The World of Tales

The Magic Goose

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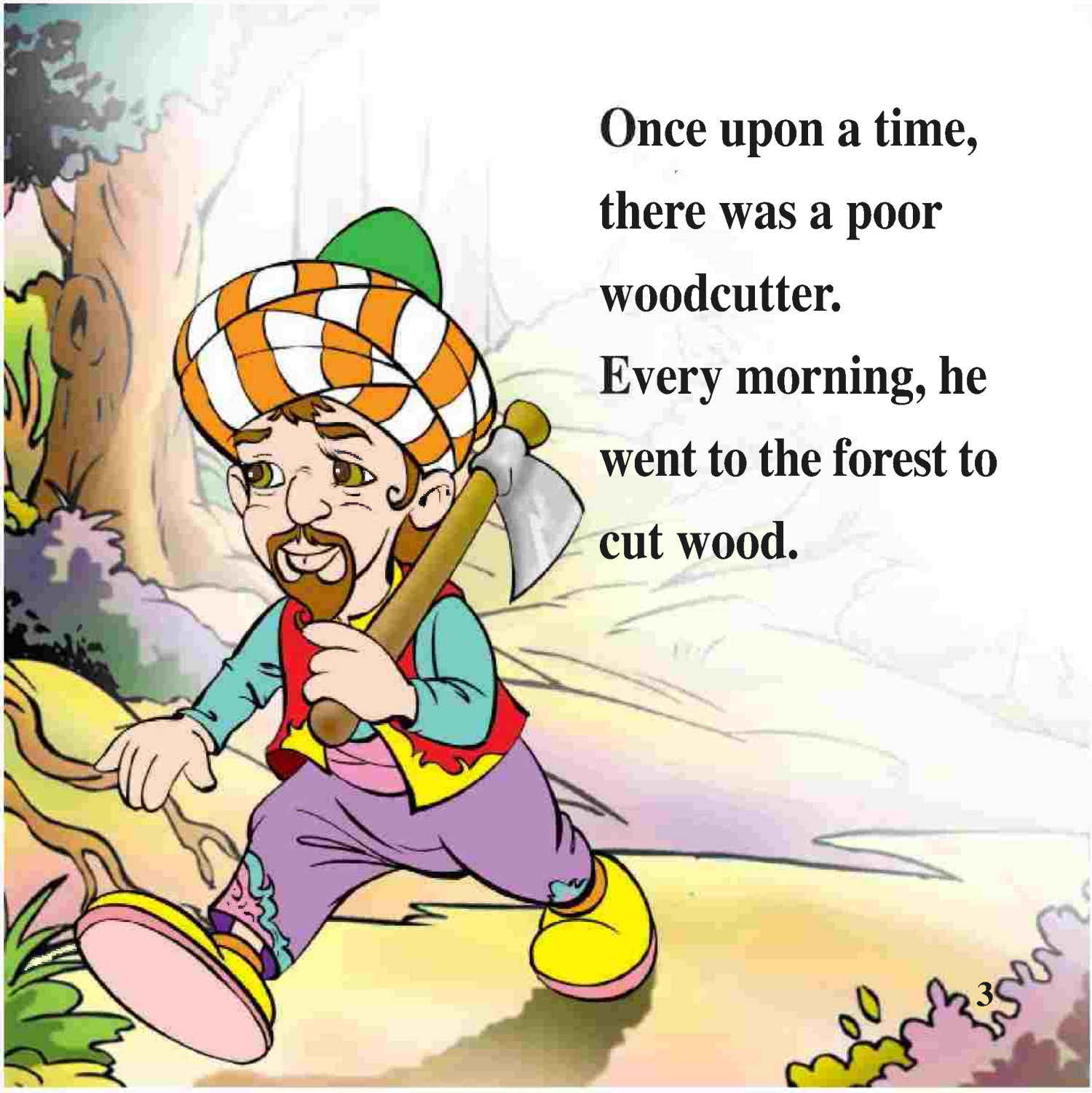
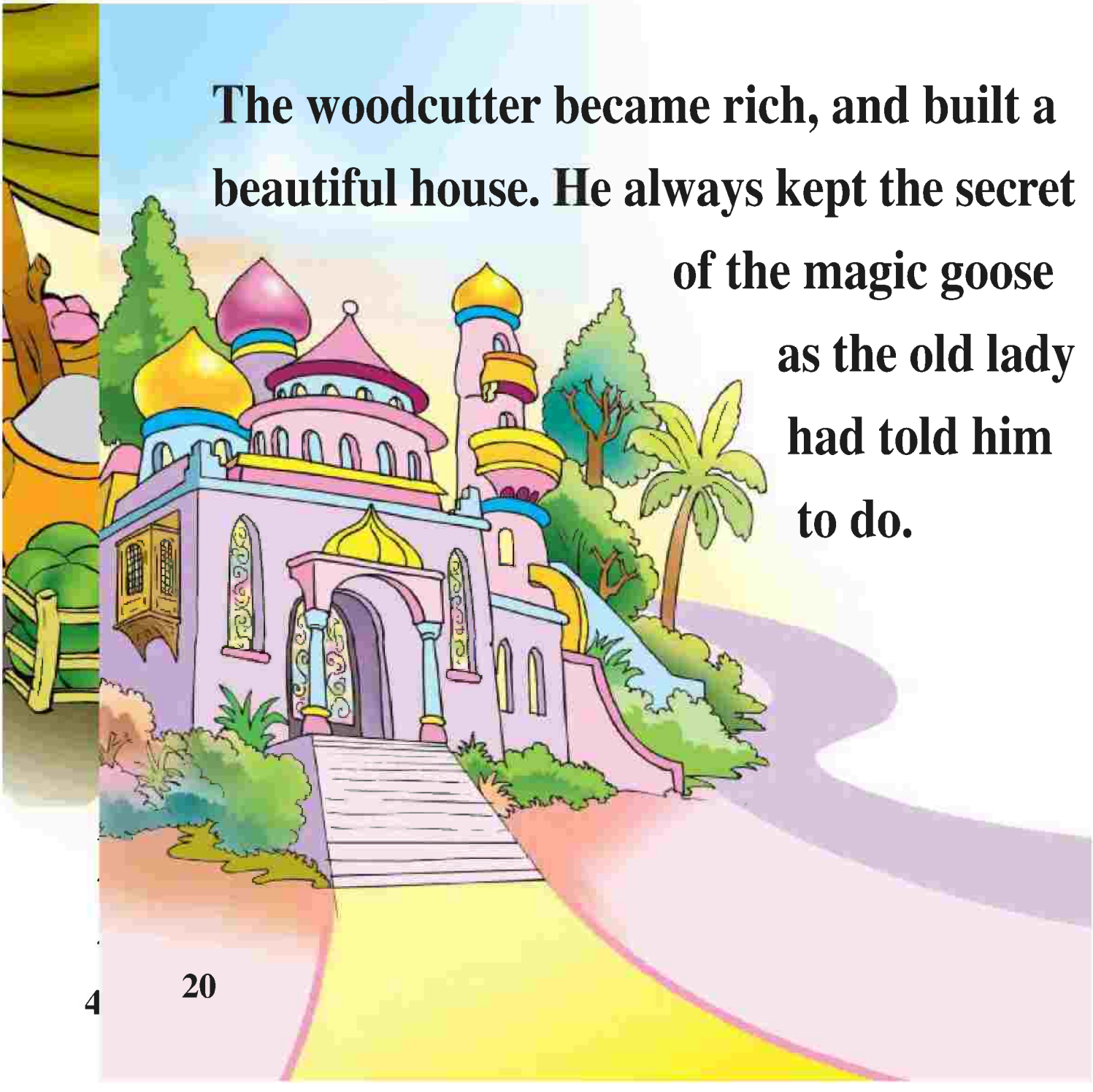


Once upon a time, there was a poor woodcutter. Every morning, he went to the forest to cut wood.



The woodcutter became rich, and built a beautiful house. He always kept the secret of the magic goose as the old lady had told him to do.

One day on his way to the forest, he heard a voice calling him. He turned around to the direction of the voice and saw an old woman with a large basket.

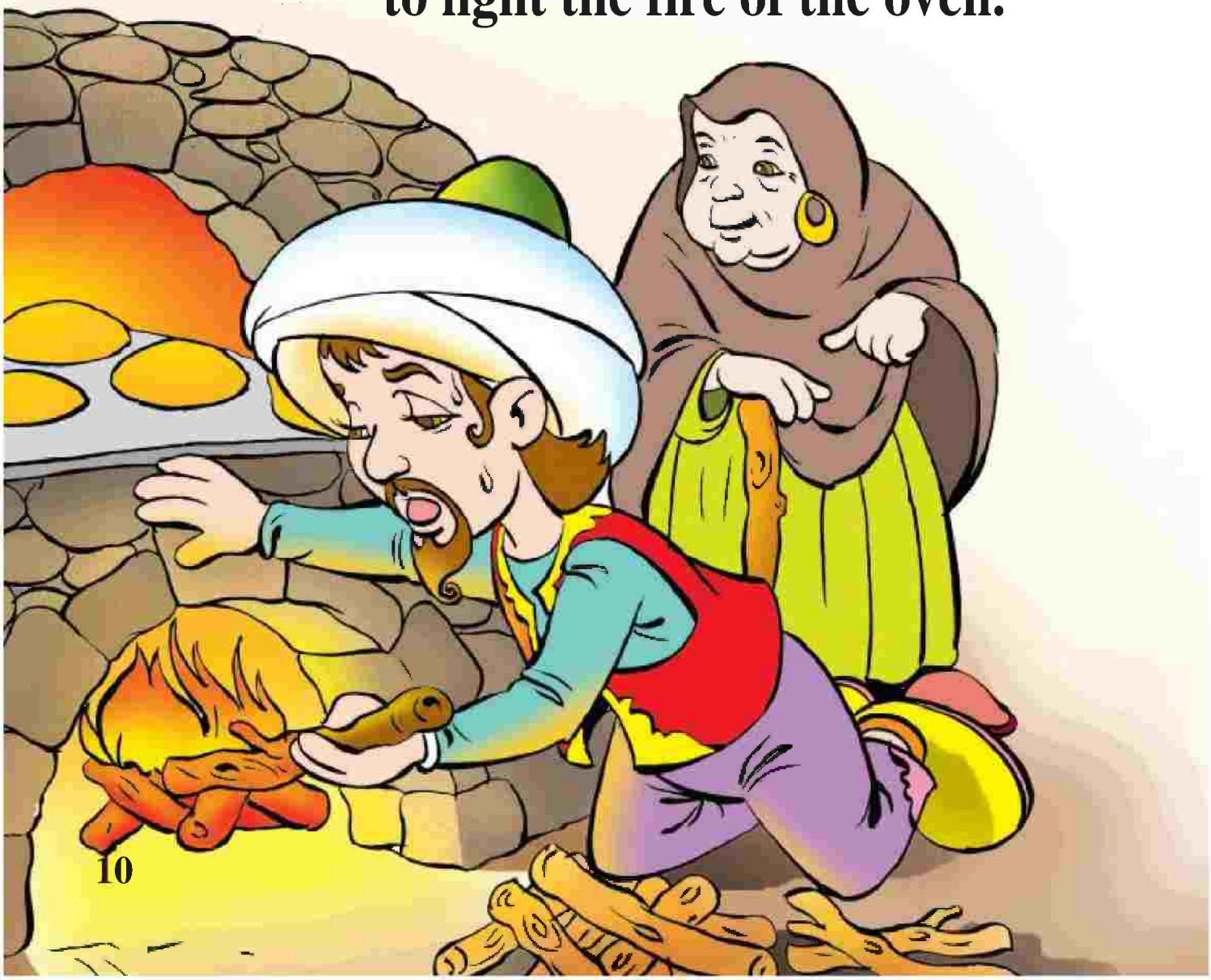
He walked towards her and she said: “I am a weak old woman, my lad. Help me and carry this basket for me.”

The basket was quite heavy but he managed to carry it and went with the old lady until they reached her hut at the far end of the forest.

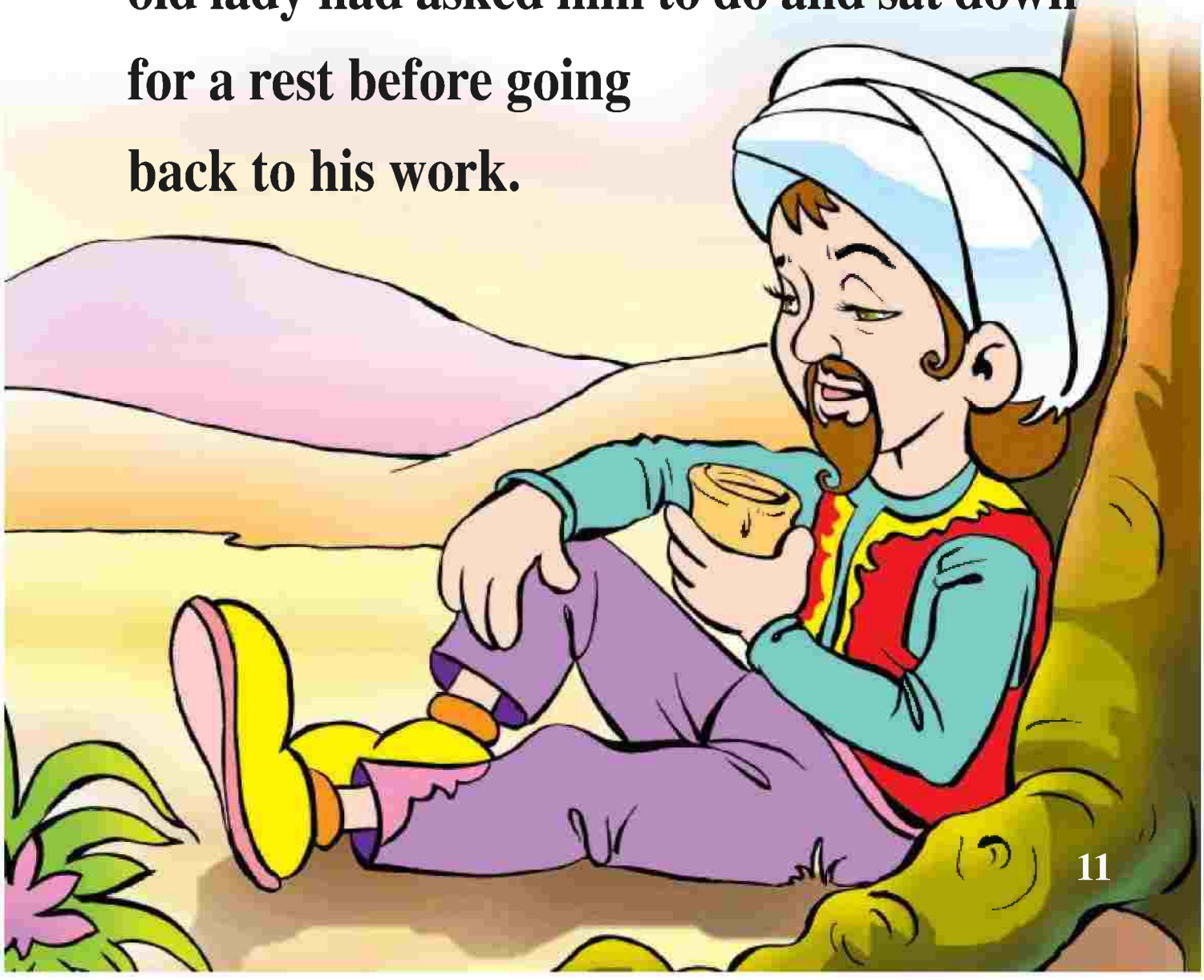
There, she asked the poor woodcutter to help her pick some fruits from the nearby trees.

After that, she asked him to help her milk her sole goat.

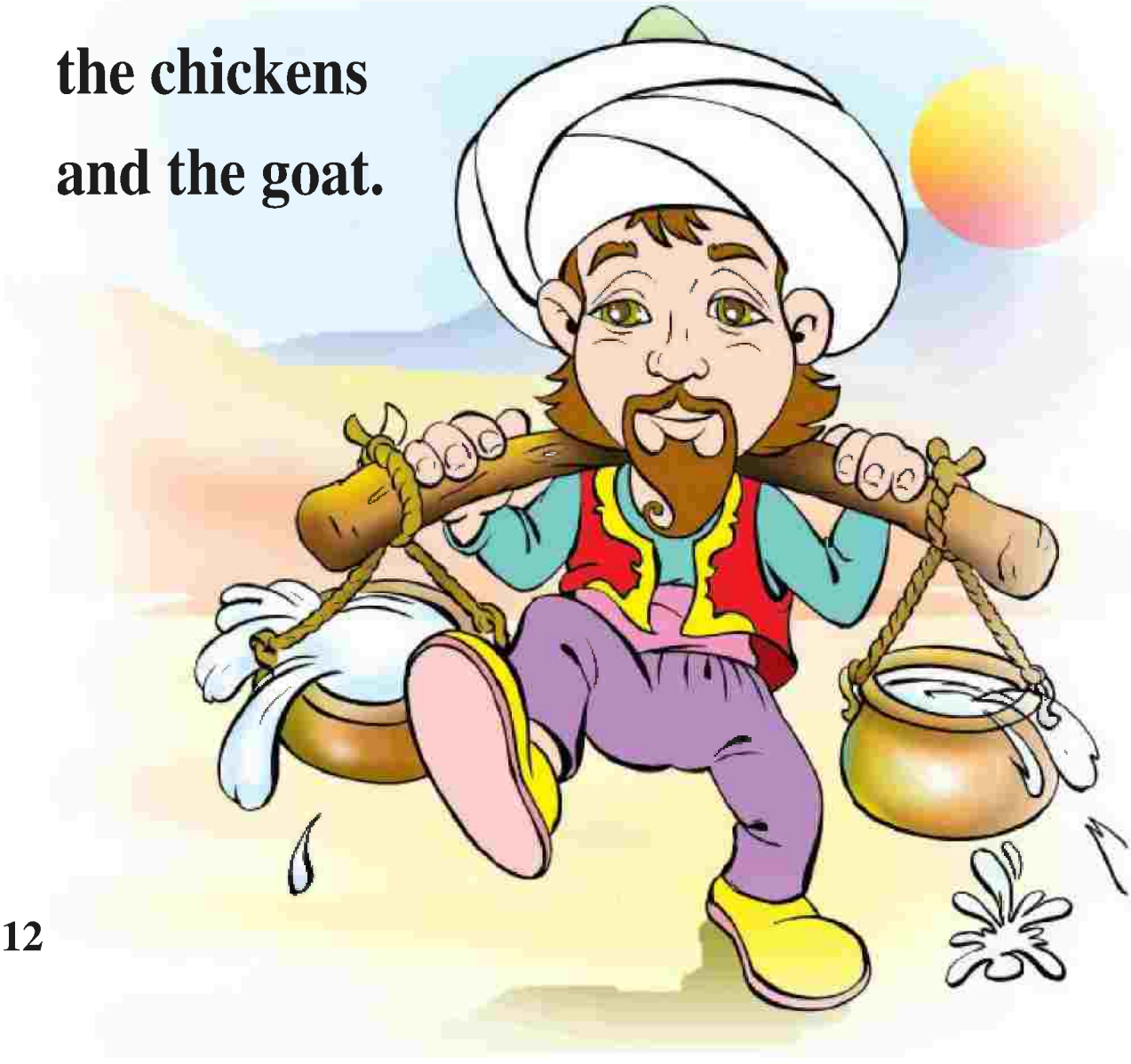
Then, she asked him to fetch some wood to light the fire of the oven.



The woodcutter finished all the jobs the old lady had asked him to do and sat down for a rest before going back to his work.



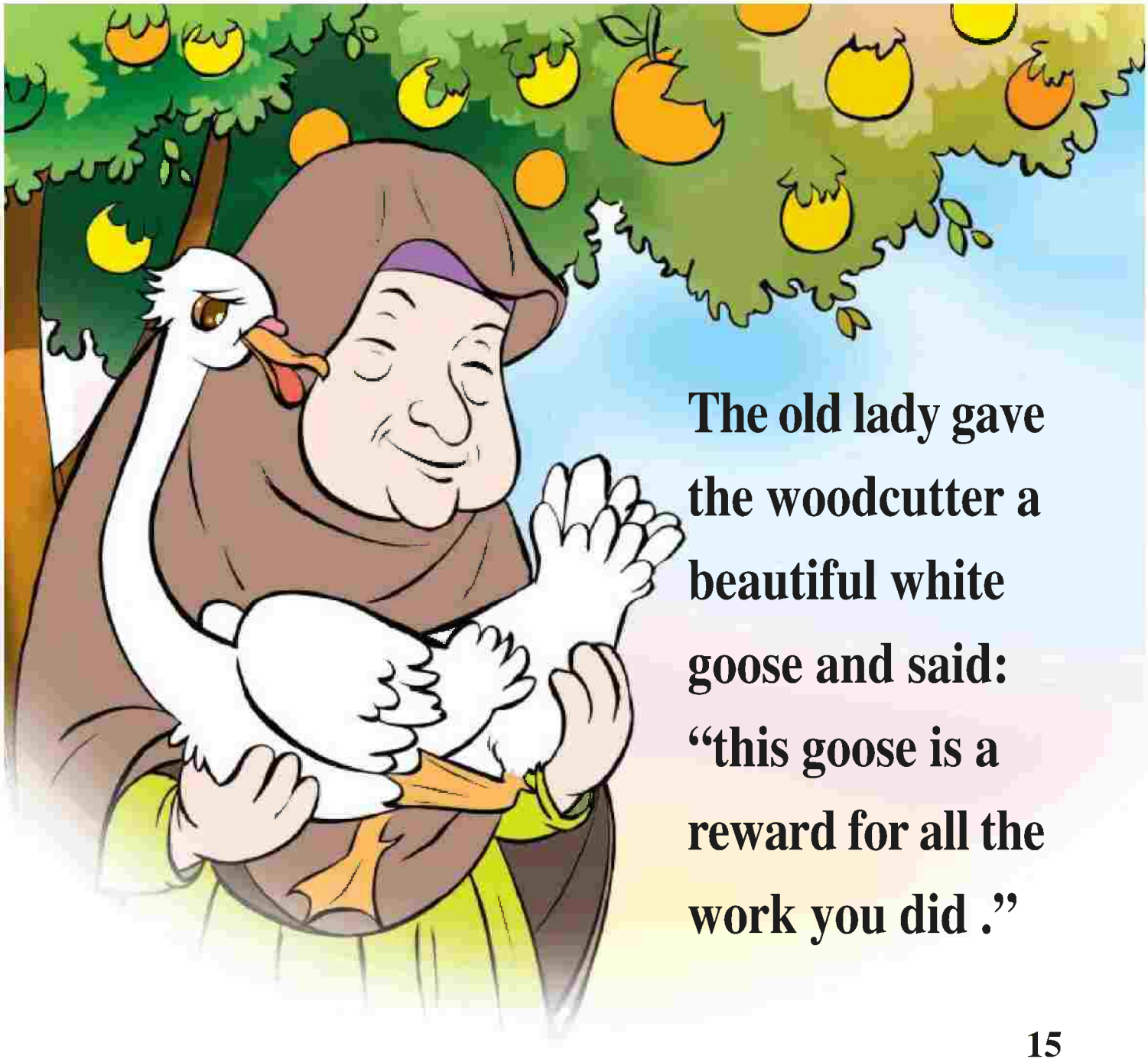
The old lady asked him to fetch water from the river and feed the chickens and the goat.



The sun set while the woodcutter was helping the old lady and finishing what she asked him to do.

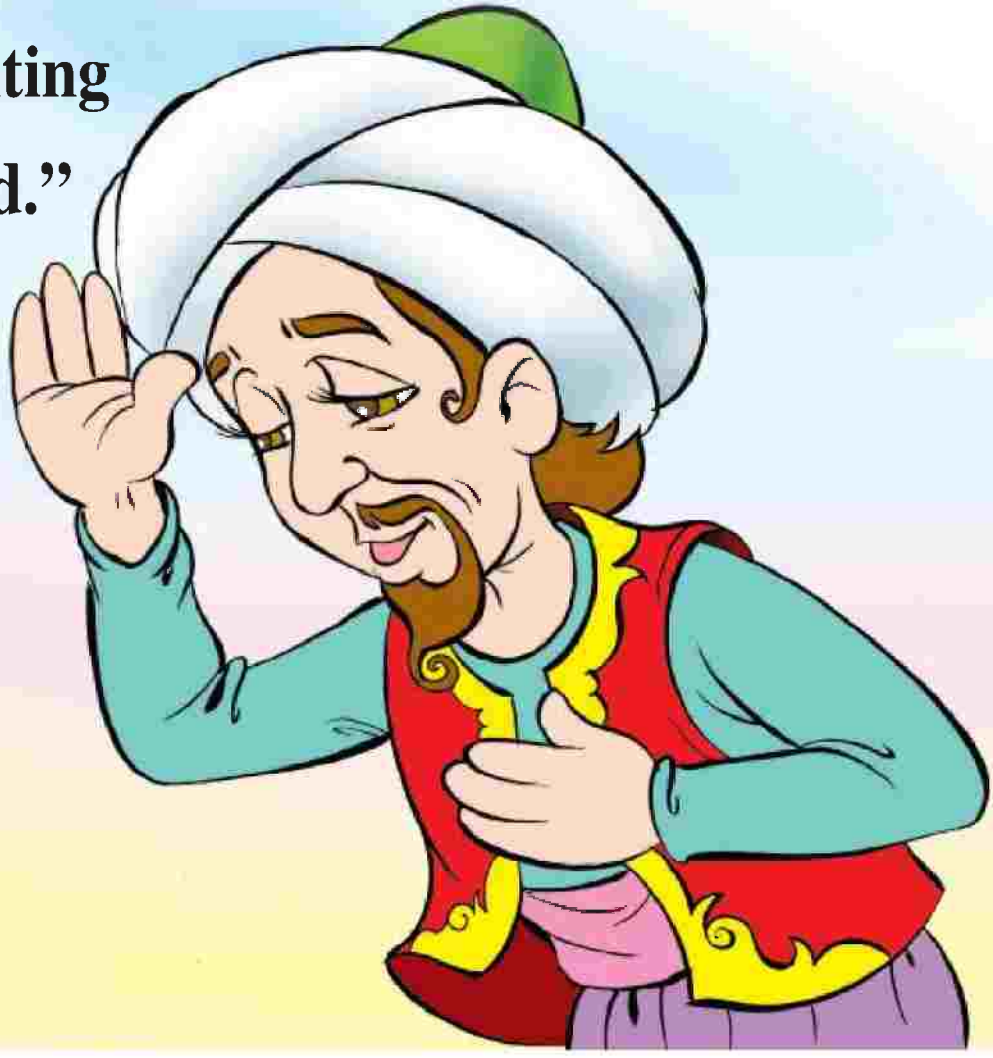
The woodcutter wanted to go back home.

The old said : " you are a kind man and you helped me all day and I have to reward you."



The old lady gave the woodcutter a beautiful white goose and said: “this goose is a reward for all the work you did .”

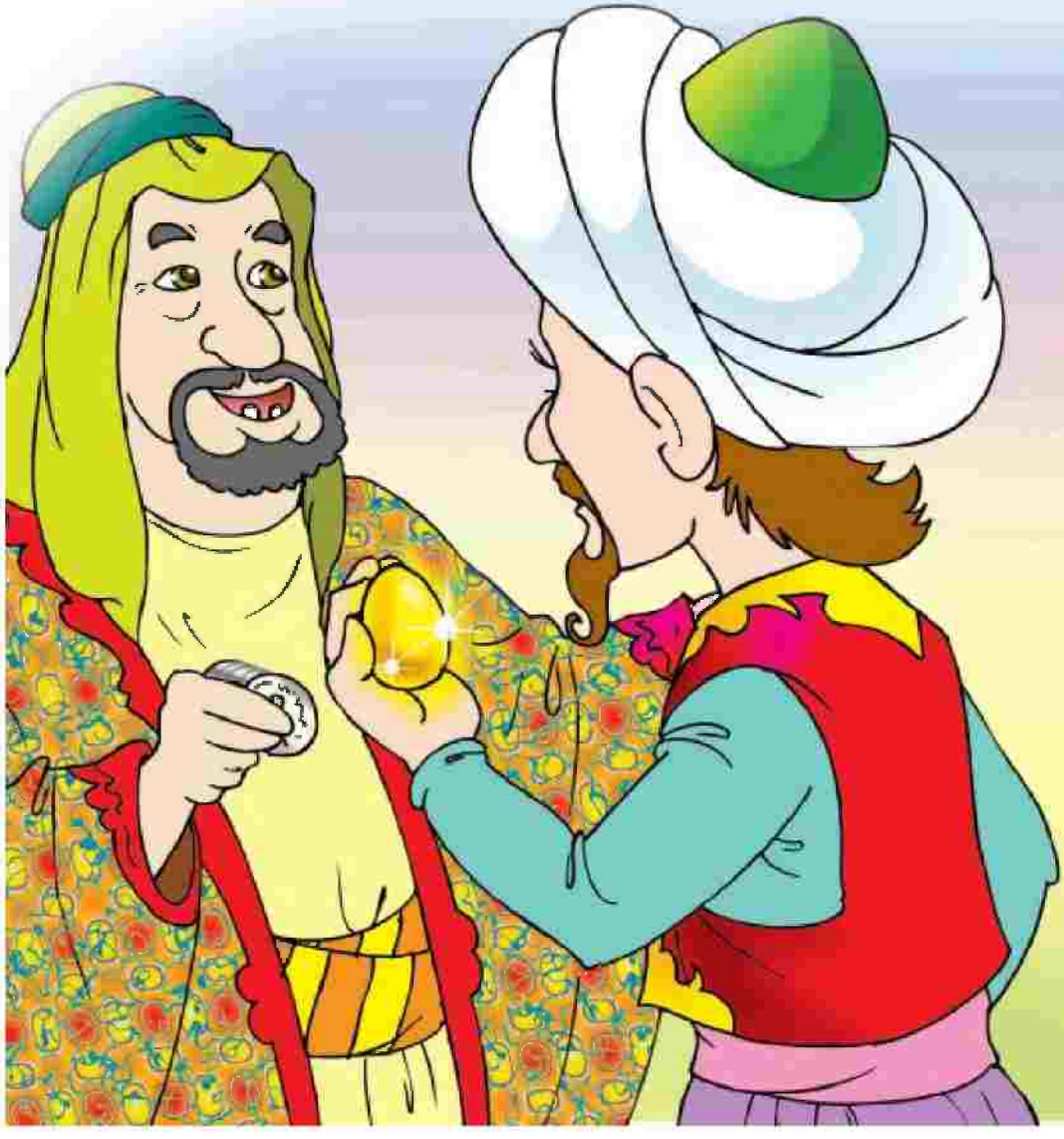
The woodcutter politely turned down her offer and said: “I can’t take your goose. I am used to doing favors without waiting for a reward.”



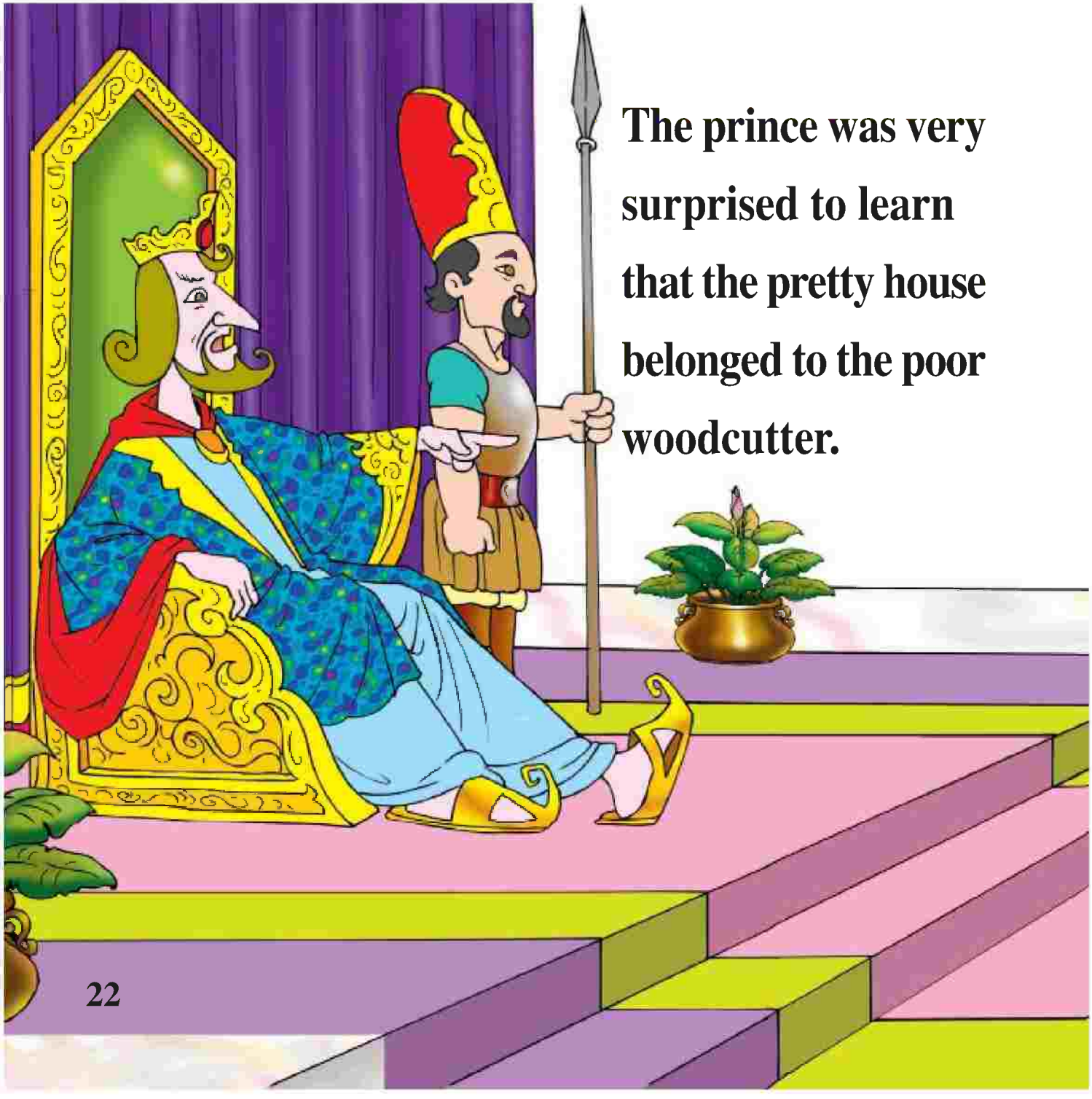
The old lady said : “Please accept this goose as a gift from me. It is a magic goose and it will lay a golden egg for you every day!”

The woodcutter was very pleased with the gift and took it back home. Next morning, he found a beautiful golden egg in the nest beside his goose.

Soon he was off to the market and sold it for a high price.

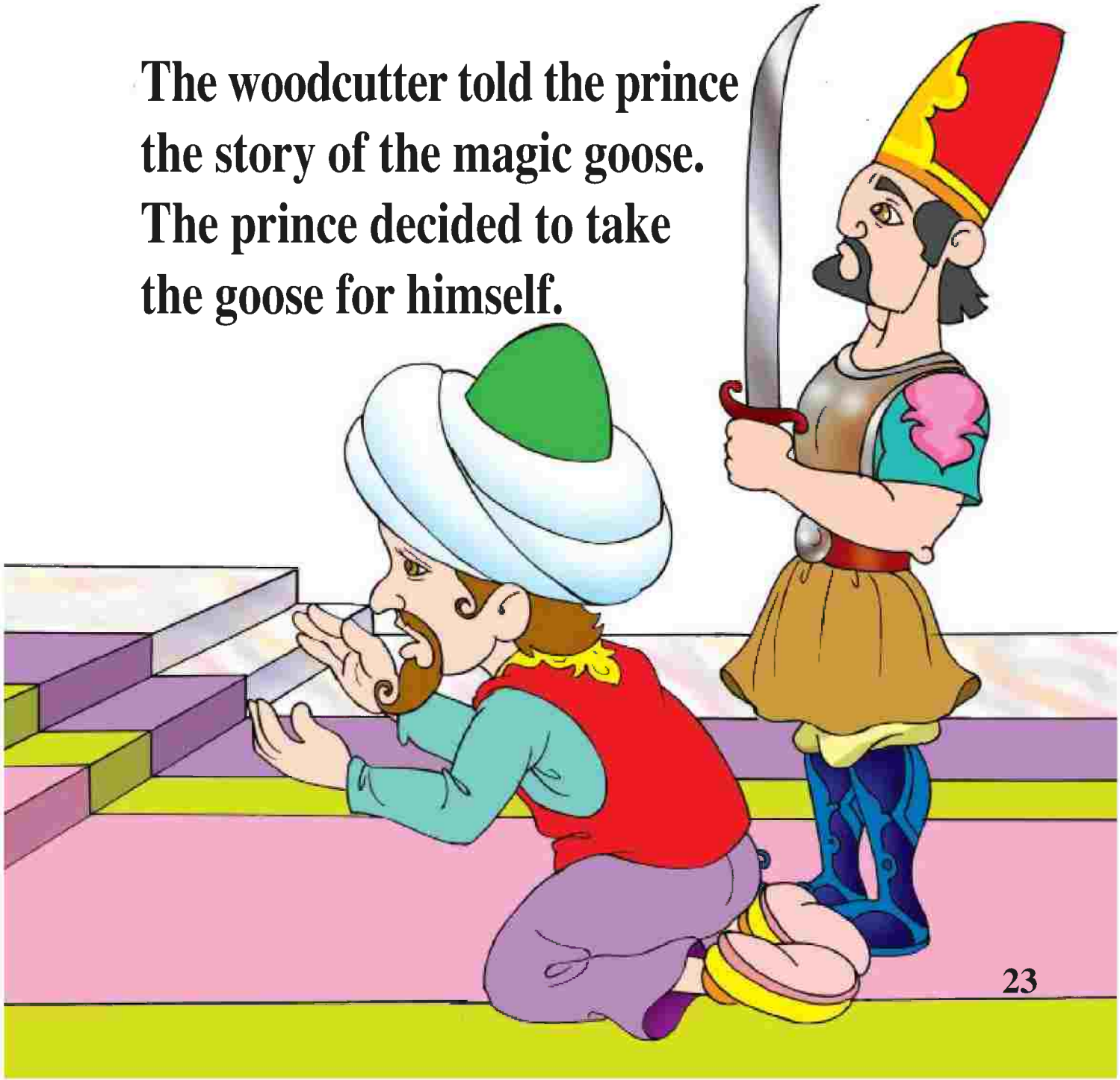


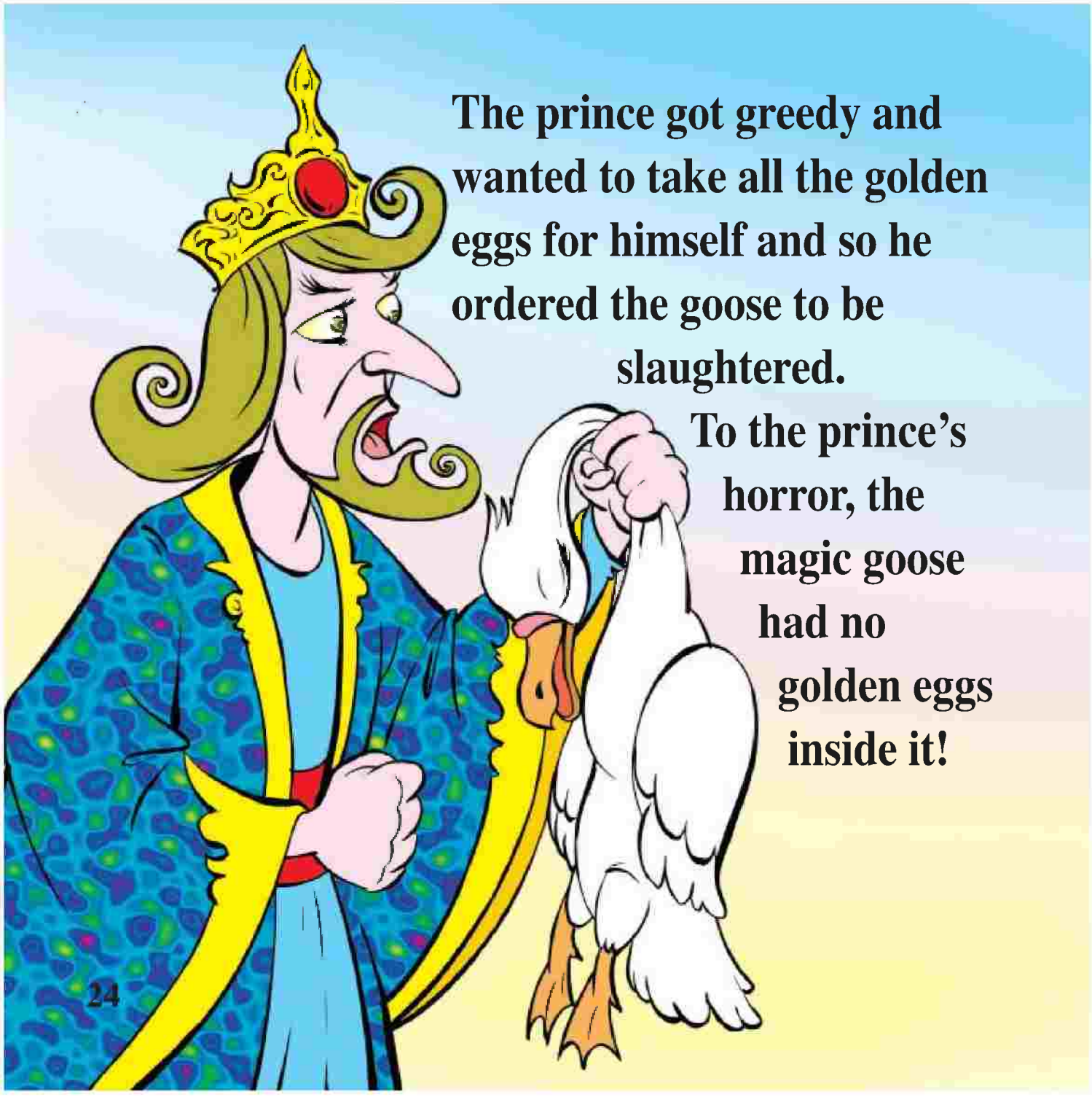
One day, the prince was walking in the road and he saw the woodcutter's house. He asked about the owner of this beautiful house.



The prince was very surprised to learn that the pretty house belonged to the poor woodcutter.

The woodcutter told the prince the story of the magic goose. The prince decided to take the goose for himself.




The prince got greedy and wanted to take all the golden eggs for himself and so he ordered the goose to be slaughtered.
To the prince's horror, the magic goose had no golden eggs inside it!