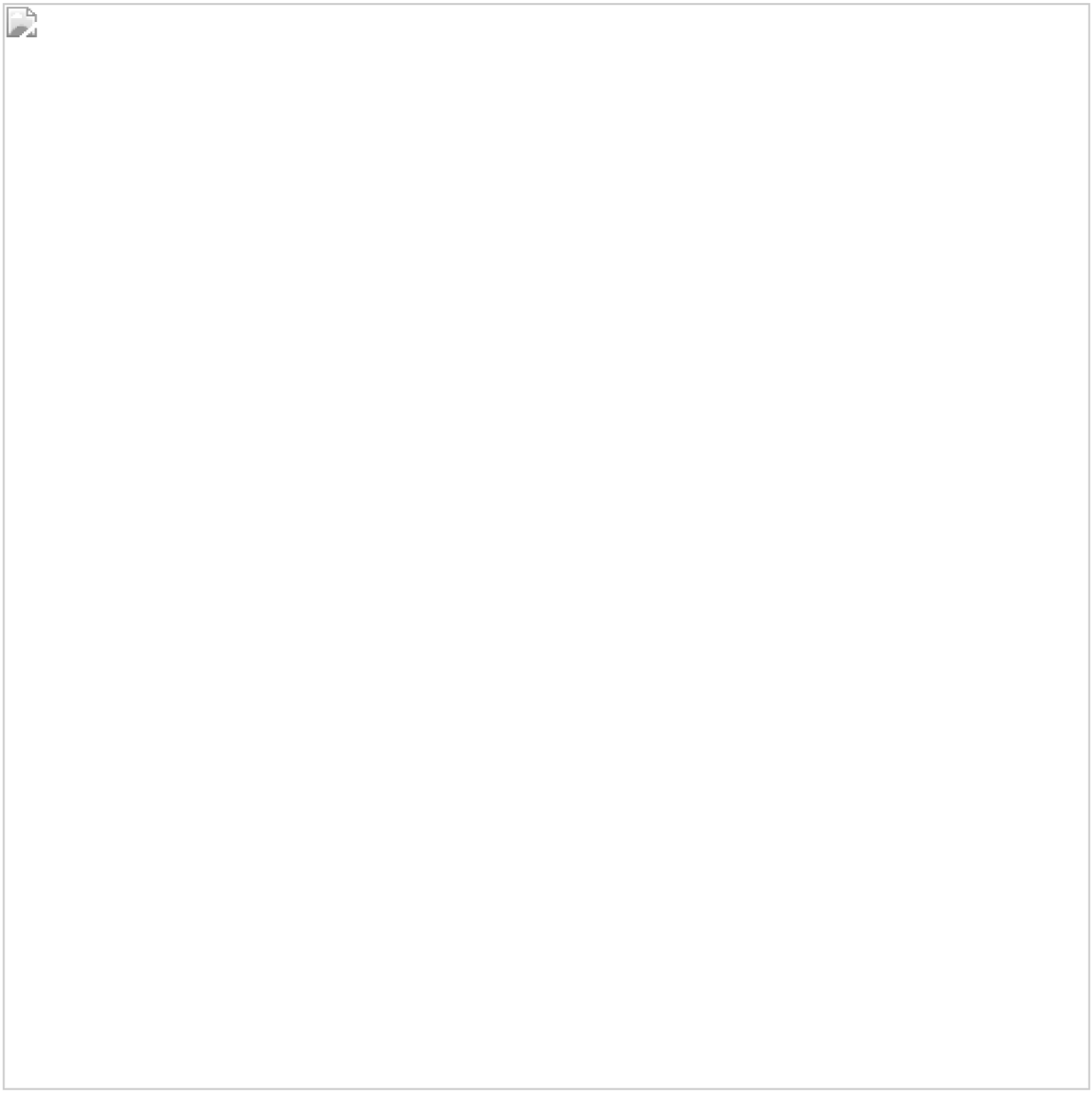
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Brave Little Bowman

A Tale from India



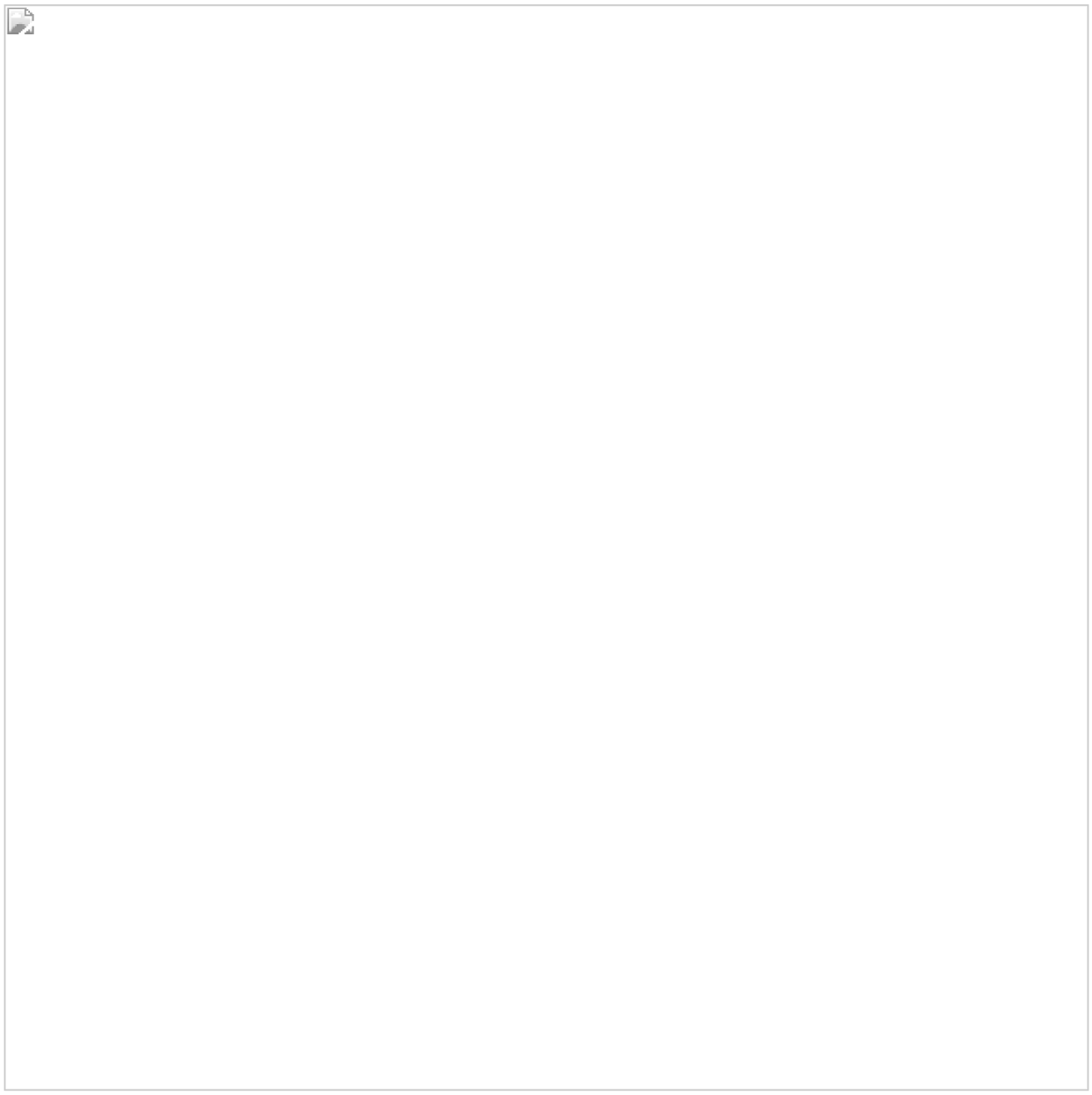
Once upon a time there was a little man with a crooked back. He was called the wise little bowman because he used his bow and arrow so very well.

TALK ABOUT IT

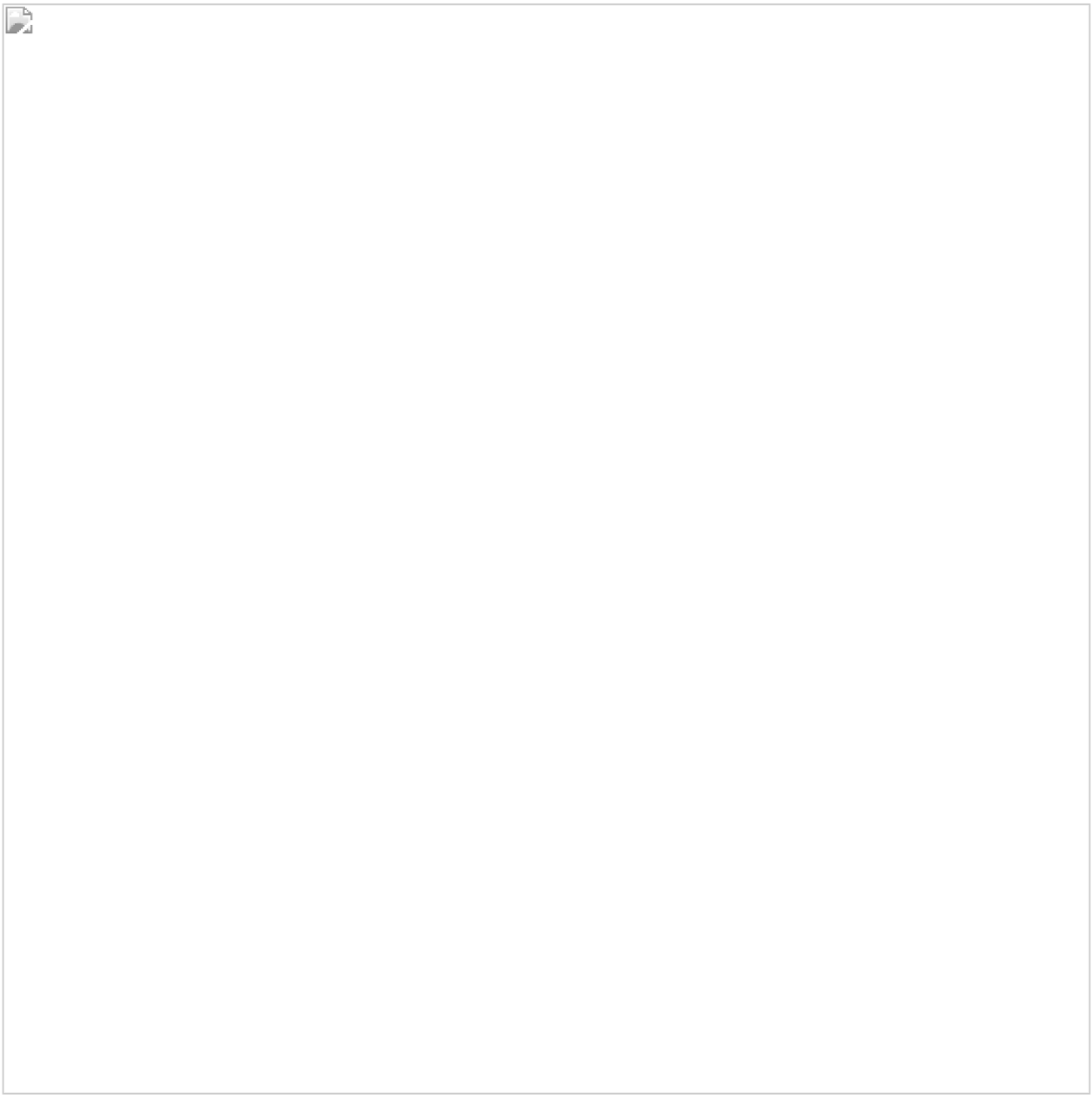
The little bowman was very good at one thing. What are you good at?

This book belongs to _____

The Brave Little Bowman · another picture



A Plan

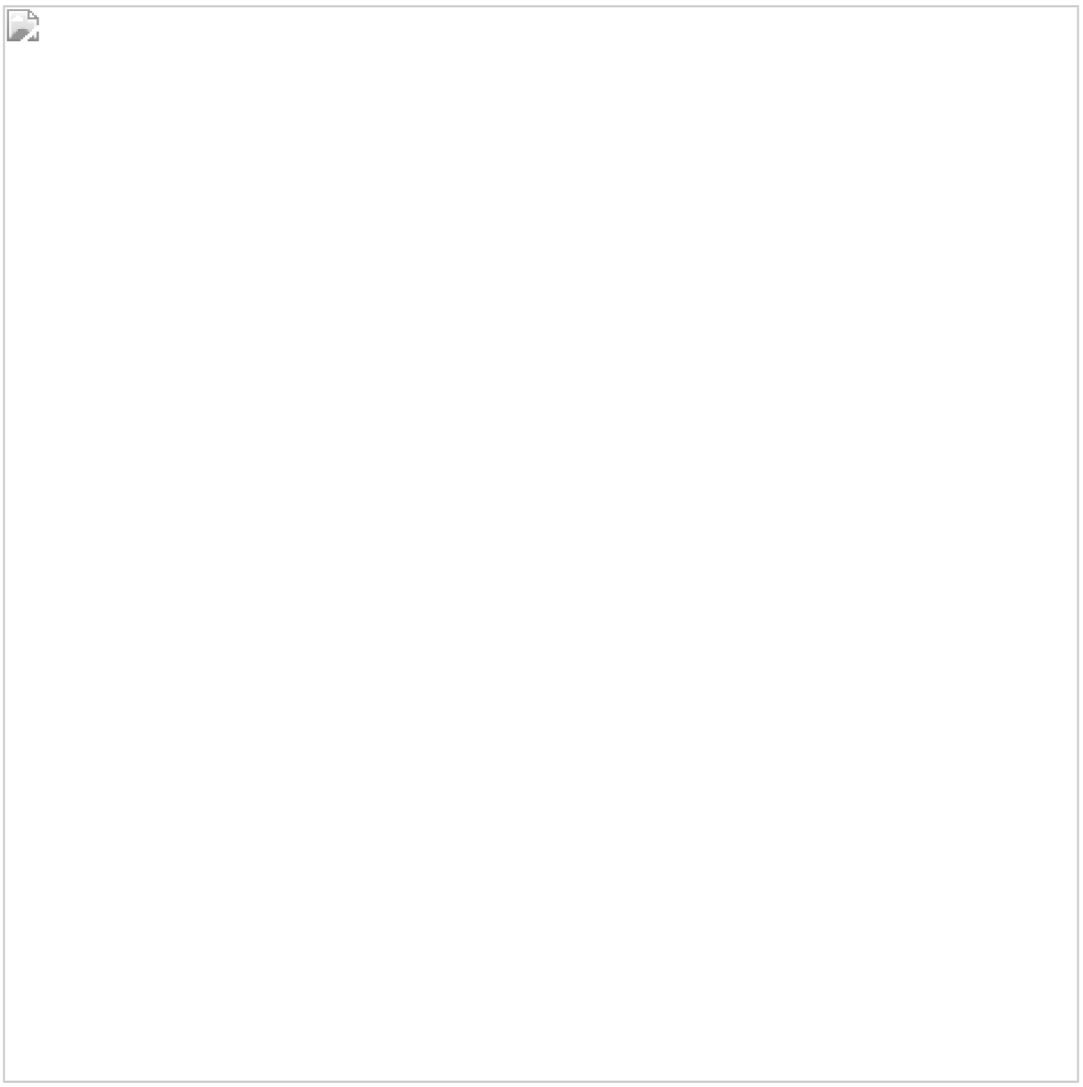


The little man said to himself: “If I go to the king and ask him to let me join his army, he's sure to ask what a little man like me is good for.”

So he thought of a plan. “I must find some great big man who will take me as his page, and ask the king to take us.” He went about the city looking for a big man.

TALK ABOUT IT

The little bowman thought he might not be taken seriously. Has anyone ever judged you by how you look?

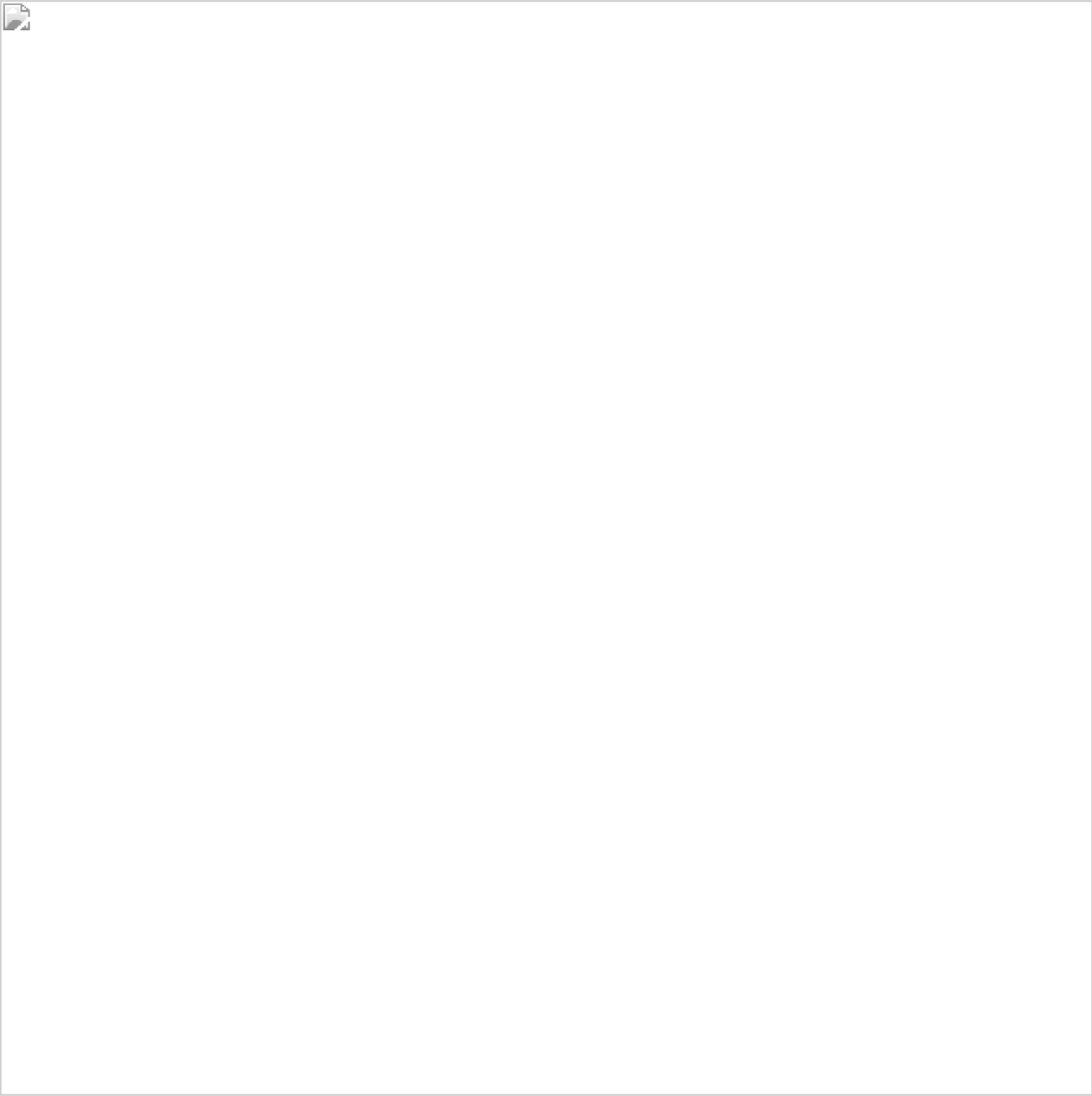


Think about it

1. What was the little bowman good at?

- ○ Using his bow and arrow
- ○ Digging
- ○ Riding elephants

The Man in the Ditch

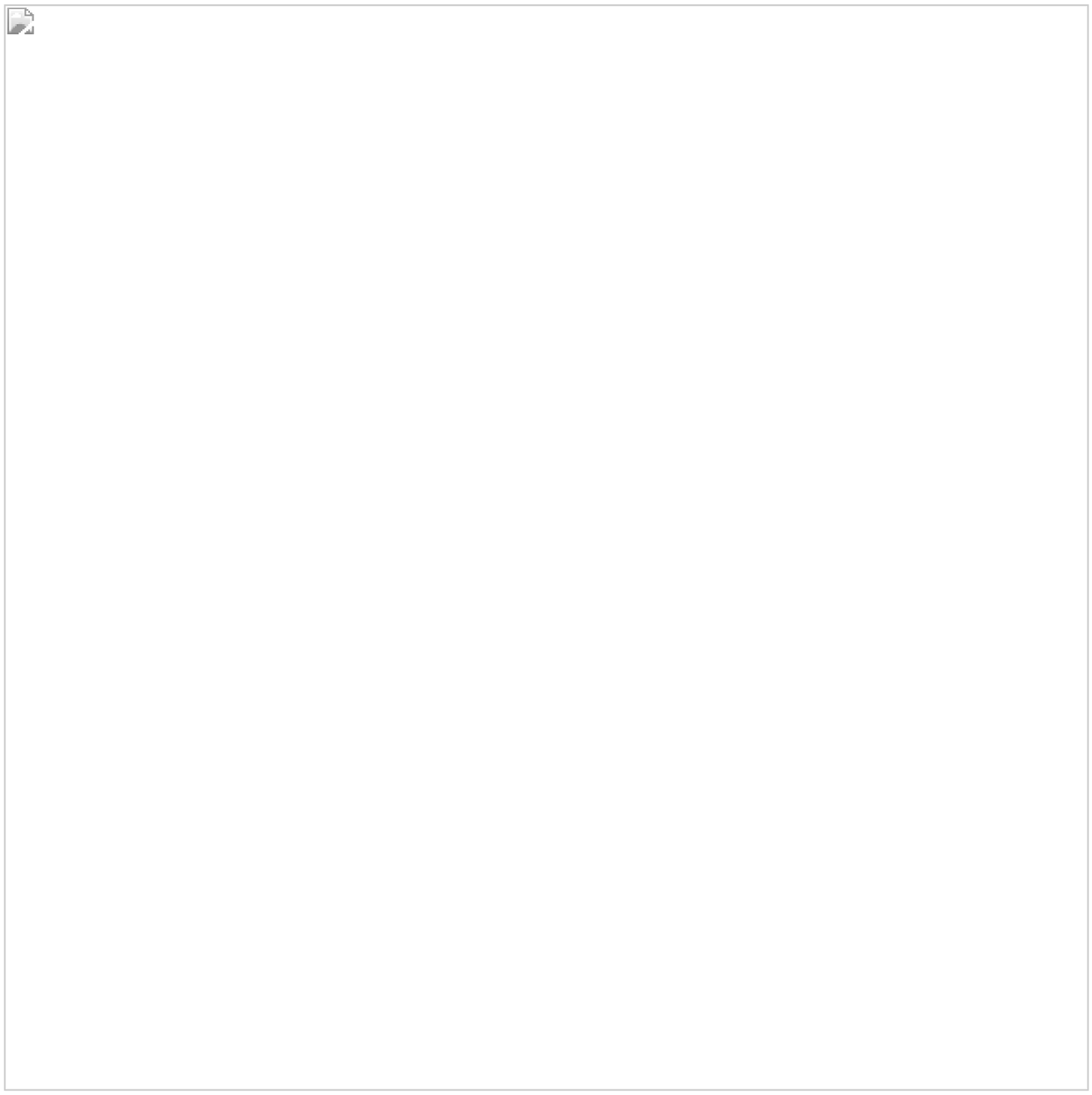


One day he saw a big, strong man digging a ditch. “What makes a fine big man like you do such work?” asked the little man.

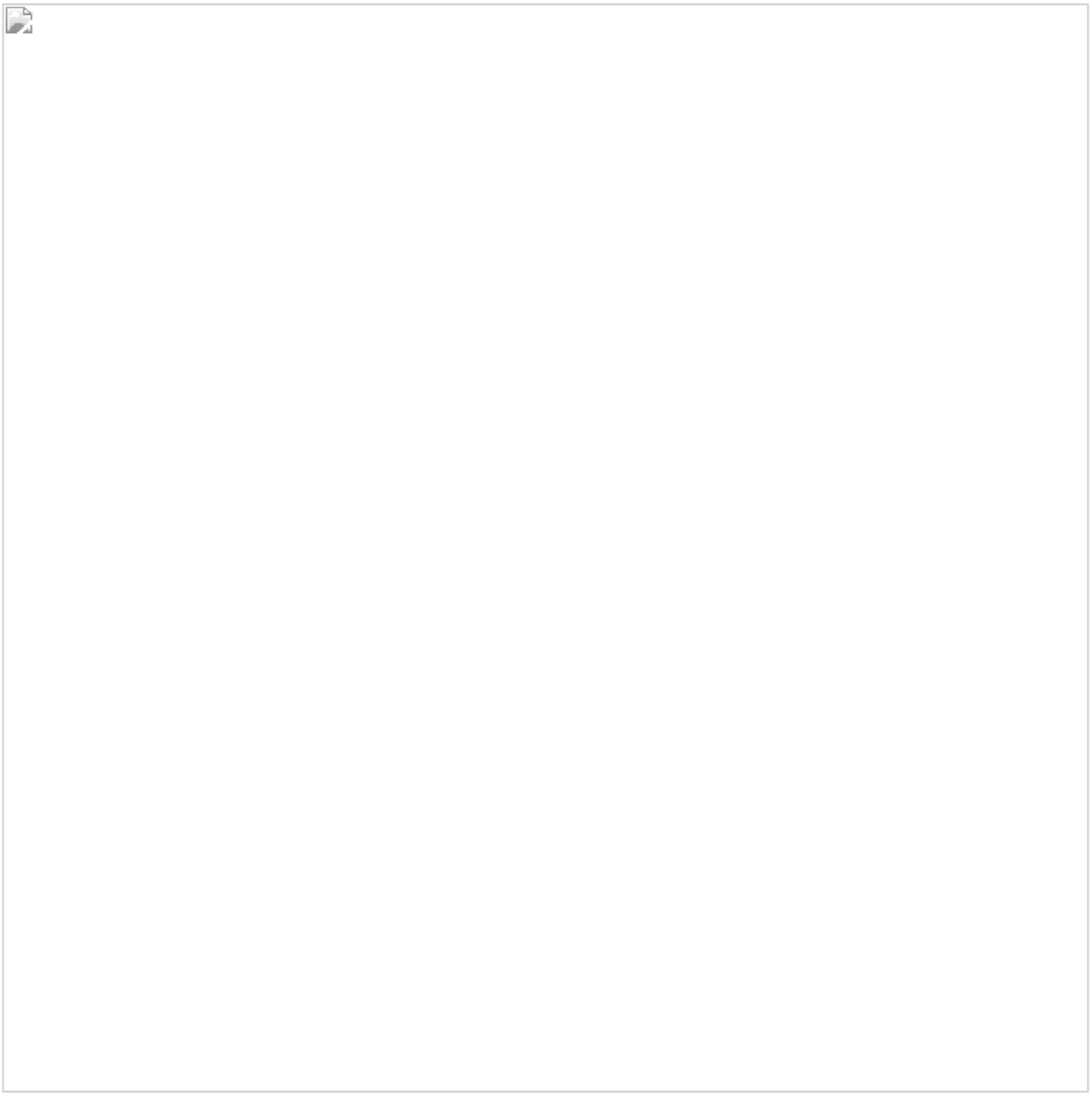
“I do this work because I can earn a living in no other way,” said the big man.

TALK ABOUT IT

The big man did hard work to earn his living. What work do the grown-ups you know do?



A Bargain

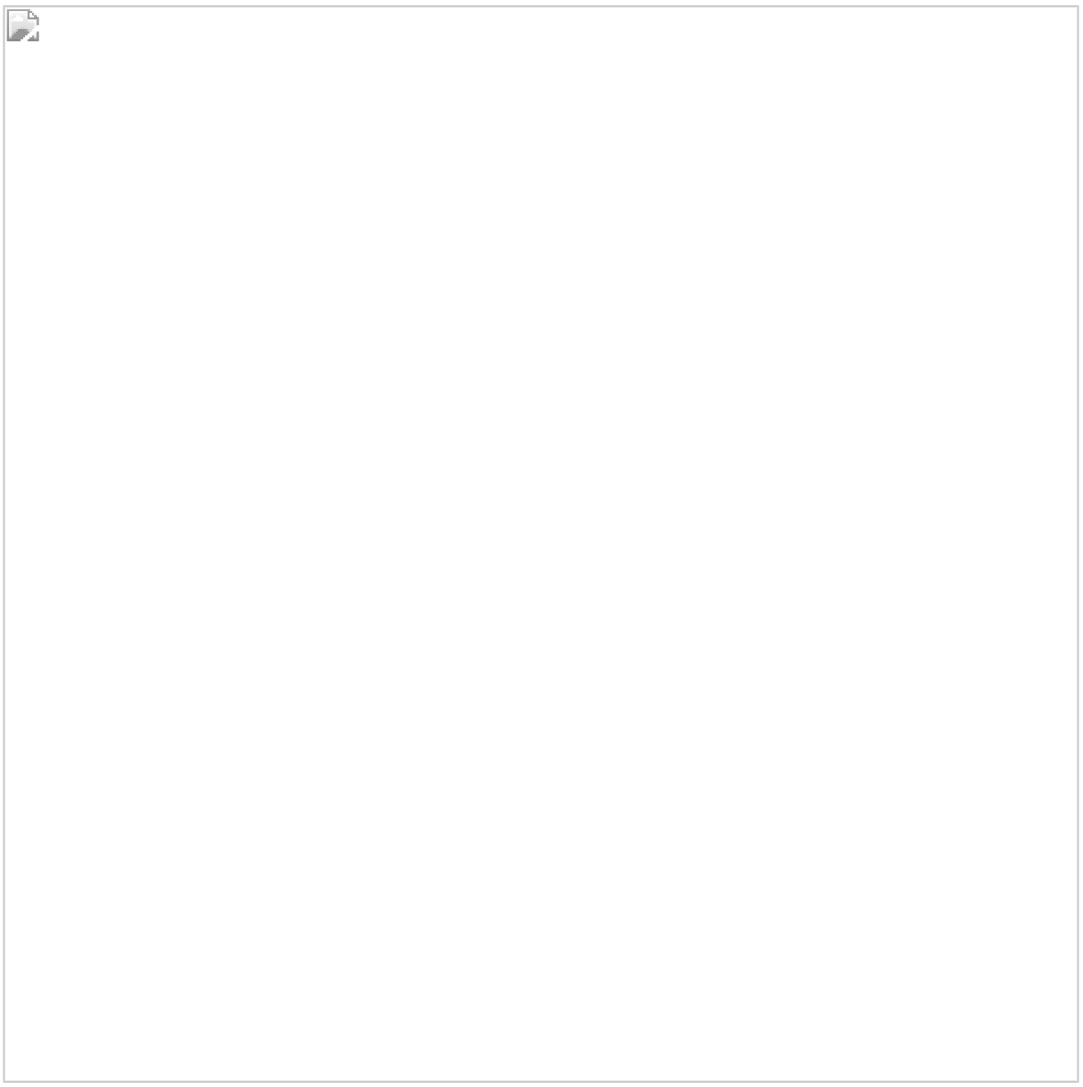


“Dig no more,” said the bowman. “There is in this whole country no such bowman as I am; but no king would let me join his army because I am such a little man.”

He told the big man his plan. “I will do the work that you are given to do, and we will divide the pay.” “Yes, I will go with you,” said the big man.

TALK ABOUT IT

They agreed to share the pay. What does sharing fairly mean to you?

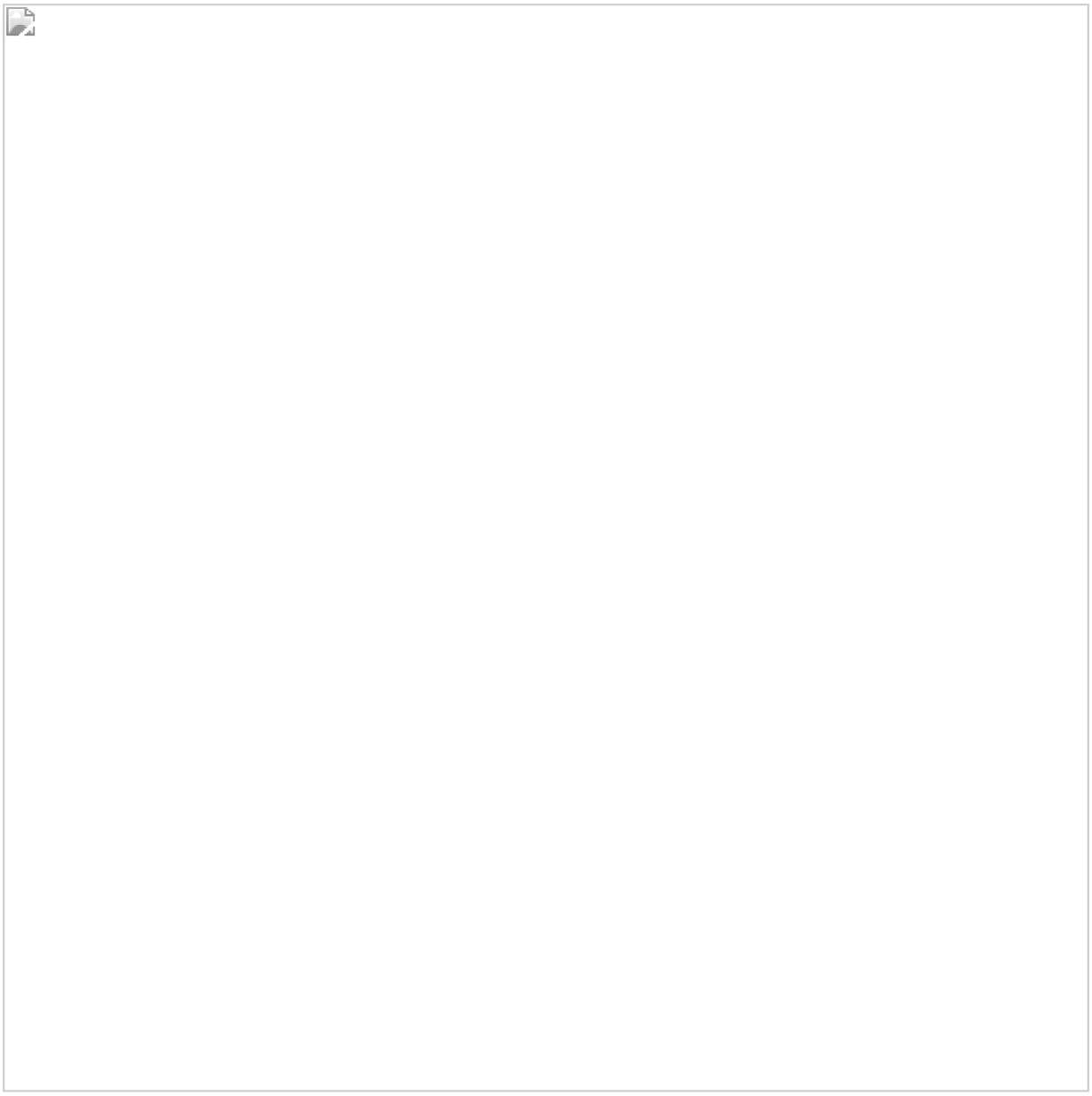


Think about it

1. What did they agree to do with the pay?

- ○ Divide it
- ○ Give it to the king
- ○ Hide it

At the Palace



They came to the gates of the palace and sent word to the king that a wonderful bowman was there. The king sent for him.

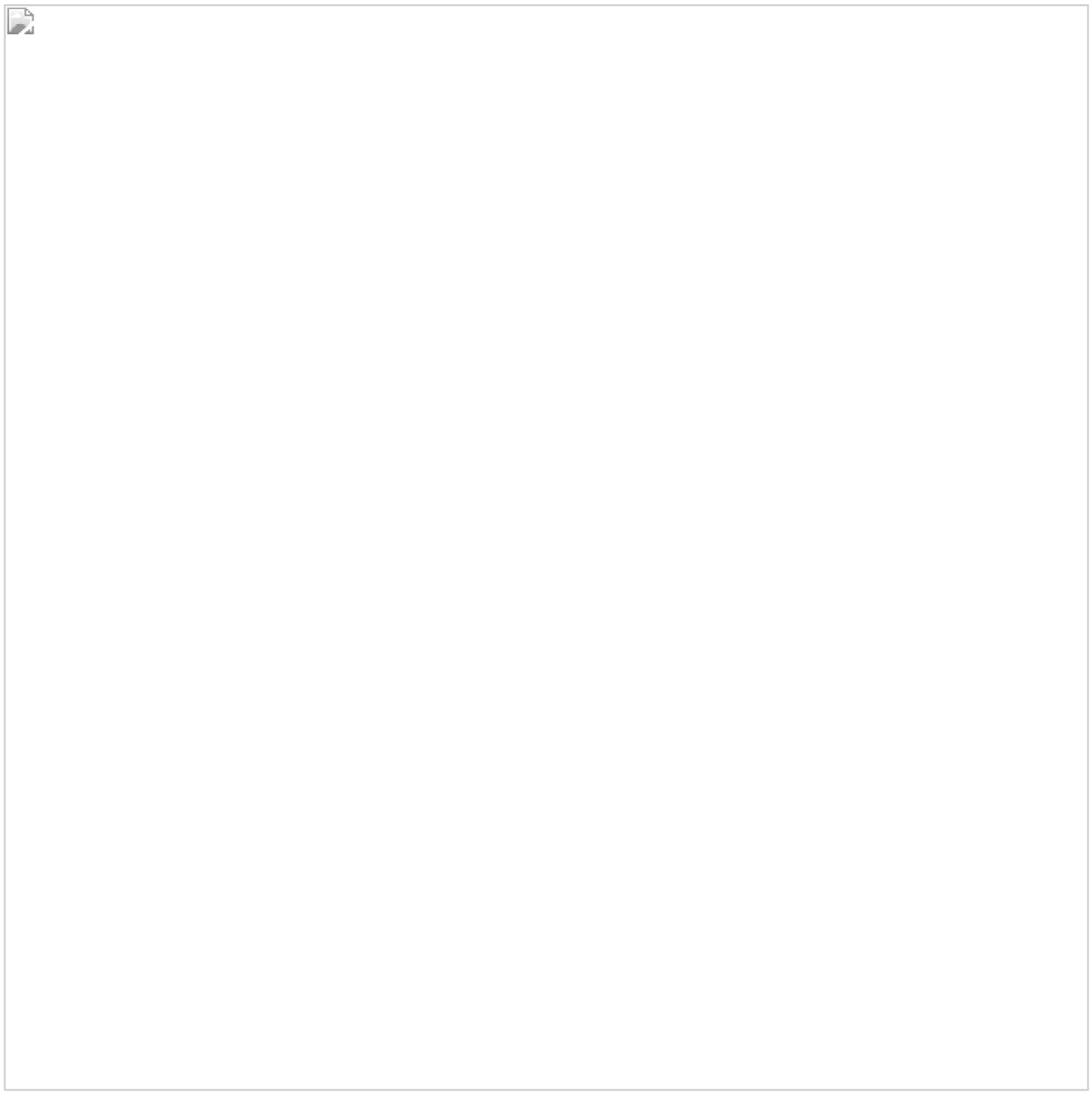
Both men went in and bowed. “I want to be in your army,” said the big man. “Who is the little man with you?” asked the king. “He is my page,” said the big man. The king asked what pay he wanted. “A thousand pieces a month for me and my page, O King,” he said.

“I will take you and your page,” said the king.

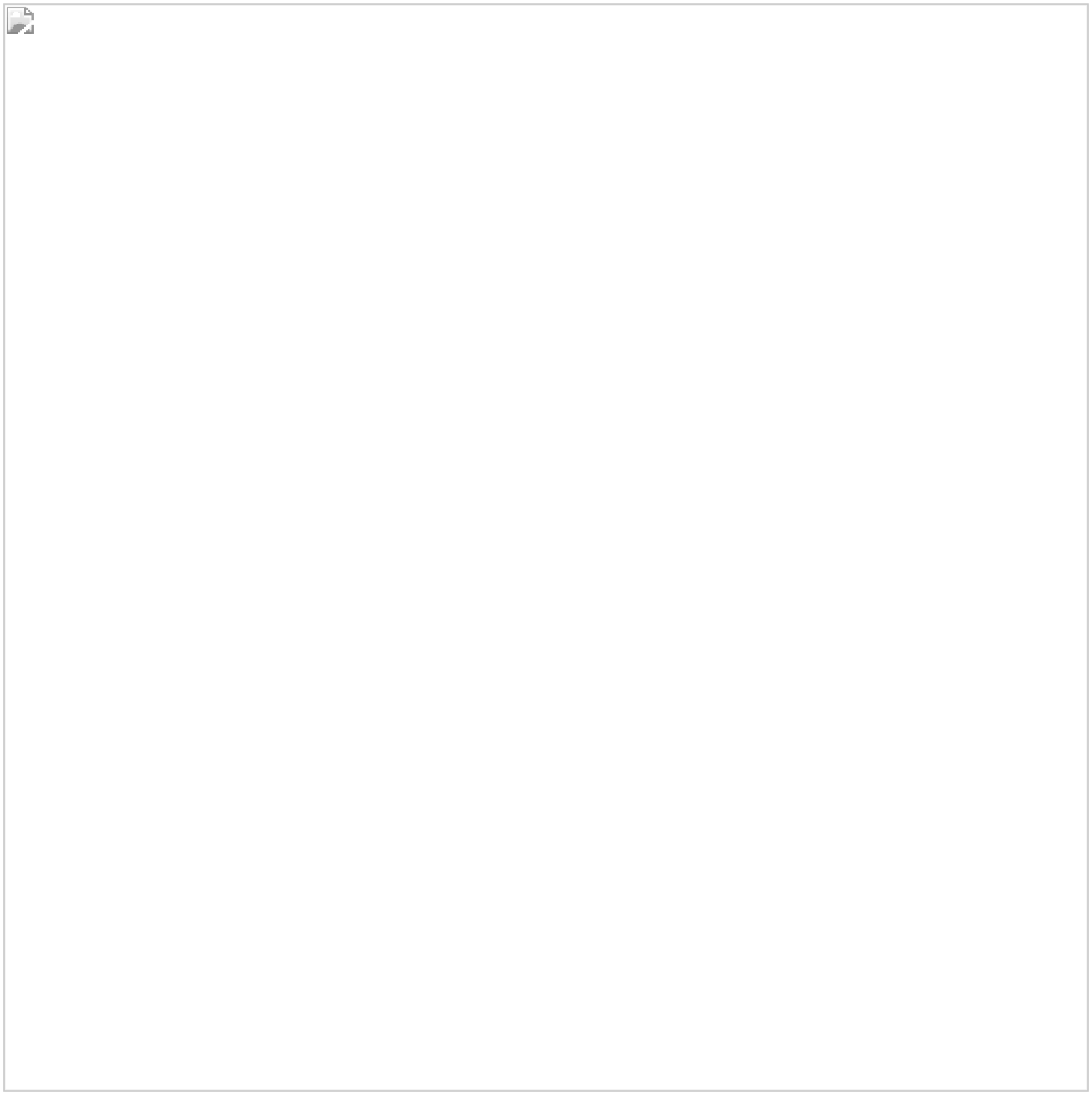
TALK ABOUT IT

The big man told the king the little bowman was his page. What do you think about that?

At the Palace · another picture



The Tiger and the Buffalo

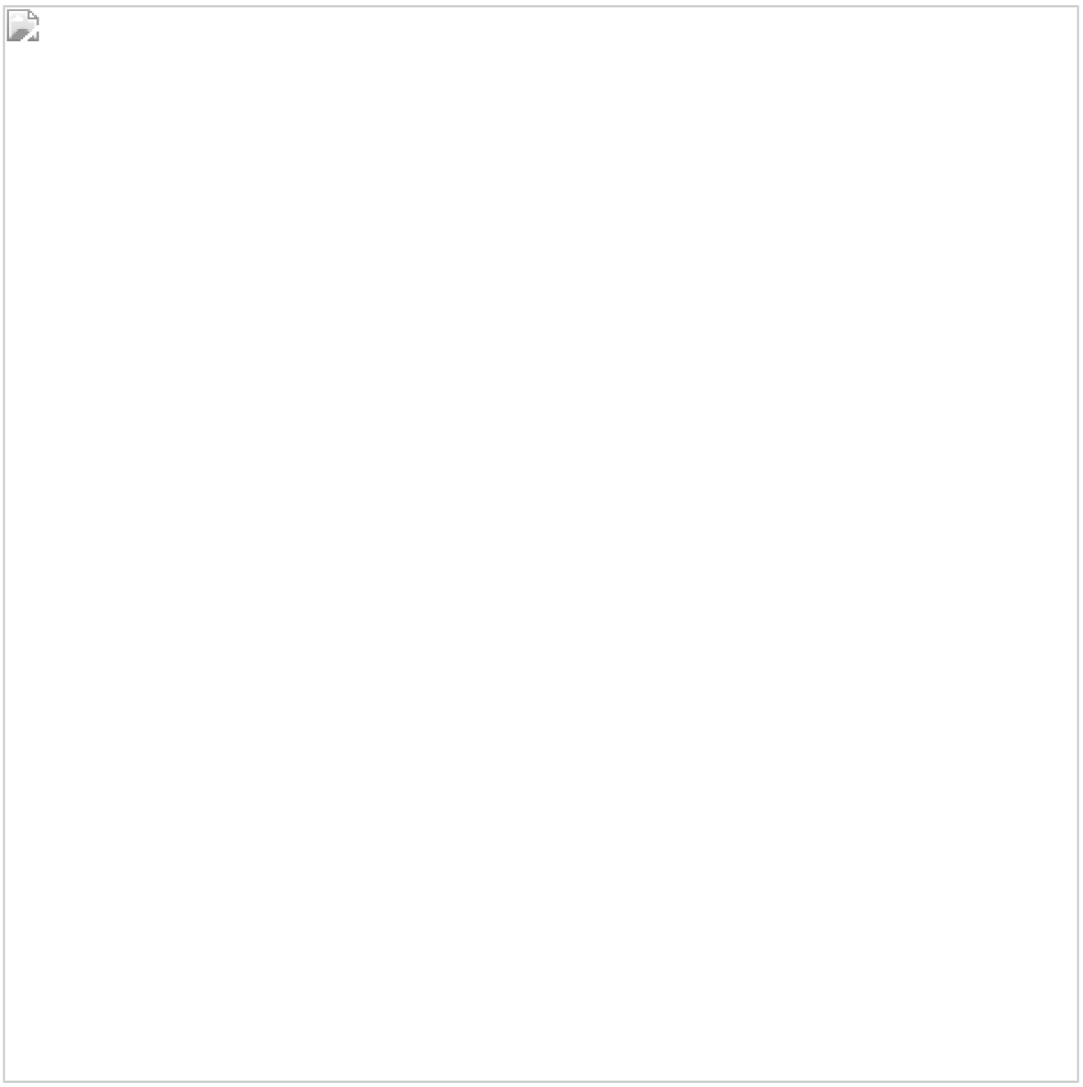


A tiger in the forest had carried off many people. The king told the big man to kill it. The big man told the little bowman what the king said. They went into the forest together, and soon the little bowman shot the tiger.

Another day a buffalo was running up and down a road. The king told the big man to kill it. Again the little man shot it.

TALK ABOUT IT

The bowman did the work each time. How do you think he felt when someone else was thanked?

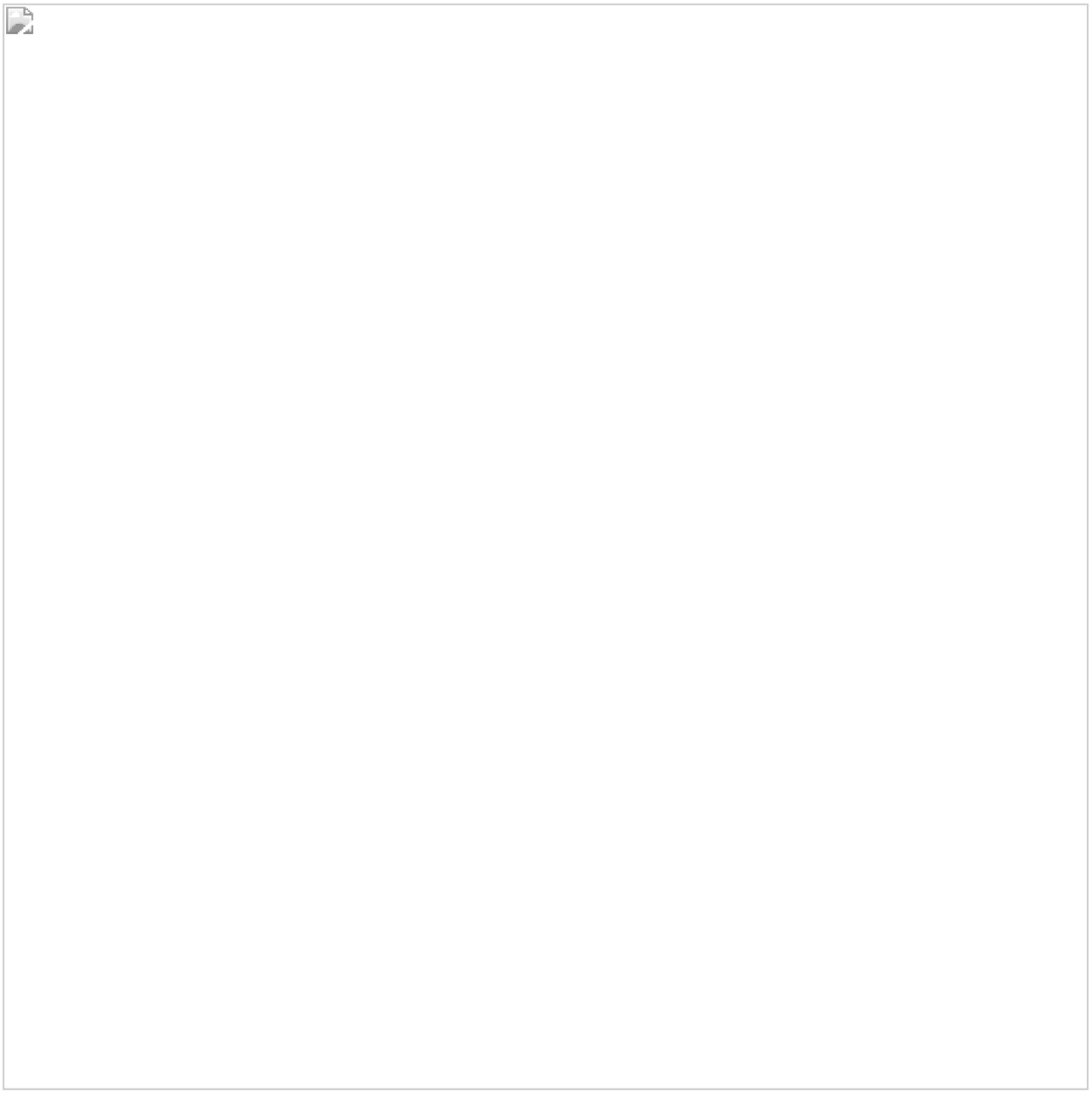


Think about it

1. Who really shot the tiger and the buffalo?

- ○ The big man
- ○ The little bowman
- ○ The king's archers

Praise for the Wrong Man

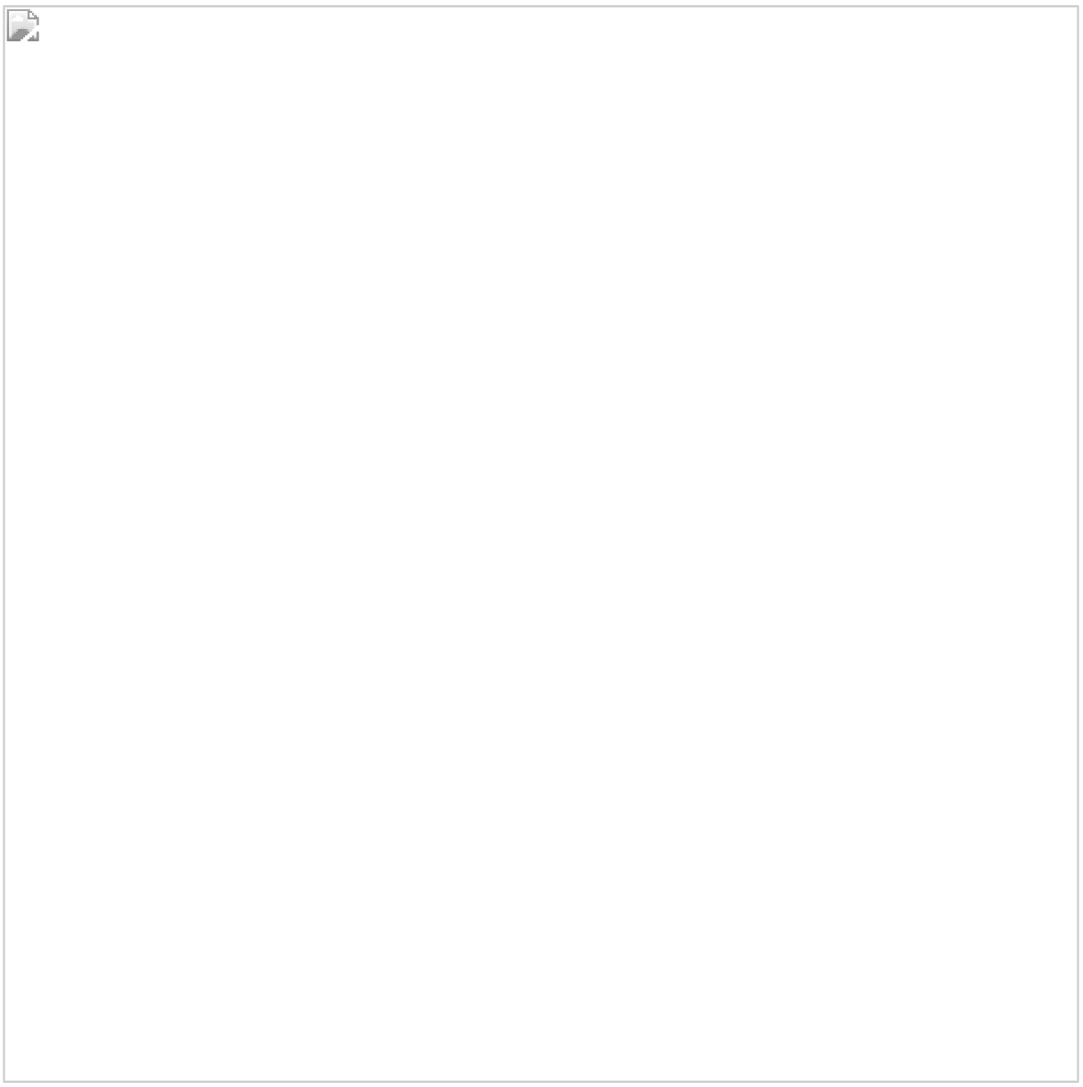


The king was glad to be rid of the tiger. He gave the big man rich gifts and praised him. After the buffalo, he gave the big man a bag of money. The king and all the people praised the big man.

One day the big man said to the little man: “I can get on without you. Do you think there's no bowman but yourself?” Many other harsh and unkind things did he say to the little man.

TALK ABOUT IT

The big man forgot who had helped him. Has someone ever forgotten to thank you?



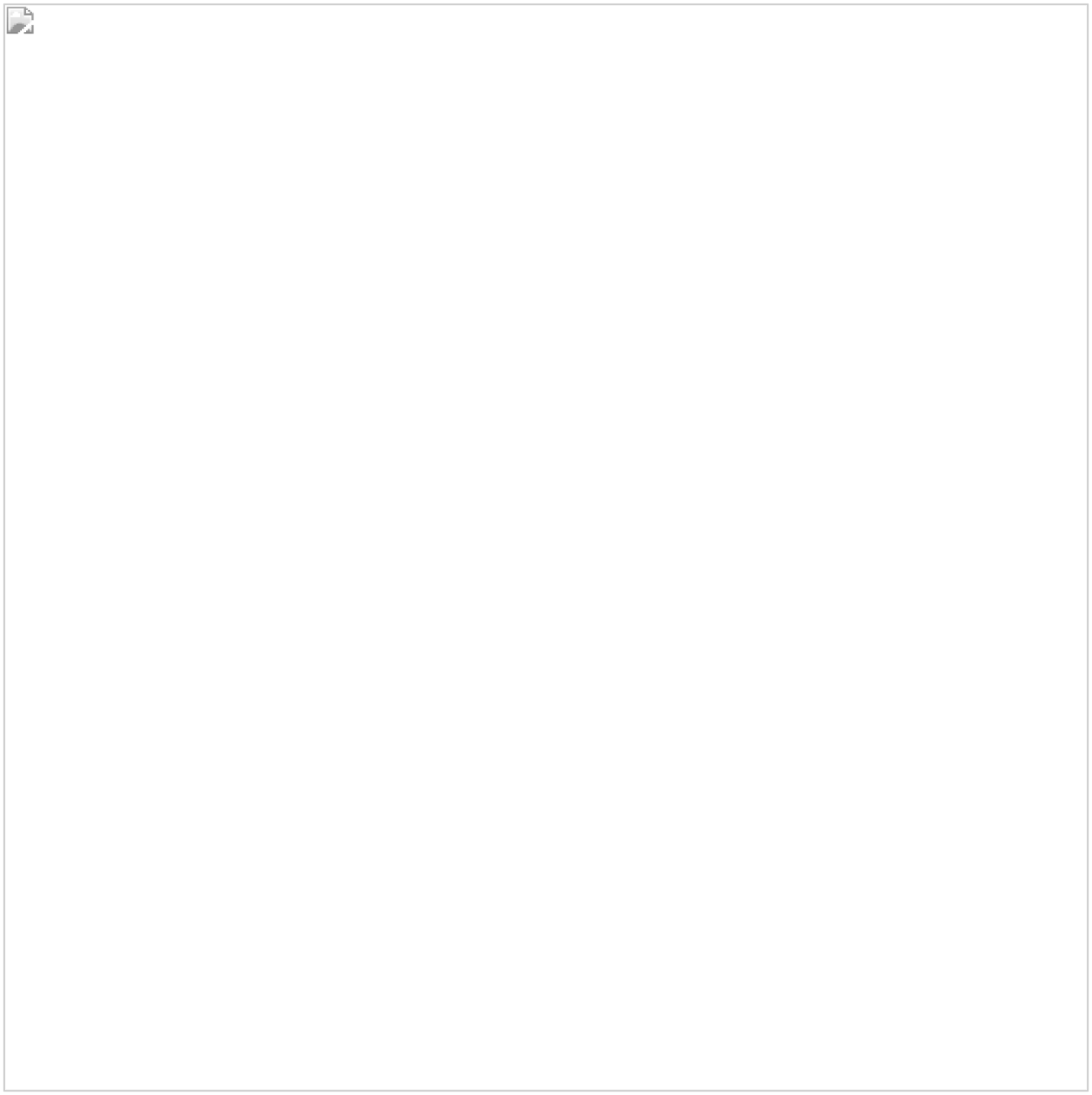
Think about it

1. What did the big man say to the little man?

- ○ He thanked him for his help
- ○ He said he could get on without him
- ○ He offered to divide the money again

2. What would you have said to the big man?

A King from Far Away

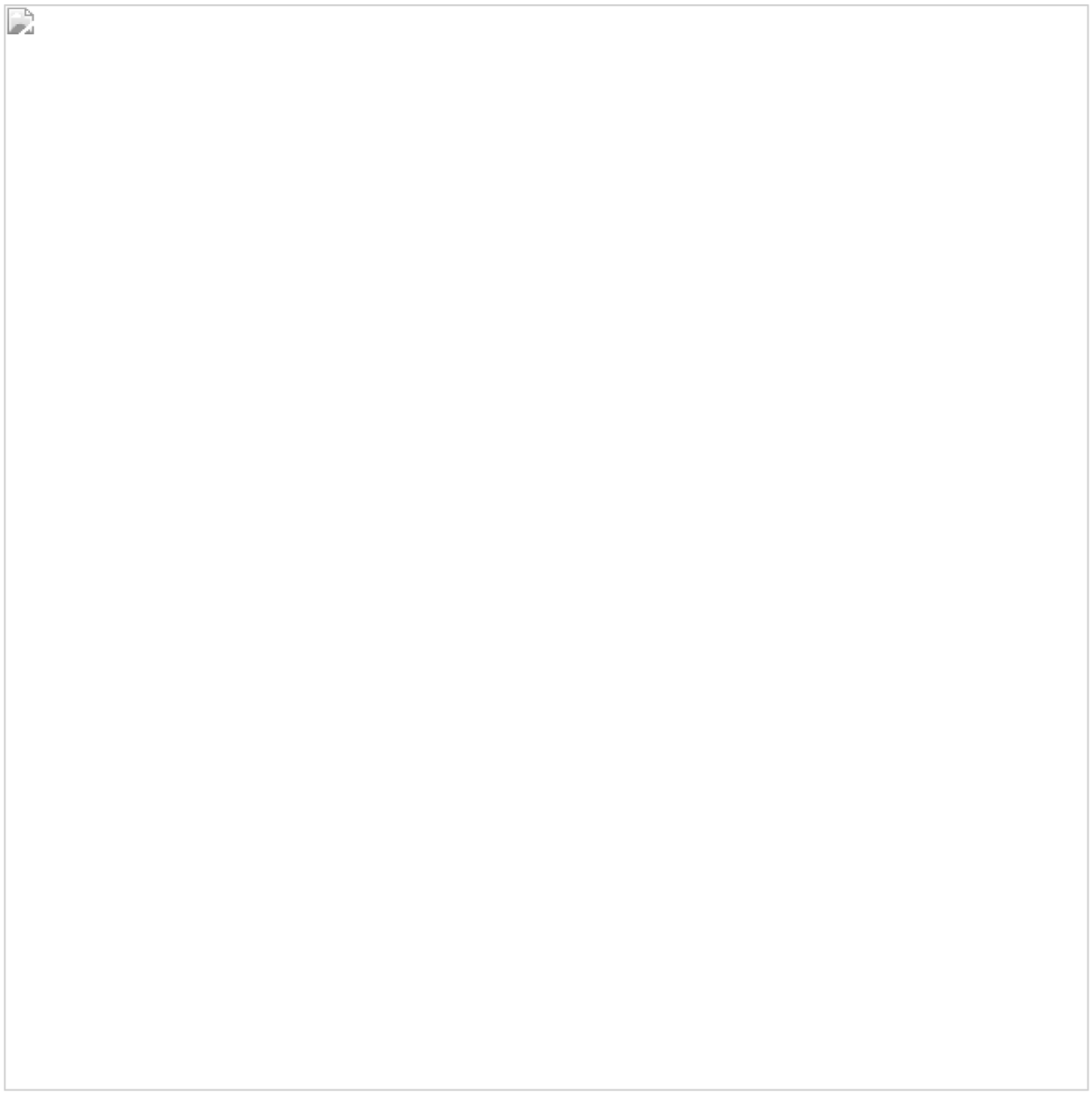


A few days later a king from a far country marched upon the city. He sent a message: “Give up your country, or do battle.”

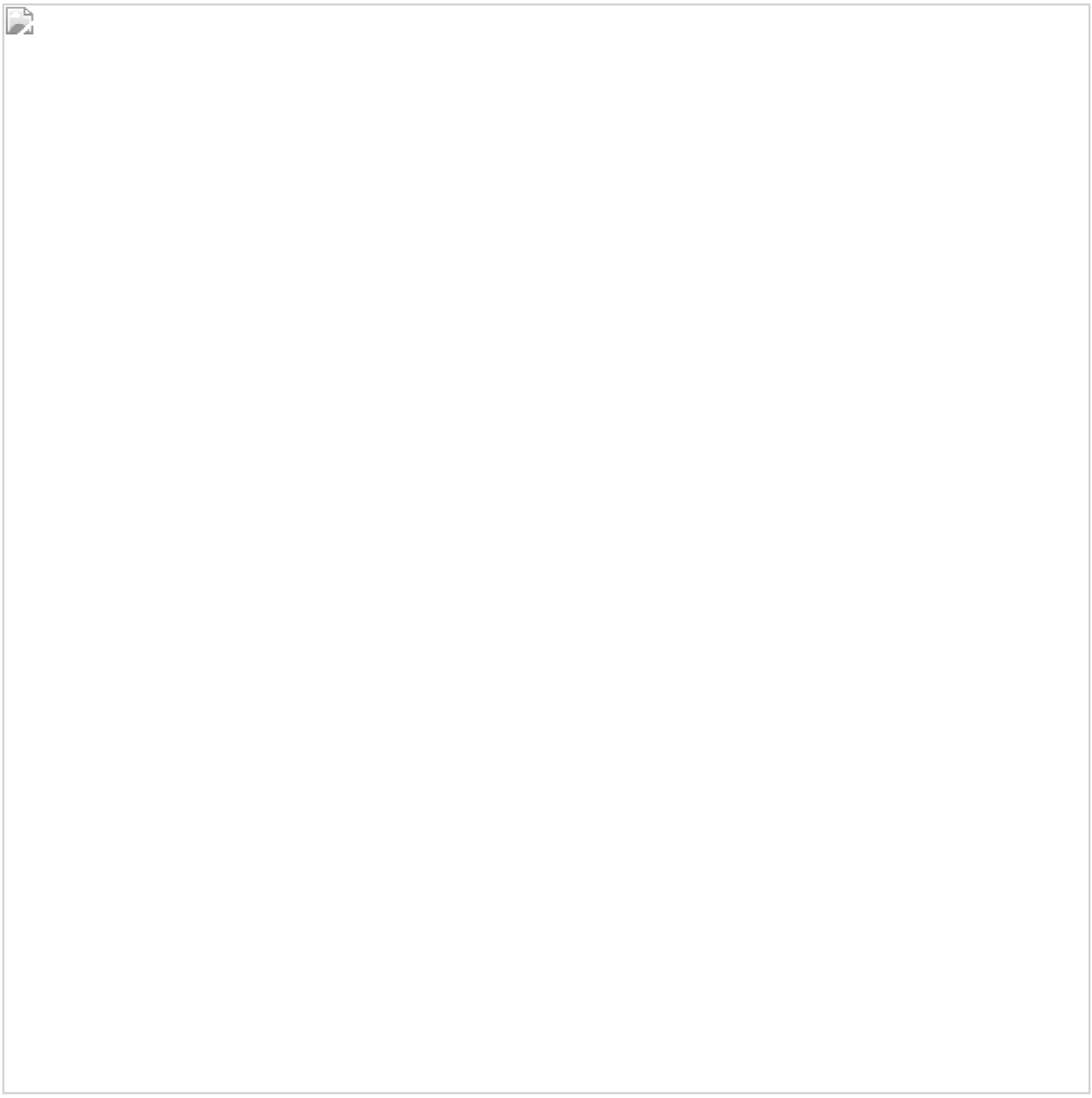
The king at once sent his army. The big man was armed and mounted on a war-elephant. The little bowman knew that the big man could not shoot, so he took his bow and seated himself behind him.

TALK ABOUT IT

The bowman still went with the big man, even after the unkind words. Why do you think he did?



The Beat of the Drums



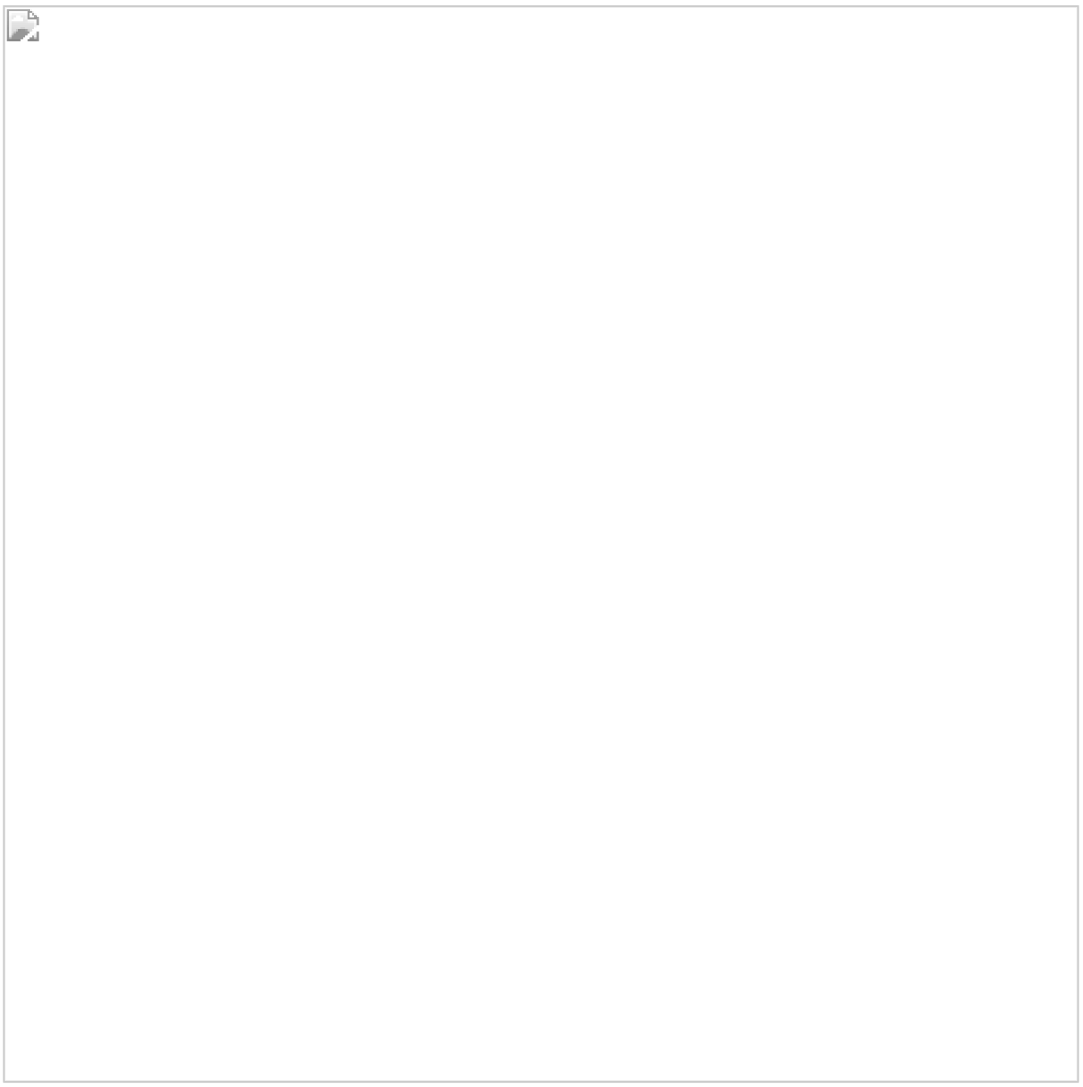
The war-elephant went out of the city at the head of the army. At the first beat of the drums, the big man shook with fear.

“Hold on tight,” said the little bowman. “If you fall off now, you will be killed. You need not be afraid; I am here.”

But the big man was so afraid that he slipped down off the war-elephant's back and ran back into the city. He did not stop until he reached his home.

TALK ABOUT IT

The bowman spoke calmly to the frightened man. What helps you when you are scared?

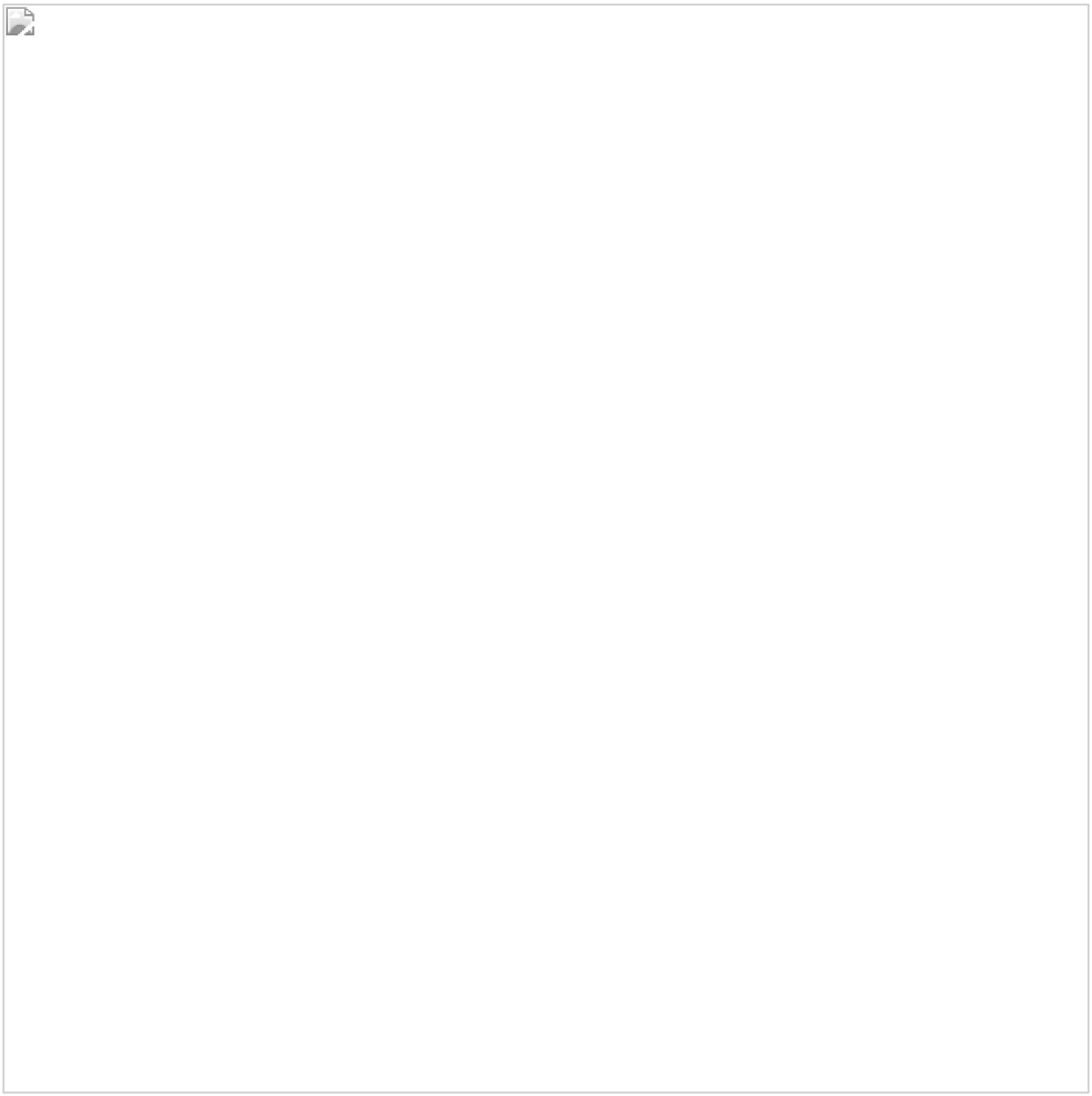


Think about it

1. What did the big man do when the drums began?

- ○ He shot an arrow
- ○ He ran home
- ○ He led the army

The Brave Little Bowman



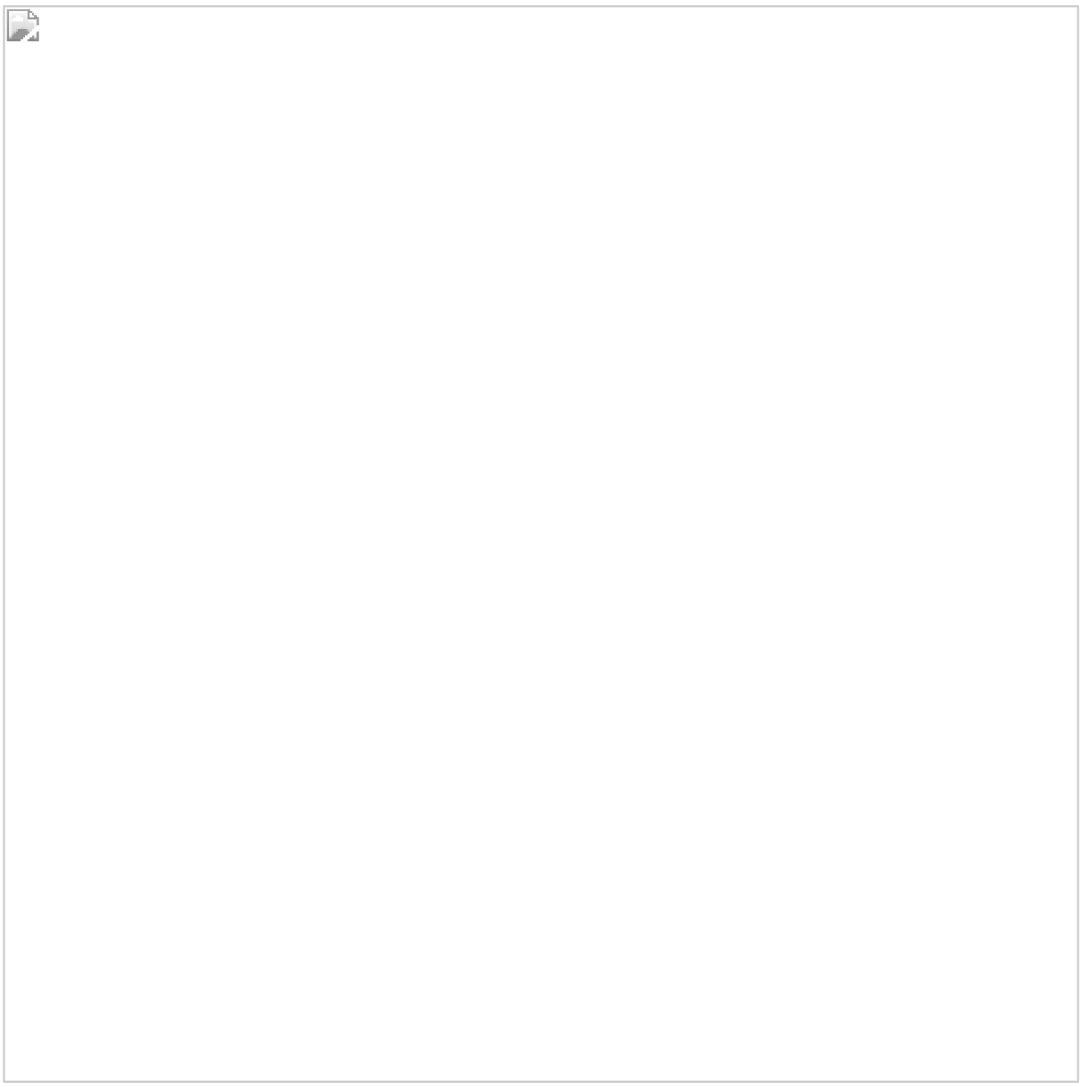
“And now to win!” said the little bowman, as he drove the war-elephant into the fight.

The army broke into the camp of the king from afar and drove him back to his own country. Then the little bowman led the army back into the city.

The king and all the people called him “the brave little bowman.” The king made him the chief of the army, giving him rich gifts.

TALK ABOUT IT

In the end, everyone saw what the little bowman could do. When have you shown what you can do?



Think about it

1. How did the king reward the little bowman?

- ○ He made him chief of the army
- ○ He sent him home
- ○ He gave him a ditch to dig

2. Do you think the big man was treated fairly at the end?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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