

KING DUDLEY[®] and the Golden Mystery[®]



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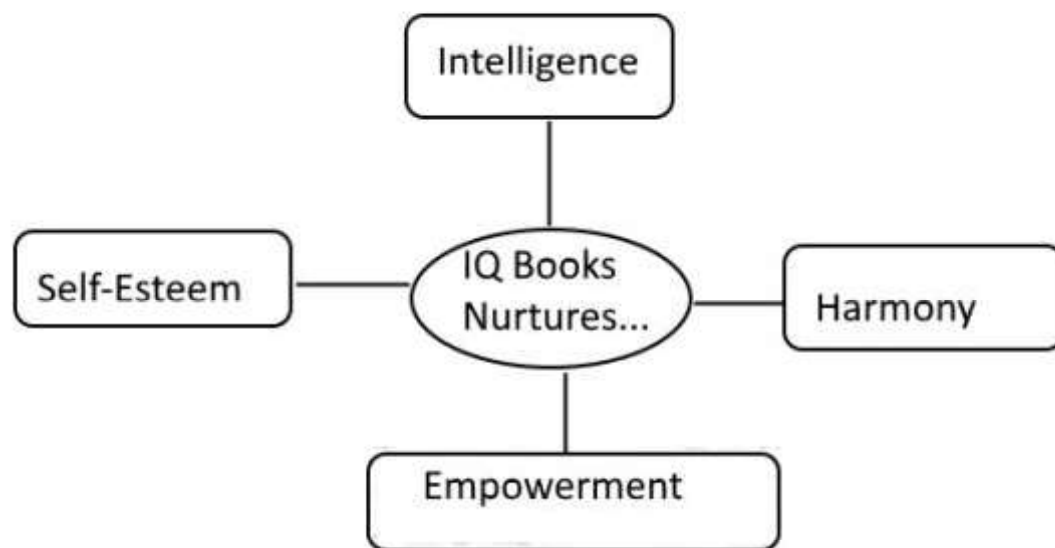


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*Special Thanks to Psychologist,
Dr. Nisha Amin*

Dr. Amin provided exceptional feedback,
helping reshape this story.

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CHAPTER 1

At Present—Introducing Kingsland

Kingsland is a place on earth that not many people know about. Sailors from Europe were the first people to come to Kingsland in the early 1500s. However, today, most people don't know anything about Kingsland, and most people of Kingsland don't know how much the rest of the world has changed.

Kingsland is a society of many classes and craftsmen, and it also has some of the same great advances found in our world, such as plumbing and electricity. Although its people have invented many of the same things available in our world, Kingsland has evolved separately, without help from the outside world. In this land, it is common to call a person by one's job title.

For example, a brick maker can be referred to as "Brickmaker," a taxi driver as "Taxidriver," and an engineer as "Engineer."

How can a whole different world exist right within our reach, yet without us knowing?

Kingsland is on planet earth, all right. However, it is a world of its own, and to get to it, it is said that one has to travel through a portal into another dimension.

As one might imagine, Kingsland is a land of many small kingdoms.

Leelaput and Angelsland (*Angels-land*) are two kingdoms within Kingsland. *King Dudley and the Golden Mystery* is a story about the past of these two kingdoms.

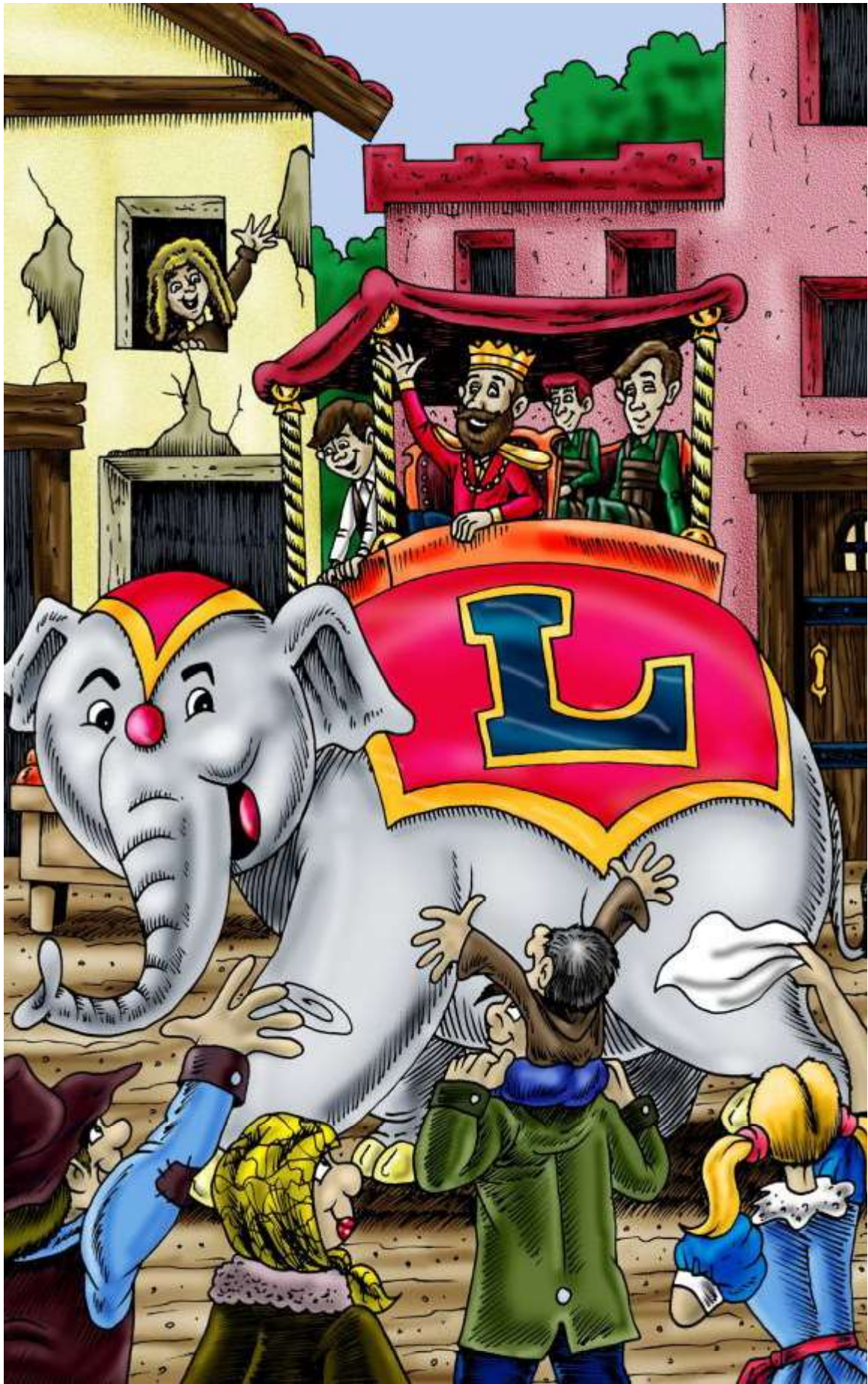
CHAPTER 2

Return of King Dudley

Leelaput was a kingdom, small in size, but with many people. Like most other kingdoms in Kingsland, Leelaput was a peaceful land, and the people loved their king. King Dudley was a proud king of a happy people, and he was returning home from a hunting trip. As the king's team made their way back from the jungle, King Dudley's mind started to wander.

Before I left for the jungle, I made a grand announcement to my people that I would return home with the skin of a tiger. But the hunt was not exactly successful. What will I tell my people? How embarrassing! They will think of me as a coward.

The king's party finally reached Leelaput, and one of the kingdom's guards cleared the way. "Ahoy! Make way. Our beloved king returns!" he exclaimed repeatedly, as he led the king back to his palace.



Most people came out to see their beloved king—Potmaker, Baker, Baker’s wife, and many others. They smiled and waved their hands at the king, his guards, the ten-year-old prince, Pip, and the rest of the hunting team, as they rode the elephants back to the palace.

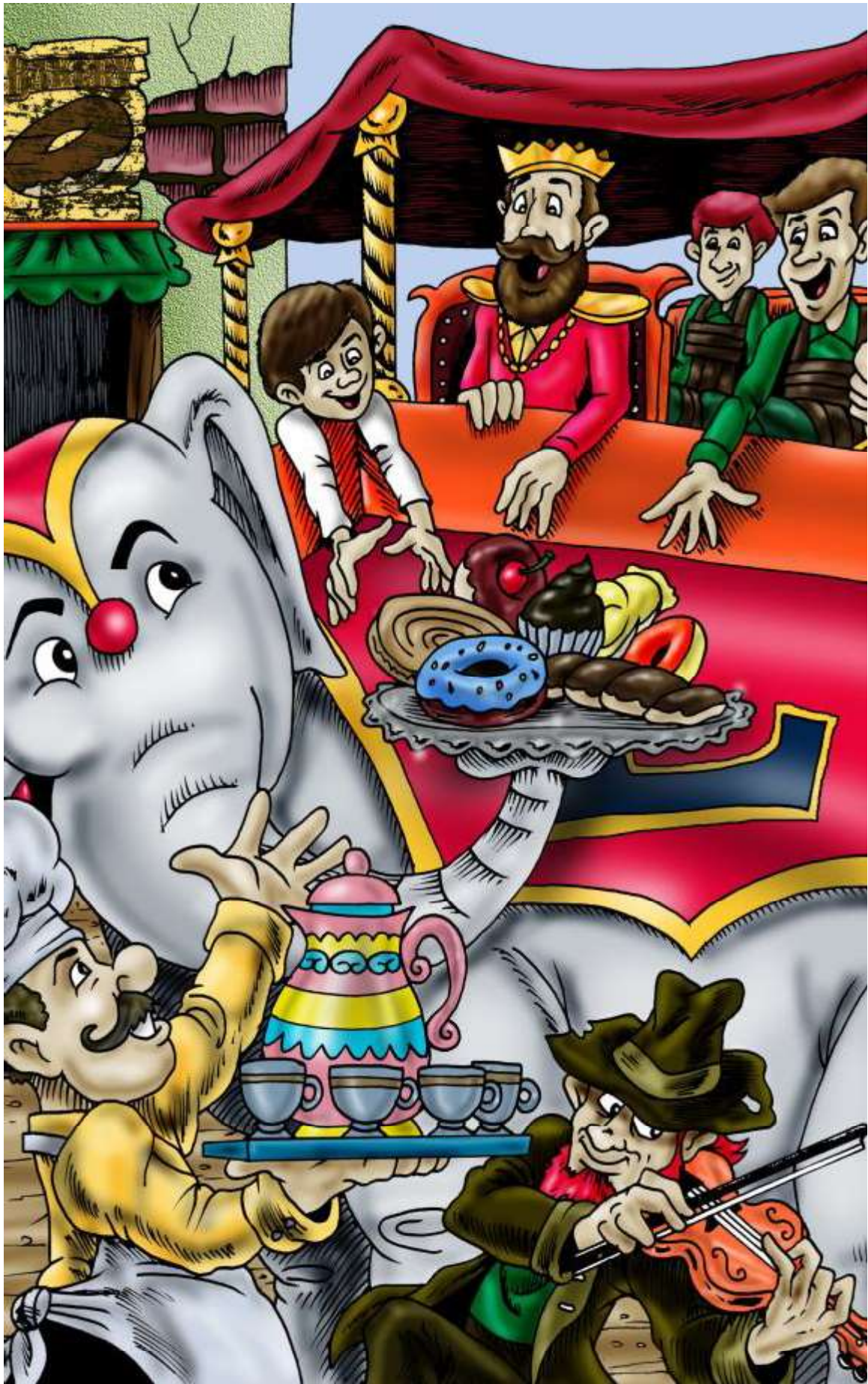
From atop their elephants, they could see the streets behind the main road. There, children were playing hide-and-seek. As the king’s team passed through, the smell of delicious, sweet pastries tempted them.

Everybody’s mouth was watering, but nobody said anything, except Pip.

“Mmmm!” exclaimed Pip, “Father, can we have some cinnamon rolls?”

“Well, if you must, sure. We’ll all have some, I suppose,” declared King Dudley.

The pastry vendor delivered delicious pastries and hot chocolate. King Dudley, Pip, and the rest of the hunting team had a delicious breakfast atop their elephants, as they made their way back home.

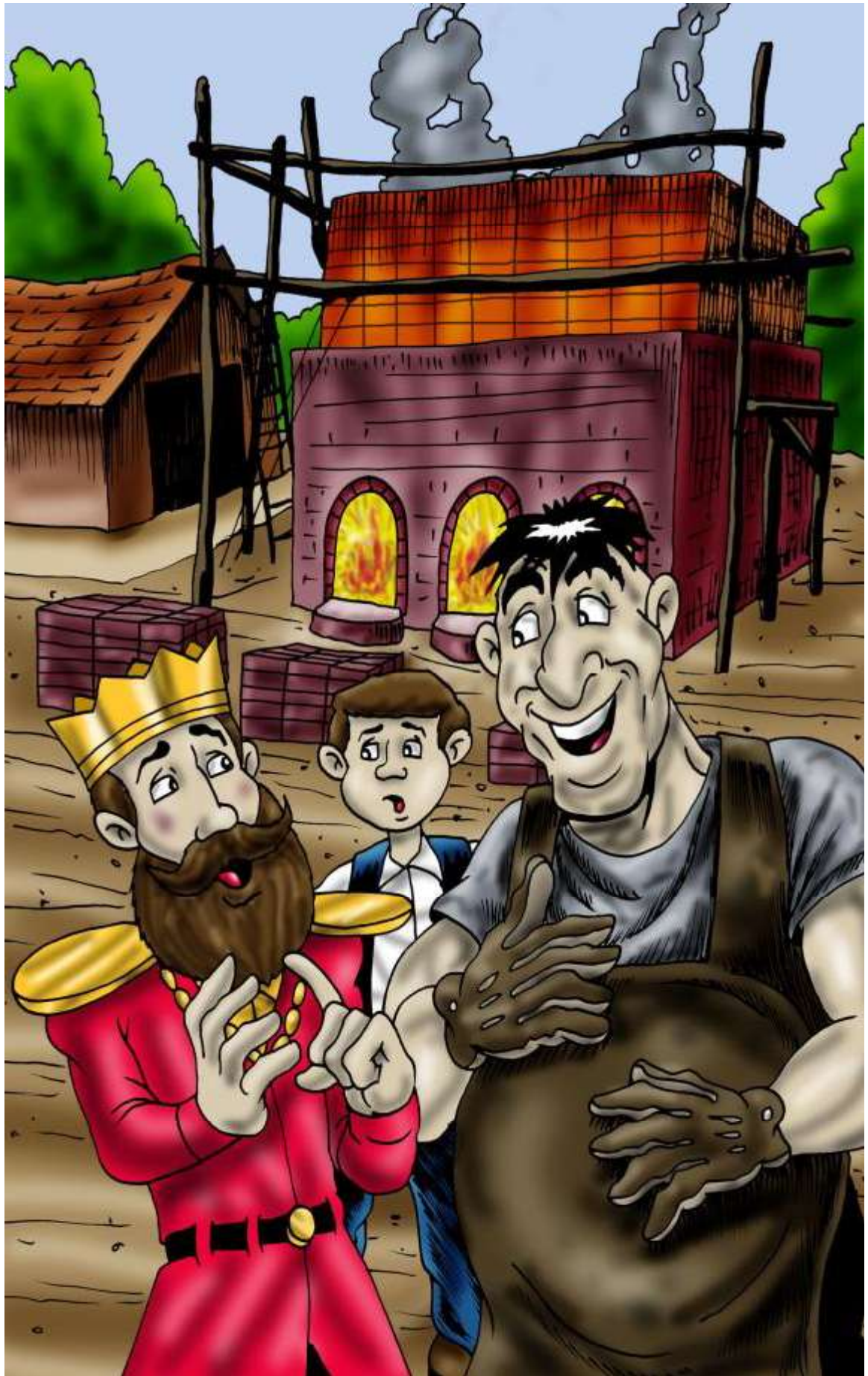


The fiddler's sweet melody echoed at the scene. While moving forward to the next block, the sound of the violin faded away, replaced by a peppy flute player. Musicians made the streets lively, making their living from the passing public.

There were many pedestrians and somewhat small, battery-powered taxis on the road. However, everyone waited alongside of the road, to let their beloved king through.

Leelaput was a good place to live; taxes were low, people were sociable, food was plentiful, and the basic freedoms to think and speak freely were protected by King Dudley's laws. Huge posters could be seen every hundred yards or so. Each poster had a picture of King Dudley, and read: *We love our king!*

He was a friendly and sociable king who conversed freely with his servants and people. As they continued their journey towards the palace, the king's party conversed merrily atop their elephants. The road became less busy as they approached the palace. Brickmaker came out to greet the king. The team stopped for a few minutes while King Dudley chatted with Brickmaker. He was a close friend of the king's family; he was also a close kin to the queen. Thus, he was more involved with the activities of the royal family.



Smiling, Brickmaker asked, "How was the hunt, Dear Majesty?"

"Oh, fine," replied King Dudley.

"If I'd known you were coming I would have organized a grand party to honor the completion of your tiger hunt."

Embarrassed, the king acknowledged in an uncertain tone, "Yes, that would have been nice." He looked very uncomfortable, and held a fake smile.

"Can I see the tiger?"

The king blushed, and replied, "Why sure, but the body was too heavy for all the men, so they are resting by Oyster Creek. They will rest, and arrive late into the night, well past midnight."

"Oh that's great! I can organize a team of fresh, new men, and we can go and get the tiger from Oyster Creek right away, Your Majesty!"

"No, no! That won't be necessary!" the king burst anxiously, "The men want to be left alone to rest! You will not go, and that is an order!"

Pip couldn't help but notice that his father was becoming increasingly uncomfortable as he spoke one lie to cover another lie.

Pip thought to himself quietly. *Gosh, wouldn't my father have been more comfortable and happy if he just told the truth to begin with?*

“Yes, Your Majesty, we will not go to Oyster Creek. My lady and I will greet them when they arrive late into the night, and we will have refreshments ready for them!”

“Well, the palace isn’t much further, and we’ll have refreshments for them there!” exclaimed the king.

“That’s wonderful! I will come to the palace tonight to visit my dear cousin, Queen Isabella. Then I will be happy to wait for the men and greet them with honor and refreshments!”

The king reacted angrily, “No! You must attend to making more bricks for the palace’s new farm house tomorrow, and you must rest! That is an order!”

“Yes, Your Majesty,” replied Brickmaker.

As the party continued their journey toward the palace, Pip questioned his father, “Father, you said that we left men behind at Oyster Creek with the tiger, but we didn’t. Why did you say that?”

“Our people are expecting a tiger, Pip. We can’t disappoint them and tell them that we didn’t bring one back. We made a grand announcement that we would return with a tiger skin before we left for the hunt.”

Pip was an inquisitive, intelligent boy. “Why do our people need a tiger skin, and what would happen if you told them what really happened?” asked Pip.

“They might not believe me, and would not think very highly of their king.”

Pip nodded his head, but he wasn’t very sure of his father’s answer.

They continued their journey towards the palace. “Your Majesty, it is nearing the end of July,” said Jordon, one of the king’s guards.

“Why yes, Jordon, it is, isn’t it!” the king declared eagerly.

The king’s birthday was fast approaching.

“Forty is a special number, perhaps worthy of a grand celebration for our beloved king, Your Majesty,” said Jordon.

“Yes, you are quite right. We must start planning,” declared the king.

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CHAPTER 3

The Mysterious Palace of Gold

On the king's fortieth birthday, a grand celebration ensued within the courtyard of the beautiful palace.

The palace's open courtyard was conveniently situated in the middle of the castle, and offered constant shade from direct sunlight. From within the courtyard, the various beautiful colors of the palace could be seen. The palace was painted in a rainbow of beautiful, light, pastel colors.

The celebration was a feast for the eyes, with exotic dancers from various kingdoms, foods and drinks of all kinds, and comedians who wandered about the yard, interacting and cracking jokes with the attendees.

Eventually, the king took center stage and was receiving complements, gifts, and good wishes from friends.

While the party ensued, the king's messenger darted into the gathering, and approached the king with great enthusiasm and excitement.

"Your Majesty! I've news from your friend, King Jaaz!" (Joz), exclaimed Messenger.

Messenger was not such a bright fellow, and was far too informal for his title. Nonetheless, he was a perky and lovable guy, and the king had kept him as his

messenger, perhaps because somehow Messenger's informality and liveliness were amusing.

From one end of the courtyard to the other, Messenger ran toward the king and repeatedly exclaimed, "He's building a palace of gold, Your Majesty!"

Messenger finally reached center stage, and conversed with King Dudley.

"Calm down!" exclaimed the king.

"Your Majesty, he's building a palace of gold!"



“Who’s building a palace of gold?”

“Your friend, King Jaaz, from Angelsland (*Angels-land*). He’s building a palace of gold, Your Majesty!”

“Ha Ha Ha!” scoffed the king, “*King Jaaz, building a palace of gold?* He can’t even afford to keep his palace well painted.”

“No, it’s true!” exclaimed Messenger, “I saw with my own eyes. He’s renovating his entire palace!”

“Well, it’s about time he painted his palace,” the king reasoned, “So you say he’s painting it in gold color, aye?”

“No! Gold! He’s using real gold!”

Finally, Messenger opened up the letter from King Jaaz, and read it to King Dudley.

“Dear Friend King Dudley: I’m very sorry I can’t make it to your Fortieth birthday party celebration. My palace is undergoing renovation, so I can’t come. But please accept my small gift as a token of our friendship.”

“Where’s the gift?” asked King Dudley.

Messenger finally took out the gift. It was a friendship medallion with a picture of King Dudley on one side, and King Jaaz on the other. Engraved on the medallion were the words: *Celebrating Our Friendship*.

The medallion was thick, heavy, and made of solid gold!

“You say he is making a palace of gold?” asked the king.

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“Yes, Your Majesty. And Angelsland now looks so different! All the roads are made of cobblestone, and they are even making gardens and a water park!”

The king commenced a plan to visit his friend, King Jaaz, to witness the new Angelsland for himself.

CHAPTER 4

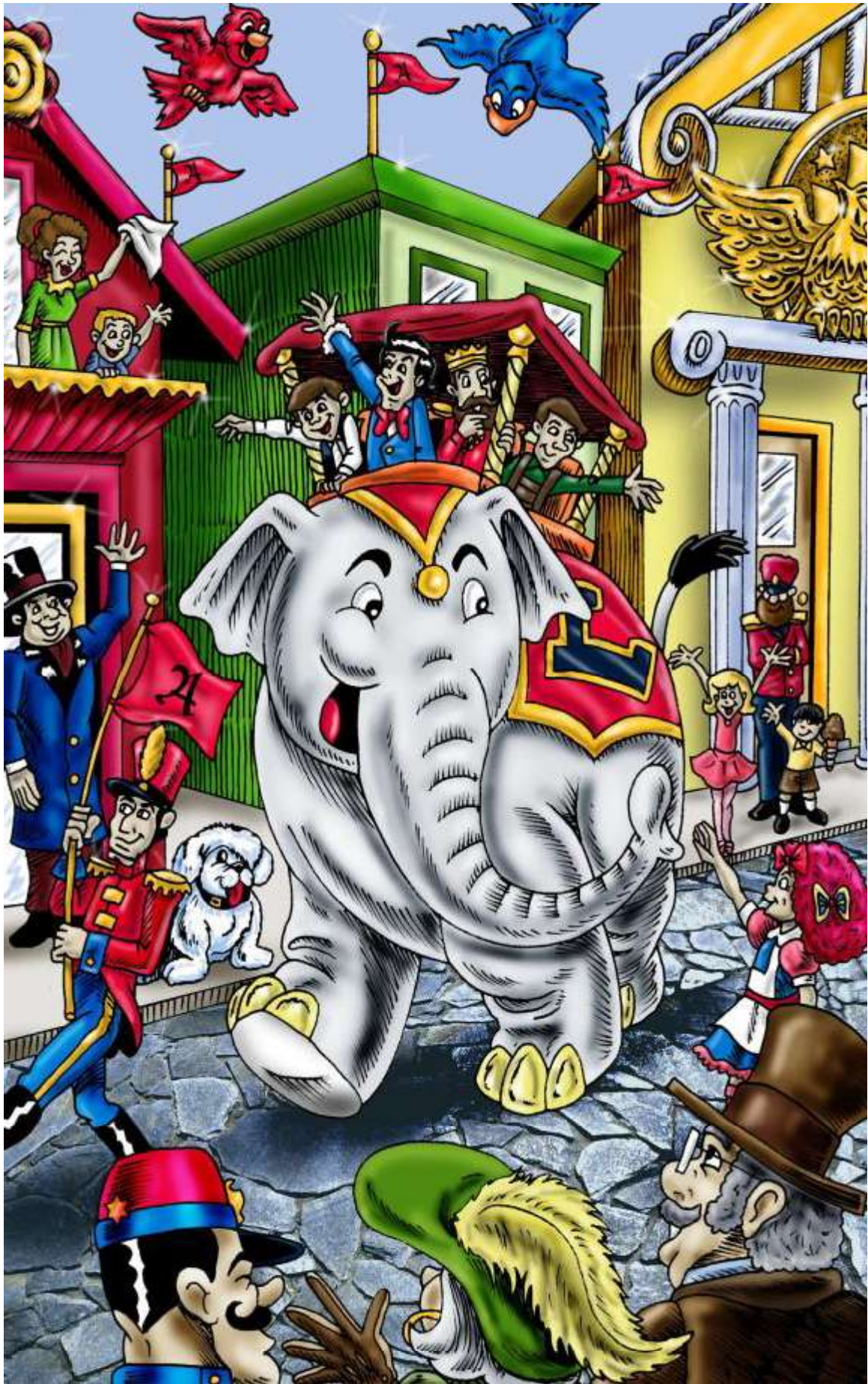
Off to Angelsland

King Dudley took out his elephant, Shirley, from the barn. He was fond of his elephant, and did not usually go anywhere without her.

“We’ve got a long trip ahead of us, Shirley,” he said, “But I know you can do it, because you’ve never let me down.” He patted her big tummy, and she trumpeted delightfully.

Angelsland was a kingdom to the north of Leelaput. King Dudley, his comrades, and Pip set off on the backs of elephants to meet King Jaaz.

After a long journey, they arrived at the gate of Angelsland and were greeted very warmly by the kingdom’s guards; the guards recognized that King Dudley was a good friend of King Jaaz. James, one of the guards, climbed atop the king’s elephant, Shirley.



He personally escorted them to King Jaaz's Palace, while another guard led the way, clearing the road.

"Ahoy! Make way for our king's friend, and our friend, King Dudley!" announced the lead guard, as they lead King Dudley into Angelsland, on their way to King Jaaz's Palace.

Angelsland felt similar to Leelaput. King Dudley was greeted by many folks who smiled and waved their hands. Children were playing in the back alleys, aroma of delicious sweet pastries filled the air, and musicians lurked about, making the streets lively. Posters were displayed every hundred yards or so, with King Jaaz's picture, and each poster read: *We Love Our King!*

Yet, there were differences. Several years had passed since King Dudley's last visit, and he noticed some changes in Angelsland. All of the buildings were well-painted in a vast array of bright colors, and the roads were made of fine cobblestone. Leelaput's roads were made of dirt and gravel, and not all of the buildings were well-painted.

From one street to the next, an array of colorful, lavish gardens, gorgeous monuments, and decorative fountains were scattered all throughout Angelsland. The public was elegantly dressed.

King Dudley took note of how things had changed but kept silent. Being a proud king, he was not very comfortable with the new, beautified Angelsland. Leelaput was clearly missing many of the fine things he saw in Angelsland, and hence, King Dudley felt bad about himself and his kingdom. Slowly, jealousy was creeping into King Dudley's heart. His mind wandered.

So what if the buildings are well-painted and they have cobblestone roads? We can do that in our kingdom. We'll make even better roads than Angelsland's...

“It feels a lot like Leelaput,” said Pip.

“The roads are very nice,” said Jordon, King Dudley’s guard.

“We’ve had a lot of renovation lately. All the buildings are freshly painted and kept in good condition on King Jaaz’s orders,” said James.

“We too are in the process of renovating our kingdom,” declared King Dudley.

As King Dudley noted the fine beautification of Angelsland, he felt less admirable because his own kingdom, Leelaput, was not as well kept. He exchanged a dialog with Jordon in an effort to prove to himself and the rest of the team that he was just as great a king as King Jaaz.

“Jordon, did you note the kind of cobblestone they’ve installed here?” asked the king.

“Yes, Your Majesty, it’s very nice.”

“Yes, but I think it is of a *lower quality* than the one we chose for our kingdom in our last governance assembly meeting. Isn’t that right, Jordon?”

Jordon thought to himself quietly. *What governance assembly meeting was that? Hmm, I don’t remember any such meeting.*

“You’re absolutely correct, Dear King. In Leelaput, we are in the process of installing the very best possible cobblestone available, just as we discussed in our last governance assembly meeting.”

Along the way, they saw beautiful water fountains, curbside gardens, and government court buildings that were beautified with emblems made from solid gold.

As they approached the palace, the roads became less populous, and from atop their elephants, they could see a huge construction site where many men were working.

“Are they making large slides?” asked Pip.

James replied, “That’s going to be a water park and garden area for the people of Angelsland. The project will be finished in a few days, and King Jaaz has planned a grand opening ceremony.”

“Wow! That will be so much fun!” exclaimed Pip.

The king turned to Jordon and requested, “Make note of that, Jordon! We’ve got to have that for our kingdom too!”

“Yes, Your Majesty,” replied Jordon.

As they continued their journey forward, the party witnessed a grand spectacle unfolding very gradually before their astonished eyes!

Made of beautiful marble and pure gold, the monument emanated a heavenly splendor.

“What’s that?” asked Pip.

“*That* is King Jaaz’s palace,” said James.

“It’s very nice,” declared Pip.

Jordon observed King Dudley's uneasiness, and kept quiet. The king's face revealed anger and discomfort, and once again, his mind started to wander.

*That Jaaz has built a palace out of gold, aye?
He thinks he's better than the rest of us kings? We'll make an even better palace in
Leelaput.*

King Dudley's party was greeted enthusiastically by King Jaaz. They sat in good cheer at a grand king's feast.

Dudley declared, "The last time I visited Angelsland, things looked very different. So I see you are very rich now, King Jaaz."

"I've always been rich, King Dudley. You see, even when the kingdom was not thriving as it is today, I've always had the love of my people. So I've always been rich. But today, I can afford a few nice things, and so I'm making the kingdom just a little nicer."

"Oh, I see, and how exactly were you able to make things, 'just a little nicer?' Last time I visited you, even your palace was not well painted!"

"Oh, let's just say I found some buried treasure, ha ha ha ..."

It was clear that King Jaaz did not want to reveal his secret as to where he was getting all of the gold from, but King Dudley was determined to find out.



CHAPTER 5

Ambitious Dudley

King Dudley and his party were taken to guest quarters for the night. However, Dudley's jealousy had grown tremendously, and he could not sleep.

His mind continued to echo the same jealous thoughts as before.

The next day, they prepared to return for Leelaput. Pip wanted to stay, hoping to enjoy the grand opening of the water park. King Jaaz pleaded for the guests to stay longer, but King Dudley was in no mood for enjoying anything.

As they left the kingdom, many people smiled and waved their hands at King Dudley's party. Dudley was uncomfortable, and didn't know what to do.

He tried to smile back, and waved his hand uneasily, but his smile was fake.

"Close the curtains!" the king burst. The curtains of the platforms on top of the elephants where they sat were drawn, and they proceeded quietly out of Angelsland.

"He doesn't even have natural shade in his courtyard! Our palace in Leelaput does," babbled Dudley.

"Our palace is beautiful," said Pip.

“The service was so poor,” the king added, “The food was not so tasty, and the sleeping mattress was *way too soft*.”

All of King Dudley’s comrades felt that King Jaaz’s hospitality was excellent, and thus, nobody had anything to say. Pip shrugged his shoulders, and couldn’t understand his father’s complaints either. Luckily, the king did not see.

All remained quiet while Dudley continued to fret, “*And that King Jaaz—who does he think he is*—building parks and a golden palace? Does he think he’s better than the rest of us kings? He didn’t even have the courtesy to come to my Fortieth birthday celebration!”

Many days passed, and the king’s uneasiness grew.

One day, King Dudley approached his wife, Queen Isabella.

“Isabella, I’m a good king, aren’t I?”

“Of course you are. Our people are very happy. You are a wonderful king!”

“Do you know what I saw in Angelsland? They’ve built cobblestone roads, gardens, a water park, and King Jaaz’s palace is made of solid gold! Our kingdom doesn’t have any of those things.”

“*Solid gold?*”

“Yes, Isabella, solid gold.”

Queen Isabella became very irritated and jealous on learning of King Jaaz’s fortune.

“Well, we got to get the same things for our kingdom, especially a palace made of solid gold!”

“But we don’t have enough money for that,” the king said nervously.

“Find a way! You’re the king!” replied Isabella, very adamantly.

“Yes, that’s exactly what I was thinking.”



A grand assembly was called to determine how to build a palace of gold, gardens, water park, and cobblestone roads in Leelaput. Based on the advice of his top advisors, King Dudley decided to deploy a spy to settle into Angelsland, to figure out where King Jaaz was getting all of the gold from.

The assembly also concluded that in order to develop everything desired, the people of Leelaput would have to contribute by working much harder.

Brickmaker was called into the assembly, and was questioned by the king's top advisor, Eby. After a lengthy inquiry, Eby devised a plan whereby Brickmaker and his wife could work twice as hard to make twice as many bricks, while selling the bricks at a slightly lower price to boost sales. Extra money made from the sale of the extra bricks would go towards paying for King Dudley's new golden palace.

"But I don't want my wife to work! She has so many other responsibilities!" pleaded Brickmaker. However, Dudley's new laws did not spare anyone. The same fate came to many others in the kingdom—Potmaker, Shoemaker, Pillowmaker, and others.

Barbers and teachers were not spared either. Their taxes went up, and some teachers were shifted to do manufacturing jobs, while the rest of the teachers took on twice as many students in their classes.

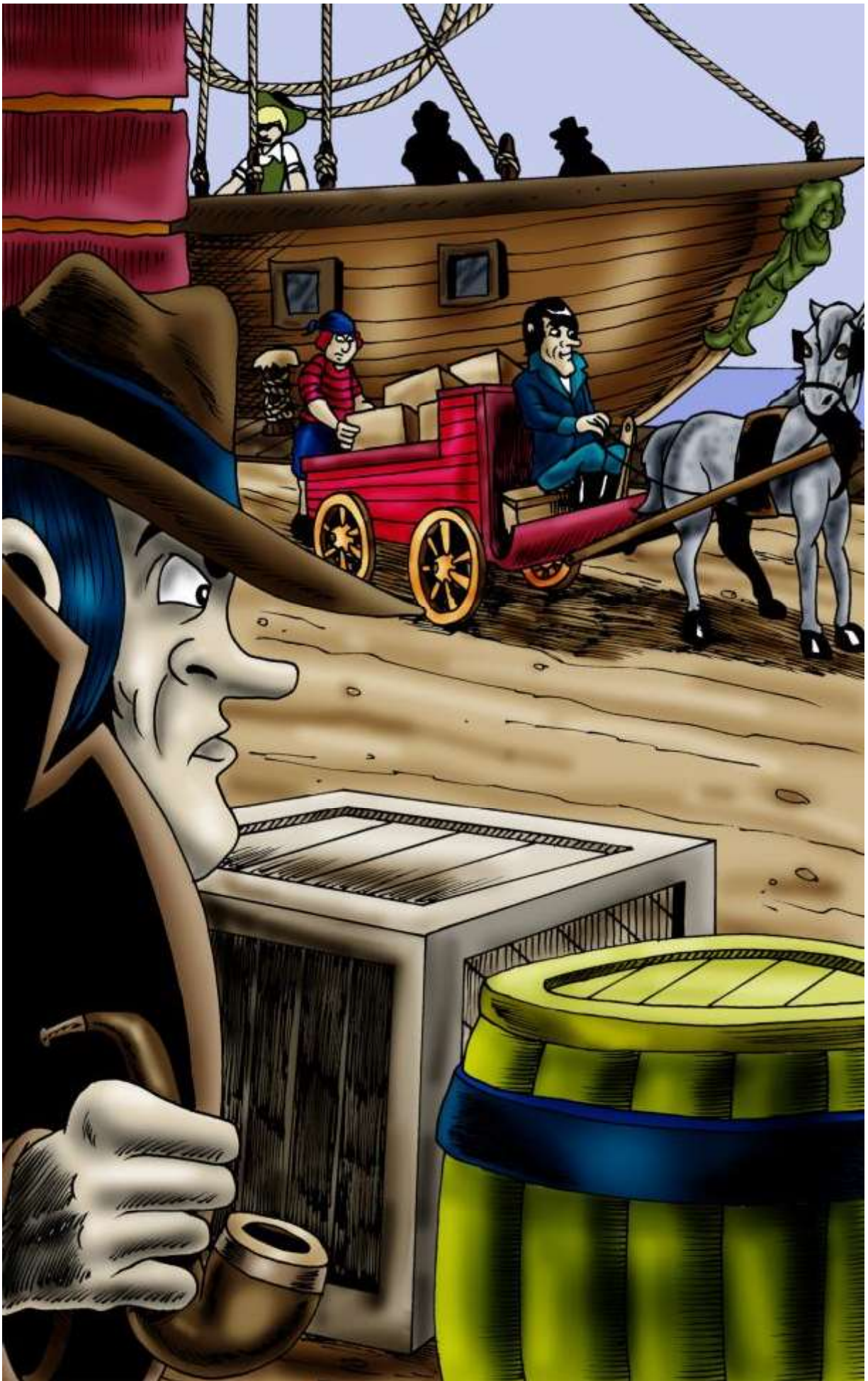
Meanwhile, the king deployed a spy to find out the source of the gold. His name was Grayhound, and he settled into the heart of Angelsland, hiding very easily amongst the busy streets of the kingdom. He was a quiet, well-dressed man with keen eyes and a detective nature.

Grayhound kept a very close watch on the traffic coming in and out of King Jaaz's palace. It didn't take long to notice that every Friday morning, at about the

same time, another young, well-dressed man came on horse carriage into the palace grounds.

He was a quiet and mysterious man, but dressed very much like Grayhound, and looked similar enough in appearance that one might mistake them to be brothers.

Not knowing the man's name, Grayhound gave him the code-name of "Friday," because he consistently came to King Jaaz's palace every Friday morning.



Grayhound was able to follow the horse carriage and noticed that after “Friday” left the palace, he made a stop at the brick factory of Angelsland, where bricks from the Angelsland’s brick maker were loaded onto the carriage. Afterwards, the carriage stopped at the local pottery factory, where pots were also loaded onto the carriage. The carriage moved onwards from one place to another, loading supplies of various kinds.

Finally, “Friday” reached the ship port, and supplies from the horse carriage were loaded onto a ship. The horses were taken care of by a horse keeper at the dock, and the mysterious man disappeared aboard a ship with the merchandise every Friday afternoon. The ship returned the following Friday morning, and “Friday,” the mysterious man, came out of the ship, and drove the empty horse carriage back to King Jaaz’s palace.

Grayhound returned to King Dudley and reported his findings. One day, King Dudley hired a ship to follow “Friday.”