

The emperor's clothes

6 B





It is afternoon in Emperor Richy's bedroom. His tailor, George, is busy fitting the emperor with splendid new clothes. Ministers of State are trying to talk to the emperor.

John: Your Majesty! We need you.

Emperor: Can't you wait? I'm busy with this new cloak.
(pointing at his cloak and speaking to George)
A little more gold thread here!

Jack: My lord, the farmers are hungry; they need money to buy food for their children!



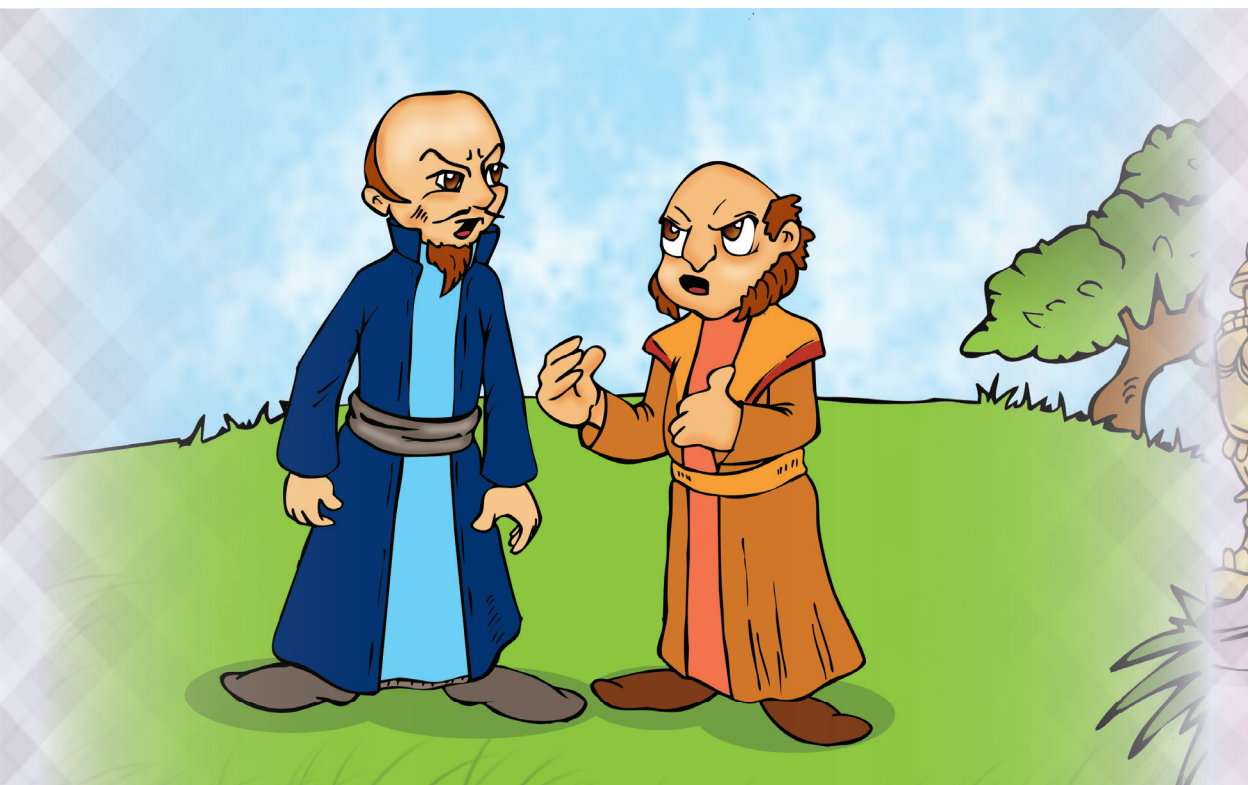
Emperor: If I give them money for food, how am I going to pay for my new clothes ?

John: We must know the date of this year's army parade.

Emperor That is not important. George, I'll need a blue satin outfit to match the colour of the army's uniforms.

Jack: My lord, please, we need your decision about.....

Emperor Can't you see I'm very busy? (To all the ministers) Thank you, gentlemen. That will be all for today.



Meanwhile, Max and Joey (two tricksters from London) are talking about the emperor.

Max: He is the silliest man on Earth. He's so crazy about clothes.

Joey: But many kings and emperors are as crazy about clothes as emperor Richy.

Max: Not like this! He dreams about nothing else. I think there is a chance for us to make some money.

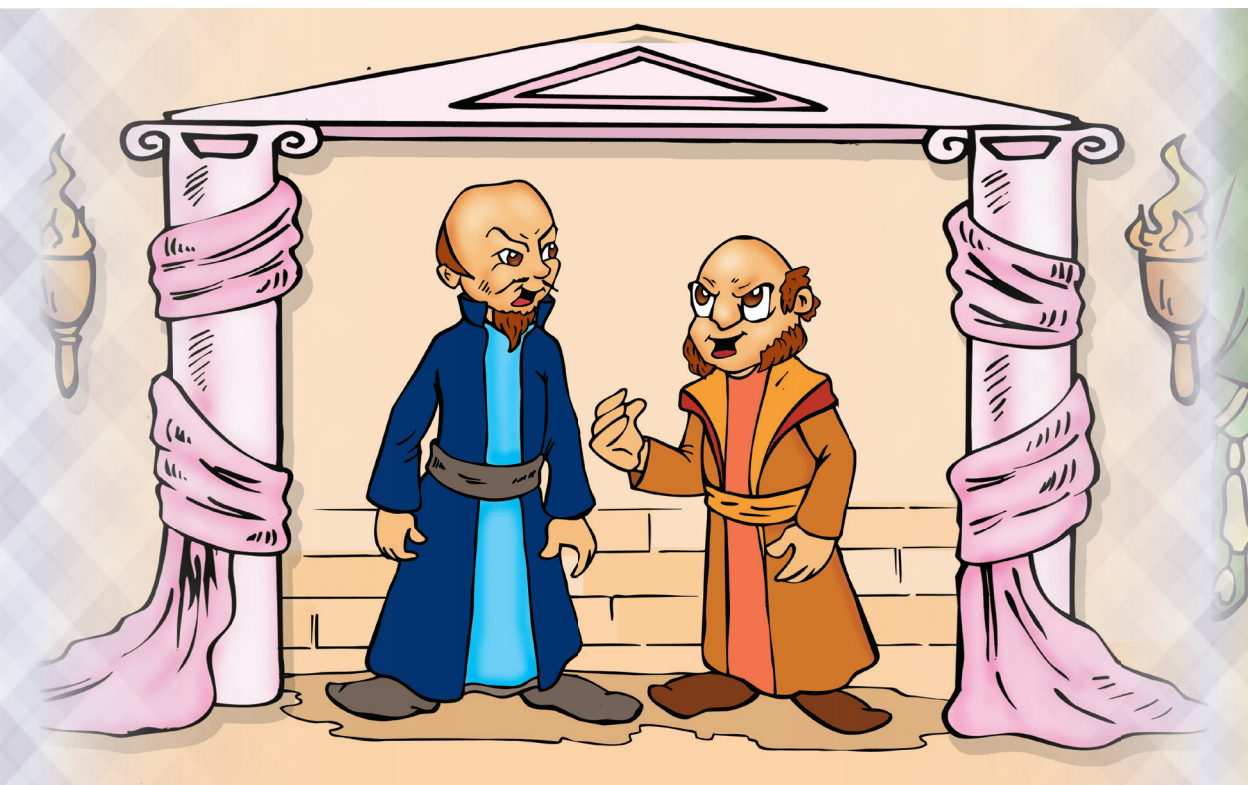
Joey: What do you have in mind ?

Max: We have pretended to be many other people before; we can do it again.

Joey: Of course we can.

Max: This time we'll pretend to be famous fashion designers.

Joey: But we don't know anything about making clothes.



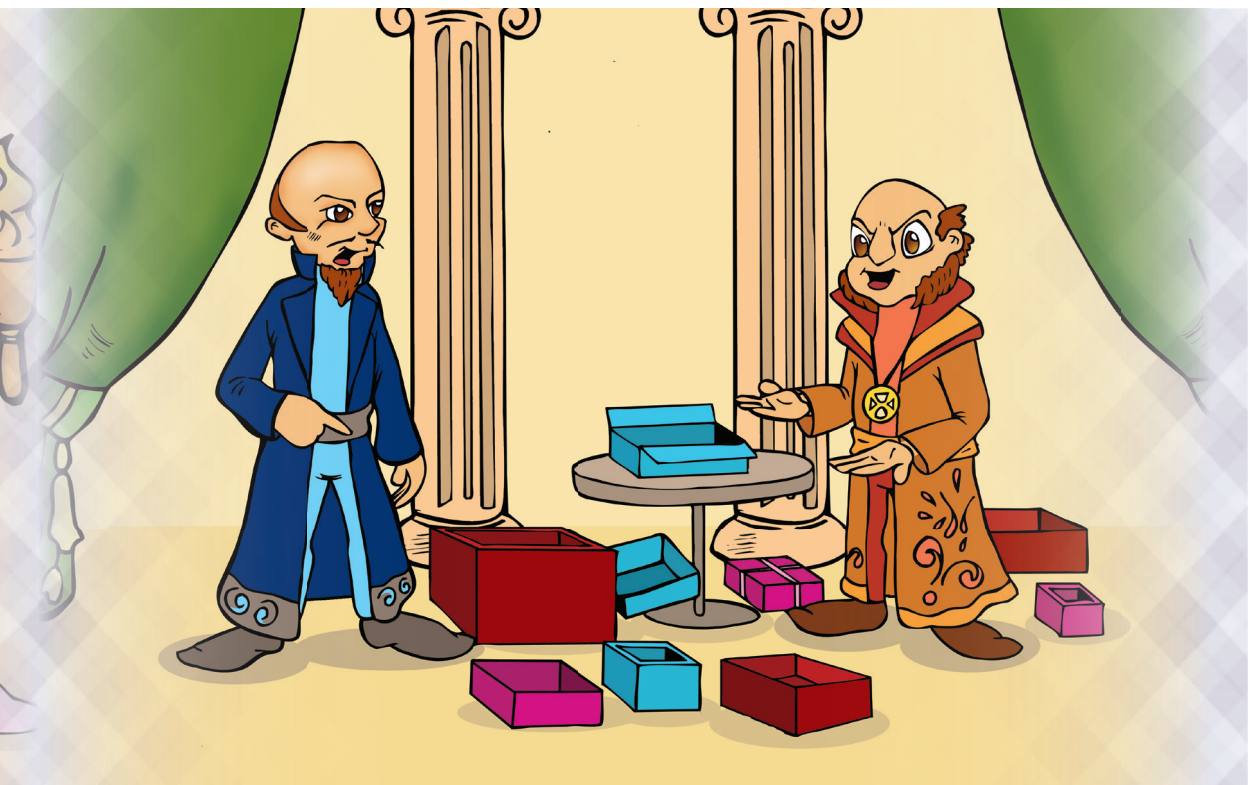
Max: We will also need money to buy jewels, gold and silver. Of course we will buy the best for your Highness!

Emperor: Sure. You will stay here in the palace and start work tomorrow.

Max: Thank you, my lord. You'll be amazed when you wear our fine clothes.

Emperor: (To George) Well, George, have a rest for a month, but before you go, please take these gentlemen to their room.

George leads them down the hall to their room. As soon as he leaves, the two tricksters begin to laugh.



It is two weeks later in the tricksters' work- room. Max and Joey are opening several boxes and bags that are all over the table and floor. They are laughing.

Max: Look at this! Four rolls of the finest Indian silk!

Max pulls empty wooden rollers out of a box. Joey opens a box of thread and pulls out empty spools. The tricksters keep opening parcels that are empty.

Joey: Twenty rolls of the most expensive Italian thread!

Max: Bags of fur! Boxes of silver!

Joey: Cloth of gold! Emeralds! Rubies!

There is a knock on the door.

Emperor: (Outside) How are my clothes looking?

Anything ready for me to try on yet?

Max: (Opening the door just a crack) Everything is coming along beautifully, Your Majesty.



The next day, just before the start of the grand parade. The emperor is in the hall of the palace surrounded by his high officials. The ministers are admiring the emperor's new clothes.

John: Magnificent! Worth every single penny!

Jack: Fantastic! Everyone will like your clothes, my lord!

Adam: My goodness! The best clothes I have ever seen!

Emperor: Thank you, gentlemen. I also have to thank these gentlemen. (pointing to the two tricksters)



Max: You are very kind, your Majesty.

Joey: Thank you, my lord, for giving us everything we needed to do our best.

Emperor: Splendid! Well, gentlemen, shall we face the crowd ?

There are a lot of people outside. Trumpets, drums and flutes begin to play. All the officials, including George, go outside followed by the emperor.

Max and Joey quickly go to the opposite direction.



The grand parade is moving down the road. A huge crowd is cheering.

Crowd: Long live the emperor !

Behind the crowd, a family from out of town watches the parade, curious about what's going on. They don't know about the emperor's clothes. They are not clever, and they cannot see the clothes.

Jane: I can't see anything, daddy. Lift me up on your shoulders!



Jane's father, places her on his shoulders. Shocked at what she sees:

Jane: Look, Look, mum! The emperor is not wearing anything!

The crowd turns to look at the little girl. They are shocked at what they hear.

Jane's Father You're right, little one. Look, the emperor is completely undressed!



Crowd: (A few low voices at first, then many loud voices)
Unbelievable! Unheard of! We have the strangest emperor in the world.

Emperor: What's wrong ?

His officials pretend not to hear. But George, loyal as always, rushes up and wraps a cloak around the emperor.

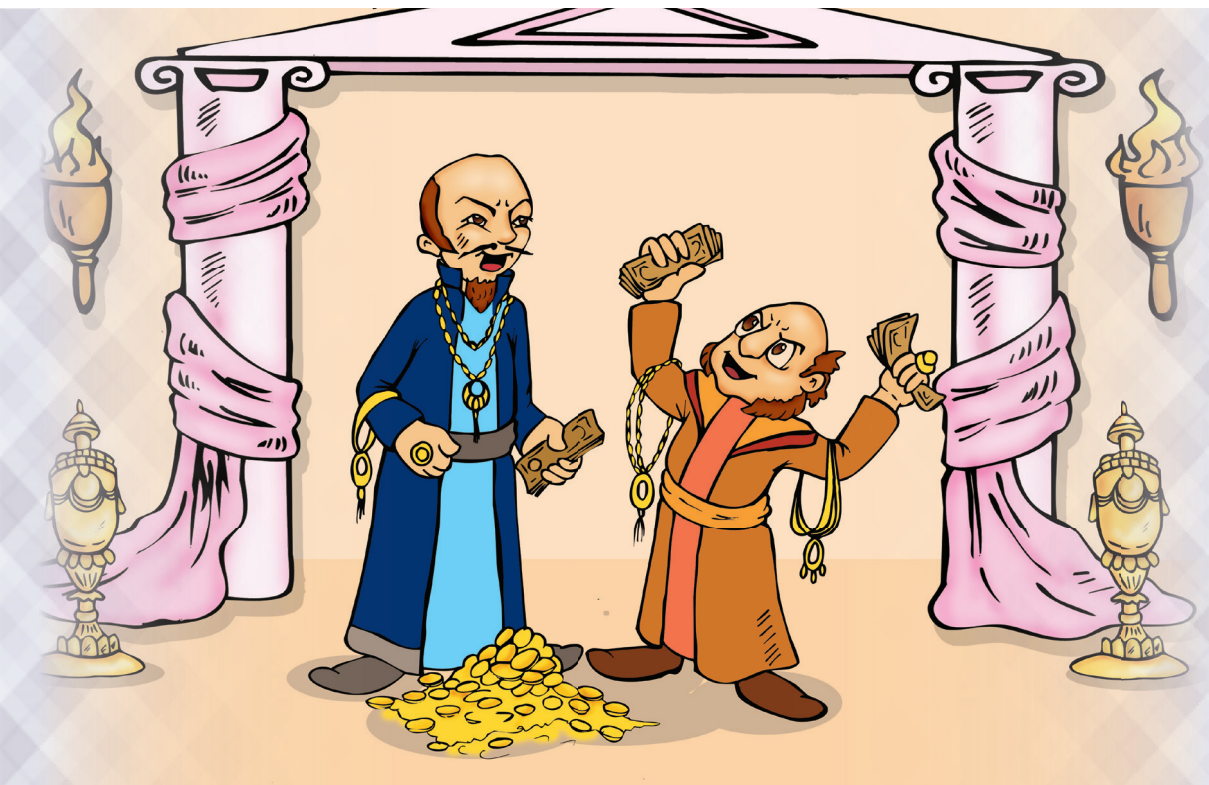


Emperor: What on Earth is happening, George! Why can't they see my new clothes?

George: No one can see them, Your Majesty. The two tricksters tricked us.

Emperor: (Red with anger To Adam General), Arrest those two! The General can't find them and sees they're not in the parade.

The crowd laughs and shouts as Adam and his soldiers run back towards the palace. The emperor keeps walking forward.



Max and Joey are miles away, in a coach on the road to Italy. They are playing with gold coins, eating, drinking, and laughing all the way.

Max: Goodbye! Nobody will see us anymore. We have so much enjoyed our time with you. We shall surely live happily ever after!

Questions:

① Answer the following questions.

1. Why can't ministers of state talk to the emperor?
2. What did the minister say about the farmers?
3. What is the emperor always busy with?
4. What is the opinion of Max about emperor Richy?
5. How can Max and Joey make some money out of Richy's craziness about clothes?
6. How can Max and Joey deceive the emperor?
7. What do the business cards of the tricksters state they are?
8. What do Max and Joey ask for in order to make clothes for the emperor?
9. Why do the tricksters open empty boxes of everything?
10. What is the plan of Joey and Max to make George not say anything about them?
11. Why do the members of the family from out of town laugh at the emperor?
12. Where do the tricksters go?