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# How do we weigh Appukuttan?

Indu Harikumar



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Story and Illustrations: Indu Harikumar



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Adapted from a Chinese folktale

Story and Illustrations: Indu Harikumar

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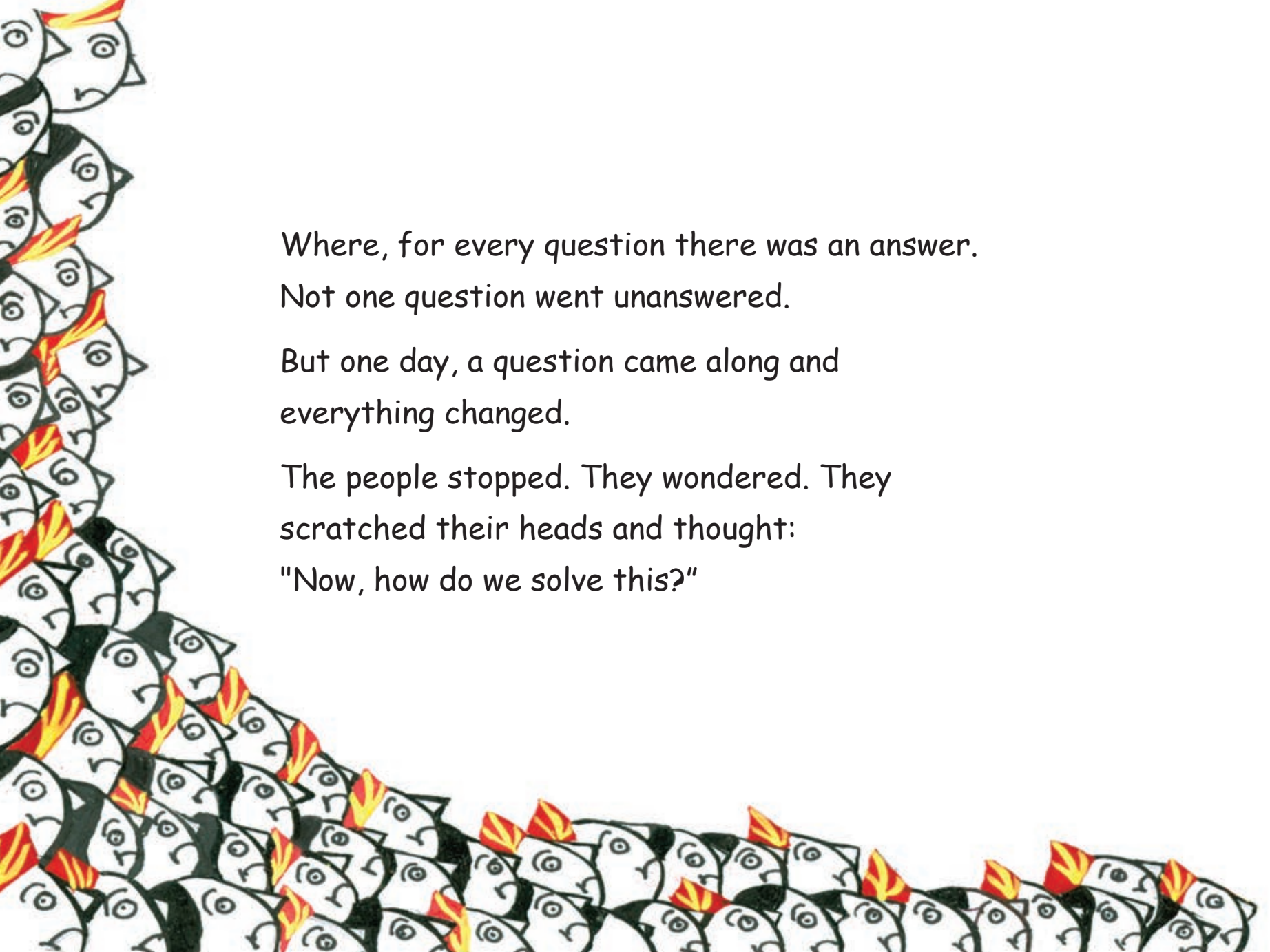
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This story is from a special  
kingdom. A happy and  
prosperous kingdom.  
A kingdom of answers...



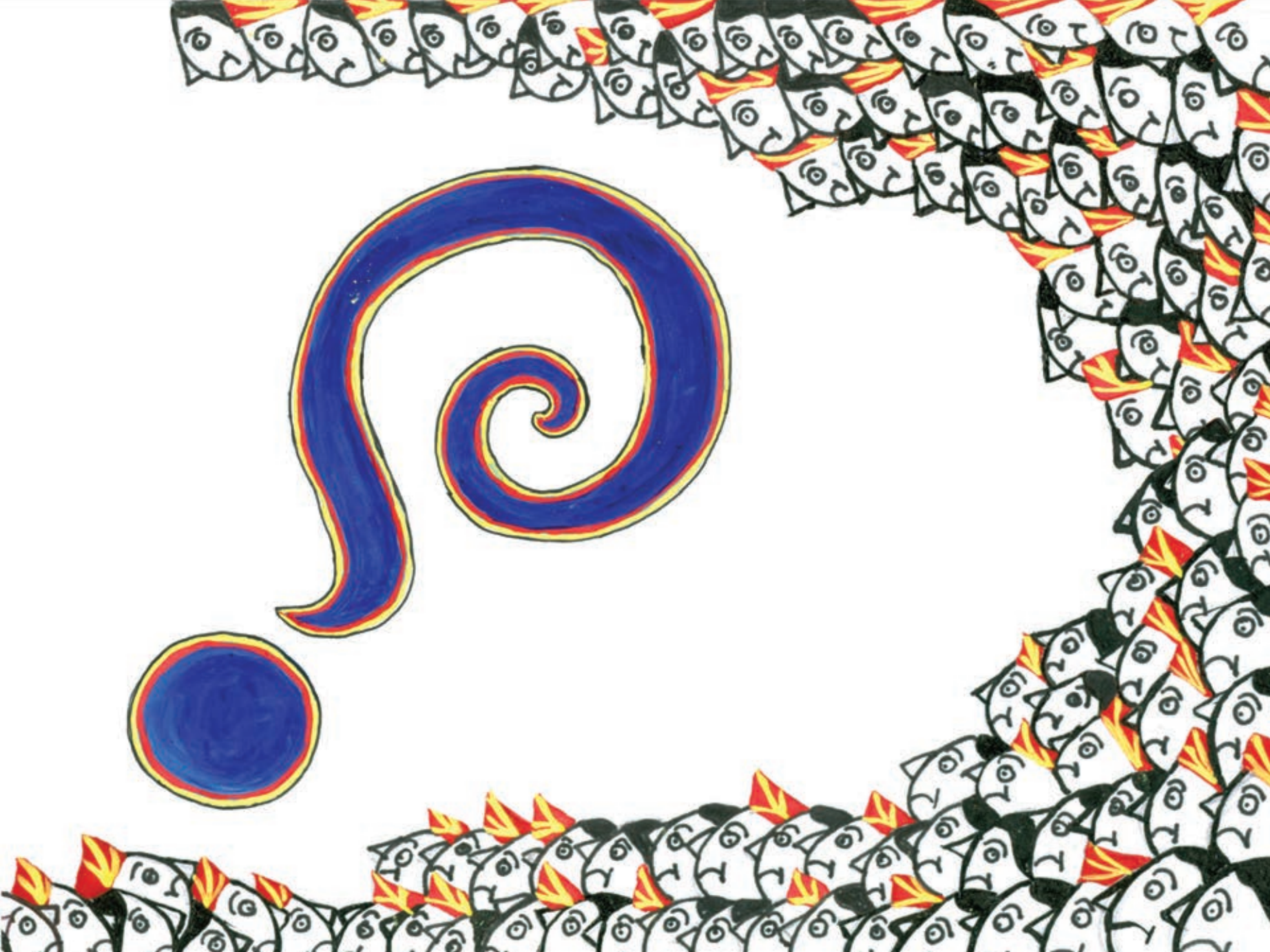
Where, for every question there was an answer.

Not one question went unanswered.

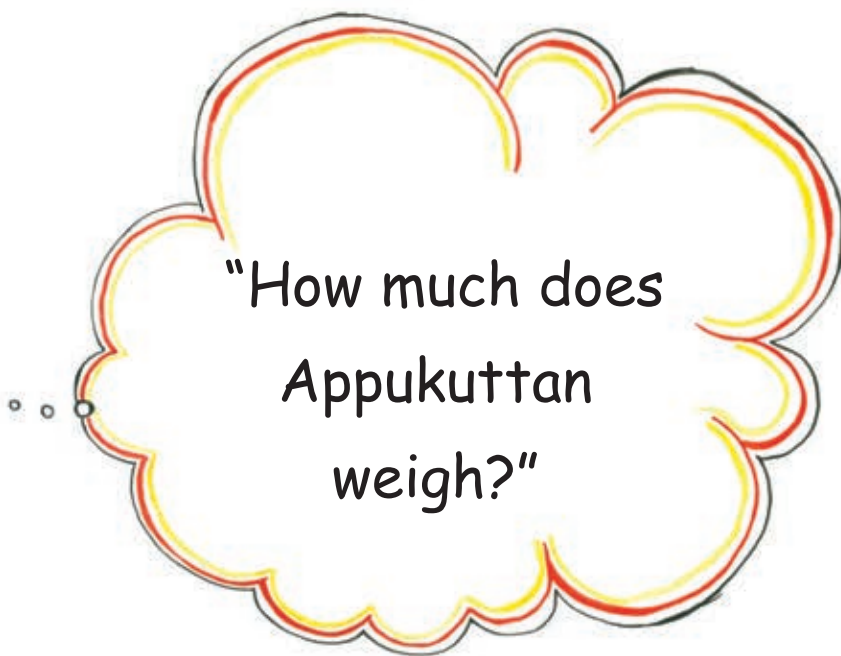
But one day, a question came along and  
everything changed.

The people stopped. They wondered. They  
scratched their heads and thought:

"Now, how do we solve this?"

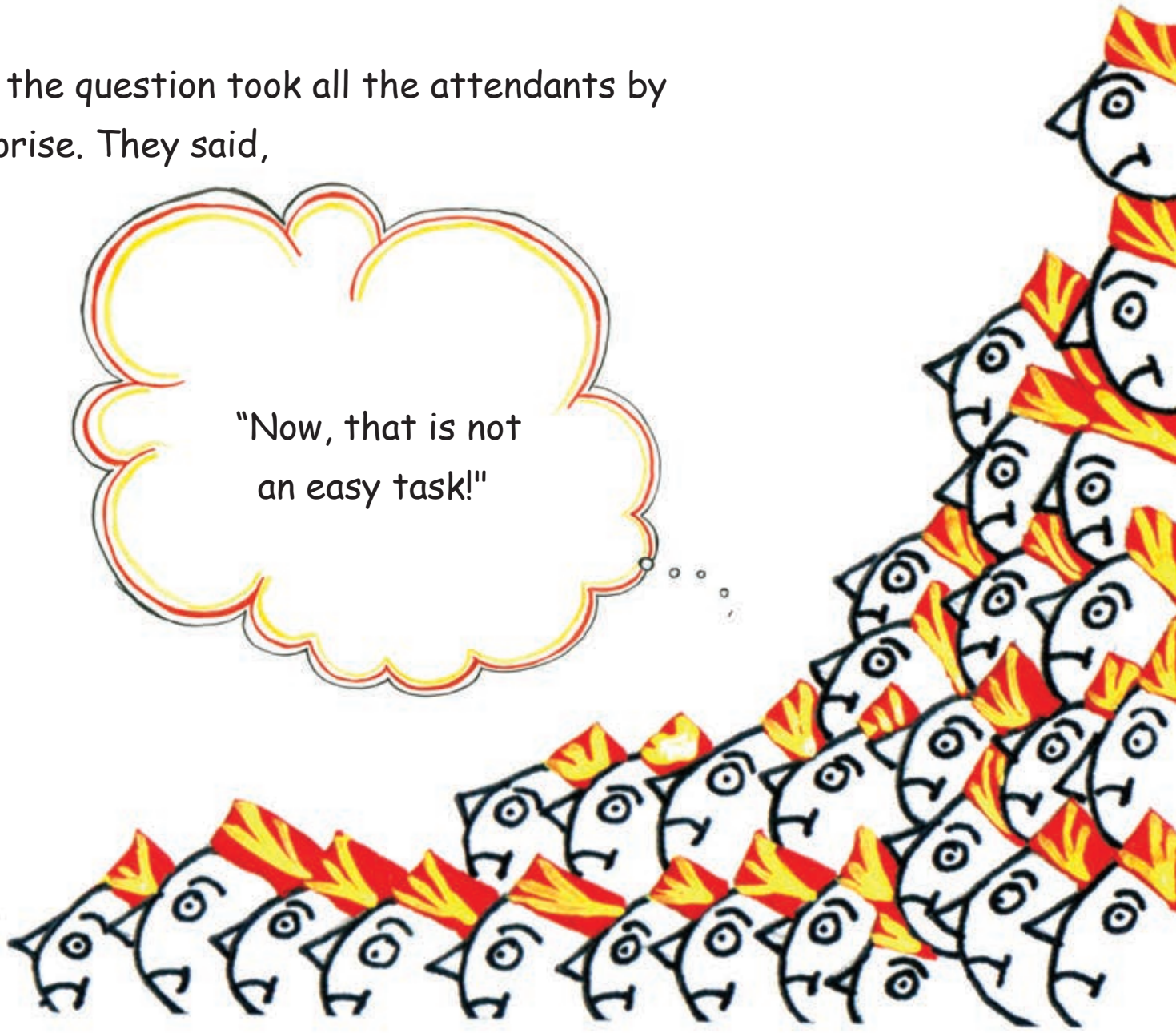


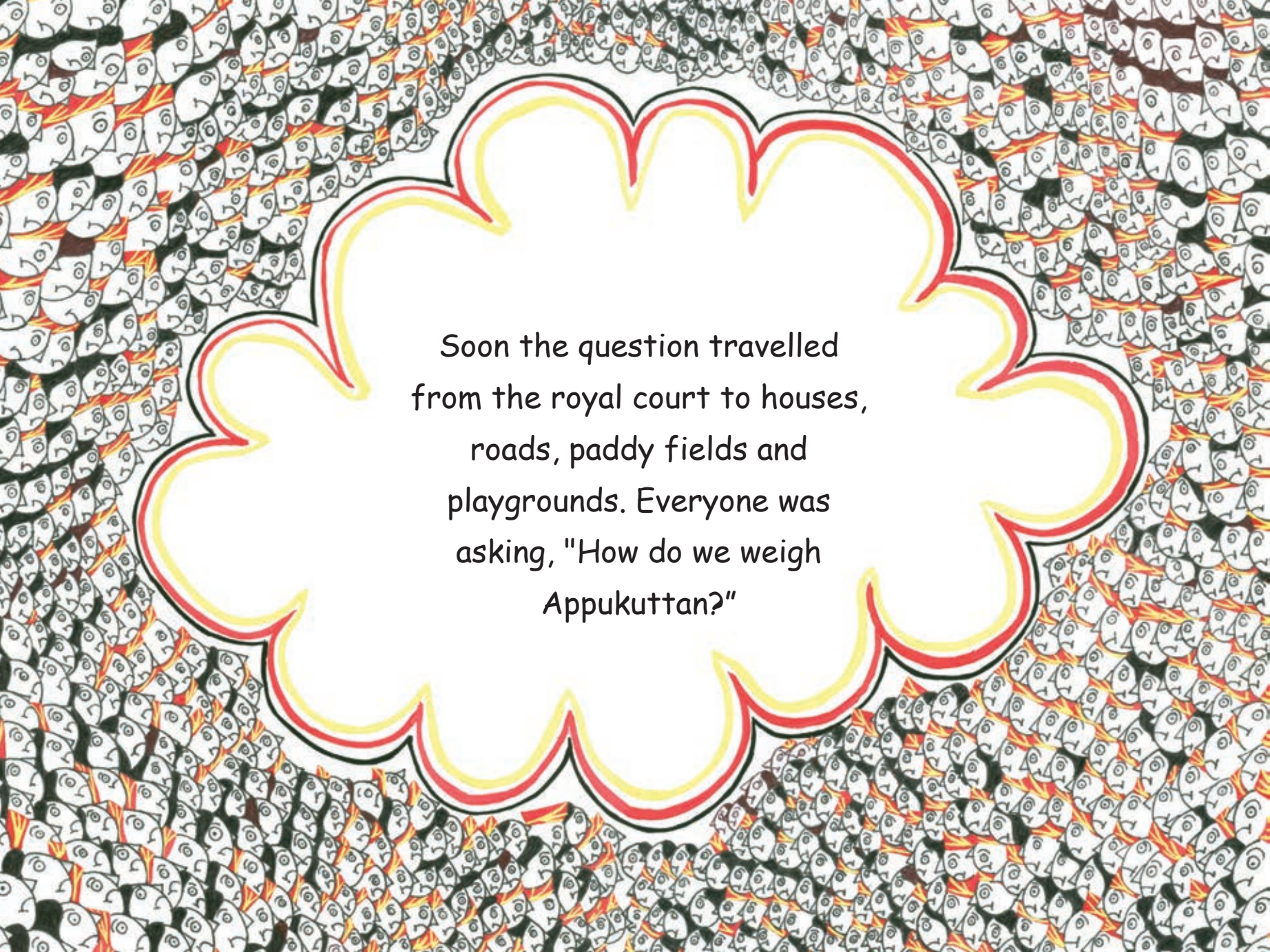
It all started when the youngest prince was feeding Appukuttan. As Appu enjoyed his delicious breakfast, a question bothered the little prince's mind. The question was quite simple. He wanted to know -



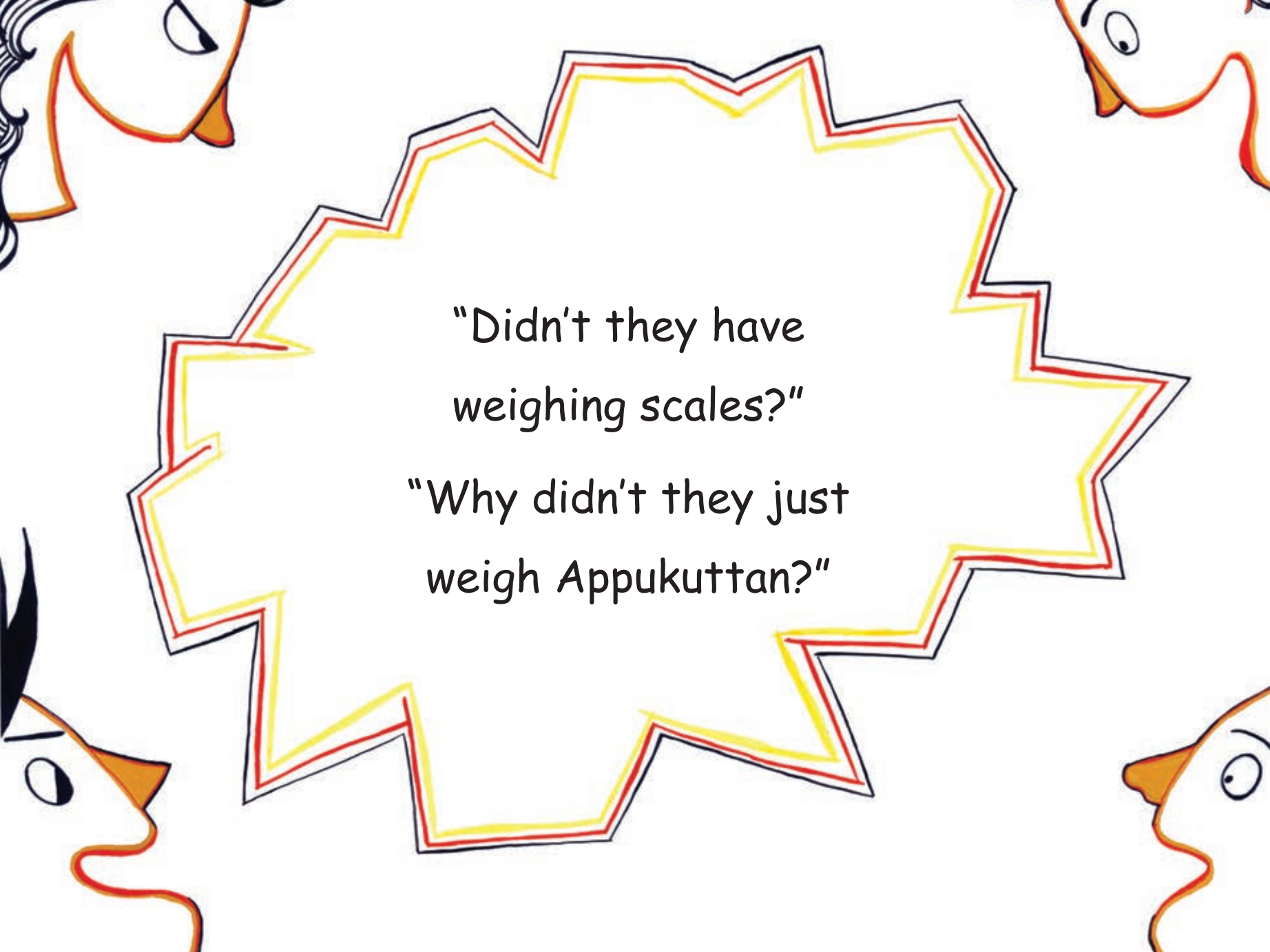
But the question took all the attendants by surprise. They said,

"Now, that is not an easy task!"





Soon the question travelled  
from the royal court to houses,  
roads, paddy fields and  
playgrounds. Everyone was  
asking, "How do we weigh  
Appukuttan?"



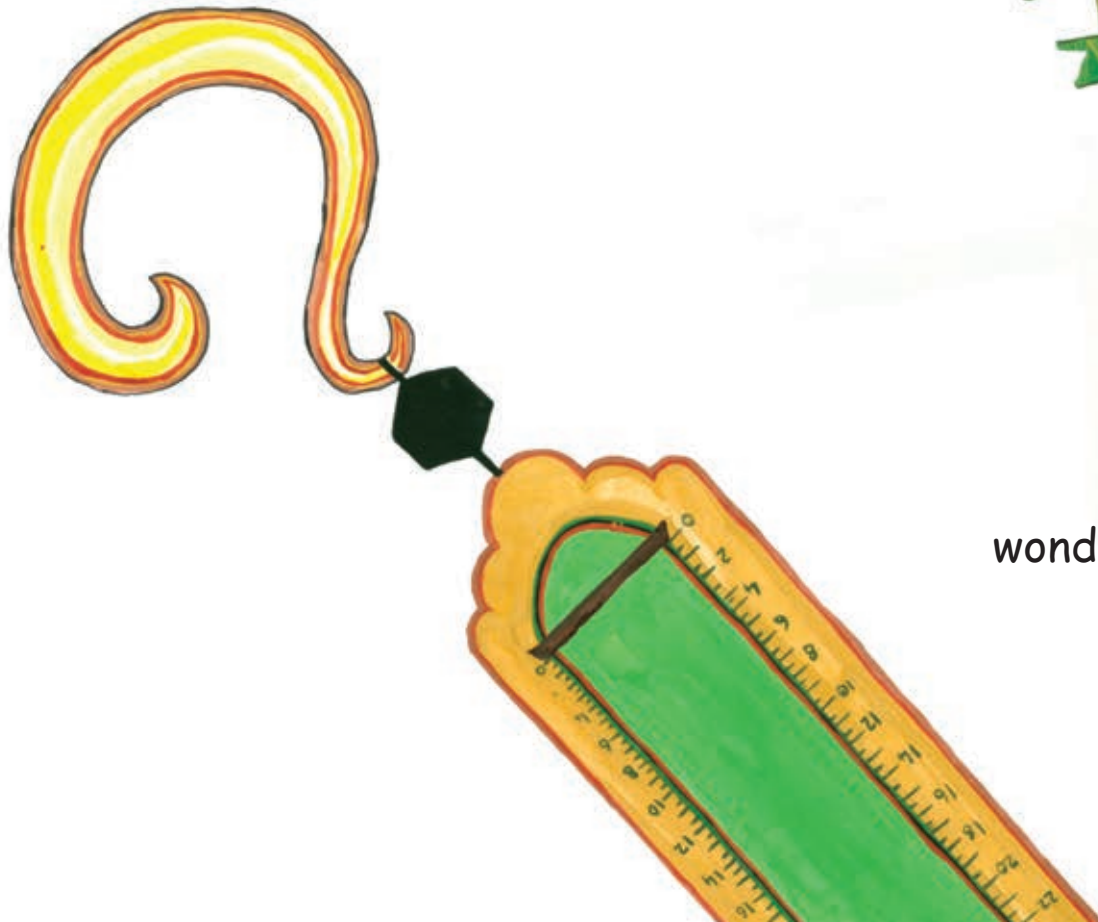
"Didn't they have  
weighing scales?"

"Why didn't they just  
weigh Appukuttan?"

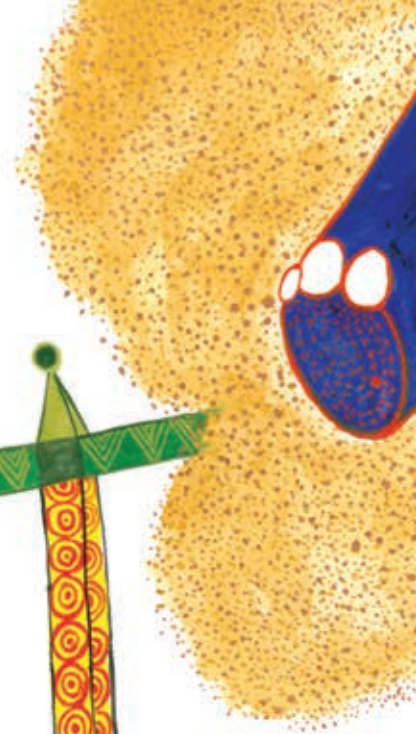


They tried. They were not the kind who would give up easily. Weighing scales were specially made. Some were too small.

And some broke when  
Appu stomped in.



Some other people  
wondered, "How do we weigh  
Appukuttan with this?"





You may have guessed, we are talking about an elephant. Not just any other elephant - a royal elephant of a prosperous kingdom.

And this royal elephant's weight became a royal worry.



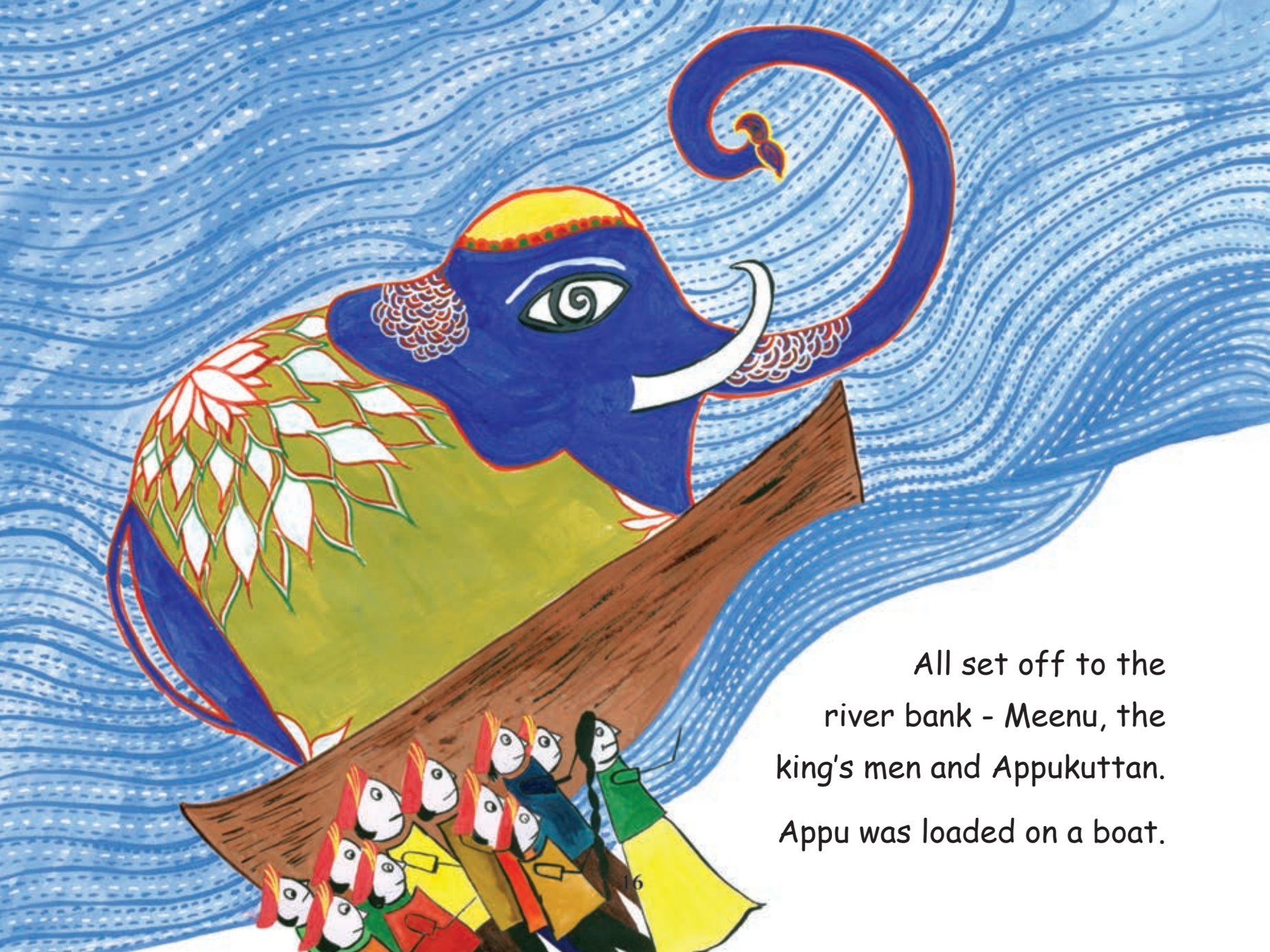


That's when little Meenu had an idea.  
She thought, "Now, that is simple."  
So she walked all the way to the court.

The king heard her out. He heard and thought.  
And thought and said,

"Carry out Meenu's orders.  
Whether it works or not.  
What a smart girl!"





All set off to the  
river bank - Meenu, the  
king's men and Appukuttan.  
Appu was loaded on a boat.

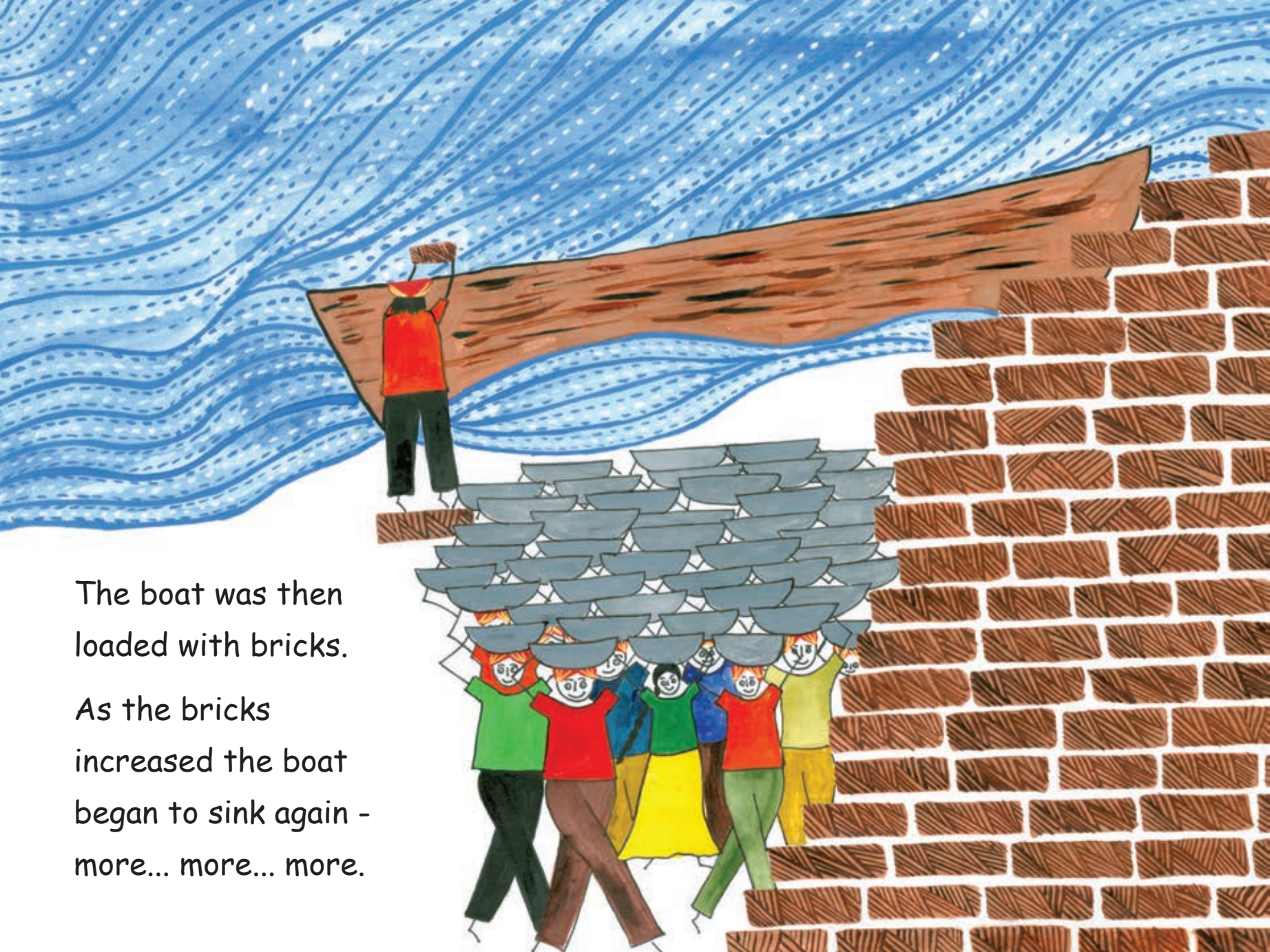
The boat began to sink.

More... more... more...

When it stopped sinking,  
Meenu made a mark at the  
point till where the boat  
had sunk.

Appu was unloaded.

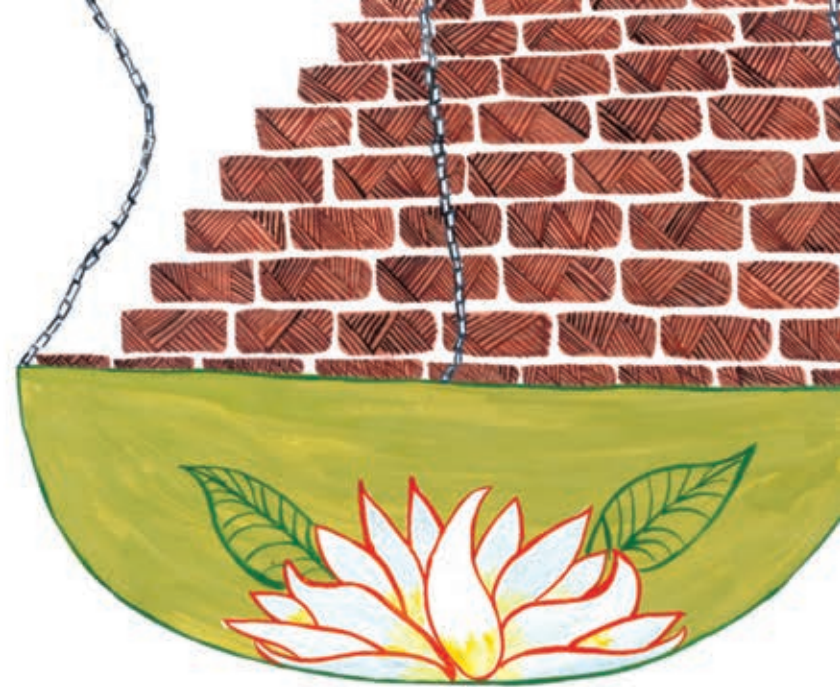




The boat was then loaded with bricks.

As the bricks increased the boat began to sink again - more... more... more.

When it sank till the mark,  
Meenu called out, "Stop, stop!  
No more bricks."



The bricks were then weighed.  
And that is how they found out  
Appukuttan's weight.

Do you know how much he weighed?



5,000 kilos...

A full 5,000 kilos!

As the young prince fed Appukuttan his breakfast, a question popped in his head, "How much does Appu weigh?"

Soon the whole kingdom got busy trying to solve this riddle.

Finally, little Meenu found the answer. Join in and find out how...

Indu Harikumar is a children's writer and illustrator who enjoys working with children. This is her first picture book.

  
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