

# Amarkumar



King Shrenik, a ruler of Rajgriha, wanted to construct a grand artistic palace.



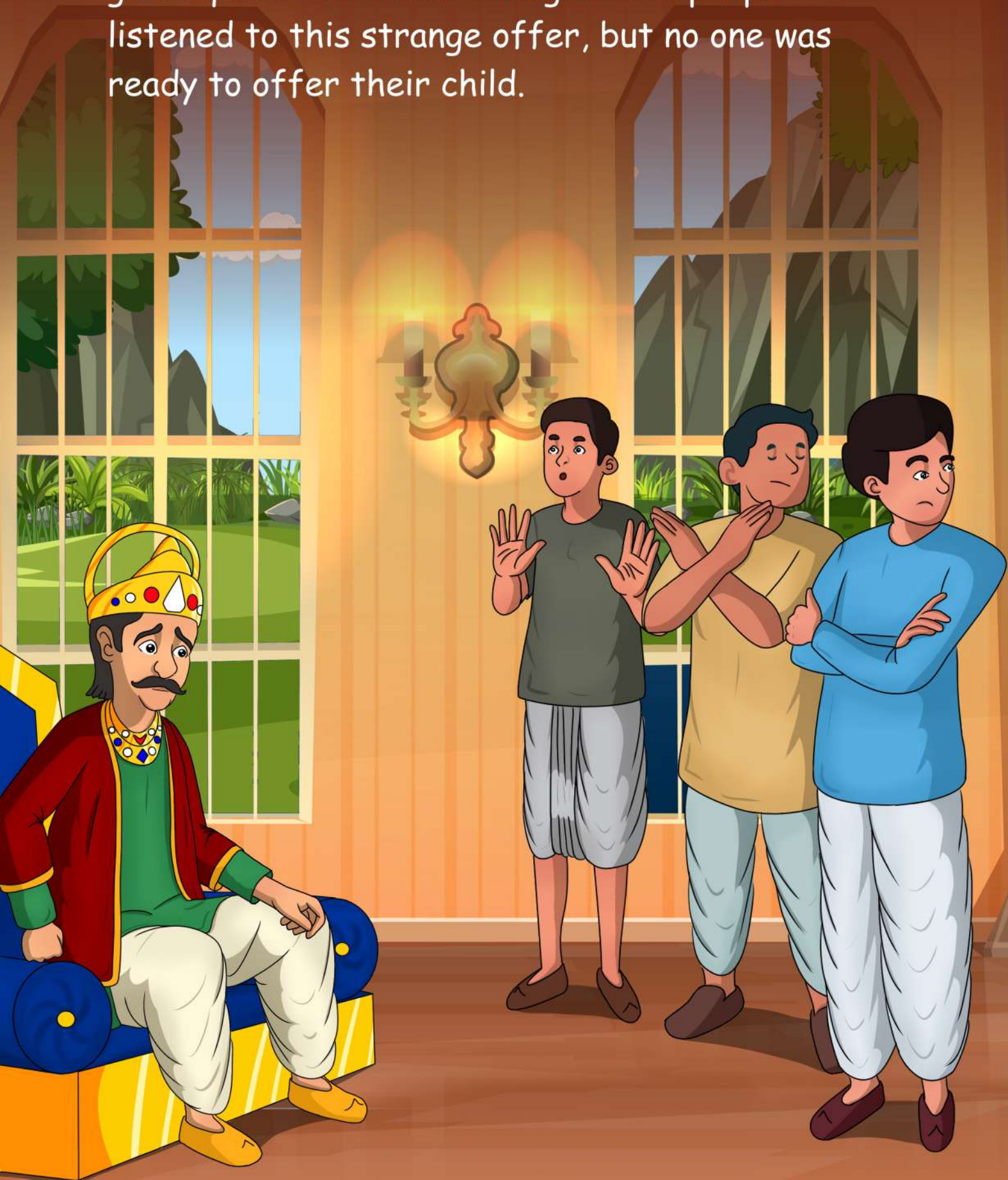
He ordered the workers to start with the construction, but the building kept collapsing at nighttime. This was happening for quite a while, and nobody knew the reason why.



King Shrenik consulted with his ministers, friends, astrologers, and the royal priest. The royal priest advised conducting a Yagna, chanting of mantras with the sacrifice of animals or humans. The priest suggested offering a boy with good qualities to the God so the collapse could stop.



The king announced to his kingdom that whoever would offer their son for the sacrifice would get gold equal to the child's weight. The people listened to this strange offer, but no one was ready to offer their child.



Bhadra, the wife of a poor Brahmin, Rushabha Dutt, thought she could offer one of her six children to get rid of poverty. She could live happily with her five children, but her husband opposed giving the child. She did not listen to him and decided to give her youngest son, Amar Kumar, for the sacrifice.



When Queen Chelana heard about this announcement, she was sad and upset that King Shrenik would perform such a sacrifice. She opposed it because she was a true follower of the Jain religion. She also pleaded with the minister and priest not to go through with this offering, but they did not listen. At last, the queen went to Amar Kumar, who was brought forcefully for the sacrifice. She told him not to fear but face the situation and gave him the powerful Navkar Mantra to recite. Reciting the mantra would help him face this situation.



The child knew about the power of Navkar Mantra, so he was fearless and ready to face these circumstances. He started reciting the mantra continuously with deep faith in it.



A priest, who poured Amar with fuel, recited some mantras and lit the fire. Amar Kumar stayed calm, continued to recite Navkar Mantra, and a miracle happened. The fire turned into a divine throne, and Amarkumar was sitting on it smiling.



The king found out about the miracle and bowed to Amar Kumar to ask for forgiveness. The king offered the child a part of his kingdom, but he refused it. Amar Kumar said,

"Nobody is mine, not even my mother, father, or the king. Our relationships are full of selfishness, and only Navkar Mantra protected me. So from now on, I will take shelter in my religion."



He left the place to become a Jain Monk and followed the path taught by Jina for the rest of his life.

