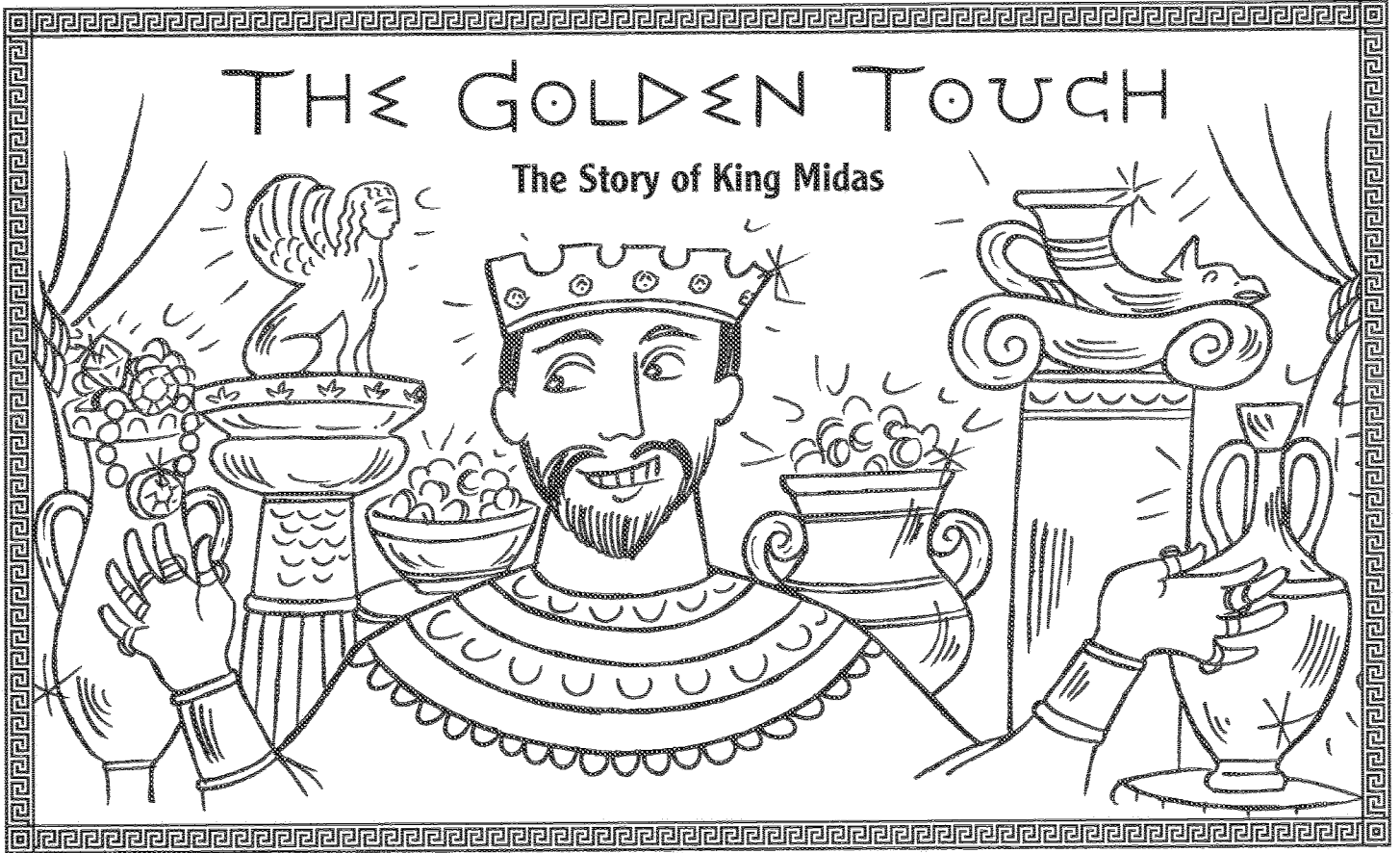


# THE GOLDEN TOUCH

The Story of King Midas



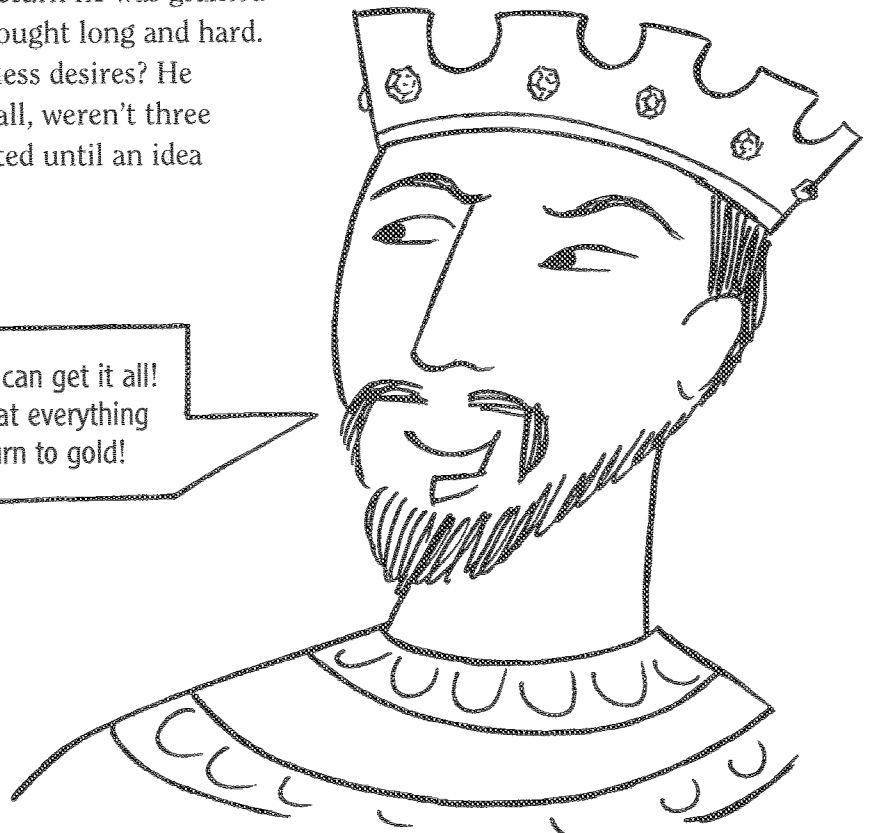
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Midas once did a favor for a god, and in return he was granted one wish—anything he wanted. Midas thought long and hard.

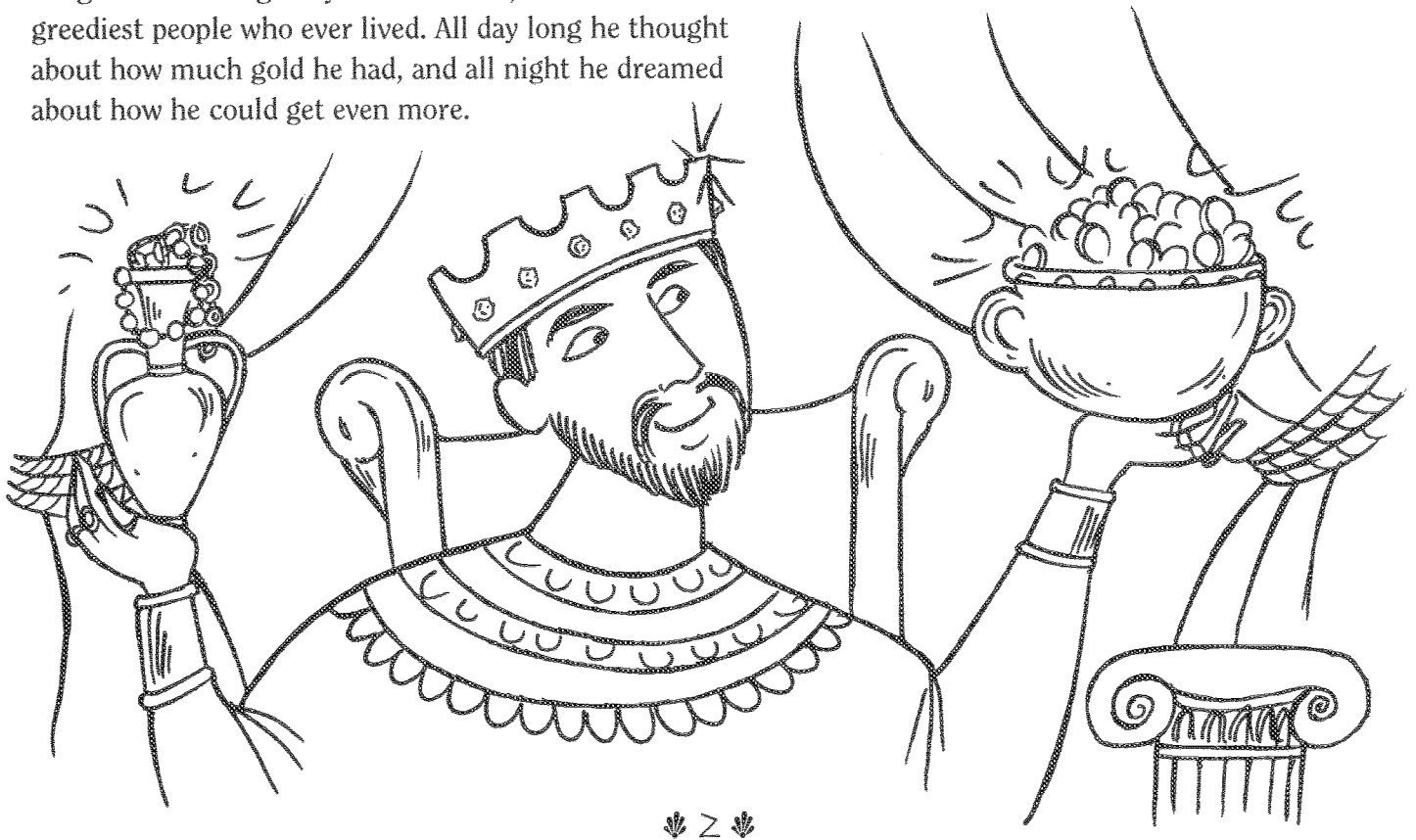
How could one wish satisfy his countless desires? He thought he deserved at least three. After all, weren't three wishes the standard reward? He felt cheated until an idea struck him like a flash.



I know how I can get it all!  
My wish is that everything  
I touch will turn to gold!

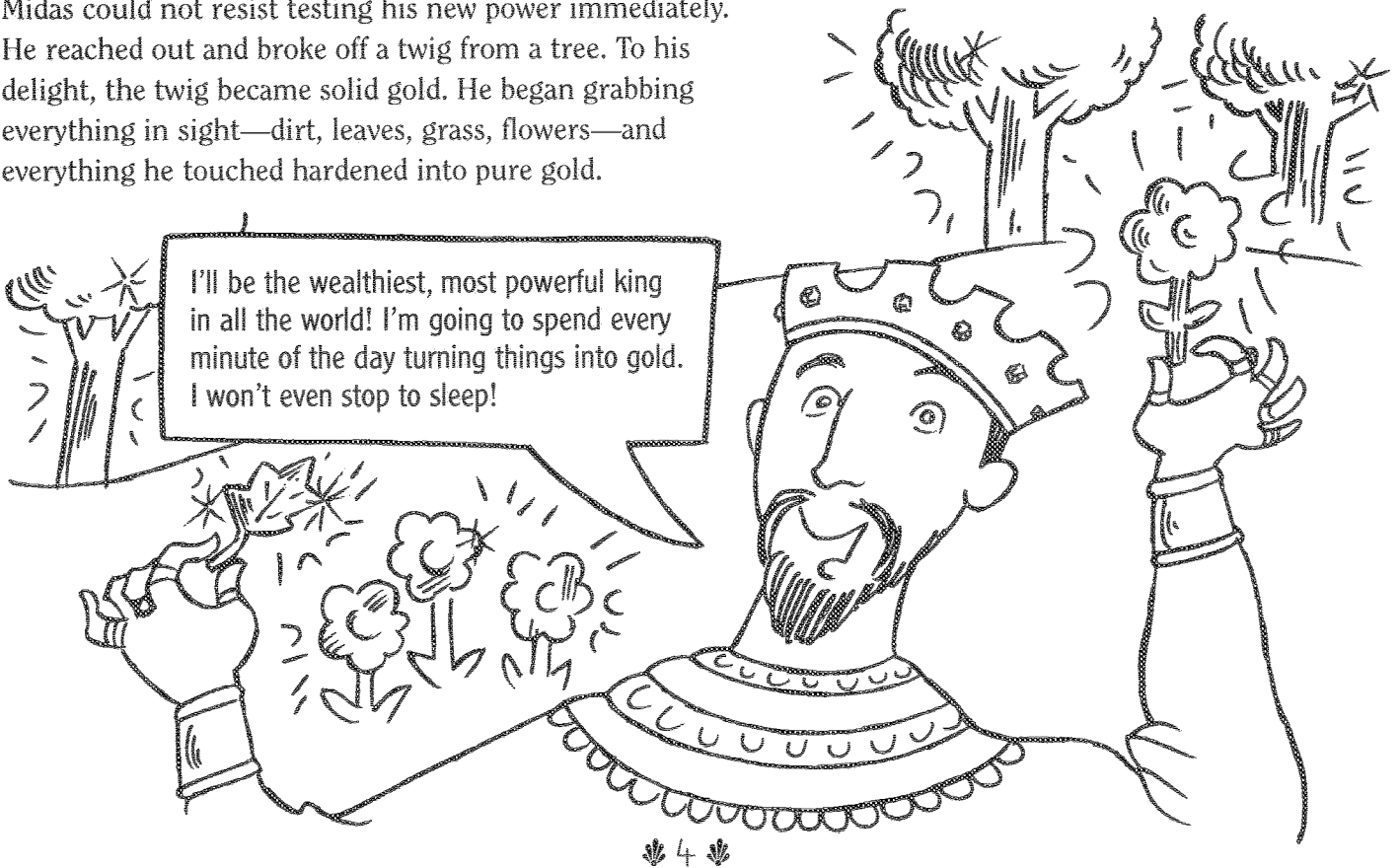


King Midas was a greedy man—in fact, he was one of the greediest people who ever lived. All day long he thought about how much gold he had, and all night he dreamed about how he could get even more.

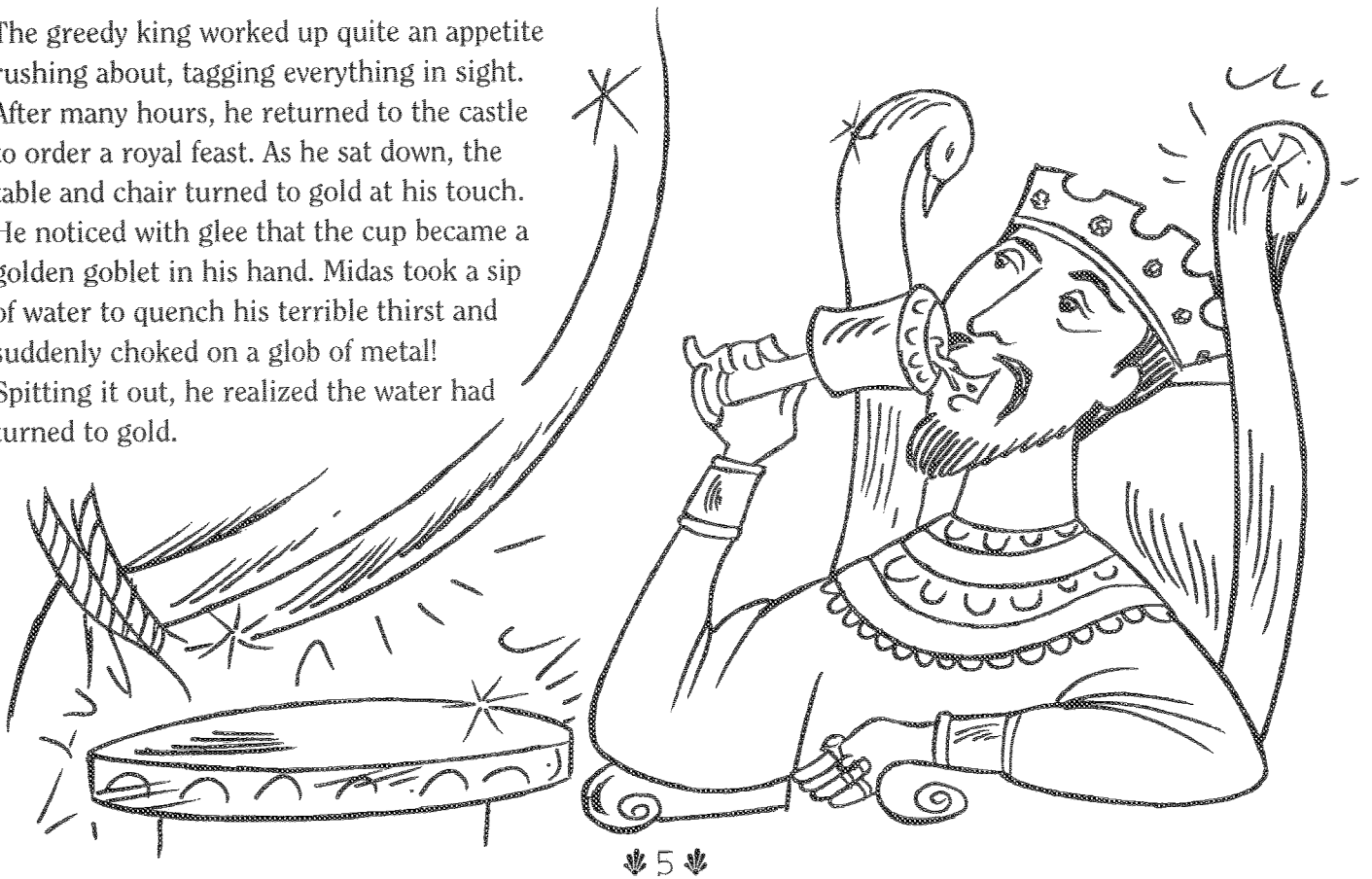


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Midas could not resist testing his new power immediately. He reached out and broke off a twig from a tree. To his delight, the twig became solid gold. He began grabbing everything in sight—dirt, leaves, grass, flowers—and everything he touched hardened into pure gold.

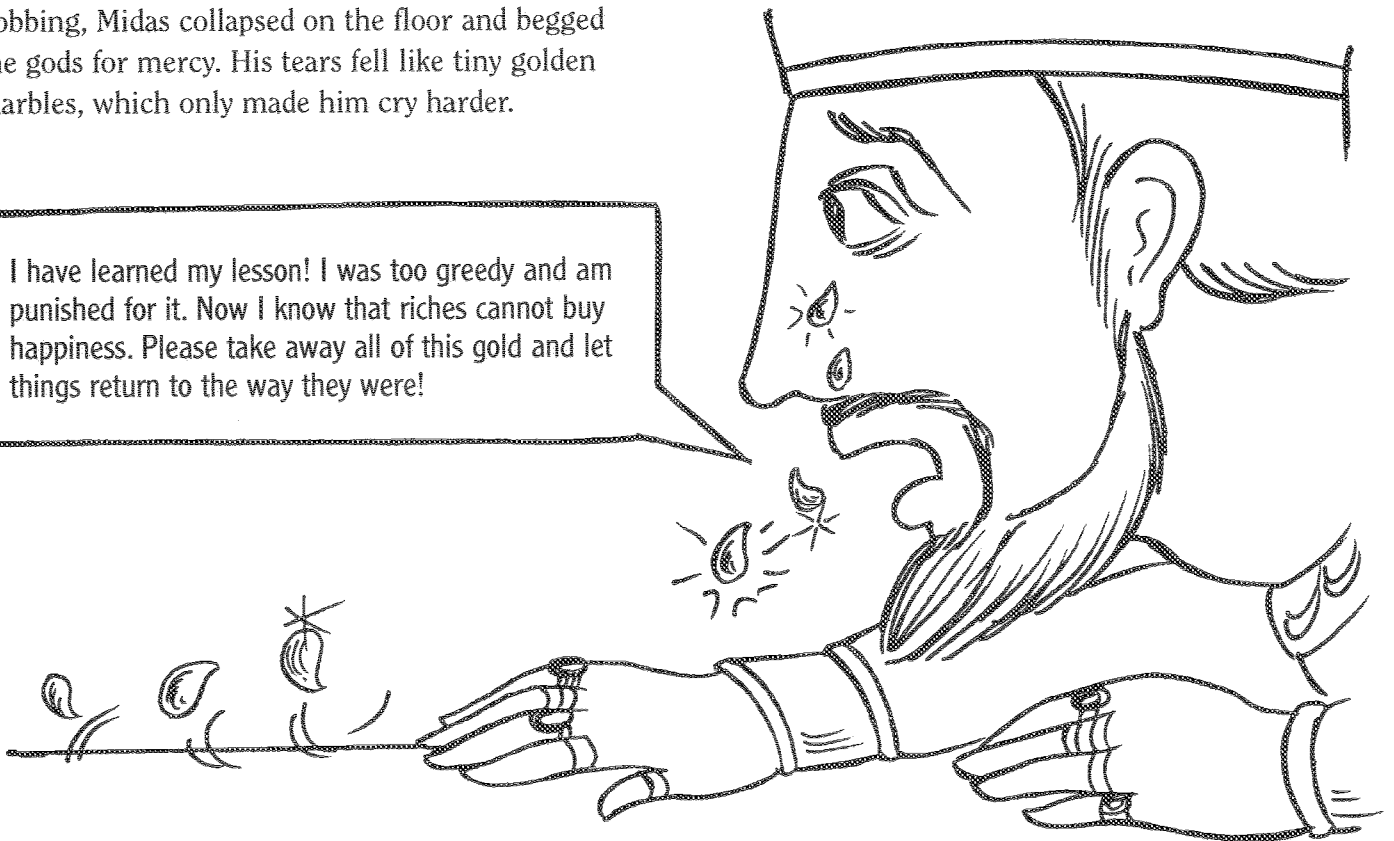


The greedy king worked up quite an appetite rushing about, tagging everything in sight. After many hours, he returned to the castle to order a royal feast. As he sat down, the table and chair turned to gold at his touch. He noticed with glee that the cup became a golden goblet in his hand. Midas took a sip of water to quench his terrible thirst and suddenly choked on a glob of metal! Spitting it out, he realized the water had turned to gold.



Sobbing, Midas collapsed on the floor and begged the gods for mercy. His tears fell like tiny golden marbles, which only made him cry harder.

I have learned my lesson! I was too greedy and am punished for it. Now I know that riches cannot buy happiness. Please take away all of this gold and let things return to the way they were!



Midas picked up a piece of bread and shoved it into his mouth as quickly as he could. But he could not outsmart his golden touch—as soon as the bread touched his lips, it turned into a chunk of gold.

What is the use of having more gold than Apollo if I can't even eat a piece of bread? I'll be the richest, hungriest king in history!



Storming out of the banquet hall, Midas bumped into a servant. He turned to yell at the servant for getting in his way but instead came face to face with a life-sized golden statue.

The gods took pity on the pathetic king and took away the Midas touch—which was, after all, a curse rather than a gift. But just in case Midas forgot his own foolishness, the gods gave him a reminder. Two donkey ears sprouted from the top of his head, and Midas never forgot his lesson.

