

Bible Comics - 23

JOB





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Job

Script

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Illustration

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JOB

Health, wealth and long life are usually considered as evidence of God's blessing and the lack of them as sign of His displeasure. Sudden loss of these 'blessings' are considered as God's punishment. The Old Testament added "plenty of children" to the above list of blessings. The wise men of biblical times advised ways and means to obtain and preserve these blessings. However,

the suffering of the just remained a riddle to such thinking based on the theory of reward and punishment experienced during one's life on earth.

As early as the beginning of the second millennium B.C. we can find in the Egyptian and Mesopotamian literature examples of protest against such an age old belief. The Book of Job that belongs to the wisdom

literature of the Bible reflects the influence of this protest literature.

Job was a faithful servant of God, healthy and rich with plenty of children. Suddenly he lost everything. Even his wife despised him. His friends, who came to console him, ended up in accusing him of very serious crimes. They insisted that God is just and would not have allowed Job to suffer if he had not committed some grave sins. They tried to

console him by promising that he would regain everything if he would only repent and return to God.

Job was thrown into a bitter internal conflict. On the one side he saw the traditional teaching, emphatically repeated by his friends defending God's justice. On the other side he had his experience of suffering and the awareness of his own innocence. His own suffering and the suffering of thousands of

innocent people stood in direct contradiction to God's justice. Does God favor the wicked and punish the innocent? Lack of faith in the life after death, which came into existence in Israel only in the second century B.C., made this problem more crucial.

The faith in the loving kindness of God made the pain of Job more acute. Hence his arguments and complaints are directed not against his friends but against God Himself.

Job firmly believed that it was God who was torturing him, apparently for no reason. Job complains to God but God does not respond. The silence of God intensifies Job's suffering to a point that is unbearable.

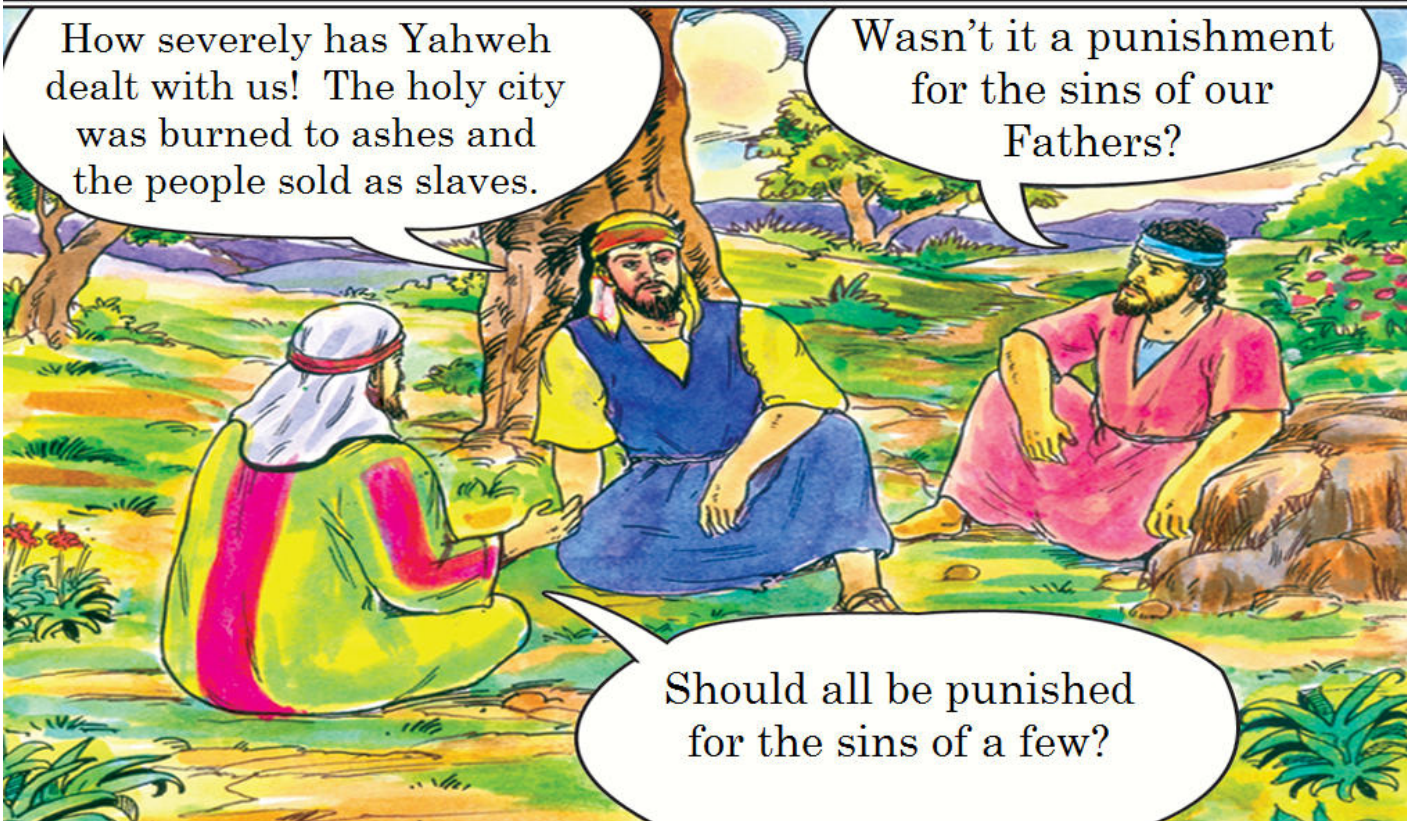
Finally God appeared in the midst of a tempest and spoke to Job. The moment Job heard the voice of God he fell silent, not because he understood the meaning of his suffering but because he learned that God's

ways are beyond his comprehension. The traditional answers were refuted but no new explanation was given, except that the suffering of the just itself is a misery.

Though the Bible teaches that suffering is the result of sin, it need not be the sin of the one who suffers. The Prophet Isaiah gives the example of a just man who suffers for the sins of his people (Is 52, 13-53, 12). Jesus who suffered and died on the cross for the sins of

the world is the greatest example of the suffering of the just. Only through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can we find any meaning for suffering.

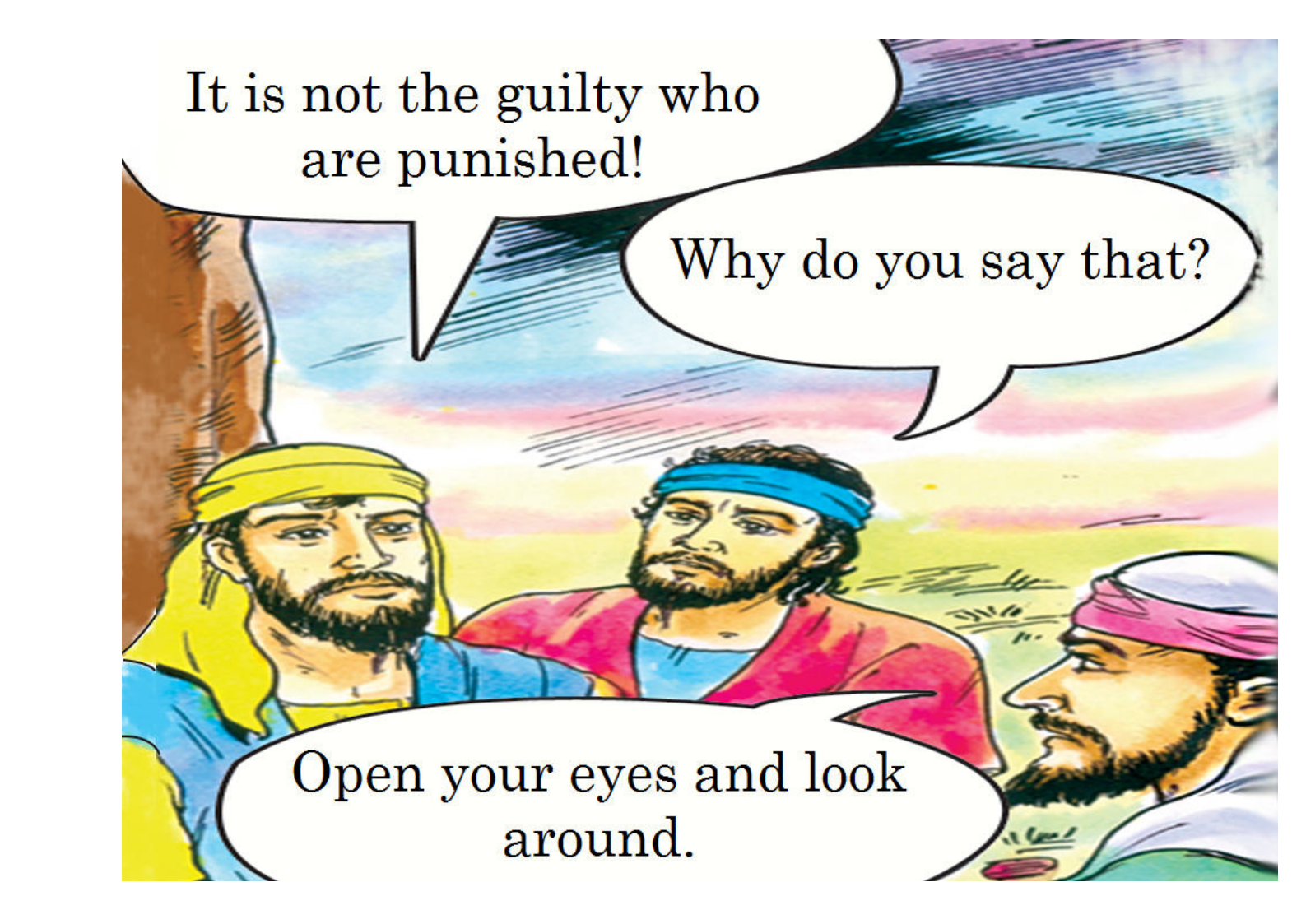
The suffering of the just and prosperity of the wicked have always remained a puzzle. This problem was a subject of constant discussion among those who returned from the exile in Babylon.



How severely has Yahweh dealt with us! The holy city was burned to ashes and the people sold as slaves.

Wasn't it a punishment for the sins of our Fathers?

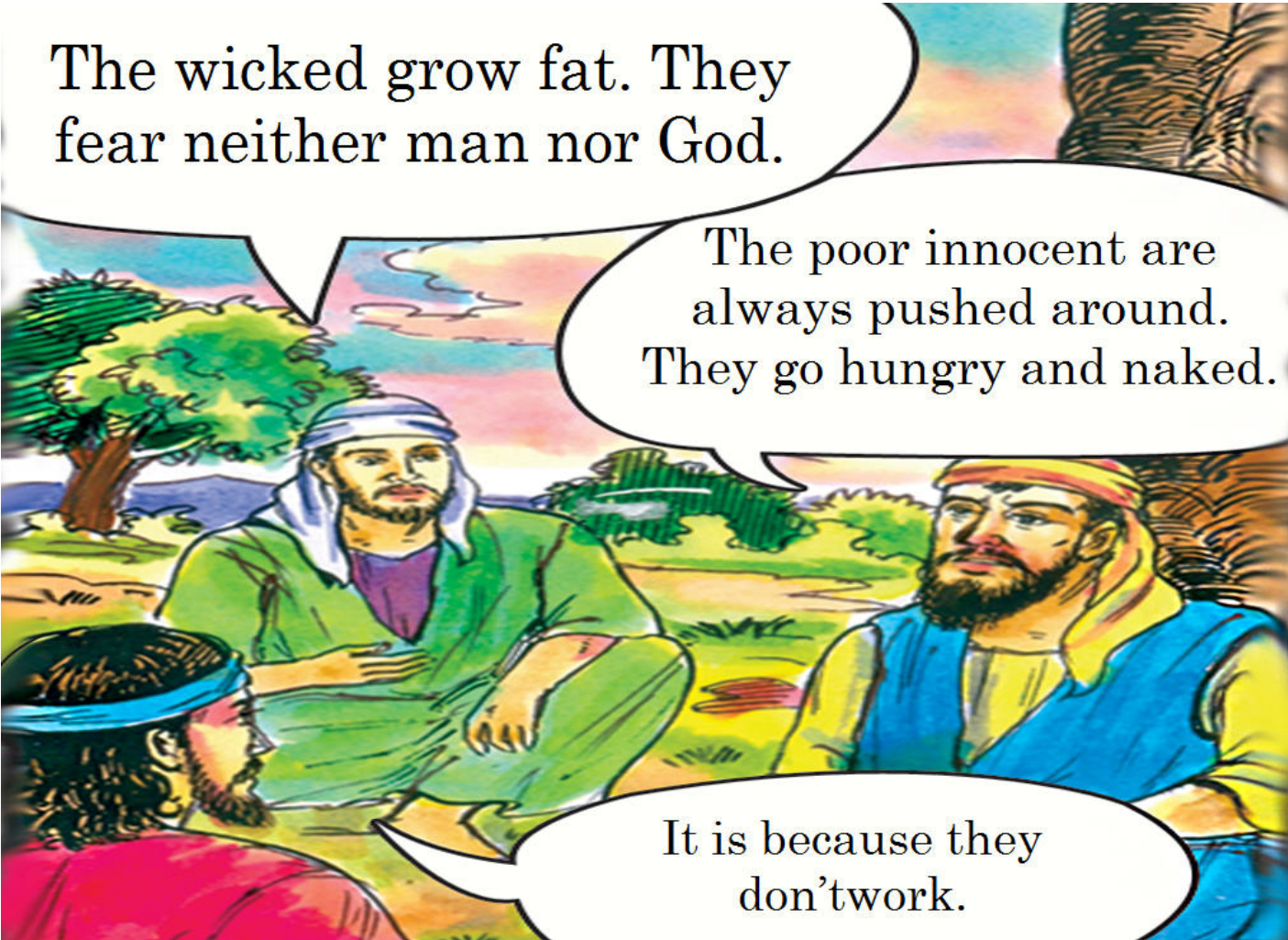
Should all be punished for the sins of a few?



It is not the guilty who
are punished!

Why do you say that?

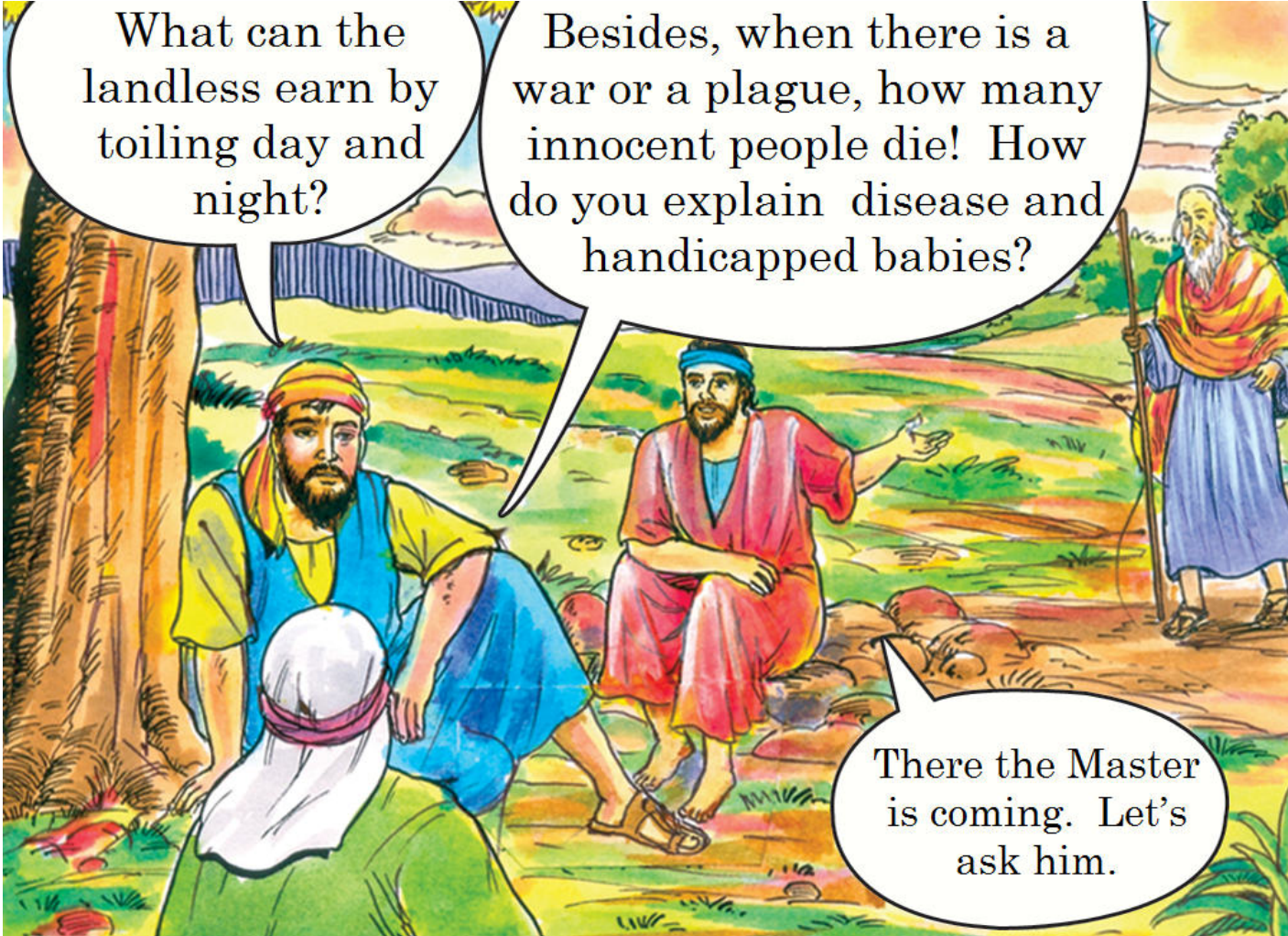
Open your eyes and look
around.



The wicked grow fat. They
fear neither man nor God.

The poor innocent are
always pushed around.
They go hungry and naked.

It is because they
don't work.



What can the landless earn by toiling day and night?

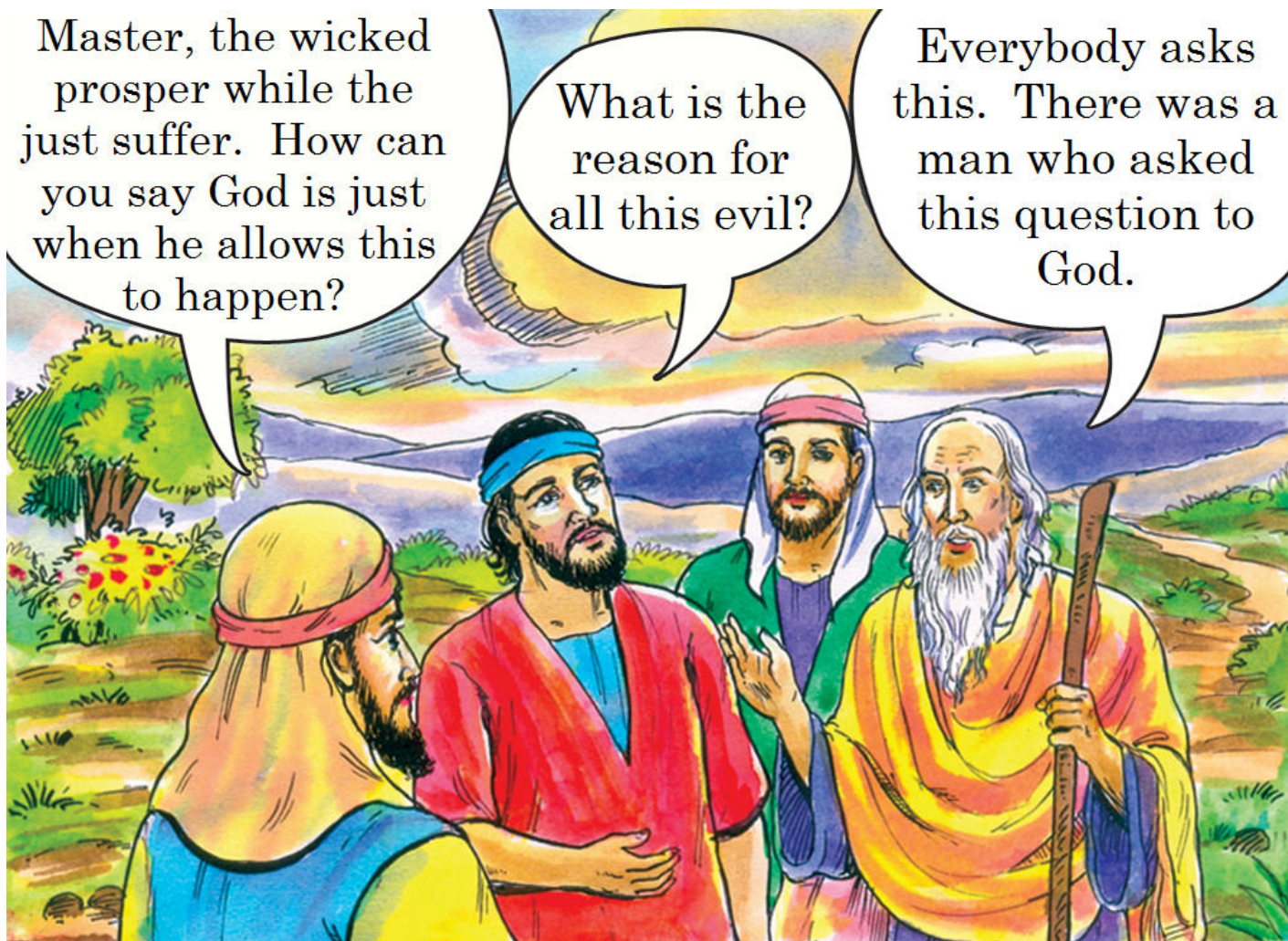
Besides, when there is a war or a plague, how many innocent people die! How do you explain disease and handicapped babies?

There the Master is coming. Let's ask him.

Master, the wicked prosper while the just suffer. How can you say God is just when he allows this to happen?

What is the reason for all this evil?

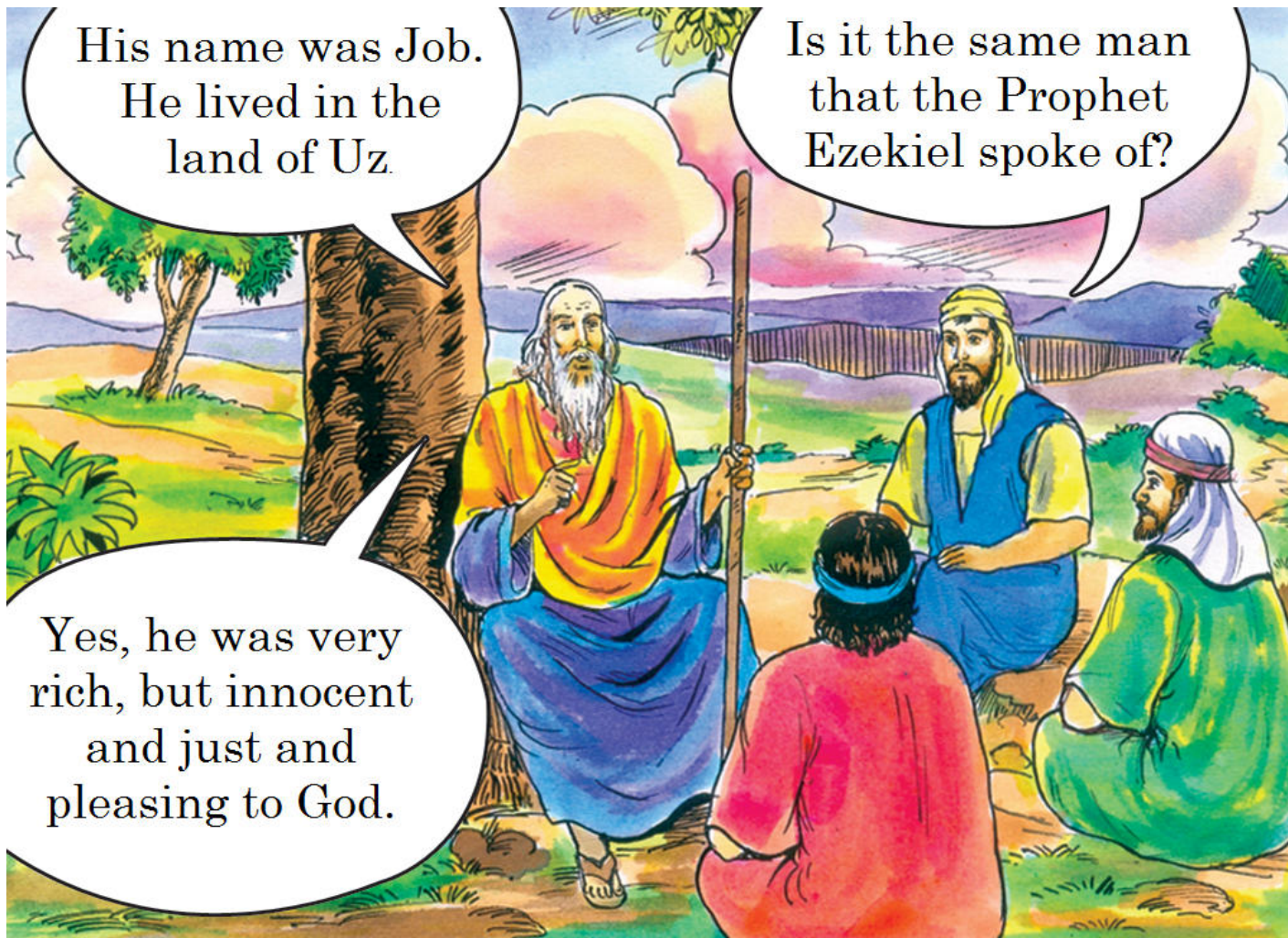
Everybody asks this. There was a man who asked this question to God.



His name was Job.
He lived in the
land of Uz.

Is it the same man
that the Prophet
Ezekiel spoke of?

Yes, he was very
rich, but innocent
and just and
pleasing to God.



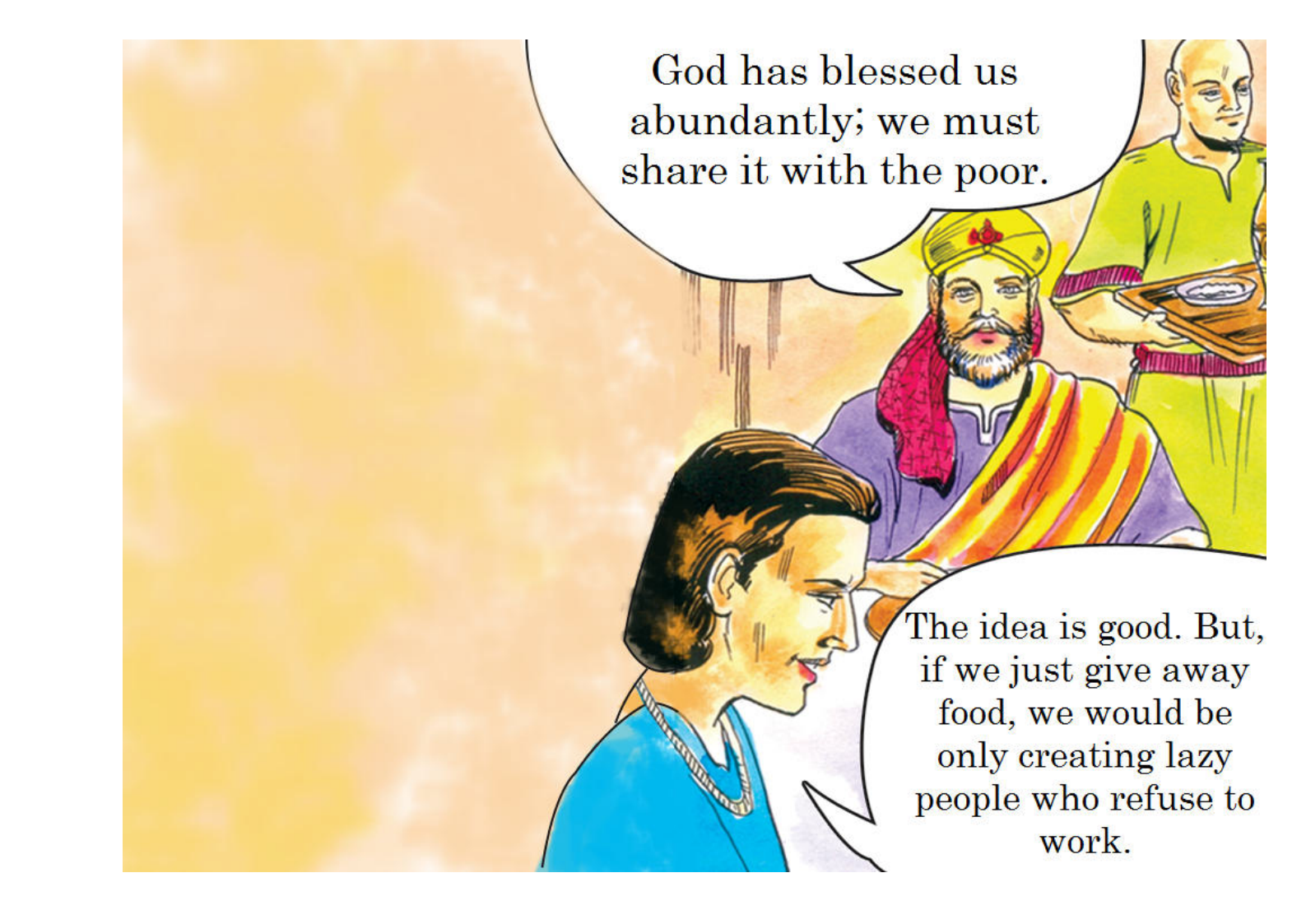
Job had seven sons and three daughters.

Today how many are there in the dining hall of the poor?

It is full. Every day, we get more and more.

If this keeps up, soon we will have to enlarge the Hall.






God has blessed us abundantly; we must share it with the poor.

The idea is good. But, if we just give away food, we would be only creating lazy people who refuse to work.

Those who can work can help out
in our warehouses.



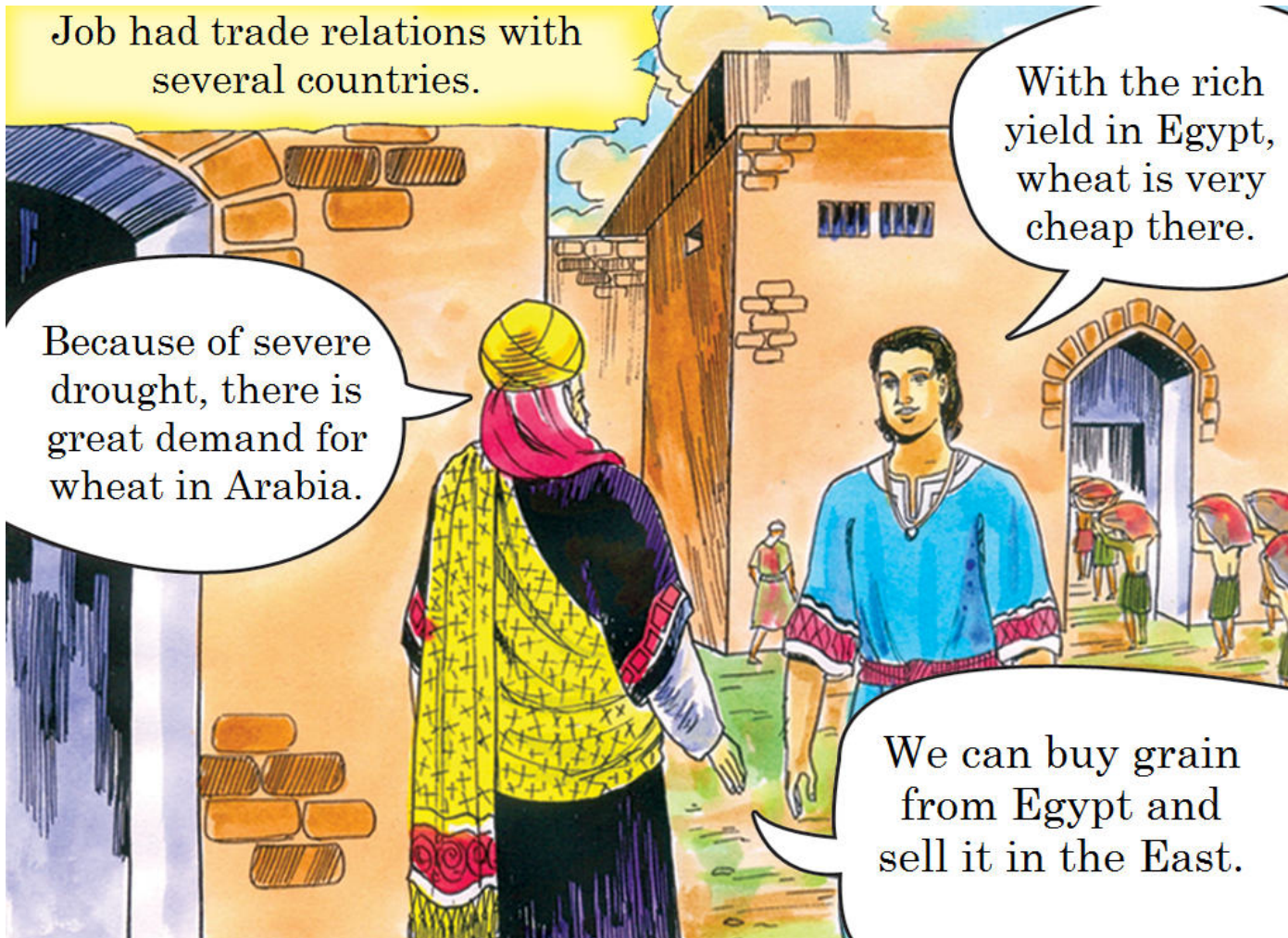
Fantastic, food for
work!

Job had trade relations with several countries.

Because of severe drought, there is great demand for wheat in Arabia.

With the rich yield in Egypt, wheat is very cheap there.

We can buy grain from Egypt and sell it in the East.



Food for the hungry, and profit for us. There is great demand for Arabian horses and good gold in Egypt.

We must expand our business in that line also. We must buy gold from Ophir itself.



Through land and sea, Job's business prospered.

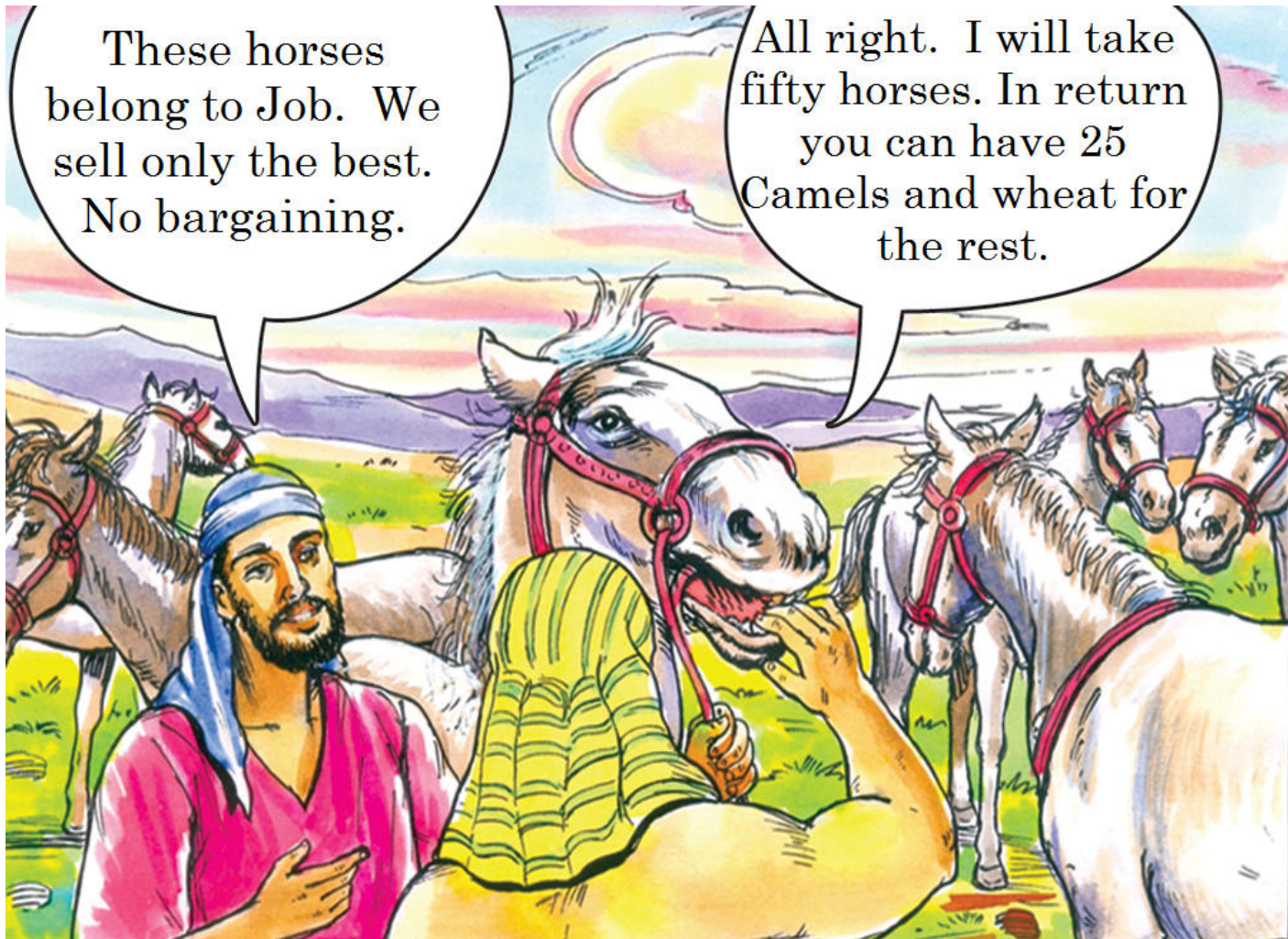
God has blessed us and our Master Job.

No question about it. We are lucky that the Egyptians are mad after horses and the Arabs are starving.



These horses
belong to Job. We
sell only the best.
No bargaining.

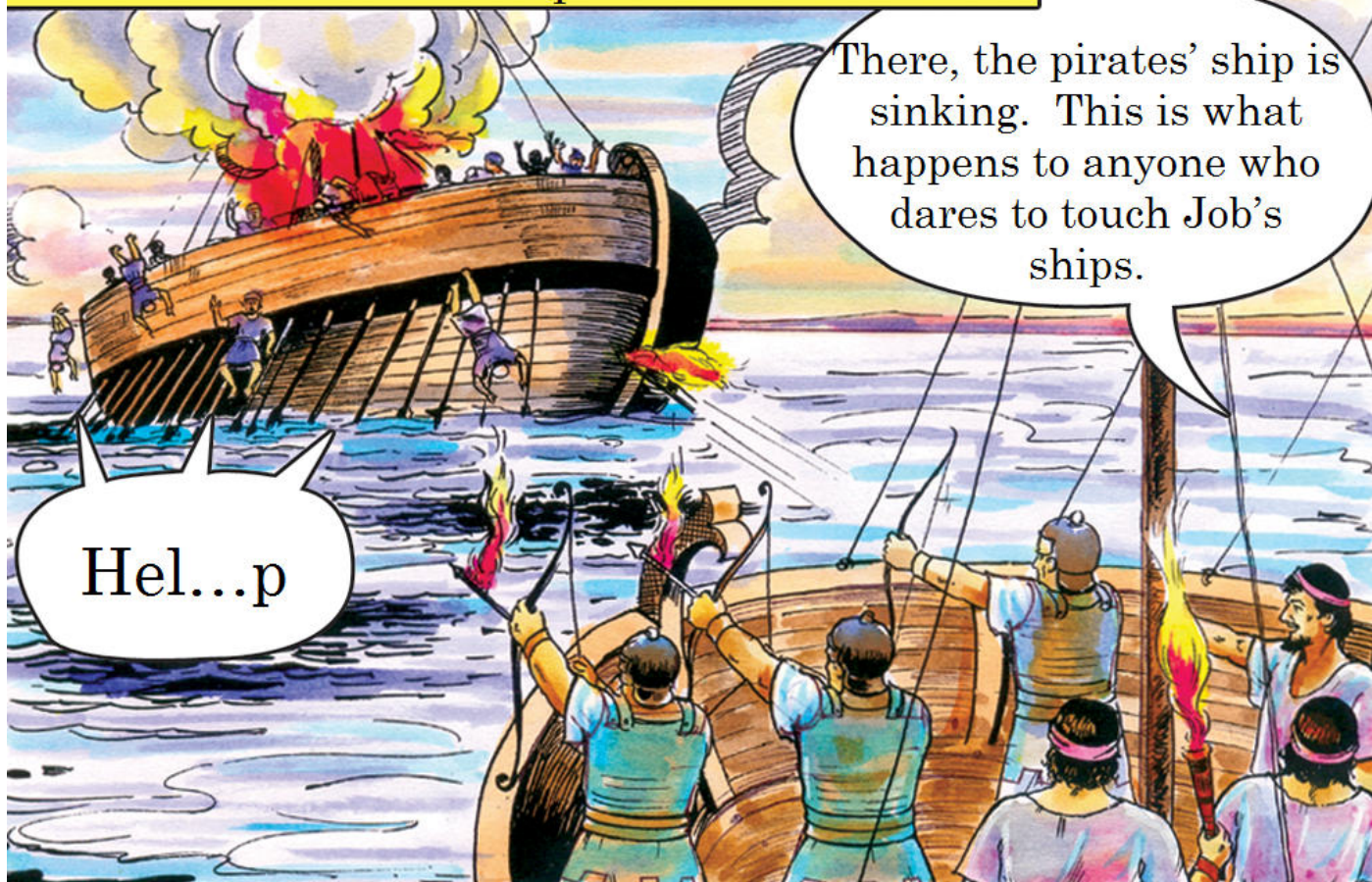
All right. I will take
fifty horses. In return
you can have 25
Camels and wheat for
the rest.



Job bought ivory and spices from India and gold from Ophir. He sold them in Egypt and Mesopotamia.



Job had soldiers in the ships to protect them from pirates.

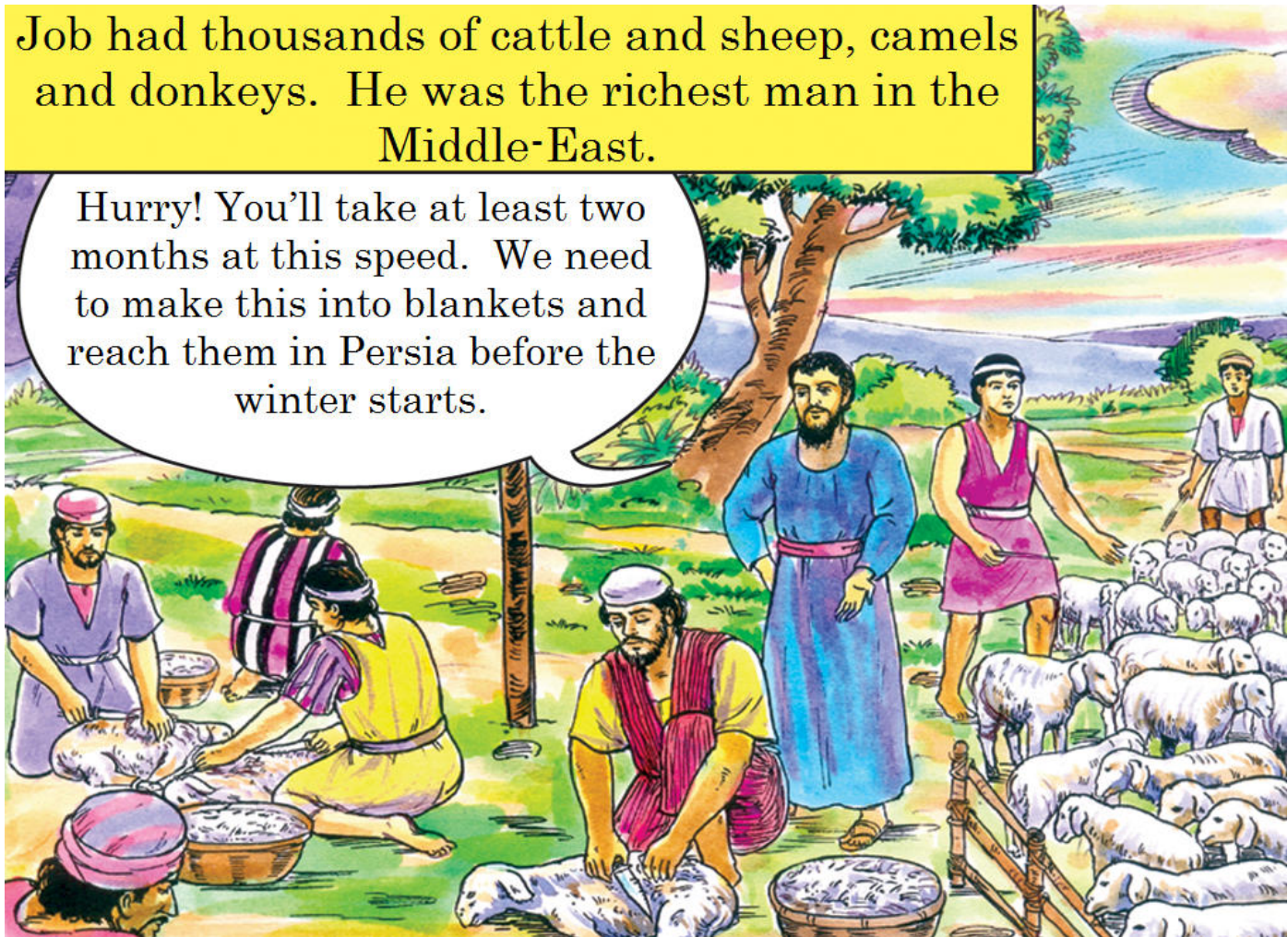


Hel...p

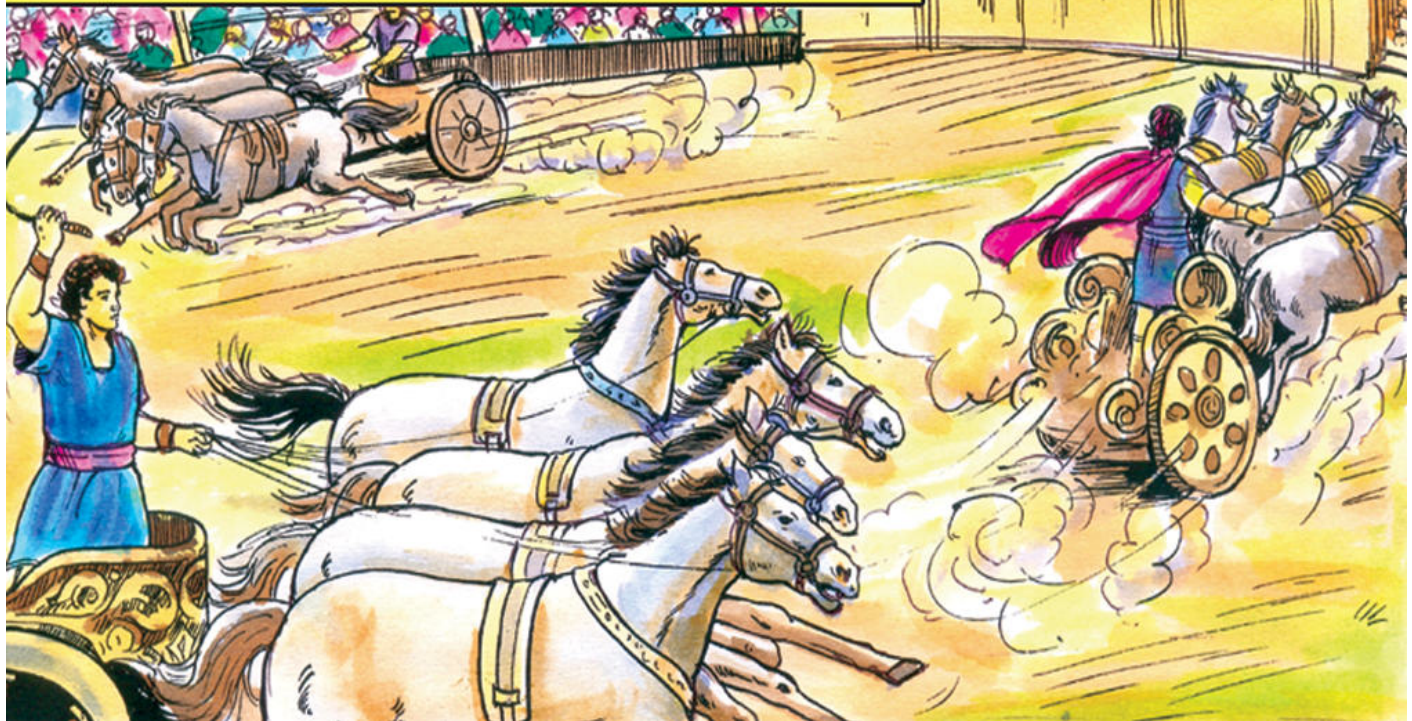
There, the pirates' ship is sinking. This is what happens to anyone who dares to touch Job's ships.

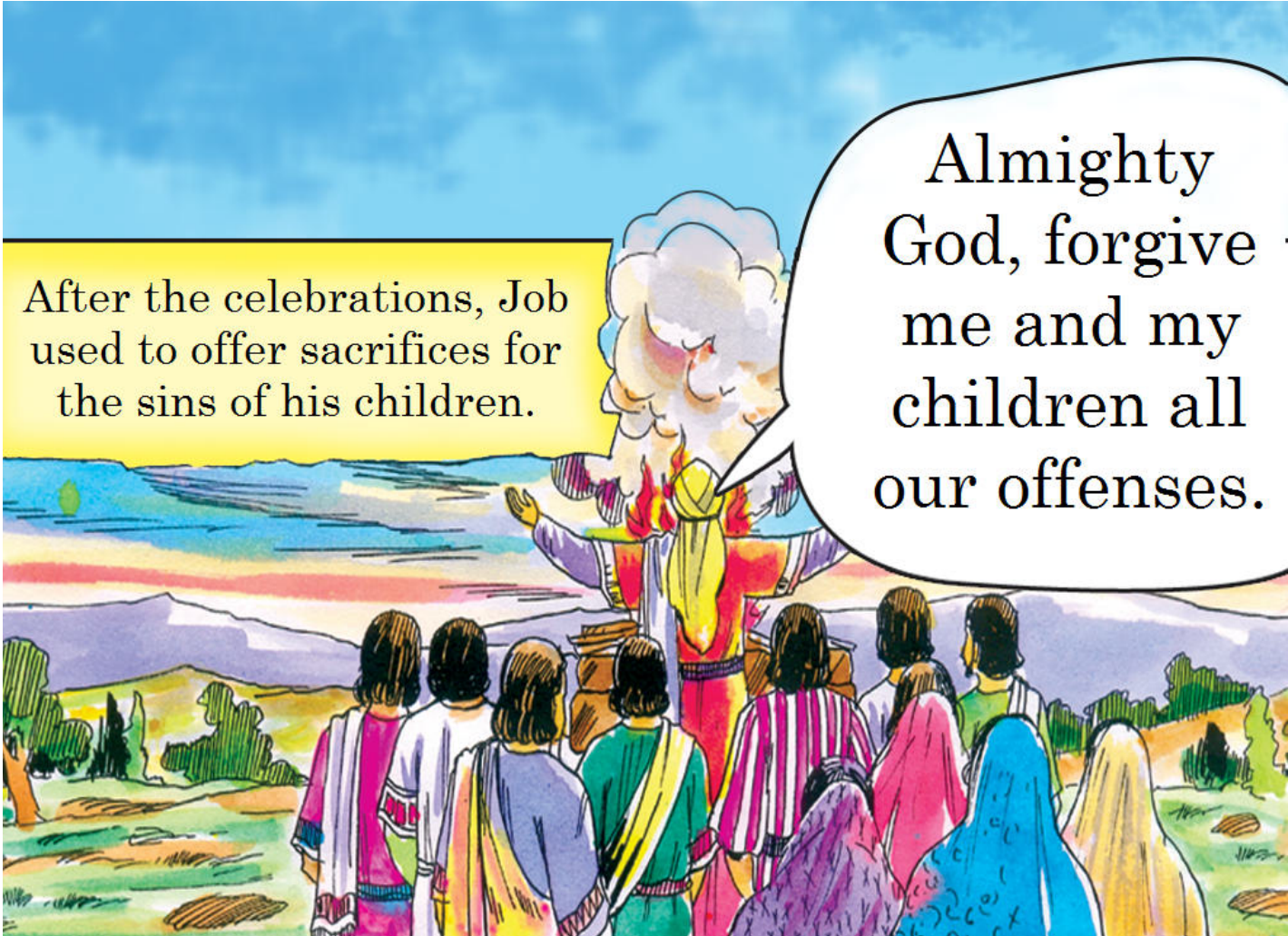
Job had thousands of cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys. He was the richest man in the Middle-East.

Hurry! You'll take at least two months at this speed. We need to make this into blankets and reach them in Persia before the winter starts.



Job's children used to take turns in gathering and celebrating feasts in one another's house. They had various games as part of the feasts.





After the celebrations, Job used to offer sacrifices for the sins of his children.


Almighty God, forgive me and my children all our offenses.

One Day

We should have gone for today's feast. It is not good that we don't go to just one son's house.


Doesn't matter we'll go next time. I feel rather down today.





Hey, who is coming?

!



Master, we lost everything.

Tell me what happened?

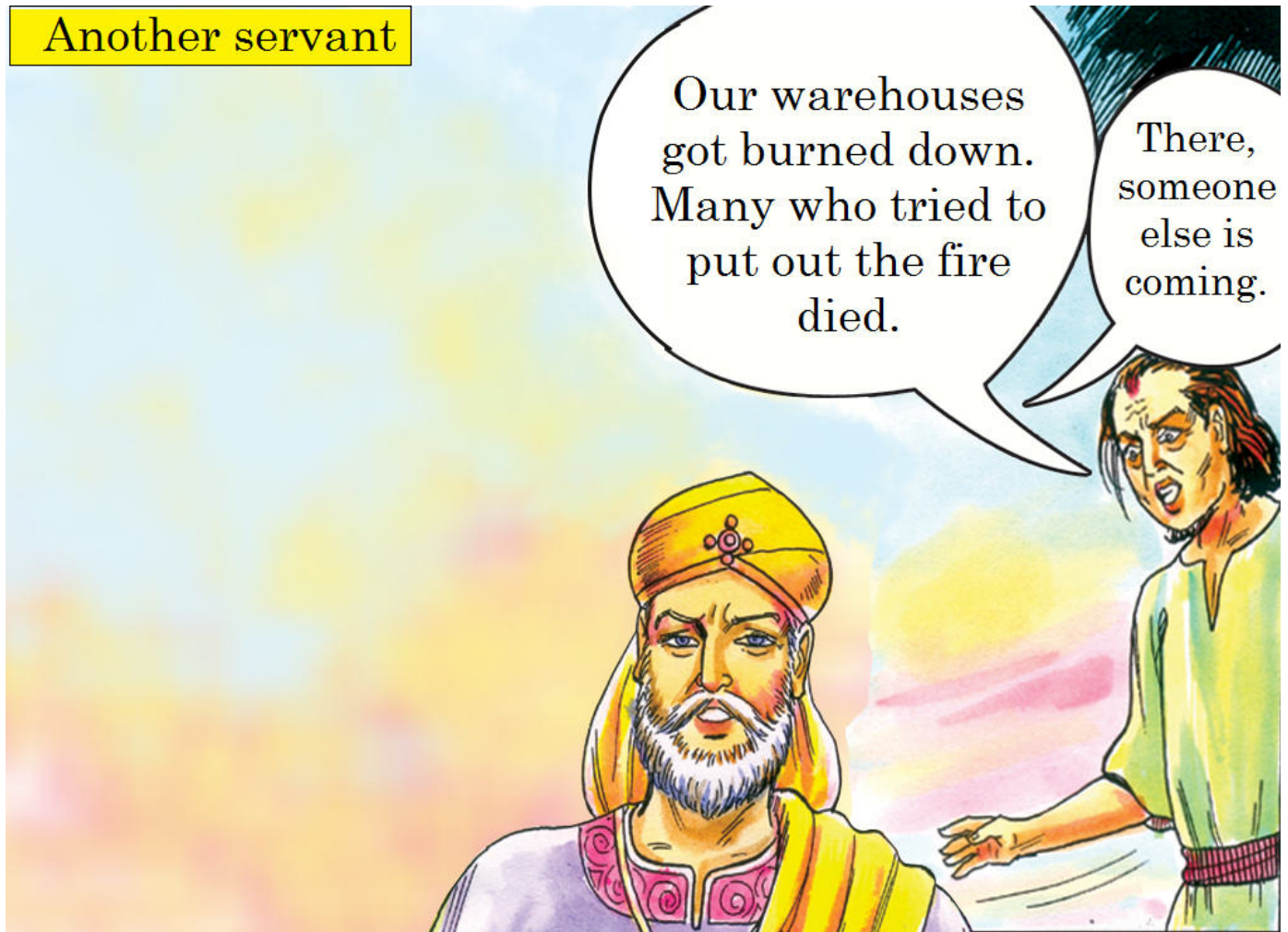
The Medianites
attacked us. They
carried away all our
cattle and sheep. All
the shepherds are
killed. Only I escaped
to tell you this.



Another servant

Our warehouses
got burned down.
Many who tried to
put out the fire
died.


There,
someone
else is
coming.



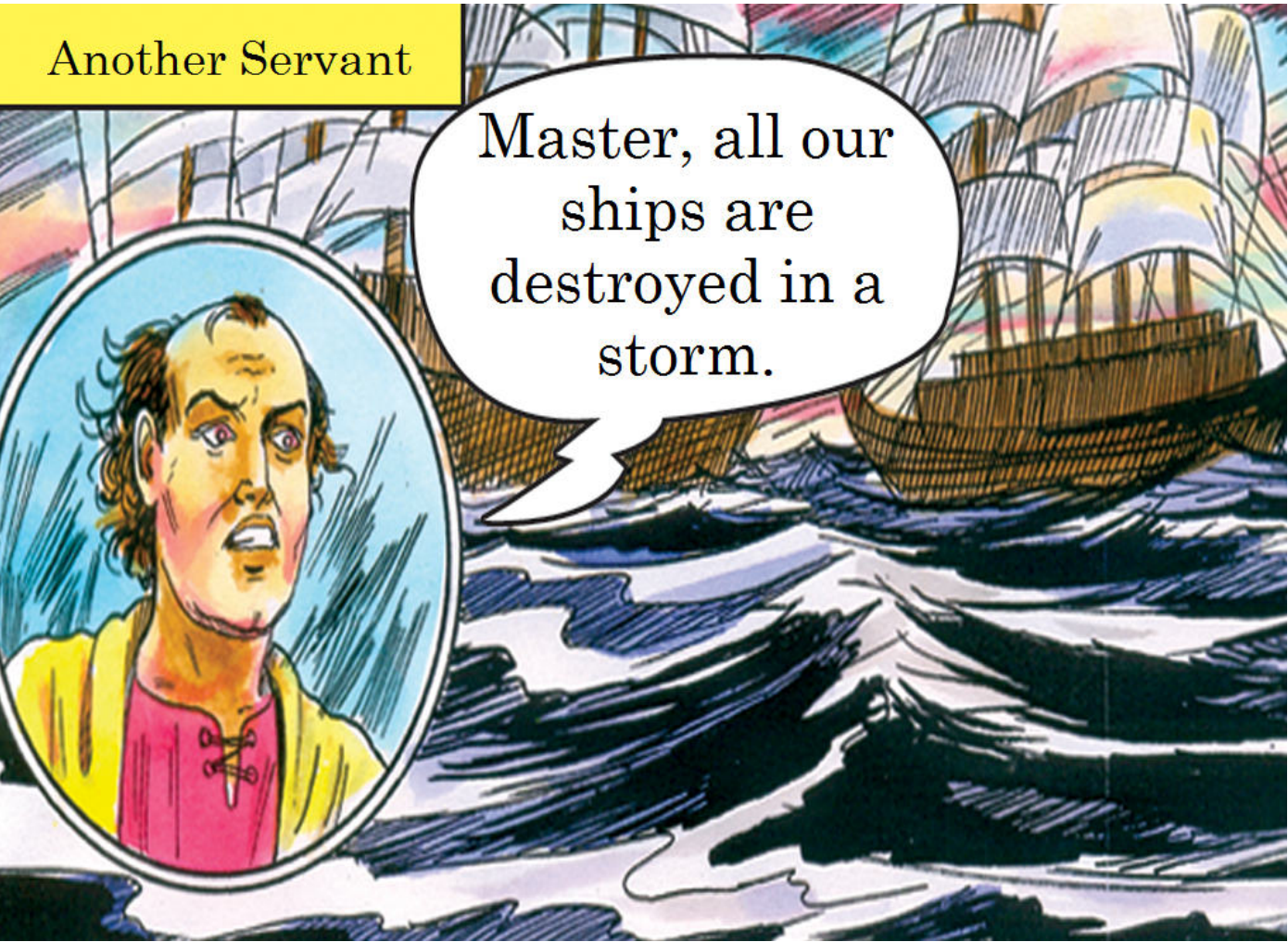
Robbers attacked our caravan.
They took all our camels and
donkeys and killed all our
men. Only I escaped.



Another Servant



Master, all our ships are destroyed in a storm.



Another Servant

Master
your
children...

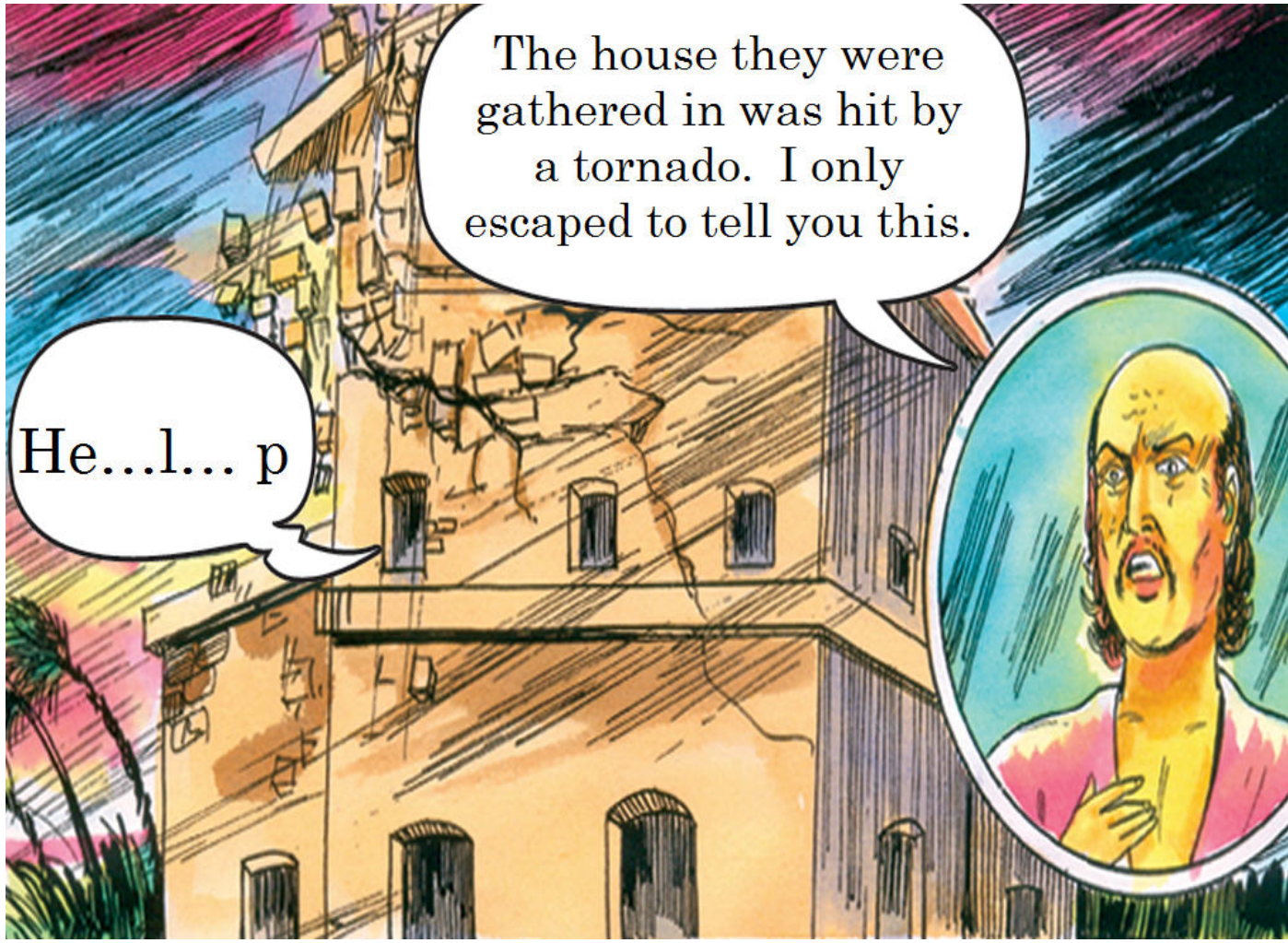
What
happened
to my
children?


?



He...l... p

The house they were gathered in was hit by a tornado. I only escaped to tell you this.





Oh, my children.

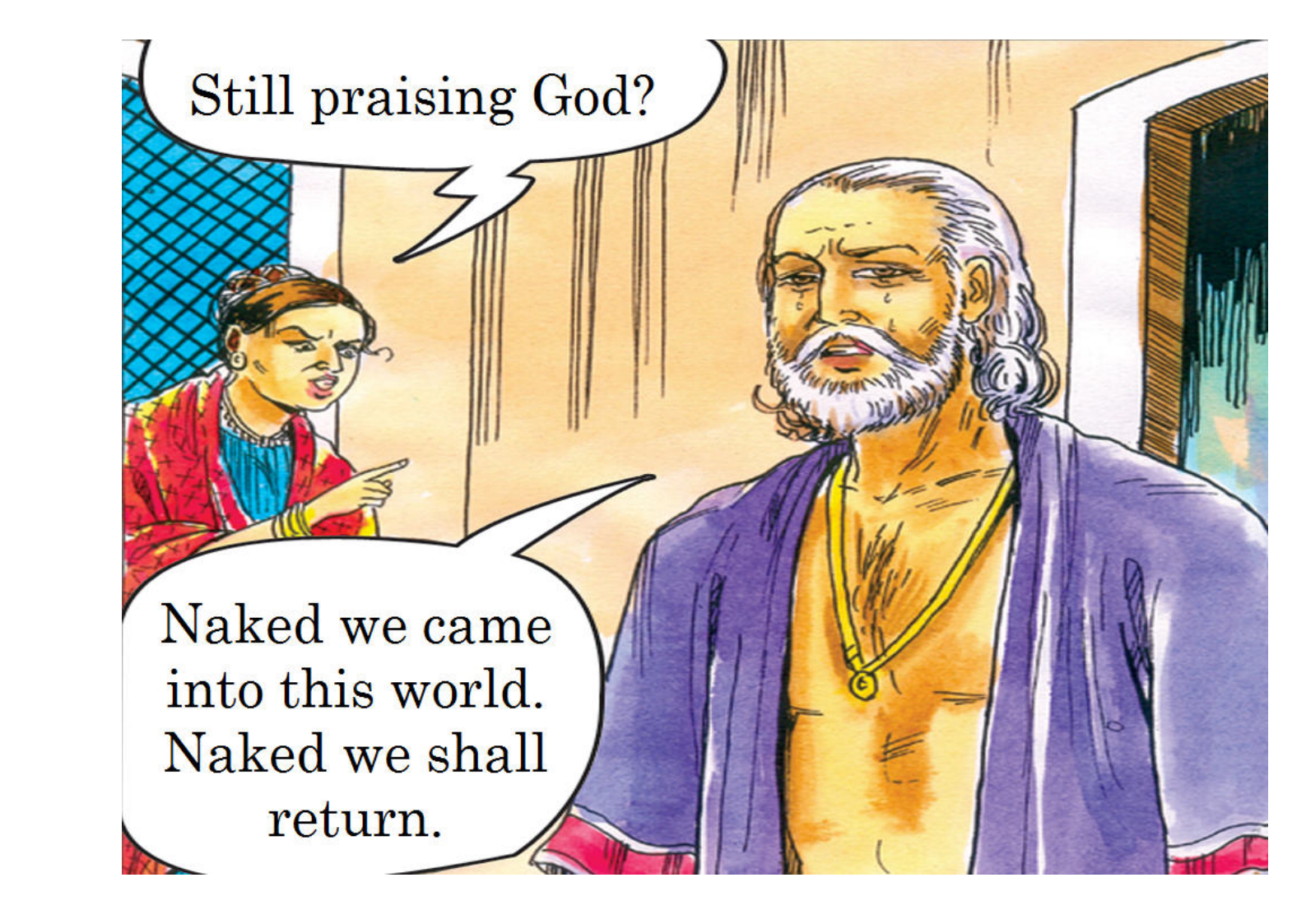
God!

God? See the reward you
get for serving Him
faithfully for all these
years!

God gave. God took
back. Let His name
be praised!

?





Still praising God?

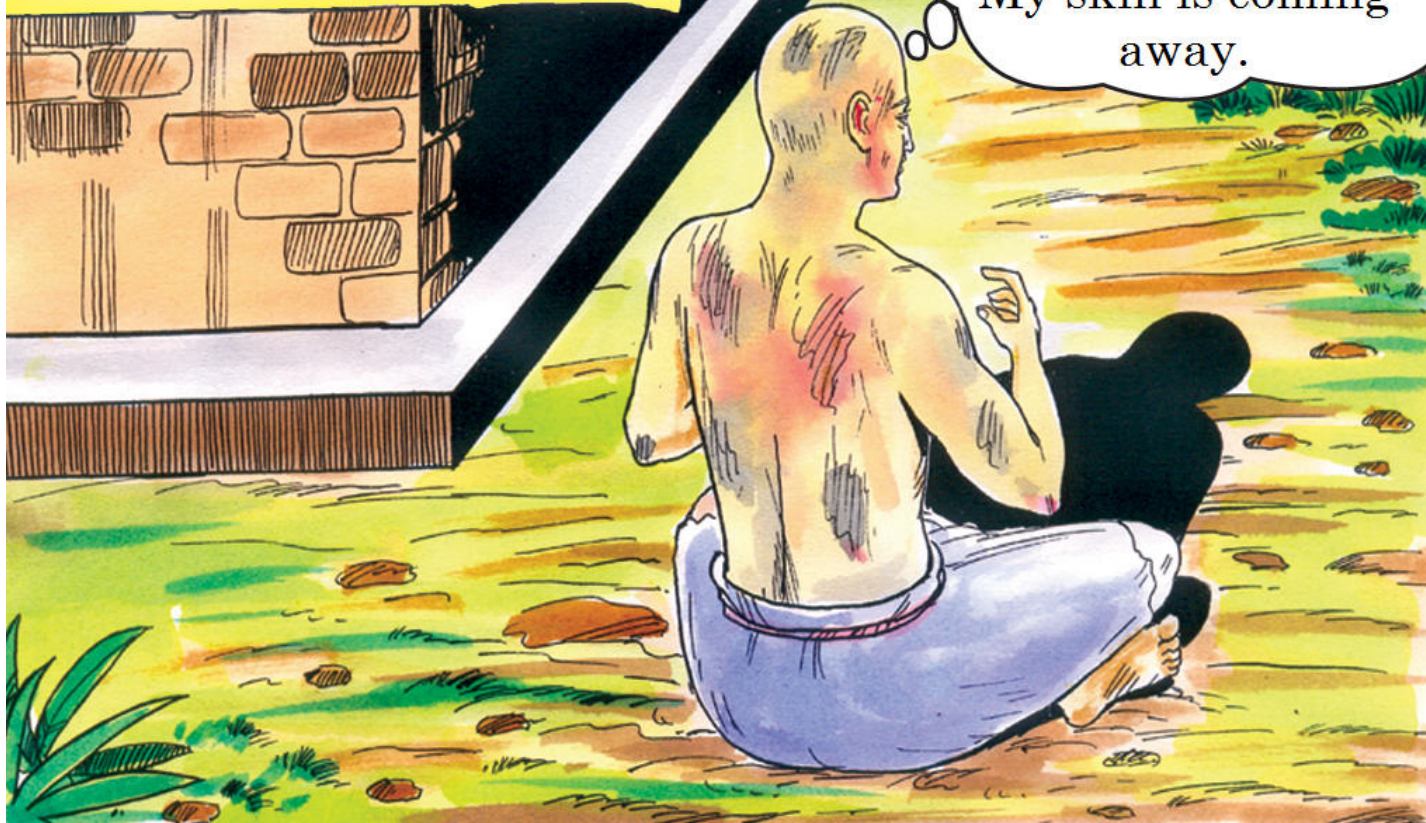
Naked we came
into this world.
Naked we shall
return.

We received
blessings from
God. Now we must
be ready to accept
pain also.



As a sign of mourning Job shaved his head and beard, sprinkled himself with ashes, wore sack cloth and sat in the dust.

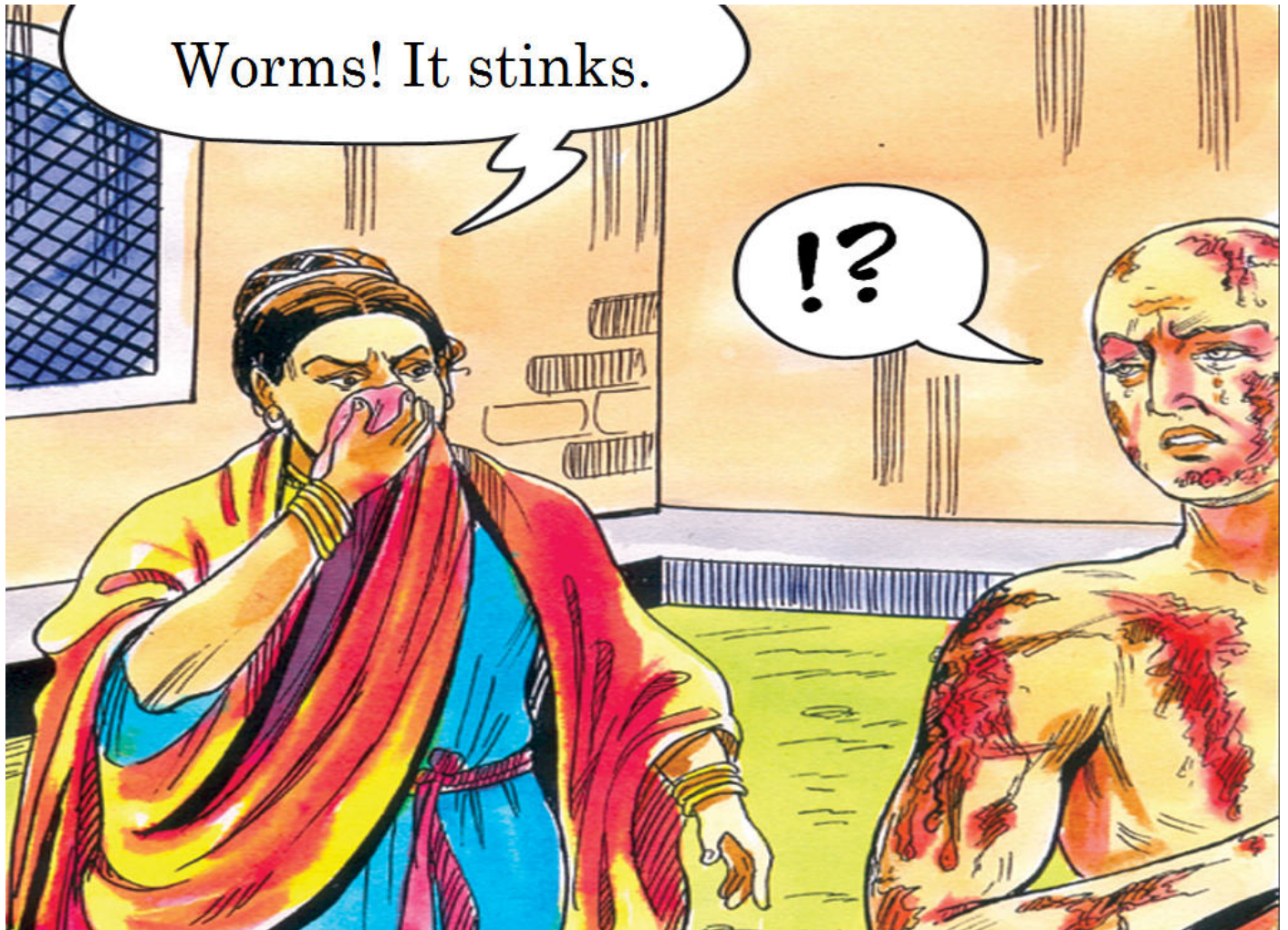
How fast I lost everything!
Itching so badly.
My skin is coming away.





Worms! It stinks.

!?





We are leaving.

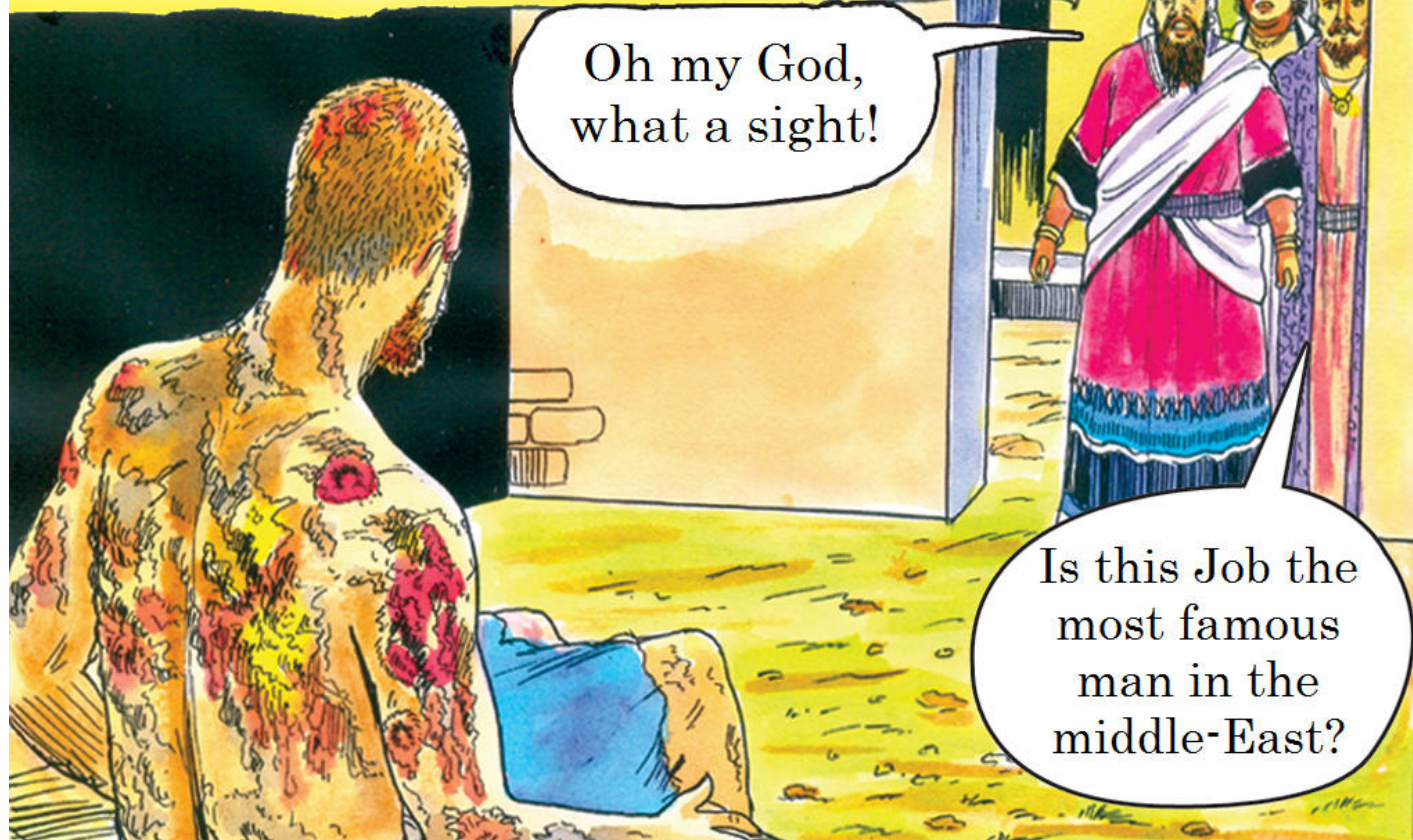
All according to
His will.

Still praising God who
is so cruel to us?
Curse him and die!

I am already
a dead man. Even if my
flesh withers away, I'll
praise the Lord. He will
raise me from the dust.



Hearing of about the misfortunes of Job,
three of his friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, and
Zophar came to see him.



Oh my God,
what a sight!

Is this Job the
most famous
man in the
middle-East?

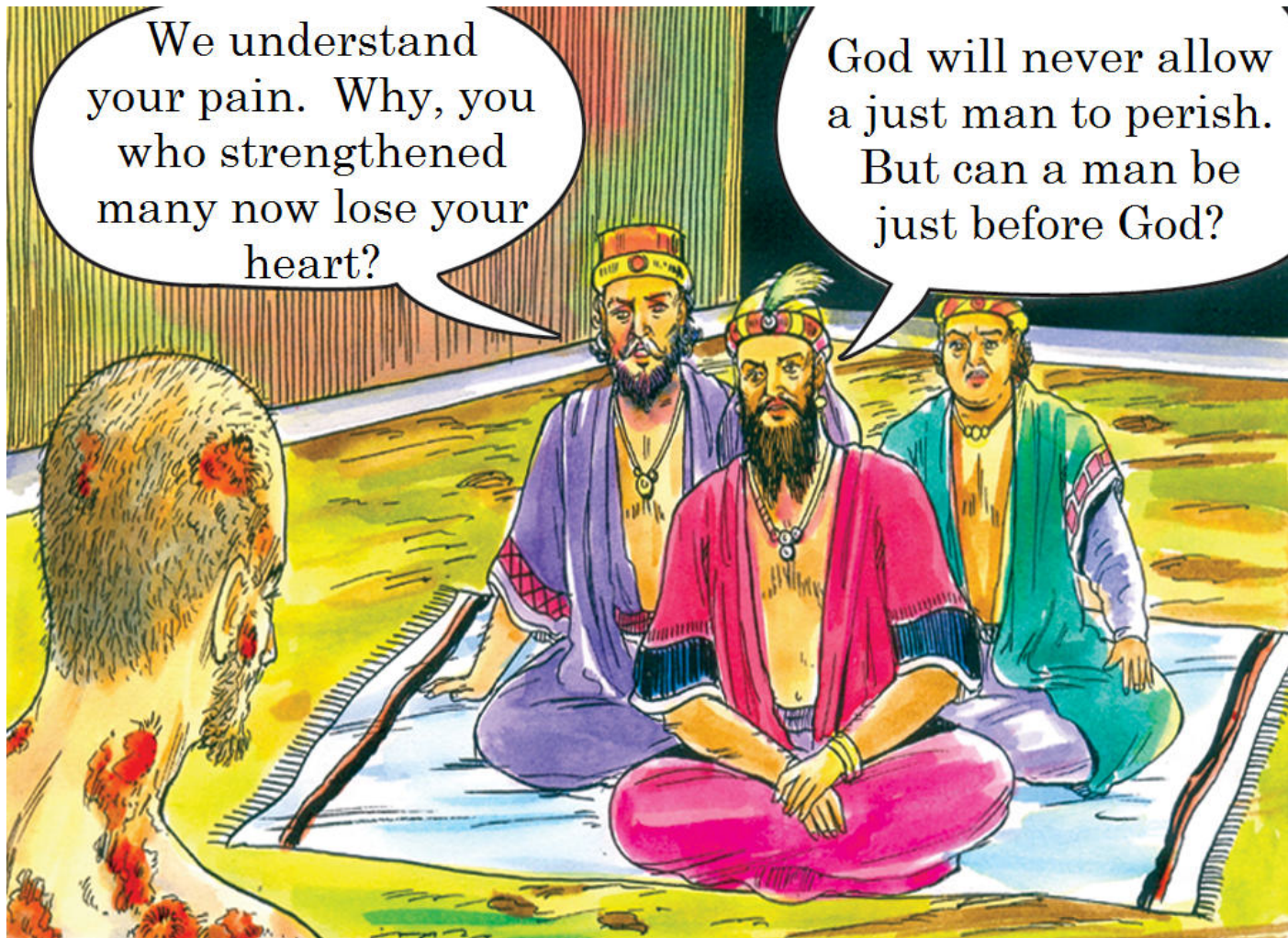
In pain they cried aloud, tore their garments and sat in silence near Job for seven days. At the end:

Lord! I am tired I cannot go on. Wish I was never born. It will be better that I die soon.



We understand your pain. Why, you who strengthened many now lose your heart?

God will never allow a just man to perish. But can a man be just before God?

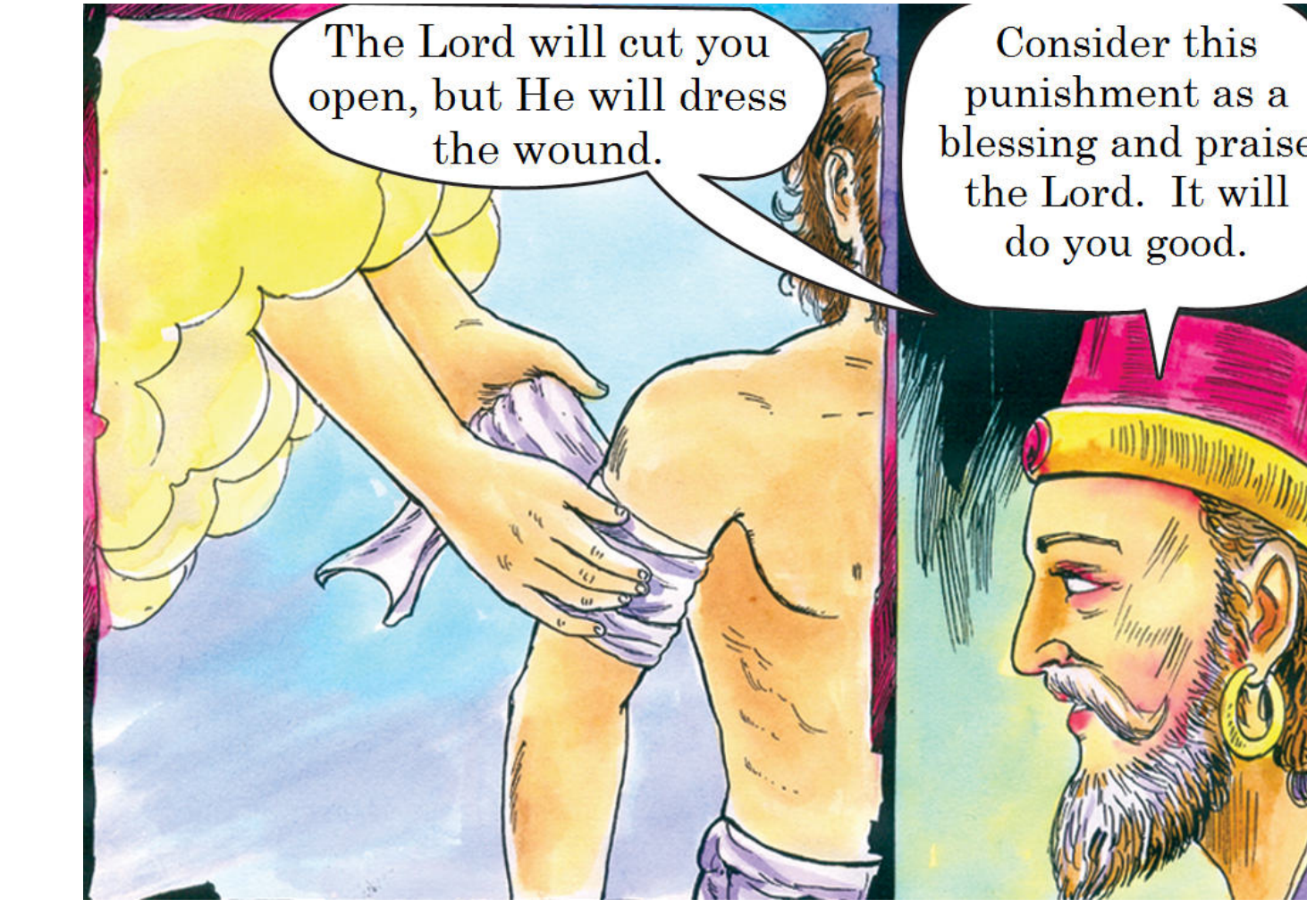


The happiness of
the wicked will not
last long. He'll
perish soon.




The just man will be
protected. Even the wild
beasts will not hurt him.





The Lord will cut you open, but He will dress the wound.

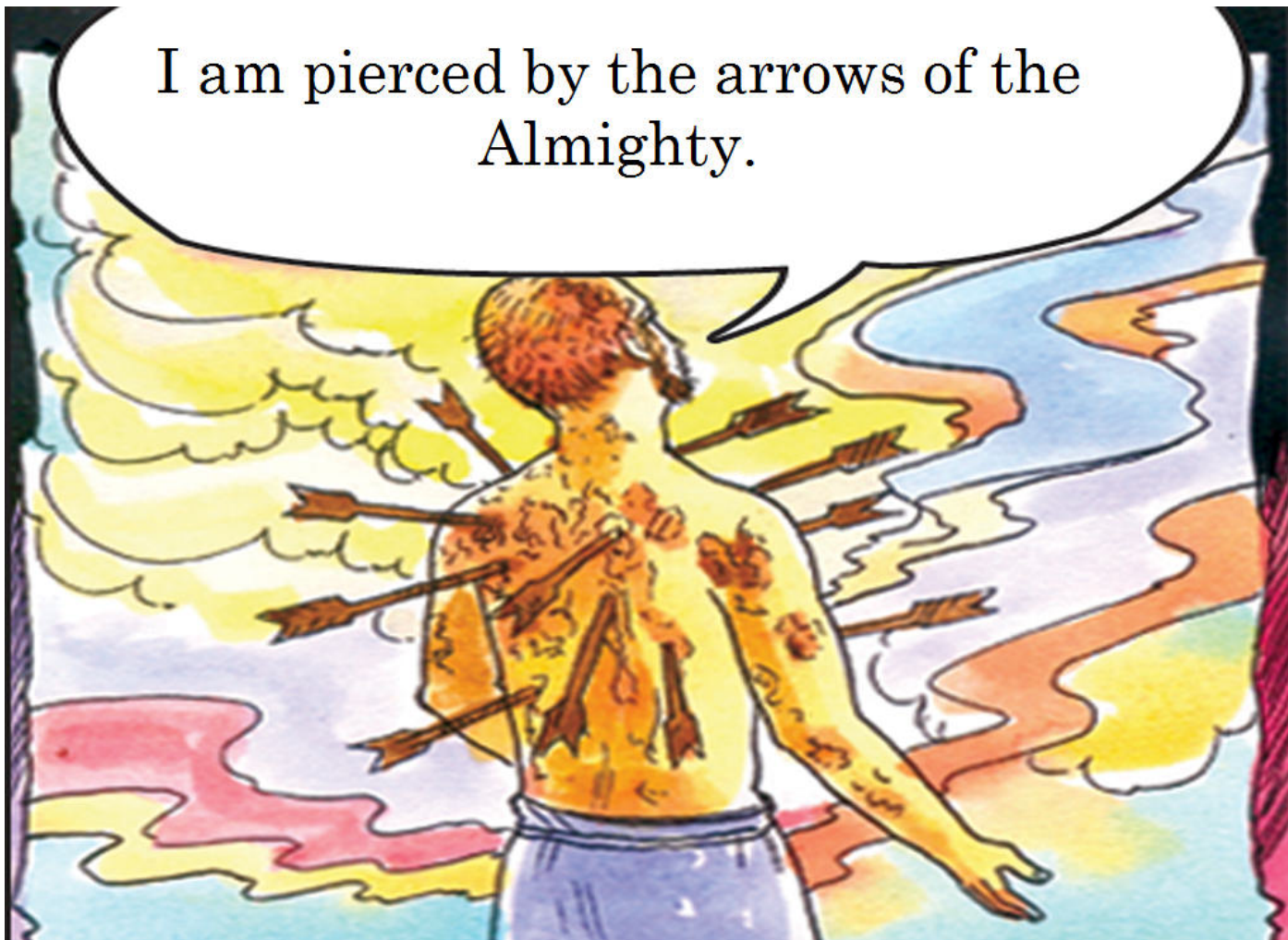


Consider this punishment as a blessing and praise the Lord. It will do you good.

You have no idea
of my pain. Look,
my skin is broken;
my body is an open
wound. Worms are
crawling all
over me.



I am pierced by the arrows of the Almighty.



Men's life on earth is mere slavery. I long for the death more than the slaves for rest.



Strangling me to death would have been better than this unending torture.



My life is only a breath. In a
moment, I'll become dust.
Then if you look for me, you'll
not find me.



Your desire to die is already a proof for your sins. God can never be unjust.



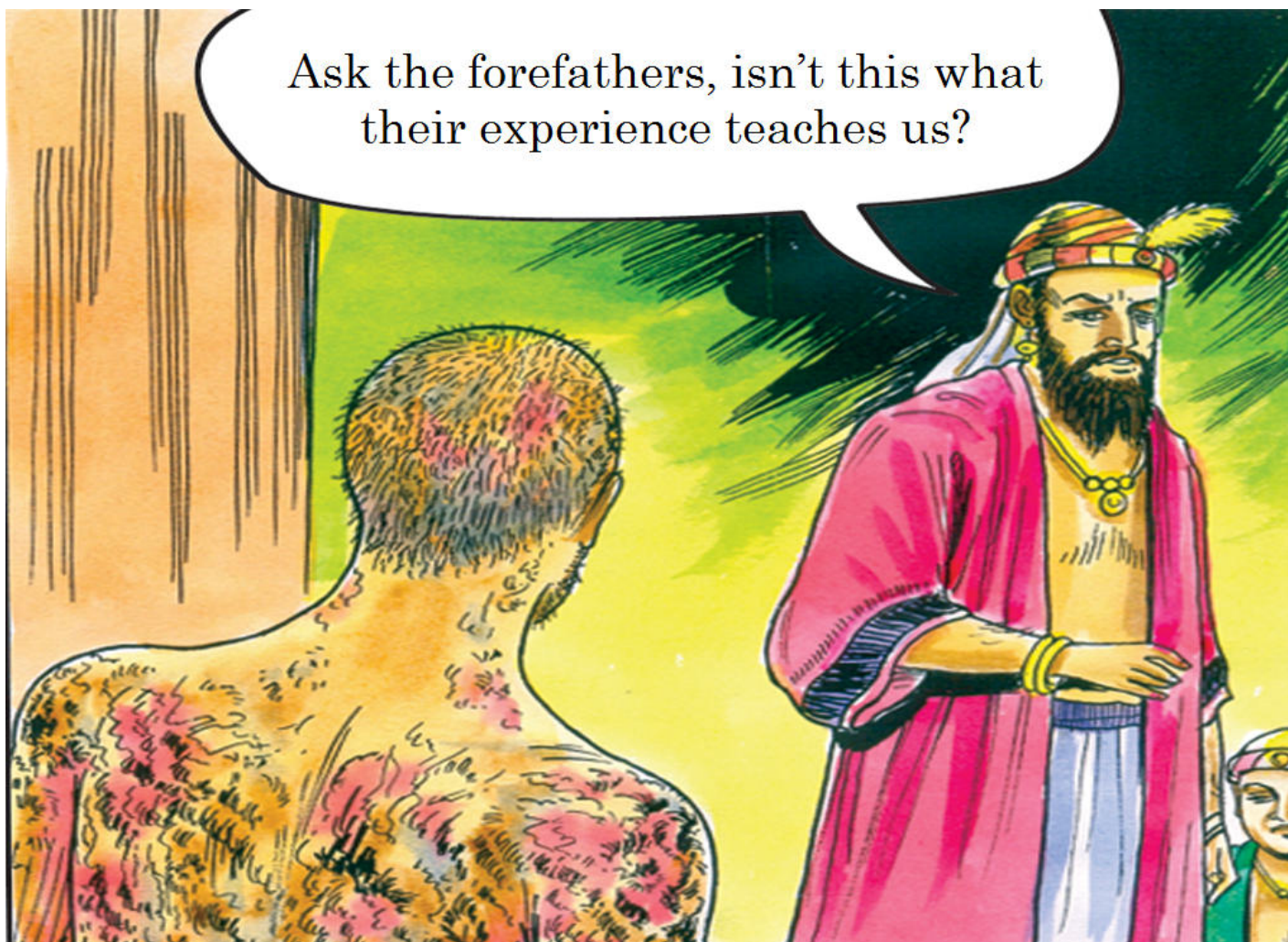


Your children must have sinned against God. What happened to them was the punishment for it.

If you are a just man
God will not abandon
you. But the wicked will
surely be punished.



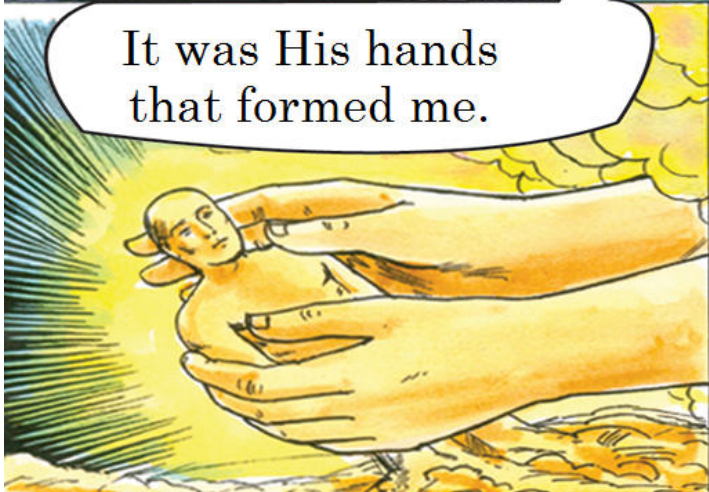
Ask the forefathers, isn't this what
their experience teaches us?



You are right. Who can be just before God? He is my accuser and judge. How can I get justice? Will my accuser be kind to me?



It was His hands that formed me.



The same hands are crushing me like earthenware.

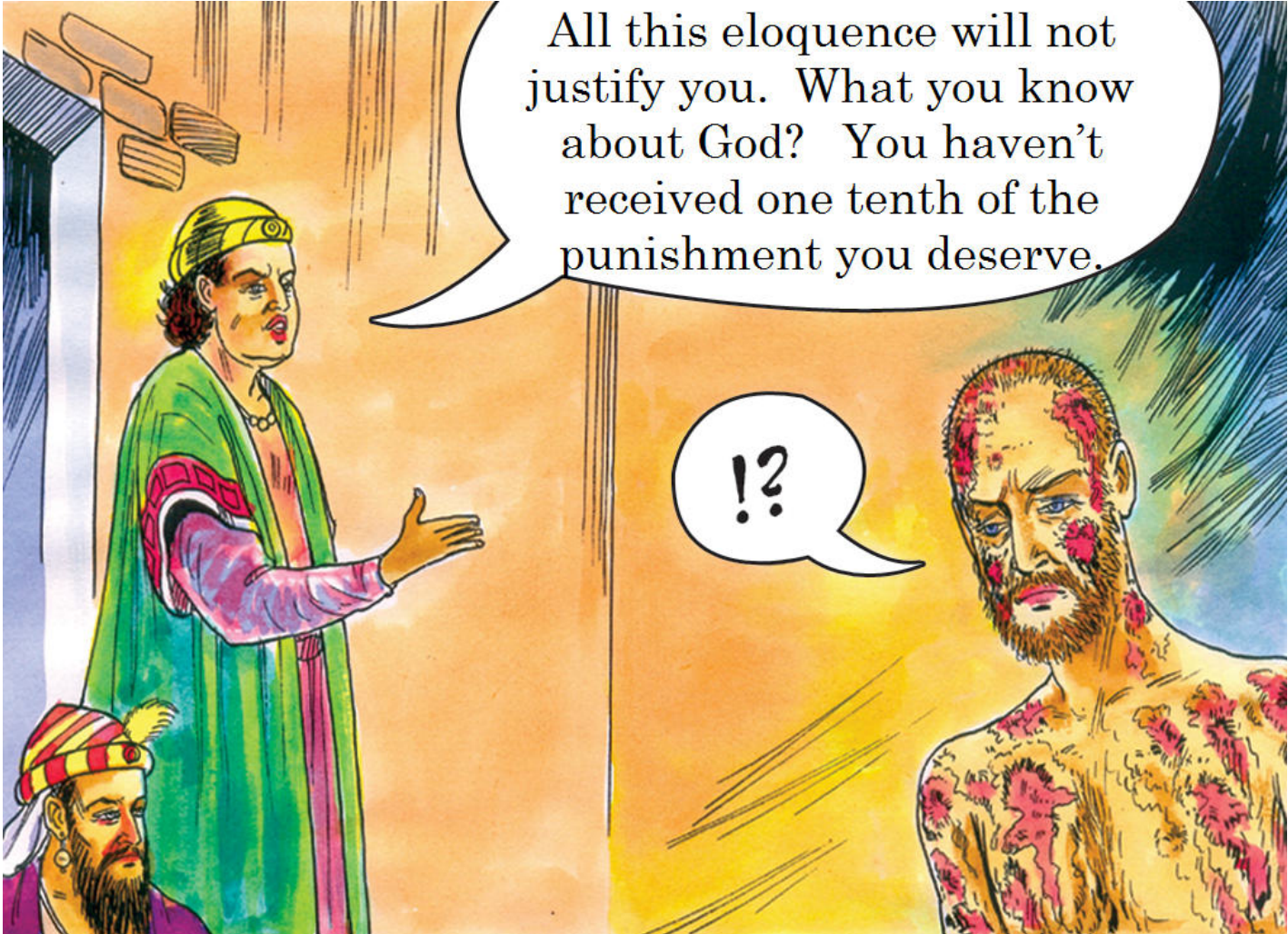


Why wasn't I strangled when
I was in my mother's arms?



Just leave me alone, let me breath
freely for a moment!

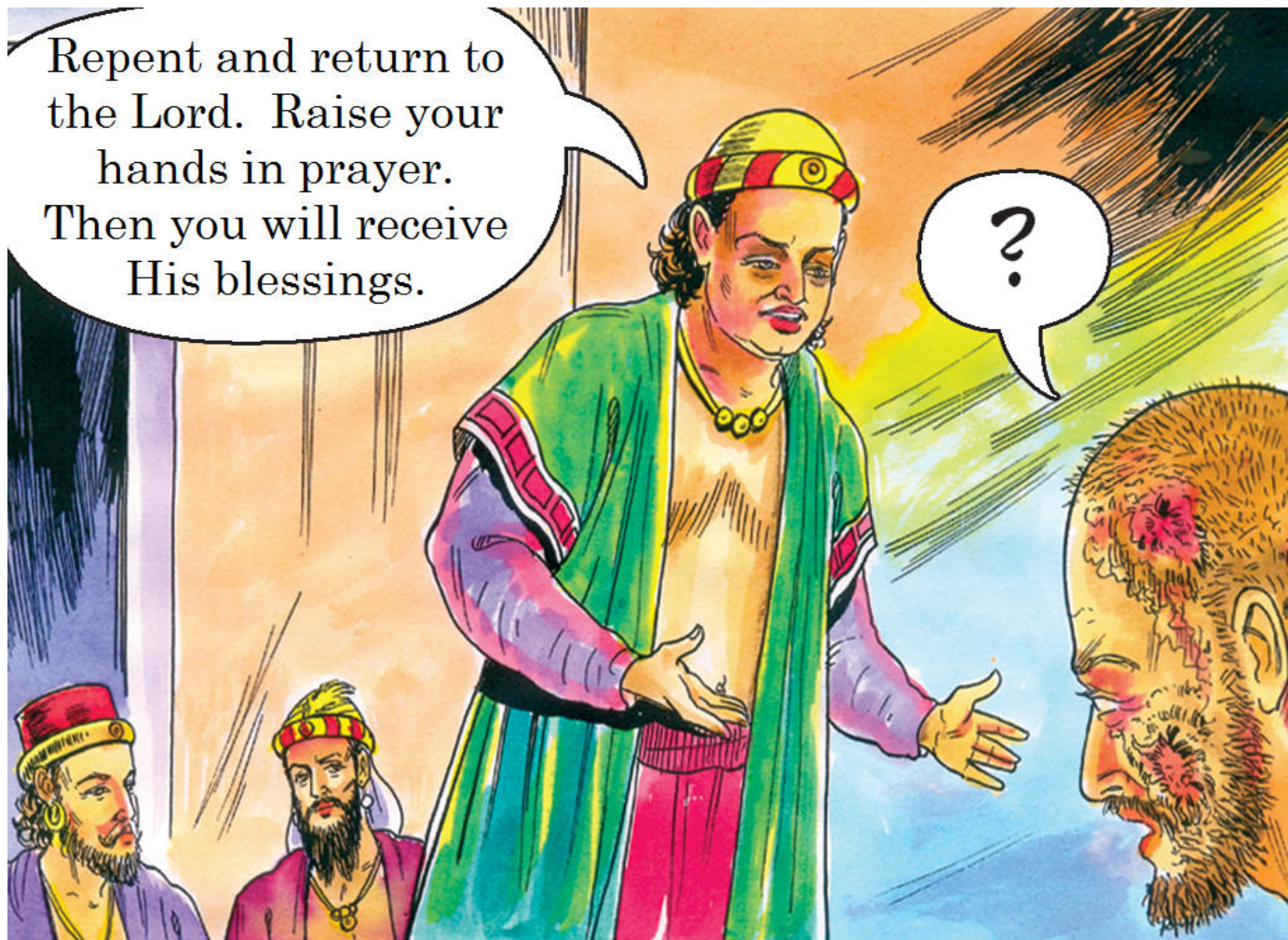


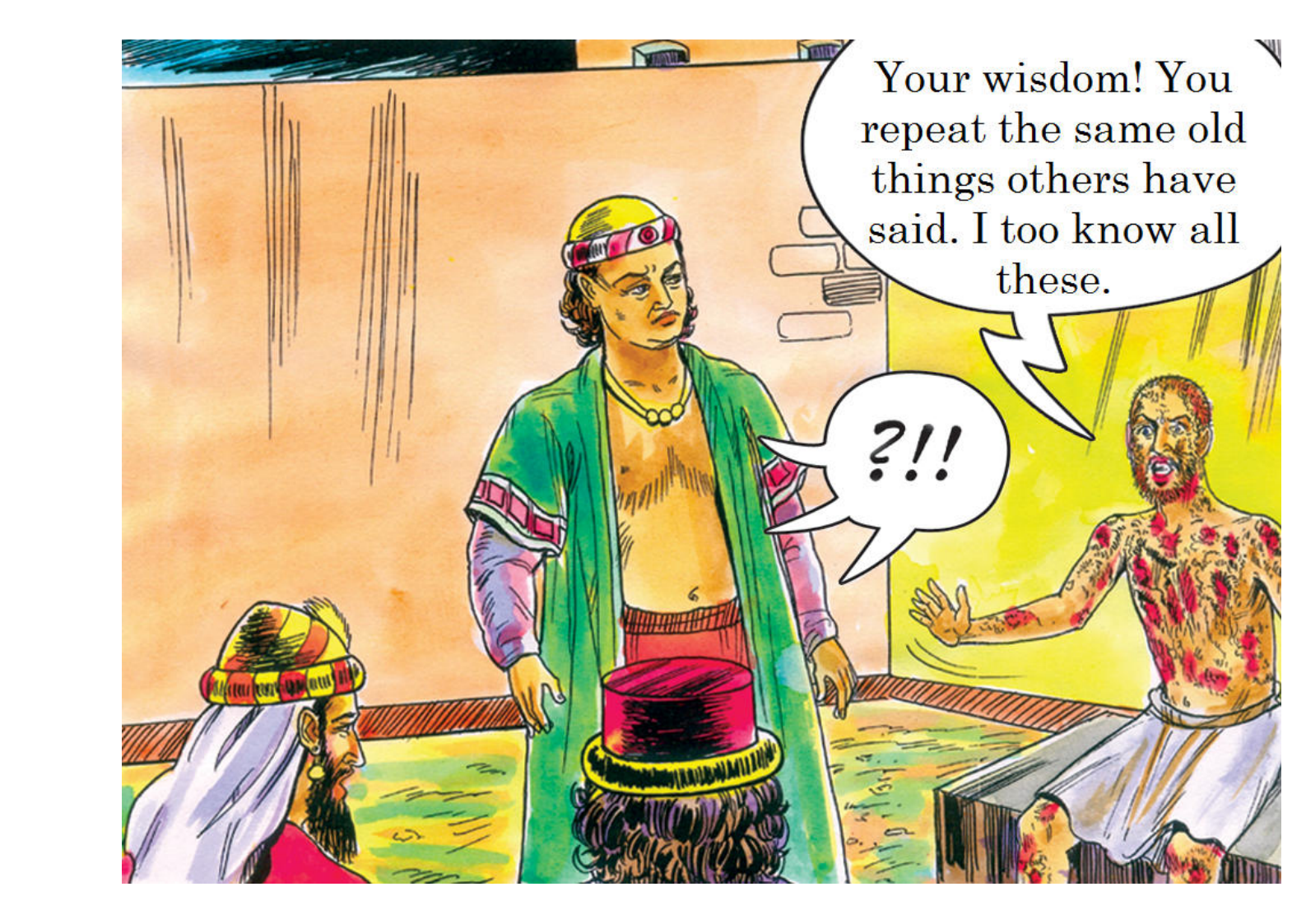


All this eloquence will not justify you. What you know about God? You haven't received one tenth of the punishment you deserve.

!?

Repent and return to
the Lord. Raise your
hands in prayer.
Then you will receive
His blessings.

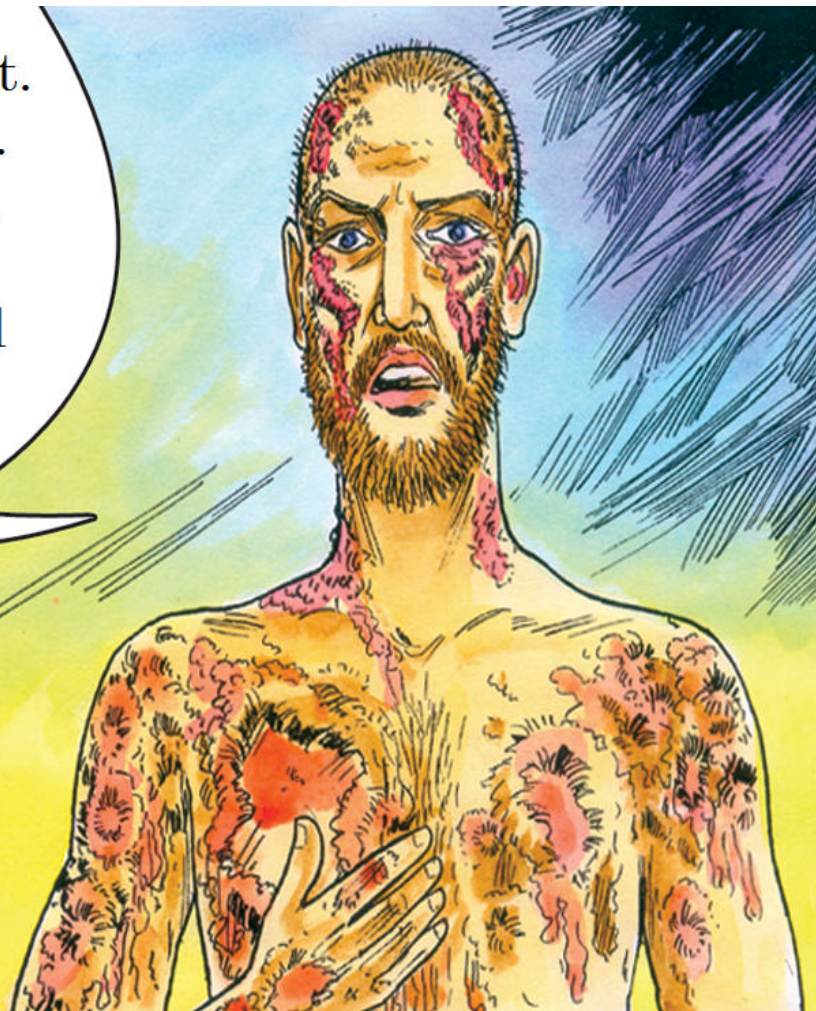




Your wisdom! You repeat the same old things others have said. I too know all these.

?!!

I am innocent and just.
Yet, you laugh at me.
You are healthy and
wealthy, you can
despise me. But, tell
me what did I do
wrong?



I have no hope. I
am ready to argue
even with God.



God almighty, take away your heavy hand and listen to my reasoning.



There is always hope for a tree when it is cut down. It will sprout again. But when I die what hope do I have?



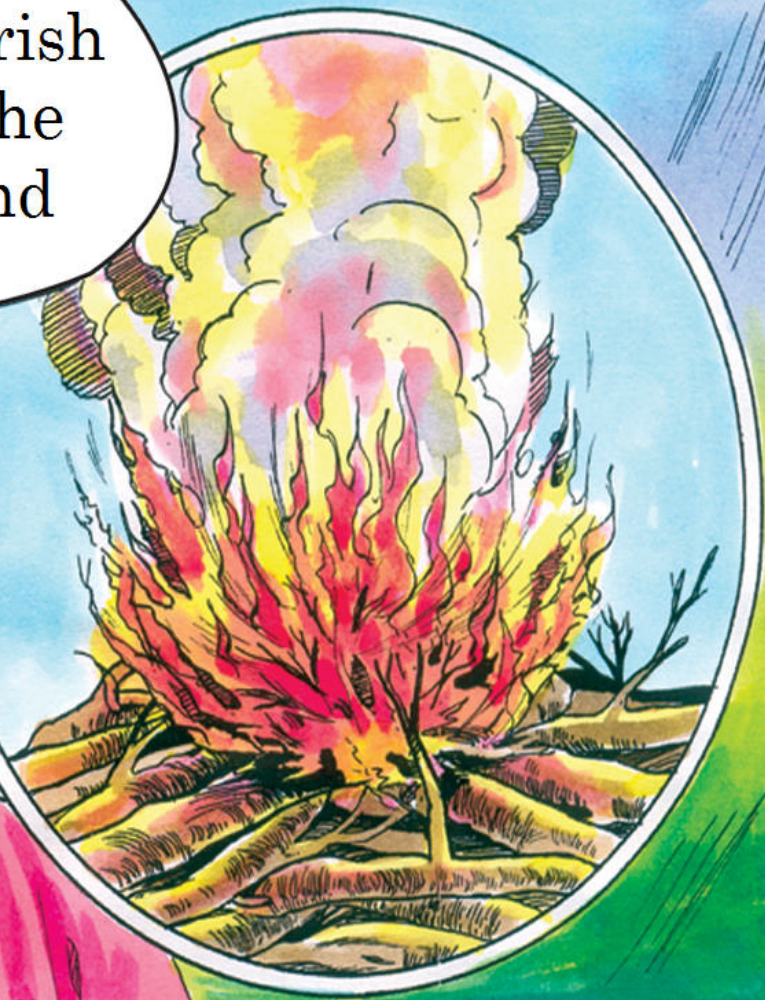
Don't be so put out.
Why do you become
so angry with God?



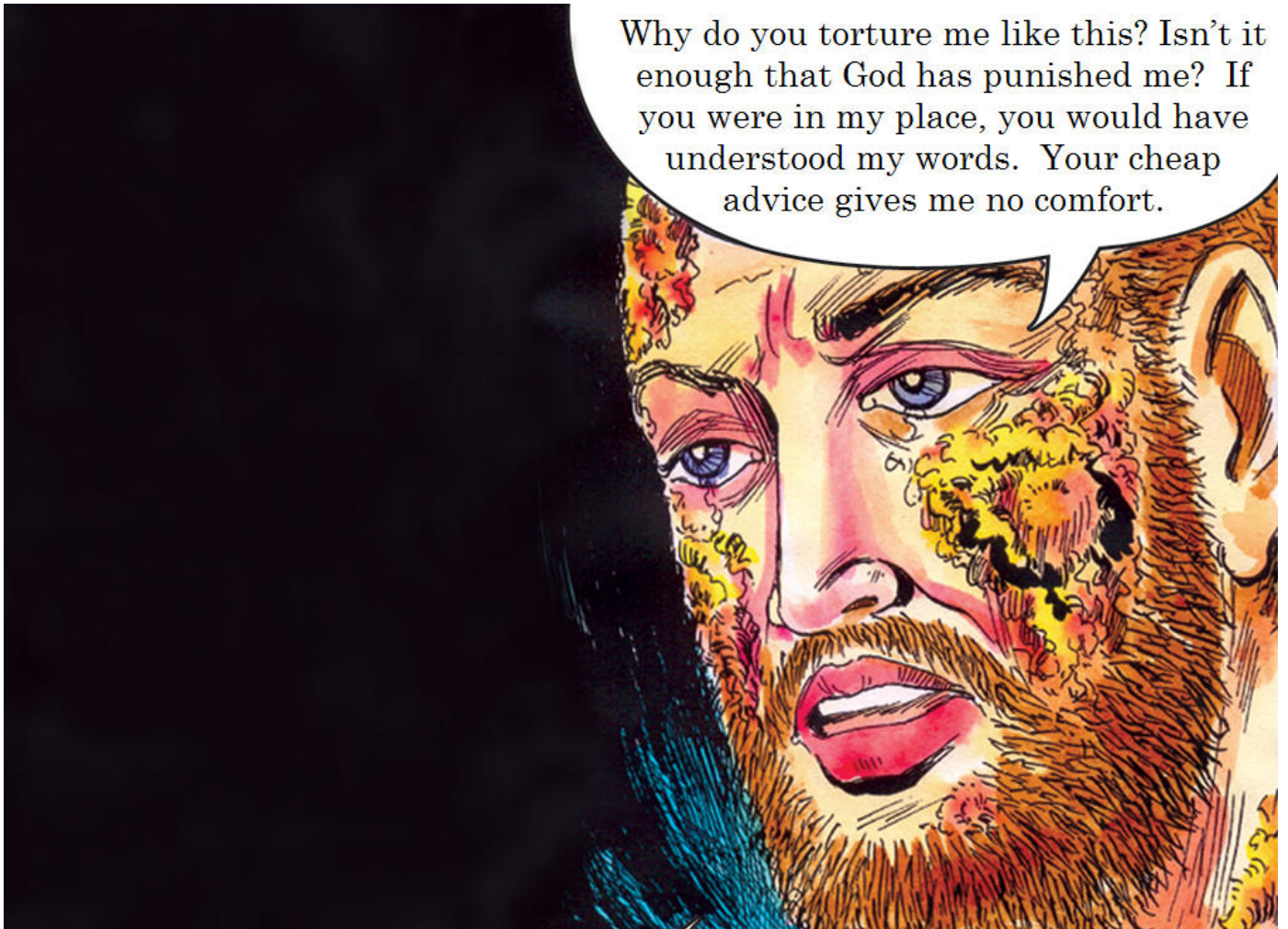
You have no fear of God.
Can any man claim to be
just before Him?



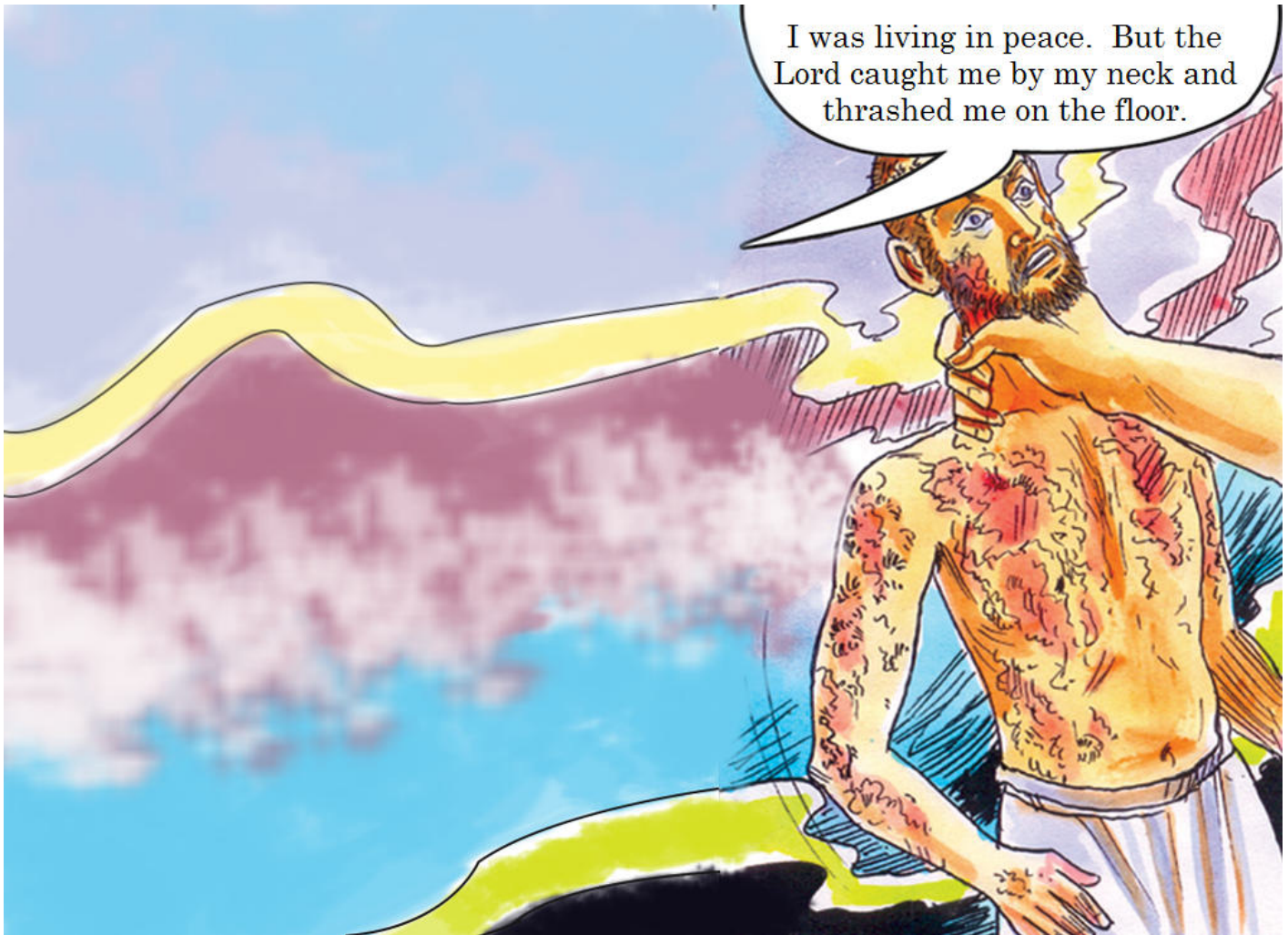
The wicked will perish
like dry wood in the
fire. So repent and
return to God.



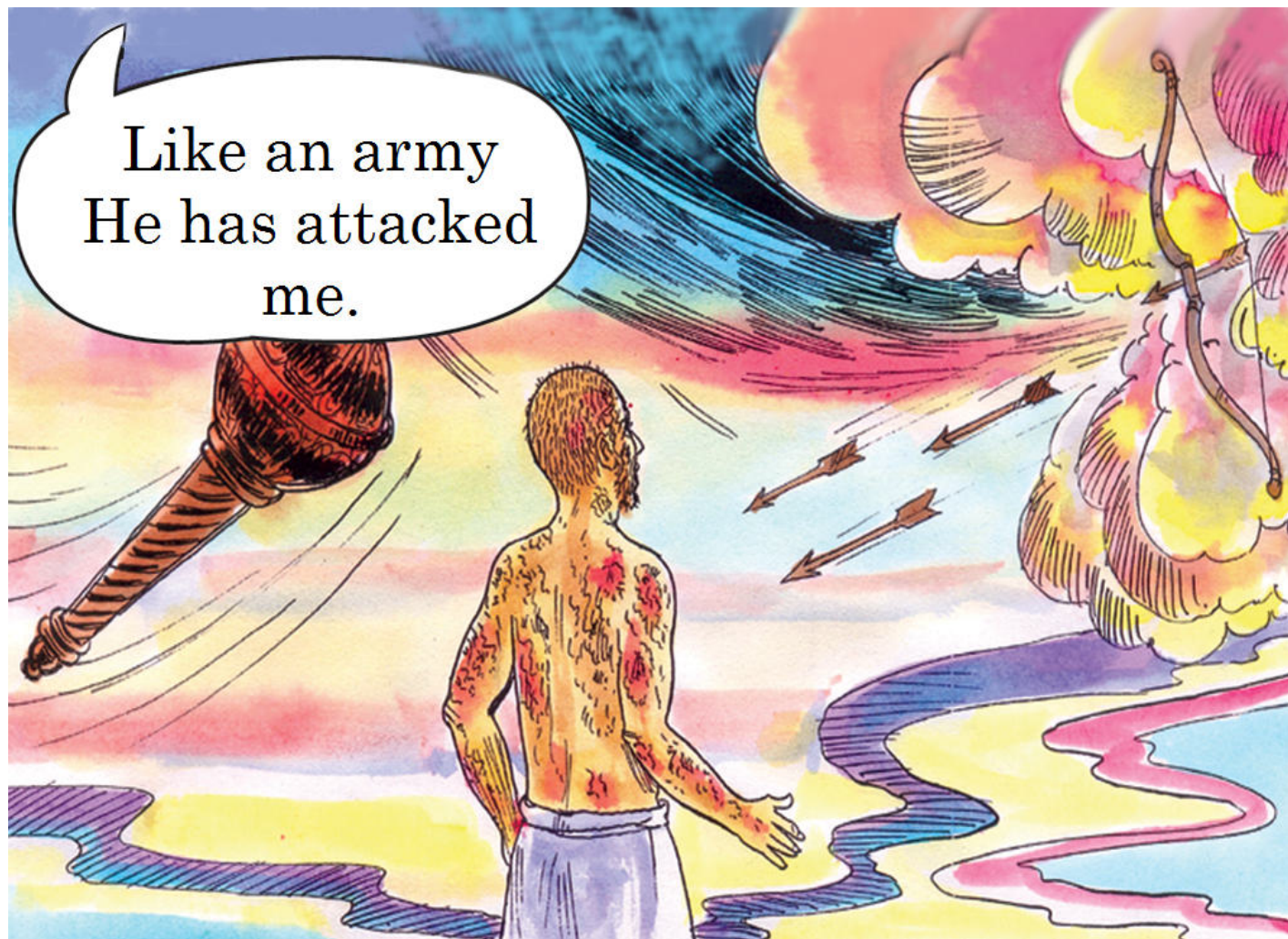
Why do you torture me like this? Isn't it enough that God has punished me? If you were in my place, you would have understood my words. Your cheap advice gives me no comfort.



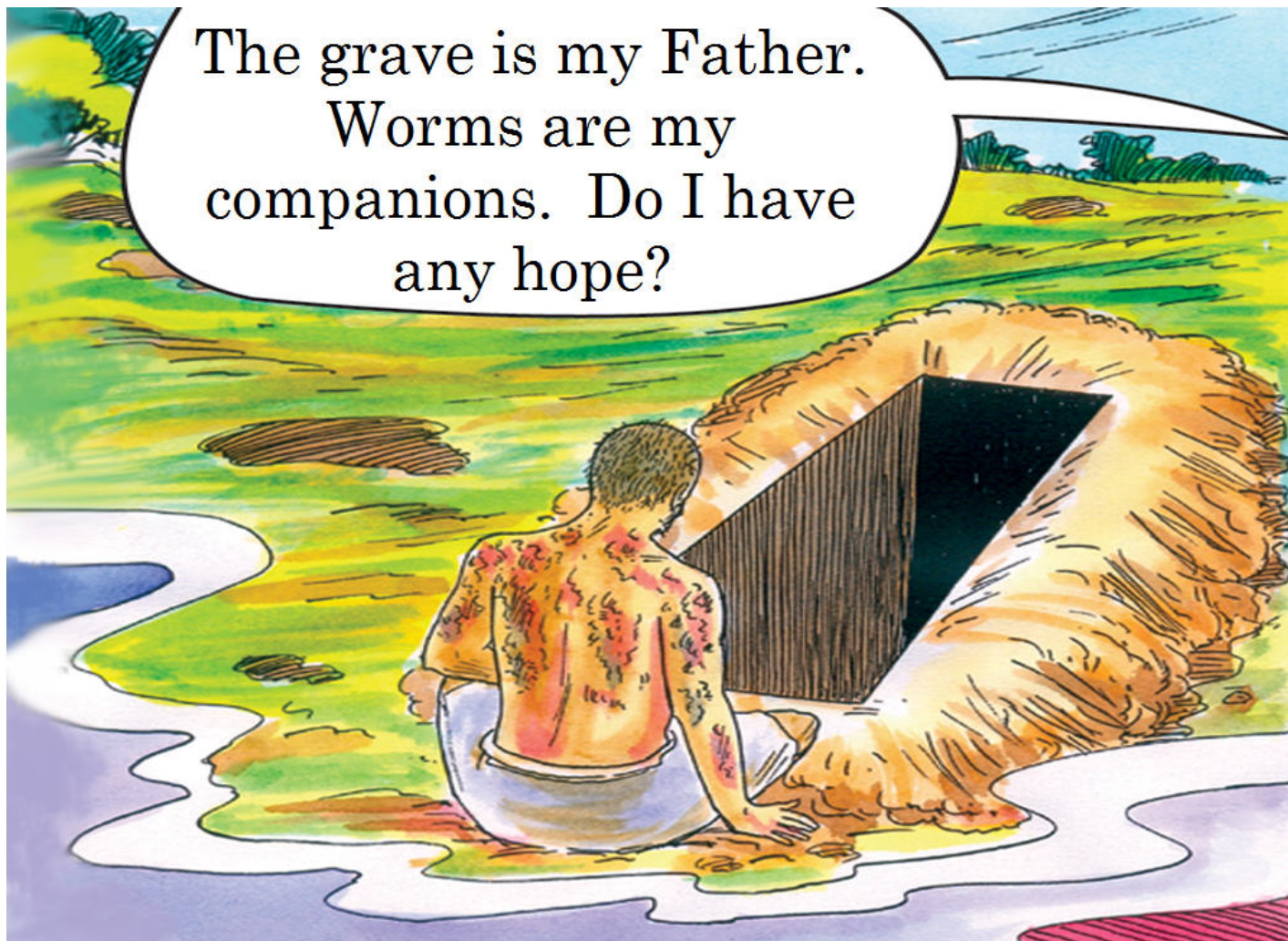
I was living in peace. But the Lord caught me by my neck and thrashed me on the floor.



Like an army
He has attacked
me.



The grave is my Father.
Worms are my
companions. Do I have
any hope?



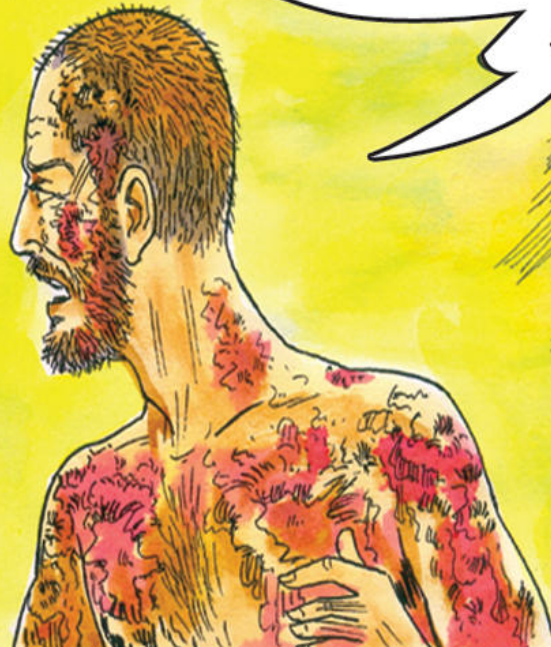
Let my tears
plea for me
before God.

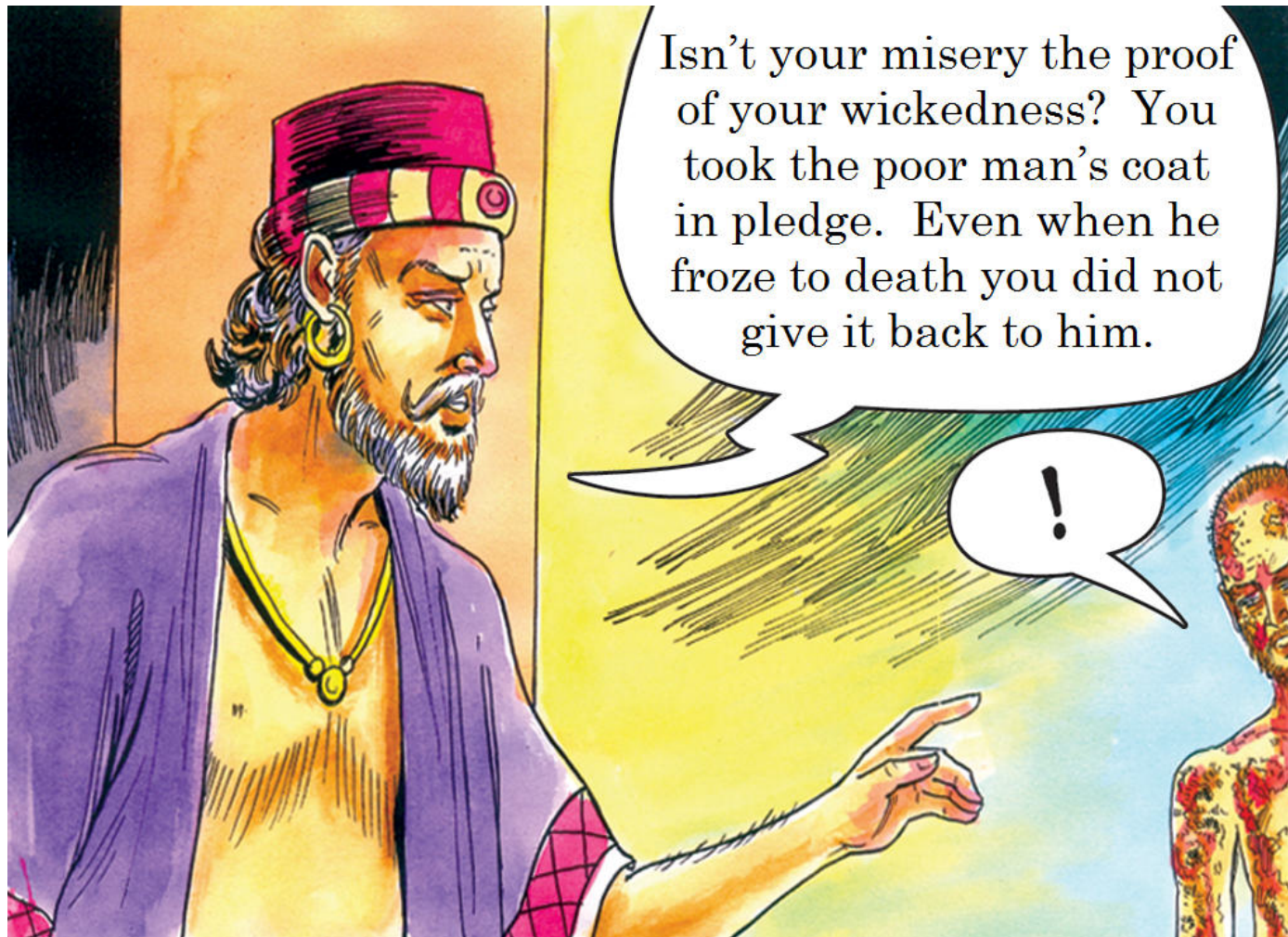


Shed the tears
thinking of
your sins!



I told you a hundred
times that I have done
nothing wrong. Not even
you, my friends, are
willing to understand me.





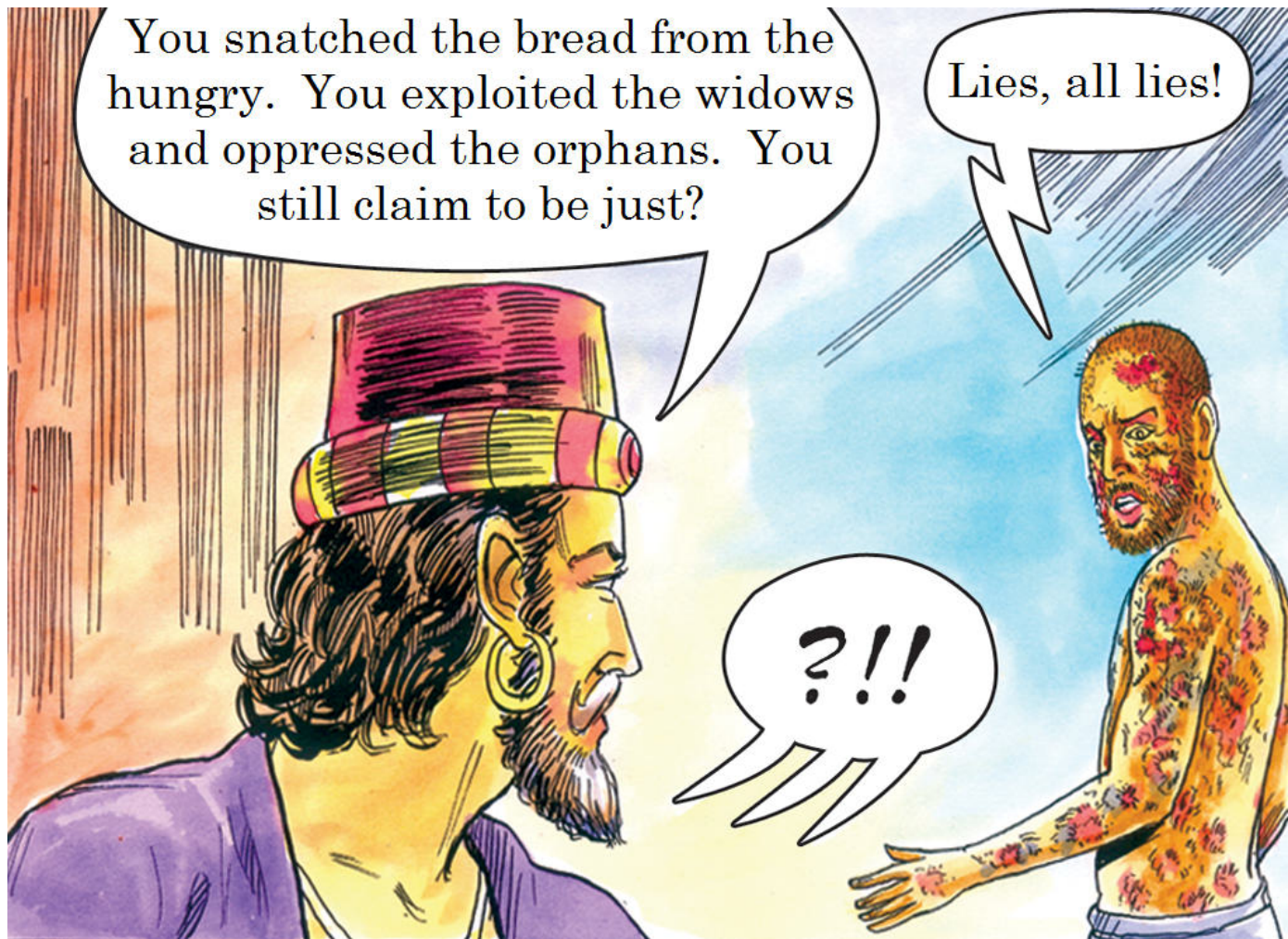
Isn't your misery the proof of your wickedness? You took the poor man's coat in pledge. Even when he froze to death you did not give it back to him.

!

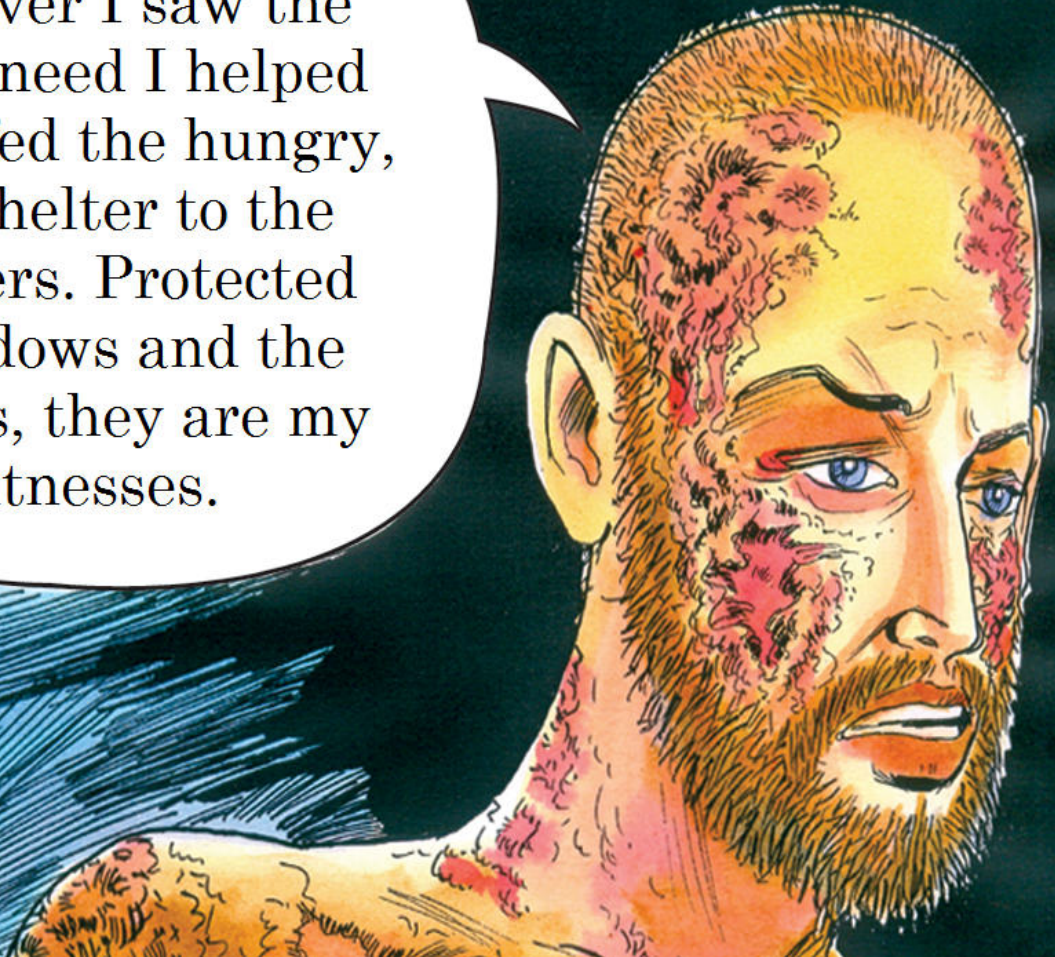
You snatched the bread from the hungry. You exploited the widows and oppressed the orphans. You still claim to be just?

Lies, all lies!

?!!



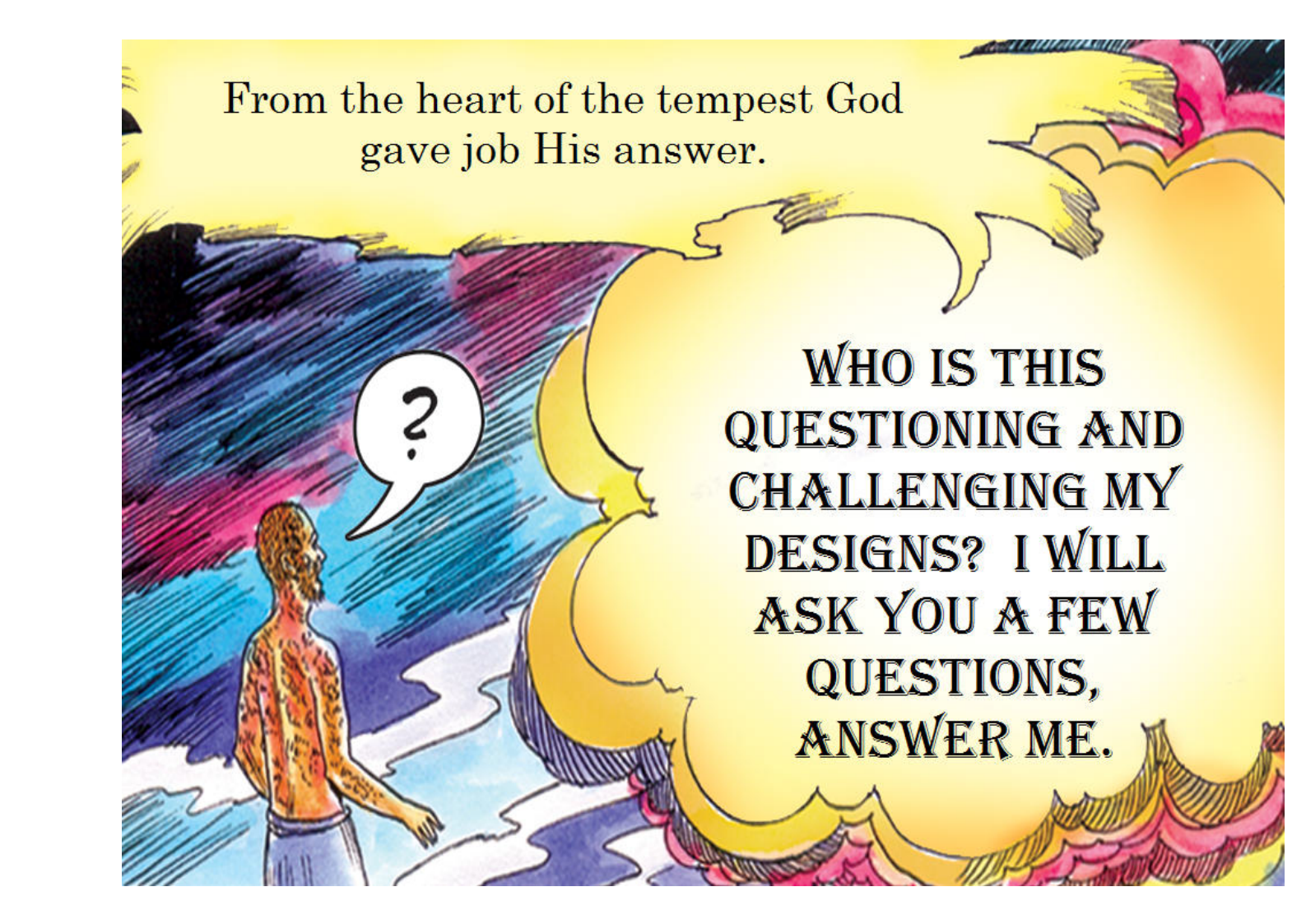
Whenever I saw the poor in need I helped them. I fed the hungry, gave shelter to the strangers. Protected the widows and the orphans, they are my witnesses.





I want to present my case before God. It is He who crushes me. So, let Him come down and answer me.

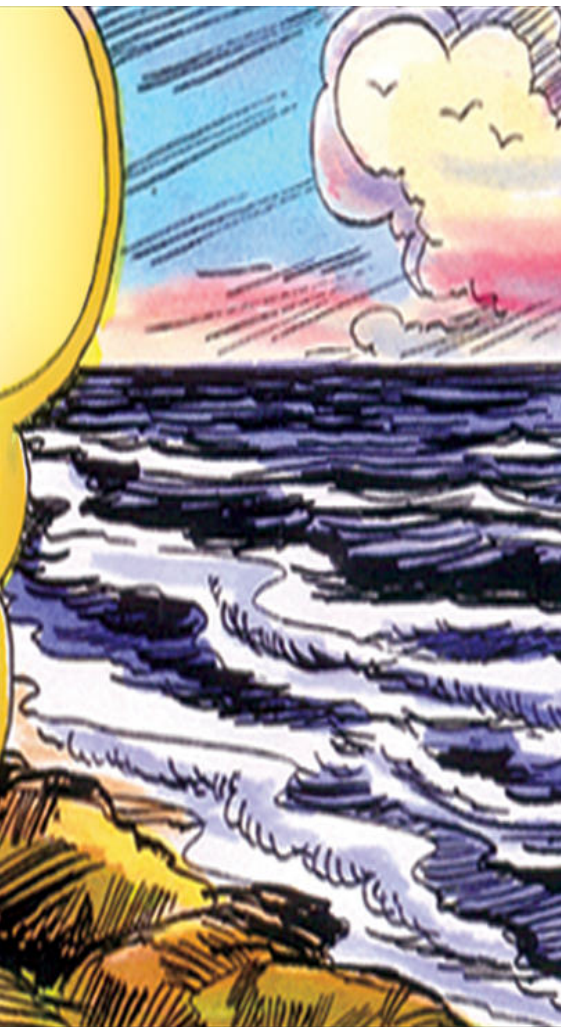


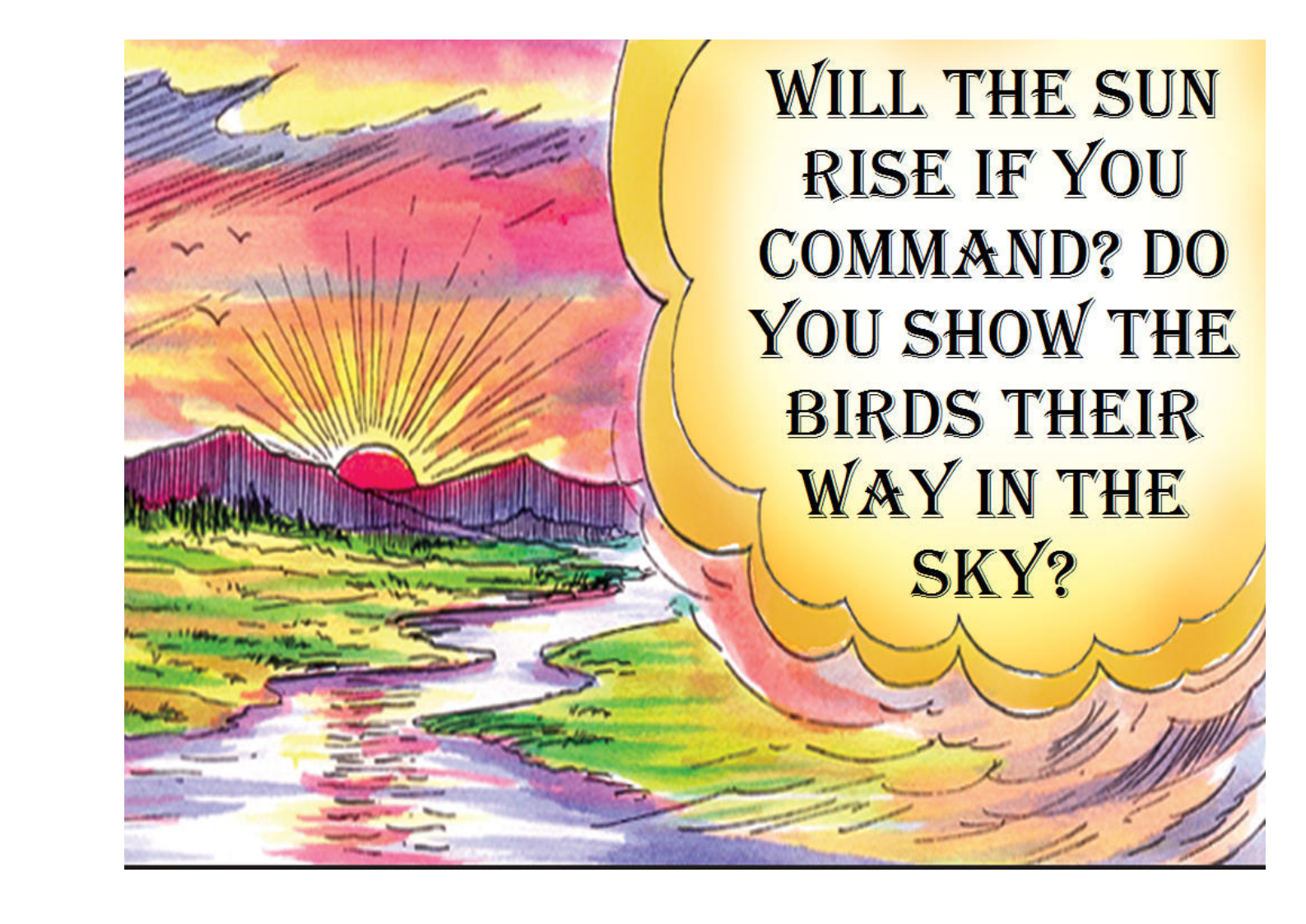


From the heart of the tempest God
gave job His answer.

**WHO IS THIS
QUESTIONING AND
CHALLENGING MY
DESIGNS? I WILL
ASK YOU A FEW
QUESTIONS,
ANSWER ME.**

WHERE WERE
YOU WHEN I LAID
THE
FOUNDATIONS OF
THE EARTH?
WHO SET THE
LIMITS FOR THE
SEA?





**WILL THE SUN
RISE IF YOU
COMMAND? DO
YOU SHOW THE
BIRDS THEIR
WAY IN THE
SKY?**

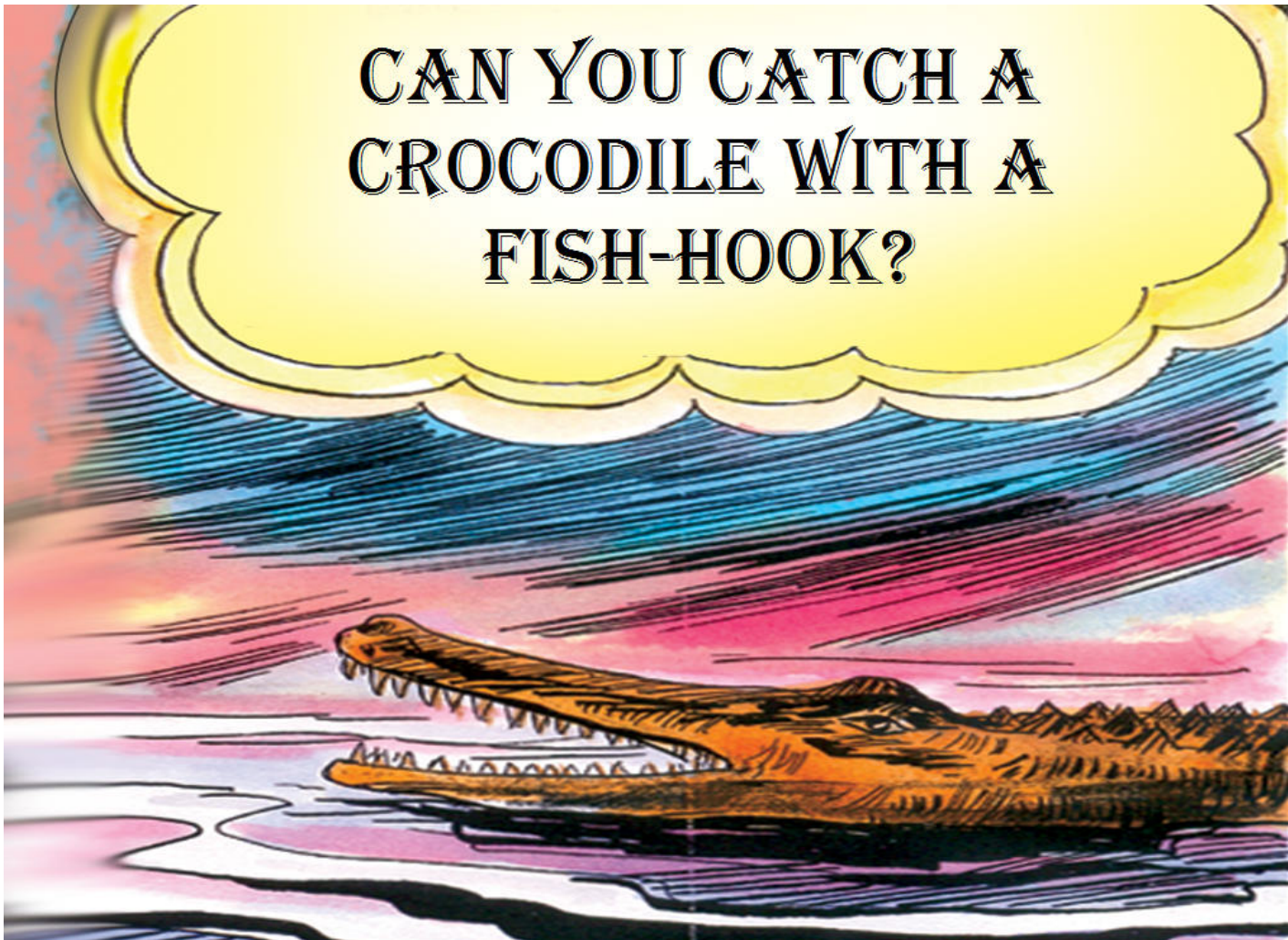
DO YOU KNOW THE DEPTH OF THE SEA AND THE WIDTH OF THE EARTH? DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY STARS ARE IN THE SKY? HAVE YOU SEEN THE HOUSE OF DARKNESS AND THE SOURCE OF LIGHT?

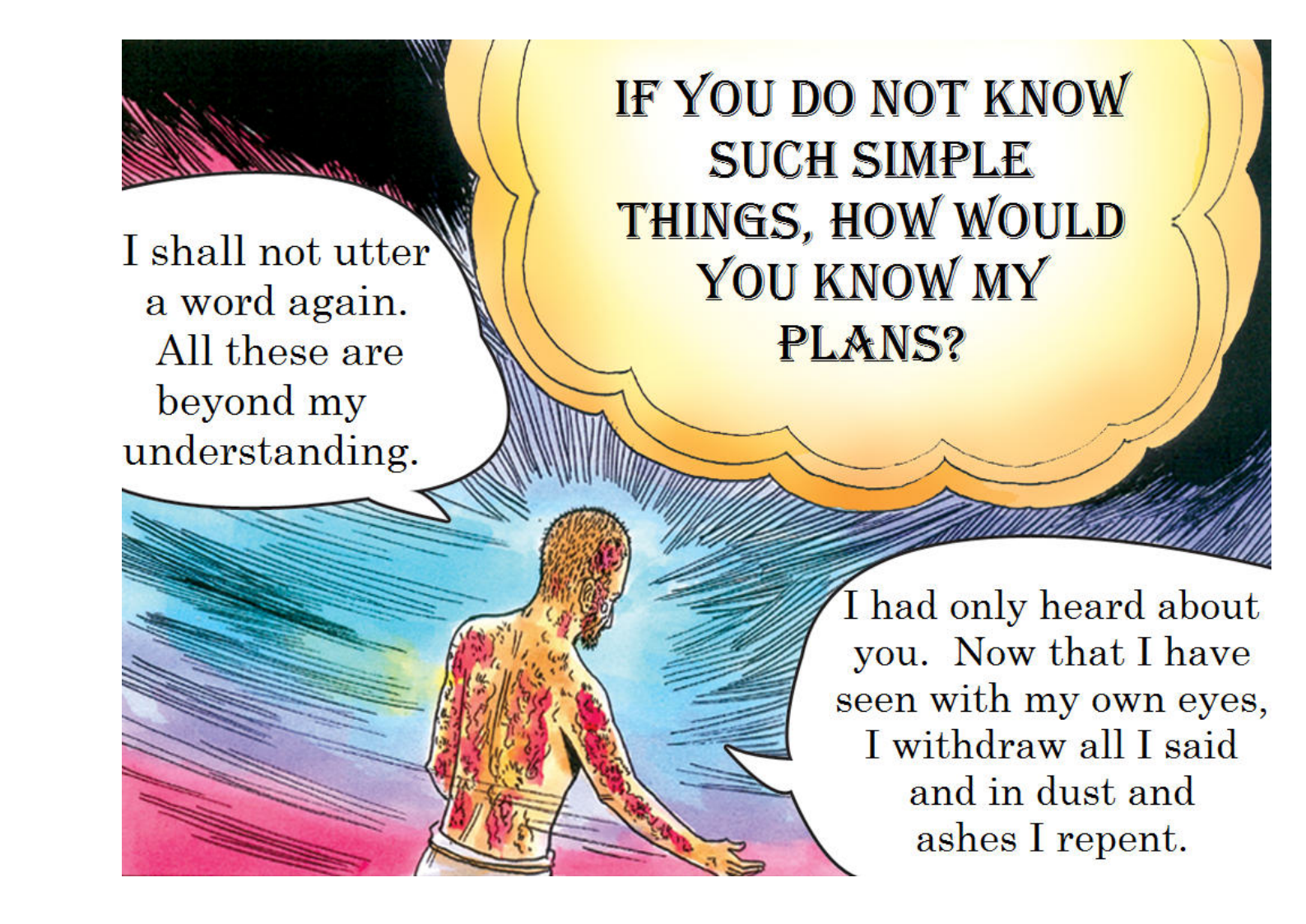


TELL ME WHO GAVE
STRENGTH TO THE
HORSE?



**CAN YOU CATCH A
CROCODILE WITH A
FISH-HOOK?**





I shall not utter
a word again.
All these are
beyond my
understanding.

**IF YOU DO NOT KNOW
SUCH SIMPLE
THINGS, HOW WOULD
YOU KNOW MY
PLANS?**

I had only heard about
you. Now that I have
seen with my own eyes,
I withdraw all I said
and in dust and
ashes I repent.

I WAS TESTING JOB'S
FAITH. HE PROVED TO
BE FAITHFUL. YOU
REPENT AND DO
PENANCE FOR NOT
SPEAKING
TRUTHFULLY
ABOUT ME.



Immediately Job's health was restored.

Brother, kindly forgive us and pray to God for us.

!



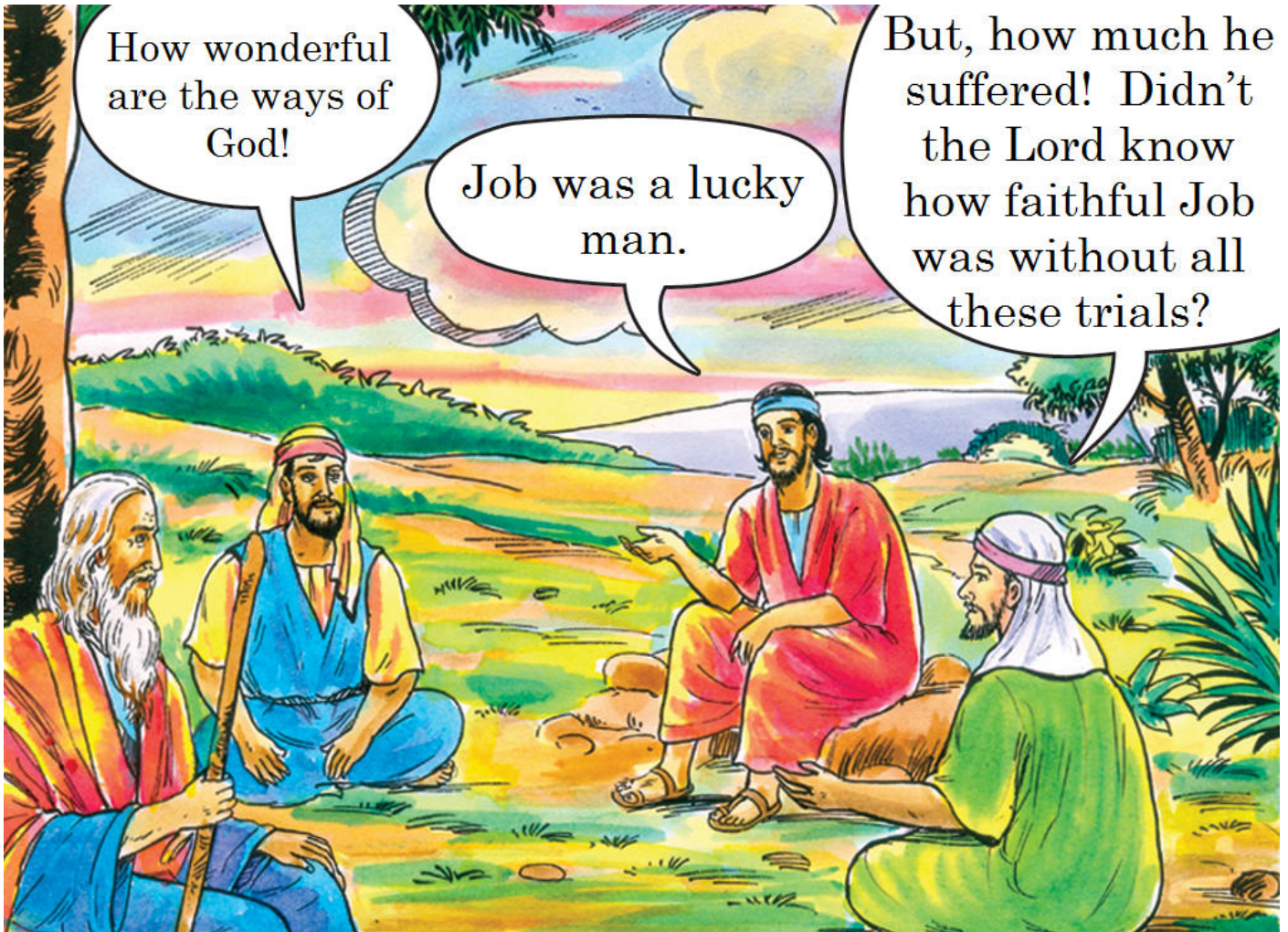
God restored Job's fortunes. He was blessed with many children and a long life to see his descendants for many generations.



How wonderful
are the ways of
God!

Job was a lucky
man.

But, how much he
suffered! Didn't
the Lord know
how faithful Job
was without all
these trials?



The Lord knew
but he wanted to
give Job an
opportunity to
prove his fidelity.

Though he got
many children,
the ones who
died didn't
come back!

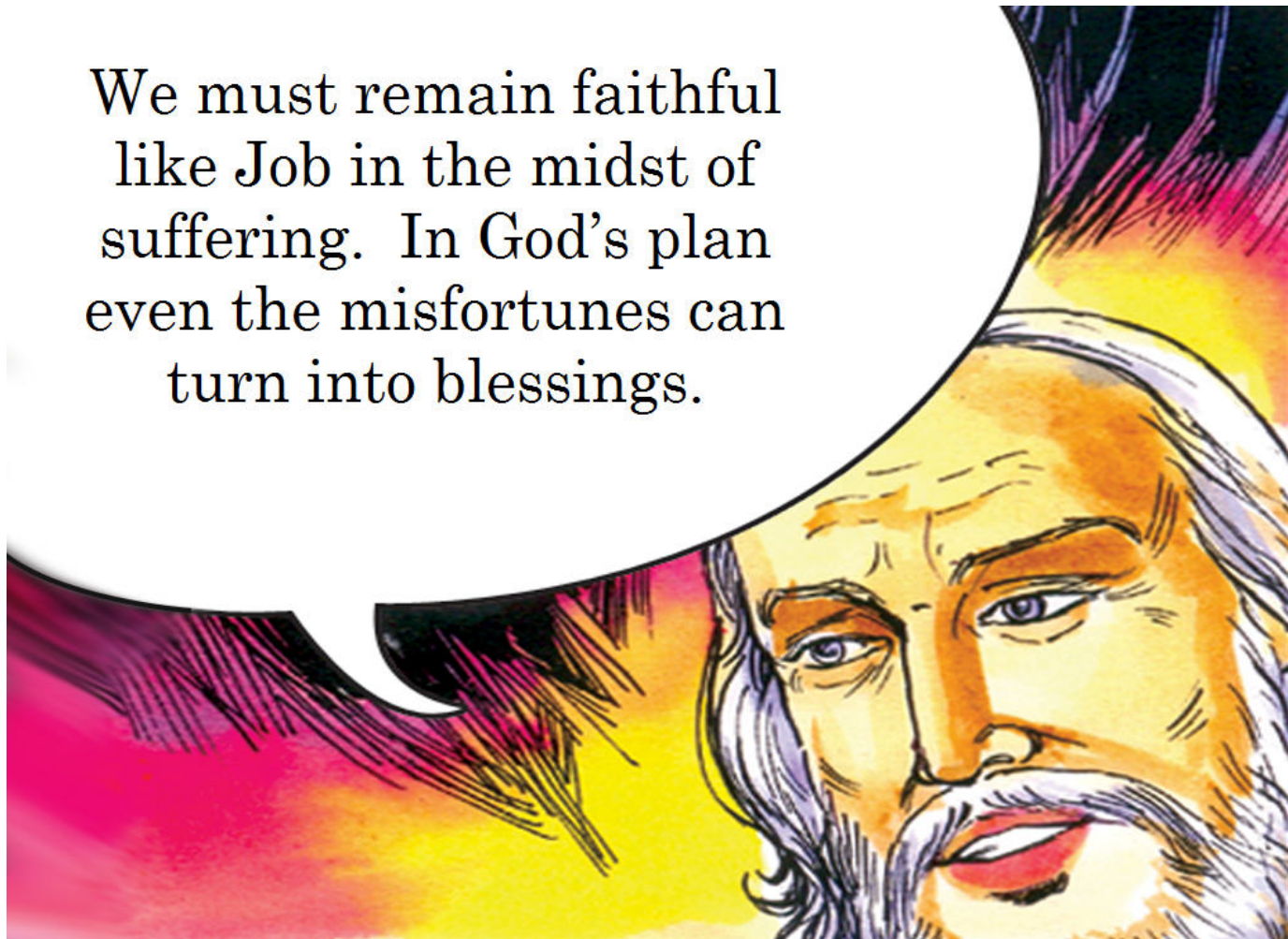
What about the
people who do
not have such a
happy ending?

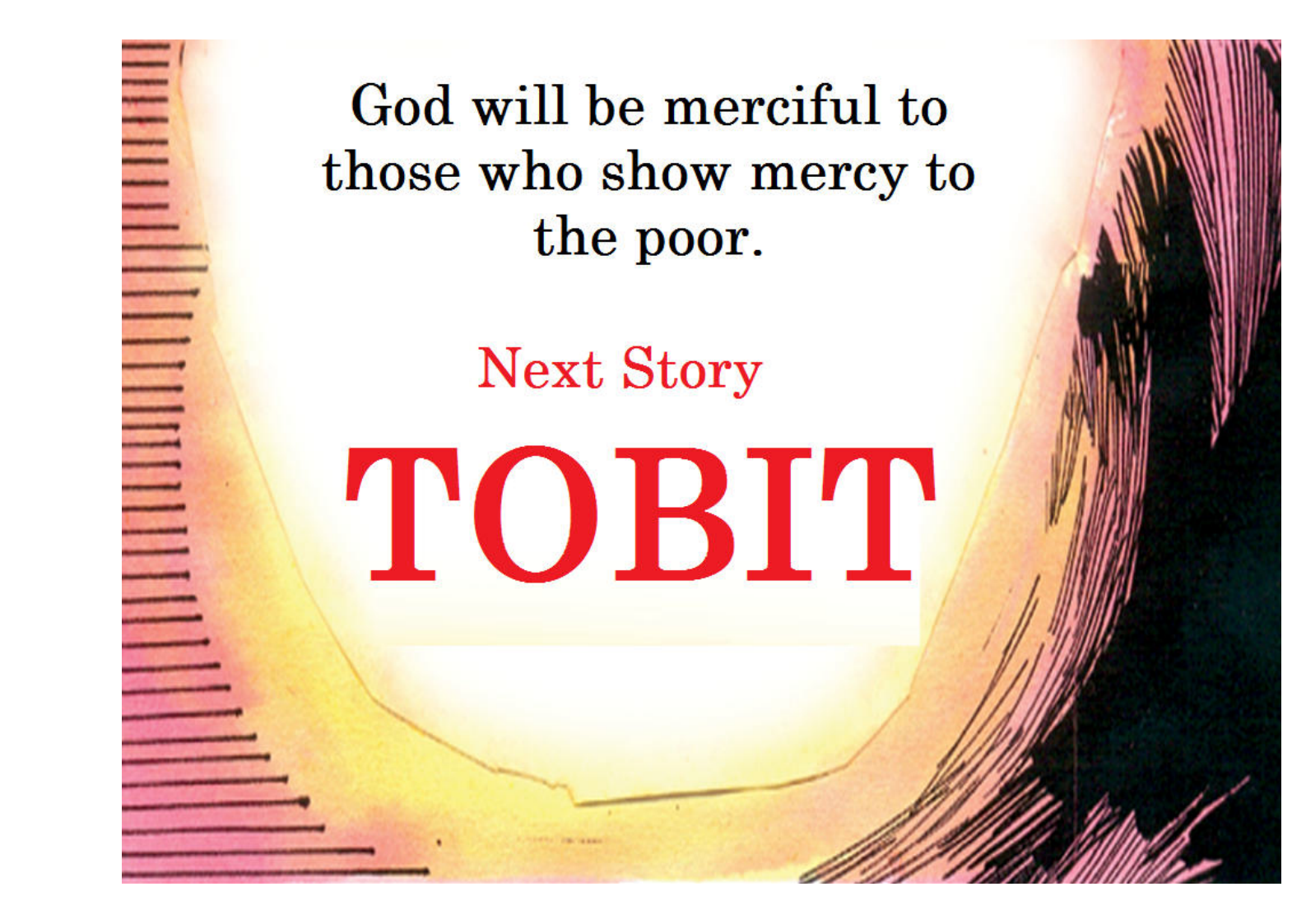


You still do not understand.
What do we know about God's
plans?



We must remain faithful
like Job in the midst of
suffering. In God's plan
even the misfortunes can
turn into blessings.





God will be merciful to
those who show mercy to
the poor.

Next Story

TOBIT

QUESTIONS

1. What is the main theme of the book of Job?
2. When Job lost everything, what did his wife say to him?
3. Name the three friends who came to visit Job.
4. According to them what was the reason for Job's suffering?
5. How did they explain Job's desire to die?
6. What was their advice to Job?
7. In the story what proof do you find for Job's innocence?
8. Why did Job become silent when he heard the voice of God?
9. How did God explain Job's suffering?
10. How does the New Testament explain the suffering of the just?

Memorize: *The Lord gave, the Lord has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the Lord (Job 1: 121).*

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