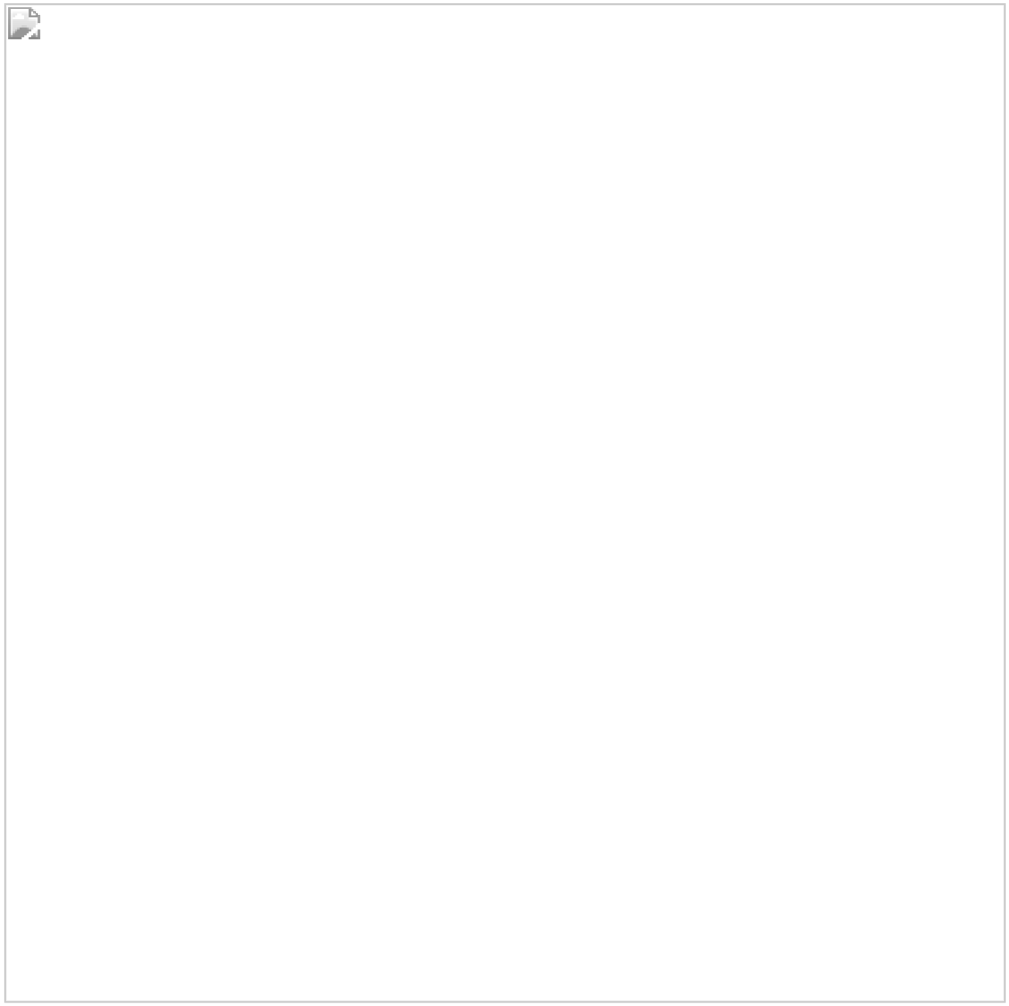
COLORING THE CLASSICS

How Wisdom Became the Property of the Human Race

A Tale from West Africa



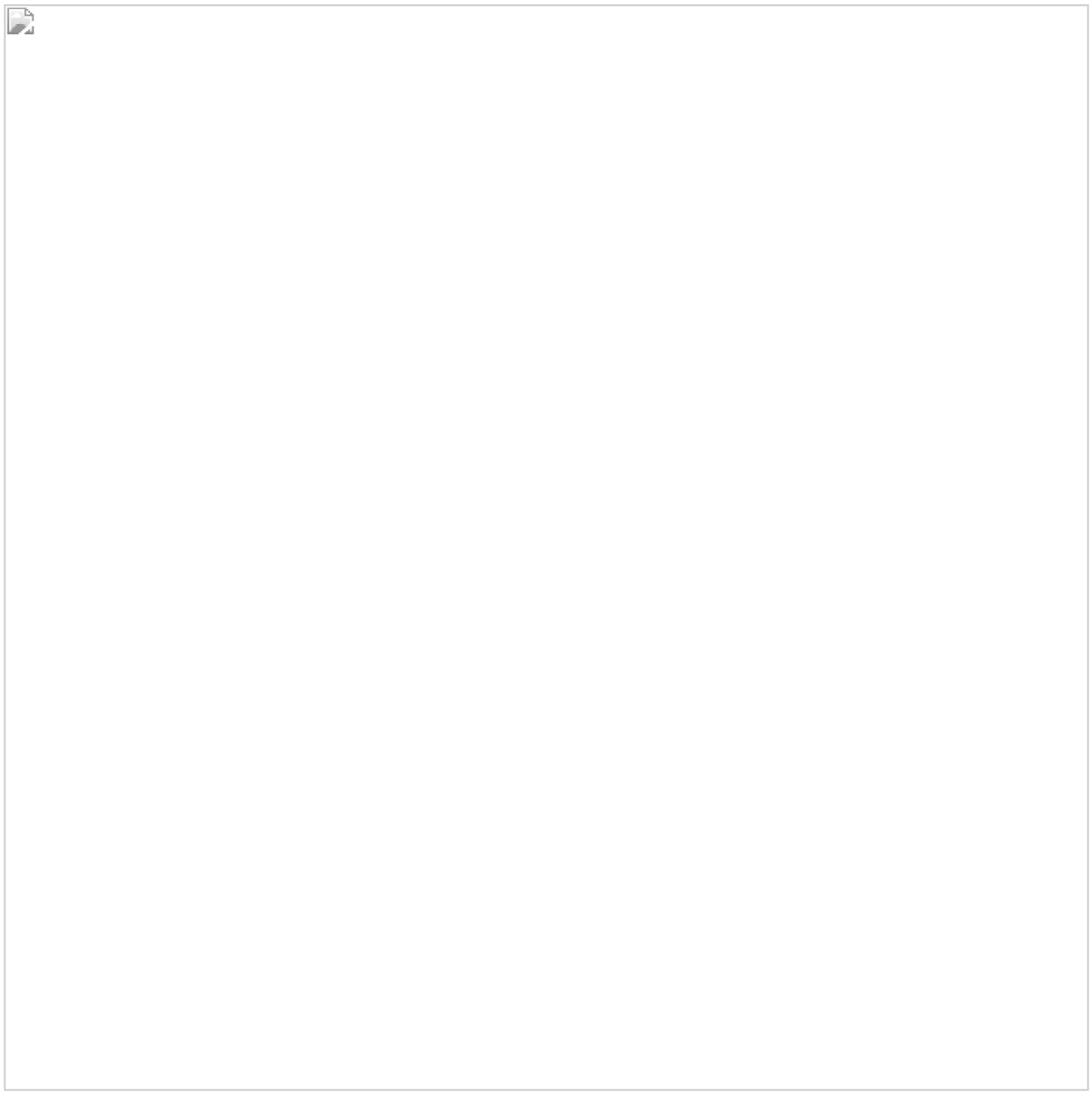
There once lived, in Fanti-land, a man named Father Anansi. He possessed all the wisdom in the world.

TALK ABOUT IT

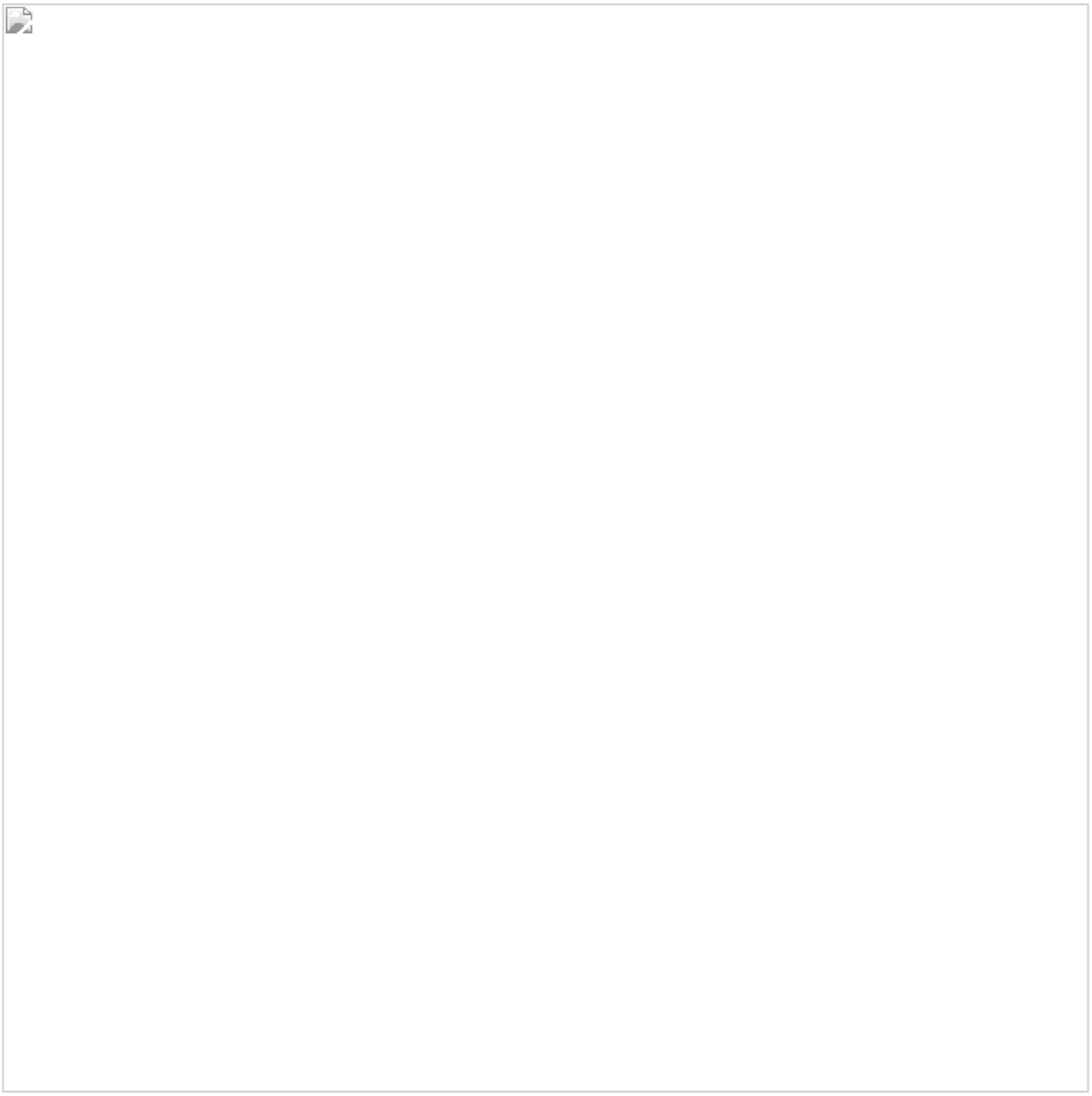
Father Anansi had all the wisdom. What is one wise thing you know?

This book belongs to _____

How Wisdom Became the Property of the Human Race · another picture



All the Wisdom in the World

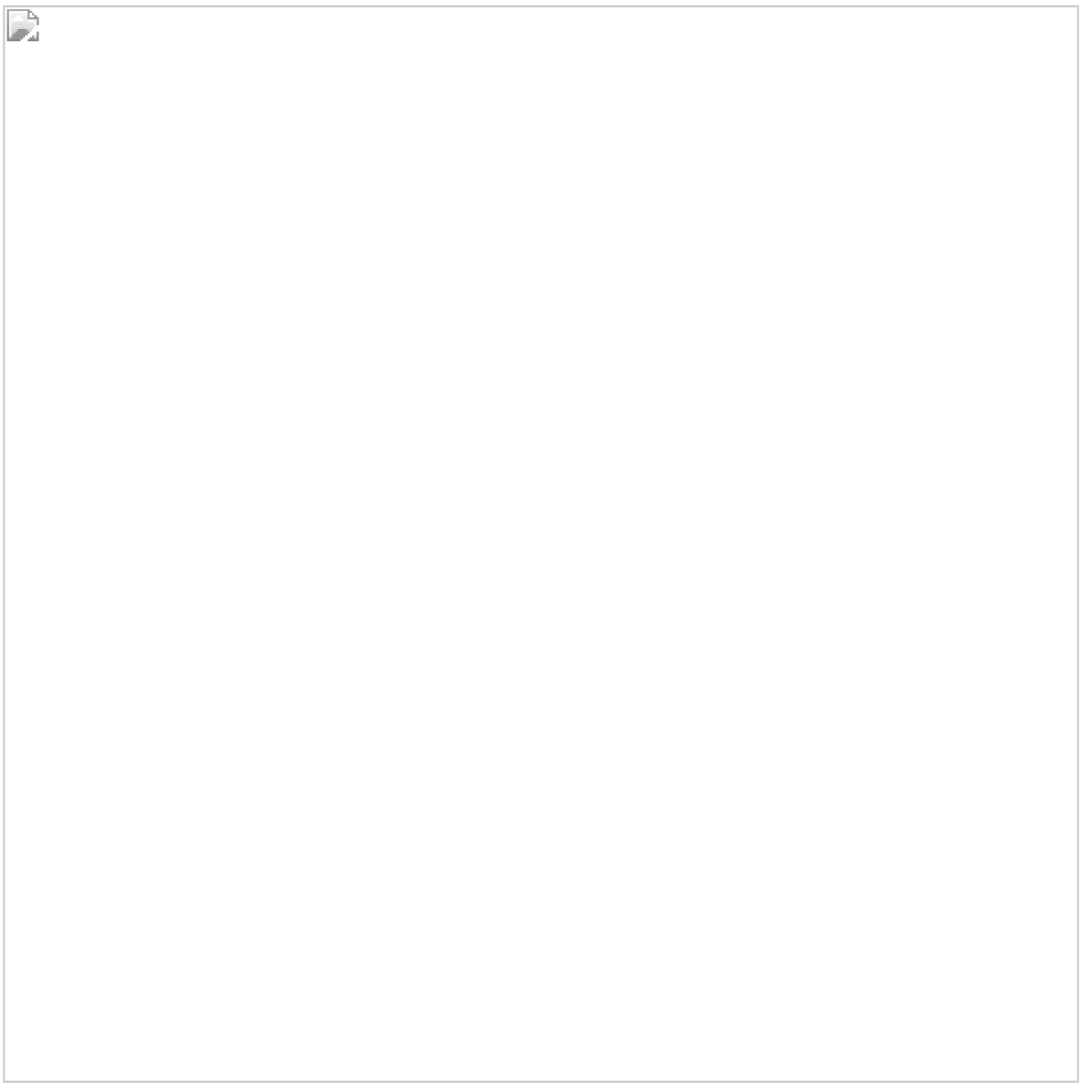


People came to Father Anansi every day for advice and help.

One day the men of the country offended him. He decided to punish them. After much thought he chose the hardest punishment he could think of: he would hide all his wisdom from them.

TALK ABOUT IT

Father Anansi was upset and wanted to punish people. What do you do when you are upset with someone?

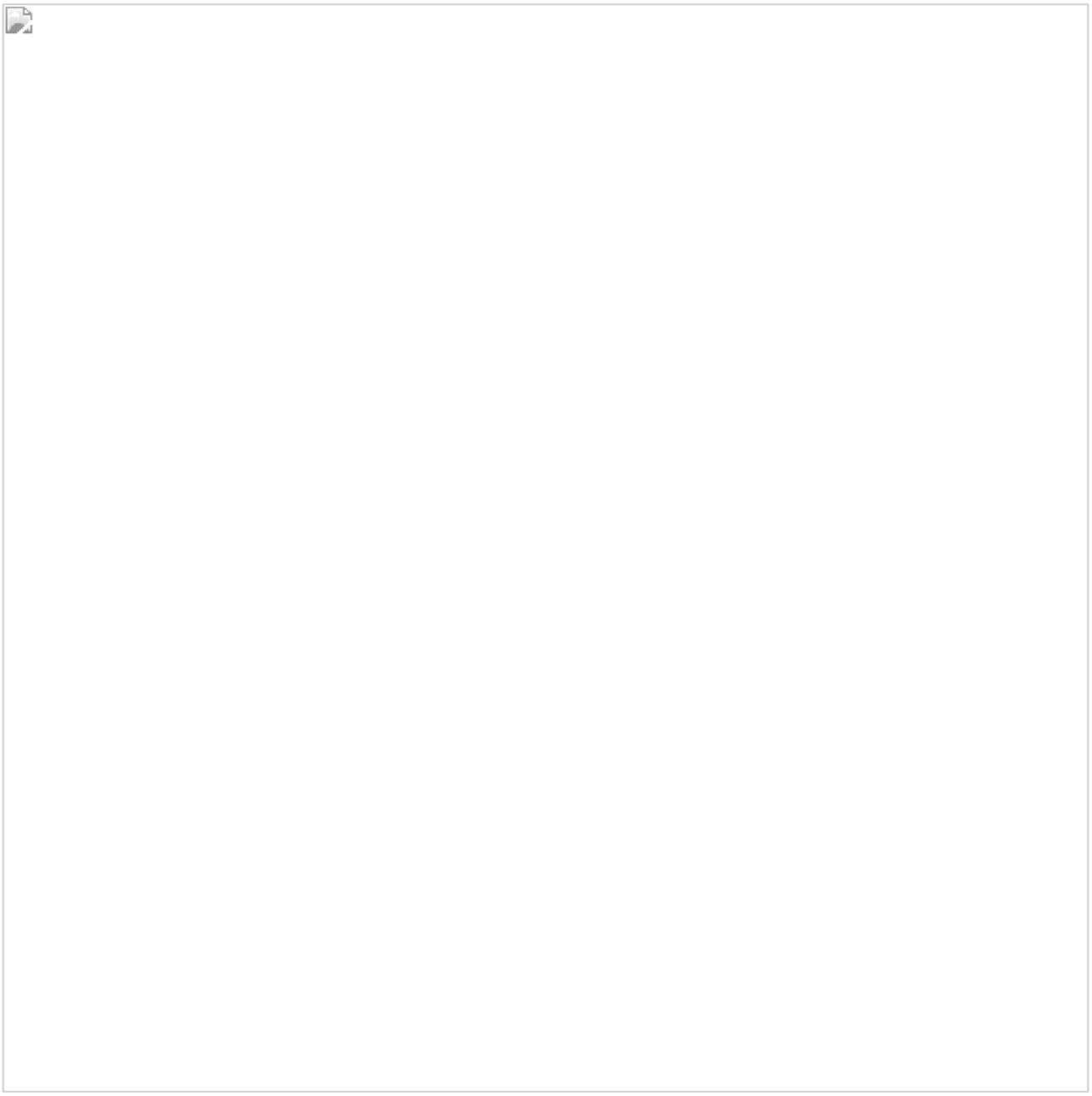


Think about it

1. What did Father Anansi decide to do?

- ○ Hide all his wisdom from the people
- ○ Give his wisdom away
- ○ Leave the country

The Sealed Pot



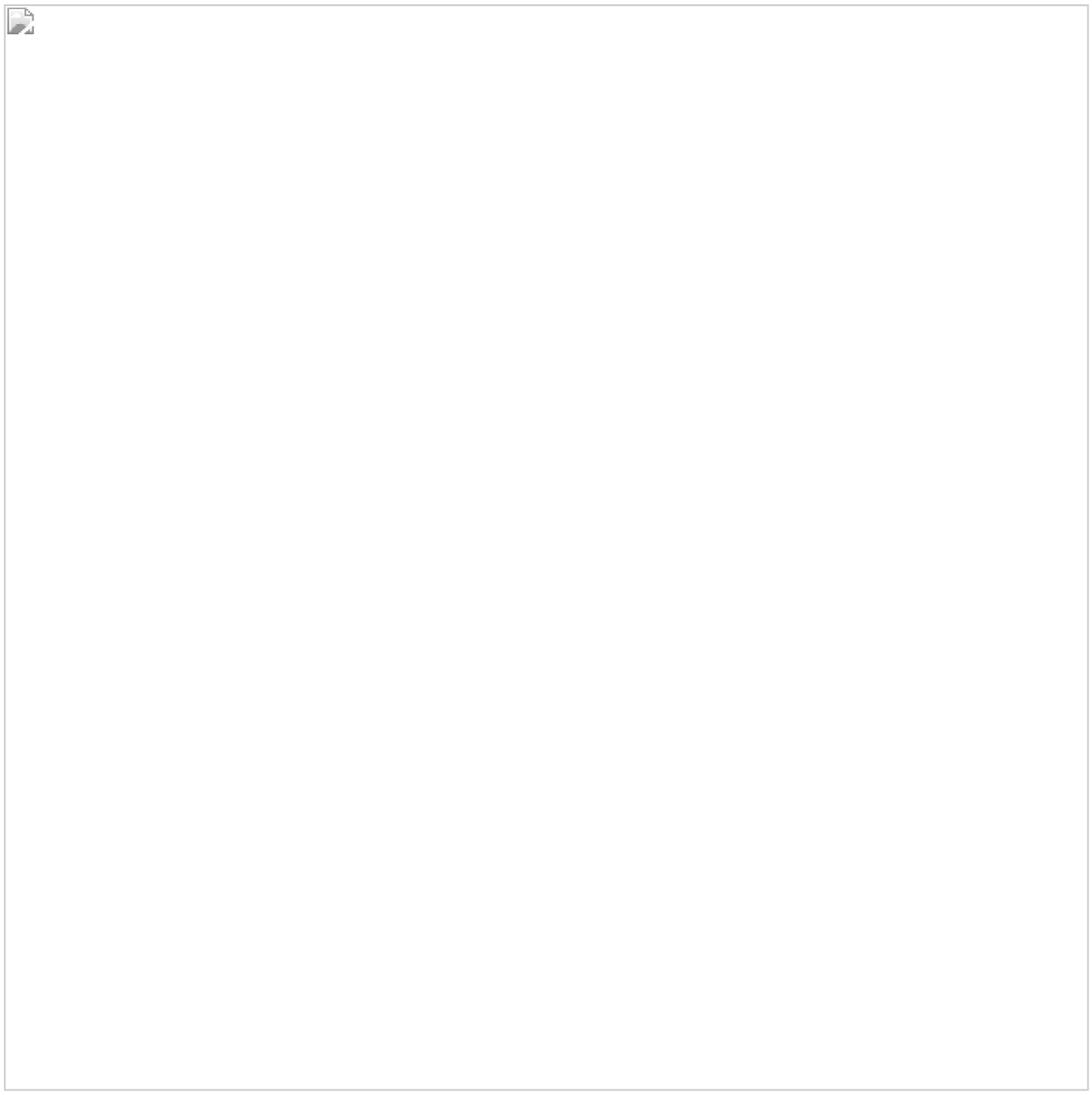
He set to work at once to gather again all that he had already given. When he thought he had collected it all, he placed it in one great pot.

He sealed the pot carefully. He meant to put it in a spot where no human being could reach it.

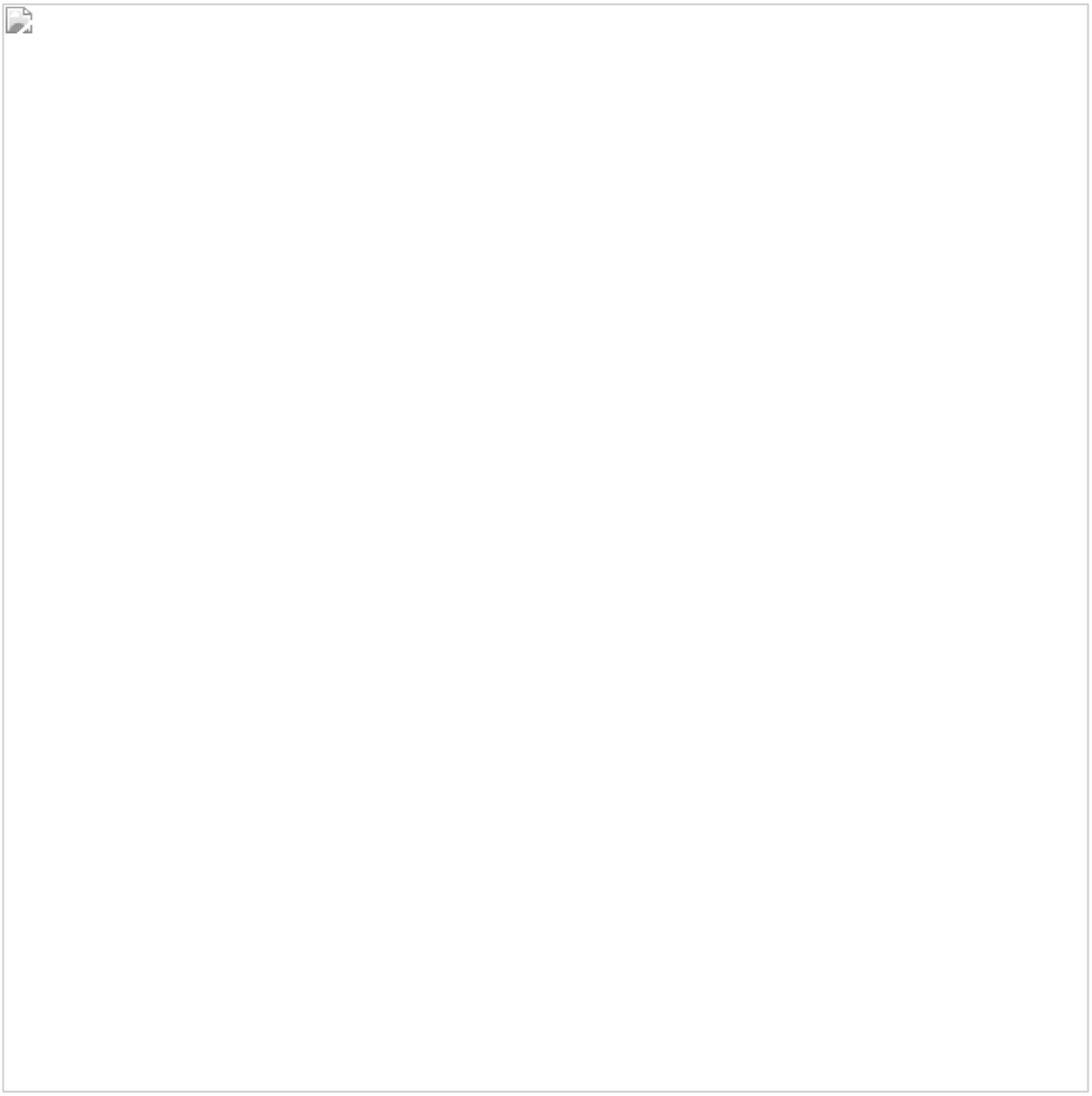
TALK ABOUT IT

Can wisdom really be kept in a pot? What do you think?

The Sealed Pot · another picture



Kweku Tsin Watches



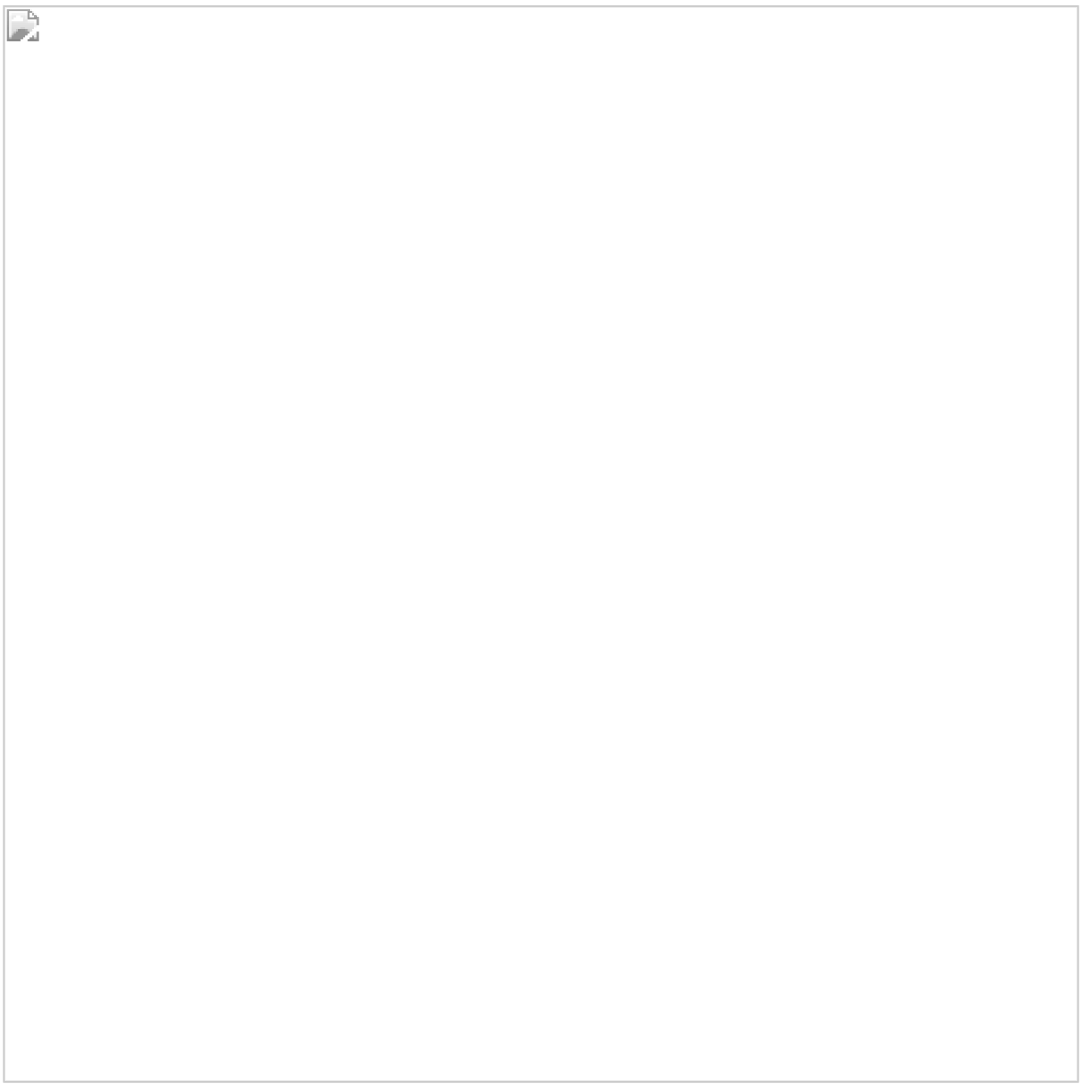
Father Anansi had a son named Kweku Tsin. The boy began to suspect his father of some secret plan, so he made up his mind to watch carefully.

The next day he saw his father quietly slip out of the house with the precious pot hung round his neck. Kweku Tsin followed.

TALK ABOUT IT

Kweku Tsin followed his father quietly. Have you ever noticed something a grown-up was doing?

Kweku Tsin Watches · another picture

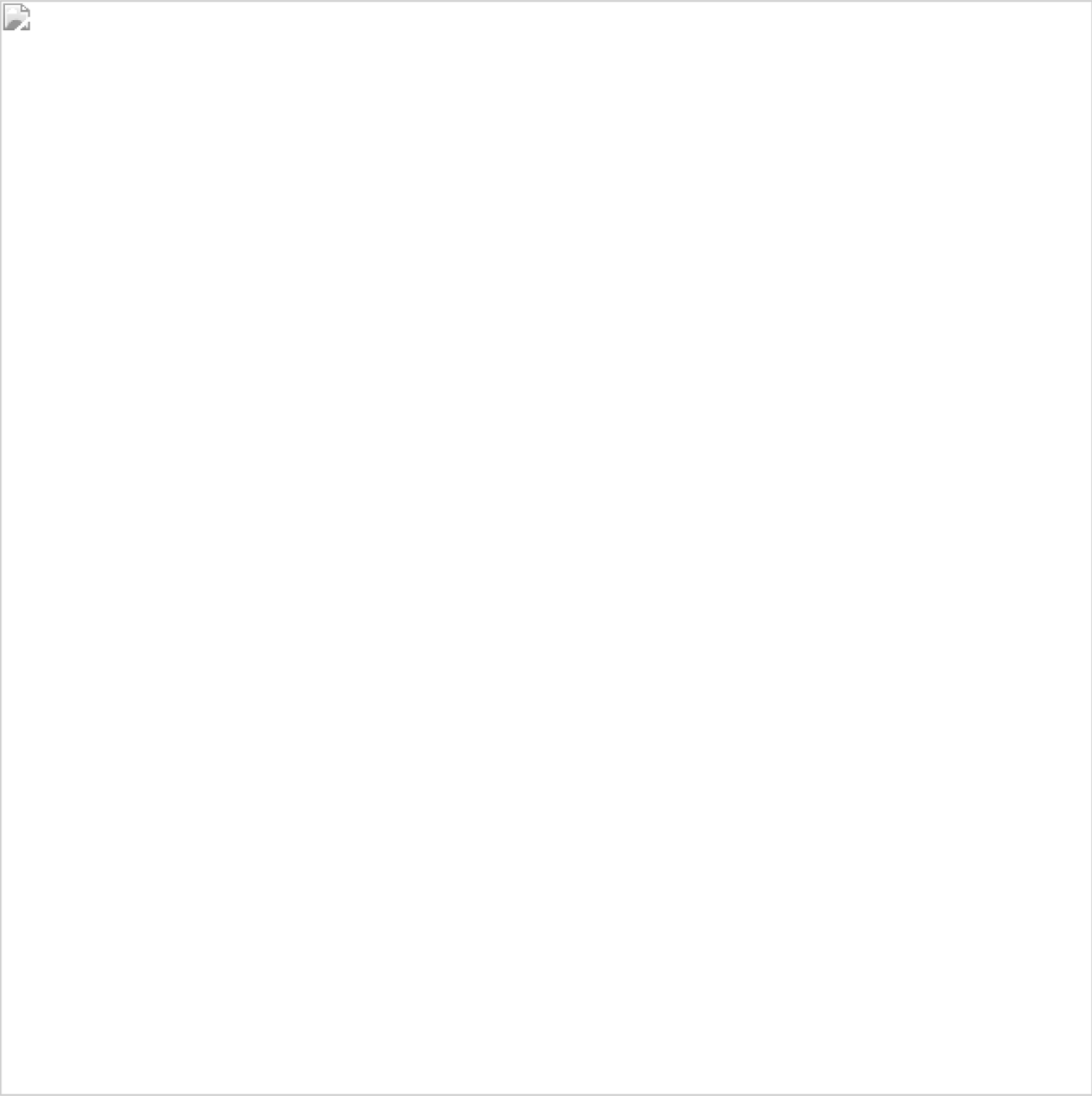


Think about it

1. What was the name of Father Anansi's son?

- ○ Kweku Tsin
- ○ Fanti
- ○ Okro

The Highest Tree



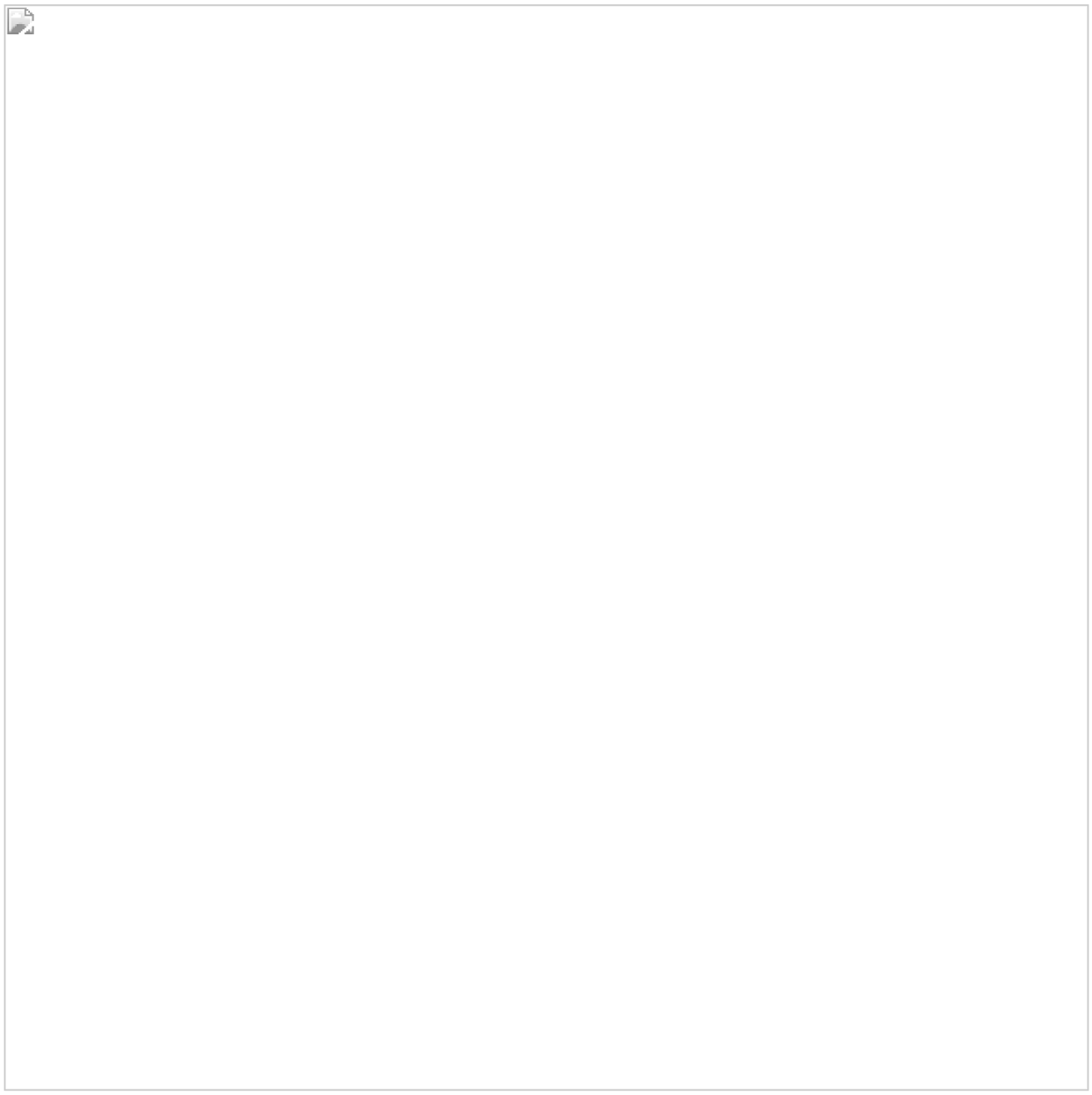
Father Anansi went through the forest until he had left the village far behind. He picked the highest tree that looked hardest to climb, and began to climb.

The heavy pot hung in front of him, and made climbing almost impossible. He meant to hang the pot at the top. There, he thought, Wisdom would be beyond the reach of everyone but himself.

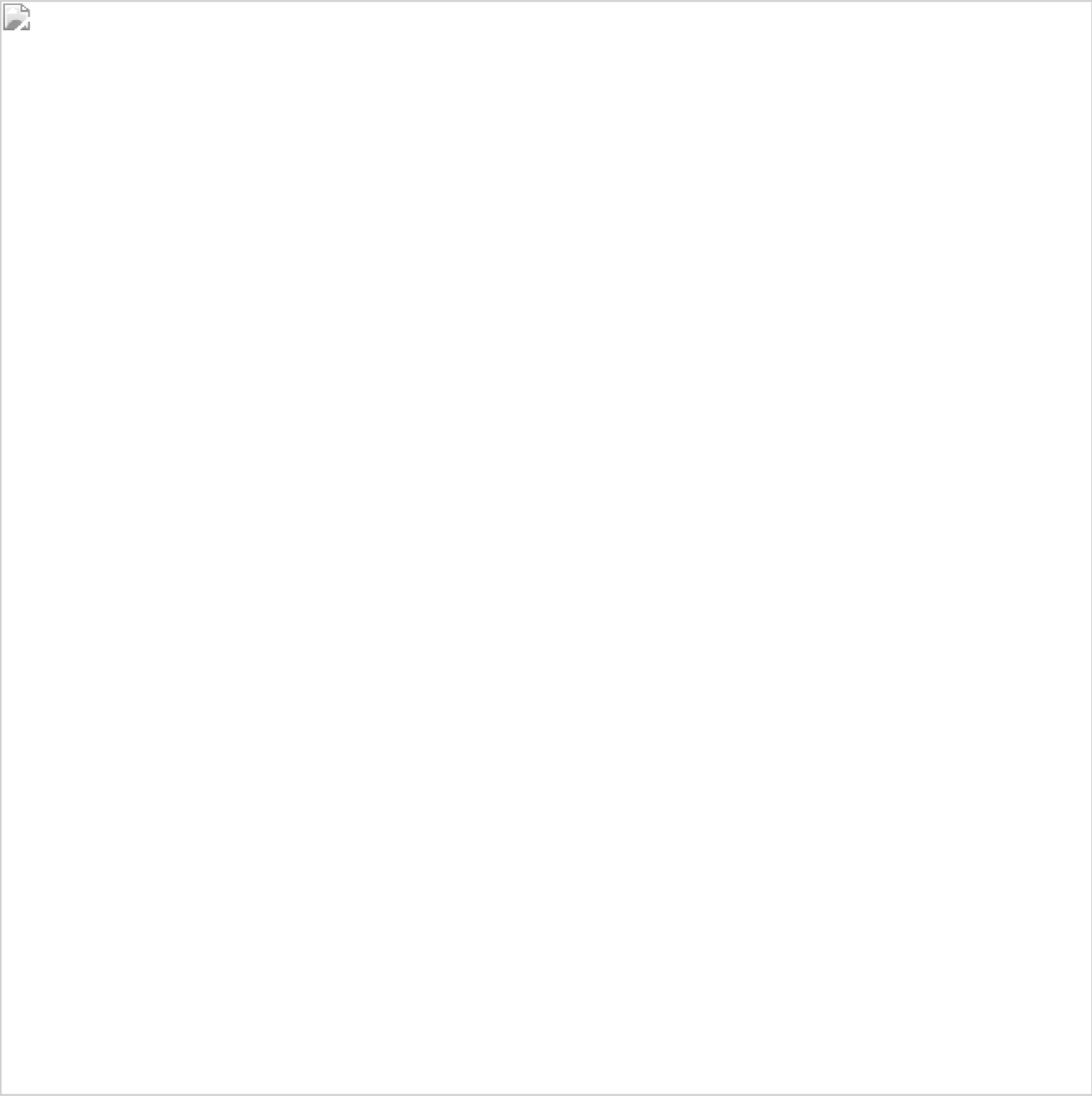
TALK ABOUT IT

Father Anansi wanted to keep wisdom just for himself. What do you think about that?

The Highest Tree · another picture



Again and Again

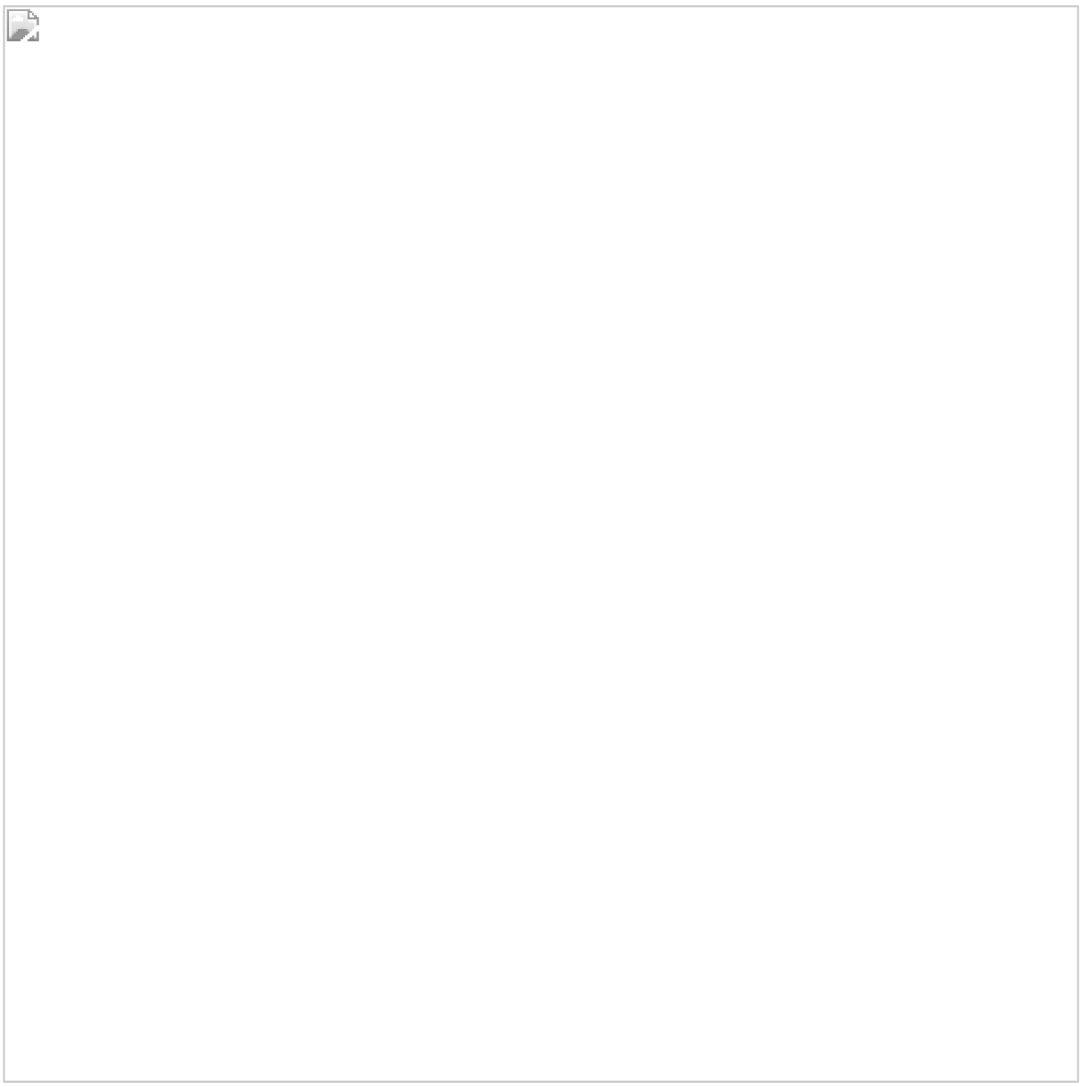


Again and again he tried to reach the top. But each time the pot swung in his way.

For some time Kweku Tsin watched his father's useless attempts.

TALK ABOUT IT

Father Anansi tried again and again. Have you ever tried something many times?

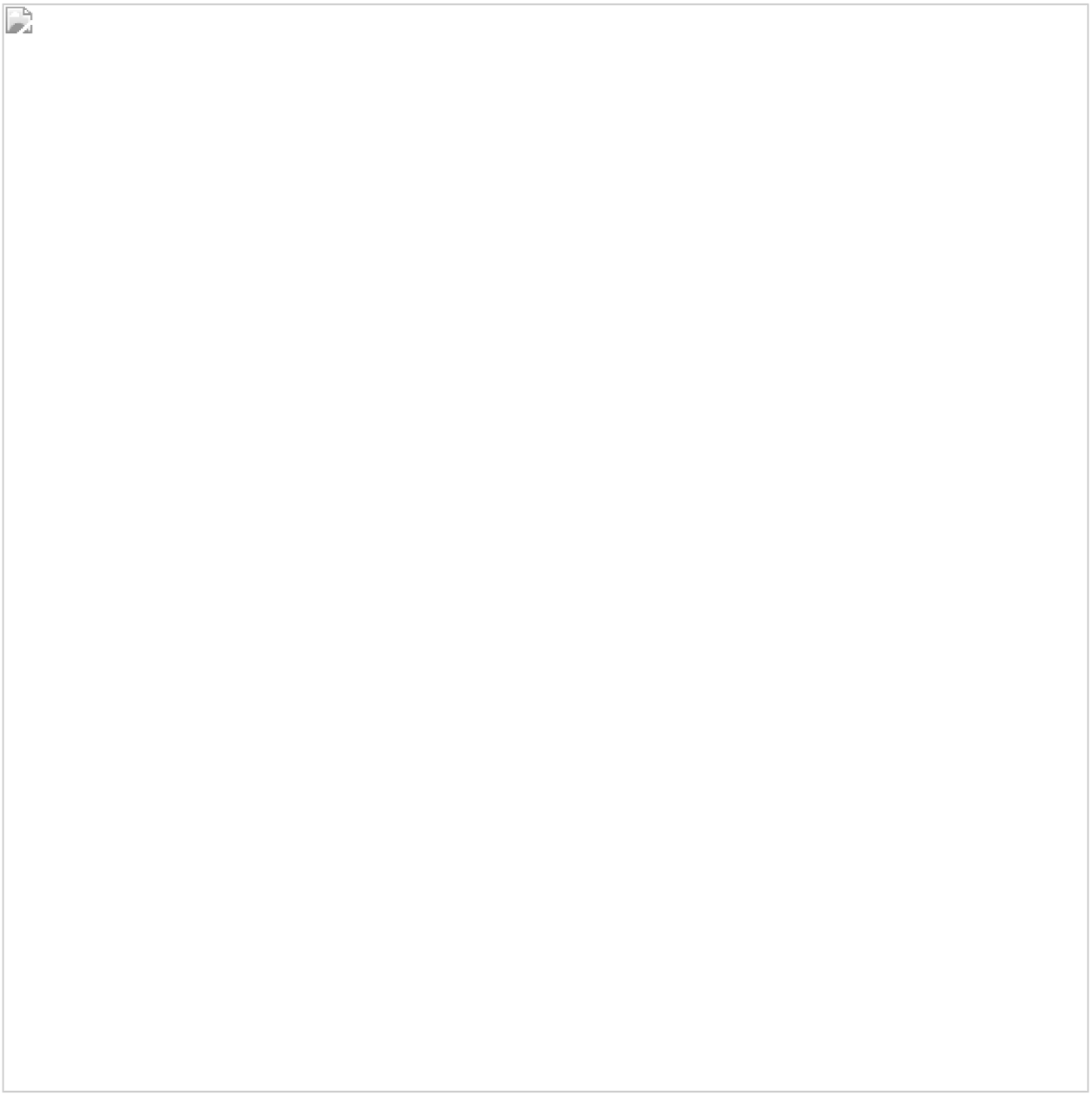


Think about it

1. Why couldn't Father Anansi climb the tree?

- ○ The tree was too wet
- ○ The pot swung in his way
- ○ He was too tired to start

The Boy Speaks Up

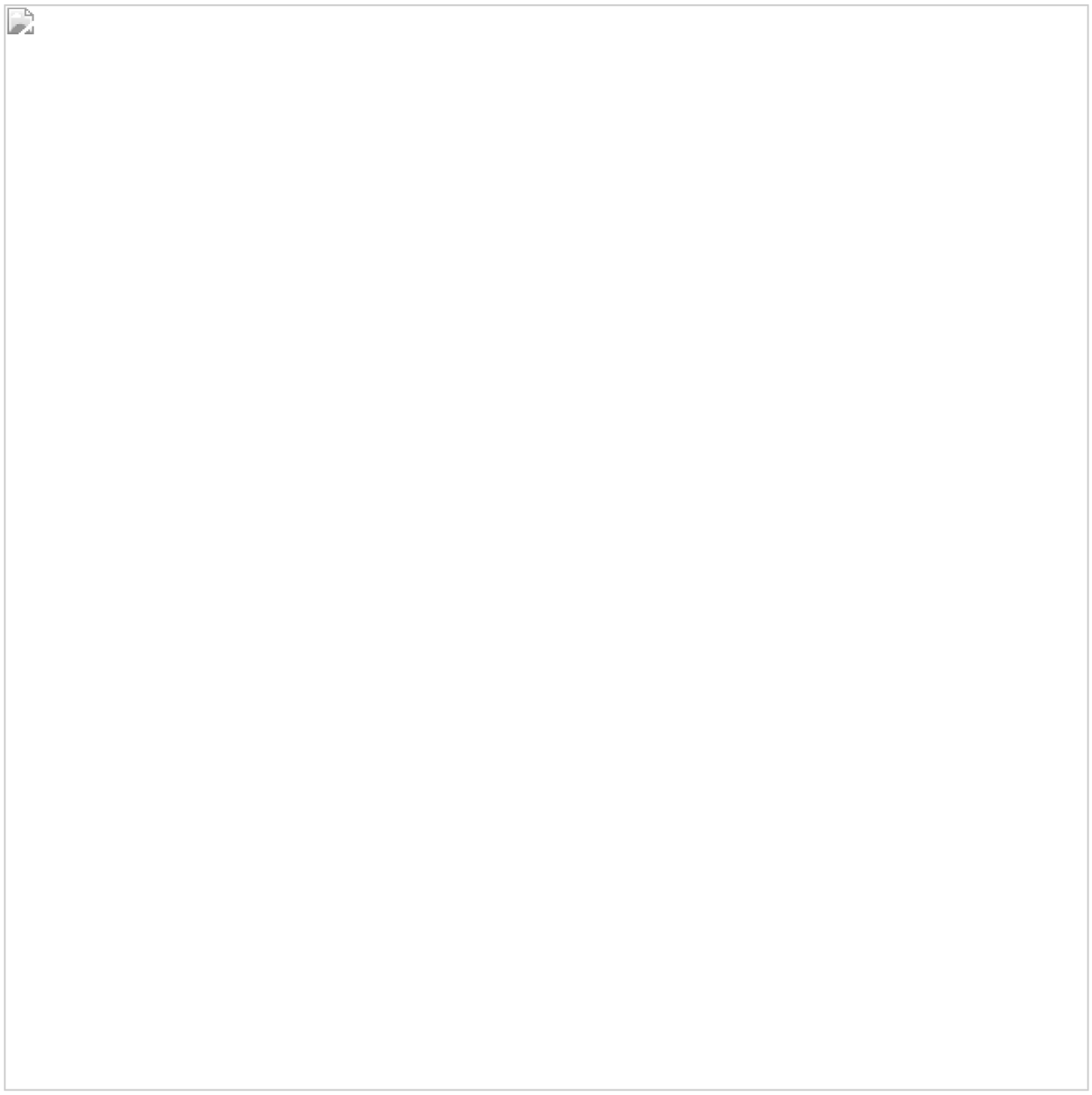


At last Kweku Tsin could not keep quiet any longer. He cried out: “Father, why do you not hang the pot on your back? Then you could easily climb the tree.”

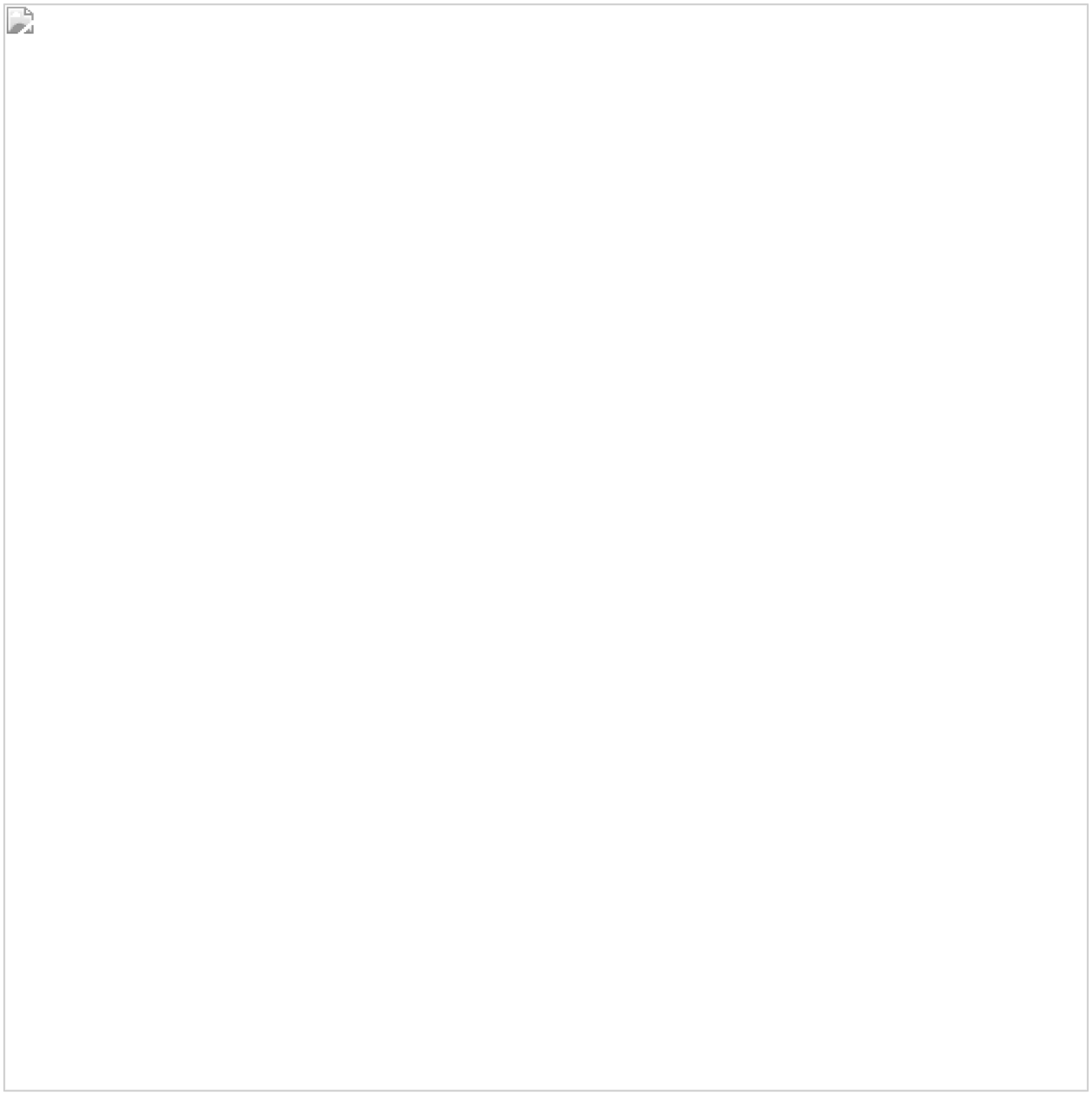
TALK ABOUT IT

Kweku Tsin spoke up to his father. Is it easy or hard to tell a grown-up your idea? Why?

The Boy Speaks Up · another picture



The Pot Breaks



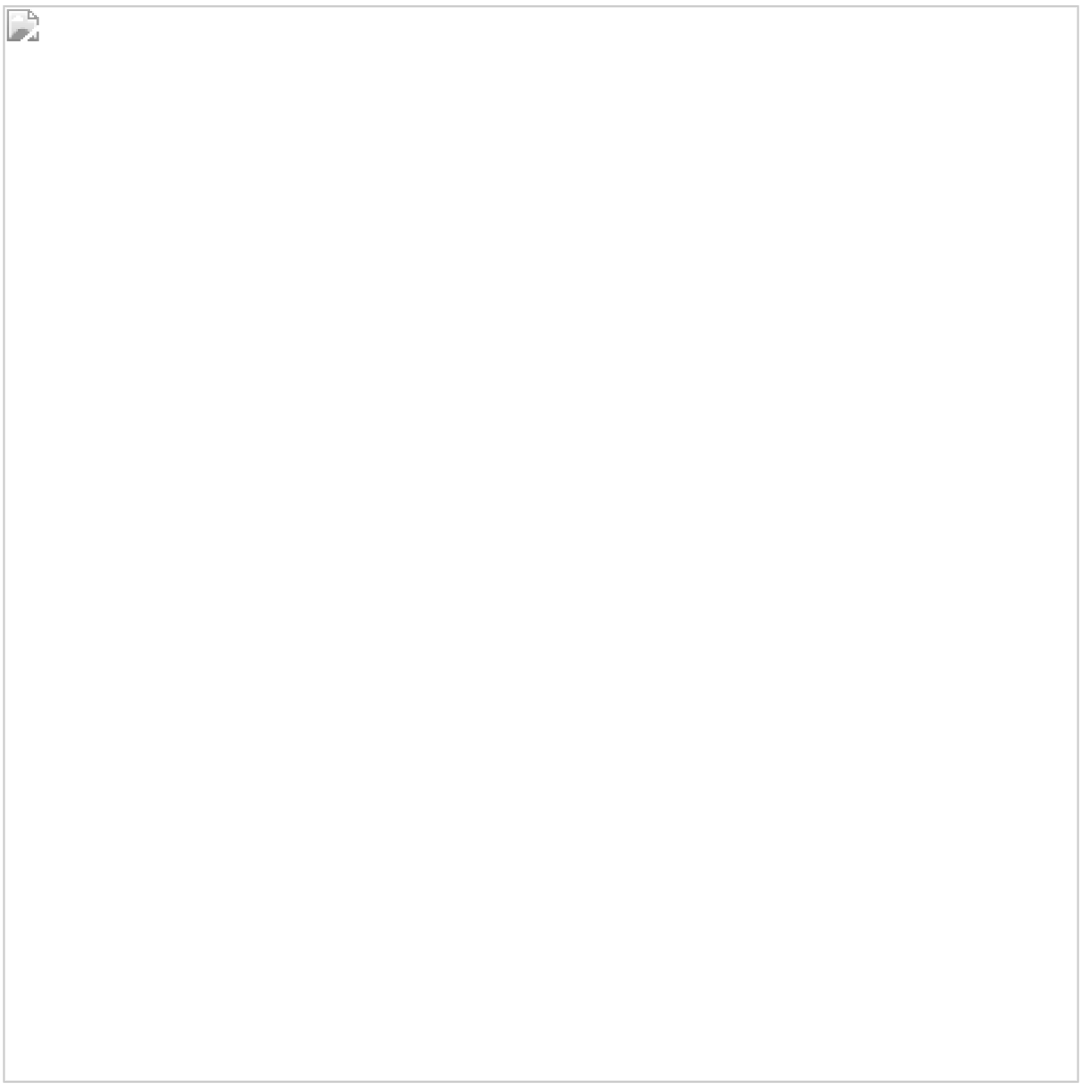
Father Anansi turned and said: “I thought I had all the world's wisdom in this pot. But I find you possess more than I do. All my wisdom was insufficient to show me what to do, yet you have been able to tell me.”

In his anger he threw the pot down. It struck a great rock and broke. The wisdom in it escaped and spread throughout the world.

TALK ABOUT IT

Father Anansi found out that his son knew something he did not. Who has taught you something?

The Pot Breaks · another picture



Think about it

1. What happened to the wisdom when the pot broke?

- ○ It sank into the ground
- ○ It spread throughout the world
- ○ It flew back to Father Anansi

2. Where do you see wisdom in the world today?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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