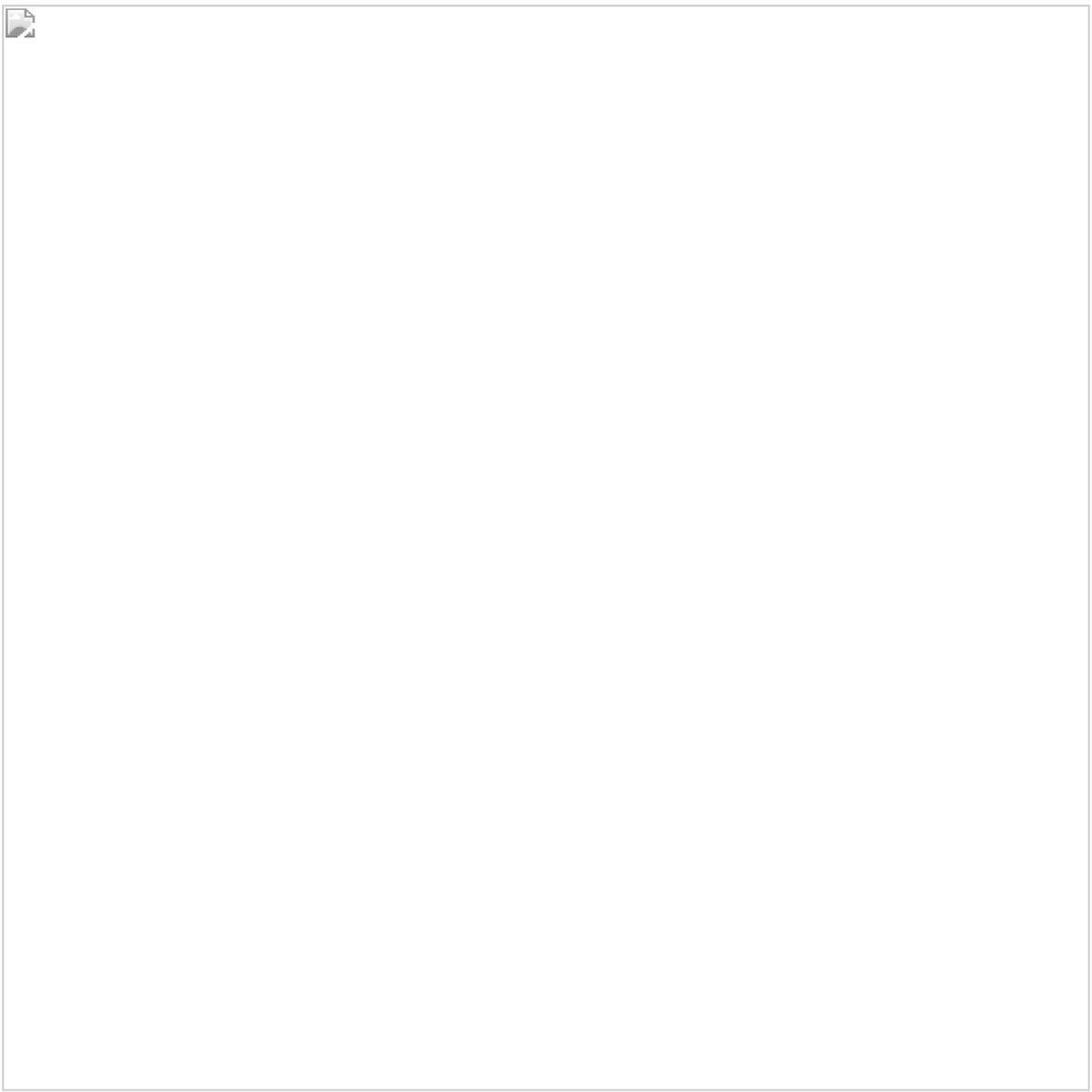
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Two Brothers

A Slavic Tale



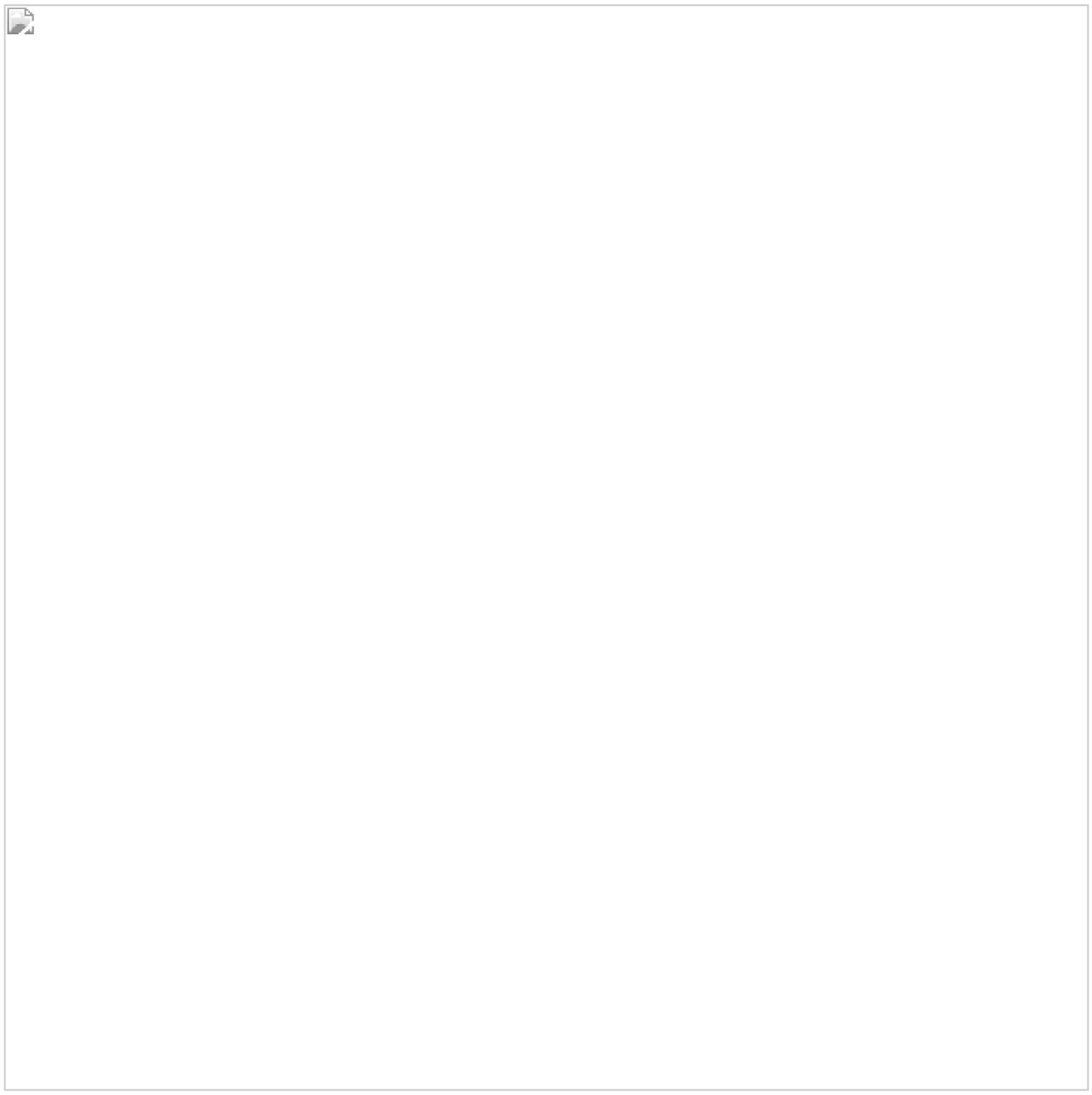
There were two brothers. The older one grew very rich, but he was cruel. The younger one was as honest and kind as a person can be, but he stayed poor, and he had many children. One day there was not even a crust of bread in his house.

TALK ABOUT IT

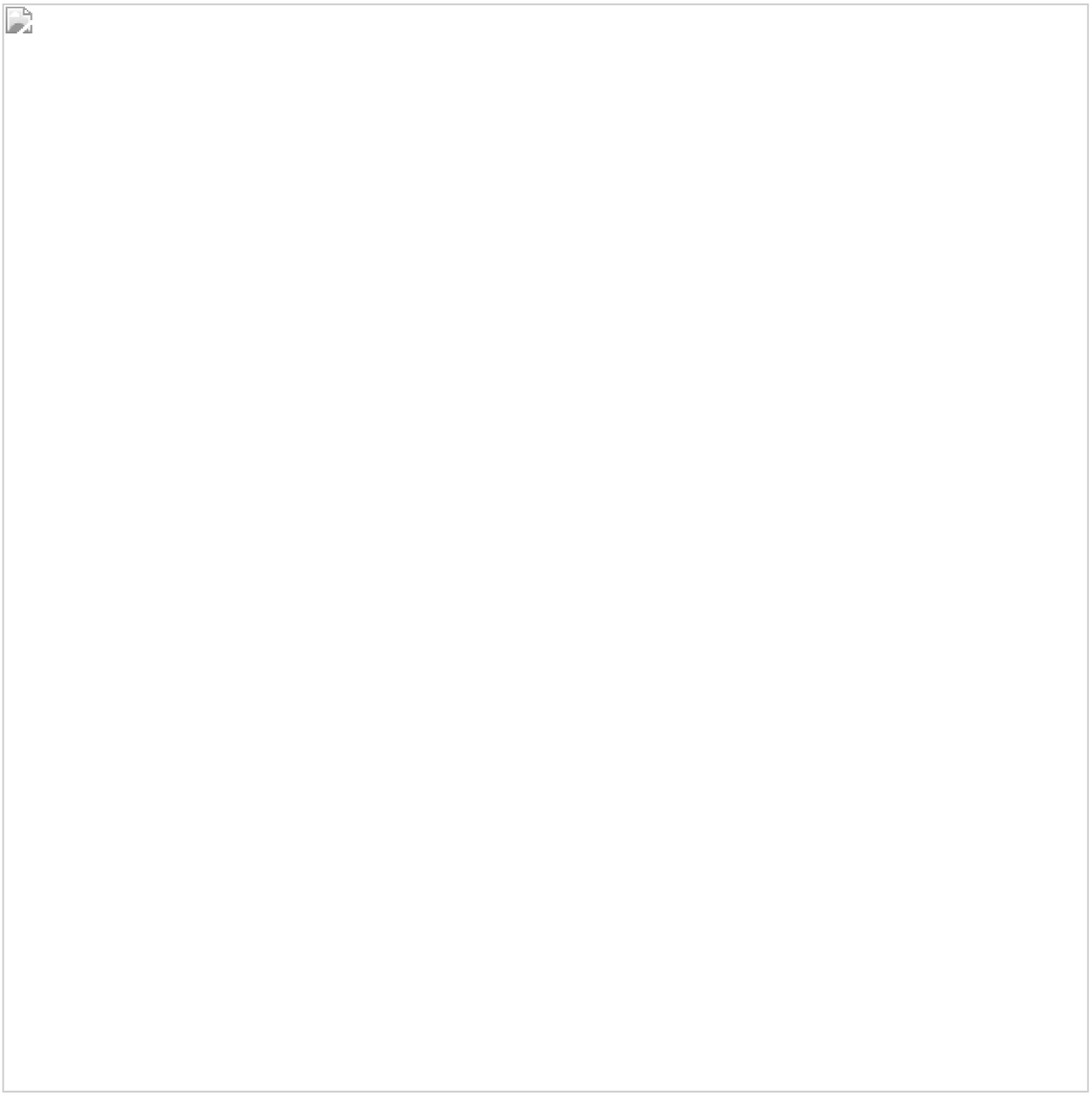
The younger brother had nothing to feed his children. What do you think he did next?

This book belongs to _____

The Two Brothers · another picture



A Door Shut Tight



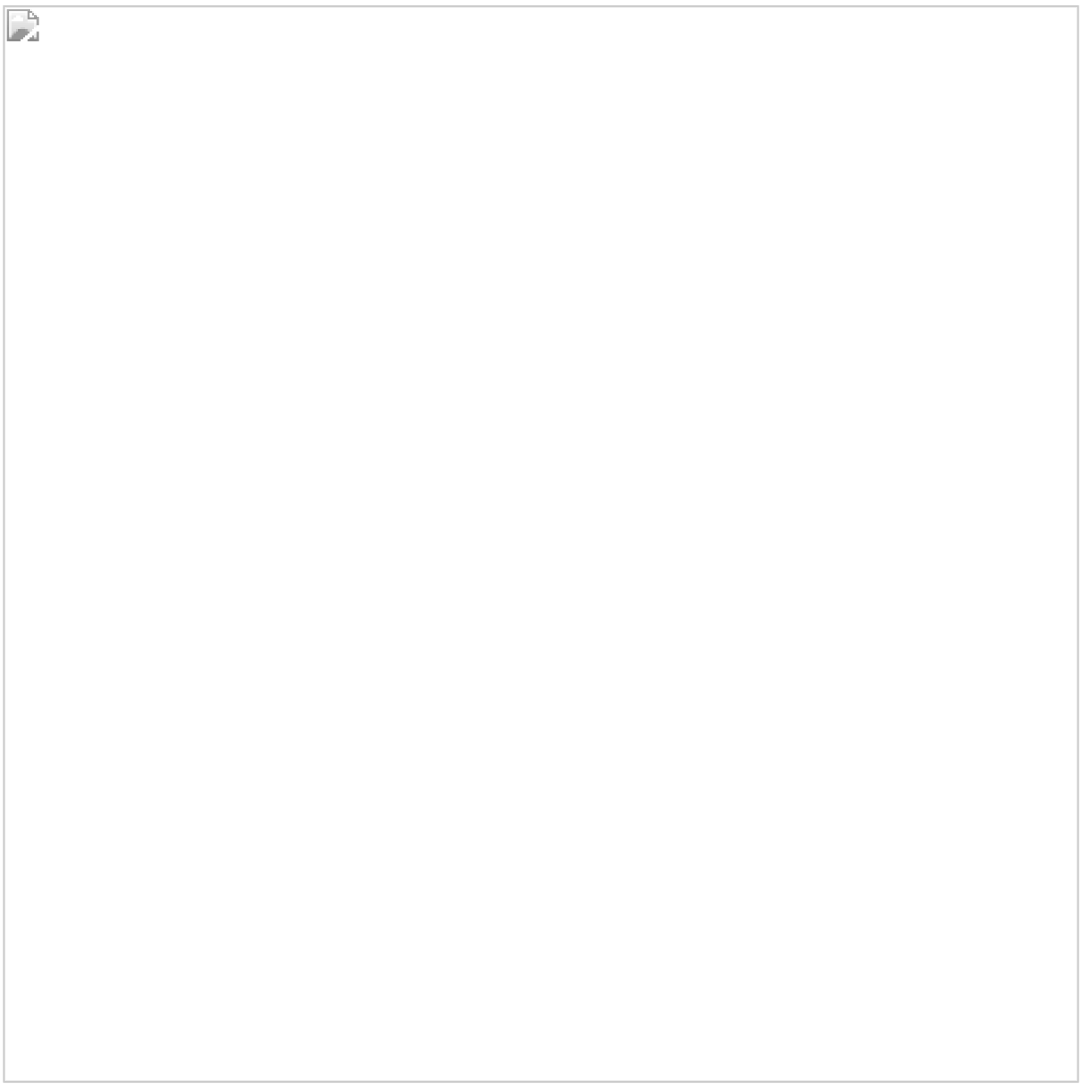
The poor brother went to his rich brother and asked for one loaf of bread.

But the rich brother called him a beggar and slammed the door in his face.

The poor man did not know which way to turn. He was hungry, cold, and thin. He could not bear to go home with nothing for the children.

TALK ABOUT IT

What should the rich brother have done when his own brother asked for bread?

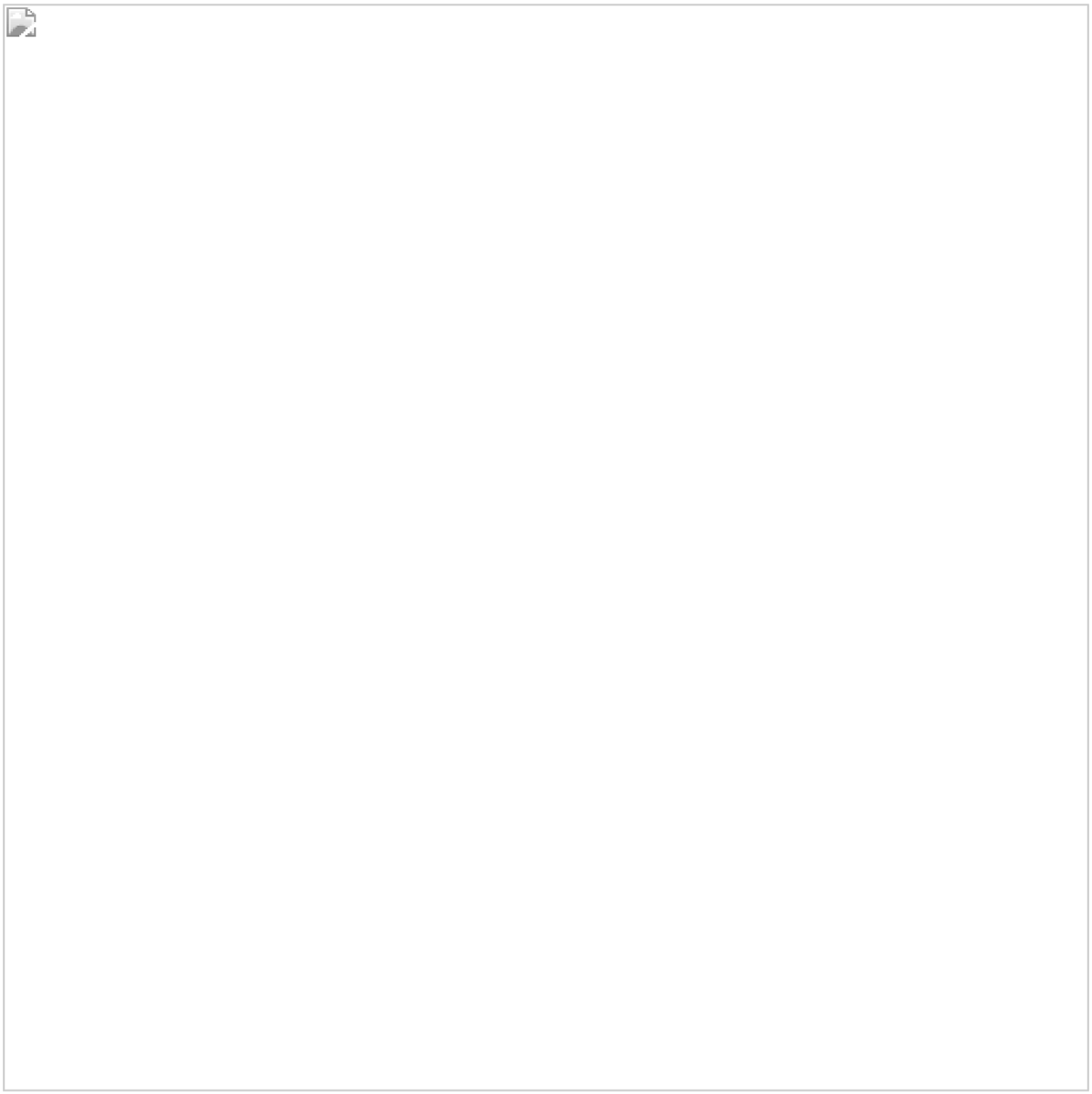


Think about it

1. What did the poor brother ask his rich brother for?

- ○ A horse
- ○ A loaf of bread
- ○ A bag of gold

Up the Mountain



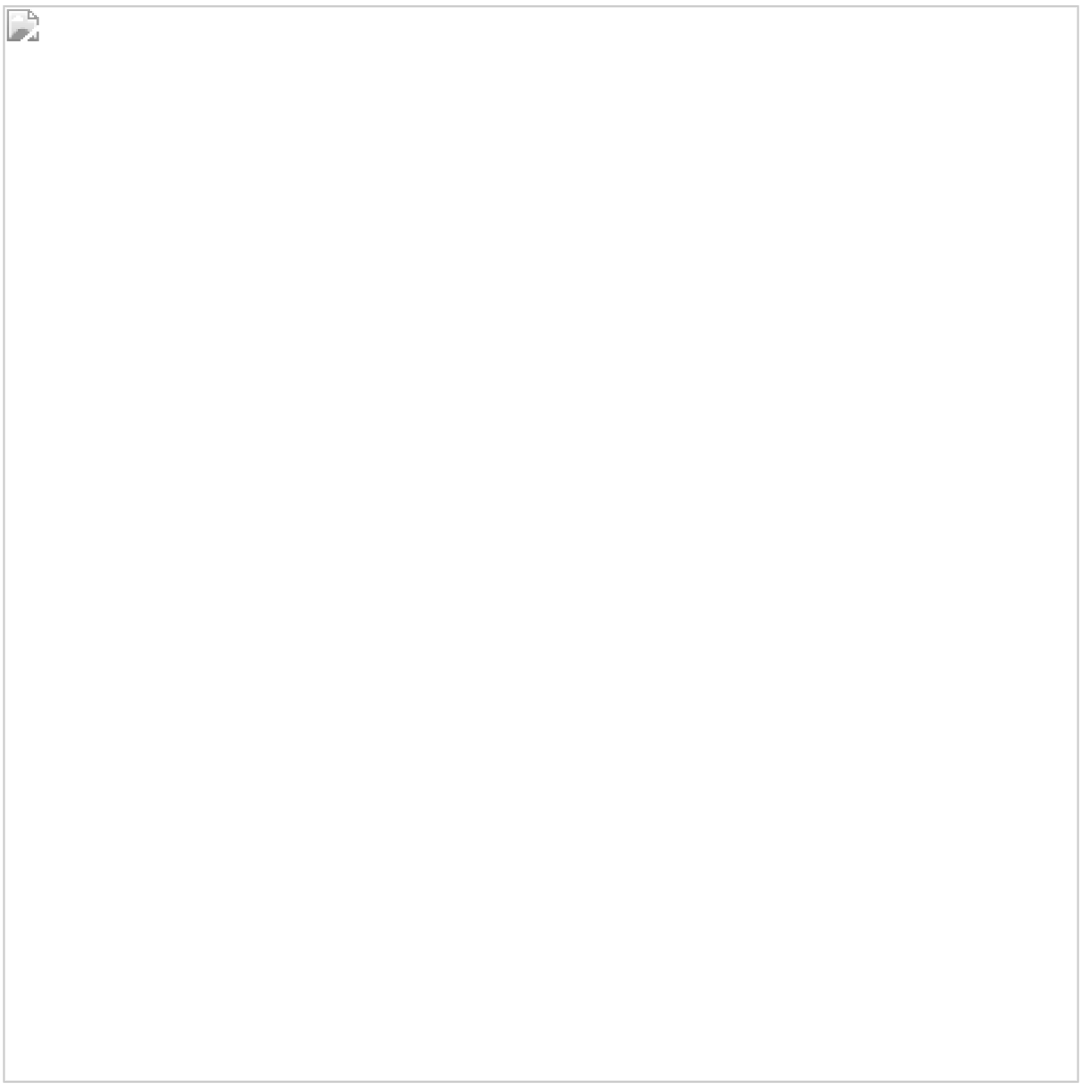
So he walked towards the mountain forest. All he found were a few wild pears that had fallen on the ground, and they were so sour they set his teeth on edge.

The east wind blew right through him. Then he remembered what people said: the top of the mountain in front of him was made of crystal, and a fire burned there forever.

“I will try and find it,” he said, “and then I may be able to warm myself a little.” And he climbed up and up.

TALK ABOUT IT

He was cold and hungry, but he kept climbing. What helps you keep going when something is hard?

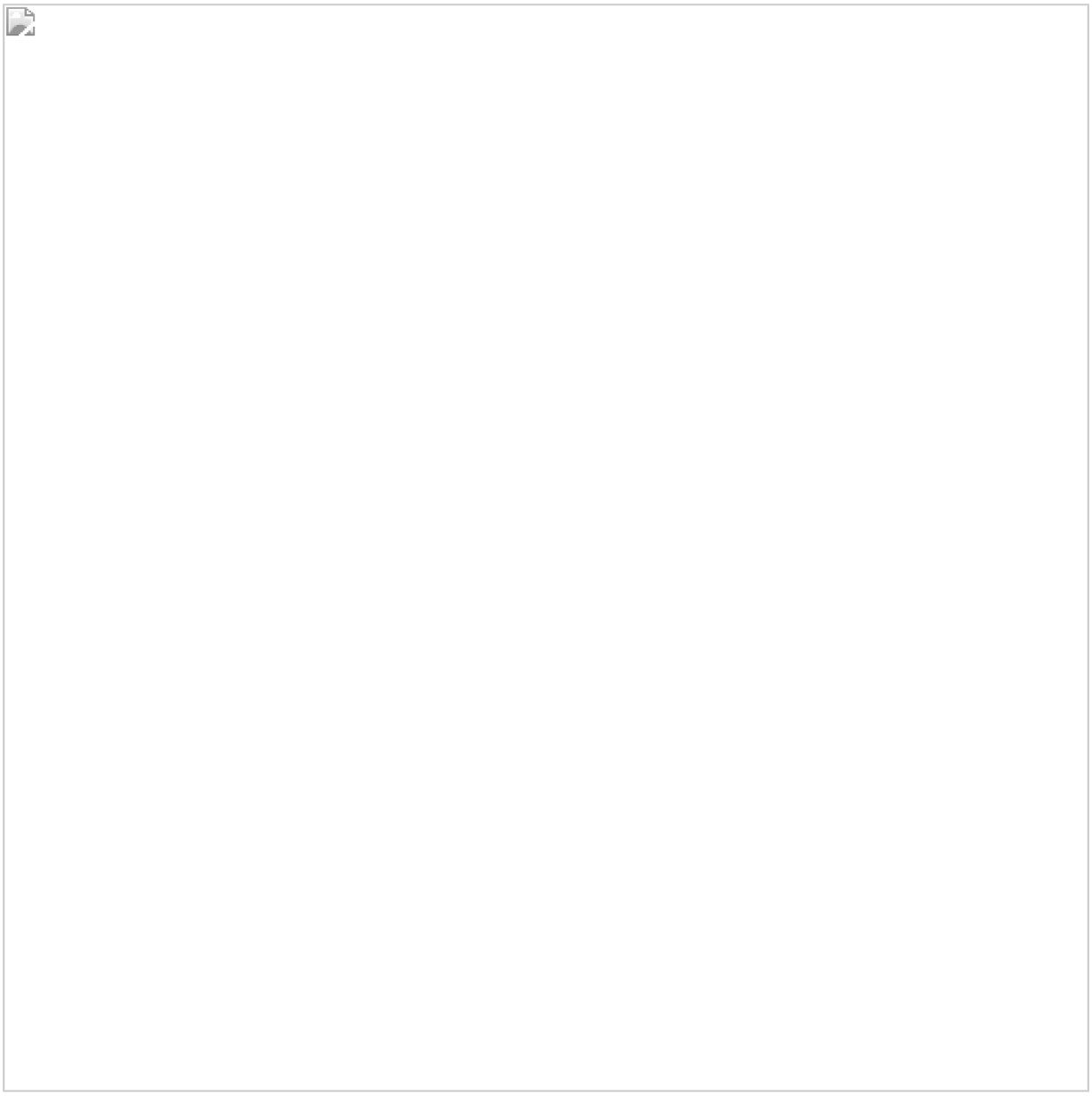


Think about it

1. What did he find to eat in the forest?

- ○ A loaf of bread
- ○ Honey
- ○ Wild pears

Twelve Strange Beings



At the top he stopped, startled. Twelve strange beings sat around a huge fire.

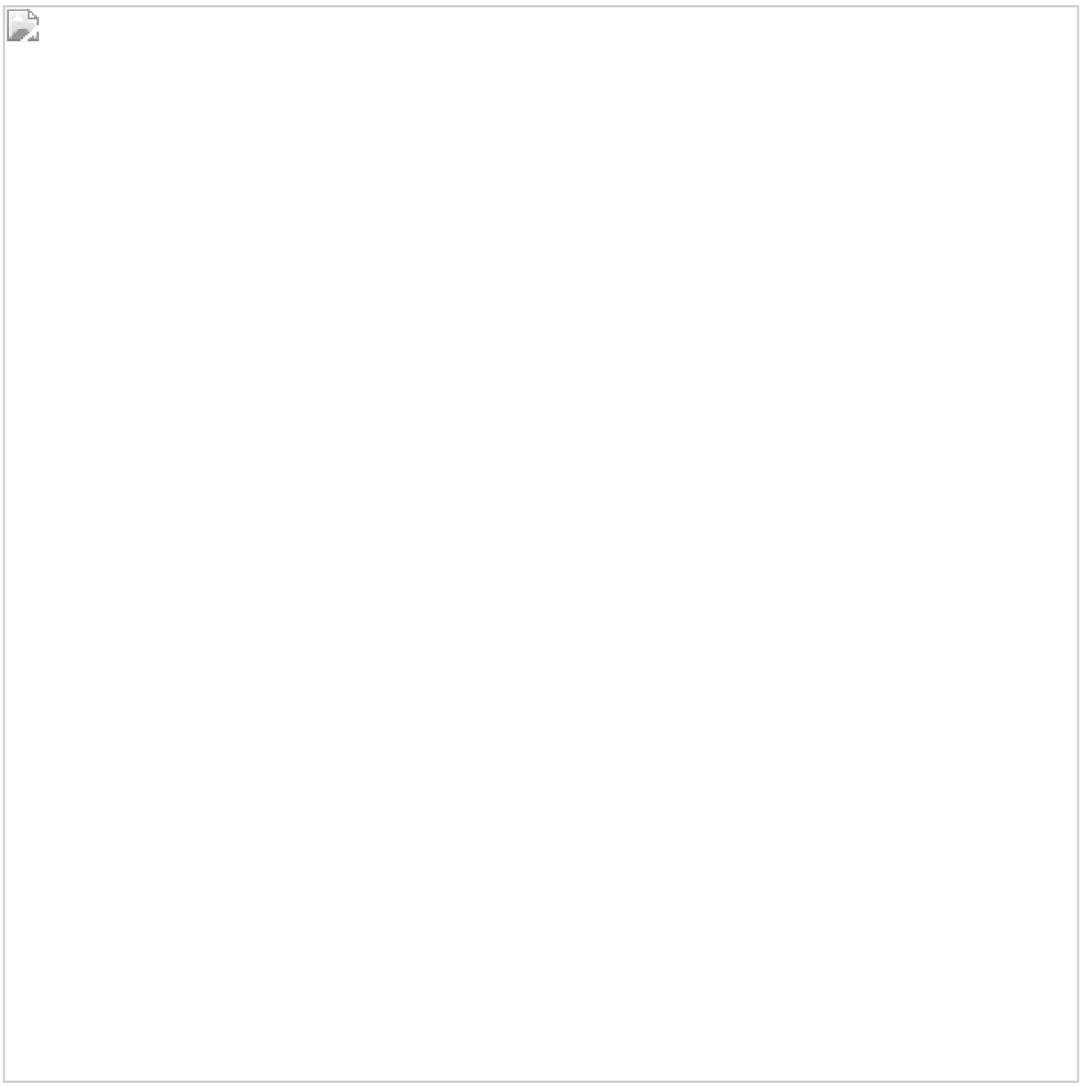
He was afraid for a moment. Then he said to himself, “God is with me. Courage!”

He walked up to the fire and bowed politely. “Good people, take pity on my distress,” he said. “Will you let me warm myself at yours?”

They looked kindly at him, and one of them said, “My son, come sit down with us and warm yourself.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The poor man bowed and asked politely, even though he was so cold and tired. How do you think the twelve felt about that?

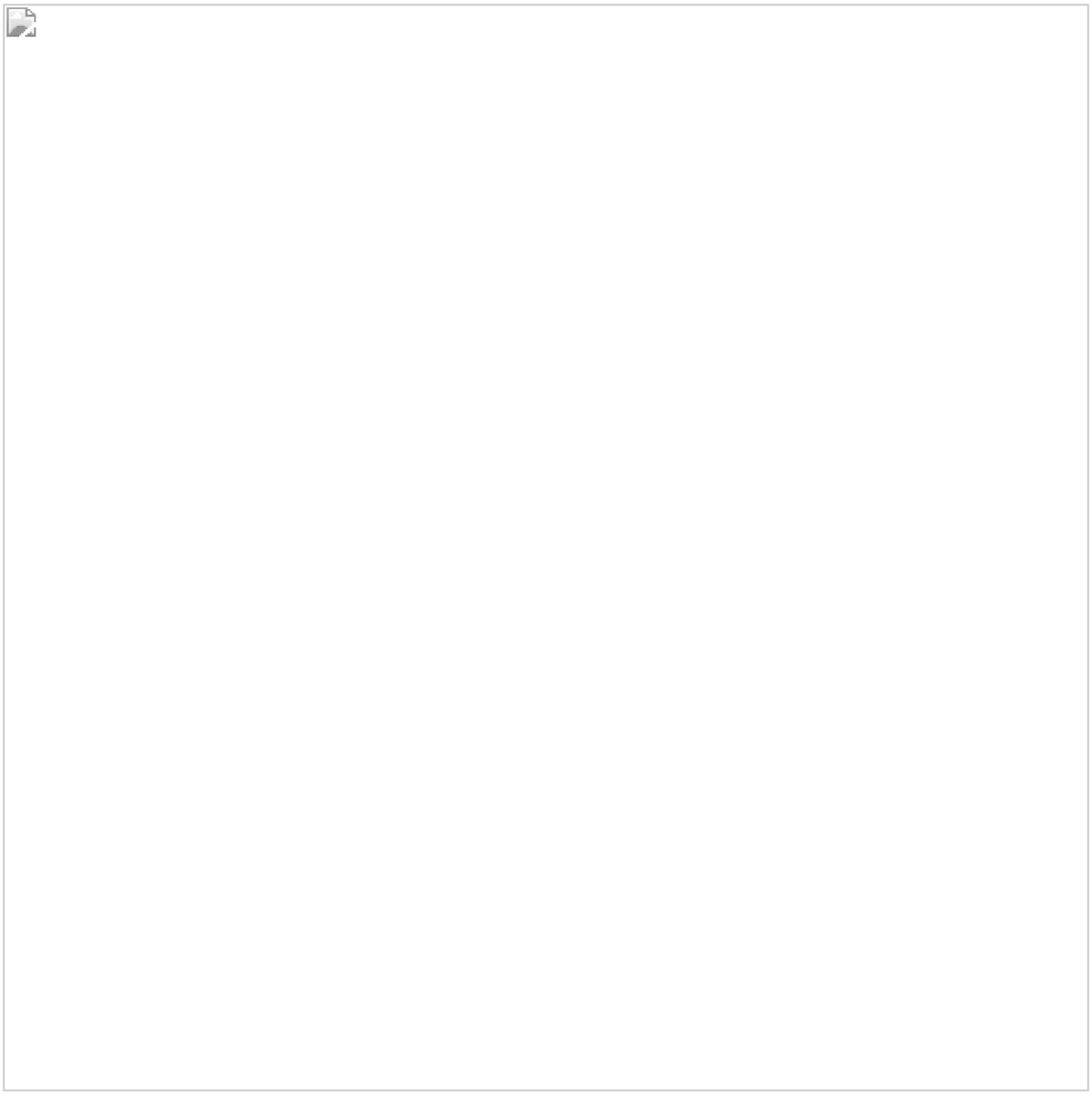


Think about it

1. What did the poor man ask the twelve?

- ○ To warm himself at their fire
- ○ For gold
- ○ For a ride home

A Sack of Embers



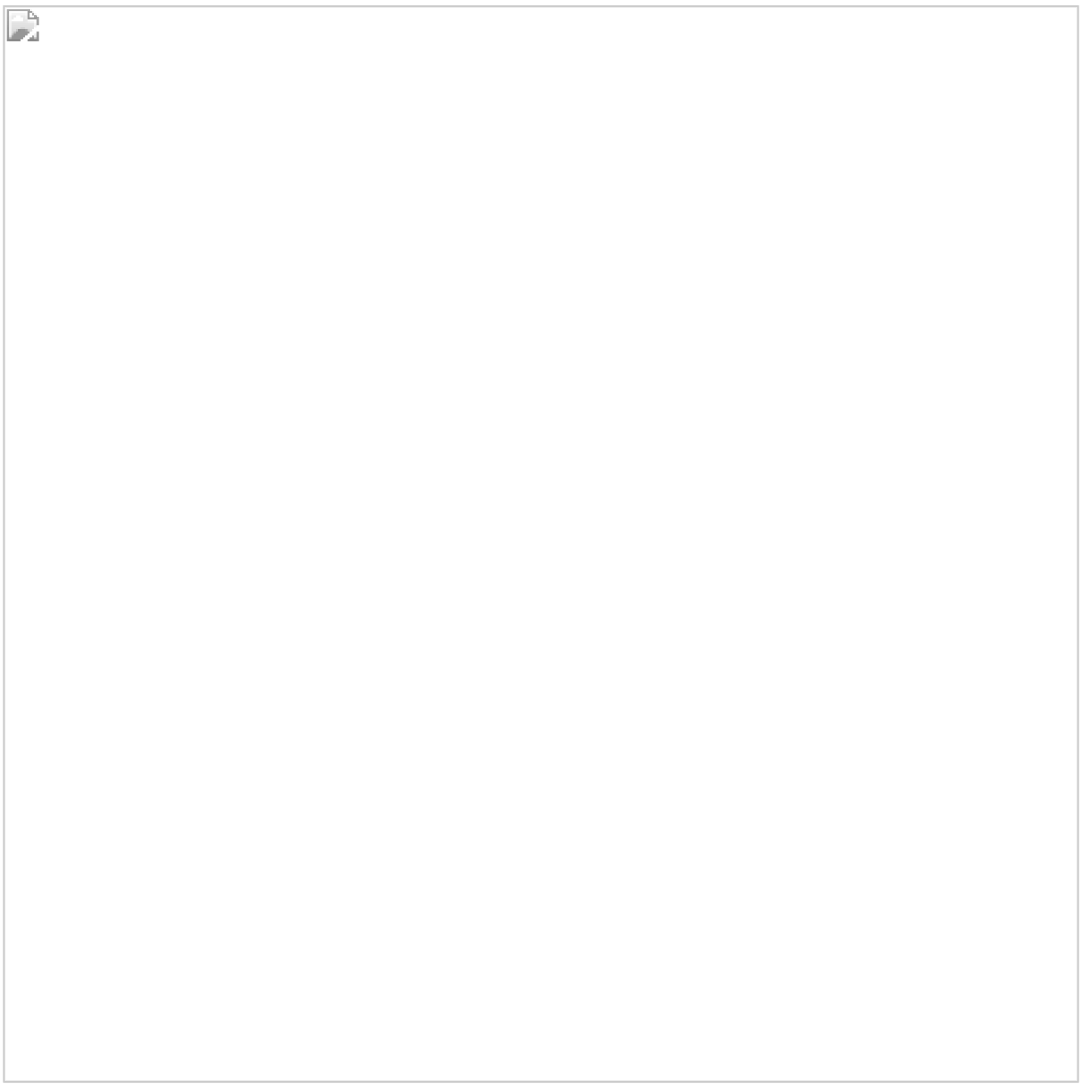
The man sat down and felt warm at once. The twelve beings were silent, and one after another they moved round the fire, each one coming back to his own seat.

Then an old man with a long white beard rose up out of the flames. “Work, and live honestly,” he told the poor man. “Take as many embers as thou wilt, we have more than we need.”

The twelve filled a big sack with glowing embers and set it on his shoulders. They told him to hurry home.

TALK ABOUT IT

The old man said, “we have more than we need.” What does it mean to give when you have more than you need?

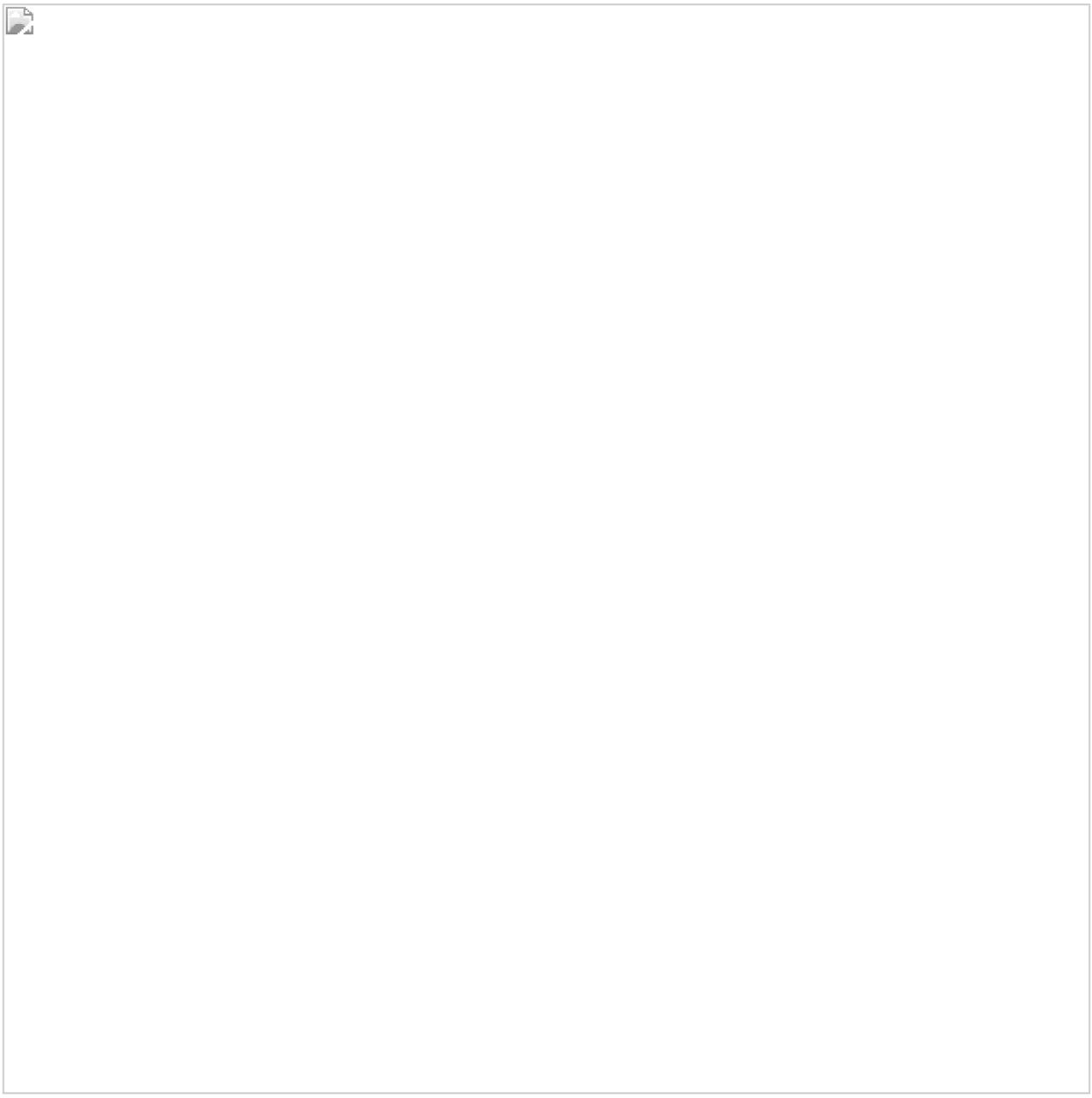


Think about it

1. What did the twelve give the poor man?

- ○ A sack of flour
- ○ A sack of embers
- ○ A magic sword

Gold at Home



He thanked them humbly and set off. As he walked, he wondered why the embers did not feel hot, and why the sack was as light as paper.

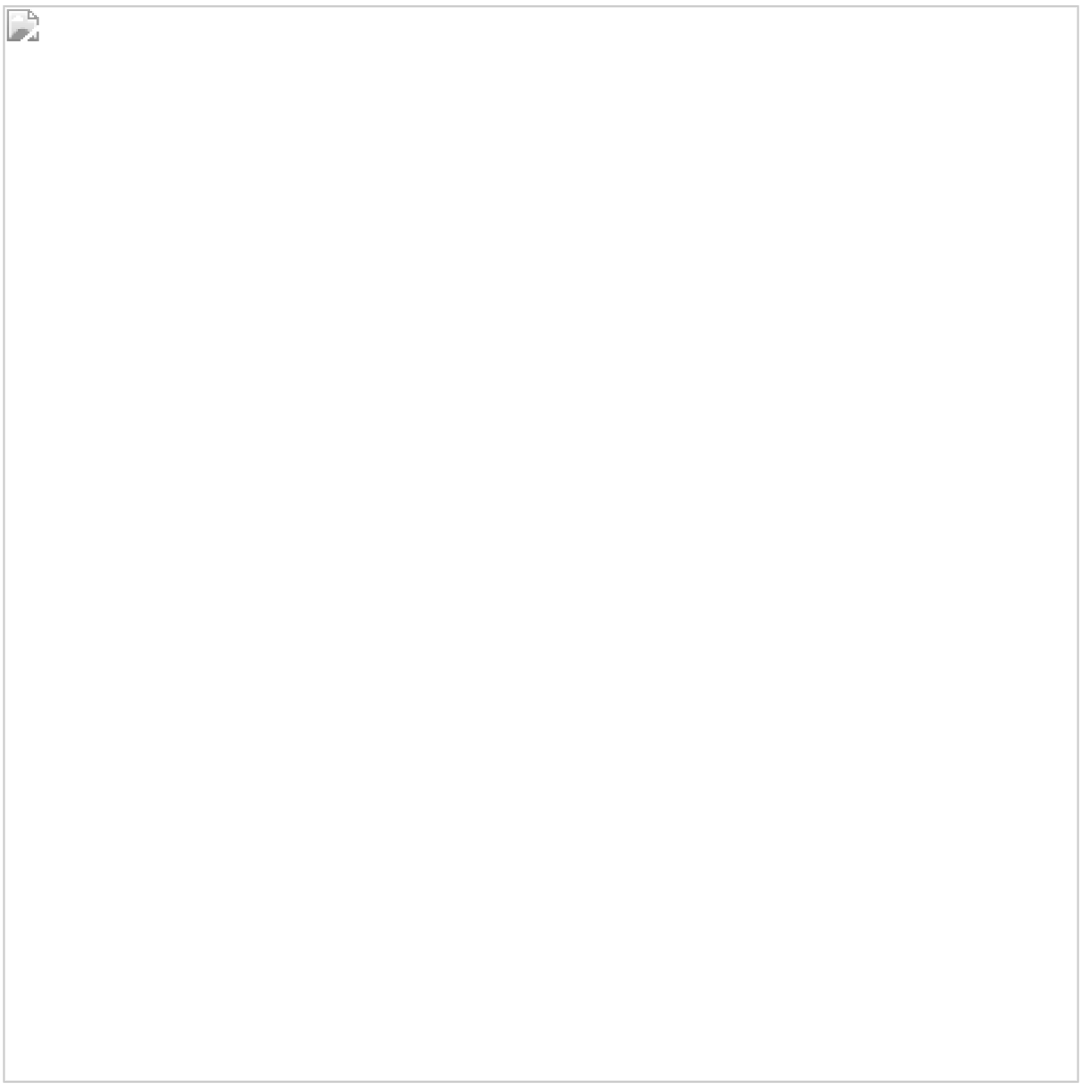
When he got home, he opened the sack. For every ember there was a piece of gold!

He was so happy he could hardly think. With all his heart he thanked the people who had helped him when he needed it.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think he bought first for his family?

Gold at Home · another picture

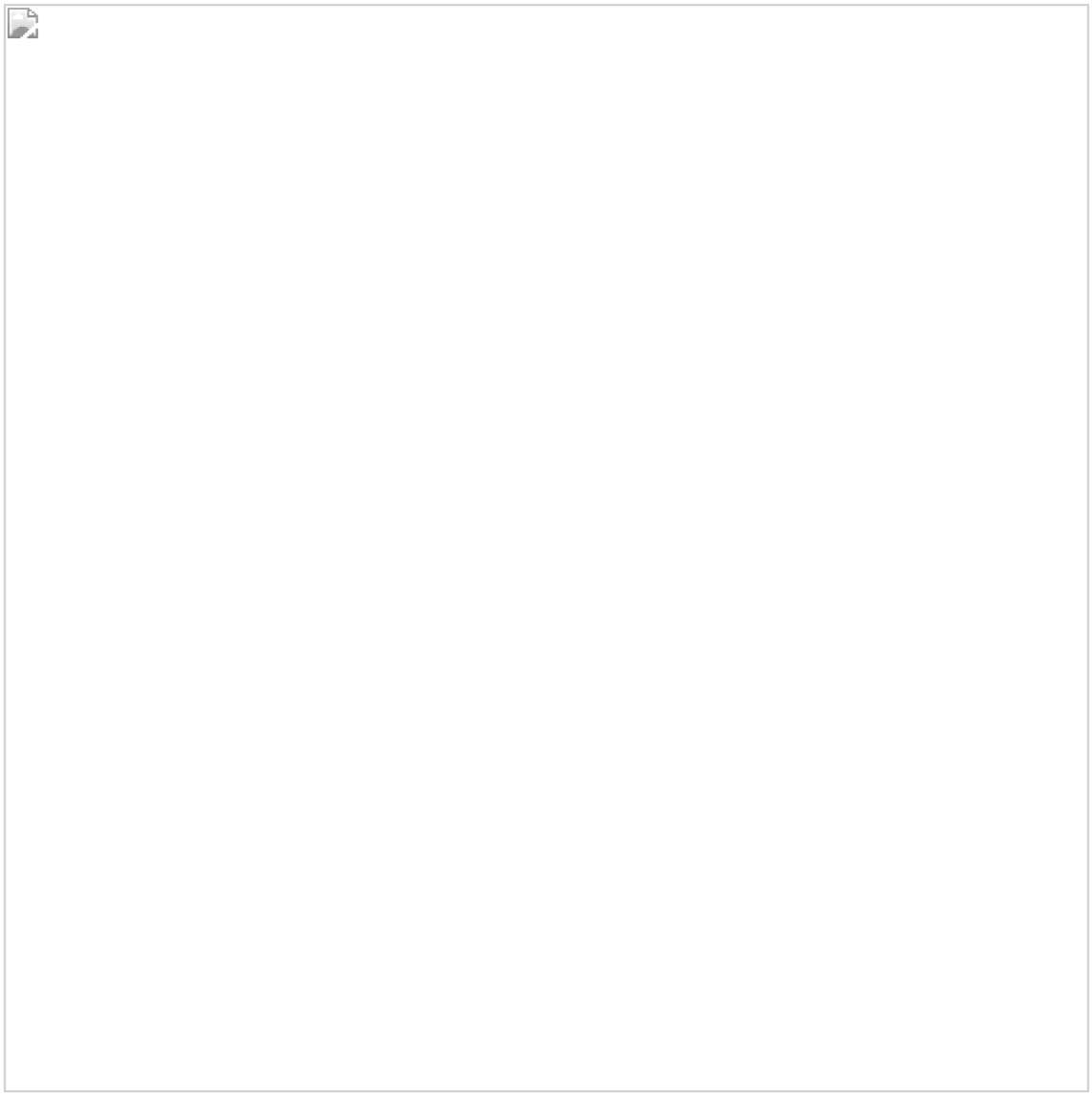


Think about it

1. What did the embers turn into at home?

- ○ Gold pieces
- ○ Stones
- ○ Ashes

The Borrowed Measure



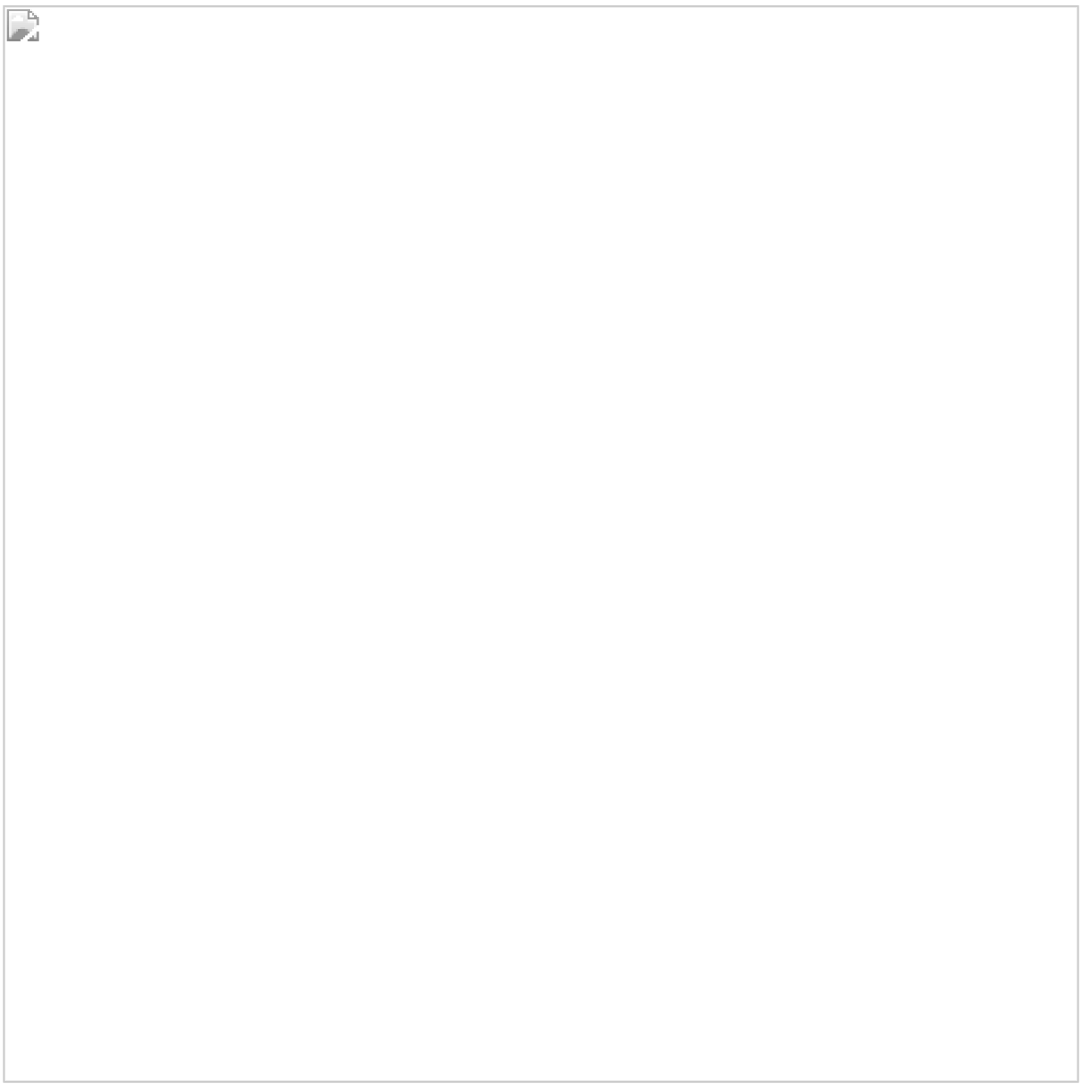
Now the family was rich, and the man could give them everything they needed. He wanted to count the gold, but he did not know how to count. So he sent his wife to the rich brother to borrow a quart measure.

This time the rich brother was in a better temper, and he lent it. But he laughed at her. “What can such beggars as you have to measure?”

She did not want to say. “Our neighbor owes us some wheat,” she said, and that was not true. The rich brother grew suspicious. He put a little grease inside the measure.

TALK ABOUT IT

The wife did not tell the rich brother the truth about the measure. Why do you think she did not? Do you think it was a good idea?

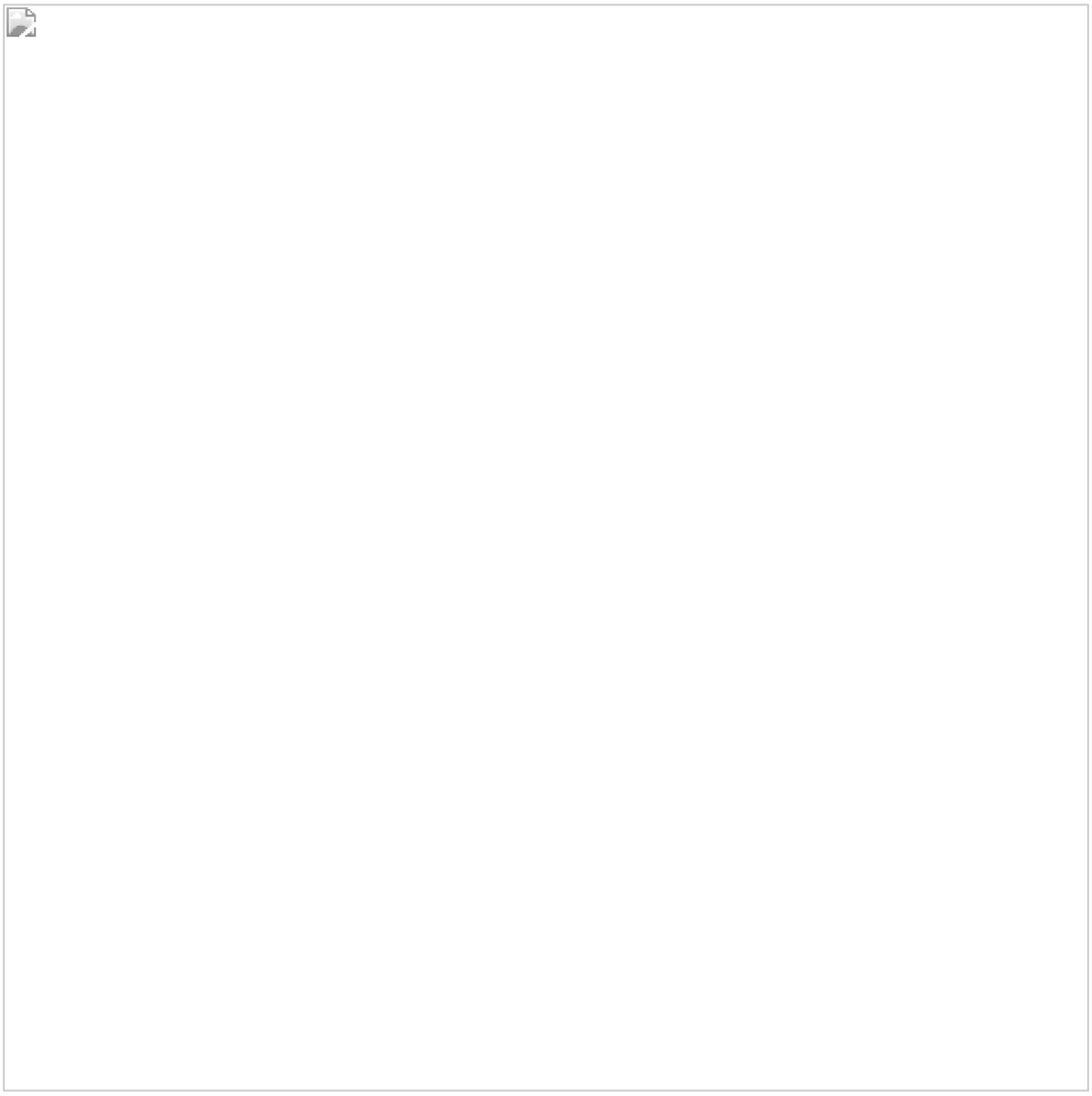


Think about it

1. What did the rich brother put inside the measure?

- ○ A coin
- ○ A note
- ○ Some grease

The Whole Story



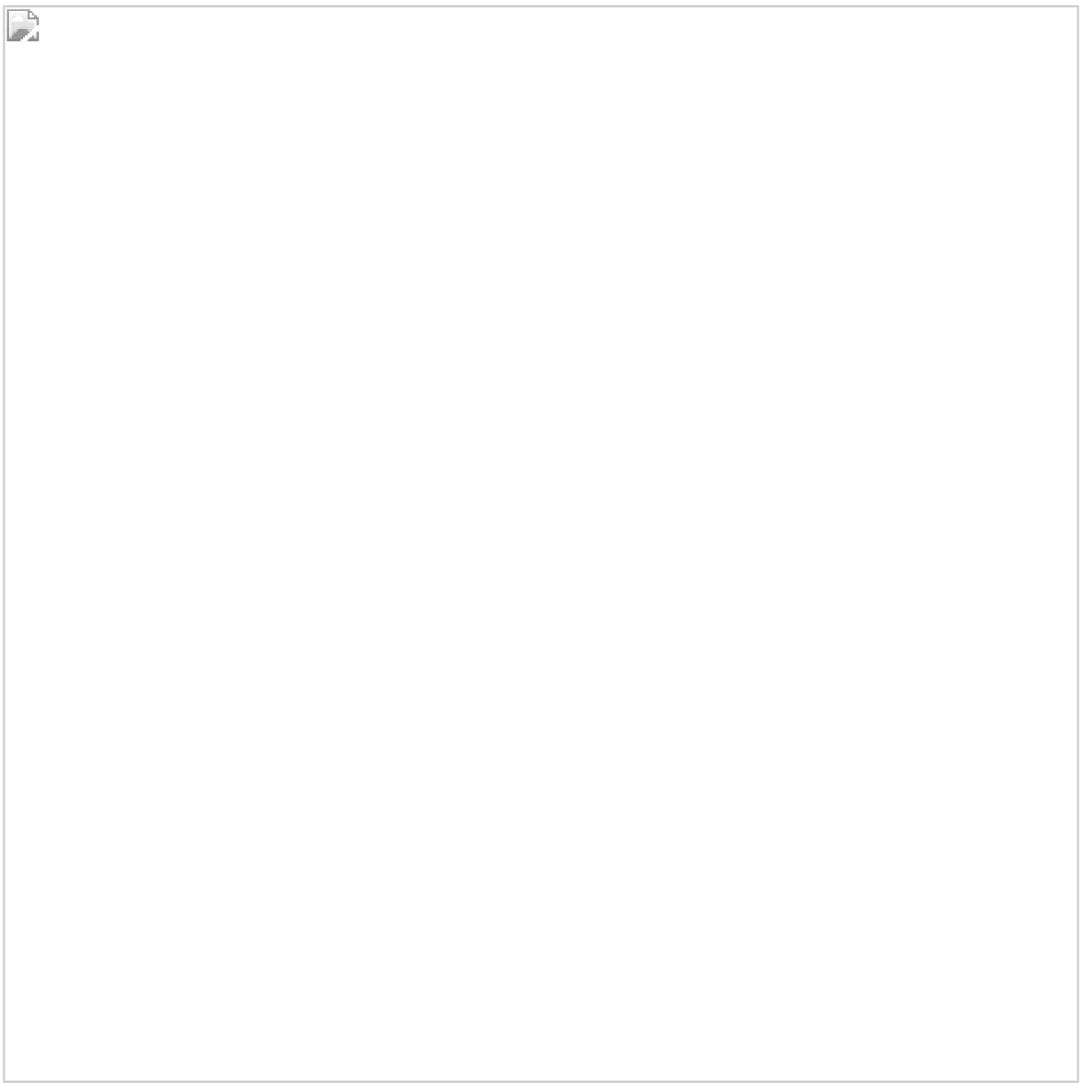
When the measure came back, a piece of gold was stuck to it. The rich brother was astonished.

He thought his brother must have joined a band of robbers. He hurried to the cottage and said he would take him to the judge unless he told where the gold came from.

The poor man was troubled. He did not want to make his brother angry, so he told the whole story of the Crystal Mountain.

TALK ABOUT IT

When the poor man was asked, he told the truth. Is it hard to tell the truth when someone is angry with you? What helps?



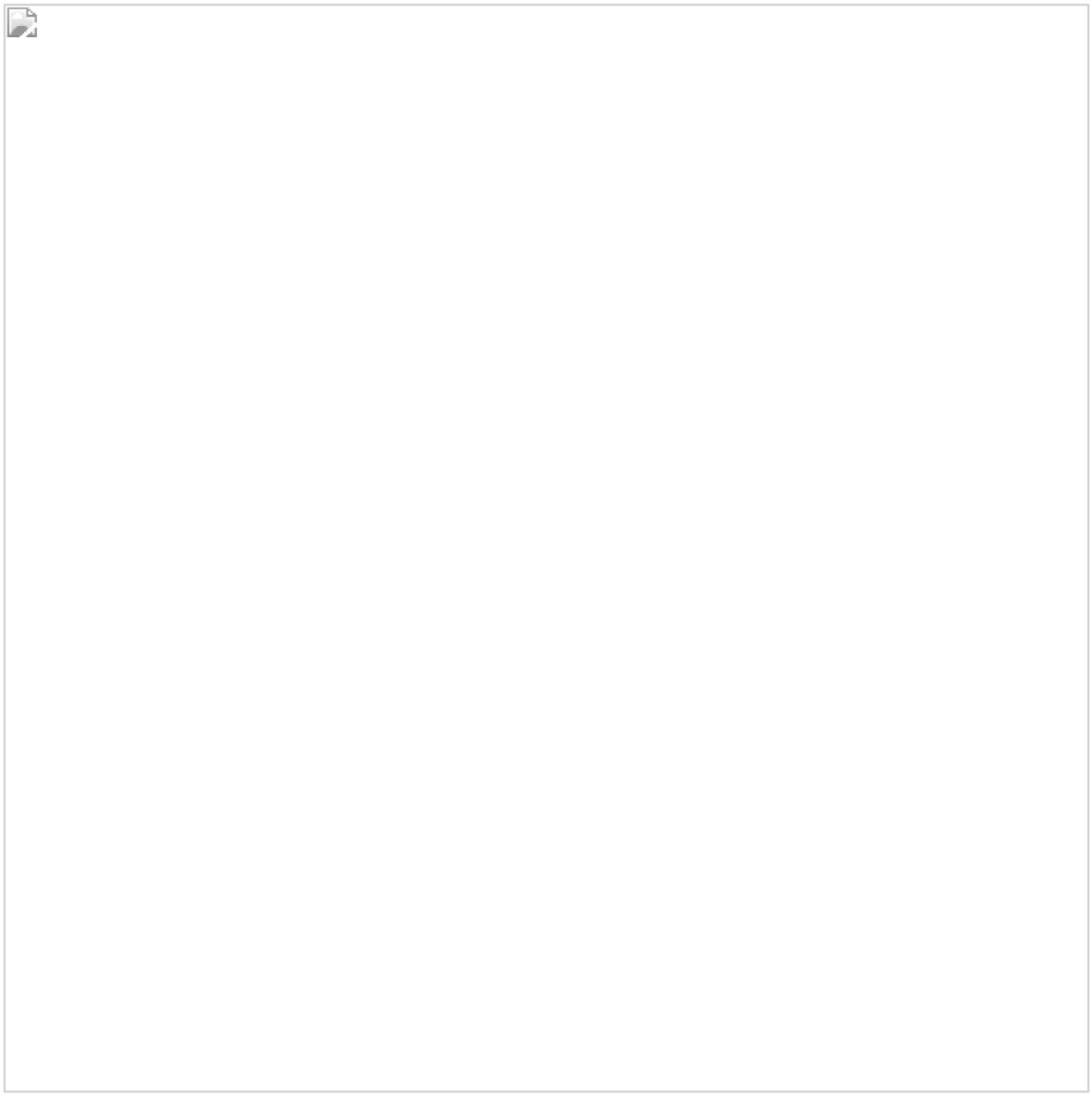
Think about it

1. How did the rich brother find out about the gold?

- ○ A neighbor told him
- ○ He saw it in a dream
- ○ A piece of gold stuck to the measure

2. The younger brother told the truth to a brother who had been unkind to him. What do you think that says about him?

Envy



The rich brother already had plenty of money. But he was jealous. The younger brother used his new wealth well, and everyone looked up to him for it, and that made the rich brother more jealous still.

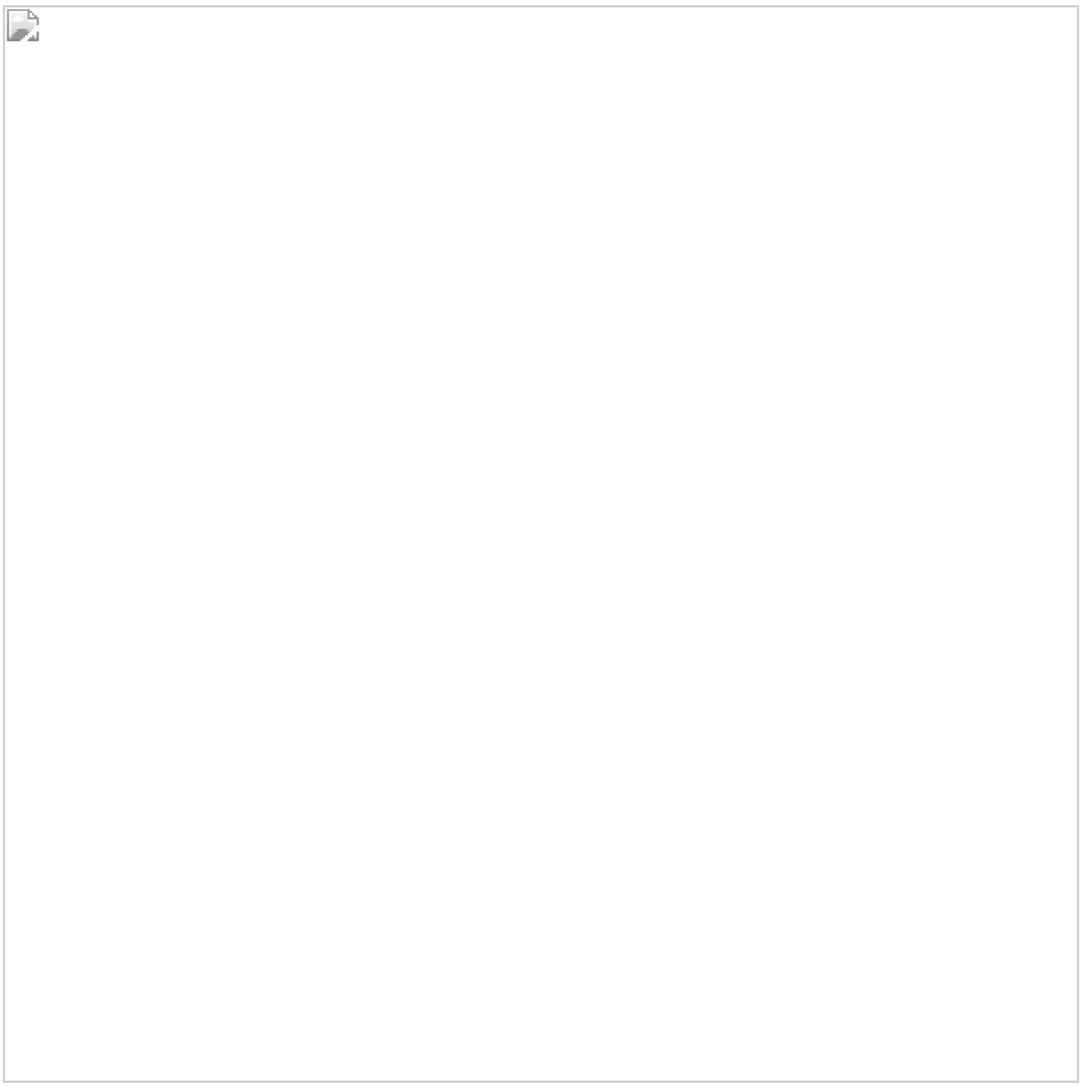
At last he made up his mind to go to the Crystal Mountain himself.

“I may meet with as good luck as my brother,” he said.

He found the twelve sitting round the fire. “I beg of you, good people, to let me warm myself,” he said, “for it is bitterly cold, and I am poor and homeless.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The younger brother went up the mountain because he was in need. Why did the rich brother go?

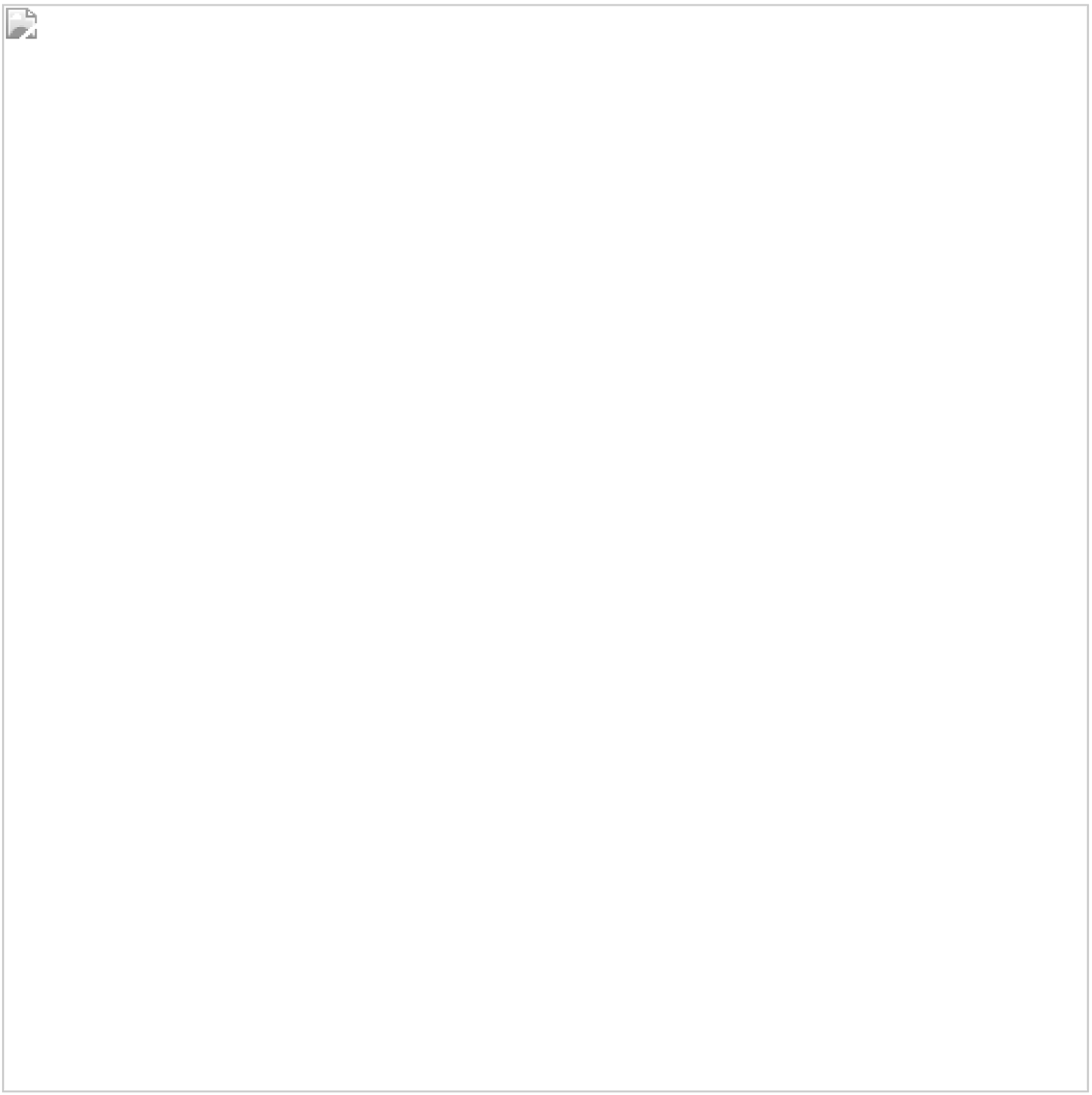


Think about it

1. Why did the rich brother go to the mountain?

- ○ He was hungry
- ○ He wanted the same luck as his brother
- ○ He was lost

The Fire Knows



But the twelve knew the truth. “Thou art rich, but a miser,” one of them said, “thou hast dared to lie to us.”

The old man with the white beard rose up out of the flames. “Thy brother is virtuous,” he said sternly, “therefore have I blessed him.”

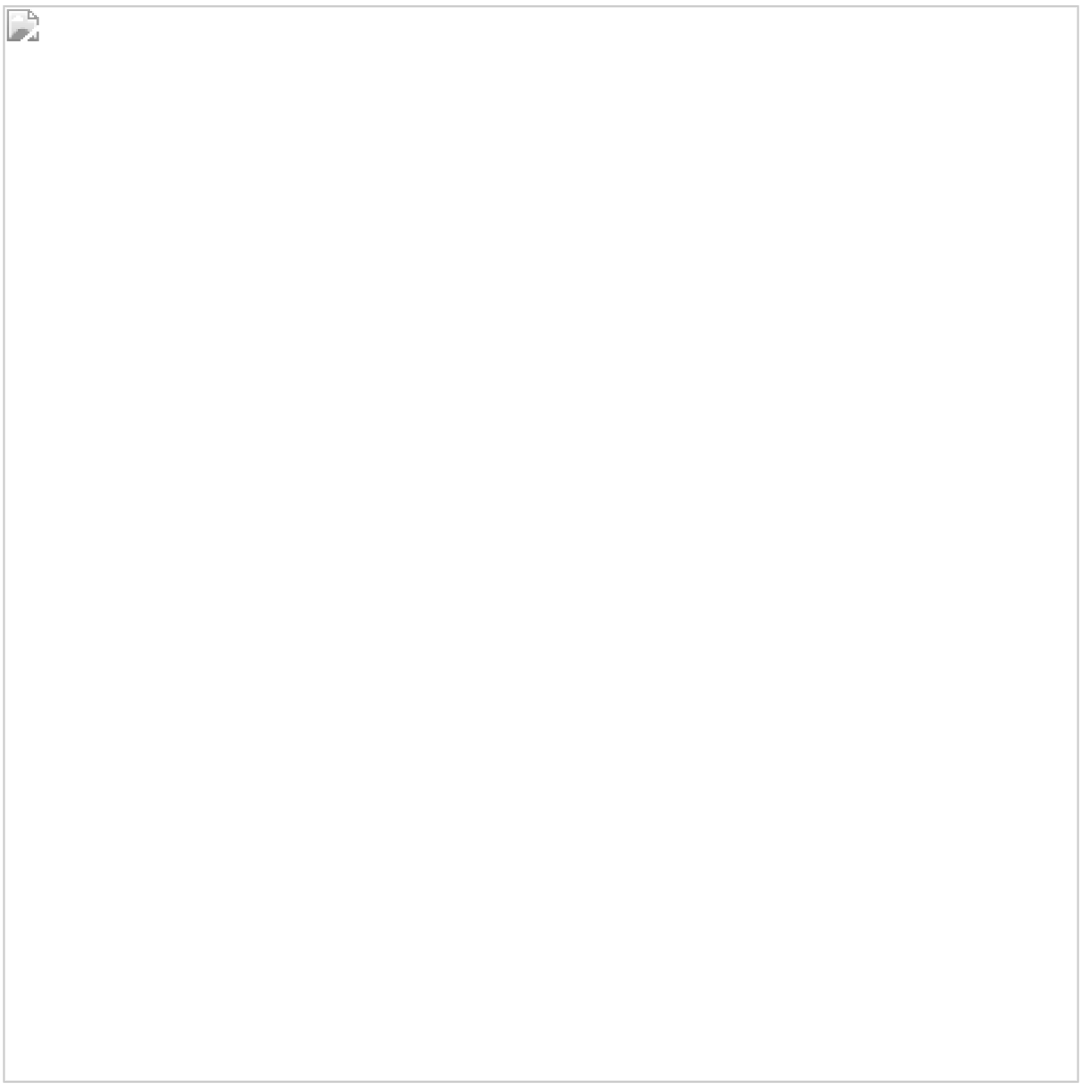
The twelve stood up. One after another they took hold of the rich man and passed him along, until the old man took him into the fire and disappeared.

Days, weeks, months went by, but the rich man never came home. The younger brother may have had his suspicions, but he wisely kept them to himself.

TALK ABOUT IT

The twelve helped the brother who was honest and kind. What made the second brother different from the first?

The Fire Knows · another picture



Think about it

1. What did the twelve say the rich brother had done?

- ○ He had told them a lie
- ○ He had broken their fire
- ○ He had come too early

2. A very old book says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love" (Romans 12:10). What could the rich brother have done differently?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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