

In the Kingdom of



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and

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ENGLISH VERSION
VAGNER BANDEIRA

ILLUSTRATION
VERIDIANA CAMELO

J. IVO BRASIL



In the Kingdom of

SALA

and

DA

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Once upon a time, in a kingdom not so far away lived
Prince SANDOR, Prince LAERTES and King DAMIAN.

SANDOR was frog-like, short and stocky.

LAERTES was gecko-like, tall and slender.

DAMIAN was the king (a regular folk, tired of appeasing
his children's spirits for the succession, and eager to say
good riddance to the crown so he would be able to marry
a commoner).



On a beautiful sunny day, the two princes were fooling around in a creek; SANDOR in the water, and LAERTES lying on the sand.

SANDOR couldn't take his eyes off of his brother. He would pay five saladas to know what was on his mind (salada was the local currency in the kingdom of SA, LA, and DA).

Little did he know that there was just one thing on his brother's mind: the day he would become the king.

All he could think about was the day his father would choose his successor.

It certainly wouldn't be his short, fat, clumsy brother.

He would be the ideal new king: handsome, fast, strong, slender...



The background illustration is a vibrant, stylized landscape. In the upper right, a pink castle with four towers and red roofs sits atop a green hill. A path leads from the bottom right towards the castle. The middle ground features several trees with green and orange foliage. In the lower right, a green, gecko-like character with large eyes and a wide smile is shown. It is wearing a white tunic with a red sash and a gold bell. The character is standing on a red cloth or blanket spread on the ground. A red bag with a gold bell is also visible nearby. The bottom of the image shows a body of water in shades of blue and green. The overall style is whimsical and cartoonish.

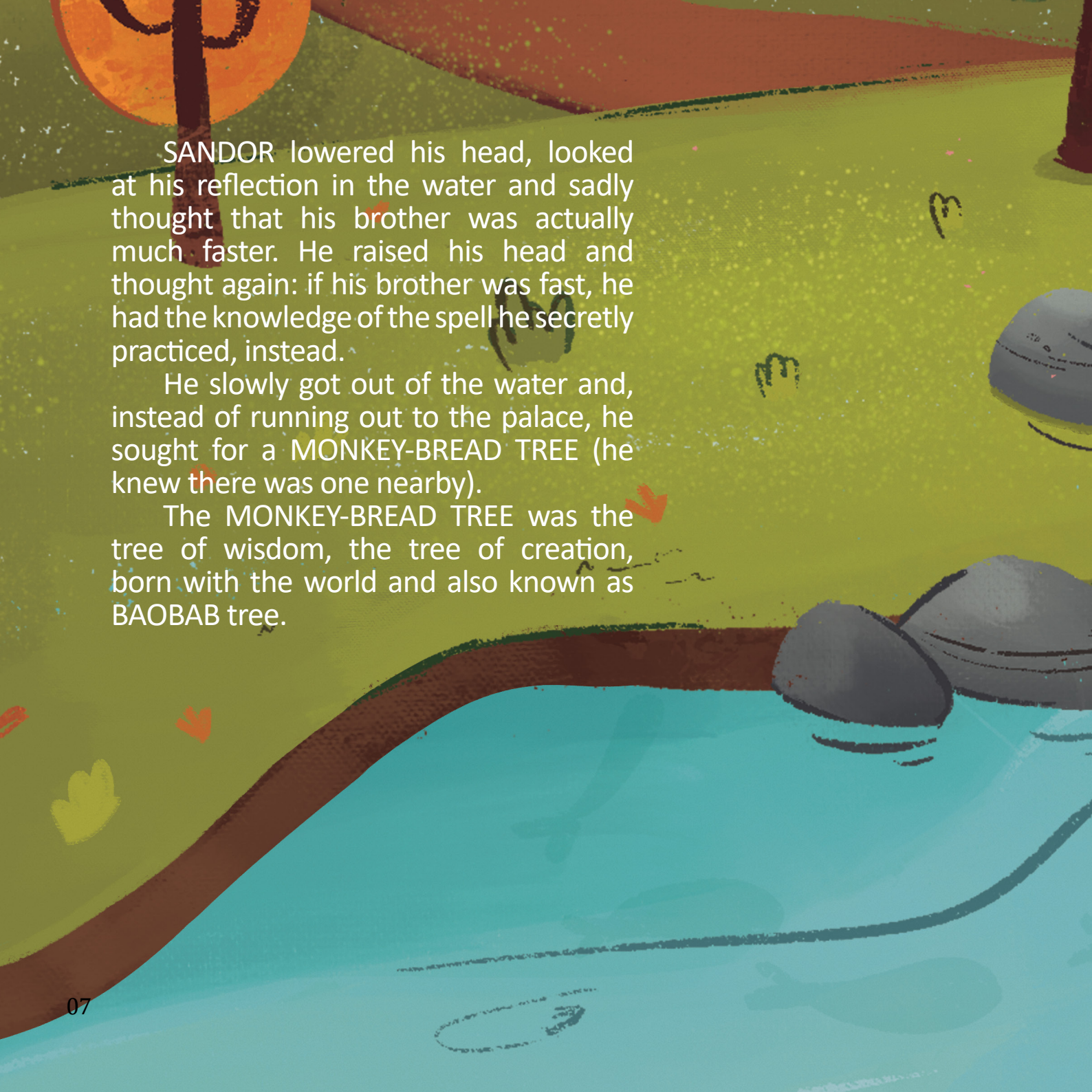
While LAERTES was daydreaming, a messenger showed out of nowhere. He takes a bow to the princes and tells them that the king wanted to speak to them immediately.

LAERTES jumps off of the sand and cheerfully thinks: it is definitely to announce that I am the new king.

He wasn't even done with his thinking, and the messenger says that the one who arrives at the palace first will be the successor of the king.

Two more jumps of joy and the gecko face looks at his brother, still in the water, laughs, and runs out shouting that the frog-like brother would never be king for he was fast and would get to the palace much faster.





SANDOR lowered his head, looked at his reflection in the water and sadly thought that his brother was actually much faster. He raised his head and thought again: if his brother was fast, he had the knowledge of the spell he secretly practiced, instead.

He slowly got out of the water and, instead of running out to the palace, he sought for a MONKEY-BREAD TREE (he knew there was one nearby).

The MONKEY-BREAD TREE was the tree of wisdom, the tree of creation, born with the world and also known as BAOBAB tree.







As soon as SANDOR found the tree, he stopped, meditated, excused himself for the tree and tore off a small branch of it. He buried it on the floor and threw some magic dust that he always carried with him.

He closed his eyes and asked the tree to answer his wish to arrive at the palace before his brother.

Meanwhile, LAERTES ran and thought about why his father had not simply announced him as his successor. Why all that race? The whole kingdom already knew that his disgusting brother would never be a match for him.





At the same time, he was paused thinking by a scary gale, and he hides in the rocks not to be dragged by it. He didn't want to get hurt. He wanted to get to the palace in one beautiful piece.

When the gale was gone, he started to run again, and smiling he thought: what a wonderful king I will be!

However, up front, dragged by the gale, SANDOR was arriving at the palace gates.

When they saw who arrived first, the heralds were taken aback, but still solemnly announced the arrival.

Not surprised, King DAMIAN approached, greeted his son and praised him for his intelligence in knowing how to get around the race issue.

He knew that a good king needed to use intelligence in all circumstances to deal with daily difficulties.





The king's words were drowned out by a new announcement:
the arrival of LAERTES.

He entered the whole kingdom with a cocky air and a
sarcastic smile thinking of the huge party that would be thrown
in his honor. He smiled louder thinking that his brother would
certainly still be halfway there.





But what wasn't his surprise when he got to the middle of the hall. He looked, blinked, rubbed his eyes, blinked again several times... He couldn't believe his eyes. His ugly brother, sitting on the throne?! That meant... (he didn't even have time to finish his thinking).

Calmly, SANDOR stands up, extends his arms, welcomes his brother and sarcastically asks.
What took you so long? Where were you?







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