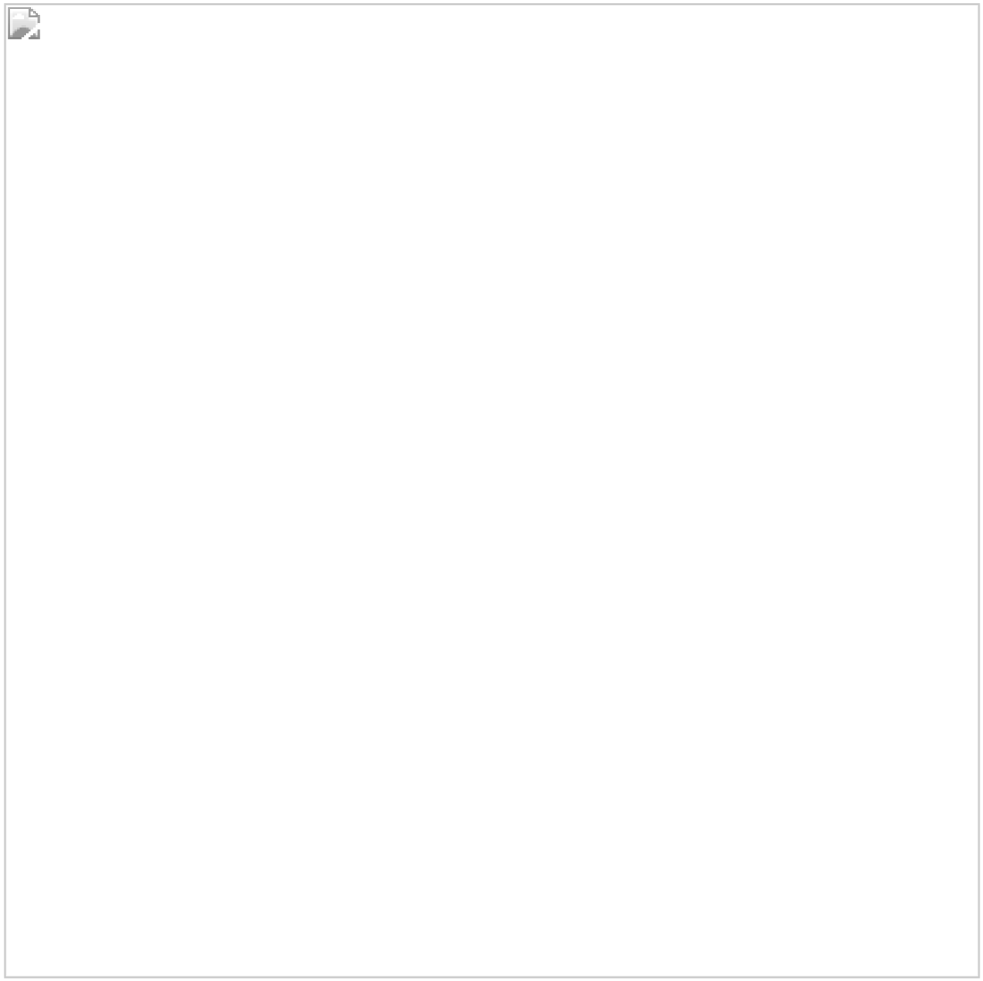
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Sindbad's Fifth Voyage

A Tale from the Arabian Nights



Not even all that Sindbad had gone through could make him content with a quiet life. He soon wearied of its pleasures, and longed for change and adventure.

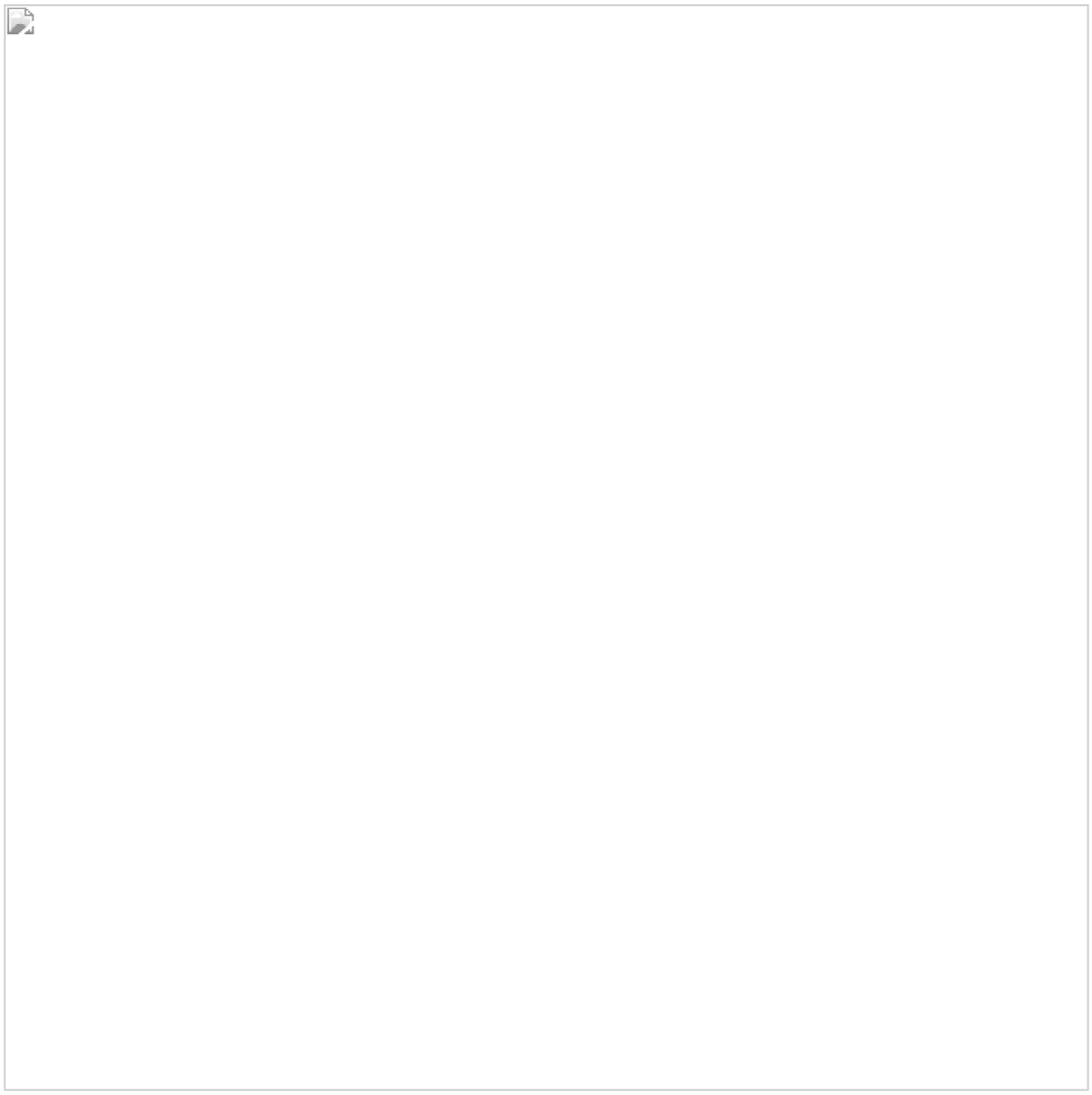
This time he set out in a ship of his own, which he built and fitted out at the nearest seaport.

TALK ABOUT IT

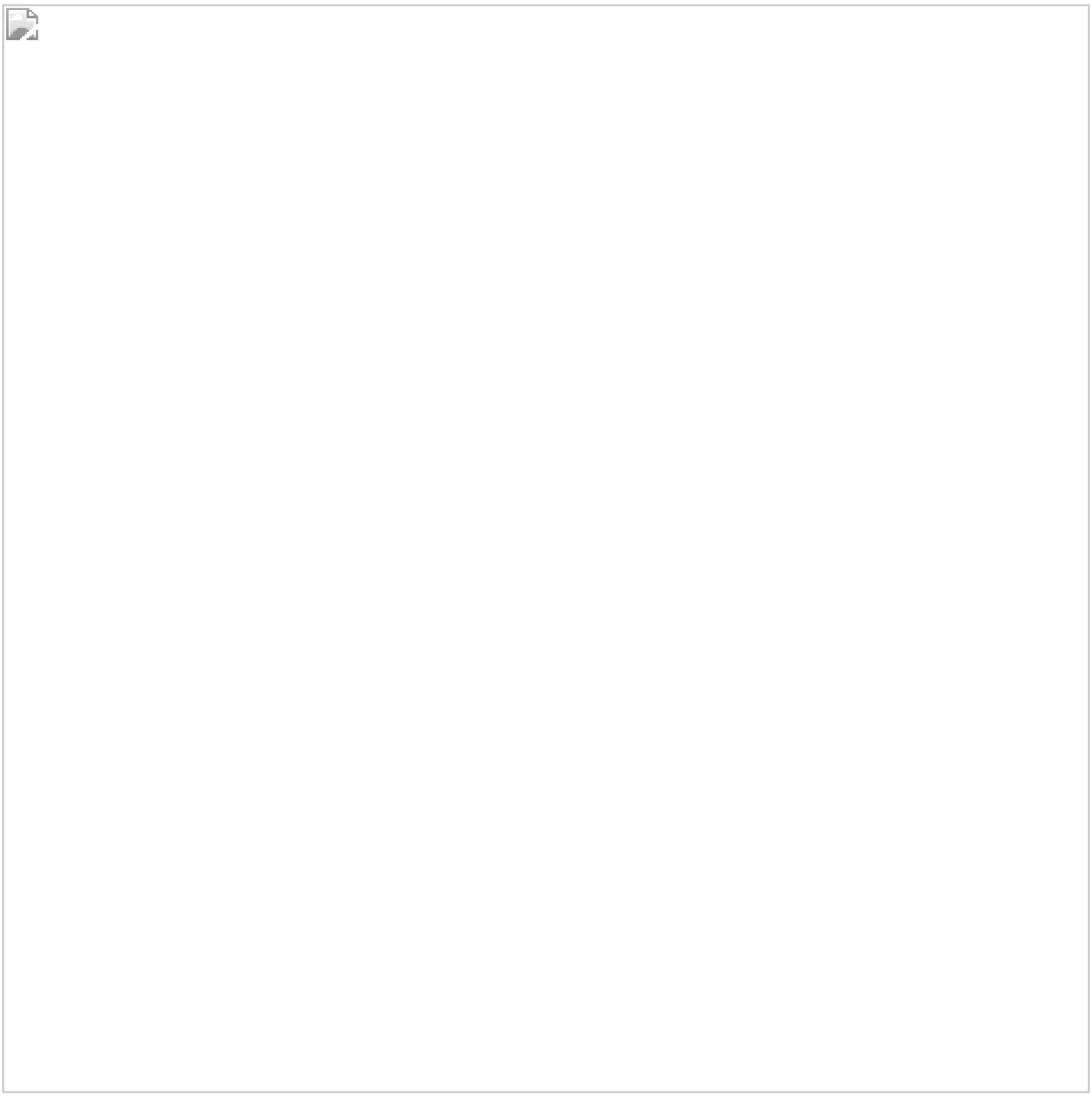
Sindbad wanted to go on one more adventure. What adventure would you like to go on?

This book belongs to _____

Sindbad's Fifth Voyage · another picture



The Roc's Egg



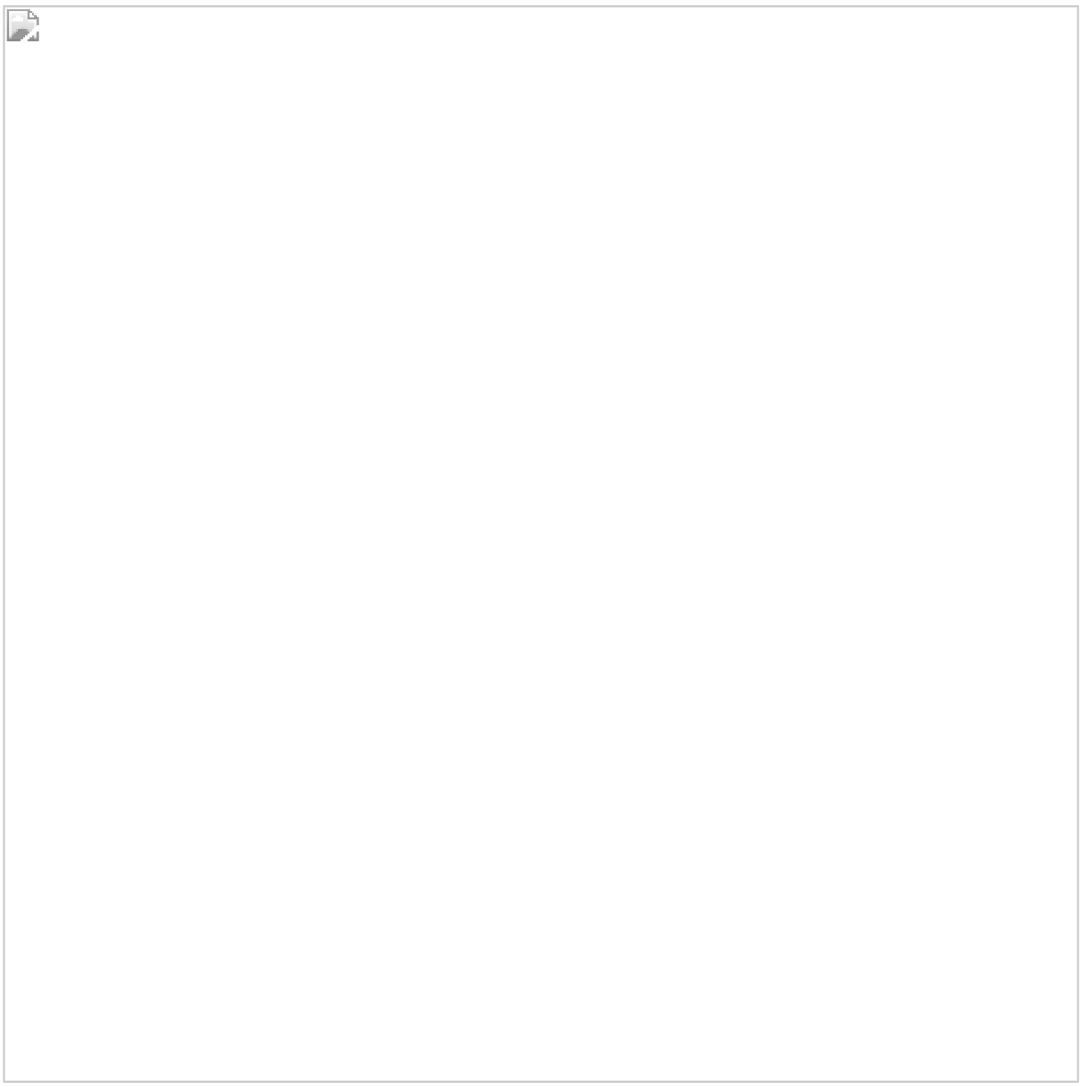
Sindbad wanted to call at whatever port he chose, in his own time, so he invited merchants from different nations to join him. After a long voyage they landed on an unknown island where no people lived.

Exploring, they soon found a roc's egg, as big as the one Sindbad had seen before. It was very nearly hatched: the young bird's beak had already pierced the shell.

Sindbad said all he could to stop them. But the merchants broke the egg with their hatchets and killed the young roc. They lit a fire and roasted pieces of it while Sindbad stood by, shocked.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad tried to stop the merchants, and they did not listen. What do you do when you cannot stop someone from doing something wrong?



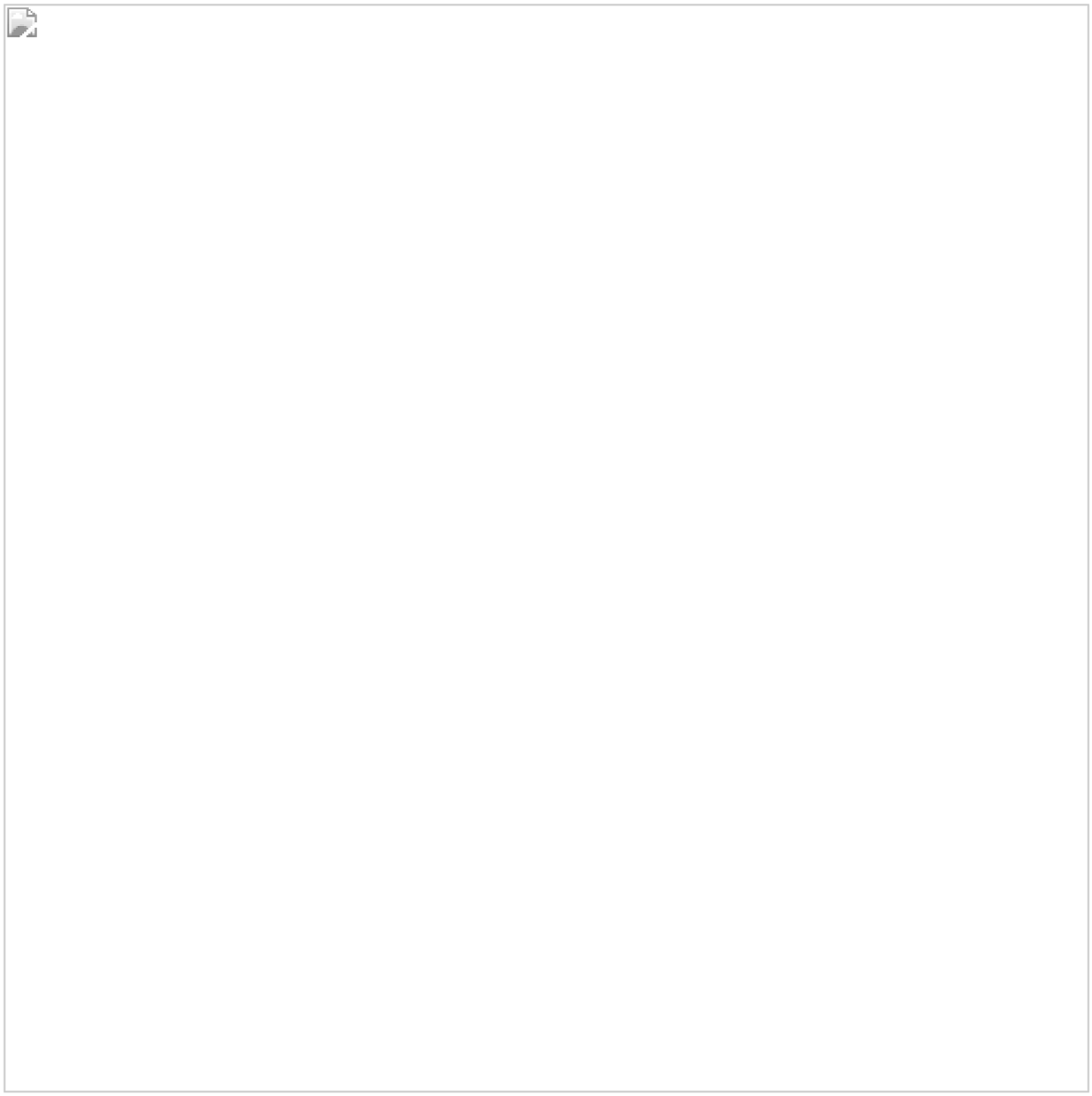
Think about it

1. What did the merchants find on the island?

- ○ A roc's egg
- ○ A treasure chest
- ○ A cave

2. Why do you think Sindbad stood by shocked?

Two Great Shadows



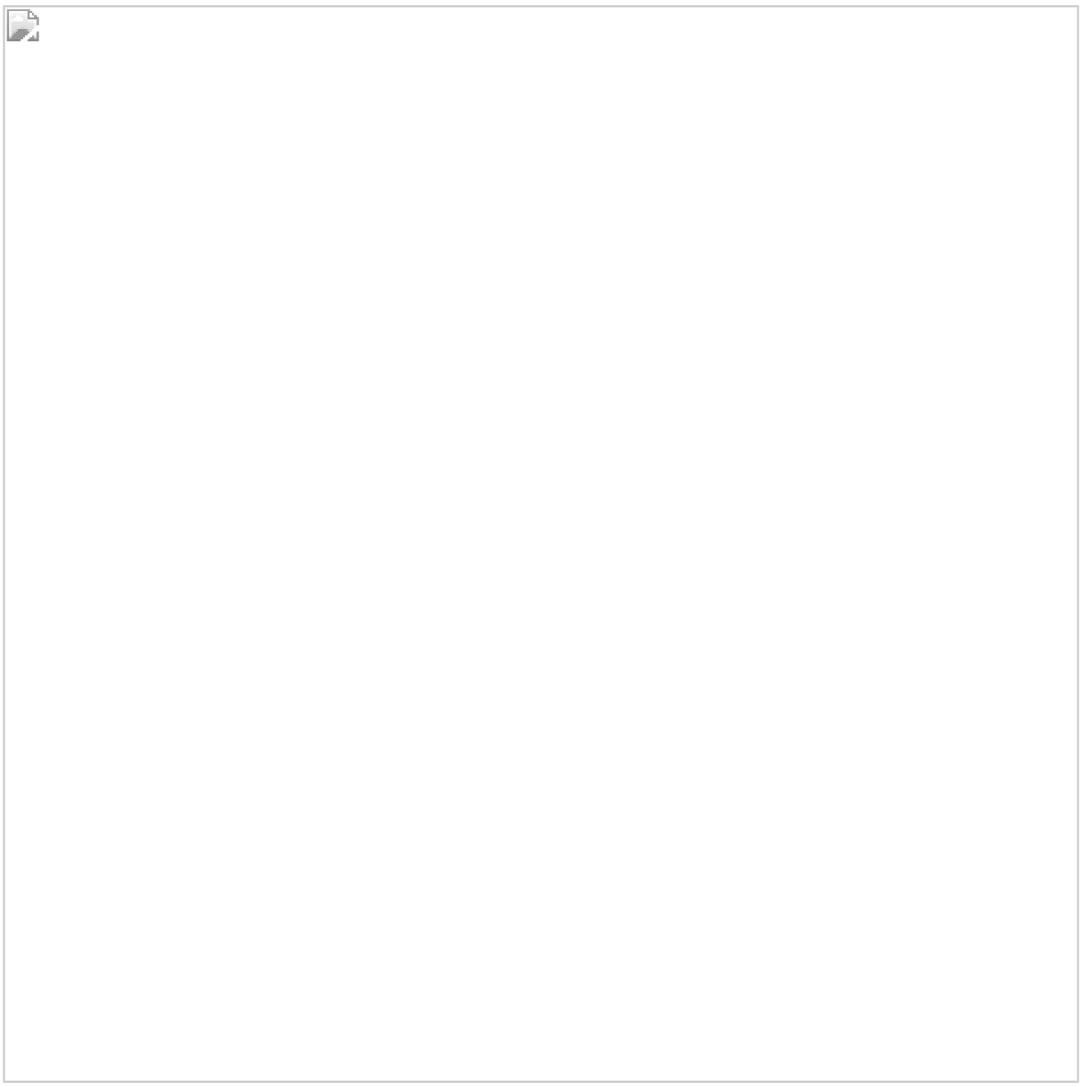
They had hardly finished when two mighty shadows darkened the air above them. The captain knew what that meant. He called out that “the parent birds were coming,” and urged everyone on board at once.

They did, and the sails were raised. But before the ship had made any way, the two rocs reached their nest and hovered over it, crying out when they found what had happened to their young one.

For a moment the rocs were out of sight, and the sailors hoped they had escaped. Then the birds came back right over the ship, each with a huge rock in its claws.

TALK ABOUT IT

The rocs were crying out for their young one. What do you think they wanted?

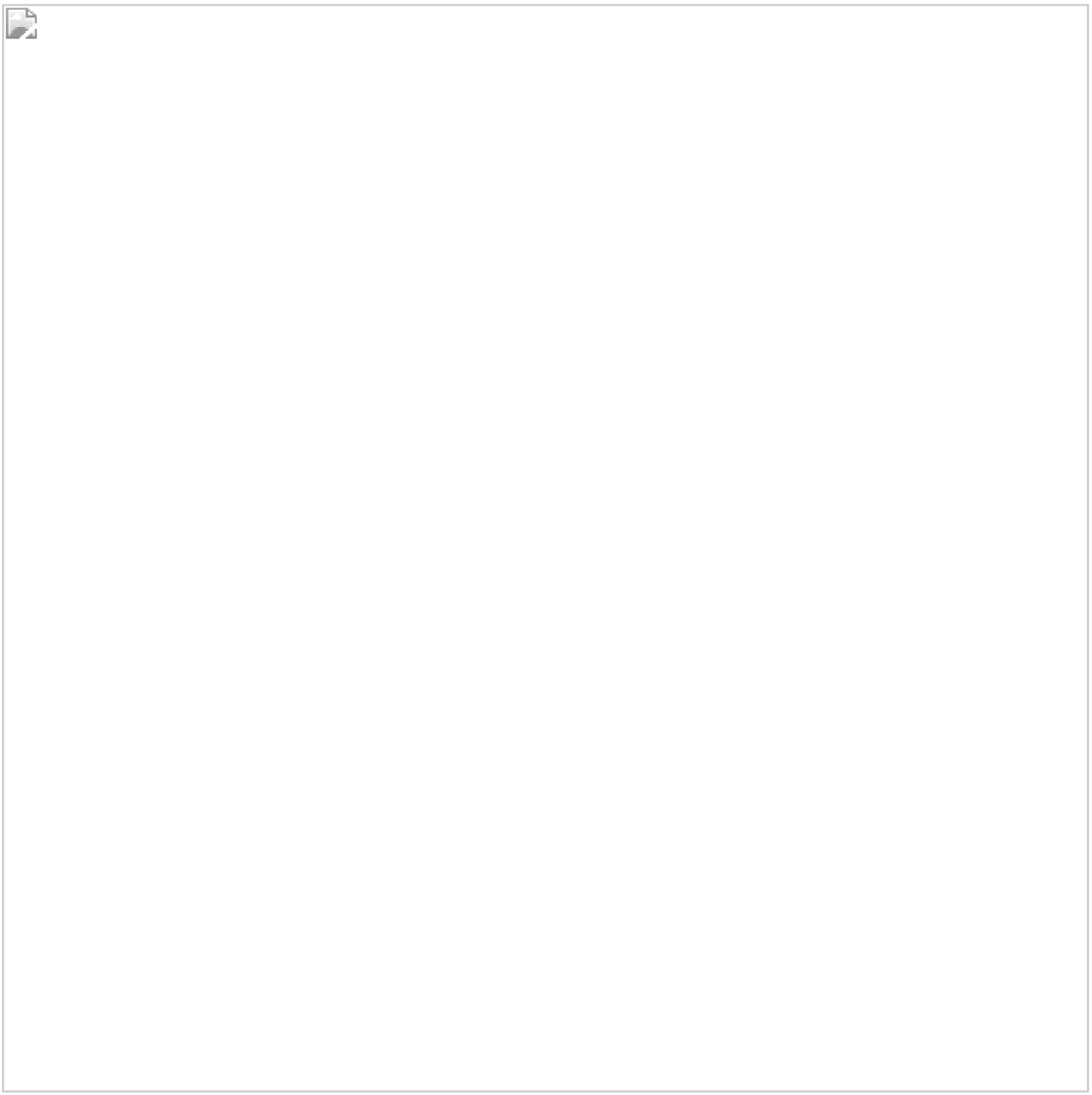


Think about it

1. What did each roc carry in its claws?

- ○ A fish
- ○ A huge rock
- ○ A snake

The Rocks Fall



There was a moment of breathless waiting. Then one bird let go, and the huge block of stone flew through the air. But the helmsman had a quick mind. He turned the ship sharply the other way, and the rock fell into the sea close beside them.

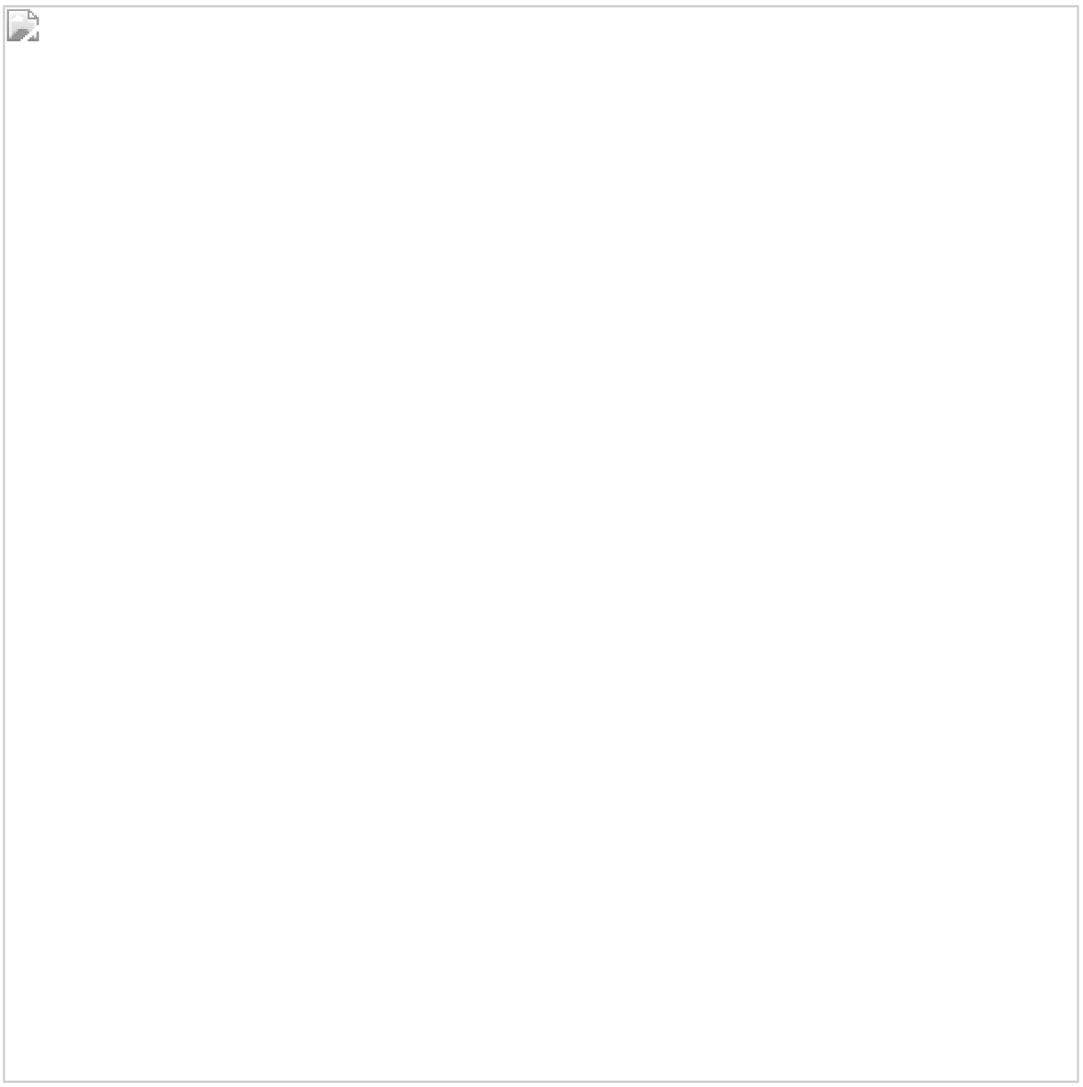
They had hardly drawn a breath of relief when the other rock fell with a mighty crash right in the middle of the ship. It smashed the ship into a thousand pieces and threw the passengers and crew into the sea.

Sindbad went down with the rest. But he had the good fortune to come up unhurt.

TALK ABOUT IT

The helmsman turned the ship in time. Have you ever had to think very fast?

The Rocks Fall · another picture

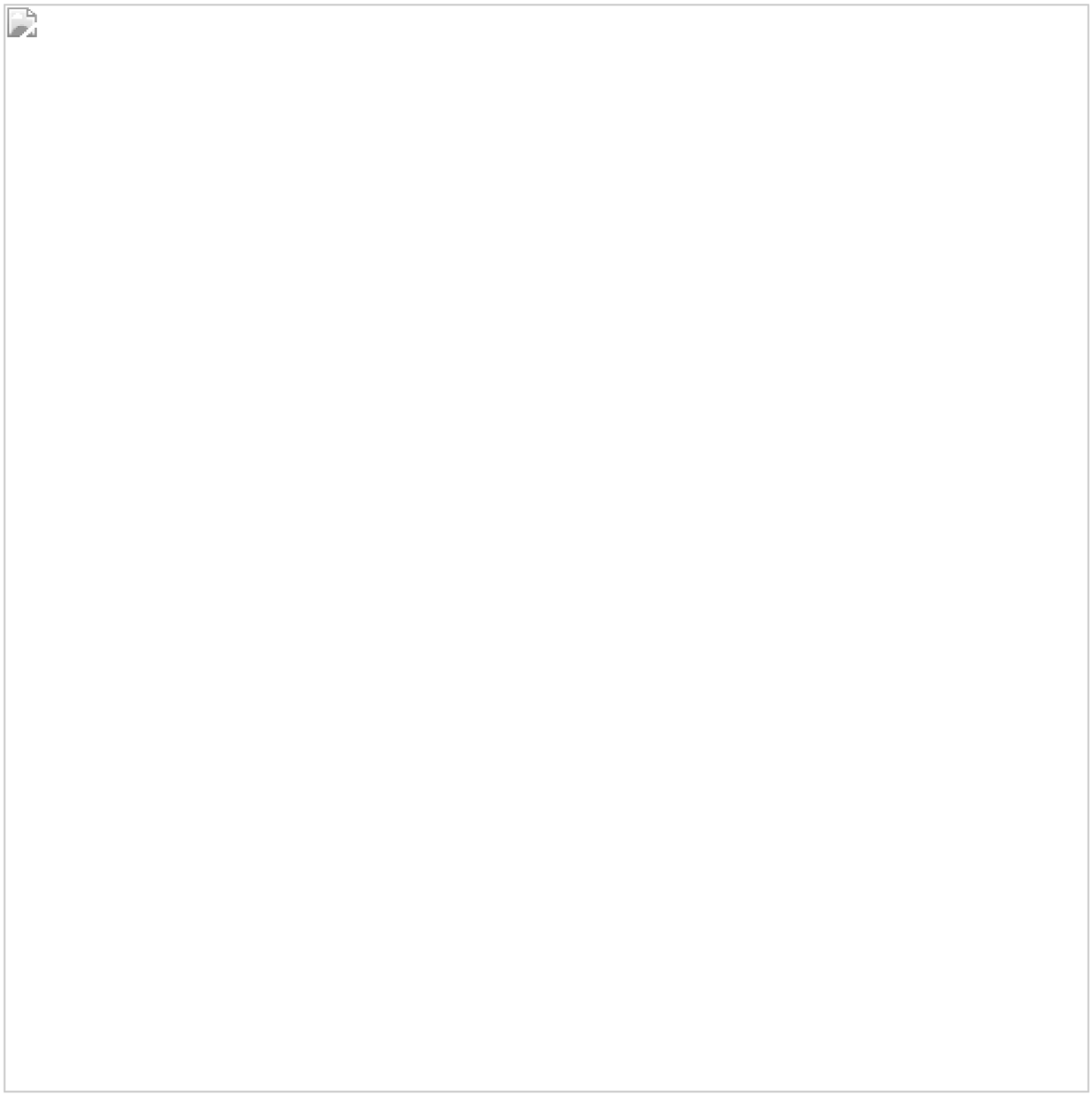


Think about it

1. Who turned the ship so the first rock missed?

- ○ The captain
- ○ The helmsman
- ○ Sindbad

A Garden of Delights



Sindbad held on to a piece of driftwood with one hand and swam with the other. The tide washed him up on an island with steep, rocky shores, but he scrambled up safely and lay down on the green grass to rest.

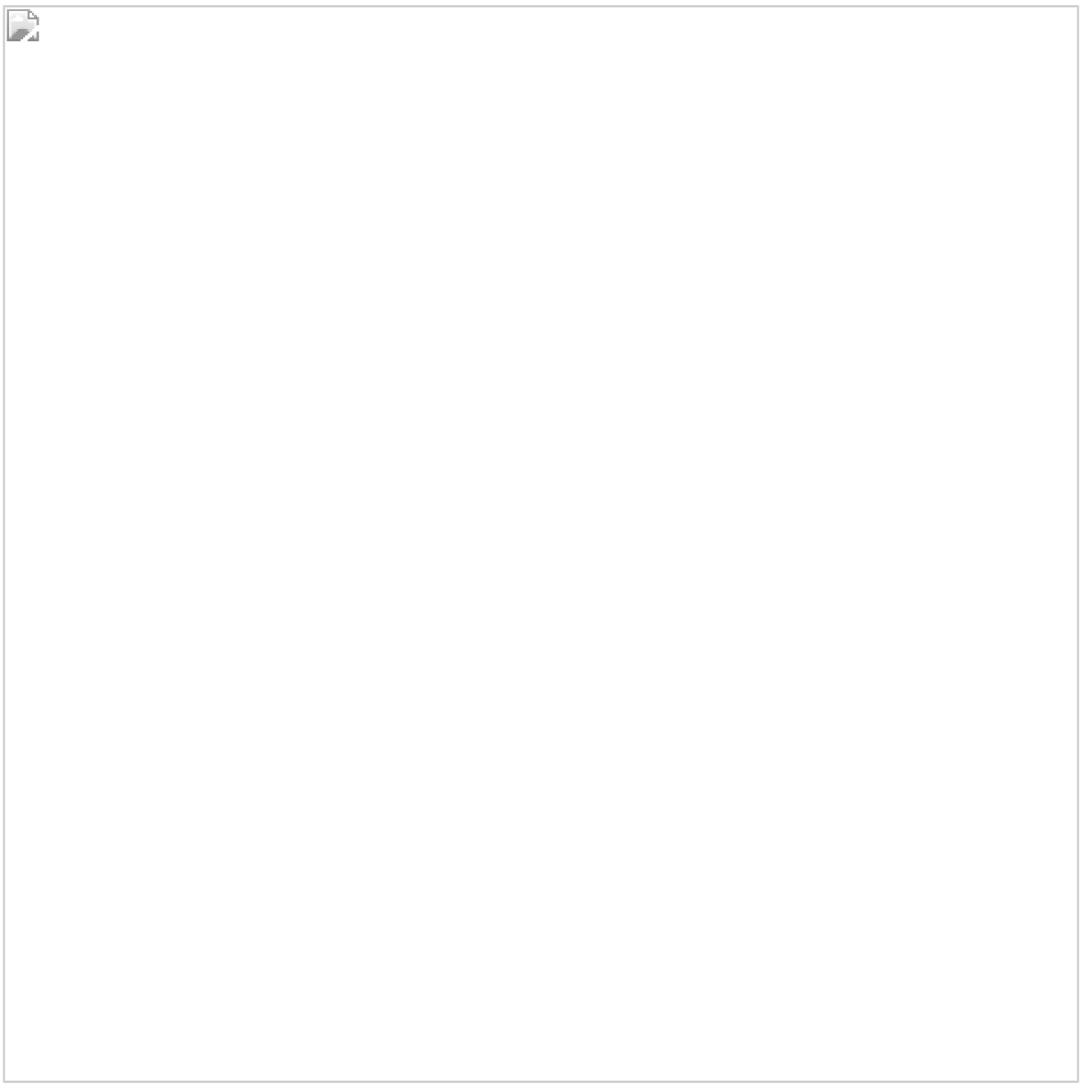
When he felt better he looked around. It seemed a garden of delights: trees everywhere, loaded with flowers and fruit, and a crystal stream wandering in and out under their shade.

At night he slept in a cosy nook, though now and then he started up in alarm, alone in a strange land. In the morning sun, his courage came back.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad felt braver in the morning light. What makes you feel better when you are worried?

A Garden of Delights · another picture

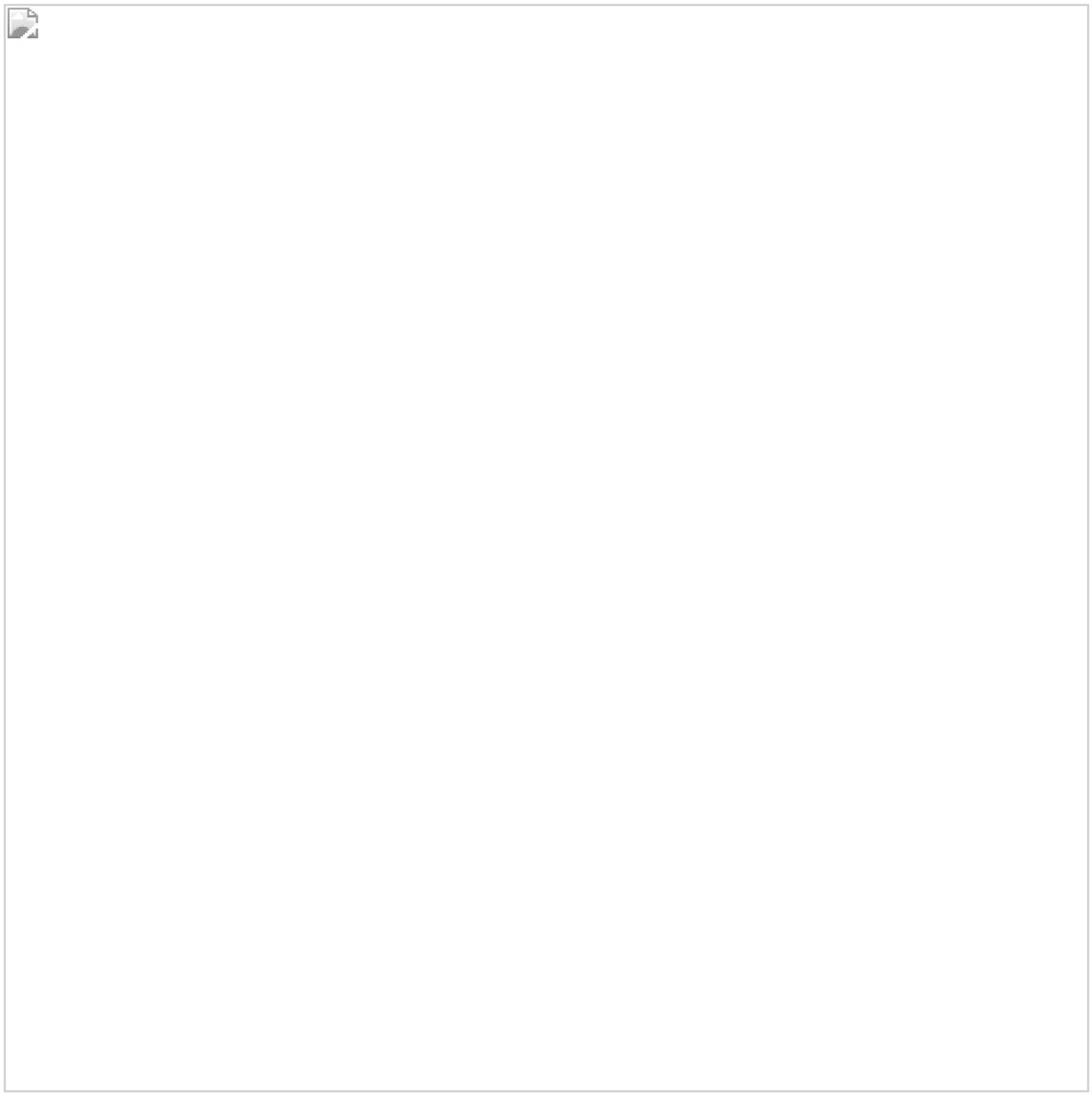


Think about it

1. How did Sindbad stay afloat after the ship broke up?

- ○ He held a piece of driftwood
- ○ He rode a dolphin
- ○ He climbed on the roc

The Old Man by the River



Some way into the island, Sindbad saw an old man, bent and feeble, sitting on the river bank. At first he took him for a shipwrecked sailor like himself. Sindbad greeted him in a friendly way, but the old man only nodded.

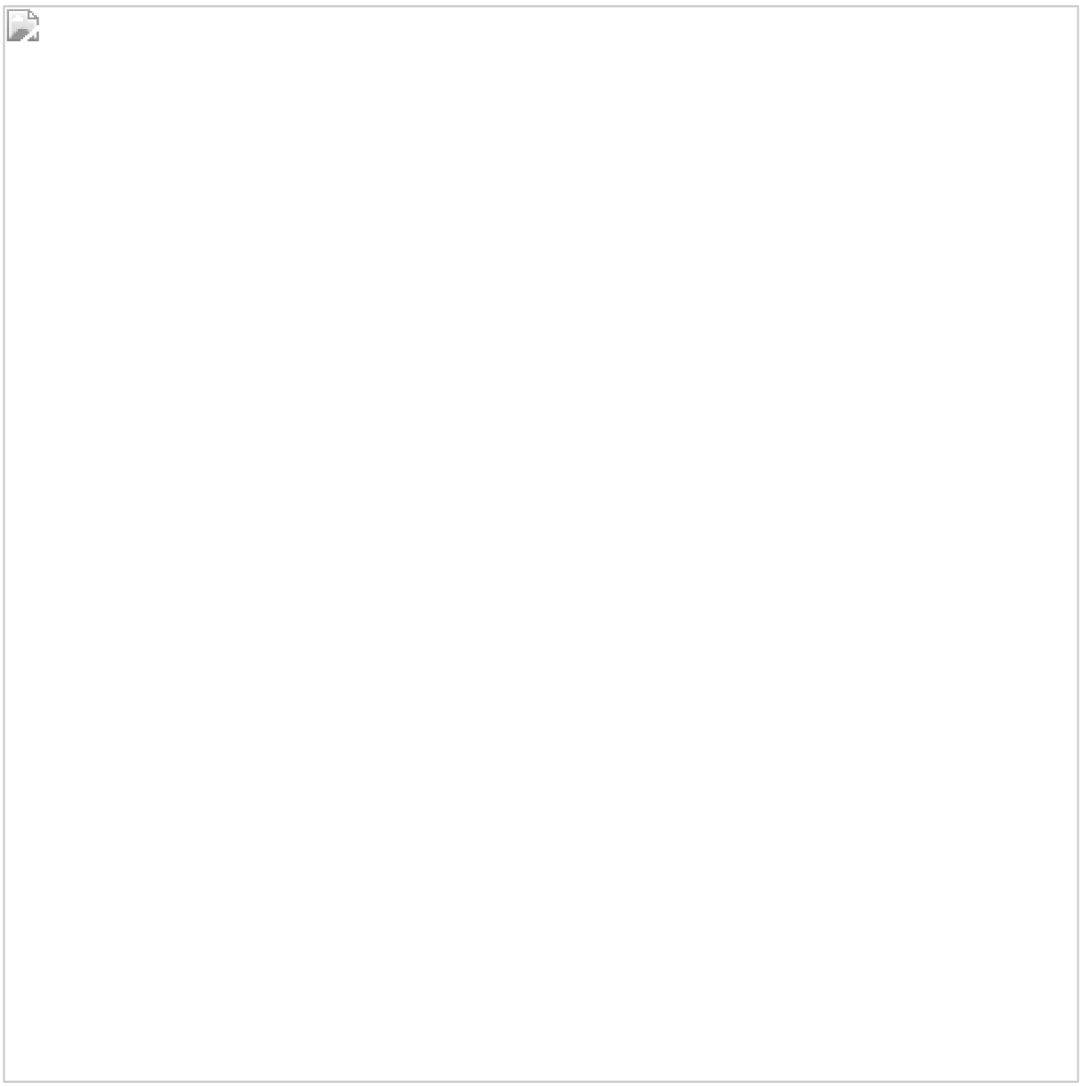
Sindbad asked what he was doing there. The old man made signs that he wished to get across the river to gather fruit, and seemed to beg Sindbad to carry him on his back.

Sindbad pitied his age and weakness. He took him up and waded across. He bent down so the old man could reach the bank, and told him to get down.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad helped the old man because he felt sorry for him. Have you ever helped someone? What did you do?

The Old Man by the River · another picture

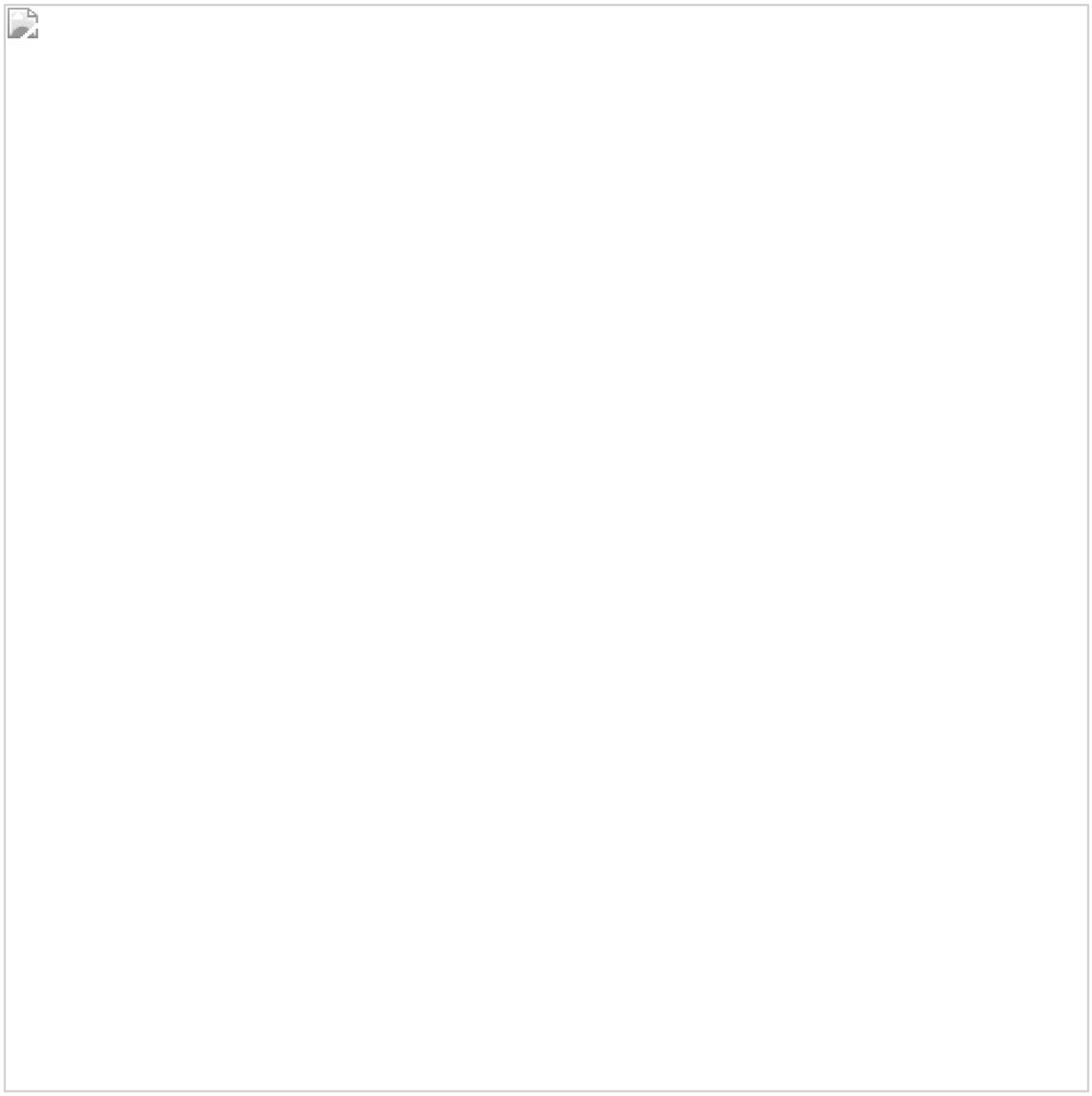


Think about it

1. What did the old man want?

- ○ Food
- ○ To be carried across the river
- ○ A boat

The Old Man Will Not Get Down



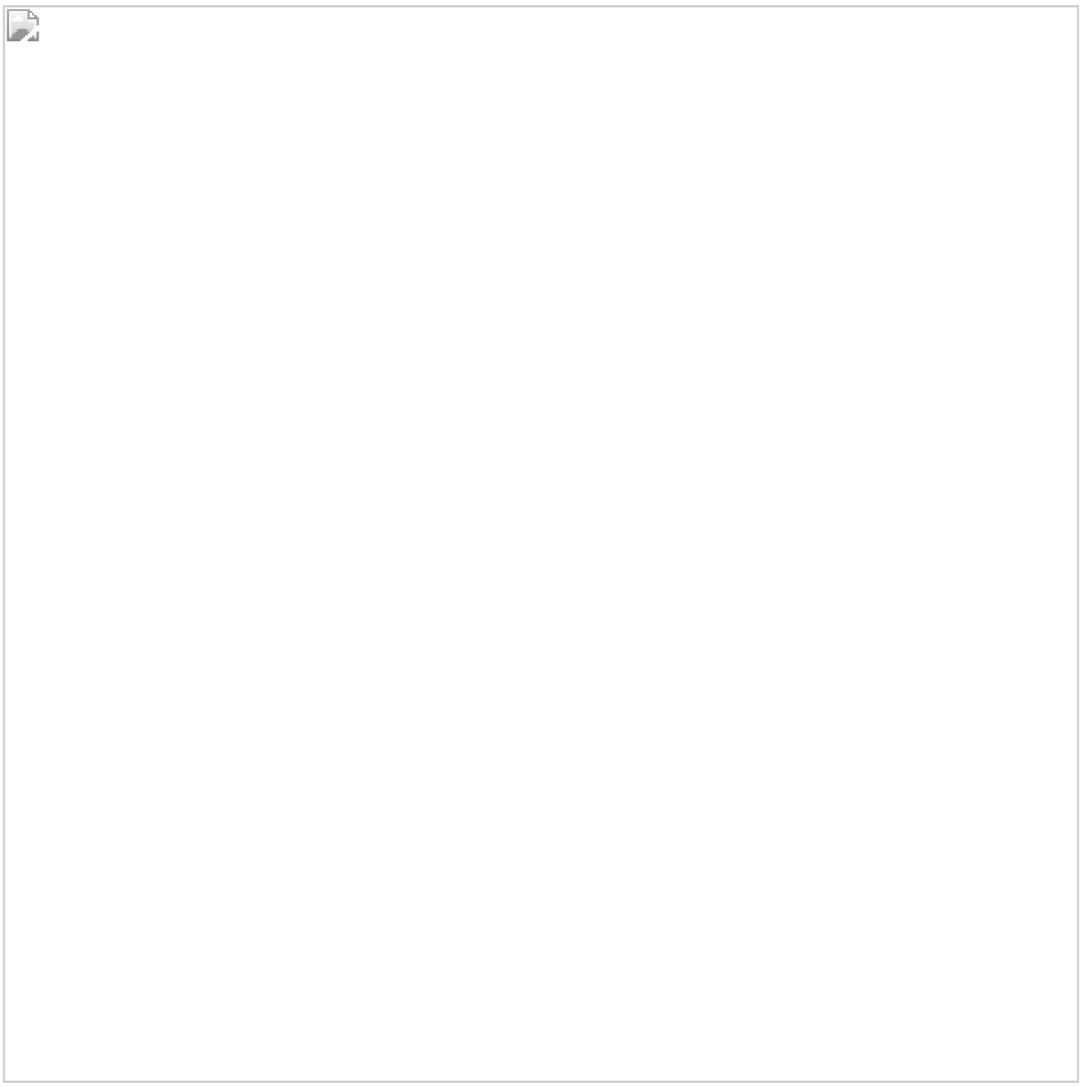
But the old man did not get down. He leaped nimbly onto Sindbad's shoulders and hooked his legs round his neck. (Sindbad says, “even now it makes me laugh to think of it!”) He gripped so tightly that Sindbad fell, half choked.

The old man loosened his legs just enough to let him breathe, then prodded him with his feet till Sindbad staggered about under the trees, while the old man ate the best fruit.

So it went all day and all night. At first light he drummed with his heels, and Sindbad had to walk on.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad did something kind, and it turned into something dreadful. What do you think he should do now?



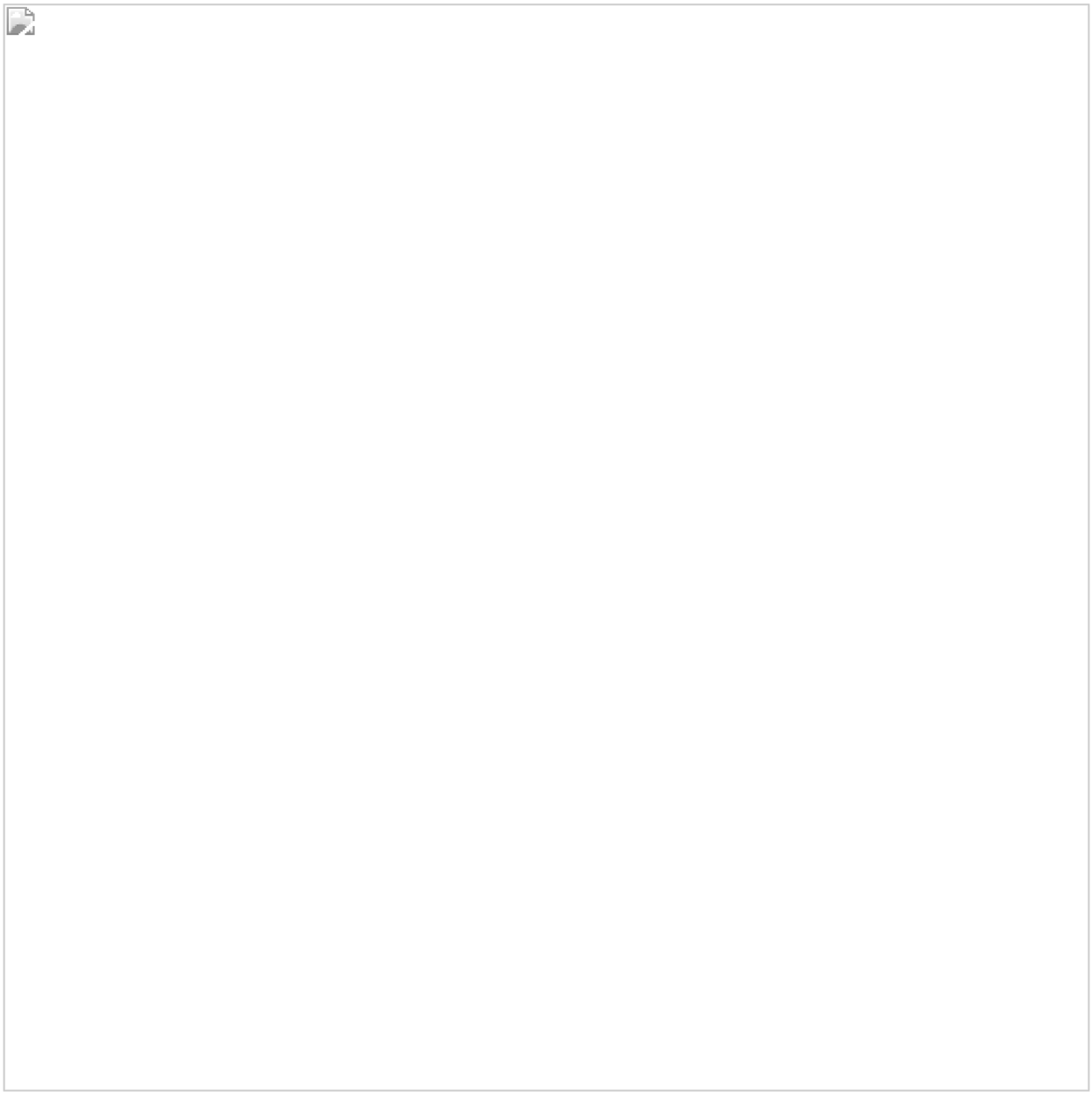
Think about it

1. What did the old man do when Sindbad bent down?

- ○ Climbed down gently
- ○ Leaped on his shoulders and held tight
- ○ Ran away

2. How would you try to get free if you were Sindbad?

The Gourd of Wine

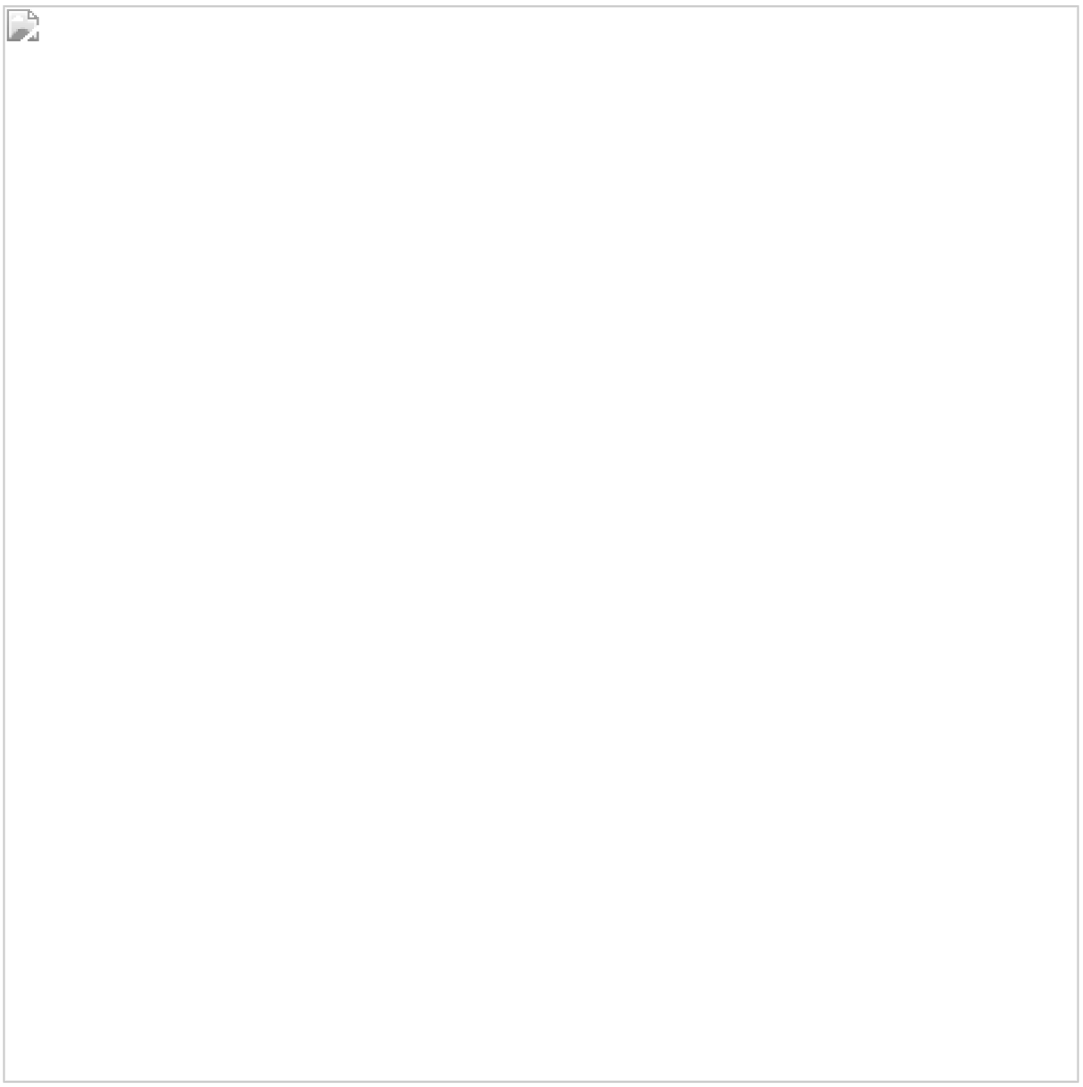


One day Sindbad passed a tree with several dry gourds under it. He picked one up and scooped it out. He squeezed the juice of several bunches of grapes into it. When it was full, he propped it in the fork of a tree.

A few days later he walked that way again with the old man on his back. He snatched up the gourd as he passed and drank. It was excellent wine, so good and refreshing that he forgot his burden for a while and began to sing and caper.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad made something while he was stuck. What can you make or do when things are hard?

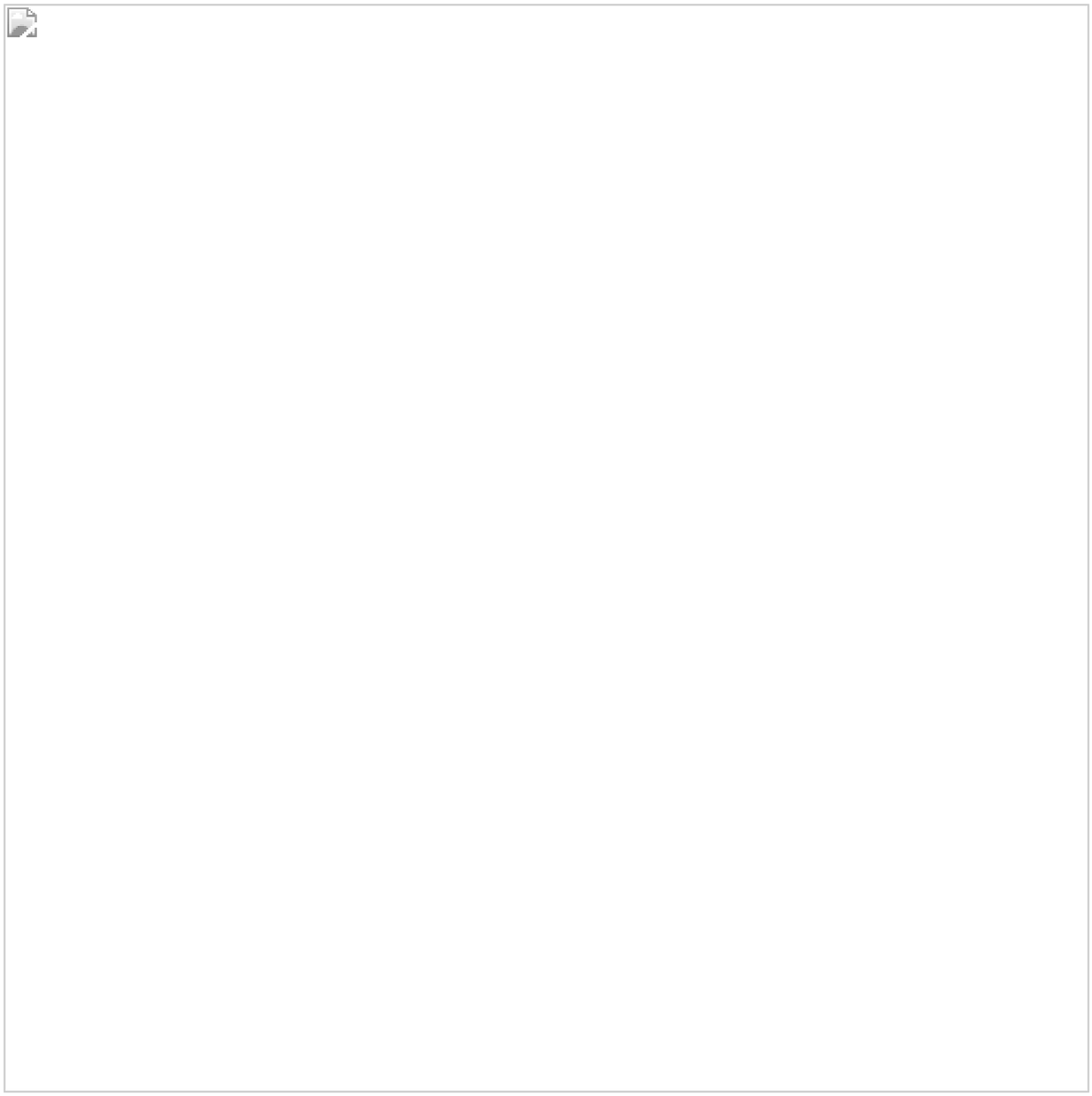


Think about it

1. What did Sindbad put in the gourd?

- ○ Water from the river
- ○ Juice of grapes
- ○ Milk

Free at Last



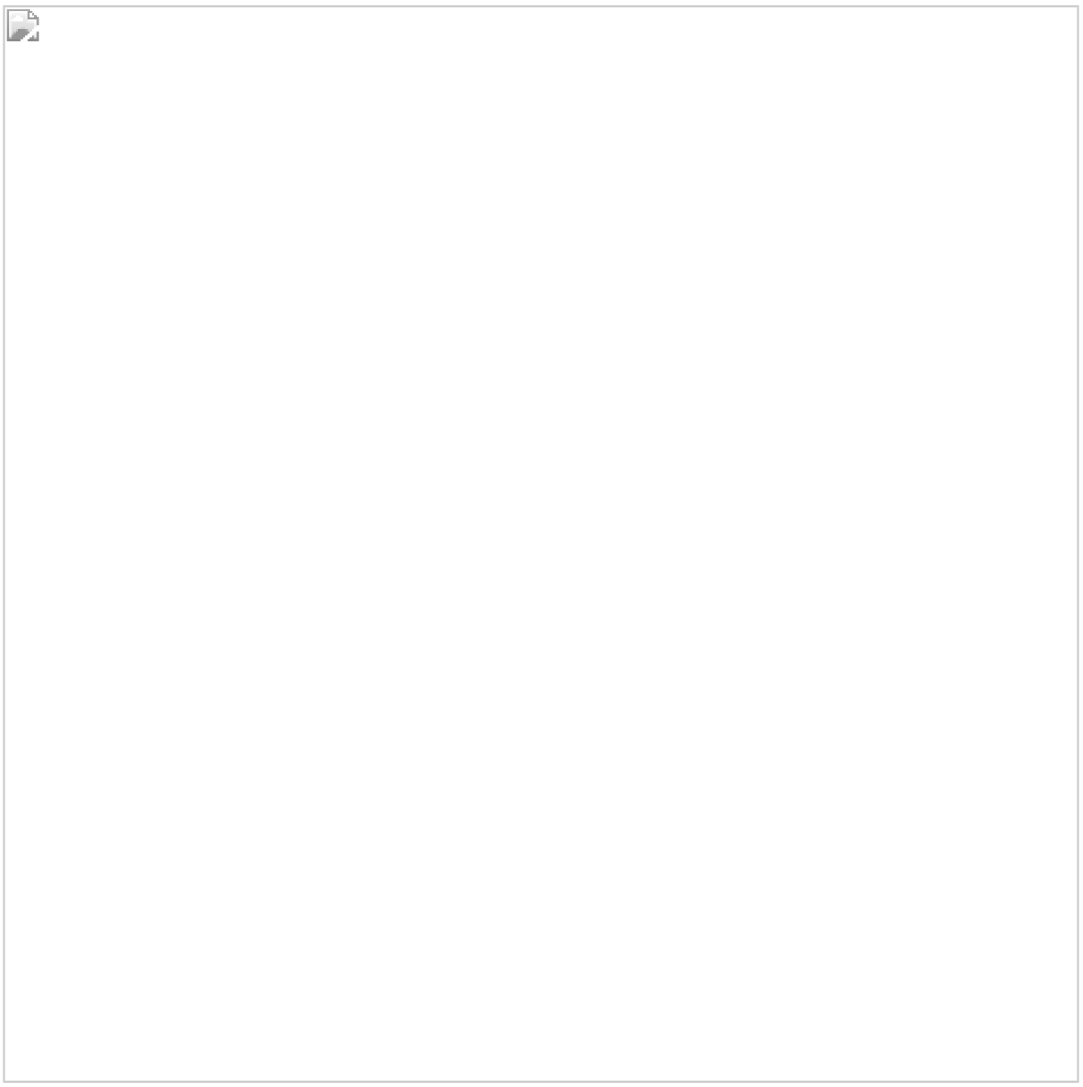
The old man saw that Sindbad was carrying him more lightly than usual. He stretched out his skinny hand and took the gourd. He tasted it carefully, then drank every drop.

The wine was strong and the gourd was big, so soon the old man began to sing in his own fashion. Sindbad felt the iron grip of his legs let go. With one strong push he threw him to the ground, and the old man never moved again.

Sindbad was so glad to be rid of him that he ran leaping and bounding down to the seashore.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad was free. What do you think was the first thing he wanted to do?

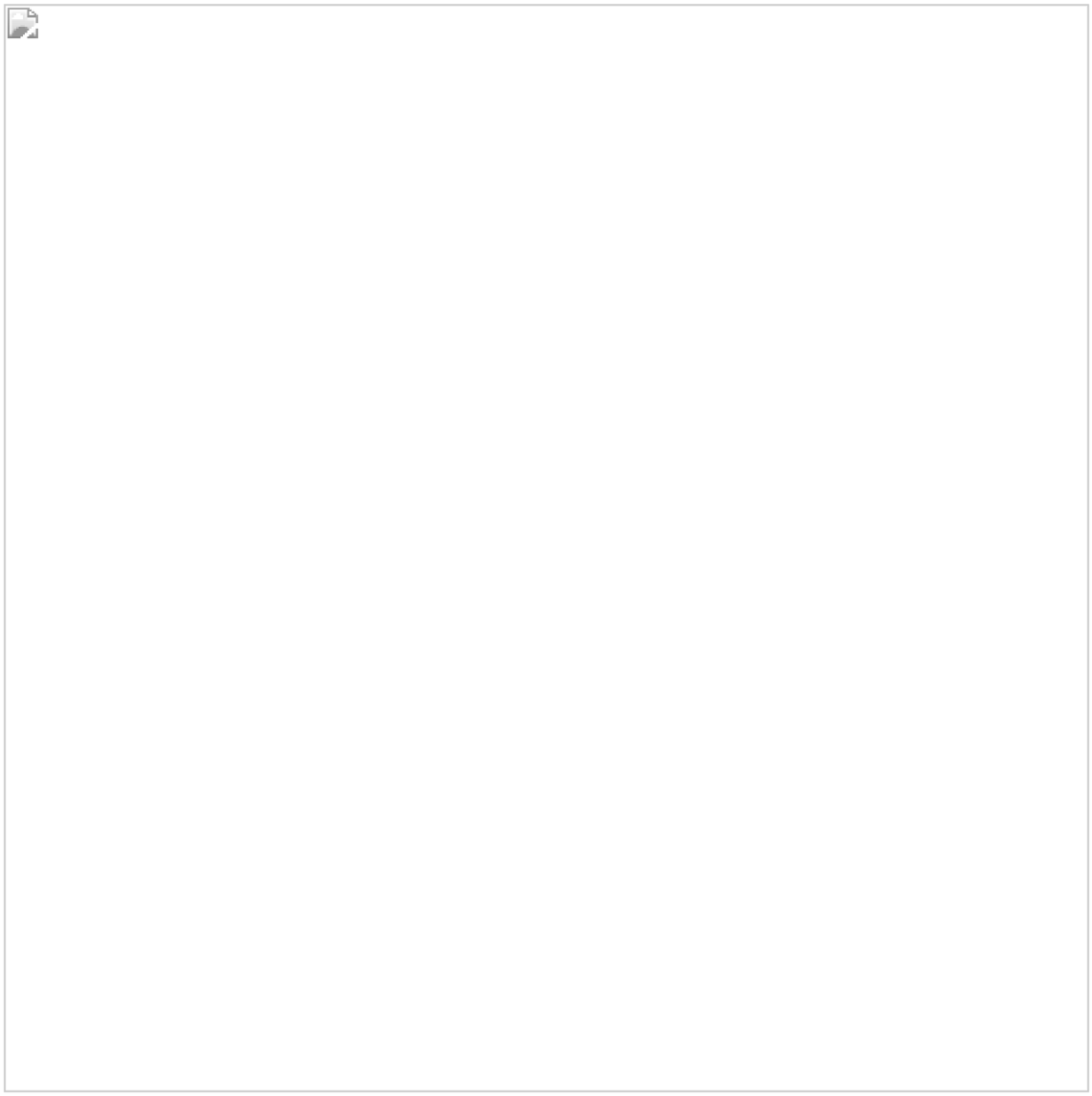


Think about it

1. What made the old man loosen his grip?

- ○ The wine
- ○ A loud noise
- ○ A cold wind

The Old Man of the Sea



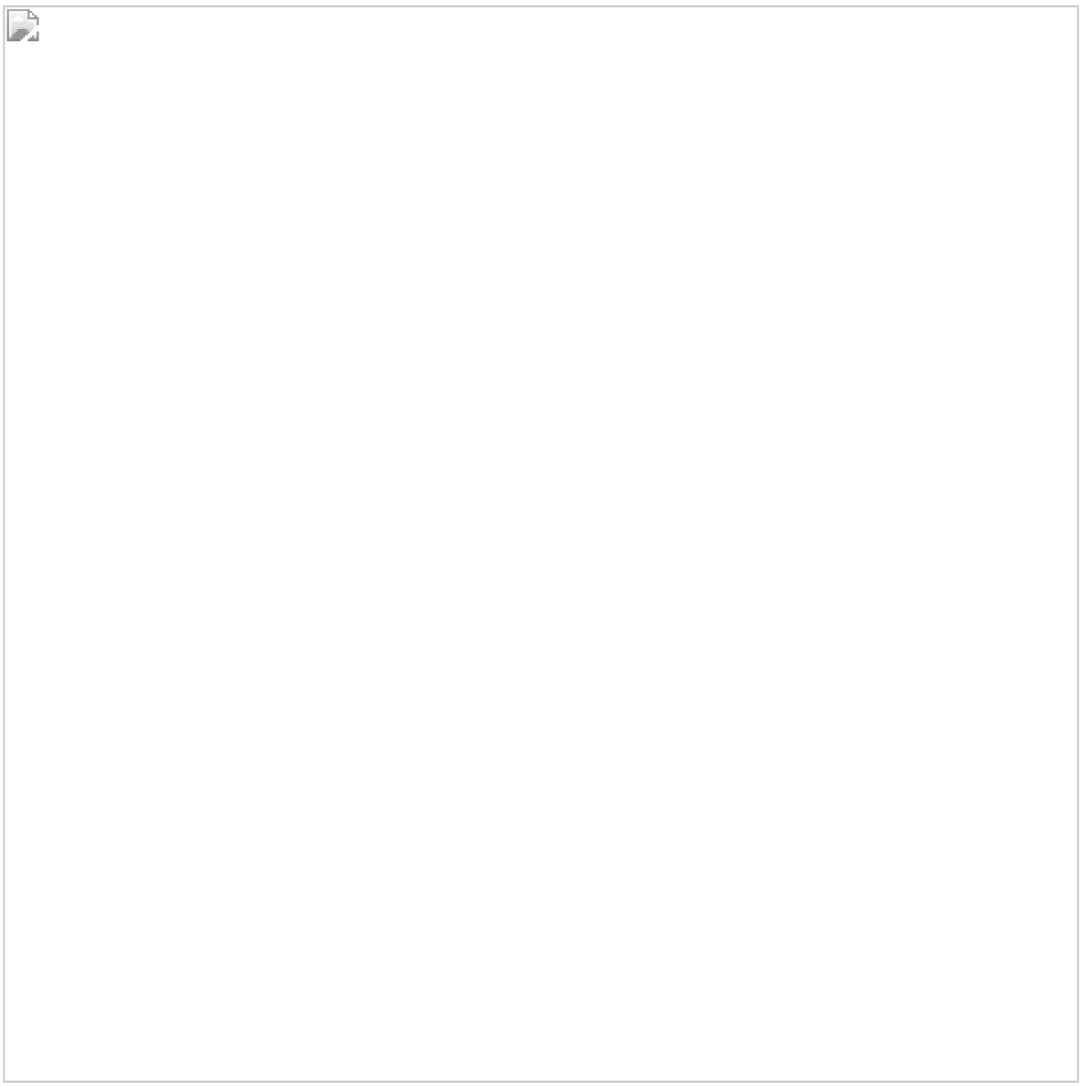
On the shore, by great good luck, Sindbad met some sailors whose ship had anchored off the island to gather fruit and fill their water barrels.

They listened to his story in amazement. “You fell into the hands of the Old Man of the Sea,” they said. It was a mercy he had not hurt Sindbad, as he had hurt everyone else on whose shoulders he had perched.

They took Sindbad on board, and the captain received him kindly. After several days they reached a large, prosperous town where all the houses were built of stone.

TALK ABOUT IT

The sailors were kind to someone they had just met. What is a kind thing you could do for a stranger?

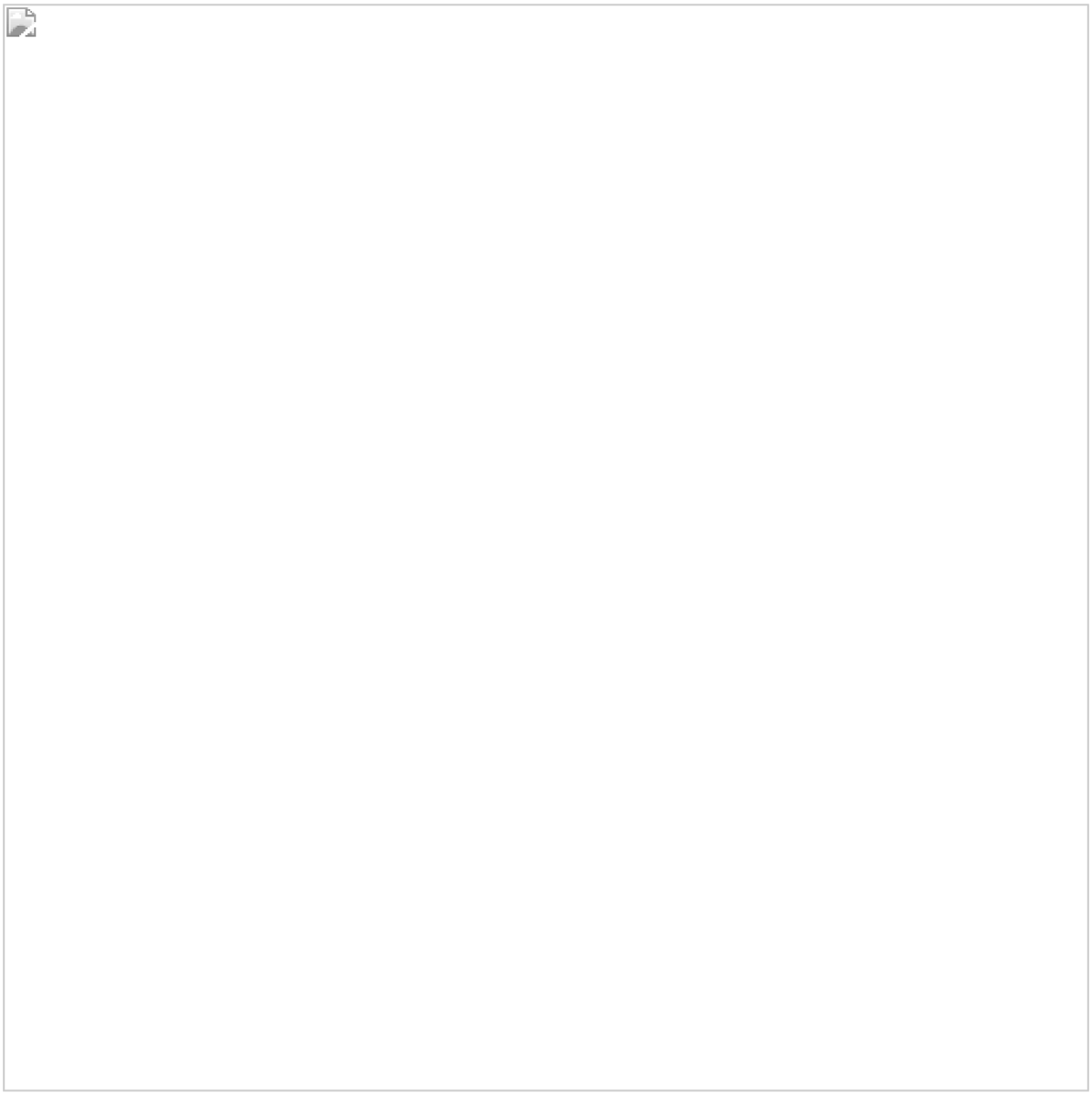


Think about it

1. Who had Sindbad escaped from?

- ○ A roc
- ○ The Old Man of the Sea
- ○ A whale

The Town of Stone Houses



One of the merchants, who had been very friendly to Sindbad on the way, took him ashore and showed him a lodging for strange merchants. He gave Sindbad a large sack and pointed out a group of others with sacks like it.

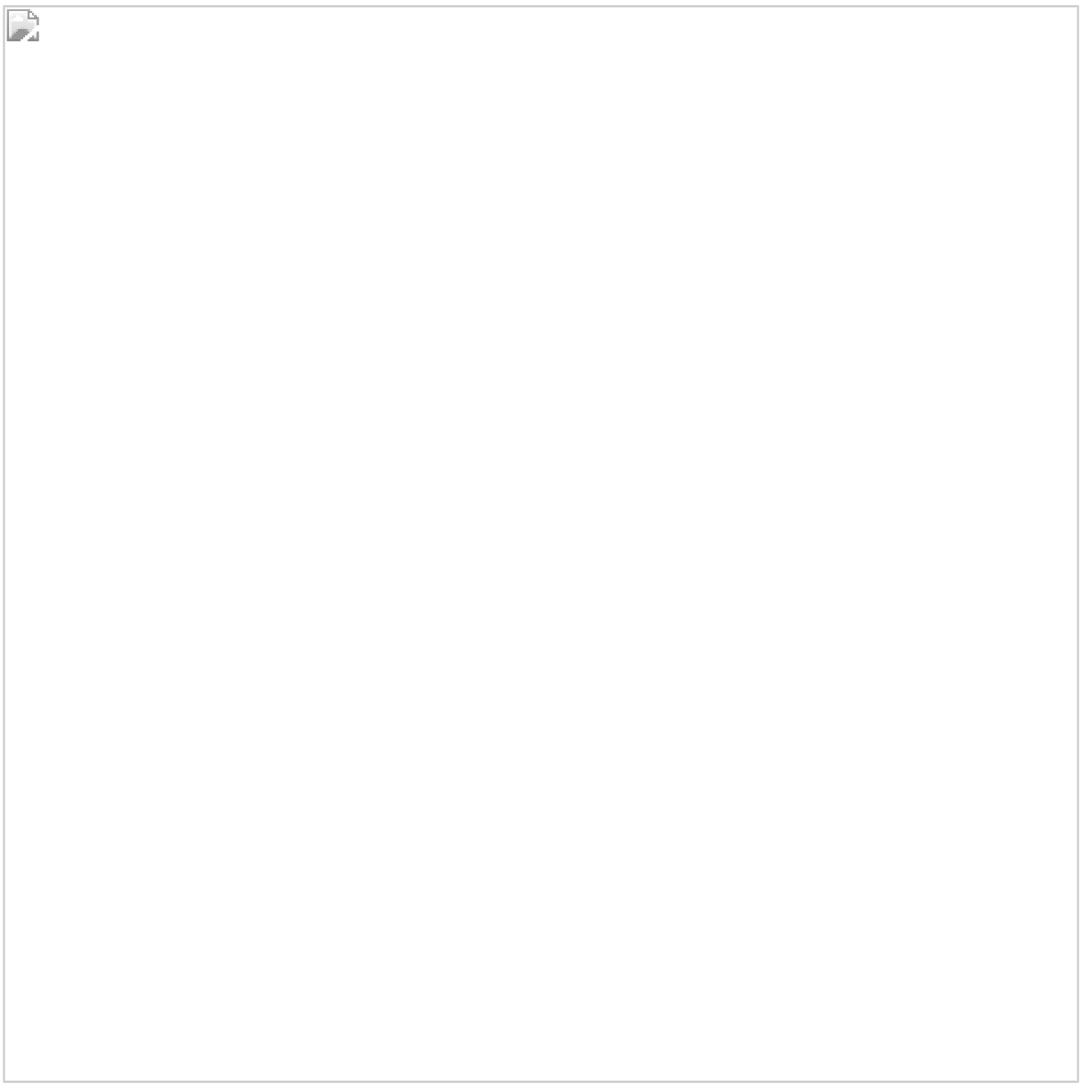
“Go with them,” he said, “and do as they do, but beware of losing sight of them, for if you strayed your life would be in danger.”

He gave Sindbad food, said goodbye, and Sindbad set out with his new companions.

TALK ABOUT IT

The merchant looked out for Sindbad. Who looks out for you when you are somewhere new?

The Town of Stone Houses · another picture

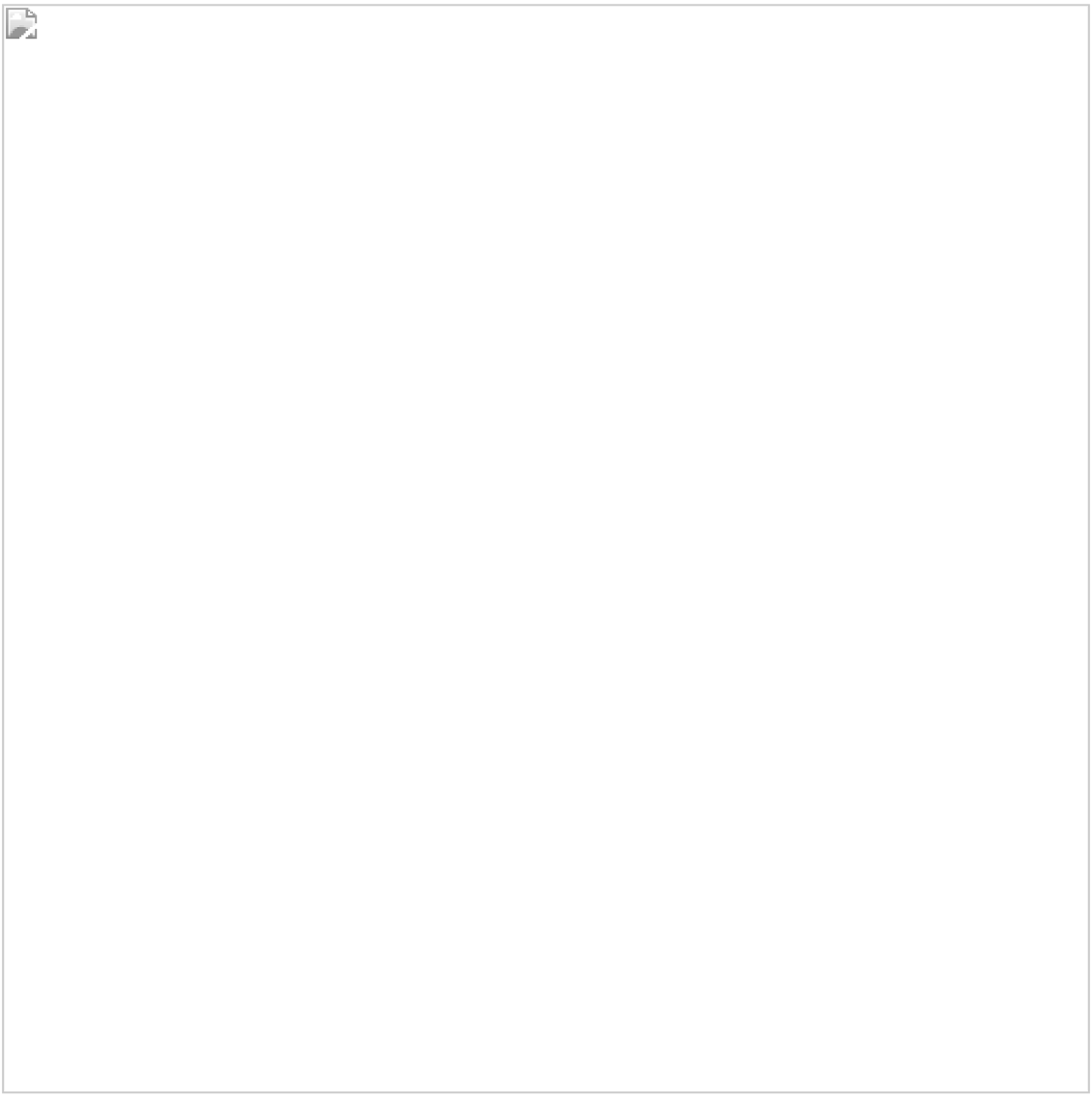


Think about it

1. What did the merchant tell Sindbad not to do?

- ○ Lose sight of the others
- ○ Talk to anyone
- ○ Eat any fruit

Monkeys and Coconuts



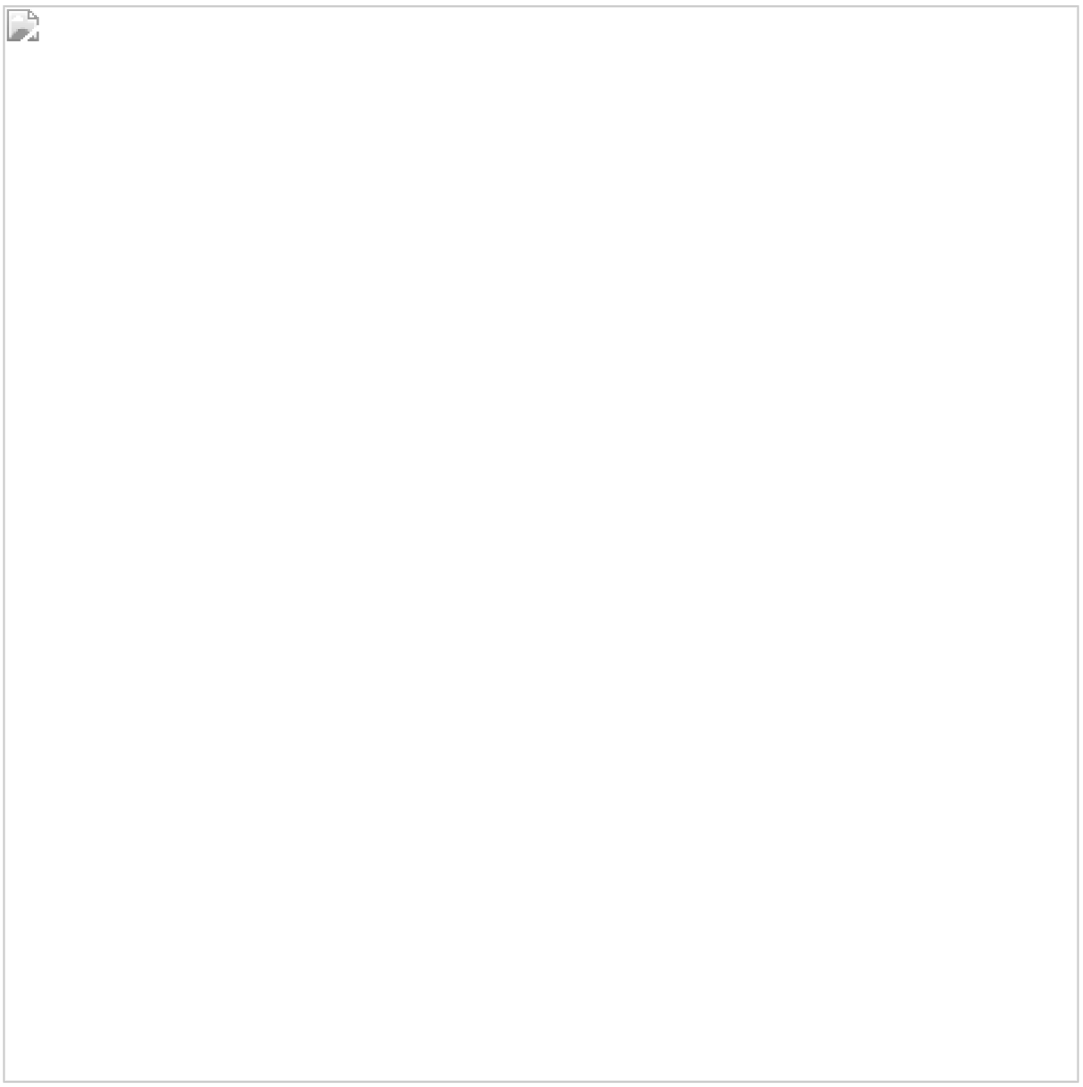
Sindbad learned that they were going to fill their sacks with coconuts. But the palm trees were very tall, with slippery, slender trunks. He did not see how it could be done.

The tops of the palms were alive with monkeys, big and little, skipping from tree to tree. Sindbad's companions gathered stones and threw them at the monkeys, who seemed to him quite harmless.

Soon he saw why. The annoyed monkeys tore nuts from the trees and threw them back with angry gestures. After very little work, the sacks were full of fruit they could not have got any other way.

TALK ABOUT IT

The monkeys threw coconuts back. What do you think about that way of getting coconuts?

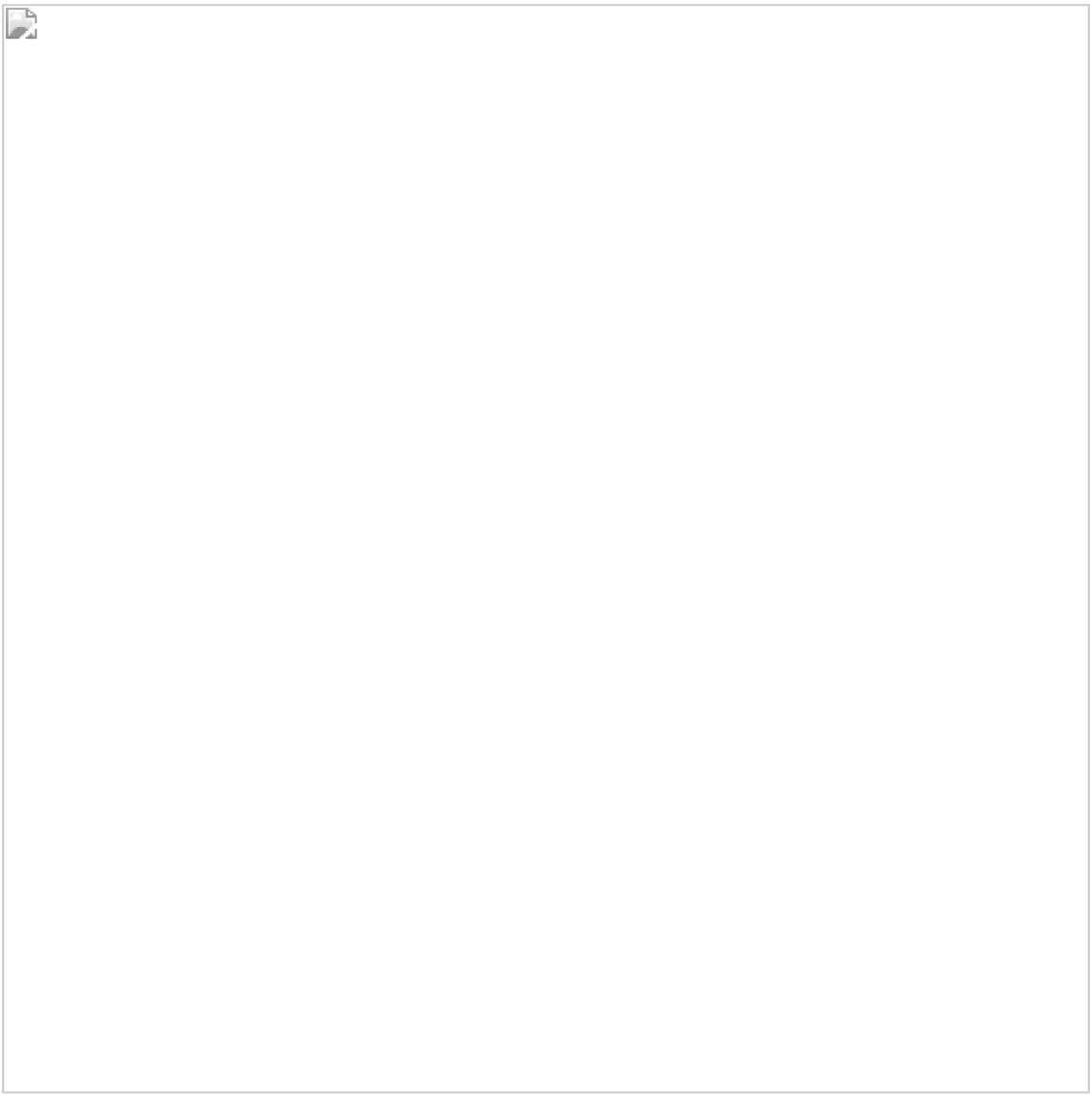


Think about it

1. What did the monkeys do when stones were thrown at them?

- ○ Ran away
- ○ Threw coconuts back
- ○ Sang

Pepper, Pearls and Home



Back in the town, his friend bought Sindbad's share of the nuts, and Sindbad kept on until he had enough to get home.

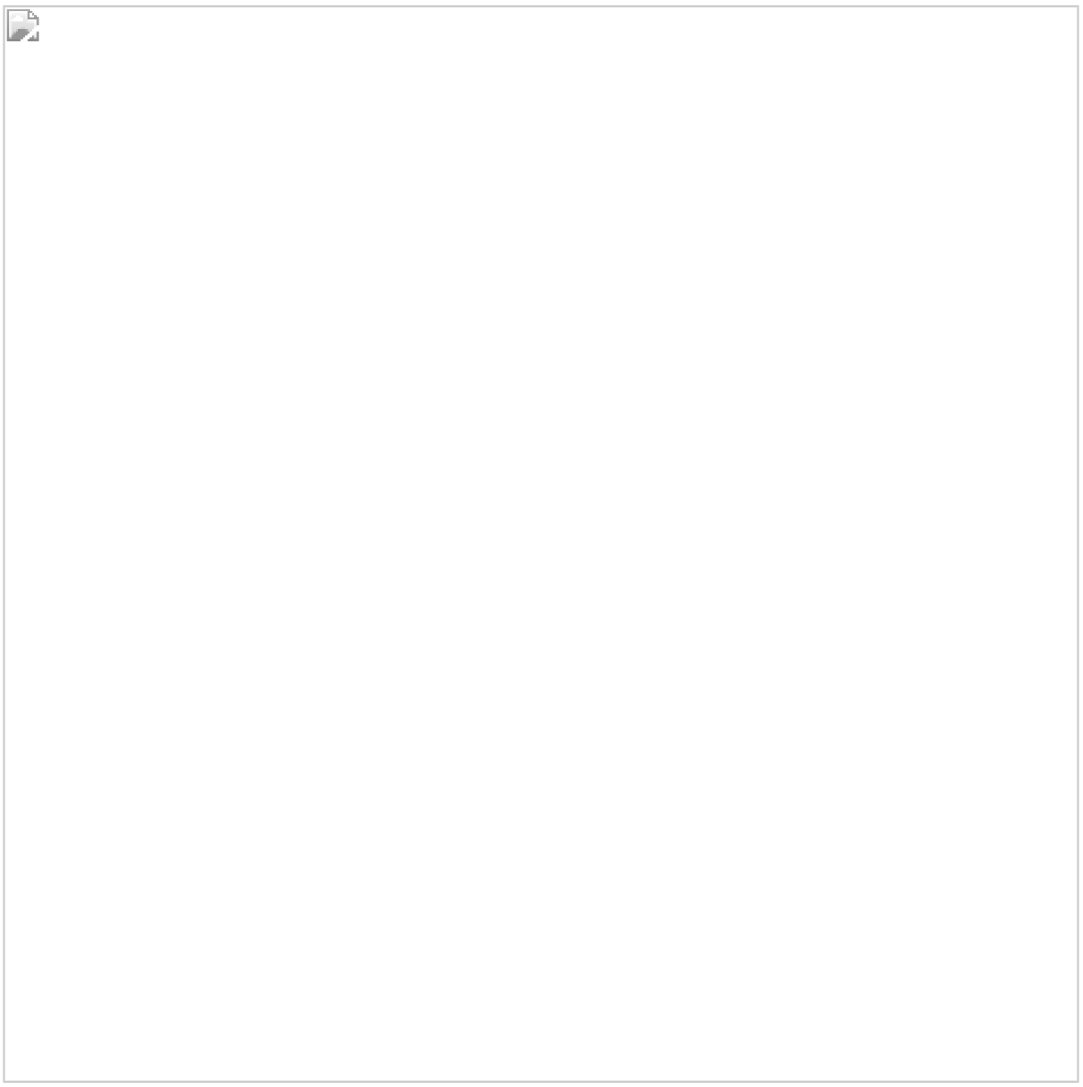
Then he boarded a trading ship with a good store of coconuts, and sailed to the islands where pepper grows, and to Comari, where the best aloes wood is found.

There Sindbad traded his nuts for pepper and aloes wood, and went fishing for pearls. His divers were so lucky that he soon had many large, perfect pearls.

He came joyfully back to Bagdad and sold his treasures. As before, he gave the tenth part to the poor. Then he rested from his labours.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad gave a tenth of what he earned to the poor. If you had ten of something, how many would you share?



Think about it

1. What did Sindbad give to the poor?

- ○ The tenth part
- ○ All of it
- ○ Half

2. Which part of Sindbad's fifth voyage surprised you most?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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