

しゅりじょうせいでん

首里城正殿のヒミツ

Secrets about the Seiden
Main Hall of Shuri Castle

しし

ぼたん

獅子と牡丹

Lions and Peonies



Wow!





Lions with
beautiful
flowers!

How lovely!



What do you mean, Hakutaku?

They are lions and peonies.

The lion is
traditionally the
king of beasts.

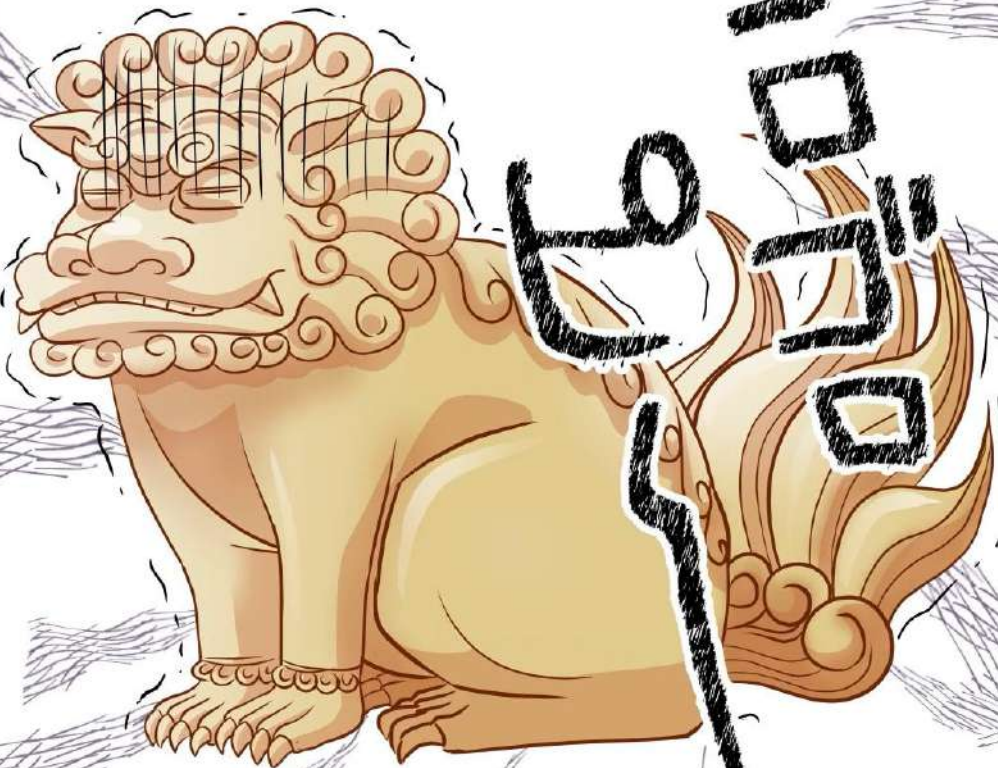


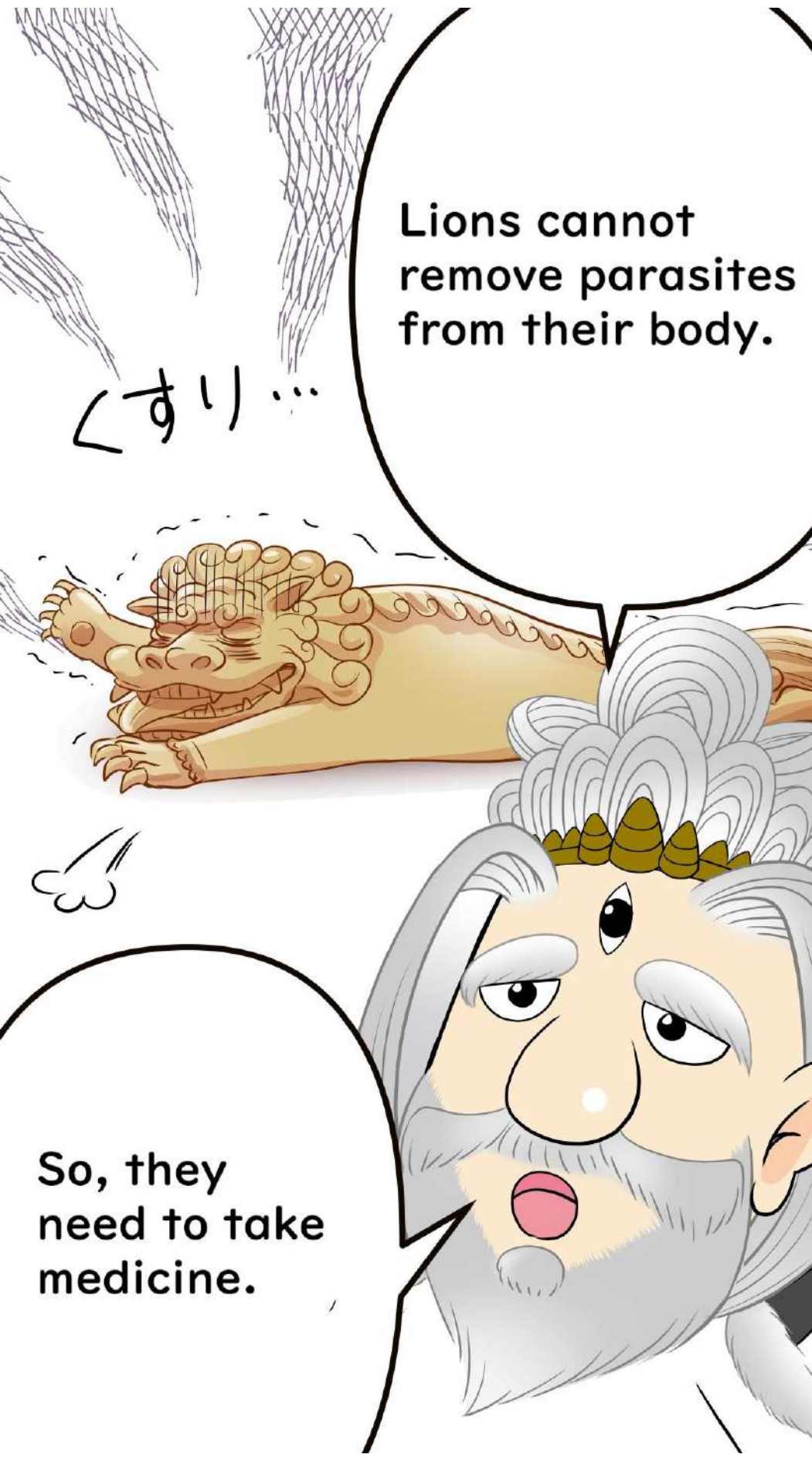
However, even
lions have
weaknesses.

An example is
parasites in
their bodies.



لions have
weaknesses.

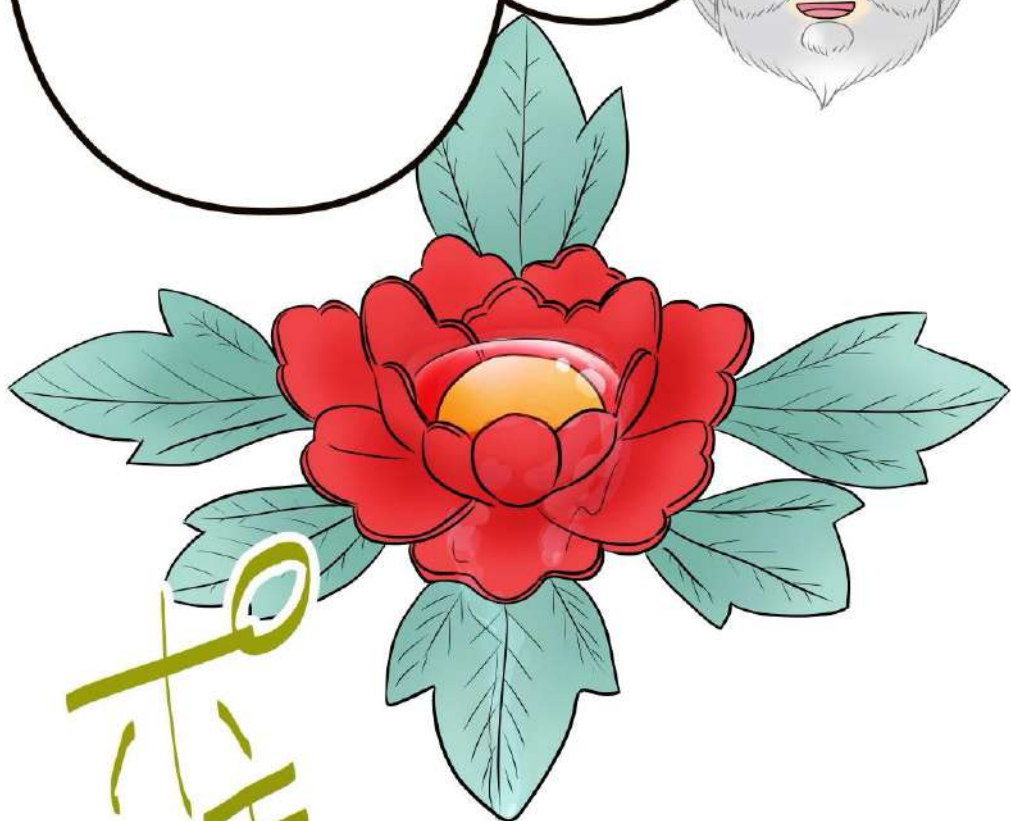




Lions cannot
remove parasites
from their body.

So, they
need to take
medicine.

They take
morning dew
drops on the
petals of peonies
as medicine.



牡丹汁

To protect themselves,
the beasts cannot part
from peonies.

I see.



As a symbol of strength,
lions are hidden together
with peonies all over the
Seiden Main Hall.





Let's go
and find them!

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りゅう かえんほうじゅ

龍と火焰宝珠

Dragons and flaming jewels





Hey,
Hakutaku.



Shuri Castile has a lot
of paintings of dragons
and flaming balls.
Is there any reason
for this?





These flaming balls are called flaming jewels. If you catch one, you can make your wish come true, whatever it is.



Apparently,
a pair of dragons
are fighting over
the jewel.



Maybe
that is true.





**Dragons and
flaming jewels are
also depicted on**



lacquerware



**Black Lacquered Mother-of-Pearl
Inlay Tray with a Motif of Clouds
and Dragons**

Bingata-dyed fabrics





It seems like the
Ryukyuan people of the
past loved this motif.

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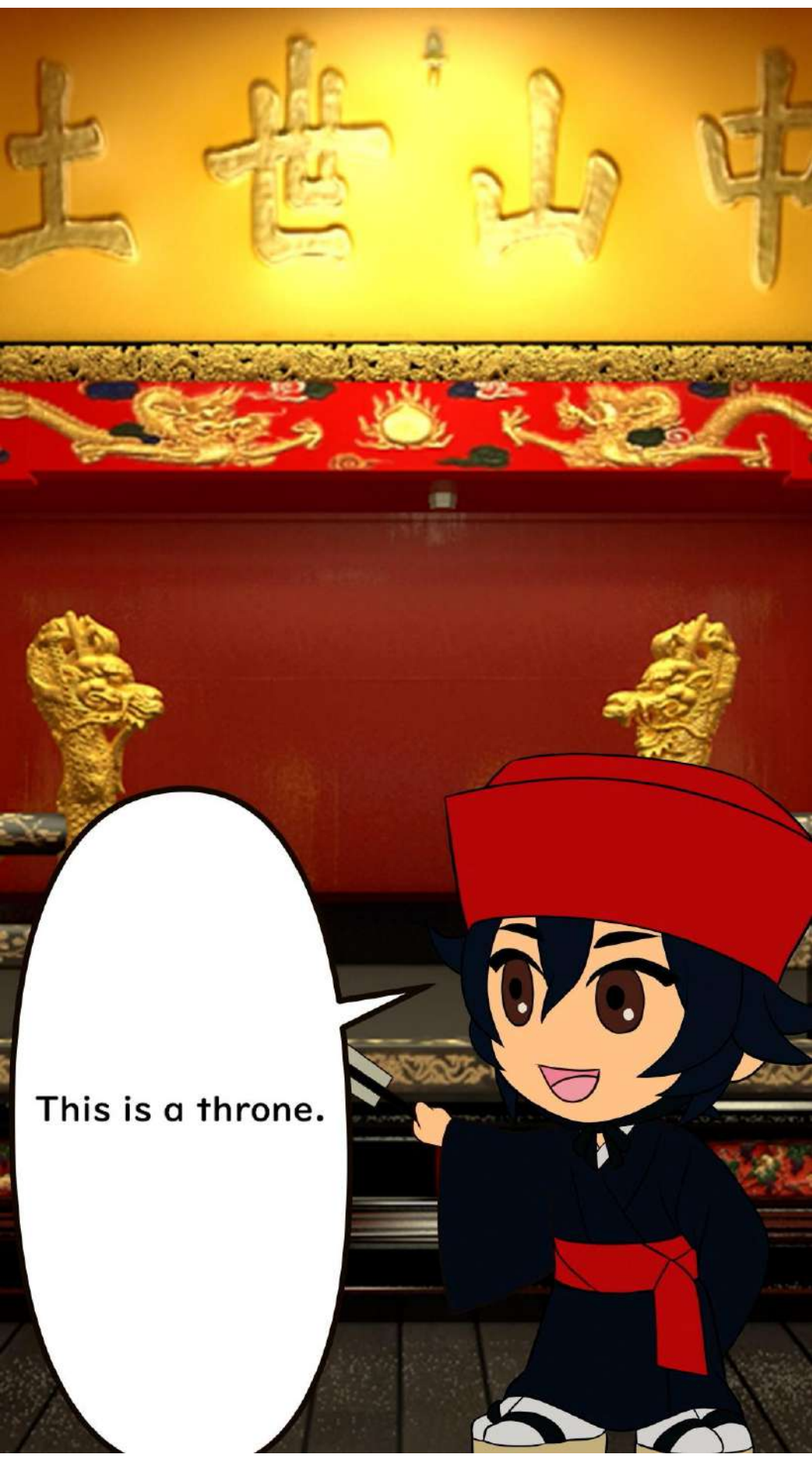
ぶどう

りす

葡萄と栗鼠

Grapes and Squirrels





中山世土

This is a throne.

Squirrels are depicted
here.



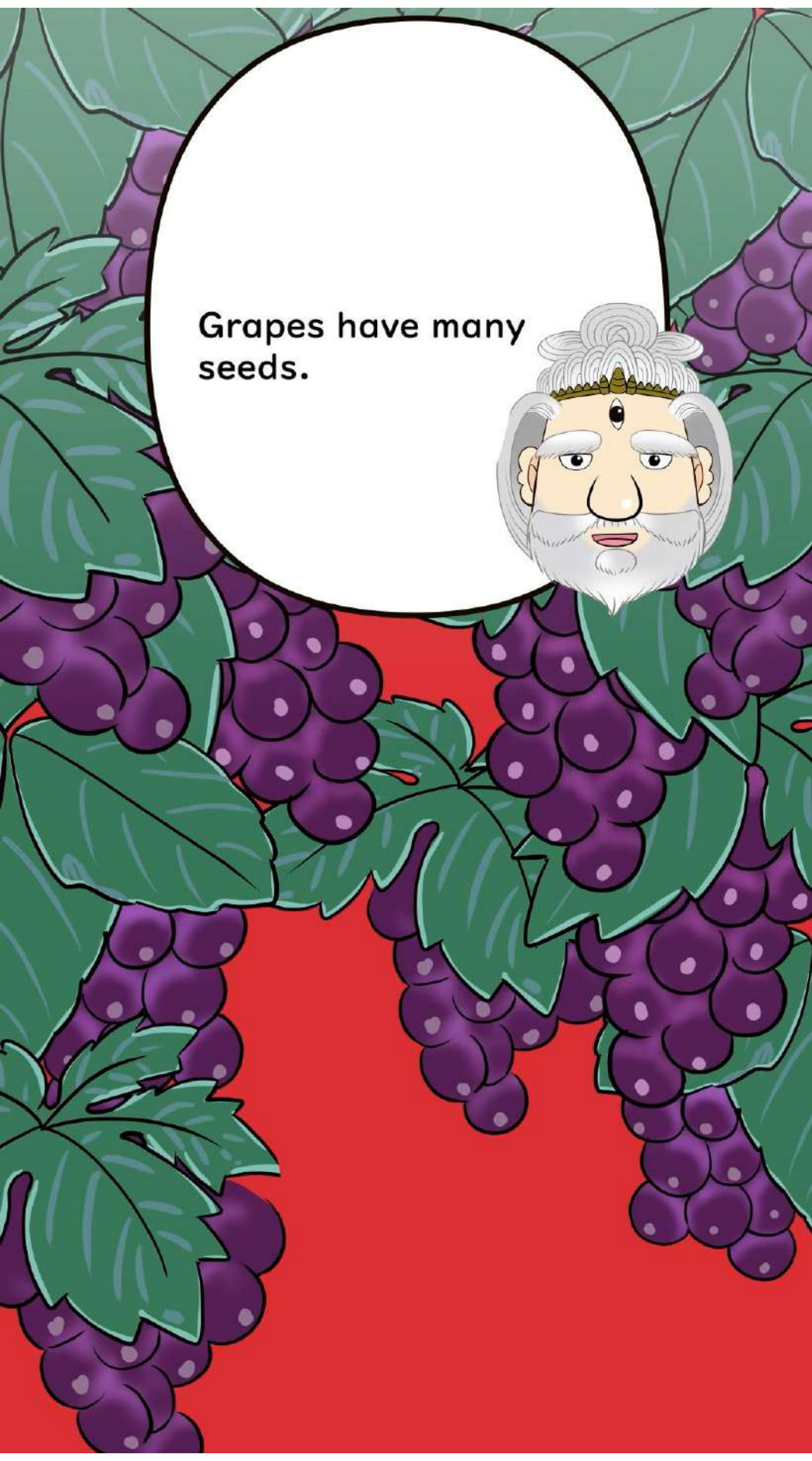


Do they eat
grapes?
How adorable!



What?

Satonushi, this motif
has a meaning.



Grapes have many
seeds.

And squirrels have
large litters.



So, the motif of grapes
and squirrels represents
wishes for happiness and
prosperity





for the descendants
and the state of
Ryukyu.





Don't miss it when
you come here!