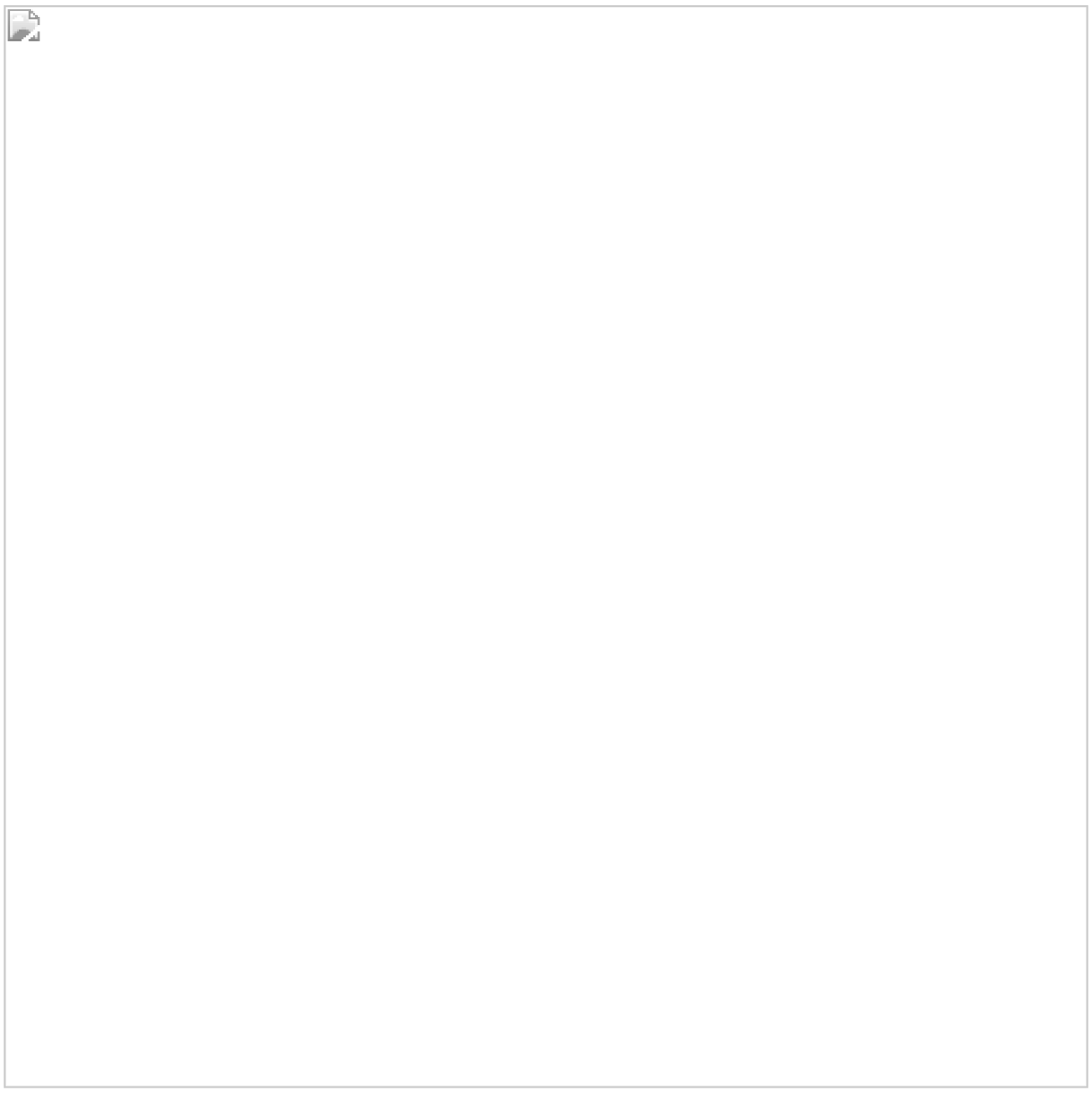
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Frithiof

A Hero of the North



In a cottage under wide-spreading oaks, with a garden full of summer flowers, lived an old peasant named Hilding.

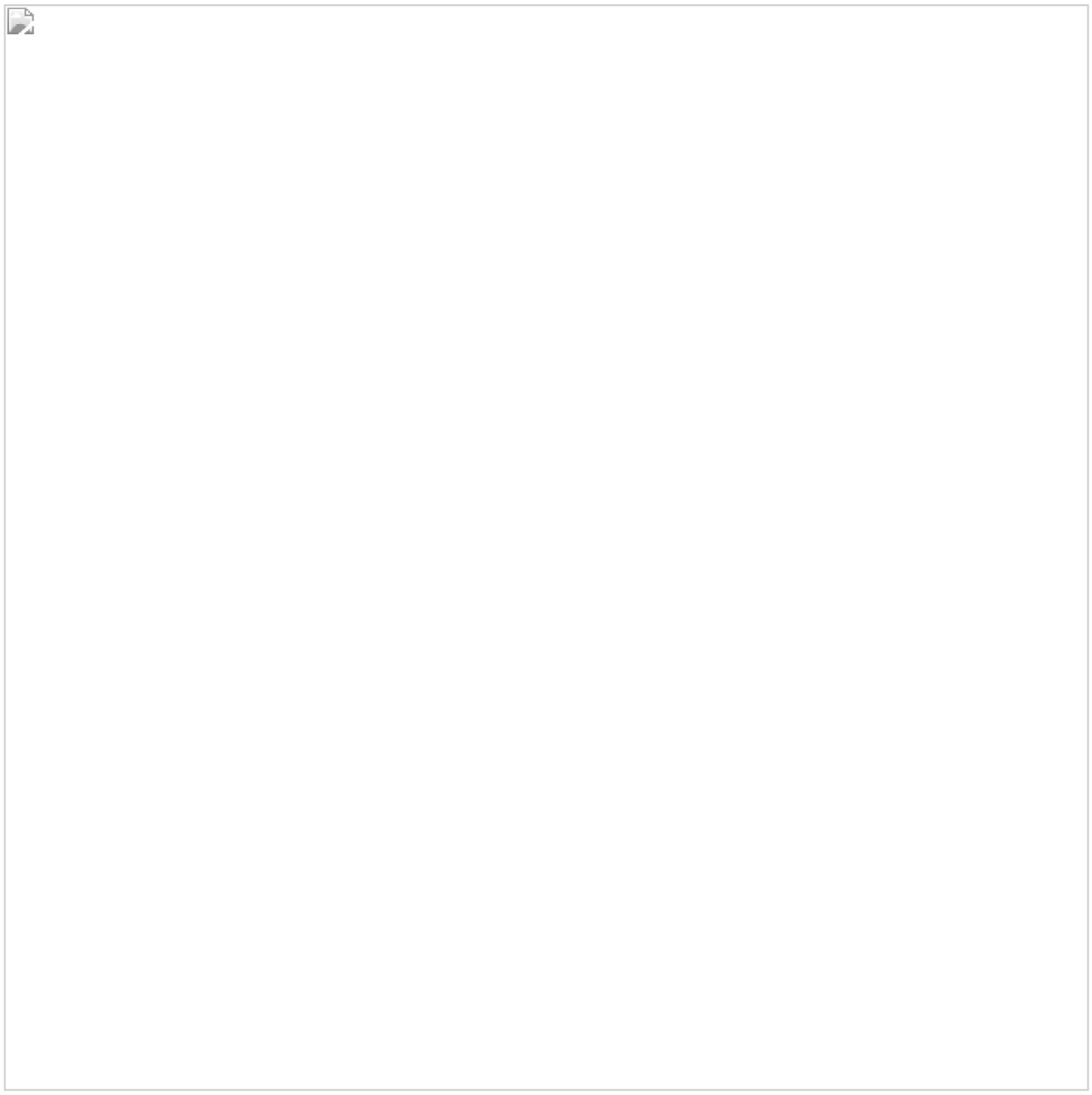
Two children played in his garden from sunrise to sunset. They were not Hilding's own. One was Frithiof, the son of a thane, and the other was little Ingebjorg, the daughter of good King Belé.

TALK ABOUT IT

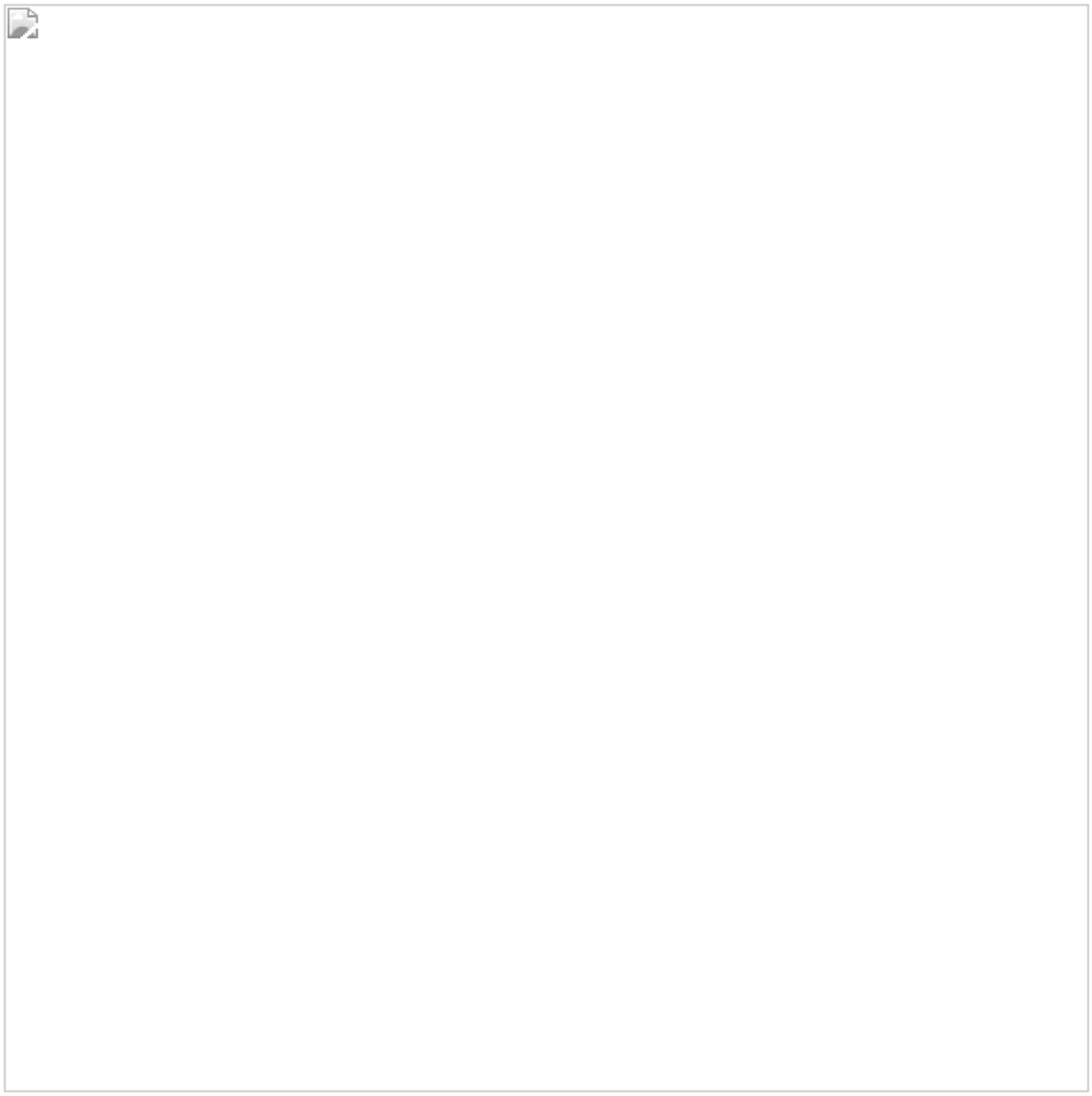
Frithiof and Ingebjorg were friends from the time they were small. Who is someone you have played with for as long as you can remember?

This book belongs to _____

Frithiof · another picture



Growing Up Together



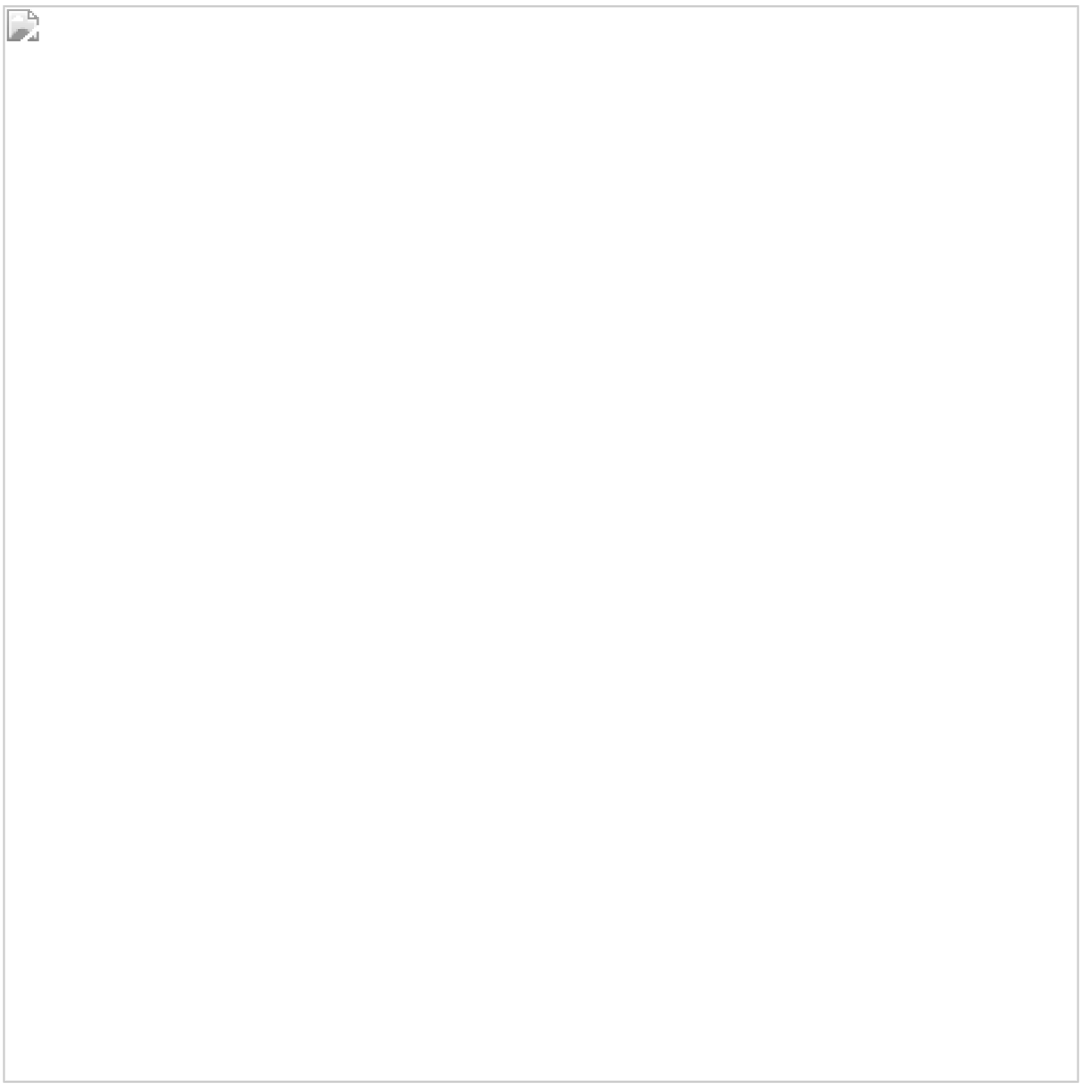
The children played all day in the garden, or wandered in the woods, or climbed the hills. Frithiof climbed to the birds' nests, even the mountain eagle's, to find treasures for Ingebjorg.

He took her out on the blue sea in his little boat, and Ingebjorg never felt afraid when Frithiof was with her.

When Frithiof was older, he said that one day Ingebjorg should be his wife. She was glad to hear it. But old Hilding told them not to talk nonsense, for she was a king's daughter and Frithiof was only the son of a thane.

TALK ABOUT IT

Hilding said they should not talk about it, because Ingebjorg was a king's daughter. Does it matter who someone's parents are? Why or why not?

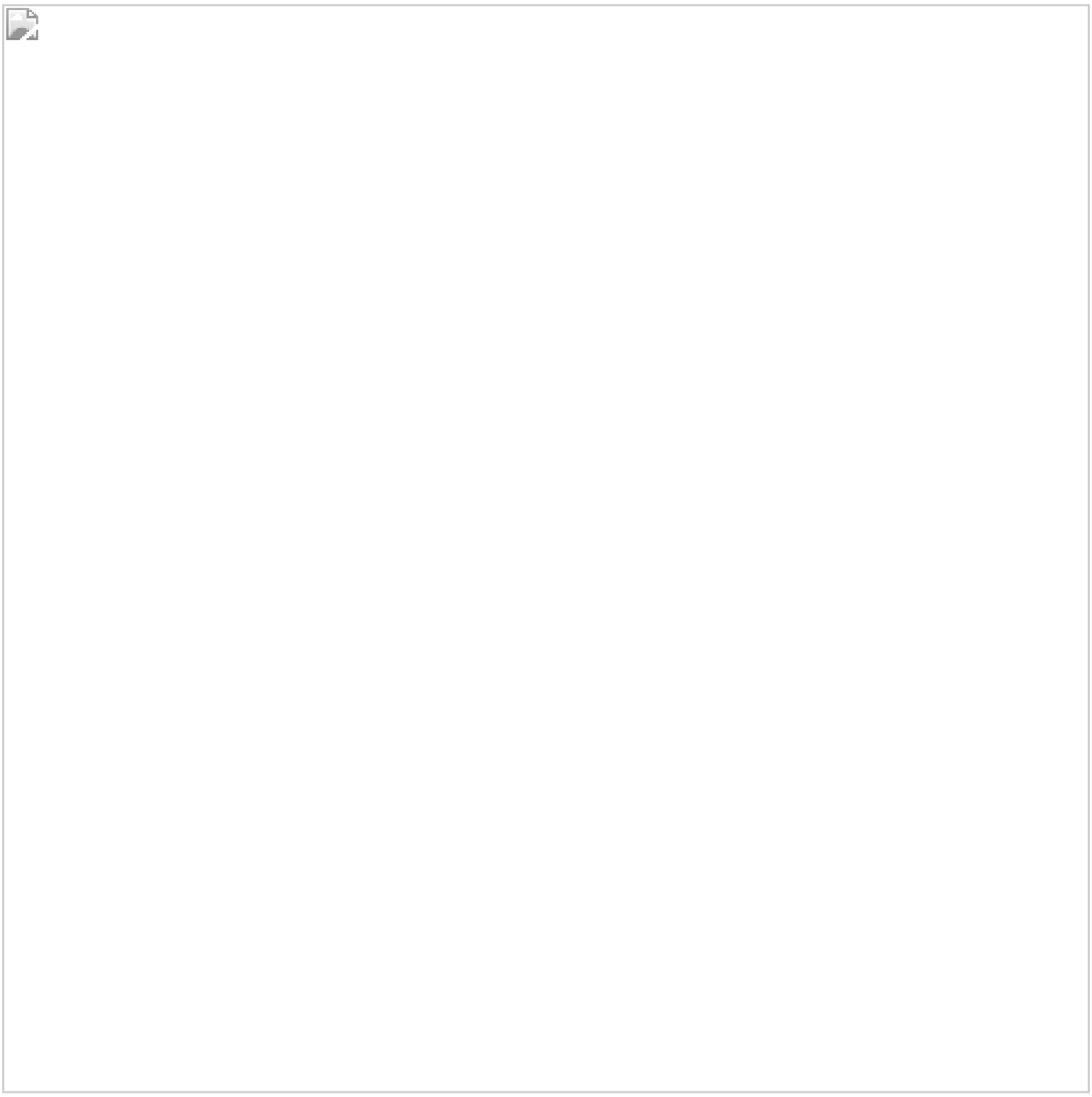


Think about it

1. Where did Frithiof take Ingebjorg in his little boat?

- ○ Up the mountain
- ○ Out on the blue sea
- ○ To the market

Two Old Friends



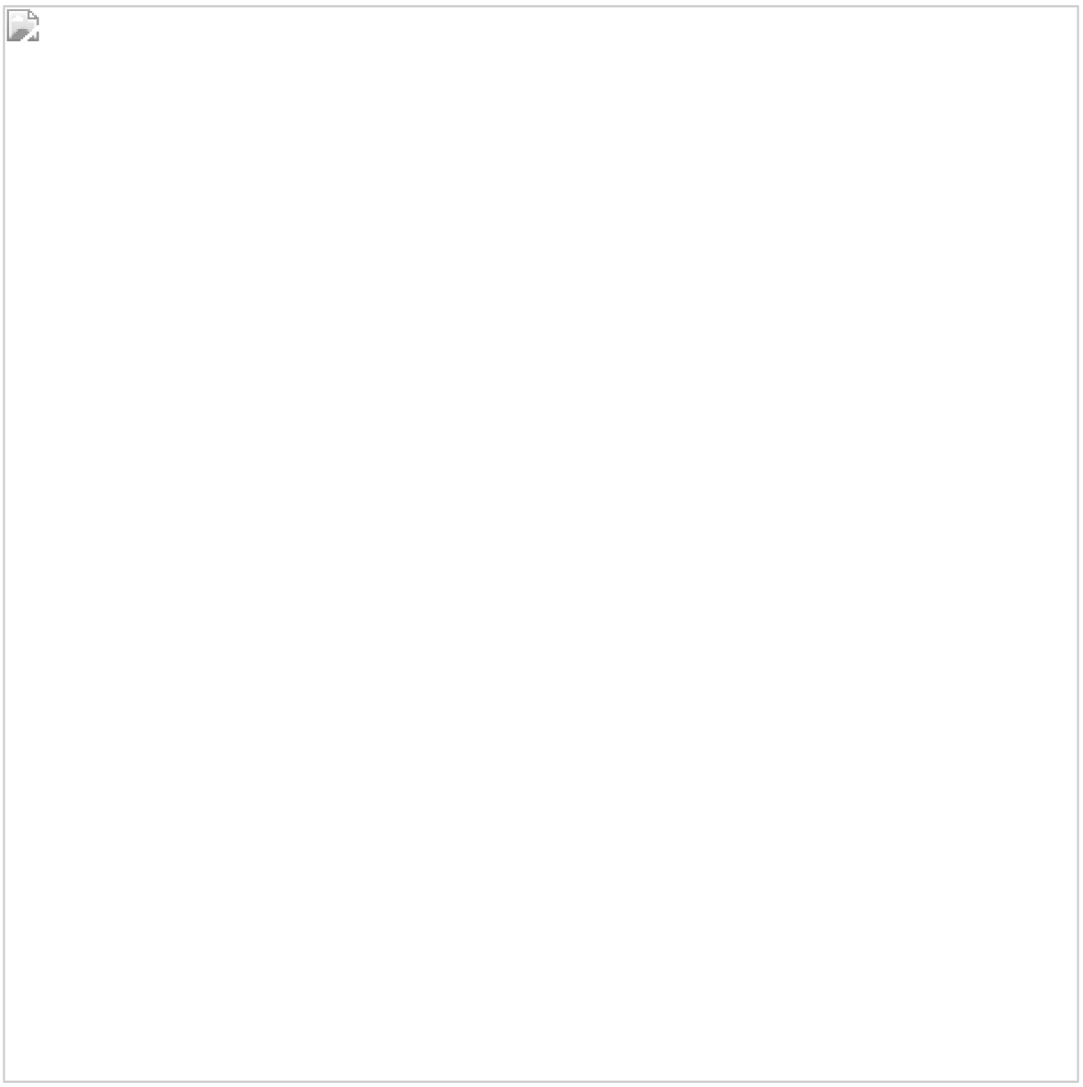
In his palace, old King Belé felt his strength failing. With him was his faithful friend Thorsten Vikingsson, Frithiof's father. They had grown up together, and fought side by side in many a battle.

They called their children to them. The king's two sons were Helgi and Halfdan. Halfdan's face was as bright as the early morning. Helgi's was dark and gloomy. Frithiof came too.

The two old friends gave their blessing. King Belé asked them to remember that when death comes for him and his faithful friend, their sons must lay their bones side by side near the shore of the great ocean.

TALK ABOUT IT

Belé and Thorsten wanted to be near each other even after they were gone. Why do you think friends want that?

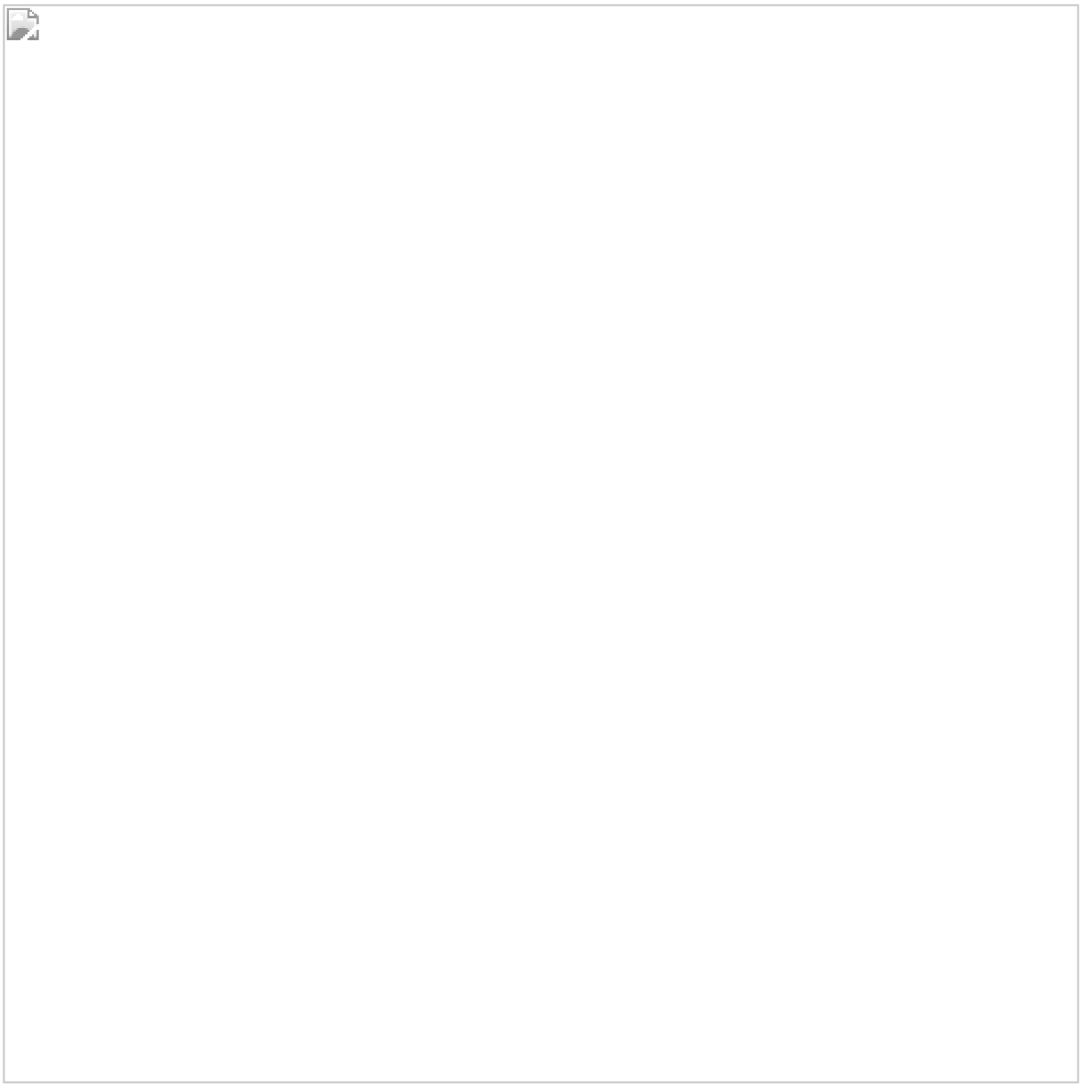


Think about it

1. Where did King Belé want his bones laid?

- ○ In the palace
- ○ On a mountain
- ○ Beside his friend's, near the sea

A Thank-Gift from the Sea



When the old king and the old thane died, Helgi and Halfdan shared the kingdom, and Frithiof became lord of Framnäs, his father's home.

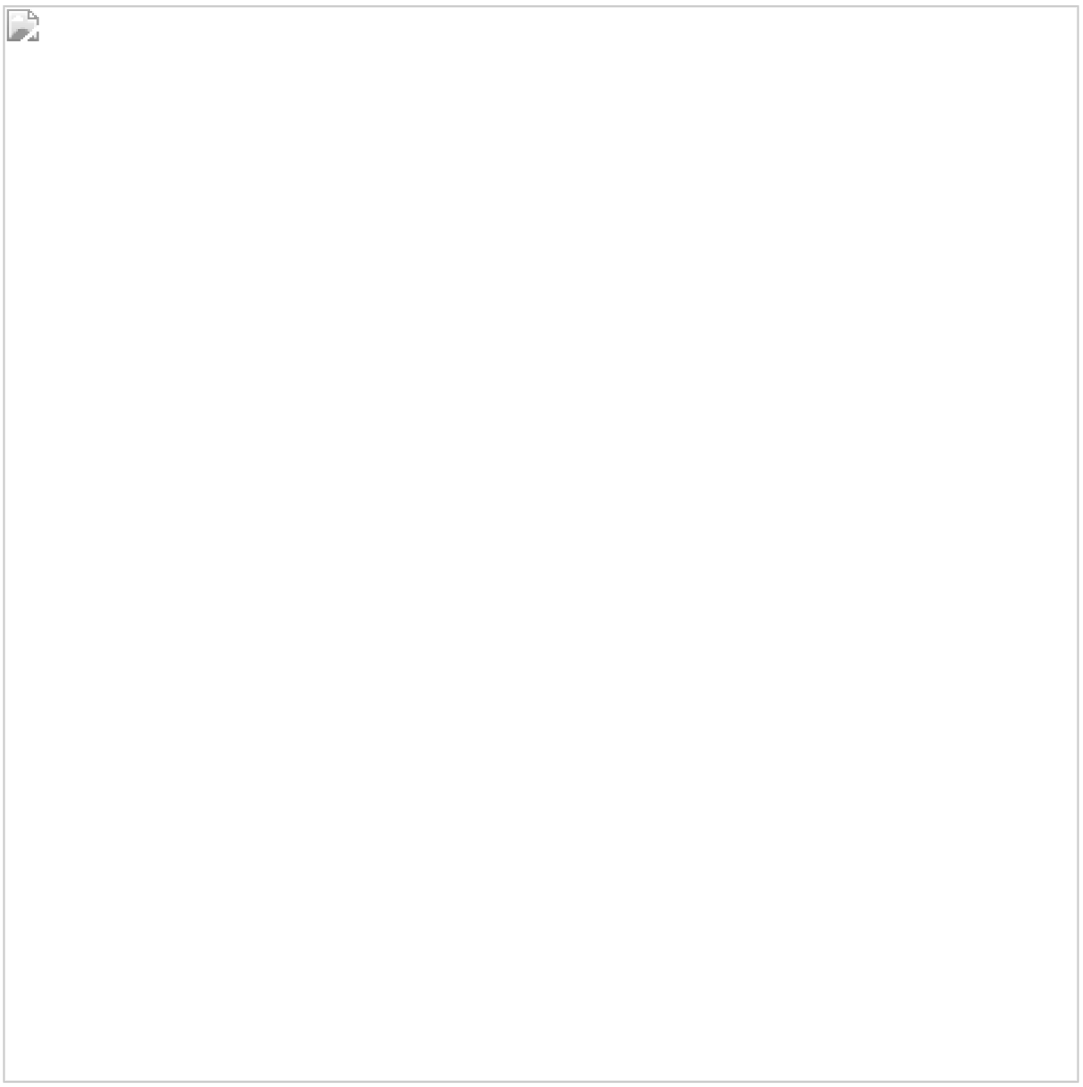
Among his treasures was a gold arm-ring made by the smith Völund. But the one he loved best was his ship, Ellide.

One of his forefathers, a rough viking with a tender heart, had once saved a green-haired old man from a sinking wreck, and made him welcome. The old man told him to look for a thank-gift on the seashore at sunrise.

At sunrise came the dragon-ship, sailing by herself. The stranger had been a sea-god, and Ellide was his thank-gift.

TALK ABOUT IT

The viking helped a stranger who could do nothing for him in return. Why do you think kindness to a stranger is so important?



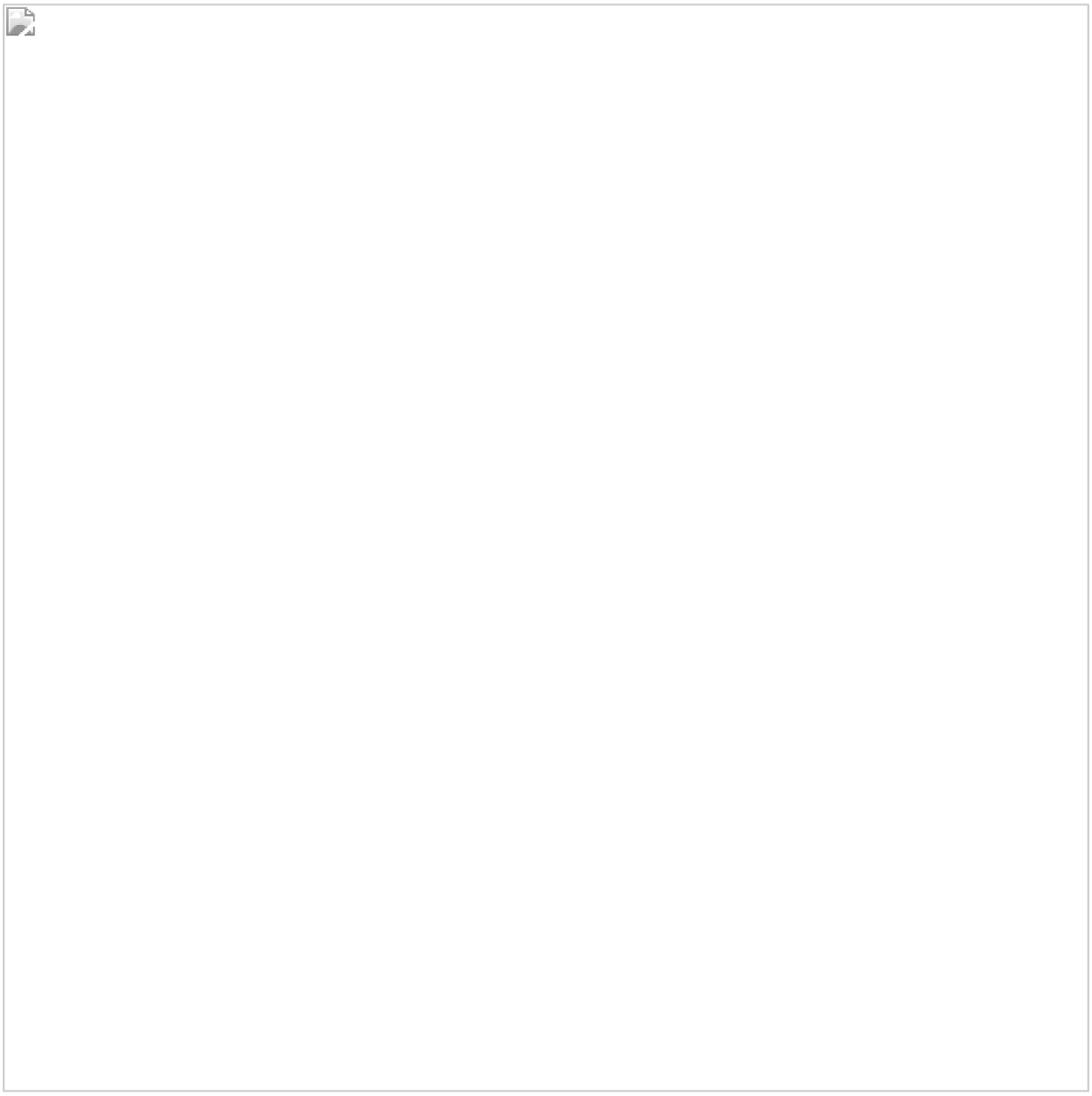
Think about it

1. What was the name of the dragon-ship?

- ○ Ellide
- ○ Angurvadel
- ○ Framnäs

2. Who is someone you could be kind to this week, even if they could never pay you back?

No for an Answer



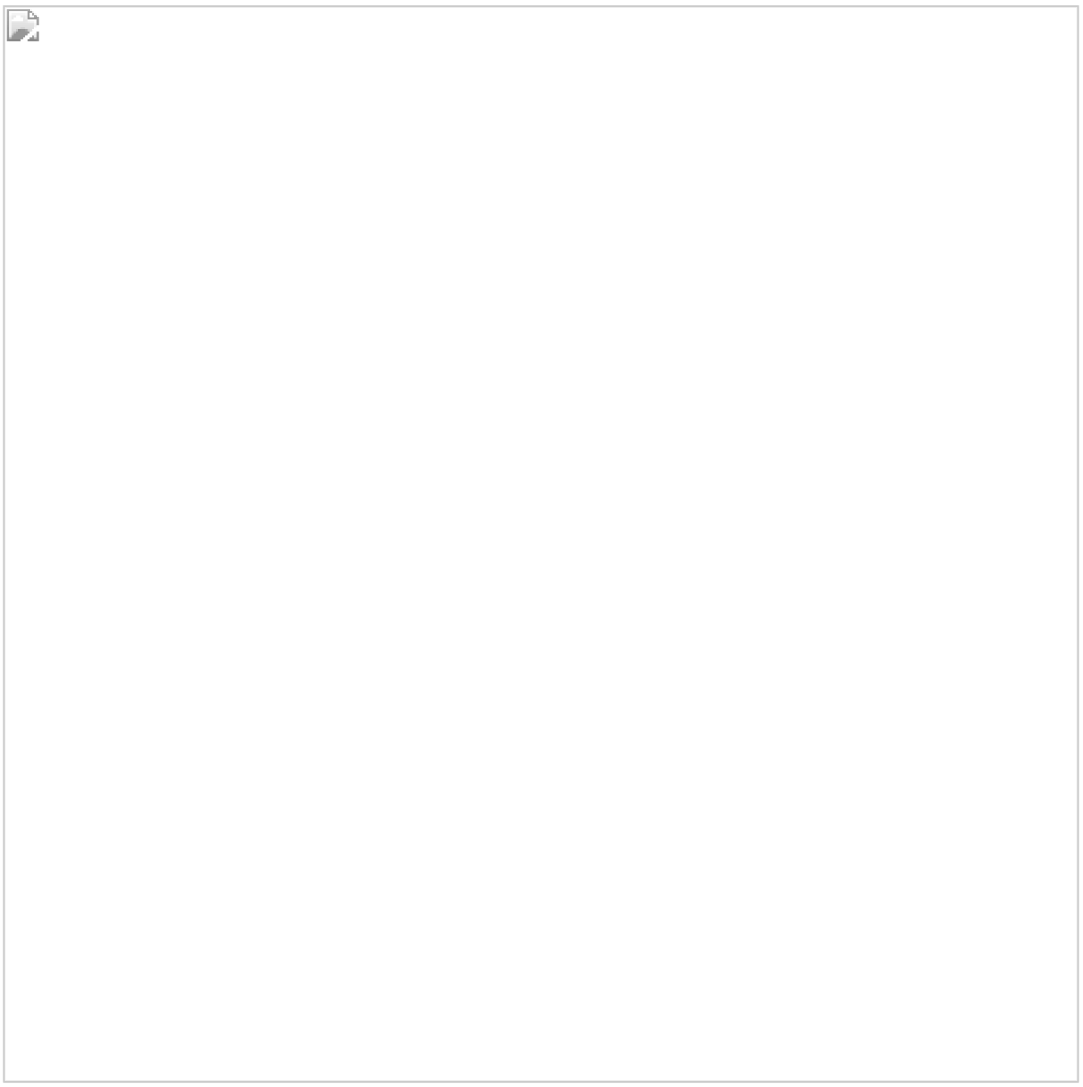
Helgi and Halfdan looked down on Frithiof because he was not a prince. When Frithiof asked to marry Ingebjorg, Helgi answered scornfully, “My sister shall not wed the son of a thane.” He said Frithiof could be their servant if he liked.

Frithiof went away in anger.

Then another man asked for Ingebjorg, an old king named Ring. The brothers turned him down too, and Ring swore to get his revenge. He began to get ready for war.

TALK ABOUT IT

Helgi spoke very scornfully to Frithiof. How could he have said no without being unkind?

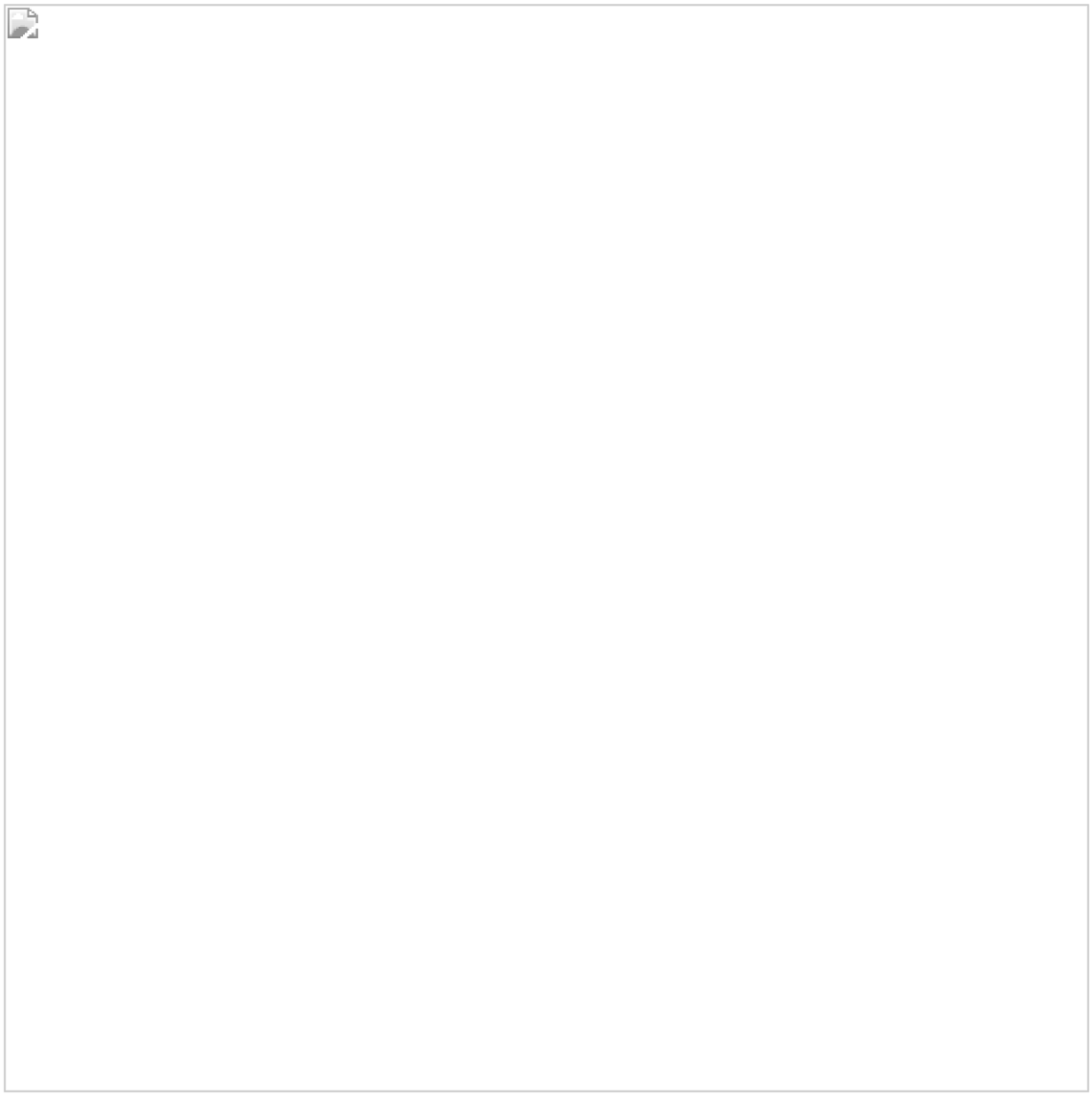


Think about it

1. What did Helgi say about Frithiof?

- ○ That he was welcome in the family
- ○ That he was not good enough to marry his sister
- ○ That he was too young

The Pawn and the King



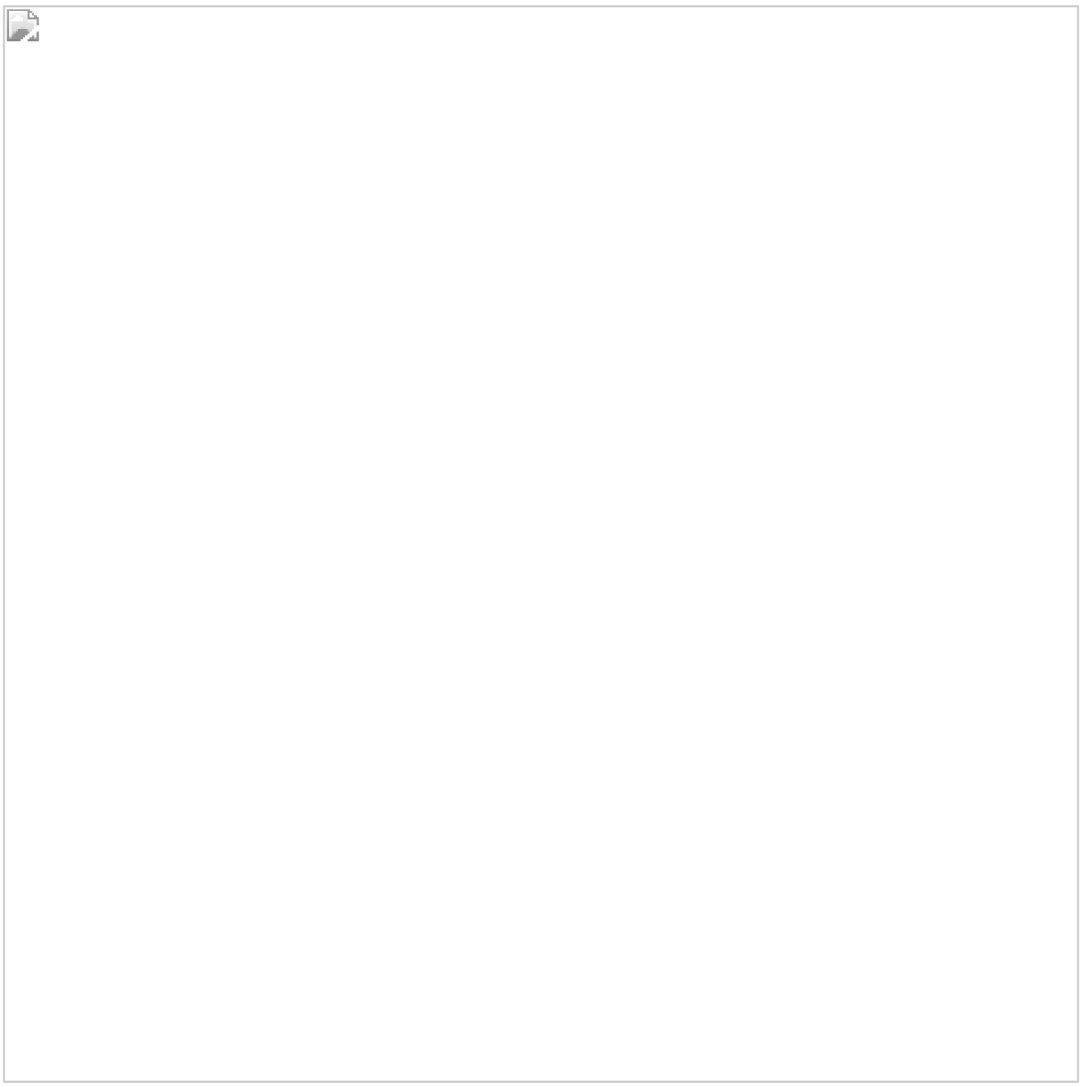
Afraid of Ring's army, Helgi and Halfdan put Ingebjorg in the temple of Baldur for safety, and sent old Hilding to ask Frithiof for help.

Frithiof was playing chess with his friend Bjorn, and pretended not to hear. “Shall the pawn save the king?” he asked. Then, “There is no other way to save the queen.” He had been thinking about it all along.

But the brothers still said no, and sent him far away to the Orkney Isles, to collect a payment Jarl Angantyr owed them. Ingebjorg asked him to go, afraid for him if he stayed. He put the gold arm-ring on her arm.

TALK ABOUT IT

Frithiof pretended he was not listening, but he was thinking about how to help. What do you think about that?

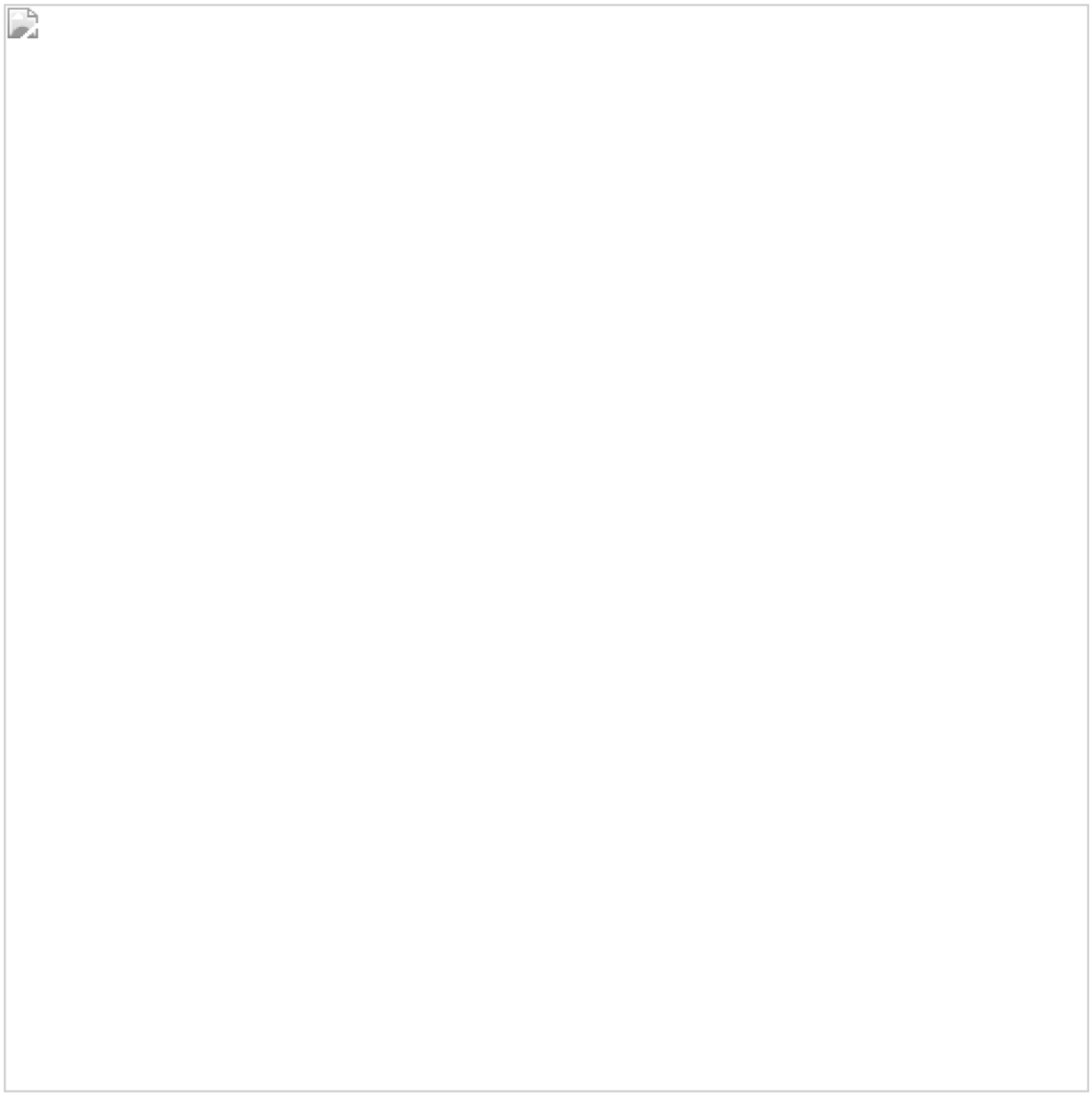


Think about it

1. Whom was Frithiof playing chess with?

- ○ Bjorn
- ○ Ring
- ○ Helgi

A Storm at Sea



The sea was calm when Frithiof set out. But King Helgi, watching from a rock, wished that the ocean would swallow him up.

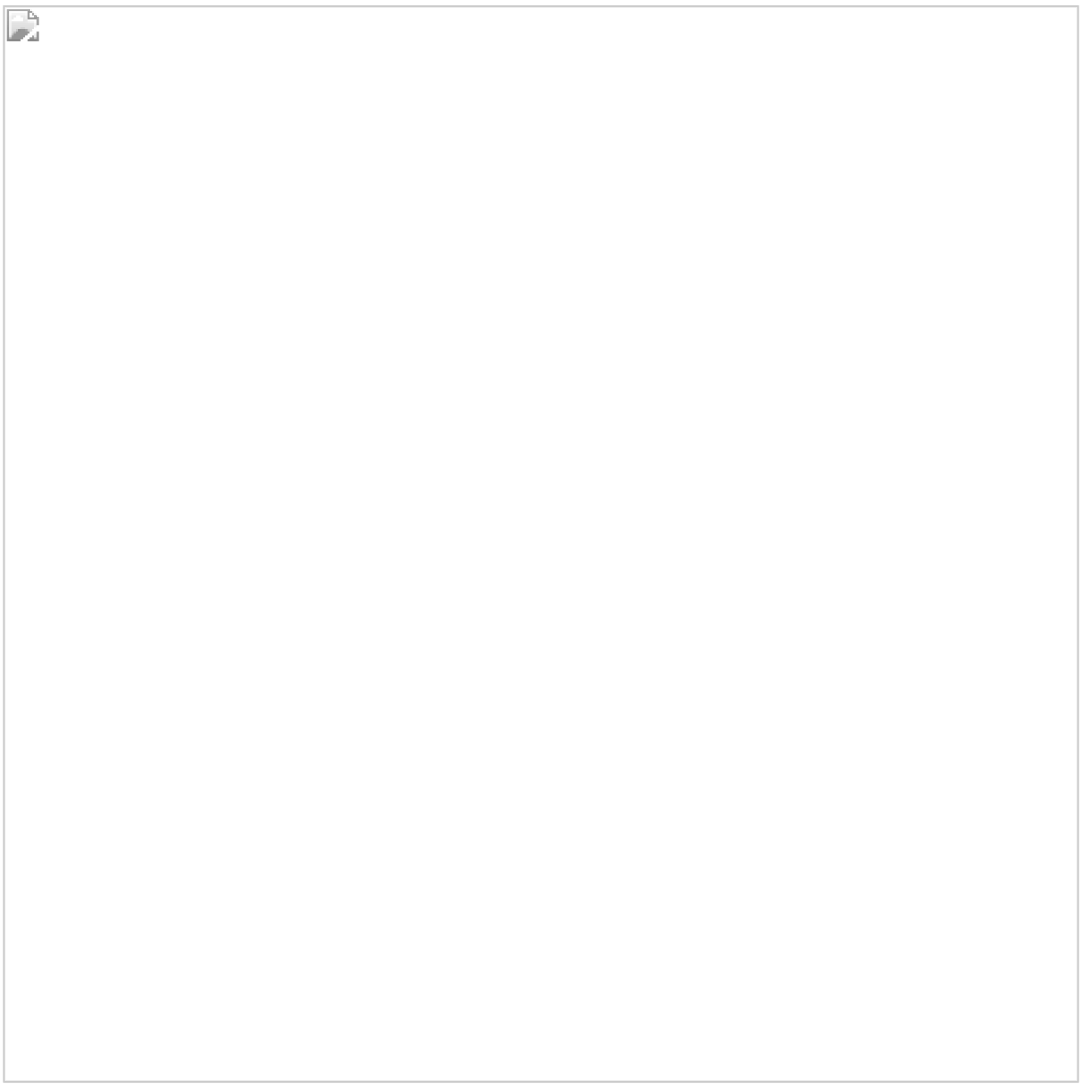
All at once the sea turned gray, the sky went dark, and lightning flashed. The thunder rolled and the waves tossed the ship like a feather.

Frithiof shouted to Bjorn to take the tiller, while he climbed to the topmost mast to look out for danger. He called on his ship to help him. And the dragon-ship heard her master's voice. She drove through the waves until the storm went down, and they reached the Orkney Isles safe.

TALK ABOUT IT

Frithiof trusted Ellide and his friend Bjorn in the storm. Who do you trust when things get scary?

A Storm at Sea · another picture

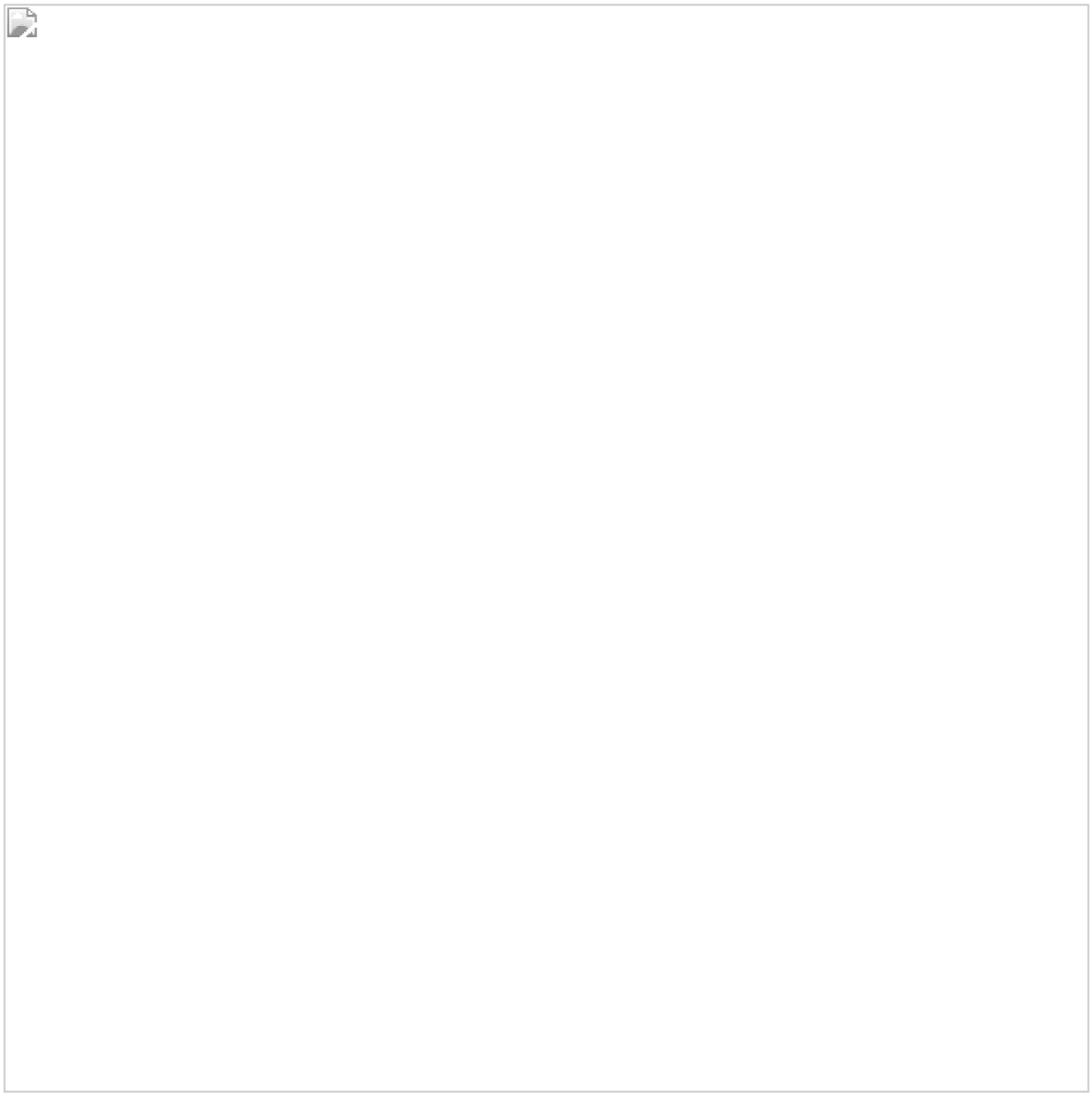


Think about it

1. Who took the tiller of the ship in the storm?

- ○ Hilding
- ○ Helgi
- ○ Bjorn

A Fight That Ended in Friendship



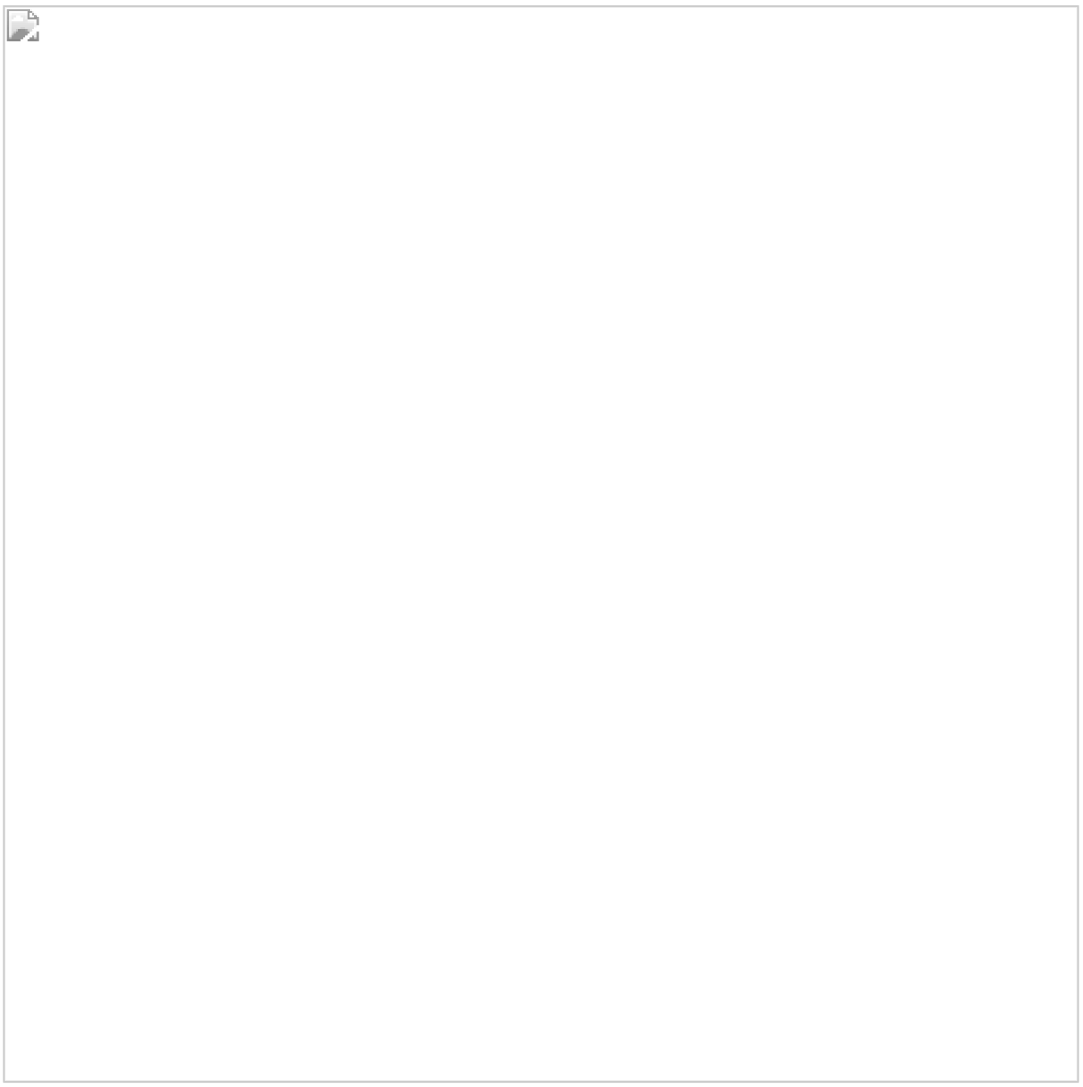
On the islands, a fierce viking named Atlé, who loved fighting above all, attacked without asking whether Frithiof came as friend or foe. At last Frithiof wrestled him to the ground.

Frithiof went for his sword, and Atlé swore not to move. Coming back, Frithiof found him still waiting, and could not strike so honorable a man. “Thou art too true and brave to die,” he said. “Rise, let us be friends.”

Hand in hand they went to Jarl Angantyr, who would not pay the brothers, but sent Frithiof home with a purse of gold, in friendship.

TALK ABOUT IT

Frithiof could have won, but he chose friendship. Why do you think he did?



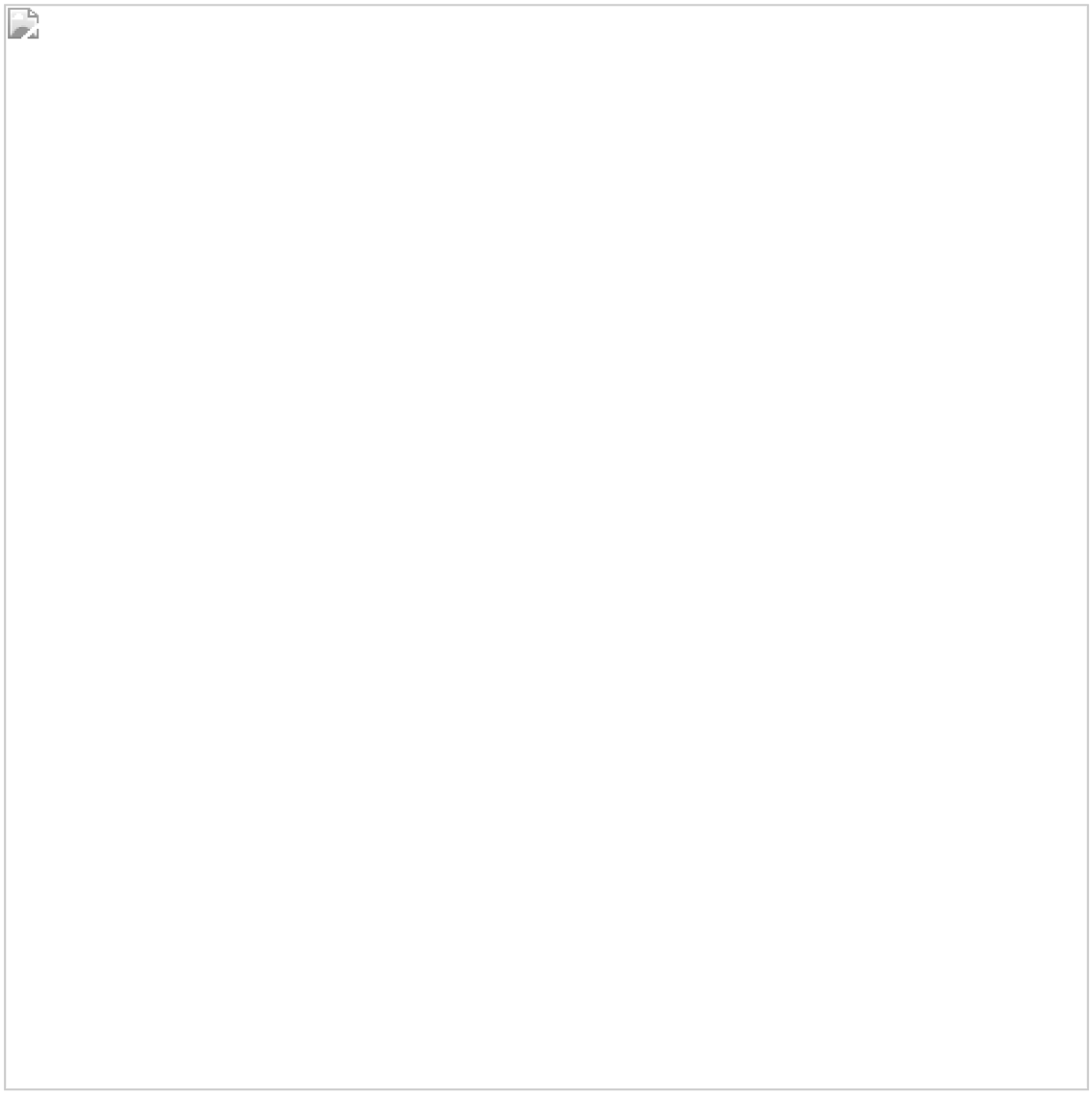
Think about it

1. What did Frithiof say to the viking who lay on the ground?

- ○ Give me your sword.
- ○ Run away!
- ○ Thou art too true and brave to die.

2. Have you ever turned an enemy into a friend? How?

Home in Ruins



Frithiof came home to find Framnäs in ruins, after a hard battle with King Ring's army. Only his hound, his horse and his falcon were there to welcome him.

Worst of all, the brothers had given Ingebjorg to King Ring to be his wife.

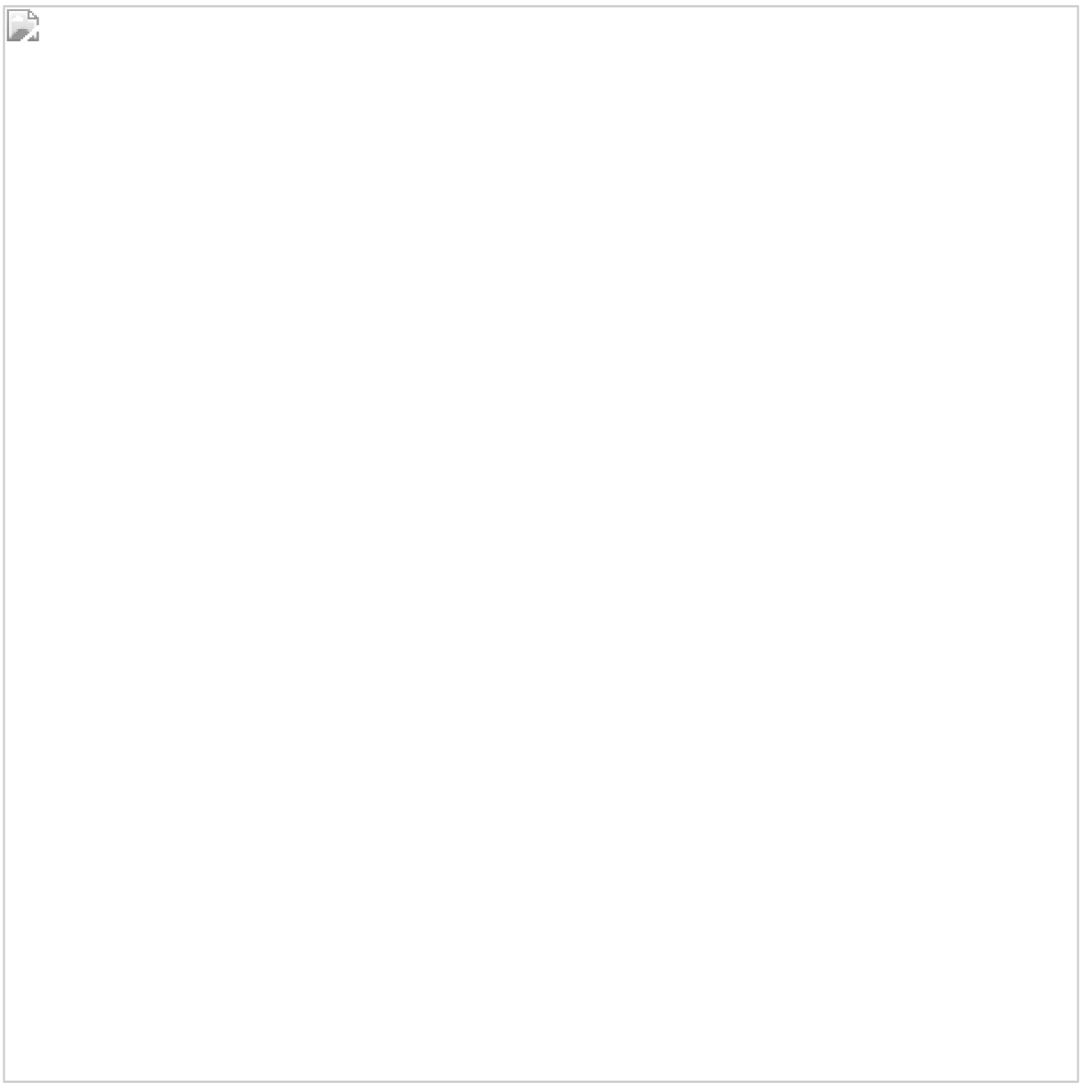
He went to the temple of Baldur, hoping for comfort, but found King Helgi there, and his sorrow turned to anger. He threw the purse so hard it knocked Helgi down. Then he reached for the arm-ring Helgi had put on the statue. The statue toppled into the fire, and the whole temple burned.

Frithiof sailed away, vowing to live on the sea.

TALK ABOUT IT

Frithiof lost his temper in the temple, and something terrible happened. What would you do when you are very angry? What could he have done instead?

Home in Ruins · another picture

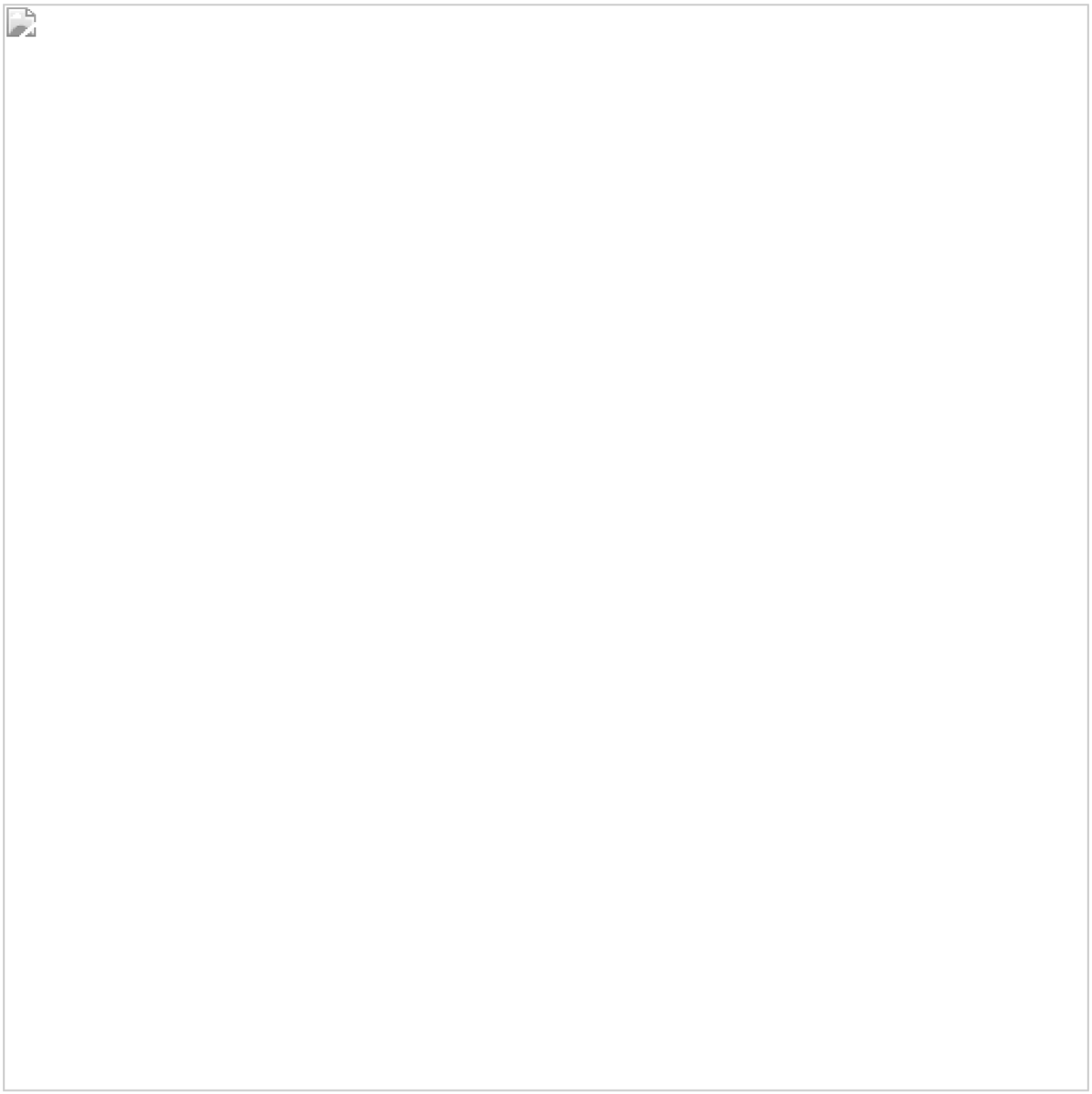


Think about it

1. What happened to the temple of Baldur?

- ○ It was sold
- ○ It burned down
- ○ It flew away

A Sailor Far from Home



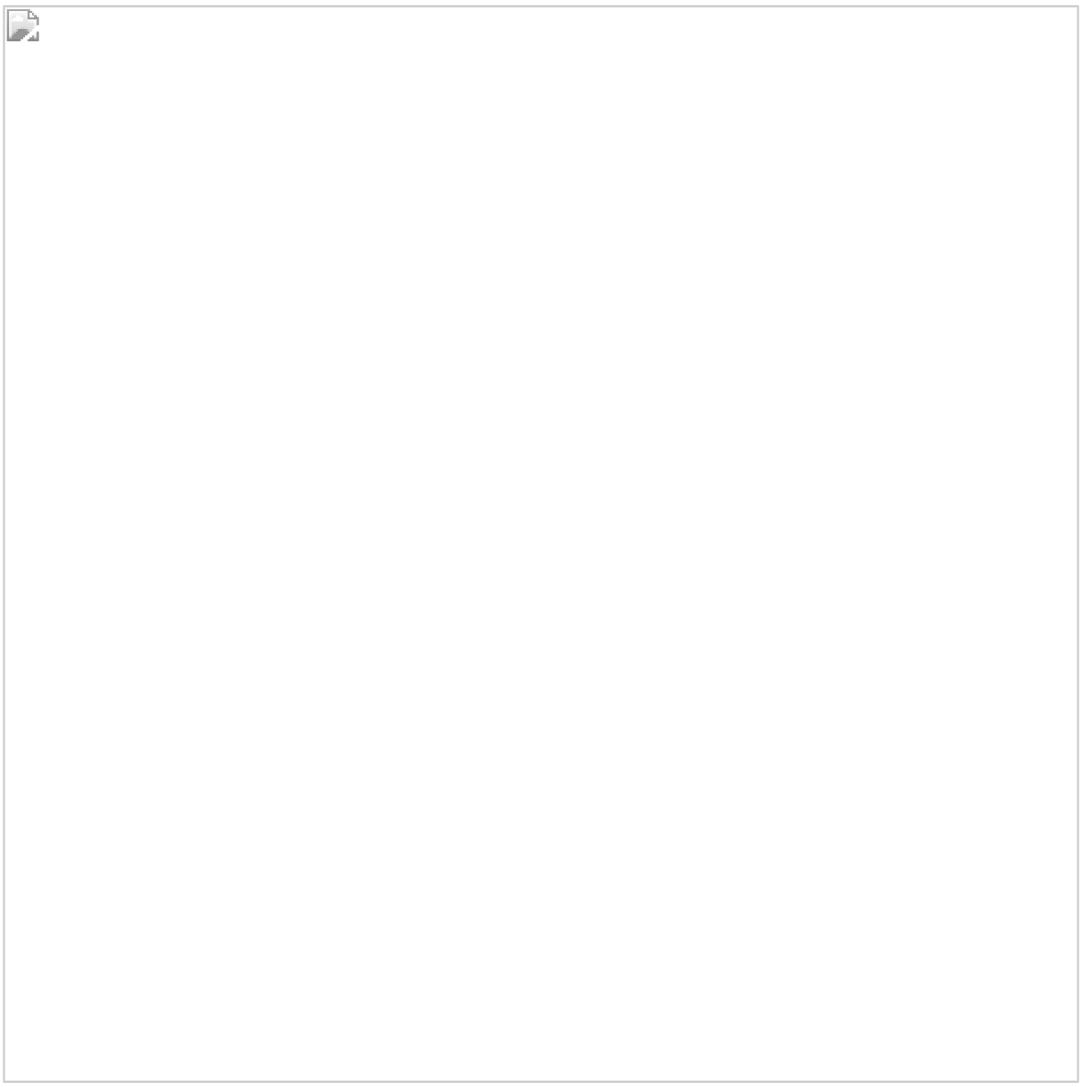
Frithiof sailed among the sunny islands of Greece, and slept on the deck of the dragon-ship under the moon. Sometimes he dreamed of home, and of Ingebjorg, and of Hilding's stories by the fire.

Then one night he seemed to see her face before him, pale and sad. Her lips moved, and he thought he heard her say, “I am very sad without thee, Frithiof.”

A great longing came upon him to see her once more. He would go north, even to the country of King Ring. He did not care about the danger.

TALK ABOUT IT

Frithiof went far away, but his heart stayed with the people he loved. Is there someone you miss? What would you do to see them?

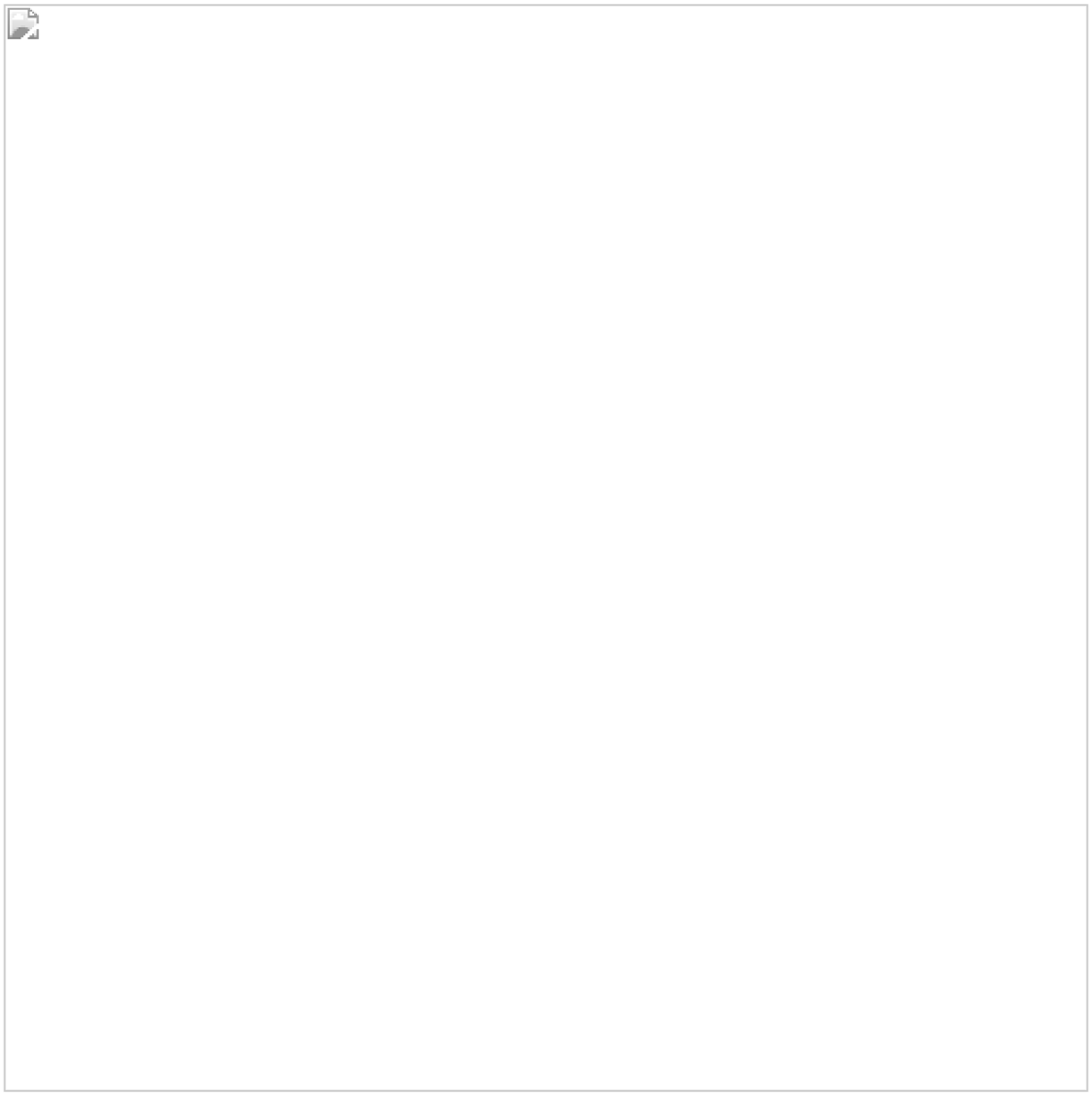


Think about it

1. Where did Frithiof sail after he left home?

- ○ The sunny islands of Greece
- ○ A desert
- ○ Up a mountain

A Stranger in Bearskins



Frithiof knew King Ring thought of him as an enemy. So he disguised himself as an old man wrapped in bearskins, and went to the palace.

The courtiers jeered at the strange old man, and Frithiof grew angry and spun one of them around.

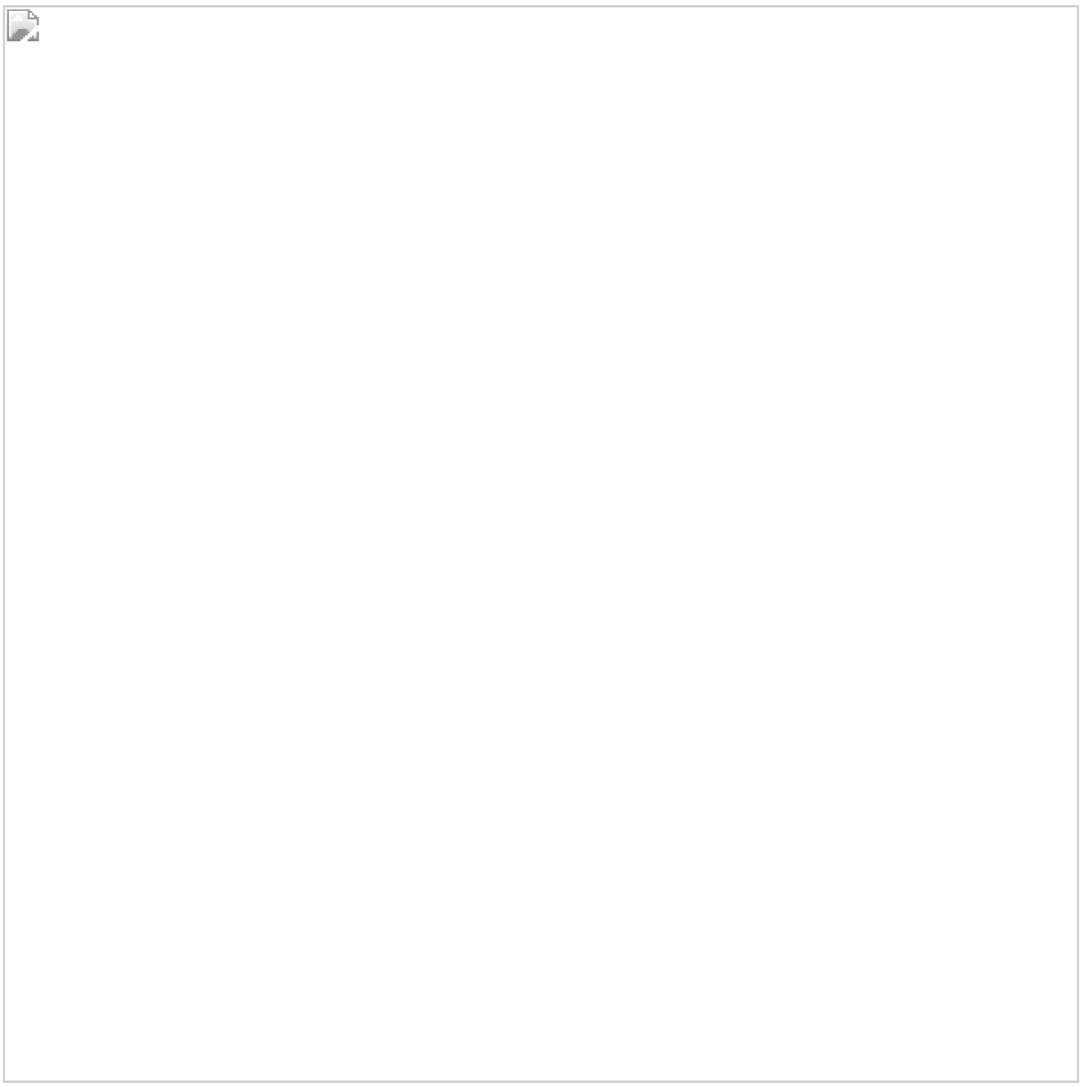
King Ring looked at him kindly. “Thou art not old,” he said; “thy voice is clear, and thy grasp is strong. Throw off thy rude disguise.” Frithiof threw off the bearskin, and there he stood in a blue mantle with golden hair.

King Ring did not know him. But Ingebjorg did. And Frithiof stayed at the court for a year.

TALK ABOUT IT

King Ring was gentle with a stranger. What do you think made him so?

A Stranger in Bearskins · another picture

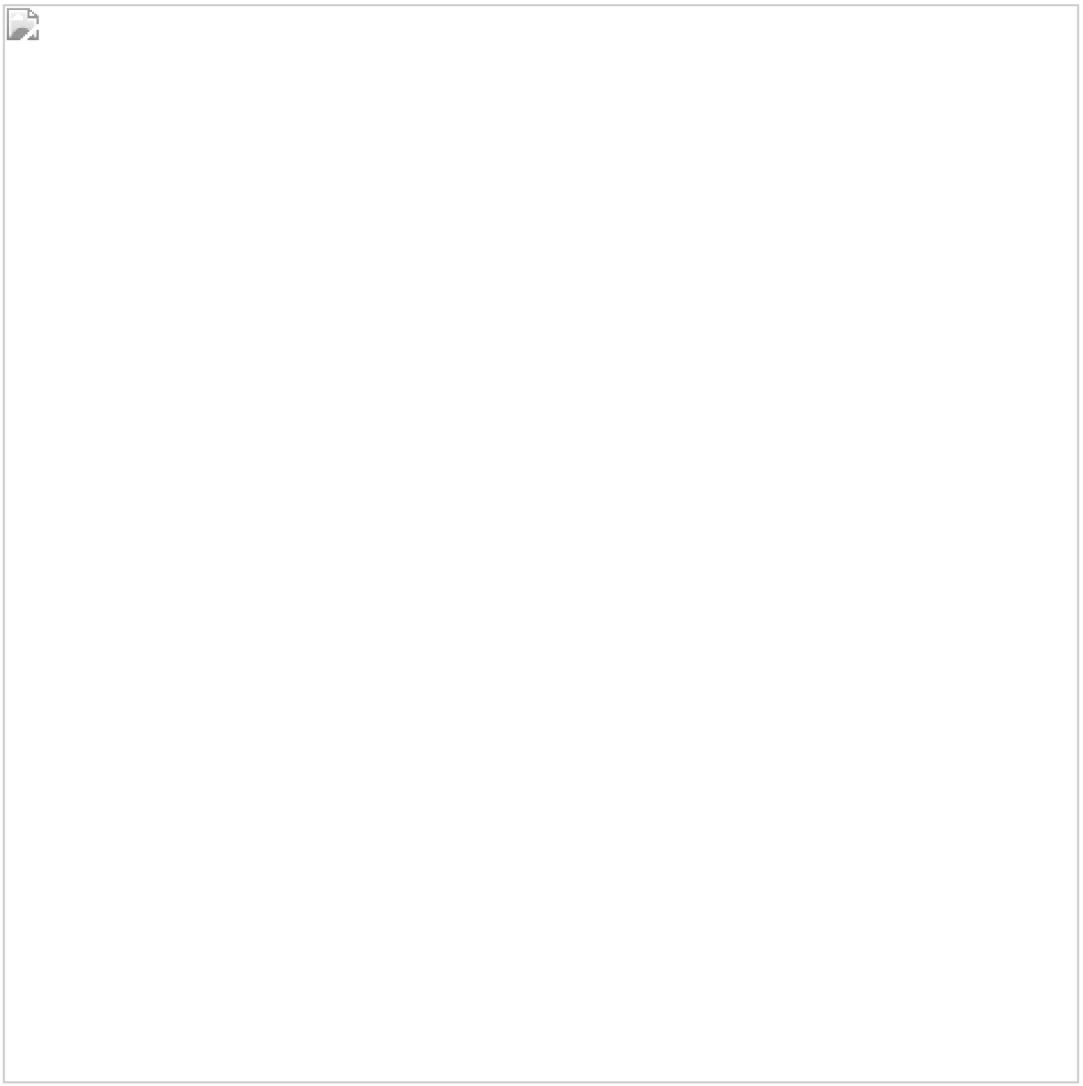


Think about it

1. How did Frithiof disguise himself?

- ○ As a woman
- ○ As an old man in bearskins
- ○ As a monk

A Sleeping King



One spring day the court went hunting. Old King Ring, who was not strong, lay down to rest on the mossy ground under some pines.

Frithiof drew near. A wild thought came to him. One blow of his sword, and Ingebjorg would be free.

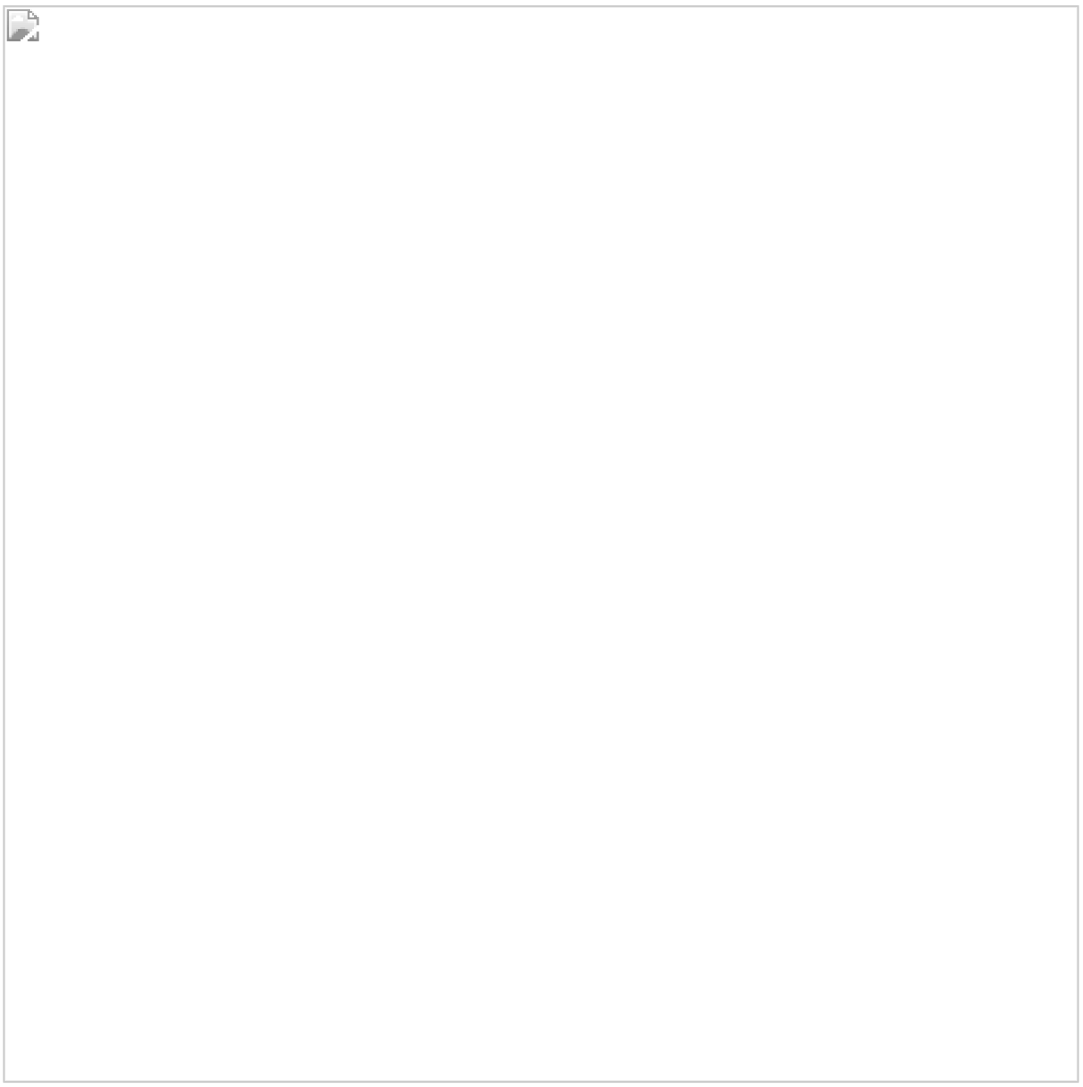
But he looked at the sleeping old king, and a better voice whispered to him: “It is cowardly to strike a sleeping foe.” Frithiof shuddered. He put the thought away. “Sleep on, old man,” he said gently.

But Ring was awake. “I have tried thee, I have proved thee,” said the king, “and true as tried steel hast thou passed through the furnace.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Frithiof listened to the better voice inside him. When have you heard a voice like that? What did it tell you?

A Sleeping King · another picture



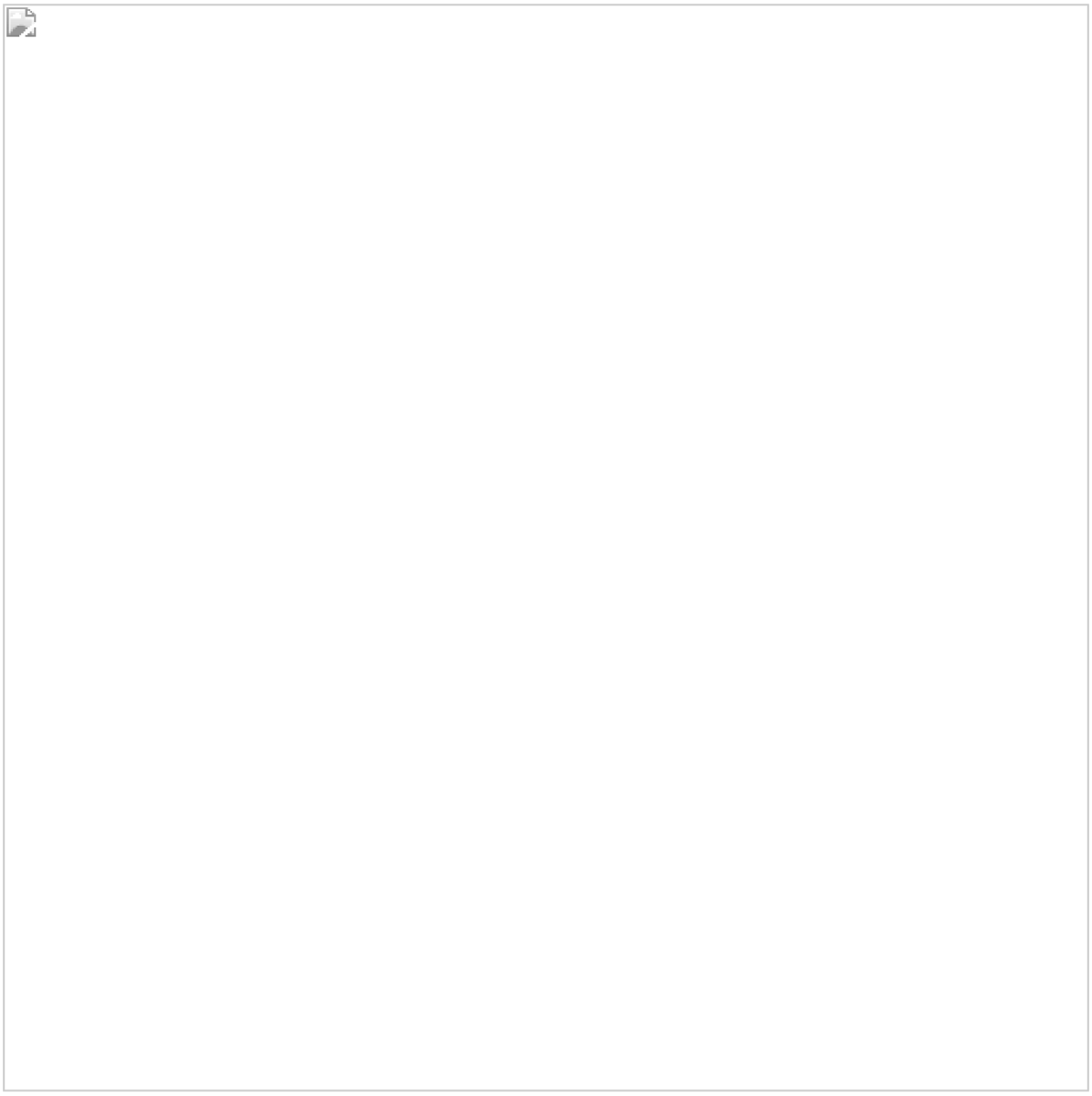
Think about it

1. What did the better voice whisper?

- ○ Run away.
- ○ Wake the king.
- ○ It is cowardly to strike a sleeping foe.

2. What does it take to do the right thing when no one is looking?

Here Is Your King



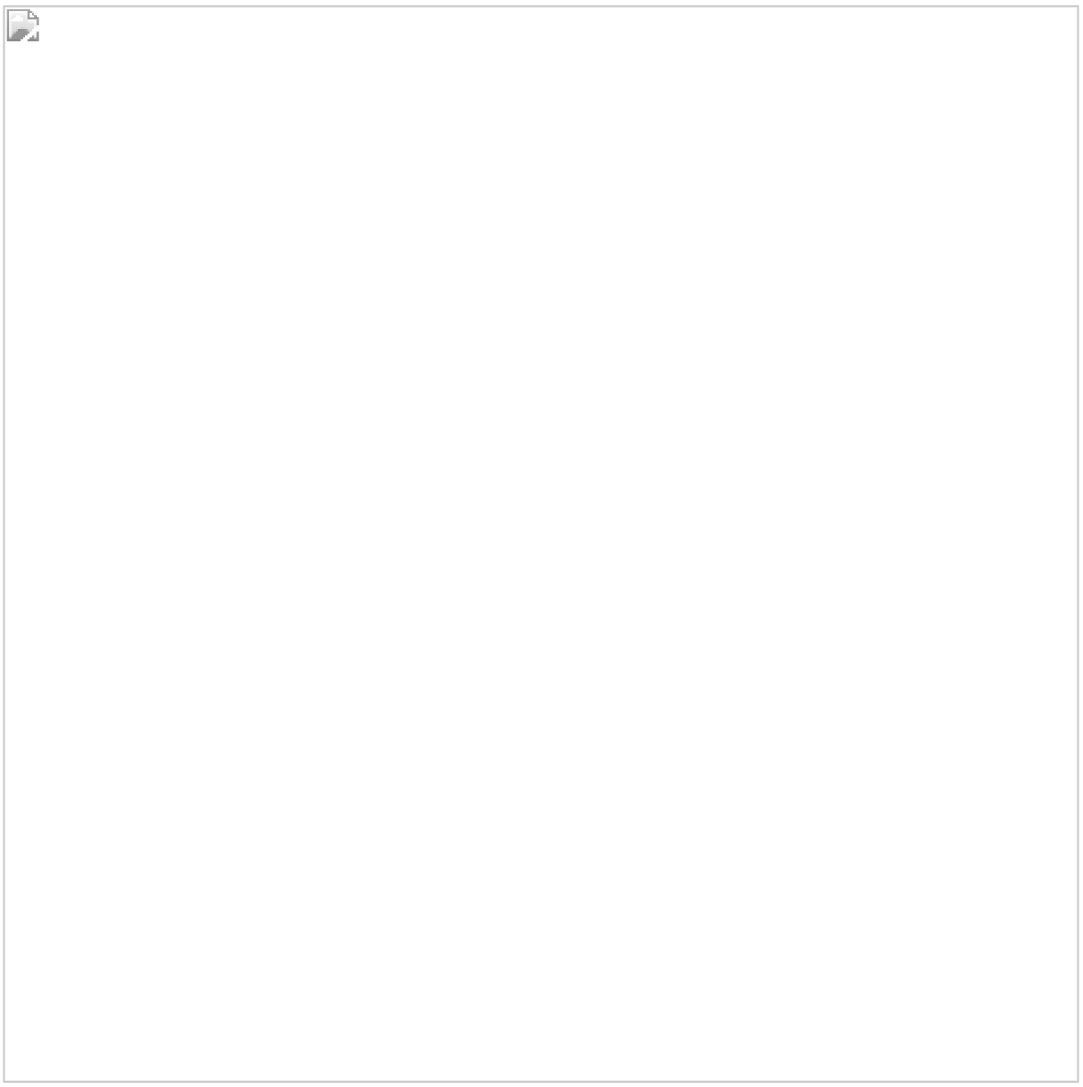
Soon after, old King Ring died, and the bards sang of his wisdom. The people cried out, “We must choose a king!”

Frithiof raised Ring's little son up on a shield for everyone to see. “Here is your king,” he said, “the son of wise old Ring.” The child laughed and clapped his hands at the glittering helmets, and then jumped down into the crowd.

The people shouted that the child should be their king, and Frithiof the guardian who watched over him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Frithiof could have taken the crown for himself. He gave it to a little child instead. What do you think of that?

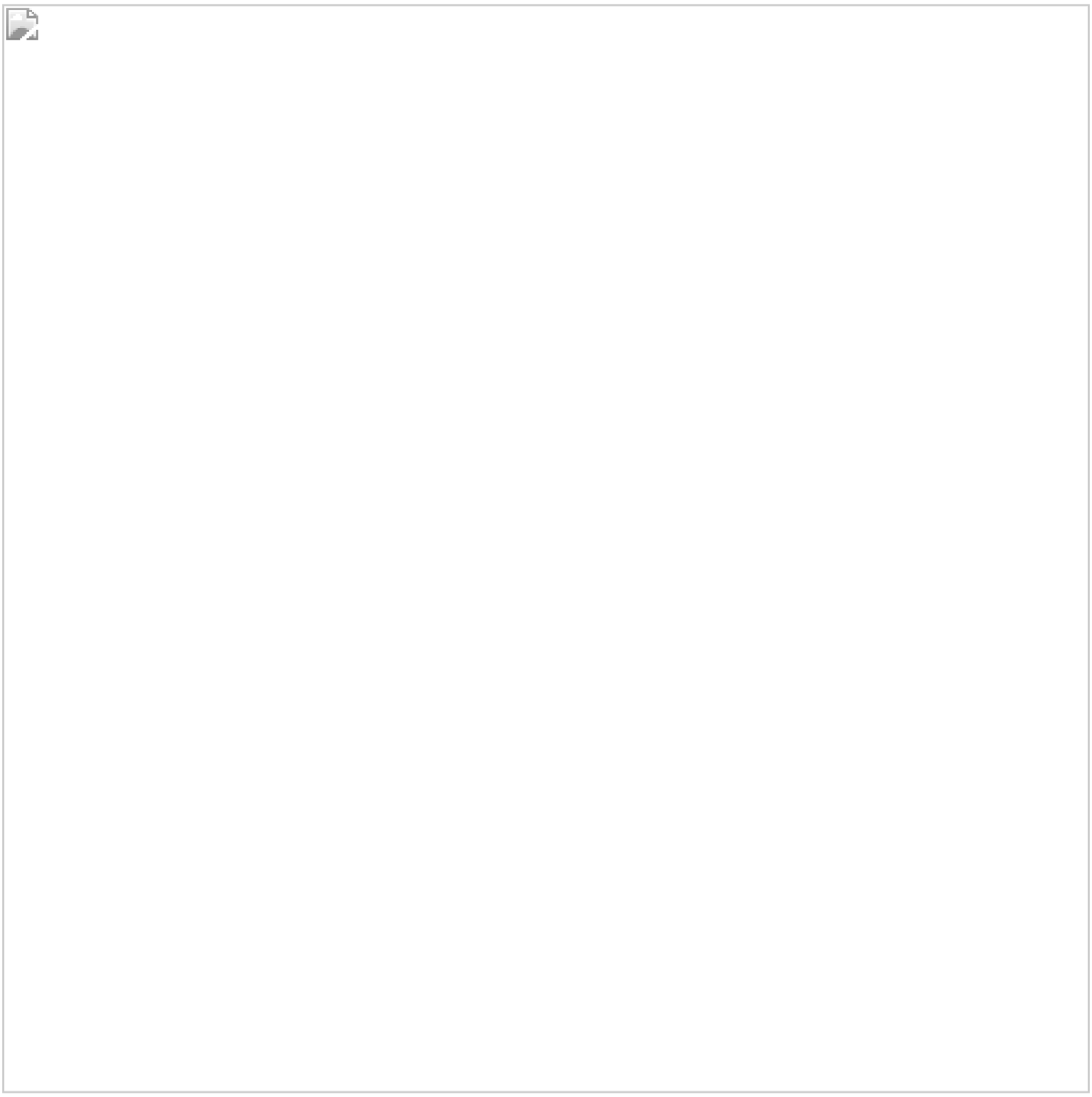


Think about it

1. Whom did Frithiof hold up on the shield?

- ○ King Ring's little son
- ○ Himself
- ○ Halfdan

Forgiven



Kneeling on his father's grave, Frithiof grieved over the anger and wish for revenge that had burned the temple, and felt a voice in his heart tell him he was forgiven.

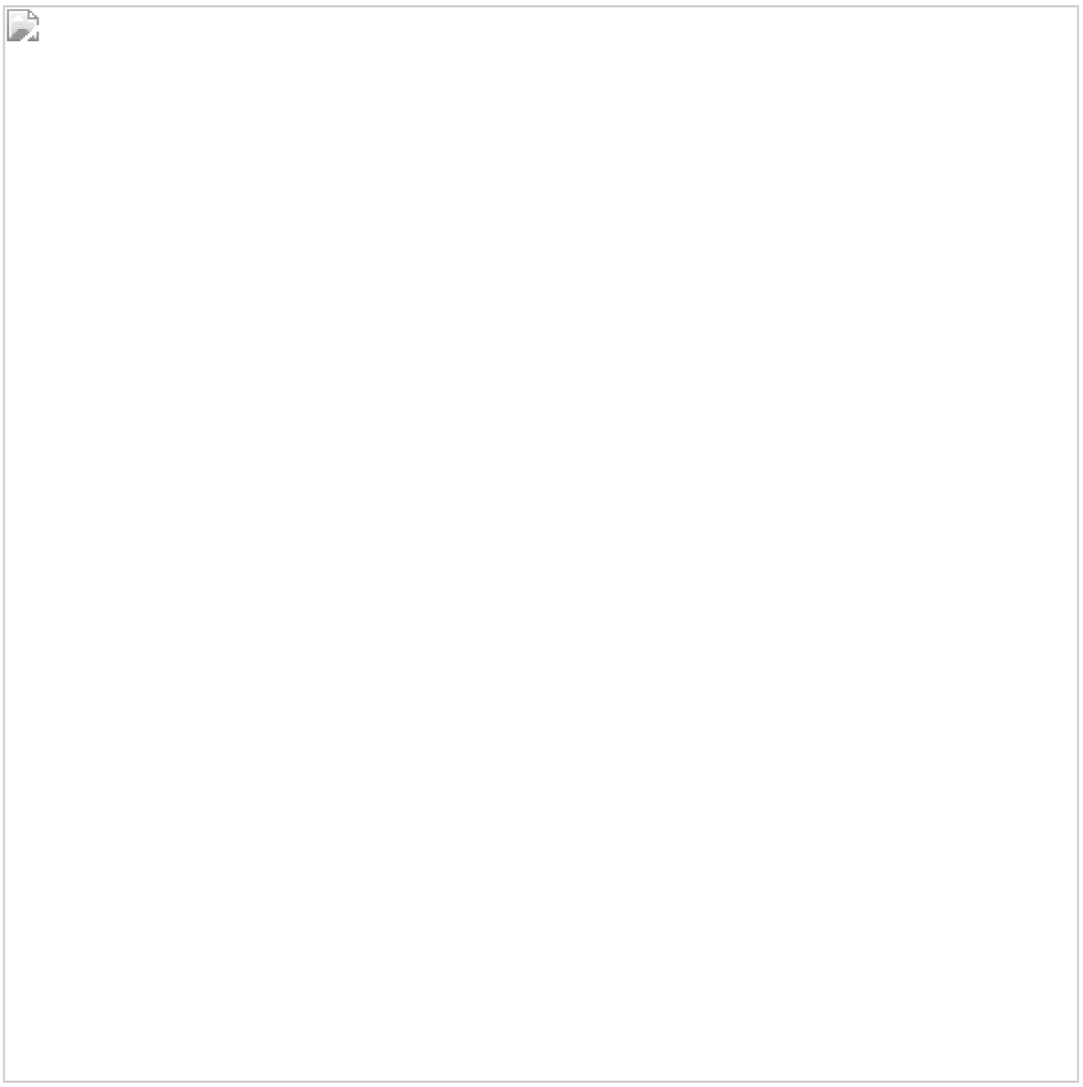
A new temple stood in its place, fair and bright. A white-robed priest told him Helgi was dead, and said, “Baldur is better pleased when the heart grows soft and injuries are forgiven, than with the most costly sacrifices.”

Frithiof went to Halfdan. “Let all past evil and injury be buried in the grave,” he said. “Henceforth let us be as brothers.” “Thou shalt be my brother,” said Halfdan, and gave him Ingebjorg's hand. “Behold thy wife.”

TALK ABOUT IT

An old book says, “Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another” (Ephesians 4:32, KJV). How did forgiving change things for Frithiof and Halfdan?

Forgiven · another picture



Think about it

1. What did Frithiof ask of Halfdan?

- ○ To give him a ship
- ○ To forget the past and be like brothers
- ○ To fight him

2. Who is someone you could forgive, or ask to forgive you?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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