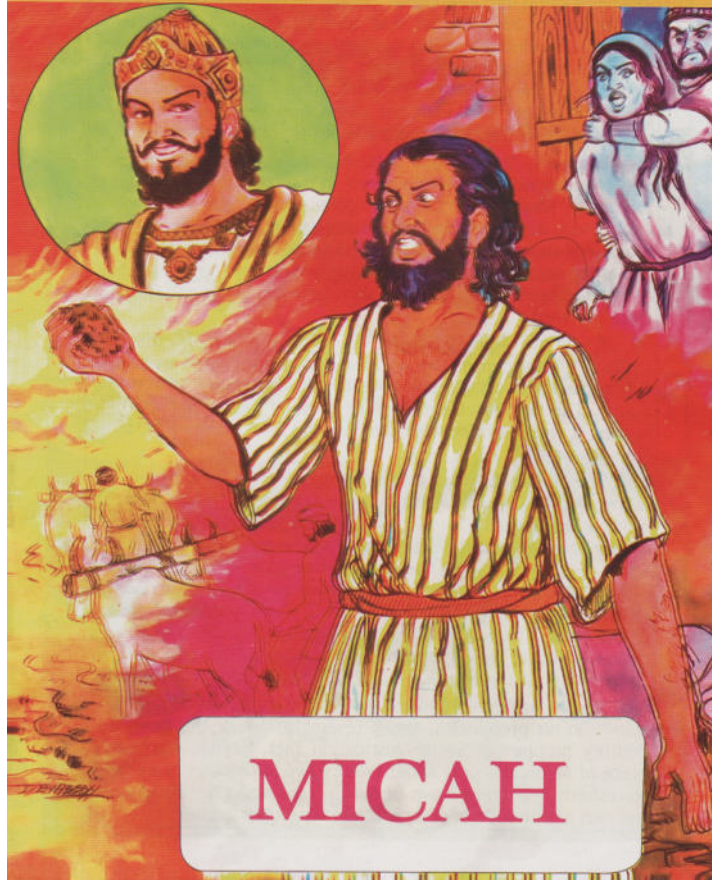


Bible Comics - 17

Farmers' Revolt



MICAH

After the death of Solomon the empire was divided and two kingdoms came into existence – “Israel” in the North and “Judah” in the South. While Israel was torn by constant revolutions, Judah had a relatively stable government. The throne was always occupied by a descendant of David. The political stability and the presence of the Arc of the covenant in the temple of Jerusalem gave the people of Judah the

conviction that Yahweh would always dwell in their midst and protect them from enemies.

Gradually they forgot that the protection God promised was conditioned by their obedience to the laws of the Covenant. As far as social injustice and oppression of the weak were concerned, Judah was no better than Israel. Towards the middle of the eighth century B.C. Judah also faced a serious crisis. While the allied forces of Israel and Syria attacked her from the north, she had to face the invasion of Edom from the South and Philistia from the west.

It was the ordinary people, especially the farmers that had to bear the burden of the war. Even in the midst of wars, the ruling class, especially the military officials, lived in extreme luxury. The helpless farmers were brutally kicked out of their homes. It was in this context that Yahweh sent Micah to Judah as His spokesman.

The name Micah is the abbreviated form of the Hebrew name, Michael, which means “Who is like God?”. The name is an affirmation of the sovereignty of God. It expressed the character of the prophet. Micah was a man completely

possessed by the Spirit of God. His own bitter experiences gave his words a sharp edge. In the atrocities committed against the poor, Micah saw the denial of God who is the father of the orphans and the protector of the weak. The confession of faith in God demands an outright denunciation of every form of oppression. In his voice we can hear the cry of the oppressed and God's verdict on injustice.

Micah was a contemporary of the prophets Hosea and Isaiah. In his prophecies, Micah resembles Amos, the great 8th century prophet of

Social Justice. In fact, Tekoa, the native place of Amos, lies only about twenty five kilometers away from Moresheth, the home town of Micah. Like Amos, he denounced the rich and the ruling class and laid bare their crimes.

Micah told them that God was about to intervene in history to punish the wicked and to put an end to oppression. Jerusalem, the holy city that was defiled by murder and robbery would be reduced to a heap of rubble. Micah was the first prophet to raise his voice against Jerusalem and the temple. This prophecy made

such a lasting impression upon the people that it was quoted even after a hundred years, during the trial of Jeremiah. Micah's prophecy against Jerusalem is a warning for all those who boast of being chosen by God but do not obey His commandments.

Amos' call for justice, Hosea's pleas of love, and Isaiah's proclamation of holiness are summed up in the prophecies of Micah. According to him what God demands is not sacrifices and holocausts but justice, mercy and humility. Above all, Micah is known for his

messianic prophecy concerning the righteous king who would come from the humble town of Bethlehem. This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus, the Messiah, was born in Bethlehem.



Bible Comics – 17

Farmer's protest

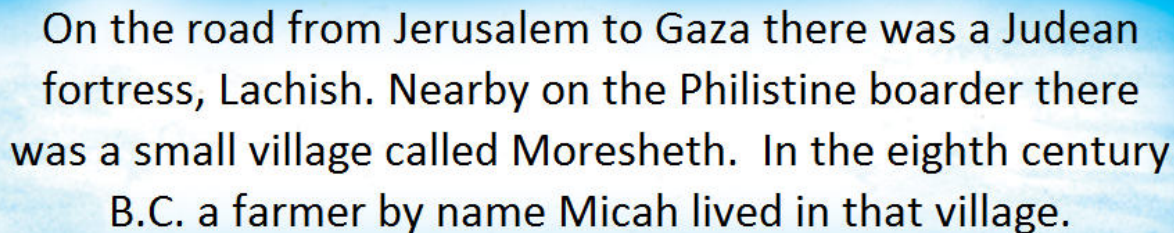
Micah

Script

Rev. Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

Devassy



On the road from Jerusalem to Gaza there was a Judean fortress, Lachish. Nearby on the Philistine boarder there was a small village called Moresheth. In the eighth century B.C. a farmer by name Micah lived in that village.

Micah with his family in the vineyard.

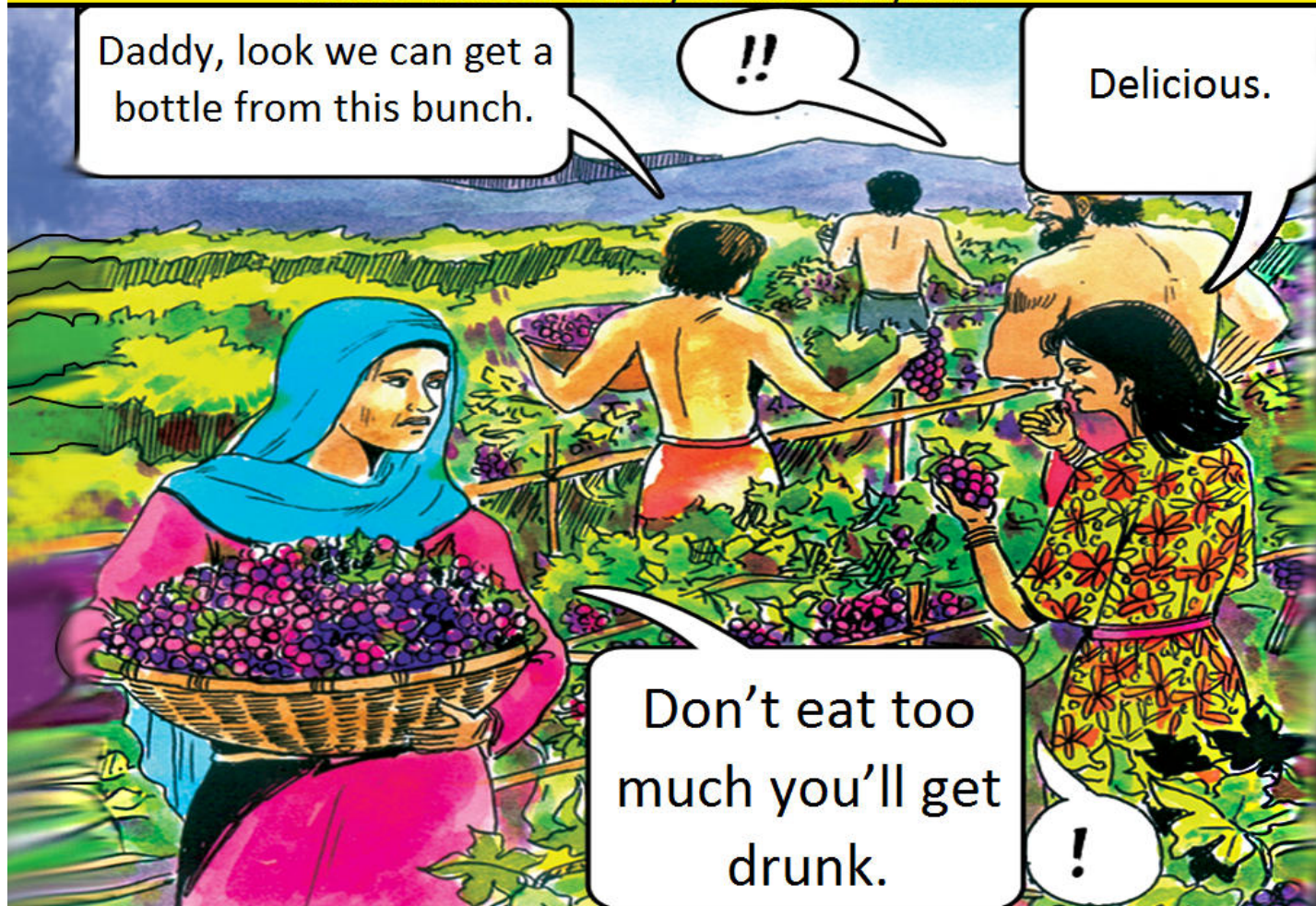
Daddy, look we can get a bottle from this bunch.

!!

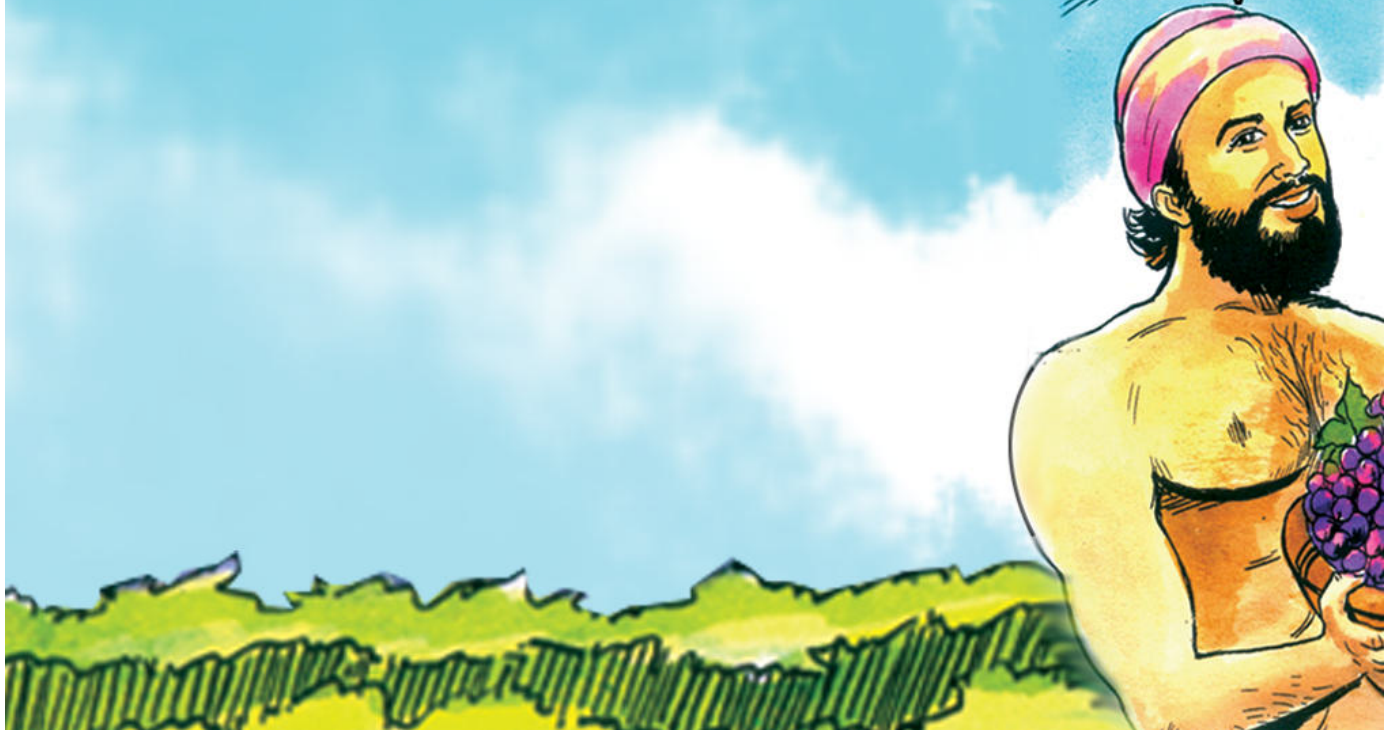
Delicious.

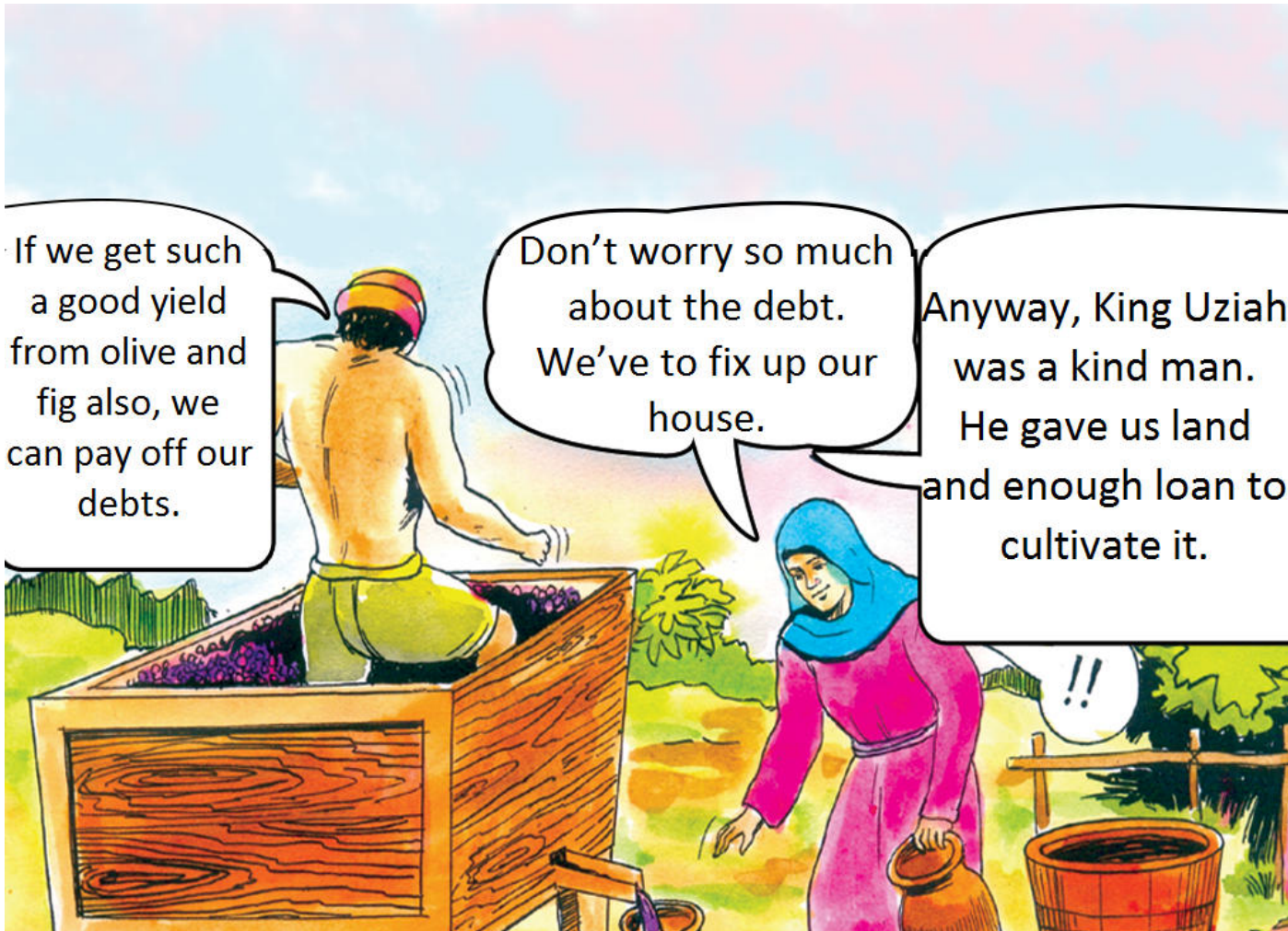
Don't eat too much you'll get drunk.

!



Doesn't matter; let
her enjoy the
Lord's blessing.





If we get such a good yield from olive and fig also, we can pay off our debts.

Don't worry so much about the debt. We've to fix up our house.

Anyway, King Uziah was a kind man. He gave us land and enough loan to cultivate it.

It is a pity that he died of
Leprosy.

Who knows the
ways of Yahweh?
King Jotham is as
good as his father.



That is why
I say that
we can pay
the debts
later.

Lord God, we praise you and
give you thanks for blessing
us with a good harvest.



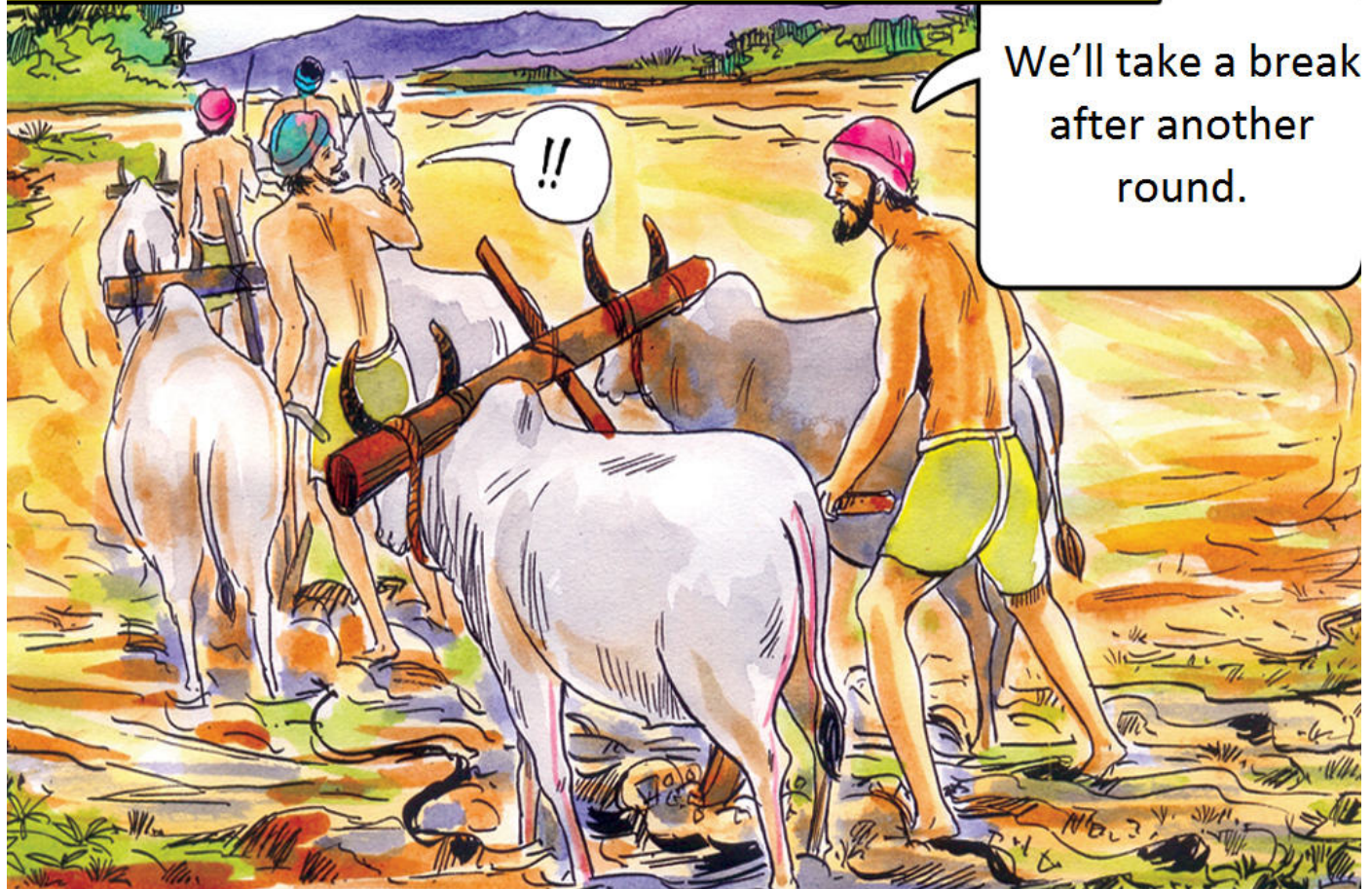


Sicri, don't carry so much. You will break your neck.

?!

I thought I'll save a trip.

After winter, they ploughed the land to sow the grain.



By the end of this week, we can finish plough all our lands.

If we get a good harvest next year also, I can pay the merchant Laban's debt.

God will not let us down. We've been working day and night.

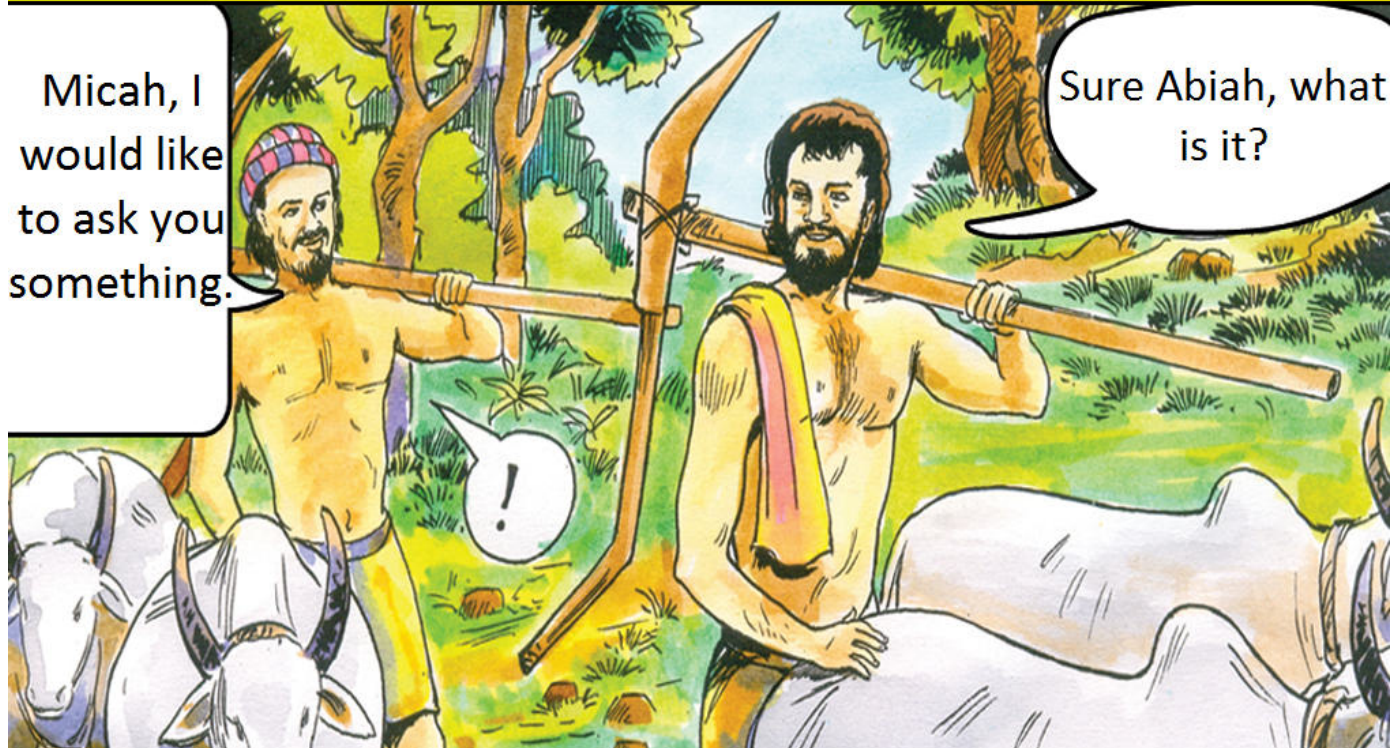
!!

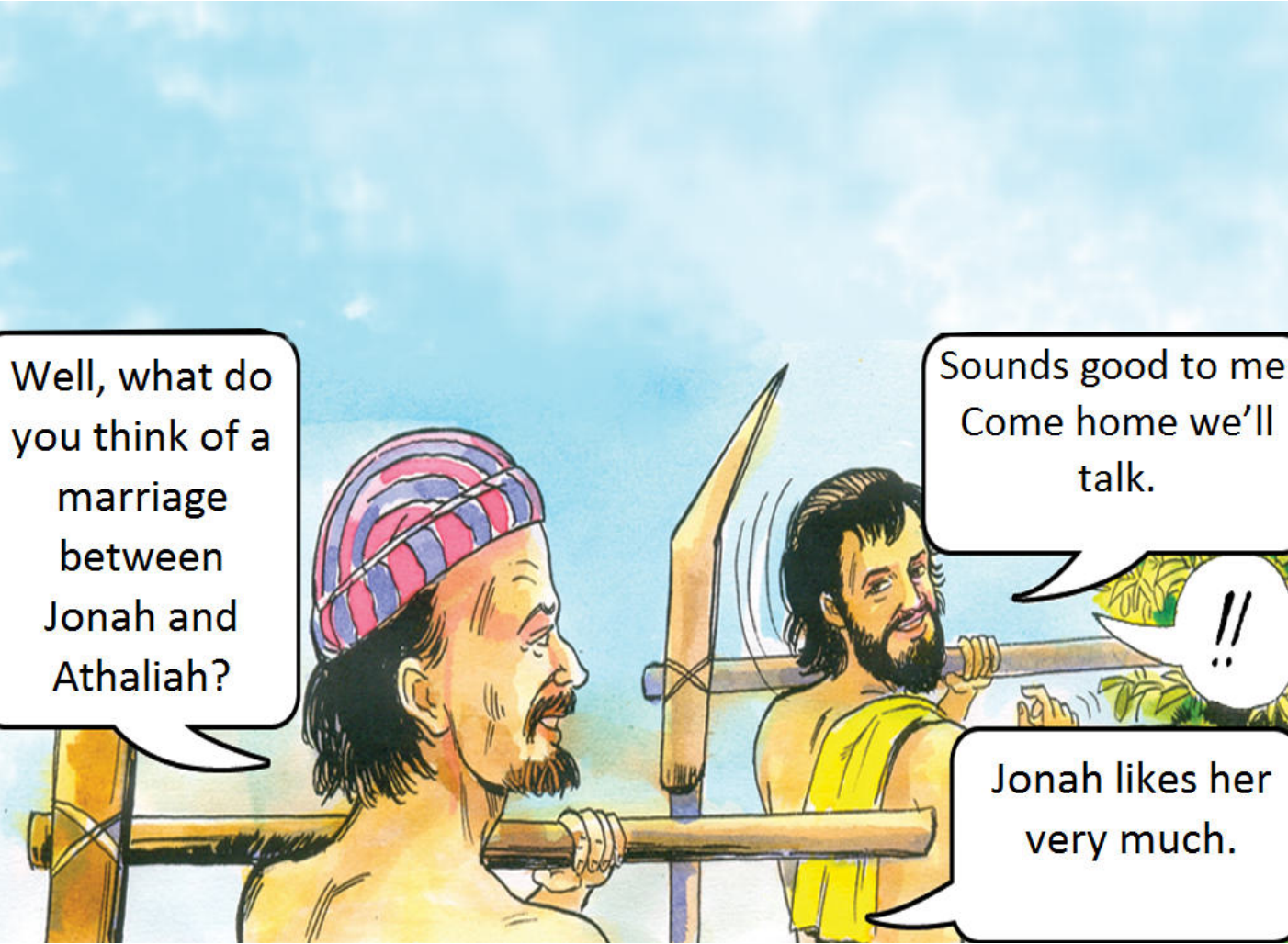


After plough the Land, they went home, on the way.

Micah, I would like to ask you something.

Sure Abiah, what is it?



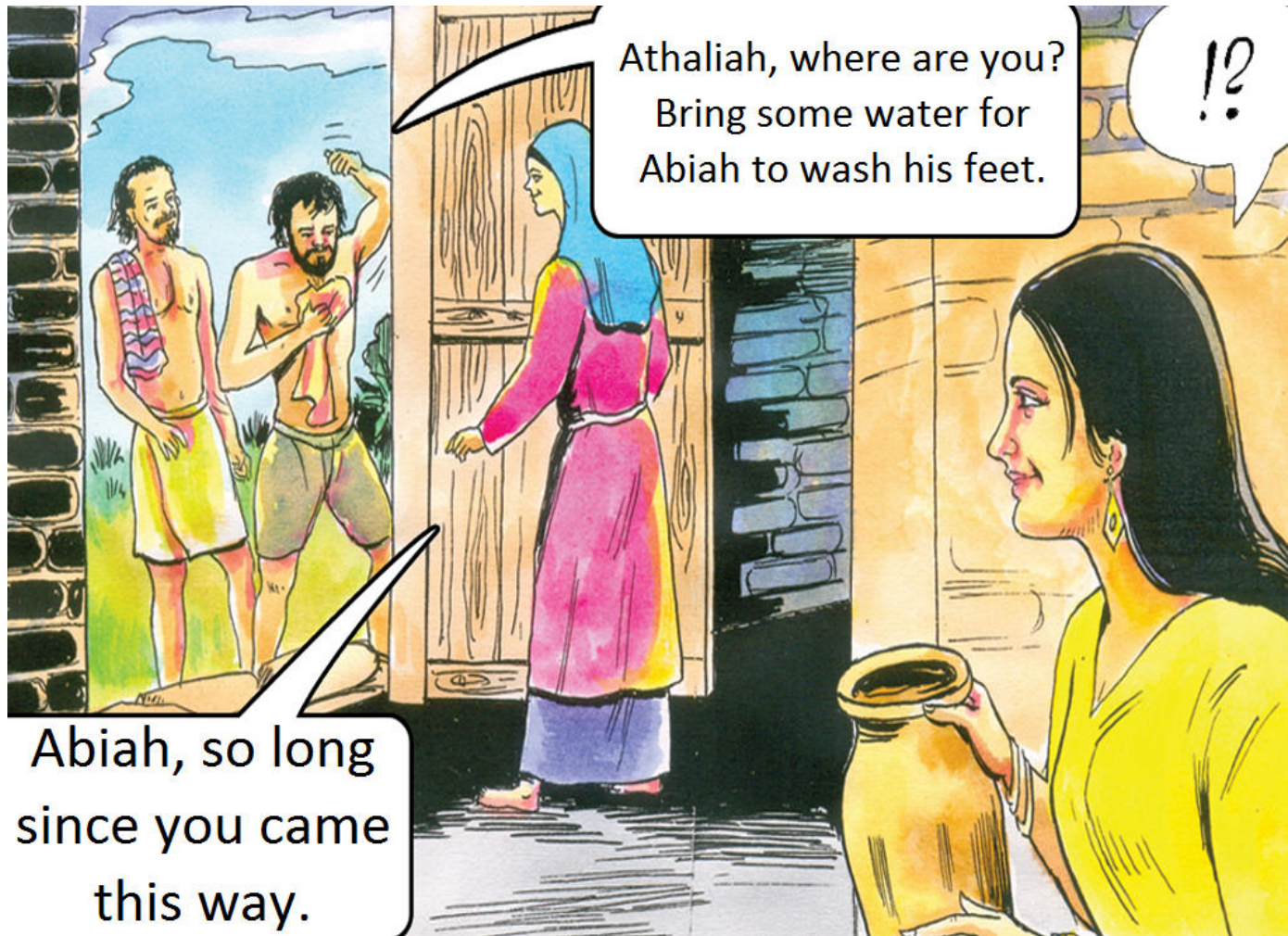


Well, what do you think of a marriage between Jonah and Athaliah?

Sounds good to me. Come home we'll talk.

!!

Jonah likes her very much.



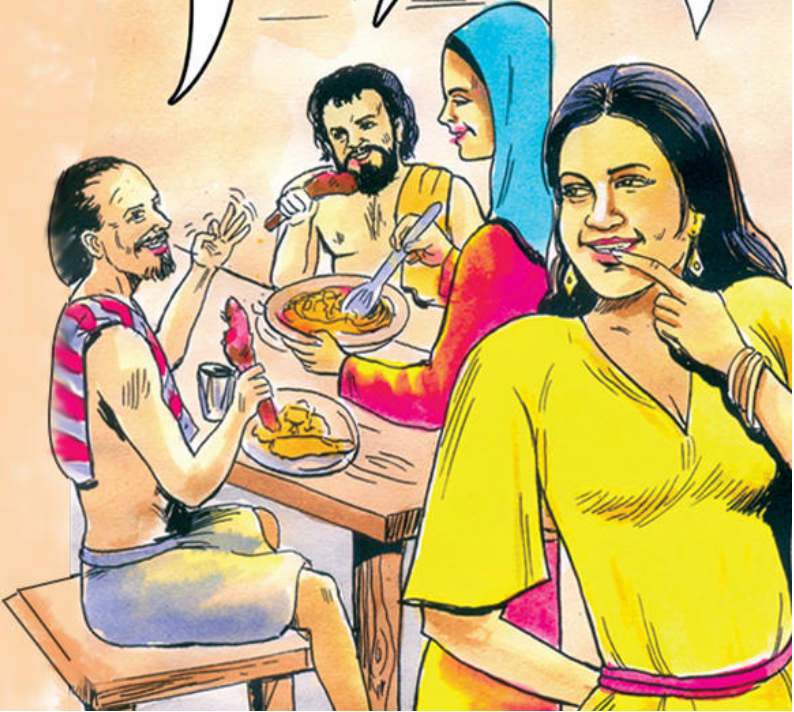
Athaliah, where are you?
Bring some water for
Abiah to wash his feet.

!?

Abiah, so long
since you came
this way.

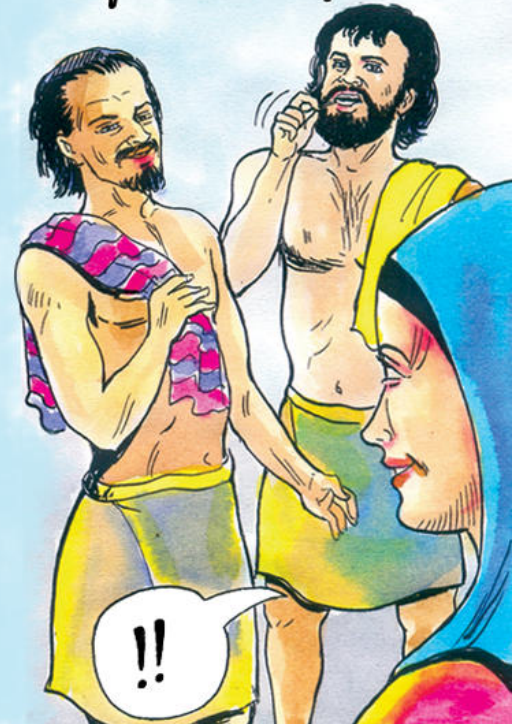
Athaliah, I didn't know that you could cook so well. This mutton is scrumptious.

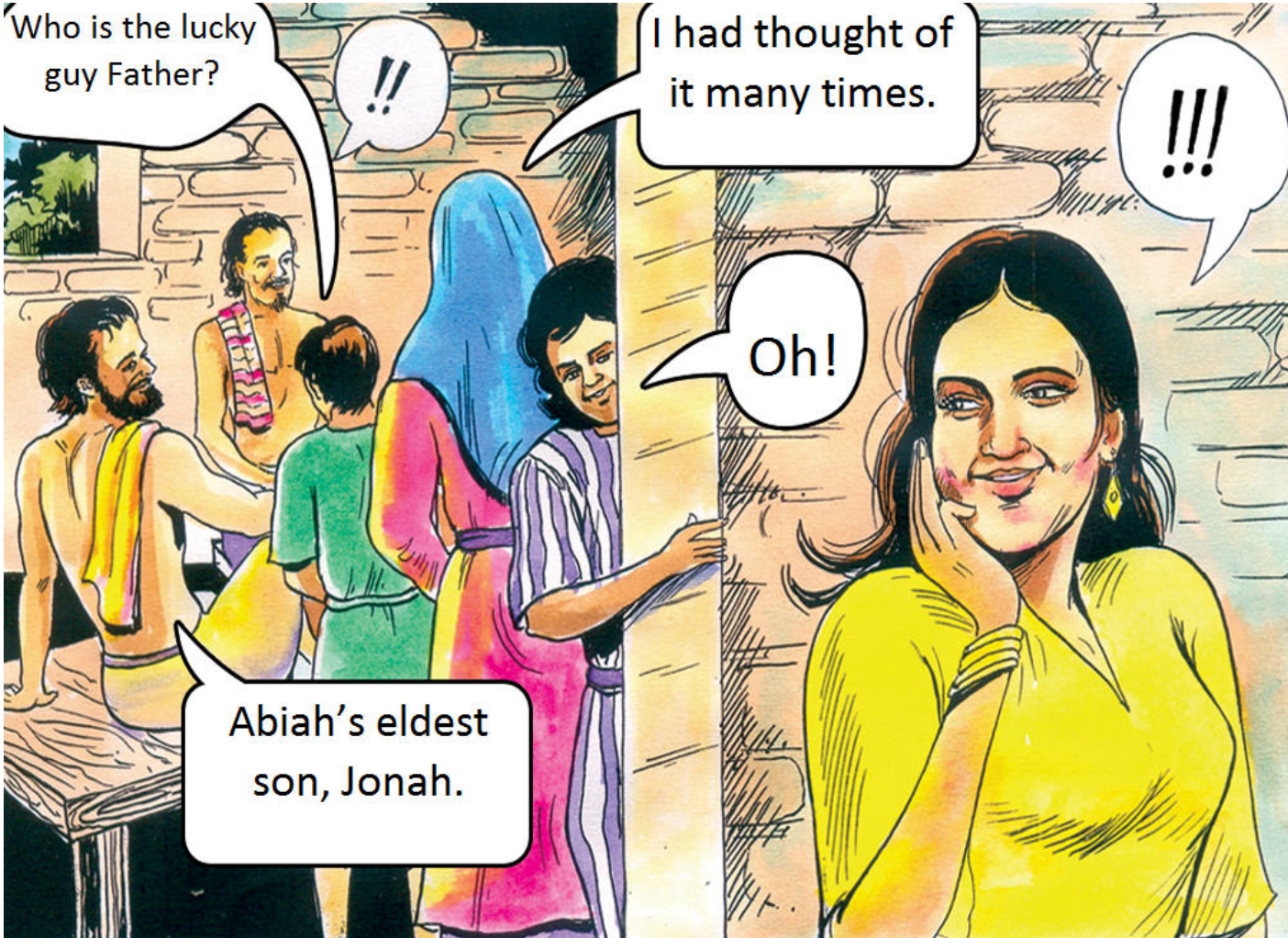
That is my daughter, for sure.



Well, I didn't
say why I
came.

Abiah has a
proposal for
our daughter.





Who is the lucky
guy Father?

!!

I had thought of
it many times.

!!!

Oh!

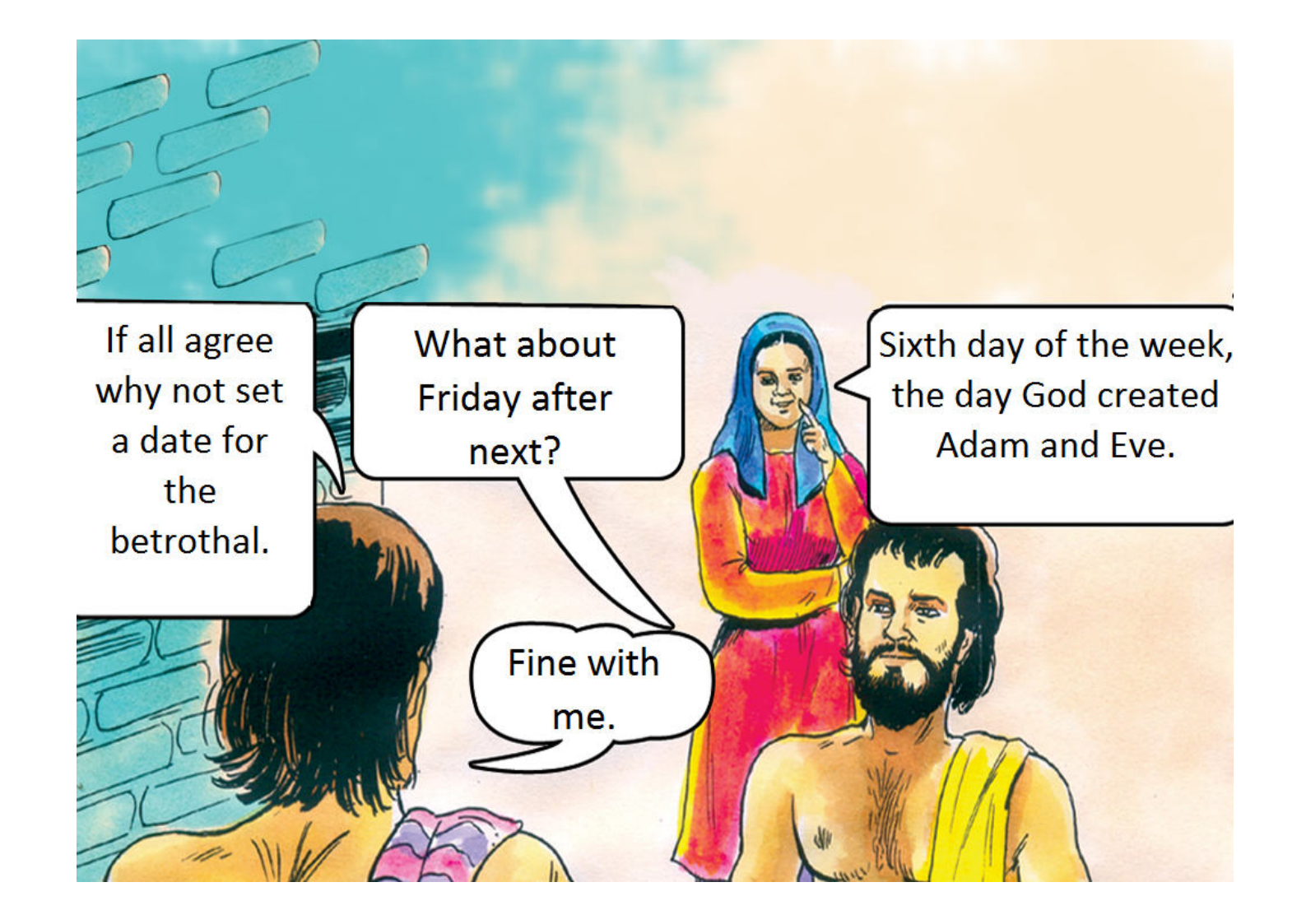
Abiah's eldest
son, Jonah.

When we've so much debt,
what'll we do about dowry?

That we
can
adjust.

Jonah is my friend. Now he is
going to be my brother-in-law.






If all agree
why not set
a date for
the
betrothal.

What about
Friday after
next?

Sixth day of the week,
the day God created
Adam and Eve.

Fine with
me.

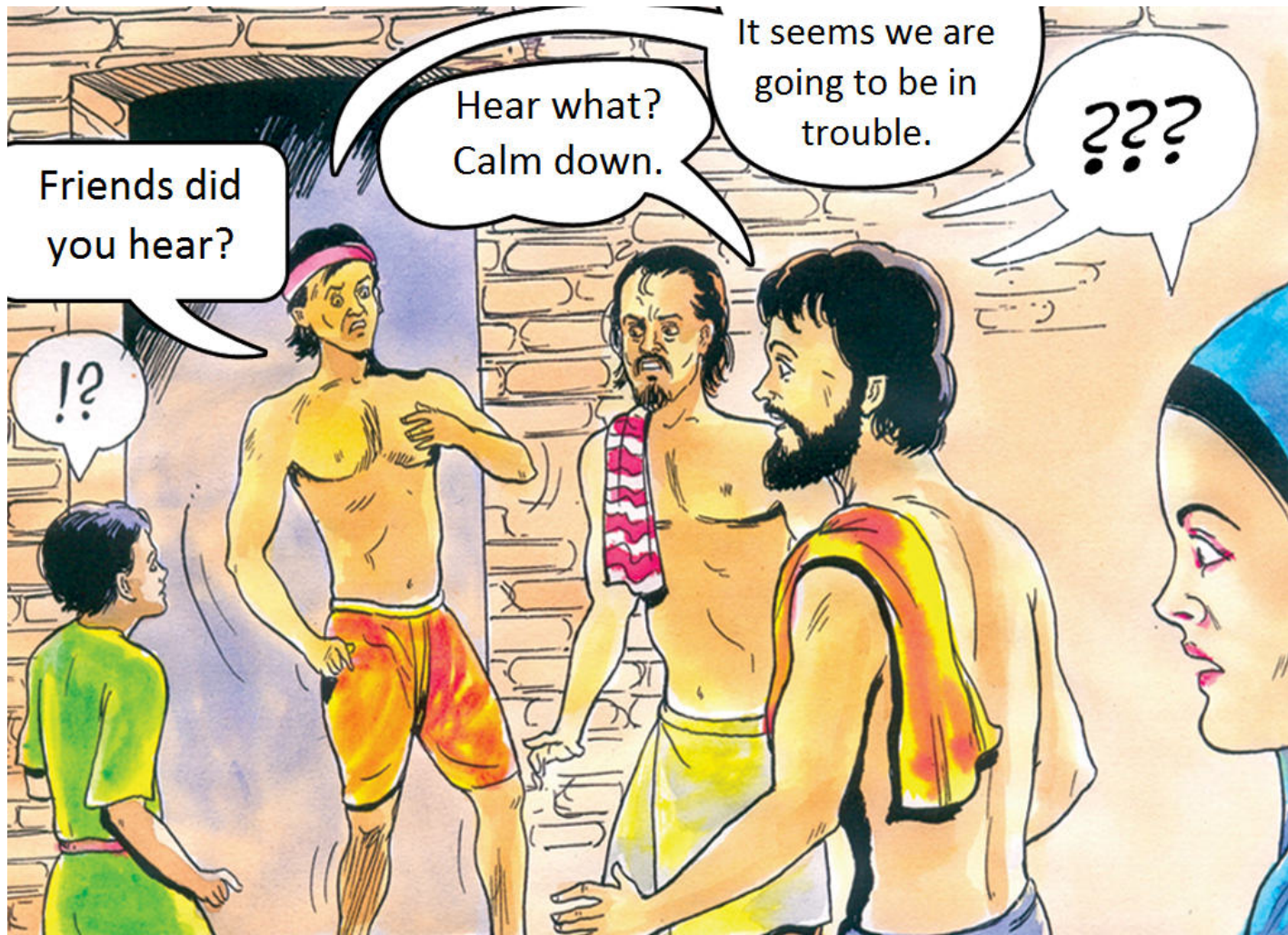


Shouldn't we ask the girl?

No need. What we decided she will agree.

Look, someone is coming.

??!!



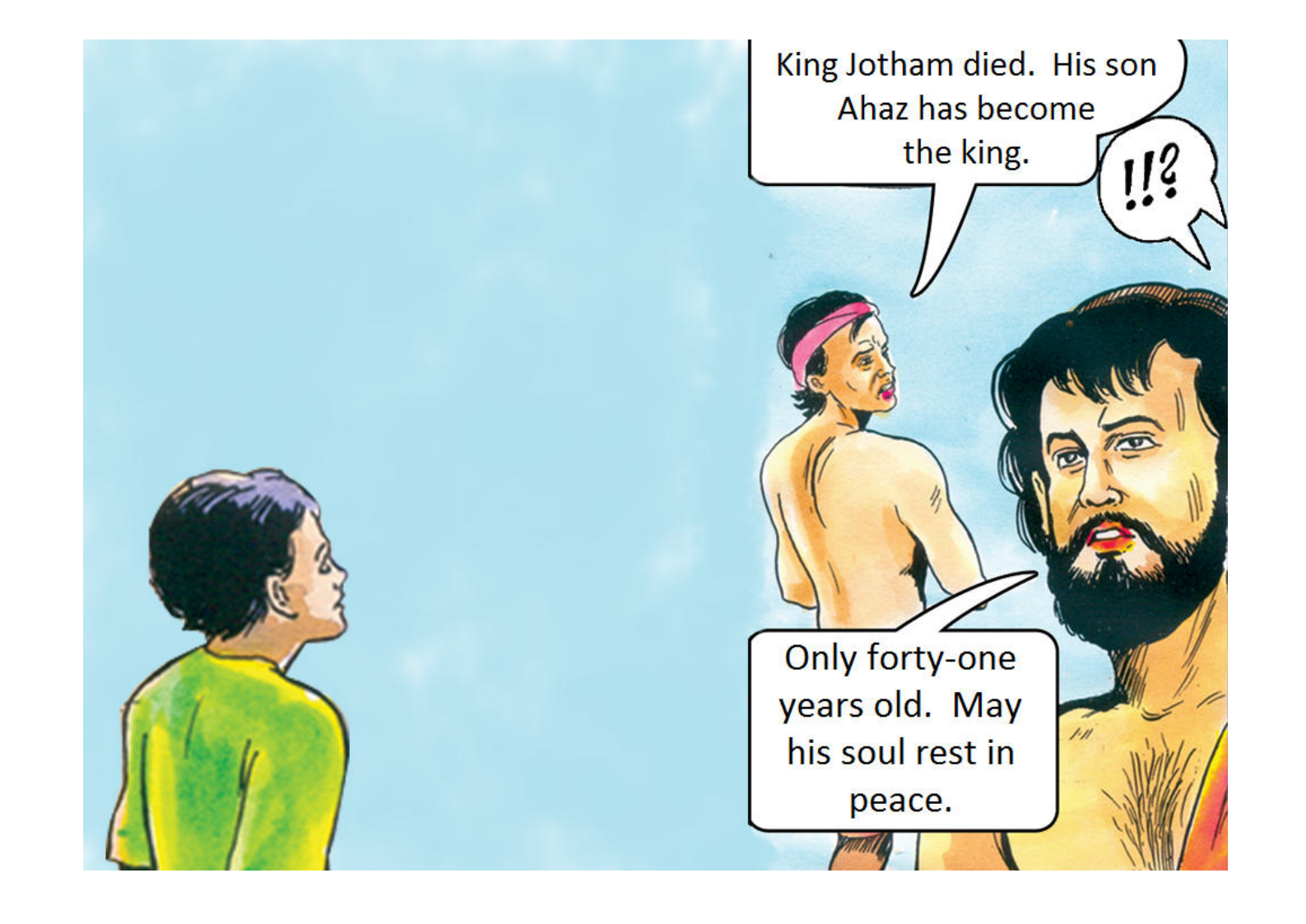
Friends did you hear?

Hear what?
Calm down.

It seems we are going to be in trouble.

???

!?



King Jotham died. His son
Ahaz has become
the king.

!!?

Only forty-one
years old. May
his soul rest in
peace.

Micah, see you later.
Don't forget what we
said.

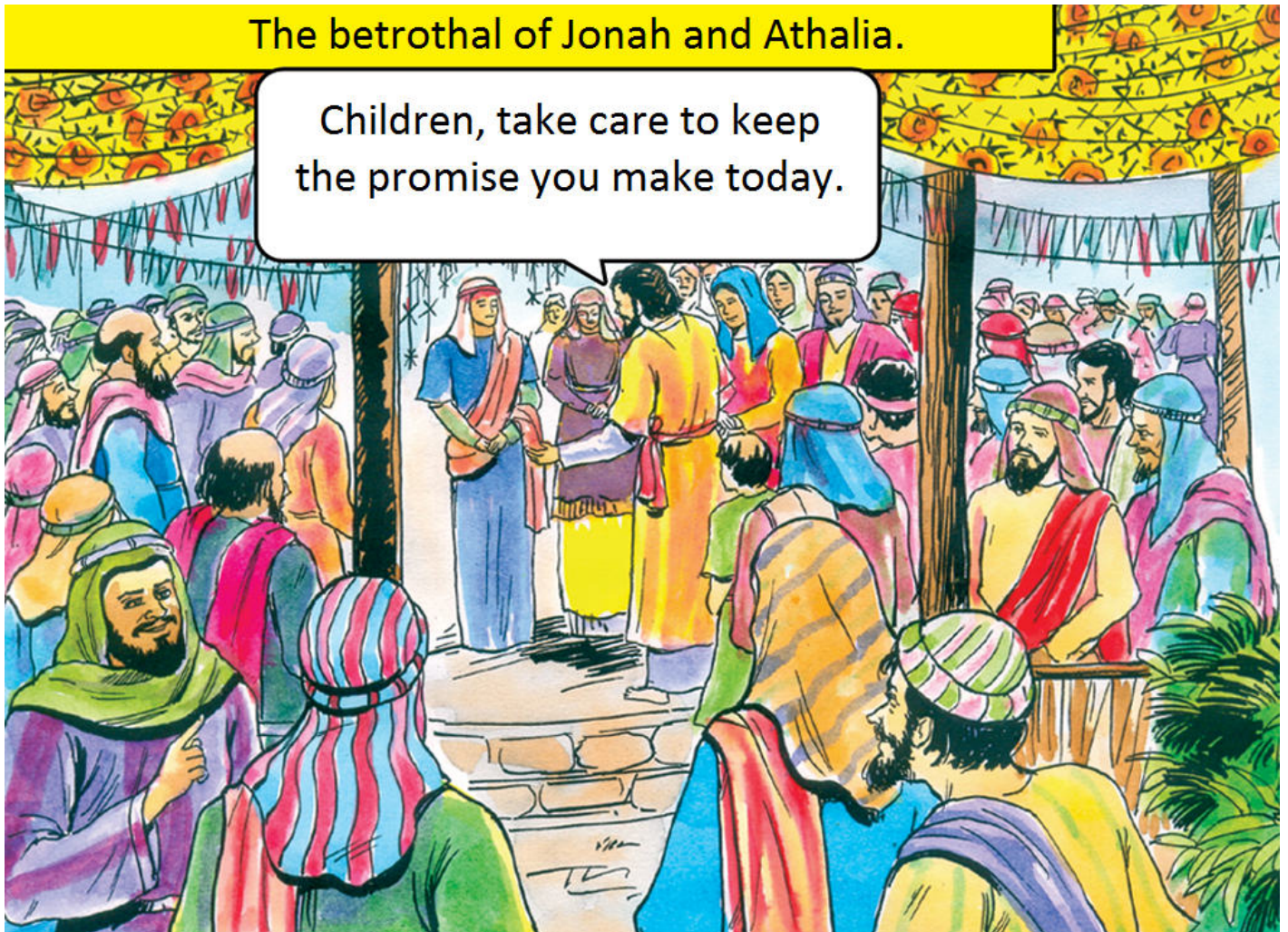
Sure Abiah.

!!

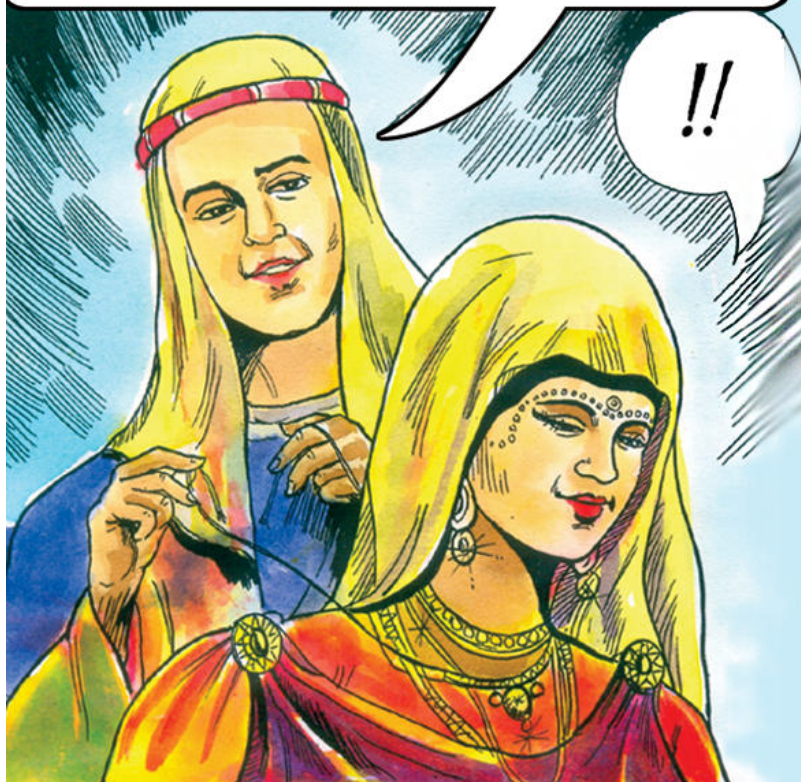


The betrothal of Jonah and Athalia.

Children, take care to keep the promise you make today.



Athaliah, daughter of Micah, I
promise to marry you according to
the law of Moses.



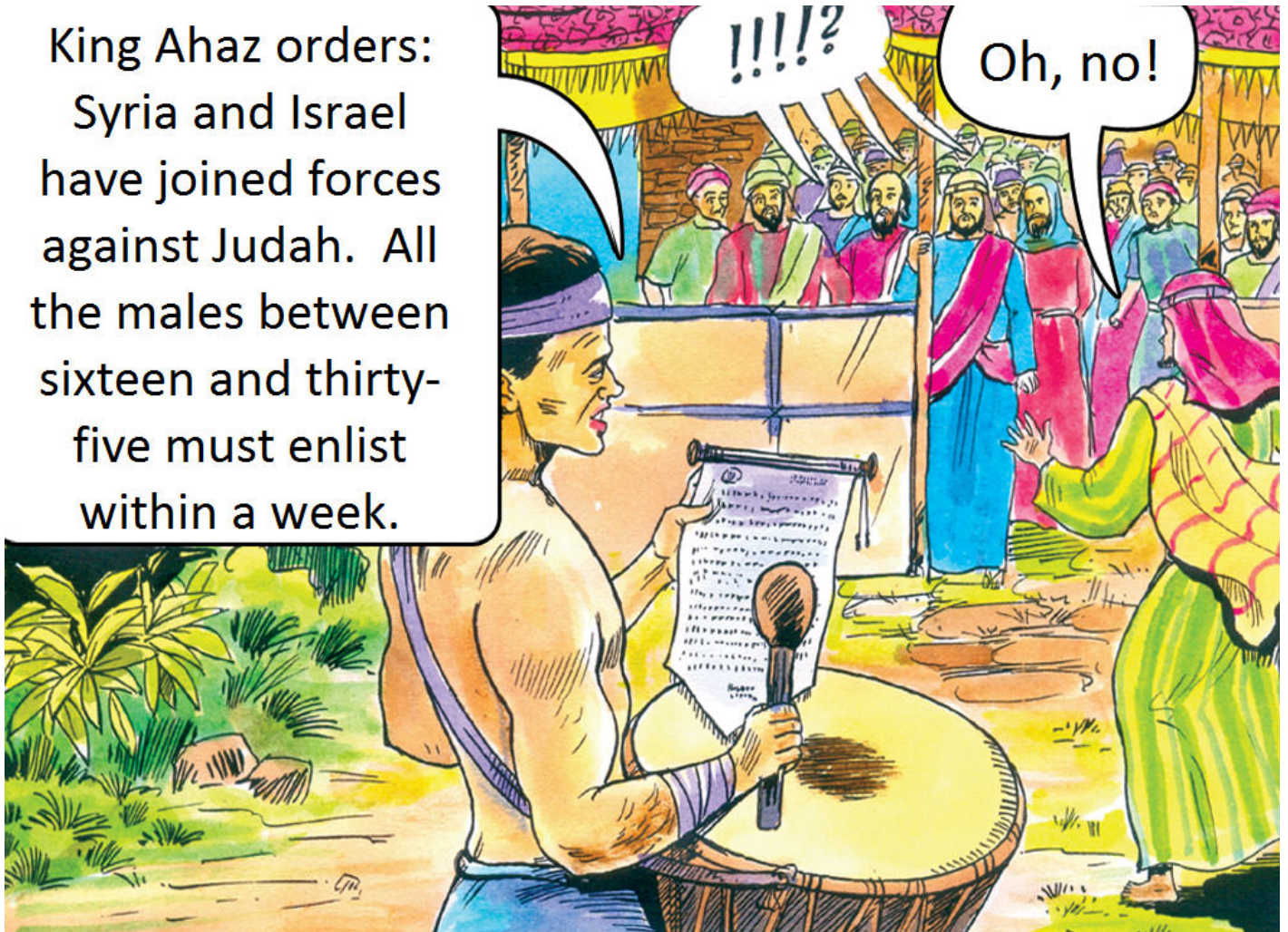
Dum...Dum..Dum

Listen sound of
Drums.

!!???



King Ahaz orders:
Syria and Israel
have joined forces
against Judah. All
the males between
sixteen and thirty-
five must enlist
within a week.



All the money
borrowed from the
royal treasury must be
returned immediately.

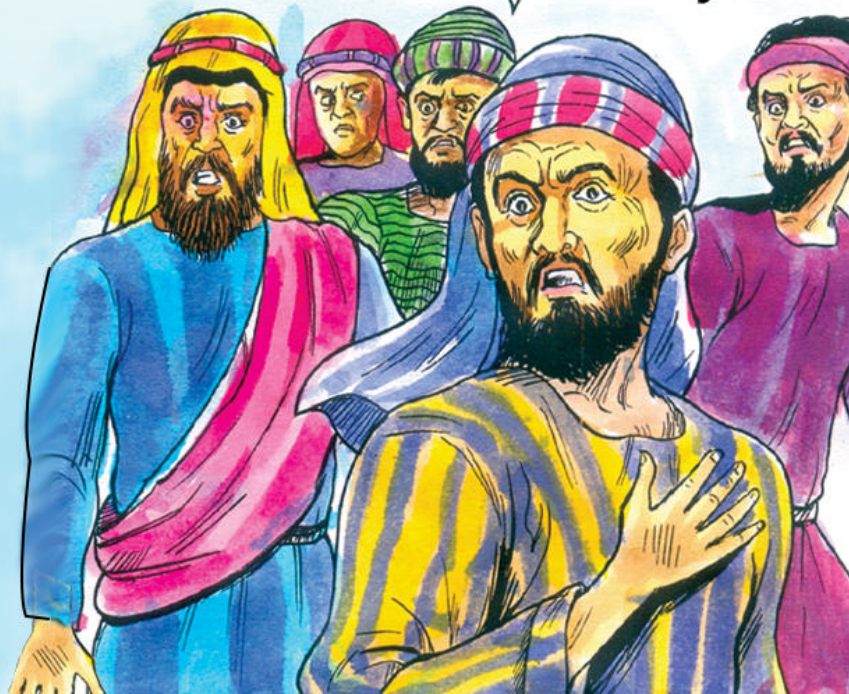
???



Impossible. How are we going to pay the debts now?

Should we send our kids to be slaughtered?

??!



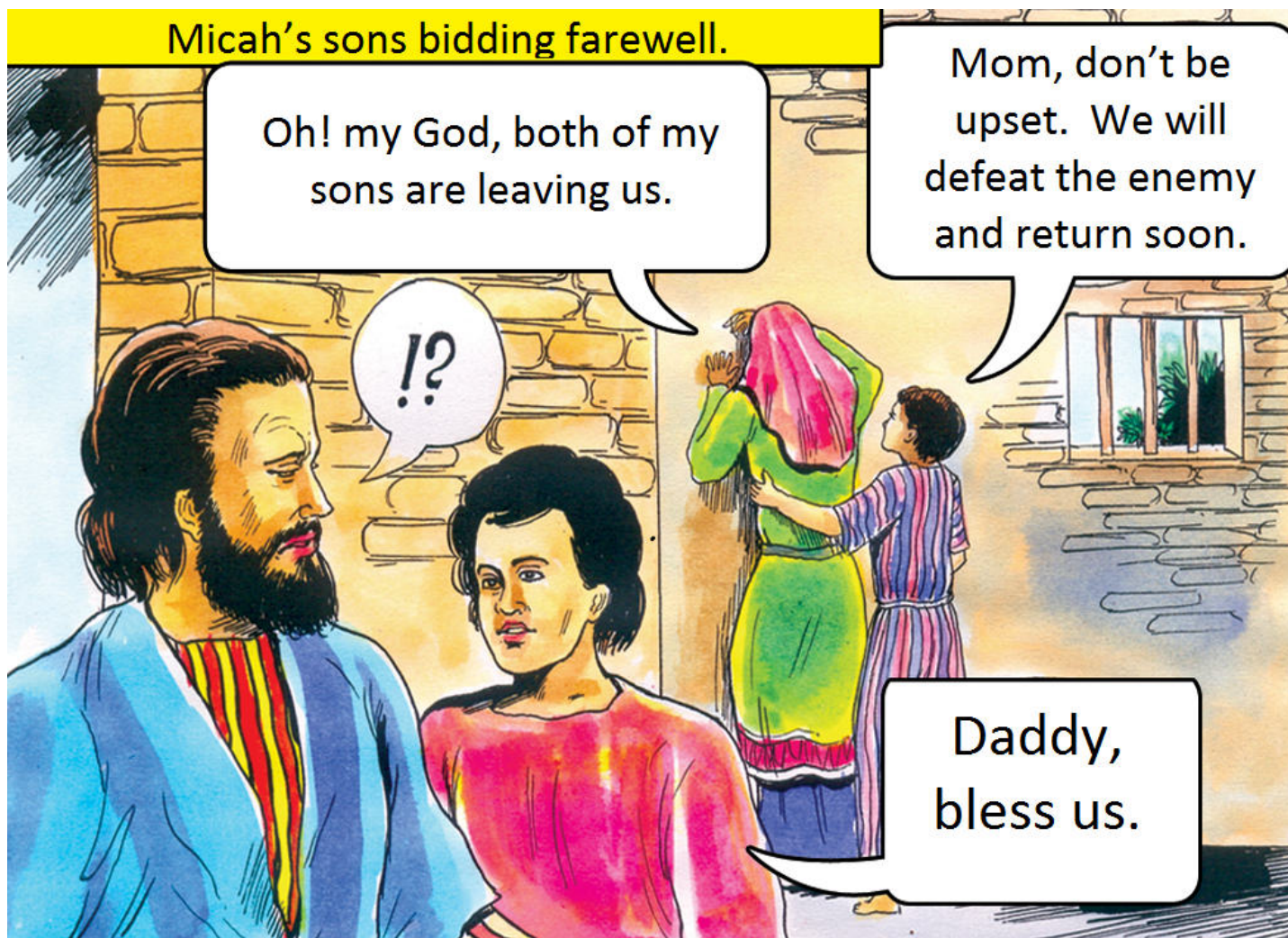
Micah's sons bidding farewell.

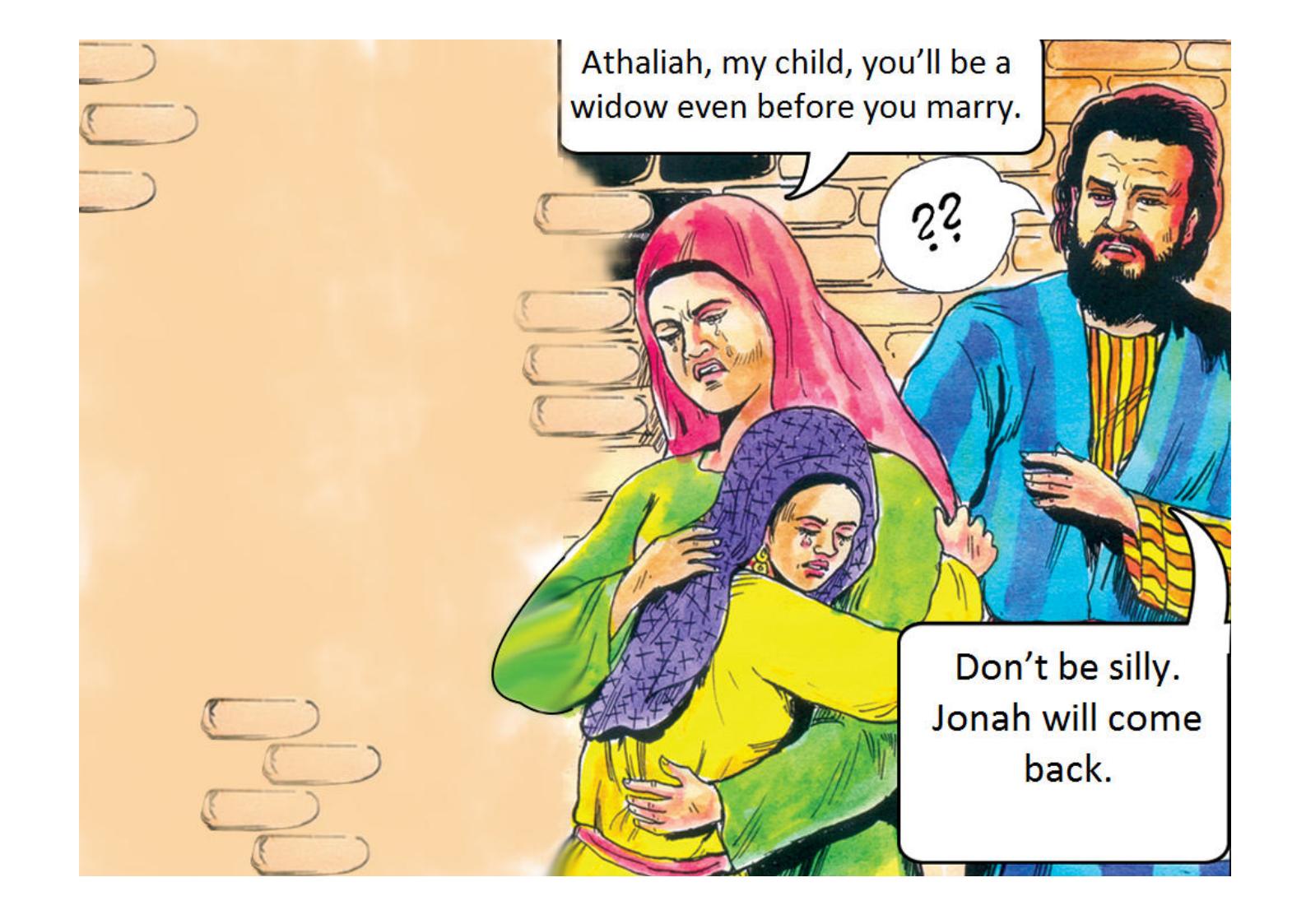
Oh! my God, both of my sons are leaving us.

!?

Mom, don't be upset. We will defeat the enemy and return soon.

Daddy, bless us.





Athaliah, my child, you'll be a widow even before you marry.

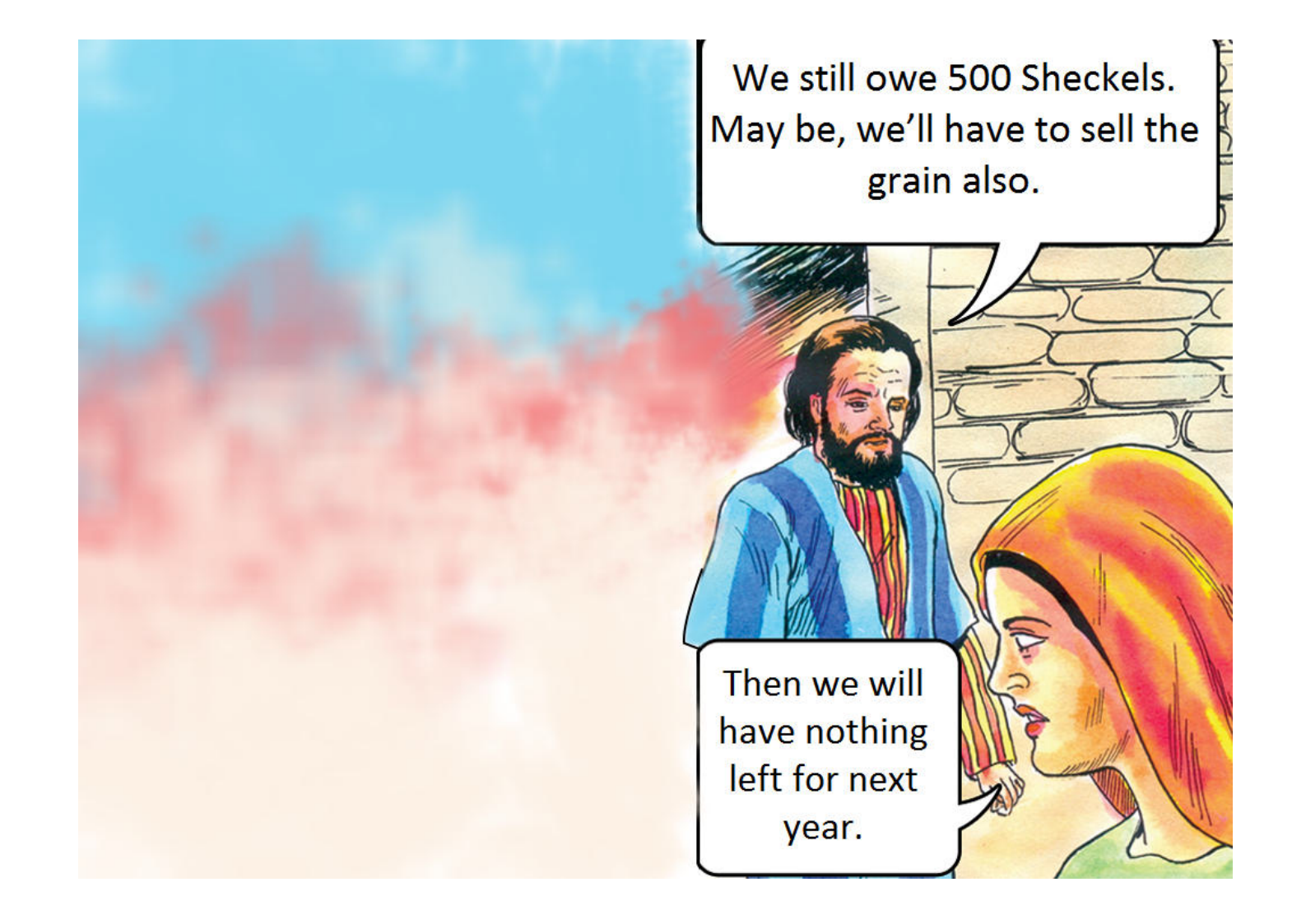
??

Don't be silly.
Jonah will come
back.

My Lord God, keep
our children safe.


Lord will protect
them. But the
debts...



A man with a beard and a blue robe stands in a field of grain, looking towards a woman with a yellow headscarf. The background is a soft-focus field of golden-brown grain under a blue sky. The man's speech bubble is at the top, and the woman's is at the bottom.

We still owe 500 Sheckels.
May be, we'll have to sell the
grain also.

Then we will
have nothing
left for next
year.



Well, we'll borrow some money from Laban. By all means, we have to prevent confiscation.

Then please go tomorrow.

The shop of Laban.

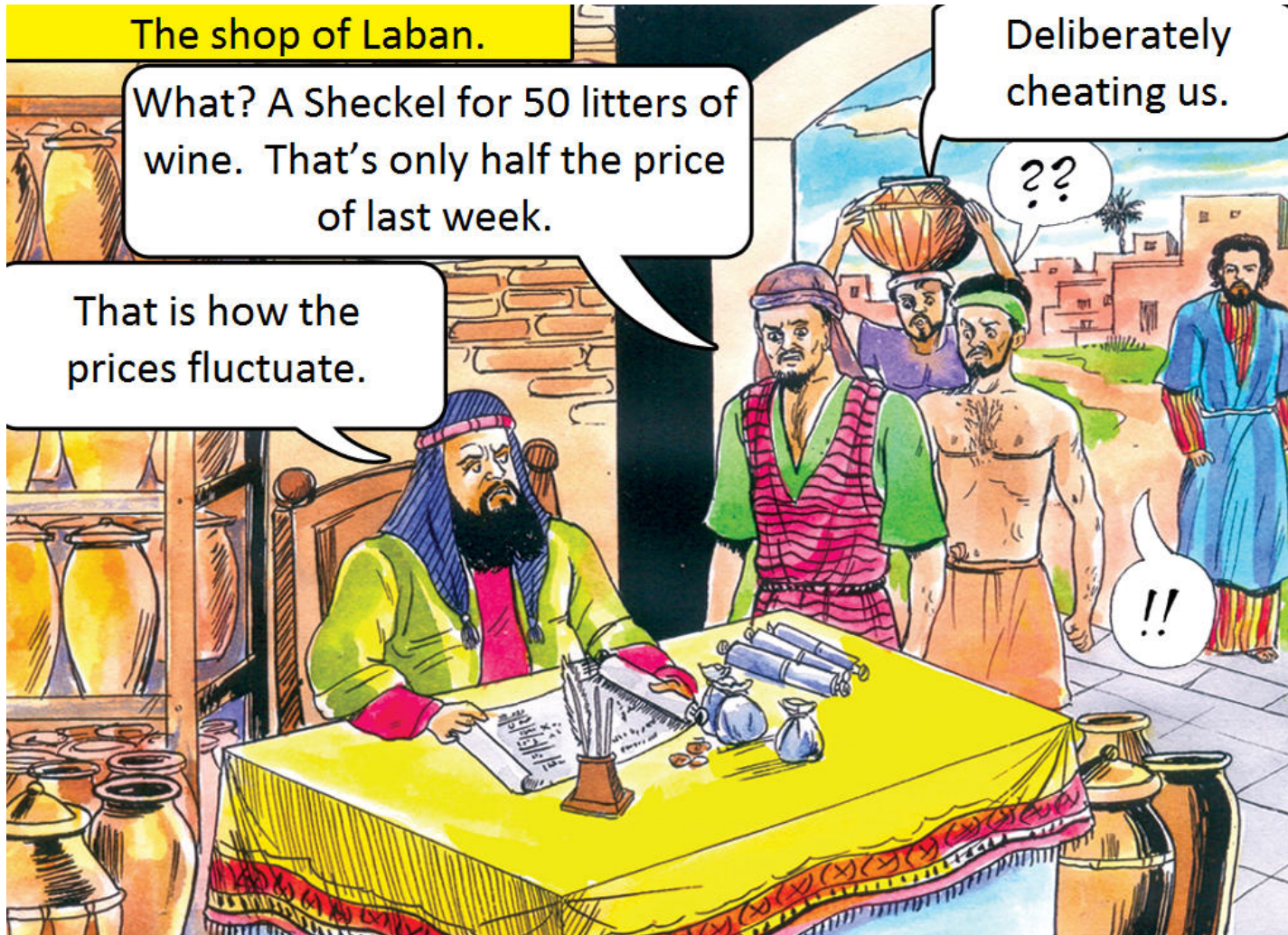
What? A Shekel for 50 litters of wine. That's only half the price of last week.

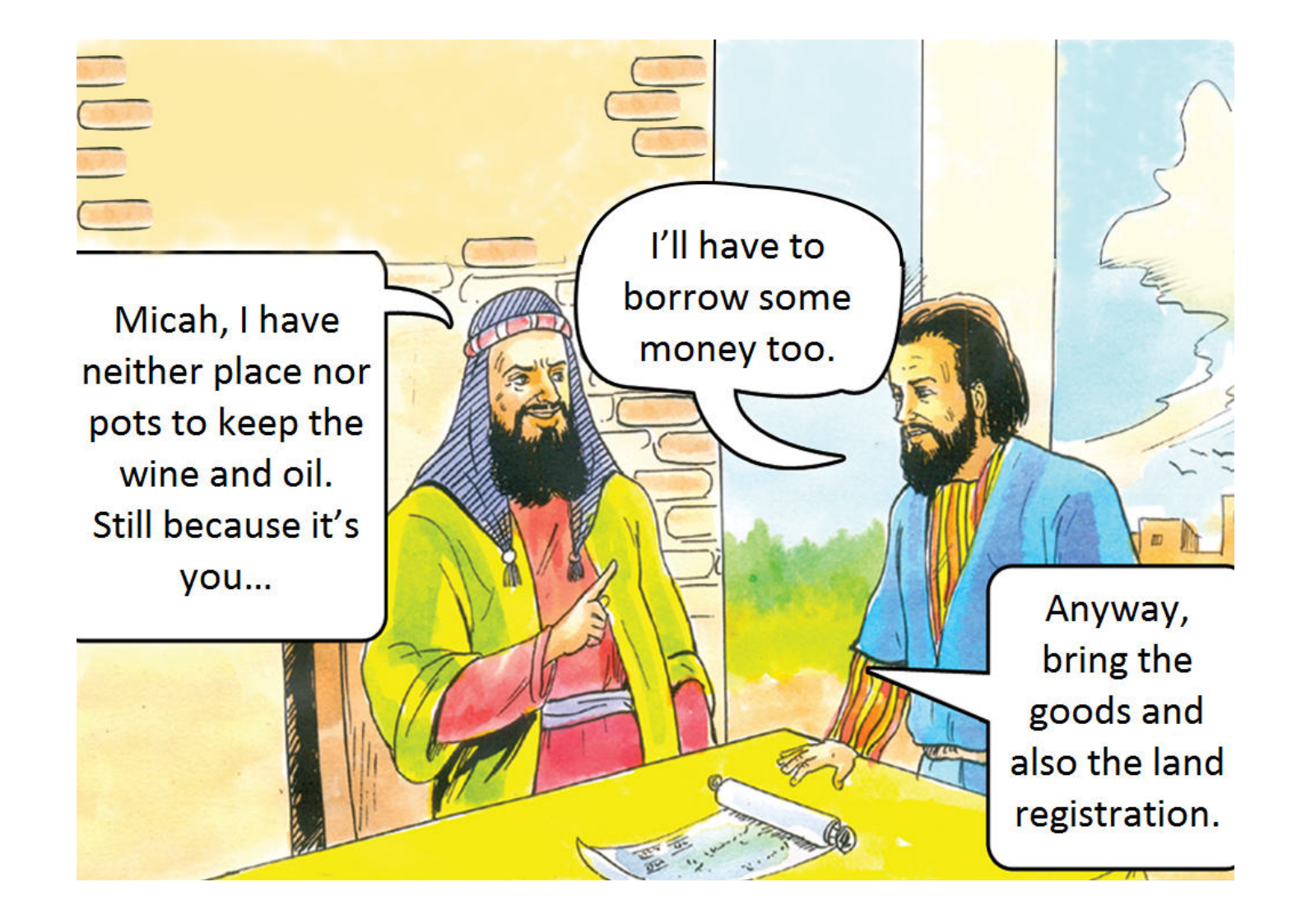
That is how the prices fluctuate.

Deliberately cheating us.

??

!!






Micah, I have neither place nor pots to keep the wine and oil. Still because it's you...

I'll have to borrow some money too.

Anyway, bring the goods and also the land registration.

The next day Micah went to town with wheat and oil.





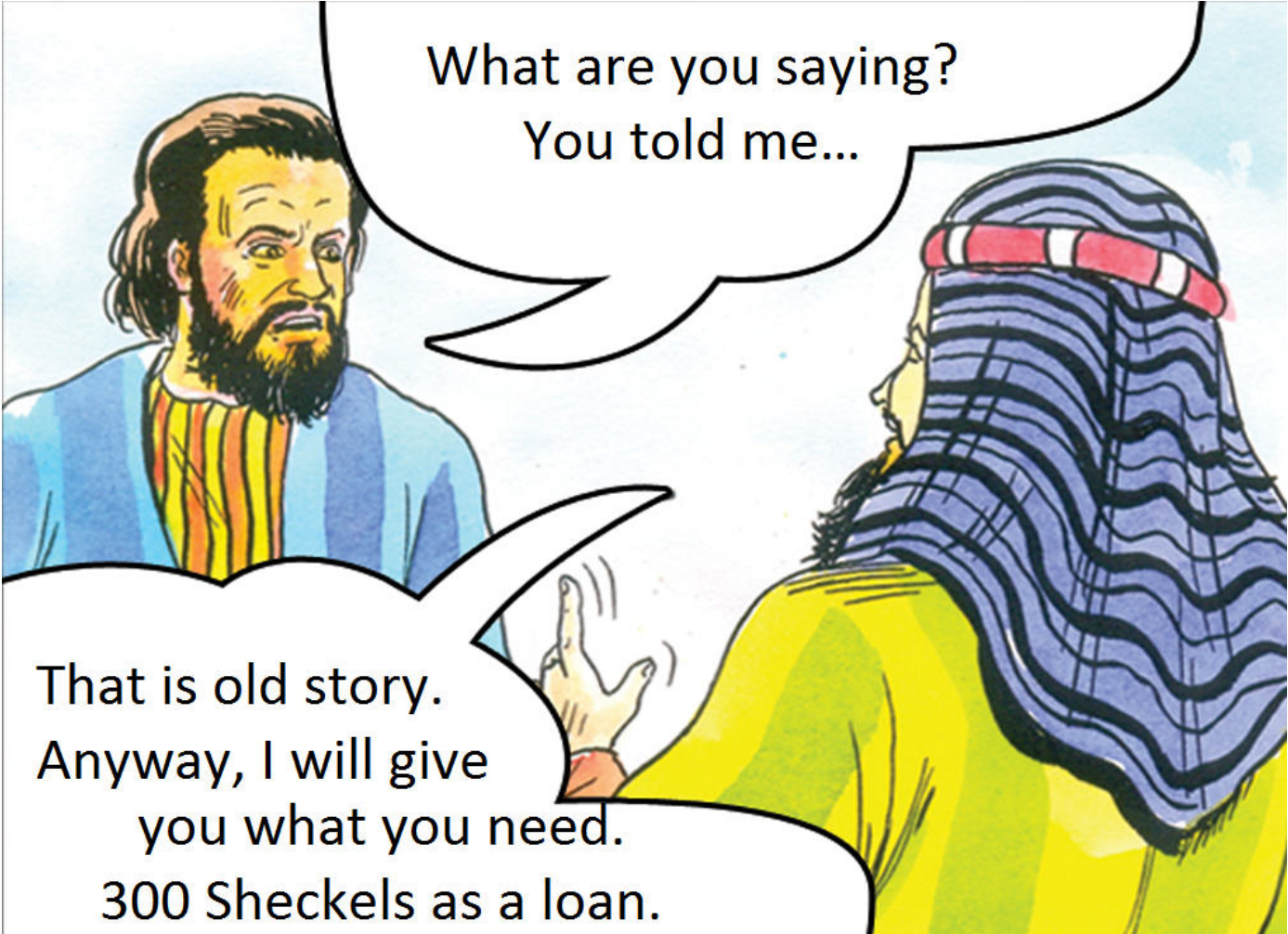
You said you need 500 Sheckles.

Right. I've enough goods
for 400.

Didn't you know that the prices have gone down again. Altogether this will come to 200 Sheckels.

?!!





What are you saying?
You told me...

That is old story.
Anyway, I will give
you what you need.
300 Sheckels as a loan.

You are changing your
word.



If you don't like it, you
may go elsewhere.

I will. This is
robbery. I
worked hard to
produce this. I
will see if I can
get a fair price
for my goods.

?



Great! Just don't come back asking for money.



Micah went from store to store. The rate kept on going down. Finally.

If hundred O.K.
I'll take it.
Make the rest
a loan.



All right. Loan for a
year at 15%
interest per month.
Sign this
agreement.


While Micah was making the rounds of stores with unwanted goods, Soldiers came to Moresheth, to collect taxes.

For God's sake give us
one more month.

He...l...p,
Hel...

Give all the
ornaments
you have. If
not...

God will but the king
won't.



Micha's home.



Mom... let me go..

Athaliah..

Keep quiet, we won't
kill you.

!!??

Mom....



Athaliah...

?!!

This is our share.
We'll be back to get
the 500 Sheckels of
the king.

When Micah reached home.



Those merchants are all robbers. Anyway, got enough to pay the debt. Why is it so quiet here?

What? Soldiers here? Oh
my God.


Daddy!

!?




I don't care who it is. There are laws in this country. Even the soldiers must obey them.






There are courts to execute justice. I'll see to that action will be taken against those who broke into my house.



What law for the king's people?



No Daddy, it won't do any good.



!!

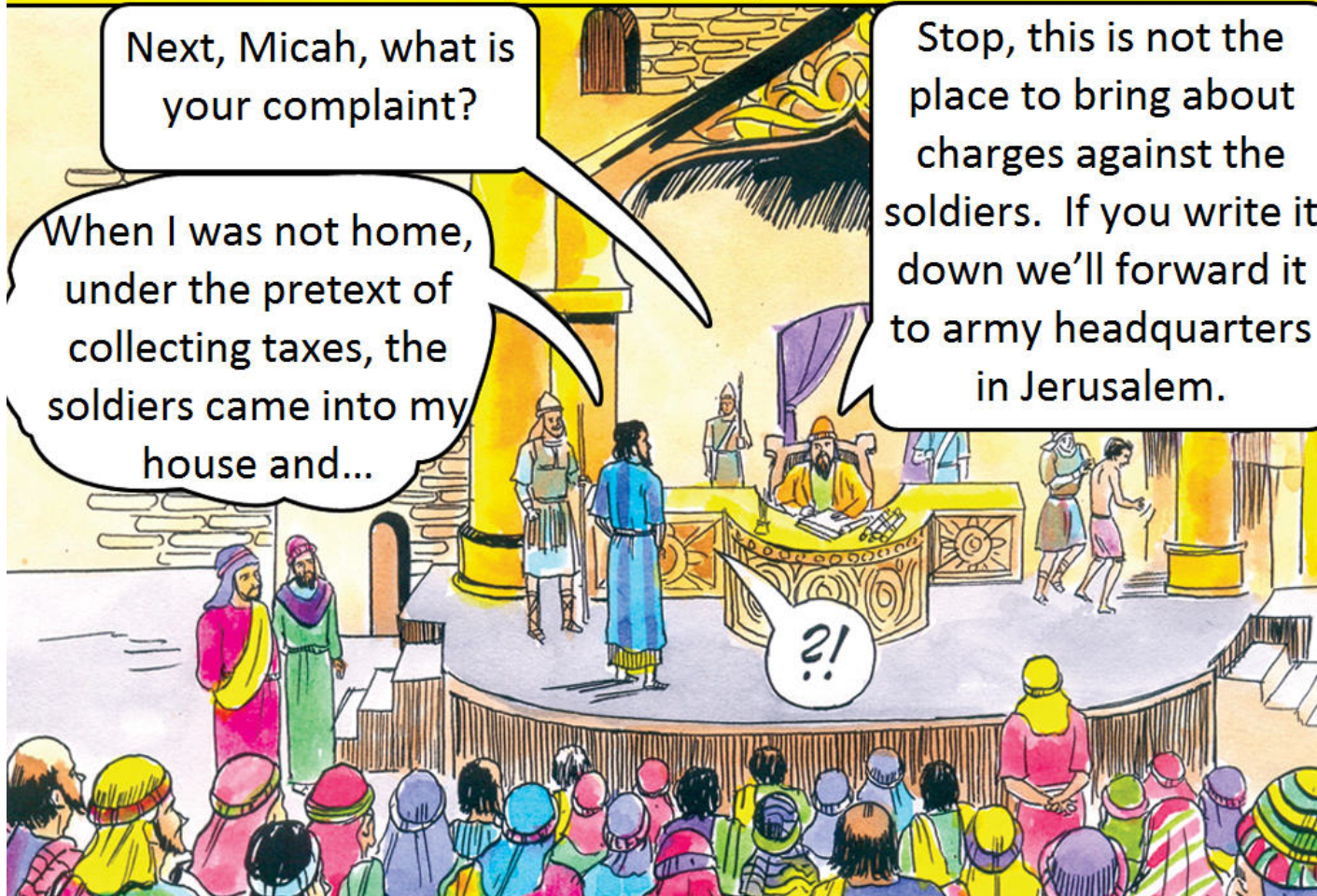
Micah filed a case against the soldiers.


Next, Micah, what is your complaint?

When I was not home, under the pretext of collecting taxes, the soldiers came into my house and...

Stop, this is not the place to bring about charges against the soldiers. If you write it down we'll forward it to army headquarters in Jerusalem.

?!






If you can't give justice to the poor, you shouldn't be here.

?

Kick him out and give him a taste of our justice.




Get out! You will file cases against the soldiers.

Ouch...

Micah returned home disappointed. He worked hard hoping to pay off the debts.




At the Palace



What, celebration after such a shameful treaty?

My Lord, our soldiers fought fiercely, but the enemy forces were four times bigger than ours.



Well, you can rest now. Build your house wherever you want.

We must honor the Captain also.

Agreed.

At Dathan's house.

This is first day of
my rest.



Soon we
must get a
house also.

Where
would you
like to live?

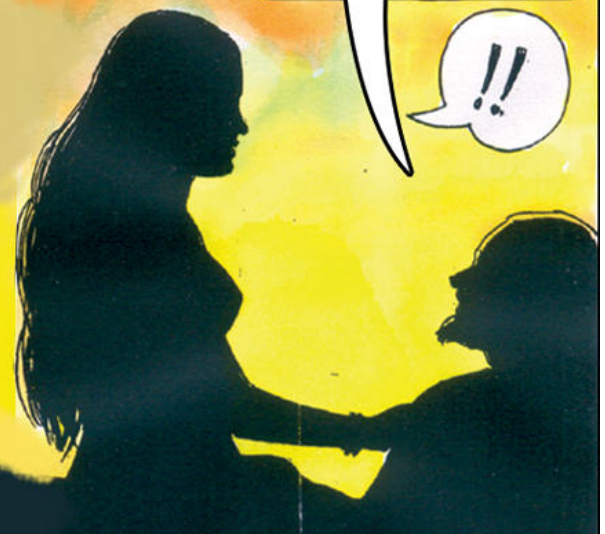
You know Moresheth,
that small village near
the Fortress of
Lachish.

!



Beautiful climate, and fertile land. It has been my dream to have a house there ever since I went to Lachish.

All right we'll start tomorrow.



Dathan to the Captains.

We are going to build our house. Let the army march to Moresheth.



At Moresheth.

There comes an army.
Maybe our sons are
coming home.

!!!

Let's see.

!?



You people of Moresheth, listen.
The army is taking over this village.

You can stay here and be our
slaves. Or you can leave
immediately.



What? We, your slaves?
This is our land.

Over my dead body,
you are going to
come here.



If you resist,
we'll have to use
force.



Cowards, fled from
the Syrians and
now...

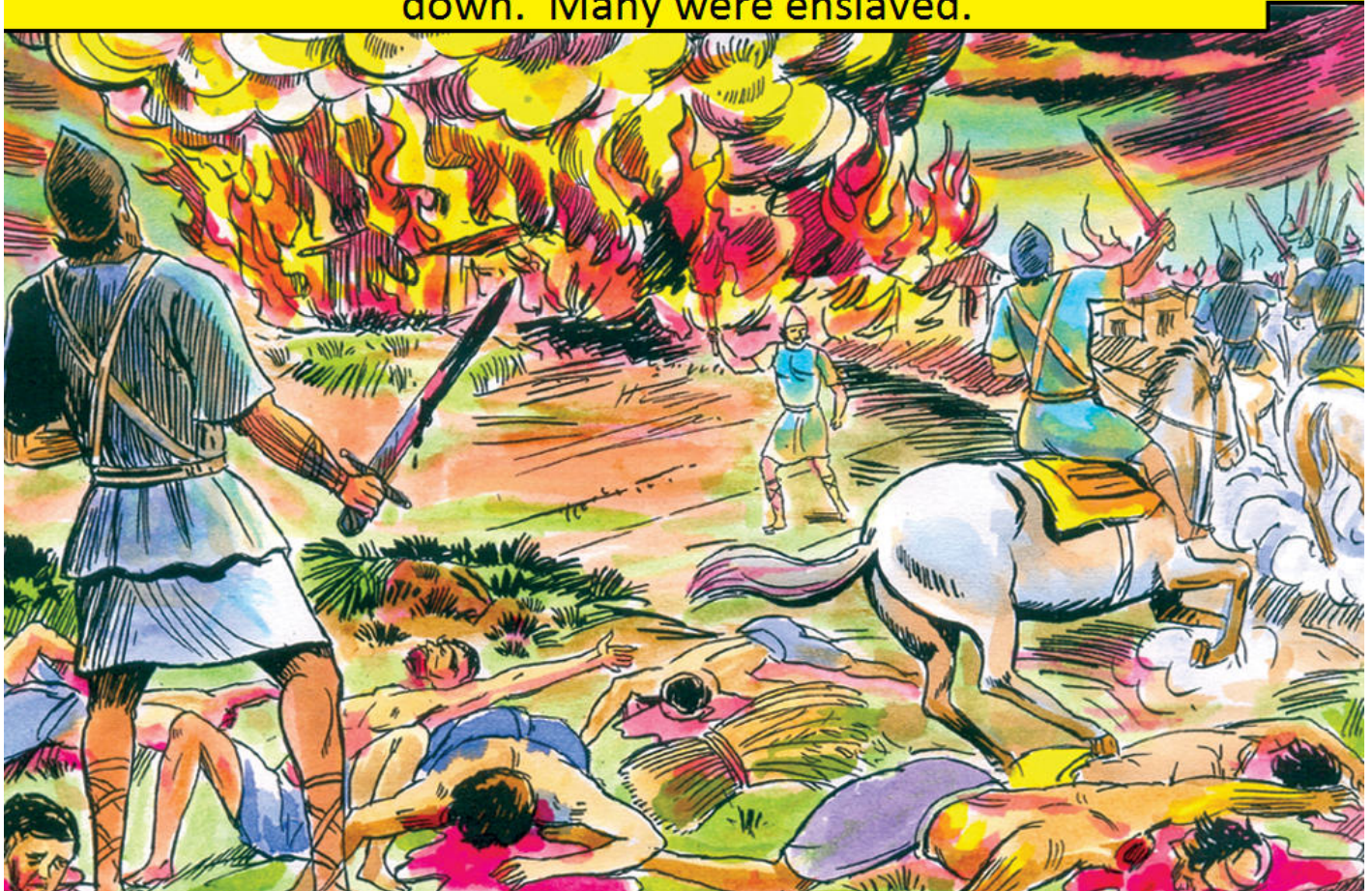
March forward but,
don't destroy the
crops.

Aren't you ashamed to use
weapons against us?

???!?

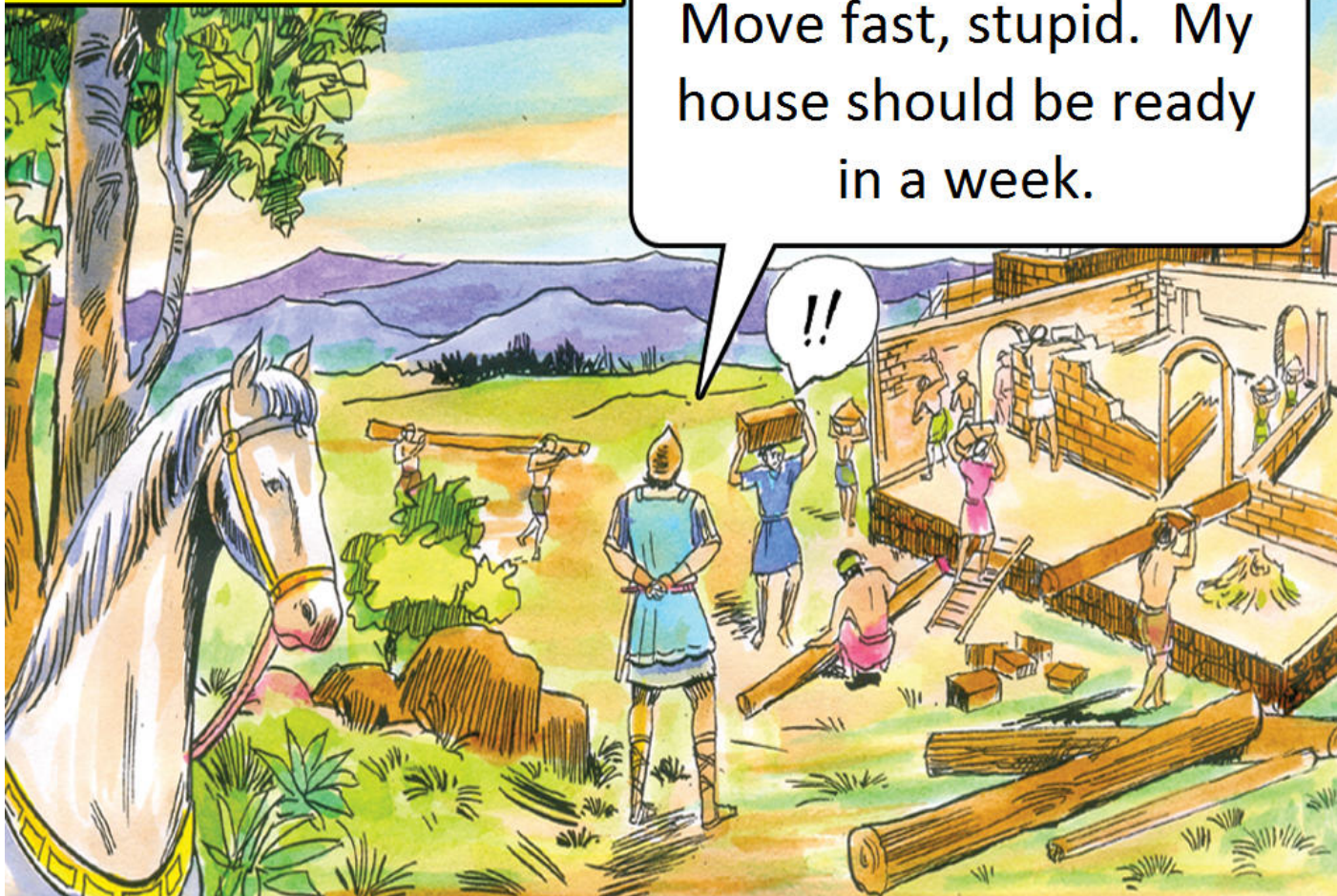


A brutal massacre and mass rape followed. Houses were burned down. Many were enslaved.



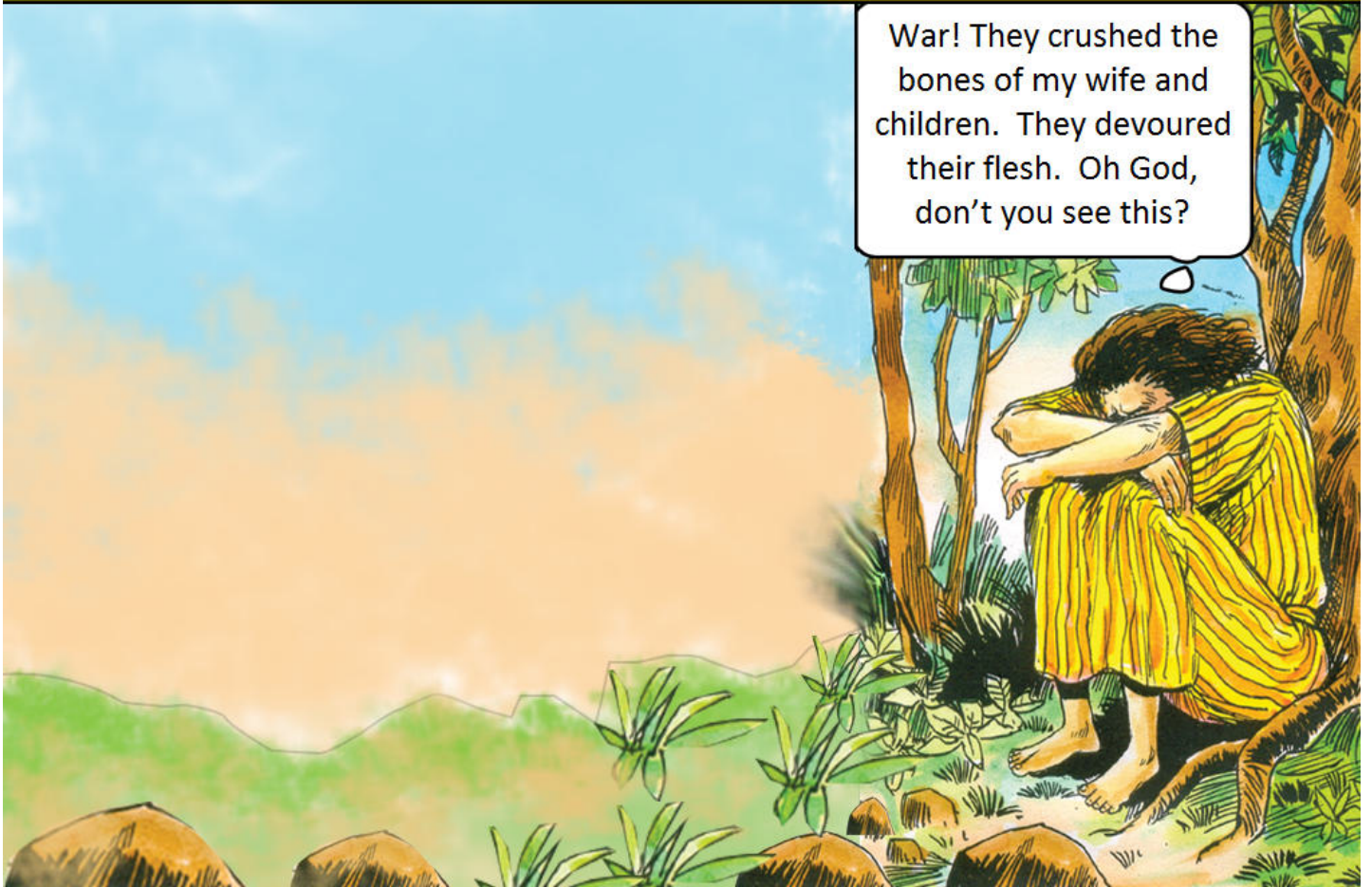
Mansions for the Captains.

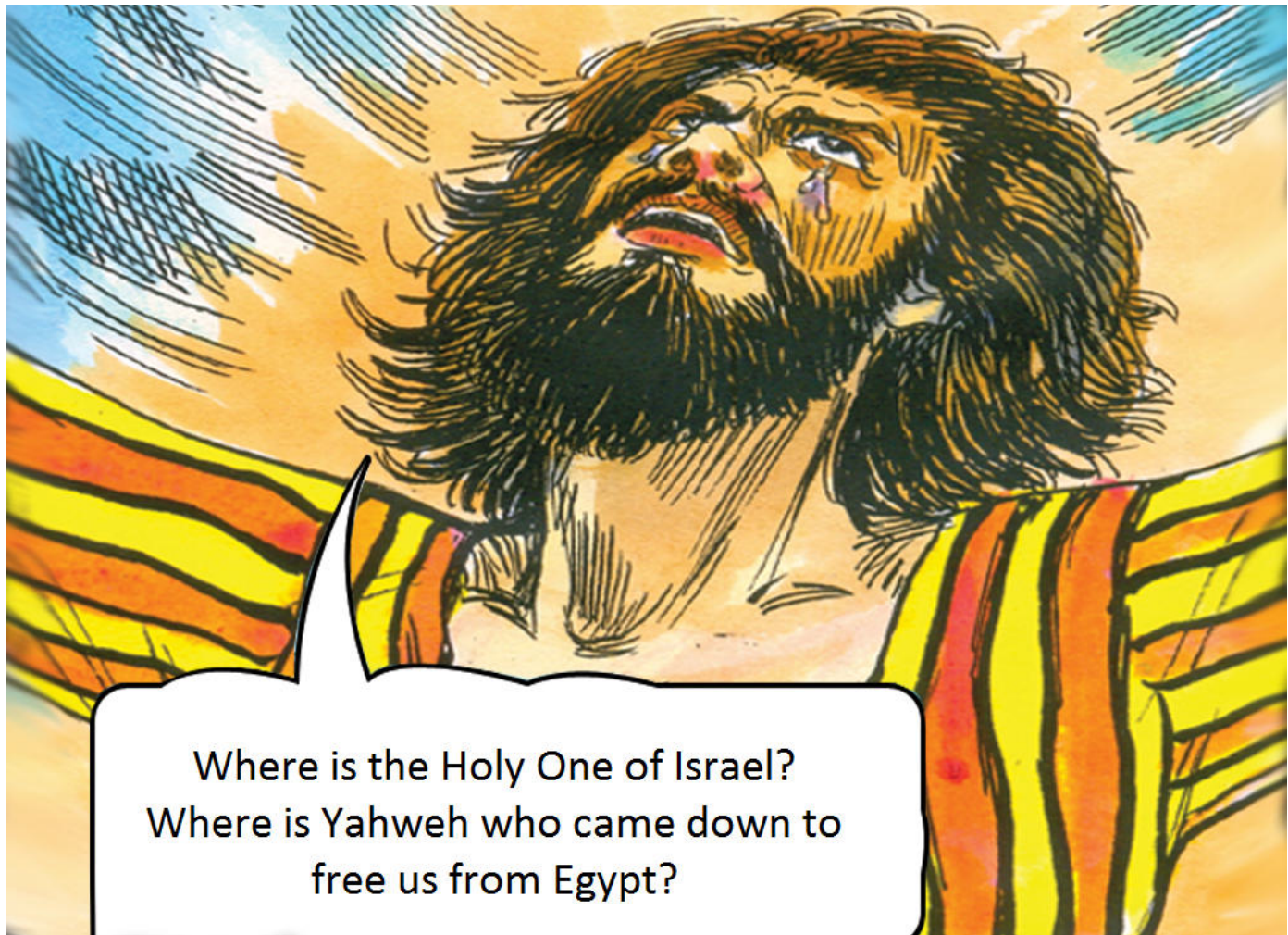
Move fast, stupid. My house should be ready in a week.



Heartbroken Micah wandered like a mad man in utter despair. He cried to the Lord.

War! They crushed the bones of my wife and children. They devoured their flesh. Oh God, don't you see this?





Where is the Holy One of Israel?
Where is Yahweh who came down to
free us from Egypt?

Don't you have eyes to see
the field being soaked in the
blood of the innocent
farmers who wet this soil
with their sweat?



Enough! I can't go
on anymore. Let
my blood join my
children's.

Micah

?!
?!






Who are you? What do you want?

I am Yahweh whom you challenged.

!!



If you are
Yahweh, allow
me to join my
wife and
children.


I know your
pain. You lost
your wife and
three children.
They are my
children.

!!

**I watched my
children falling
by the sword.
Their cry pierced
my heart.**

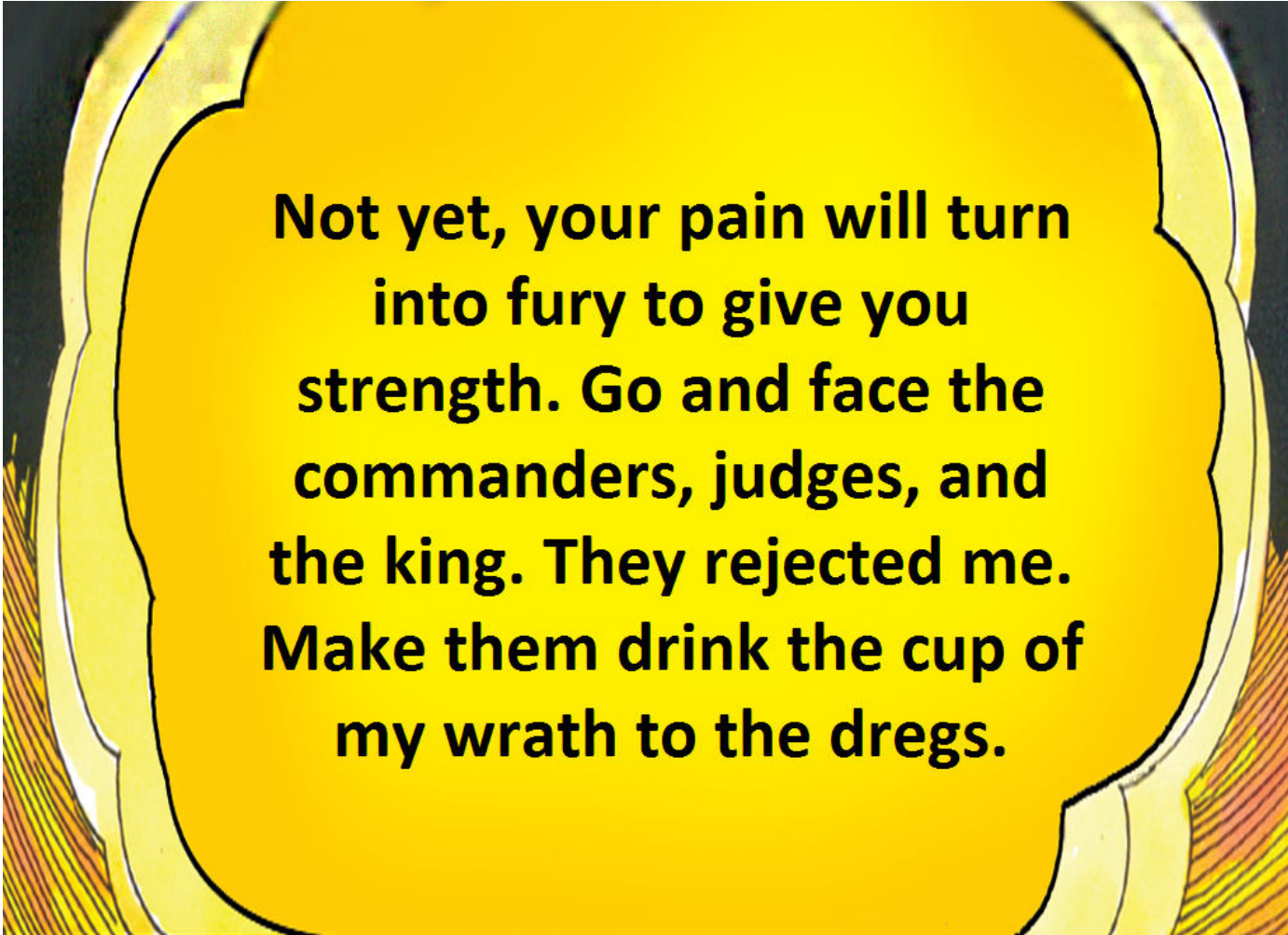
Then, why do
you keep
quiet?



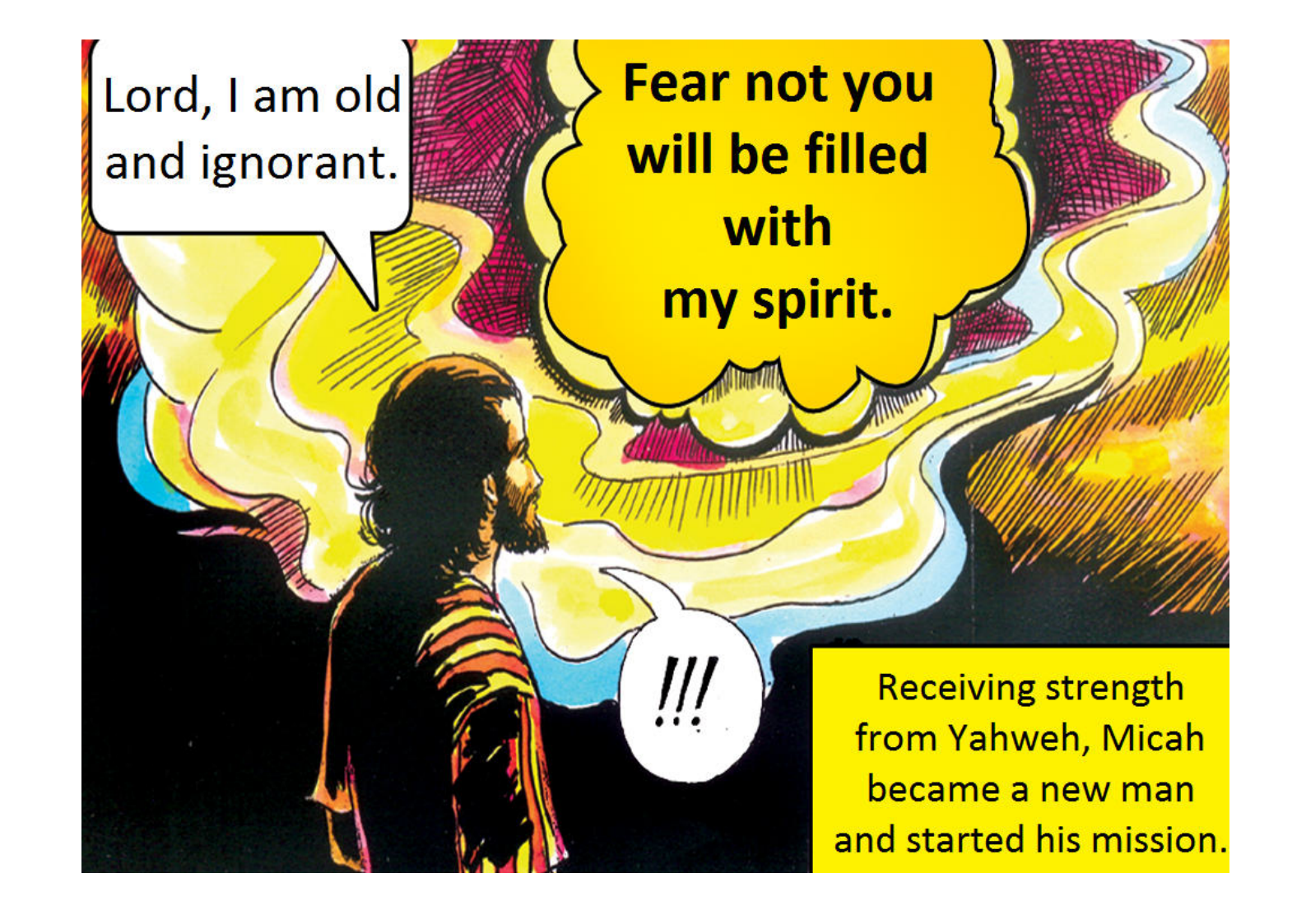
A person is shown from the waist up, silhouetted against a vibrant, abstract background of yellow, orange, and pink. Their arms are raised in a gesture of triumph or joy. The background has a painterly, textured appearance. A large yellow speech bubble is positioned above the person, and a white speech bubble is below them.

**Micah you won't
understand my pain
now. Your children
are safe with me.**

Then call me too.



**Not yet, your pain will turn
into fury to give you
strength. Go and face the
commanders, judges, and
the king. They rejected me.
Make them drink the cup of
my wrath to the dregs.**



Lord, I am old
and ignorant.

**Fear not you
will be filled
with
my spirit.**

!!!

Receiving strength
from Yahweh, Micah
became a new man
and started his mission.

Micah at Dathan's mansion.

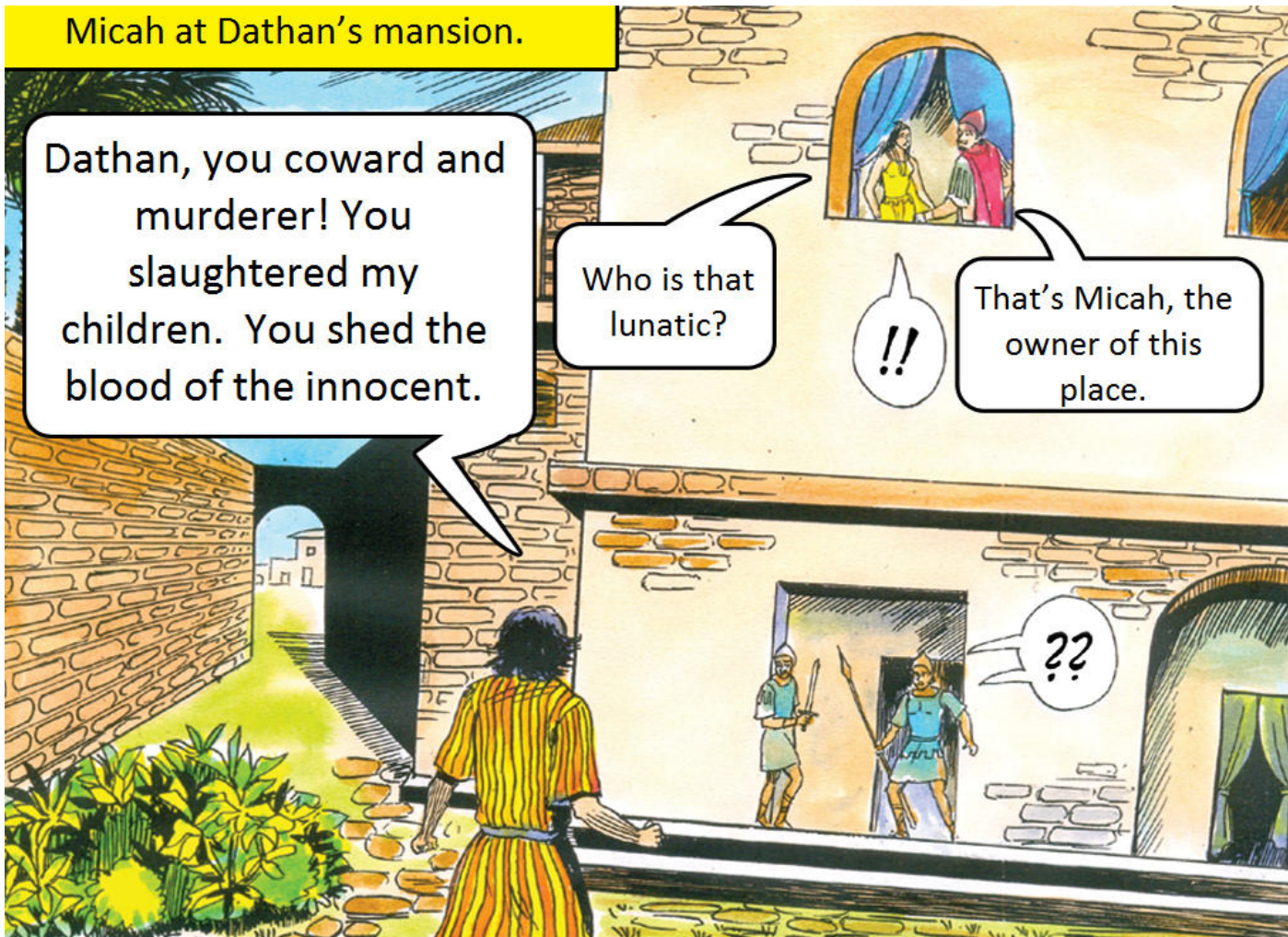
Dathan, you coward and murderer! You slaughtered my children. You shed the blood of the innocent.


Who is that lunatic?

!!

That's Micah, the owner of this place.

??





So, you know my name.
Don't you hear the blood
crying out from this field?
Don't you suffocate by the
stench of burning flesh?




?

Pull out his
tongue or
chop his
head off.



??

A cartoon illustration of a man with a beard and long hair, looking angry, with a speech bubble containing a curse. The background is a blue sky with several birds flying. The man is shown from the chest up, wearing a striped garment. The speech bubble is white with a black outline and contains the text: "You shameless whore, you tore off the skin of my people. You shredded them like flesh in a pot and meat in a cauldron."

You shameless
whore, you tore off
the skin of my
people. You
shredded them like
flesh in a pot and
meat in a cauldron.



Guards came forward but...

Do you think that you can live in peace in those mansions? The walls stink of human blood.



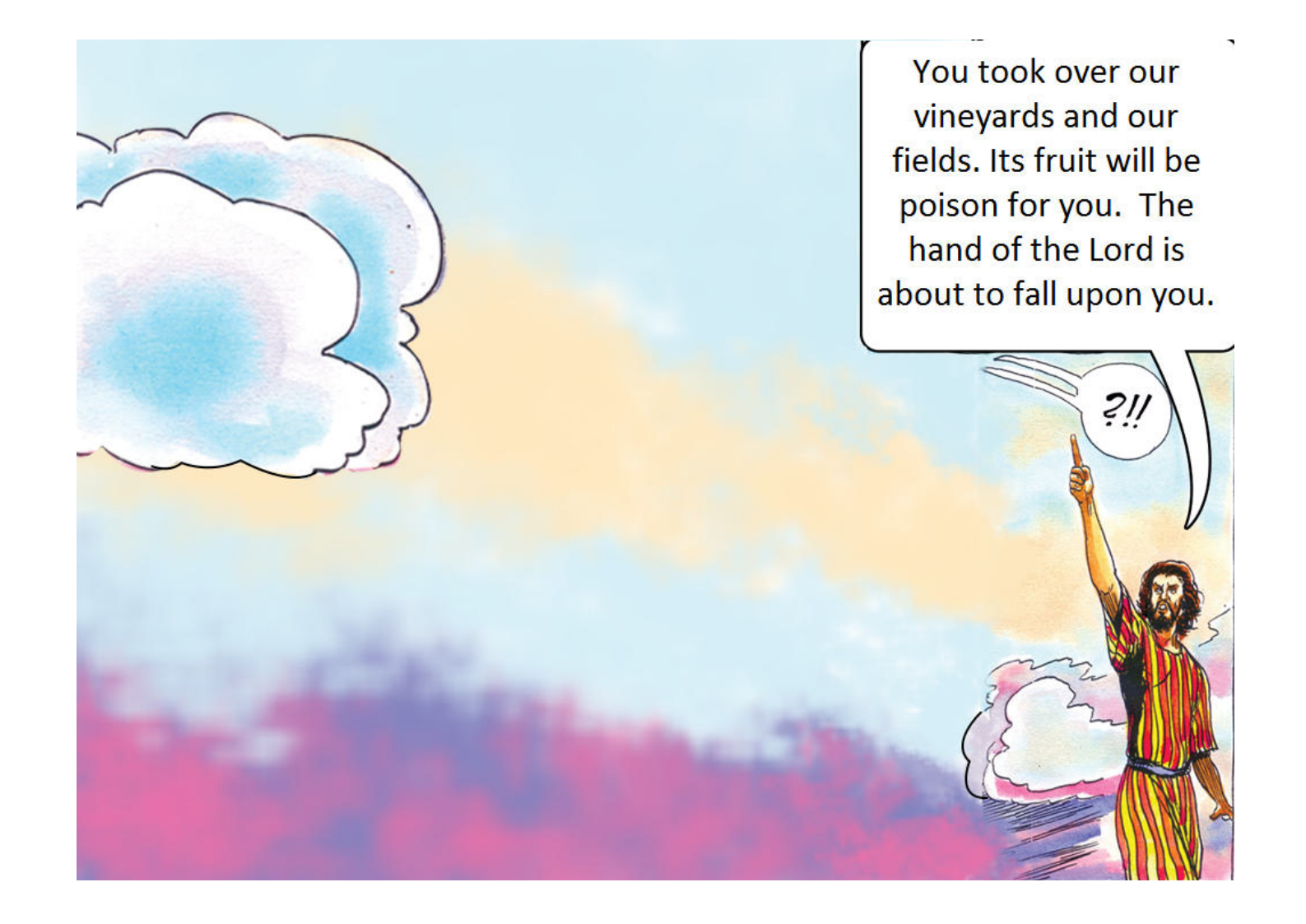
Why don't you
do anything?

I am scared.



Look, this mud was
soaked in my sweat.
This smells the blood
of my children; my
wife's tears were
poured on this.



A cartoon illustration of Jesus with a speech bubble and a smaller speech bubble containing '?!'. The background is a colorful, abstract landscape with a blue sky, yellow and orange clouds, and a purple and pink ground. A large white cloud with a blue outline is on the left. Jesus is on the right, wearing a red and yellow striped robe, pointing upwards with his right hand. A speech bubble above him contains the text 'You took over our vineyards and our fields. Its fruit will be poison for you. The hand of the Lord is about to fall upon you.' A smaller speech bubble next to him contains '?!'.

You took over our vineyards and our fields. Its fruit will be poison for you. The hand of the Lord is about to fall upon you.

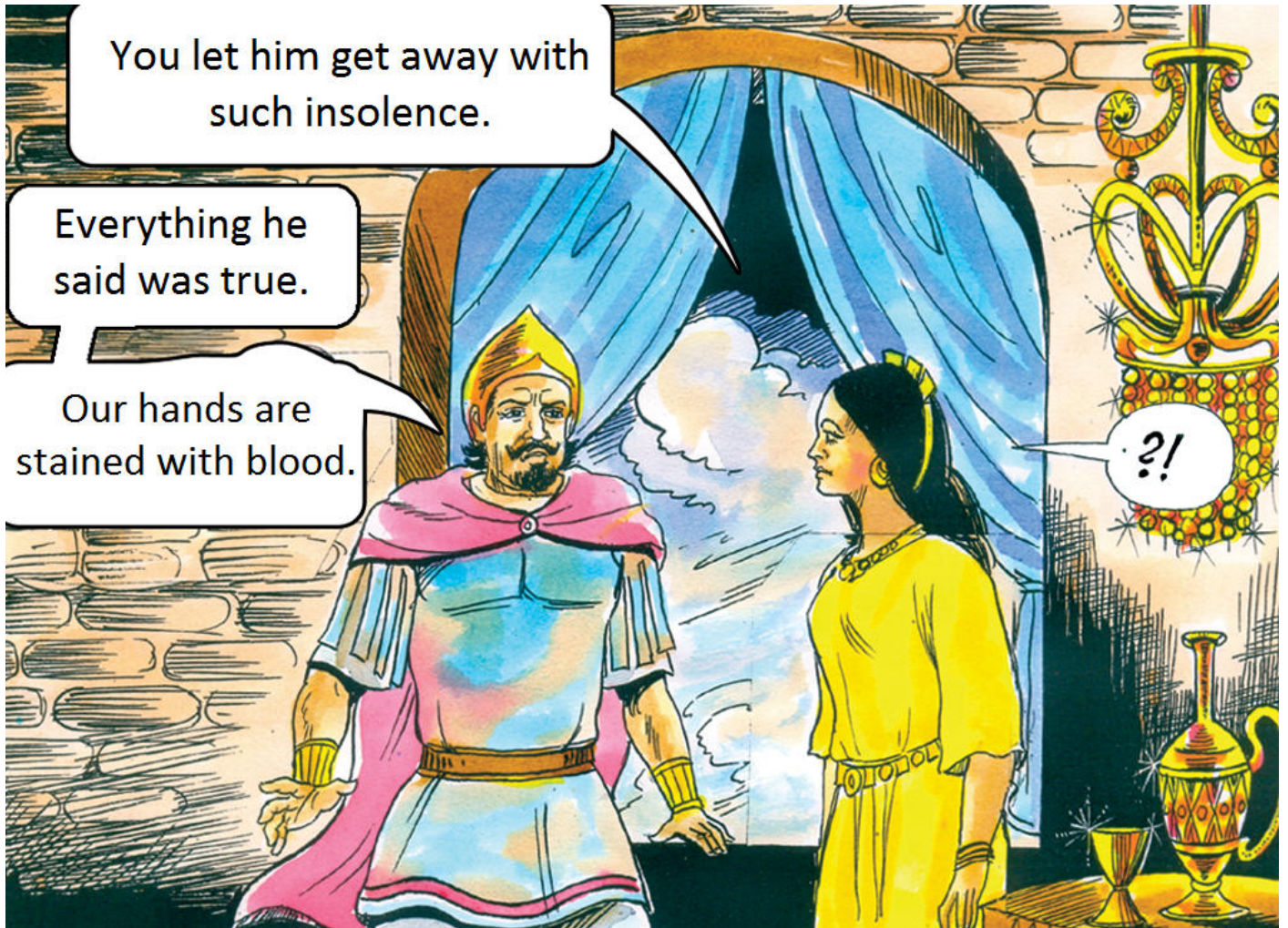
?!!

You let him get away with such insolence.

Everything he said was true.

Our hands are stained with blood.

?!

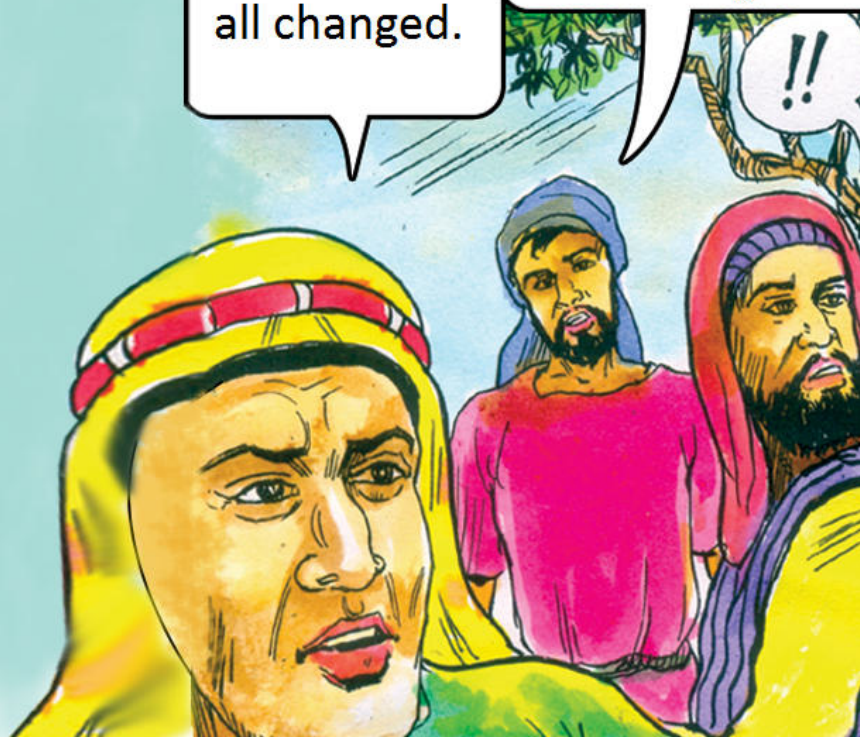


Micah, burning with fury of God, proceeded to Jerusalem, the Capital.

Isn't that Micah. He is all changed.

It seems the disaster made him stronger.

!!



He terrorized the Commander this morning.

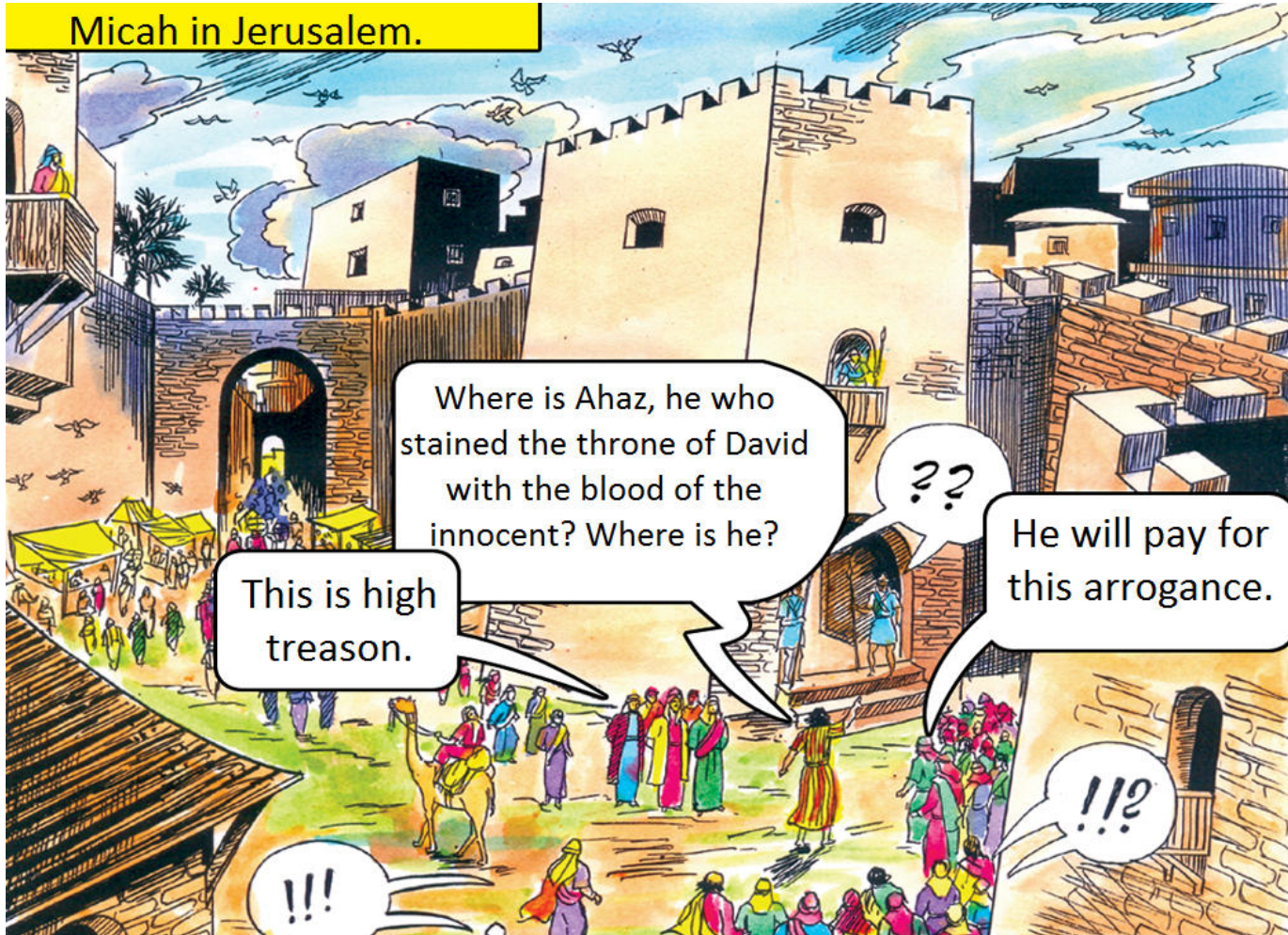
The Spirit of the Lord is upon him.

Right, Micah has become a real Prophet.

!



Micah in Jerusalem.



Where is Ahaz, he who stained the throne of David with the blood of the innocent? Where is he?

This is high treason.

??

He will pay for this arrogance.

!!!

!!?

It's you who will pay.
The wrath of God is
rising against you.

Who is he?

A new face in
the city!

!!

?



Right, you who dwell in
the city won't recognize
the face of the farmer
you have crushed and
disfigured.

!?

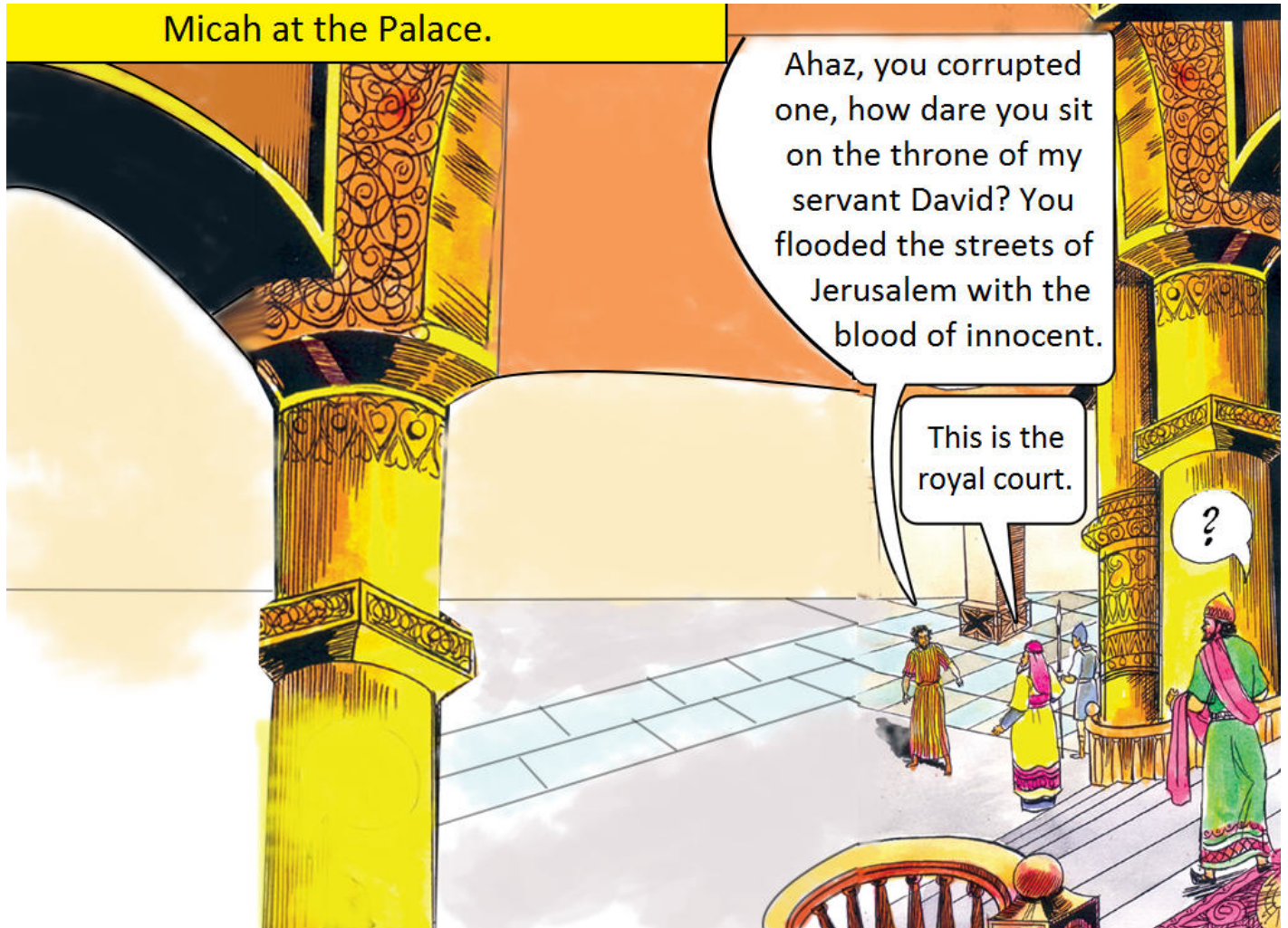


Micah at the Palace.

Ahaz, you corrupted one, how dare you sit on the throne of my servant David? You flooded the streets of Jerusalem with the blood of innocent.

This is the royal court.

?

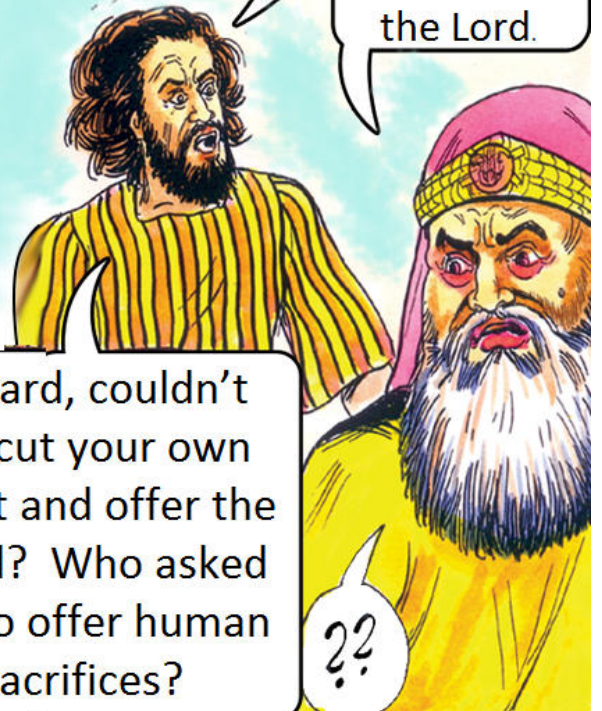


So, you are the High priest, the wicked one who slaughtered innocent babies in the valley of Benhinnom.

It was sacrifice to the Lord.

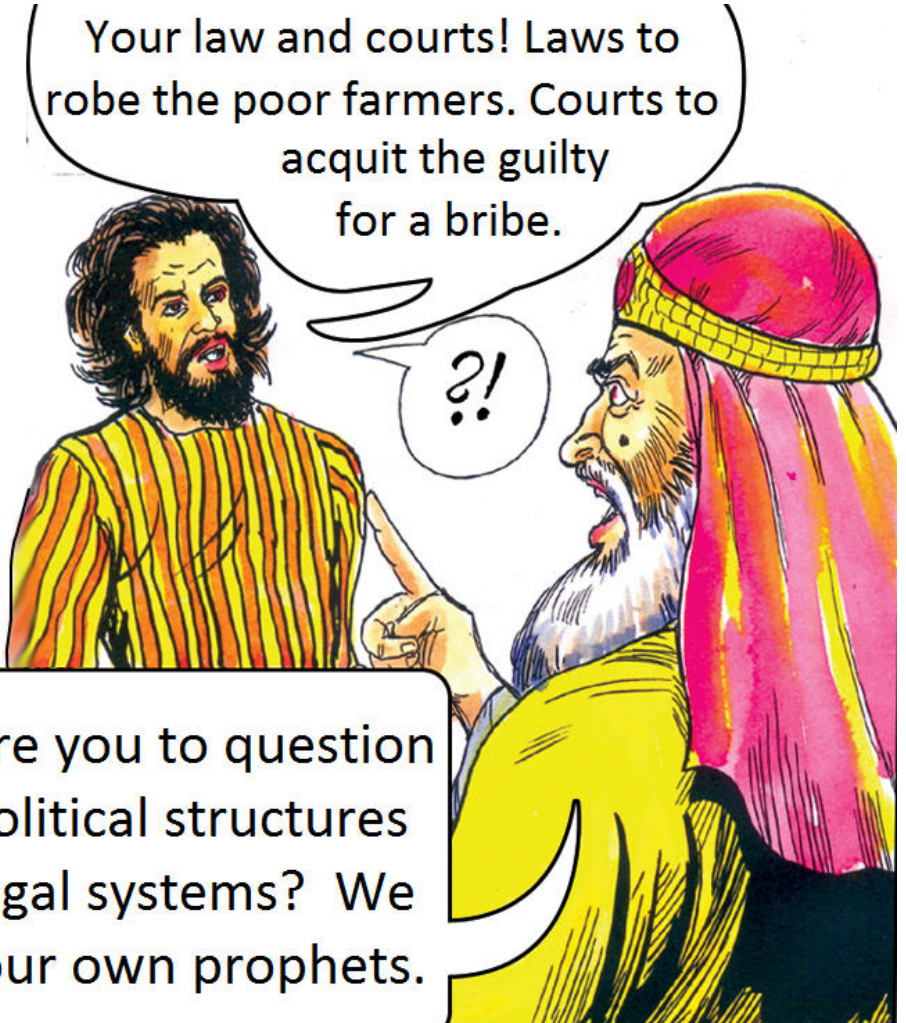
Coward, couldn't you cut your own throat and offer the blood? Who asked you to offer human sacrifices?

??



In the country my will
is the law. We have
courts to enforce it.





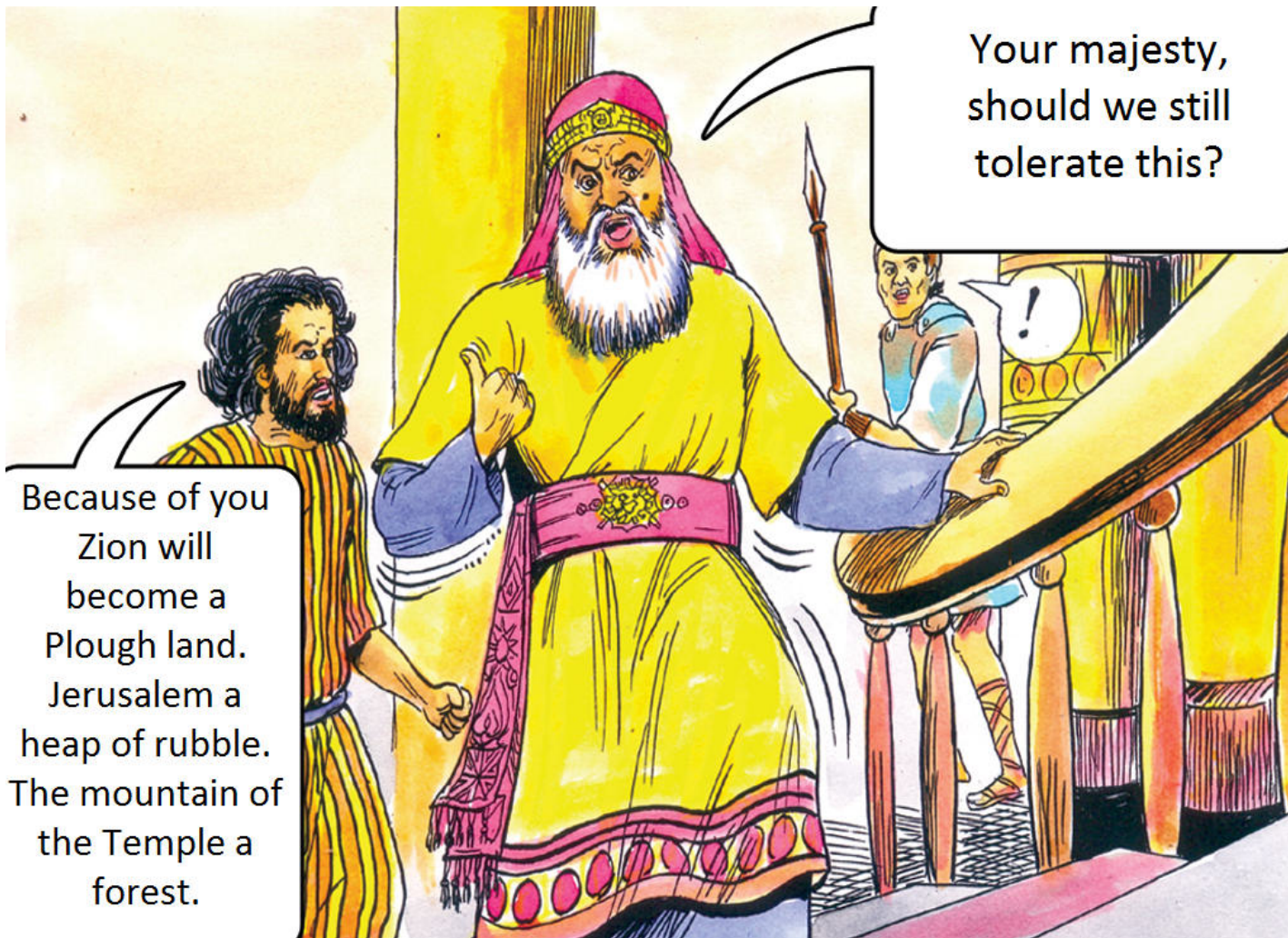
Your law and courts! Laws to
robe the poor farmers. Courts to
acquit the guilty
for a bribe.

?!

Who are you to question
our political structures
and legal systems? We
have our own prophets.

Shut up! You priests
teach for a pay and
lead my people astray.
Your prophets are
puppets who dance to
the tune of Sheckels
and Talents.





Your majesty,
should we still
tolerate this?

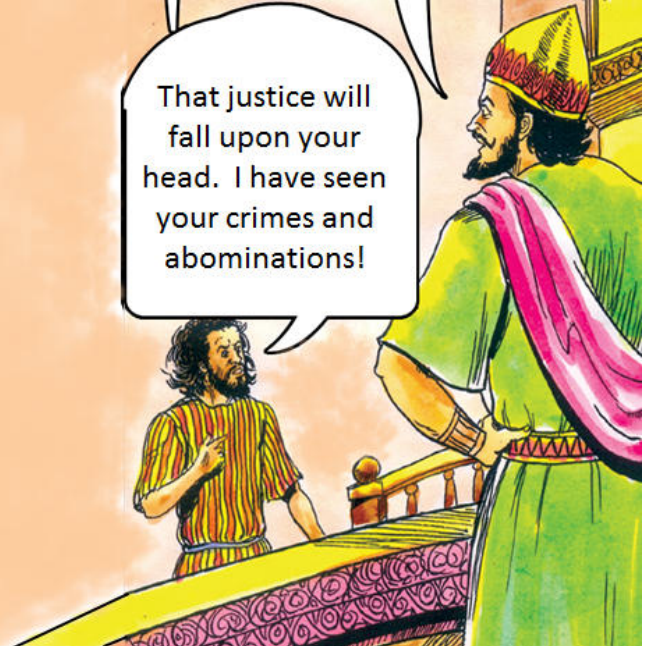
Because of you
Zion will
become a
Plough land.
Jerusalem a
heap of rubble.
The mountain of
the Temple a
forest.

Your days are numbered. A king will come from Bethlehem. He will rule in peace and justice.

In my country I decide what is just.

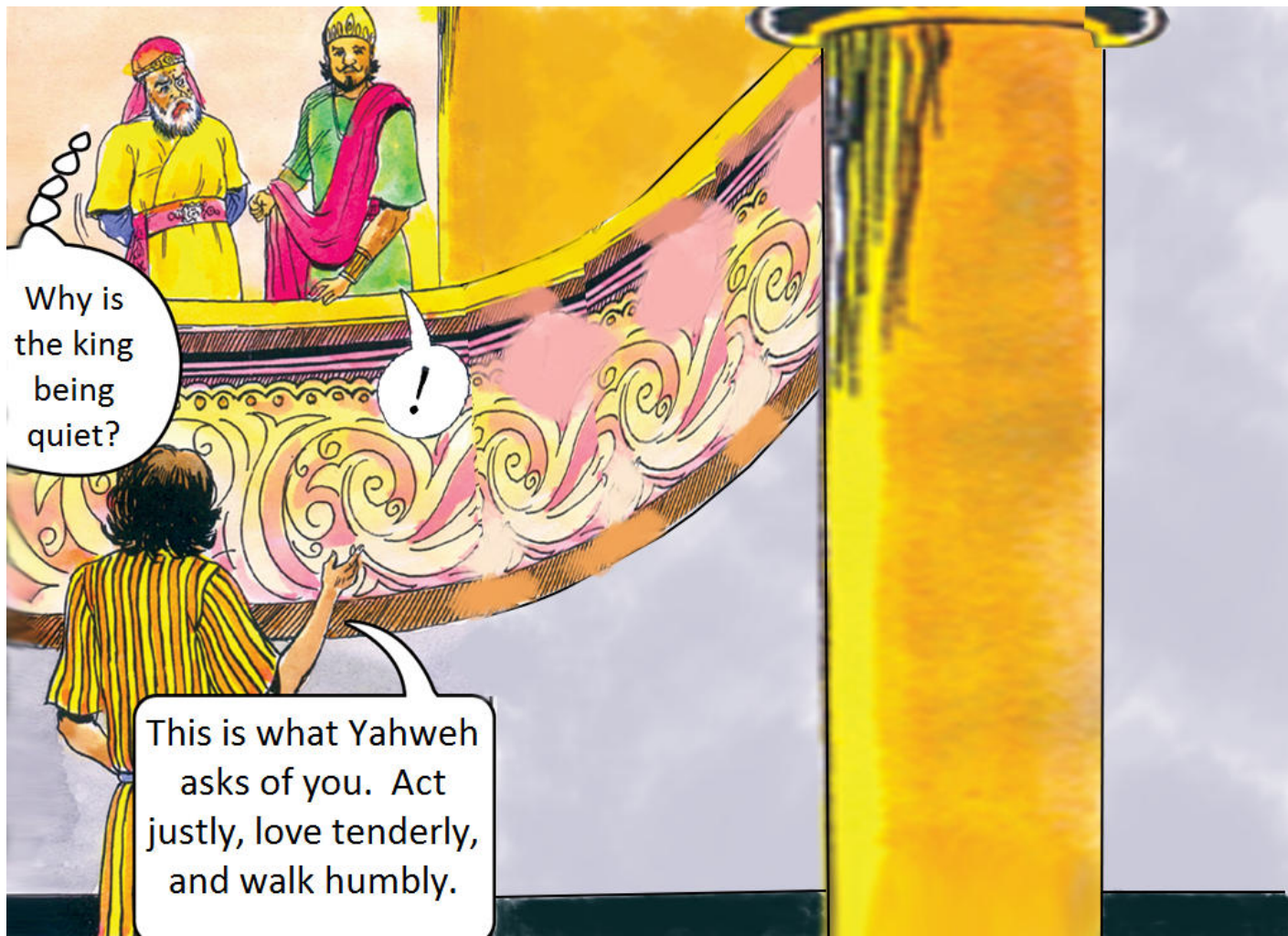
That justice will fall upon your head. I have seen your crimes and abominations!

?!



Don't think that you
can still please me
with your sacrifices
and burned offerings.

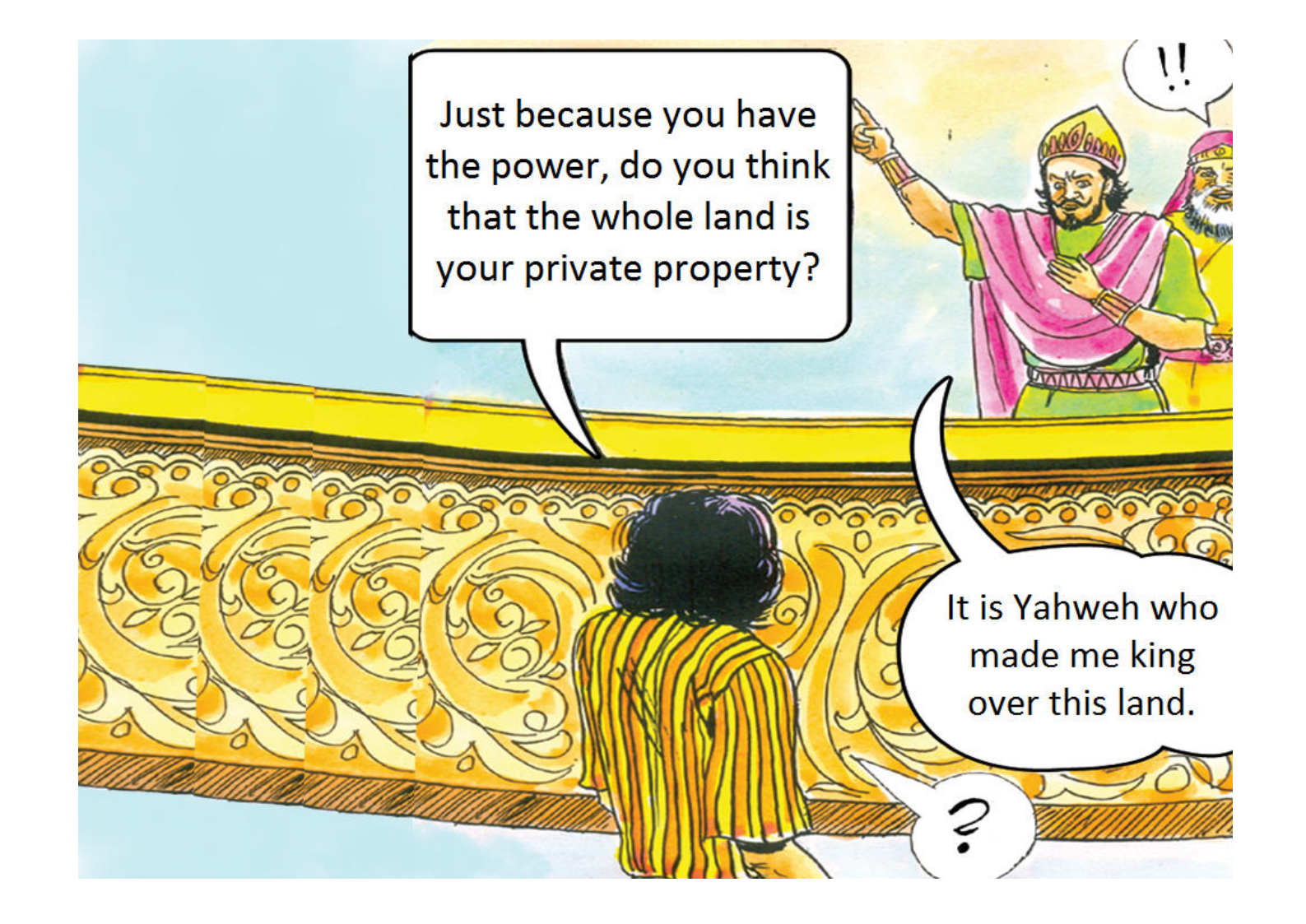




Why is
the king
being
quiet?

!

This is what Yahweh
asks of you. Act
justly, love tenderly,
and walk humbly.



Just because you have the power, do you think that the whole land is your private property?

It is Yahweh who made me king over this land.

?

Yahweh Himself will pull you down from your throne because you robbed the poor and crushed the weak.

??



Though Micah denounced all those in authority, nobody dared to touch him. Yahweh protected him.

Jerusalem will be purified in fire. It will again become the city of peace and justice.



The Philistines captured Moresheth and destroyed the mansions.
Thus, the words of Micah were fulfilled.





Lord, forgive me a sinner.

Daddy..

Help!

Attack, let no one
escape.

Strengthened by his bitter experience and filled with the spirit of Yahweh, Micah went around towns and villages of Judah, proclaiming the message of peace and justice. At the same time Yahweh sent another Prophet to call the whole nation to conversion. A prophet who was made holy by the Holy God.

Next Story

Isaiah

Questions.

1. What is the meaning of the name “Micah”?
2. Where was Micah born?
3. Name the contemporary prophet of Micah?
4. In which country did Micah preach?
5. Why did Micah say that the Day of Judgment was near?
6. Whom did Micah denounce?
7. Micah was the spokesman of God of the poor. Explain.
8. Why did Micah prophesy against Jerusalem?
9. Micah’s words are a warning for all of us. How?
10. What was Micah’s messianic prophecy?

Memorize: *Act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God (Micah 5, 8).*

THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN COMICS

1. Cain and Abel
2. Abraham
3. Jacob
4. Joseph
5. Moses
6. Joshua
7. Samson
8. Ruth
9. 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 Awaiting
32. Light of the world
33. The Herald
34. The Prophet
35. The Liberator

36. The One to come
37. The Lord of the Universe
38. Son of God
39. The 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. Libation
50. Come, Lord Jesus
51. Woman