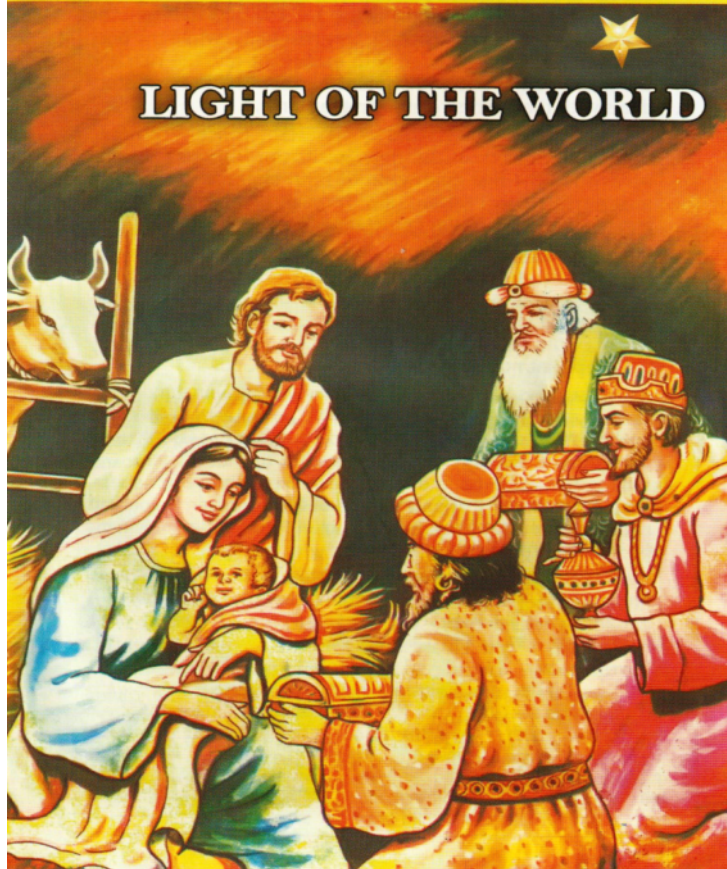


BIBLE COMICS - 32

JESUS CHRIST - 2

LIGHT OF THE WORLD



BIBLE COMICS-32

Jesus Christ - 2

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

SCRIPT:

DR. MICHAEL KARIMATTAM

ILLUSTRATION:

DEVASY * BENNY



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jesus Christ is a historical person who was born in Bethlehem during the last years of Herod's rule. His birth, though pre-announced by the prophets of Israel awaited by the entire world, took place in a totally unexpected manner and provoked contradictory reactions. While the poor and the humble were filled with exuberant joy, the rich and the mighty burst out with violent hatred. The present story deals with the events related to that birth.

Mary, the humble maid of Nazareth, conceived him in faith, by the work of the Holy Spirit. Her visit to Elizabeth occasioned the first confession of faith in Jesus as the Lord, giving rise to an exultant joy. Through her hymn of

praise and humble service, Mary proclaimed the Good News of God's entry into our history.

Joseph, to whom Mary was betrothed, was thrown into utter confusion by that inexplicable event, but finally surrendered in faith and thus became the father of the child whom he did not physically generate. Like Abraham of old, he believed that nothing was impossible with God.

Jesus was born in a country that was groaning under the Roman yoke. The greed of the colonial power always invented new methods of exploitation. The census that Caesar Augustus decreed was intended for taxation. But unknowingly he was setting the scene for the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem, the city of David. It is an example of how God carries out His plan in history, fully respecting

human freedom, and bringing good out of the evil that man does with malicious intentions.

Jesus was born in a manger because his parents were denied a room in the inn. But again it was God's plan working out in history. It expresses God's option and indicates the options Jesus would make during his life, namely, the option for the poor.

When the whole world slept in darkness, the divine light entered unnoticed. Only the shepherds who kept watch outside the town were chosen to see the Light of the World and listen to the Good News of the Saviour's birth. They were despised by the Jewish leaders as unclean men. But God chose precisely these poor people. There were many learned priests and scribes in Jerusalem, waiting for

the Messiah but only the old Simeon and Anna recognized him when he entered the temple as the child of a poor couple.

When the gentiles came from far away and worshipped the child as God and Savior, Herod, the king of Israel felt threatened and tried to kill him. The innocent infants were the victims of a monarch who felt insecure of his throne because of a helpless baby lying in a manger. In the outburst of violence we can see the convulsions of the powers of evil that are threatened with destruction by the new born child. In Jesus' journey to Egypt and back, the Exodus experience is re-lived and the hopes concerning the coming of the New Moses are fulfilled.

Mary surrendered herself to the will of God revealed through the angel. In order to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth in Ain-Karim Mary set out with a caravan that was going to Jerusalem.

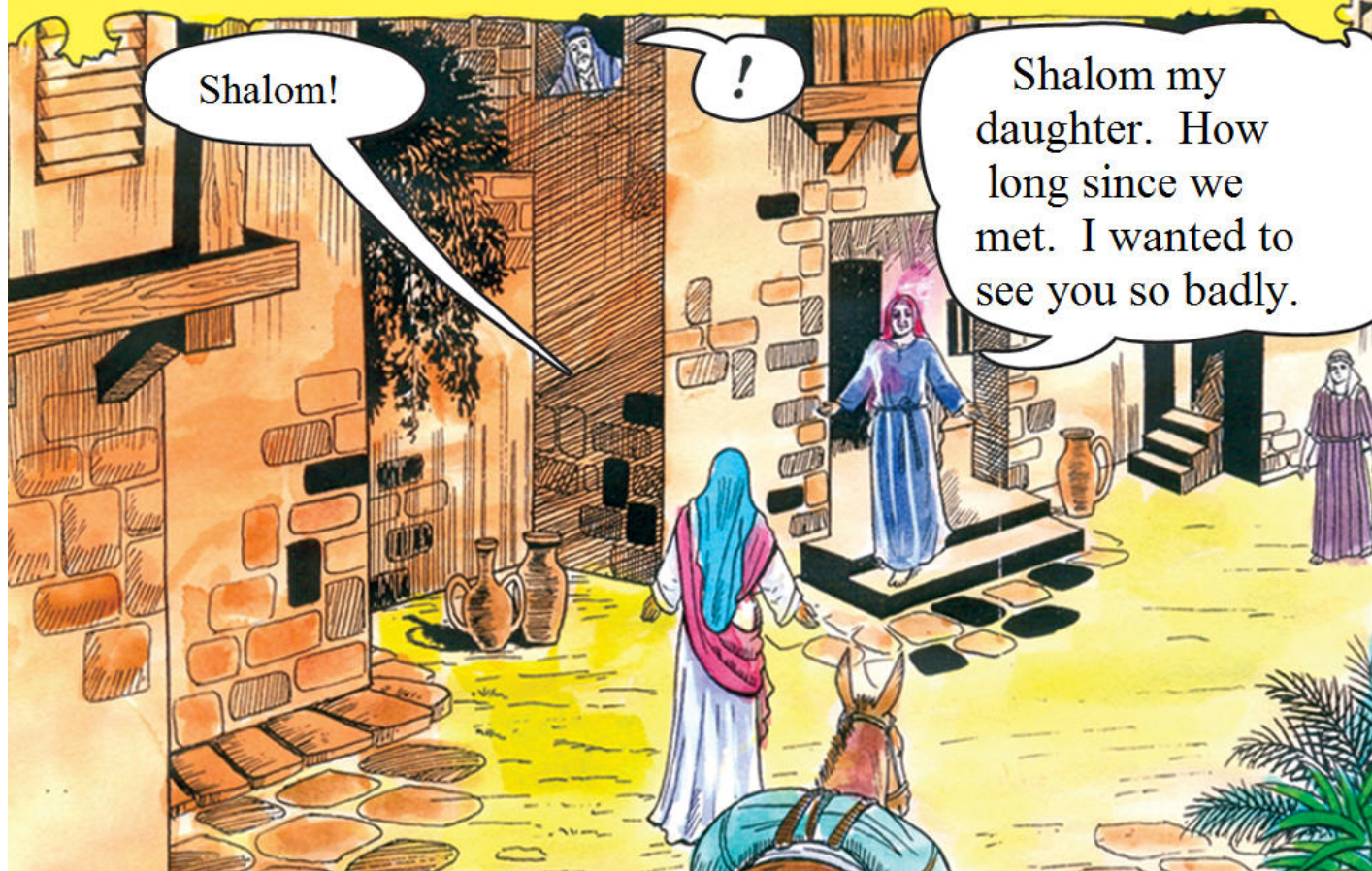
Look there,
the Holy city.

How beautiful is the
house of the Lord.

How merciful is
the Lord who
looks so kindly
upon the poor
maiden!



Mary reached Zechariah's house in Ain-karim, a small town south-west of Jerusalem.



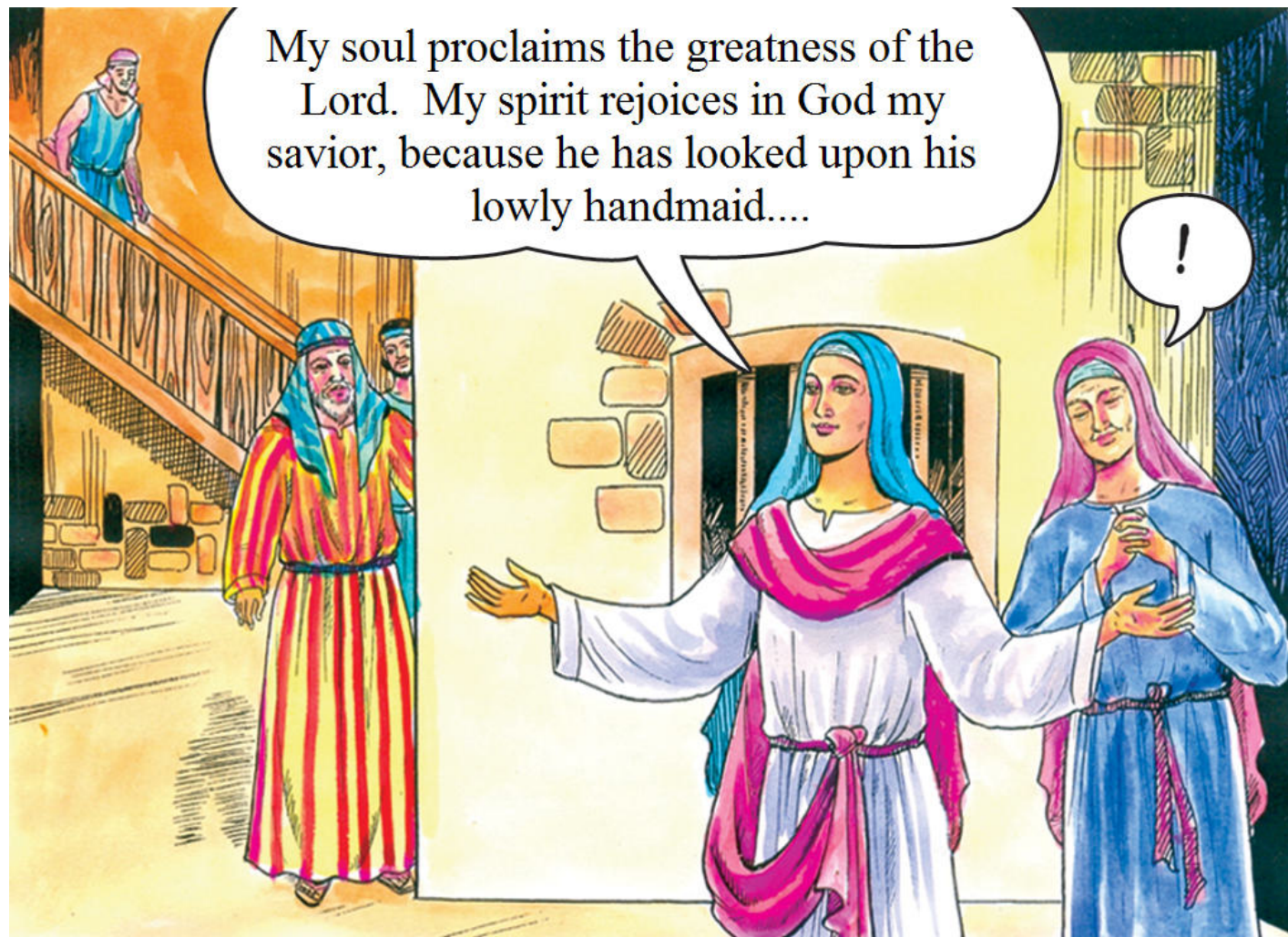
You are blessed for believing the word of God.

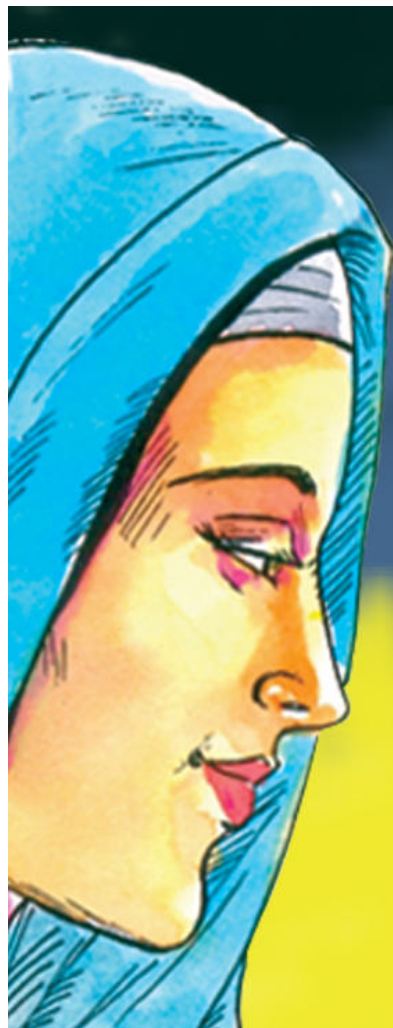


I am not worthy to be visited
by the mother of my Lord!
Even the child in my womb
leaped for joy.



My soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord. My spirit rejoices in God my
savior, because he has looked upon his
lowly handmaid....

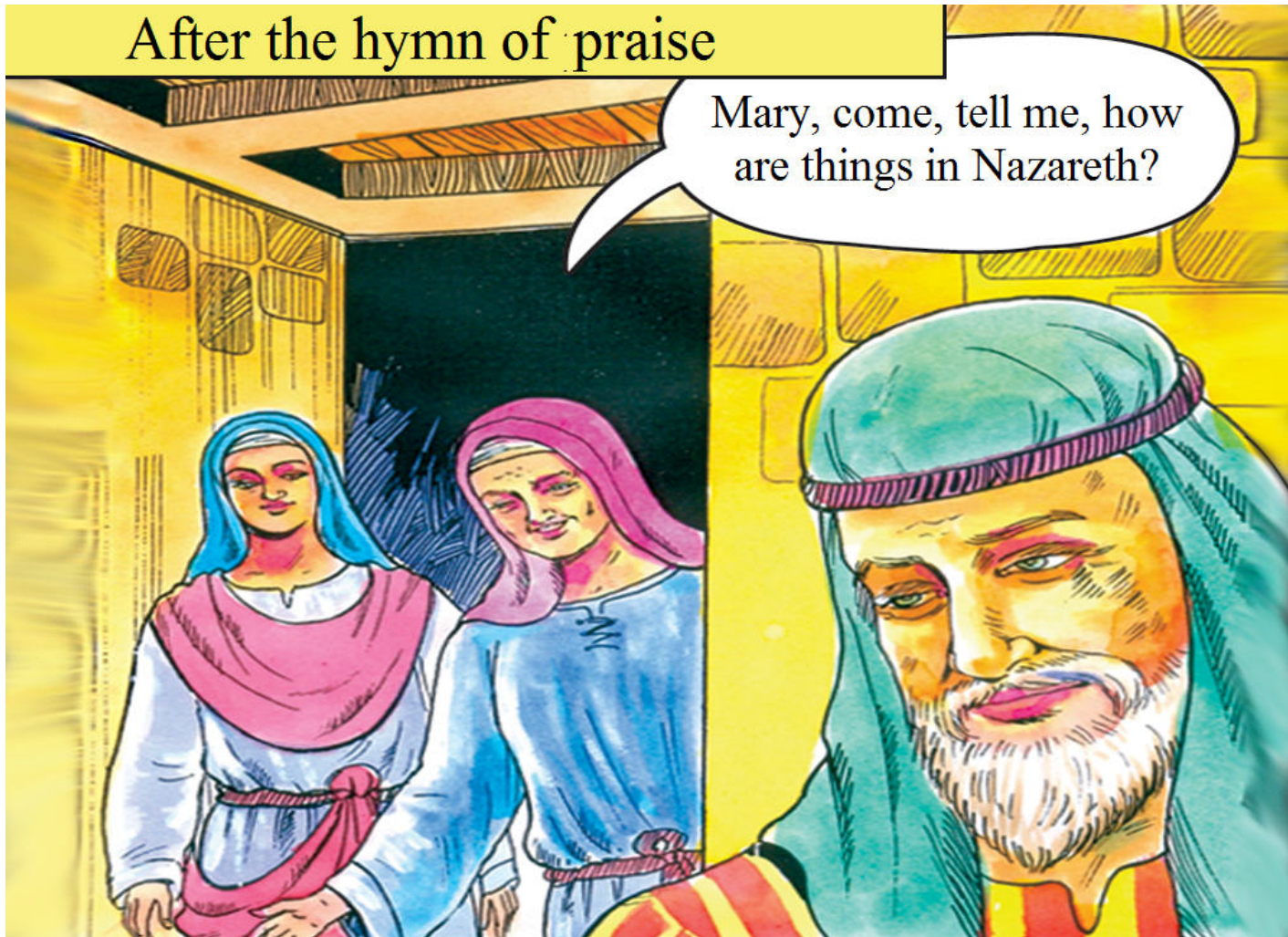




He filled the hungry
with good things and
sent the rich empty
away....

After the hymn of praise

Mary, come, tell me, how
are things in Nazareth?

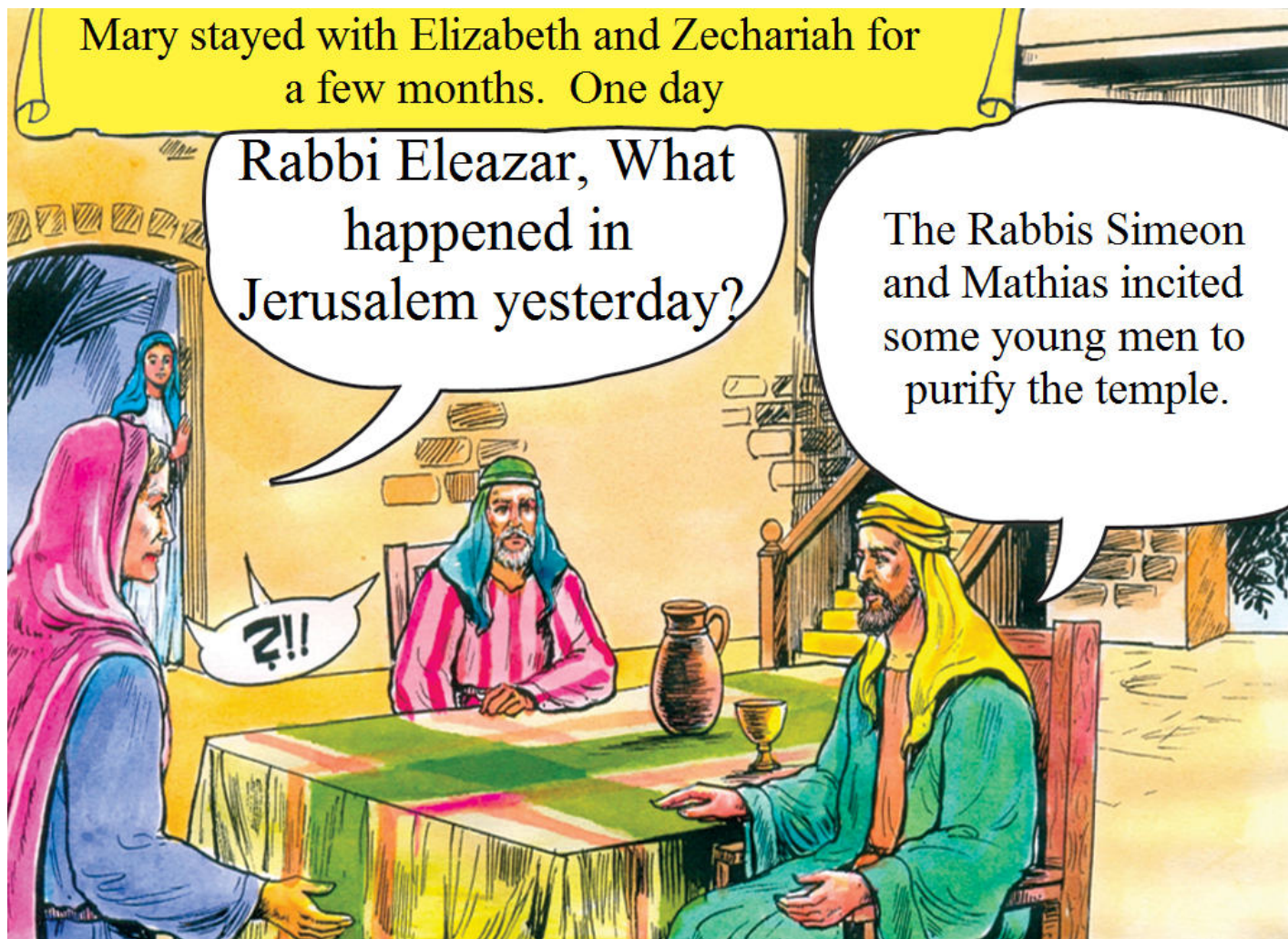


Mary stayed with Elizabeth and Zechariah for a few months. One day

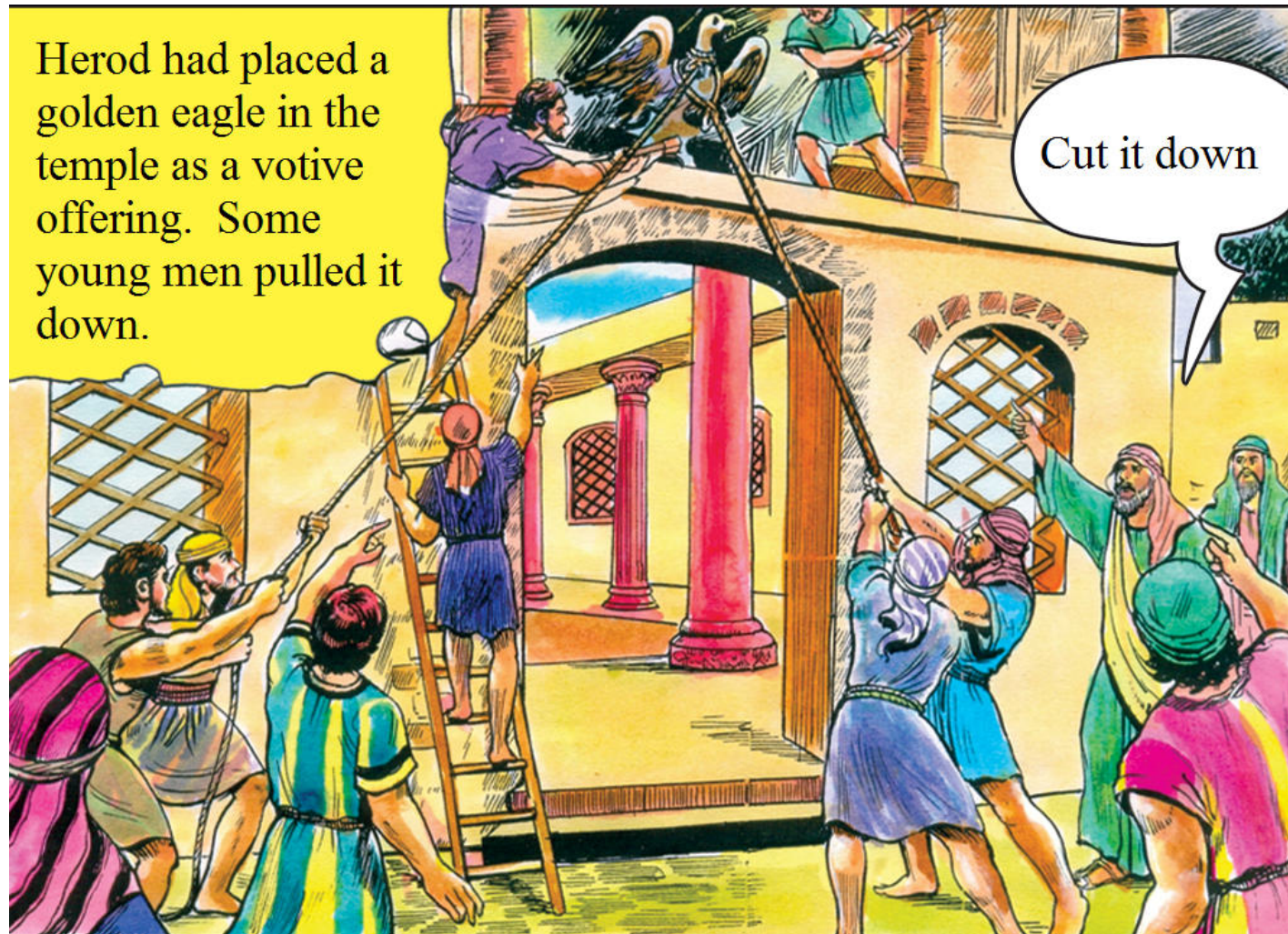
Rabbi Eleazar, What happened in Jerusalem yesterday?

The Rabbis Simeon and Mathias incited some young men to purify the temple.

??!



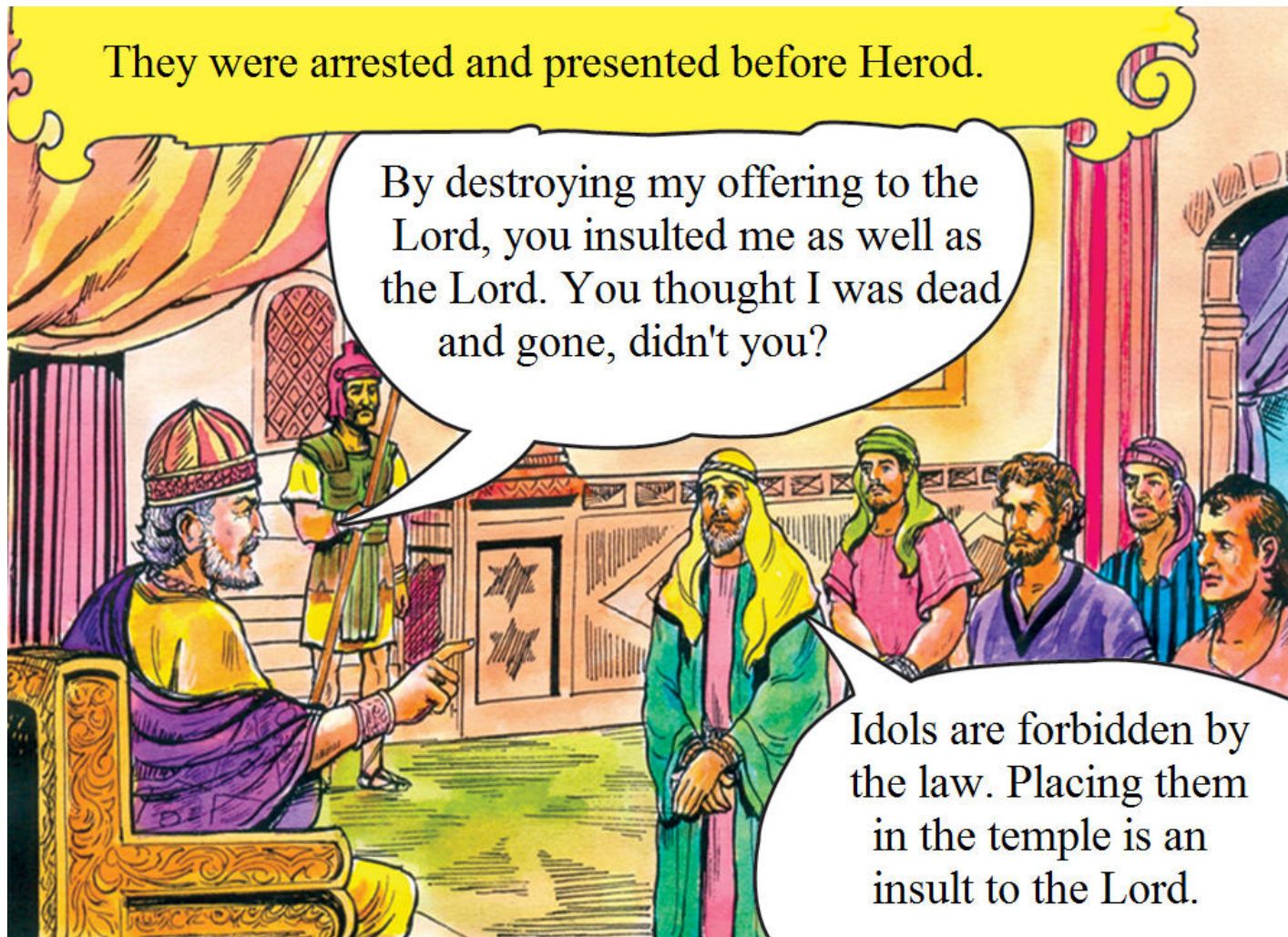
Herod had placed a golden eagle in the temple as a votive offering. Some young men pulled it down.



They were arrested and presented before Herod.

By destroying my offering to the Lord, you insulted me as well as the Lord. You thought I was dead and gone, didn't you?

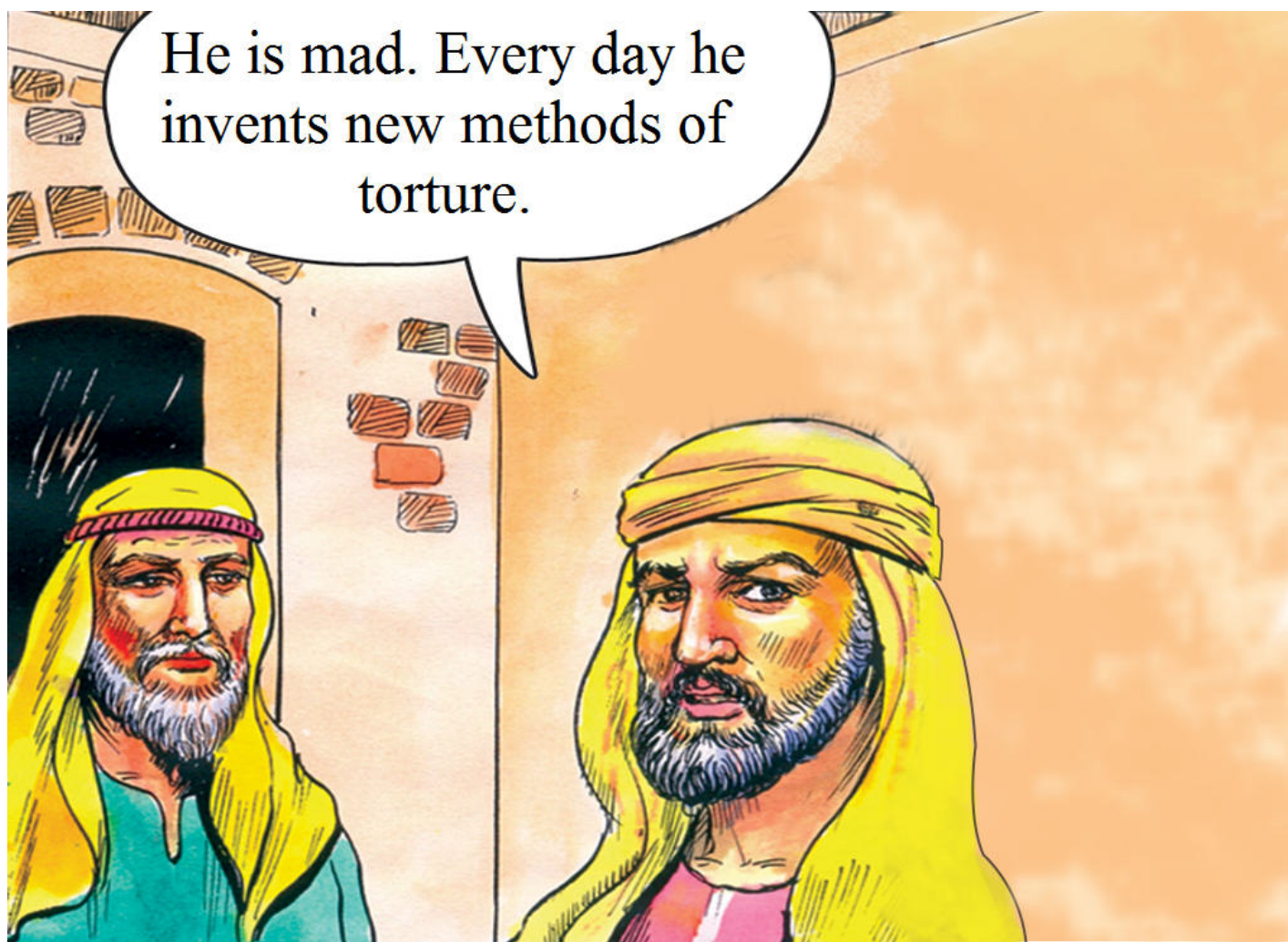
Idols are forbidden by the law. Placing them in the temple is an insult to the Lord.



In my country what I decide is
the law. Guards! Tie them to
the trees and burn them alive.



He is mad. Every day he
invents new methods of
torture.



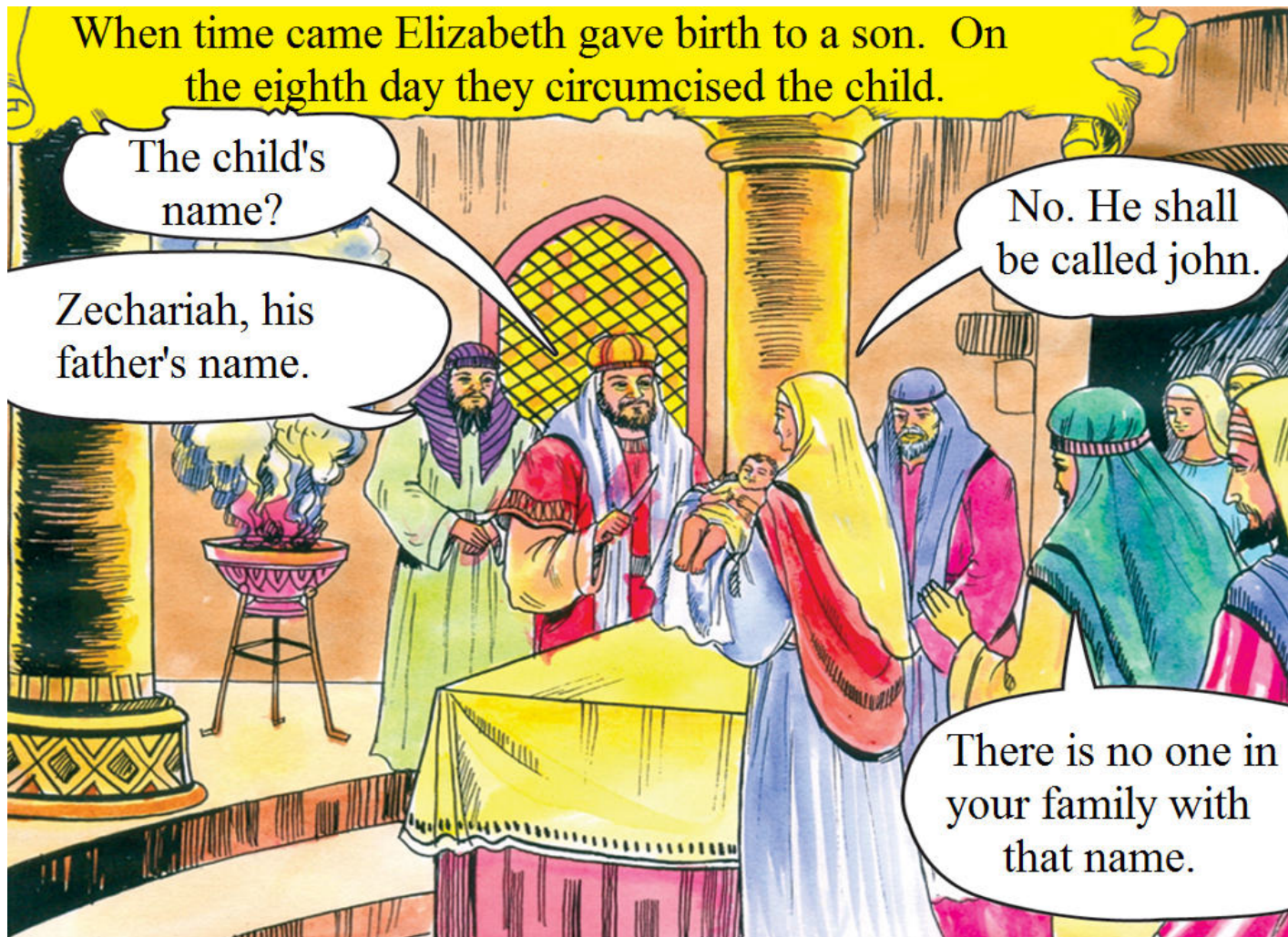
When time came Elizabeth gave birth to a son. On the eighth day they circumcised the child.

The child's name?

Zechariah, his father's name.

No. He shall be called John.

There is no one in your family with that name.



They asked Zechariah



The power of speech returned to Zechariah.

Blessed be the Lord God of
Israel for he has remembered
his promise.



You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High. You will go before the Lord to prepare the way for him.

Miracle! Barren woman delivers, the dumb speaks. What will become of this child!



A few days later Mary bids farewell.

Mary, I am so glad you came.
It was a great help to me.
Now go in peace, my
daughter.

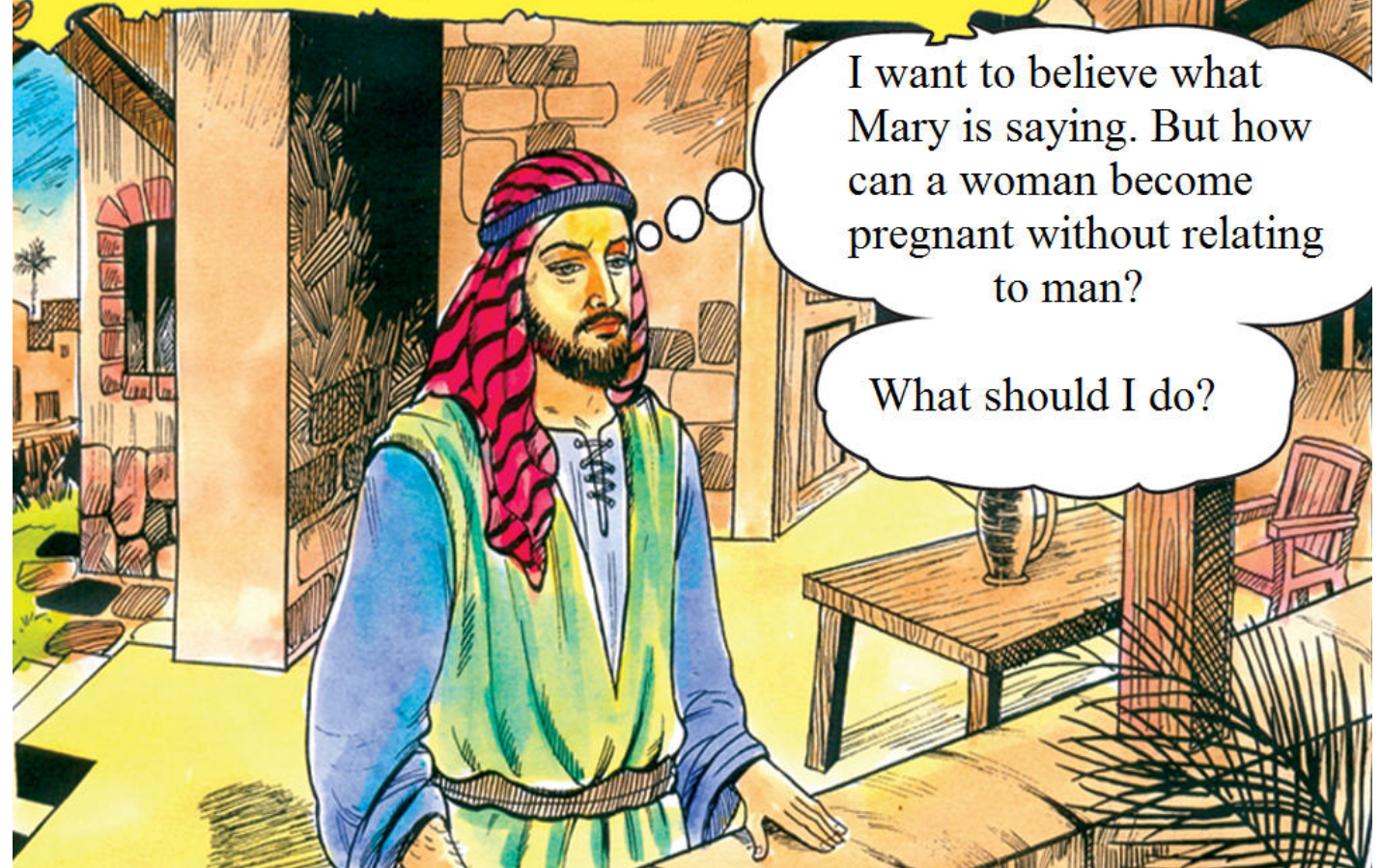
I am afraid. Would
anyone believe me?
What will Joseph
do?



Trust in the Lord. He
will protect you.



Mary returned to Nazareth. Knowing that Mary was with child Joseph became greatly troubled.



I want to believe what Mary is saying. But how can a woman become pregnant without relating to man?

What should I do?

The law of Moses is clear. If an engaged woman becomes pregnant at her father's house, before marriage the man has the right to divorce her.



He must submit a written declaration to the effect. Then she must be tried in public, and if found guilty, must be stoned to death.



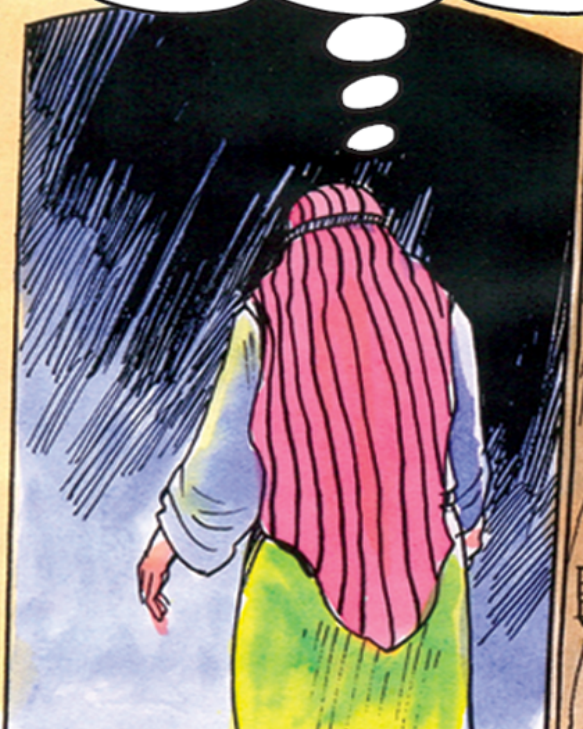
Hand over Mary to be
stoned? I can't, but how
can I accept her as my
wife?



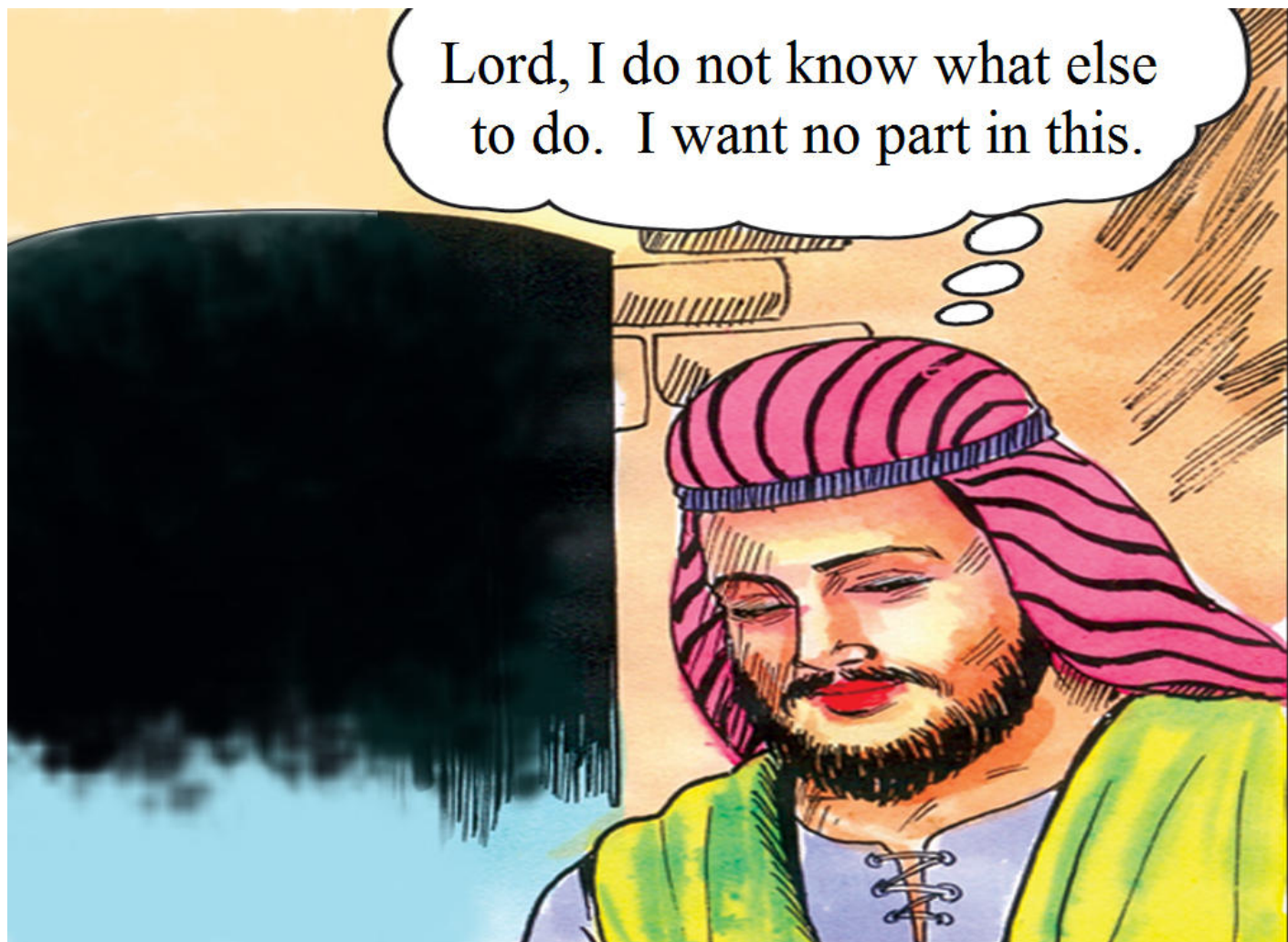
O Lord! You know everything.
Show me the way.



I can neither accept her nor reject her. I know, I'll leave the town in secret. Mary won't be tried.



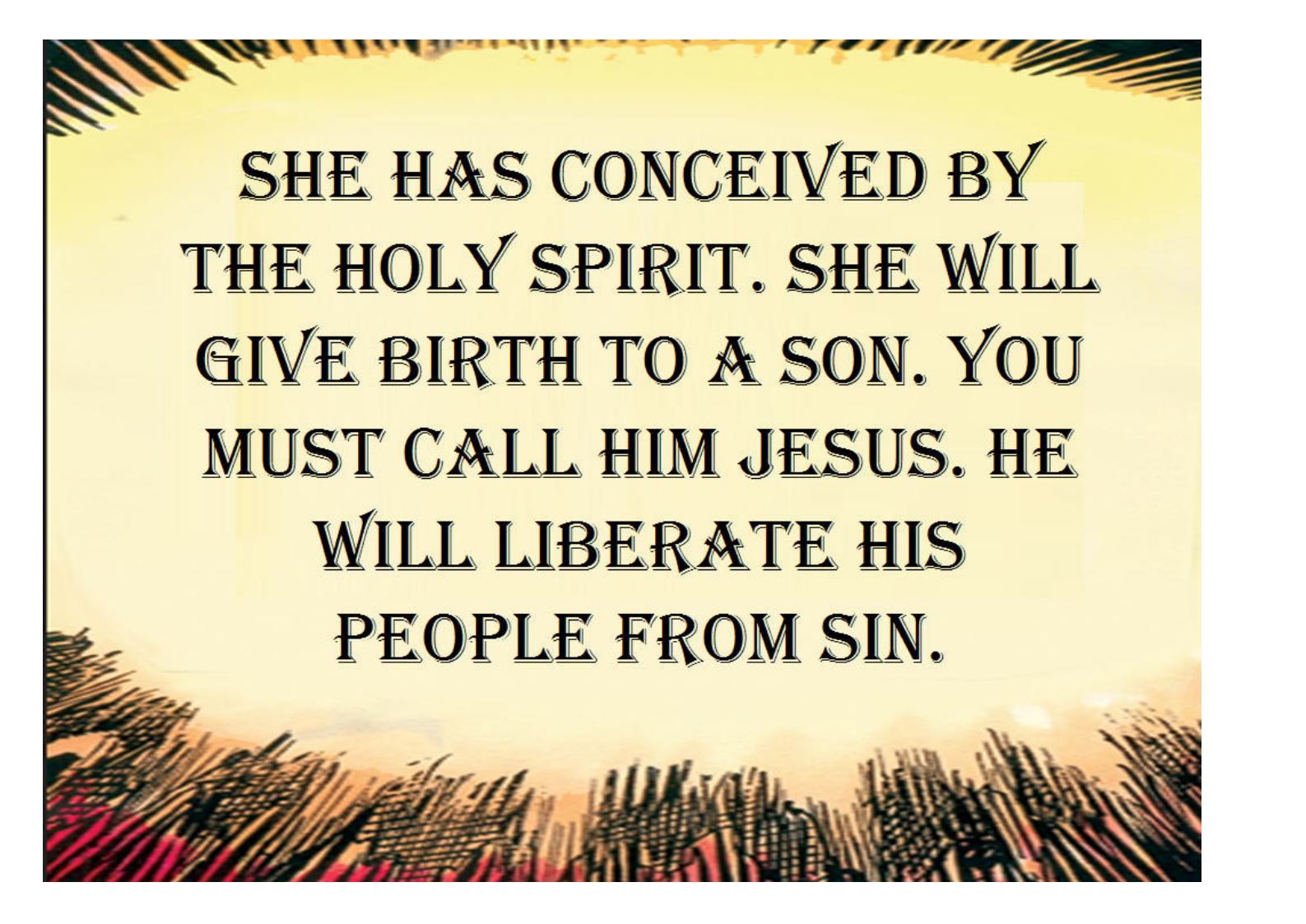
Lord, I do not know what else
to do. I want no part in this.



That night God sent his angel to Joseph.

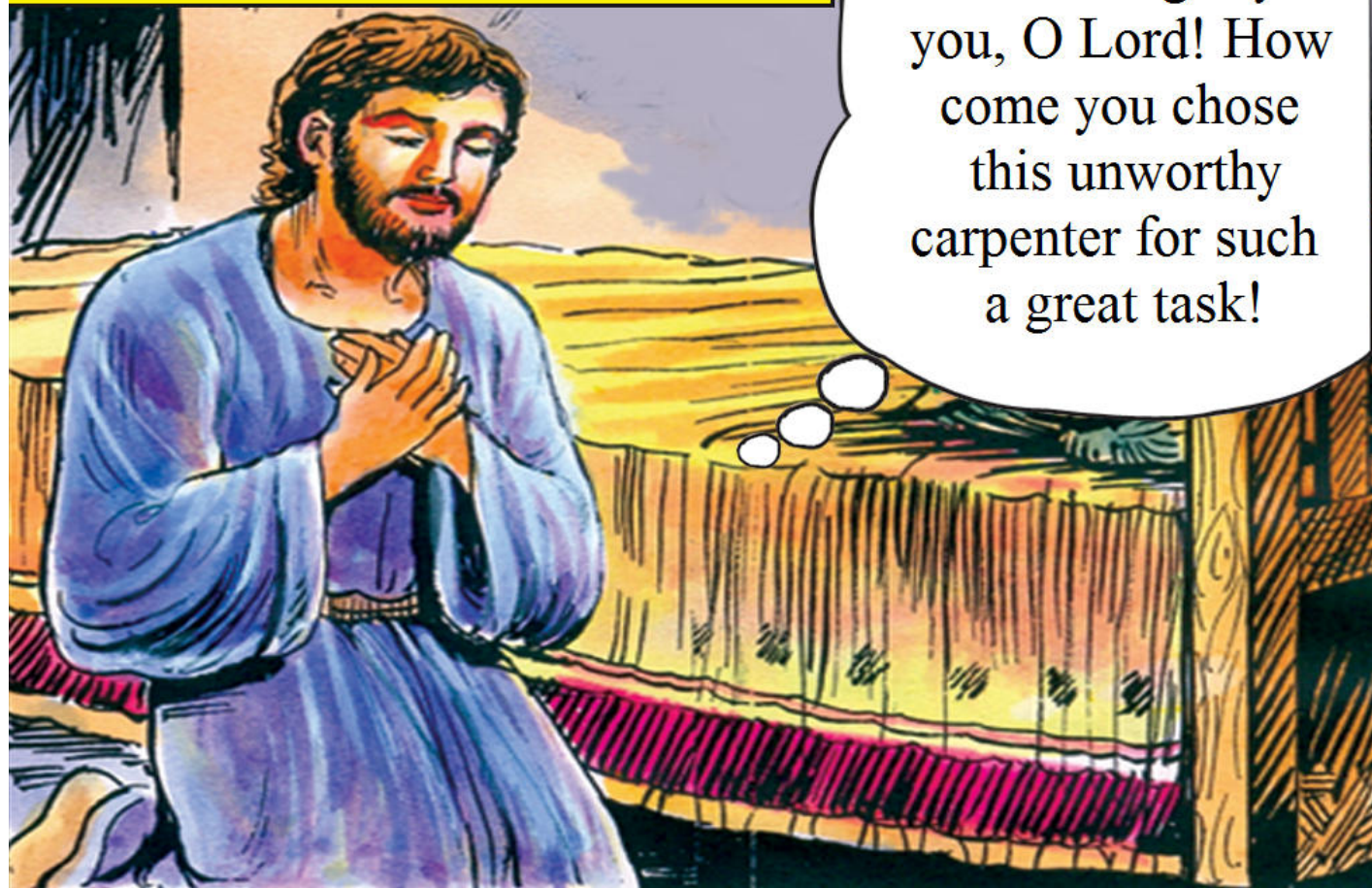
JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID,
DO NOT BE AFRAID TO
ACCEPT MARY AS
YOUR WIFE.



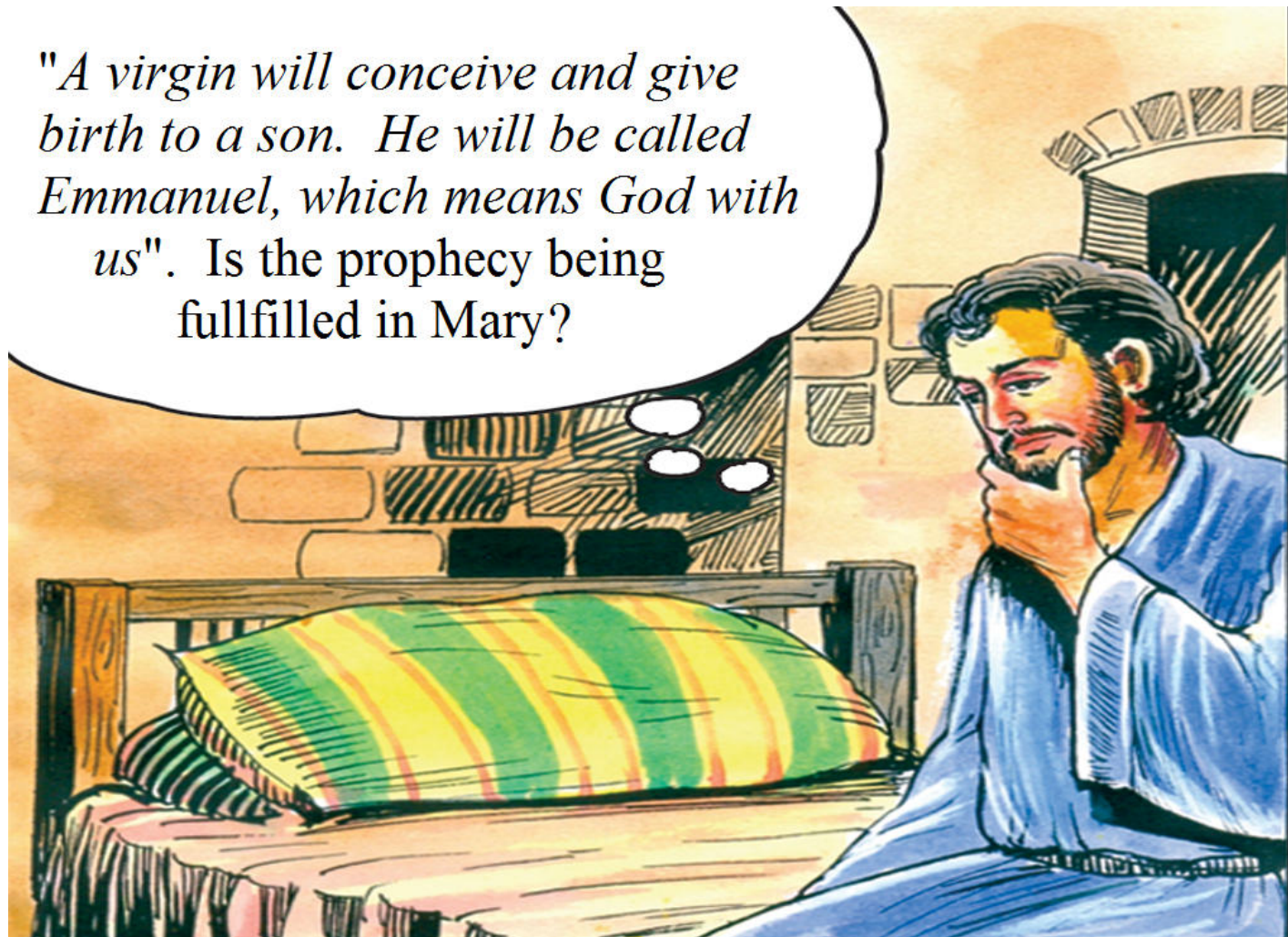


SHE HAS CONCEIVED BY
THE HOLY SPIRIT. SHE WILL
GIVE BIRTH TO A SON. YOU
MUST CALL HIM JESUS. HE
WILL LIBERATE HIS
PEOPLE FROM SIN.

Joseph woke up



"A virgin will conceive and give birth to a son. He will be called Emmanuel, which means God with us". Is the prophecy being fulfilled in Mary?

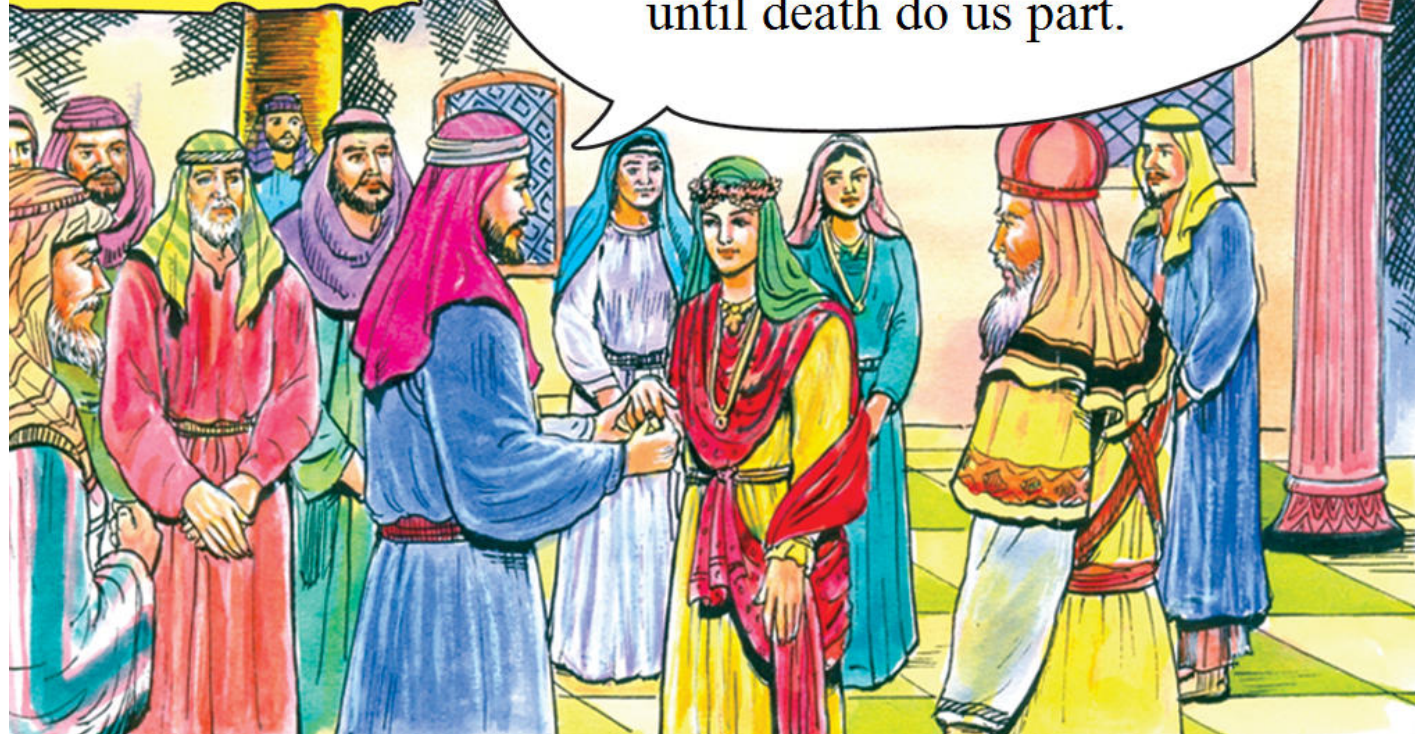


Lord, here is
your humble
servant. I
offer my life
to you.



Before long
Joseph and
Mary got
married.

Mary, daughter of Joachim and
Anna, I accept you as my wife
according to the law of Moses.
I shall love you and care for you
until death do us part.



One day at Joseph's workshop

Joseph, did you hear? The Romans want to count us.

Soldiers are announcing it in every village.


!



They want to find out how strong we are.

No. They are going to impose tax on every head.





We mustn't give in.
Hezekiah is organizing a revolt.

We all must take up
arms. Wish the
Messiah would come to
lead us in battle!

!

Many are of the opinion that
Hezekiah is the Messiah.
He has already started fighting
against Herod and the Romans.

The prophets
didn't say that
the Messiah
would come
with the sword.

Every true Israelite
must join him and
break the yoke of
Rome.

!?



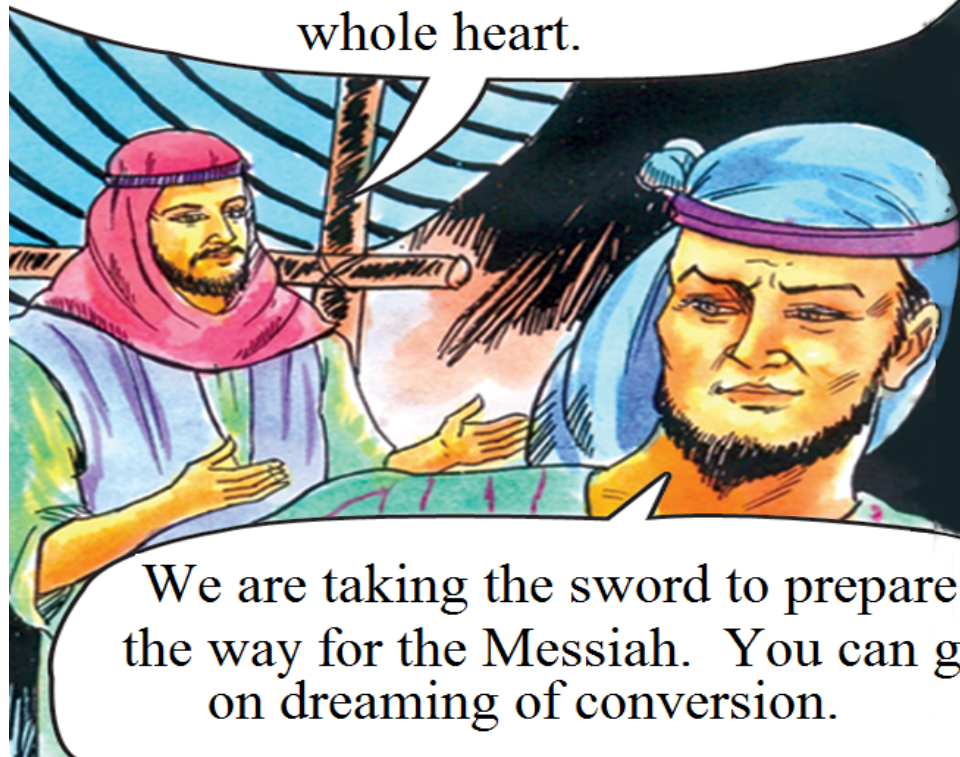
He will be a king of peace. He will
beat swords into ploughshares and
spears into sickles.

That is a day-dream of the
cowards. We must turn the
sickles into spears.

!



What happened to the Maccabees who took up the sword? True freedom is not achieved by the edge of the sword. We must turn to the Lord with our whole heart.

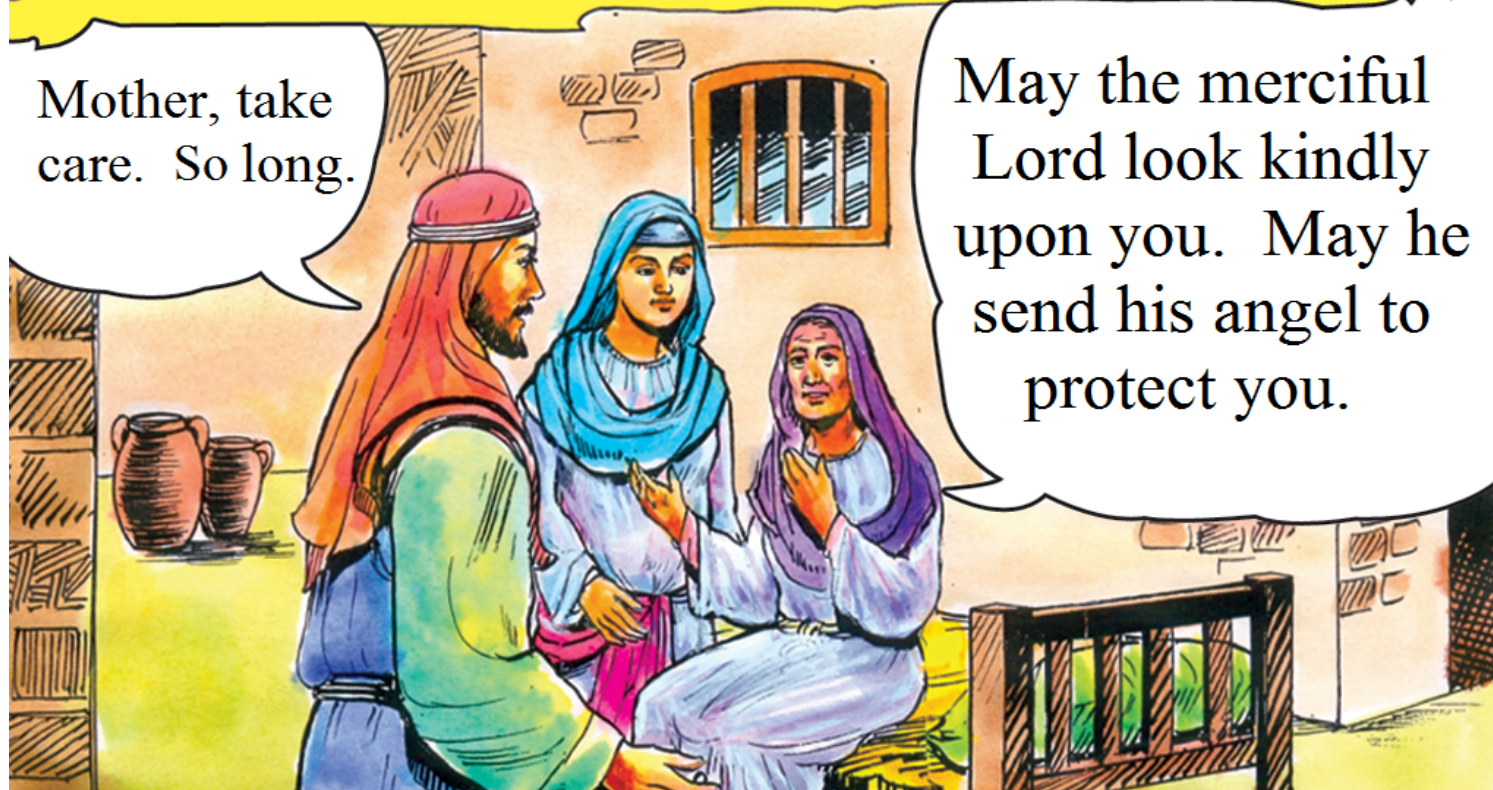


We are taking the sword to prepare the way for the Messiah. You can go on dreaming of conversion.

As demanded by the decree of Caesar Augustus, Joseph decided to go to his home town Bethlehem to register his name. They took leave of Mary's mother, Anna.

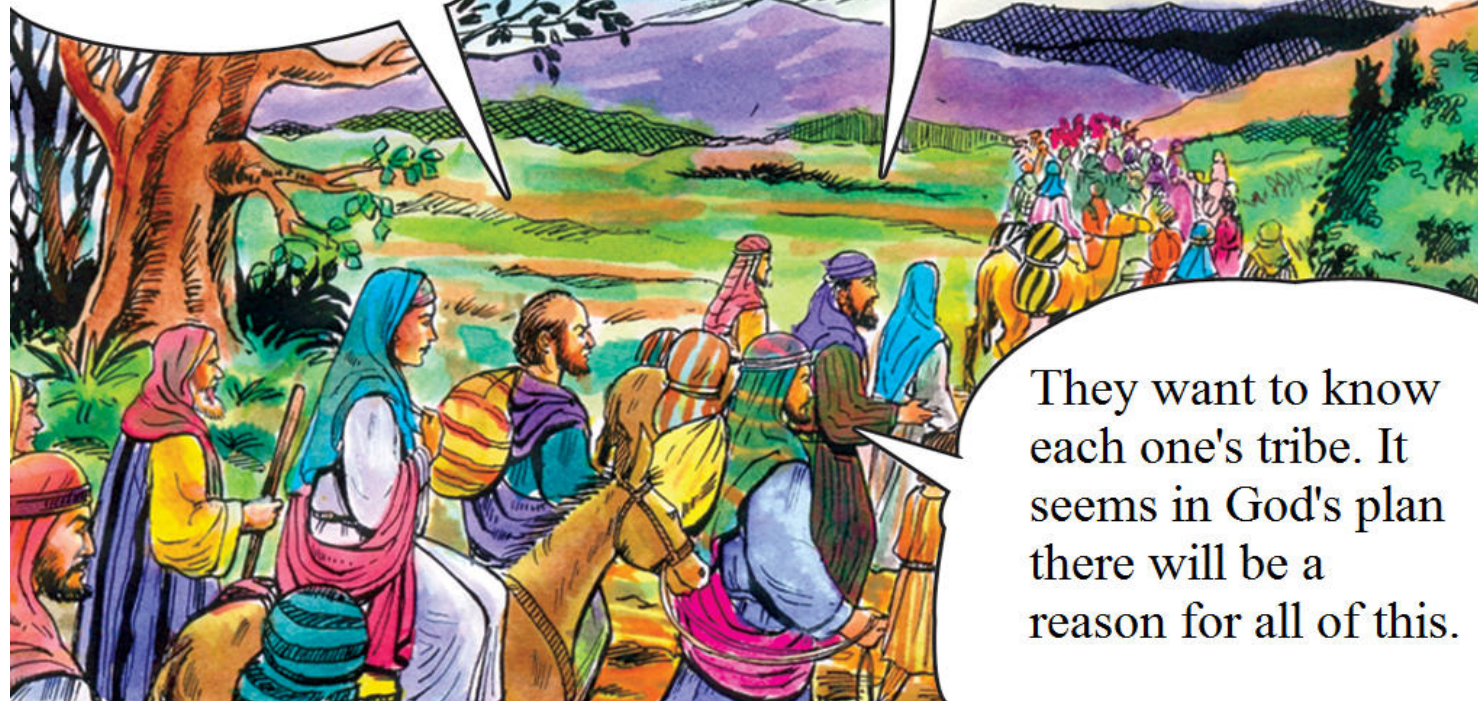
Mother, take care. So long.

May the merciful Lord look kindly upon you. May he send his angel to protect you.



This is insulting! The Caesar is forcing tens of thousands of people to wander up and down Palestine.

Why can't he count us in our own places?

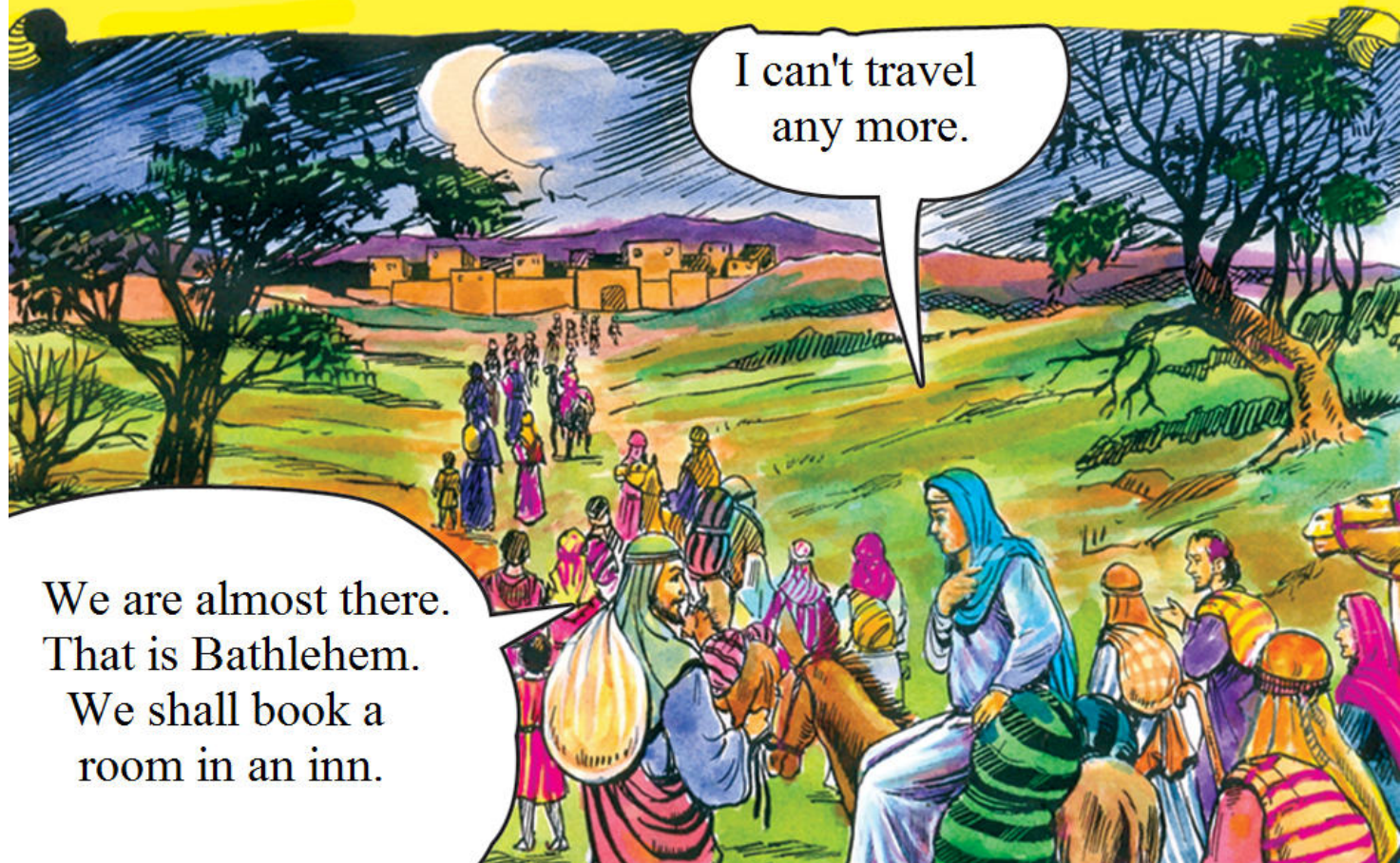


They want to know each one's tribe. It seems in God's plan there will be a reason for all of this.

After a tedious journey they reached Bethlehem by nightfall.

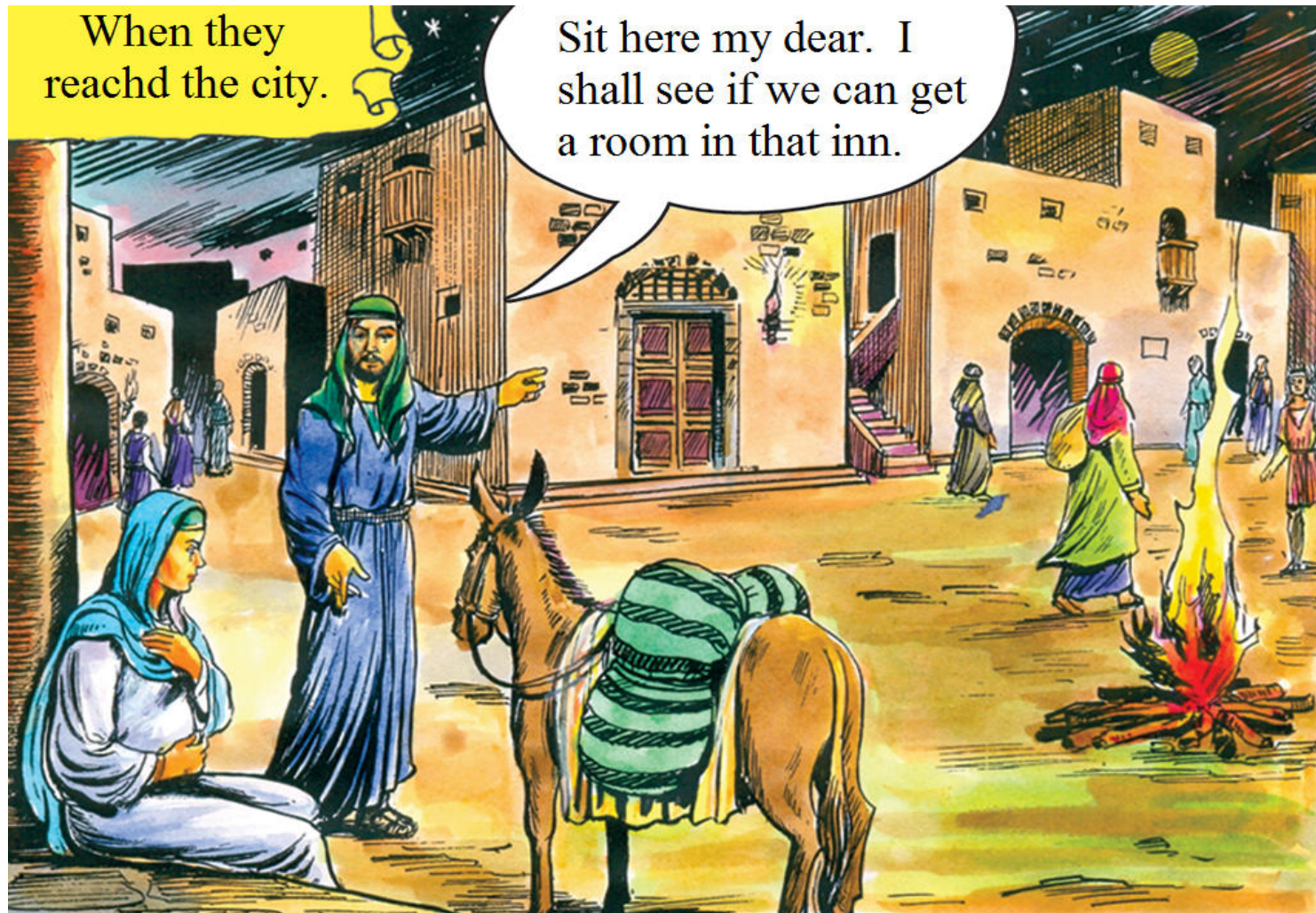
I can't travel
any more.

We are almost there.
That is Bathlehem.
We shall book a
room in an inn.



When they
reached the city.

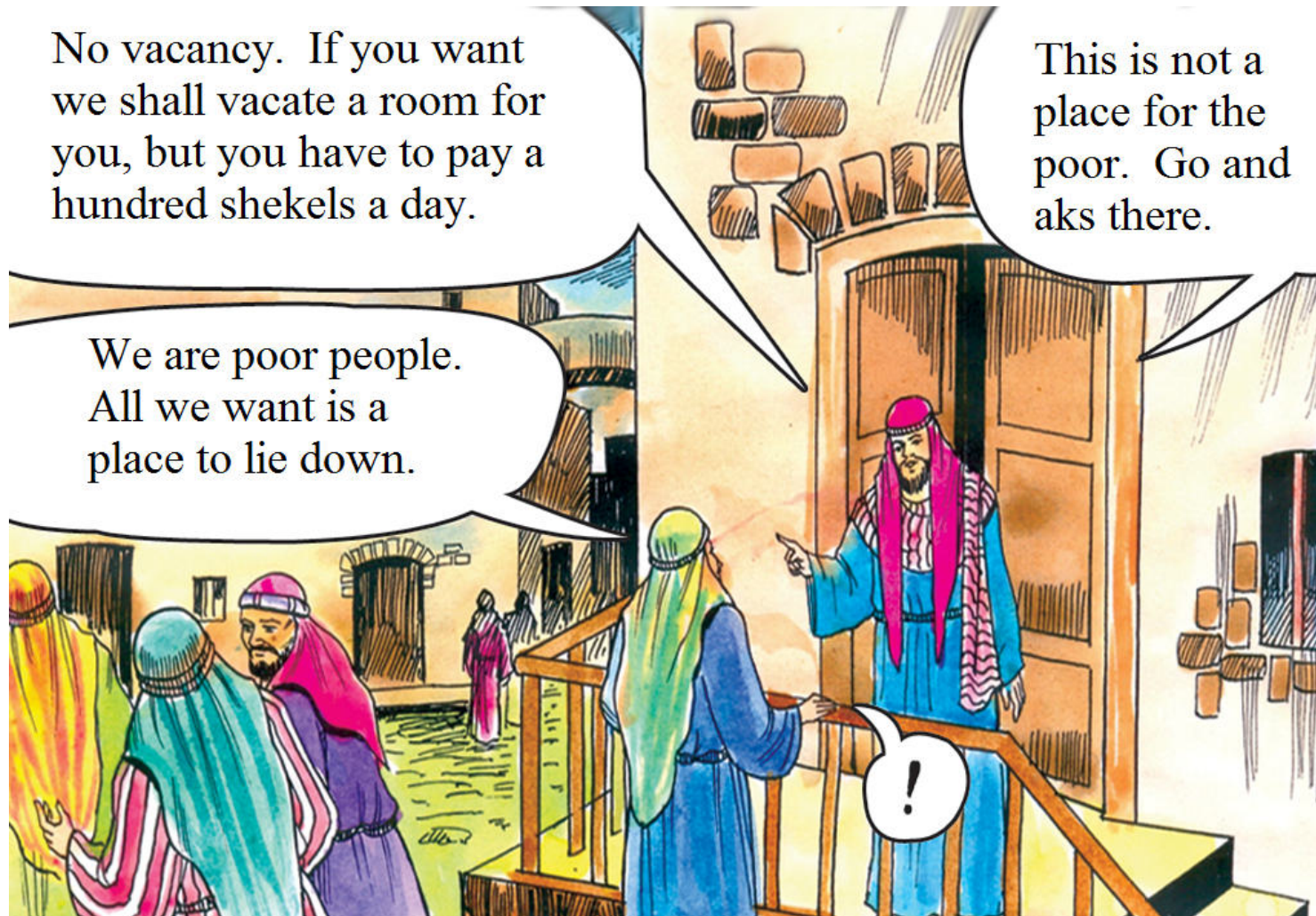
Sit here my dear. I
shall see if we can get
a room in that inn.



No vacancy. If you want we shall vacate a room for you, but you have to pay a hundred shekels a day.

This is not a place for the poor. Go and ask there.

We are poor people. All we want is a place to lie down.



When Joseph was gone

O my God! Who
will give us a room?
We have no money.

Lord of the
universe, is your Son
going to be born on
the street?

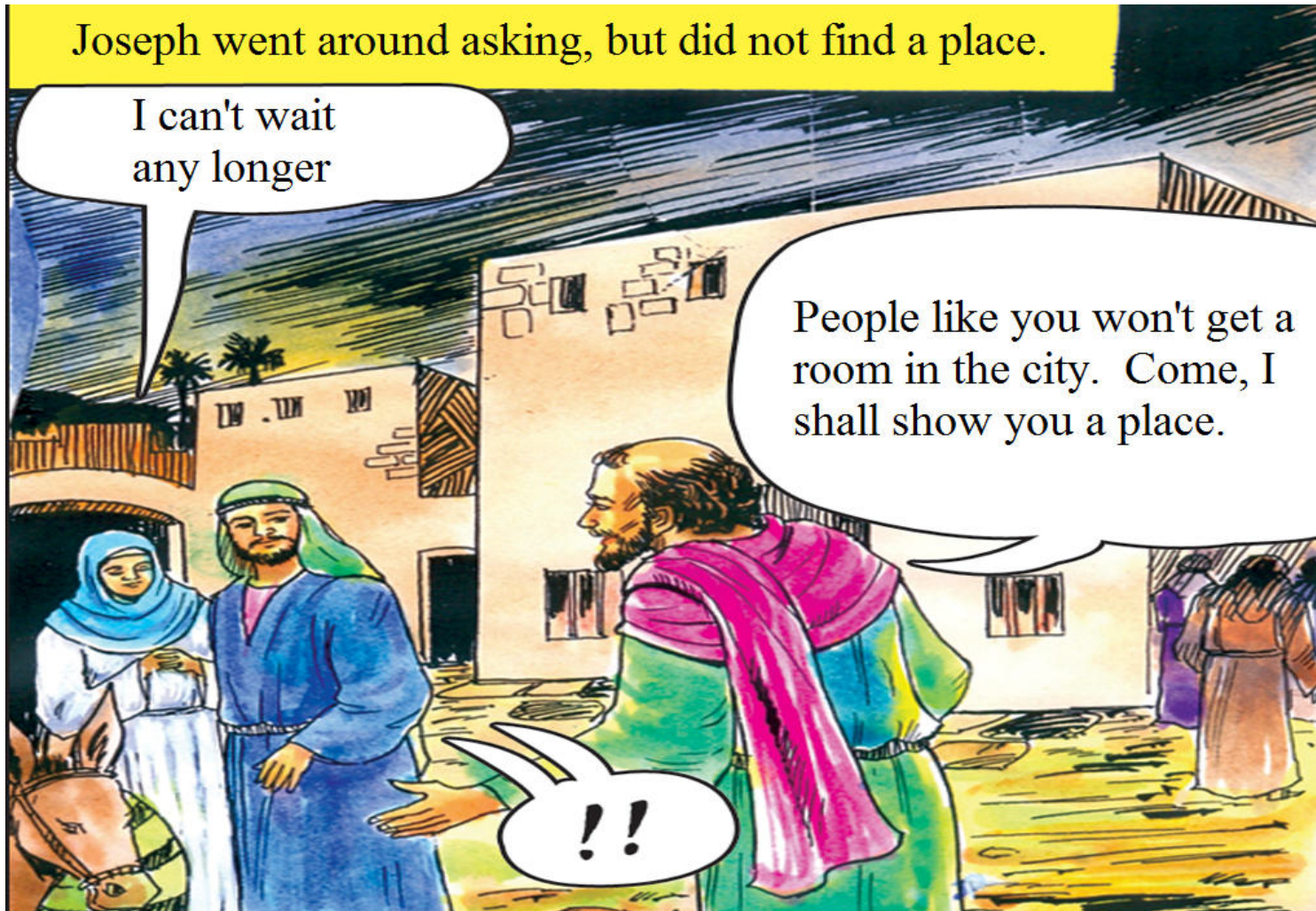


Joseph went around asking, but did not find a place.

I can't wait
any longer

People like you won't get a
room in the city. Come, I
shall show you a place.

!!



He lead them to a spot outside the city.

This is not a house, but a
cattle shelter, you can use
a part of it.

Come on Joseph, let's
clean it up a little.

May the Lord bless you!
We shall never forget
this kindness.

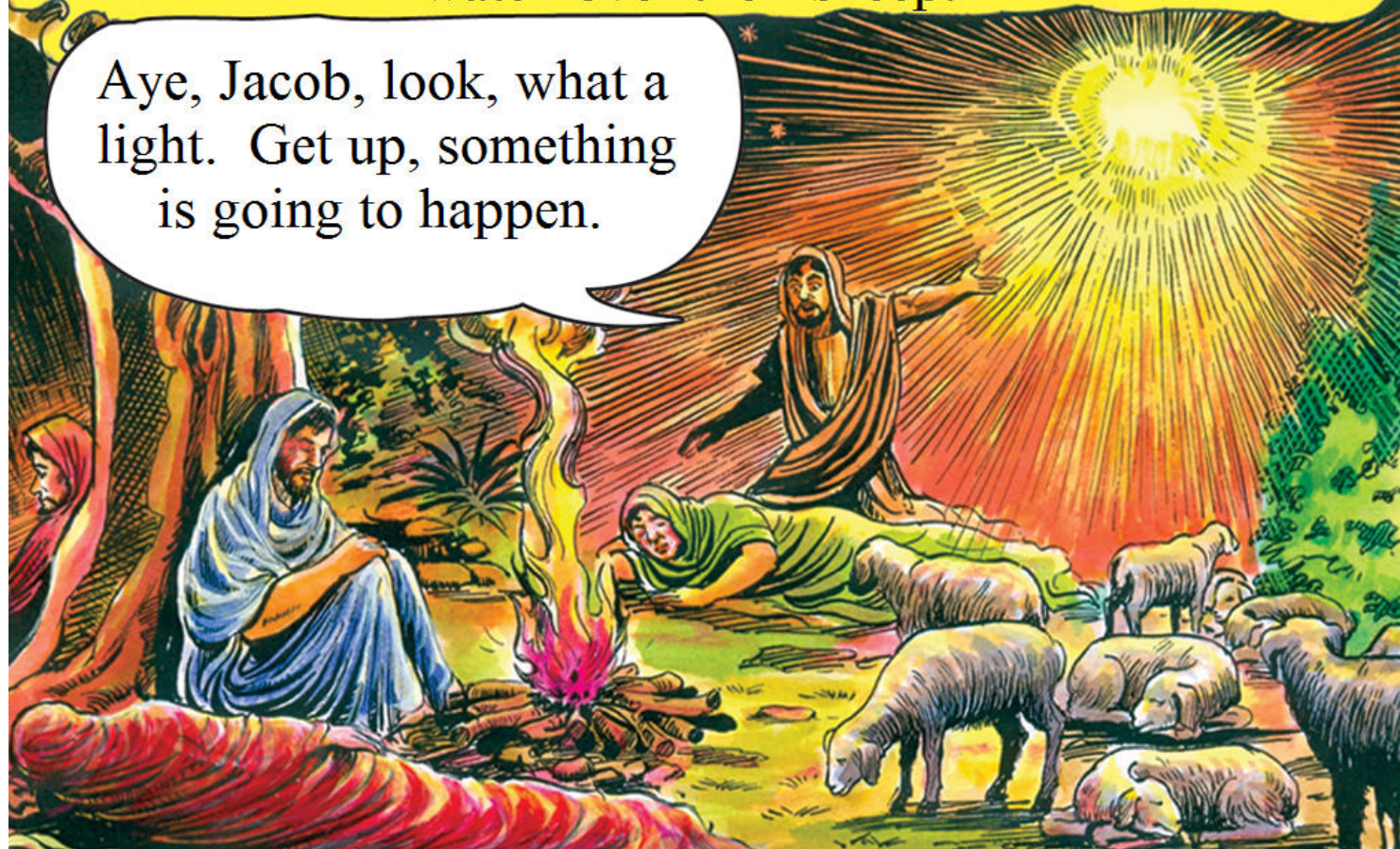


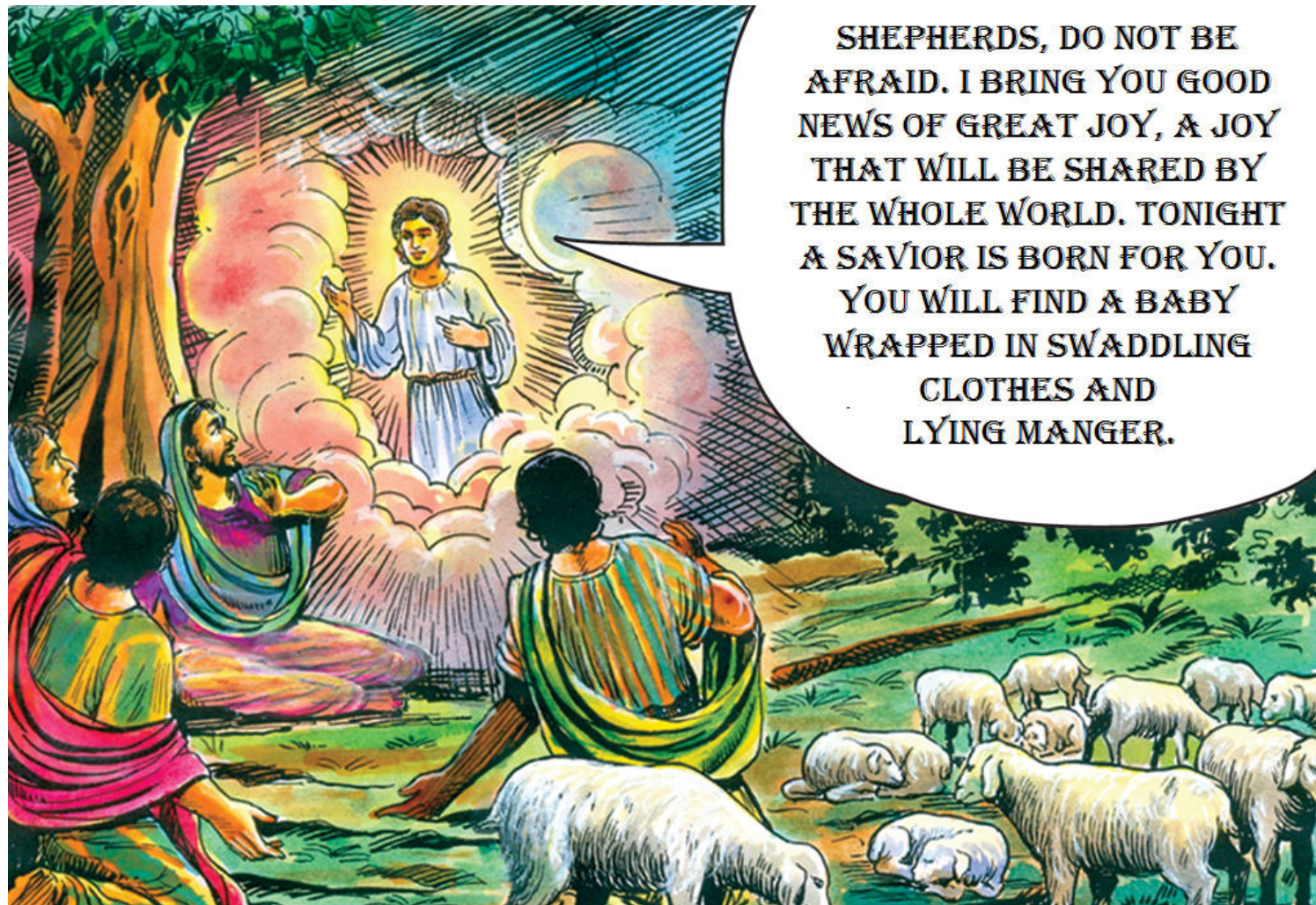
O my Lord, why all of this?
Who can comprehend your
plans! May your will be
done.



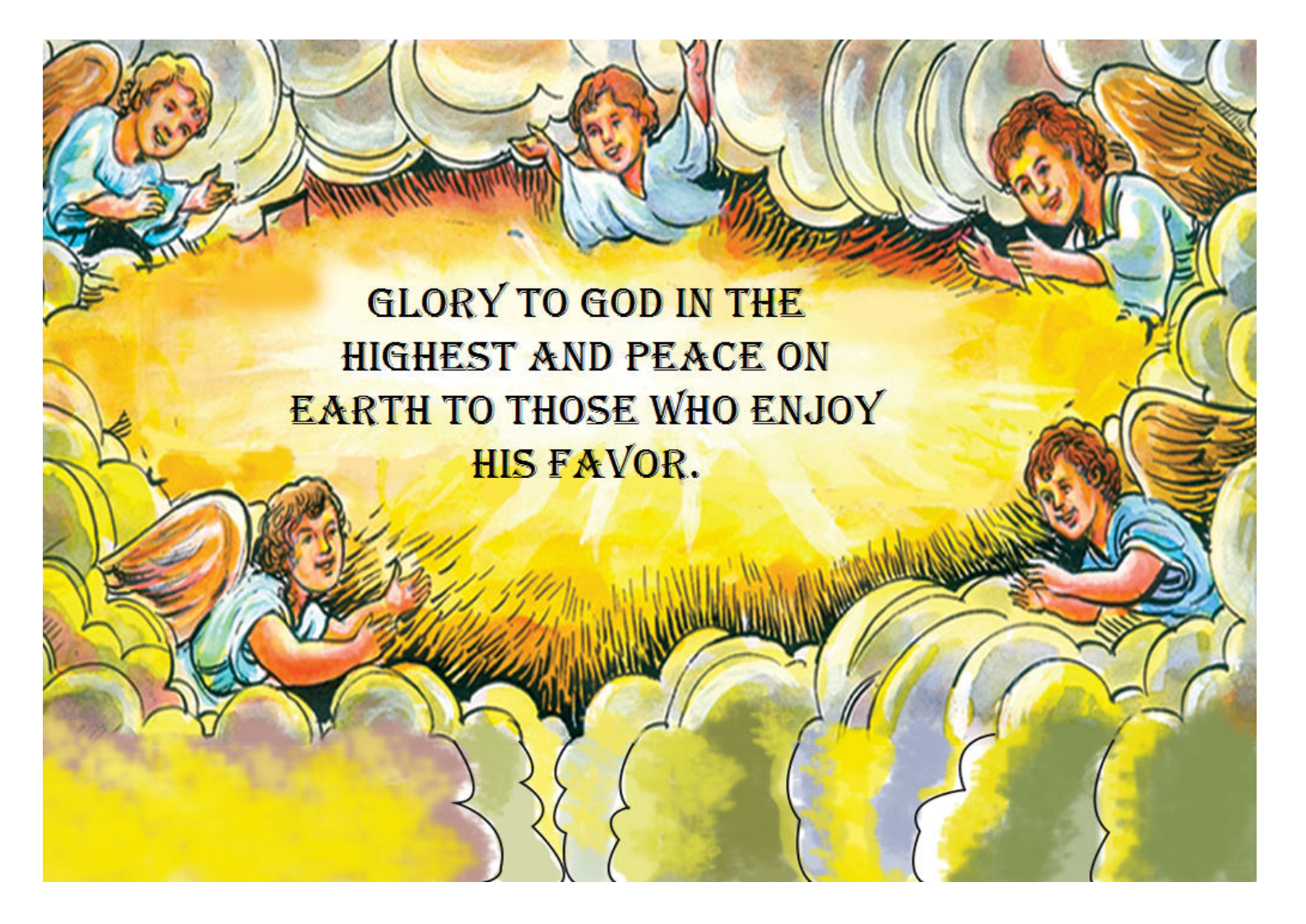
In that area there were some shepherds keeping watch over their sheep.

Aye, Jacob, look, what a light. Get up, something is going to happen.





SHEPHERDS, DO NOT BE
AFRAID. I BRING YOU GOOD
NEWS OF GREAT JOY, A JOY
THAT WILL BE SHARED BY
THE WHOLE WORLD. TONIGHT
A SAVIOR IS BORN FOR YOU.
YOU WILL FIND A BABY
WRAPPED IN SWADDLING
CLOTHES AND
LYING MANGER.

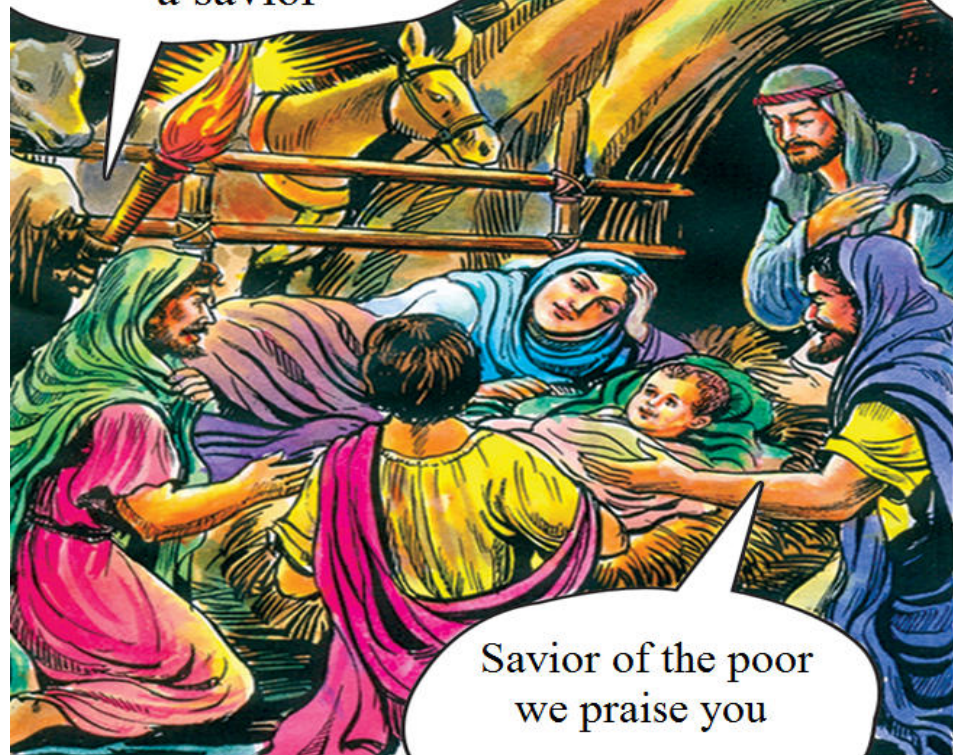
An illustration of four angels with large, feathered wings, wearing light blue robes, floating amidst soft, billowing white and yellow clouds. The angels are positioned at the corners of the frame, looking towards the center. The background is a warm, golden-yellow glow, suggesting a bright, divine light. The overall style is soft and painterly, typical of religious art from the late 19th or early 20th century.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE
HIGHEST AND PEACE ON
EARTH TO THOSE WHO ENJOY
HIS FAVOR.

When the angels disappeared the shepherds went
looking for the savior.

Praise to you O
God, for giving us
a savior

Our savior is born, poor
like us. He did not choose
a royal palace to be born.
How wonderful!



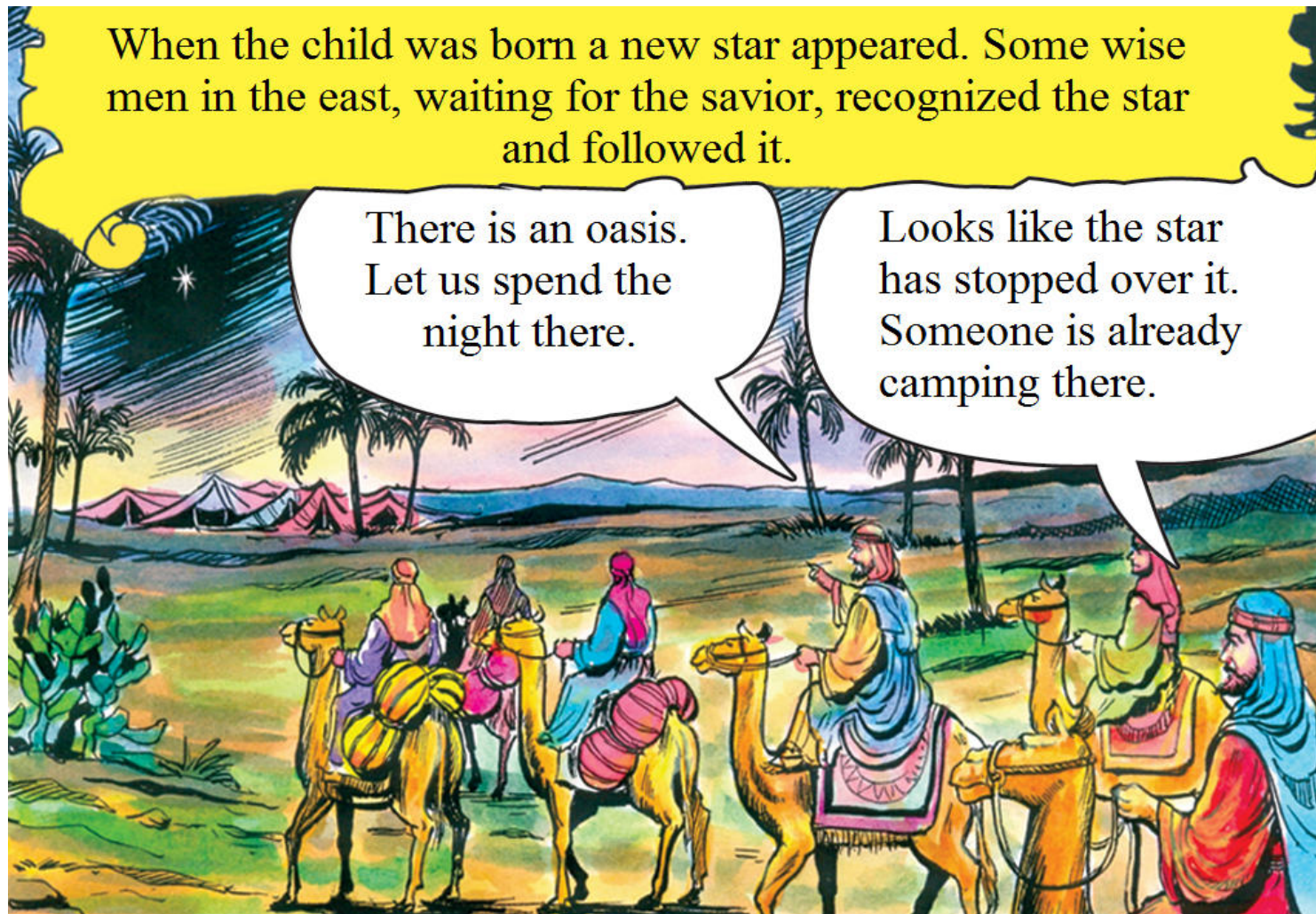
Savior of the poor
we praise you



When the child was born a new star appeared. Some wise men in the east, waiting for the savior, recognized the star and followed it.

There is an oasis.
Let us spend the
night there.

Looks like the star
has stopped over it.
Someone is already
camping there.

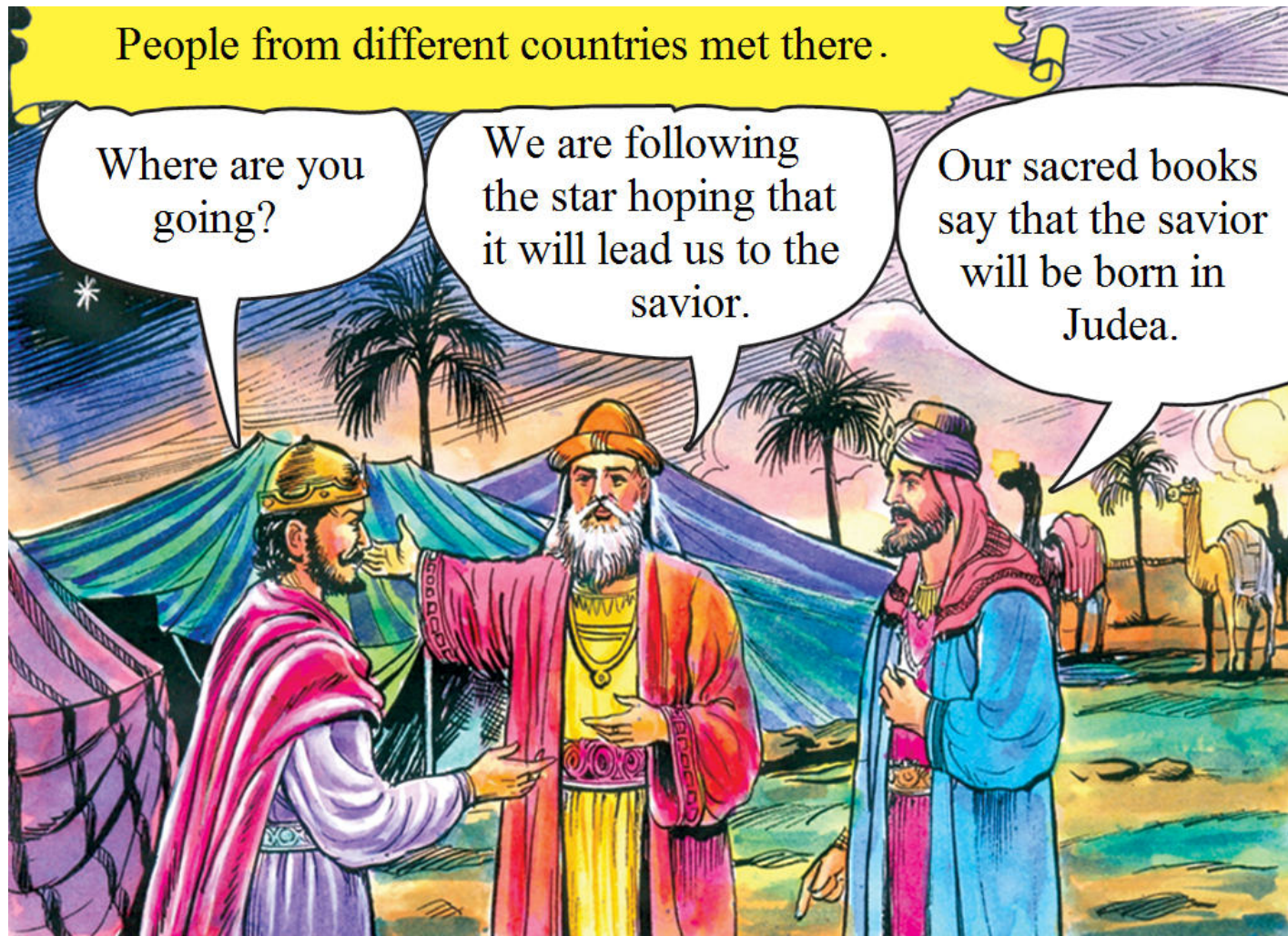


People from different countries met there .

Where are you going?

We are following the star hoping that it will lead us to the savior.

Our sacred books say that the savior will be born in Judea.

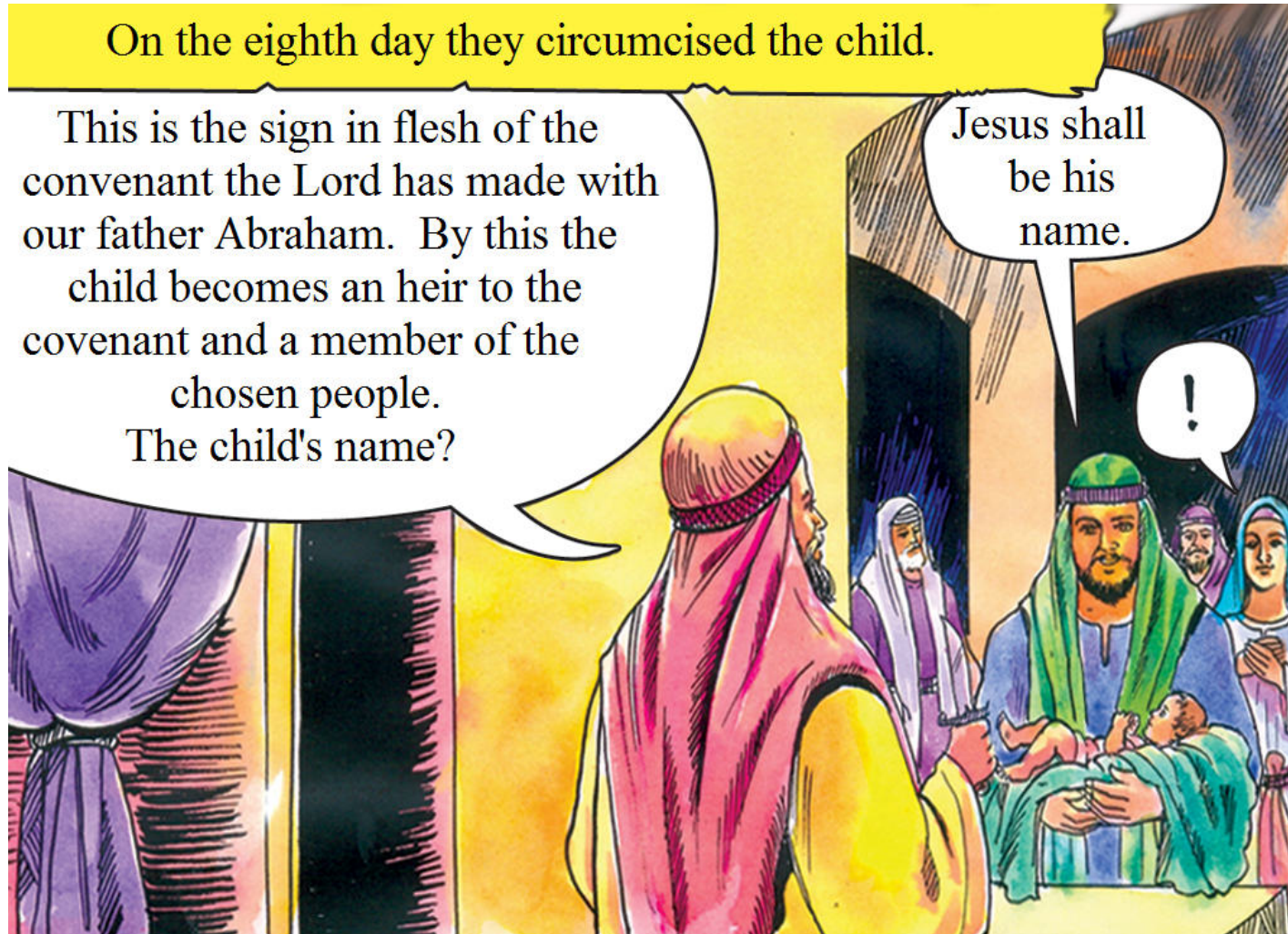


On the eighth day they circumcised the child.

This is the sign in flesh of the covenant the Lord has made with our father Abraham. By this the child becomes an heir to the covenant and a member of the chosen people.
The child's name?

Jesus shall
be his
name.

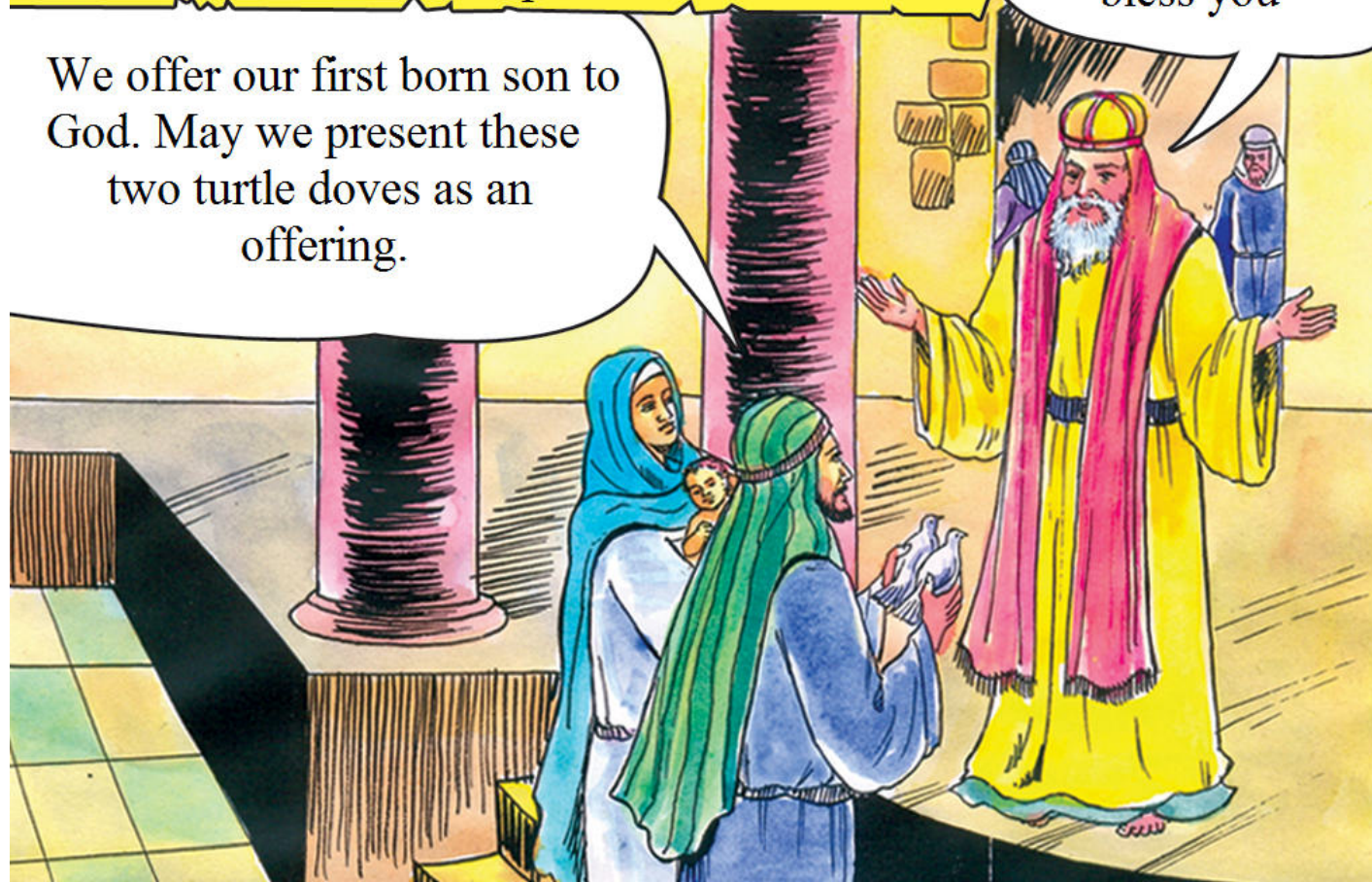
!



On the fortieth day they presented the baby
in the temple.

May God
bless you

We offer our first born son to
God. May we present these
two turtle doves as an
offering.



An old man called Simeon took the baby in his hands

Praise to you O Lord for you have allowed me to see the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations.

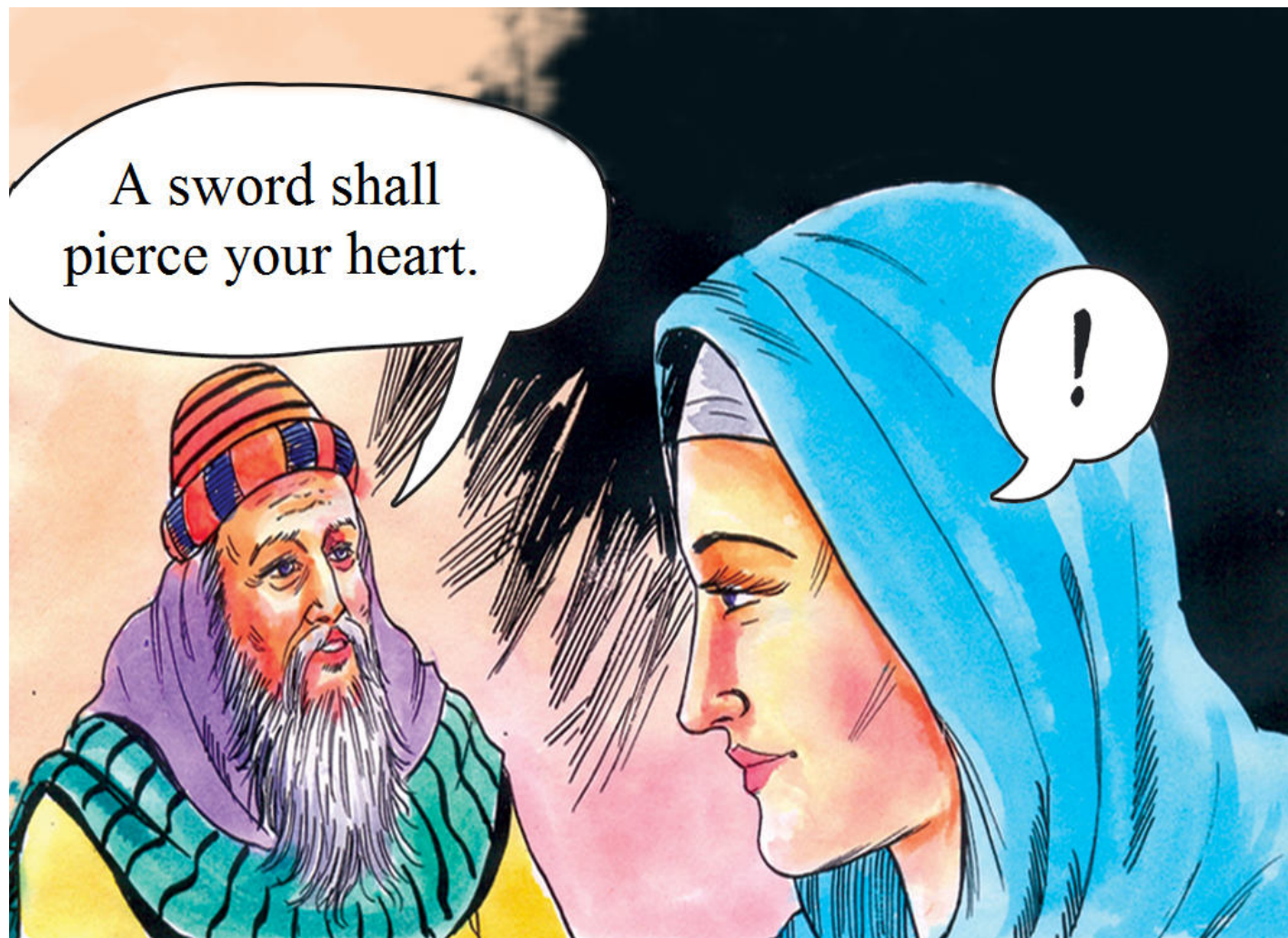


This child is destined for the
raise and fall of many in
Israel. He will be a sign that
is rejected so that the secret
thoughts of man
may be laid bare.



A sword shall
pierce your heart.

!



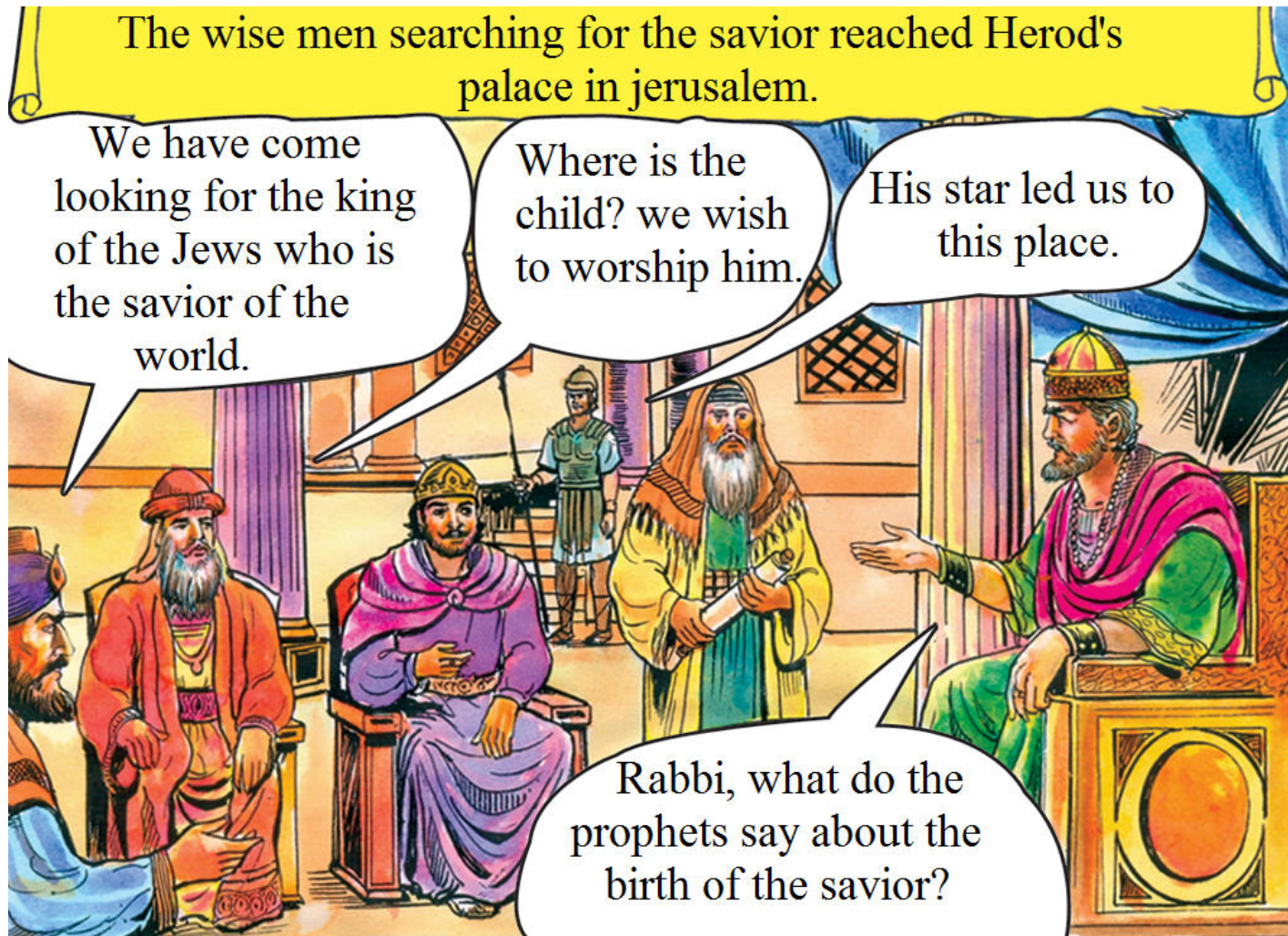
The wise men searching for the savior reached Herod's palace in jerusalem.

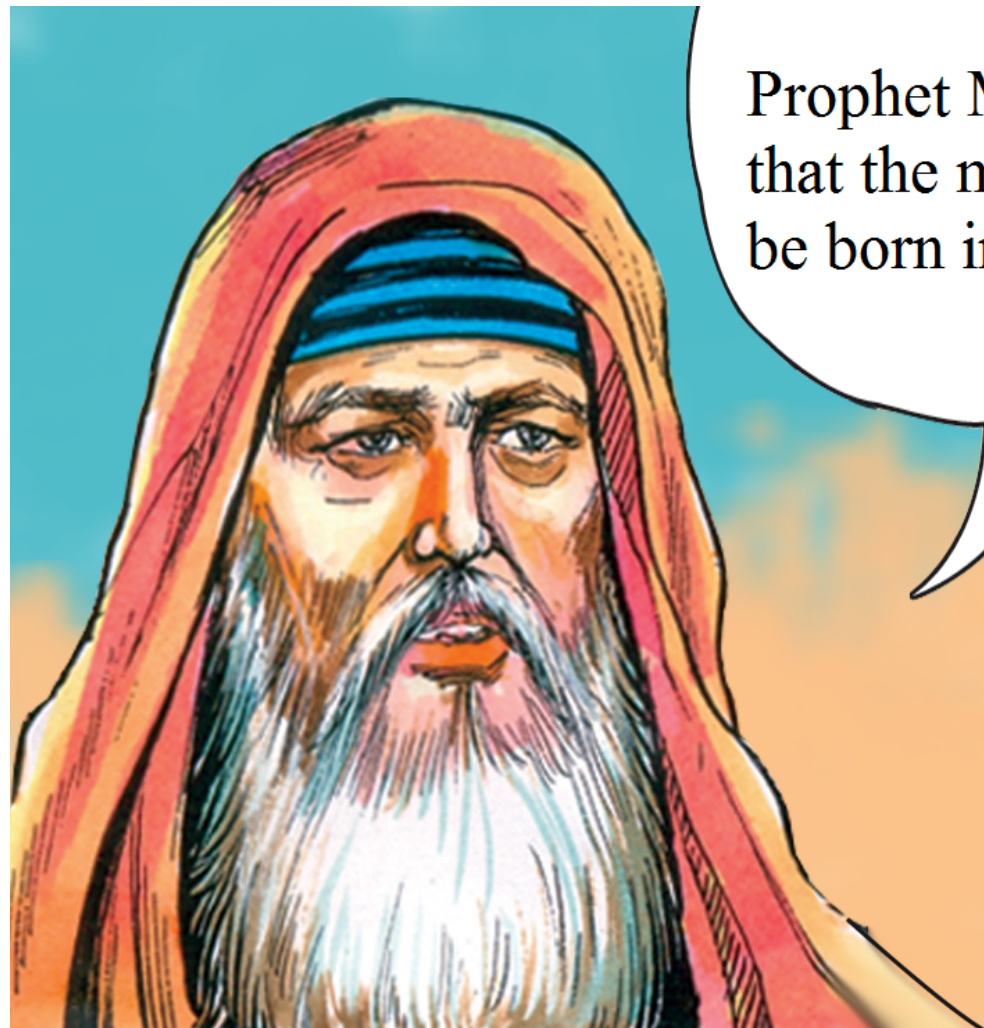
We have come looking for the king of the Jews who is the savior of the world.

Where is the child? we wish to worship him.

His star led us to this place.

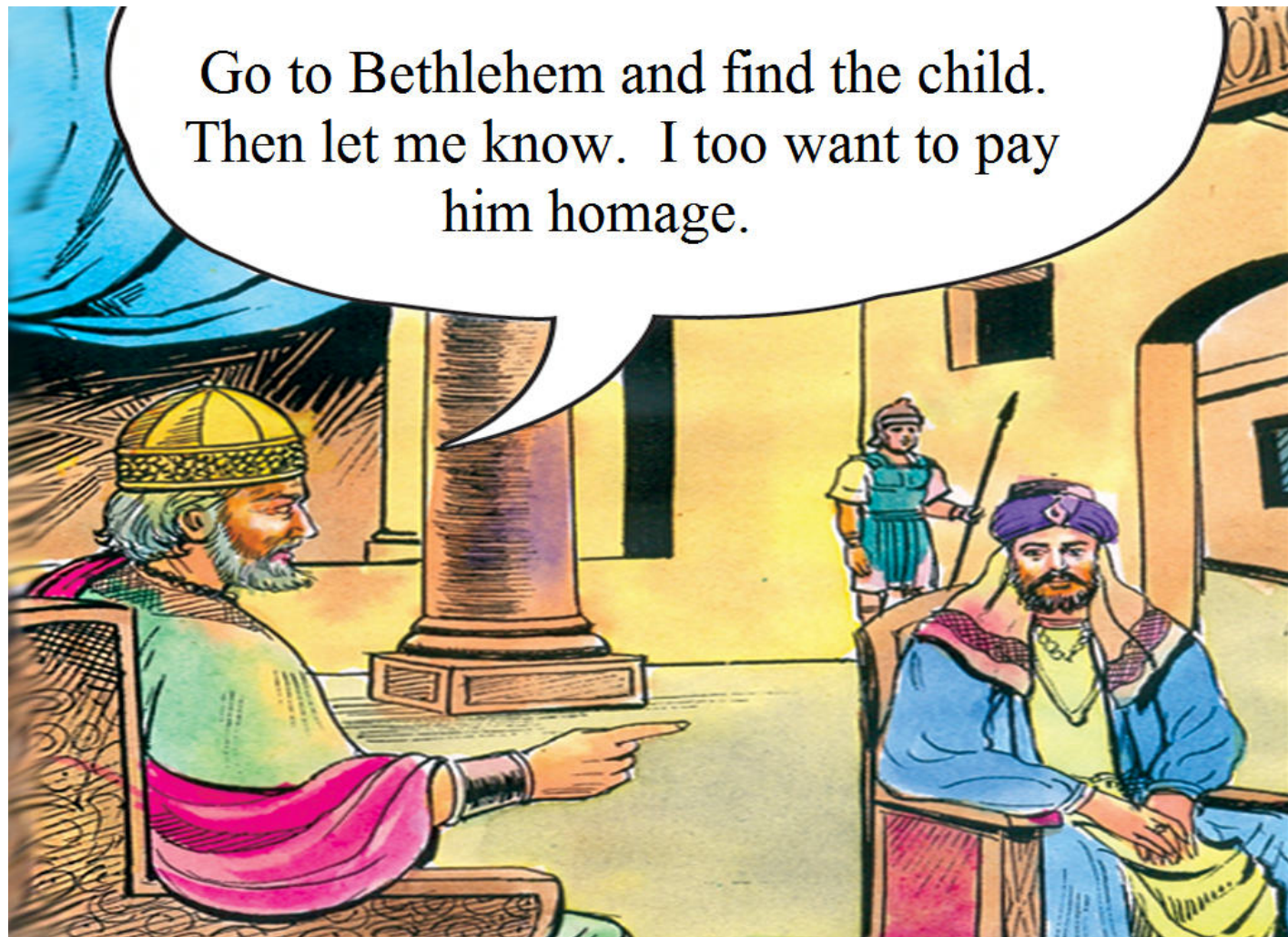
Rabbi, what do the prophets say about the birth of the savior?





Prophet Micah has said
that the messiah would
be born in Bethlehem.

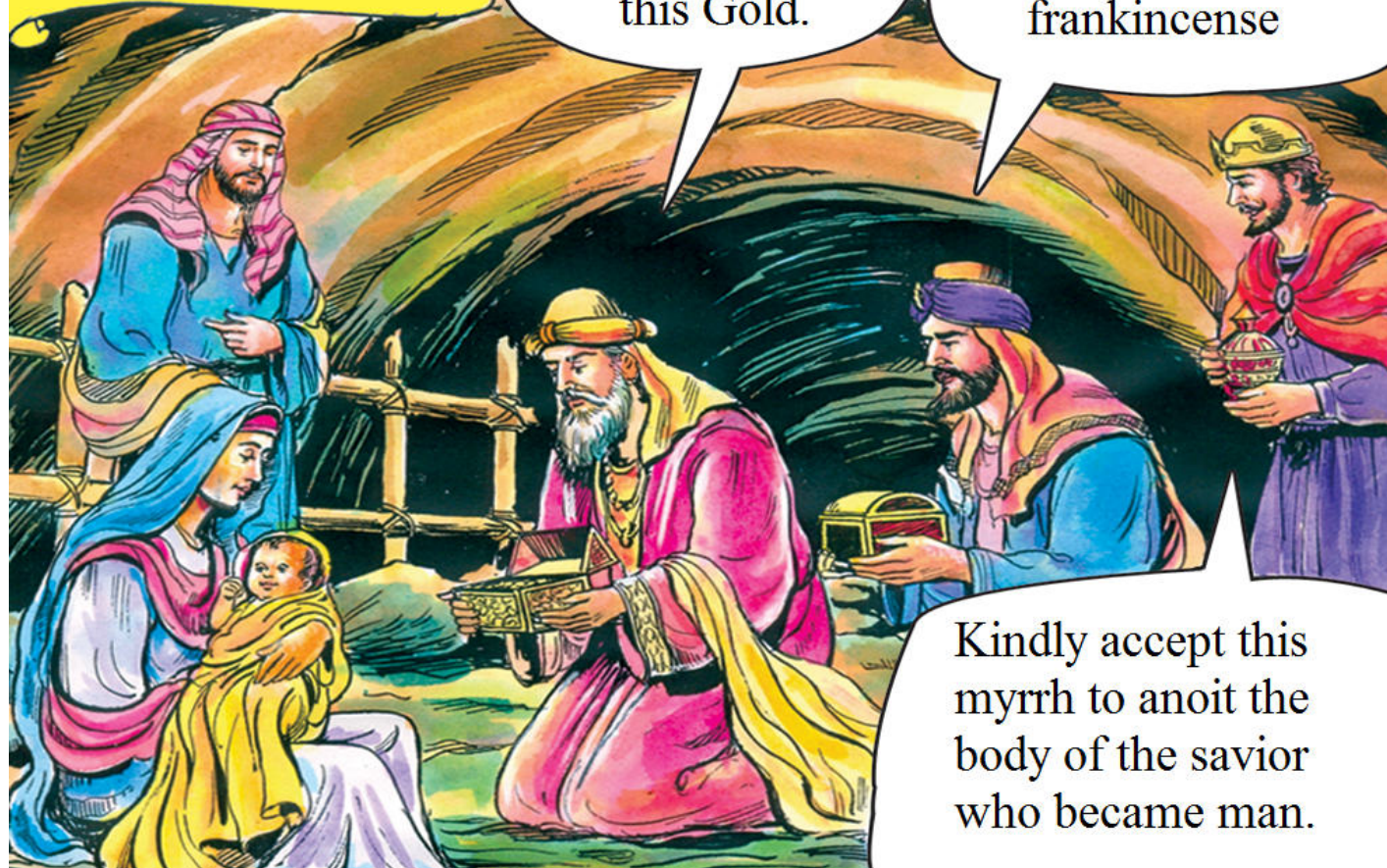
Go to Bethlehem and find the child.
Then let me know. I too want to pay
him homage.



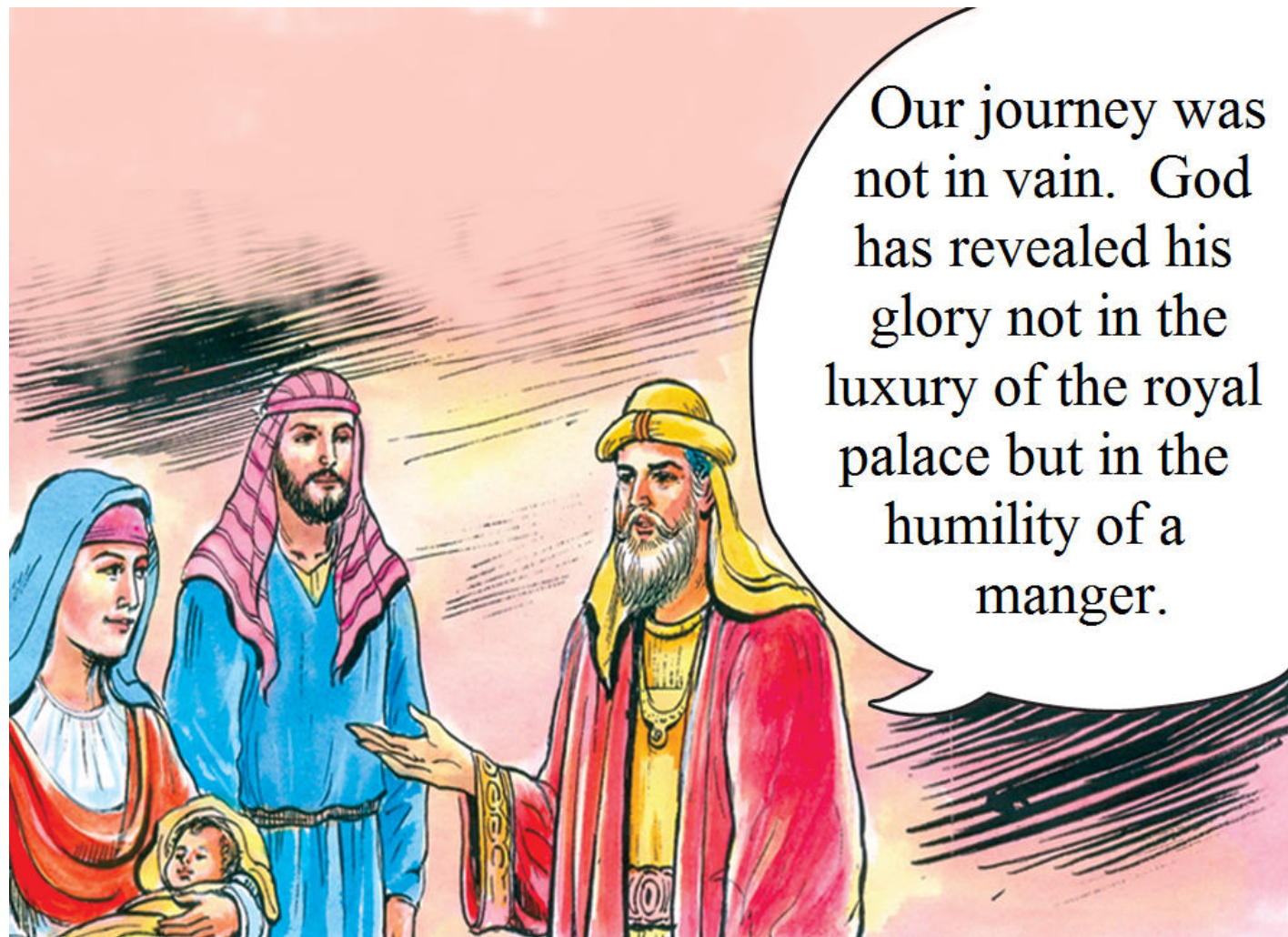
The wise men in
Bethlehem

To the king
of kings, I present
this Gold.

To the eternal high
priest, I present
frankincense



Kindly accept this
myrrh to anoint the
body of the savior
who became man.



Our journey was not in vain. God has revealed his glory not in the luxury of the royal palace but in the humility of a manger.



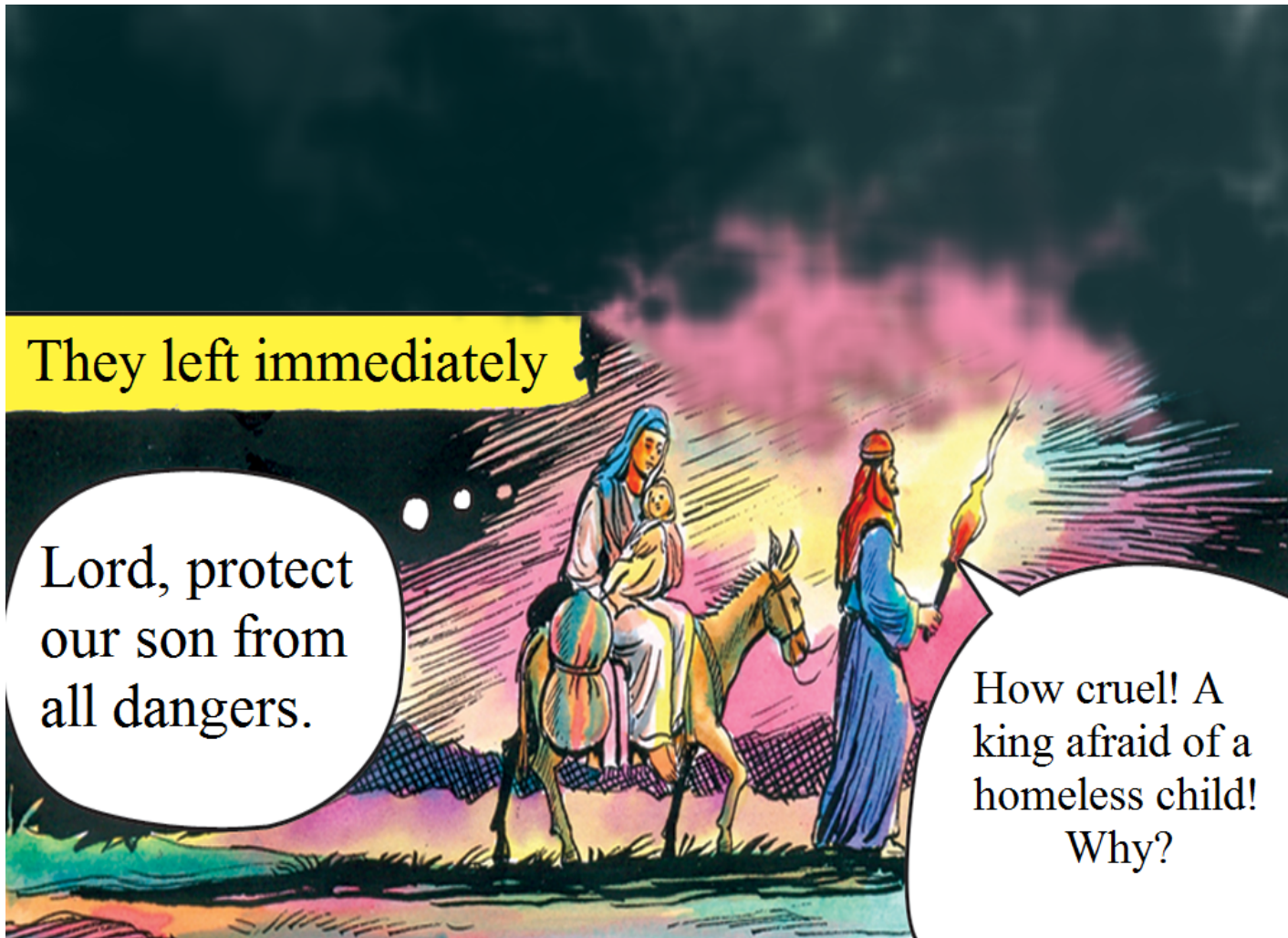
That night

JOSEPH, GET UP
AND FLEE TO
EGYPT WITH THE
CHILD AND HIS
MOTHER. HEROD
INTENDS TO KILL
HIM.

They left immediately

Lord, protect
our son from
all dangers.

How cruel! A
king afraid of a
homeless child!
Why?



After a long journey they reached Egypt.

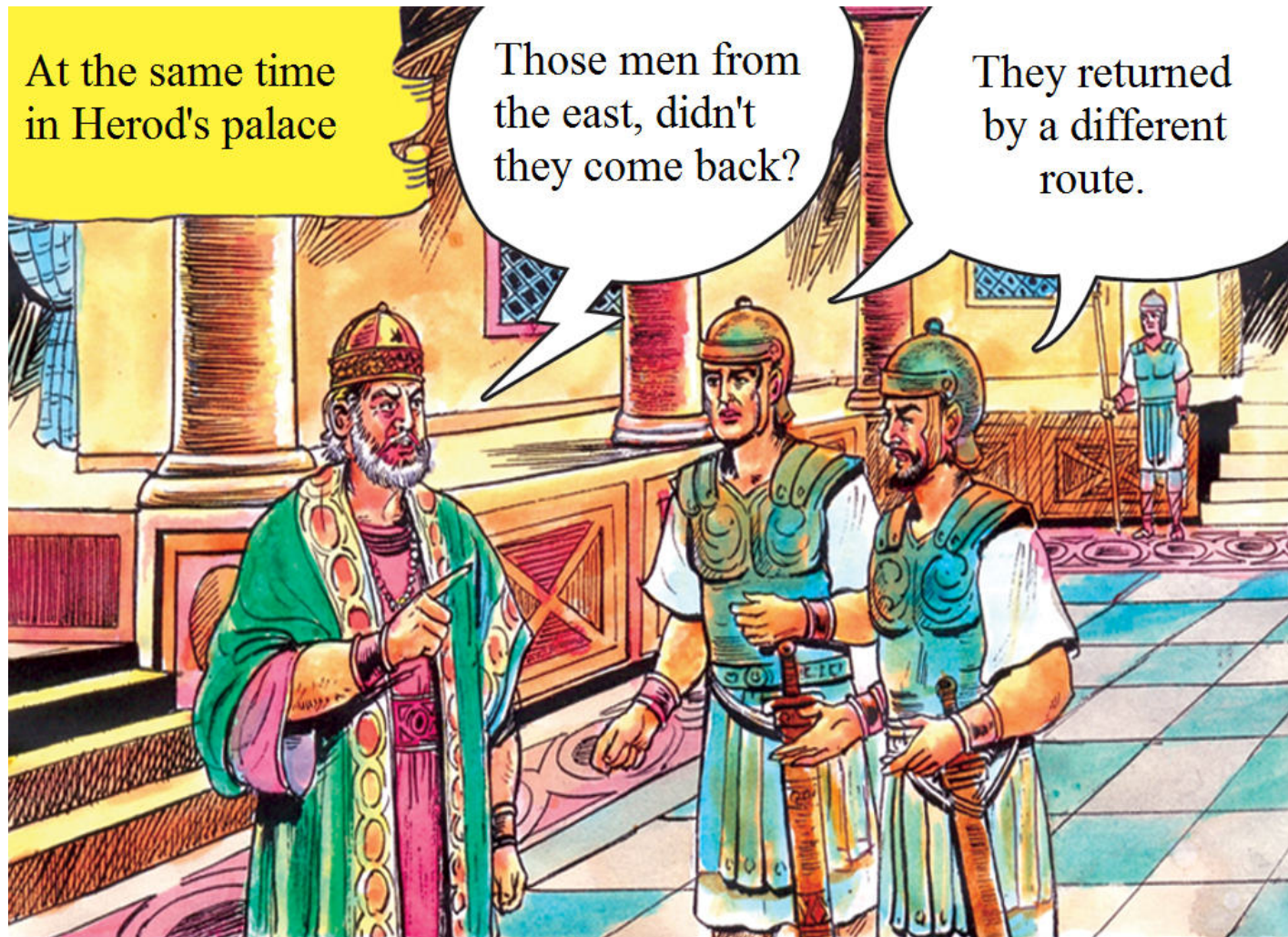
Shall we stay in this village?



At the same time
in Herod's palace

Those men from
the east, didn't
they come back?

They returned
by a different
route.



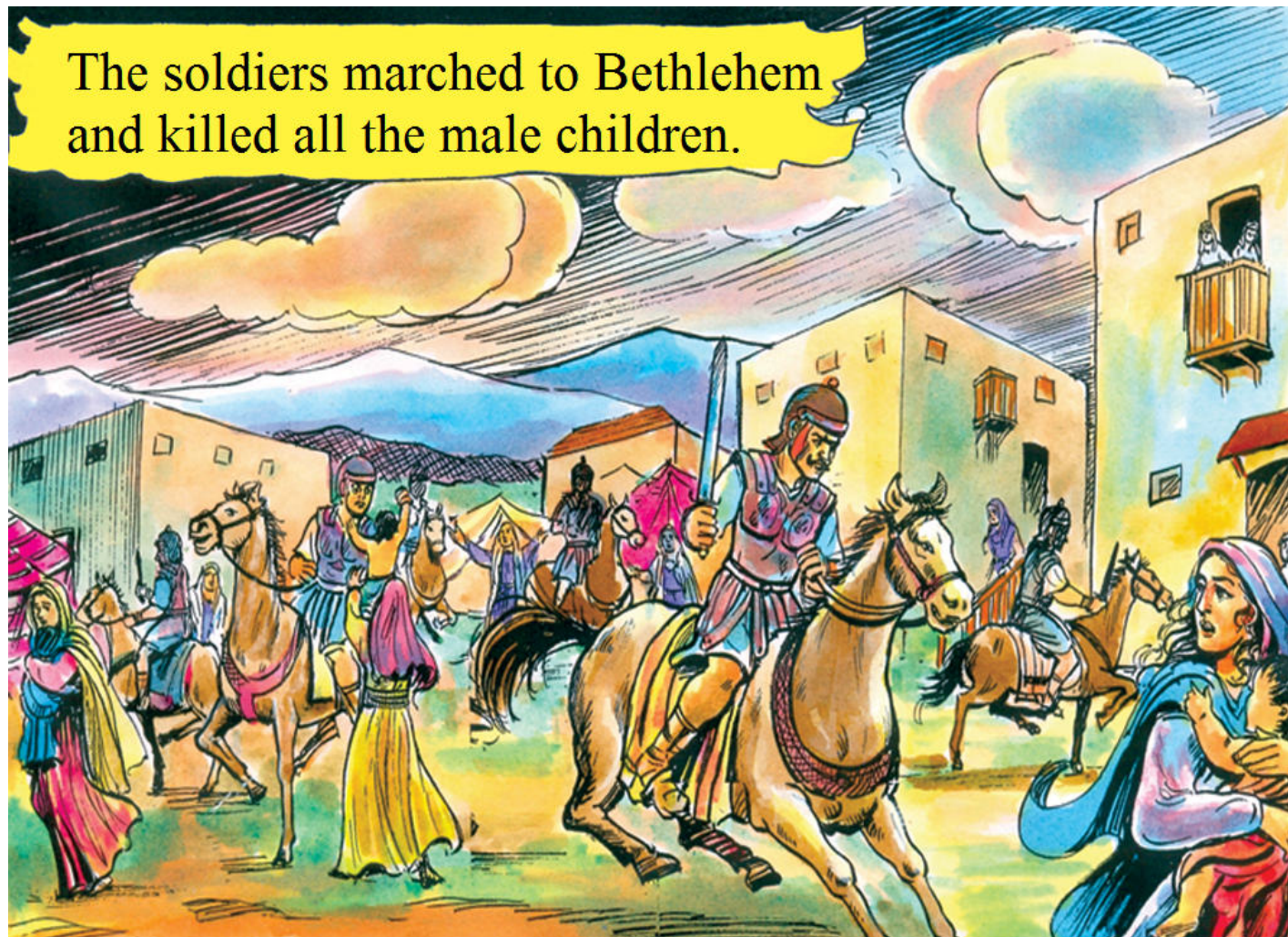
So it is more difficult to find our new king. Well, kill all the male children below the age of two, in and around Bethlehem.



I will not tolerate another king
in my kingdom. Be it the
Messiah or even God himself!
Go, go to Bethlehem and kill all
of them. He must not escape.



The soldiers marched to Bethlehem
and killed all the male children.



Don't kill my baby



Thus the prophecy of Jeremiah, "*a voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loudly lamenting ... because they are no more*" was fulfilled.

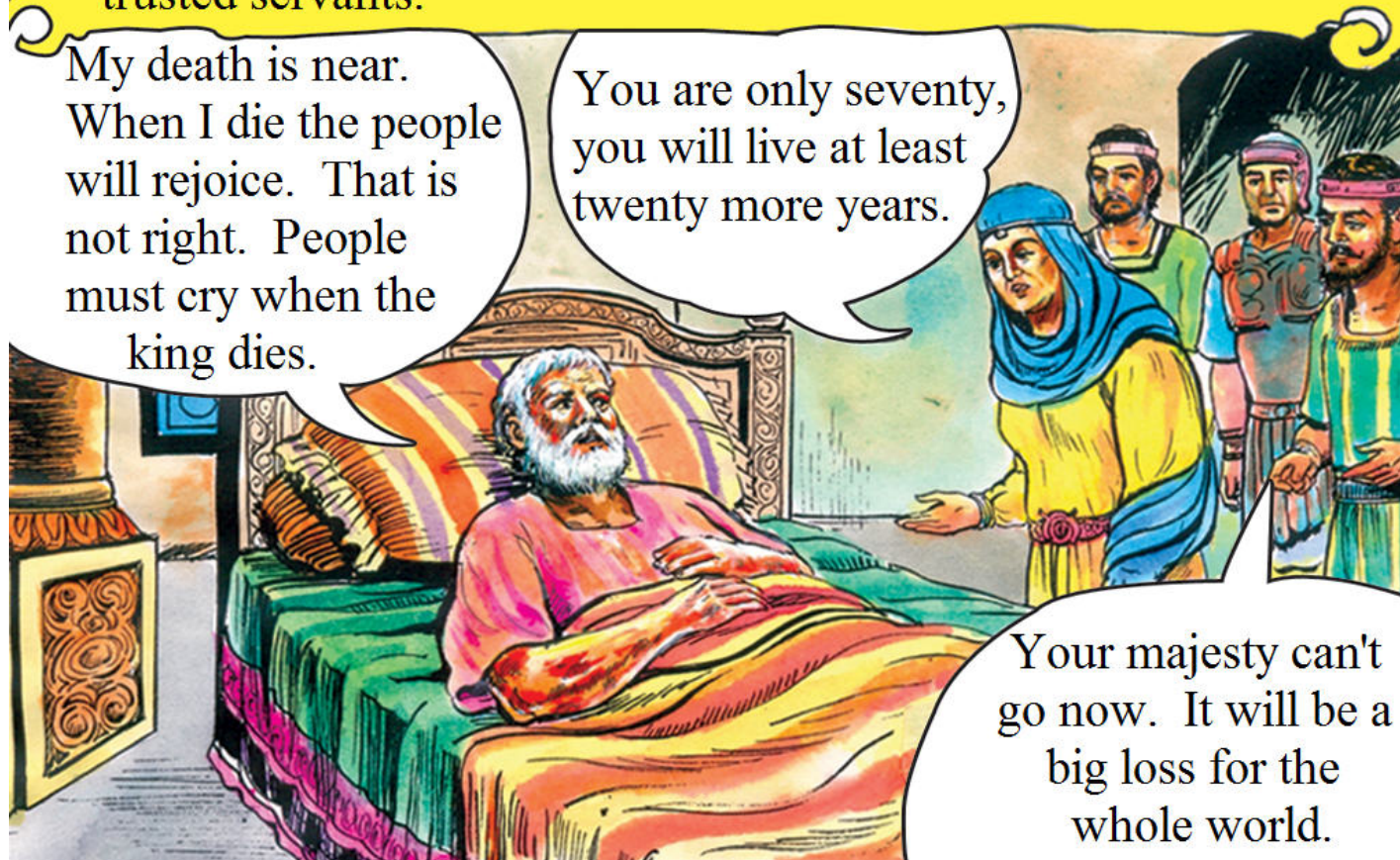


Shortly after, Herod became mortally ill. His body was filled with festering sores. He called his sister Salomi and a few trusted servants.

My death is near.
When I die the people
will rejoice. That is
not right. People
must cry when the
king dies.

You are only seventy,
you will live at least
twenty more years.

Your majesty can't
go now. It will be a
big loss for the
whole world.



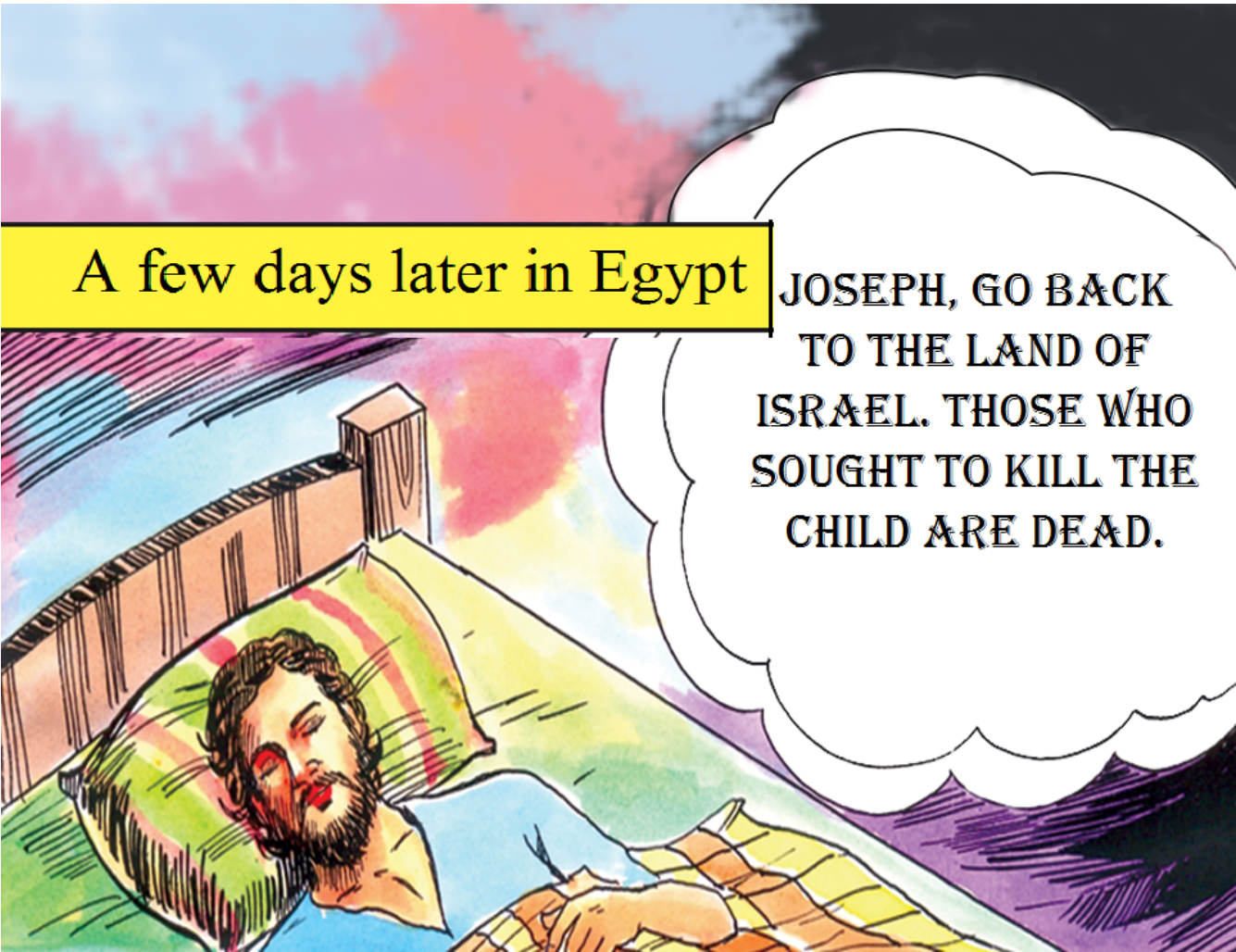
I have imprisoned four hundred nobles.
As soon as I die, kill them all.

?!

A cartoon illustration depicting a scene from a story. An elderly man with a white beard and hair, wearing a red robe, is lying in a bed with a striped orange and yellow pillow. He looks weary and is gesturing with his right hand while speaking. A woman wearing a blue headscarf and a yellow dress stands beside the bed, looking at him with a concerned expression. The background shows a purple curtain and a wooden bedside table. Two speech bubbles are present: one from the man containing a statement about imprisoning nobles, and another from the woman containing a question mark and exclamation mark.

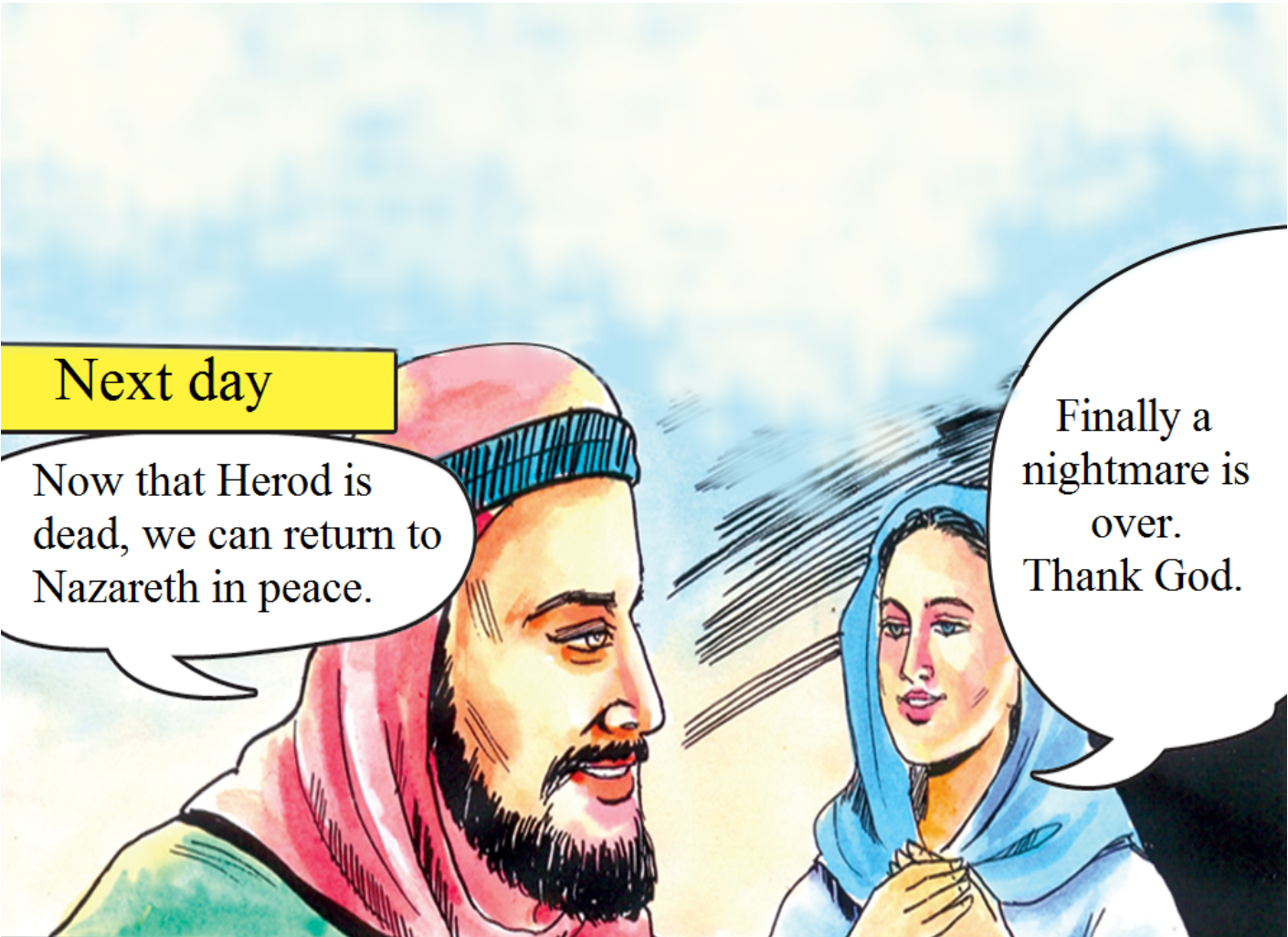
Only then you must
announce my death. Then
the whole country will cry.
Hearing that my soul
will rejoice.



A man with a beard and long hair is sleeping in a bed. He is wearing a blue shirt and is covered by a yellow and orange checkered blanket. He is lying on a green pillow with a rainbow pattern. The bed has a wooden headboard. The background is a colorful, abstract sky with shades of blue, pink, and purple. A large white cloud is on the right side of the image.

A few days later in Egypt

JOSEPH, GO BACK
TO THE LAND OF
ISRAEL. THOSE WHO
SOUGHT TO KILL THE
CHILD ARE DEAD.



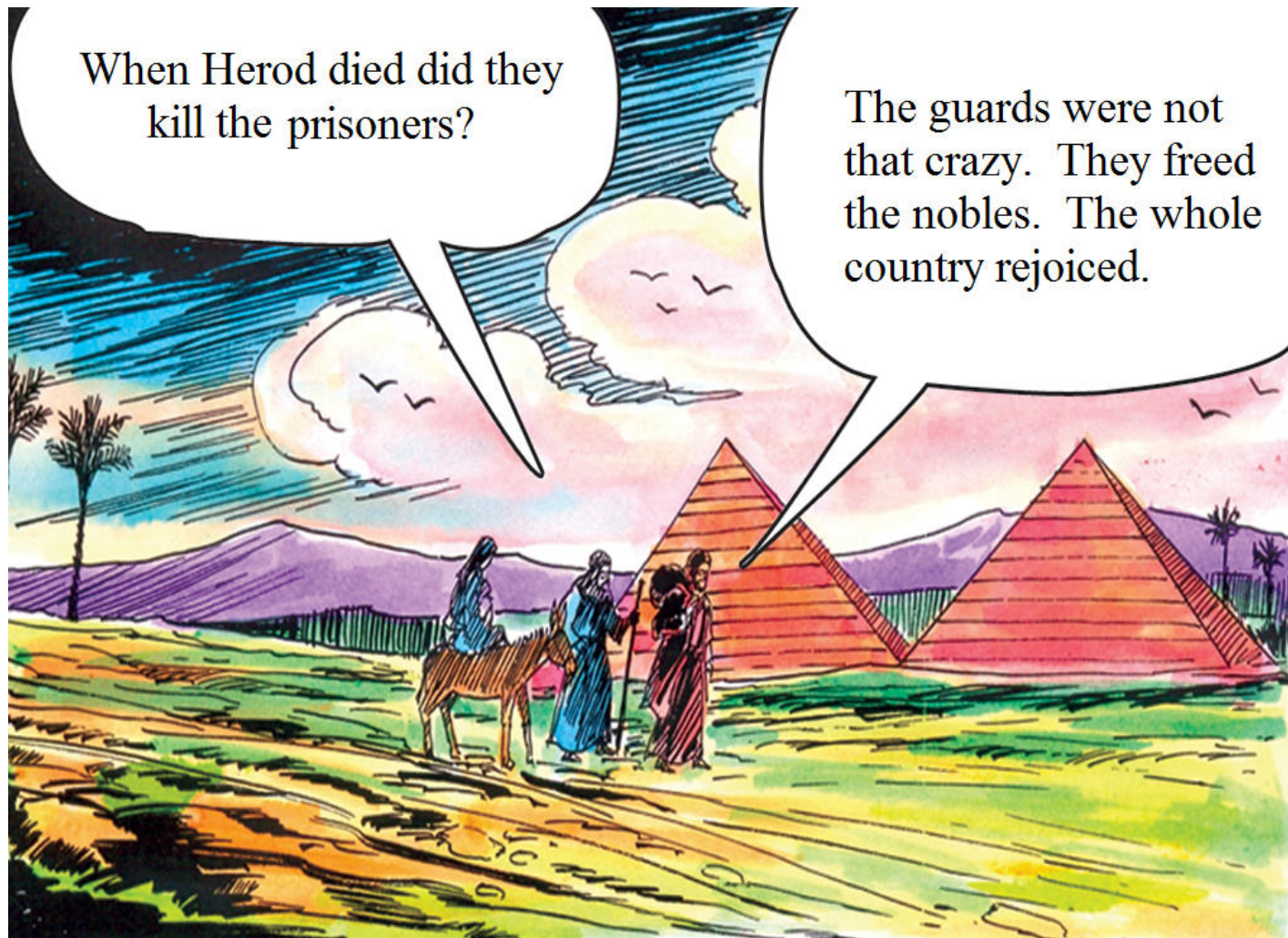
Next day

Now that Herod is dead, we can return to Nazareth in peace.

Finally a nightmare is over.
Thank God.

When Herod died did they
kill the prisoners?

The guards were not
that crazy. They freed
the nobles. The whole
country rejoiced.



But after the funeral
there was a big uprising.

Why?

According to
Herod's last will,
Archelaus was to
succeed him in
Judea. As soon as
he occupied the
throne, people
gathered.

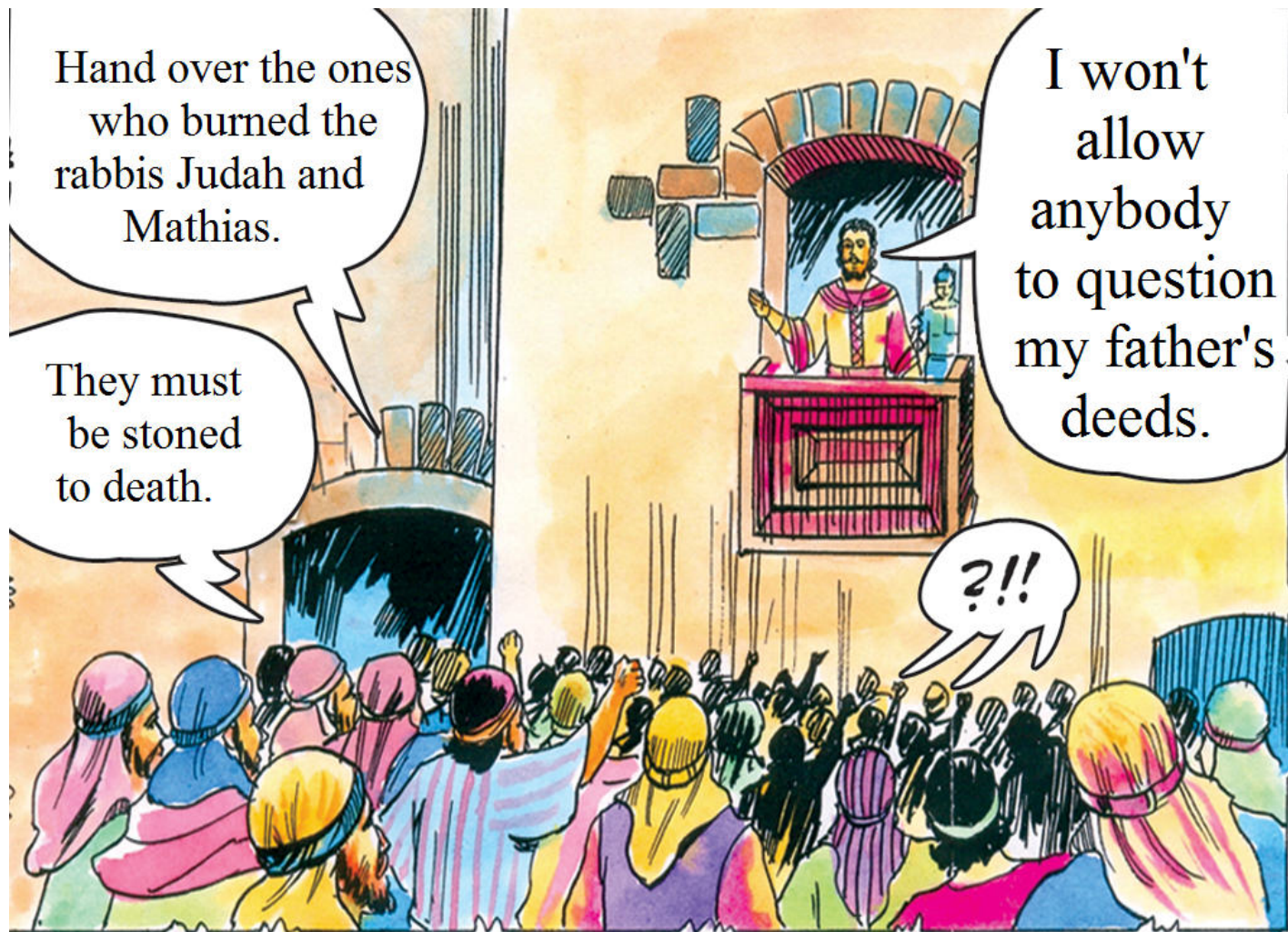


Hand over the ones
who burned the
rabbis Judah and
Mathias.

They must
be stoned
to death.

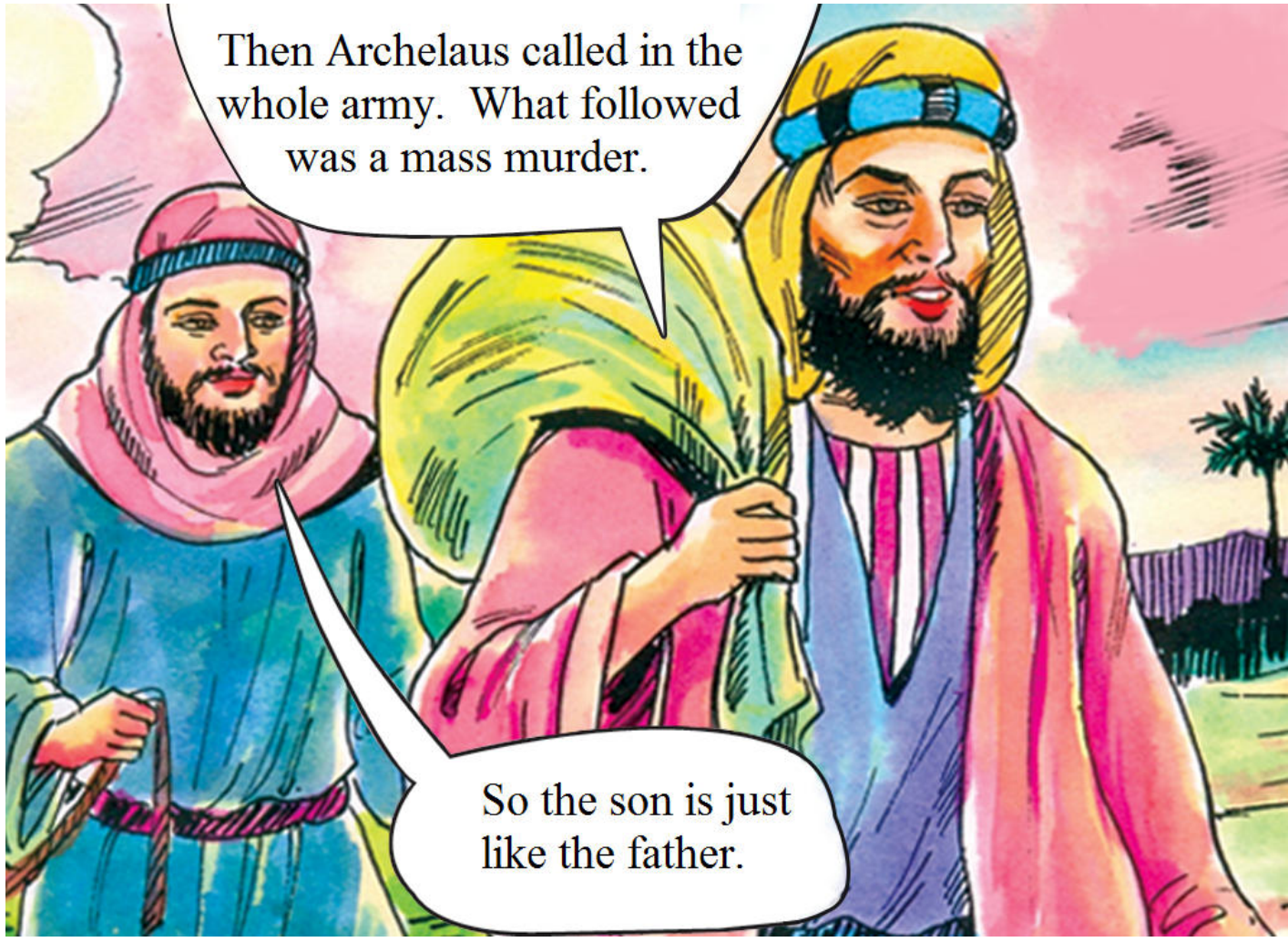
I won't
allow
anybody
to question
my father's
deeds.

?!!




The next day a huge crowd surrounded the palace. Archelaus dispatched a contingent of soldiers to disperse the crowd. But they could not.





Then Archelaus called in the whole army. What followed was a mass murder.

So the son is just like the father.



Now he is gone to Rome to
get the testament of Herod
approved. Wonder what will
happen next.

Some day all this will
end. Jerusalem will
become a city of peace.

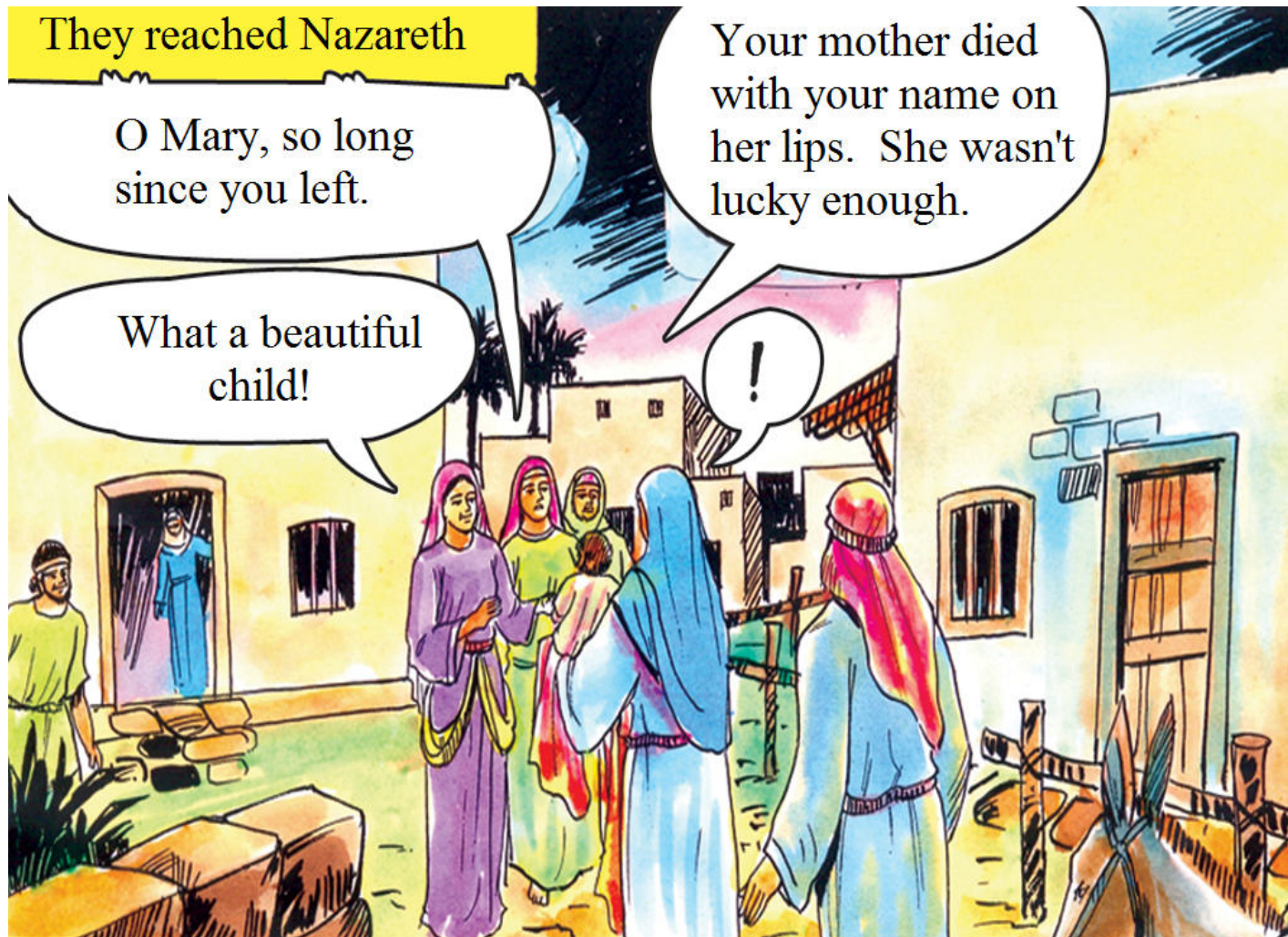
They reached Nazareth

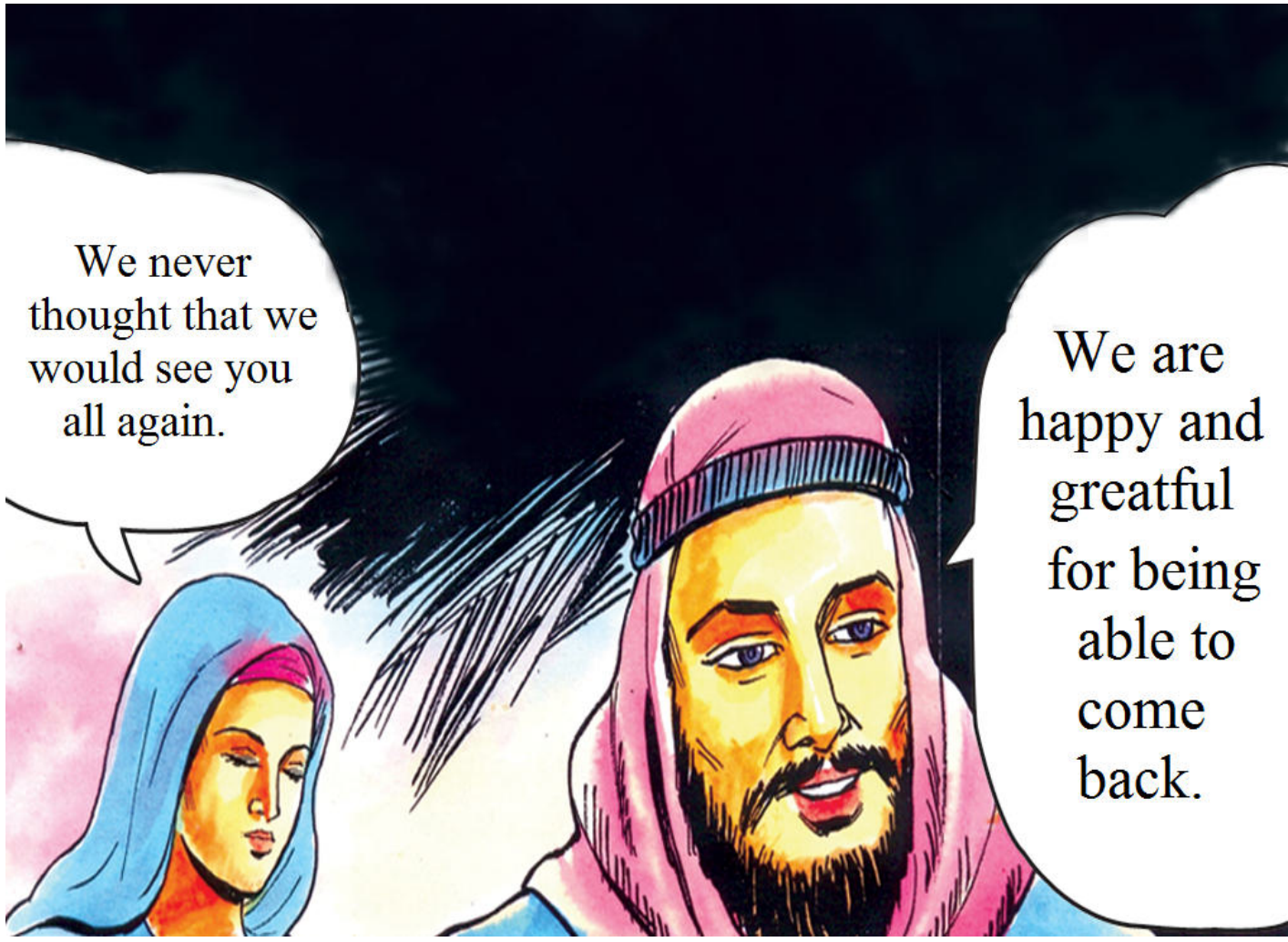
O Mary, so long
since you left.

What a beautiful
child!

Your mother died
with your name on
her lips. She wasn't
lucky enough.

!





We never
thought that we
would see you
all again.

We are
happy and
greatful
for being
able to
come
back.

Questions

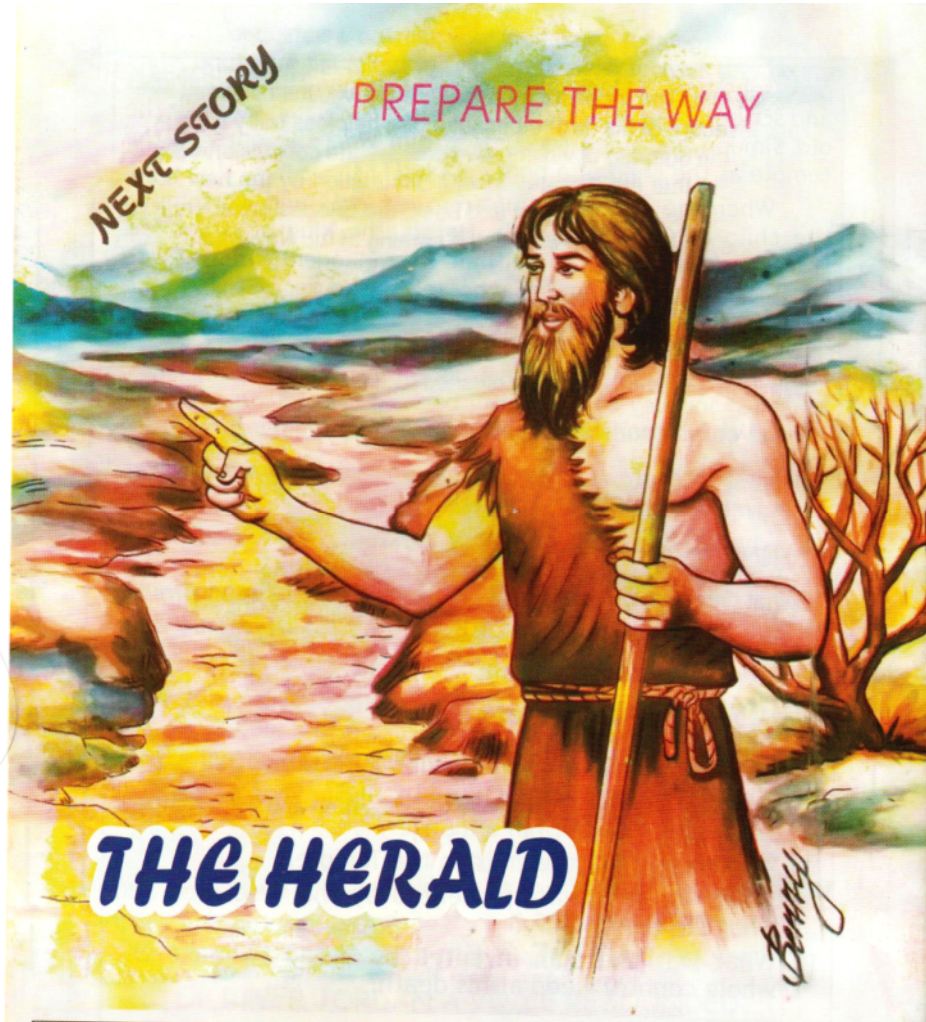
1. Why did Elizabeth call Mary blessed?
2. What was Zechariah's prophecy concerning John?
3. What did the Law of Moses prescribe concerning a woman who became pregnant before marriage?
4. Why did Joseph decide to leave Mary in secret?
5. What did the angel tell Joseph about the child Mary conceived?
6. Why did Caesar Augustus order a census in Palestine? Which prophecy was fulfilled by that?
7. Why was Jesus born in a manger?
8. Who recognized the child in the Temple?
9. What were the gifts presented by the wise men and what did they signify?
10. What was the way invented by Herod to make the whole country weep at his death?

Memorize: ***“My eyes have seen the salvation which you have Prepared for all the nations” (Lk. 2,30)***

NEXT STORY

PREPARE THE WAY

THE HERALD



THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN COMICS

1. Cain and Abel
2. Abraham
3. Jacob
4. Joseph
5. Moses
6. Joshua
7. Samson
8. Ruth
9. Samuel
10. Saul
11. David
12. King David
13. Solomon
14. Elijah
15. Amos
16. Hosea
17. Micah

18. Isaiah
19. Jeremiah
20. Ezekiel
21. Zechariah
22. Jonah
23. Job
24. Tobit
25. Daniel
26. Susanna
27. Esther
28. Judith
29. Maccabeus
30. The Maccabees
31. A World Awaiting
32. Light of the world
33. The Herald
34. The Prophet
35. The Liberator

36. The One to come
37. The Lord of the Universe
38. Son of God
39. The Son of Man
40. In the shadow of the cross
41. The Way
42. Son of David
43. Bread of Life
44. The Redeemer
45. With us forever
46. Tongues of fire
47. Baptism in blood
48. The chosen vessel
49. Libation
50. Come, Lord Jesus
51. Woman