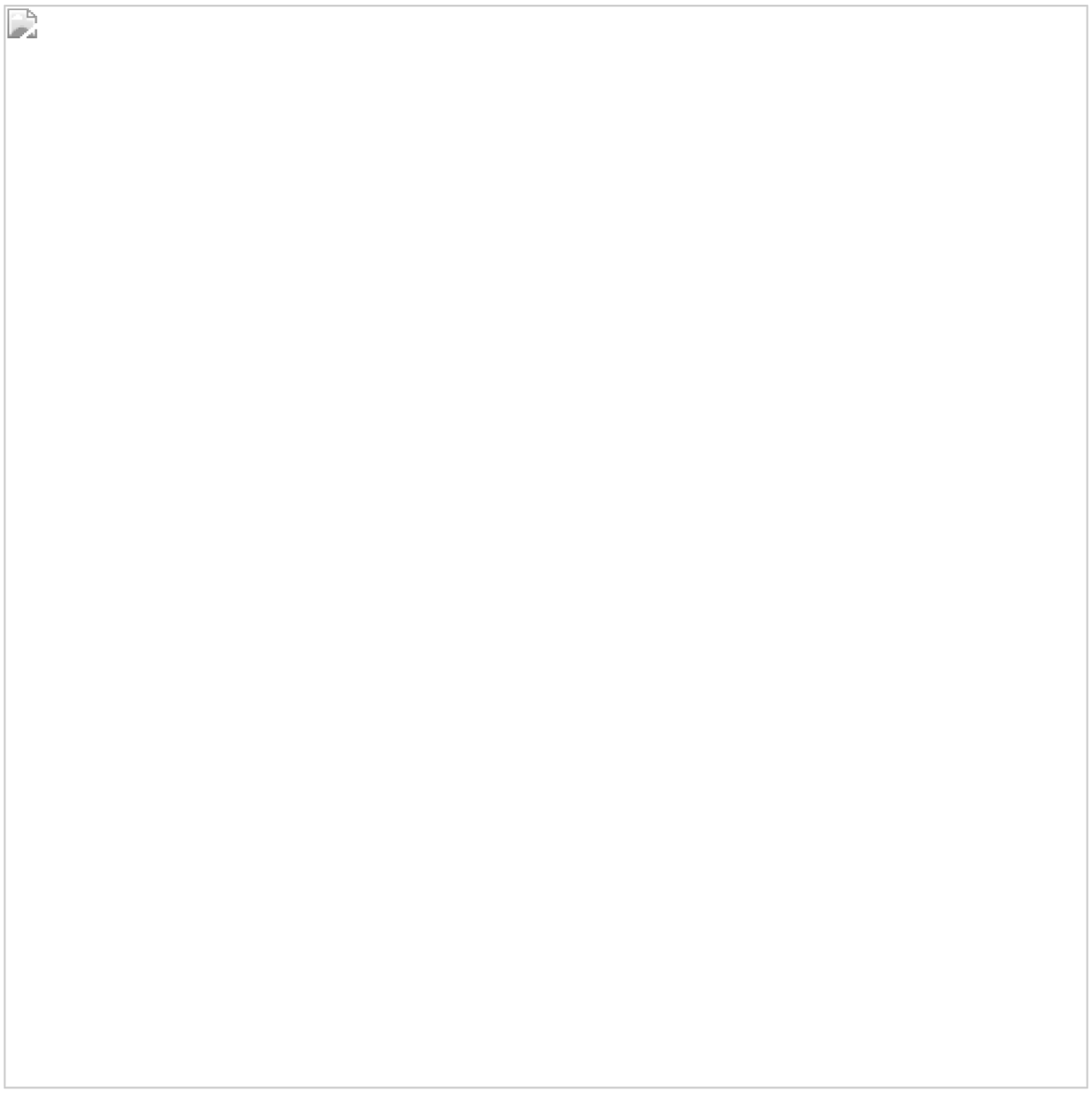
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Puss in Boots

Or, The Master Cat



There was a miller who left his three sons no more than his mill, his ass and his cat. The eldest took the mill, the second took the ass, and the youngest had nothing but the cat.

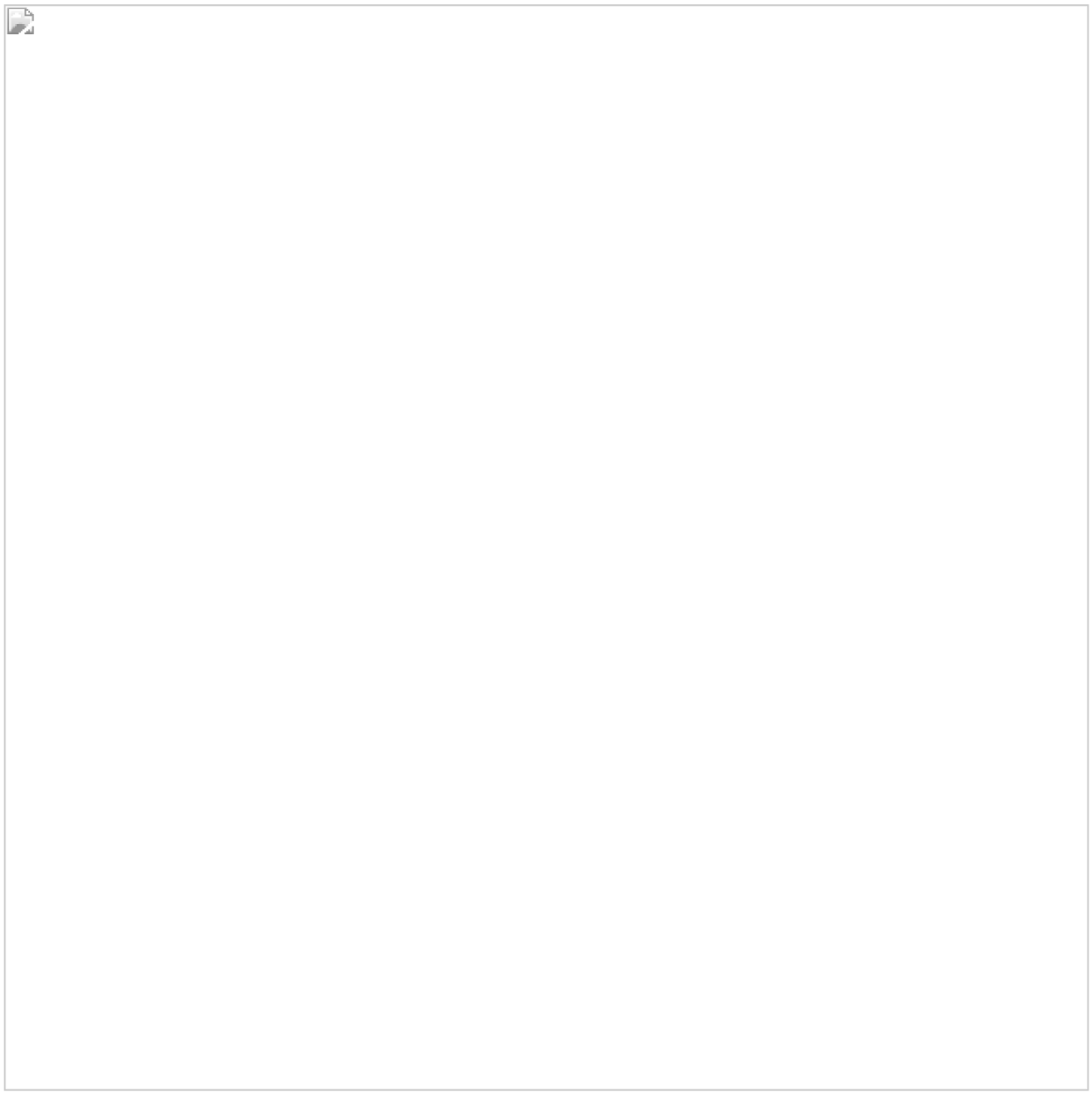
The poor young fellow was quite comfortless at having so poor a lot.

TALK ABOUT IT

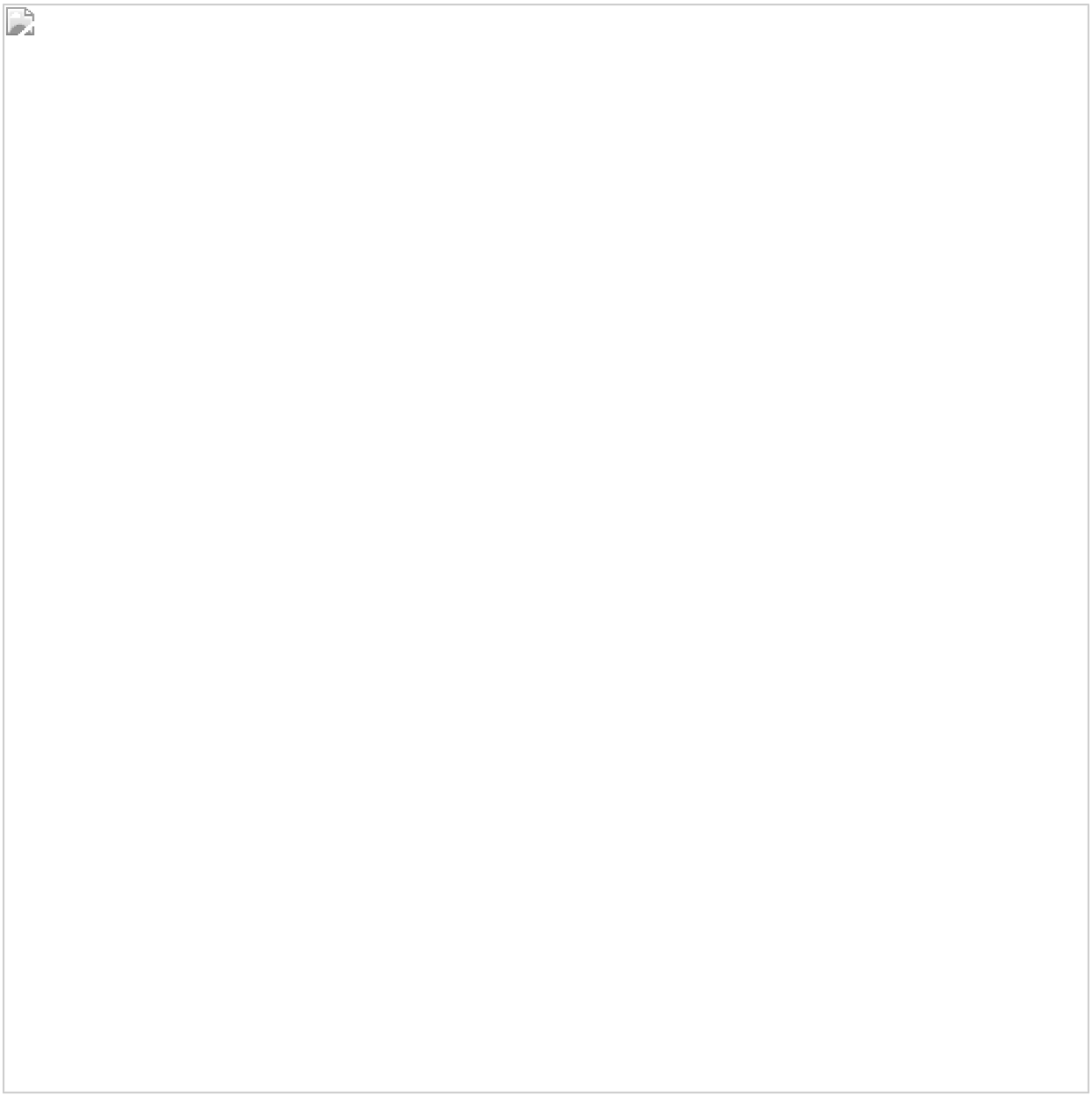
The youngest got the smallest share. What do you think he is wondering?

This book belongs to _____

Puss in Boots · another picture



A Cat Who Listened

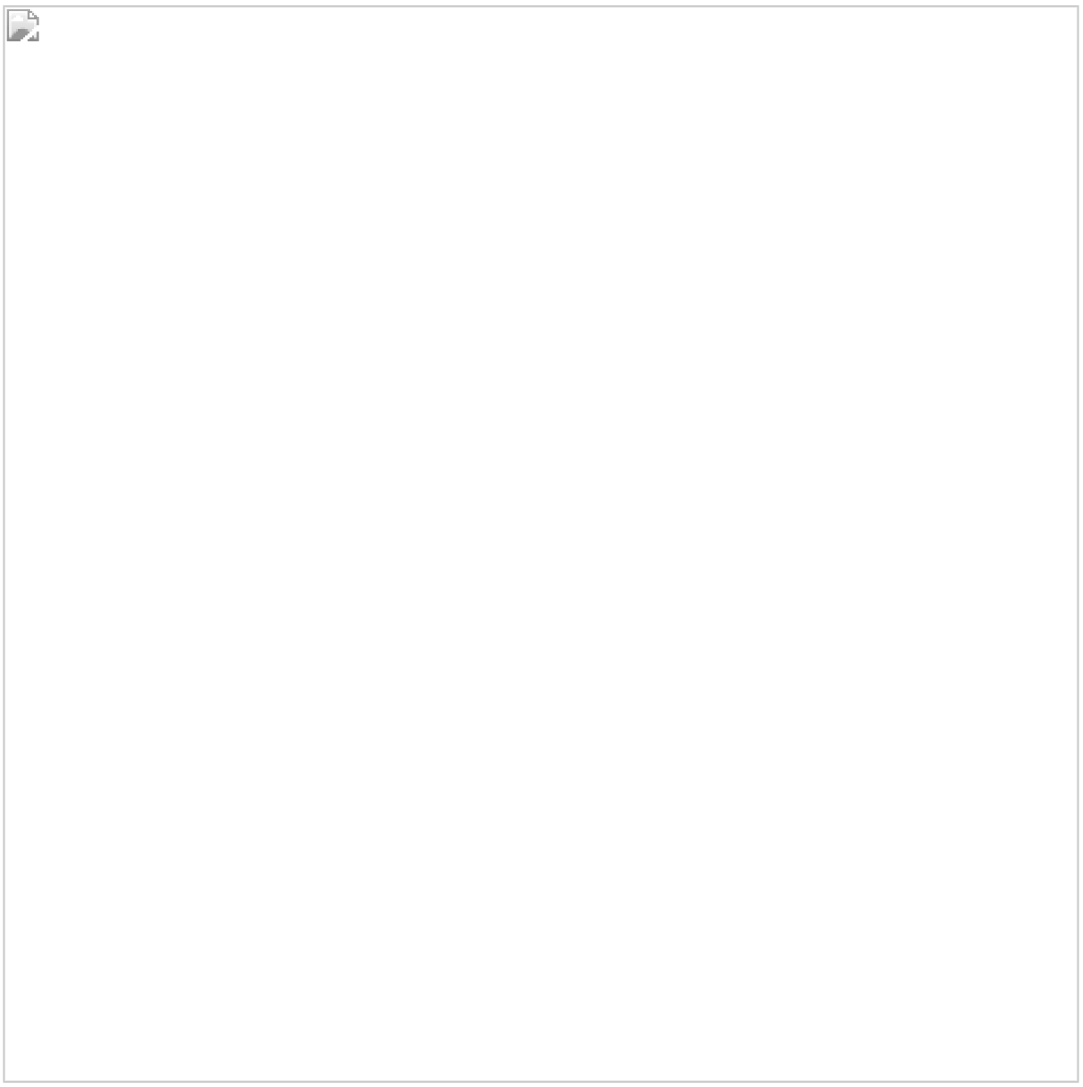


“My brothers,” said he, “may get their living handsomely enough by joining their stocks together.” But he did not see what he could do with a cat.

The Cat heard all this, but made as if he did not. Then he said with a grave and serious air, “Do not thus afflict yourself, my good master. You have nothing else to do but to give me a bag and get a pair of boots made for me that I may scamper through the dirt and the brambles, and you shall see that you have not so bad a portion in me as you imagine.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The cat made a big promise. Would you have trusted him? Why or why not?

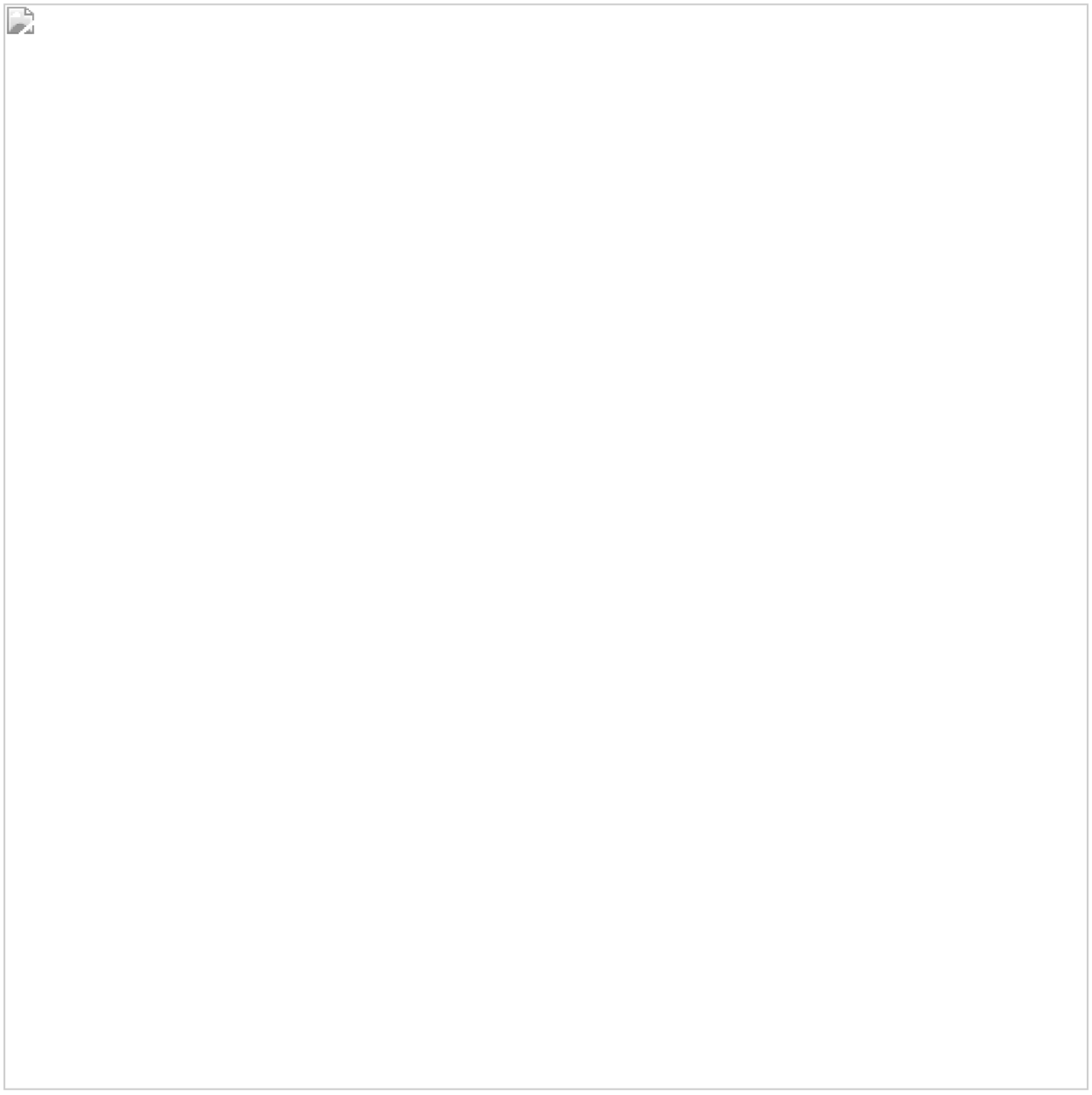


Think about it

1. What did the Cat ask his master to get for him?

- ○ A hat and a cane
- ○ A bag and a pair of boots
- ○ A coach and horses

The Bag in the Warren



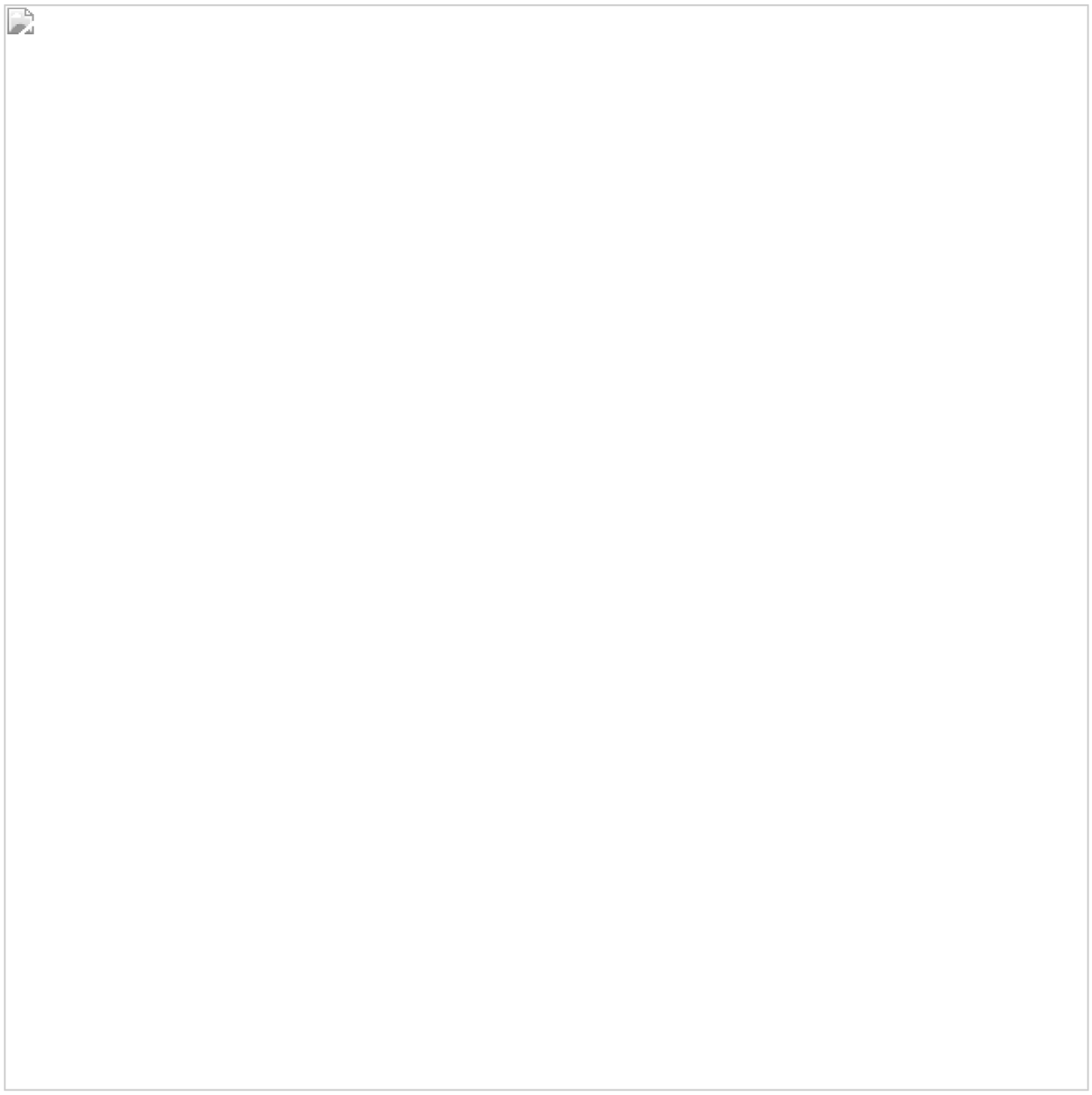
The master had seen the Cat play many cunning tricks to catch rats and mice, so he did not quite give up hope. When the Cat had his boots, he put them on very gallantly, hung the bag around his neck and went into a warren full of rabbits.

He put bran and sow-thistle in the bag, stretched out at length as if he were dead, and waited. A rash and foolish young rabbit jumped into the bag, and Monsieur Puss drew the strings shut and caught him.

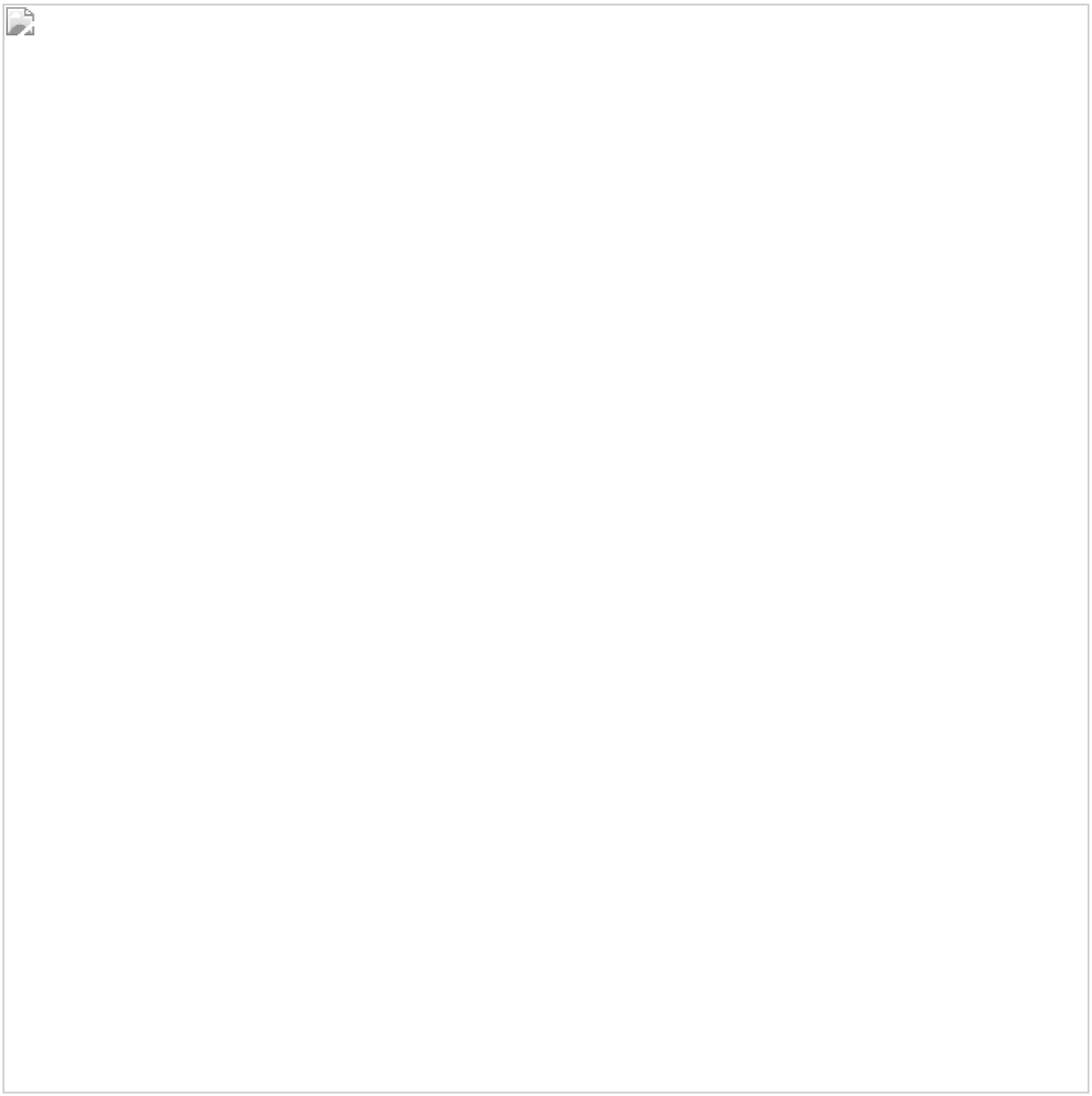
TALK ABOUT IT

Puss used a clever trick. Can you think of a clever trick you have seen in a game?

The Bag in the Warren · another picture



A Gift for the King

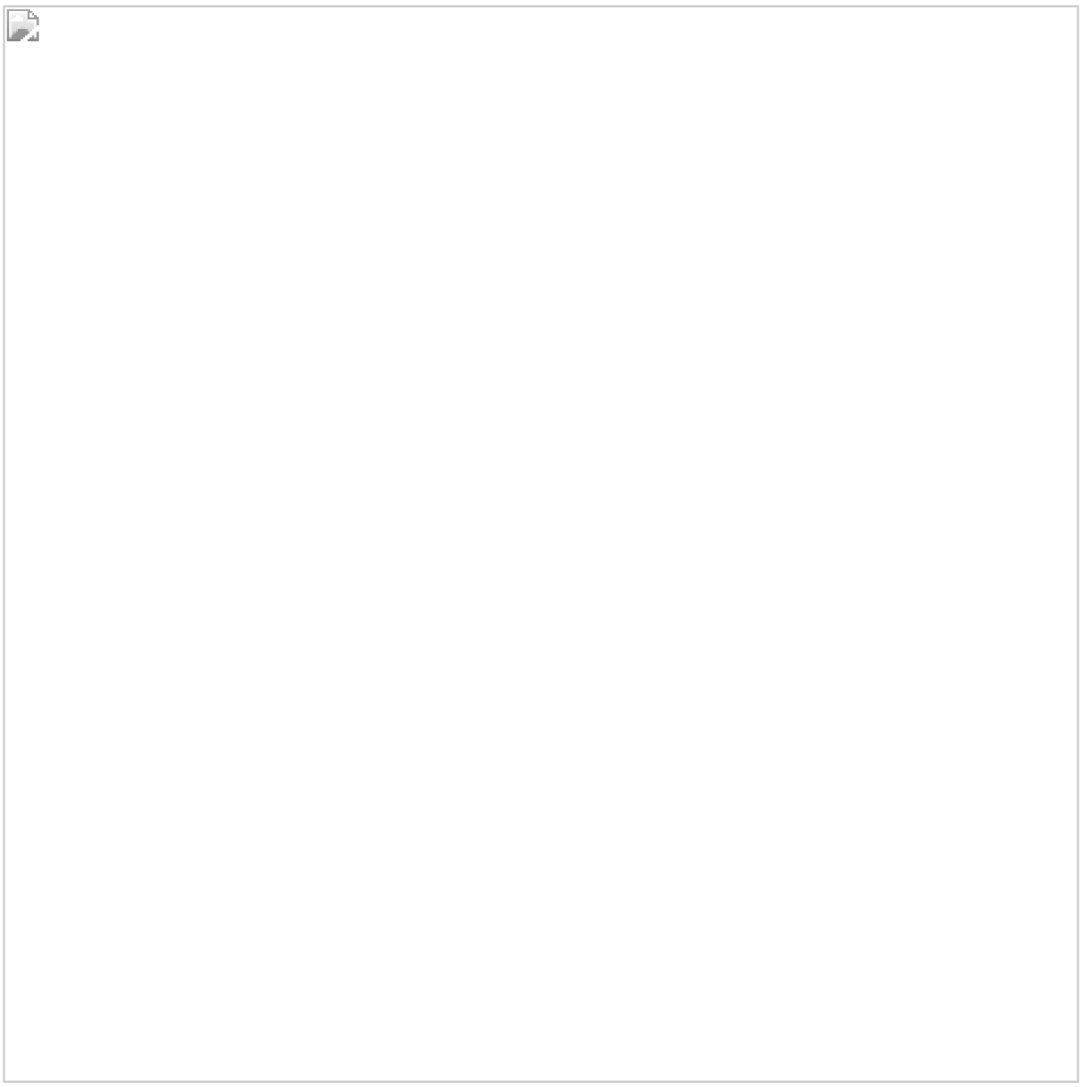


Proud of his prize, Puss went to the palace and asked to speak with the King. He made a low reverence and said, “I have brought you, sir, a rabbit of the warren, which my noble lord the Marquis of Carabas” (for that was the title which puss was pleased to give his master) “has commanded me to present to your majesty from him.”

“Tell thy master,” said the king, “that I thank him and that he does me a great deal of pleasure.”

TALK ABOUT IT

There was no Marquis of Carabas. What do you think about Puss making up a name?

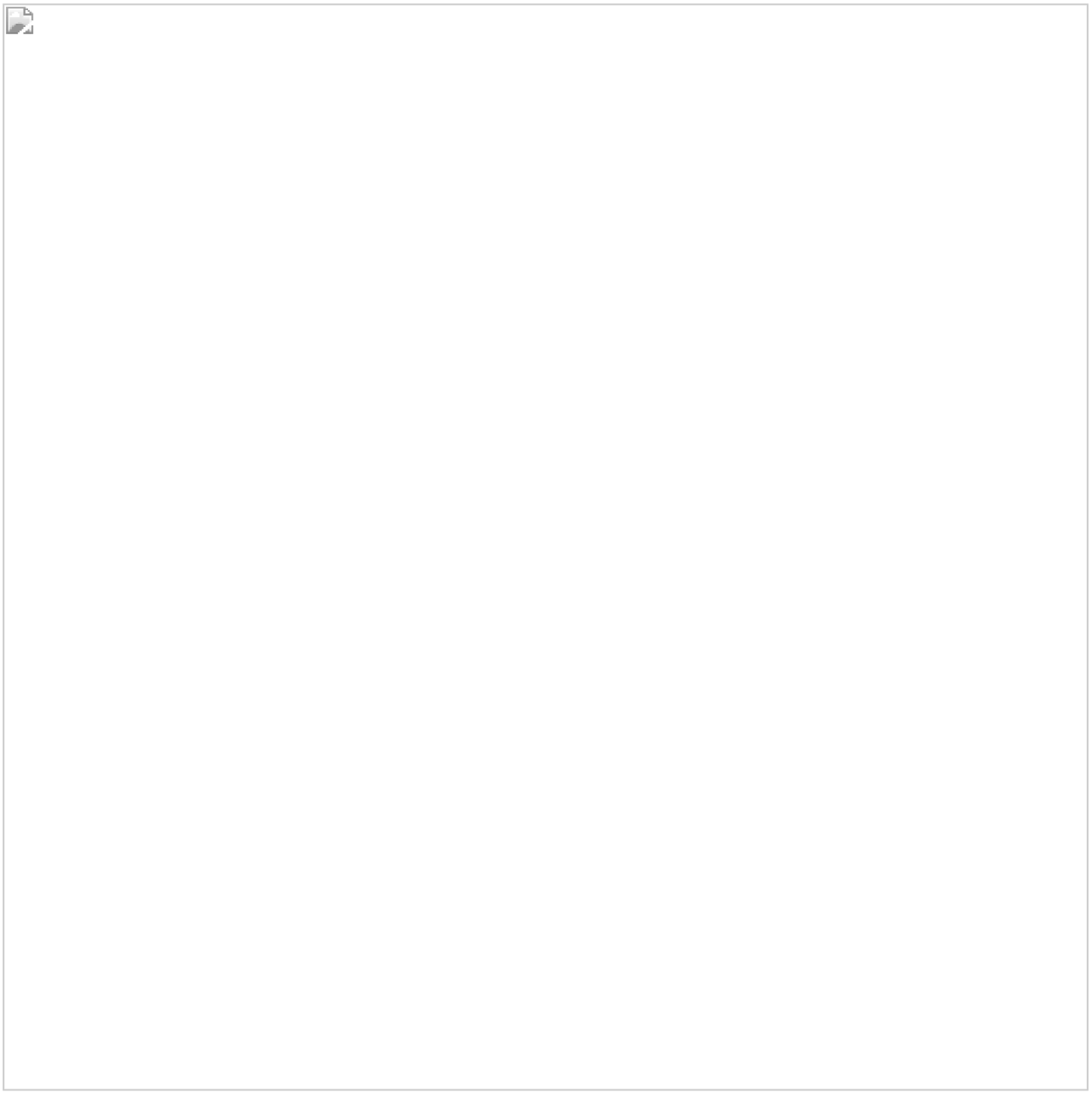


Think about it

1. What title did Puss give his master?

- ○ The Duke of Dover
- ○ The Marquis of Carabas
- ○ The King of the Mill

Partridges and Plans

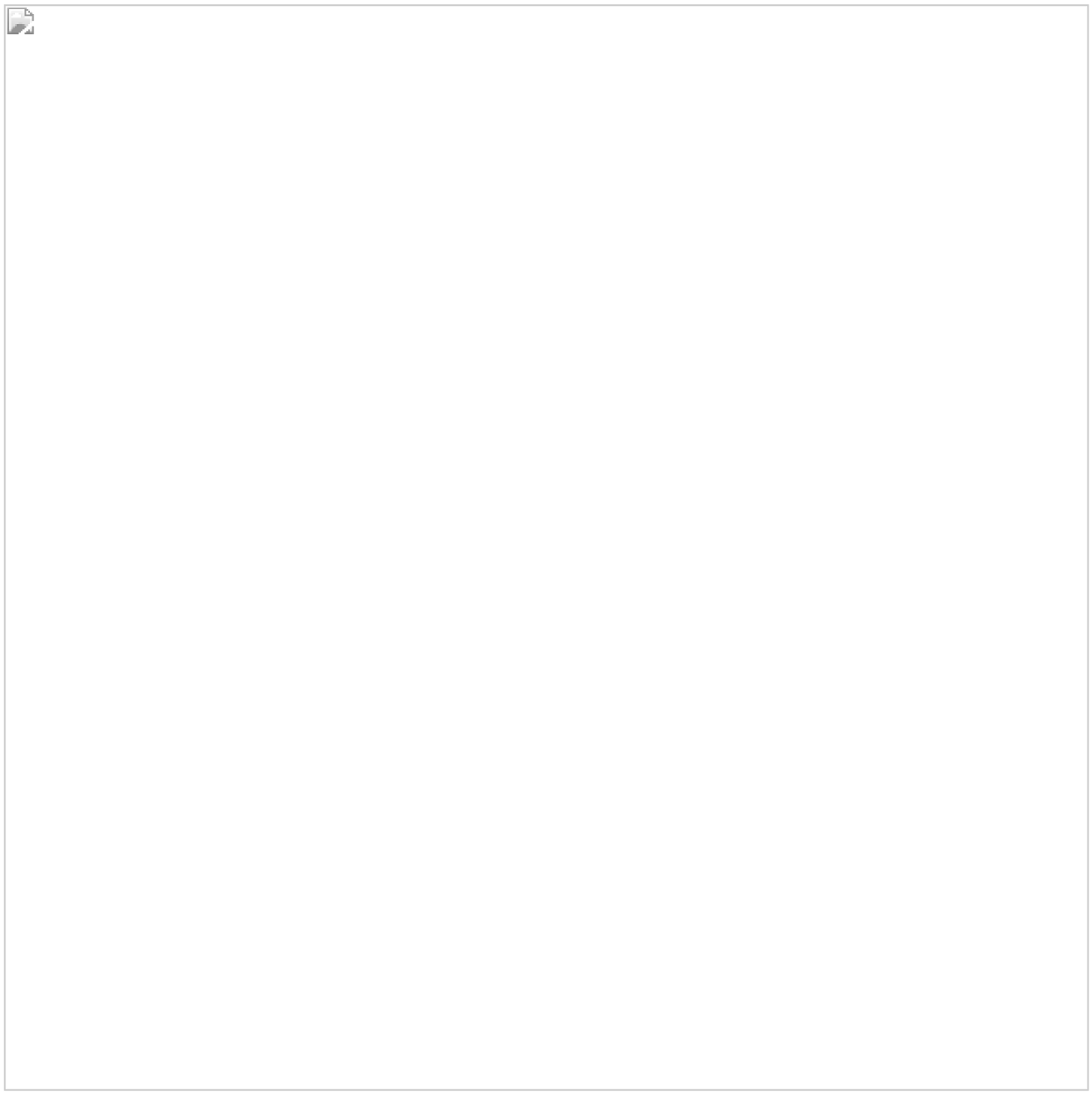


Another time Puss hid among the standing corn with his bag open. When a pair of partridges ran into it, he drew the strings and caught them both. He gave these to the King too, and the King ordered him some money for drink.

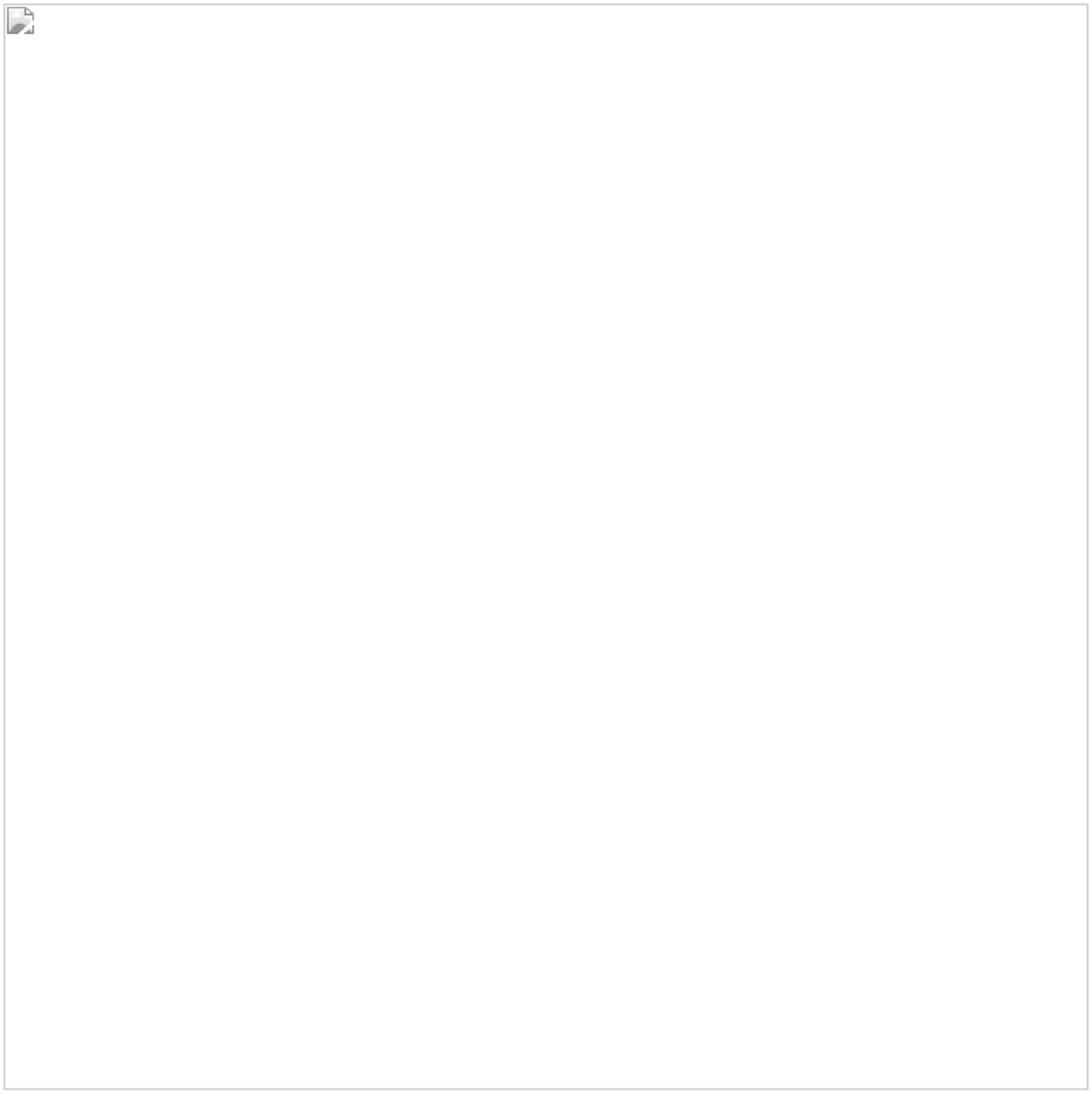
For two or three months Puss kept bringing the King game from his master. Then, one day, he knew that the King would take the air along the river-side with his daughter, the most beautiful princess in the world.

TALK ABOUT IT

Puss kept bringing gifts for months. What does that tell you about him?



“Help! Help!”

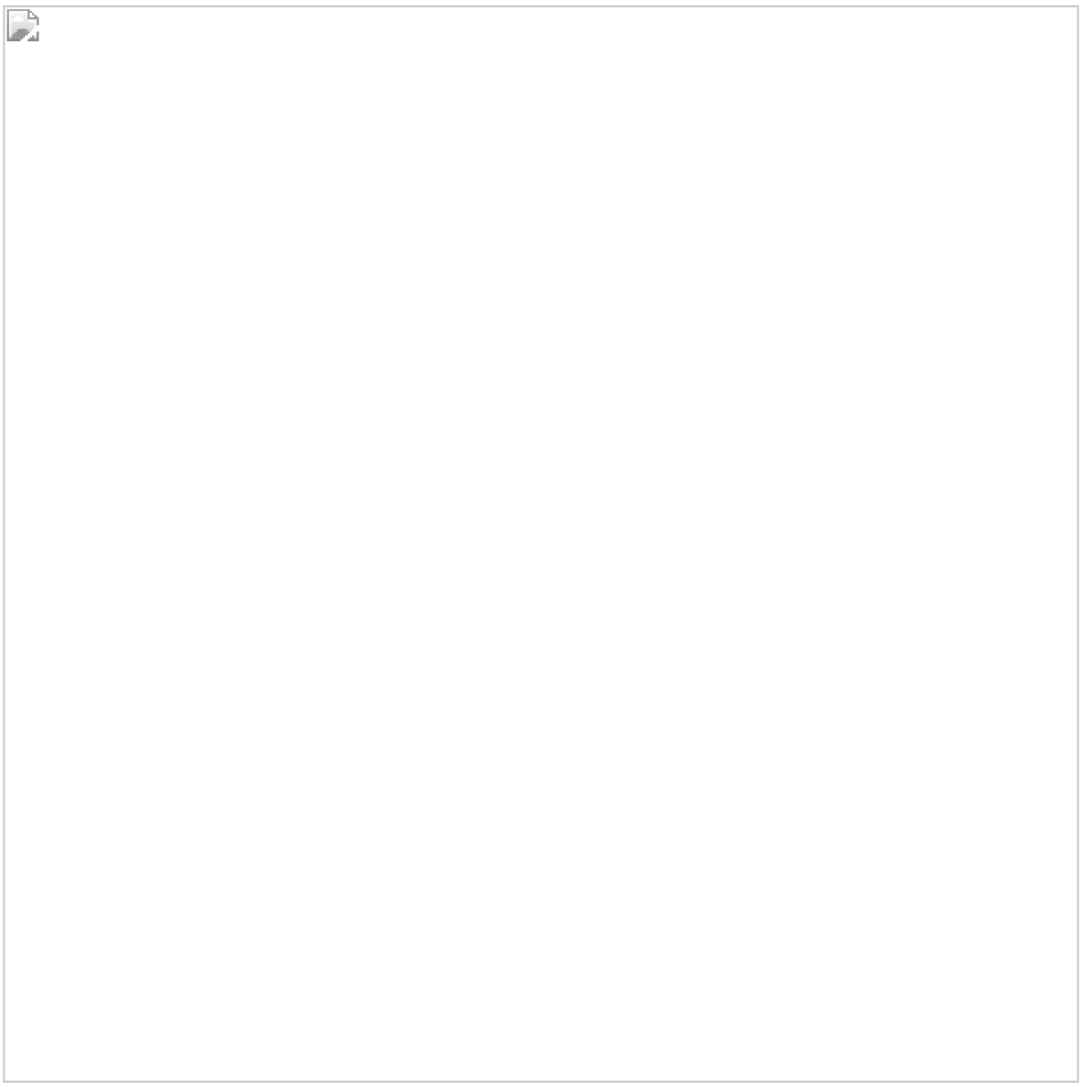


Puss said to his master, “If you will follow my advice your fortune is made. You have nothing else to do but go and wash yourself in the river, in that part I shall show you, and leave the rest to me.”

The Marquis did as the Cat said, without knowing why. As the King’s coach passed, the Cat began to cry out, “Help! help! My Lord Marquis of Carabas is going to be drowned.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Would you jump into a river because a cat said so? What would you ask him first?

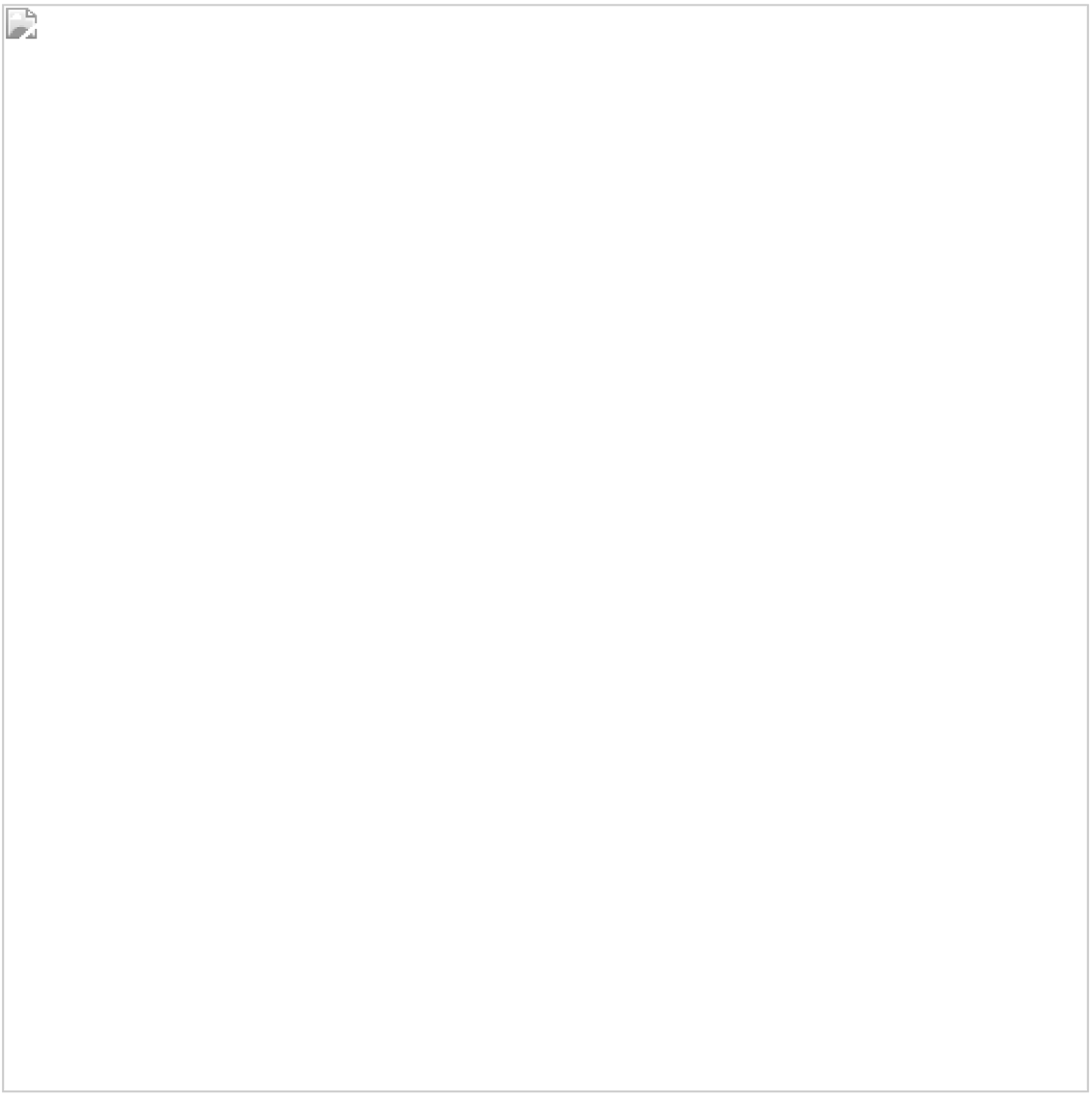


Think about it

1. What did the Cat cry out as the King passed by?

- ○ “Fire! Fire!”
- ○ “Help! help! My Lord Marquis of Carabas is going to be drowned.”
- ○ “Hurrah! The King is here.”

A Suit from the King



The King put his head out of the coach window and knew the Cat who had so often brought him game. He sent his guards at once to help the Marquis out of the river.

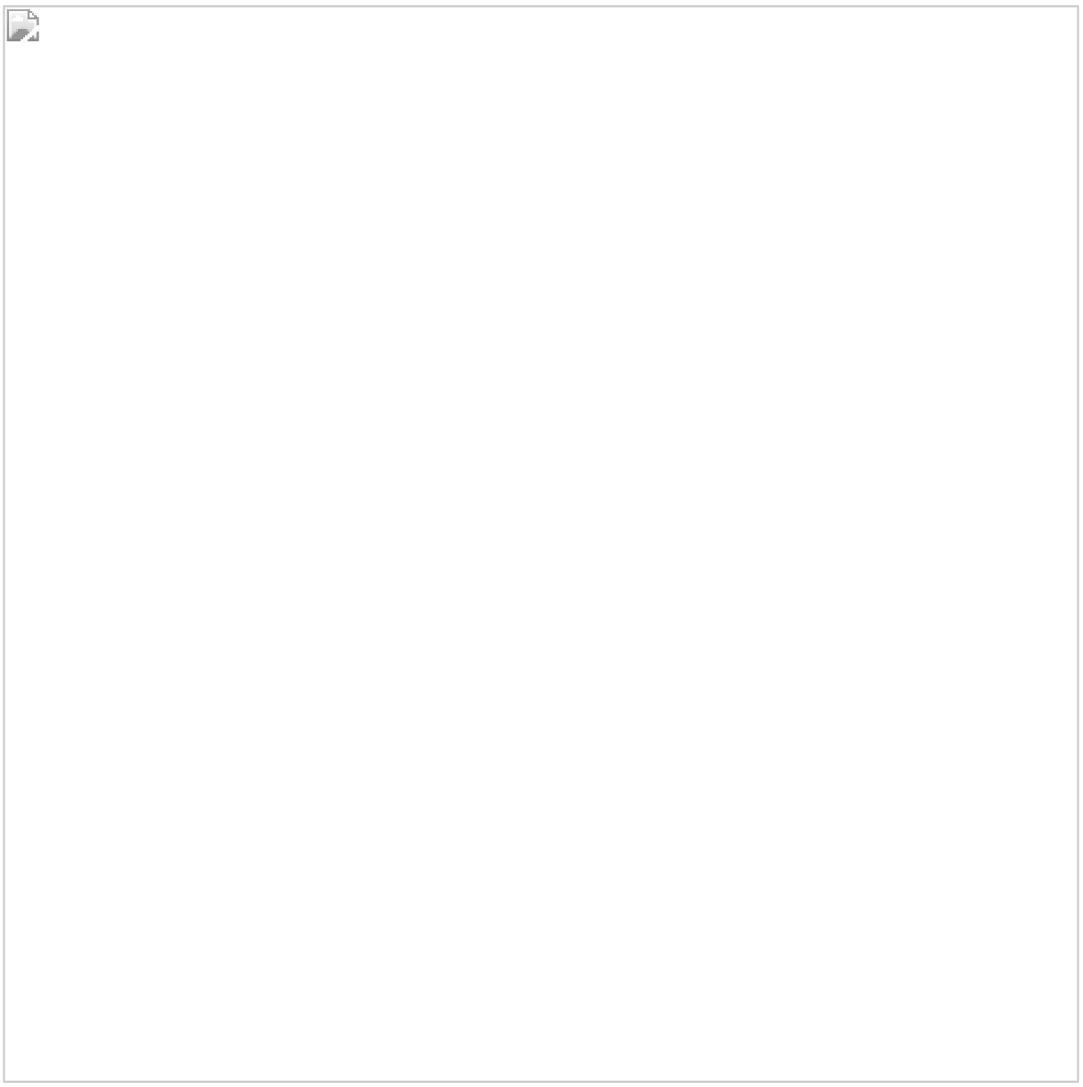
Puss told the King that rogues had run off with his master's clothes, though he had cried, "Thieves! thieves!" as loud as he could. In truth the cunning Cat had hidden them under a great stone.

The King sent for one of his best suits. The fine clothes set off the Marquis's good looks, and the King's daughter took a secret liking to him. The King asked him to ride along in the coach.

TALK ABOUT IT

Where did the clothes really go? What do you think about what Puss told the King?

A Suit from the King · another picture

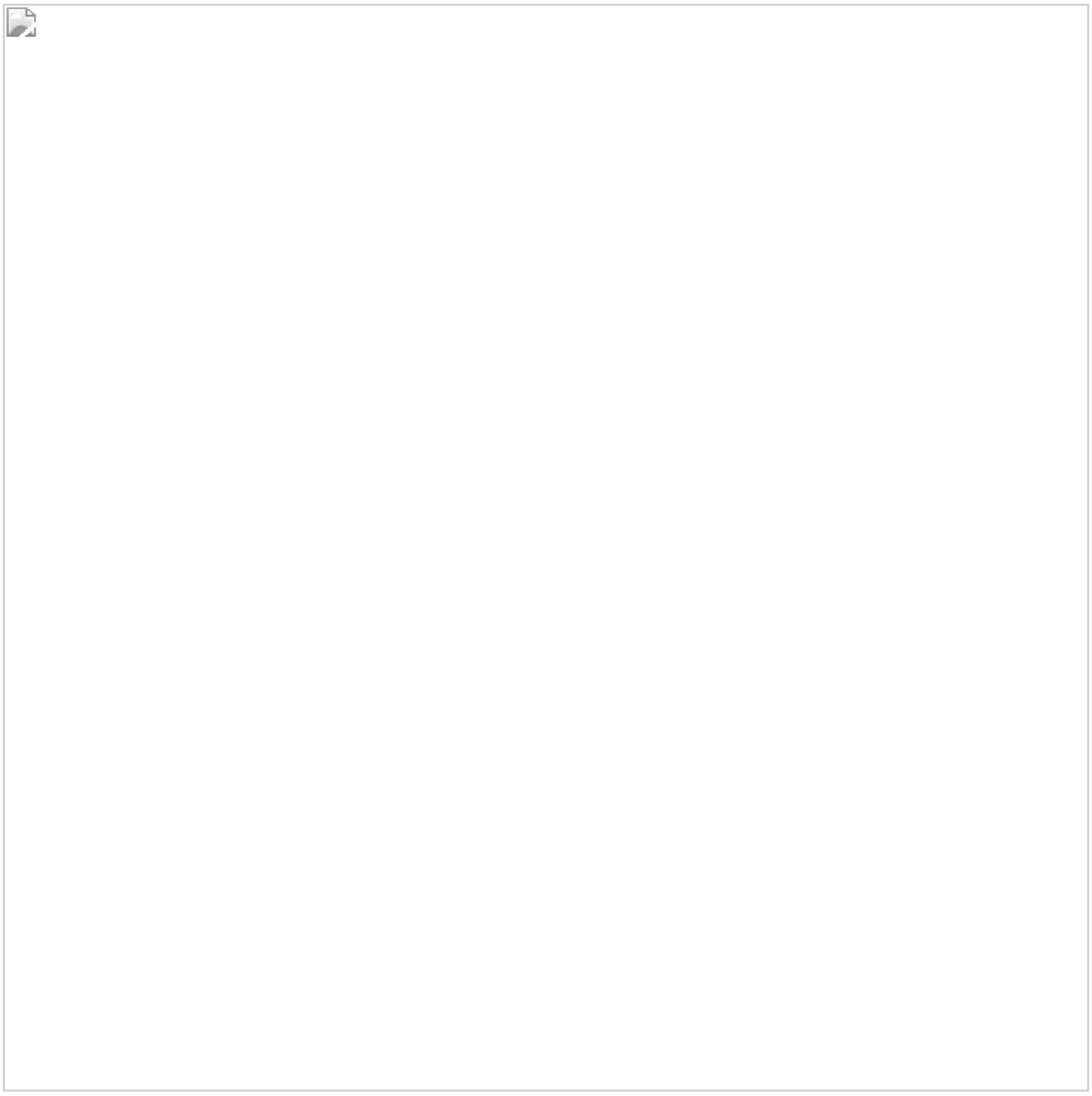


Think about it

1. Where had Puss hidden the Marquis's clothes?

- ○ Under a great stone
- ○ In the mill
- ○ Up a tree

Whose Meadow?



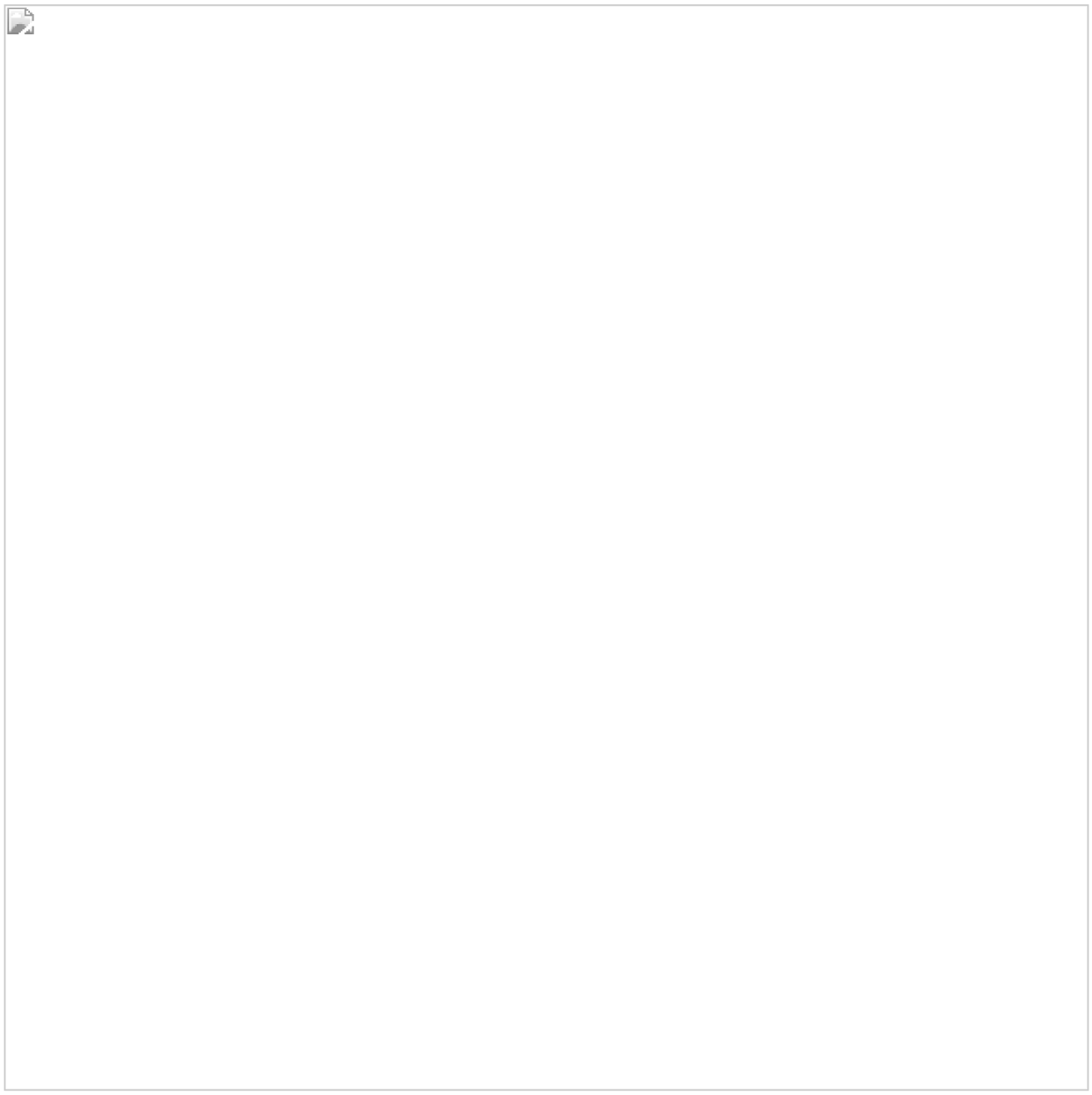
Puss ran on ahead and met some countrymen mowing a meadow. He said, “Good people, you who are mowing, if you do not tell the King that the meadow you mow belongs to my Lord Marquis of Carabas, you shall be chopped as small as herbs for the pot.”

When the King asked whose meadow it was, they answered all together, “To my Lord Marquis of Carabas,” for the Cat’s threats had made them terribly afraid. Puss said the same words to the reapers, and to everyone he met, and the King was astonished at the vast estates of my Lord Marquis.

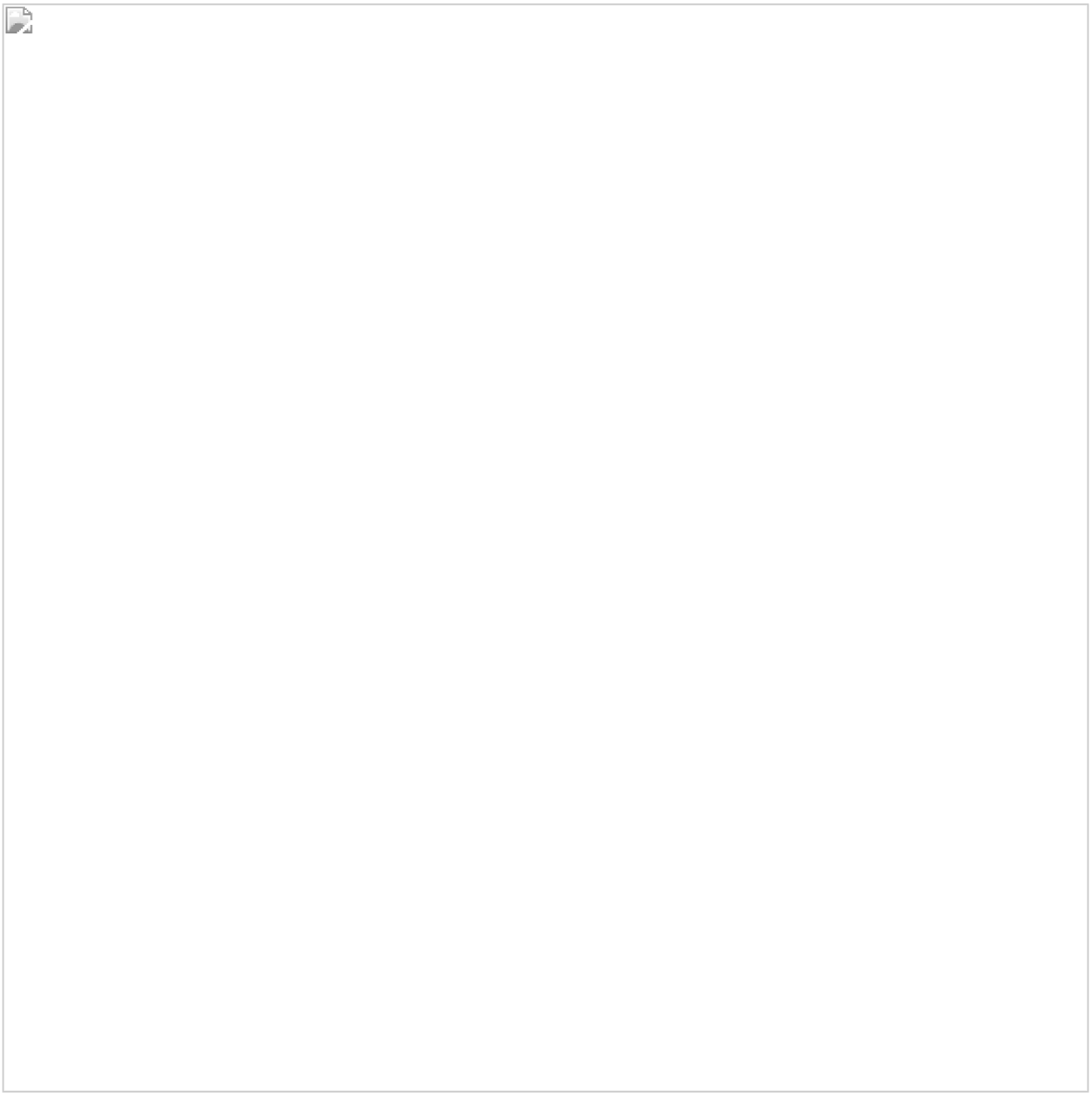
TALK ABOUT IT

The mowers did what Puss said because they were afraid. What would you have done?

Whose Meadow? · another picture



The Ogre's Castle

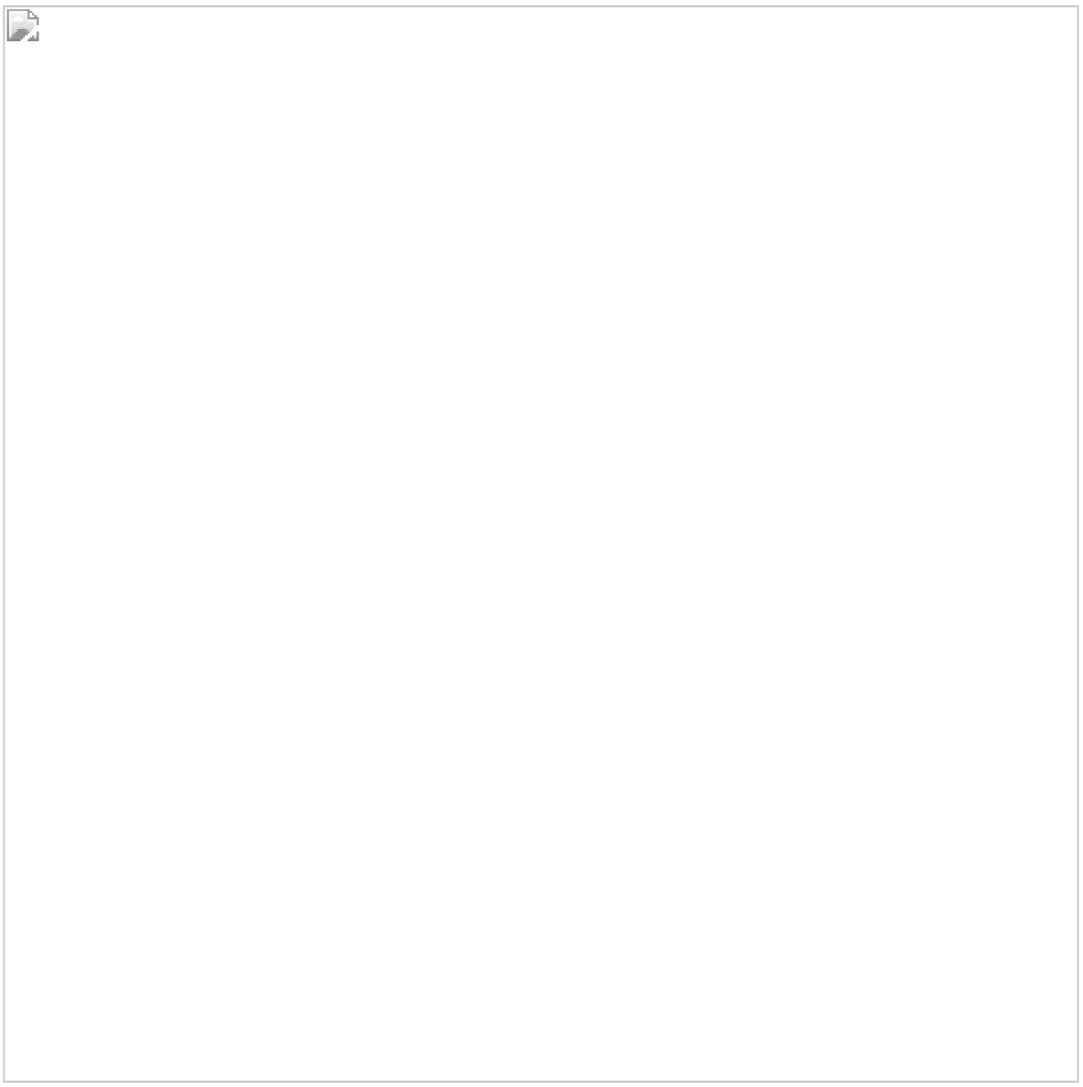


At last Puss came to a stately castle. Its master was an ogre, the richest ever known, for all the lands the King had passed over belonged to this castle.

Puss had taken care to find out who the ogre was and what he could do. He asked to speak with him, saying he could not pass so near without paying his respects. The ogre received him as civilly as an ogre could do, and made him sit down.

TALK ABOUT IT

Puss found out about the ogre before he went in. Why might that help him?

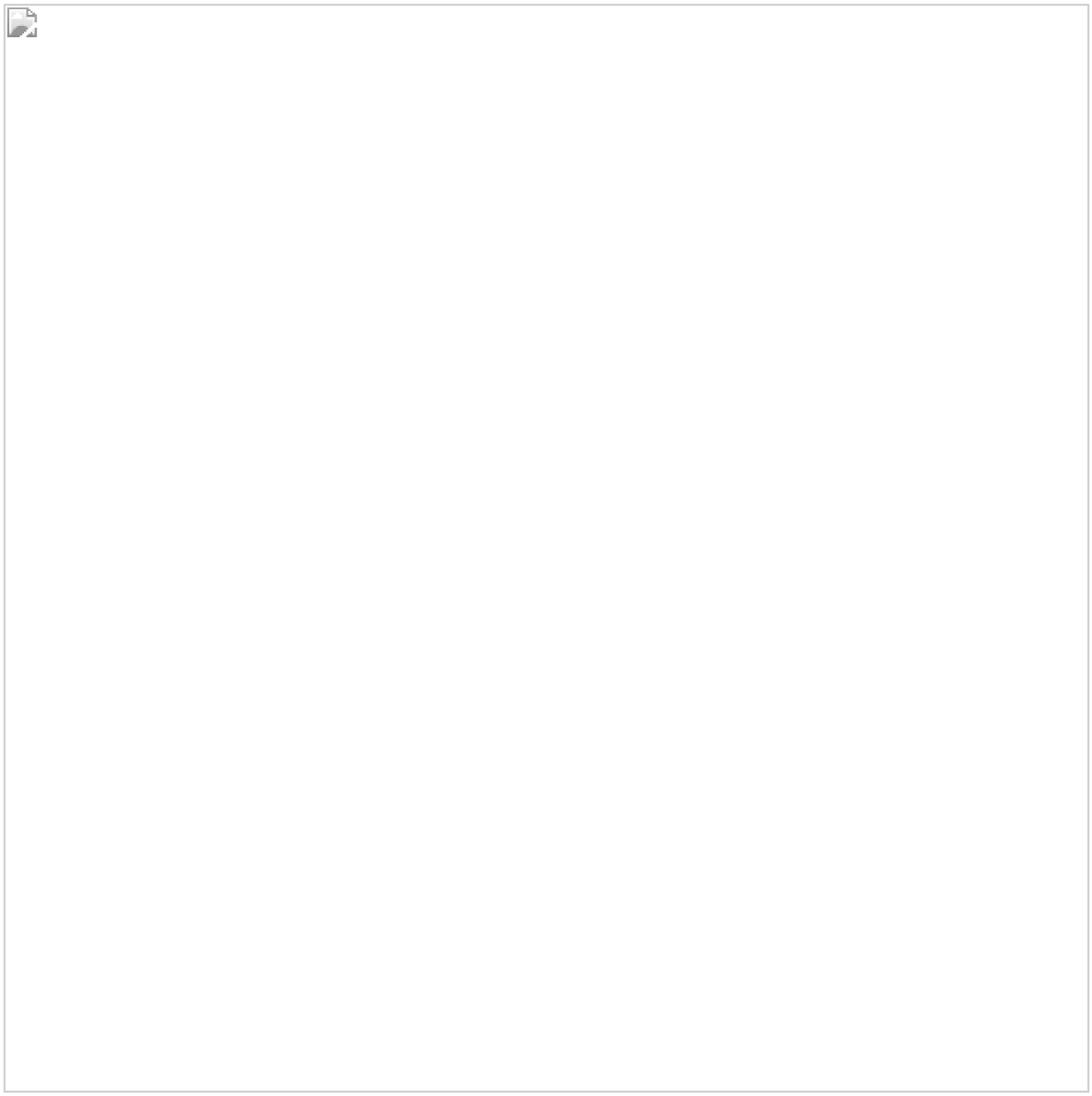


Think about it

1. Whose lands had the King been driving through?

- ○ The miller's
- ○ The ogre's
- ○ The Marquis's

The Lion



“I have been assured,” said the Cat, “that you have the gift of being able to change yourself into all sorts of creatures you have a mind to.”

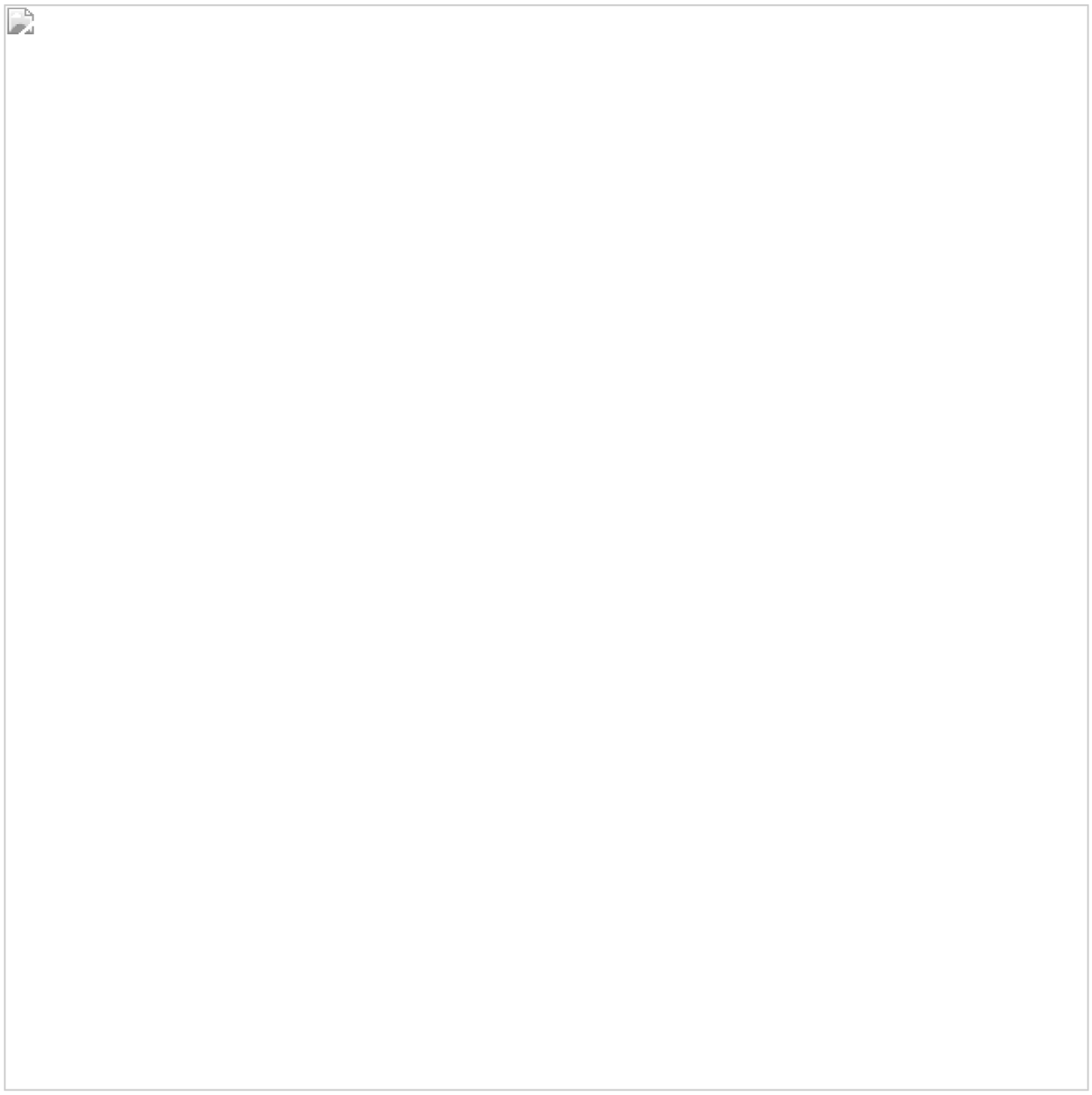
“That is true,” answered the ogre very briskly, “and to convince you, you shall see me now become a lion.”

Puss was so terrified at the sight of a lion so near him that he got into the gutter, though it was hard work, because his boots were no use on the tiles. When the ogre was himself again, Puss climbed down and owned that he had been very much frightened.

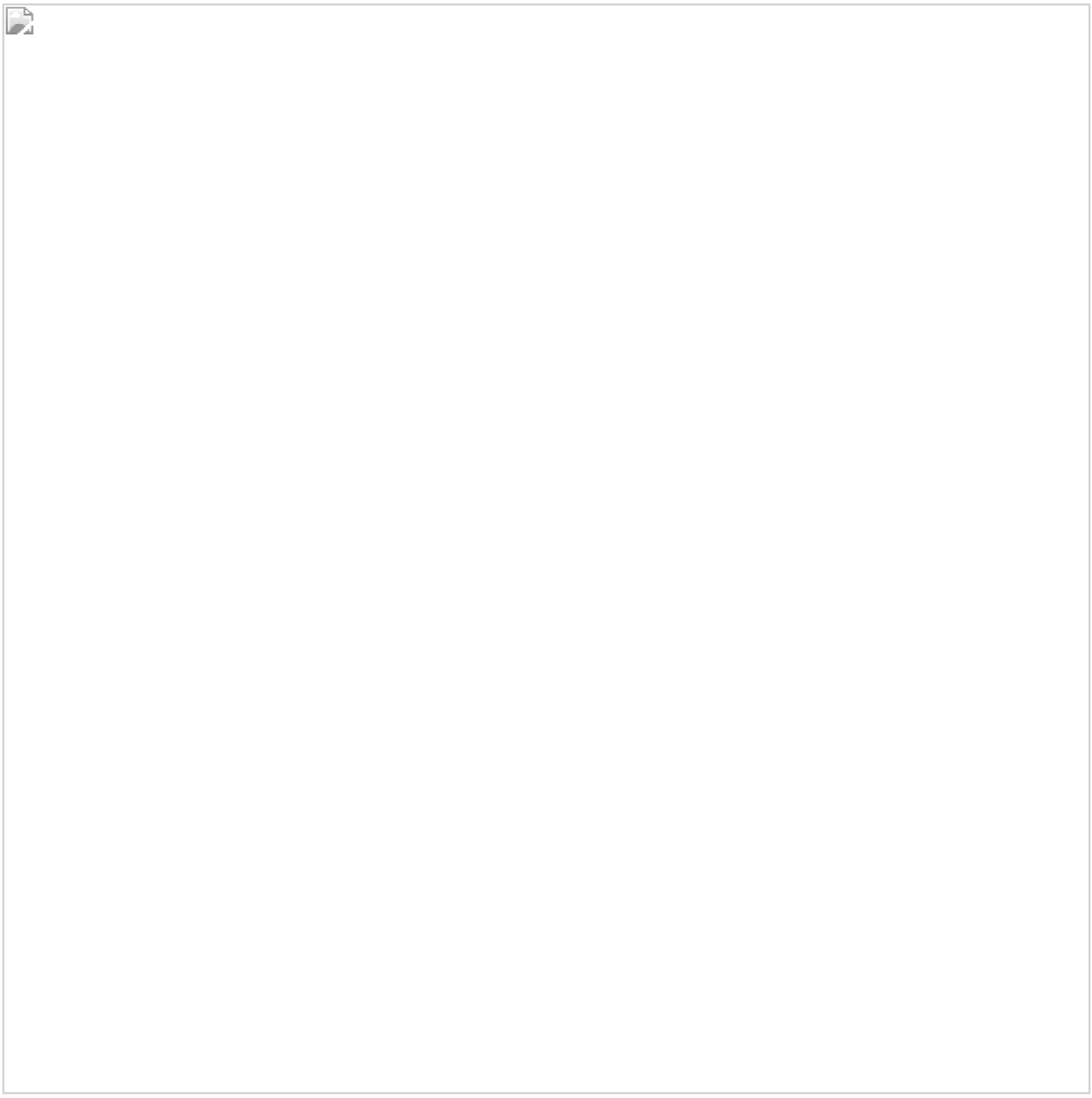
TALK ABOUT IT

Puss really was scared. What do you do when you are scared and still have a job to finish?

The Lion · another picture



The Mouse



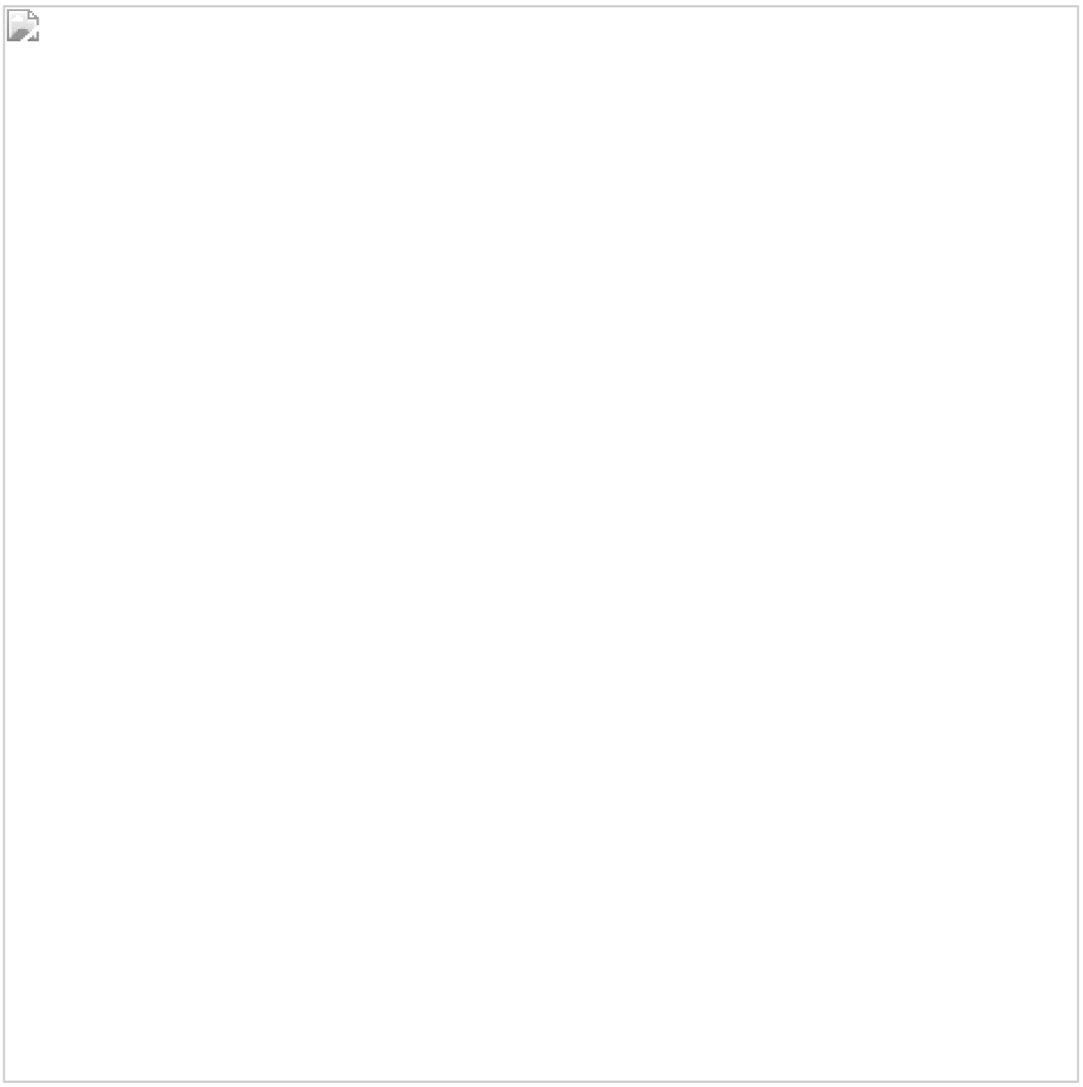
Then the Cat said, “I have been, moreover, informed, but I know not how to believe it, that you have also the power to take on you the shape of the smallest animals.” He said he thought changing into a rat or a mouse must be impossible.

“Impossible!” cried the ogre; “you shall see that presently.” At the same moment he changed himself into a mouse and began to run about the floor.

Puss pounced on the mouse at once, and that was the end of the ogre.

TALK ABOUT IT

How did Puss get the ogre to turn into a mouse? What do you notice about his trick?

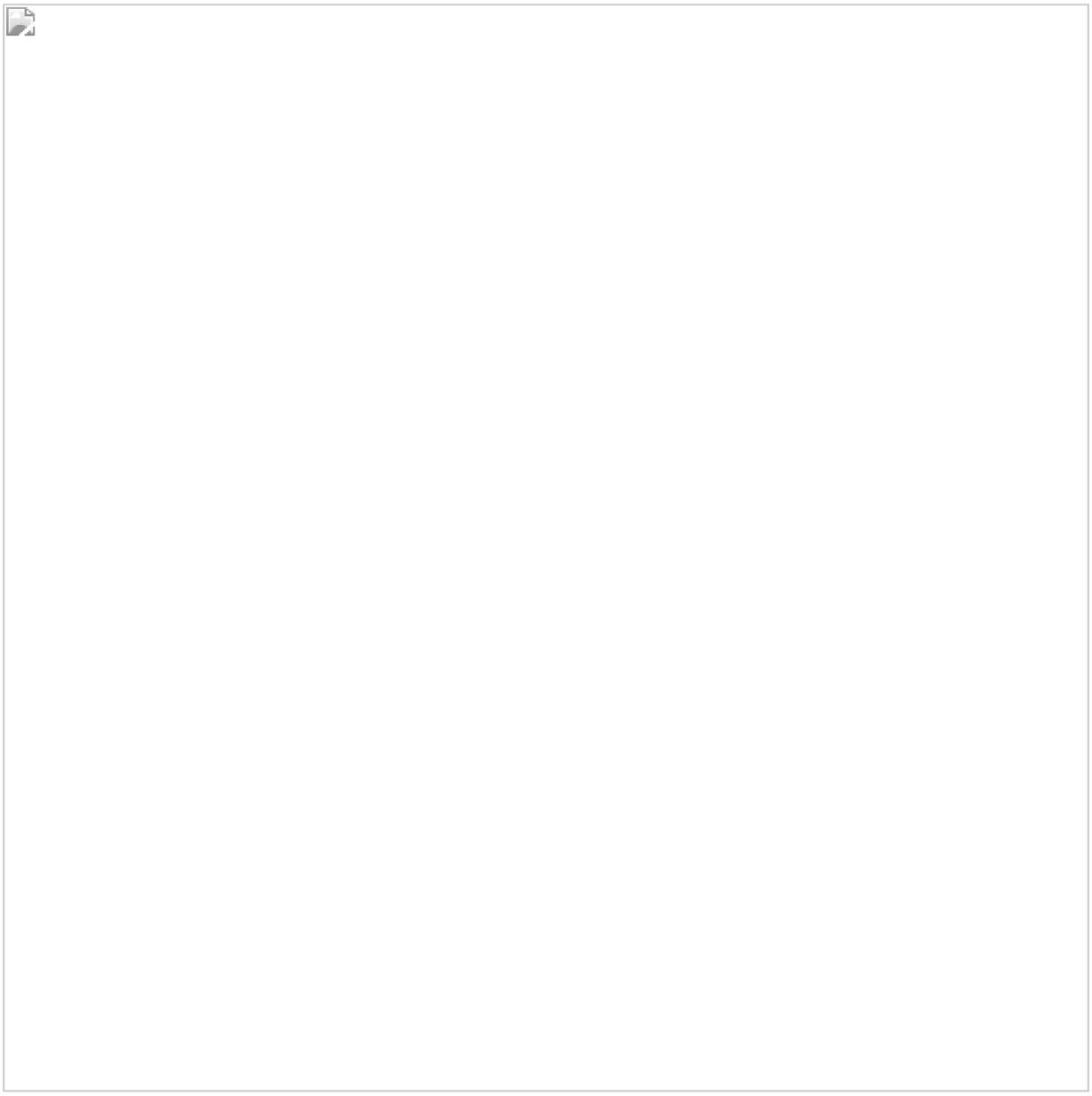


Think about it

1. What did the ogre turn himself into when Puss said it was impossible?

- ○ A lion
- ○ A mouse
- ○ A rabbit

Welcome to the Castle



Puss heard the King's coach rumbling over the drawbridge and ran out. "Your Majesty is welcome to this castle of my Lord Marquis of Carabas."

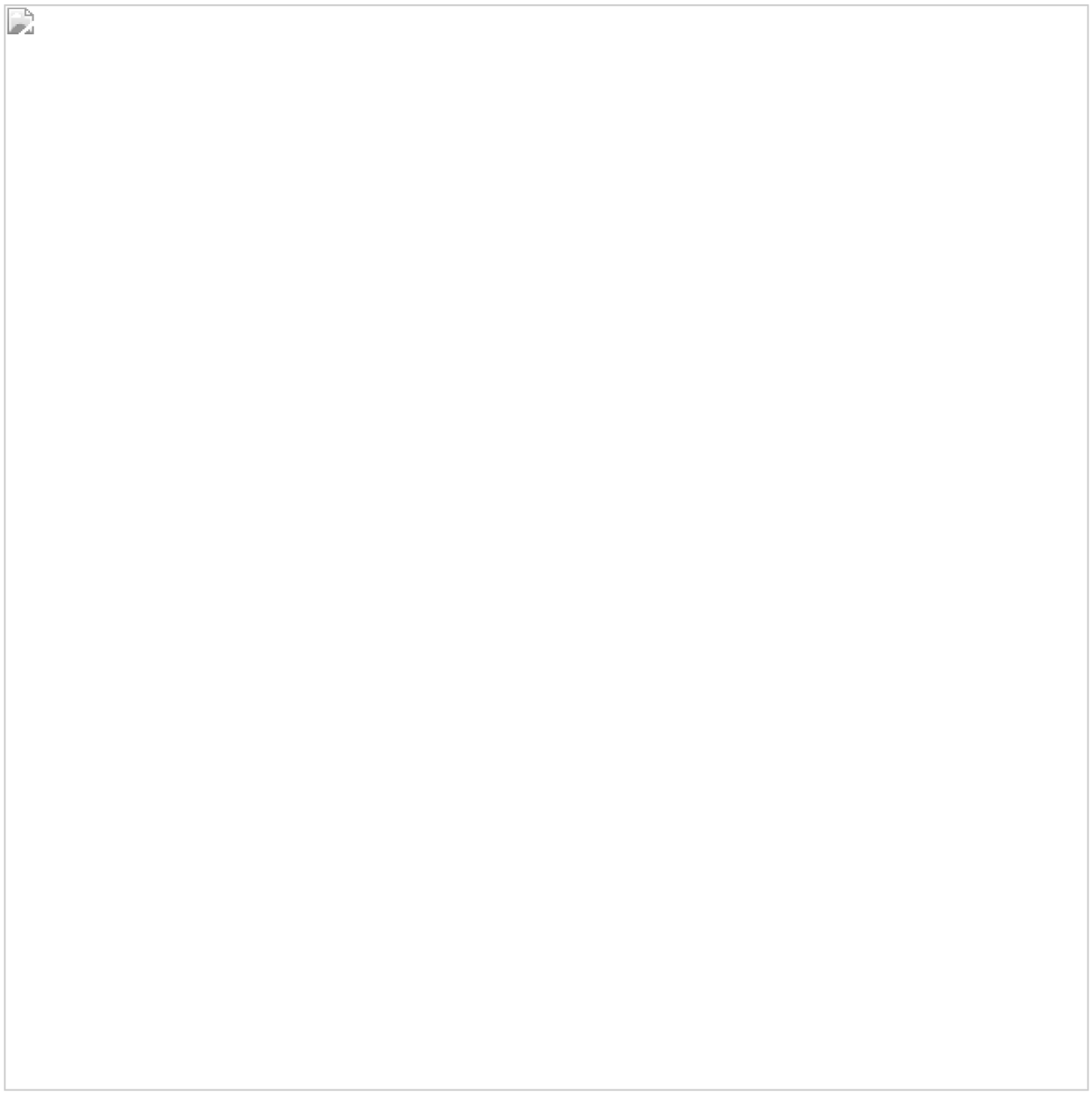
"What! my Lord Marquis," cried the King, "and does this castle also belong to you? There can be nothing finer than this court and all the stately buildings which surround it; let us go into it, if you please."

In a great hall they found a magnificent feast. The ogre had prepared it for his friends, but they dared not come in when they knew the King was there.

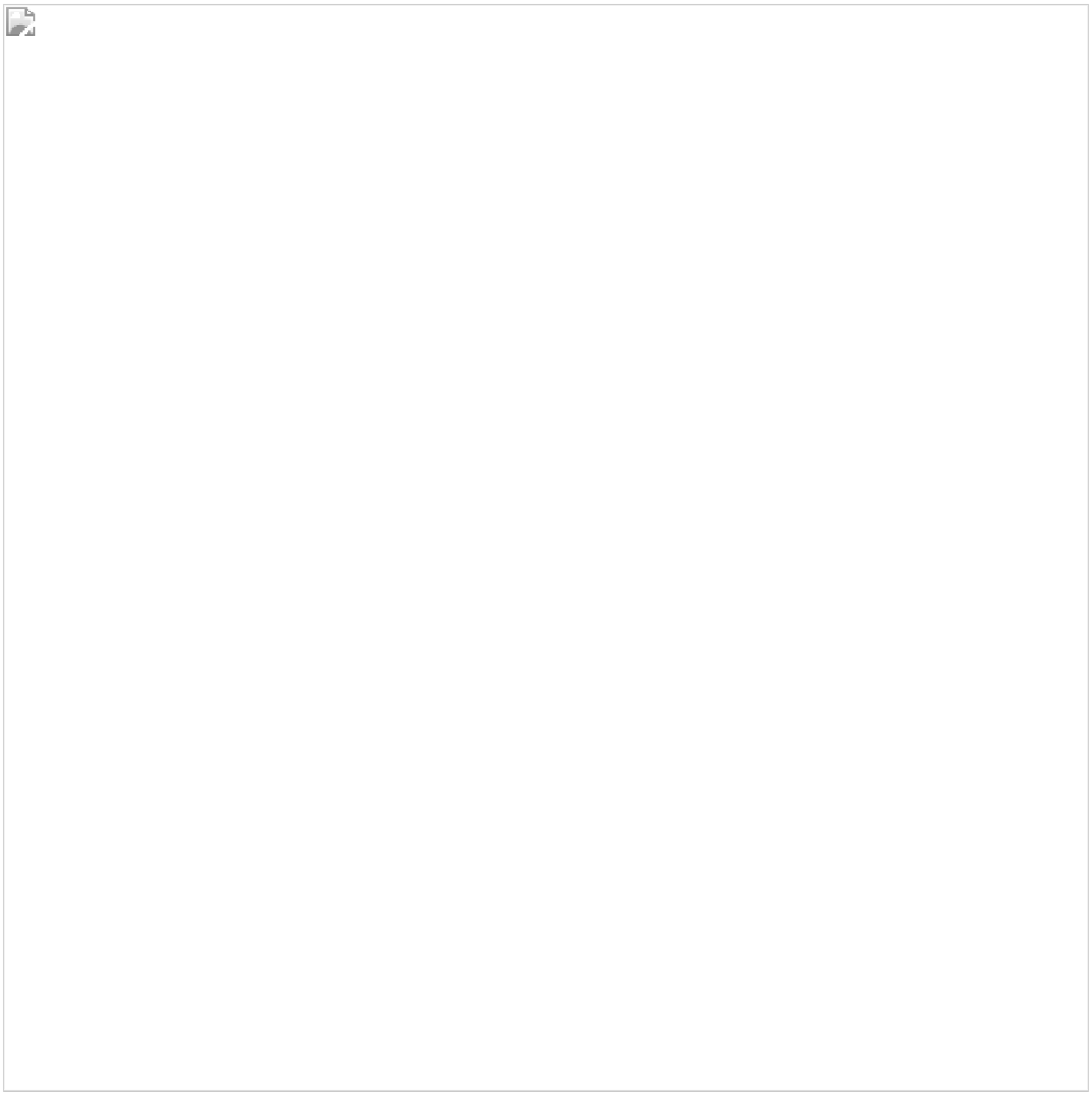
TALK ABOUT IT

The feast was meant for someone else. What do you think about that?

Welcome to the Castle · another picture



A Great Lord



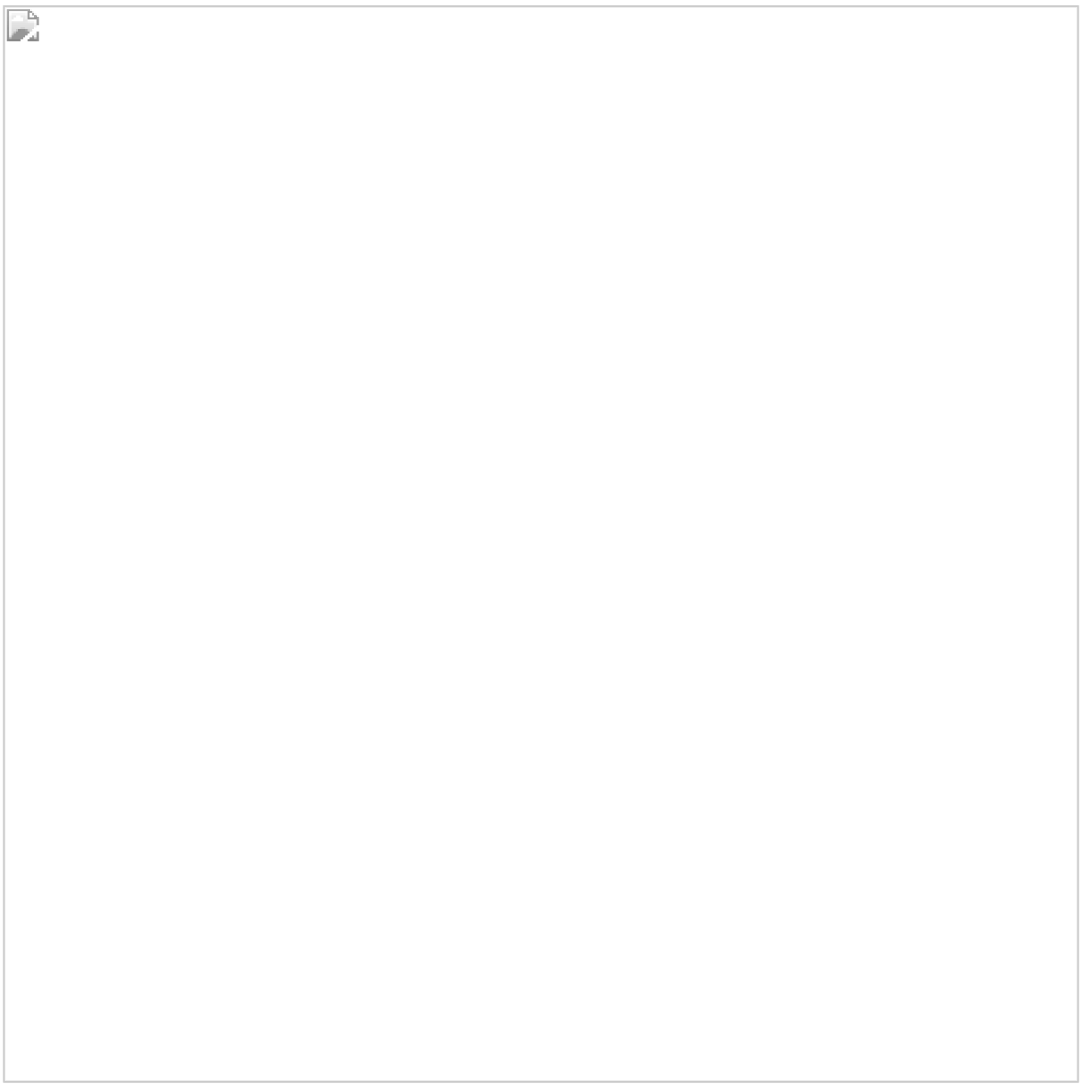
The King was charmed by the good qualities of the Marquis, and so was his daughter. After he had drunk five or six glasses, the King said, “It will be owing to yourself only, my Lord Marquis, if you are not my son-in-law.”

The Marquis made several low bows and accepted the honor. That very same day he married the Princess.

“Puss became a great lord, and never ran after mice any more but only for his diversion.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Puss began with a bag and a pair of boots. What did he end with?



Think about it

1. What did the Marquis do that same day?

- ○ Sailed away
- ○ Married the Princess
- ○ Went back to the mill

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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