

# Hero of the Mountain



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Ivan Parvov, Hero of the Mountain

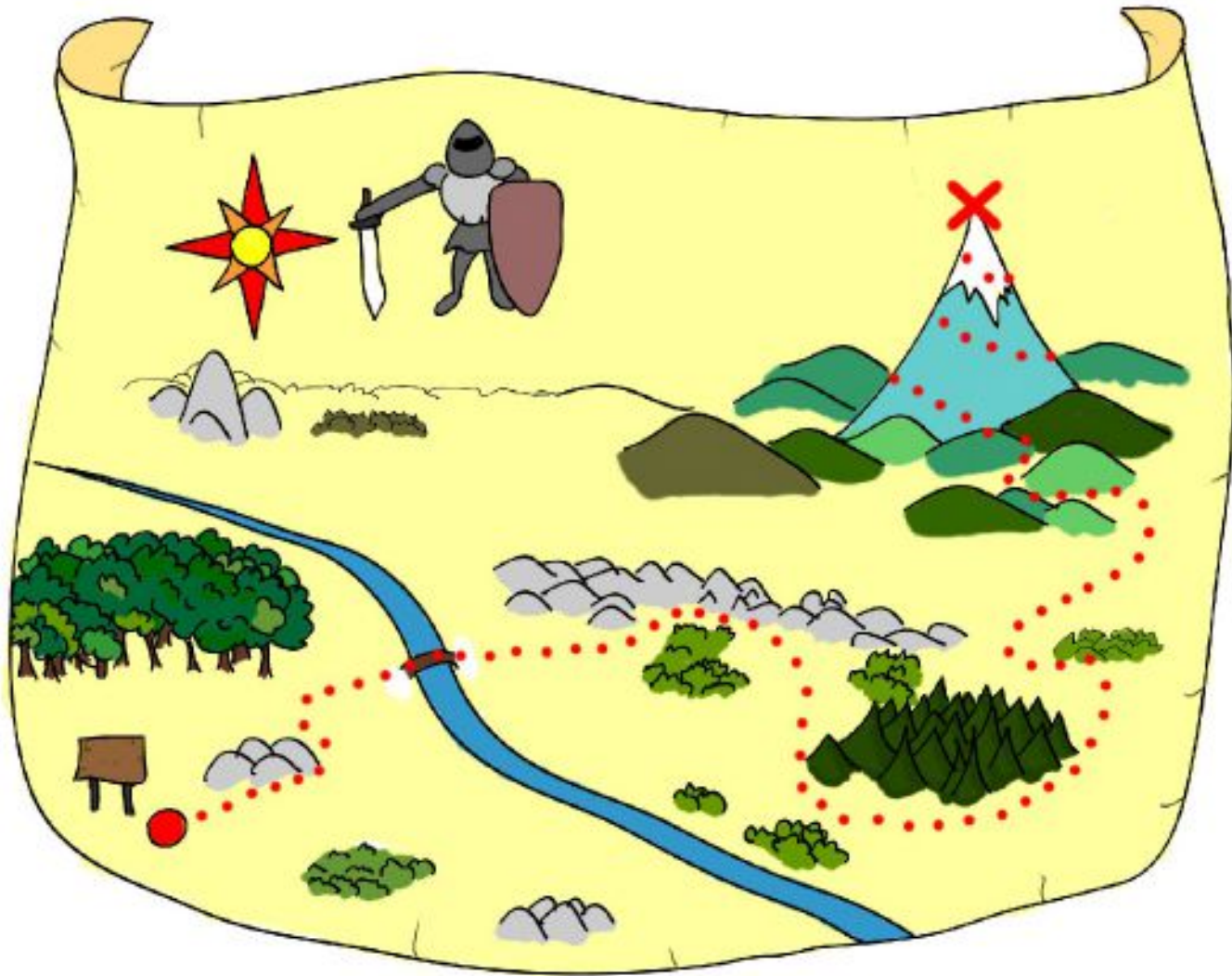
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The little fox Lulu was very excited. The big contest "Hero of the Mountain" was going to take place the next day. The most powerful and brave animals and people were going to take part in it.



Lulu wanted to see the contest and meet the most famous heroes in the world. He carefully studied the map. The contest would take place high on the mountain, in the grounds of the owl-magician Boran...Lulu would have a long trip the next day...



This evening Lulu could not asleep till late at night. He was looking at the distant peak, dreaming about the contest. He was eager for the morning to come.





In the morning he woke up early, brushed his teeth and ate his breakfast quickly. He had a long way to go, so, he had a good meal – the breakfast, prepared by his mom, was very delicious.



Lulu promised his mom to be careful and come back before dark and hurried to the mountain. He passed the meadows near home, walked around the rocky hills and suddenly, while crossing the river, he heard someone screaming for help...



Lulu looked around and saw a beetle, who had fallen into the river. The shores were too steep for the little beetle and he was waving its legs and antennae in panic.



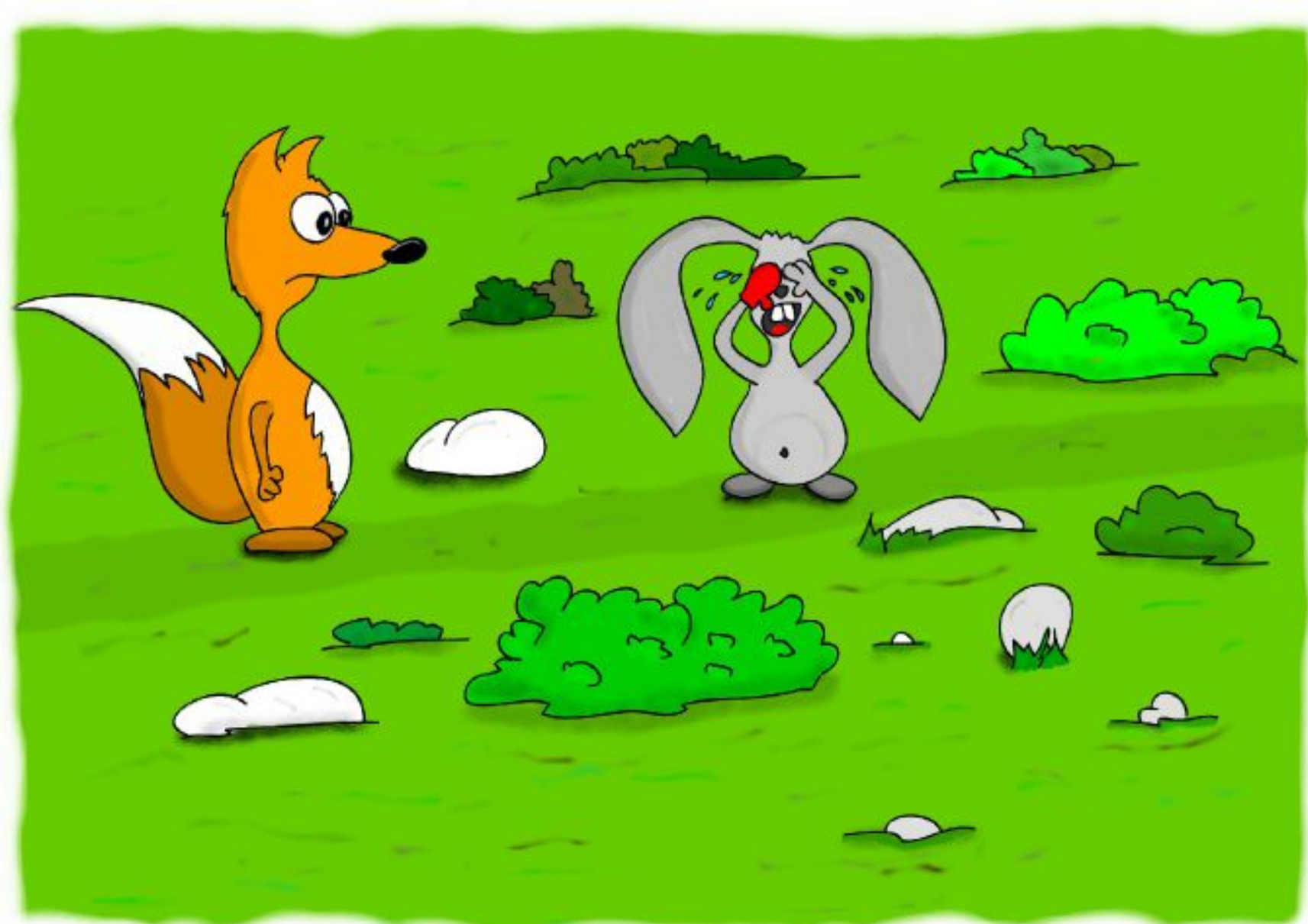


Lulu looked around for a float or a stick, but he could not find anything useful. As time was pressing, Lulu sank his tail into the icy water and cried out to the beetle to grab it.



In a little while the beetle was lying on the grass, getting dry in the sun – exhausted but very happy for being rescued. Lulu was tired as well, but he had no time for rest. He squeezed his tail, which had become heavy with water and hurried on to the contest.



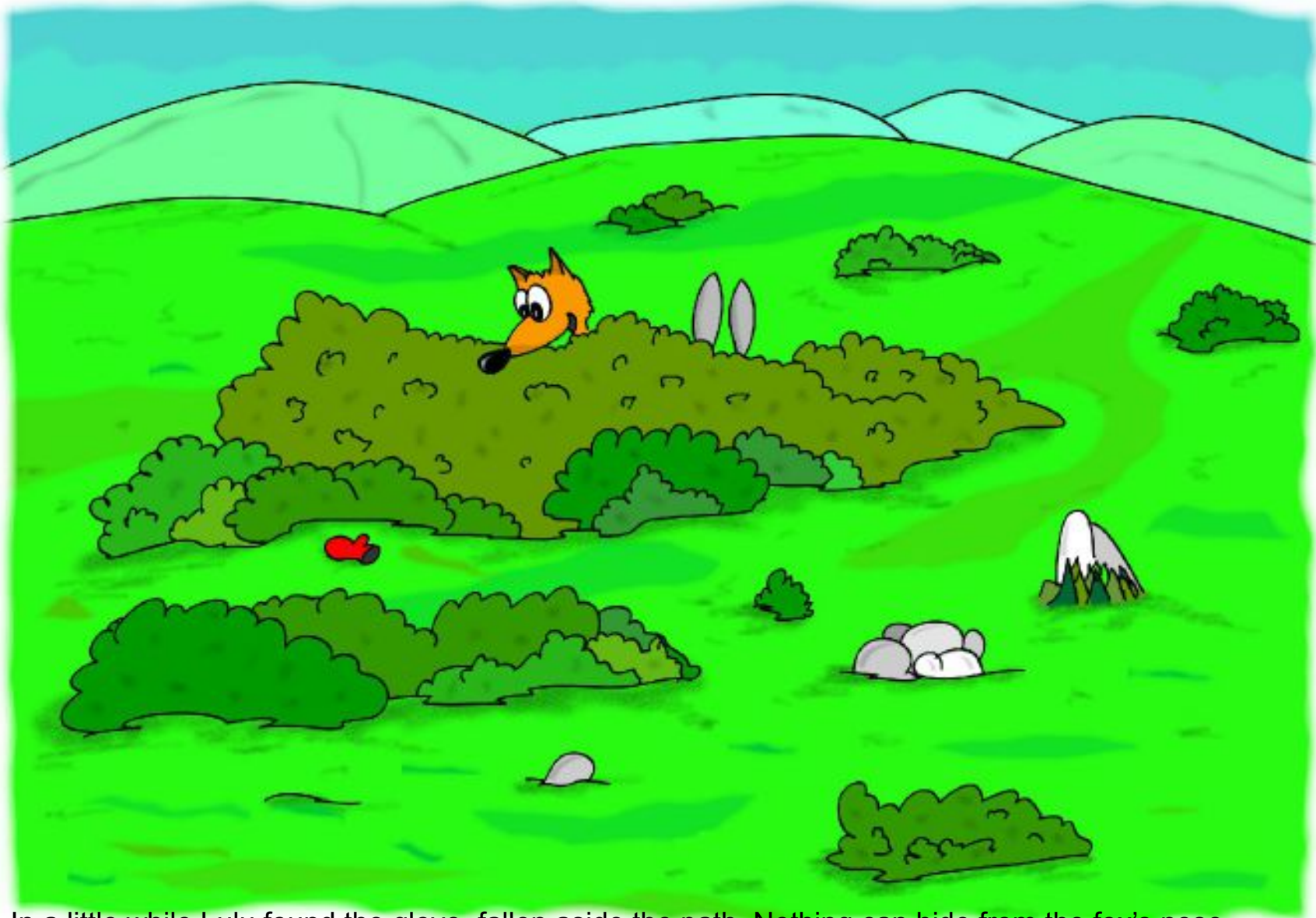


Soon he saw ahead a little bunny, crying sadly. It had lost one of its gloves and did not know how to find it.

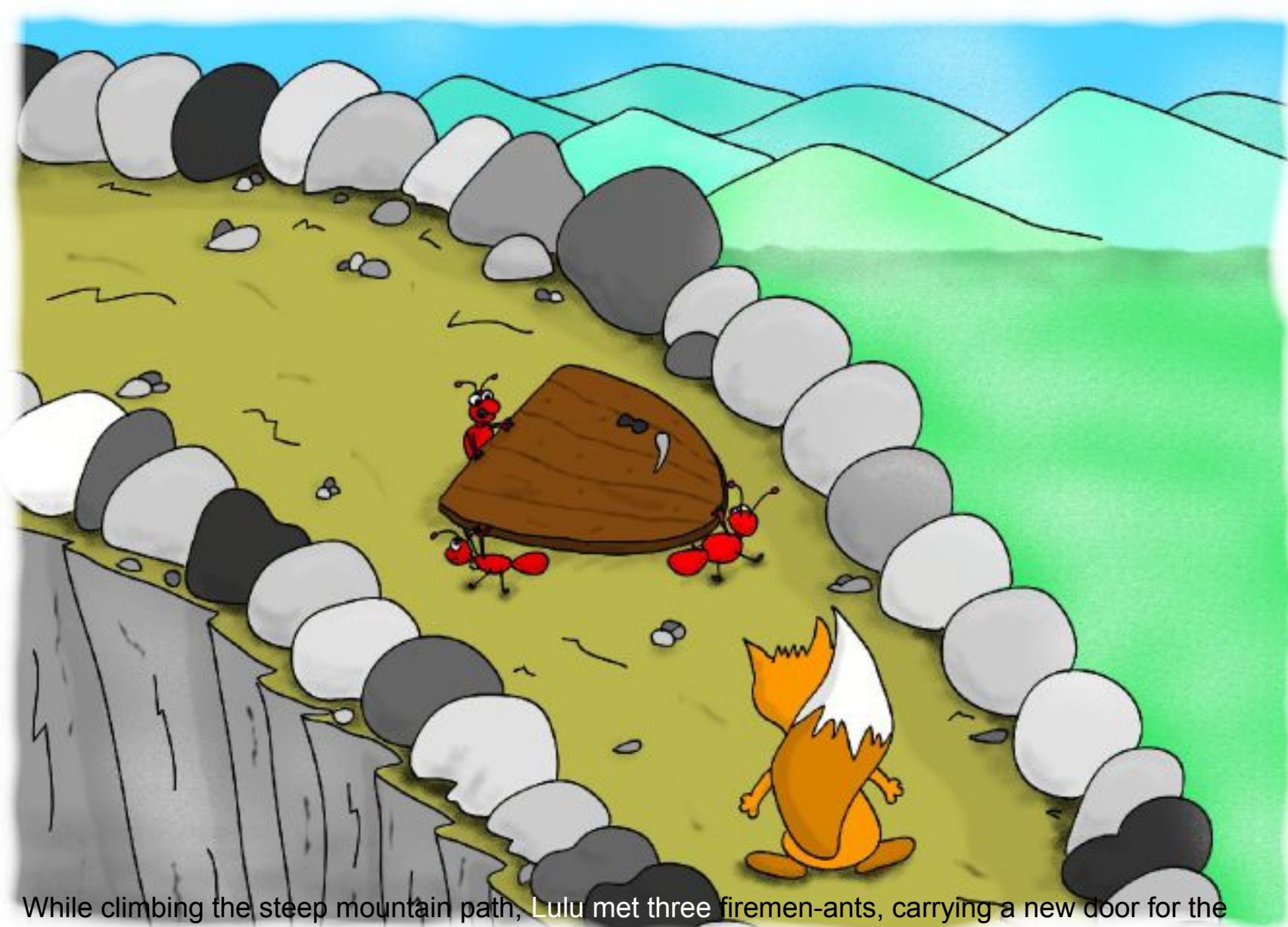


Lulu was in a hurry to get to the contest, but he decided to help the bunny. He lowered his big sensitive nose and rushed to search for the bunny's glove. The bunny followed him with hope.



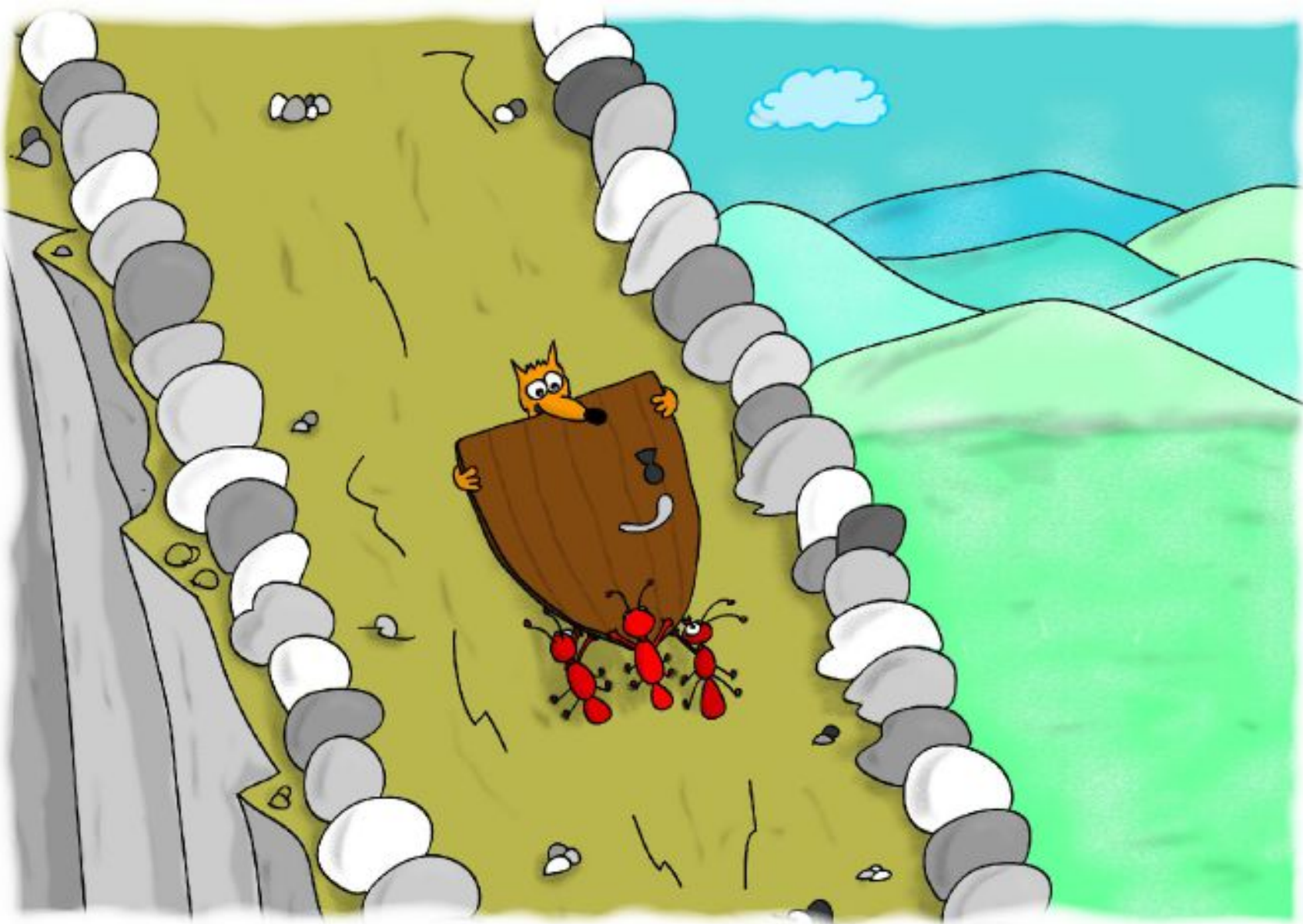


In a little while Lulu found the glove, fallen aside the path. Nothing can hide from the fox's nose. The bunny was very happy and jumped smiling home with its gloves on, and Lulu hurried to the mountain.



While climbing the steep mountain path, Lulu met three firemen-ants, carrying a new door for the ants' observation post, located in the high mountain – the ants looked for forest fires from there. The door was too heavy and the three ants gasped for breath.





Lulu decided to help them, though he was already late for the contest. He took the heavy door and together with the ants carried it up the mountain.



Finally they reached the observation post of the firemen-ants and managed together to fix the door in its right place. The ants sat on the ground tired and satisfied. Lulu was also tired, but there was no time for rest – he continued up the path, climbing the peak.





When he climbed the peak at last, the contest was over. Broken arrows, targets and swords were spread all over the peak meadow...but all the heroes had gone.



Lulu sat sadly on the ground. He so much wanted to see the contest and meet the greatest heroes, but he had missed everything.



Suddenly he heard a flap of wings. He looked up and saw the owl magician, Boran, alight before him.

“Don’t be sad Lulu. You did not miss anything so interesting actually. Look, I have something special for you” and the owl gave Lulu the crystal “Hero of the Mountain” – the biggest contest award.

“But...why? I have not done any great heroic deed.” asked Lulu surprised.

“Is there a greater heroic deed than all the small deeds you have done today?” smiled Boran.

“You missed the contest you so much wanted to see, to help the beetle, the bunny and the ants.

You are the real hero of the mountain.”





Lulu managed to come back home before dinner and told his parents what had happened. Everybody home was pleased and very proud of him. After dinner Lulu went to bed tired and satisfied. He needed a good night sleep...maybe tomorrow new great deeds and adventures were waiting for him.



THE END

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