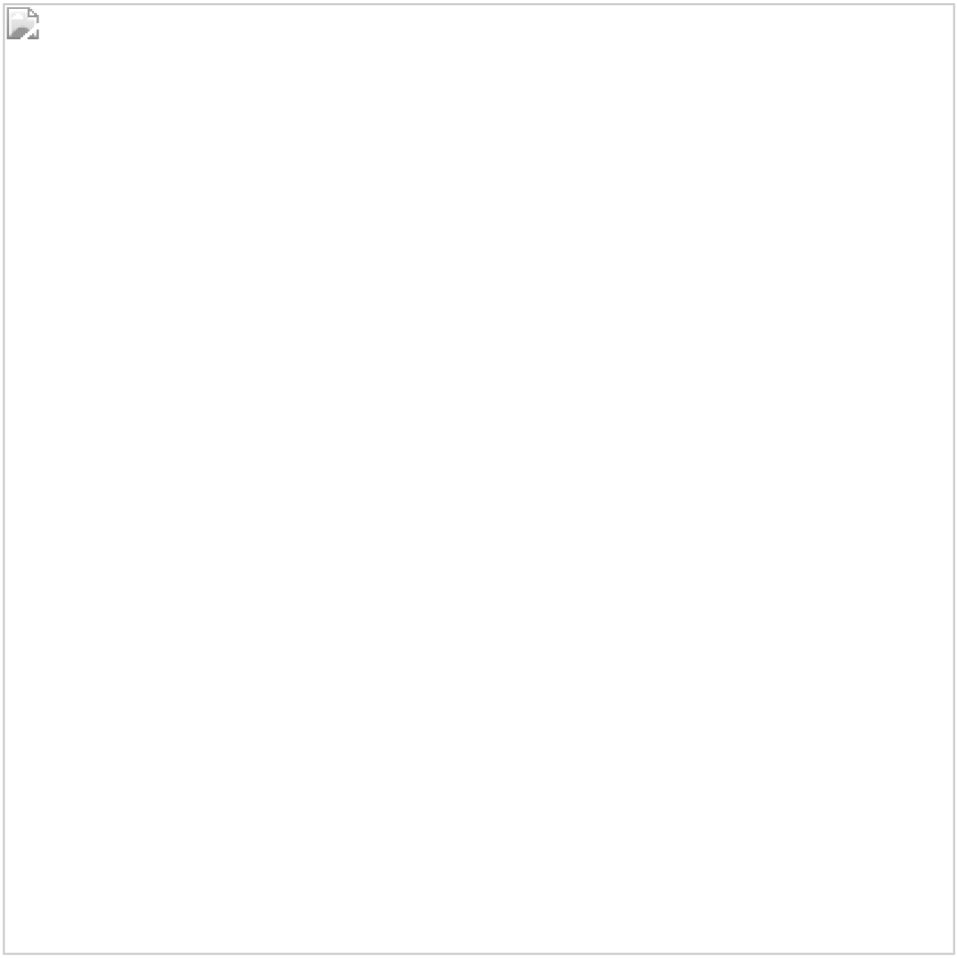
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Blind Man, the Deaf Man, and the Donkey

A Tale from India



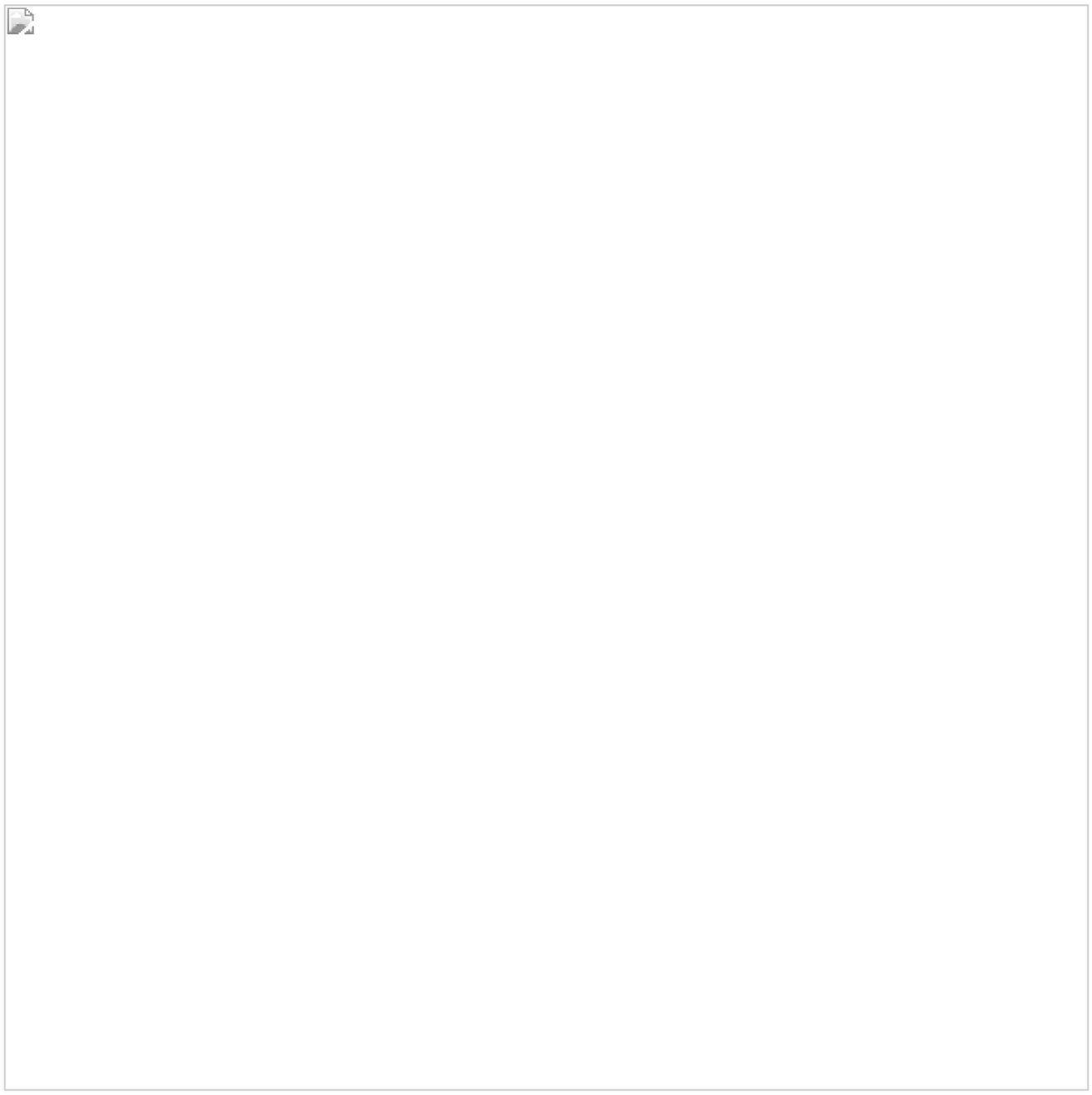
A Blind Man and a Deaf Man once became partners. The Deaf Man would see for the Blind Man, and the Blind Man would hear for the Deaf Man.

TALK ABOUT IT

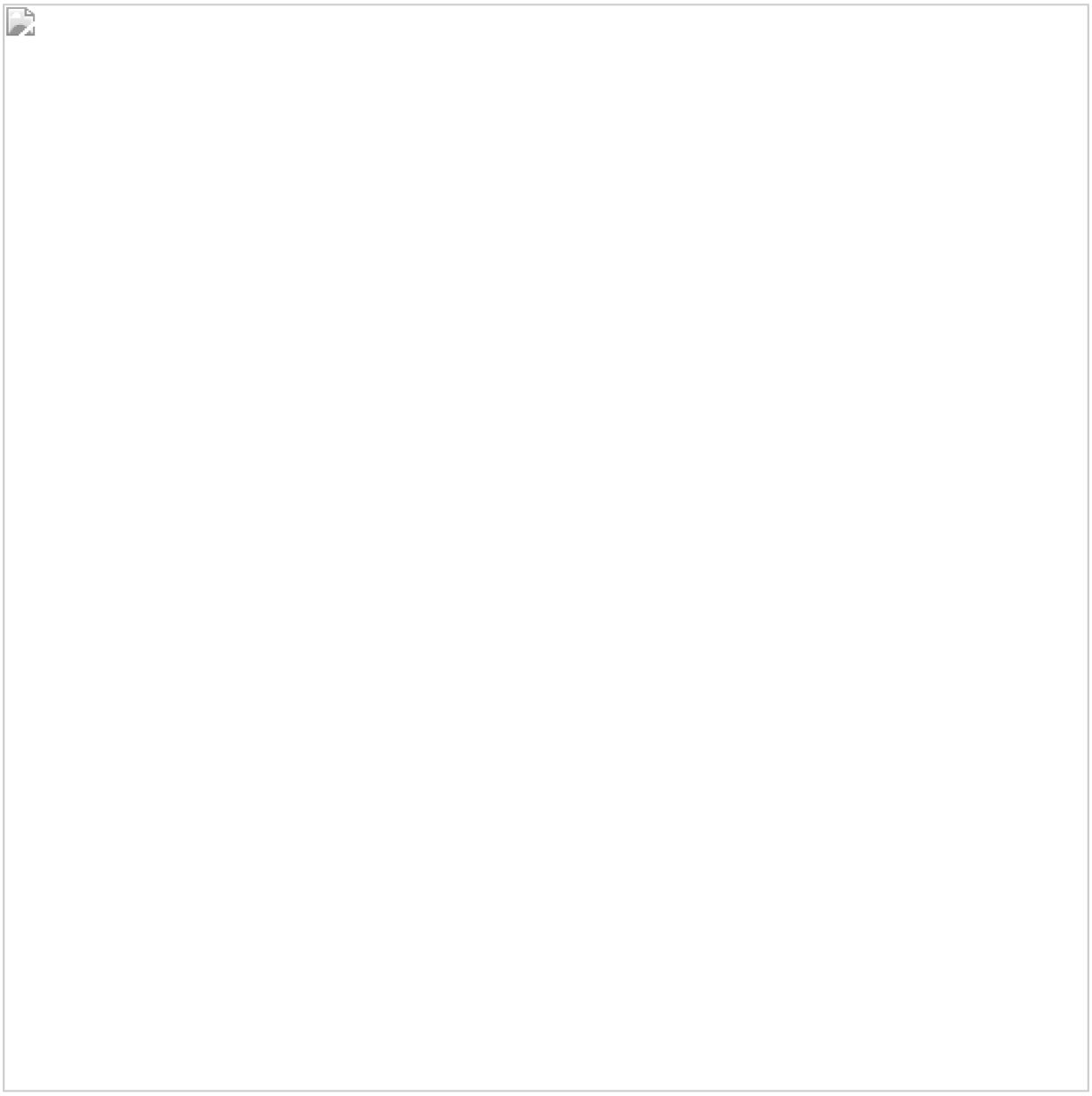
The two partners each helped with what the other could not do. What is something a friend helps you with?

This book belongs to _____

The Blind Man, the Deaf Man, and the Donkey · another picture



Two Partners



One day the two friends went to a show with music and dancing.

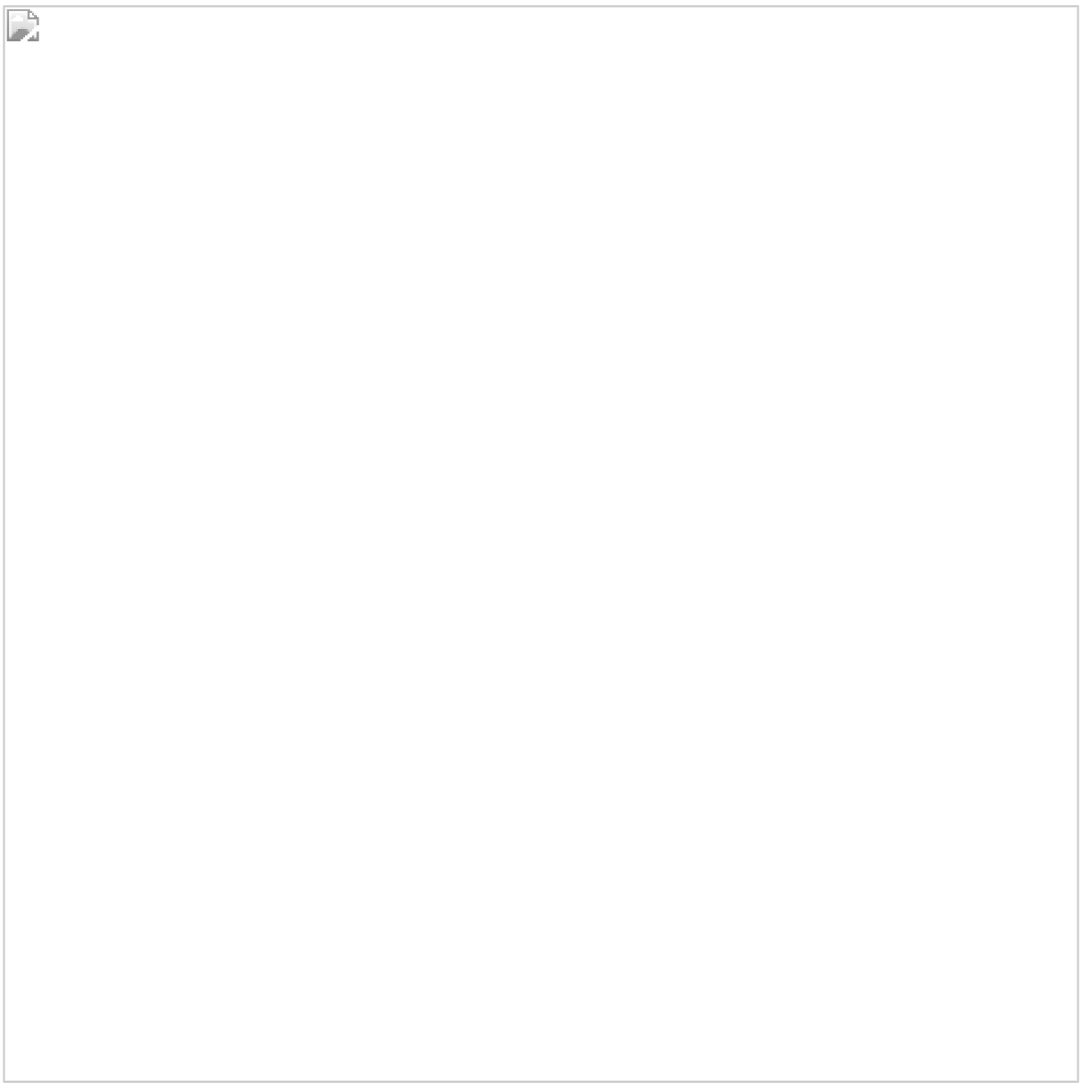
The Deaf Man watched and said, “The dancing is very good, but the music is not worth listening to.”

The Blind Man listened and said, “On the contrary, I think the music very good, but the dancing is not worth looking at.”

They each told the other what they had found. They did not always agree!

TALK ABOUT IT

The two friends did not agree about the show. Is it all right for friends to like different things? Why?

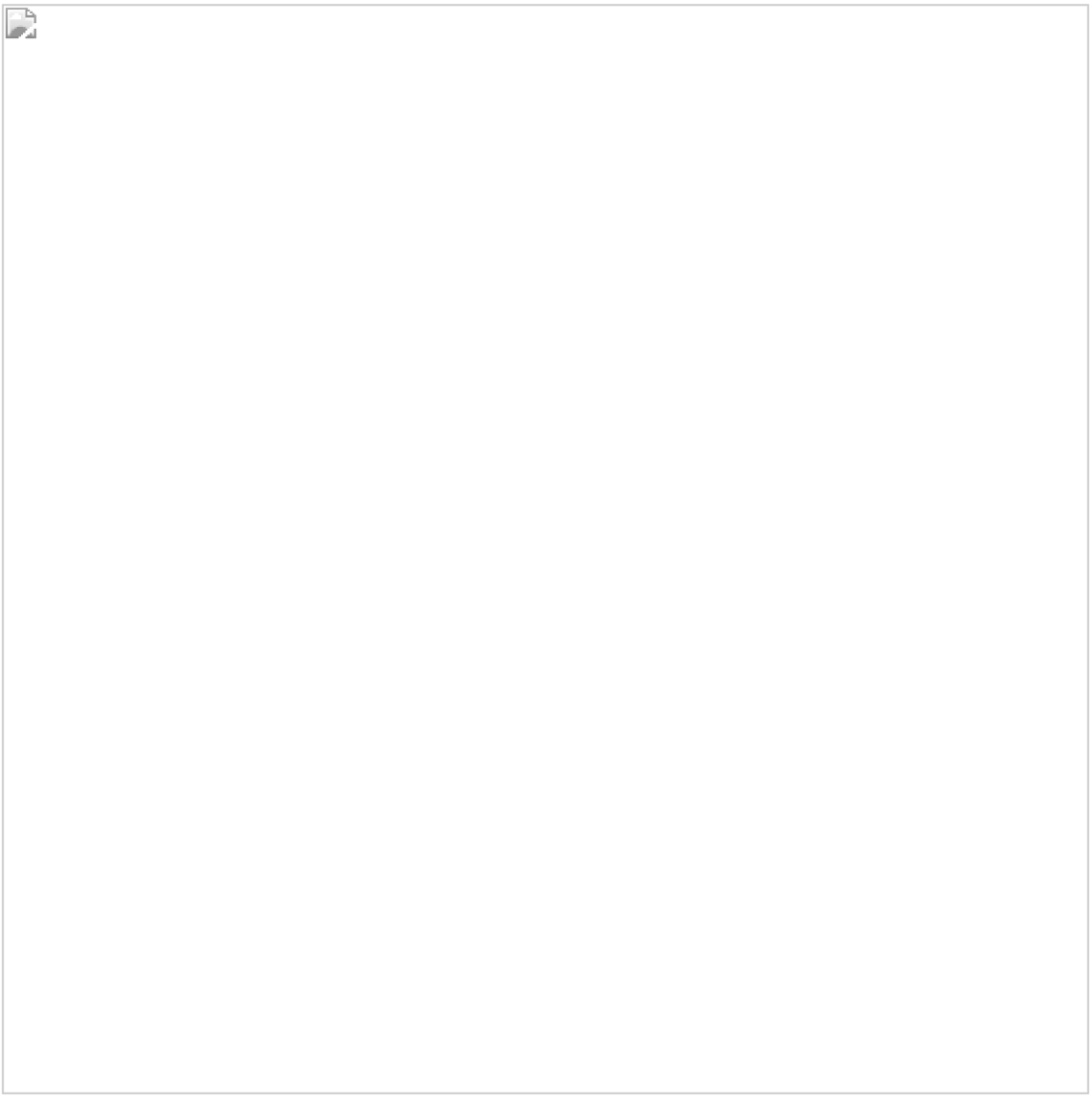


Think about it

1. How did the two partners help each other?

- ○ The Deaf Man saw and the Blind Man heard, for both
- ○ They carried each other
- ○ They sang together

A Donkey, a Kettle, and Some Ants



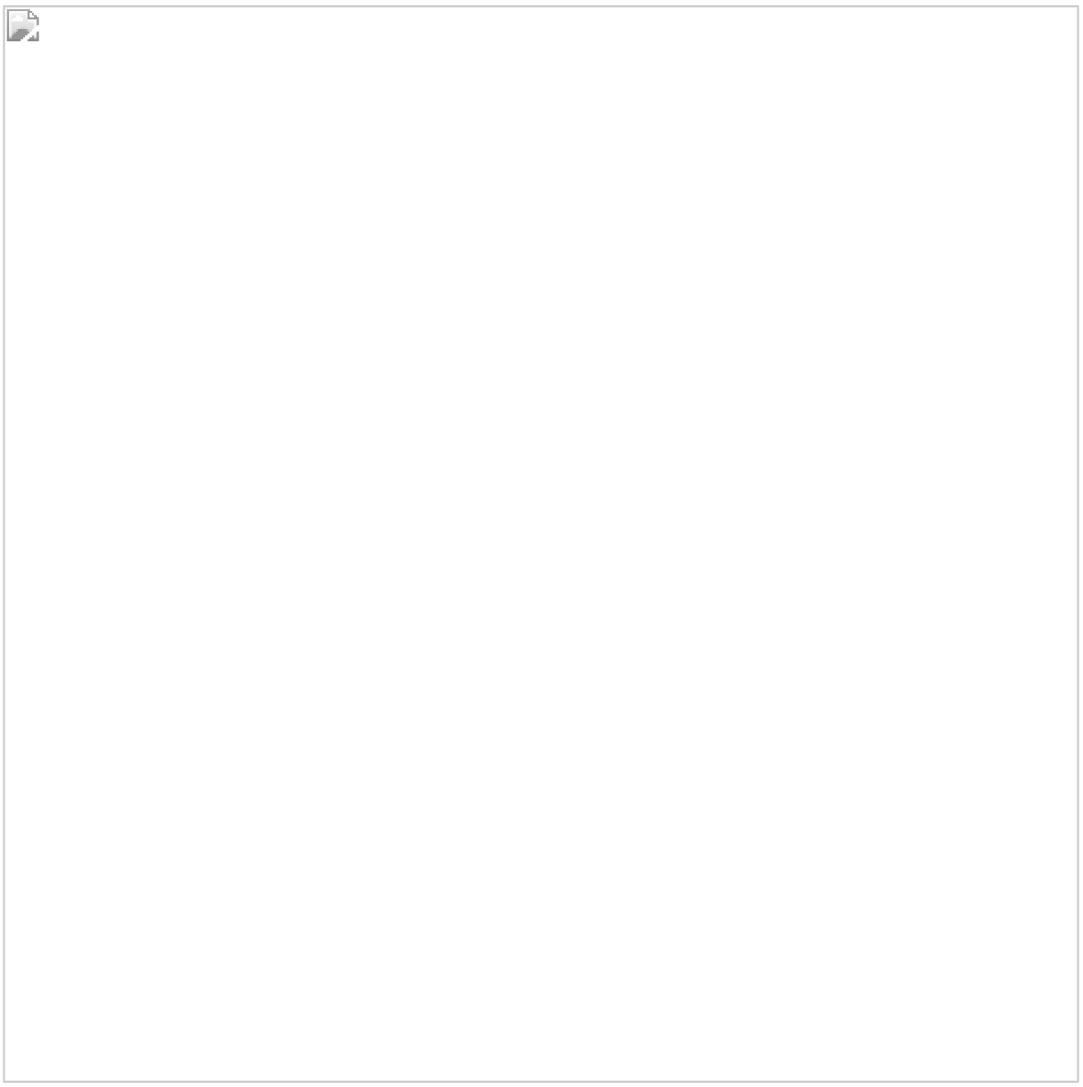
Next they went for a walk in the jungle, where they found a washerman's Donkey that had wandered away. It was carrying a great big kettle, the kind washermen boil clothes in.

“Let us take them with us—they may be useful to us some day,” said the Deaf Man. “Very well,” said the Blind Man.

A little farther on they came to a nest of very large black ants. “Let us take some home to show our friends,” said the Deaf Man, and he put four or five into his silver snuff-box.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Donkey and the kettle belonged to a washerman. What should the two friends have done with them?

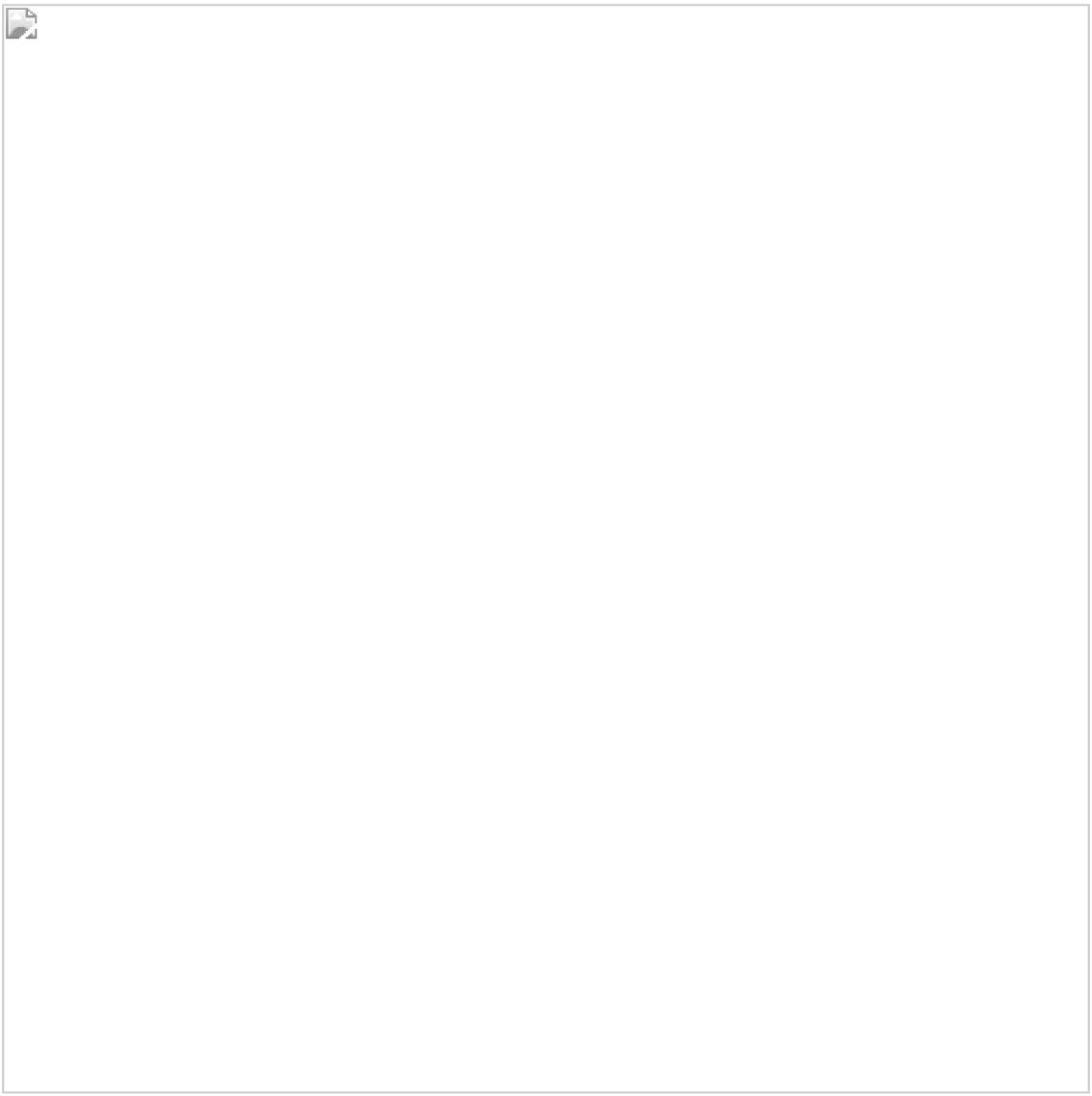


Think about it

1. What was the Donkey carrying?

- ○ A great big kettle
- ○ A bag of apples
- ○ A little drum

A Storm and a House



Soon a terrible storm came. It thundered and lightened and rained and blew as if the whole sky were at war.

The Deaf Man could see the lightning and was afraid. The Blind Man could hear the thunder and said, “We had better certainly seek some place of shelter.”

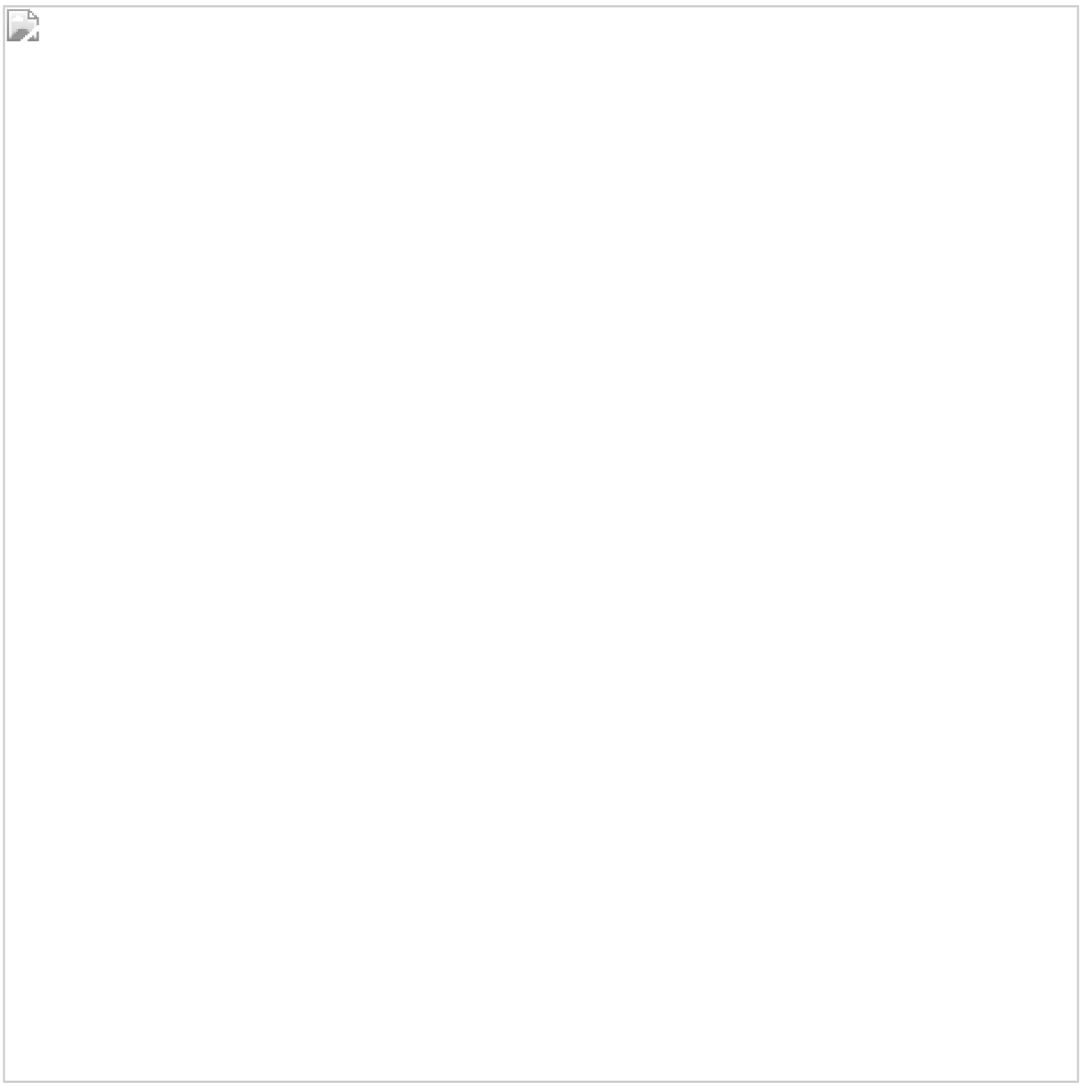
Not far away stood a tall building that looked like a fine temple. They went in, shut the door, and brought the Donkey and the kettle with them.

But it was not a temple at all. It was the house of a very powerful Rakshas, an ogre.

TALK ABOUT IT

When the storm began, the two friends ran to the nearest shelter. What do you do when you want to feel safe?

A Storm and a House · another picture

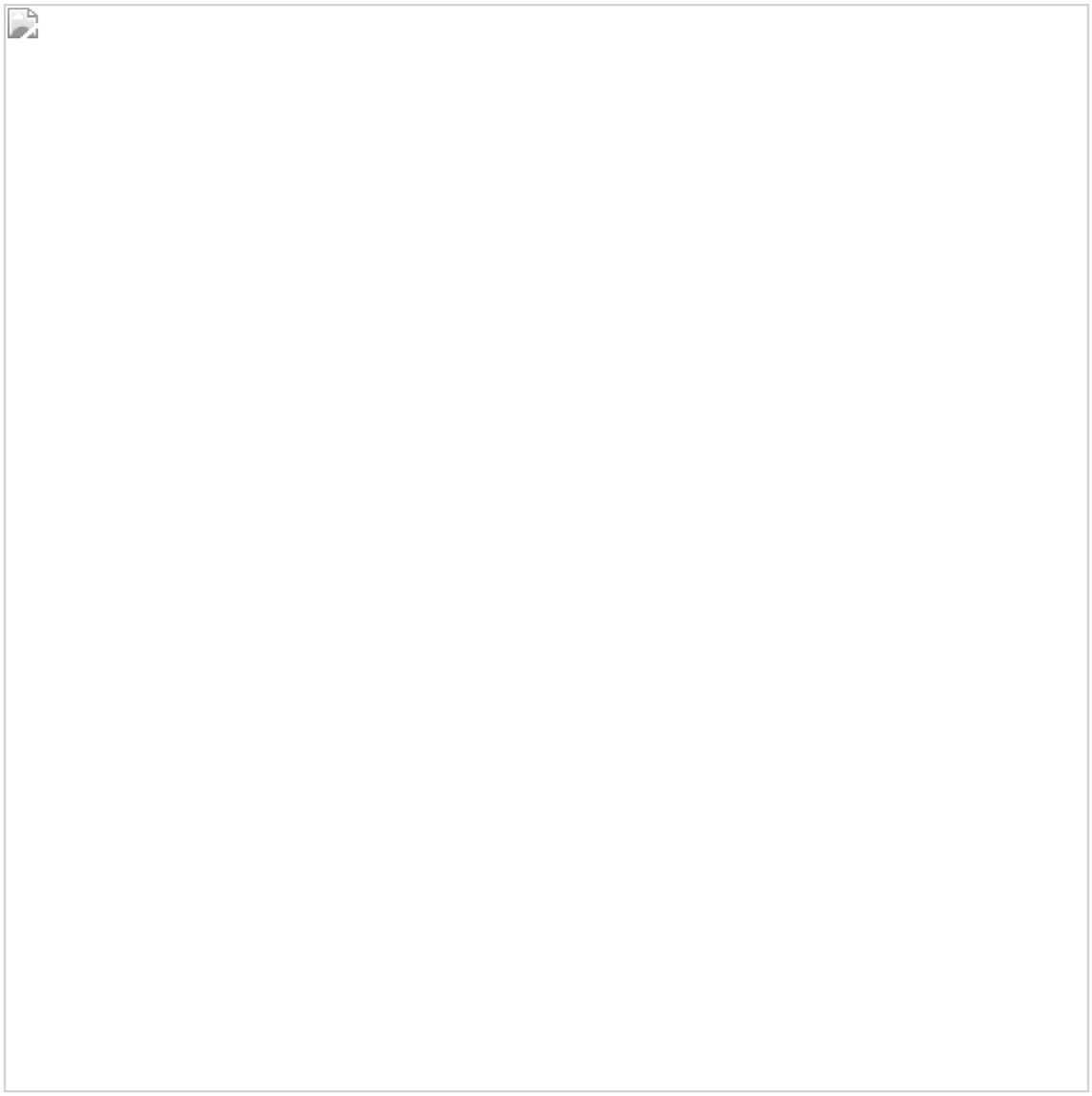


Think about it

1. What did the building really turn out to be?

- ○ A temple
- ○ The house of a Rakshas
- ○ A school

A Knock at the Door



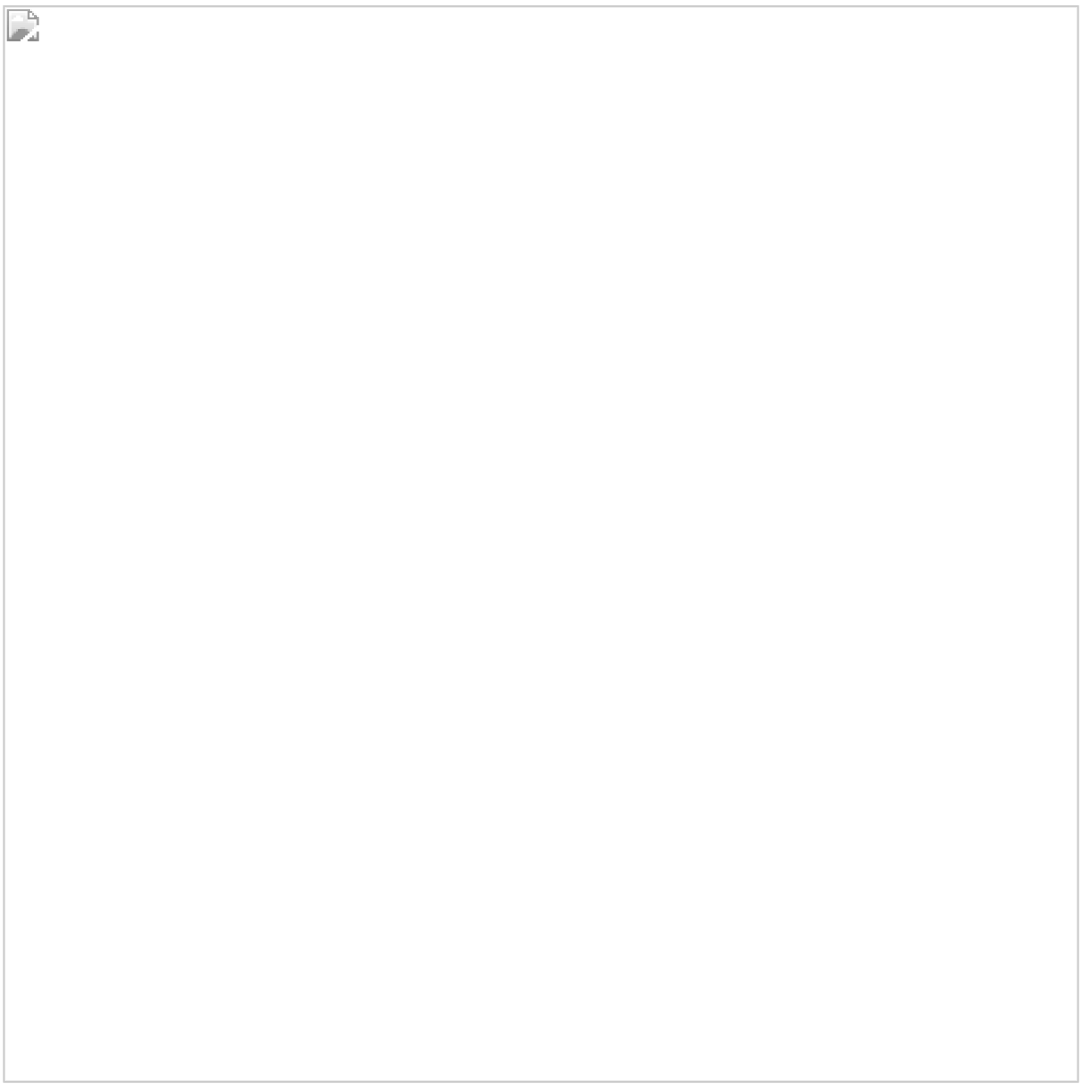
Just then the Rakshas came home. He found the door fastened, and he heard people moving about inside his own house. He roared and kicked the door and shouted, “Let me in!”

The Deaf Man peeked through a crack and saw how huge and frightening the Rakshas was. He shook with fear.

But the Blind Man could not see how fierce the Rakshas looked, so he was not afraid. He called out, “Who are you, and what do you mean by coming battering at the door in this way at this time of night?”

TALK ABOUT IT

The Deaf Man could see the danger and was scared. The Blind Man could not see it, and he was not. What do you make of that?

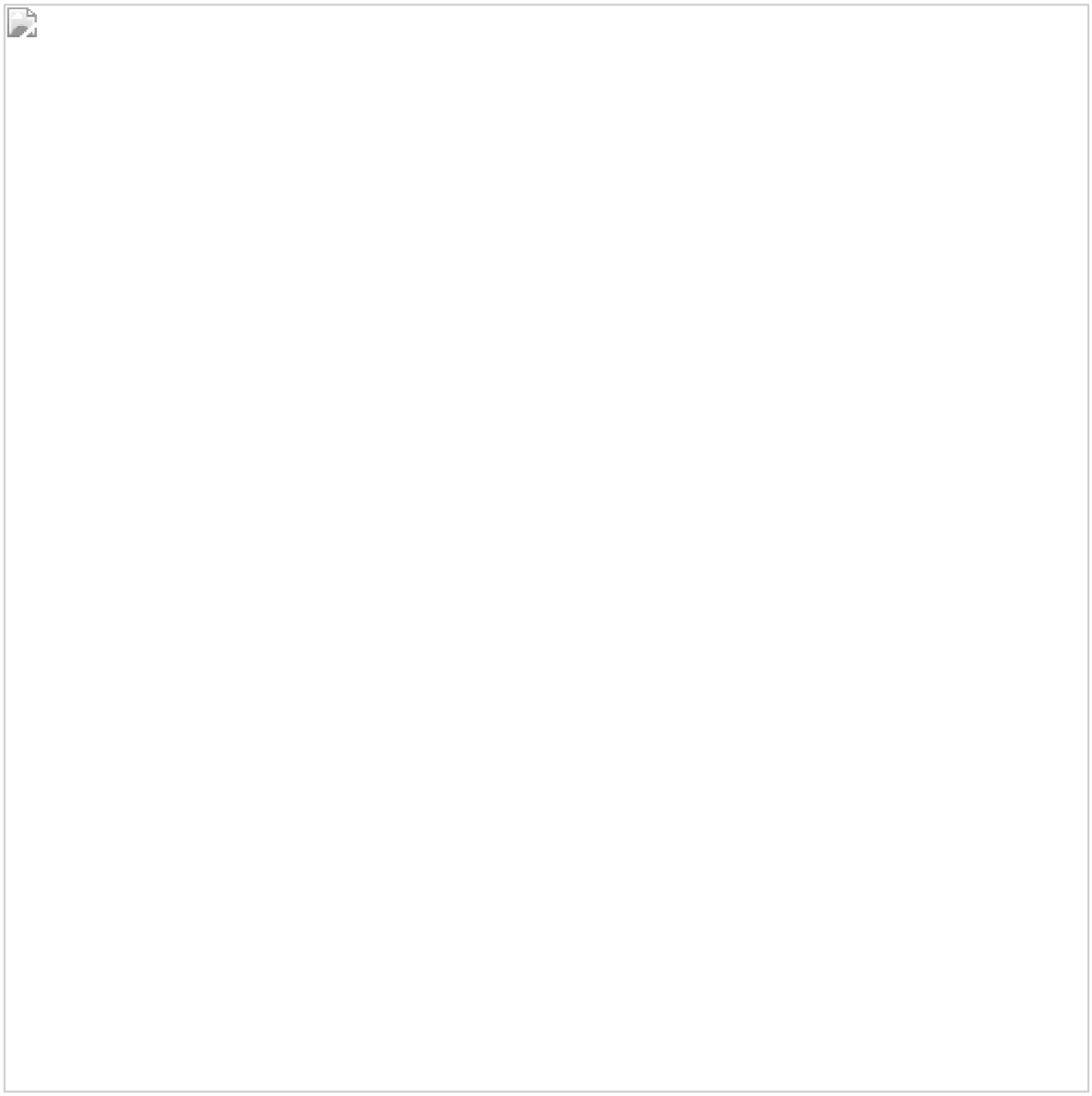


Think about it

1. Why did the Blind Man feel brave?

- ○ He could not see how scary the Rakshas looked
- ○ He had a sword
- ○ He had a friend outside

I'm Bakshas



“I'm a Rakshas,” said the Rakshas, “and this is my house.”

The Blind Man answered, “if you're Rakshas, I'm Bakshas; and Bakshas is as good as Rakshas.”

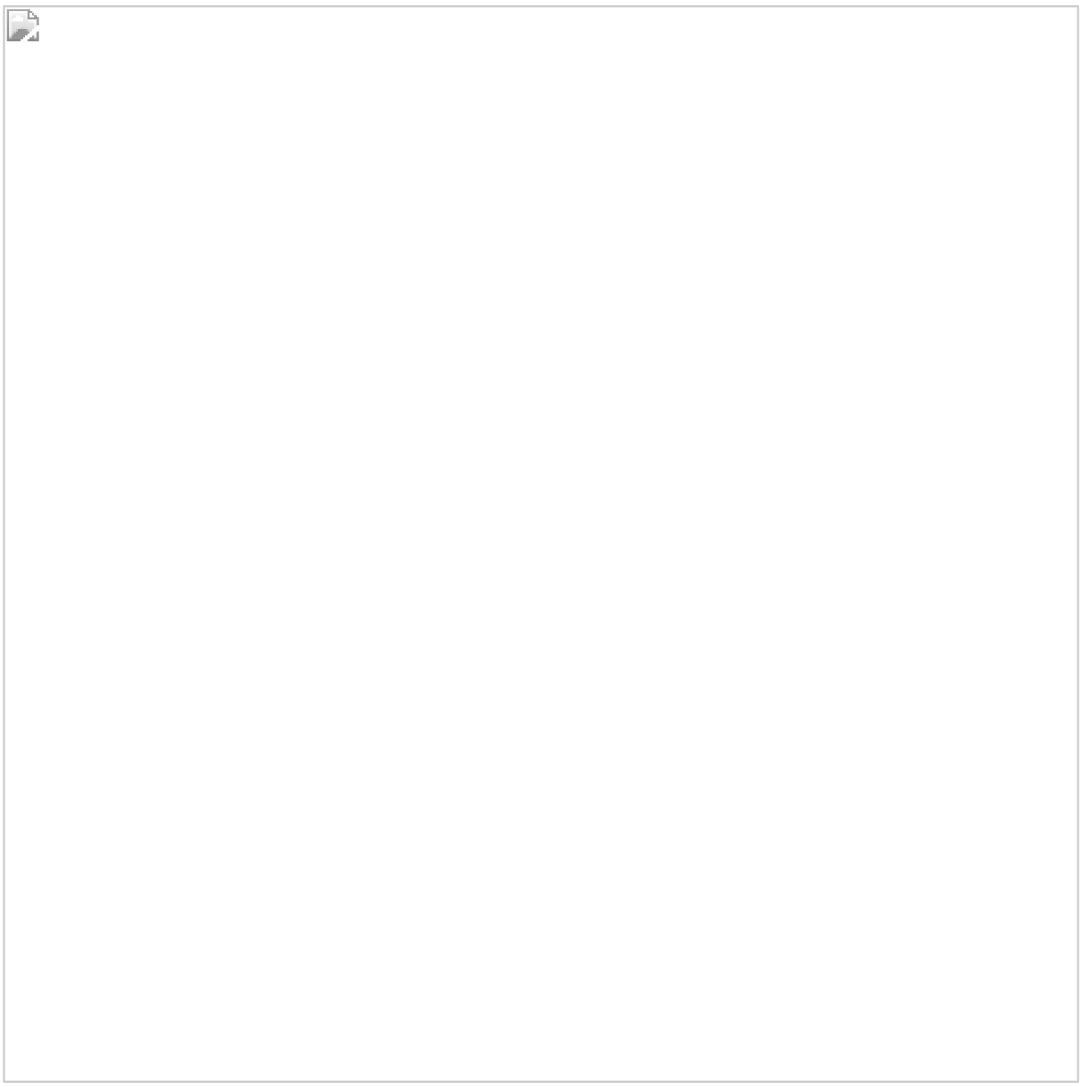
“There is no such creature as a Bakshas!” roared the Rakshas.

But the Blind Man went on. He told the Rakshas to go away. “Know that I'm Bakshas, and Bakshas is Rakshas's father.” The Rakshas scratched his head. He had never heard that his father was named Bakshas.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Blind Man made up a name on the spot. Why do you think the Rakshas believed it, at least a little?

I'm Bakshas · another picture

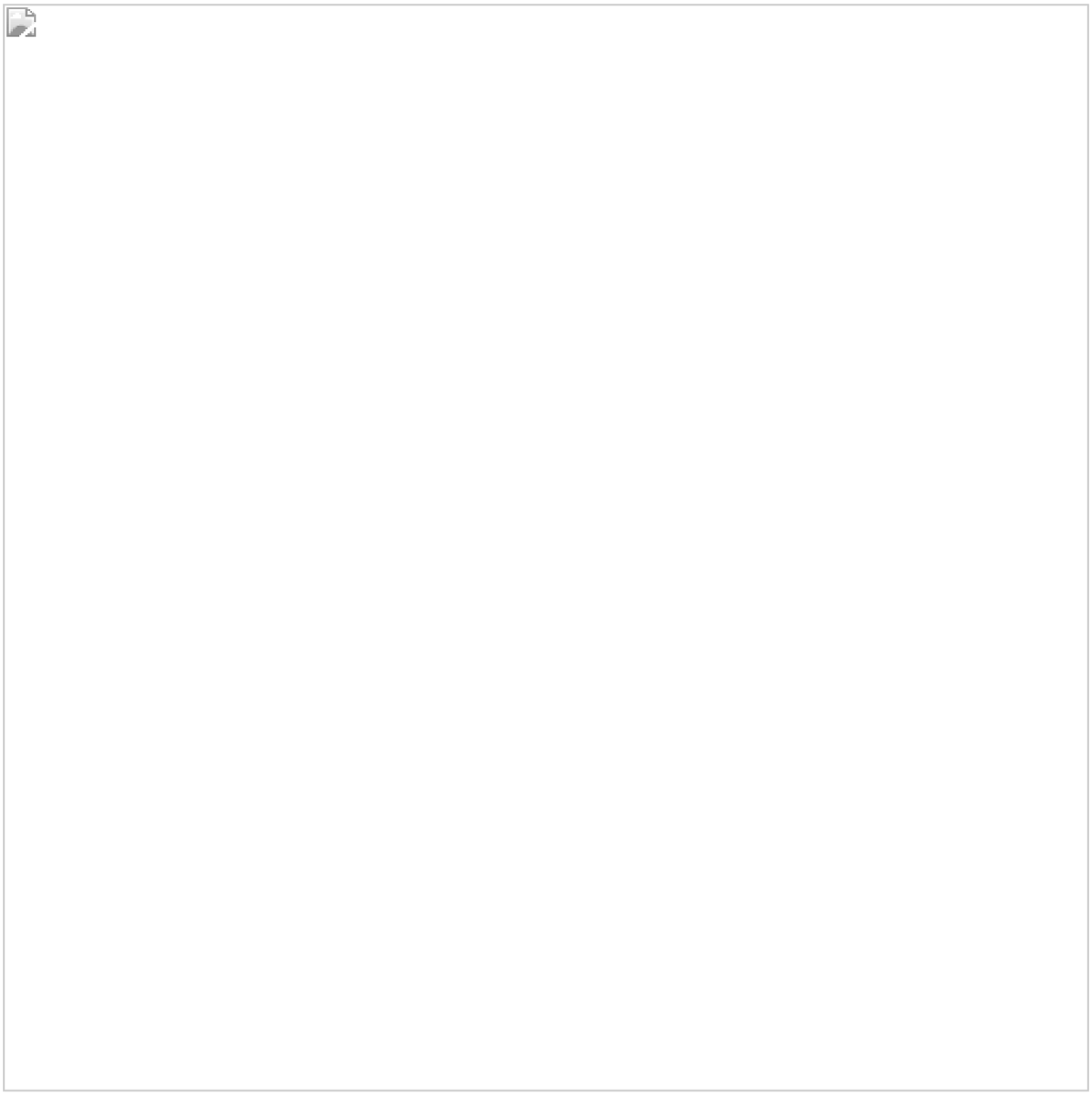


Think about it

1. Who did the Blind Man say he was?

- ○ The Rakshas's father, Bakshas
- ○ The king
- ○ A washerman

Father Bakshas



“If you are my father, let me first see your face,” said the Rakshas.

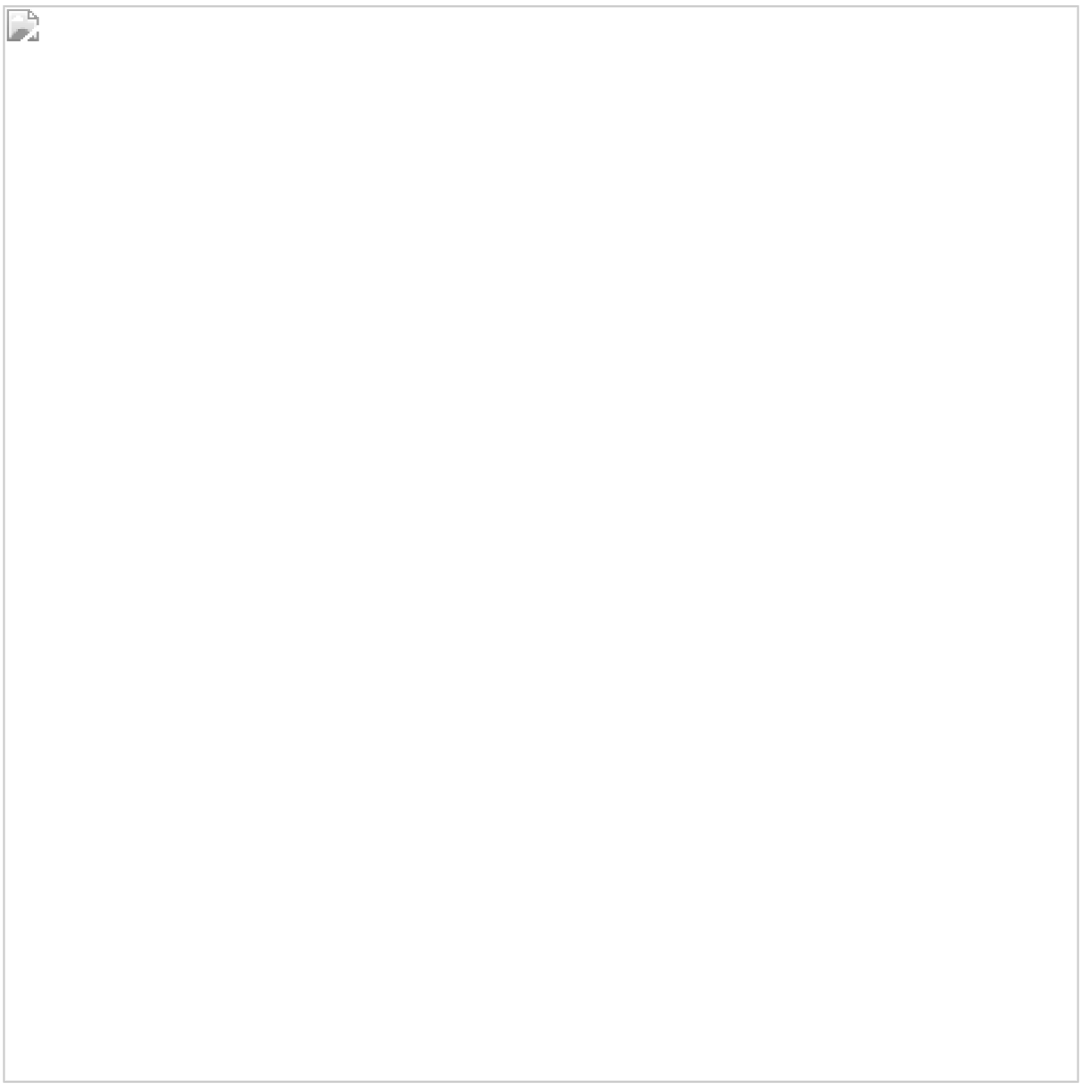
The two friends opened the door a tiny crack and poked the Donkey's nose out. “Bless me,” thought the Rakshas, “what a terribly ugly face my father Bakshas has!”

“Pray let me see your body as well as head before I go away,” he called. So the friends rolled the great big kettle past the crack with a thundering noise. “He's big enough to eat me up altogether,” thought the Rakshas.

TALK ABOUT IT

The friends used a Donkey's nose and a kettle to fool the Rakshas. Is this a clever trick, or a not-quite-honest one? What do you think?

Father Bakshas · another picture

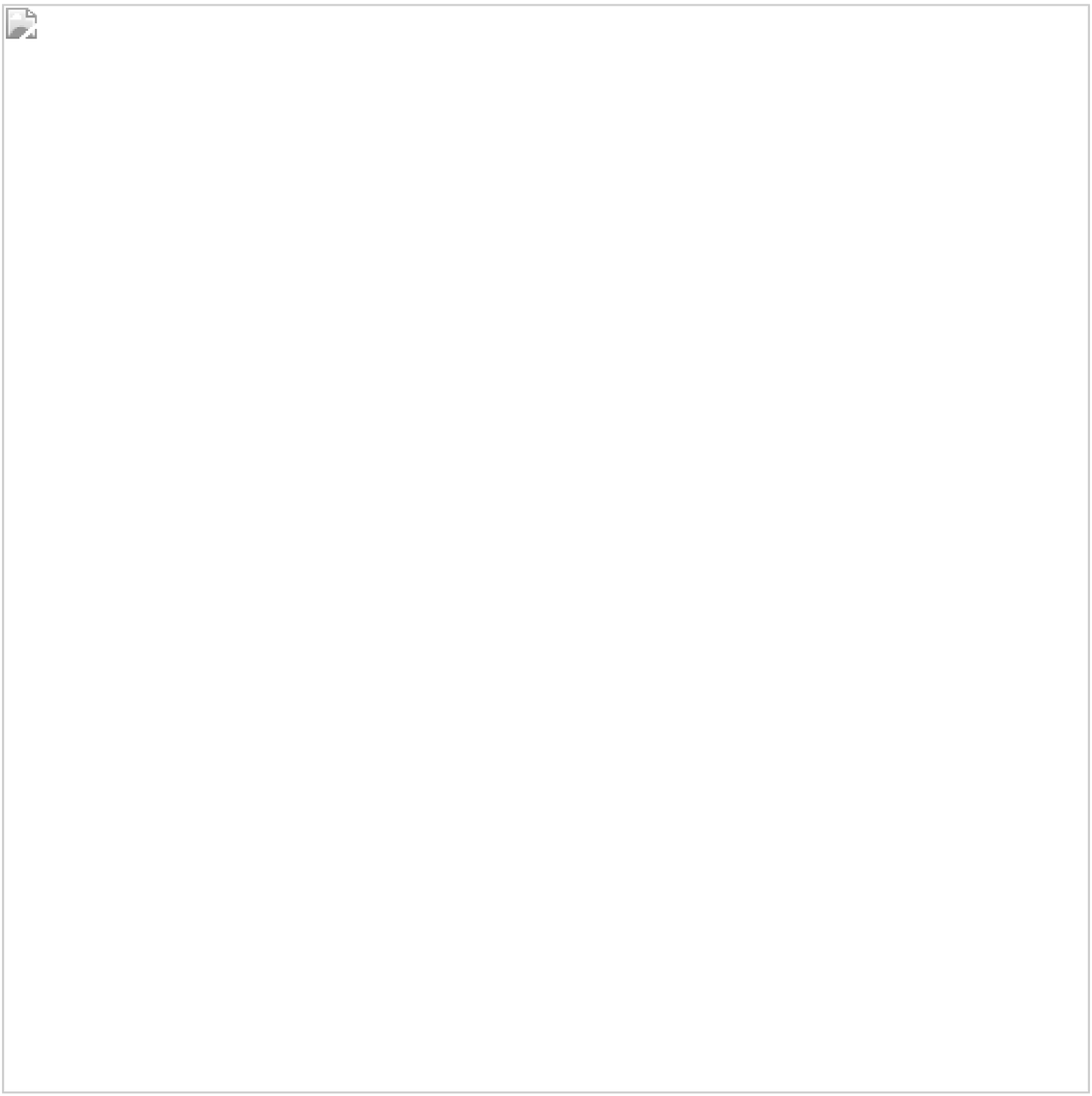


Think about it

1. What did the friends show for Bakshas's body?

- ○ The big kettle
- ○ A tree trunk
- ○ The Deaf Man

The Scream



Still the Rakshas was not quite sure. “Before I go away, let me hear you scream,” he said.

The Deaf Man was getting less afraid. He took the ants from the snuff-box and put one in each of the Donkey's ears.

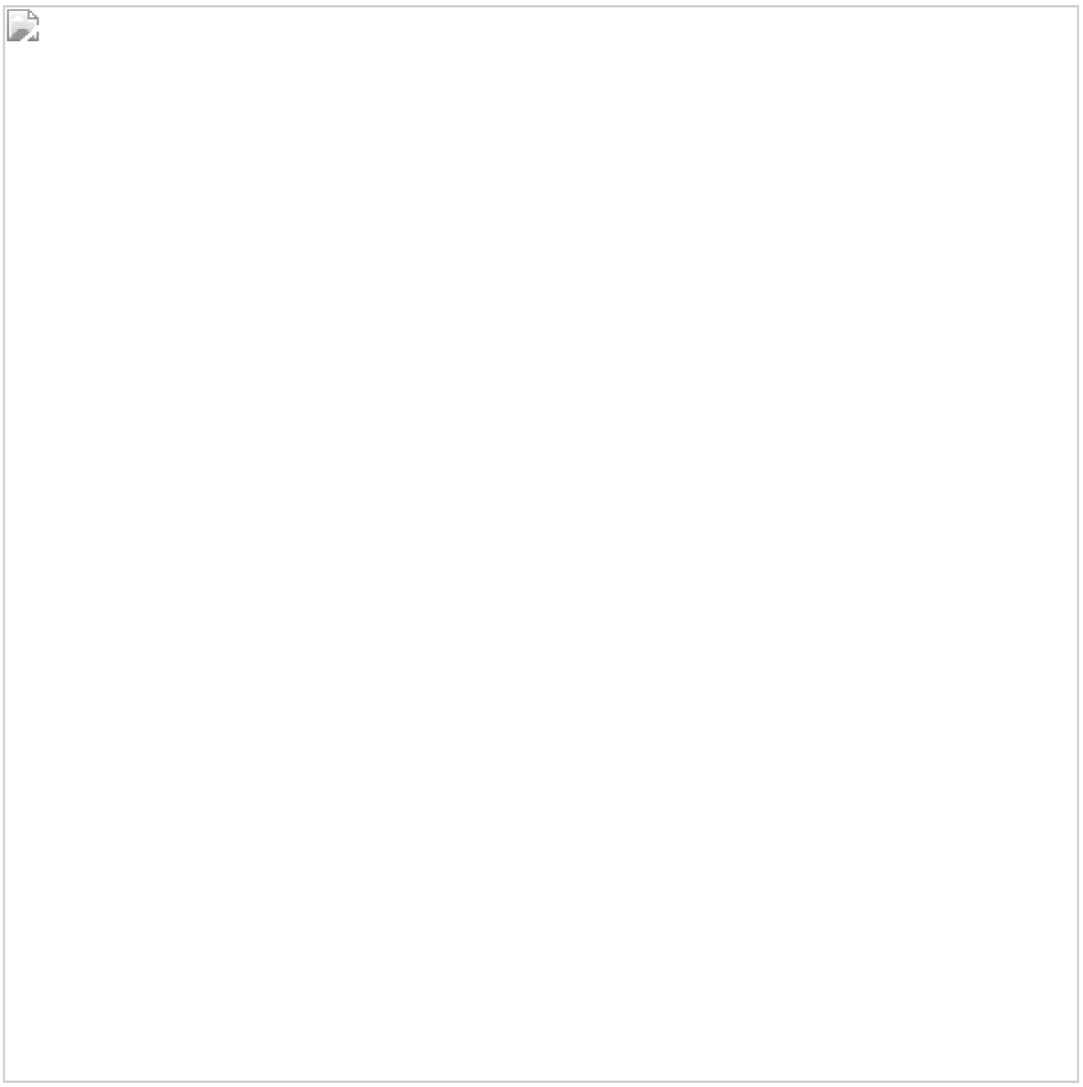
The ants pinched, and the poor Donkey bellowed as loud as it could: “Eh augh! eh augh! eh augh! augh! augh!”

The Rakshas ran away in a great fright. Then the Deaf Man quickly took the ants out of the Donkey's ears, and the two friends spent the rest of the night in peace.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Donkey was pinched so the friends could be safe. What do you think the Donkey would say if it could talk?

The Scream · another picture



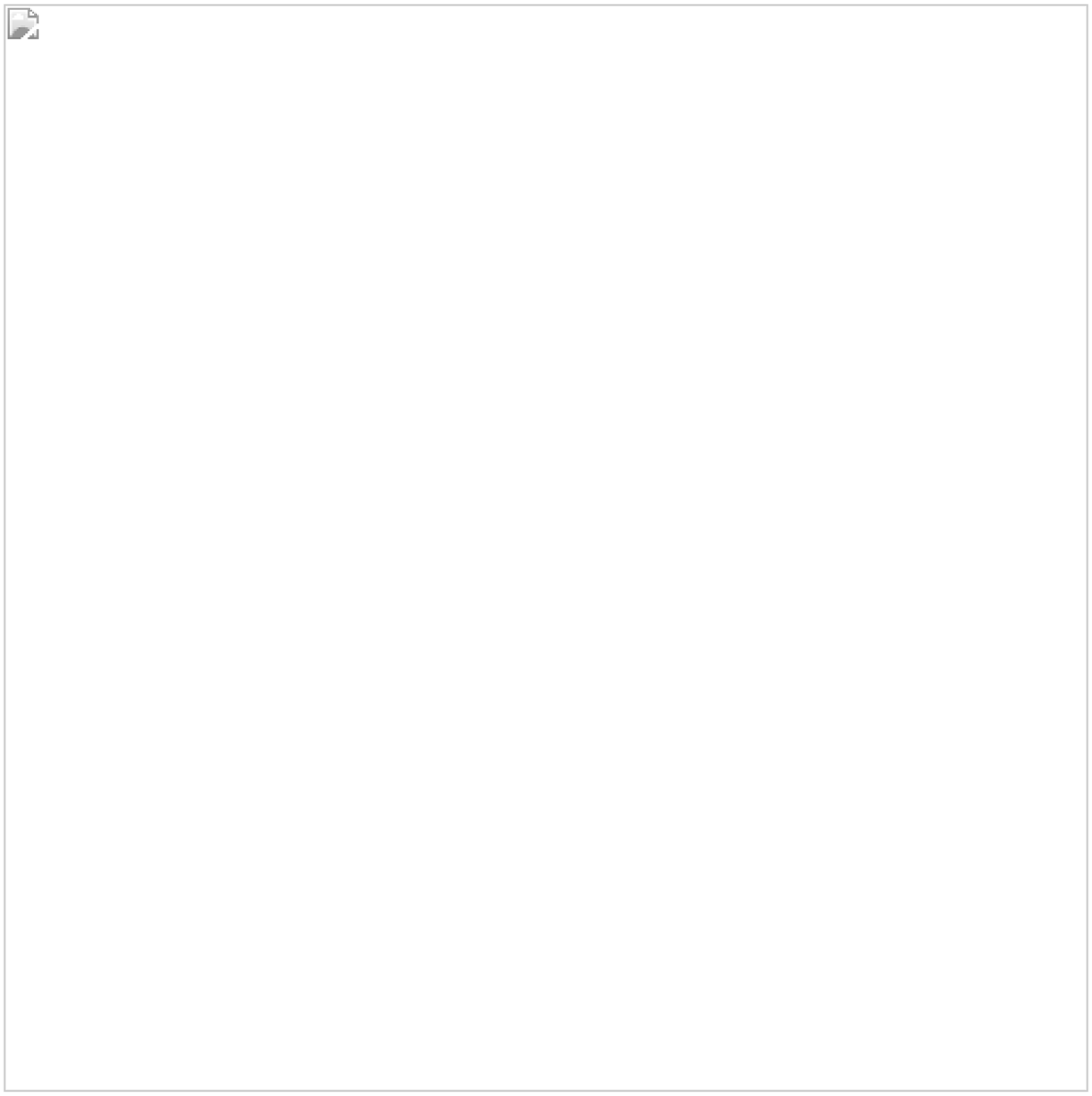
Think about it

1. How did the Deaf Man make the Donkey scream?

- ○ He put ants in its ears
- ○ He pulled its tail
- ○ He sang to it

2. How do you think the Donkey felt after the ants were gone?

A House Full of Treasure



In the morning, the Deaf Man woke the Blind Man. “Awake, brother, awake!” he said. The whole floor was covered with heaps of gold and silver and shining stones.

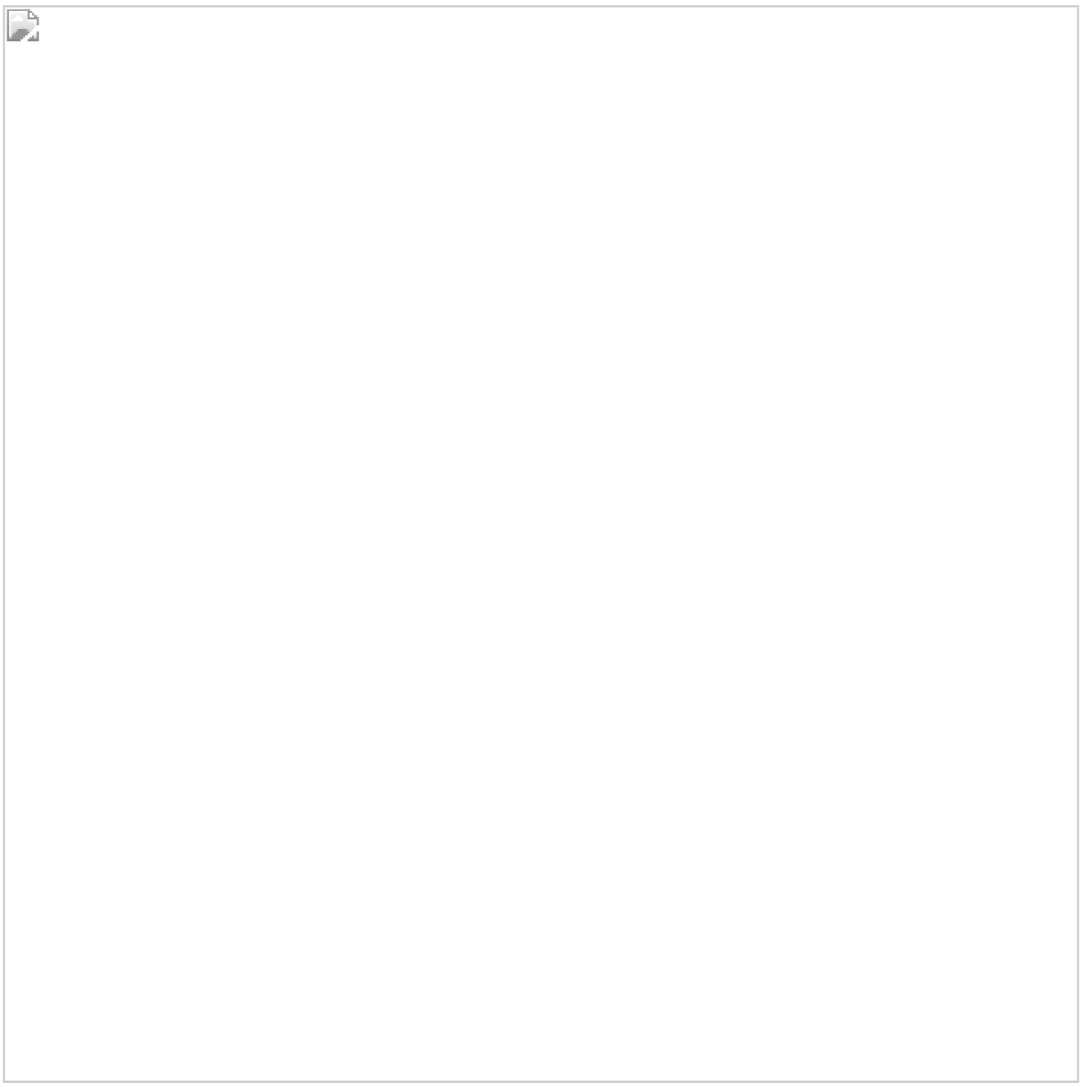
It was the Rakshas's treasure. The friends packed it into four great bundles. The Blind Man carried one, the Deaf Man carried one, and two went on the Donkey.

But the Rakshas had not gone far. He was waiting to see what Bakshas looked like by daylight. Out walked only a Blind Man, a Deaf Man, and a Donkey, all carrying his treasure.

The Rakshas was very angry. He called six friends to help him.

TALK ABOUT IT

The treasure was the Rakshas's, but the friends took it. What do you think about that?

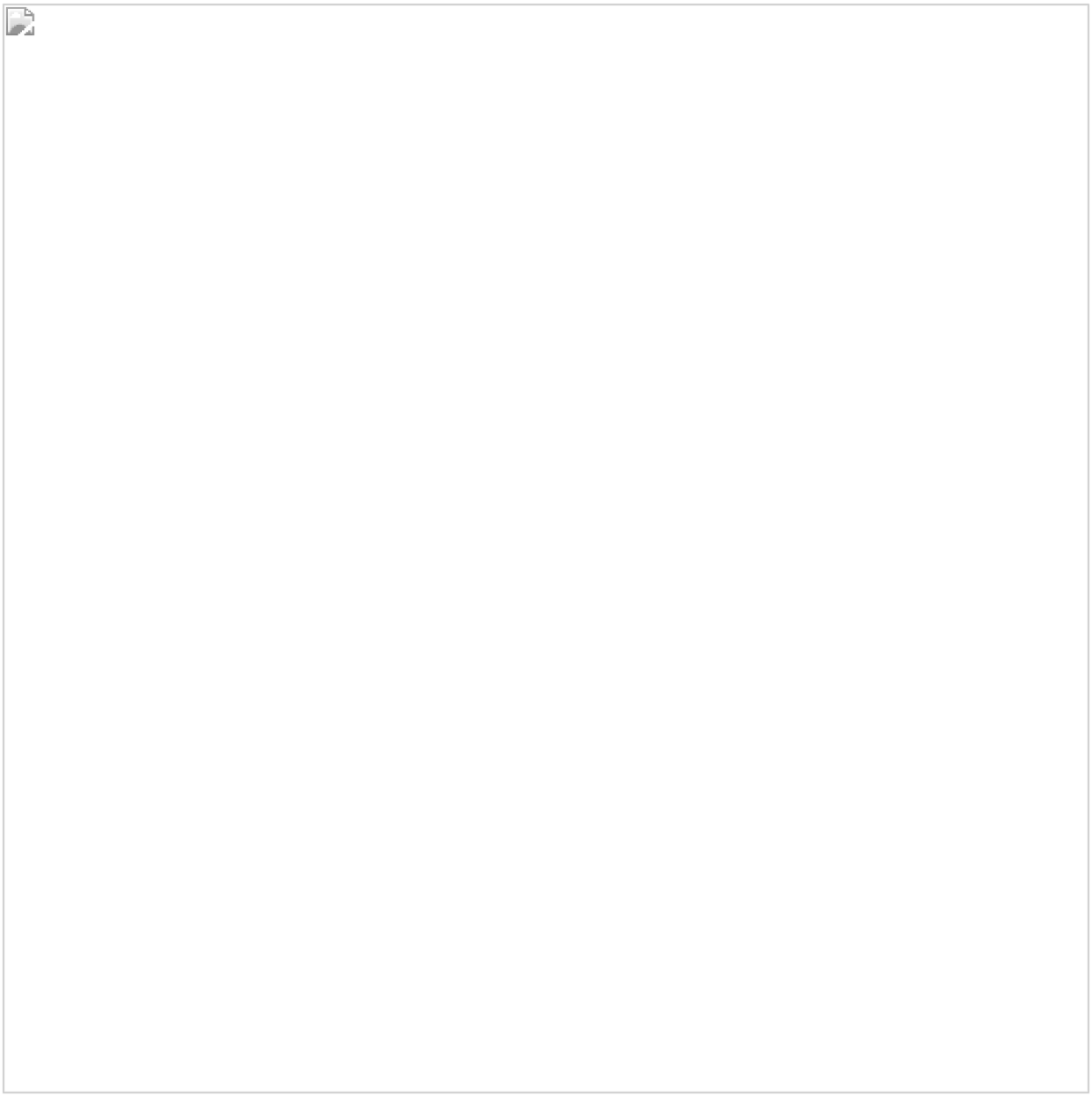


Think about it

1. How many bundles did the Donkey carry?

- ○ One
- ○ Two
- ○ Four

Up the Tree



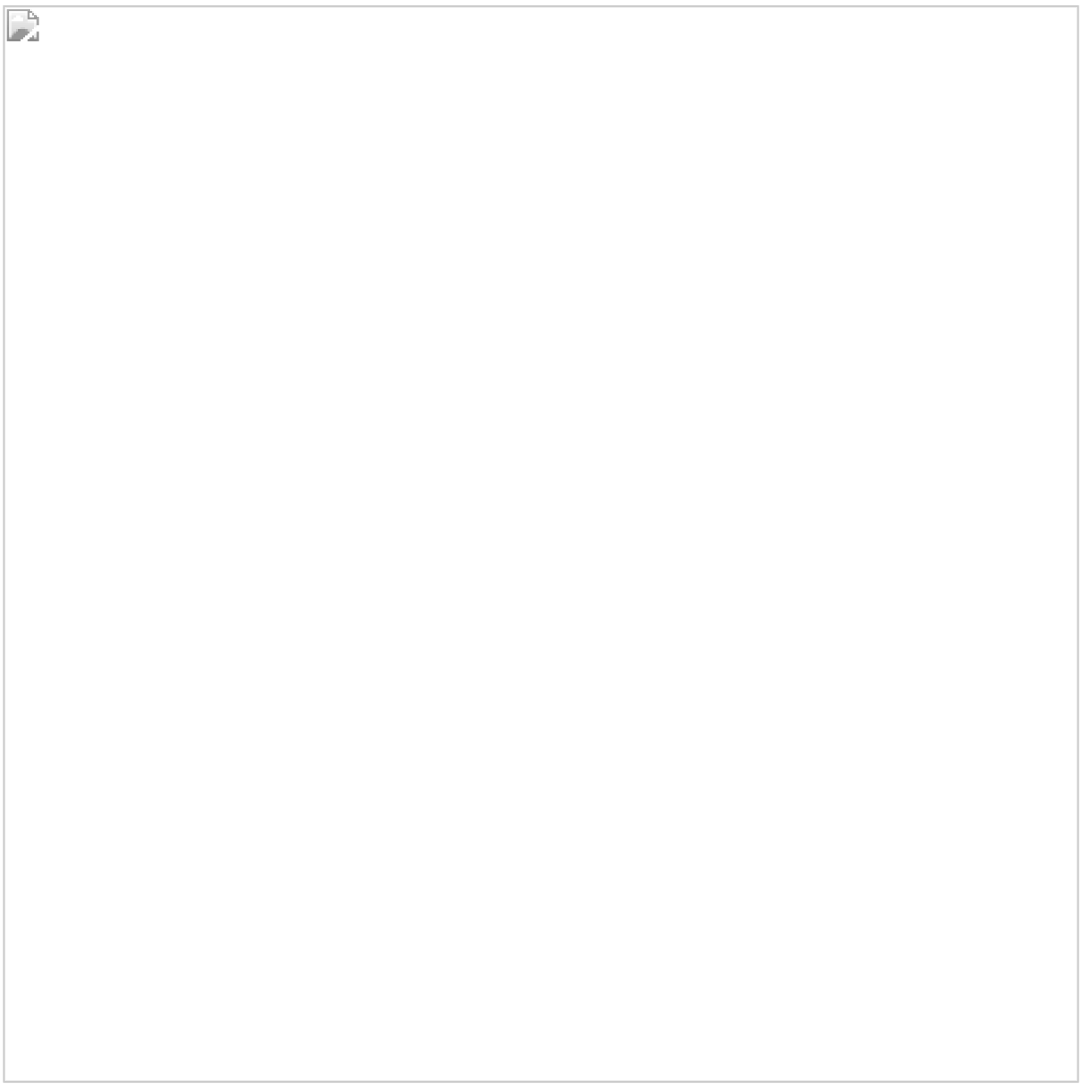
The Deaf Man saw seven huge Rakshas coming with hair a yard long and tusks like an elephant's. He was dreadfully frightened.

The Blind Man said, “Let us hide the treasure in the bushes,” said the Blind Man, “and do you lead me to a tree.”

The Deaf Man did, but he was cunning. He climbed up first and let the Blind Man climb after, so that he sat higher and safer.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Deaf Man climbed first and left his friend lower on the tree. Was that fair to a partner? What would you have done?

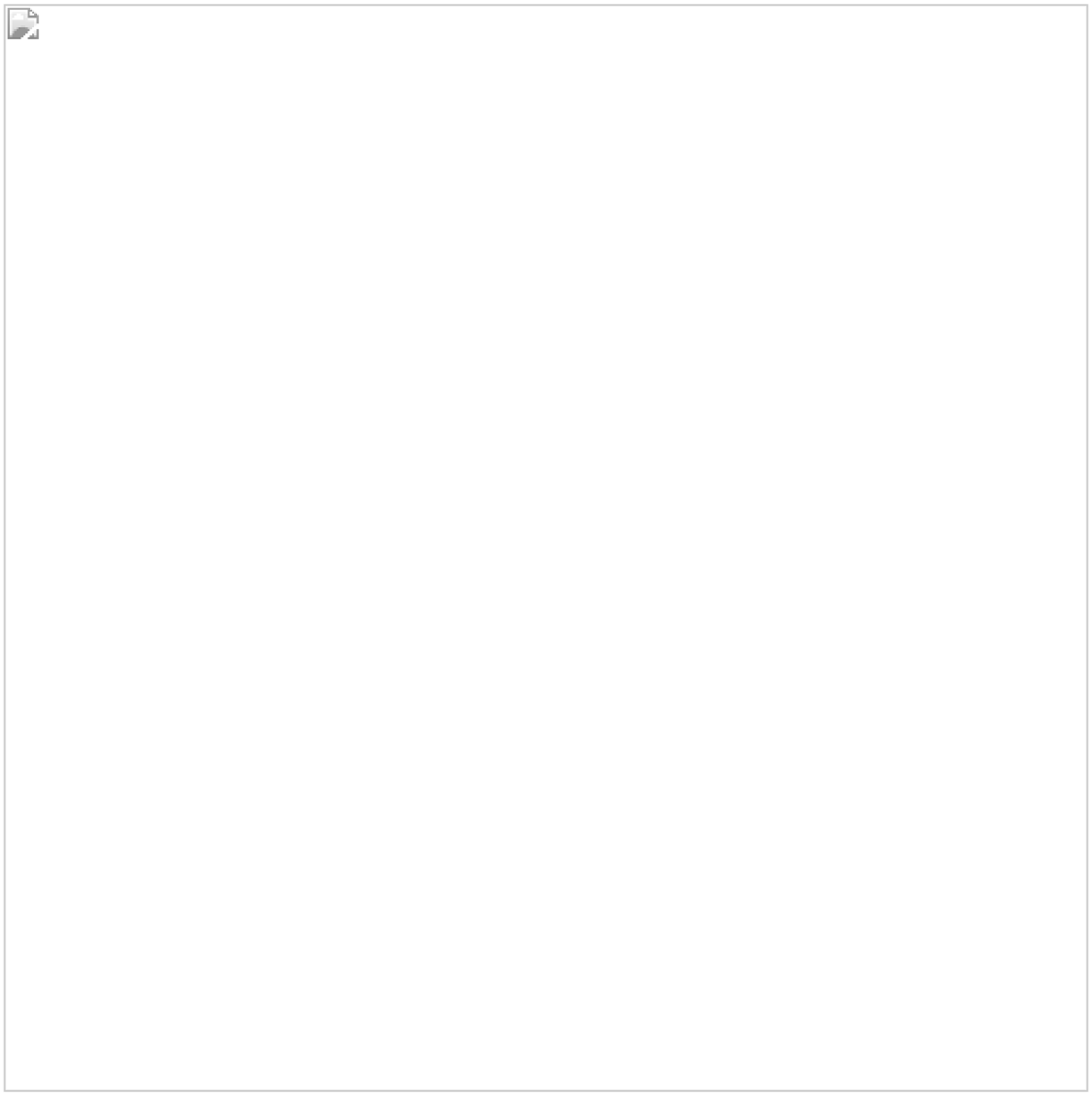


Think about it

1. Who climbed the tree first?

- ○ The Blind Man
- ○ The Deaf Man
- ○ The Donkey

The Great Tumble



The seven Rakshas climbed on each other's shoulders to reach the tree, and the seventh was just climbing up.

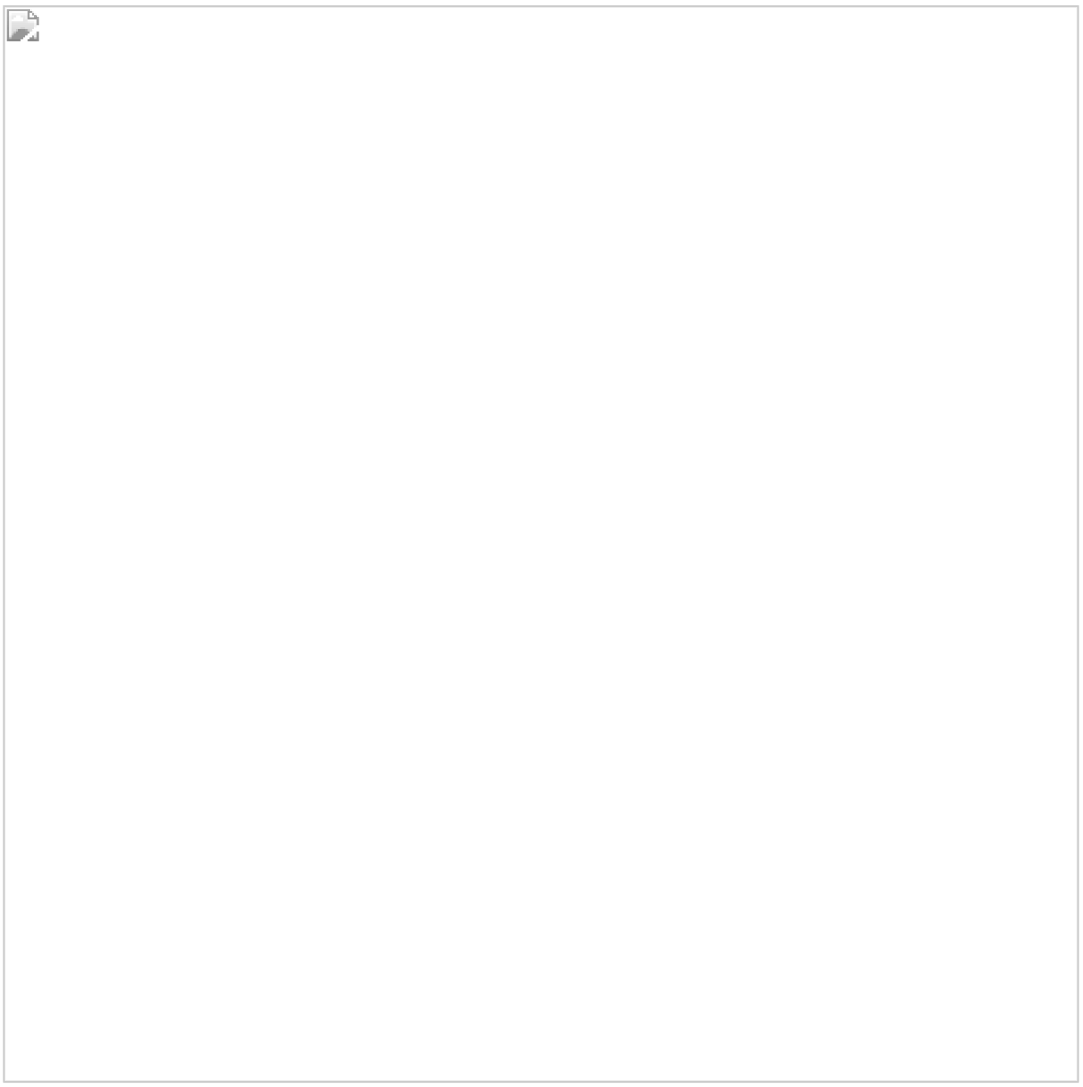
The Deaf Man was so scared that he grabbed the Blind Man's arm and cried, “They're coming!” The Blind Man lost his balance and tumbled down onto the seventh Rakshas's neck.

“Where am I? What has happened?” he called, and grabbed two big ears, thinking they were branches. He pinched them hard.

Down fell the seventh Rakshas, then the sixth and the fifth and the fourth and the third and the second and the first, all in a great heap.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Blind Man didn't know where he was. What do you think was going on in his mind?

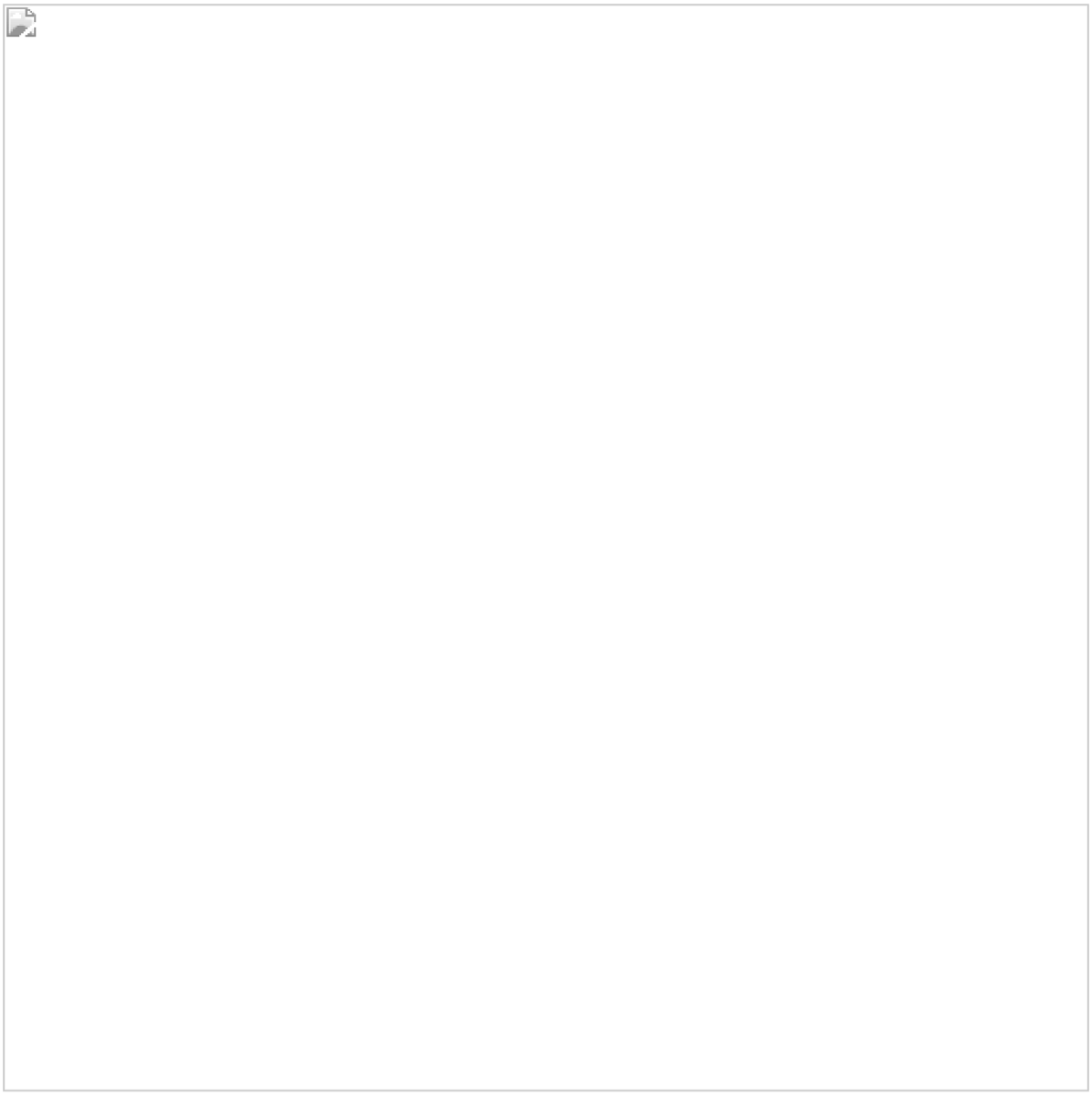


Think about it

1. What did the Blind Man think he was holding?

- ○ A tree branch
- ○ A rope
- ○ A kettle

The Rakshas Run Away



From the top of the tree, the Deaf Man called, “I'm coming, I'm coming,” but he never came down.

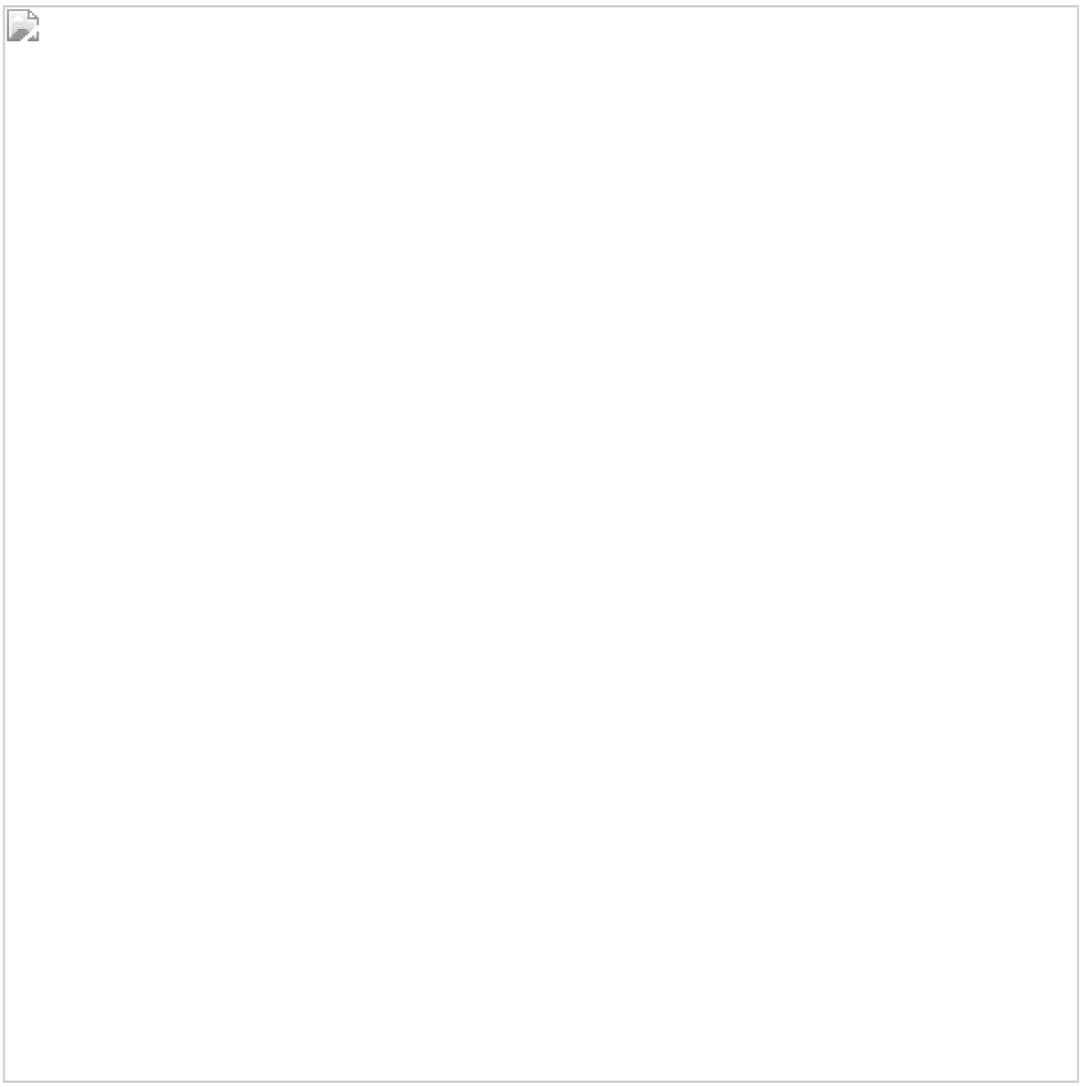
The six Rakshas who got out of the heap ran away as fast as they could. The seventh, with a strange creature on his shoulders, pushed the Blind Man off and ran after them.

When all the Rakshas were out of sight, the Deaf Man climbed down. “I could not have done better myself,” he said, and he hugged the Blind Man.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Deaf Man said he would come help, but stayed in the tree. Did he keep his word? What does it mean to keep your word to a friend?

The Rakshas Run Away · another picture

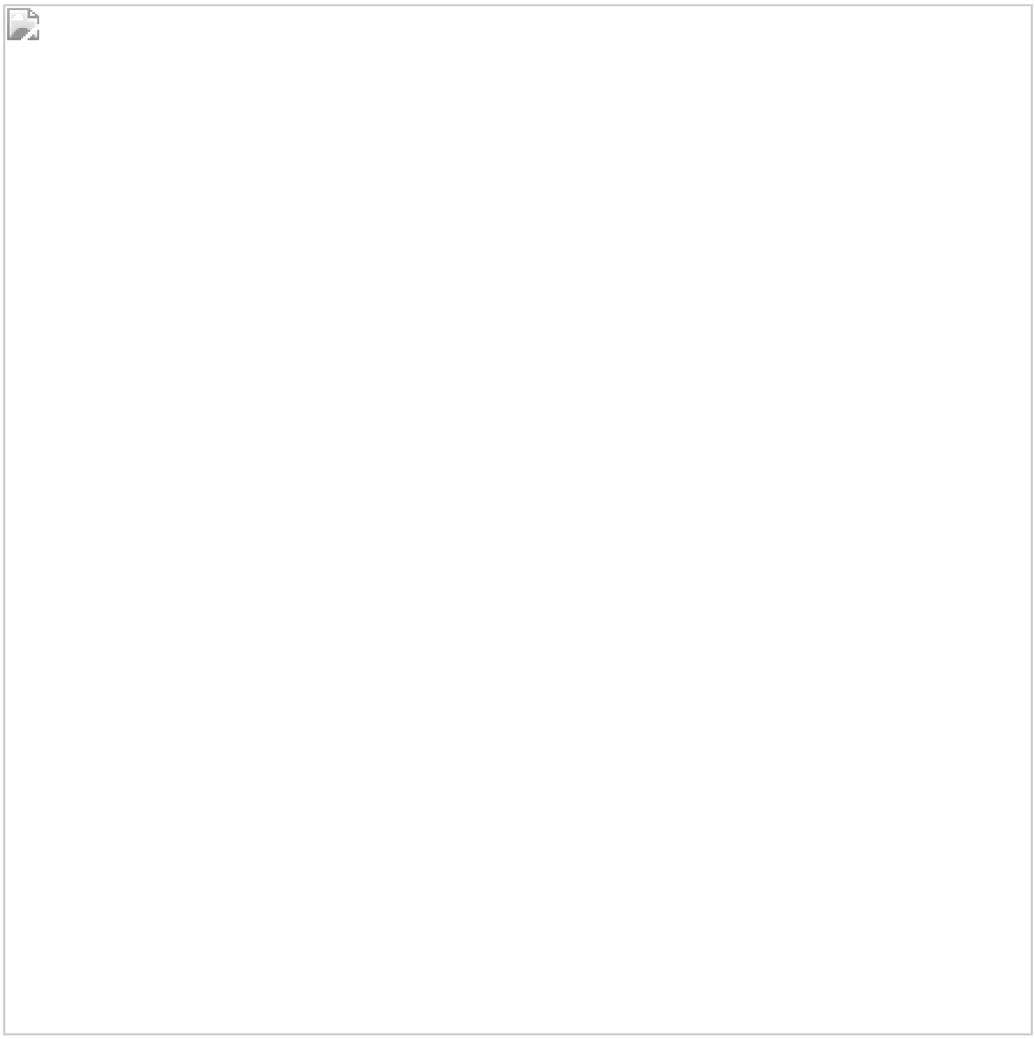


Think about it

1. What did the six Rakshas do?

- ○ Ran away
- ○ Climbed the tree
- ○ Went to sleep

Fair Shares?



Near the village, the Deaf Man said they should hide their treasure and divide it equally, one half each.

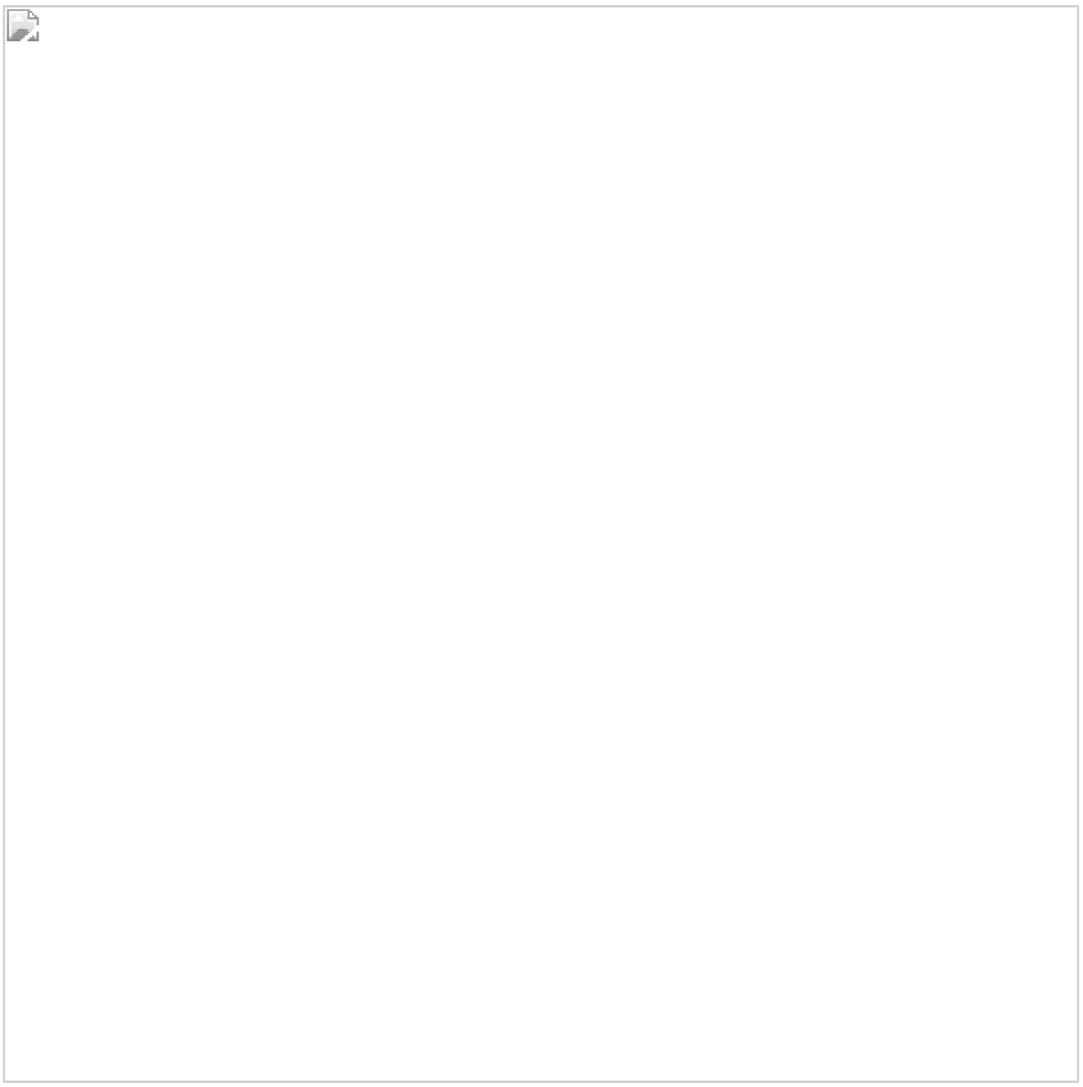
But the Deaf Man was cunning. He hid his own bundle and the two from the Donkey, took treasure out of the Blind Man's bundle too, and divided the little that was left into two heaps.

The Blind Man felt the small heap and grew angry. “You think you can cheat me in this way because I am blind,” he said. “You have kept almost all the treasure for yourself.”

They bickered and scolded until the Blind Man gave the Deaf Man a great box on the ear.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Deaf Man took more than his share and said it was fair. Why do you think he did that? How could he have been honest?

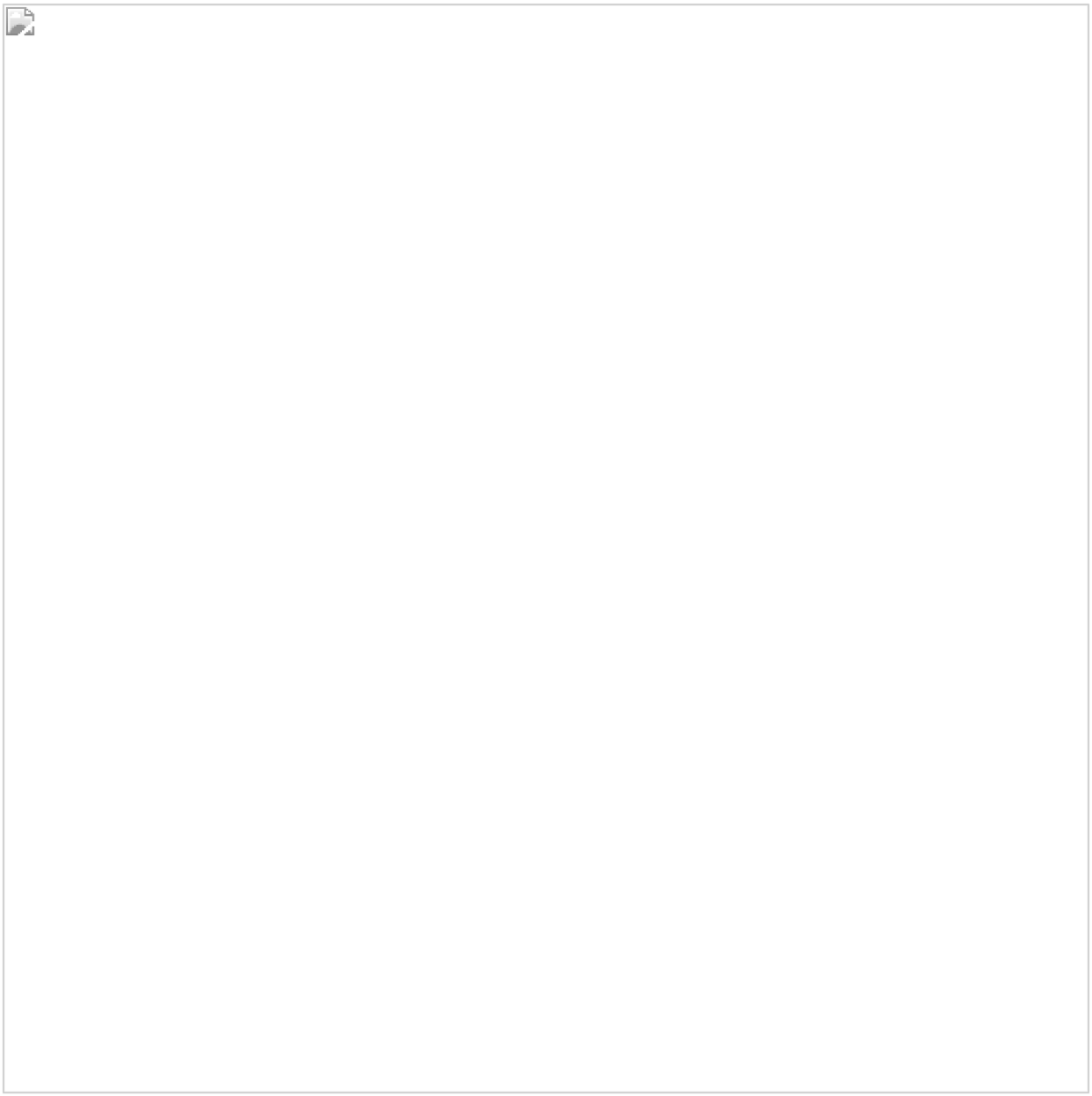


Think about it

1. What did the Deaf Man do with the treasure?

- ○ Gave it all away
- ○ Hid most of it for himself
- ○ Buried it with the Donkey

Hearing and Seeing



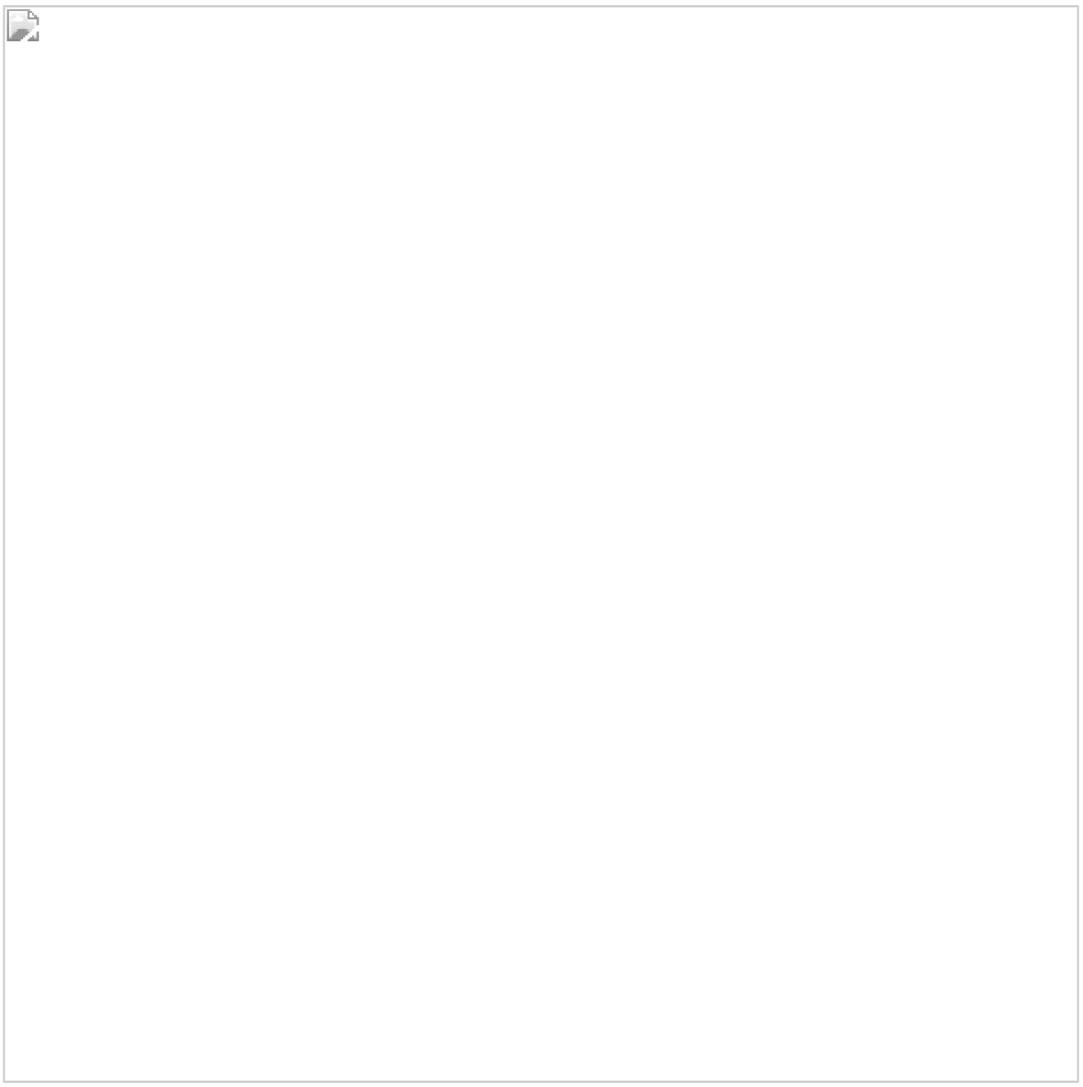
The blow was so hard that it made the Deaf Man hear! He was cross and hit back, so hard on the Blind Man's face that it opened his eyes!

Now the Deaf Man could hear as well as see, and the Blind Man could see as well as hear. They were so astonished that they became good friends at once.

The Deaf Man confessed that he had hidden most of the treasure. He dragged it out, and they divided it equally. Then they went home and enjoyed themselves.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Deaf Man told the truth and the treasure was shared. What do you think it takes to say that you were wrong?



Think about it

1. What happened to the Deaf Man after he got hit on the ear?

- ○ He could hear
- ○ He fell asleep
- ○ He ran away

2. What did the Deaf Man do after he could hear again?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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