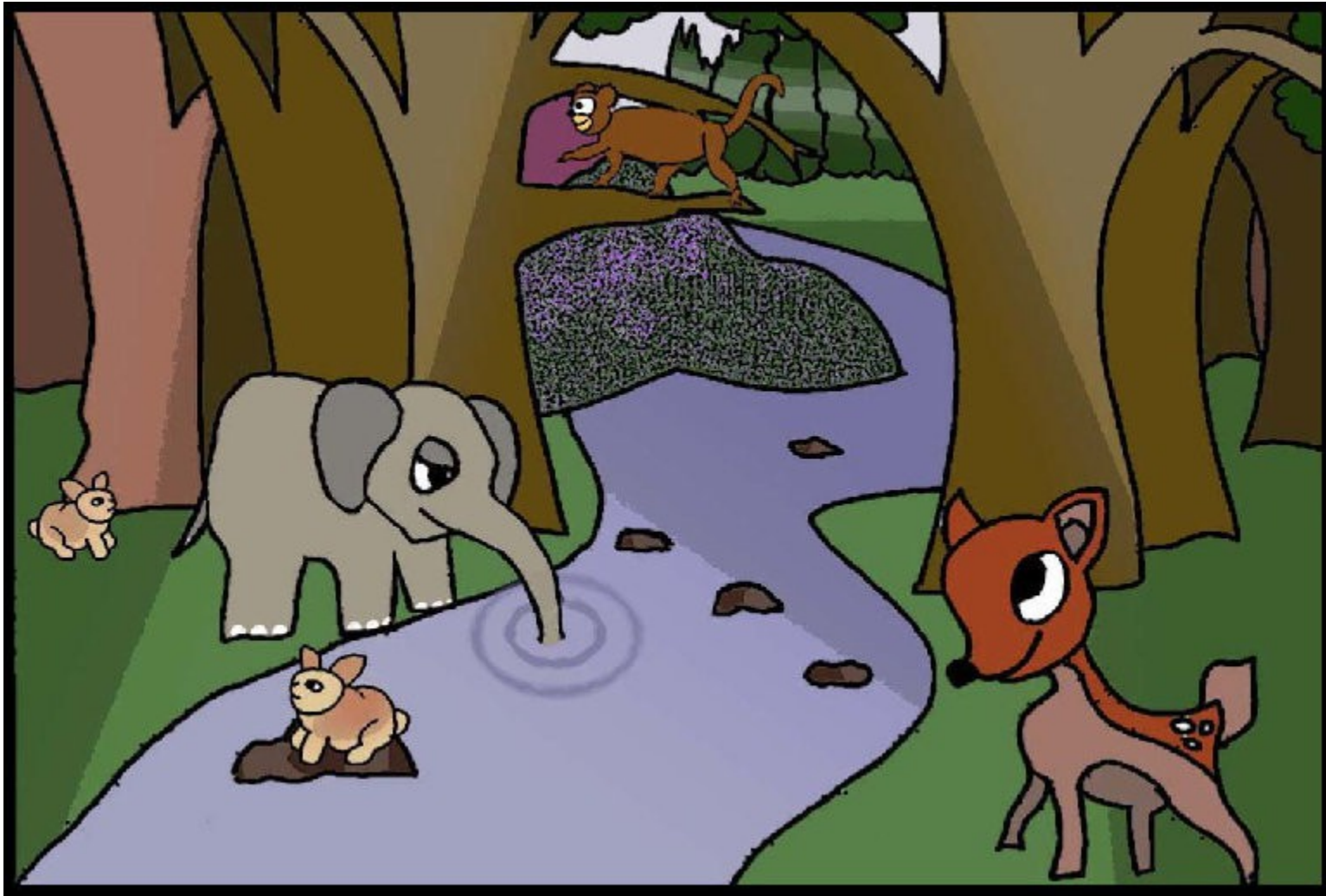


The Three Legged Fox

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This is a story about a time long ago, when God finished creating all the animals. They were all living in a very beautiful forest. In one corner of the forest was a very small creek. This creek became a favorite playing spot for almost all of the baby animals. They loved to jump over the creek. Each one tried to outdo the other and see who could jump the farthest.

The fawn would jump very high over the creek. Then a baby elephant would lift its big legs one at a time to cross over. The monkey would swing over the creek from high above like on a trapeze. Once in a while, a bunch of baby rabbits would use the little rocks in the creek to hop across.



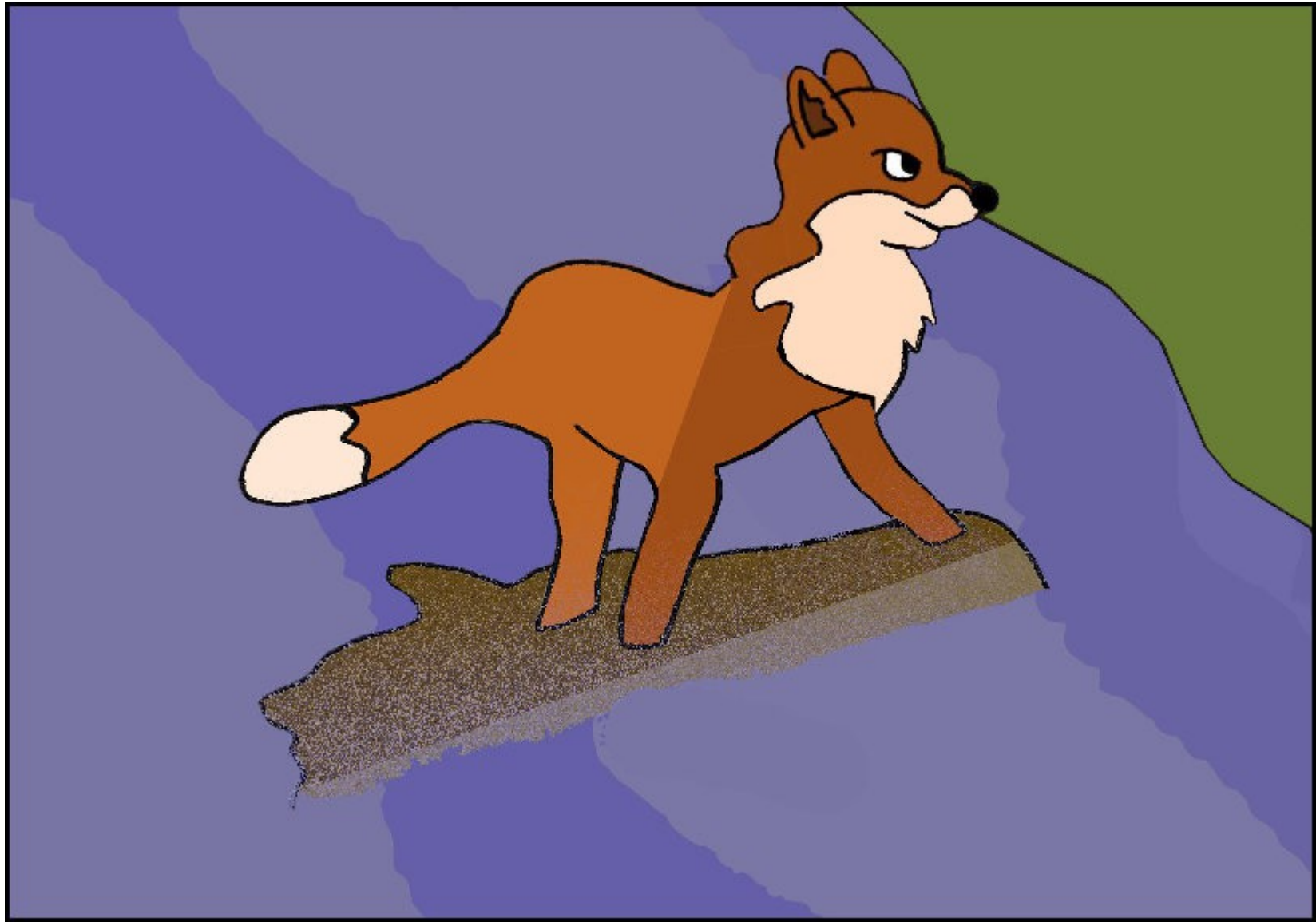
One day, a very small fox stood at the creek, watching the others. He thought it looked like fun. He was about to jump across too, when he realized that he only had 3 legs. He looked at his legs and counted, "1, 2, 3, Am I not supposed to have 4 legs?" he asked himself. He looked at the other four legged animals and counted, "1, 2, 3, 4." Then he looked at the two legged animals and thought, "They are supposed to have two, that's right, 1, 2, but I am supposed to have 4 and I only have 3." He counted again, "1, 2, 3!"

He felt a little weird, so he ran to God and asked Him. "God, did you not make my mother and father with 4 legs, how come I only have 3?" He looked down again and counted, "See, 1, 2, 3."



God looked at him with love and said, "My dear little fox, you have 3 because that's all I gave you, and you are perfect the way I made you. Now go along and play with your friends."

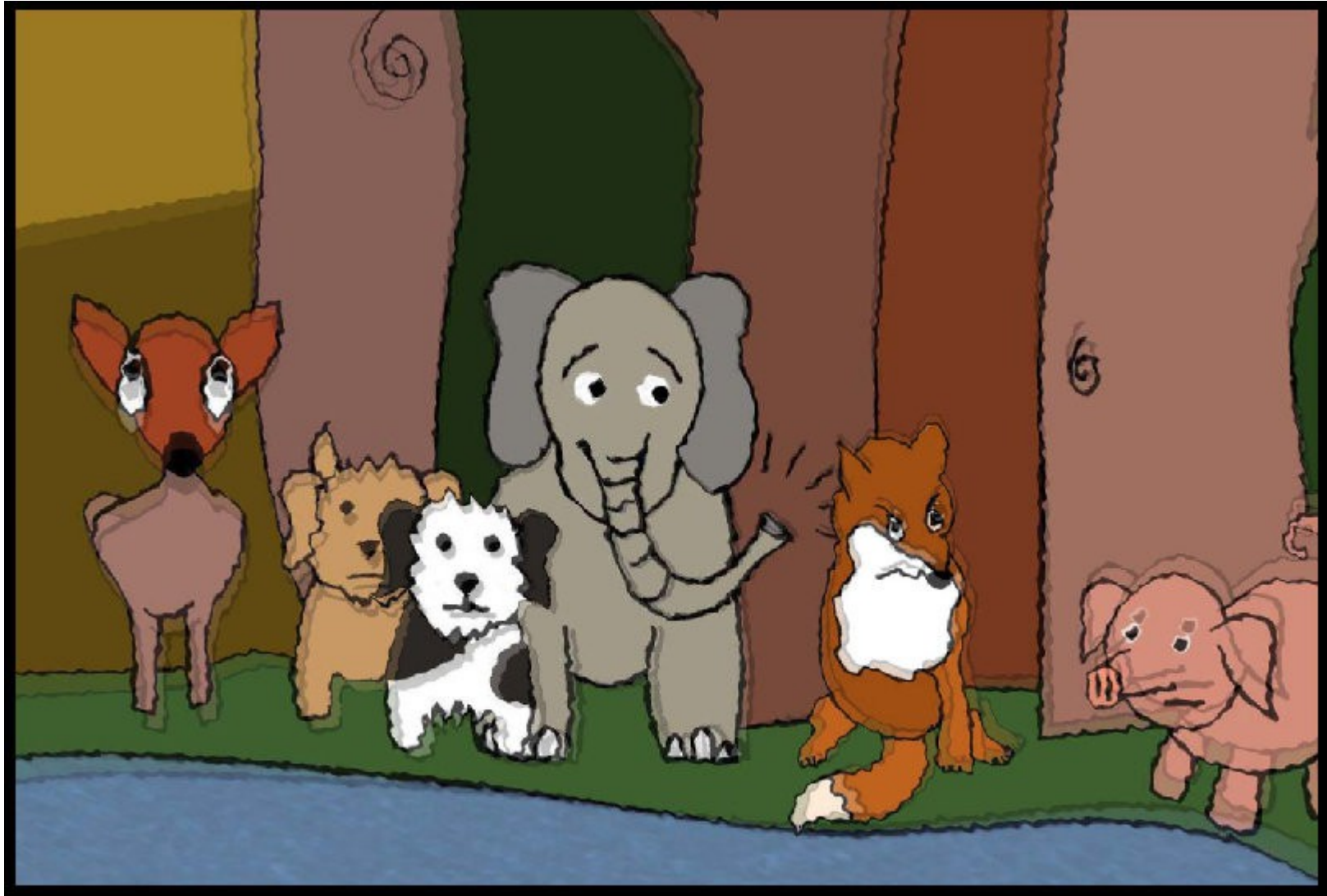
The fox hesitated for a moment as he watched God walk towards a man and woman who were hiding under a bush, looking afraid. He thought to himself, "I will never be afraid of God, because He said I am perfect and I know He loves me. He gave me 3 perfect legs that I can use to jump over the creek." So he ran, and skipped and hopped. When he reached the creek, the little fox nodded to his friends and announced that he was going to jump too. Everyone cheered and clapped, and he waited for his turn.



First, a bird flew very low over the creek. Next, two dogs jumped across because there was a pig chasing them. Then it was his turn.

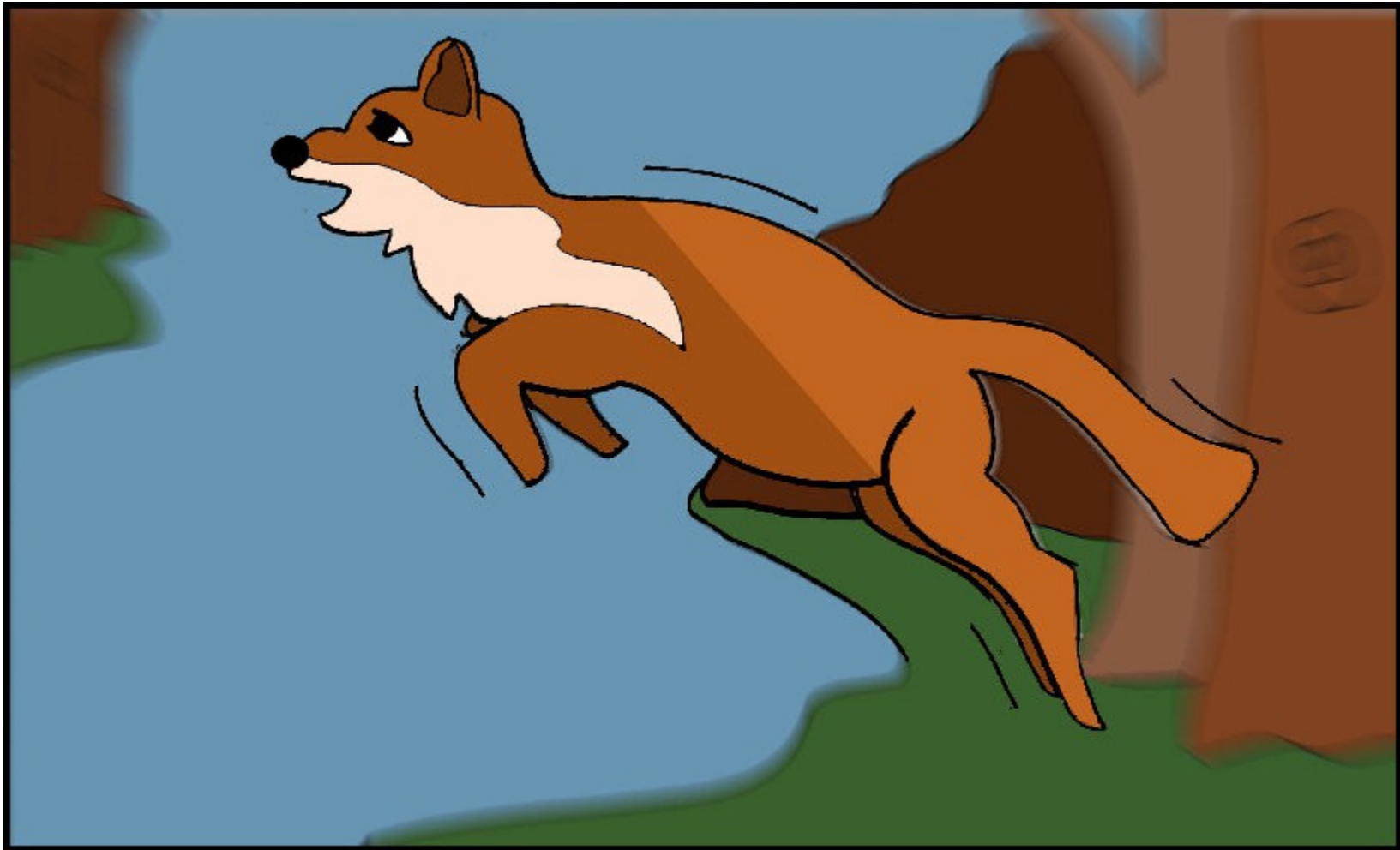
Everyone's eyes were on him. The little fox looked around, stepped onto a log, and used it as a raft to cross the creek. Everyone laughed as the fox gleefully bowed his head. It seemed like there was a fun circus going on at the creek.

After a long day of jumping and playing, all of the animals happily grazed in the lush green parts of the forest.



Suddenly, everyone heard a loud rumble and the ground began to shake. It was slow at first, but it became stronger and stronger! It was an earthquake! Everyone looked around and saw that God seemed to be pointing beyond the beautiful forest as He spoke with the man and the woman. The ground shook again and all the animals started to run in the same direction, as if someone were leading them.

The creek was much wider now because of the earthquake, but they needed to get to the other side. Because the little animals practiced every day, everyone made it across, everyone that is except for the 3 legged fox. He looked across and saw all of his friends on the other side, everyone except him.



Then he looked towards God, and saw God smile at him. The little fox smiled too because deep in his heart he knew God would help him cross the very wide creek, even with only 3 legs. This time he didn't even need a log. He jumped the highest and the farthest that any fox could, and all the other animals clapped and cheered.

He was filled with joy when he looked down at where he landed, and everyone else was in awe for what they saw. They all counted with the little fox, "1, 2, 3, 4." Yes, he now had 4 perfect little legs. He and all the animals praised God, each with their own special voices. God was there for the little fox, when the fox needed Him the most.