

MAV AND MOONY

— in —

THE LION'S DEN



★ Welcome ★ to Persia!



Mav and Moony had visited a lot of places with Grandpa Martinez. But ancient Persia? That was new. The marketplace smelled of spices, the streets were paved in gold tile, and somewhere nearby, something smelled AMAZING. “Is that lamb?” said Mav. “Focus,” said Moony.

The King's Favorite



Grandpa Martinez served King Darius faithfully. He was honest, hardworking, and trustworthy — so the king loved him most of all.

“You deserve the top job in my kingdom,” the king announced.

“WHAT ABOUT ME?” said Mav.

“You ate the royal cushion,” said Moony.

The Sneaky Advisors



Not everyone was happy about Grandpa Martinez's promotion. Two royal advisors — Slink and Sneer — watched from the shadows with jealous eyes and crooked smiles. "We must get rid of him," Slink hissed. Mav spotted them whispering in the corner. "I don't like those guys," he said. "Neither do I," said Moony.

★ The King's New Law ★



Slink and Sneer had a plan. They flattered the king until he agreed to sign a royal decree: for thirty days, anyone caught praying to anyone but the king would be thrown into the lion's den.

The king signed it with a golden quill — not knowing it was a trap.

“Oh no,” whispered Moony.

Mav Reads ★ the Sign ★



ROYAL DECREE
By Order of King Darius,
let it be known throughout
all the land of Persia:
For thirty days,
anyone caught praying
to anyone but the king
shall be thrown into
THE LION'S DEN.

A royal herald nailed the new law to every wall in Persia. Mav stopped in front of one and read it out loud. His eyes got bigger. And bigger. His jaw dropped to the floor. “LIONS?!” he yelped. Moony read it calmly. “Lions,” he confirmed. “There has to be a mistake,” said Mav. “There isn’t,” said Moony.

Grandpa Still Prays



That evening, Mav watched as Grandpa Martinez knelt down and prayed — just like he did every single day, three times a day. No law was going to change that.

“Grandpa!” Mav hissed. “Did you not READ the sign?!” Grandpa smiled, eyes still closed. “I read it. But I trust God more than I fear any law.”

★ Caught! ★



Slink and Sneer had been watching. The moment they saw Grandpa Martinez praying, they ran straight to the king — tripping over each other in excitement. “We caught him! We caught him!” they sang. The king’s face fell. He had never wanted this. But the law of Persia could not be changed.

★ Before the King ★



Grandpa Martinez stood before King Darius. The king looked miserable.

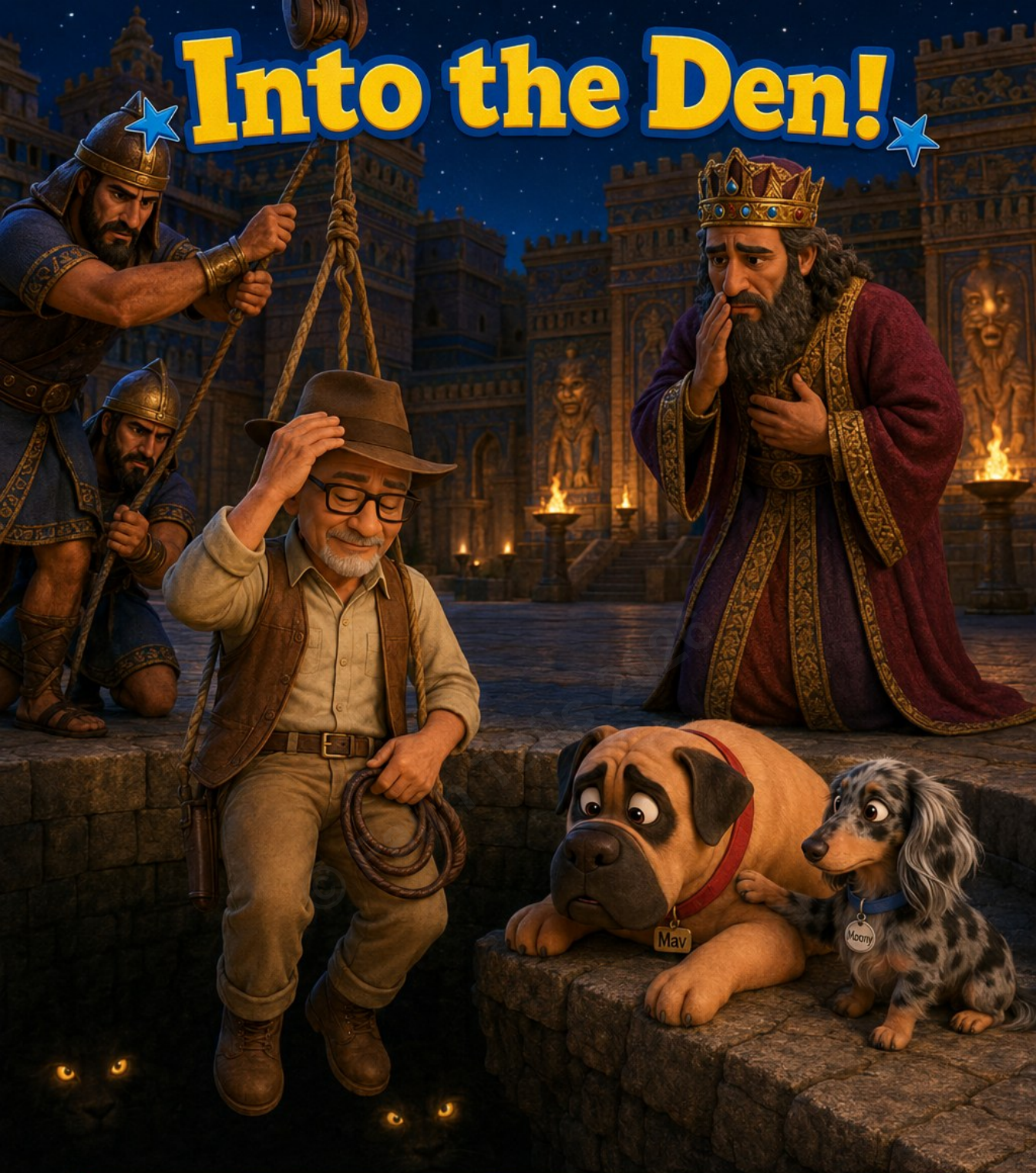
“I tried to find a way out,” the king said, his voice cracking.

“I know,” said Grandpa. “It’s okay.”

Mav stepped forward. “It is NOT okay, actually—”

Moony grabbed his collar. “Not helpful,” he whispered.

Into the Den!



The guards lowered Grandpa Martinez into the great dark pit. The king whispered, “May your God save you.”

Mav crawled to the edge on his belly and looked down into the blackness. He could hear the lions below. He could smell them too. “I’ll pray for you, Grandpa,” he whispered. “That’s a great start,” said Moony.

★ The Longest Night ★



The king sealed the den and went back to his palace. But he couldn't eat. He couldn't sleep. He paced back and forth all night. Mav paced too. He tried counting sheep. He tried counting lions. That made things worse. "Just pray," said Moony quietly. So Mav did — for the very first time.

Not Alone



Down in the den, something incredible happened. A bright and mighty angel appeared — and the lions went still. They sniffed at Grandpa Martinez curiously, then lay down around him like giant kittens. One rested its enormous head in his lap and let out a long rumbling purr. Martinez laughed softly and patted its mane. “Thank You, Lord,” he whispered.

Run!



Before the sun had fully risen, King Darius was already sprinting toward the lion’s den — robes flying, crown bouncing. Mav ran beside him at full speed. For a big dog, Mav could really move when lions were involved. Moony somehow kept up. “GRANDPA!” they all shouted as they reached the sealed stone.

He's Alive!



When the stone was rolled away, Grandpa Martinez walked out — calm, unhurt, not a scratch on him. His fedora still perfectly on his head. Behind him, the lions sat like puppies wagging their tails. Mav stared. Then fainted. The king laughed and cried at the same time. Moony looked at the reader and nodded. “God keeps His promises,” he said.

The King's Declaration



King Darius sent a message to every nation in the world: "The God of Grandpa Martinez is the living God! He rescues and saves. He performs signs and wonders. He saved my friend from the power of the lions!" Mav stood up straight when he heard it read aloud. Something had changed inside him.

★ Standing Firm ★



That evening, the three friends walked through the golden streets of Persia together. “Were you ever scared, Grandpa?” Mav asked. “Every second,” said Grandpa Martinez with a smile. “Then how did you do it?” “I didn’t,” said Grandpa, adjusting his fedora. “I just trusted the One who did.” Mav was quiet for a long time. “I want to trust like that.” “You already started,” said Moony.

— The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? — Psalm 27:1

FAITH TAILS

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Mav, Moony & the Lion's Den Standing Firm

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*"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions.
They have not hurt me."*

Daniel 6:22