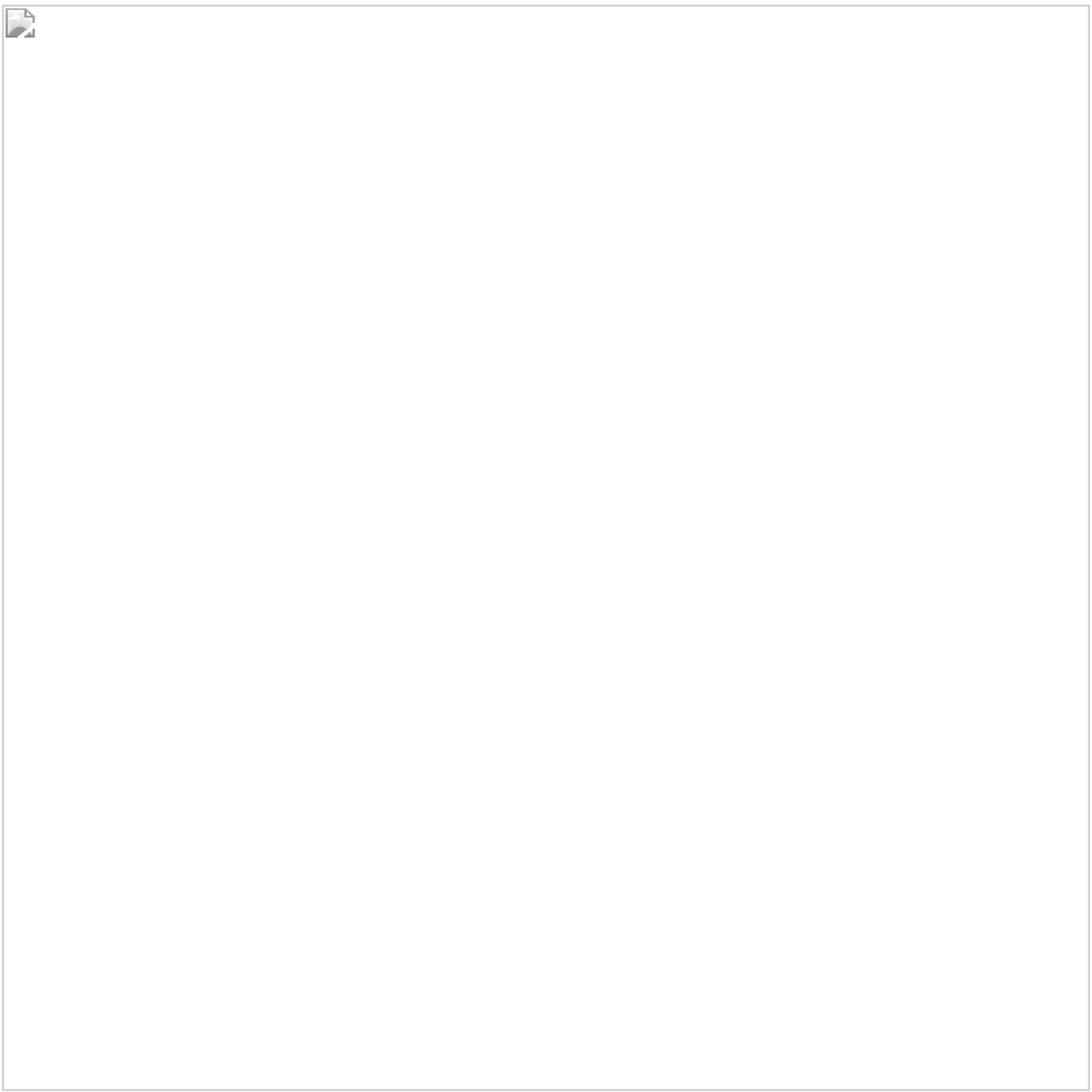
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Apples of Idun

A Norse Myth



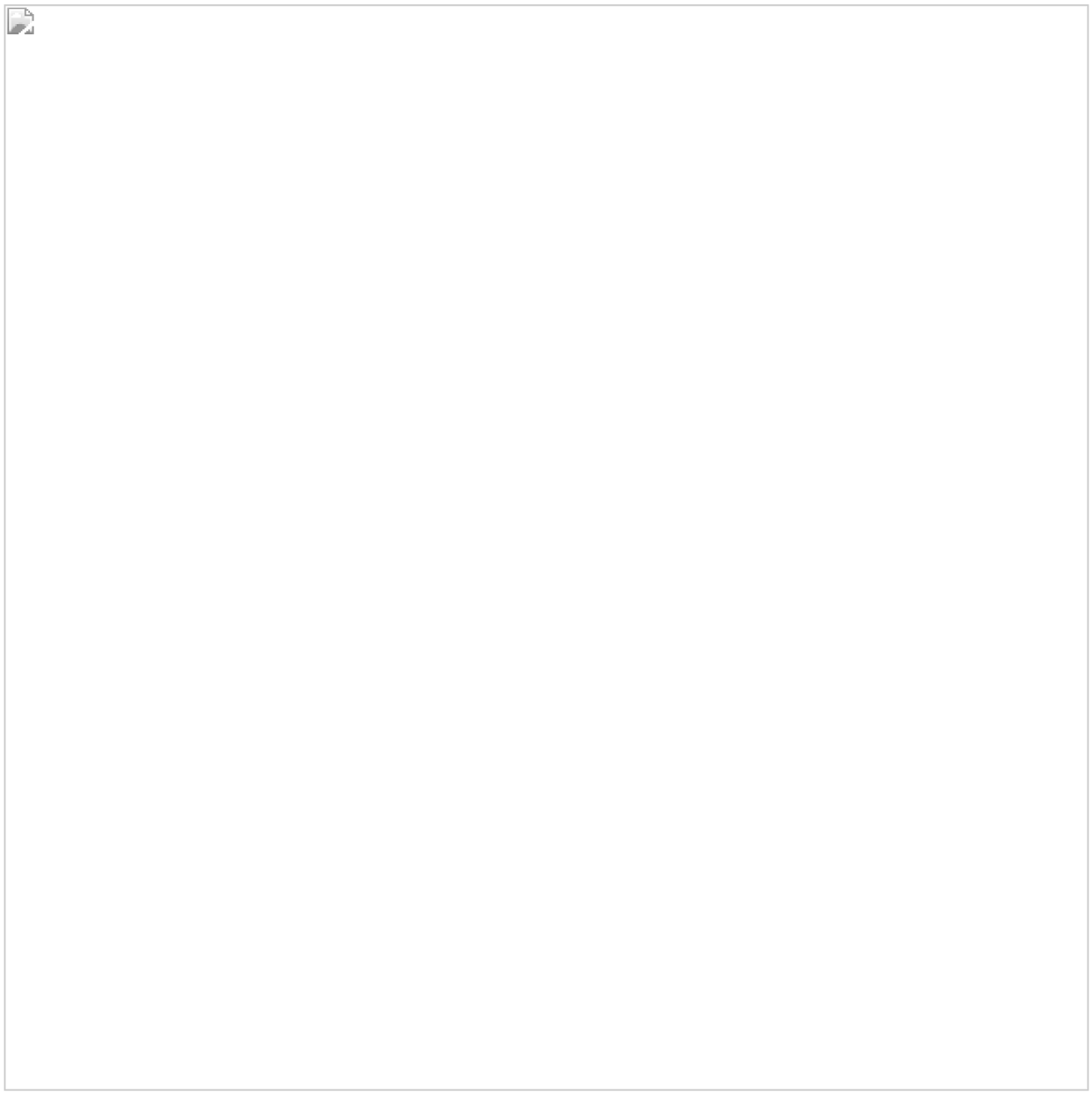
Long ago, three of the gods of the far North set out on a journey over the mountains: Odin, Hoenir, and Loki.

TALK ABOUT IT

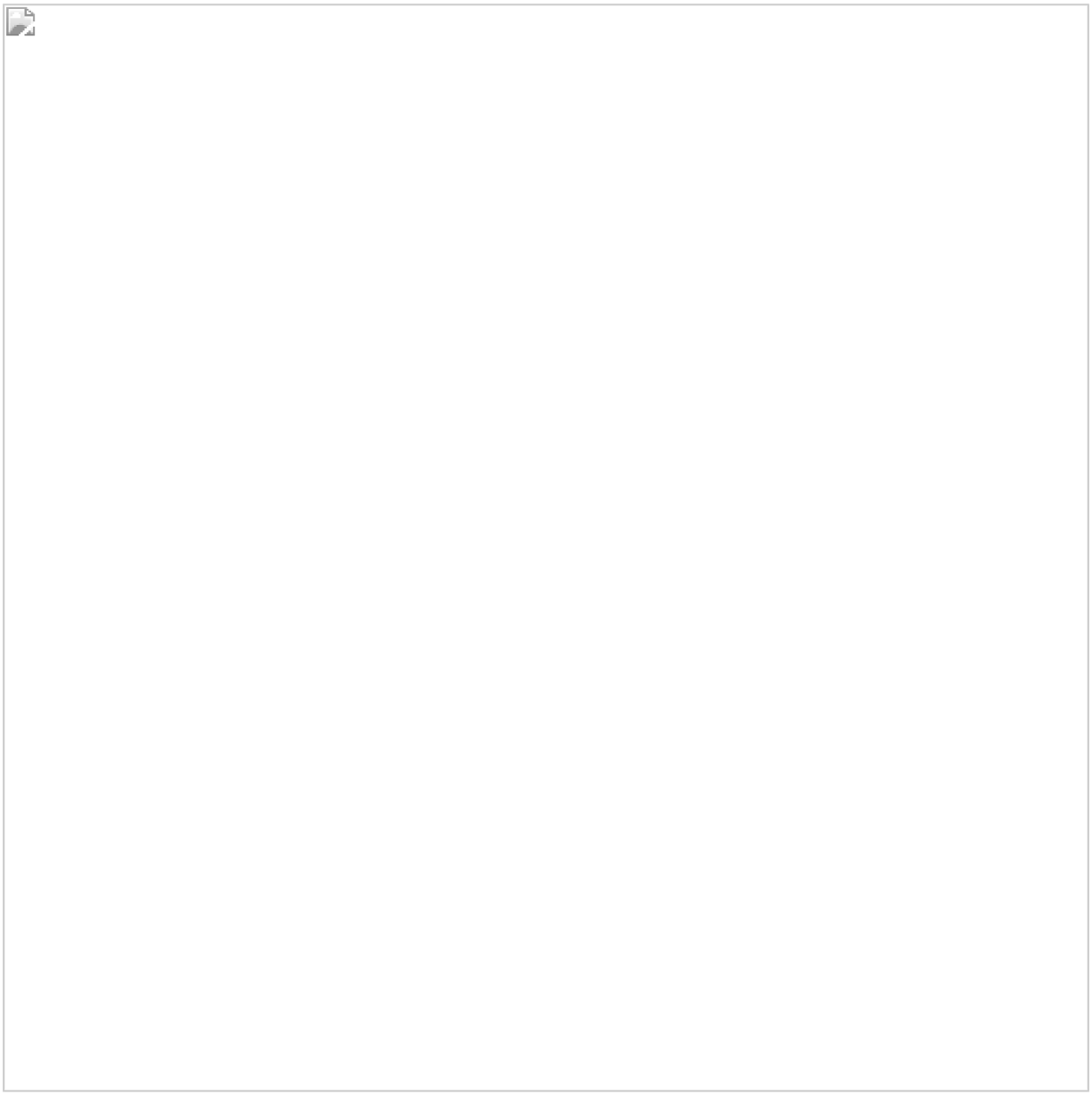
Odin, Hoenir, and Loki were setting out together. Where is the farthest place you have gone with someone, and who came along?

This book belongs to _____

The Apples of Idun · another picture



Three Hungry Gods



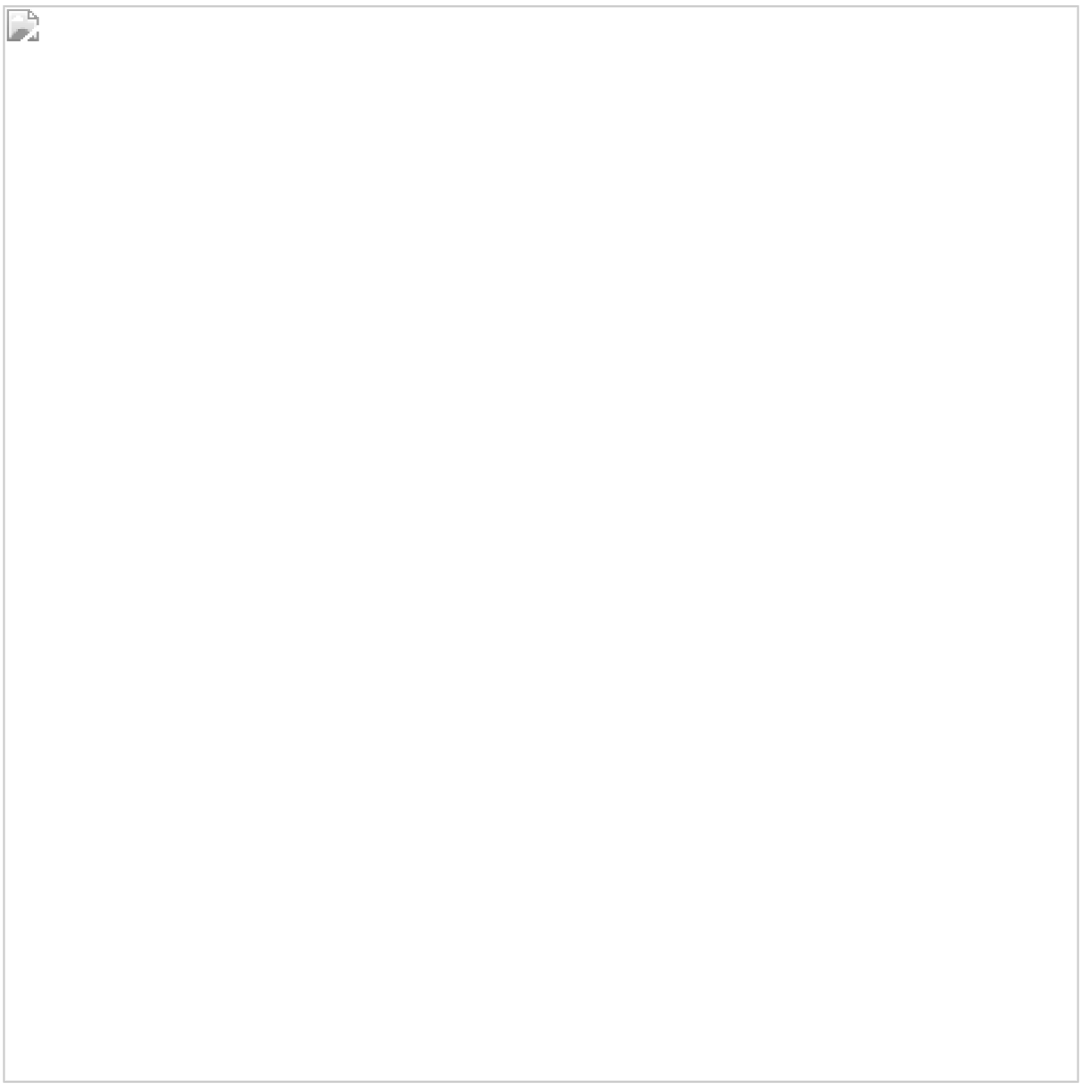
Loki was the trouble-maker of the three. He was never so happy as when he was doing something sneaky.

They climbed high mountains and crossed icy streams. There was no road, and not a bird or an animal to be seen. All day they walked, and they grew very hungry.

At last, in a little valley, they found a herd of cattle. Soon a great ox was hanging in a huge pot over a roaring fire.

TALK ABOUT IT

Think of the last time you were very, very hungry. What did you want most?

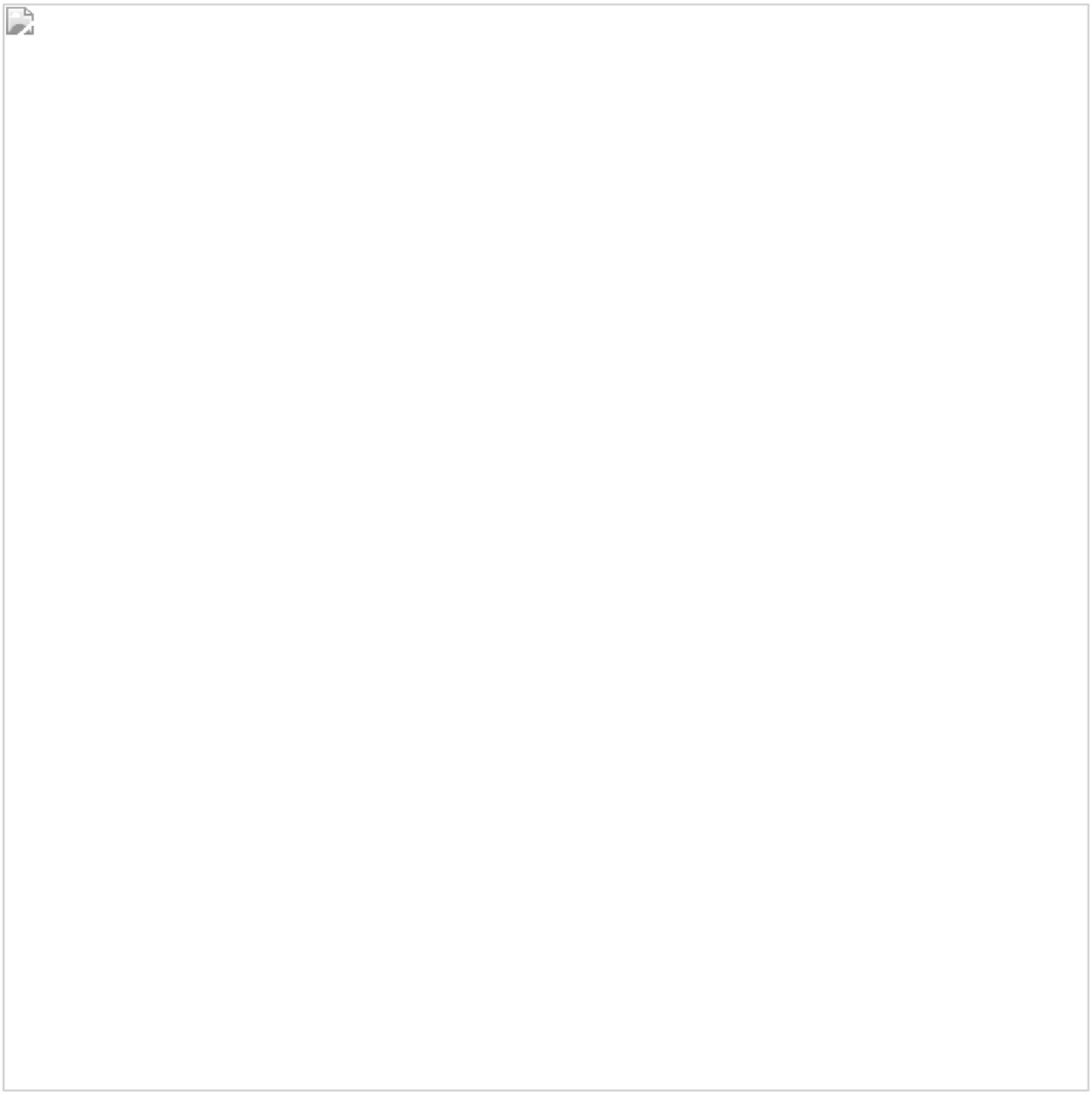


Think about it

1. Which god was known for making trouble?

- ○ Odin
- ○ Hoenir
- ○ Loki

The Pot That Would Not Boil



But the pot would not boil! They piled on the wood until the flames crackled. Every time they lifted the lid, the meat was just as raw as before.

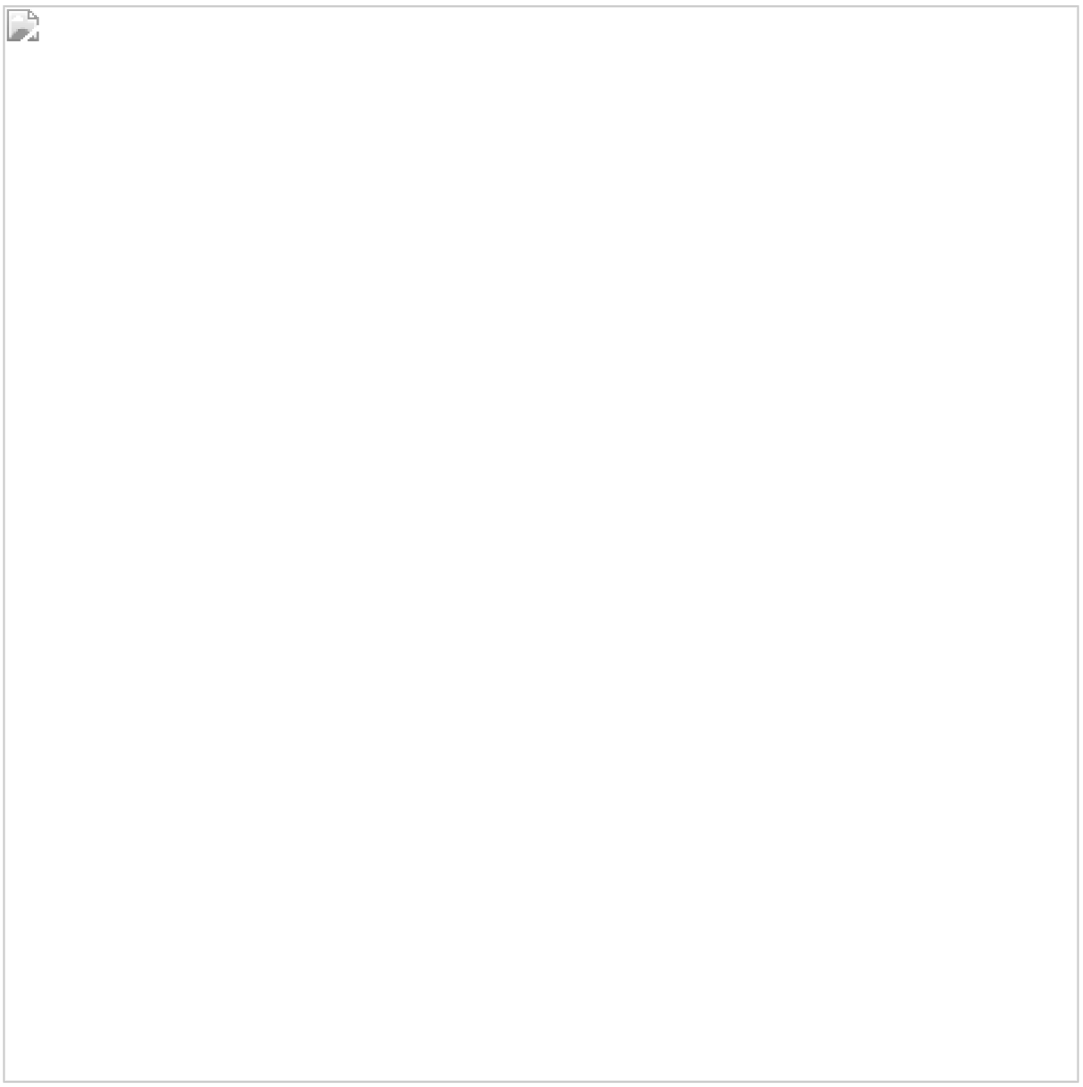
Then a voice called down from the oak tree overhead: “If you will give me my fill, I'll make the pot boil.”

The gods looked up and saw a great eagle. They were so hungry that they agreed.

The eagle kept his word. In no time at all, supper was ready.

TALK ABOUT IT

The gods made a deal with a stranger in a tree. What do you think of that?

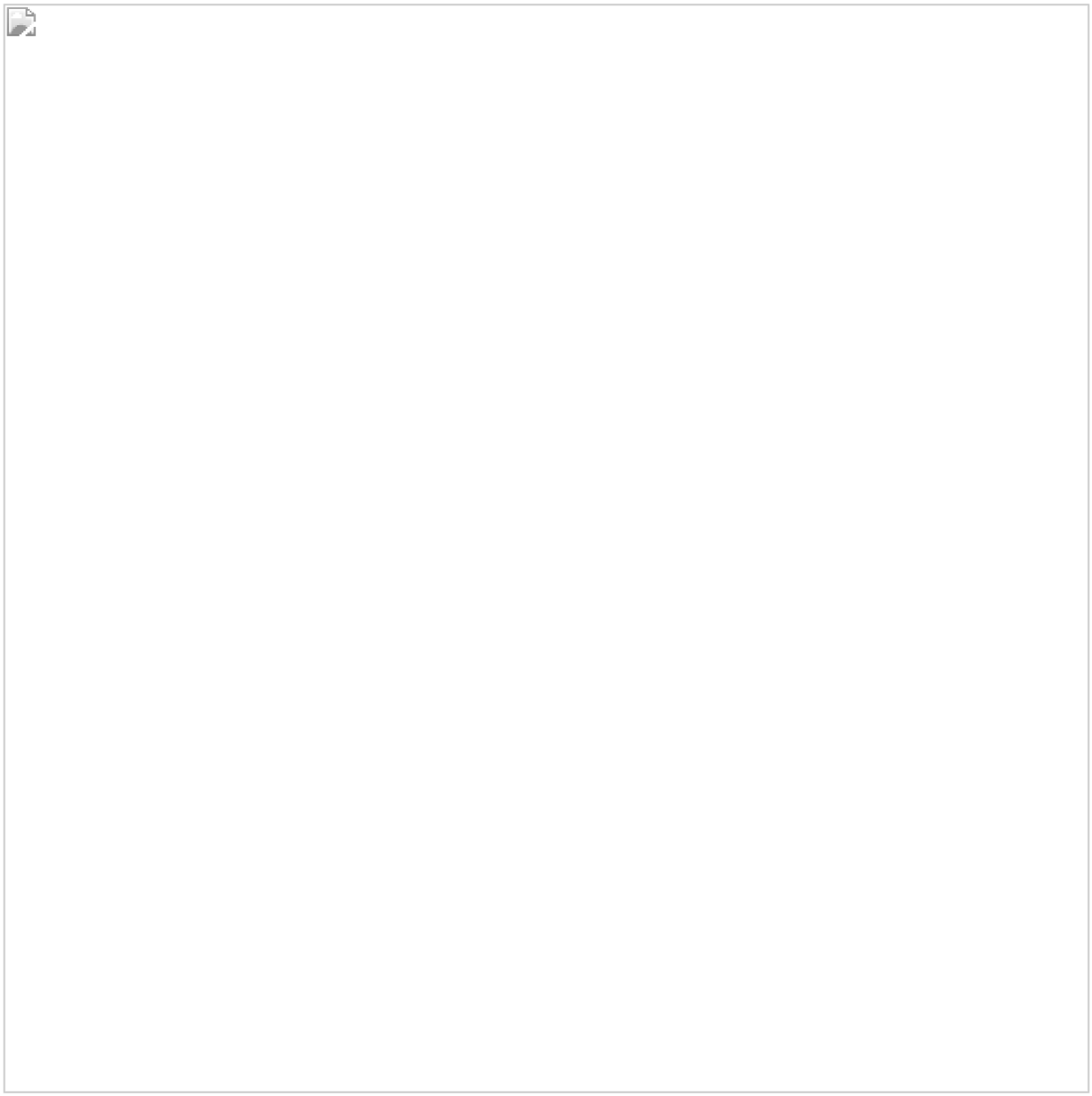


Think about it

1. Who spoke from the oak tree?

- ○ A great eagle
- ○ A little mouse
- ○ Idun

Loki Gets Stuck



The eagle flew down and picked out both shoulders and both legs of the ox. That was a very large share!

Loki was angry. He grabbed a great pole and hit the eagle with it.

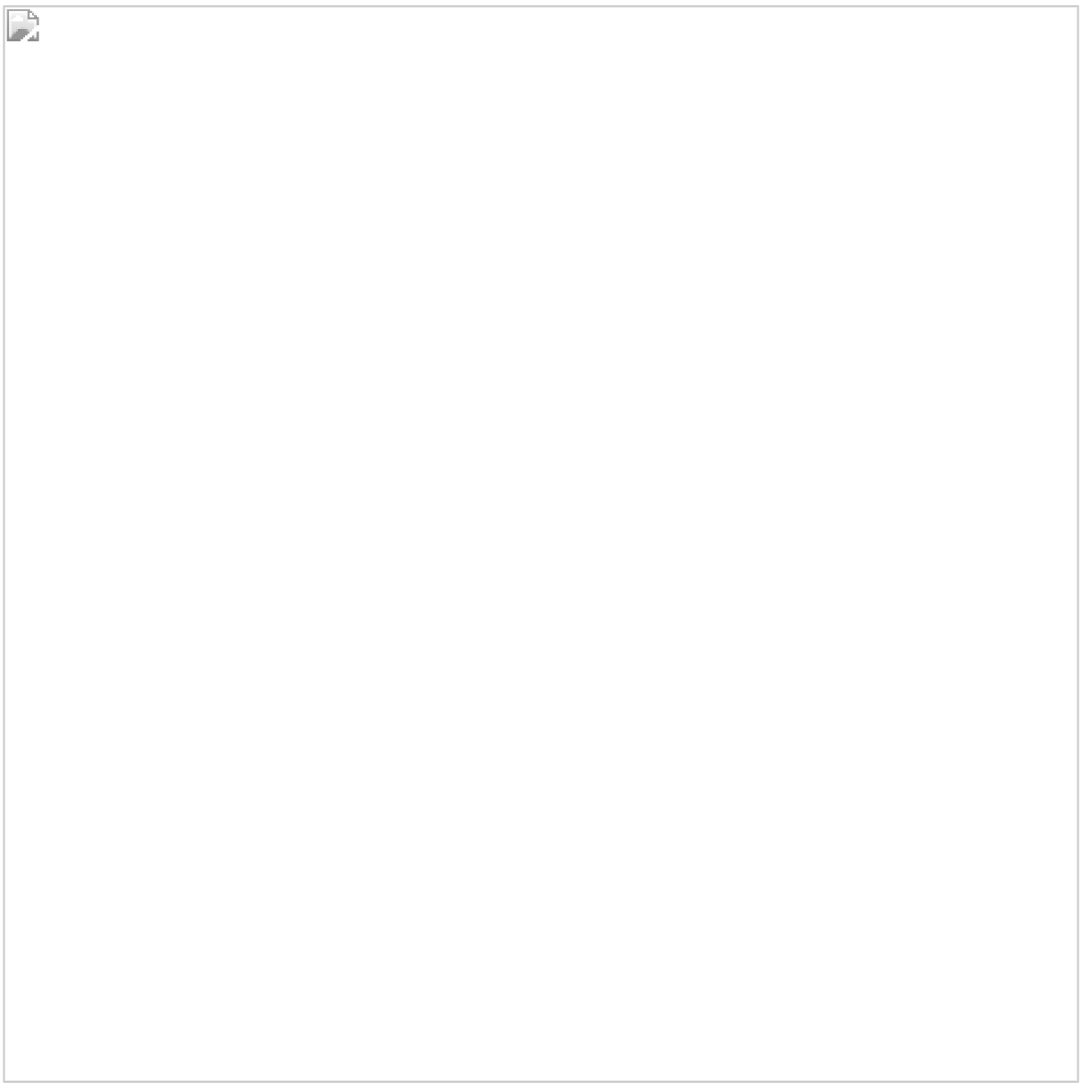
Then something strange happened. The pole stuck fast to the eagle's claws, and Loki stuck fast to the other end!

Up into the air flew the eagle. Loki was dragged over rocks and through the treetops, and he cried out for mercy.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki hit someone because he wanted more for himself. What could he have done instead?

Loki Gets Stuck · another picture

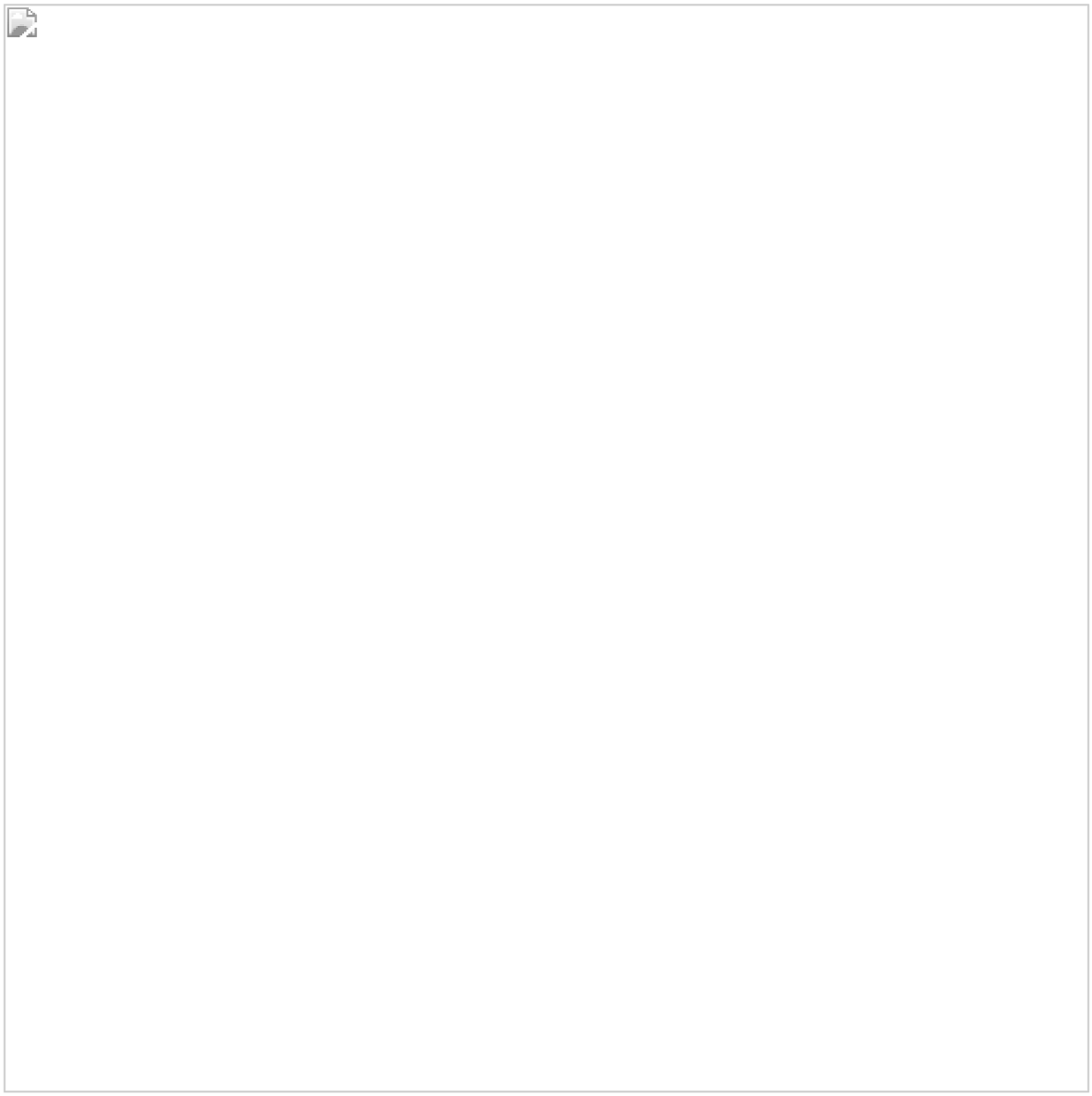


Think about it

1. What happened to Loki's pole?

- ○ It broke in two
- ○ It stuck to the eagle, and Loki stuck to it
- ○ It turned into a snake

A Promise to Pay



This was no ordinary eagle. He was the giant Thjasse in a coat of eagle feathers, and he would not let Loki go until Loki promised to pay.

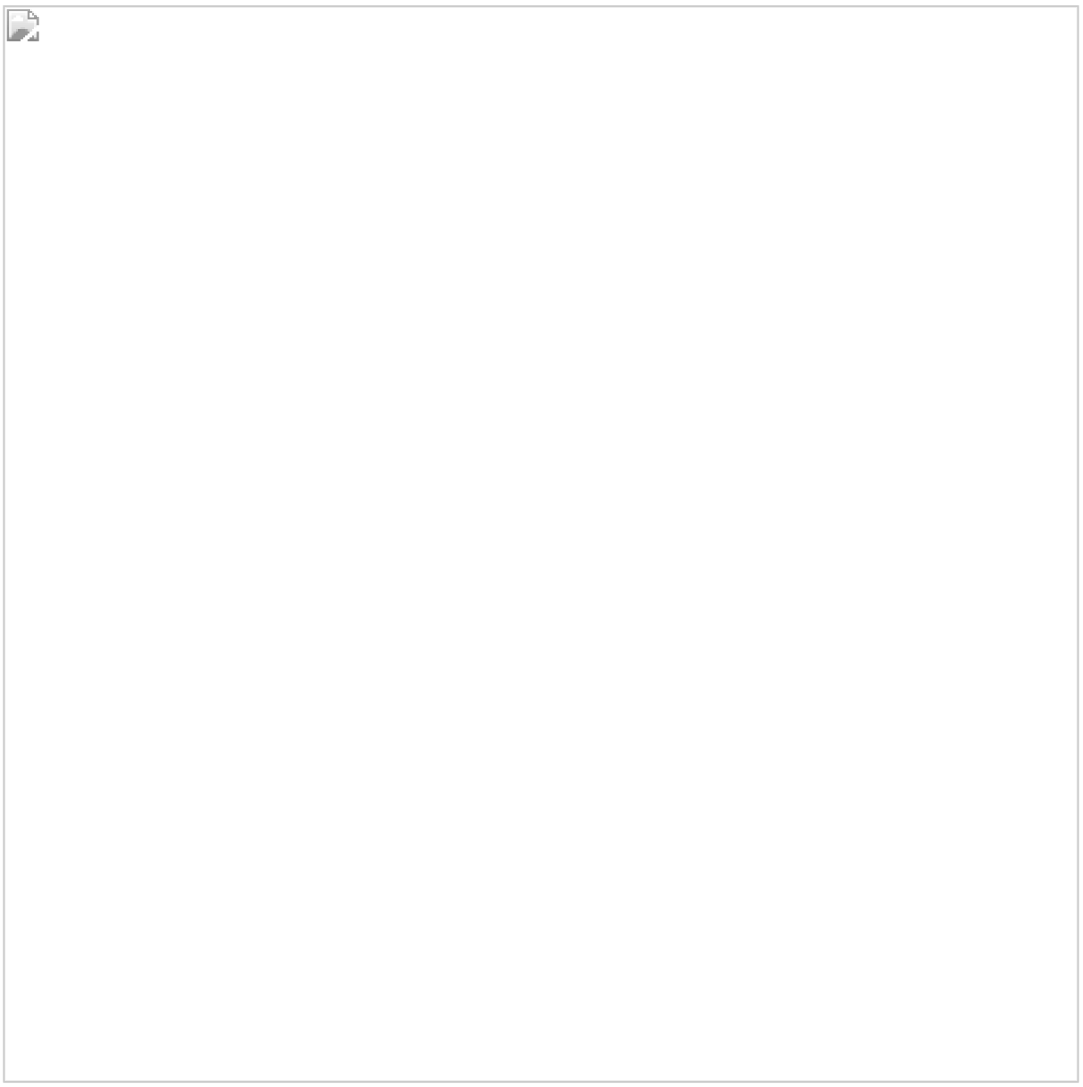
The gods of Asgard had one great treasure: the golden apples of Idun. Idun kept them in a golden box, and anyone who ate them stayed young and strong.

Thjasse wanted those apples, and he told Loki to bring them.

Loki hesitated, but the eagle swooped and dragged him some more. At last Loki promised to steal them.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki promised something he knew was wrong because he was scared. What would you want to tell him?

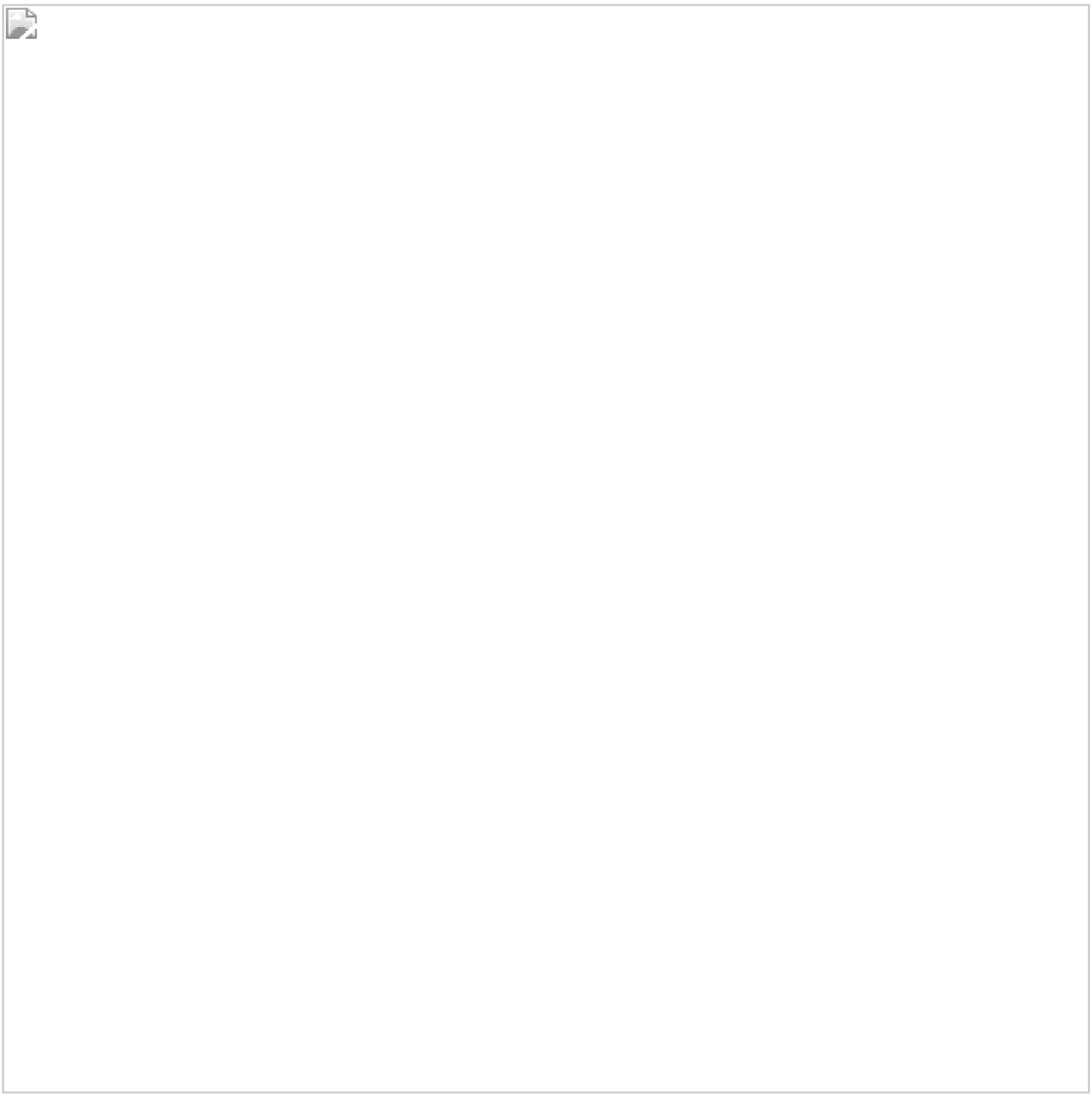


Think about it

1. What did the apples of Idun do?

- ○ They made the gods strong and young
- ○ They made the gods sleepy
- ○ They made the gods tall

The Trick



Loki's strength was not in his arms. It was in the goodness of other people. Because Idun never did wrong herself, she never thought a friend might.

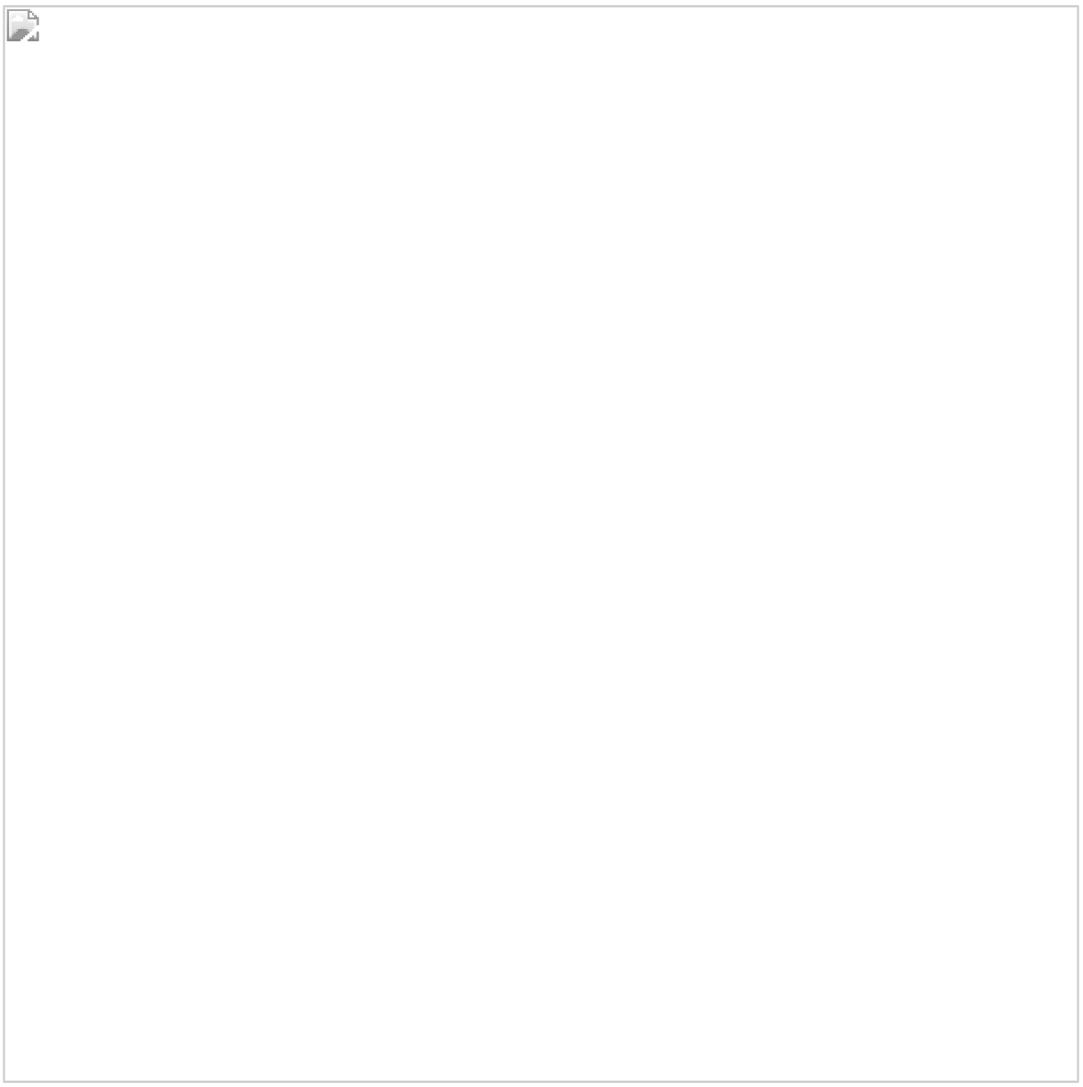
One morning, as Idun was putting her apples away, Loki strolled up. “Good morning, goddess,” he said. “How fair and golden your apples are!”

Then, as if it hardly mattered, he said that he had seen some apples just like them, just outside the gates.

“Where have you seen any Apples like them?” asked Idun. And Loki said, “Better take your Apples with you, to compare them with the others.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Idun trusted Loki. Why do you think it hurts so much when someone tricks a person who trusts them?

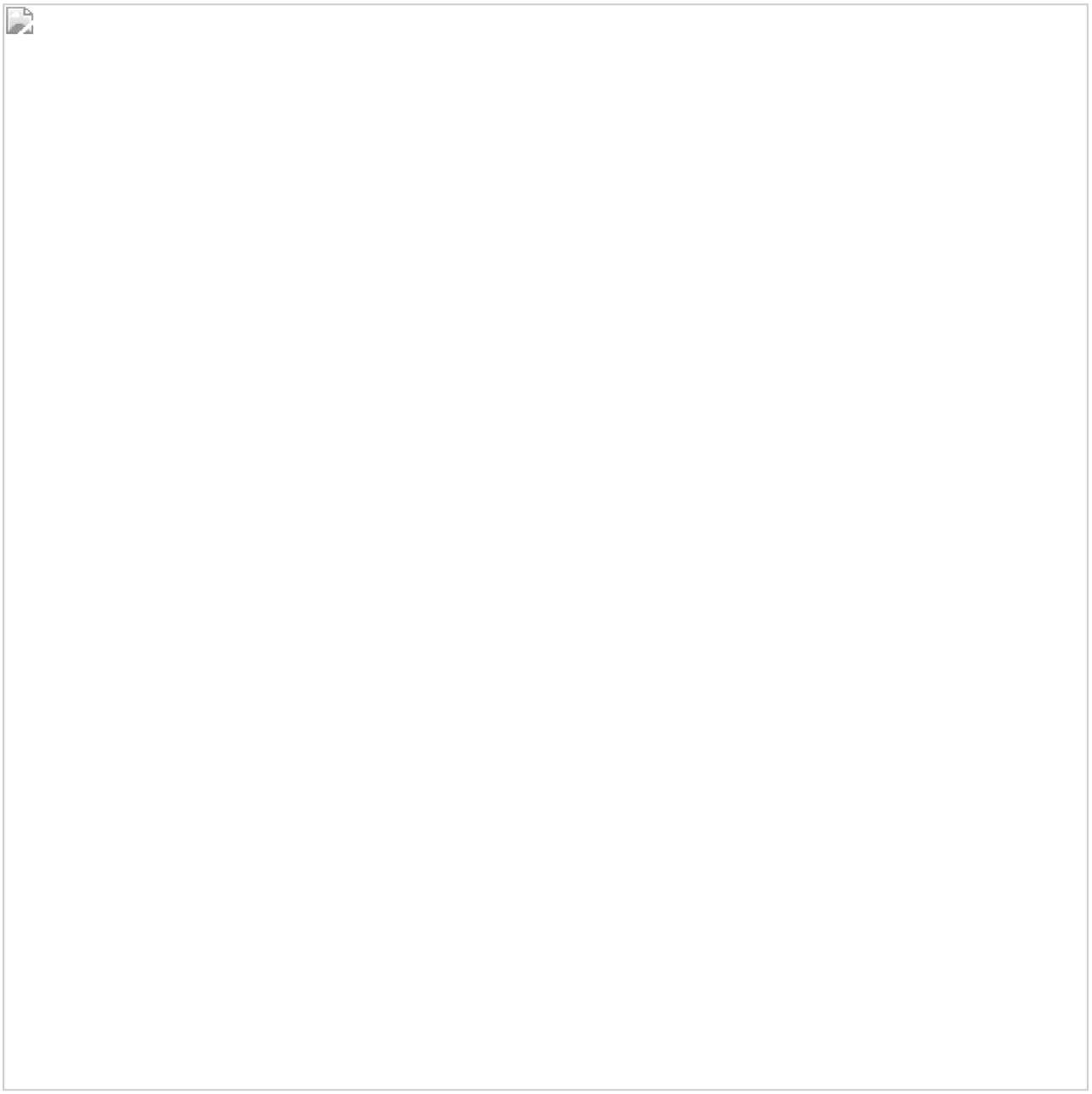


Think about it

1. What did Loki say to get Idun outside the gates?

- ○ That he had seen apples like hers
- ○ That the gods were calling her
- ○ That it was raining

Idun Is Gone



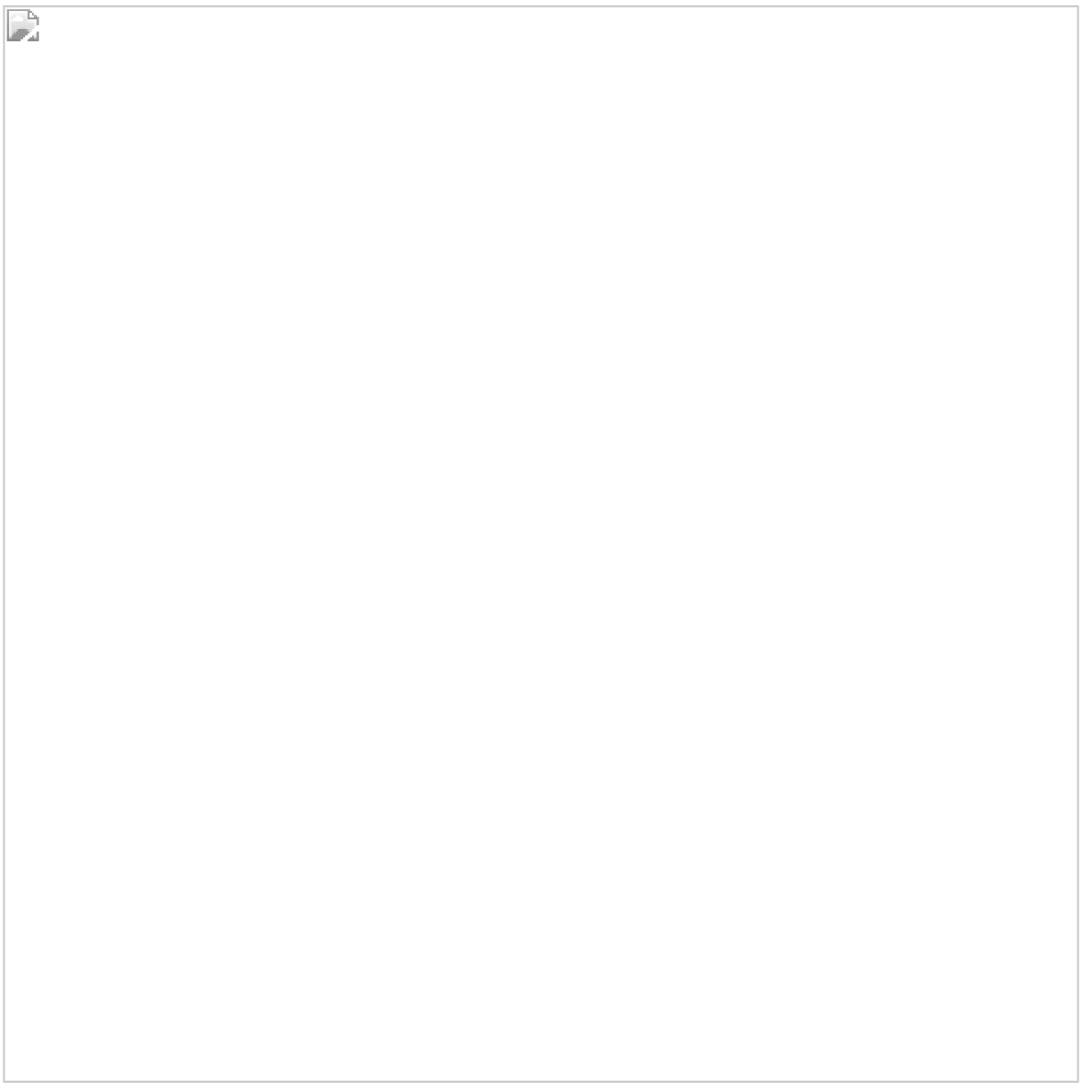
As soon as Idun stepped outside the gates, a rushing wind came. It was the giant in his eagle feathers! He swept her up and carried her far away to his cold, icy house in the mountains.

He tried to make her give him the apples to eat, but she would not.

And Loki? He wandered back into Asgard as if nothing had happened.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki went back and acted like nothing was wrong. Have you ever hidden something you did? What was that like?



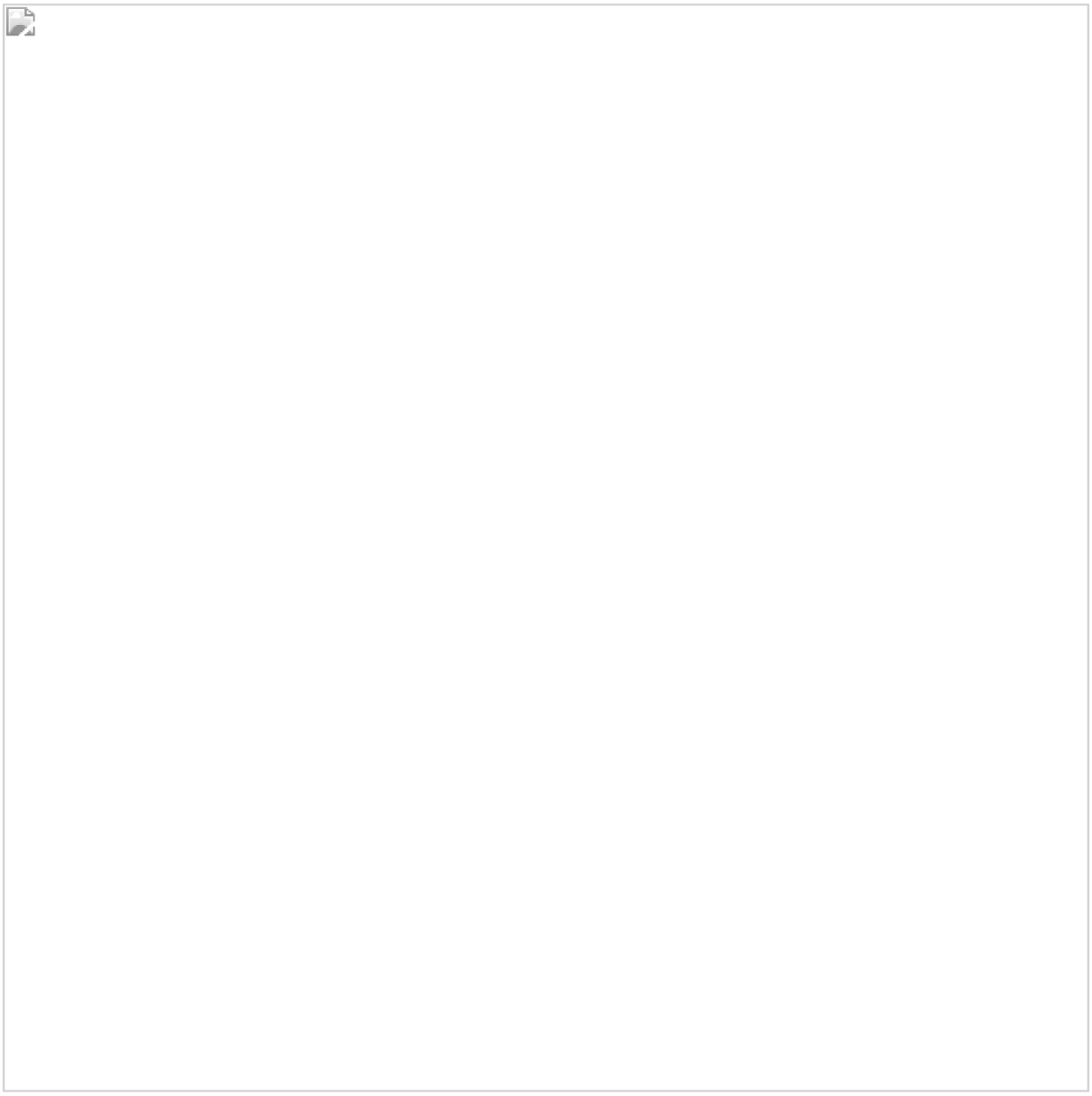
Think about it

1. Where did the giant take Idun?

- ○ To the sea
- ○ To his cold house in the mountains
- ○ To a deep cave

2. How do you think Idun felt, far from home?

The Gods Grow Old



The next morning, the gods gathered for their feast. But there was no Idun.

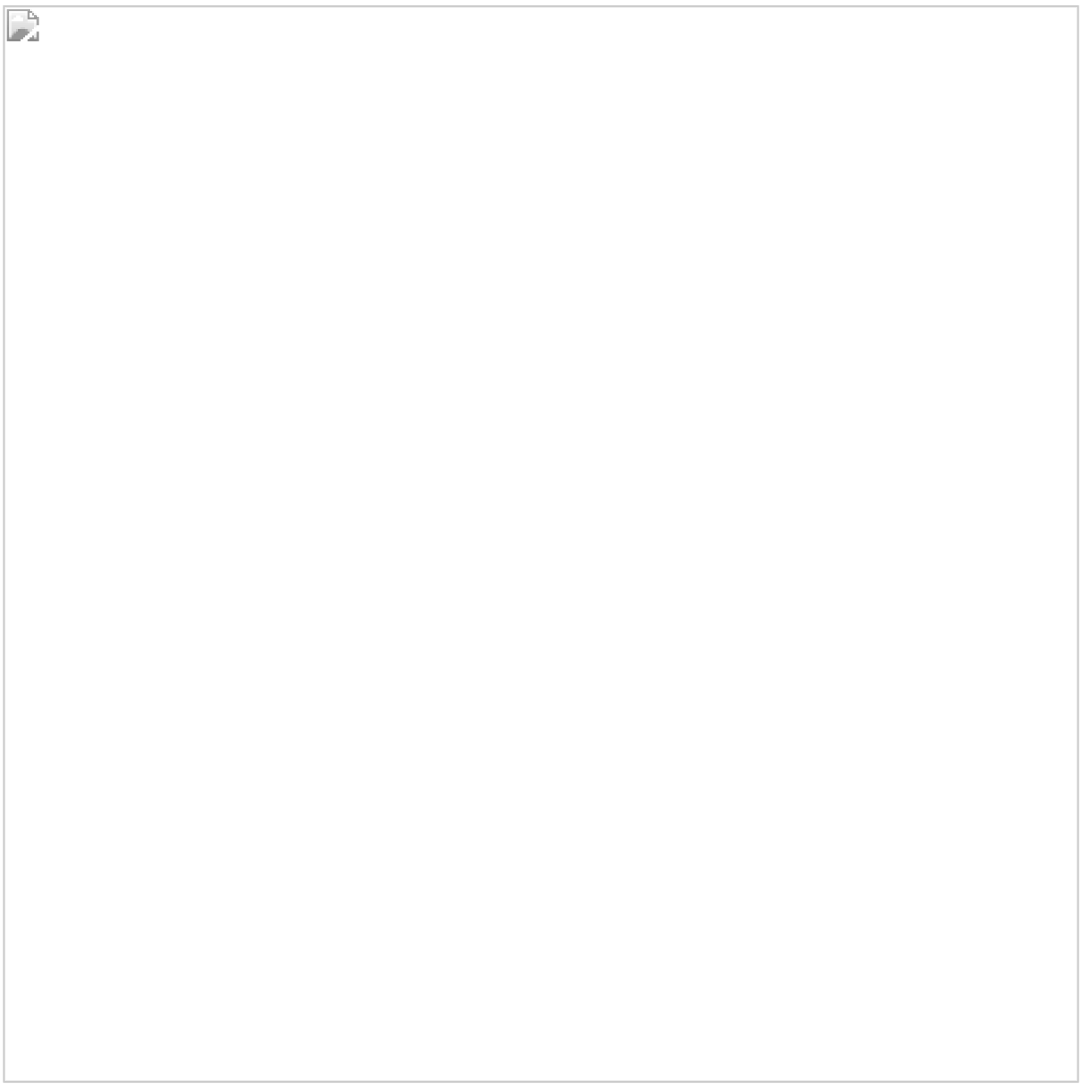
Day after day went by. Little by little the gods grew old. Their faces were lined, their dark hair turned white, and their bright eyes grew dim.

Bragi, the god of poetry, was Idun's husband. He missed her so much that he could make no music at all.

It seemed that even in heaven, the light was going out.

TALK ABOUT IT

One person was missing, and everyone was sad. Who in your life would leave a big empty space if they were gone?

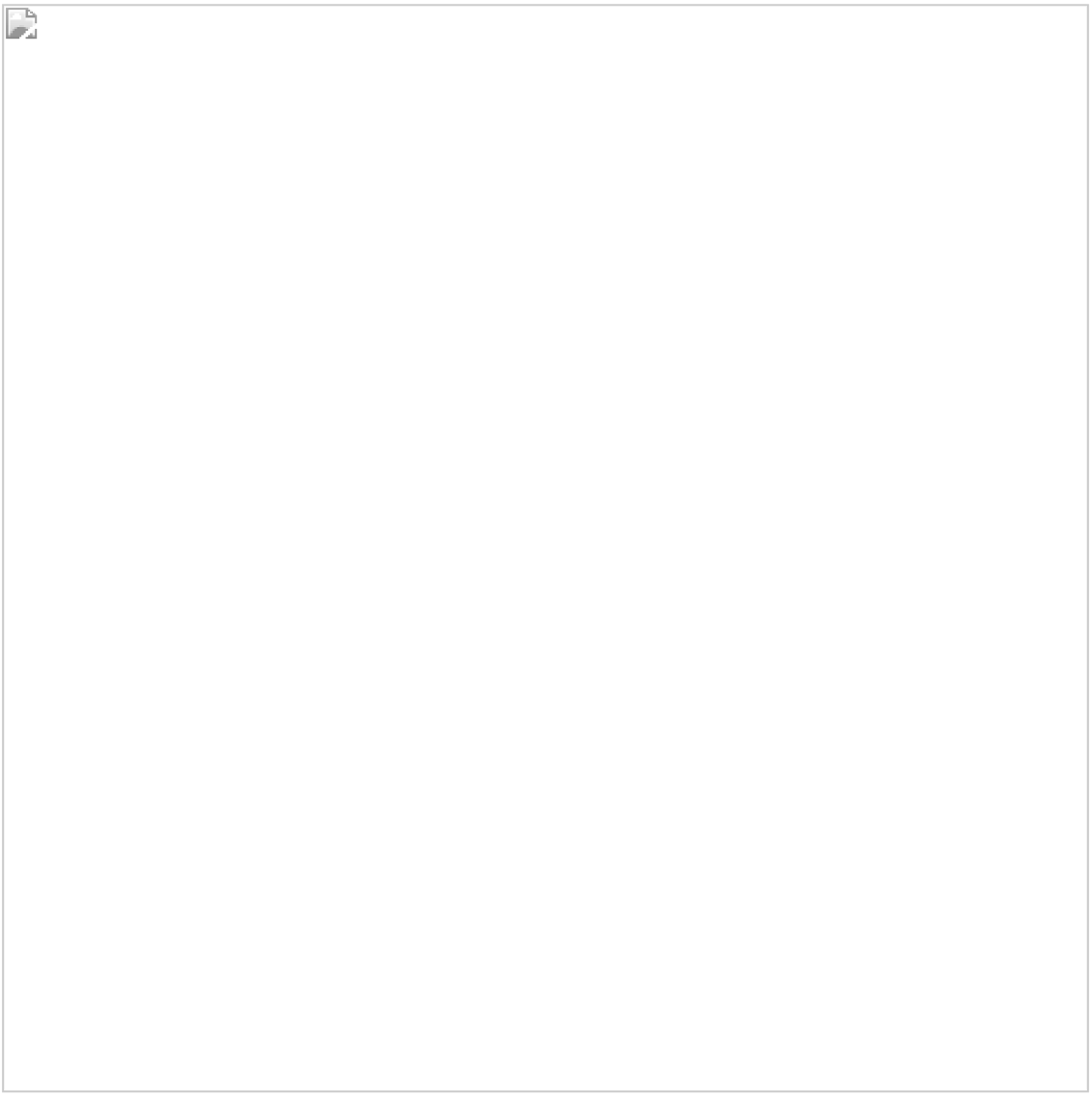


Think about it

1. Why could Bragi not make music?

- ○ His harp was broken
- ○ He missed his wife Idun
- ○ He was asleep

Loki Is Found Out



At last the gods could stand it no longer. They asked, and asked, and they found out that Loki had led Idun out of the gates.

They seized him and brought him before them all. When Loki saw how angry they were, he was afraid.

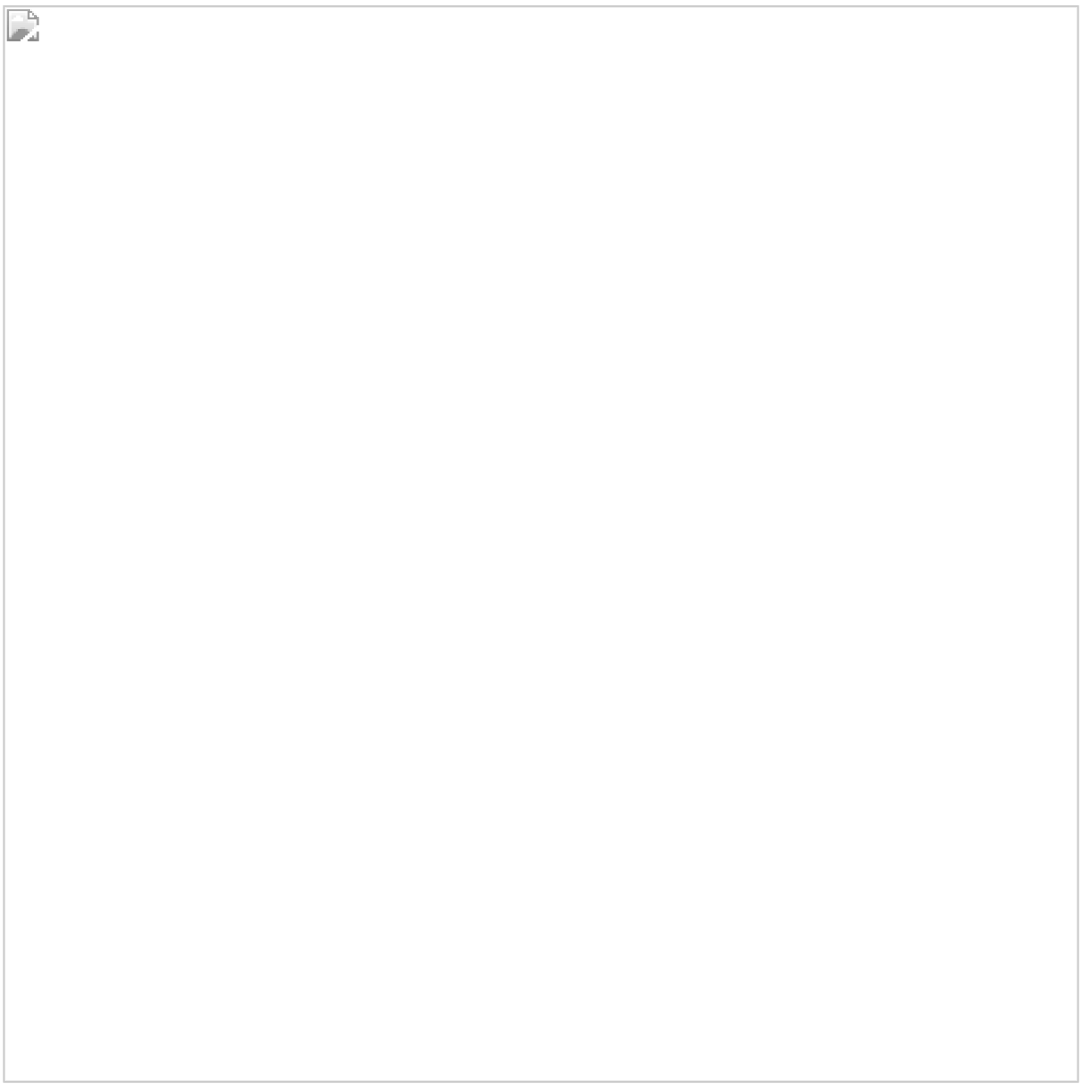
He promised to bring Idun back, if the goddess Freyja would lend him her falcon feathers.

She did. The gods watched with hope as the falcon flew away, smaller and smaller, until he was only a speck in the sky.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki promised to fix it only when he got caught. Is that the same as being sorry? Why or why not?

Loki Is Found Out · another picture

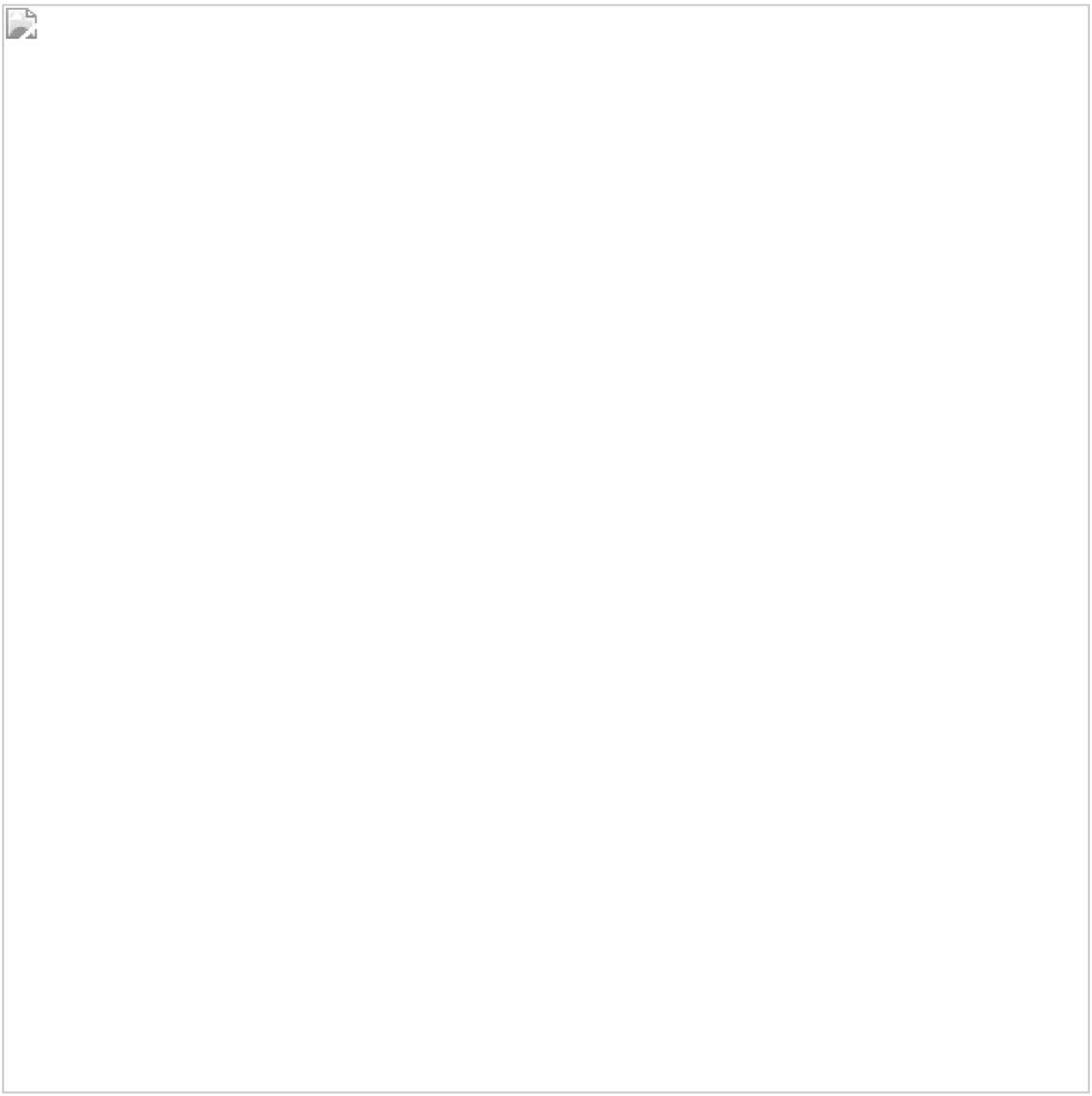


Think about it

1. What did Loki borrow from Freyja?

- ○ Her falcon feathers
- ○ Her golden ring
- ○ Her horse

A Nut and a Race



After a long, tiring flight, Loki came to the giant's house. The giant was out at sea, and Idun was there all alone.

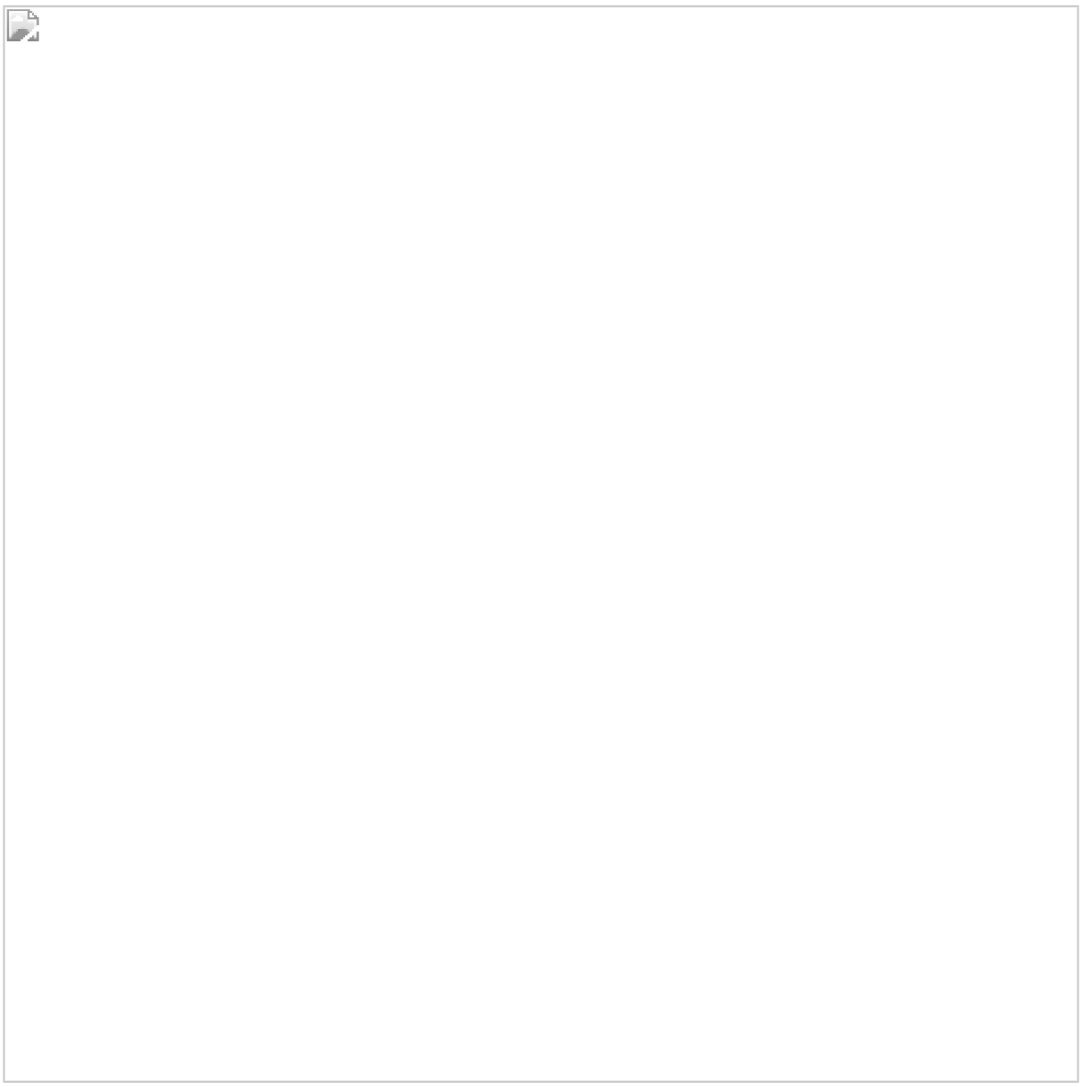
Quick as a wink, Loki turned Idun into a nut. He held her in his claws and flew for home as fast as he could.

But the giant came back, found Idun gone, and guessed everything. He put on his eagle feathers and chased after.

The eagle was much bigger and stronger. Little by little, he gained on the tired falcon.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki had to be brave and quick to put things right. Does fixing a mistake sometimes take more courage than making it?

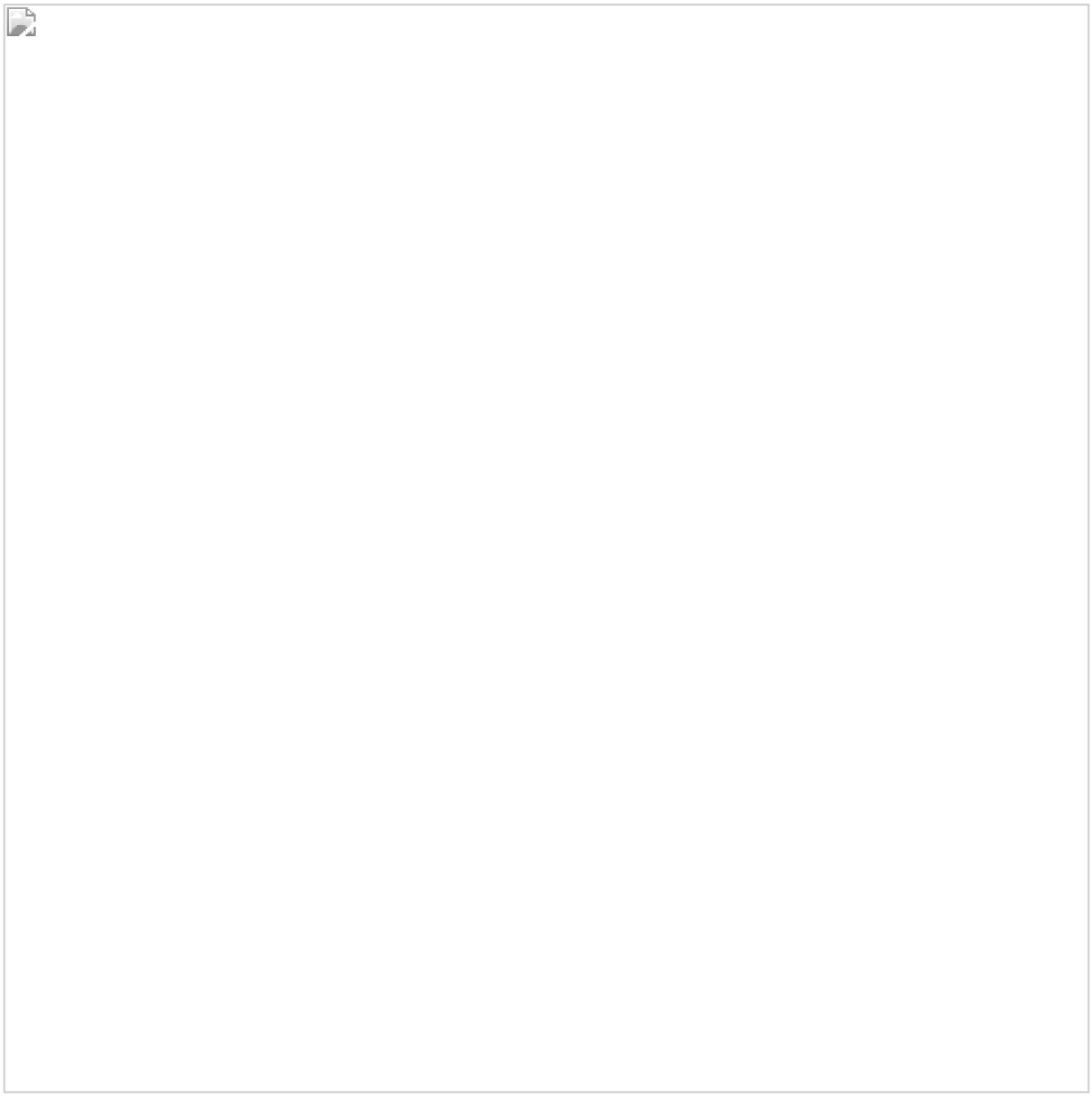


Think about it

1. How did Loki carry Idun home?

- ○ As a nut in his claws
- ○ On his back
- ○ In a basket

Fire on the Wall



The gods stood along the walls of Asgard, watching the race. They grew white with fear.

They hurried to light great fires along the top of the wall.

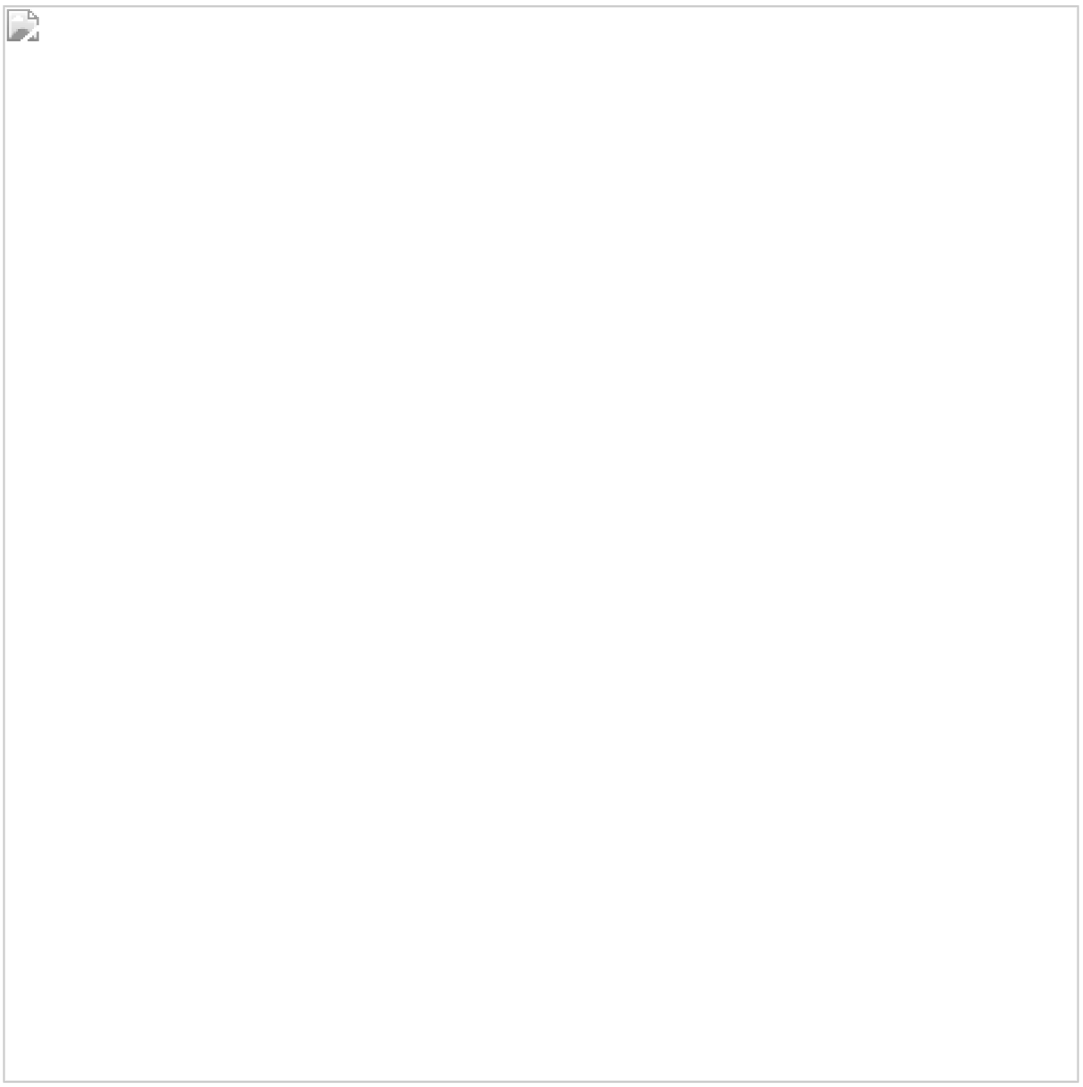
With one last tired flap, the falcon sailed over the wall and dropped to the ground. A second later the eagle swept over the flames, and his feathers caught fire. He fell, and the giant Thjasse troubled Asgard no more.

Idun stepped out of the nut and was herself again, and Bragi ran to meet her.

TALK ABOUT IT

The gods worked together to save Idun. What can a whole group do that one person cannot?

Fire on the Wall · another picture

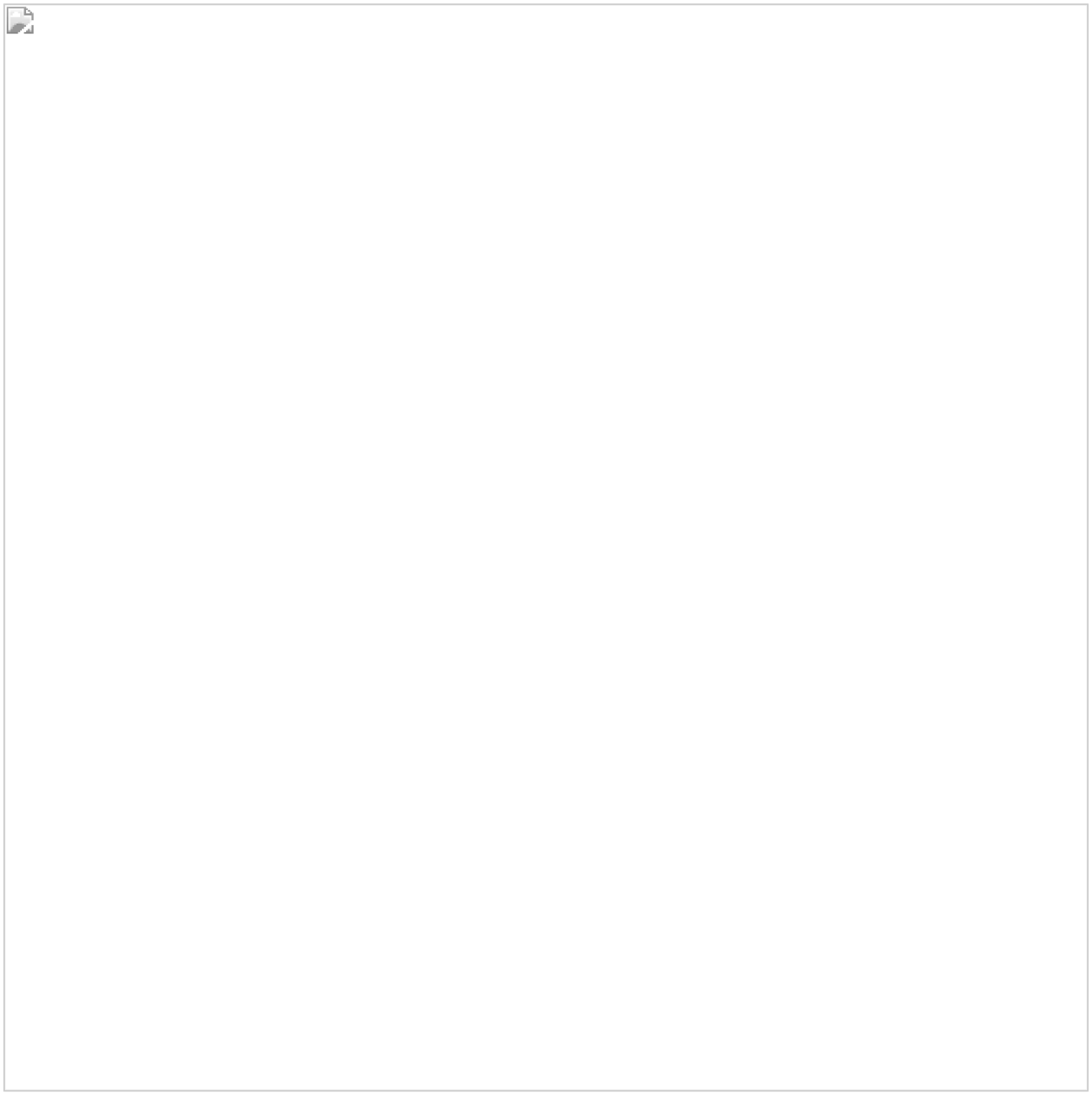


Think about it

1. How did the gods help Loki in the race?

- ○ They lit fires on the wall
- ○ They built a bridge
- ○ They threw apples

The Feast Again



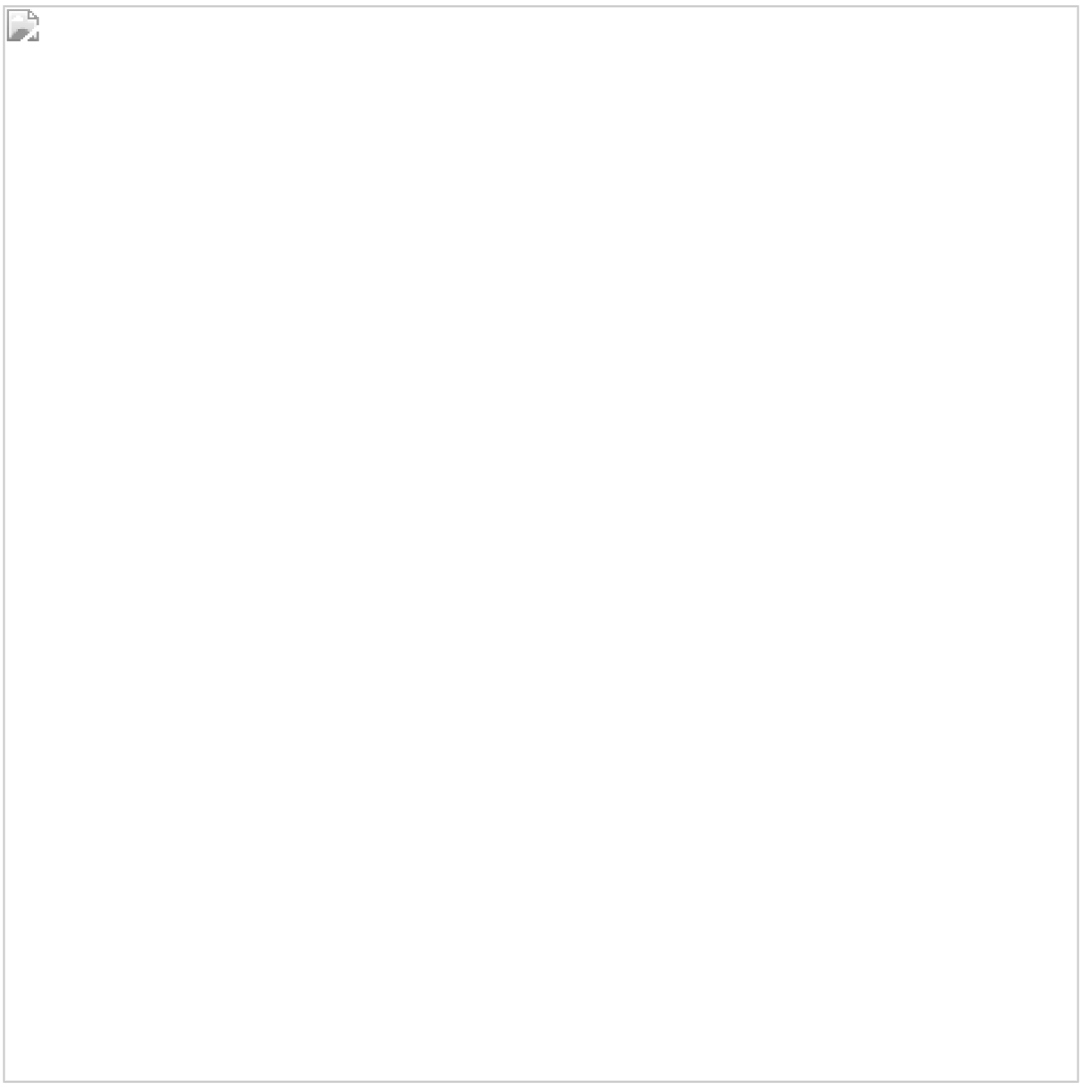
The gods crowded around Idun. She spread out the feast, and the golden apples gleamed.

They ate, and once more their faces glowed and their eyes shone bright.

Idun stood among them like a star, and the song of Bragi was heard again.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki did a wrong thing, and then he did the hard work to put it right. What do you think should happen to someone who does that? What should someone who has been wronged say to them?



Think about it

1. What came back to Asgard with Idun?

- ○ Youth and music
- ○ Snow and ice
- ○ Giants

2. Who was hurt by Loki's trick, besides Idun?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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