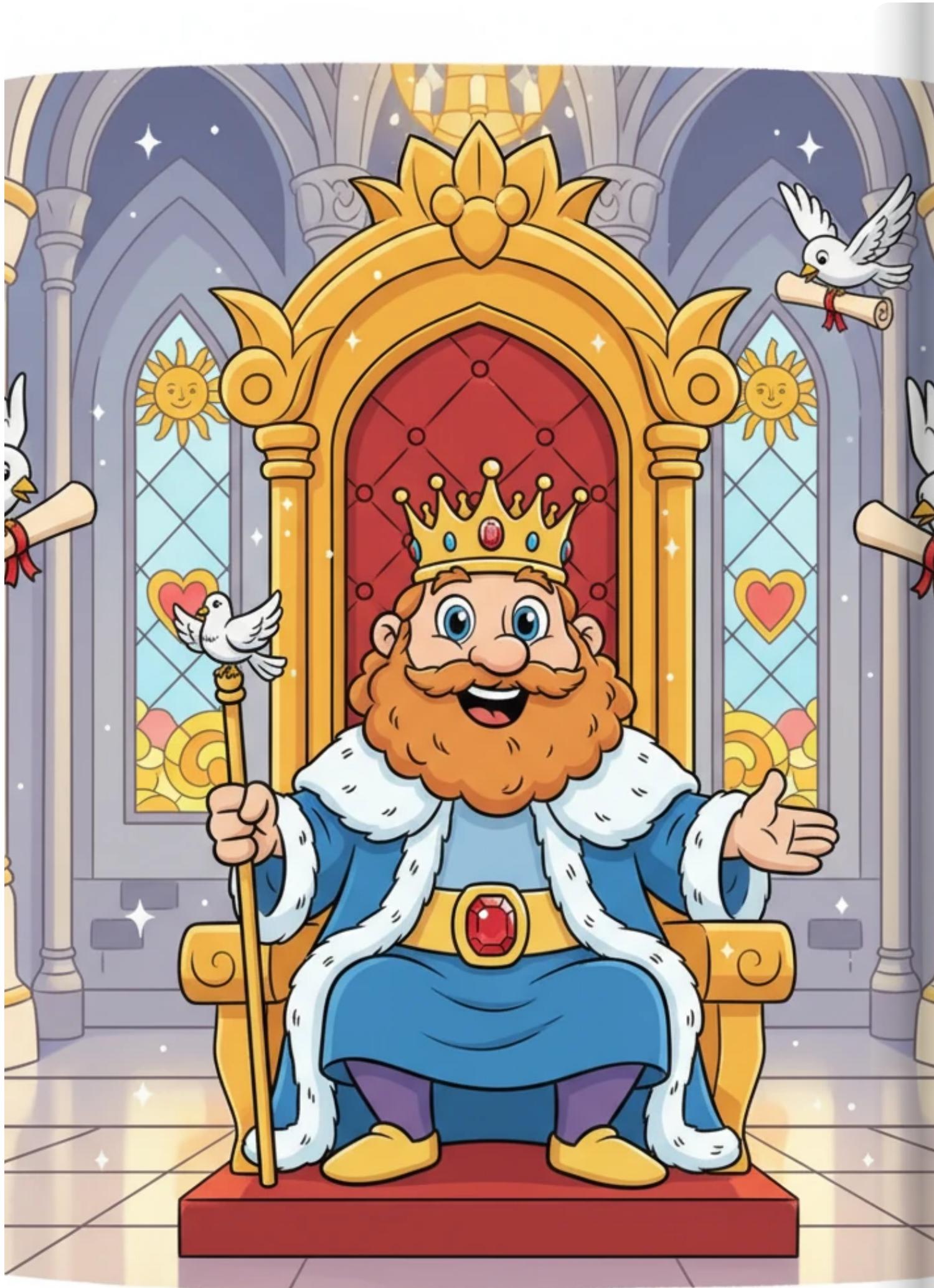




The King's Great Kindness: A Story of Forgiveness

Fearnbuster



The grand King Reginald, with a magnificent crown perched on his head, sat on his throne in a sparkling castle hall. He decided it was time to check on everyone's accounts, making sure everything was fair and square. Little bird messengers zipped through the air, carrying scrolls to all the kingdom's servants.



Soon, a nervous servant named Barnaby was brought before the King, his eyes wide with worry. Barnaby owed a truly enormous amount of shiny gold talents, more than he could ever count! He trembled, knowing he had no way to pay back such a colossal debt.



King Reginald, looking stern, declared that Barnaby and his whole family would have to work to pay off the debt, and all their possessions would be sold. Barnaby's heart sank, a huge tear rolling down his cheek. He felt utterly hopeless, imagining his cozy home gone.



Barnaby fell to his knees, pleading with the King, his hands clasped together in a desperate prayer. "Oh, kind King," he cried, "please be patient with me! I promise, I will pay back every single talent!" His voice was full of genuine sorrow and a plea for a second chance.



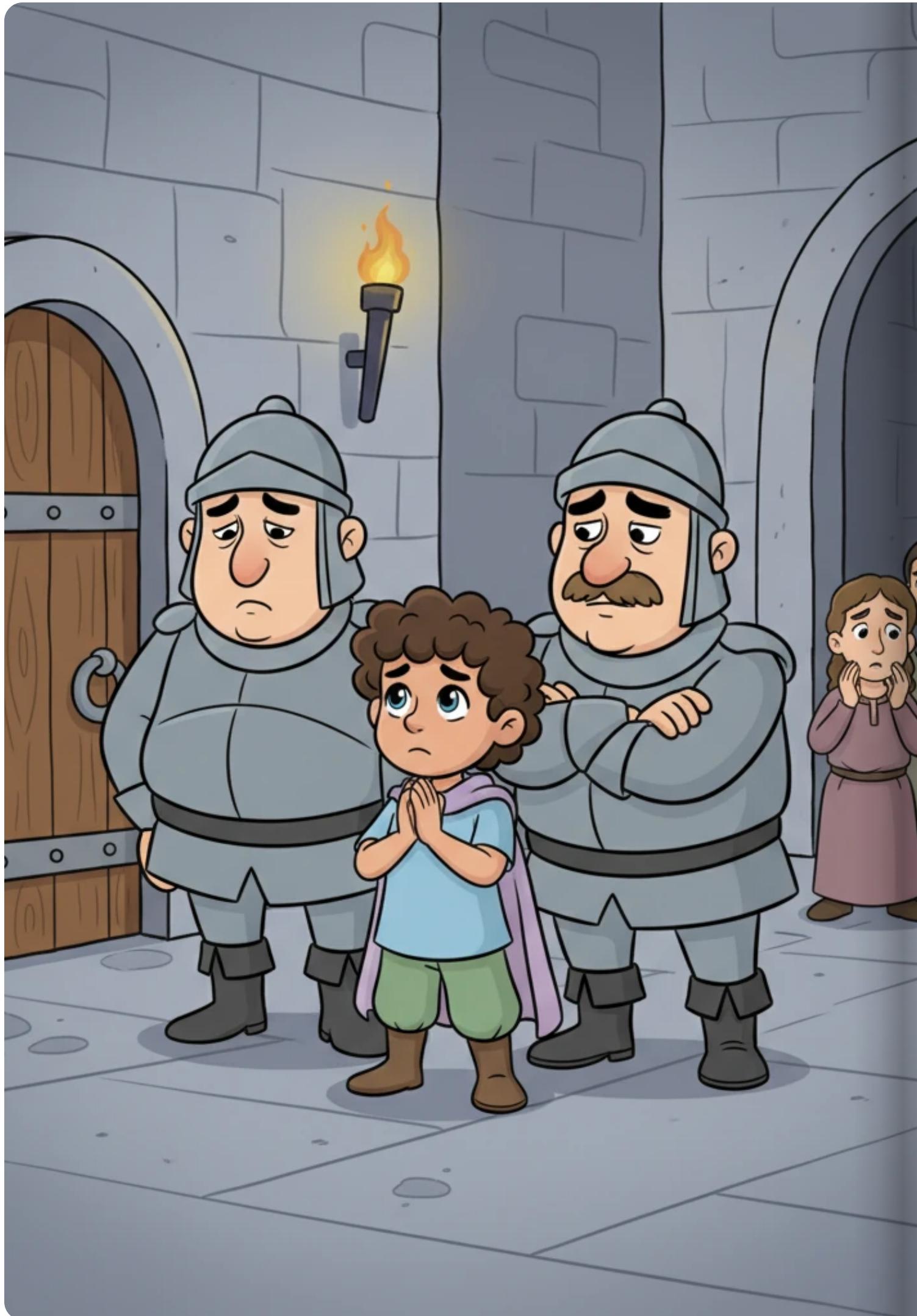
The King, known for his big heart, looked at Barnaby's tear-streaked face and felt a wave of compassion. With a gentle wave of his hand, he declared, "Your debt is forgiven, Barnaby! Go, and be free!" Barnaby's face transformed from sadness to an explosion of joyful surprise, leaping up with a delighted squeal.



Filled with a spring in his step, Barnaby bounced out of the castle, feeling lighter than air. But then, he spotted poor Pip, a fellow servant, who owed Barnaby a small handful of silver coins. Barnaby's happy smile suddenly twisted into a stern frown.



Barnaby marched right up to Pip, grabbing him by the collar with an exaggerated, angry scowl. "Pay me what you owe, right now!" he demanded loudly. Pip, startled and scared, fell to his knees, just as Barnaby had done earlier, begging, "Please, Barnaby, have patience! I'll pay you soon!"



But Barnaby's heart had hardened, and he wouldn't listen to Pip's pleas. He called for the guards, who sadly led Pip away to a small, dark cell until he could pay. The other servants watched with heavy hearts, whispering about Barnaby's unkindness.



Word quickly reached King Reginald, carried by the sad whispers of the other servants. The King, his face clouded with disappointment, summoned Barnaby back to the grand hall. "Barnaby," he said, his voice deep and serious, "I forgave your enormous debt out of kindness."



"Shouldn't you have shown that same kindness to your fellow servant, Pip?" the King asked, his voice now filled with sorrowful anger. Because Barnaby had not shown compassion, the King sadly declared that Barnaby's own great debt was now back, and he would have to face the consequences until it was fully paid.