

## **BIBLE COMICS 01**

## **CAIN** and **ABEL**

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> Illustration DEVASY

## CAIN AND ABEL

"You must try hard and become the first". This is common advice given to children by parents and teachers in order to motivate them to do their best. But, this seemingly innocent message contains a very poisonous seed of competition. In the struggle to become the first, very often one tends to forget that the others are one's brothers and that they too have the right to live, to grow and to develop their abilities.

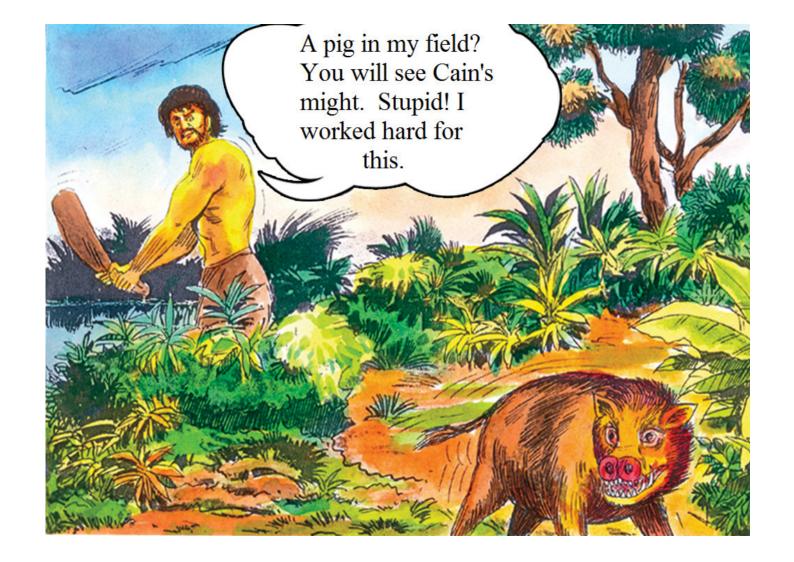
We can see this spirit of competition in all areas of life. From the child who tries to become first in the class to Super powers who are trying to dominate the world, people are involved in a struggle to become first. In this struggle, our own fellow men are often pushed aside, oppressed and even destroyed.

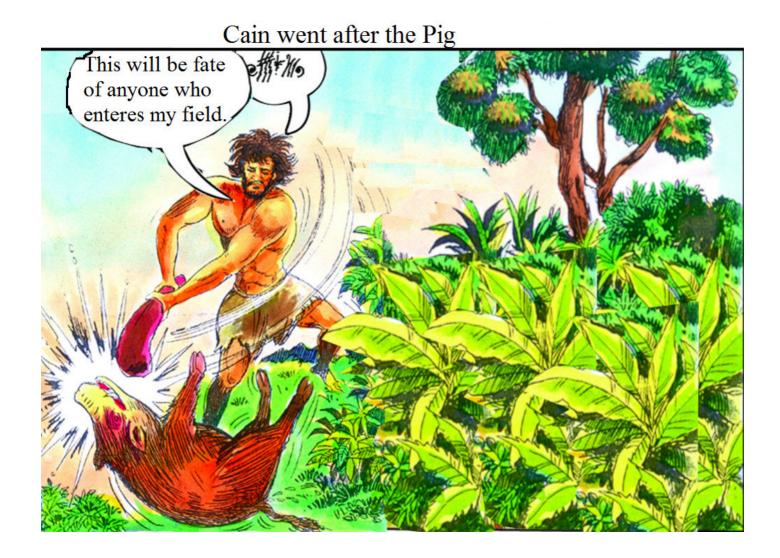
The tendency to become "first" by dominating and destroying others is as old as humanity. The story of "Cain and Abel" depicts this vividly. Brother rejects brother. Competition leads to violence and murder. The "strong" destroys the "weak". Cain, in the process of asserting himself and dominating the world, rejects everyone including God.

Cain's action was a sin. But the beginning of sin was not in Cain but in Adam who tried to become God. Adam's sin was in his heart while Cain's sin was the acting out of that rejection. So, ultimately sin is rejection of God. The Bible teaches that this is the root cause of evil in the world.

"Cain and Abel" is not just the story of oppression of the weak by the strong. It is also a story of Divine Justice and mercy. The voice of God descends upon Cain like thunderbolt and demands an account of his action. Though Abel was not able to withstand Cain, God avenged for Abel's innocent blood. This story presents God as one who sides with the weak and the innocent. God cursed Cain but still protected his life. He expelled Adam and Eve from the Paradise but promised them a Savior. All these would reveal that God wants the repentance rather than the destruction of the sinner.

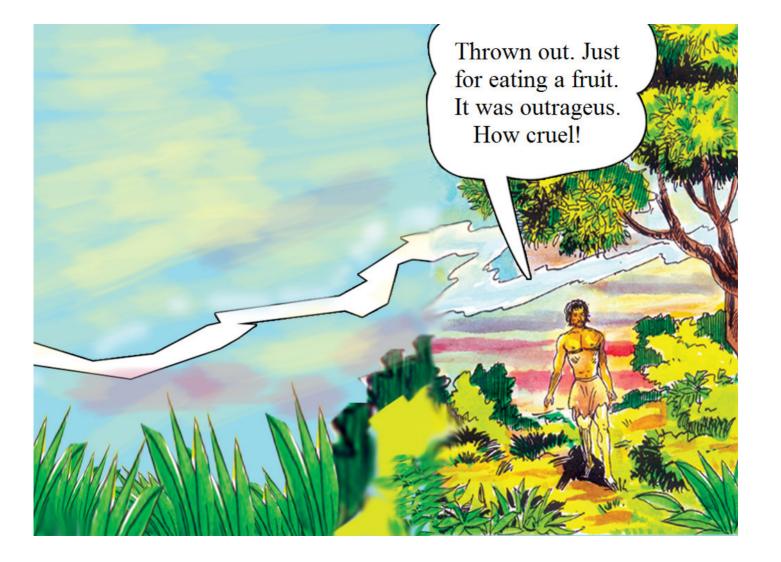
The story of "Cain and Abel" teaches us that we all are brothers and sisters and that everyone is responsible for the other. On the other hand, if anyone uses his abilities to destroy the other, he will be haunted by the relentless question, "Where is your brother?" Next year all fields will yield a rich harvest. If anybody dares to enter my field that will be his end. 0000

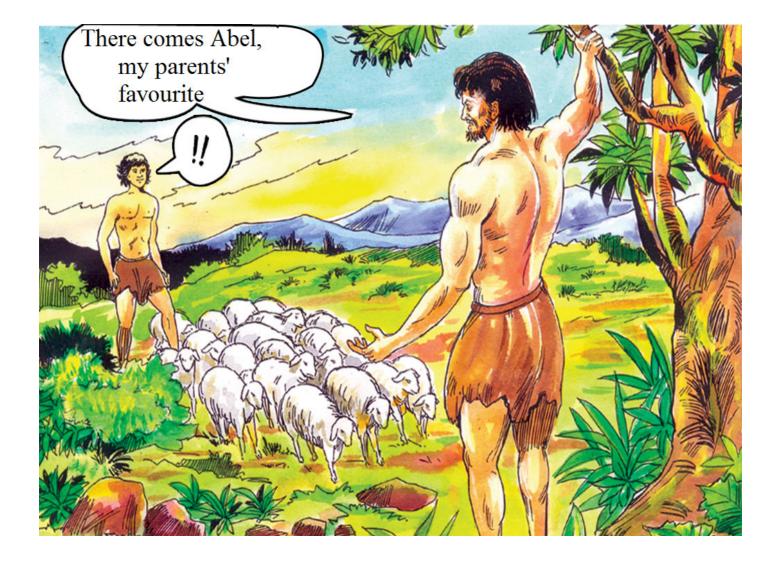


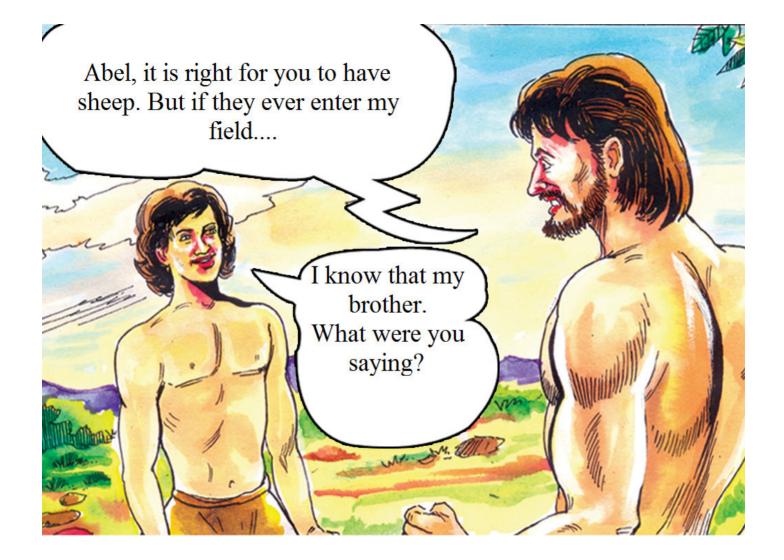


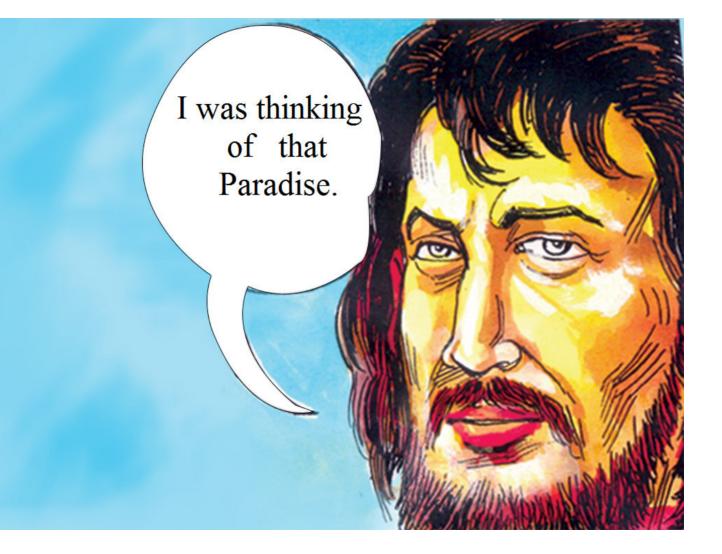
Wheat and barley. Not enough. I'll plant some fruit trees too, and make a garden.A paradise for me.





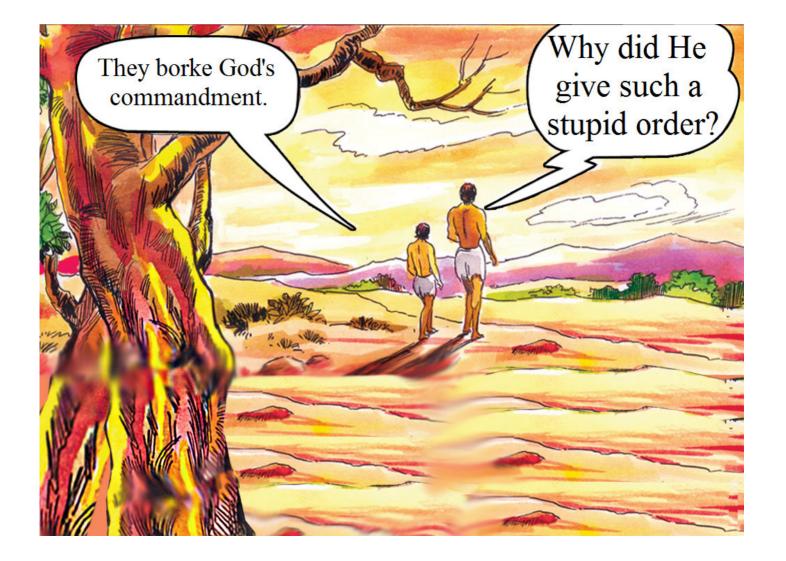




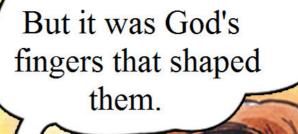


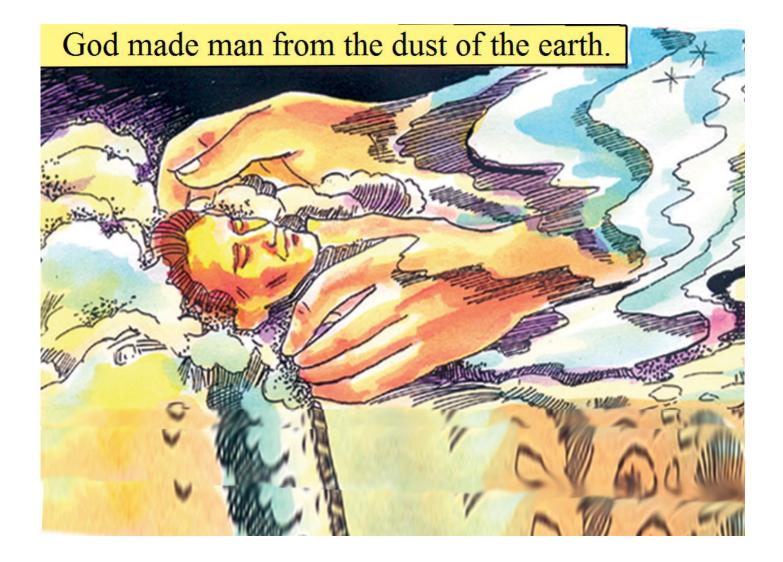
It was a wonderful garden with everything in it.

> Why do you think our parents were put out?

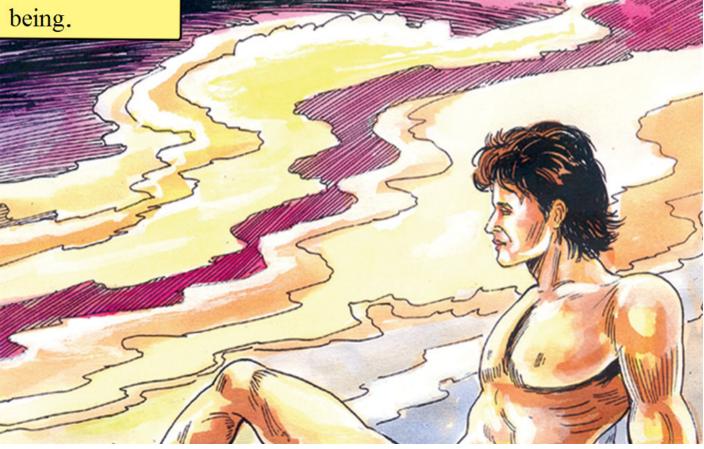


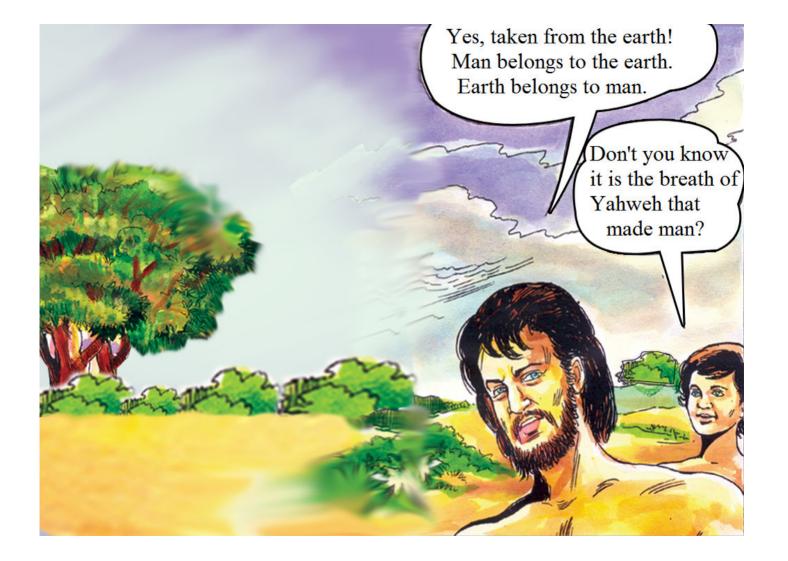
Stupid order? Think with what love He created them. From clay!

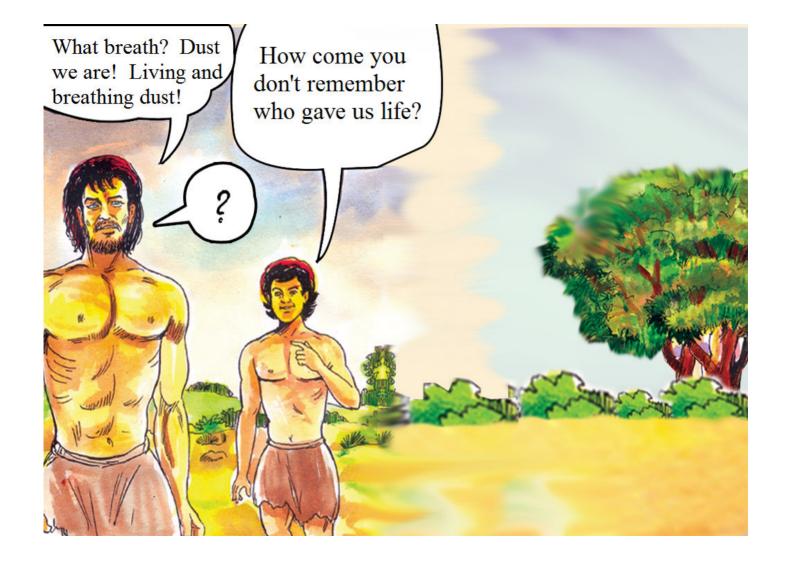


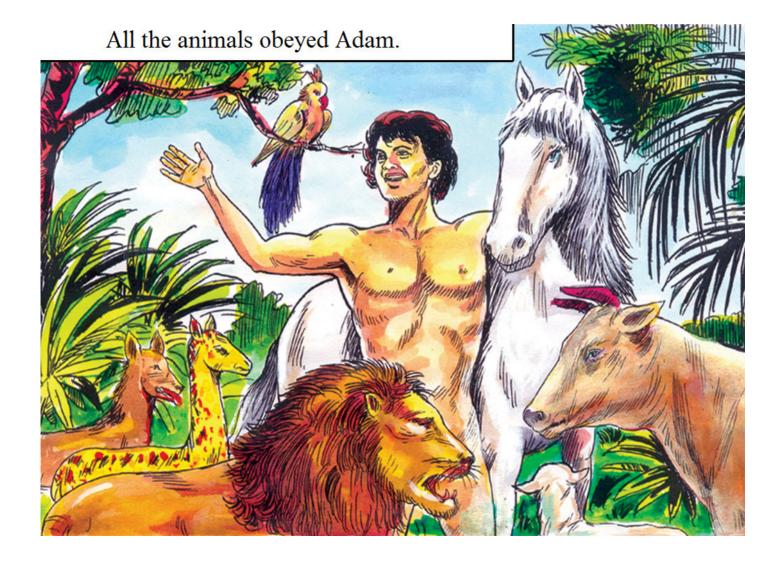


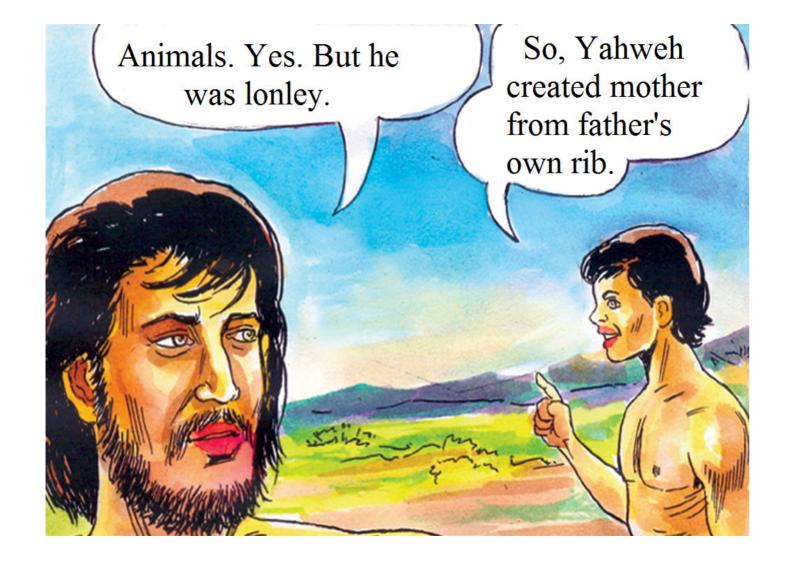
## He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and thus man became a living



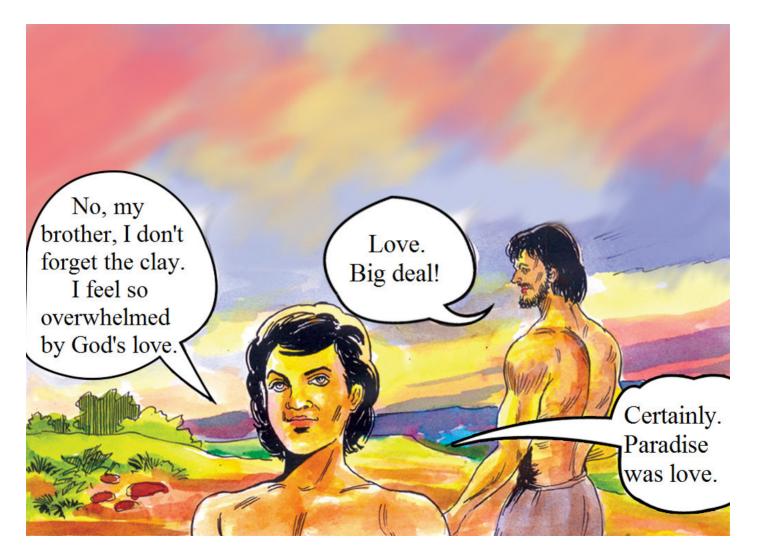


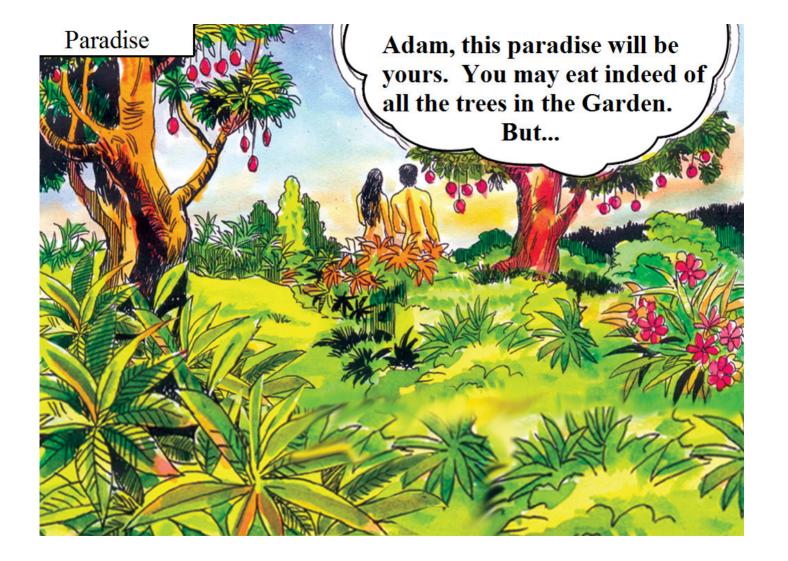




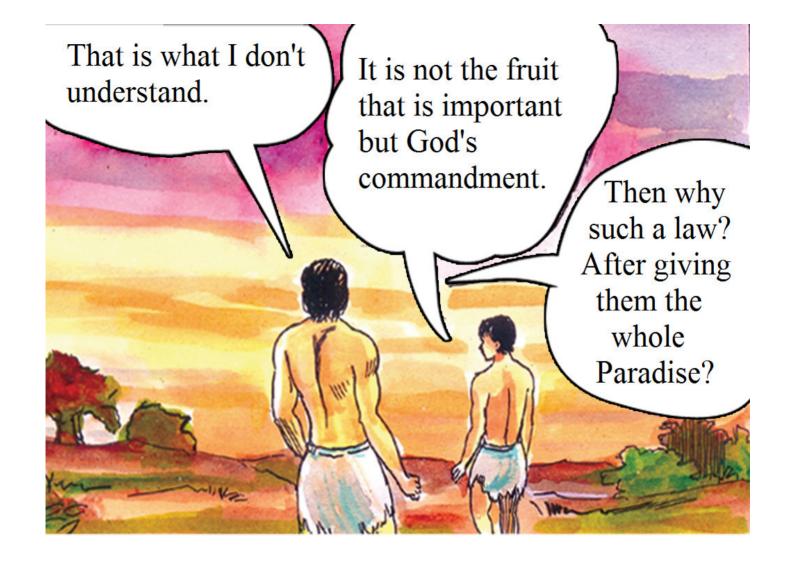


You stupid, why are you forgeting the clay so soon?

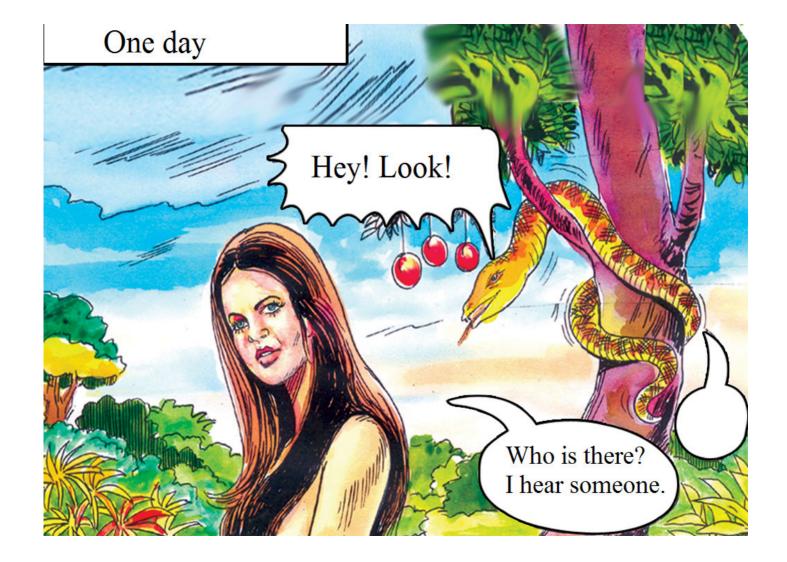


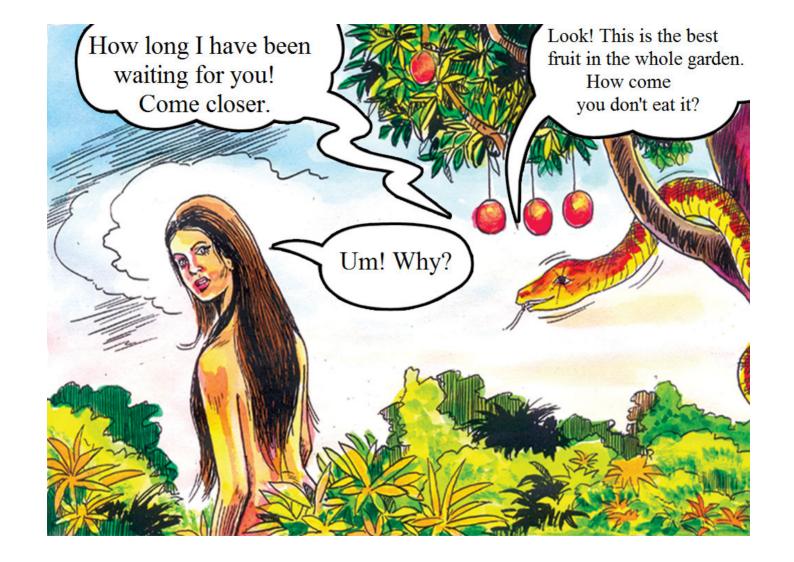


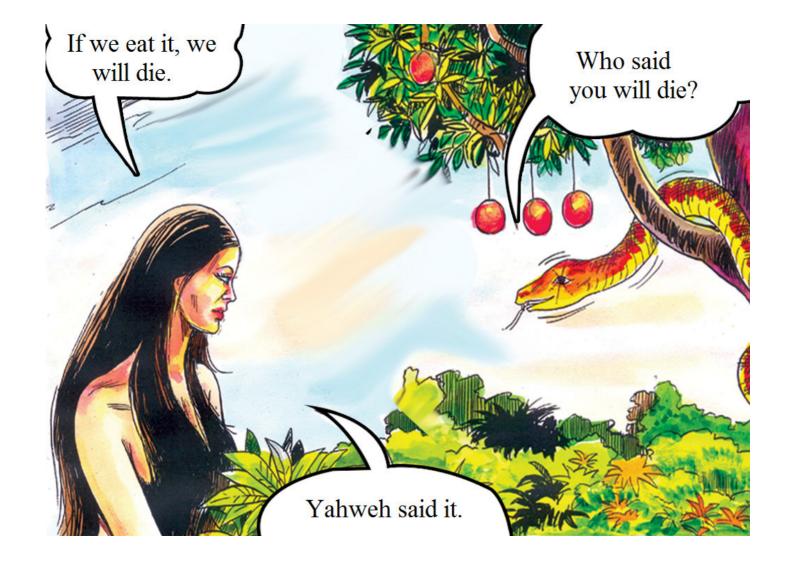
Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you are not to eat. For, the day you eat of it you shall die.

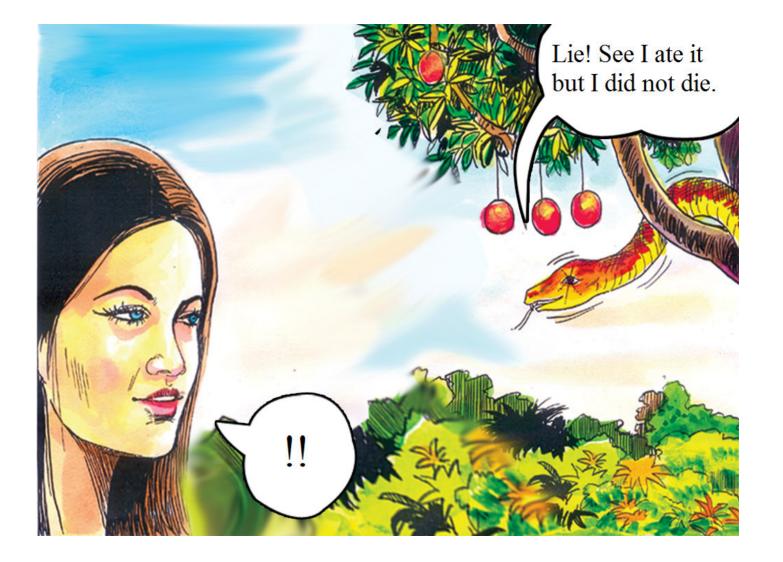


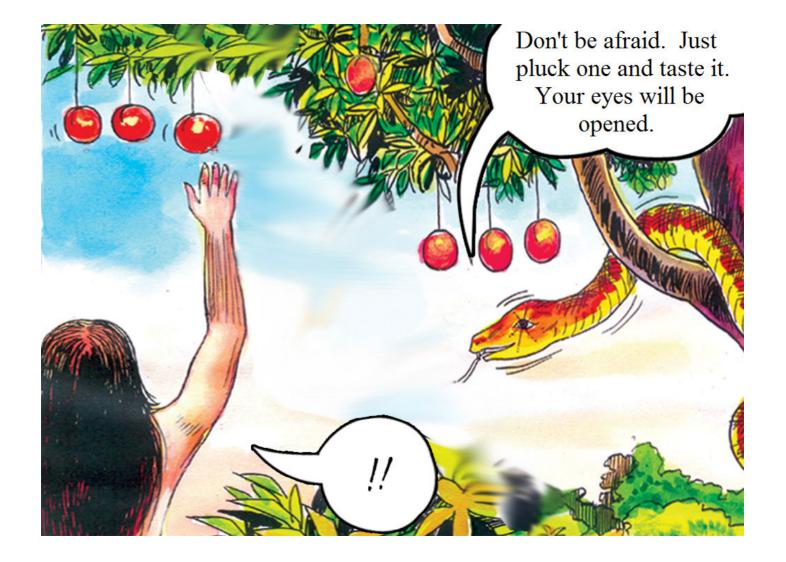
So that they may not forget that it is His gift.

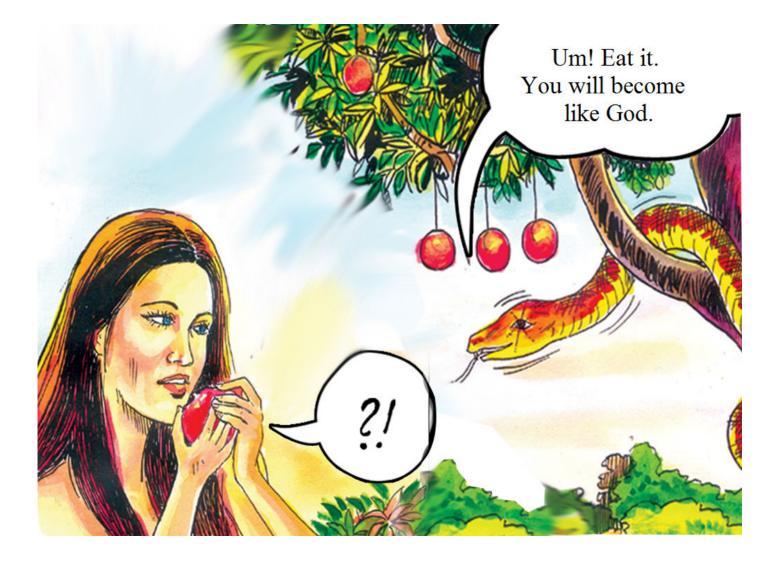






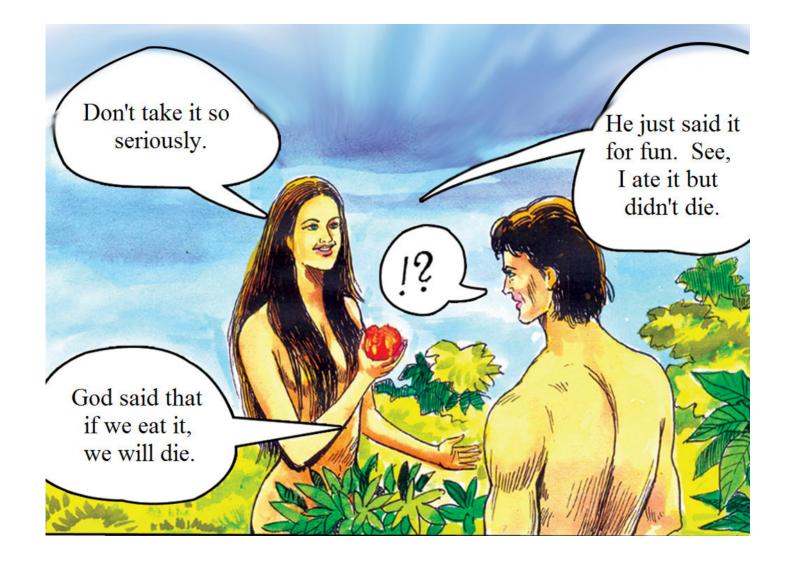






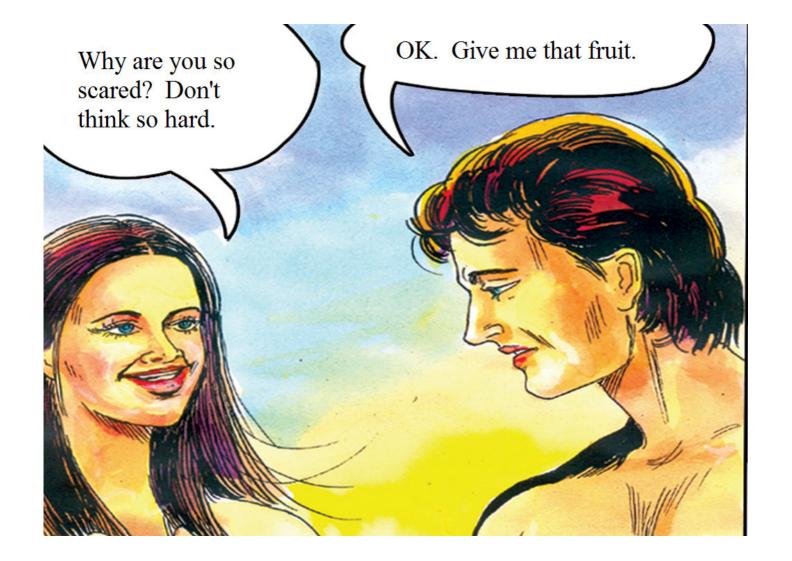
And share it with your husband too. Then only you will become the masters of the universe. Try it. There is nothing more delicious than this in the whole Paradise.

Isn't this the fruit of the forbidden tree?



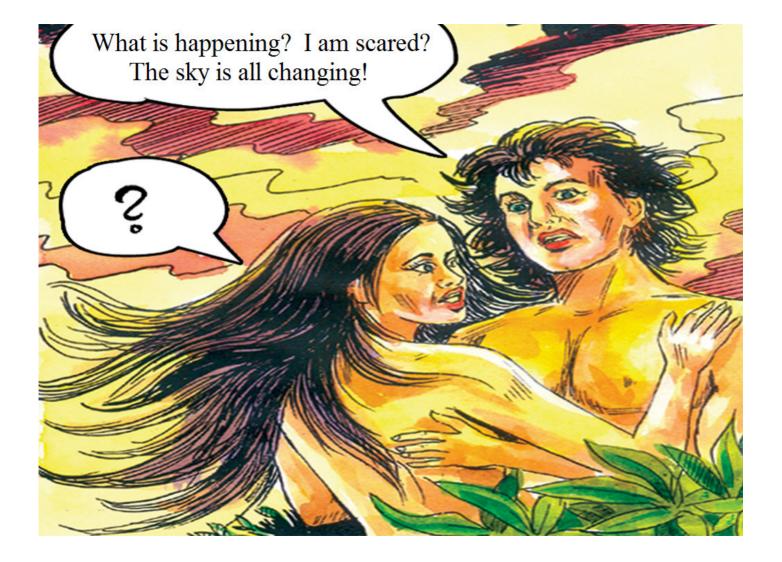




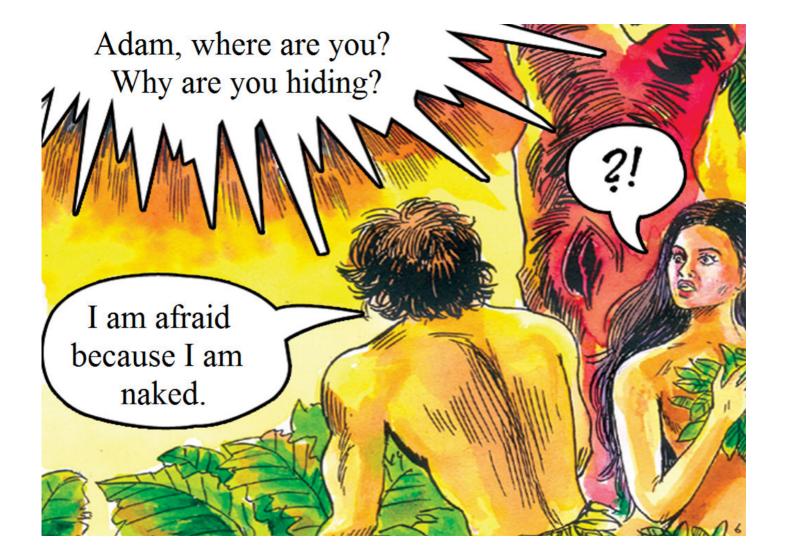






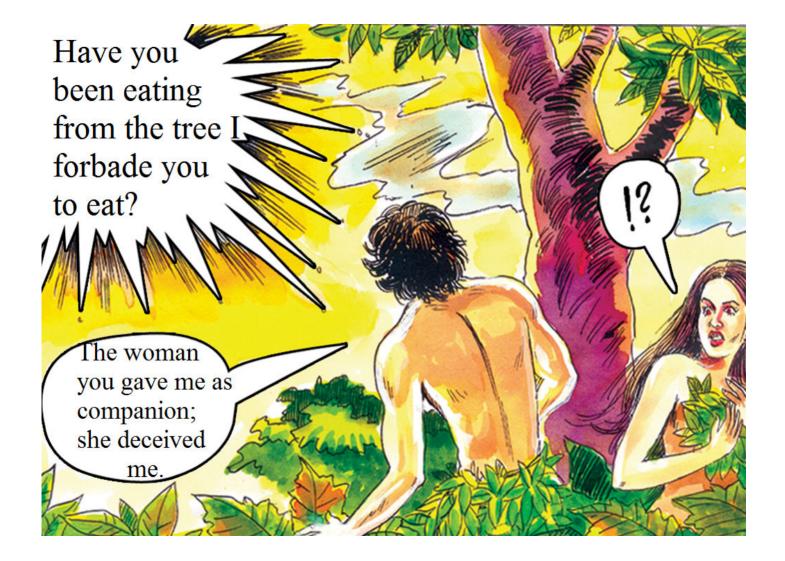








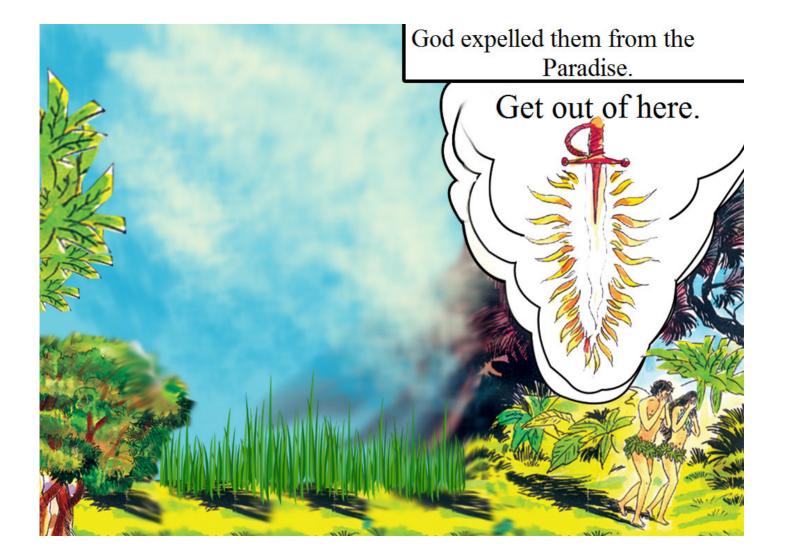
Tried to become God and ended up in shame and fear? Come out!





Snake, woman! Are you trying to evade the responsibility of what you did?

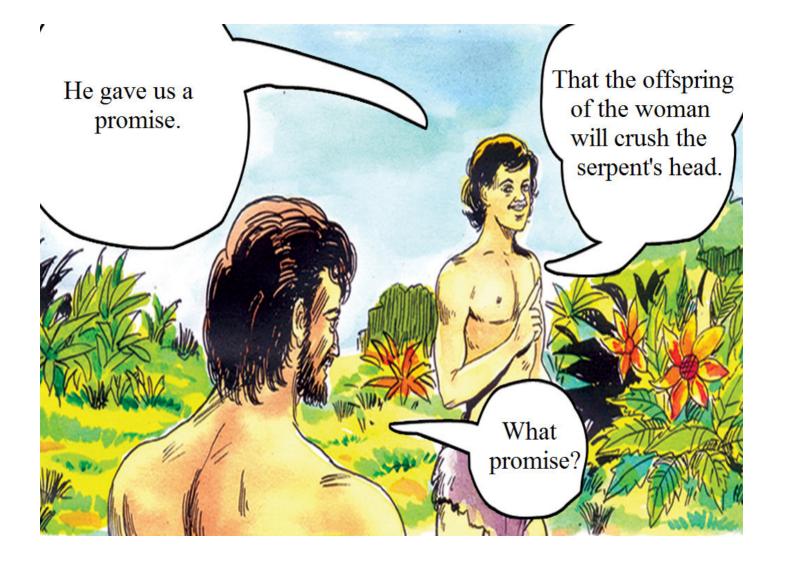
Go out and earn your bread until you come to know that I, I alone am God. You are dust and unto dust you shall return.



That happened because they disobeyed God. God loved them so much.

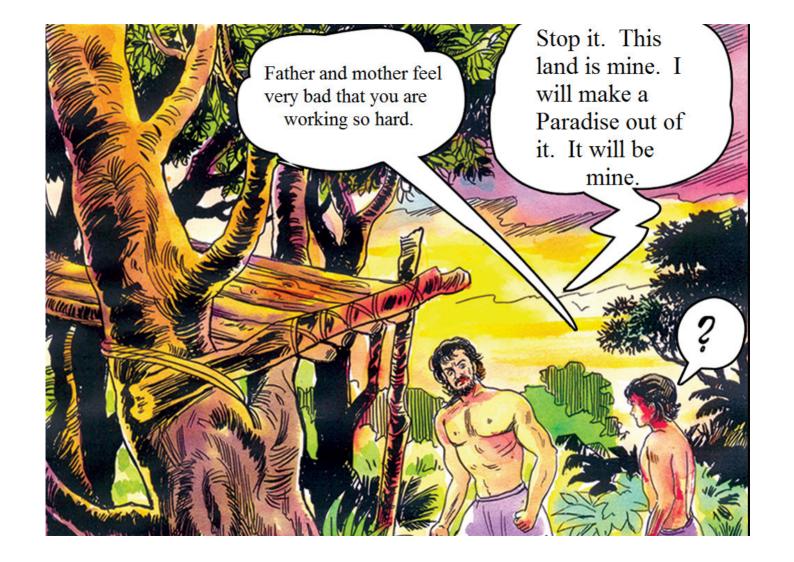
Is God afraid to loose his position?







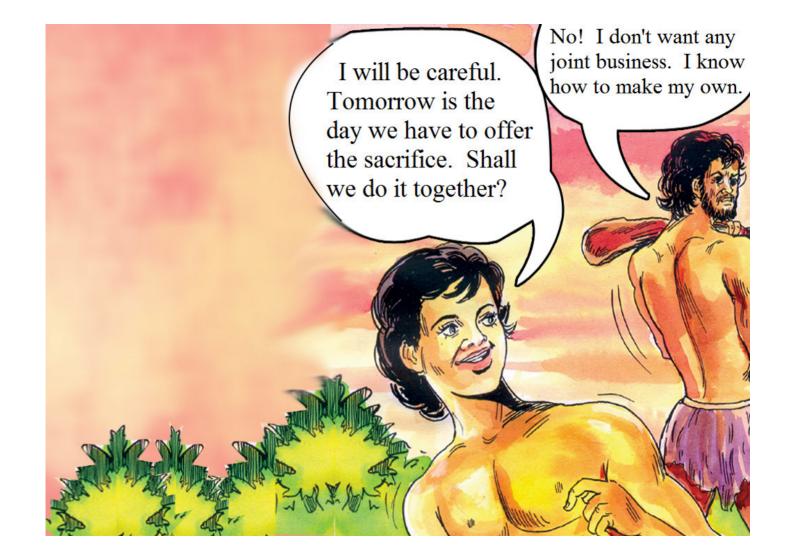




This my weapon. I will conquer the world with it!

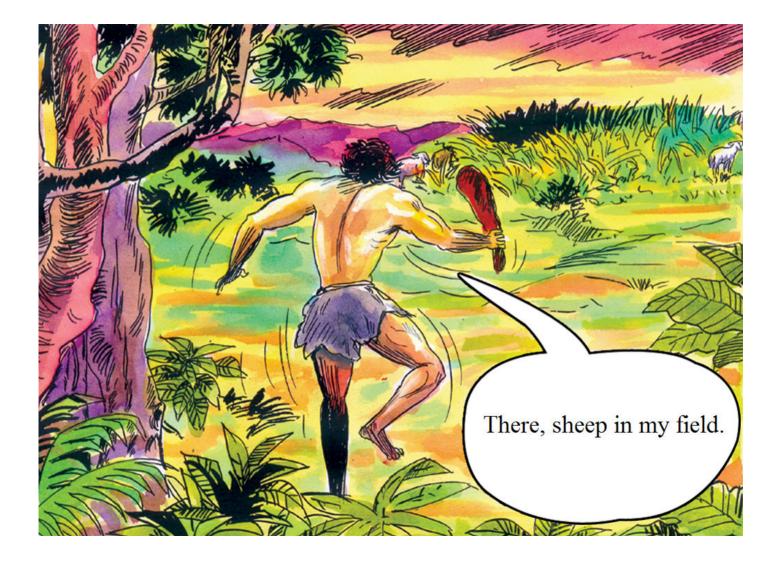
Gosh! It is getting dark. Where are the sheep?

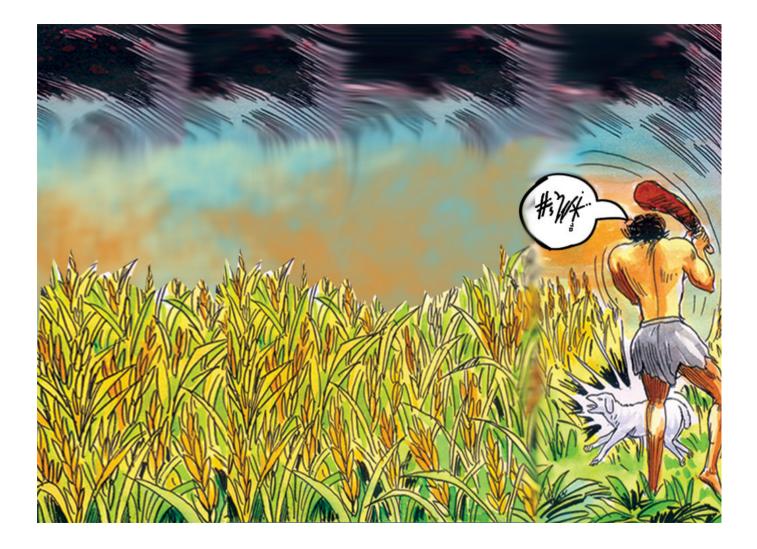




After Abel left the field.

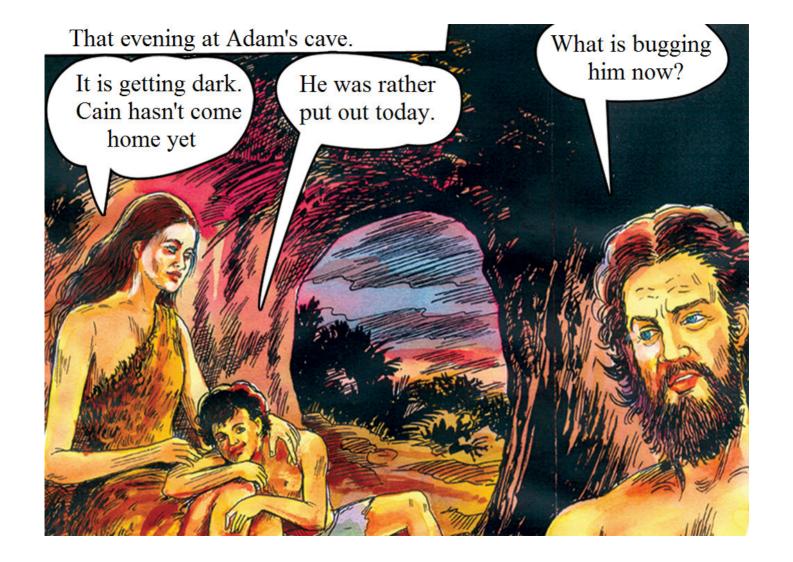
Well that is the story. He is my parents' pet. Ever since he is born, I am out. Now, their sympathy! I don't care.

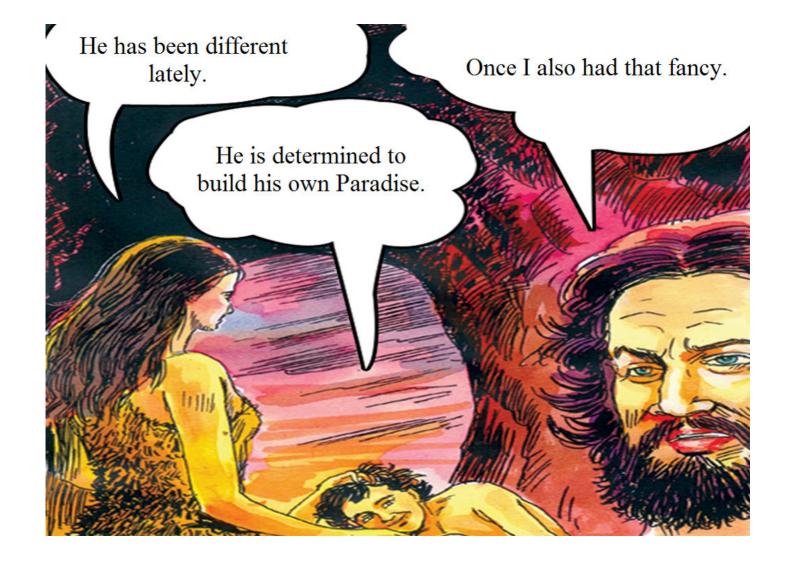




Idiot! You can find only my field to feed your sheep? Did they tell you to do this also! I will make them answer for this. Or, let it be after the sacrifice. Tonight I will sleep here.







Don't you ever think like that. My darling! Tell me, are you ready for tomorrow's sacrifice?

Yes mother, I have the first born of the flock ready for it. At the crack of dawn you must go and take a bath in the river. Only then you shall offer the sacrifice. God will send the fire to consume your offer. OK?

Don't worry my son. May be he decided to sleep in the field. You go to sleep.

Brother

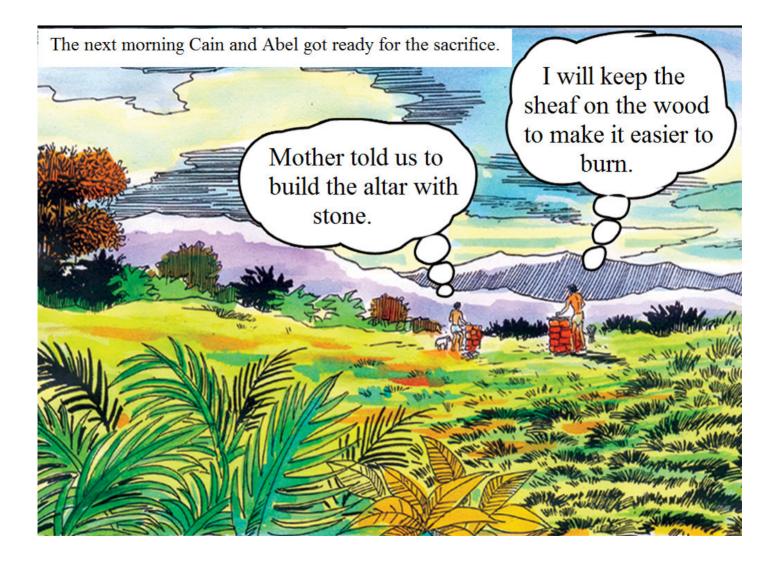
hasn't come

home yet!

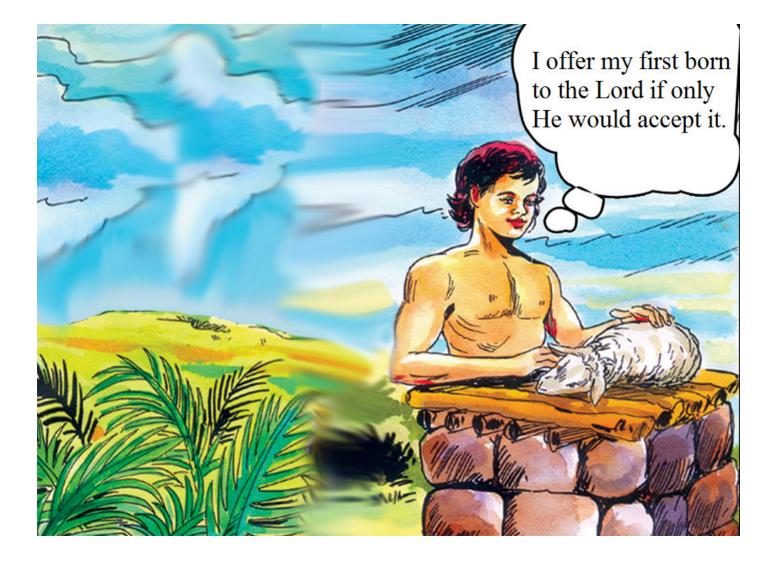


## Cain in the field.

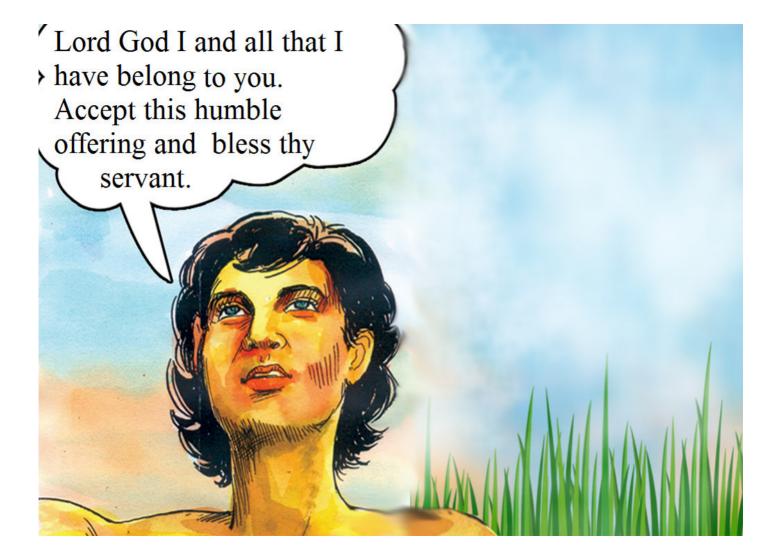
This open field is so much better than that stuffy cave. Who can put up with those cowards?

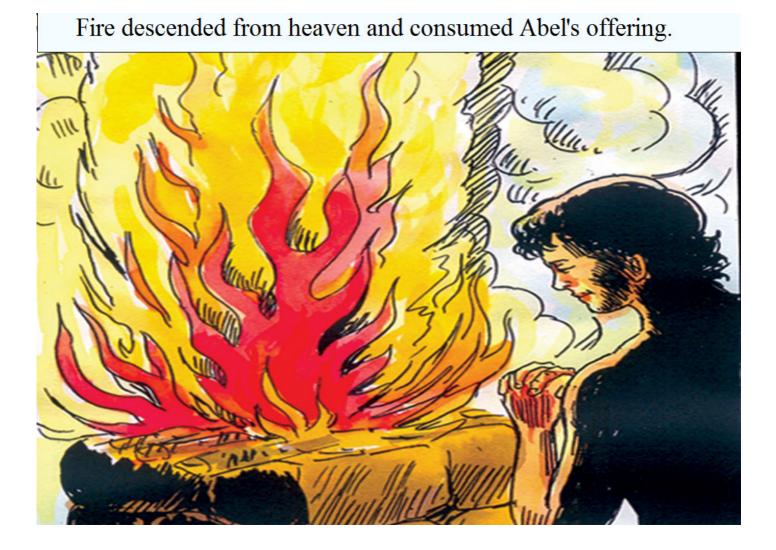


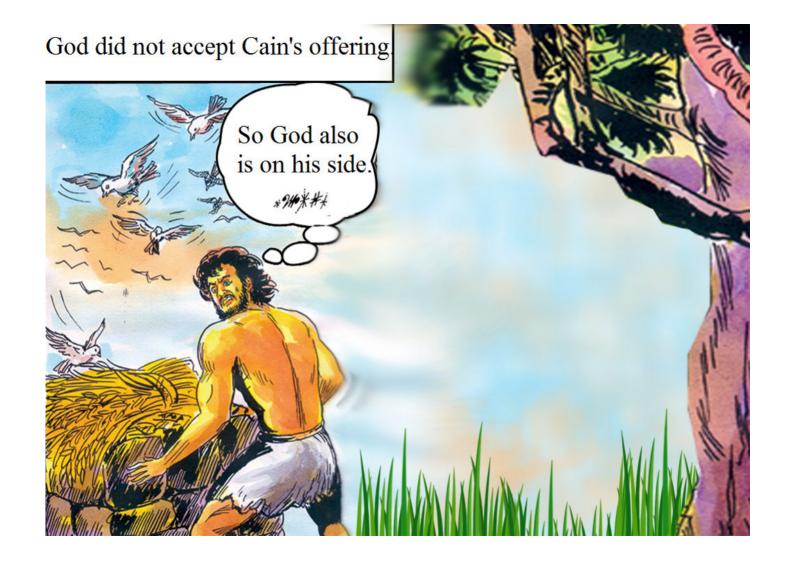




Here I offer the first fruits of my field as my parents have commanded. Do send the fire and consume it.

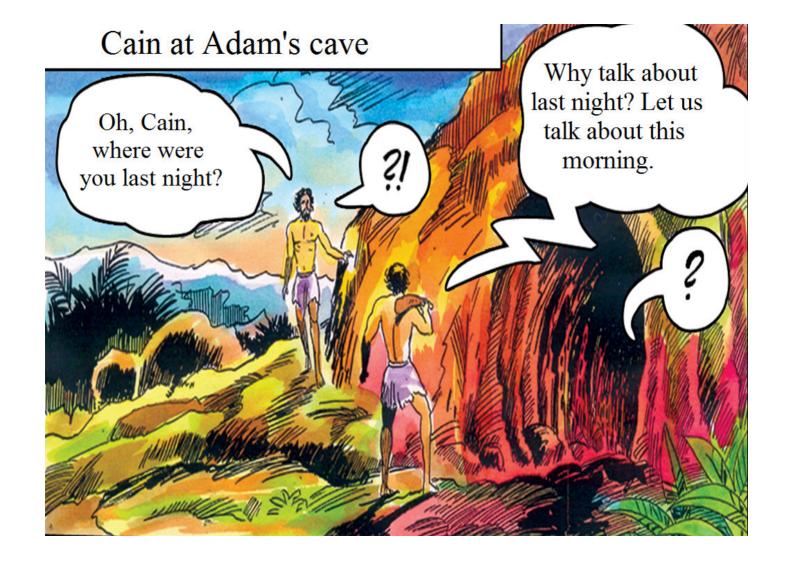


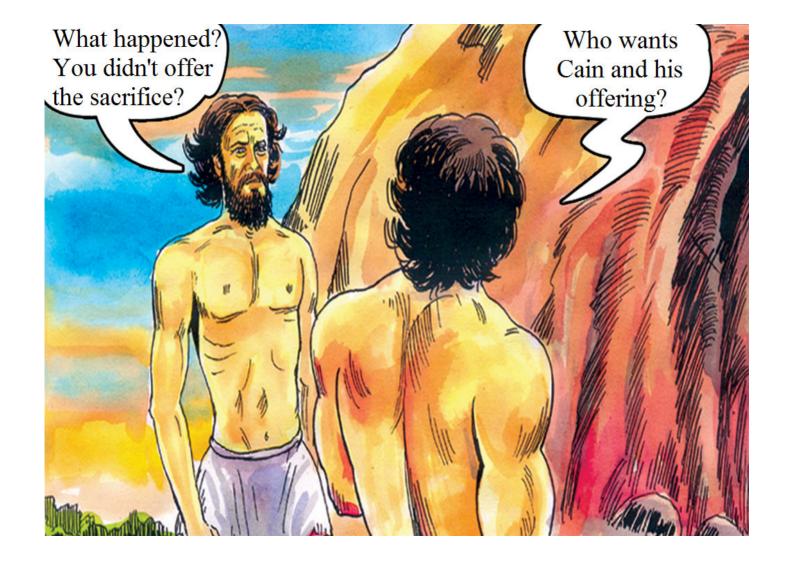


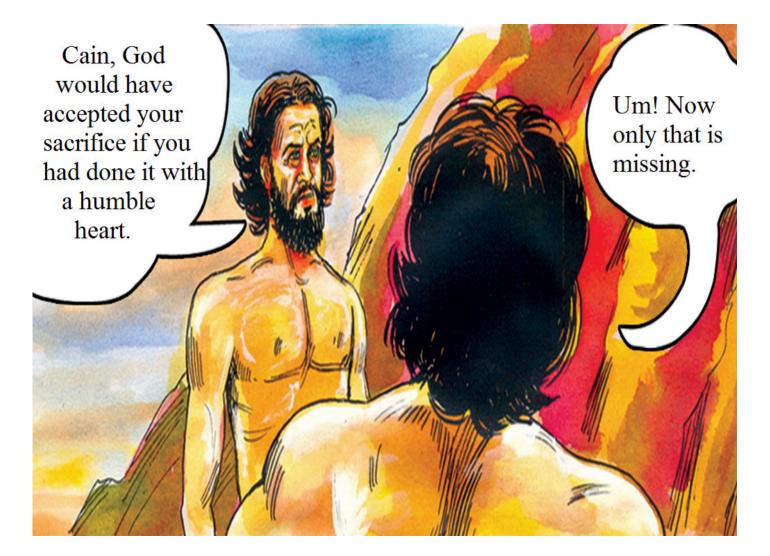




I am going to find out why they made a fool out of me.

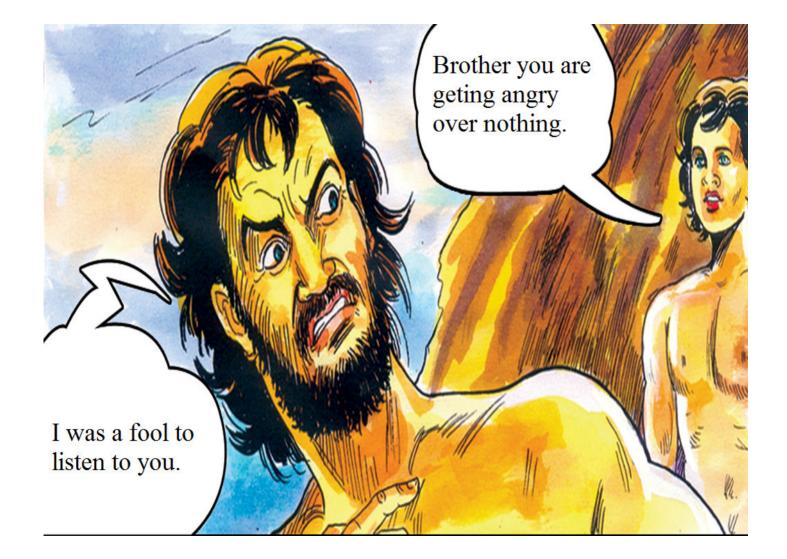


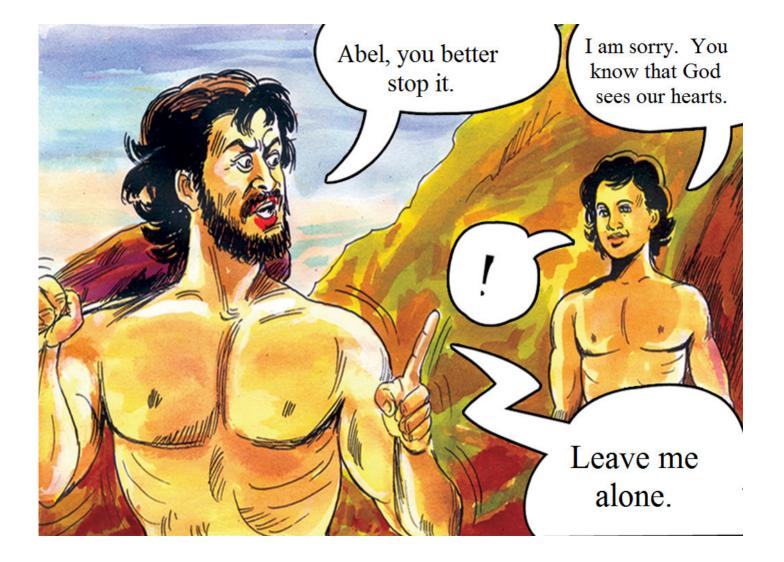




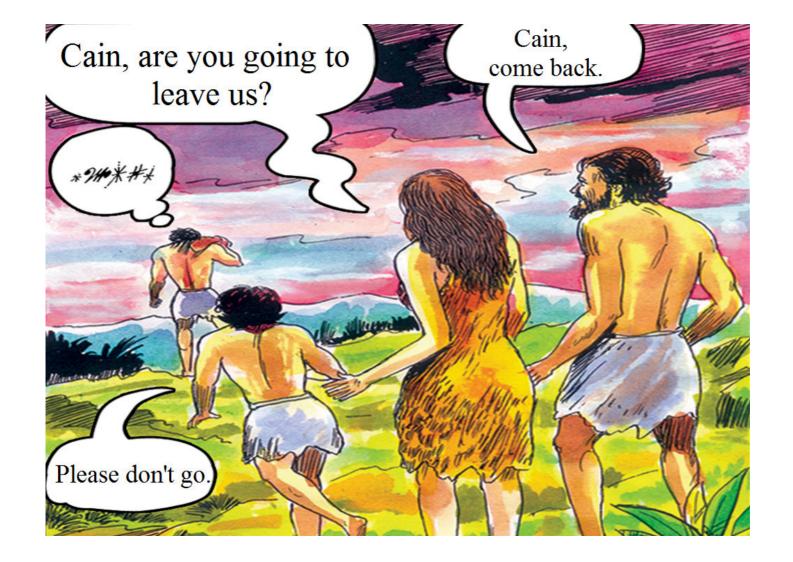
Didn't I tell you to offer the sacrifice together on the same altar?

Only with him my offering will be accepted?



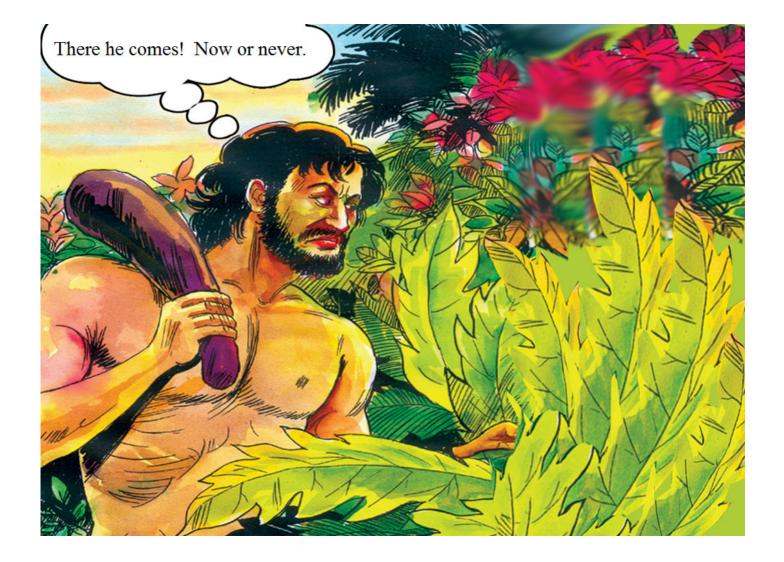






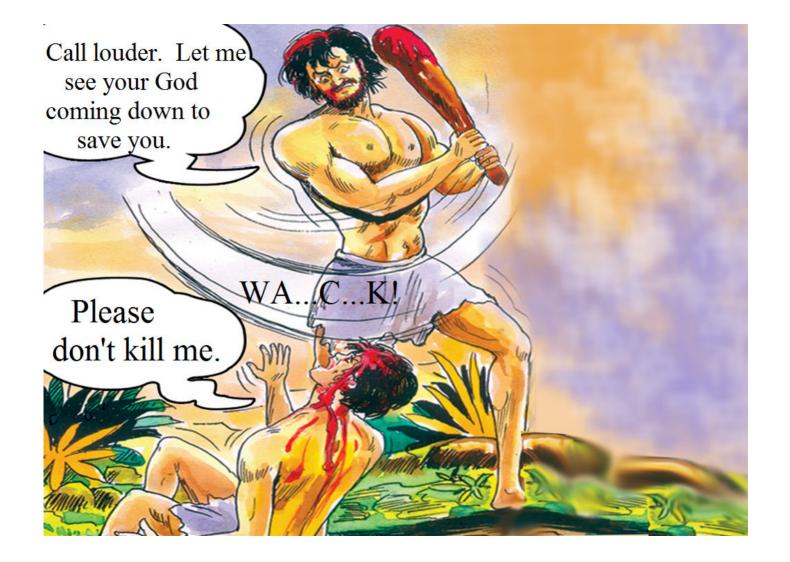
As moments passed Cain began to hate everybody, and his hatred turned into murderous fury. Abel is a threat to me. As long as he is alive I won't be able to have my Paradise.

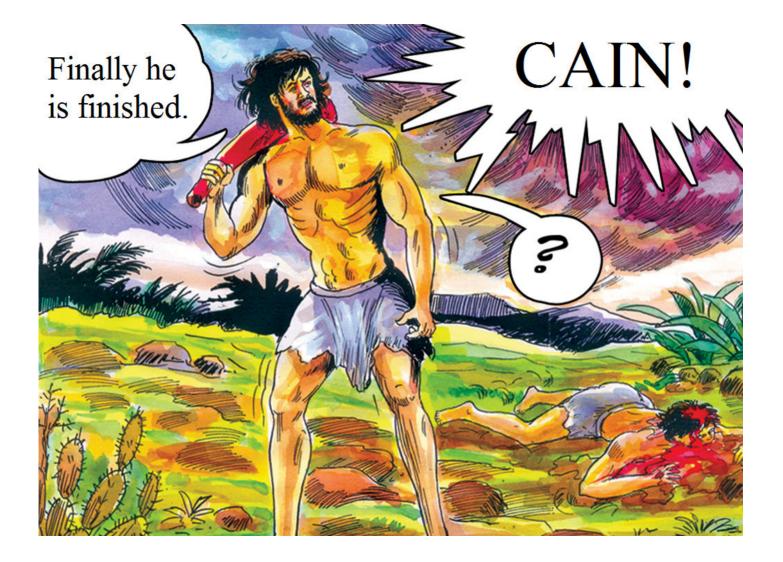


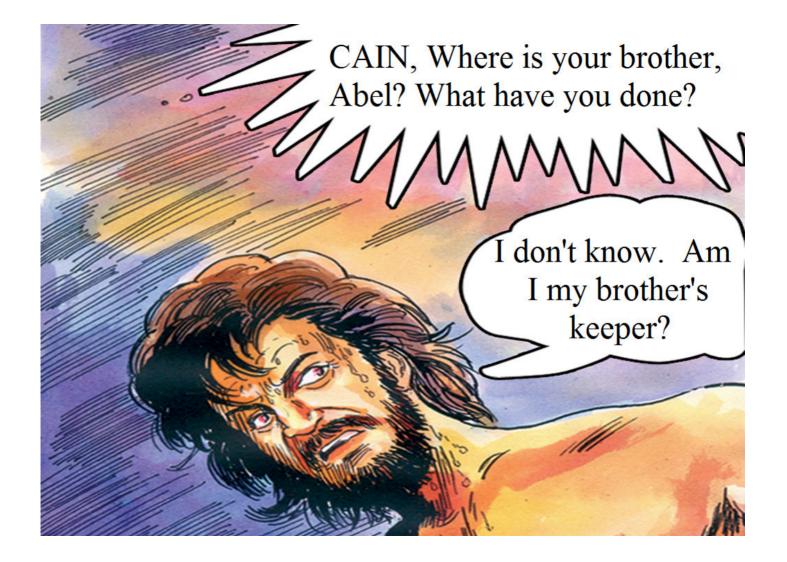










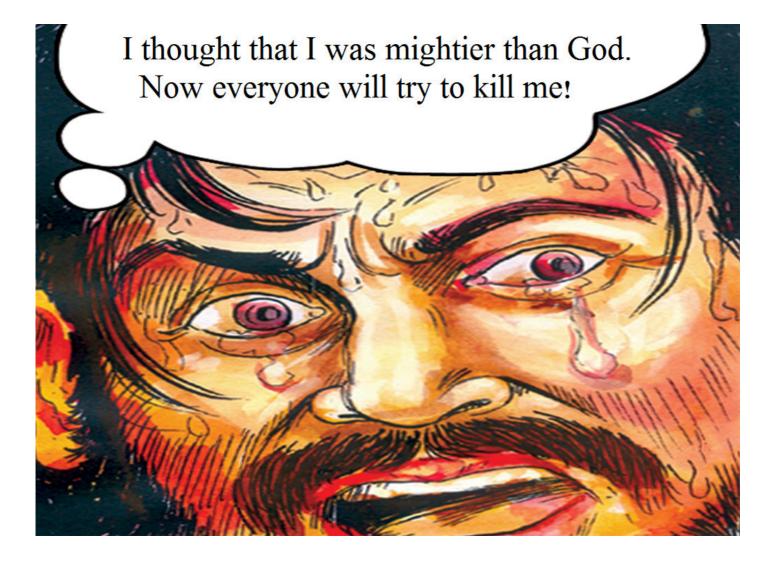


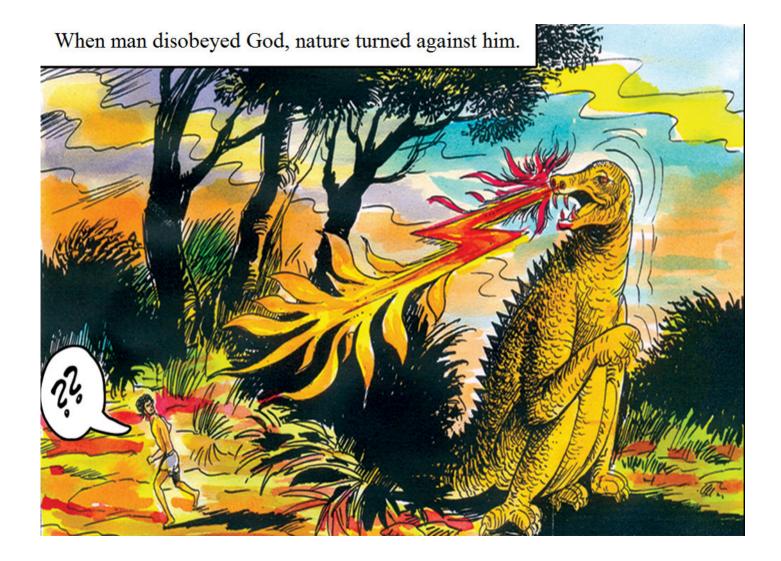
Listen to the sound of your brother's blood crying out to me from the ground. Now be accursed, driven from the ground.

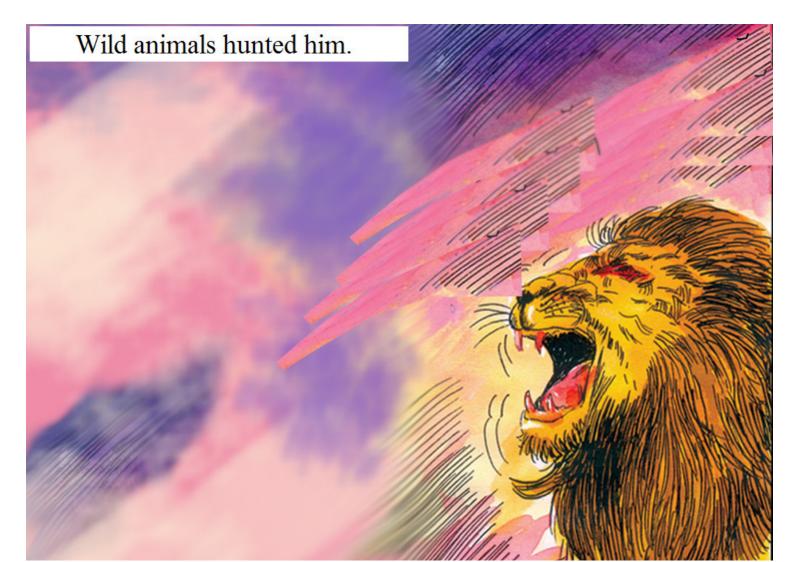
It has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood at your hands. When you till the ground it shall no longer yield you any of its produce. You shall be a fugitive and wanderer over the earth.

I lost the world I tried to possess.

## Where shall I go now? How can I hide from God?









No Cain. You will not die. You shall go on wandering, eaten up by your sin.

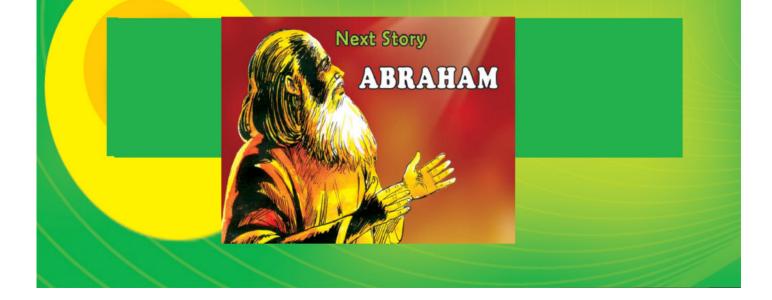
> I can neither live nor die. Ah... This is terrible. Where shall I find deliverance?

I am tired. I can't go on like this. I rather die.

Thursday.

Cain is not just a person who lived at the dawn of history. He is the symbol of the man who hates and kills his brother. He lives on in history. God will deliver man from sin and its consequences. This salvation history begins with the call of a man who will be faithful to Him.

For this he opens a new chapter in the history of humanity with the call of a man of unconditional faith and trust.



## Study questions based on this story and the Bible text (Gen 2, 5 - 4, 16)

- 1. Why did God reject Cain's offering?
- 2. Why did Cain kill Abel?
- 3. What is Paradise?
- 4. What is the commandment God gave to Adam? What was its purpose?
- 5. Why were Adam and Eve expelled from the Paradise?
- 6. What is the promise God gave to Adam and Eve?
- 7. What was Cain's punishment?
- 8. Why did God protect Cain's life?
- 9. What does Cain stand for?
- 10. Cain and Abel are living even today. Explain.

