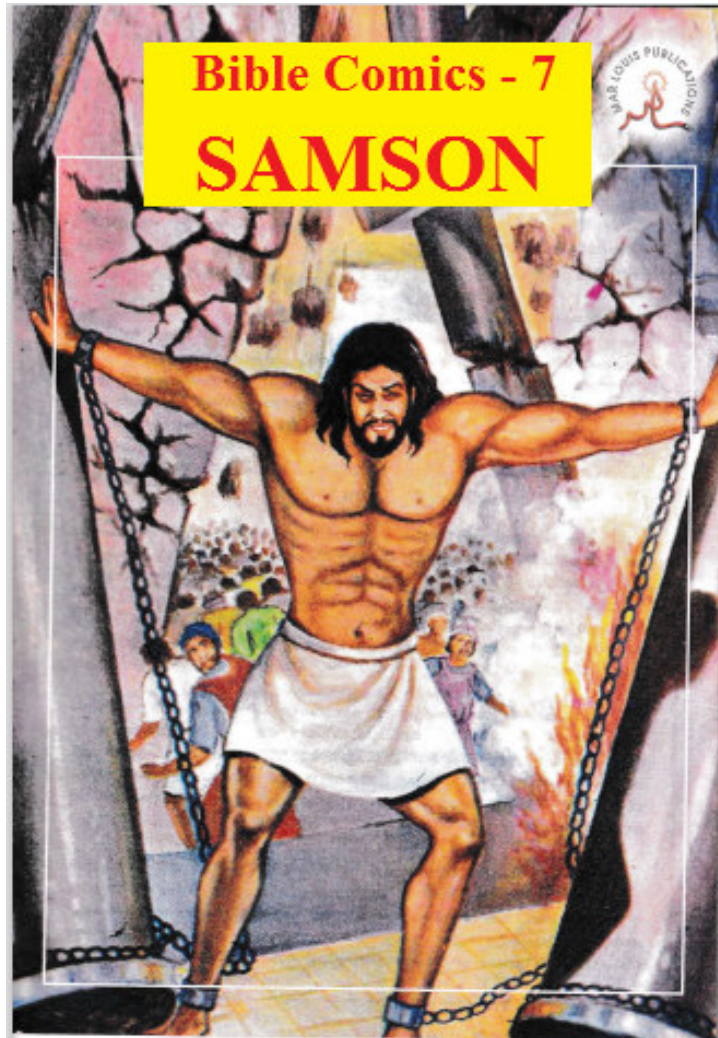


Bible Comics - 7

SAMSON



Bible Comics – 7

SAMSON

Script

Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

Devassy

SAMSON

Towards the end of the thirteenth century B.C., under the leadership of Joshua, the Israelites captured parts of Canaan, the Promised Land. For about two centuries (B.C. 1200 – 1025) they were ruled by “Judges”. These rulers were called ‘Judges’ not because they pronounced any judgment in legal disputes but because they were called by God to execute His judgment in favor of Israel, an oppressed people. For this purpose they were equipped with the spirit and the power of God. Samson was such a leader.

The Israelites were scattered in various parts of Canaan. In the course of time, forgetting the Covenant with Yahweh, renewed at Shechem, they mingled with the Canaanites and accepted their customs and beliefs. They tried to remain in good terms with the neighboring peoples but were often attacked and enslaved by them. Bible depicts these episodes as punishments, sent by Yahweh, to discipline the Israelites and to make them return to Him.

Whenever the oppression became unbearable, the people would cry to Yahweh and He would send them a liberator. The Book of “Judges” presents twelve such liberators. In this book many of the historical events are

elaborated with legendary details. The story of “Samson” is based on the episodes presented in the book of Judges, Chapters 13-16.

“Samson” depicts the tragic fall of a mighty man. For a long time, Samson’s parents were childless. His birth was considered a miraculous event. Even before he was born, he was consecrated to Yahweh as a “Nazirite”. He was sent by God to protect the Israelites from the Philistines.

Against his parents’ wish, Samson married a philistine woman. With the failure of that marriage, his life began to fall apart. Though Samson was aware that he was a consecrated person with a special mission, he

did not care to keep his vows. Pride coupled with lust made him blind to the laws Yahweh.

Samson was gifted with extra-ordinary physical strength. But he forgot that this was given to him for a special purpose. As a result, he lost his strength, sight, and freedom and became the laughing stock of his enemies. In utter misery he turned to Yahweh.

Samson is a negative model. His story teaches what a leader should not be. God gives his gifts with a purpose. They are not to be misappropriated for one's own pleasure. Samson in the prison, blinded and bound, depicts the consequences of a forgetting God.

Delila, Look at that man! Never saw him around here.

You mean, you don't know him, that is Samson, the new leader of the Israelites.

Samson!



You won't believe how strong he is! All alone he defeated our army.

Strong, as well as handsome!

!

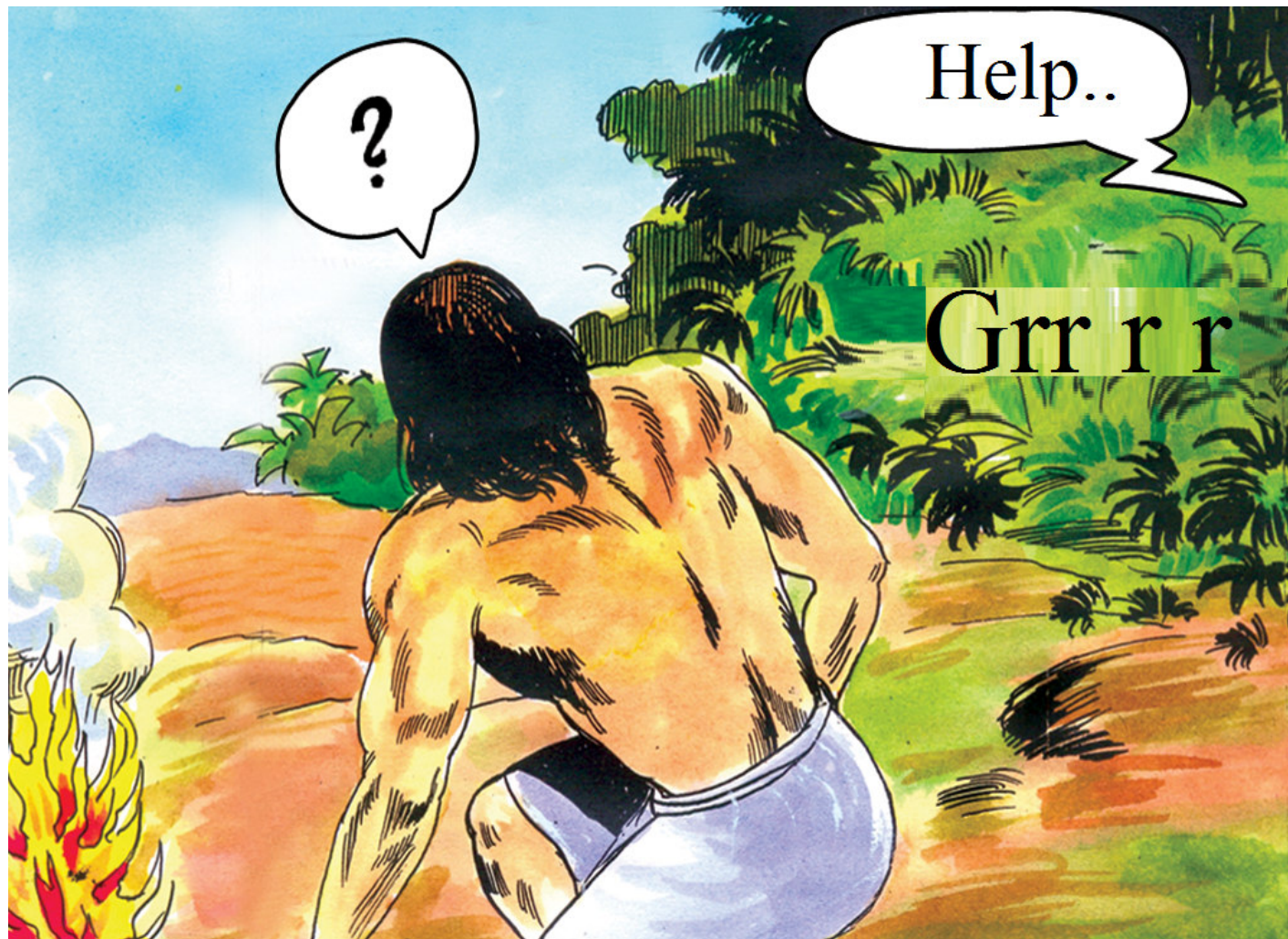


Hey, don't get carried away.
You better remember that he is
the enemy of our people.

Don't be so silly,
I like him any
way.

!?





?

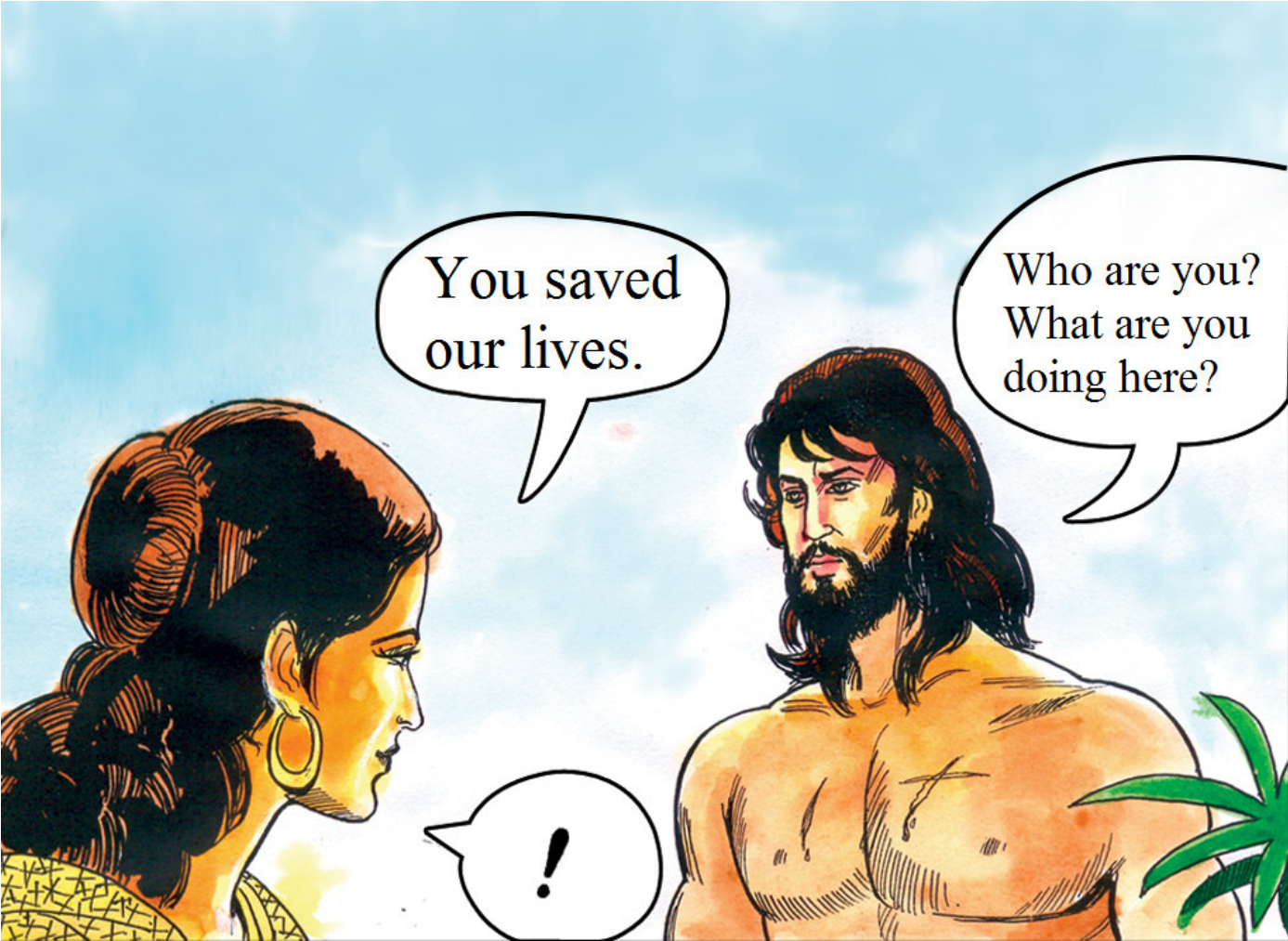
Help..

Grr r r









You saved
our lives.

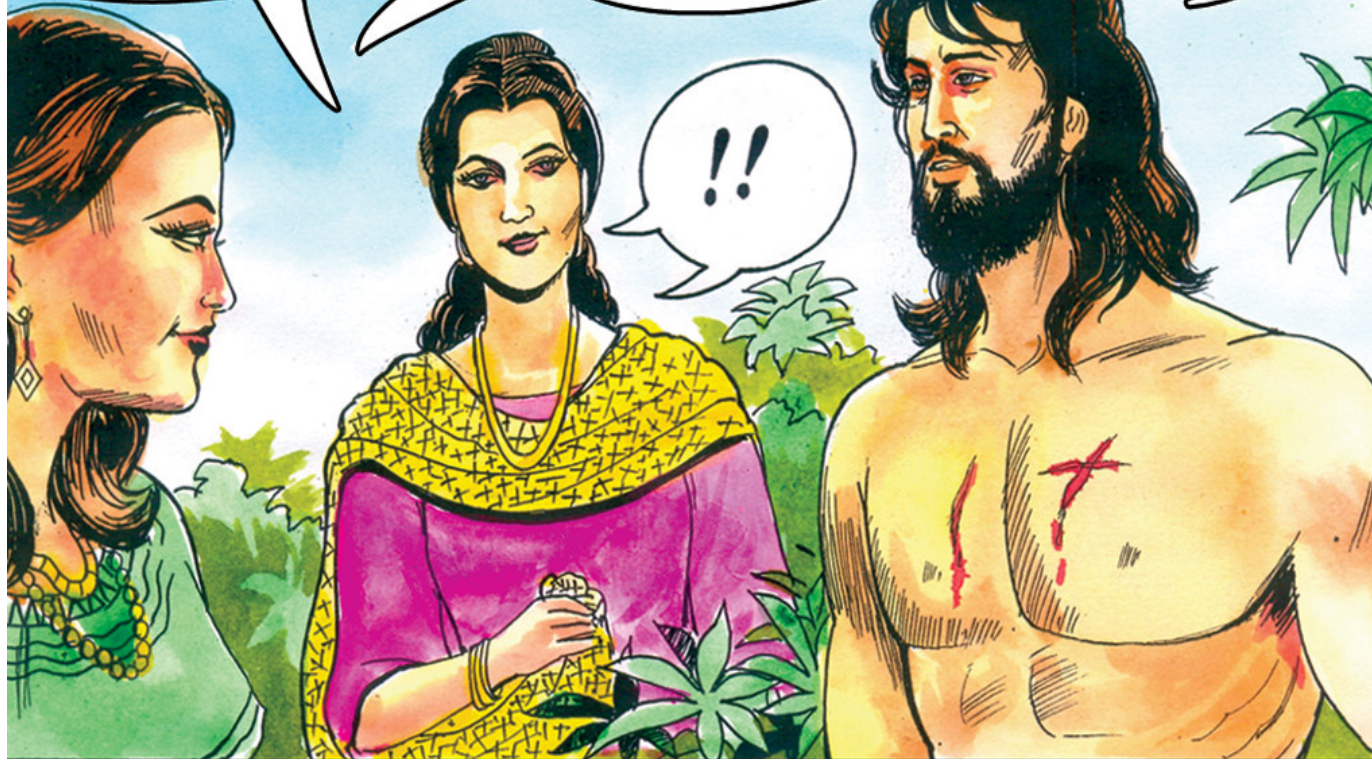
Who are you?
What are you
doing here?

!

I am Kaditha. I live here in Thimna. This is my friend Delilah from Gaza.

We came to collect some flowers for tonight's festival.

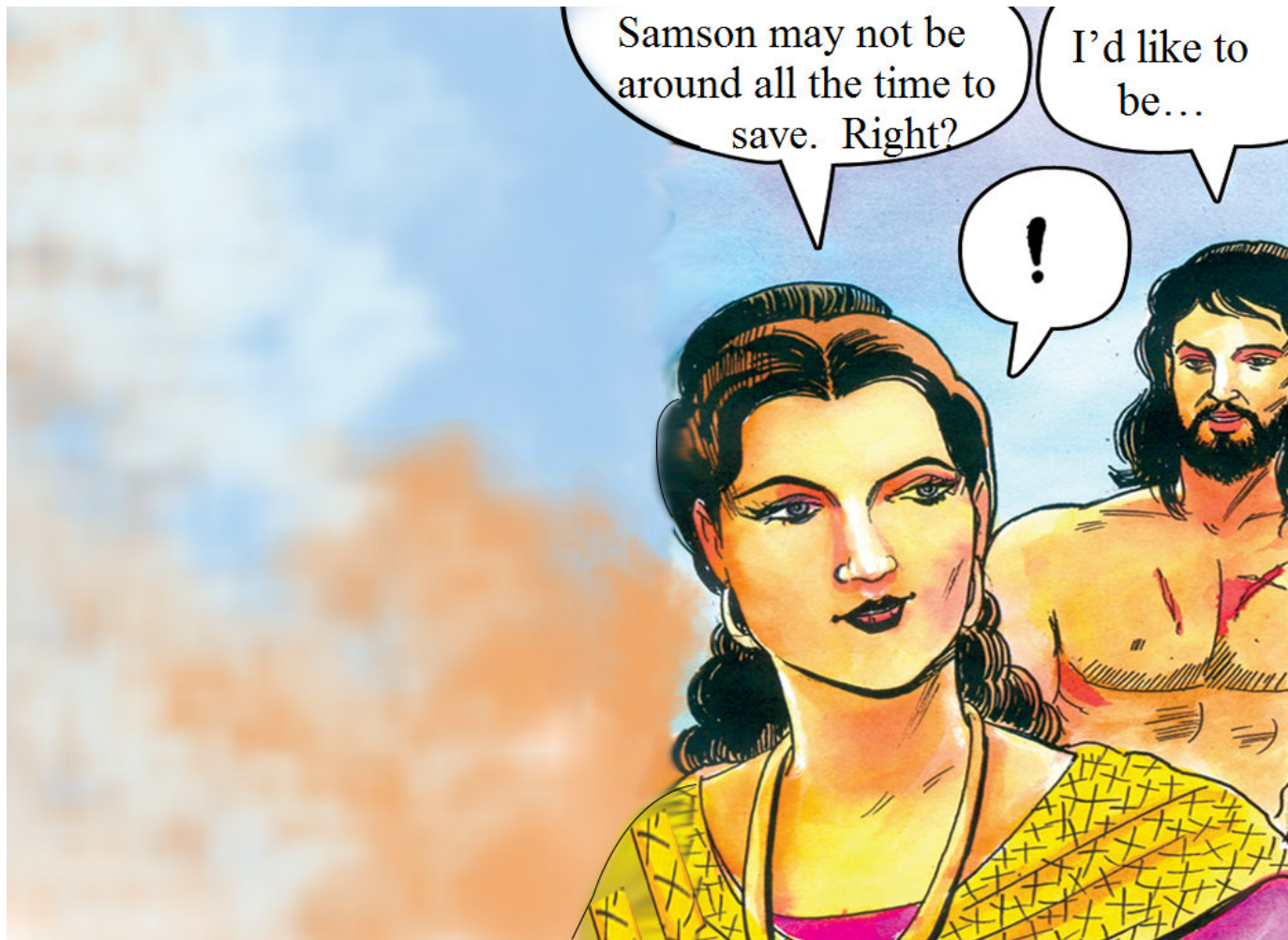
Good, but don't you ever come alone in the forest.




Samson may not be
around all the time to
save. Right?

I'd like to
be...

!





Tonight is the festival in
Thimna, won't you come for
the celebration?

I shall come for
another Celebration.

Samson with his parents

As you insisted, I went to see Kaditha's parents. They are willing, but..

But what? I want to marry her.

Samson, you must know that the people of Timna insulted your father for being an Israelite.

!?

?



Son, forget that
gentile girl.
That marriage
will do you no
good.

I'll marry no one
but Kaditha. About
that Thimnites...

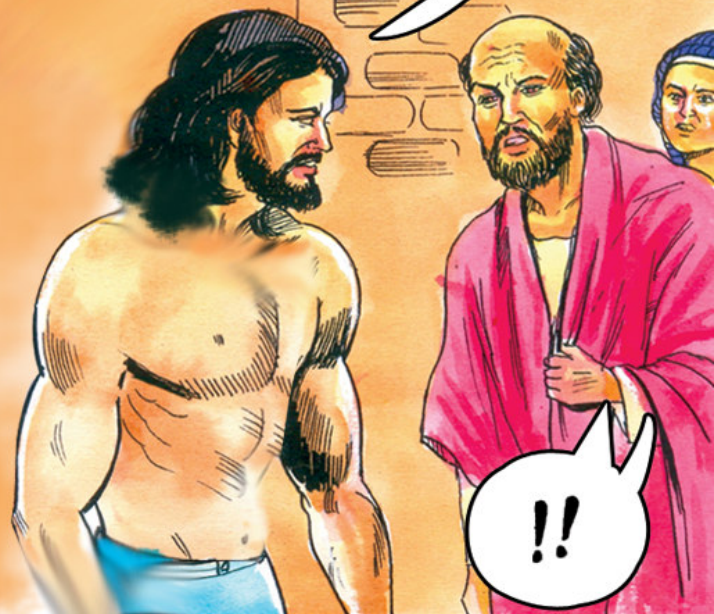
?



I don't want you to
make any trouble.

Remember the
Philistines are ruling
us.

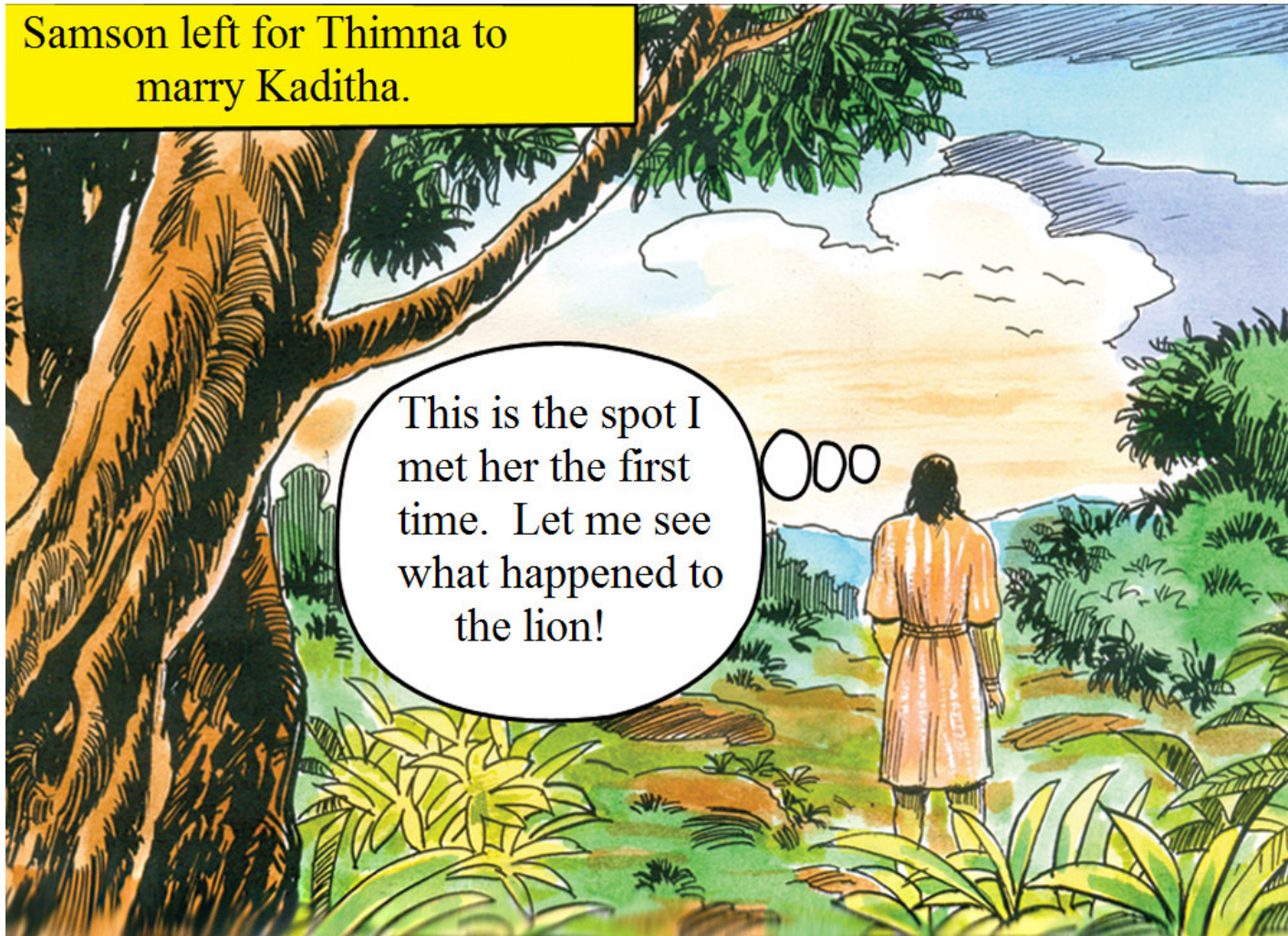
I don't care. No one
is going to get away
after insulting my
father.



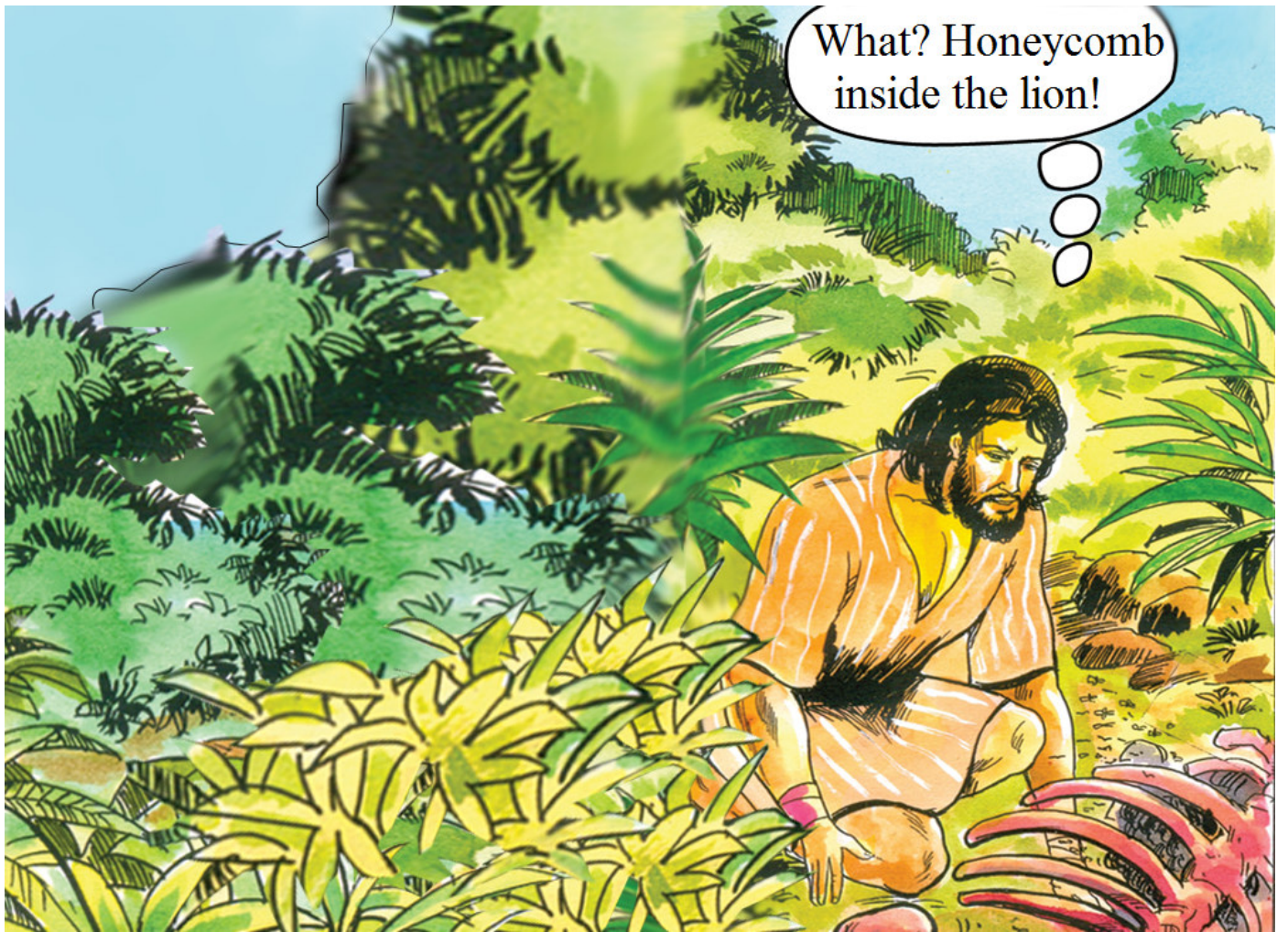
!!

Samson left for Timna to
marry Kaditha.

This is the spot I
met her the first
time. Let me see
what happened to
the lion!



What? Honeycomb
inside the lion!

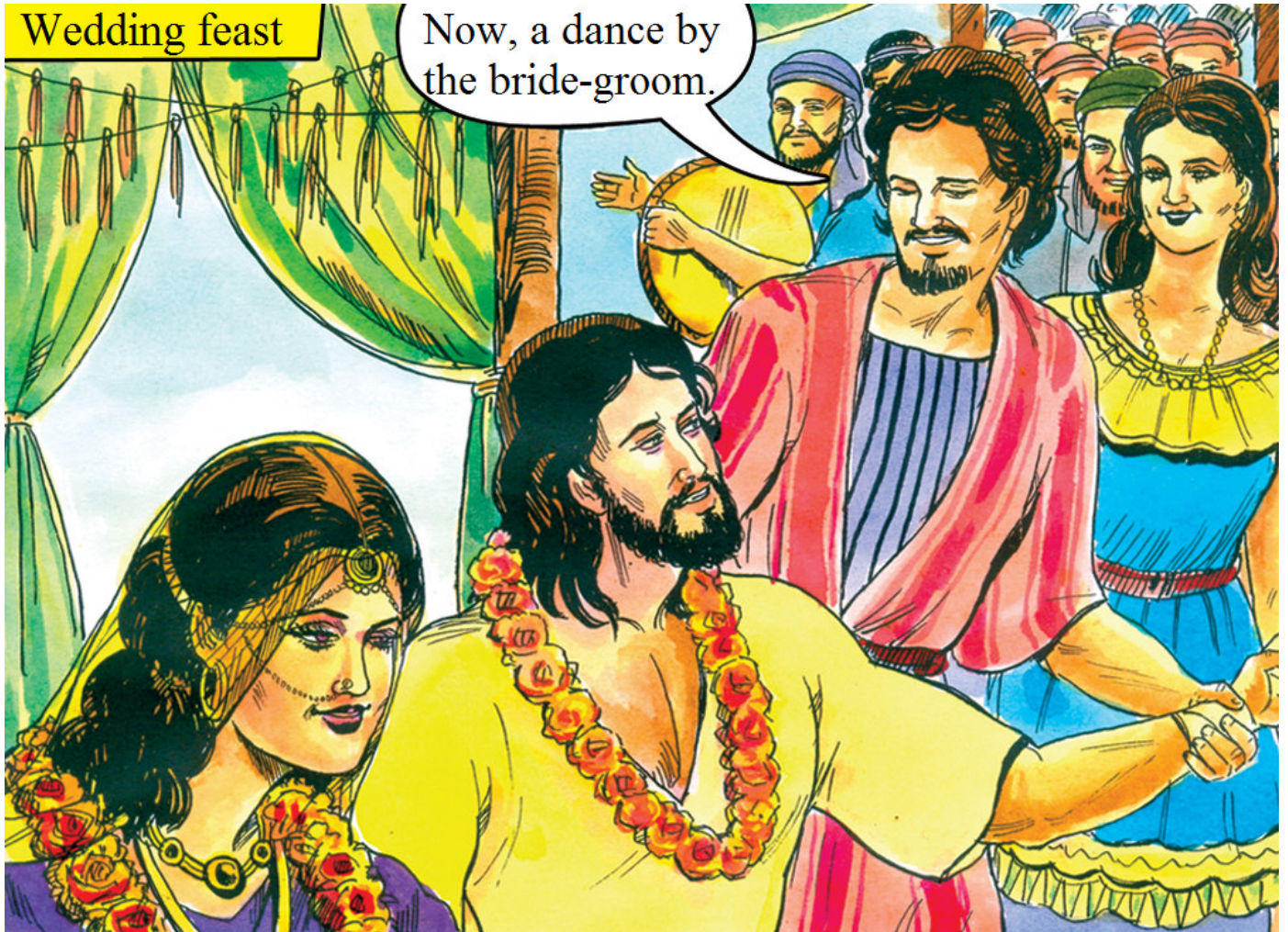


Delicious! Got an
idea to trick the
Philistines.



Wedding feast

Now, a dance by
the bride-groom.




No dance, but I'll tell you a riddle. If you find the answer you'll get thirty festal robes; if not you'll give me the same.

O.K. Say it.

!!!





Listen carefully. Out of the eater came what is eaten;
out of the strong came what is sweet. You've a week.

The 7th day

Have you found the answer? If not, where are the robes?

What is sweeter than honey, and what is stronger than lion?



Kaditha!

Calm down
Samson, and give
us the robes.



After Samson left.

You ruined my life. He'll leave me.

Don't worry. I'll marry you.

Don't you know that he saved my life? I love him.

He is our enemy. We must chase him out.

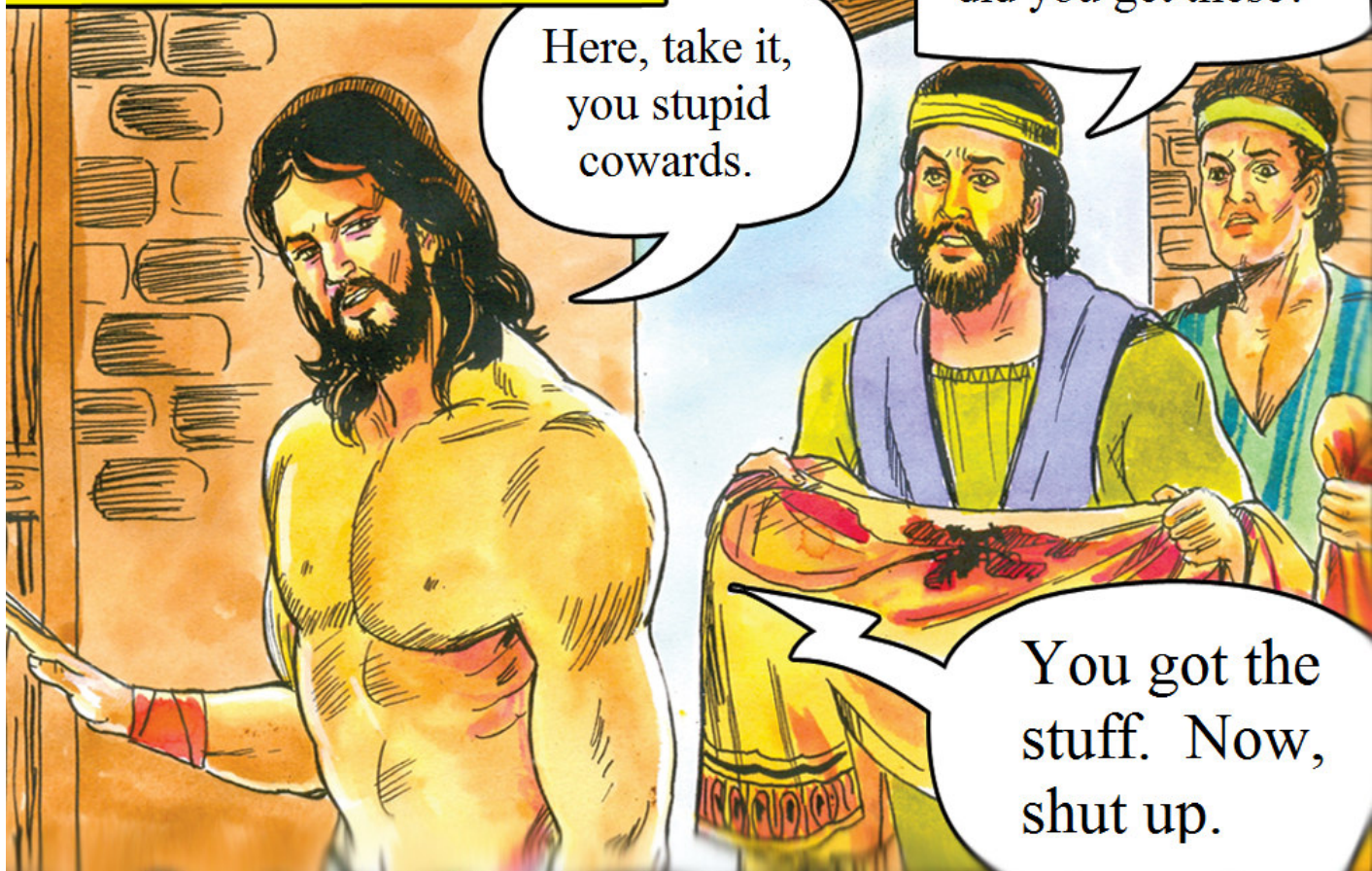


Samson killed 30 young men
and took their robes.

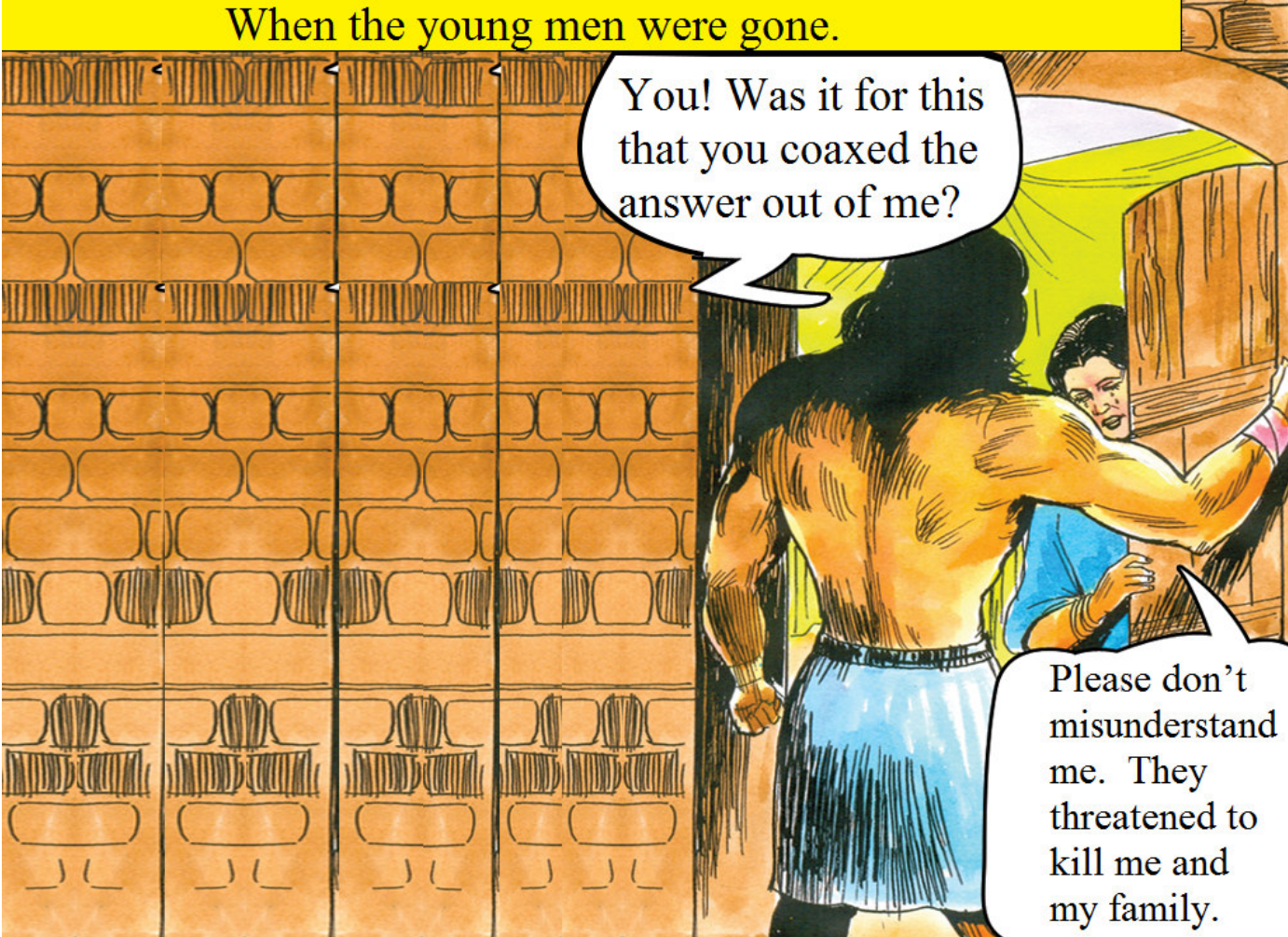
Here, take it,
you stupid
cowards.

Blood stains! Where
did you get these?

You got the
stuff. Now,
shut up.

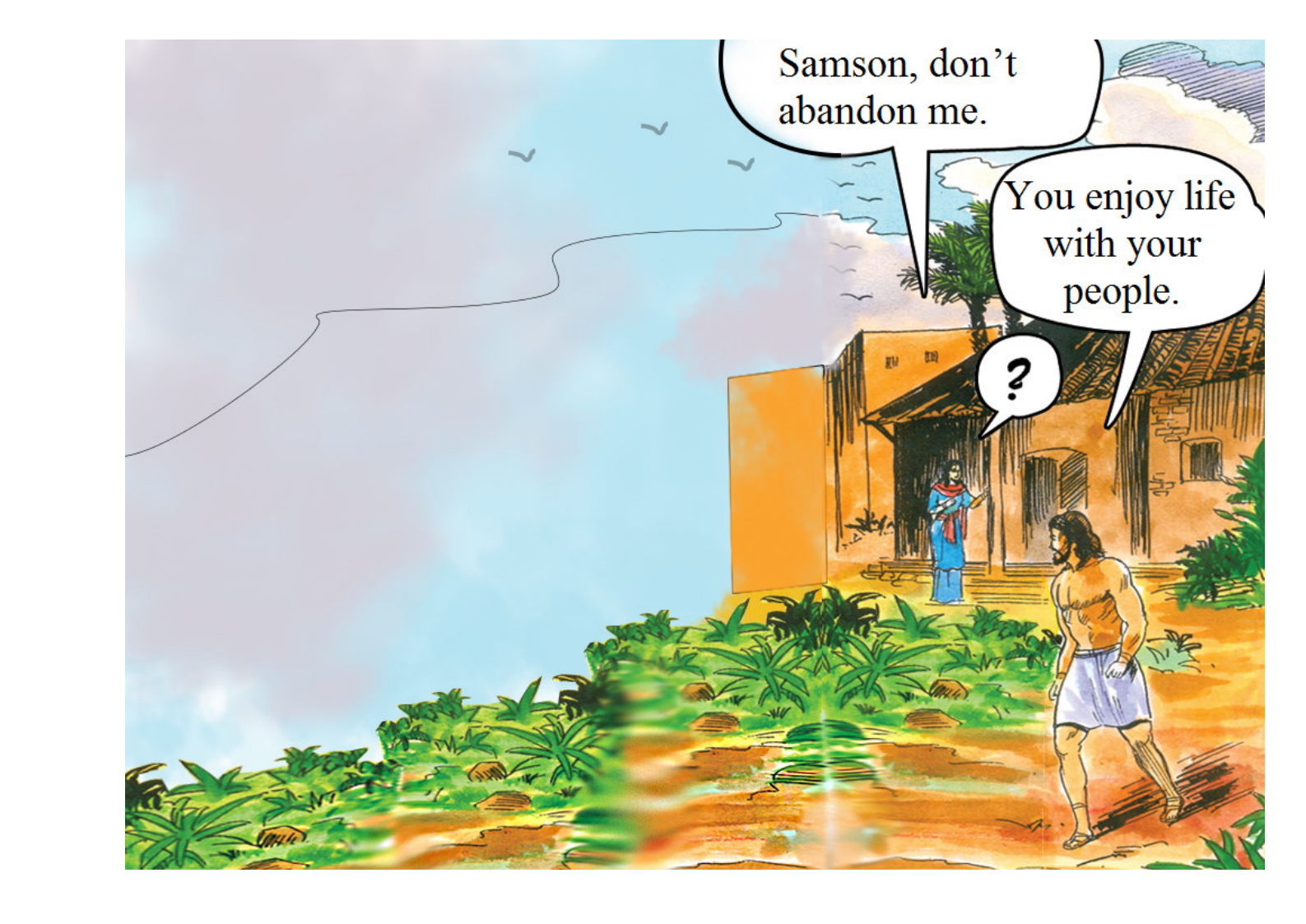


When the young men were gone.



You! Was it for this that you coaxed the answer out of me?

Please don't misunderstand me. They threatened to kill me and my family.



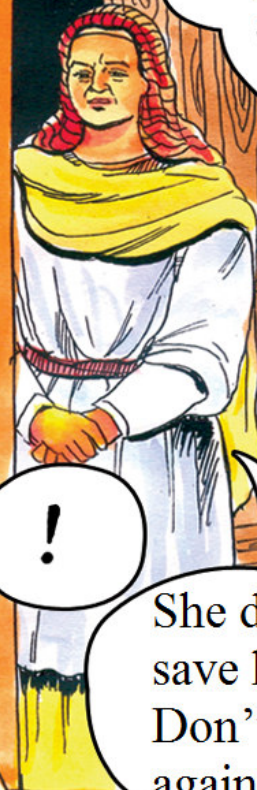
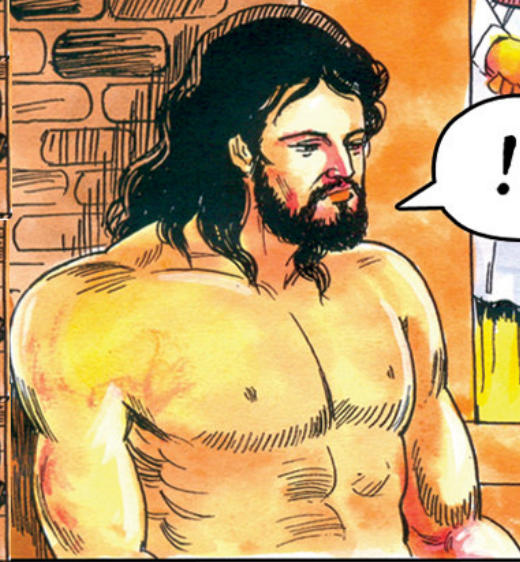
Samson, don't
abandon me.

You enjoy life
with your
people.

?

Days later.

Son, it breaks my heart to see you like this.



Go and bring her home.



!

She did it to save her life. Don't hold it against her.




Look, someone
is coming.

Samson, Kaditha's
marriage is fixed.

What?





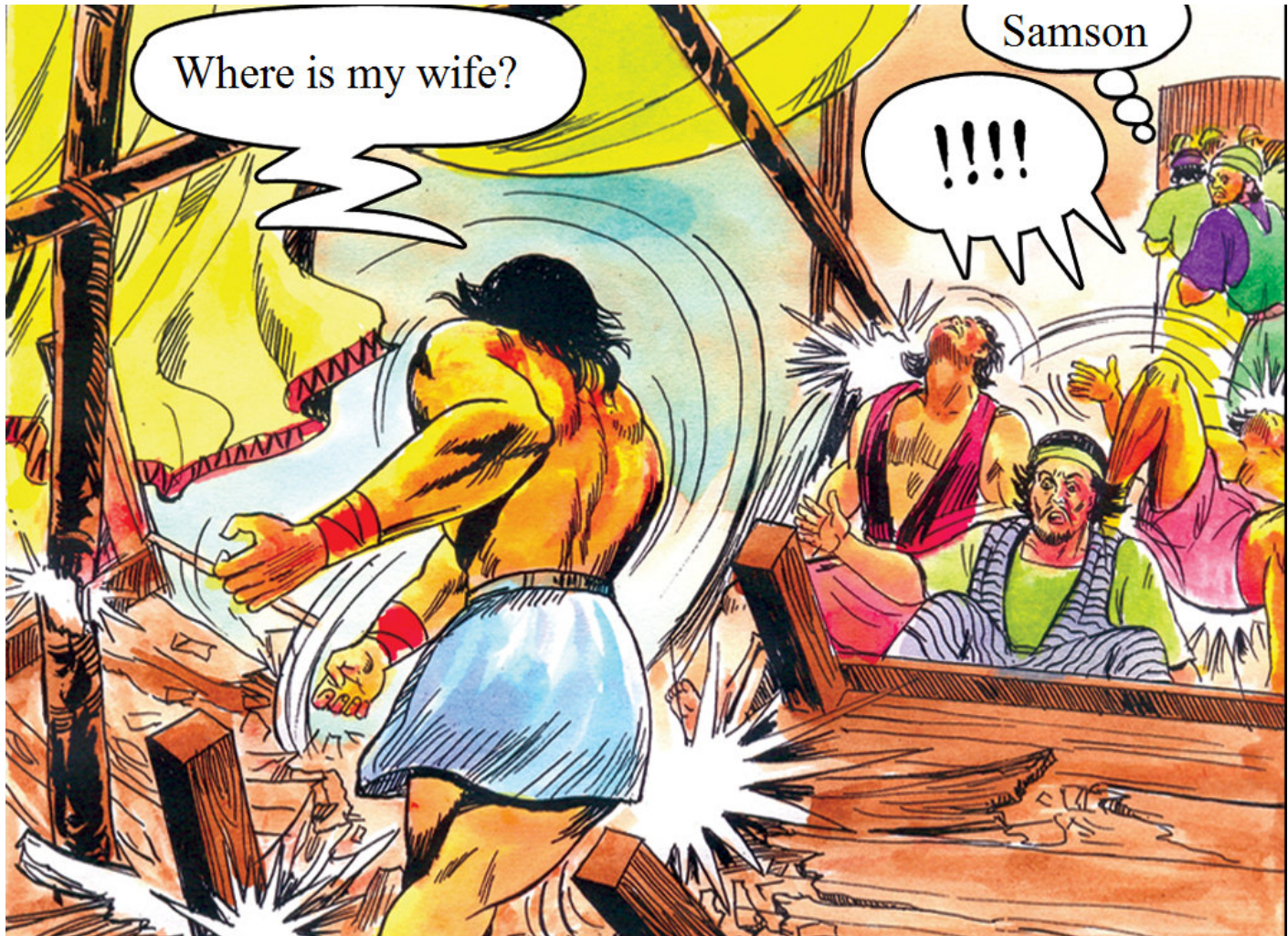
The wedding
celebration has
begun already.


How dare they!

Where is my wife?

Samson


!!!





I thought you had left her for good. If you want, you can have her sister.

No, I want my wife.



Too late for that.

If so, you will
be sorry.

S.

Samson caught hold of three hundred jackals, tied torches to their tails and drove them into the field.





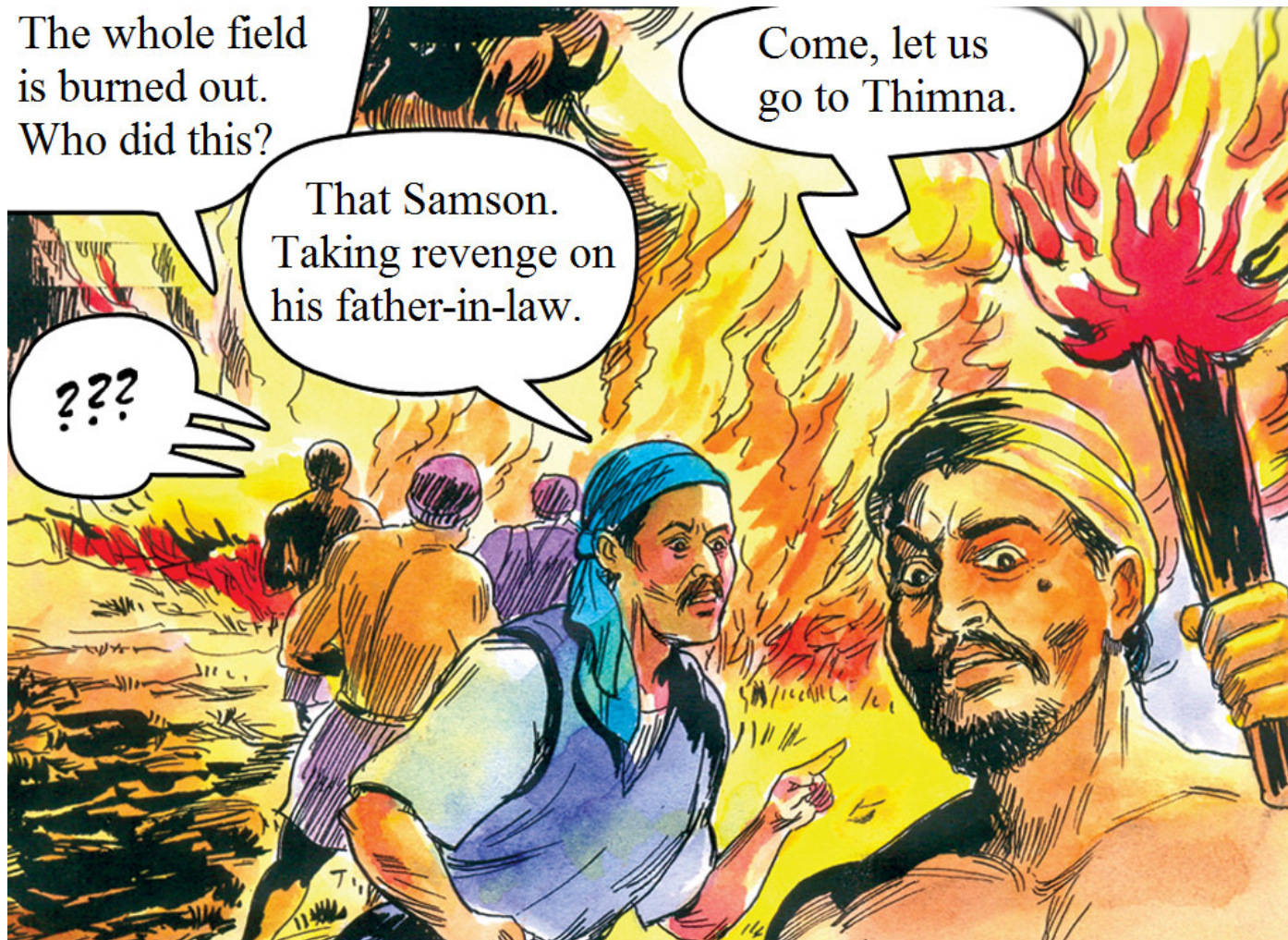
Ha... Ha..


The whole field
is burned out.
Who did this?

That Samson.
Taking revenge on
his father-in-law.

???

Come, let us
go to Timna.



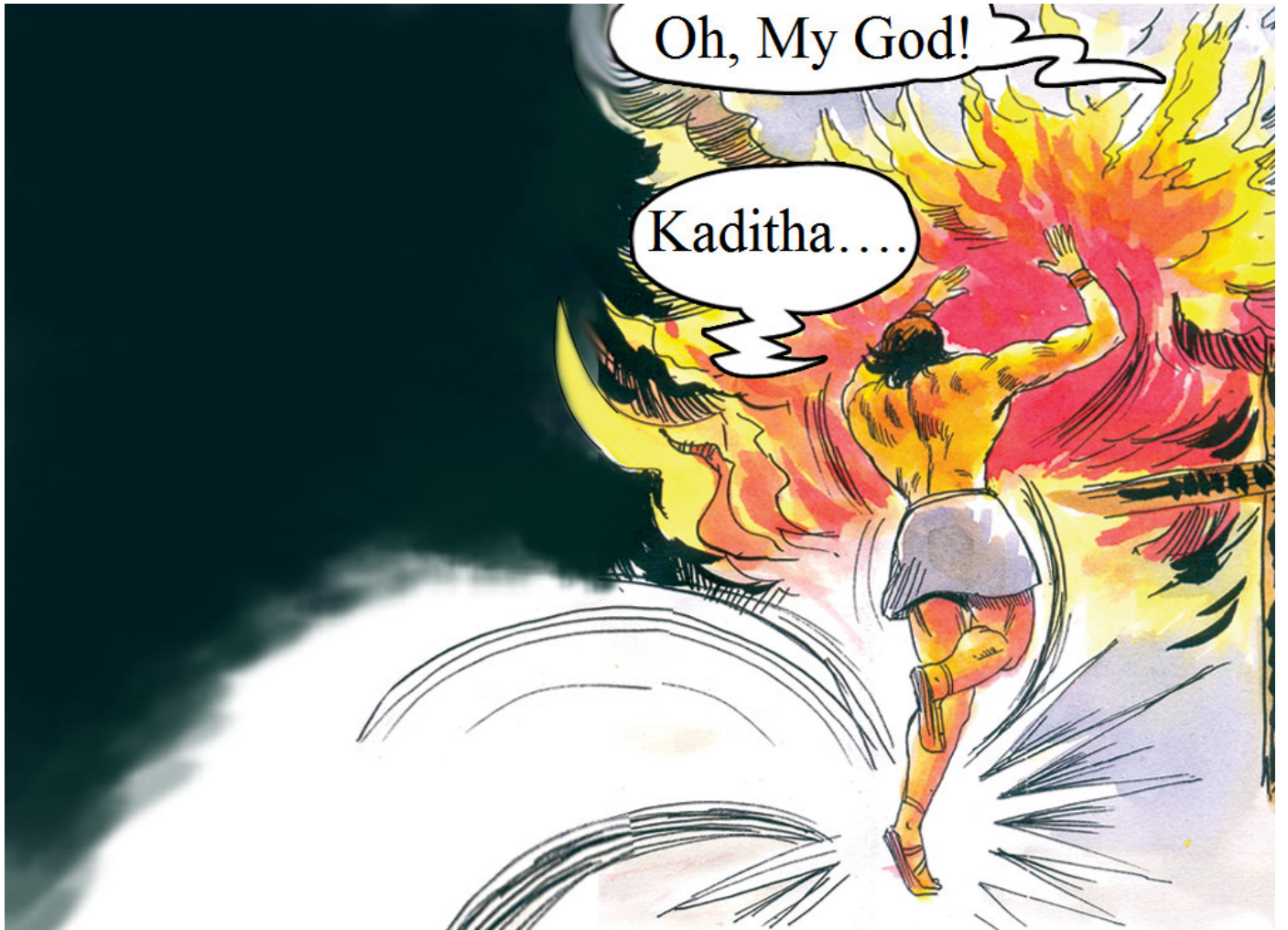


Samson, the Philistines
have surrounded Kaditha's
house.

What!

Oh, My God!

Kaditha....





Help

!!

Crack

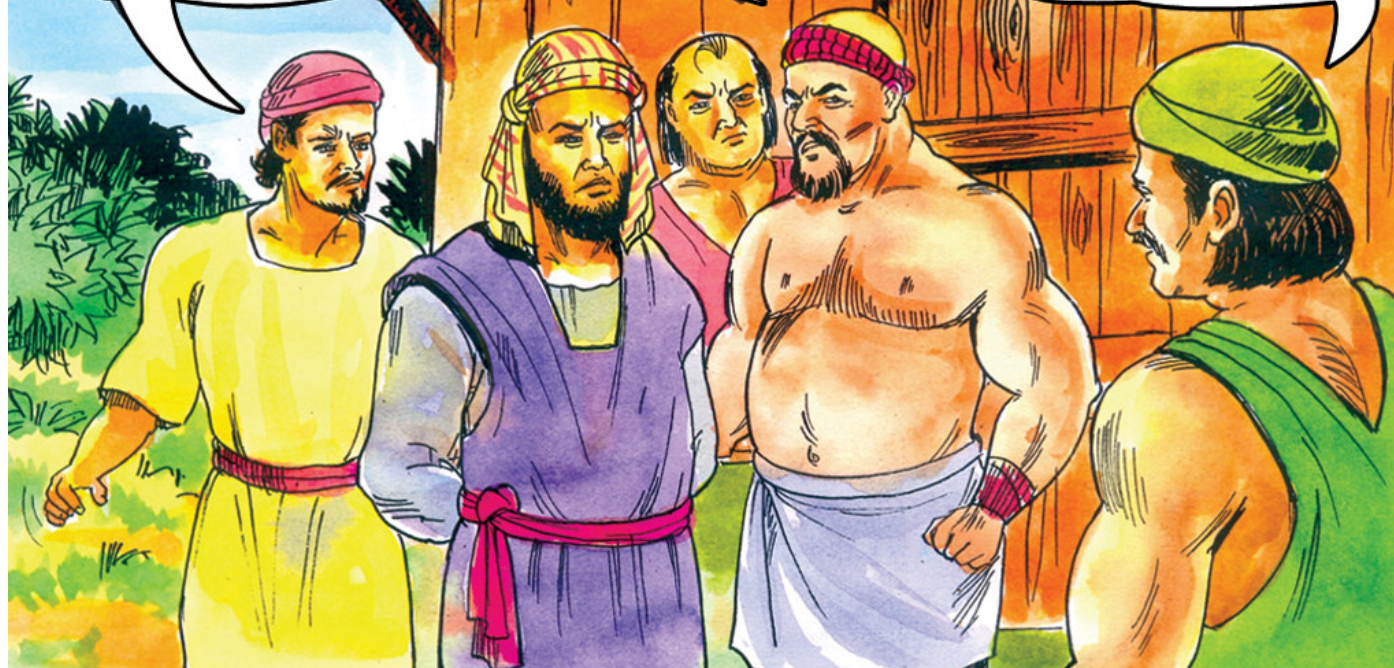
Hearing about the massacre
the Philistines got together.

We can't afford
to let Samson go
on like this.

We must
destroy him.

But nobody
knows where
he is.

Attack the
Israelites.



Philistines besieged Lehi, a town of the Israelites.

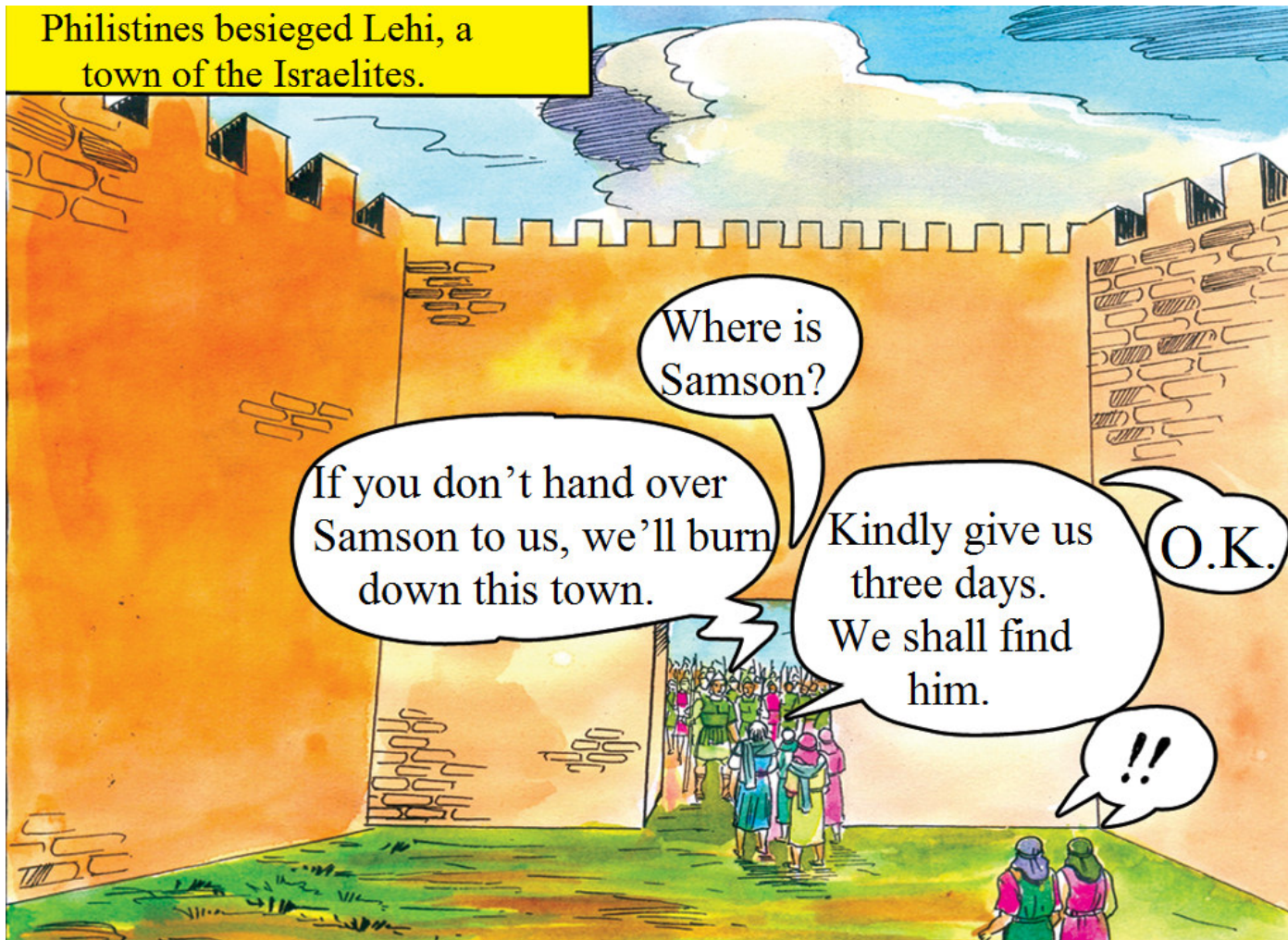
Where is Samson?

If you don't hand over Samson to us, we'll burn down this town.

Kindly give us three days. We shall find him.

O.K.

!!



The Israelites went to the rock of Etam where Samson was hiding in a cave.



Samson, come
down; save
your people.



What do you
want?



Samson, if you don't come with us,
the Philistines will ruin us.

Philistines!
Where are
they?





Unless we hand you over to them, they'll kill our woman and children. Lehi will be destroyed.

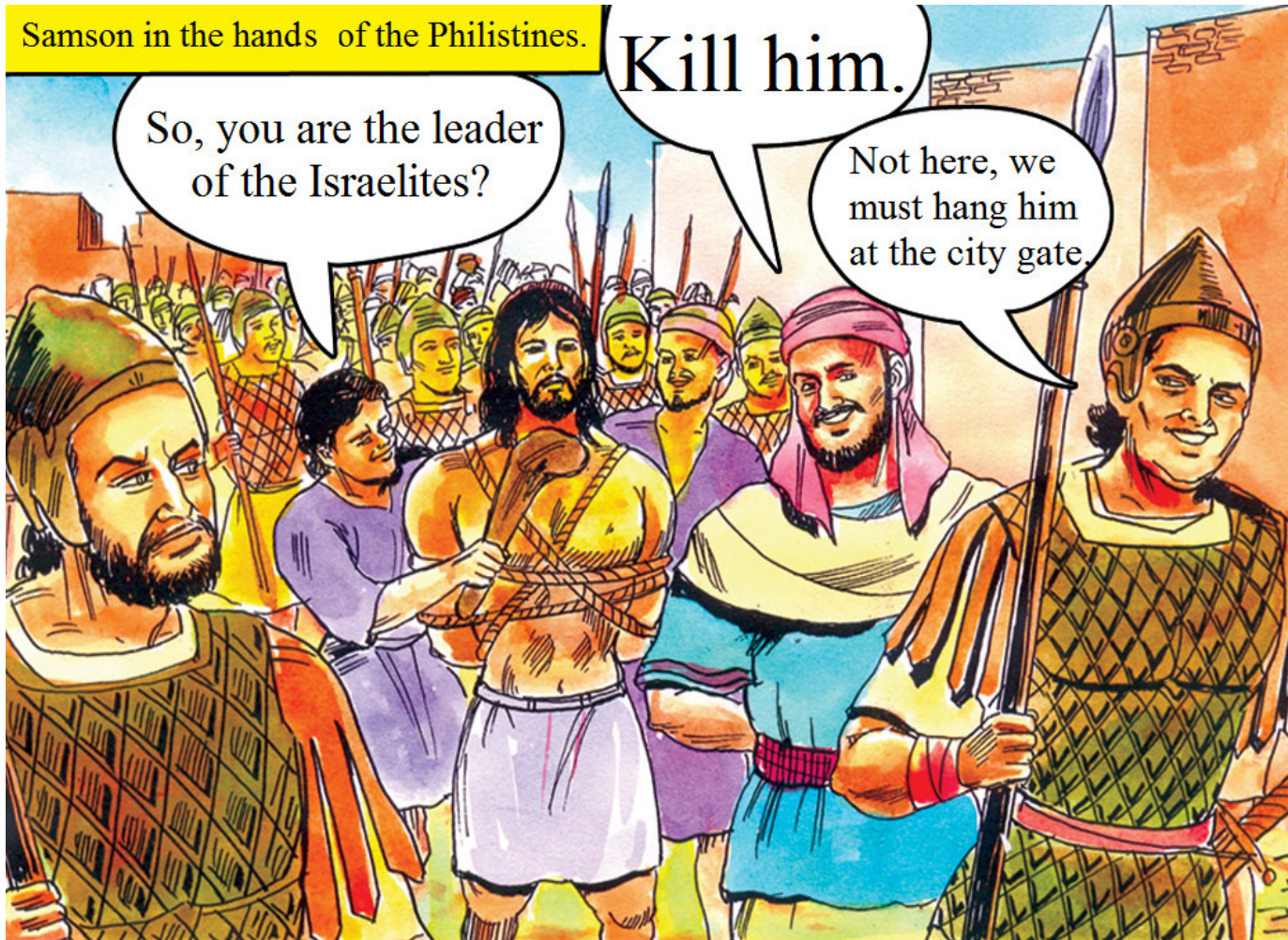
I shall come, if you promise that you won't kill me

Samson in the hands of the Philistines.

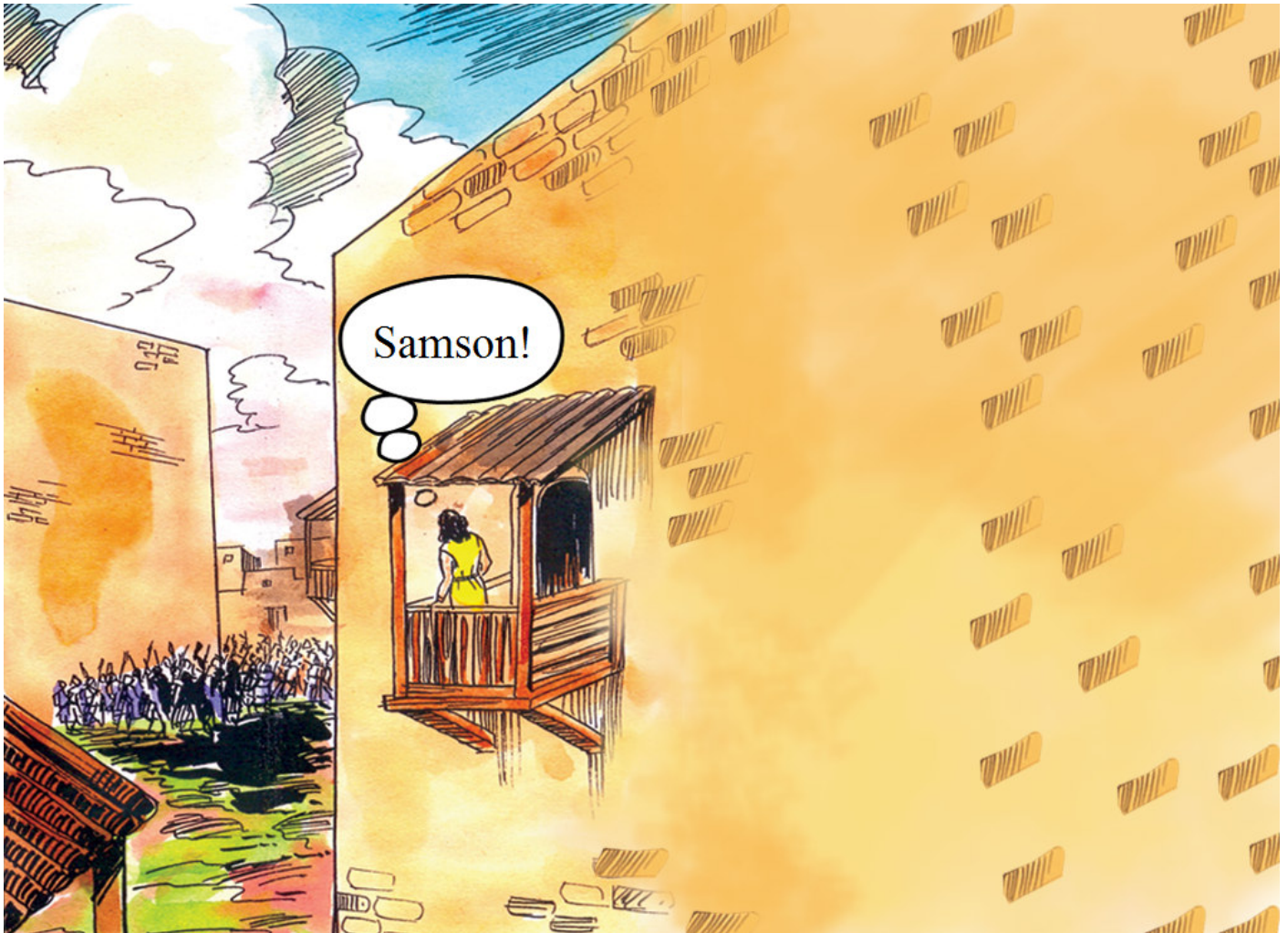
Kill him.

So, you are the leader of the Israelites?

Not here, we must hang him at the city gate.



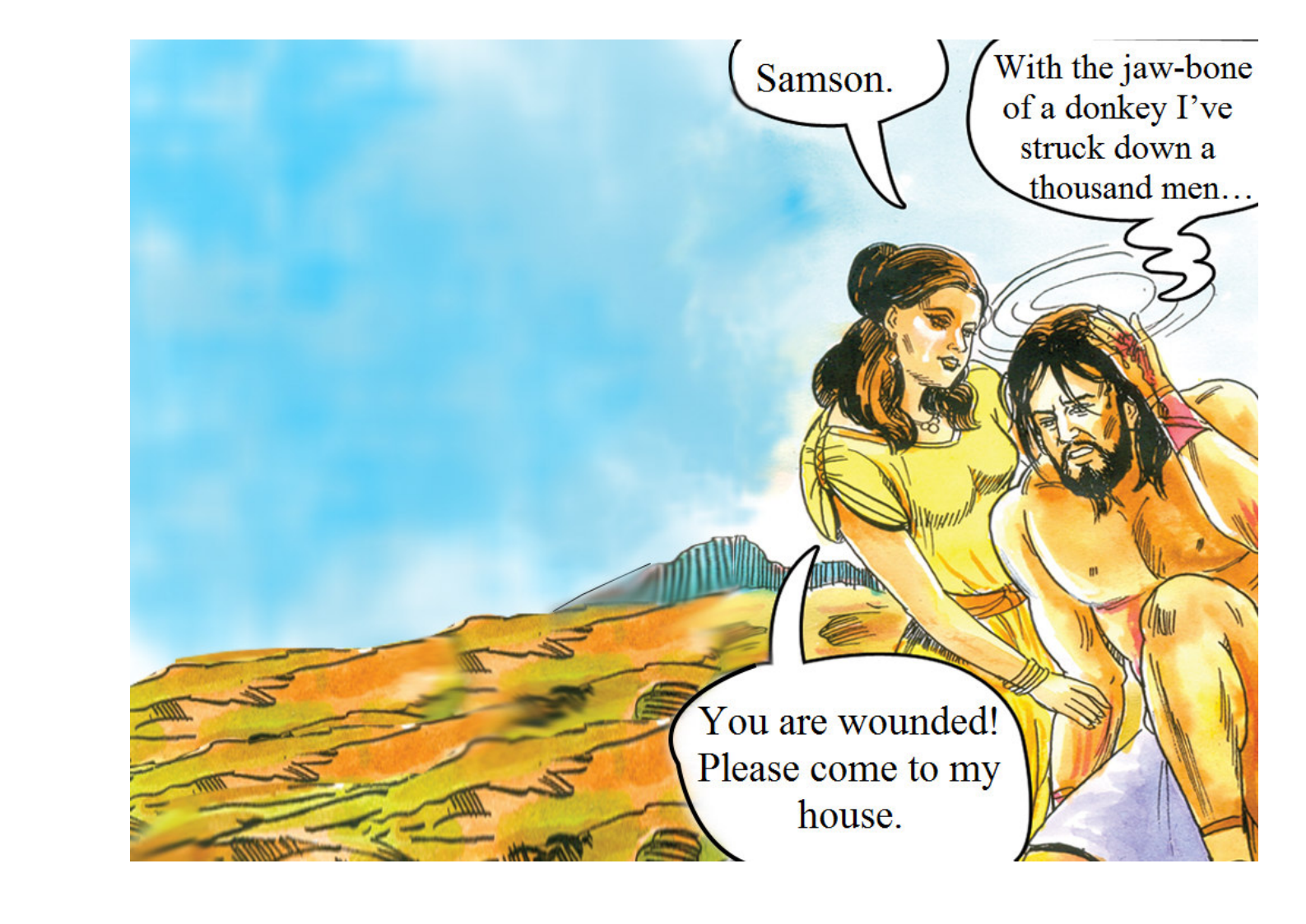




Samson!

Samson attacked the Philistines.





Samson.

With the jaw-bone
of a donkey I've
struck down a
thousand men...

You are wounded!
Please come to my
house.

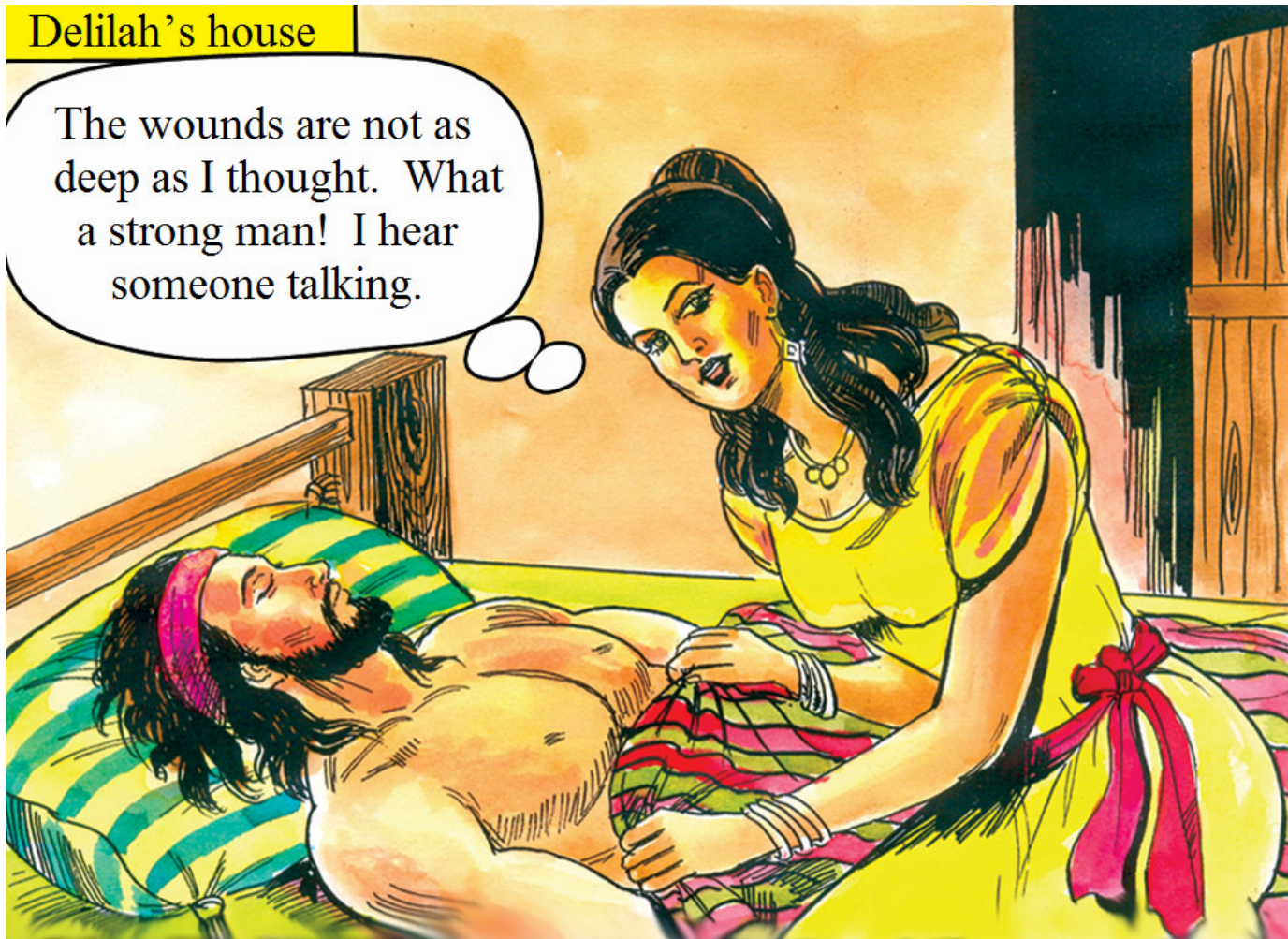
Delilah, what brings you here?

This is Gaza, I live here.



Delilah's house

The wounds are not as deep as I thought. What a strong man! I hear someone talking.

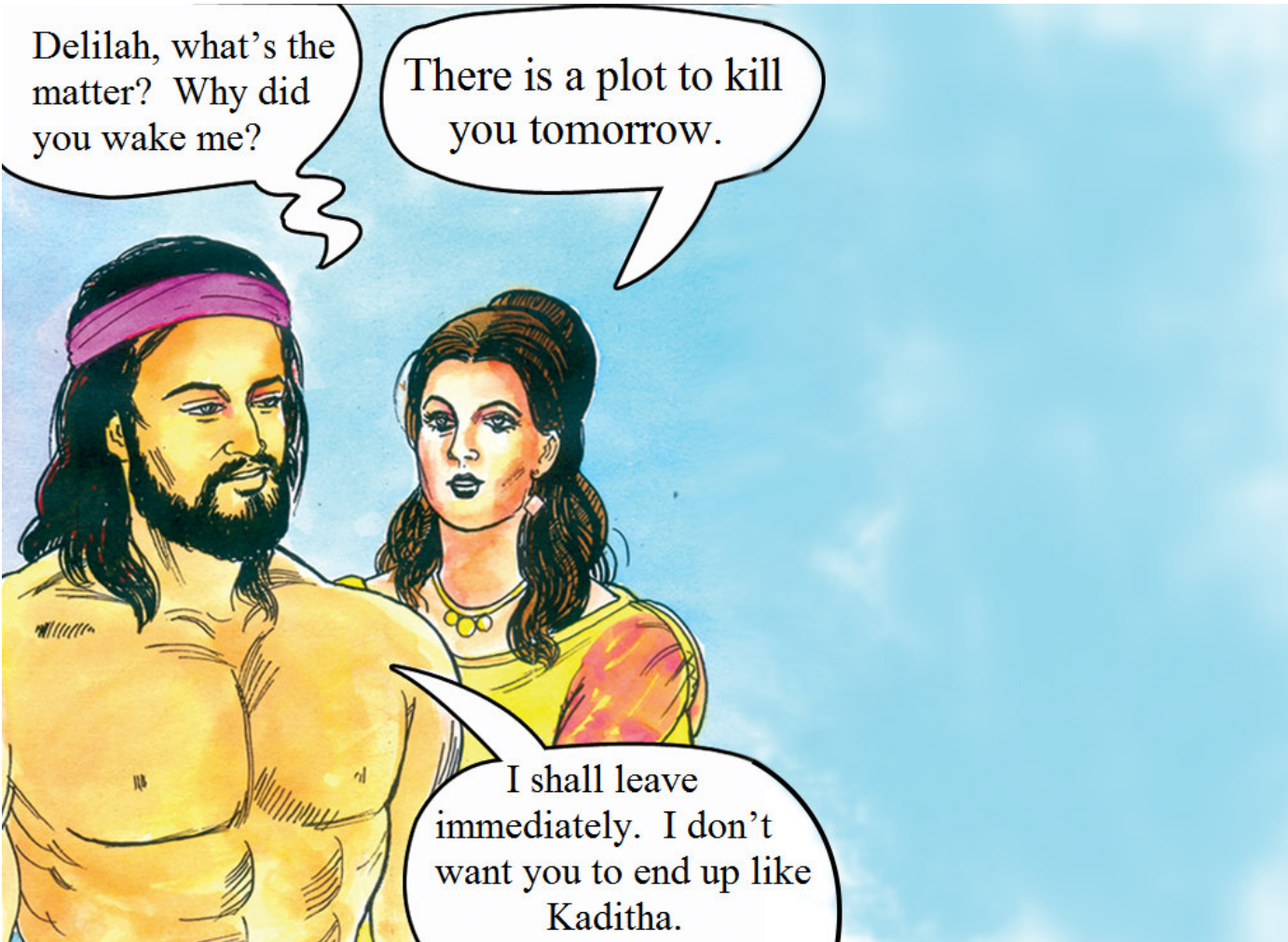


Samson is in this house. Let's go and kill him.

It's too risky. We better gather more people and catch him in the morning.

?

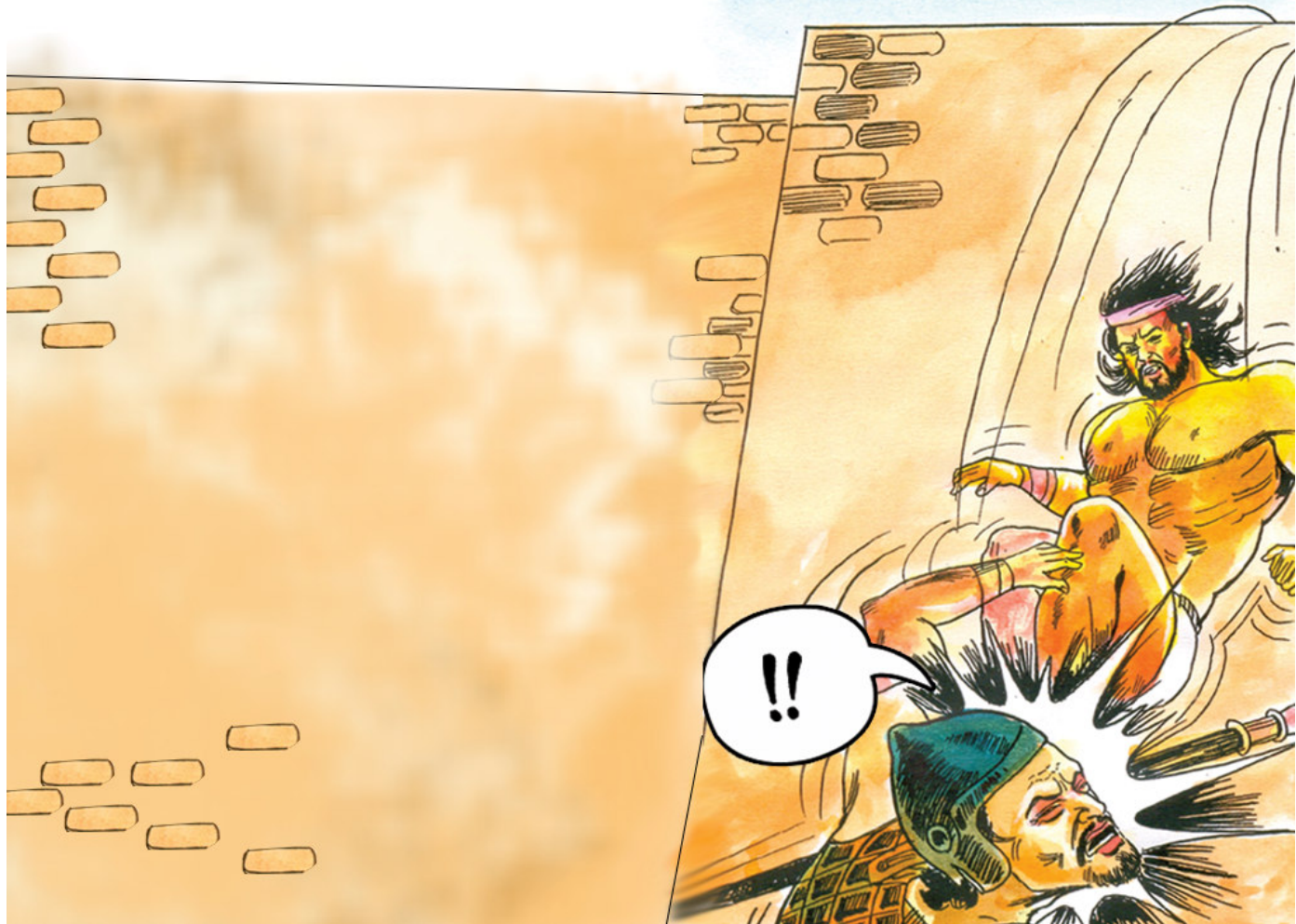




Delilah, what's the matter? Why did you wake me?

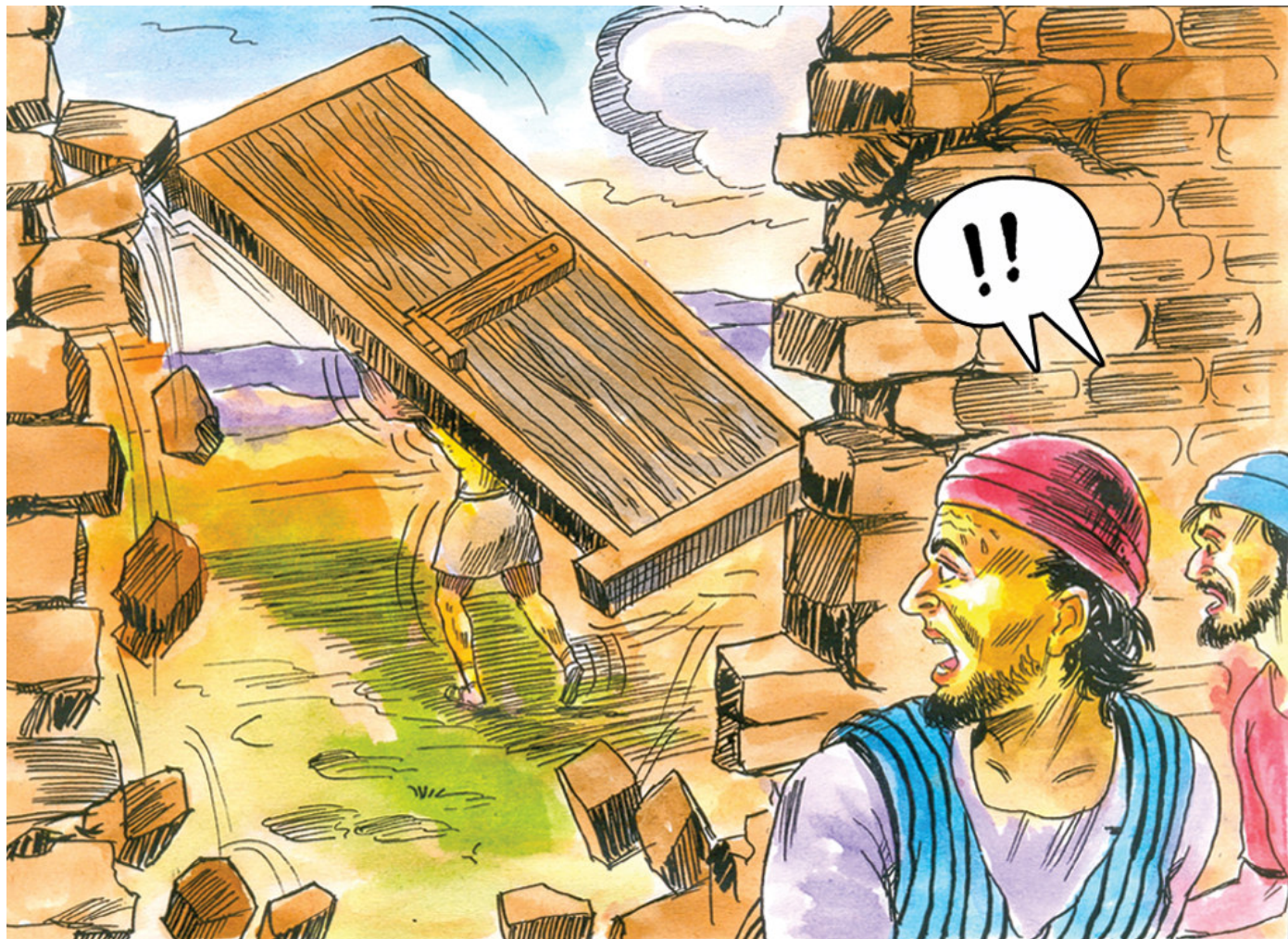
There is a plot to kill you tomorrow.

I shall leave immediately. I don't want you to end up like Kaditha.



Thought you could catch
me by closing the gate!





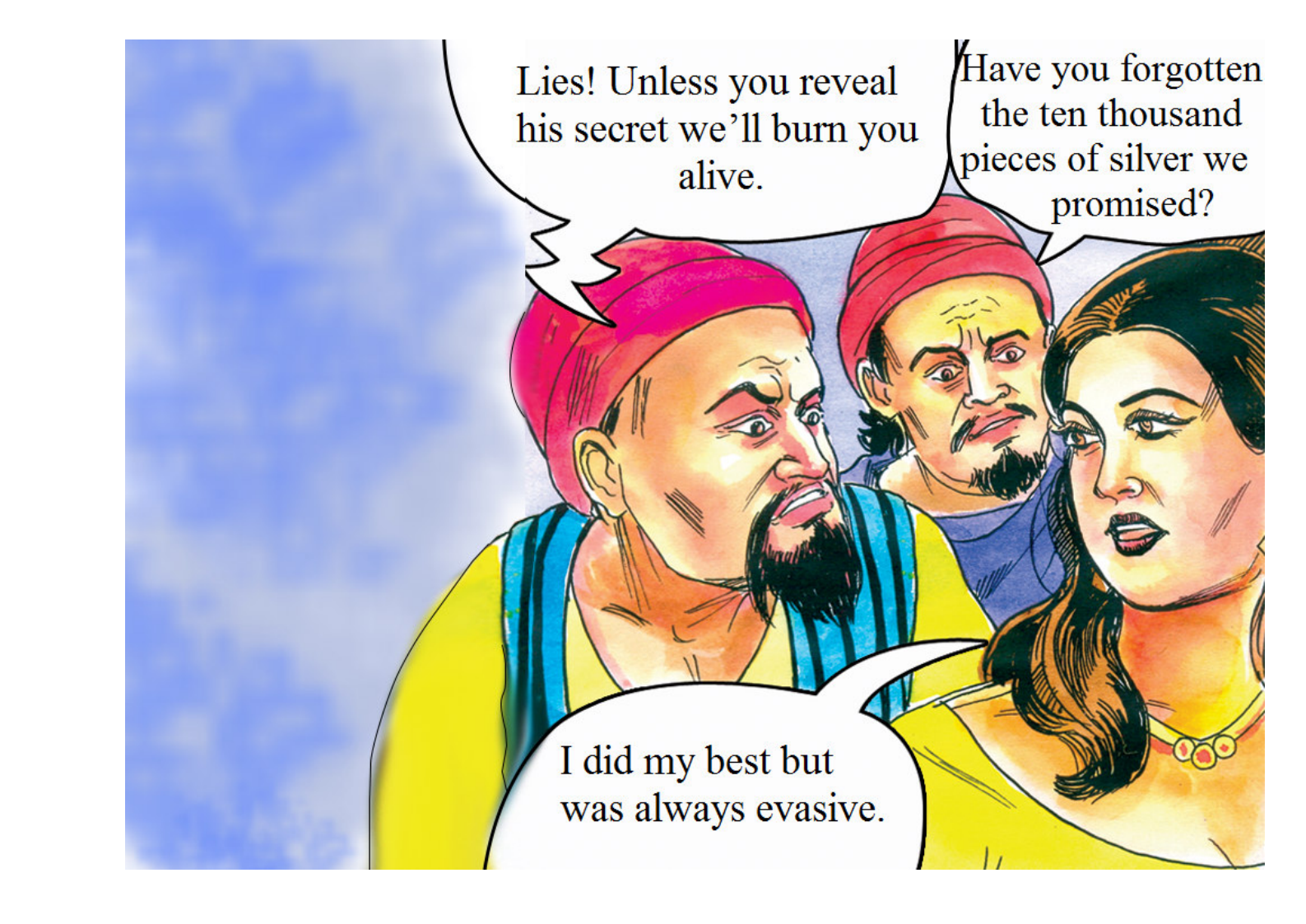
Months later, the leaders of the Philistines came to Delilah's house.

Delilah, you must save our people from the hands of Samson.

If you try, you can find out the secret of his strength.

As you commanded, I've asked him several times but never got the truth.





Lies! Unless you reveal his secret we'll burn you alive.

Have you forgotten the ten thousand pieces of silver we promised?

I did my best but was always evasive.



I tied him with seven new
bow-strings, bound him
with new ropes, vove his
hair into the warp of the
web, but....

Stop playing
games with us.

We'll come back
tomorrow. If you
don't get the secret
by then....

##*#

!



When they were gone

What am I going
to do now!



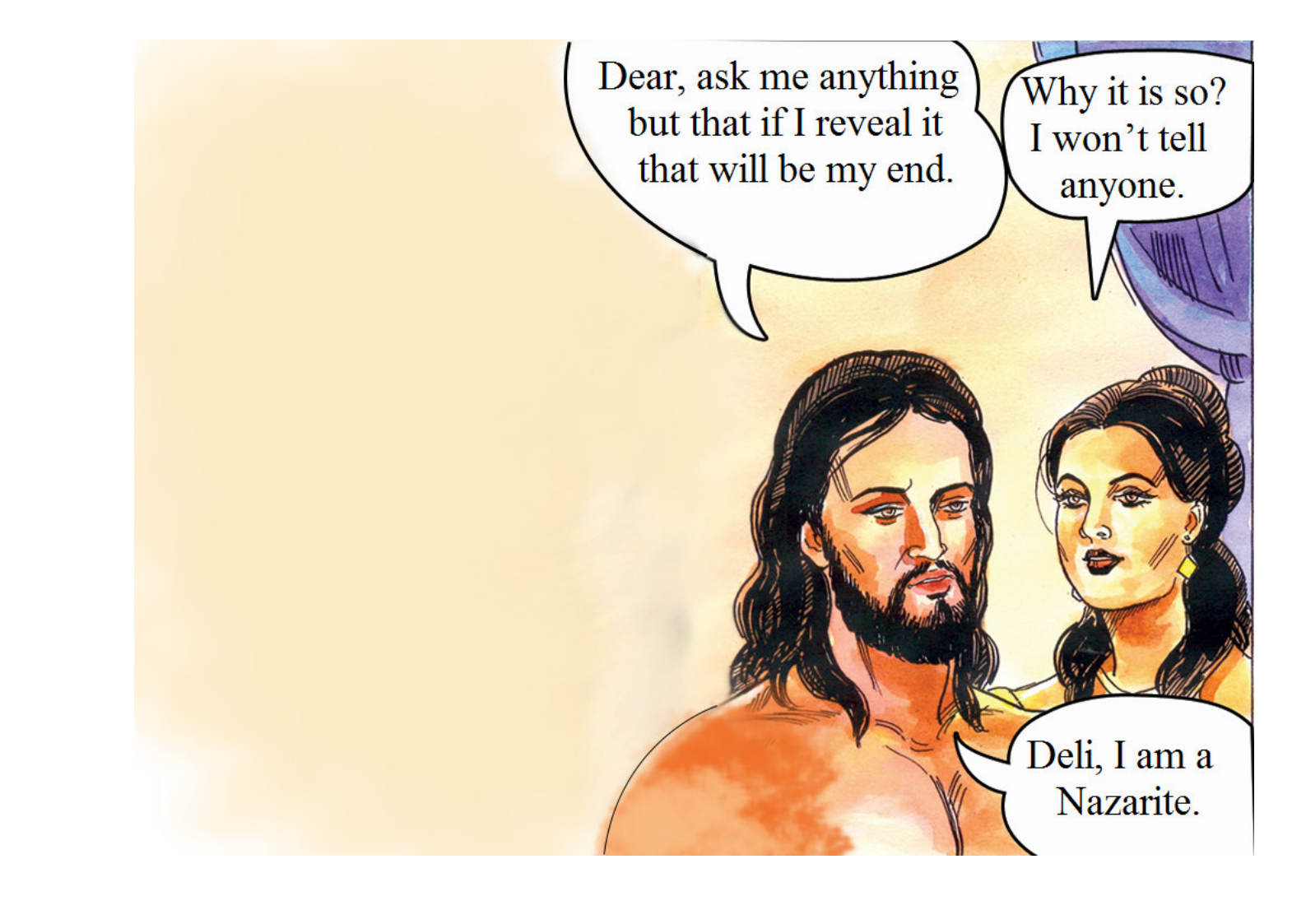
That night

Samson, you have fooled me so many times. I wonder if you love me at all.

Oh, my darling I love you more than my own life.

If you really love me, you'll tell me the secret of your strength.

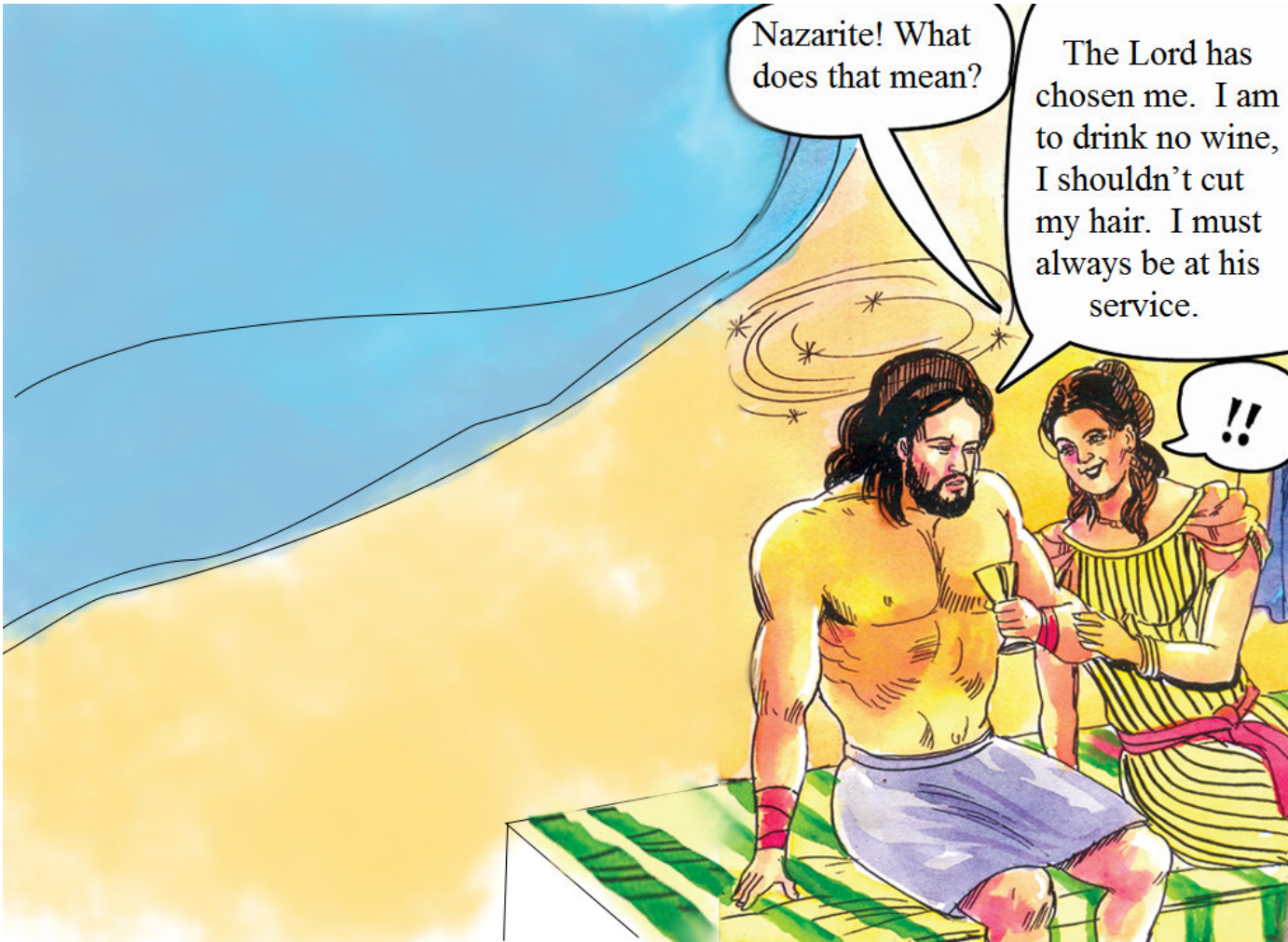




Dear, ask me anything
but that if I reveal it
that will be my end.

Why it is so?
I won't tell
anyone.

Deli, I am a
Nazarite.

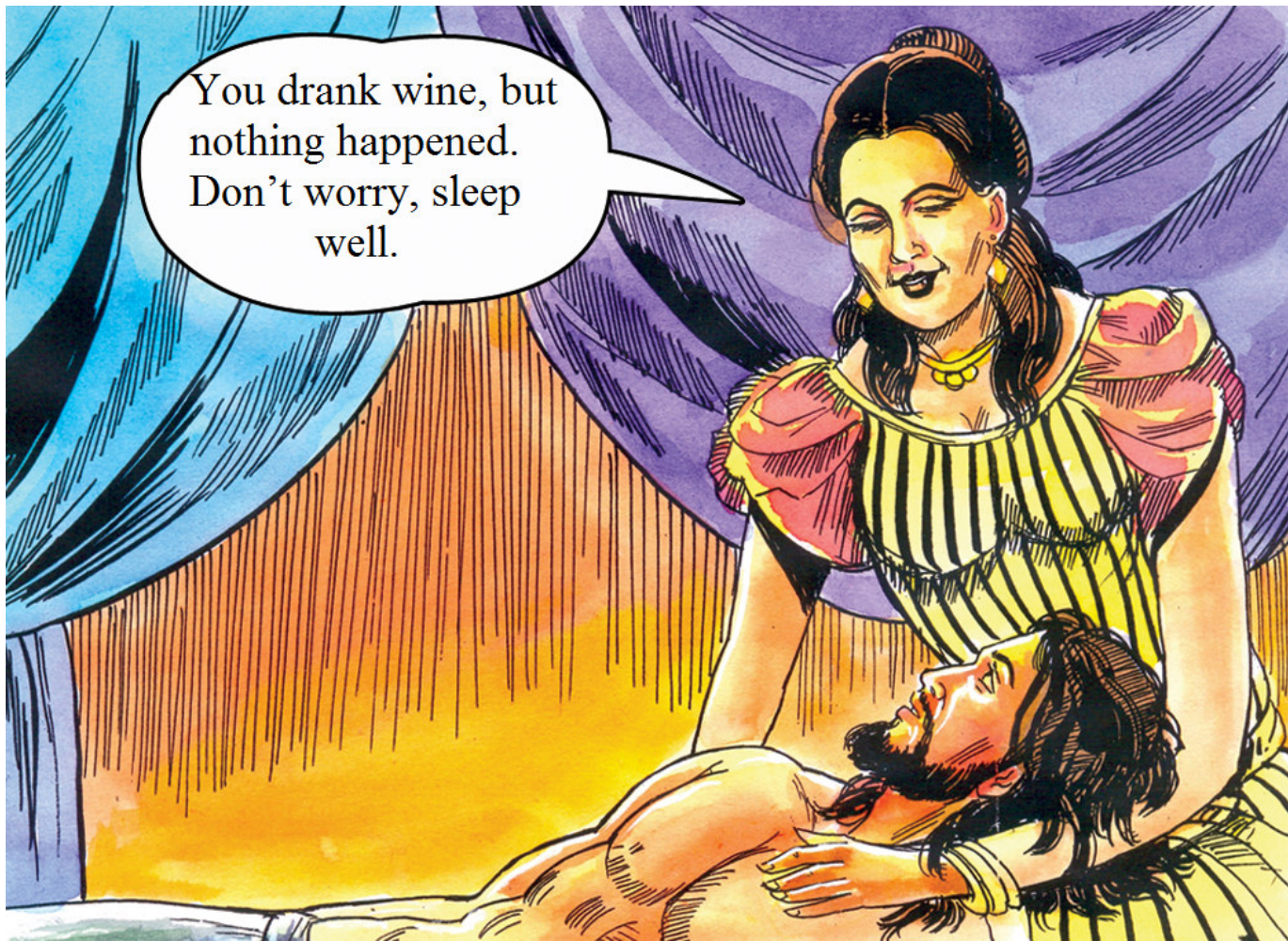


Nazarite! What does that mean?

The Lord has chosen me. I am to drink no wine, I shouldn't cut my hair. I must always be at his service.

!!

You drank wine, but
nothing happened.
Don't worry, sleep
well.



Delilah summoned the Philistine leaders and revealed the secret to them.

Don't kill him, please.

No, we won't kill him.

!



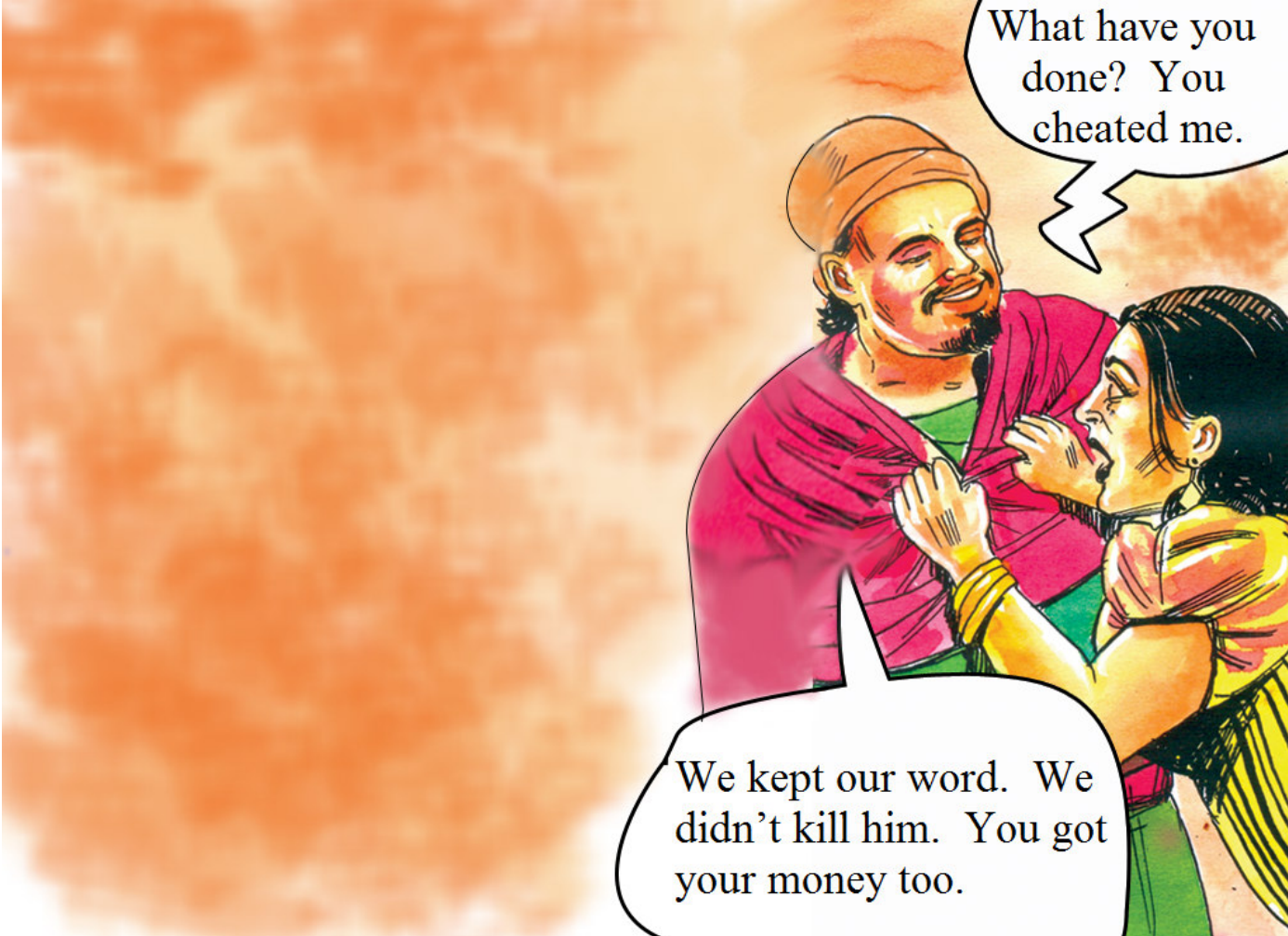


Oh. No!

My God.

!!





What have you
done? You
cheated me.

We kept our word. We
didn't kill him. You got
your money too.

Move.

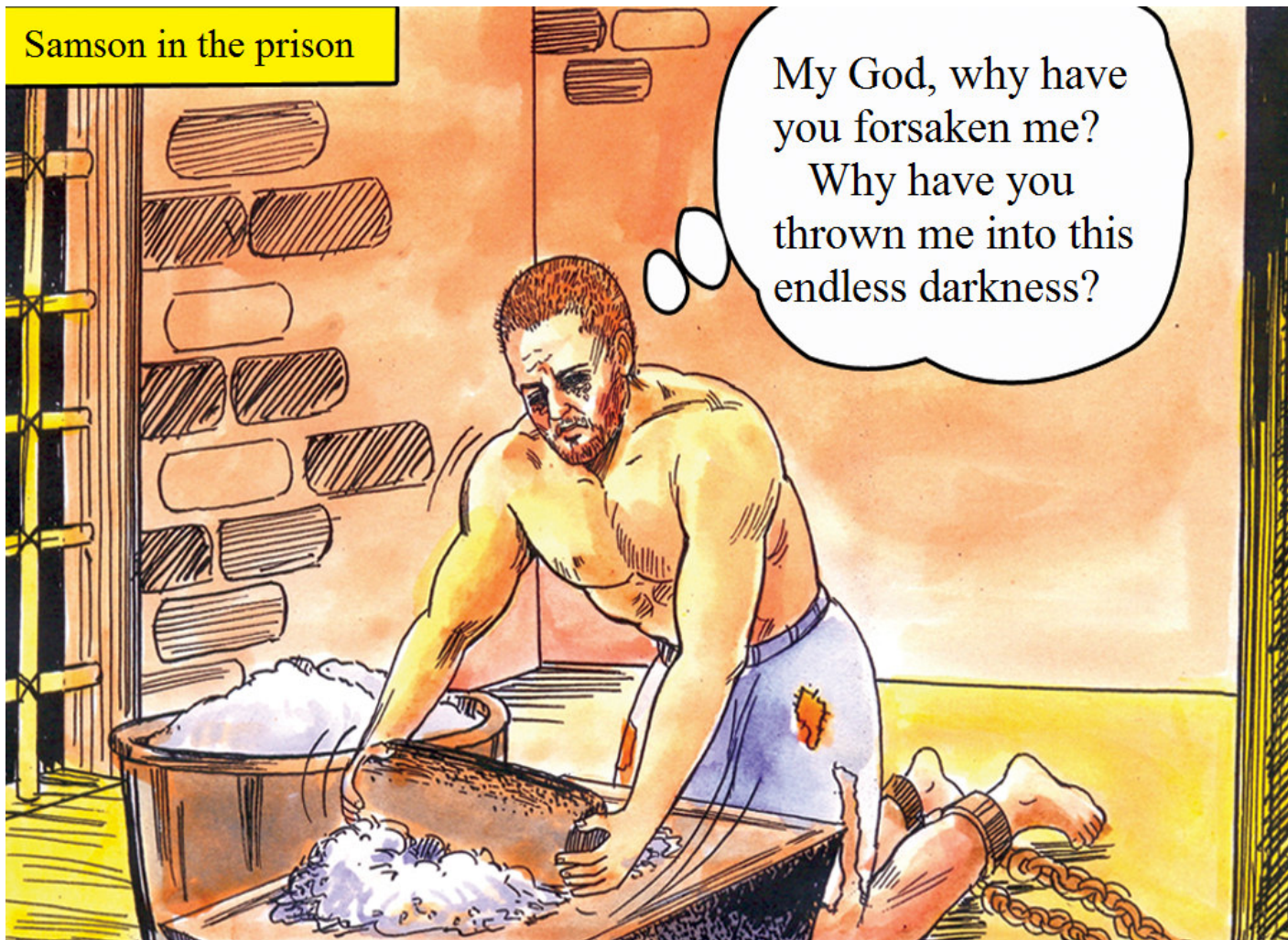
Hmm.. Walk..

!



Samson in the prison

My God, why have you forsaken me?
Why have you thrown me into this endless darkness?



Samson recalled all that happened to him.

Samson
you have broken
your vows.

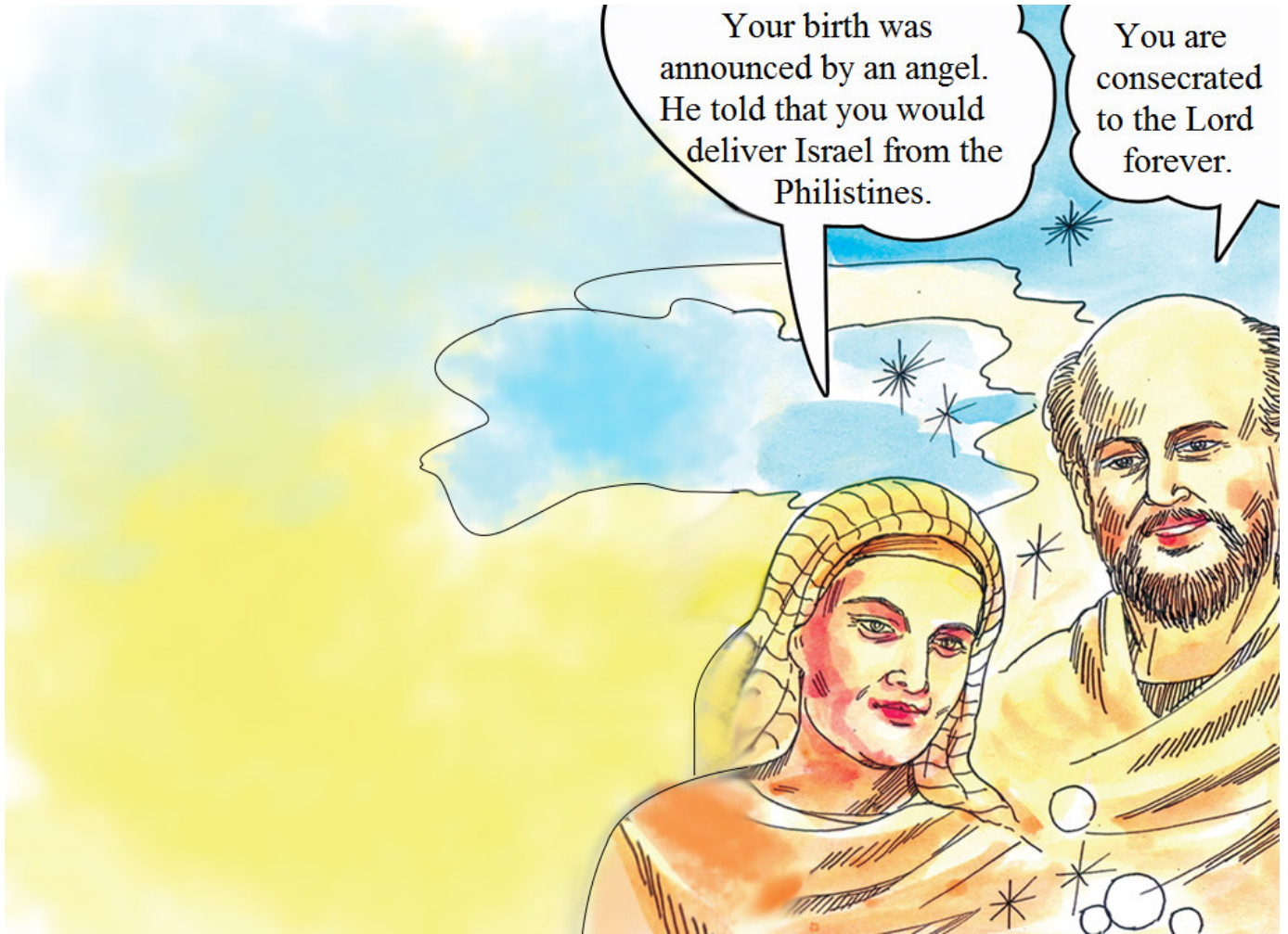


My son, how long
we waited for your
birth, how ardently
we prayed!

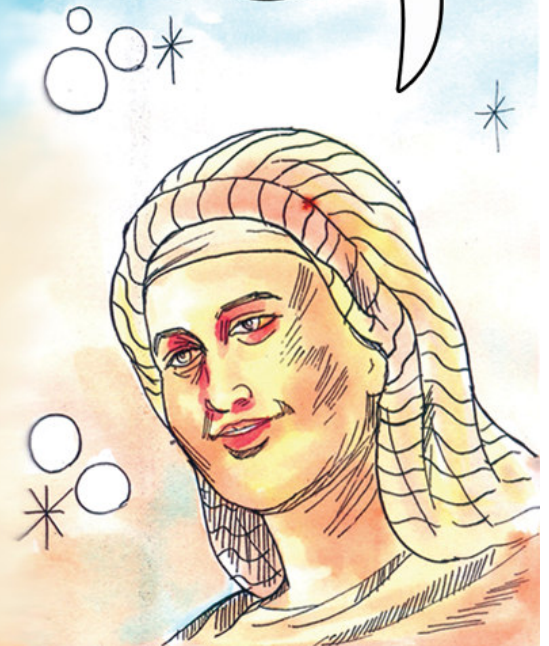


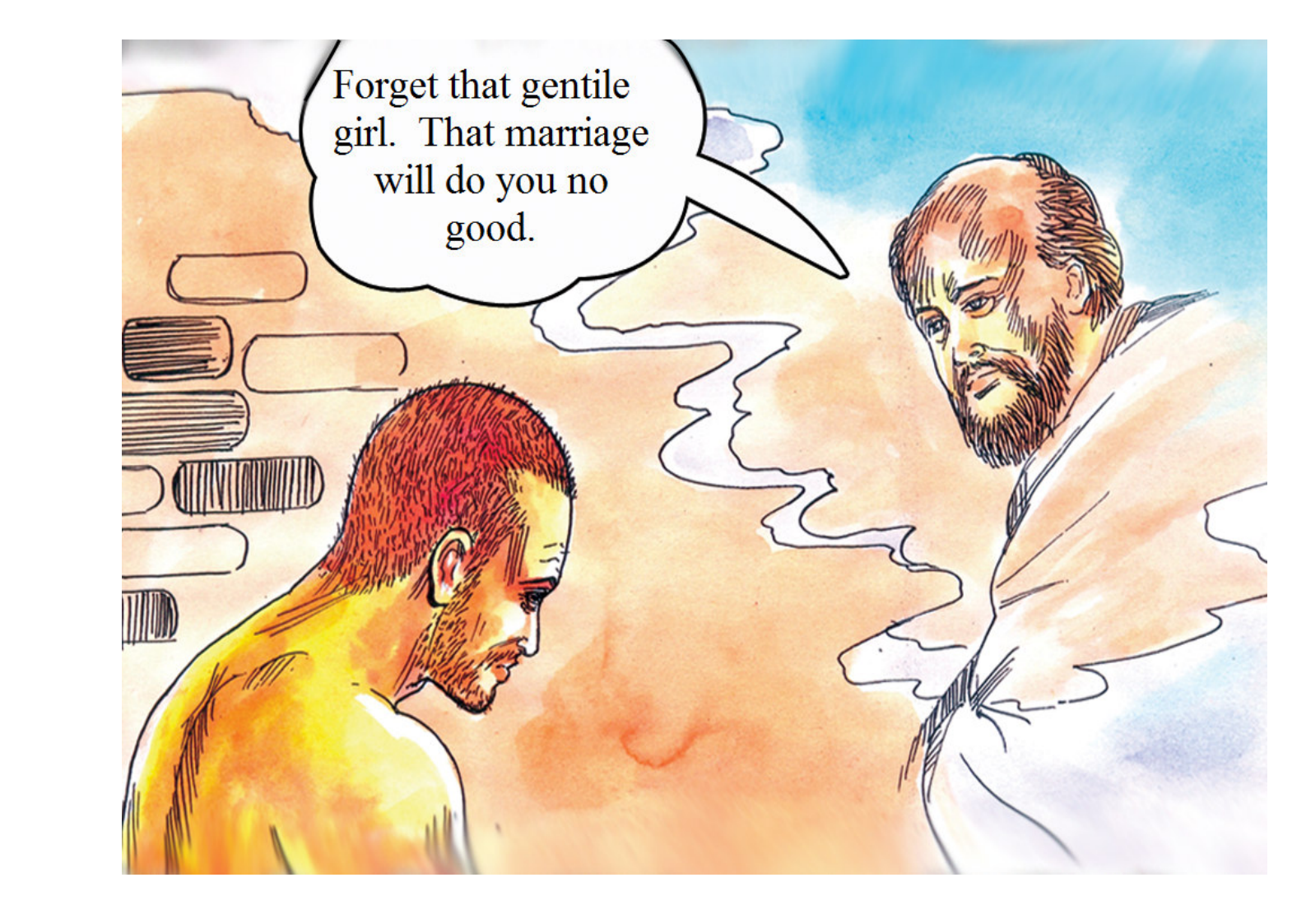
Your birth was announced by an angel. He told that you would deliver Israel from the Philistines.

You are consecrated to the Lord forever.



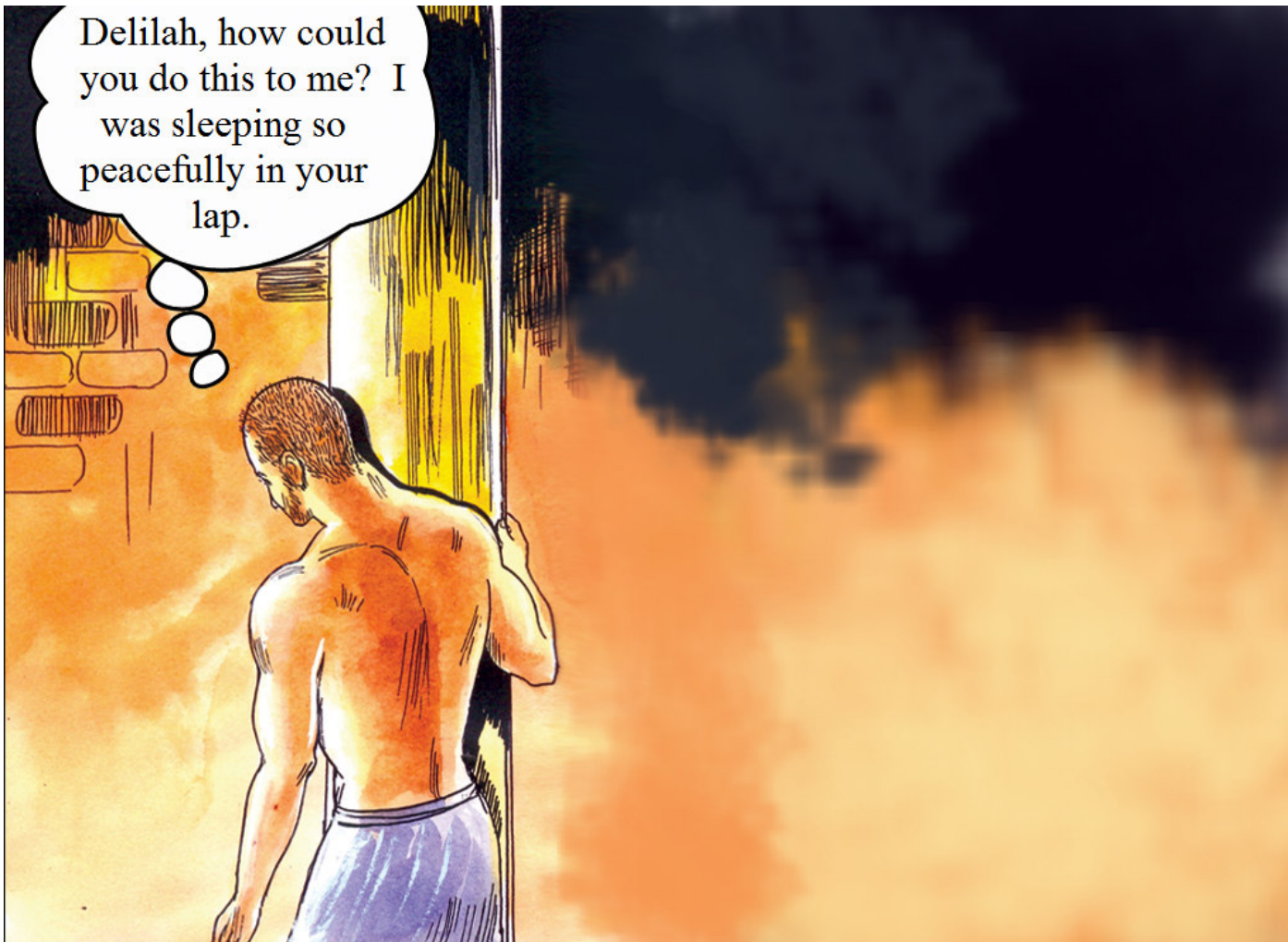
You shall not drink
wine. No razor blade
shall touch your head.
You must keep
yourself holy before
the Lord.





Forget that gentile
girl. That marriage
will do you no
good.

Delilah, how could
you do this to me? I
was sleeping so
peacefully in your
lap.



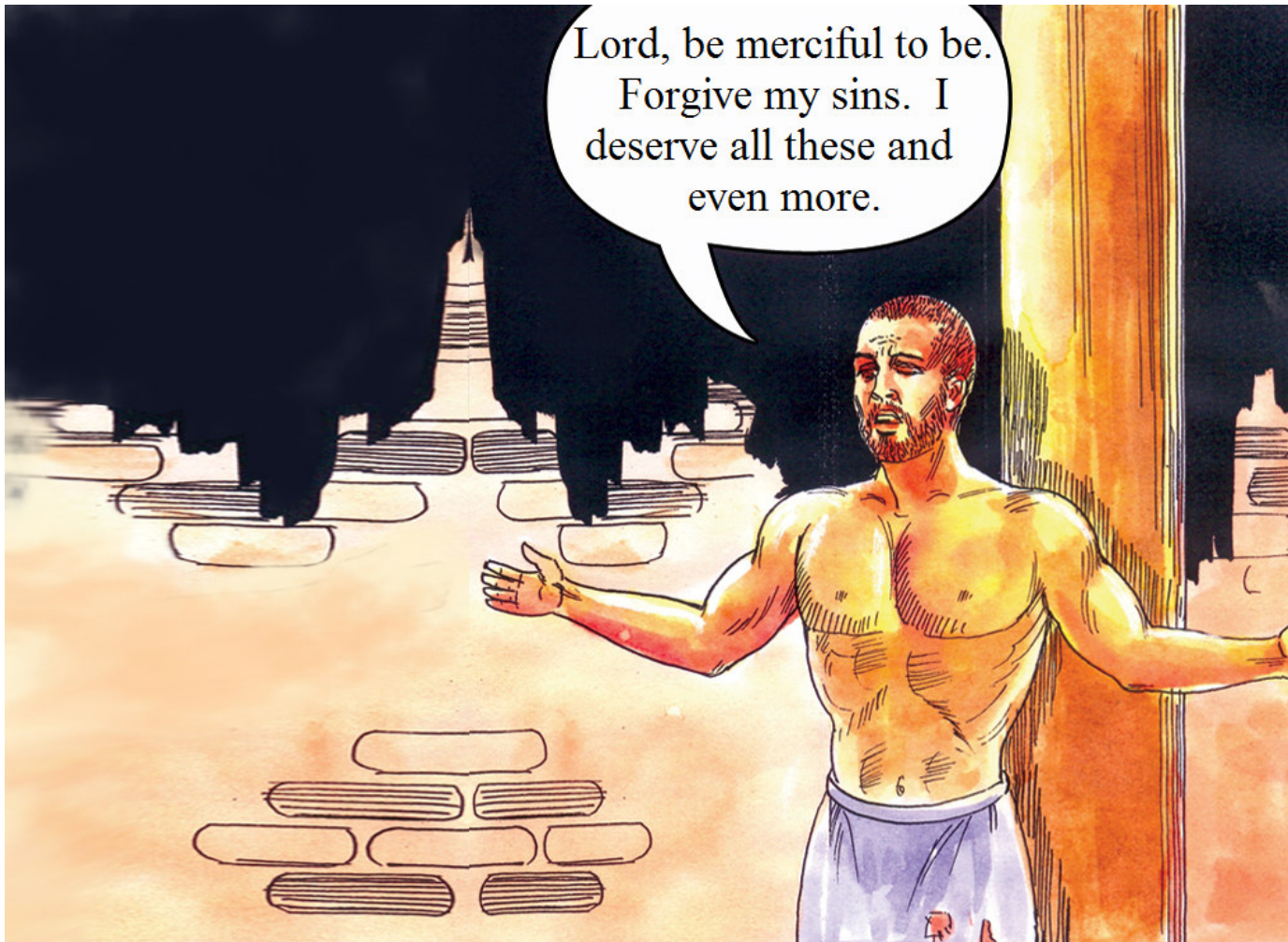
Why should I blame
her anyway? I was the
one who took
the vows.



My God, how many failures! I've sinned; broken my vows.

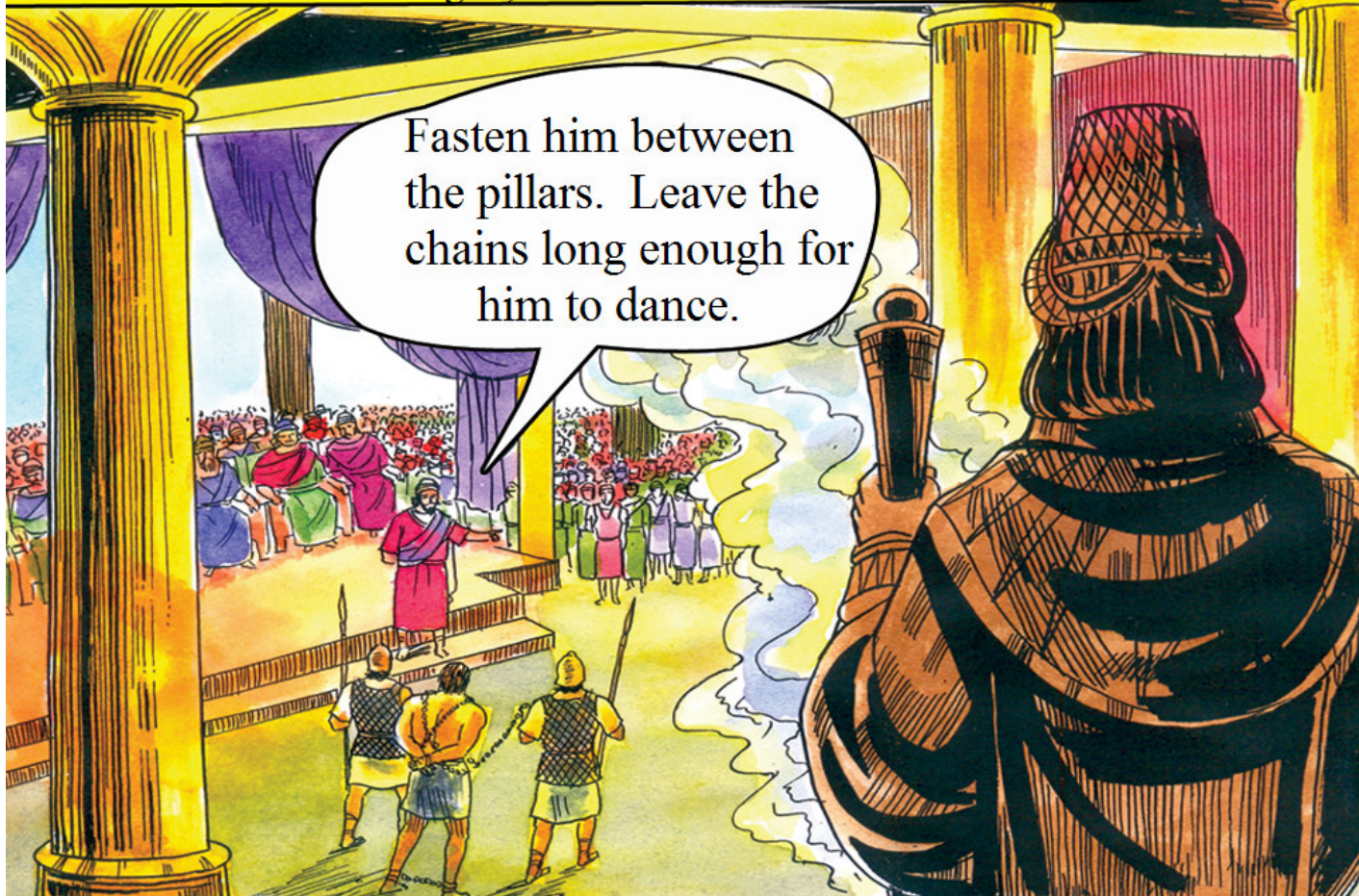


Lord, be merciful to be.
Forgive my sins. I
deserve all these and
even more.



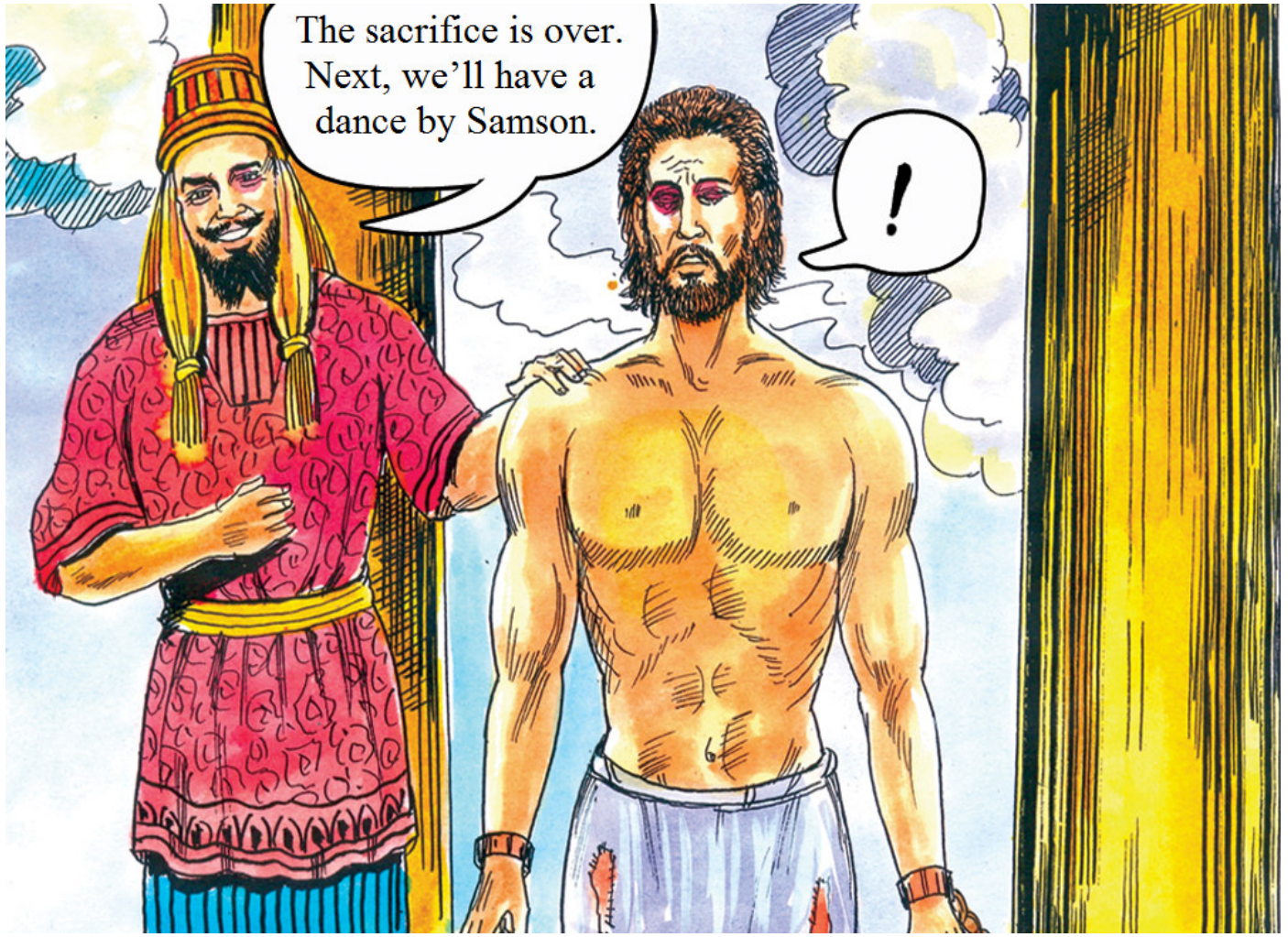
The Philistines gathered in the temple to celebrate the feast of Dagon, their God.

Fasten him between the pillars. Leave the chains long enough for him to dance.



The sacrifice is over.
Next, we'll have a
dance by Samson.

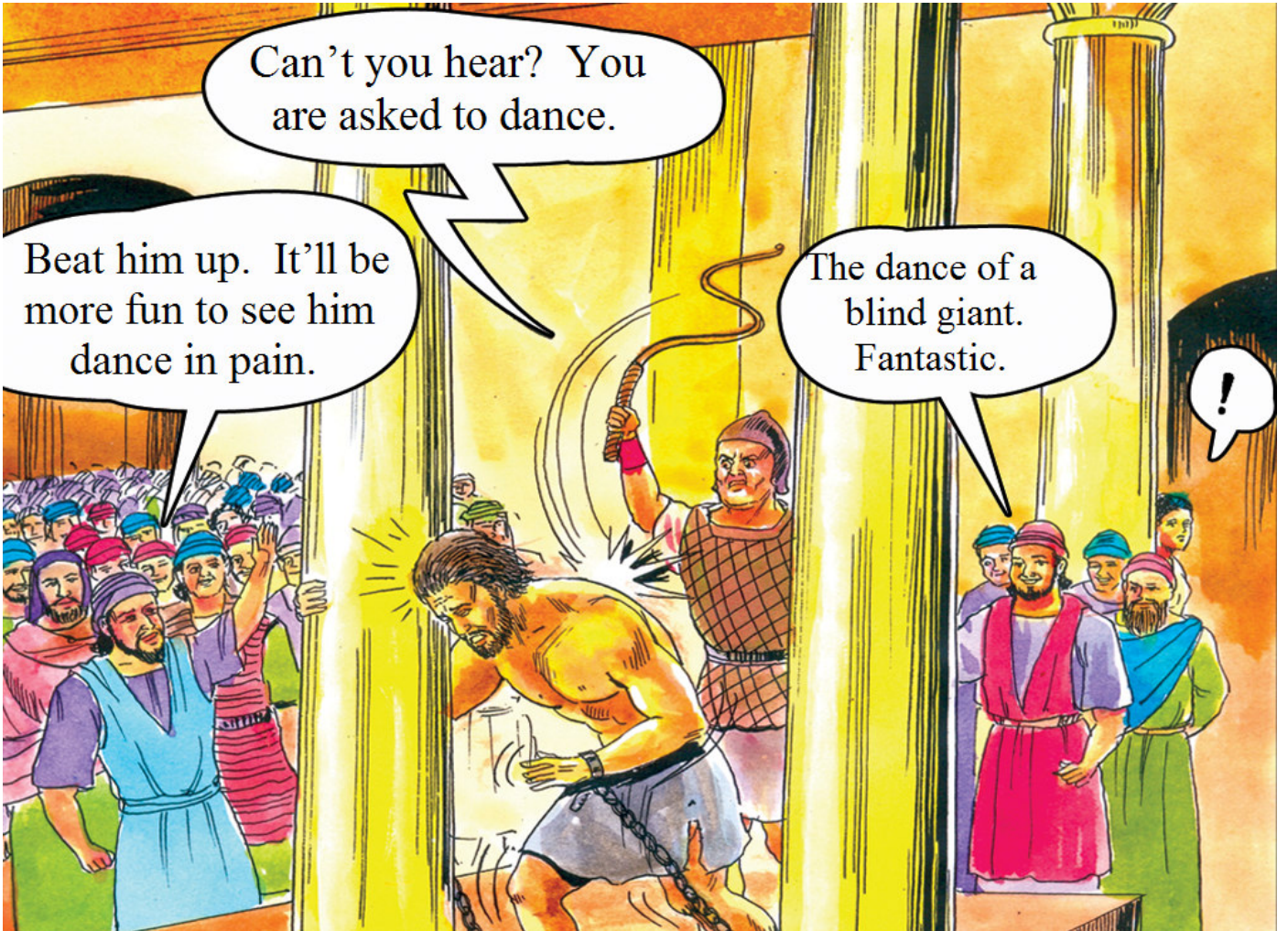
!



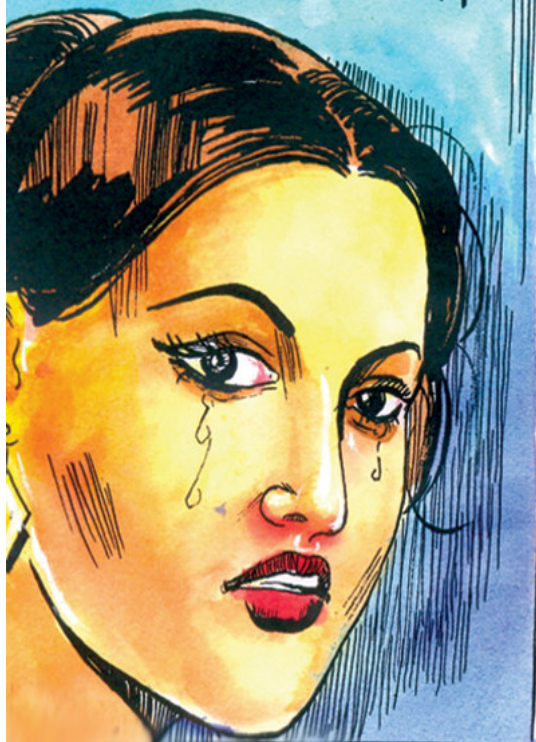
Can't you hear? You
are asked to dance.

Beat him up. It'll be
more fun to see him
dance in pain.

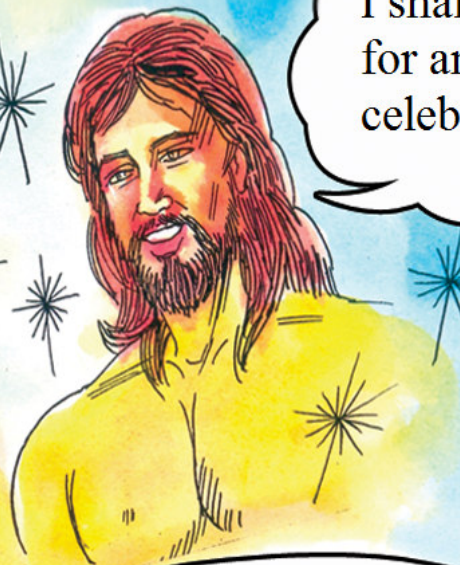
The dance of a
blind giant.
Fantastic.



Seeing this, Delilah
wept
bitterly.

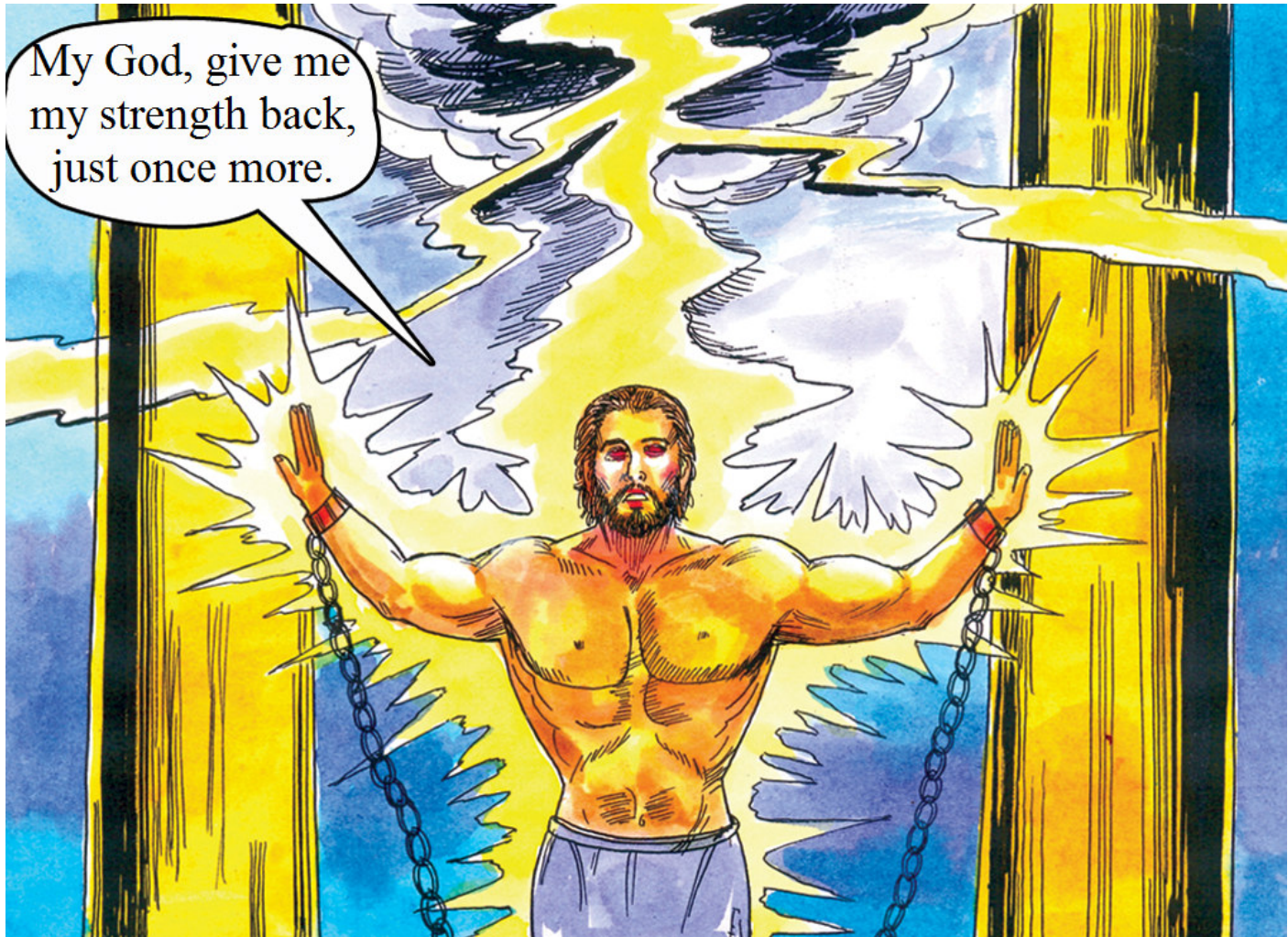


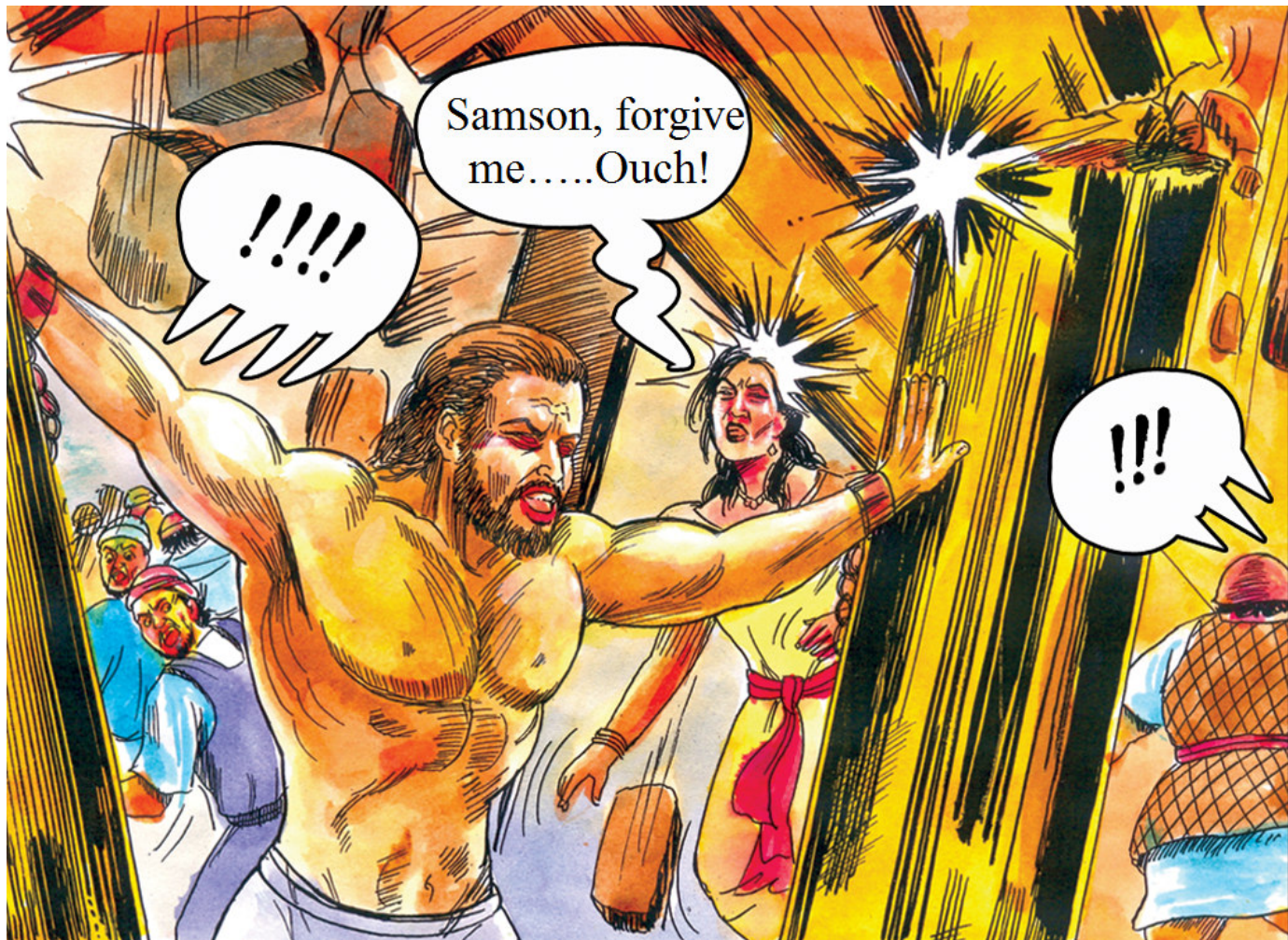
I shall come
for another
celebration.



It's all my fault.

My God, give me
my strength back,
just once more.





Samson, forgive me.....Ouch!

!!!

!!!

Samson died with the thousands of Philistines gathered in the temple. He killed more enemies with his death than he did when living.



The stories so far published in our series followed the salvation history that unfolds itself through the people of Israel. However, salvation is not restricted to any particular race. God chose a Gentile woman to become the Grandmother of King David from whose dynasty the Messiah came. The universal nature of God's salvific plan is depicted in the next story.

NEXT STORY

RUTH

QUESTIONS

After reading the book of Judges and “Samson”, answer the following questions.

1. Who were the “Judges”?
2. When did the “Judges” rule Israel?
3. How does the Bible interpret the misfortunes that befell Israel?
4. What is the central message of the Book of Judges?
5. Who was Samson’s father?
6. Who is a Nazirite?
7. What was the secret of Samson’s strength?
8. How did Samson lose his strength?
9. Explain the causes of Samson’s fall.
10. What message does the story of Samson convey?

THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN COMICS

01. CAIN AND ABEL

02. ABRAHAM

03. JACOB

04. JOSEPH

05. MOSES

06. JOSHUA

07. SAMSON

08. RUTH

09. 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 A WAITING

32. THE LIGHT OF
THE WORLD

33. HERALD

34. THE PROPHET

35. THE LIBERATOR

36. THE ONE TO COME

37. THE LORD OF
THE UNIVERSE

38. SON OF GOD

39. 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. THE LIBATION

50. COME LORD
JESUS!

51. THE WOMEN