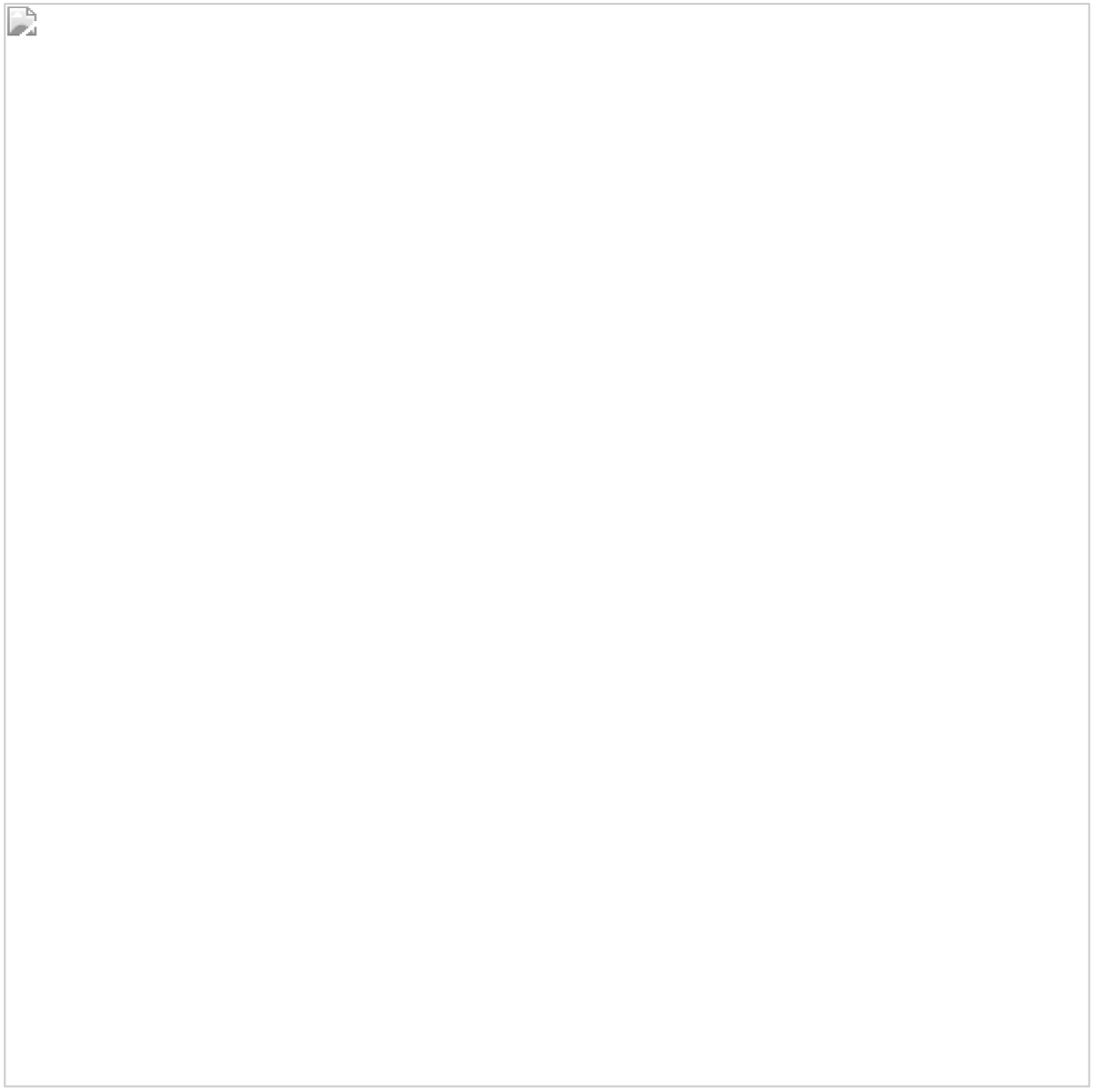
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Foolish, Timid Rabbit

A Tale from India



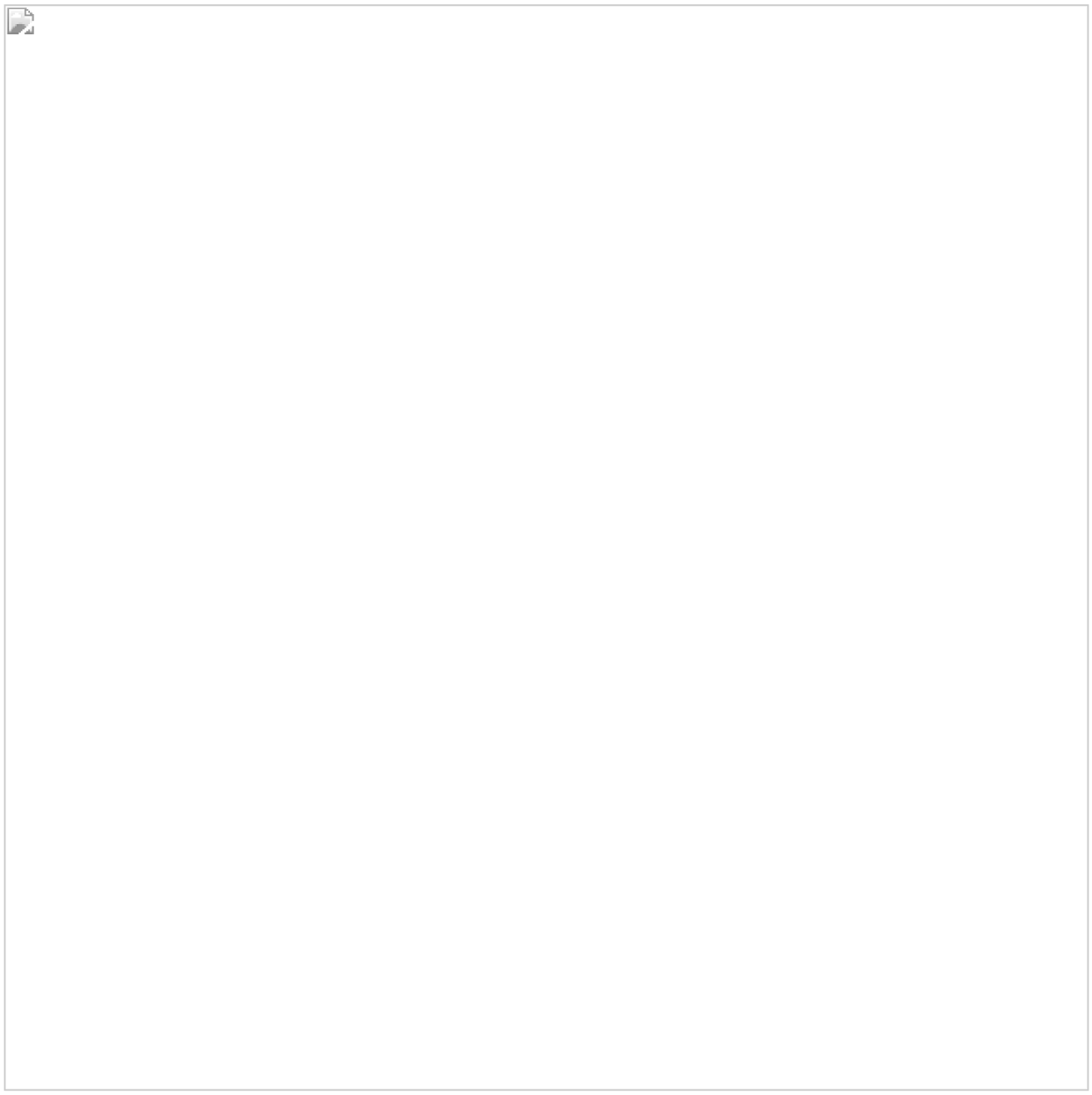
Once upon a time, a Rabbit was asleep under a palm-tree.

TALK ABOUT IT

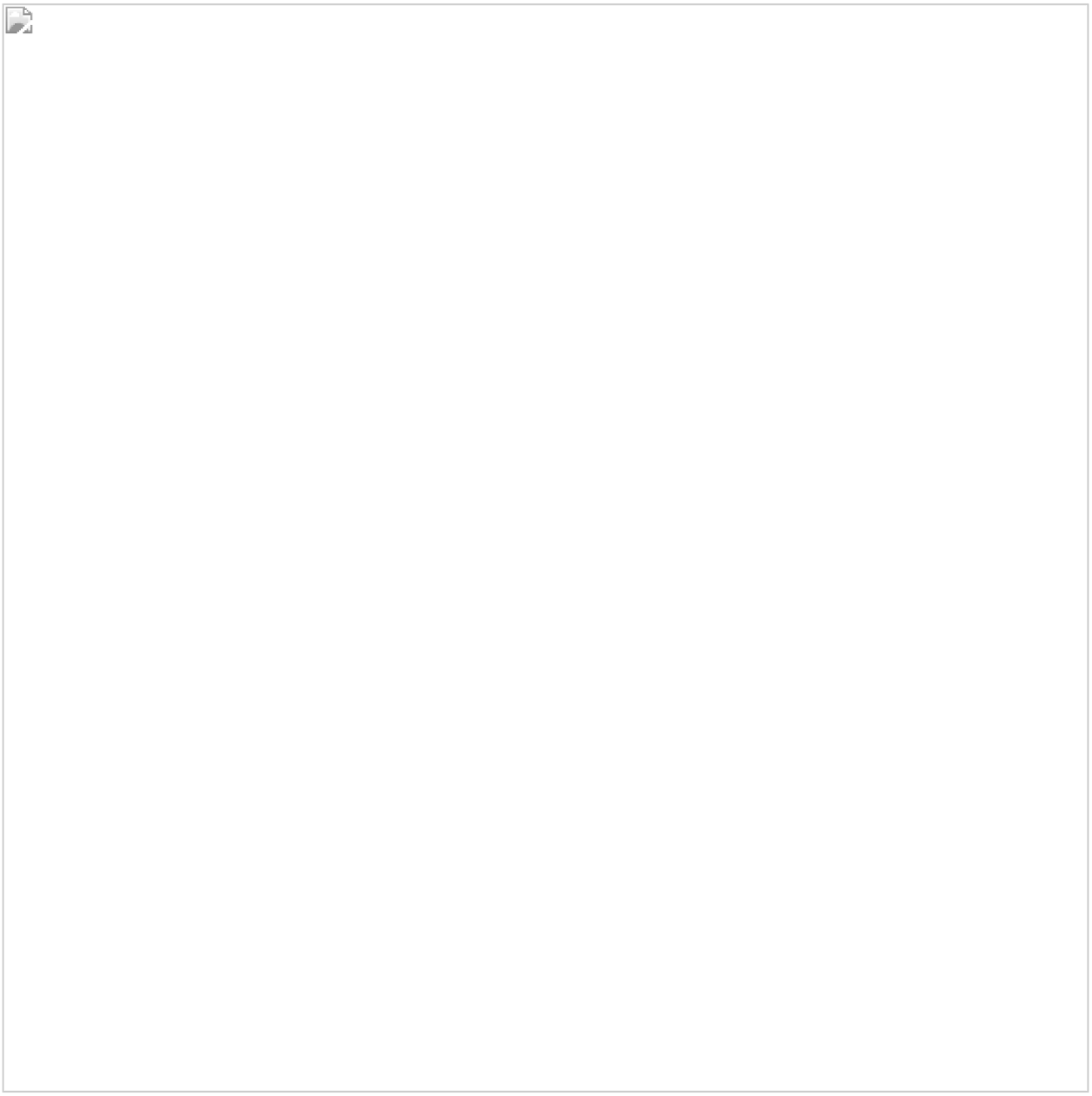
Where is your favorite place to nap?

This book belongs to _____

The Foolish, Timid Rabbit · another picture



A Noise Behind Him



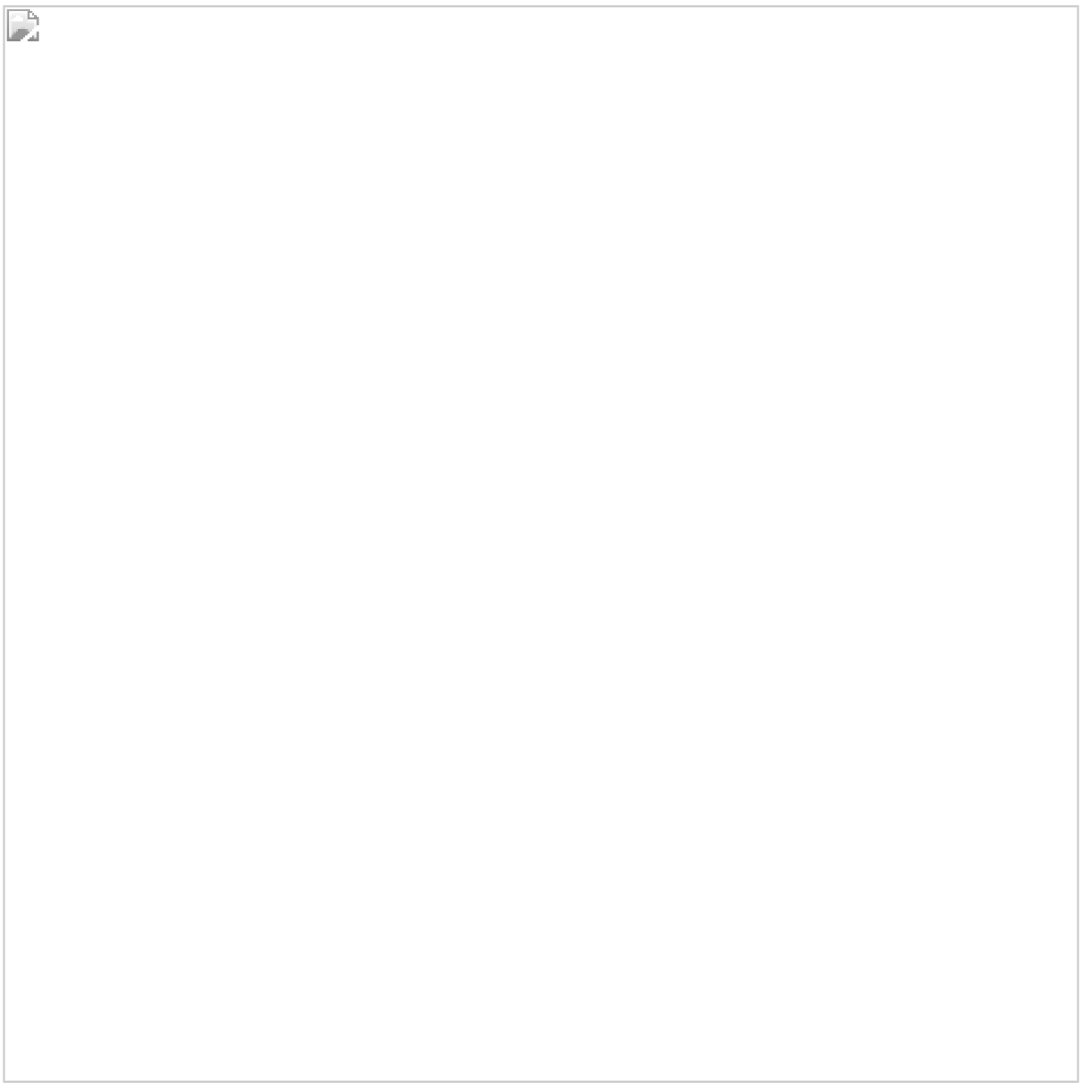
All at once he woke up, and thought: “What if the world should break up! What then would become of me?”

At that moment, some Monkeys dropped a cocoanut. It fell down on the ground just back of the Rabbit.

Hearing the noise, the Rabbit said to himself: “The earth is all breaking up!”

TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever heard a sudden noise and not known what it was? What did you do?

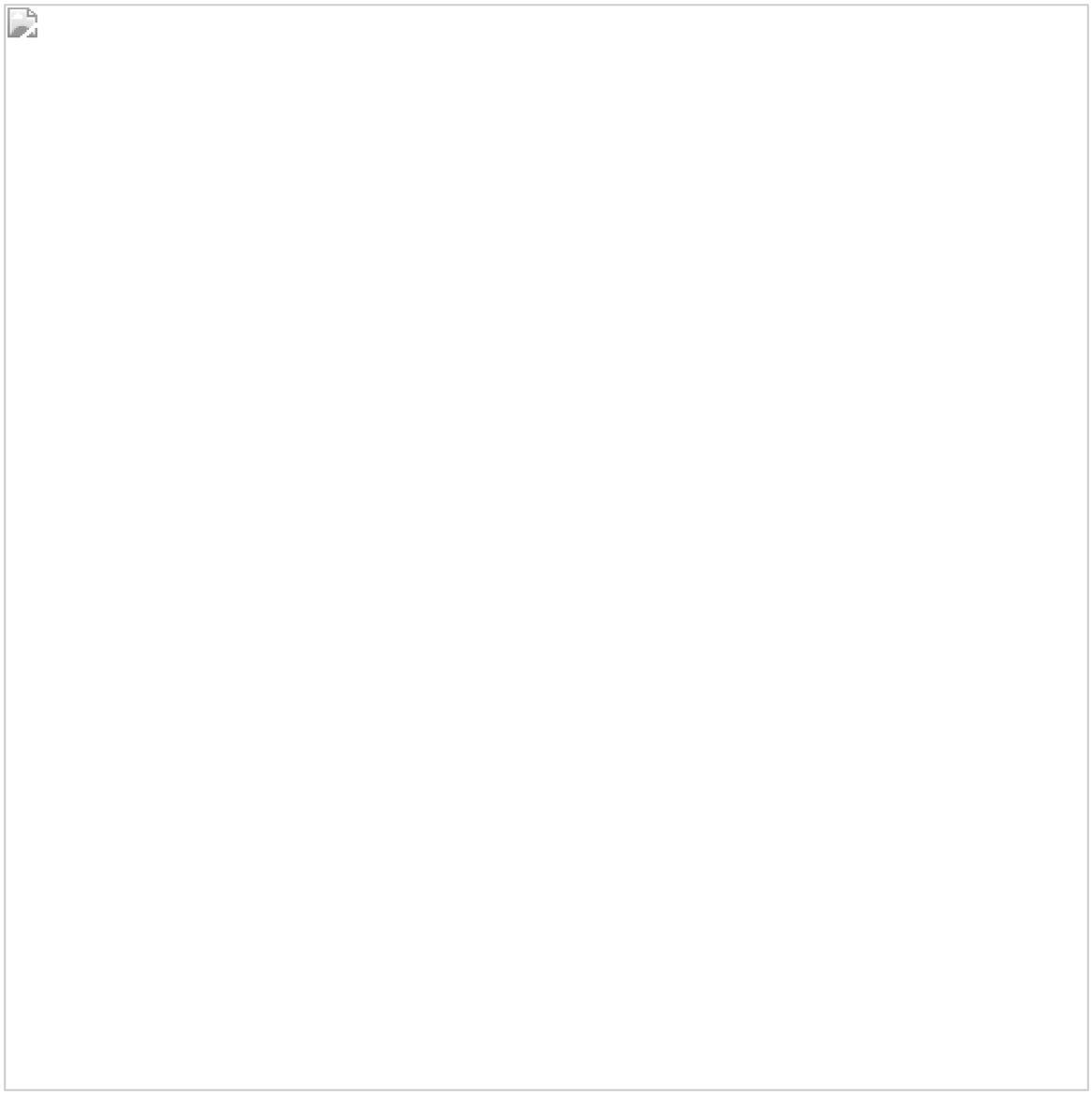


Think about it

1. What really made the noise?

- ○ A cocoanut dropped by Monkeys
- ○ The earth
- ○ A falling branch

Run!



The Rabbit jumped up and ran just as fast as he could, without even looking back to see what made the noise.

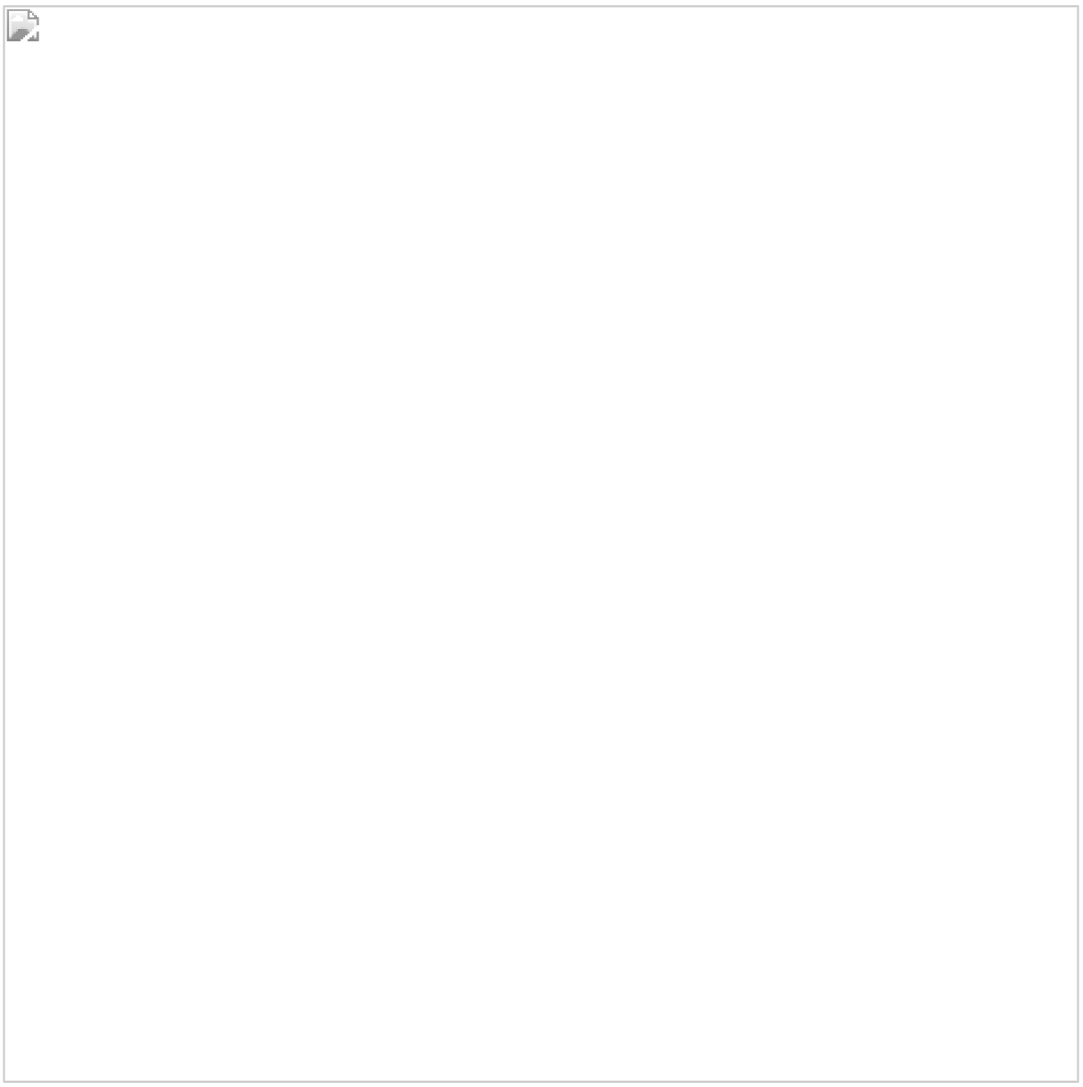
Another Rabbit saw him running, and called after him, “What are you running so fast for?”

“Don't ask me!” he cried. But the other Rabbit ran after him, begging to know what was the matter.

Then the first Rabbit said: “Don't you know? The earth is all breaking up!” And on he ran, and the second Rabbit ran with him.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Rabbit did not look back. What do you think he would have seen if he had?

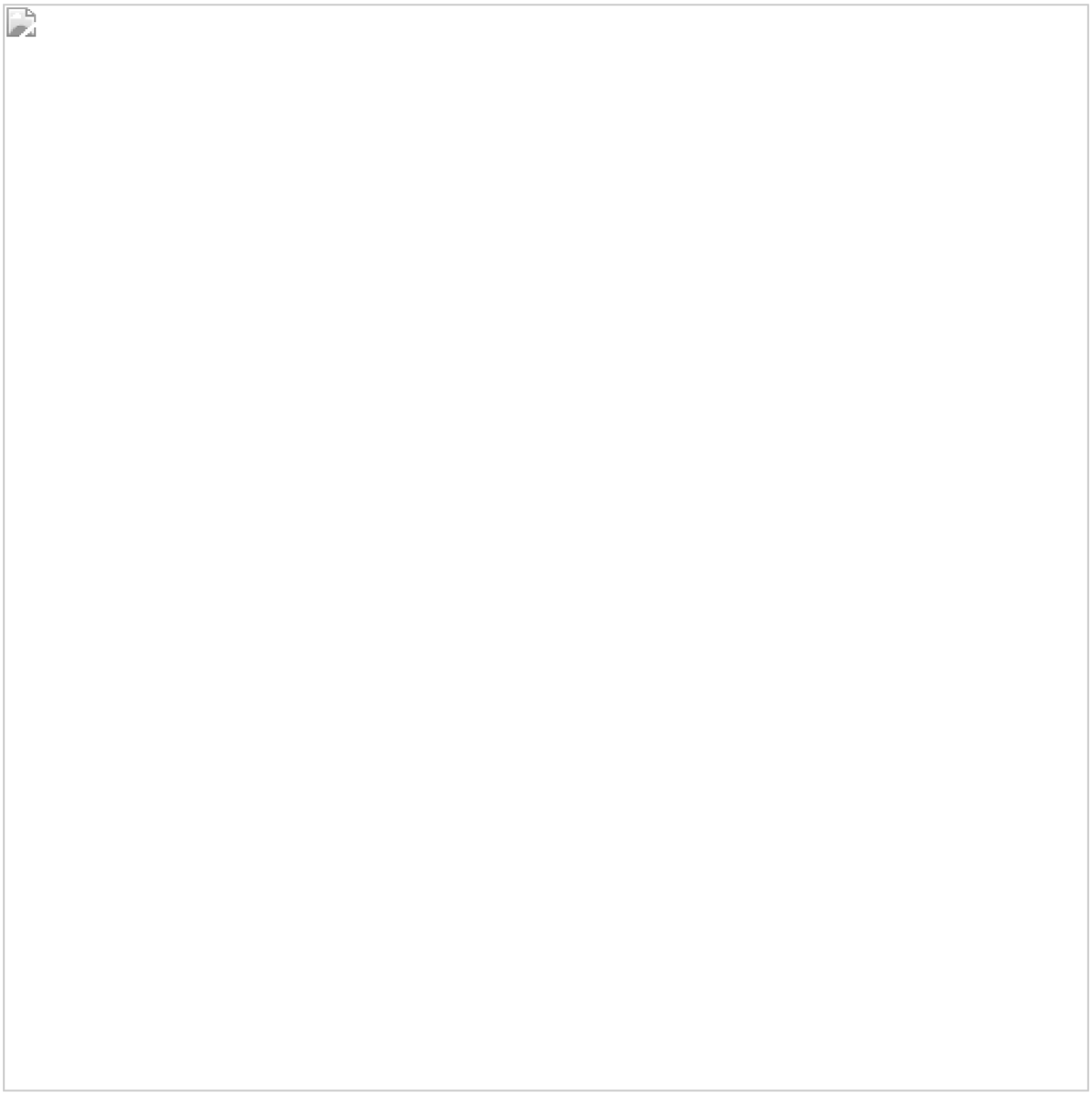


Think about it

1. Did the first Rabbit look back to see what made the noise?

- ○ Yes, once
- ○ No, he ran without looking
- ○ Yes, twice

More and More



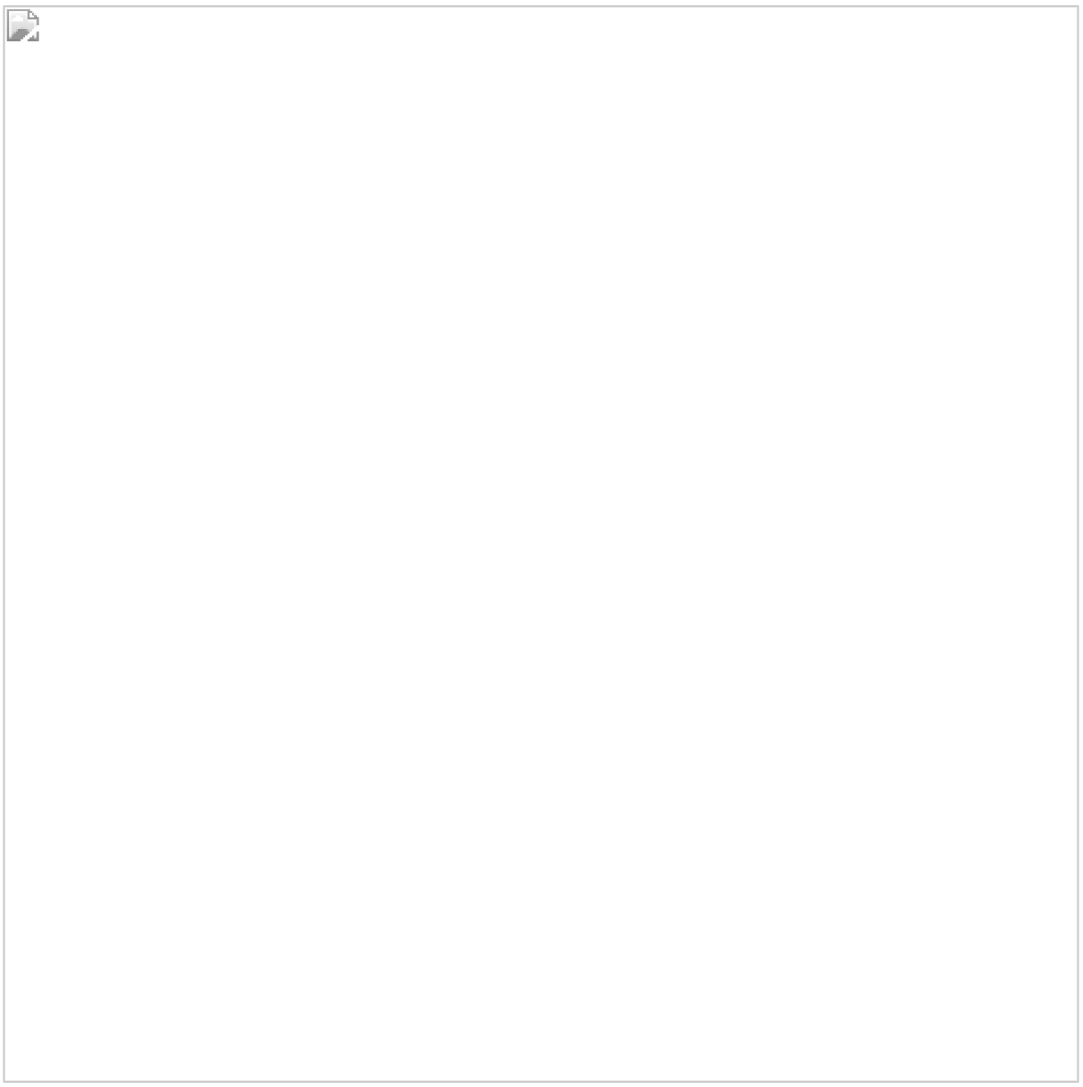
The next Rabbit they met ran with them when he heard that the earth was all breaking up. One Rabbit after another joined them, until there were hundreds of Rabbits running as fast as they could go.

They passed a Deer, calling out to him that the earth was all breaking up. The Deer then ran with them.

The Deer called to a Fox to come along because the earth was all breaking up. On and on they ran, and an Elephant joined them.

TALK ABOUT IT

Each animal ran because another animal was running. Have you ever followed along just because everyone else was?



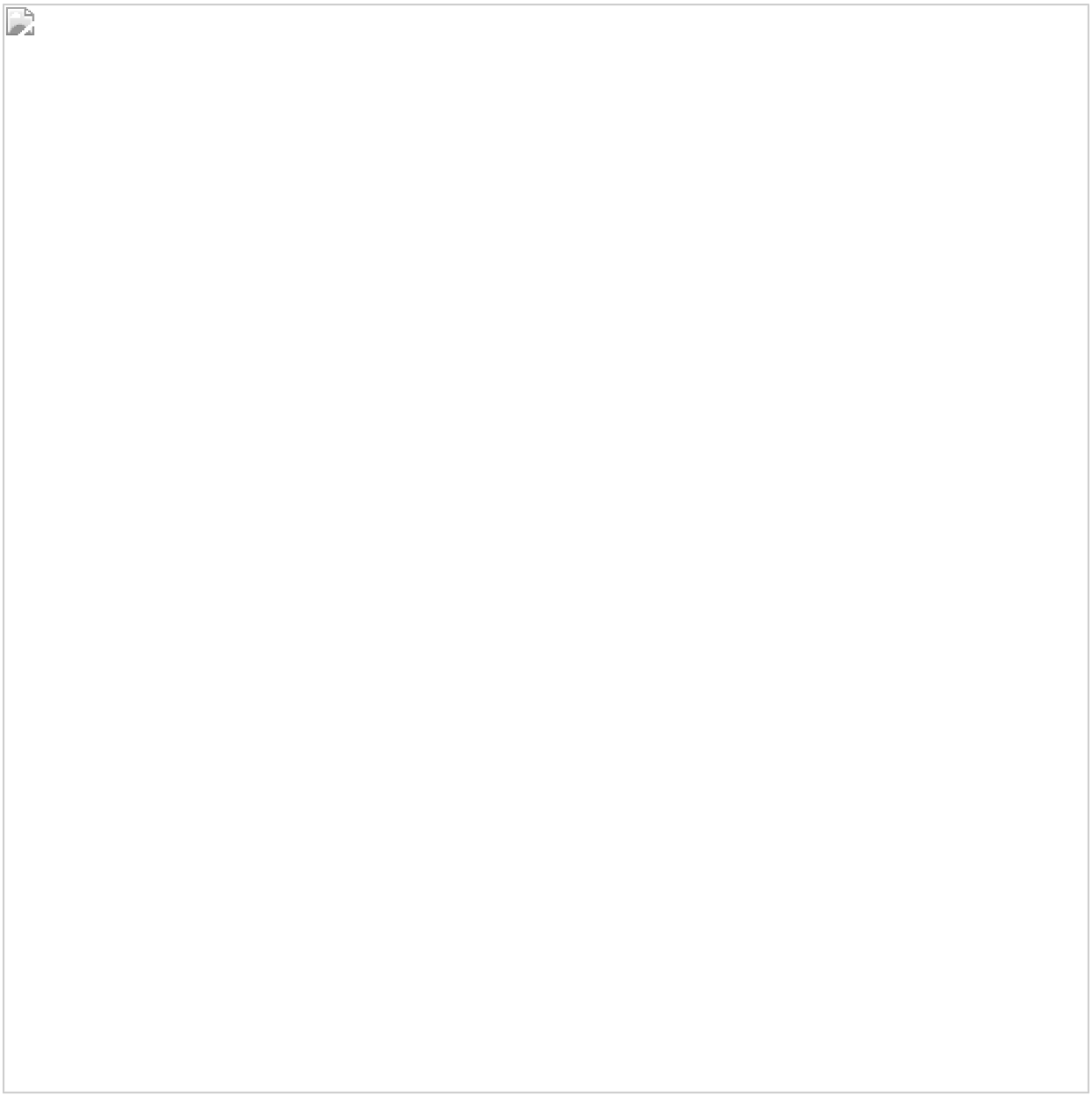
Think about it

1. Which animals joined the Rabbits?

- ○ A Deer, a Fox and an Elephant
- ○ A Bear and a Wolf
- ○ A Goat and a Horse

2. Did any of them stop to ask who had seen the earth break up?

The Lion Roars



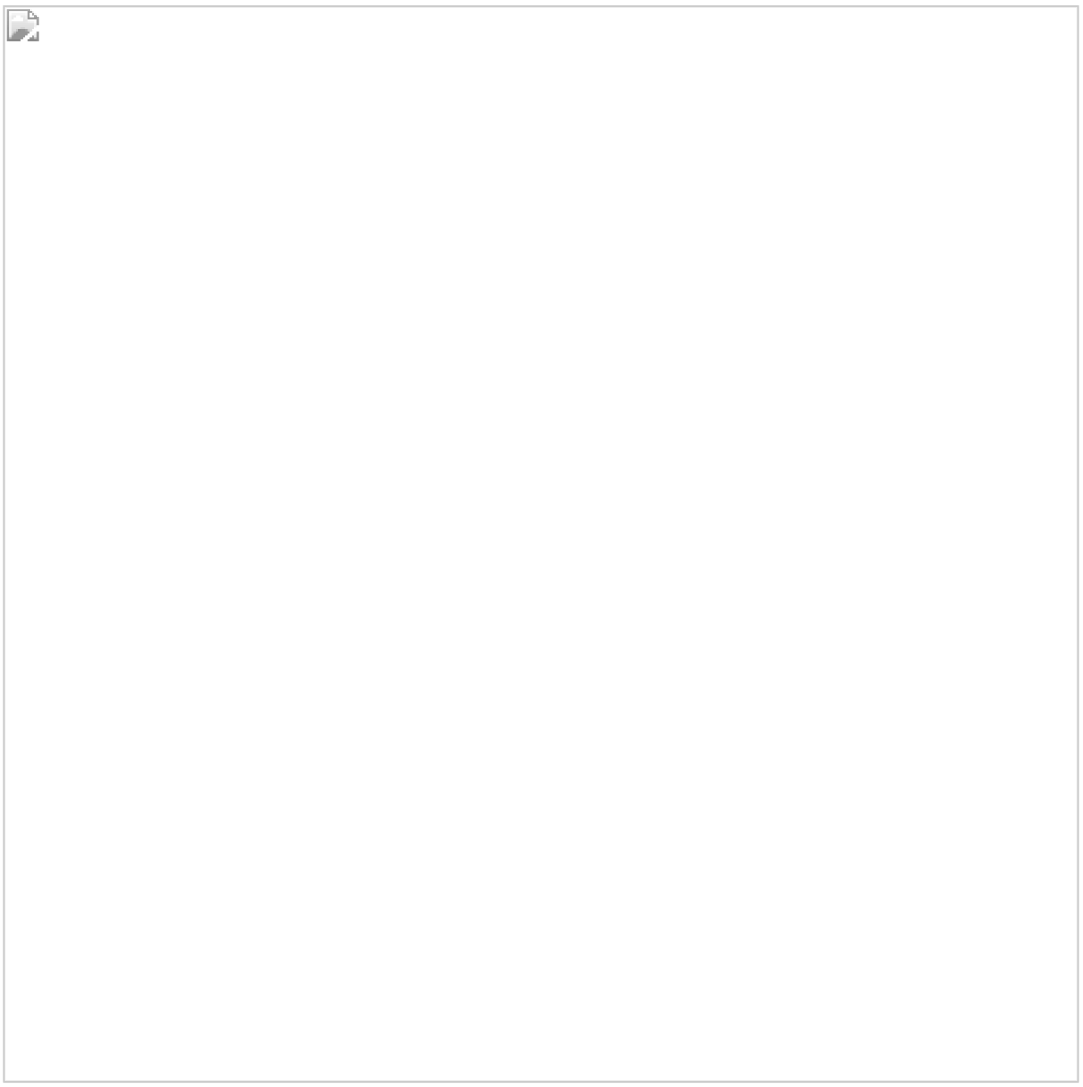
At last the Lion saw the animals running, and heard their cry that the earth was all breaking up.

He thought there must be some mistake. So he ran to the foot of a hill in front of them and roared three times.

This stopped them, for they knew the voice of the King of Beasts, and they feared him.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Lion thought there must be some mistake. What do you do when you think there might be a mistake?

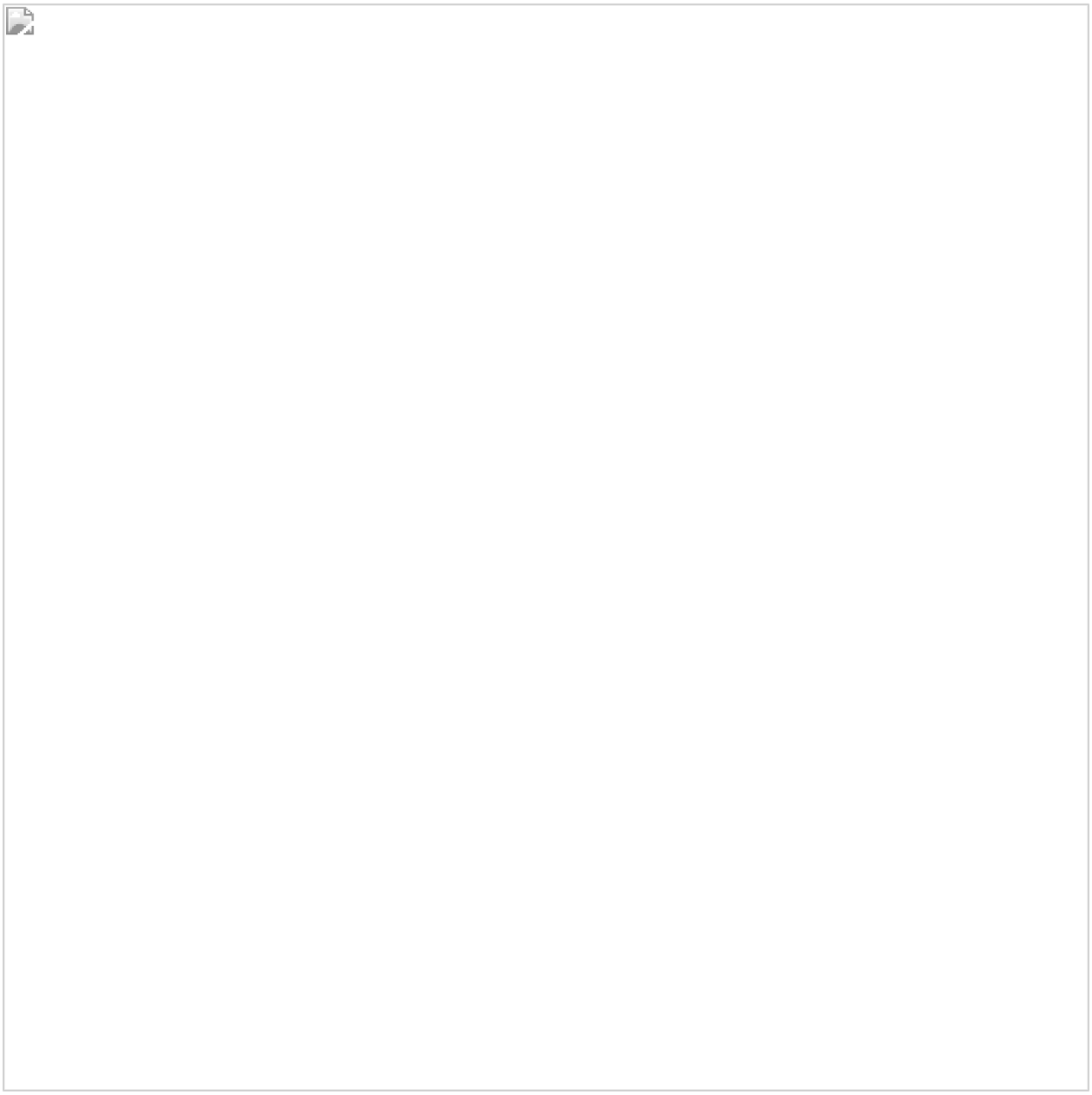


Think about it

1. How many times did the Lion roar?

- ○ Once
- ○ Three times
- ○ Ten times

Who Saw It?



“Why are you running so fast?” asked the Lion.

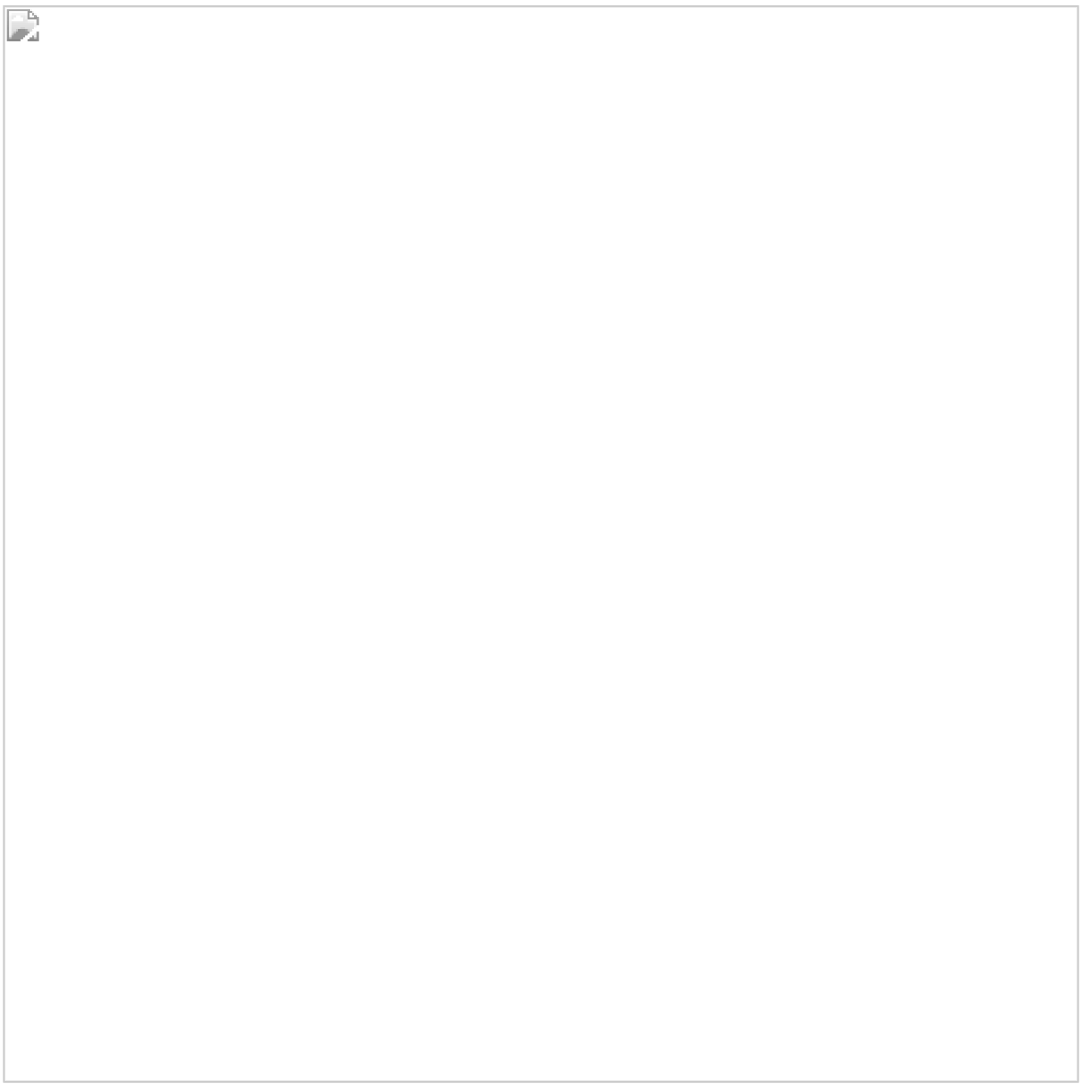
“Oh, King Lion,” they answered him, “the earth is all breaking up!”

“Who saw it breaking up?” asked the Lion.

“I didn't,” said the Elephant. “Ask the Fox--he told me about it.” “I didn't,” said the Fox. “The Rabbits told me about it,” said the Deer. One after another of the Rabbits said: “I did not see it, but another Rabbit told me about it.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Not one of them had seen it. How can you find out if something you hear is true?

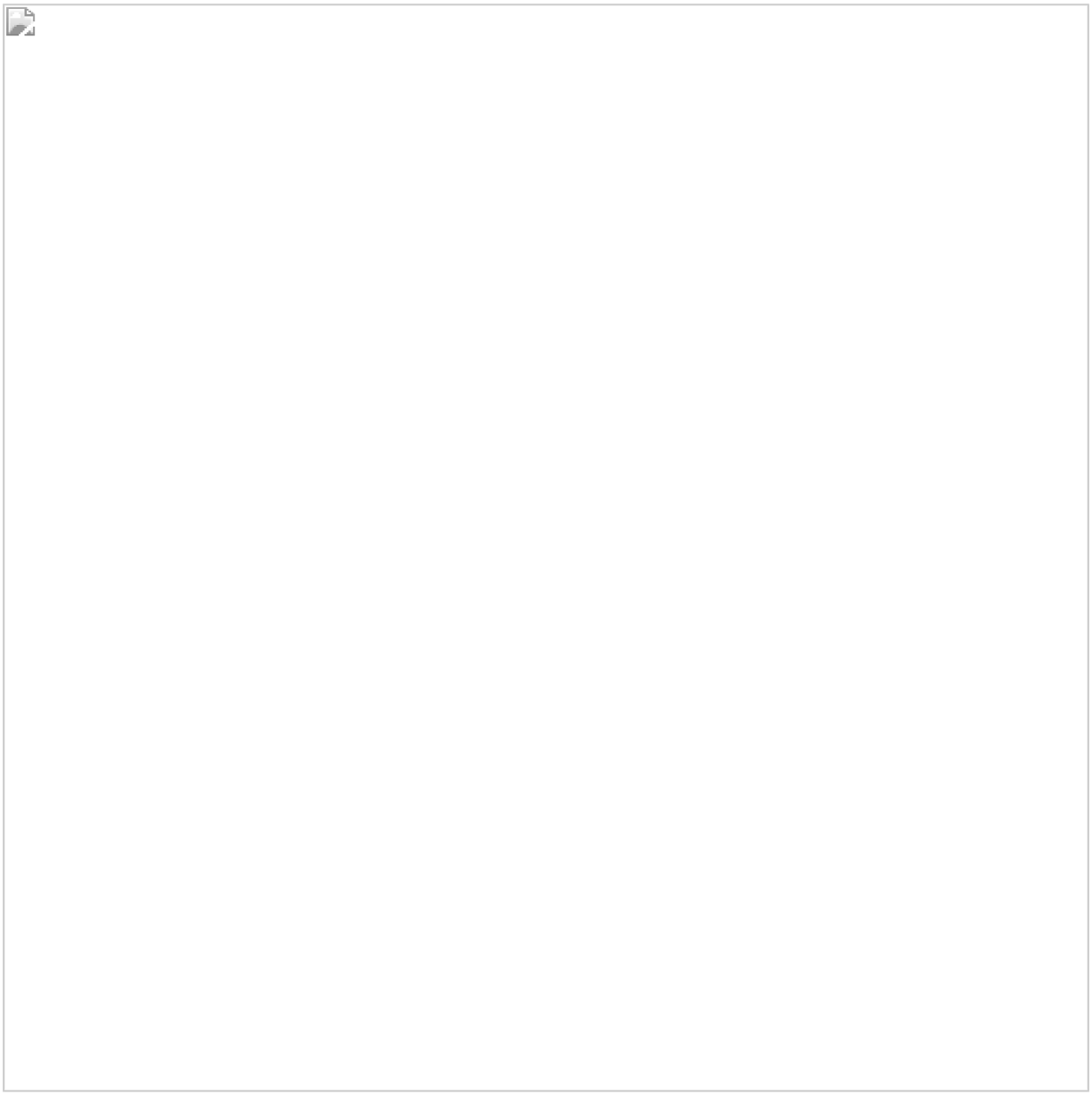


Think about it

1. What did the Lion ask them?

- ○ “Who saw it breaking up?”
- ○ Where is the river?
- ○ Who is the fastest?

Back to the Palm-Tree



At last the Lion came to the Rabbit who had first said the earth was all breaking up. “Is it true?” the Lion asked.

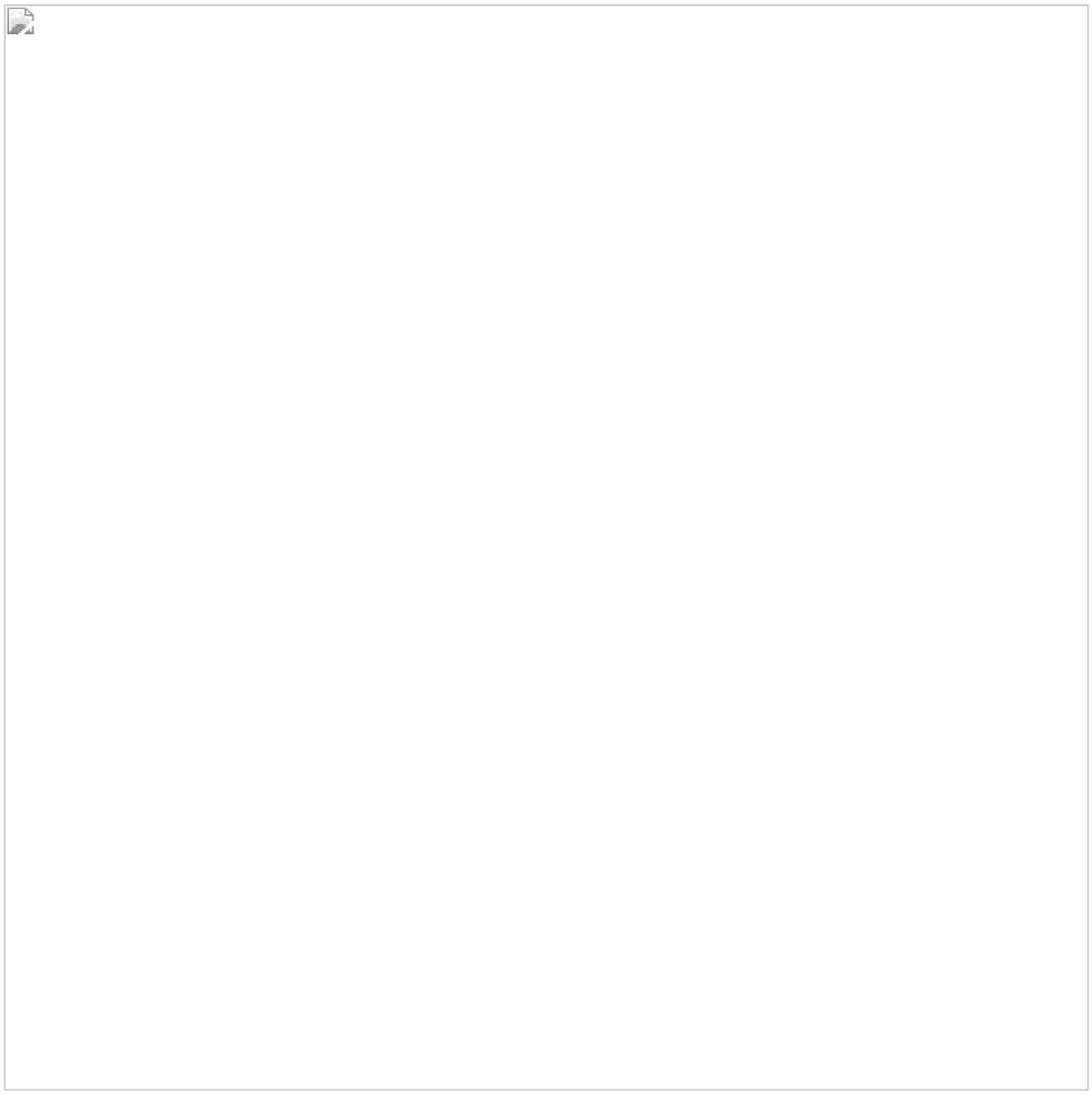
“Yes, O Lion, it is,” said the Rabbit. “I was asleep under a palm-tree. I woke up and thought, ‘What would become of me if the earth should all break up?’ At that very moment, I heard the sound of the earth breaking up, and I ran away.”

“Then,” said the Lion, “you and I will go back to the place where the earth began to break up, and see what is the matter.”

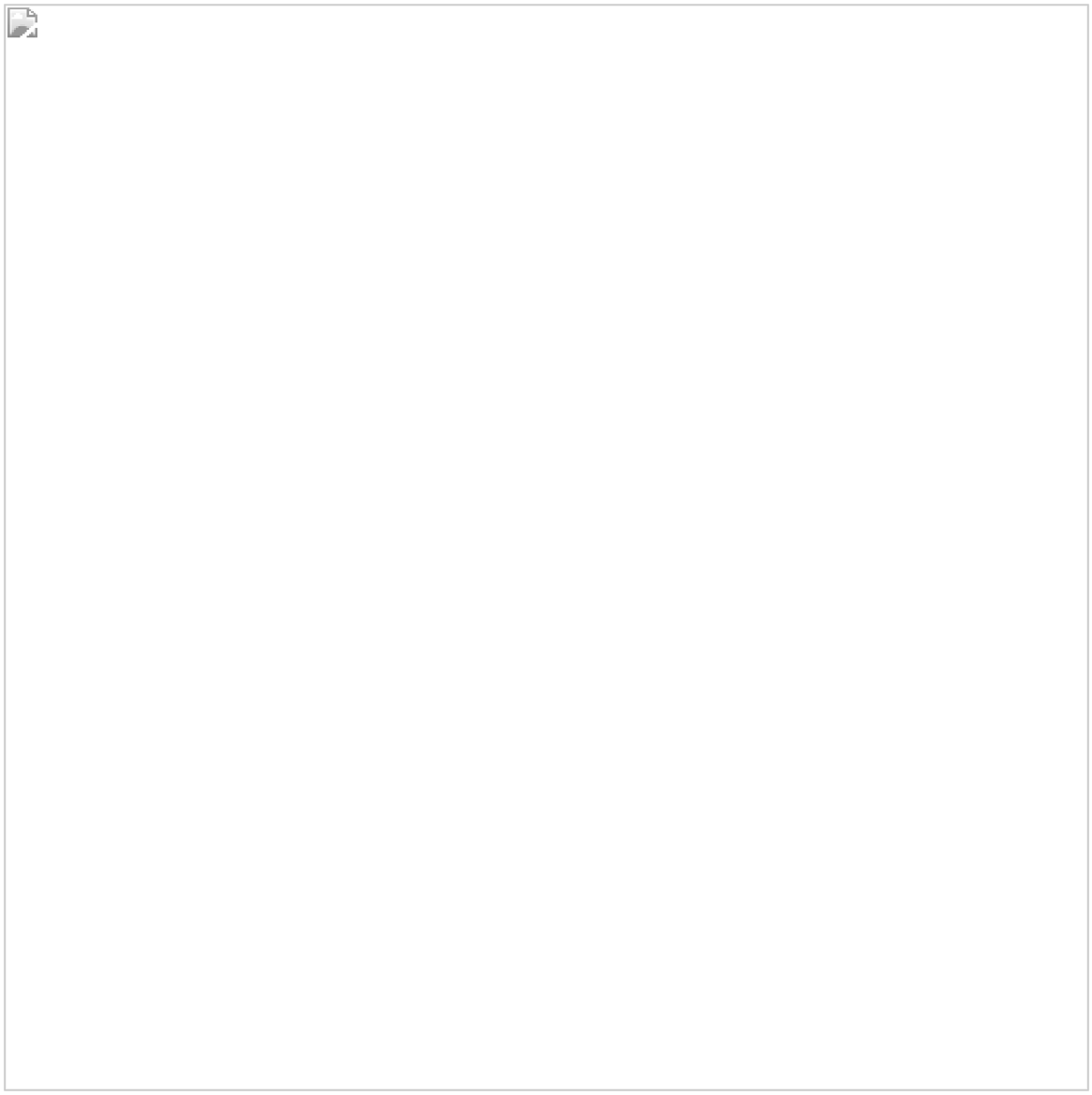
TALK ABOUT IT

The Lion did not scold first. He went to look. Why do you think he did that?

Back to the Palm-Tree · another picture



The Cocoanut



So the Lion put the little Rabbit on his back, and away they went like the wind. The other animals waited at the foot of the hill.

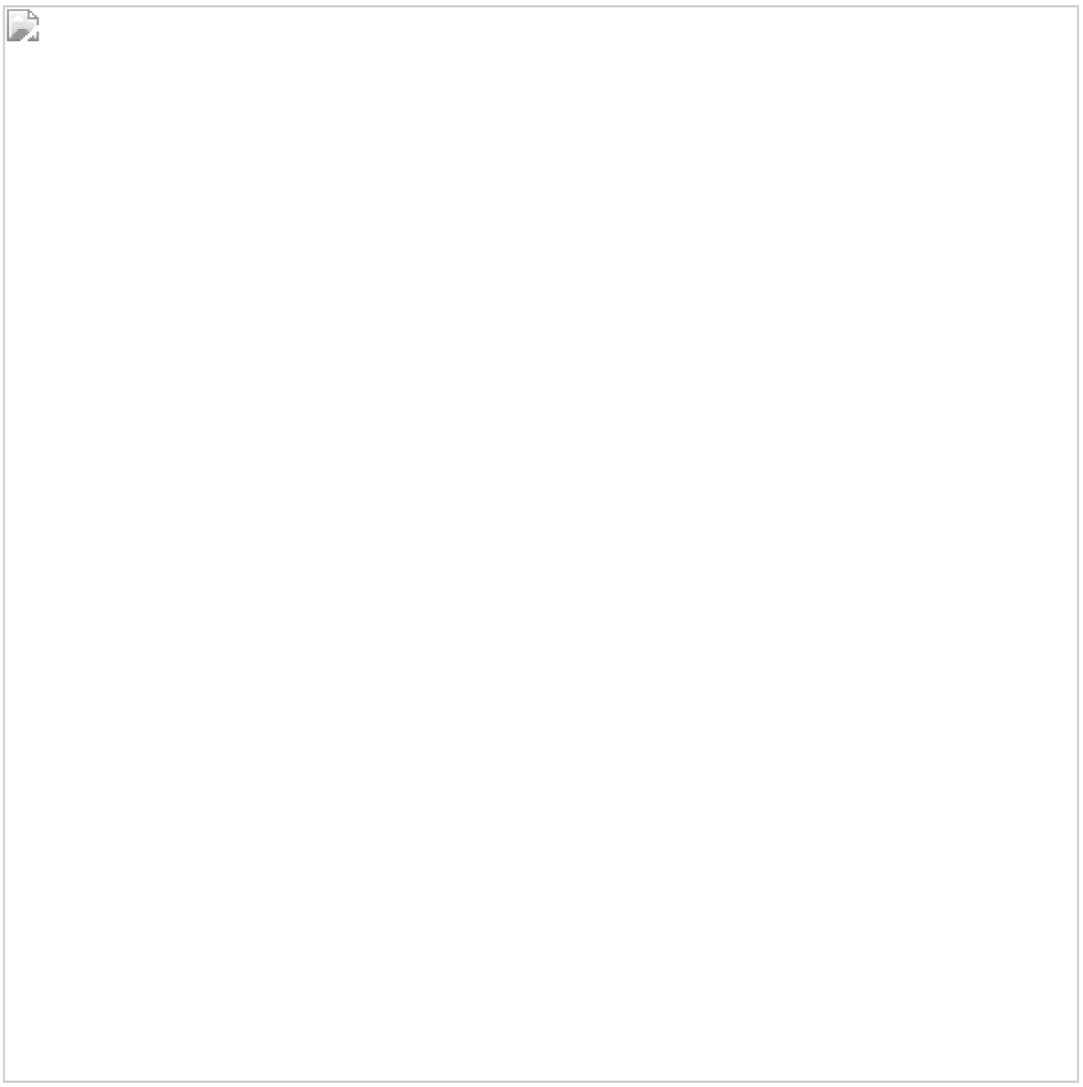
Near the place, the Rabbit showed the Lion where he had been sleeping. There, on the ground near by, lay a cocoanut that had fallen.

Then the Lion said to the Rabbit, “It must have been the sound of the cocoanut falling to the ground that you heard. You foolish Rabbit!”

And the Lion ran back and told the other animals all about it. If it had not been for the wise King of Beasts, they might be running still.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you have said to the Rabbit when the Lion showed him the cocoanut?



Think about it

1. Who carried the Rabbit back to the palm-tree?

- ○ The Elephant
- ○ The Lion
- ○ The Deer

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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