

# Trojan War

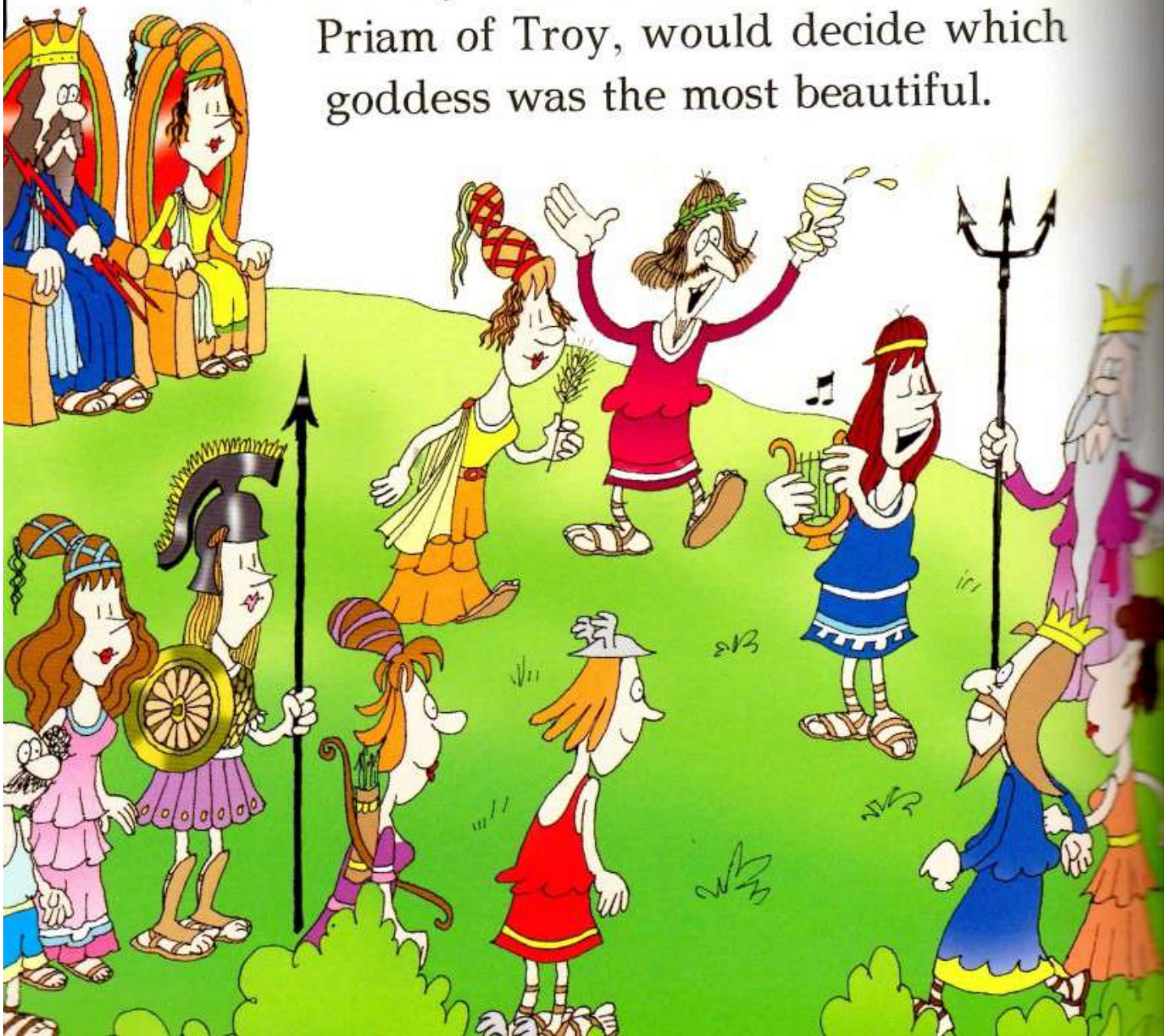
A great feast was held in Phthia. King Peleus was getting married to Thetis, the eldest daughter of Nereus. The matchmaker of this wedding, which was held in Olympus, was Zeus himself. All the gods were invited except Eris, the goddess of discord. So, when she heard about the wedding she was furious. Seeking revenge, she took a golden apple and wrote on it: "To the Fairest", meaning that: the most beautiful goddess should receive it.



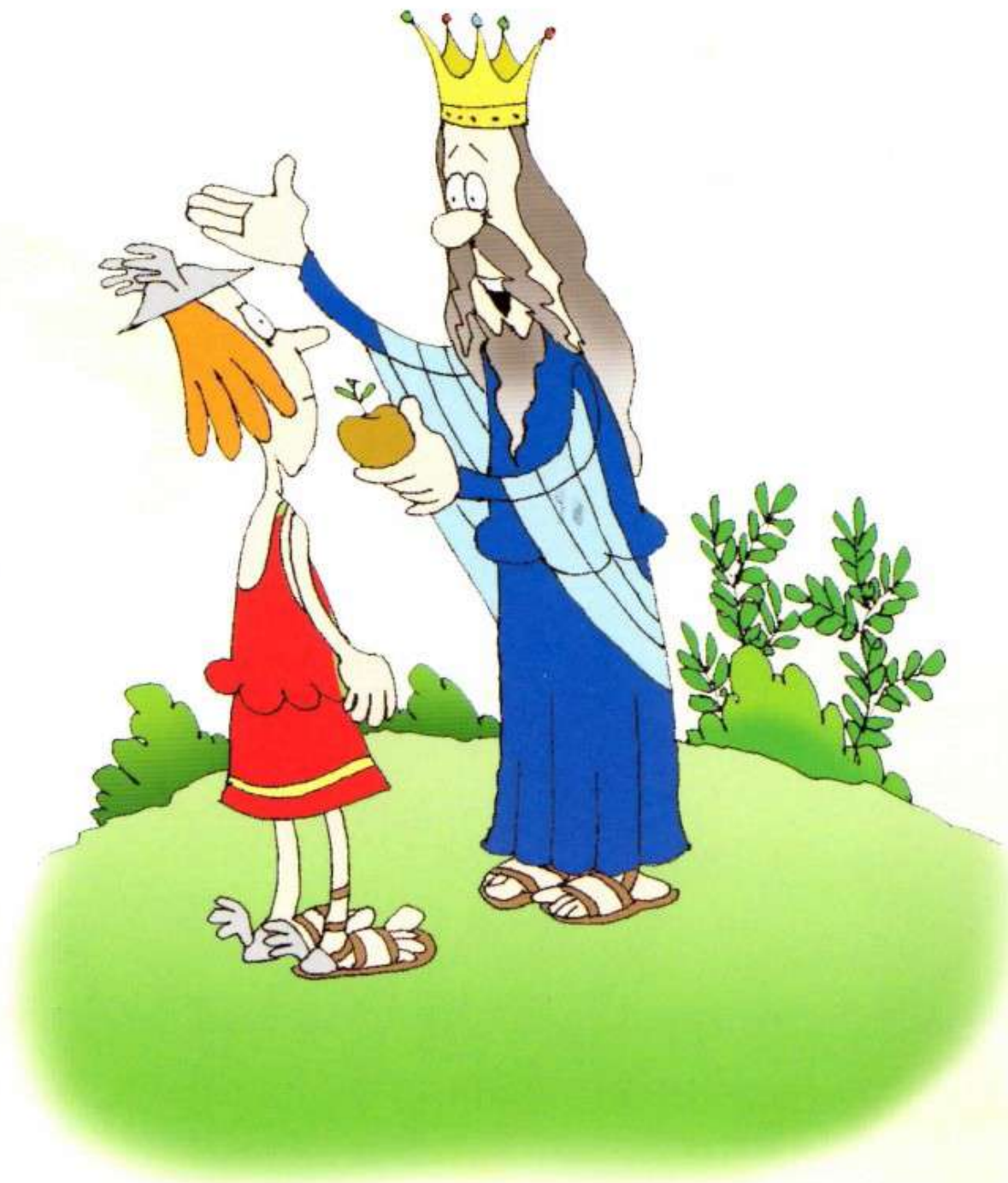


Then she threw the apple at the feet of Hera, Athena and Aphrodite. Each one claimed the apple for herself and eventually they began to quarrel bitterly over the apple.

Then Zeus, and the other gods, found themselves in a rather difficult position. No matter which goddess they favoured, they would earn the enmity of the other two. For this reason, Zeus decided to get someone else to make a judgement. He summoned Hermes and told him to lead the three goddesses to Mount Ida, near Troy. There, Paris, the son of King Priam of Troy, would decide which goddess was the most beautiful.







Hermes immediately carried out Zeus orders and in the blink of an eye, the three goddesses found themselves in front of a handsome shepherd who was none other than Paris. How was it that a prince had become a shepherd? Let us now see! When queen Hecaba, Priam's wife, gave birth to





Paris, her youngest son, the king had a terrible nightmare in which he saw that this child would bring about the destruction of Troy. To avoid this coming true, Priam sent his son off to the mountain, where he was raised by a bear. When he grew up, he became a shepherd.

### **Aphrodite wins the Apple of Discord**

When Paris saw the goddesses and Hermes with his winged sandals, he was struck dumb. Then Hermes approached him and explained what he



had to do. The three goddesses, astonished by Paris' good looks, each tried to win him over, so they resorted to bribes. Hera promised him that if she was offered that apple she would make him ruler of the whole world. Athena promised





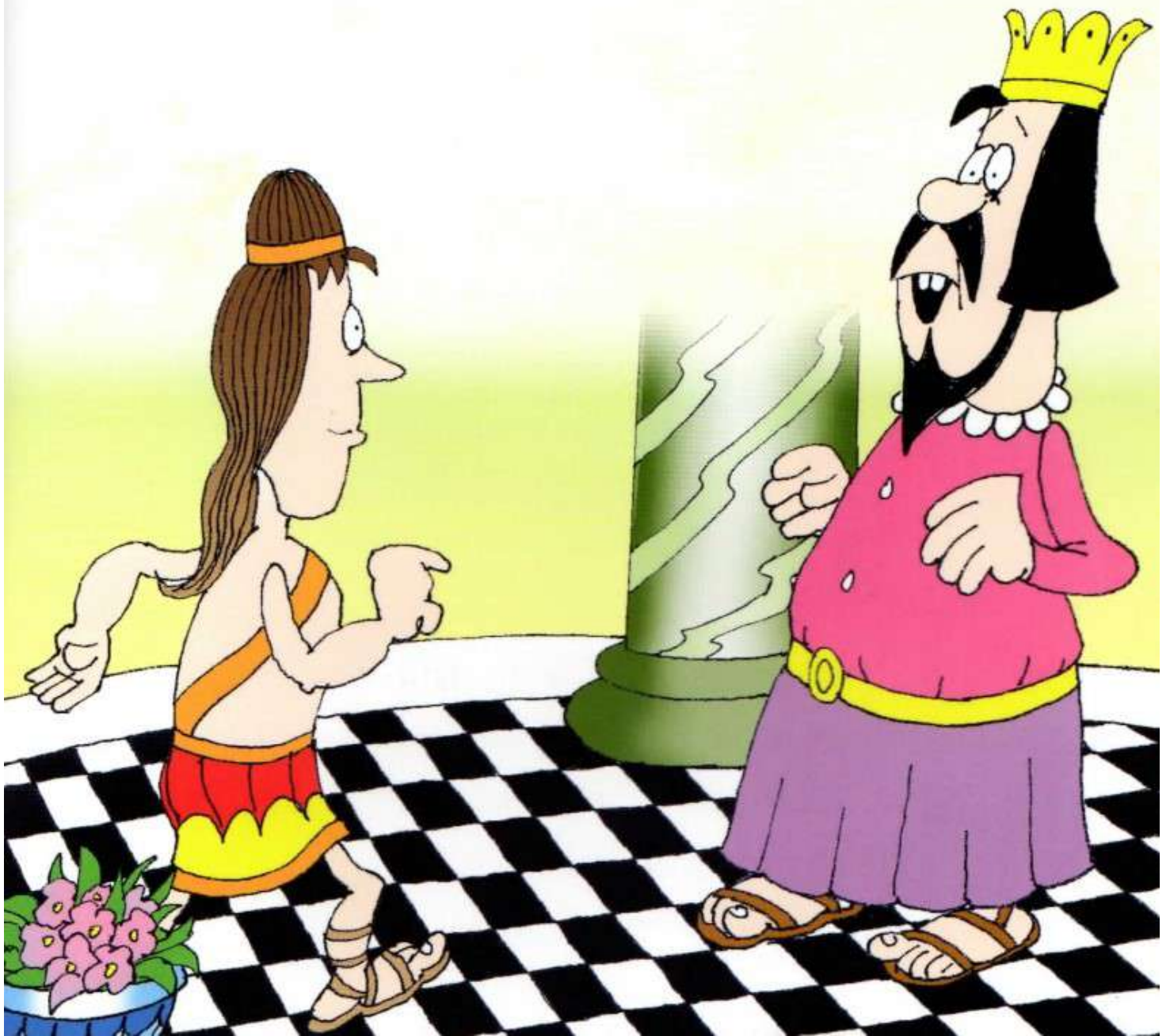


to make him wise, and, finally, Aphrodite promised him the love of the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen, Queen of Sparta. Paris thought for a moment and then, kneeling before Aphrodite, offered her the golden apple.

## The Abduction of Helen

It was not long before Paris was the winner of an archery competition held in Troy. When Priam was about to crown him victor, he asked the young man what his lineage was.

Then Paris told him the story of his life, and that he was raised by a bear. Priam was touched as he realised that the young man standing in front of him was his son and decided to welcome



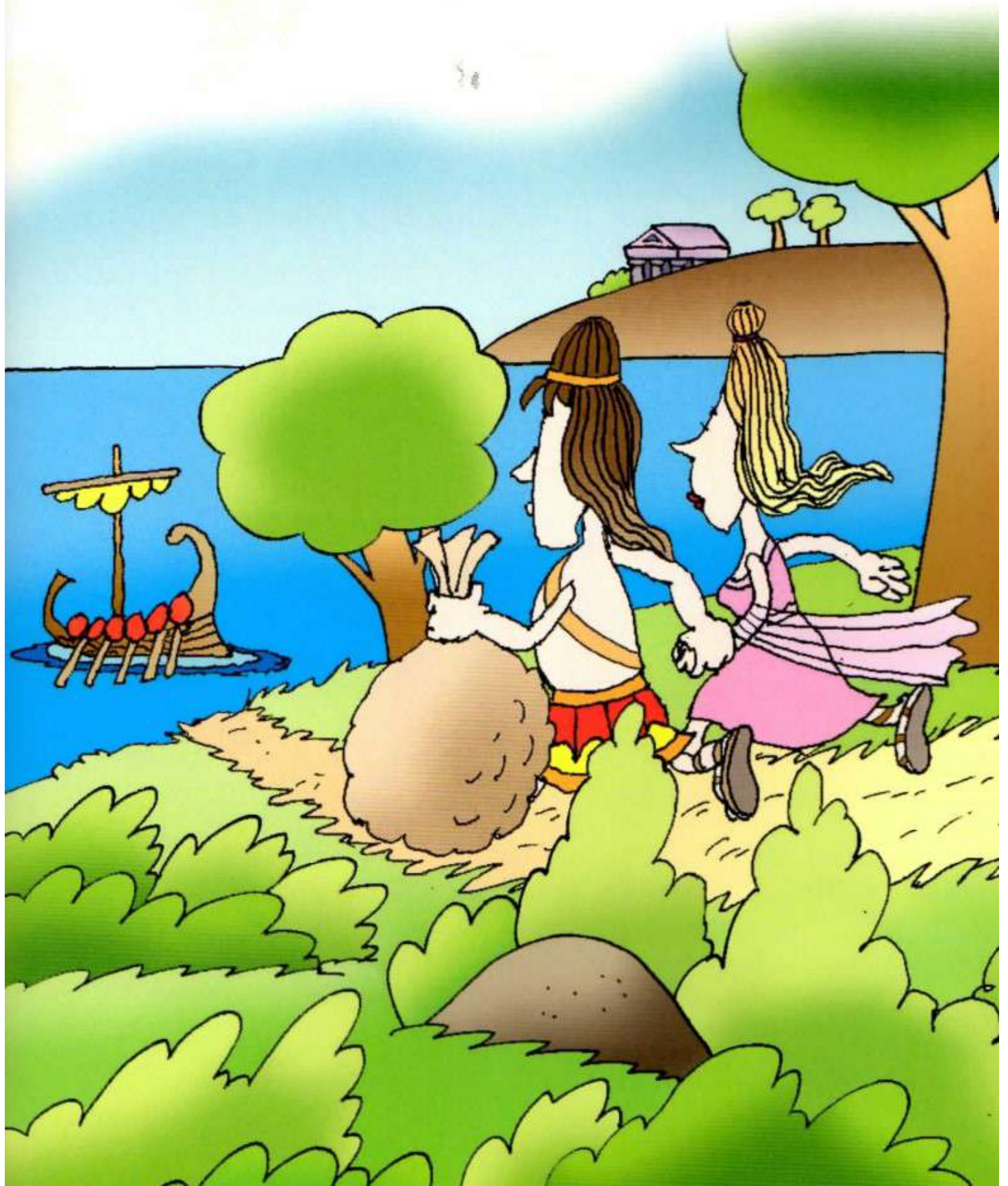




him into his family. Paris, all excited about his new life, threw himself into the pleasures and luxuries of the palace. Eventually, he told his father that he wanted to travel and visit new places. Of course, he did not reveal his real purpose which was to seize Helen of Sparta.



The journey was not easy. However, with the help of Aphrodite, Paris managed to reach Sparta. There, he was welcomed warmly by King Menelaus. But, when the king had to leave Sparta for a while, Paris seized the opportunity





and took Helen as well as treasure from the palace and returned to Troy.

When Menelaus heard what had happened, he was outraged and asked all other kings of Greece to help him. So, together they decided to repay this insult by going to war against Troy. They gathered at the harbour of Aulis in preparation for their voyage. The only king absent was Achilles, whose mother, Thetis, had hidden him in the palace of the King of Skyros. However, wily Odysseus discovered him and persuaded him to follow them.

