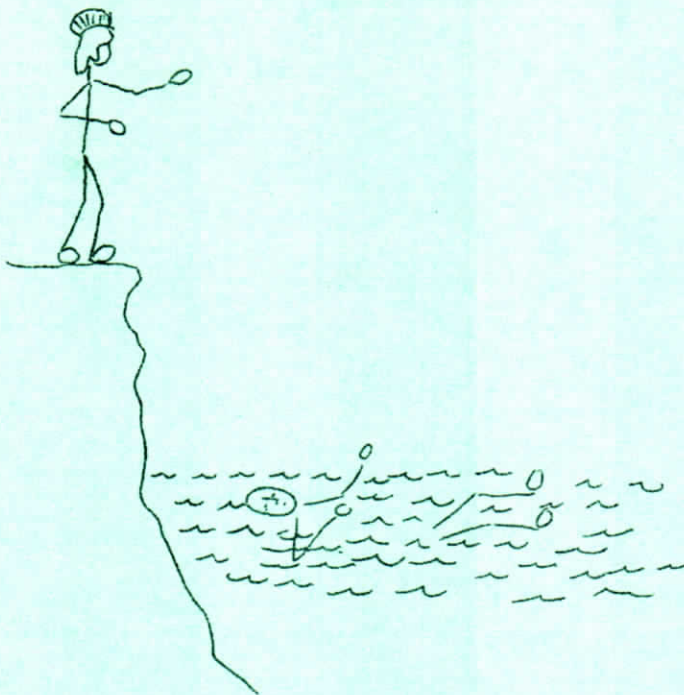


WHO DEFEATED THE ROMAN COMMANDER ?

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(A STORY ABOUT THE DEAD SEA)

For a long time the land of Israel was ruled by a nation across the sea called Rome. Rome was very strong. Rome kept many soldiers in Israel. The people did not like the Roman soldiers. They did not like the Romans to tell them what to do. Of course they obeyed because Rome was strong. If anyone disobeyed these commands the Romans would punish him very harshly.



This is a story about one Roman commander who failed. Someone got the best of a Roman leader. Can you guess who this "someone" was?

This Roman commander had several prisoners. He decided one day that these prisoners must die. The soldiers and the prisoners were standing on a hill at the side of the Dead Sea. The Roman commander gave this command. "Throw the prisoners into the sea." The Roman soldiers heard what their commander had ordered. These soldiers took the prisoners and threw each one over the edge of the hill down into the Dead Sea. Then they looked in surprise! The prisoners did not sink to the bottom and drown as they were meant to do. The prisoners just bobbed around on top of the sea. They looked rather funny. Only it is never funny when a Roman commander fails.

TURN CARD OVER

The Roman commander was very angry. He was not used to being defeated like this. He gave the command again. "Throw these prisoners again into the sea." The soldiers took the prisoners. Once again they threw them from the hill into the sea. Once again the prisoners bobbed on the top of the water. They just would not drown.

The Roman commander did not give up easily. Several more times he ordered the prisoners thrown in the sea to be drowned. He became more and more surprised because the prisoners seemed to have some special power that kept them from drowning.

The soldiers became very tired. And the commander grew afraid of the special power these prisoners had. In the end he let all of these prisoners go free. He was afraid to hurt them.

We do not know if this is a true story. Do you think that it could be?