

# The King's Beard

One day the king wanted to test his ministers. So he called them all and asked a simple question, "What should you do to the person who pulls a king's beard?"





The young ministers pulled out their swords and shouted, "We will kill the person who dares to pull the king's beard."



There was one old and wise minister, who softly said, “We must salute the person who pulls our King’s beard.”





Everybody  
was taken  
aback.

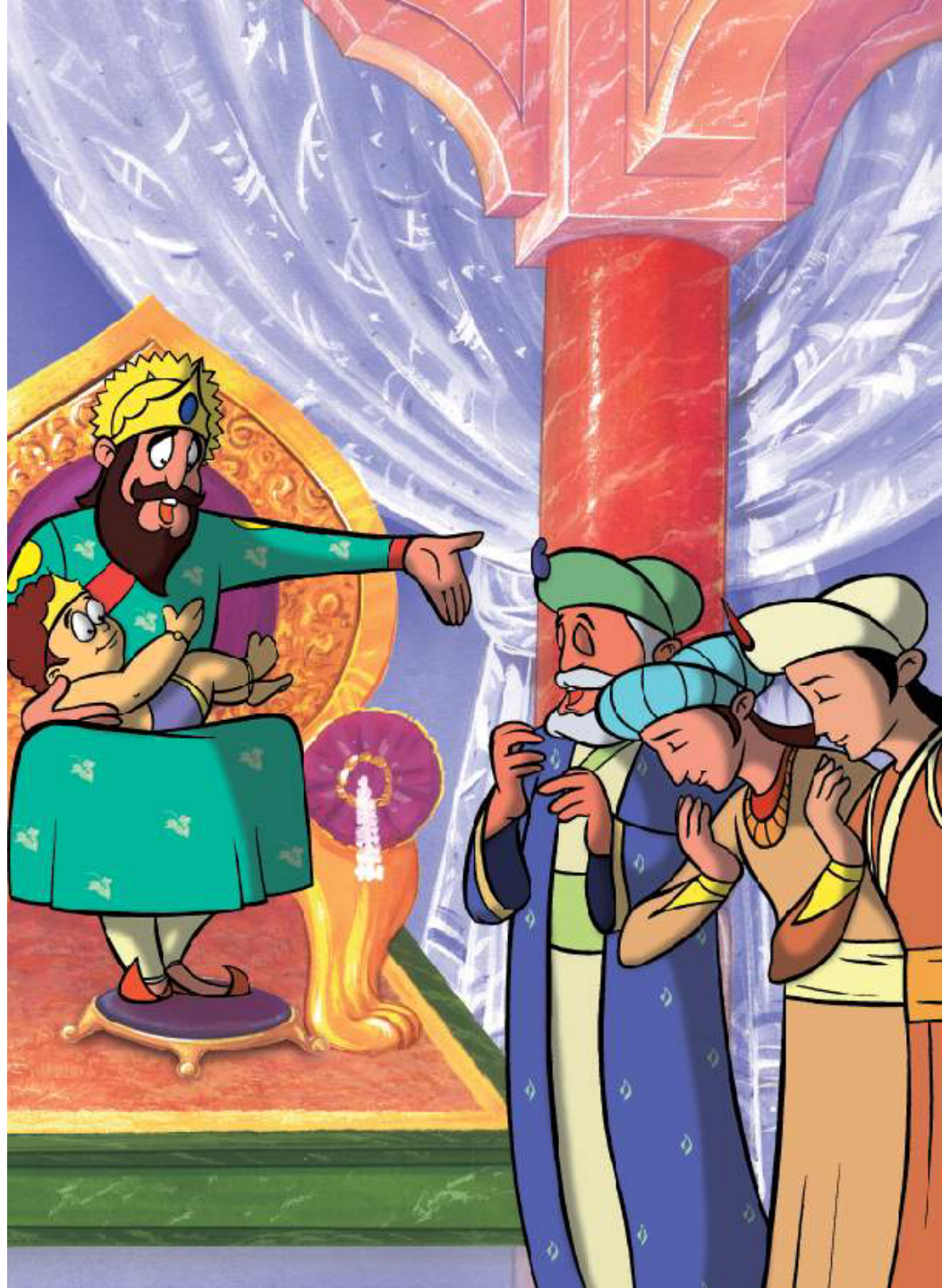


Then the old minister pointed out to the young prince sitting on the king's lap. He was pulling his father's beard.





The young ministers then understood that they spoke in a hurry without thinking. Seeing that the old man was so clever the king made him his Prime Minister.



Often we say things  
that we do not mean  
in a hurry, we must  
think before we  
speak.