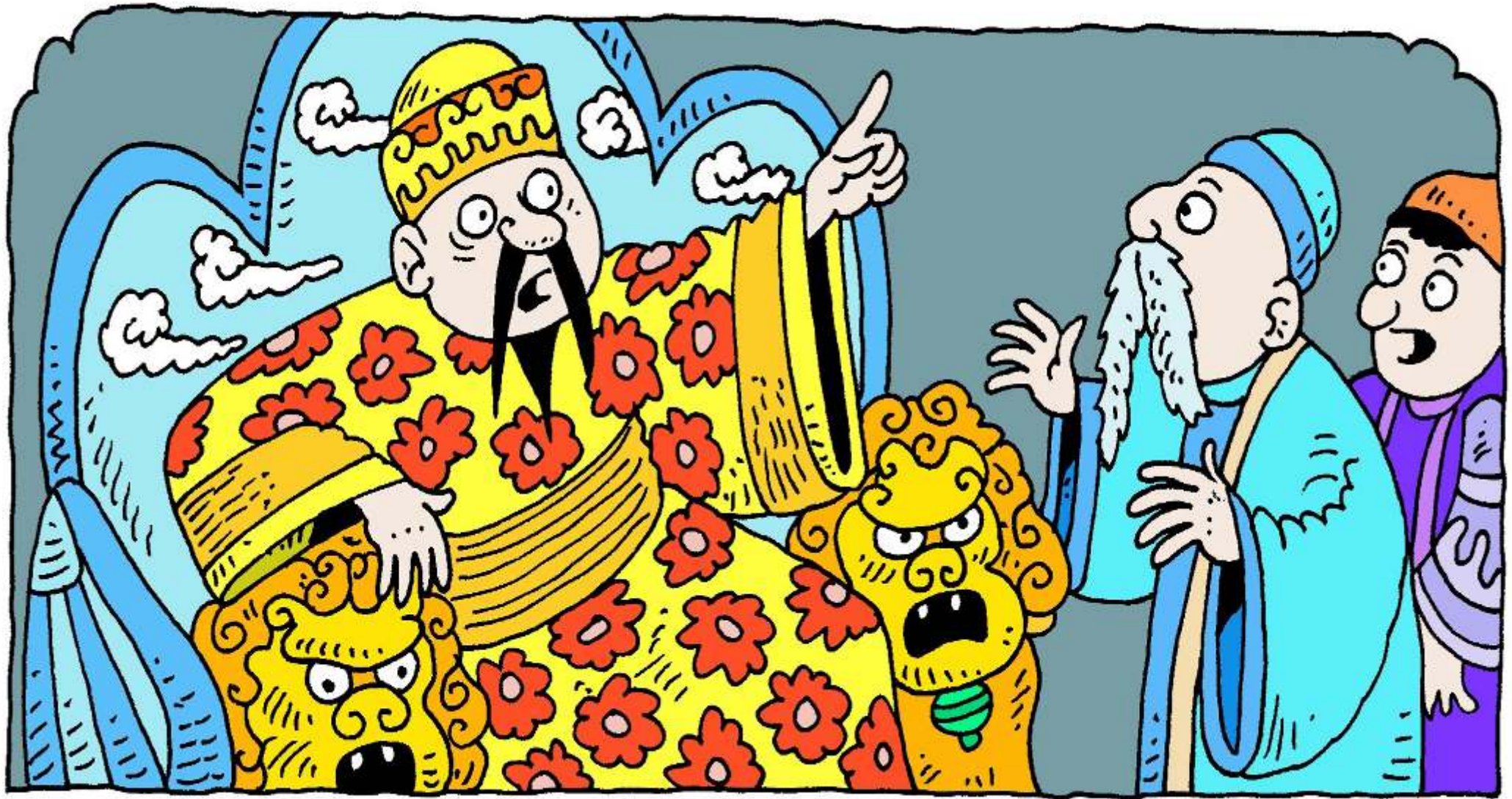




The King was getting very old.
He sent out his messengers
inviting everyone, in his kingdom, to the castle.
He was choosing the next king.



Lots of people went to the castle
in their VERY best clothes,
feeling VERY important,
expecting that THEY would be the next King.



The King made an announcement.
“I need to choose a new king.
To help me find the best person
I have an important job for all of you to do.



I have some very special seeds.
Take only ONE seed each.
Plant it, water it and make it grow well.
Bring your plant back in one year.”



Everyone lined up to get one seed.
A little boy lined up too.
Holding the special seed carefully,
he ran home to show his mother.



The boy planted the seed in a pot.
For one whole year
he took good care of it.
But that seed did NOT grow!



The next year, everyone took
their amazing plants to the King.
The boy was the only one with an empty pot.
Then the King stopped in front of the boy



“You will be the next king,” he said.
“I boiled all the seeds. None could EVER grow.
You are the only honest person here.
You alone can be trusted with this important job.”