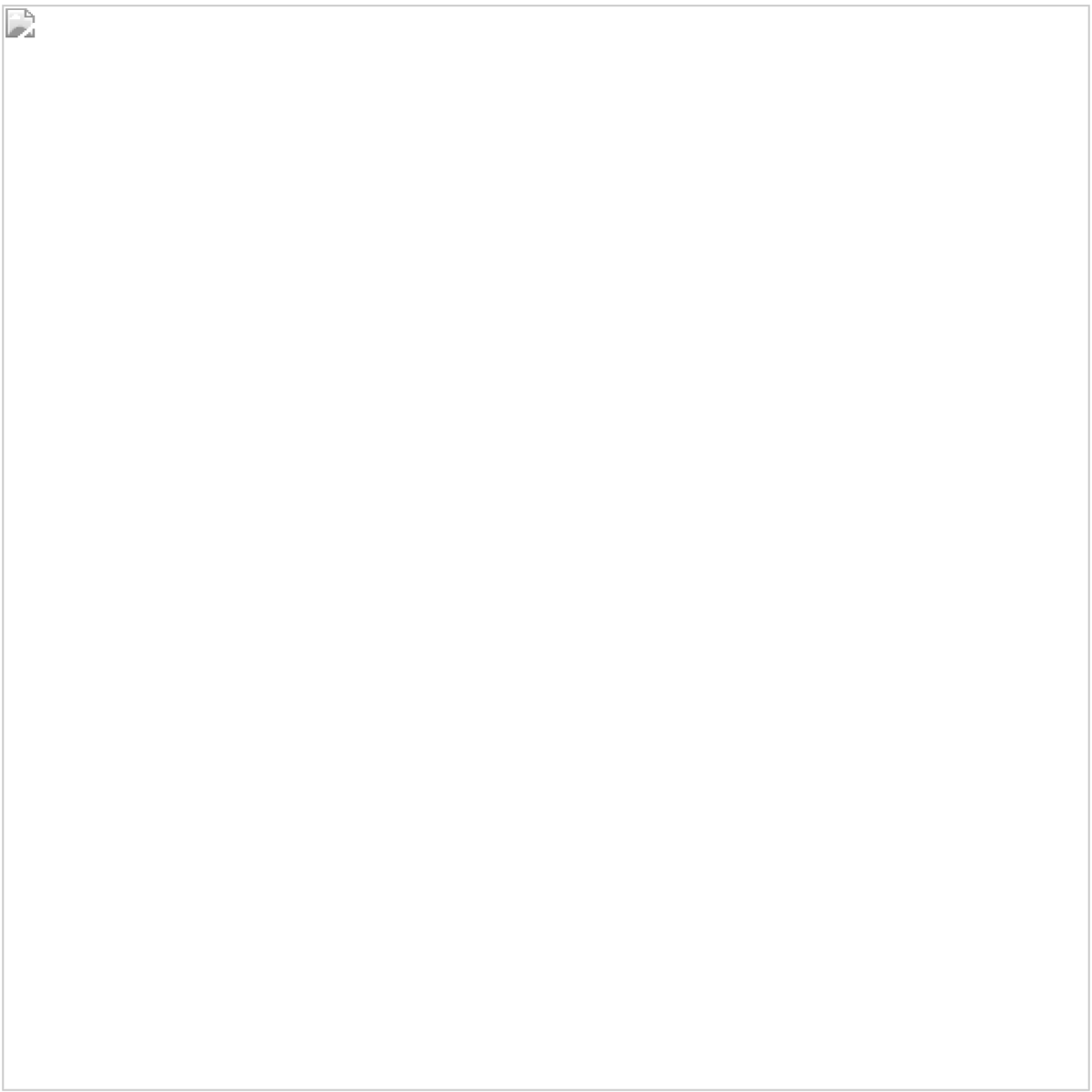
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Iktomi and the Fawn

A Tale of the Dakota People



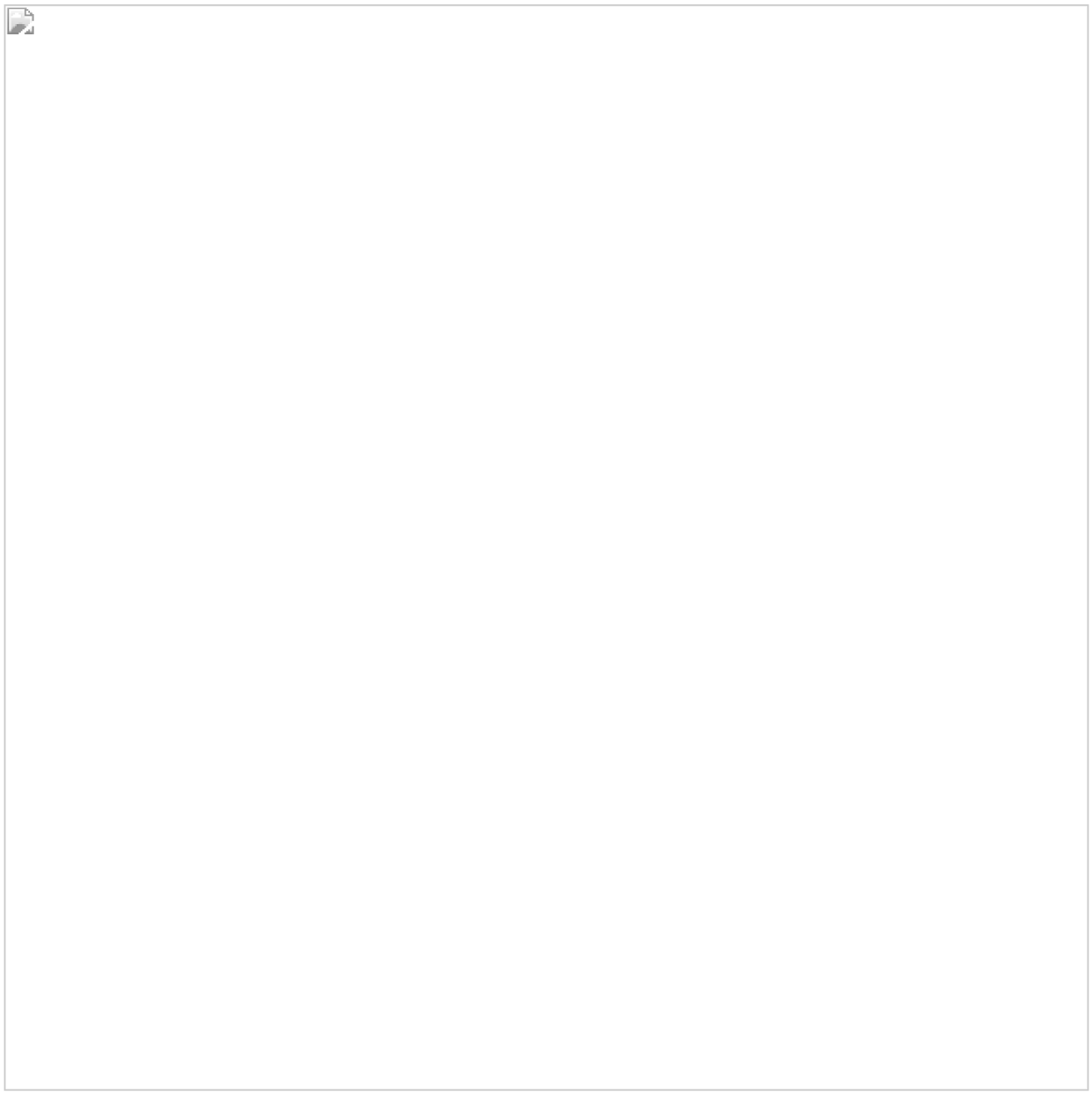
One day, wandering through the woods, Iktomi saw a rare bird sitting high in a tree-top. Its long tail feathers had caught all the beautiful colors of the rainbow.

TALK ABOUT IT

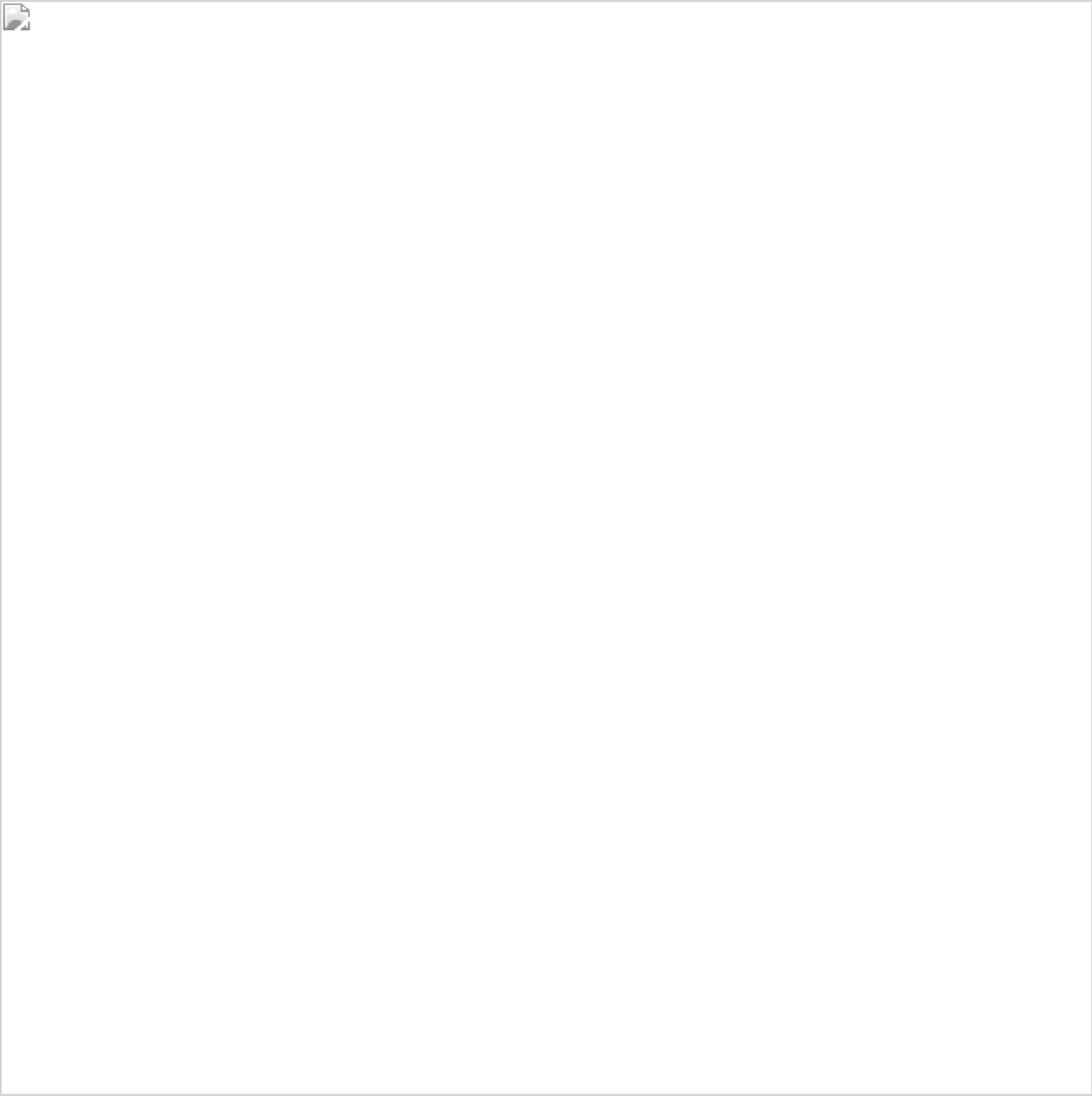
The bird's feathers shone like a rainbow. What is the most beautiful thing you have seen outdoors?

This book belongs to _____

Iktomi and the Fawn · another picture



I Wish I Were Not I

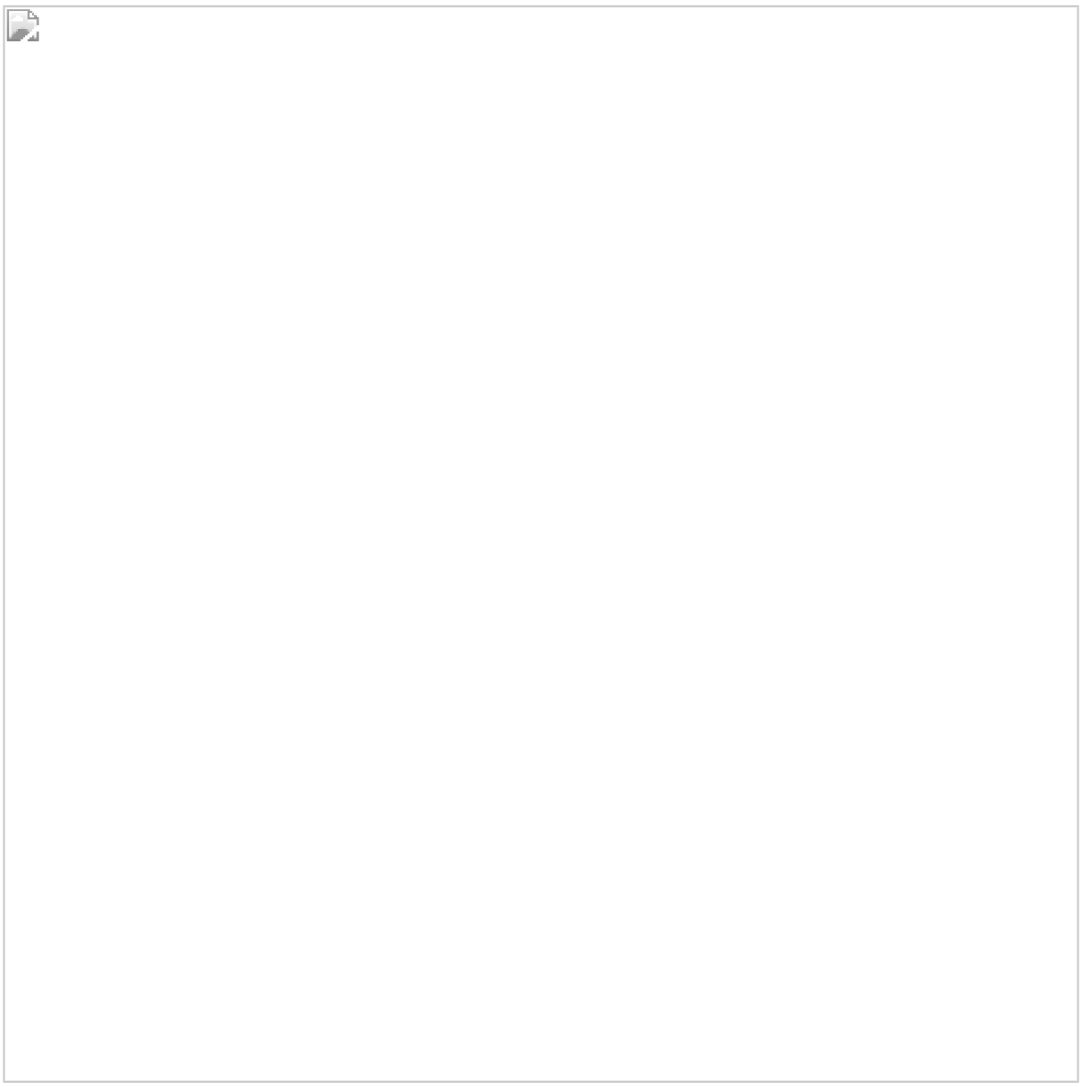


Iktomi stood under the tree and looked up for a long time. Then he sighed. “Oh, I wish I had such pretty feathers!” he said.

He begged the bird to make him into a bird with green and purple feathers. “I am so tired of being myself! Change me! Do!”

TALK ABOUT IT

Iktomi was tired of being Iktomi. Is there anything about yourself that you wish were different?

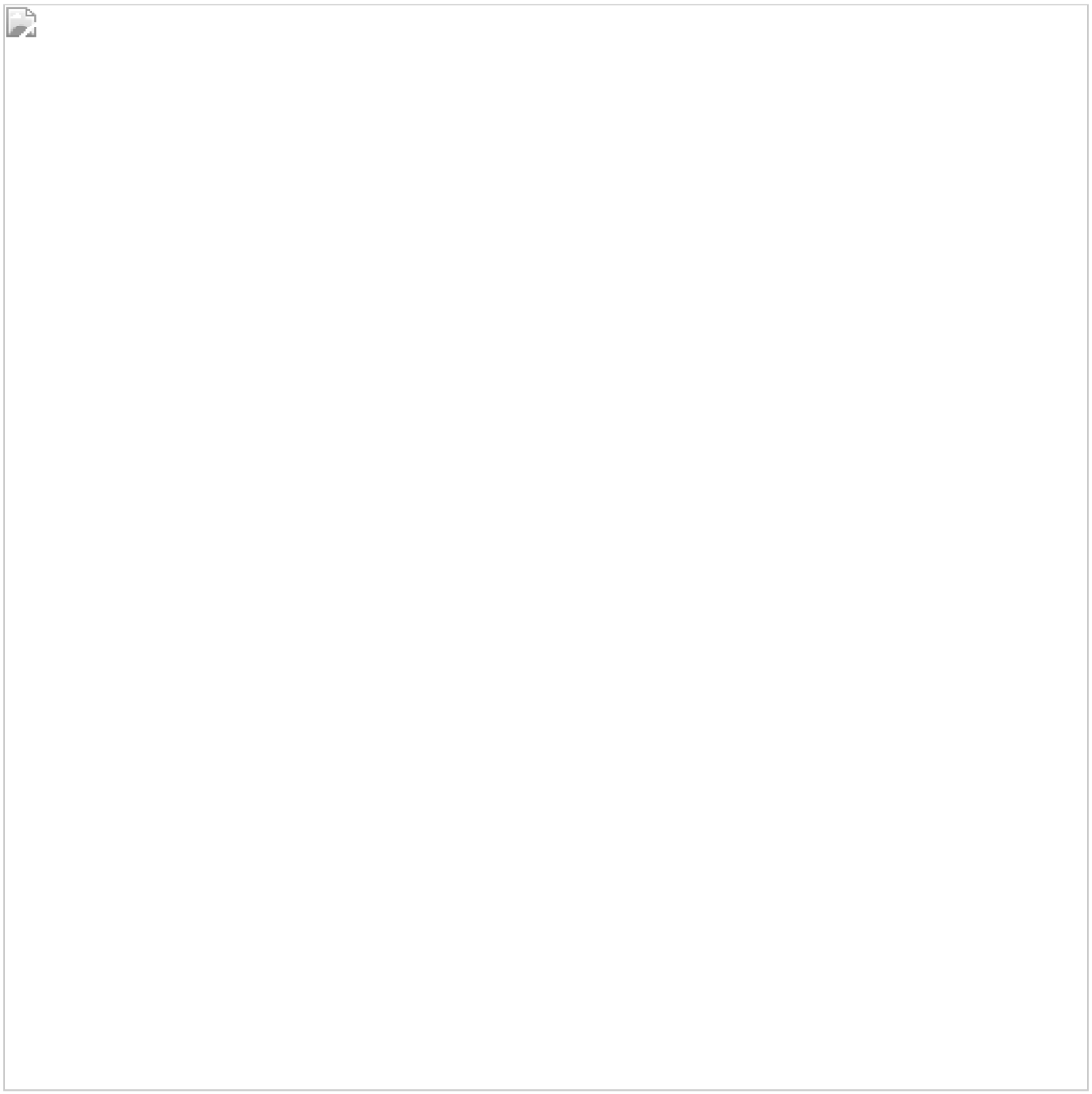


Think about it

1. What did Iktomi wish for?

- ○ Pretty feathers like the bird's
- ○ A pot of soup
- ○ A new blanket

One Condition



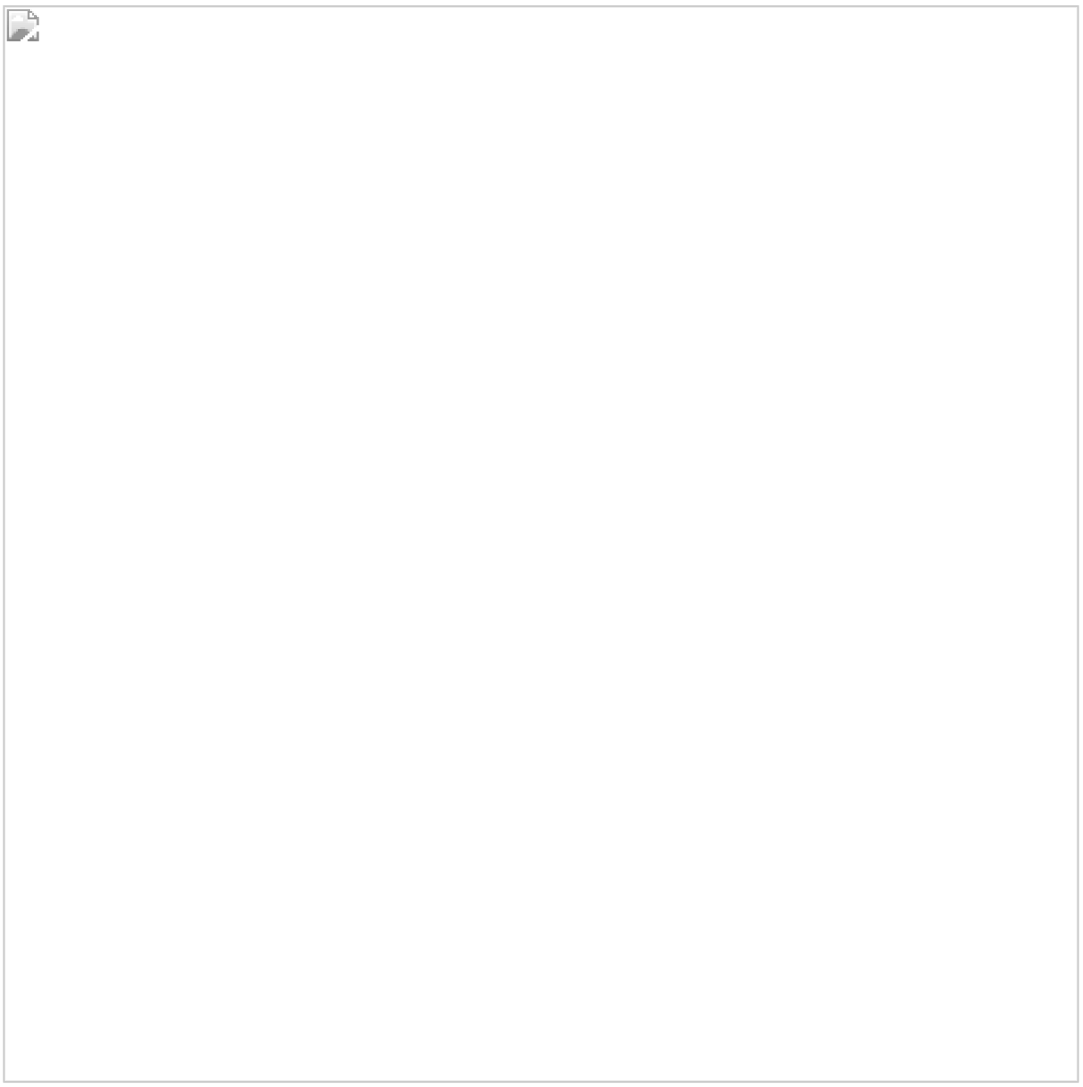
The bird said, “I have a magic power.” His touch could change Iktomi in a moment, if Iktomi could keep one condition.

He flew down beside Iktomi and whispered, “Are you willing to keep one condition, though hard it be?”

“Yes! yes!” said Iktomi. “I've told you ten of them if need be!” The bird touched him with the tips of his wings. Iktomi was gone, and there stood two handsome peacocks.

TALK ABOUT IT

Iktomi said yes before he knew what the condition was. Is that a good idea? Why or why not?

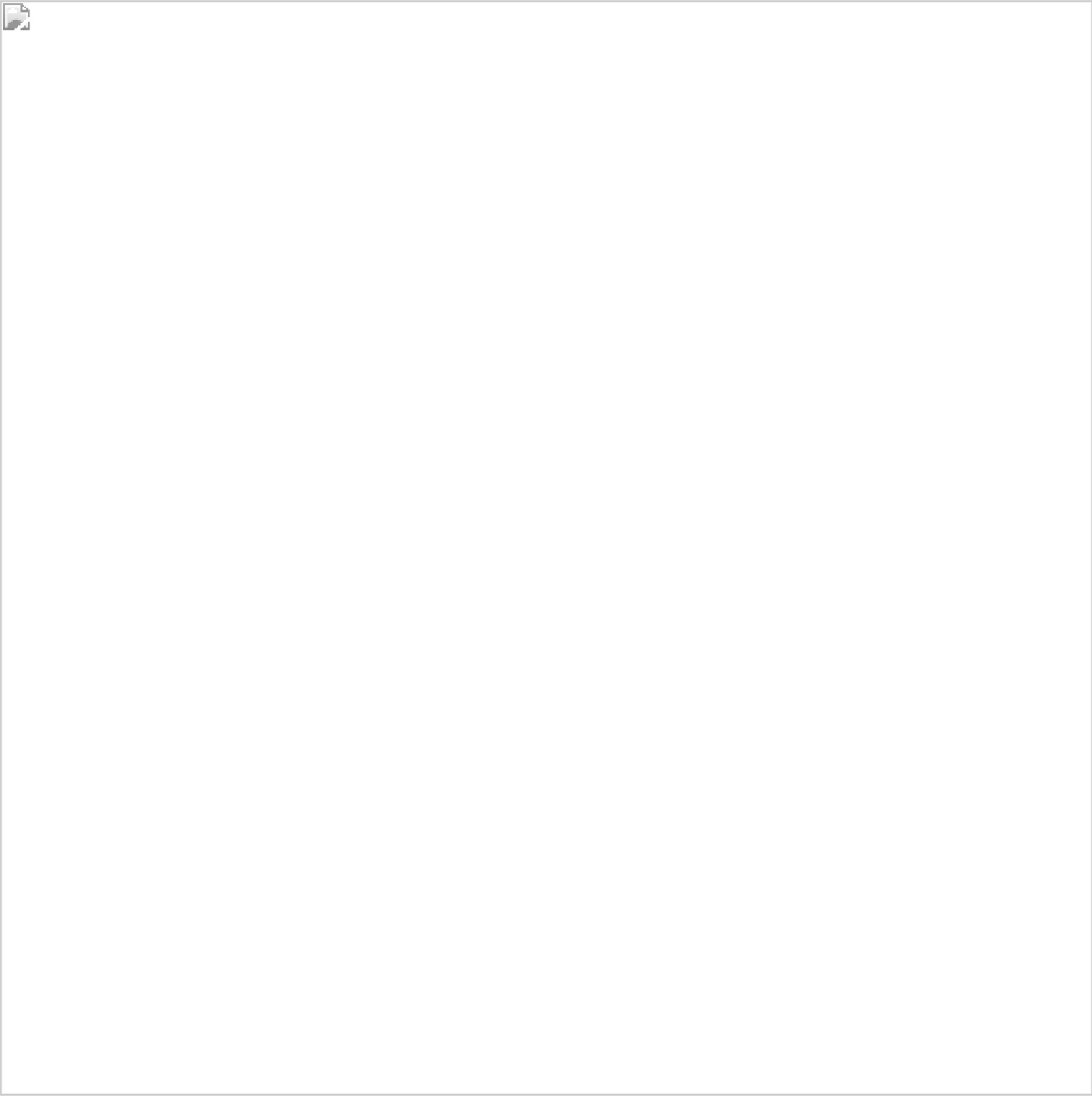


Think about it

1. How many conditions did the peacock ask Iktomi to keep?

- ○ Ten
- ○ One
- ○ Three

A Peacock Who Wants to Fly



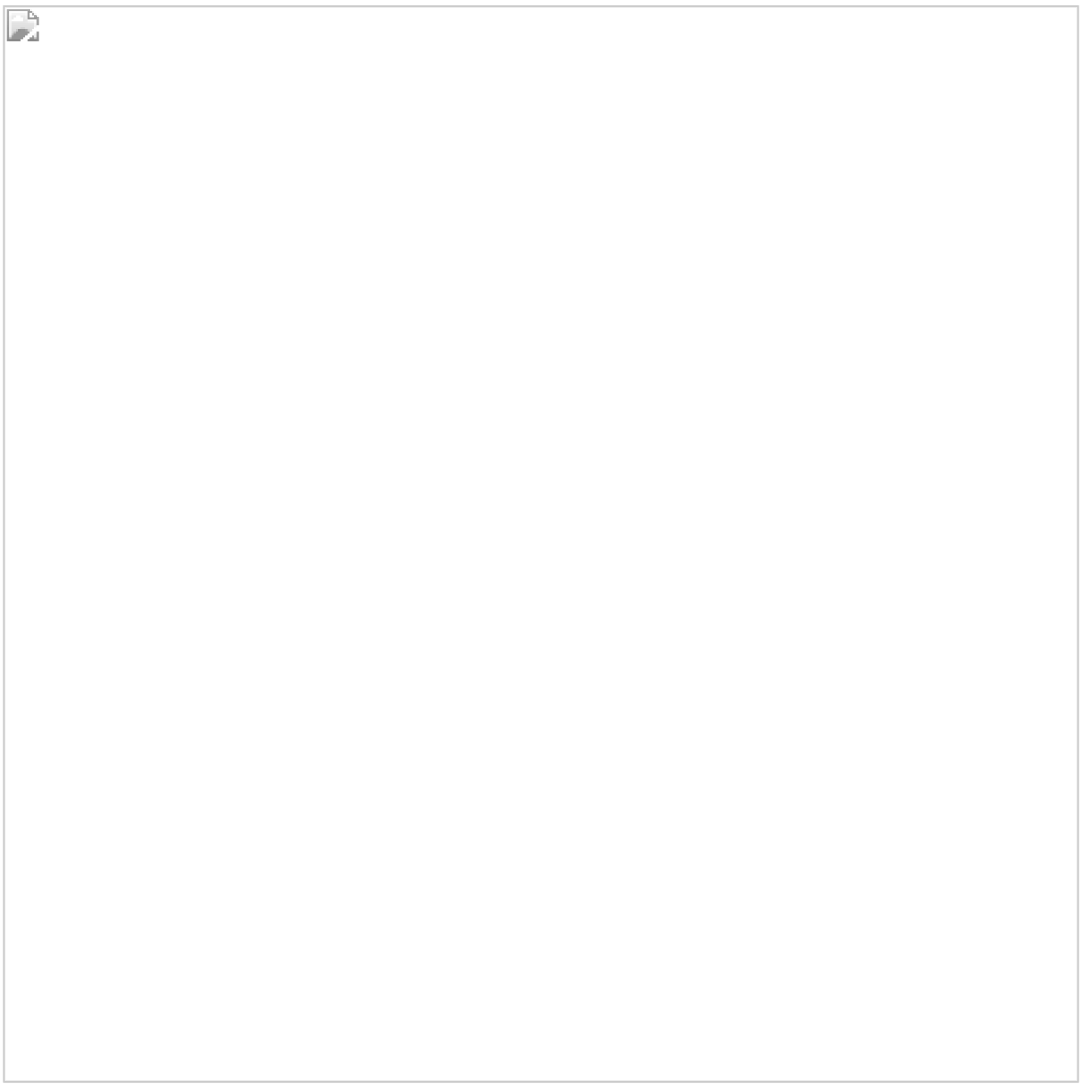
One bird strutted about, dizzy with his own bright colors. The other flew up to sit on a high limb in the warm sun.

The new peacock flew up to join him. “Oh!” he said, “how hard to fly!” Then the older bird told him the one condition. “Never try to fly like other birds.”

If he did, he would be changed back into his old self.

TALK ABOUT IT

That was a hard rule for a bird with wings. What is a rule that is hard for you to keep?

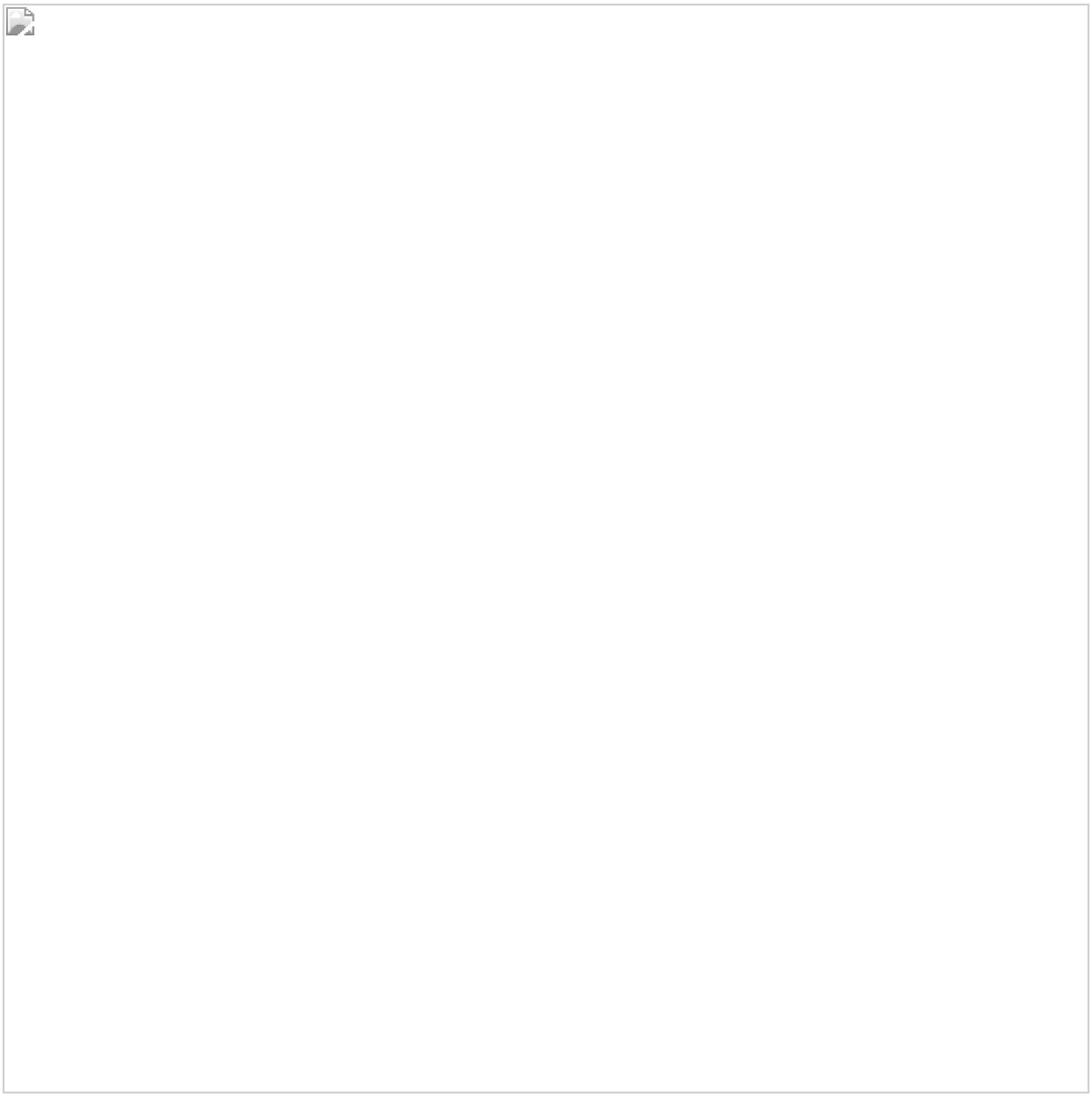


Think about it

1. What was the one condition?

- Never sing
- Never try to fly like other birds
- Never leave the tree

The Flock Goes By



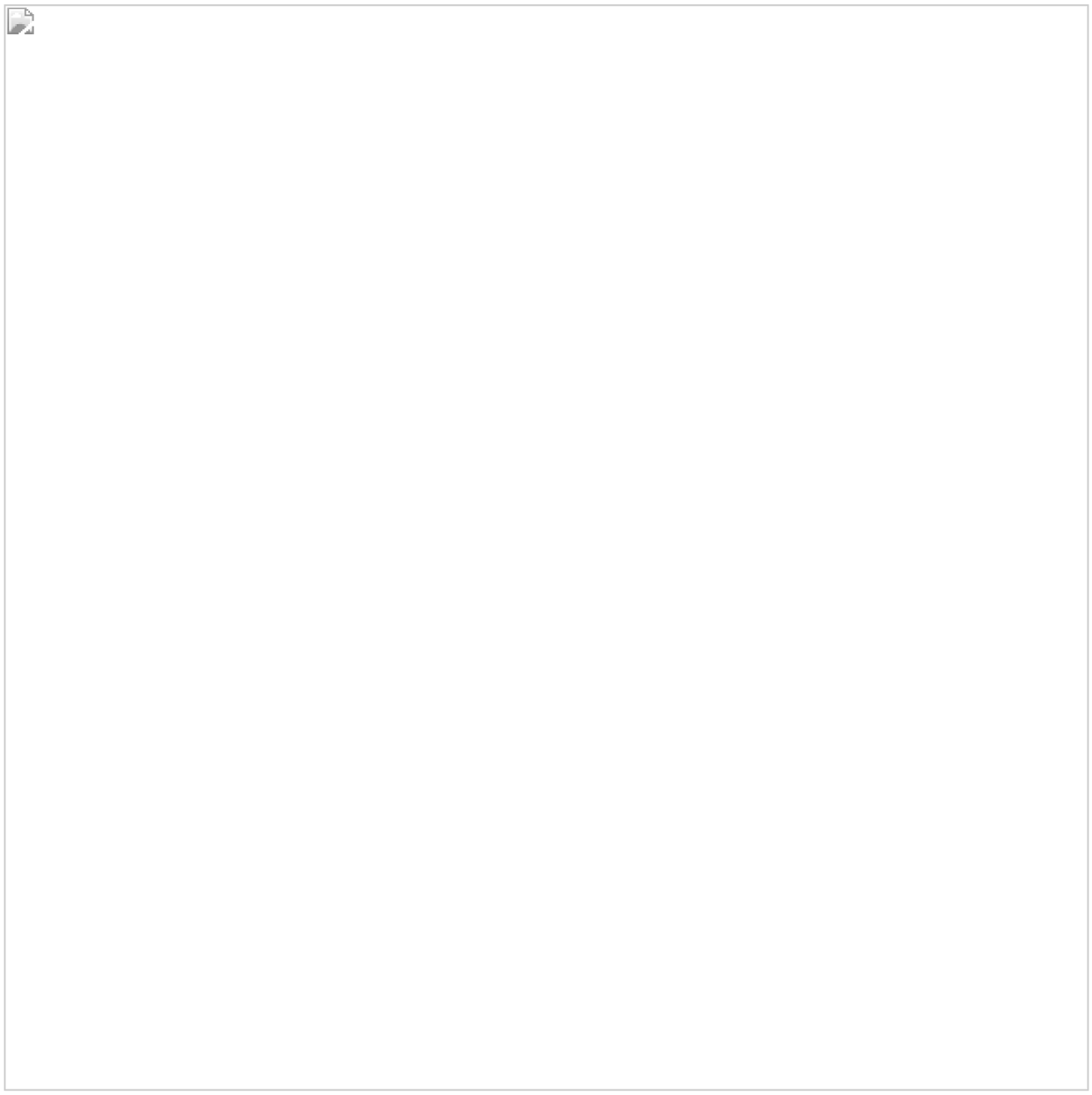
Soon the peacock grew restless. A flock of chattering birds went flying by. “I must try my wings!” he said.

“No, no!” clucked the elder bird. But the peacock called out, “He! I want to come! Wait for me!” and he gave a lunge into the air.

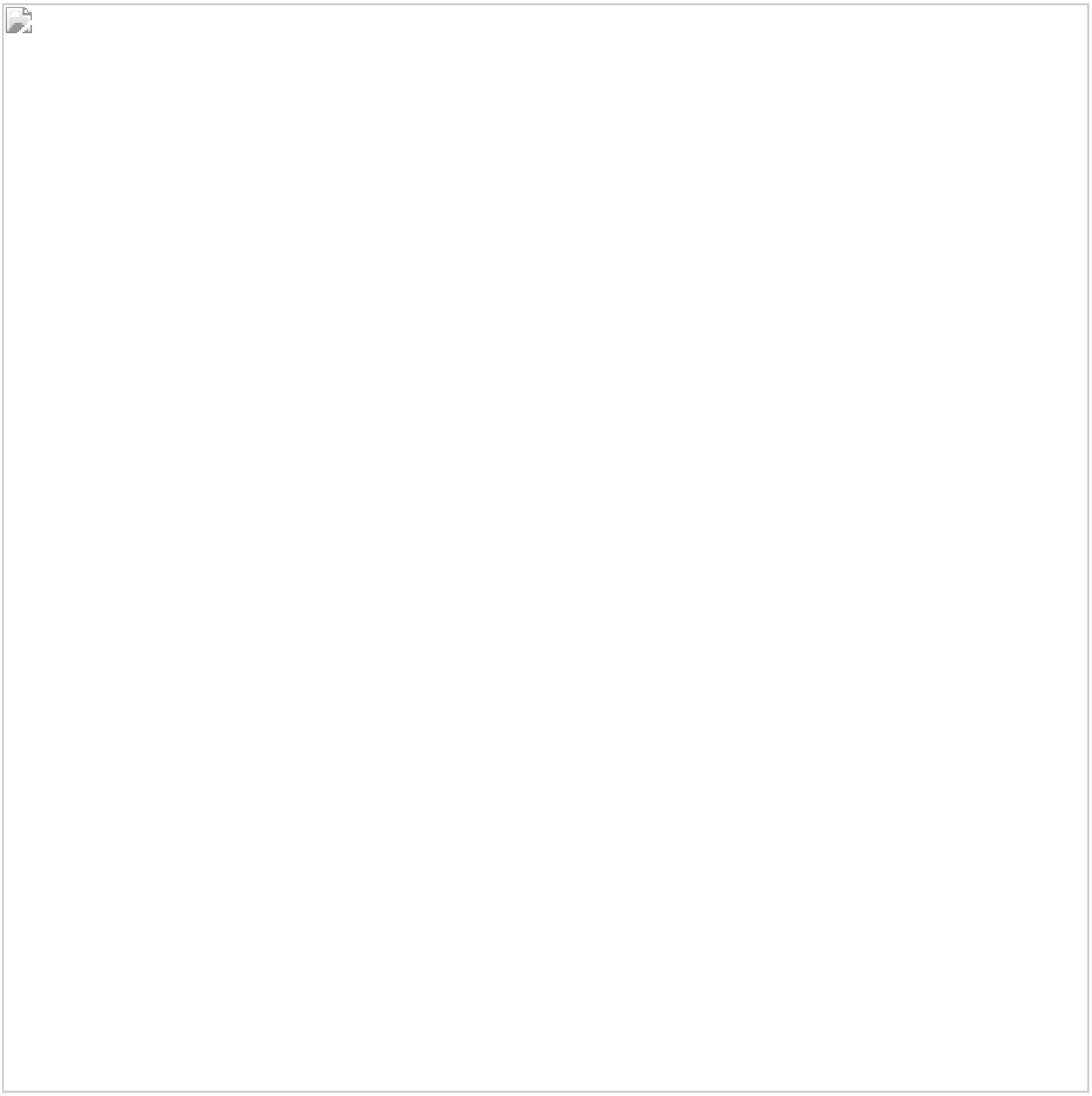
The flock turned and came down over the tree. Only one bright bird sat there. Below, on the ground, stood a man in brown buckskins. It was Iktomi.

TALK ABOUT IT

The wish to fly was too strong. Have you ever wanted something so much that you forgot a promise?



Old Iktomi Wants to Fly



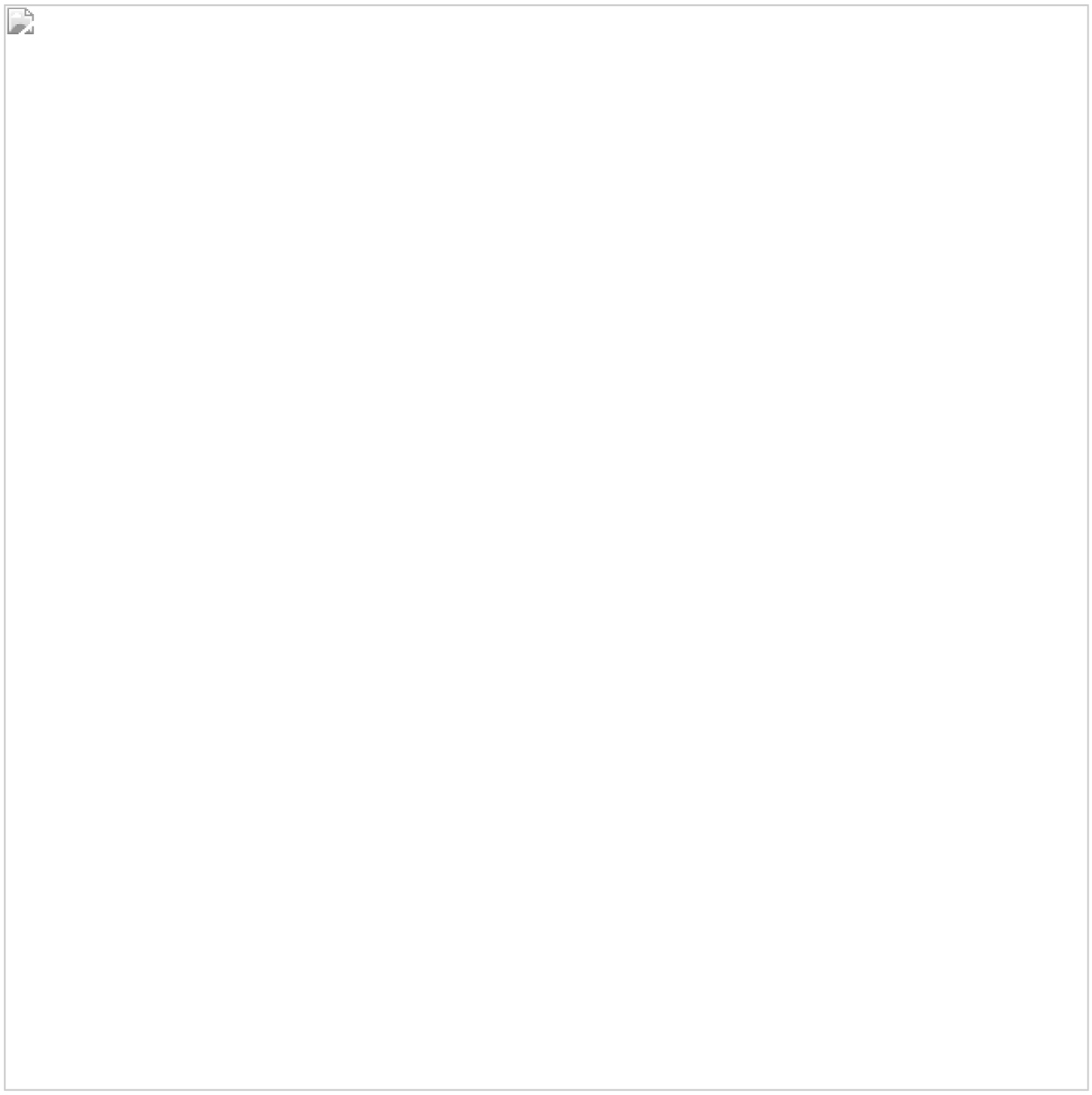
“I am my old self again!” groaned Iktomi in a sad voice. “Make me over, pretty bird. Try me this once again!” But the bird said no.

“Old Iktomi wants to fly! Ah! We cannot wait for him!” sang the birds, and they flew away.

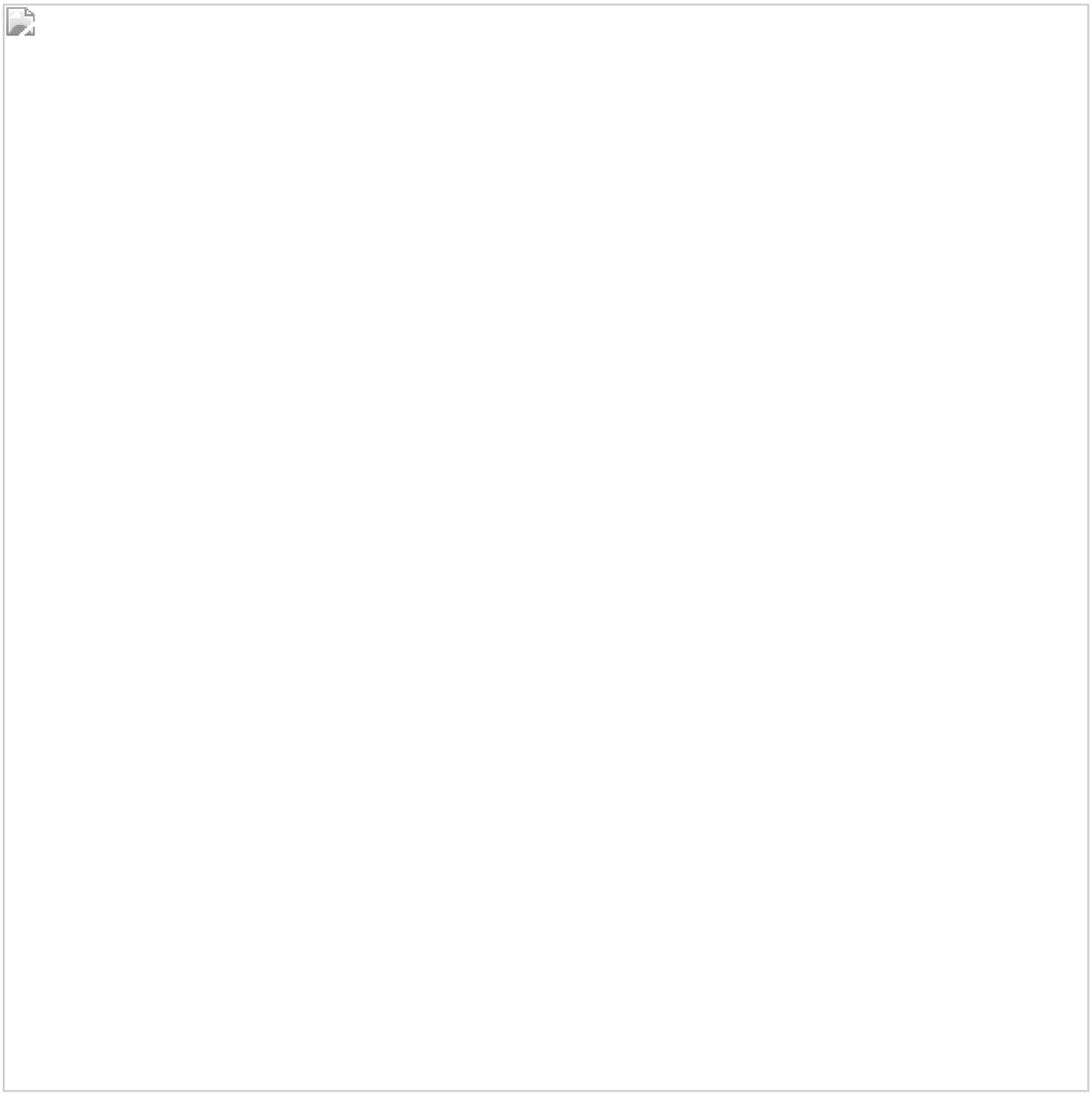
TALK ABOUT IT

Iktomi asked for another try, but the answer was no. How do you feel when you ask and the answer is no?

Old Iktomi Wants to Fly · another picture



The Arrows



Iktomi walked on, muttering. Soon he came upon a bunch of long slender arrows. One by one they rose in the air and shot straight across the prairie. Only one was left.

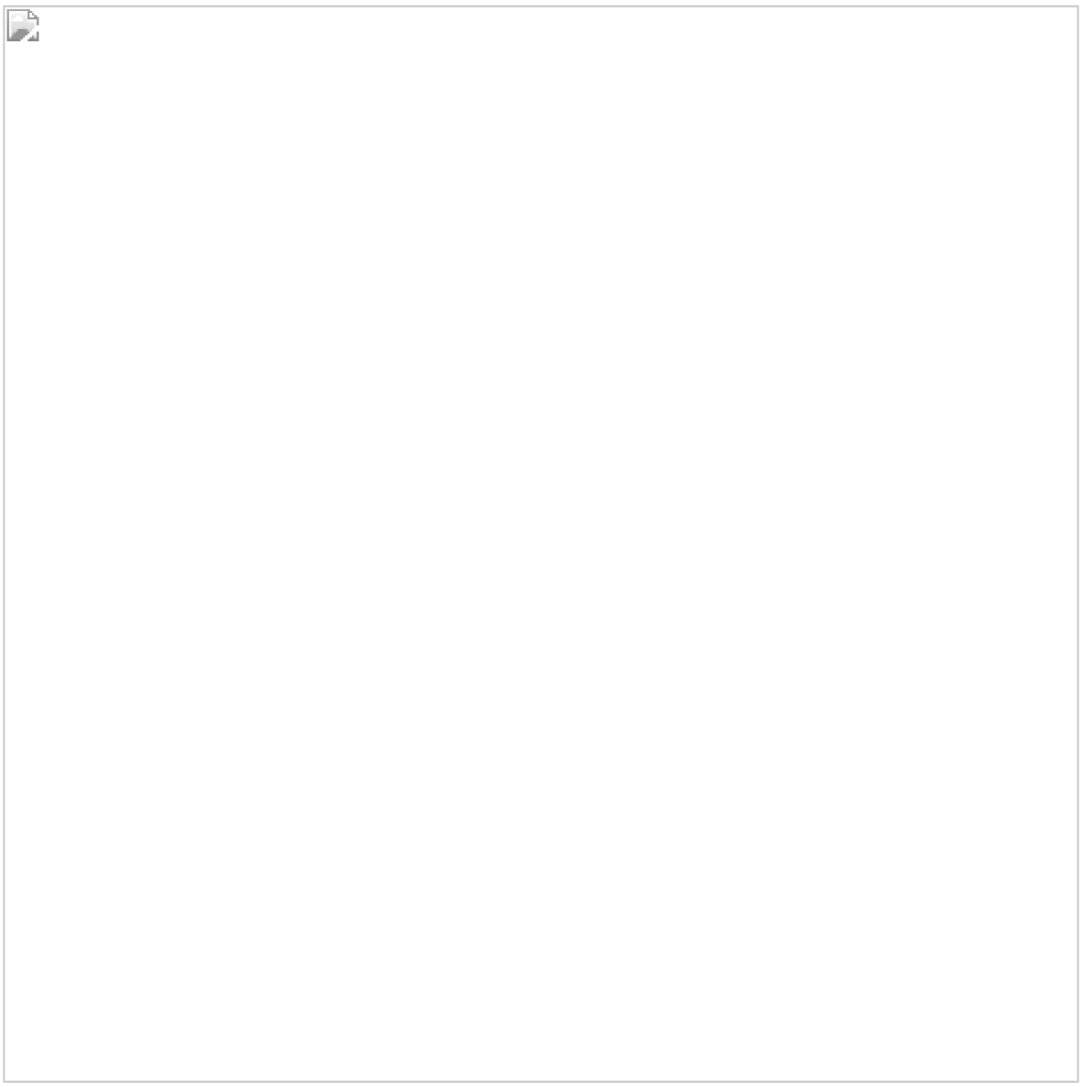
Iktomi rushed up and cried, “Make me into an arrow!” “Can you keep a condition? One condition, though hard it be?” the arrow asked.

“Yes! Yes!” shouted Iktomi. The arrow tapped him with his sharp flint beak. Now two arrows stood ready to fly.

TALK ABOUT IT

Iktomi asked for a new wish right after losing the first one. What do you think of that?

The Arrows · another picture

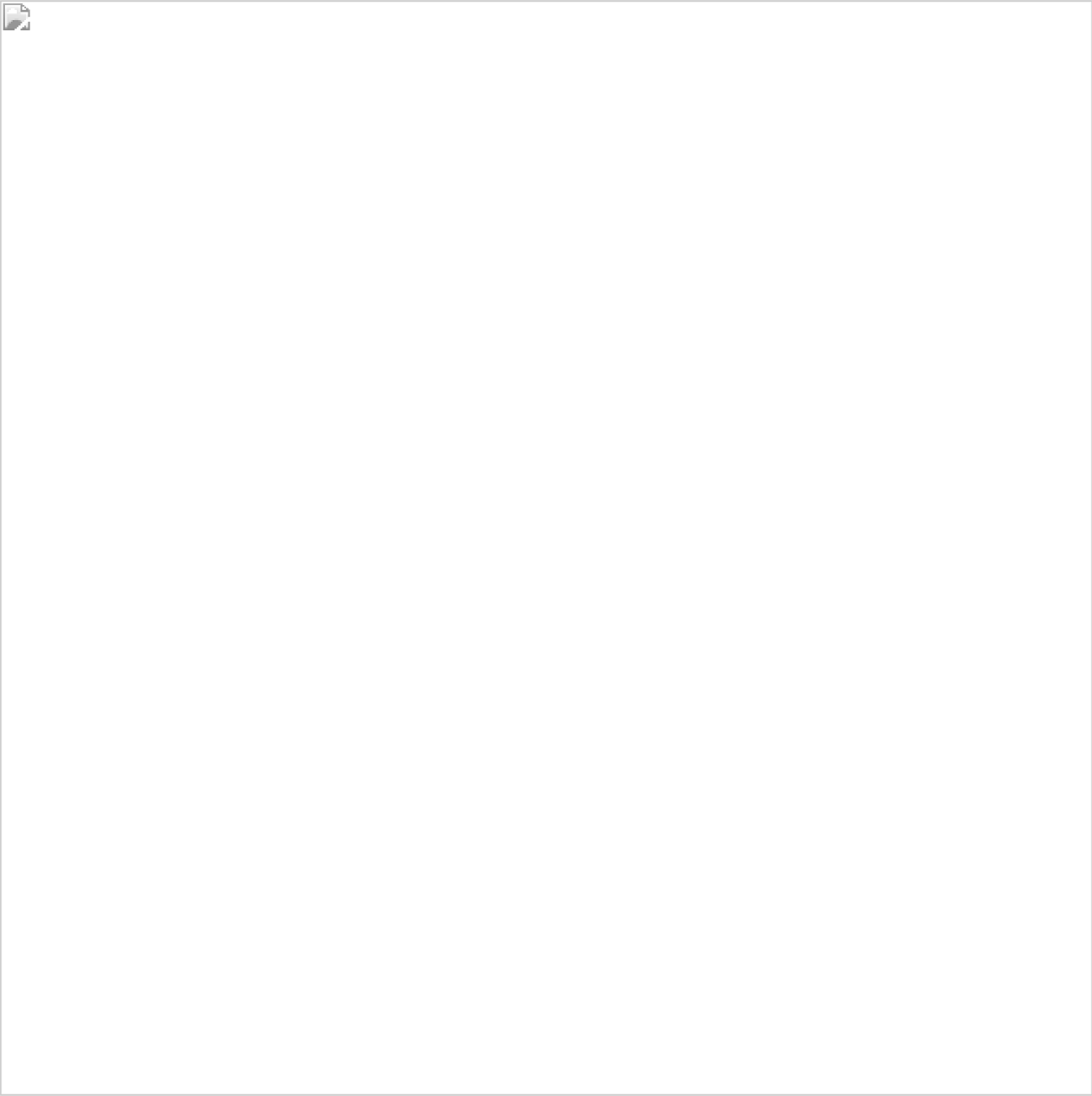


Think about it

1. What did Iktomi ask to be made into this time?

- ○ A deer
- ○ An arrow
- ○ A fish

A Straight Line

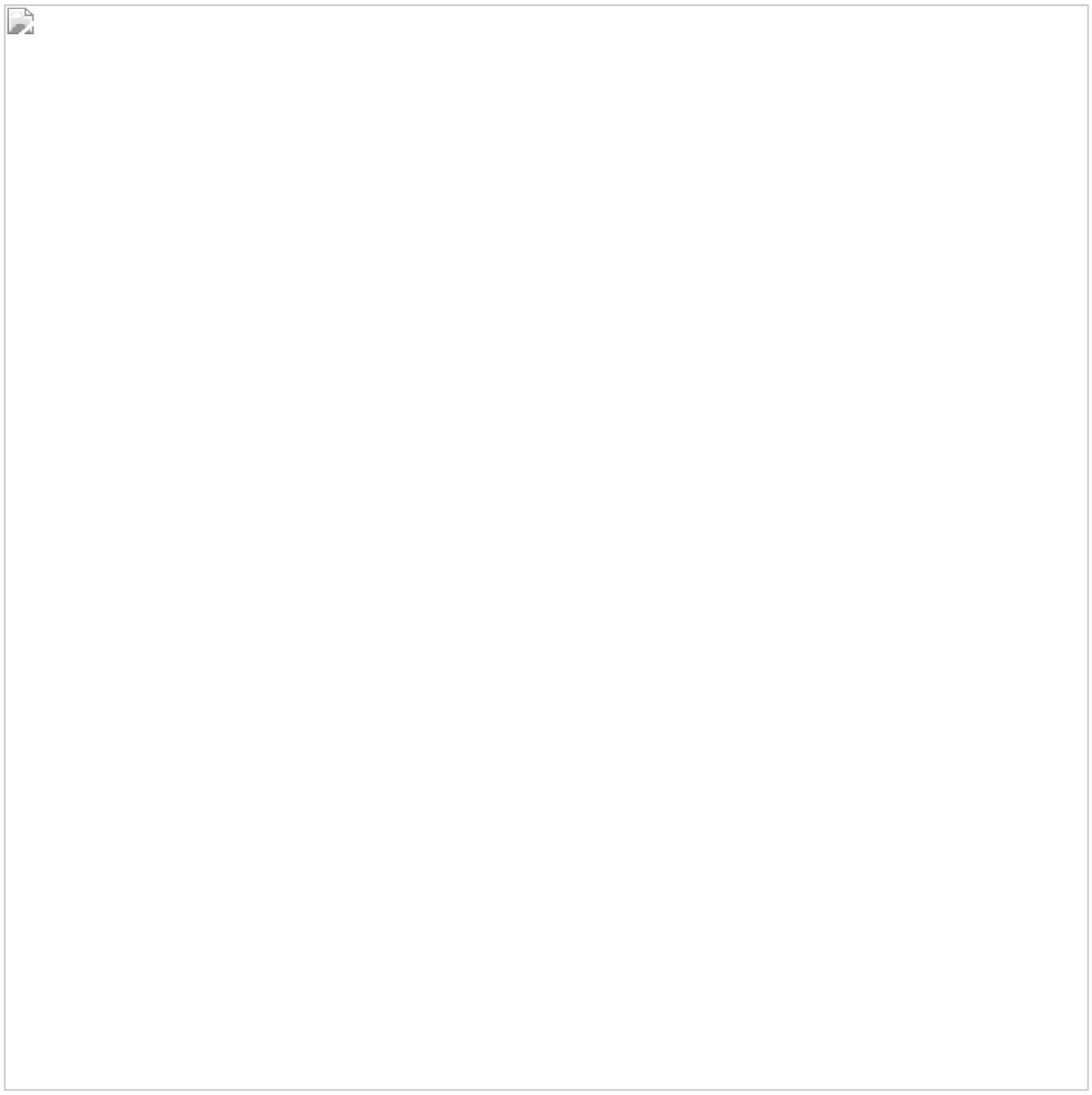


The arrow magician spoke slowly and sternly. “Your flight must always be in a straight line. Never turn a curve nor jump about like a young fawn,” he said.

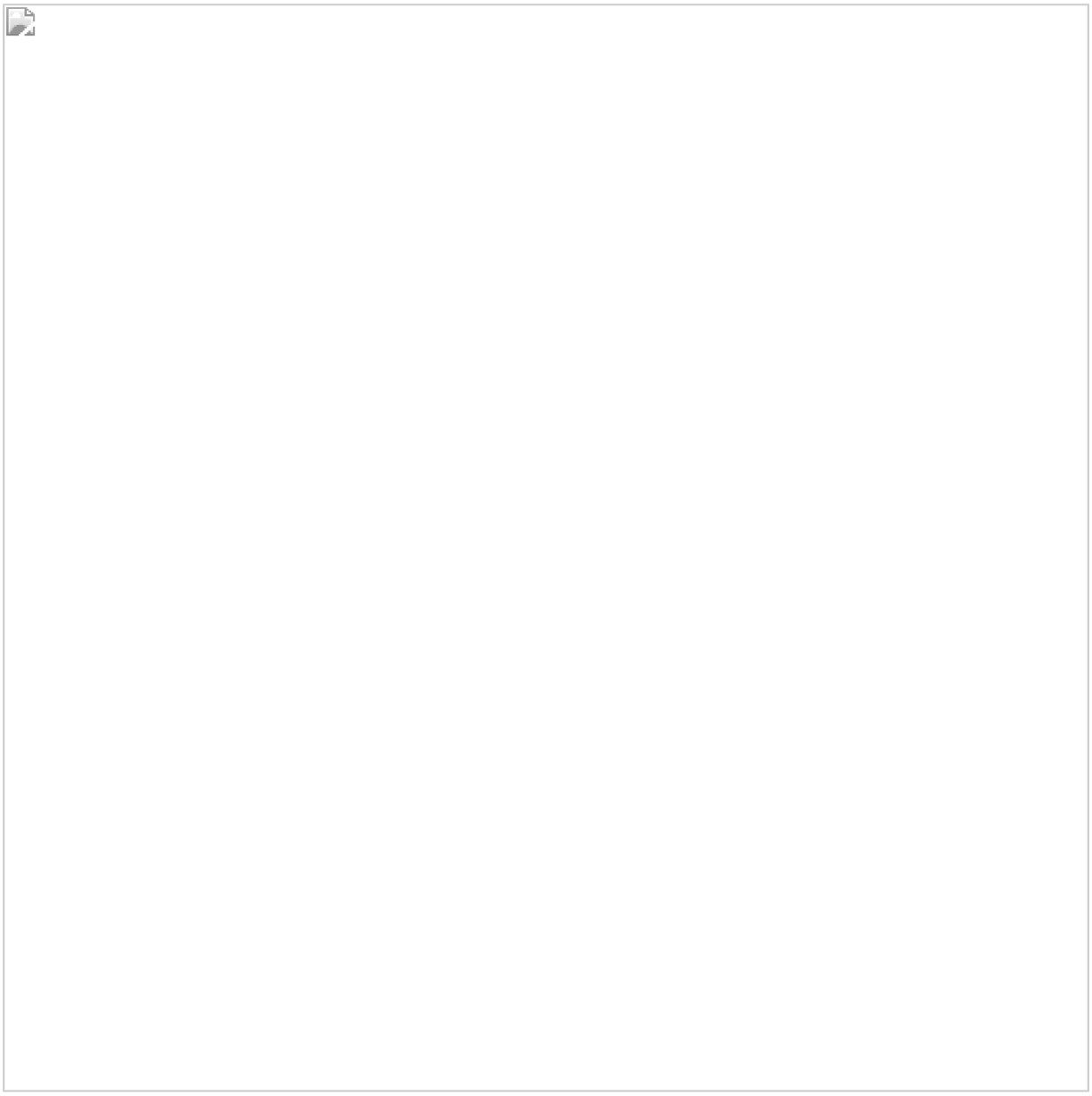
He began to teach the new arrow to fly straight. Then he shot off high into the sky to show the way.

TALK ABOUT IT

Now the rule was about jumping like a fawn. Do you think Iktomi could keep it?



The Fawns at Play



While the magician was away, a herd of deer came trotting by. Behind them the young fawns played together. They bounced on all fours like balls and kicked their heels in the air.

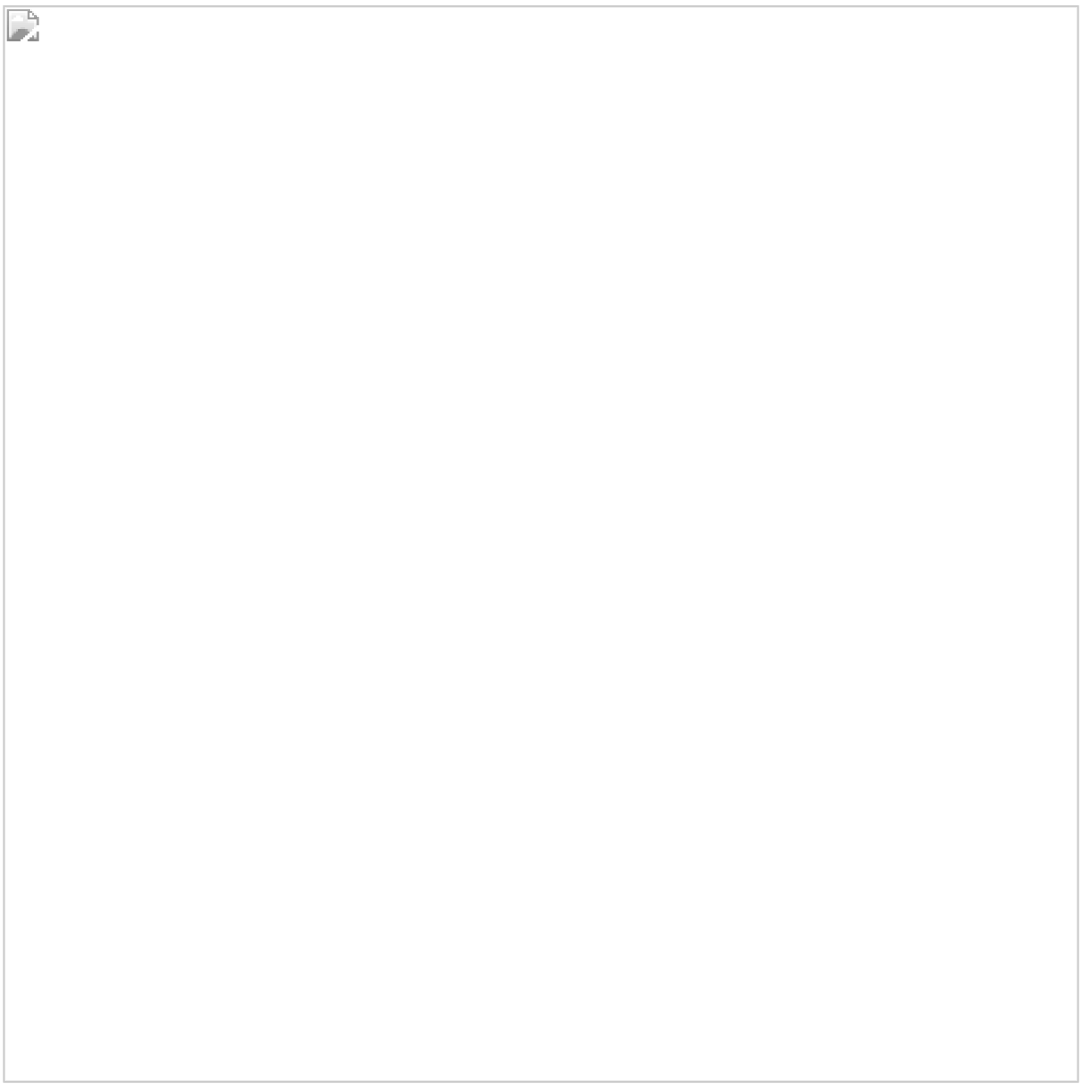
The Iktomi arrow said in his heart, “The magician is out of sight. I'll just romp and frolic with these fawns until he returns.”

He gave one tiny leap like a fawn. All at once, there among them stood Iktomi in brown buckskins, and the arrow was gone.

TALK ABOUT IT

Iktomi only jumped once. Was that a small thing or a big thing? What do you think?

The Fawns at Play · another picture

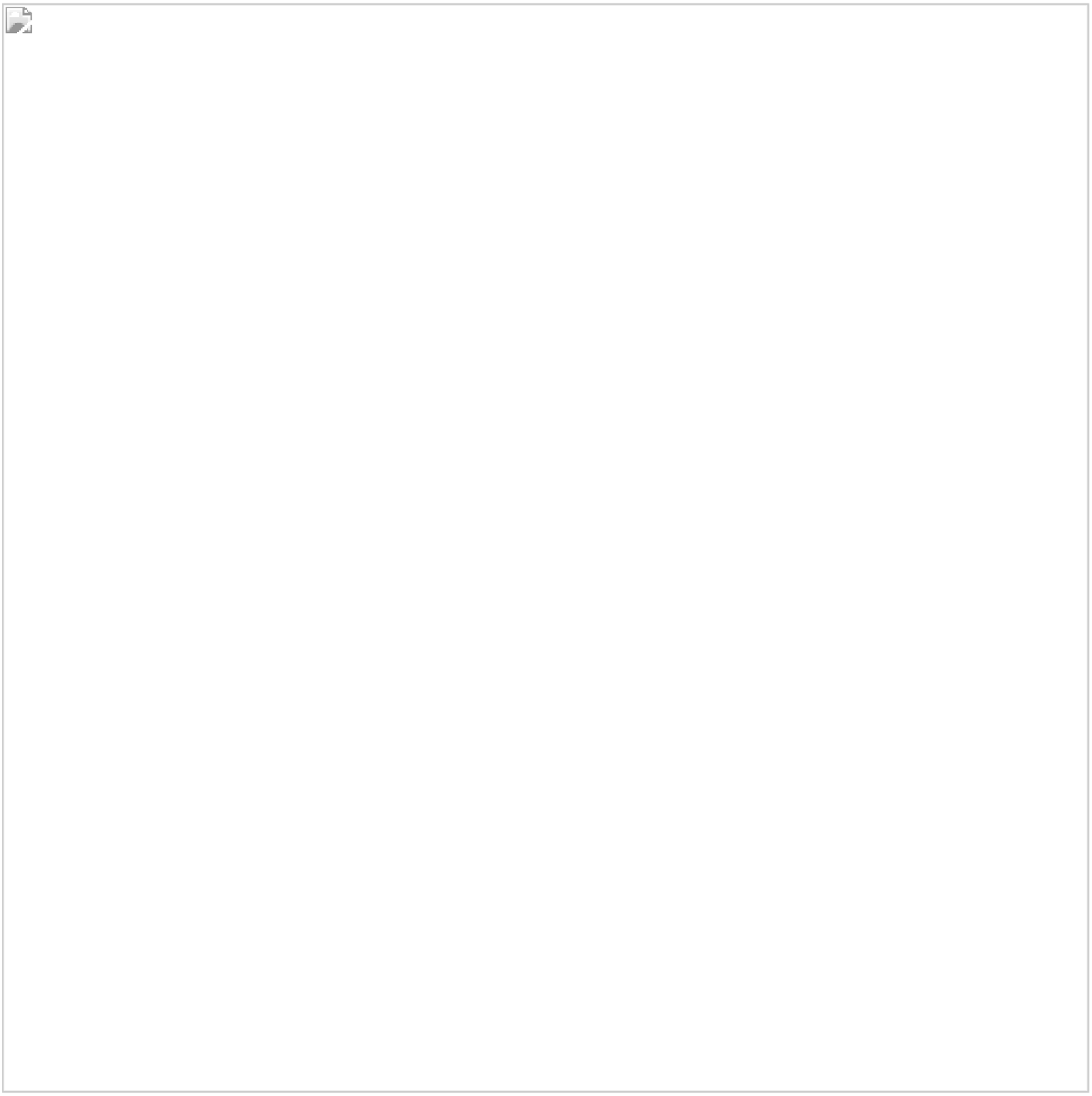


Think about it

1. What did Iktomi do that broke the condition?

- ○ He leaped like a fawn
- ○ He fell asleep
- ○ He flew too high

No More



The real arrow came back down. He had seen the fawns playing. He had seen Iktomi make his one leap.

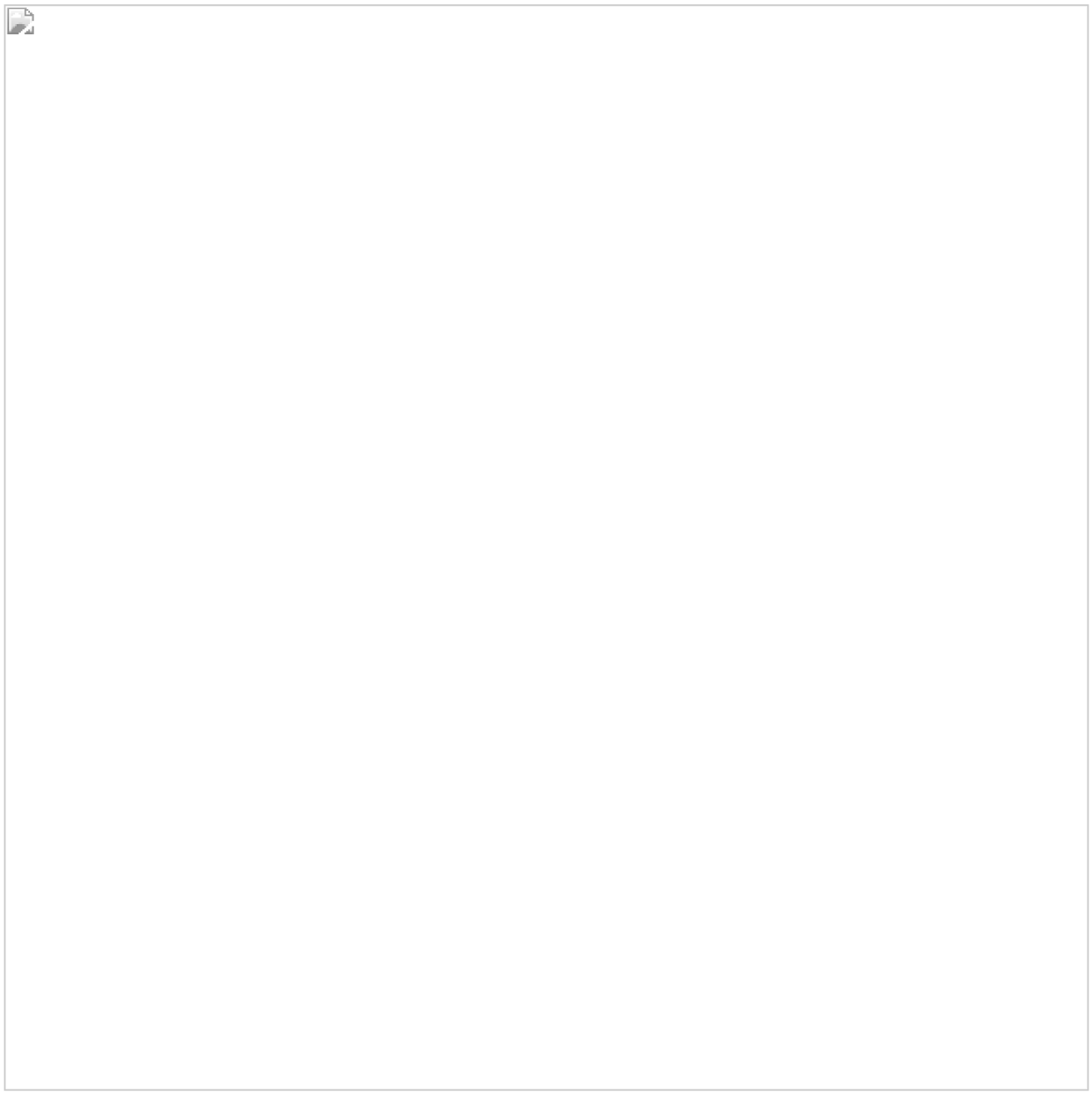
“Arrow, my friend, change me once more!” begged Iktomi. “No, no more,” replied the arrow. Then away he shot through the air after his friends.

Iktomi cried tears like a spring shower. But a new wish dried them quickly away.

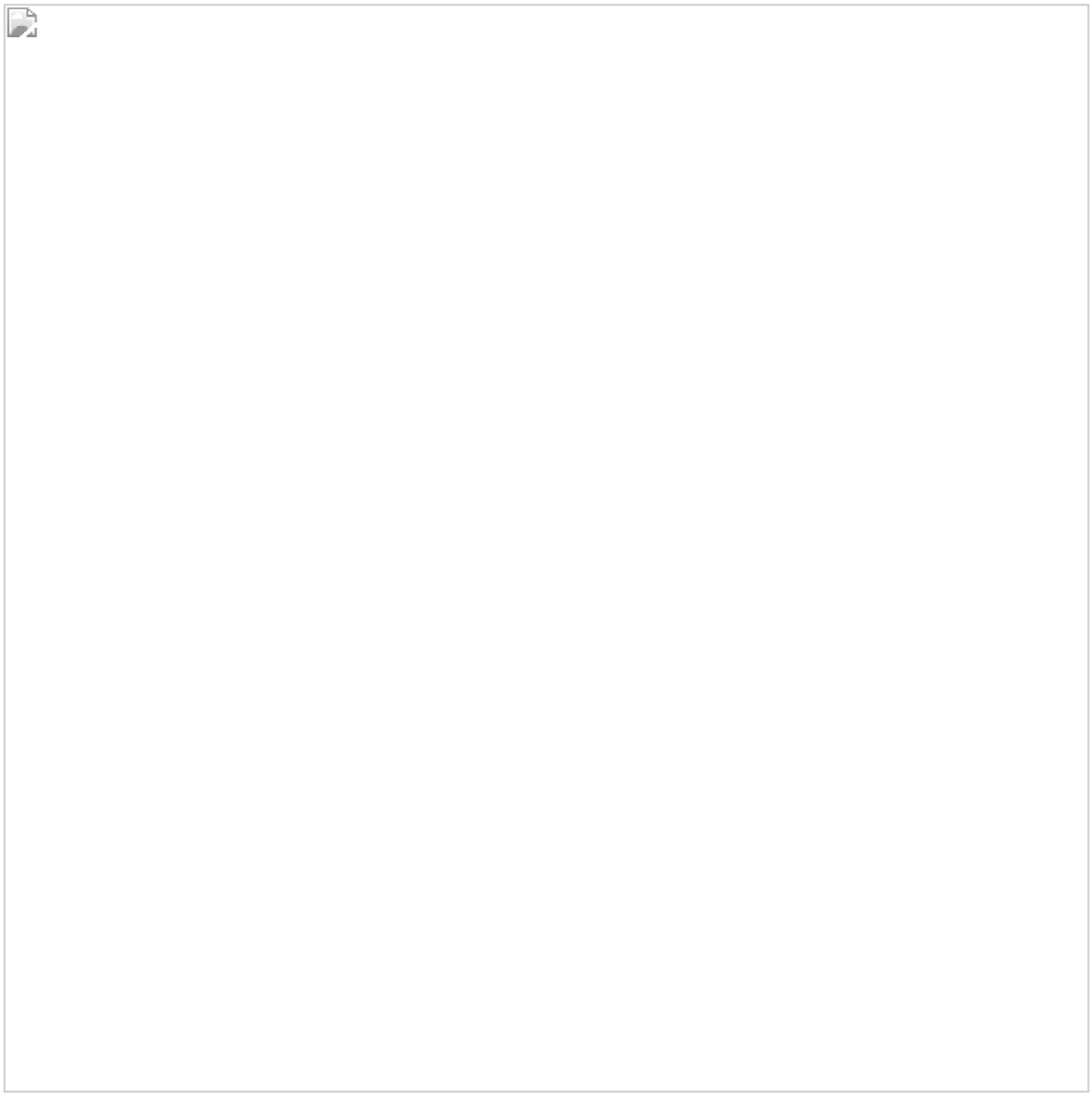
TALK ABOUT IT

Iktomi lost two chances. What would you tell Iktomi, if you could sit beside him?

No More · another picture



The Brown Spots



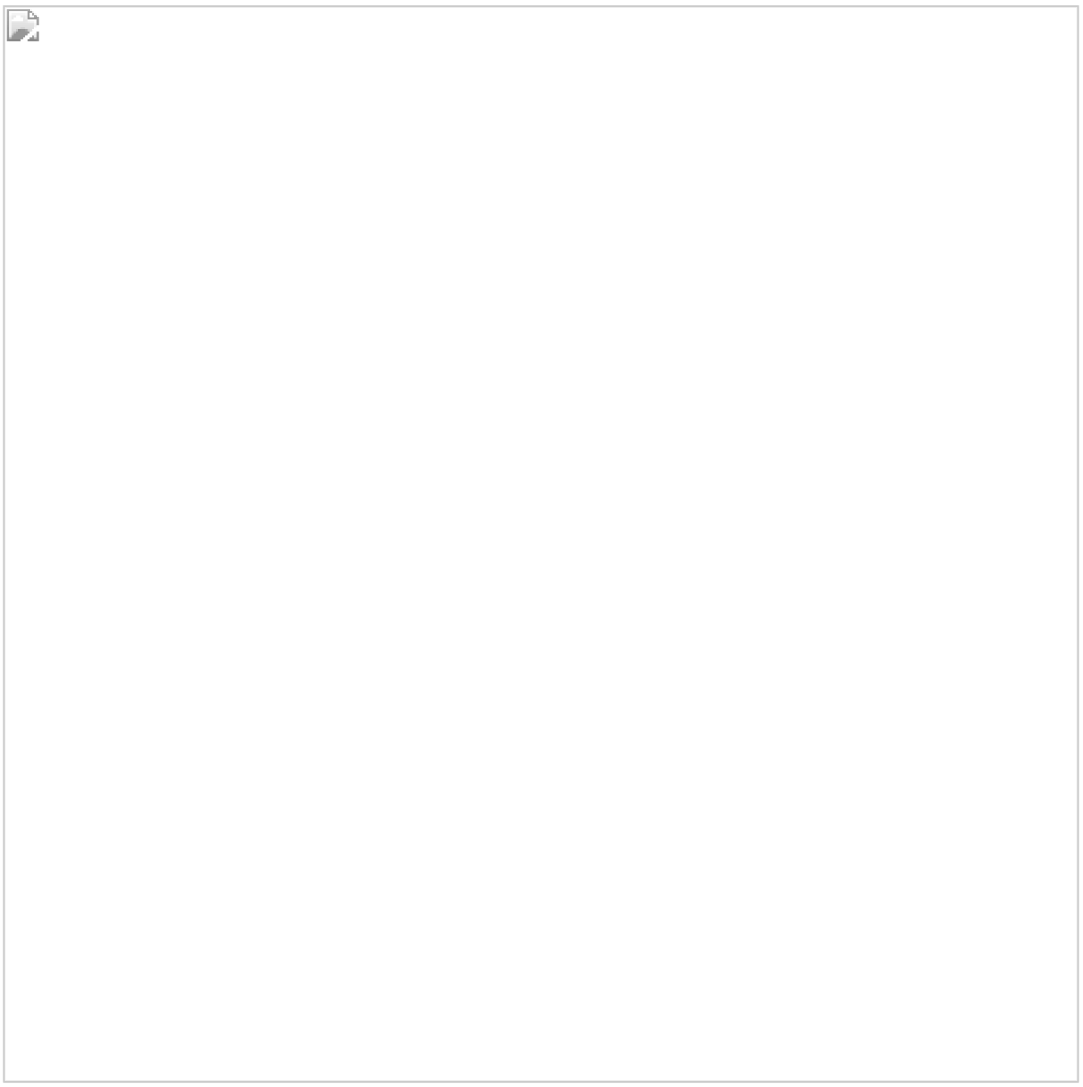
The fawns gathered around him and poked their noses at him. Iktomi looked closely at the little brown spots on the largest fawn's face.

“Oh, fawn! What beautiful brown spots on your face!” he said. “Can you tell me how those brown spots were made?”

The fawn said, “When I was very, very small, my mother marked them on my face with a red hot fire.” She had dug a hole, made a soft bed of grass, and covered the fawn with dry sweet grass and cedar. Then she tucked a red ember in at his head.

TALK ABOUT IT

Iktomi always wanted to be like somebody else. Who do you like to be like, and why?

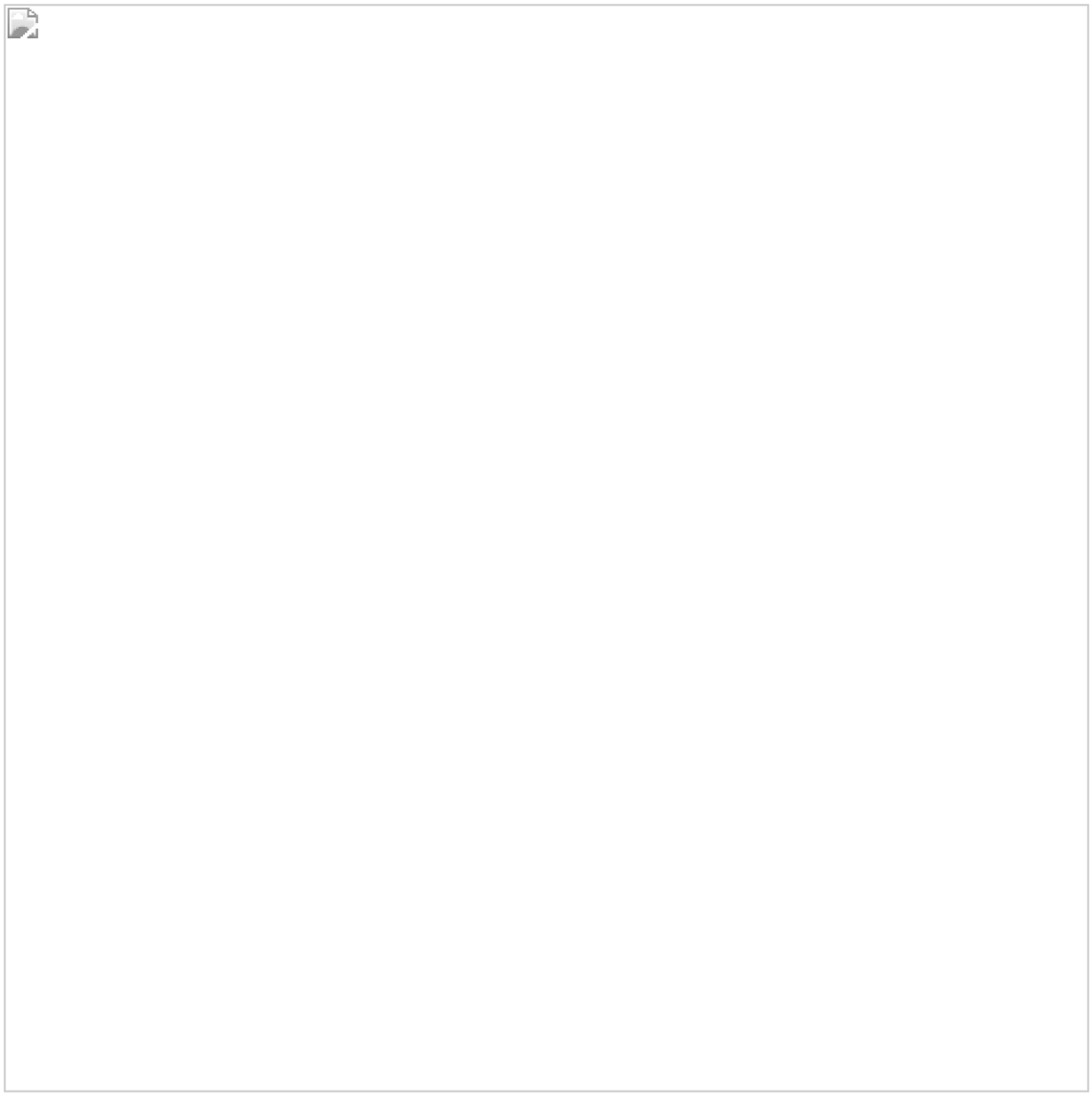


Think about it

1. What did Iktomi admire on the fawn?

- ○ Its long legs
- ○ The brown spots on its face
- ○ Its antlers

The Pit of Grass



“Now, fawn, my friend, will you do the same for me?” asked Iktomi. The fawn said she could dig the ground and fill it with dry grass and sticks.

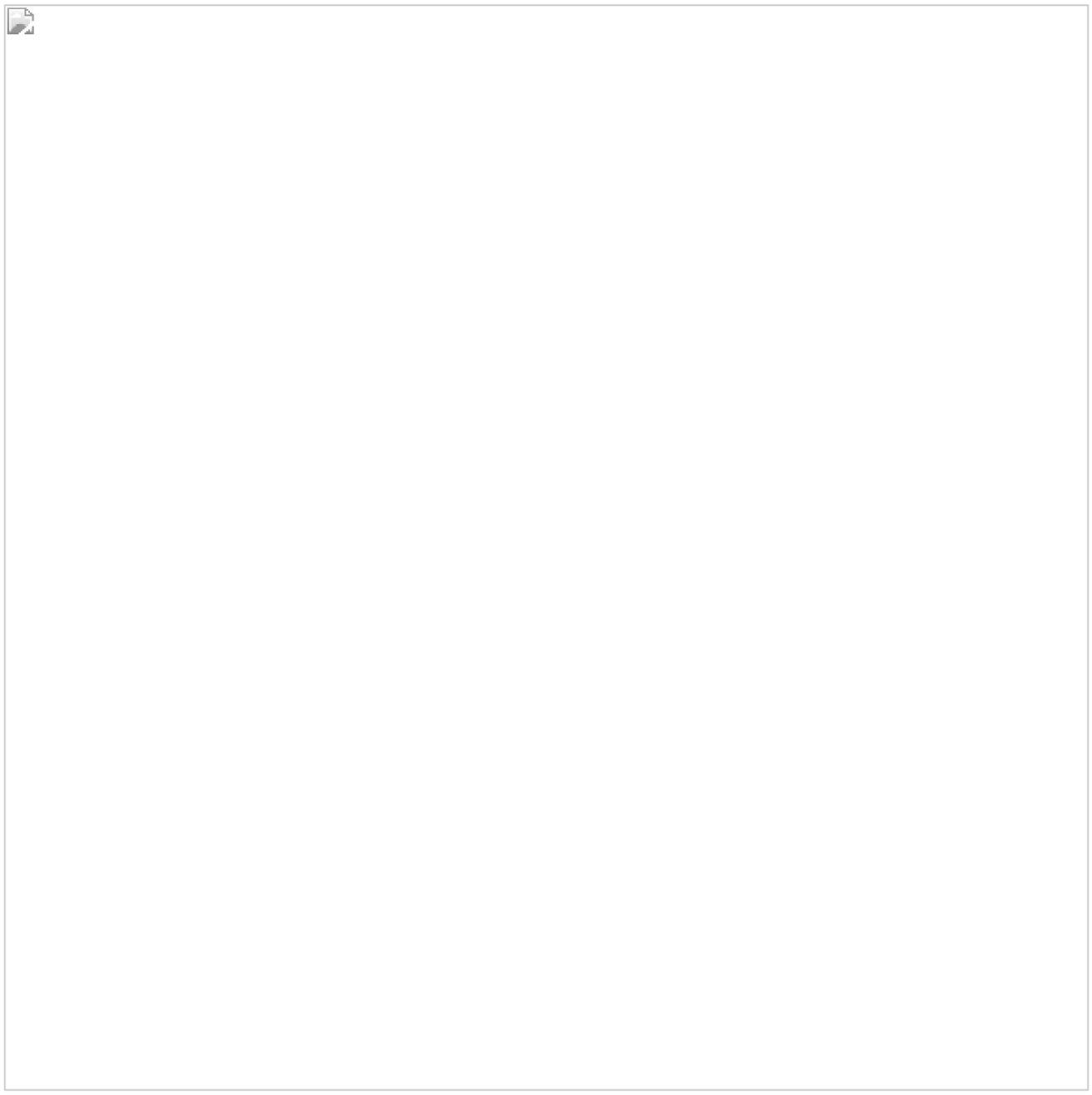
“Will you be sure to cover me with a great deal of dry grass and twigs?” said Iktomi. “Oh, yes. I'll pile up grass and willows once oftener than my mother did.”

Iktomi dug the hole with his own hands and lay down in it, flat on his back. As the fawn covered him with cedars, a far-away voice came up through them: “Brown, brown spots to wear forever!”

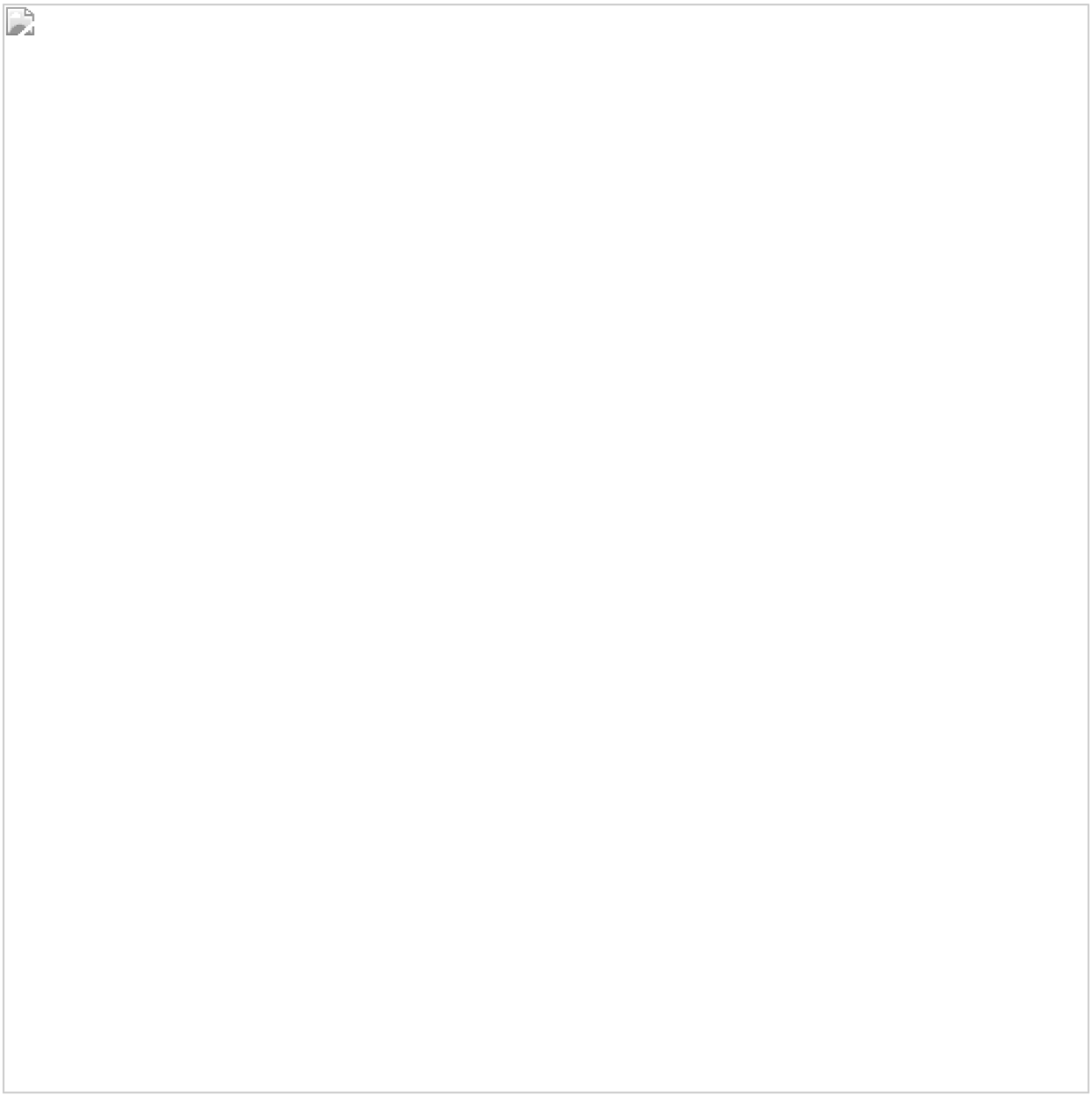
TALK ABOUT IT

The fawn and Iktomi both said what they planned to do. Did Iktomi ask what might happen? What would you ask?

The Pit of Grass · another picture



Blue Smoke



A red ember was tucked under the dry grass. Off scampered the fawns after their mothers. When they were a great distance away, they looked backward. They saw a blue smoke rising and twisting upward until it vanished in the blue sky.

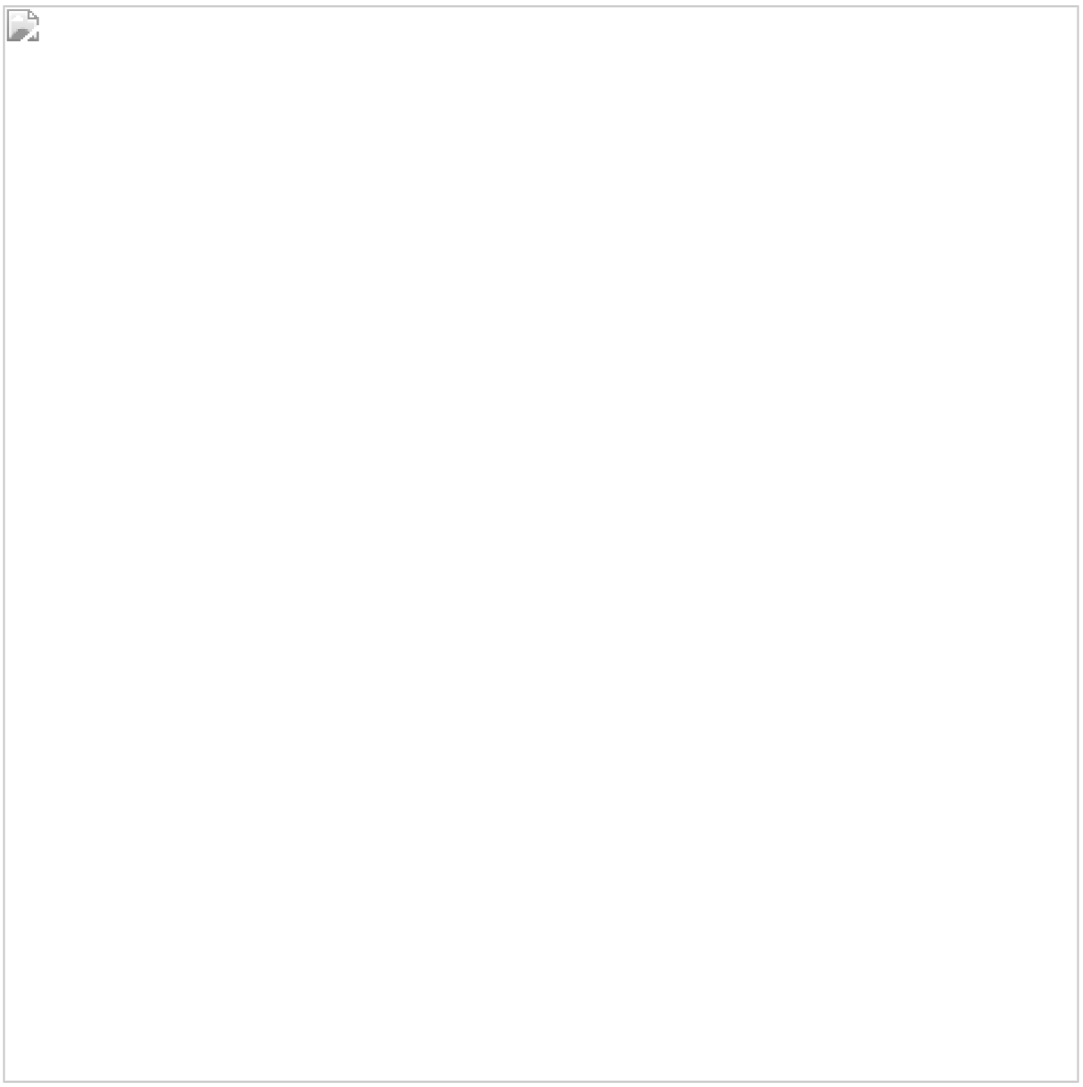
“Is that Iktomi's spirit?” asked one fawn of another.

“No! I think he would jump out before he could burn into smoke and cinders,” answered his comrade.

TALK ABOUT IT

The fawns did not agree about what they saw. What do you think the story wants you to wonder about?

Blue Smoke · another picture



Think about it

1. What did the fawns see when they looked back?

- ○ A blue smoke rising
- ○ A rainbow
- ○ A flock of birds

2. Why do you think the second fawn said Iktomi would jump out?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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