

Bible Comics - 24

# TOBIT



Bible Comics - 24

# Tobit

Script

Rev. Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration

Benny

# TOBIT

The age of the prophets came to an end in Israel by the end of the Babylonian captivity. Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi were only weak imitators of the earlier prophets. As reported by the Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus, it was the general belief among the Jews that by B.C. 450, the spirit of prophecy was extinguished in Israel. After that time the Priests and the Scribes took over the leadership. Their style was quite different from that of the prophets who had

confronted the whole nation with denunciation of their crimes, announcement of impending judgment, and urgent call for repentance. The later leaders however, concentrated their whole attention on interpreting the truth revealed through the prophets and implementing the law scrupulously and with extreme severity.

Besides interpreting and applying the law to concrete situations, they gave rise to a number of inspiring stories like Tobit, Esther and Judith. The purpose of these stories was to deepen the faith of

the people and to enable them to draw strength from their faith in the Lord, in times of difficulties. The book of Tobit, the source of the present story, was written towards the end of the third century B.C. and it is not accepted by all as part of the Bible. The Council of Trent in 1546 officially decided to include it among the inspired books. However, the Protestant Churches consider it as an “apocryphal” book, meaning a book that is to be used only for edification, and not for confirming the dogmas of the Church.

Tobit is a model of unwavering faith, unselfish love, and great respect for the dead. He did not hesitate to risk his life in order to bury the bodies of Jews killed by the soldiers. Even in the midst of the most crucial trials, he turned to the Lord with childlike trust. He firmly believed that God would not abandon those who depend on Him. Poverty, sickness, threat to his life, persuasion by friends, none of these could shake his trust in God. “Tobit” is the Greek form of the Hebrew name “Tobiah”, which means “Goodness

of Yahweh.” “Tobias” also has the same meaning.

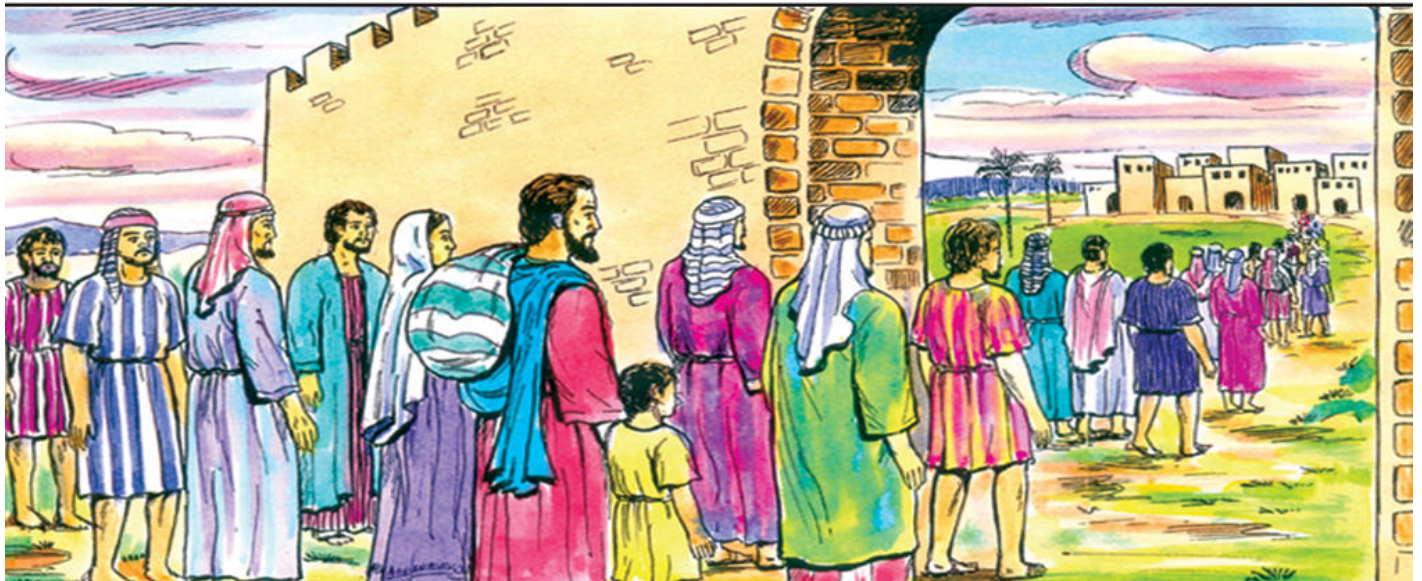
From a merely human point of view, Sarah who had lost seven husbands should have been in the depth of despair. But, hoping against hope, she prayed to the Lord God who listens to the cry of the innocent. God saved Tobit and Sarah and blessed them beyond all expectations. The advice Tobit and Raguel give to their children is a lesson for all the parents who must bring up their children in the fear of God and instill in them the

love for the poor. Tobias' devotion to his parents is a model for all children.

In the book of Tobit we can see the beginning of the concept of the "Guardian angel". "Raphael" which means "God heals", is the embodiment of God's care and concern for each and every human being. It proclaims the goodness of the Lord and inspires us to trust in Him.



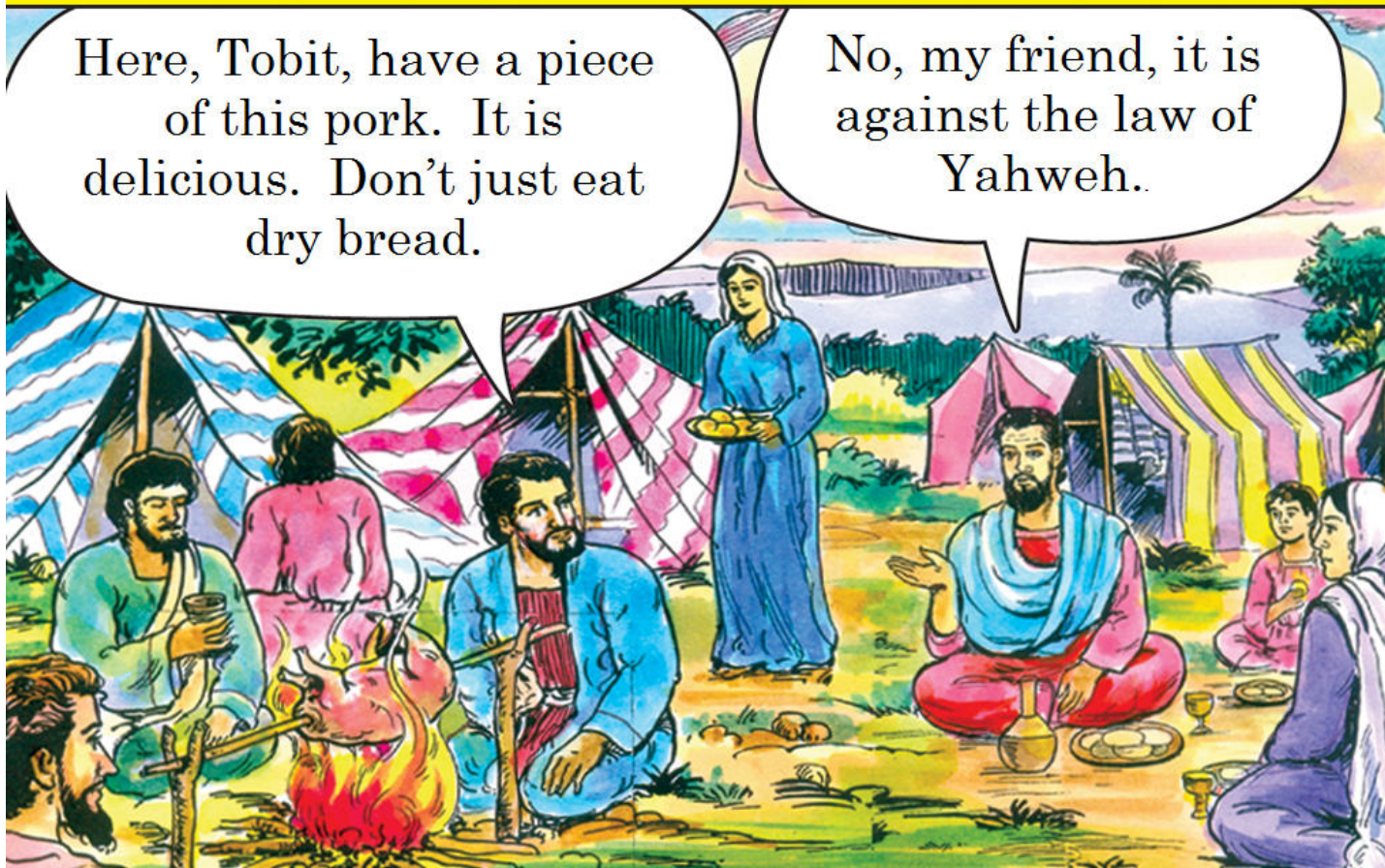
In the village of Thisbe, the native place of Elijah, there lived a man named Tobit. He lived with his wife Anna and his son Tobias. They belonged to the tribe of Naphtali. Tobit was a man of faith and lived according to the laws of Yahweh. Shalmaneser, King of Assyria (B.C. 726-722) attacked Israel and captured a number of Israelites and took them to Nineveh, his capital. The family of Tobit was among the captives.



The exiled Israelis settled in the vicinity of Nineveh.

Here, Tobit, have a piece of this pork. It is delicious. Don't just eat dry bread.

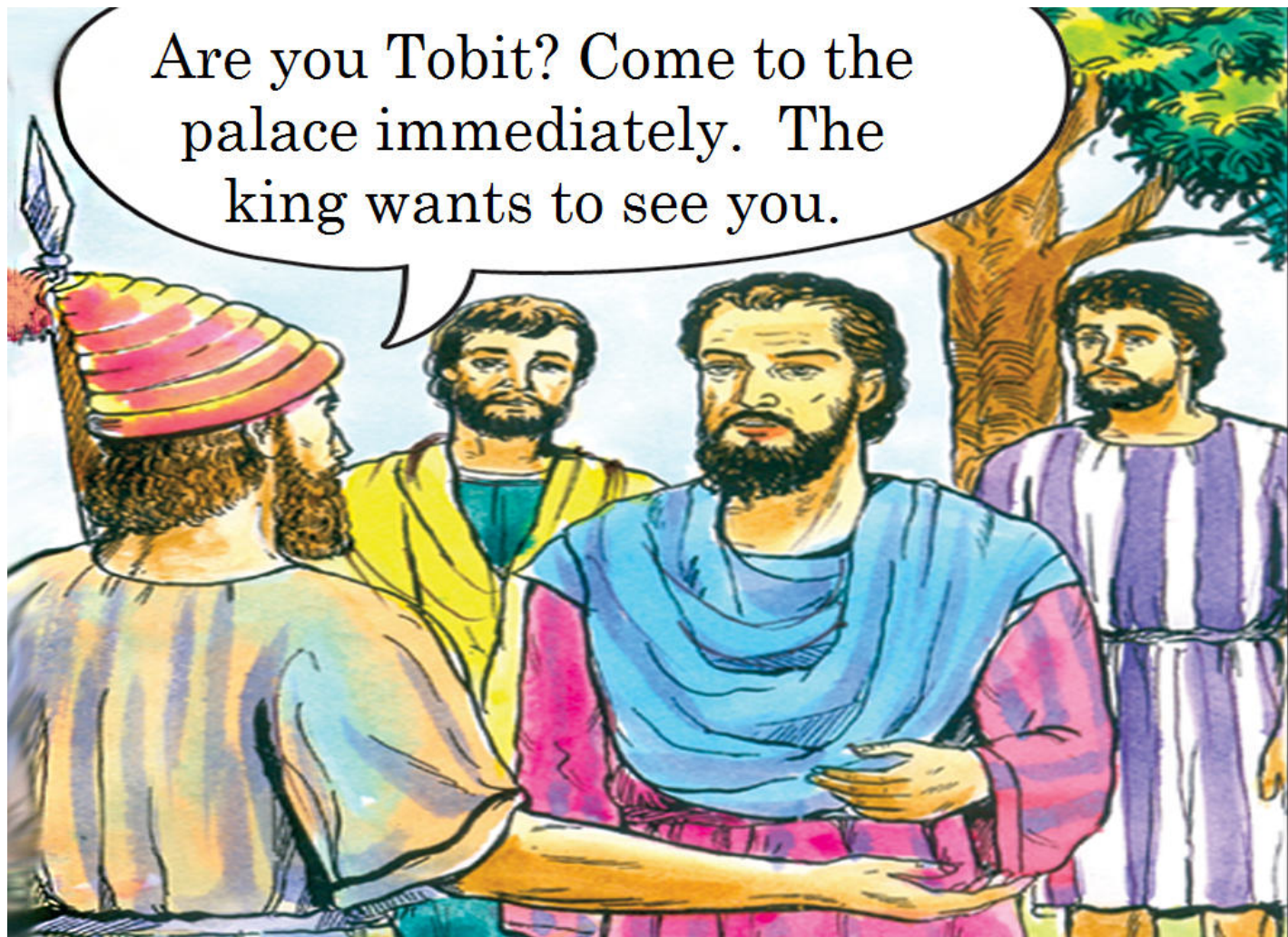
No, my friend, it is against the law of Yahweh.



You and your laws!  
Yahweh has already  
abandoned us. Now,  
live like the Assyrians.

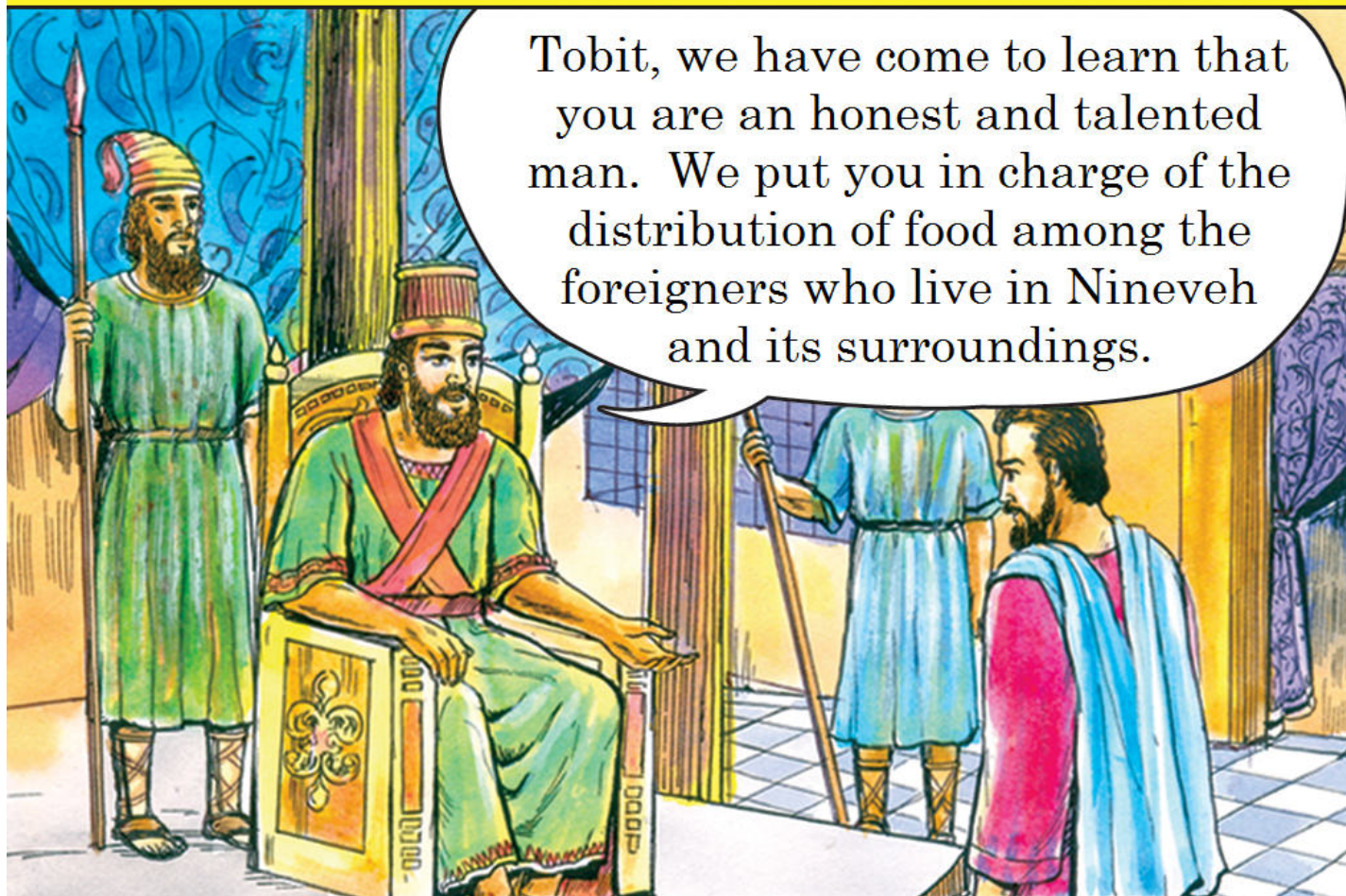


Are you Tobit? Come to the palace immediately. The king wants to see you.



## Tobit before king Shalmaneser.

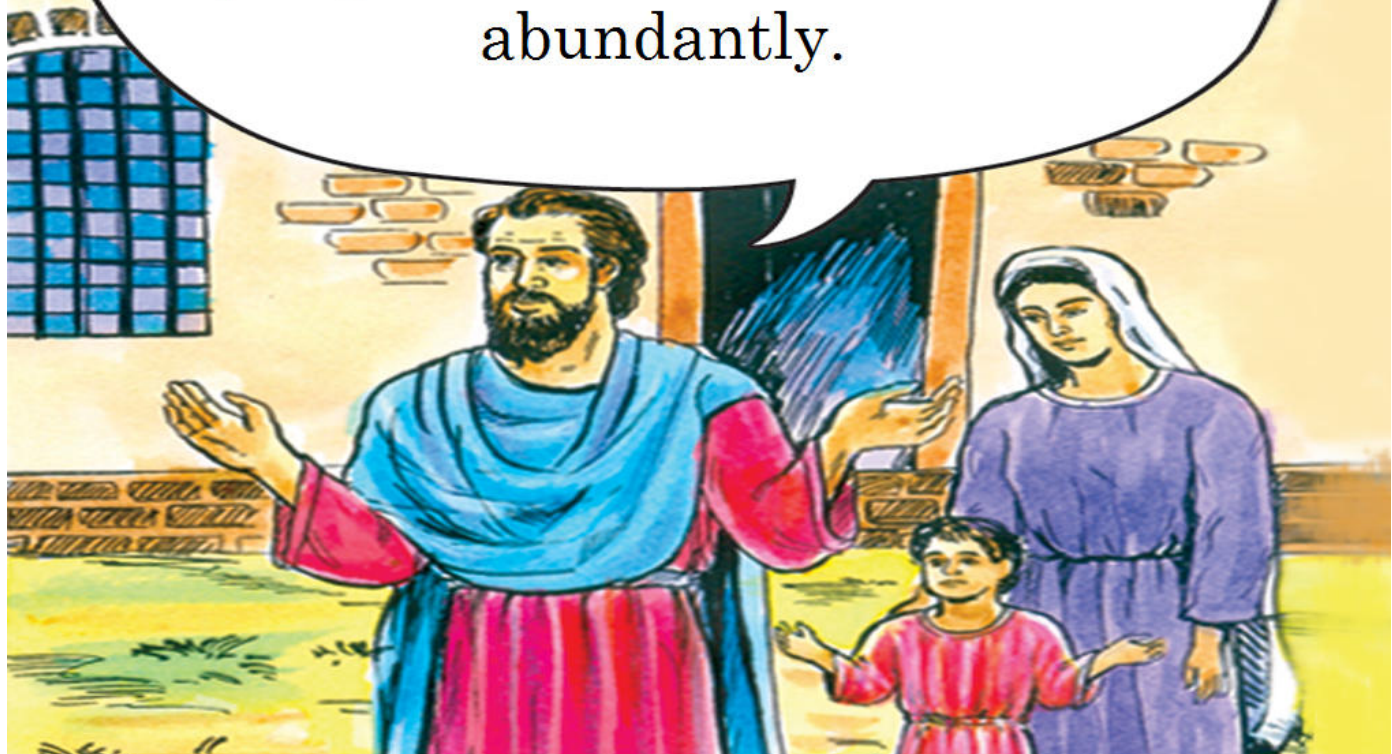
Tobit, we have come to learn that you are an honest and talented man. We put you in charge of the distribution of food among the foreigners who live in Nineveh and its surroundings.



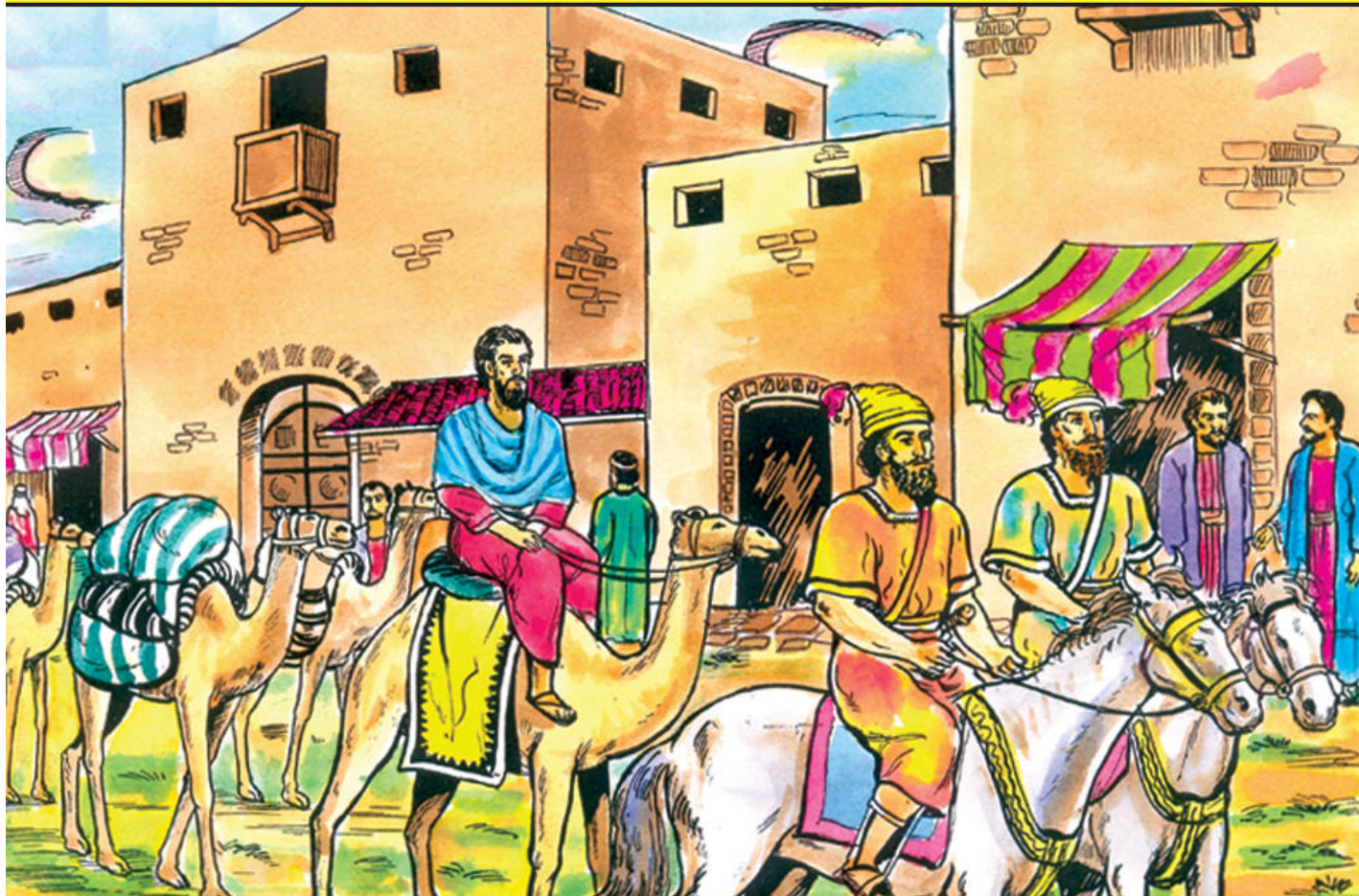
You can buy the goods from  
Media. There will be  
soldiers to protect you. In  
the city you will have a  
house for yourself.



Lord Almighty, praise and glory  
to you. Even in this foreign land  
you protect us and bless us so  
abundantly.



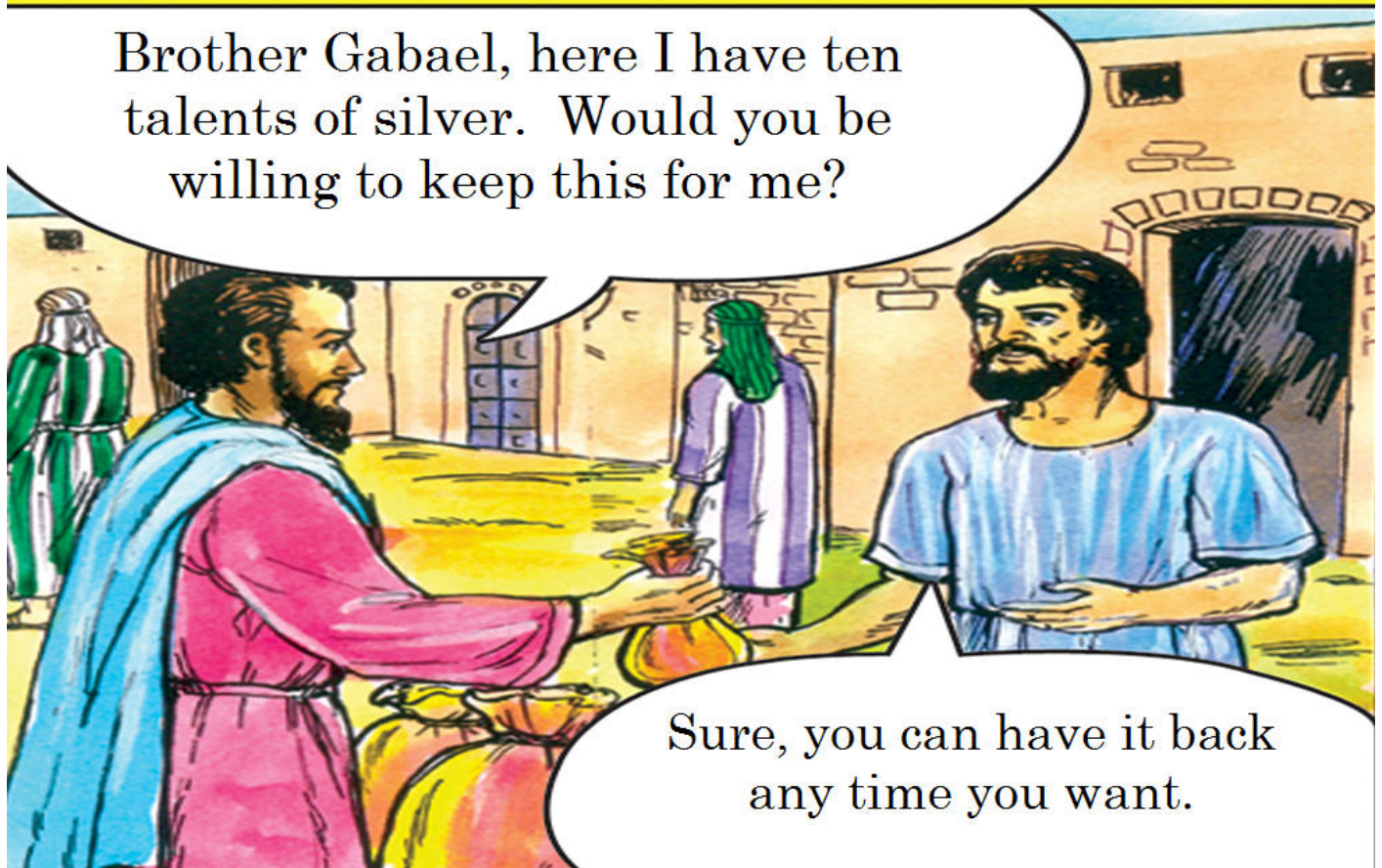
Tobit went to many cities in Media to buy material. He sold it in Nineveh.





Slowly he became rich. One day in Rages, a small town in Media.

Brother Gabael, here I have ten talents of silver. Would you be willing to keep this for me?

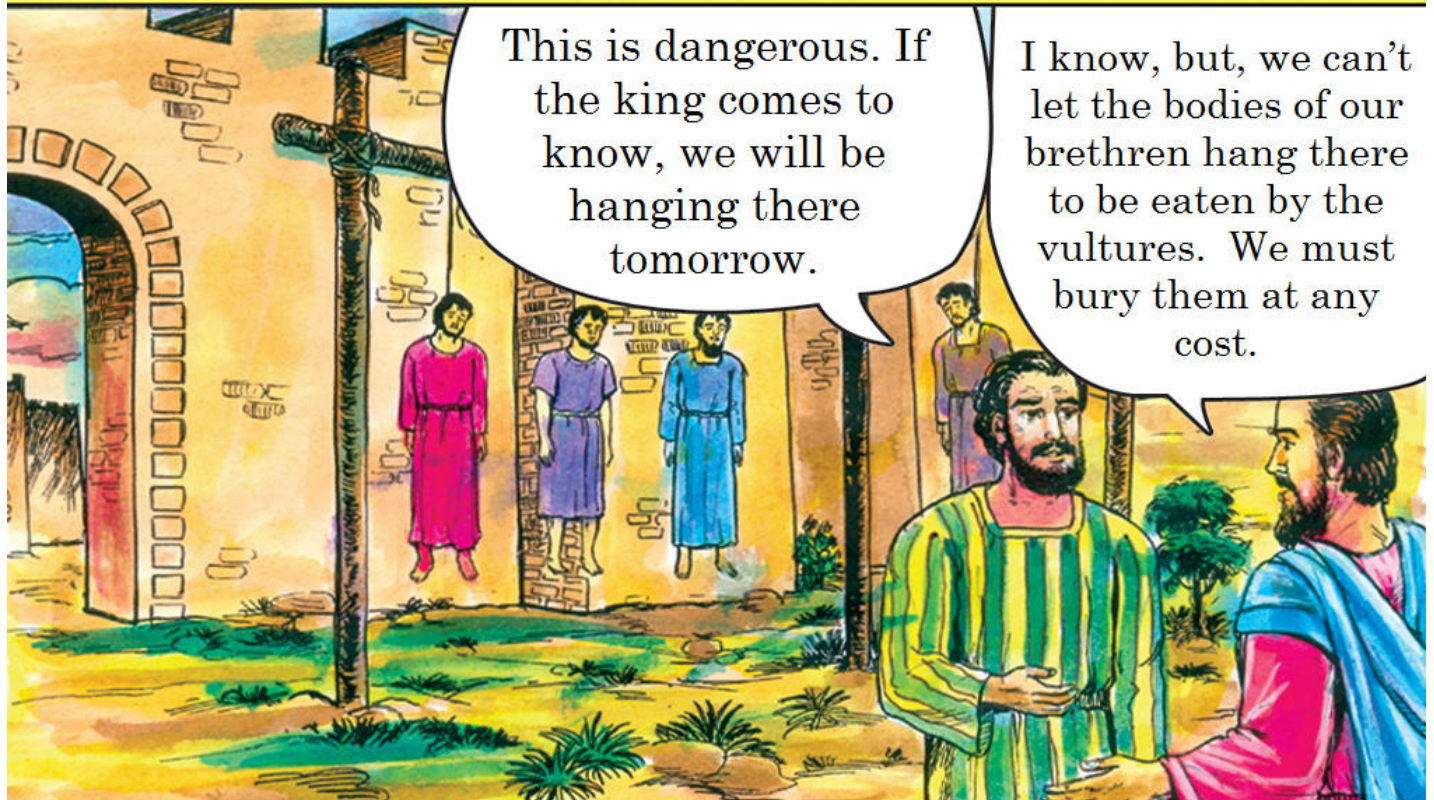


Sure, you can have it back any time you want.



Today I have more than enough. I do not know what will happen tomorrow. Let this be a saving for the future.

Shalmaneser died and Sennacherib became king. Tobit lost his job. Sennacherib was cruel to the Israelites and killed many of them.



The king is already  
suspicious of you.

The Lord will  
protect us.



Anyway, this is my last. Don't call me anymore for this business of burying the dead.

We shouldn't forget that they are our brothers. It is our duty to help them.

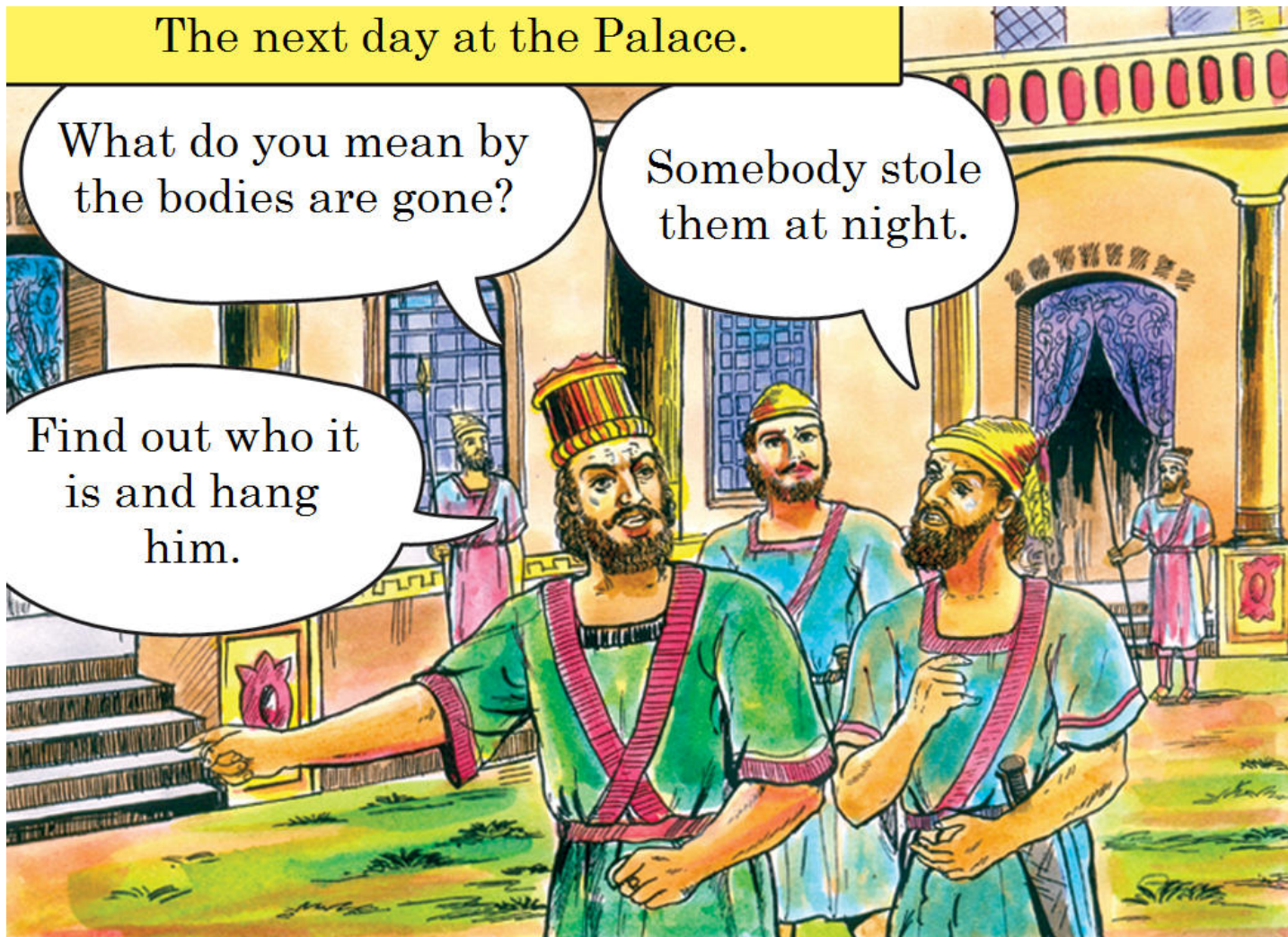


The next day at the Palace.

What do you mean by  
the bodies are gone?

Somebody stole  
them at night.

Find out who it  
is and hang  
him.



Realizing his life was in danger Tobit fled. His property was confiscated.

Mom, where are we going?

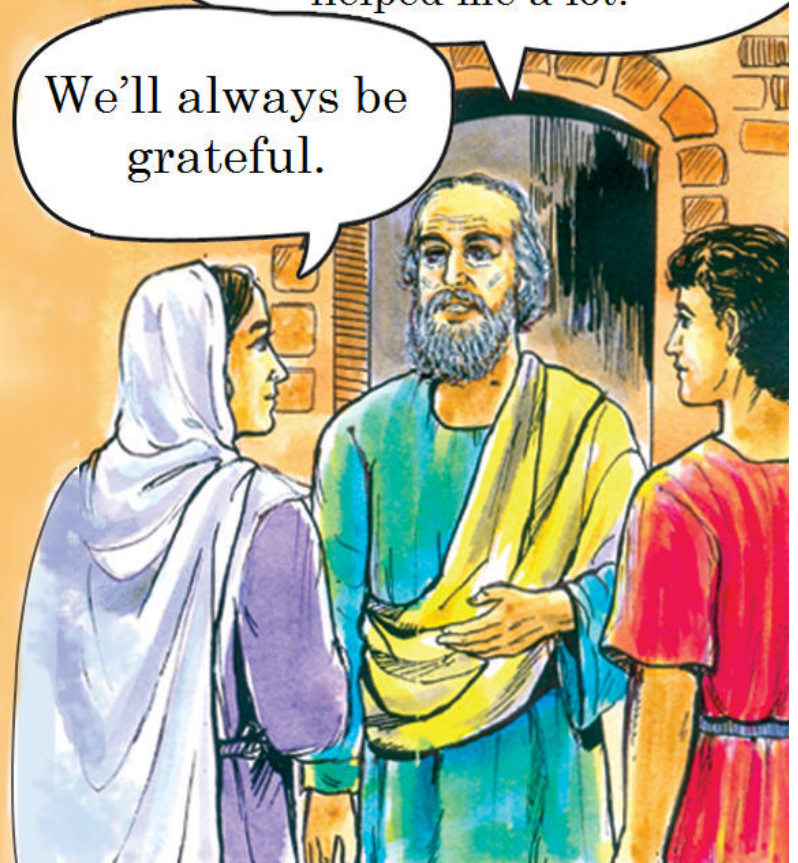
We will work for someone in the village. Let us pray that father will be safe. Lord, look kindly upon us and have mercy on us.



A friend of Tobit gave  
them a house.

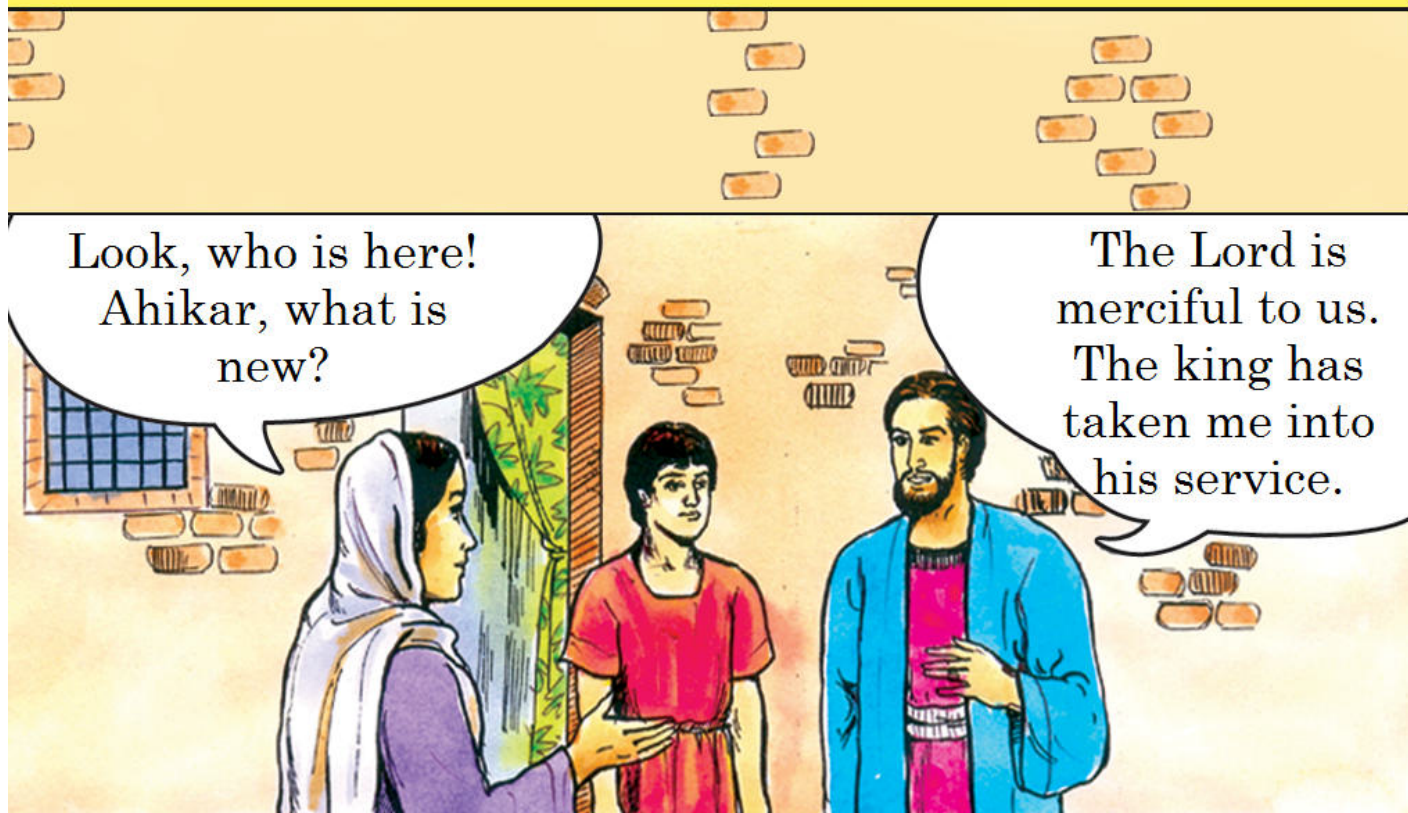
You can have this house,  
when I was in need Tobit had  
helped me a lot.

We'll always be  
grateful.






Before long Sennacherib was assassinated by his sons.  
One of his sons, Esarhaddon became king.



Look, who is here!  
Ahikar, what is  
new?

The Lord is  
merciful to us.  
The king has  
taken me into  
his service.



We still know nothing about him.

I have arranged everything for uncle.

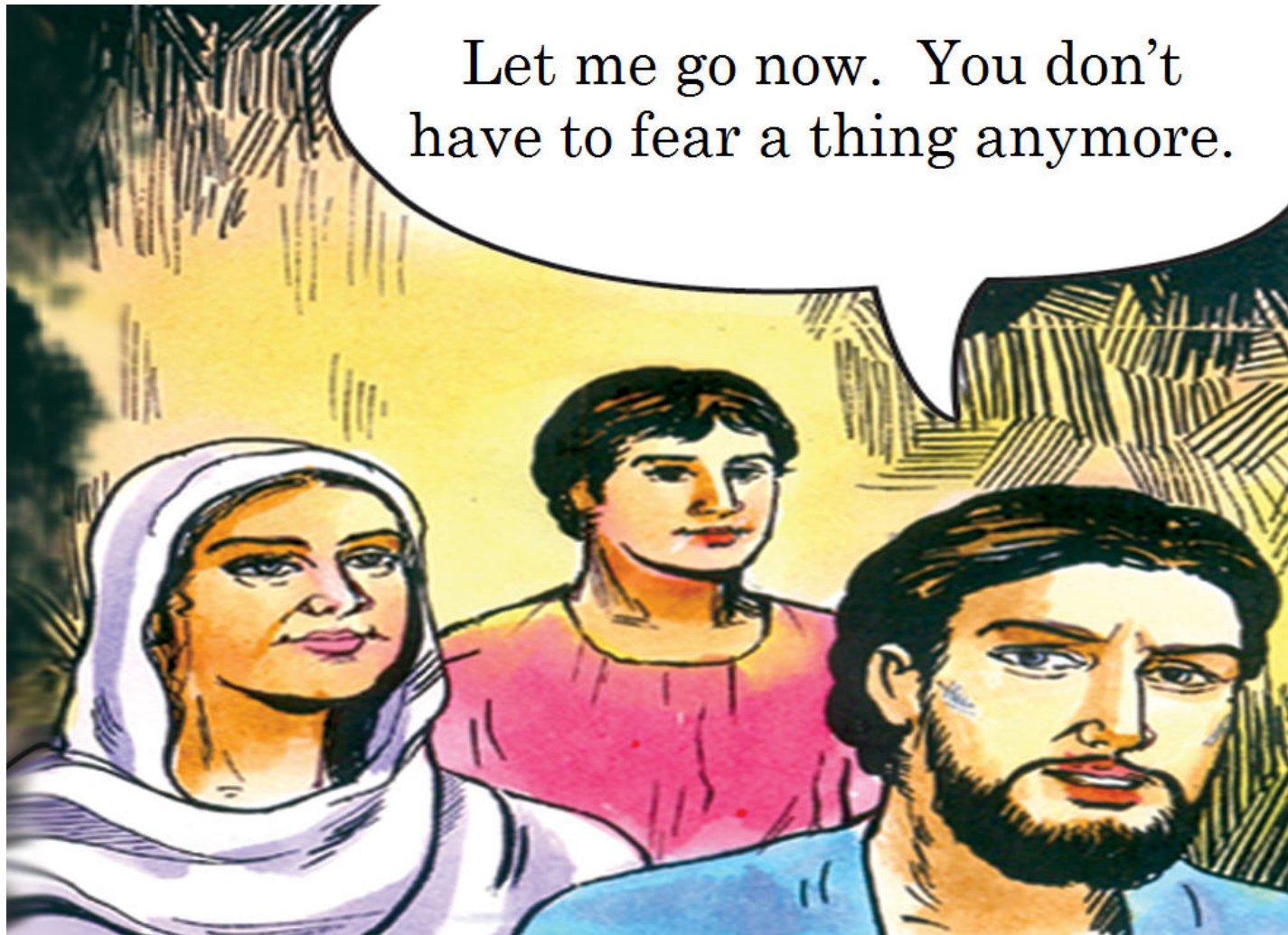
Where is Father now?

Right now, on his way home  
and will reach here  
tomorrow.

Could this be true?



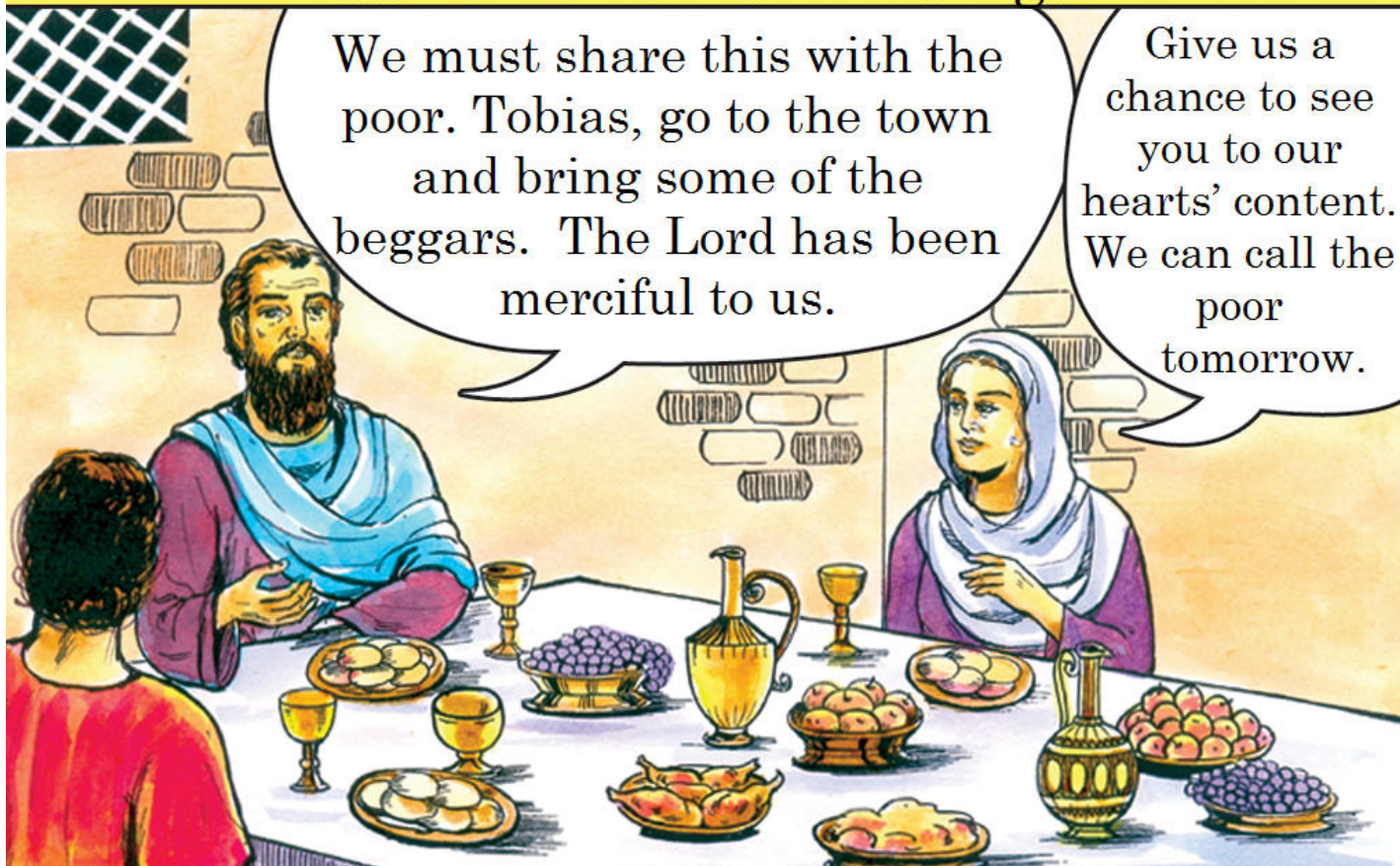
Let me go now. You don't  
have to fear a thing anymore.



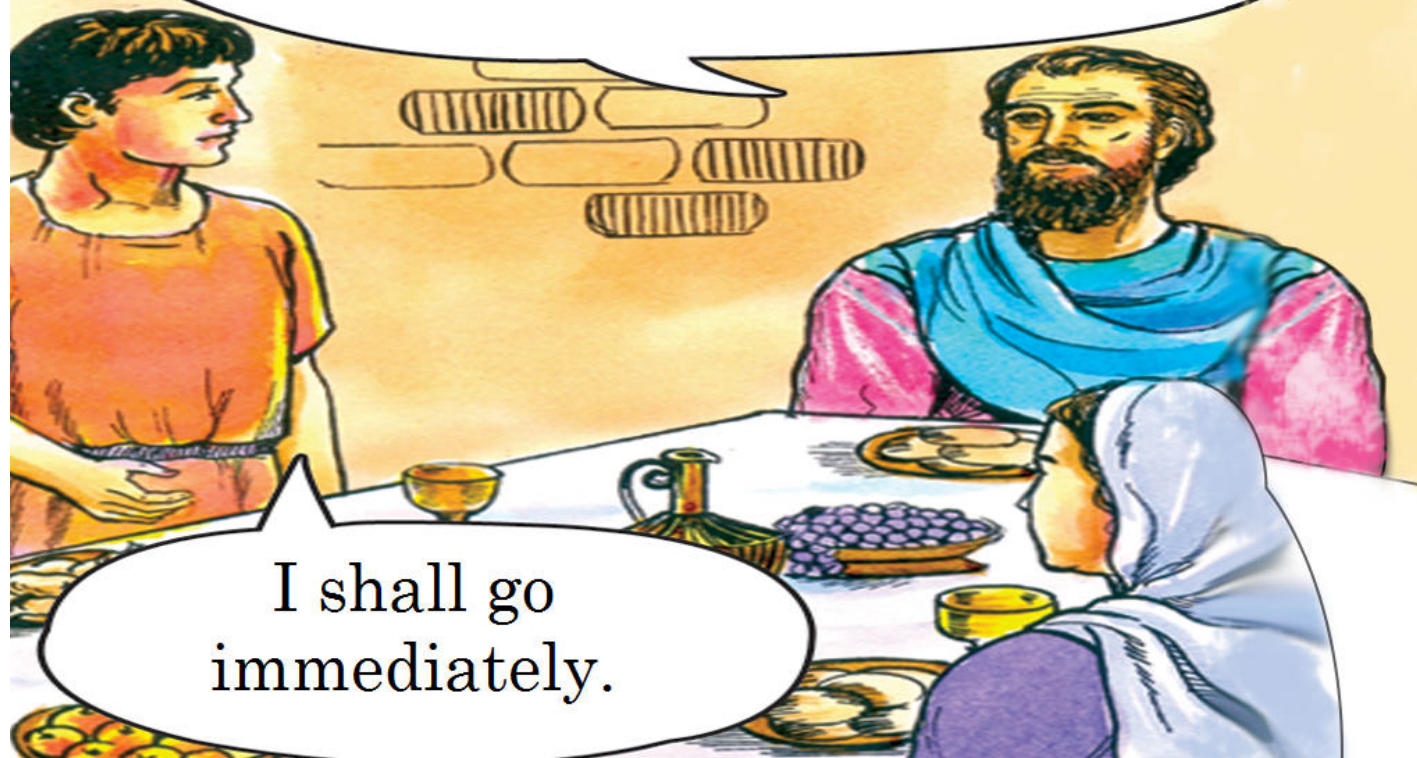
They prepared a dinner for Tobit who came home from hiding.

We must share this with the poor. Tobias, go to the town and bring some of the beggars. The Lord has been merciful to us.

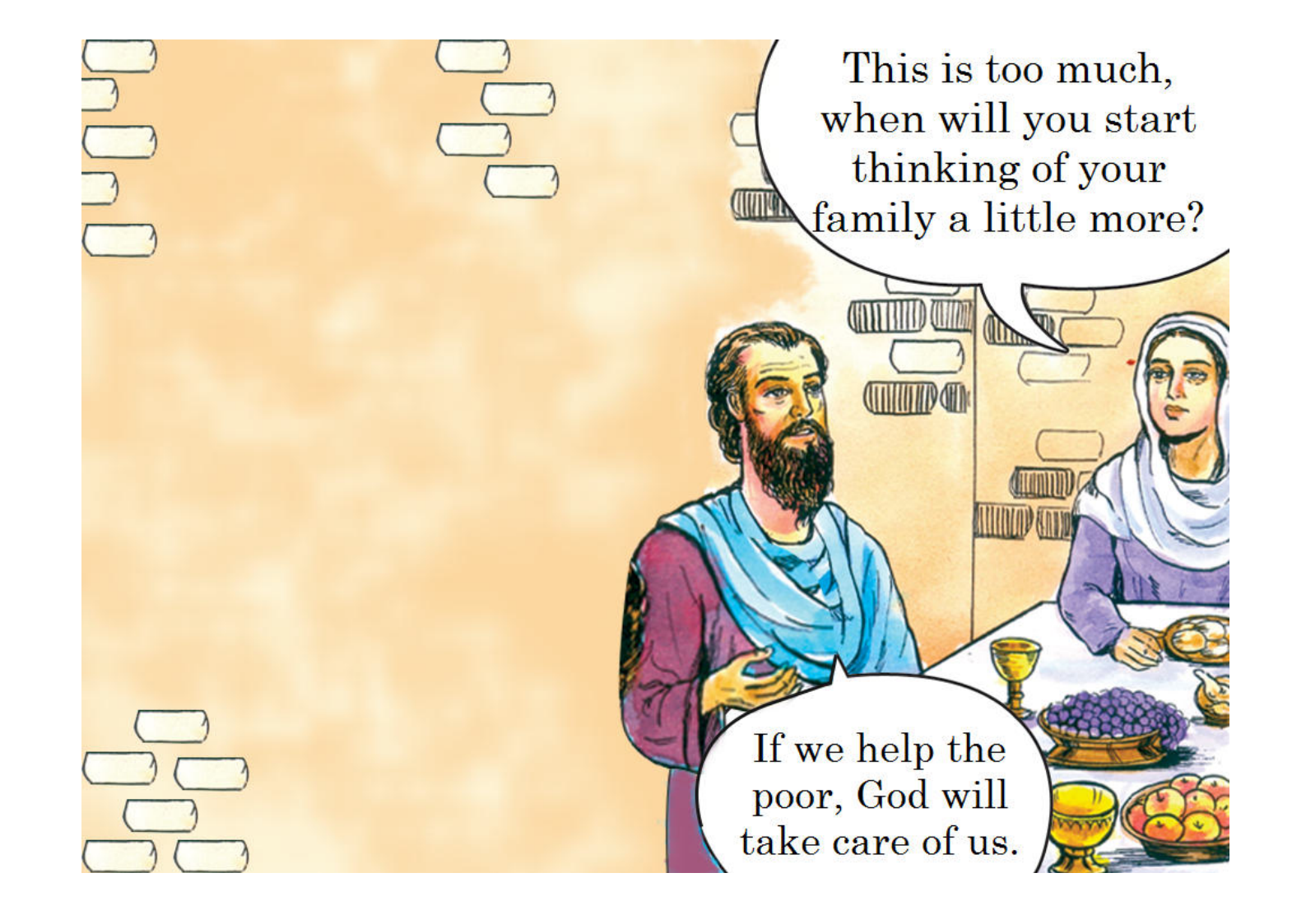
Give us a chance to see you to our hearts' content. We can call the poor tomorrow.



No, food is for the hungry. We can talk all we want later. Tobias!



I shall go immediately.



This is too much,  
when will you start  
thinking of your  
family a little more?


If we help the  
poor, God will  
take care of us.

Tobias, where are the guests you want to invite?

Father, there is a body lying in the market place. Looks like somebody killed another Israelite.



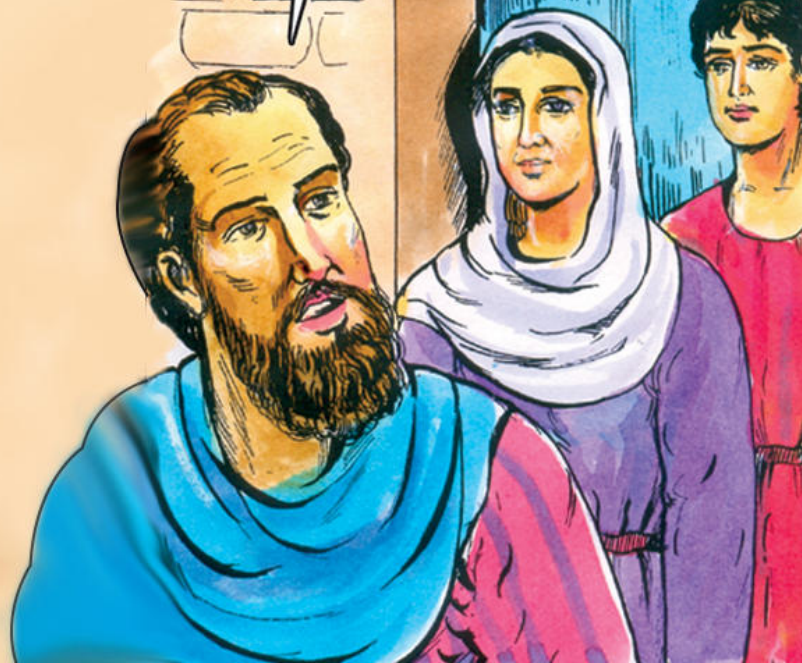




I will go and see. We can't let one of our own just lie there.

Please, have your meal first.

After burying the  
dead, I can eat.



Before the sunset, Tobit buried the body.

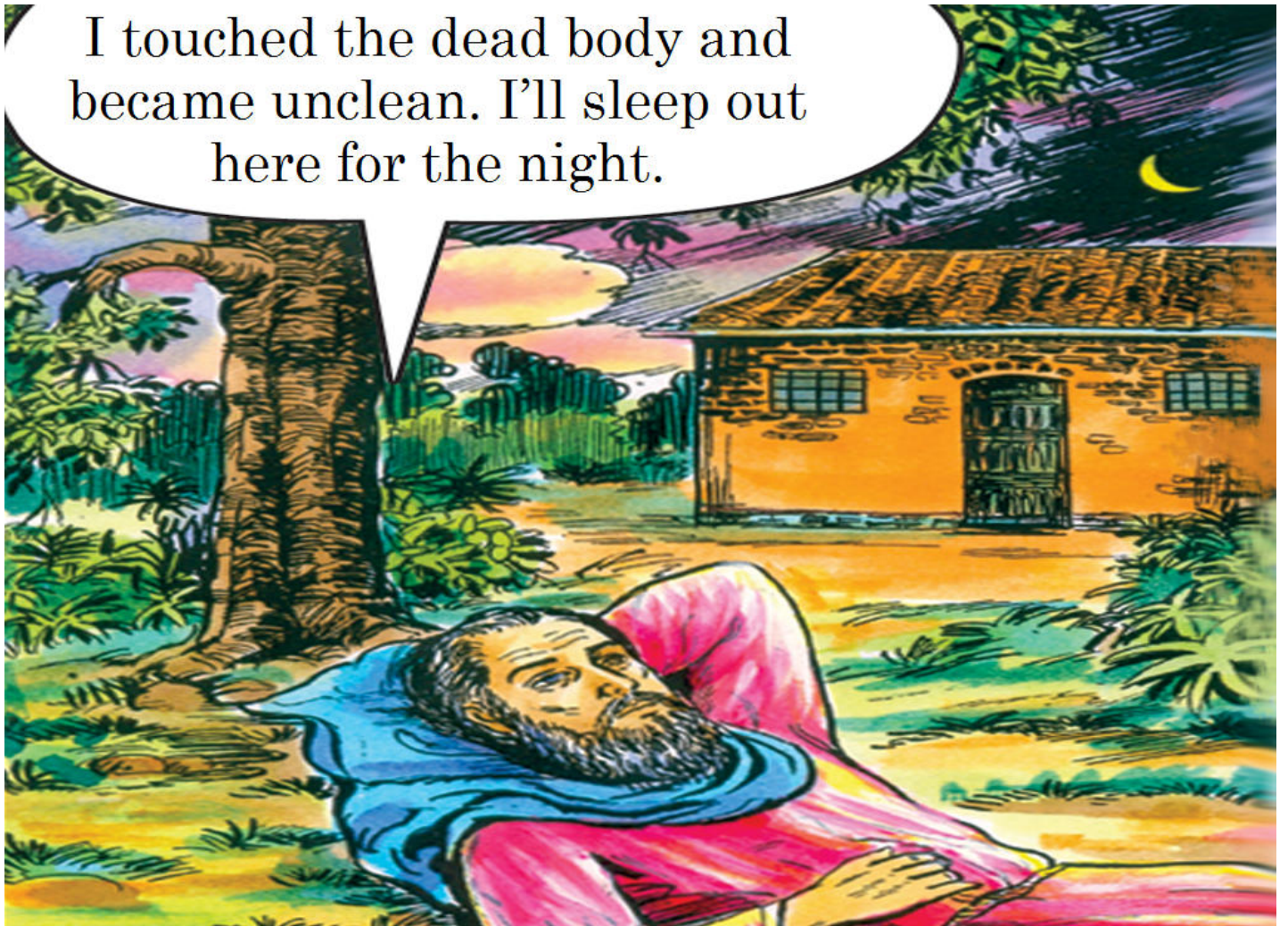
You still haven't learned?  
You just returned from  
hiding for burying the  
Israelites.

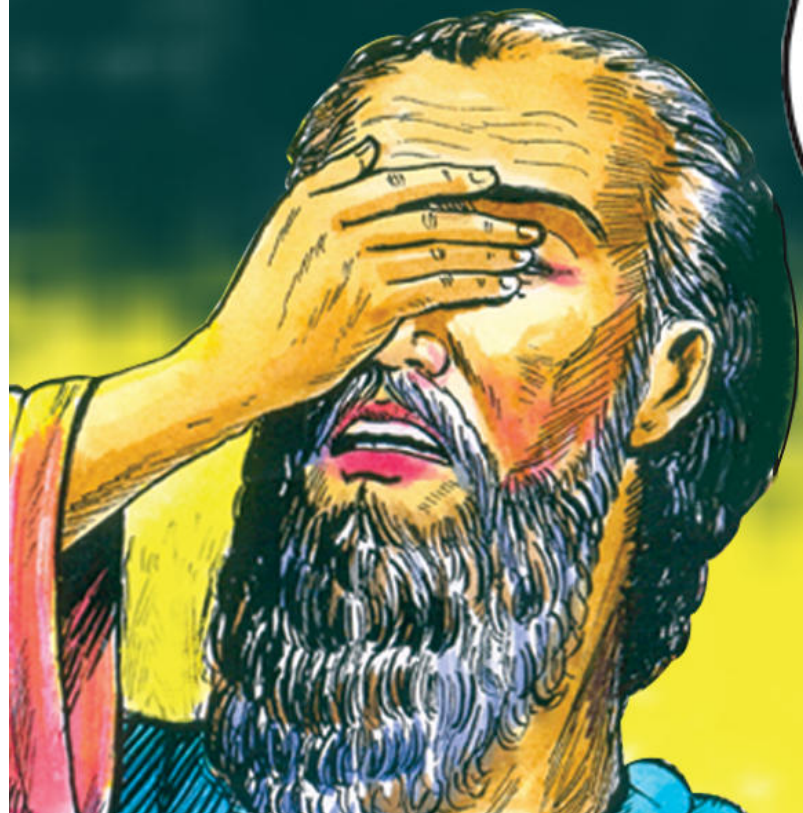
If the king  
comes to know,  
we'll lose our  
heads.

How can we allow  
our brother's  
body to be eaten  
by birds?



I touched the dead body and became unclean. I'll sleep out here for the night.





Oh, my God, bird droppings in my eyes! I can't see a thing.

Tobit's life became more miserable once he lost his eyesight. Anna had to work as a hired hand to support the family.



That is a lie. Take it  
back to the owner.  
We don't want any  
stolen goods.

Not enough that I  
work like a slave to  
support the family?  
Now, you want to  
spoil my name  
also?

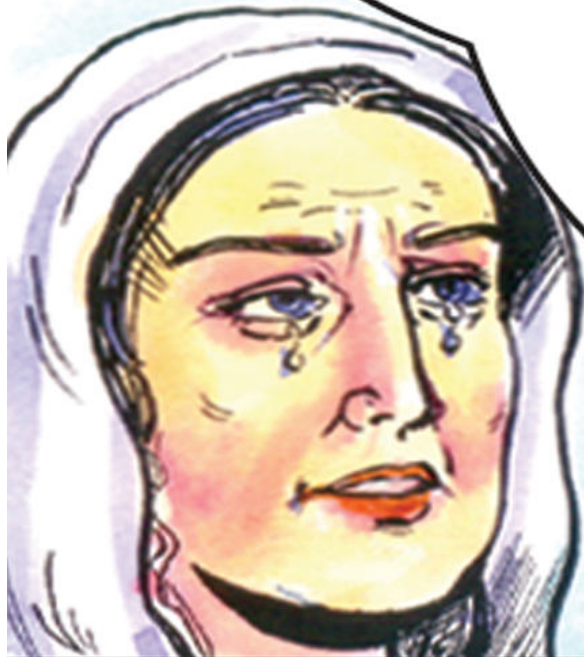


What did you get for all  
your charity? Where are  
the ones who ate up all  
you had?

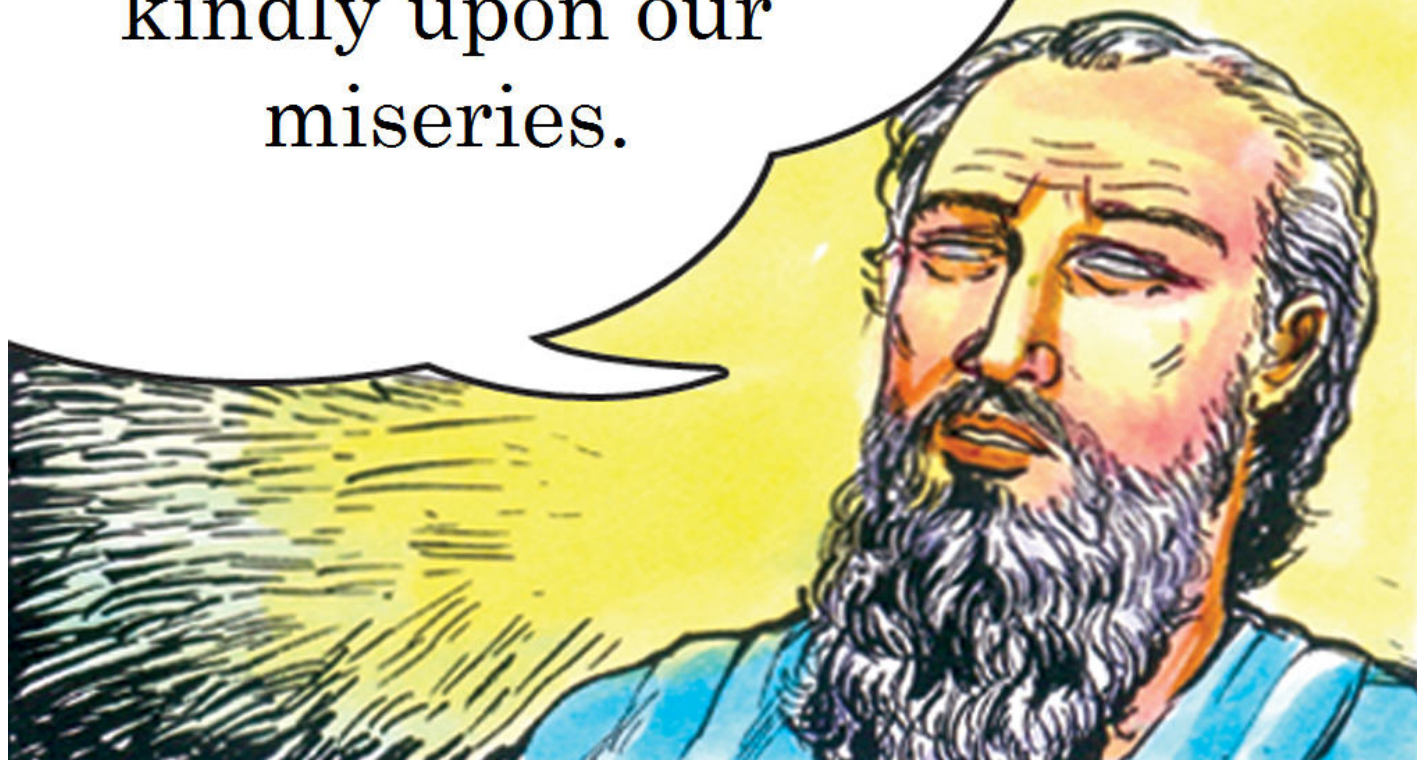




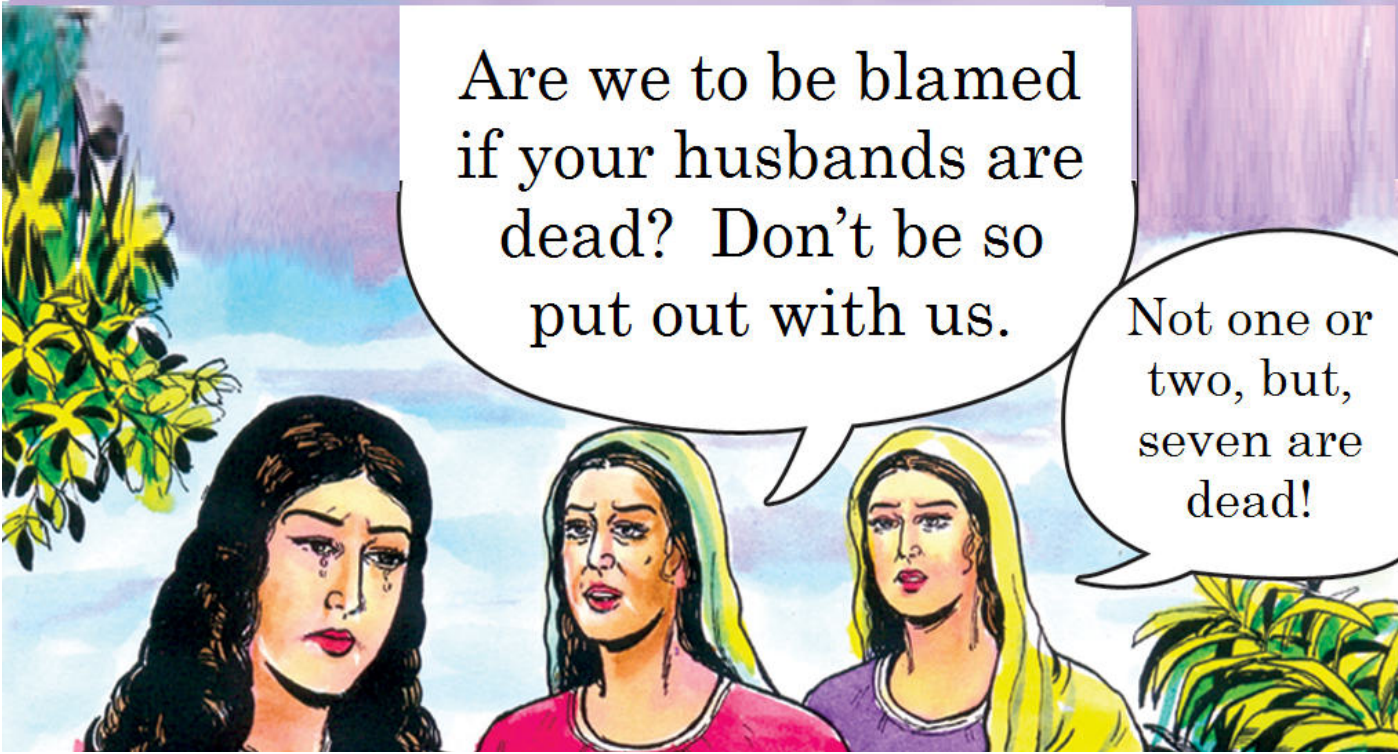
You always said that  
God will provide. How  
come He doesn't give us  
any food now?



Lord, my God, have  
mercy on us. Look  
kindly upon our  
miseries.



At the same time in Ecbatana, capital of Media, in the house Raguel, a conversation between his daughter Sarah and his maids.



Are we to be blamed  
if your husbands are  
dead? Don't be so  
put out with us.

Not one or  
two, but,  
seven are  
dead!

You think they  
just died? She  
killed them all.

Now she  
pretends that  
she knows  
nothing  
about it.



Stop it, I don't want to hear anymore. Nobody believes me, I know.

What are we to believe? One by one seven men had heart attack in your bedroom!



I have had enough. I would rather die than go on living like this.



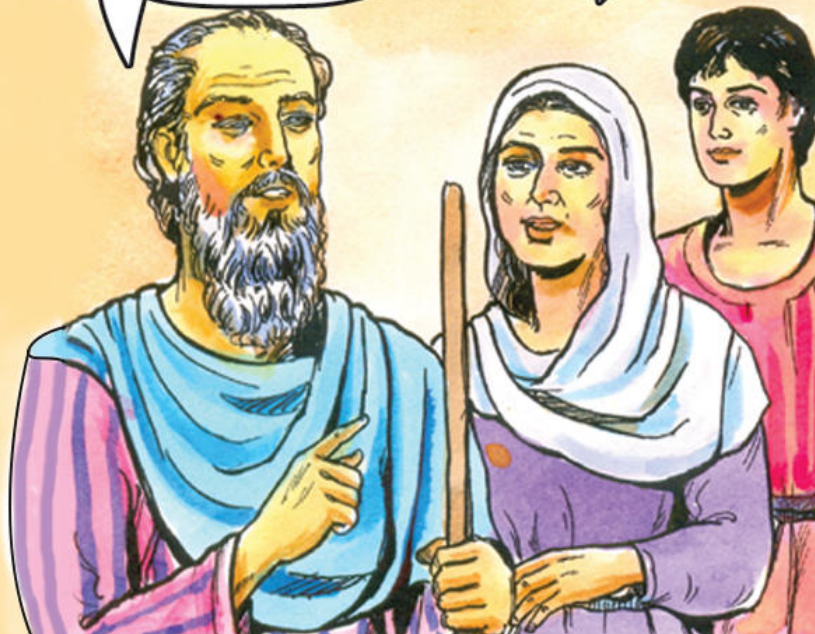
No, that will hurt my father even more. Lord my God, have mercy on me.



At Tobit's house.

I had entrusted  
some money with  
Gabael in Rages.  
We could get it at  
any time.

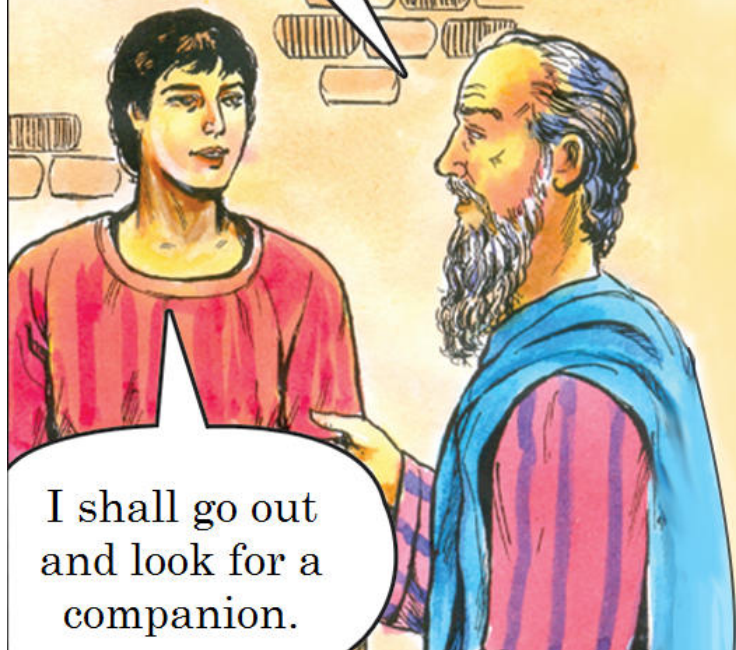
Then, why  
are we  
starving like  
this? Get  
that money.





Now, my child, you go and find out a trustworthy man to travel with you. We will pay him for his time until you come back.

I shall go out and look for a companion.




Tobias met a man.

Do you know the way to Rages in Media?

Certainly, I have been there many times.





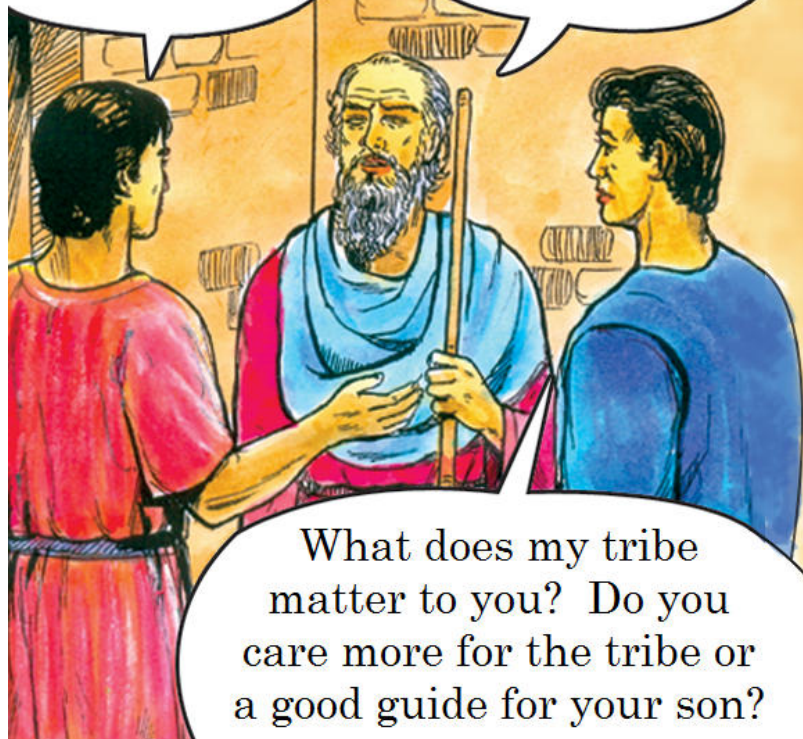
I need to go to the house of a certain Gabael in Rages. Will you come with me? We shall pay you for your time.

I'll be glad to. I had stayed at Gabael's for a while.

Tobias invited him to meet Tobit.

Father, I got  
a companion.

Who is it? Which  
tribe does he  
belong to?



What does my tribe  
matter to you? Do you  
care more for the tribe or  
a good guide for your son?

Forgive me, my brother, I am anxious to know to whose care I am leaving my only son. It is a long way to Rages and there would be many dangers.

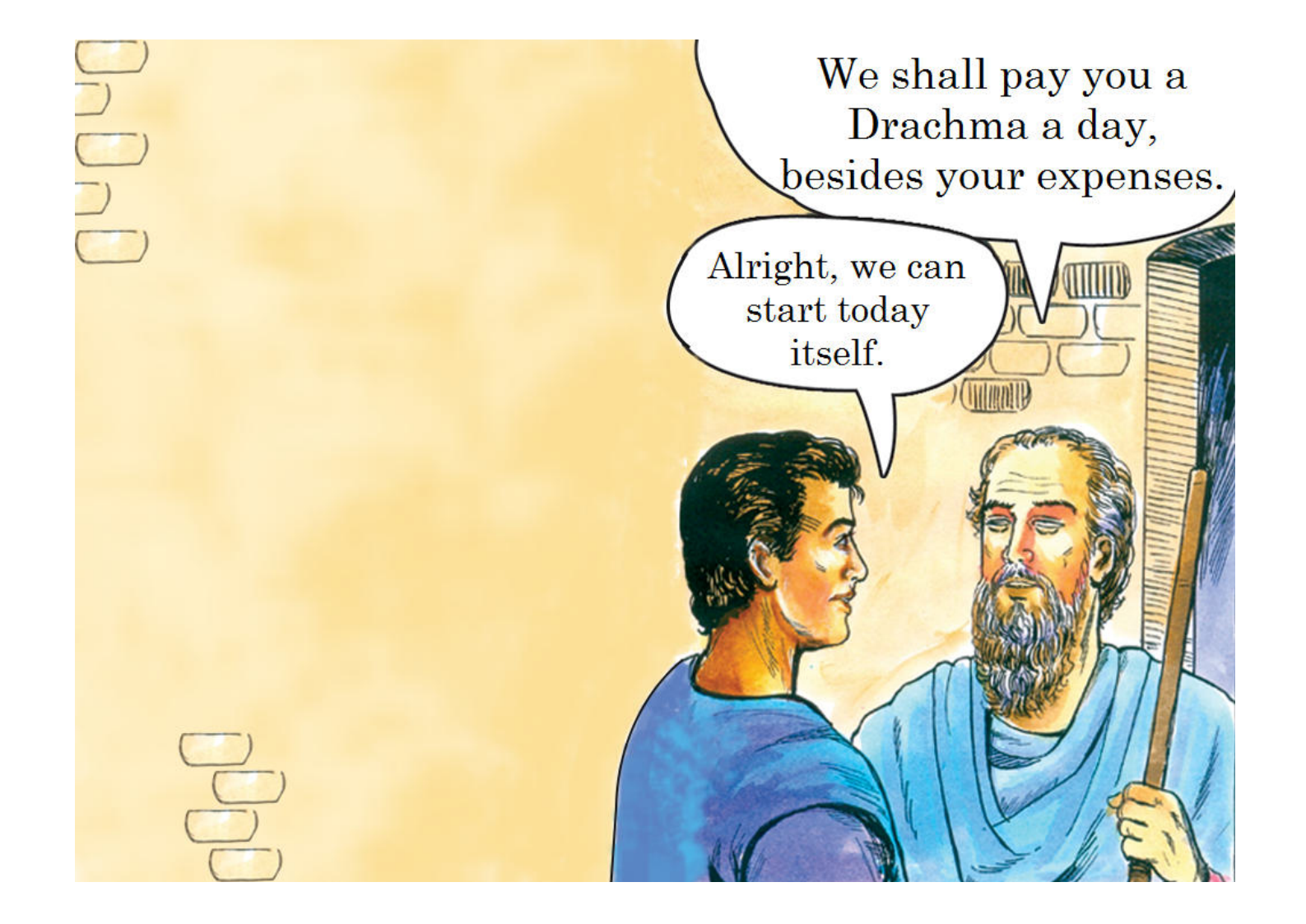
I am Azariah, son of Hananiah. I belong to the same tribe as you. I shall take good care of your son.



So, we are relatives. We shall still pay you. Tell me how much you want.

That you can decide for yourself.



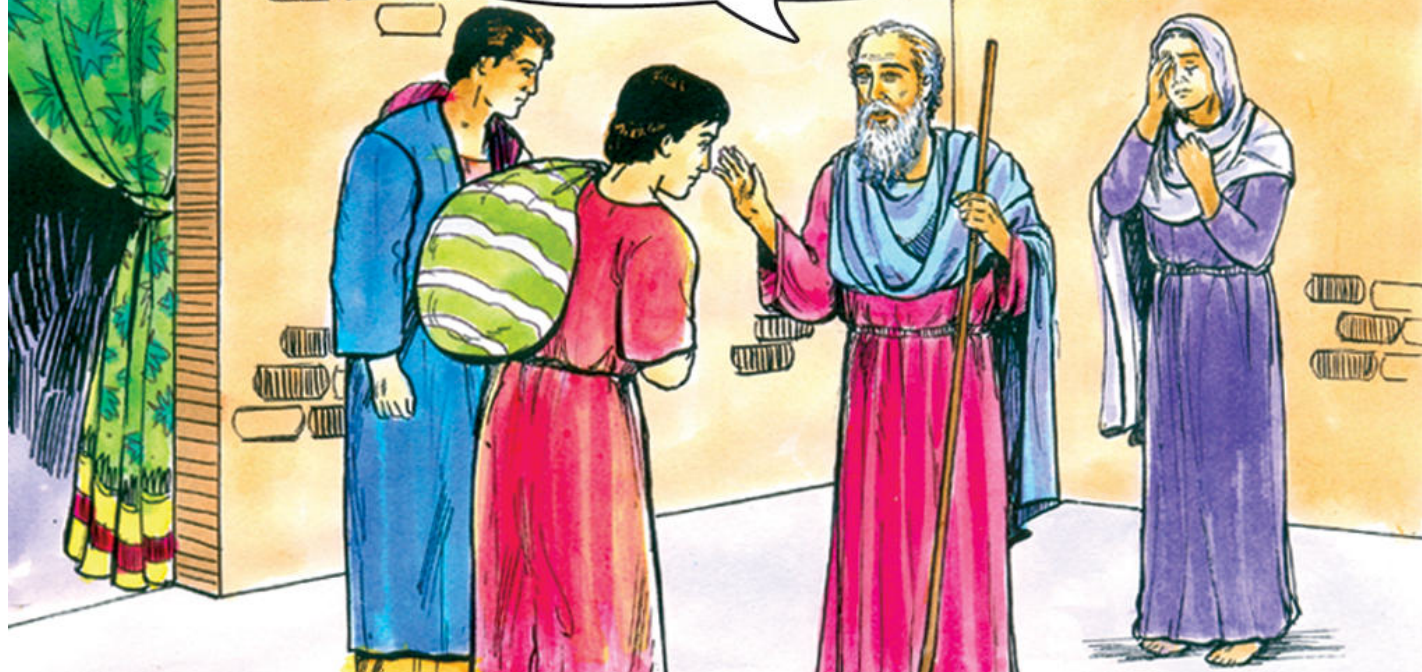


We shall pay you a  
Drachma a day,  
besides your expenses.

Alright, we can  
start today  
itself.

As they were ready for their journey.

My son, may the Lord bless you.  
May his angel protect you.  
Have a safe journey and return  
to us soon.





After they  
were gone.

Why did you  
send him so far  
away? What if  
he never comes  
back?

Don't worry.  
The Lord  
will bring  
him back  
safe.



You love money more than our son. We could have pulled on with the little wages I earn.

Anna, don't cry. The angel of the Lord will keep him company.

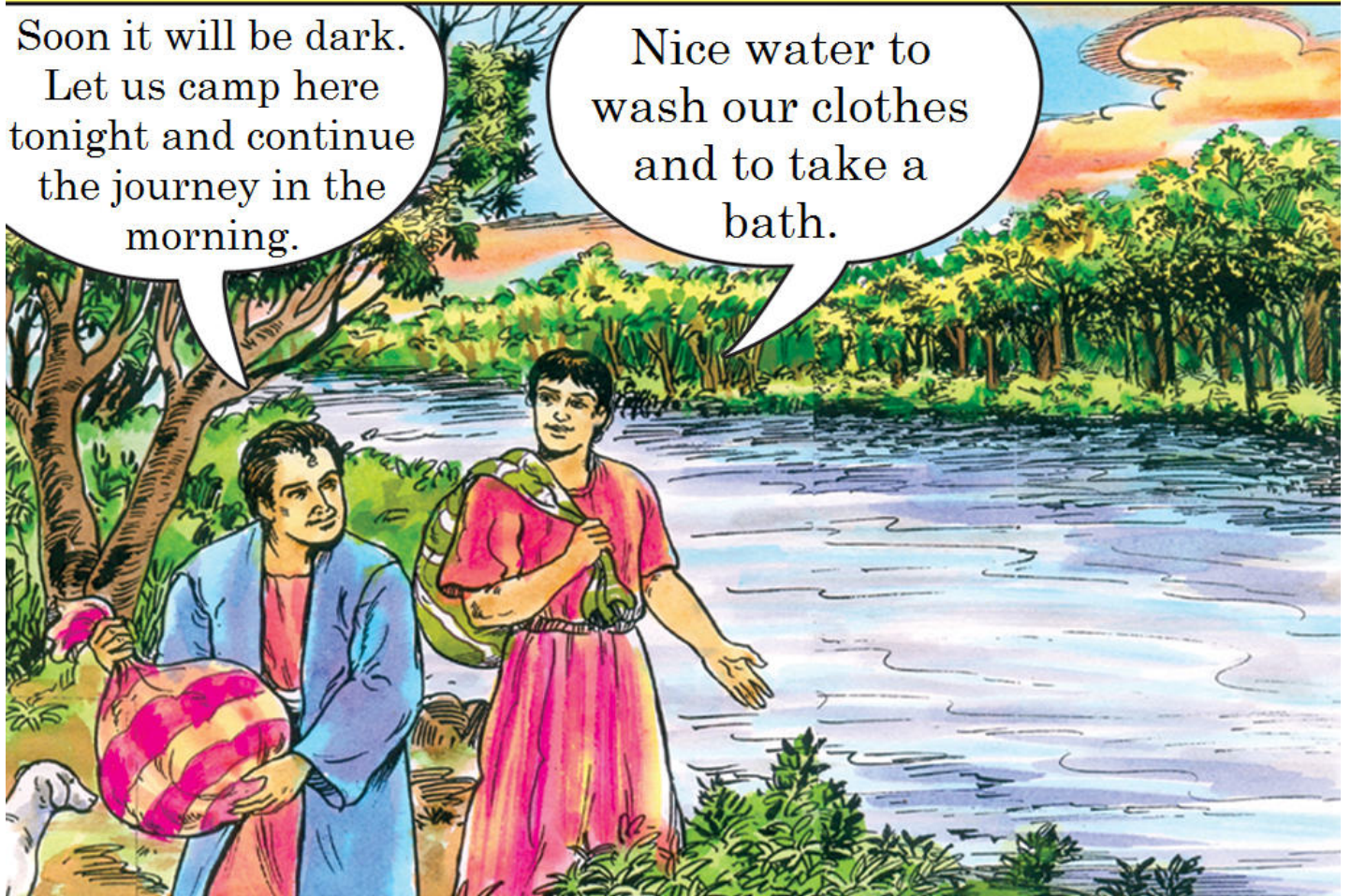


They reached the bank of River Tigris.

Soon it will be dark.

Let us camp here tonight and continue the journey in the morning.

Nice water to wash our clothes and to take a bath.

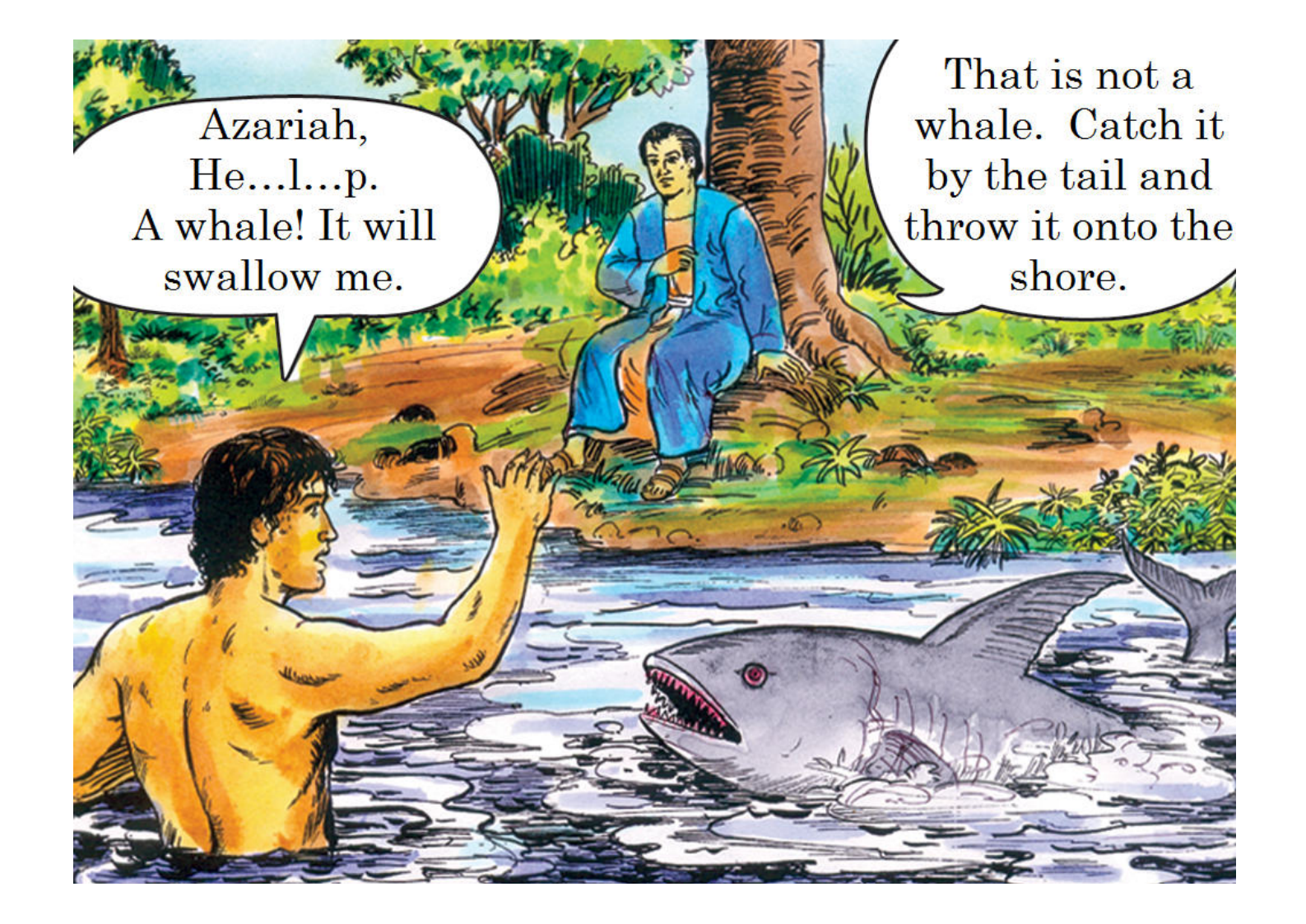


Go ahead, the water  
is deep and so be  
careful.

I can swim well.  
Anyway, I won't  
go far.







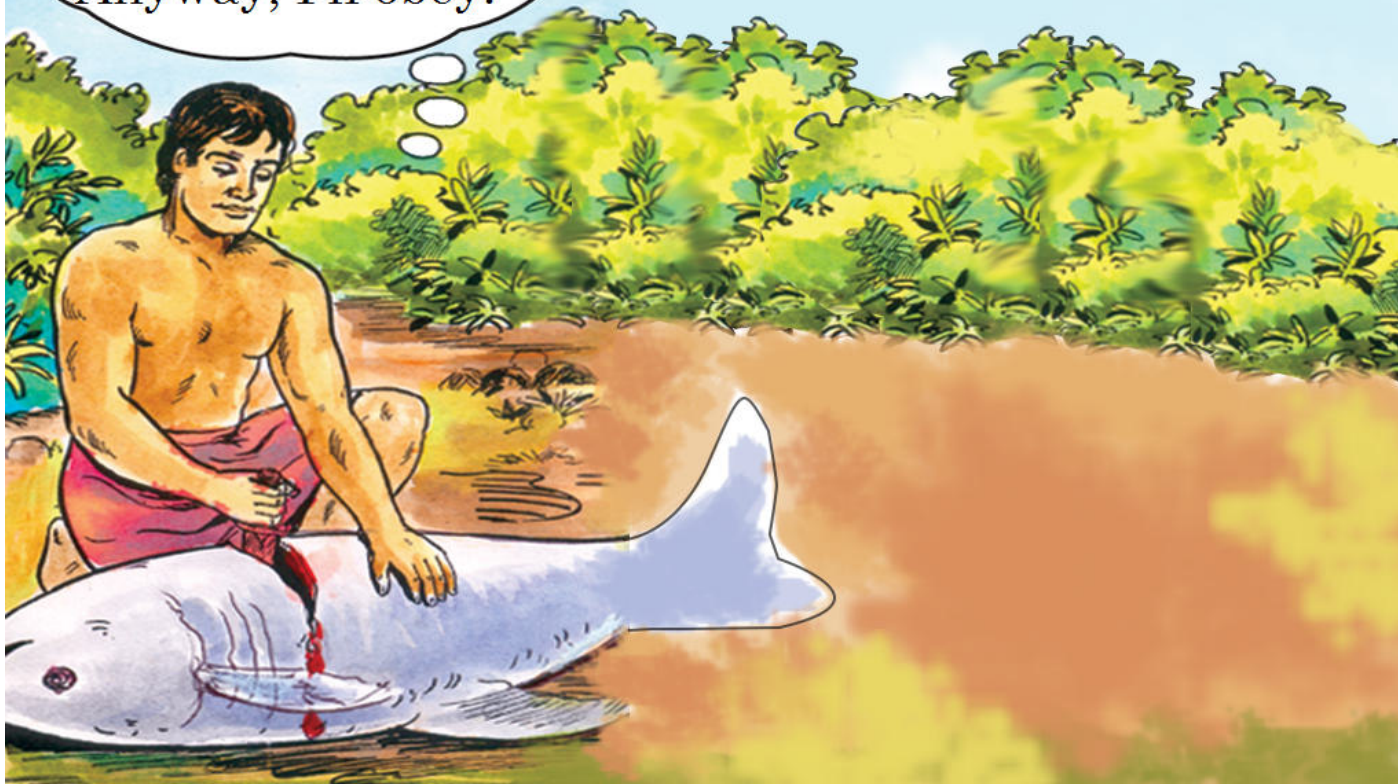
Azariah,  
He...l...p.  
A whale! It will  
swallow me.

That is not a  
whale. Catch it  
by the tail and  
throw it onto the  
shore.

Here take this knife and cut it up. Keep its heart, liver and gall. The rest we'll roast on the fire and eat.



I wonder why he  
asked me to keep the  
heart, liver and gall!  
Anyway, I'll obey.





They continued the journey.

Tomorrow we will reach Ecbatana, you have a relative there.

Our relation!  
Father didn't say anything about them.



His name is Raguel  
and he has a beautiful  
daughter, Sarah. You  
are her next of kin.

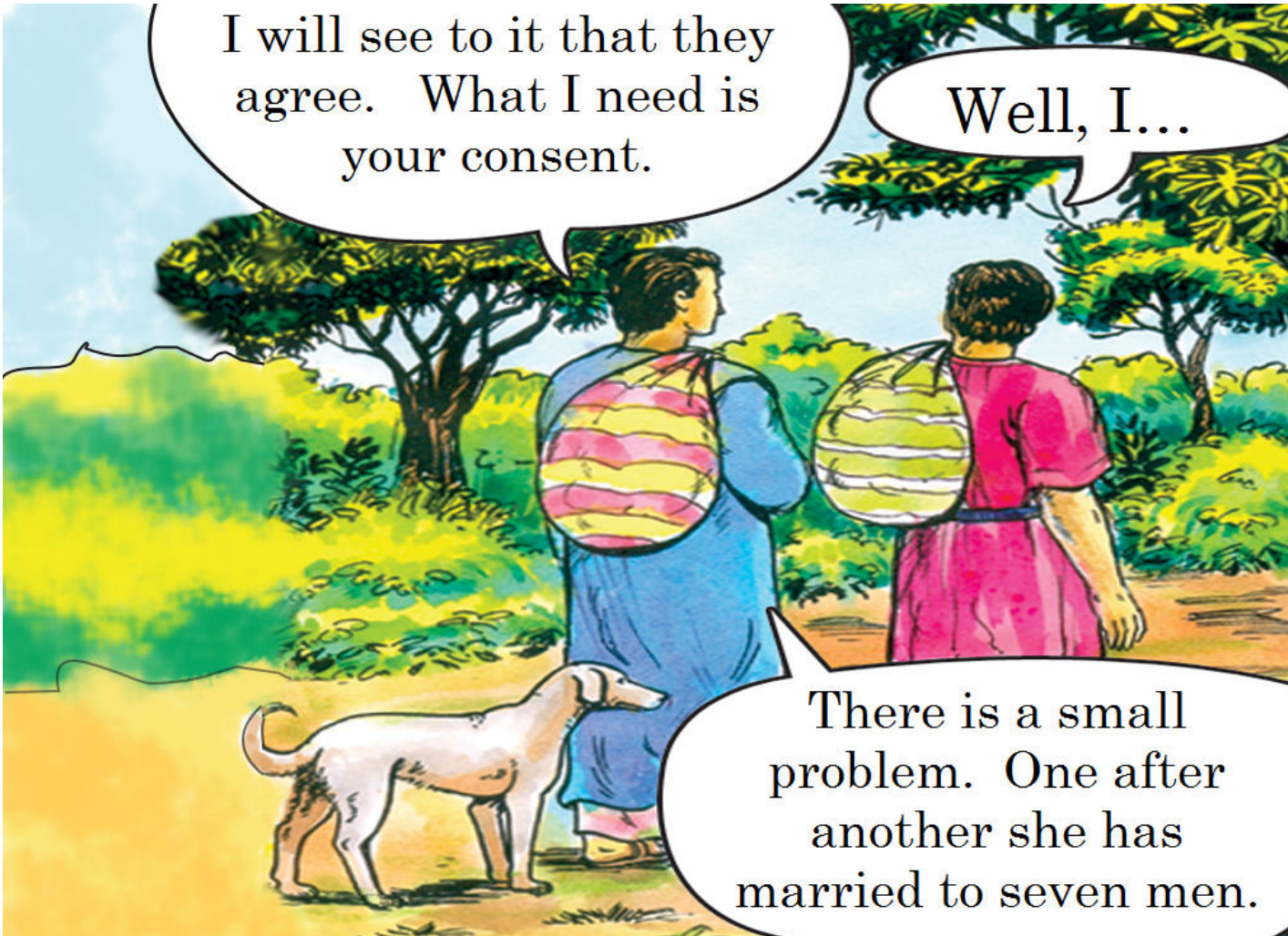
Good.  
May be,  
we'll visit  
them.



Visiting is not  
enough. You must  
marry her.

Are you serious?  
How do we know  
if they will agree  
to it?





I will see to it that they agree. What I need is your consent.

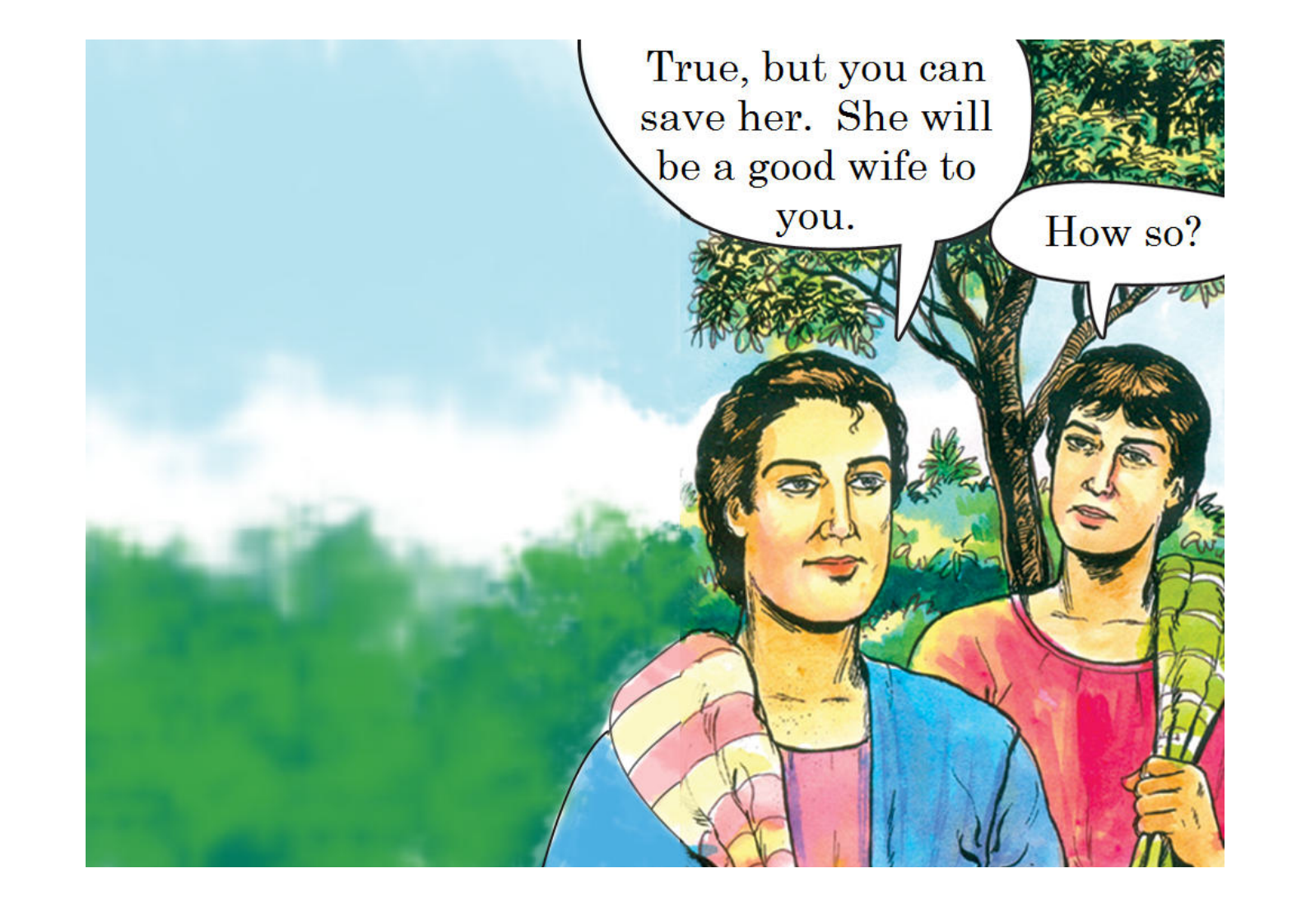
Well, I...

There is a small problem. One after another she has married to seven men.

On the wedding night  
itself each one died.

So, it is about her  
that I have heard.  
Some evil spirit is in  
love with her and it  
kills every man who  
marries her.





True, but you can  
save her. She will  
be a good wife to  
you.

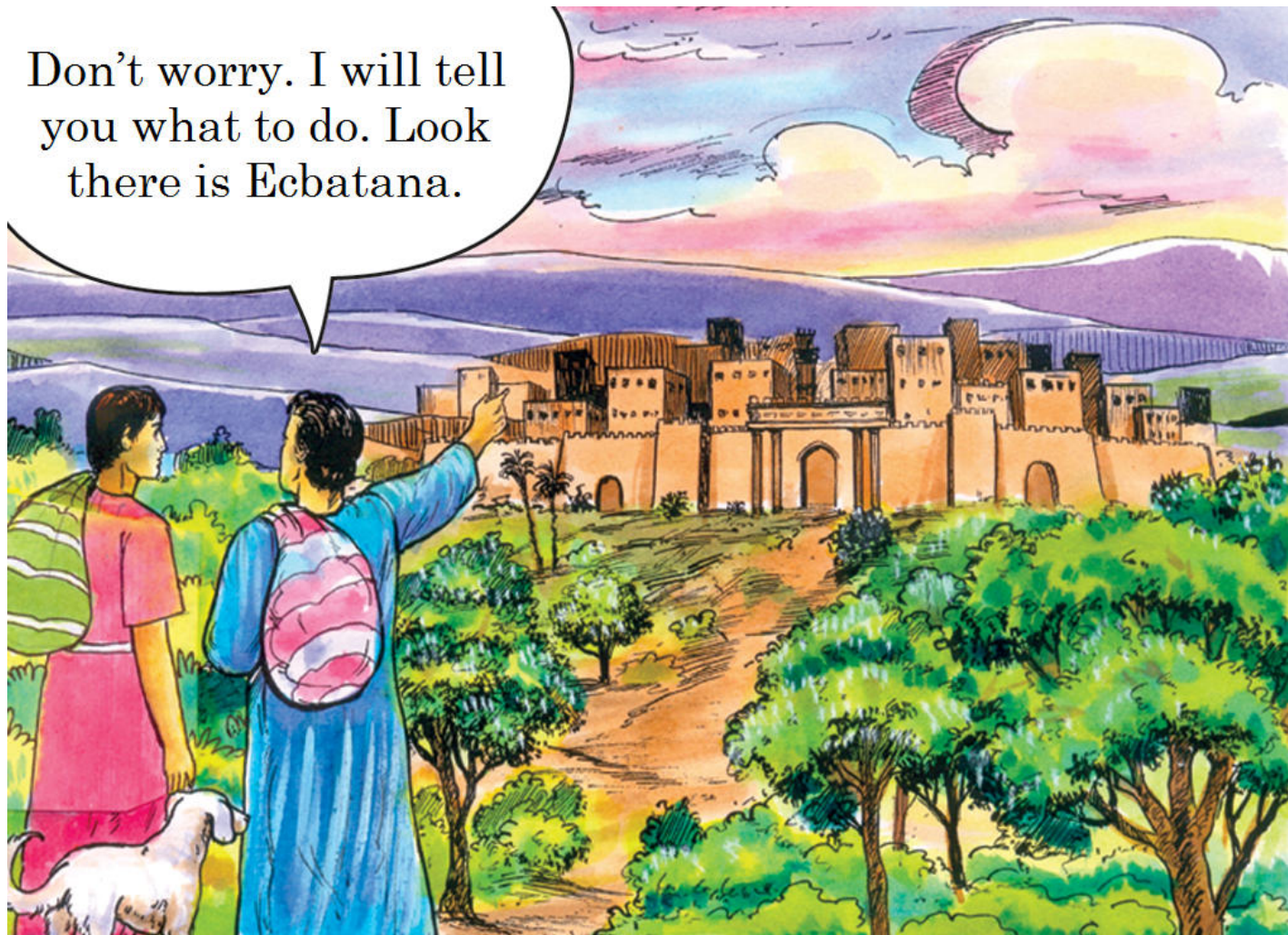
How so?

You must marry her with the intention of starting a sacred family life. And...

What about the devil?

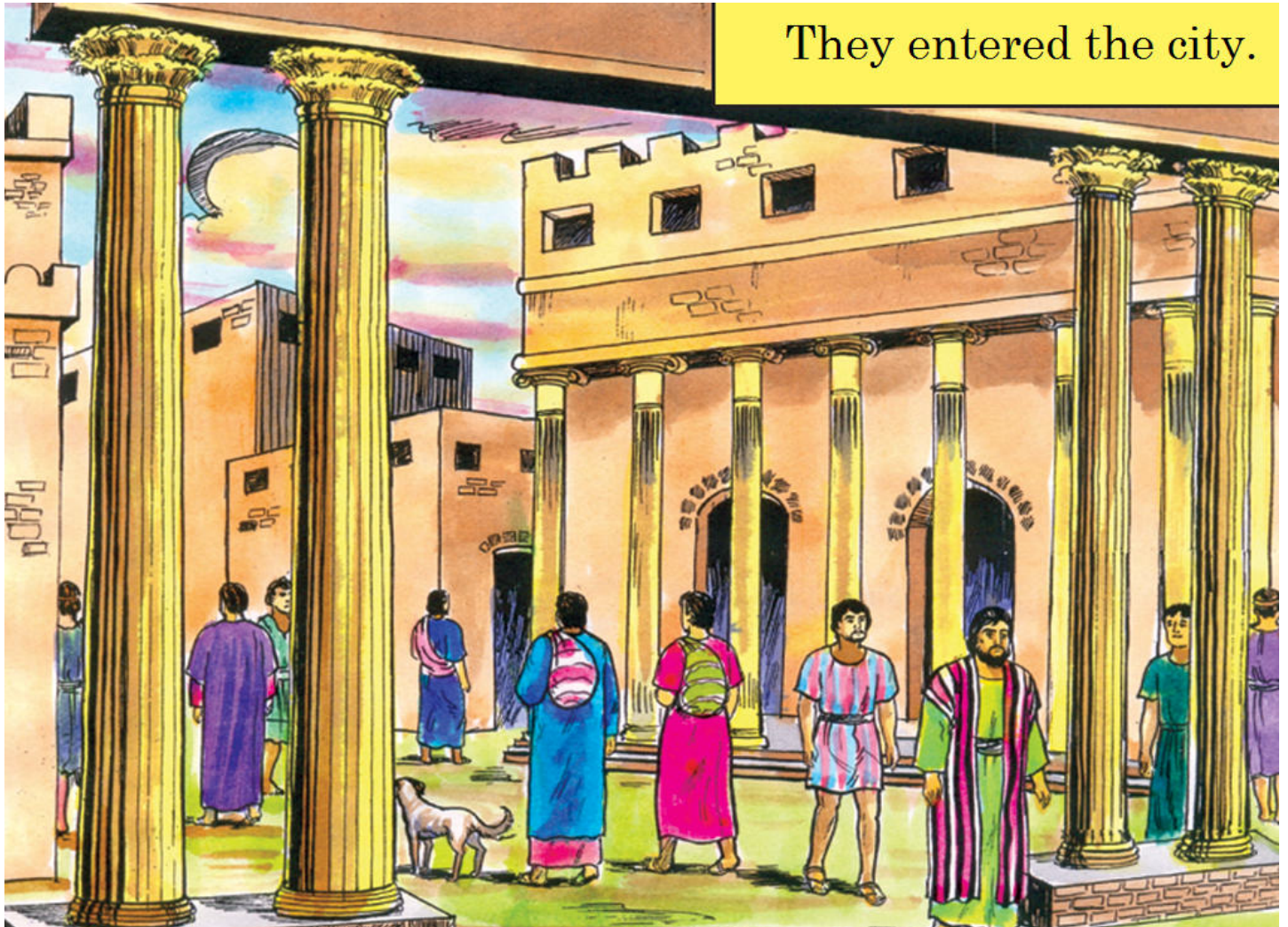


Don't worry. I will tell you what to do. Look there is Ecbatana.





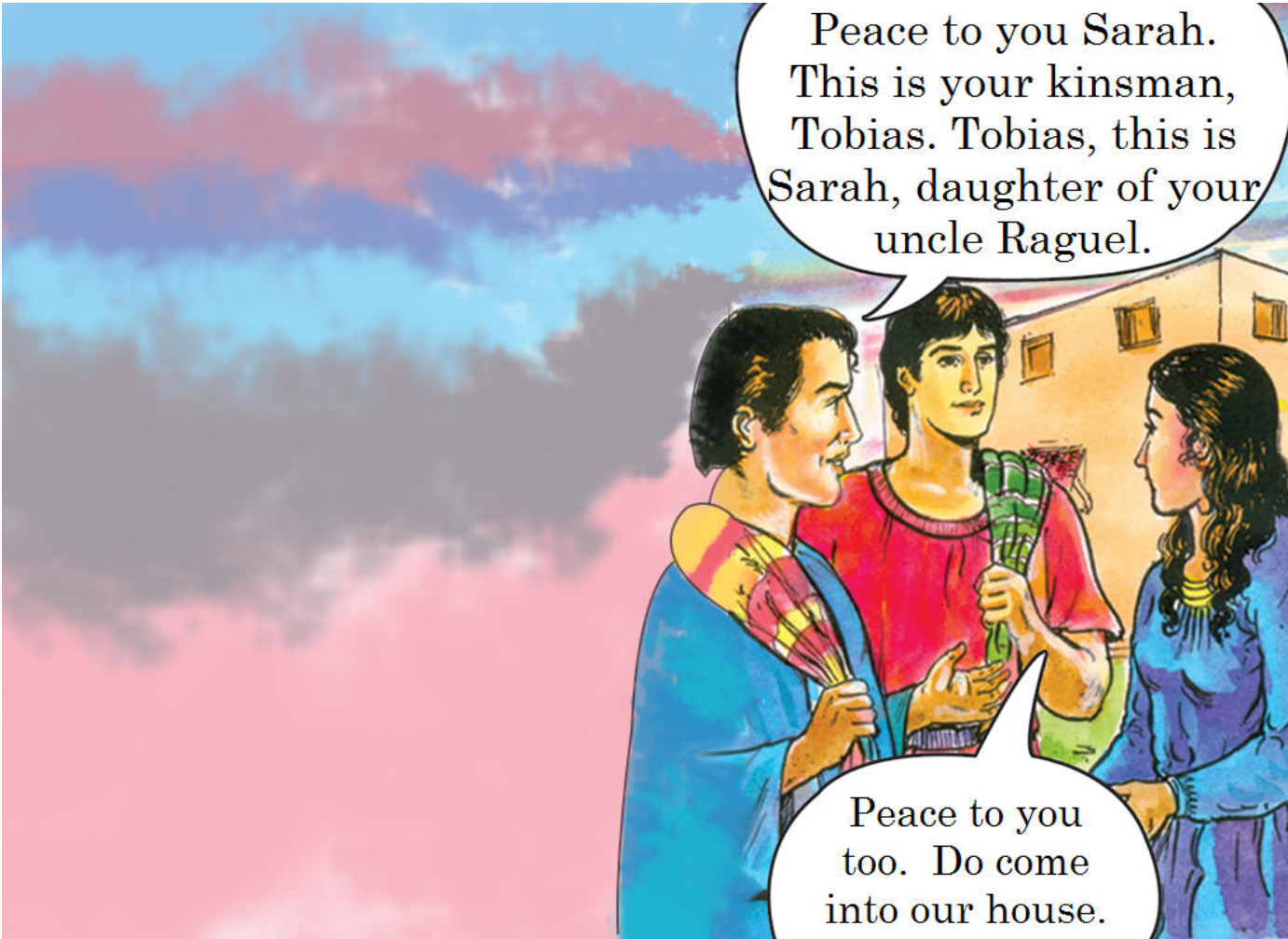
They entered the city.



They approached the house of Raguel.

Look that is  
Raguel's house.  
Sarah is coming  
out.





Peace to you Sarah.  
This is your kinsman,  
Tobias. Tobias, this is  
Sarah, daughter of your  
uncle Raguel.

Peace to you  
too. Do come  
into our house.

Father, we have  
guests. They are  
coming from  
Nineveh.

Peace to you  
my friends.  
Welcome!



They introduced each other. Raguel was very happy to hear about his kinsman Tobit.

Tobit is a good man. Though he is just in every way, God has tried him severely.

Father is totally blind now. Still, we never hear him complaining.

All right, let us eat. After that we can continue.



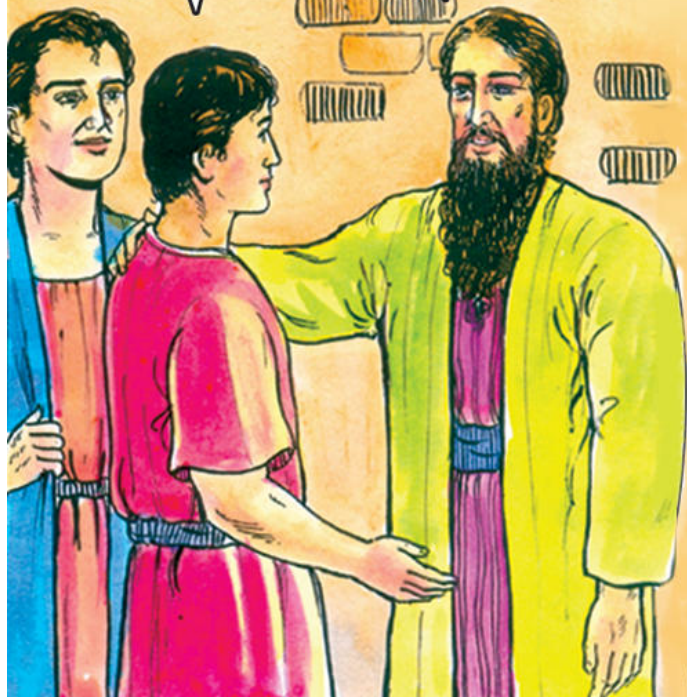
Before the meal I want to know if you are willing to give Sarah to Tobias in marriage.

We'll be happy to. Rightfully, Sarah belongs to Tobias. But...

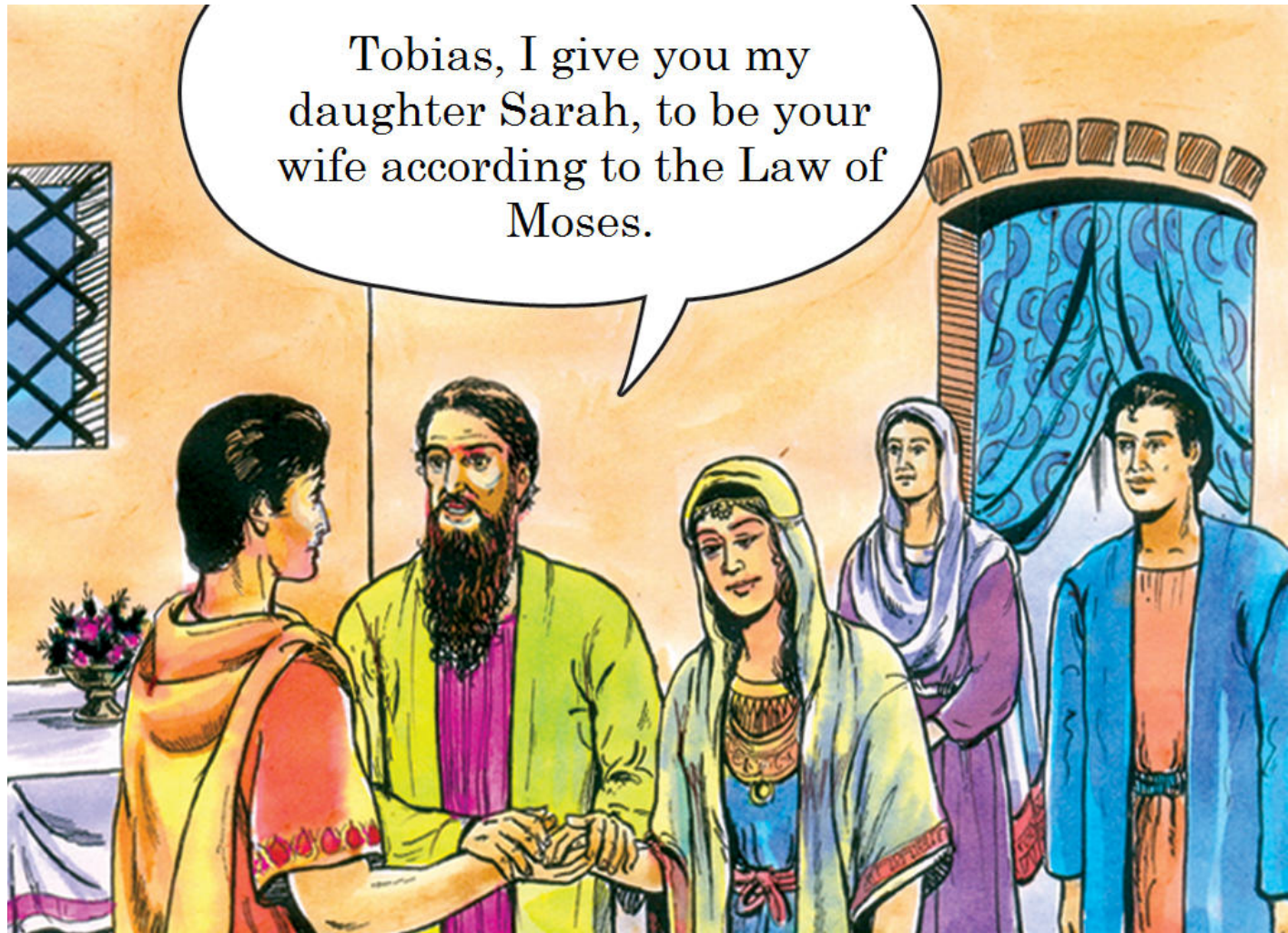


Don't worry  
Azariah has  
already told me  
about Sarah's  
misfortunes.

Then, why waste  
any more time? Let  
us conduct the  
marriage  
immediately.

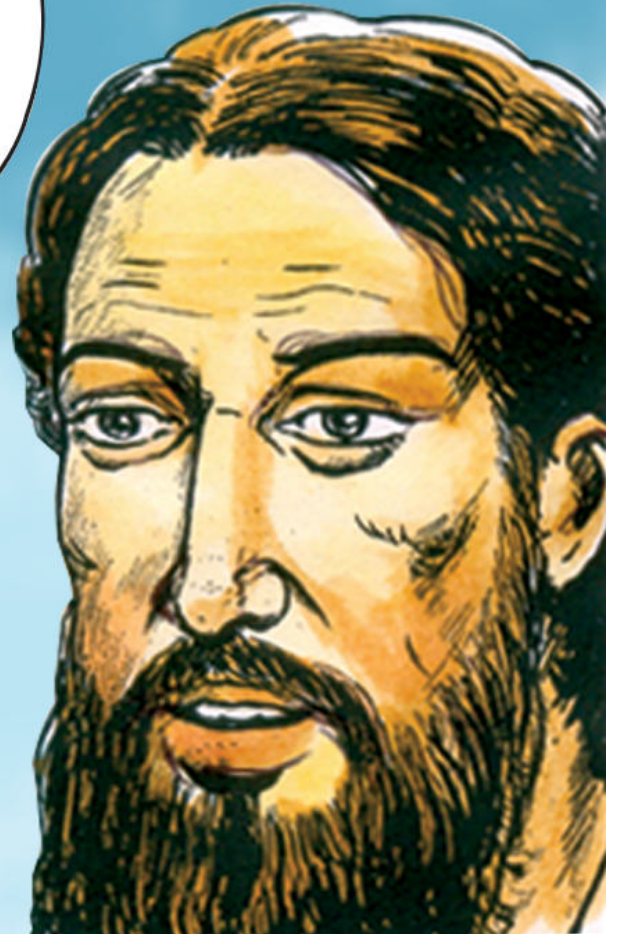


Tobias, I give you my  
daughter Sarah, to be your  
wife according to the Law of  
Moses.





You can have half of my property immediately and the rest upon our death. Take her to your father's house that he also may bless her.



Let us eat and celebrate.



As Azariah had instructed him, Tobias burned the heart and liver of the fish. As the smoke reeked, the demon flew out.



Sarah, Let us  
pray for God's  
mercy.

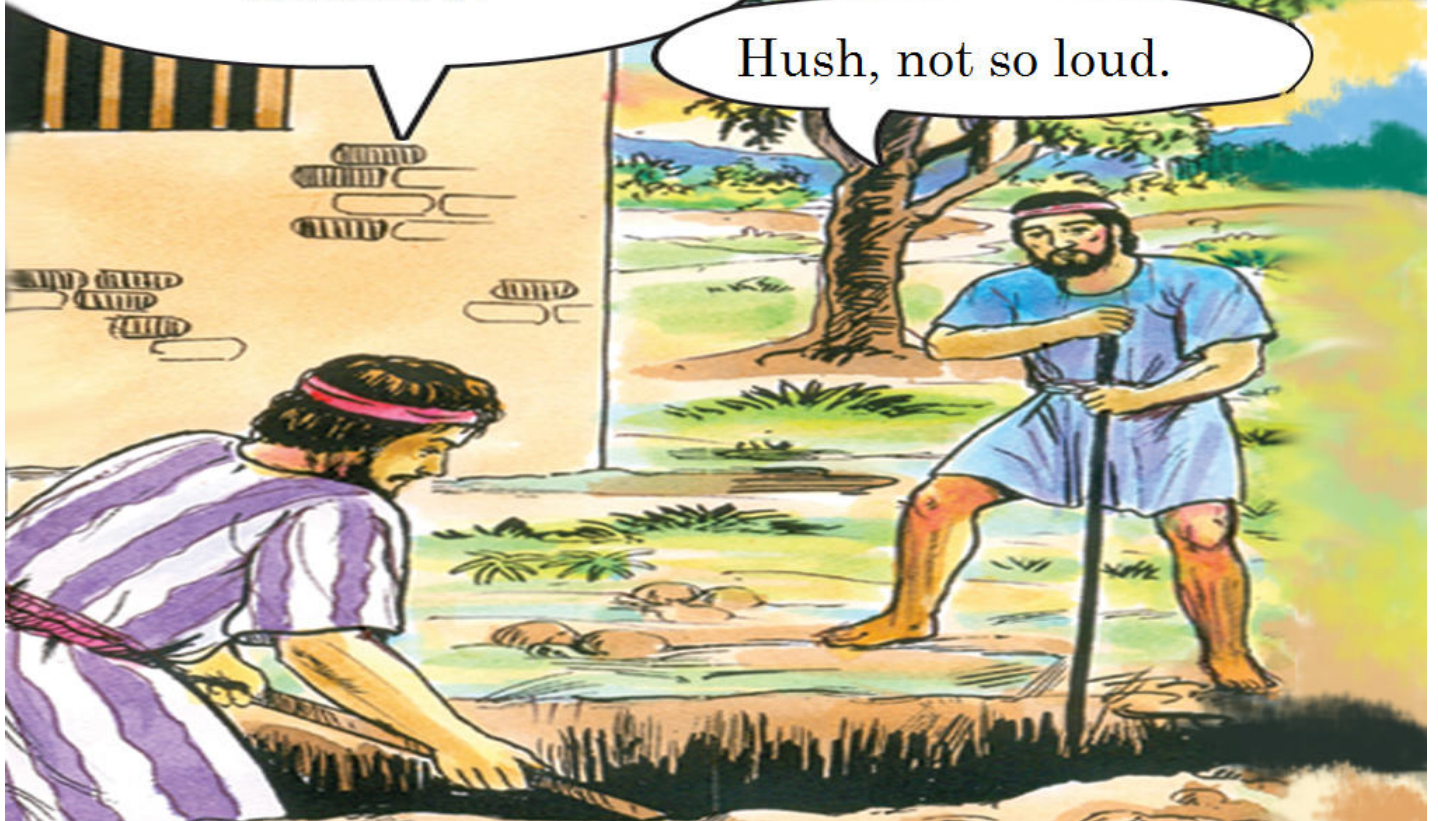


Oh God, you created Eve as  
a help and support to  
Adam. From these two the  
human race was born.  
Now, have mercy on us  
and bring us to old  
age together.



What a handsome lad! Pity,  
we'll have to bury him  
tomorrow.

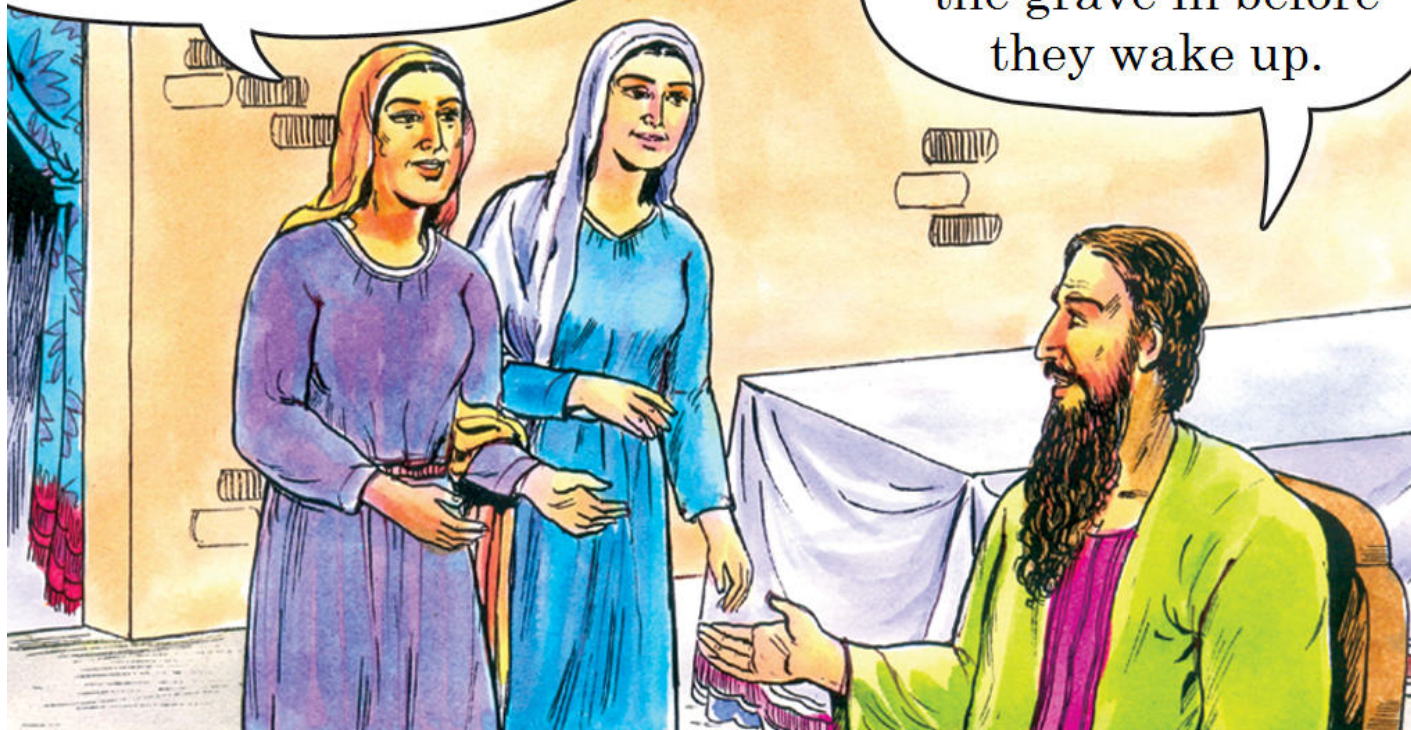
Hush, not so loud.



The next morning the maids to Raguel.

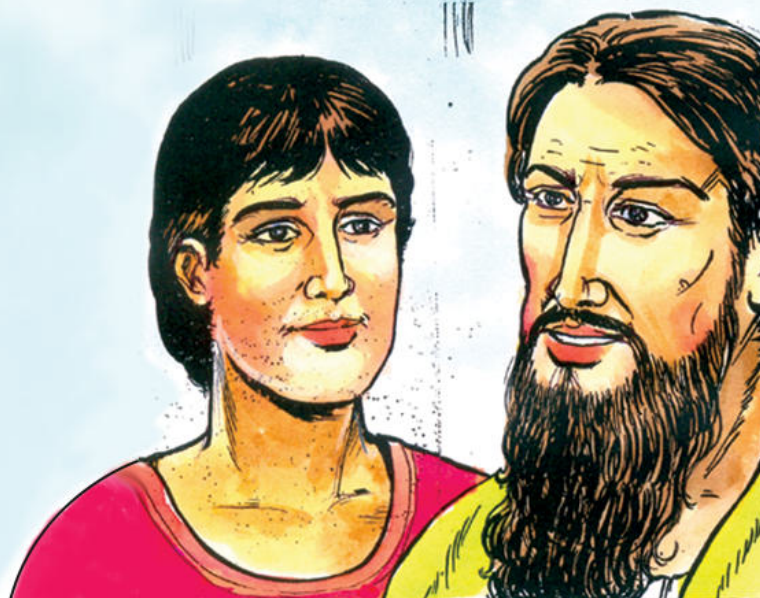
Master, blessed be God,  
our Lord. They both are  
sleeping peacefully.

Praise and glory to  
you my Lord! Fill  
the grave in before  
they wake up.



Let me go to Rages  
and collect the  
money.

You can go  
after  
celebrating  
your wedding  
for a  
fortnight.





Brother Azariah, would you please go to Rages? Here is the document. Please invite Gabael for the wedding feast.

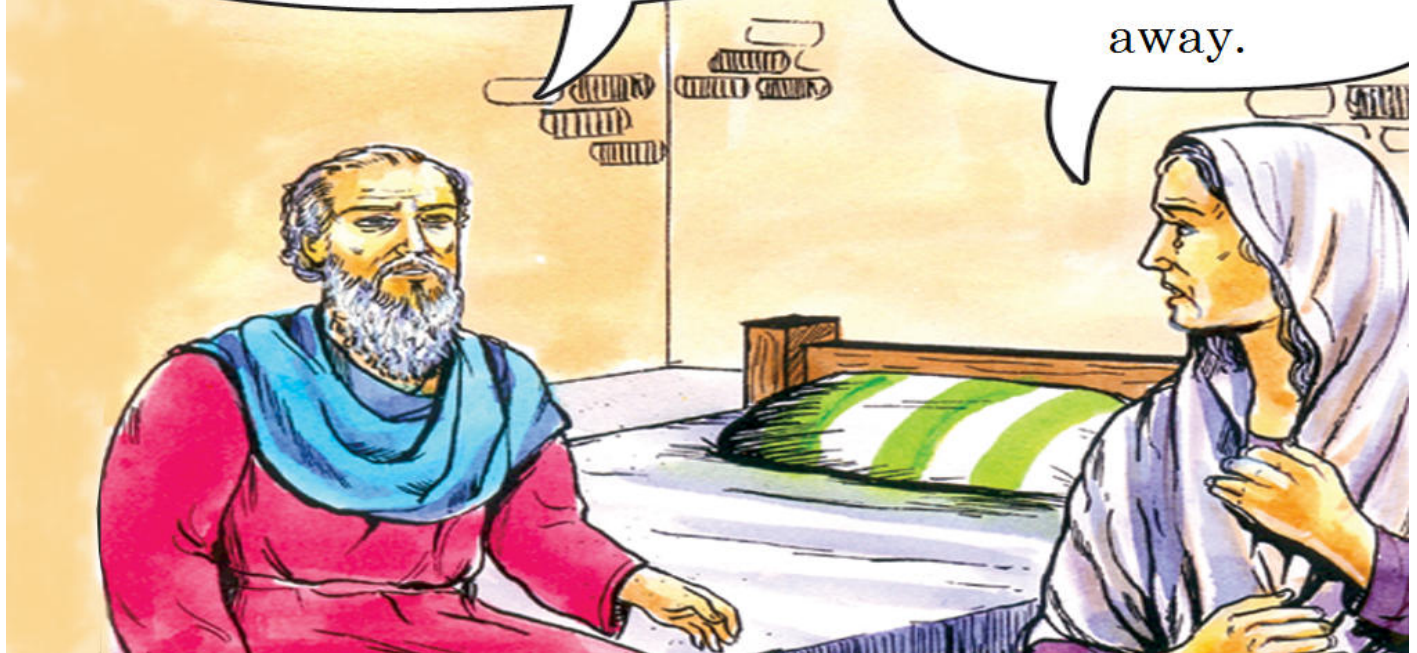
I'll be glad to do it. I shall return in a week.




At the same time in Nineveh.

I wonder why they haven't returned yet. Hope they had no trouble in getting the money.

All you can think is about the money. We shouldn't have sent them so far away.



A close-up illustration of a woman with a purple headscarf, her face yellowed with grief. She has tears on her cheeks and a sorrowful expression. Her hands are clasped near her chest. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and green.

Oh my child, you  
were the light of my  
eyes. I lost you  
forever. I should  
have never  
let you go.

Stop crying, Anna, they will  
come back. You know that it  
is a long journey.

Why are you  
lying to me?





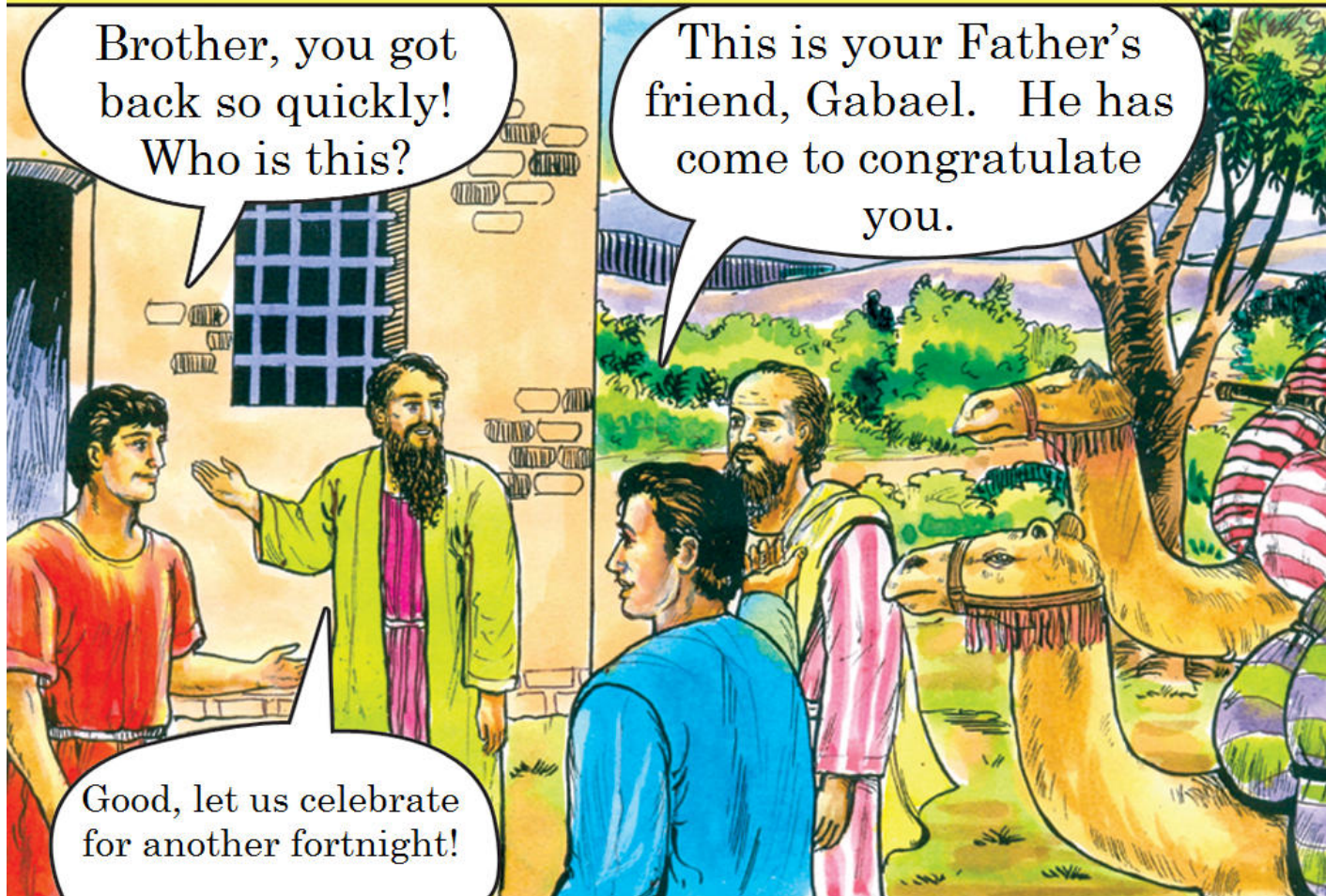
Will my Tobias ever  
come back?

Azariah returned to Raguel's house.

Brother, you got back so quickly!  
Who is this?

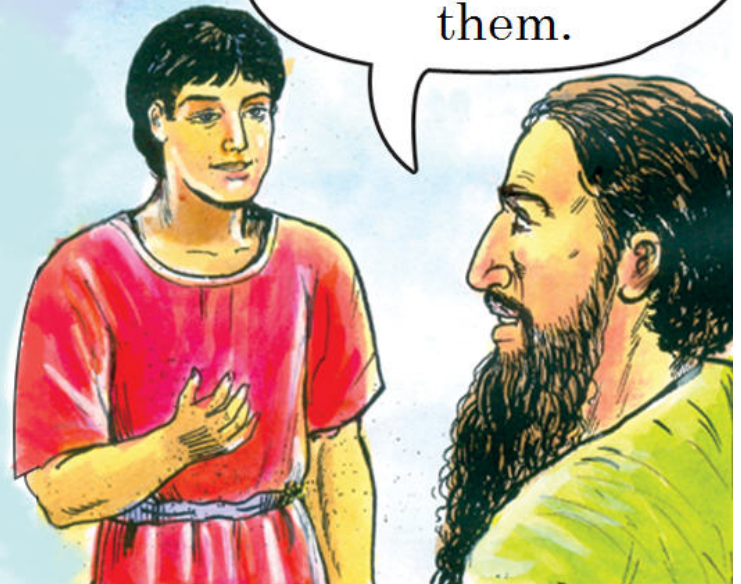
This is your Father's friend, Gabael. He has come to congratulate you.

Good, let us celebrate for another fortnight!



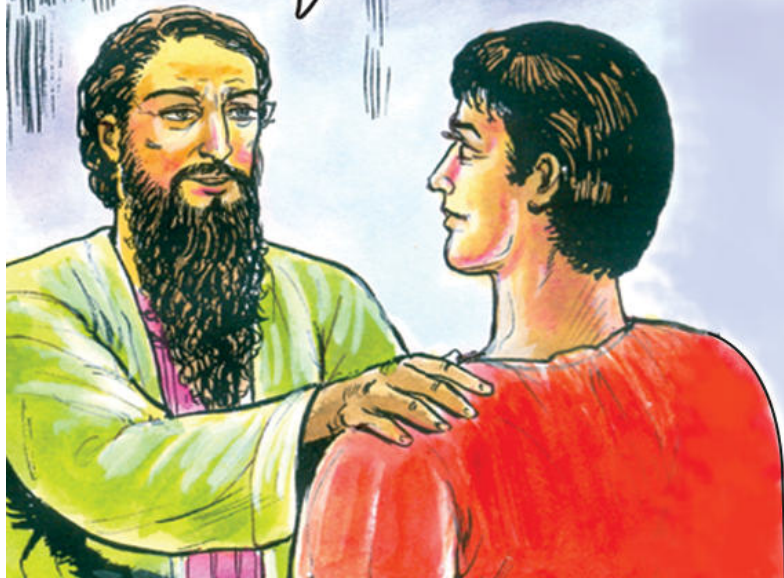
Please let us to leave tomorrow. My father and mother must be really worried by now.

We can send someone to inform them.



No Thank you. I must go.  
Please don't compel me to  
stay any longer!

All right then,  
get ready.



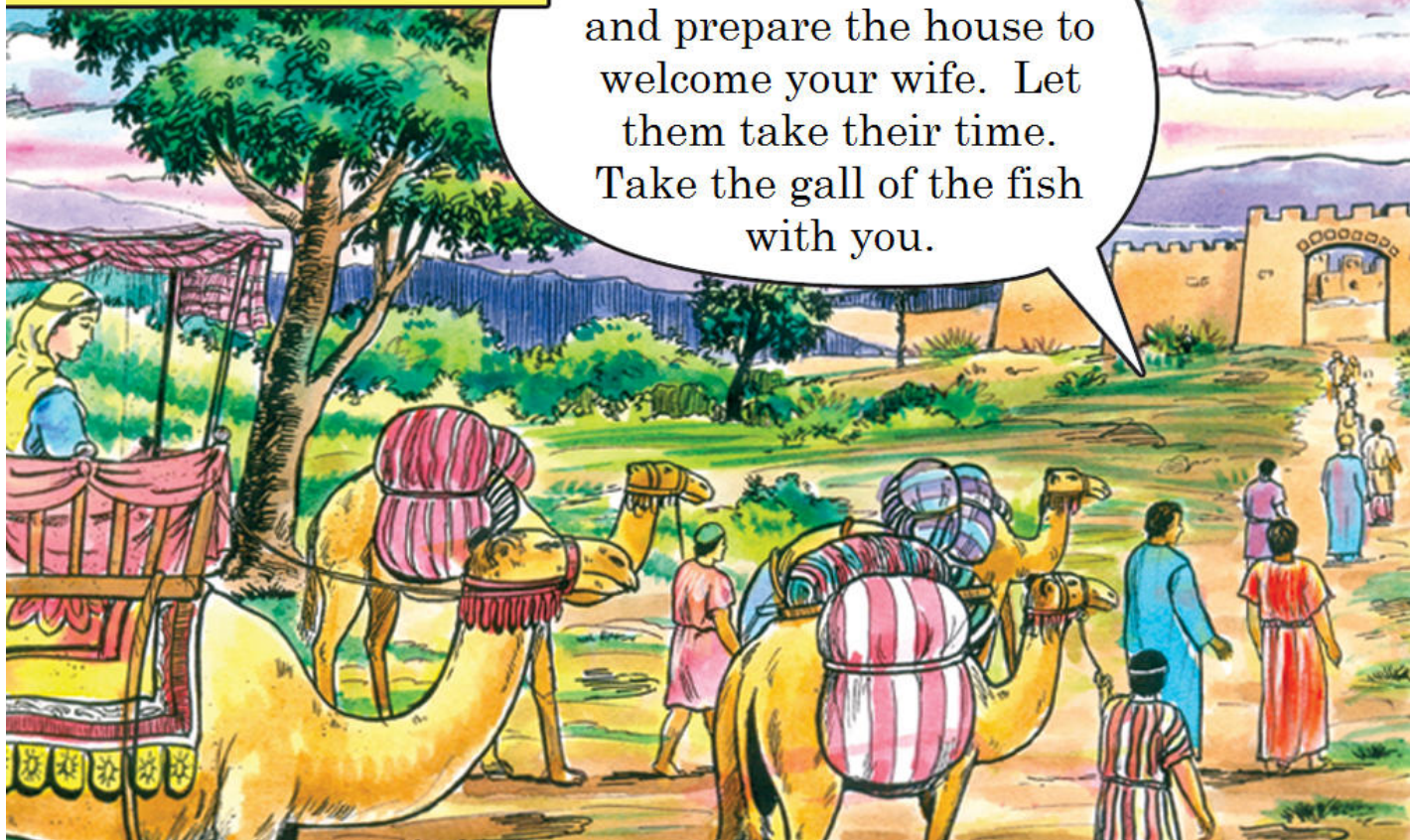


My daughter, go in peace.  
Respect your husband's  
parents as your own. Let  
us hear only the best  
about you.



They reached Nineveh, Azariah told Tobias.

Tobias, let us hurry home and prepare the house to welcome your wife. Let them take their time. Take the gall of the fish with you.



When you get home, you must put the fish's gall to your father's eyes.



Tobias is coming  
with his  
companion.



Tobias applied the medicine into Tobit's eyes.



I can see, my son!  
Praise and glory to  
God for allowing me  
to see again!

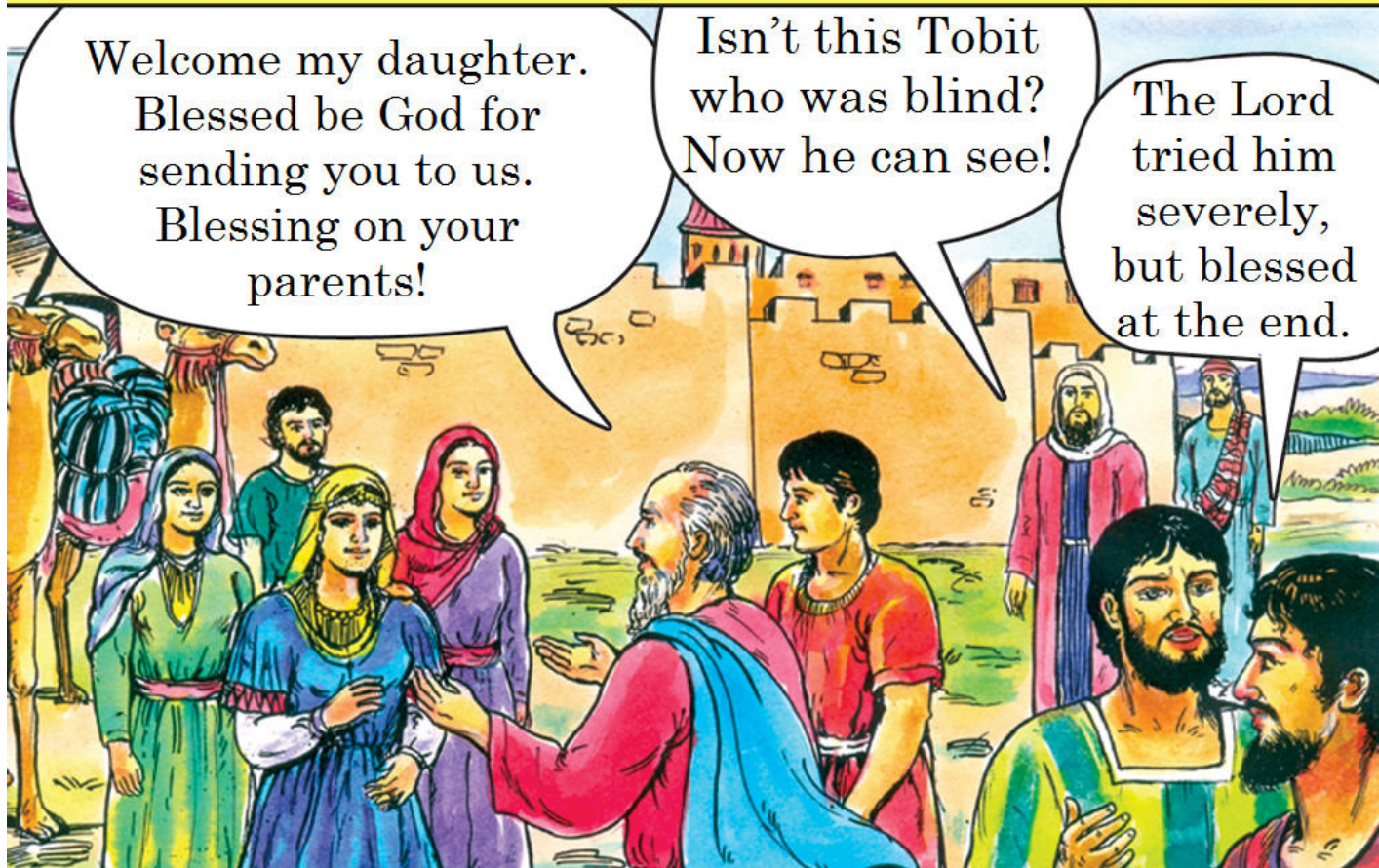


Tobias told them all that had happened. Tobit went out to the city gate to welcome his daughter-in-law.

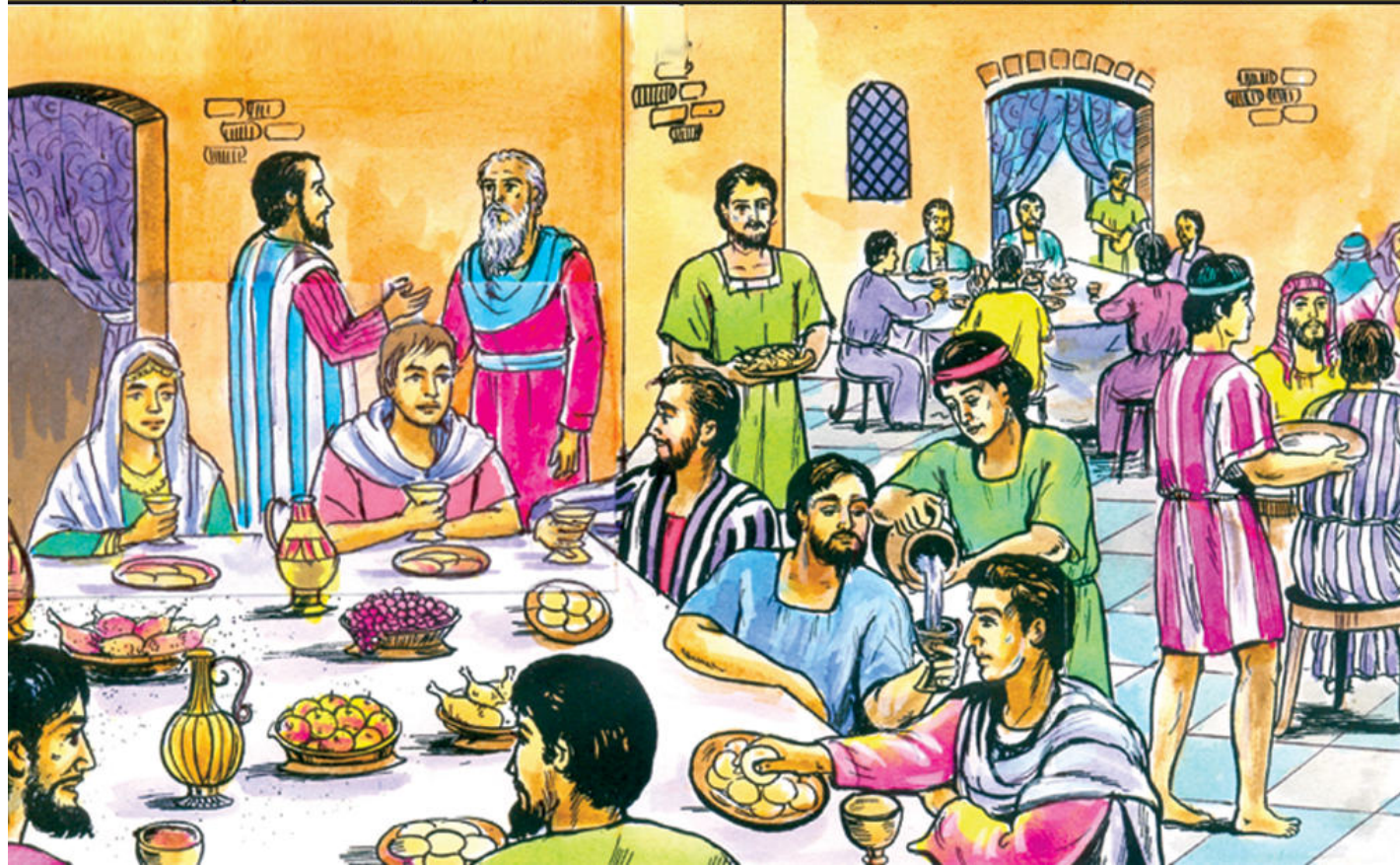
Welcome my daughter.  
Blessed be God for  
sending you to us.  
Blessing on your  
parents!

Isn't this Tobit  
who was blind?  
Now he can see!

The Lord  
tried him  
severely,  
but blessed  
at the end.



Tobit celebrated his son's wedding for seven days. Many came to wish them well.

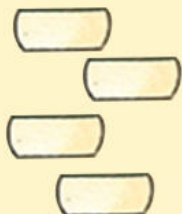




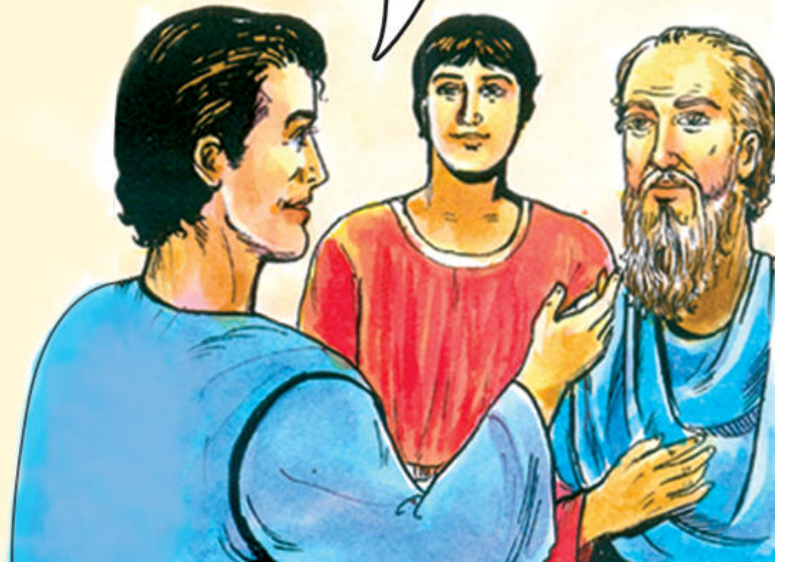
After the  
celebrations.

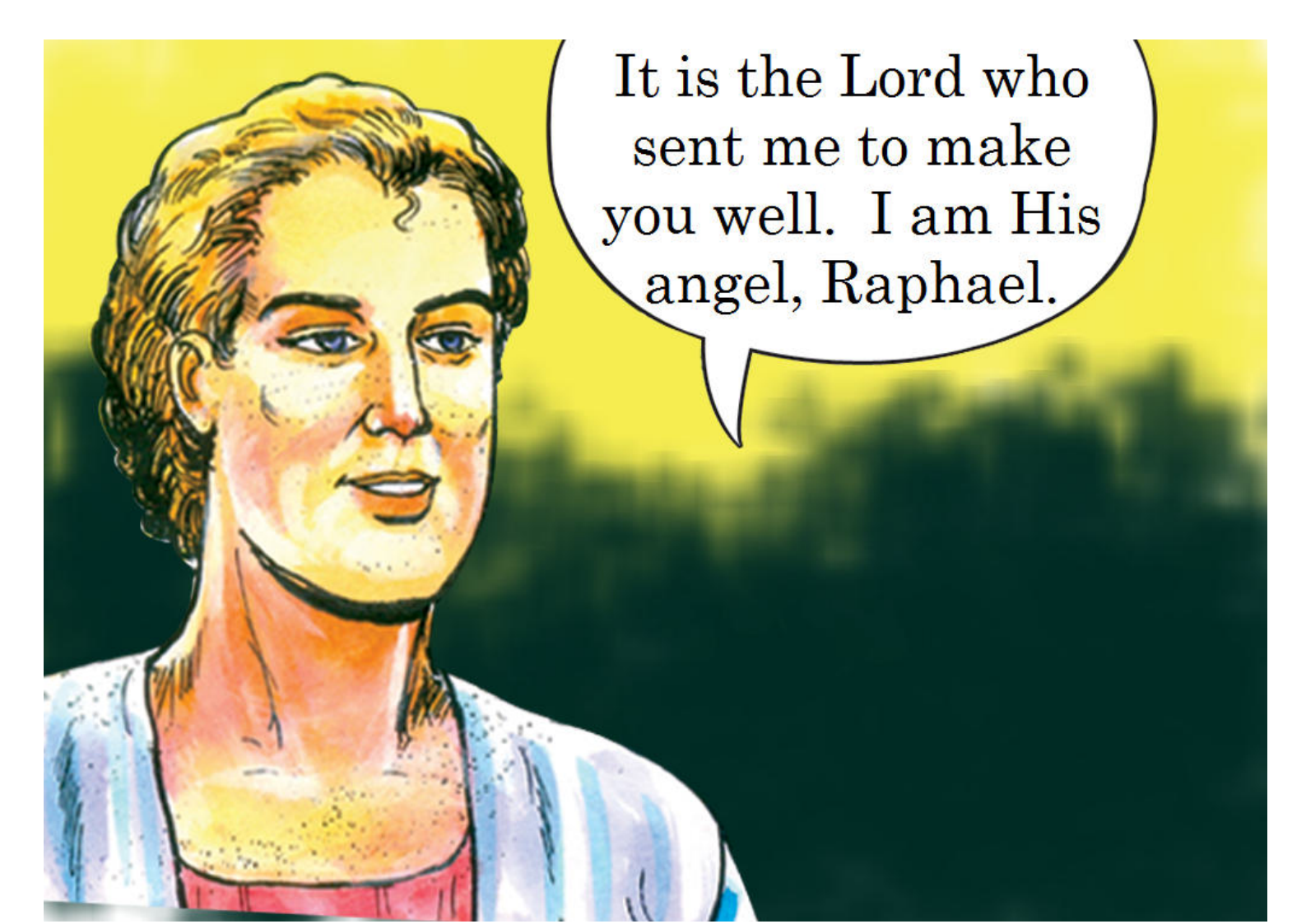
Son, pay your  
companion. Give  
him double his  
due.

It won't be too  
much even if  
we give him  
half of what I  
brought. We  
were blessed in  
so many ways.



Be grateful to the Lord.  
He has seen all the  
good you have done. He  
has seen your miseries  
and heard your  
prayers.



A stylized illustration of a young woman with short, wavy, light brown hair. She has a gentle expression and is covered in freckles. She is wearing a light blue and white striped cardigan over a red top. To her right is a white speech bubble with a black outline, containing text. The background is a soft-focus mix of yellow and green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

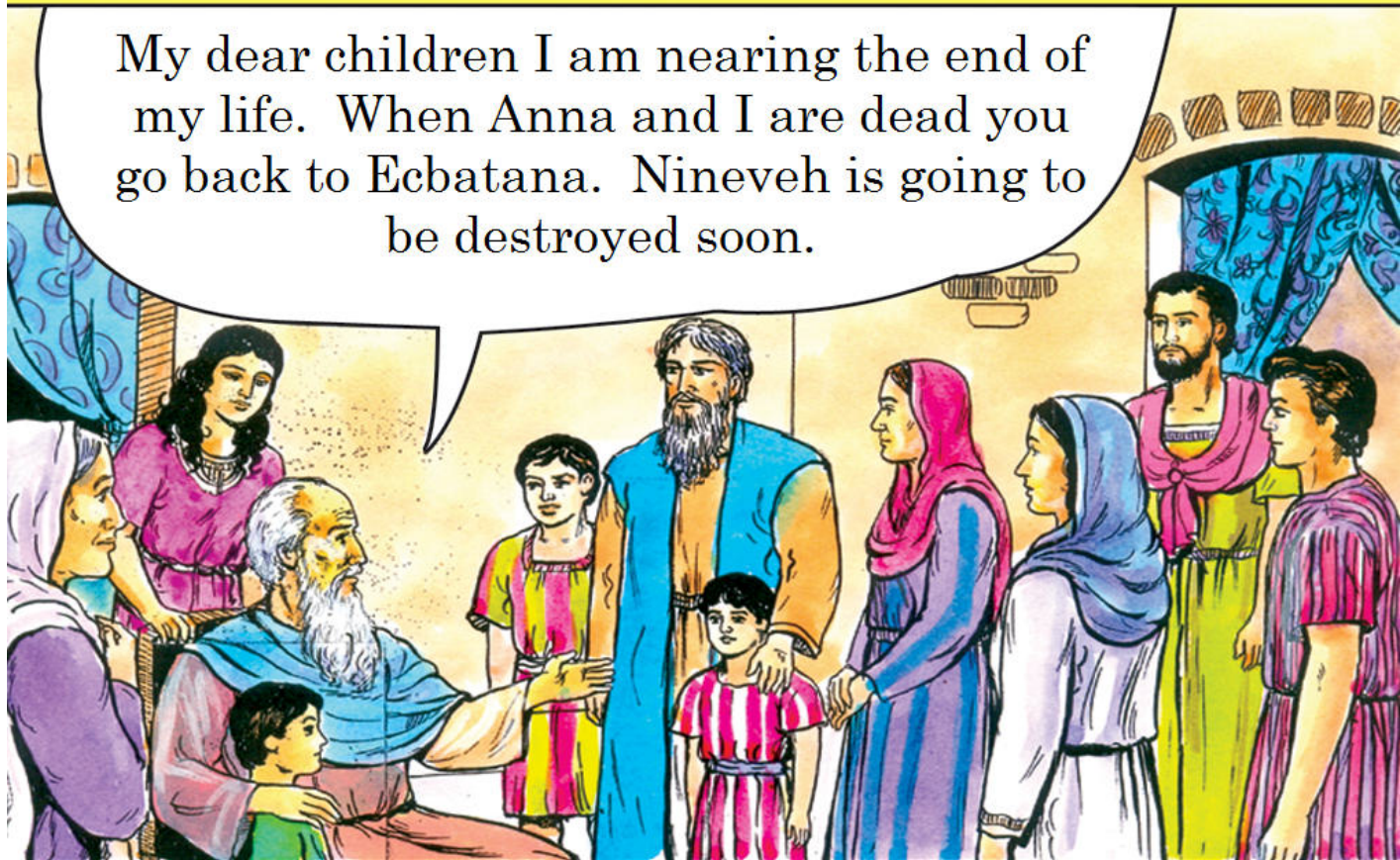
It is the Lord who  
sent me to make  
you well. I am His  
angel, Raphael.

Do not be afraid. Sing  
praise to the Lord.



Tobias and Sarah were blessed with many children. In his old age Tobit called them all and told them.

My dear children I am nearing the end of my life. When Anna and I are dead you go back to Ecbatana. Nineveh is going to be destroyed soon.



After burying his parents, Tobias went with his family to Ecbatana and lived with Sarah's parents. By the end of the fourth century B.C. the history of Israel took a new turn. The rise of Alexander like a shooting star, spreading of the Greek culture – severe religious persecution – in the midst of all these a prophet:

Next Story

**DANIEL**

## QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of the name “Tobit”?
2. After the prophets who assumed the leadership in Israel?
3. Name the King who accepted Tobit into the royal service.
4. Explain the circumstances under which Tobit lost his sight.
5. Where did Raguel live?
6. What advice did Raguel give to Sarah?
7. What does the name “Raphael” mean?
8. How did Tobias save Sarah from the grip of evil?
9. Tobit is a model. Explain.
10. What inspiration did you get from this book?

# 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