

Krishna, something strange happened yesterday. I saw a minor accident on the road, but no one stepped forward to help immediately.

VRINDAVAN BAGH

It took a while before someone called for an ambulance. Why does that happen?

That's a troubling situation, Arjun.  
Let's think about what might have  
been going on in the minds of the  
people there.

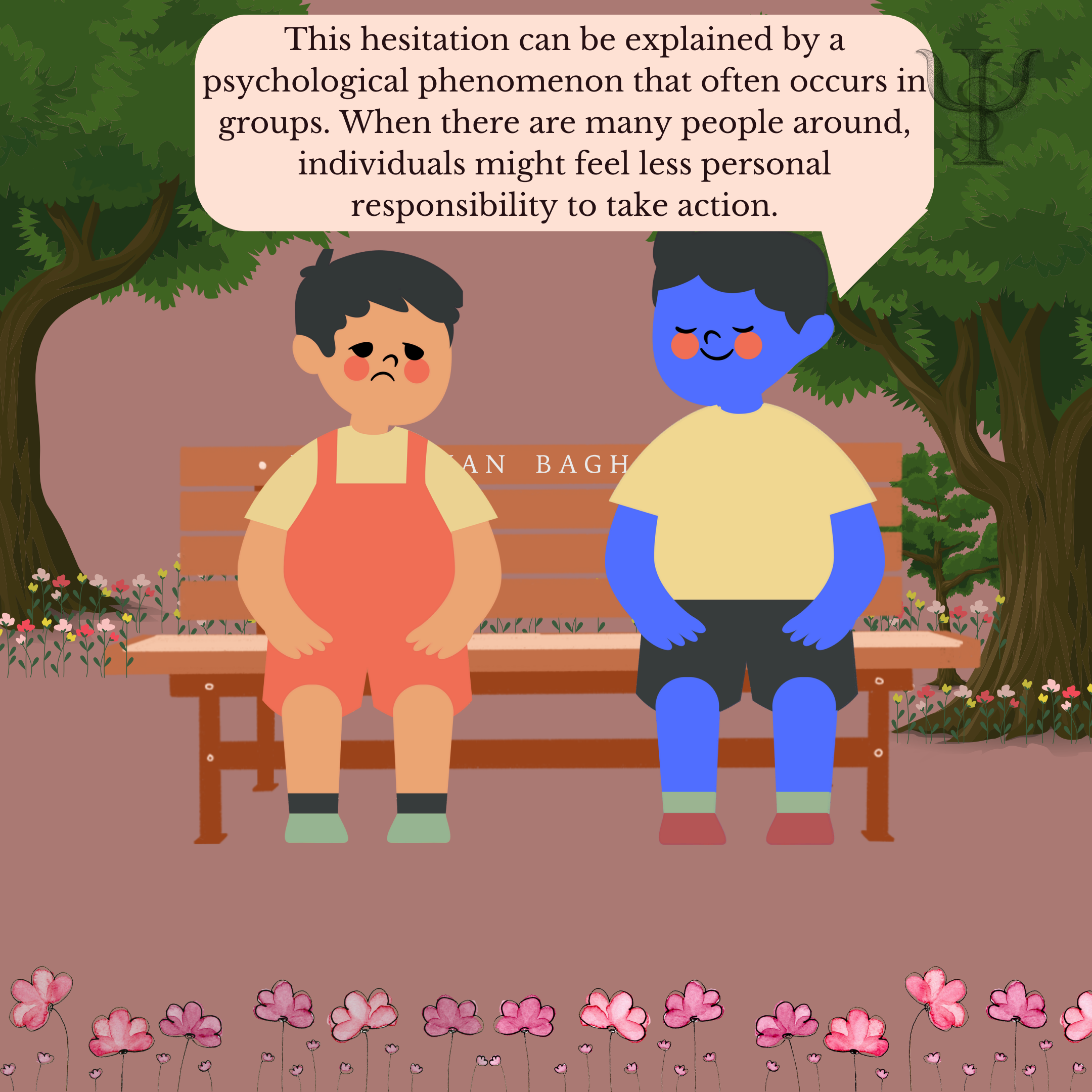


It was weird. There were plenty of people around, but everyone seemed to hesitate.

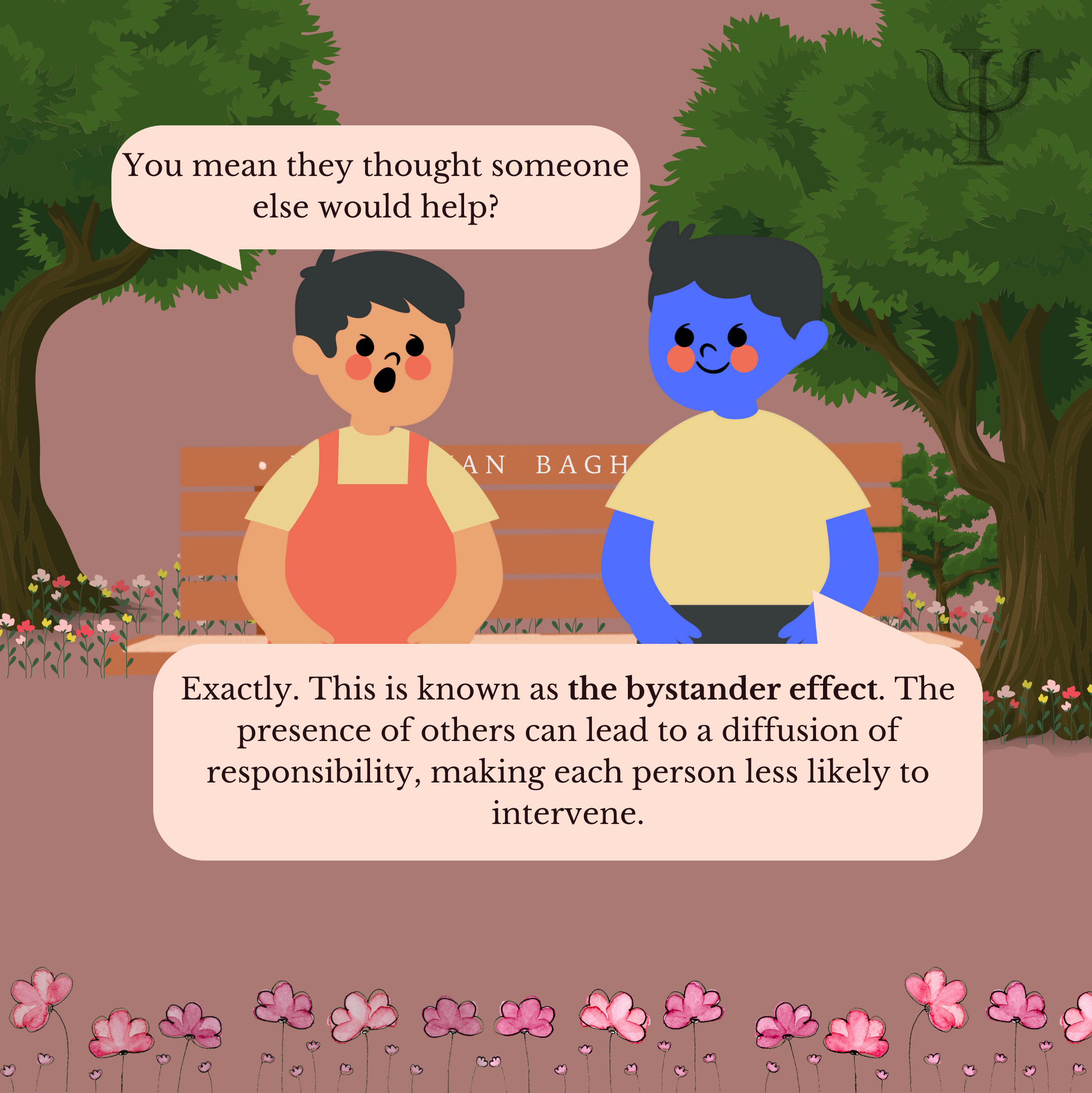




This hesitation can be explained by a psychological phenomenon that often occurs in groups. When there are many people around, individuals might feel less personal responsibility to take action.






An illustration of two children sitting on a wooden bench in a park. The child on the left is a boy with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt and red overalls, with a surprised expression. The child on the right is a girl with blue skin and dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt, with a calm expression. They are surrounded by green trees and small flowers. A large Greek letter Psi (Ψ) is visible in the upper right corner of the background.

You mean they thought someone else would help?

Exactly. This is known as **the bystander effect**. The presence of others can lead to a diffusion of responsibility, making each person less likely to intervene.

An illustration of two children sitting on a wooden bench in a park. The child on the left is a boy with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt and orange overalls, looking surprised. The child on the right is a girl with blue skin and dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt and dark shorts, smiling. They are surrounded by green trees and pink flowers. A speech bubble from the boy contains text about social influence. A large Greek letter Psi (Ψ) is in the top right corner. The background has a pinkish-brown hue.

That's interesting. But why does having more people around make us less likely to help?

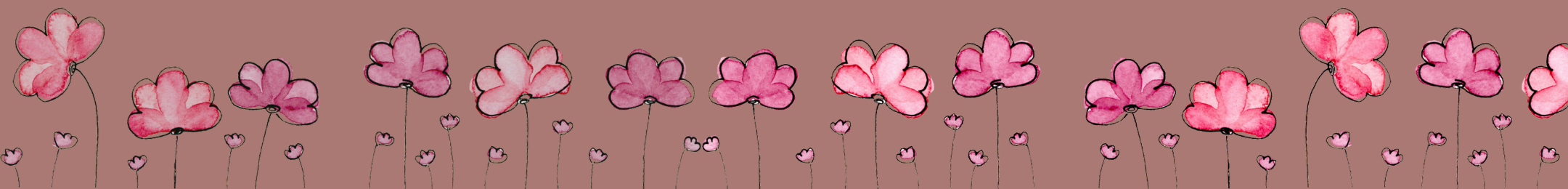
It's partly because of social influence. People look to others for cues on how to behave. If they see others not acting, they assume it's not an emergency or that someone else will step in.



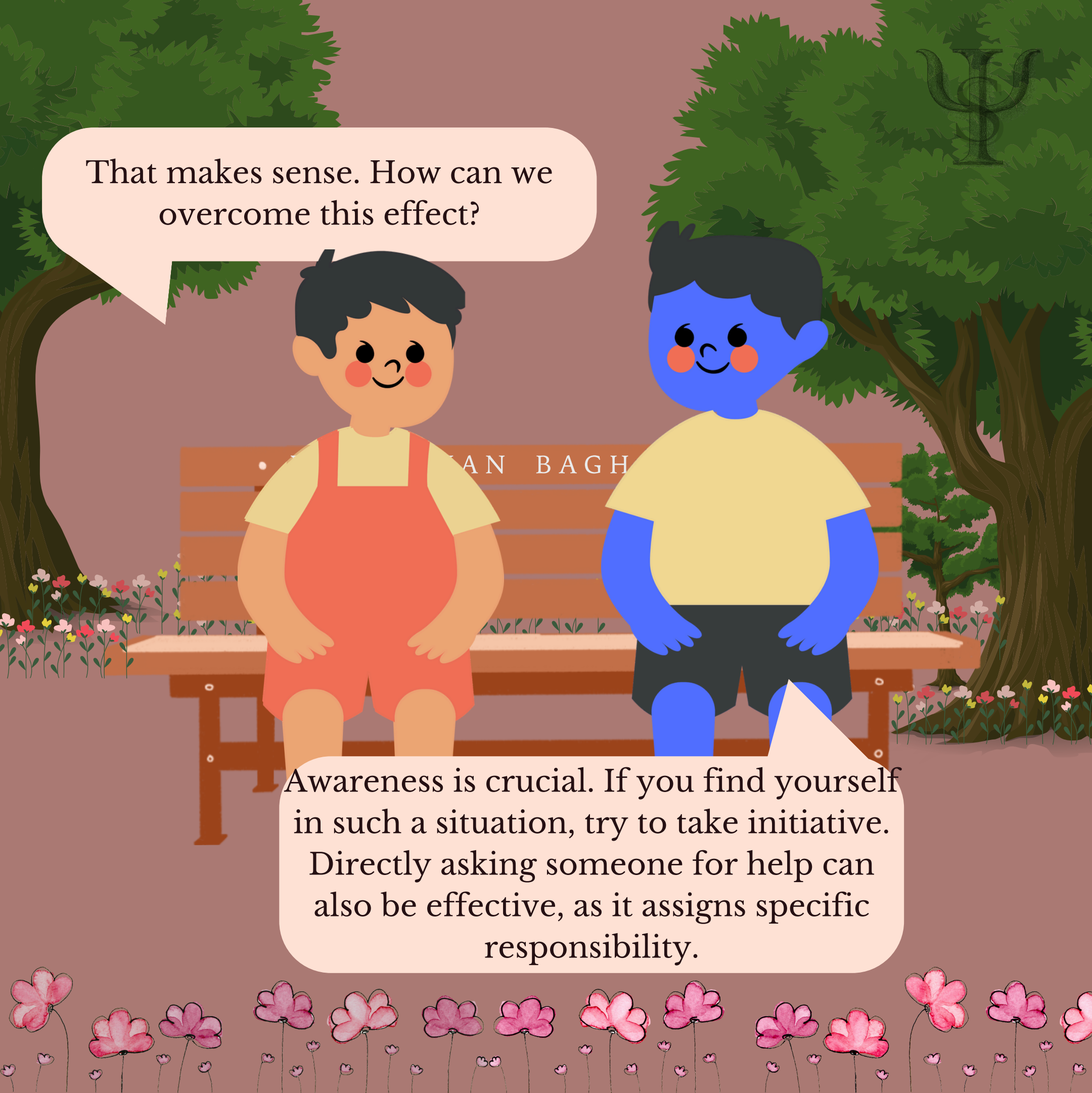
So, everyone's waiting for someone else to take the lead?



Precisely. This effect can be quite strong, even in serious situations. However, when someone does take action, it often prompts others to follow.





An illustration of two children sitting on a wooden bench in a park. The child on the left is a boy with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt and orange overalls. The child on the right is a girl with blue skin and dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt and dark shorts. They are both smiling. The background features large green trees and a path. A speech bubble from the boy contains the text 'That makes sense. How can we overcome this effect?'. A speech bubble from the girl contains the text 'Awareness is crucial. If you find yourself in such a situation, try to take initiative. Directly asking someone for help can also be effective, as it assigns specific responsibility.'.

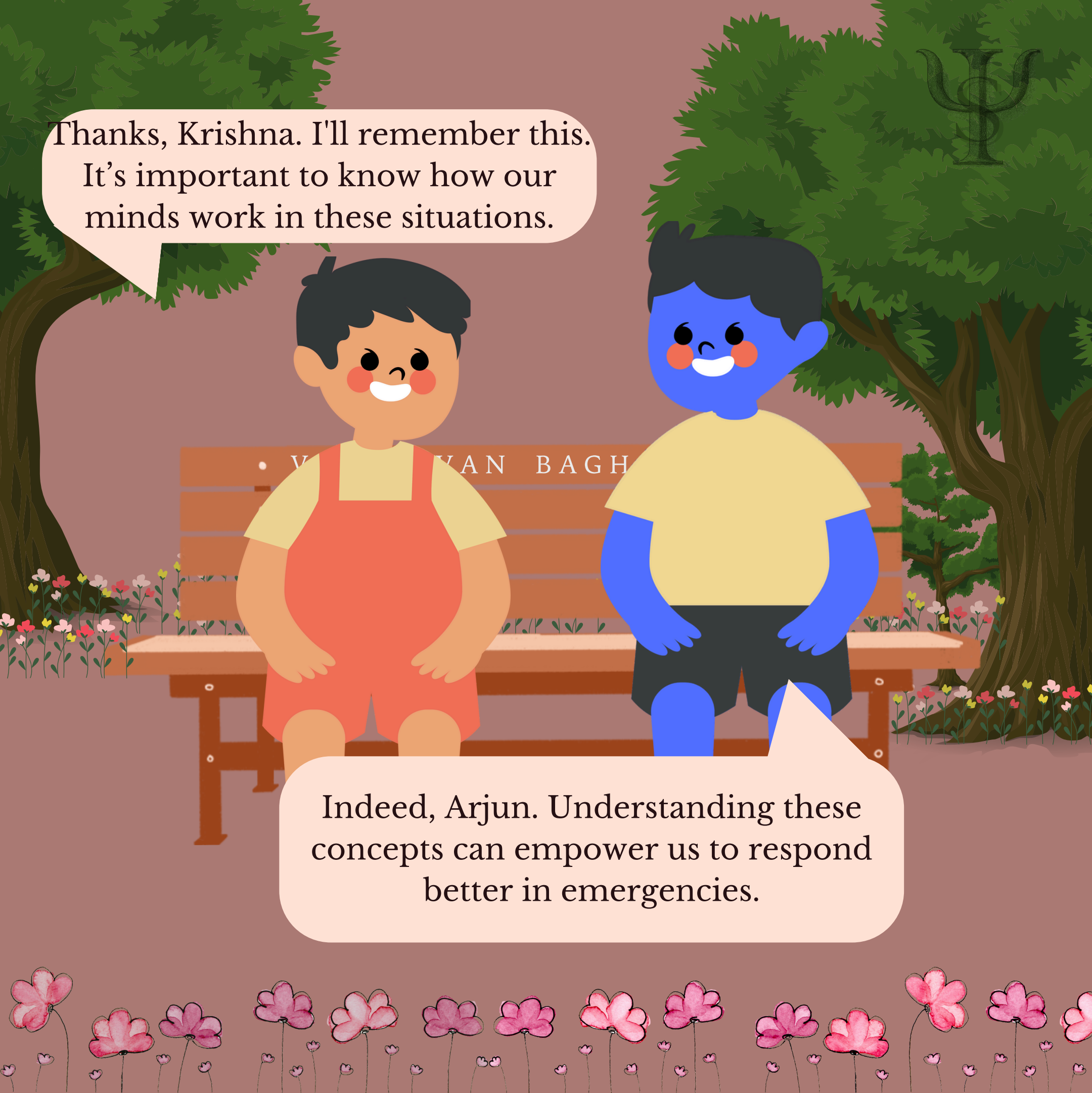
That makes sense. How can we overcome this effect?

Awareness is crucial. If you find yourself in such a situation, try to take initiative. Directly asking someone for help can also be effective, as it assigns specific responsibility.

An illustration of two children sitting on a wooden bench in a park. The child on the left is a boy with dark skin, black hair, and rosy cheeks, wearing a yellow shirt and red overalls. The child on the right is a boy with blue skin, black hair, and rosy cheeks, wearing a yellow shirt and dark blue shorts. They are both smiling. The background features large green trees and a pinkish-brown sky. A speech bubble from the boy on the left contains the text. A speech bubble from the boy on the right contains the response. The text 'VAN BAGH' is visible on the back of the bench. At the bottom of the image, there is a row of pink flowers.

So, if I see an accident, I should step up or ask someone directly to help?

Yes. By breaking the diffusion of responsibility, you can prompt others to act as well.

An illustration of two children sitting on a wooden bench in a park. The child on the left is a boy with dark skin, black hair, and rosy cheeks, wearing a yellow shirt and red overalls. The child on the right is a boy with blue skin, black hair, and rosy cheeks, wearing a yellow shirt and dark blue shorts. They are both smiling. The background features large green trees and a pinkish-brown sky. A speech bubble from the boy on the left contains the text: "Thanks, Krishna. I'll remember this. It's important to know how our minds work in these situations." A speech bubble from the boy on the right contains the text: "Indeed, Arjun. Understanding these concepts can empower us to respond better in emergencies." The text "VAN BAGH" is visible on the back of the bench. A large Greek letter Psi (Ψ) is in the top right corner. The bottom of the image is decorated with a row of pink flowers.

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It's important to know how our  
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Indeed, Arjun. Understanding these  
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