



Educational stories for children

A FEAST FOR A HUNGRY WOLF



By

Omar Elsayy

Translated by

Jennifer Peterson

Illustrations by

Ver Salvador

العبدان
Abëkan



The wolf was incredibly hungry. Days had gone by as he'd searched for prey with no luck. Then, suddenly, he spotted a rabbit leaving its burrow, happily bouncing along in its clean fur as though going to a party.



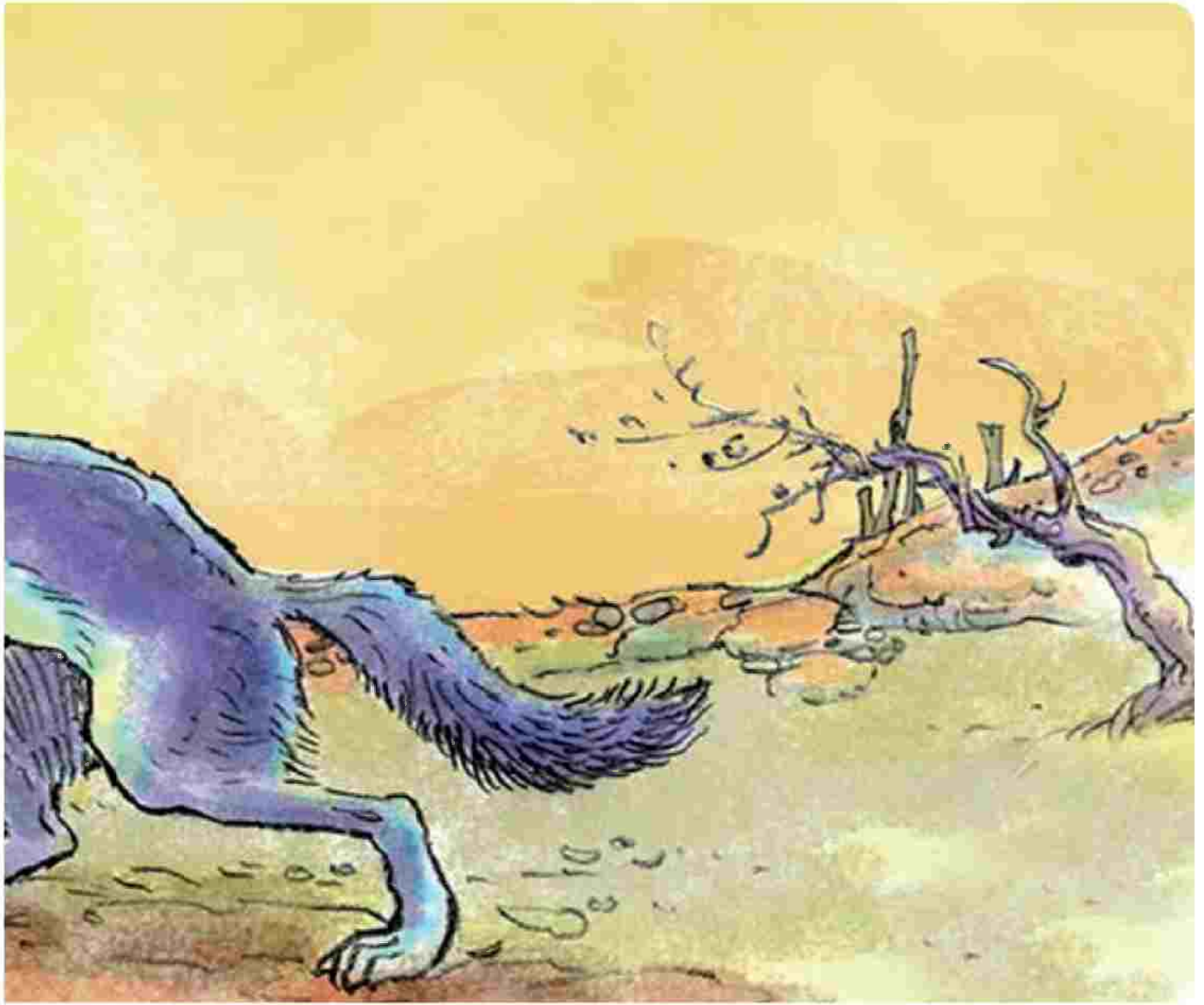
The wolf stealthily approached the rabbit and pounced on it, grasping it between its claws and fangs. The rabbit screamed and shook with fright. But then he managed to contain himself and quickly thought up a clever trick with which to save himself.



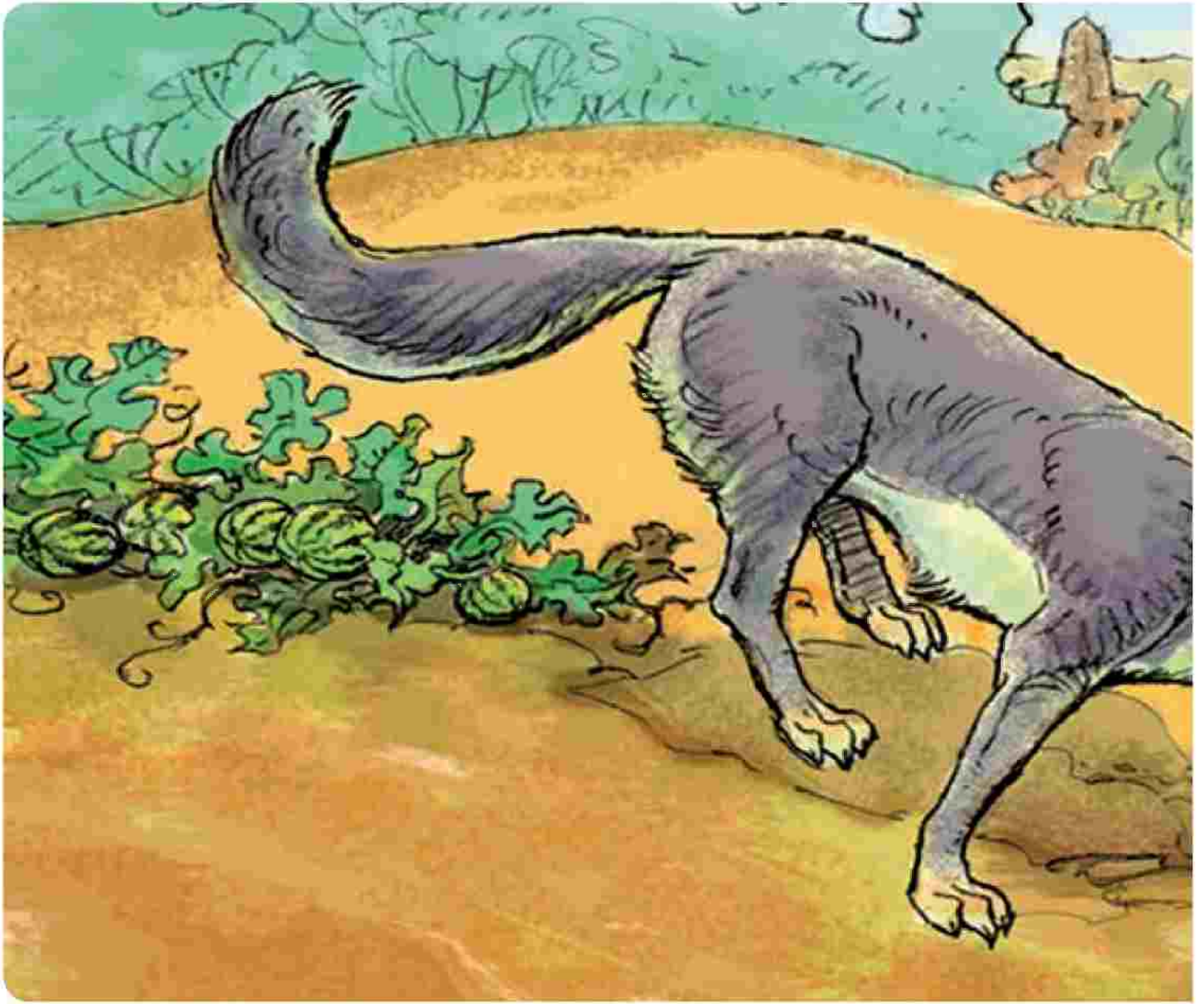
When the wolf opened its jaws to devour the rabbit, the rabbit burst out laughing. The wolf froze, bewildered, and asked the rabbit, “Why are you laughing?”



“Because I was looking for you to invite you to a huge feast,” the rabbit said. He gestured with his paw, continuing, “Here, in this nearby village.” The wolf loosened his grasp a bit and said, “But why are you inviting me?”



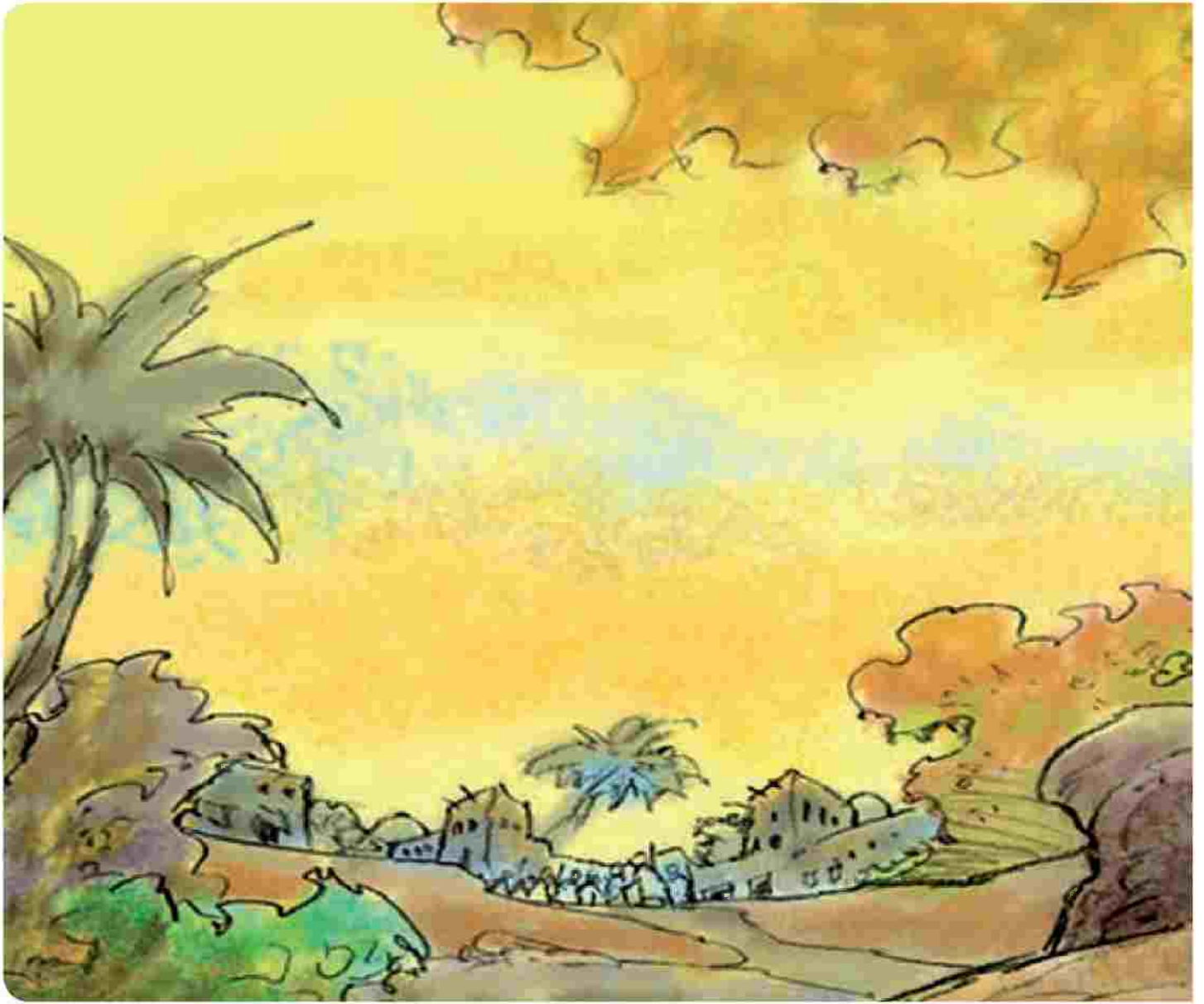
“The villagers sent me to invite you,” the rabbit said. “It’s the wedding of the village head’s son, can’t you hear it?”



“The people of that village hate me because I eat their chickens and sheep,” said the wolf. “The village head told them that if they feed the wolf, it won’t steal,” said the rabbit. “And thus he prepared for you this feast, and sent me to invite you, and ordered the villagers to welcome you.”



The wolf released the rabbit from his grasp and smiled happily.
“Come on, my friend, off we go to the feast!”



The rabbit walked beside the wolf. "If only you saw this feast," he said, "chicken, pigeon, duck, goose; it's all for you and you'll eat until you're full!" The wolf leapt in joy and said, "Hurry up, I can't stand the hunger!"



“Be patient, my friend,” said the rabbit, “for you’ll eat a feast that makes up for your hunger. After this feast, you’ll never be hungry again!”



“But,” said the wolf, “will the people truly welcome me?” “Yes,” said the rabbit, “you’ll find them gathered and carrying sticks.” The wolf faltered and asked, “Why will they be wielding weapons?”



“Don’t worry, my friend,” said the rabbit, “that’s a tradition. They play competitive games with these sticks; haven’t you ever watched one of their matches? They’re highly amusing!”



The rabbit and wolf reached the village, and the rabbit took off running at full speed, the hungry wolf behind him. When they reached the middle of the village, the rabbit began calling at the top of his voice, “ The wolf, the wolf! Oh villagers, the wolf, the wolf!”



The rabbit kept calling out until the village men gathered around him in a circle with sticks in their hands.



The rabbit escaped between their legs and the wolf tried to follow him, but the sticks came crashing down upon him. As the rabbit ran off, the wolf began crying and howling!