

King Vikramaditya



King Vikramaditya was a good king. He was well known all over the world for his kindness.

One day, he went wandering alone into the forest.

When it got darker, he searched for a place to rest, and suddenly he saw a cow.



The poor cow was shivering in fear. The king wanted to help this poor animal, so he went to rescue it.

As he reached the cow, a lion came to attack it! It roared.

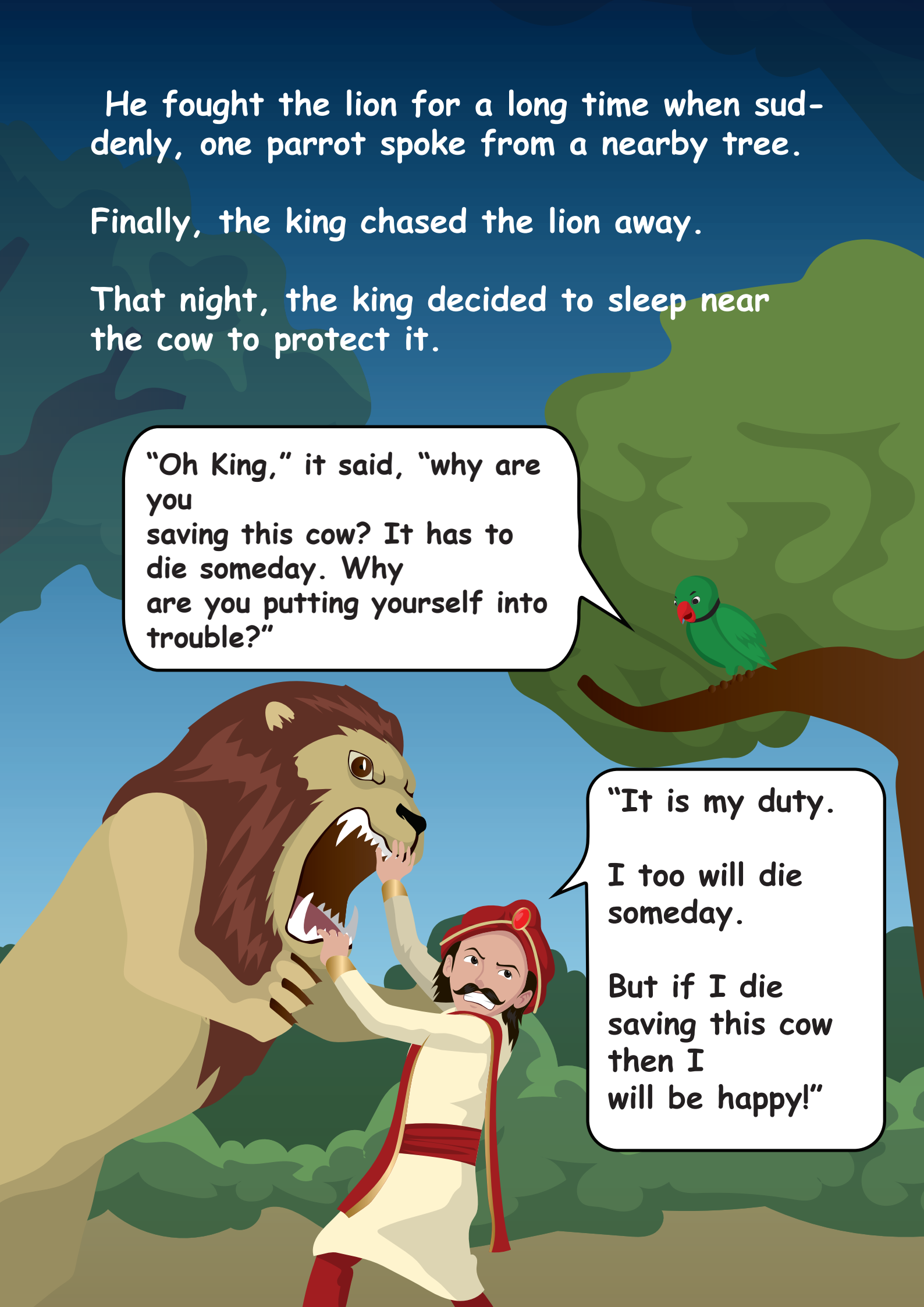
Fearlessly, King Vikramaditya stood in front of the cow to defend it.



He fought the lion for a long time when suddenly, one parrot spoke from a nearby tree.

Finally, the king chased the lion away.

That night, the king decided to sleep near the cow to protect it.



"Oh King," it said, "why are you saving this cow? It has to die someday. Why are you putting yourself into trouble?"

"It is my duty.

I too will die someday.

But if I die saving this cow then I will be happy!"

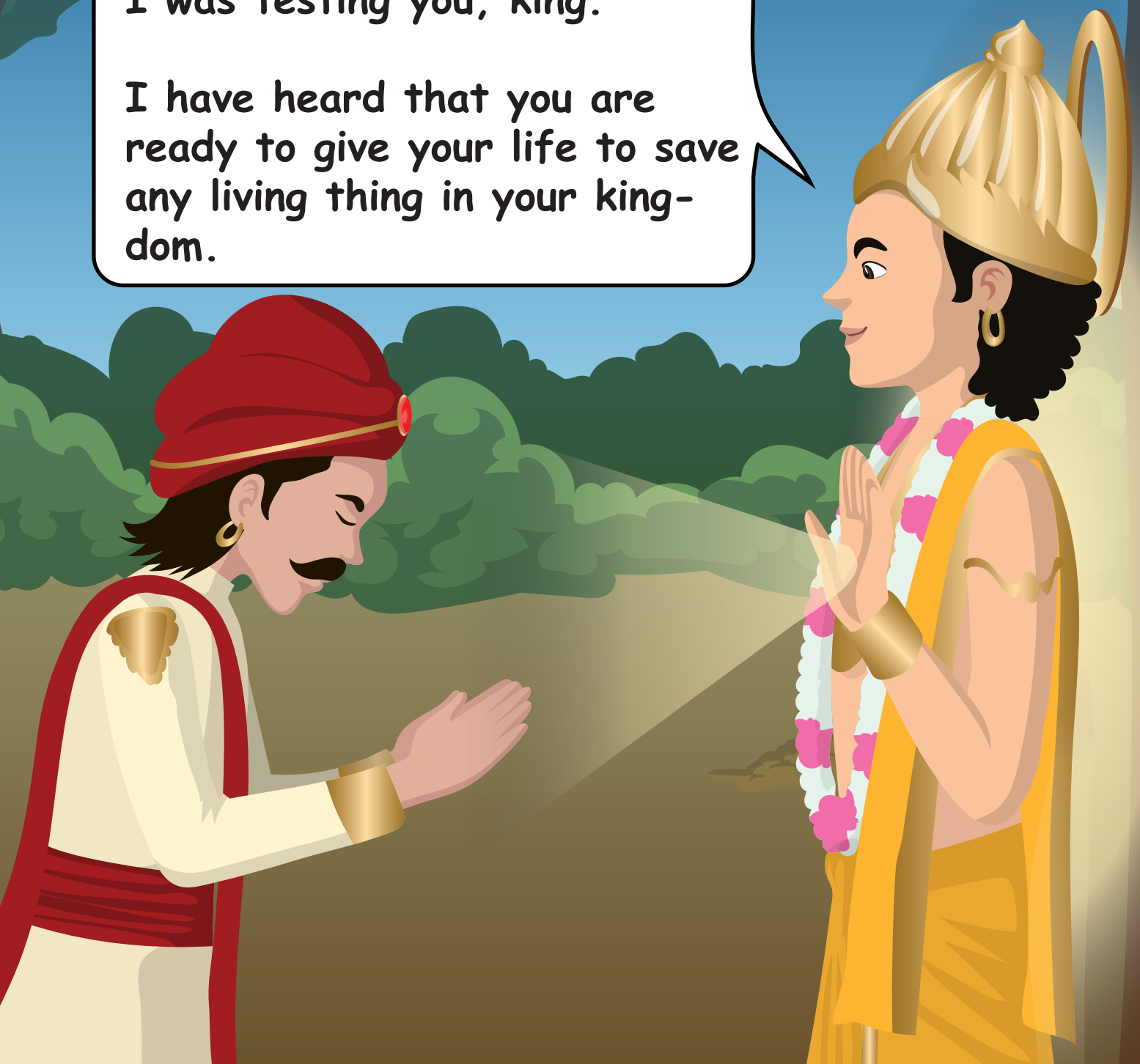
Morning came, and the king awoke.

The cow was nowhere to be seen, and there were no parrots on the trees.

Suddenly, a beautiful light glowed, and there, a god stood in front of the king.

I was testing you, king.

I have heard that you are ready to give your life to save any living thing in your kingdom.



The king refused to take anything, but the god gave him the Kamdhenu in reward.

It was a powerful and magical cow.

On the way home, the king met a poor Brahmin.

Today, I found out that it was true. You can ask for any reward you want.



The kind king gave the man the cow, even though he knew it was very powerful and magical.

Great king, please, give me your cow as I have two small sons to feed.



We too must help all animals and also be kind to all living beings.

