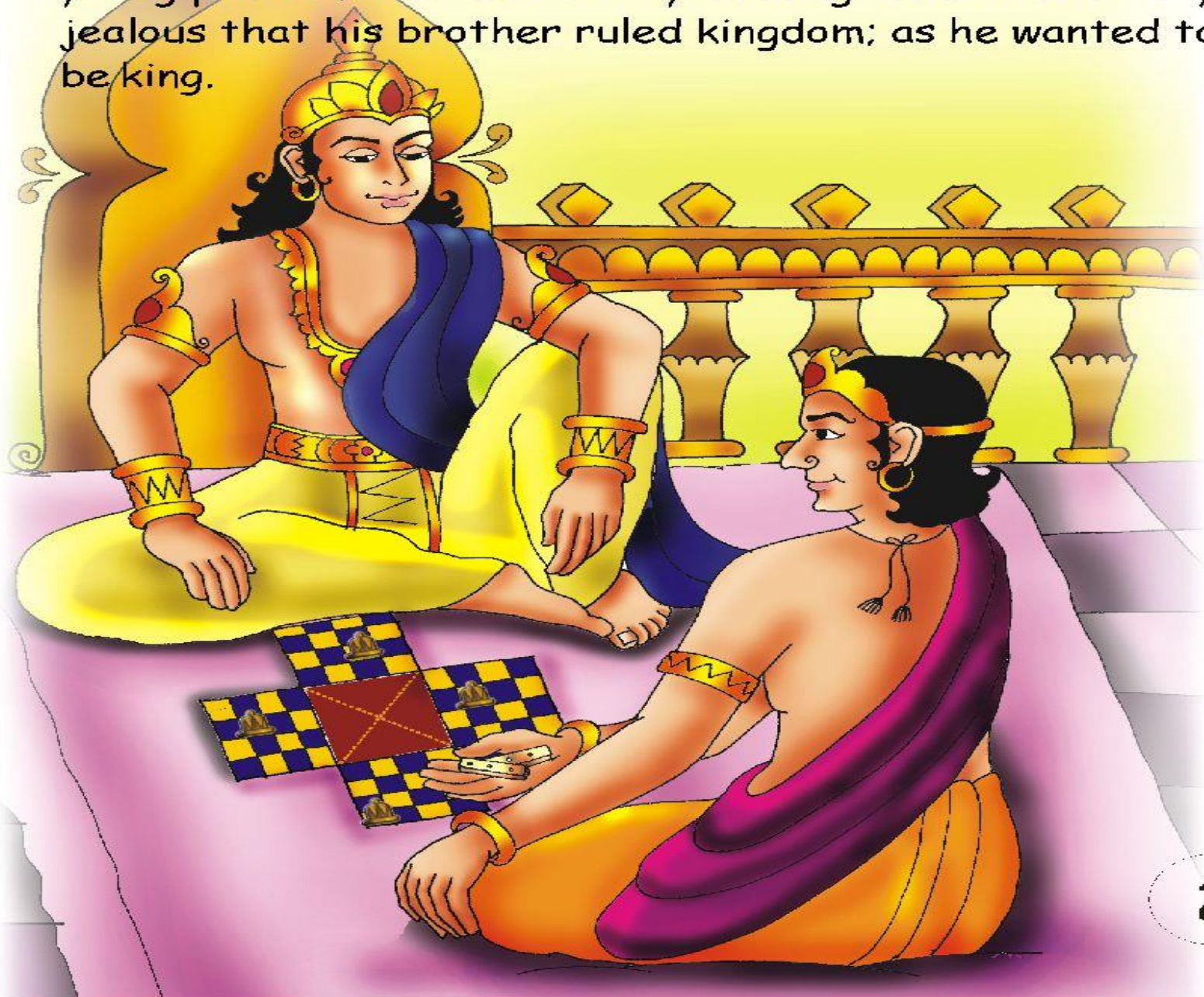


NAL DAMYANTI

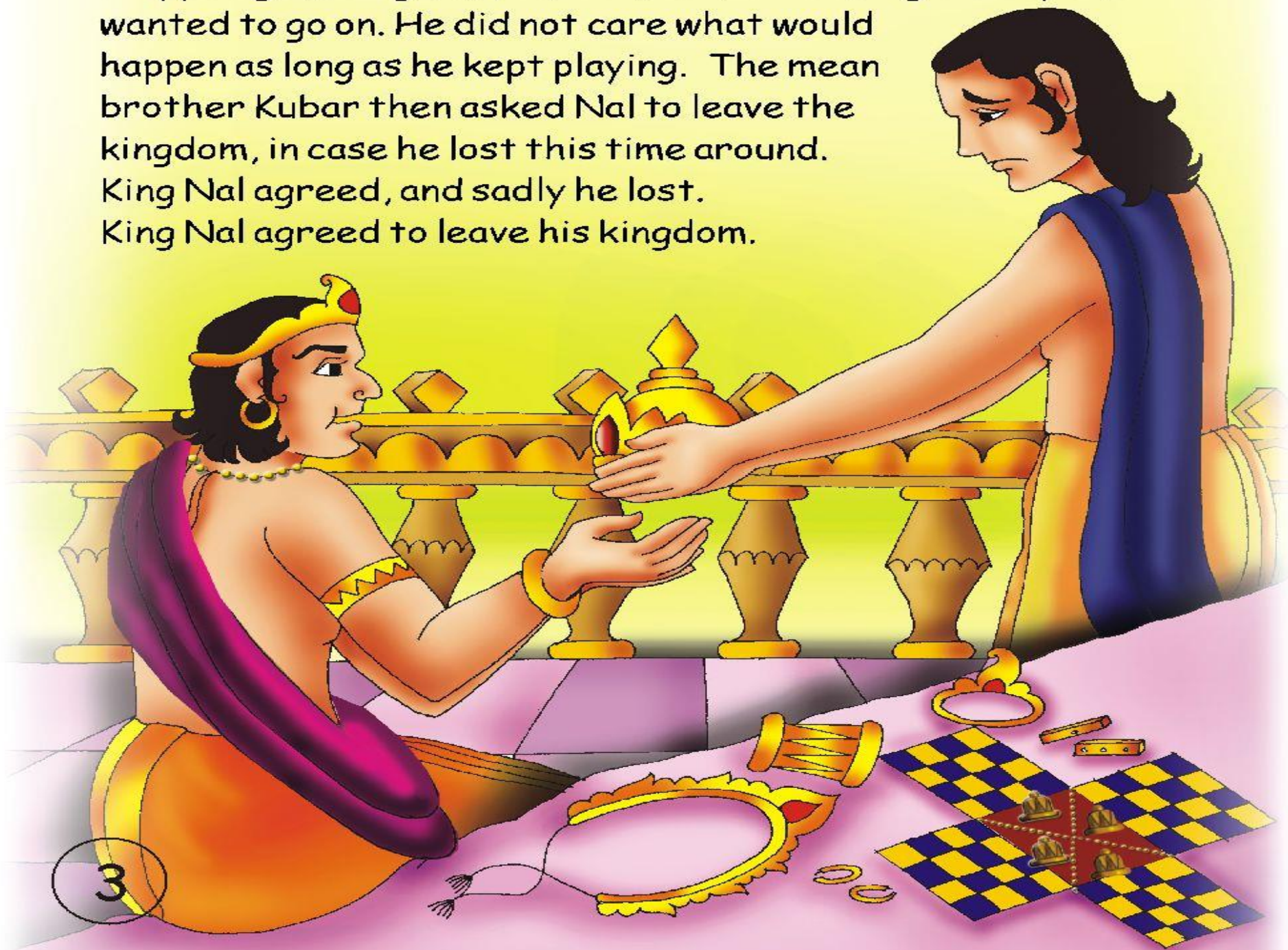


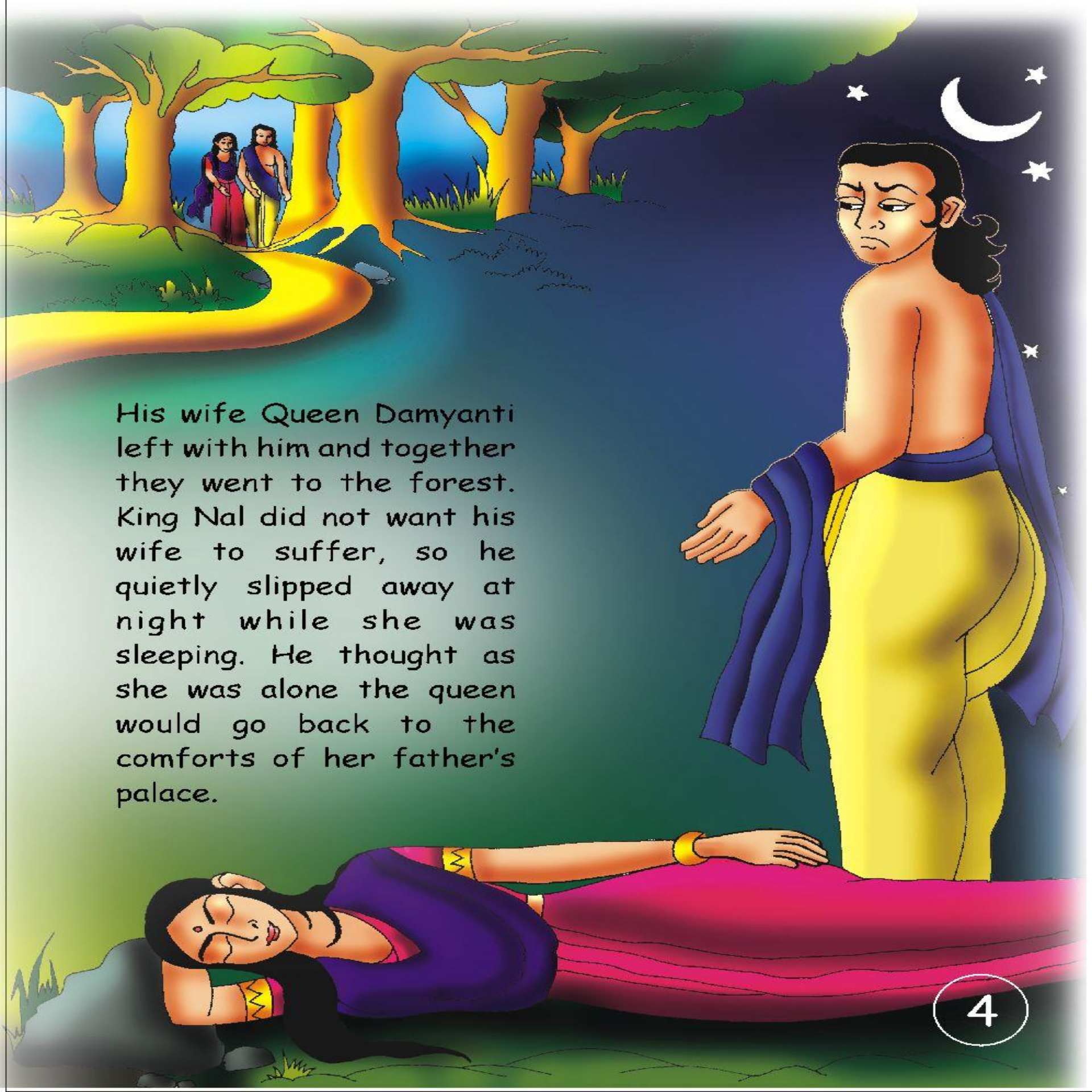
Long - long ago in the kingdom of Ayodhya, there lived a good king called Nal. He was a very noble and brave. His subjects liked him because he was a wise ruler. He married the most beautiful Princess Damyanti, the daughter of King Bhim. She was very wise and good. The two were very happy together. The kingdom was also peaceful.

King Nal had one terrible fault. He was very fond of gambling. This is a very bad habit, it can make even clever and wise people forget about their actions. Gamblers often give away things that are very precious to them. They do not think before their actions. One day King Nal began gambling with his younger brother, Kubar. The young prince Kubar was a very cunning man. he was very jealous that his brother ruled kingdom; as he wanted to be king.



The two brothers gambled for very long. King Nal began losing, but he did not want to give up the game. He lost all his money, yet he did not want to stop, so without thinking he put up his kingdom Ayodhya. The mean and jealous Kubar won the kingdom from him. King Nal should have stopped gambling now, but he was not thinking clearly and wanted to go on. He did not care what would happen as long as he kept playing. The mean brother Kubar then asked Nal to leave the kingdom, in case he lost this time around. King Nal agreed, and sadly he lost. King Nal agreed to leave his kingdom.





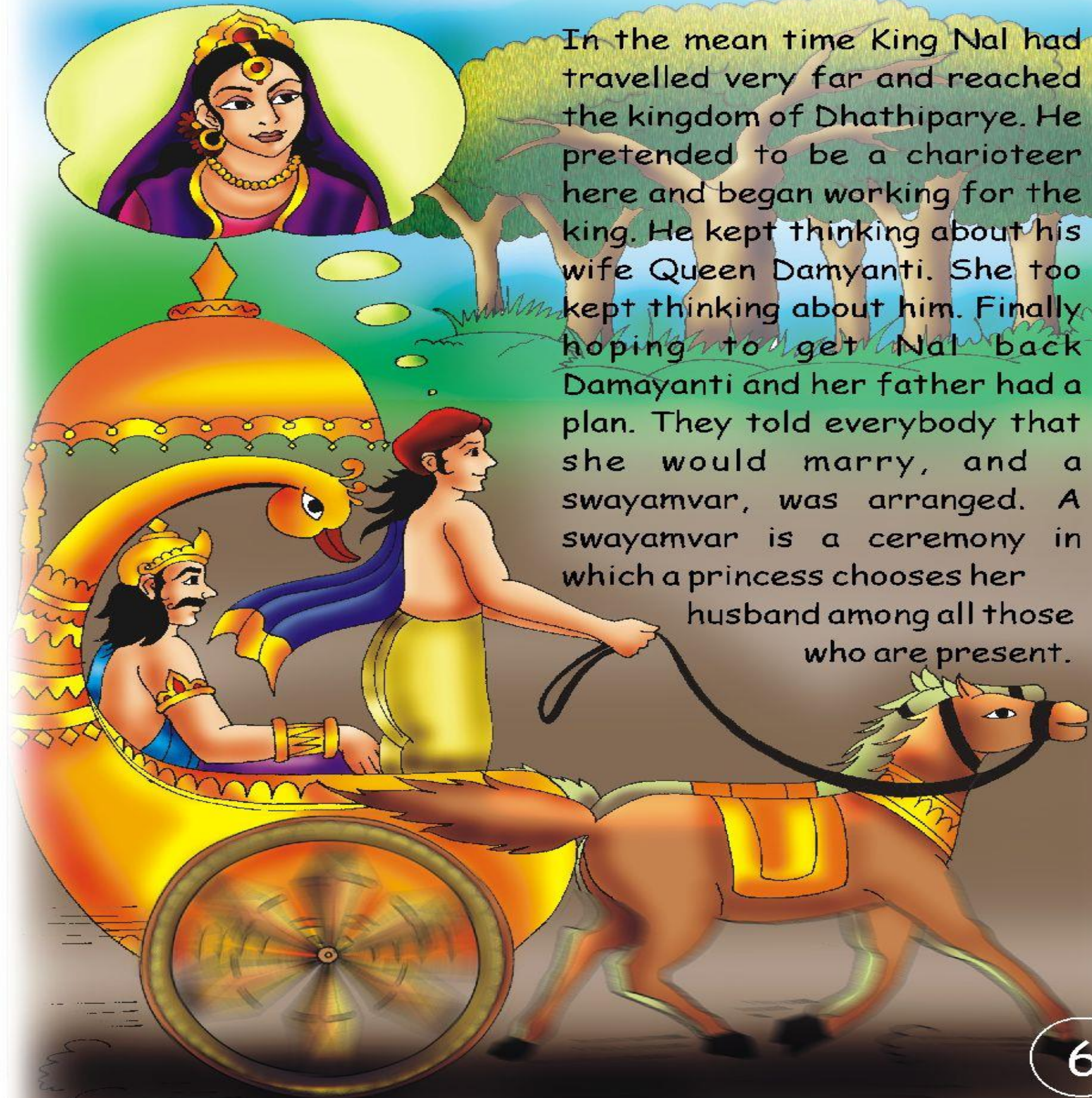
His wife Queen Damyanti left with him and together they went to the forest. King Nal did not want his wife to suffer, so he quietly slipped away at night while she was sleeping. He thought as she was alone the queen would go back to the comforts of her father's palace.



Queen Damyanti was very sad when the king left, and so she decided to go in search of her husband. She searched far and wide, yet she could not find him. Her life became even more difficult; many people were very cruel to her. Her father King Bhim finally found her and forced her to come back to his palace.



In the mean time King Nal had travelled very far and reached the kingdom of Dhathiparye. He pretended to be a charioteer here and began working for the king. He kept thinking about his wife Queen Damyanti. She too kept thinking about him. Finally hoping to get Nal back Damayanti and her father had a plan. They told everybody that she would marry, and a swayamvar, was arranged. A swayamvar is a ceremony in which a princess chooses her husband among all those who are present.



The time given for all the kings and princes to reach kingdom was very little. Damayanti and her father knew that only a clever charioteer could reach the kingdom in such little time. King Nal was the best charioteer of his time. When he heard the news he raced to King Bhim's kingdom. Finally King Nal and Damyanti were together. They returned to rule Ayodhya. They were very good rulers. This story teaches us that we must think before our actions. Everything that we do can trouble us or somebody else.

You must think before you do anything, you must understand whether it will hurt you or anyone else.

