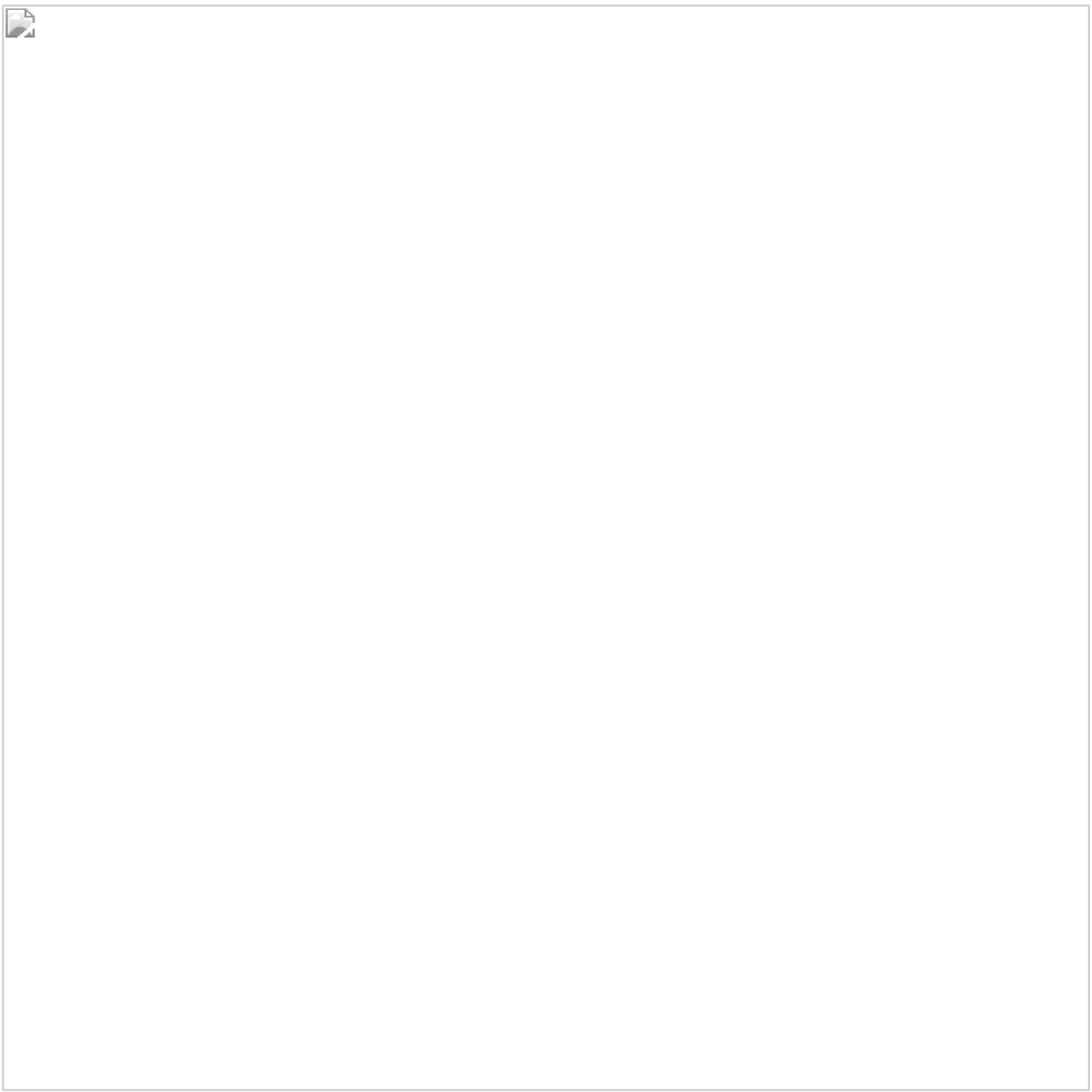
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Banyan Deer

A Tale from India



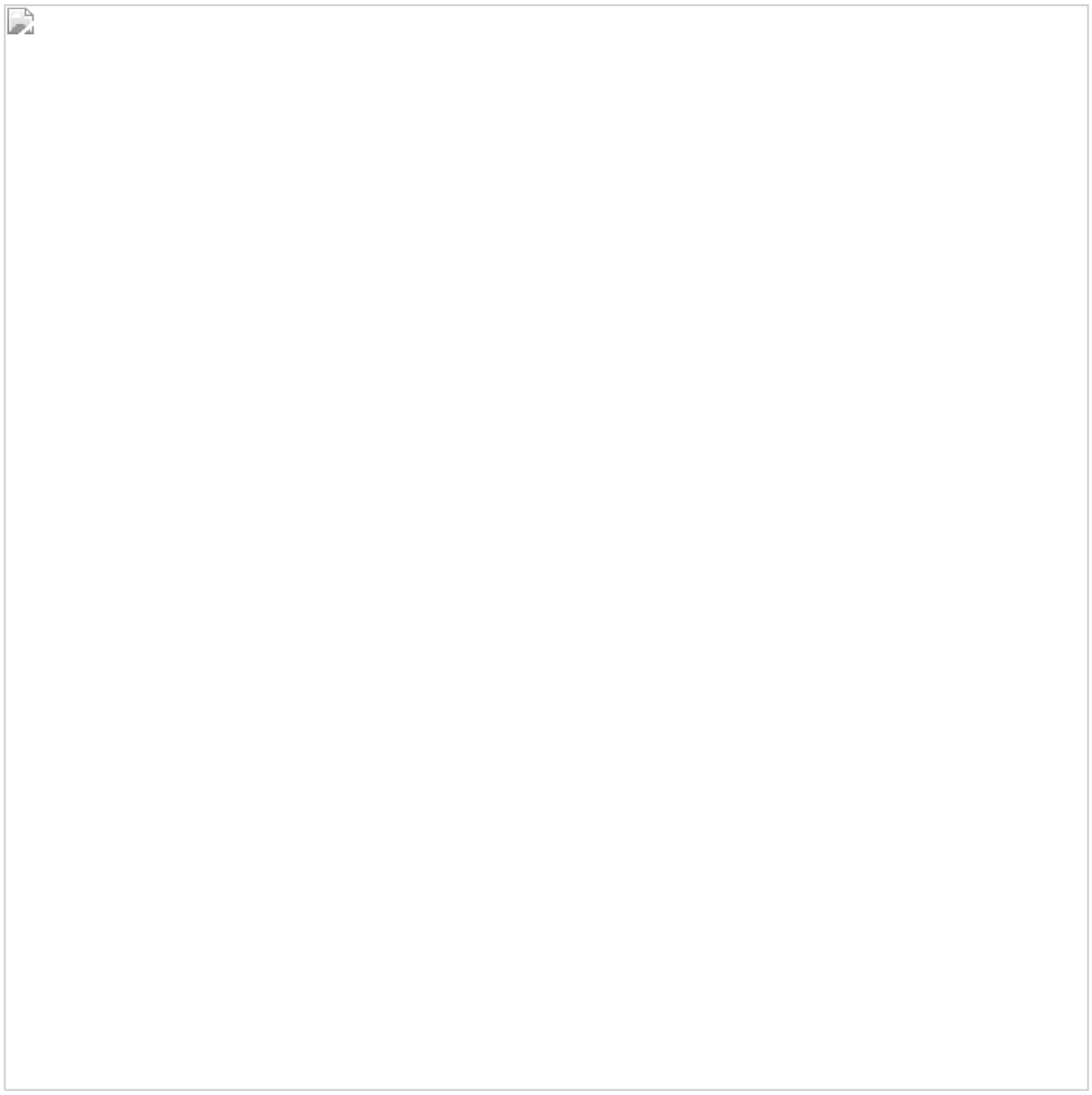
There was once a Deer the color of gold. His eyes were like round jewels, his horns were white as silver, his mouth was red like a flower, and his hoofs were bright and hard. He had a large body and a fine tail.

TALK ABOUT IT

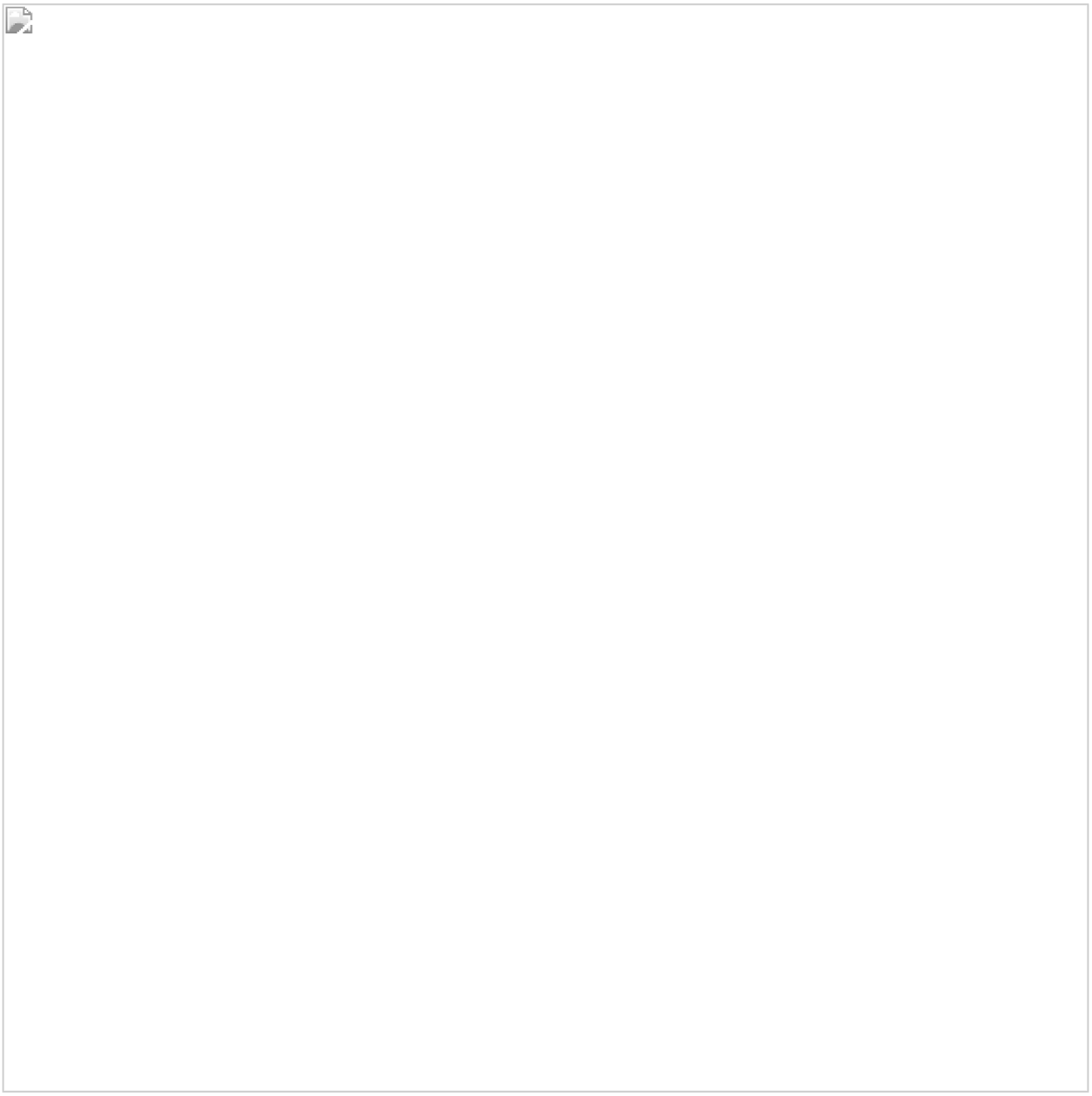
What colors do you see in this deer? What would you like to draw about him?

This book belongs to _____

The Banyan Deer · another picture



Two Herds

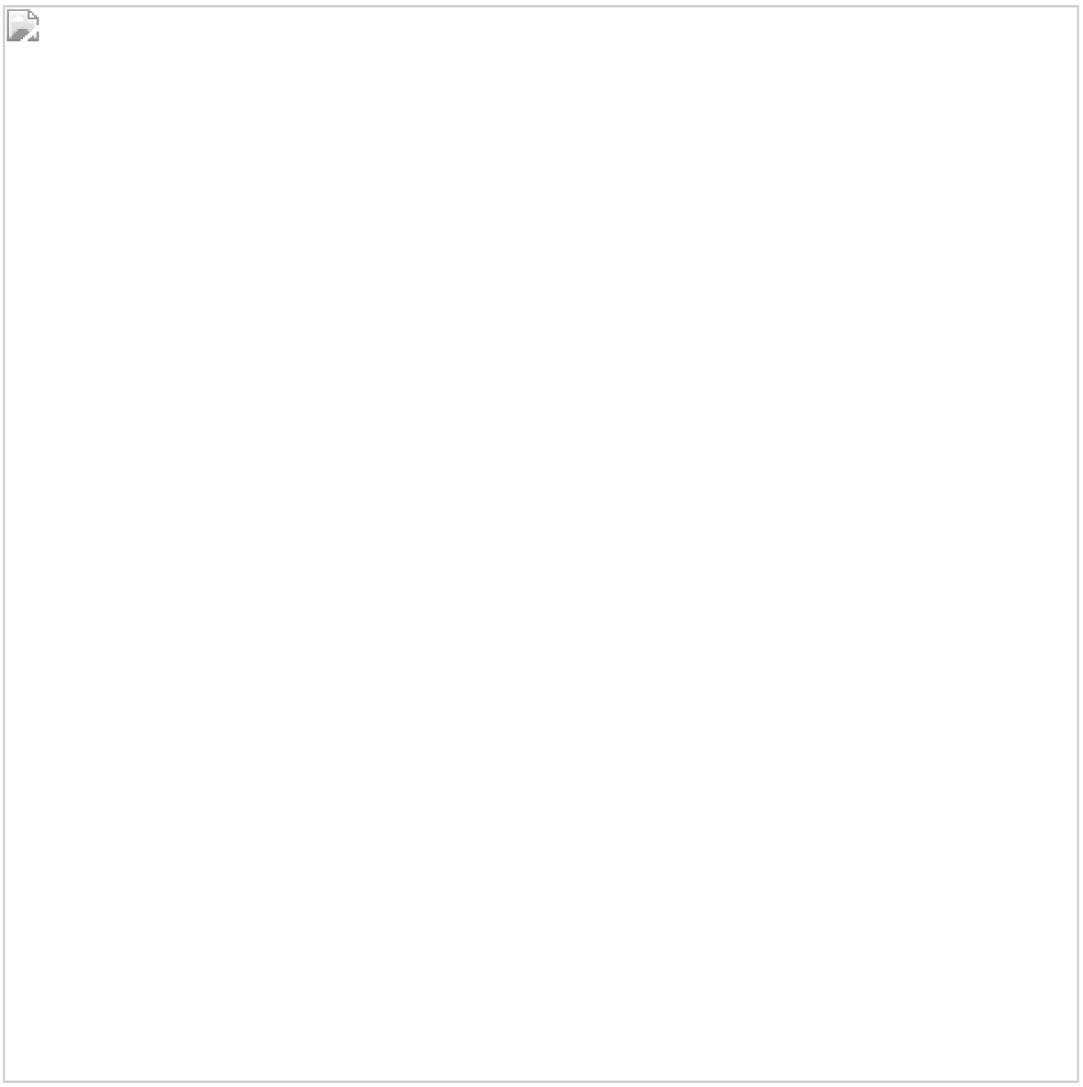


The golden Deer lived in a forest and was king of a herd of five hundred Banyan Deer.

Near by lived another herd, called the Monkey Deer. They, too, had a king.

TALK ABOUT IT

Each herd had a king to look after it. Who looks after you?

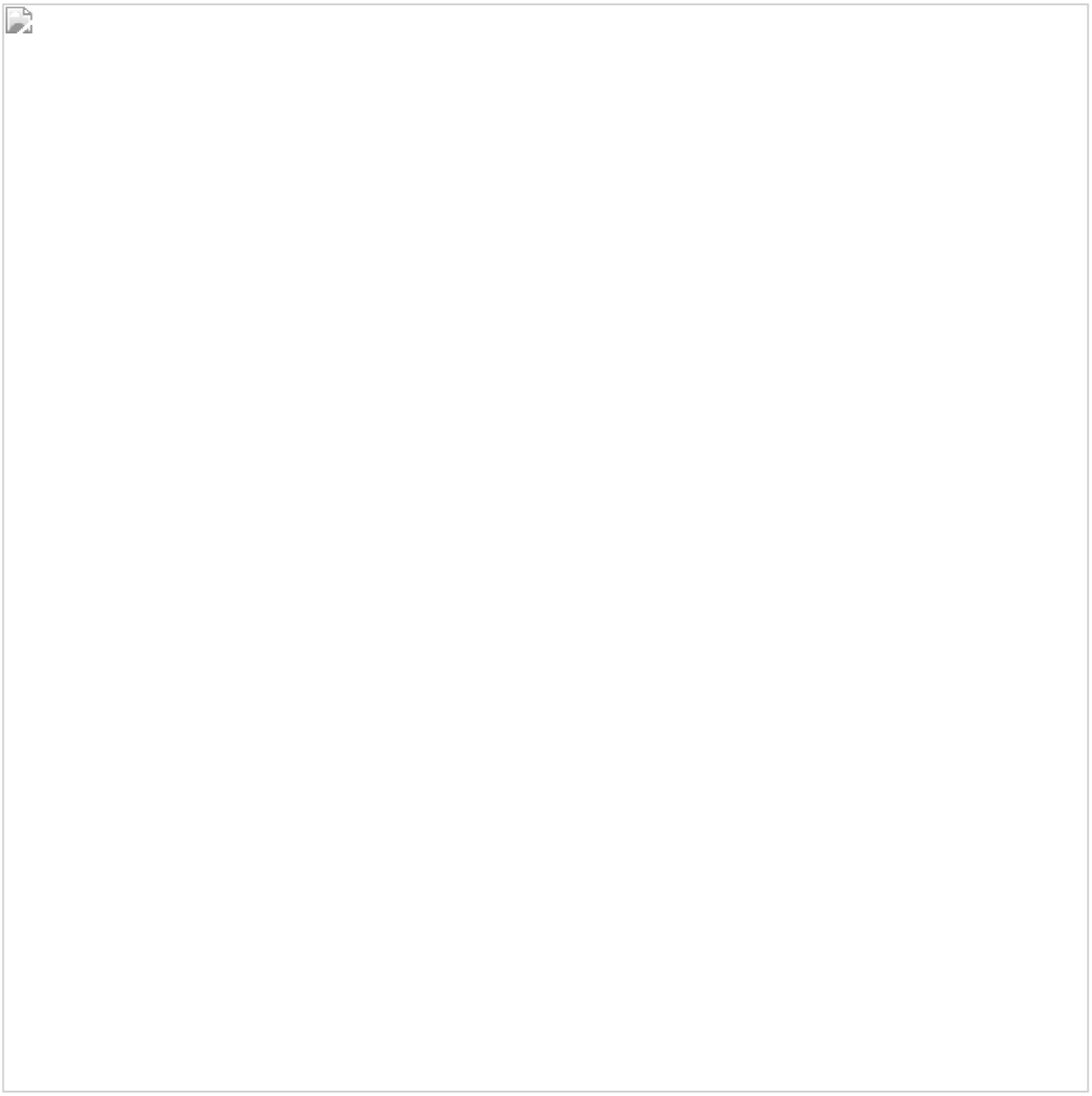


Think about it

1. How many Deer were in the Banyan Deer's herd?

- ○ Fifty
- ○ Five hundred
- ○ Five thousand

The King Who Hunted

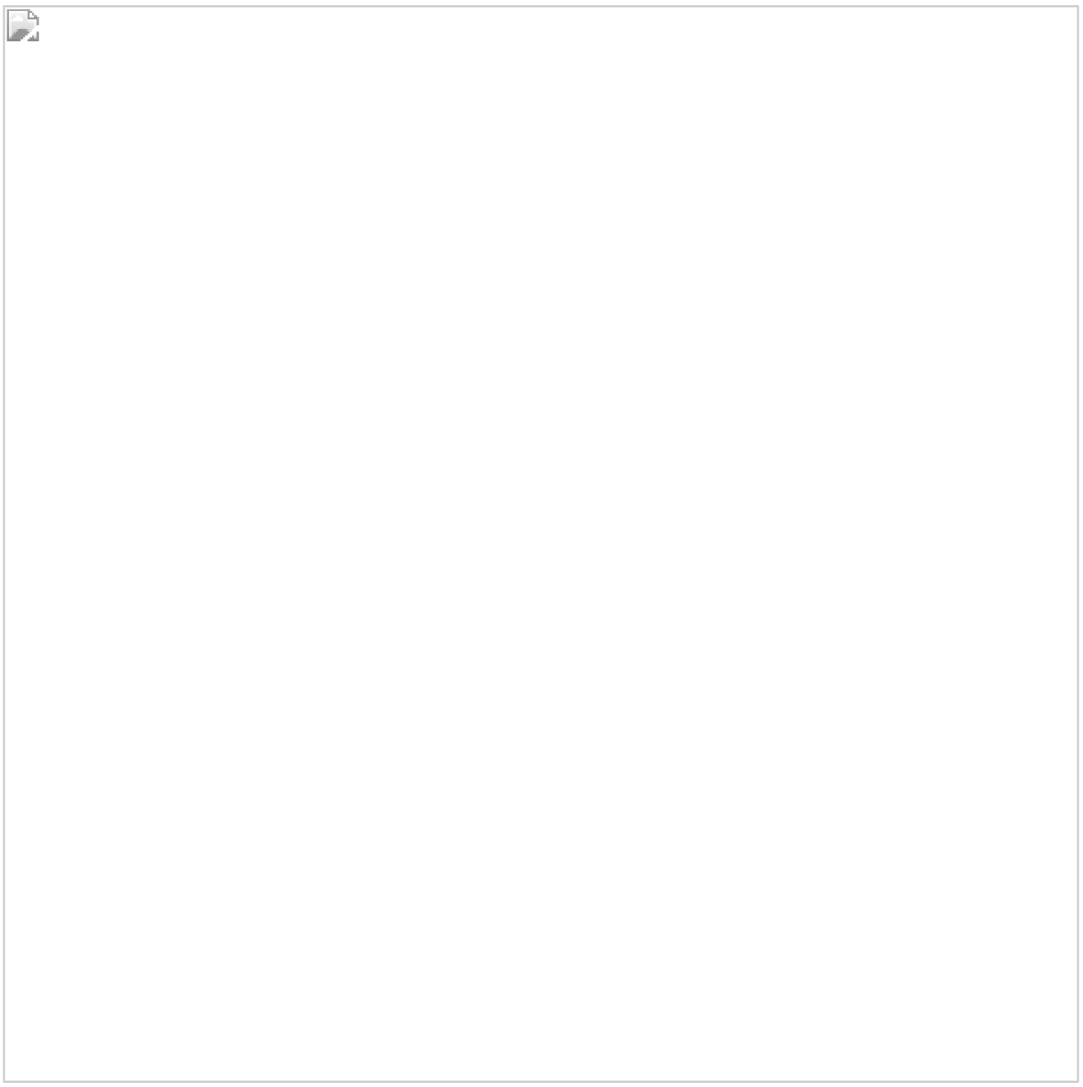


The king of that country was fond of hunting the Deer and eating deer meat. He did not like to go alone, so he called the people of his town to go with him, day after day.

The townspeople did not like this. While they were gone, no one did their work.

TALK ABOUT IT

The townspeople wanted to do their own work. What work do you like to finish before you play?

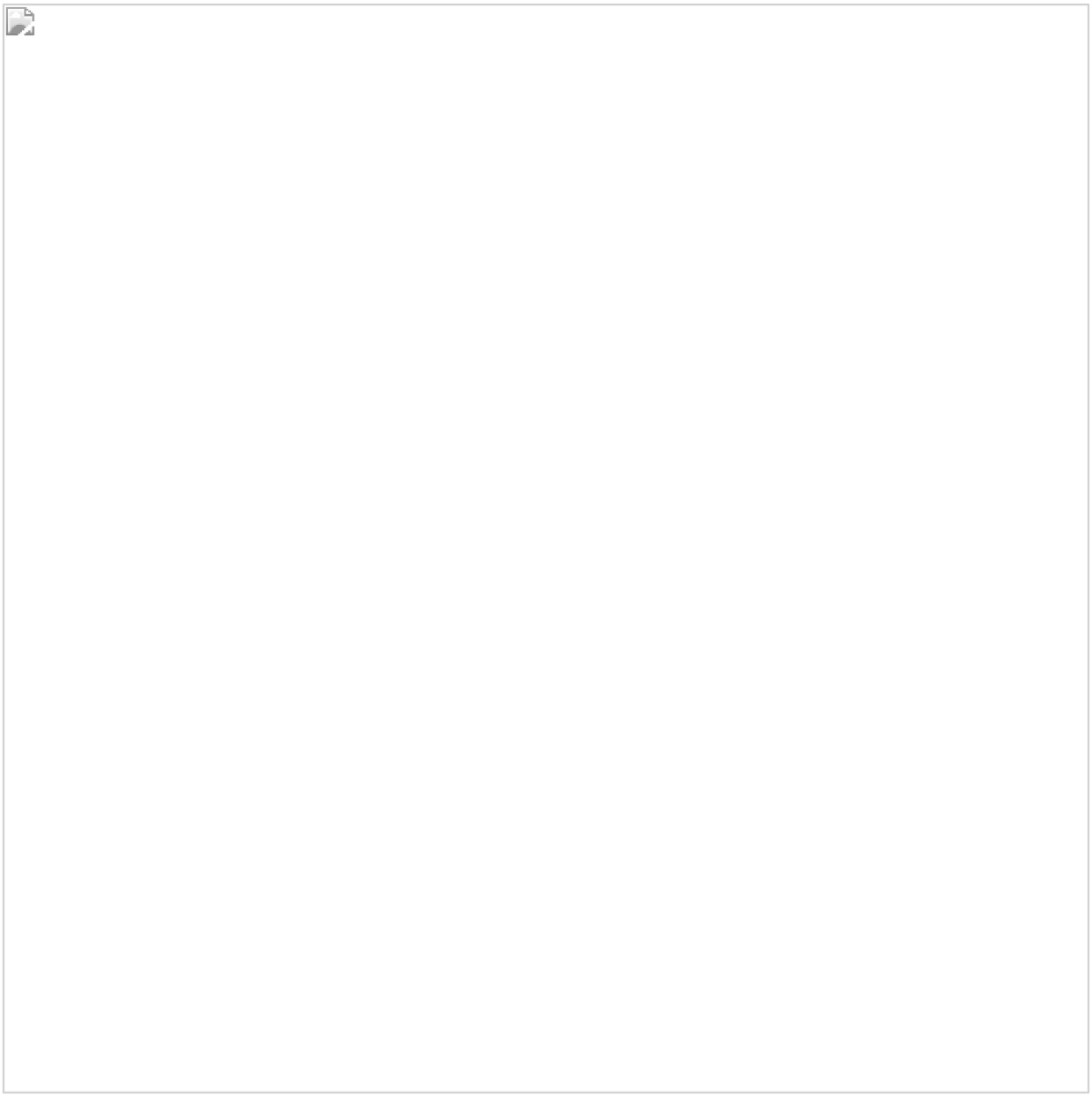


Think about it

1. Why did the townspeople dislike the hunting?

- ○ It was too hot
- ○ While they were gone, no one did their work
- ○ They were afraid of the Deer

The Park



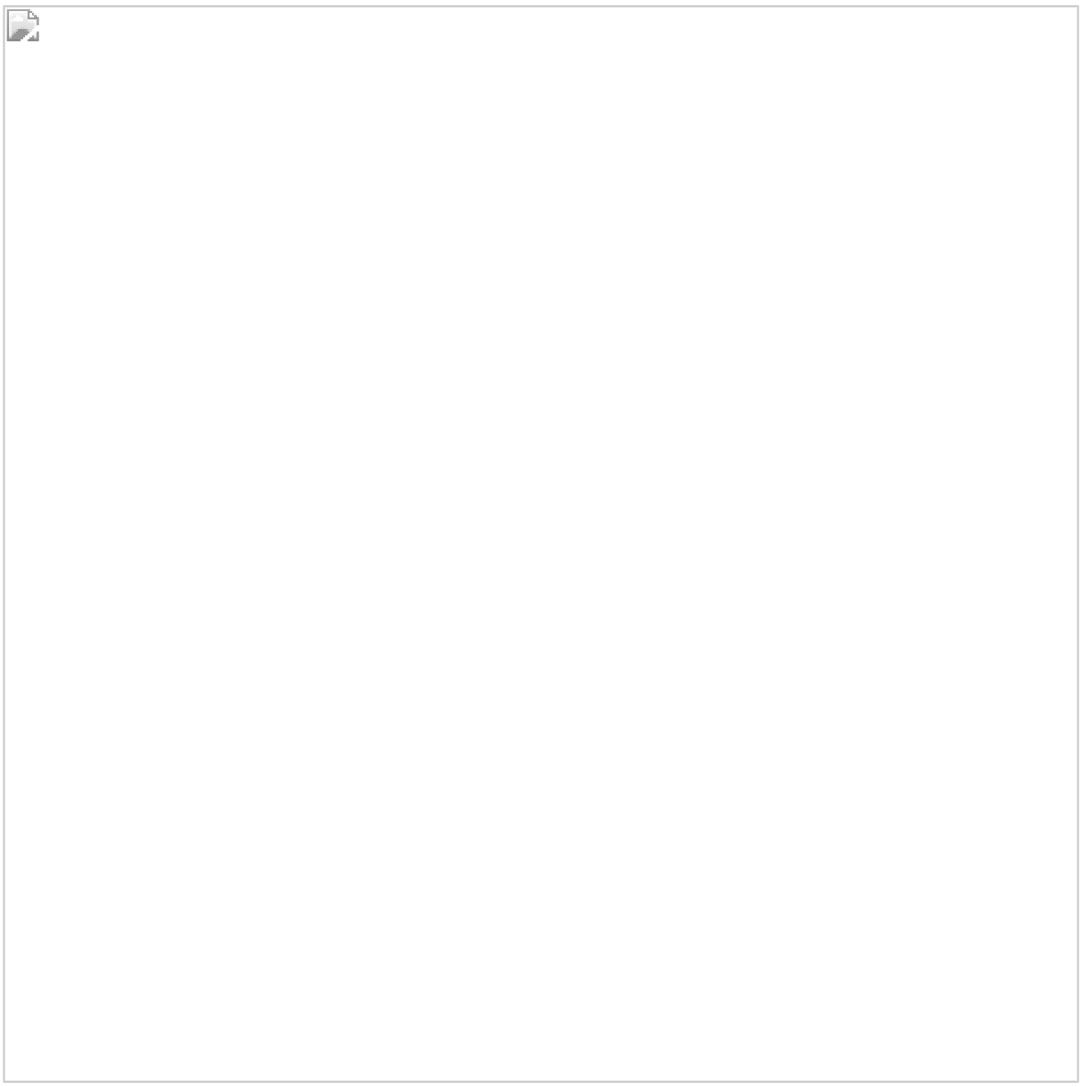
So the townspeople decided to make a park and drive the Deer into it. Then the king could go into the park and hunt, and they could go on with their daily work.

They made a park, planted grass in it and gave the Deer water. They built a fence all around it and drove the Deer in. Then they shut the gate.

They went to the king and told him that in the park near by he could find all the Deer he wanted.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Deer had grass and water, but they could not leave. What do you think that was like for them?

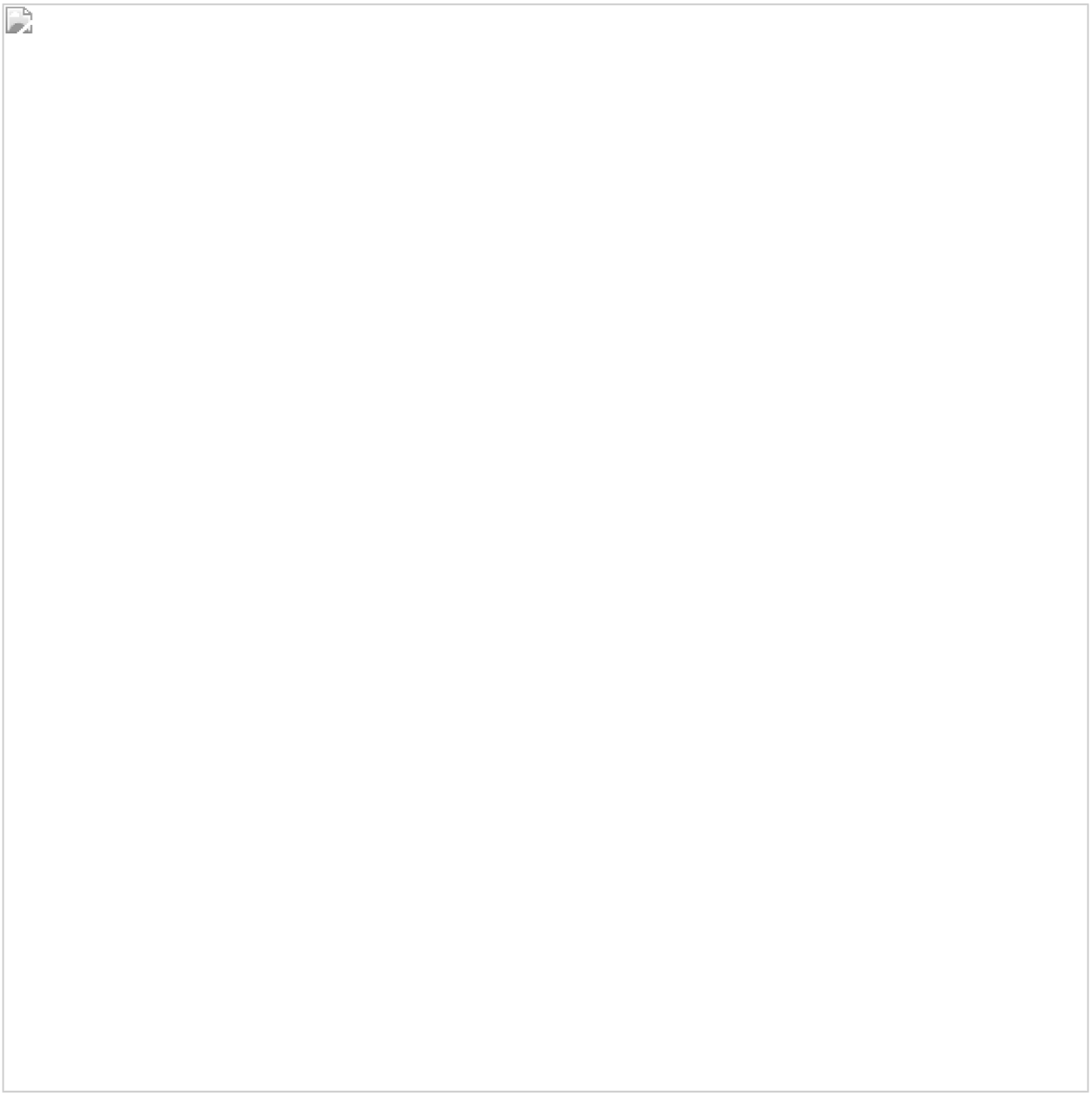


Think about it

1. What did the townspeople build?

- ○ A park with a fence
- ○ A new town
- ○ A bridge

The Two Deer Kings

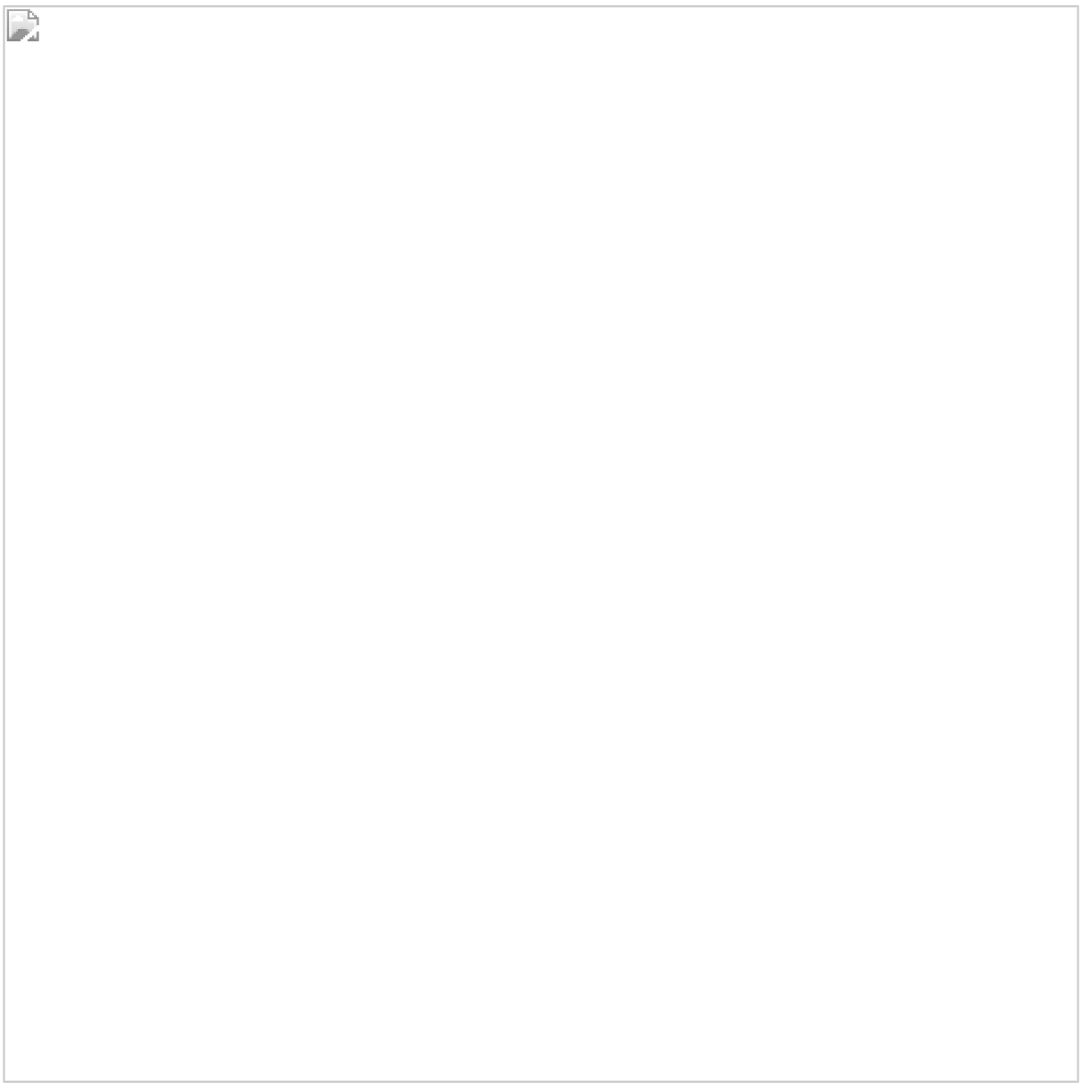


The king went at once to look at the Deer. First he saw the two Deer kings, and he granted them their lives. Then he looked at their great herds.

Some days the king would go to hunt the Deer, and sometimes his cook would go. As soon as any of the Deer saw them, they would shake with fear and run. After they had been hit once or twice, they would drop down dead.

TALK ABOUT IT

The king let the two Deer kings live, but not the others. What do you think about that?

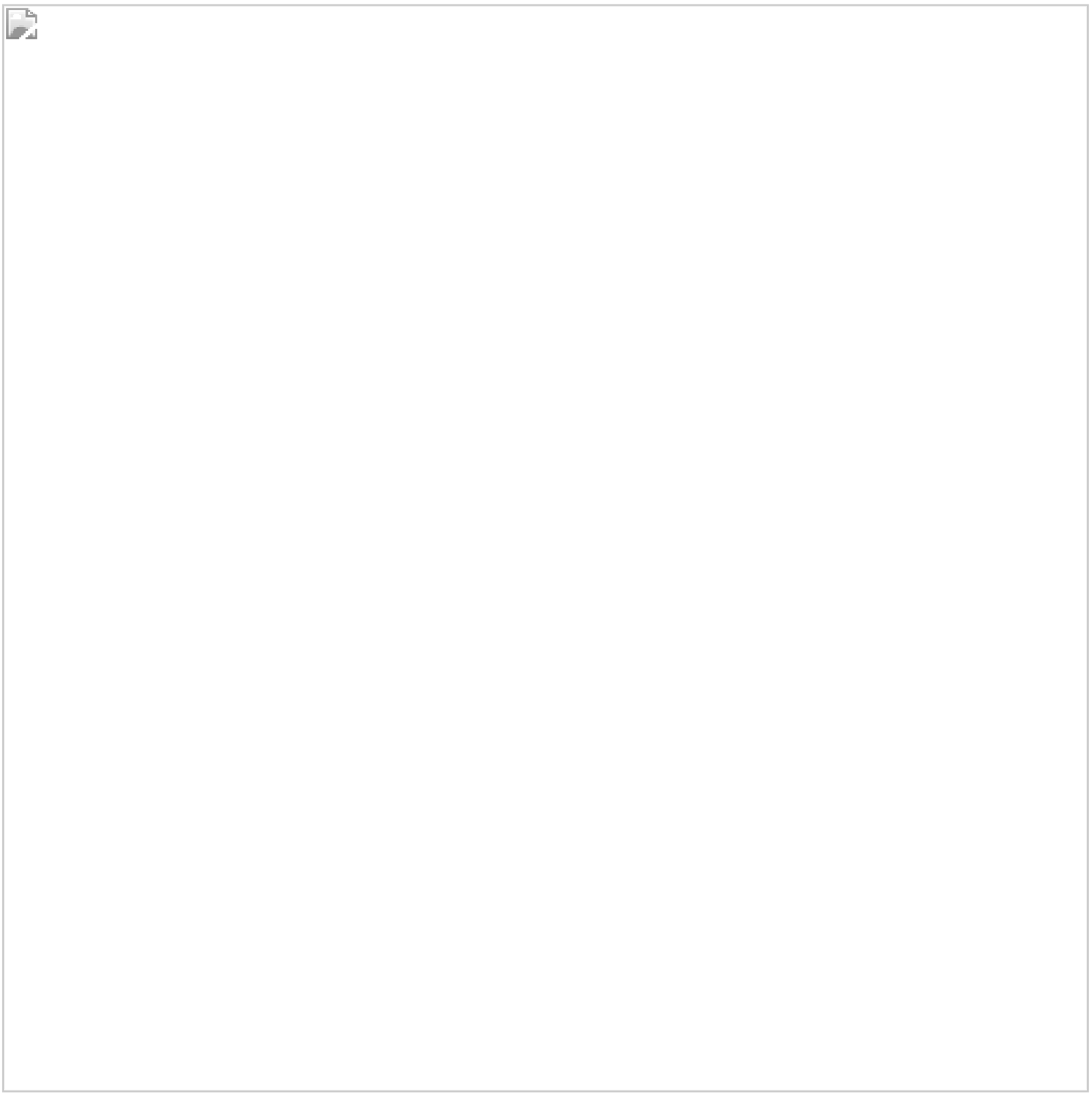


Think about it

1. Whose lives did the king grant at first?

- ○ The mother Deer
- ○ The two Deer kings
- ○ Every Deer

The Banyan King's Plan



The King of the Banyan Deer sent for the King of the Monkey Deer. He said, “Friend, many of the Deer are being killed. Many are wounded besides those who are killed.”

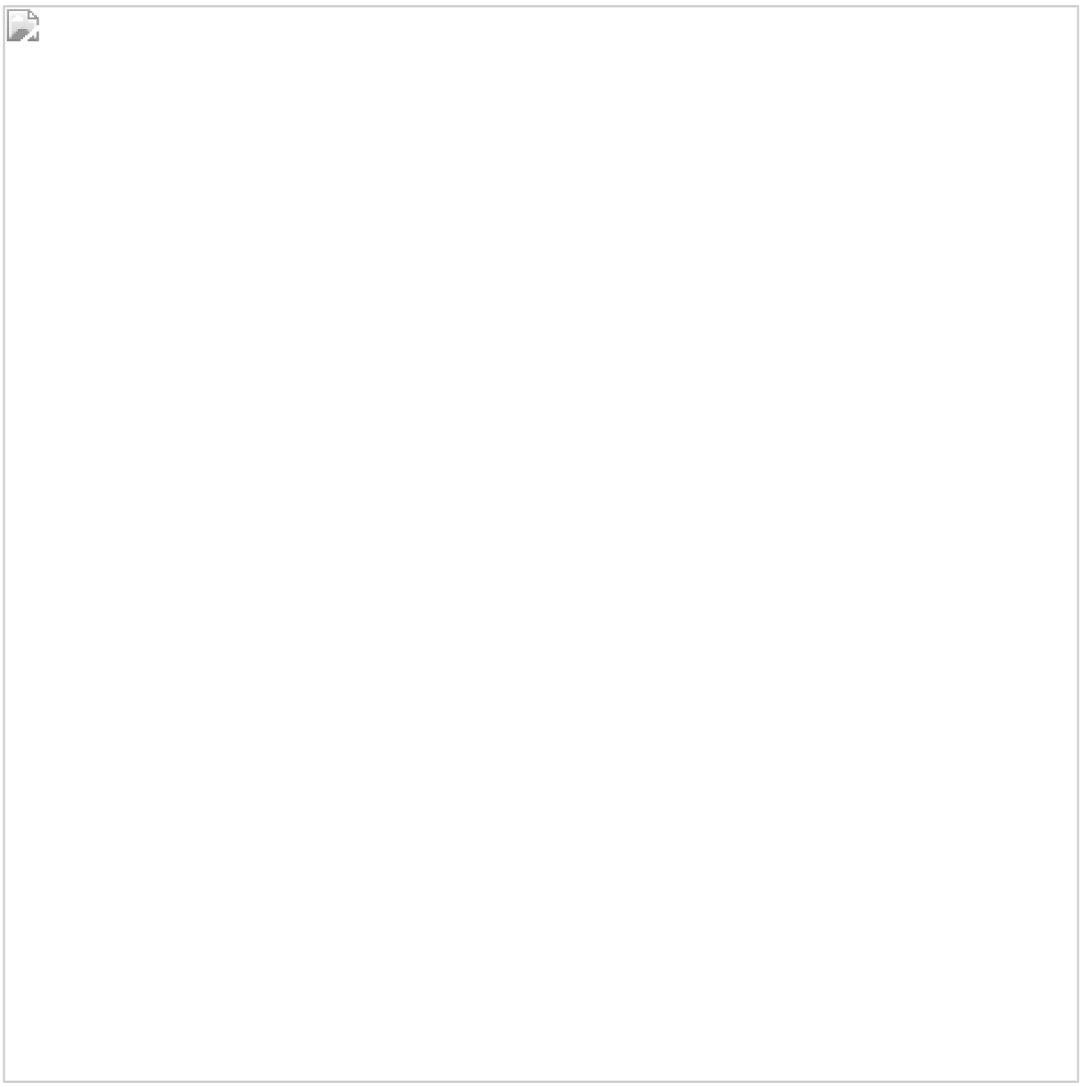
He gave his plan. “After this suppose one from my herd goes up to be killed one day, and the next day let one from your herd go up. Fewer Deer will be lost this way.”

The Monkey Deer agreed. Each day the Deer whose turn it was would go and lie down, with its head on the block. The cook would come and carry off the one he found lying there.

TALK ABOUT IT

Taking turns was the Deer kings' plan. What is something you take turns at, and is it fair?

The Banyan King's Plan · another picture



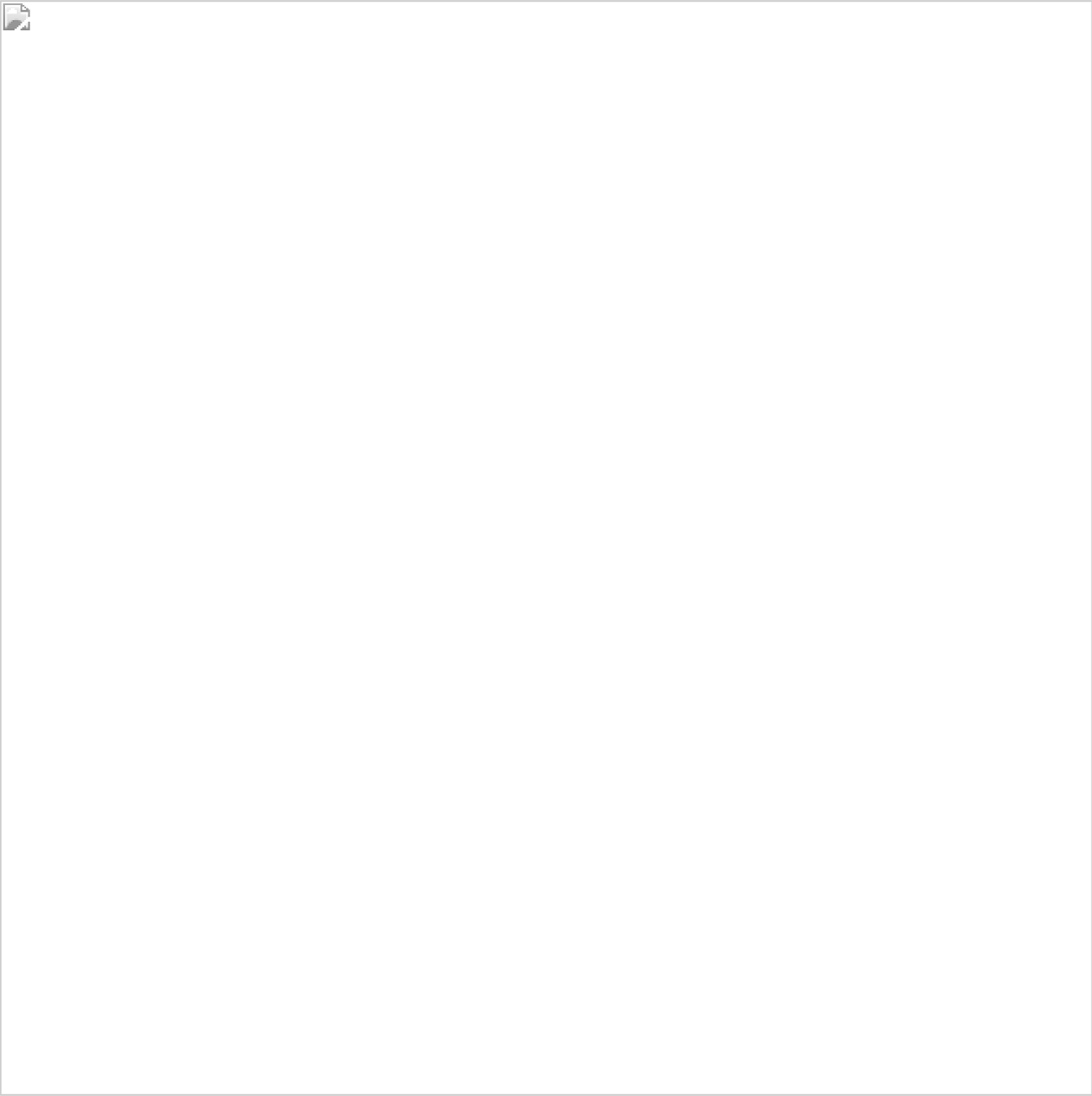
Think about it

1. What was the Banyan King's plan?

- ○ Fight the hunters
- ○ One Deer from each herd goes up in turn
- ○ Run away at night

2. Do you think the plan was a good one? Why or why not?

A Mother Deer



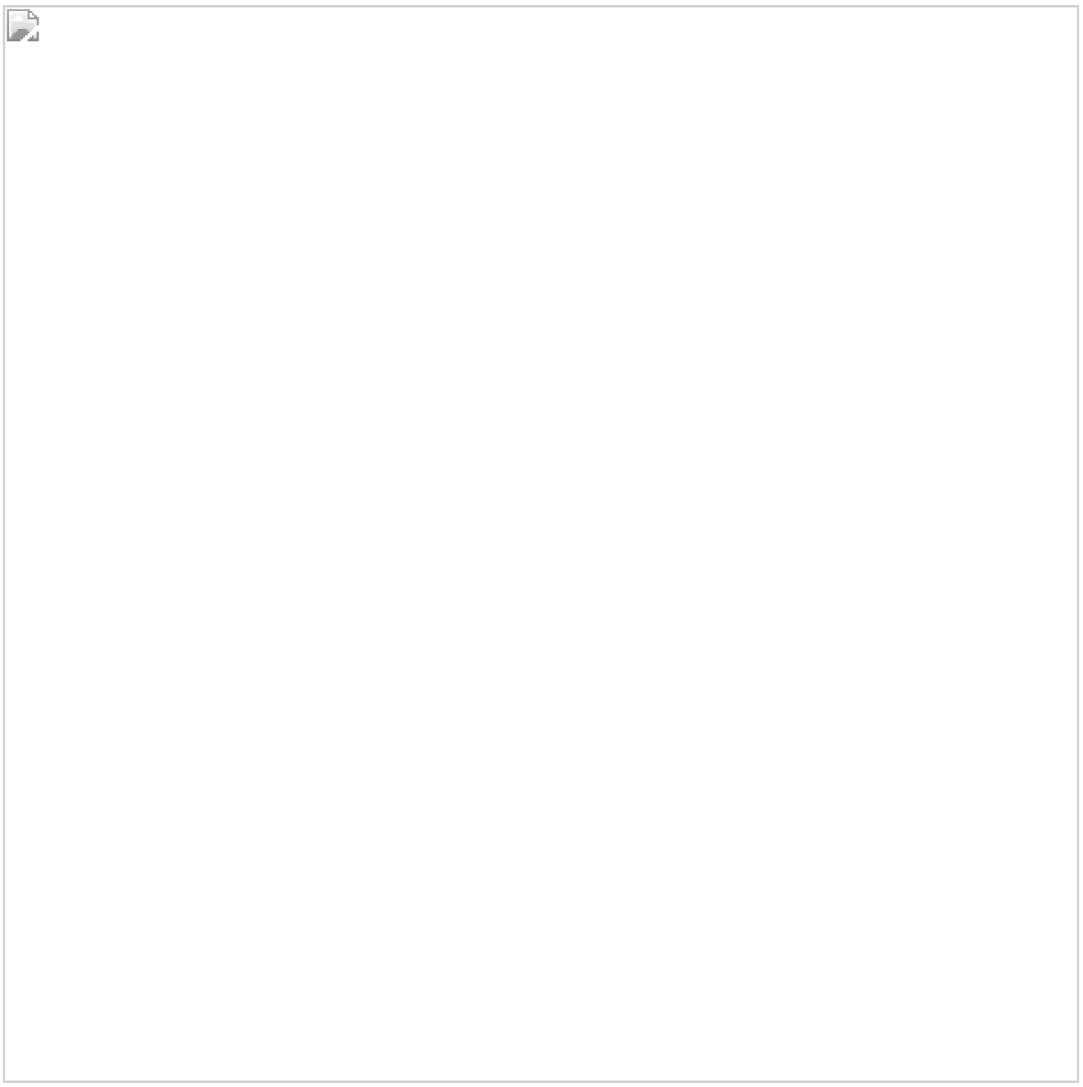
One day the lot fell to a mother Deer who had a young baby. She went to the King of the Monkey Deer and said, “let the turn pass me by until my baby is old enough to get along without me. Then I will go and put my head on the block.”

But the king did not help her. He told her that if the lot had fallen to her she must die.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the mother Deer felt like doing next?

A Mother Deer · another picture

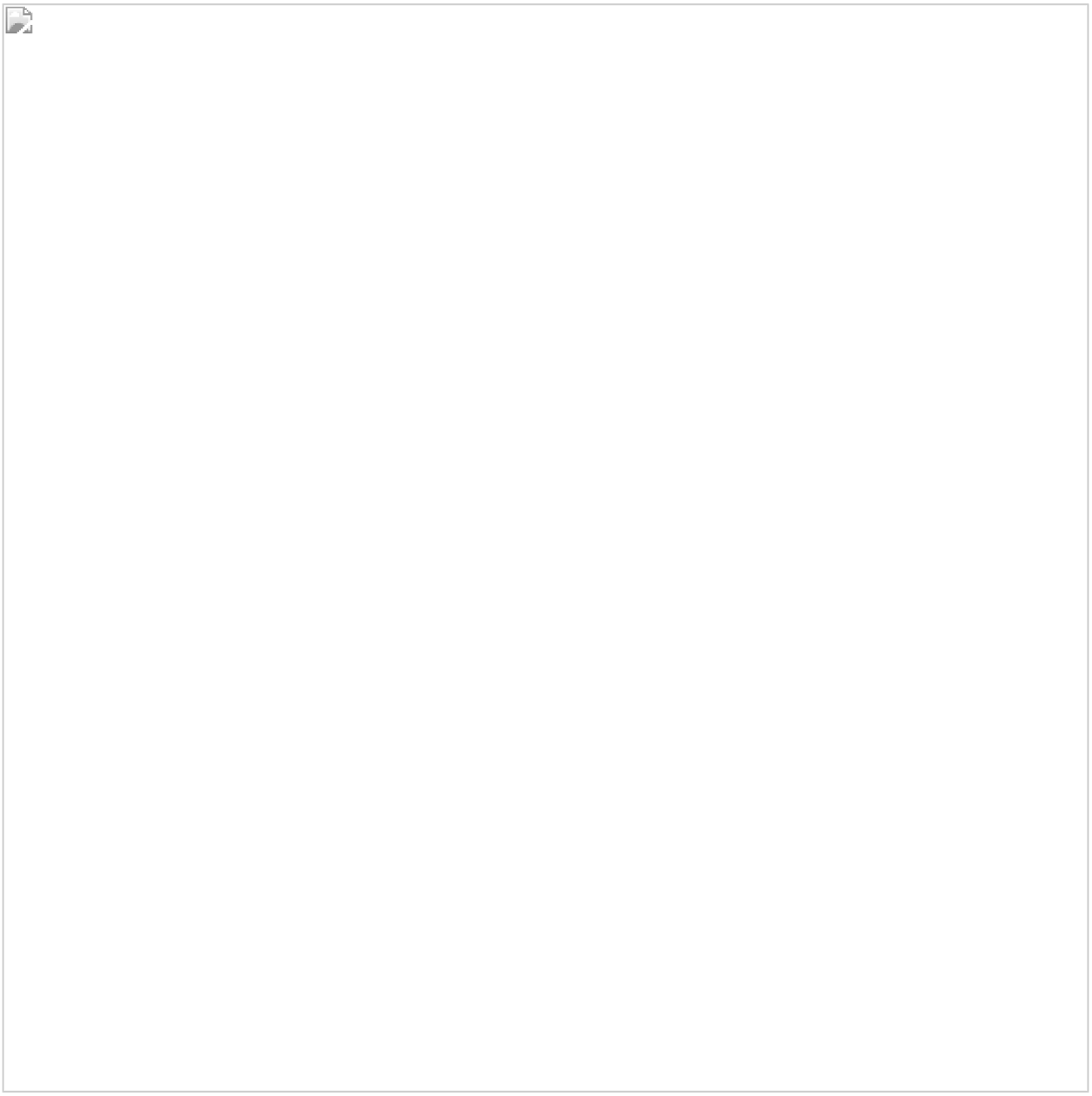


Think about it

1. What did the mother Deer ask for?

- ○ That her turn pass until her baby was older
- ○ That the gate be opened
- ○ A bigger park

“I Will Go in Your Place”

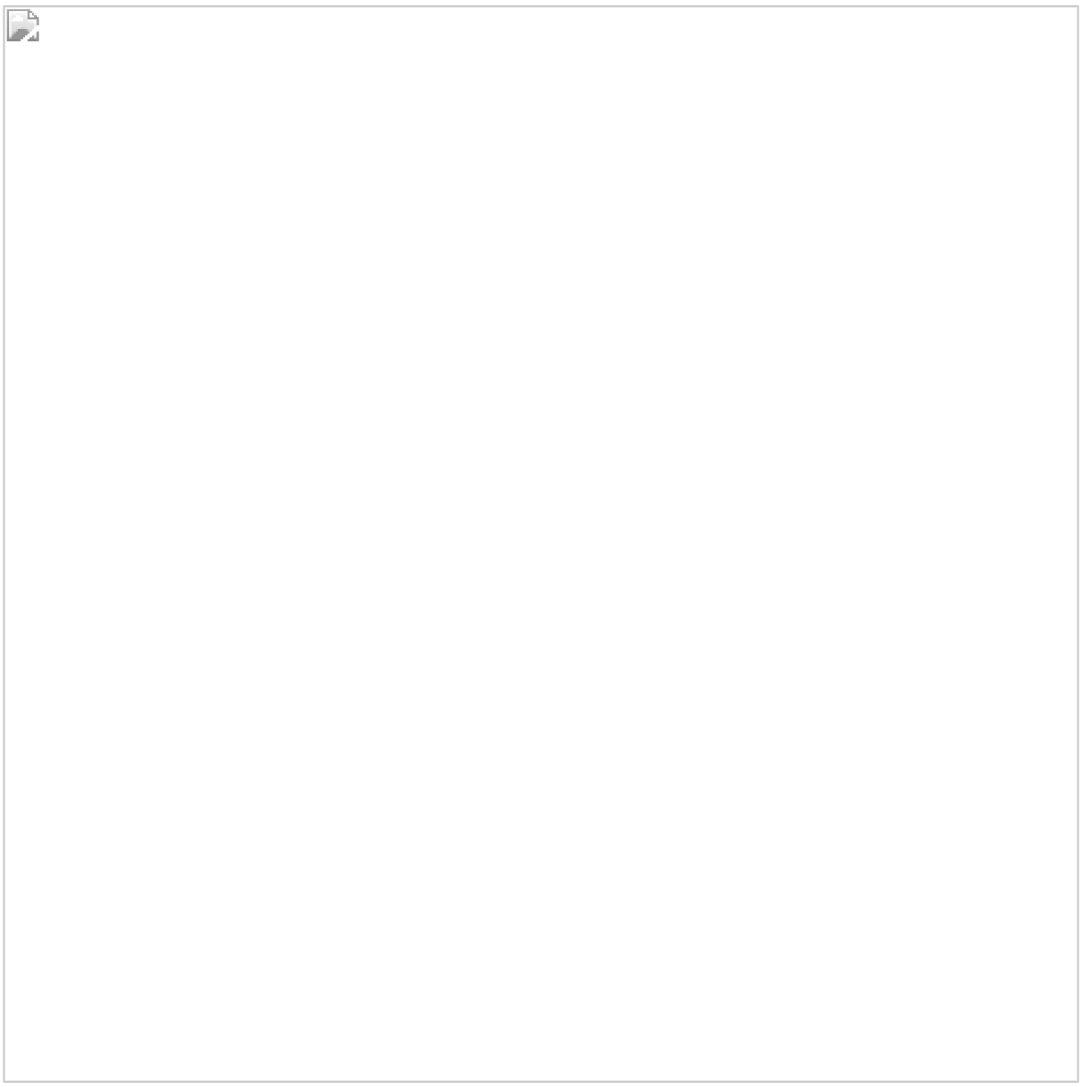


Then she went to the King of the Banyan Deer and asked him to save her.

“Go back to your herd. I will go in your place,” said he.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Banyan King said yes right away. Why do you think he did?

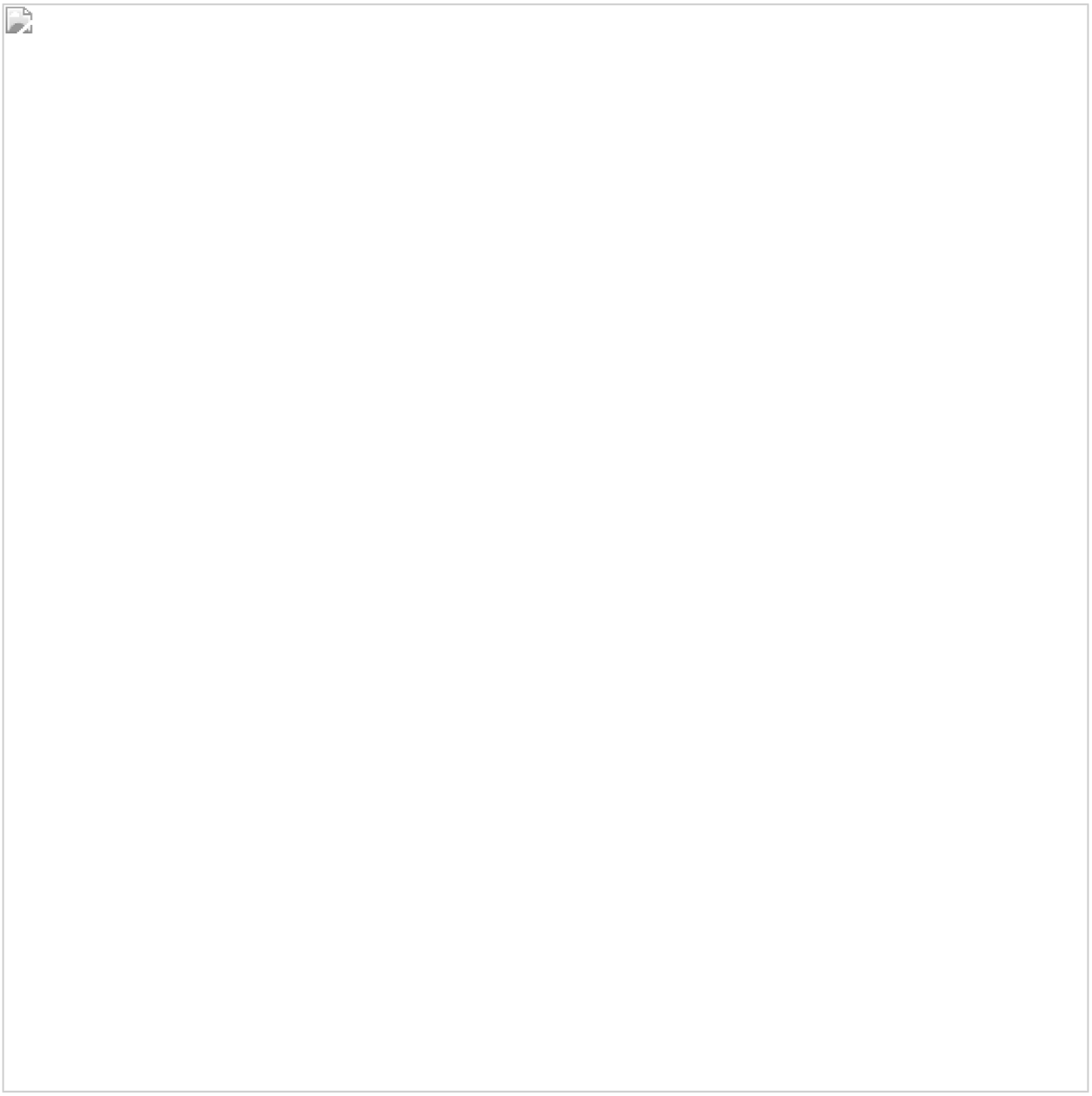


Think about it

1. What did the King of the Banyan Deer say?

- ○ “I will go in your place”
- ○ That the lot had fallen to her
- ○ Ask someone else

The Golden Deer on the Block

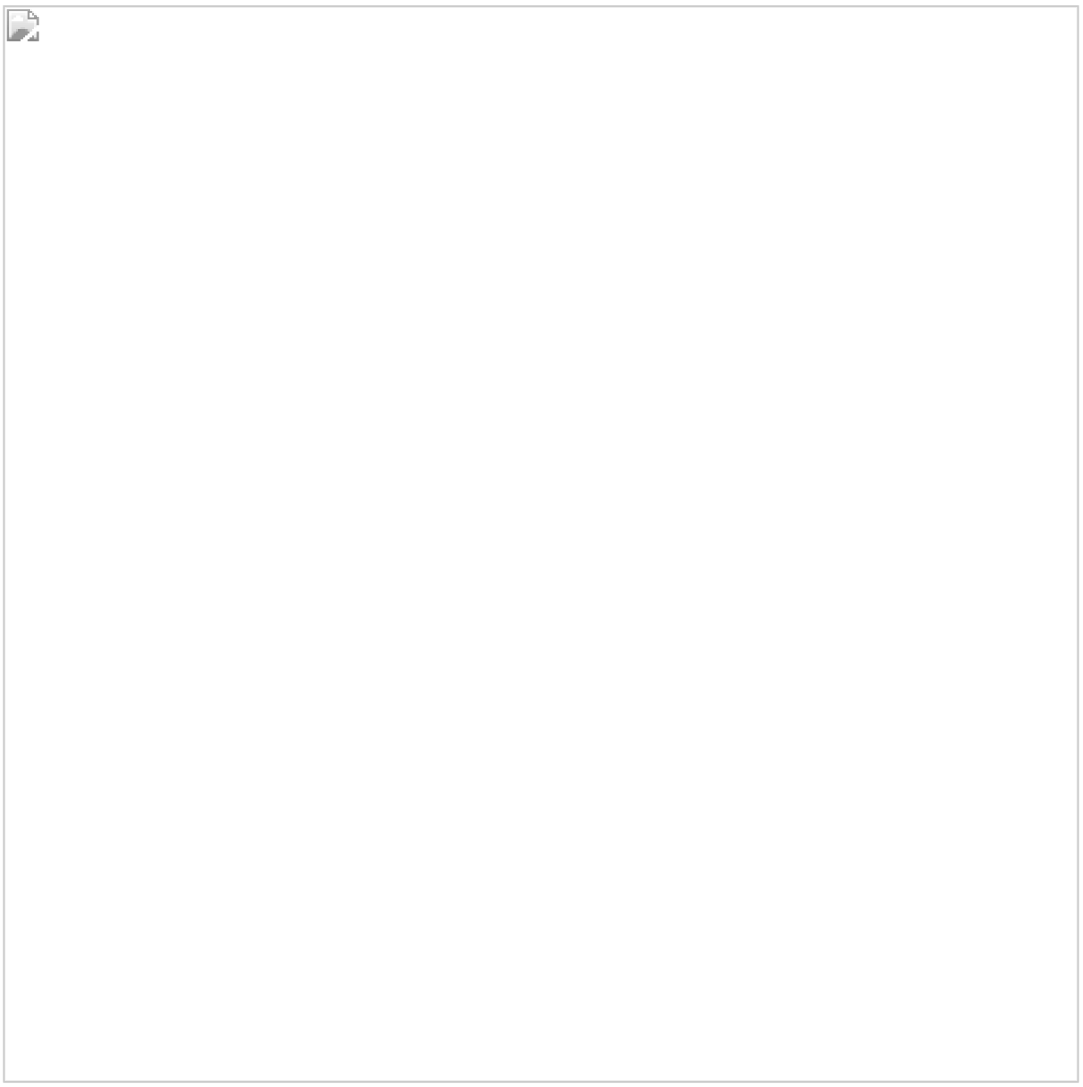


The next day the cook found the King of the Banyan Deer lying with his head on the block. The cook went to the king, who came himself to find out about this.

“King of the Banyan Deer! did I not grant you your life? Why are you lying here?”

TALK ABOUT IT

The cook was surprised and went for his king. What would you have done if you were the cook?



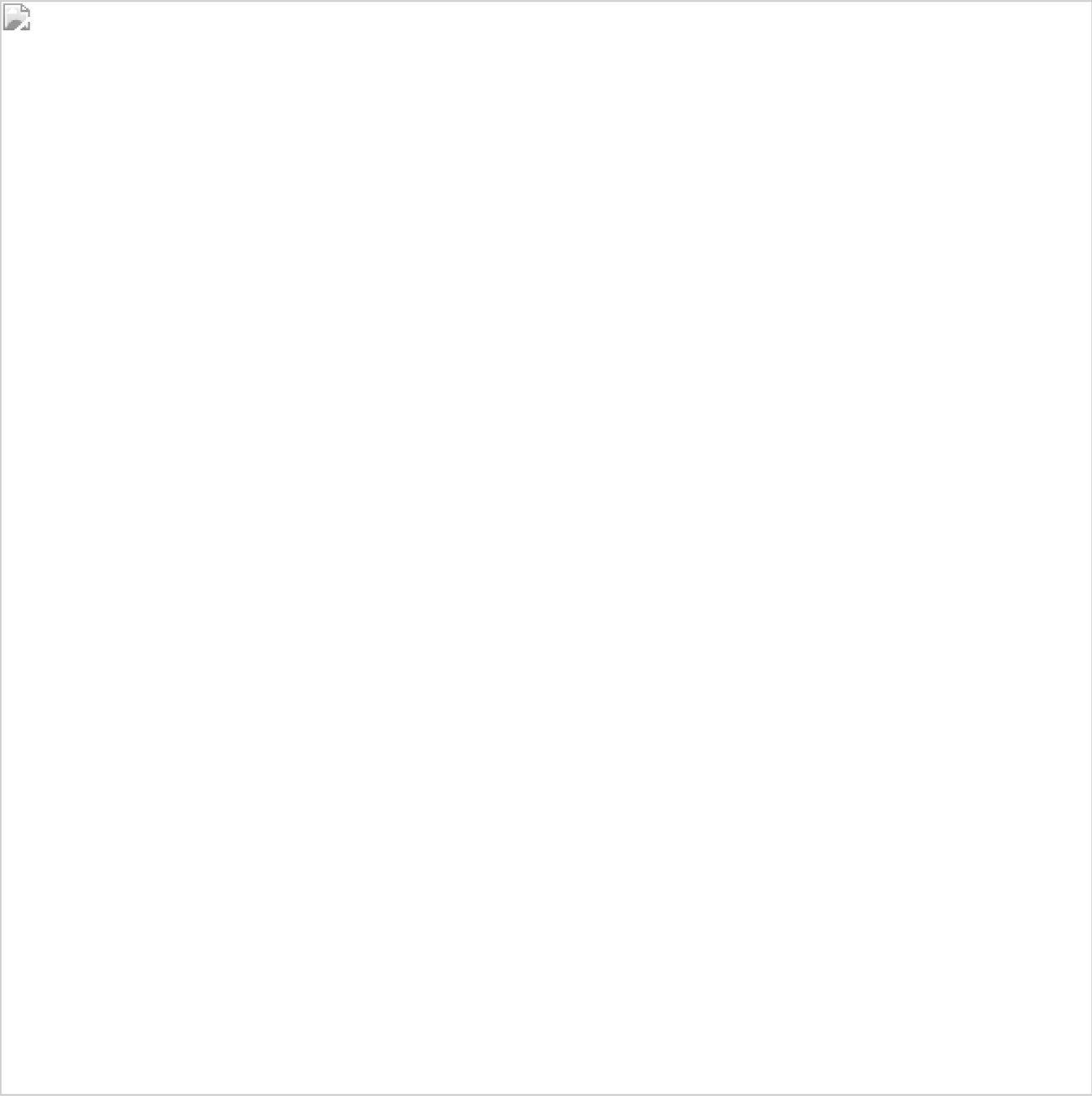
Think about it

1. Who did the cook find lying on the block?

- ○ The King of the Monkey Deer
- ○ The King of the Banyan Deer
- ○ The mother Deer

2. What do you think the Banyan King will say?

Kindness and Mercy

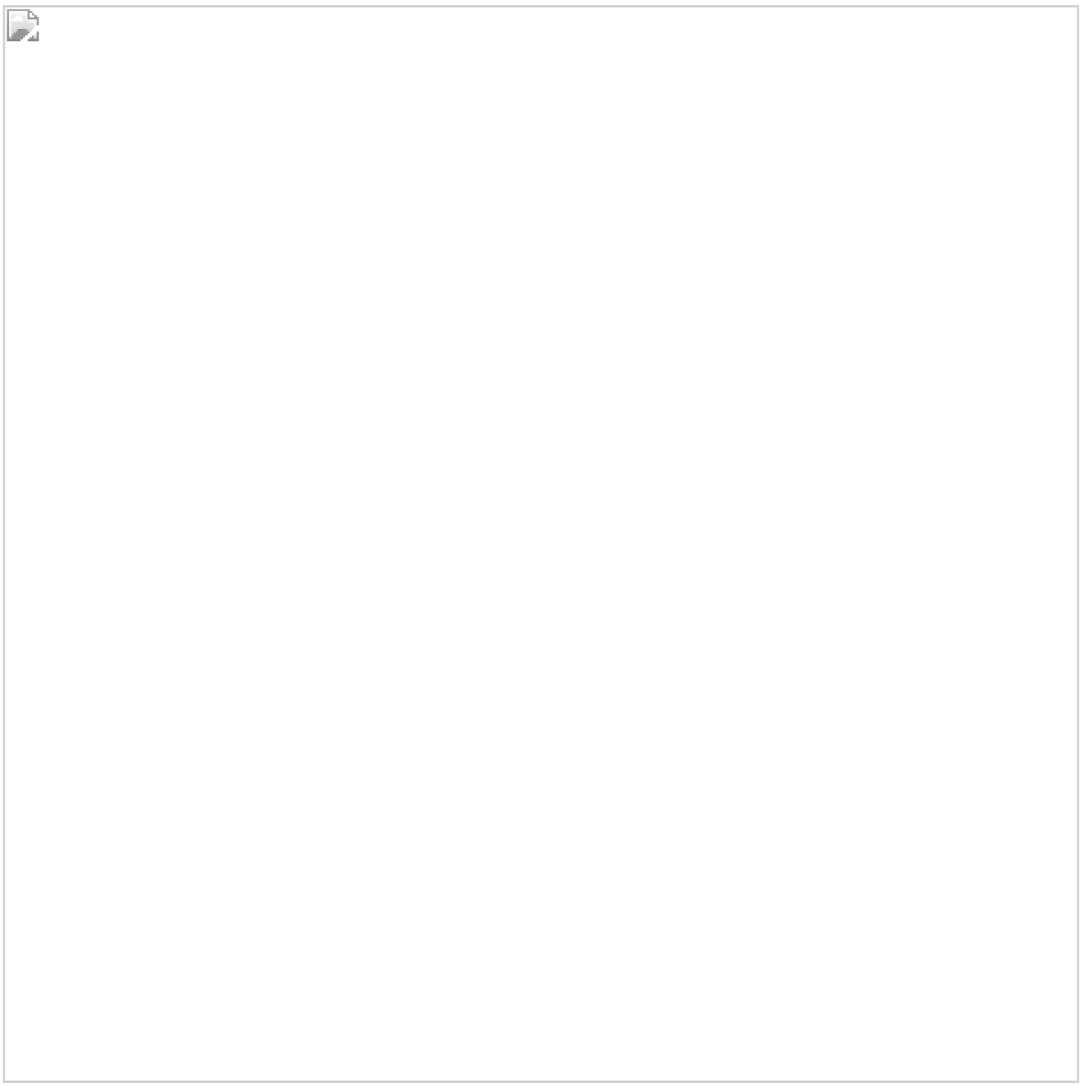


“O great King!” said the King of the Banyan Deer, “a mother came with her young baby and told me that the lot had fallen to her. I could not ask any one else to take her place, so I came myself.”

“King of the Banyan Deer! I never saw such kindness and mercy. Rise up. I grant your life and hers. Nor will I hunt any more the Deer in either park or forest.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The king said he had never seen such kindness. When have you seen someone be that kind?



Think about it

1. What did the king promise at the end?

- ○ To build a bigger park
- ○ Not to hunt the Deer any more
- ○ To visit the forest each year

2. Why do you think the Banyan King took the mother's place?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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