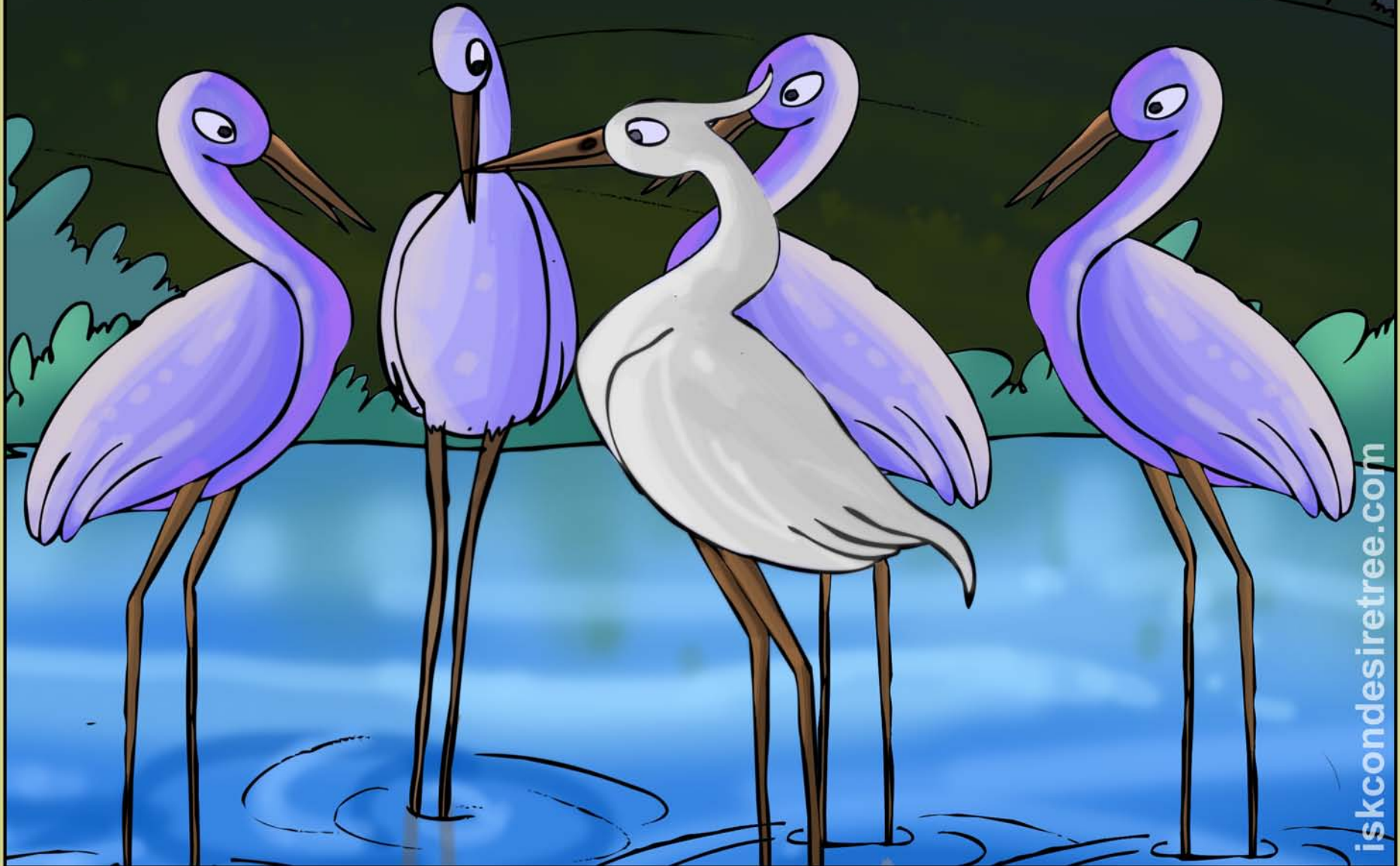
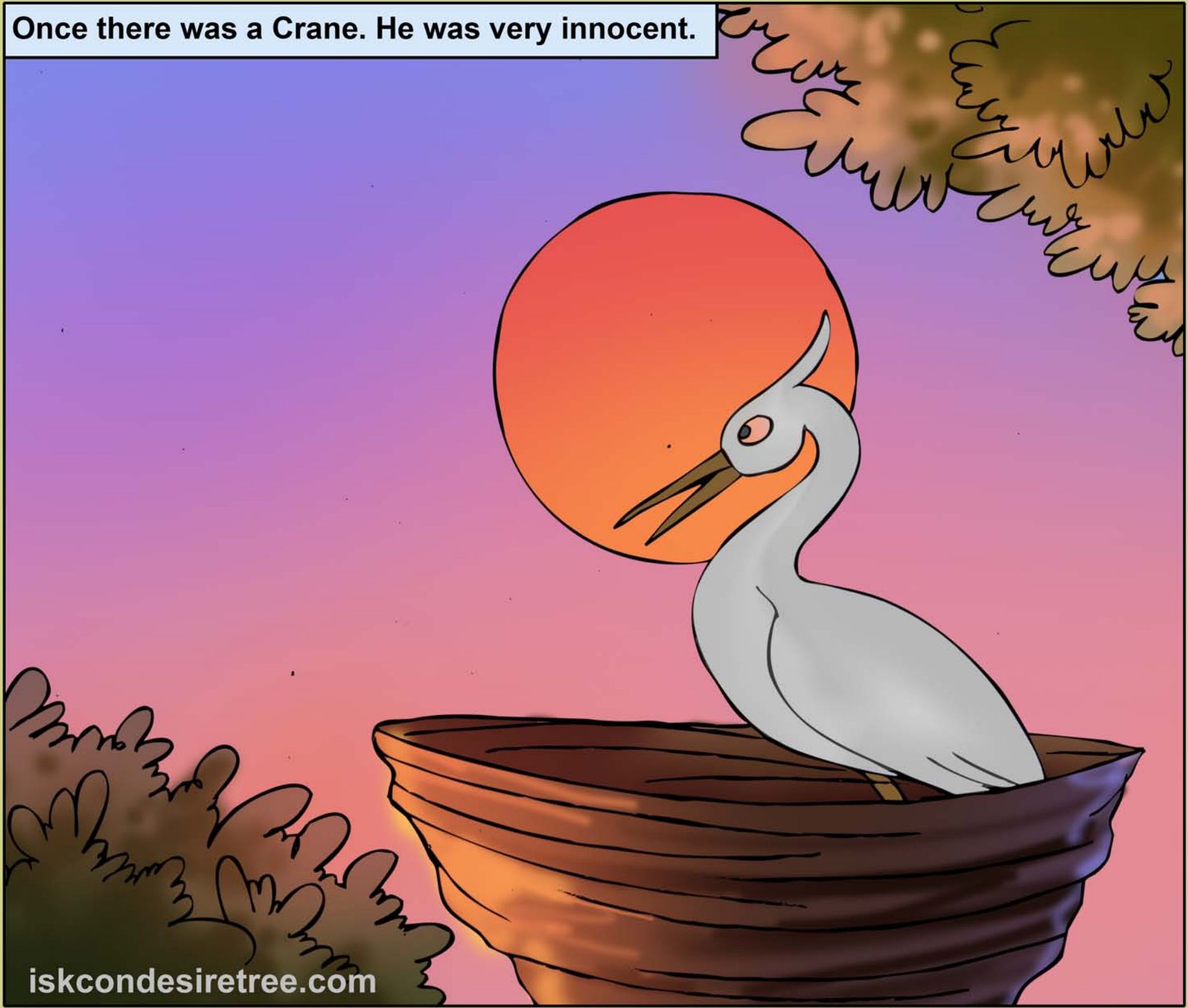


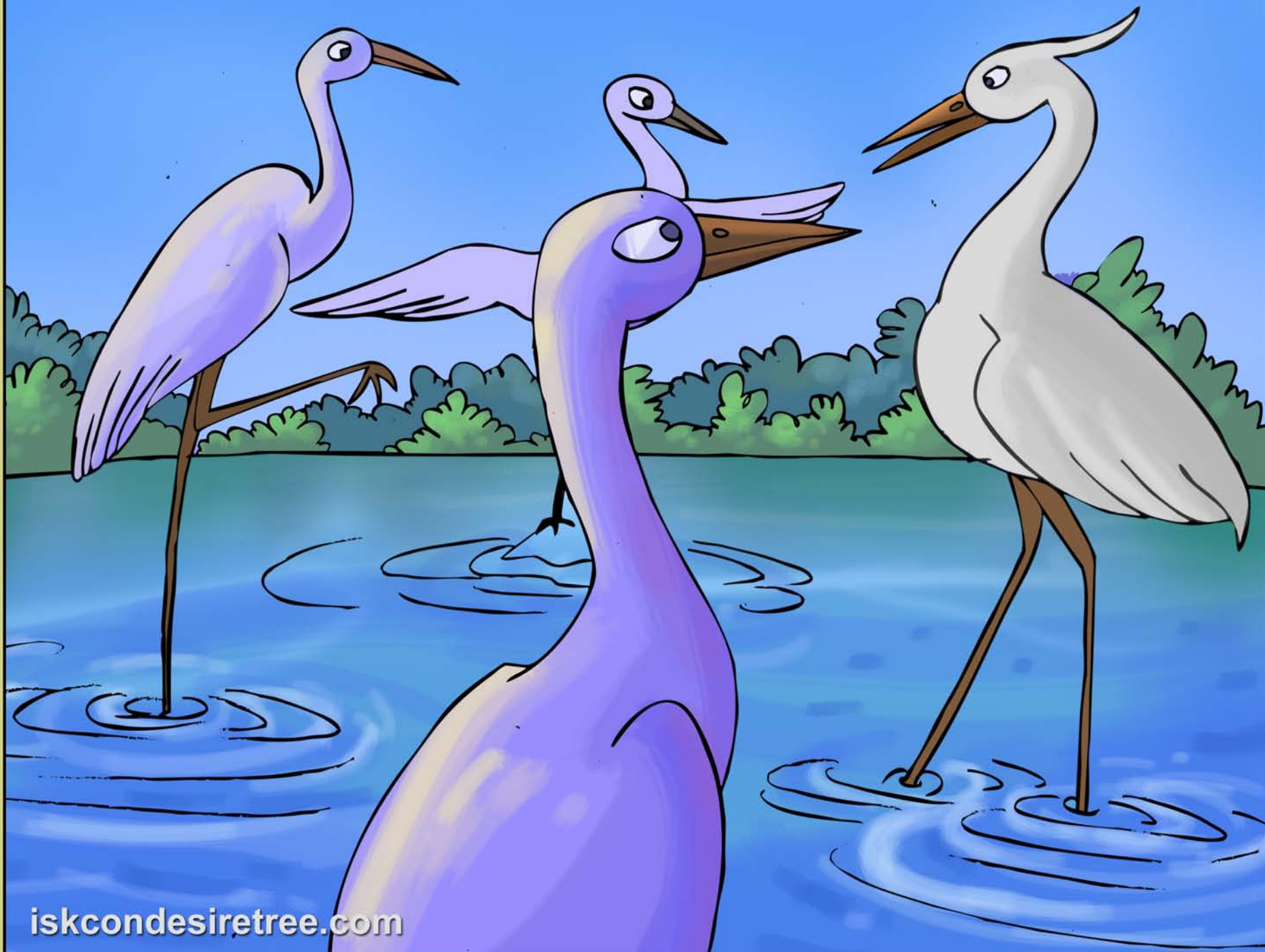
A CRANE AMONGST THE HERONS



Once there was a Crane. He was very innocent.

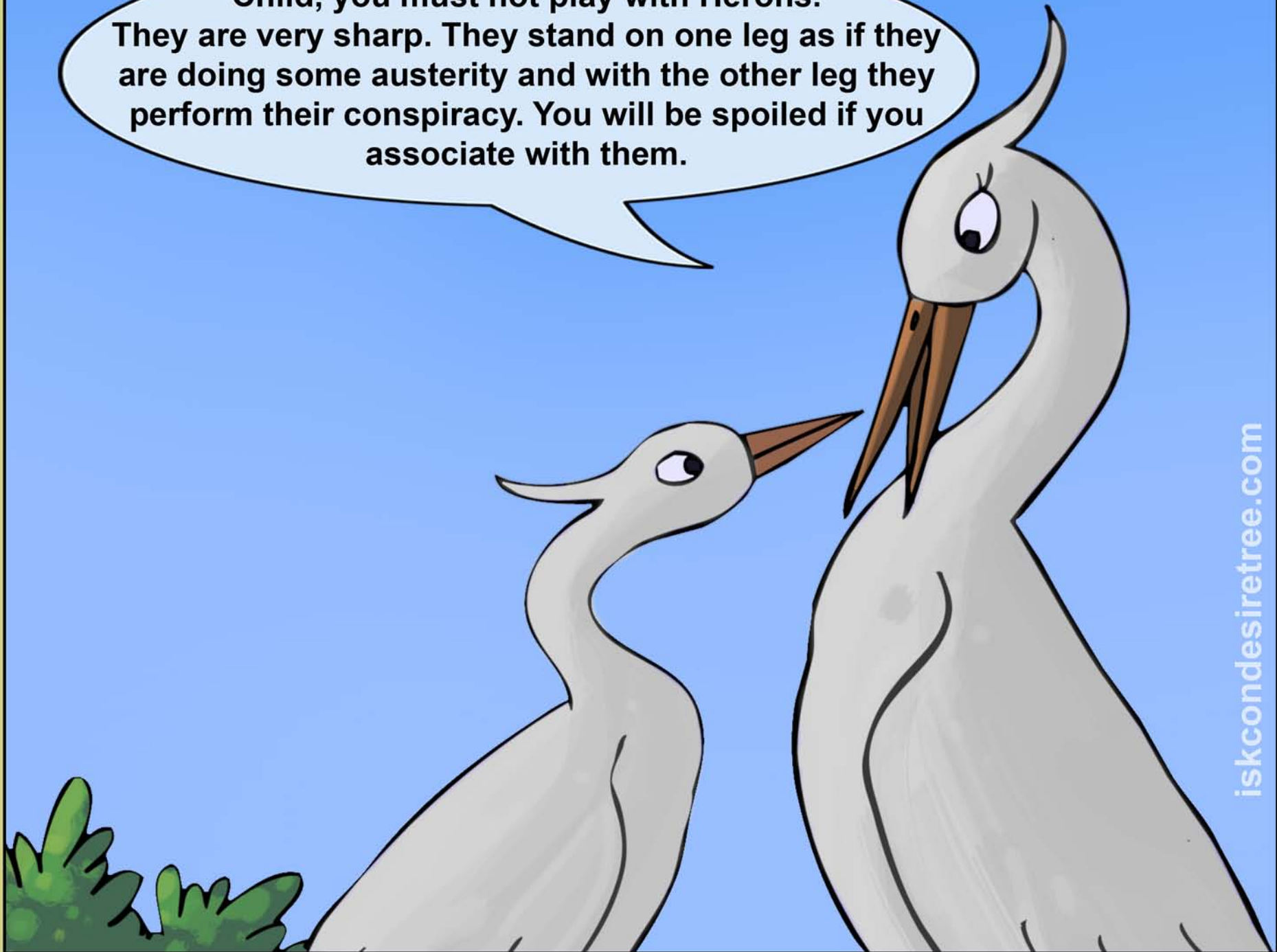


One day he went to play with the Herons.



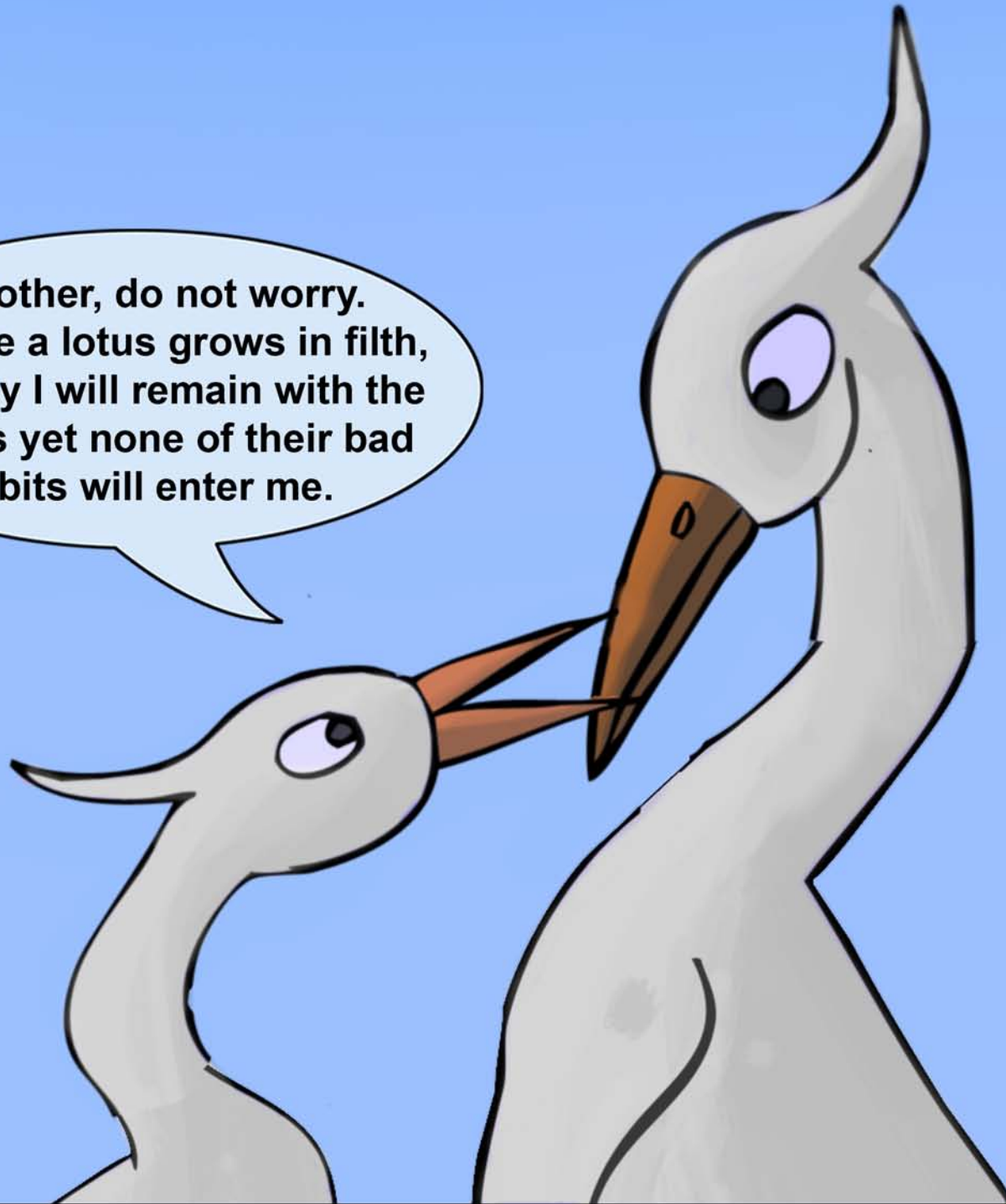
As he returned from his play, his mother said...

Child, you must not play with Herons.
They are very sharp. They stand on one leg as if they
are doing some austerity and with the other leg they
perform their conspiracy. You will be spoiled if you
associate with them.



The little Crane replied,

O Mother, do not worry.
Just like a lotus grows in filth,
similarly I will remain with the
Hérons yet none of their bad
habits will enter me.



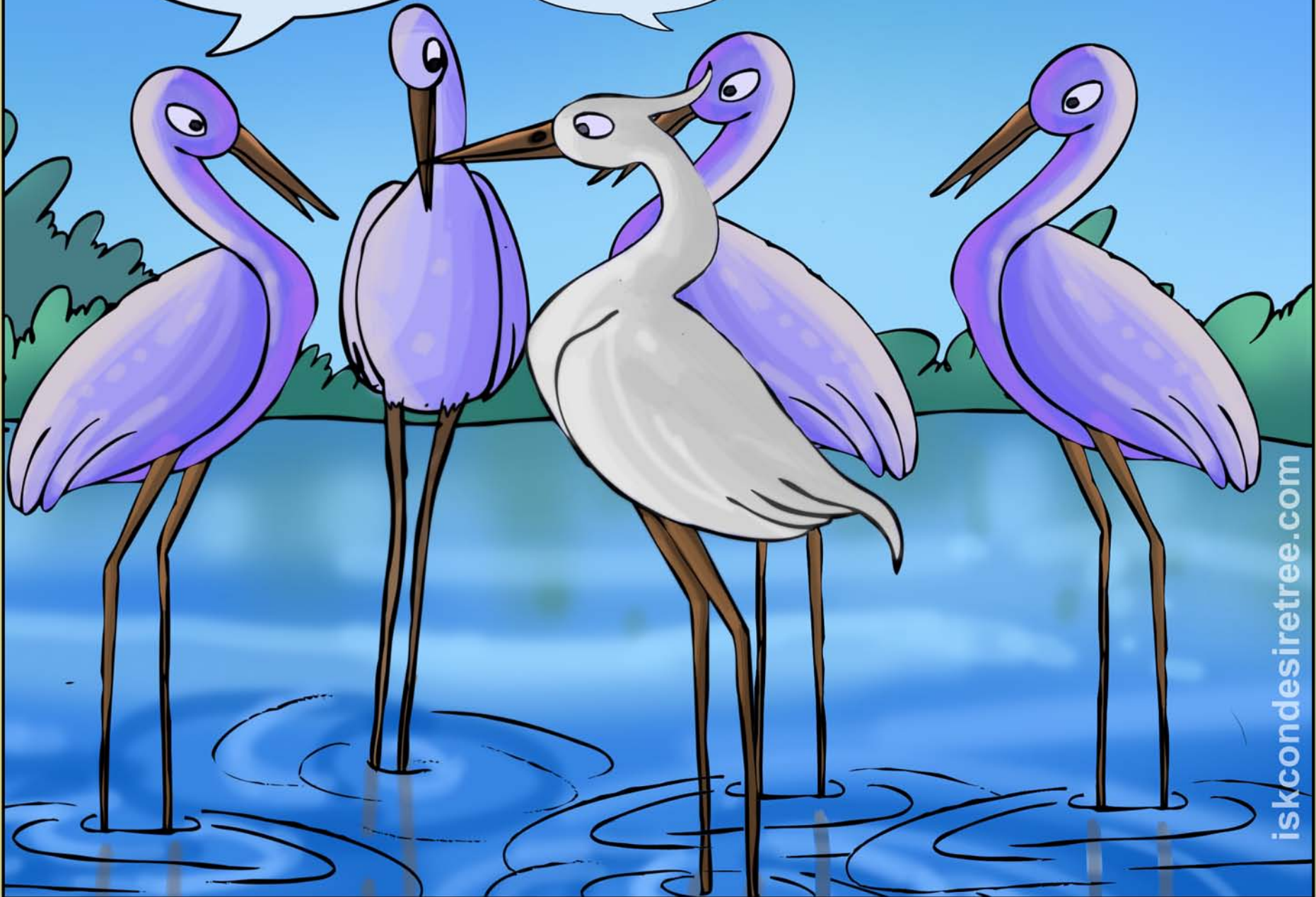
Thus the little Crane repeatedly went and mingled with the flock of Herons.



The crane roamed and played with them. One day they planned for a picnic.

We are going for picnic. Will you join us?

Oh, Sure!



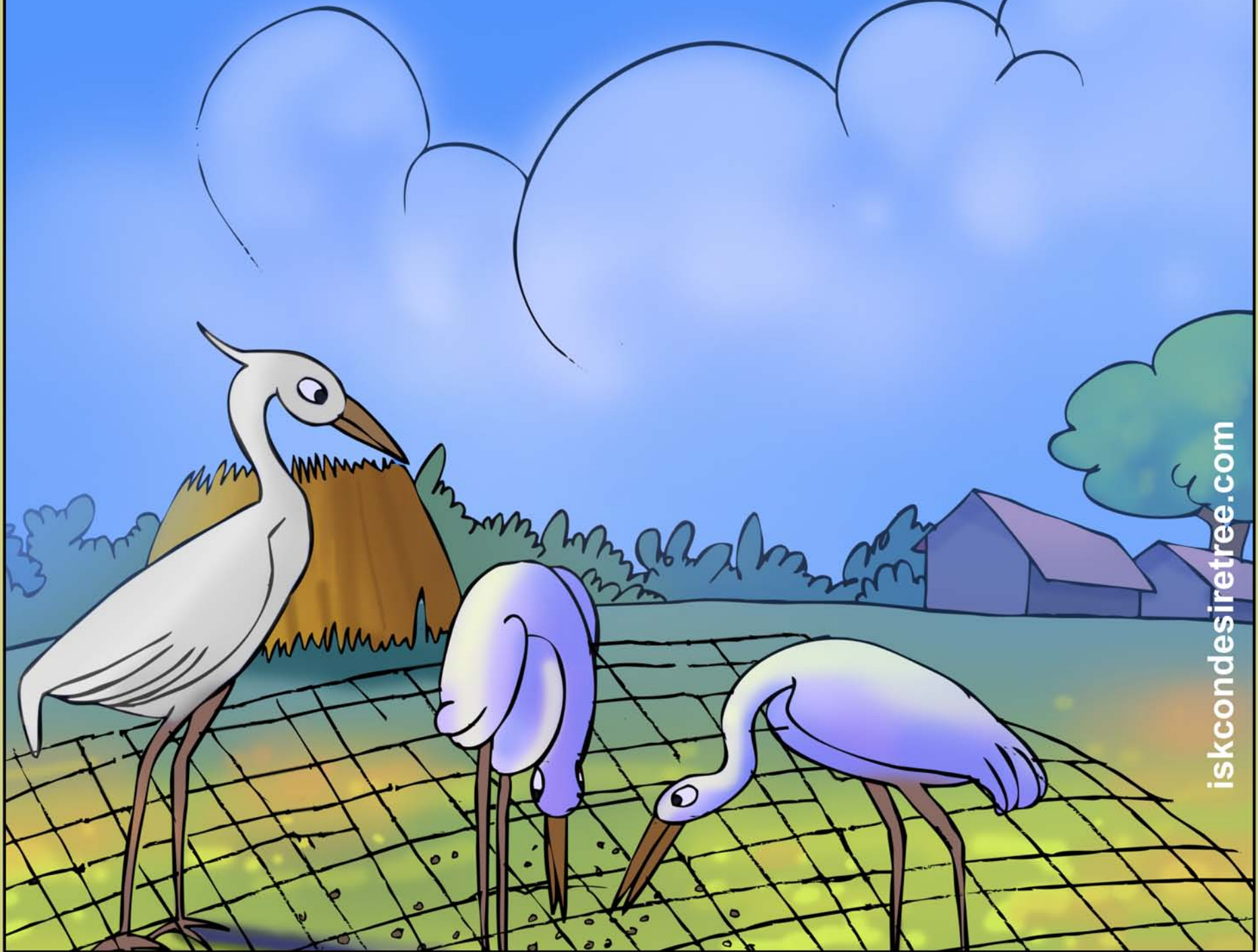
So the Crane set out for picnic with the Herons and began flying with them.



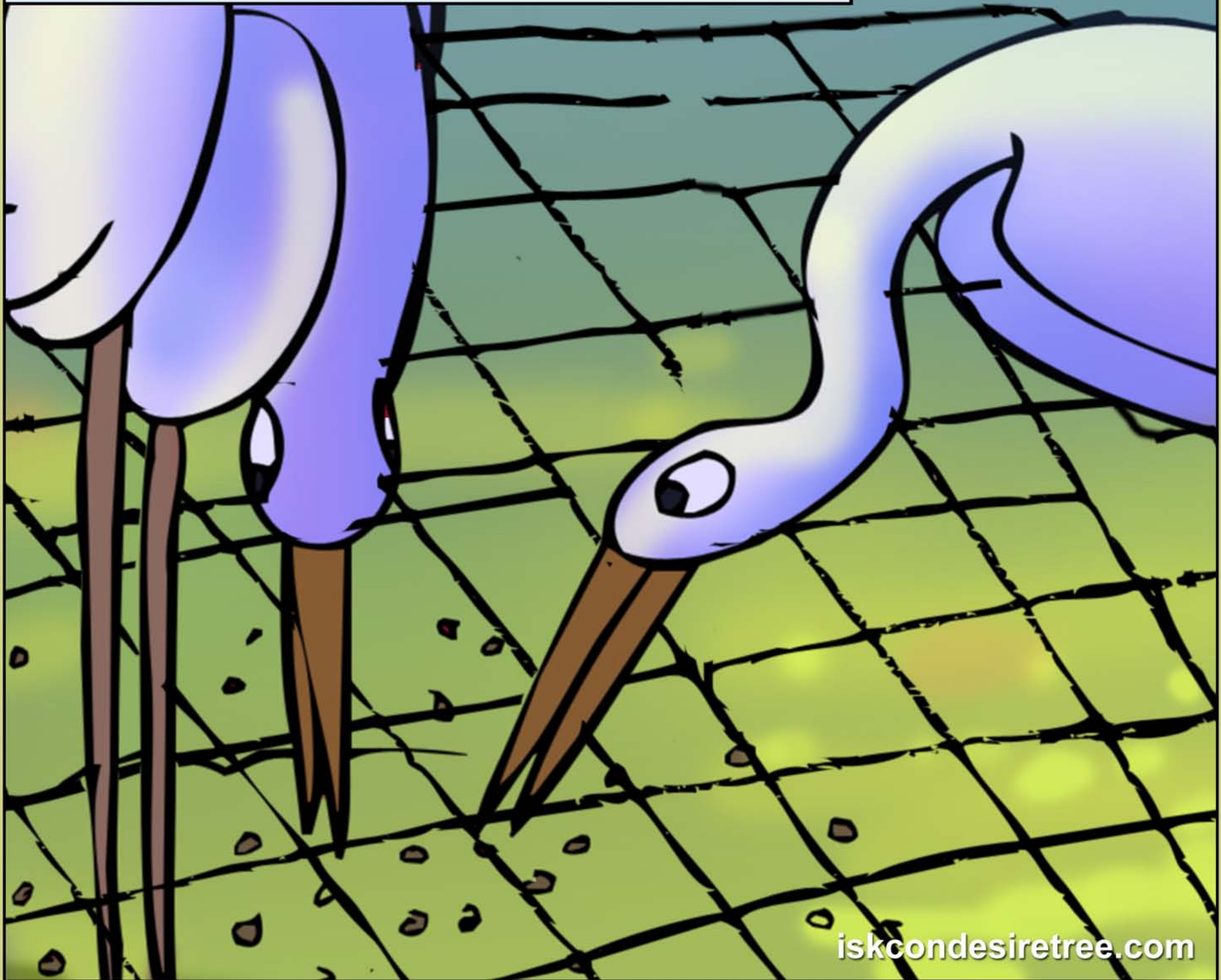
While flying, the Herons saw wholesome grains scattered in a field.



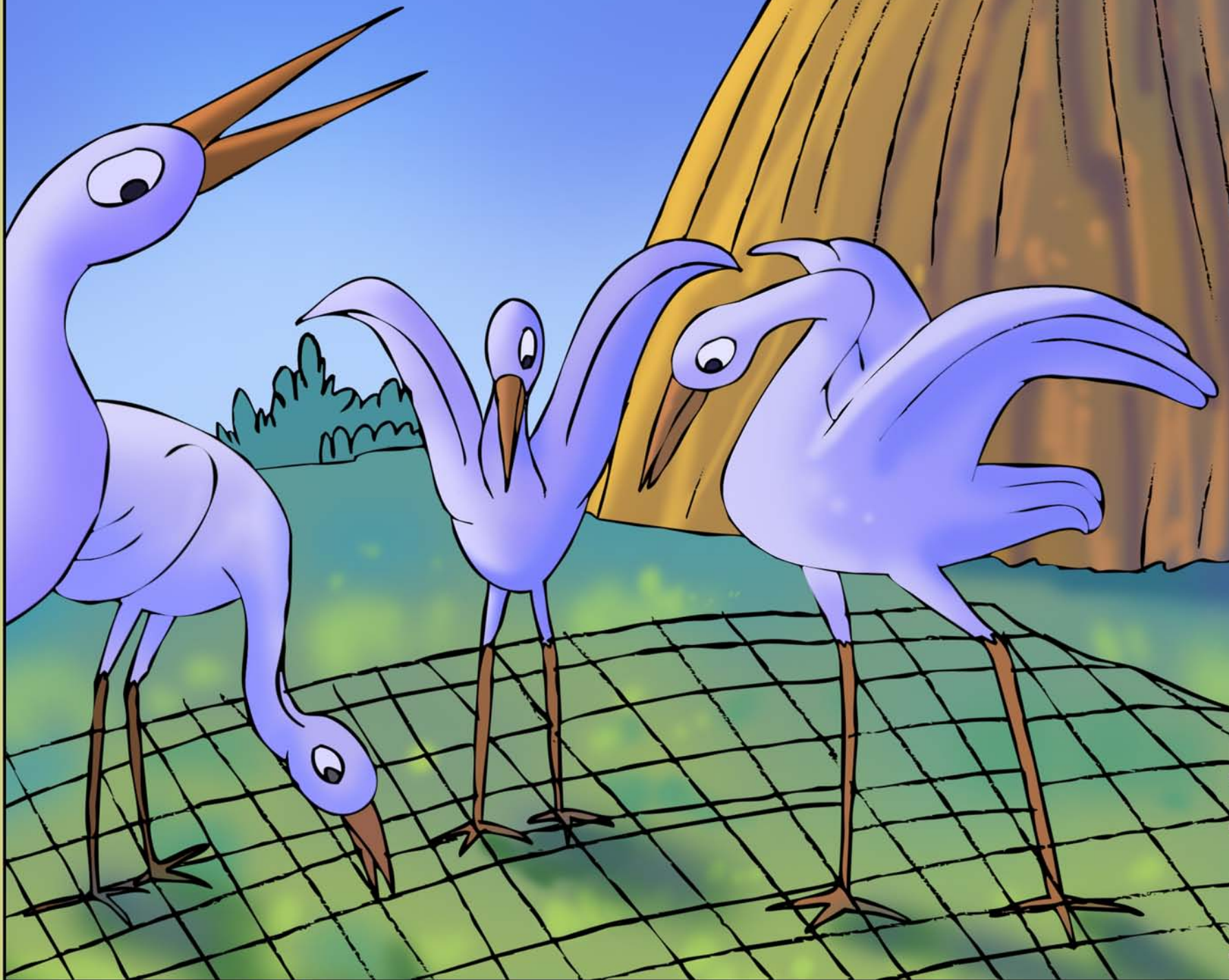
Immediately the flock of Herons glided down to pluck the grains. The innocent Crane followed and stood beside them.



The herons took charge of the grains and ate like hogs.



As they moved ahead to eat more, they found their legs were caught in a net. The innocent crane too was caught.



Suddenly a farmer came close to the net and said,



O attackers of my field,
today I have caught you red
handed. Now I shall teach
you a good lesson.

Hearing this the Crane cried out,

O farmer, I am a crane.
I am really innocent. I can promise I have
not eaten a single grain from your field.
Please be merciful to me,
please leave me.

The farmer replied,

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So what if you are innocent?
Why were you moving with the Herons?
Now you shall also get the same
punishment as the Herons.



In this way the poor crane was killed with the herons.

I wish
i had obeyed my
mother.



MORAL

**It is better to be alone than
associating with bad company.**