by: Lukas Wagner

King Lion looks at the city from up on a castle wall. He admires the horizon from towers so tall.

He thinks of what a good job he has done his kingdom lives happily, second to none.

Then down the road comes Mr. Merchant Bear, with his big scheming grin and his menacing stare.

He bounces to the door, happily hopping, then he looks up at Lion, suddenly stopping.

iOh! Lion up there, I have something for you,î but Lion waves, iGo away, leave, shoo shoo,î

iBut Lion, I bring treasure from lands so exotic.î Lion smirks and then replies, iYou must be neurotic!

I have everything that I could possibly need. Donít tell me what you have, let me guess, itís a sneed?î

iLion, I assure you I wonít fill you with regret. My gift I have to give is one that youíll never forget.

So let me in, and Iíll show you this isnít a stage trick. The wonders of my gift are abyssopelagic.î

ìFine if you insist. Let the gates be drawn. Know Merchant Bear, that today your charisma has won.

So in came Bear and unravelled his gift, a gift so big it took four sloths to lift.

What they saw was a sight to be seen, iBehold,î said Bear, ia giant TV screen.î

Everyone in the room ìoohedî and ìawed.î It was obvious that King Lion was truly guffawed.

iOnly two thousand rupees, what a price! The next best deal is twice less nice.î

King Lion sat truly entranced, as across the screen pretty colors and shapes danced.

Well Bear, this item has me truly perplexed. Bear smiled as he saw in Lion's eyes a King that was hexed.

If you buy two now you get one free. And if you buy three, then four's what you really need.

I'll take them all! Get me my money! But what about our pay? said advisors Monkey, Parrot, and Bunny.

I won't. You're all fired. No need for you with all of my screens. For all I care you can go eat garbanzo beans!

Two days later, in came Bear carried by sloths on a diamond encrusted chair.

He brought in a catalog full of new things, with rings, and pillows, and shoes with wings.

Lion felt giddy deep down inside, the hair stood up on the back of his hide.

I'll buy one of everything except for the wing-tipped shoes. Those would look delightful in my wardrobe, I think I'll take two.

Lion's money ran out with great velocity, he bought and he bought, with great ferocity

the people grew poor without Lions reciprocity and his citizens came to know him as a monstrosity,

One day Lion sat as his things acervated, and in walked a Sloth, looking quite enervated.

Who are you Sloth? This is sacrilege! Please King Lion, I only want to deliver a message.

I work for the Merchant Bear who you know so well. The man from whom you'll buy whatever he'll sell.

My family and I, we live in Kazoo. Working in the factory that builds things for you.

We don't get paid, and everyday we're whipped and until this day I've stayed tight-lipped. We work all the day and die of poisonous fumes, We don't even have space to go to the bathroom.

So I tell you today to relieve myself of sorrow, that you need to stop consuming for our better tomorrow.

Then, Sloth showed Lion a picture of his son that had died, And in that moment Lion felt mortified.

So Lion changed his ways for no death in vain. But the things he had bought forever left a stain.