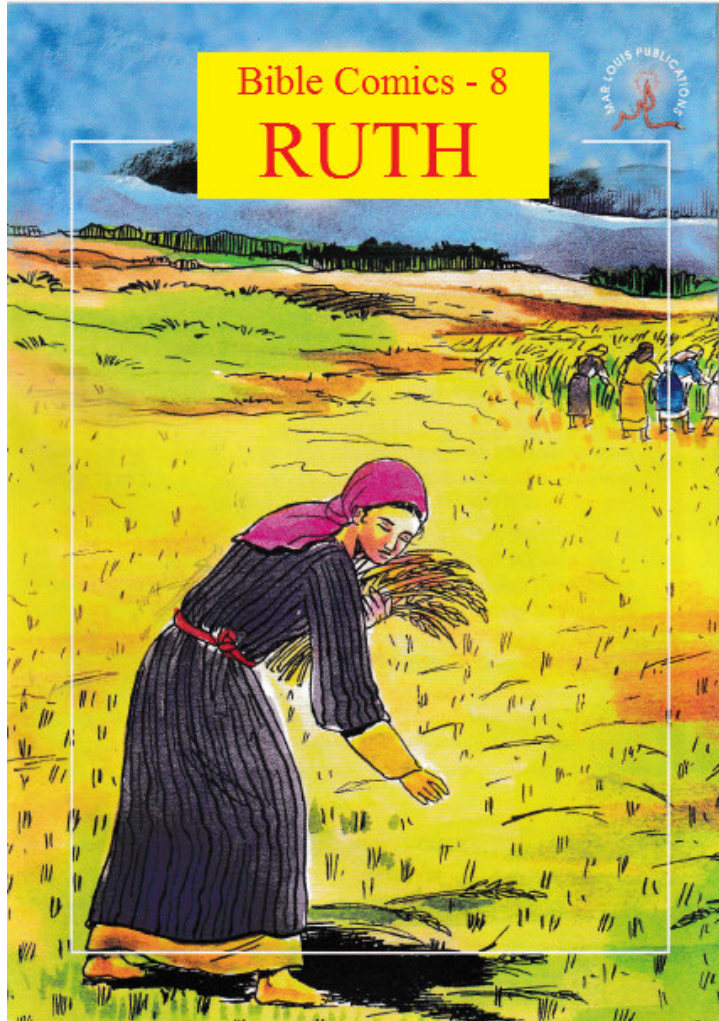


Bible Comics - 8

RUTH



Bible Comics – 8

Ruth

Script

Rev. Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustrations

Devassy

RUTH

The people of Israel were specially chosen by Yahweh to be His witness among the nations. They were supposed to bring other peoples to the Knowledge of the true God by living according to the laws of the Covenant. But, contact with the other peoples whom they called “Gentiles”, corrupted the faith of Israel. So, they were strictly forbidden to enter into marriage with the gentiles. However, during the Exile (587-535 B.C.) such marriages became very common. A part of the Jewish authority reacted violently to such practices and tried even to separate husbands from their gentile wives. They believed that salvation was their exclusive right and developed a

condescending attitude towards the gentiles. The book of Ruth was written as a reaction to this attitude. In writing the book, the sacred author made use of material that was available in the popular tradition.

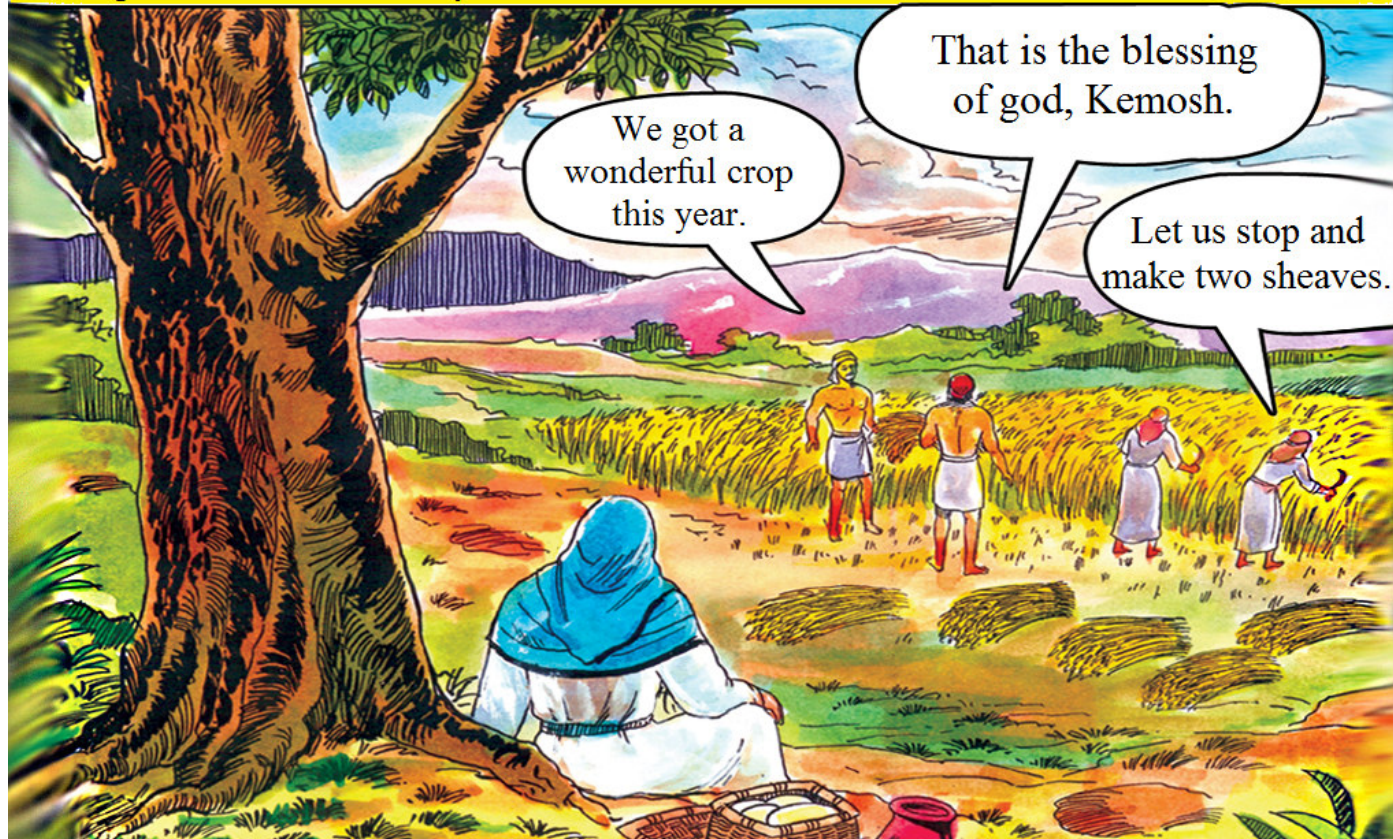
The story of Ruth shows that the marriage with a gentile woman does not necessarily corrupt the faith of the Israelites. In fact, through such a marriage the gentiles can be converted to the worship of Yahweh. Ruth, the Moabite widow, is an outstanding example of such a conversion. In her firm adherence to Yahweh, and in her selfless love and total dedication to her mother-in-law, Ruth is depicted as a model even for the Israelites.

Trusting in Yahweh, Ruth left behind everything and set out to an uncertain future. In this, she resembles Abraham, the father of faith. Herself a widow, acquainted with grief and misery, she showed a special concern for all those who were afflicted. Her love and dedication was abundantly rewarded by God. She became the great grandmother of King David, the ancestor of the Messiah. In God's eye, it is not the purity of race but the purity of heart that counts.

Ruth is a model of filial dedication and of merciful love. Through this story, the Bible teaches that God is the

God of all. He does not approve of communalism. Nobody can claim any privilege on the basis of race and caste. Only the poor are the object of God's special love. In this sense, the Book of Ruth has a special message for the world today, where people are still divided and discriminated on the basis of caste and creed.

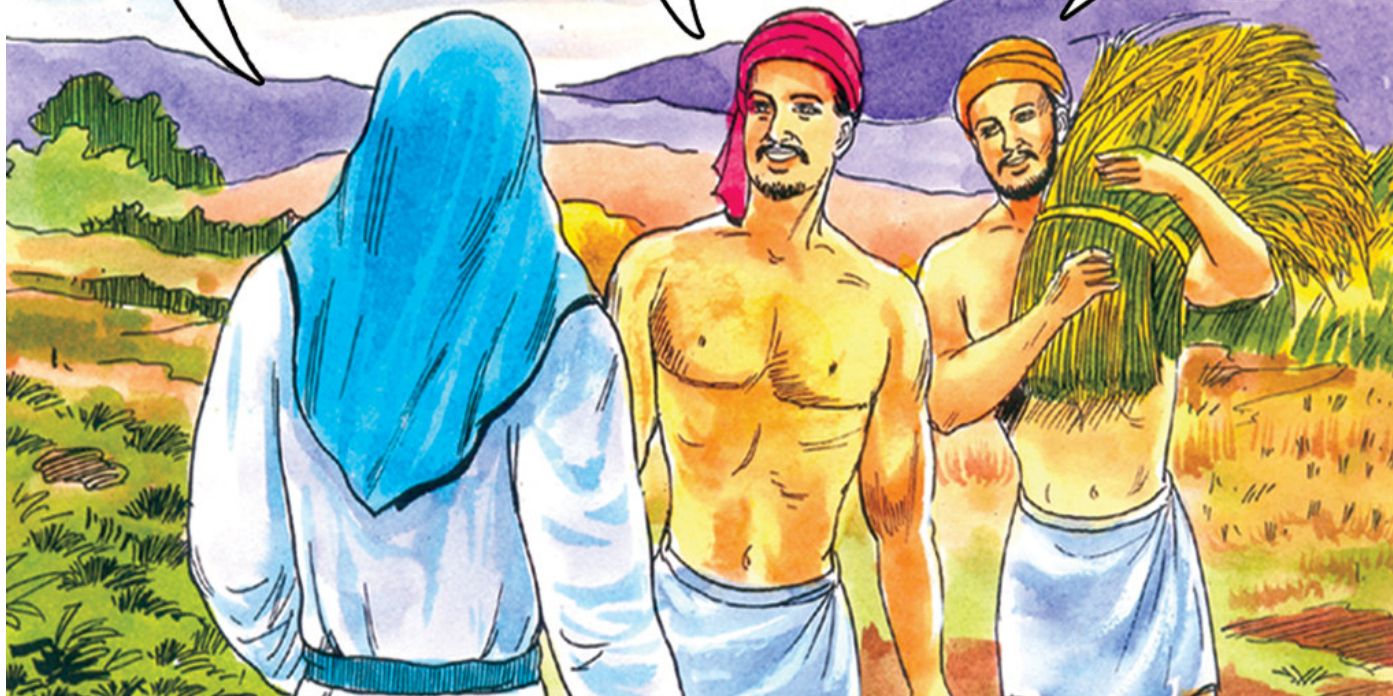
During the time of “Judges”, A famine swept over Israel. An Israelite of Bethlehem called Elimelech migrated to the land of Moab with his wife Naomi, and two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. There Elimelech died. His sons married two Moabite women, Orpha and Ruth. One day...



Why are you
stopping so early
this morning?

Today is
the feast of
Kemosh.

We are
going to
offer him the
first fruit.

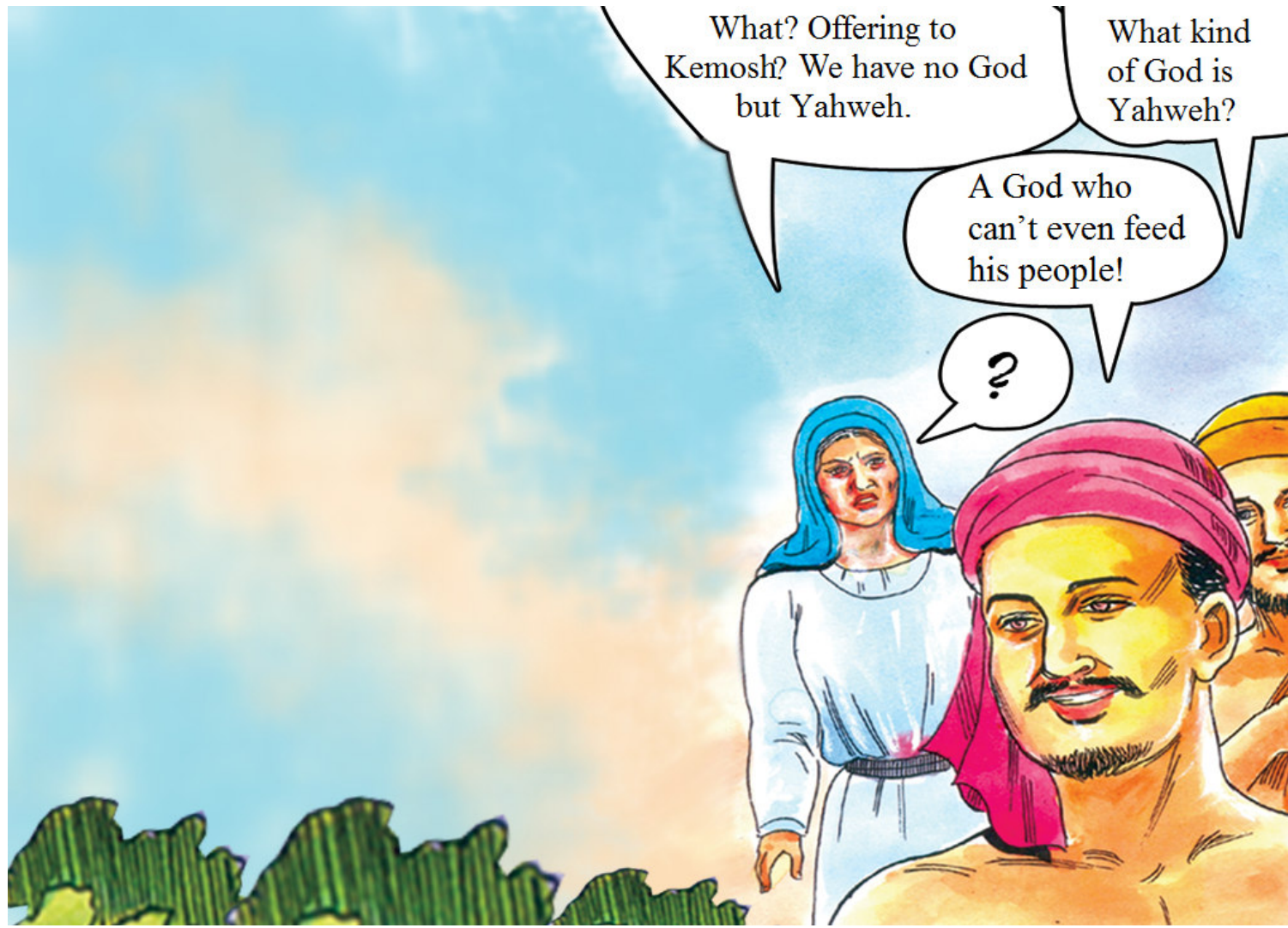


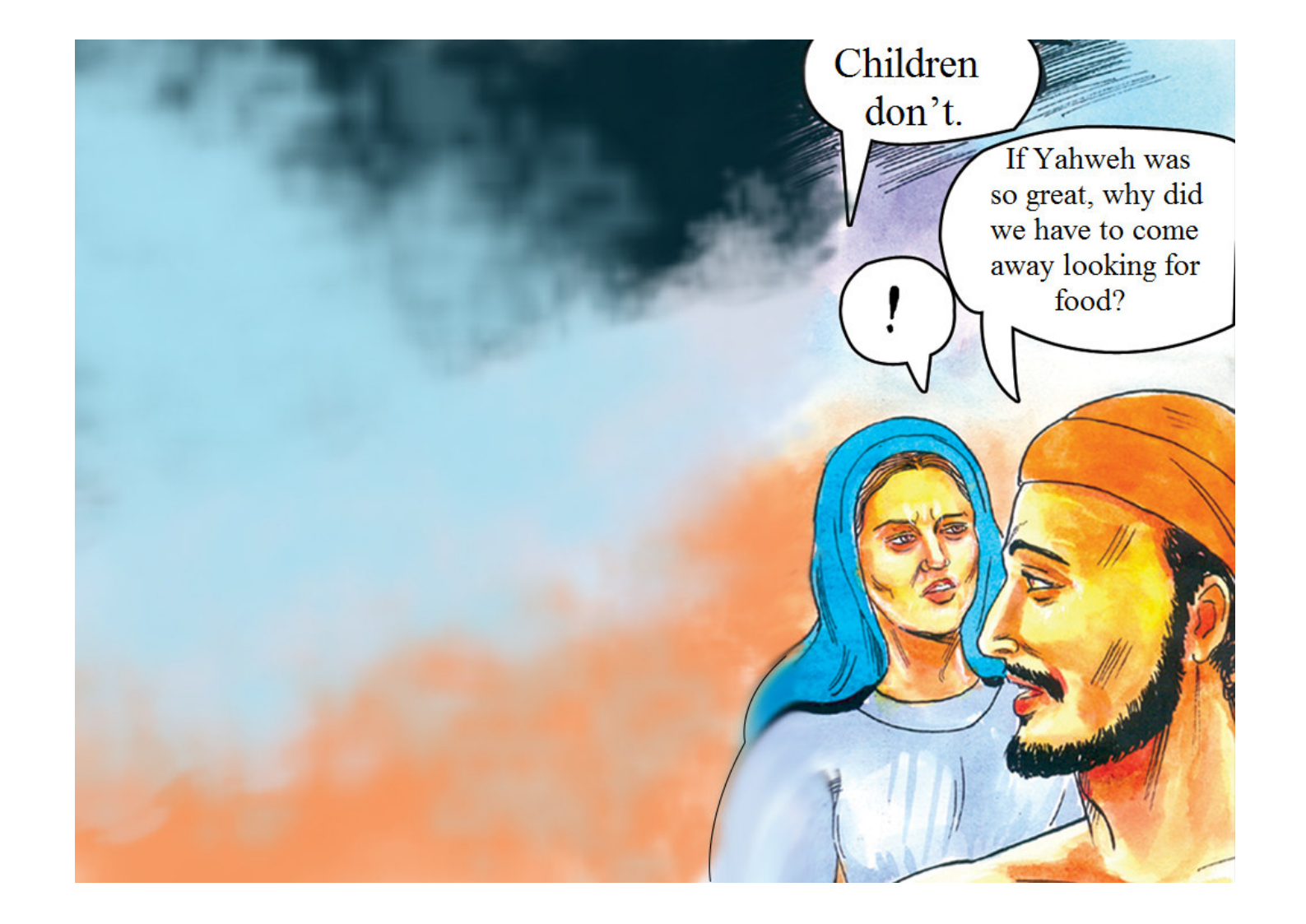
What? Offering to
Kemosh? We have no God
but Yahweh.

What kind
of God is
Yahweh?

A God who
can't even feed
his people!

?





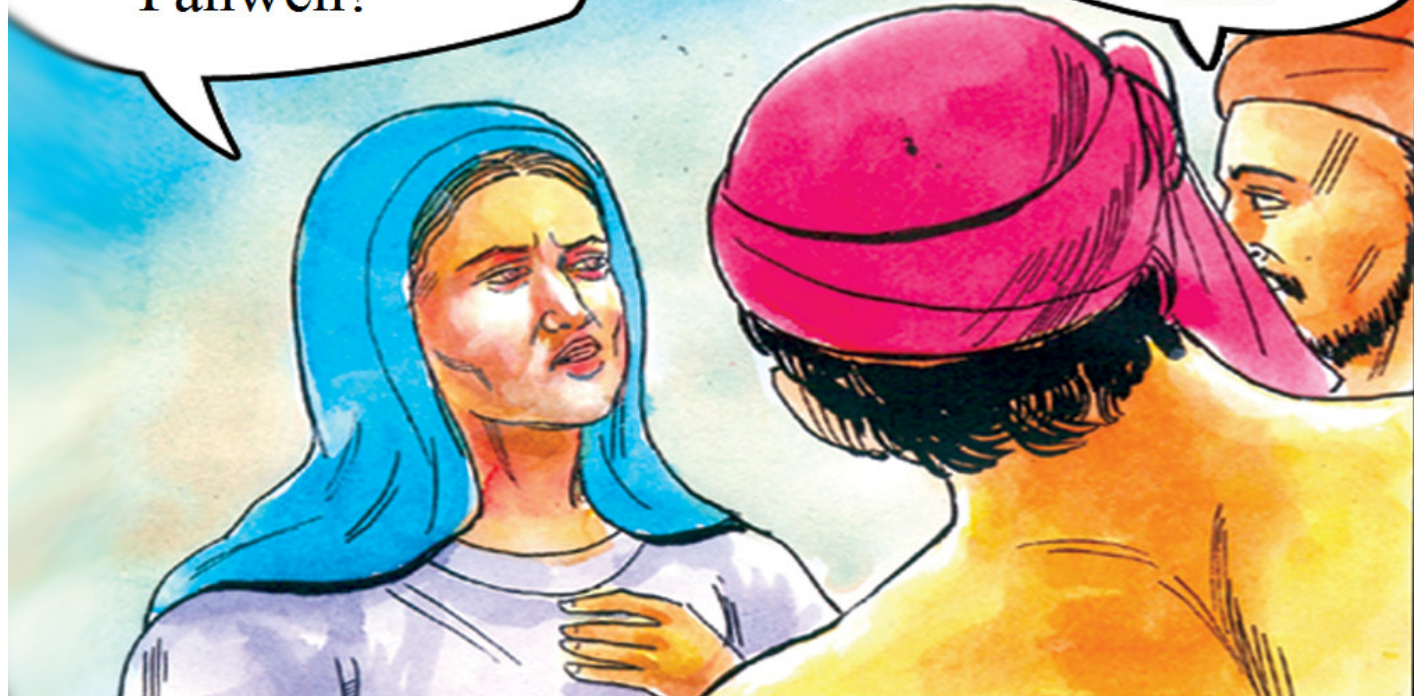
Children
don't.

! If Yahweh was
so great, why did
we have to come
away looking for
food?

Have you forgotten
the wonders of
Yahweh?


Did all those
stories give us a
morsel of bread?

Mom, have you
ever seen him?
Does He have any
feast?



Don't we celebrate
Yahweh's feast
every year in Israel?

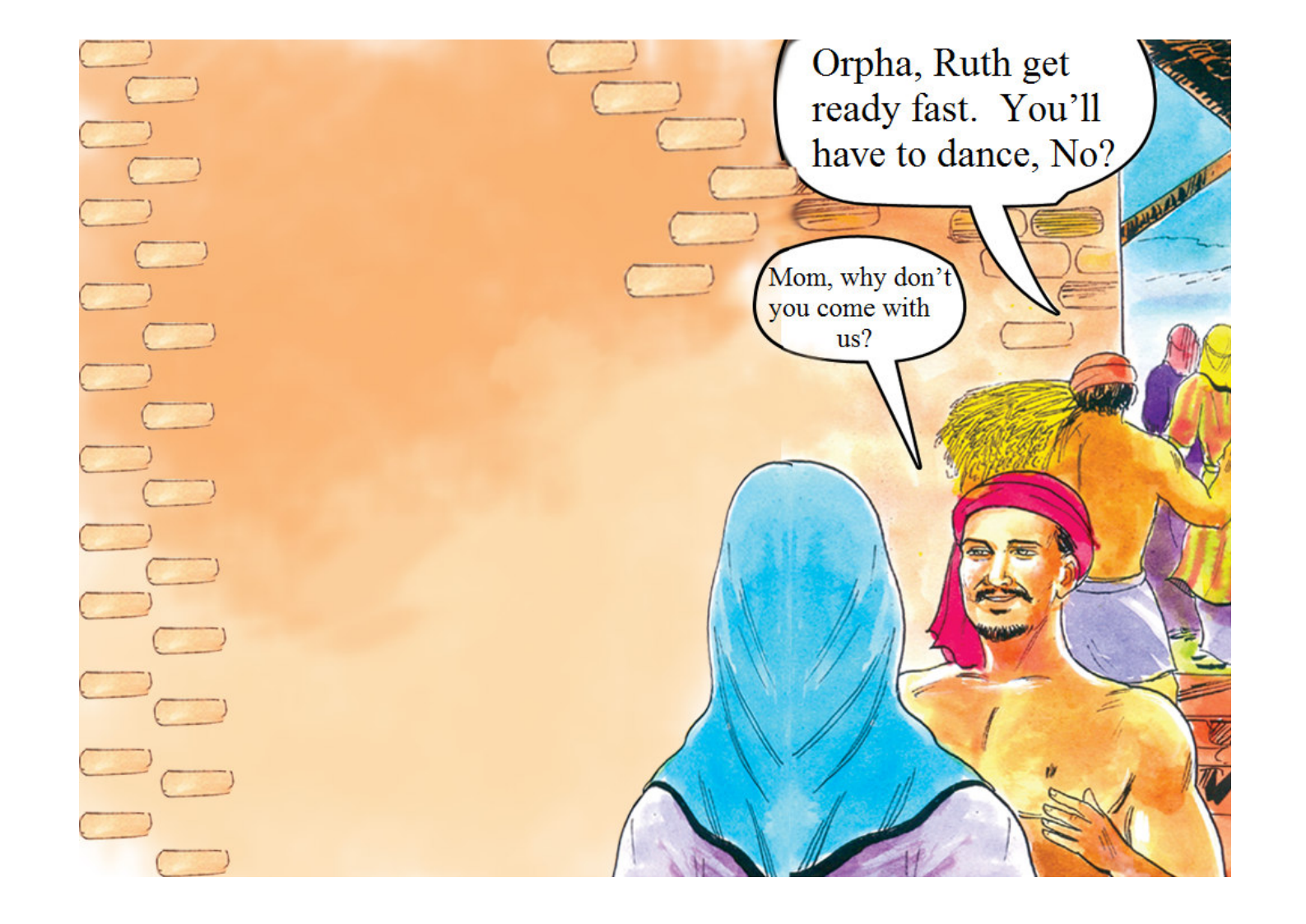




Is that a feast?
Just some prayers
and singing.

Come, let us
go. It's
getting late.

No, my sons
don't go. Don't
insult Yahweh
our God.



Orpha, Ruth get ready fast. You'll have to dance, No?

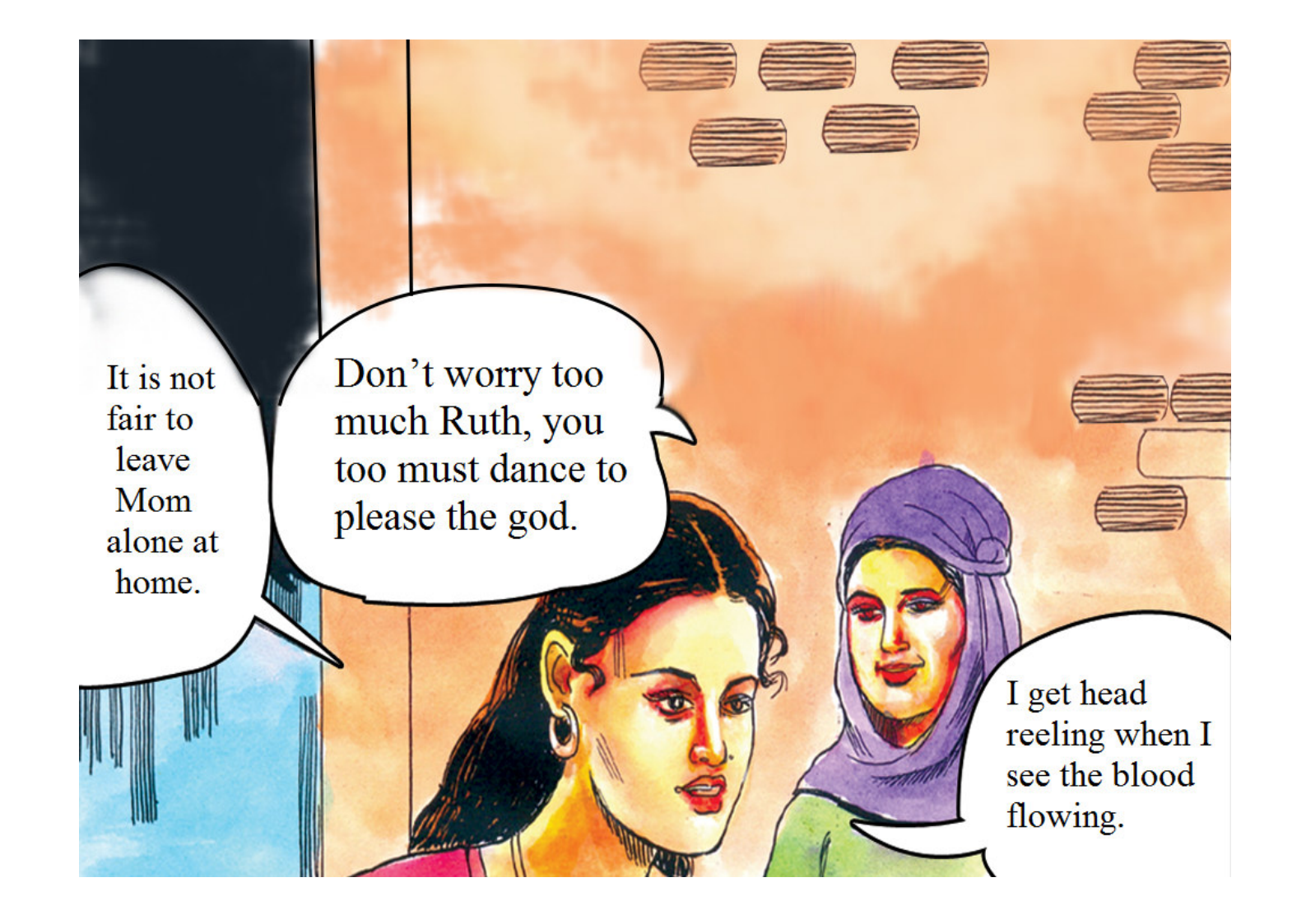
Mom, why don't you come with us?

You want
me to
flutter
before a
dummy?

Let us not compel
Mom. Ruth, come
let us go.

I am not
coming.





It is not fair to leave Mom alone at home.

Don't worry too much Ruth, you too must dance to please the god.

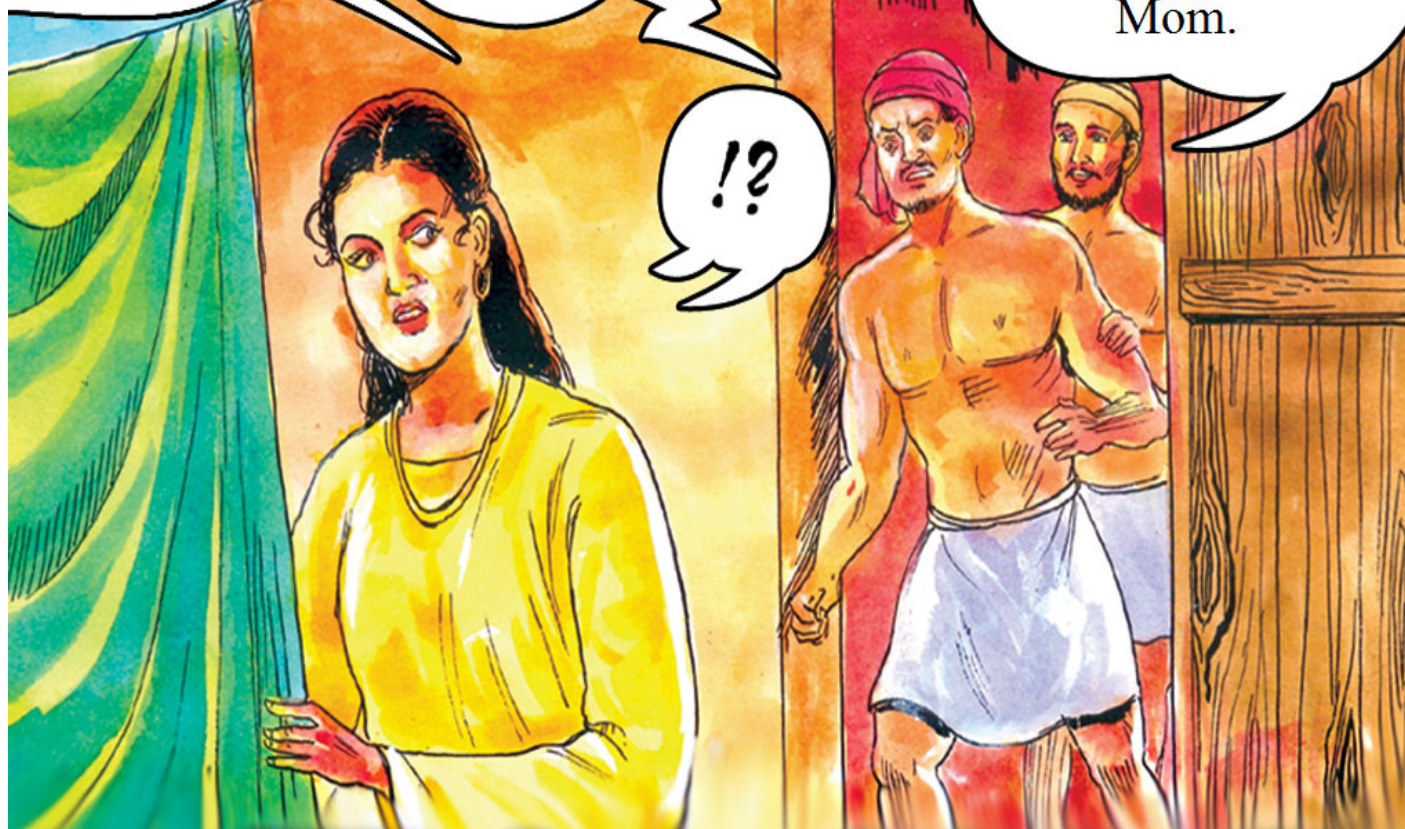
I get head reeling when I see the blood flowing.

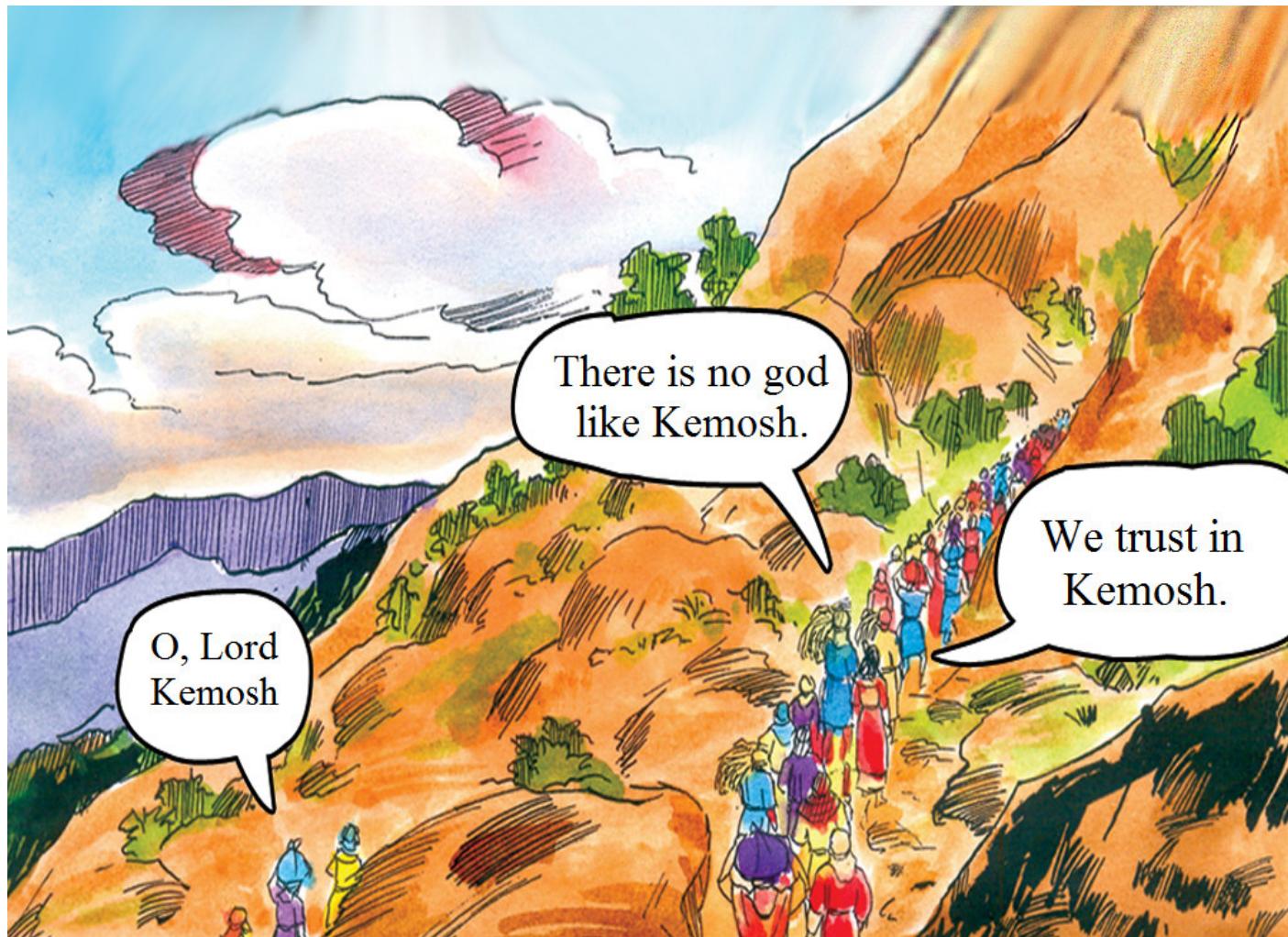
Since when
did you
start that?

I shall
cure you!

Leave her alone.
Let her stay with
Mom.

!?





O, Lord
Kemosh

There is no god
like Kemosh.

We trust in
Kemosh.

The festival of Kemosh.



Naomi and Ruth at home.

It's almost dawn, they haven't come back yet. Now let us go to bed.

I do not feel like sleeping. I am afraid.


Afraid? Why?



You don't know
mom, how the
feast ends.

What do you mean?






They drink all night.
None will be sober by
dawn, and then is the
sacrifice.

Sacrifice?

Yes, Mom, human
sacrifice. One or
more people will be
laid on the Sheaves
and beheaded.



Lord, God don't
let anything
happen to my kids.

At dawn on the mountain – The priest of Kemosh.

Behold the herald of Lord Kemosh! Within a few moments the god himself will appear.

Whom will he deign to accept in sacrifice?



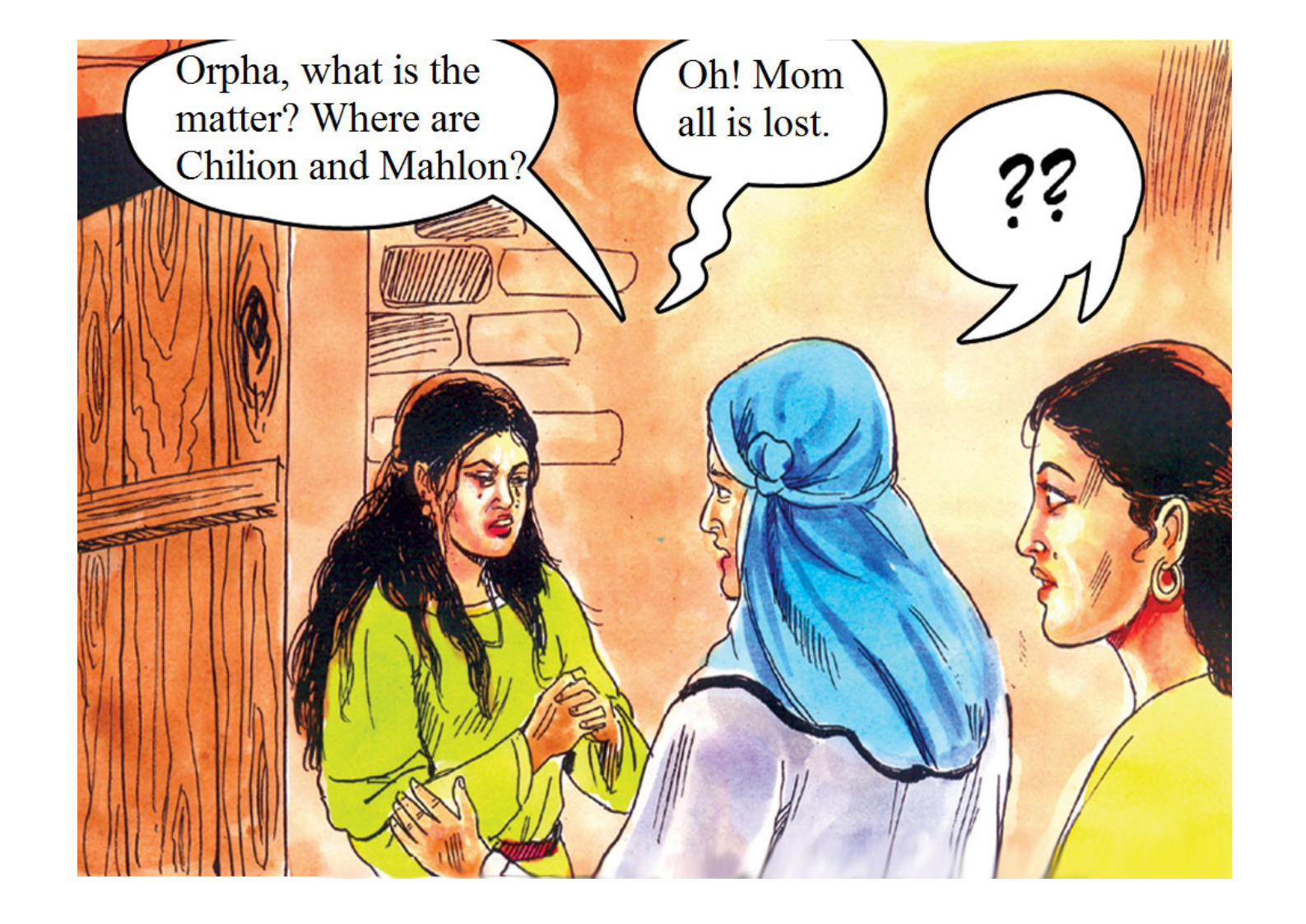
Ish... Kish... Shnim... Kreem...
Bream. Ibrem... Hocreem....



God Kemosh
wishes to have
two Hebrews.

??





Orpha, what is the matter? Where are Chilion and Mahlon?

Oh! Mom all is lost.

??

What do you mean?
What happened?

They were sacrificed
this morning.

Oh, My God!





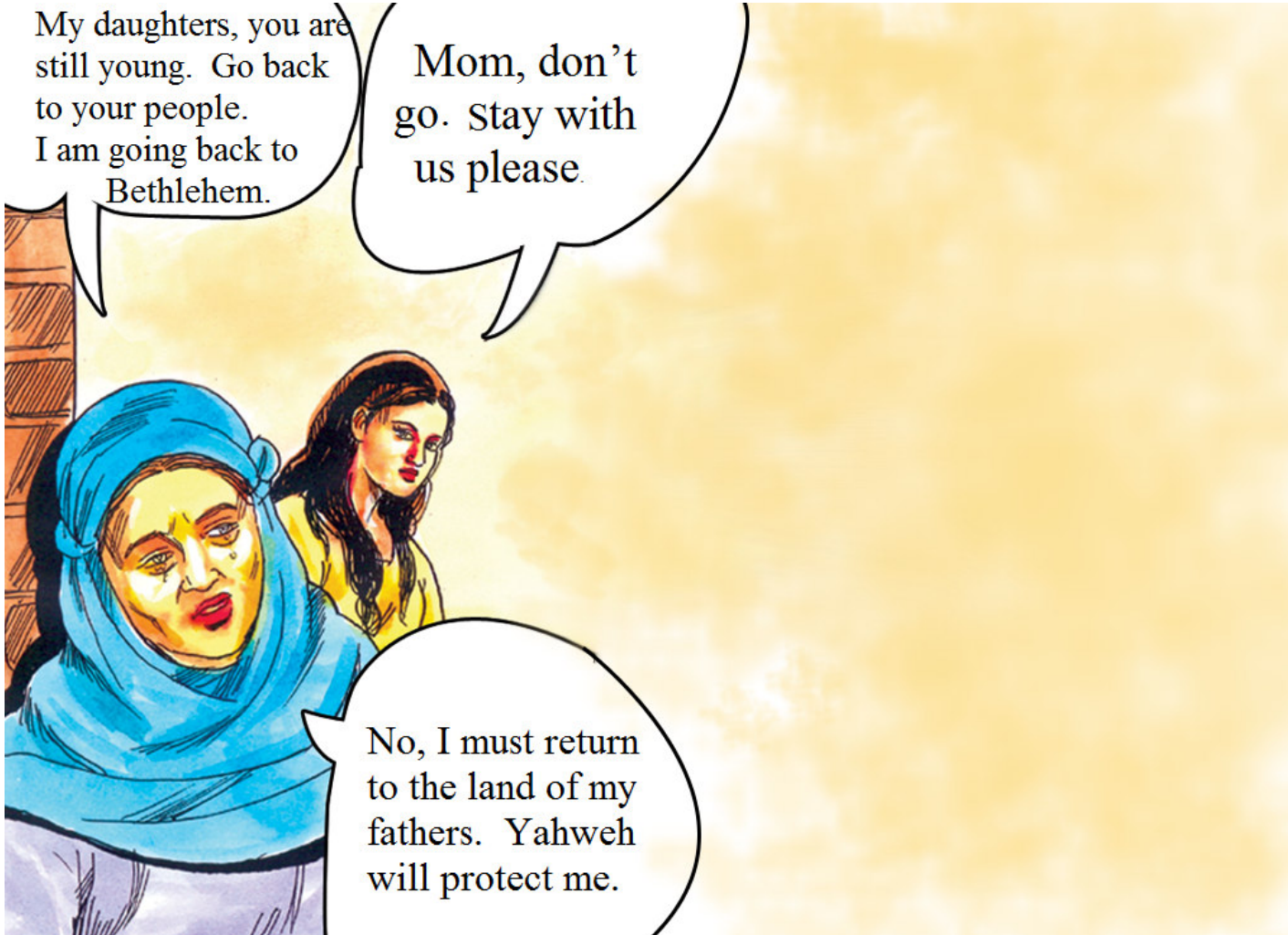
Days later

No point in sitting here and crying.

What else can we do? We lost everything.

We have land. We can work and earn our living.





My daughters, you are still young. Go back to your people. I am going back to Bethlehem.

Mom, don't go. Stay with us please.

No, I must return to the land of my fathers. Yahweh will protect me.

Wherever you go, I shall come with you.

No, my dear, go to your people and start a new life.

?




The next day Orpha went with her relatives.

Ruth, you also go back. Why waste your life with this old widow?

I do not want to stay in this land where gods devour men.

In Israel you'll be a foreigner, my daughter.






The God of Israel is the
God of the poor. He
will not abandon me.

Don't waste your
youth; here you
will have a
better life.

Mom, don't
force me.



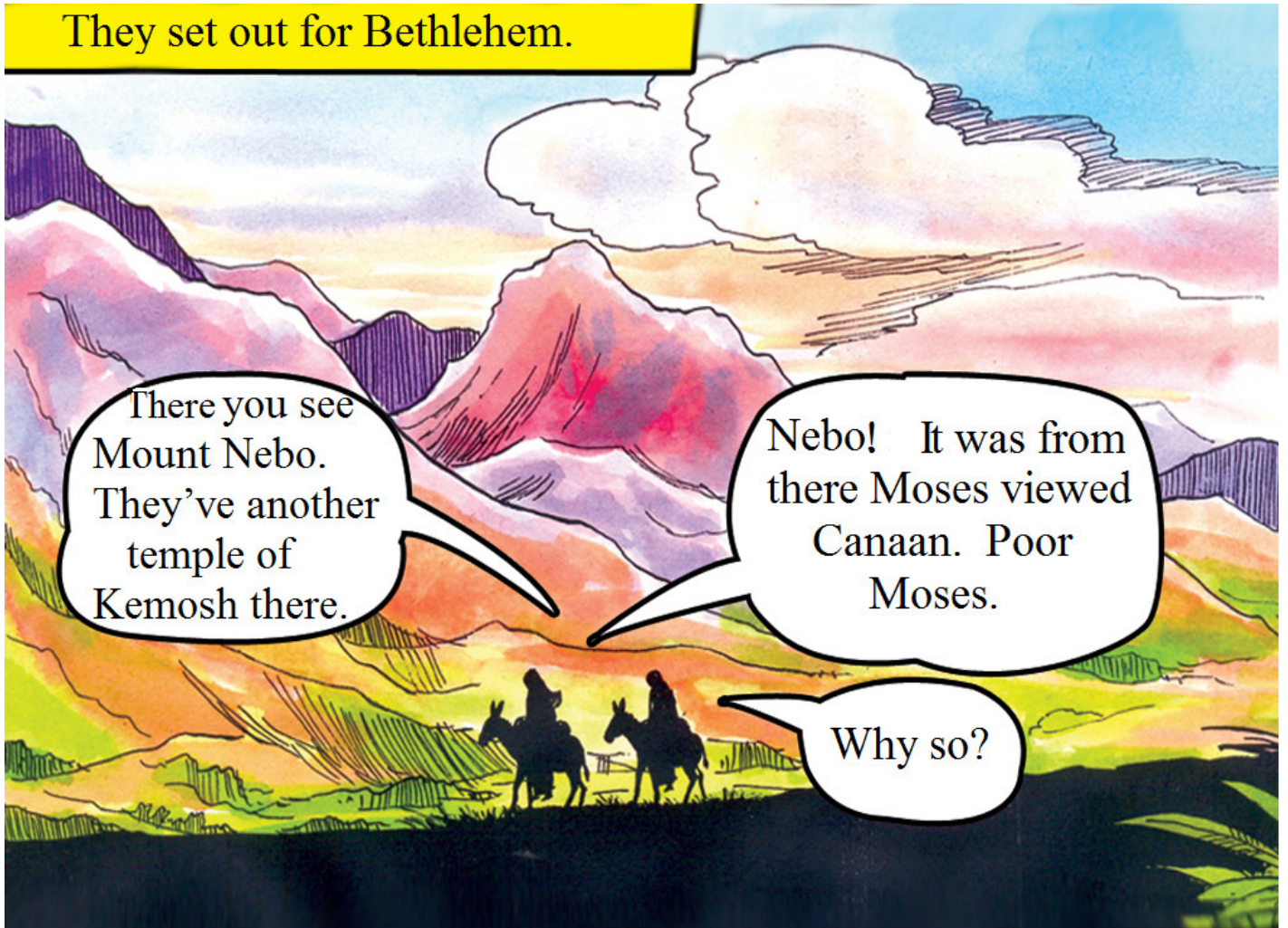
Wherever you go I will go.
Wherever you die I will die.
Your people shall be my people.
Your God my God too.

They set out for Bethlehem.

There you see
Mount Nebo.
They've another
temple of
Kemosh there.

Nebo! It was from
there Moses viewed
Canaan. Poor
Moses.

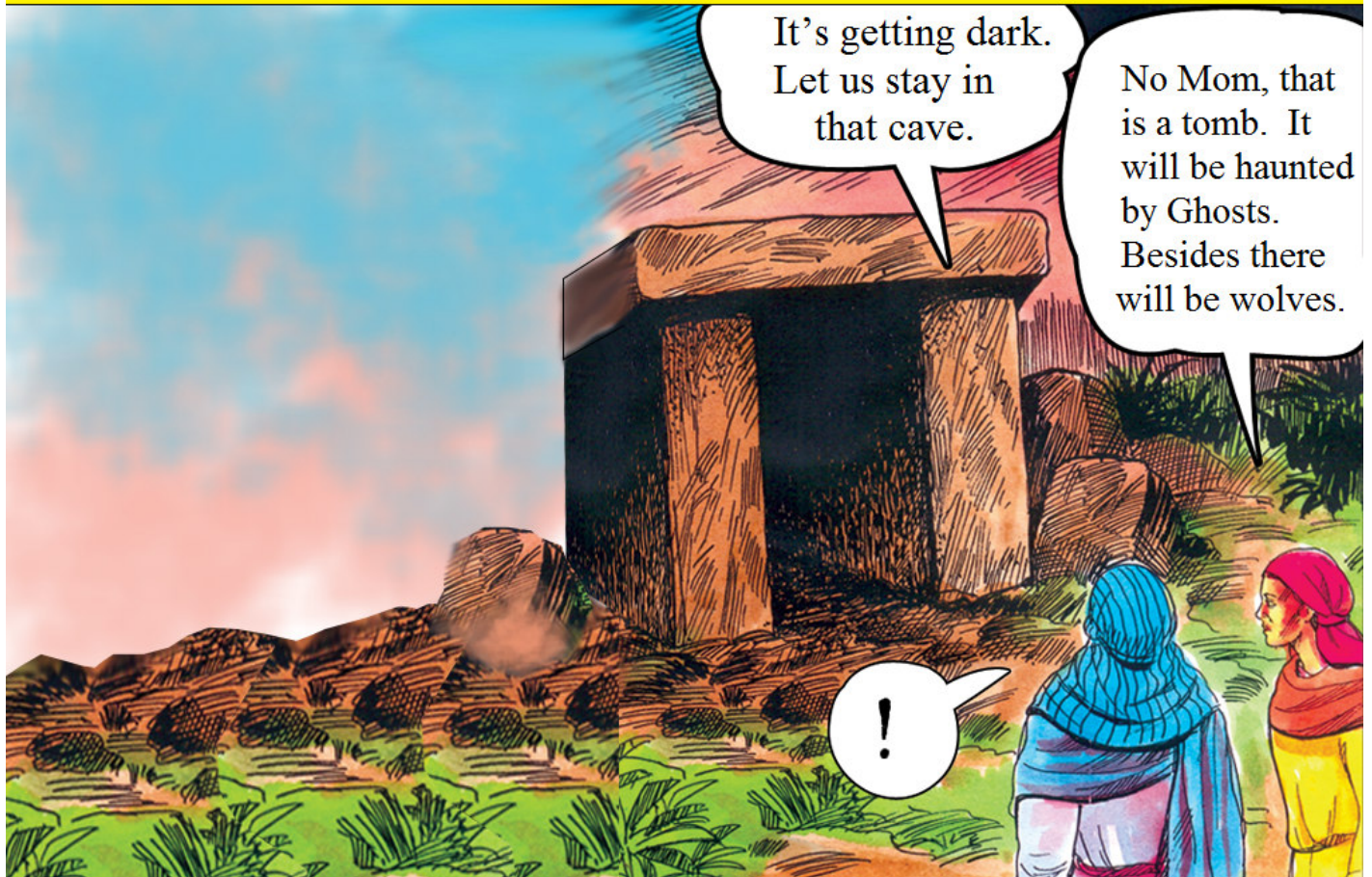
Why so?




After leading our people all the way from Egypt, there he died at the threshold of the Promised Land.



Noami narrated the history of Israel to Ruth





The dead won't harm us, but the wolves...

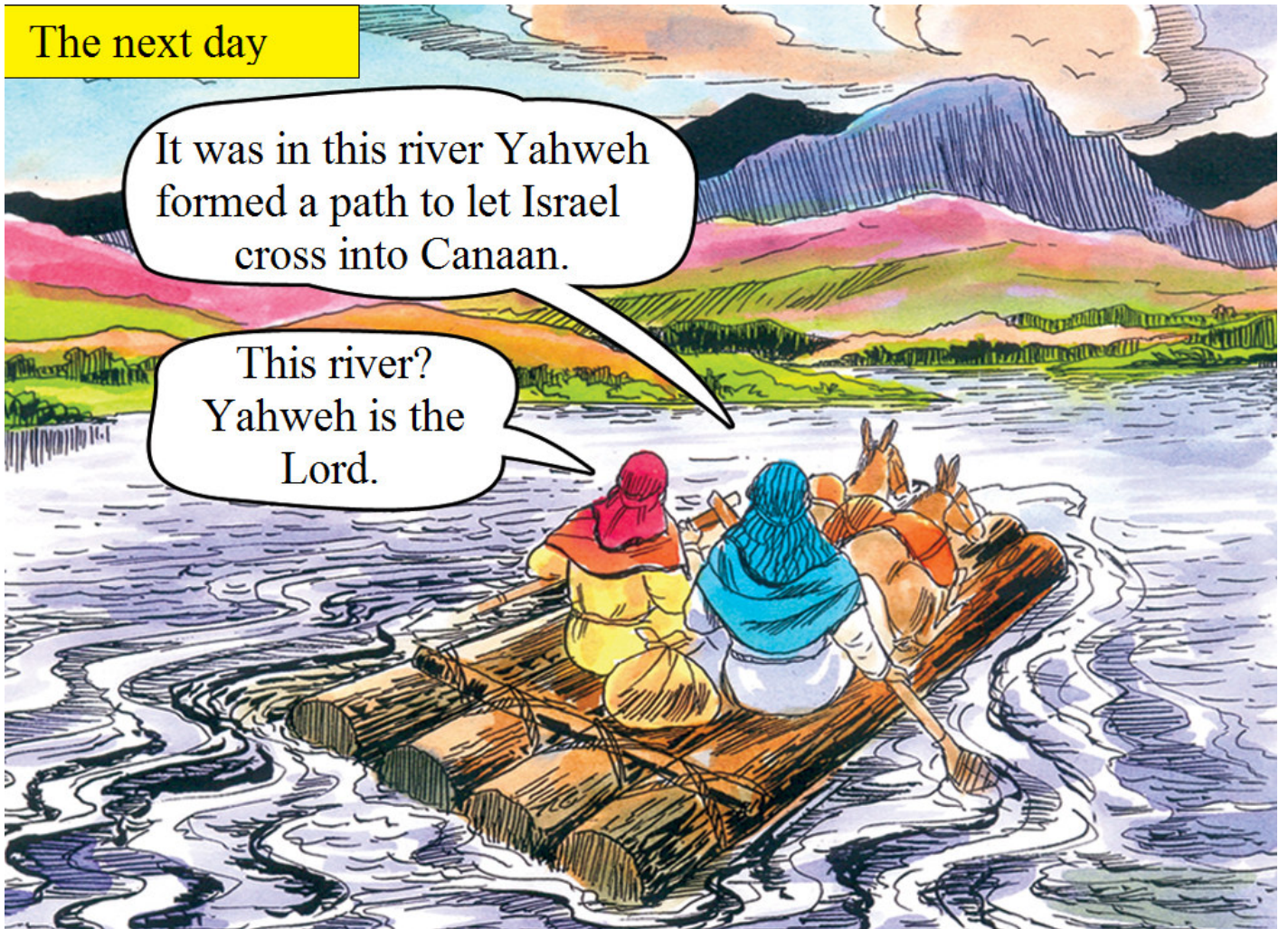
When they see the fire, they won't come near.

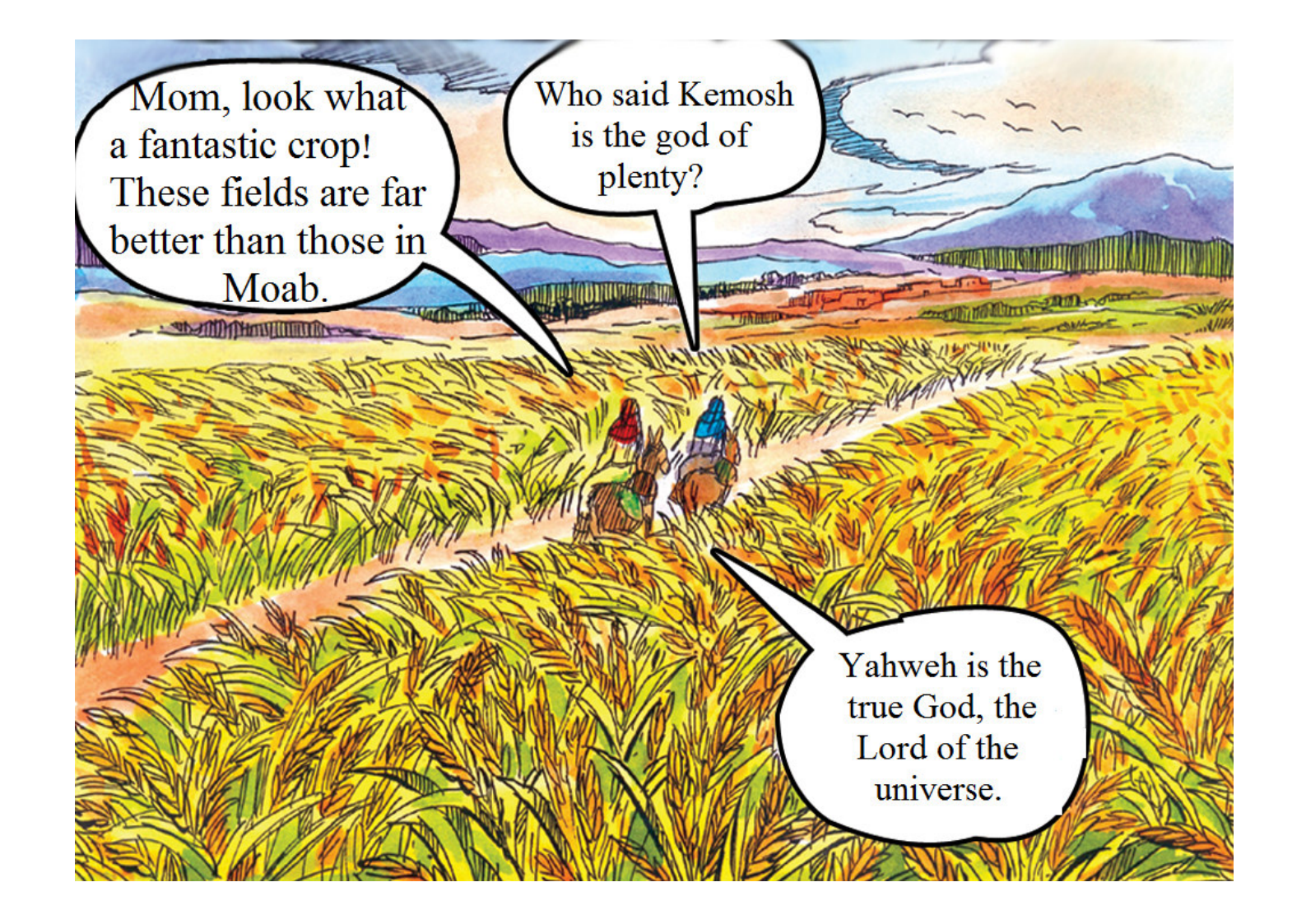
All right let us sleep.

The next day

It was in this river Yahweh formed a path to let Israel cross into Canaan.

This river?
Yahweh is the
Lord.






Mom, look what
a fantastic crop!
These fields are far
better than those in
Moab.

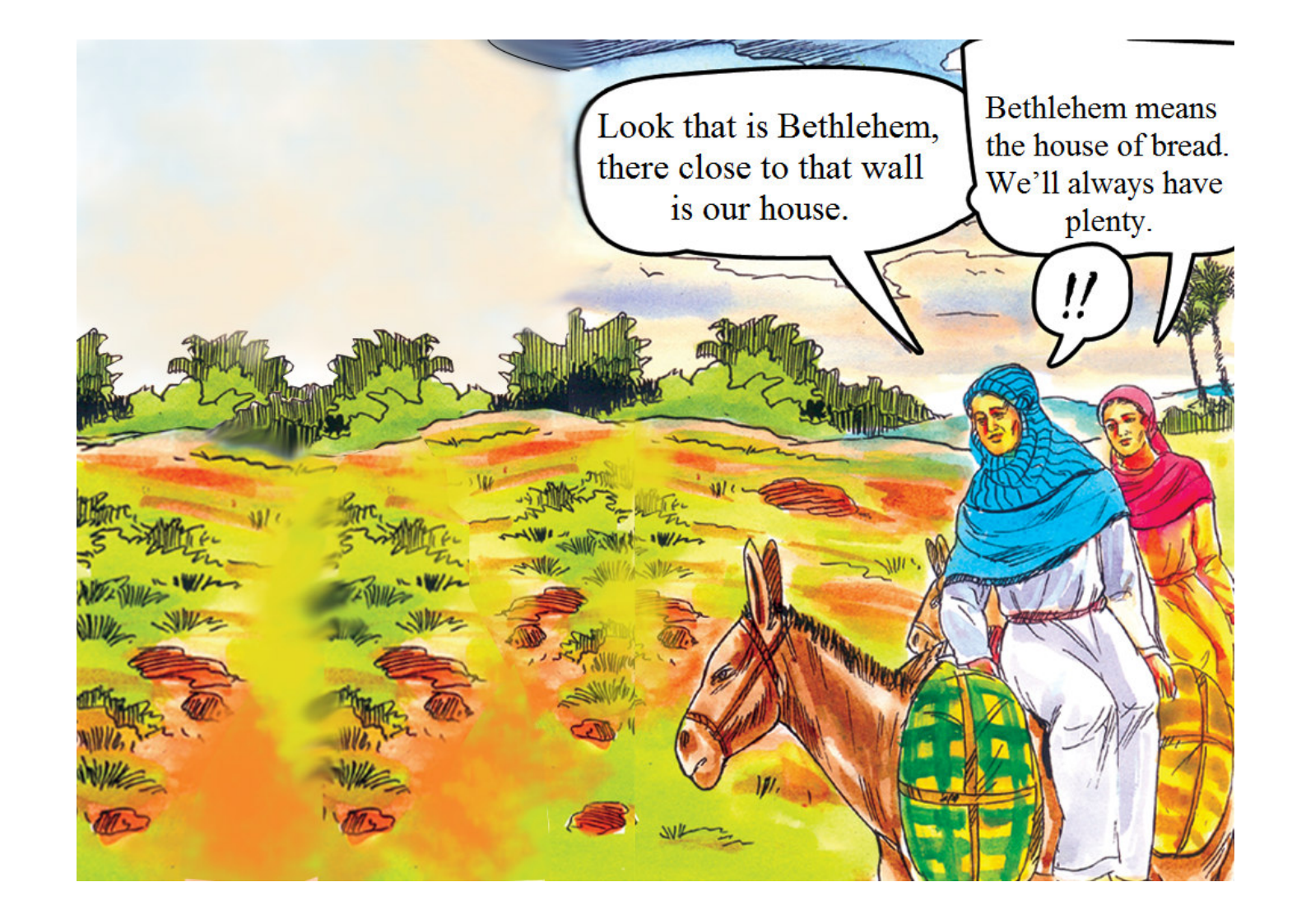
Who said Kemosh
is the god of
plenty?

Yahweh is the
true God, the
Lord of the
universe.



Look that is Bethlehem, there close to that wall is our house.

!

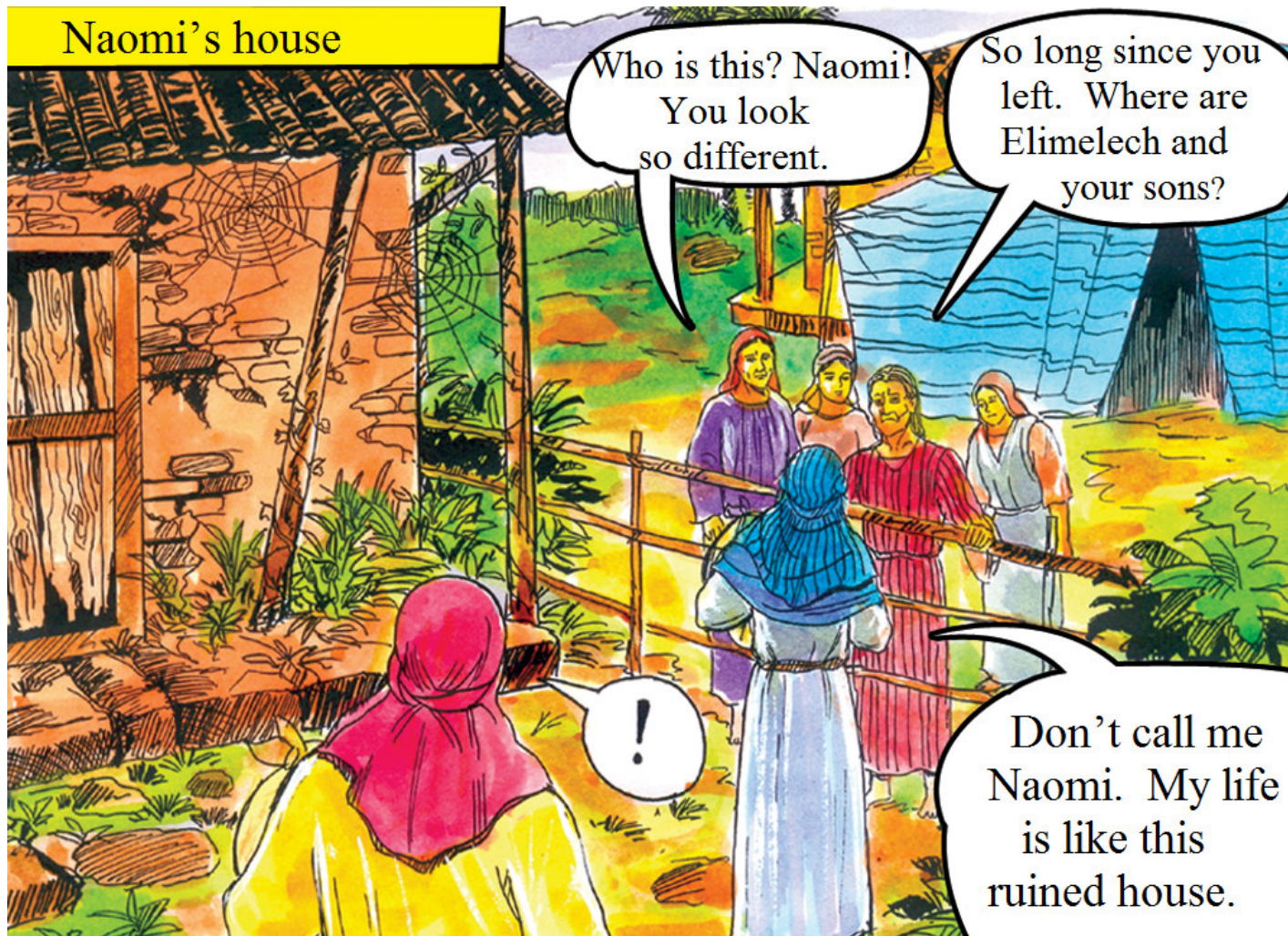


Look that is Bethlehem,
there close to that wall
is our house.

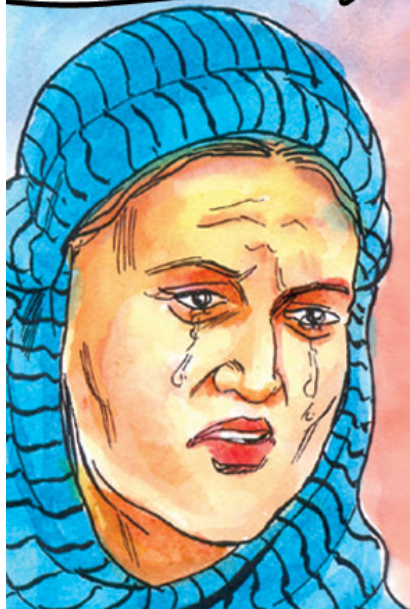
Bethlehem means
the house of bread.
We'll always have
plenty.

!!

Naomi's house

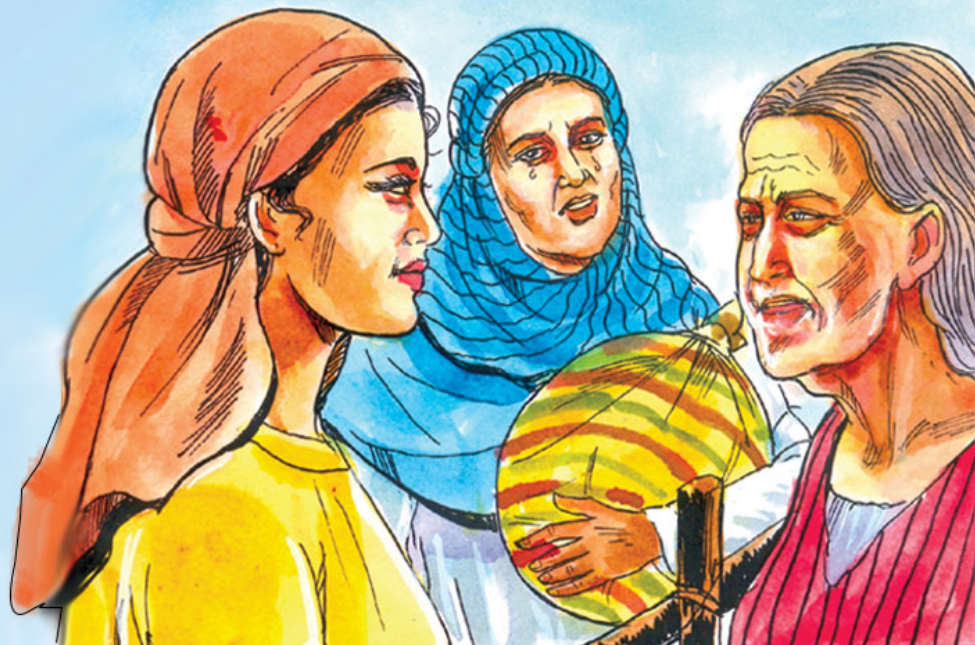


I had everything when I left. I've come back empty-handed. I am no more "Naomi" - the happy one but "Mara" - the sorrowful.



But the Lord hasn't
abandoned me totally. He
has left me this daughter.

May God
bless you.



Days later

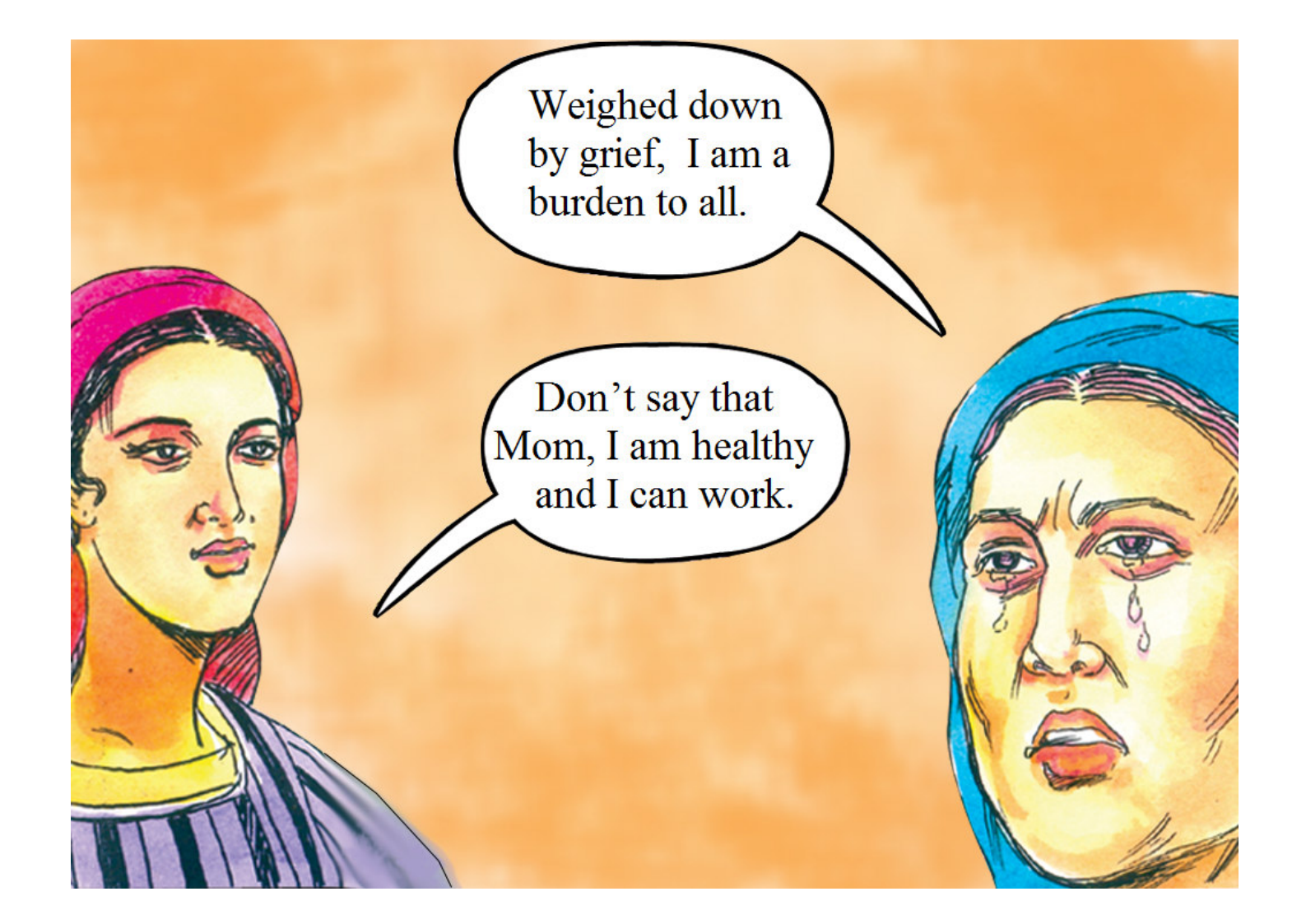
How long are we going to live on charity?

Our neighbors are kind.

Still, we must not be a burden to them.

?





Weighed down
by grief, I am a
burden to all.

Don't say that
Mom, I am healthy
and I can work.


You mean you'll go to work? I can't bear that.

This is harvest season. I can go into the field and glean.

Only the destitute will go for that. If only Elimelech were alive!

!





I know
but..

Still, I can't bear to
see my daughter
Gleaning in a
stranger's field.

Why should we be so
ashamed? You told me
that Yahweh is God of
the poor.

!!

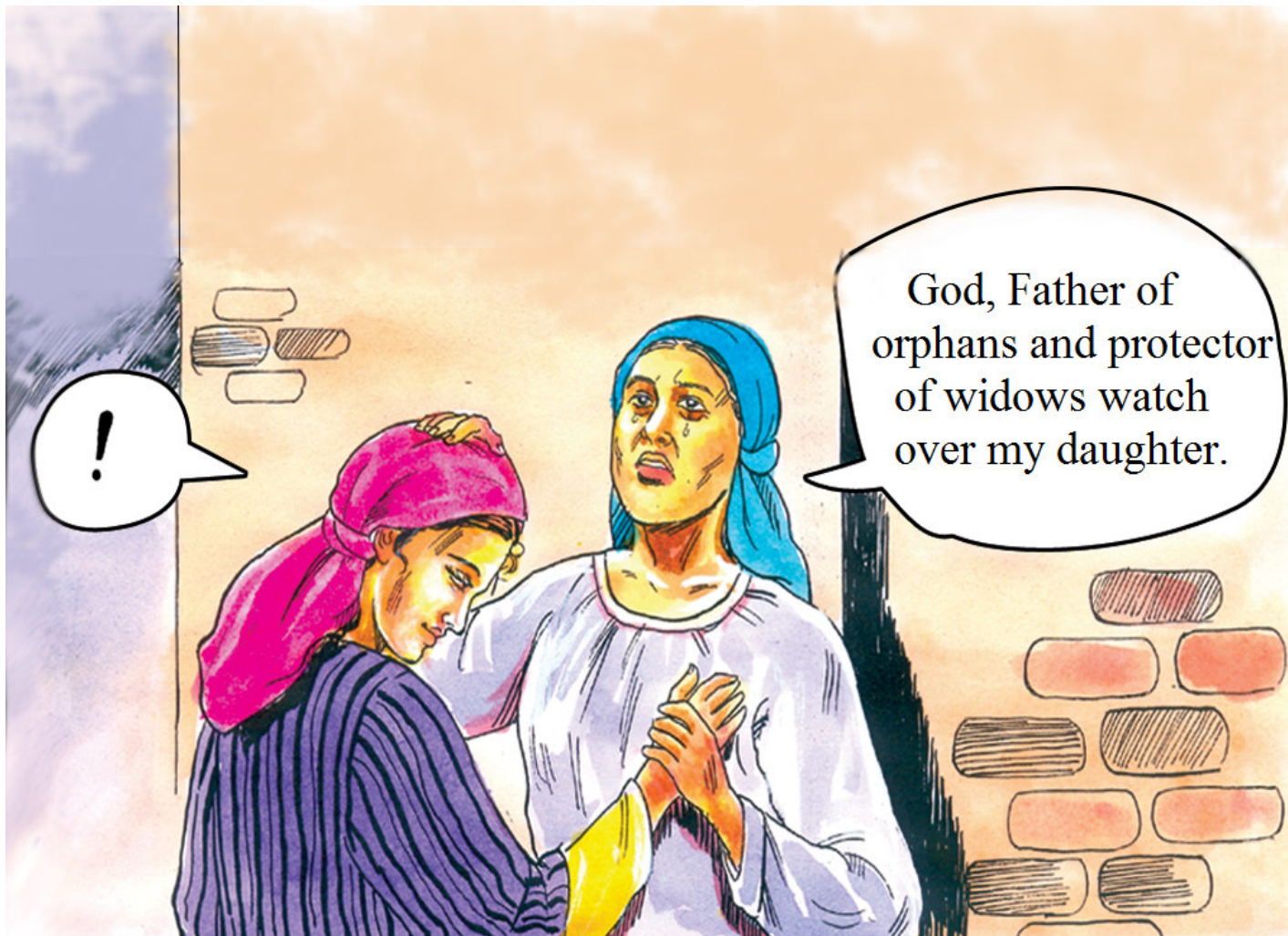
That is right,
but...

Mom, don't worry I shall return in the evening.

I am afraid that they'll insult you, calling you a foreigner.

Isn't gleaning the right of foreigners and widows?





God, Father of
orphans and protector
of widows watch
over my daughter.

!



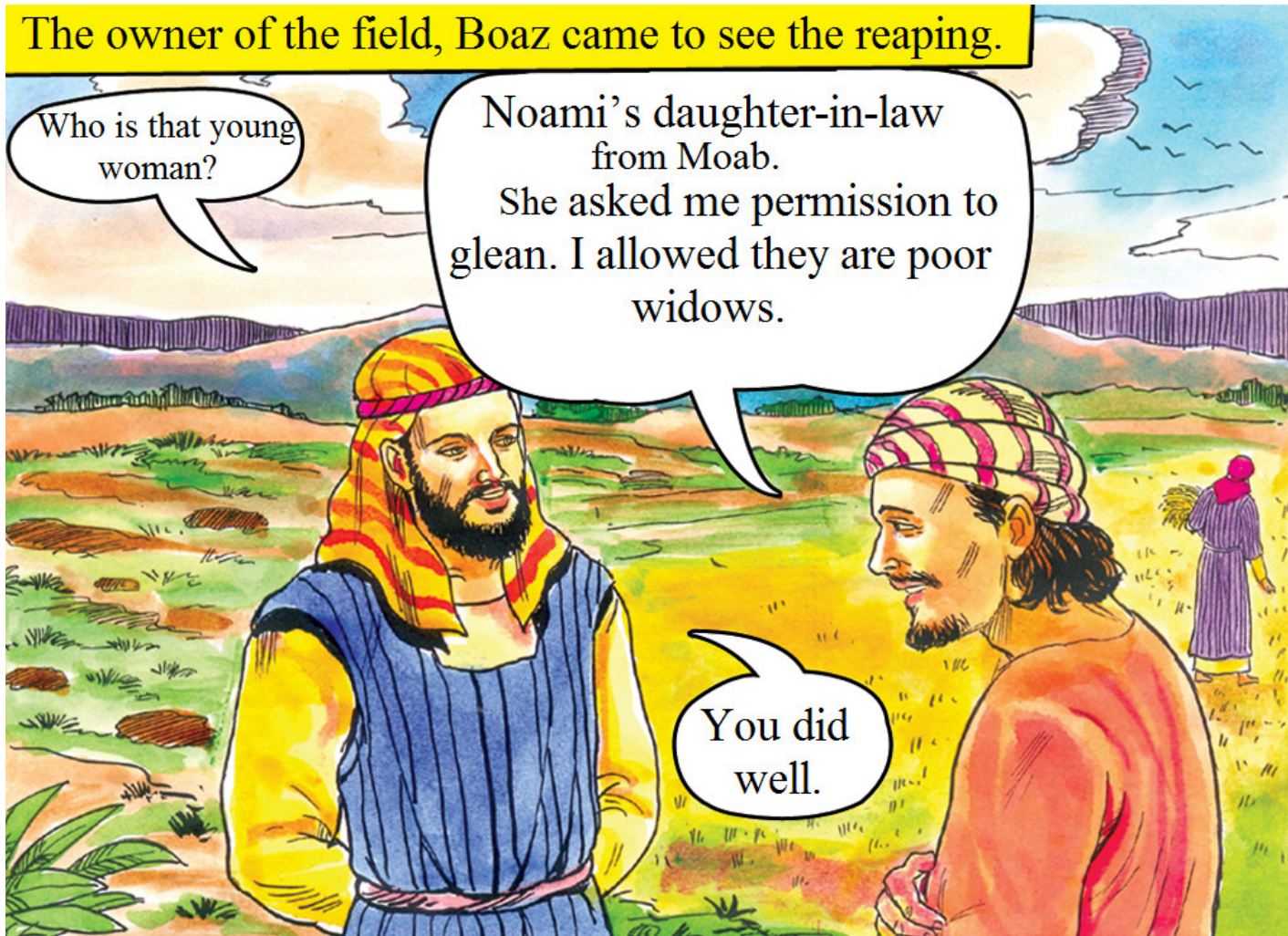
Oh my God, It is scorching and I am thirsty. Where can I get some water to drink?


The owner of the field, Boaz came to see the reaping.

Who is that young woman?

Noami's daughter-in-law from Moab.
She asked me permission to glean. I allowed they are poor widows.

You did well.





She hasn't even
taken a break all
day.

Naomi is a
relative of mine.
She was tried
hard.

!?

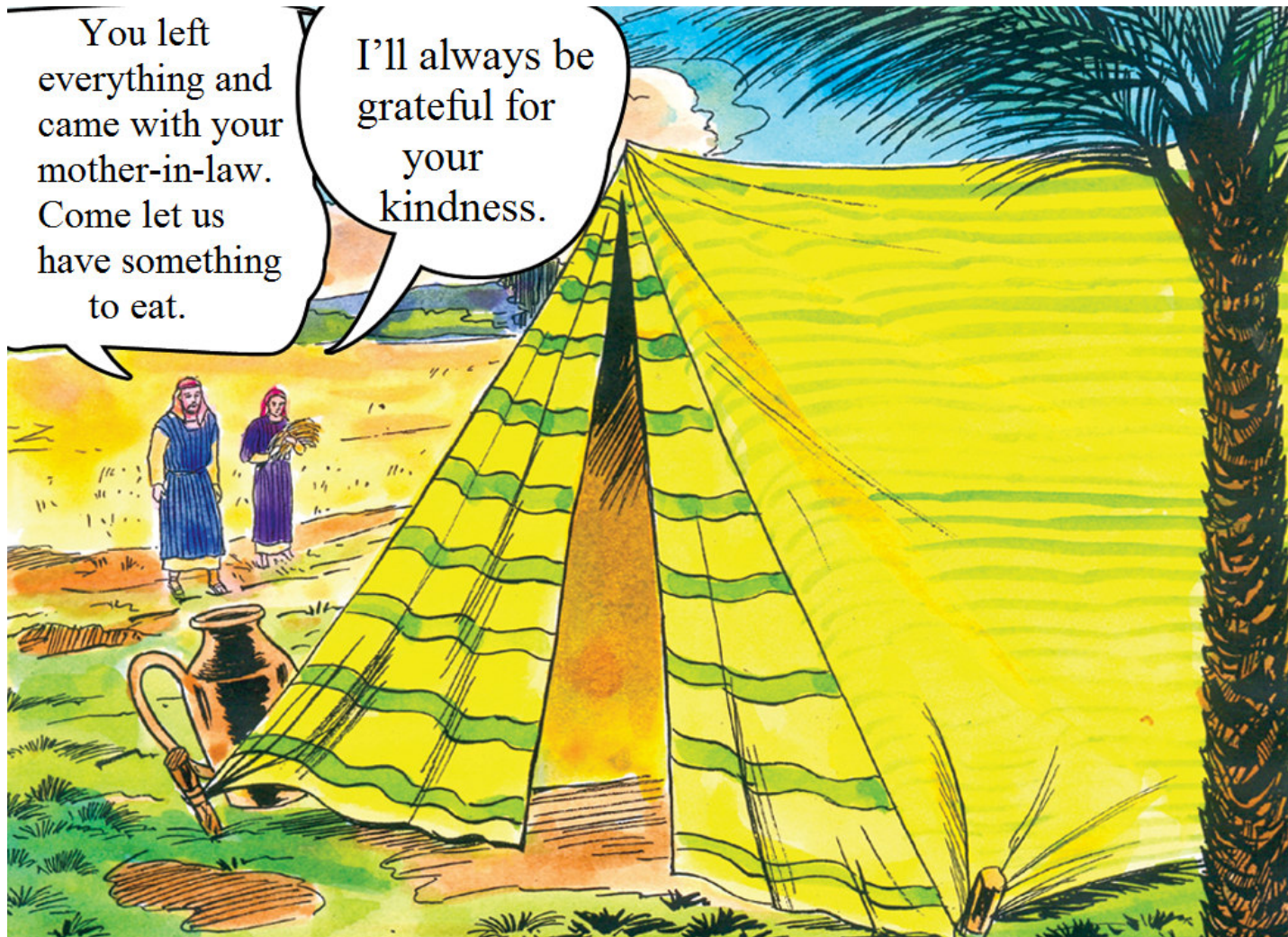
Ruth, you don't need to go anywhere else for gleaning. No one will bother you here. You may drink from the water my servant draws.

What have I, a foreigner, done to deserve this?



You left
everything and
came with your
mother-in-law.
Come let us
have something
to eat.

I'll always be
grateful for
your
kindness.





I haven't tasted
such delicious bread
since I left Moab.
Mom will like this



You pull a few ears of
corn from the bundles
and let them fall for
her to collect.

!





Lord God, protector
of the poor and
weak, wonderful
are your ways.



Oh, dear where did you glean? How did you get so much grain?

The Lord led me into the field of Boaz, a very generous man.




Boaz is a nephew of mine. My cousin's son.


He was so kind, he gave me a lot of bread and roasted grain.

!!





He has allowed me
to glean in his field
till the end of the
harvest season.



He is a good man.
May the Lord
bless him.

Ruth, let us
give some of
this bread and
grain to Lady
Macha?

I shall do that
immediately; she
is all alone.



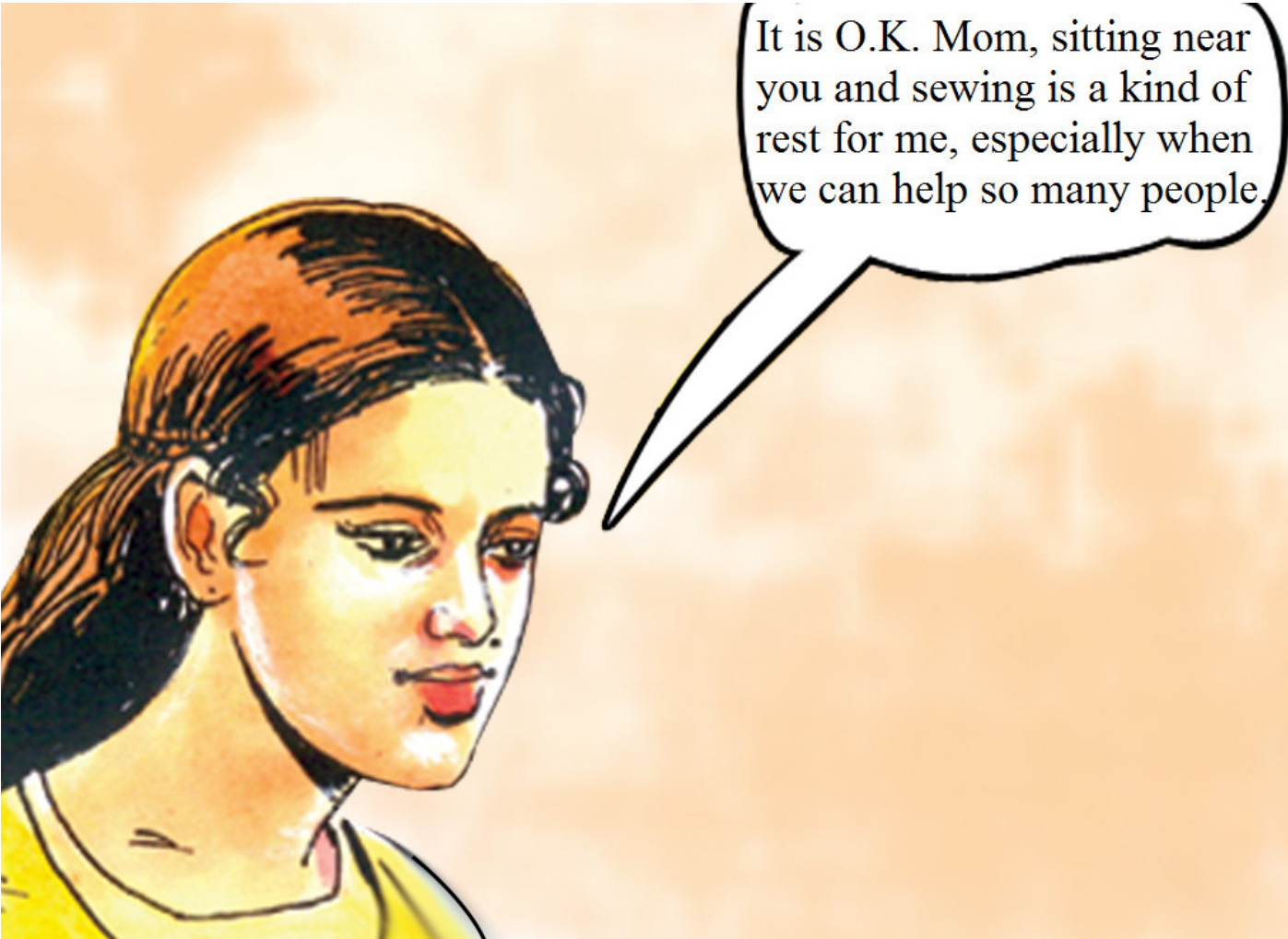
Until the end of the Harvest season, Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz. During the day she gleaned and at night she sewed clothes for the poor.

What does the color of the skin matter Mom?

Your skin seems to be sunburned and dark, my child.

Let us go to bed. You were working all day.



An illustration of a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a yellow top. She is looking slightly to the right. A speech bubble originates from her mouth, containing text. The background is a soft, warm orange gradient.

It is O.K. Mom, sitting near you and sewing is a kind of rest for me, especially when we can help so many people.

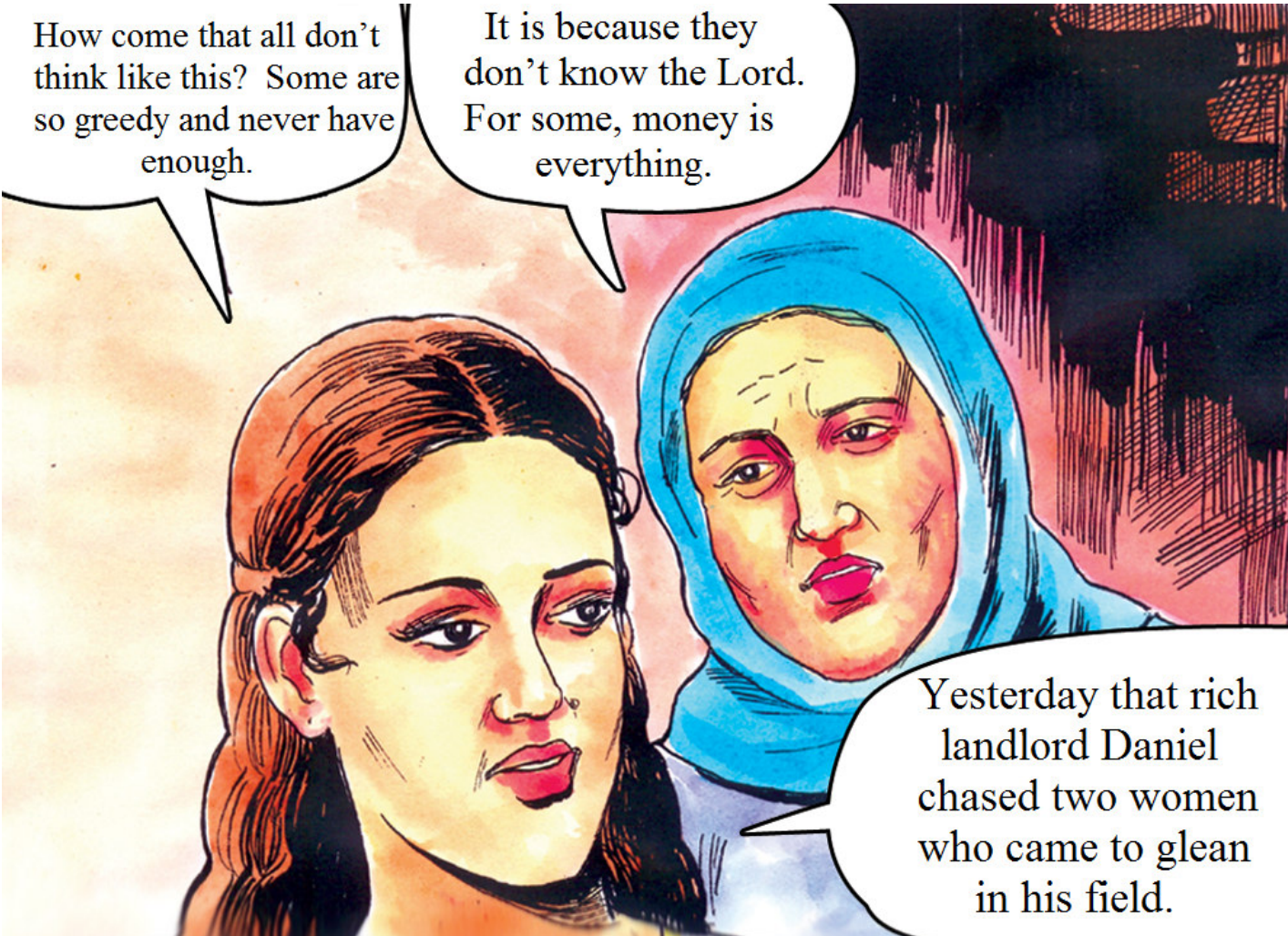
Yahweh will
be pleased
when we
share what we
have.

We can get along with so
little. When I see those
children's joy all my
fatigue vanishes.



How come that all don't think like this? Some are so greedy and never have enough.

It is because they don't know the Lord. For some, money is everything.



Yesterday that rich landlord Daniel chased two women who came to glean in his field.

Well, there are such wicked men.
That Daniel used to work for us
and now... We can go on like this
until the morning. Now,
you go to bed.



Mom, you too.
Tomorrow is the
harvest feast. Boaz
has invited me.

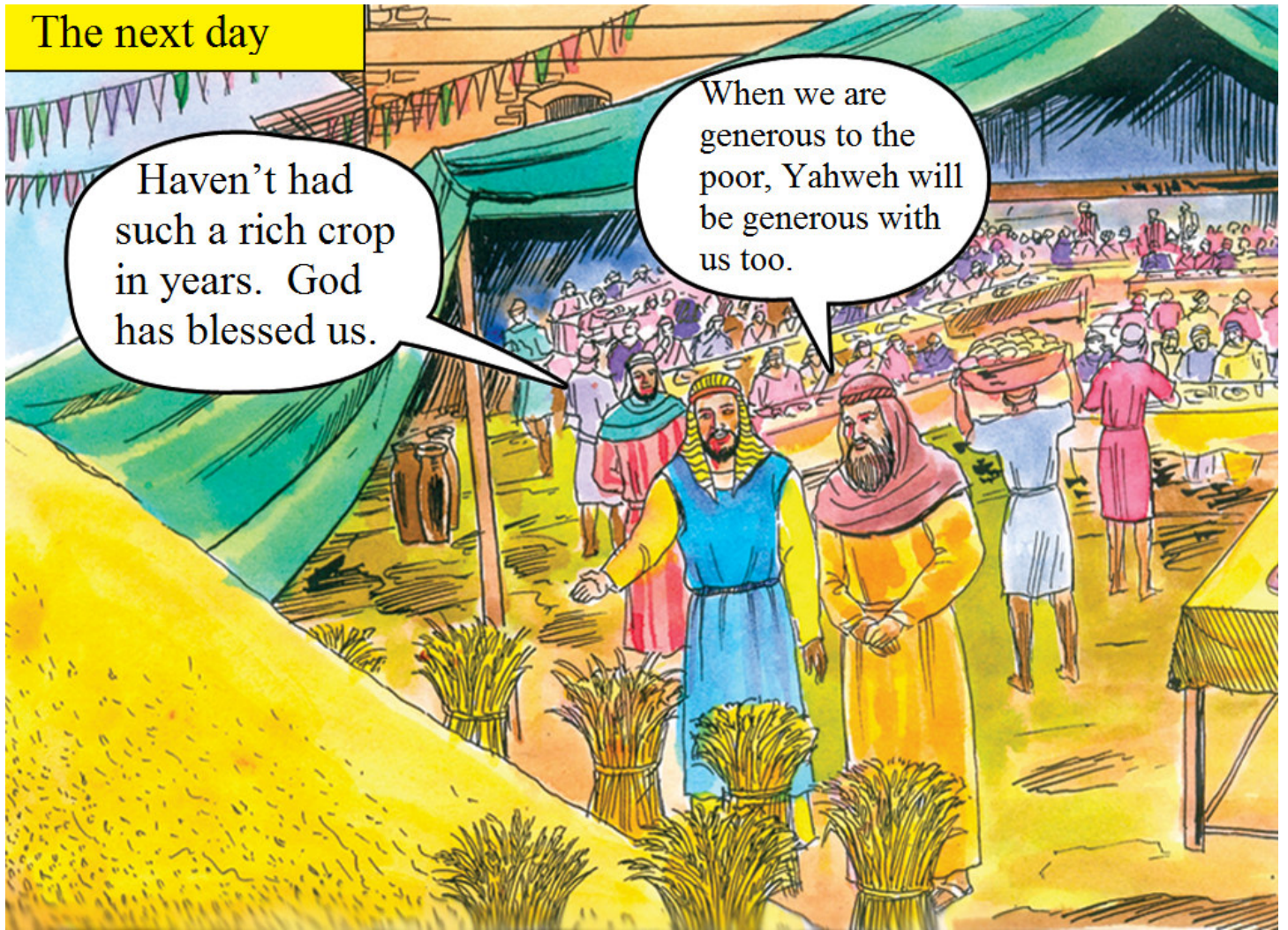
Really? You must
wear your best. Put on
the ornaments too.



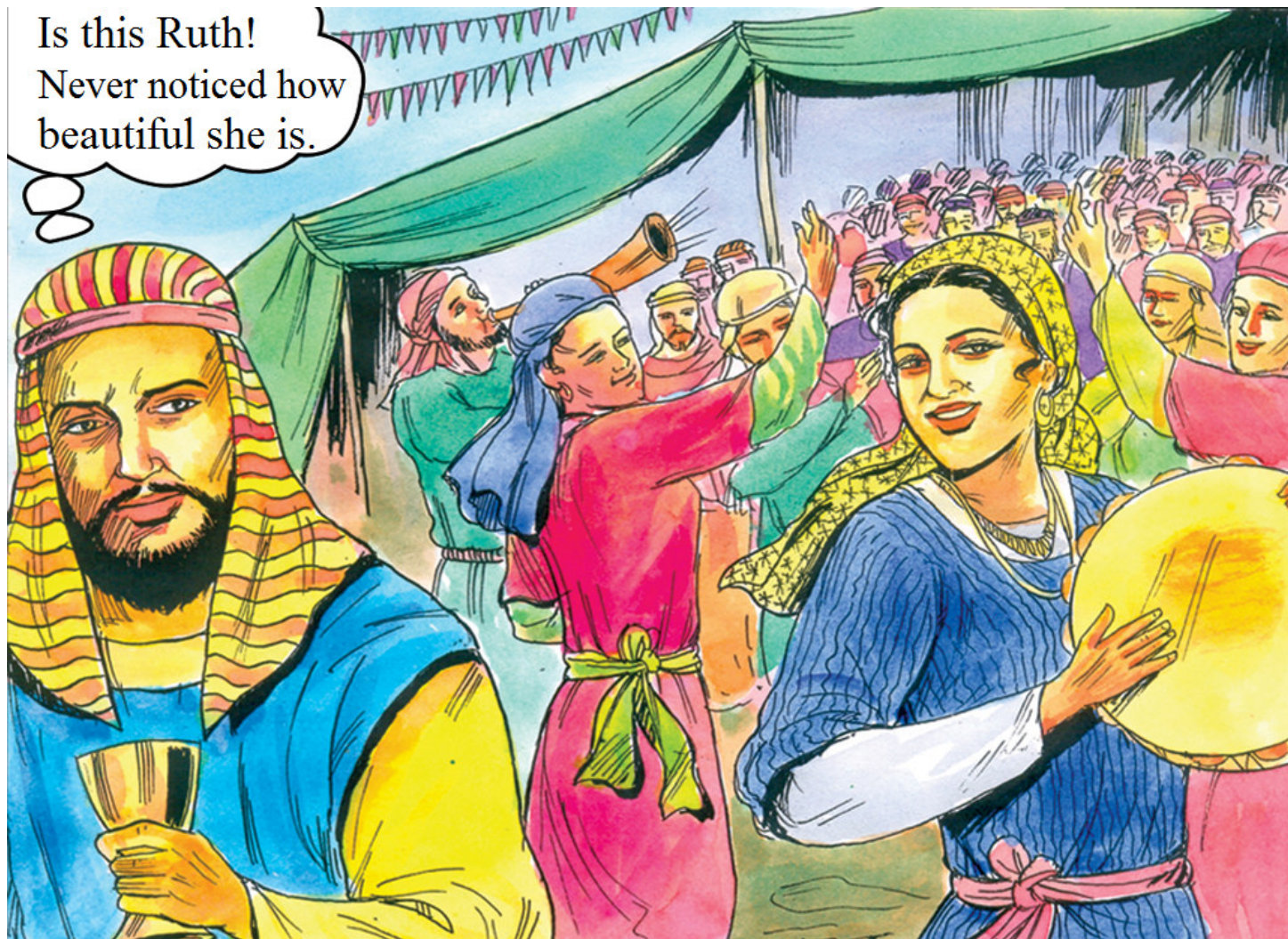
The next day

Haven't had such a rich crop in years. God has blessed us.

When we are generous to the poor, Yahweh will be generous with us too.



Is this Ruth!
Never noticed how
beautiful she is.



The next day Boaz at Naomi's house.



I am ashamed to
receive you in this
poor shack.

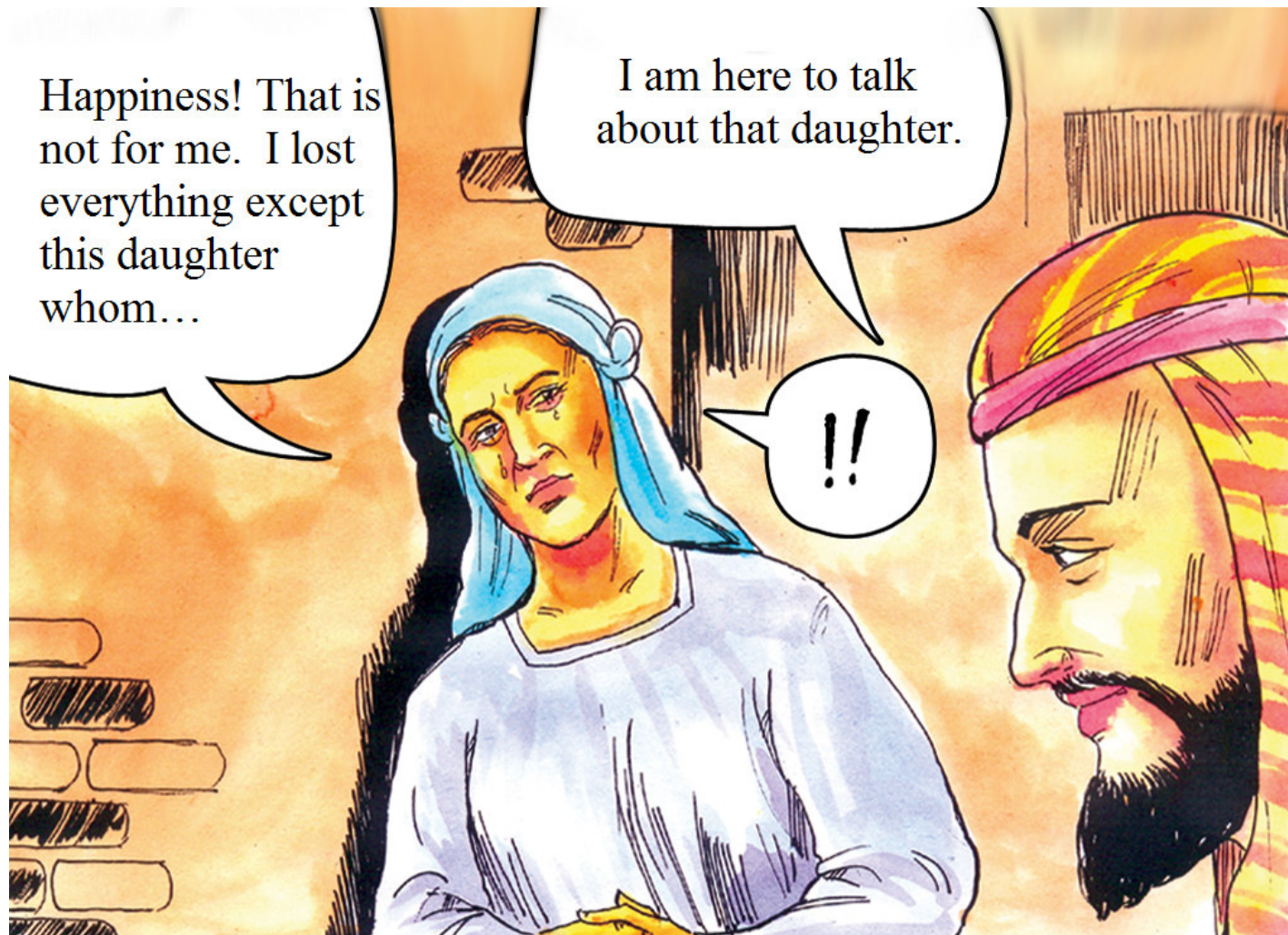
Oh! Aunt, if
you are happy
what does the
condition of the
house matter?

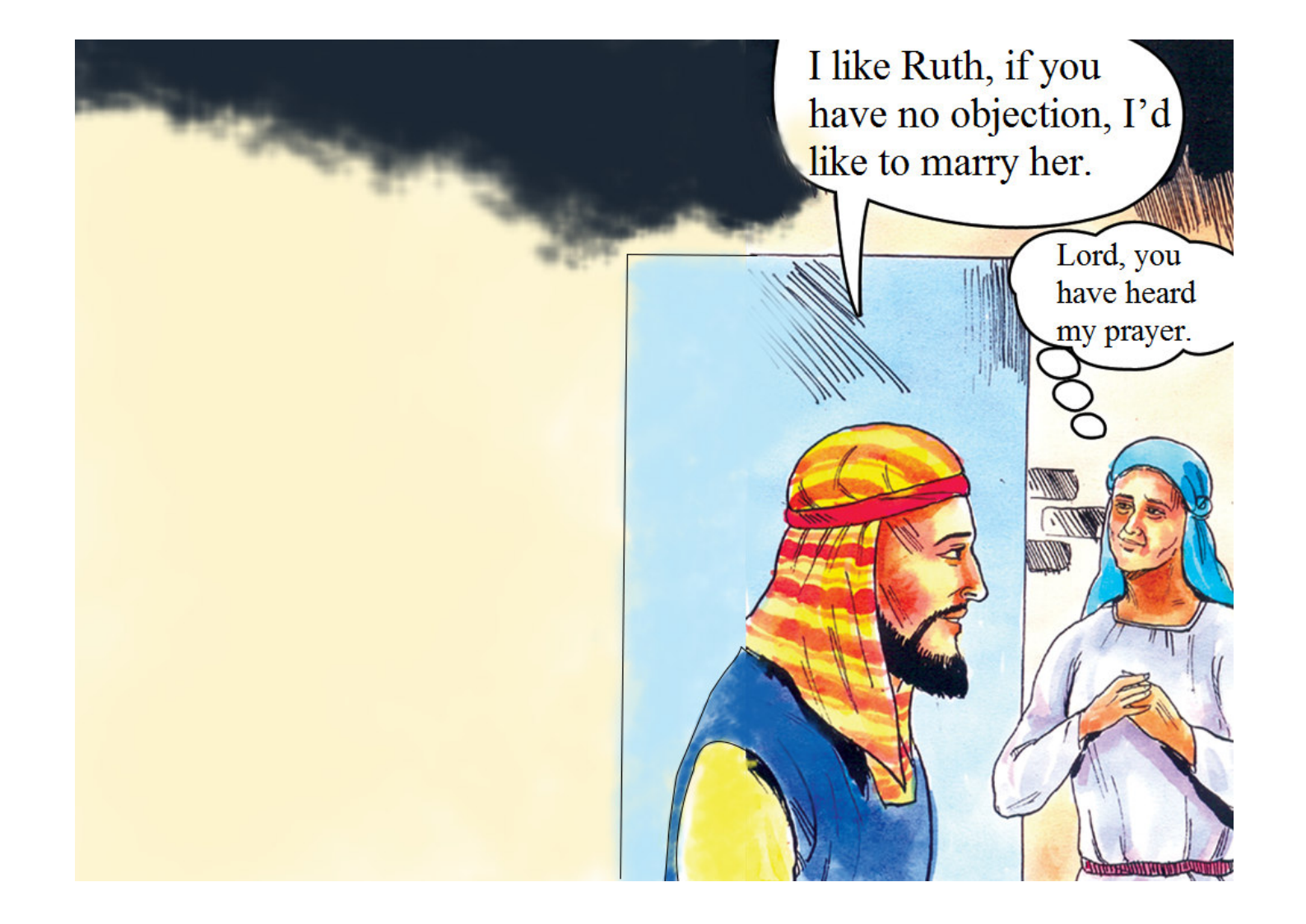


Happiness! That is not for me. I lost everything except this daughter whom...

I am here to talk about that daughter.


!!





I like Ruth, if you have no objection, I'd like to marry her.

Lord, you have heard my prayer.

A woman on the left is wearing a blue headscarf and a light blue top. She has a slightly concerned or thoughtful expression. A man on the right is wearing a yellow and red striped headscarf and a blue tunic over a yellow long-sleeved shirt. He has a beard and a neutral expression. The background is a warm, orange-brown color with some faint, sketchy lines suggesting a building or structure on the left.

We will be
honored but...

But what?

As you know we are poor. Besides my brother's son Sicri is there. He is the next of kin.

Money, I do have enough. I'll talk to Sicri.



The next day Boaz gathered Sicri and ten elders at the City Gate.

The widow of Elimelech is selling a piece of land. Sicri, you are entitled to buy it. Do you want it?

I'll buy it.



As you buy the land you are also bound to marry her daughter-in-law, a Moabite woman, and restore her late husband's name.



You kidding! Marry a gentile widow and name my children after someone else?

That is the law of Israel.

?



If so, I don't
want the land.

You swear?

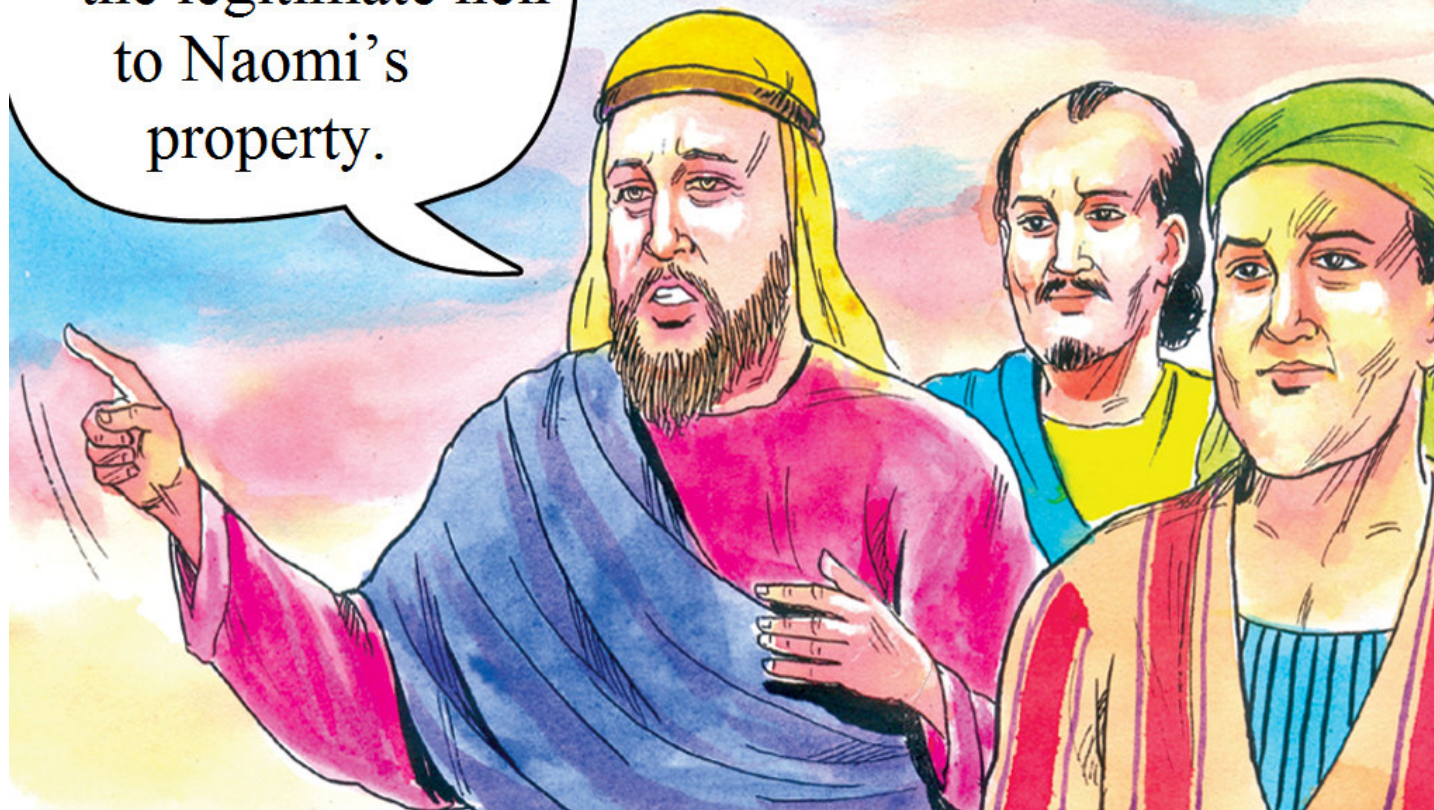


I renounce the right to buy Naomi's land. As a sign, I am giving my sandal to Boaz.

!



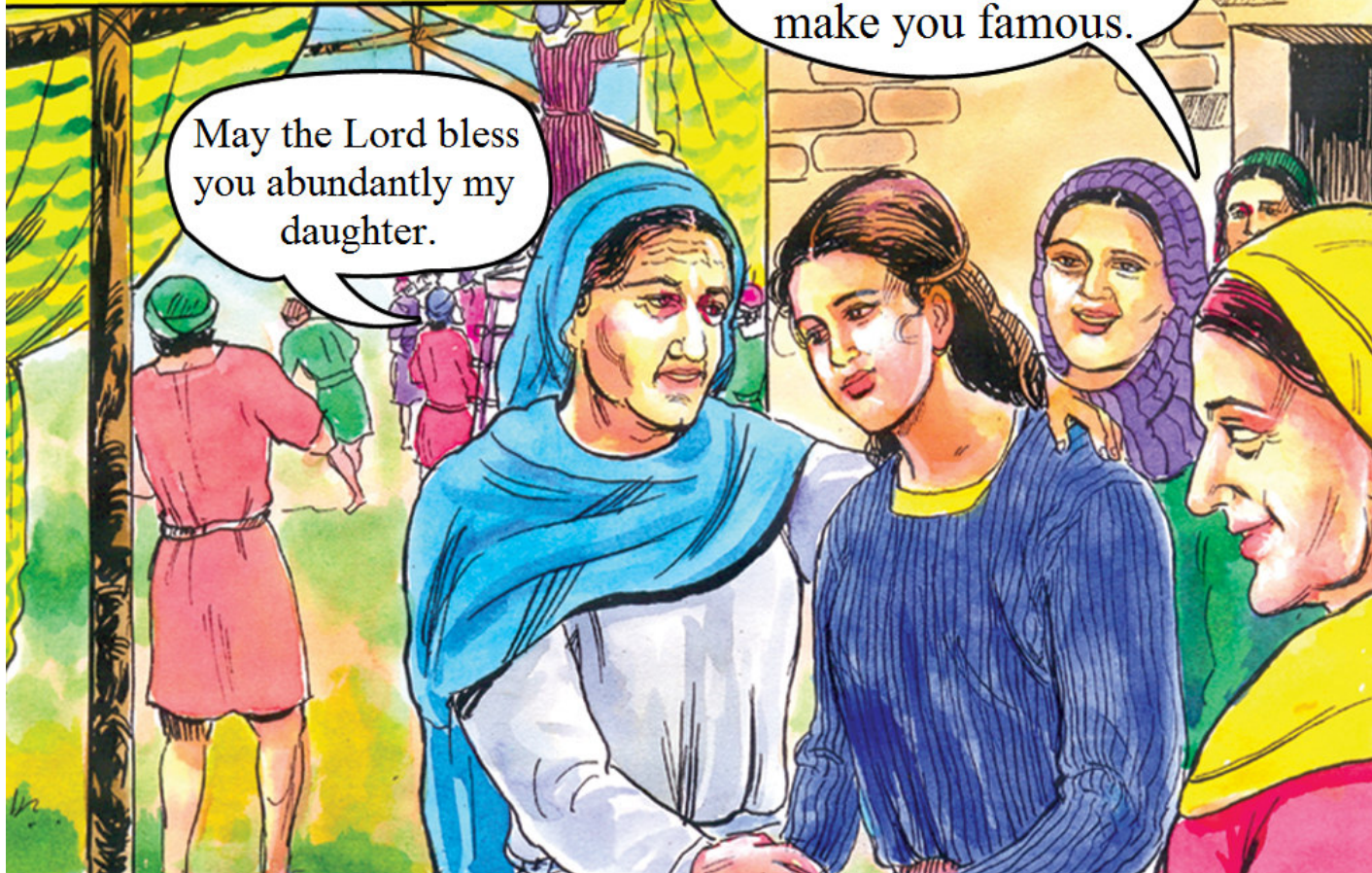
Hereby, we
proclaim Boaz as
the legitimate heir
to Naomi's
property.



On the eve of wedding at
Naomi's house

Like Rachel and
Tamar, may God
make you famous.

May the Lord bless
you abundantly my
daughter.



Boaz is a rich man. Let not
the wealth make you forget
your origins.



Will you make dresses for us again?

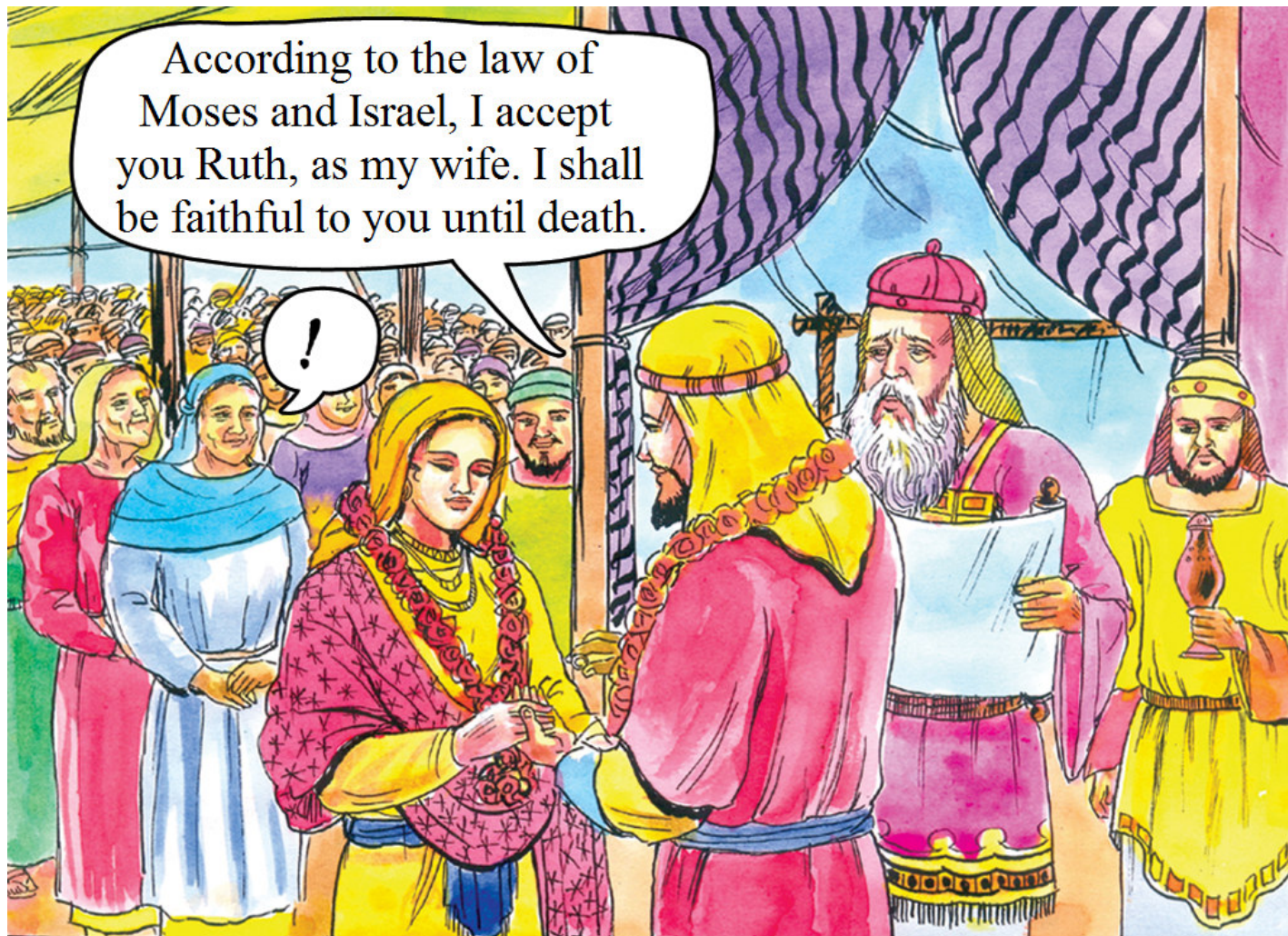
Surely my darling.

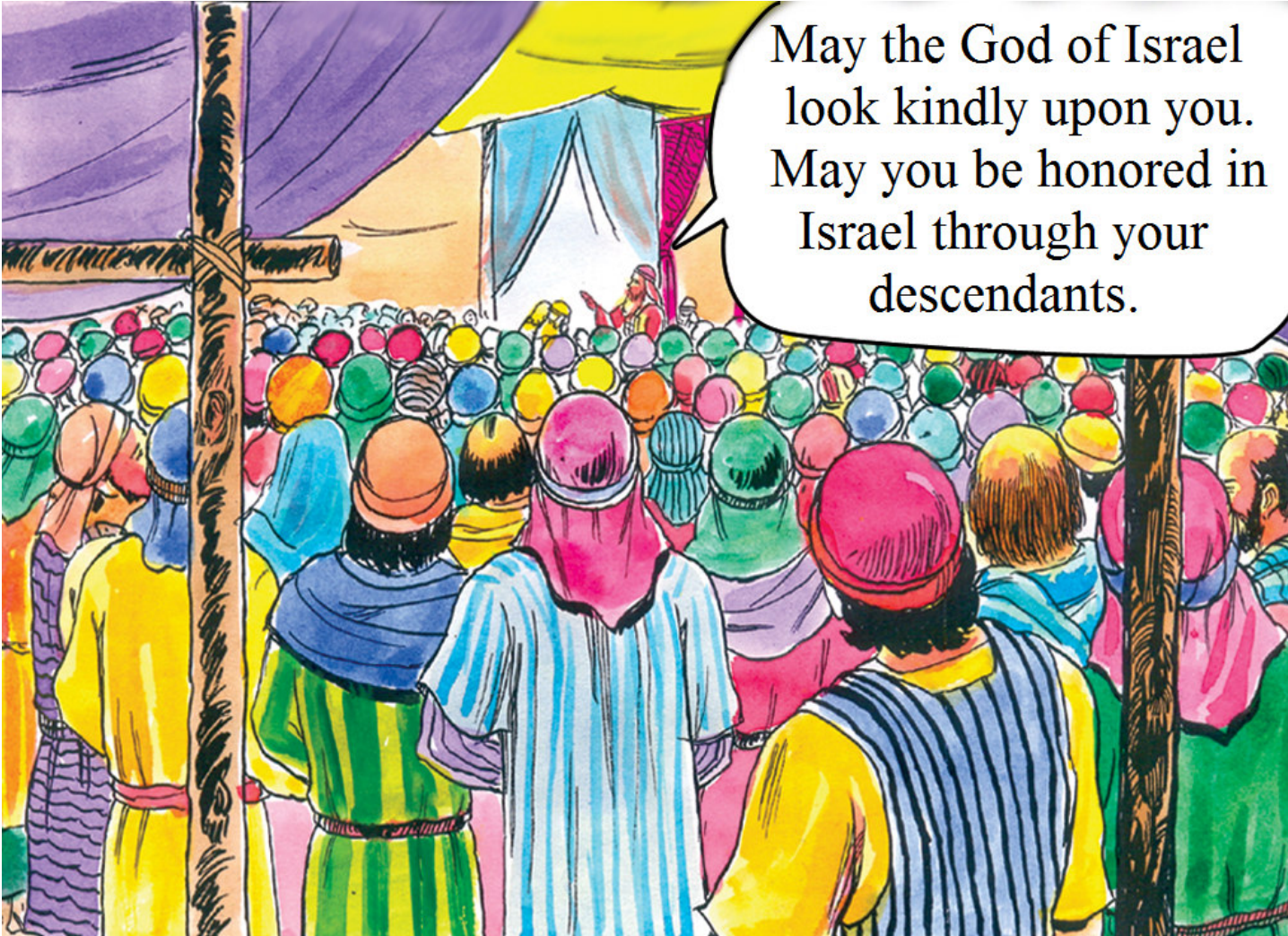
Why are you crying?



According to the law of Moses and Israel, I accept you Ruth, as my wife. I shall be faithful to you until death.

!





May the God of Israel
look kindly upon you.
May you be honored in
Israel through your
descendants.

A son named Obed was born to Boaz and Ruth. Jesse, son of Obed was the father of King David.



Israel was ruled by “Judges” for about hundred years. The last of the “Judges” was a powerful prophet who anointed kings as well as dethroned them.

NEXT STORY

SAMUEL

Questions

1. Why did Naomi and family migrate to Moab?
2. Whom did the Moabites worship as the God of plenty?
3. Explain the situation in which the book of Ruth was written.
4. What was the purpose of the call of Israel?
5. Who are the gentiles?
6. Why did the Israelites separate themselves from the Gentiles.
7. Who had the right to glean?
8. Why did Ruth decide to go to Bethlehem?
9. What lessons the Bible teaches by the story of Ruth?
10. What is the place of Ruth in the history of Salvation?

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