

Bible Comics - 03

JACOB



Bible Comics - 03

Jacob

Script

Rev.Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

Devassy

JACOB

Isaac, son of Abraham, had two sons: Esau and Jacob. They were twins. The first born, Esau, was strong but the second one, Jacob, was a weakling. The story of “Jacob” shows that it is not the strong but the weak that is loved and elected by God to carry on the salvation history.

Two incidents in Jacob’s life stand out: the vision at Bethel and the wrestling on the bank of river Jabbok. At Bethel, God appeared to Jacob, who was running away from his brother, and

promised him protection. Jacob knew that he was blessed by God not as a reward to his merits or good deeds but as an expression of God's love and mercy.

In every way Jacob was a coward. Flight was his strength. Trickery was his weapon. He was afraid of everything and everybody. Conflict scared him and he tried to run away from them. Fear haunted him like his own shadow until he was forced to wrestle with his opponent at Jabbok. From that experience, Jacob learned that

his strength was not in fleeing from but in facing conflicts. It was from the encounter with God that Jacob gathered strength. Though Esau and Laban were strong, Jacob was able to defeat them both because God was with him.

Overcoming internal conflicts is more important than defeating the external enemies. We can claim true victory only when we overcome our own fears and complexes. Trusting in God's protection and using the strength He gives us, we need to forge ahead with courage

and perseverance to find meaning and fulfillment in our lives.

From the numerous incidents recorded in the book of Genesis, Chapter 25-35, a few events that are crucial to the Salvation history have been selected as the source of his story.

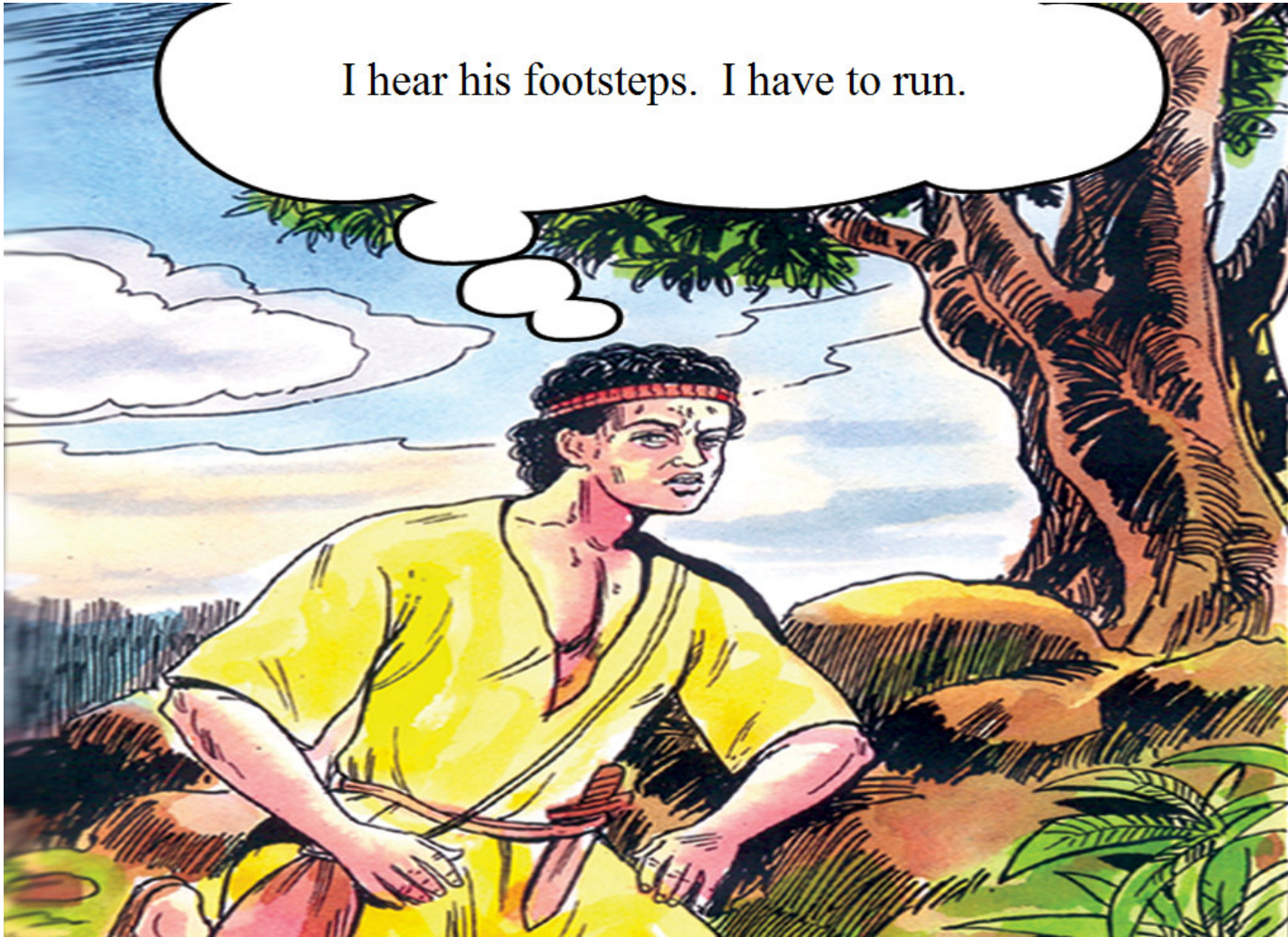
When we measure against the guidelines set by the teachings of Christ, many things in “Jacob” are not acceptable. Deceiving people by telling lies, marrying more than one woman and

the like are not model behavior today. However, we must remember that the story reflects the attitudes and views of a people who lived 3800 years ago. This also shows that the Bible depicts all the weaknesses, short-comings as well as strength of its heroes. Salvation history, God's act of saving humanity, unfolded through a weak and sinful people.

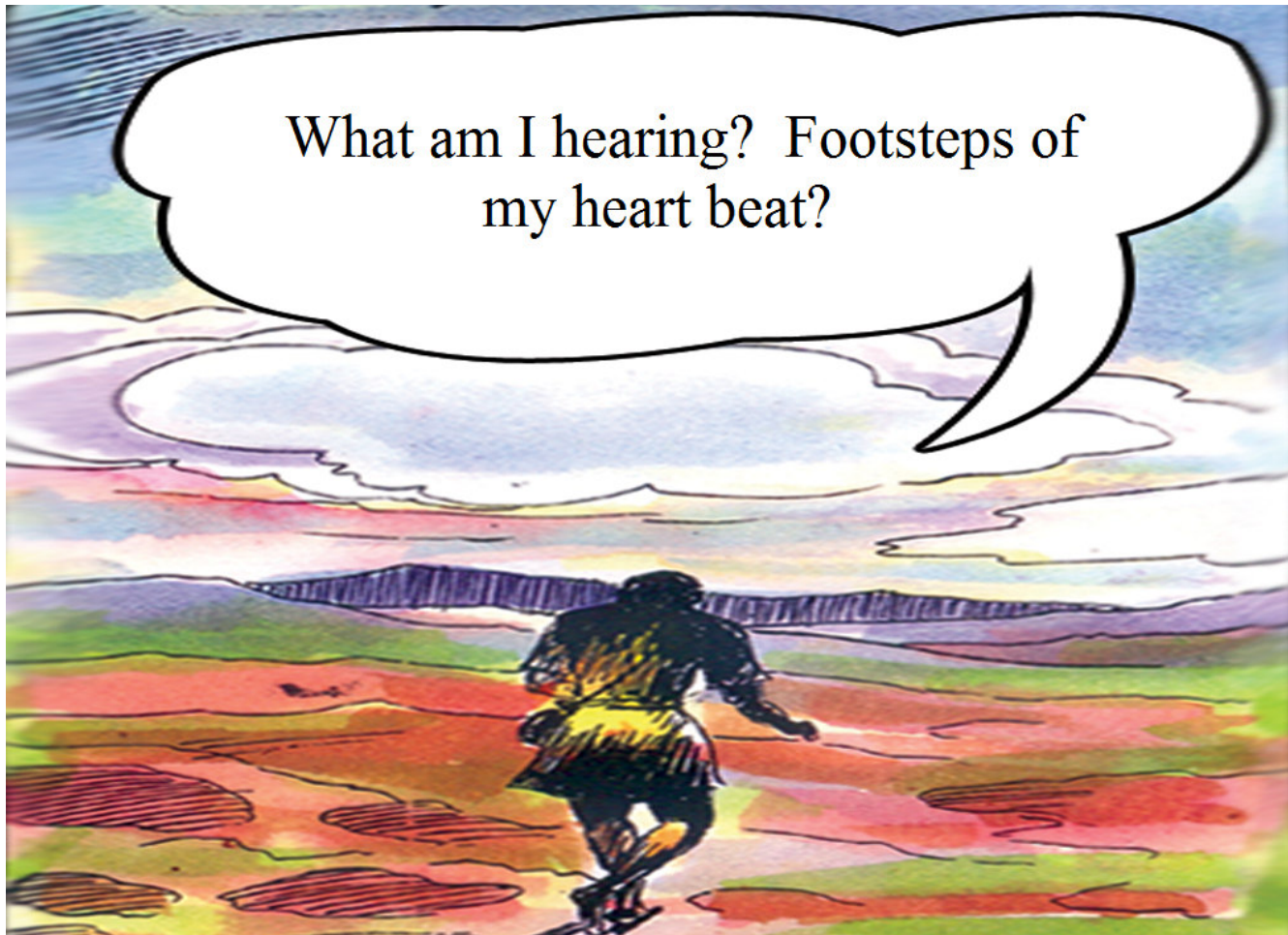
Four days I have
been running. I
can't run anymore.



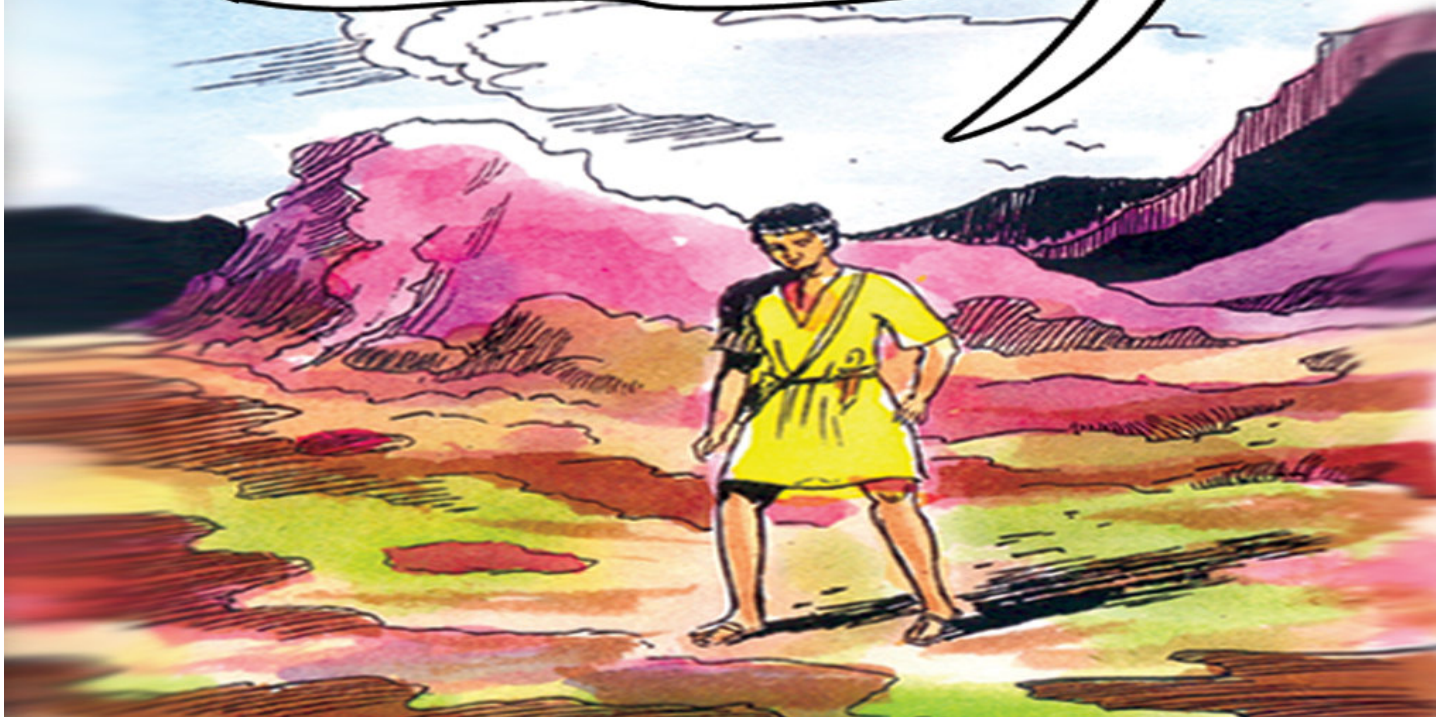
I hear his footsteps. I have to run.



What am I hearing? Footsteps of
my heart beat?



Mother told me to go to Padanaram.
How far is it? Who will show me
the way in the desert?



I can't take another step.
Let these aching feet rest
for a while.



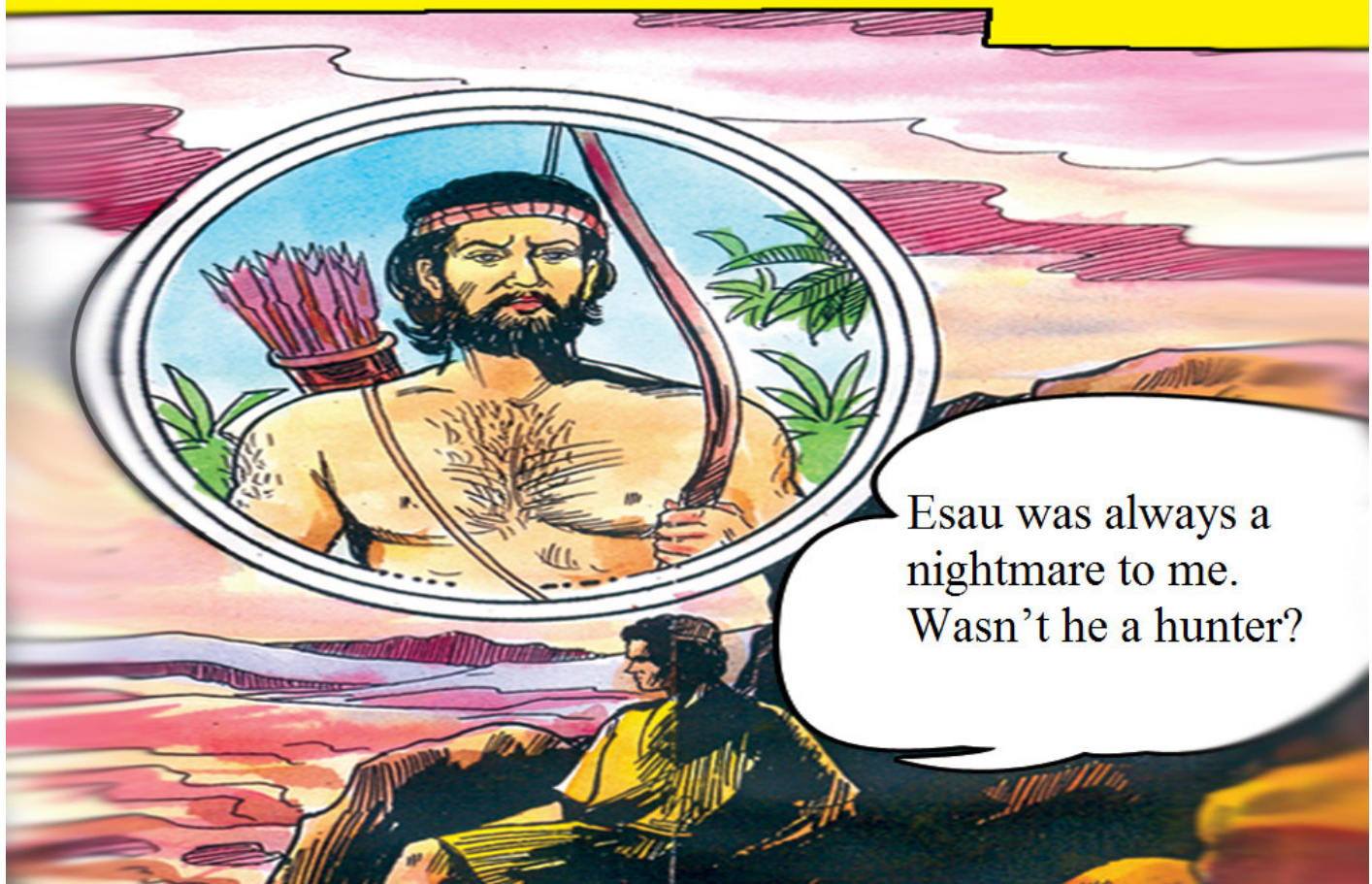
What did I do to run like this? Just because he is big, he thinks that he can do anything.

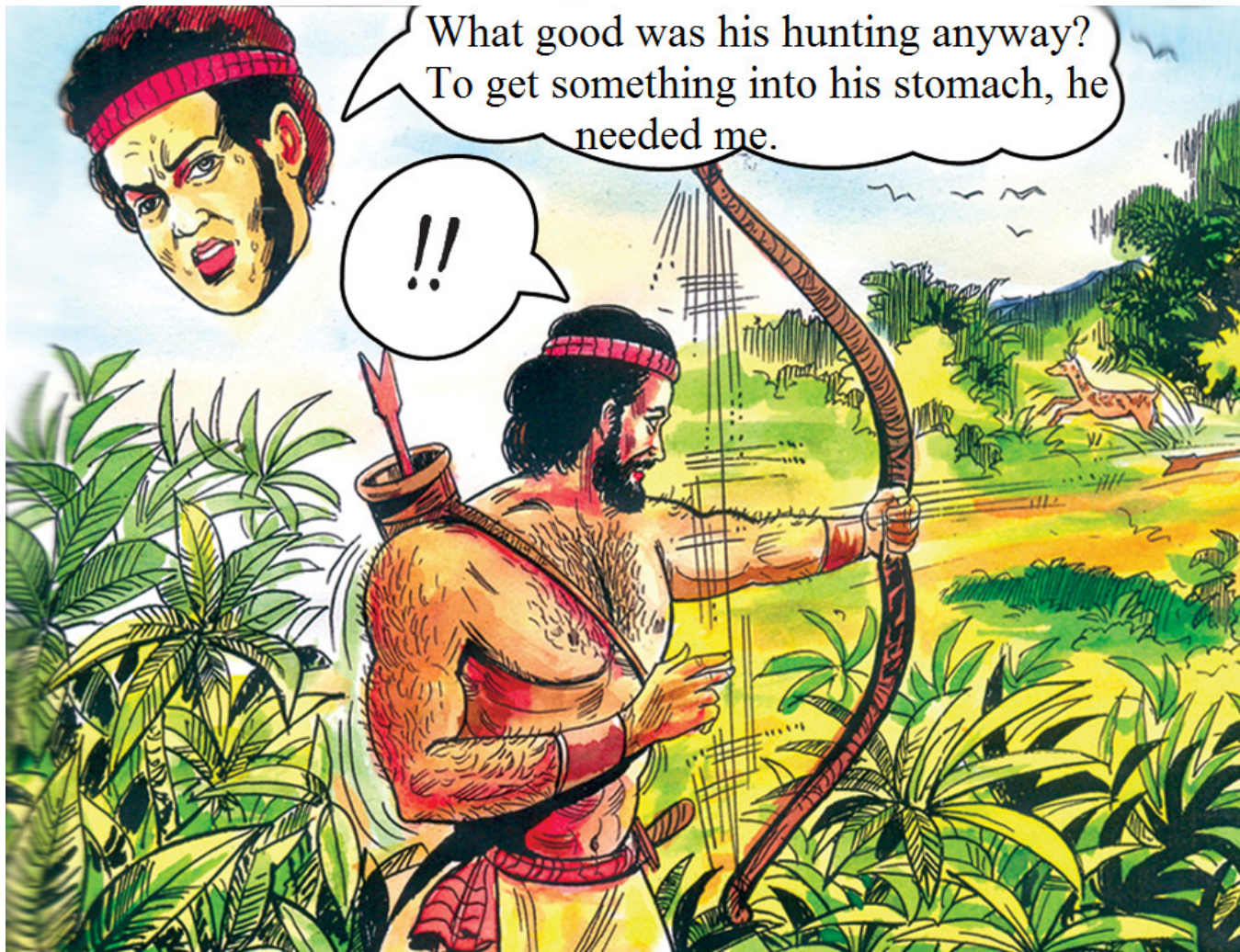


Jacob began to recall everything that happened step by step.



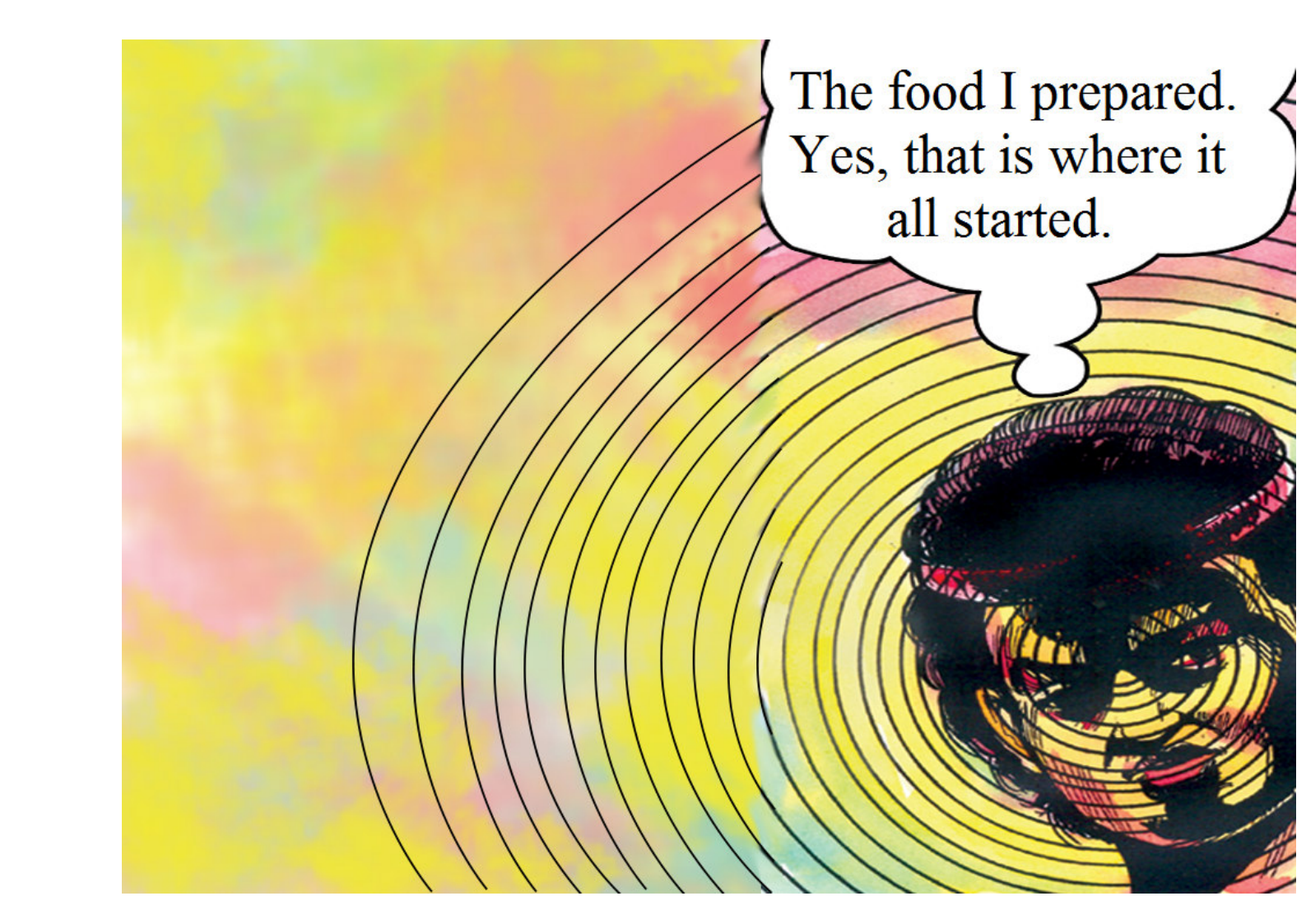
Esau was always a nightmare to me.
Wasn't he a hunter?





What good was his hunting anyway?
To get something into his stomach, he
needed me.

!!

A woman's face is shown in the bottom right corner, looking upwards. She has dark hair and is wearing a dark, textured hat. The background is a vibrant, abstract pattern of concentric, overlapping circles in shades of yellow, green, and pink. A white thought bubble with a black outline is positioned above her head, containing the text. The overall style is reminiscent of a comic book or a stylized illustration.

The food I prepared.
Yes, that is where it
all started.

Jacob preparing soup with the help of his mother, Rebeca.



Here comes my
brother, empty
handed as usual.

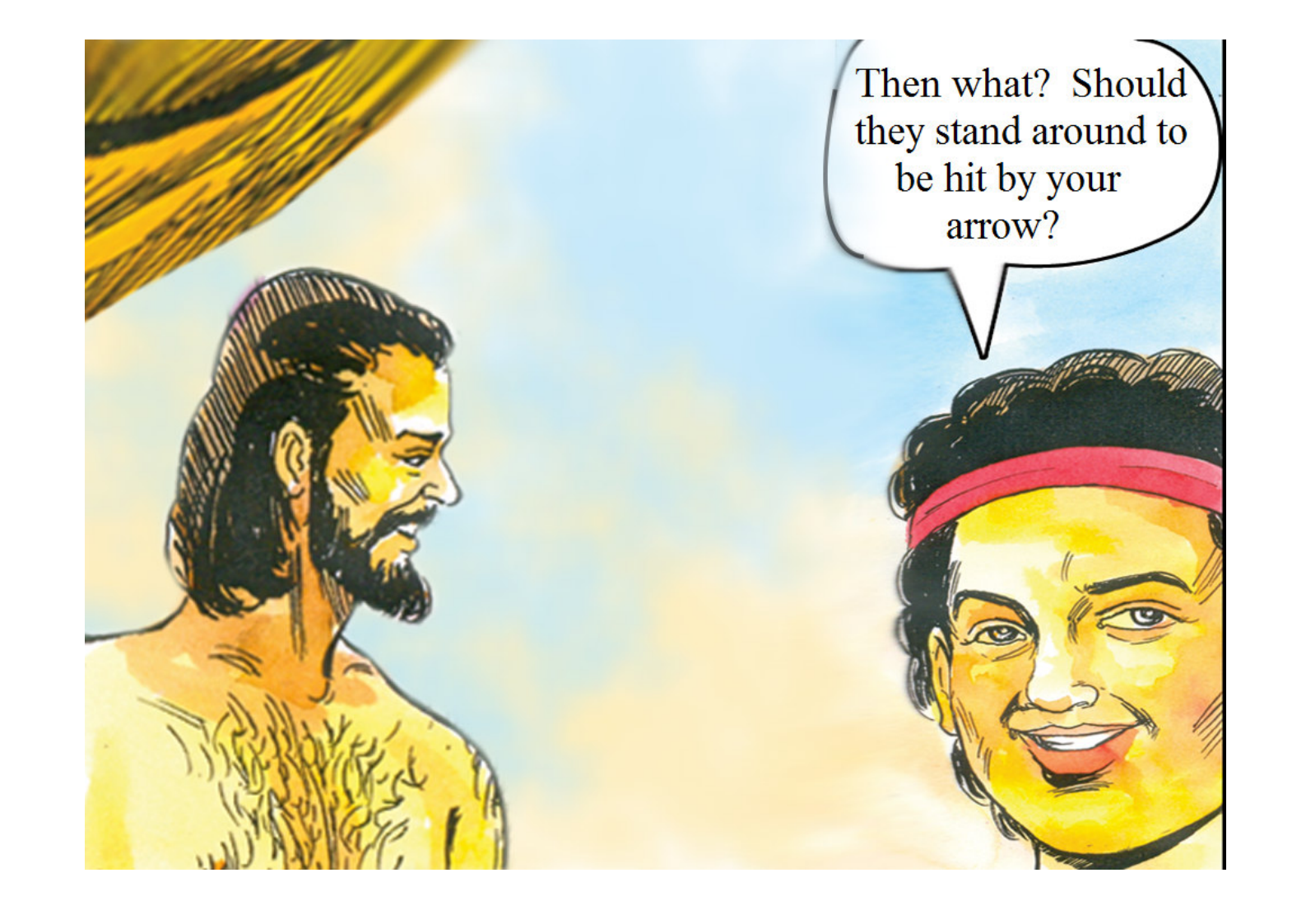


Nothing again?

The beasts learned the trick. They just vanish when they hear my footsteps.

!



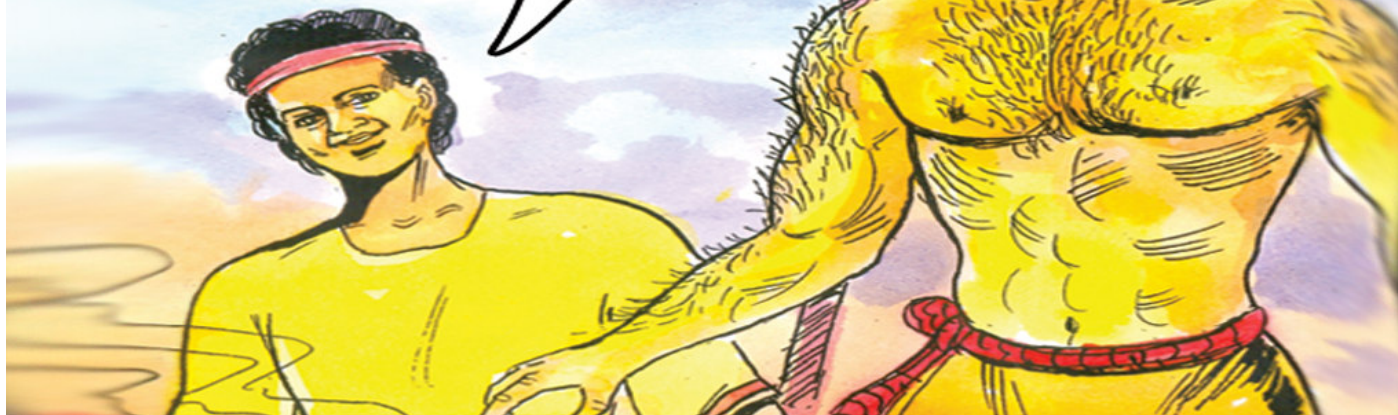


Then what? Should they stand around to be hit by your arrow?

Well, I know what to do.
Tomorrow it will be a deer
in my trap.

That is tomorrow.
Right now, I am
starving. What is
in the pot?


Then tomorrow we
will have a big feast!




Just some soup.

Let me have a bowl.





Just because you
are elder, you are
not going to get
everything for
nothing.



O.K. What do you want?

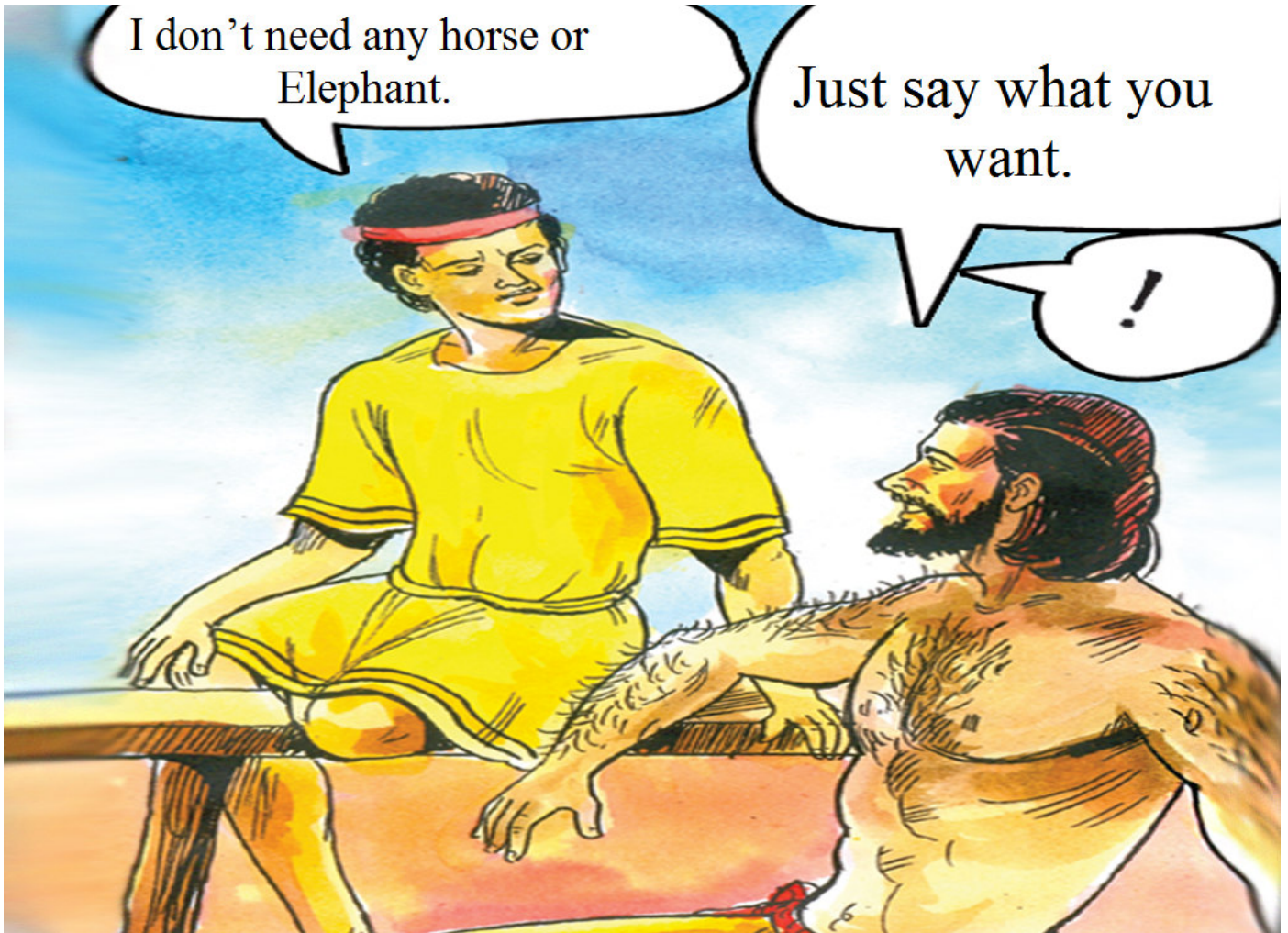
You will give anything?


What do you want, an Elephant?

I don't need any horse or
Elephant.

Just say what you
want.

!





You can have all the soup
you want if you give me
your birth right.

Oh! Is that all?
By all means you
can have this
stupid birth right.



You promise?

Promise
swear
anything!

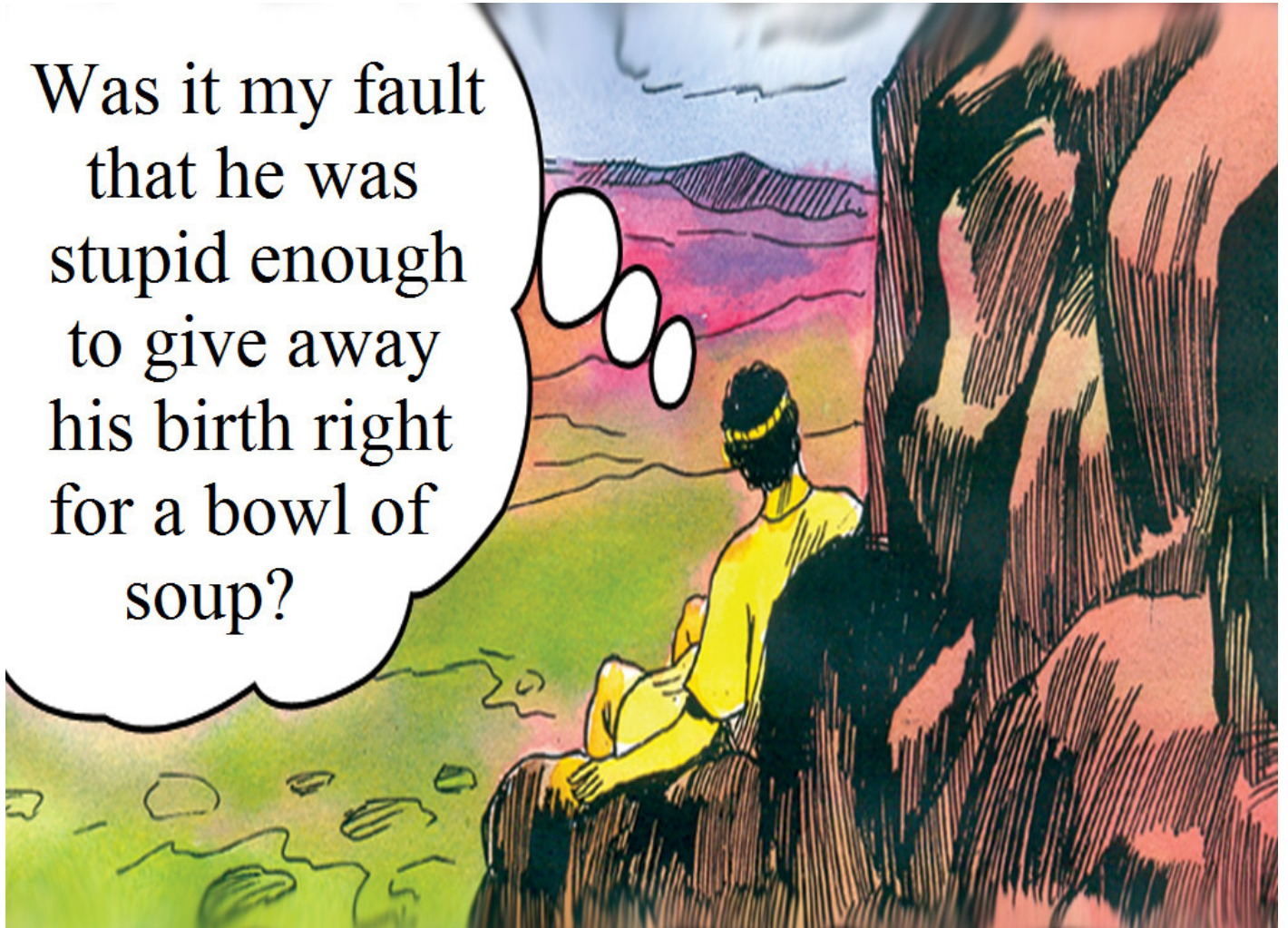
By the God
of Abraham
and Isaac I
swear to
give Jacob
my birth
right.



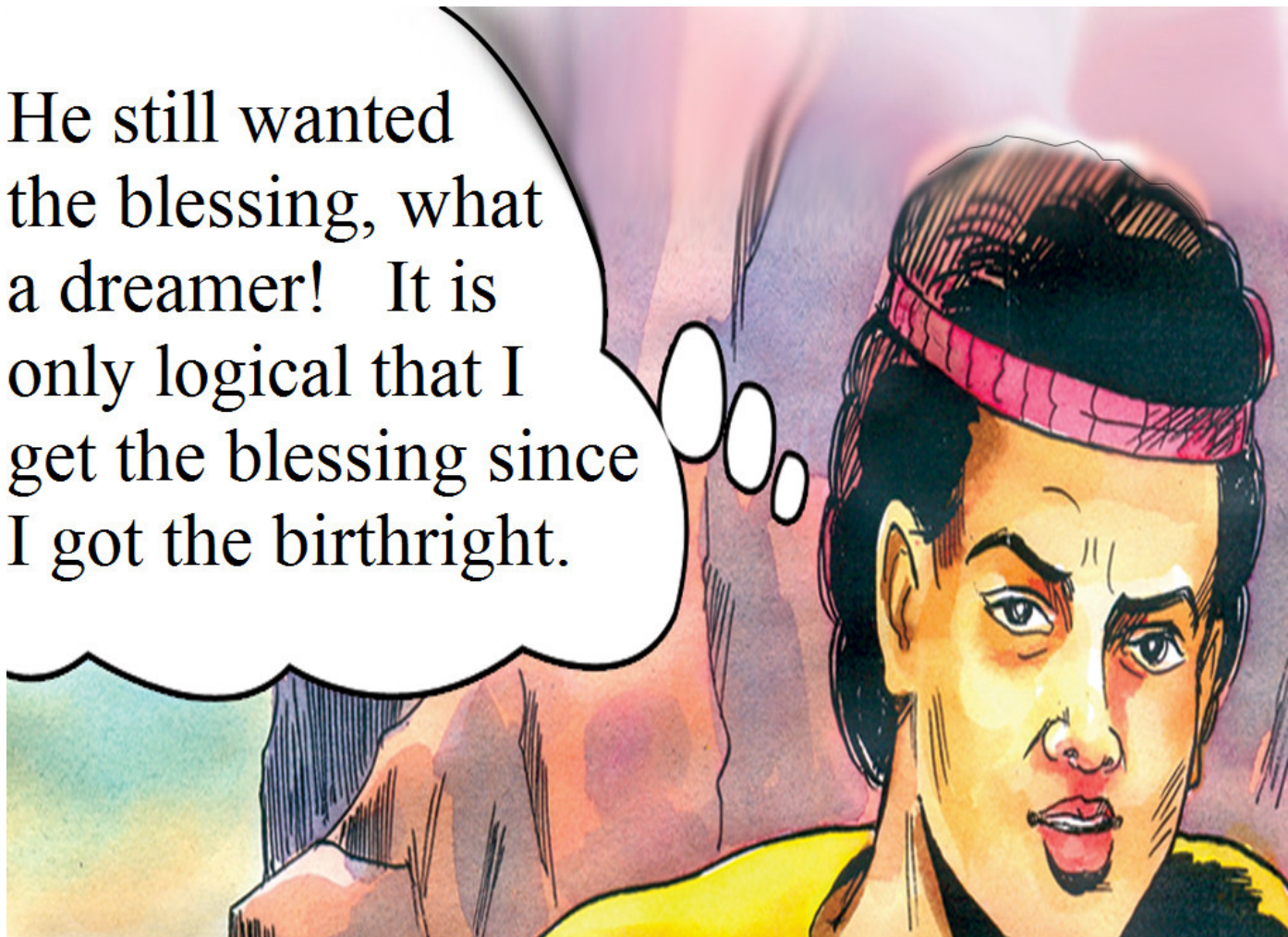
Delicious, give me
some more.



Was it my fault
that he was
stupid enough
to give away
his birth right
for a bowl of
soup?



He still wanted the blessing, what a dreamer! It is only logical that I get the blessing since I got the birthright.

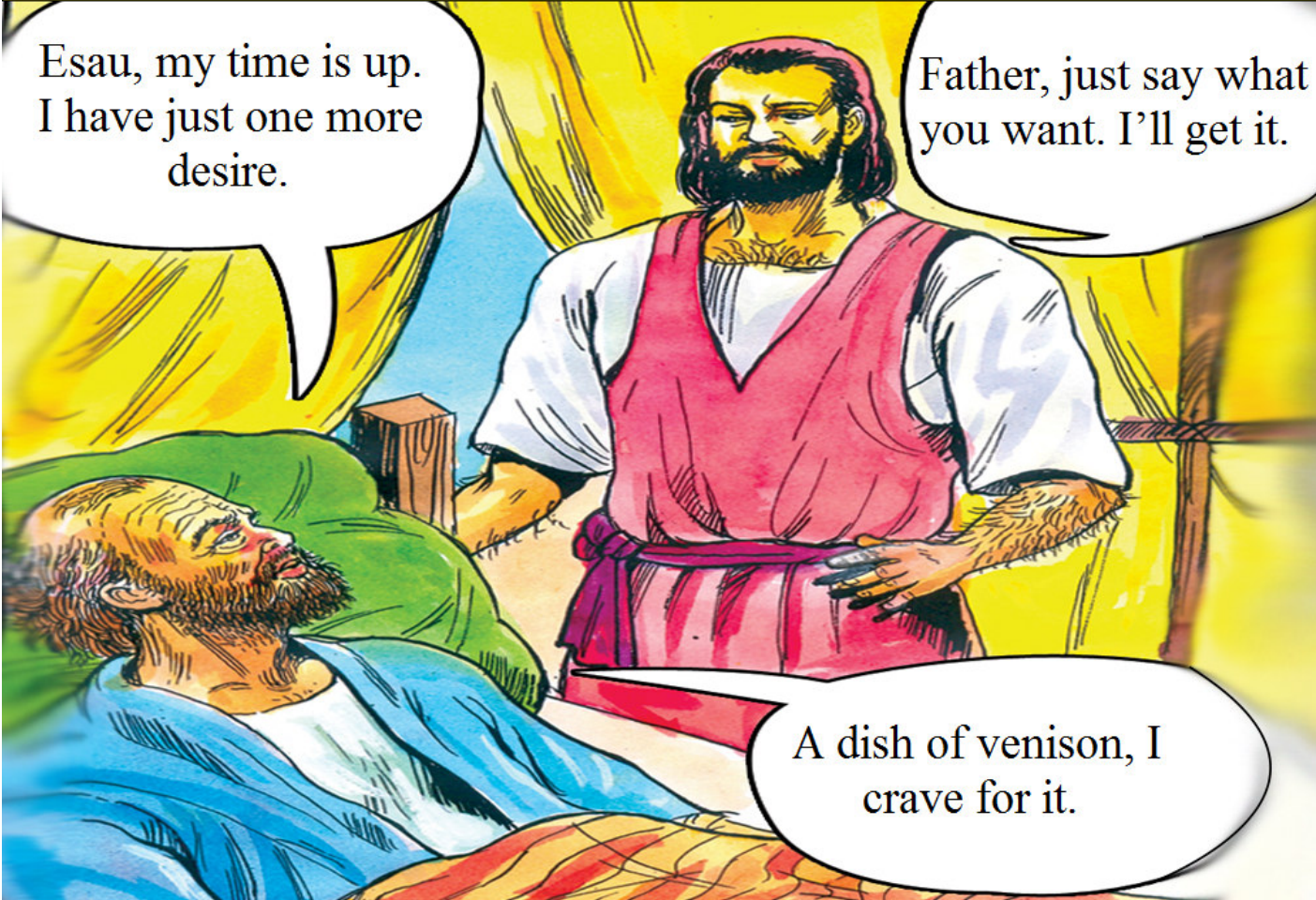


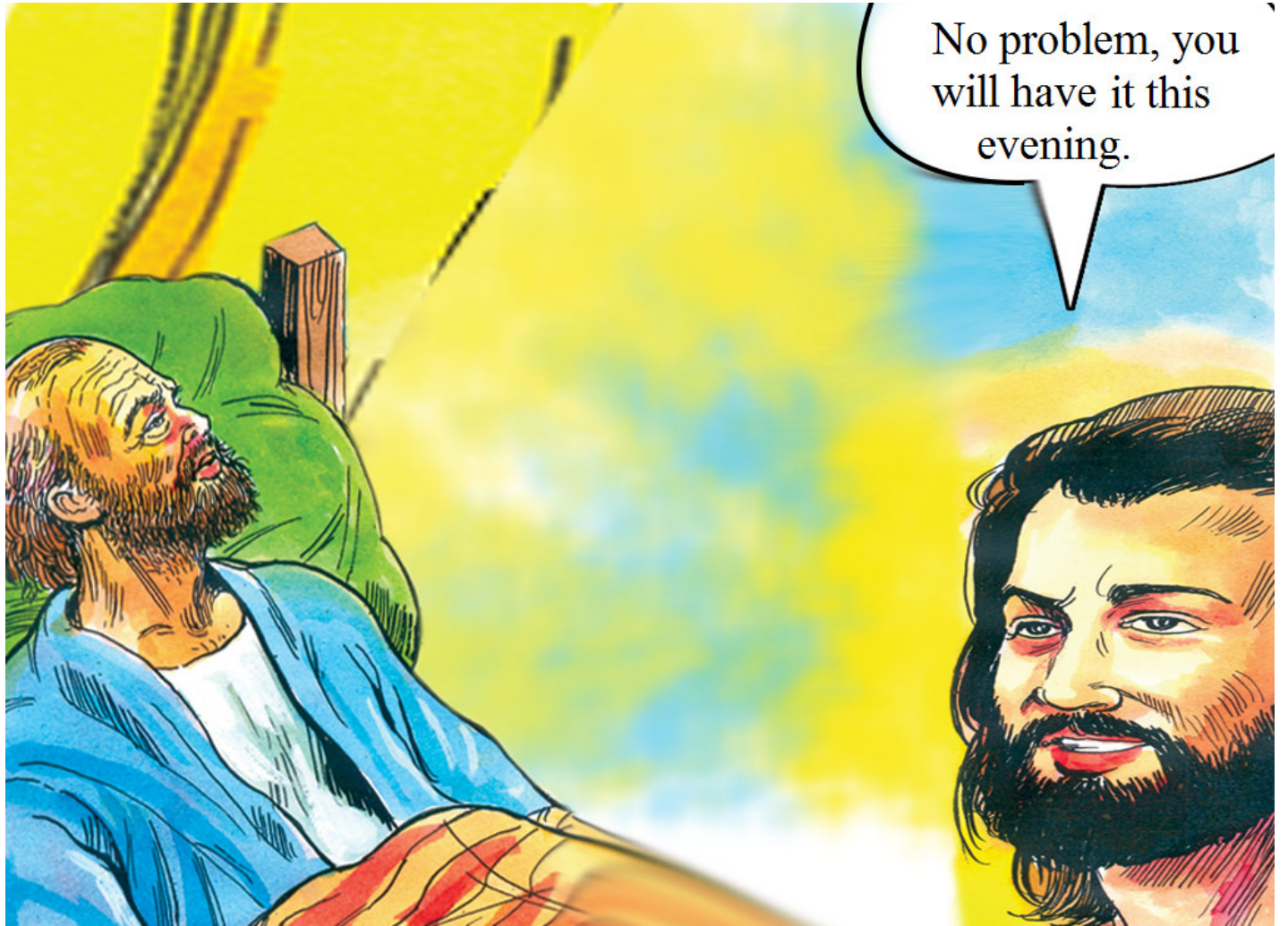
One day Isaac and Esau.

Esau, my time is up.
I have just one more
desire.


Father, just say what
you want. I'll get it.

A dish of venison, I
crave for it.






No problem, you
will have it this
evening.




After the meal I shall bless you.

Yes Father. I'll be back soon.

?



So, that is it. The paternal blessing should be given to Jacob. I have to do something fast.



Jacob, bring a
Lamb, quick!

What are you going to do?

Hurry, before
Esau gets back
you must take
the dinner to
Father.

Wouldn't father
recognize me?

There is
a way.



Rebecca covered Jacob's neck and hands with the Lambskin.

I am scared. Hope I won't end up getting cursed instead of being blessed.

I will bear that curse. Don't be scared. Don't talk too much O.K.?



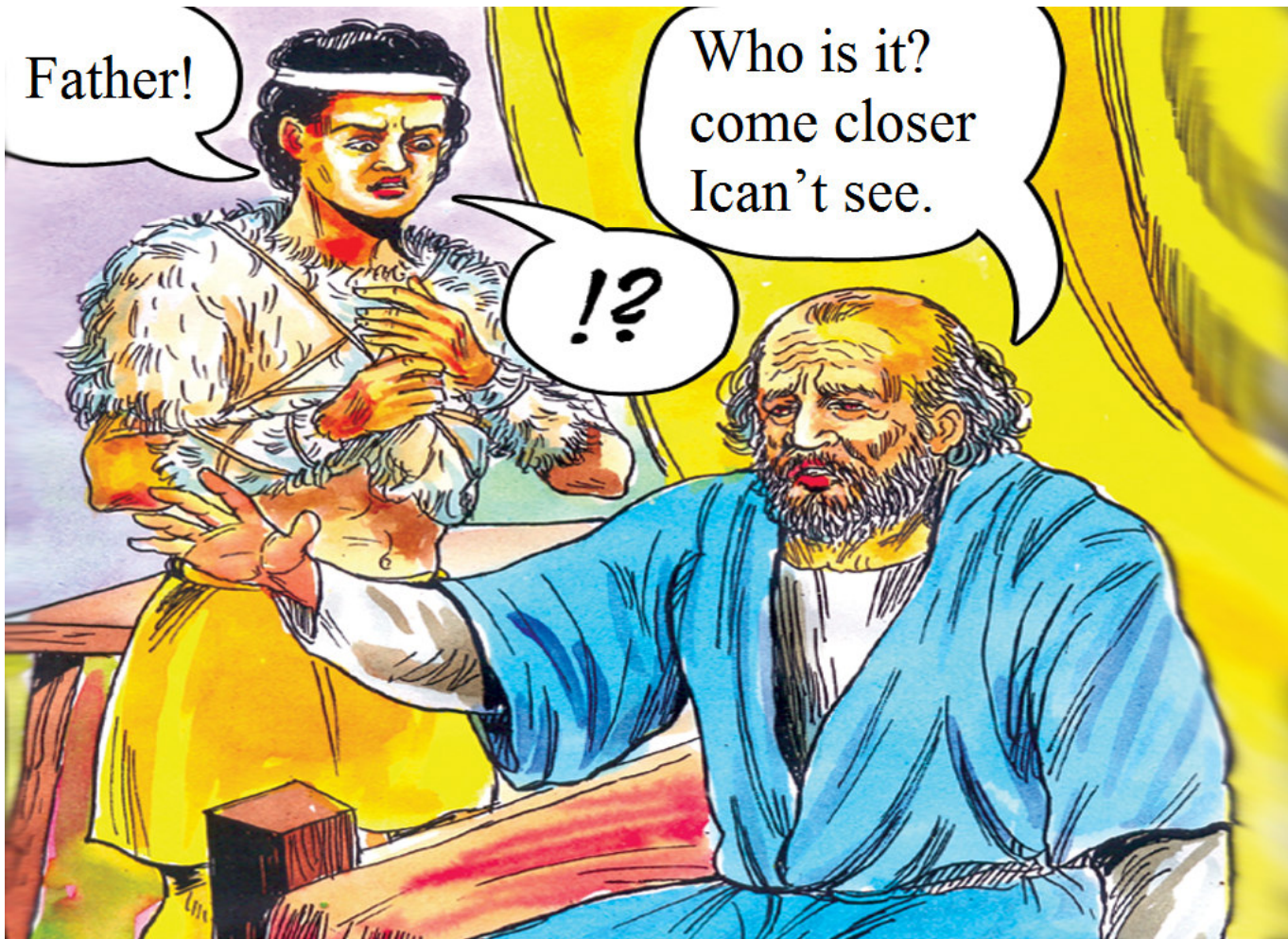
Oh God, don't let Father
recognize me.



Father!

Who is it?
come closer
I can't see.

!?





Your elder
son.

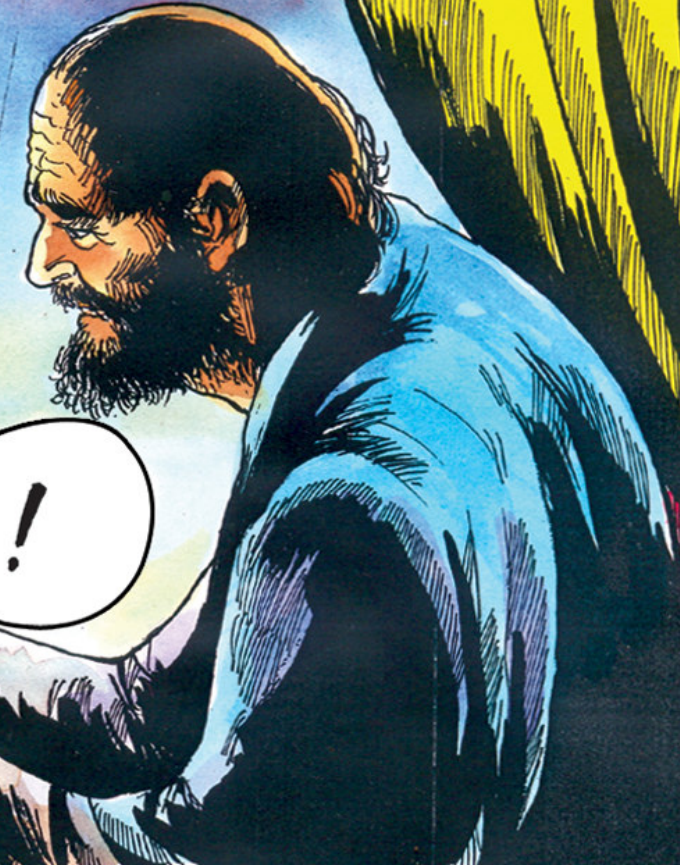


!!

Really? Jacob's
voice but the
body feels like
Esau's.

Isaac ate and blessed Jacob.

May the God of Abraham bless you abundantly? May the kingdoms honour you. May your brothers serve you.



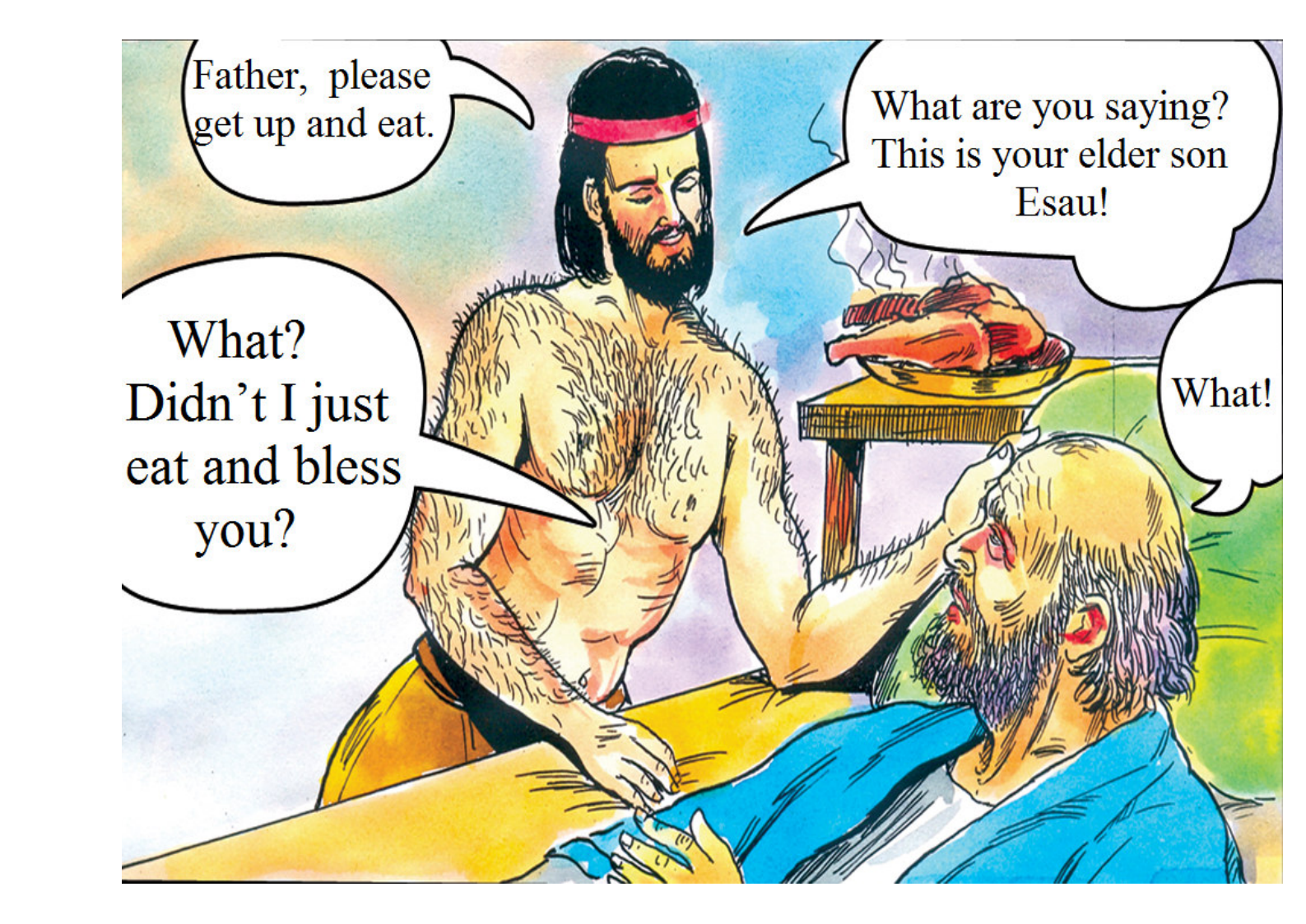
Esau hunted for a deer.

I mustn't miss again.



Father must be tired of waiting.
At last I got it.





Father, please
get up and eat.

What are you saying?
This is your elder son
Esau!

What?
Didn't I just
eat and bless
you?

What!

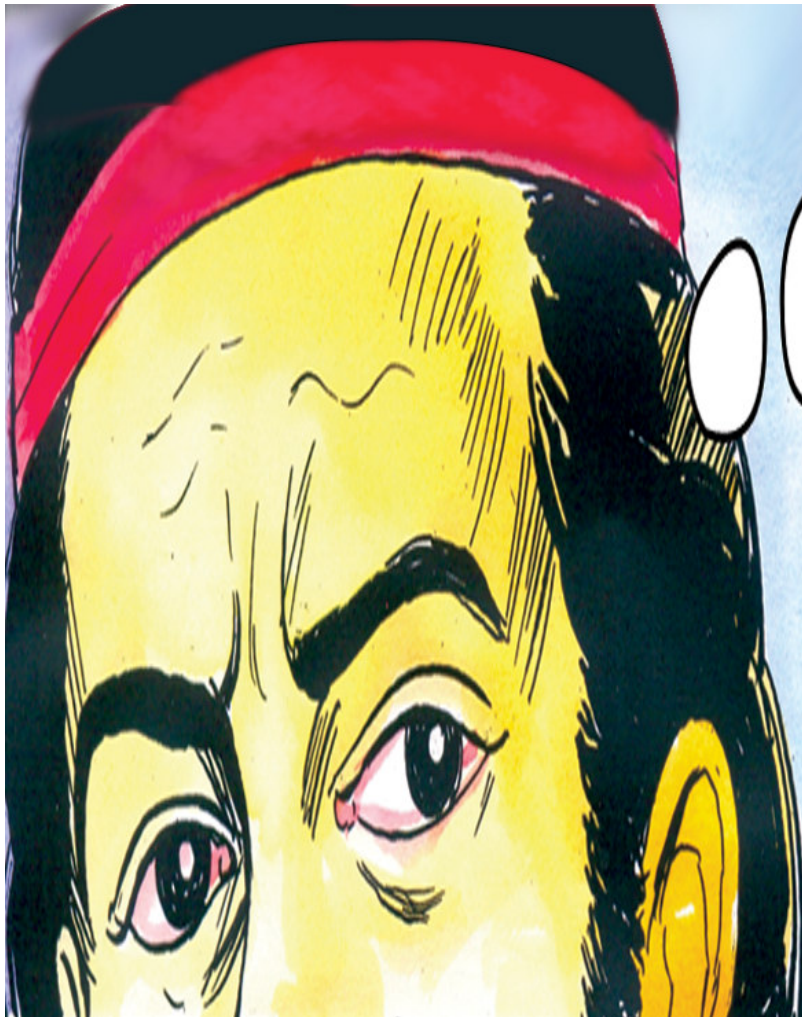
Oh My God! When I heard the voice, I had thought...

Father can't you bless me also?



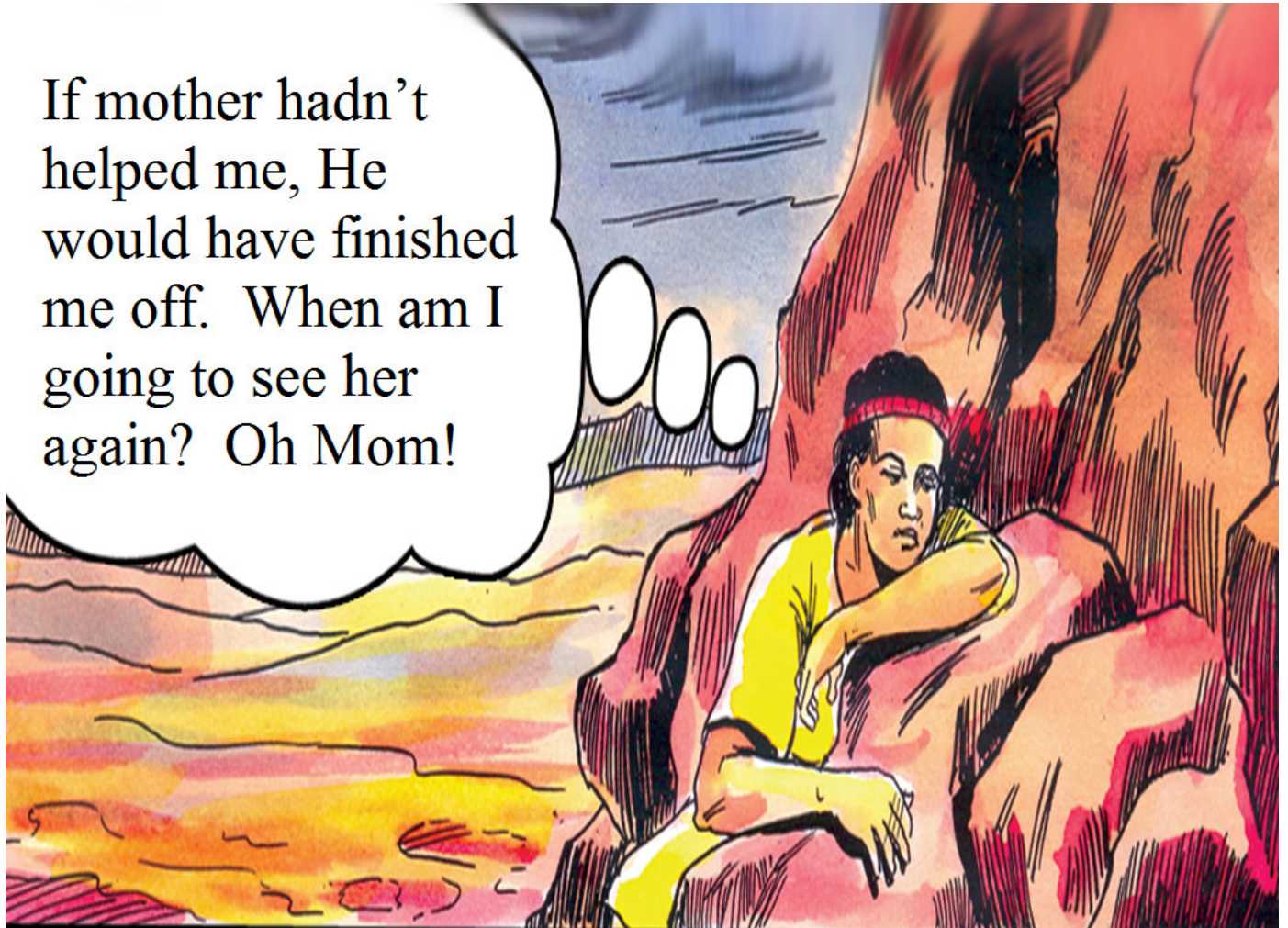
No, my son, blessing can't be repeated.



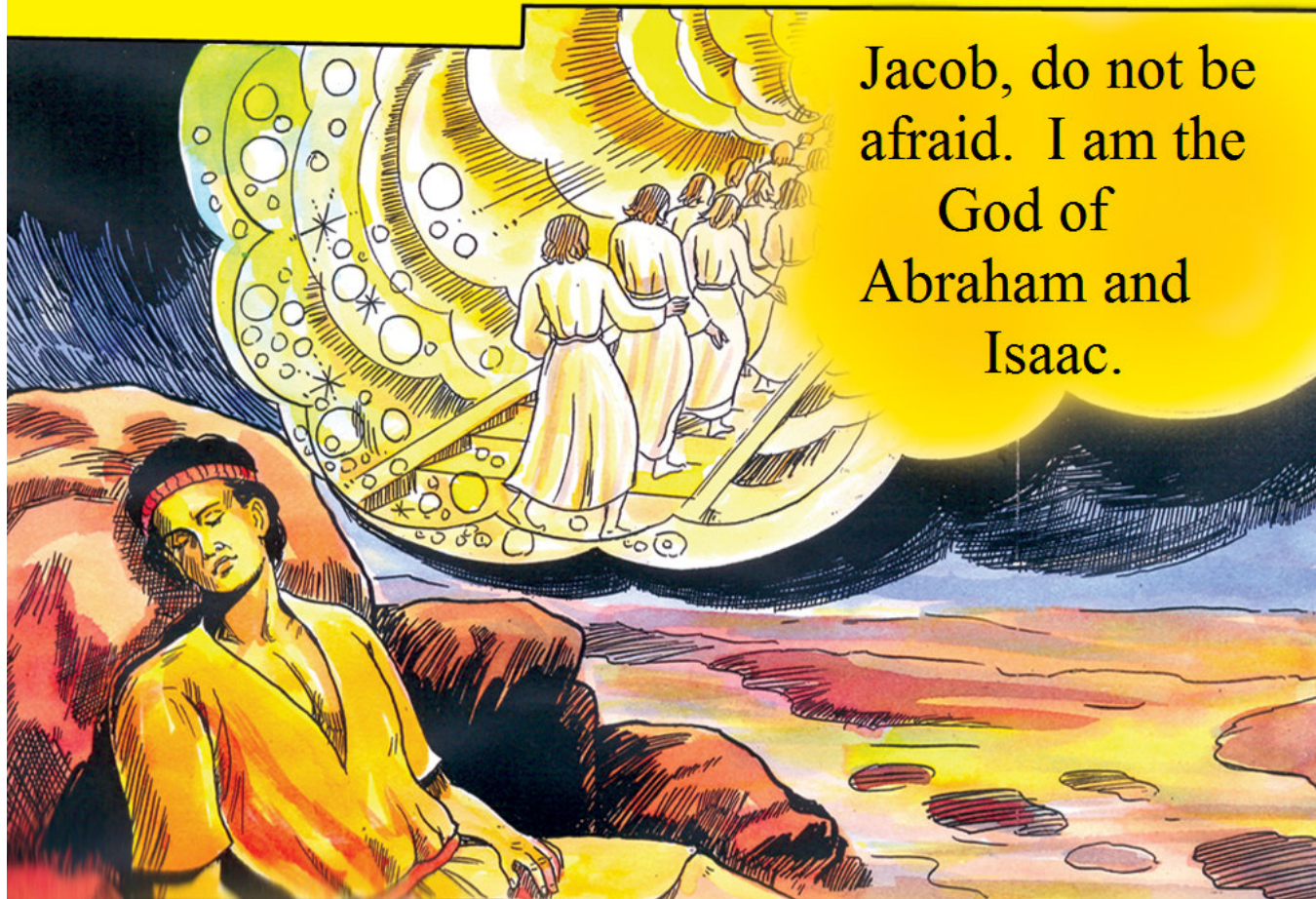


I will have
him answer
for this. He
cheated me
again. True
to his name!

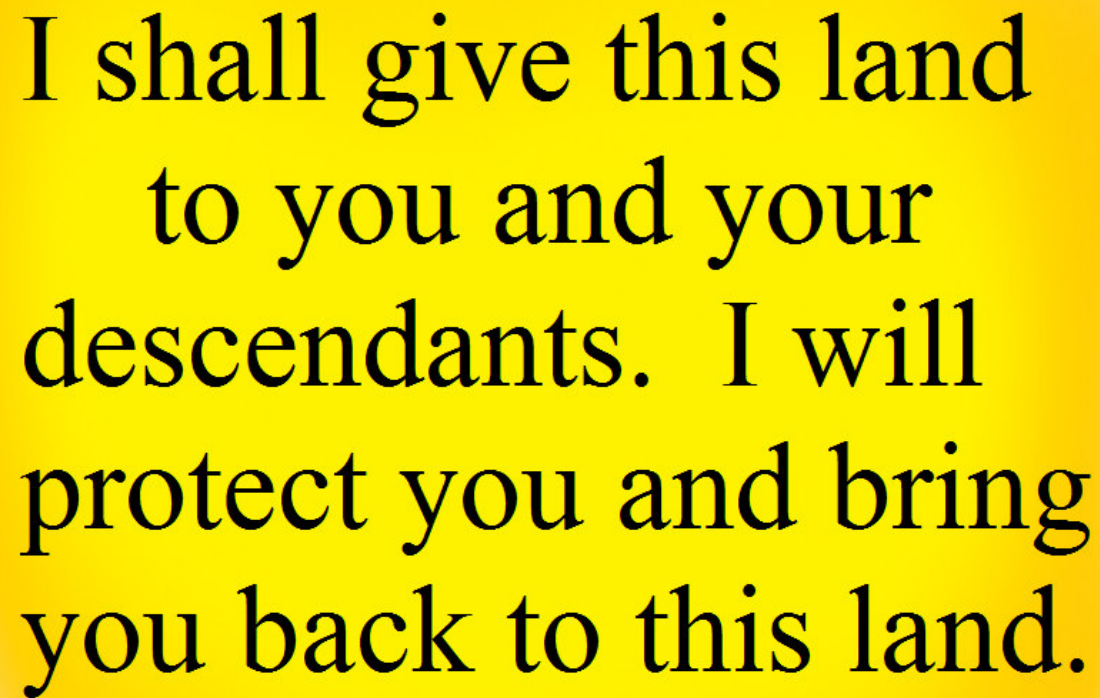
If mother hadn't helped me, He would have finished me off. When am I going to see her again? Oh Mom!



Reliving the bitter experience, Jacob fell asleep. He had a dream.



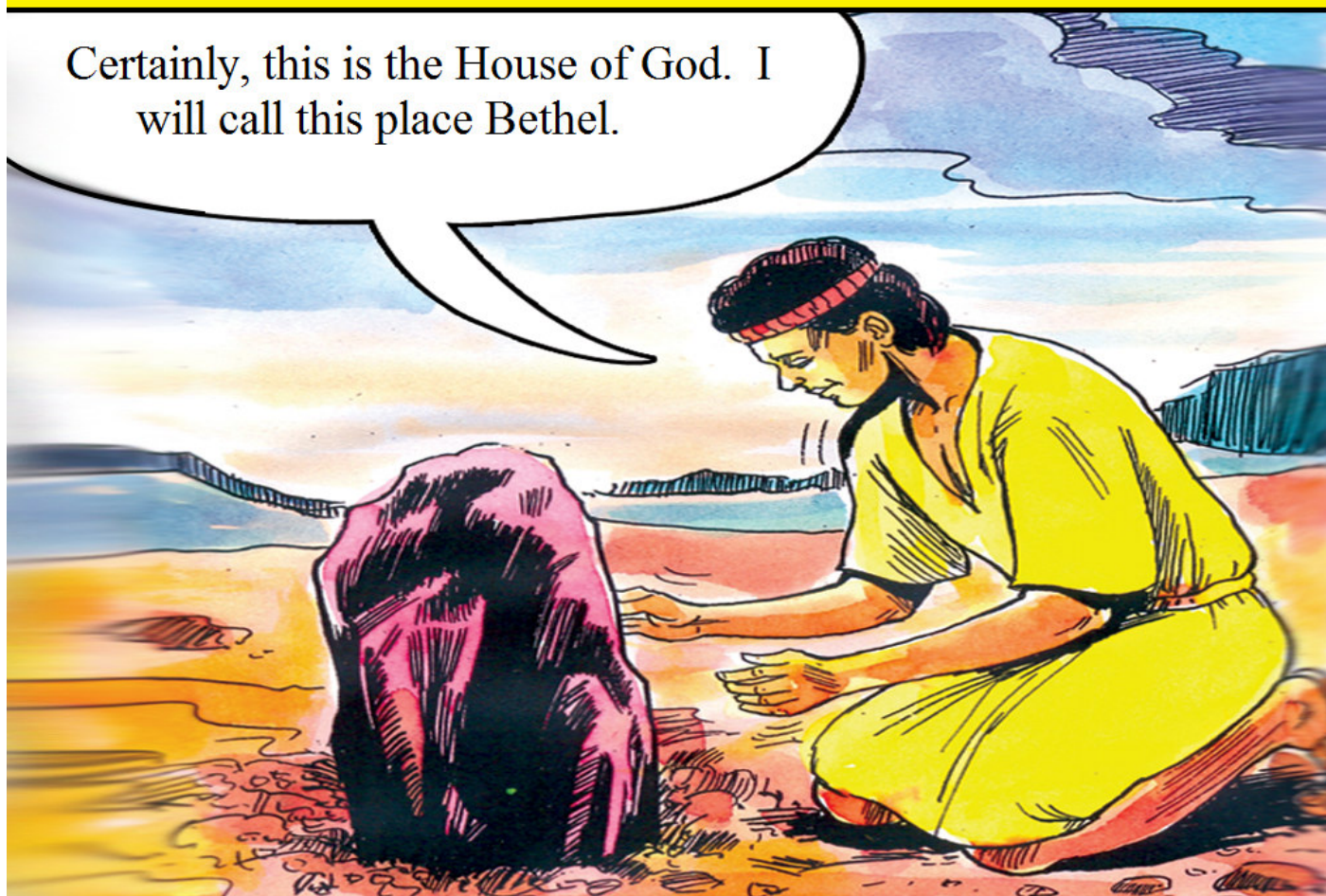
Jacob, do not be afraid. I am the God of Abraham and Isaac.



I shall give this land
to you and your
descendants. I will
protect you and bring
you back to this land.

Jacob woke up from his sleep

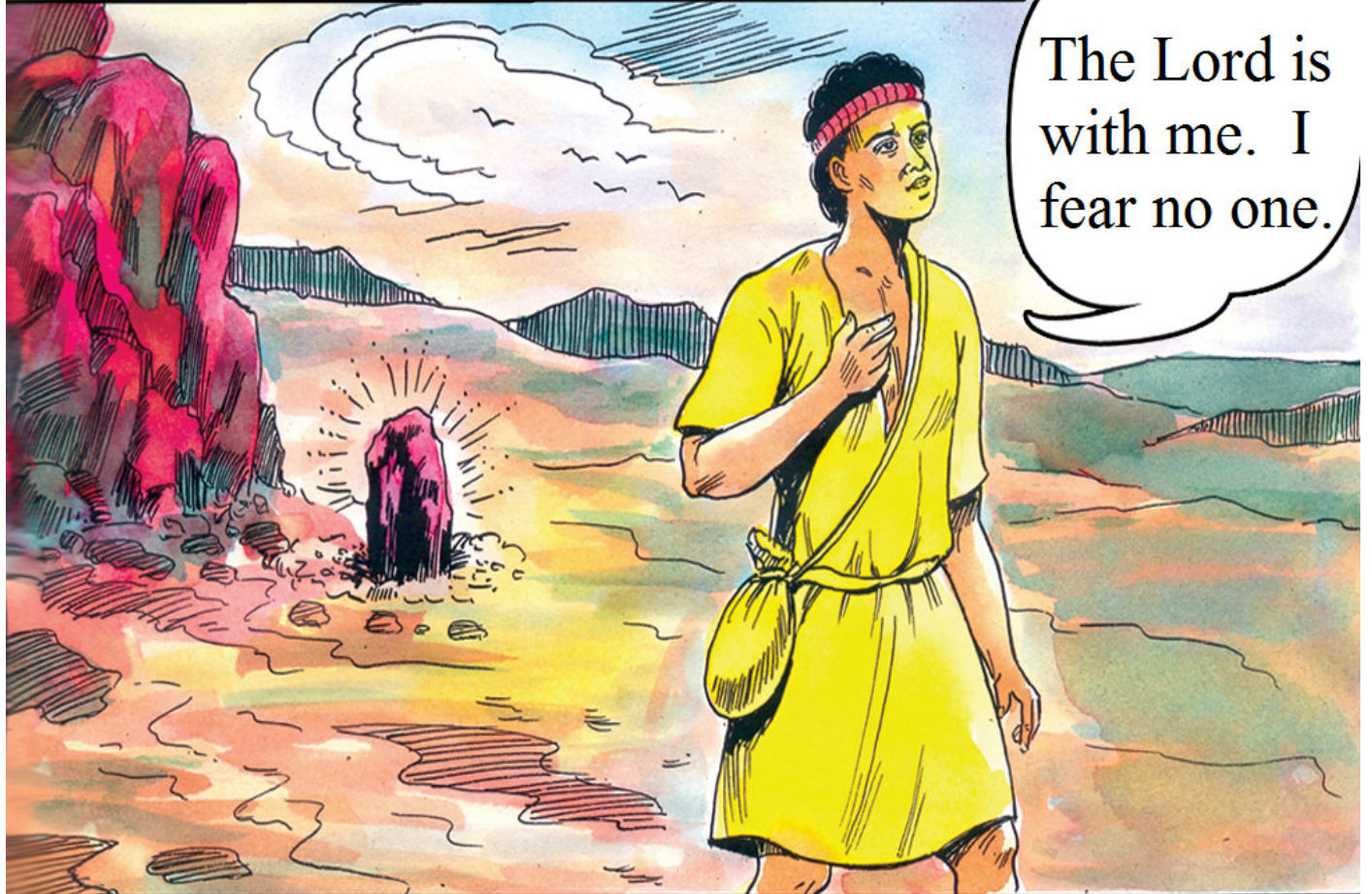
Certainly, this is the House of God. I will call this place Bethel.





If God protects me and
brings me back, He
alone will be my Lord
and God.

After making the Oath, Jacob continued his journey.



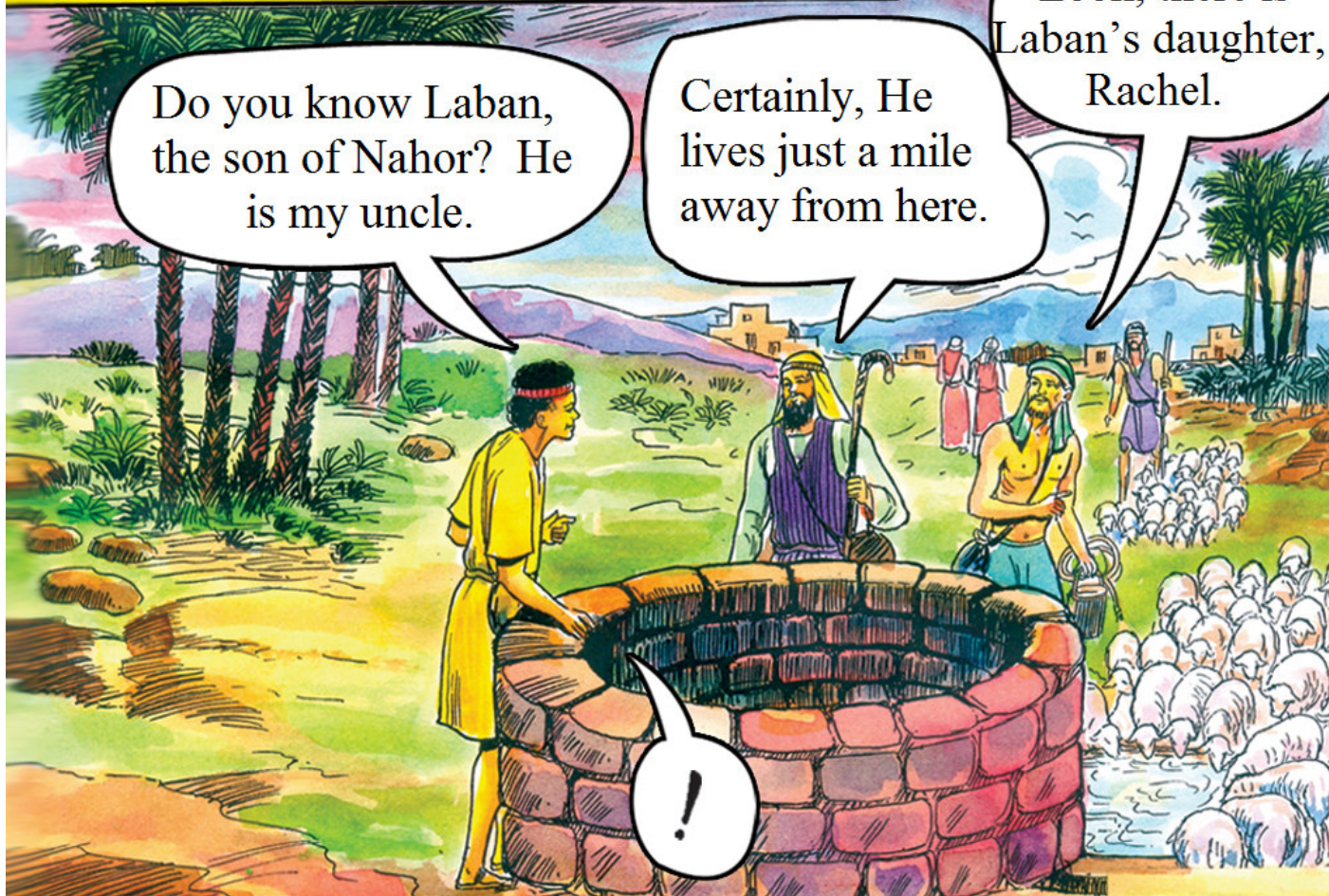
The Lord is with me. I fear no one.

Jacob reached Padanaram.

Do you know Laban,
the son of Nahor? He
is my uncle.

Certainly, He
lives just a mile
away from here.

Look, there is
Laban's daughter,
Rachel.



Jacob drew water for Rachel's sheep.




Rachel ran home.

Father, Aunt's son has
come from Canaan.

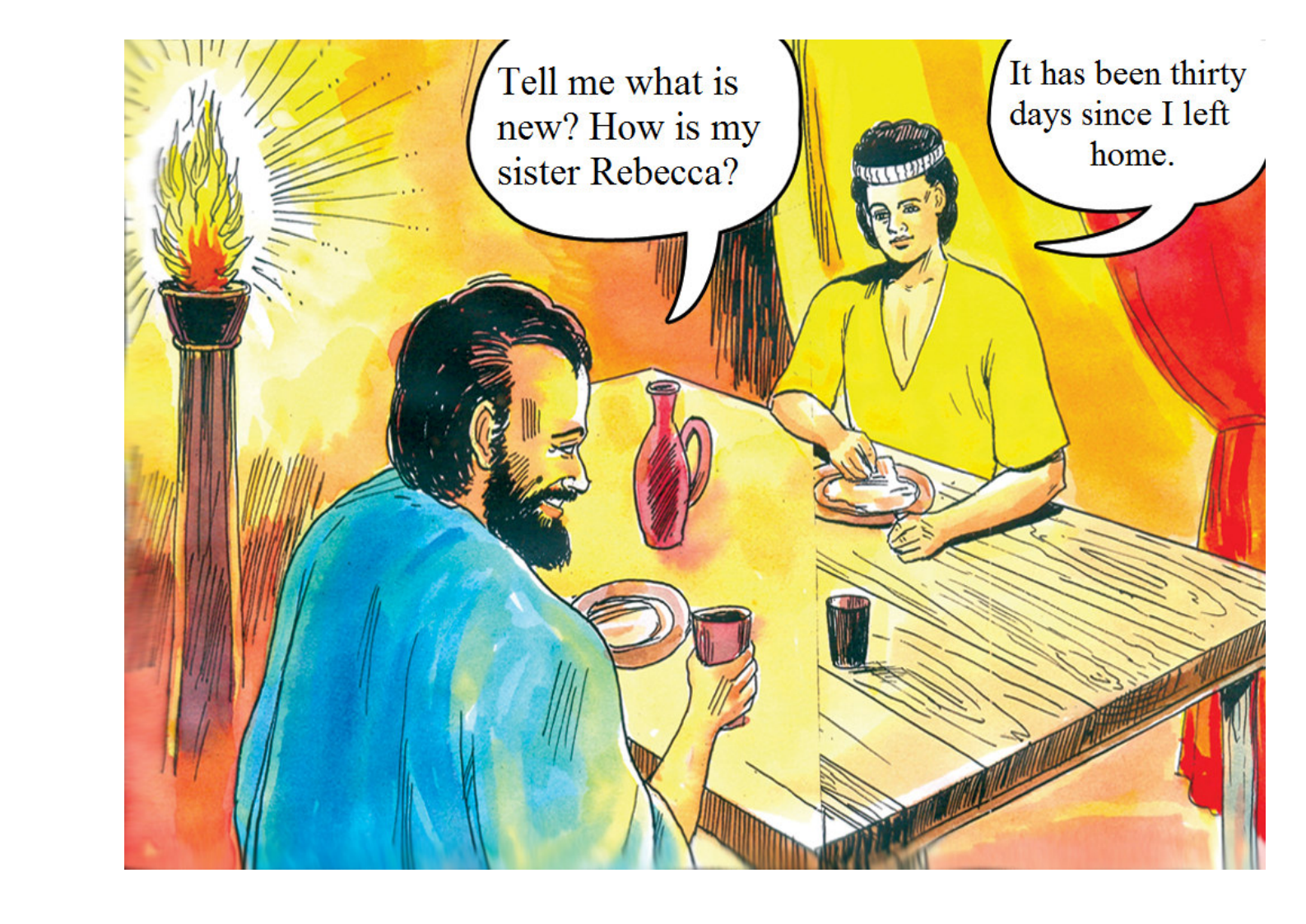
Where is he? You left
him behind?





Come, my son!

!!

A colorful illustration of a man and a woman sitting at a wooden table. The man, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a blue tunic. He is looking towards the woman. The woman, on the right, is wearing a yellow tunic and a headband. She is looking back at the man. On the table are a red pitcher, a plate, and a cup. To the left of the man is a tall, lit torch. The background is a warm, yellowish glow. Two speech bubbles contain text.

Tell me what is new? How is my sister Rebecca?

It has been thirty days since I left home.


Jacob told them the whole story.

Don't worry, my son. Let us forget the past and start a new life here.



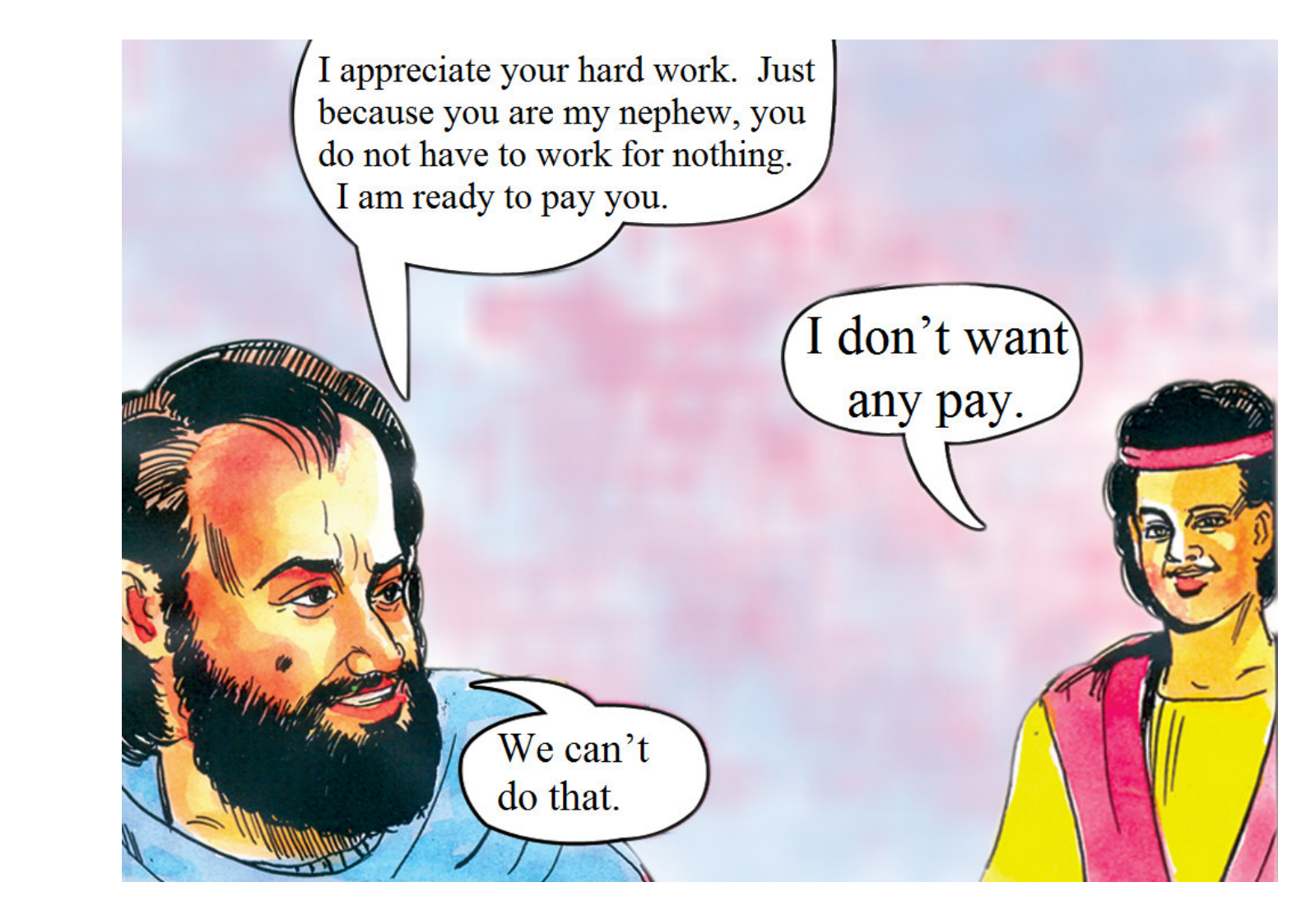
Jacob spent a month looking after Laban's sheep.
He fell in love with Rachel.





Jacob, how
do you like
it here?


I love it.
I've never
received so
much
love.



I appreciate your hard work. Just because you are my nephew, you do not have to work for nothing. I am ready to pay you.

I don't want any pay.

We can't do that.



Go on
tell me.

!!

If you'll give me
Rachel in marriage,
I shall work for
seven years.

Fine, I rather
give her to you
than to
someone else.

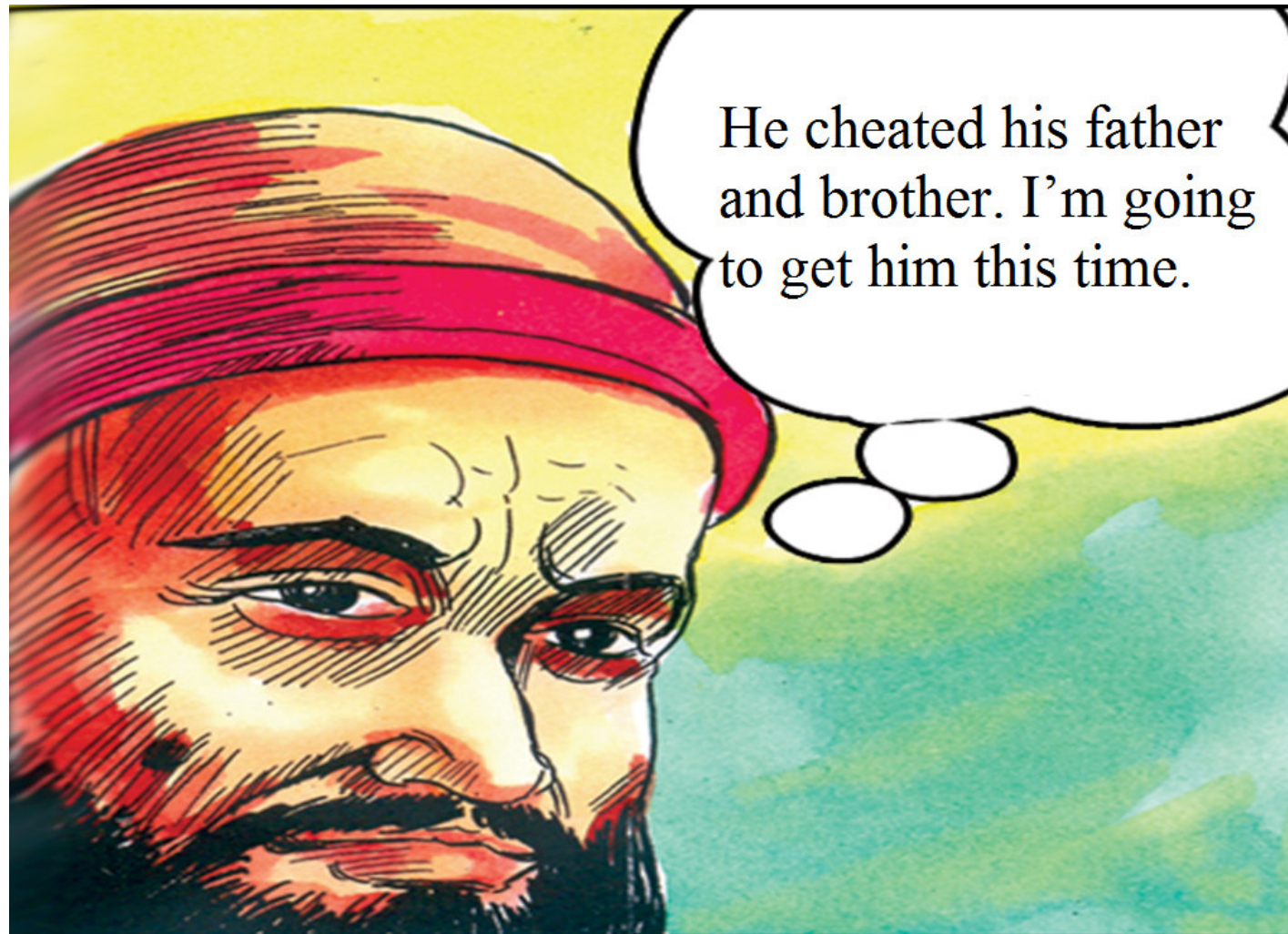
!



Years passed. Laban became rich by Jacob's hard work.

Just one more
month.



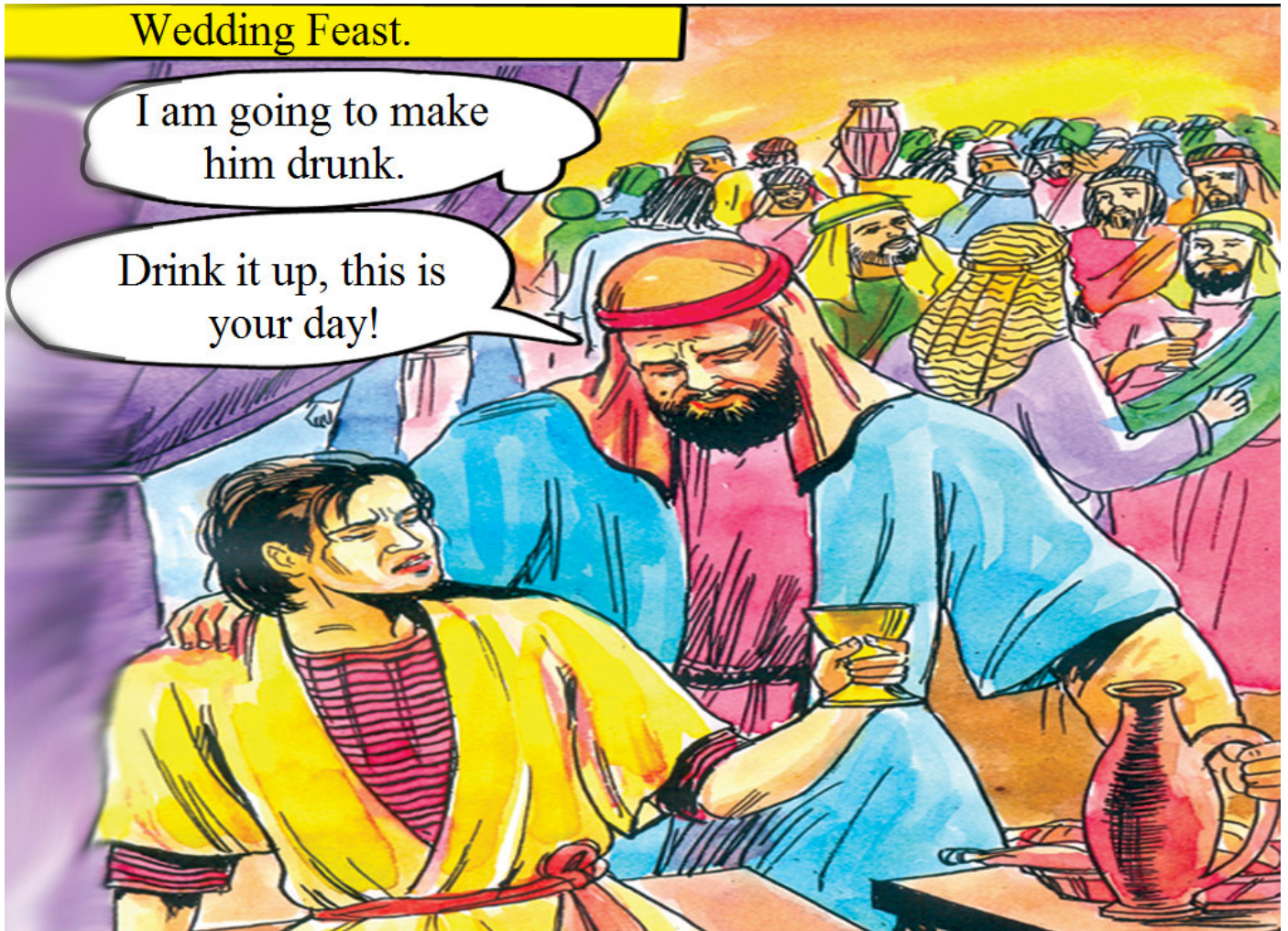


He cheated his father
and brother. I'm going
to get him this time.

Wedding Feast.


I am going to make
him drunk.

Drink it up, this is
your day!



They led Jacob to his tent.

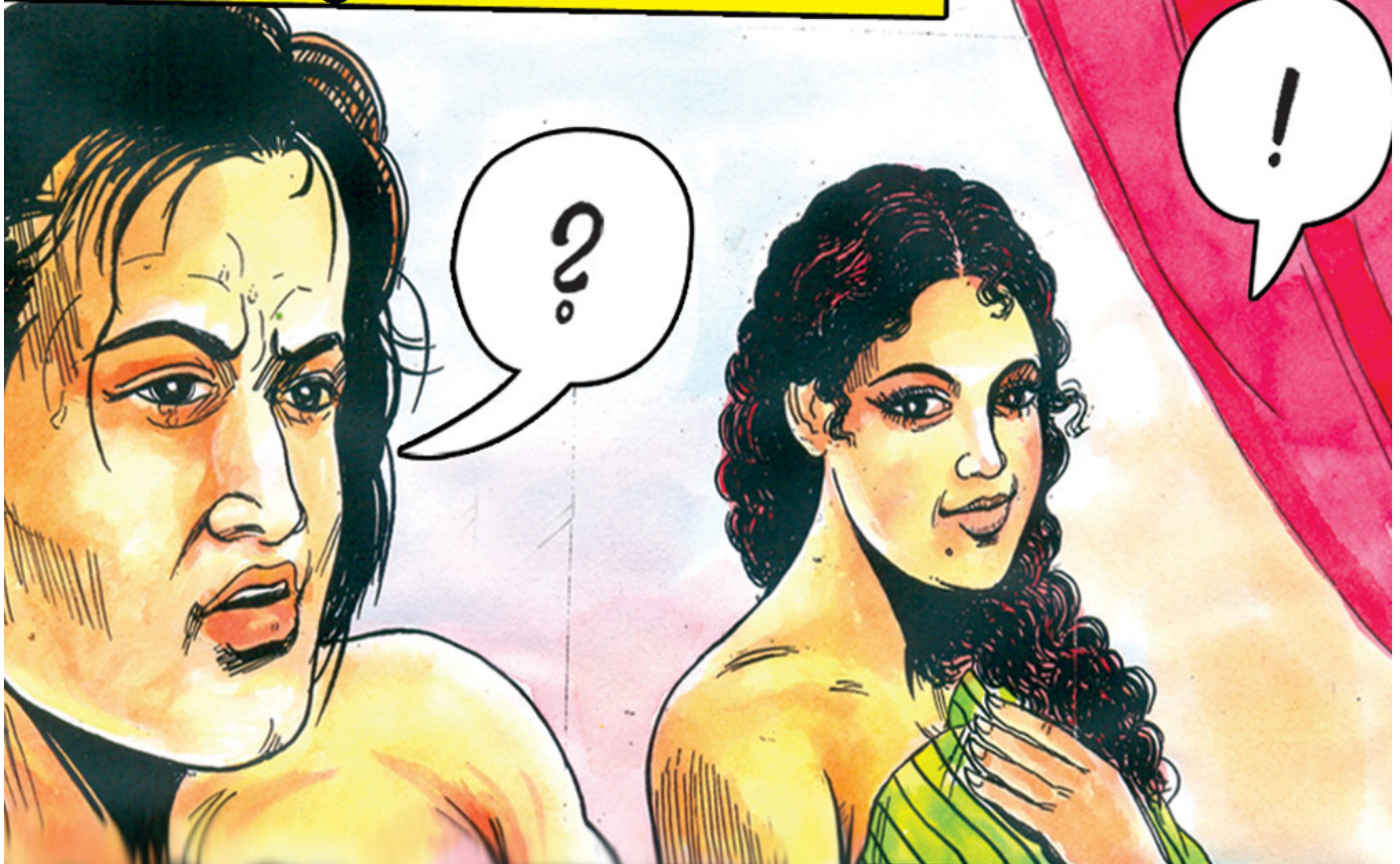





Jacob, here
is your
wife.

!

Due to drunkenness and darkness in the tent, Jacob didn't recognize the woman.

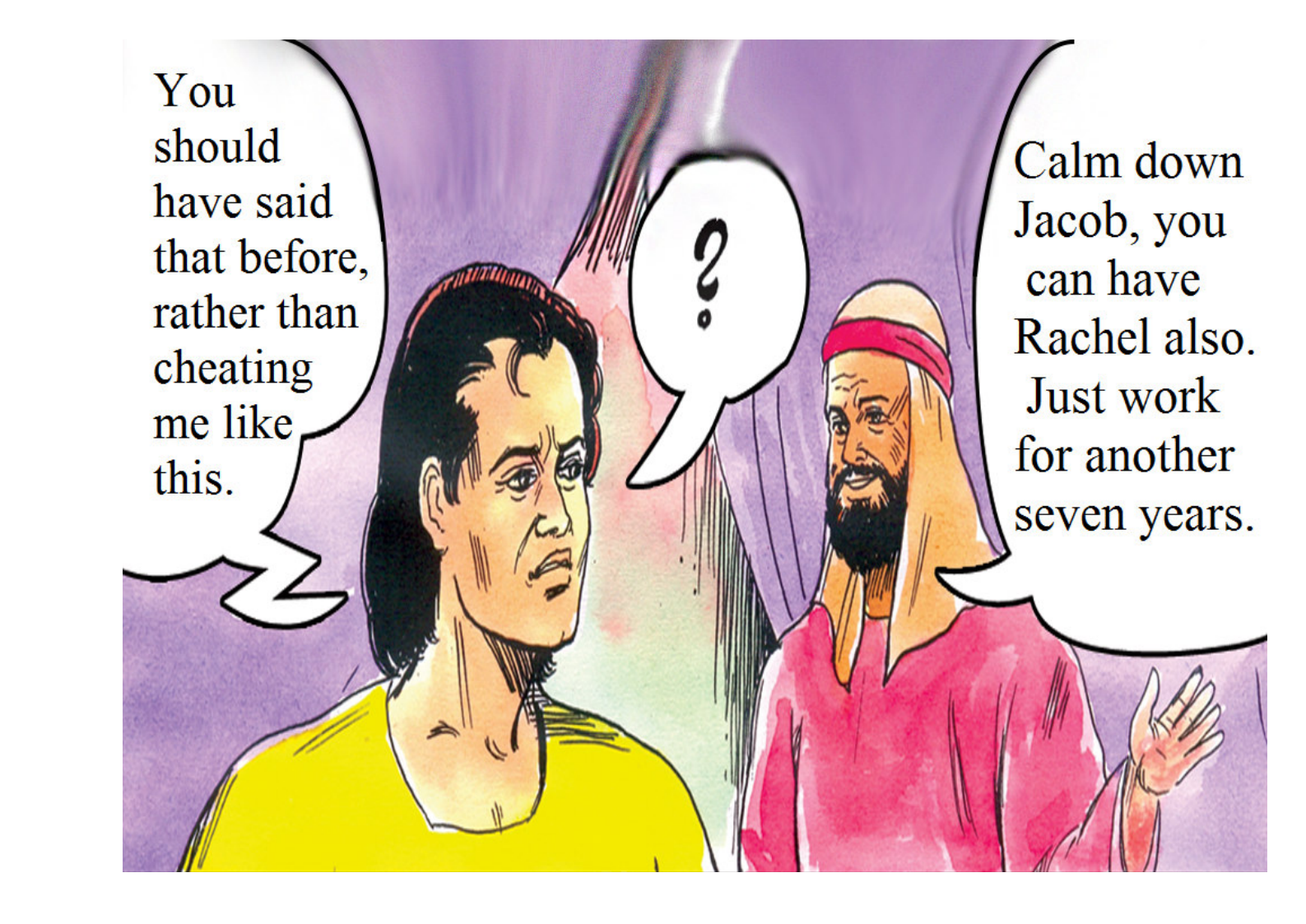




Why did you do this to me? Wasn't it for Rachel that I slaved for seven years?

!?


It is not the custom in our country to give the younger before the elder.



You should have said that before, rather than cheating me like this.

Calm down Jacob, you can have Rachel also. Just work for another seven years.

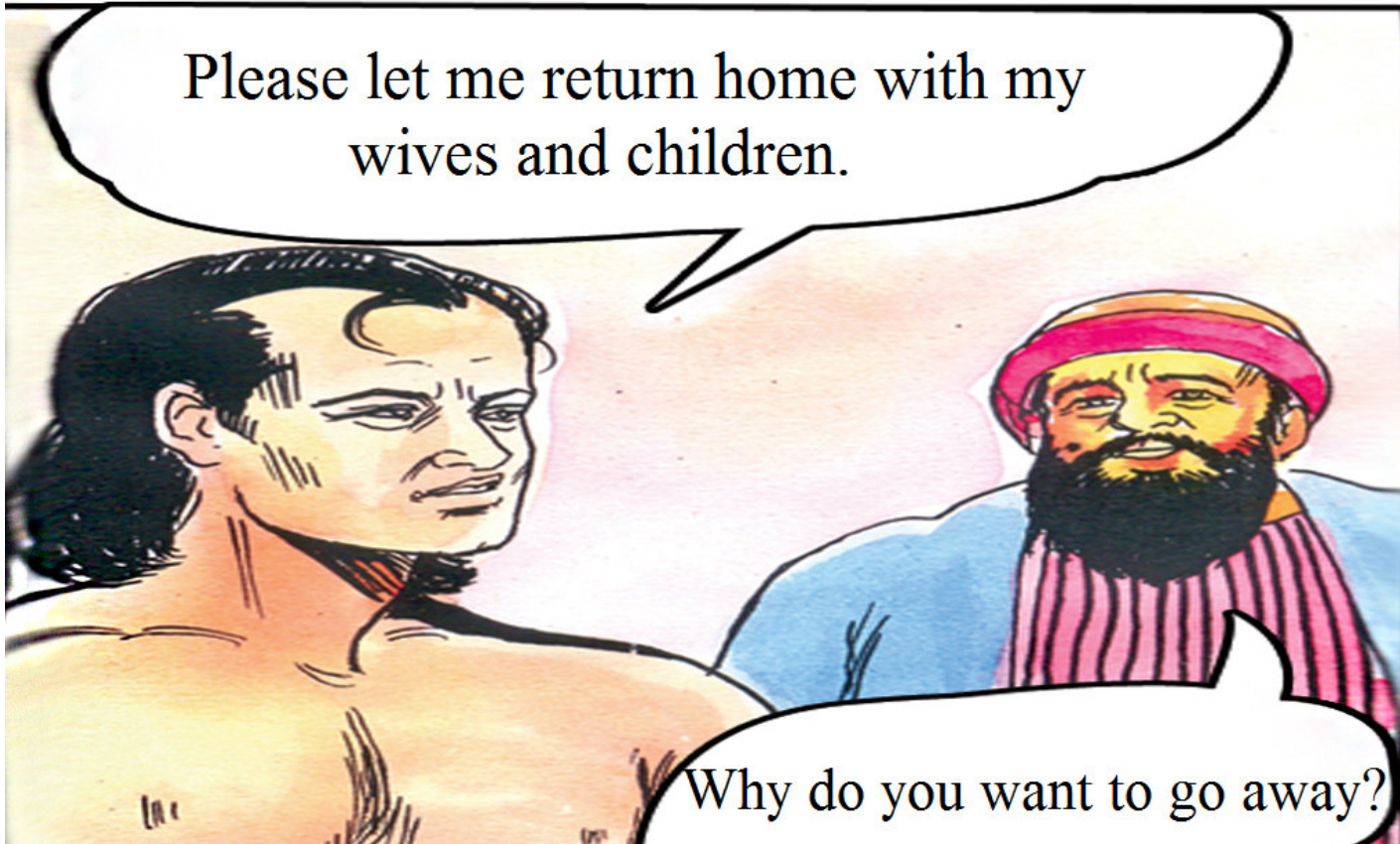
A week later



Jacob, from now on, you may have Rachel also as your wife. You can complete the years of service.


!!

Years passed. Jacob got eleven sons and a daughter.



Please let me return home with my wives and children.

Why do you want to go away?



I want to return to the Land Promised to my forefathers.

Stay a while longer, name your wages. I'll pay you.

Of your flock every black, speckled or spotted animal shall be my wage. All the white ones will be yours.

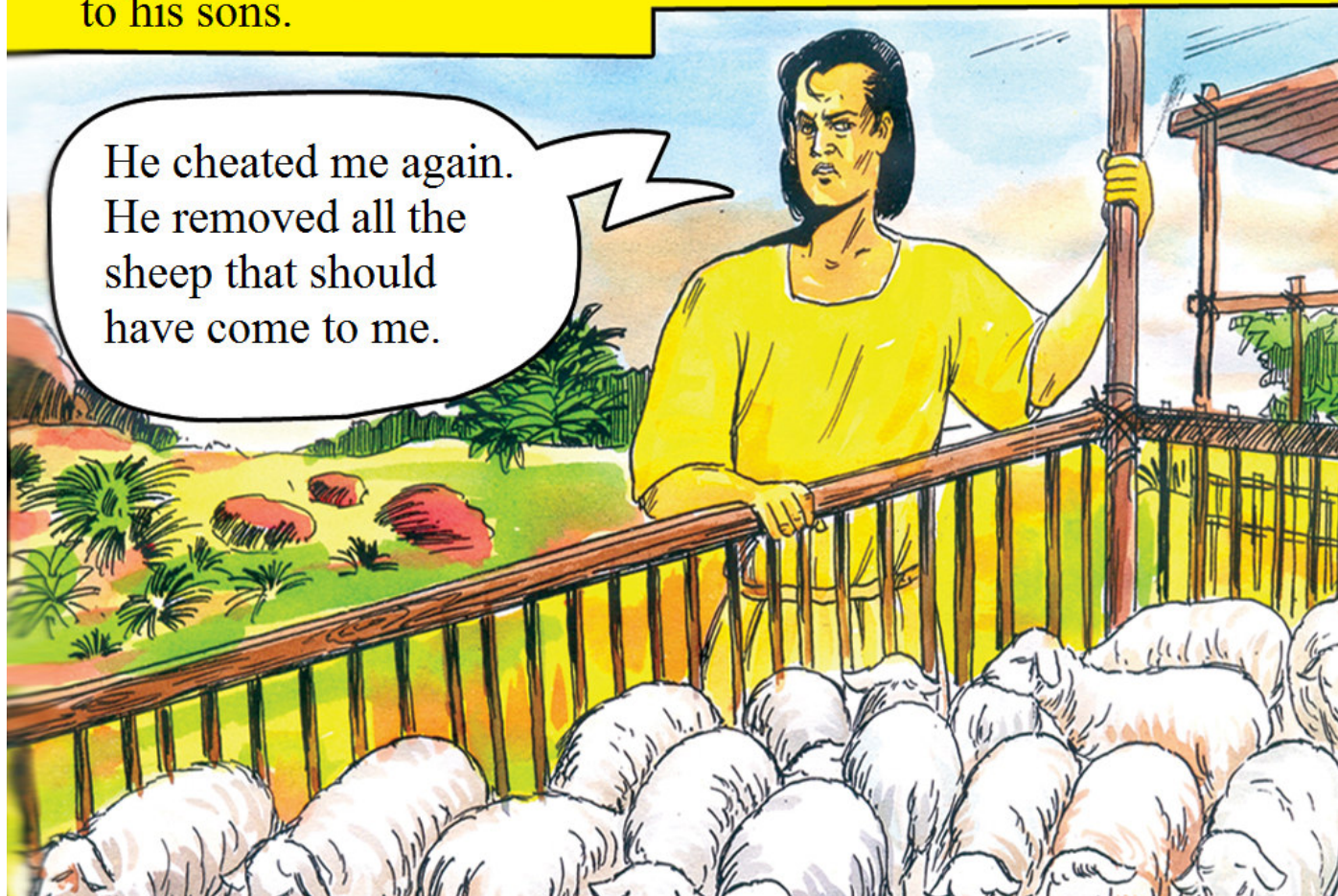
All right.

That is too
much. I'll
trick him.




Laban picked all the black, speckled, and spotted and gave them to his sons.

He cheated me again.
He removed all the sheep that should
have come to me.




Laban cheated Jacob many times. But Jacob was protected by God each time.

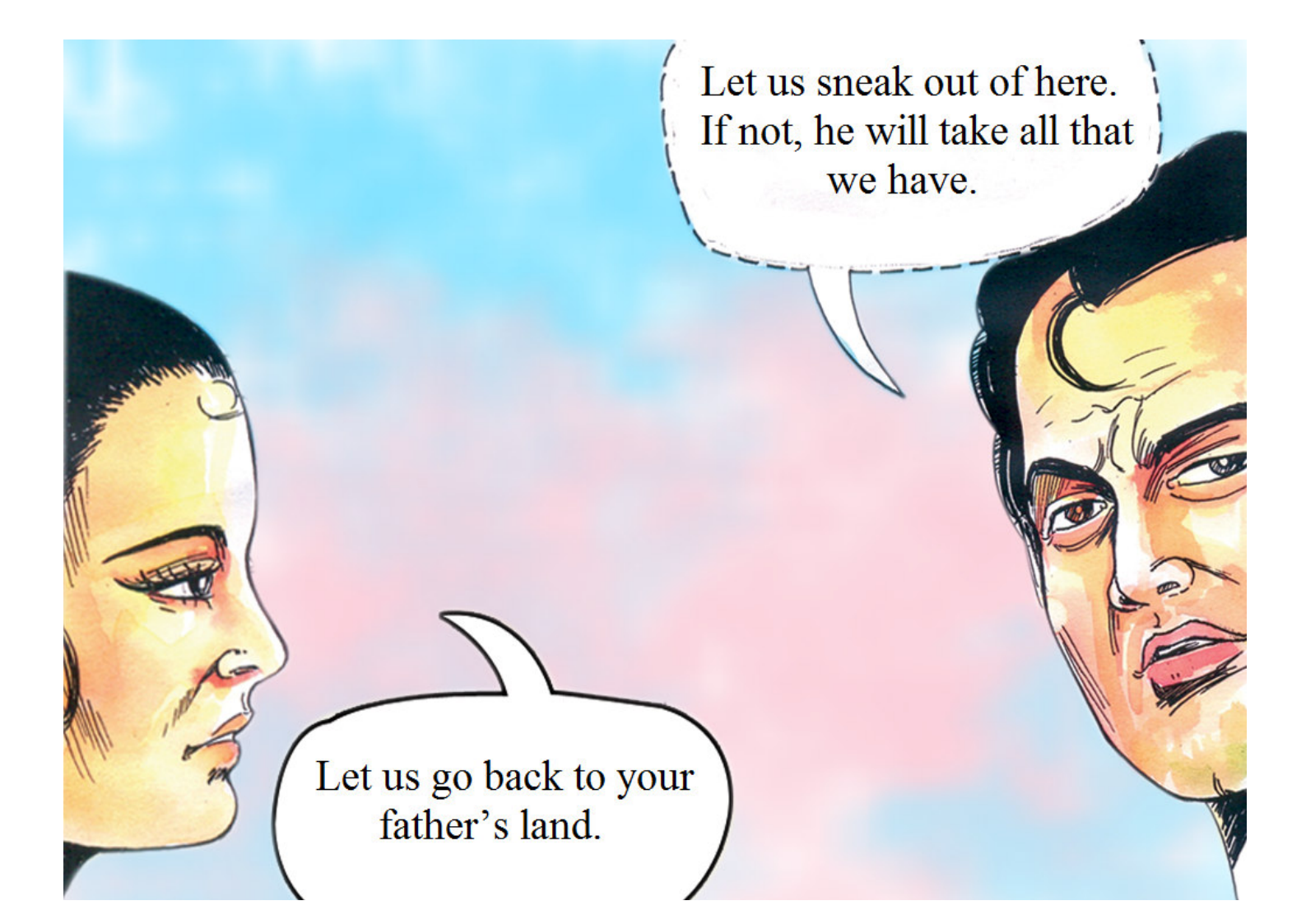


Your brothers say that I stole all their wealth.

How many times he changed his word!



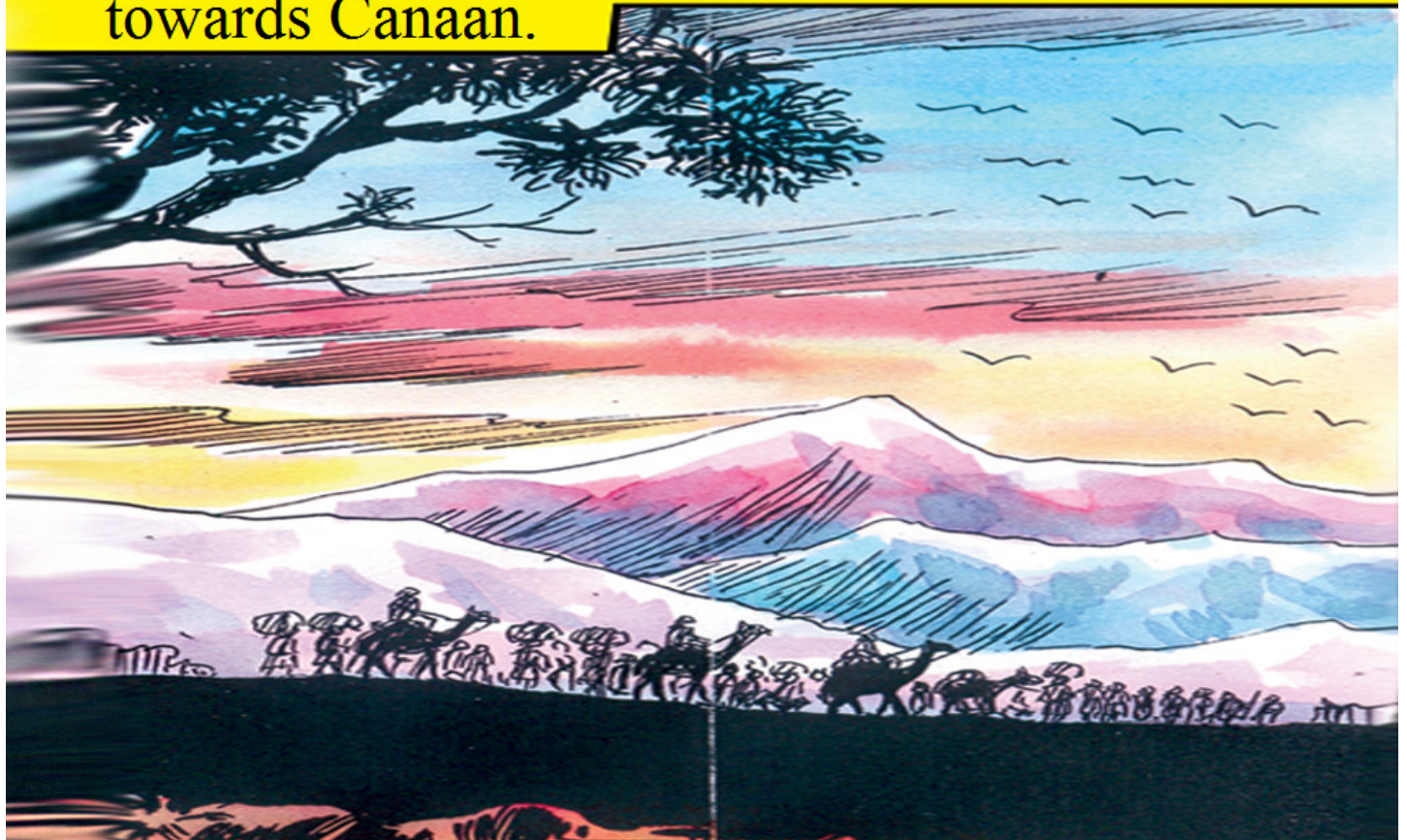
Really? What did Father give us? We were sold like slaves!



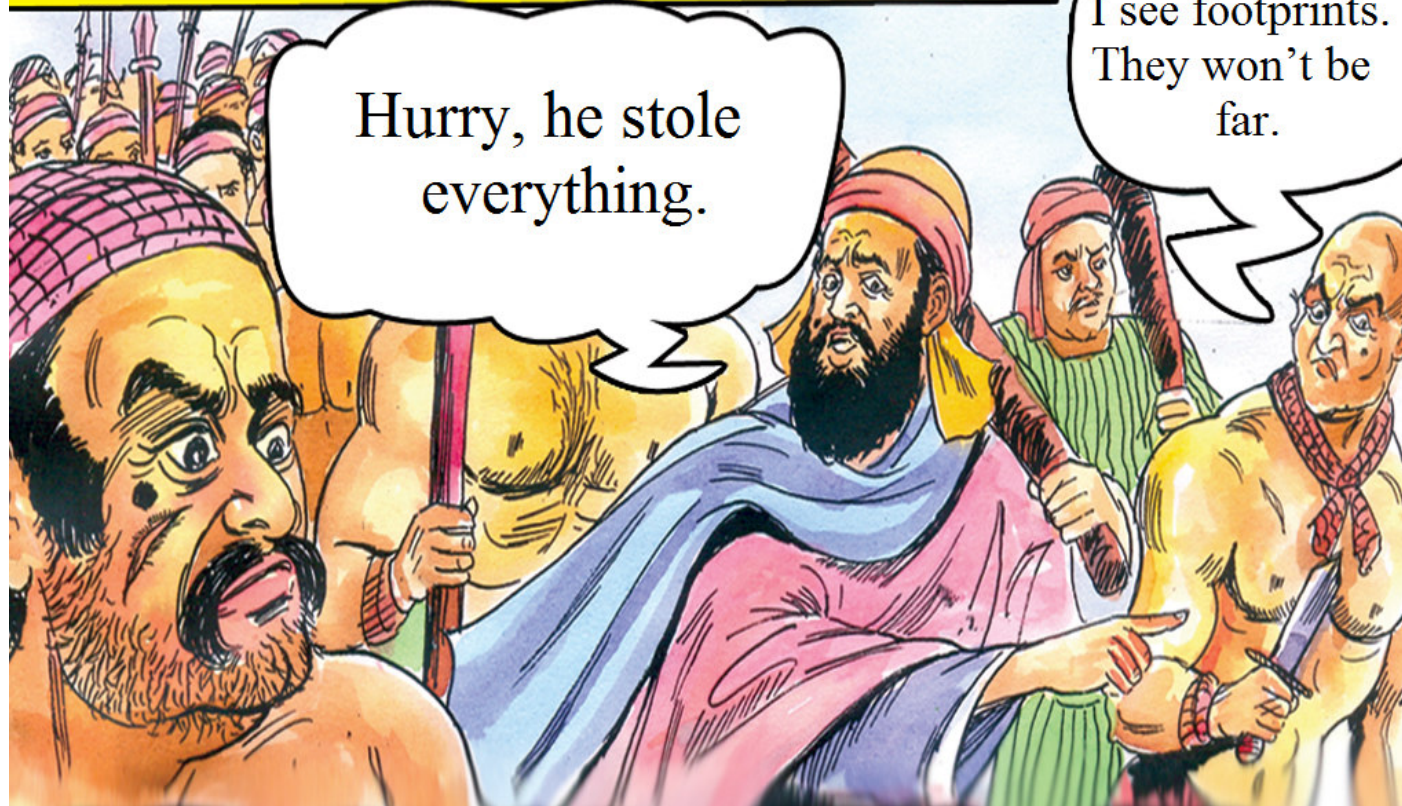
Let us sneak out of here.
If not, he will take all that
we have.

Let us go back to your
father's land.

The next morning Jacob left with his wives, children, and all his belongings and travelled towards Canaan.



Only on the third day did Laban realize that Jacob was gone. He perused Jacob.



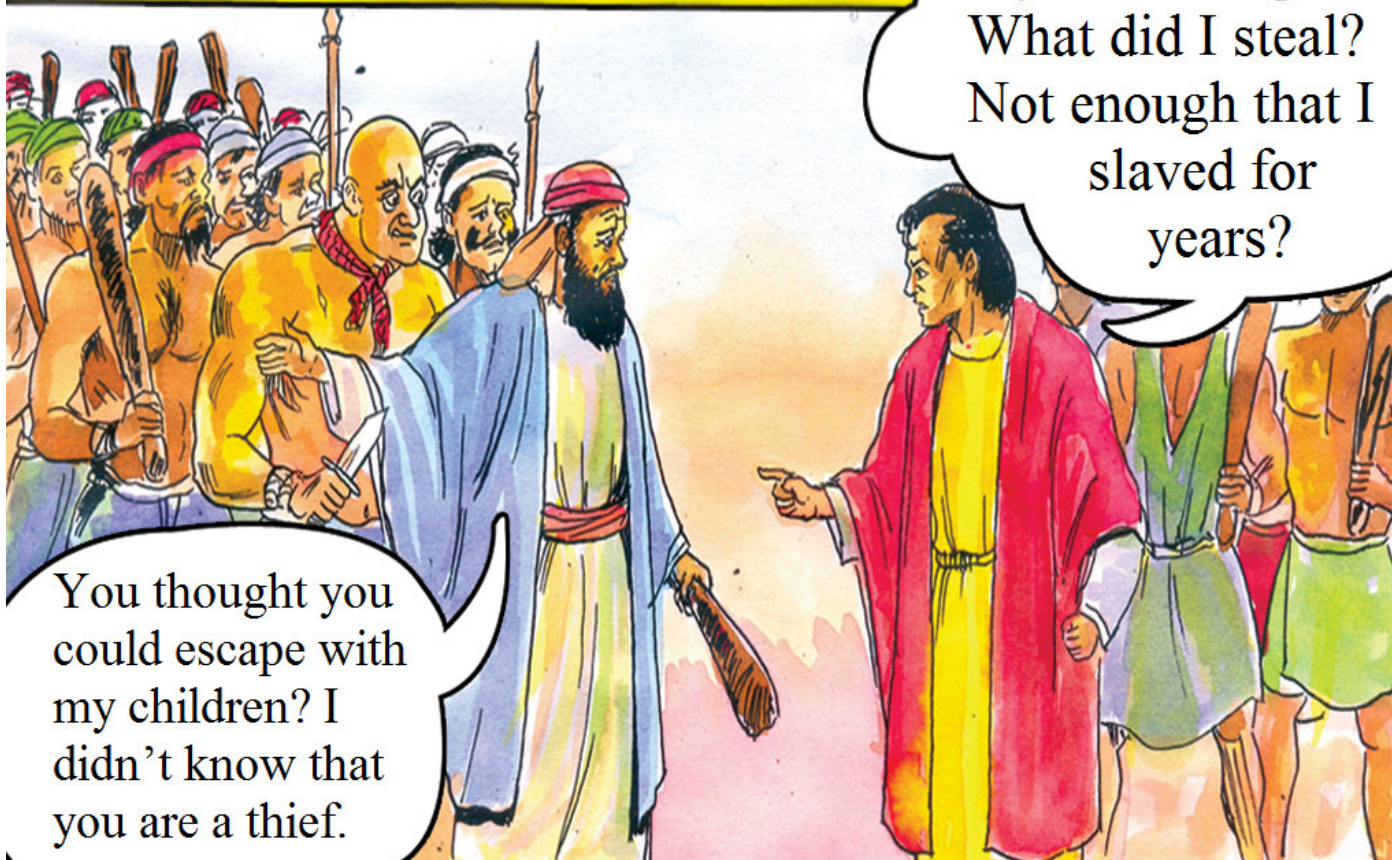
During the seventh night Laban received a warning from God.



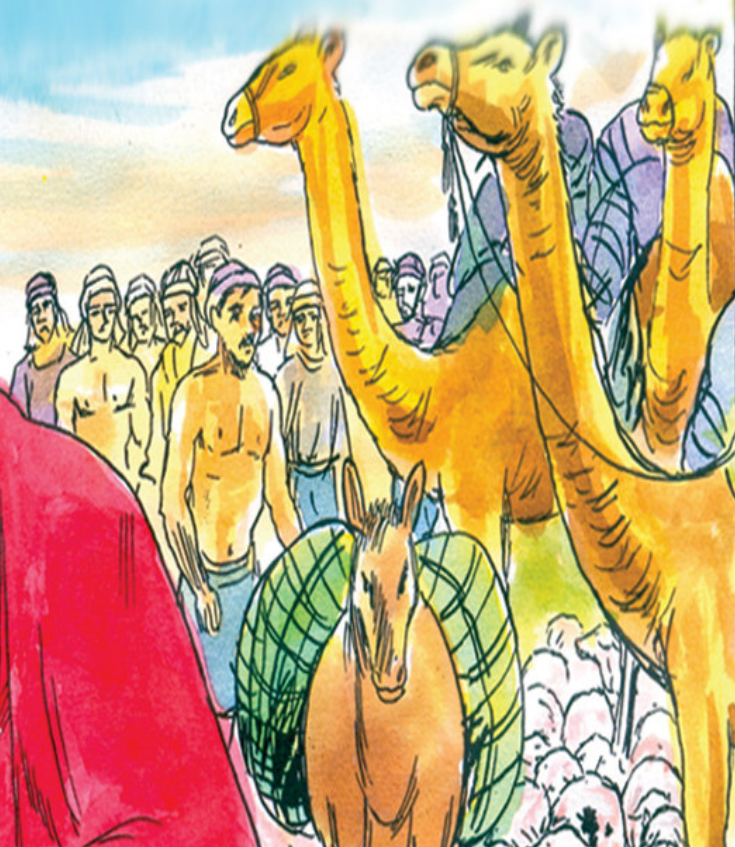
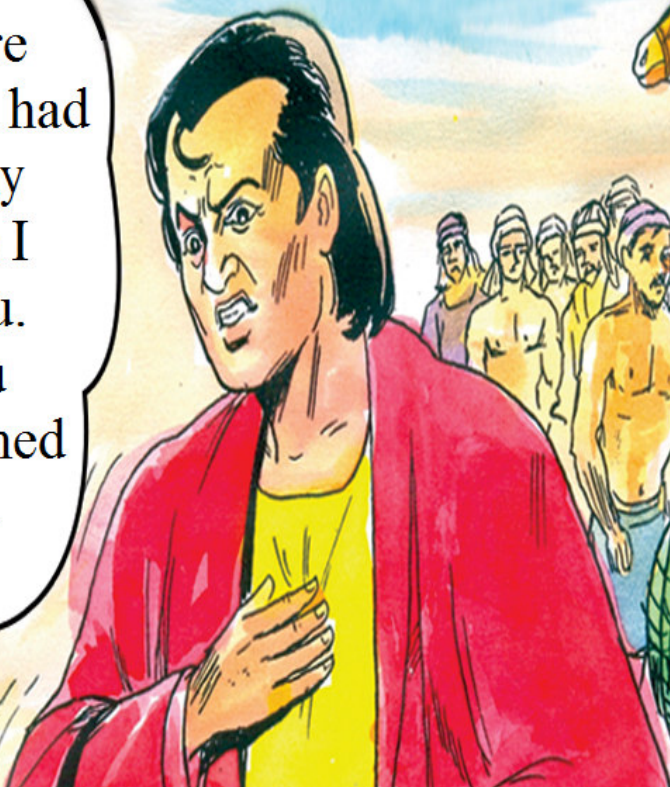
Laban and party reached Jacob.


How dare you
say such things?
What did I steal?
Not enough that I
slaved for
years?

You thought you
could escape with
my children? I
didn't know that
you are a thief.



All these are mine. You had a few skinny goats when I came to you. All that you have is earned by my hard work.





I would
have done
away with
you if the
Lord had
not stopped
me.

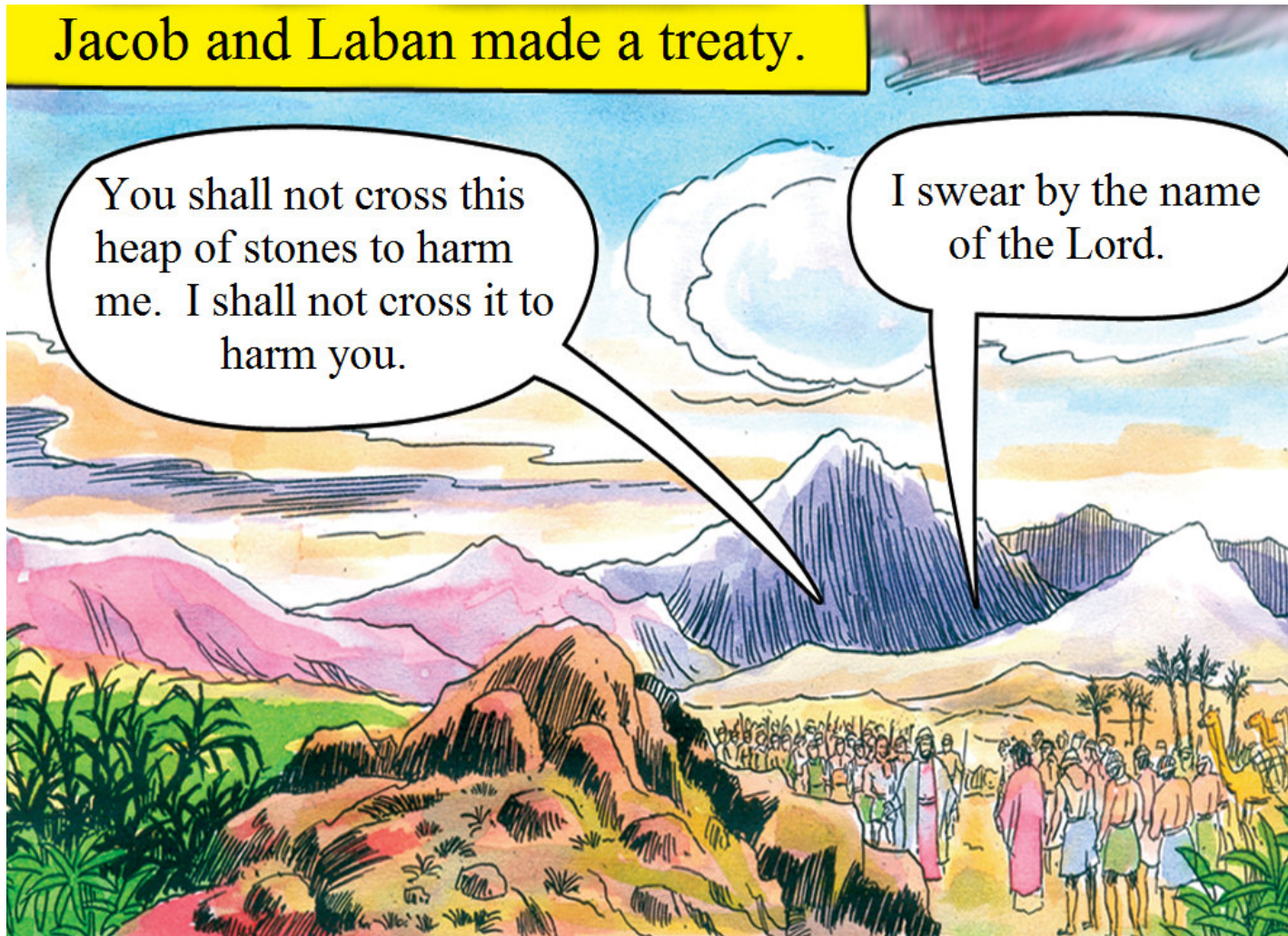
At least
now you
know that
God will
protect
the
weak.

!?

Jacob and Laban made a treaty.

You shall not cross this heap of stones to harm me. I shall not cross it to harm you.

I swear by the name of the Lord.

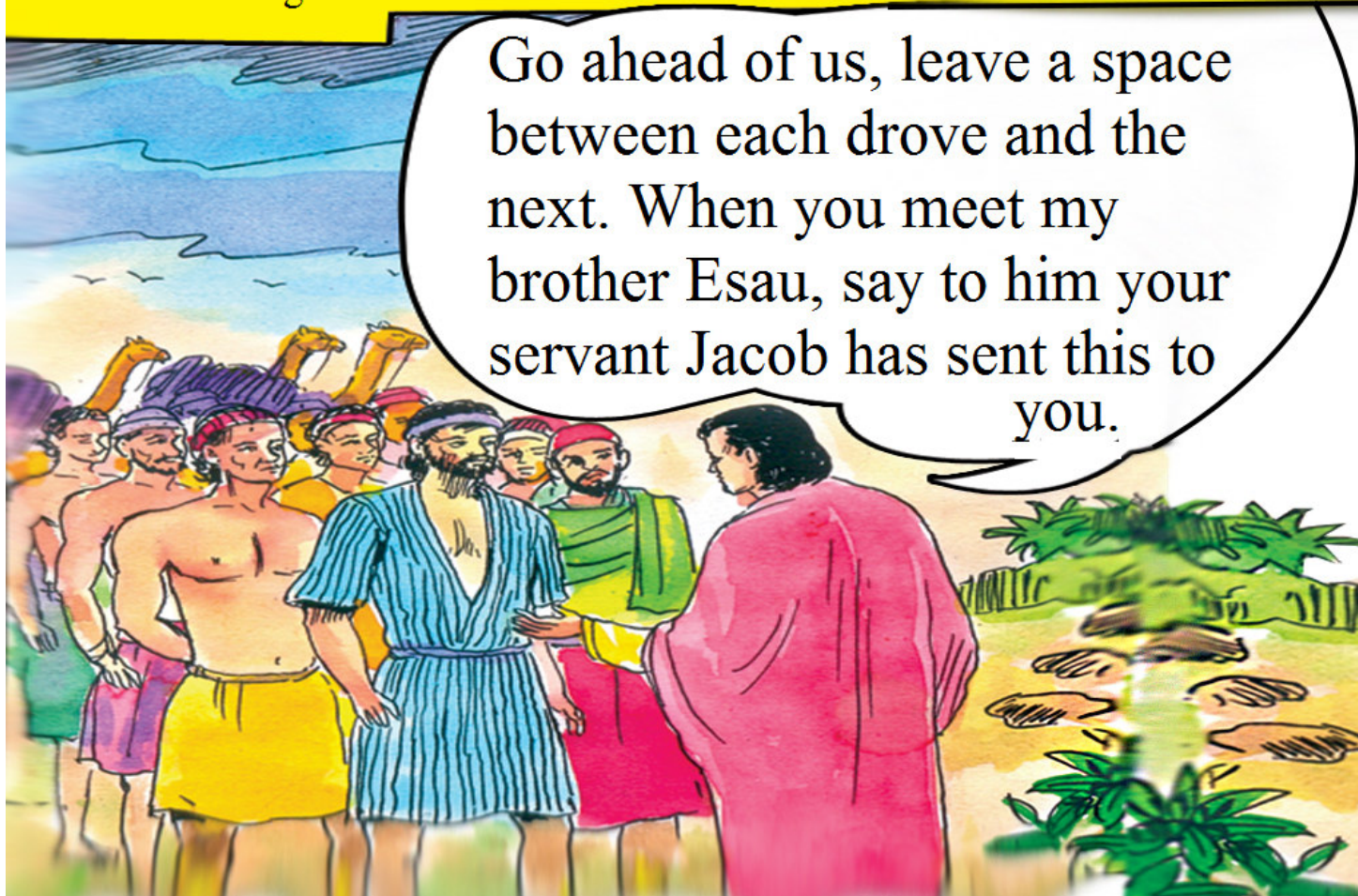


Jacob continued his journey towards Canaan. Hearing this Esau accompanied by 400 men came to meet him. Jacob was frightened.




Jacob chose a gift for his brother, a large number of animals, and put his servants in charge of them.

Go ahead of us, leave a space between each drove and the next. When you meet my brother Esau, say to him your servant Jacob has sent this to you.



Jacob brought all his belongings across the River Jabbok and he alone stayed back on the other side.



I can't. He will come and destroy all of us. Where shall I flee now.

That night a stranger fought with Jacob.







I am tired of running.
Now or never.



At dawn.

Please let me go.

Only if you would
bless me.



No more you shall be called Jacob. Your name will be Israel because you fought with man and God and you prevailed.

!!



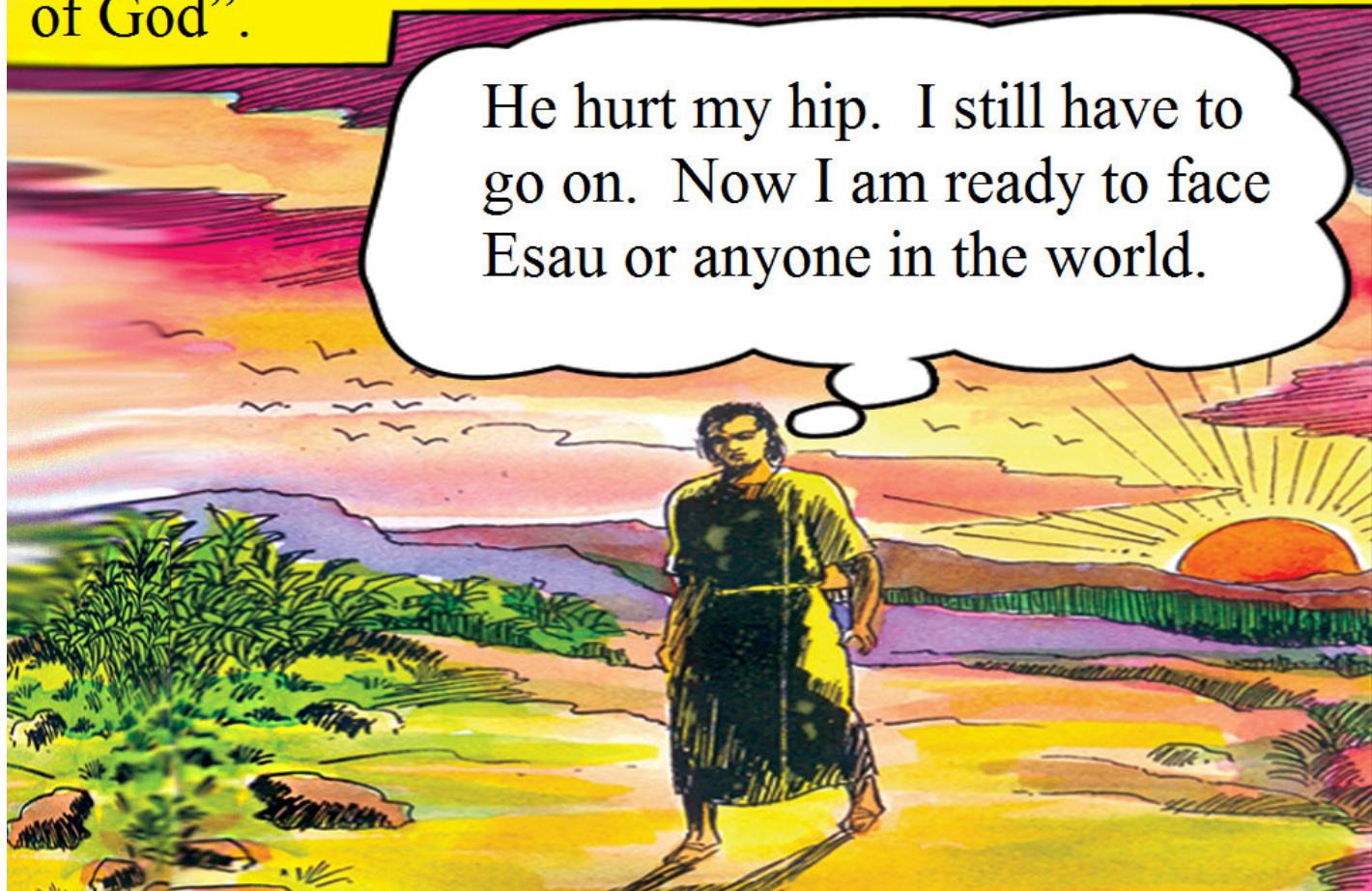
After saying this the stranger disappeared.

I saw God face to face and still
I am alive!



Jacob named that place Peniel that means the “Face of God”.

He hurt my hip. I still have to go on. Now I am ready to face Esau or anyone in the world.



There comes Esau!


!!



What a long time brother! Where were you? Father and Mother were so anxious to see you.

!





You know how
I left.

Don't worry about it anymore. Who are these?

My wives and children. God has been good to me.

!!



What about all those animals I saw on the way?

Accept them as my gift to you. God has blessed me abundantly.



I have all the wealth I need. You just
keep them with you.

Please accept them for
my satisfaction.



All right, let us go home.

Children are tired. There are also animals that can't walk fast. Go ahead, we shall come slowly.



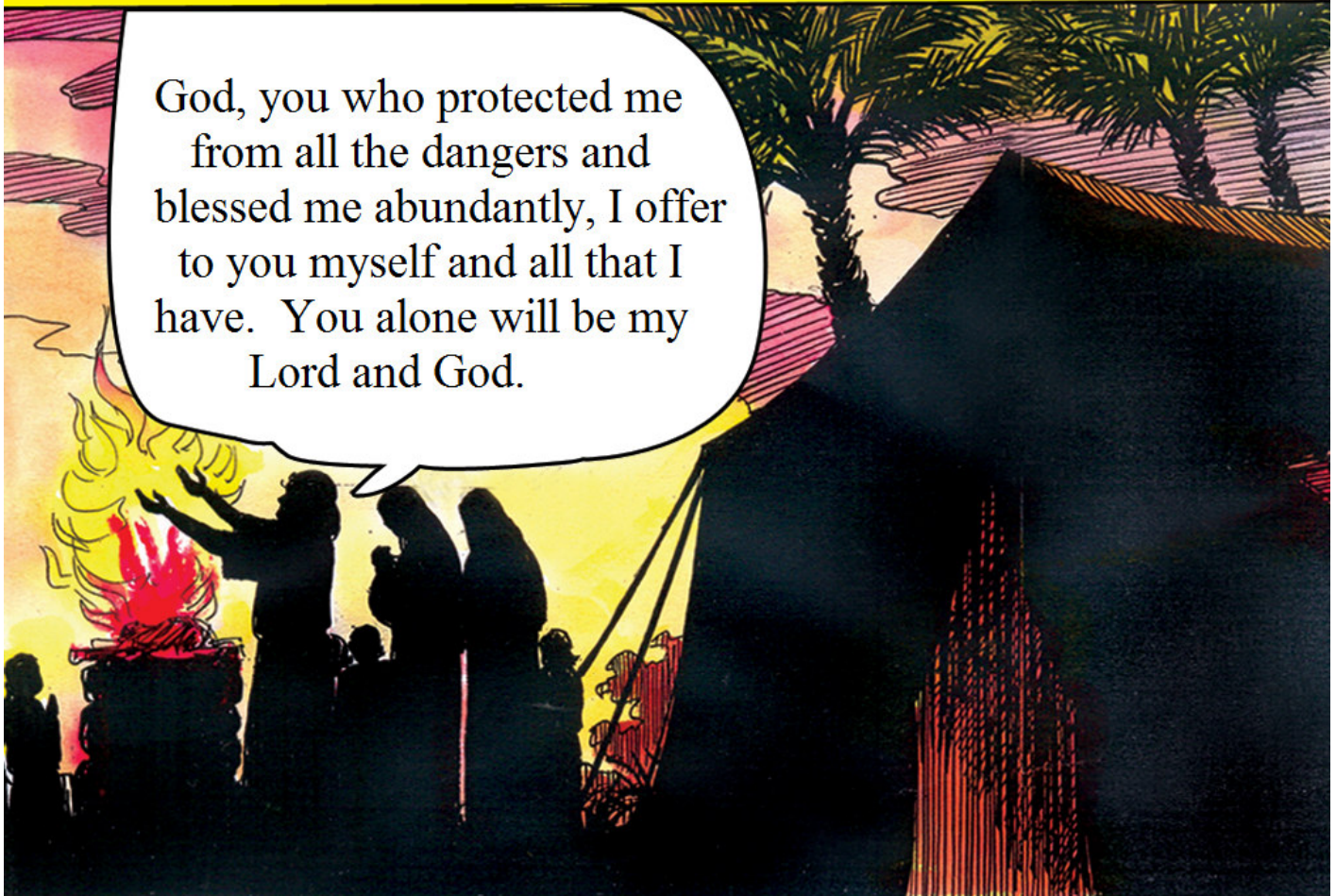
As you like, but, do come home
without much delay.

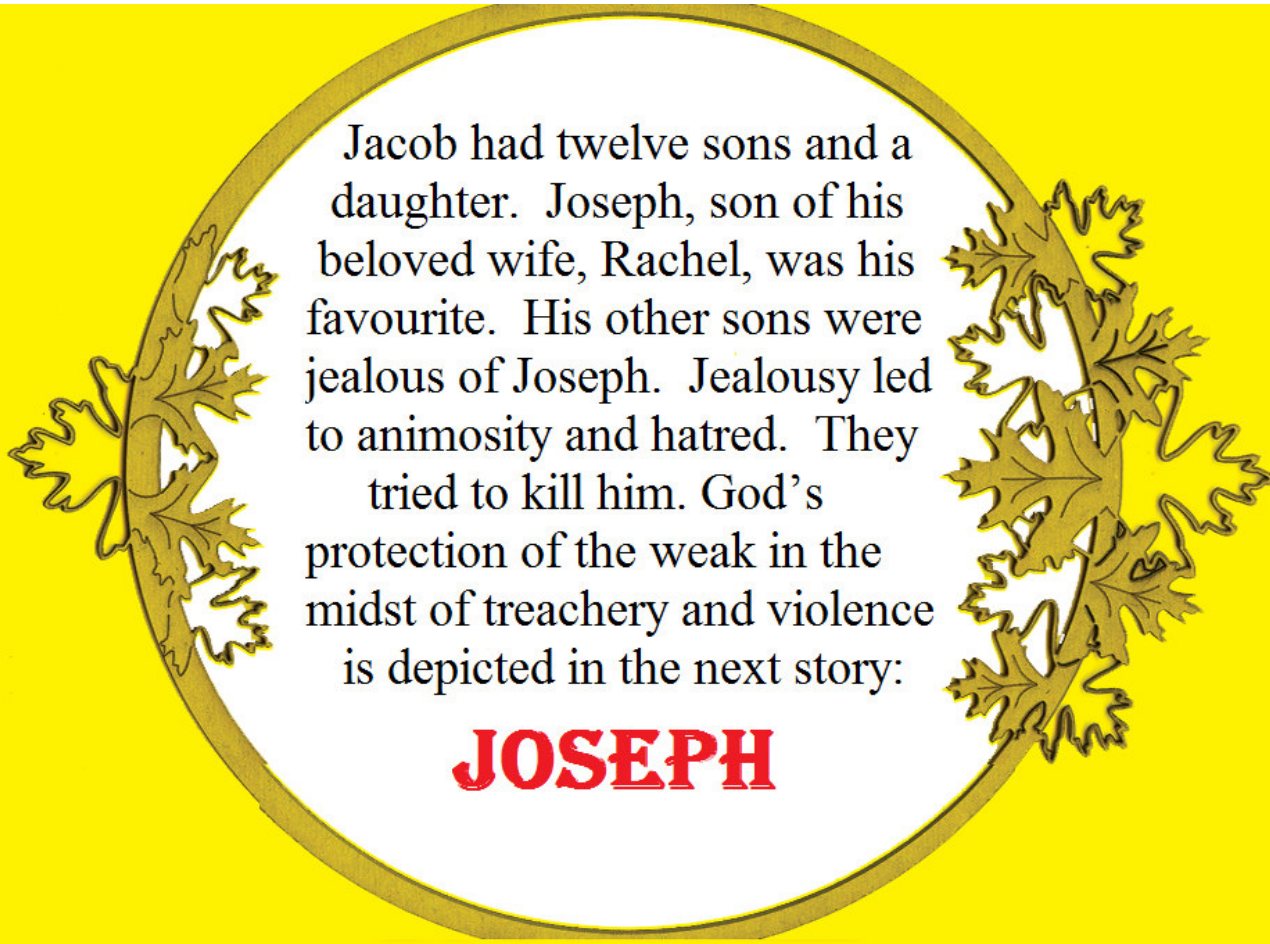
Sure.



As God commanded, Jacob settled in Bethel.

God, you who protected me from all the dangers and blessed me abundantly, I offer to you myself and all that I have. You alone will be my Lord and God.





Jacob had twelve sons and a daughter. Joseph, son of his beloved wife, Rachel, was his favourite. His other sons were jealous of Joseph. Jealousy led to animosity and hatred. They tried to kill him. God's protection of the weak in the midst of treachery and violence is depicted in the next story:

JOSEPH

QUESTIONS

After reading the story of “Jacob” and the Bible text, (Genesis 25-35) answer the following questions:

1. What is the meaning of the name of Jacob?
2. The paternal blessing was Jacob’s right. Why?
3. Name of the place where God appeared to Jacob for the first time.
4. What was the oath Jacob made at Bethel?
5. Explain the ways Laban tricked Jacob.
6. Narrate with examples the way God protected Jacob.
7. What was the warning God gave to Laban?
8. What happened at the bank of river Jabbok? Explain its meaning.
9. Explain Jacob’s new name and its meaning.
10. What is the message you get from “Jacob”?

Memorize ***“Surely the Lord is in this place; but I did not know it.”***
(Gen 28, 16)

