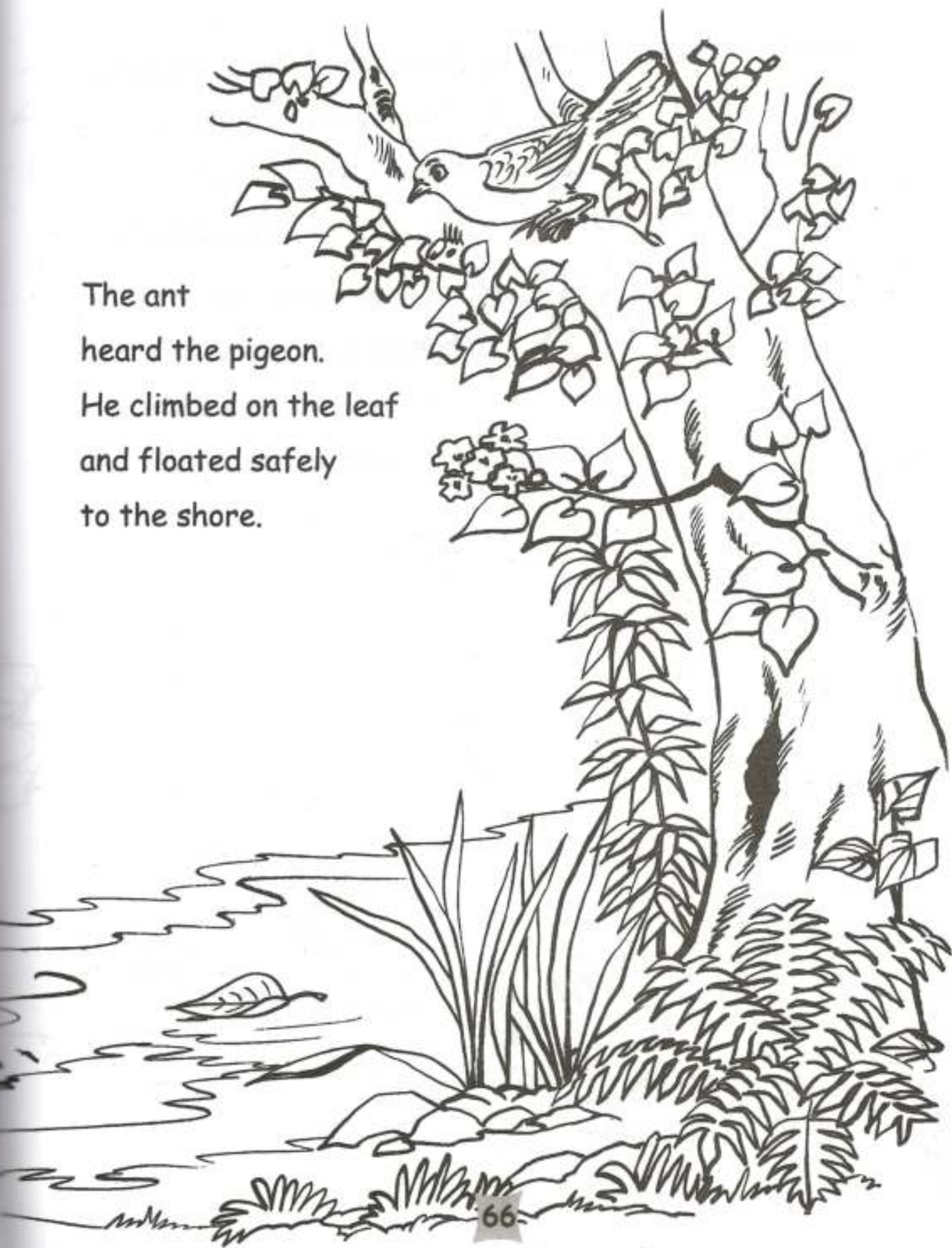
One hot day, an ant crawled up a tree searching for food. Suddenly, a strong wind threw the ant into a nearby river. He fell in and could not get out. A pigeon was flying past. She saw the ant in danger.

"I must help him. If I pick up this leaf and drop it in the water, the ant can get onto it. It will be like a boat", thought the pigeon.

So, the pigeon dropped a leaf in the water. "Climb onto the leaf little one. You can float on it till you reach the bank", said the pigeon.



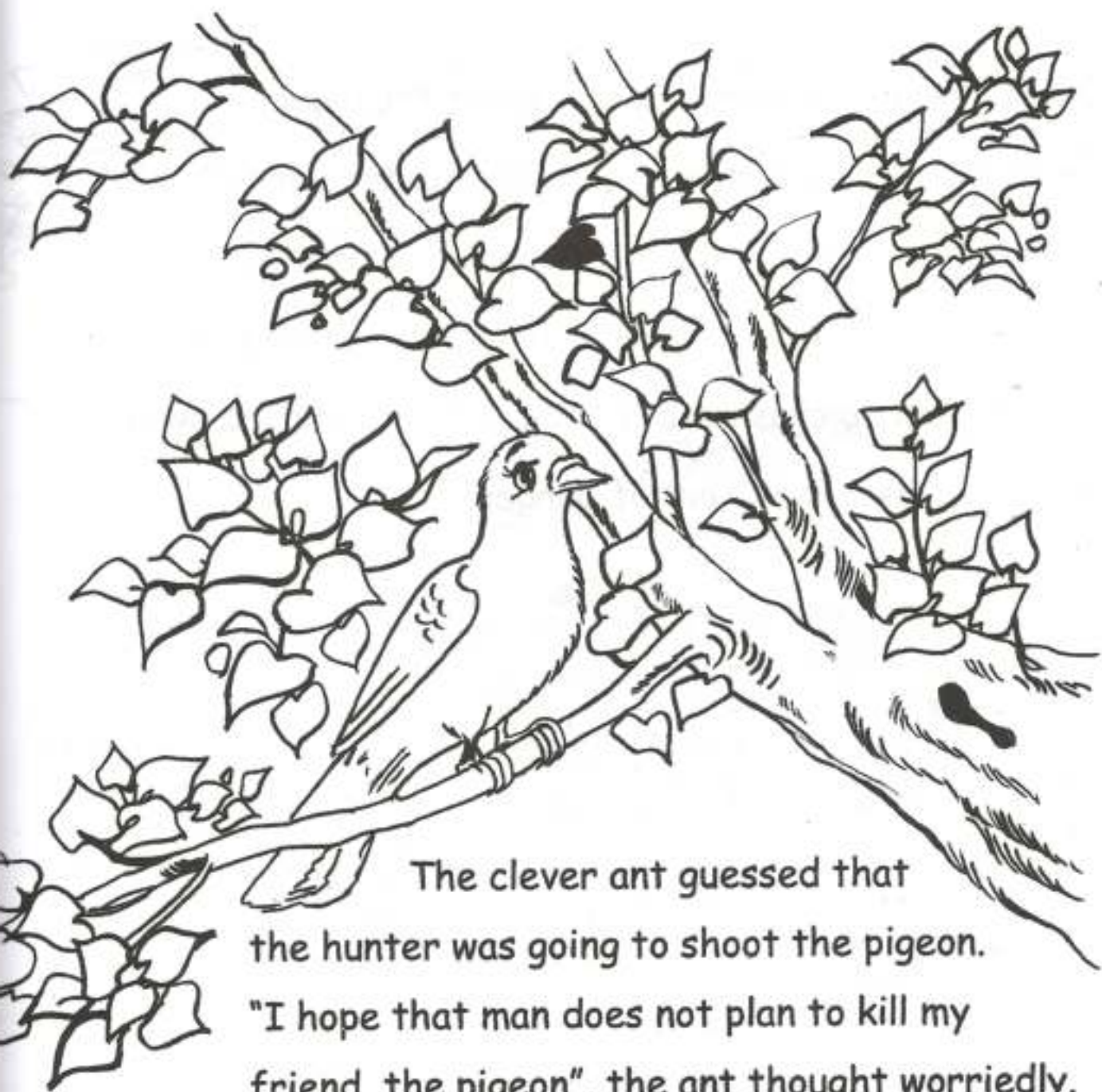
The ant
heard the pigeon.
He climbed on the leaf
and floated safely
to the shore.



He was grateful for the pigeon's help. "Thank you bird, you saved my life today. I will always remember your help. If you should ever need me, I will be there to help you. Let us be friends forever", said the ant and crawled away.

Many days later, the ant saw a hunter with a bow and arrow. He was walking towards the pigeon's favourite tree.





The clever ant guessed that the hunter was going to shoot the pigeon. "I hope that man does not plan to kill my friend, the pigeon", the ant thought worriedly.

The ant followed him to see what he was going to do. The hunter spotted the pigeon and started getting his bow and arrow ready. But the pigeon did not see the hunter who took aim.



Just as the hunter was about to shoot the pigeon, the ant bit him hard on his foot. The hunter jumped in pain and his arrow missed the pigeon. "Ouch!", he cried, "I have been bitten by an ant". He tried to catch the ant to crush it but the clever ant slipped away. The pigeon flew away, out of danger.





She saw the ant and understood the part played by him in saving her life. She flew down to the ant and said, "Thank you little friend, you saved me. I never realised how helpful a little creature like you can be".

The ant felt happy that he could help the pigeon.



Message

*One good turn
deserves
another.*

A poor man called Devadatta had no food to eat for many days. He was a lazy man who liked to spend his time day-dreaming.

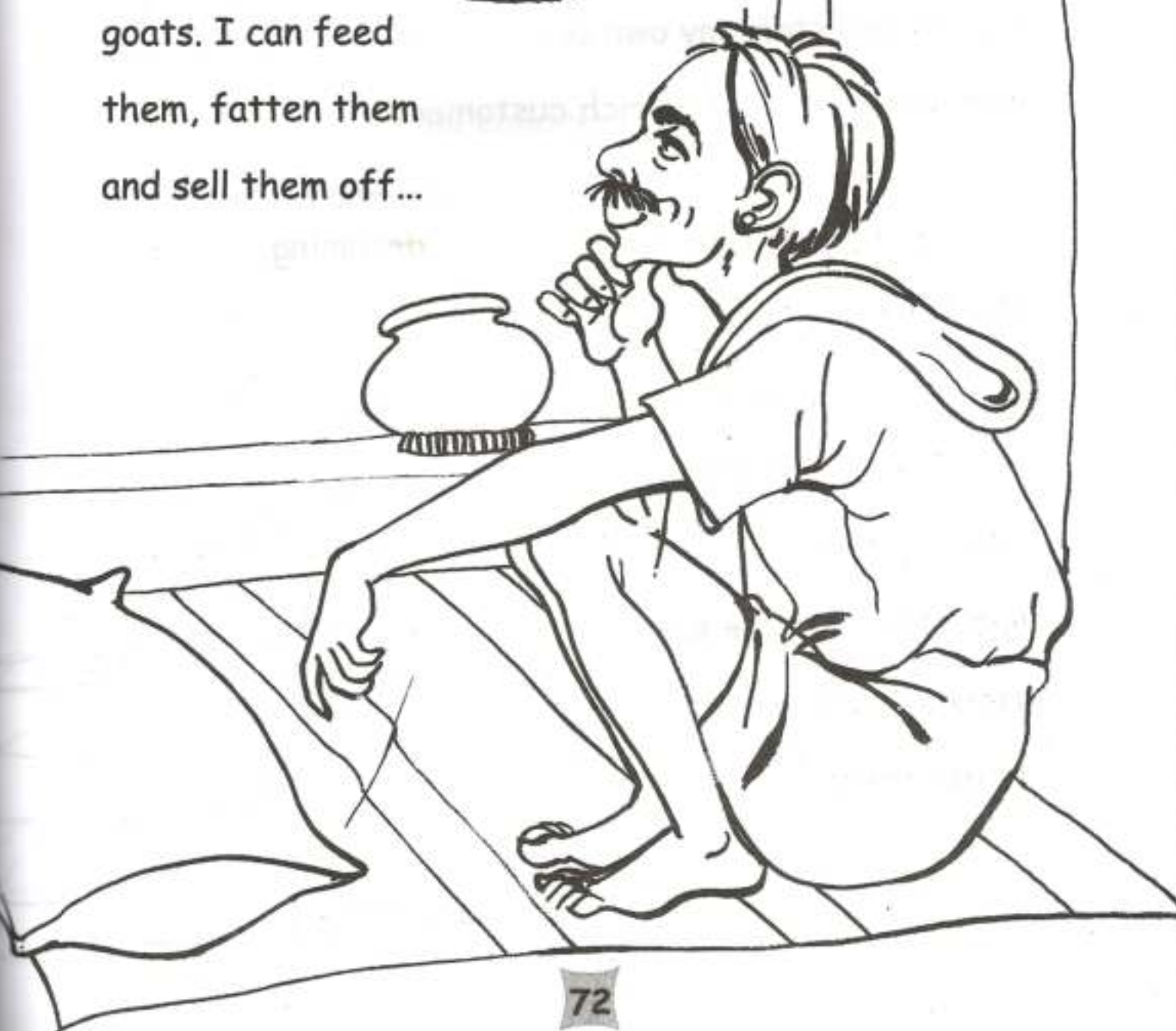
One day, a kind man gave him a pot full of flour. Devadatta was very happy. He took it home, hung it above his bed and admired it.

The foolish man started day-dreaming. He thought, "Instead of using the flour for myself,



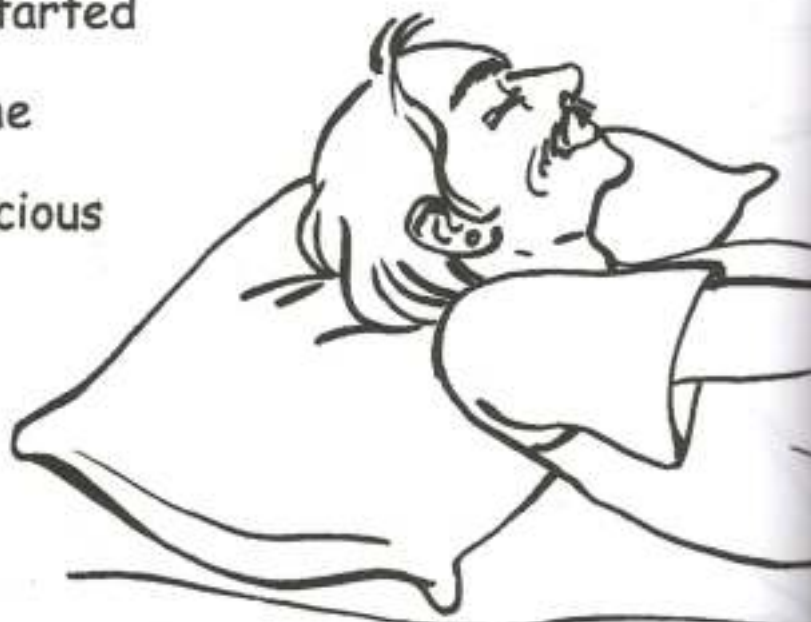
I will sell it and
earn a lot of money.

With that
money, I can
buy a pair of
goats. I can feed
them, fatten them
and sell them off...



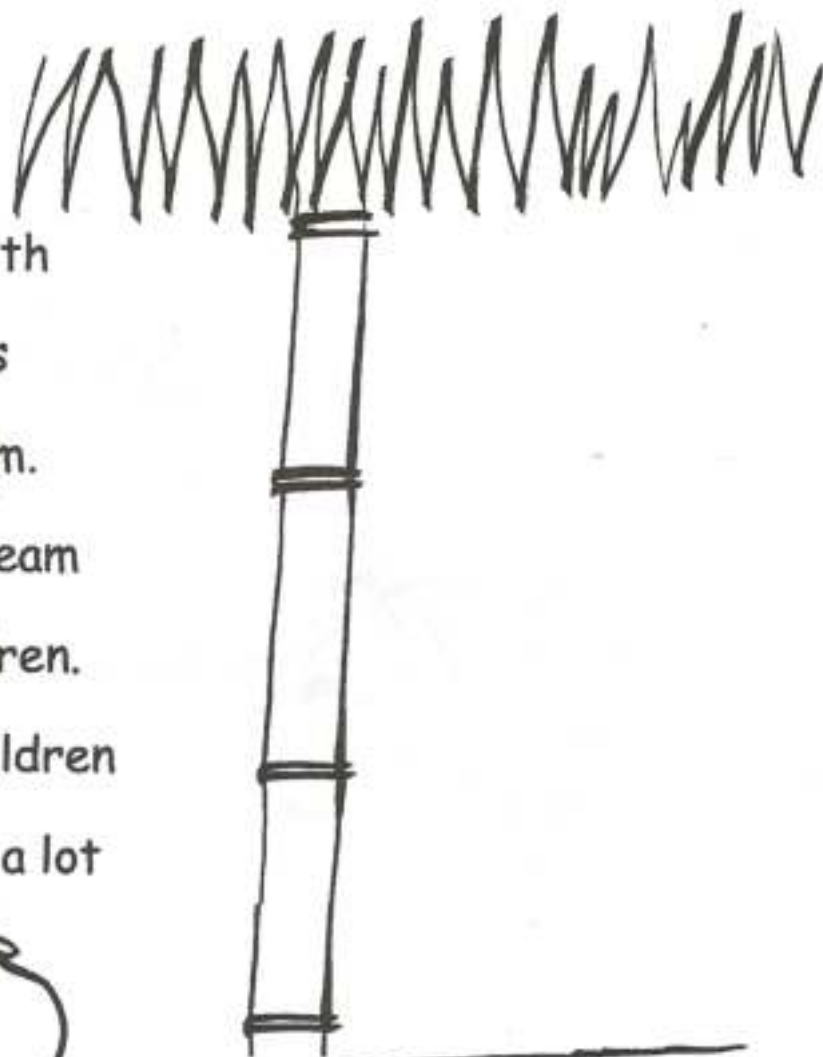
... I will get a more money. Then I can buy a pair of cows with that money. With the cows, I can get enough milk to sell. I can also make cream and butter, and make still more money by selling them. Or, with the milk, cream and butter I can make sweets and start my own sweet shop. My sweet shop will have a lot of rich customers".

In this manner, Devadatta kept on dreaming. Finally, in his dream he became an important businessman. He started selling precious stones to the King. He also started advising the King on the importance of the precious stones and how to use them.

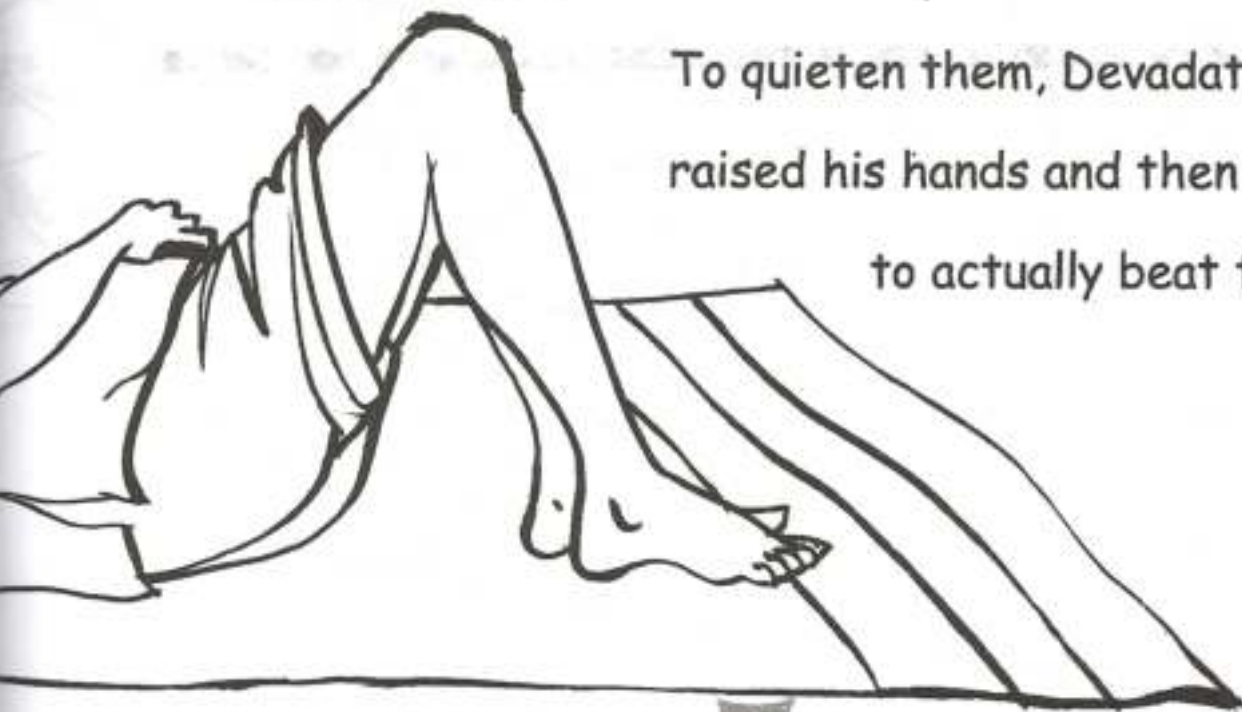


The King was so pleased with Devadatta that he gave his daughter in marriage to him.


Devadatta continued to dream that he then had two children. Devadatta imagined his children running around and making a lot of noise.




To quieten them, Devadatta raised his hands and then began to actually beat the air.







Suddenly, one hand struck the pot of flour. **CRASH!** The pot fell down and was smashed into tiny pieces. The flour was scattered on the floor and on him. "What was that noise?", asked Devadatta and jumped out of bed. His dreams were shattered. There were no goats, no cows, no sweet shop, no princess and no children.



All that Devadatta saw was a floor covered with flour. "Oh no! What have I done! How I wish I had used that flour for myself. Now, I have lost everything and I have nothing to eat", cried Devadatta.

Message

*Don't waste your time in
idle day-dreaming.*



One day, a young man called Kaundilya left his wife and children to look for a job. On the way he felt thirsty. So, he stopped by an old well in the heart of a forest.

The well was dry. Inside, a lion, a monkey and a snake had fallen; and could not get out. "I must help them", Kaundilya thought. Using a thick rope, he pulled them out one by one.

"Thank you, friend", they called out.

"We will help you whenever you are in trouble", they said.



Kaundilya continued his search for a job but nothing came his way. He gave up hope. "O Lord! Please show me a way to earn my food", he prayed silently.

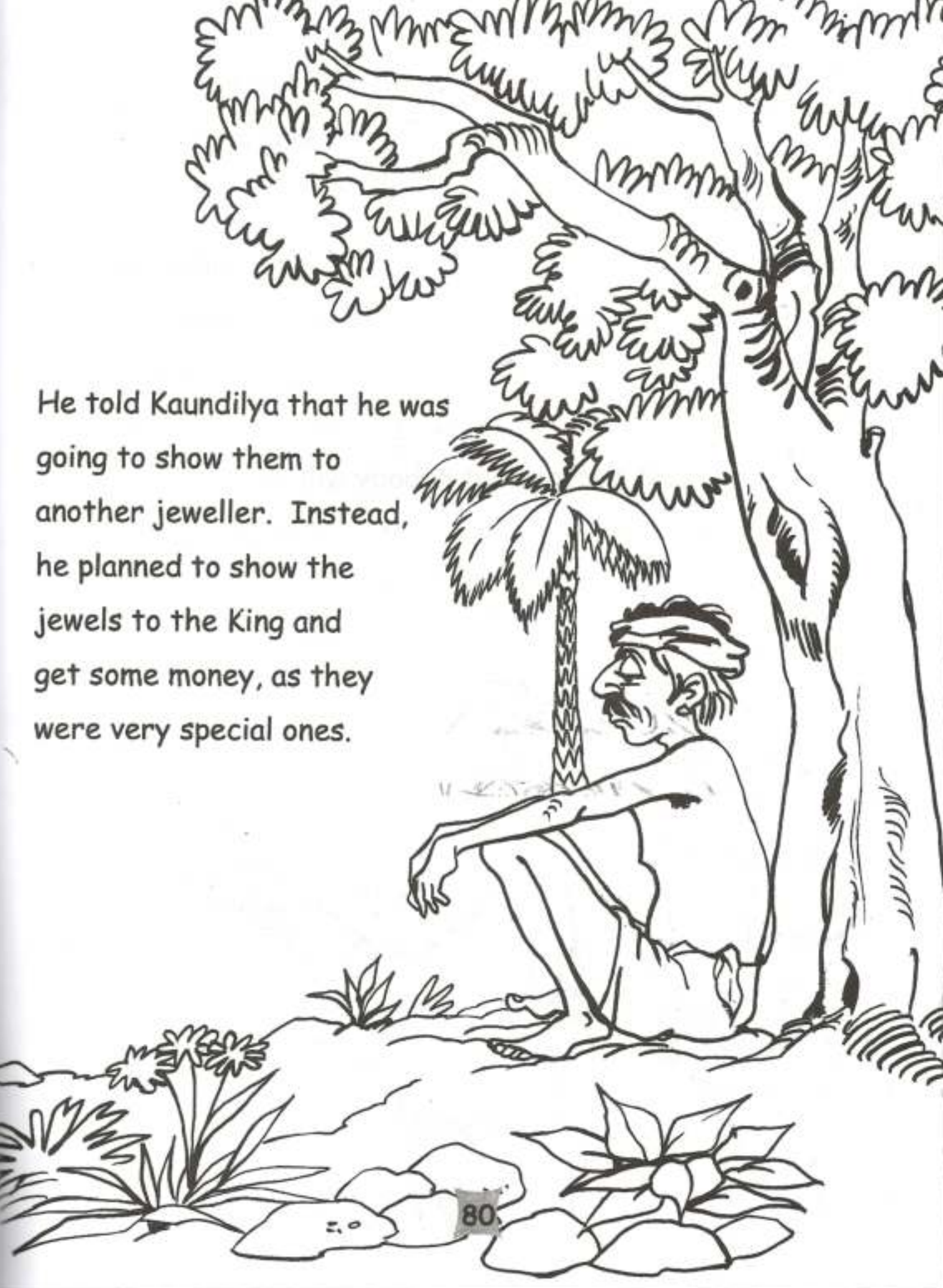


Just then, the monkey and the lion, whom he had saved, spotted him. Kaundilya told them his problem. At once, the monkey offered him a basketful of fruits. From his den, the lion gave him a gold necklace and some jewels. "Thank you friends, you have helped me", he said.

Then Kaundilya went to a goldsmith to sell the jewels and get some money. The goldsmith looked at Kaundilya's jewels.

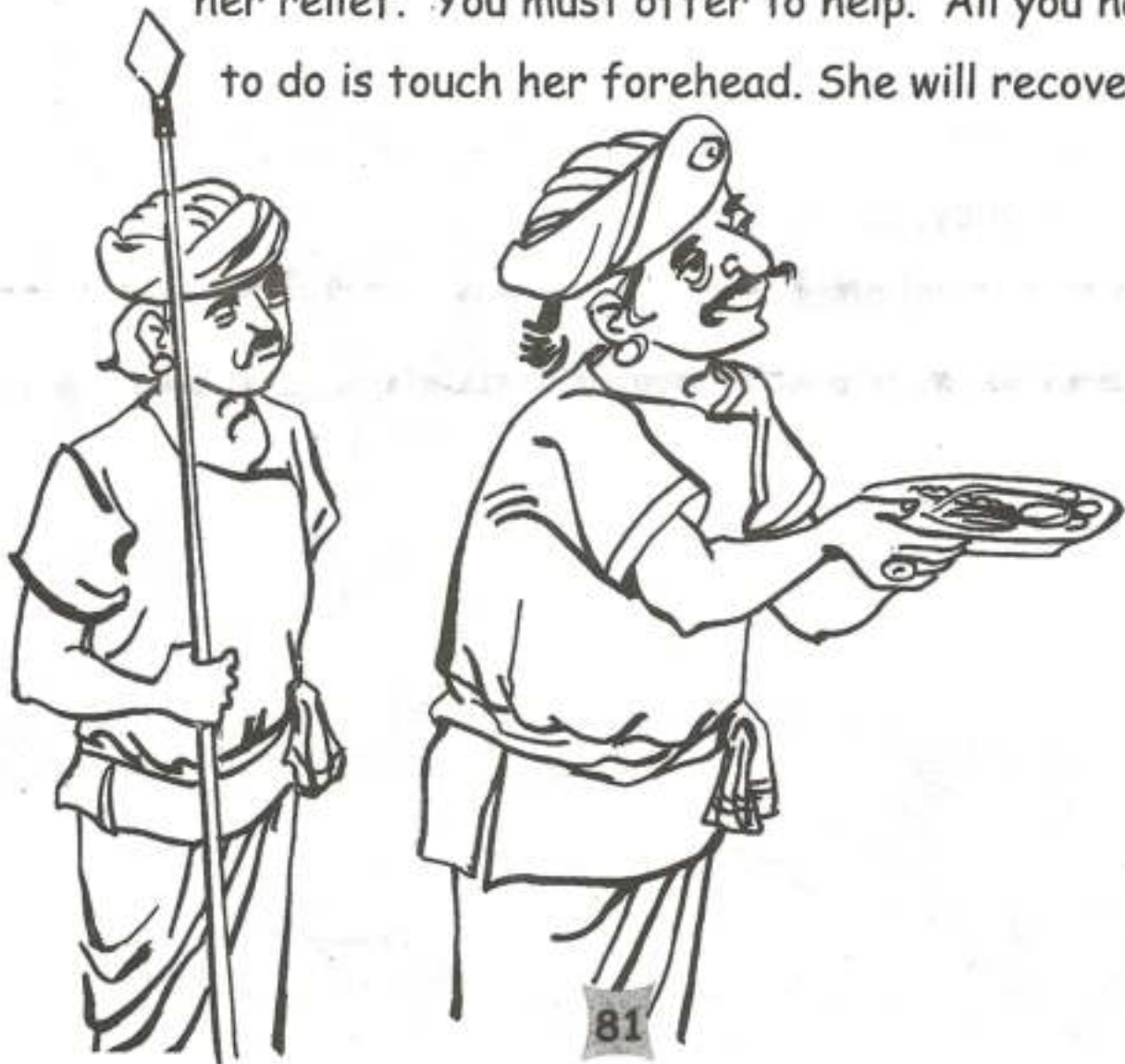


He told Kaundilya that he was going to show them to another jeweller. Instead, he planned to show the jewels to the King and get some money, as they were very special ones.



The King recognised them. They belonged to his only son who was lost a year ago. This made the King angry. He ordered his guards to imprison Kaundilya.

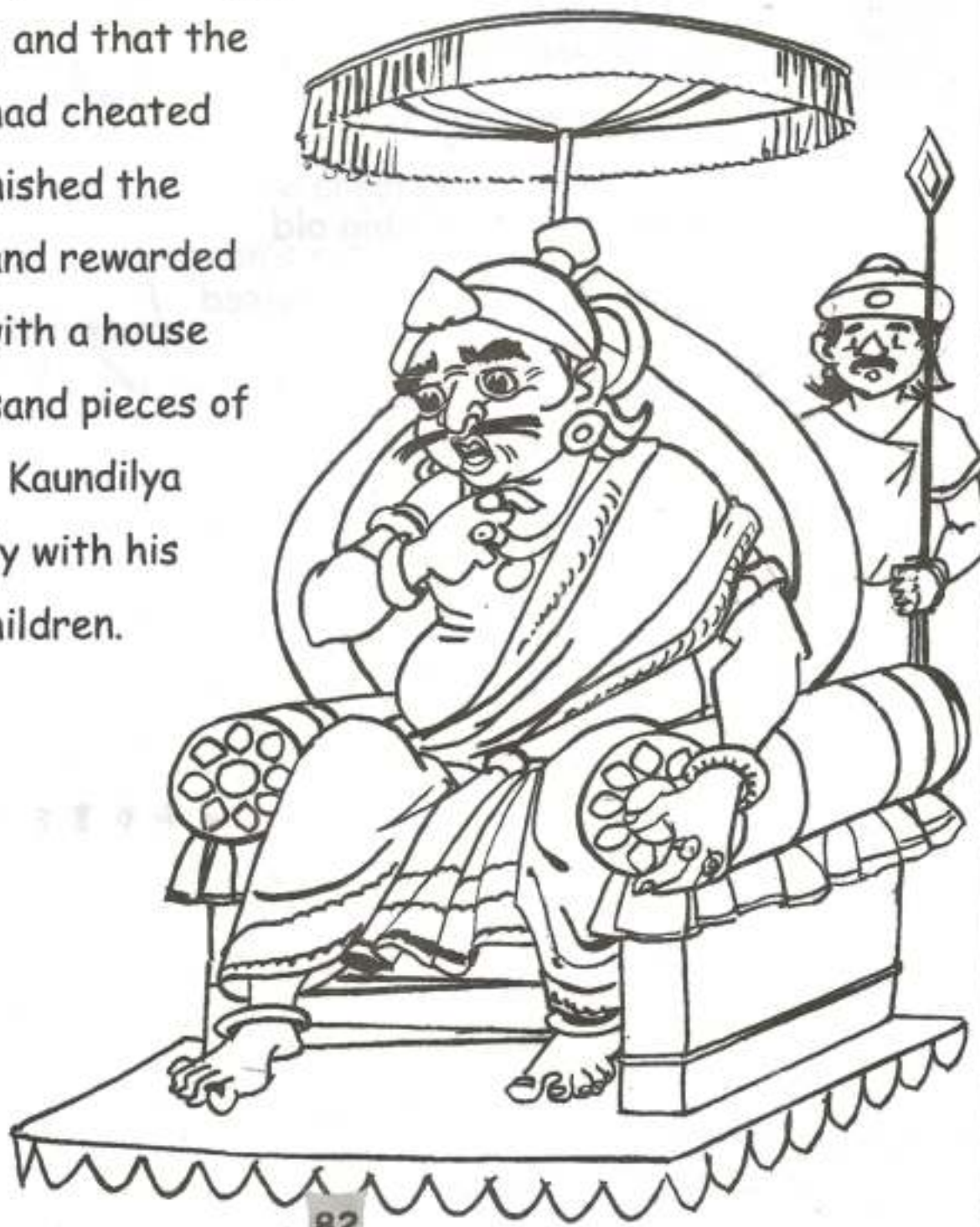
In prison, Kaundilya remembered his friend, the snake and called for him. "Please help me, I am innocent", he said. The snake replied, "I have a plan. I will bite the Queen. She will faint for a few hours. The King will call for the best doctors but nobody will be able to give her relief. You must offer to help. All you have to do is touch her forehead. She will recover".



Kaundilya did as he was told. The queen recovered immediately. The King was very happy. He later learnt that Kaundilya was wrongly imprisoned; and that the goldsmith had cheated him. He punished the goldsmith and rewarded Kaundilya with a house and a thousand pieces of gold coins. Kaundilya lived happily with his wife and children.

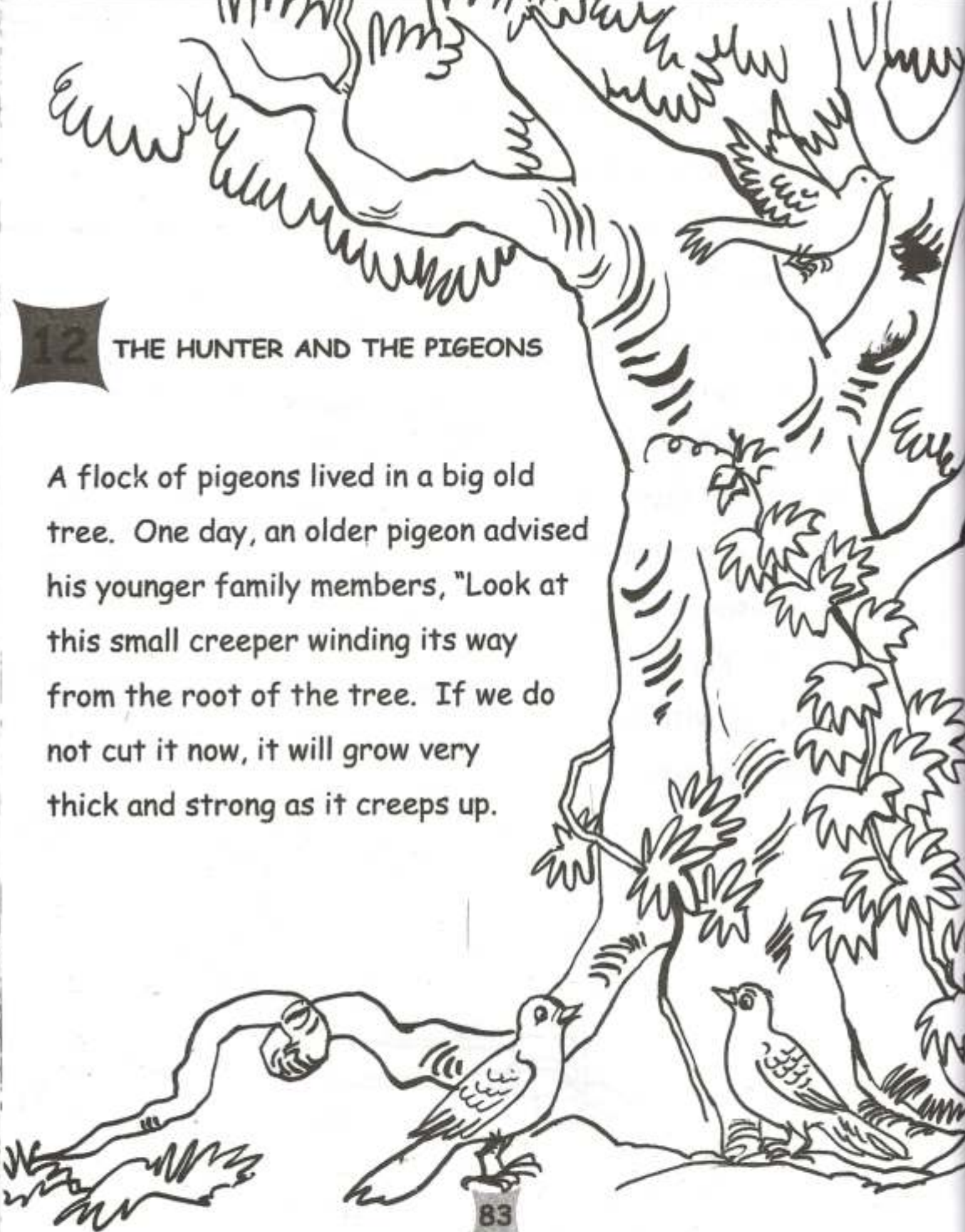
Message

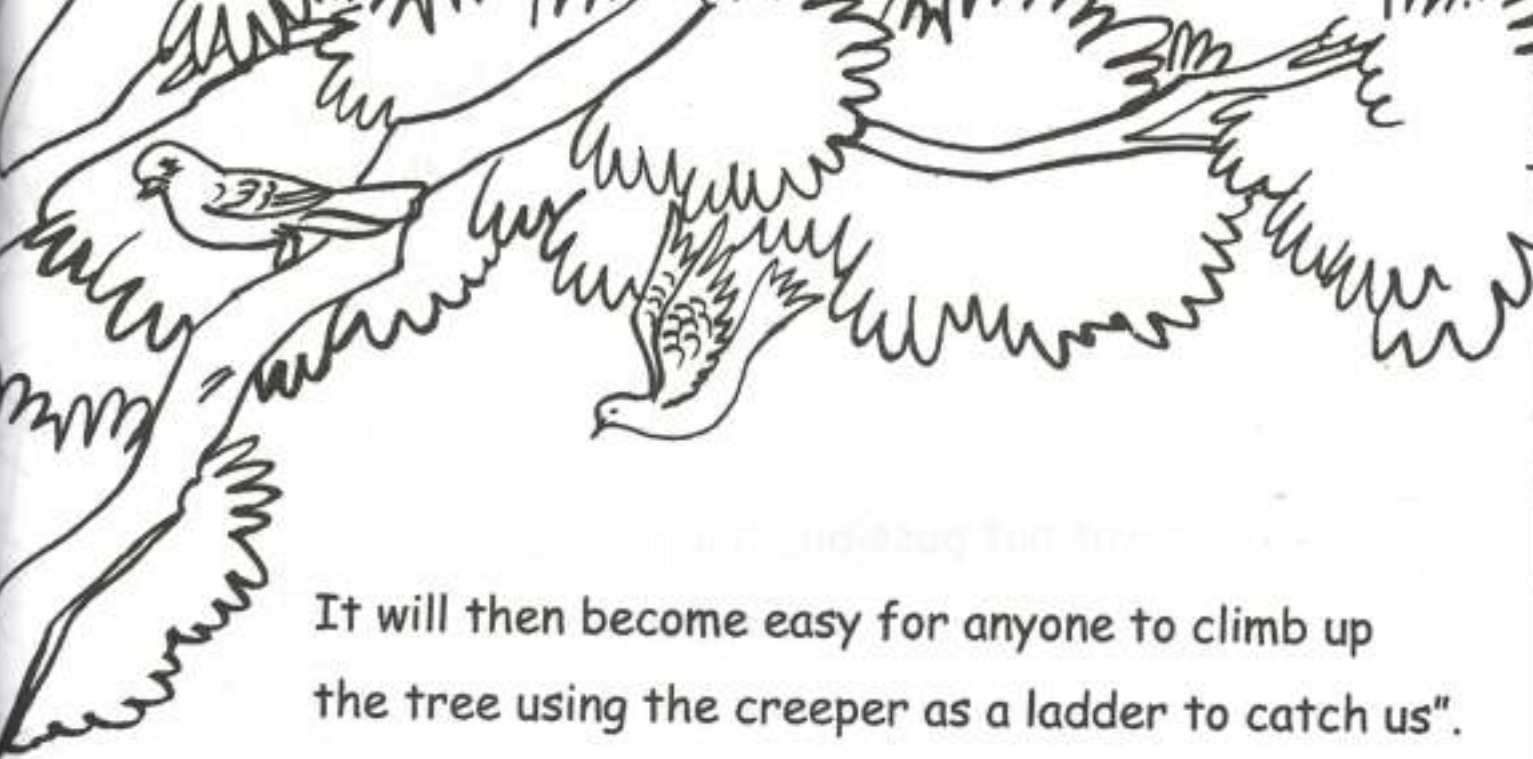
Being helpful gets you many friends.



12 THE HUNTER AND THE PIGEONS

A flock of pigeons lived in a big old tree. One day, an older pigeon advised his younger family members, "Look at this small creeper winding its way from the root of the tree. If we do not cut it now, it will grow very thick and strong as it creeps up."





It will then become easy for anyone to climb up the tree using the creeper as a ladder to catch us". The older pigeon's son agreed, but did not cut it immediately.

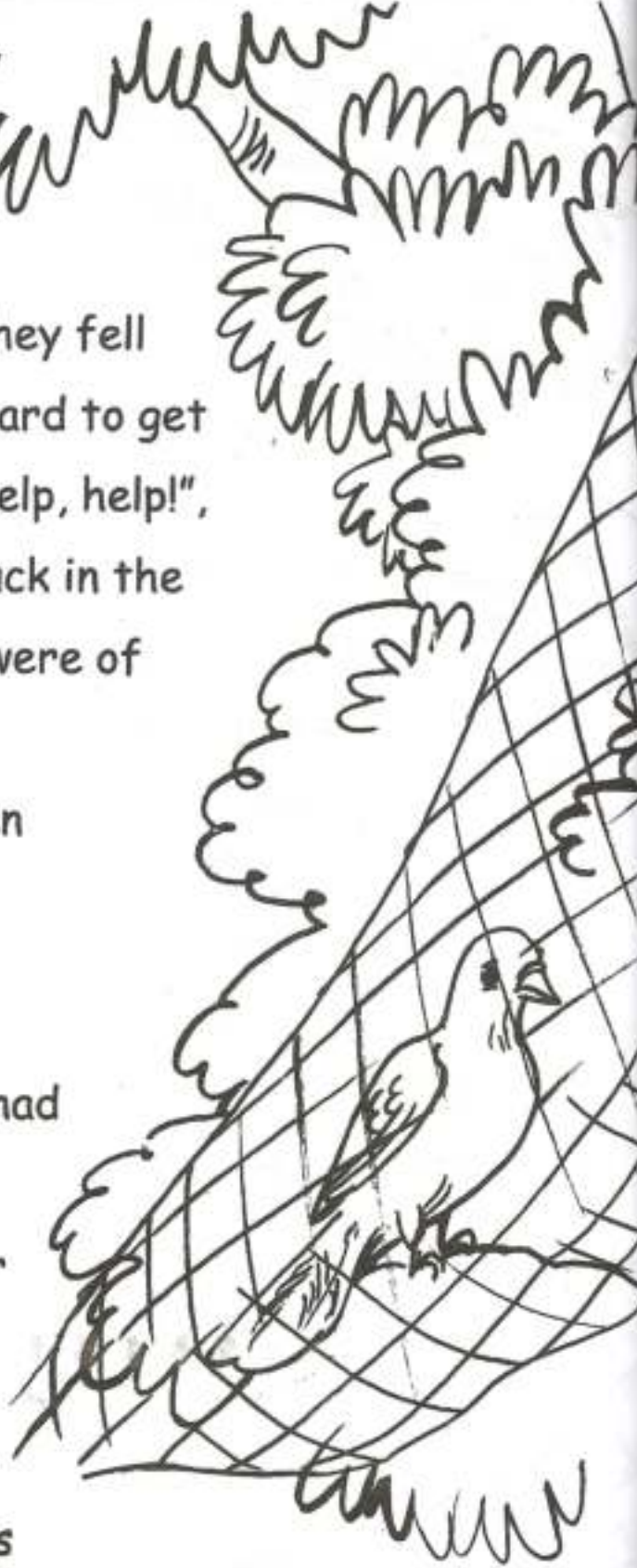
One morning, all the pigeons flew off in search of food. A hunter, who was watching them, quickly climbed the tree and laid his net to catch the pigeons.

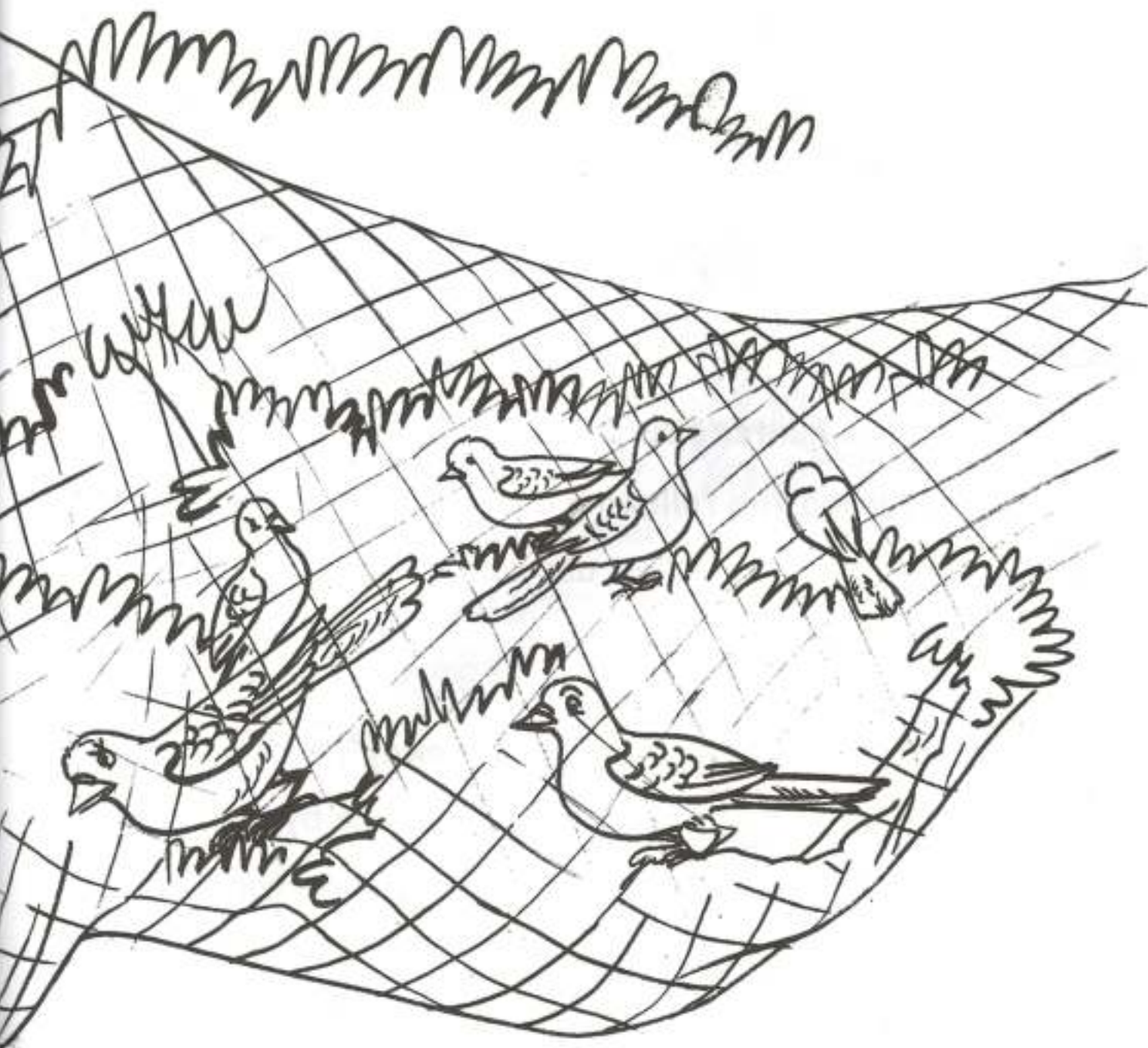


When the pigeons returned, they fell into the net. They struggled hard to get out but it was not possible. "Help, help!", cried the pigeons. "We are stuck in the hunter's net". All their cries were of no use. "When I told you, you did not listen. Always listen to the words of the elders", said the older pigeon.

The birds admitted that they had made a mistake. They pleaded with their elder family member to help them out.

So, the older pigeon said:
"Now listen carefully. Hunters do not harm dead birds."



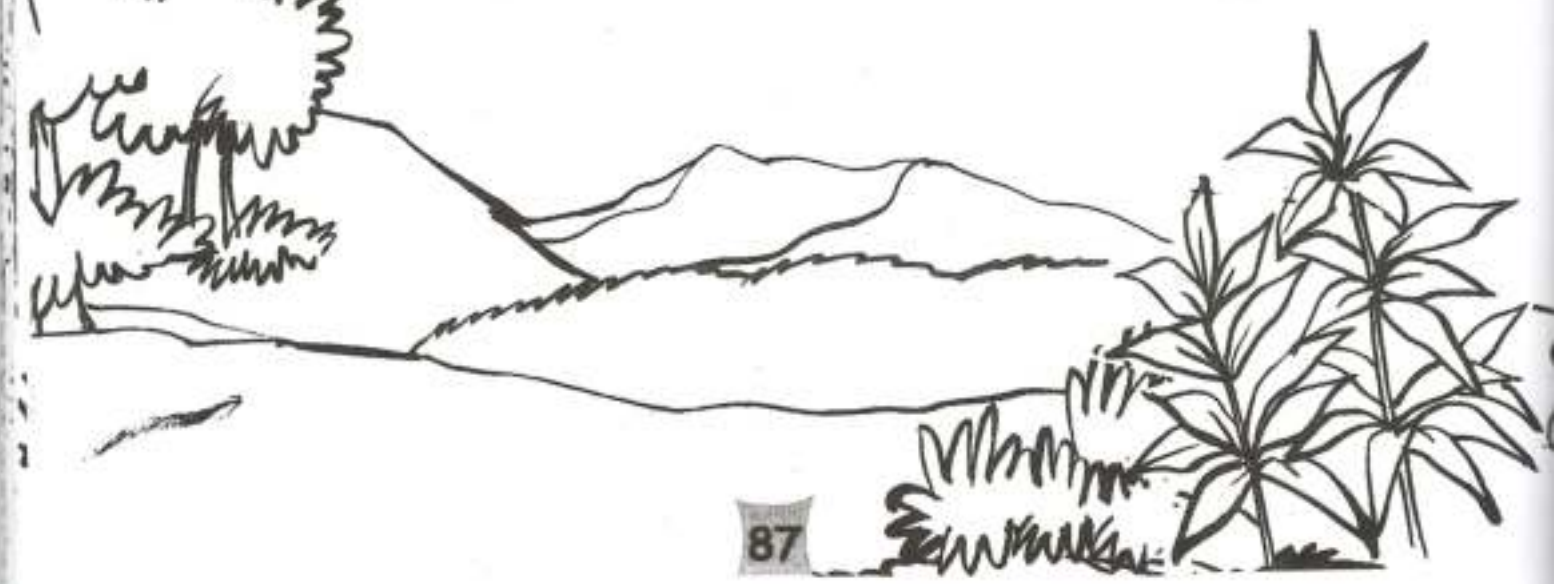
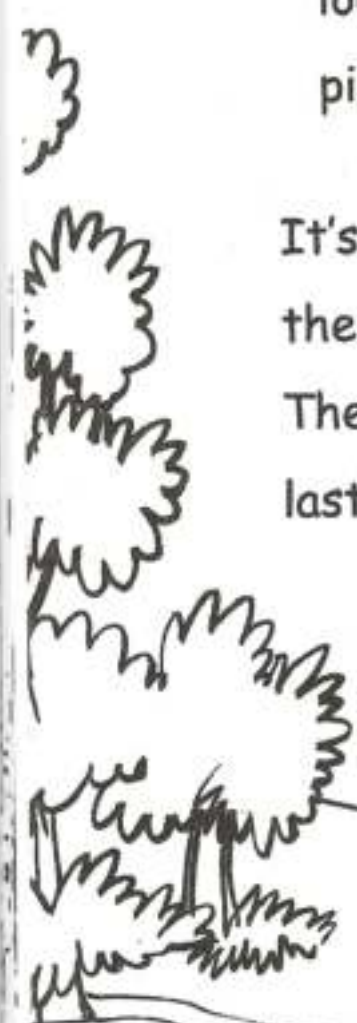


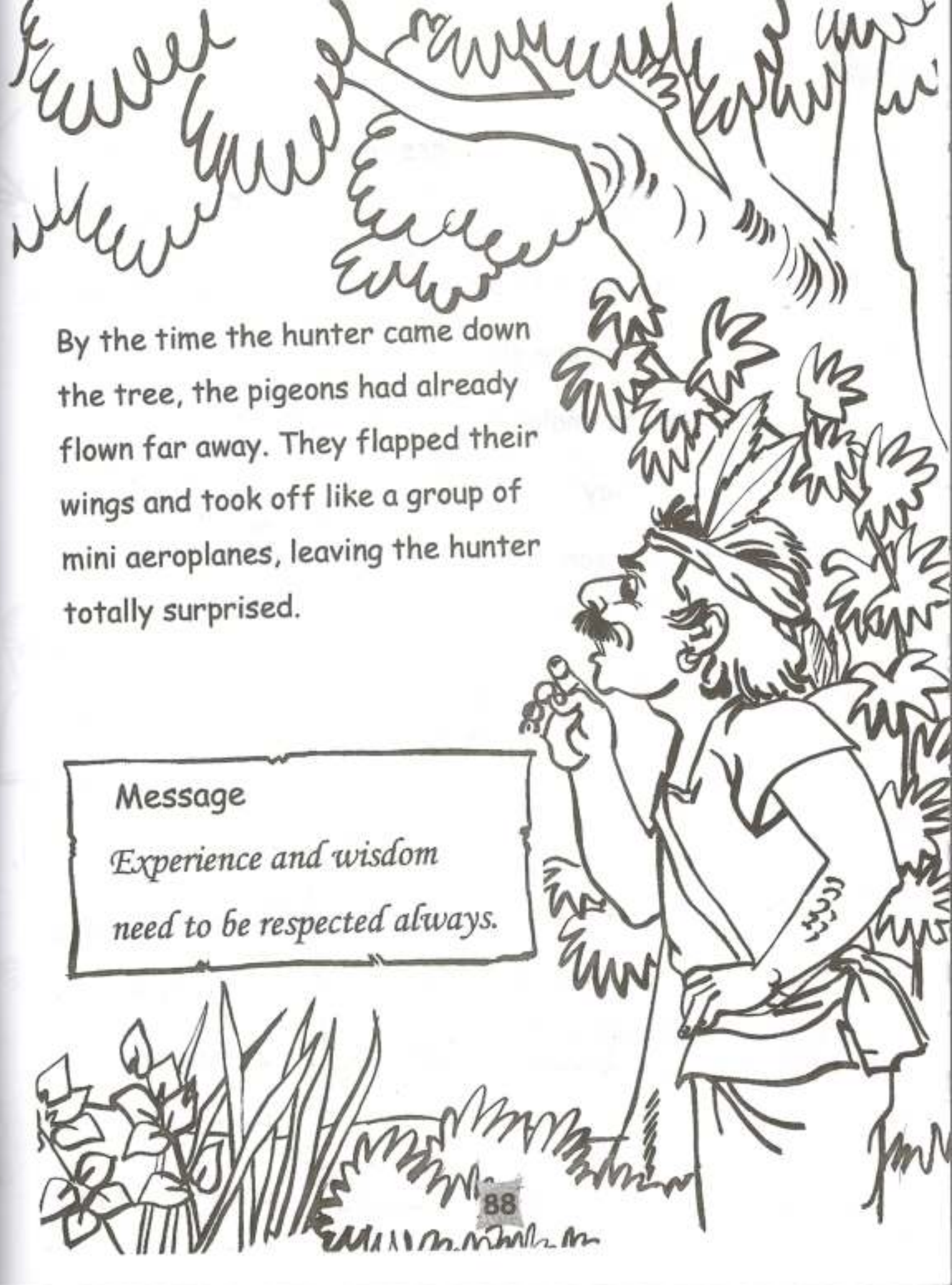
When the hunter comes tomorrow, all of us will play dead. He will throw us away. When he throws the last one of us, we should fly away and escape. He may get down quickly from the tree to catch us. So be very fast, and fly as far as your wings can take you".



To the hunter's surprise, when he returned the following day, all the pigeons looked dead. "What use can these dead pigeons be to me?

It's best that they are thrown away", thought the hunter and dropped the birds one by one. The birds lay still on the ground waiting for the last one to be dropped.





By the time the hunter came down the tree, the pigeons had already flown far away. They flapped their wings and took off like a group of mini aeroplanes, leaving the hunter totally surprised.

Message

*Experience and wisdom
need to be respected always.*

Shravana and his wife were childless for many years. They prayed, performed many pujas, and observed many fasts.

Soon they were blessed with a baby. Alas! The baby was a snake.

Shravana and his wife were shocked. Friends and relatives told them to get rid of the snake,

but they refused. They decided to keep their son.

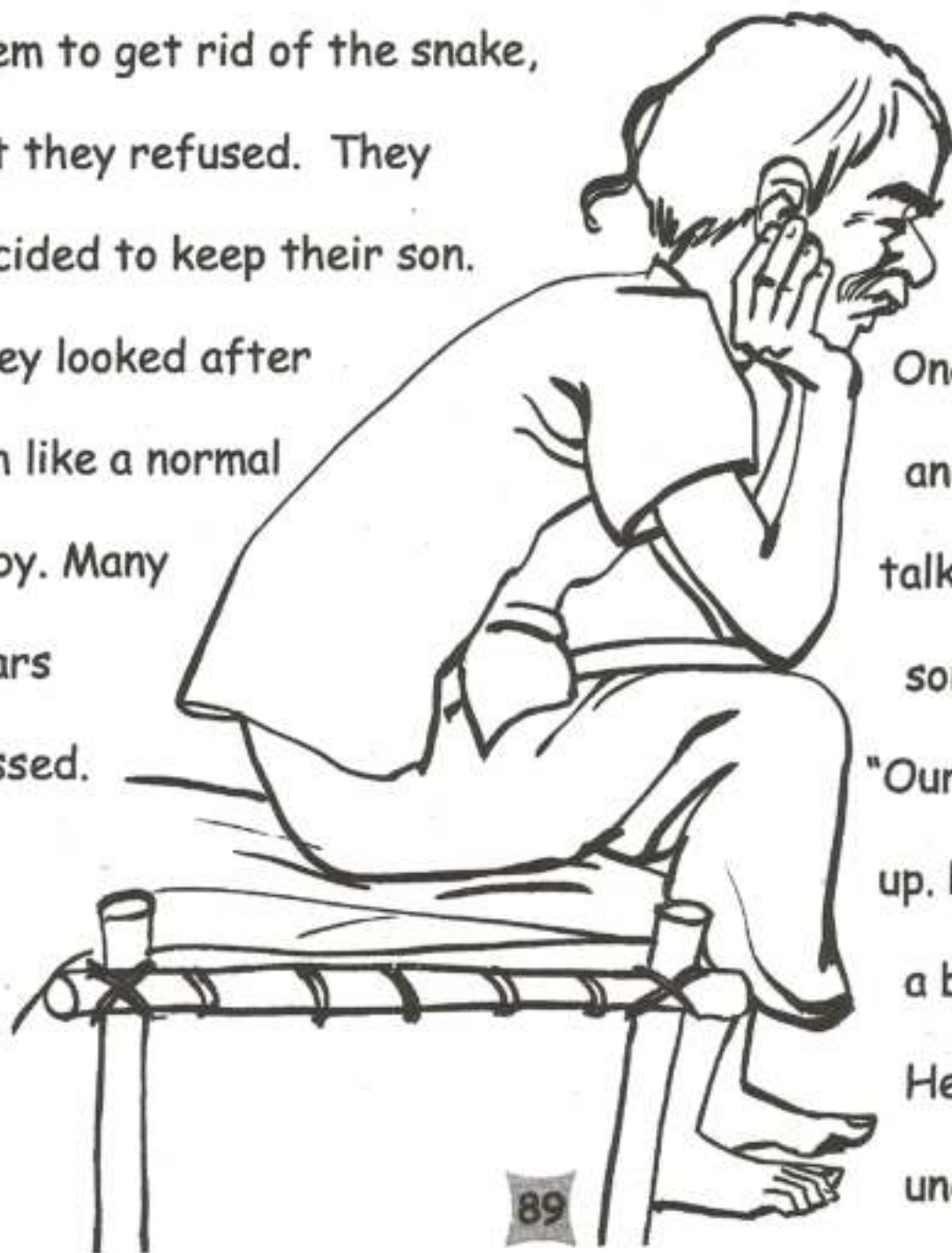
They looked after

him like a normal

baby. Many

years

passed.

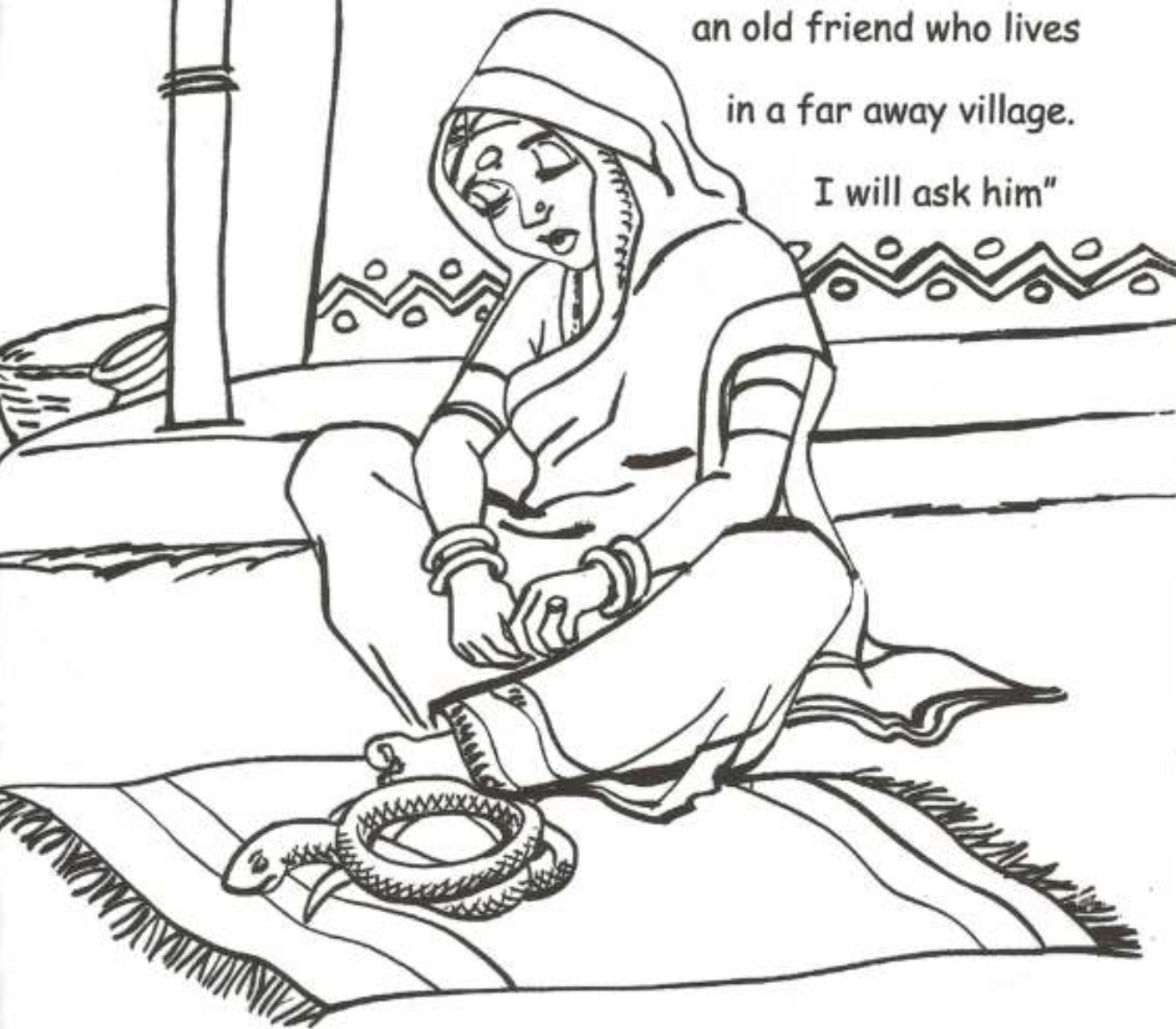


One day, Shravana and his wife were talking about their son. The wife said,

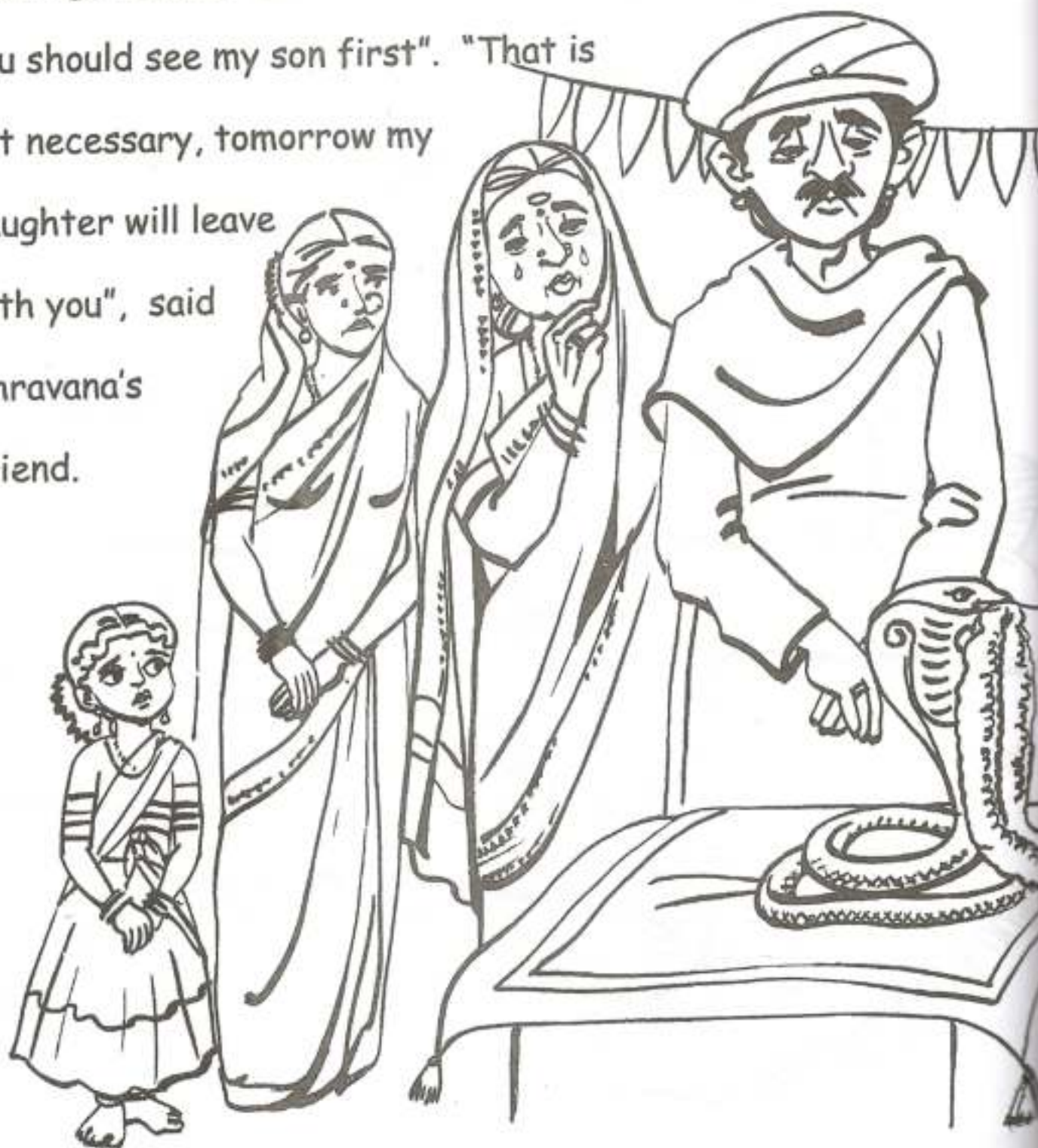
"Our son has grown up. Please look for a bride for him".

He replied, "I understand your

concern, but it will be difficult. Who will
give a bride to our son? Anyway, I have
an old friend who lives
in a far away village.
I will ask him"



So, Shravana went to his friend and asked his help. The friend said, "I have a daughter who is very pretty. I will give her in marriage to your son". Shravana said, "I think you should see my son first". "That is not necessary, tomorrow my daughter will leave with you", said Shravana's friend.



Though the daughter knew she was to marry a snake, she did not disobey her father.

She married the snake and looked after him. She was devoted and

loving to her husband. One night, when

the bride went to bed,

she saw a young

handsome man

in the room. She

was frightened

and as she was about

to leave the room,

the young man said,

"Please don't run away.

I am your husband".

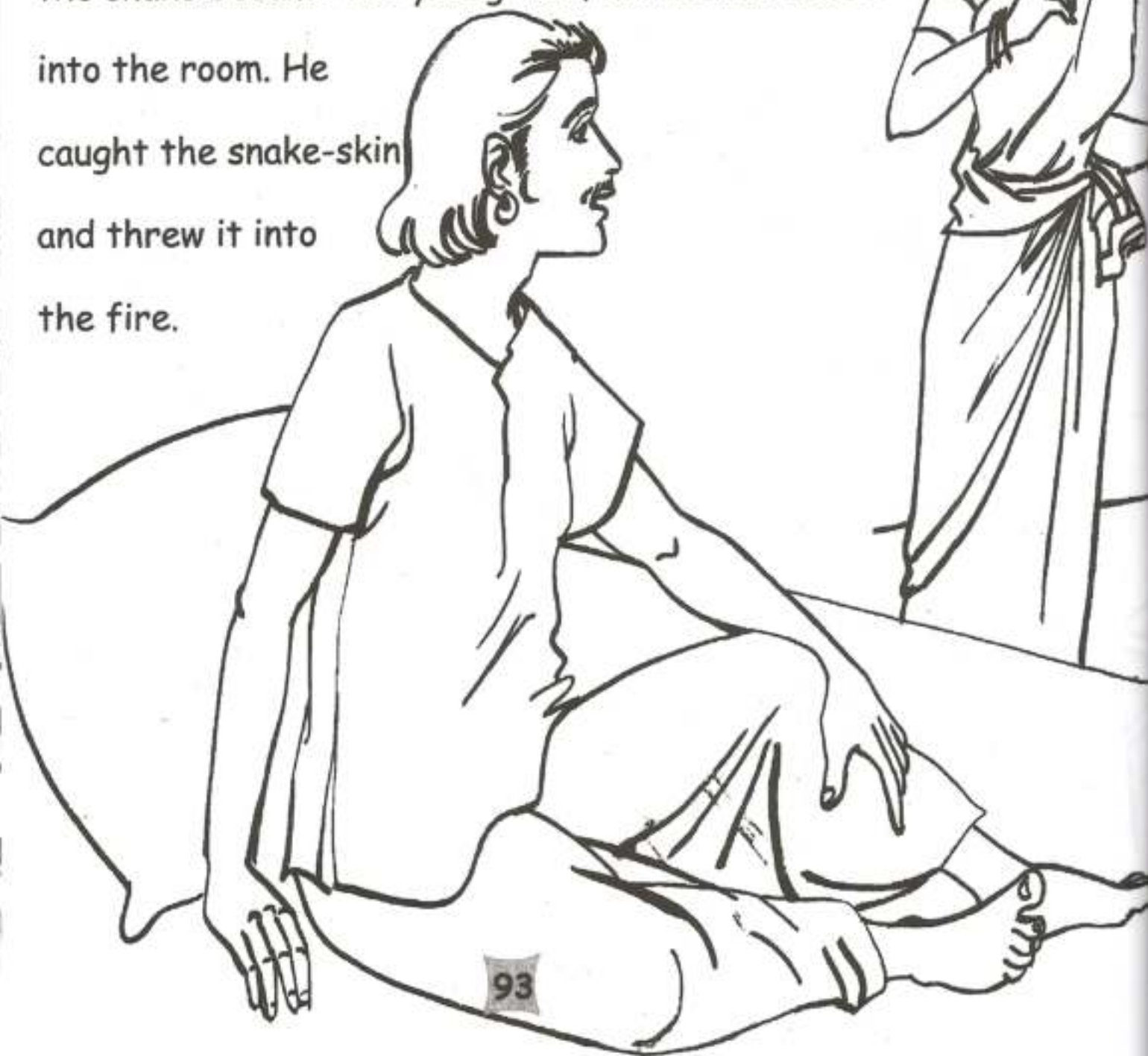
The bride did not

believe him.



To prove to her, the young man entered the snake's skin and became a snake. Then he again took the form of a young man.

Shravana happened to notice this. One night, when the snake became the young man, Shravana rushed into the room. He caught the snake-skin and threw it into the fire.



It turned into ashes. The son then explained, "Someone had put a curse on me, that is why I was born a snake.



But now, I am free from that curse, thank you father".

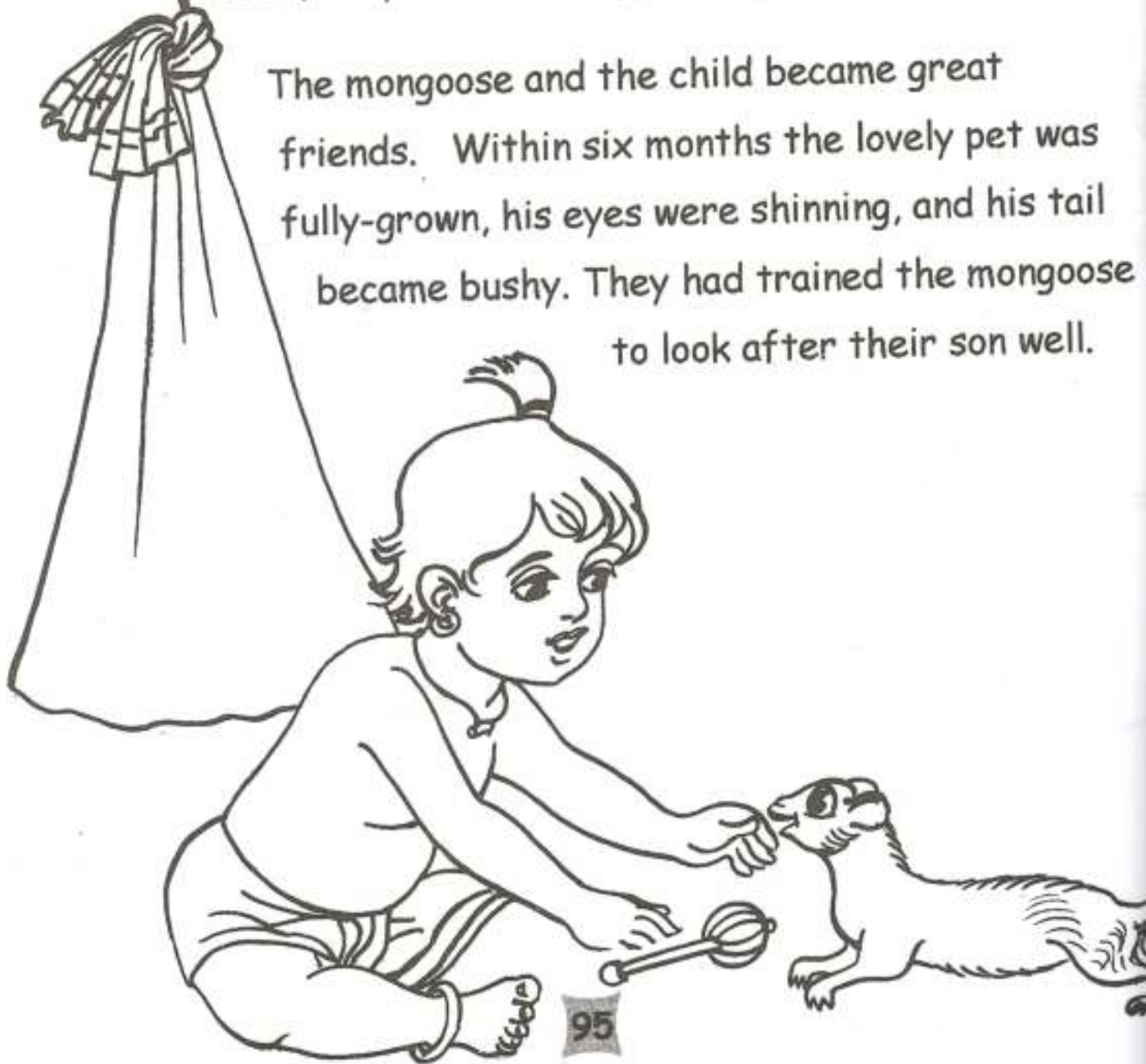
Looking at his bride he said, "Thank you wife for being so loving and patient with me. It helped me overcome my curse".

Message

Blessed is he who is loving and caring.

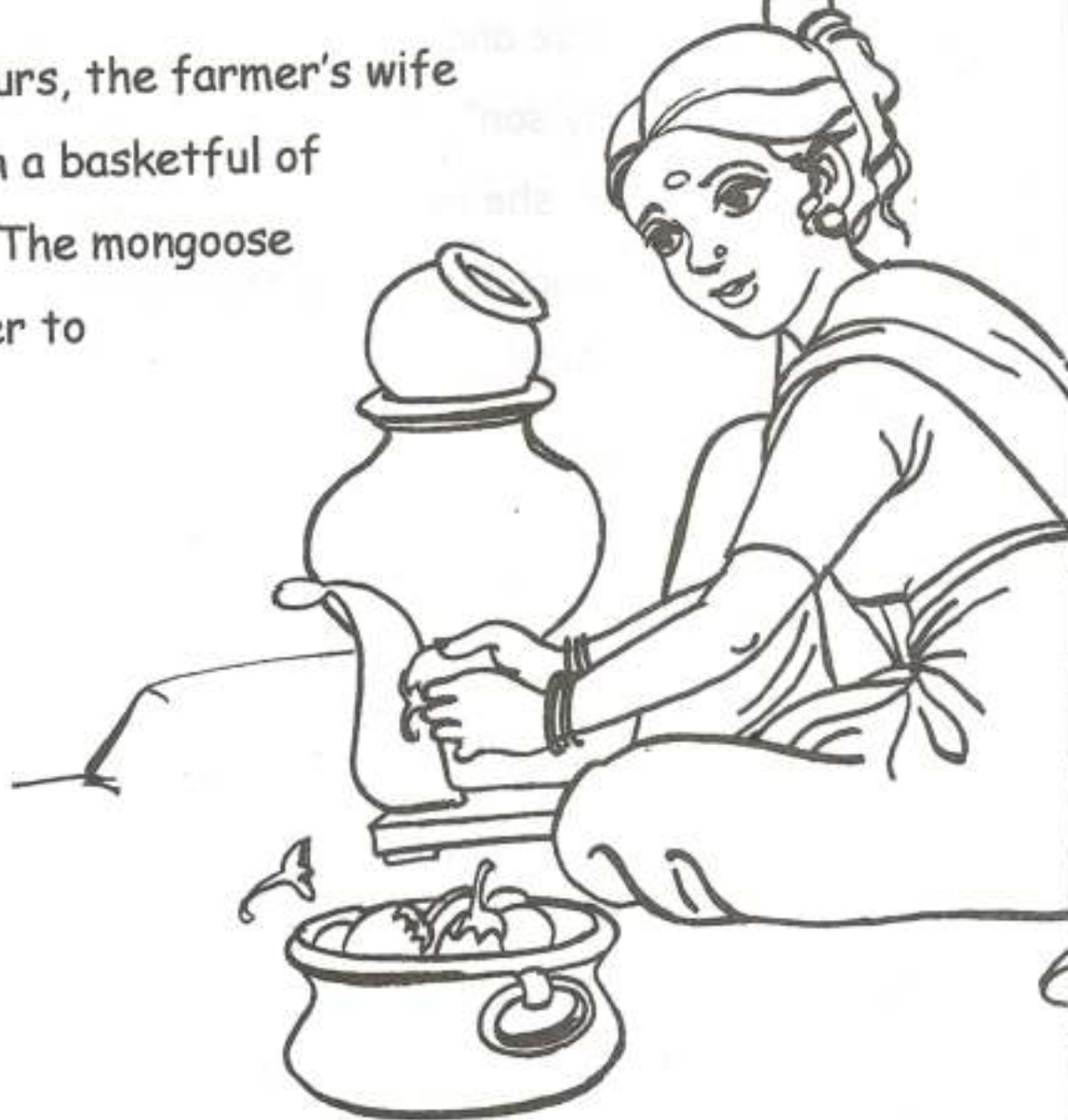
Pushkala, a farmer and his wife were looking for a pet to keep their eleven-month old son company. They visited many pet shops and some farms. Soon, they found the right companion, a mongoose.

The mongoose and the child became great friends. Within six months the lovely pet was fully-grown, his eyes were shining, and his tail became bushy. They had trained the mongoose to look after their son well.



One day, Pushkala and his wife left the house to do their daily jobs. They left their son totally in the care of the mongoose. He kept a close watch over the baby.

After two hours, the farmer's wife returned with a basketful of vegetables. The mongoose waited for her to come back.

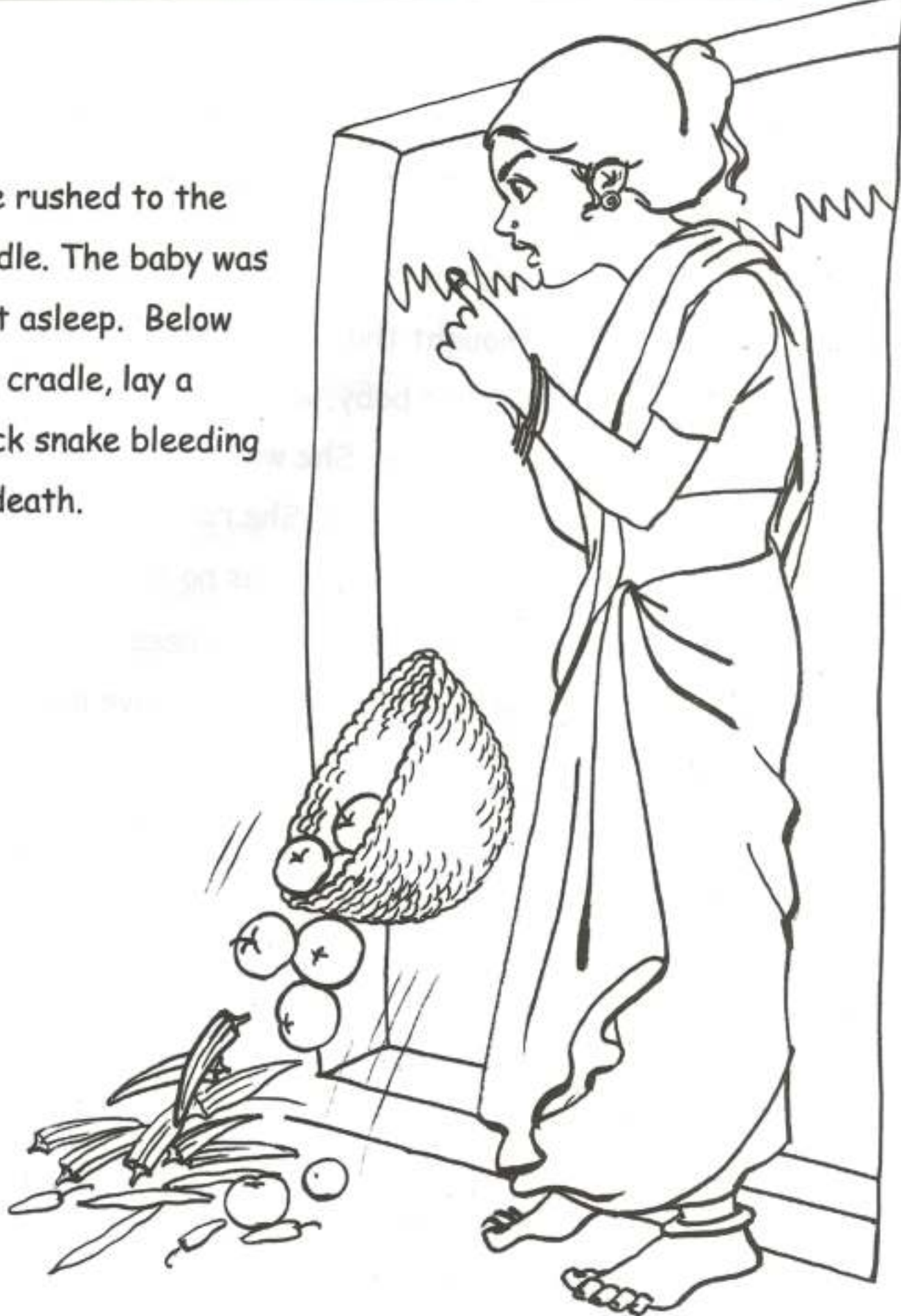


The minute he heard the door open, he rushed to her. He was trying to convey something to her. But his mistress did not understand. She took one look at the pet and screamed – "BLOOD"!

The mongoose's face and paws were stained with blood. "You have killed my son", she cried. Without going into her room to check, she had come to a hasty conclusion. She kicked the mongoose out of the house and slammed the door hard on his face.

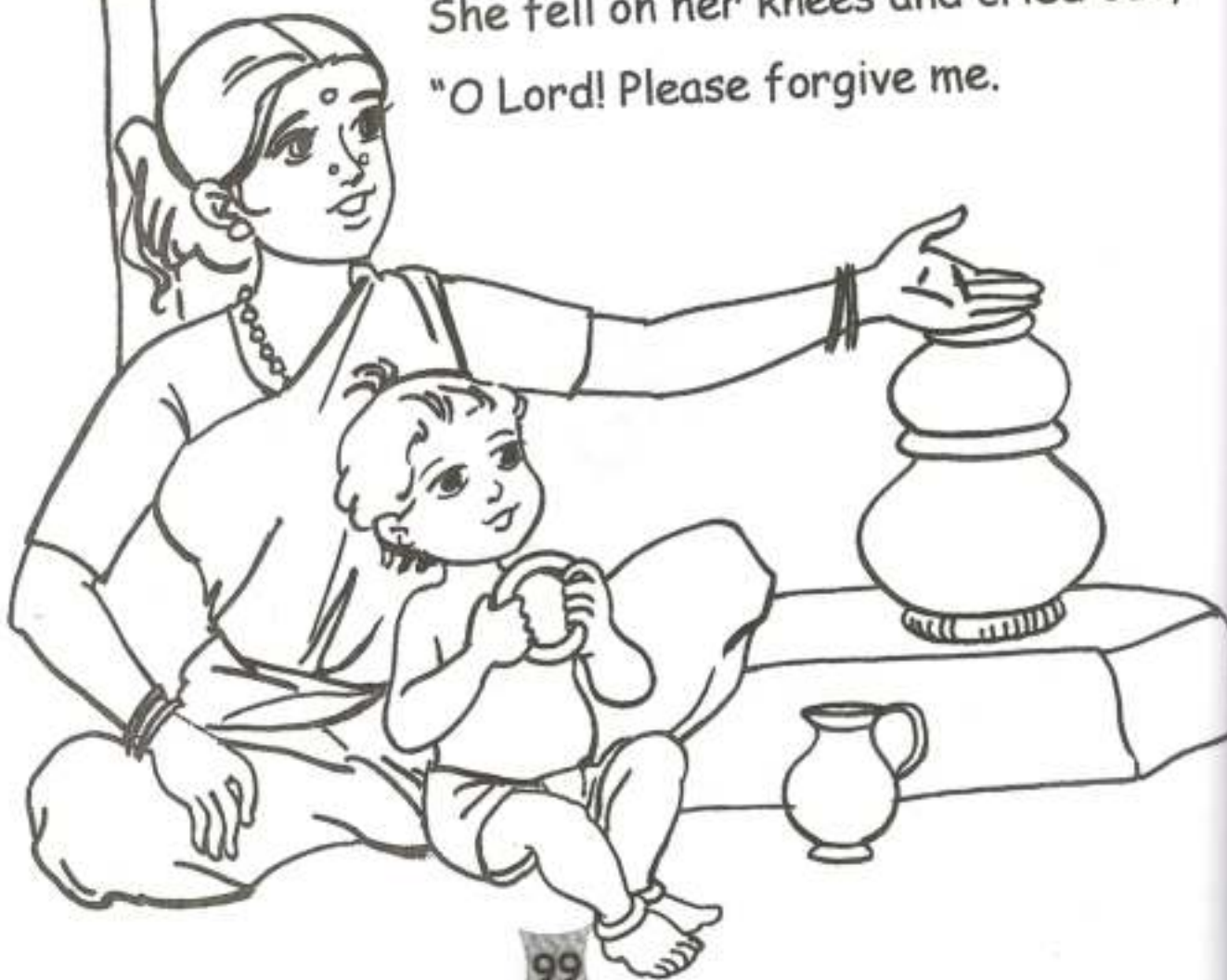


She rushed to the cradle. The baby was fast asleep. Below the cradle, lay a black snake bleeding to death.



Pushkala's wife realised her mistake. She thought that the mongoose had harmed her baby, when actually he had saved her son. She was feeling very bad for the mongoose. She ran out hoping to find him, but there was no sign of the pet.

She fell on her knees and cried out, "O Lord! Please forgive me."



I acted without thinking and kicked away the mongoose. He killed the snake and saved my son's life. Please bring the mongoose back to us. I must ask his forgiveness".

Just then, Pushkala returned, carrying home their pet — the loving mongoose.



Message

Do not jump to conclusions before finding out the truth.



THE CARELESS TORTOISE

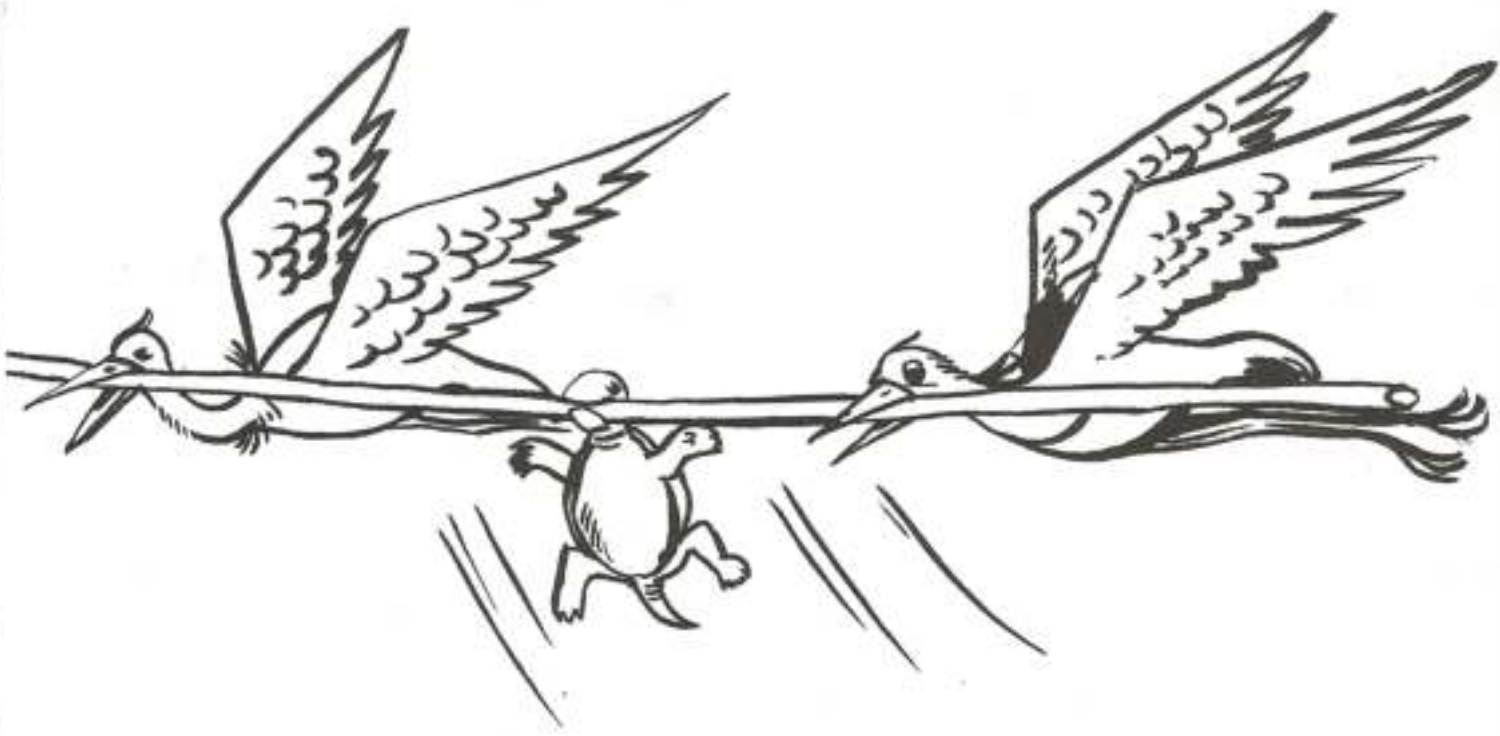


Once, two cranes wanted to fly away and live in a new place. The present land where they were staying had become hot and dry. It was difficult to get food and water. As they were leaving, they met their dear friend, the tortoise. "Where are you two off to?", he asked. "We are leaving this place. We are finding it difficult to get food and water. We have found a new spot where we will get enough food", the cranes said.



"Hey! I thought we were good friends. Why are you leaving without taking me? I too, want to come. Please take me with you", the tortoise pleaded. The cranes were prepared to take him but their problem was that he could not fly. Not to make him feel sad they said, "If you can fly with us, we will be happy to take you along".



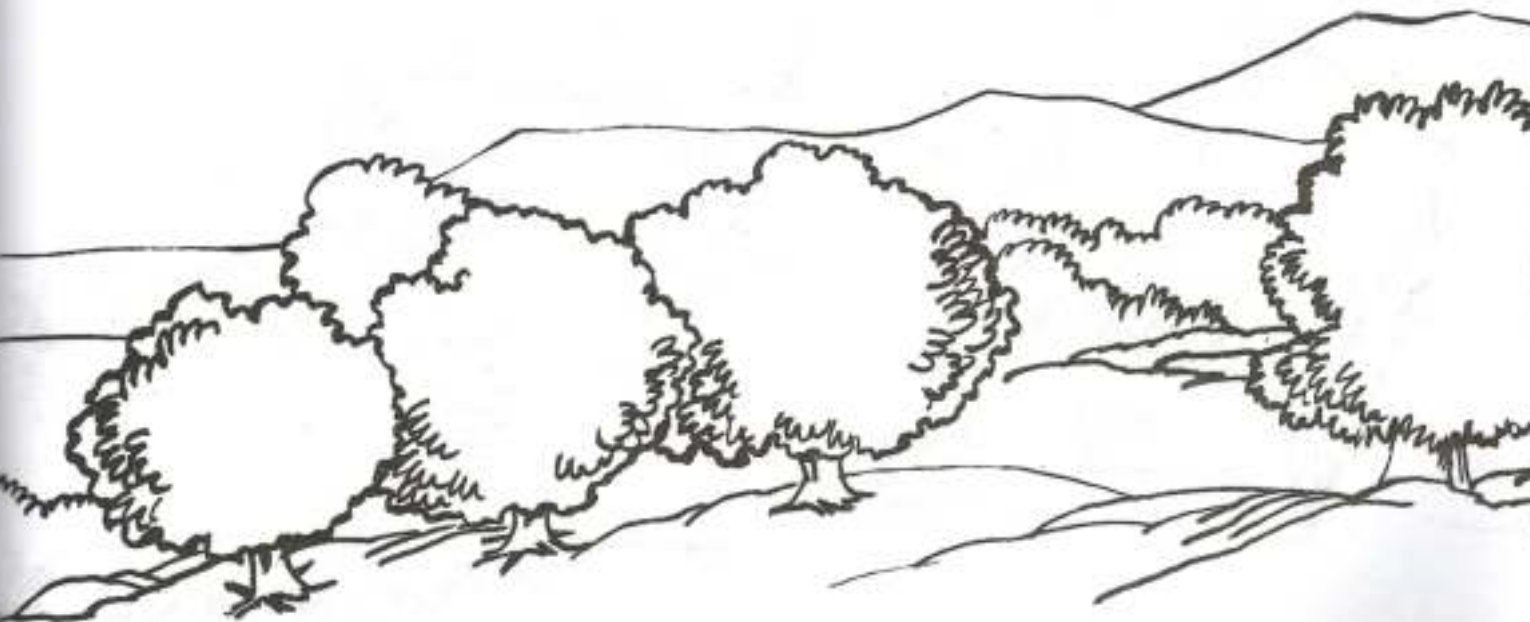


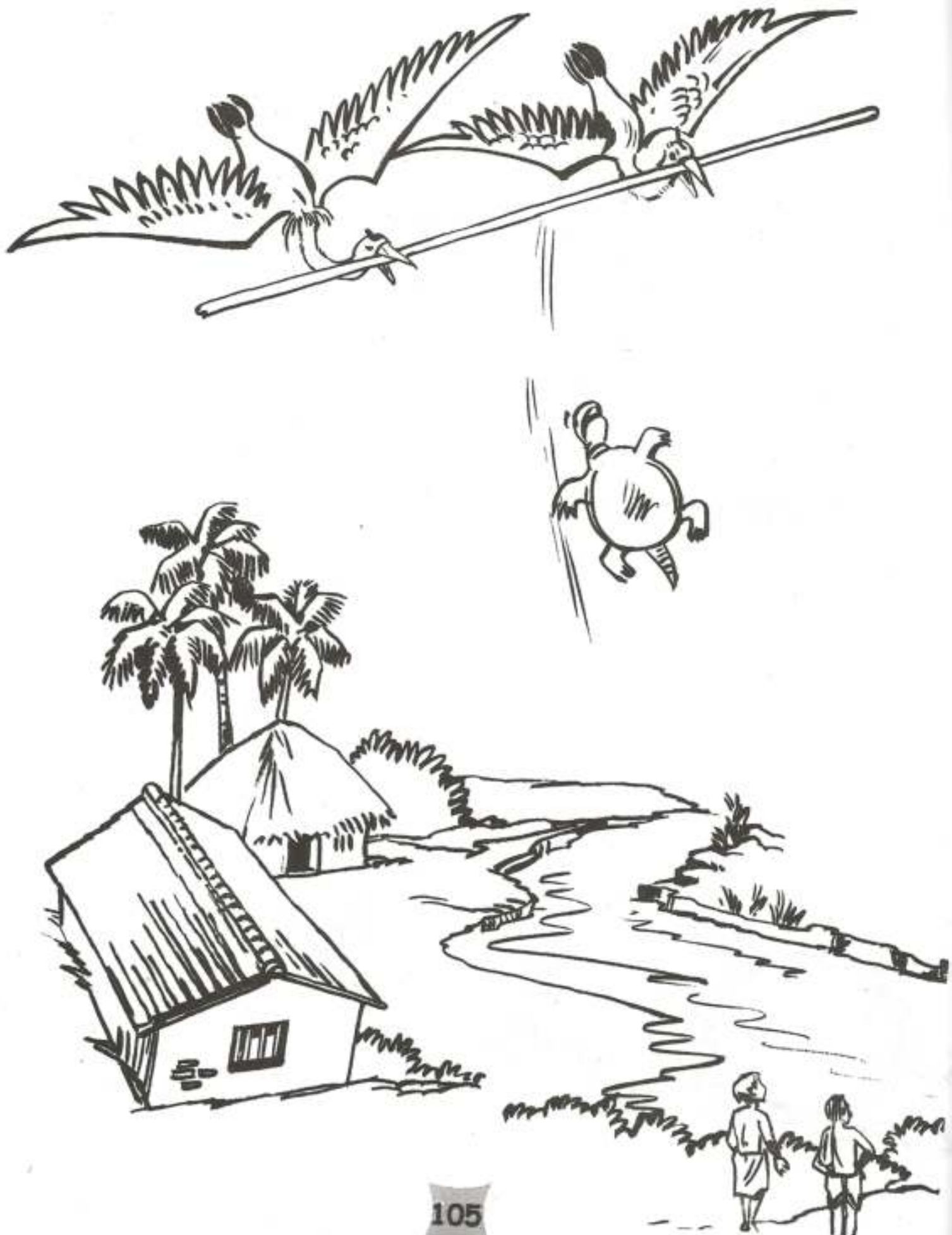
"Oh! That's easy. Both of you can hold a stick at the two ends and I will hold on to the stick with my mouth in the middle", said the tortoise. The crane said, "Sounds a good idea, but you must remember one thing—do not open your mouth."



You will be sorry if you did". "Alright, I will remember that", said the tortoise. So the trio flew away with each crane holding one end of the stick and the tortoise holding the middle of the stick with his mouth.

They flew high and fast to reach their new land of plenty. The tortoise looked down below and saw the beautiful scenery.

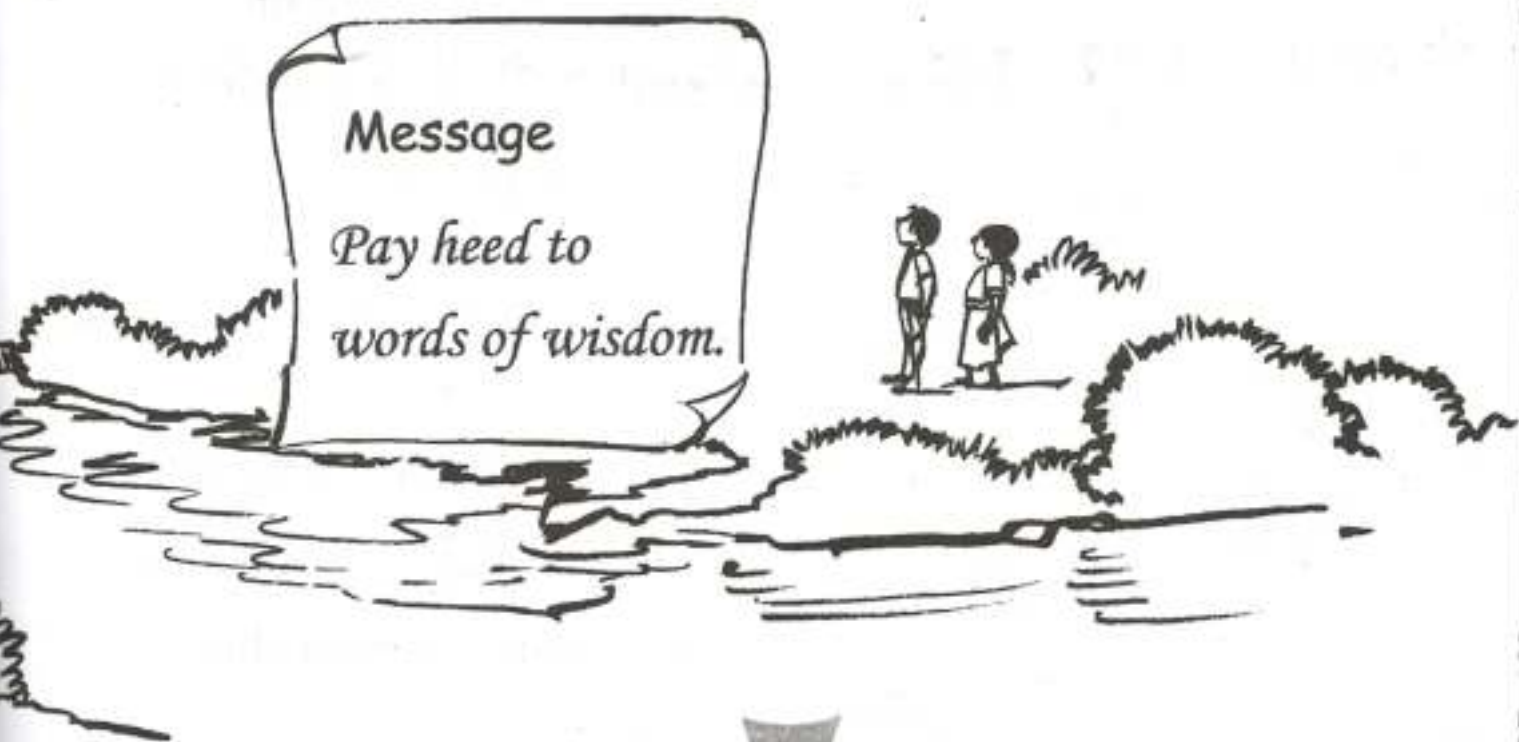


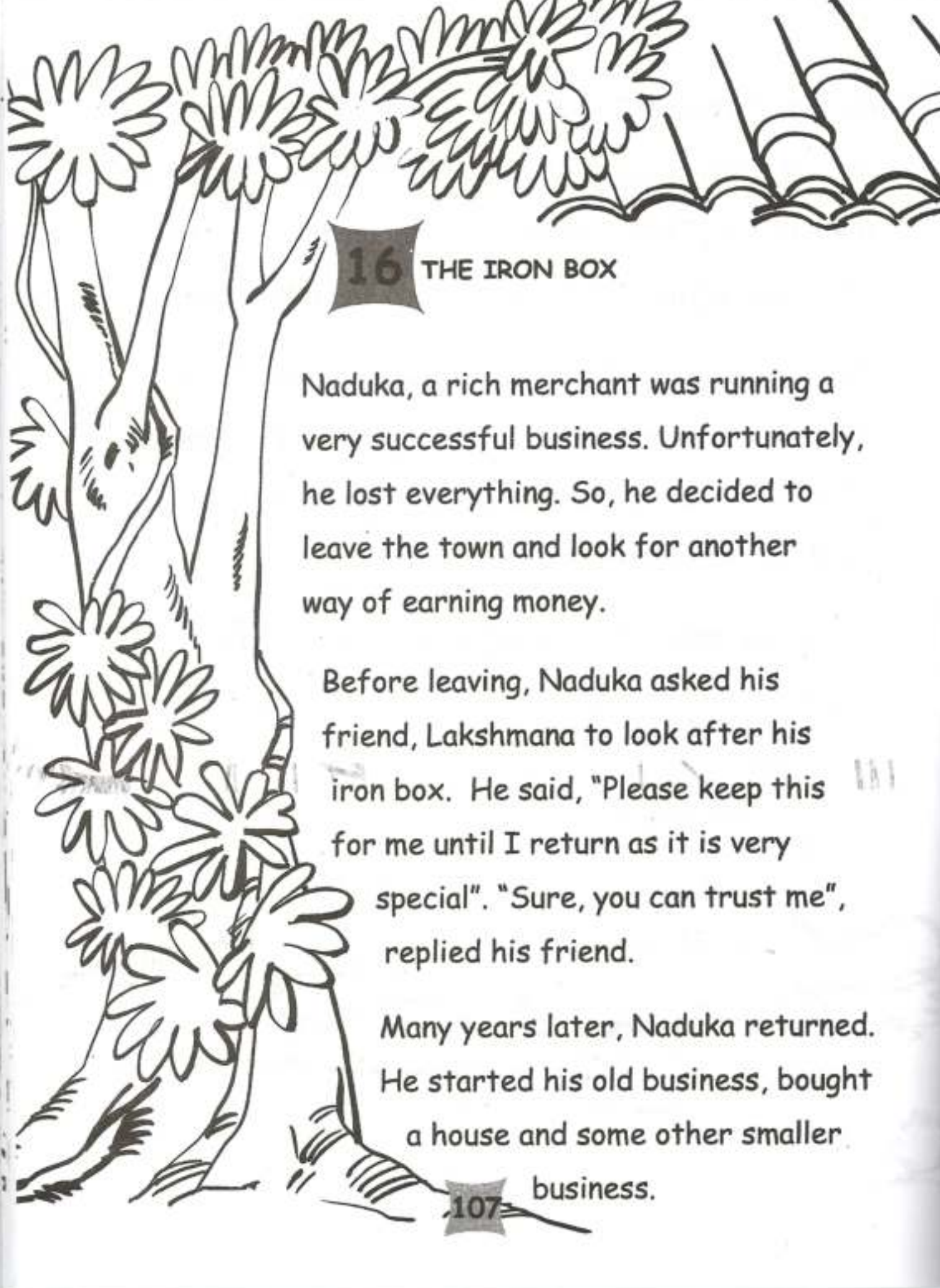


As they flew over the city, the people were amazed to see the strange sight, it was something they had never seen before. They clapped their hands and shouted, "How wonderful! Two birds are carrying a tortoise".

The tortoise did not like the people shouting. "Why should these people shout like this?" — as he opened his mouth to say so, he lost hold of the stick and fell down. The tortoise hit the ground and died.

The cranes looked at him helplessly, they could not save their dear friend.





Naduka, a rich merchant was running a very successful business. Unfortunately, he lost everything. So, he decided to leave the town and look for another way of earning money.

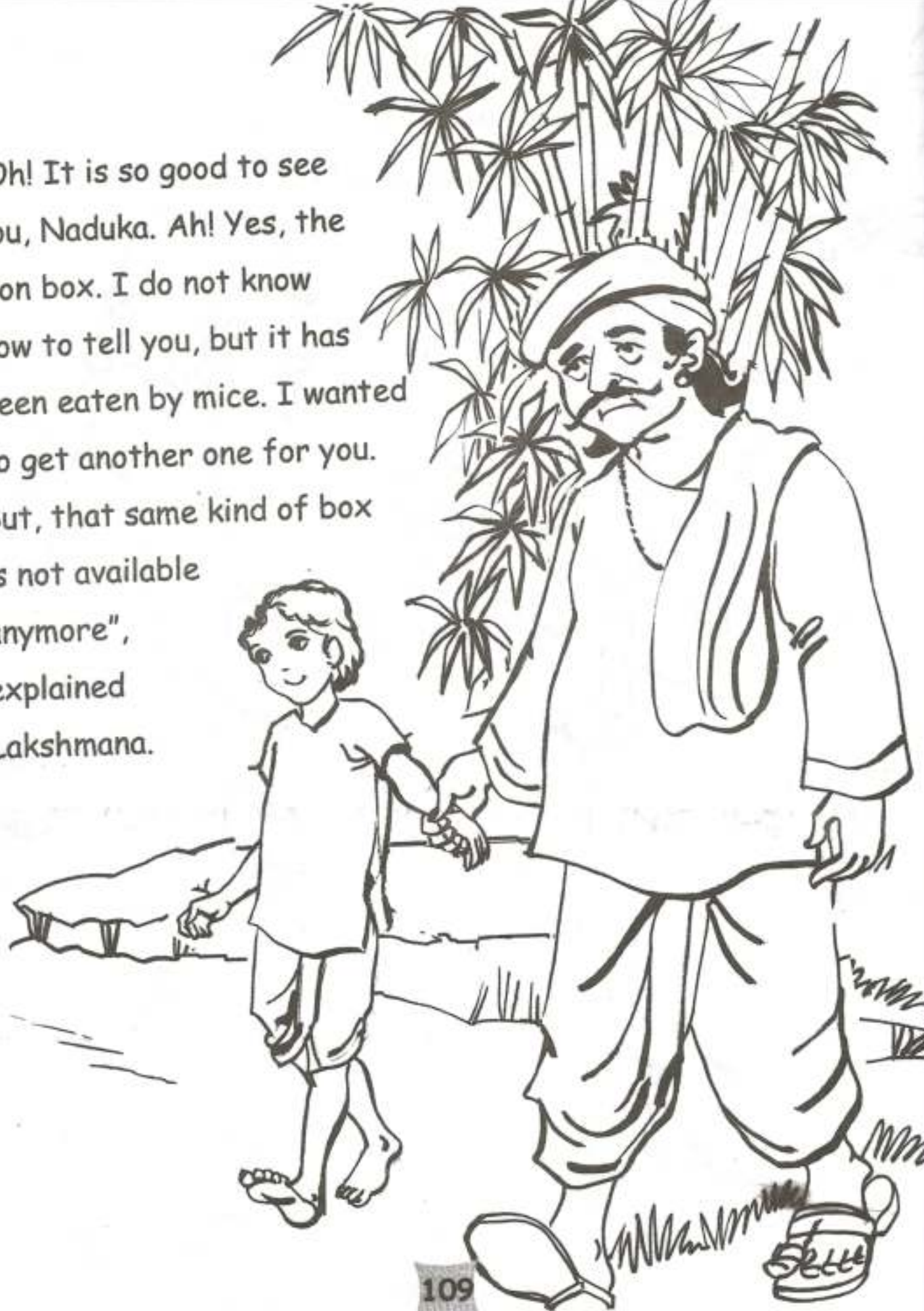
Before leaving, Naduka asked his friend, Lakshmana to look after his iron box. He said, "Please keep this for me until I return as it is very special". "Sure, you can trust me", replied his friend.

Many years later, Naduka returned. He started his old business, bought a house and some other smaller business.

After settling down, Naduka went to see Lakshmana and said, "Hello friend! I have come to collect the iron box".



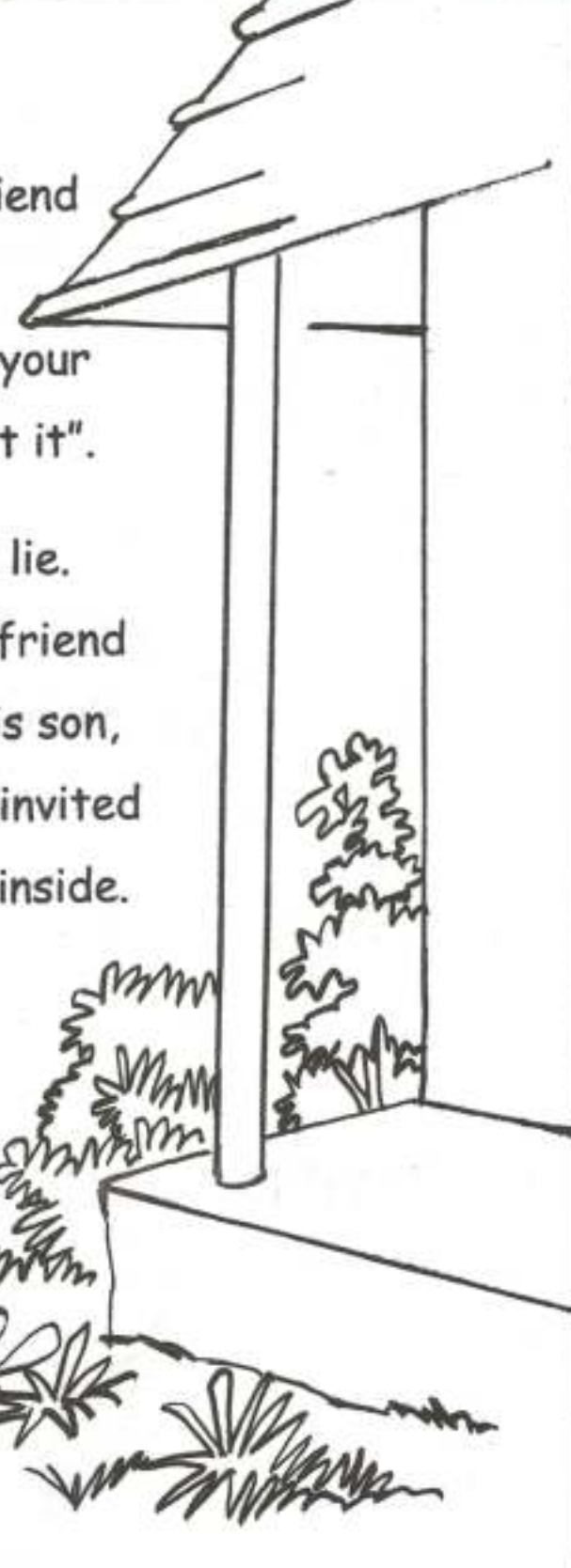
"Oh! It is so good to see you, Naduka. Ah! Yes, the iron box. I do not know how to tell you, but it has been eaten by mice. I wanted to get another one for you. But, that same kind of box is not available anymore", explained Lakshmana.



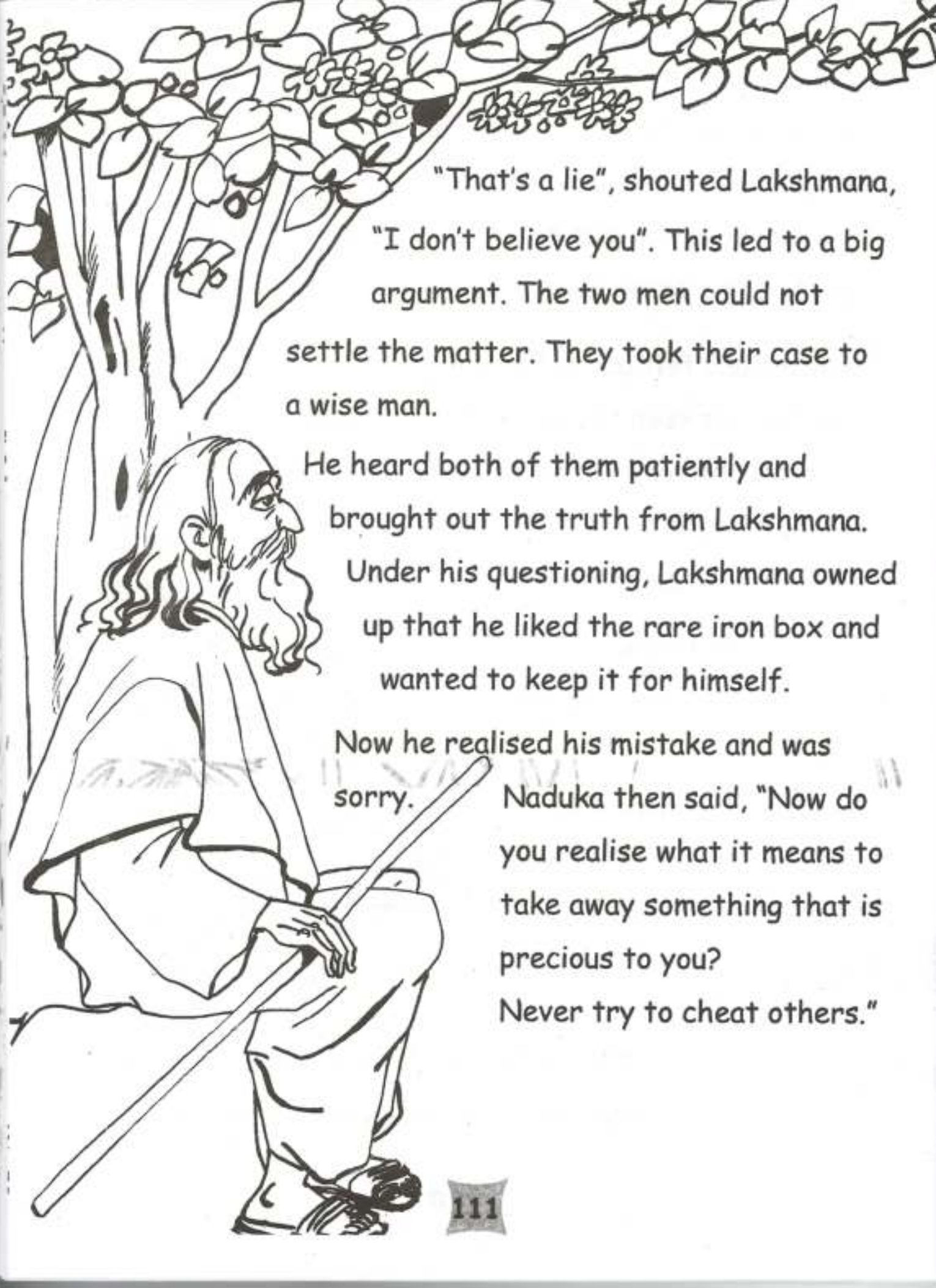
Naduka understood the trick his friend was playing on him. So he said, "I have brought a gift for you. Ask your son to come to my house and collect it".

Lakshmana felt guilty for telling a lie. But he was keen to see what his friend had bought for him. So, he sent his son, Ramu along with Naduka. Naduka invited Ramu to his cellar and locked him inside.

Later, Lakshmana came to Naduka looking for Ramu. He asked, "What happened to my son, Ramu? It is more than three hours and he has not yet returned?", he said.



"Oh! On the way, a huge eagle flew down and carried Ramu away", replied Naduka.



"That's a lie", shouted Lakshmana, "I don't believe you". This led to a big argument. The two men could not settle the matter. They took their case to a wise man.

He heard both of them patiently and brought out the truth from Lakshmana. Under his questioning, Lakshmana owned up that he liked the rare iron box and wanted to keep it for himself.

Now he realised his mistake and was sorry.

Naduka then said, "Now do you realise what it means to take away something that is precious to you? Never try to cheat others."

Message

*Do to others only what you
would want others to do
to you.*



Once, there was a frog called Santura. He lived with a few of his friends in a pool. Santura always felt that he was much better than his friends. He could jump longer, swim faster and croak louder than his mates. But the others did not like Santura's "show-off" behaviour.

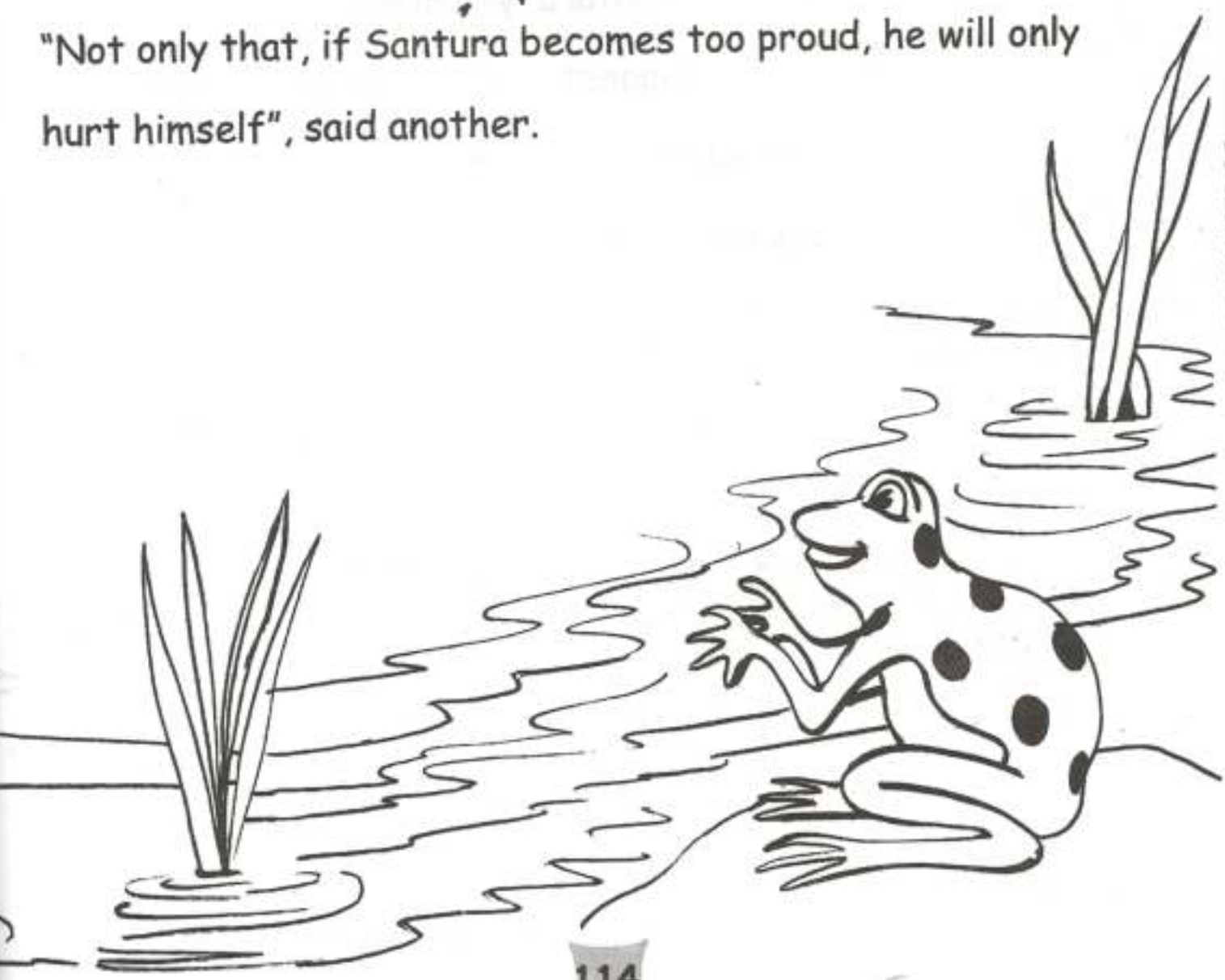
They felt that he must learn to be simple and humble.



"I am very worried about Santura", said the eldest frog.

"I know", agreed another. "He knows that he is very strong and handsome. One can hear his croak all the way from here to the old Banyan tree", said the other frogs. "I think we should warn Santura, otherwise he will make a fool of himself".

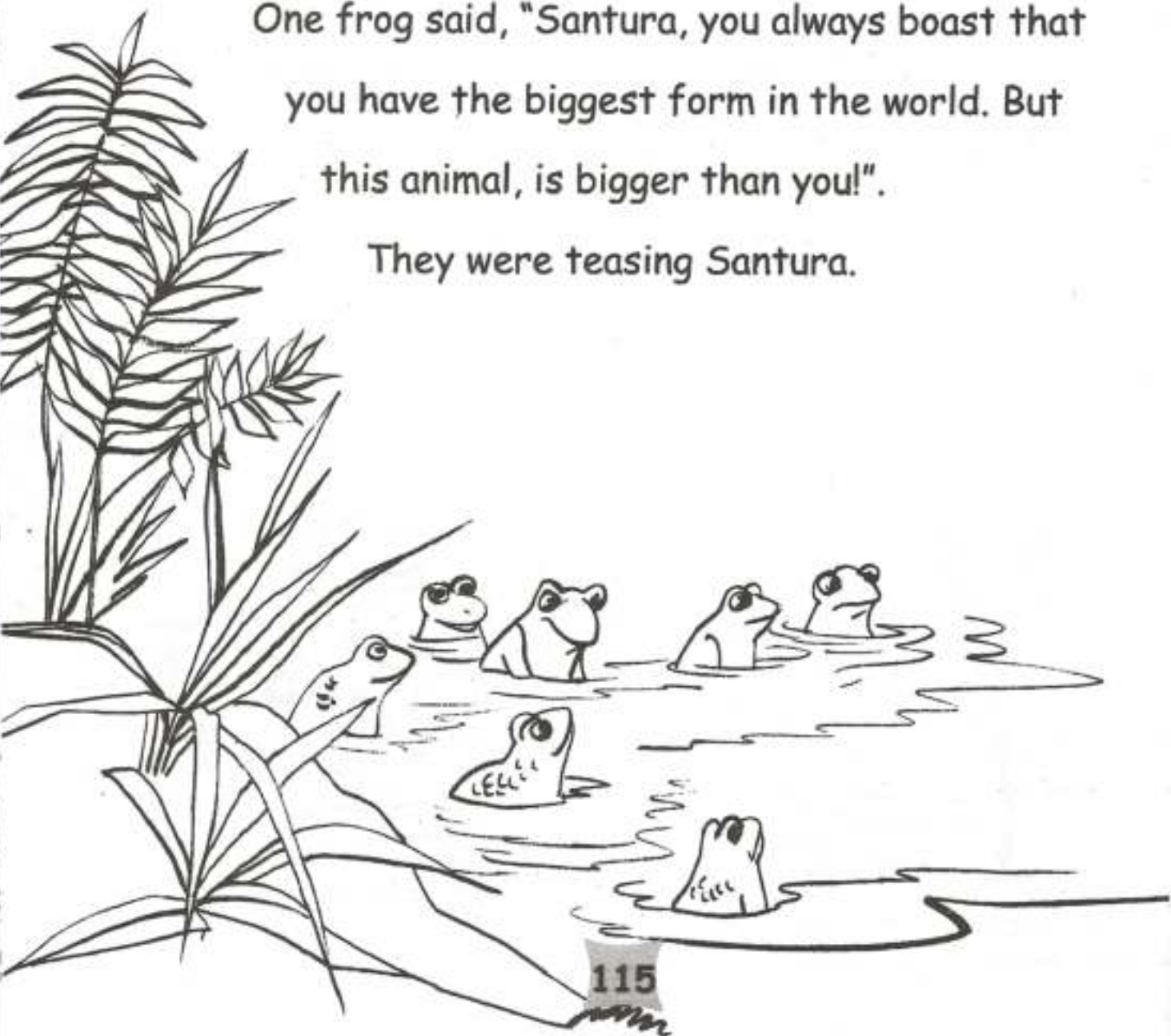
"Not only that, if Santura becomes too proud, he will only hurt himself", said another.



As they were talking, a thirsty cow, from a group of grazing cattle, came to the pool. All the frogs stood dazed, looking at the cow. They had never seen such a big animal before.

One frog said, "Santura, you always boast that you have the biggest form in the world. But this animal, is bigger than you!".

They were teasing Santura.



Another said, "Can you become as big as him? I am sure you can't". "Hush! Be quiet", cried Santura, "You want to see, I too can make myself as big as this animal".





He then began to puff himself up in a way that only frogs could do. "Look at me now", said Santura. He held his breath as long as he could. He puffed up some more.

The others teased him further by saying, "No! You are still not as big as that animal". So Santura tried to puff even more. Suddenly, they heard a loud noise. Santura had burst like a balloon and was blown into pieces.



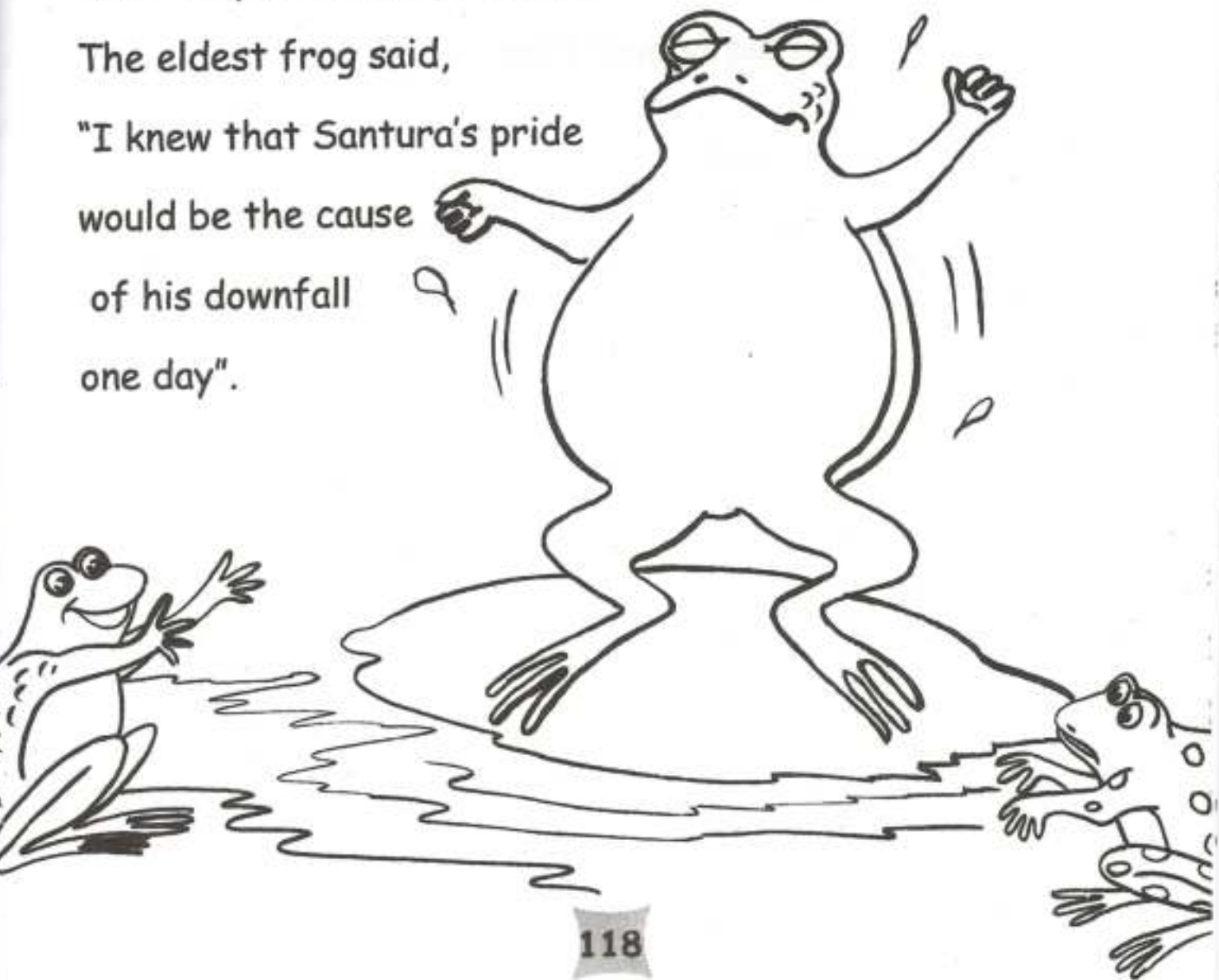


Message

*False pride leads
to one's downfall.*

The other frogs shook
their heads feeling very sorry for
what they did to their friend.

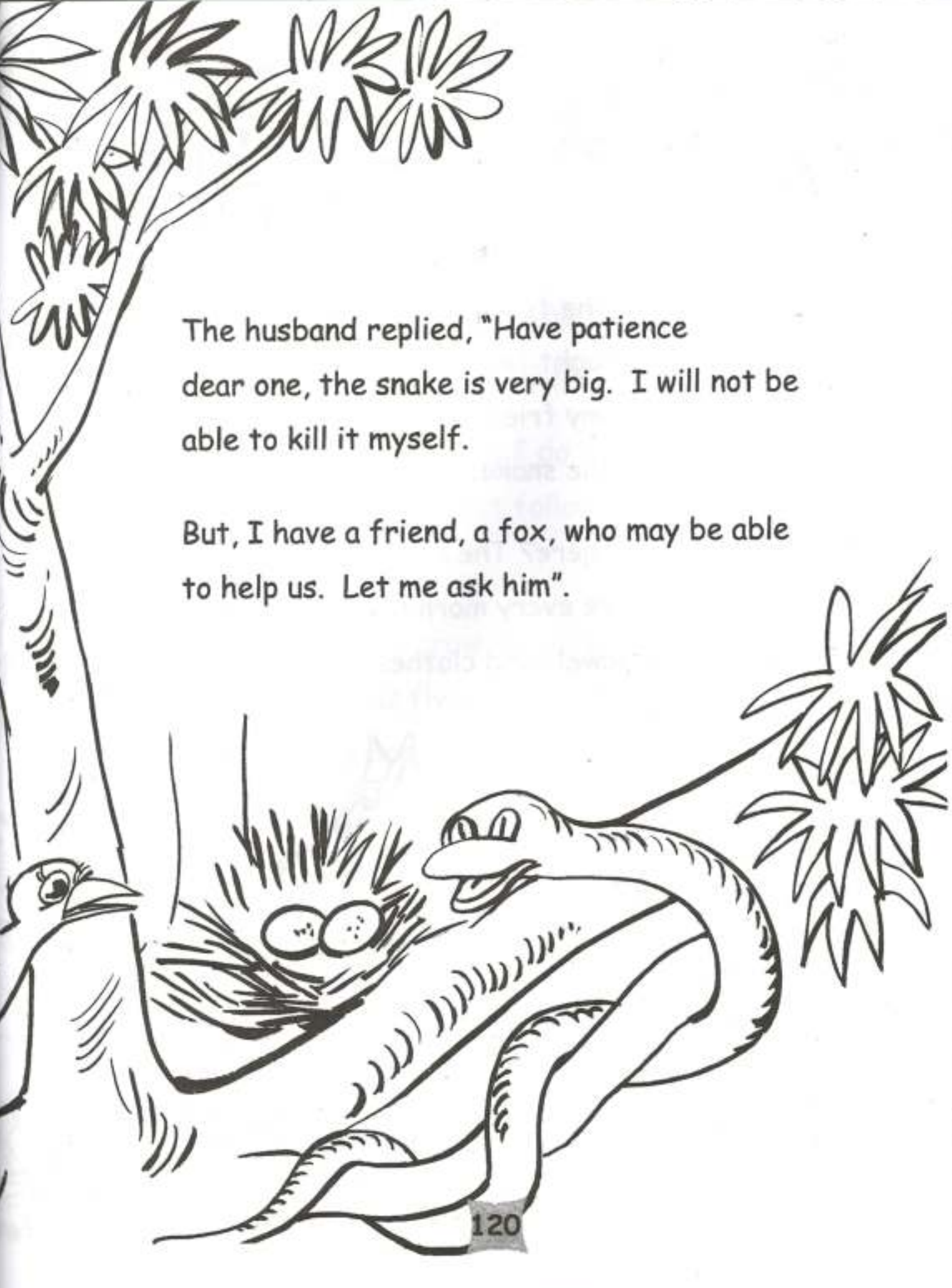
The eldest frog said,
"I knew that Santura's pride
would be the cause
of his downfall
one day".



Two crows — a husband and his wife, lived happily in a big Banyan tree.


One day, a black snake, living in the hollow of the same tree made them very unhappy. It had eaten the eggs that the mother crow had just laid.

She cried to her husband, "My dear, the snake that lives below has eaten all our babies. Please do something to get rid of the snake".



The husband replied, "Have patience dear one, the snake is very big. I will not be able to kill it myself.

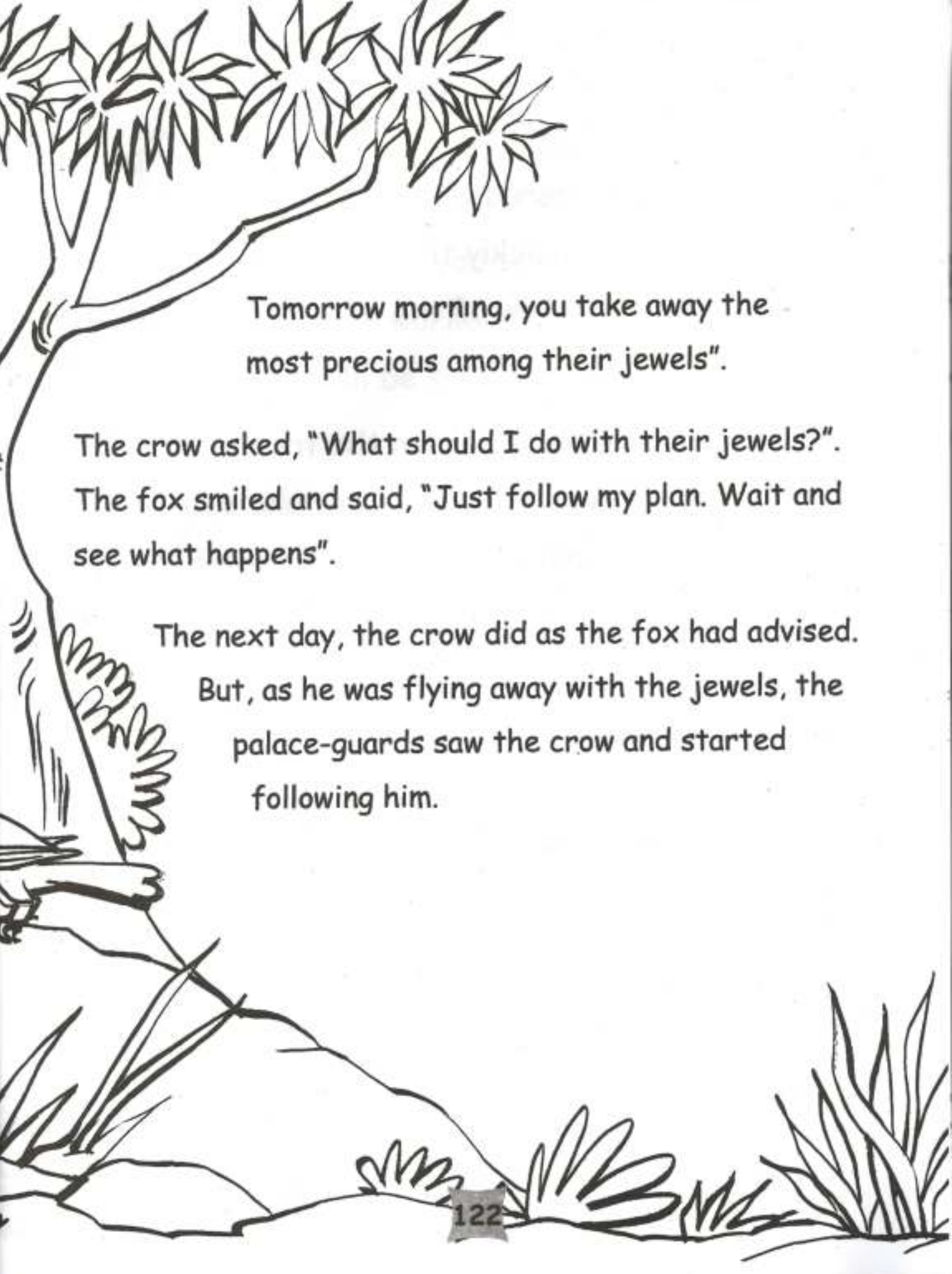
But, I have a friend, a fox, who may be able to help us. Let me ask him".



The crow went to the fox, and told his sad story. The fox thought for a while and said, "Don't worry my friend, I have a good plan to get rid of the snake."

Do you see a lake there? The princess and her friends bathe there every morning. On the bank, they leave their jewels and clothes.

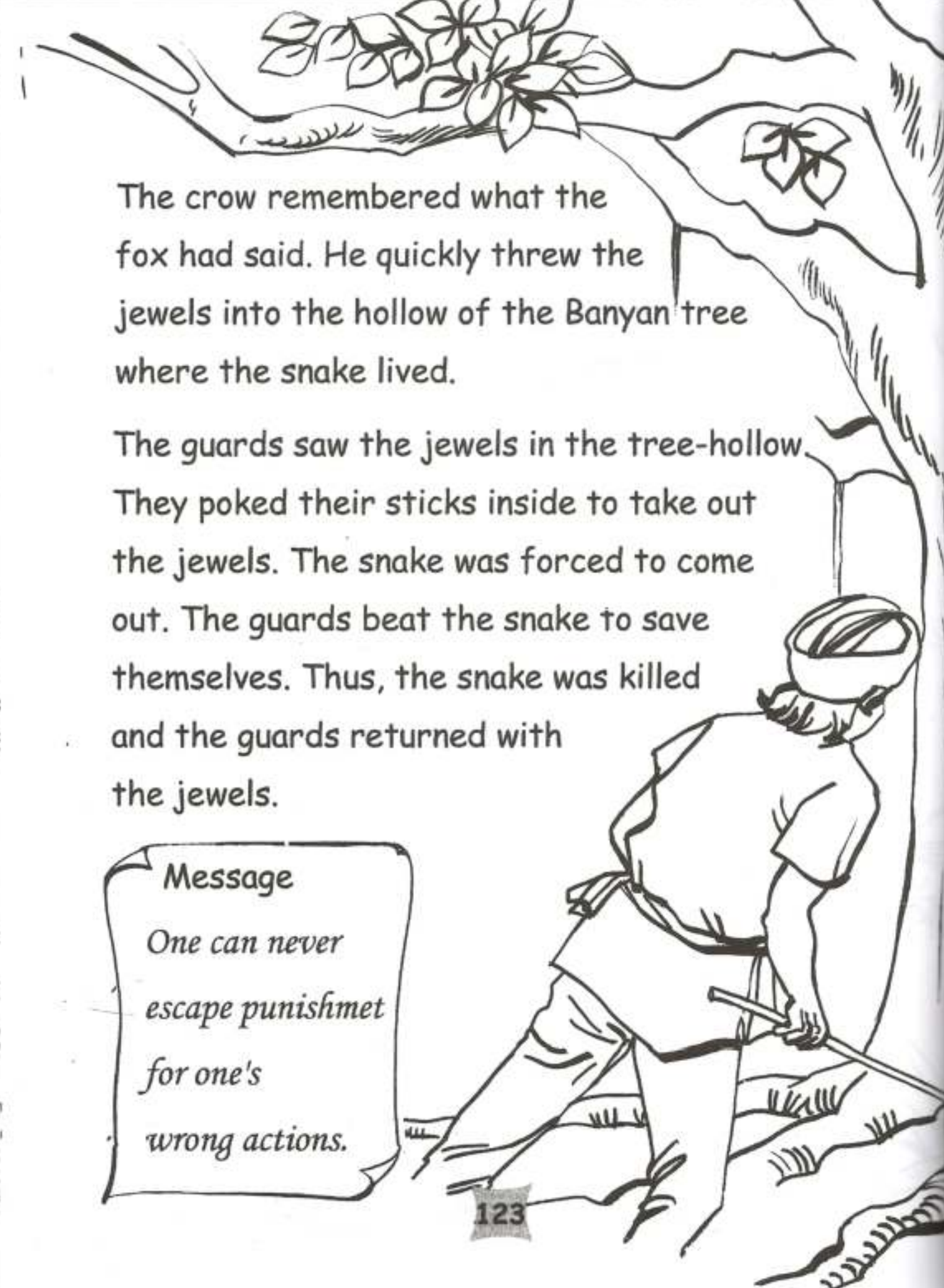




Tomorrow morning, you take away the most precious among their jewels".

The crow asked, "What should I do with their jewels?".
The fox smiled and said, "Just follow my plan. Wait and see what happens".

The next day, the crow did as the fox had advised.
But, as he was flying away with the jewels, the palace-guards saw the crow and started following him.

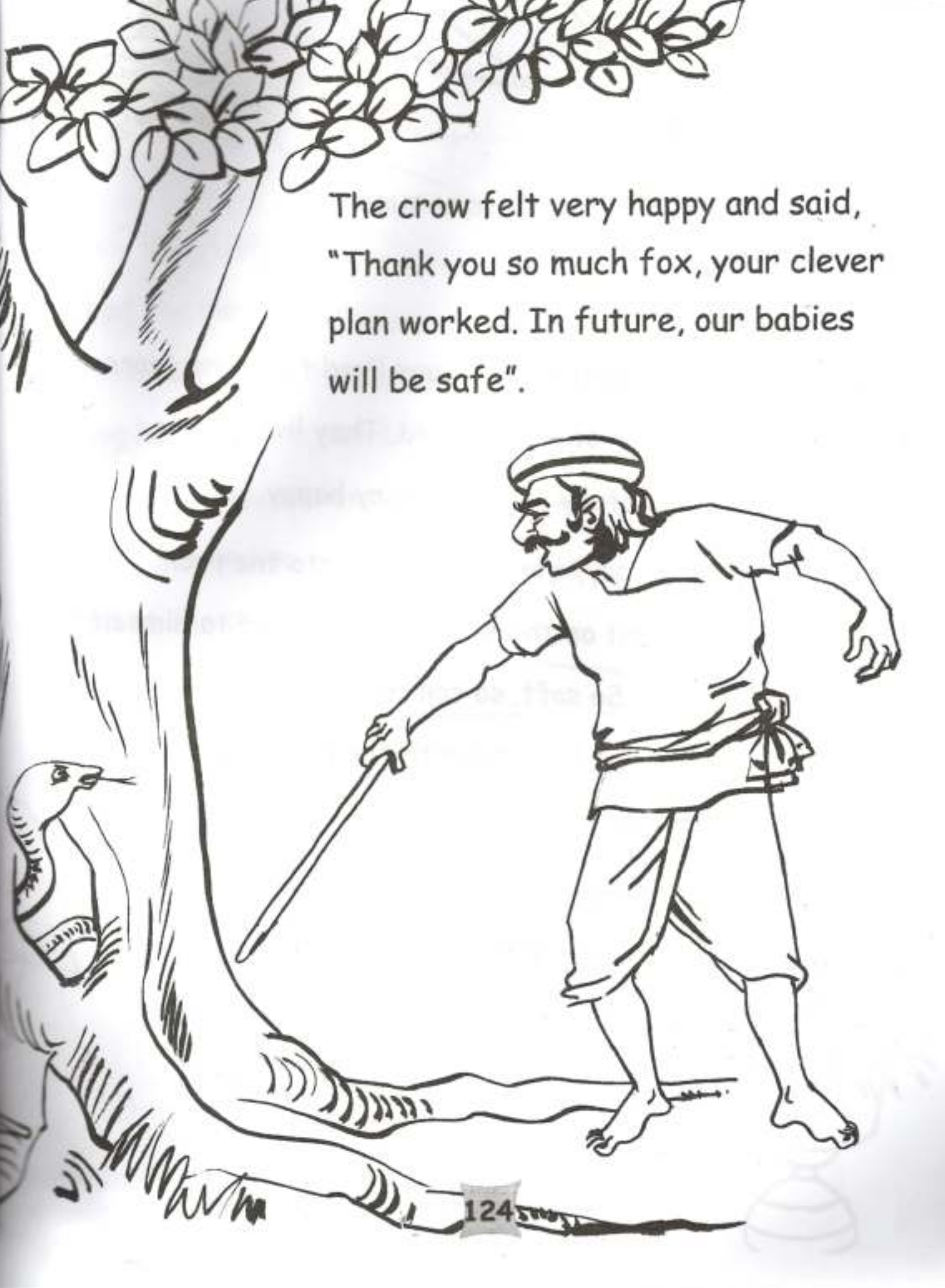


The crow remembered what the fox had said. He quickly threw the jewels into the hollow of the Banyan tree where the snake lived.

The guards saw the jewels in the tree-hollow. They poked their sticks inside to take out the jewels. The snake was forced to come out. The guards beat the snake to save themselves. Thus, the snake was killed and the guards returned with the jewels.

Message

*One can never
escape punishment
for one's
wrong actions.*



The crow felt very happy and said,
"Thank you so much fox, your clever
plan worked. In future, our babies
will be safe".



19 THE UNLUCKY BUGS



A large family of bugs lived for many years at the corner of a King's bed. They lived there peacefully and were very happy.

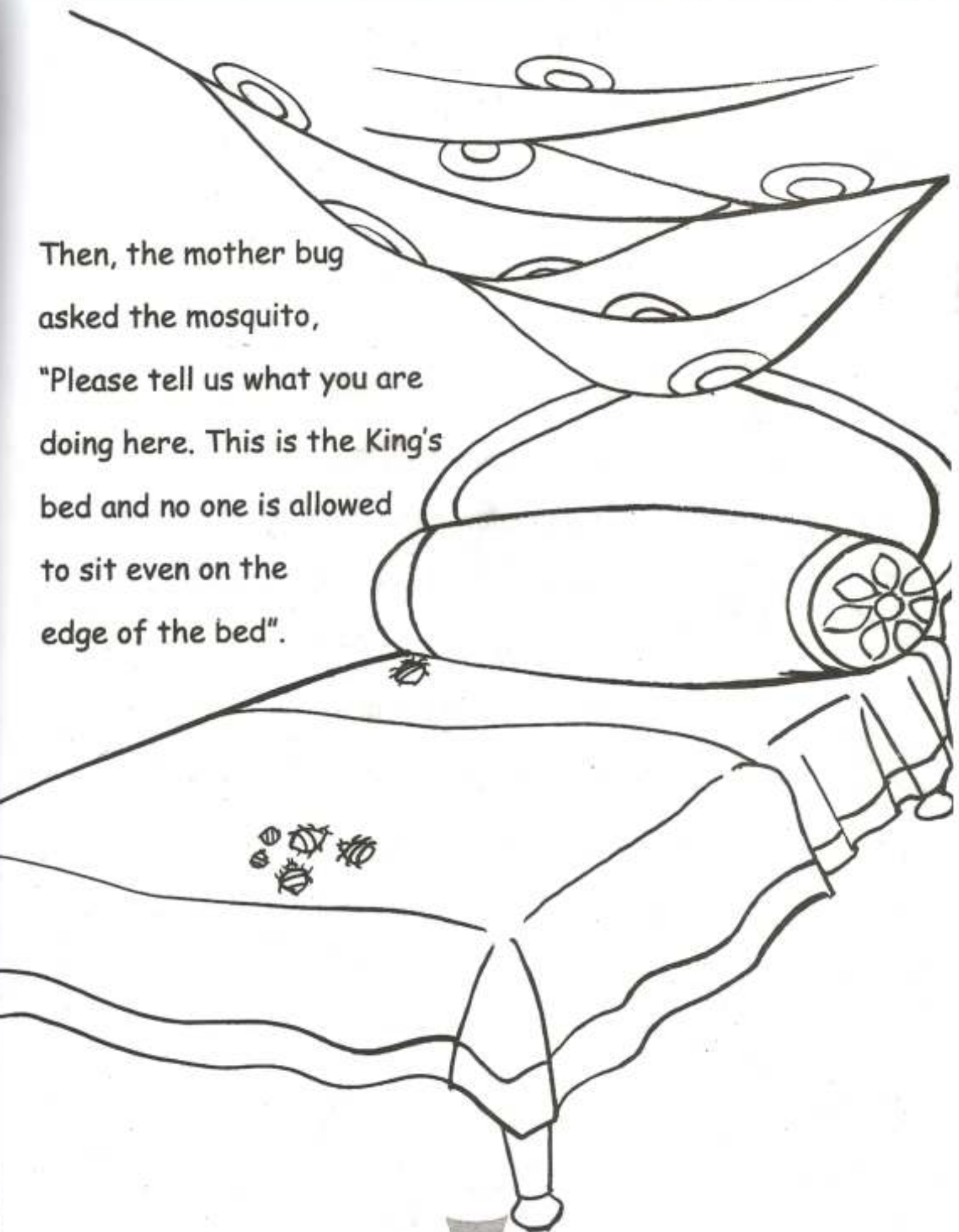
One day, a mosquito flew into the room. He sat on the King's bed and said to himself, "Oh! So soft, so comfortable". He wanted to share this home with the bugs in order to taste the King's blood.


The bug children noticed the stranger.

They told their mother, "There is a visitor on the King's bed". The whole family surrounded the mosquito.



Then, the mother bug
asked the mosquito,
"Please tell us what you are
doing here. This is the King's
bed and no one is allowed
to sit even on the
edge of the bed".





The mosquito replied, "I have travelled to many places and tasted the blood of many people. I wish to taste the King's blood. I will stay here for only one night, if you allow me". "No", cried the bug.

"Why not?", asked the mosquito.

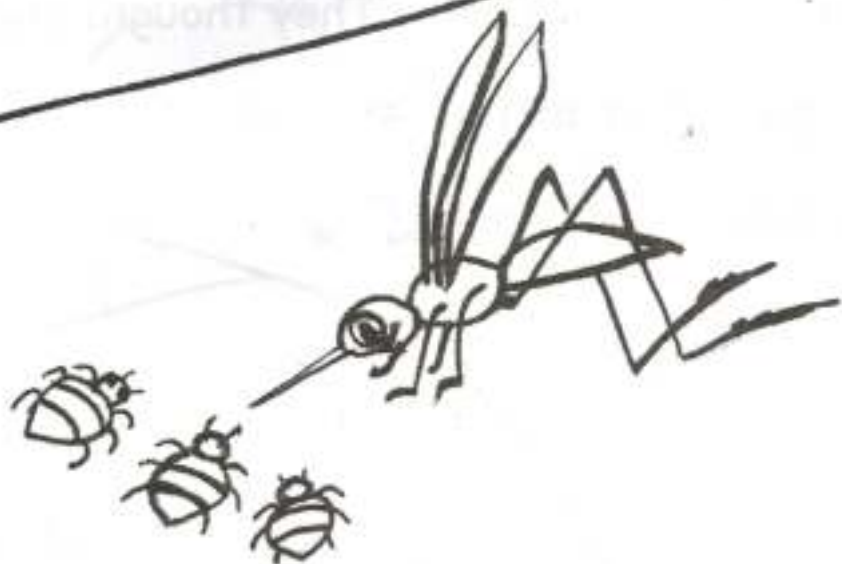
"When you bite the King you will hurt him. He will then kill all of us. Please leave at once", explained the mother bug.


But the mosquito was not ready to give in so easily.

"I promise to leave after tasting his blood" he insisted.

The mother bug thought for a while and said,
"Kindly keep your word. Remember, you must
come in after the King has had his dinner.

Also, you can bite the King only on his feet,
when he is fast asleep. Only then he will not
feel your bite". "Very well, I will remember
all that you have said", nodded
the mosquito.





He waited for the King. As soon as the King entered, the mosquito got excited. He forgot the bug's advice. He did not wait for the King to sleep.

He also bit him on the neck instead of the feet. The King jumped up from the bed. He was very angry. He shouted for his servants, "Search the bed and kill the insect that bit me".

The mosquito cleverly flew away by then. The servants found the bug family. They thought that these bugs must have bitten the King.

They killed each one of them.

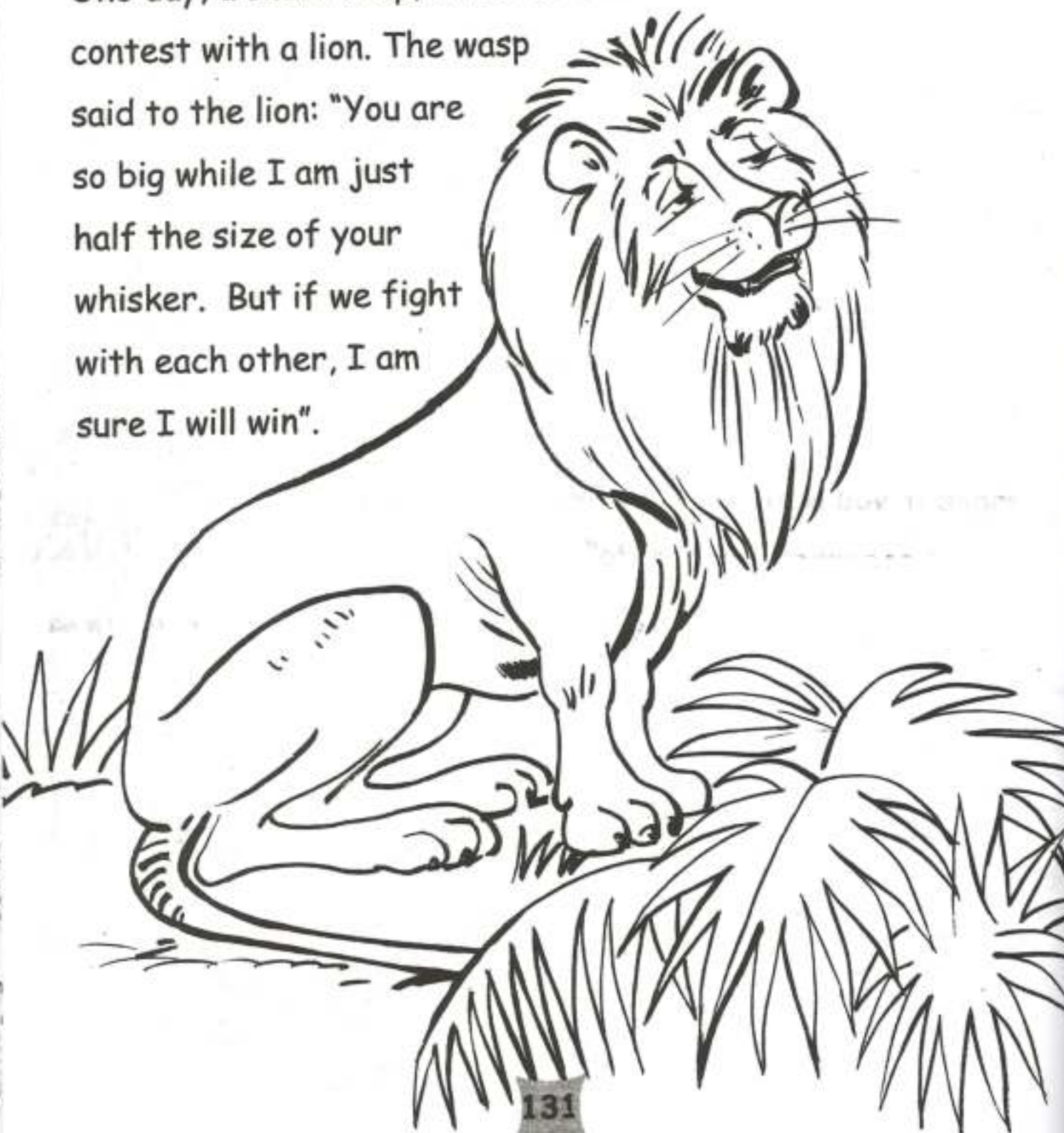


Message

*Be careful of
strangers who
mean to do harm.*



One day, a small wasp, entered into a contest with a lion. The wasp said to the lion: "You are so big while I am just half the size of your whisker. But if we fight with each other, I am sure I will win".





The lion was surprised at the wasp's confidence. He smiled and replied, "I can scratch with my claws and bite with my teeth. How can you possibly win over me?"

The smart wasp said, "Even a small cat can scratch and bite. You will have to do much more if you want to fight me. So come on, let us see what you can do".



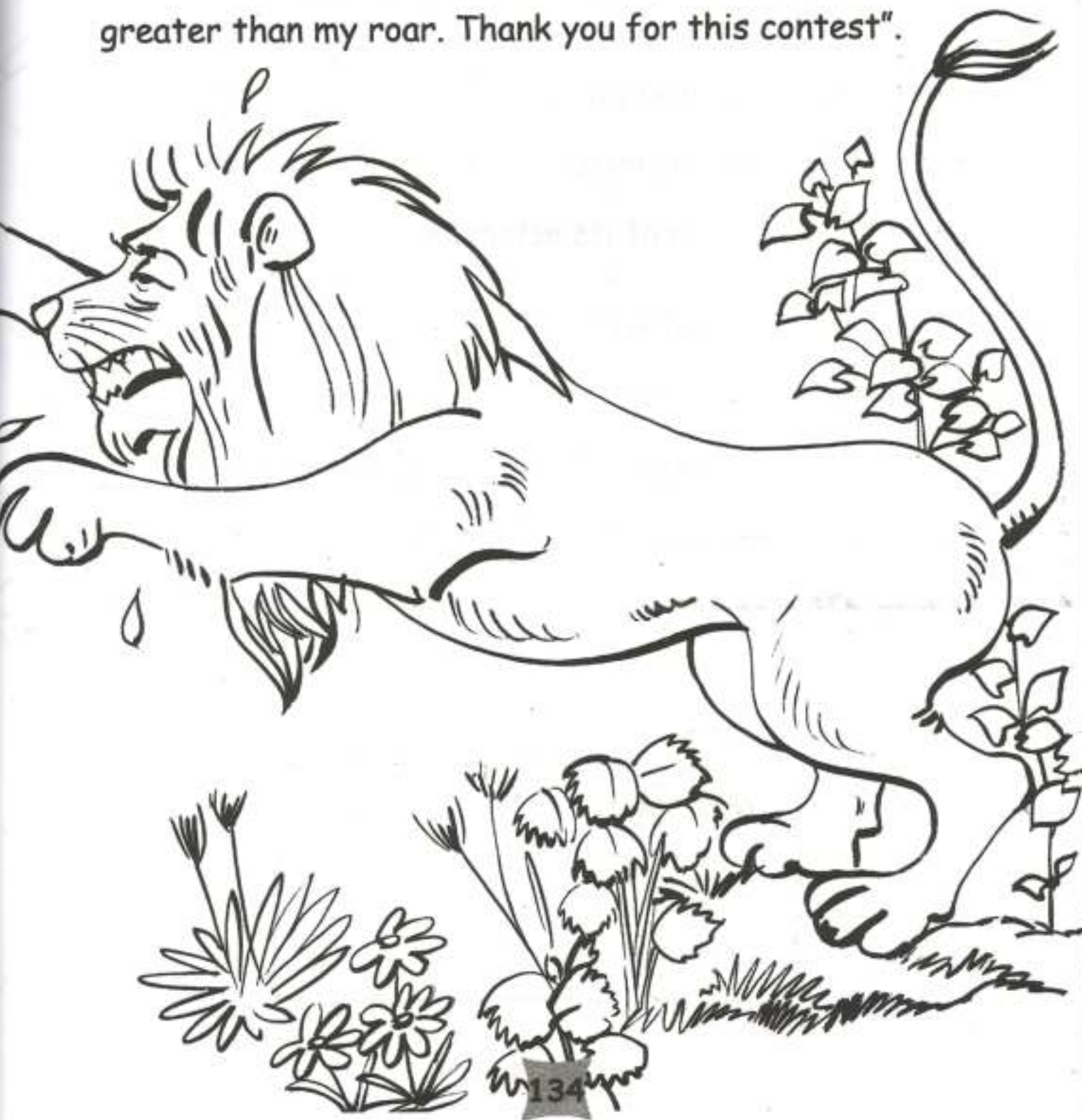
Saying this, the wasp buzzed around. After a while he sat on the lion's nose and stung him sharply. The lion roared. He stood on his hind legs and scratched himself. It was of no use.



The wasp flew cheerfully around the lion and teased him. The wasp continued to sting the lion on his nose, on his ears, and around his eyes too.



After a while, the good natured lion could not stand the pain of the wasp's stings any longer. He gave up and said, "Alright friend, you win. You have proved your sting is greater than my roar. Thank you for this contest".



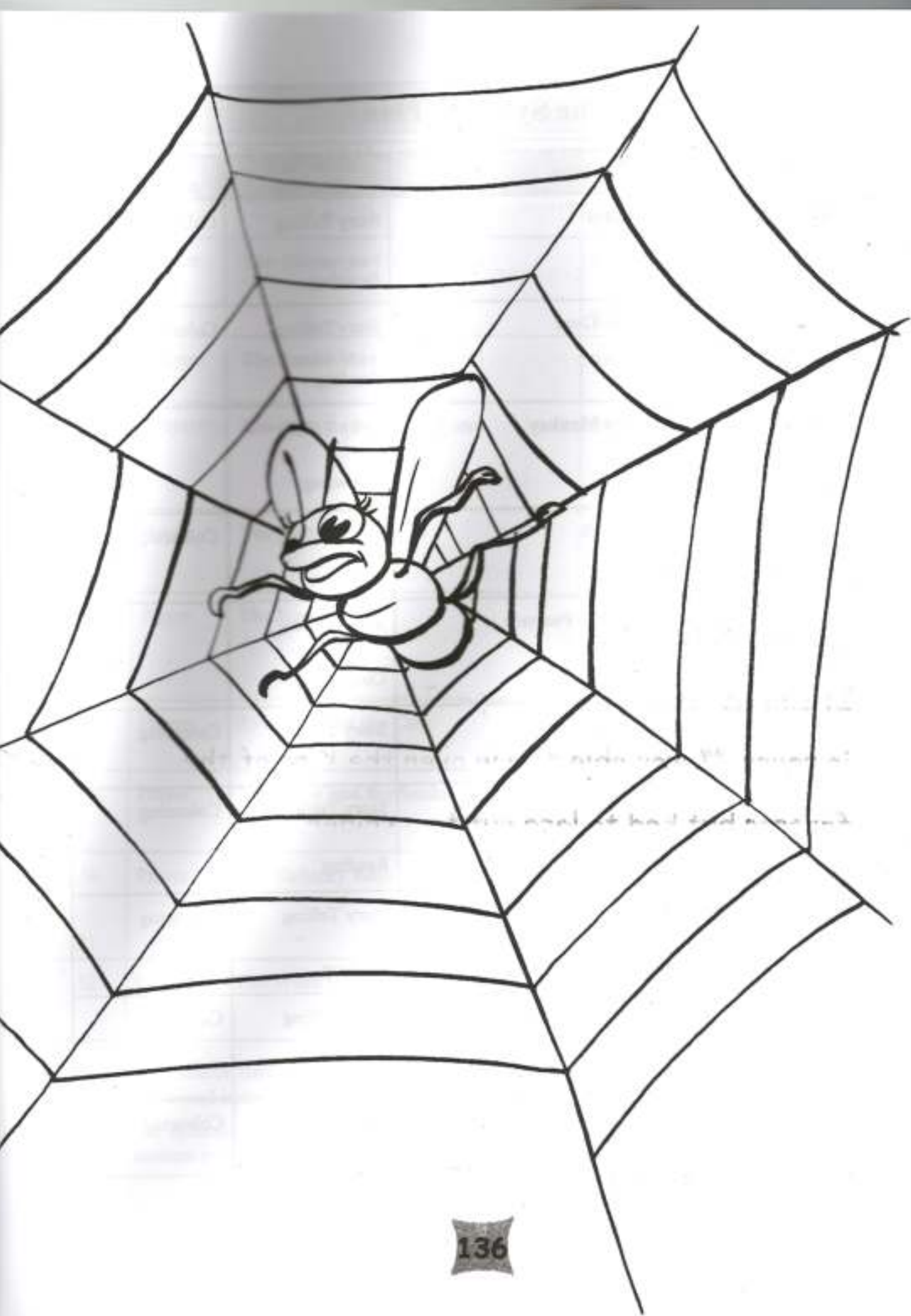
The tiny wasp was very pleased with itself. It flew off feeling that it was stronger than the King of the beasts. It started singing in praise of itself.

The wasp was so overjoyed that it hummed, danced and went around in circles in the air. It flew up and down feeling proud of its achievement.

In its joy it did not notice a spider's web nearby. Unfortunately, the wasp got caught in the web. It saw no chance for escape. The wasp cried out in tears, "I was able to win over the King of the forests but had to lose out to a spider".

Message

*It is not good to gloat
over one's success.*



The Syllabus Plan

Session	The Day Plan		Classroom Activity	Home Assignment
1	Prayer 1	True Friendship	Story Telling	Colouring
2	"	"	Enacting	
3	Prayer 2	The Lost Baby Goat	Story Telling	Colouring
4	"	"	Reading	
5	Prayer 3	The Intelligent Monkey	Story Telling	
6	"	"	Colouring	
7	Prayer 4	The Sneaky Stork	Story Telling	Colouring
8	Prayer 5	The Crow and the Peacock	Story Telling	
9	"	"	Colouring	
10	Prayer 6	The Lion and the Hare	Story Telling	Colouring
11	Prayer 7	The King of Frogs and the Snake	Story Telling	Colouring
12	"	"	Reading	
13	Prayer 8	The Unwise Donkey	Story Telling	Colouring
14	"	"	Reading	
15	Prayer	The Ant and the Pigeon	Story Telling	Colouring
16	"	"	Reading	
17	Prayer	The Day - Dreaming Devadatta	Story Telling	Colouring

Session	The Day Plan		Classroom Activity	Home Assignment
18	Prayer	The Helpful Man	Story Telling	Colouring
19	"	"	Enacting	
20	Prayer	The Hunter and the Pigeons	Story Telling	Colouring
21	"	"	Reading	
22	Prayer	The Snake Man	Story Telling	Colouring
23	Prayer	The Baby and the Mongoose	Story Telling	Colouring
24	"	"	Reading	
25	Prayer	The Careless Tortoise	Story Telling	Colouring
26	Prayer	The Iron Box	Story Telling	Colouring
27	"	"	Enacting	
28	Prayer	The Frog and the Cow	Story Telling	Colouring
29	Prayer	The Crow and the Snake	Story Telling	Colouring
30	Prayer	The Unlucky Bugs	Story Telling	Colouring
31	"	"	Colouring	
32	Prayer	The Wasp which was Sorry	Story Telling	Colouring

- Note: 1. Each session may begin with the prayer(s) that the students have learnt followed by the activity mentioned in the day plan.
2. The syllabus is designed with the assumption that the school will allocate a minimum of 32 sessions per year.