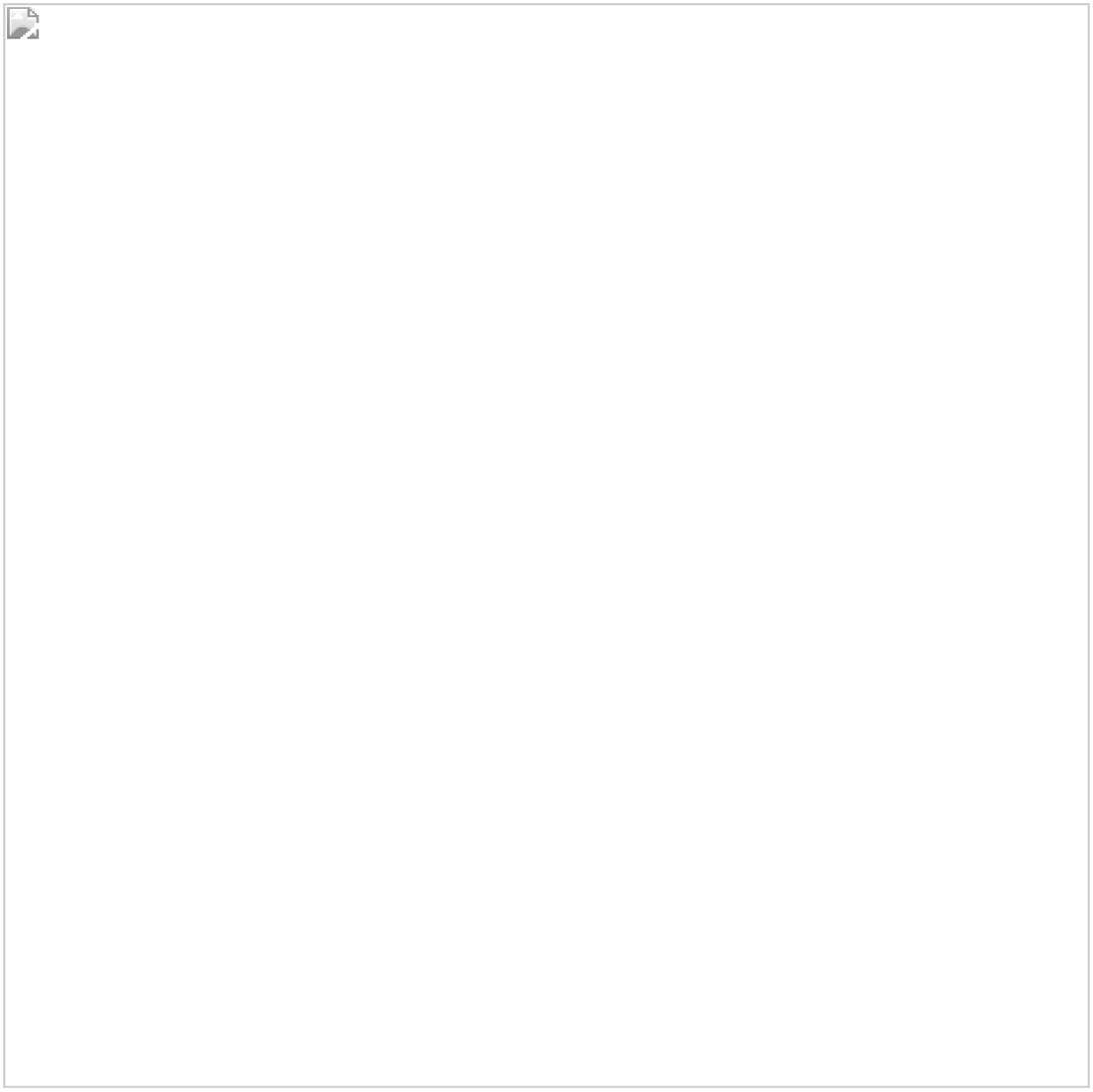
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Emperor's New Clothes

A tale from Denmark



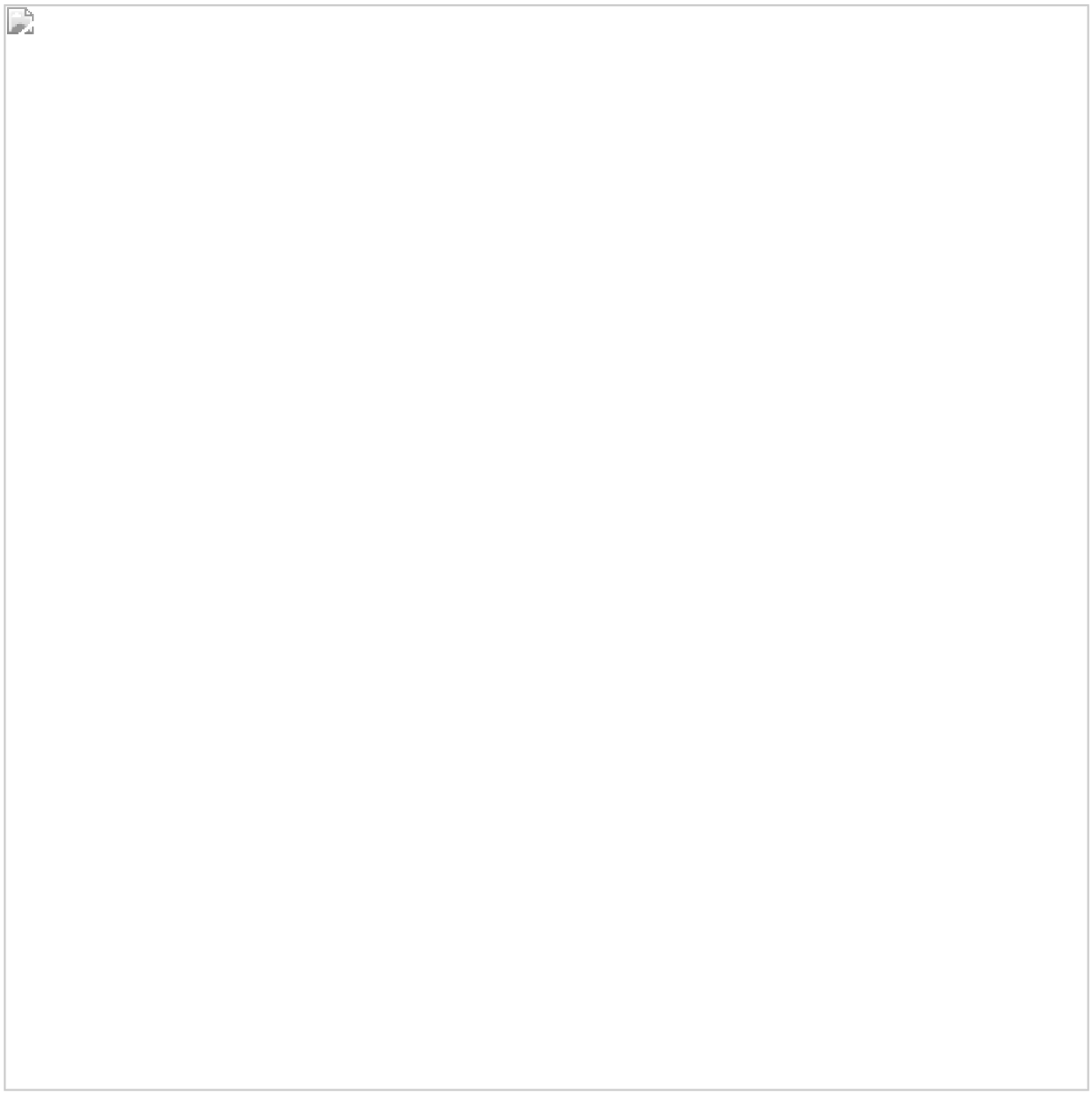
"Many years ago, lived an emperor who was so very fond of new clothes, that he spared no expense in order to obtain as many fine dresses as possible."

TALK ABOUT IT

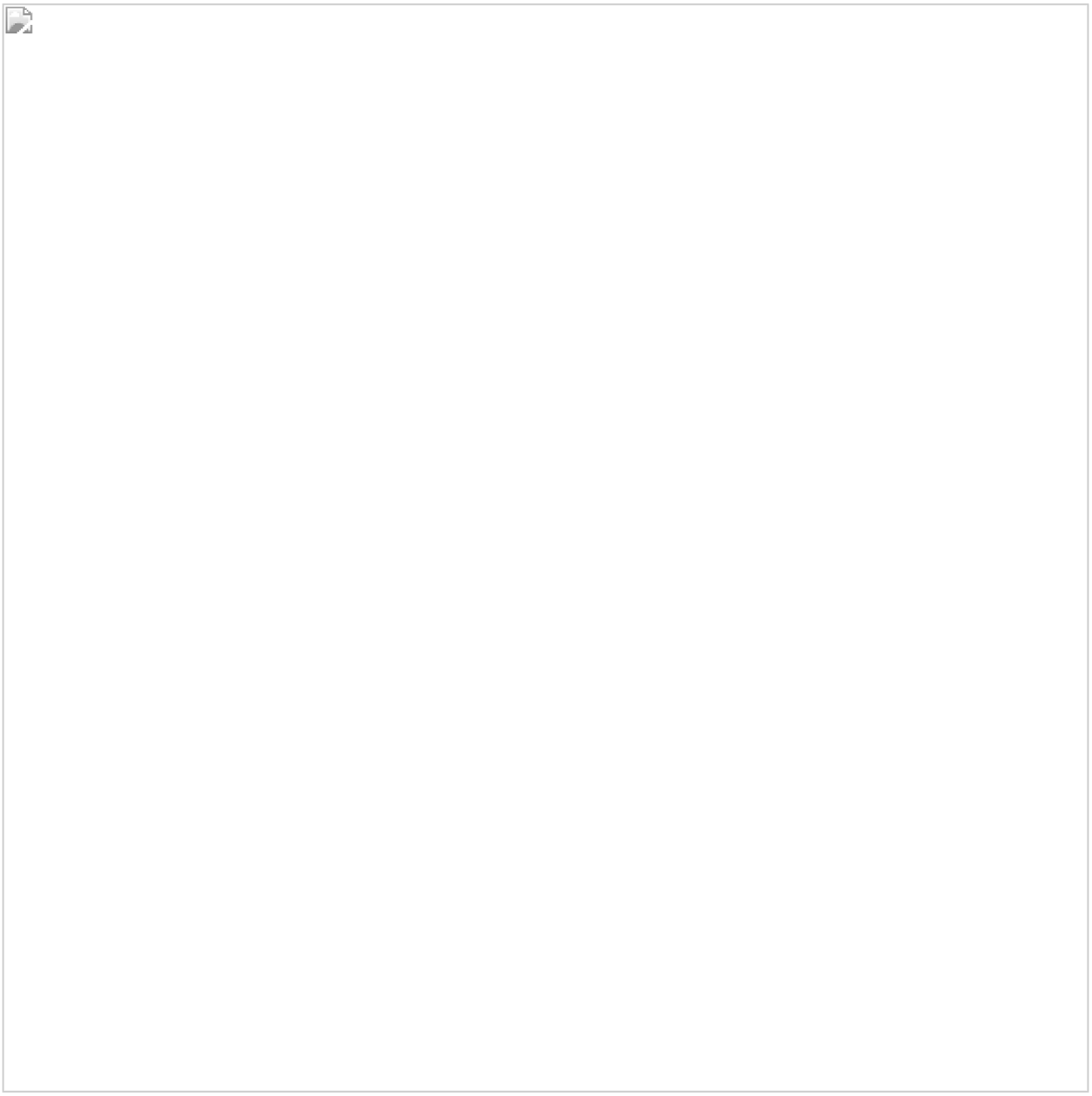
This emperor loved new clothes more than anything. What do you love so much you could think of nothing else?

This book belongs to _____

The Emperor's New Clothes · another picture



An Emperor Who Loved Clothes

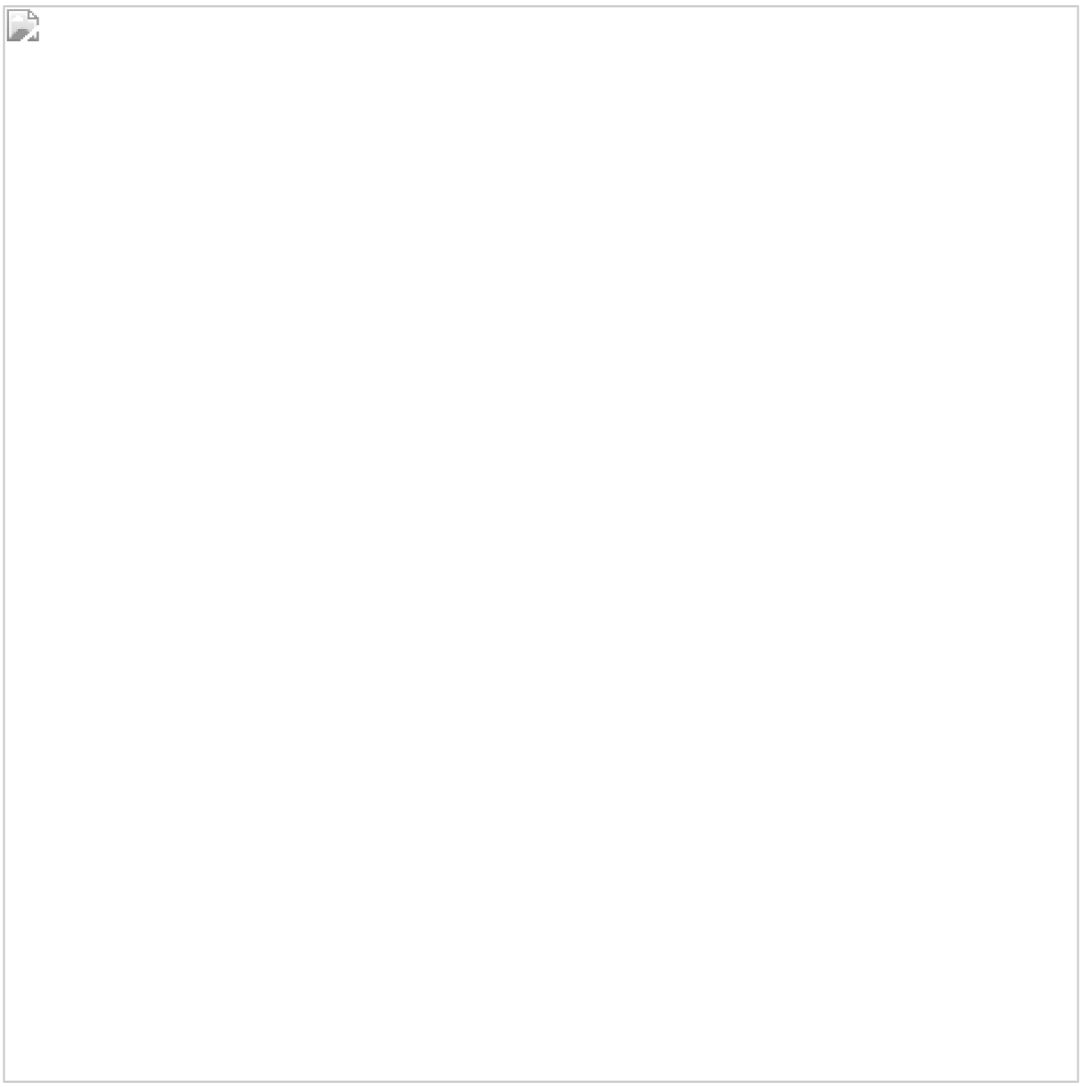


He did not care about his soldiers, and he hardly ever went to the theatre. He only drove out in his carriage to show off his clothes.

In other kingdoms people said, “The king is in his council chamber.” But here it was always said, “The emperor is in his dressing-room.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Where should an emperor be, do you think? What does the dressing-room tell you about him?

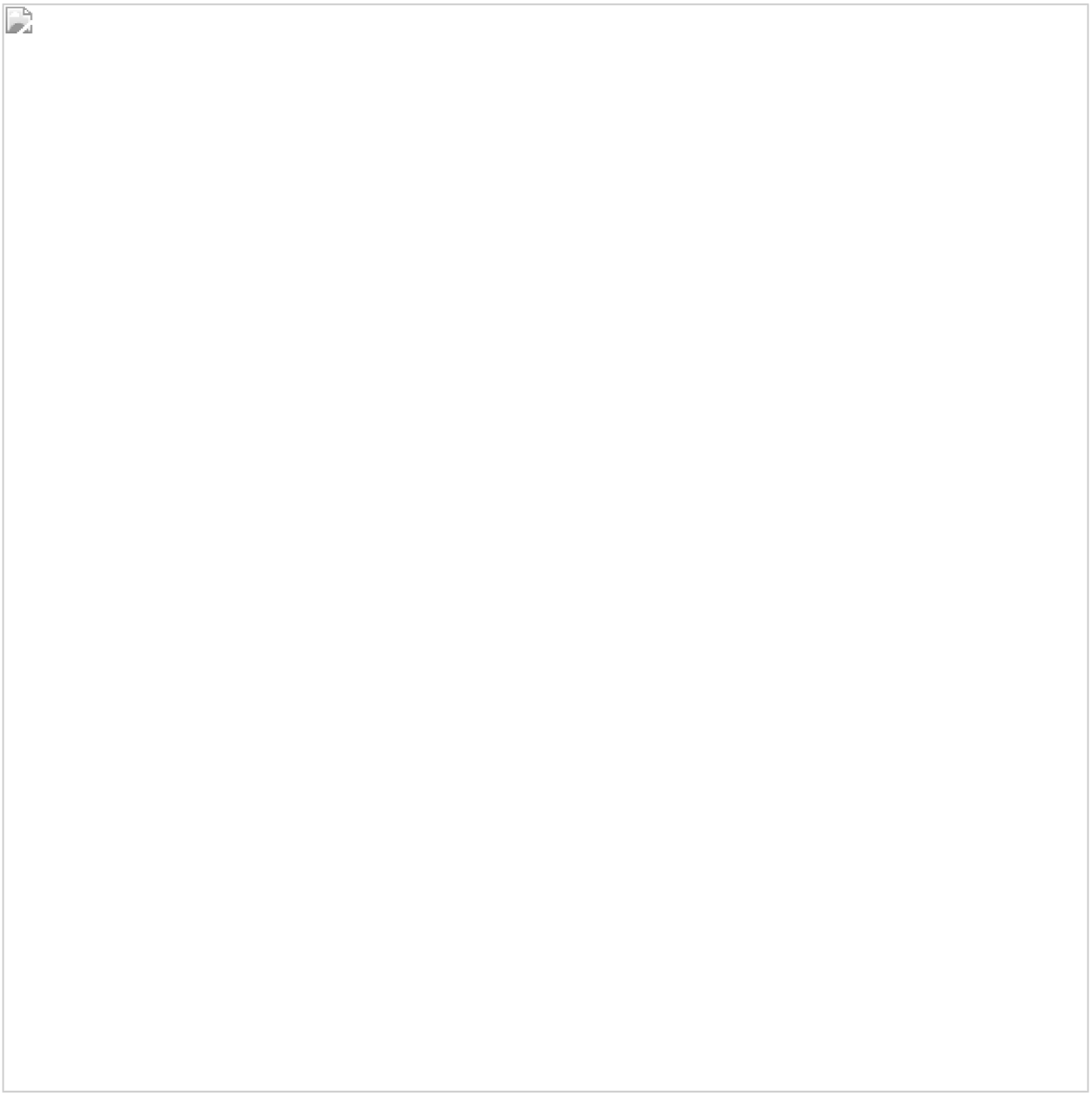


Think about it

1. Where was the emperor always said to be?

- ○ In his council chamber
- ○ In his dressing-room
- ○ At the theatre

Two Weavers Come to Town

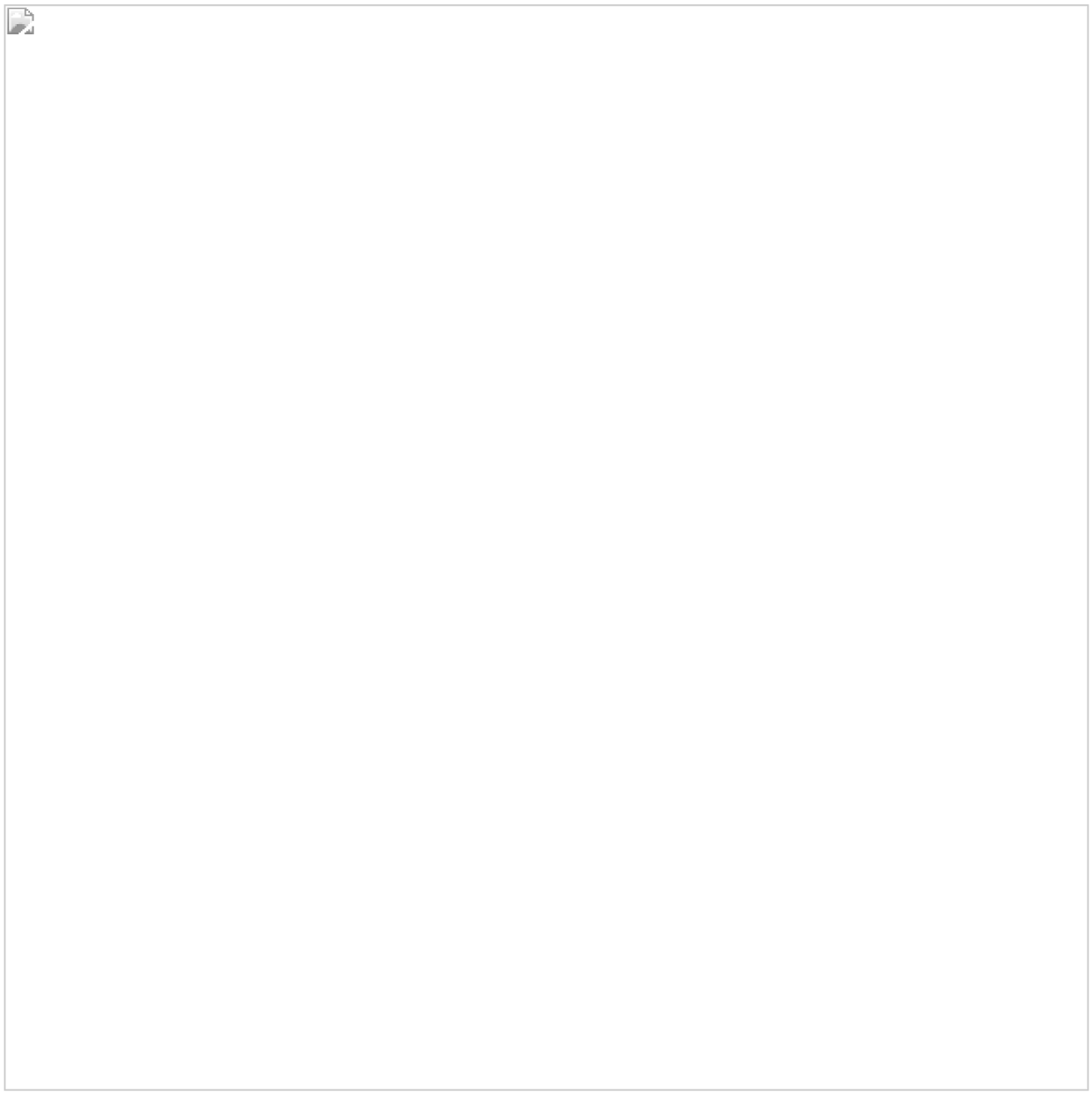


One day two men came to the city. They said they were weavers, and that they could weave the most beautiful cloth that eyes had ever seen.

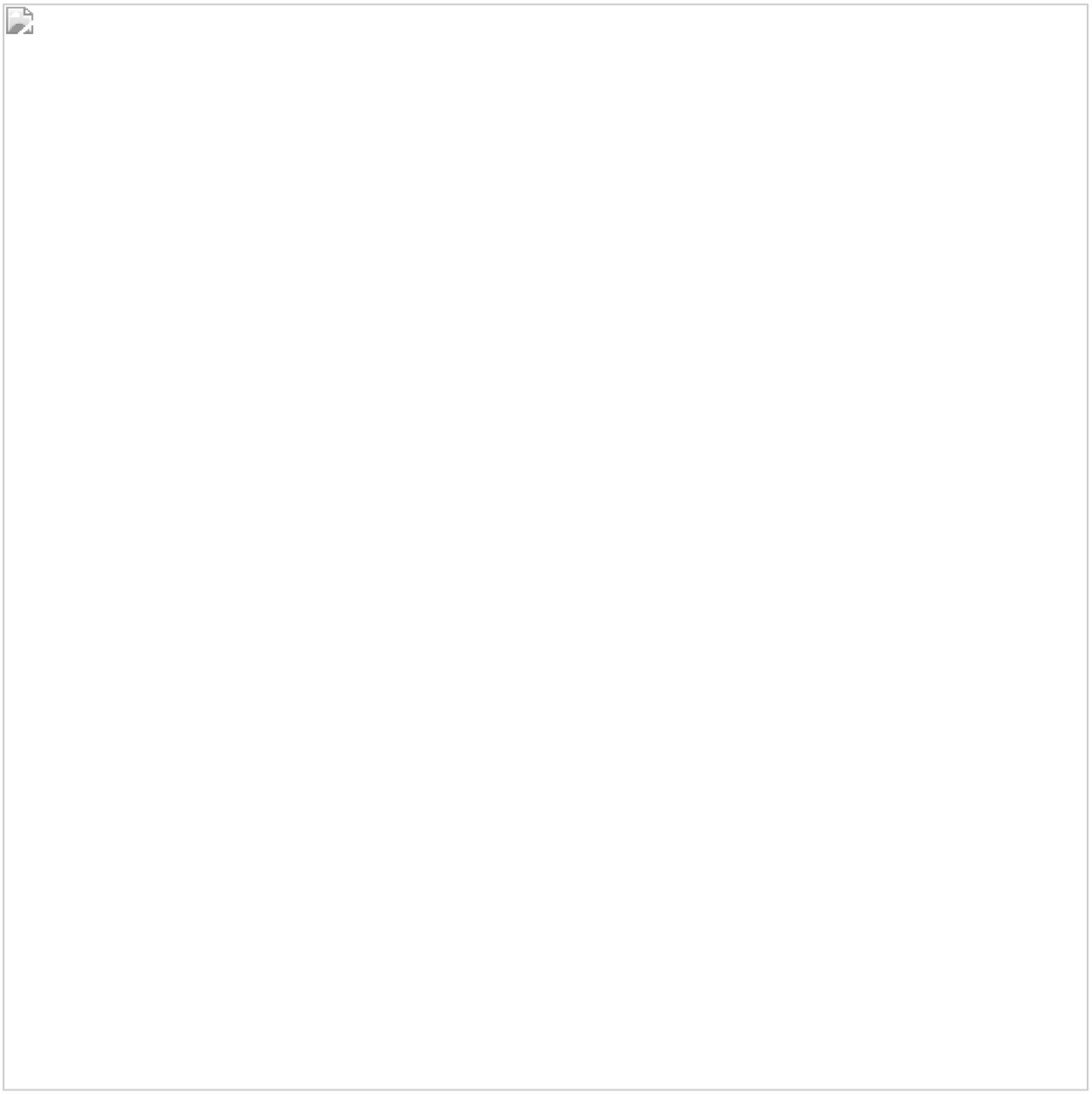
But the cloth had a wonderful power. It could not be seen by anyone who was not right for his job, or who was not clever enough.

TALK ABOUT IT

That sounds like a trick. What would you want to ask the two weavers?



The Empty Looms



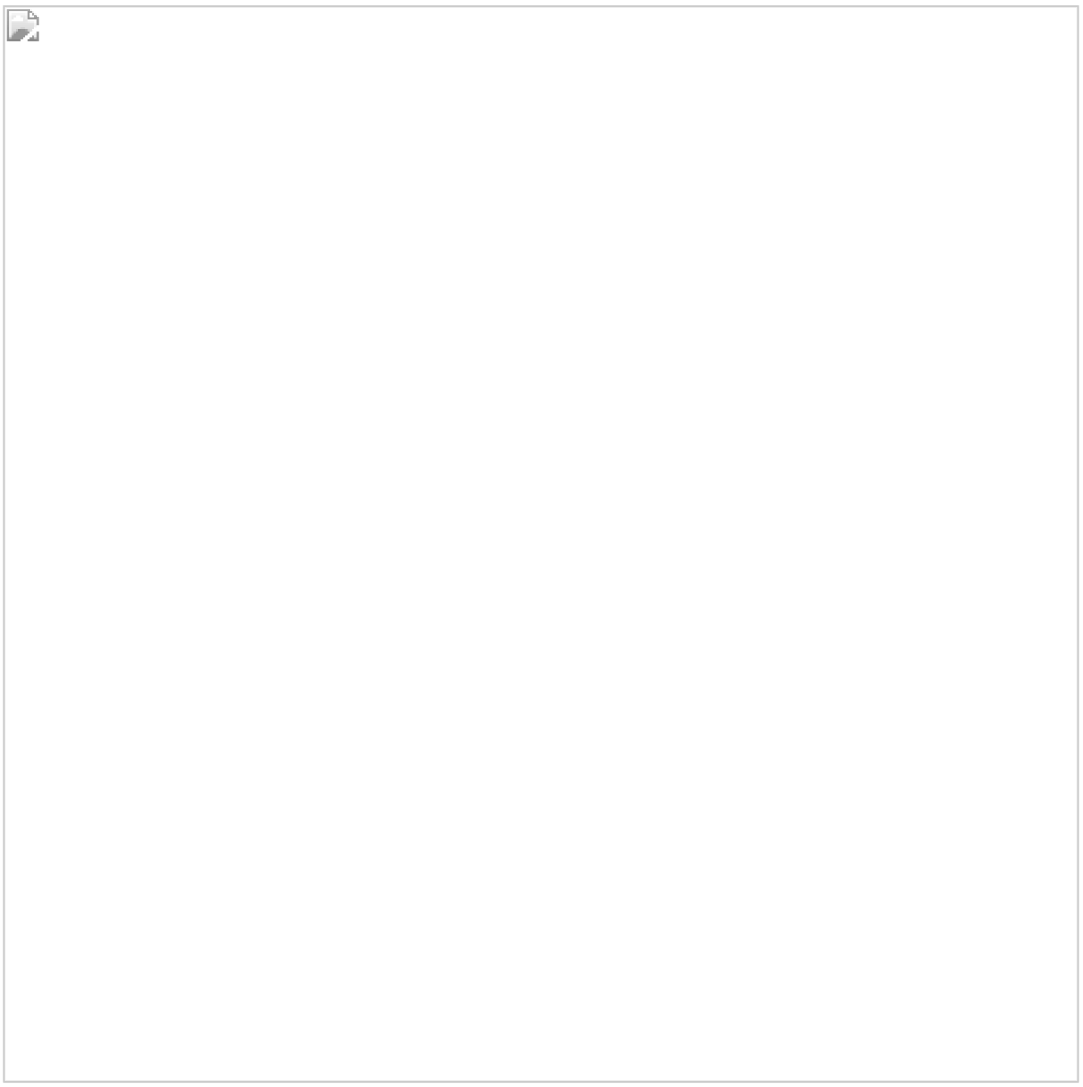
“Yes, I must have some of that stuff woven for myself,” thought the emperor. He could tell which of his people were fit for their jobs! So he gave the weavers a large sum of money to begin at once.

The two men set up two looms and pretended to work, but there was nothing on the looms at all. They asked for the finest silk and gold thread and tucked it all away in their own bag.

TALK ABOUT IT

The weavers kept the gold thread. What do you think they were really doing?

The Empty Looms · another picture

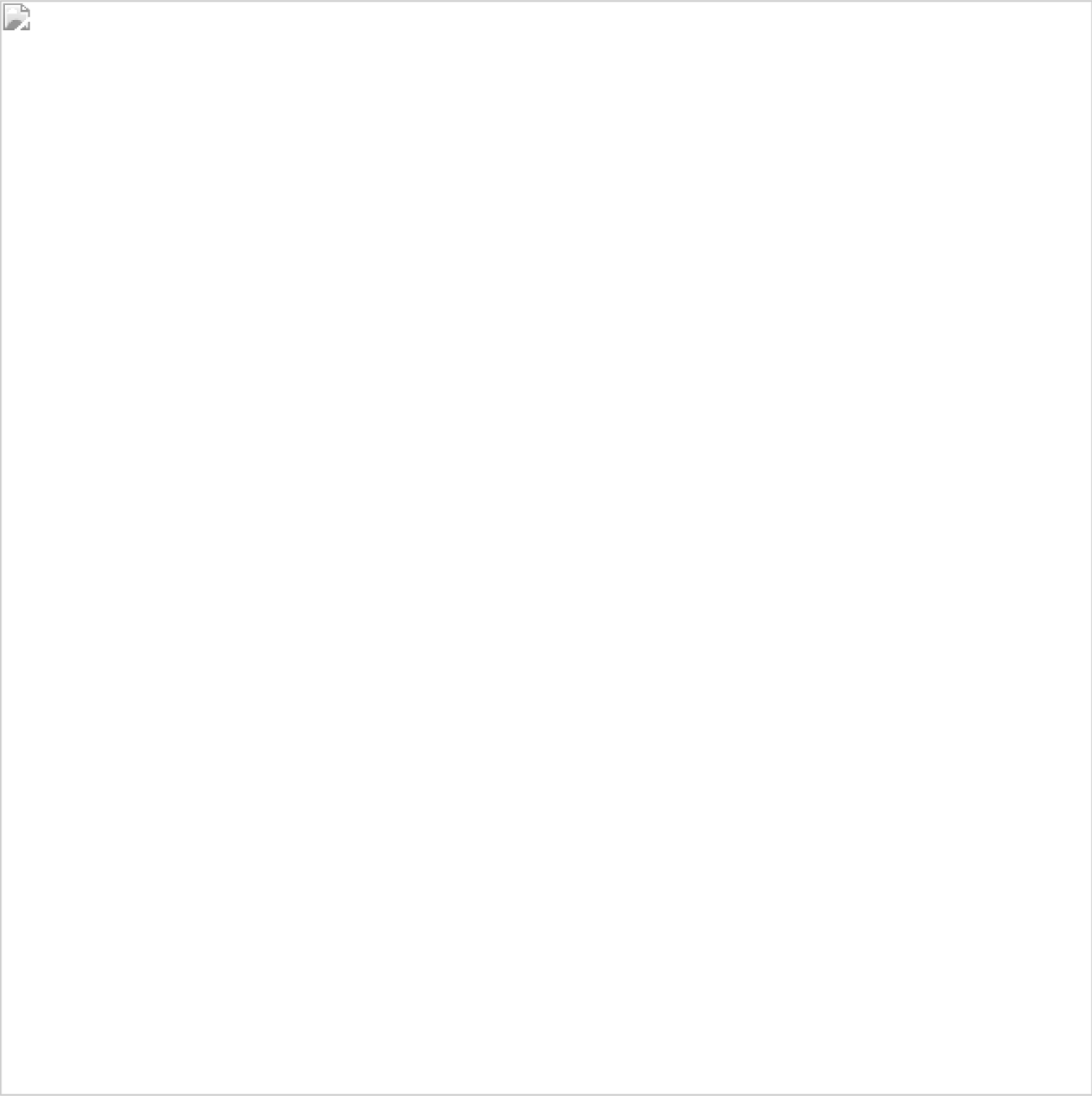


Think about it

1. What was on the looms?

- ○ Gold and silk cloth
- ○ Nothing at all
- ○ Pretty flowers

The Old Minister



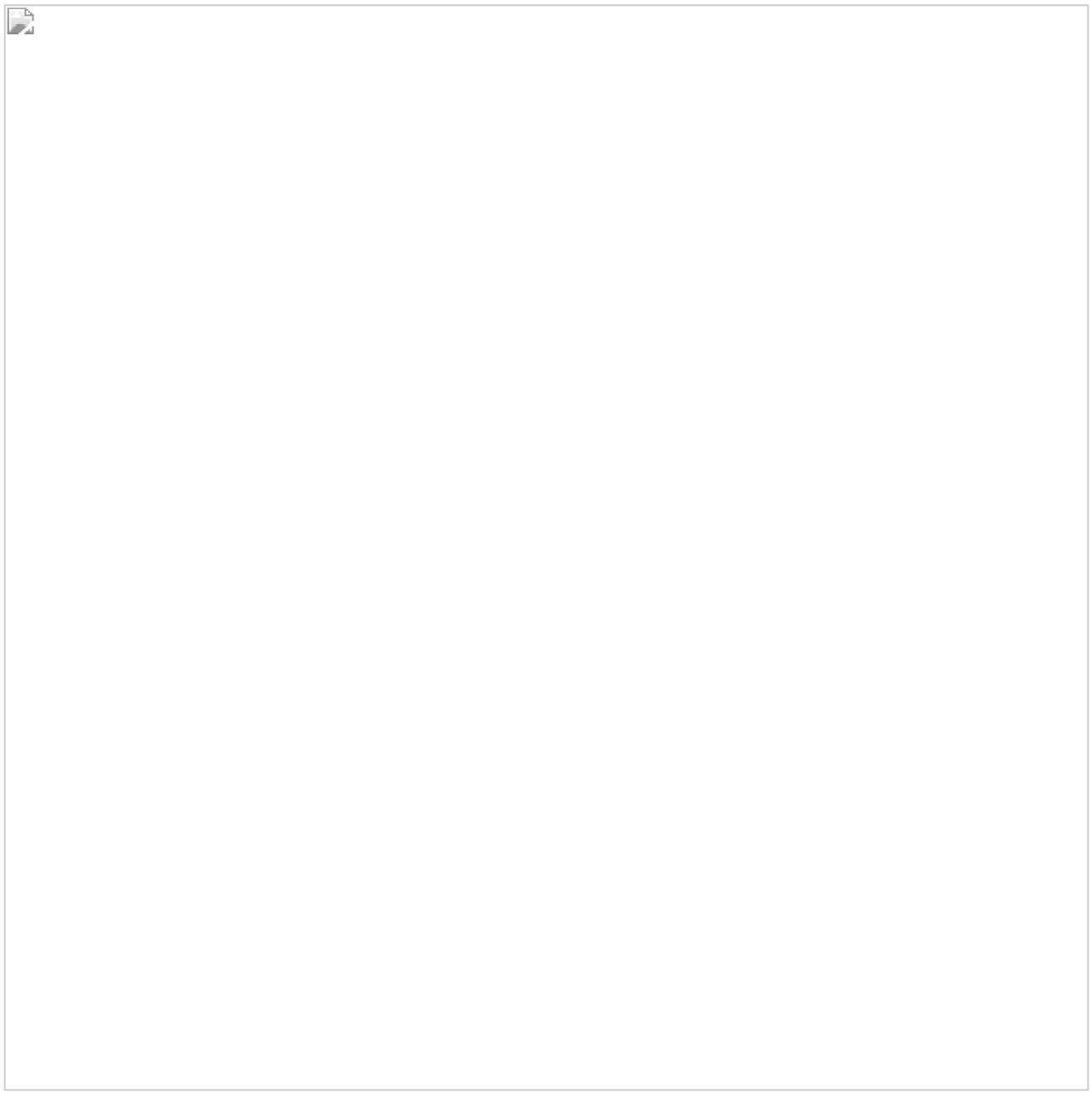
The emperor wanted to know how the weaving was going. He decided to send his good old minister first, for he was a sensible man.

The old minister looked at the looms with wide open eyes. “Good gracious!” he said to himself, “am I becoming stupid or unfit for my position?” But he did not dare say so. “Oh, it is beautiful, lovely,” he told the weavers.

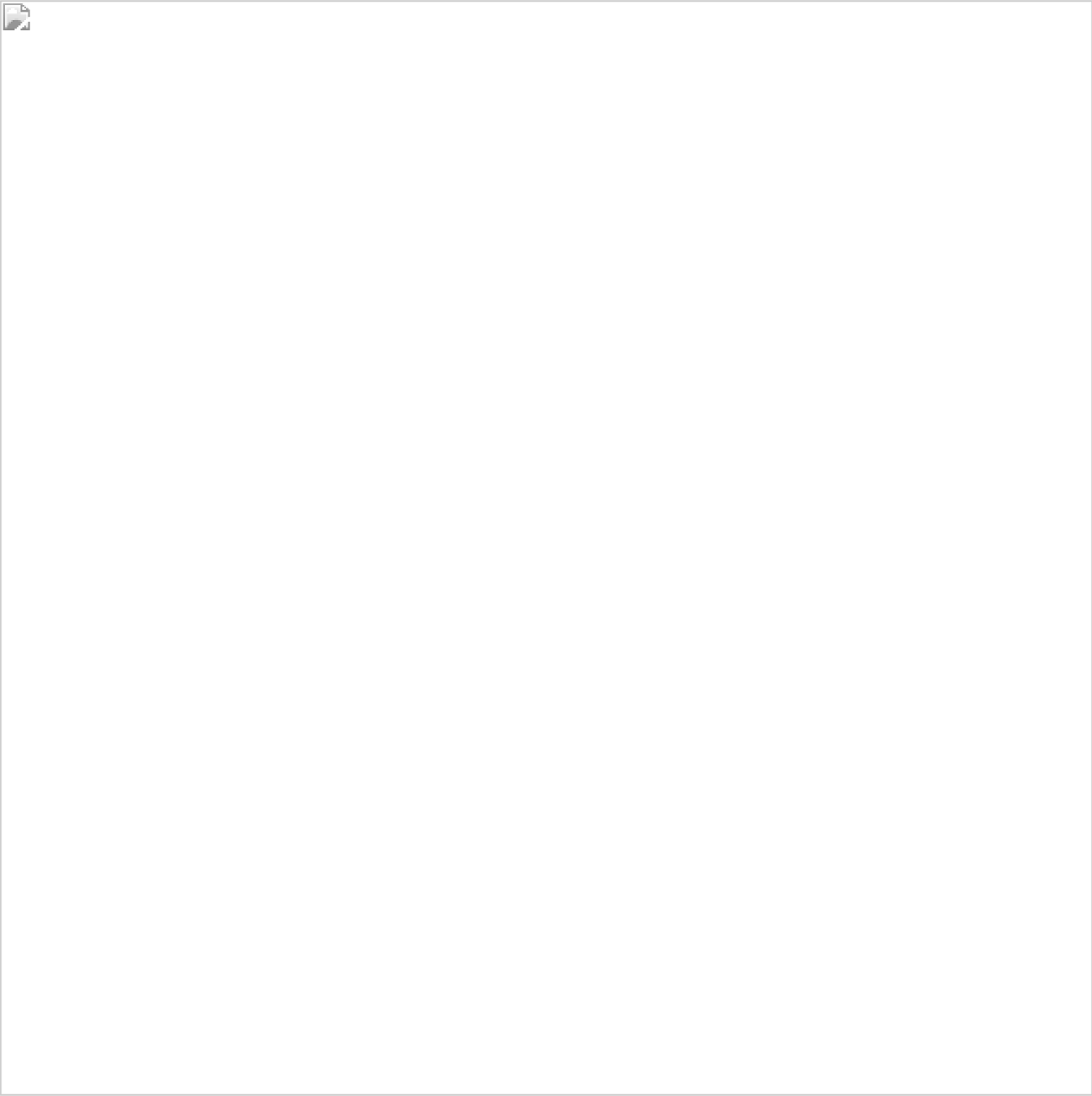
TALK ABOUT IT

The minister saw nothing, and said it was lovely. Why do you think he did that?

The Old Minister · another picture



Another Visitor

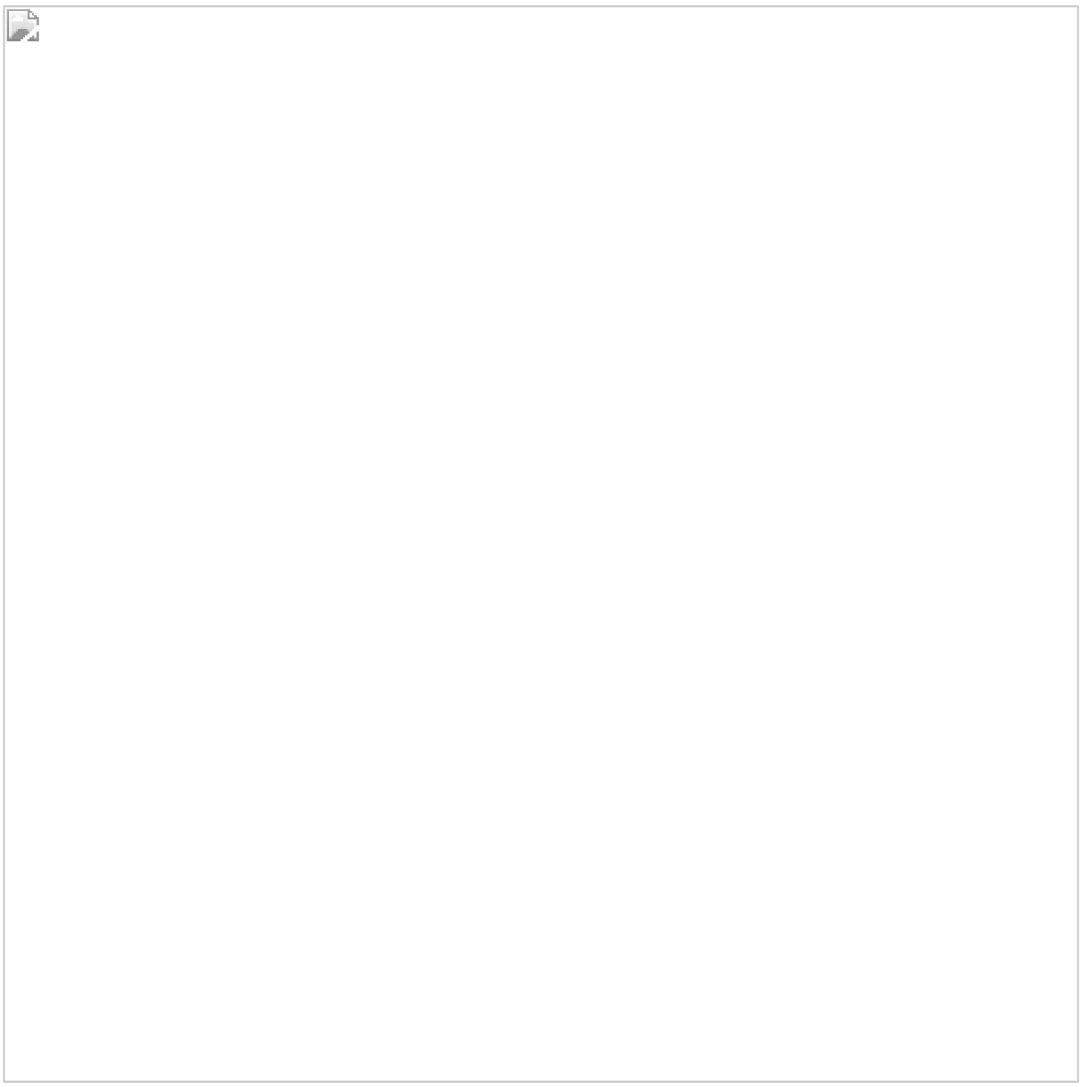


Next the emperor sent another statesman. It was just the same. He looked and looked, and there was nothing on the looms for him to see.

“I am not stupid,” said the man to himself. Still, he praised the cloth he could not see. “It is really lovely,” he told the emperor.

TALK ABOUT IT

Now two people have said the same thing. What do you think might happen next?

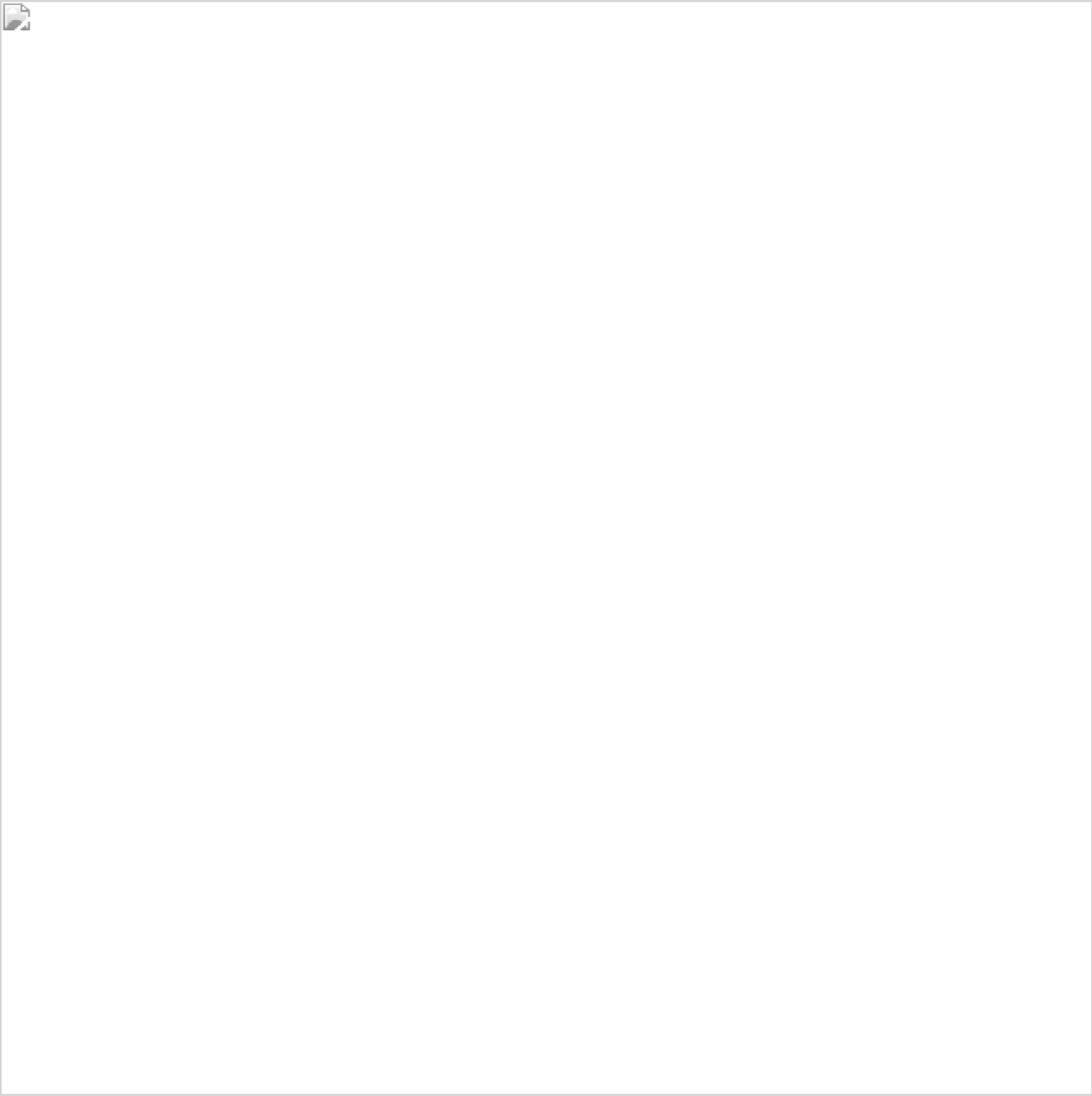


Think about it

1. What did the second statesman tell the emperor?

- ○ “It is really lovely.”
- ○ “There is nothing there.”
- ○ “It is not finished.”

The Emperor Looks

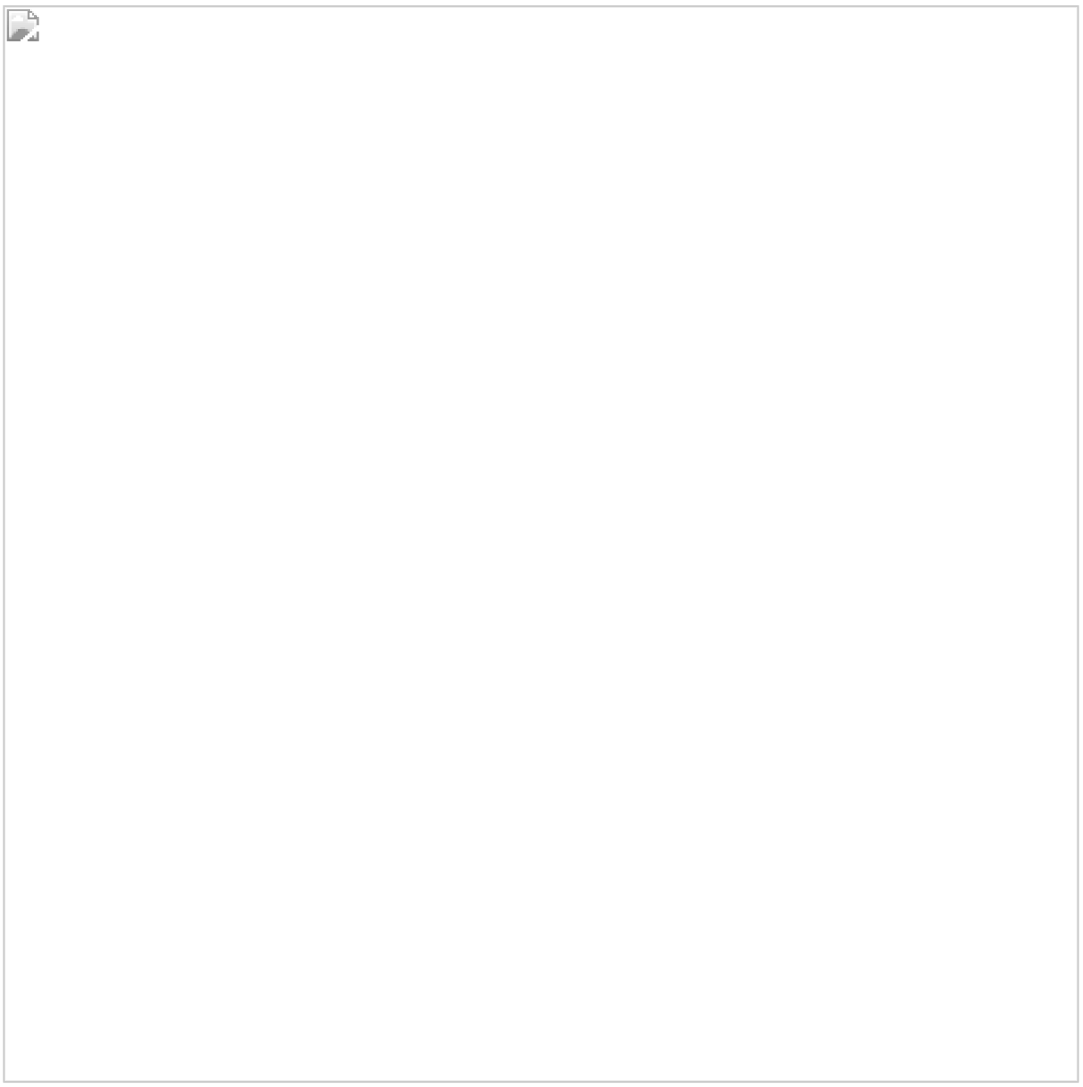


Then the emperor went to see for himself, with a crowd of gentlemen. “How is this?” said the emperor to himself. “I can see nothing; this is really dreadful.”

But he would not own that he saw nothing. He nodded as if he were quite satisfied. “Yes, it is very beautiful,” he said. All the gentlemen agreed, and the weavers were given the title of “Court Weavers.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Even the emperor was afraid to say it. What was he afraid of?

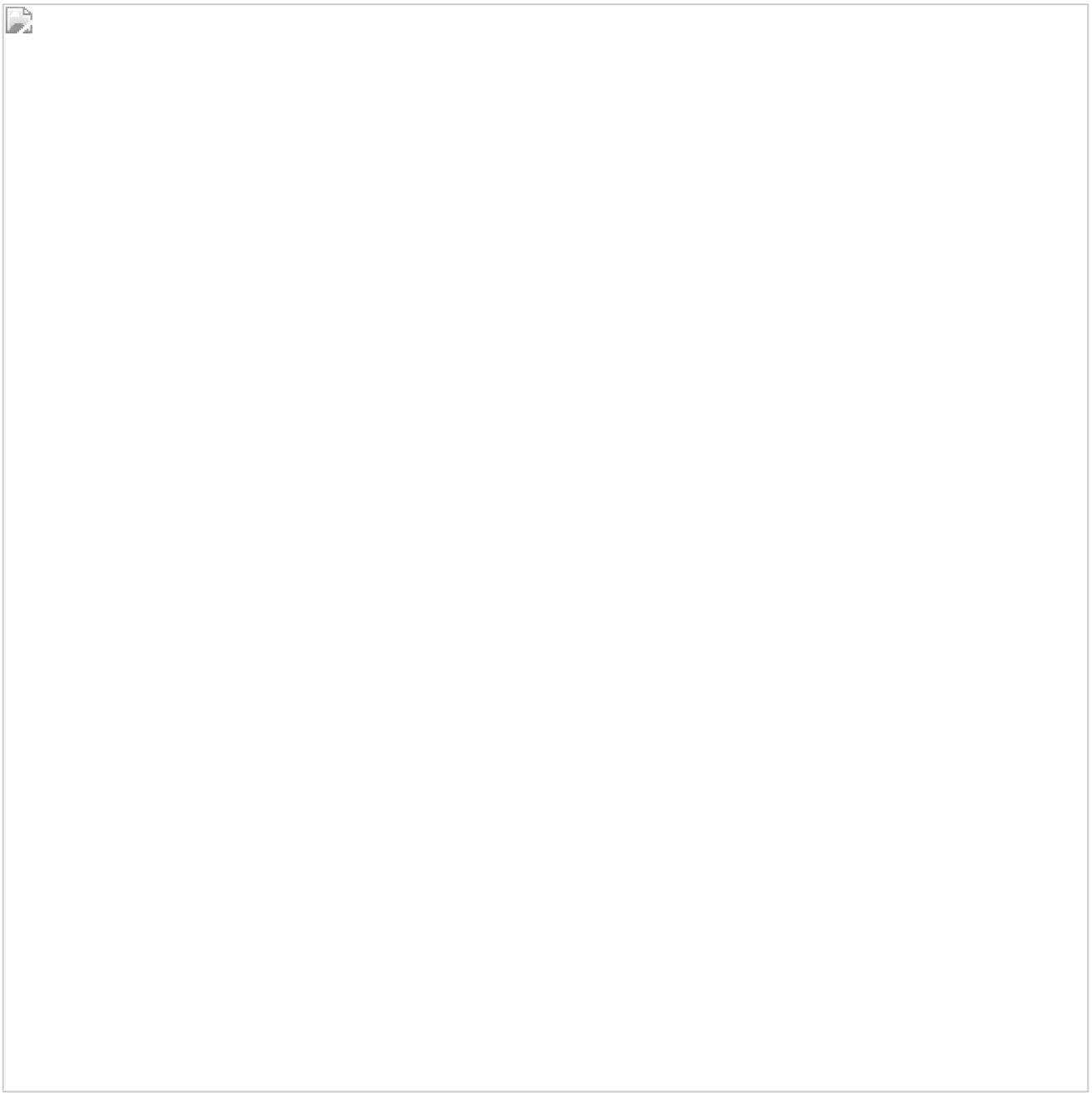


Think about it

1. What title did the emperor give the two weavers?

- “Court Weavers”
- “Royal Tailors”
- “Golden Needles”

Scissors in the Air



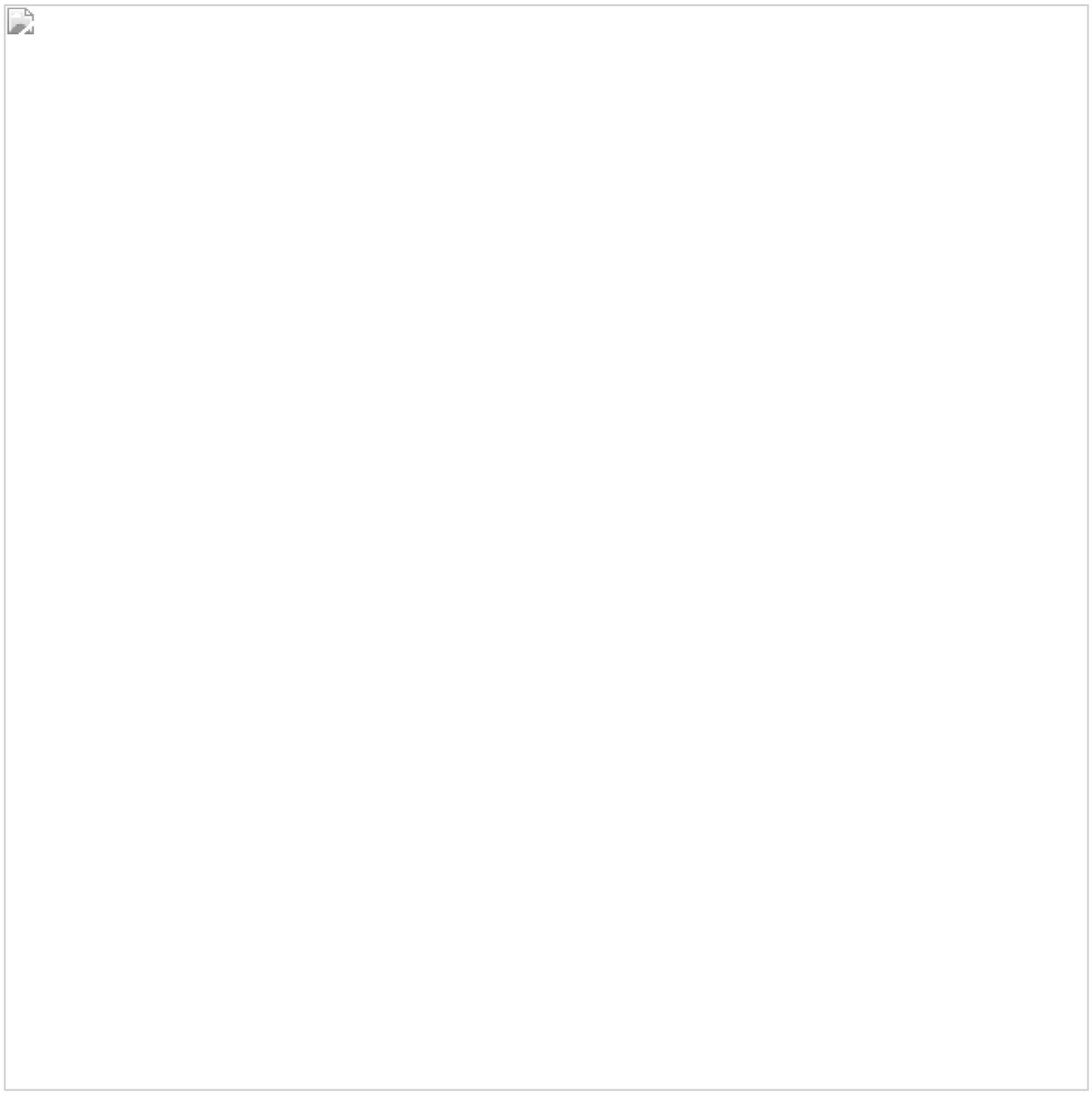
The weavers stayed up the whole night before the grand procession, with more than twenty lights burning. They moved their hands as if they were taking the cloth from the loom.

They cut with their great scissors in the air, and sewed with needles that held no thread. At last they said, “See, now, the clothes are quite ready.”

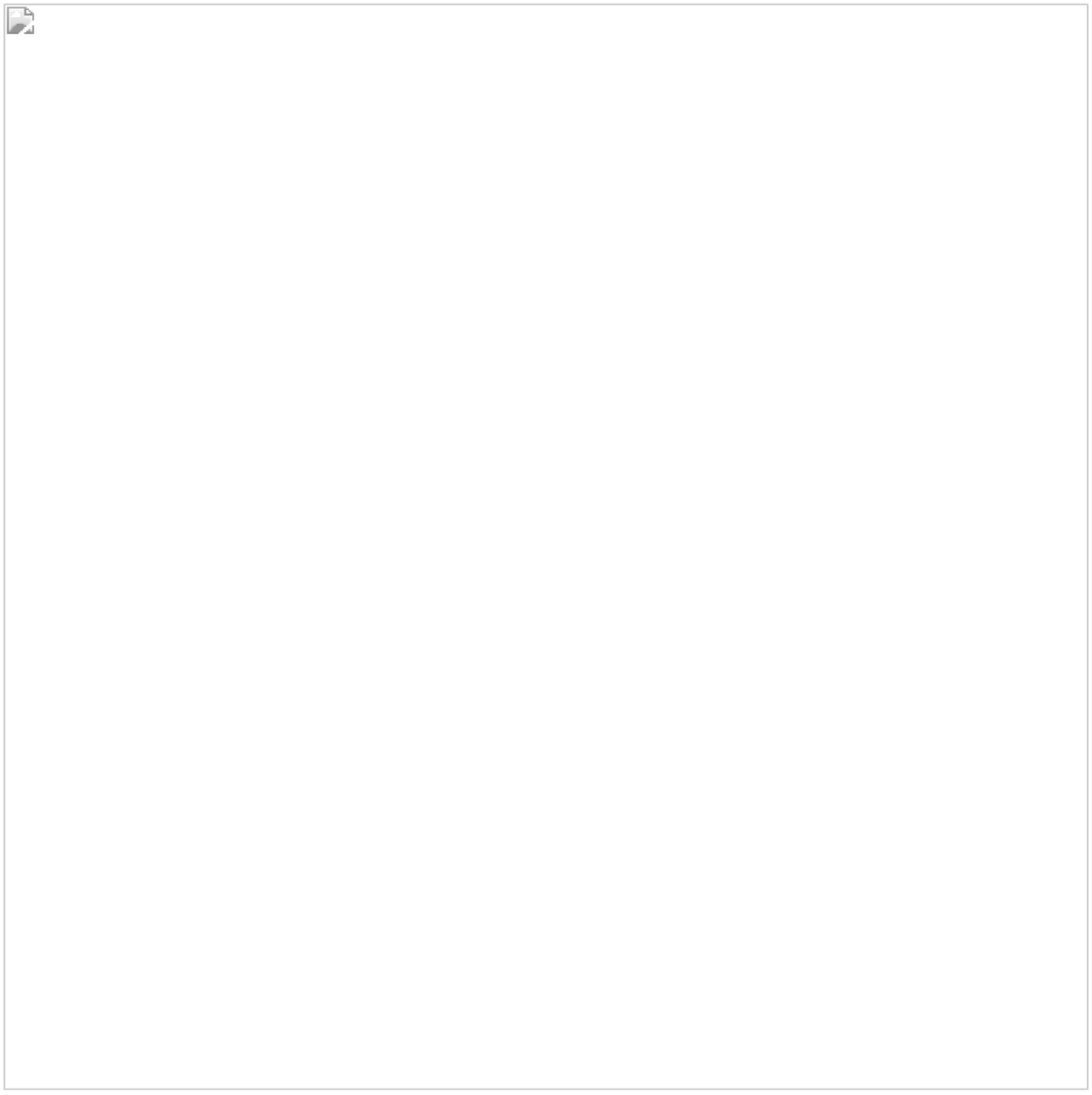
TALK ABOUT IT

The weavers worked all night on nothing. Why did they burn so many lights?

Scissors in the Air · another picture



Dressed in Nothing

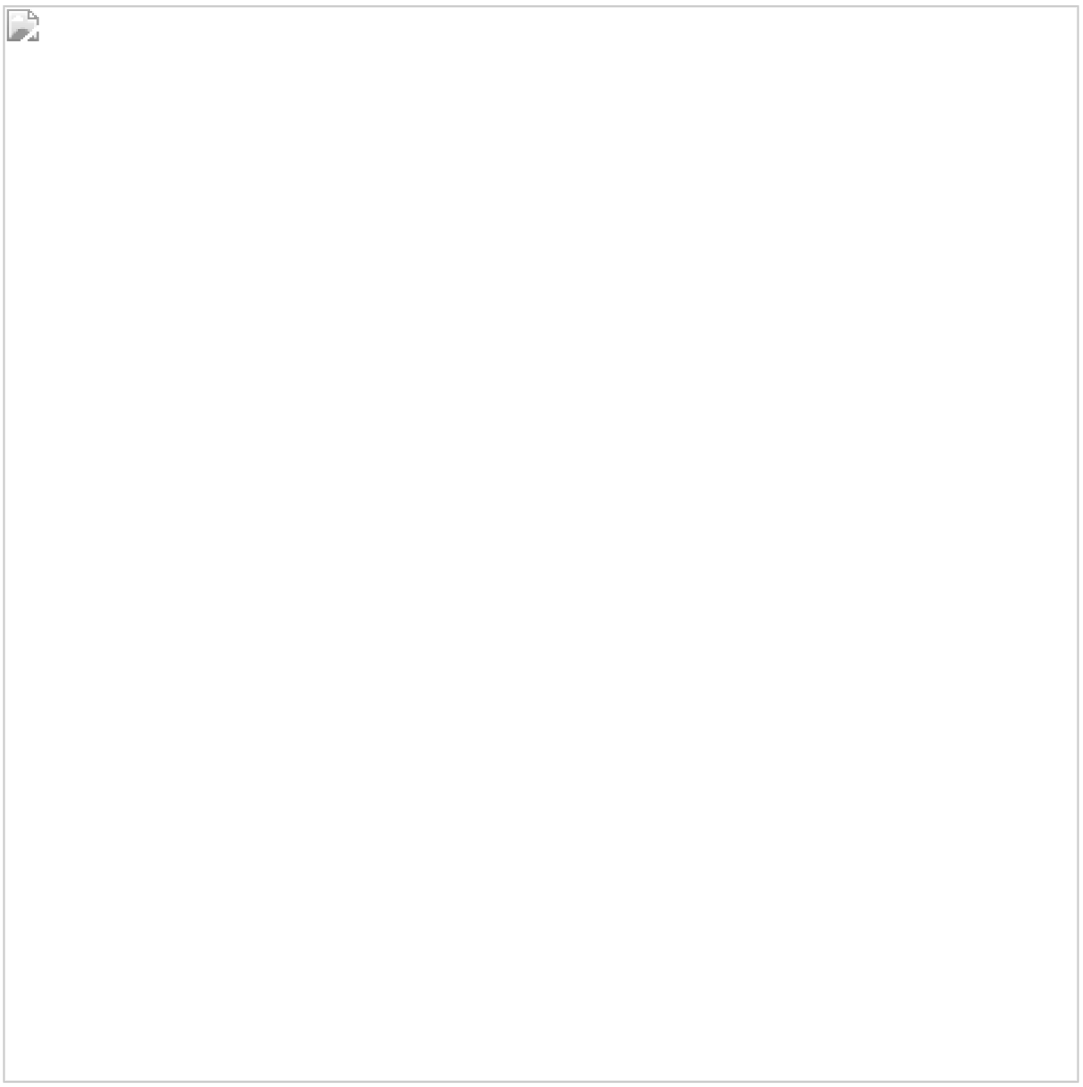


The emperor took off his clothes, and the weavers pretended to help him put on the new ones, one piece after another. He twisted and turned before the looking-glass.

“Oh, how becoming they are! how beautifully they fit!” everyone said. The weavers told him the cloth was “all as light as a spider’s web, so that anyone who wears them might believe he had nothing on.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Look at that last sentence again. Does it give the game away?

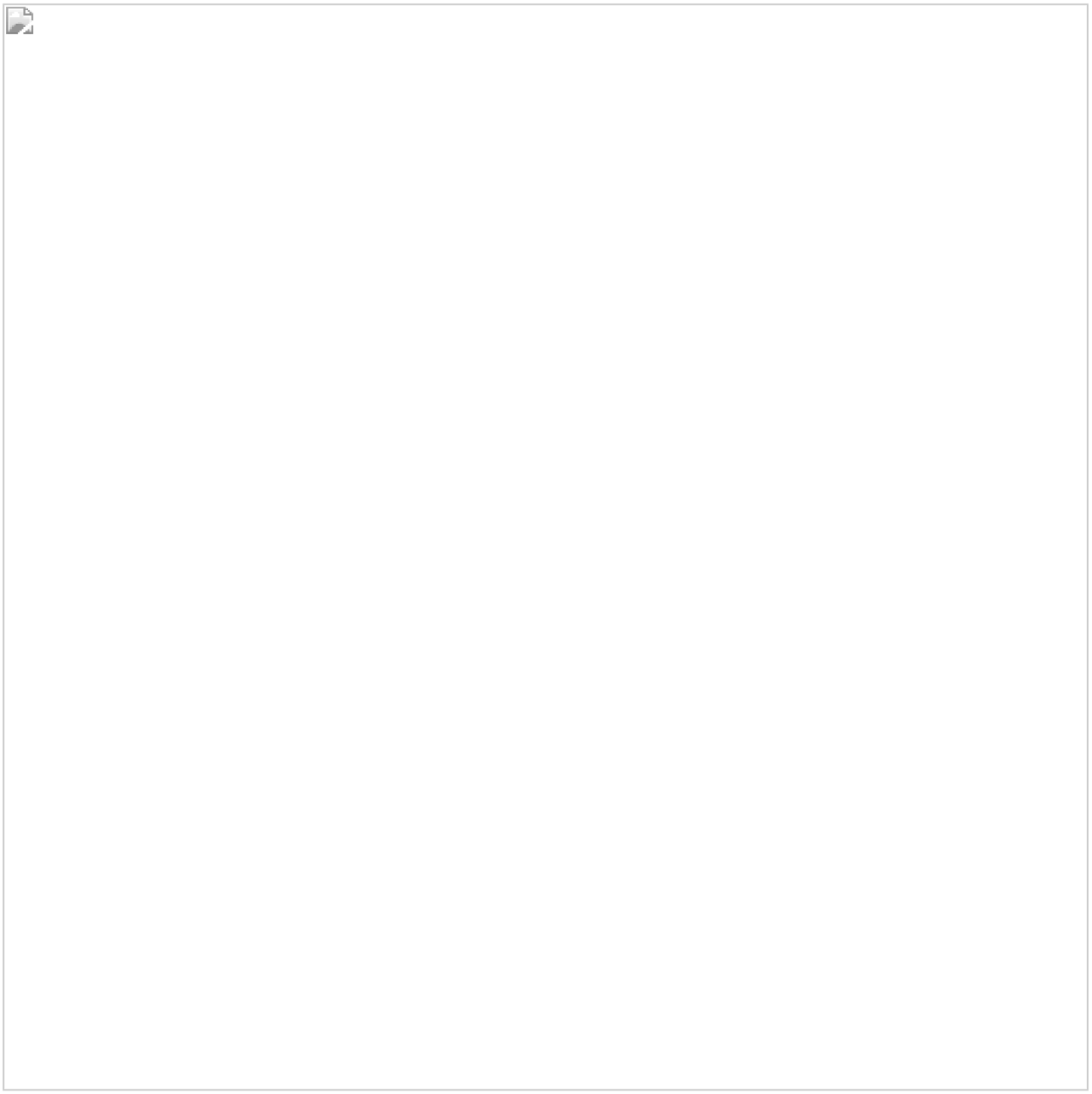


Think about it

1. How did the weavers say the cloth felt?

- ○ Heavy as a rug
- ○ All as light as a spider's web
- ○ Warm as wool

The Grand Procession



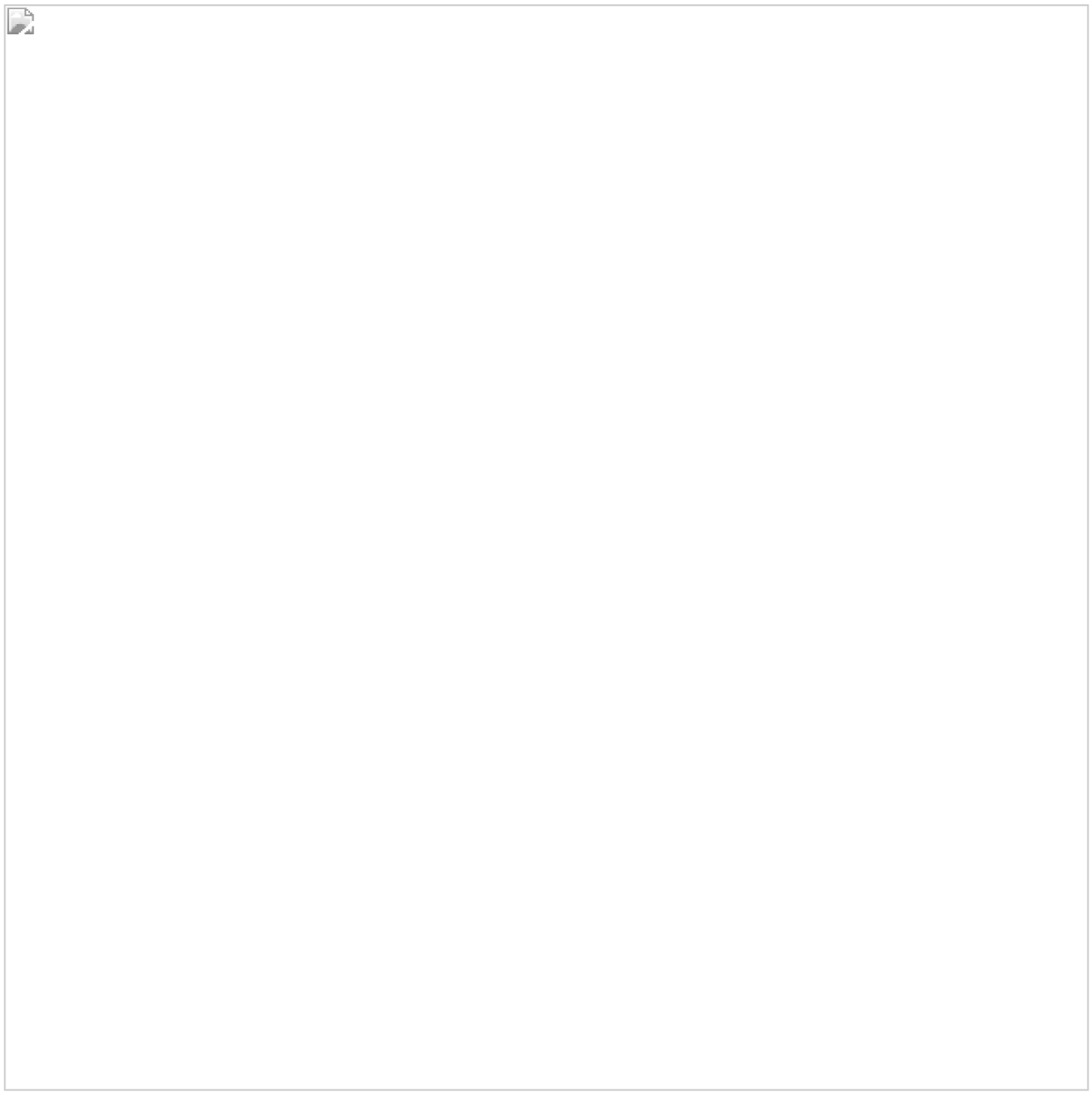
The pages bent down and pretended to lift the train. The emperor walked under a magnificent canopy, and all the people said, “Dear heaven! what splendid clothes the emperor has on, and how well they fit! and is not the train magnificent!”

No one dared to say that they saw nothing, for fear of being thought not clever enough for their job.

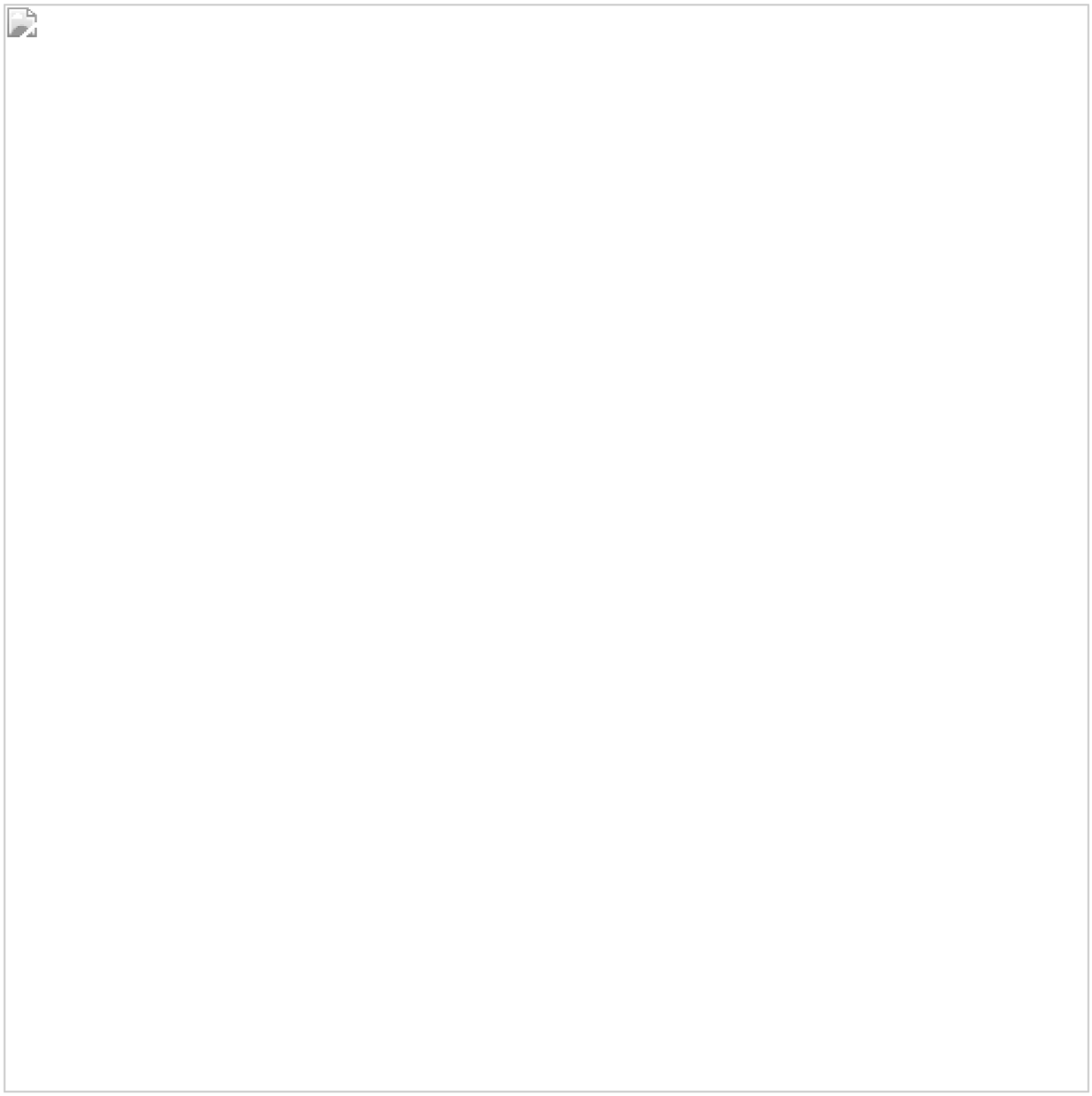
TALK ABOUT IT

A whole city is pretending. How could that happen?

The Grand Procession · another picture



A Little Child Speaks



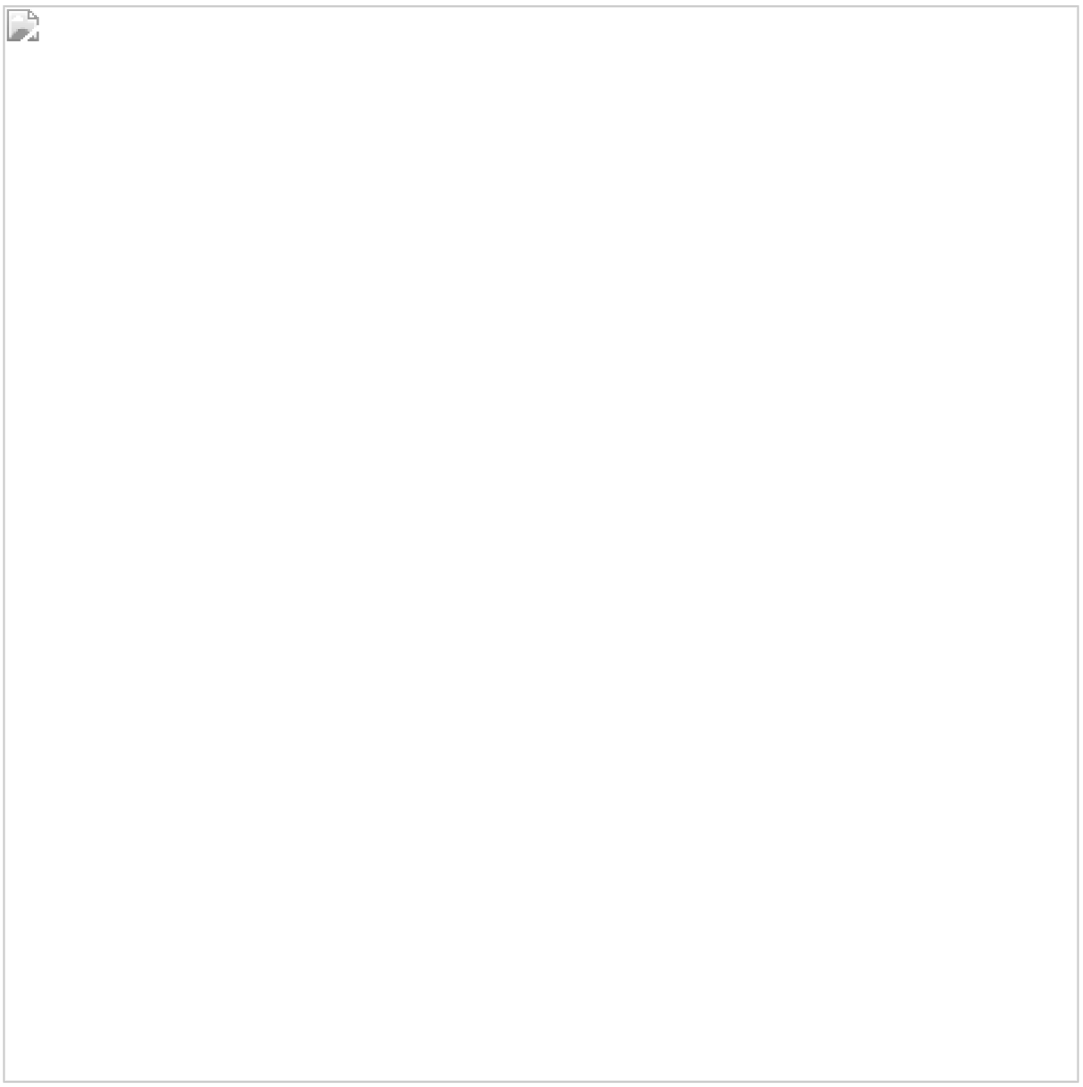
“But the emperor has no clothes on!” said a little child at last.

“Good heavens!” said the child’s father, “listen to the voice of that little innocent child.” The words were whispered from one to another until the people cried out, “Well, it is true; he has no clothes on!”

The emperor was terribly puzzled, for it seemed to him they were right. But he said to himself, “Now that I have begun the procession, I must go on to the end.” So the pages still pretended to carry the train, although they knew it really did not exist.

TALK ABOUT IT

It took one child to say what everyone could see. Why was it easier for the child?



Think about it

1. Who first said that the emperor had no clothes on?

- ○ The old minister
- ○ A little child
- ○ The master of the ceremonies

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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