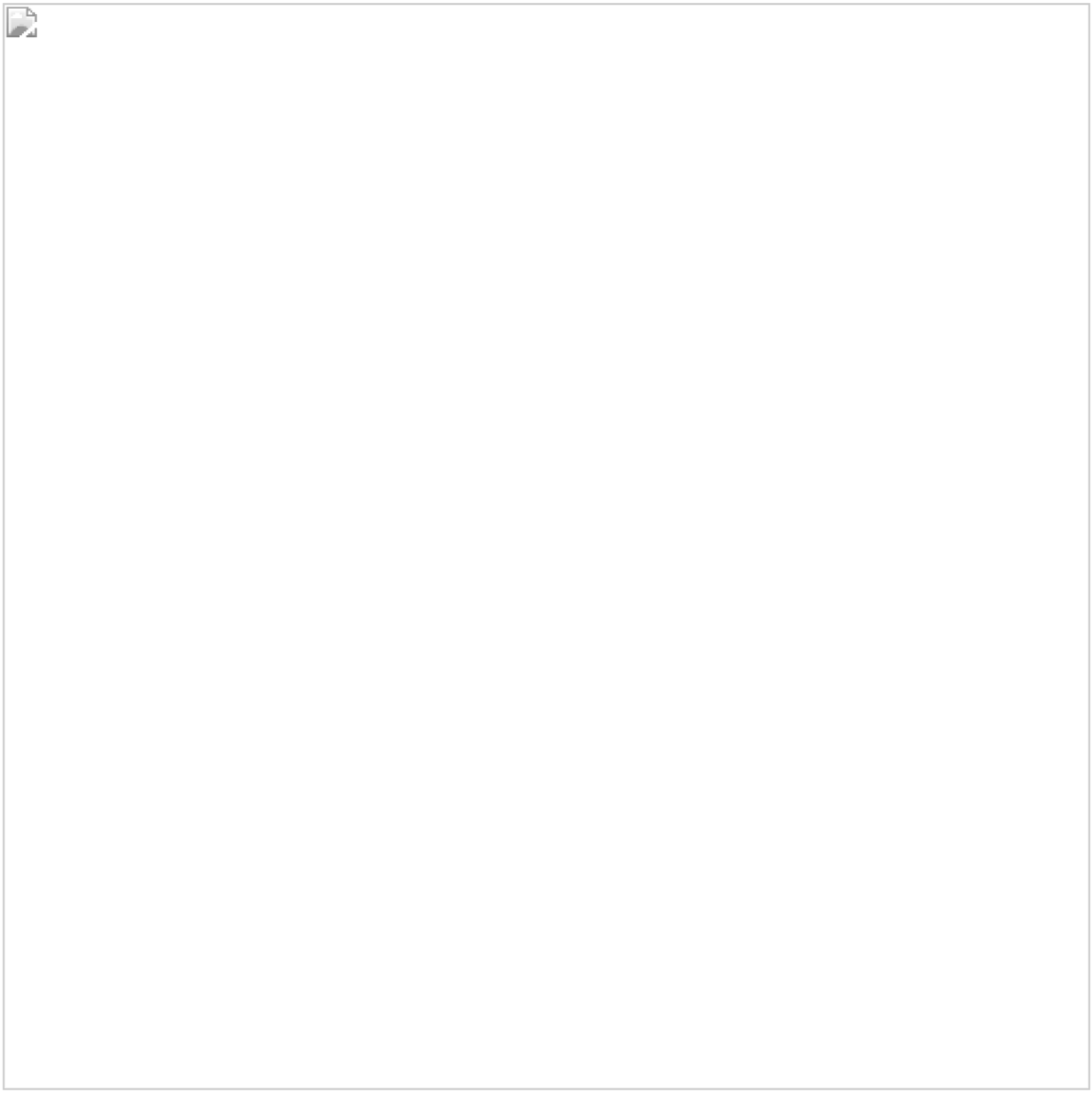
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Sindbad's First Voyage

A Tale from the Arabian Nights



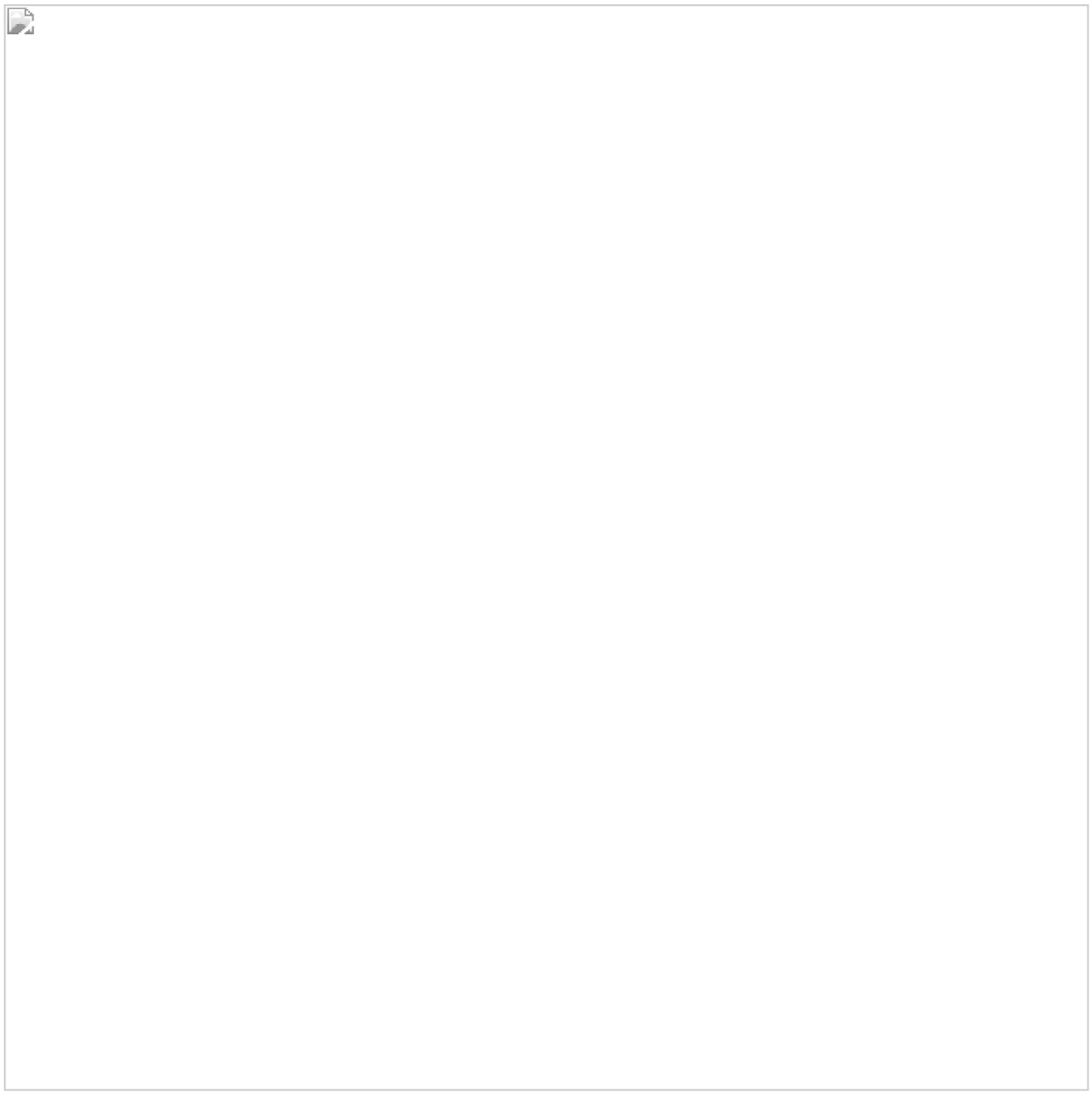
Sindbad was a young man from Bagdad. His parents had left him a great deal of money. He was young and foolish, and he spent it on every kind of pleasure.

TALK ABOUT IT

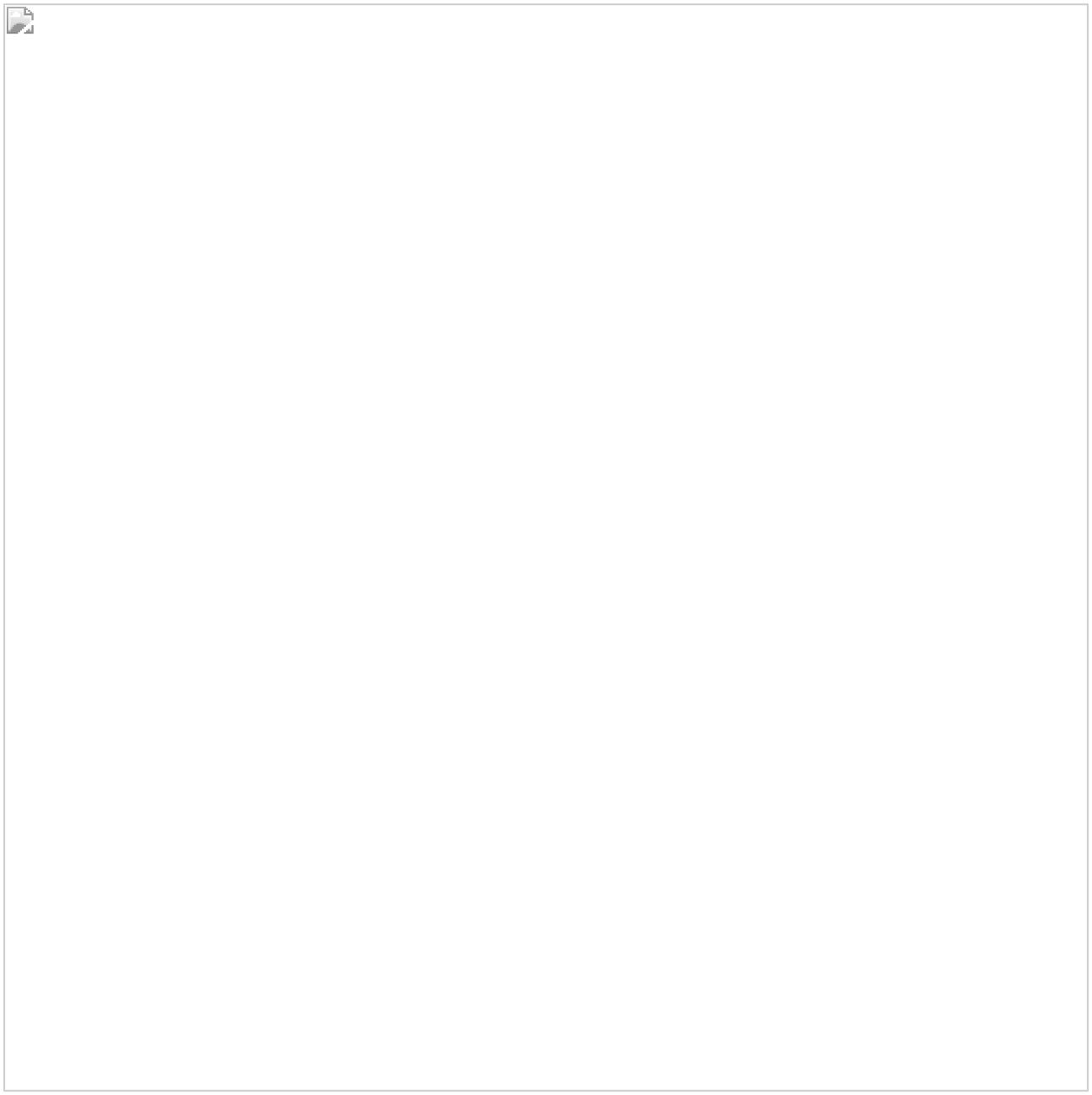
Sindbad spent all his money on fun. What would you do if you had a big pile of money?

This book belongs to _____

Sindbad's First Voyage · another picture



Riches Take Wings

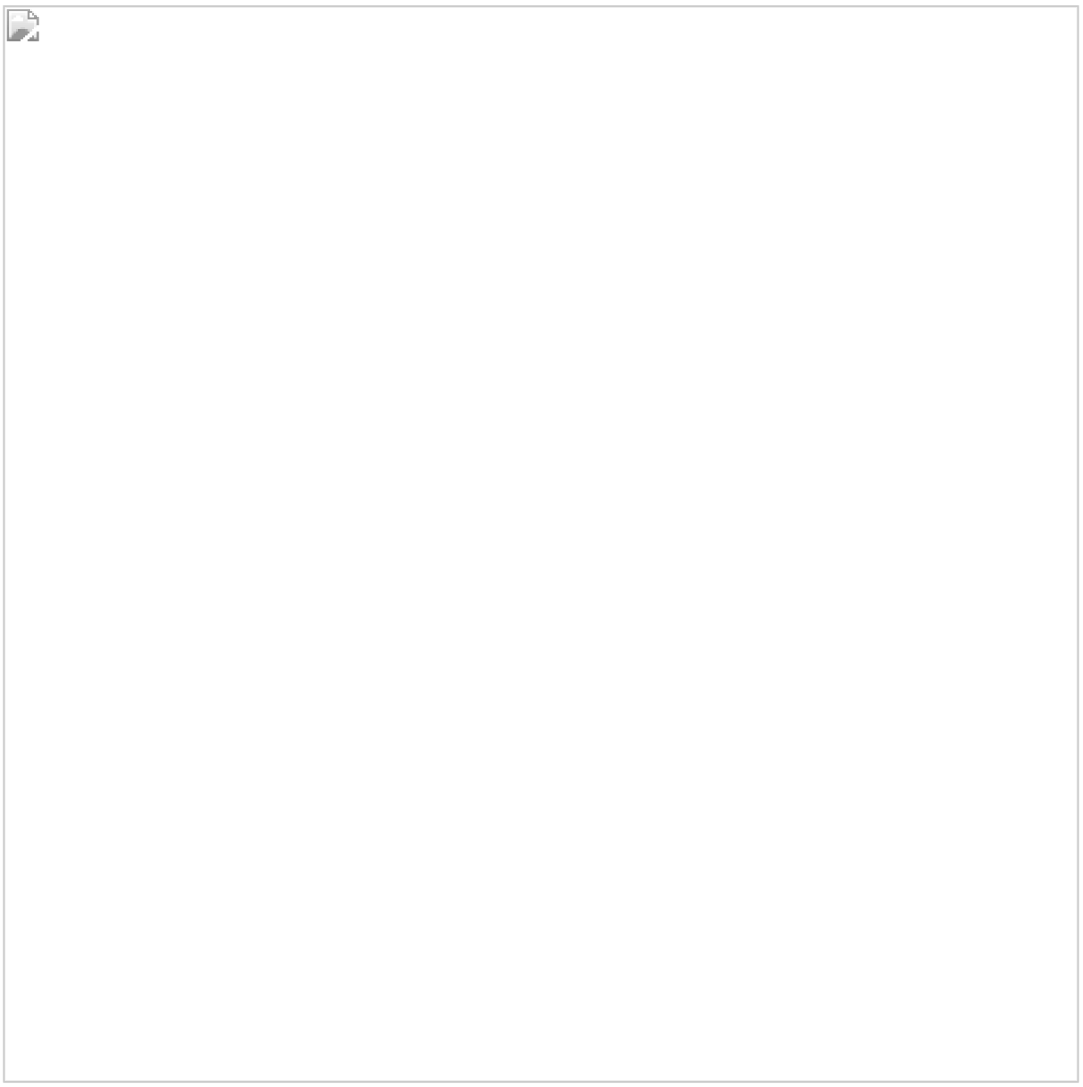


Then Sindbad saw that “riches speedily take to themselves wings” if they are managed badly. He began to think about how to make the best of what he still had.

He sold all his household goods. He joined a company of merchants who traded by sea, and they sailed from Balsora in a ship they had fitted out together.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad changed his ways when he saw what was happening. Have you ever changed your mind about something?

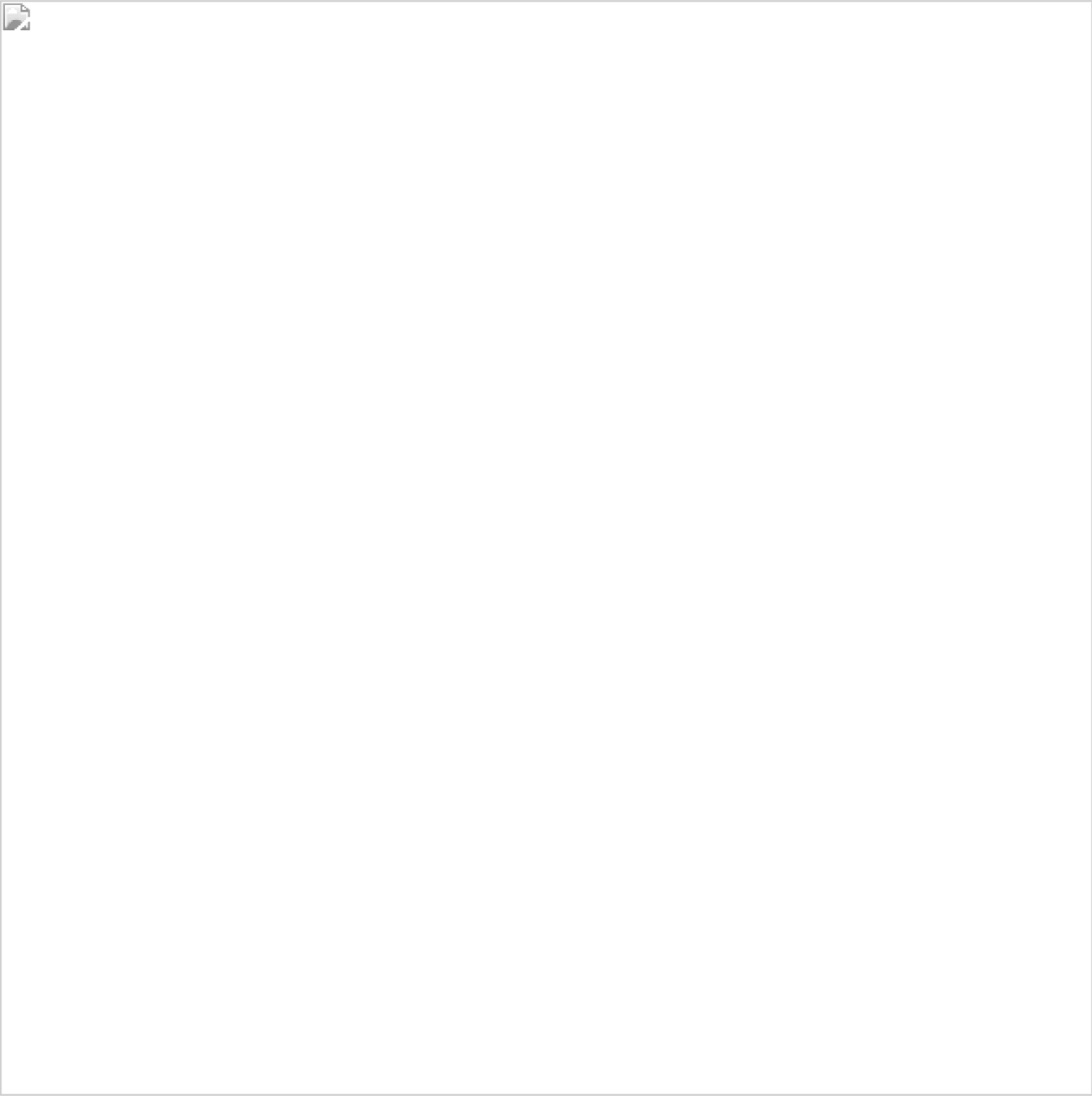


Think about it

1. What did Sindbad do when his money began to run out?

- ○ He sold his goods and joined merchants who traded by sea
- ○ He asked the king for more
- ○ He hid at home

The Green Island



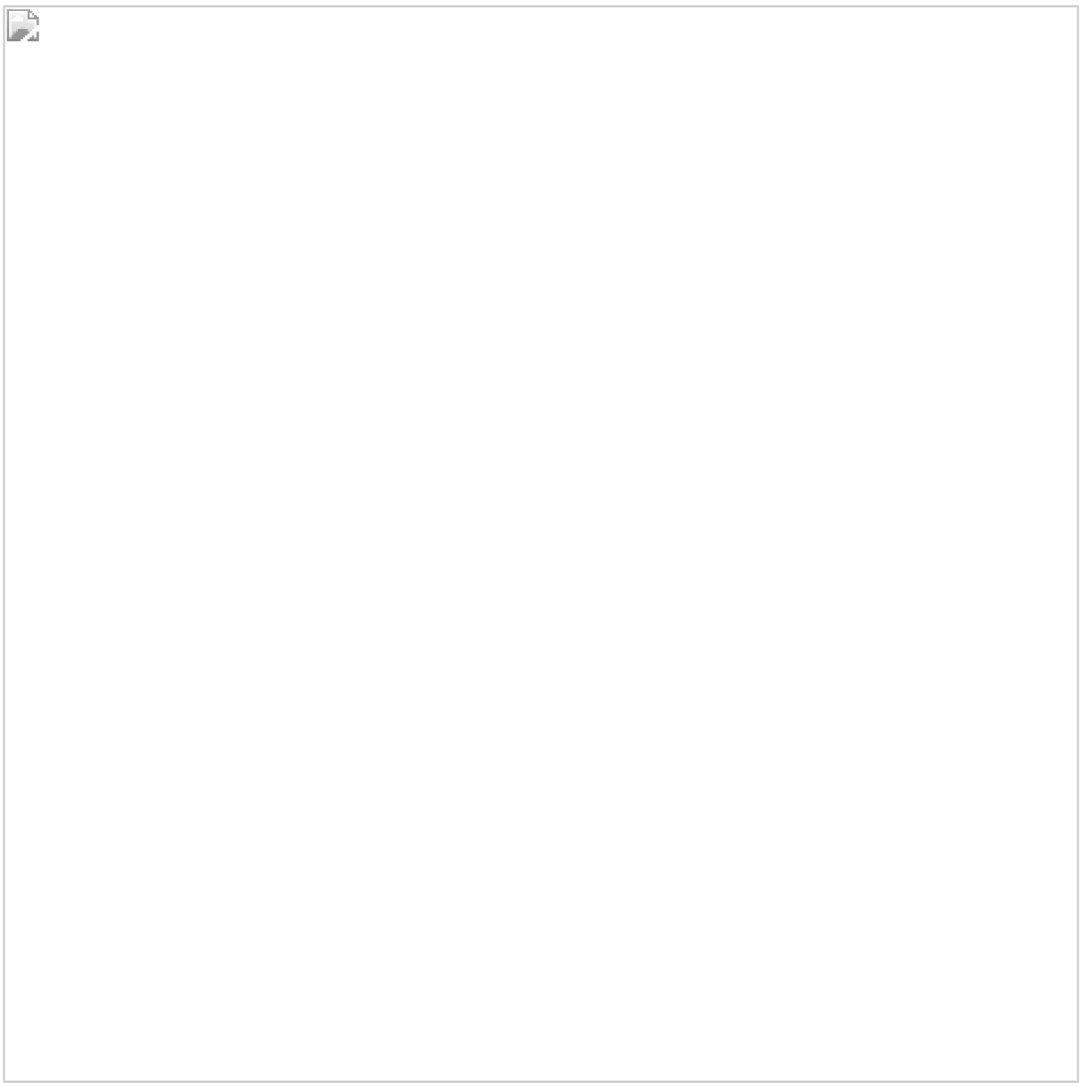
The ship sailed from island to island, selling and trading. One day the wind dropped, and the ship stopped near a small island like a green meadow.

The captain said anyone who wished could go ashore. Sindbad went with the others. They lit a fire and sat down to eat the meal they had brought.

Then the island began to tremble.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the sailors thought when the ground began to shake?

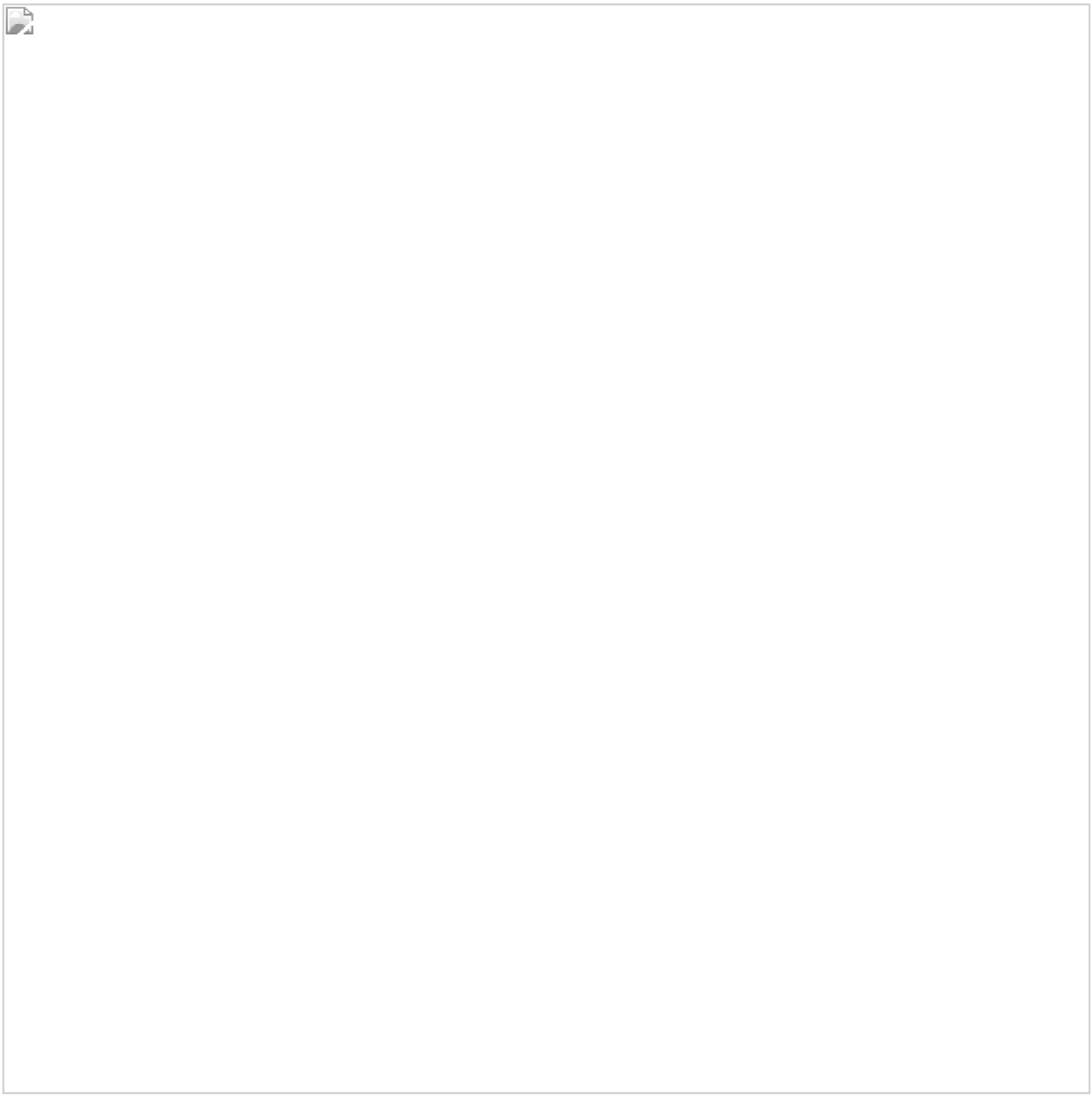


Think about it

1. What did the little island look like?

- ○ A green meadow
- ○ A tall mountain
- ○ A pile of sand

The Back of a Whale



The people on the ship shouted for them to “come on board for our lives.” The island was not an island at all. It was the back of a sleeping whale, and the fire had warmed it awake.

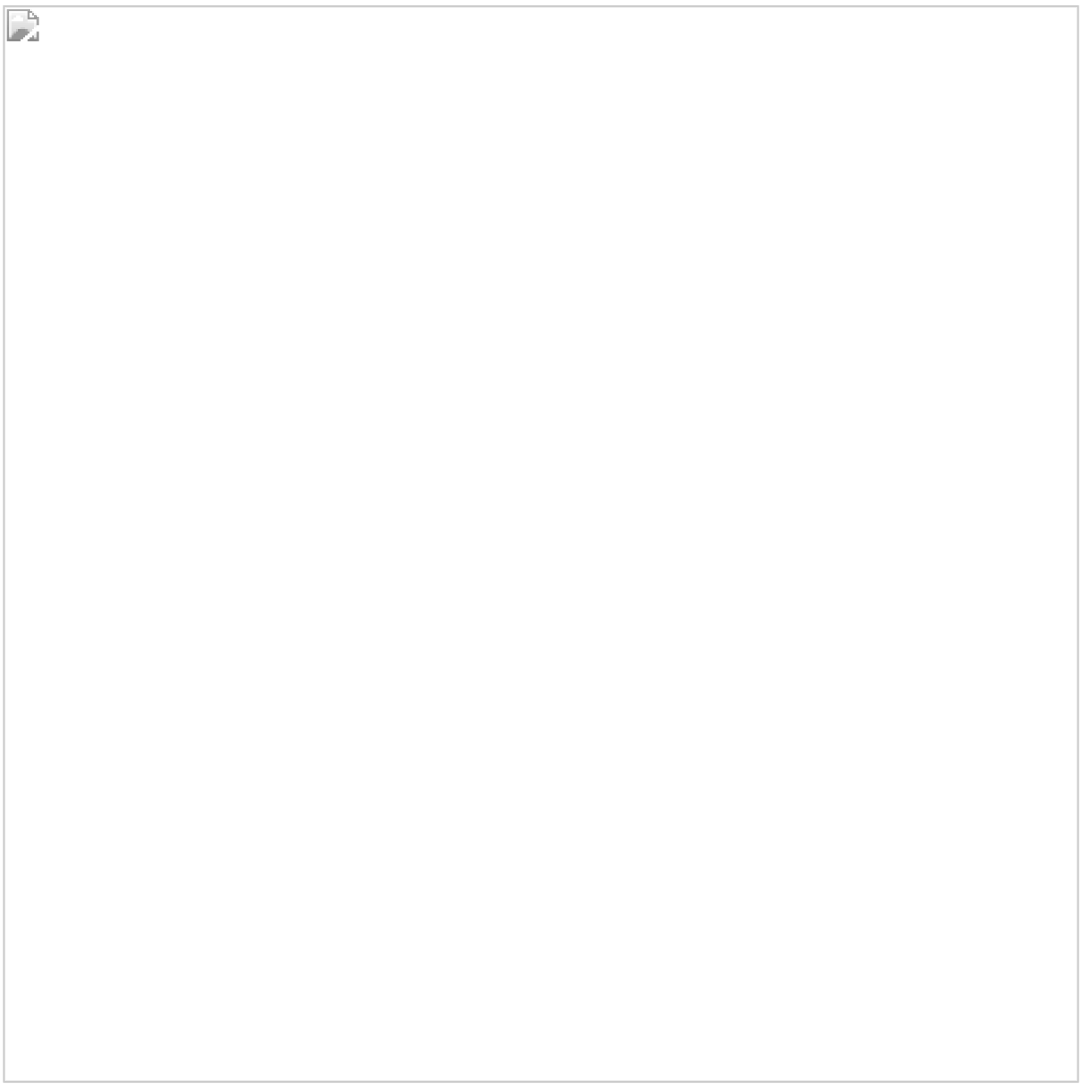
Those near the boat jumped in. Others sprang into the sea. Before Sindbad could save himself, the whale dived deep down into the ocean.

Sindbad was left holding a piece of the wood they had brought for the fire.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad held on to a piece of wood. What would you hold on to if you were in the sea?

The Back of a Whale · another picture

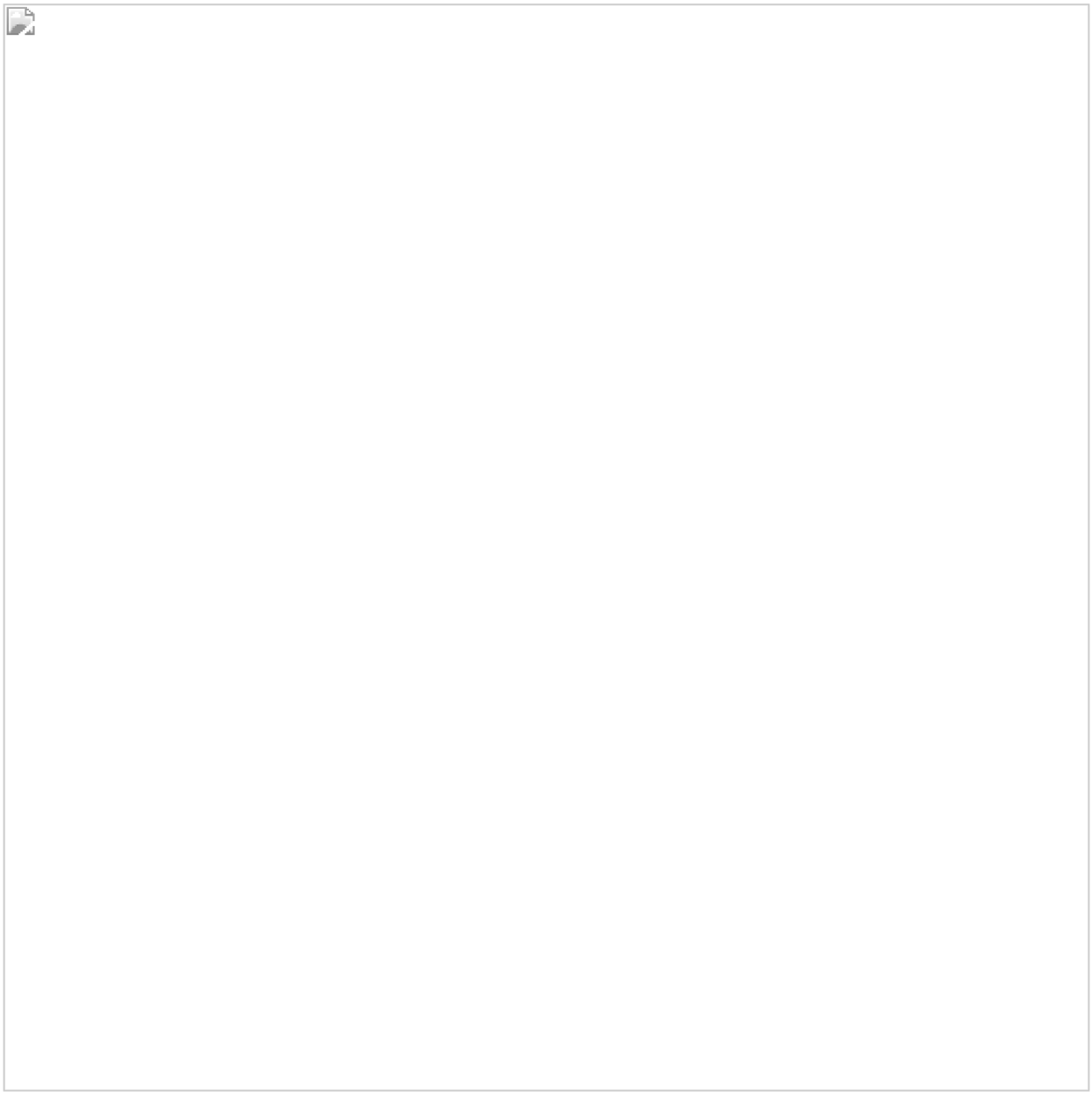


Think about it

1. What was the island really?

- ○ A turtle
- ○ A whale
- ○ A ship

Left at the Mercy of the Waves

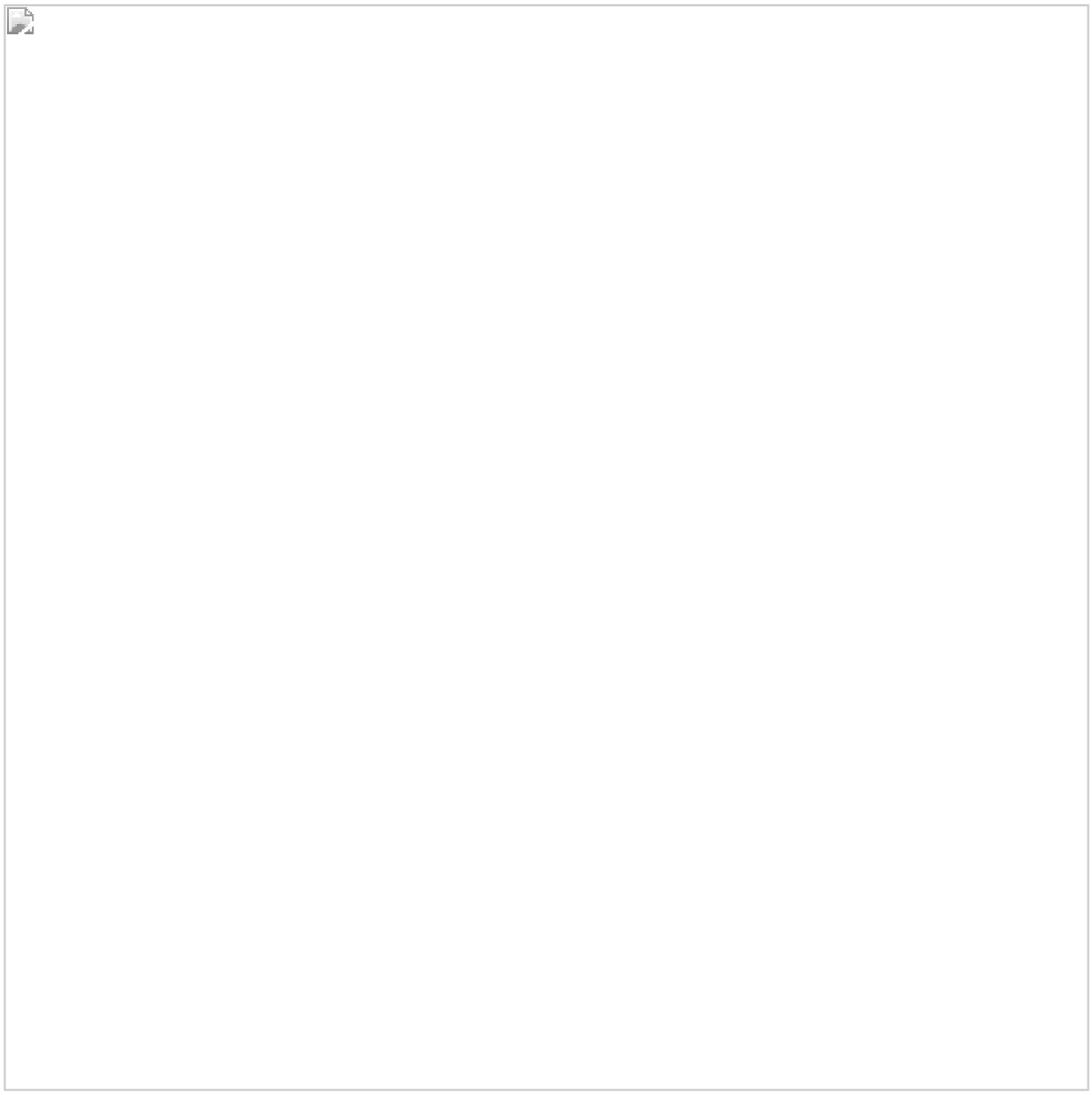


A breeze had risen, and there was such a bustle on the ship, hoisting the sails and pulling people from the water, that nobody missed Sindbad. He was left alone in the waves.

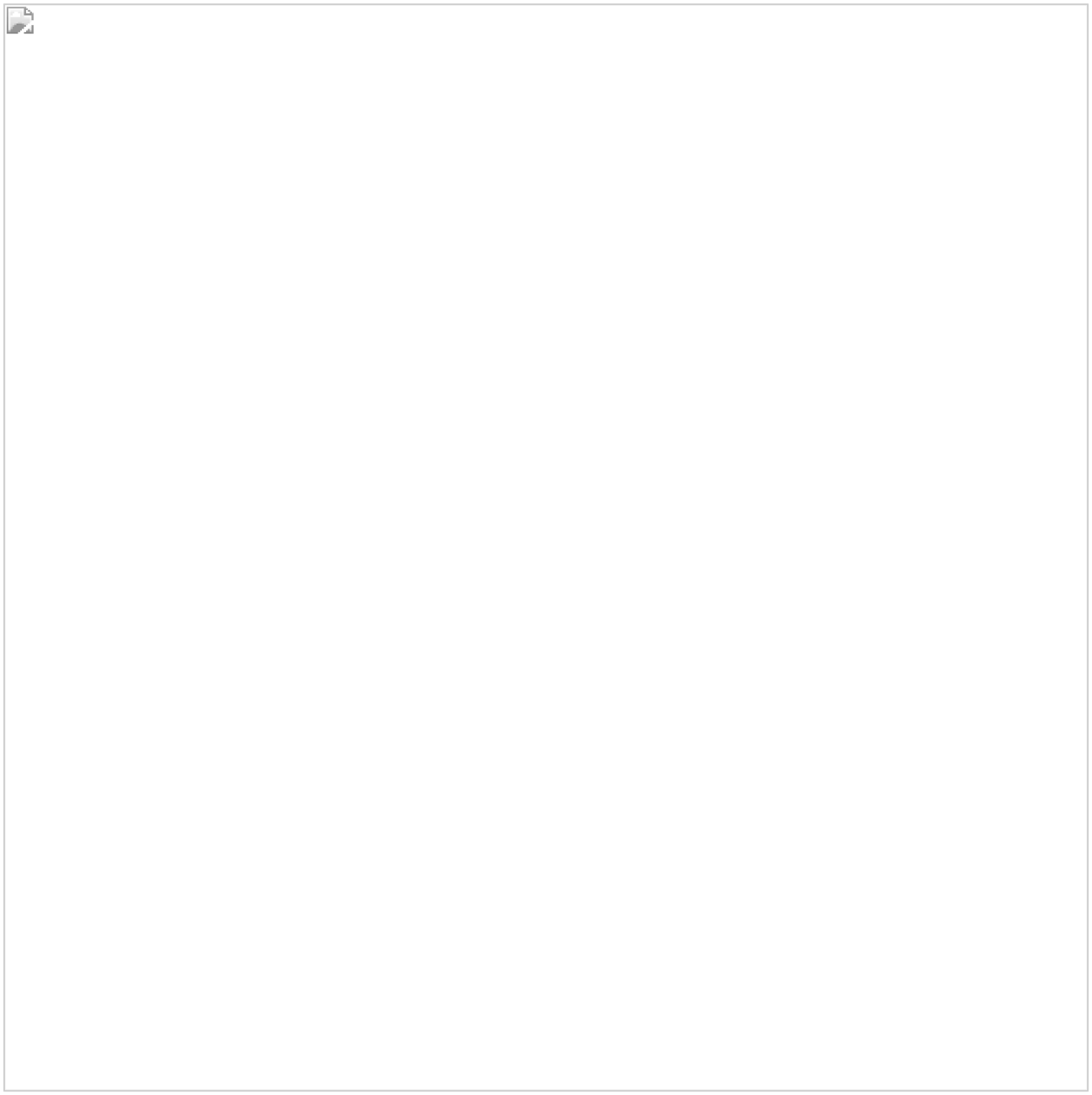
All that day he floated, pushed this way and that. When night fell he thought he would not live. But he held on to his wood, and in the morning he saw that he had drifted against an island.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad was left behind and nobody noticed. How do you think that felt? Has anyone ever forgotten you?



Up the Cliff



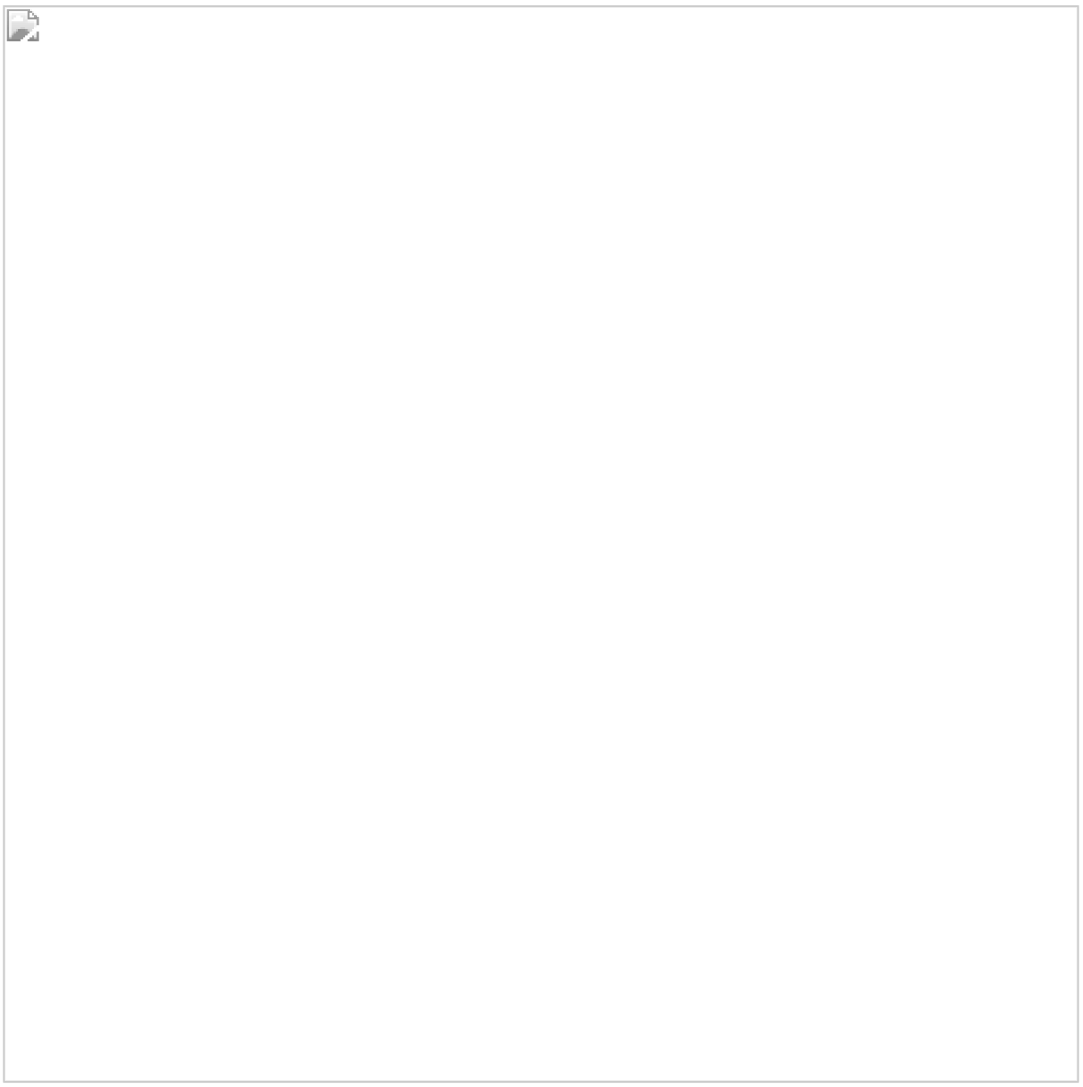
The cliffs were high and steep. But some tree-roots stuck out here and there, and Sindbad climbed up by them and lay down on the grass at the top, more dead than alive.

When the sun was high he was very hungry. He found herbs he could eat and a spring of clear water, and he felt much better. Then he set out to look around.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad found a way up, one root at a time. What is something hard you did one small step at a time?

Up the Cliff · another picture

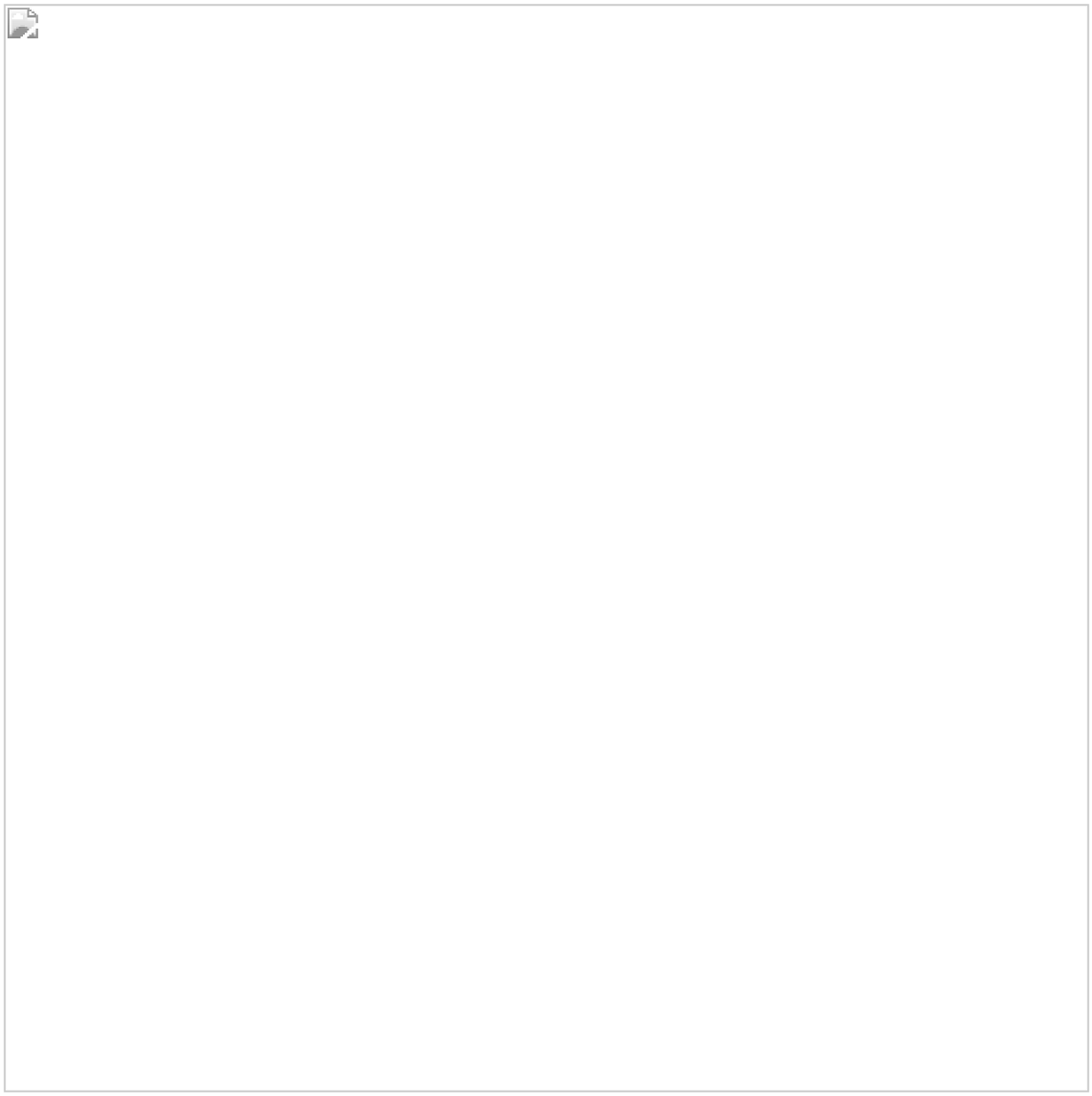


Think about it

1. What helped Sindbad climb the steep cliff?

- ○ A rope
- ○ Tree-roots sticking out
- ○ A ladder

Voices Underground



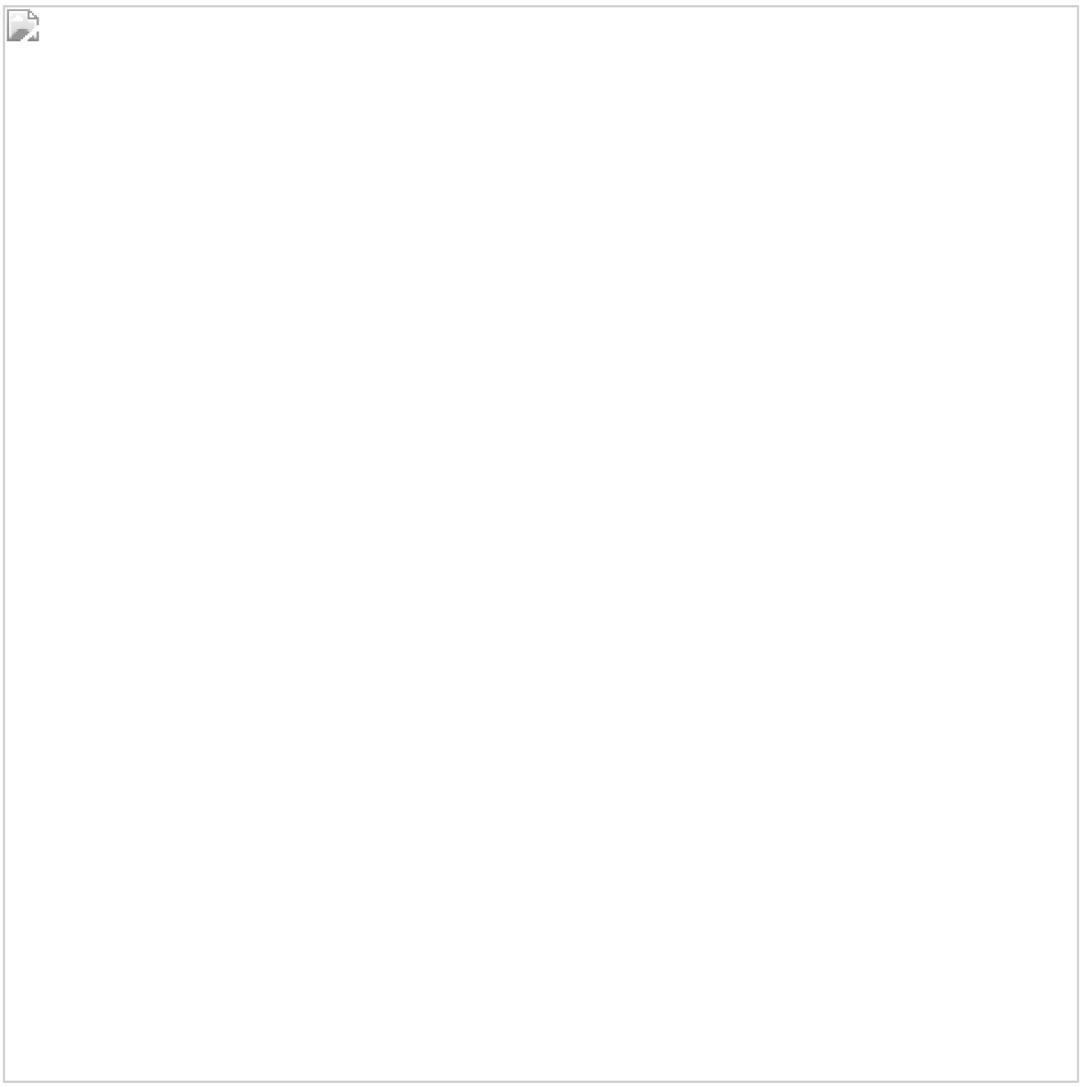
Sindbad came to a great plain where a horse was tied up. There he heard voices, as if from underground, and a man appeared and asked how he came to be there.

Sindbad told him all that had happened. The man said he was one of the grooms of Mihrage, the king of the island. Each year they came to feed the king's horses on that plain.

He took Sindbad to a cave where his friends gave him food. He was lucky, they said: they were going back to their master the next morning, and without them he could never have found the way.

TALK ABOUT IT

The grooms shared their food with a stranger. Who has shared something with you when you needed it?

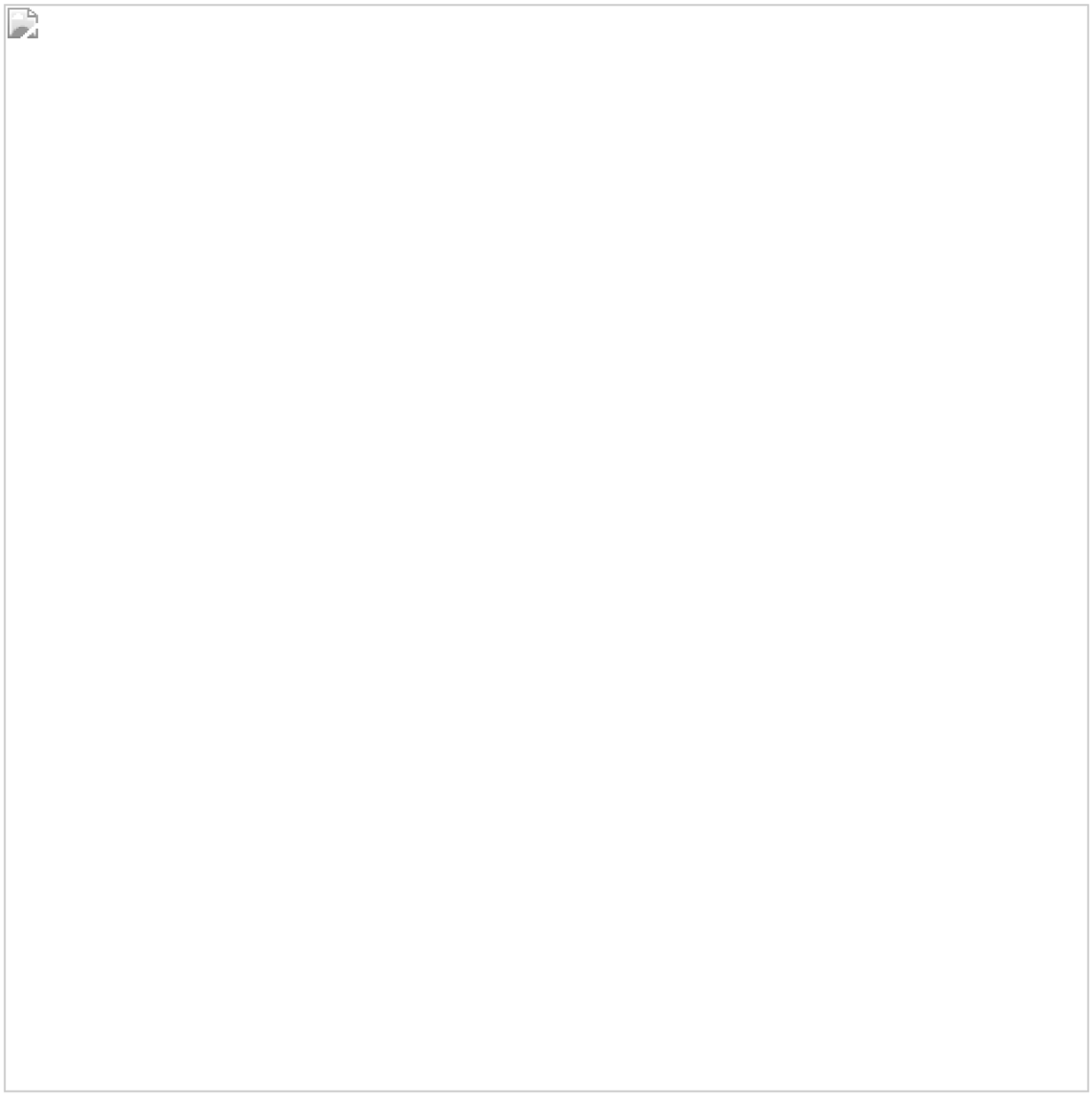


Think about it

1. Who were the men Sindbad met on the plain?

- ○ Pirates
- ○ Grooms of King Mihrage
- ○ Fishermen

The Court of King Mihrage



The next morning they set out. In the city, King Mihrage welcomed Sindbad kindly, listened to his story, and ordered that he be given all he needed.

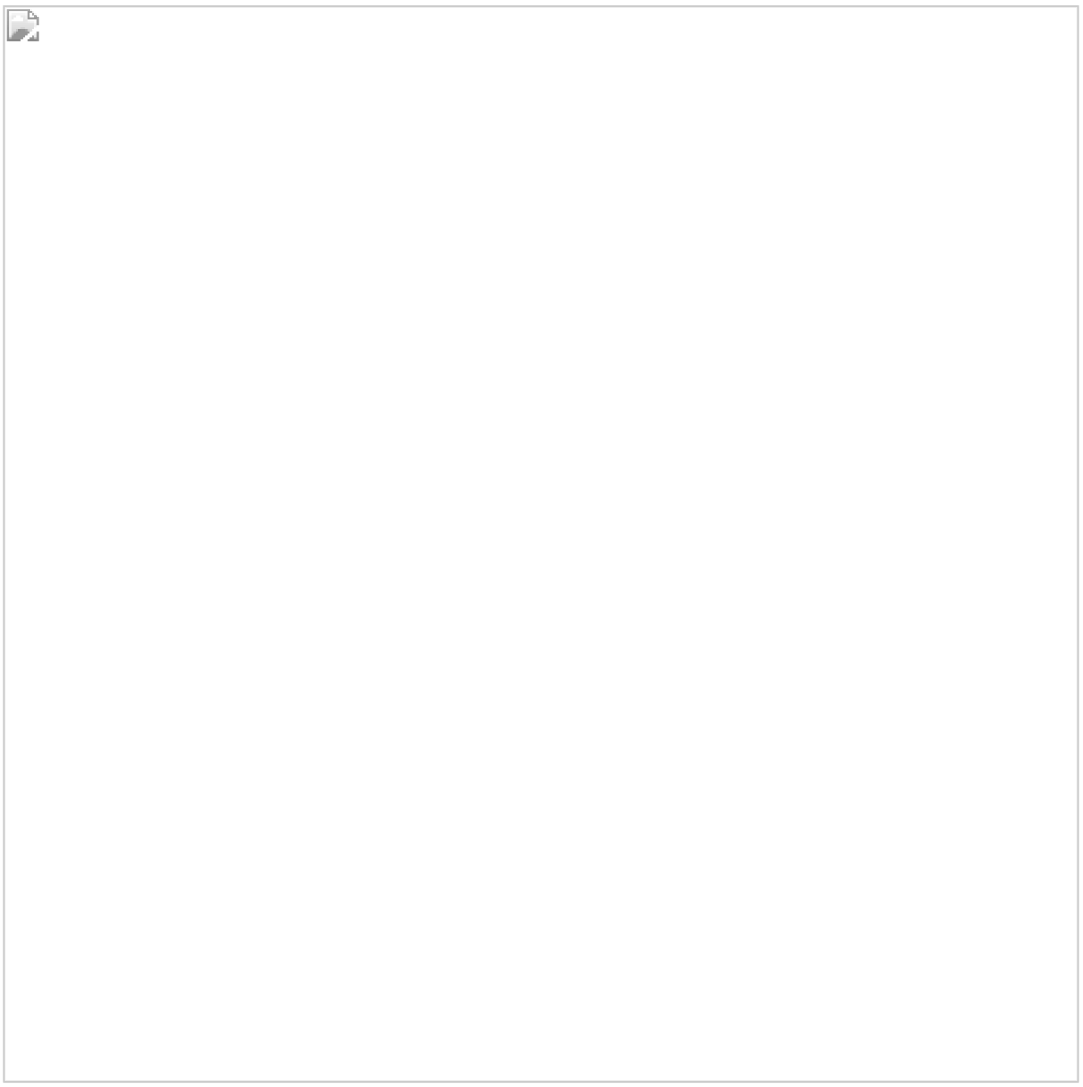
Sindbad was a merchant, so he looked for merchants from far countries, hoping for news from Bagdad and a way home. The city was on the sea, and ships came there from all over the world.

He saw strange things on the island. There were fish two hundred cubits long, but they were more afraid of people than people were of them. They swam away if the sailors only struck a board.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad waited and looked for a way home. What do you do when you are waiting for something?

The Court of King Mihrage · another picture

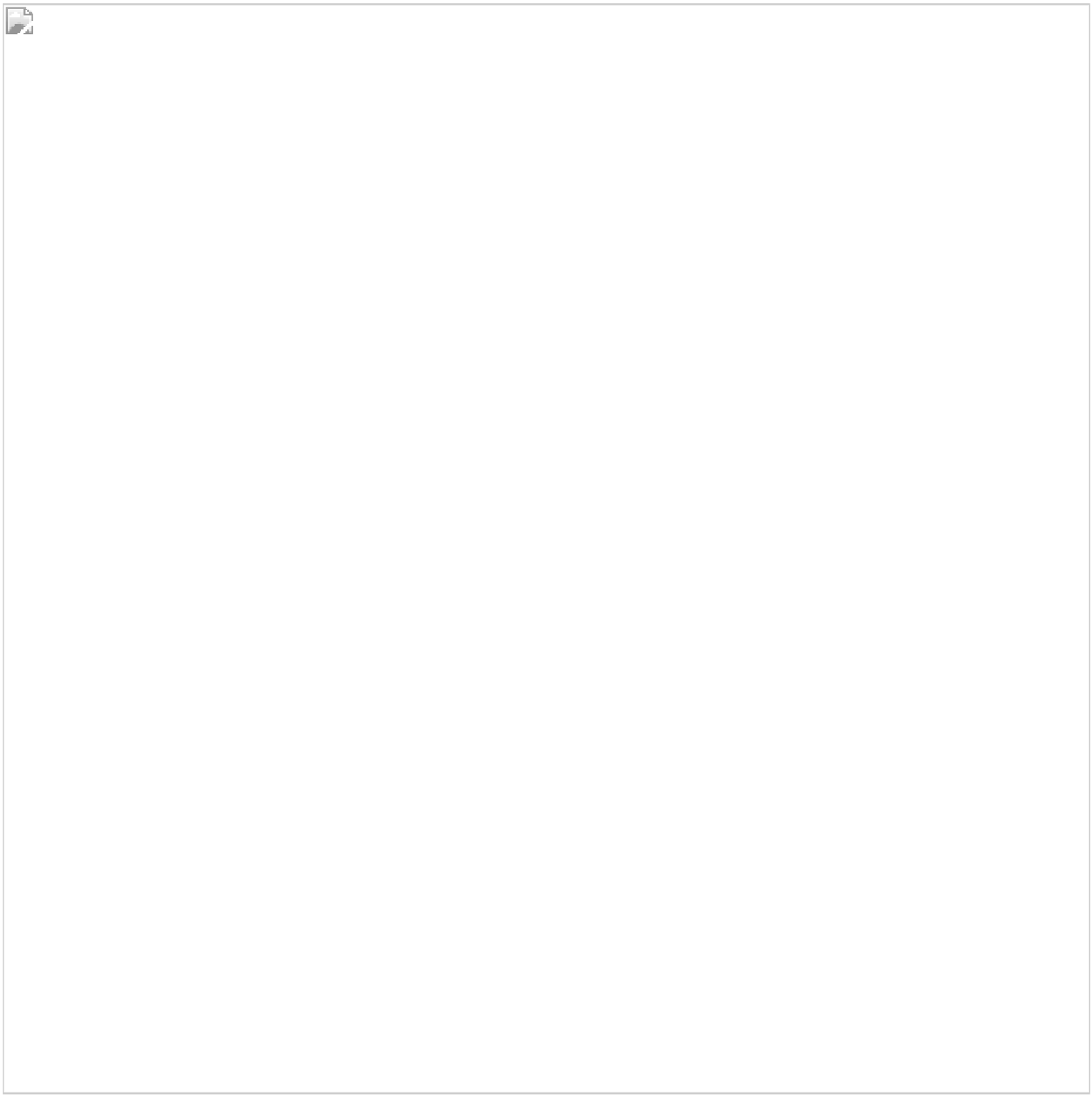


Think about it

1. How did the sailors frighten the giant fish?

- ○ They struck a board
- ○ They sang
- ○ They threw bread

His Own Name on the Packages



One day Sindbad went down to the quay. A ship had just dropped anchor, and merchants were having its cargo carried off to their warehouses.

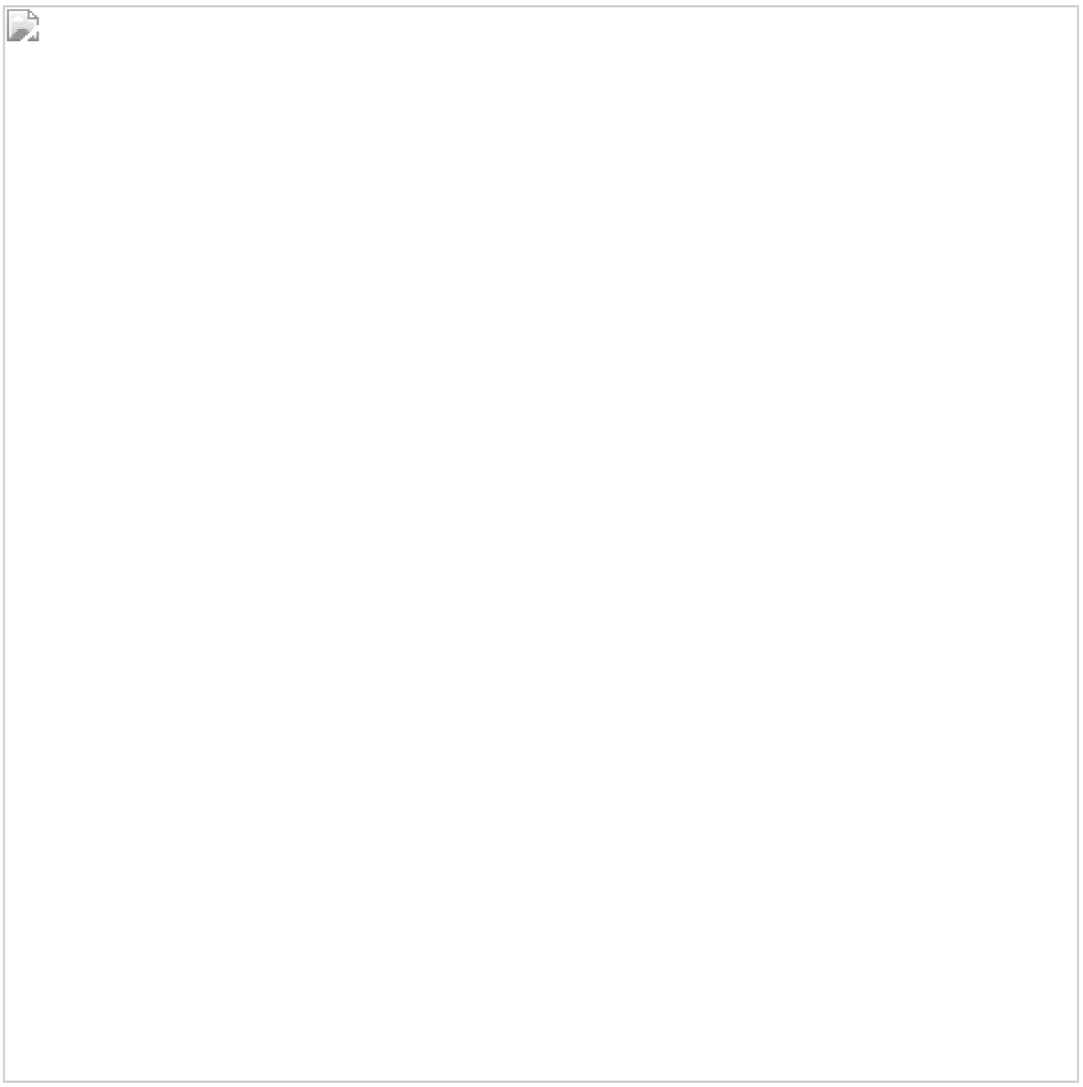
Sindbad drew near and saw that his own name was marked on some of the packages. They were the ones he had put on board at Balsora. He knew the captain, too. But the captain believed Sindbad was dead.

So Sindbad went up and asked whose the packages were.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you do if you found your own name on something that was supposed to be lost?

His Own Name on the Packages · another picture

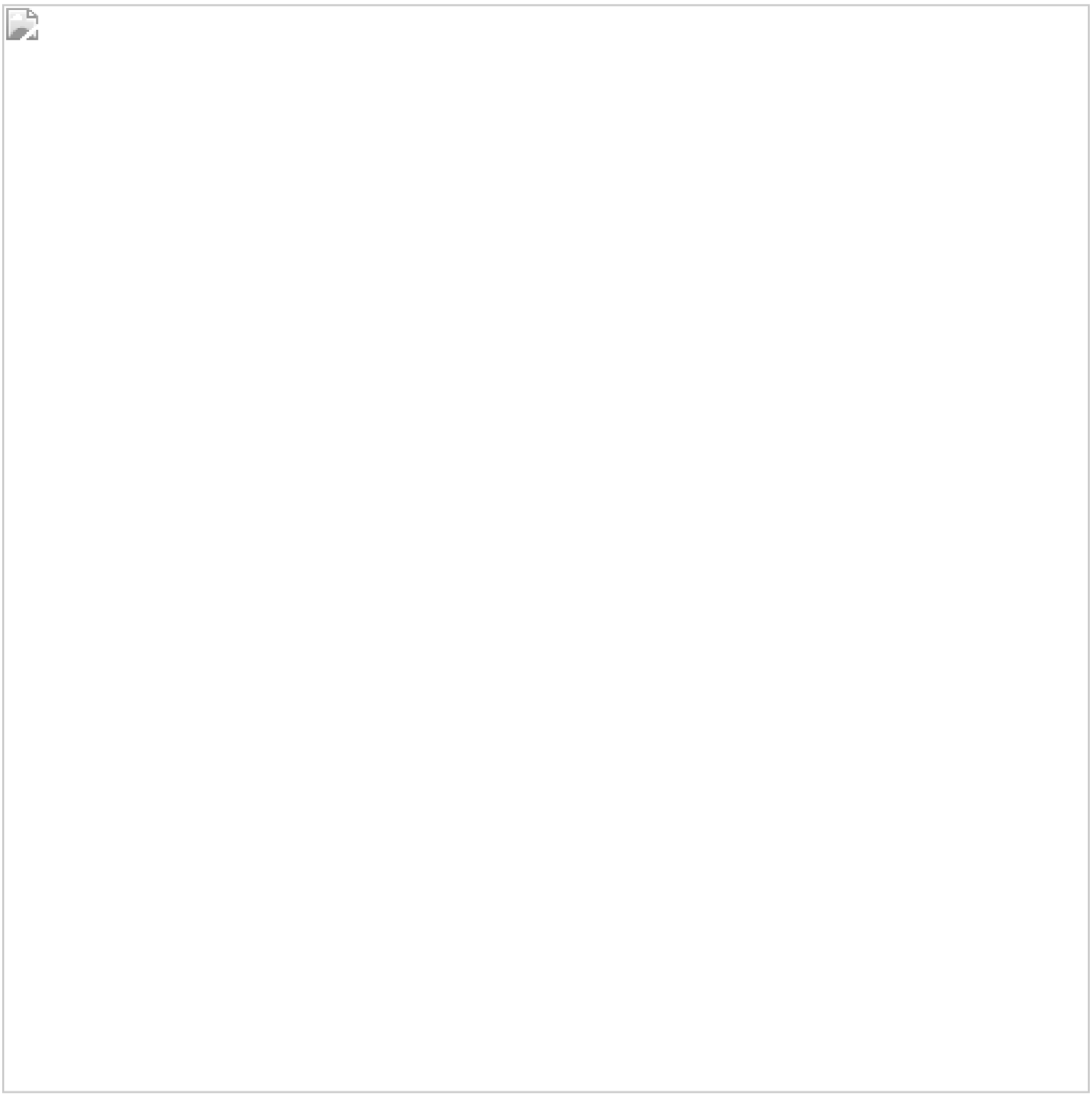


Think about it

1. What did Sindbad see on the packages?

- ○ A picture of a whale
- ○ His own name
- ○ A king's seal

“I Am That Sindbad”



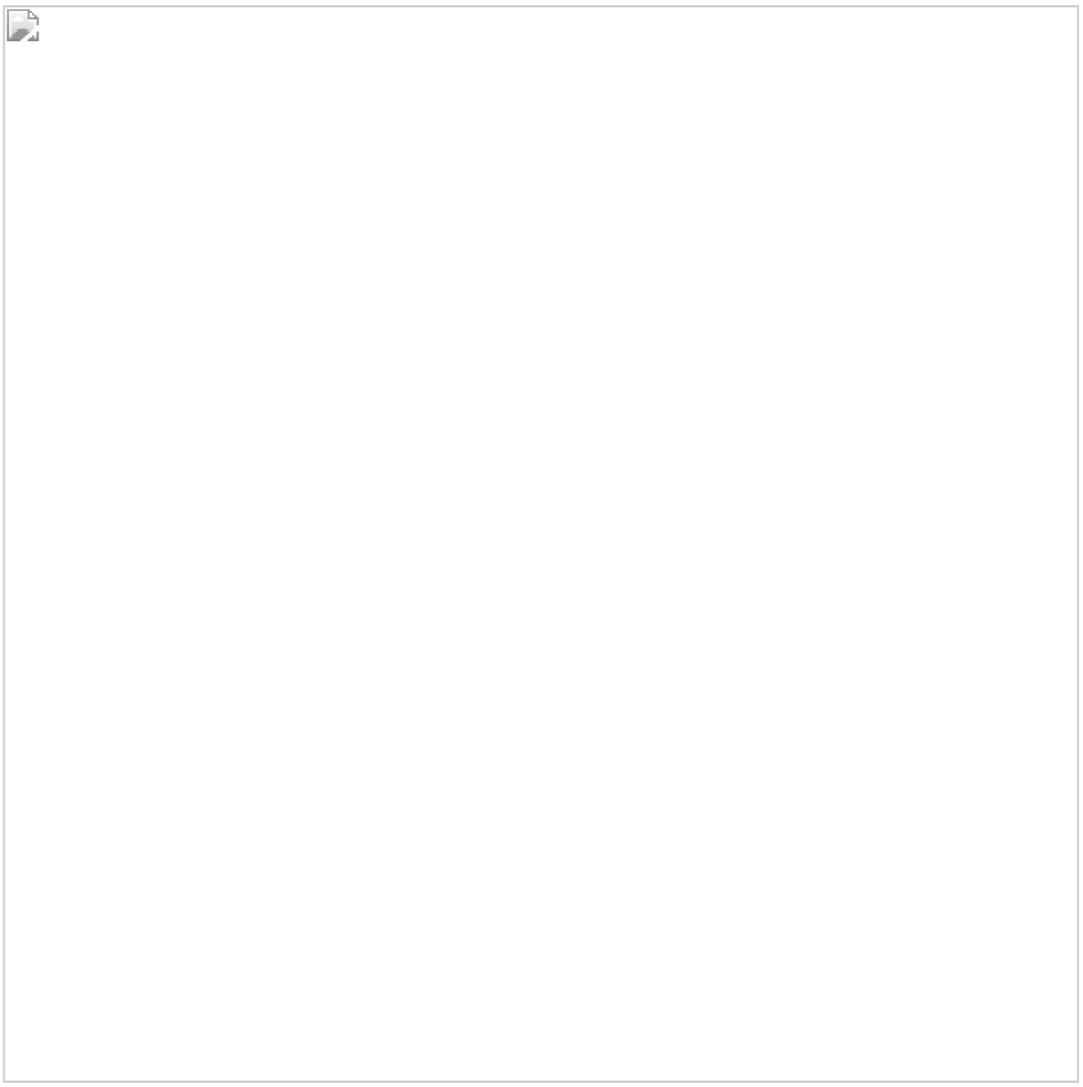
The captain said a merchant named Sindbad had been lost in the sea, when an island turned out to be a whale. “This merchandise is his, but I have resolved to dispose of it for the benefit of his family if I should ever chance to meet with them.”

“Captain,” said Sindbad, “I am that Sindbad whom you believe to be dead, and these are my possessions!”

The captain cried out, “Did I not with my own eyes see Sindbad drown, and now you have the audacity to tell me that you are he!” He thought Sindbad was lying to get goods that were not his.

TALK ABOUT IT

The captain had meant to give Sindbad's things to his family. What does that tell you about the captain?



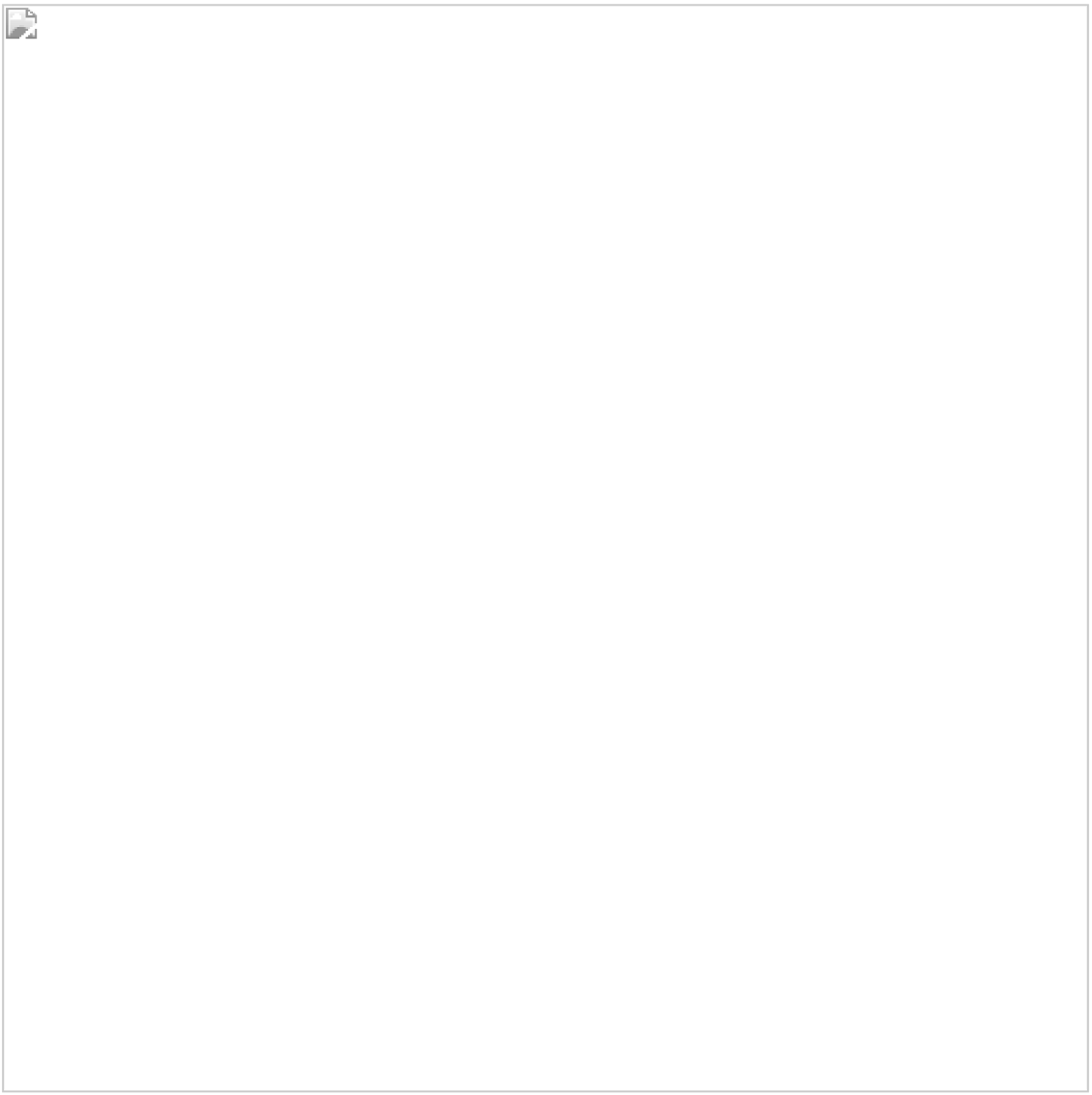
Think about it

1. What had the captain planned to do with Sindbad's goods?

- ○ Keep them
- ○ Sell them for Sindbad's family
- ○ Throw them in the sea

2. Why do you think the captain did not believe him at first?

Believed at Last



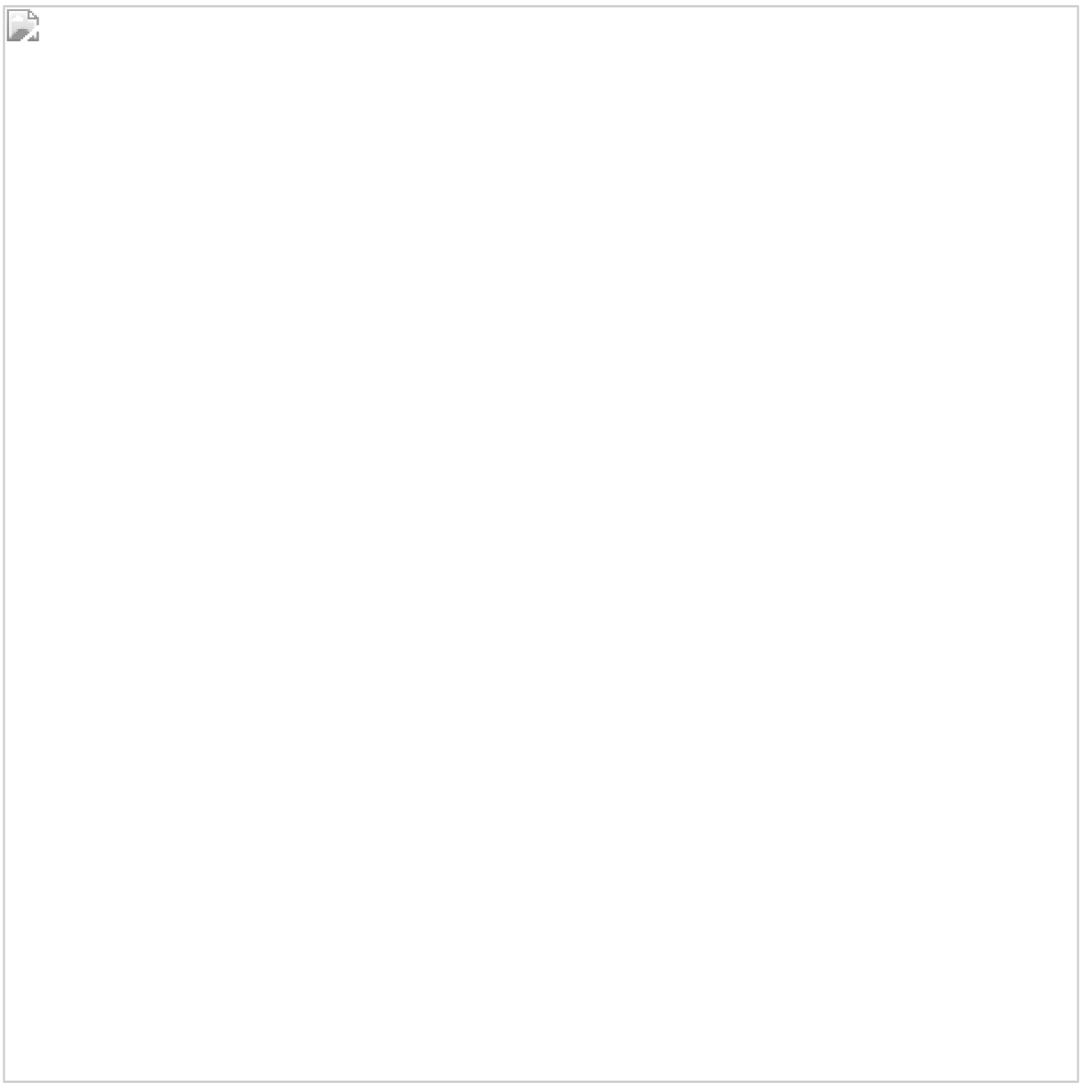
“Have patience, and do me the favour to hear my story,” said Sindbad. “Speak then,” said the captain. “I'm all attention.”

So Sindbad told how he had escaped, met the king's grooms, and been kindly treated by the king. Soon the captain began to believe him. Other merchants came, glad to see Sindbad alive, and the captain knew him too.

The captain threw his arms around him. “Heaven be praised that you have escaped from so great a danger.” He told Sindbad to take his goods. Sindbad praised his honesty and offered him several bales, but the captain would take nothing.

TALK ABOUT IT

The captain gave back everything and would take nothing. Why do you think he did that?

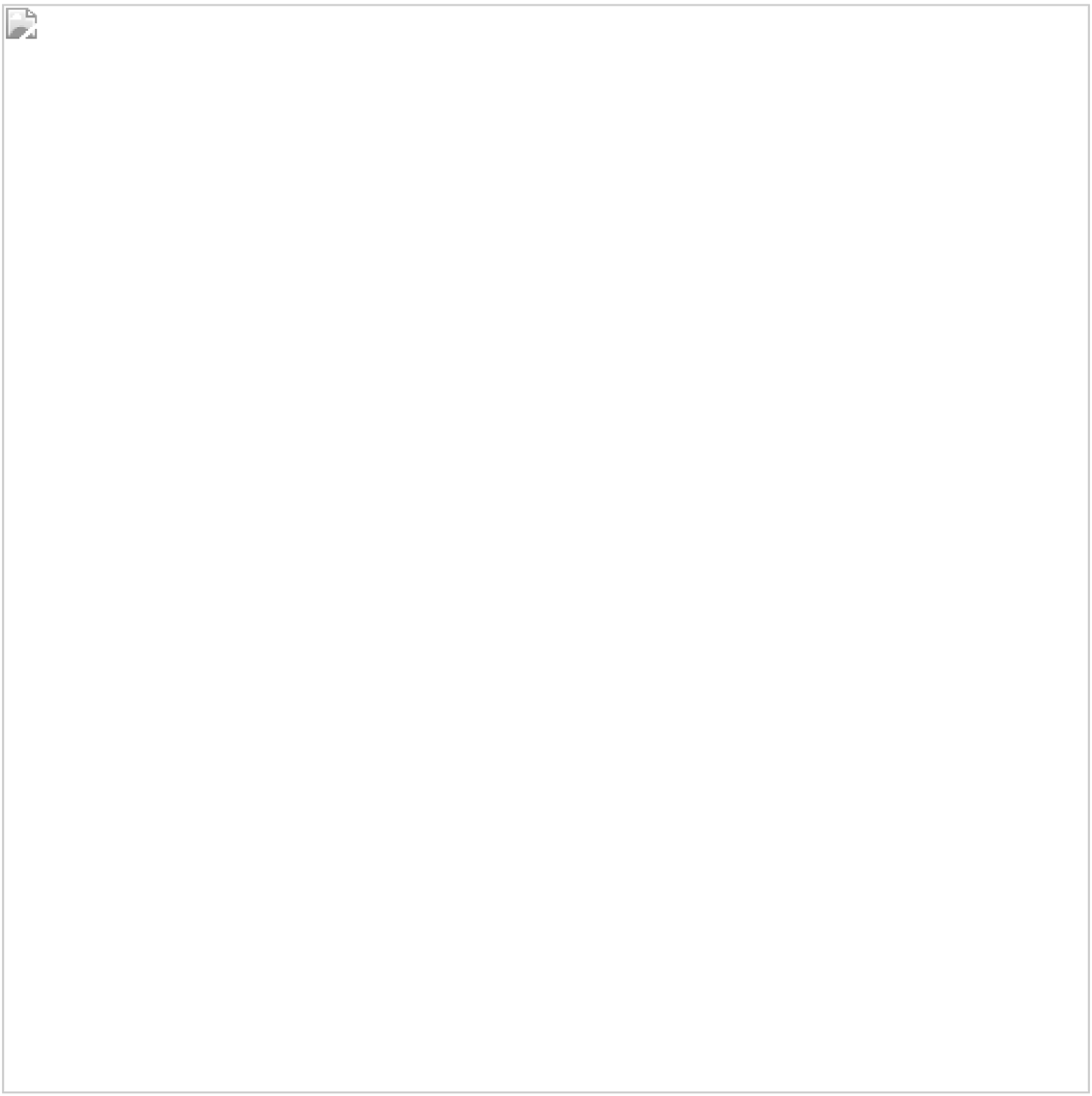


Think about it

1. What happened when Sindbad offered the captain bales of goods?

- ○ The captain took them all
- ○ The captain would take nothing
- ○ The captain gave them to the king

Home to Balsora



From his best goods Sindbad made a present for King Mihrage. The king was amazed, for he knew Sindbad had lost everything. Hearing how the bales had come back, he gladly accepted, and gave many valuable things in return.

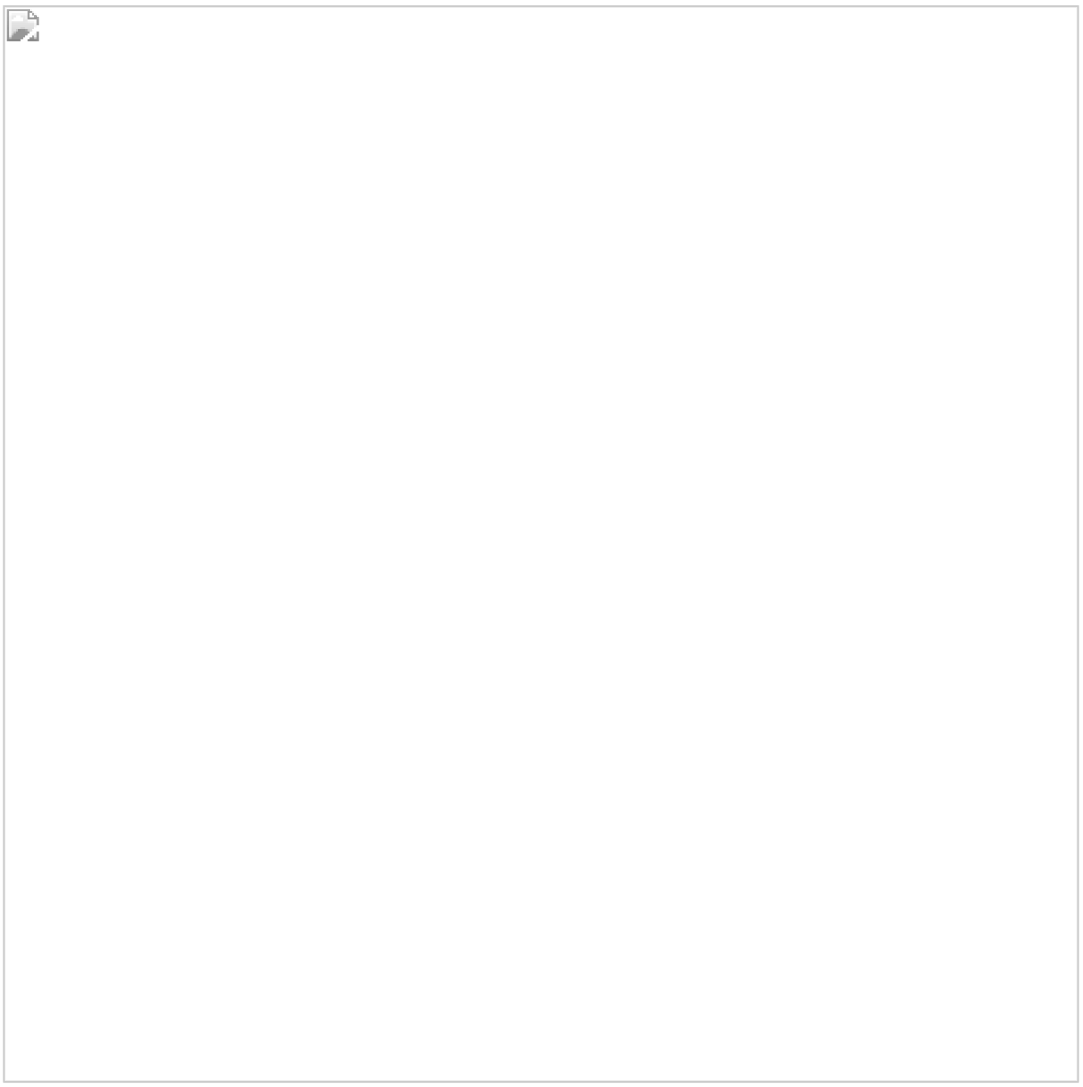
He said goodbye, and traded his goods for sandal and aloes wood, camphor, nutmegs, cloves, pepper and ginger. Then he sailed home on the same ship, and reached Balsora with about one hundred thousand sequins.

His family welcomed him with as much joy as he felt at seeing them. He bought land and built a great house, where he meant to live happily and forget what he had suffered.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sindbad's family was so glad to see him. Who is glad to see you when you come home?

Home to Balsora · another picture



Think about it

1. Where did Sindbad's voyage end?

- ○ Balsora
- ○ The island of the whale
- ○ The king's city

2. What did Sindbad learn on his first voyage, do you think?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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