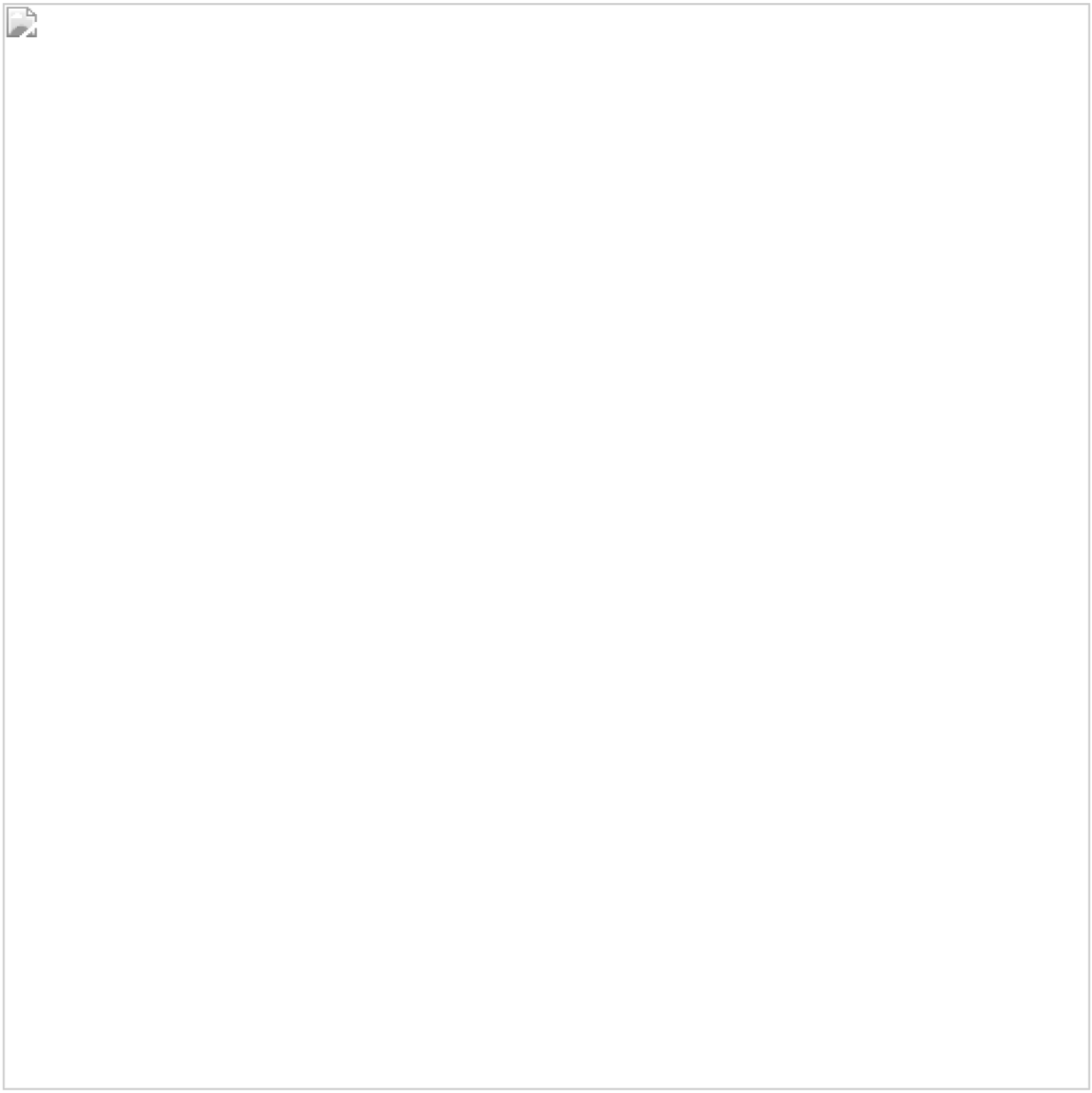
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Munachar and Manachar

A Tale from Ireland



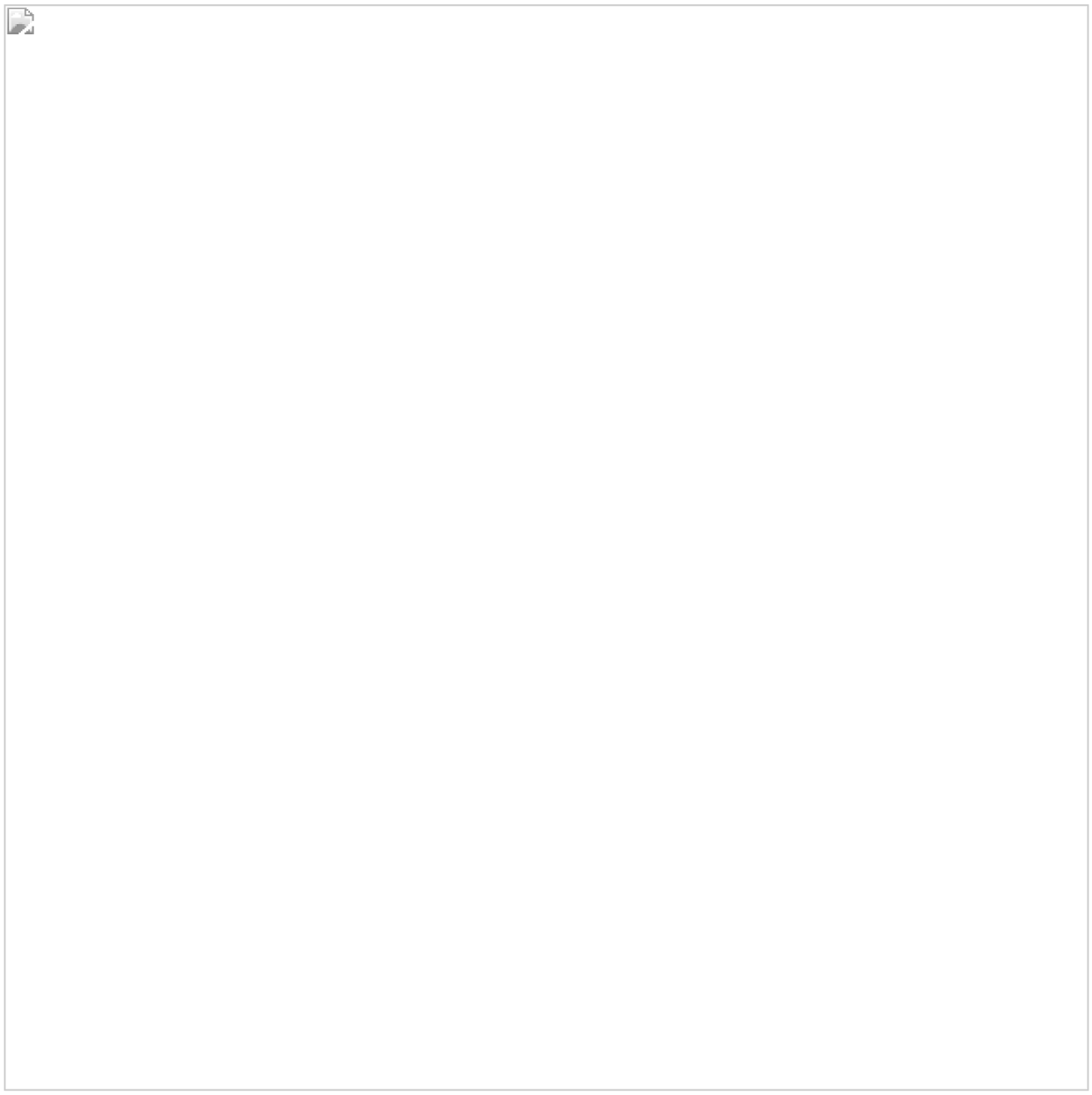
“There once lived a Munachar and a Manachar, a long time ago.” They went out together to pick raspberries.

TALK ABOUT IT

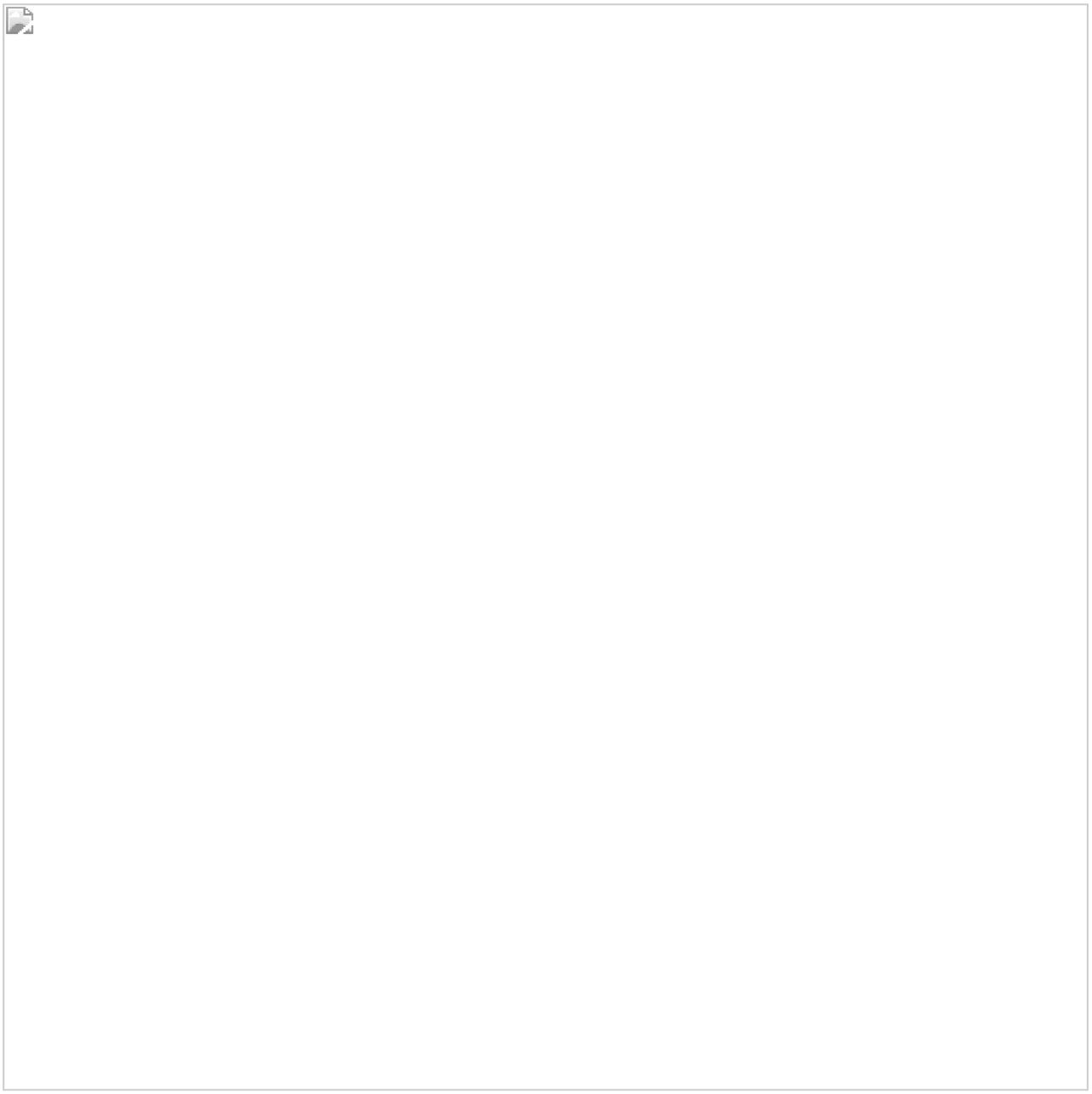
Have you ever picked berries, or fruit, with someone? Who was it?

This book belongs to _____

Munachar and Manachar · another picture



The Raspberries



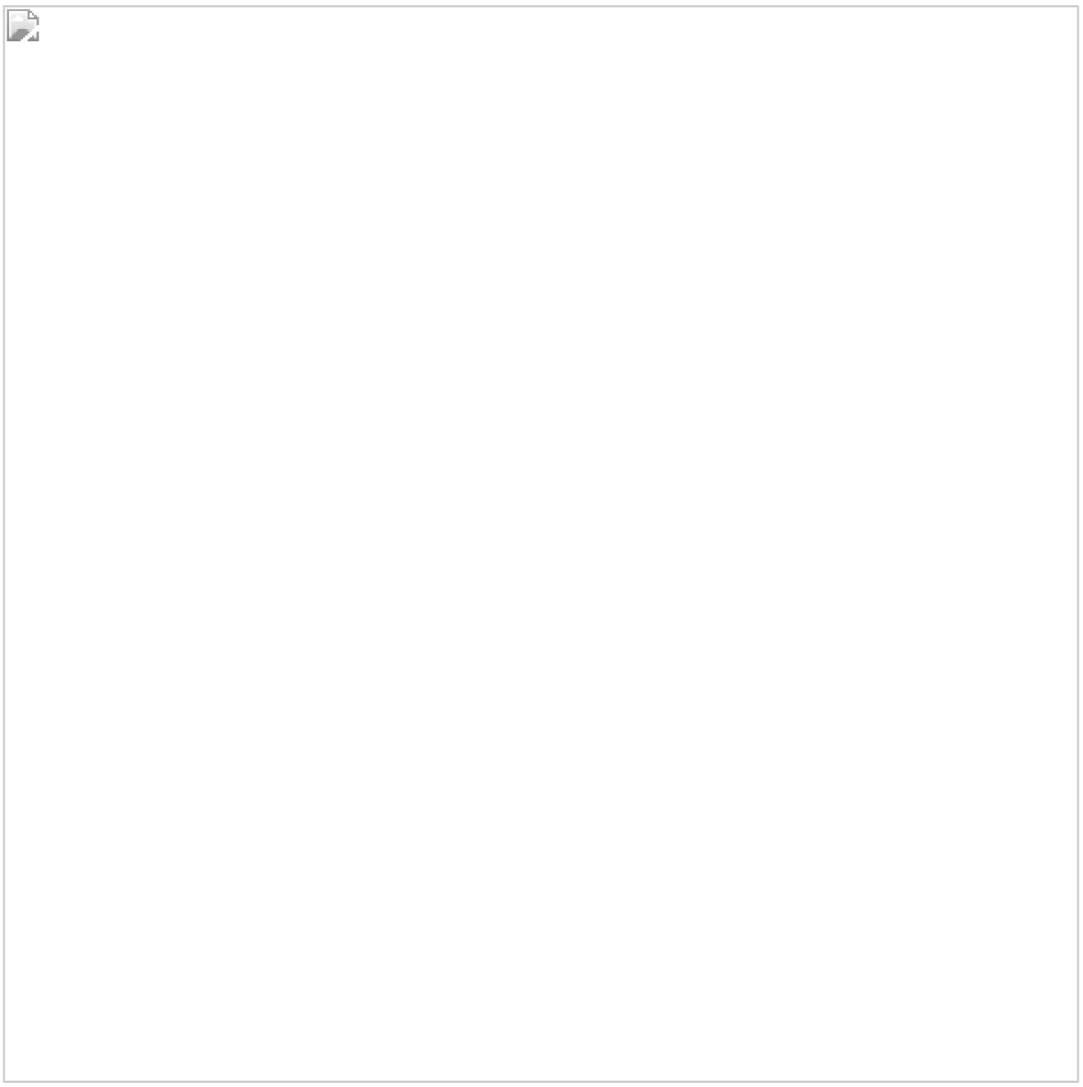
Munachar picked and picked. But “as many as Munachar used to pick Manachar used to eat.”

So Manachar ate Munachar's raspberries, every one.

Munachar said he must go and look for a rod, to make a gad (that is a loop of twig) to hang Manachar, who ate his raspberries every one.

TALK ABOUT IT

How would you feel if someone ate everything you had picked? What would you want to say to them?

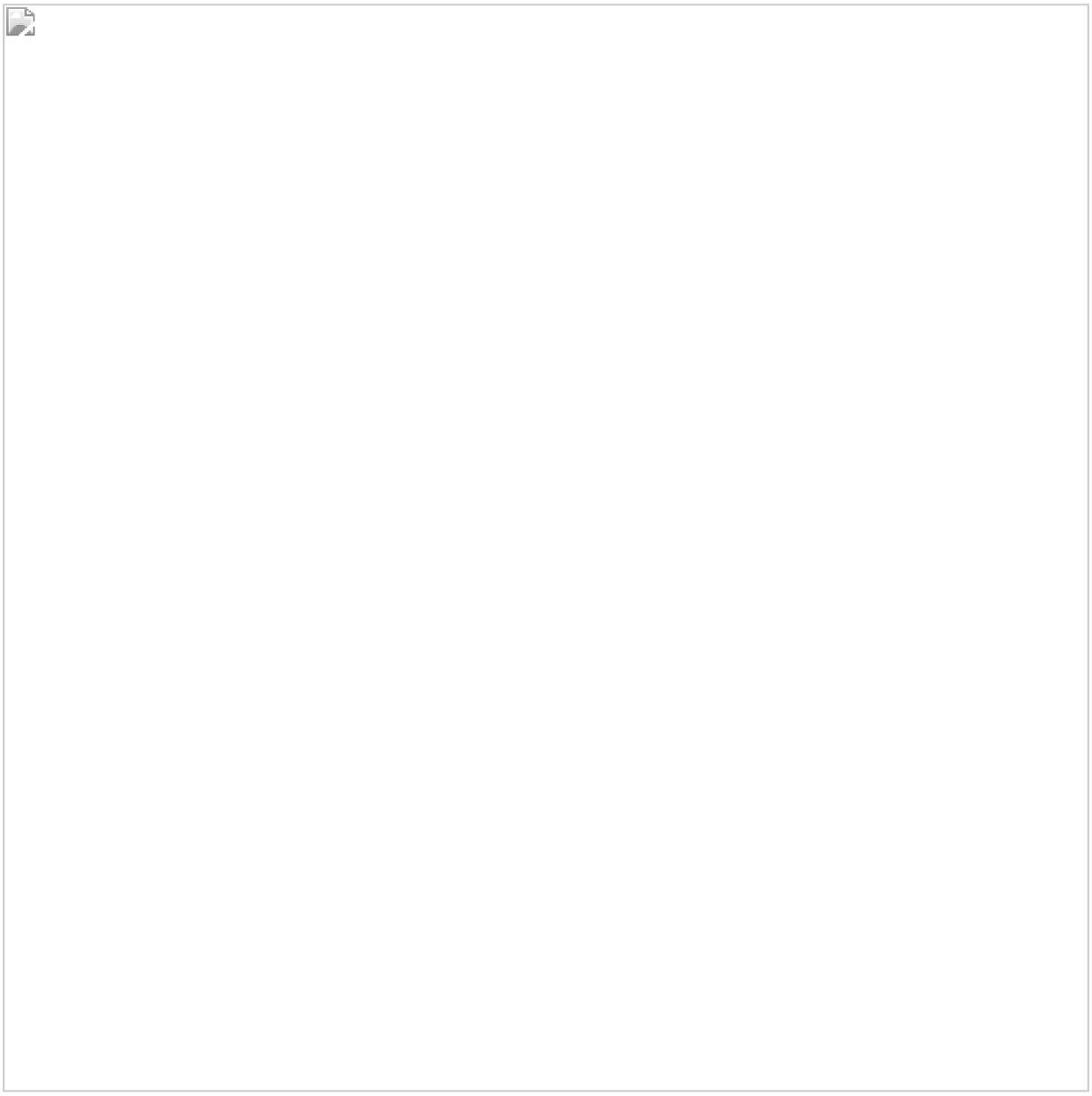


Think about it

1. What did Manachar do?

- ○ He hid the basket
- ○ He ate Munachar's raspberries
- ○ He gave them away

The Rod and the Axe



Munachar came to the rod. “What news the day?” said the rod.

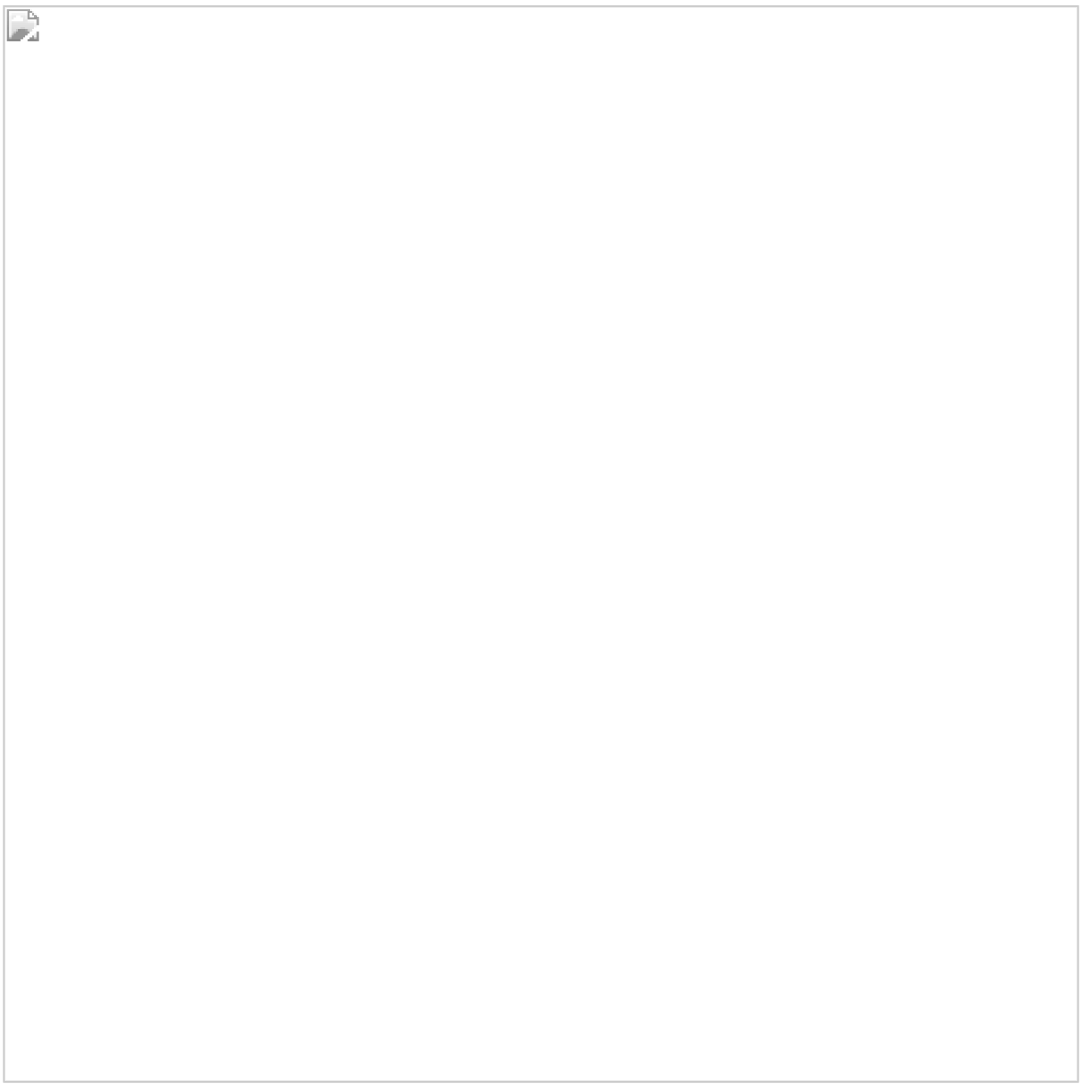
“It is my own news that I'm seeking,” said Munachar, and he told the rod what he wanted.

“You will not get me,” said the rod, “until you get an axe to cut me.”

So he came to the axe. “You will not get me,” said the axe, “until you get a flag to edge me.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The rod wanted something first. Have you ever had to do one thing before you could do another?

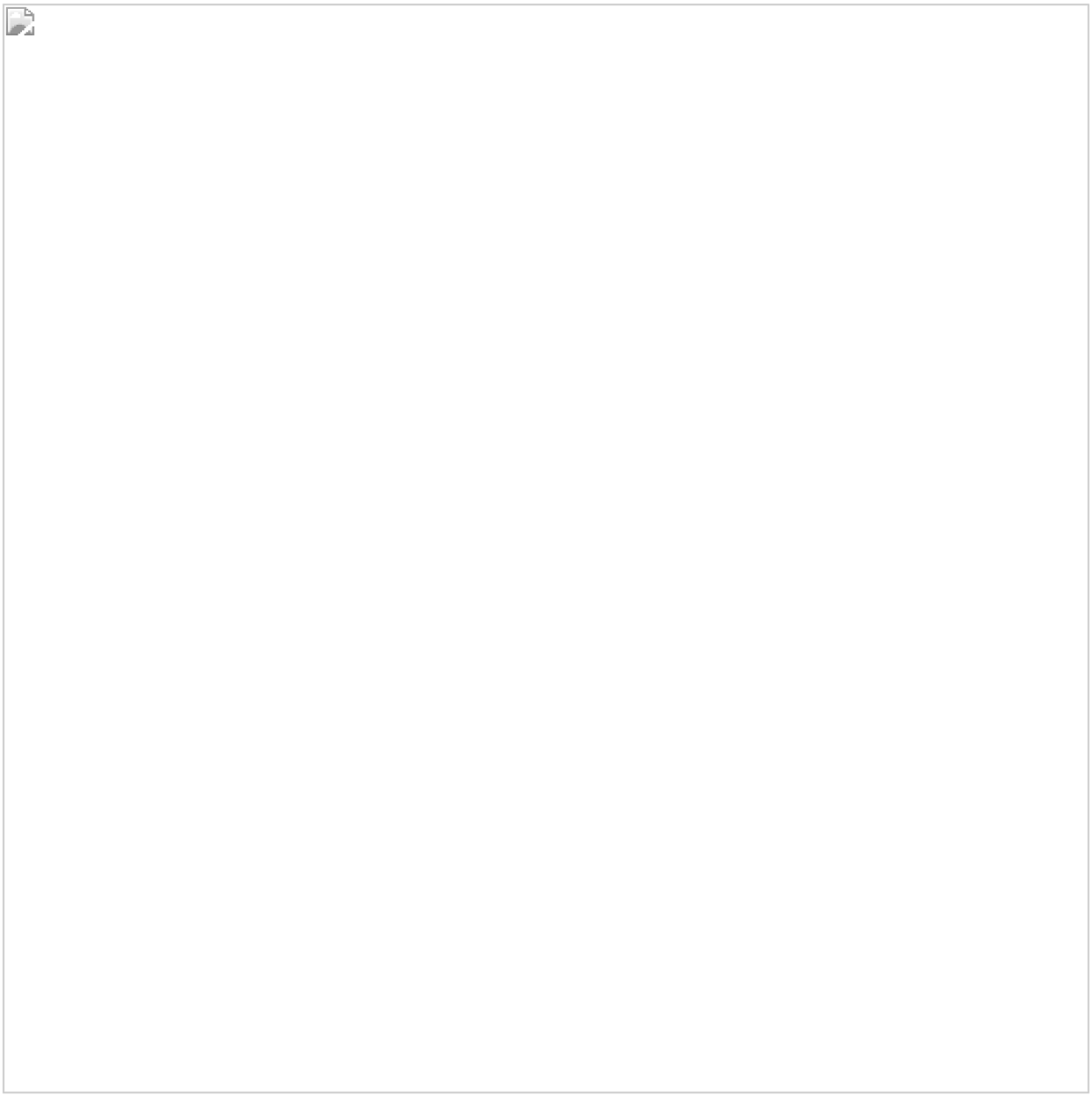


Think about it

1. What did the rod say Munachar must get?

- ○ An axe to cut it
- ○ A bucket of water
- ○ A ball of string

The Flag, the Water and the Deer



A flag is a flat stone for sharpening. “You will not get me,” said the flag, “till you get water to wet me.”

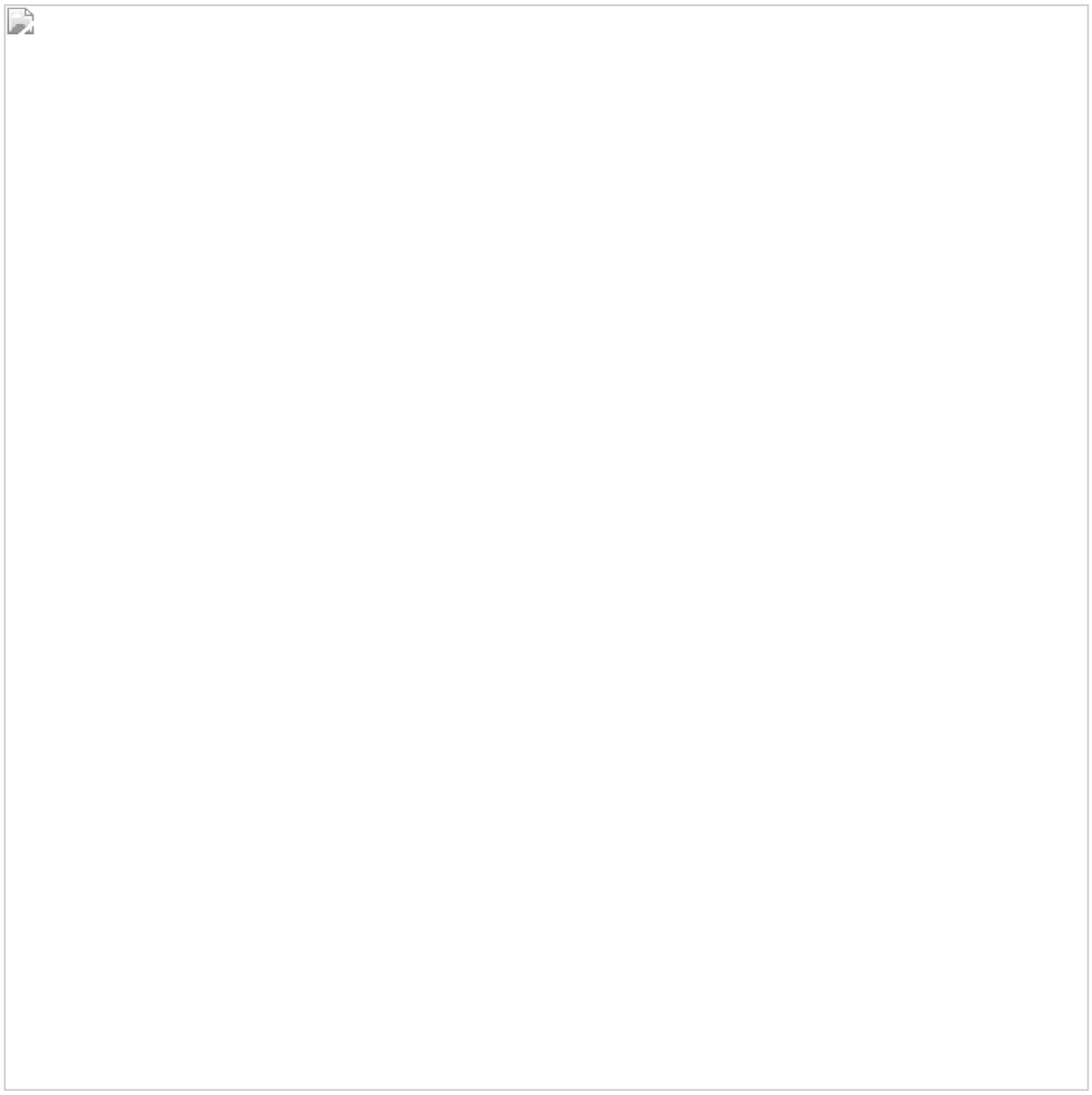
So he came to the water. “You will not get me,” said the water, “until you get a deer who will swim me.”

Each time, Munachar said the same words: “It's my own news I'm seeking.” And each time, the list of things he was looking for grew longer.

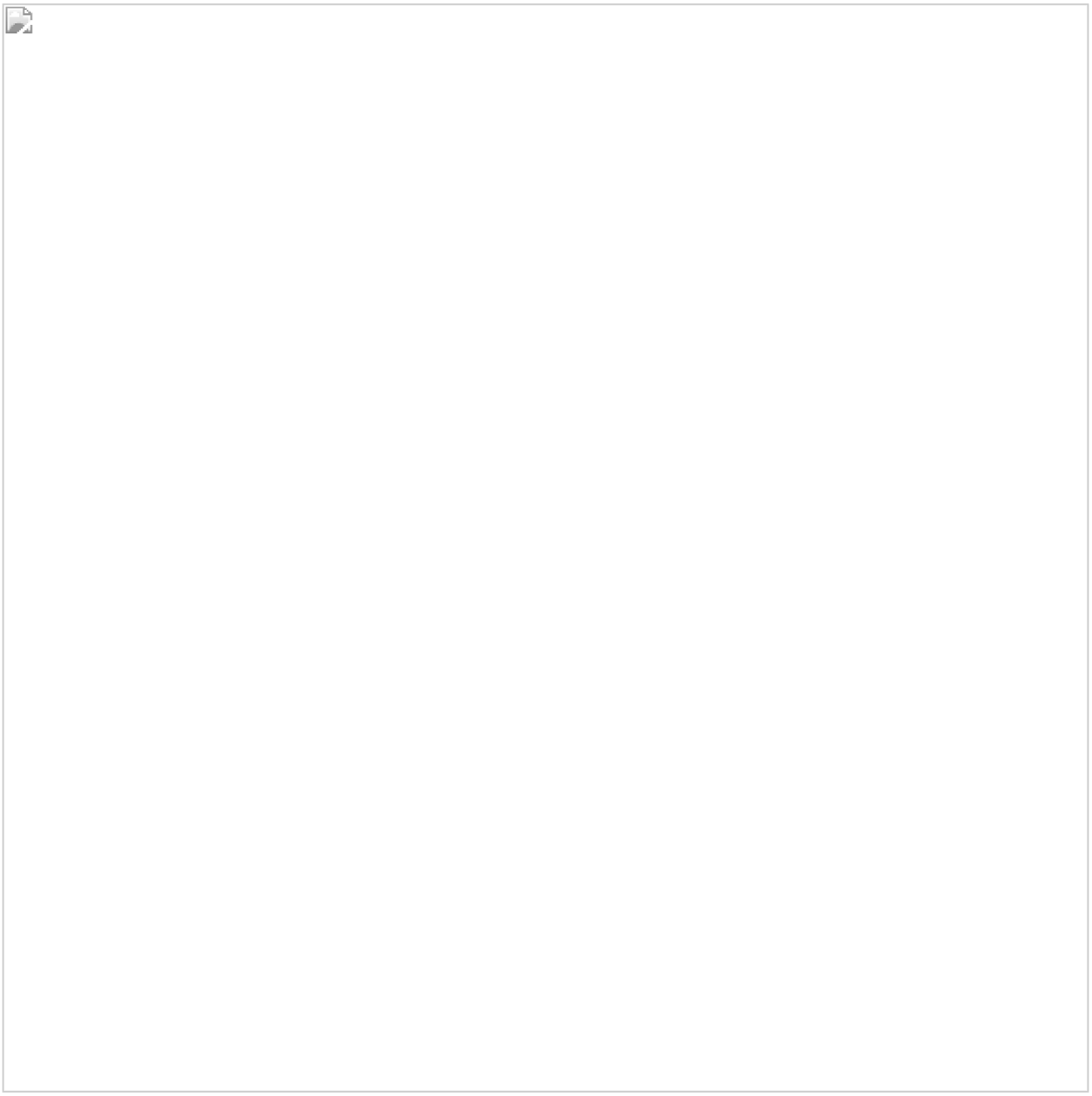
TALK ABOUT IT

Munachar keeps being sent somewhere else. What would you do if you kept being sent away?

The Flag, the Water and the Deer · another picture



The Hound, the Butter and the Cat



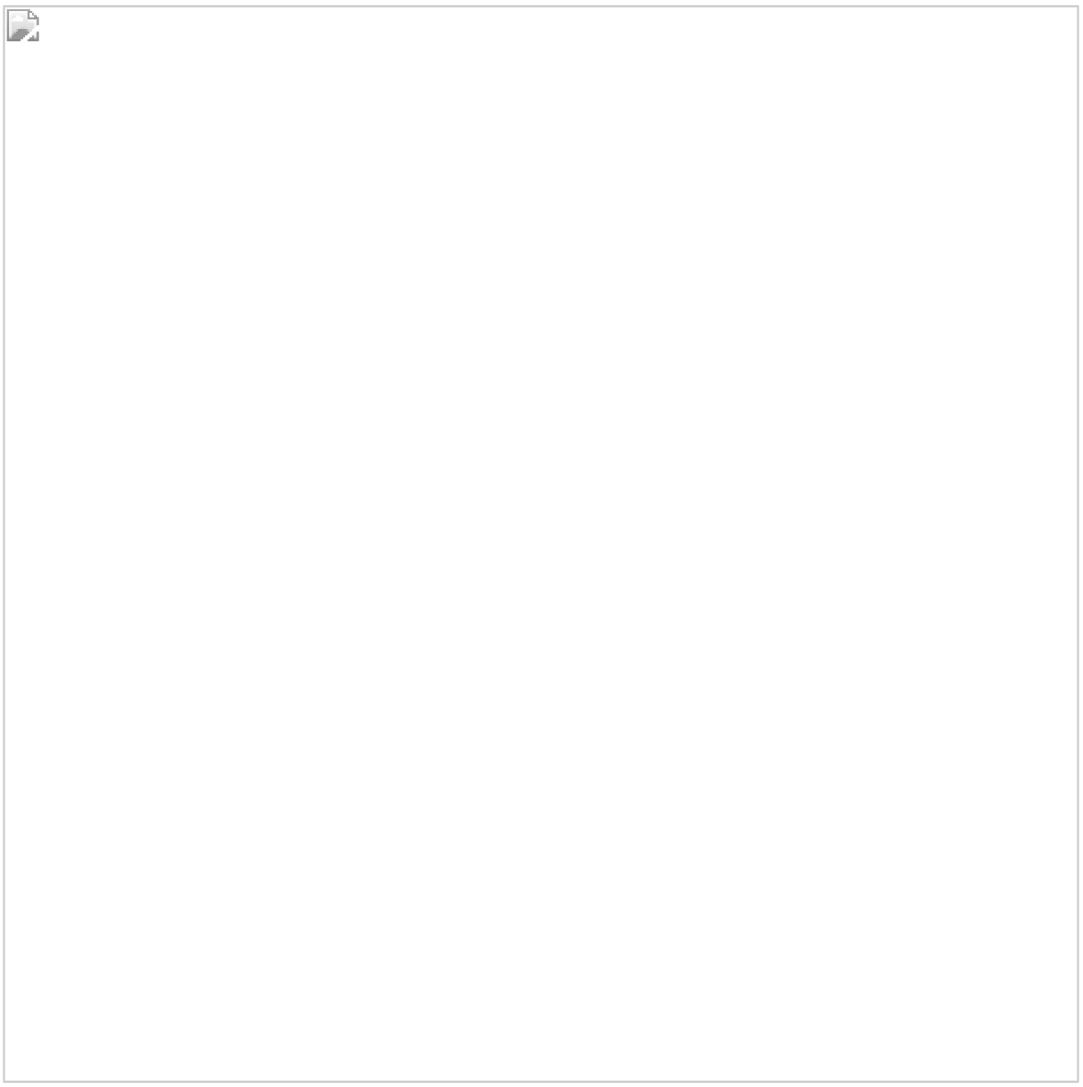
“You will not get me,” said the deer, “until you get a hound who will hunt me.”

“You will not get me,” said the hound, “until you get a bit of butter to put in my claw.”

“You will not get me,” said the butter, “until you get a cat who shall scrape me.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Can you say the whole line of things in order, from the rod to the cat? Try it!

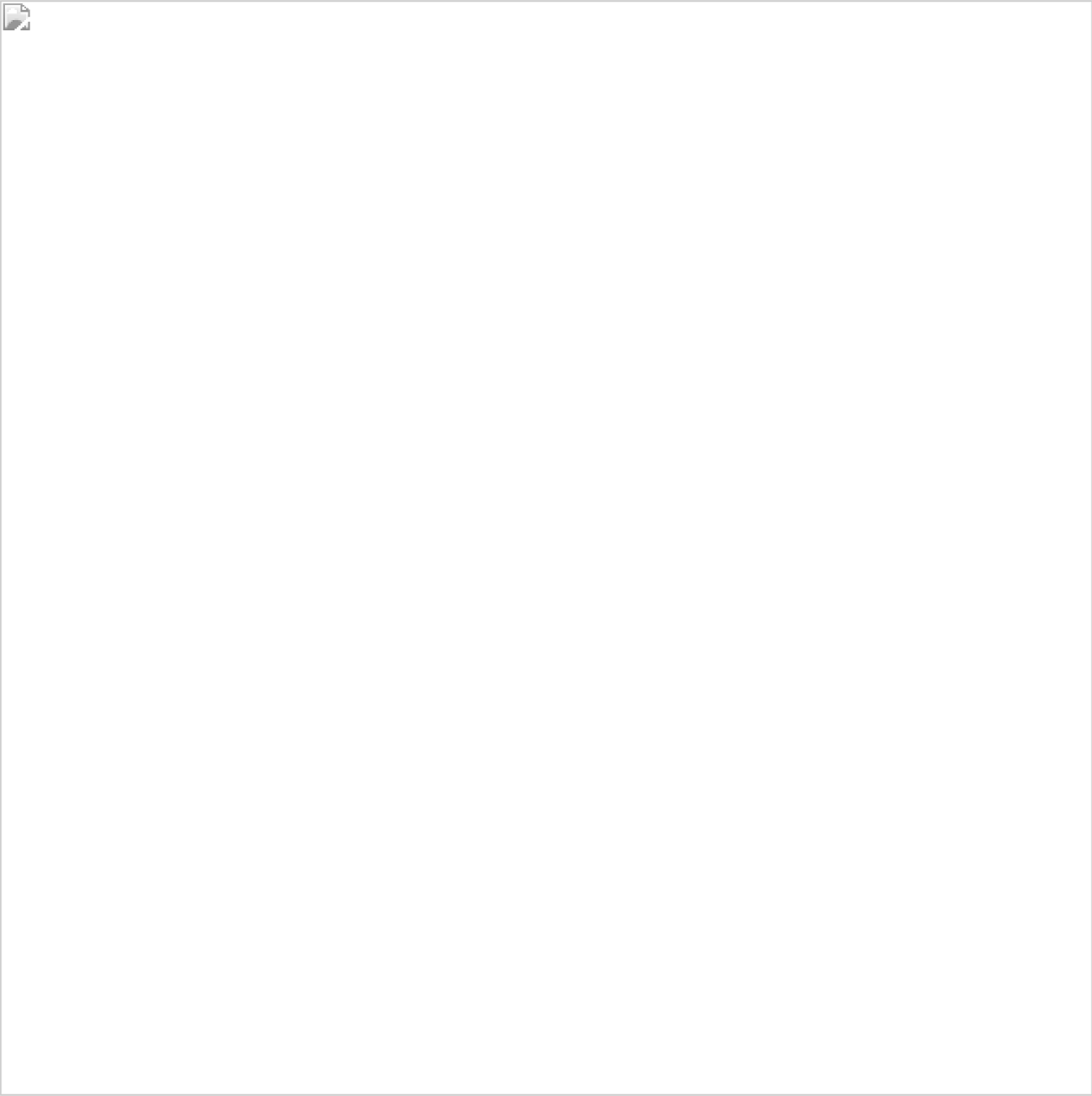


Think about it

1. What did the hound want?

- ○ A bone
- ○ A bit of butter to put in his claw
- ○ A warm bed

The Cat and the Cow



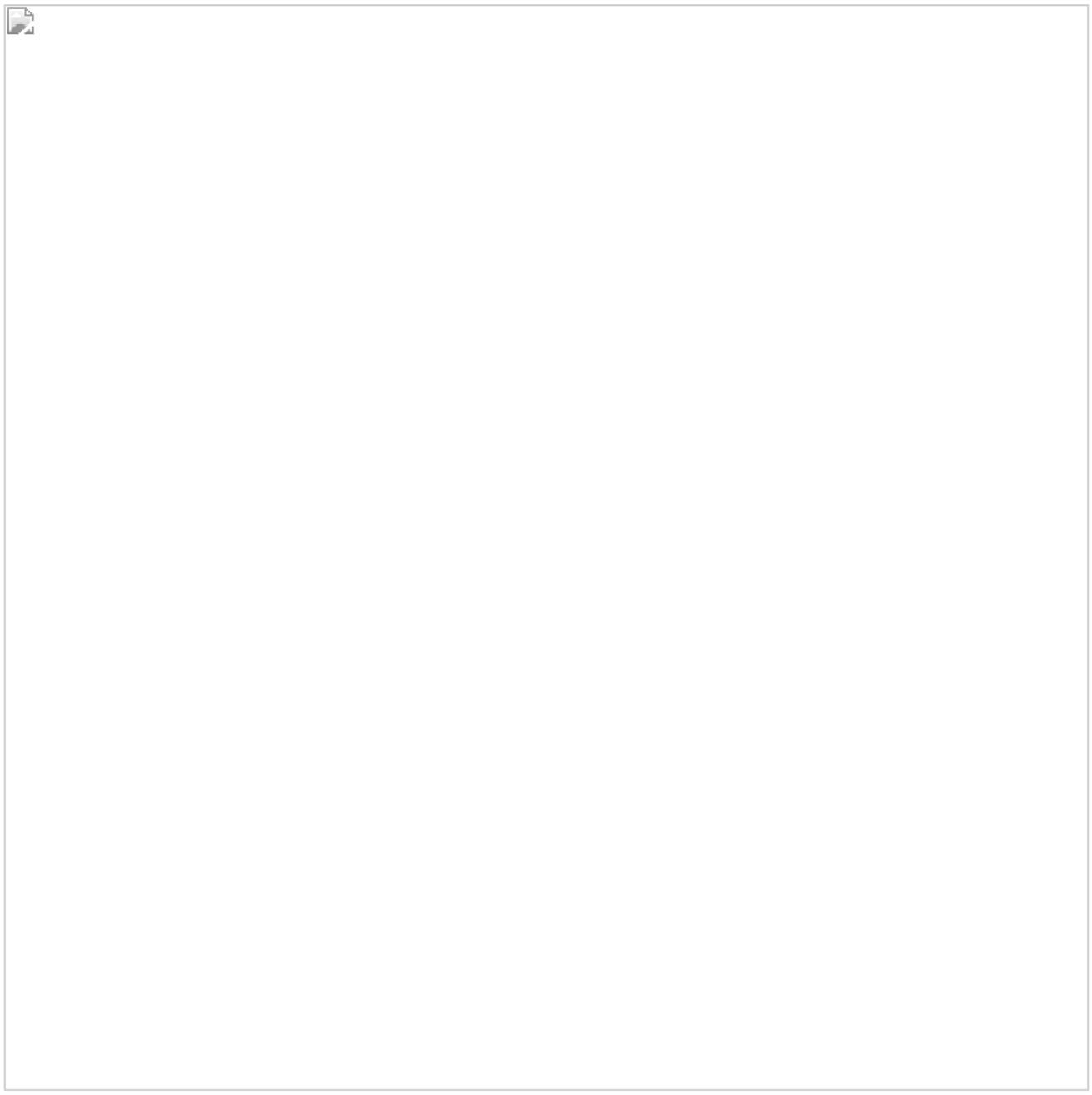
“You will not get me,” said the cat, “until you will get milk which you will give me.”

So Munachar came to the cow. “You will not get any milk from me,” said the cow, “until you bring me a whisp of straw from those threshers yonder.”

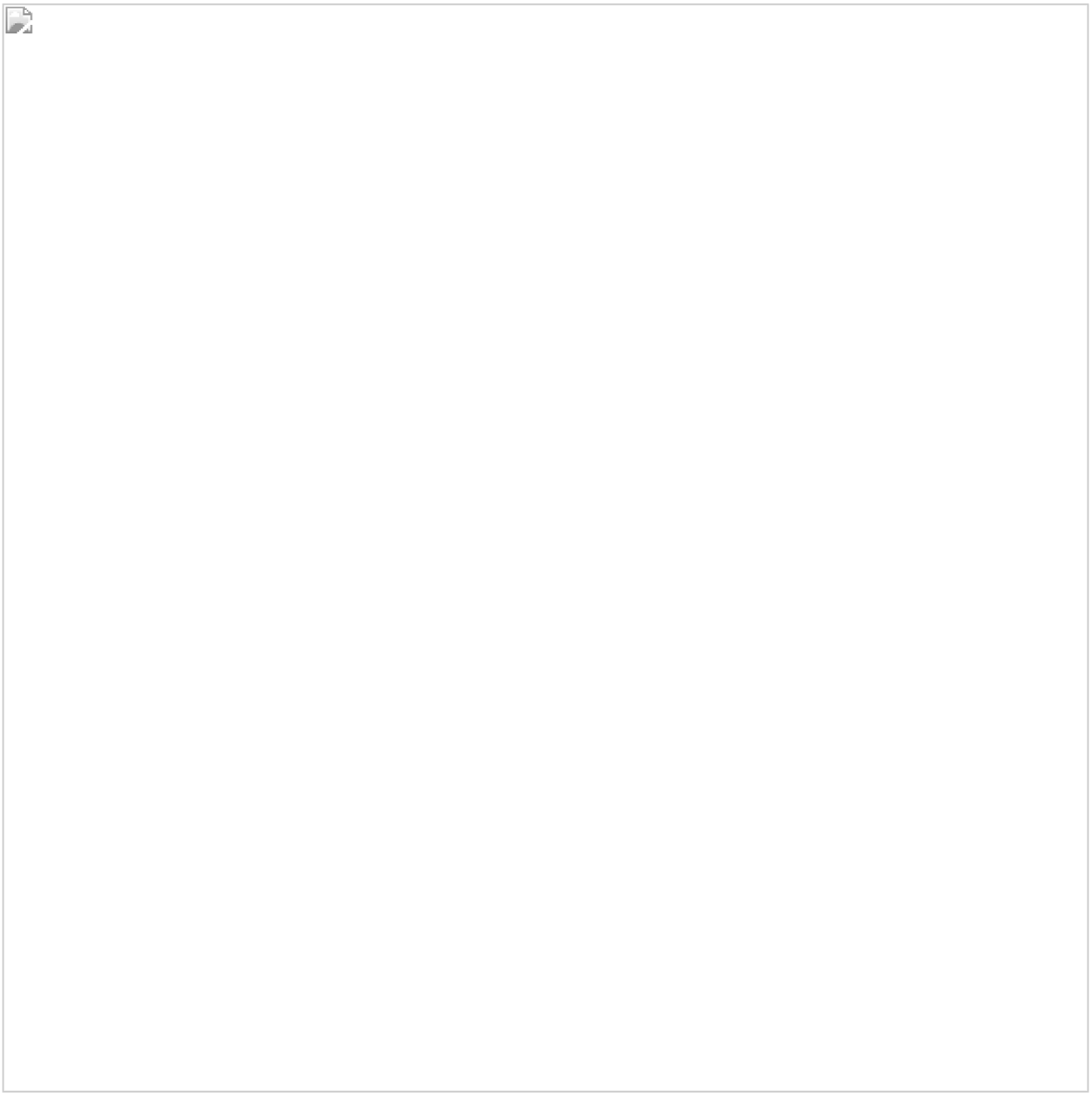
TALK ABOUT IT

Who do you think has the straw? What do you think they will ask for?

The Cat and the Cow · another picture



The Threshers and the Miller

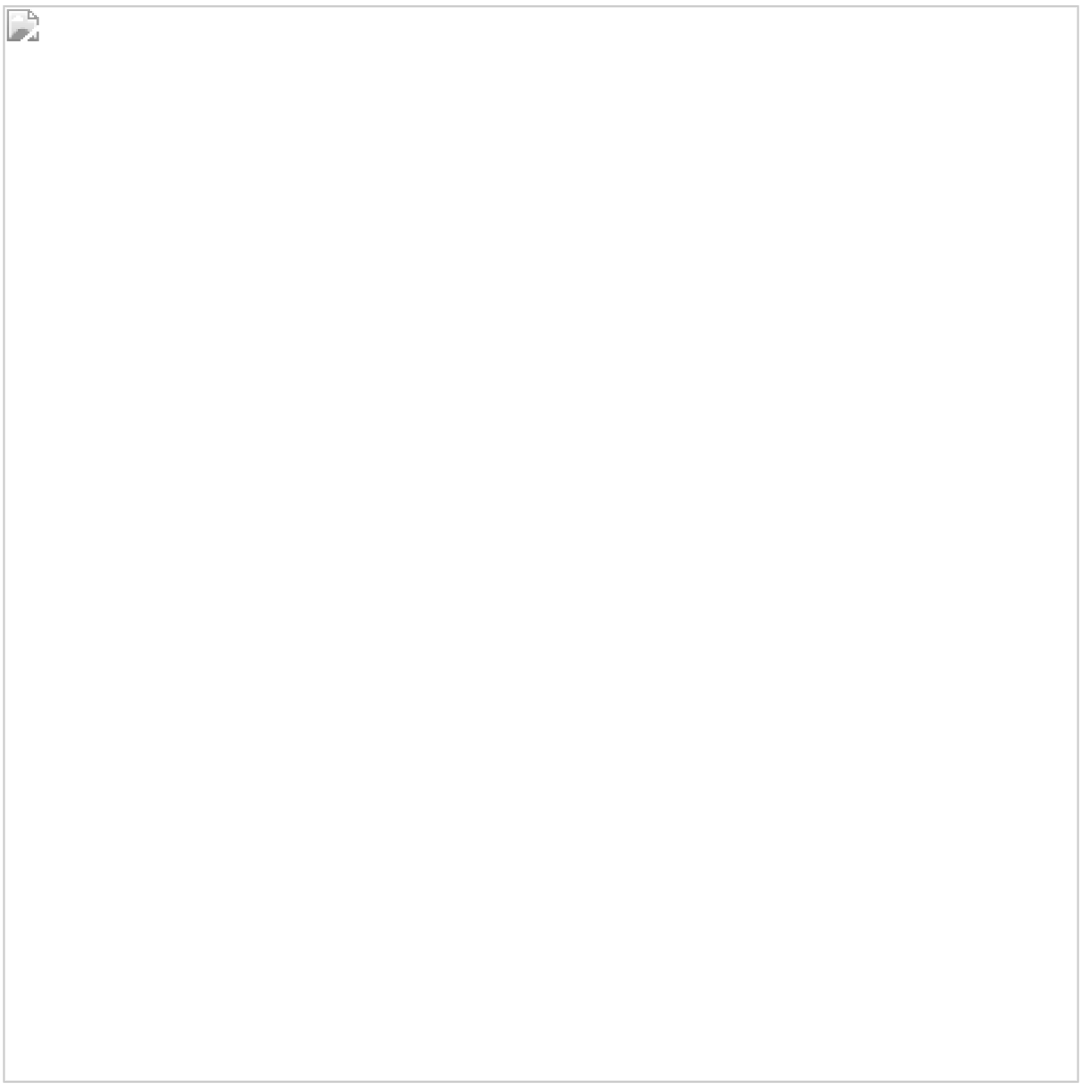


The threshers were the workers who beat the grain. “You will not get any whisp of straw from us,” they said, “until you bring us the makings of a cake from the miller over yonder.”

“You will not get any makings of a cake from me,” said the miller, “till you bring me the full of that sieve of water from the river over there.”

TALK ABOUT IT

A sieve has holes in it. Do you think it can carry water? Why or why not?

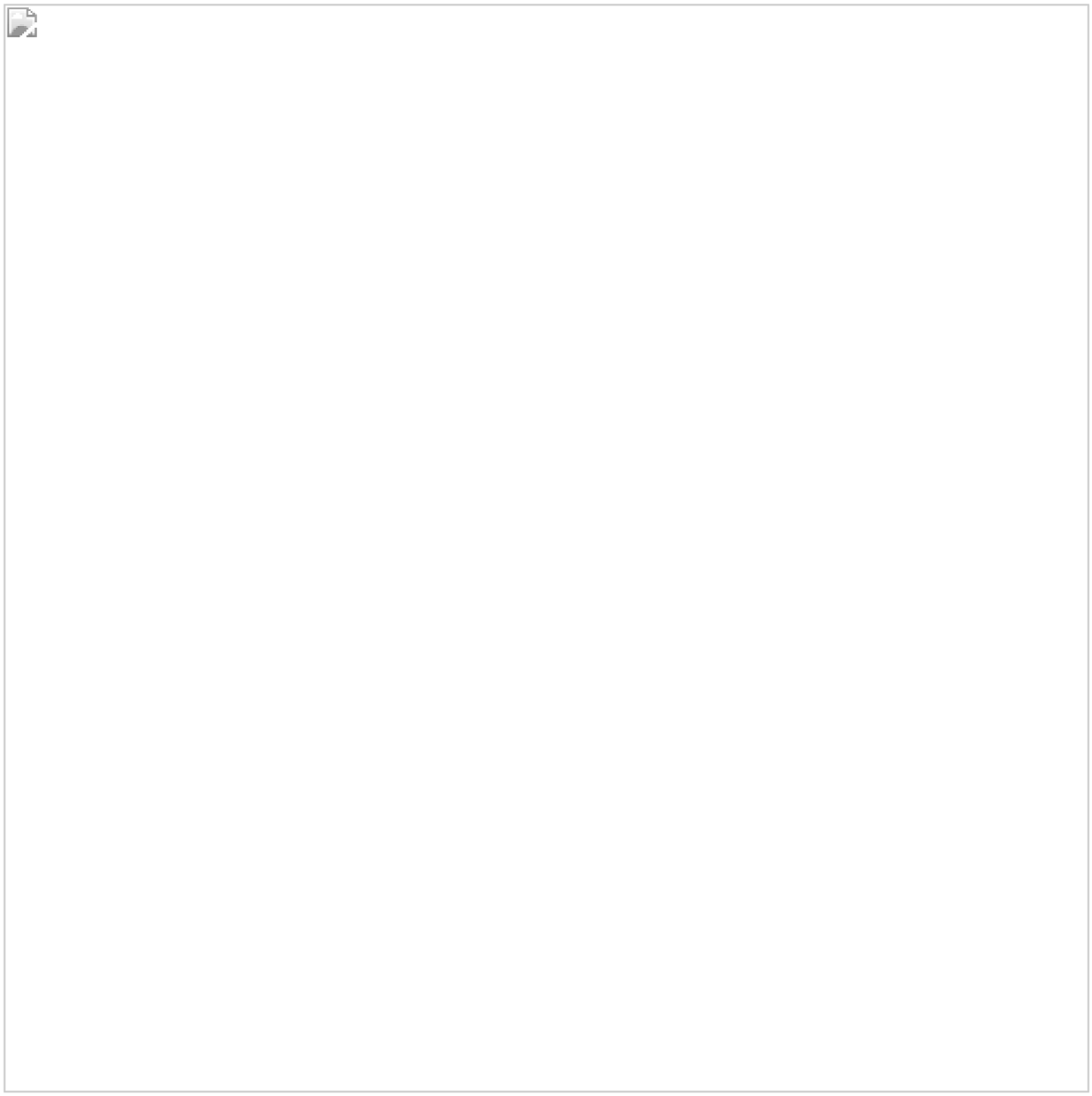


Think about it

1. What did the miller want filled with water?

- ○ A big barrel
- ○ A sieve
- ○ A boot

The Sieve and the Crow



Munachar took the sieve to the river. But as often as he filled it, the moment he lifted it the water ran out. He could have been there from that day till this and never filled it.

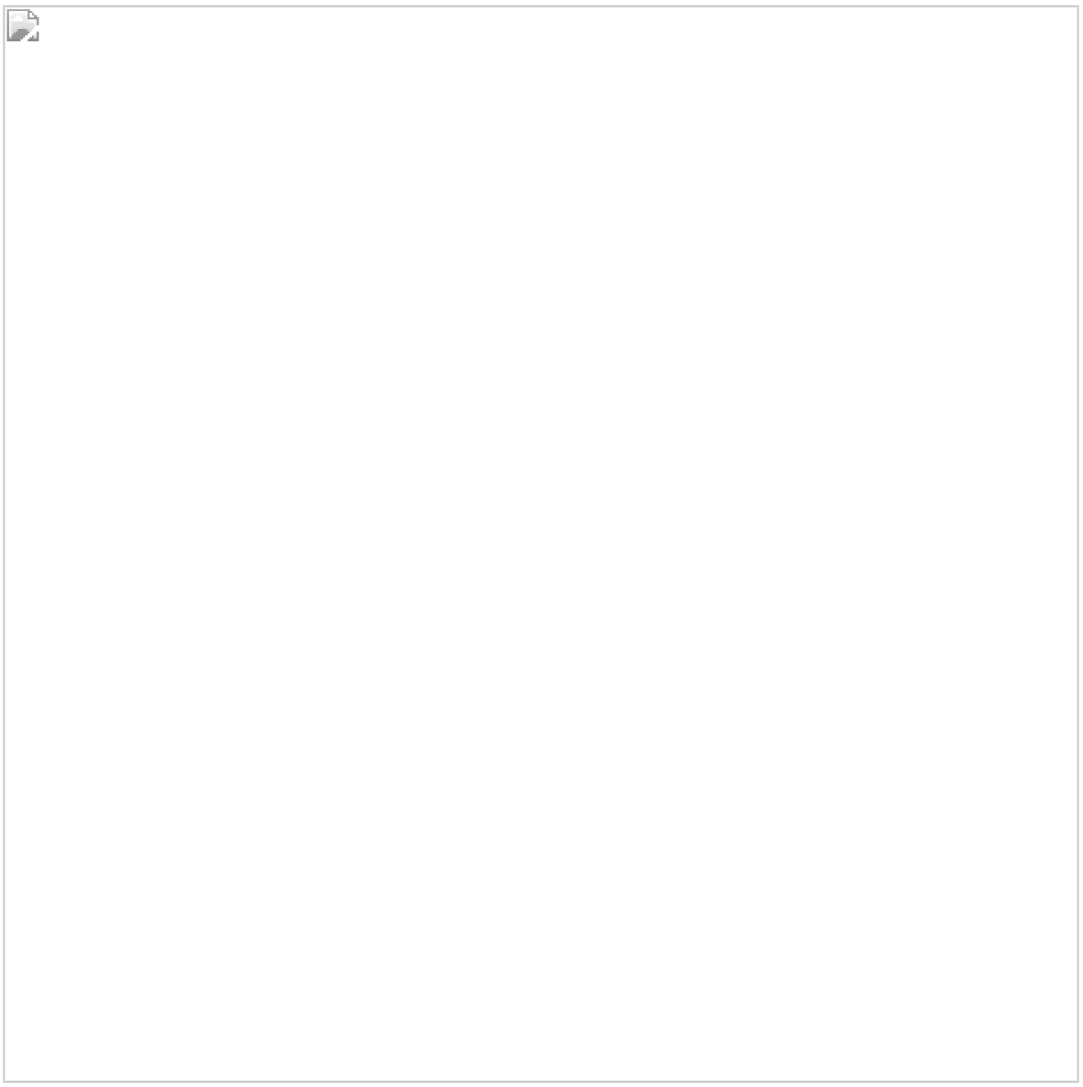
A crow went flying by over his head. “Daub! daub!” said the crow.

“My blessings on ye, then,” said Munachar, “but it's the good advice you have.”

He took the red clay that was by the brink and rubbed it into the bottom of the sieve until all the holes were filled. Then the sieve held the water.

TALK ABOUT IT

The crow gave good advice, and Munachar thanked it. Who has given you good advice? Did you thank them?

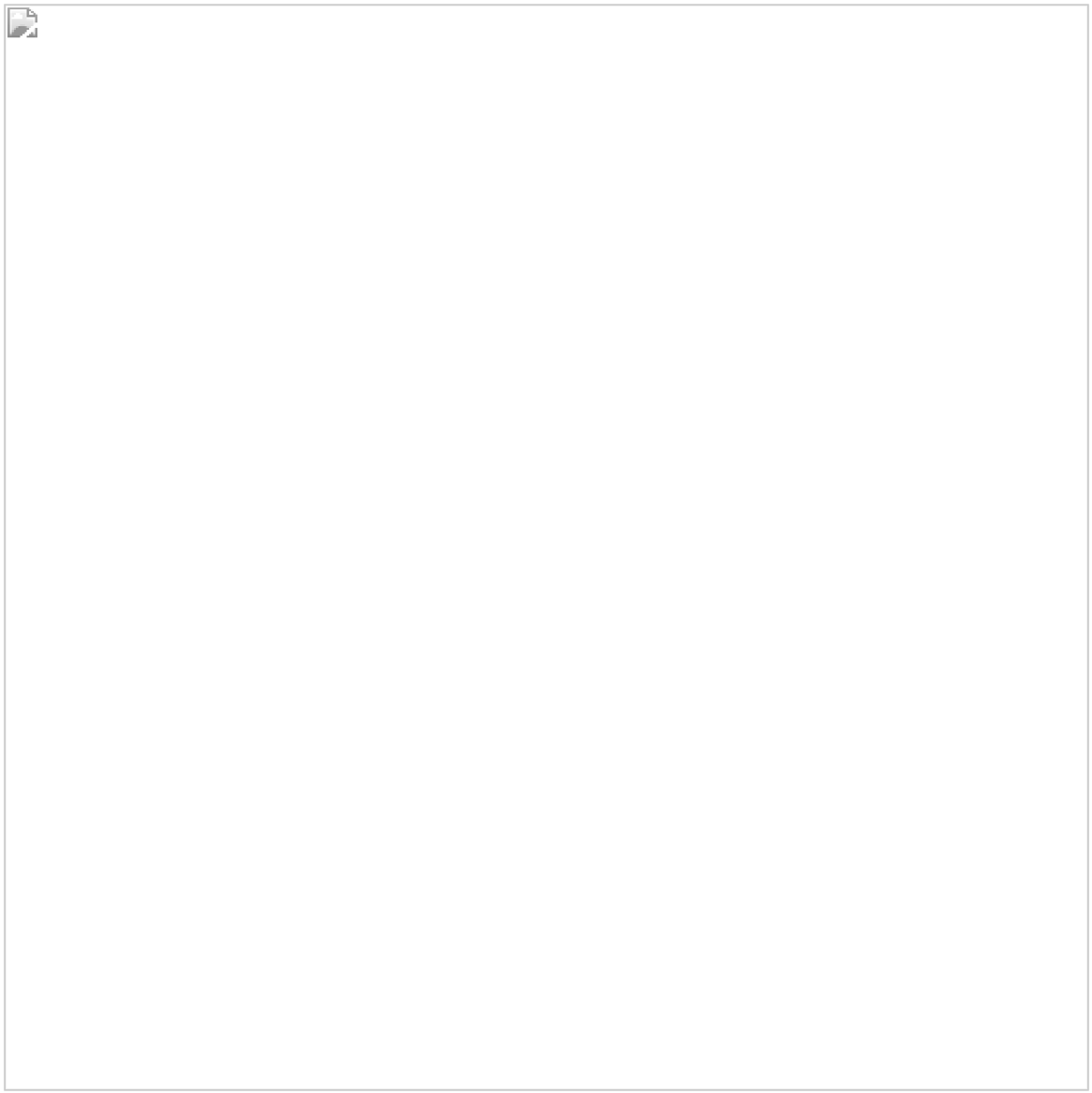


Think about it

1. What did the crow say?

- ○ “Daub! daub!”
- ○ “Hurry! hurry!”
- ○ “Wait! wait!”

All the Way Back



Munachar brought the water to the miller, and the miller gave him the makings of a cake. He gave the makings of the cake to the threshers, and the threshers gave him a whisp of straw.

He gave the straw to the cow, and the cow gave him milk. He gave the milk to the cat, and the cat scraped the butter.

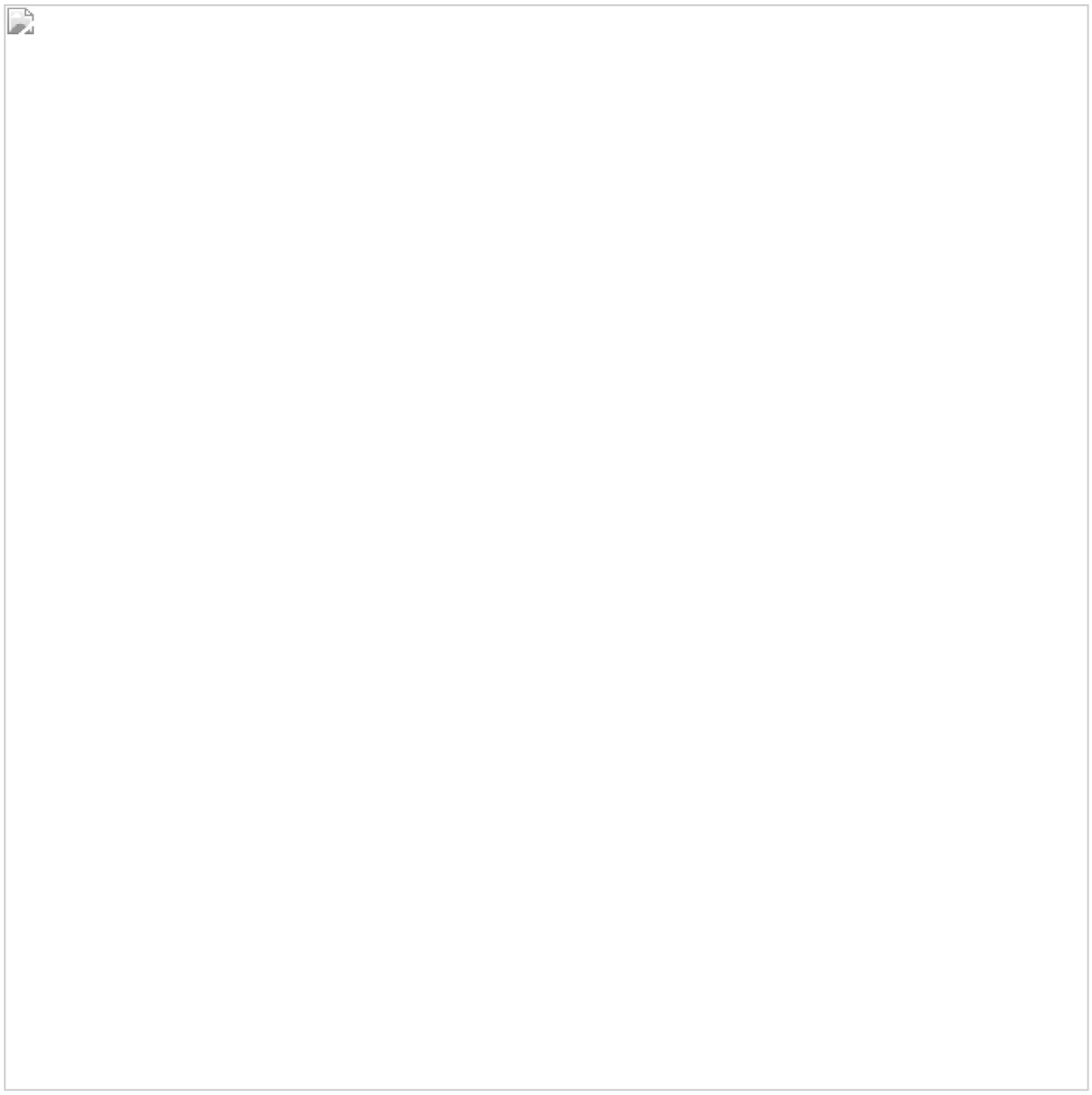
The butter went into the claw of the hound, and the hound hunted the deer. The deer swam the water, and the water wet the flag.

The flag sharpened the axe, the axe cut the rod, and the rod made a gad.

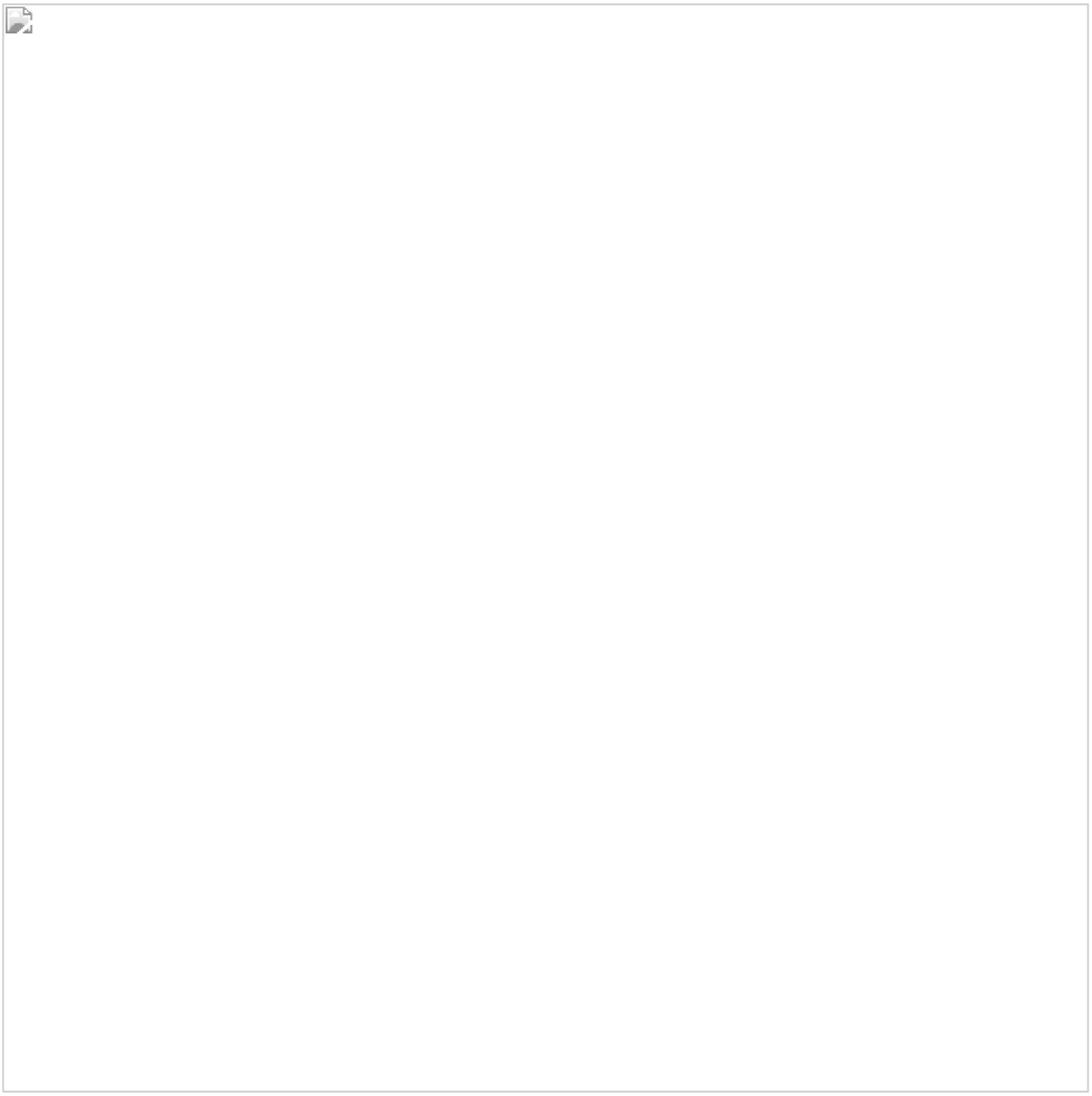
TALK ABOUT IT

What a long way around! Which one was your favourite part of the line?

All the Way Back · another picture



Manachar



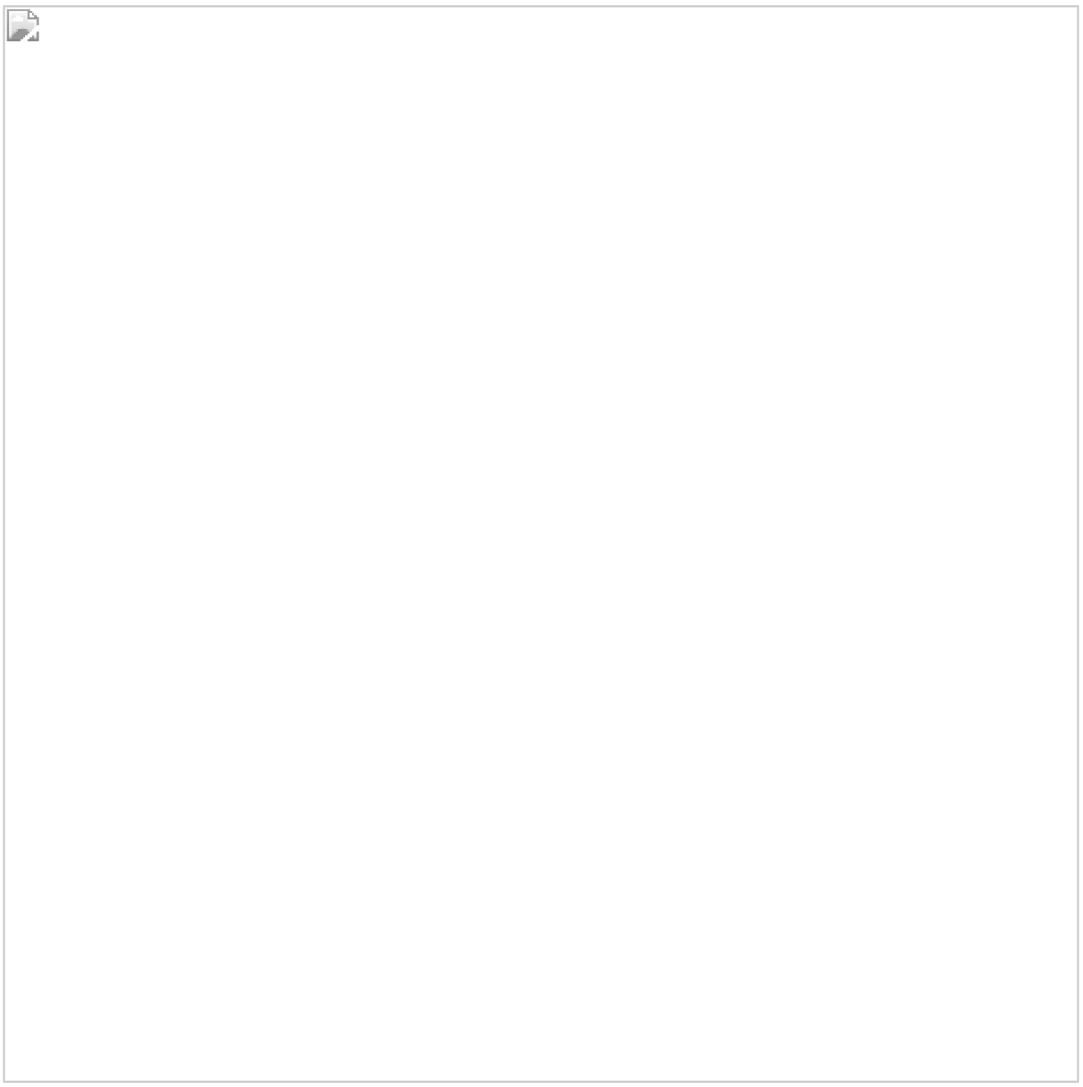
And when Munachar had the gad ready to hang Manachar, he found that Manachar had BURST.

That is where the tale ends.

TALK ABOUT IT

Munachar worked so hard to do something, and then it was no longer needed. What do you think about that ending?

Manachar · another picture



Think about it

1. What had happened to Manachar when Munachar was ready?

- ○ He had run away
- ○ He had BURST
- ○ He had said sorry

2. Was it fair for Munachar to want to hang Manachar for eating the raspberries? What would you have done?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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