



# The King Who Hated Old People

It is not always wise to ignore the advice of older people

■ A folktale retold by Mike Lockett, *The Normal Storyteller*; edited by Linda Ludwig  
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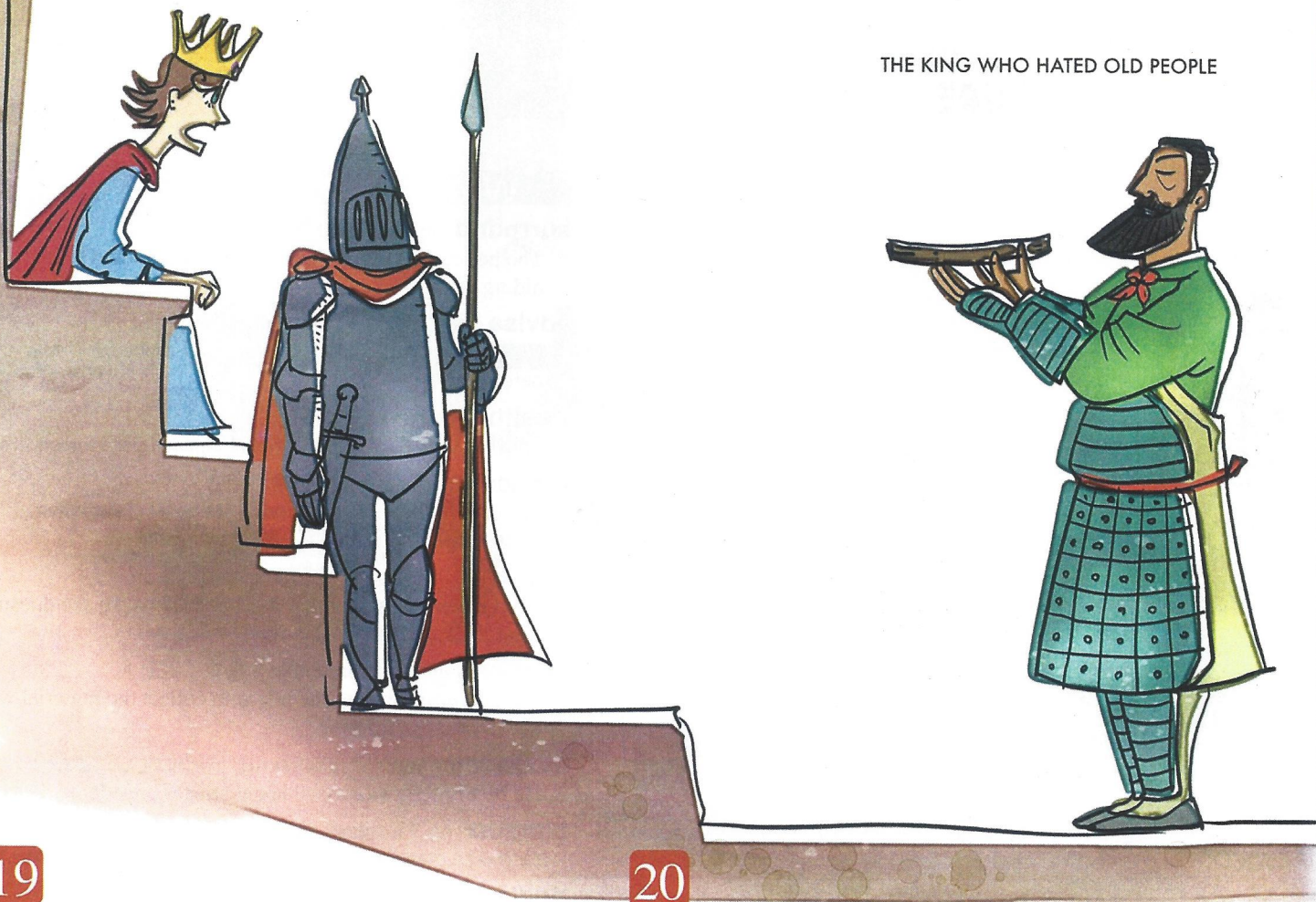
Long ago, there lived a wise old King. The King always **surrounded** himself with elders to **advise** him in the decisions he had to make. His kingdom was **wealthy**. His people were happy. All was well, except that the King's son did not like seeing all the old people around the palace. "Why must you surround yourself with those white-haired men?" he asked. "They don't like to try new things." What really bothered him was that the old people reminded him that his father was aging.

The King tried to tell his son how **wisdom** could be gained from the elders. But, the son wouldn't listen. "Things will change when I become King," he said.

The King became ill and died, and the young prince took his father's place. As soon as the **crown** was placed on his head, he surrounded himself with youth. Everyone was forced to send their **aged** parents far away to live in other places. All over the kingdom tears were **shed**, except for one young man.

## Talk About It

- Why did the young king really send all of the older people out of the kingdom?  
- *The real reason he sent them away was because ...*
- Do you agree with the advisor that hid his father or do you think he should have sent him away?  
- *I agree because ... / I think he should have sent him away because ...*
- What do you think we can learn from older people?  
- *I think we can learn ...*



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One of the young advisors hid his father in a secret room in his house. "I cannot send you away, Father," he said. "You gave me everything as I was growing up," he told his father. "Now it is my turn to take care of you."

A short time later a **messenger** came from a powerful kingdom. He told the King, "My master sends me with a message. This is a stick from a young tree in the forest. If you tell him which end of the stick comes from the higher part of the tree, he will leave your kingdom alone. If you answer **incorrectly**, he will **conquer** you and make slaves of you all! You have seven days."

The king called his advisors and said, "You are the children of my father's advisors. Bring me the answer to this **riddle!**"

But, they had not **tilled** the soil or worked in the forests as the old King's advisors had. Six days passed.

The advisor who had refused to send his father away told him about the riddle.

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"Do as I tell you, and there will be no war. Our kingdom will **remain** at peace," answered the father.

The next morning, the advisor went before the King. "Please order a small **basin** of water to be brought." When the water arrived, the advisor placed the messenger's stick into the water. One end sank down, while the other end **stuck up** out of the water. ▶

### Usage Tip

Now it is my **turn to take care of you.** (p. 35, line 4)

句型 somebody's turn to + 原形動詞，意思為「輪到某人去做某事」。

- It is your turn to wash the dishes.

Your turn



“The end that is higher grew higher on the tree. The end that sank was lower,” the advisor answered. The messenger smiled and bowed as he left the king’s presence to **put an end to** the war before it started.

“How did you know the answer?” asked the King. “I cannot lie!” stated the advisor. “Because of my love for my father, I did not send him away. I kept him hidden inside my home. His wisdom saved our kingdom.”

“I have been wrong,” said the young King. “I now see that wisdom comes with age and experience.”

All the elders were brought back and **honored** by everyone. 🦉

## Word Bank

**surround** (v) [səˈraʊnd] 圍繞·包圍

The police **surrounded** the house that the thief was hiding in.

**advise** (v) [ədˈvaɪz] 向...提供意見

Nate **advised** his son Joe to study in France for a year before Joe finished school.

**wealthy** (adj) [ˈwelθi] 富有的

I have a **wealthy** neighbor who helps people in need.

**wisdom** (n) [ˈwɪzdəm] 智慧；明智

My grandfather always shows a lot of **wisdom** when answering my questions.

**crown** (n) [kraʊn] 王冠·皇冠

The Queen of England has several **crowns**, so she doesn’t wear the same one all the time.

**messenger** (n) [ˈmesəndʒə] 信使；送信人

I sent a **messenger** to the office to collect the material we needed for our meeting.

**incorrectly** (adv) [ˌɪnkəˈrektli] 不正確地；不適當

He **incorrectly** addressed her as mister president.

**conquer** (v) [ˈkɒŋkə] 攻取；佔領

Germany **conquered** half of Europe during World War II.

**riddle** (n) [ˈrɪdl] 謎語；費解之事

He loves to tell **riddles** that I can never answer.

**remain** (v) [rɪˈmeɪn] 保持不變；停留

We all need to **remain** in our seats until the airplane stops.

**basin** (n) [ˈbeɪsɪn] 盆；水盆

He put a **basin** of water outside for the dog to drink out of.

**stick up** (phr v) [stɪk][ʌp] 豎起；向上伸出

My hair was **sticking up** all over when I got out of bed this morning.

**put an end to** (idiom) [put][ən][end][tu] 使終止；消滅

Let’s **put an end to** all of this arguing and agree to disagree.

**honor** (v) [ˈɑːnə] 向...致敬

They **honored** the war heroes with a parade.

## More Information

**aged** (adj) [ˈeɪdʒd] 年老的

**shed** (v) [ʃed] 流淚；流血

**till** (v) [tɪl] 耕·犁（土地）

## Word Bank Focus

**advice** (n) [ədˈvaɪs] 意見；忠告

Marion loves to give people **advice**.

**advisable** (adj) [ədˈvɪzəbəl] 明智的；適當的

It is **advisable** to book your airplane tickets early so you get a good price.