

Bible Comics - 4
JOSEPH





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Script

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Illustration

DEVASSY

JOSEPH

The story of Joseph stands at a turning point in the history of Israel as well as the history of Salvation. Time and again God promised Abraham and his descendants a land of their own. That was the land of Canaan where Jacob settled down with his sons. But Jacob (Israel) was uprooted and replanted in Egypt, a foreign land that eventually became a land of slavery for them. The various circumstances which led to this migration are colorfully depicted in the beautiful story of Joseph. This is a story of love and hatred, of jealousy and sympathy.

Joseph, the hero of the story, had to undergo various trials and tribulations before he reached the highest

position in Egypt, second only to the king. He lost his mother when he was just a little boy. The tender love of his father provoked bitter jealousy and hatred in his brothers. They tried to kill him; but finally sold him into slavery. The Medianite merchants who bought him brought him to Egypt where he was sold to a royal officer. When his new master, Potiphar, began to like him and to entrust him with important offices, Joseph thought that his troubles had come to an end. But more was in store for him. His fidelity to the master and his fear of God made him resist a seducing mistress which resulted in long imprisonment.

Only after long years of hard work, slavery and imprisonment was Joseph liberated. This time he was

exalted beyond every expectation. He was raised to a position he had never dreamt of.

Joseph, who was hated, persecuted, and sold into slavery, is the prototype of Jesus Christ who was rejected, handed over to foreigners, and killed by his own people. As Joseph was eventually raised as a ruler, so was Jesus rose from the dead and exalted as the ruler of the whole universe.

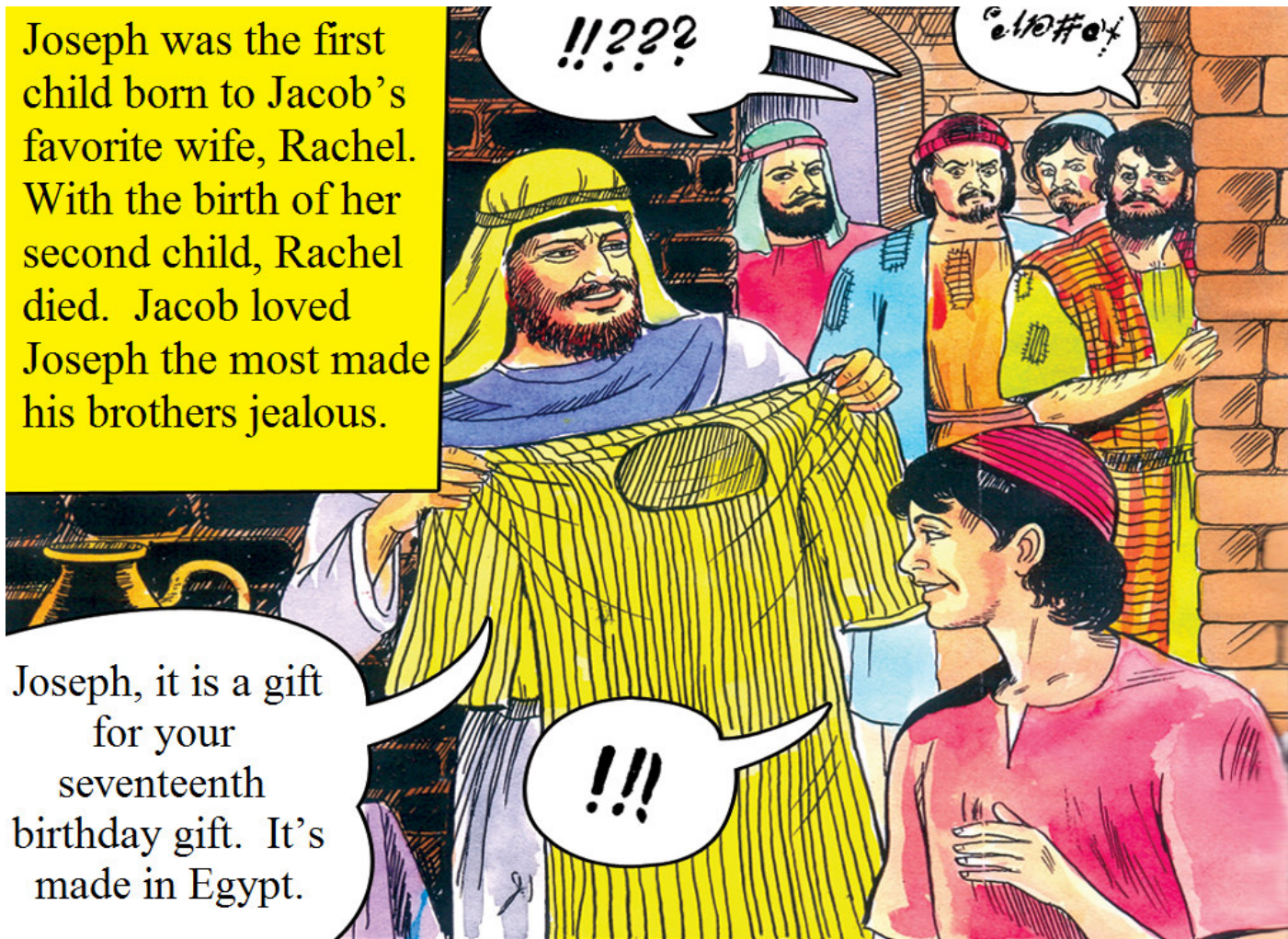
God's ways are not our ways. Often we do not understand why misfortunes overtake us. In spite of the best of intentions people misunderstand and hate us. Even after working hard with utmost sincerity, our undertakings meet with utter failure. Why this to me? We ask and very

often we do not get any answer. The trials and troubles of Joseph came to a happy end; but not all are so fortunate in life. Here only faith can help us to realize that nothing that takes place in our lives happens by chance. Everything has a place in God's providence.

The story of Joseph teaches us to trust in providence, to stand for truth and justice even at great risk, to love the enemies, and to meet evil with good.

Joseph was the first child born to Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel. With the birth of her second child, Rachel died. Jacob loved Joseph the most made his brothers jealous.

Joseph, it is a gift for your seventeenth birthday gift. It's made in Egypt.



See Father cares
only for him.

We are to work
like slaves.




The next morning

!!

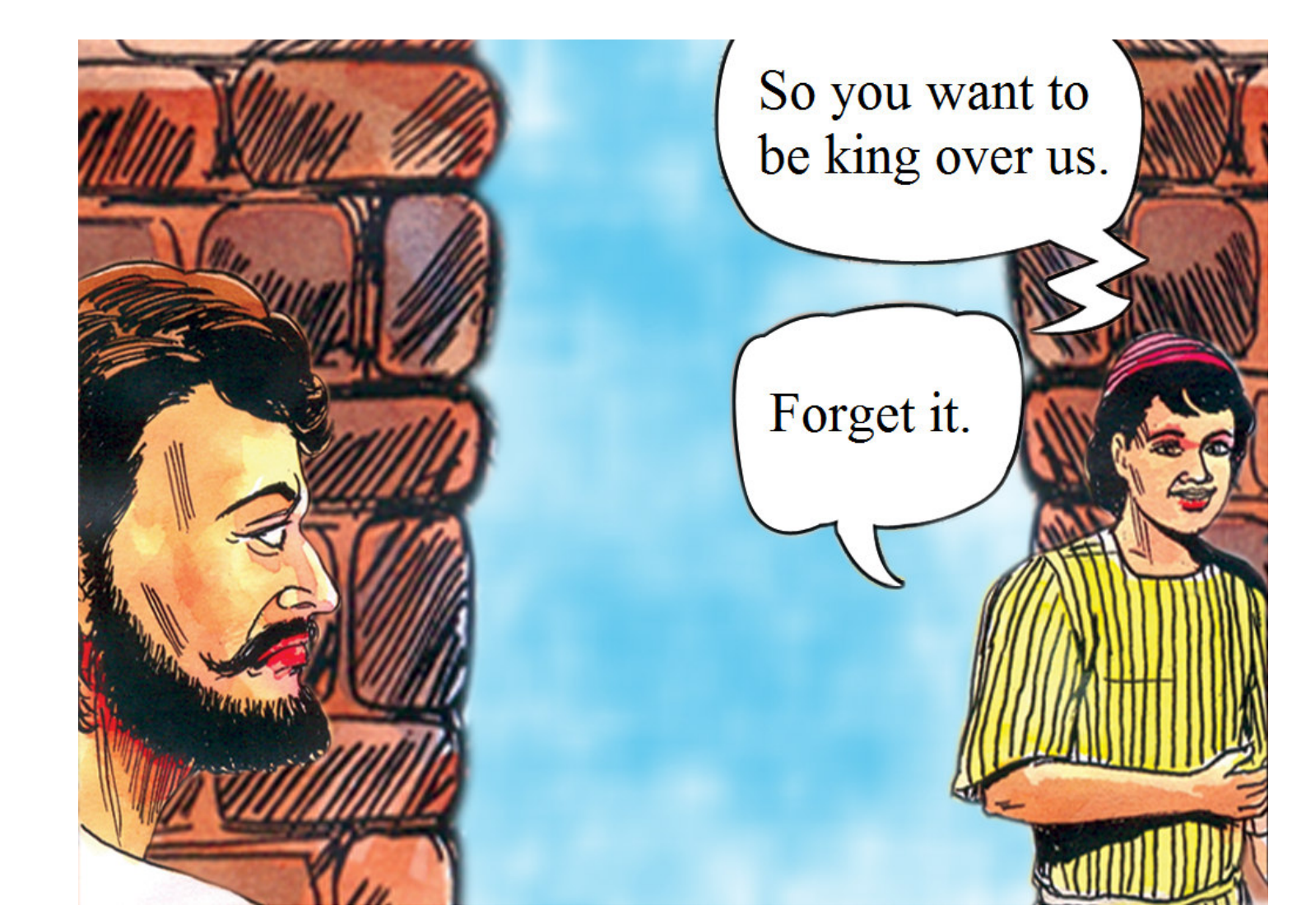
I had a dream. We were binding sheaves in the field.





Then my sheaf stood upright, your sheaves gathered round and bowed to my sheaf.





So you want to be king over us.

Forget it.

Another Day

I had another dream. I saw the moon and eleven stars bowing to me.

!?

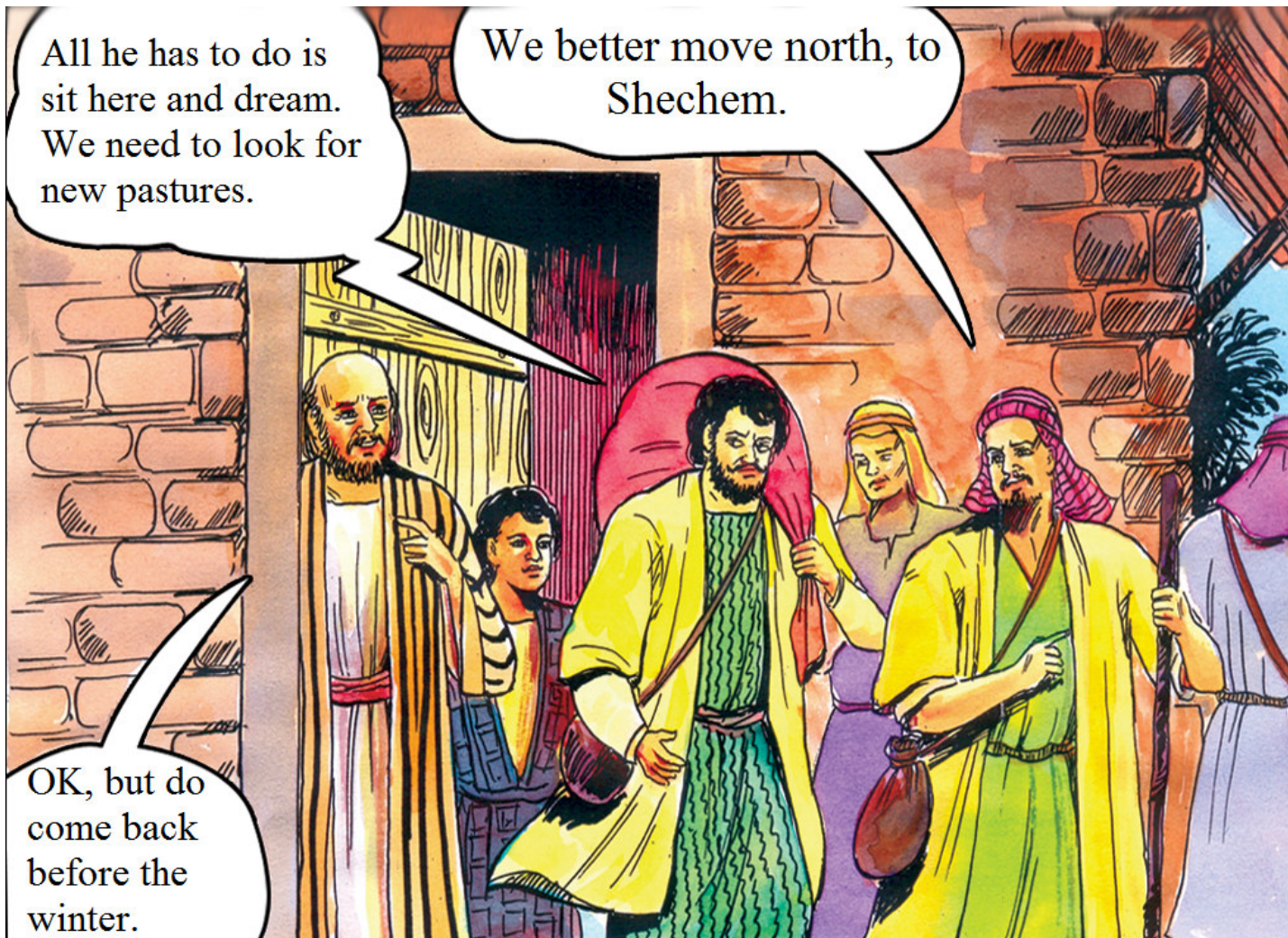
What? You want me also bow to you?



All he has to do is sit here and dream. We need to look for new pastures.

We better move north, to Shechem.

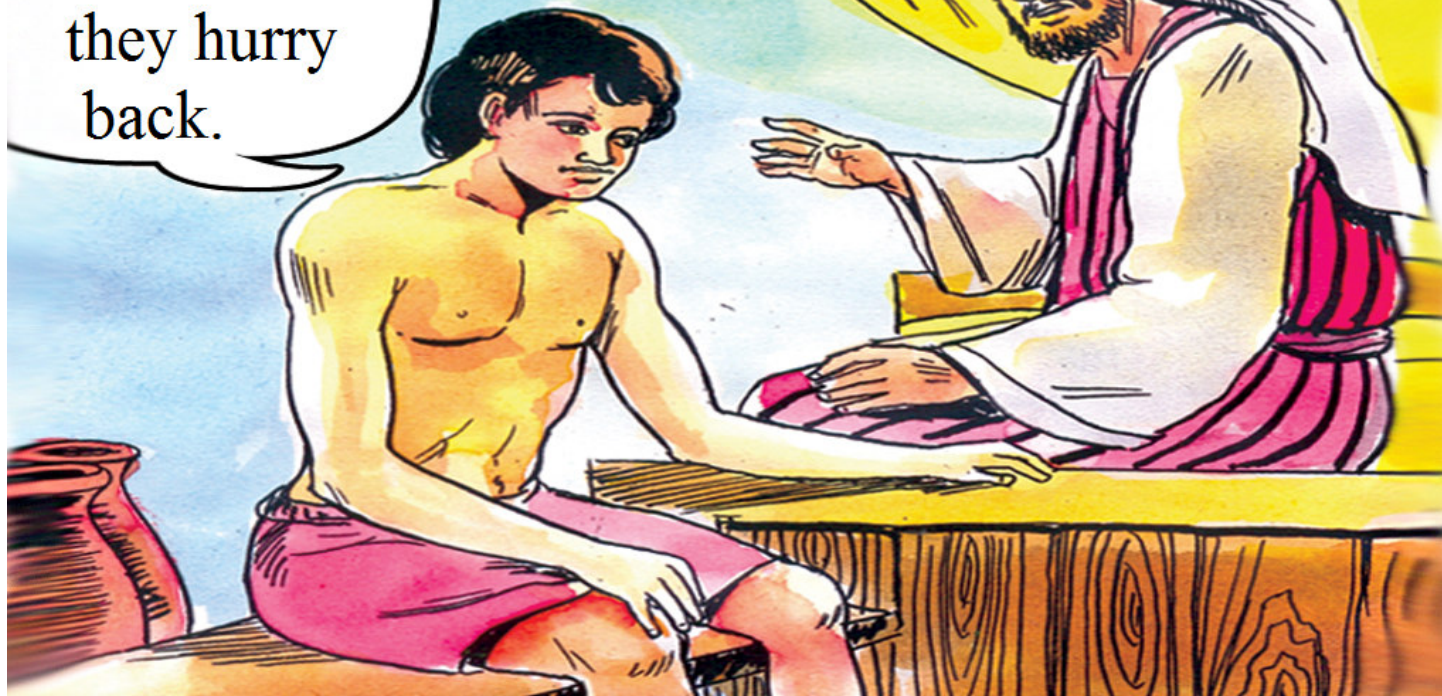
OK, but do come back before the winter.



Joseph, I am worried about
your brothers.

Will you go and see
how they are
doing?

No grass
around even if
they hurry
back.



Sure, I shall go
in the morning.

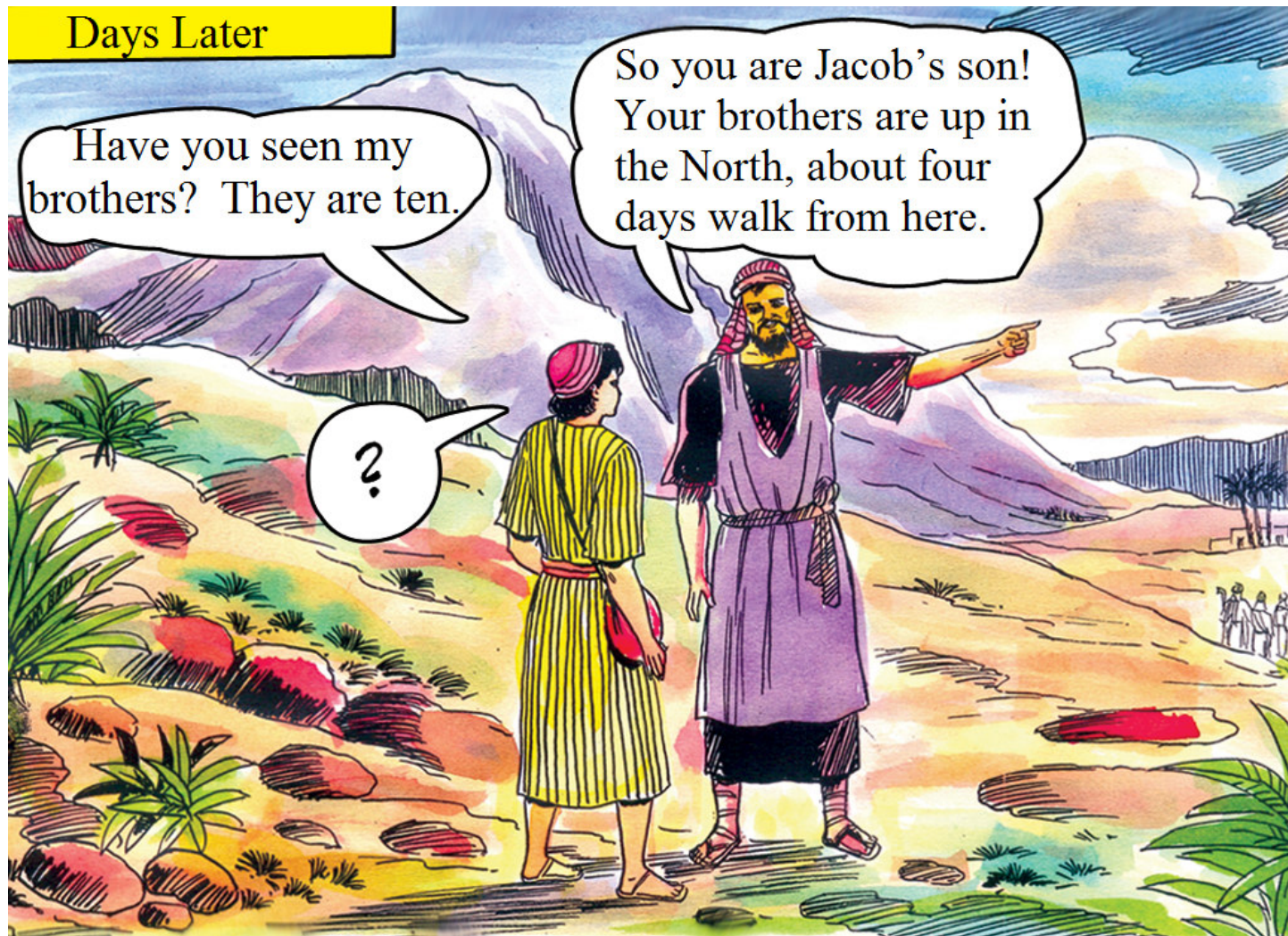


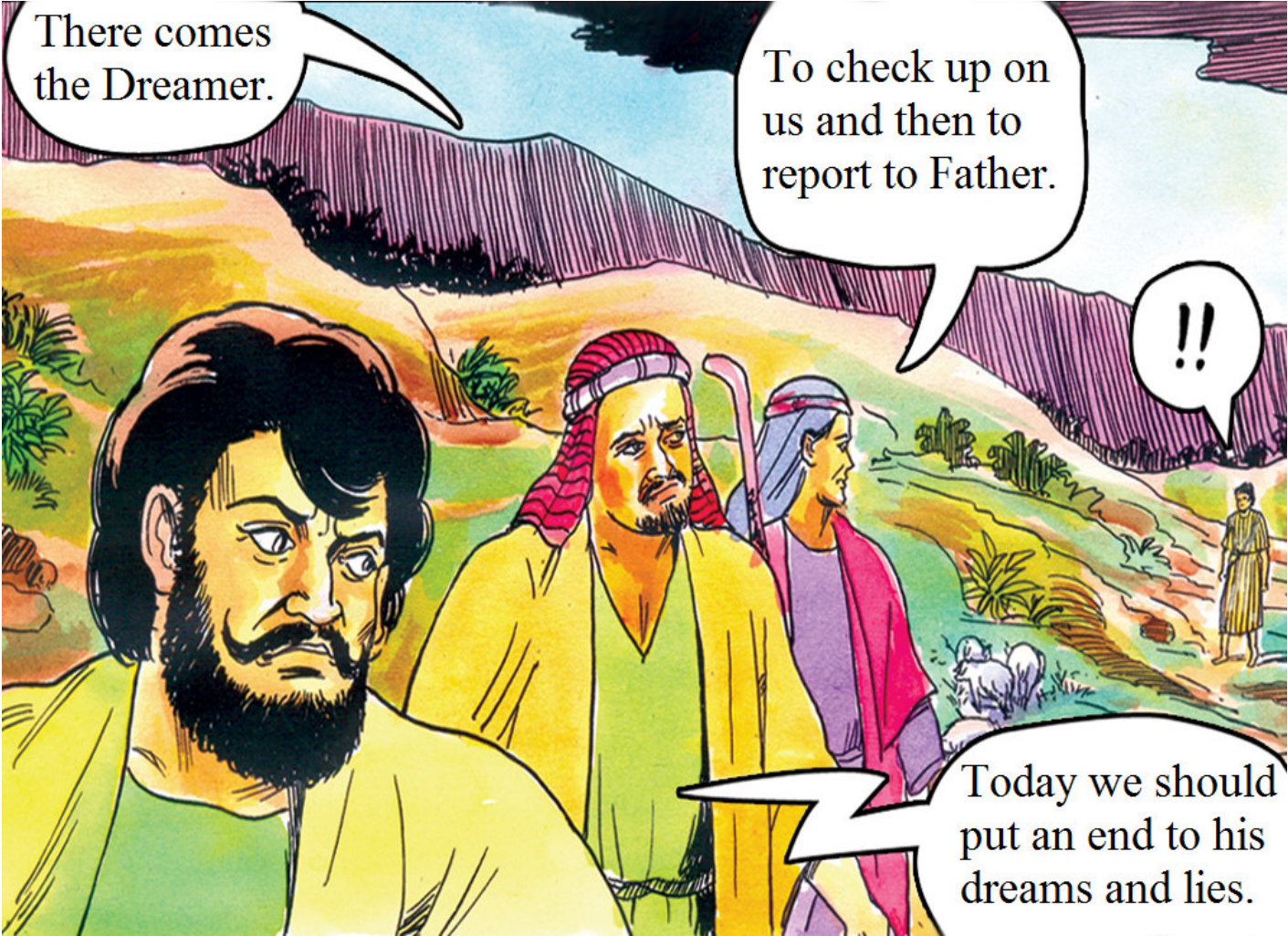
Days Later

Have you seen my brothers? They are ten.

So you are Jacob's son!
Your brothers are up in
the North, about four
days walk from here.

?





There comes
the Dreamer.

To check up on
us and then to
report to Father.

!!


Today we should
put an end to his
dreams and lies.

Come on, let us have a closer look at your Birthday gift, made in Egypt. Just for being Father's pet!

Take it off and let's check if it's good for others too or just for him.

!?





Let us hear your dreams again. May be there are new ones too!

Let me go, I can't breath!

Please don't..

Stop it!



What are you up to? Are you going to kill our brother?

It is not safe for us to let him live.



We mustn't kill him. Let us throw in that well.

Brother, please don't hurt me.

Shut up! Don't say another word!




Sweet Dreams!
You will have
good company
there.

Do let us know if you have
a new Dream.

?!

!!





I am glad that they
did not kill him. Tonight
I will send him back to
Father. Poor kid!

There come some
Medianite merchants.

Let's sell the dreamer to them.
We won't be accused of killing
our brother. Besides, we'll get
a few pennies.

!



They sold Joseph to the Medianites for twenty pieces of silver. They took him to Egypt as a slave.

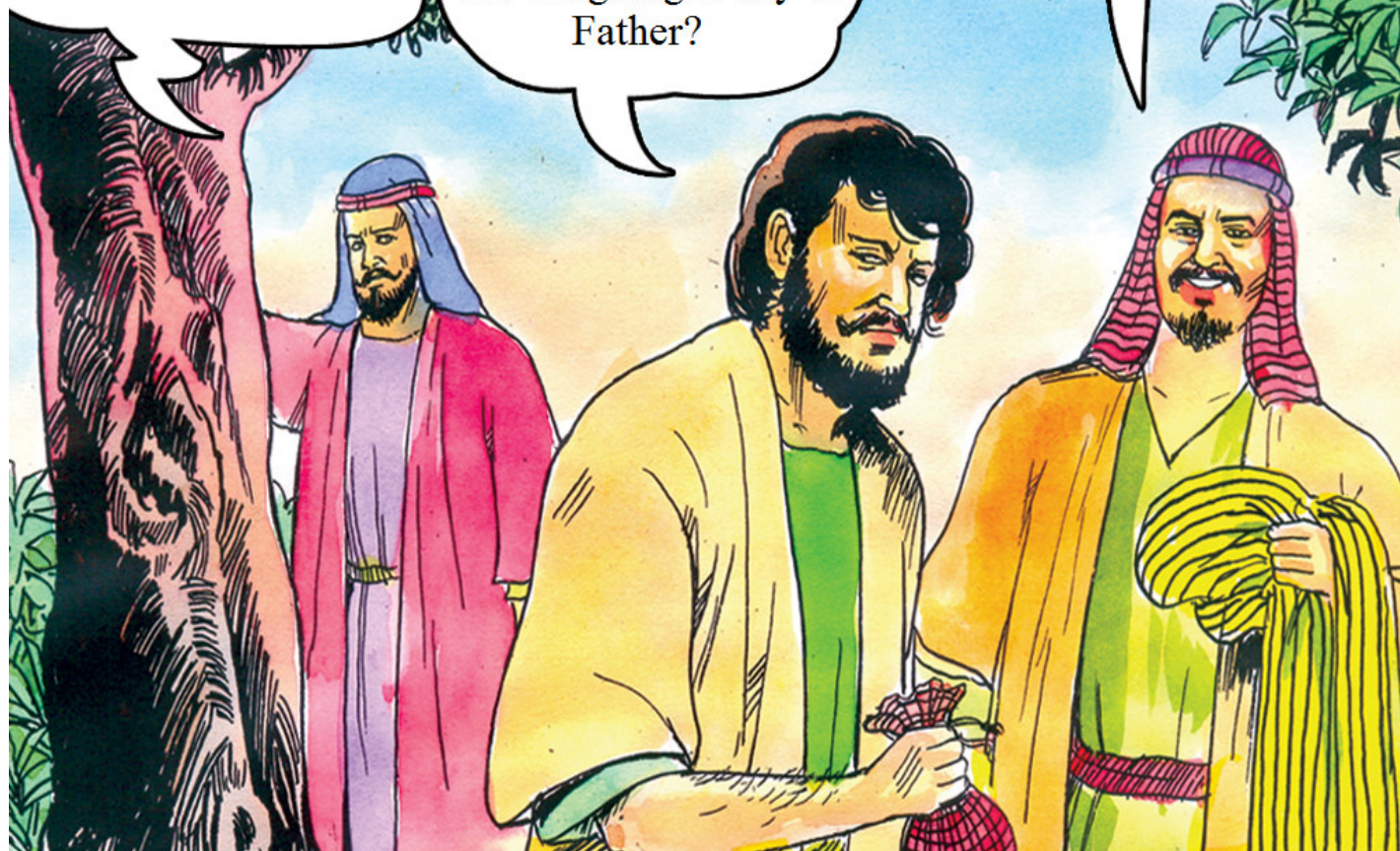
Stop crying and start walking. If you try to escape I'll break your leg.



How could you sell
your own brother?

Better, he should have
been killed. Now what
are we going to say to
Father?

Don't worry,
we can make
up a story.



They dipped Joseph's coat in the blood of a goat and took it to their Father.

We found this along the way.

We thought it might be Joseph's.

?



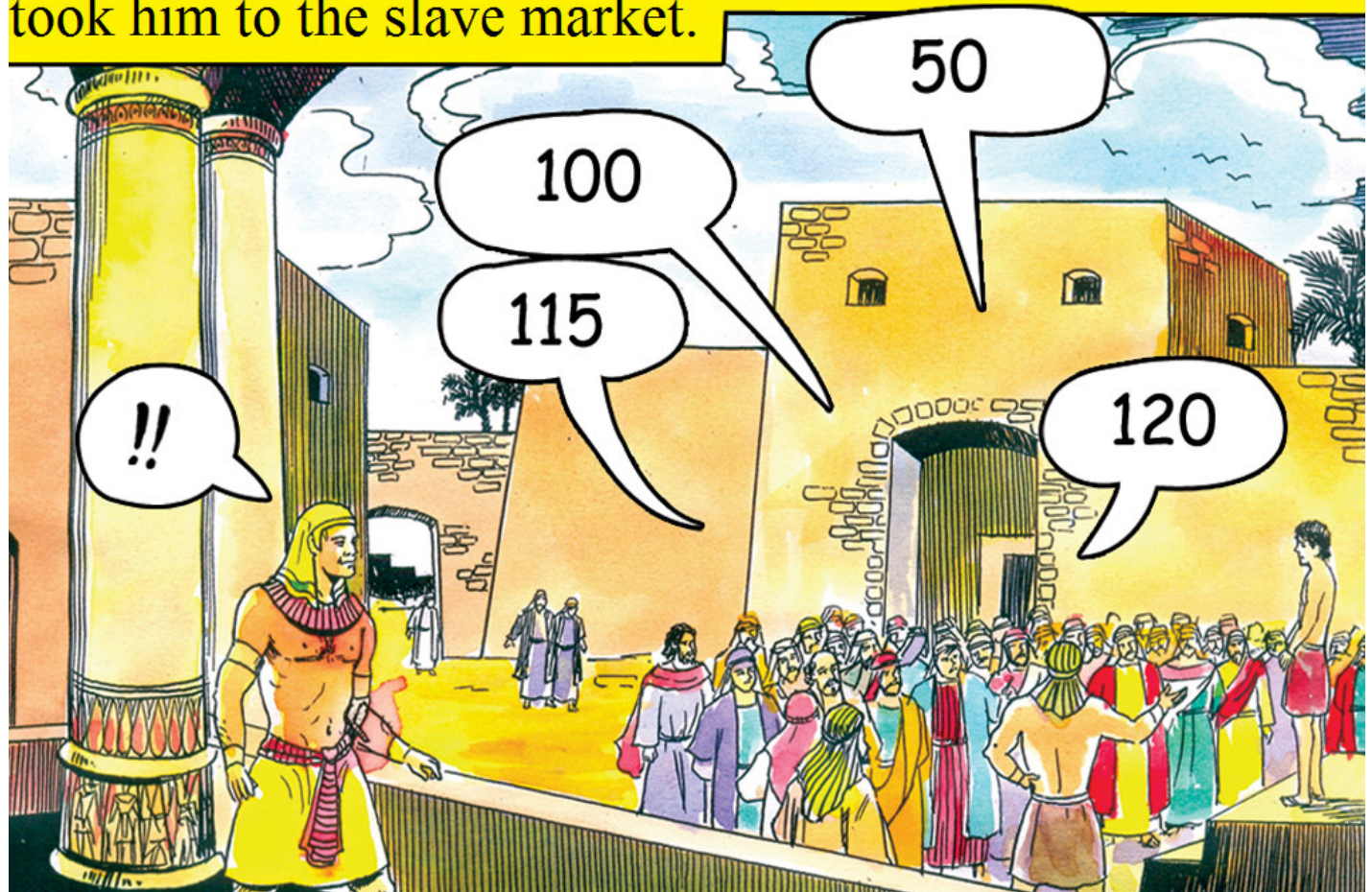
Oh! My son, I sent you off
to be the prey of some
wild beast.



My Son, apple of my
eye!



Months later the Medianites reached Egypt. They took him to the slave market.



130

300

300 pieces of silver.

!!?

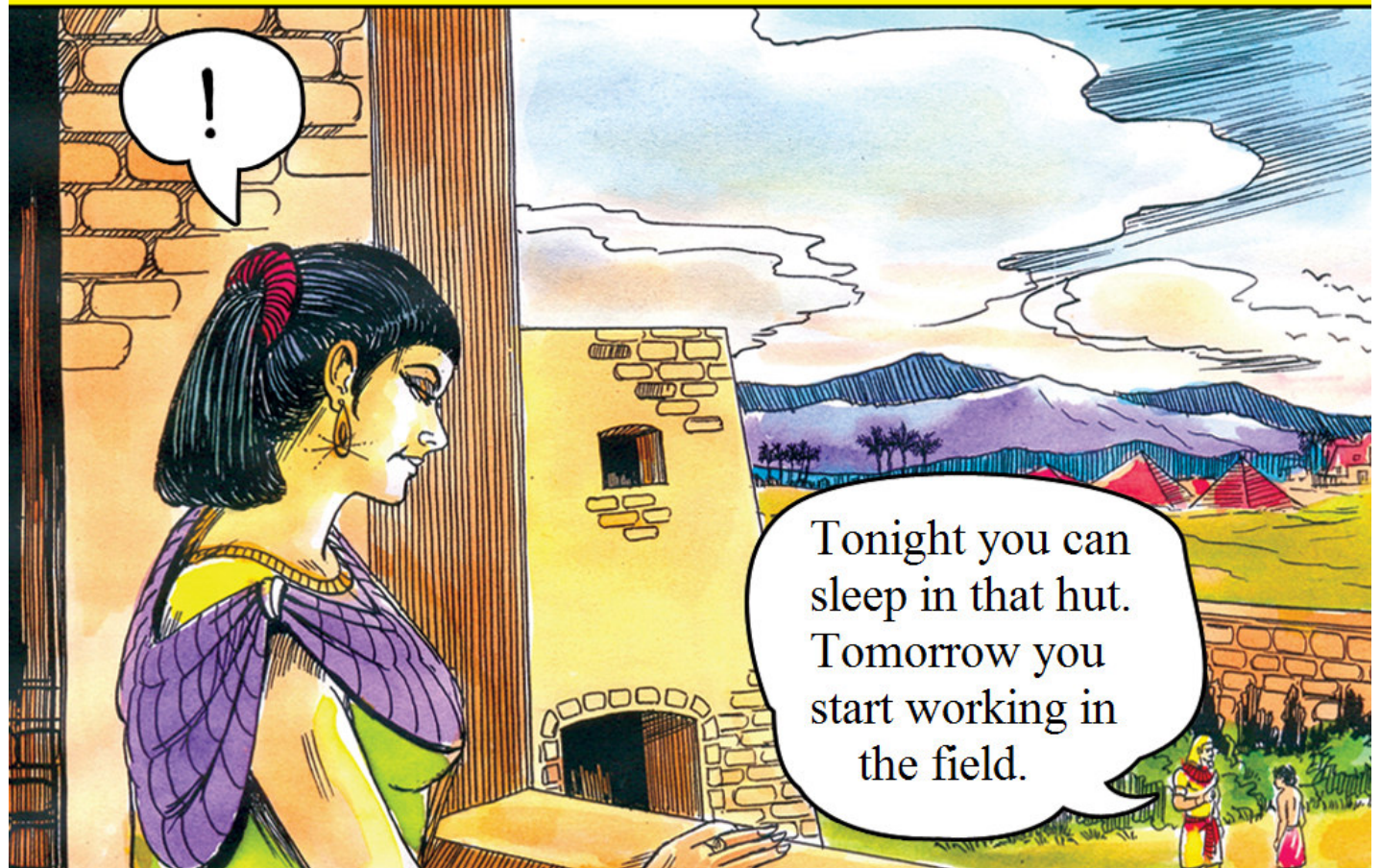
!!!



Potiphar, the commander of the Royal guards bought Joseph.



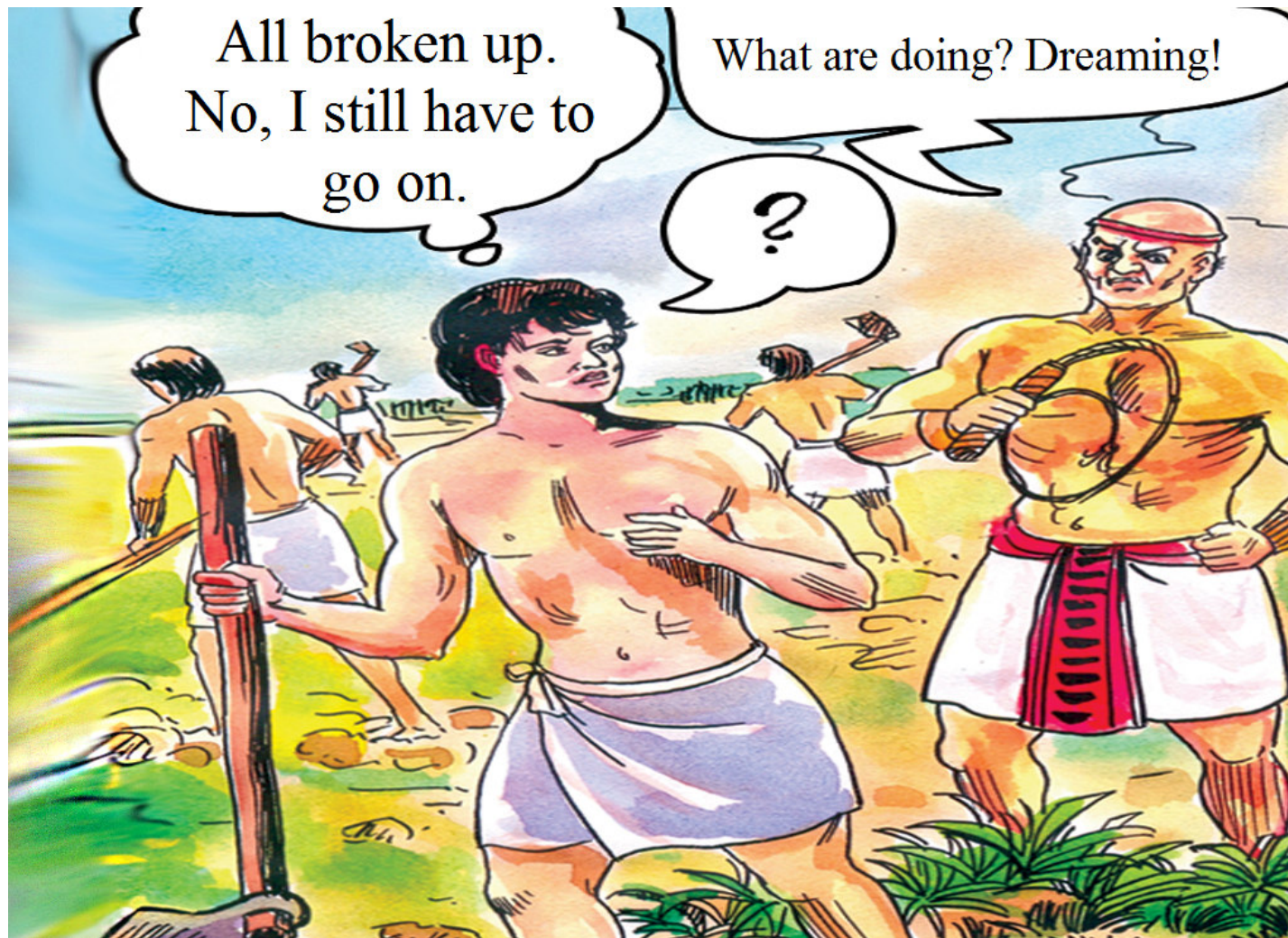
Joseph told the whole story to Potiphar.



All broken up.
No, I still have to
go on.

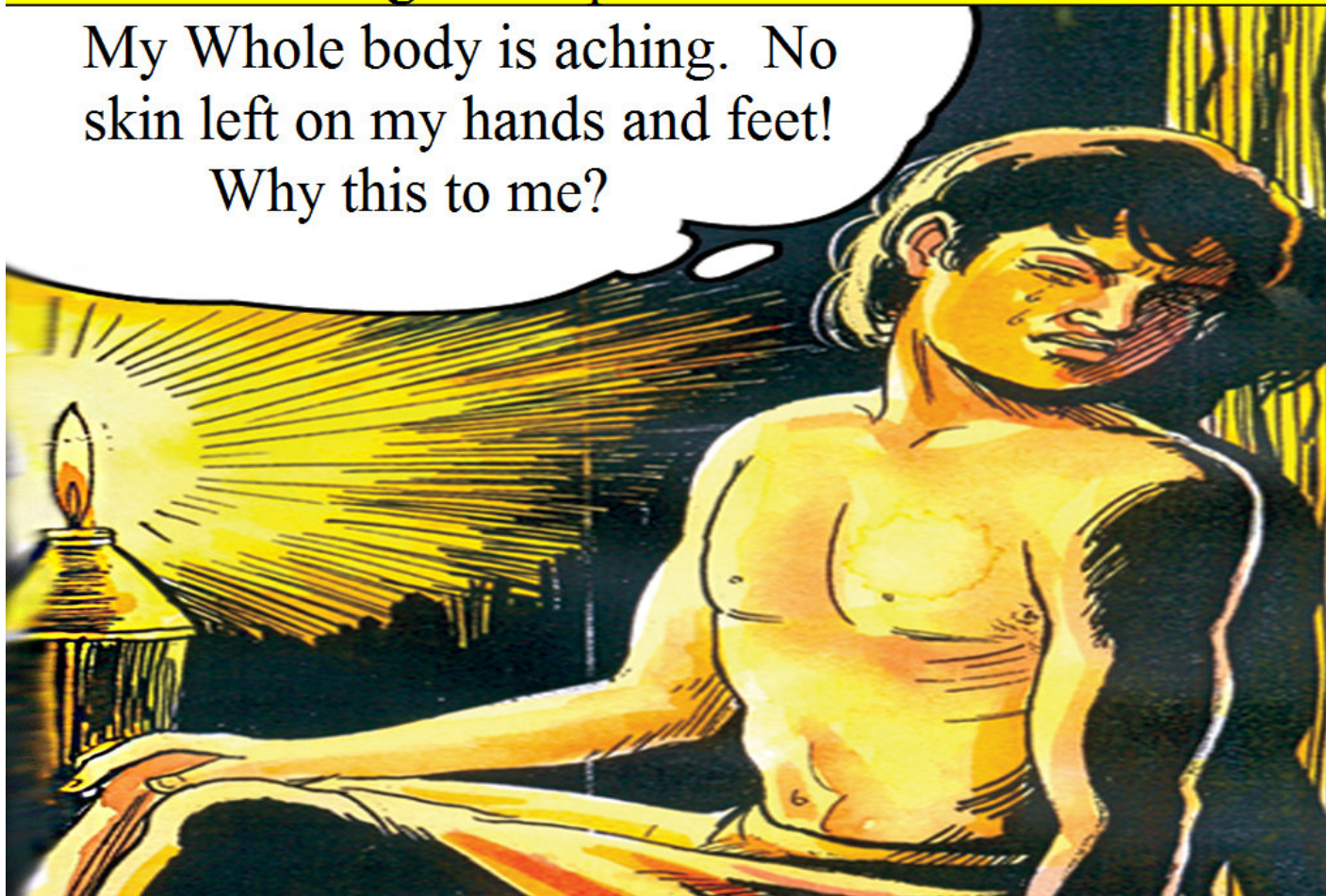
What are doing? Dreaming!

?



That night Joseph in his hut.

My Whole body is aching. No
skin left on my hands and feet!
Why this to me?



Was it my fault that Father
loved me? If mother was
alive! Well...



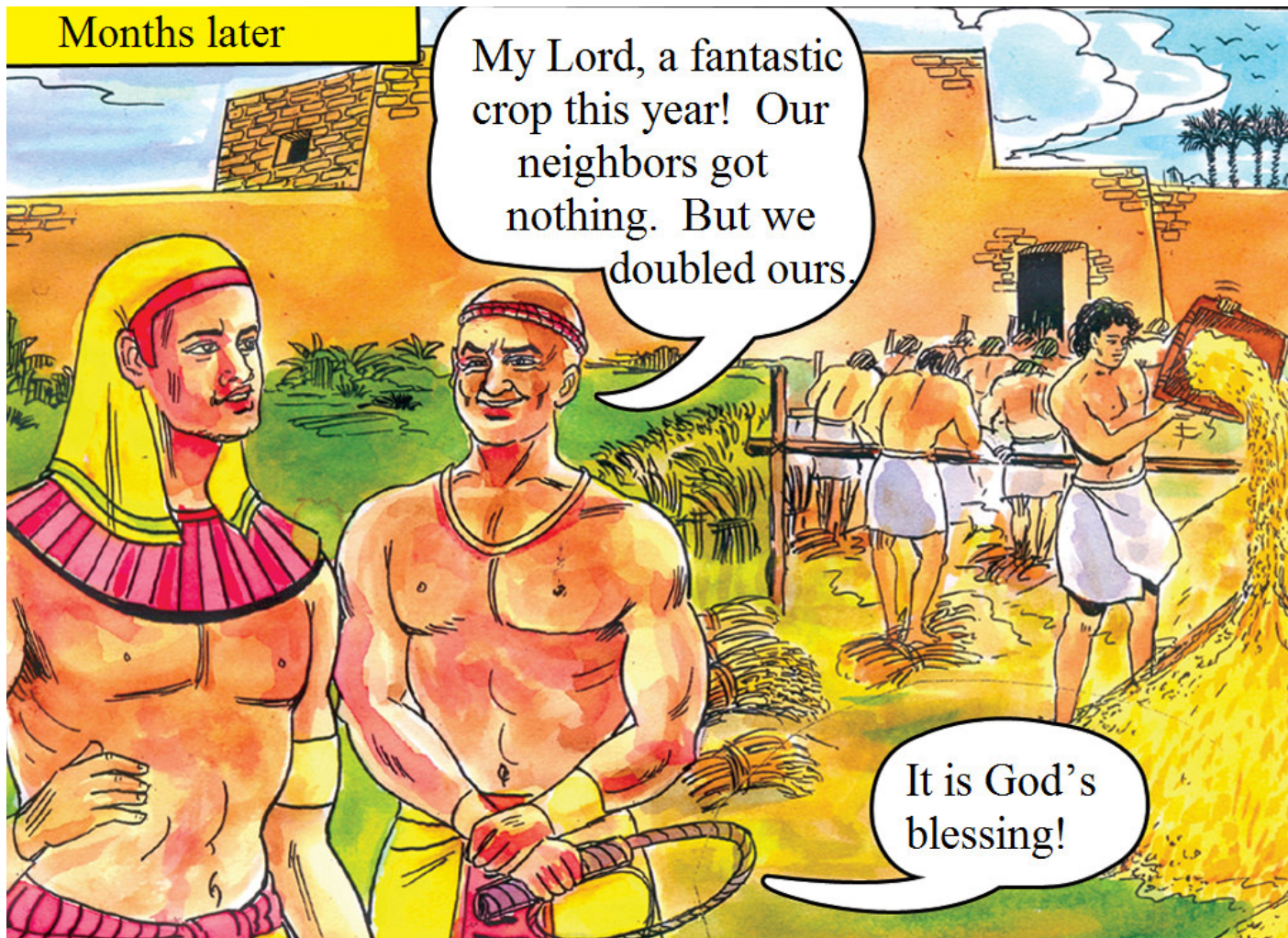
No use of crying. Come what may.

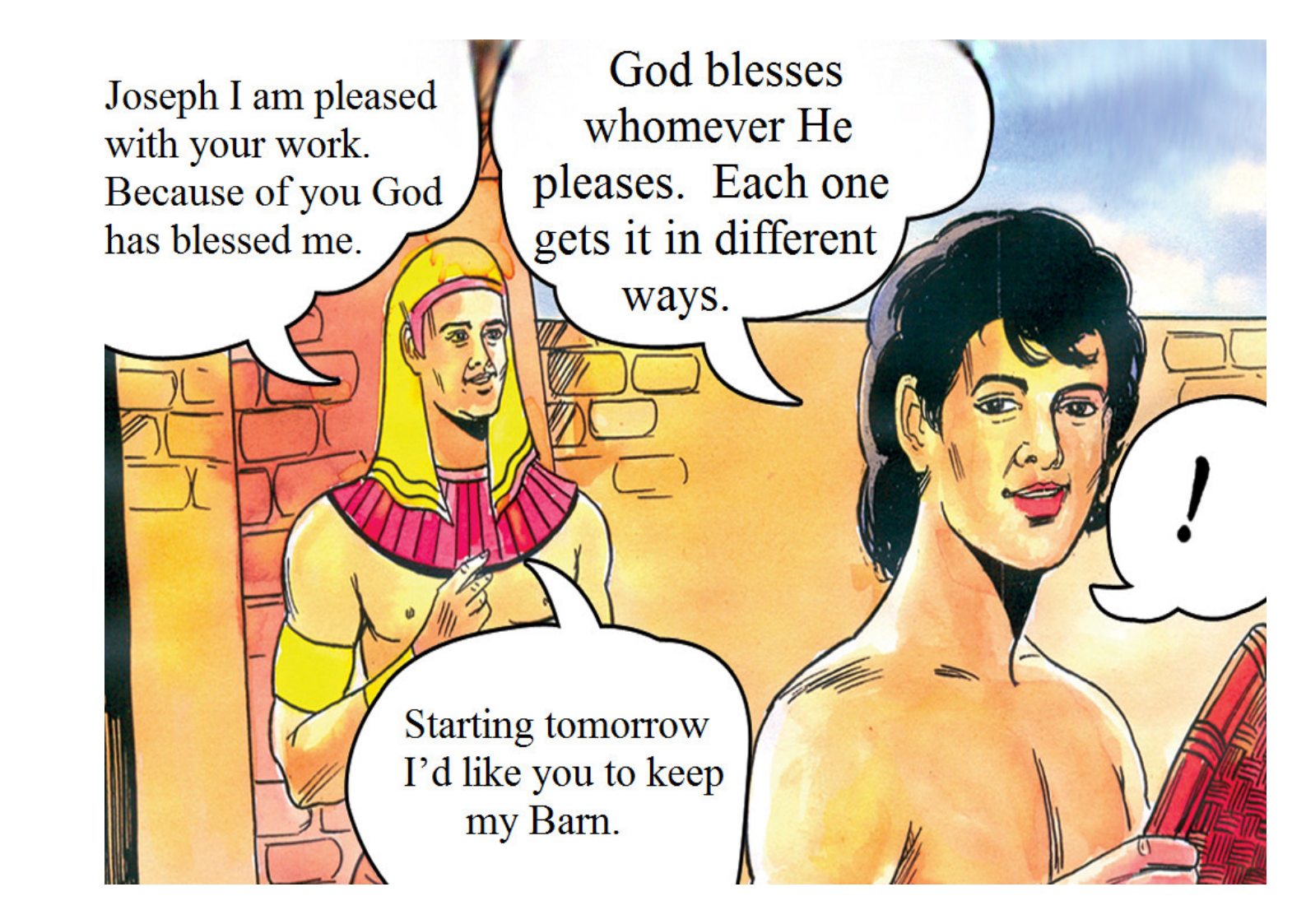


Months later

My Lord, a fantastic crop this year! Our neighbors got nothing. But we doubled ours.

It is God's blessing!





Joseph I am pleased
with your work.
Because of you God
has blessed me.

God blesses
whomever He
pleases. Each one
gets it in different
ways.

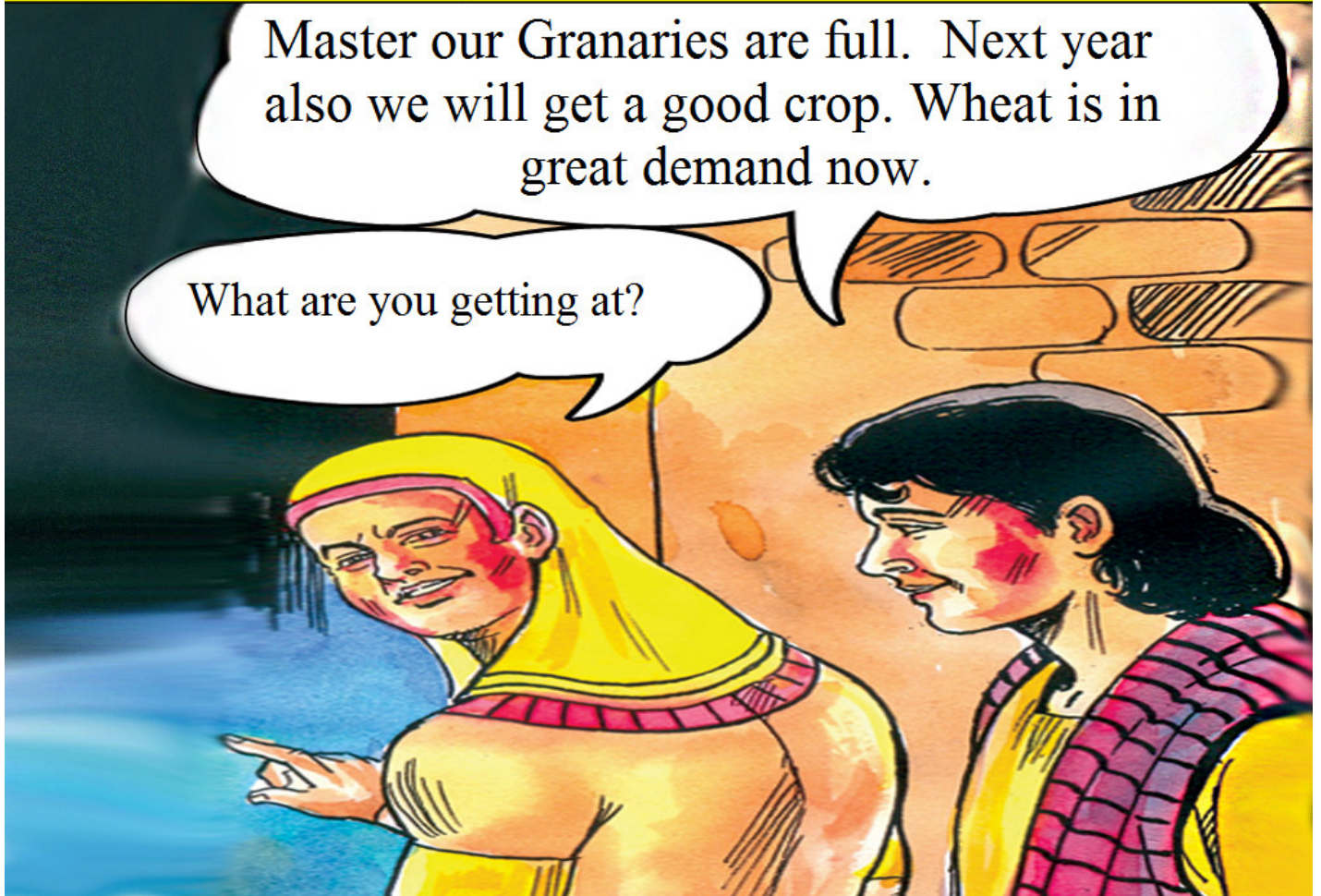
Starting tomorrow
I'd like you to keep
my Barn.

!

A year later

Master our Granaries are full. Next year also we will get a good crop. Wheat is in great demand now.

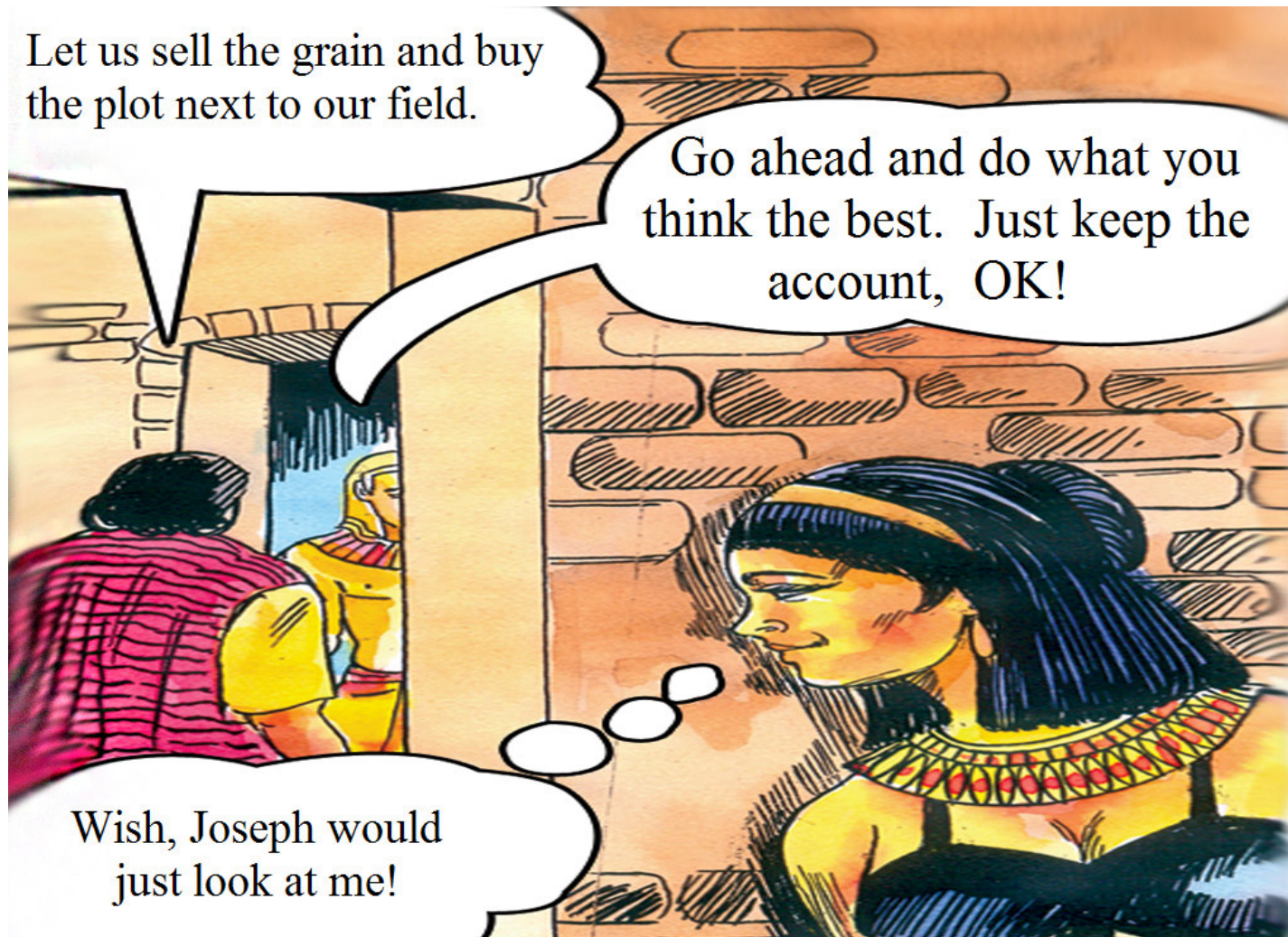
What are you getting at?



Let us sell the grain and buy
the plot next to our field.

Go ahead and do what you
think the best. Just keep the
account, OK!

Wish, Joseph would
just look at me!

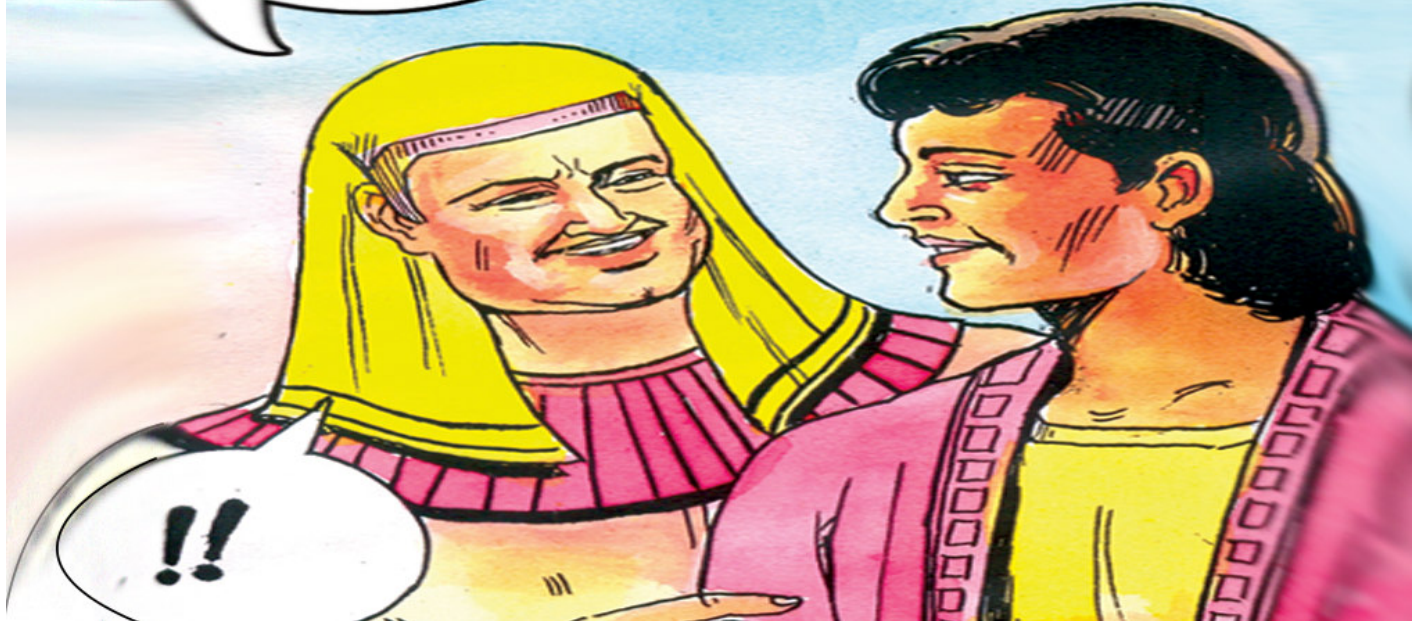


Years passed. God blessed Joseph and he succeeded in everything he did.

Joseph, from now on you are going to be in charge of my household.

As you wish my Master.

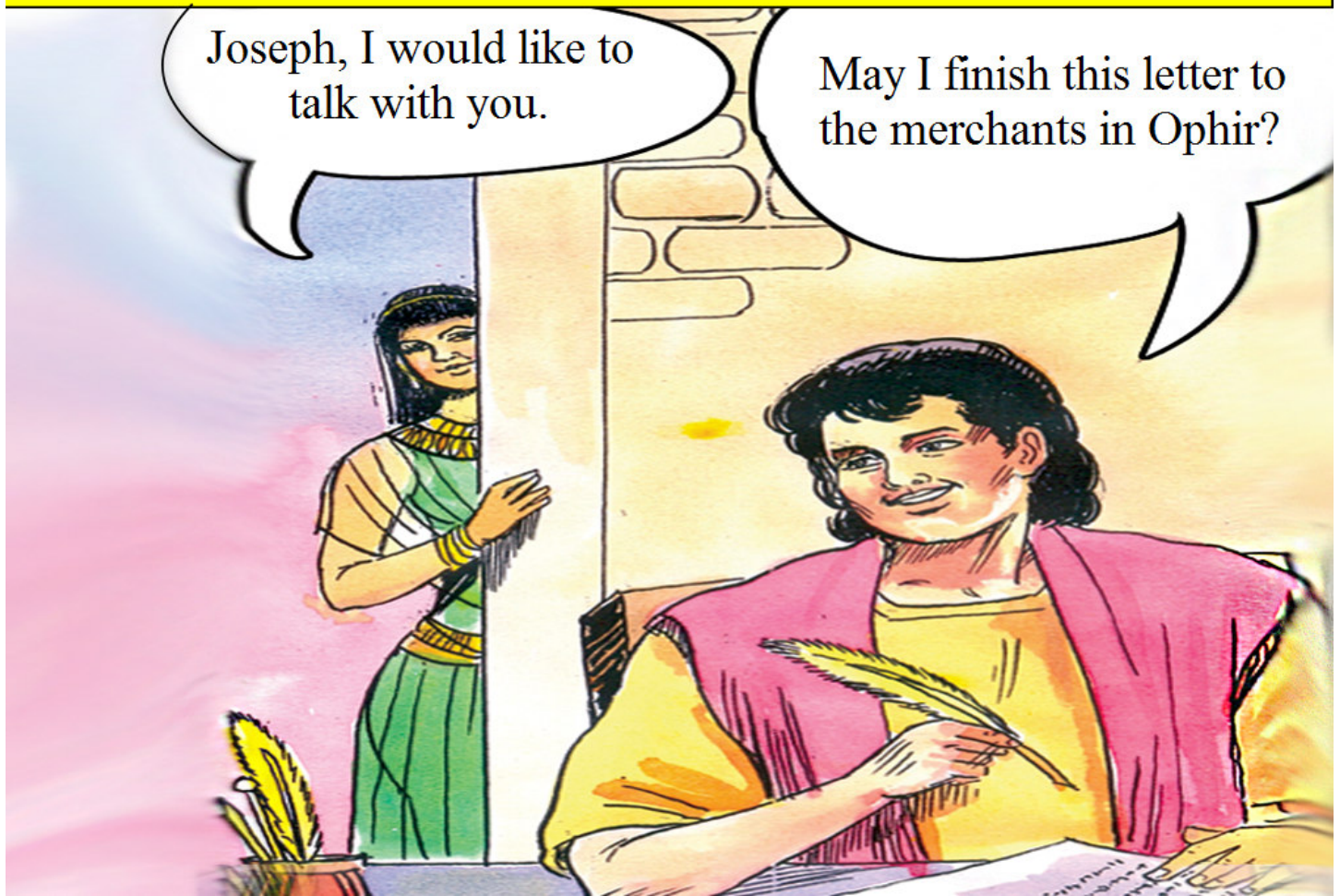
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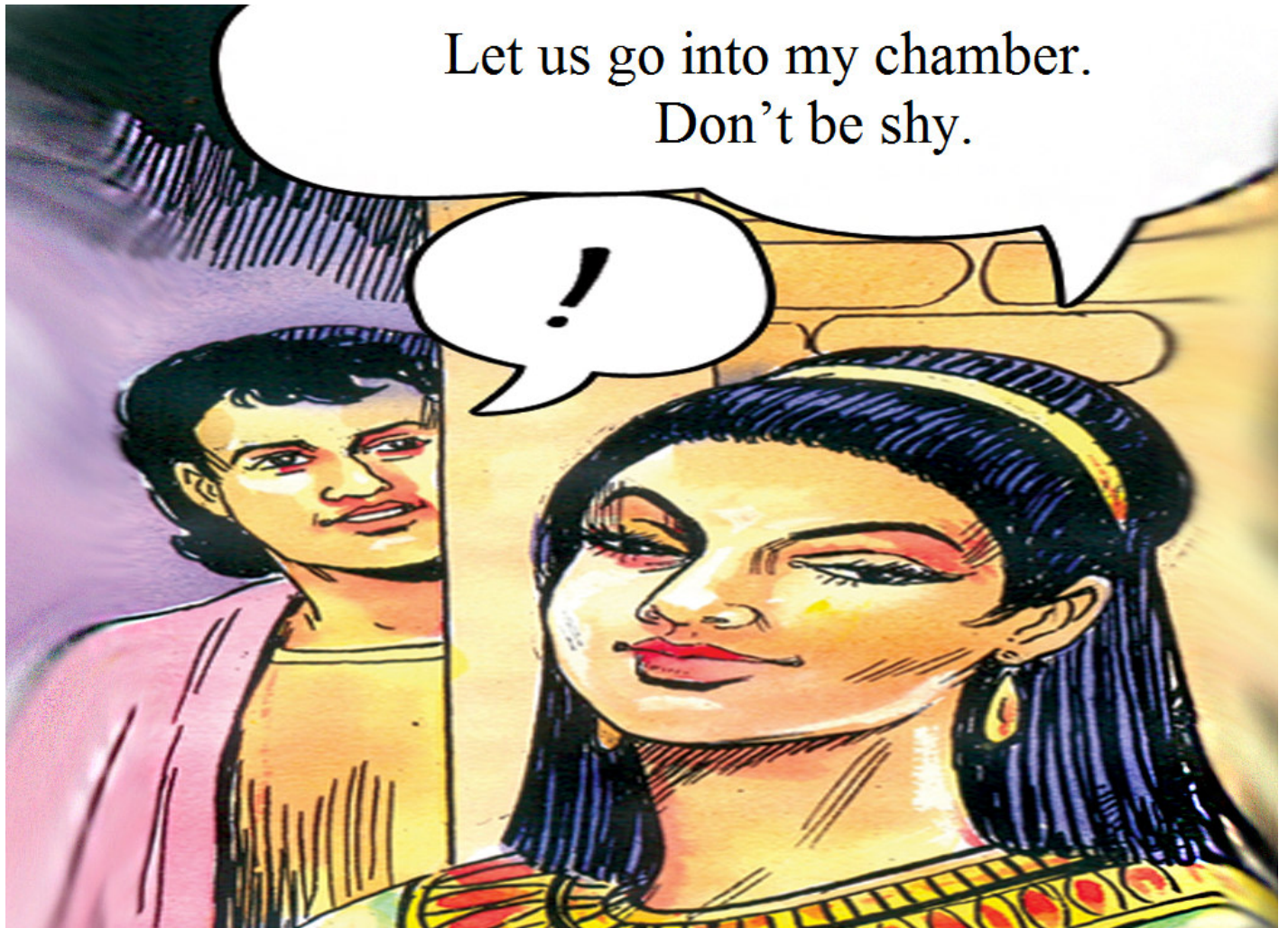
One day, Potiphar's wife.

Joseph, I would like to talk with you.

May I finish this letter to the merchants in Ophir?



Let us go into my chamber.
Don't be shy.



Come on in.

What is the matter?



Joseph, I'm tired of this life.
My husband is a great man,
but he has not time for me.

Master is busy with many
things. But he is so kind.



I want love.

Joseph.....



Joseph left his tunic there
and escaped.

Joseph...

Don't.

!!?



Stupid! I'll make him
pay for this.



When Potiphar returned.

Dear, what happened?

That stupid
Hebrew slave!

You mean Joseph?
What?



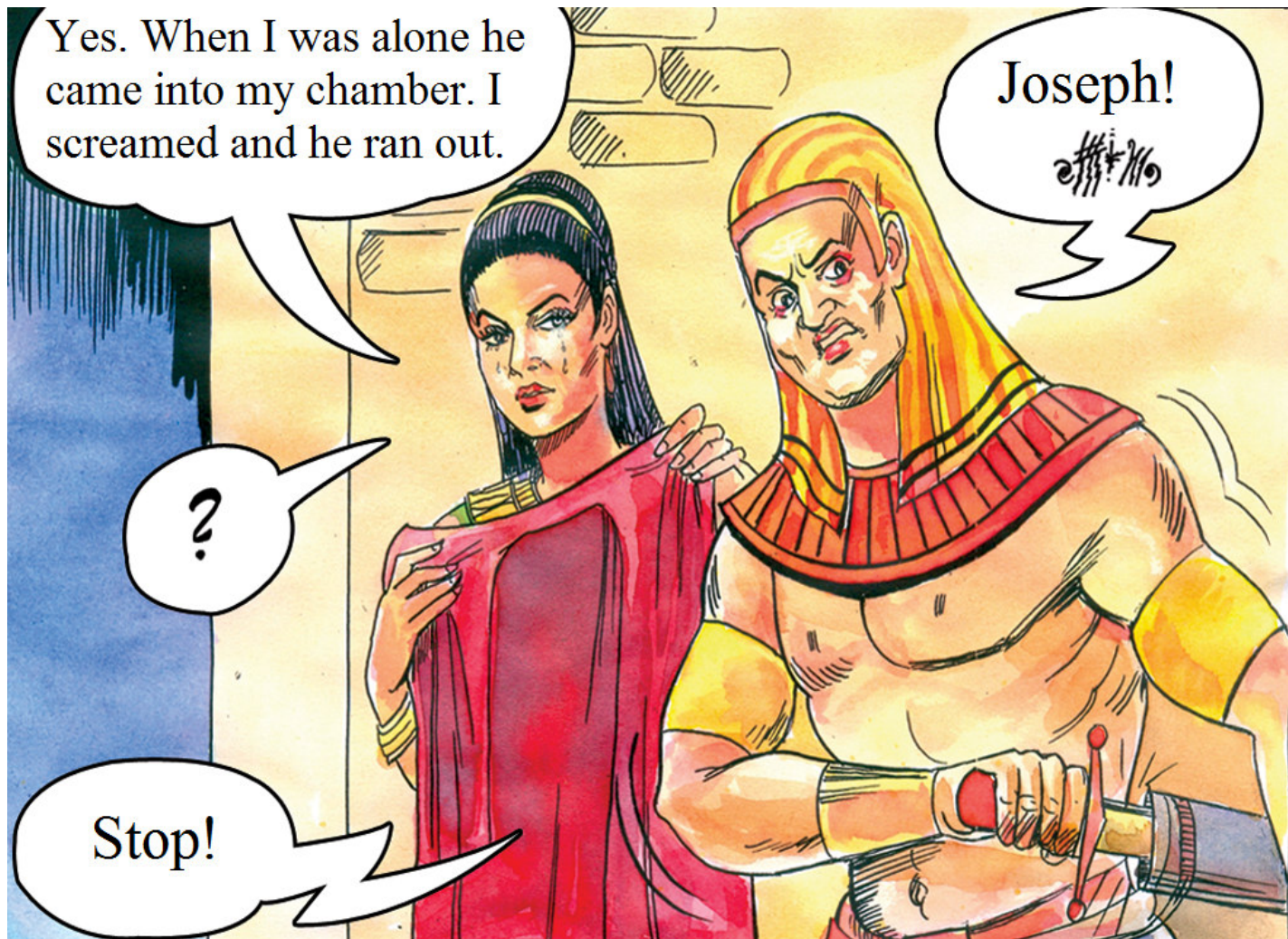
Yes. When I was alone he came into my chamber. I screamed and he ran out.

Joseph!

Joseph!

?

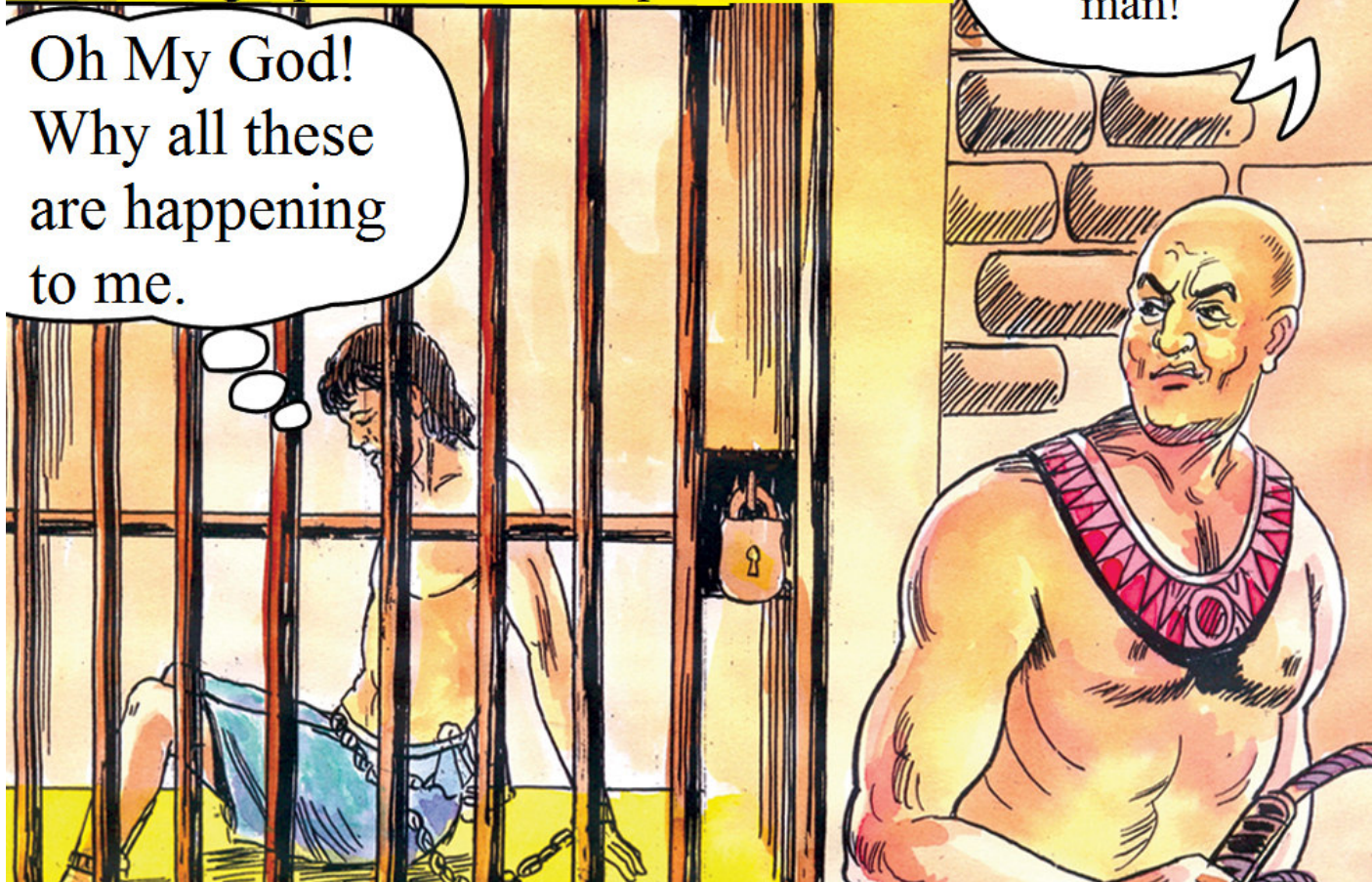
Stop!



Potiphar put Joseph in the prison where the king's prisoners were kept.

Oh My God!
Why all these
are happening
to me.

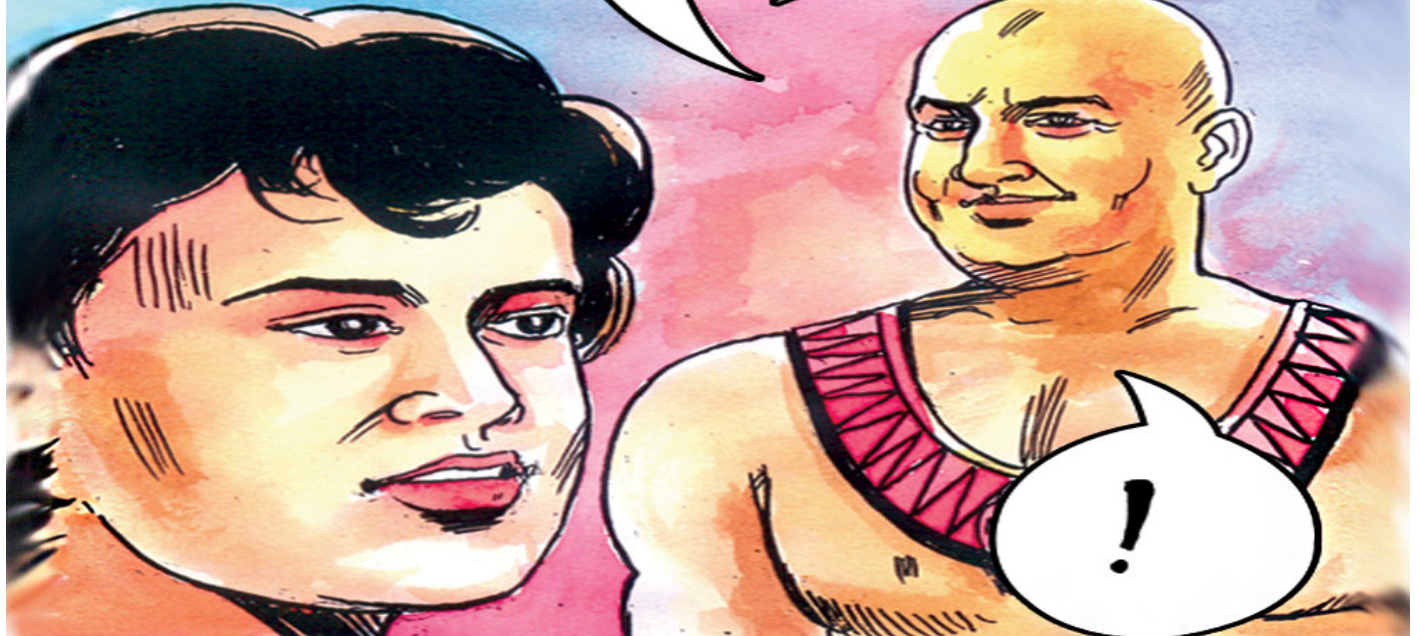
Stop grumbling
man!

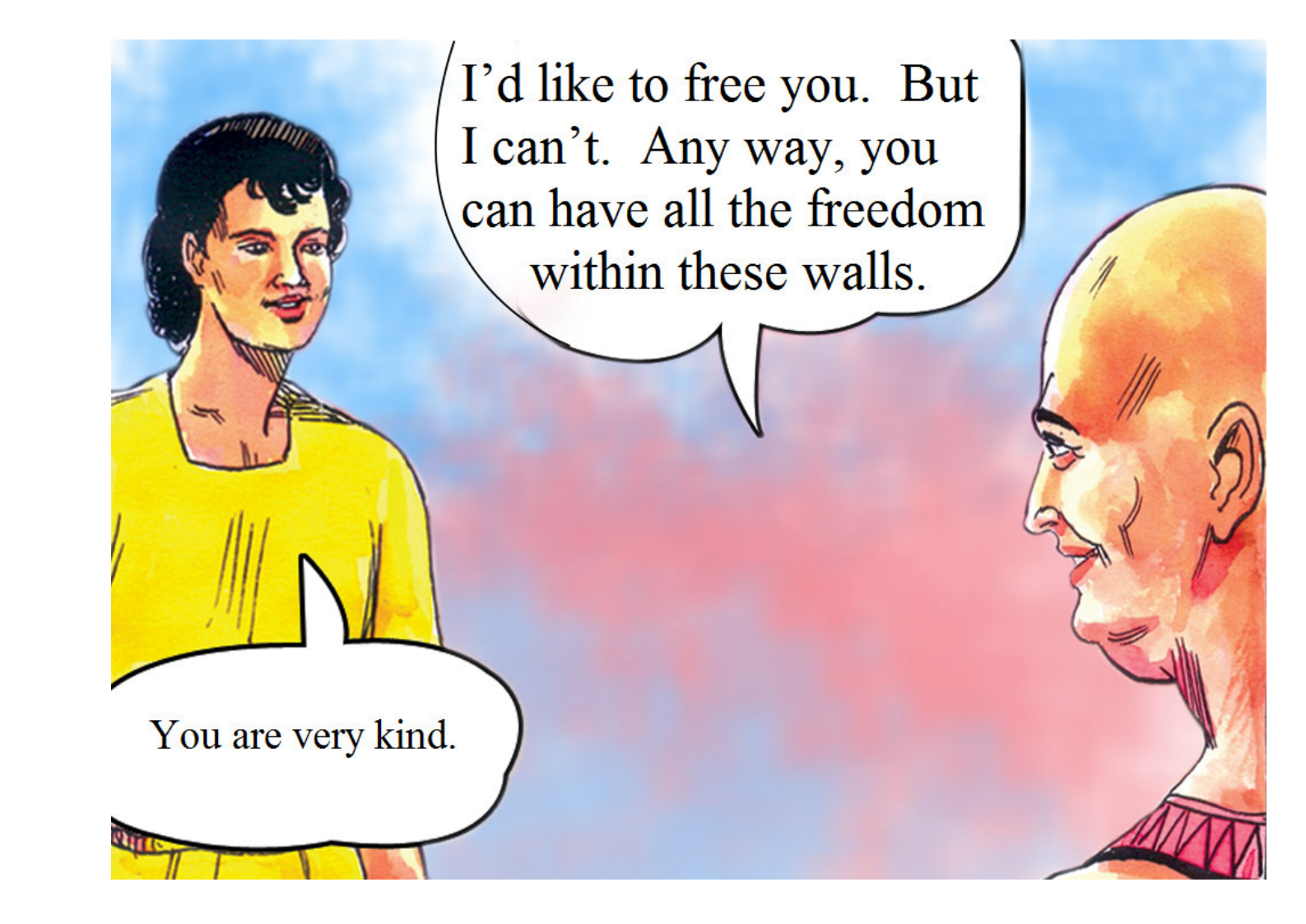


Days went by the chief jailer liked Joseph.

She is a witch. What to do! Wife
the Chief Commander.

God will protect the
innocent.





I'd like to free you. But I can't. Any way, you can have all the freedom within these walls.

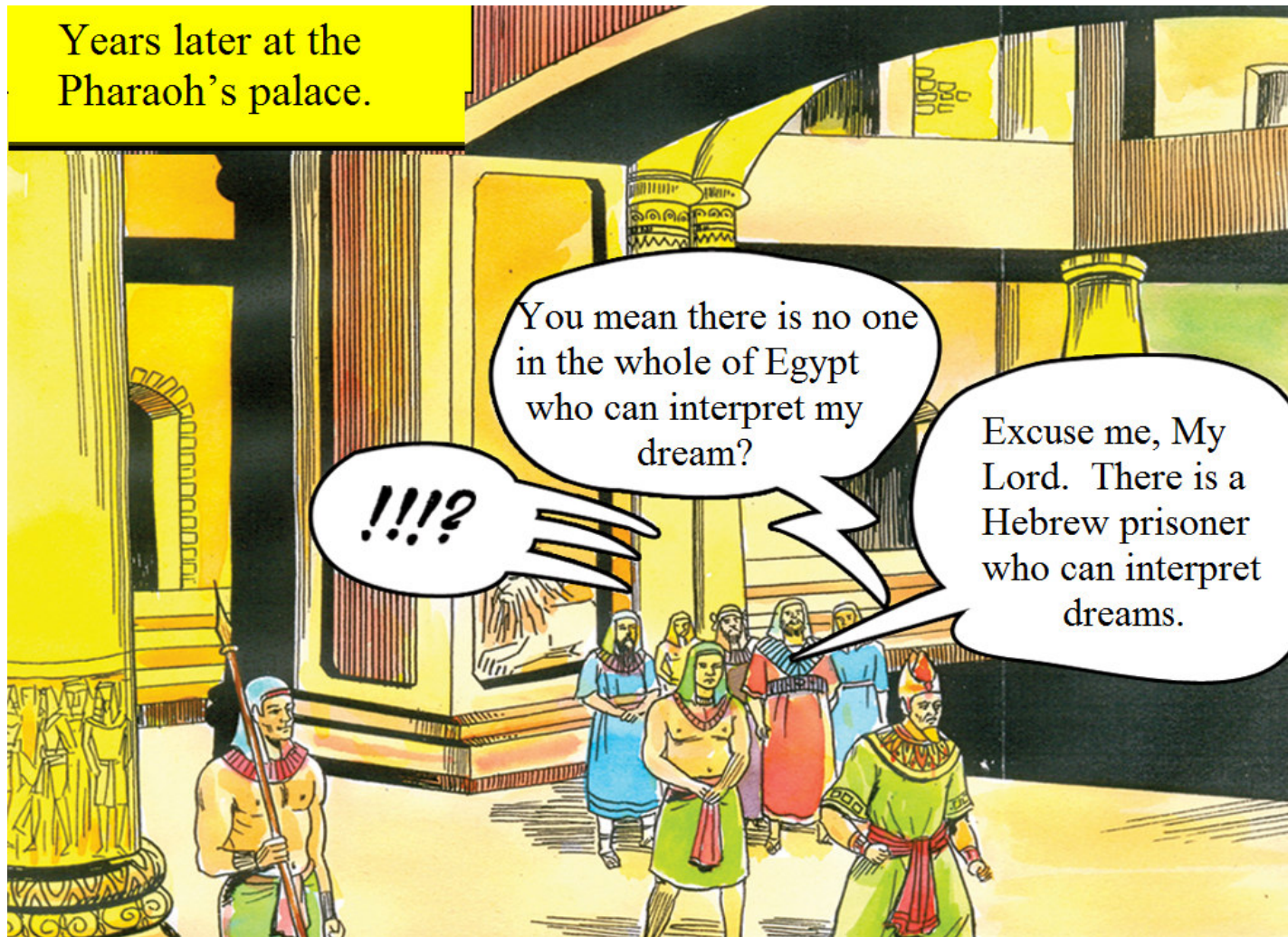
You are very kind.

Years later at the Pharaoh's palace.

You mean there is no one in the whole of Egypt who can interpret my dream?

!!!?

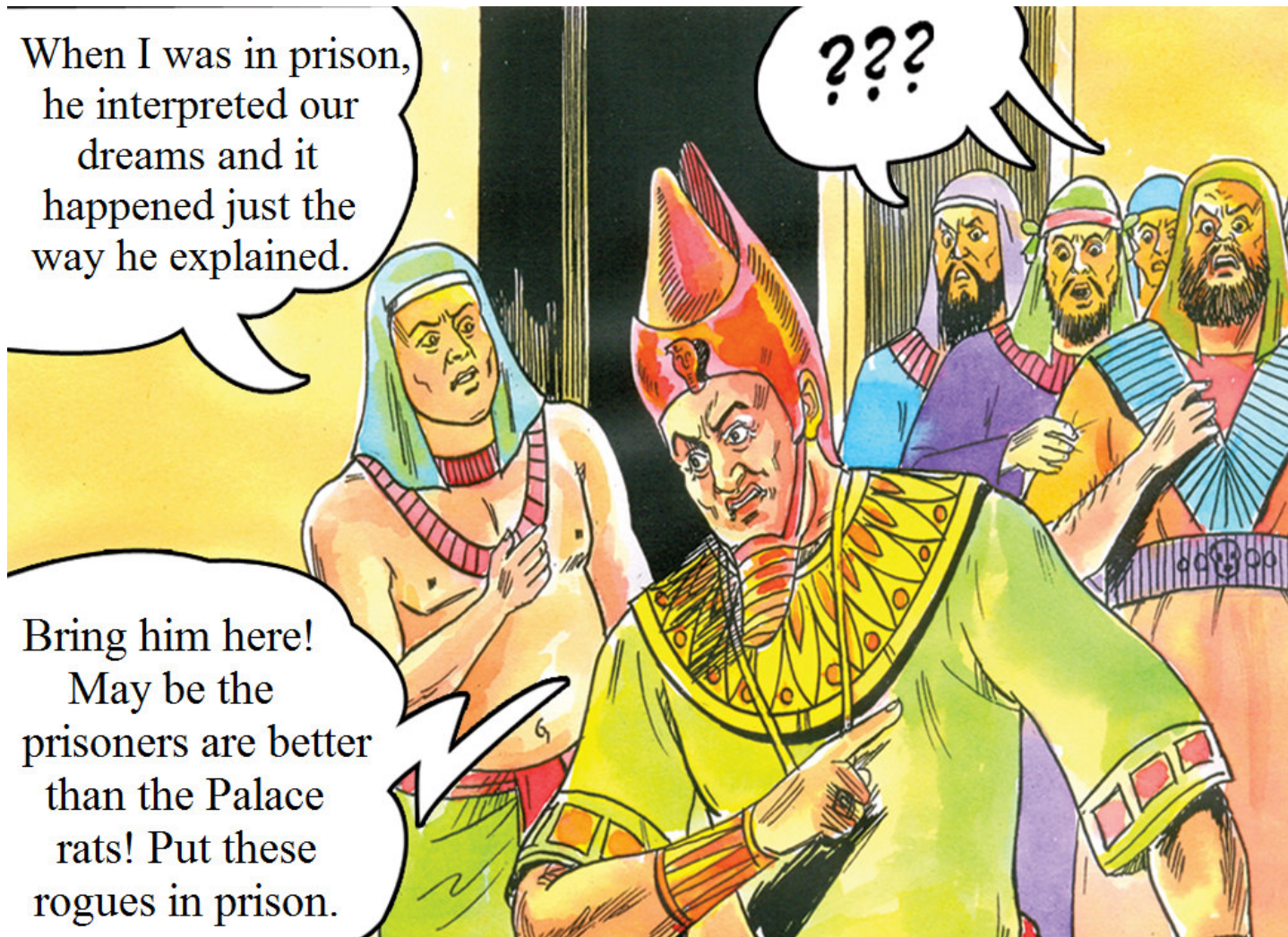
Excuse me, My Lord. There is a Hebrew prisoner who can interpret dreams.



When I was in prison,
he interpreted our
dreams and it
happened just the
way he explained.

Bring him here!
Maybe the
prisoners are better
than the Palace
rats! Put these
rogues in prison.

???

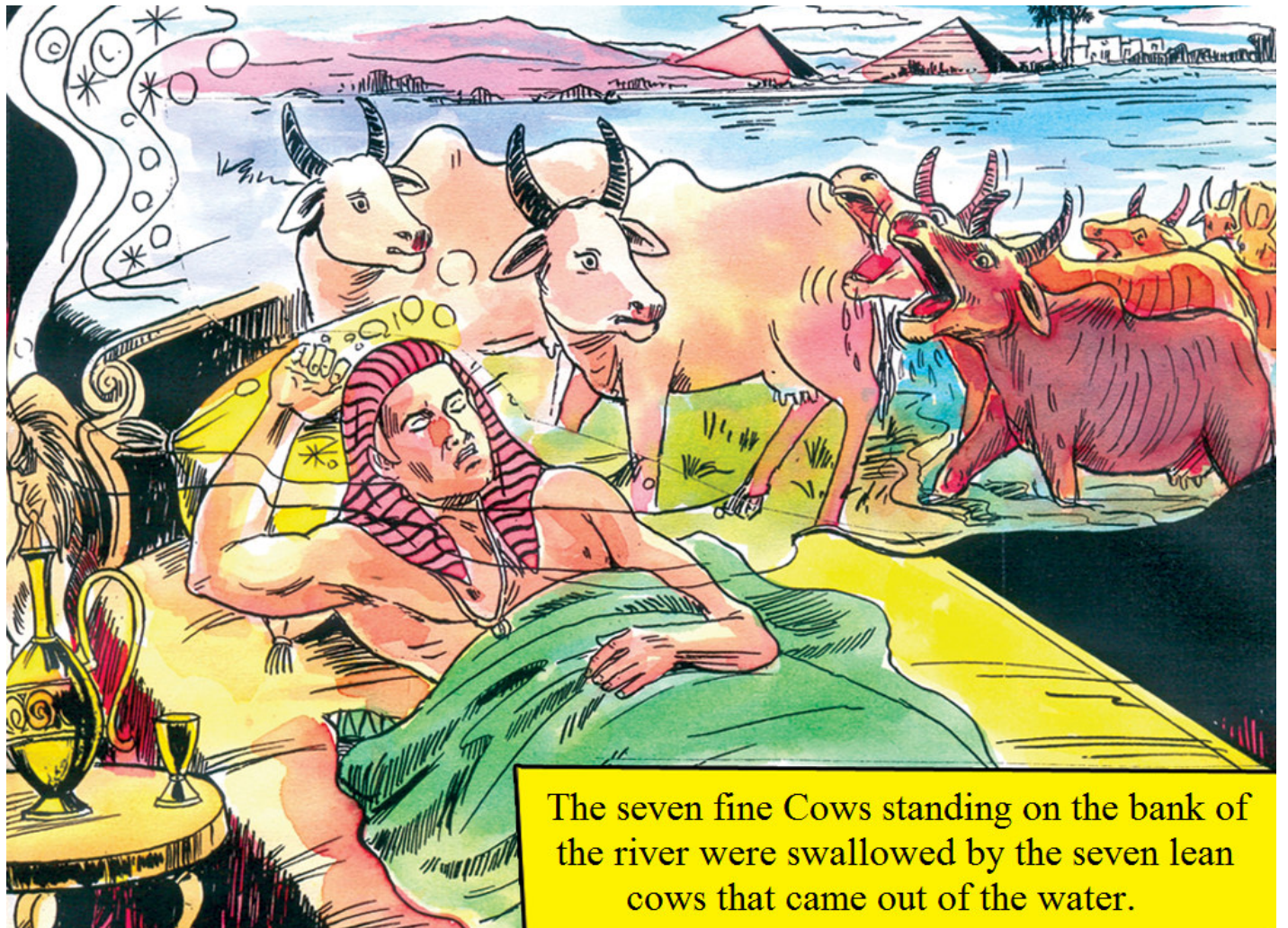


Joseph at Pharaoh's palace.




I had two dreams.
Can you interpret
them?

I don't count. It is God
who sends dreams and
reveals the meaning. May
I hear your dreams?



The seven fine Cows standing on the bank of the river were swallowed by the seven lean cows that came out of the water.

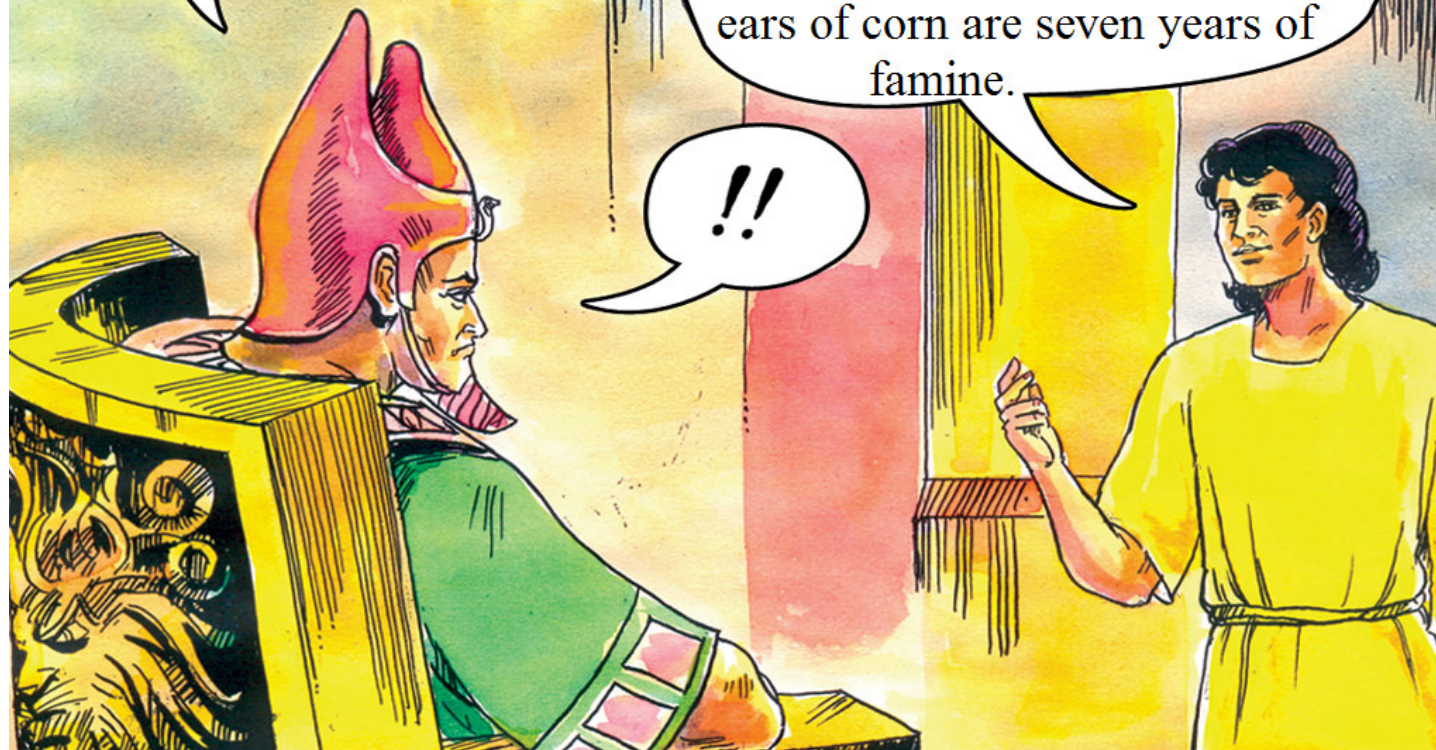


I dreamt again.

The beautiful ears of corn were swallowed by seven shriveled ones.

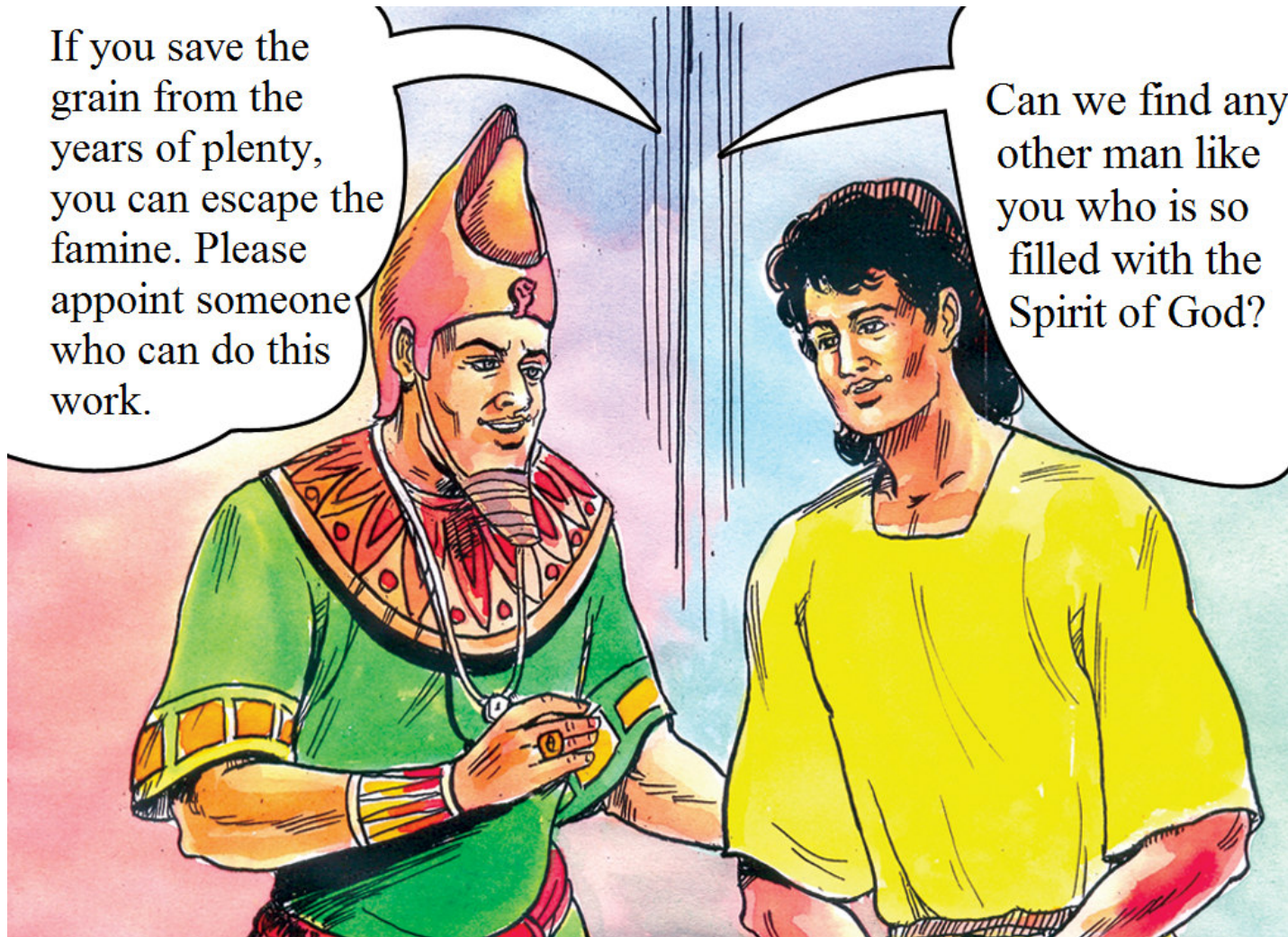
God has revealed what is going to happen in Egypt. The seven fine cows and the seven ears of corn as seven years of plenty. The seven lean cows and the seven shriveled ears of corn are seven years of famine.

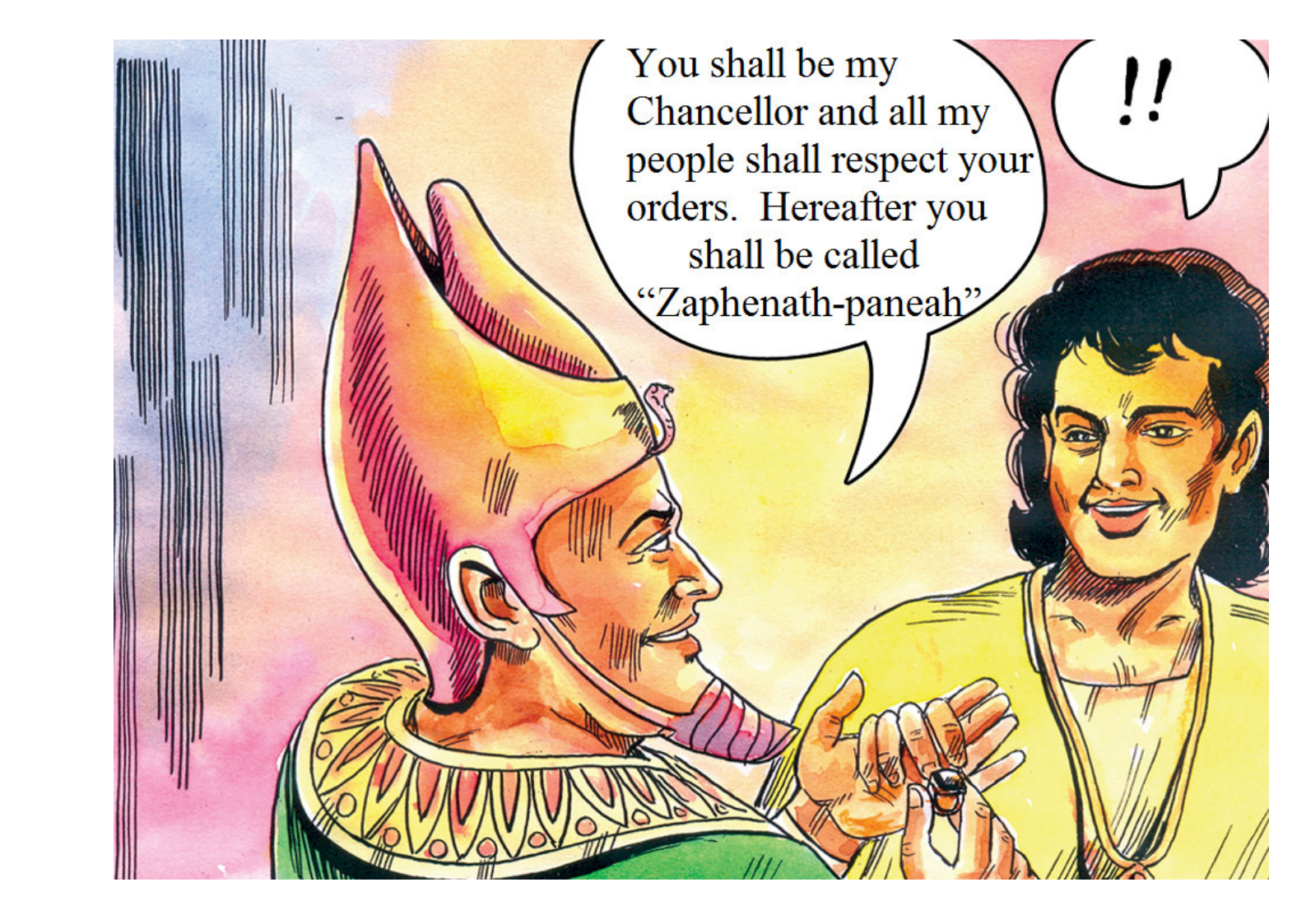
!!



If you save the grain from the years of plenty, you can escape the famine. Please appoint someone who can do this work.

Can we find any other man like you who is so filled with the Spirit of God?

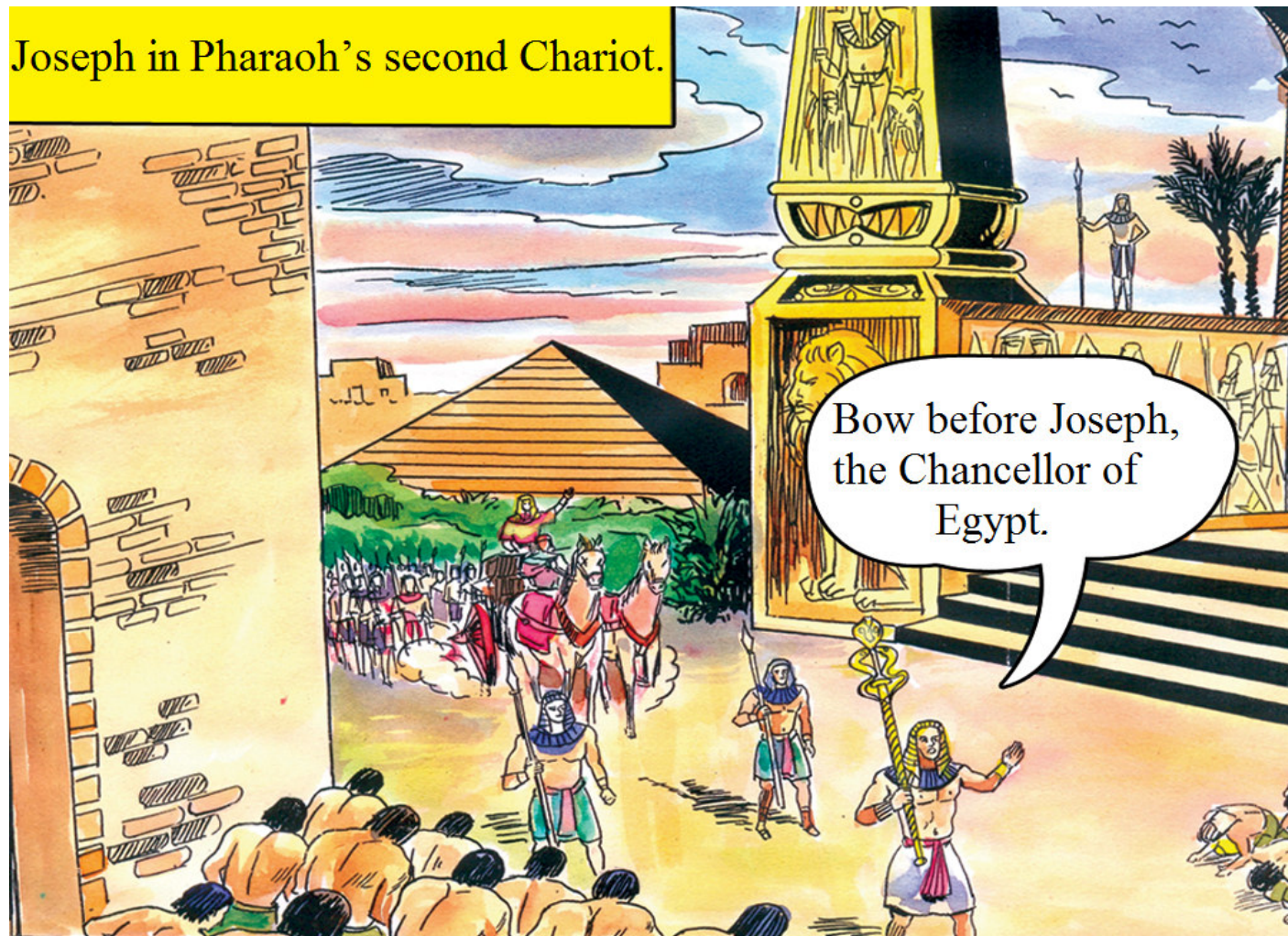


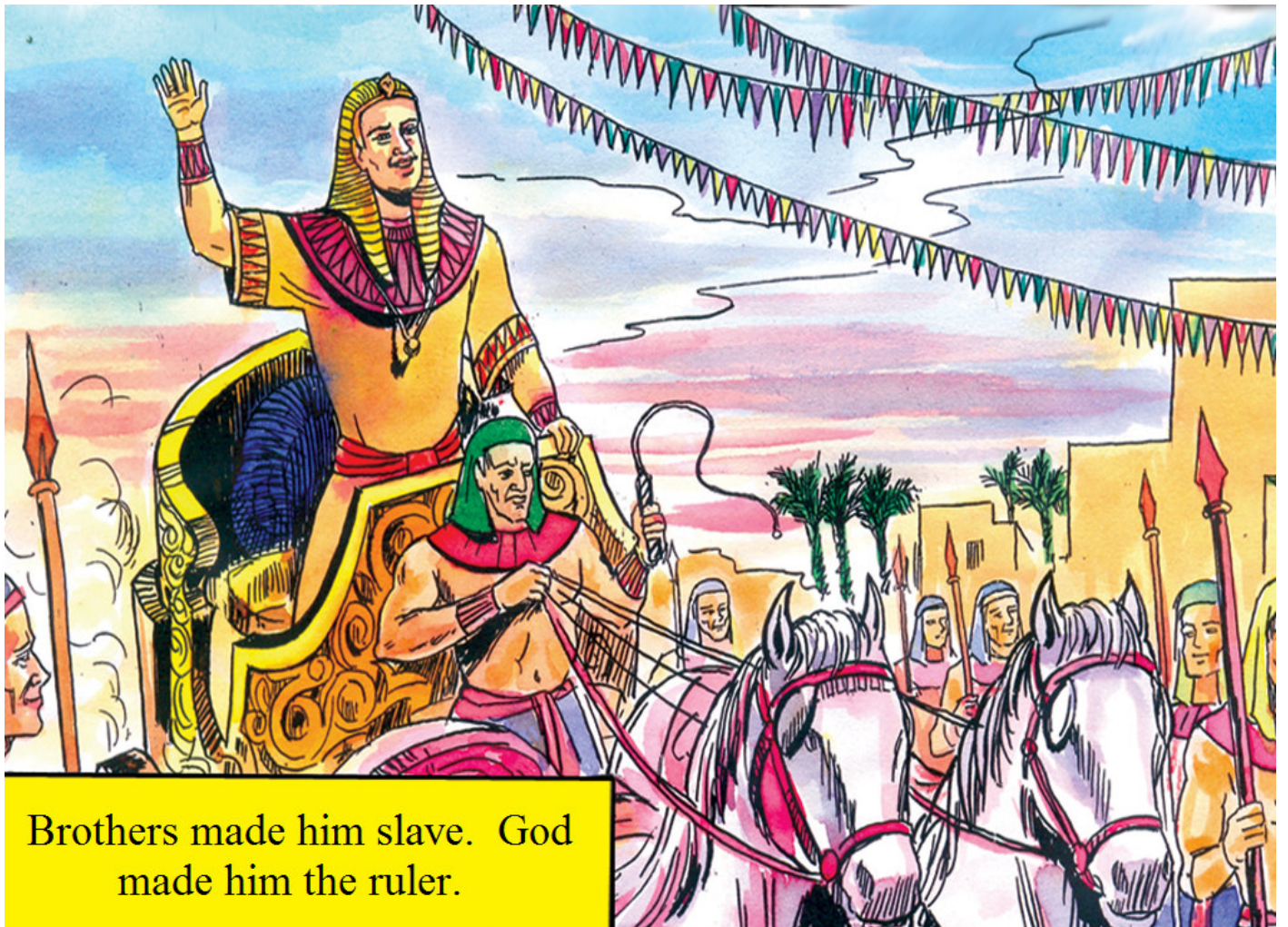


You shall be my
Chancellor and all my
people shall respect your
orders. Hereafter you
shall be called
“Zaphenath-paneah”

!!

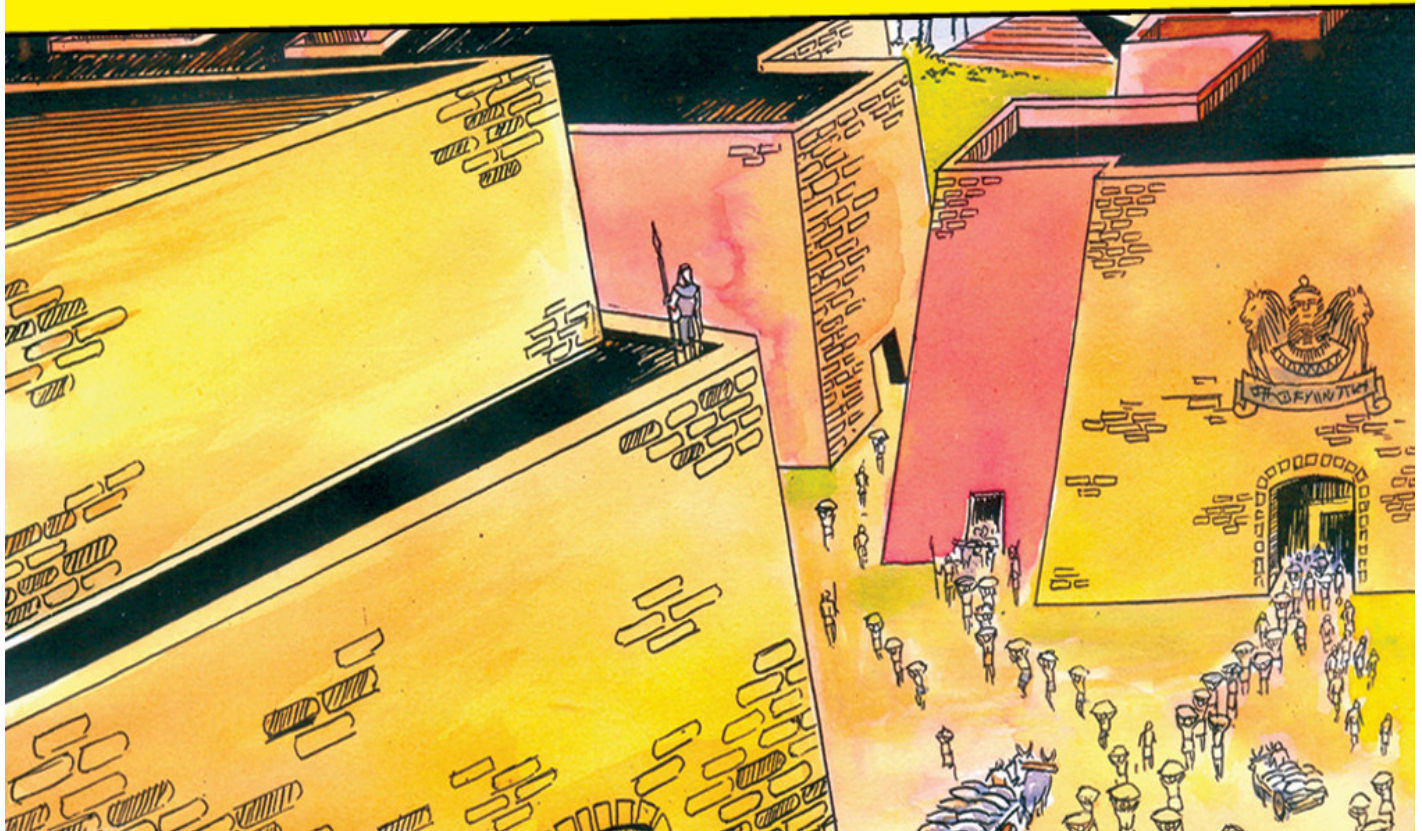
Joseph in Pharaoh's second Chariot.





Brothers made him slave. God
made him the ruler.

During the seven years of plenty, in the harvest season Joseph collected one-fifth of the Land's crop.



Joseph married Asenath, daughter of Potiphar. Priest of On.



There was no rain after the seventh year.



Give us food, we are starving.

Go to Joseph.

As the famine became severe in Canaan, Jacob sent his sons to buy grain. When they arrived Joseph recognized them, but they didn't.

You are spies! You have come to find out the country's weak points. !!

No, my Lord! We are poor Hebrews, twelve sons of the same Father.



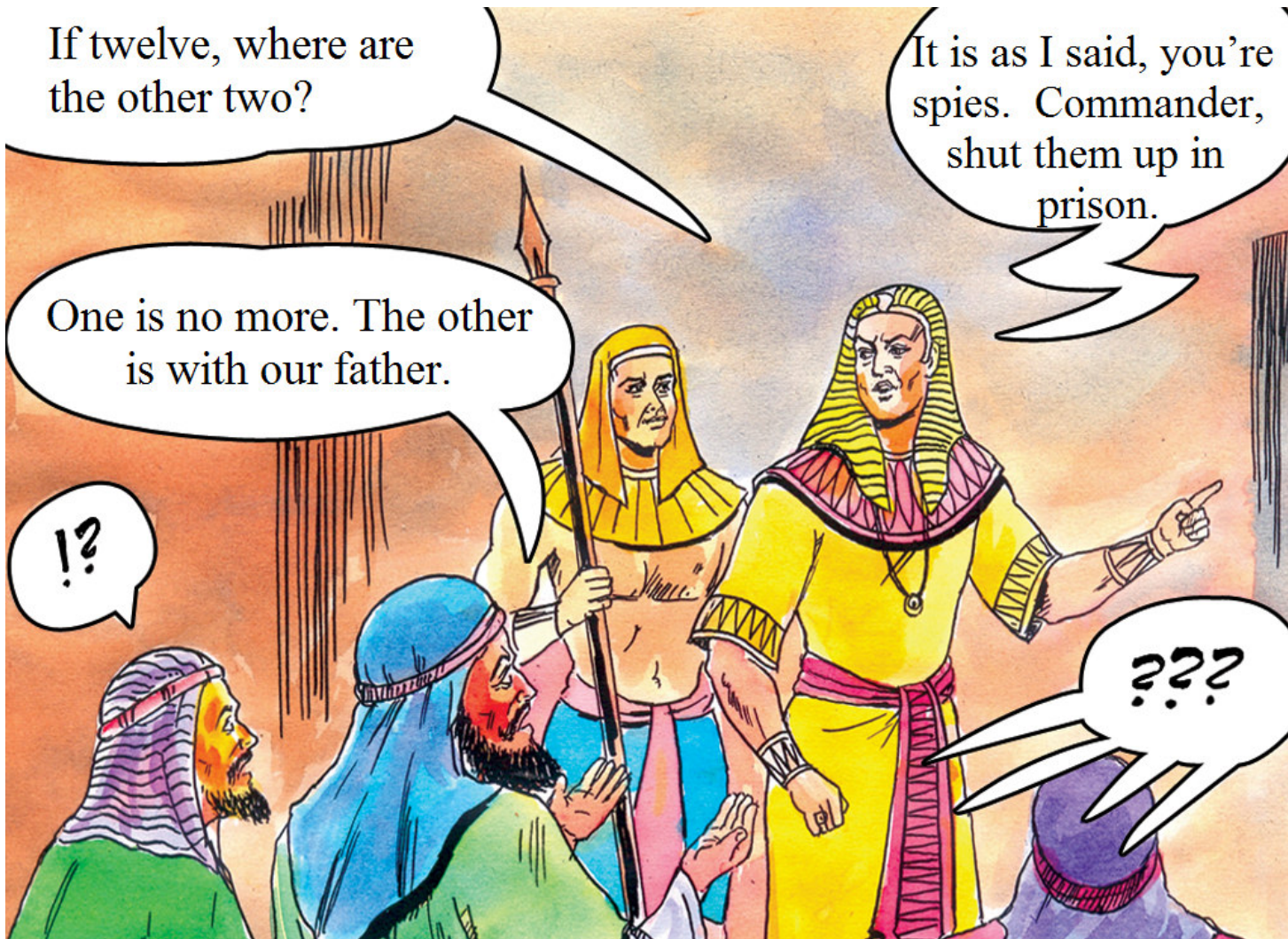
If twelve, where are
the other two?

It is as I said, you're
spies. Commander,
shut them up in
prison.

One is no more. The other
is with our father.

!?

???




He kept them all in custody for three days, on the third day.

One of you remain here, others can go back with grain. Bring your youngest brother. Then I will know that you have been honest.



Simon was kept in prison, others left with grain.



God is calling us to
account for what we
did to Joseph.

Did I not tell
you not to hurt
him?

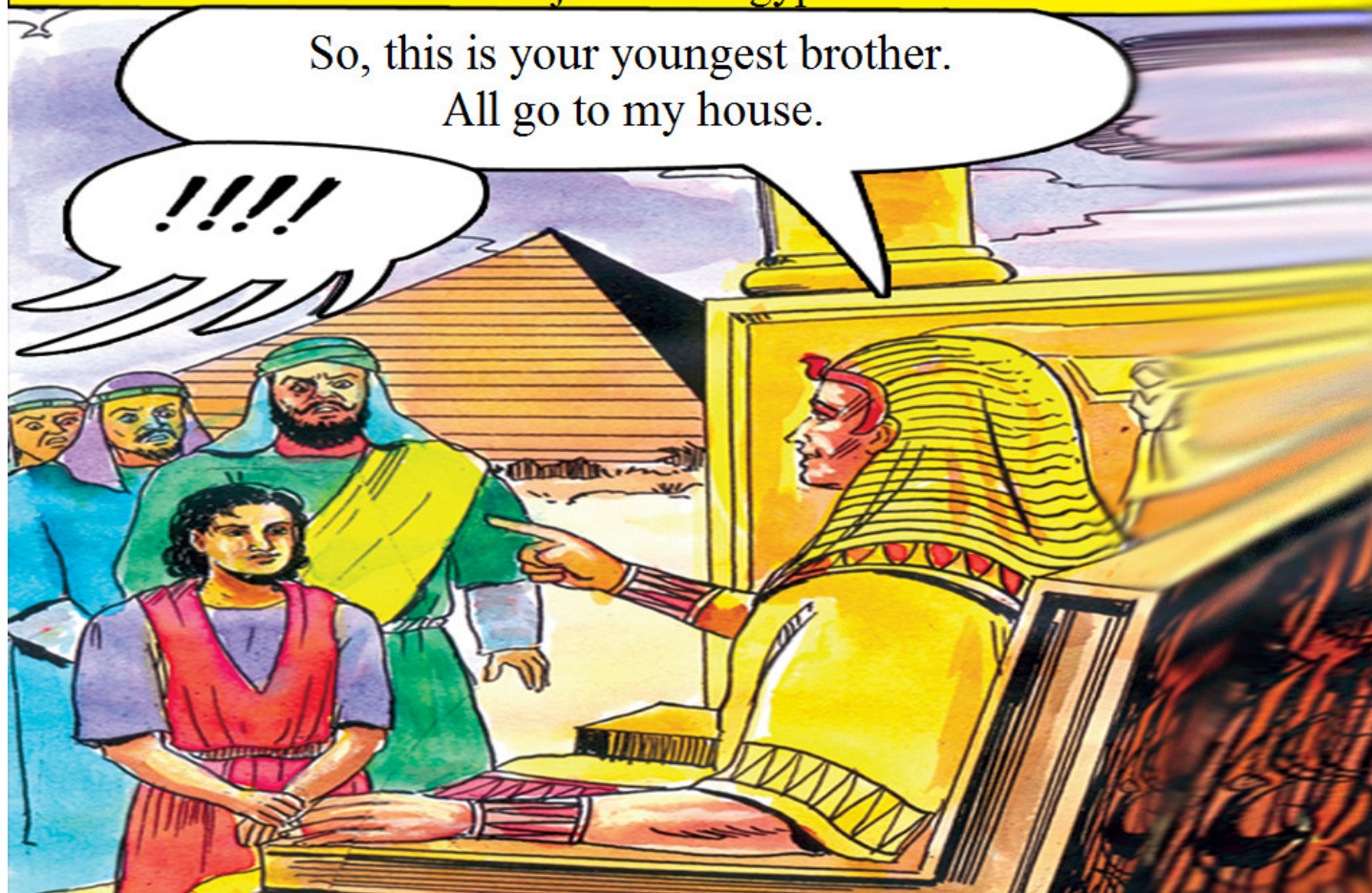
!

How're we ever going to
ask father to send
Benjamin.

When there was no more food left, Jacob was forced to send Benjamin to Egypt.

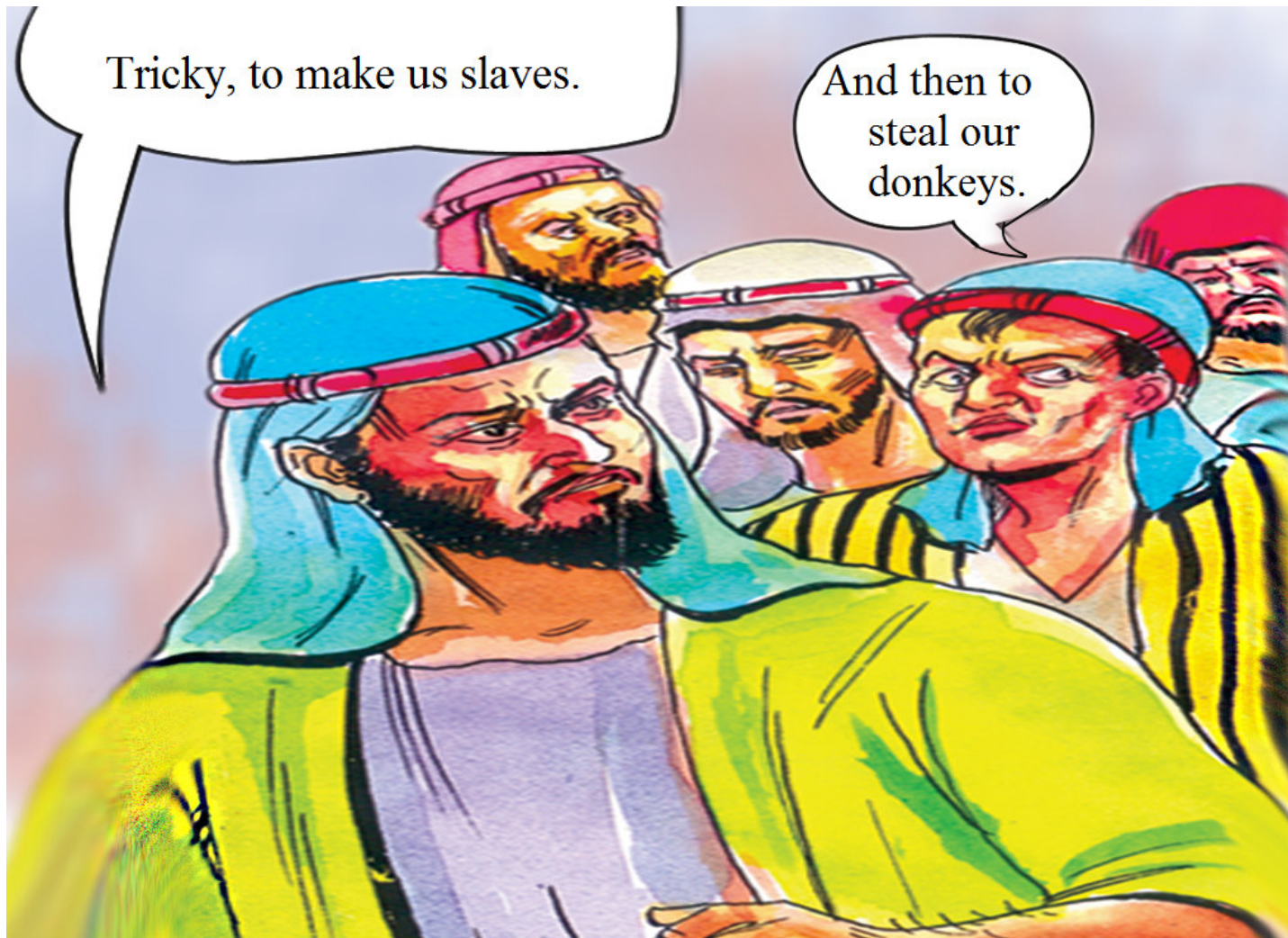
So, this is your youngest brother.
All go to my house.

!!!

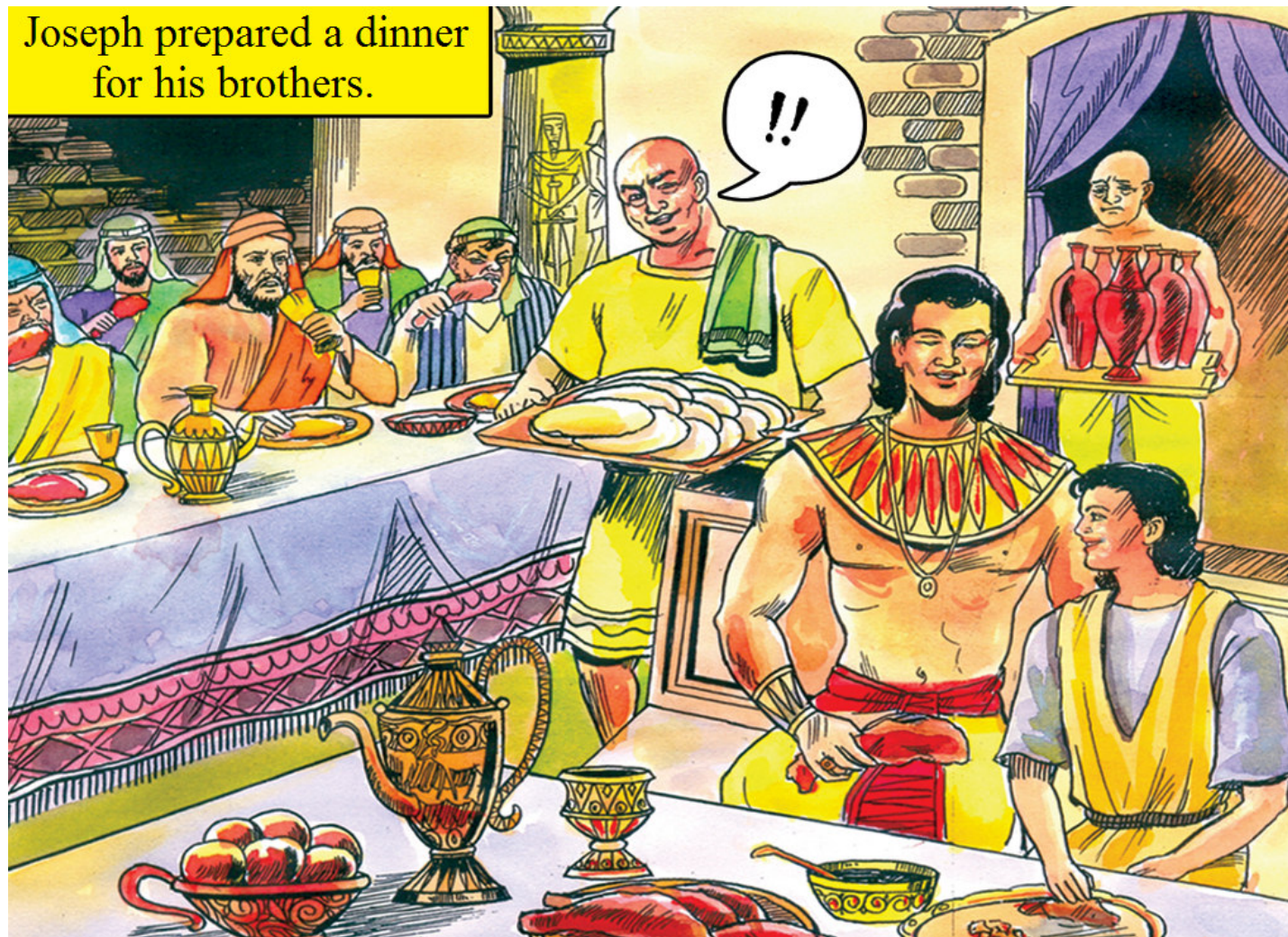


Tricky, to make us slaves.

And then to
steal our
donkeys.



Joseph prepared a dinner
for his brothers.



The next morning they left with grain. Joseph had ordered his chamberlain to put each man's money in his sack and his own silver cup in Benjamin's sac.

The ordeal is over.
Father will be happy.

I thought we
were finished.

Look Guards!

???

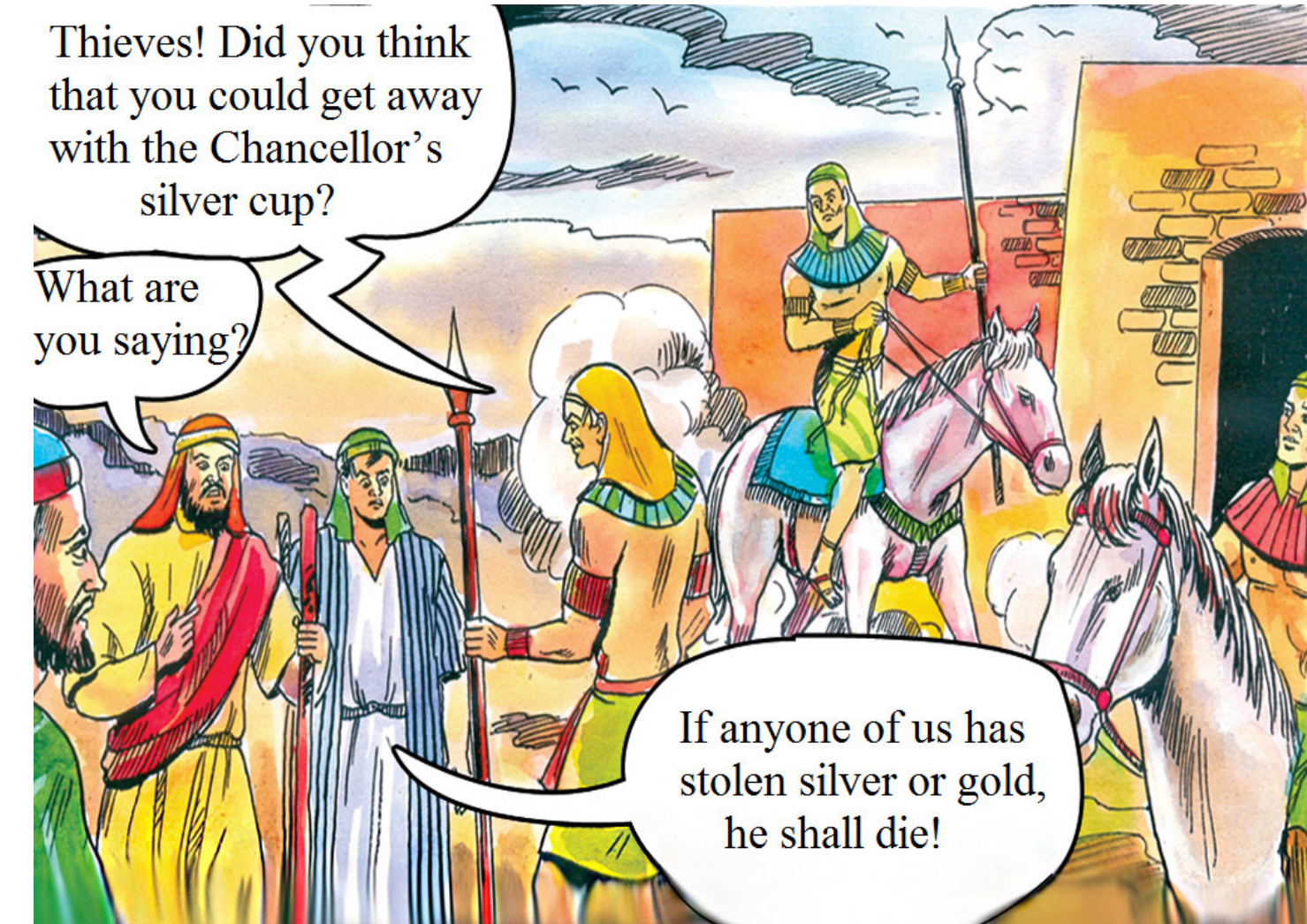
???



Thieves! Did you think that you could get away with the Chancellor's silver cup?

What are you saying?

If anyone of us has stolen silver or gold, he shall die!



Cup in Benjamin's sac.

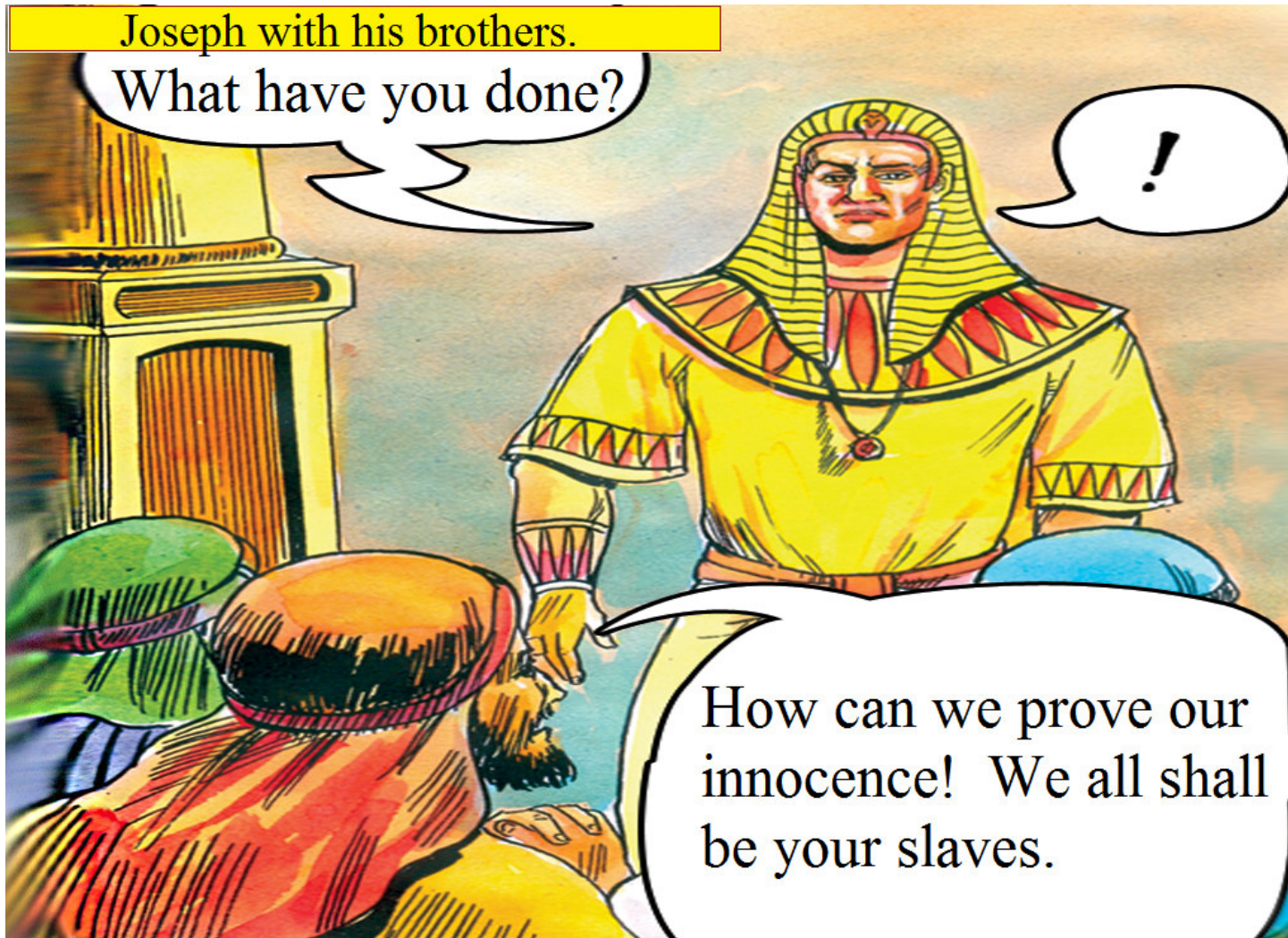


Joseph with his brothers.

What have you done?

!

How can we prove our
innocence! We all shall
be your slaves.



Not all of you. Just the one
with whom the cup was found.

Our elderly Father will die
of grief, if we do not
bring the boy back.



We are being punished
for what we did to
Joseph.

How he pleaded...
yet we sold him.

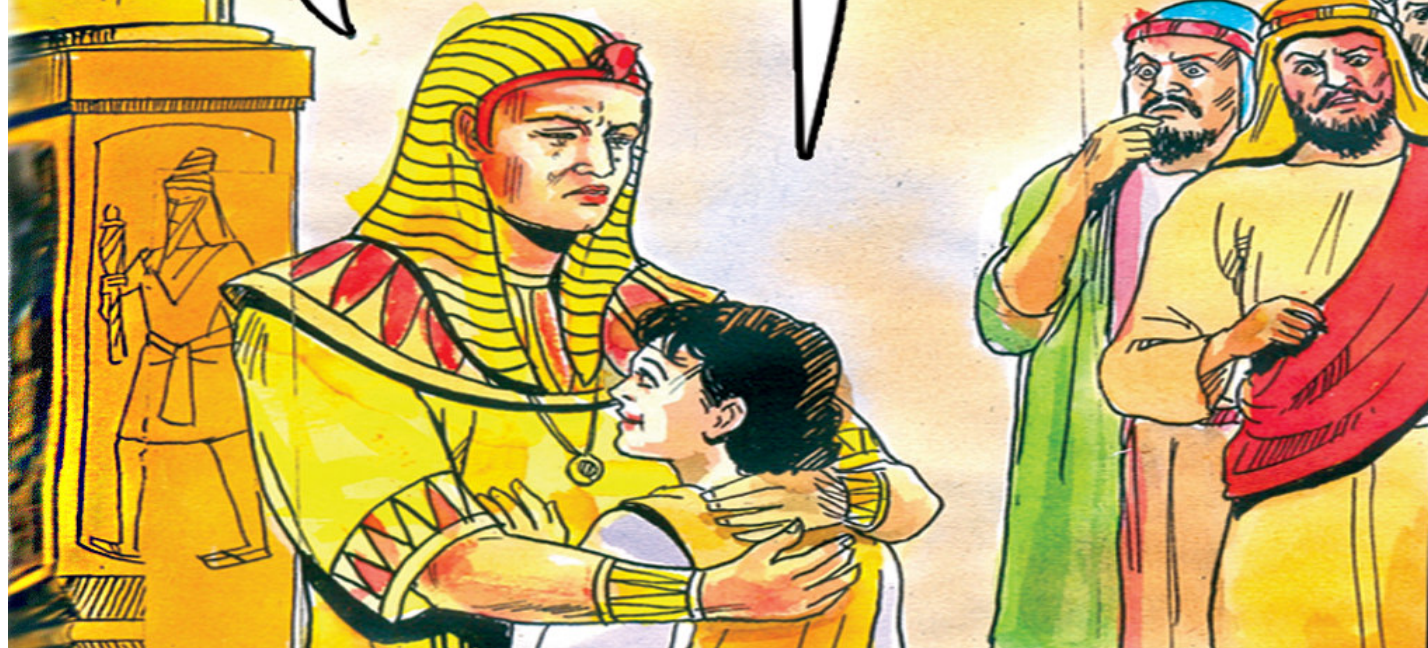


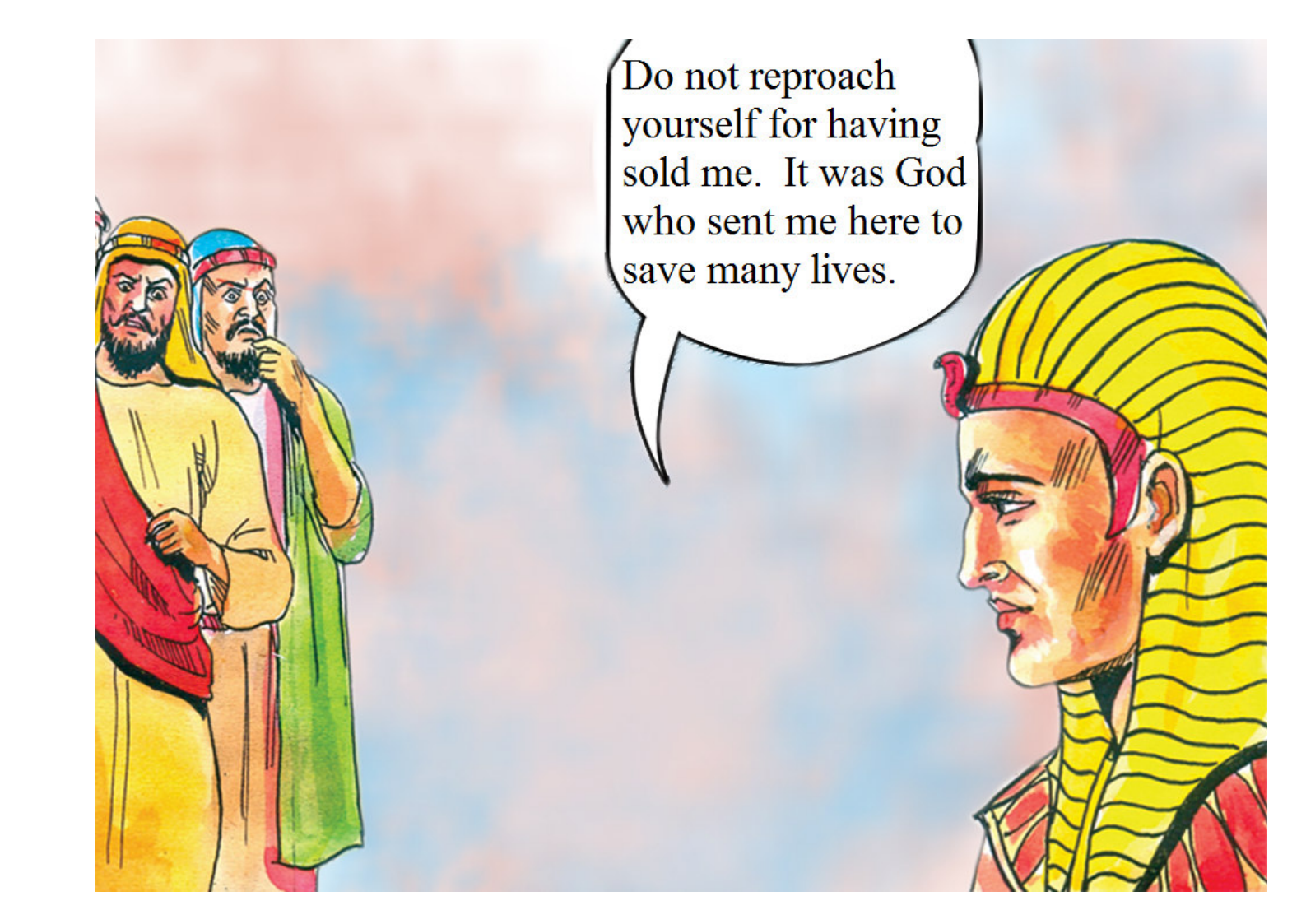
Joseph couldn't contain himself anymore, he cried and revealed himself.

Oh My baby brother!
How is Father?

!

!!!!





Do not reproach
yourself for having
sold me. It was God
who sent me here to
save many lives.

Hurry back and fetch Father. Still there are five more years of famine.



Joseph embraced his brothers.

Oh Ruben!

Pardon,
Joseph!

!!!



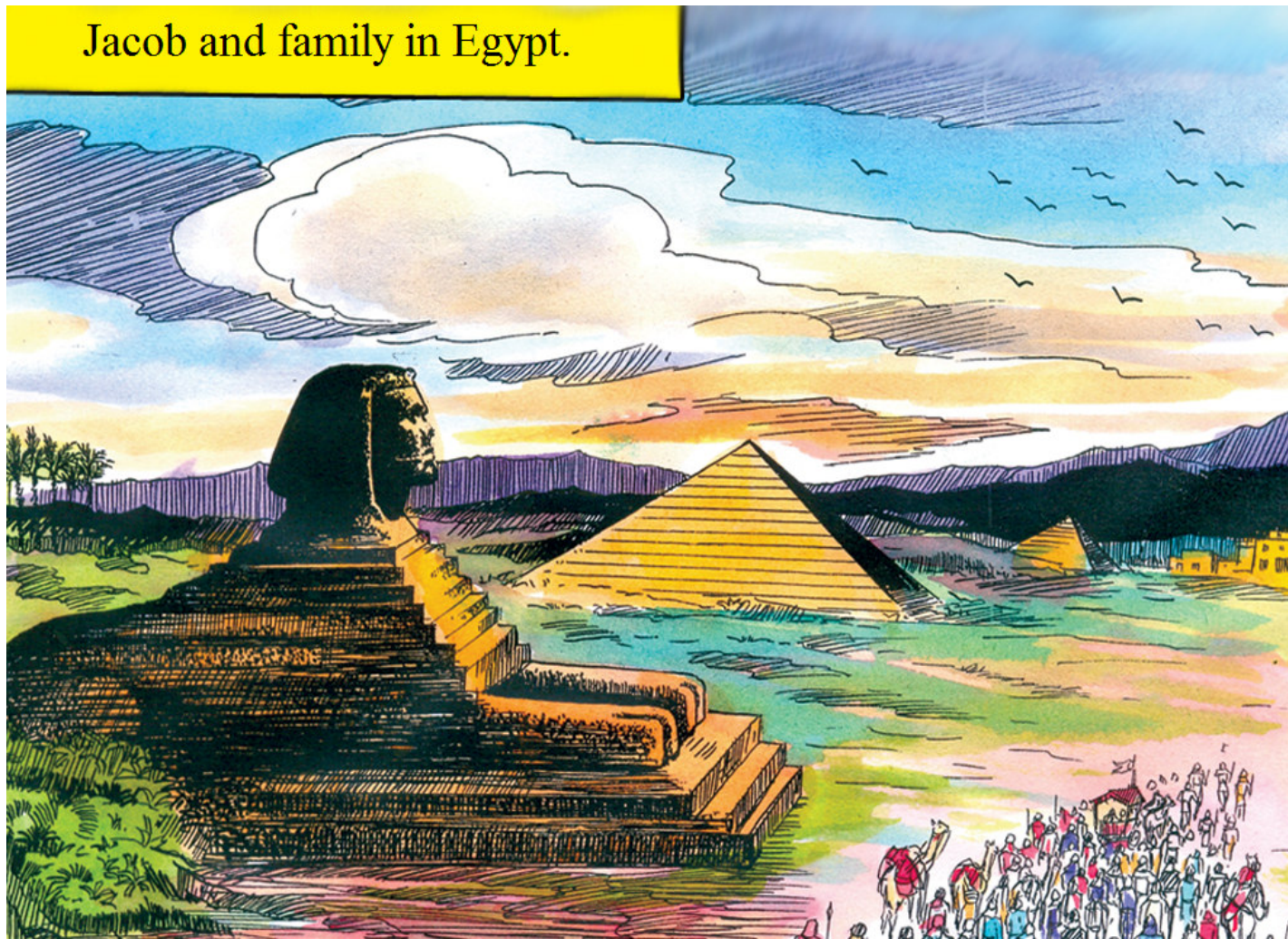
Hearing this news
Pharaoh called
Joseph.

Send chariots to
bring your people.
You can choose
any place in Egypt
for your family.

!!

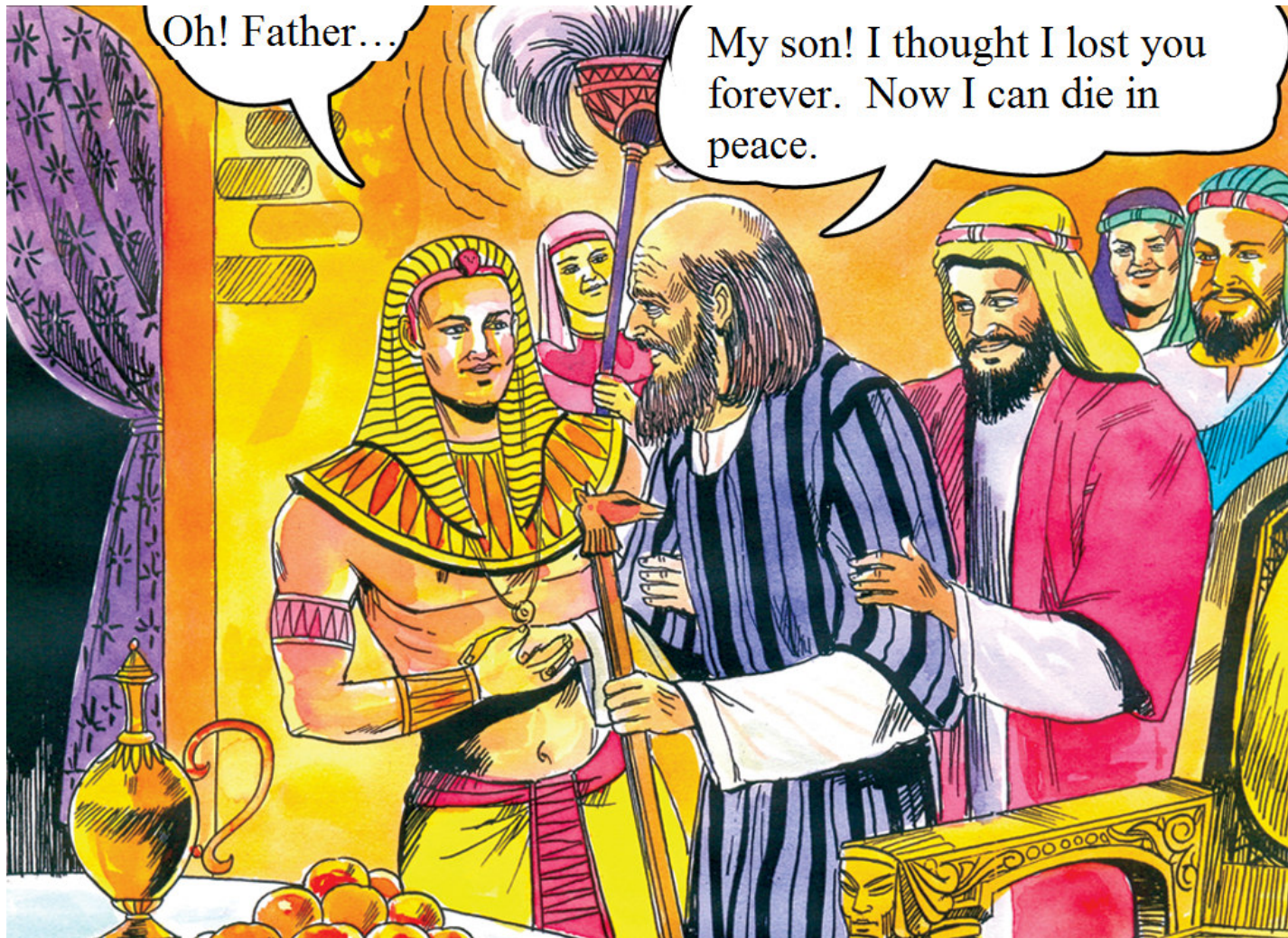


Jacob and family in Egypt.



Oh! Father...

My son! I thought I lost you forever. Now I can die in peace.



Jacob blessed Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. When he died his remains were to take back to Canaan.



Years later

Brothers, the land that was promised to our forefathers will be given to our descendants. When you go to the Promised Land, take my remains also.

!!!



JOSEPH DIED AT THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED AND TEN. THEY EMBALMED HIM AND LAID HIM IN HIS COFFIN. THE DESCENDANTS OF ISRAEL MULTIPLIED AND BECAME A GREAT POWER. AS A NEW DYNASTY OF KINGS EMERGED IN EGYPT, THEY ENSLAVED THE ISRAELITES AND MADE THEIR LIVES UNBEARABLE. HEARING THE CRY OF THE OPPRESSED, YAHWEH SENT A LIBERATOR.

NEXT STORY

MOSES

Questions

After reading the story of “Joseph” and its source (Gen. 35-50), answer the following questions:

1. Who was Joseph’s mother?
2. Why did Joseph’s brothers hate him?
3. Explain the circumstances that brought Joseph to Egypt.
4. How did Joseph rise from slavery to the position of chancellor in Egypt?
5. Explain Pharaoh’s dreams and their meaning.
6. What was the name Pharaoh gave to Joseph?
7. How did Joseph test his brother’s love towards Benjamin?
8. Name the two sons of Joseph.
9. Joseph as a prototype of Jesus. Explain.
10. What is the message you get from “Joseph”?

