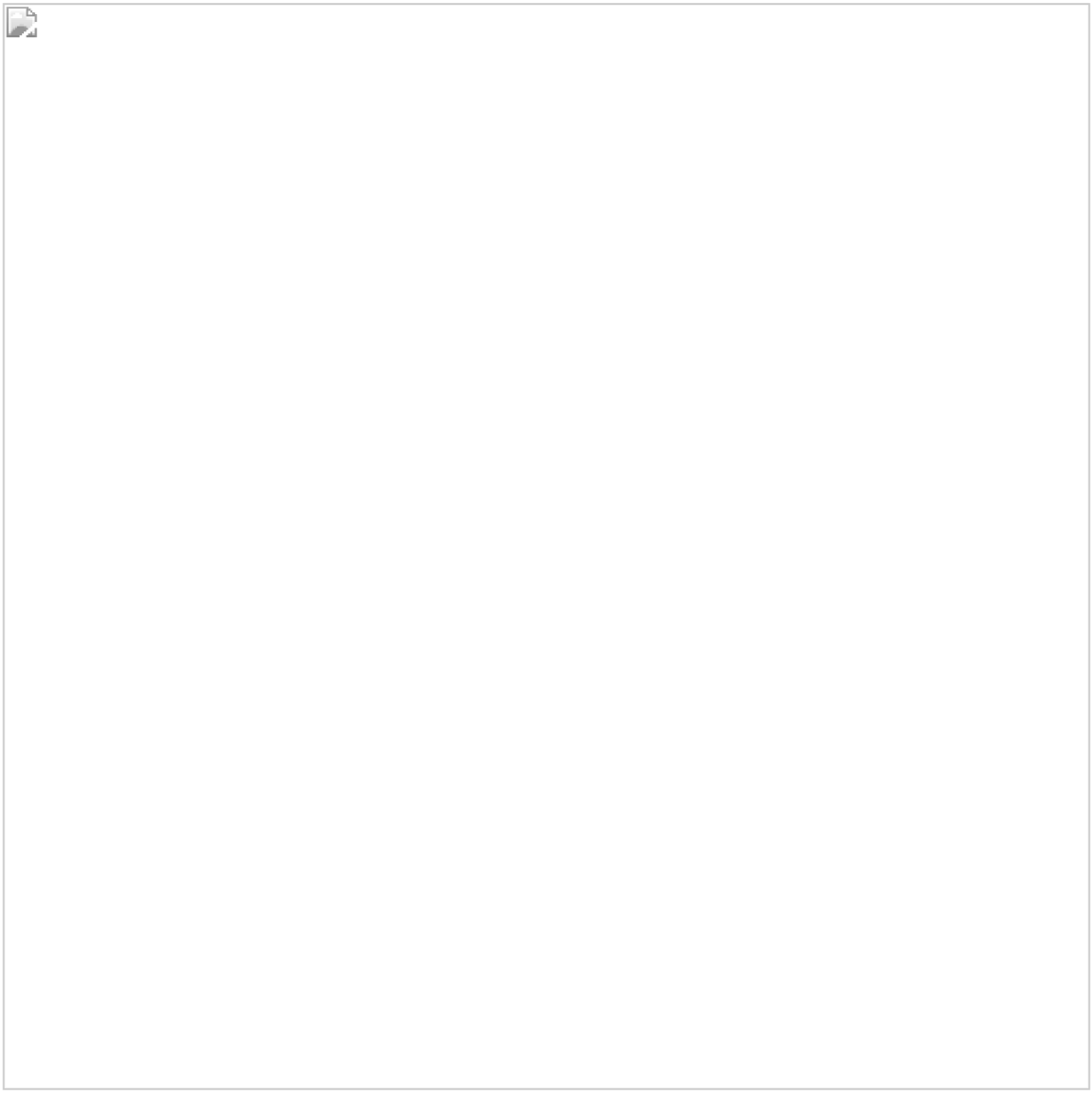
COLORING THE CLASSICS

King O'Toole and His Goose

A Tale from Ireland



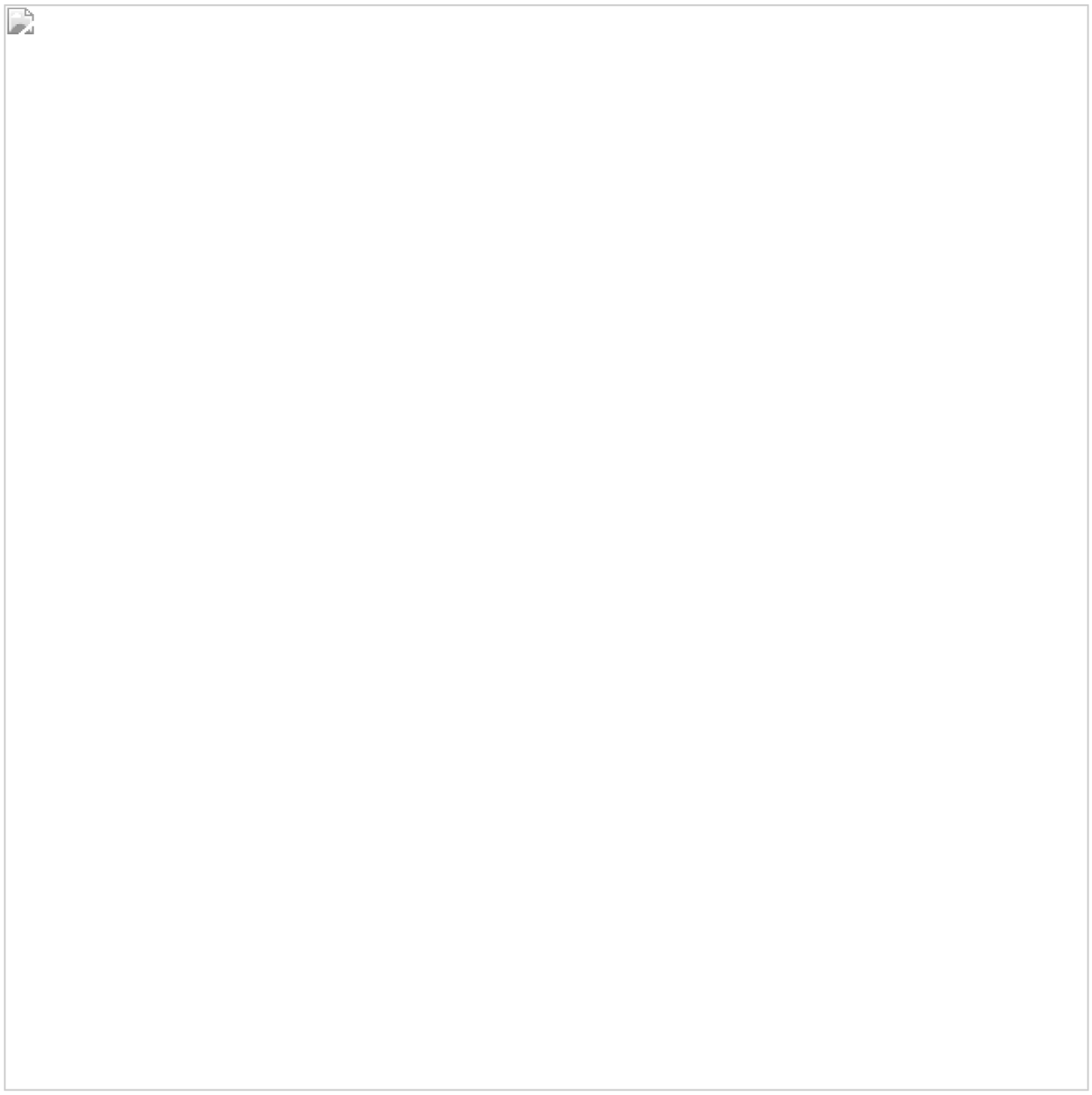
There was a king called King O'Toole, “a fine old king in the old ancient times, long ago.”

TALK ABOUT IT

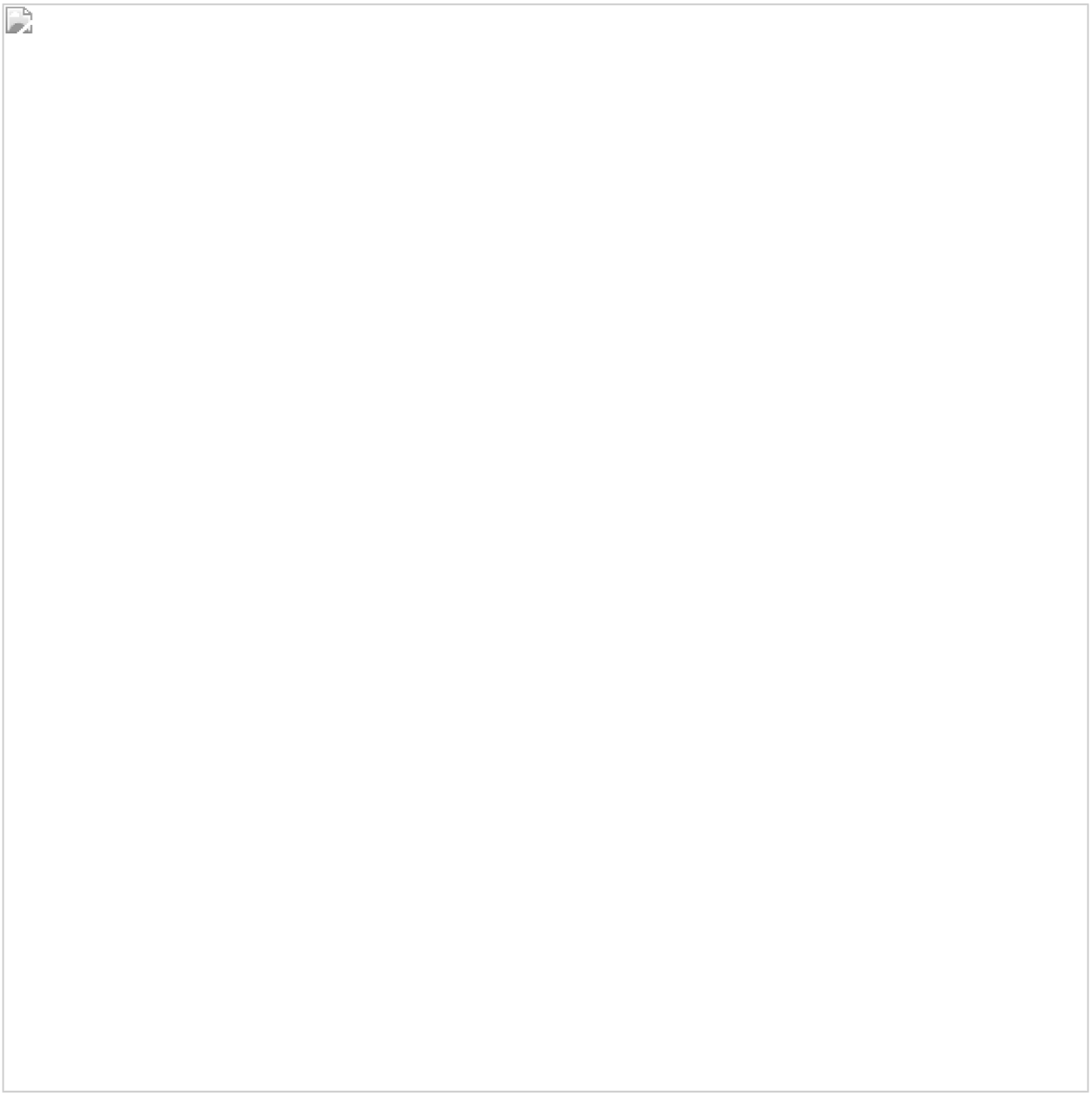
Do you have a favourite animal? What do you like about it?

This book belongs to _____

King O'Toole and His Goose · another picture



The Hunting King



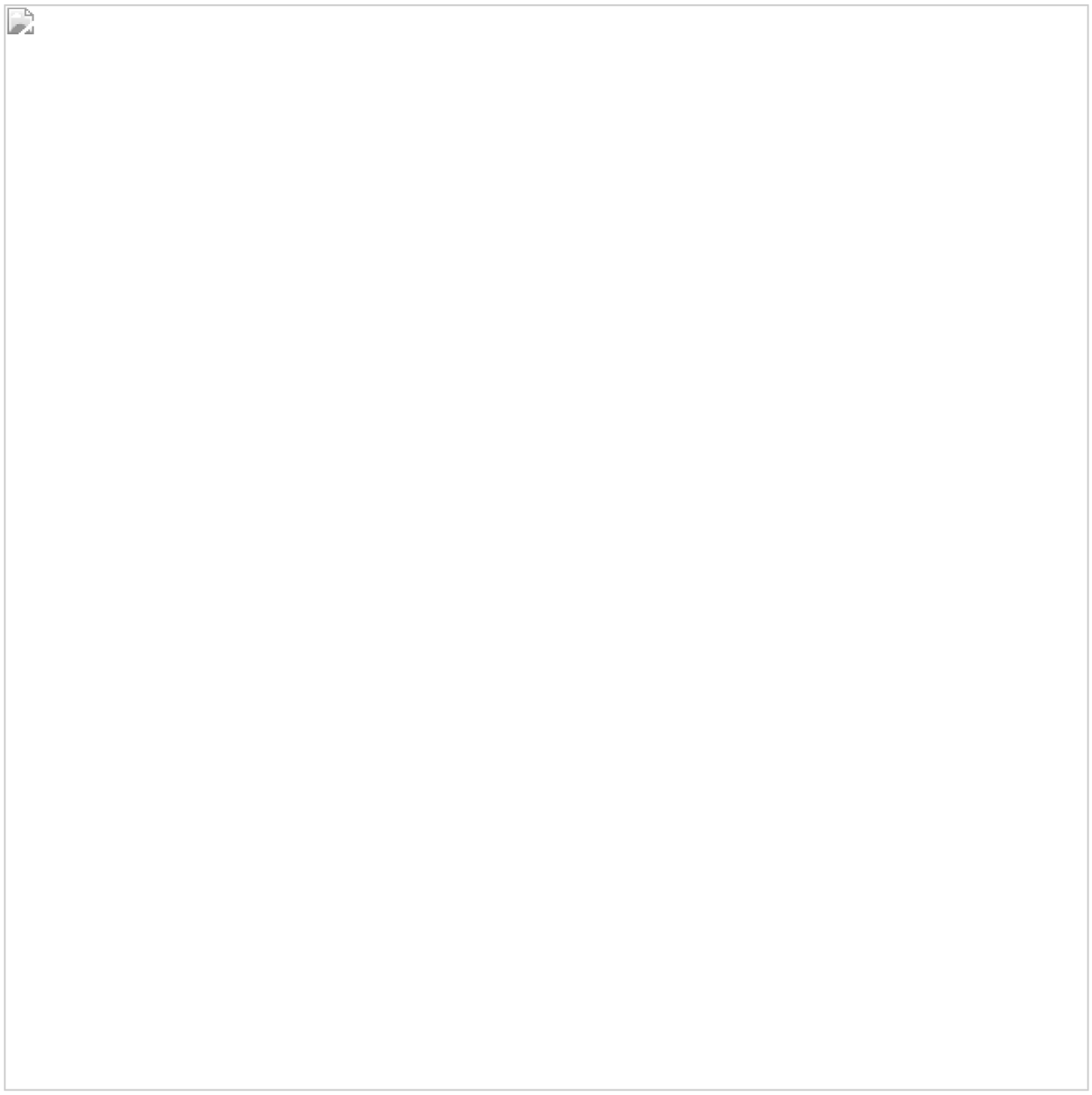
The king “loved sport as he loved his life,” and hunting most of all. From the rising of the sun, up he got and away he went over the mountains after the deer.

Fine times they were.

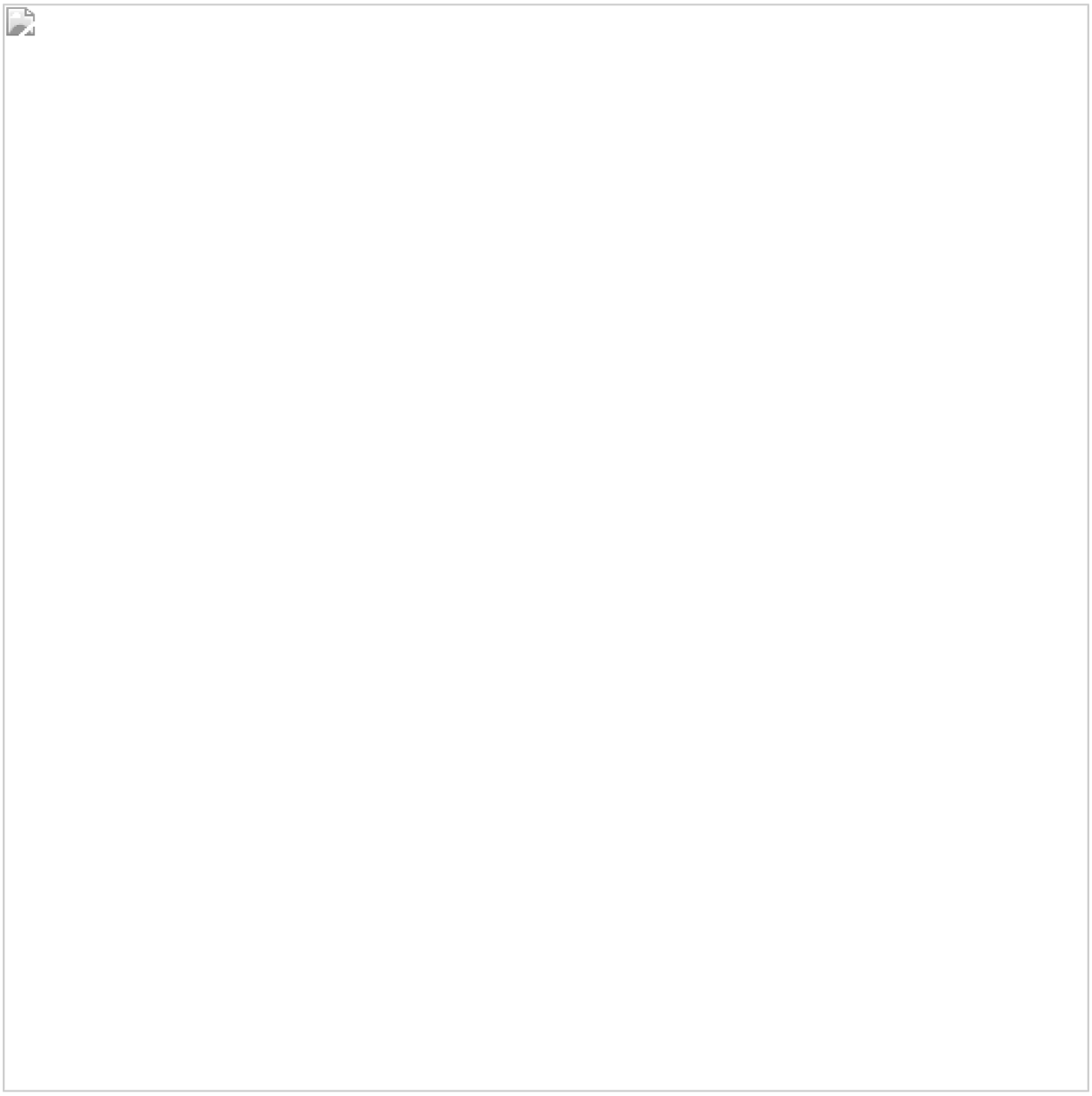
TALK ABOUT IT

What do you love to do so much you would do it all day?

The Hunting King · another picture



The King Grows Old



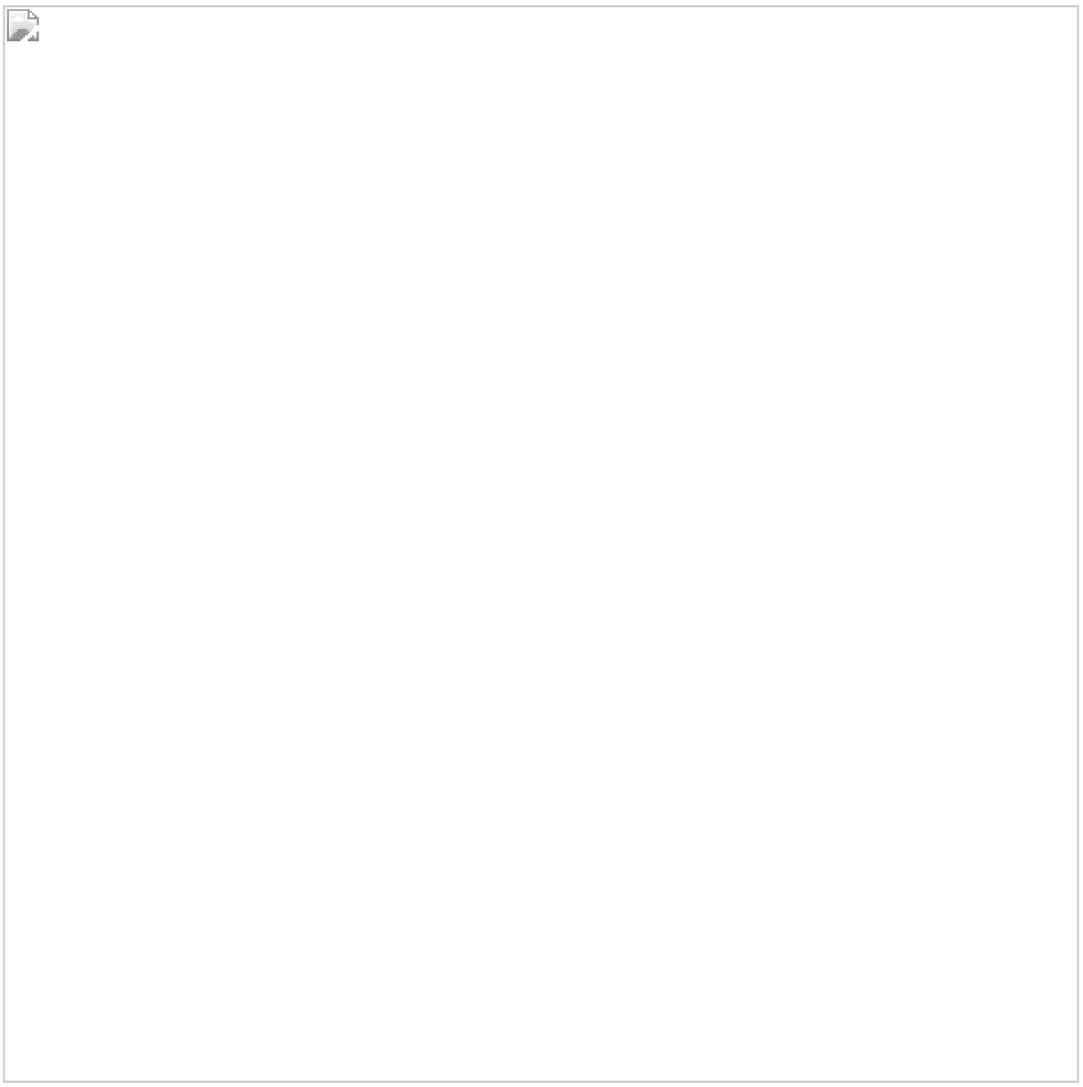
But in time the king grew old. He was stiff in his limbs, and he could not go hunting any more. His heart failed him, and he was lost for want of something to do.

So the poor king was obliged at last to get a goose to divert him.

The goose used to swim across the lake, diving for trout, and catch fish on a Friday for the king. Every other day she flew round about the lake, to keep the king happy.

TALK ABOUT IT

The goose cheered the king up. Who or what cheers you up?

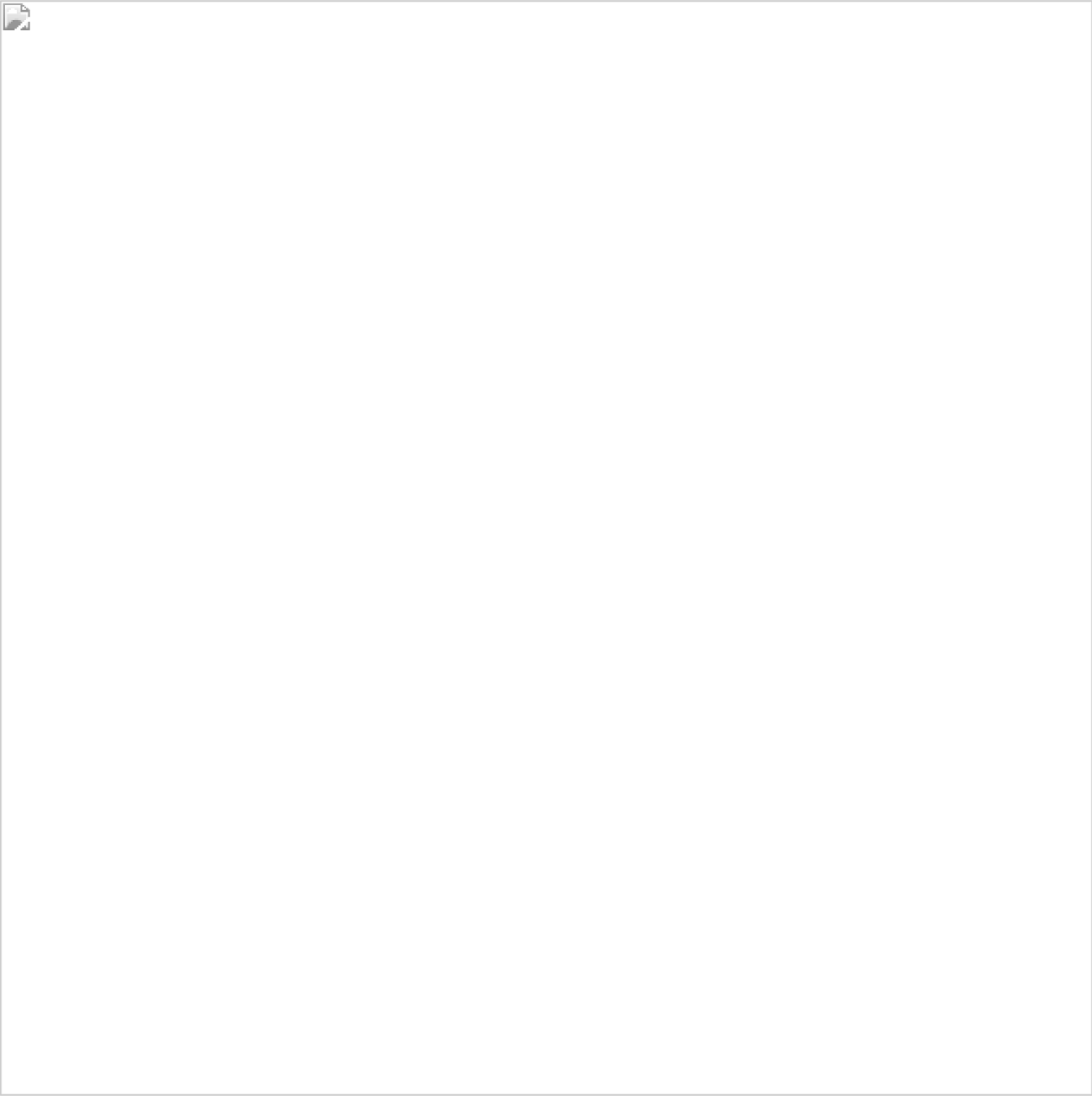


Think about it

1. What did the goose do for the king on a Friday?

- ○ Caught fish for him
- ○ Carried his hat
- ○ Sang to him

An Old Goose Too

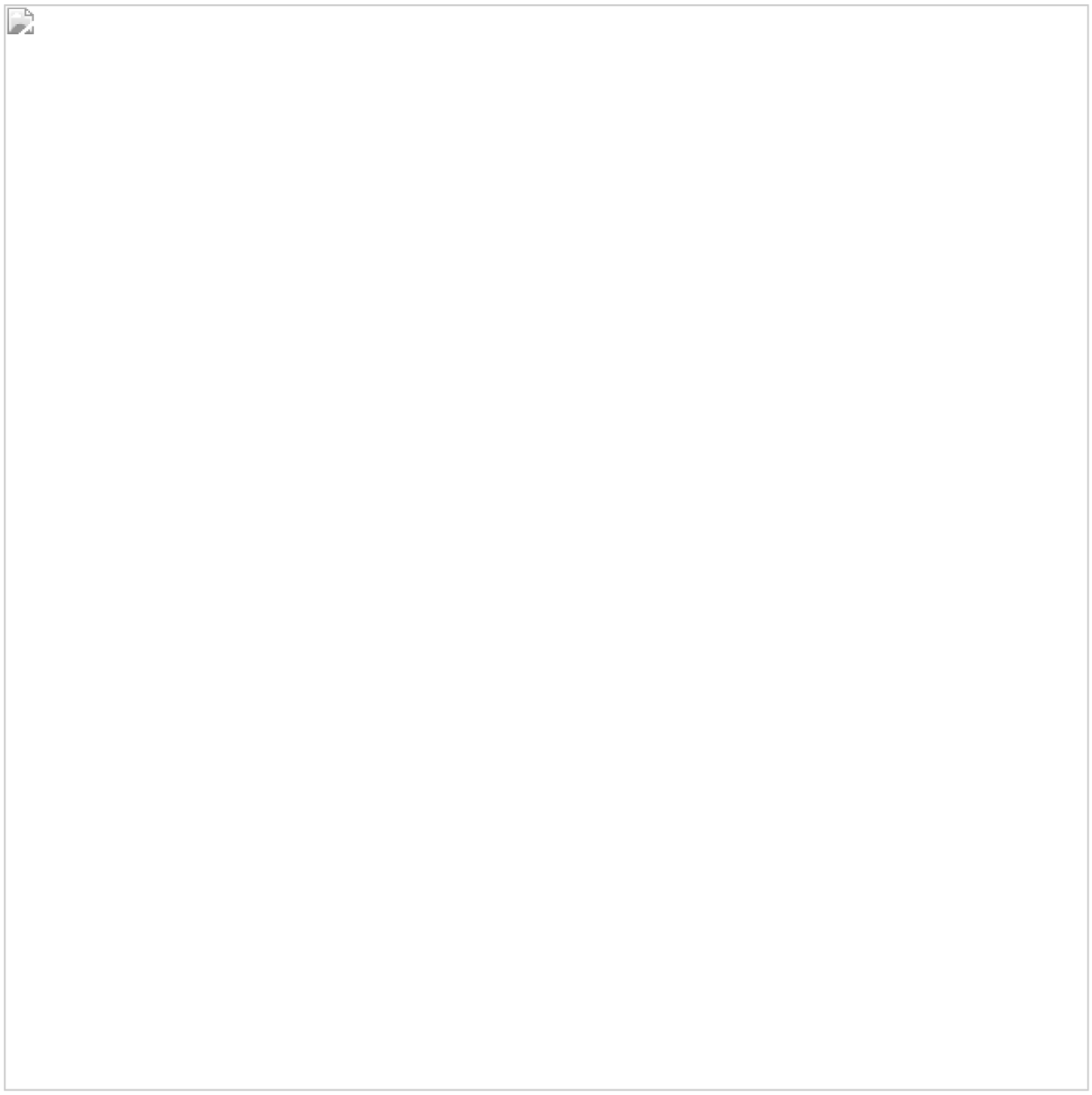


All went on well until the goose grew old like her master, and could not cheer him any longer. Then the poor king was lost entirely.

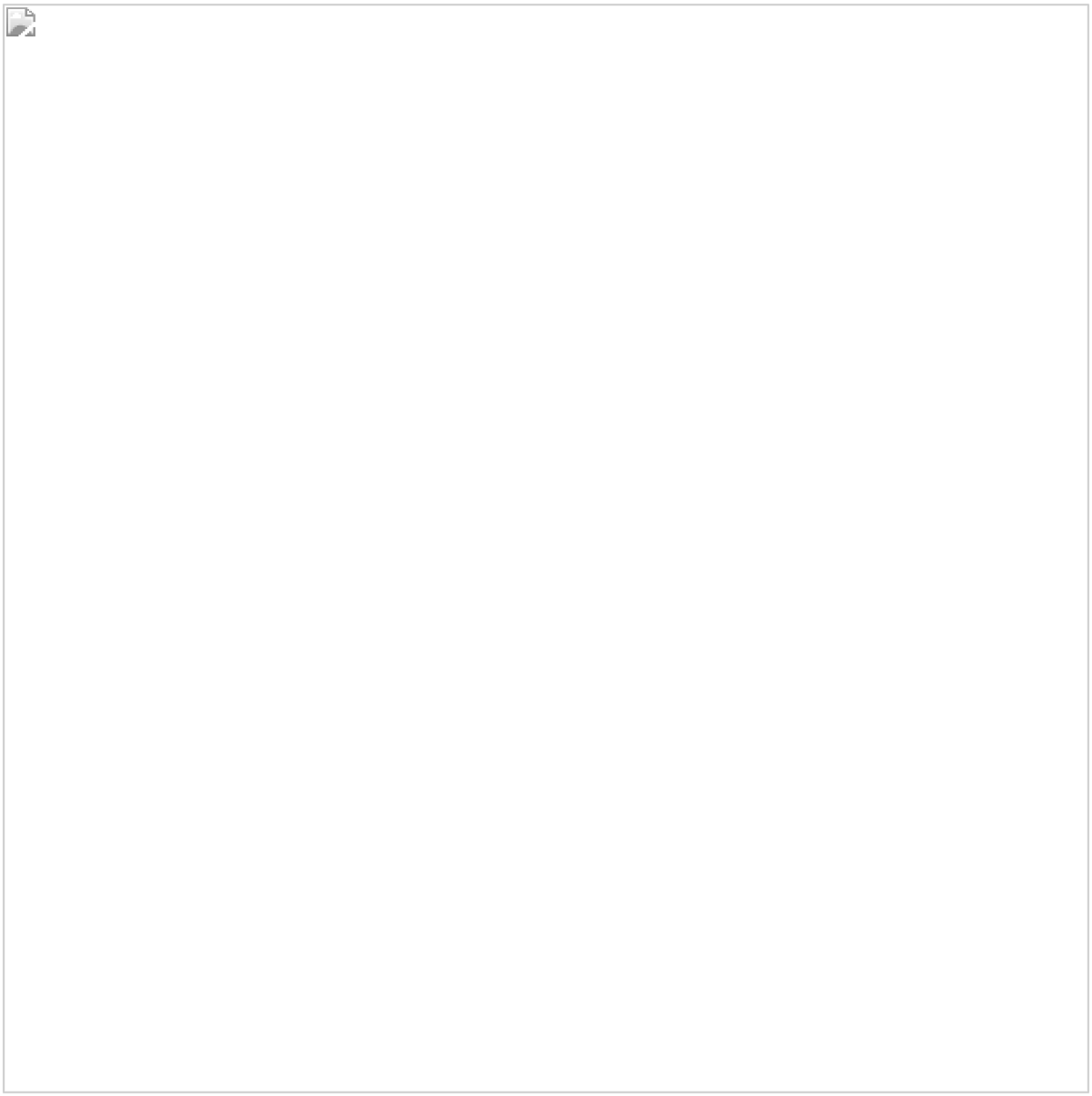
One morning the king was walking by the edge of the lake, lamenting his cruel fate. All of a sudden, turning round the corner, who should he meet but “a mighty decent young man” coming up to him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Who do you think the young man is? Does he look like someone you would trust?



The Young Man



“God save you,” said the king to the young man.

“God save you kindly, King O'Toole,” said the young man.

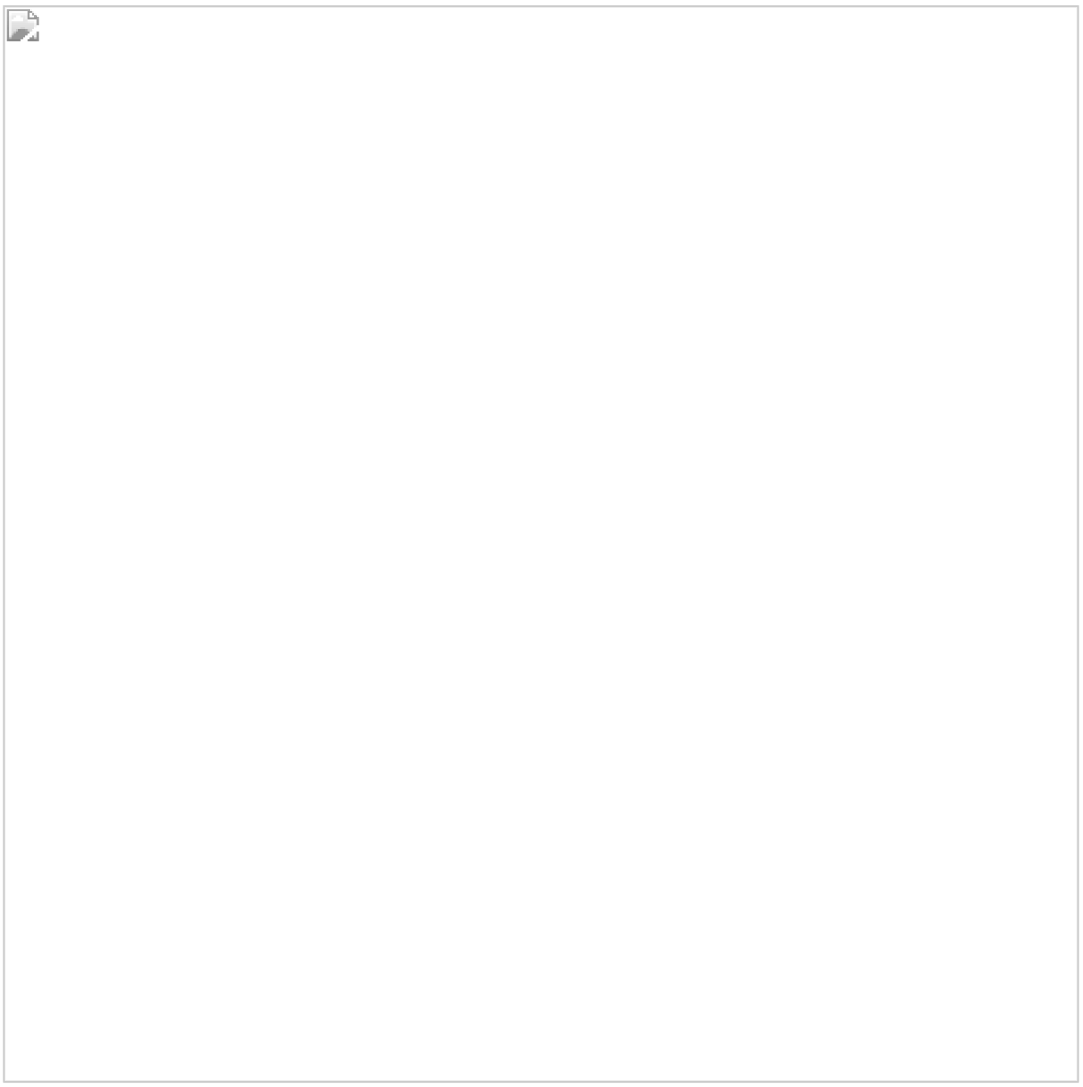
The king asked, “How came ye to know that?” But the young man only said, “Oh, never mind.”

It was Saint Kavin, sure enough, the saint himself in disguise. “May I make bold to ask how is your goose, King O'Toole?” he said.

“Blur-an-agers, how came ye to know about my goose?” said the king.

TALK ABOUT IT

The stranger knew the king's name and his goose. What would you ask him?

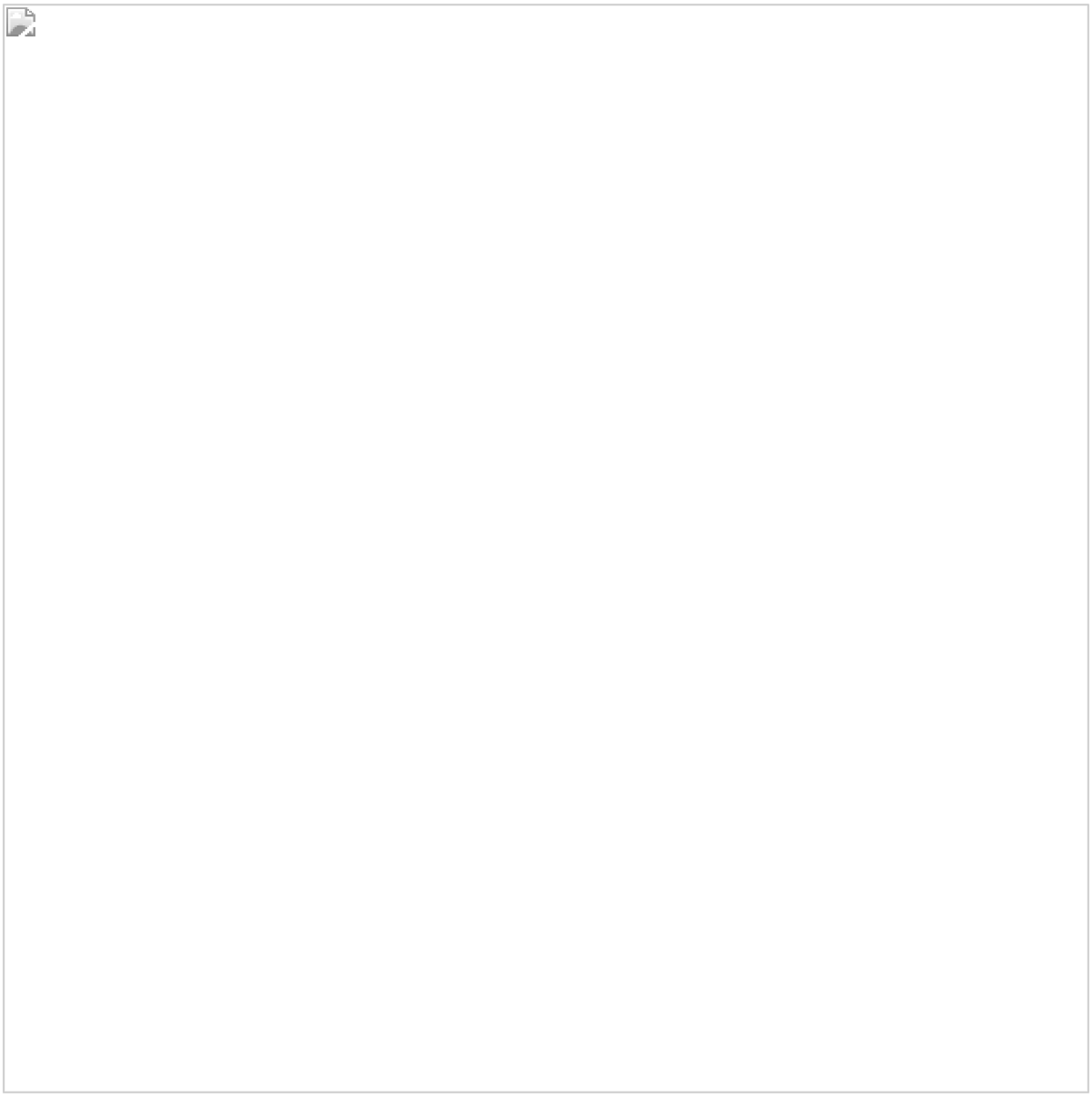


Think about it

1. Who was the young man really?

- ○ A fisherman
- ○ Saint Kavin
- ○ The king's son

A Better Trade



“What are you?” said the king.

“I'm an honest man,” said Saint Kavin.

“And how is it you make your money so aisy?”

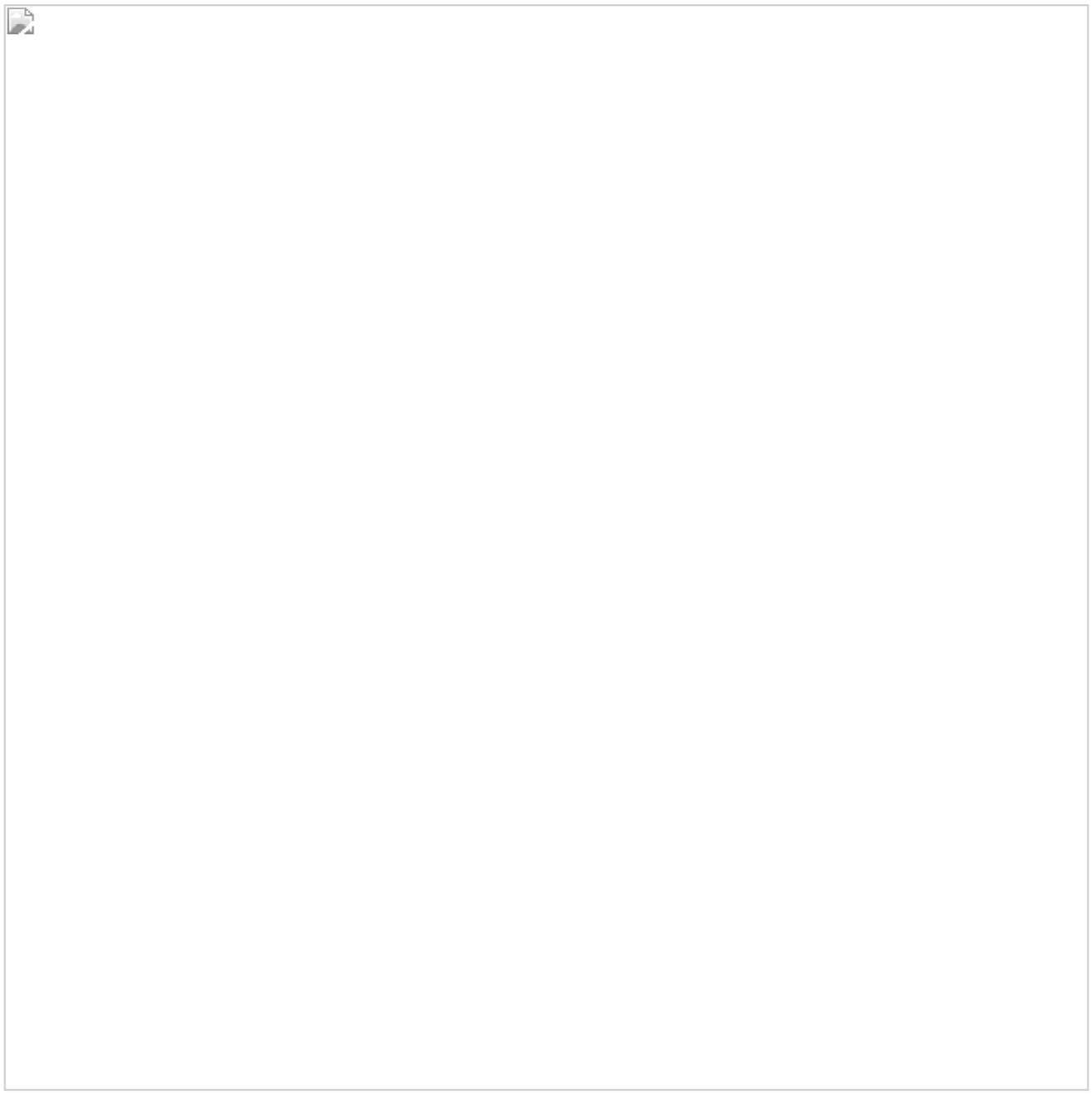
“By makin' old things as good as new,” said the saint. He said he had a better trade than a tinker. “What would you say,” he asked, “if I made your old goose as good as new?”

The poor old king's eyes were ready to jump out of his head.

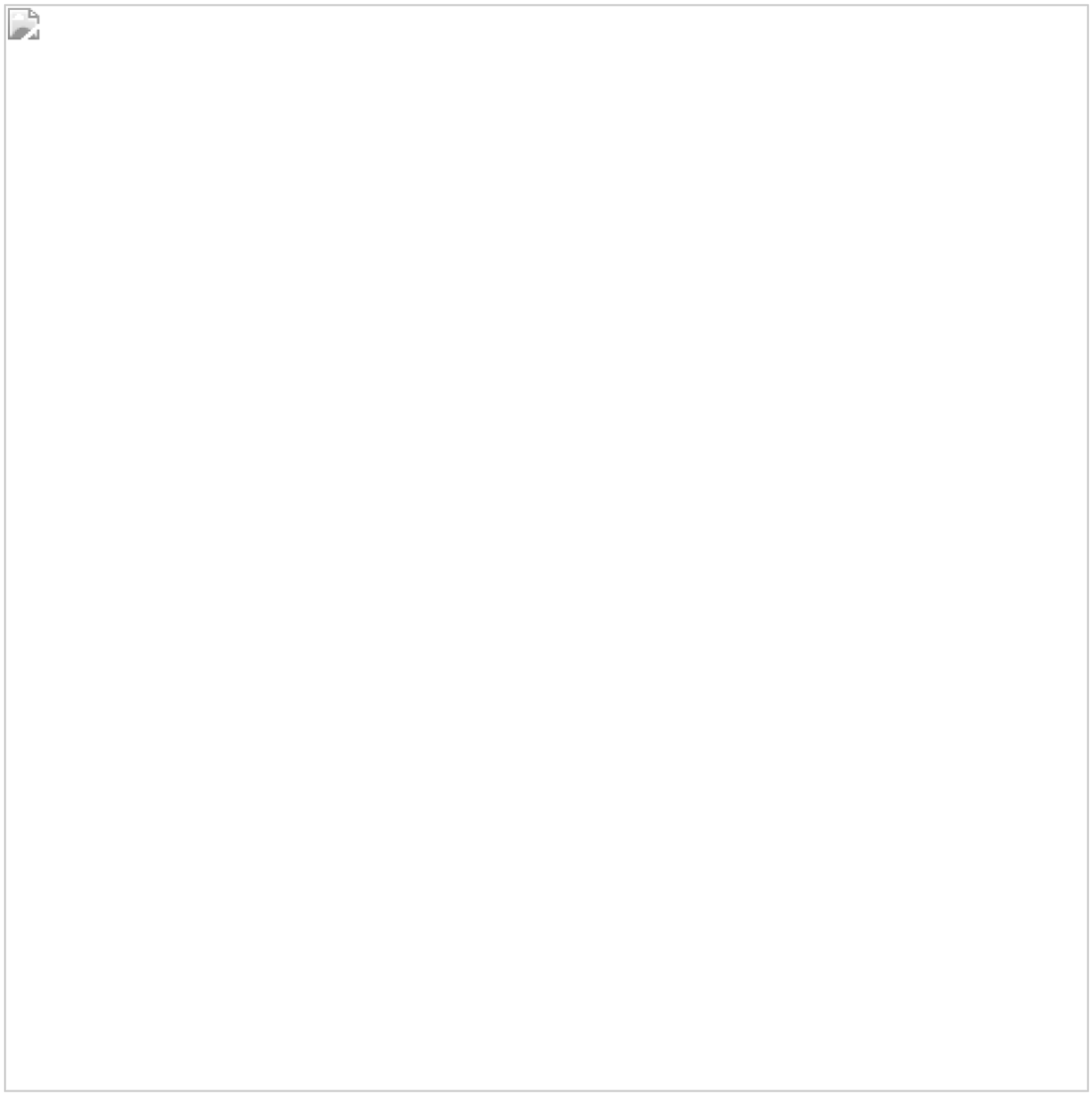
TALK ABOUT IT

Is there something old that you wish could be made as good as new?

A Better Trade · another picture



The Bargain



The king whistled, and down came the poor goose, waddling up to her master. The saint said, “I'll do the job for you.”

But he would not do it for nothing. “What'll you gi' me if I do the job for you?” he asked.

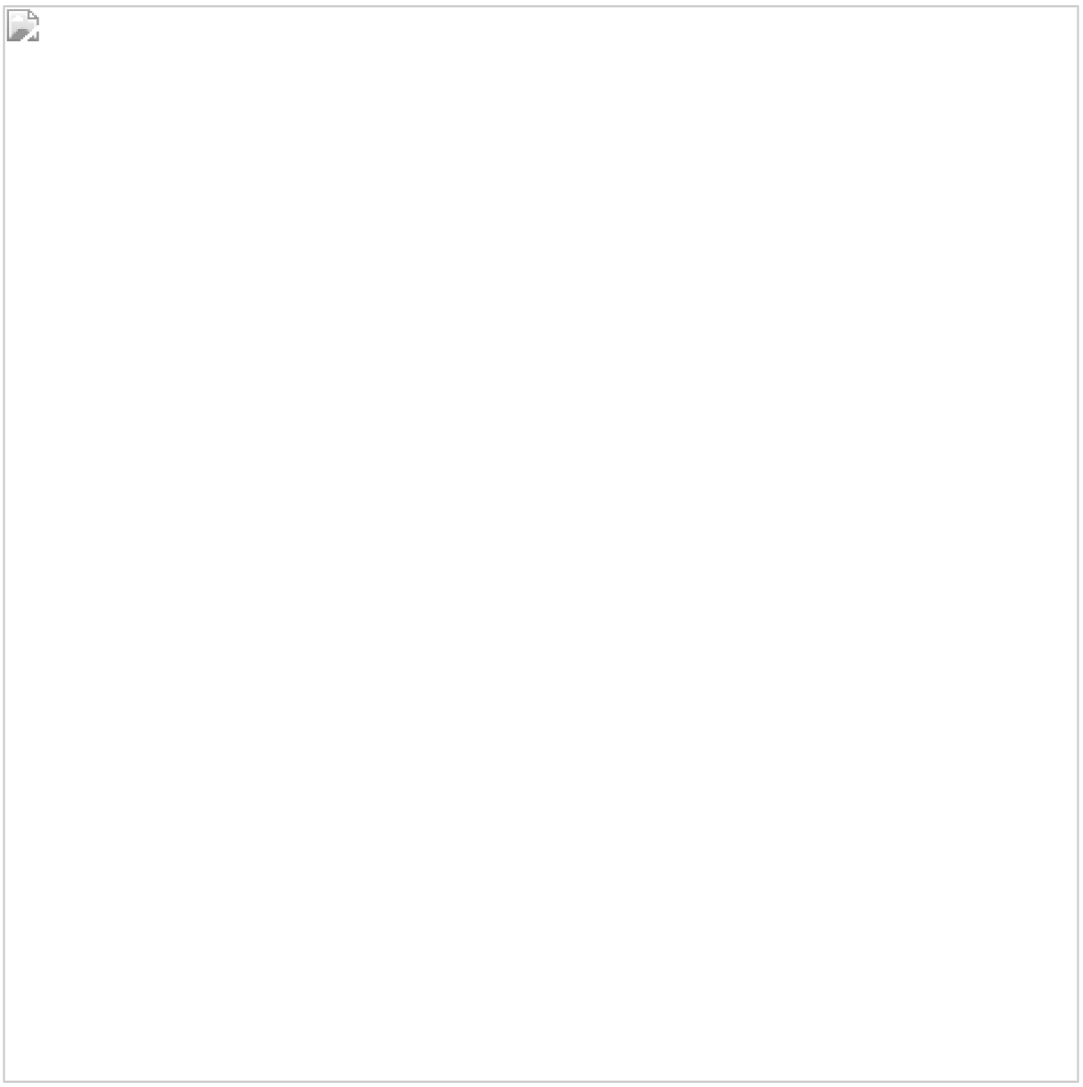
“I'll give you whatever you ask,” said the king. “Isn't that fair?”

“Divil a fairer,” said the saint. He asked for “all the ground the goose flies over, the first offer, after I make her as good as new.”

“I will,” said the king, and “Honour bright!” said the saint back again. “It's a bargain.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The king promised, and shook on it. Why is it good to keep a promise?

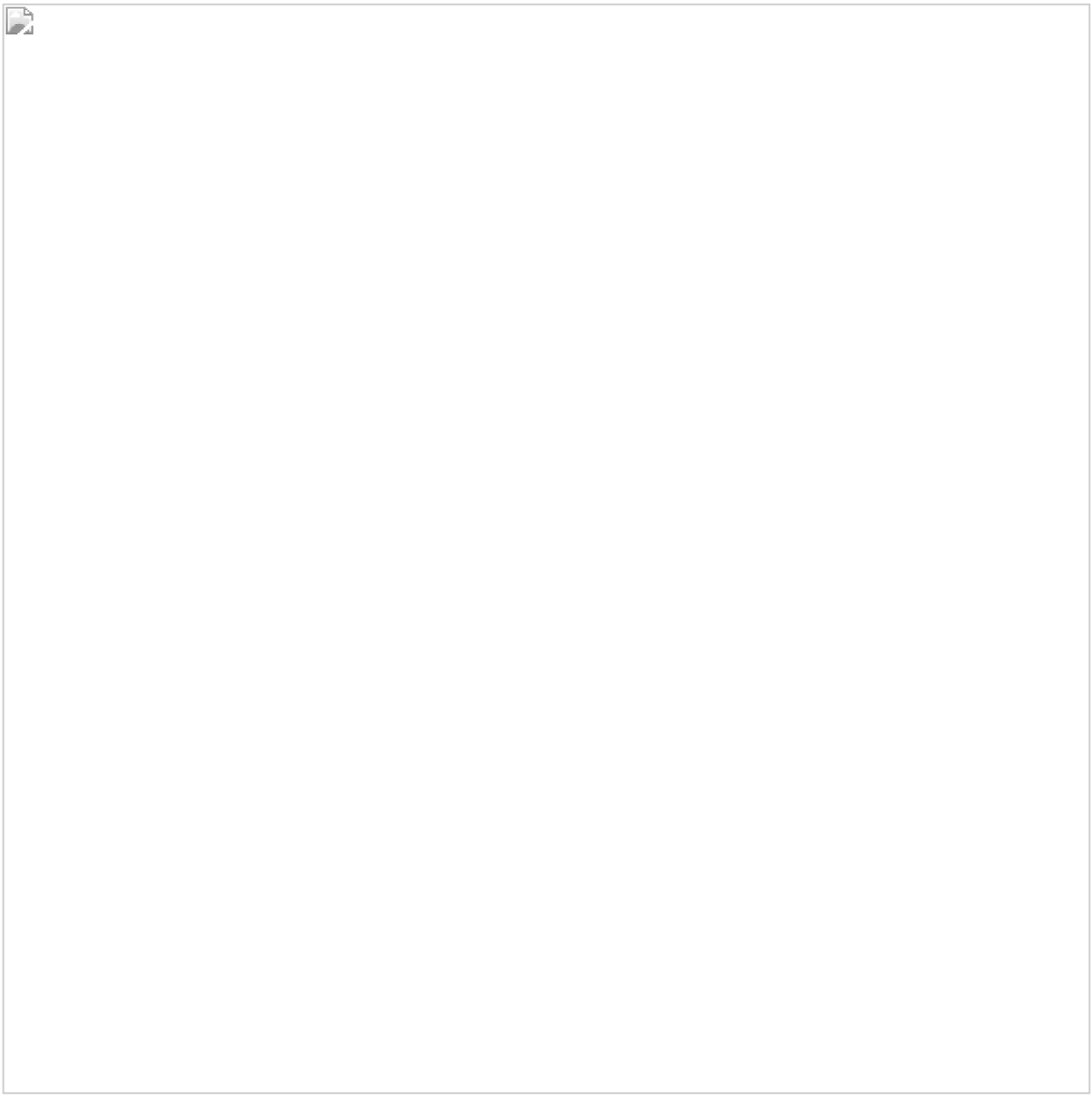


Think about it

1. What did the saint ask for in exchange?

- ○ A bag of gold
- ○ All the ground the goose flies over
- ○ The goose herself

The Goose Flies



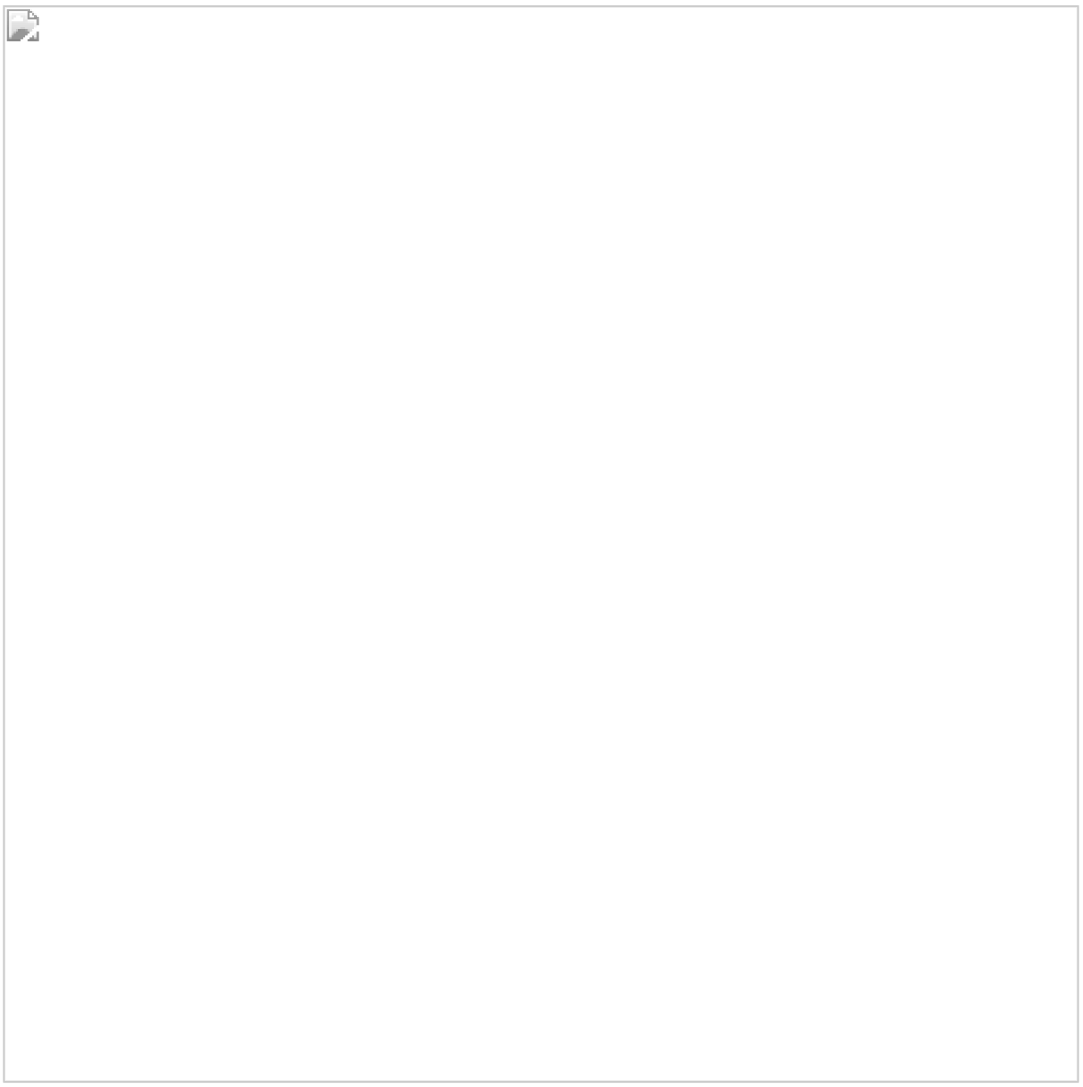
“Come here, you unfortunate ould cripple,” said Saint Kavin to the goose, “and it's I that'll make you the sporting bird.”

He took her up by the two wings and made the sign of the cross over her. Then he threw her up in the air, and “whew,” he said, giving her a blast to help her.

And she took off, “flyin' like one o' the eagles themselves,” and cutting as many capers as a swallow before a shower of rain.

TALK ABOUT IT

Close your eyes and picture the goose flying. How does it look to you?

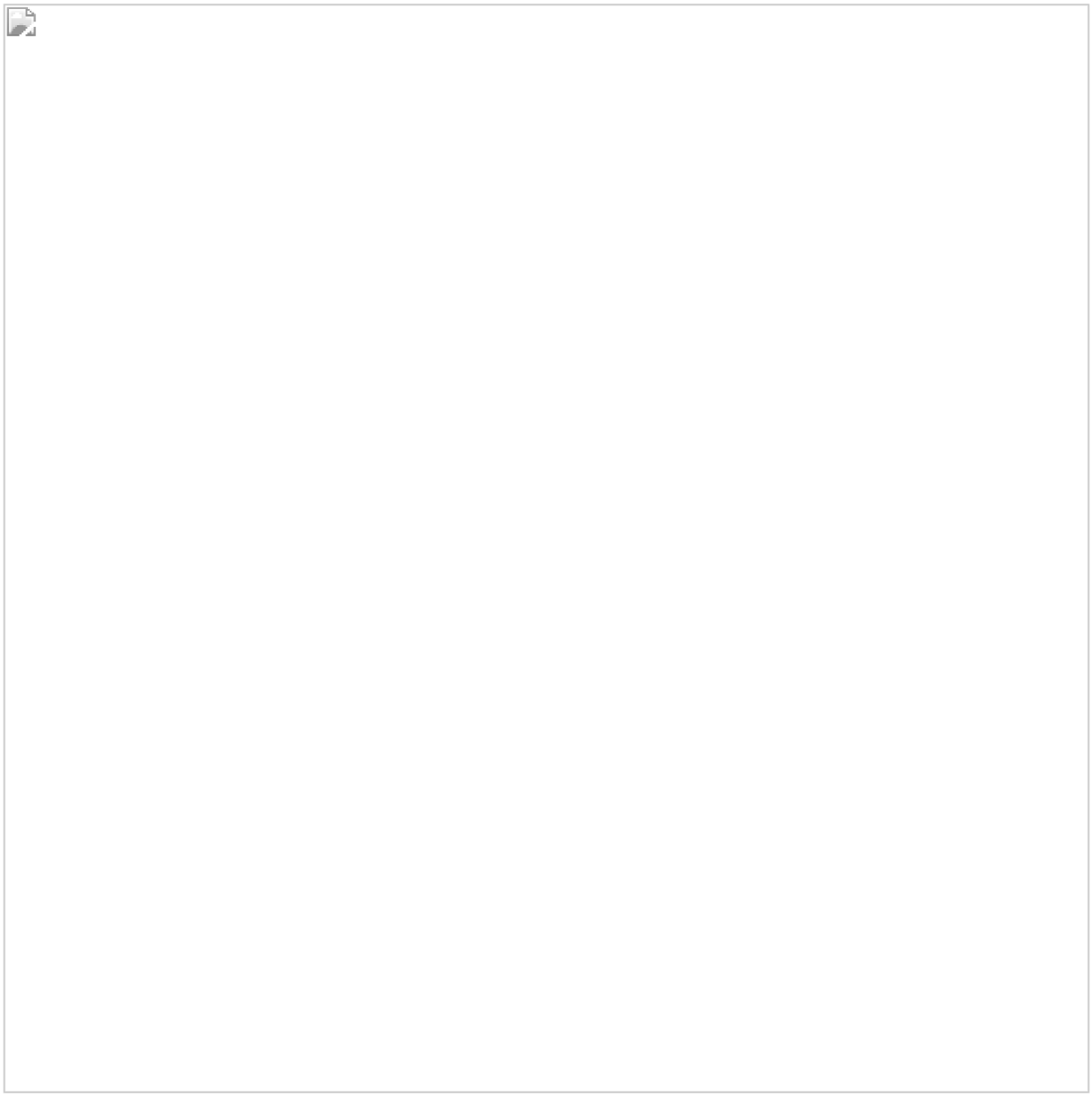


Think about it

1. What was the goose like when she flew?

- ○ Slow and wobbly
- ○ Like one of the eagles
- ○ Like a duck on the lake

The Darlint of the World



It was a beautiful sight to see the king standing with his mouth open, looking at his old goose flying as light as a lark, and better than ever she was.

When she landed at his feet, he patted her on the head. “Ma vourneen,” said he, “but you are the darlint o' the world.”

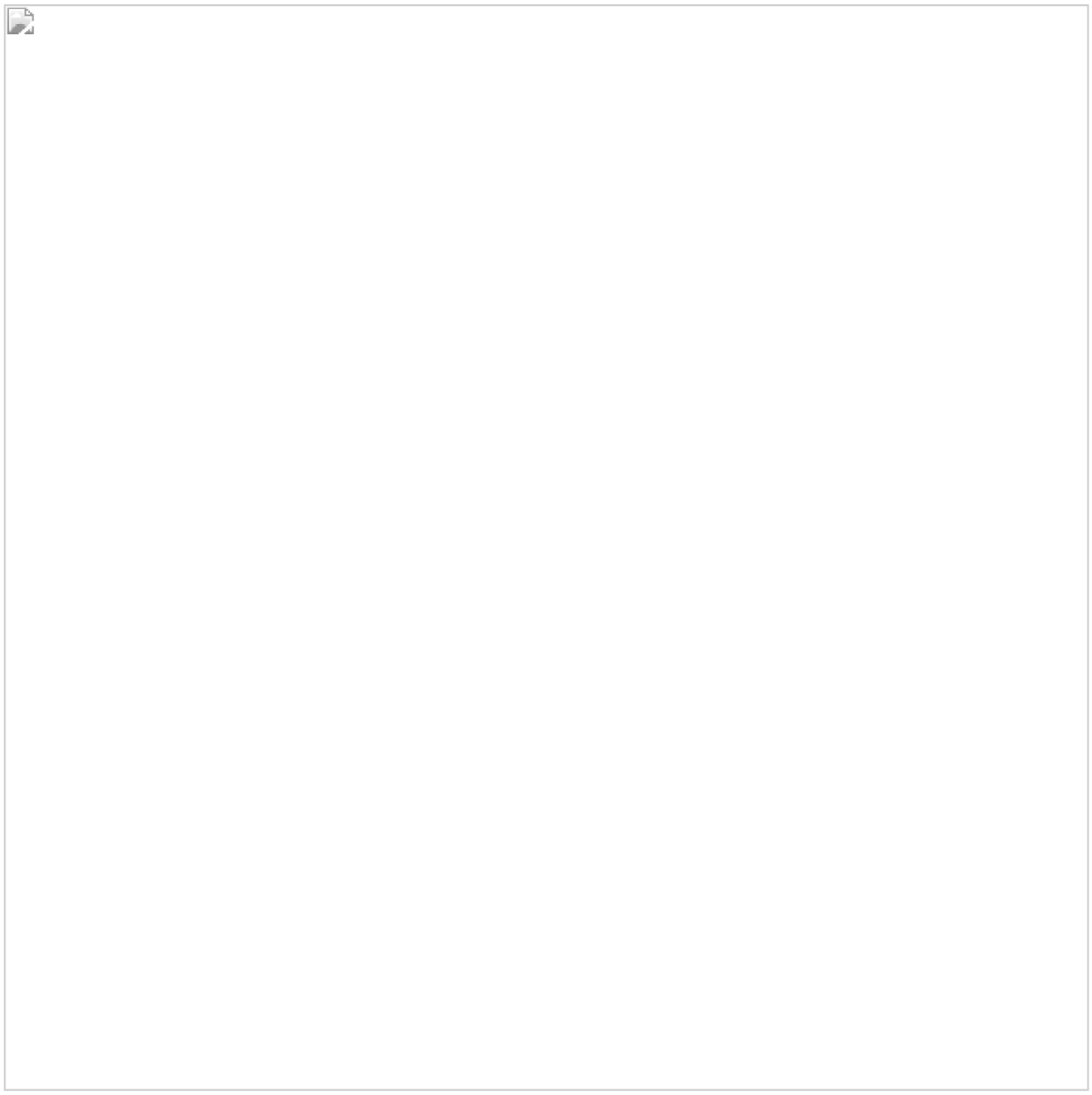
“And what do you say to me,” said the saint, “for making her the like?”

“I say nothing beats the art o' man, barring the bees,” said the king. “And that I'm beholden to you.”

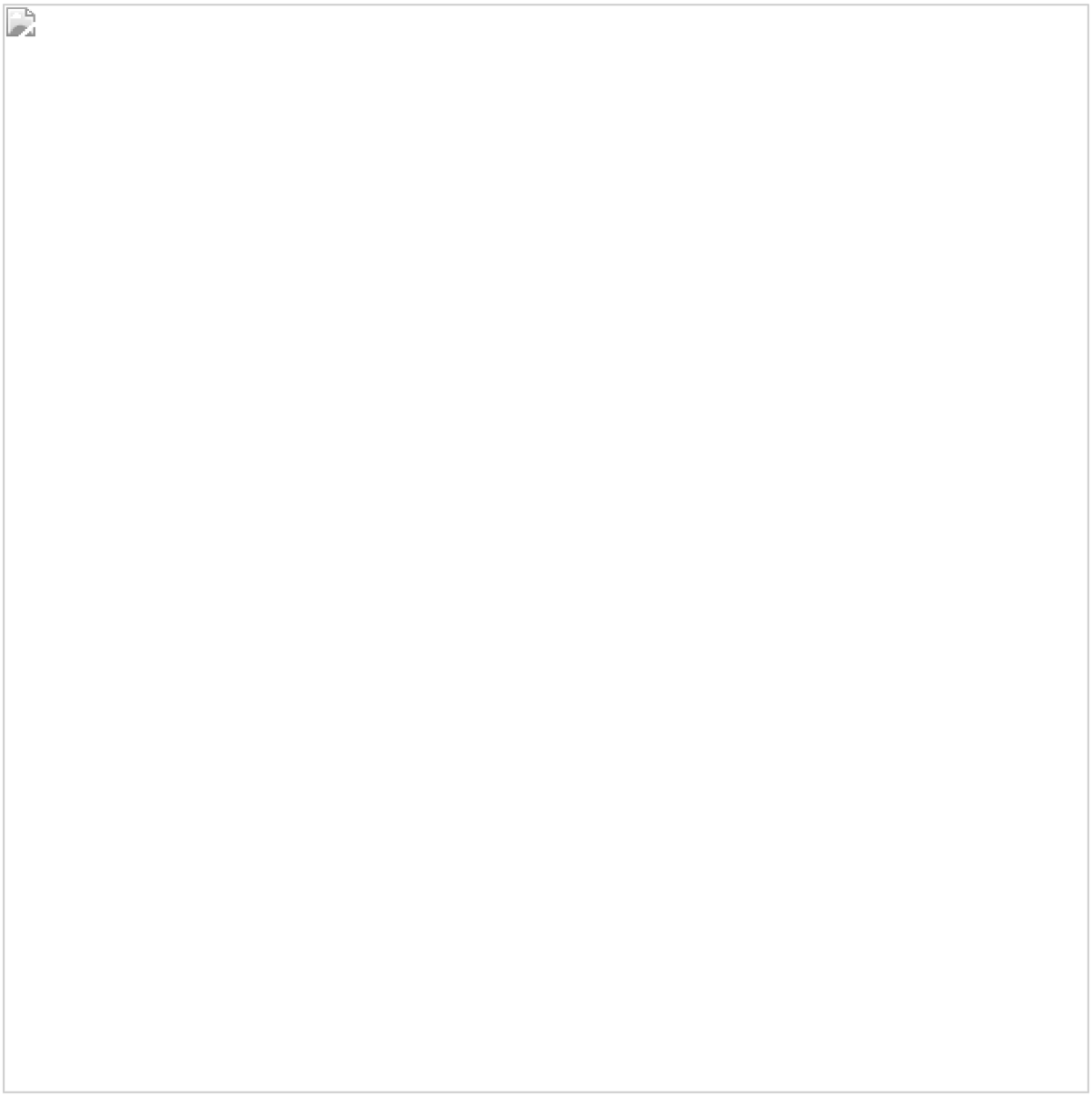
TALK ABOUT IT

The king was so glad. What makes you glad all through?

The Darlint of the World · another picture



Keeping His Word



“But will you gi'e me all the ground the goose flew over?” said Saint Kavin.

“I will,” said King O'Toole, “and you're welcome to it,” he said, “though it's the last acre I have to give.”

“But you'll keep your word true?” said the saint.

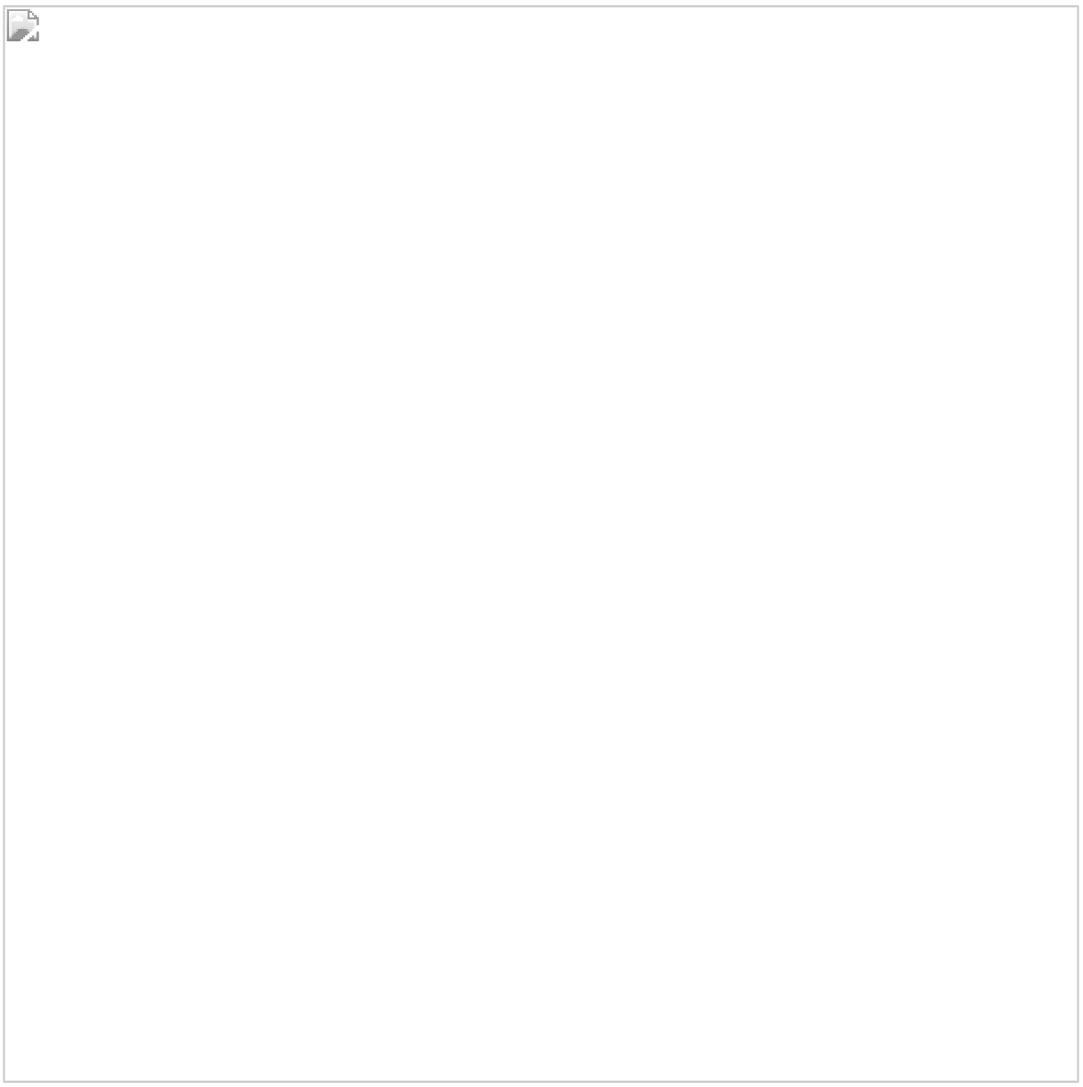
“As true as the sun,” said the king.

“It's well for you, King O'Toole, that you said that word,” said the saint, “for if you didn't say that word, the devil the bit o' your goose would ever fly agin.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The king gave up his last acre to keep his word. Do you think that was hard for him? Why?

Keeping His Word · another picture

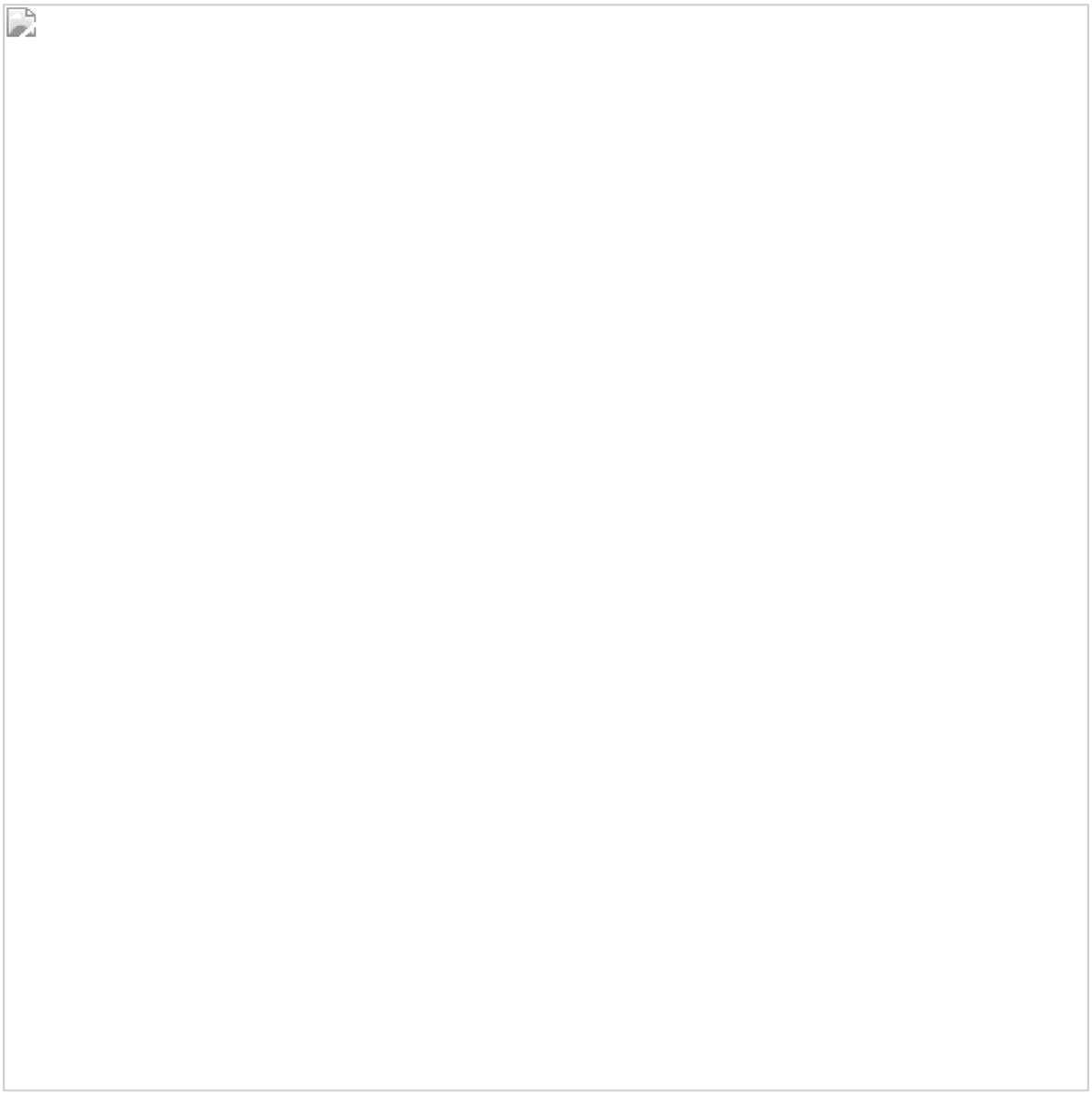


Think about it

1. What did the king say about keeping his word?

- ○ “As true as the sun.”
- ○ “I might forget.”
- ○ “Maybe tomorrow.”

Saint Kavin



When the king was as good as his word, Saint Kavin was pleased with him. Then he made himself known. “King O'Toole, you're a decent man,” said he, “for I only came here to try you.”

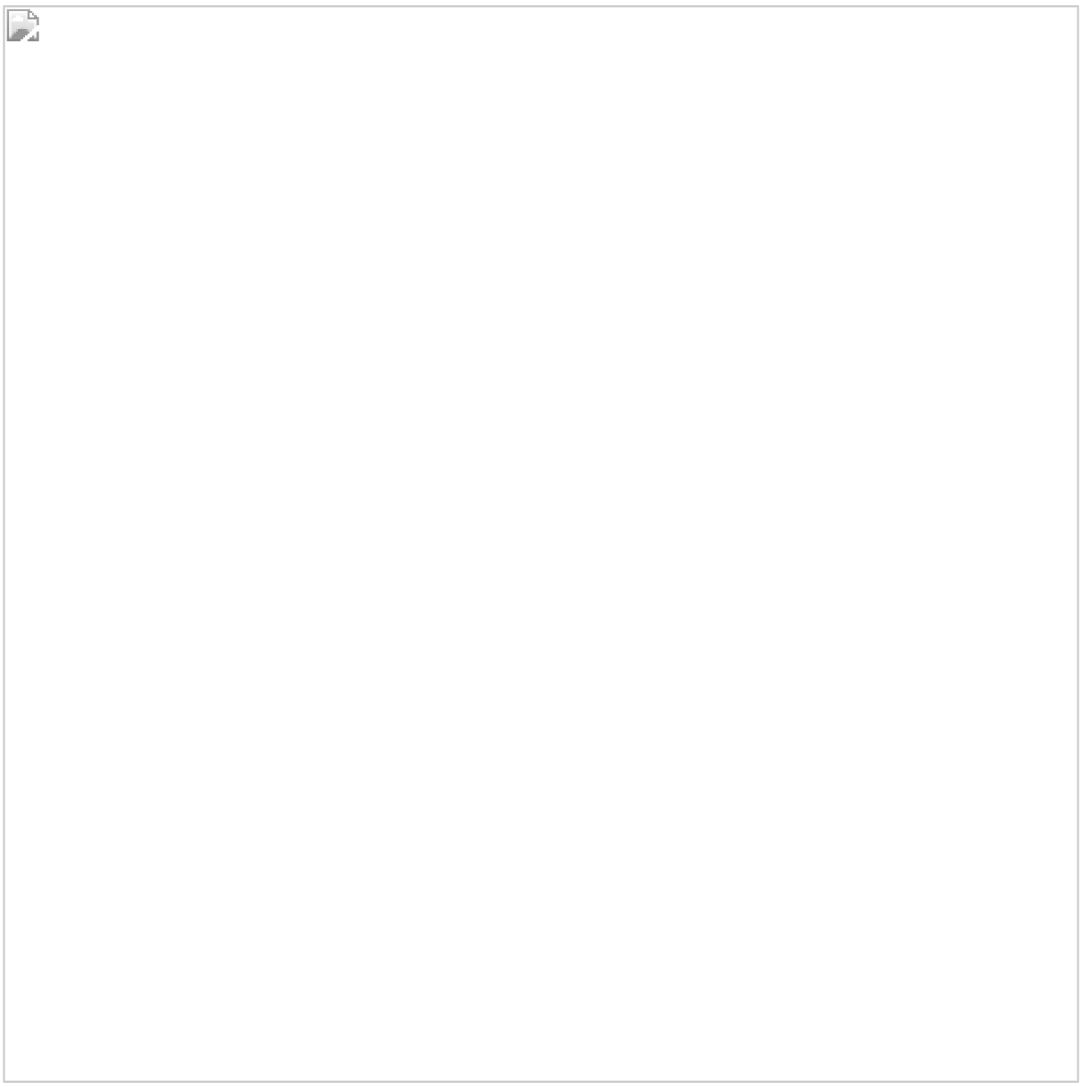
“Oh, queen of heaven!” said the king, falling down on his knees. “Is it the great Saint Kavin,” he said, “that I've been discoursing all this time without knowing it?”

“I am,” said Saint Kavin. “Well, you know the difference now.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The saint came in disguise to see what the king would do. How do you act when you think no one important is watching?

Saint Kavin · another picture

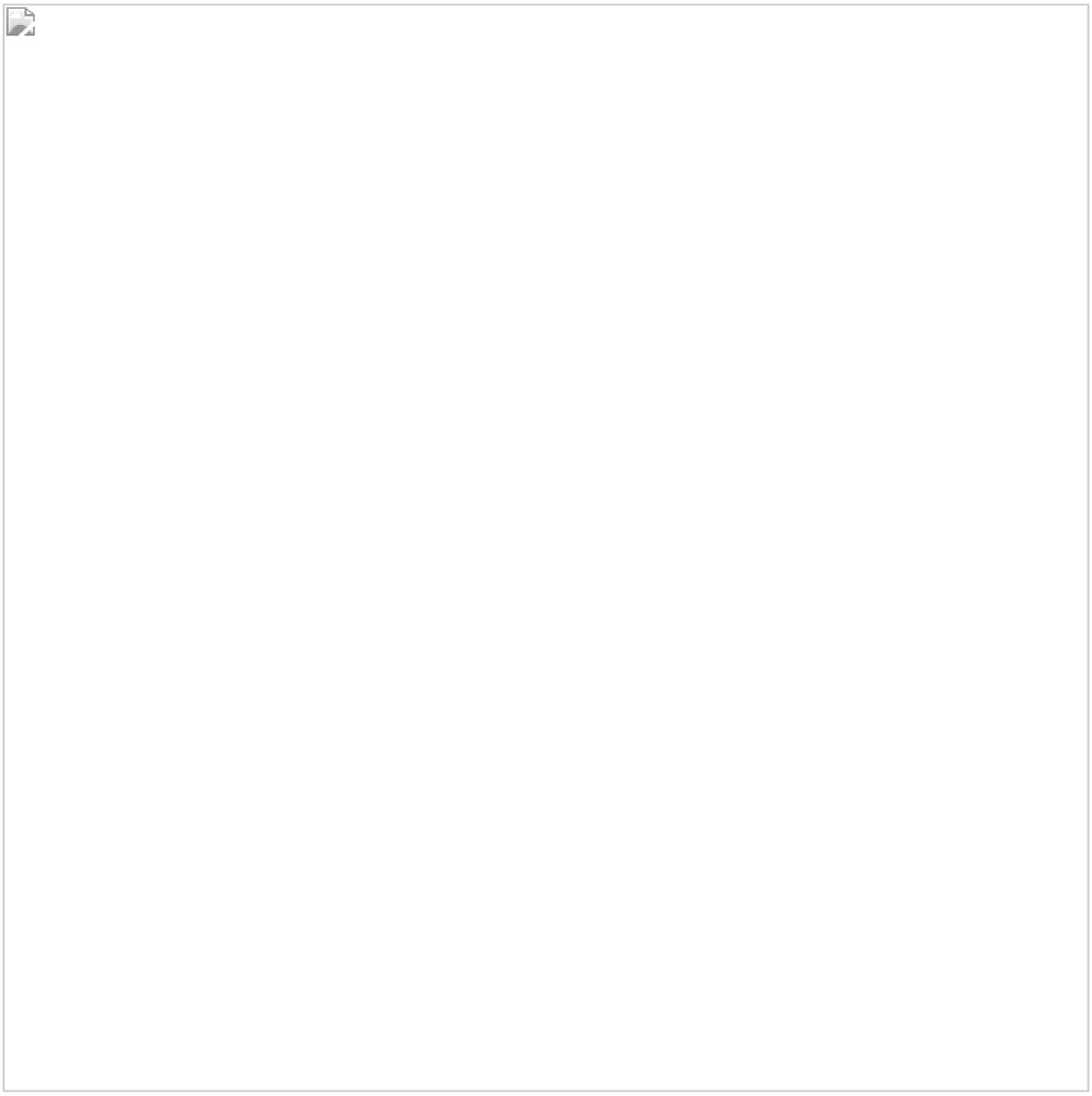


Think about it

1. Why did the saint say he had come?

- ○ To buy the goose
- ○ To try the king
- ○ To go hunting

The End of the Goose



So the king had his goose as good as new, to cheer him as long as he lived. And the saint supported him until the day of his death, which was soon after.

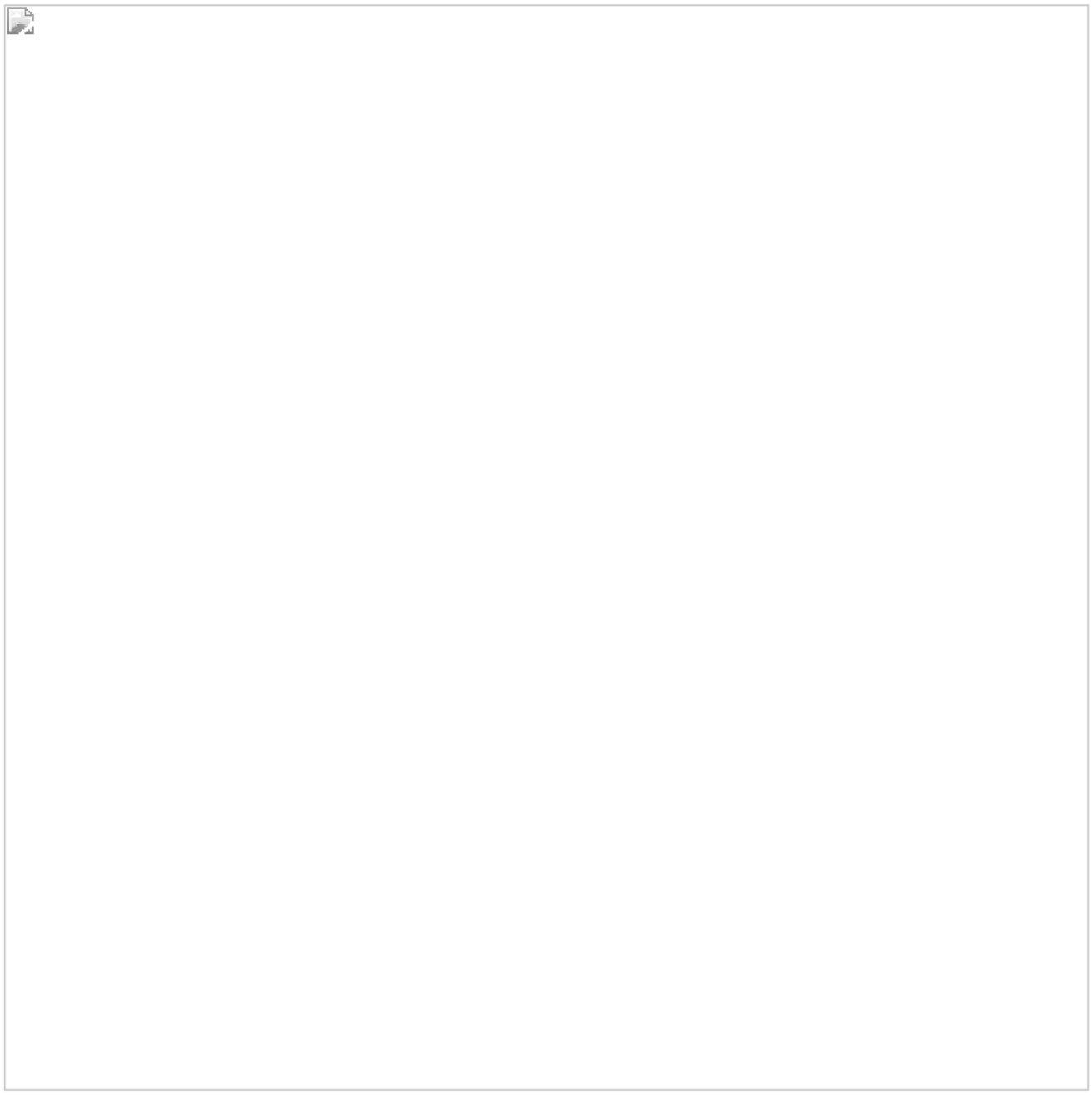
For one Friday the goose thought she was catching a trout, but it was a mistake. Instead of a trout, it was “a thieving horse-eel,” and the eel was the end of the king's goose. “Small blame to him,” says the teller.

But the eel did not eat her, because “he darn't ate what Saint Kavin had laid his blessed hands on.”

TALK ABOUT IT

That was a sad little ending. What do you think of the goose and the king? Why?

The End of the Goose · another picture



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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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