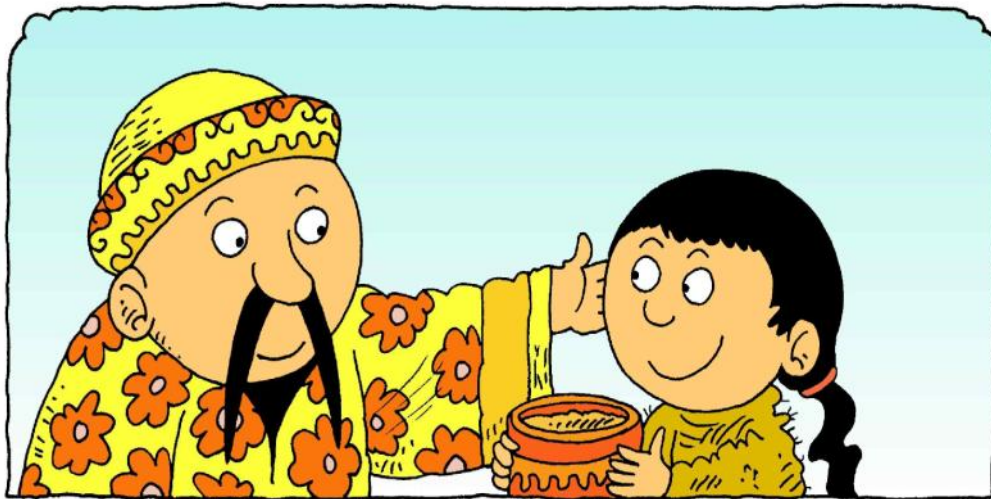


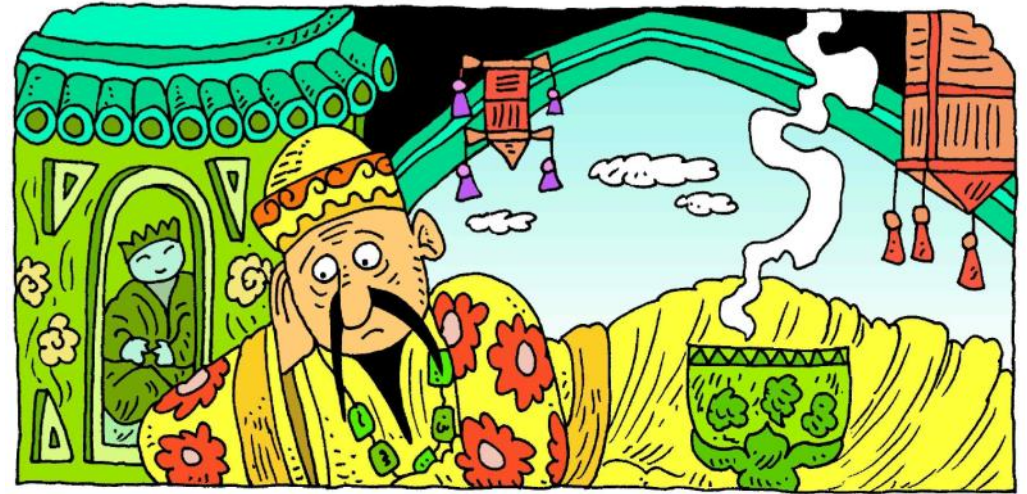
“You will be the next Emperor,” he said.
“I boiled all the seeds. None could EVER grow.
You are the only honest person here.
You alone can be trusted with this important job.”



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He sent out his messengers inviting
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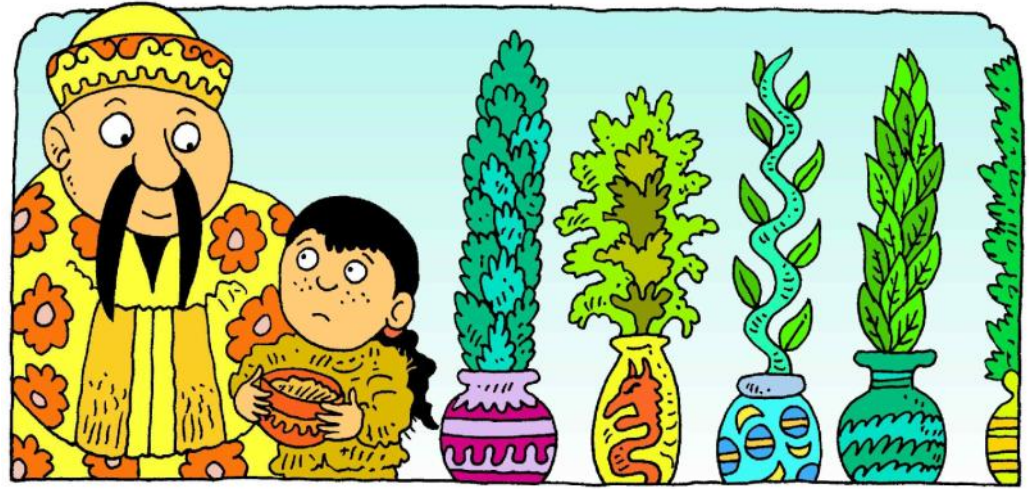


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in their VERY best clothes,
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2



The next year, everyone took
their amazing plants to the Emperor.
The boy was the only one with an empty pot.
Then the Emperor stopped in front of the boy.

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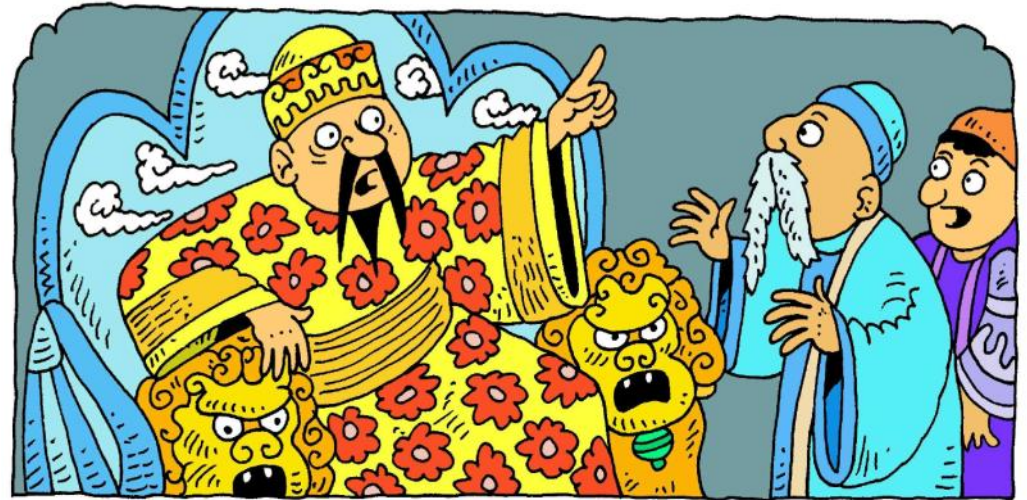
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The boy planted the seed in a pot.
For one whole year
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But that seed did NOT grow!

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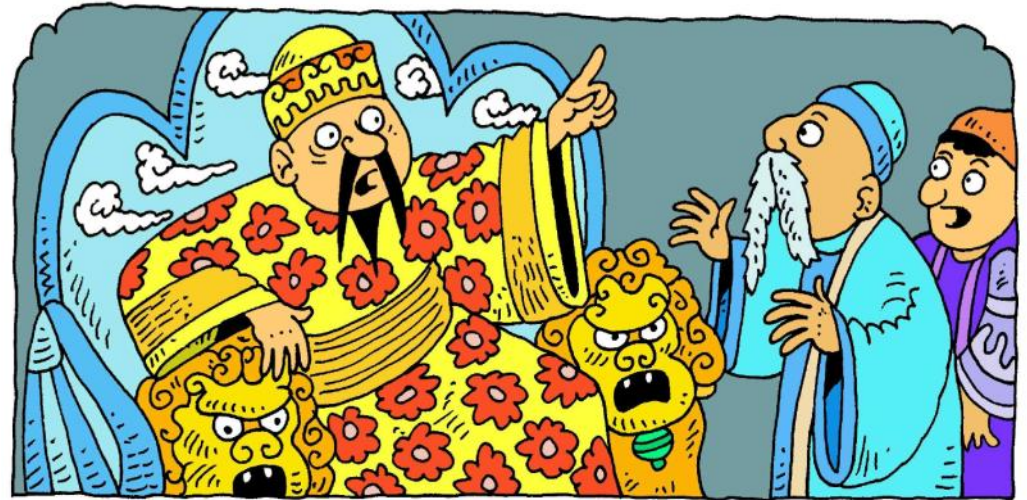
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To help me find the best person I have
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I have some very special seeds.
Take only ONE seed each.
Plant it, water it and make it grow well.
Bring your plant back in one year.”

4



Everyone lined up to get one seed.
A little boy lined up too.
Holding the special seed carefully
as he ran home to show his mother.

5



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