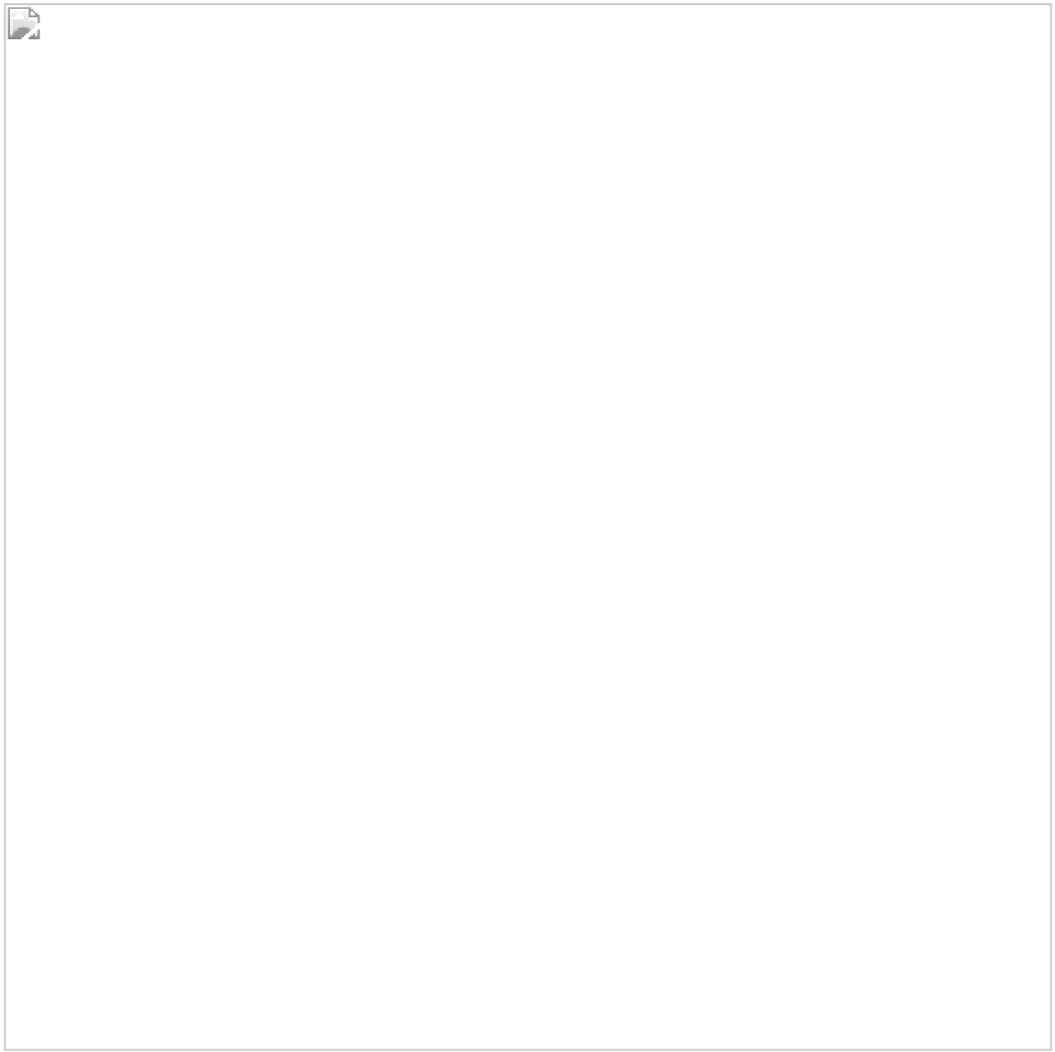
COLORING THE CLASSICS

# The Old Man and the Devils

## A Tale from Japan



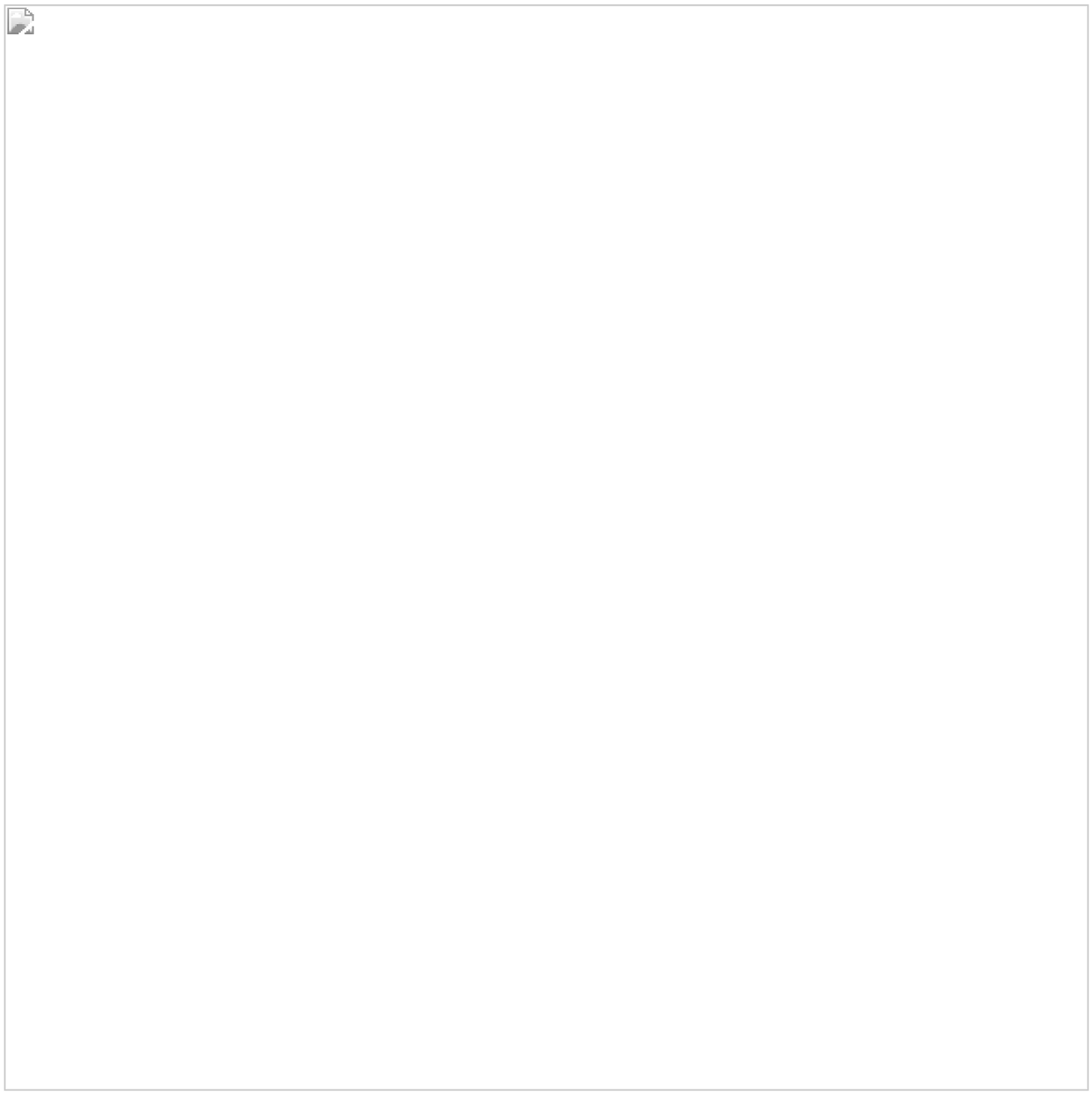
A long time ago, in Japan, there lived an old man who cut wood in the mountains. He had a big lump on the right side of his face, and he had had it for many years.

TALK ABOUT IT

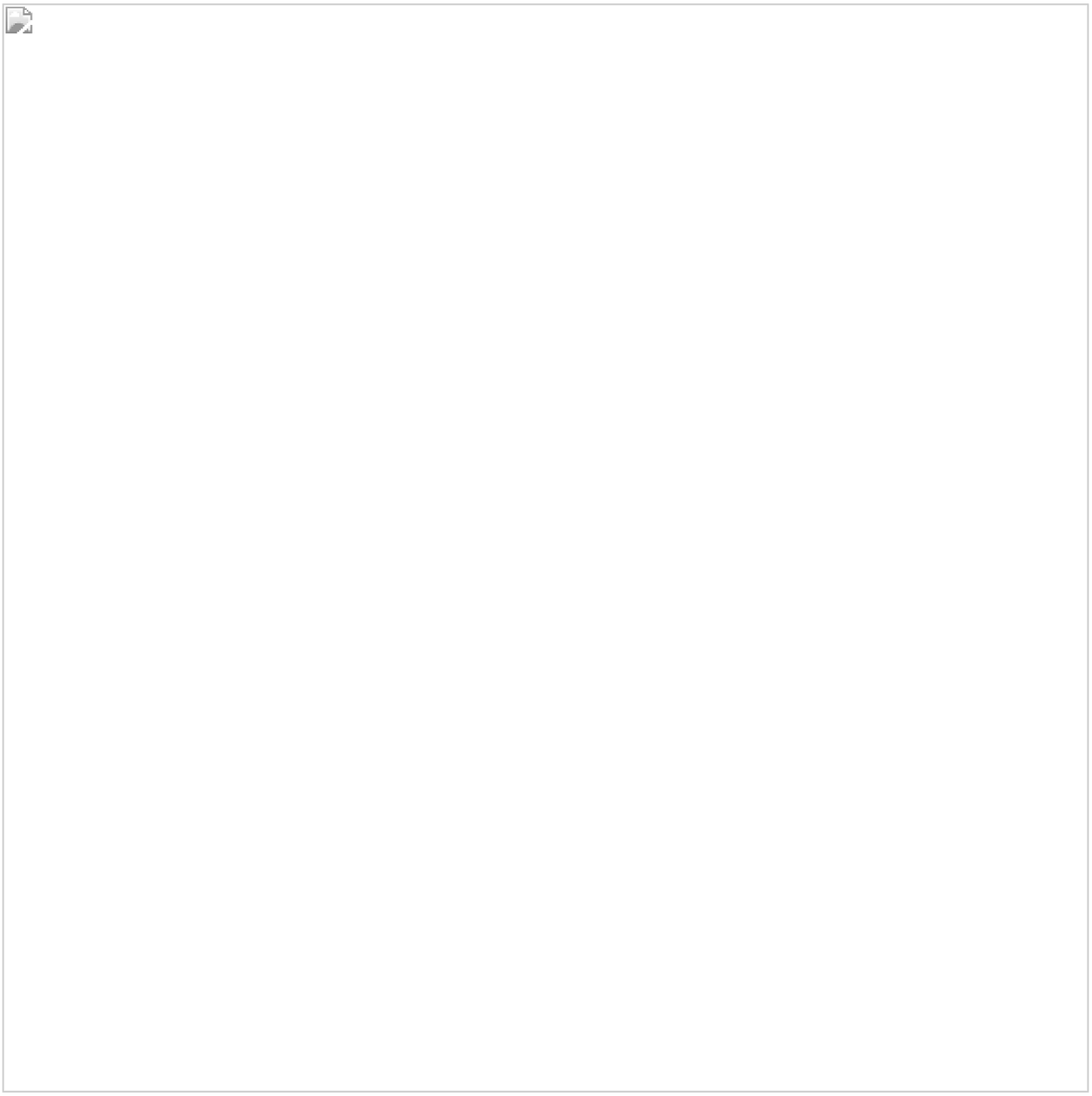
The old man had carried his lump for many years. What do you think it is like to have something about you that people notice?

**This book belongs to _____**

# The Old Man and the Devils · another picture



# Up the Mountain



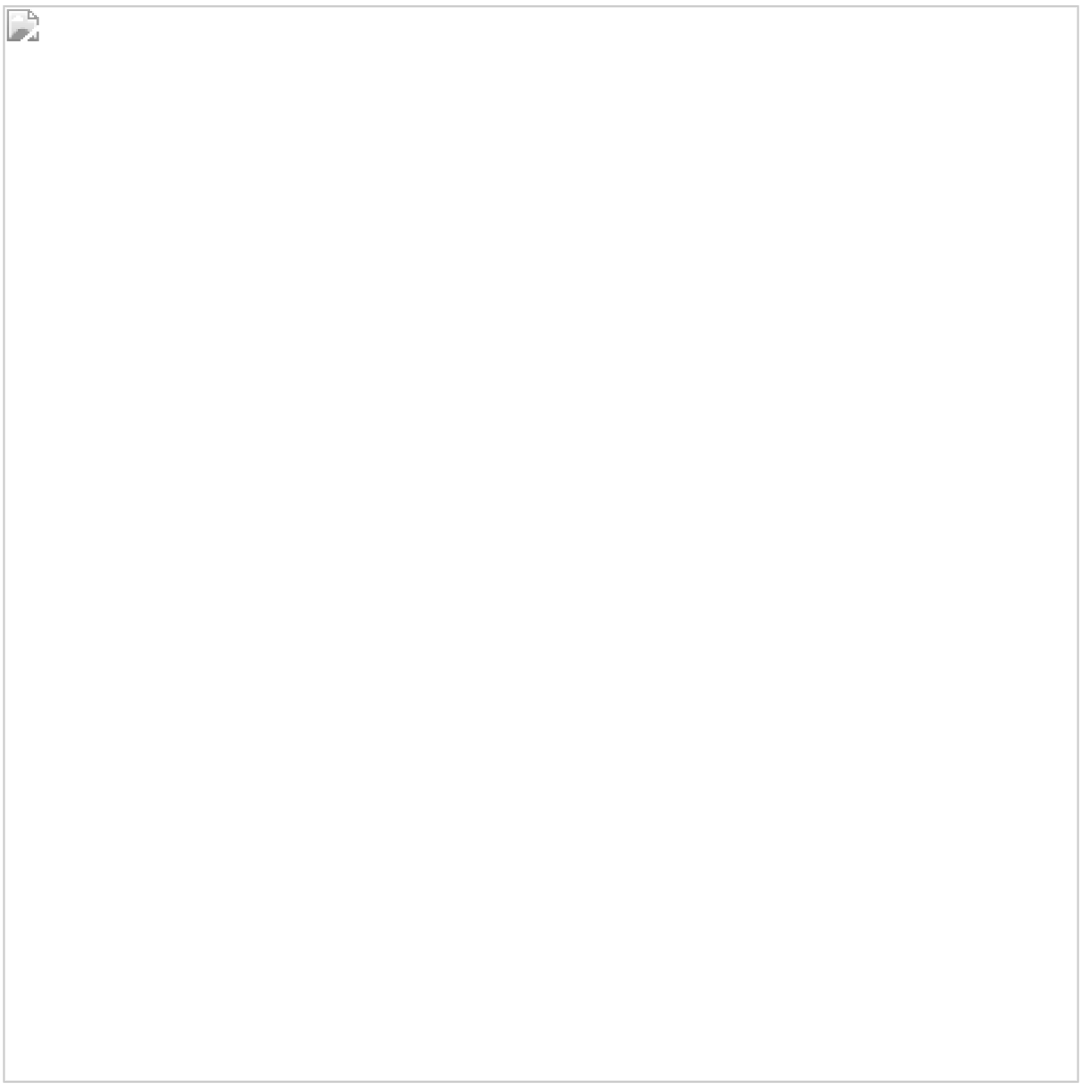
Every day he climbed the mountain with his ax to cut wood.

One day, he went up as he always did, with his ax in his belt.

He had no idea what the day would bring.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you do every day, so often that you hardly think about it?

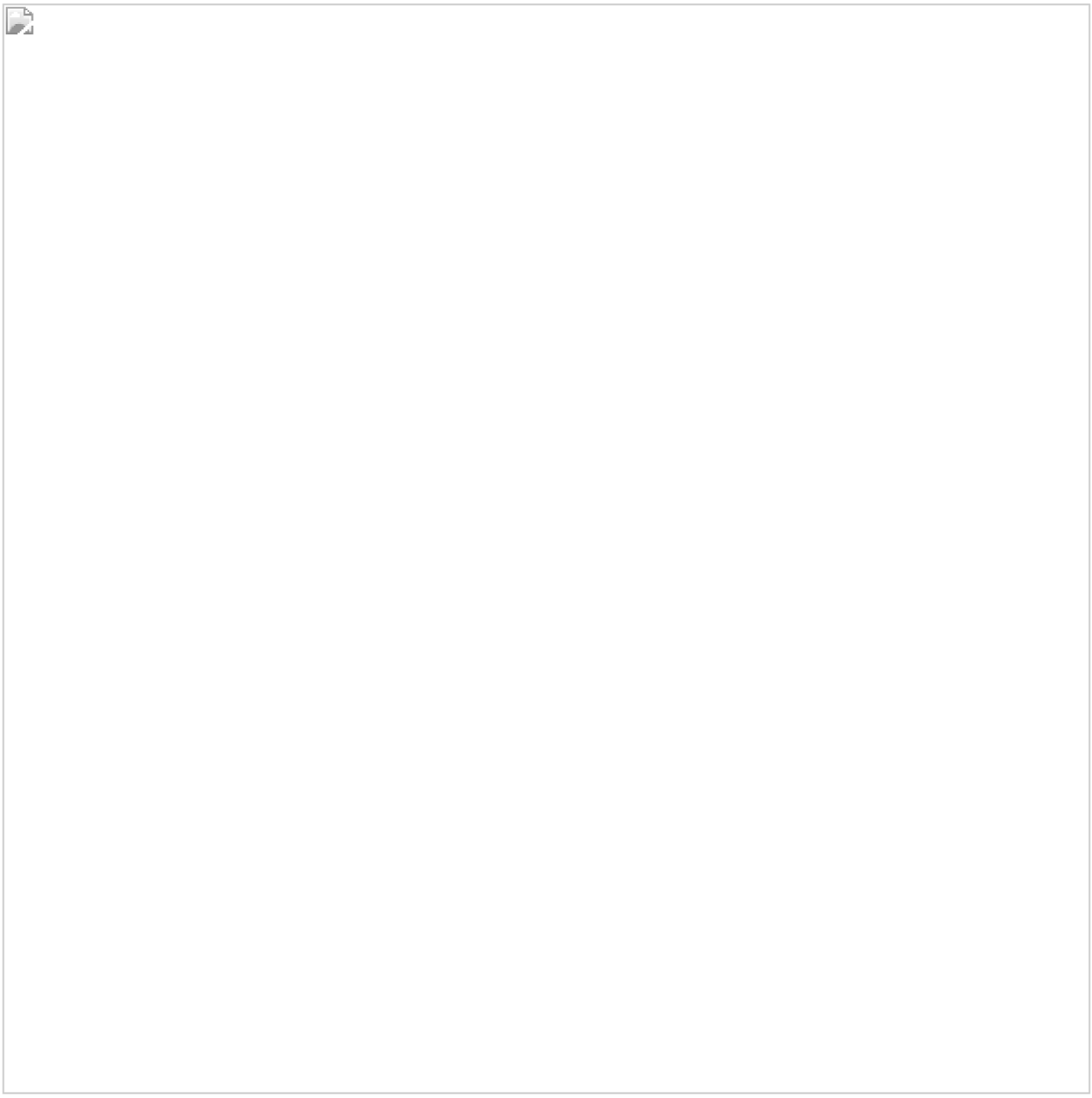


## Think about it

**1. What did the old man do for his work?**

- ○ He sailed boats
- ○ He cut wood in the mountains
- ○ He grew rice

# Rain and Wind



That day the rain began to pour and the wind began to blow, so hard that the old man could not go home.

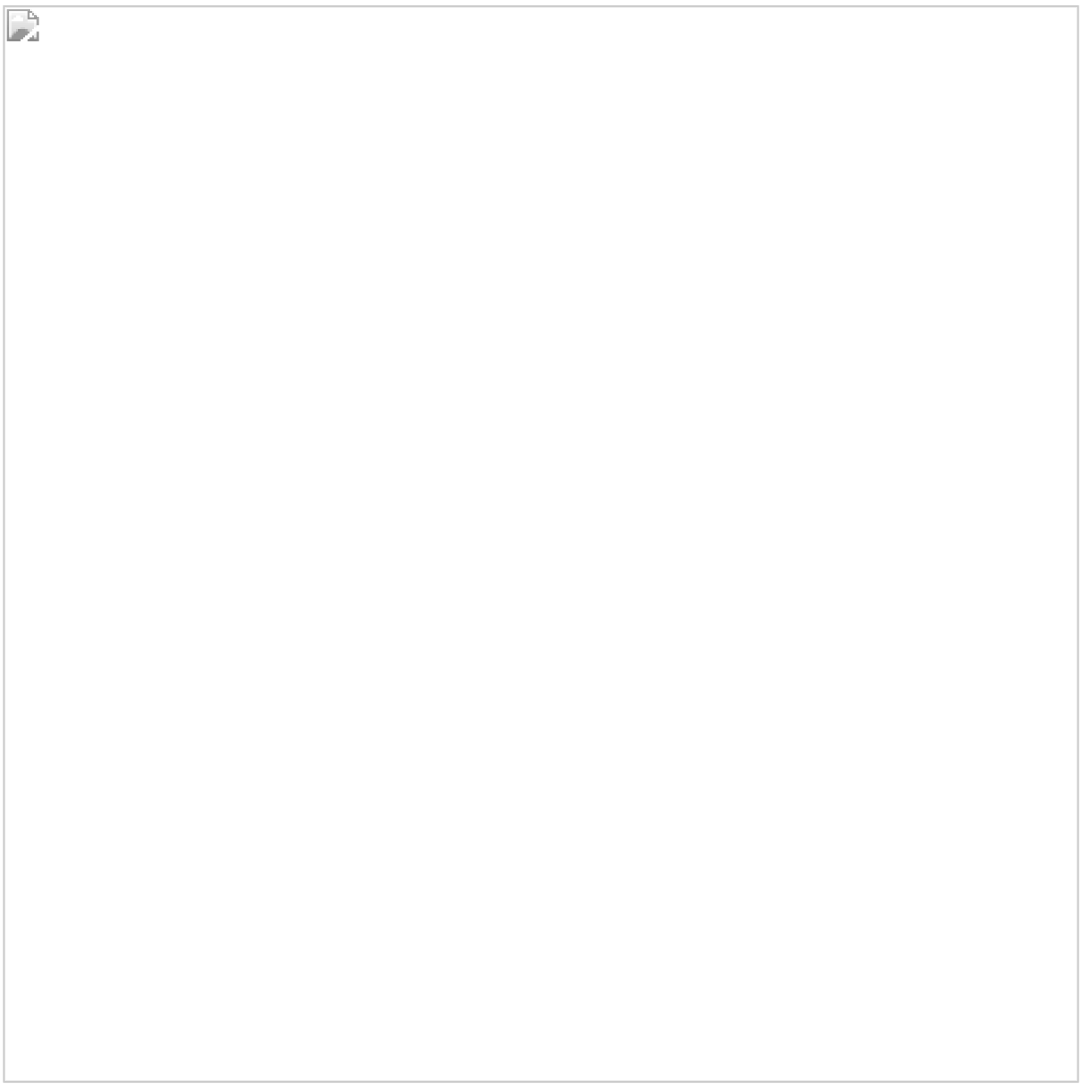
He was afraid. He found an old tree with a hollow inside, and he crawled in and sat there all doubled up.

He could not sleep. The wind howled outside. Then, far off, he heard something else.

TALK ABOUT IT

Where do you go when you want to feel safe in a storm?

Rain and Wind · another picture

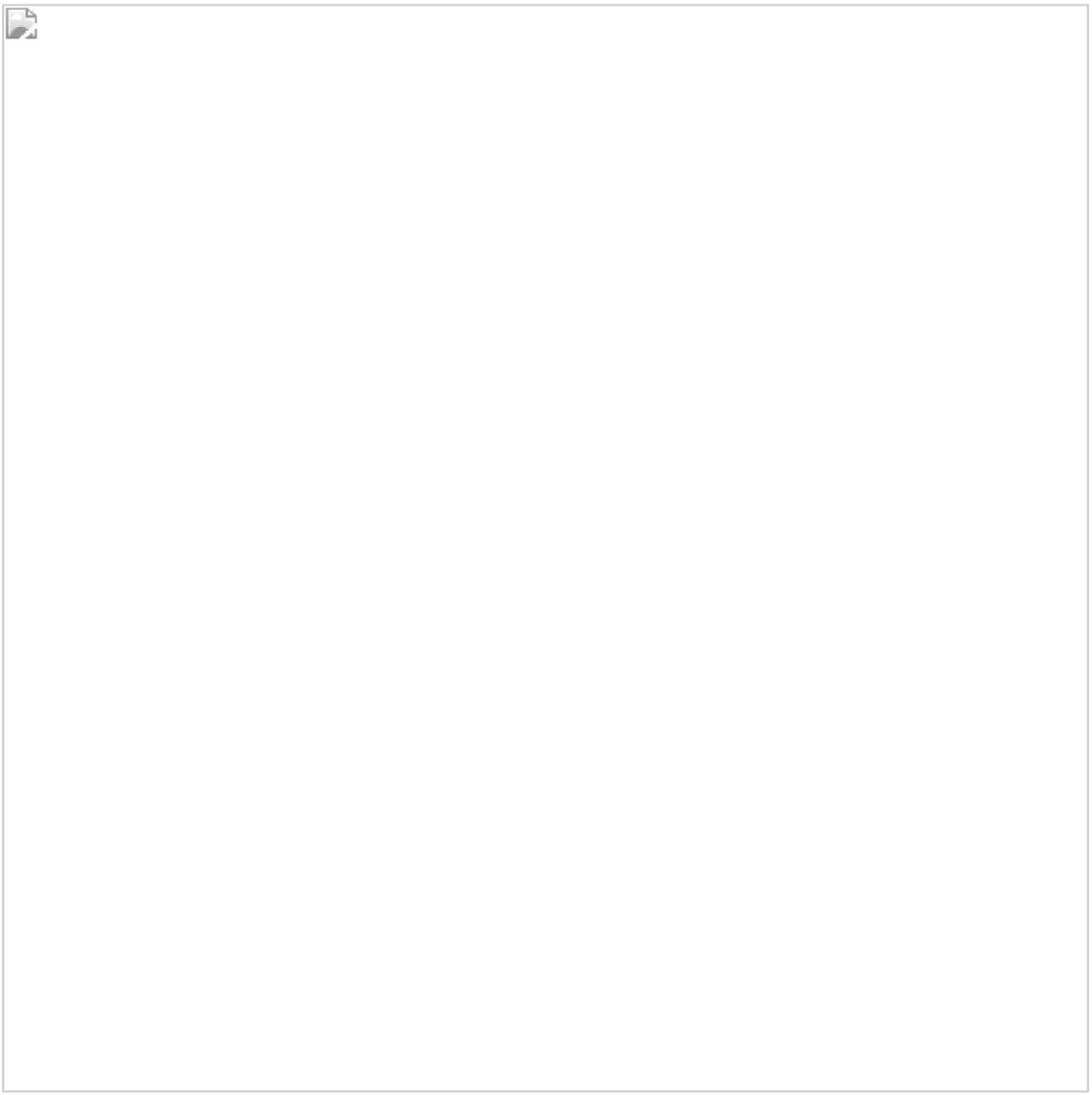


## Think about it

**1. Where did the old man hide from the storm?**

- ○ In a cave
- ○ In a hollow tree
- ○ In a boat

# Voices in the Night



It was the sound of many voices, coming closer and closer.

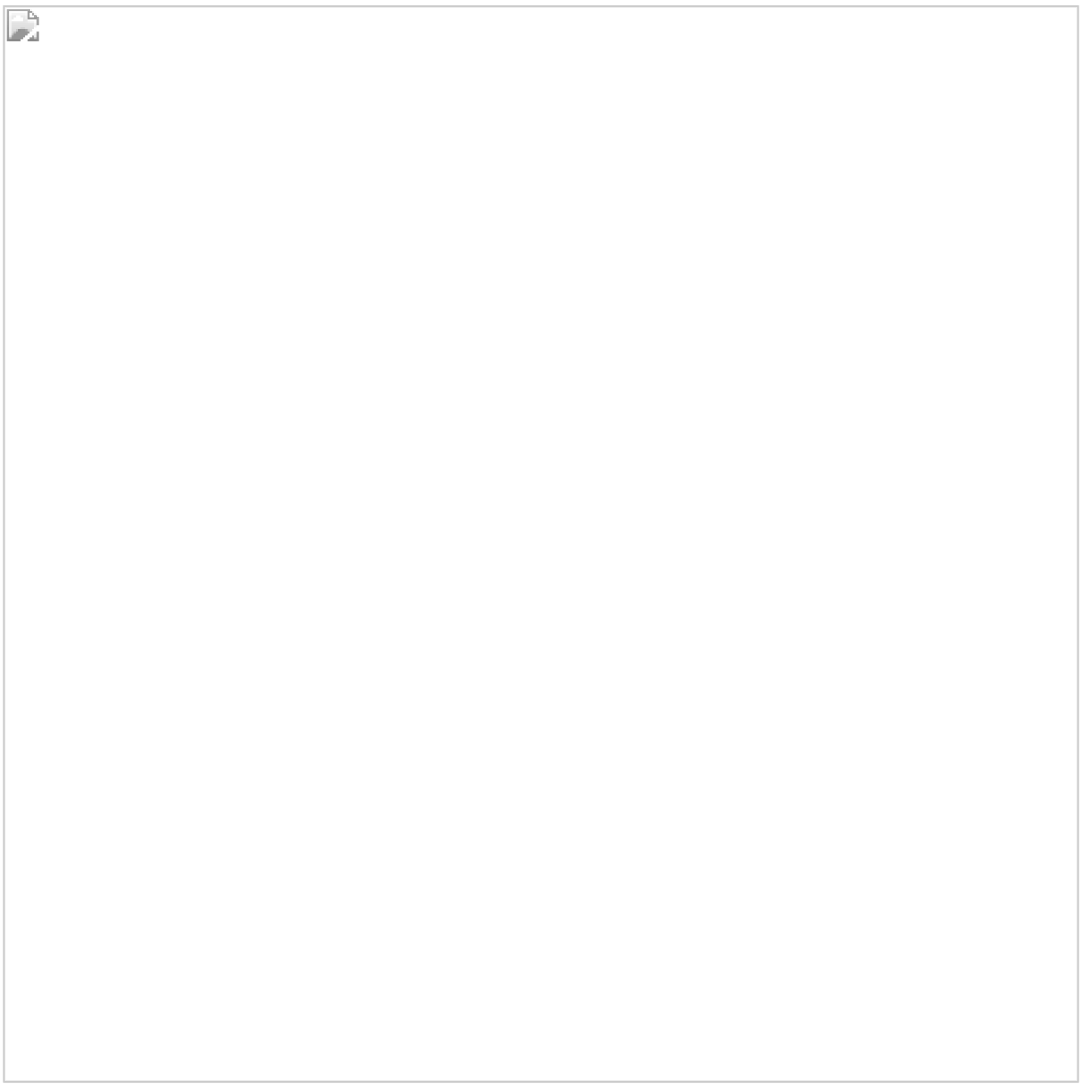
“How strange!” thought the old man. He had thought he was all alone on the mountain.

He took his courage in both hands and peeped out of the tree. There was a great crowd of strange-looking creatures! Some were red and wore green clothes. Some were black and wore red clothes. Some had only one eye, and some had no mouth at all.

They were oni, the old tales say, the wild goblins of the mountains.

TALK ABOUT IT

The old man was afraid, but he peeped out anyway. What do you think made him brave enough?

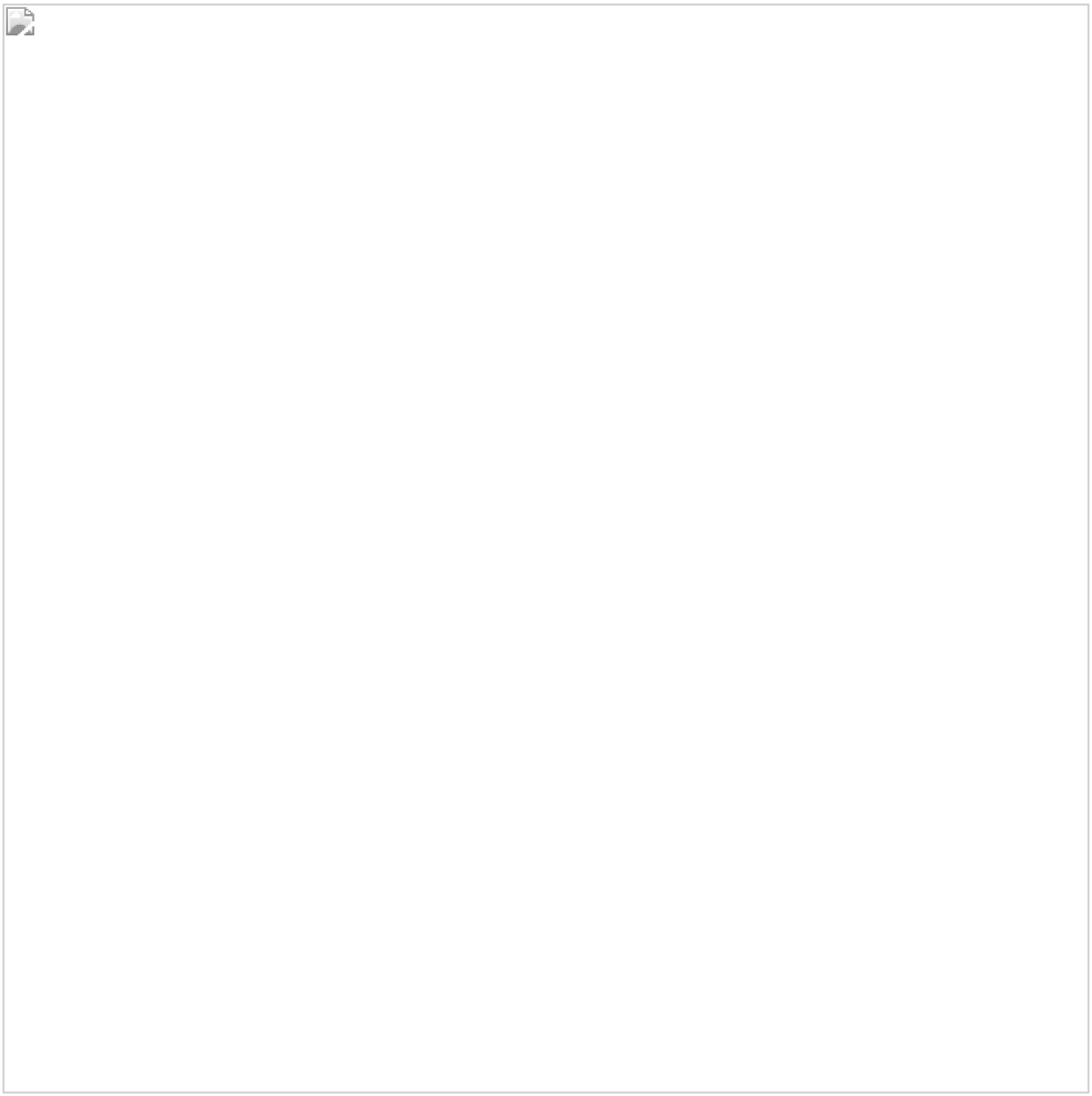


## Think about it

**1. What did the old man see when he peeped out?**

- ○ A crowd of strange creatures
- ○ A lonely deer
- ○ A castle

# A Party in the Mountains



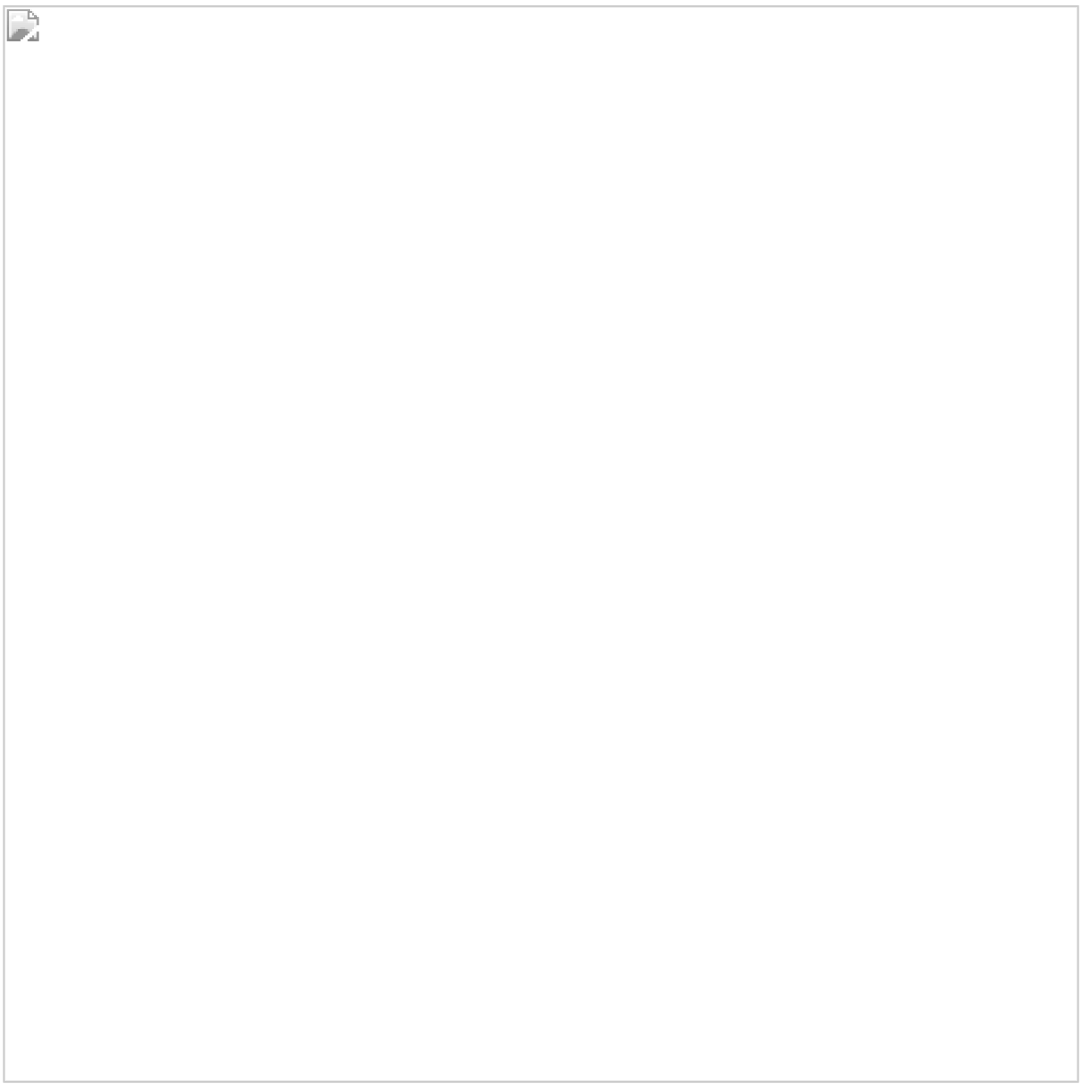
The oni lit a big fire, until it was as light as day. They sat down in two rows and began to eat and drink and make merry, just like people at a party.

One young oni jumped up and sang a merry song and danced. Then others danced too. Some danced well, and some danced badly.

At last one of them said, “We have had uncommon fun to-night, but I would like to see something new.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The oni were having fun, but they wanted something new. What is the most fun party you can think of?

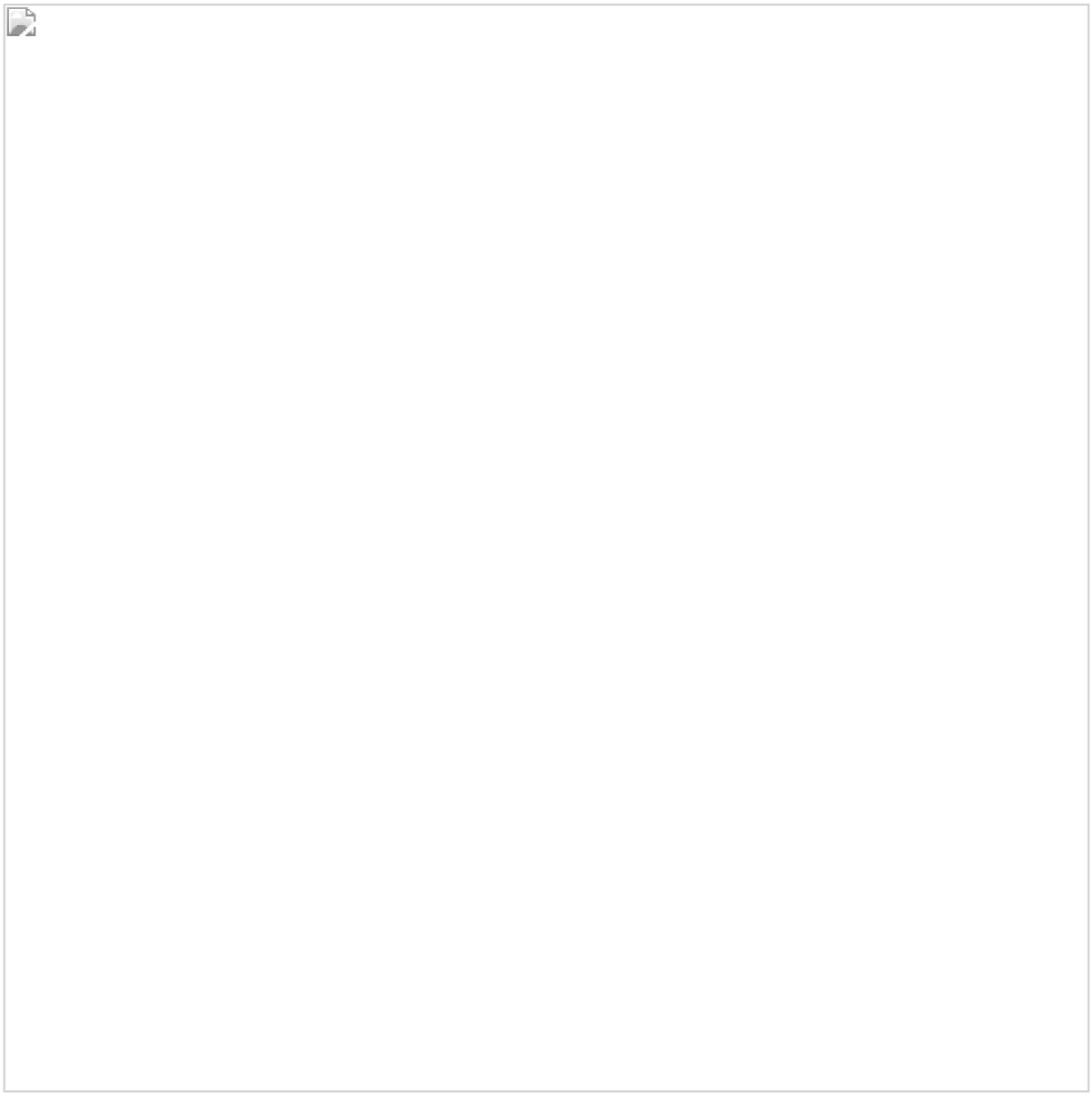


## Think about it

**1. What did the oni do around the fire?**

- ○ They slept
- ○ They sang and danced
- ○ They argued

# The Old Man Dances



Hidden in the tree, the old man was not afraid anymore. He wanted to dance too!

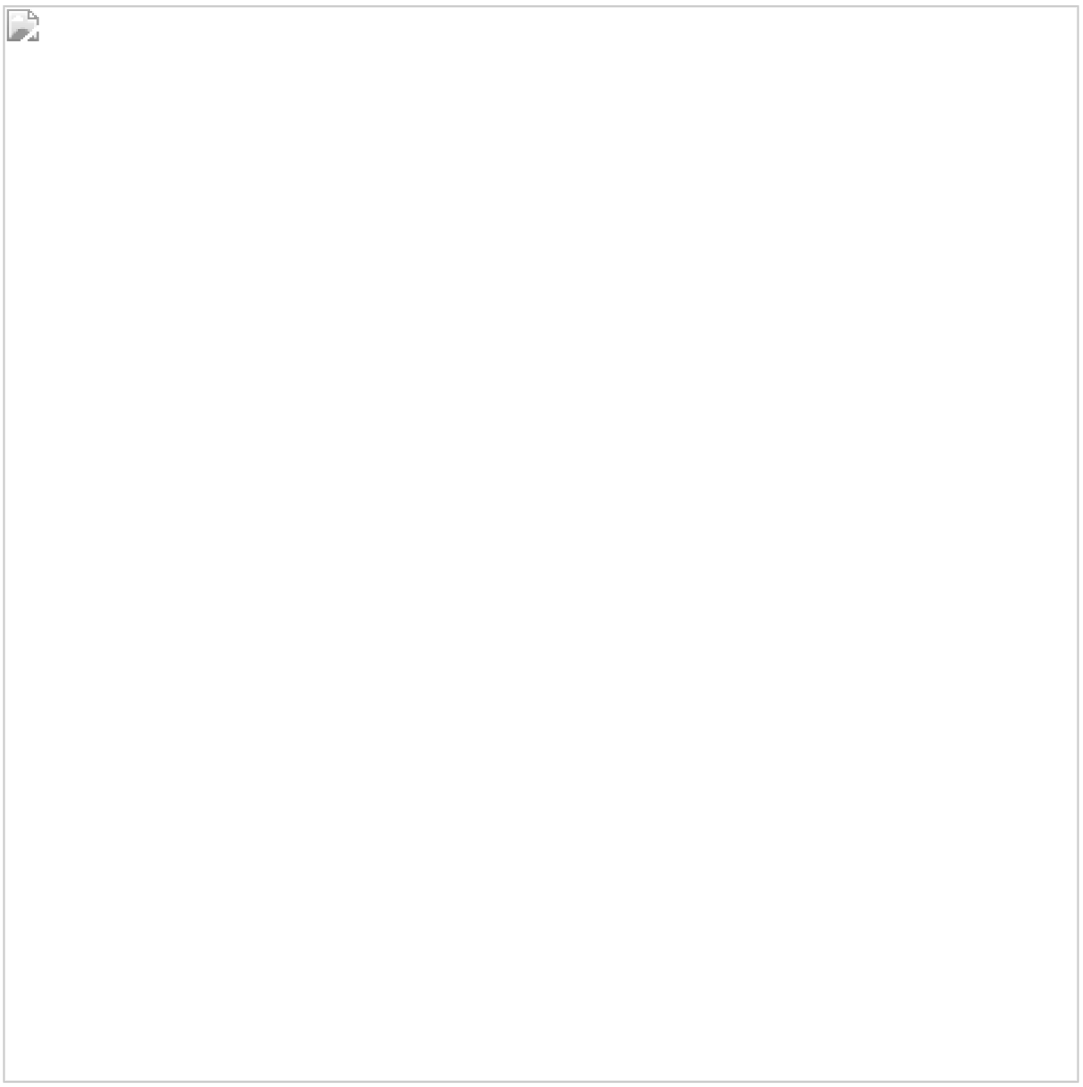
“Let come what will,” he said, and out he crept. He pulled his cap down over his nose, stuck his ax in his belt, and began to dance.

The oni jumped up in surprise. “Who is this?” they cried. But the old man went on swaying and bowing and twirling this way and that way, and soon the whole crowd was laughing.

“How well the old man dances!” they said.

TALK ABOUT IT

The old man could have stayed hidden. Why do you think he joined in instead?



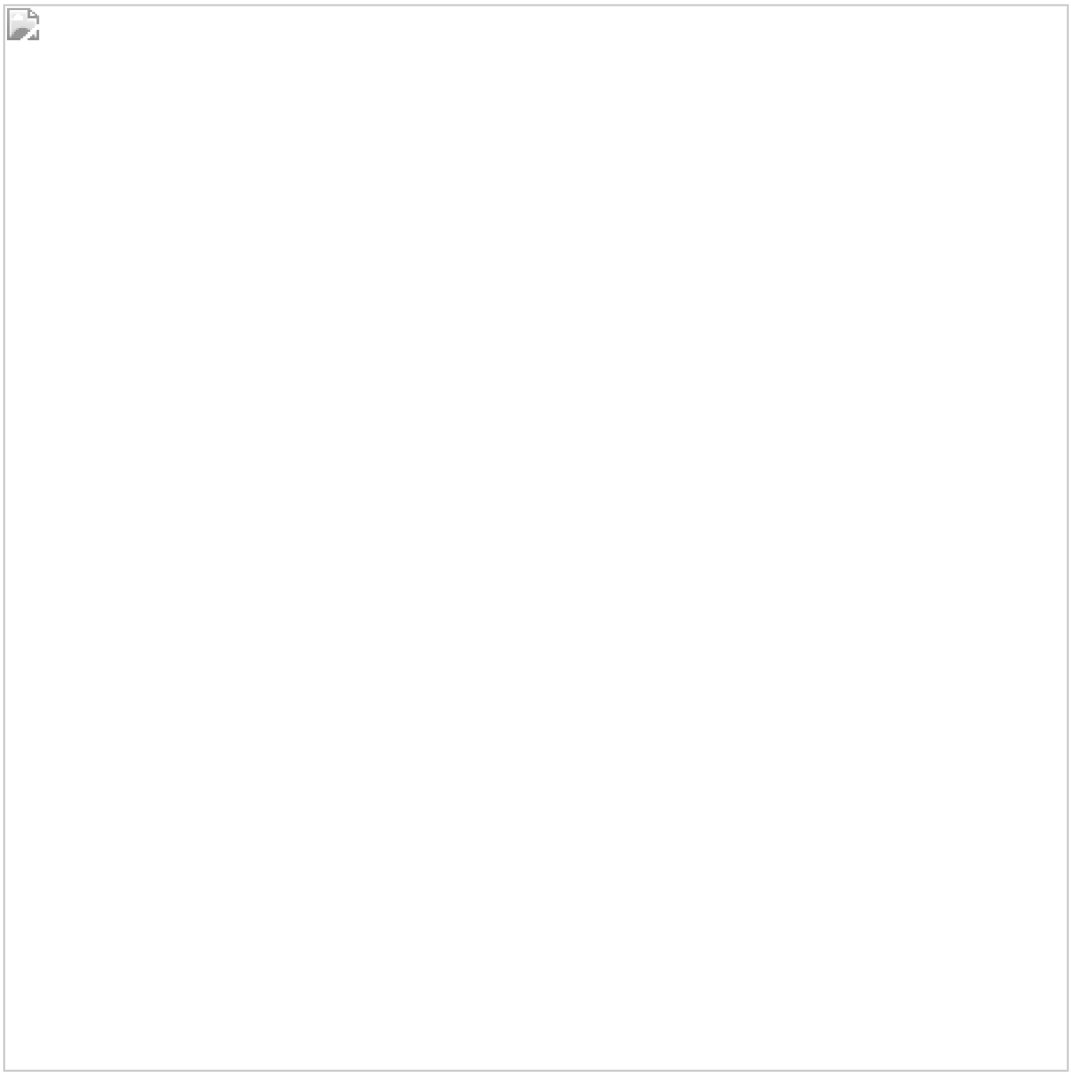
## Think about it

**1. What did the old man do when he came out of the tree?**

- ○ He ran away
- ○ He started to dance
- ○ He chopped down a tree

**2. Would you dance in front of a crowd of strangers? Why or why not?**

# A Promise to Come Back



The oni liked the old man's dancing so much that they wanted him to come back again and again.

But how could they be sure he would come? They said he must leave them a pledge, something of his to keep until he did.

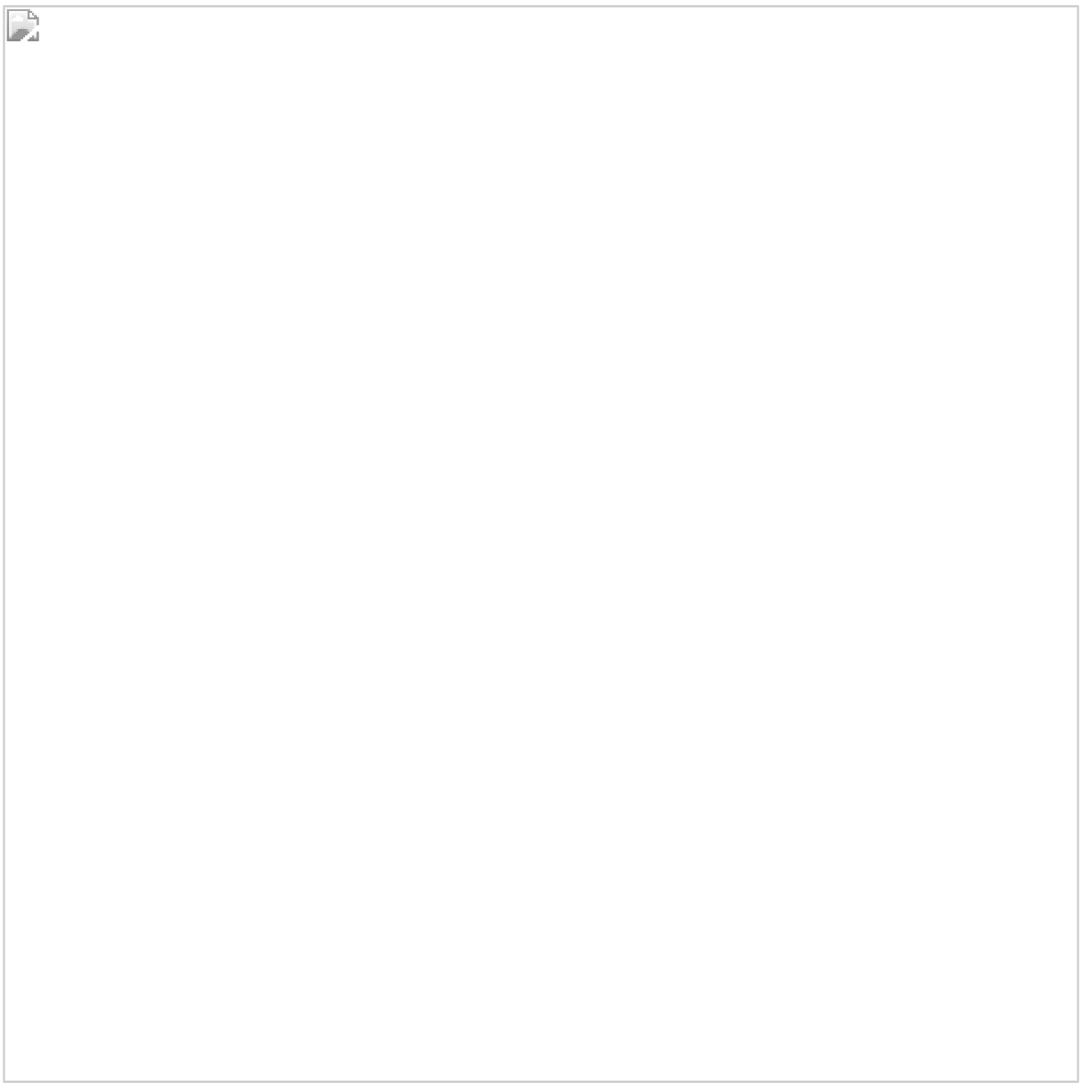
They looked at the old man, and they decided the big lump on his face must be something he cared about very much. They thought it was a treasure.

“I have had this lump many years,” said the old man, “but you may have it.”

The oni took hold of the lump and twisted and pulled, and off it came! It did not hurt at all.

TALK ABOUT IT

The oni thought the lump was a treasure, but the old man did not seem to mind giving it away. Why do you think that is?

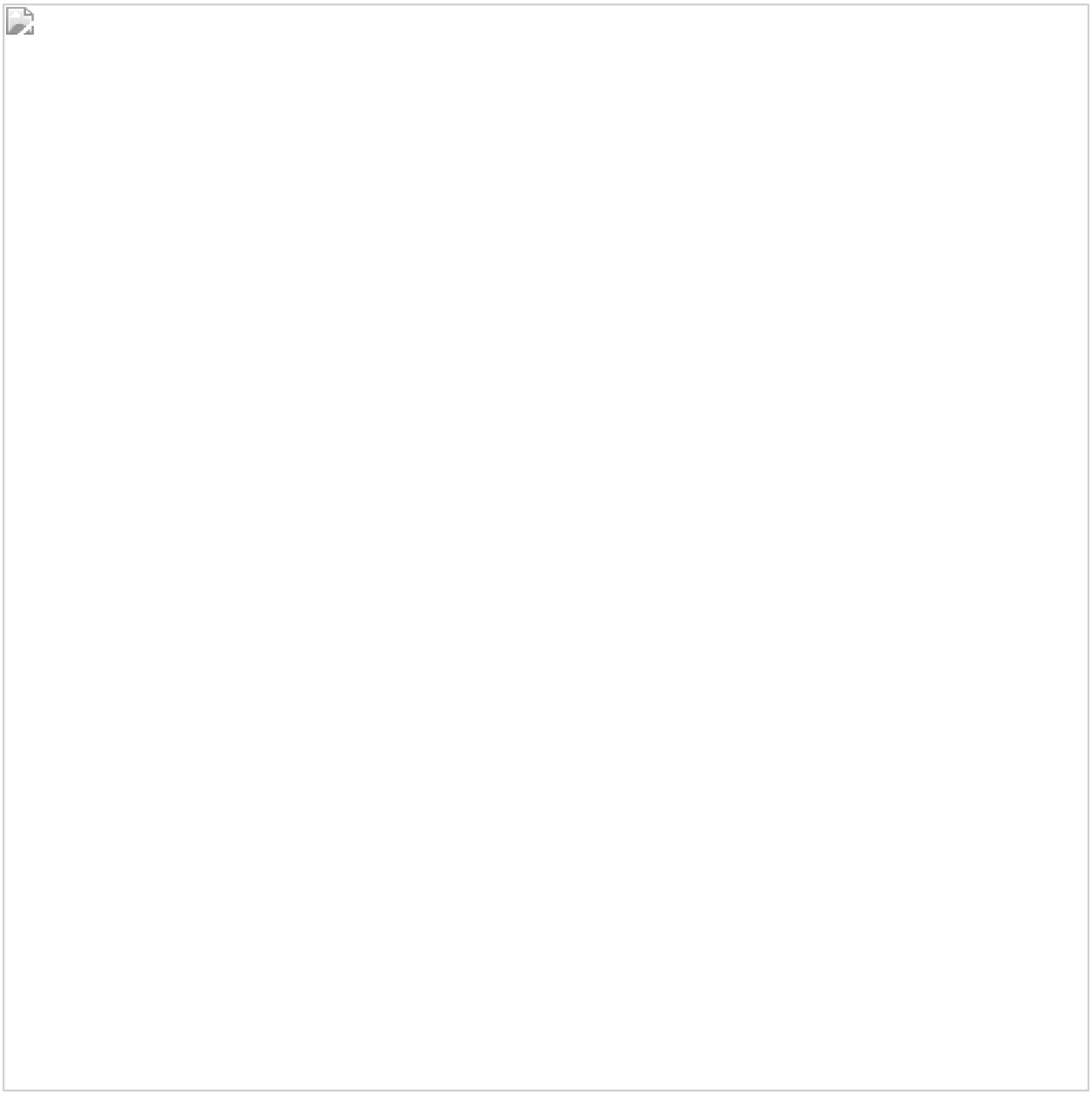


## Think about it

**1. What did the oni keep for a pledge, to make sure the old man came back?**

- ○ His ax
- ○ His cap
- ○ The lump on his face

# A Smooth Face



Just then the sun began to rise and the birds began to sing, and the oni hurried away.

The old man felt his face. It was smooth! There was not a trace of the lump left.

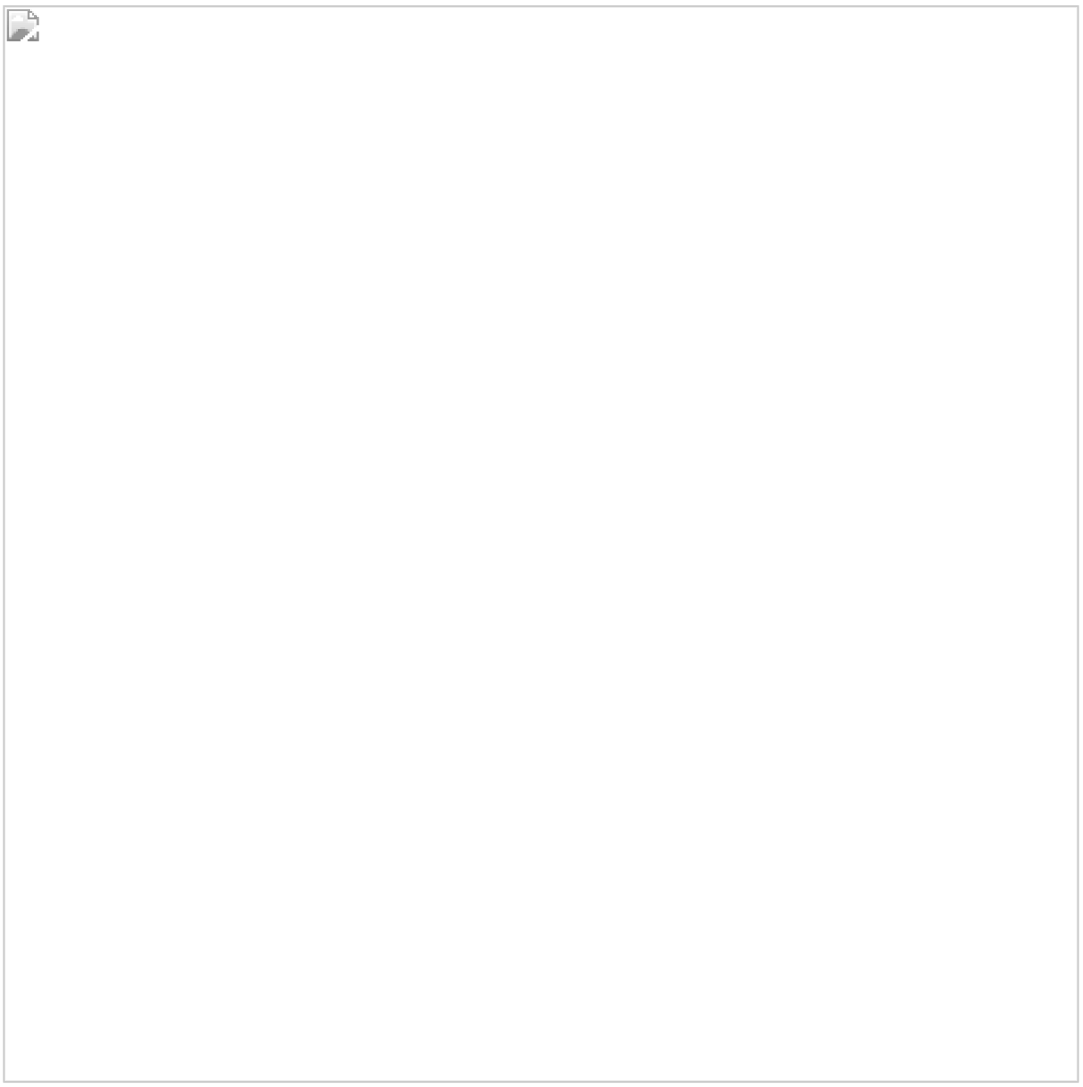
He forgot all about cutting wood and ran home as fast as he could.

“What has happened to you?” asked his wife, when she saw him. So he sat down and told her all about the night.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think his wife said when she heard the whole story?

A Smooth Face · another picture

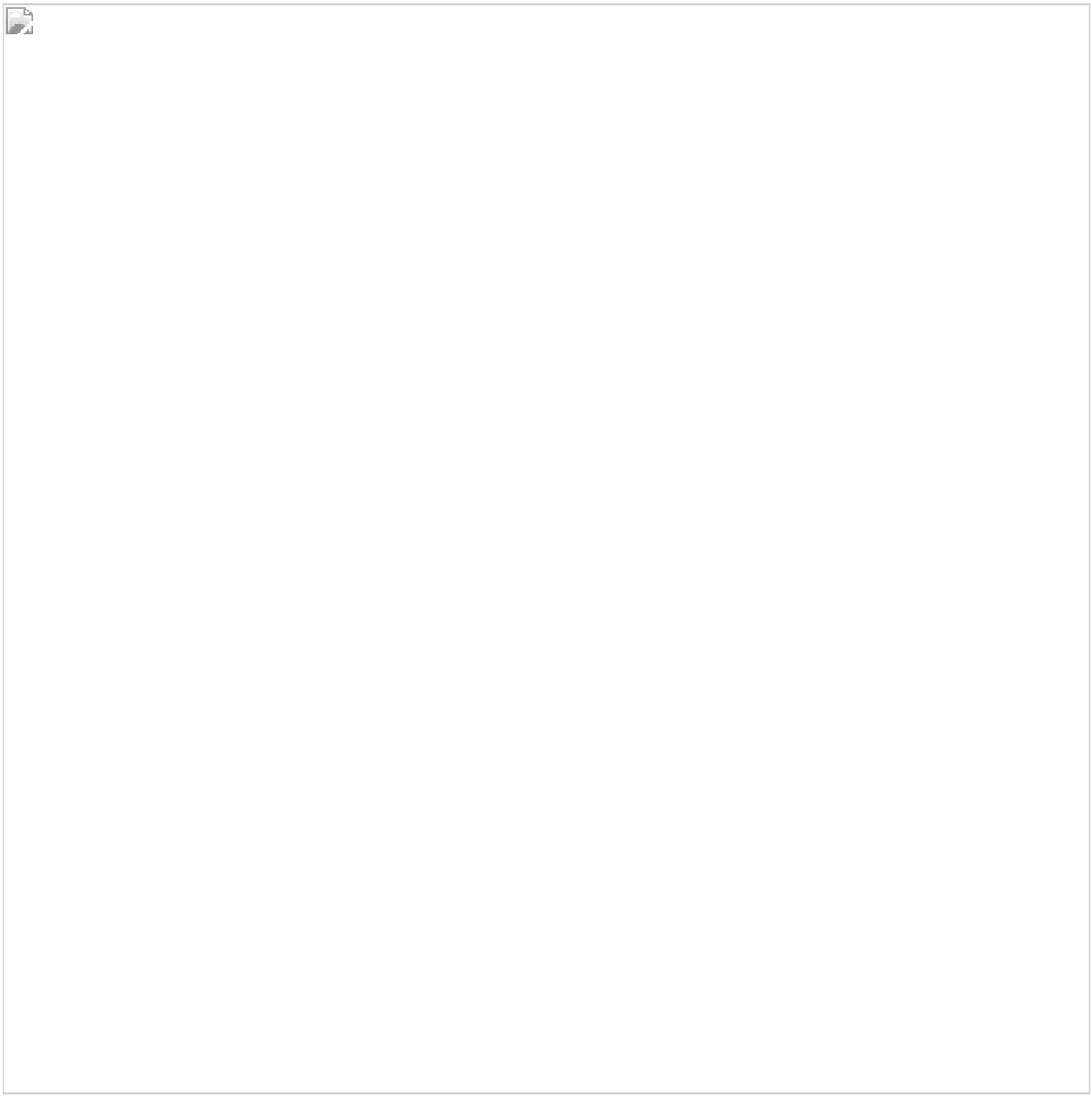


## Think about it

**1. What happened to the lump on the old man's face?**

- ○ It grew bigger
- ○ It was gone
- ○ It moved to the other side

# The Neighbor



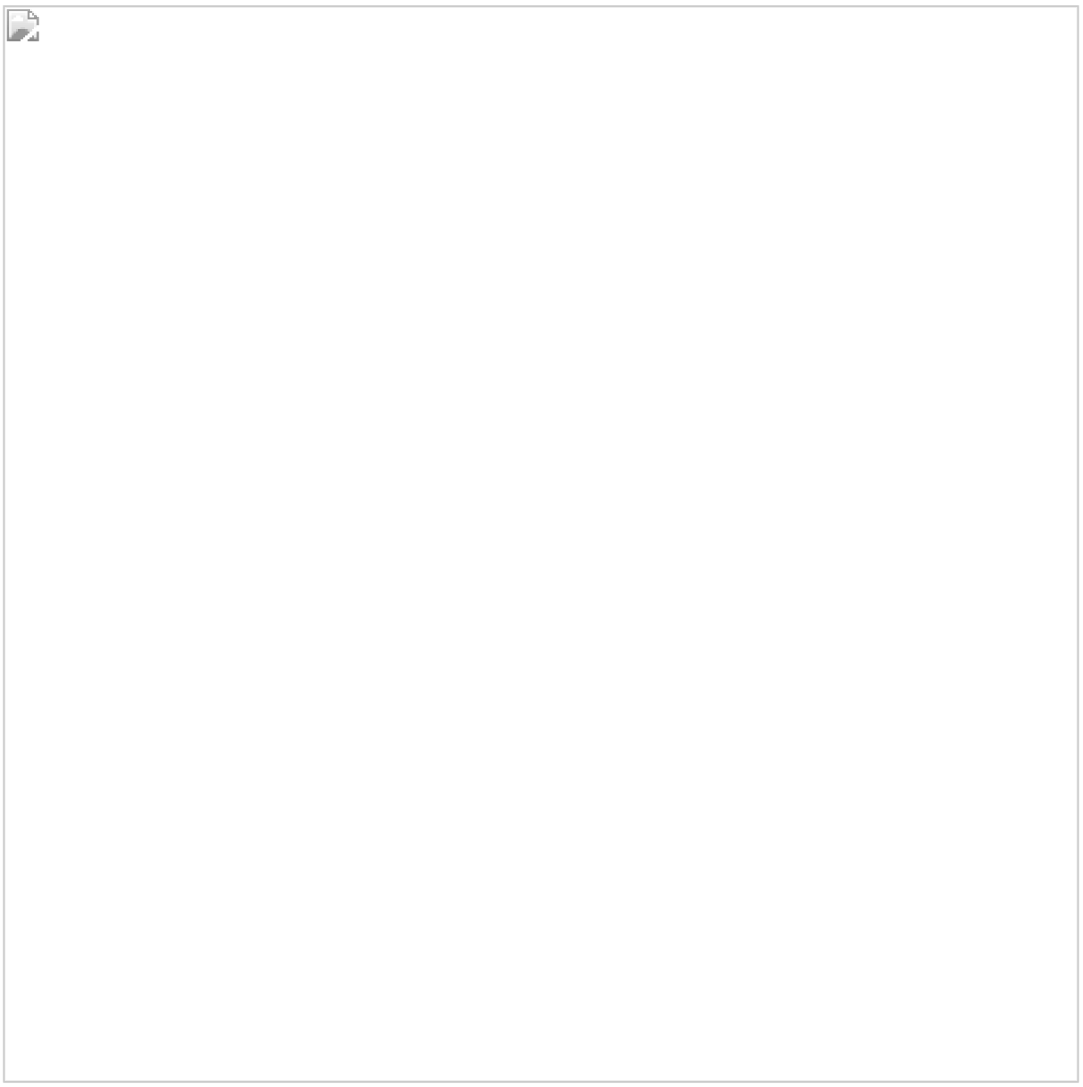
Now there was another old man in the neighborhood. He had a big lump too, but on the left side of his face.

When he heard how his neighbor had lost his lump, he made up his mind to do the very same thing.

He climbed up the mountain and crept into the hollow tree, and waited. Sure enough, the oni came, and they lit their fire and began their party, just as before.

TALK ABOUT IT

Do you think the neighbor wanted to dance, or did he want something else?

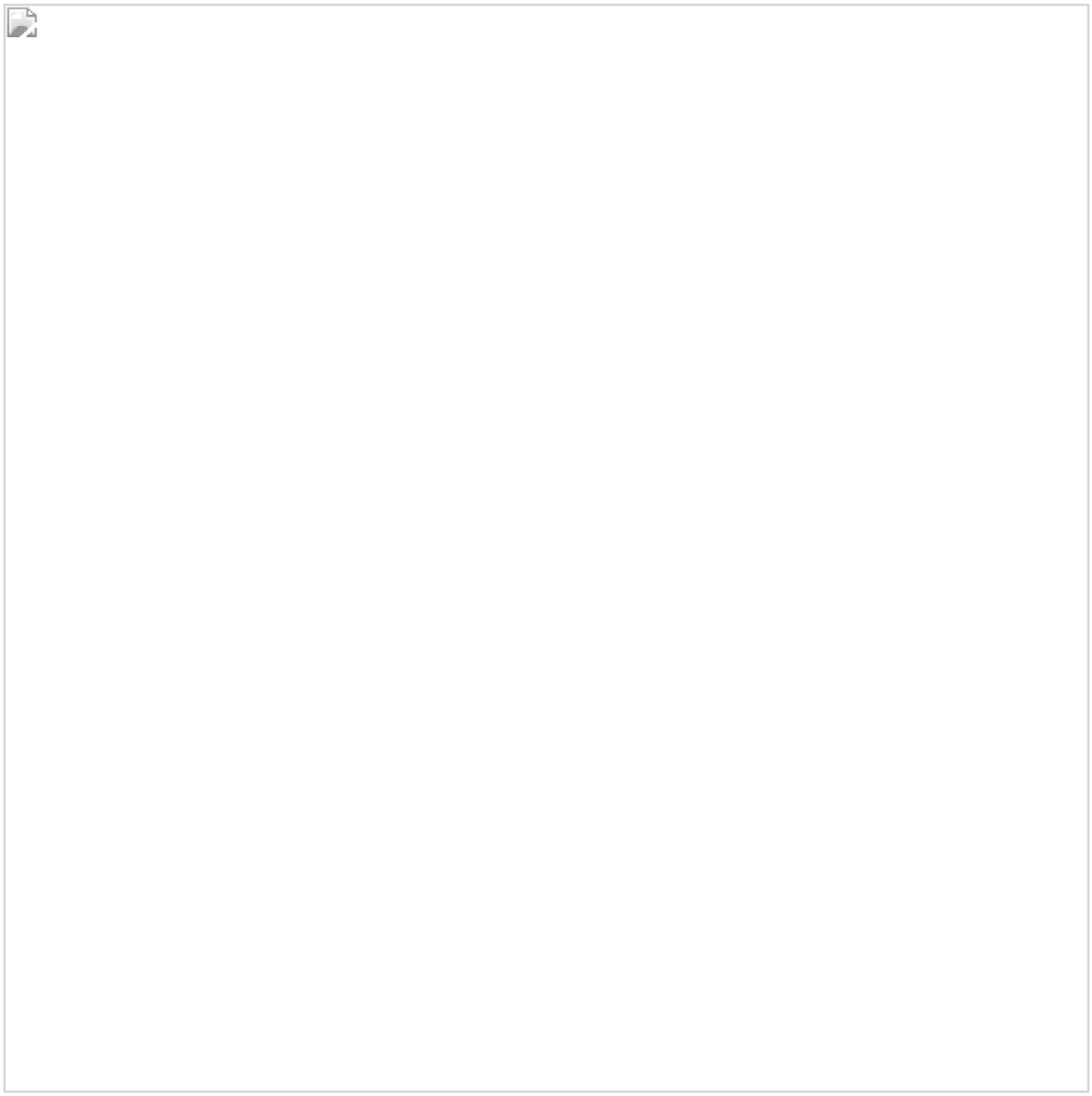


## Think about it

**1. Where was the second old man's lump?**

- ○ On his right cheek
- ○ On his left cheek
- ○ On his nose

# The Second Dance



The second old man was afraid and trembling. He crept out of the tree, and the oni cried, “Now let us see him dance.”

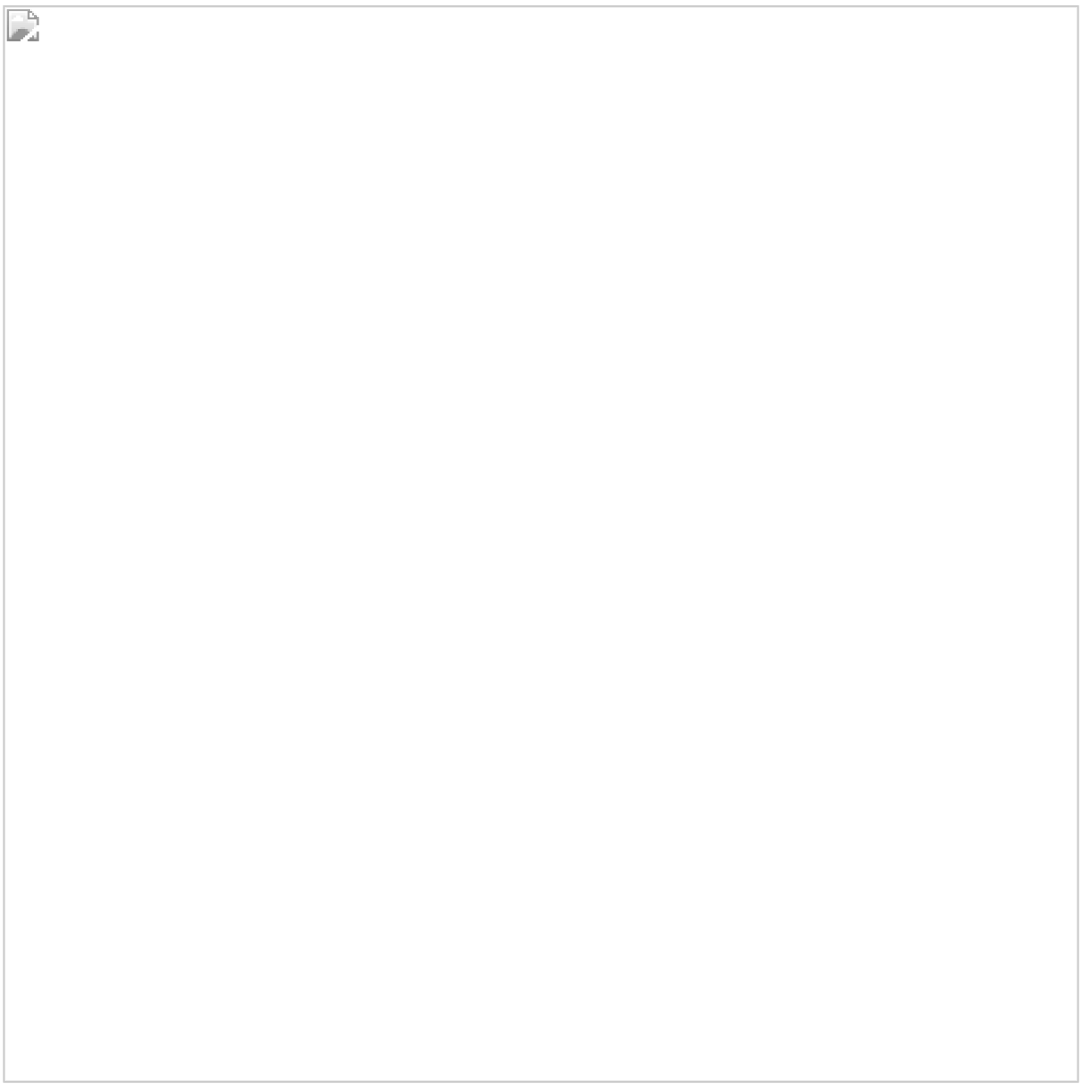
But he was stiff and awkward, and he did not dance well at all.

“You dance badly, and are getting worse and worse,” said the oni. They would give him back the lump they had taken from the other man.

And one of the oni stuck the lump on the other side of his face! The poor old man went home with a lump on each side.

TALK ABOUT IT

Both old men danced for the oni. What do you think was different about the second old man's dance?



## Think about it

**1. How many lumps did the second old man have when he went home?**

- ○ None
- ○ One
- ○ Two

**2. The first old man danced because he was having a good time. The second old man danced because he wanted something. Which do you think the oni liked better? Why?**

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

**— Yeshua HaMashiach**

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