

Bible Comics - 45
Jesus Christ - 15
With Us Forever



WITH US FOREVER

WITH US FOREVER

The death of Jesus seen from the outside was a great tragedy. One of his closest friends betrayed him, while the others fled in terror. Rejected and ridiculed, he died on the cross as a criminal and a blasphemer. Even God apparently abandoned him. From the human point of view, Jesus' life was an utter failure. The powers of evil seemed to have defeated and destroyed him.

But, God has proved that the evil shall prevail and death is not to have the last word. To the absolute obedience and infinite love of His son,

God of Father responded by raising him from the dead. The resurrection of Jesus is God's victory over sin and Satan. By the death and resurrection of Jesus, not only the sinful humanity but the whole universe has been redeemed. The resurrection reveals the meaning of human life and the dignity of the human person.

Although Jesus had foretold about his resurrection, even the apostles found it difficult to believe that he really rose from the dead. All their hopes and dreams were shattered by the brutal fact of the crucifixion. Not even the empty

tomb was sufficient proof for them. Only after meeting the risen Lord and eating with him could they believe that the one who died on the cross has really defeated death. This new awareness filled them with joy and courage.

The disciples who went to Emmaus recognized the risen Lord at the breaking of the bread, the most primitive form of the Eucharistic celebration. We too can meet the Lord today in the celebration of the Eucharist. It was Thomas the apostle who confessed for the first time the faith of the Church in Jesus as God and the Lord.

The fourth gospel in reporting the confession of Thomas emphasizes his faith rather than his disbelief. Moreover, this episode teaches that even those who could not see the risen Lord, should believe the apostolic testimony and confess him as God and the Lord.

Peter, the leader of the apostles was given the opportunity to confess his love for Jesus three times in compensation for his three denials. As God the Father has sent him, Jesus, the risen Lord sent his apostles to proclaim the Good News to the whole world. This is the

mission of the church and all the believers participate in this mission.

The ascension into heaven proclaims aloud and graphically depicts that Jesus has entered into the glory of the Father through his death and resurrection. Though invisible to the human eye, he is always with us, beyond the limitations of time and space. This truth is revealed in the last verse of the gospel of Mathew.

The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee that we too will be once raised from death. This will happen only at the end of the world. With

the resurrection of the bodies, death itself will cease to exist. Hope in the resurrection and eternal life enables the believers to accept all the trials and suffering of this world with joy and to stand for truth and justice under all circumstances with courage.

Bible comics— 45

Jesus Christ - 15

With Us Forever

Script:

Rev.Dr. Michael Karimattam

Illustration:

Devassy & Benny


The disciples who witnessed the crucifixion left Calvary with hopes shattered and hearts broken.



It will be dark soon.
Sabbath has started
already. You can
stay at my house
tonight.

That is very kind of
you Joseph. Let them
come with you. I will
look for Peter and the
other Apostles.





You people can stay in
that upper room.

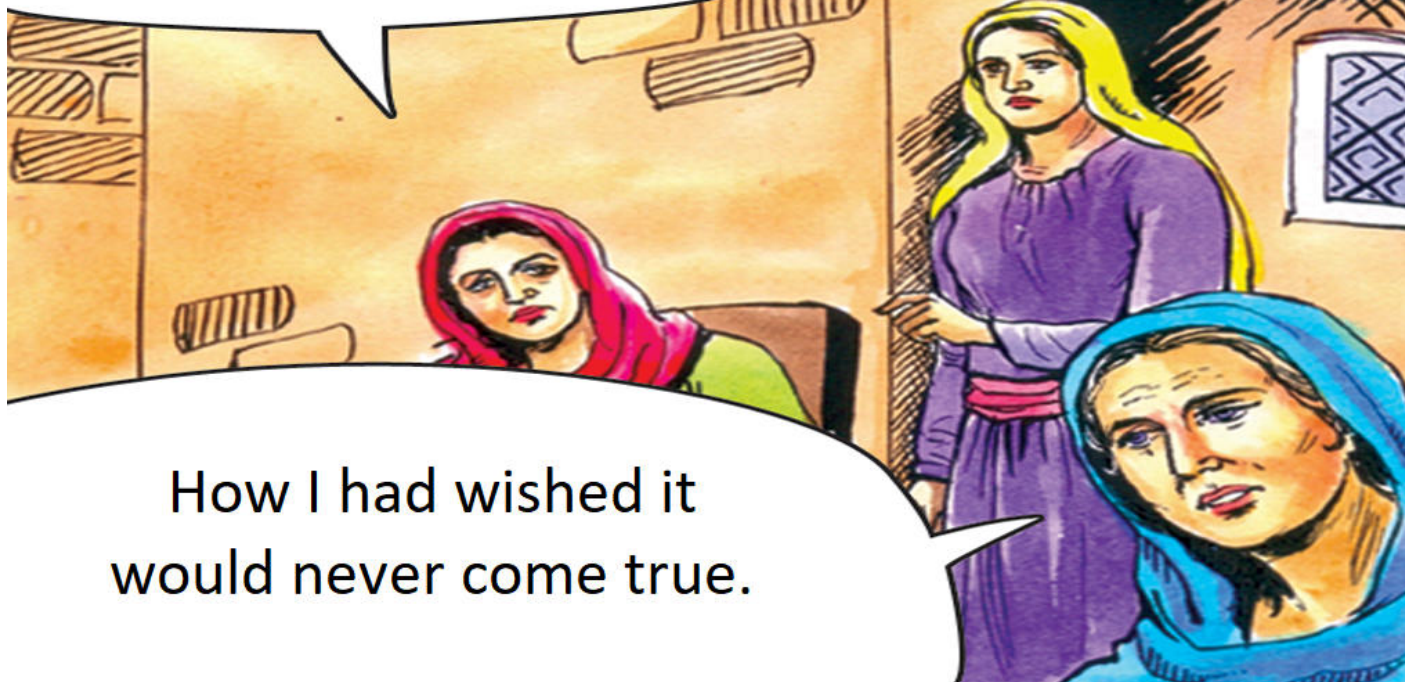
Thank you. We cannot get a better
place. A room filled with the
memories of the Last Supper.

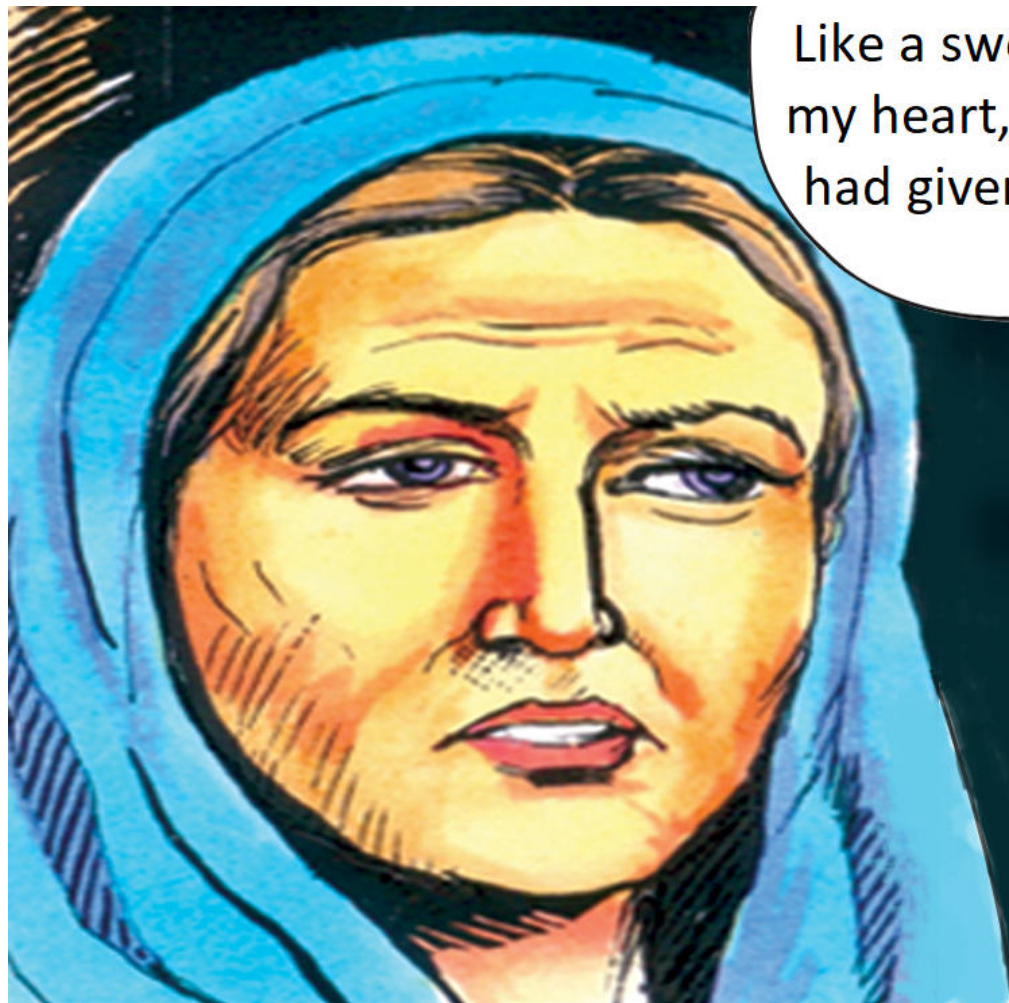
At the house of Joseph of Arimathea.

Why was the one who said
"I am the life and the
resurrection" killed so brutally!

The Master had
told us about his
death before.

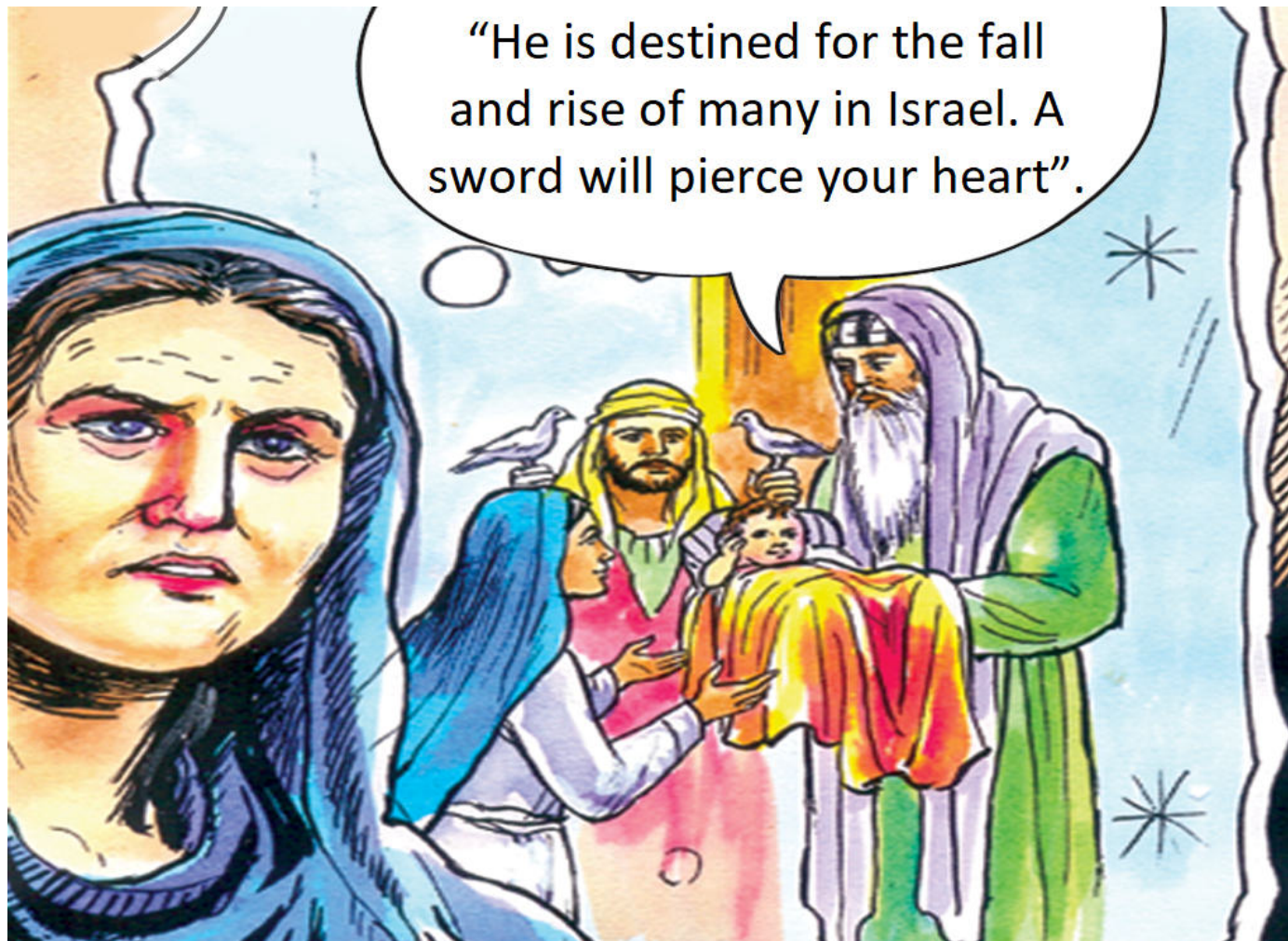
How I had wished it
would never come true.





Like a sword thrust into
my heart, that prophecy
had given me constant
pain.

"He is destined for the fall
and rise of many in Israel. A
sword will pierce your heart".



It remained with me like an
unending nightmare! I never
thought that it would be so
cruel.

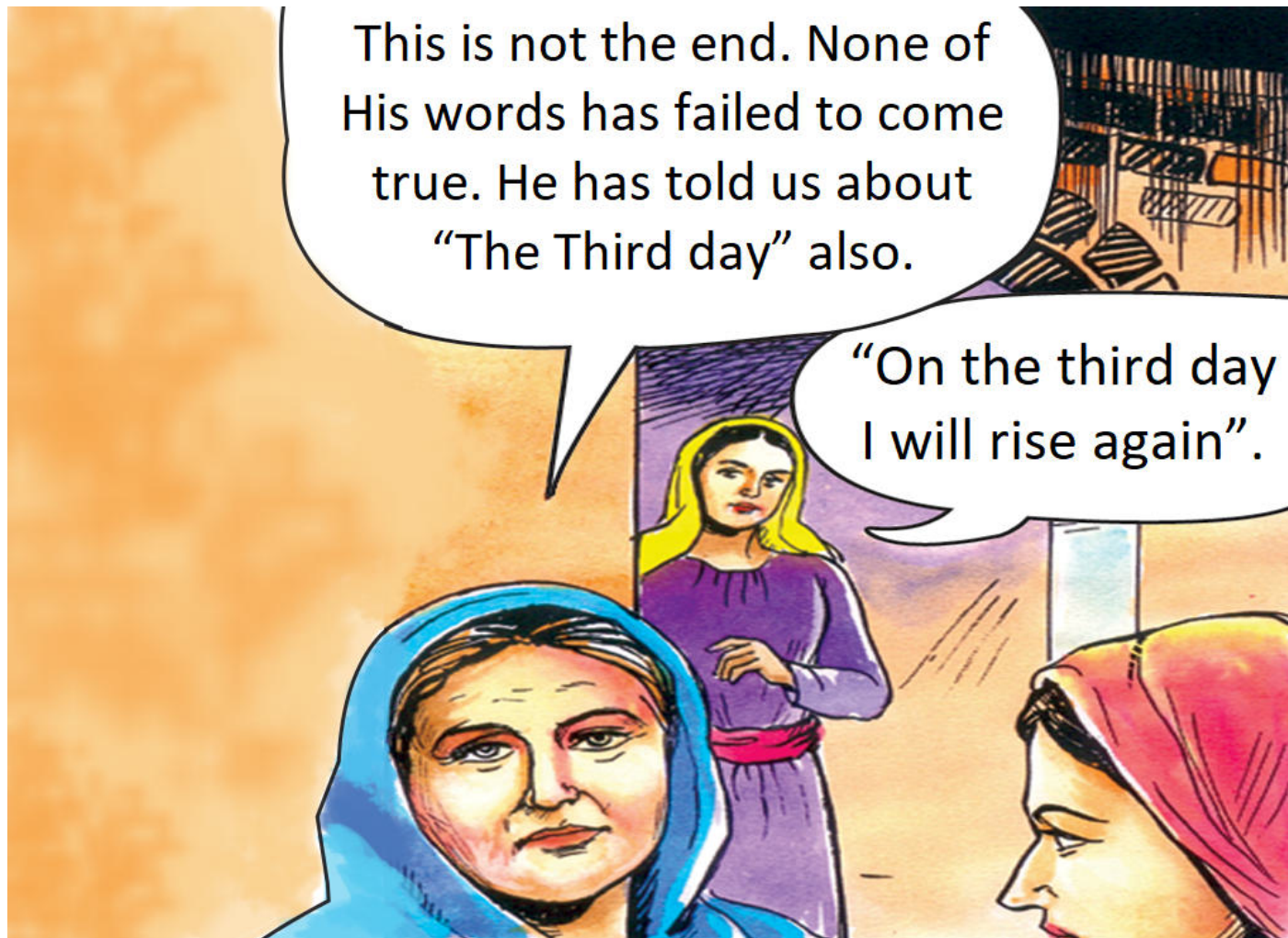


Everything ended so fast. Can
anything good survive here



This is not the end. None of
His words has failed to come
true. He has told us about
"The Third day" also.

"On the third day
I will rise again".



Wasn't He talking
about the
resurrection of the
Righteous on the
last day?

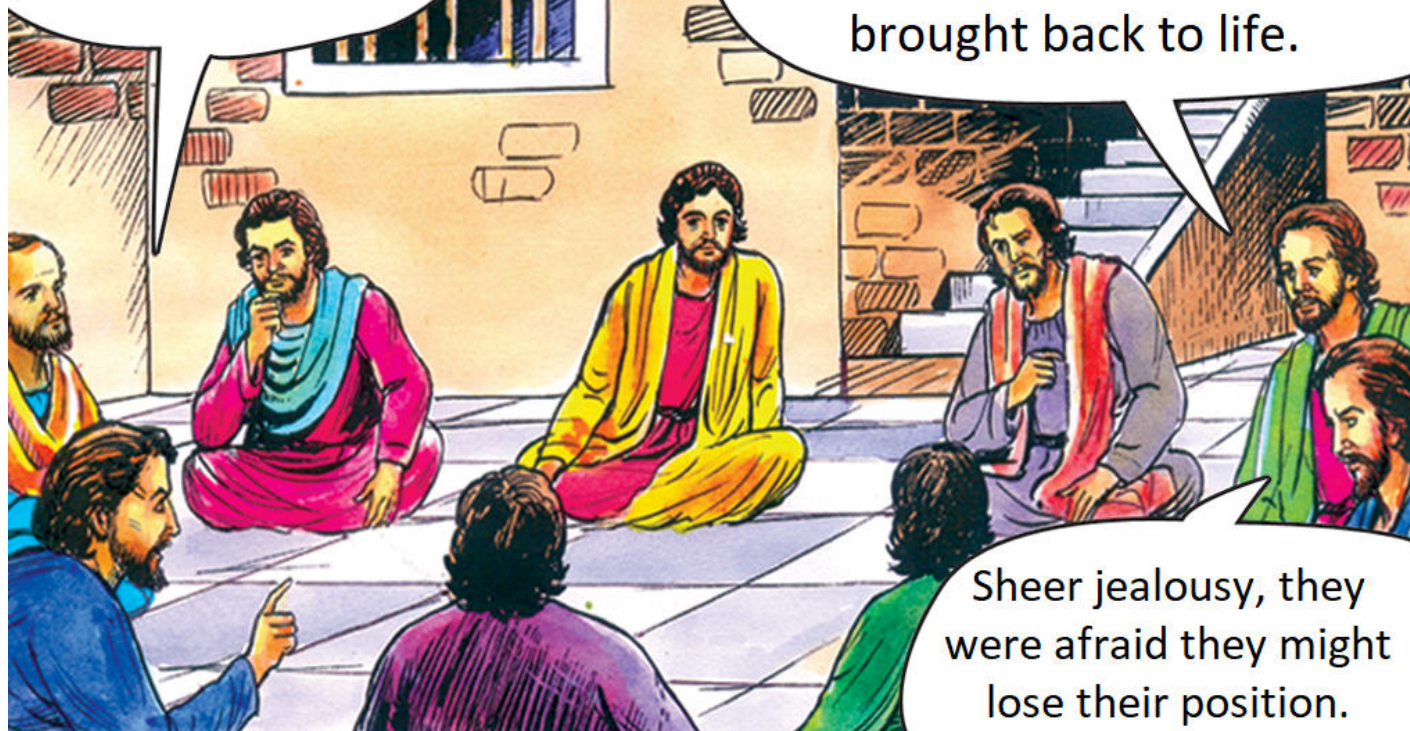
I am not sure.
However, deep in
my heart, I hear a
voice which says
that this is not the
end.



At the same time the Apostles gathered in the upper room.

I never thought Judas would do this.

It is the High Priest and his men did it. They didn't believe even Lazarus was brought back to life.




Sheer jealousy, they were afraid they might lose their position.

Pilate is responsible. He sentenced Him to death even after saying again and again that Jesus was innocent.

Washing his hands won't remove the blood stain.





Why go on accusing
others? What did we do
at the crucial moment?
We all ran away.

Now, what
shall we do?

Get back to Galilee
as soon as possible.



How are we going to get out of the city? All the gates are guarded.

They are looking for us. It was foolish to draw the sword in the garden.



Peter, you are the
one who took the
sword. Now tell us
what to do.

In vain, I hoped to
save the Master.
But, three times I
denied that I even
know him...



Why do we accuse
each other?

Many a times He told us
that all these things would
happen. But, not one of us
believed Him.

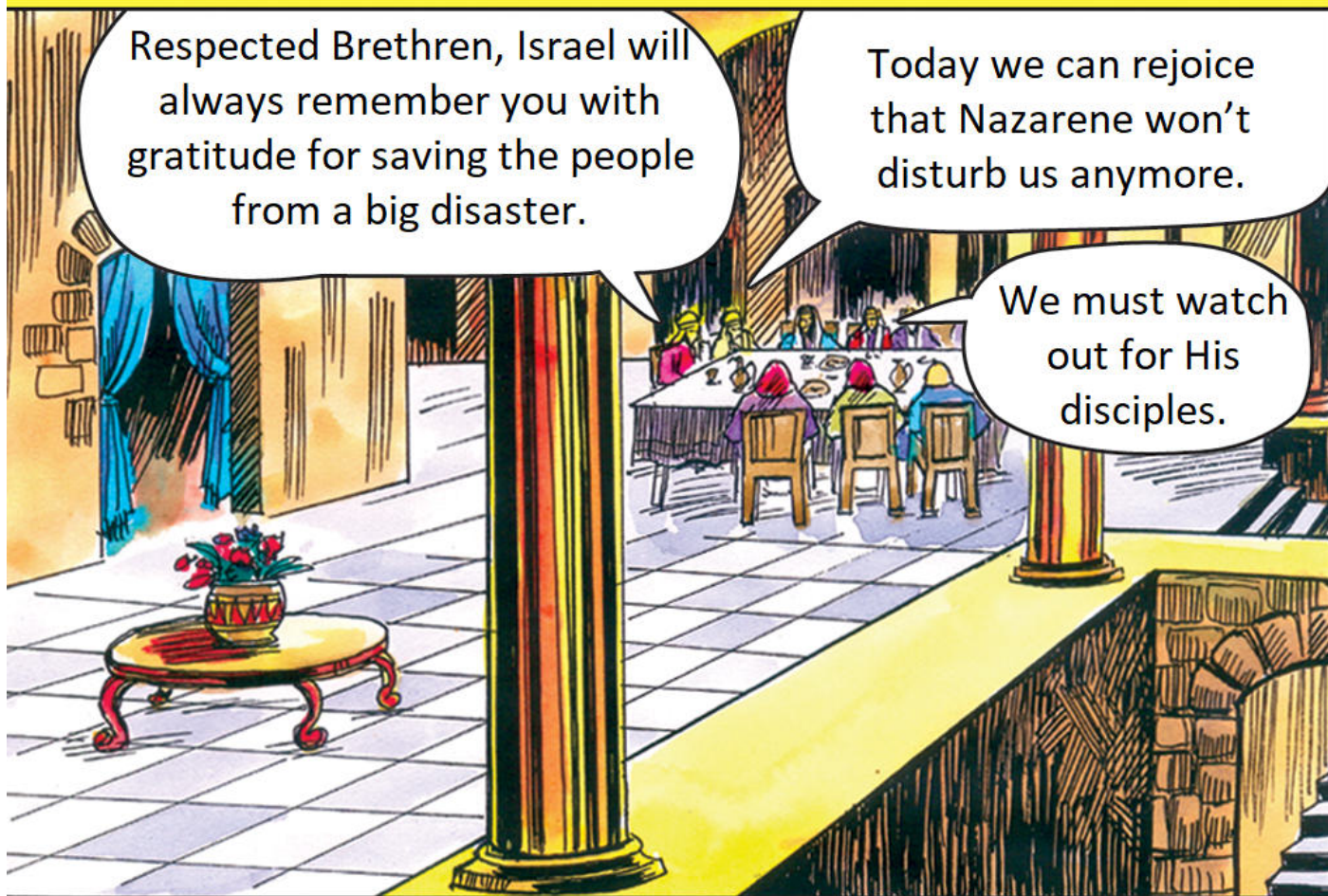



That evening the Jewish Leaders also got together and discussed.

Respected Brethren, Israel will always remember you with gratitude for saving the people from a big disaster.

Today we can rejoice that Nazarene won't disturb us anymore.

We must watch out for His disciples.



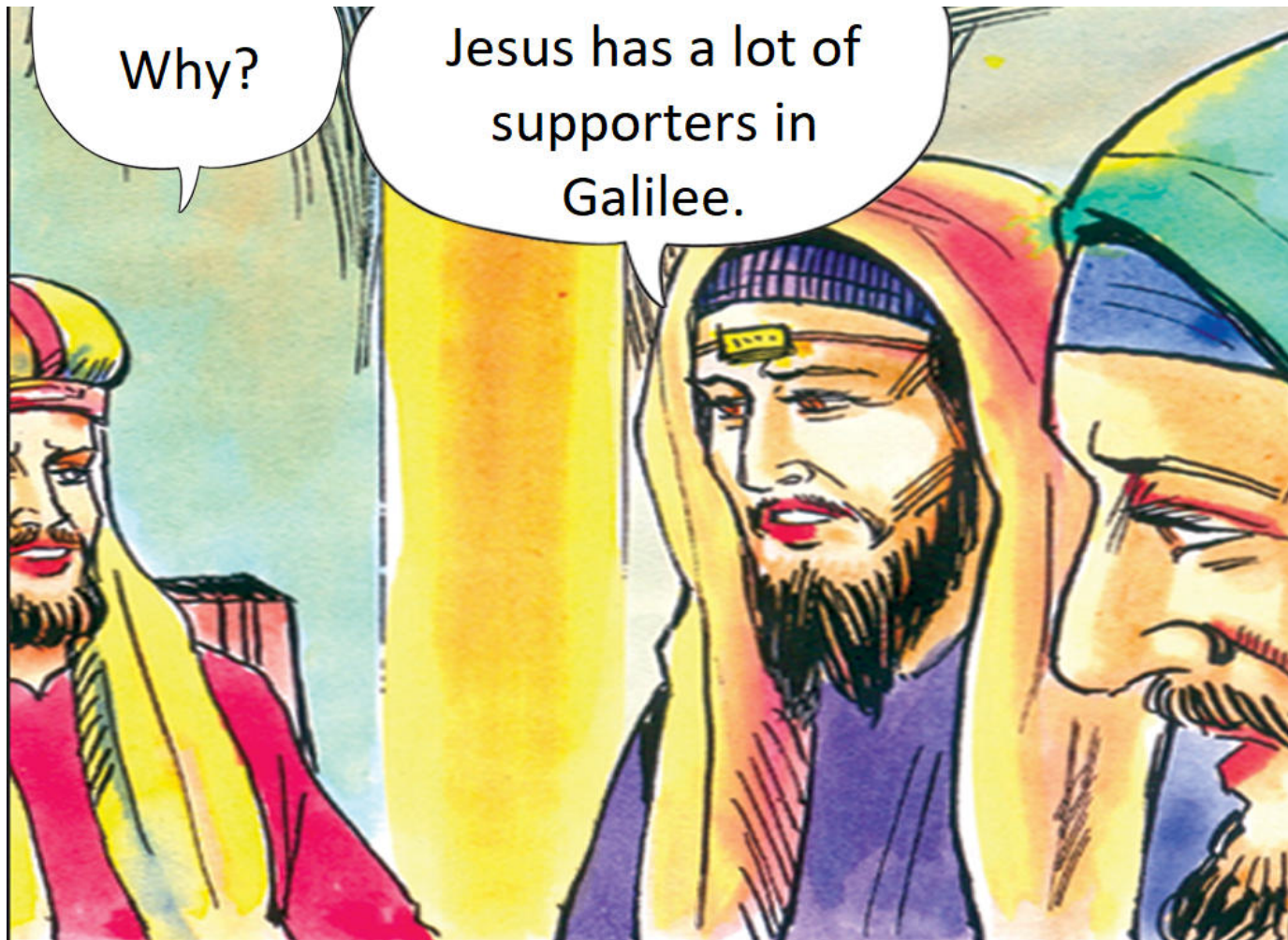


They learned a good lesson. They won't dare come out.

I am not so sure about that.

Why?

Jesus has a lot of
supporters in
Galilee.

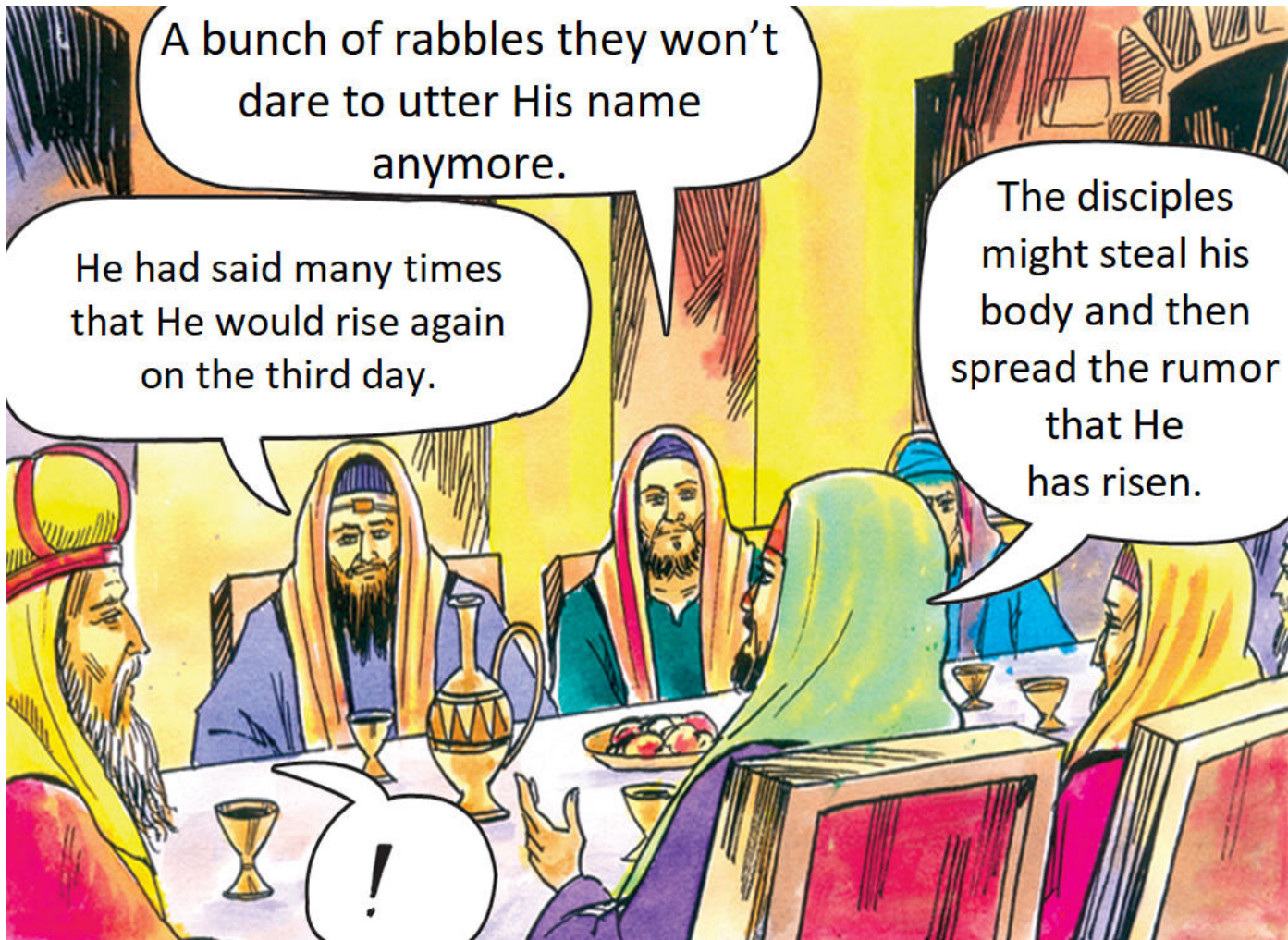


A bunch of rabbles they won't
dare to utter His name
anymore.

He had said many times
that He would rise again
on the third day.

The disciples
might steal his
body and then
spread the rumor
that He
has risen.

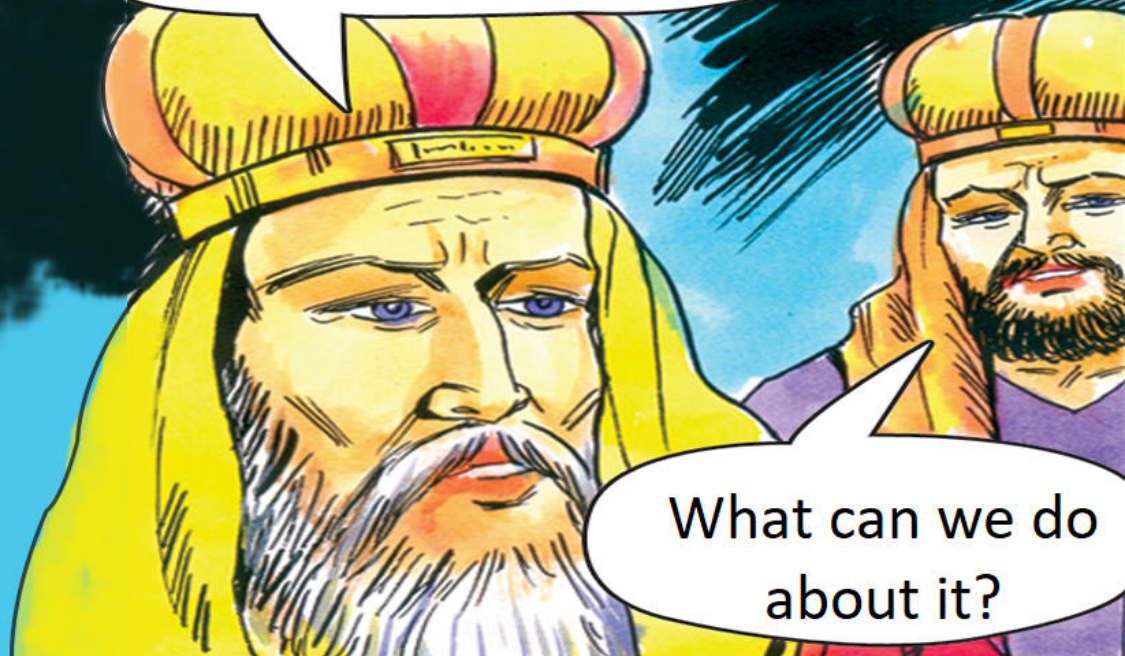
!



Who would believe such nonsense?

Don't write it off that easily. He brought back Lazarus to life. People will believe anything.

What can we do about it?



Make sure that He doesn't come out
of the Tomb.

Do you believe that He
will rise?

!



Not that I believe. We
mustn't leave room for
such a rumour.

What can we do to prevent
such nonsense?




But, it was Pilate who gave
permission to bury the body. The
tomb belongs to a Council member.
Who can set up guards there?

Ask Pilate.



?



I hate to go there
again.

You have to go. Otherwise we will be in
trouble again.

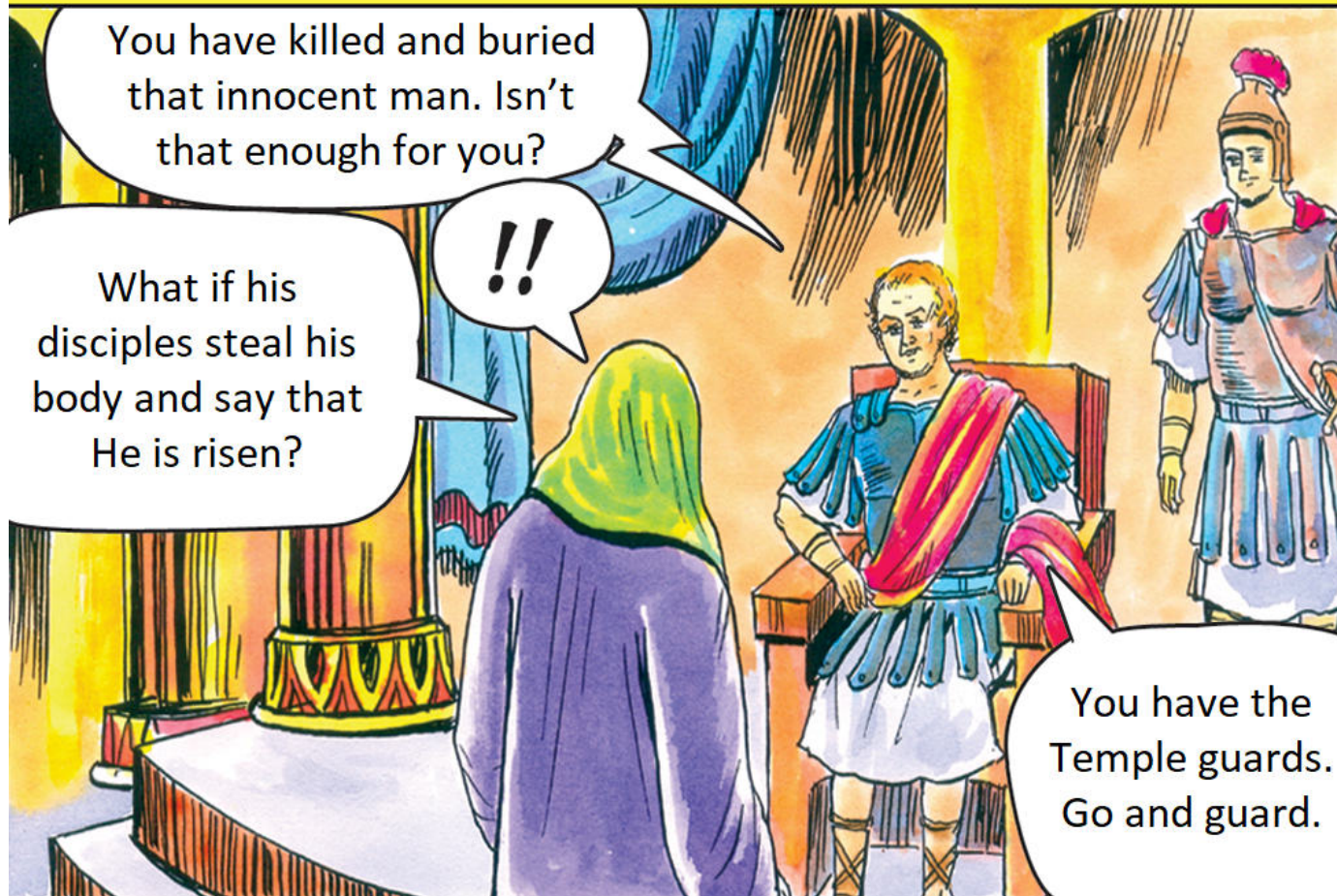
Phinehas presented the problem to Pilate.

You have killed and buried
that innocent man. Isn't
that enough for you?

!!

What if his
disciples steal his
body and say that
He is risen?

You have the
Temple guards.
Go and guard.



We are grateful for your permission.

Guarding a decaying corpse! It is a job that suits you.

!?



Preventing rumor about his
resurrection will be good for
both of us.

You may leave. Rome knows
how to handle rumours.

!




They made the tomb secure, putting seals on the stone and mounting guards.

We have no choice, but obey their orders.


The High Priest has gone crazy. If not he wouldn't ask us to guard a dead body.





Listen, the cock crows.
Our time is up.

!



Hey get up. Now
it's your turn.

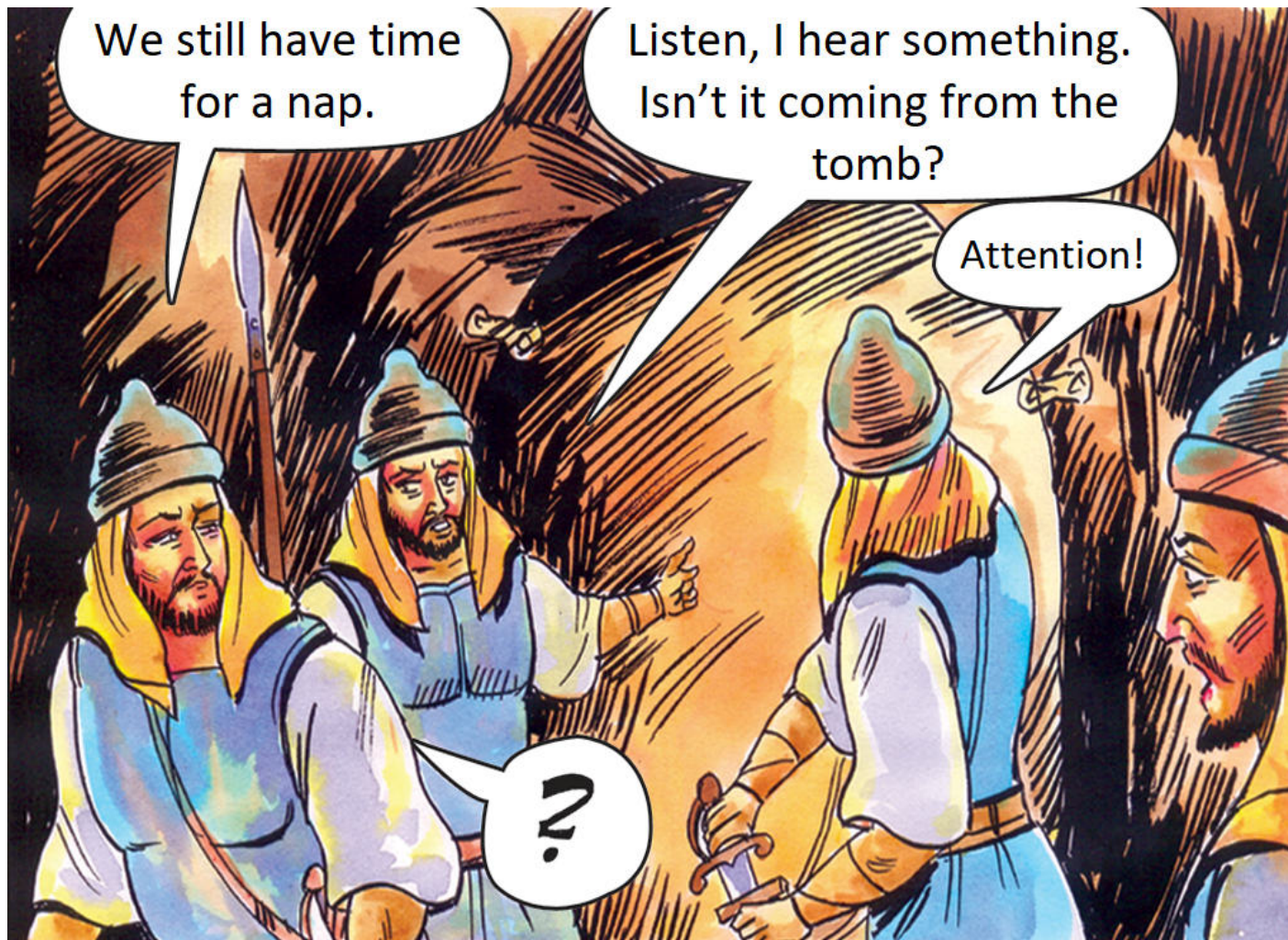
!

We still have time
for a nap.

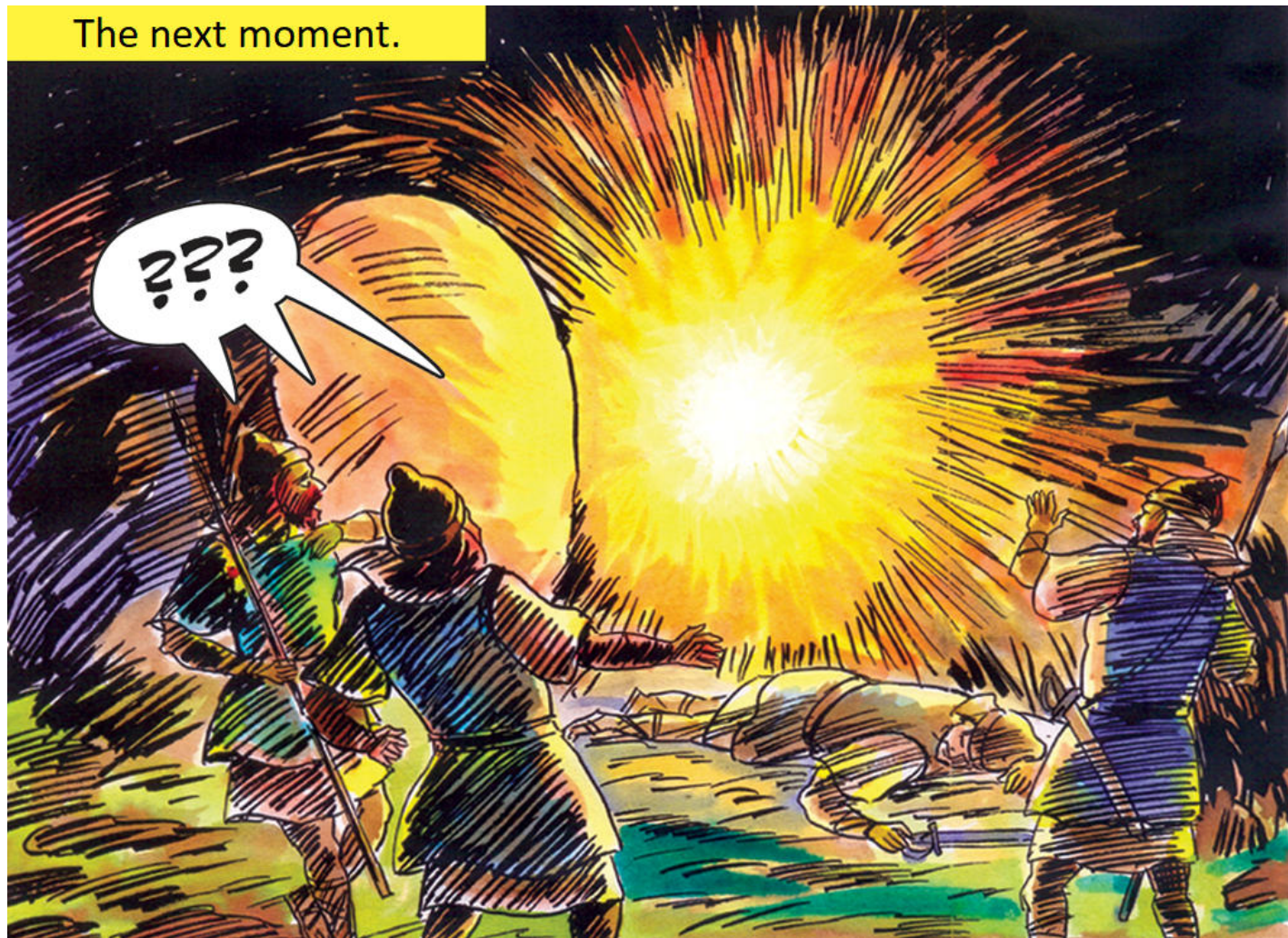
Listen, I hear something.
Isn't it coming from the
tomb?

Attention!

?



The next moment.



The guards got scared and ran off to the High Priest.

What are you doing here? You are supposed to be guarding the tomb.

No need of guarding it anymore.

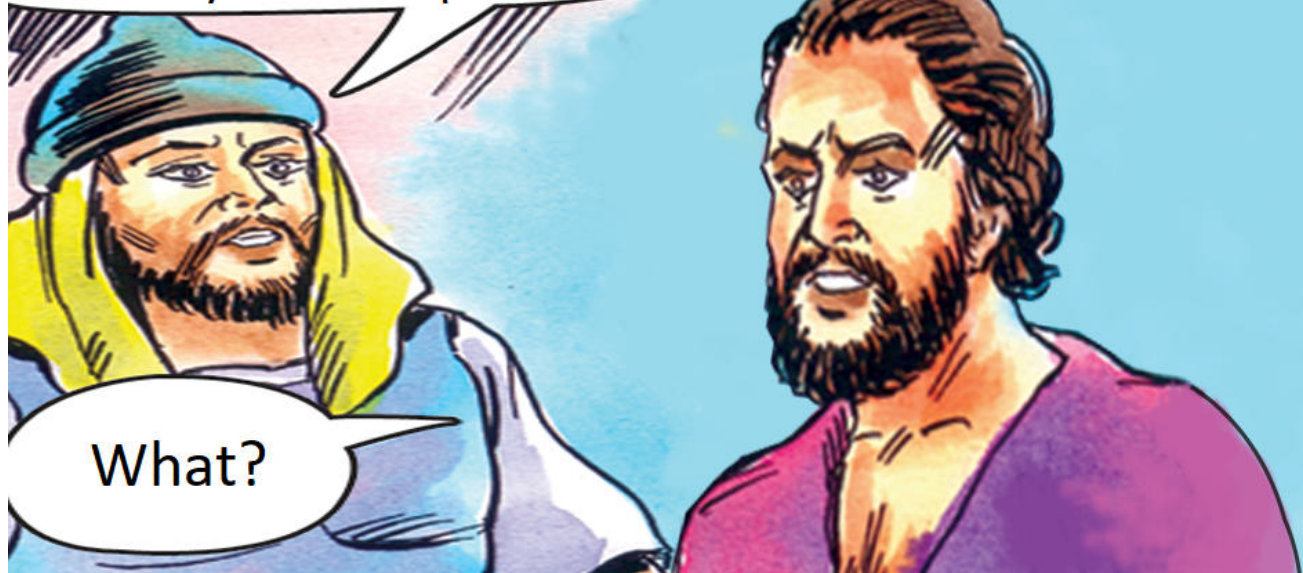



The Tomb is open and empty.

Did the disciples steal the body
while you slept?

No it happened when all four
of us were watching with our
eyes wide open.

What?





An Angel came down from heaven
and rolled the stone away.

Are you dreaming?

This is no Dream.
Seeing Him we got
scared and we
fainted.



You shall be punished for sleeping on duty.

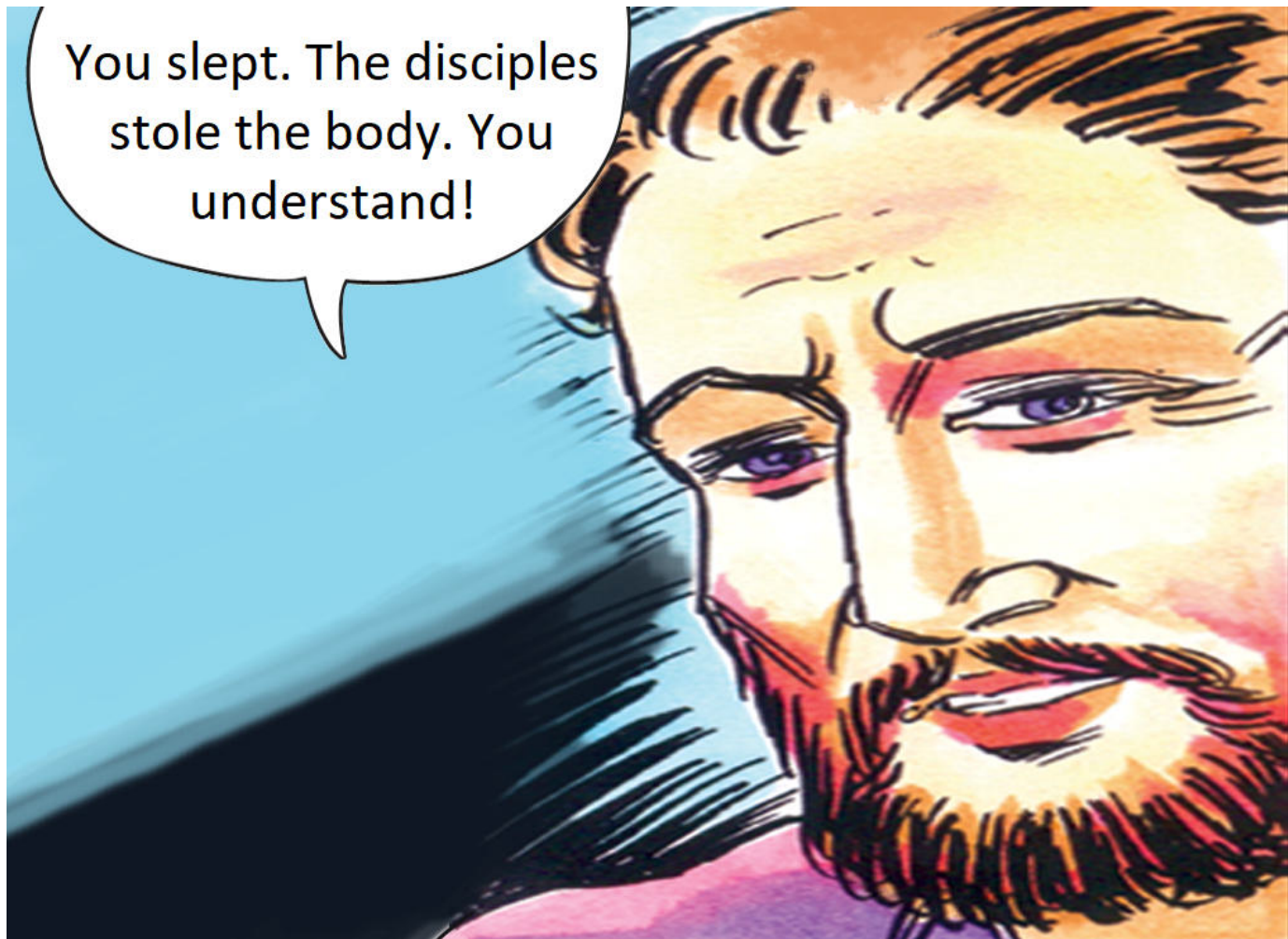
Your Majesty, it is true that man was the Son of God.

The very thing we feared the most happened. Who can stop God?

!



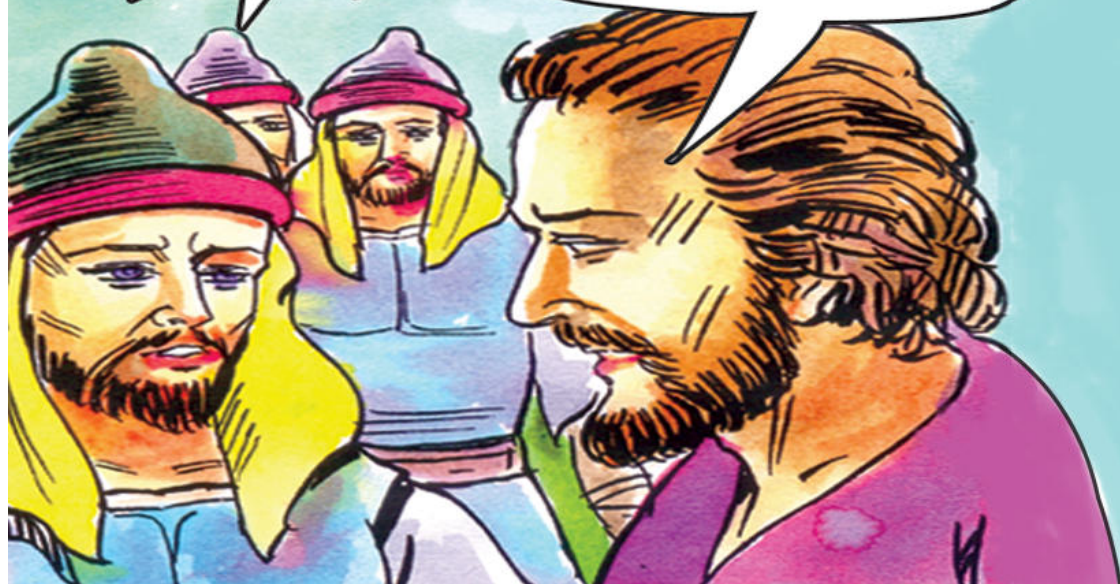
You slept. The disciples
stole the body. You
understand!



We saw...

!!!

I shall give one hundred shekel to each one of you as a reward. Just say what I said is the truth.



If I hear anything else from
you, you will pay for it dearly.

All right, whatever you say is
the truth. They stole his
body.

!



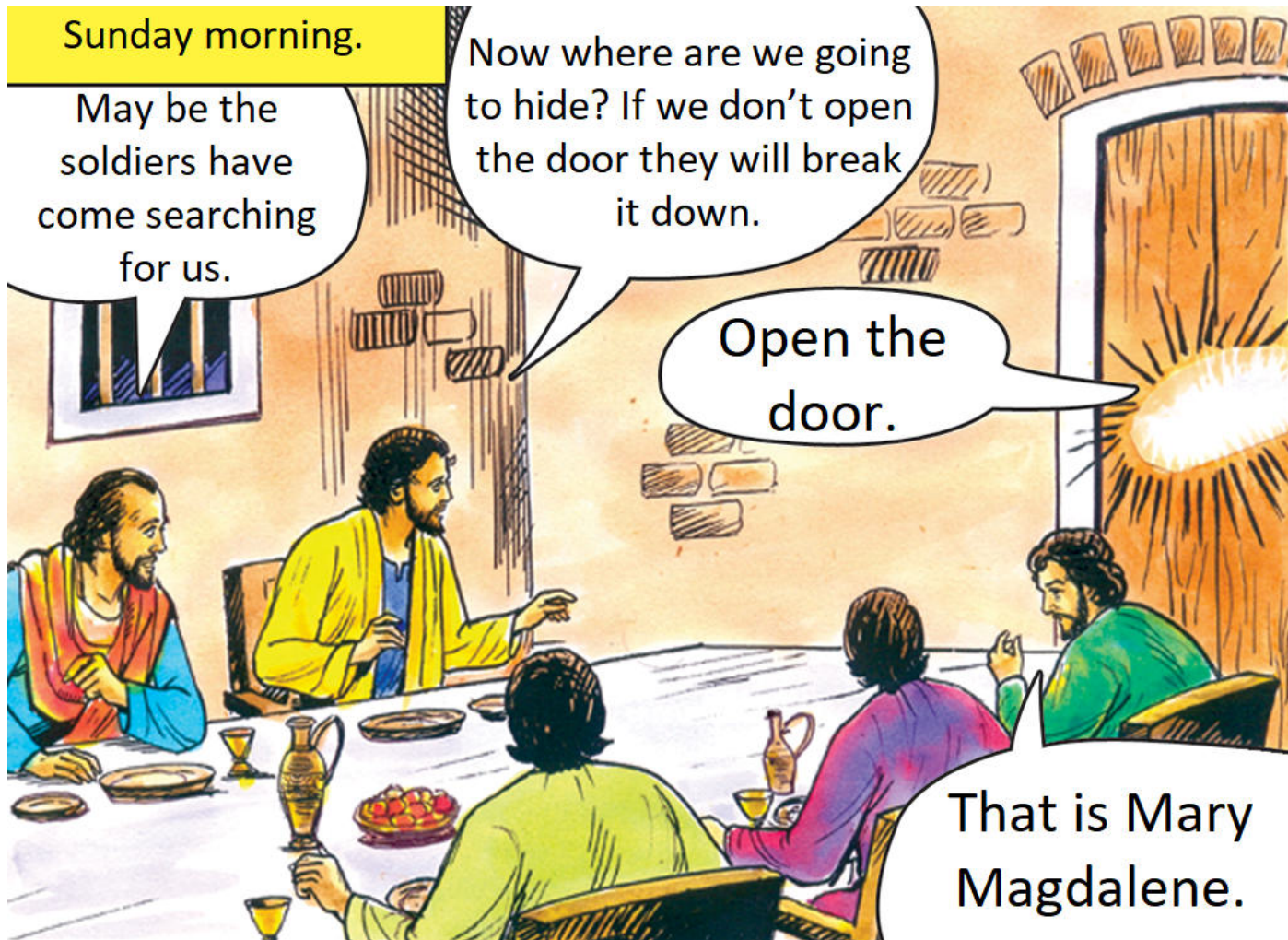
Sunday morning.

May be the soldiers have come searching for us.

Now where are we going to hide? If we don't open the door they will break it down.

Open the door.


That is Mary Magdalene.



Somebody opened the
Tomb and stole our
Master's body.

What? What
happened?

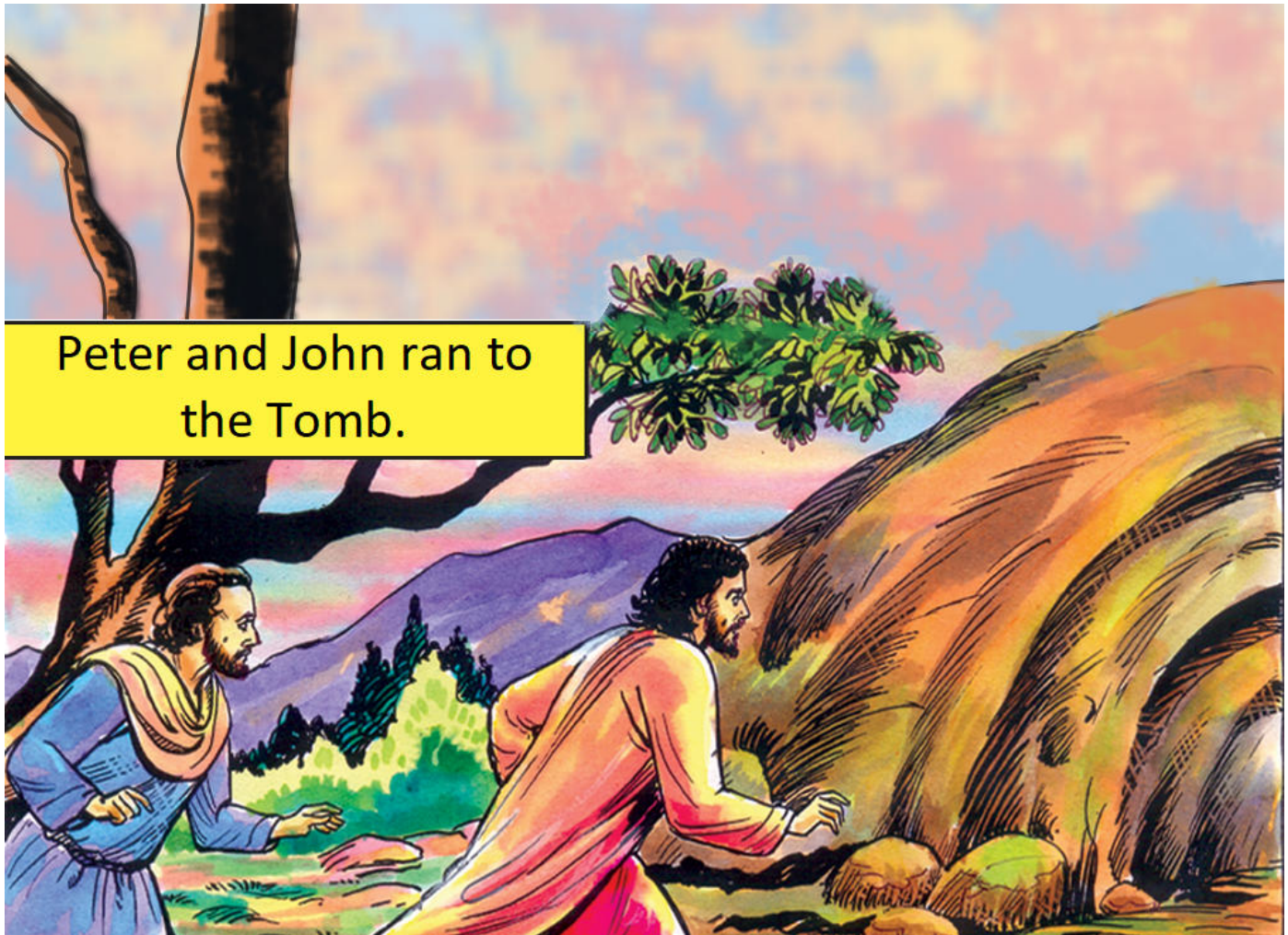




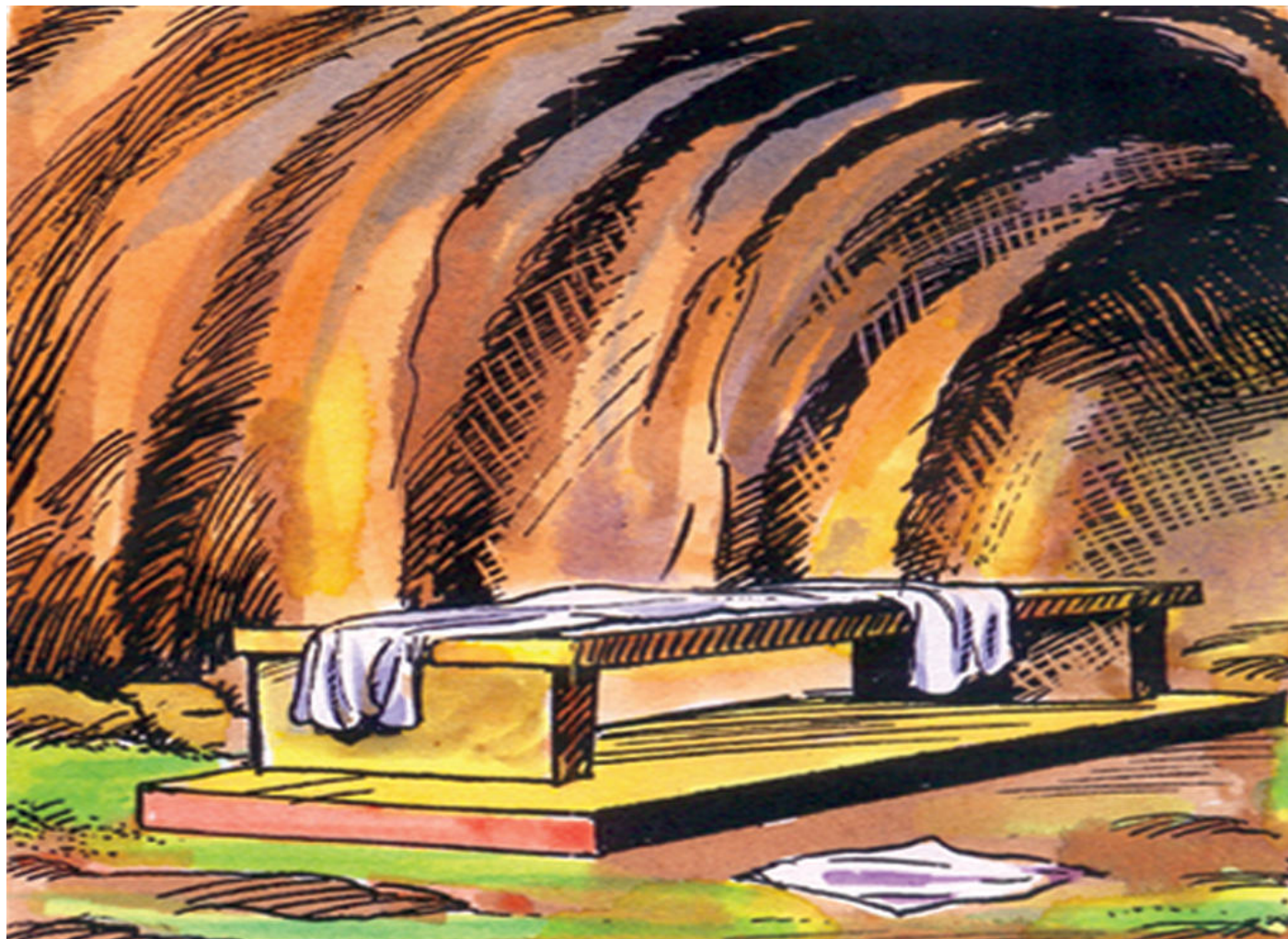
At dawn we went there.
The tomb was open and
empty.

Let us go and see what
happened.

Peter and John ran to
the Tomb.







Why did they remove
the body?

If it was removed,
would the shroud lie
like this?



Something
strange has
happened.

Let us go back to
the upper room.



Magdalene returned
to the Tomb.

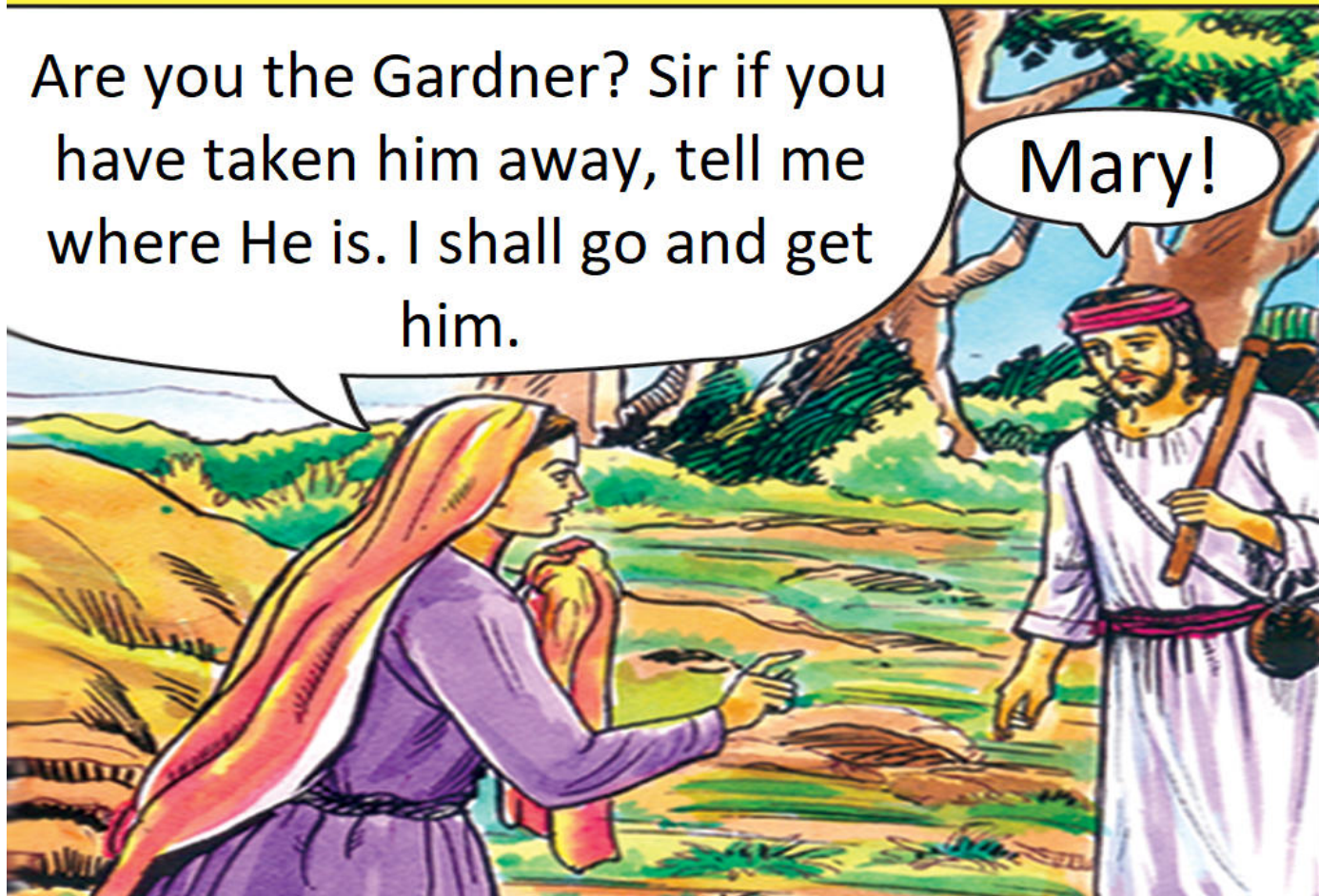
Lord, where are you?



When she turned around.

Are you the Gardner? Sir if you have taken him away, tell me where He is. I shall go and get him.

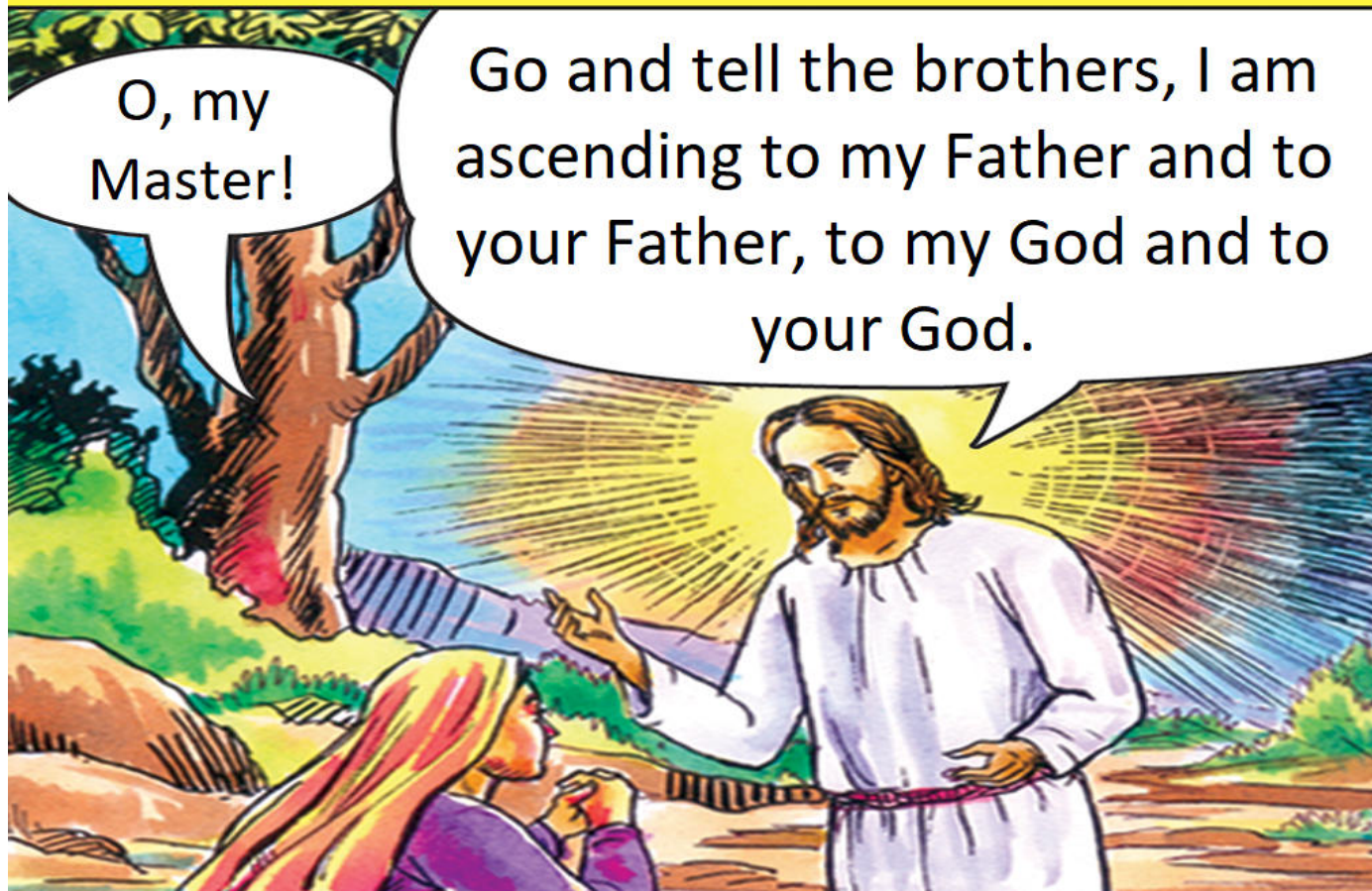
Mary!



Then, she recognized that it was the Lord.

O, my
Master!

Go and tell the brothers, I am
ascending to my Father and to
your Father, to my God and to
your God.





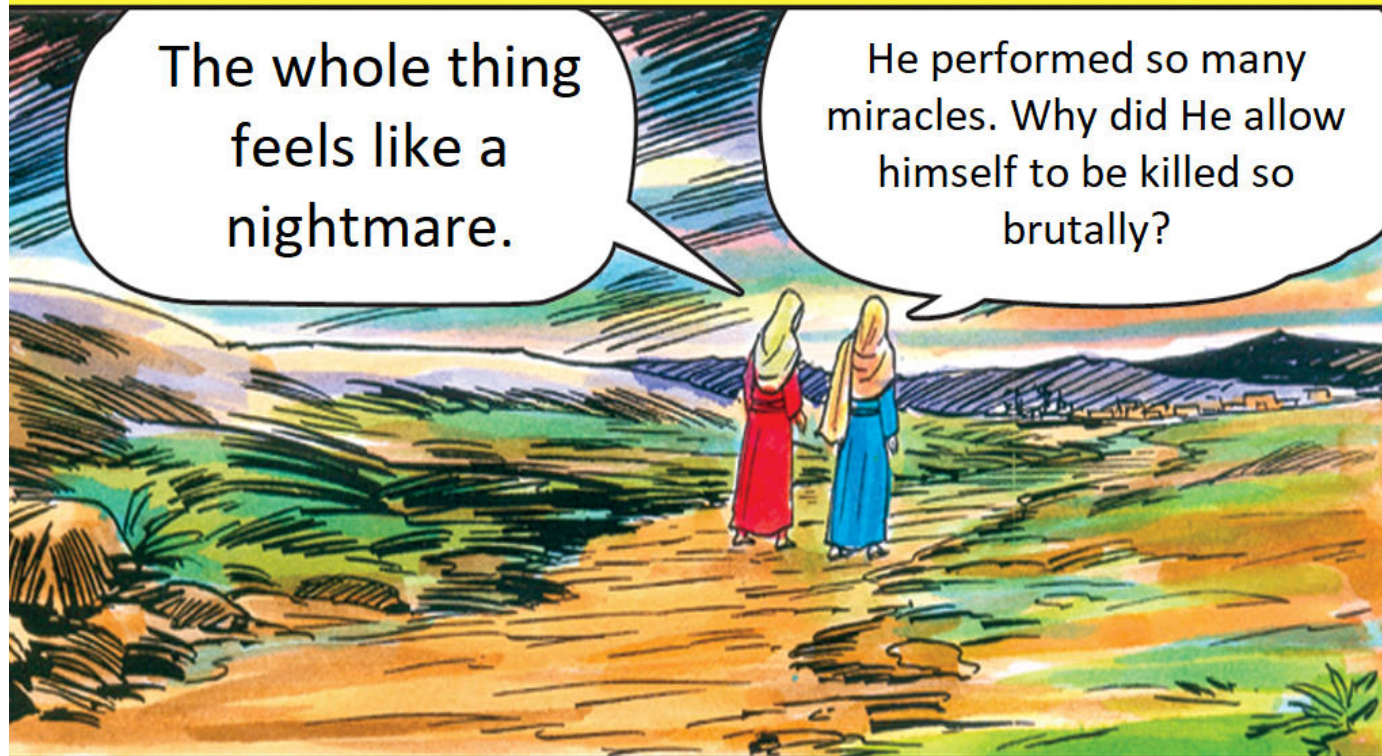
Lord, do not
leave us.

Mary, go now.

That very same day two of the disciples were going to Emmaus, a village twelve Kilometers away from Jerusalem.

The whole thing feels like a nightmare.

He performed so many miracles. Why did He allow himself to be killed so brutally?



Don't you remember the shouting in the
courtyard of Pilate!

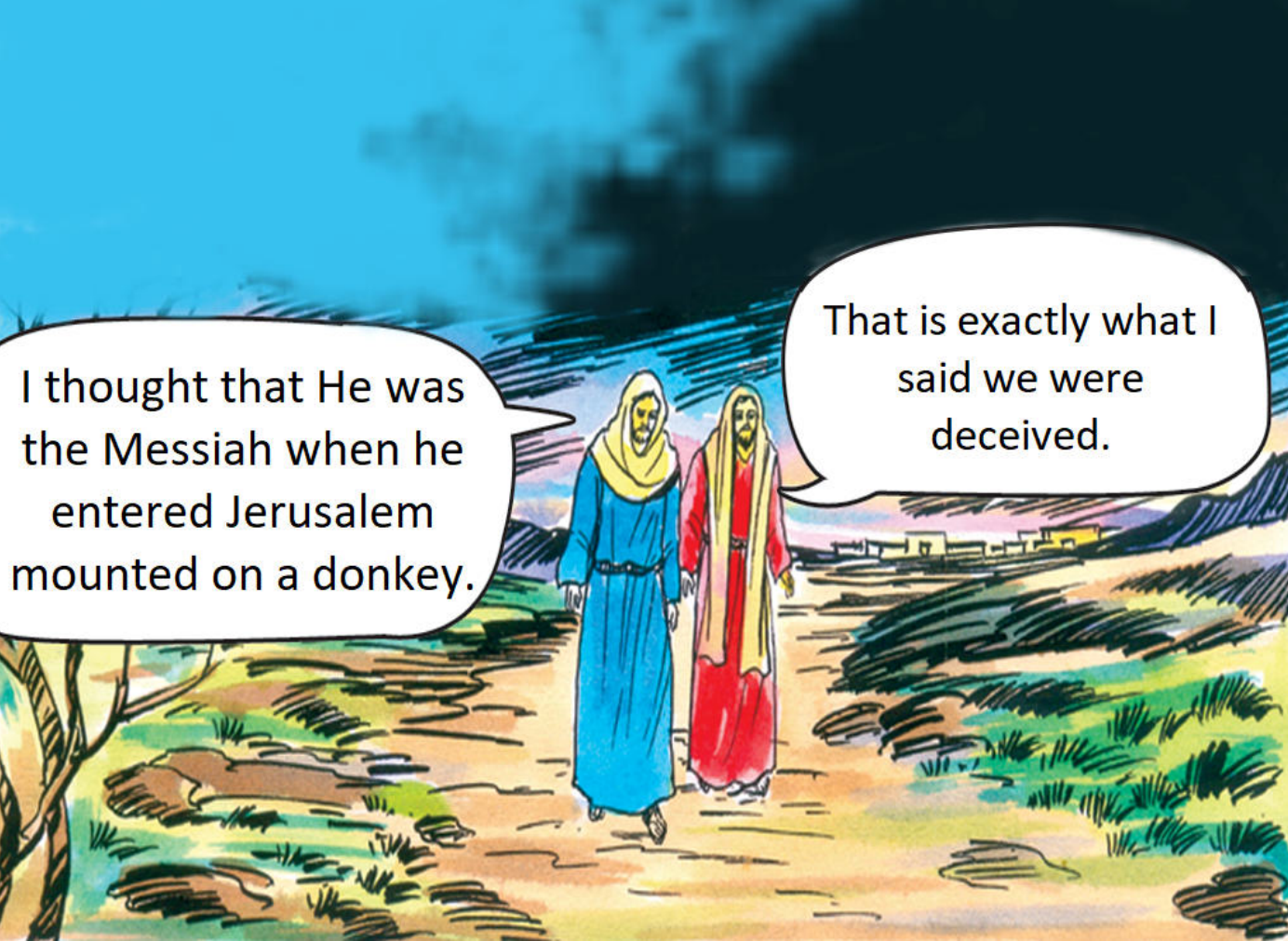
As if the whole crowd was
possessed by the devil.



Why did He who had expelled so many demons surrender himself so helplessly?

I feel that we all have
been deceived.





I thought that He was the Messiah when he entered Jerusalem mounted on a donkey.

That is exactly what I said we were deceived.

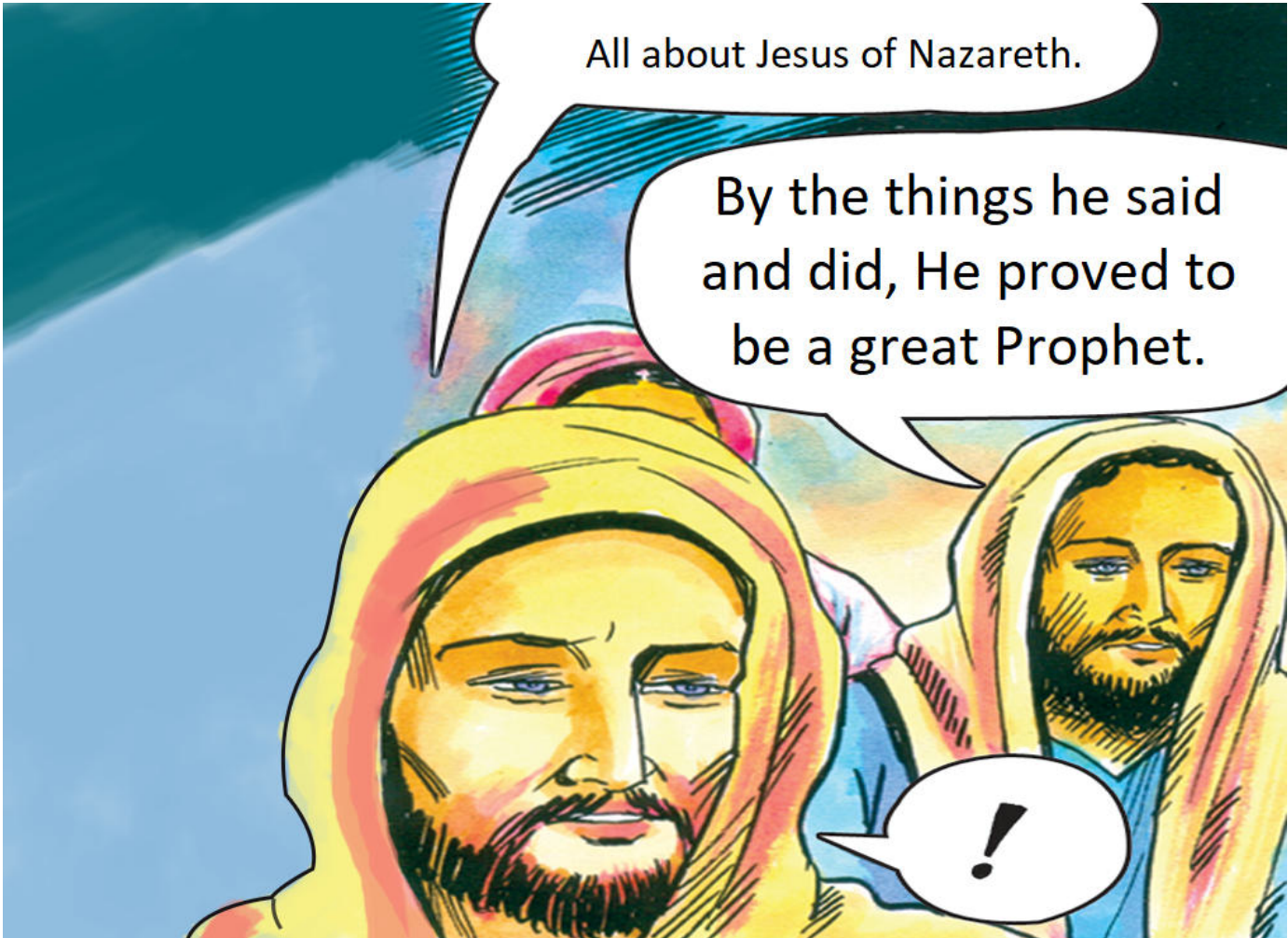
As they talked and discussed, a stranger came up and walked by their side.

What are you talking about? Why are you so sad?

Don't you know the things that happened in Jerusalem these last few days?

What things?



A comic book illustration featuring two men in traditional robes. The man on the left is in the foreground, wearing a yellow robe with a pink head covering, looking slightly to the right. The man on the right is slightly behind him, wearing a blue robe with a yellow head covering, looking forward. Three speech bubbles are present: one at the top left, one in the upper middle, and one at the bottom right containing an exclamation mark. The background is a simple blue gradient.

All about Jesus of Nazareth.

By the things he said
and did, He proved to
be a great Prophet.

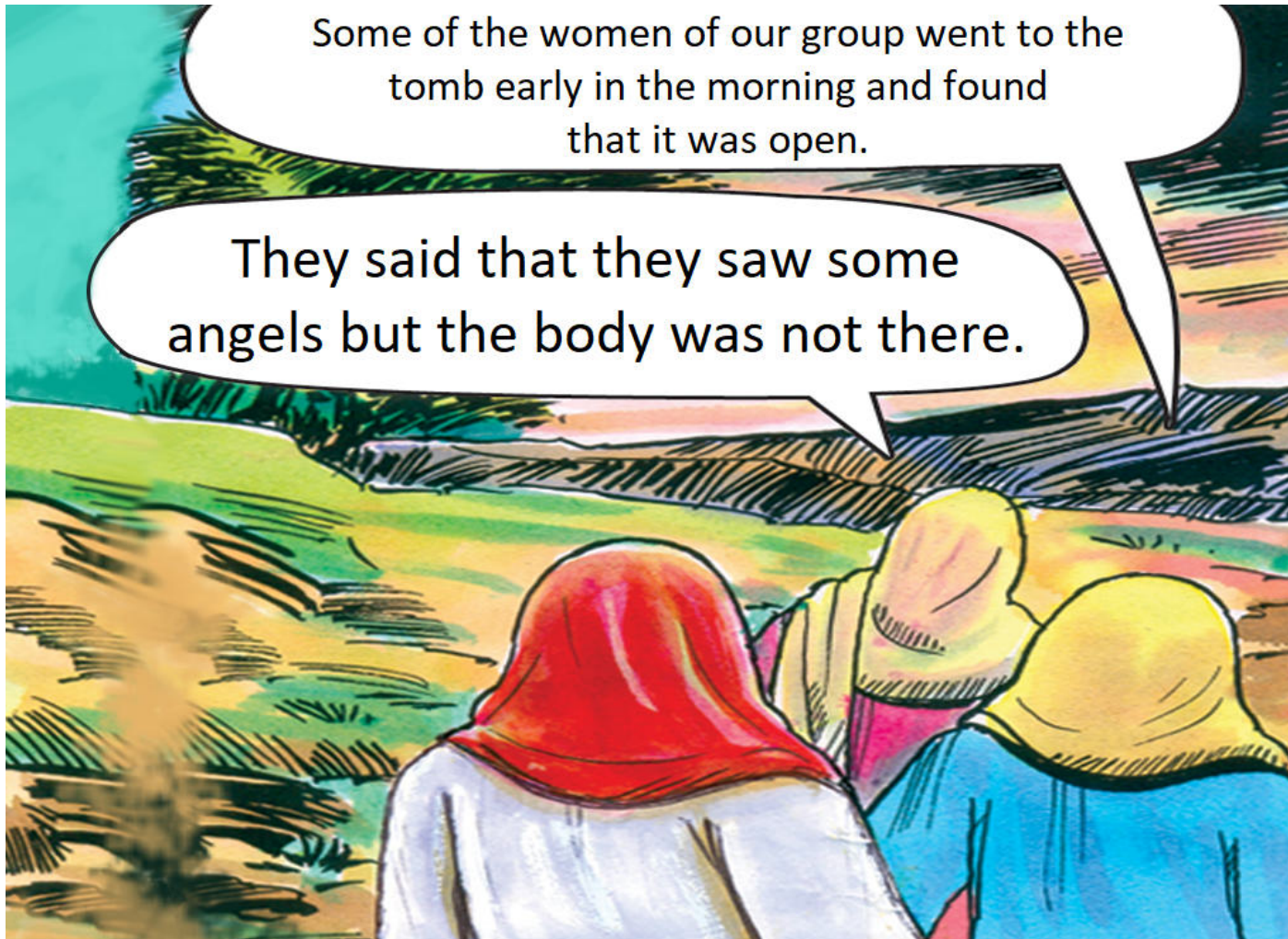
!

We had hoped that he would be the One who would set Israel free. But our leaders handed him over to be crucified three days ago.



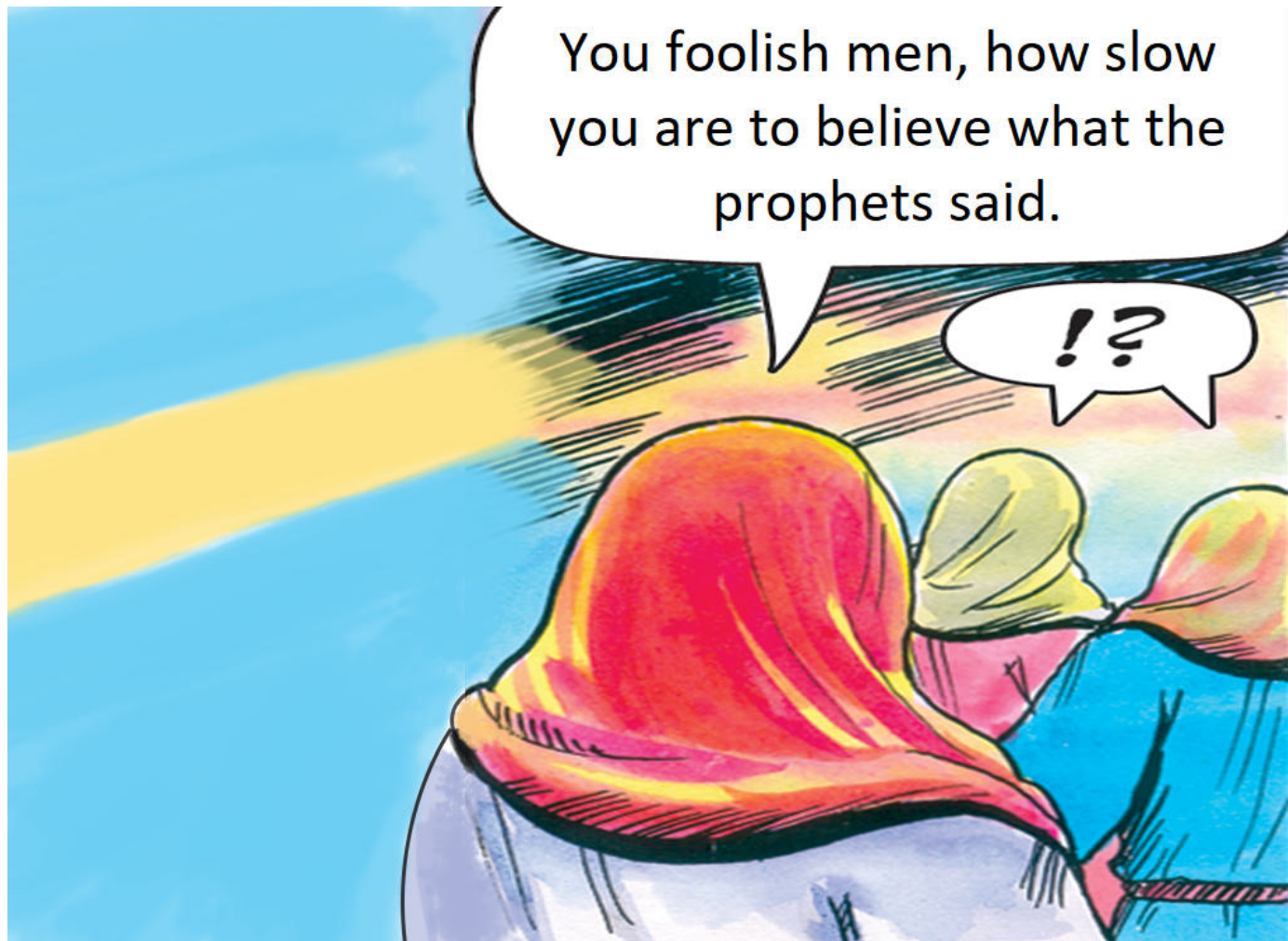
Some of the women of our group went to the tomb early in the morning and found that it was open.

They said that they saw some angels but the body was not there.



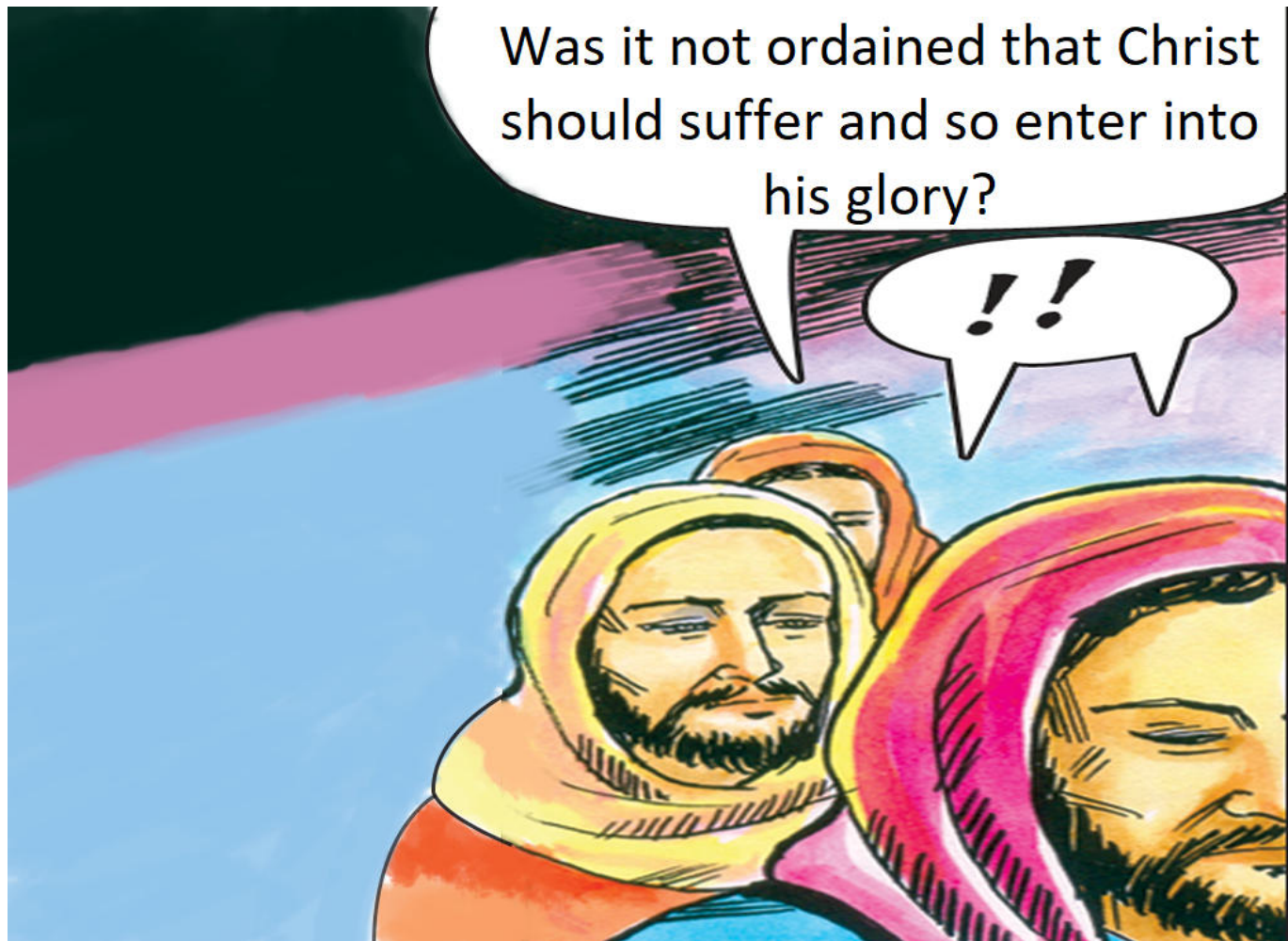
You foolish men, how slow
you are to believe what the
prophets said.

!?

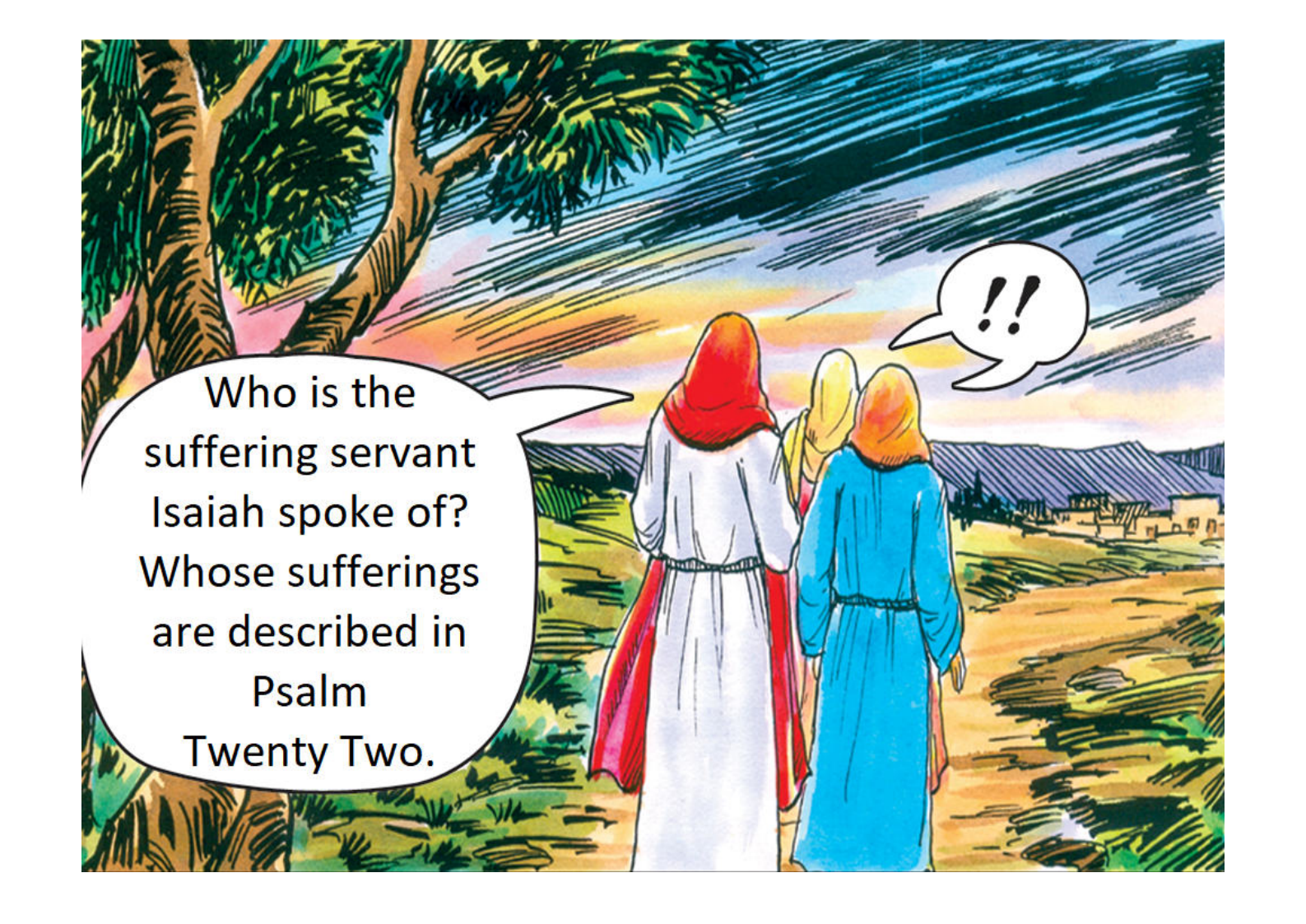


Was it not ordained that Christ
should suffer and so enter into
his glory?

!!







Who is the
suffering servant
Isaiah spoke of?
Whose sufferings
are described in
Psalm
Twenty Two.

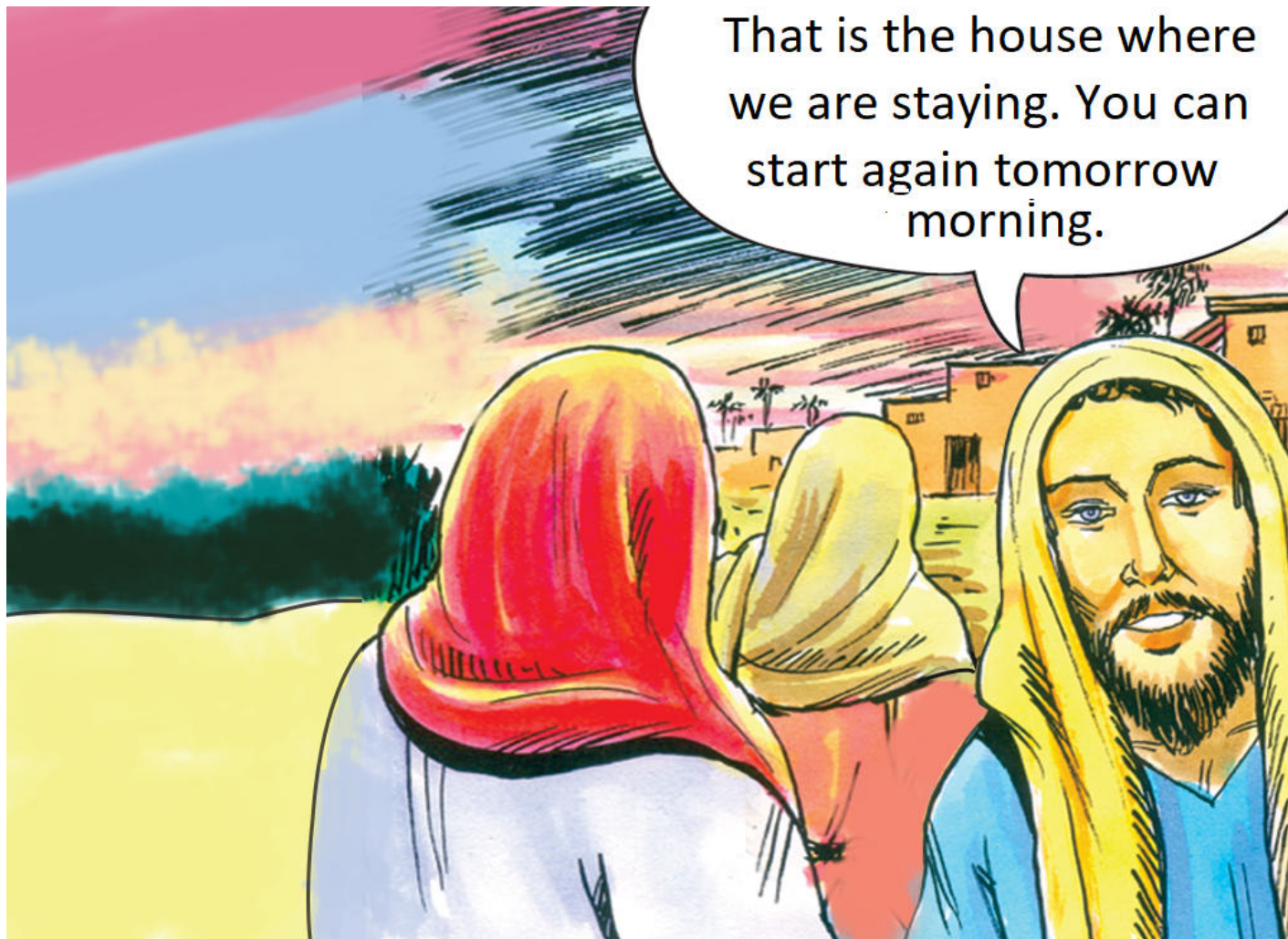
!!

He explained the scripture passages dealing with the suffering of Christ.

Stay with us tonight,
the day is almost over.



That is the house where
we are staying. You can
start again tomorrow
morning.





Suddenly Jesus disappeared. Immediately they returned to Jerusalem rejoicing.

Brothers, rejoice, the Lord is risen.

We saw Him.

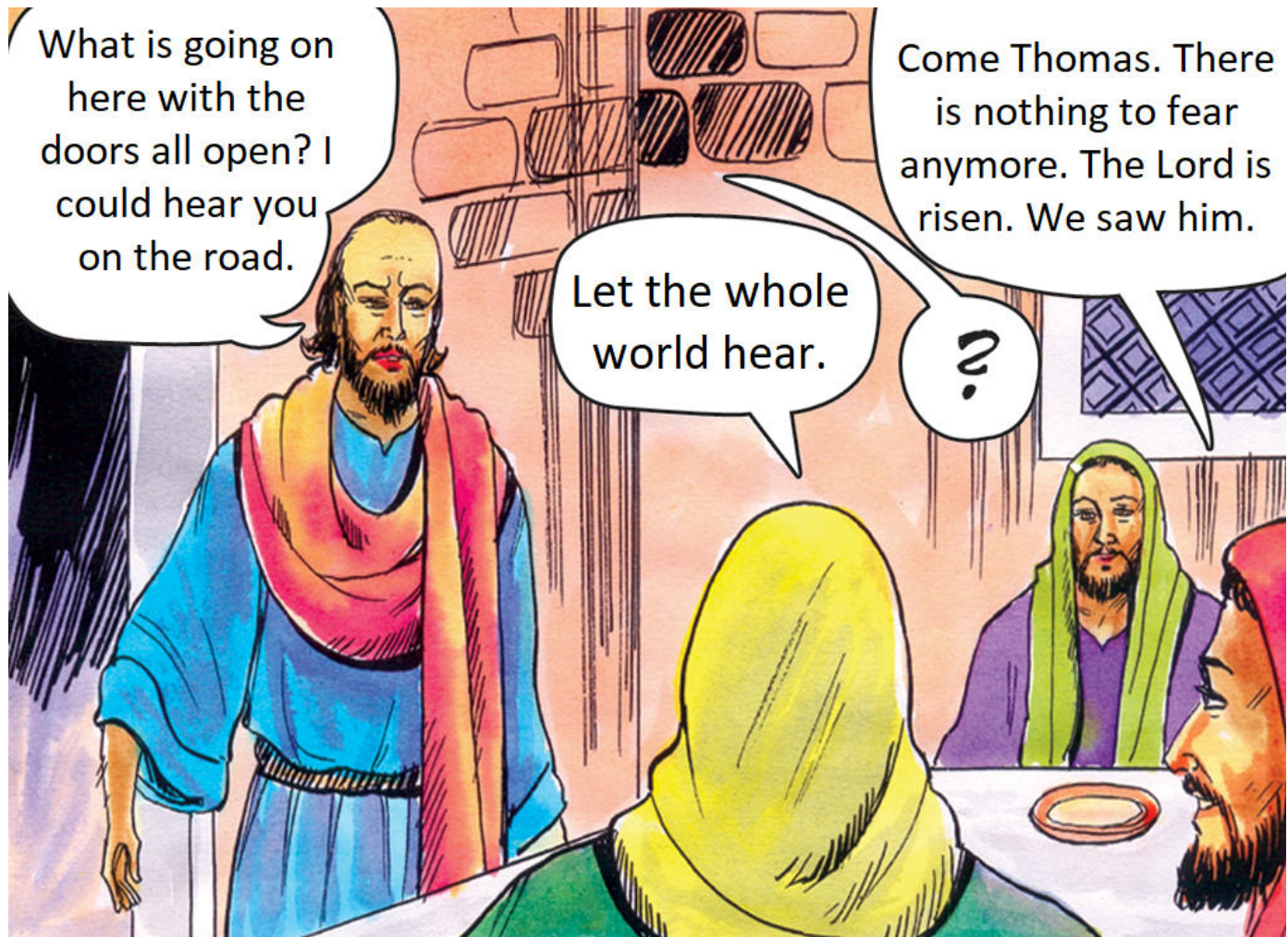
He walked with us.
He broke the bread
for us. We came to
tell you about it.

!!!!



Halleluia,
The Lord lives.





What is going on here with the doors all open? I could hear you on the road.

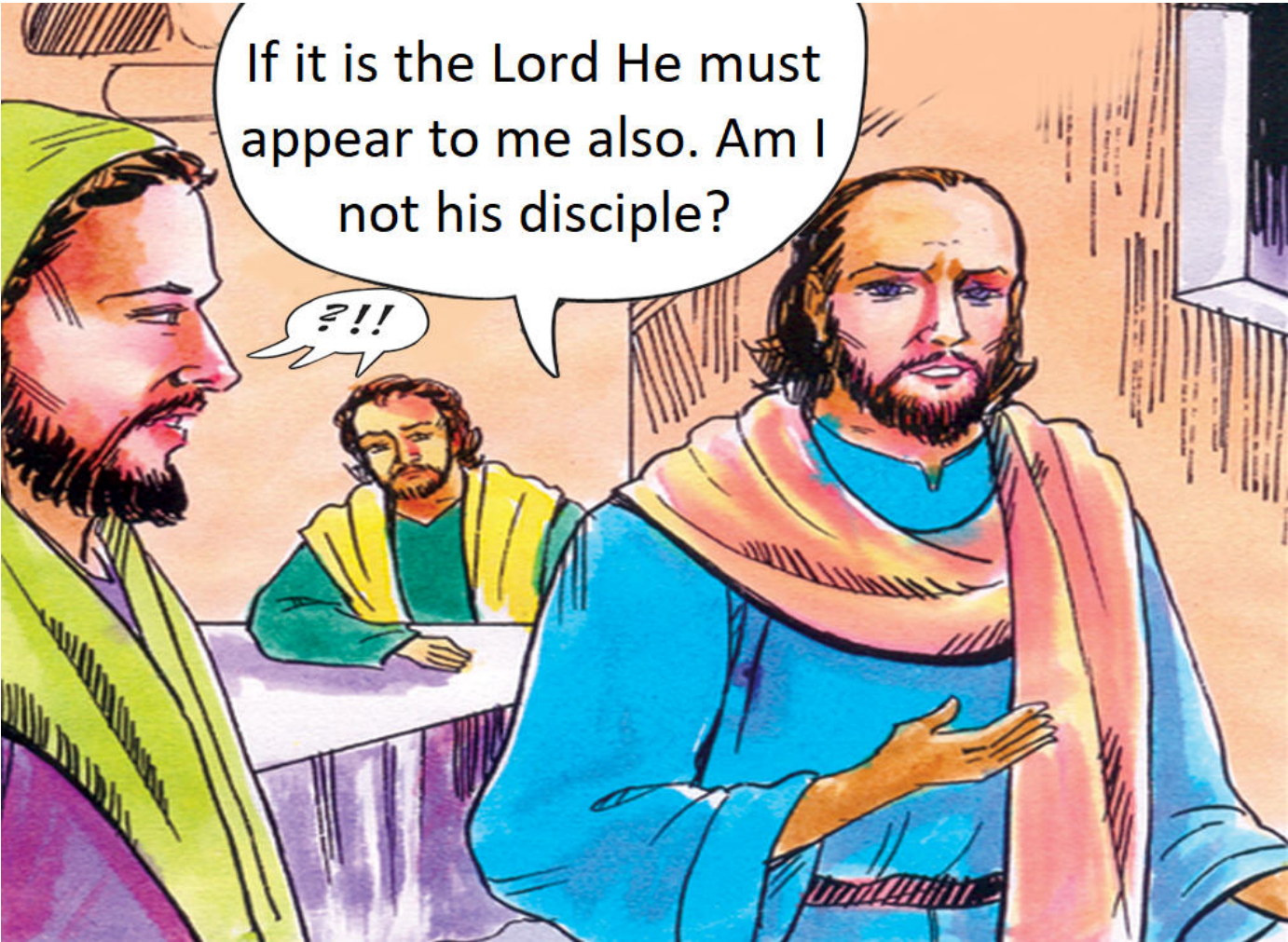
Let the whole world hear.

Come Thomas. There is nothing to fear anymore. The Lord is risen. We saw him.

?

I won't believe you
unless I see His
wounds and touch
them.



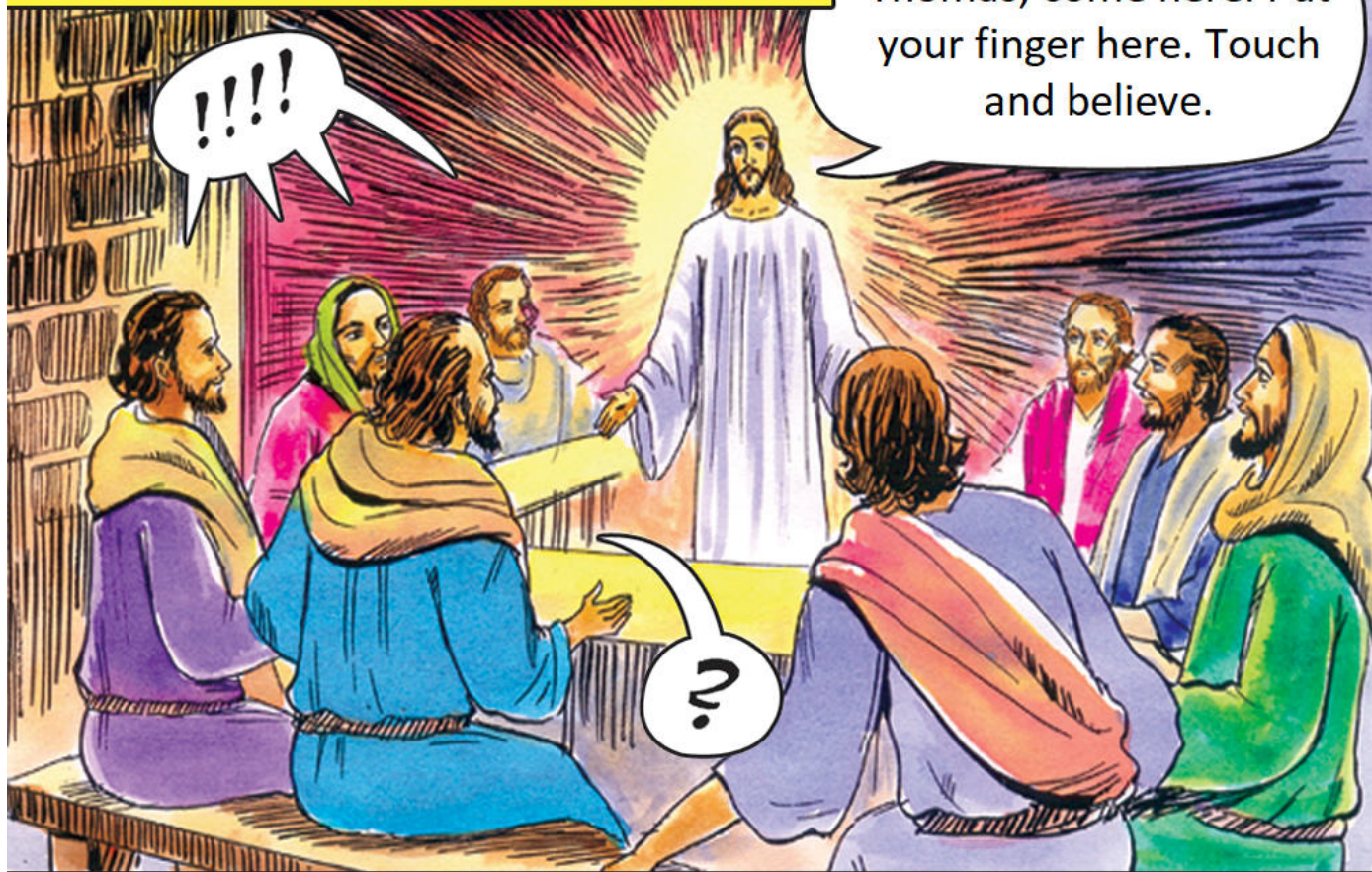


If it is the Lord He must appear to me also. Am I not his disciple?

?!?

Eight days later while they were inside the room with the door closed.

Thomas, come here. Put your finger here. Touch and believe.







My Lord and
my God.

!

Thomas, you believe because you
have seen me. Happy are those
who have not seen yet believe.

Days later.

It has been days since we saw the Lord.

Let us return to Galilee. The Lord will tell us what to do next.

How long are we going to stay in this room? There is a limit to accepting hospitality.

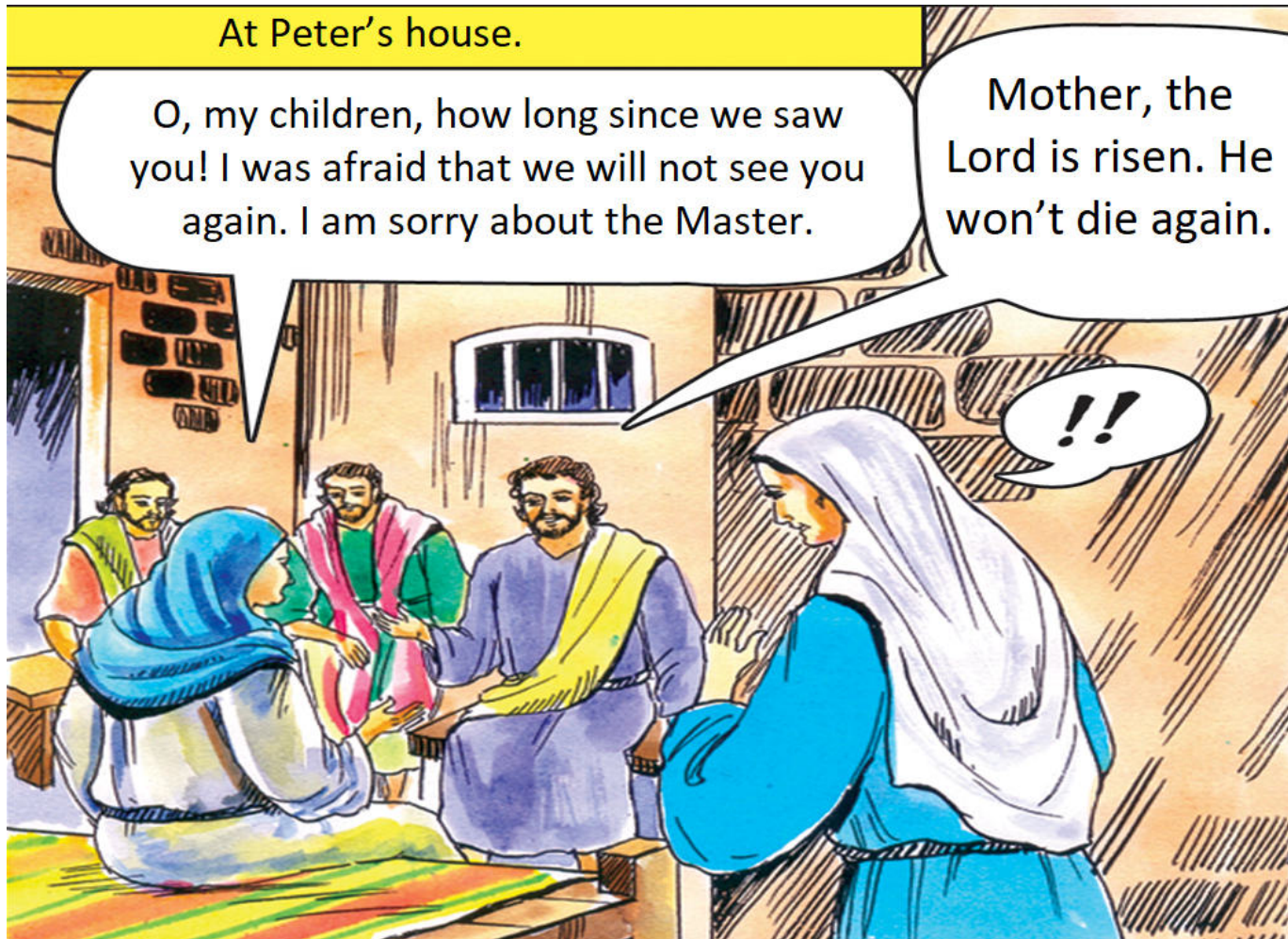


At Peter's house.

O, my children, how long since we saw you! I was afraid that we will not see you again. I am sorry about the Master.

Mother, the Lord is risen. He won't die again.

!!



Then where is he?
Why did you
come alone?



Nobody knows where and when the Master will appear.

If He is risen with His body, why can't we see Him? Like that boy in Nain?

!

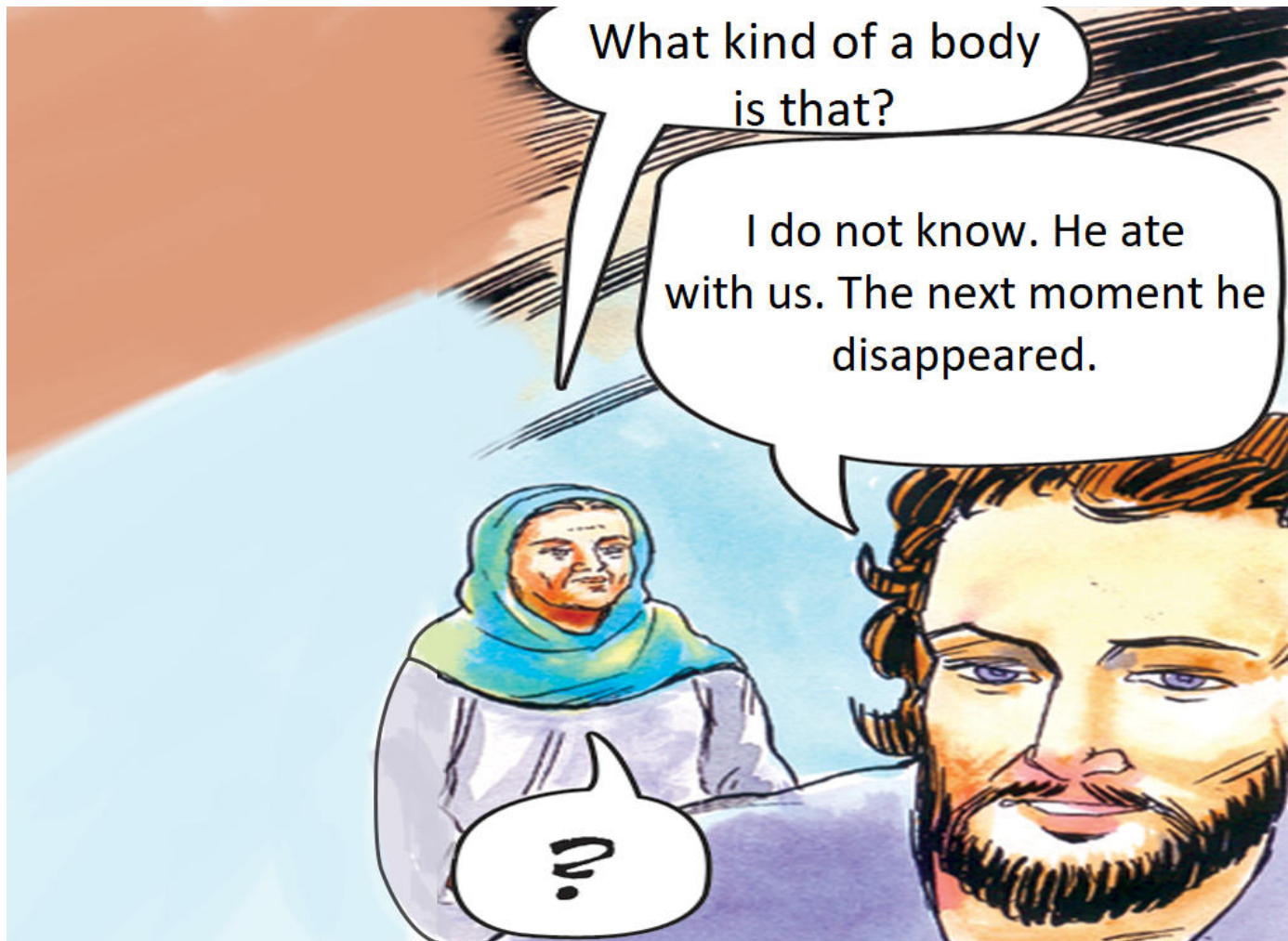
This is not like that. There is some difference. Sometimes we can see him and sometimes we can't.



What kind of a body
is that?

I do not know. He ate
with us. The next moment he
disappeared.

?



How I wish I could see him! Since that fever I
want to see him all the time.

Wait and pray. He may appear here also.
Well, I am going to the Lake and see if I
can catch something.



I too shall come with you. So long
since I took the net in my hands.

!



Where are all the
fish hiding?

It has been three years.
May be they changed
residence!

There,
someone is
calling from the
shore.



Have you caught
anything, my
friends?

Tried all night but
got nothing.



Throw the net out
on the right side.

Let us try.

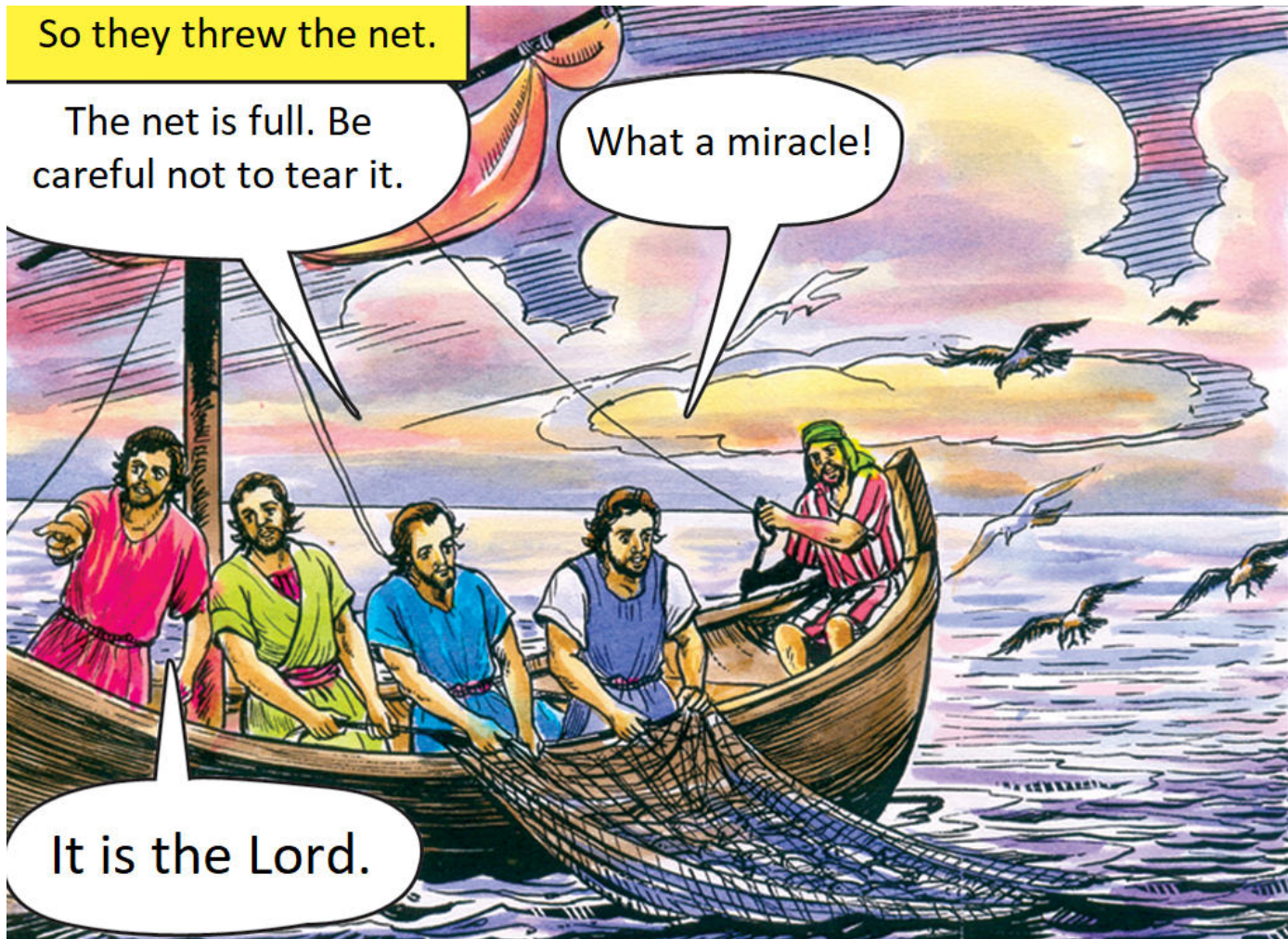


So they threw the net.

The net is full. Be careful not to tear it.

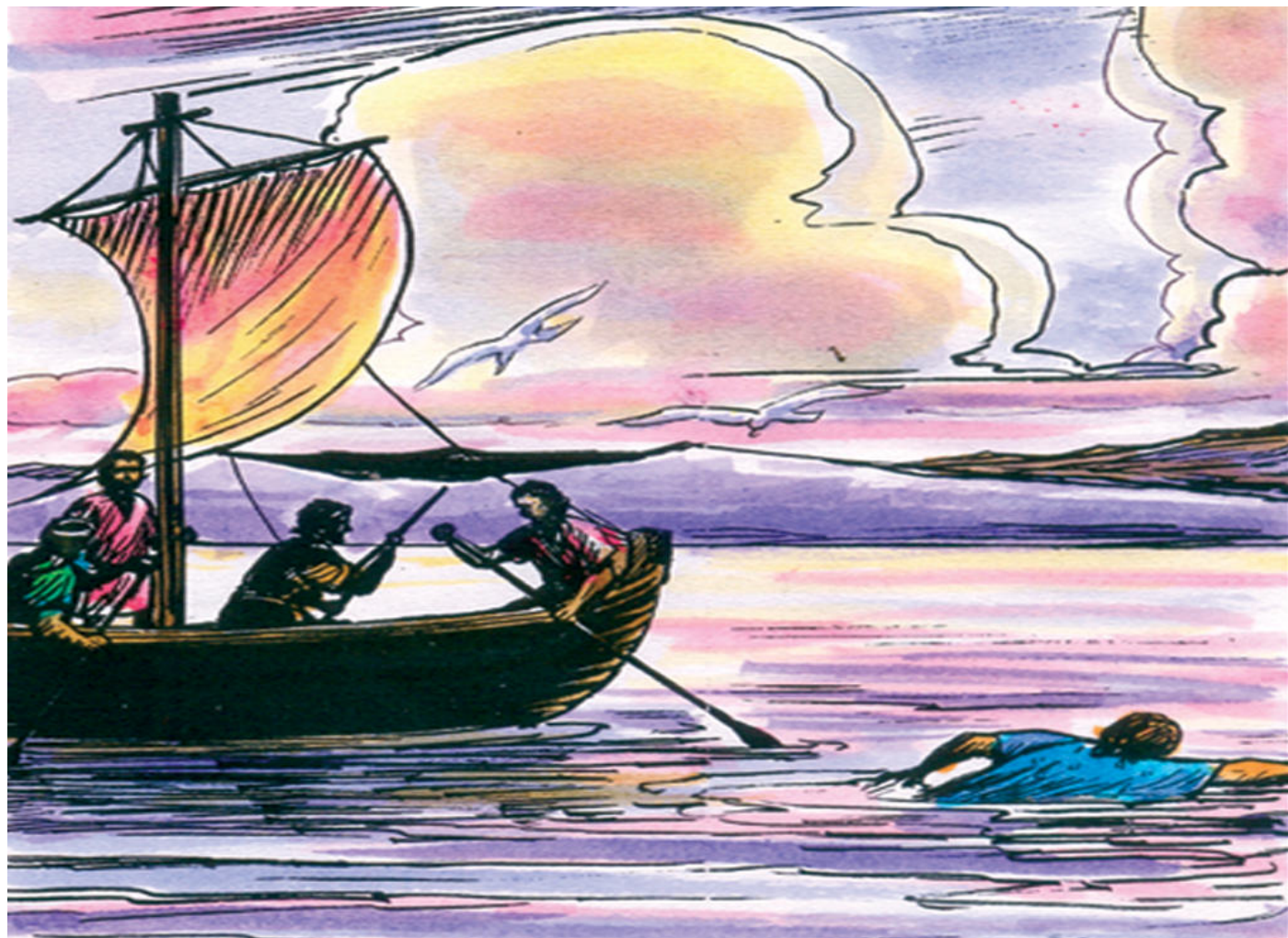
What a miracle!

It is the Lord.

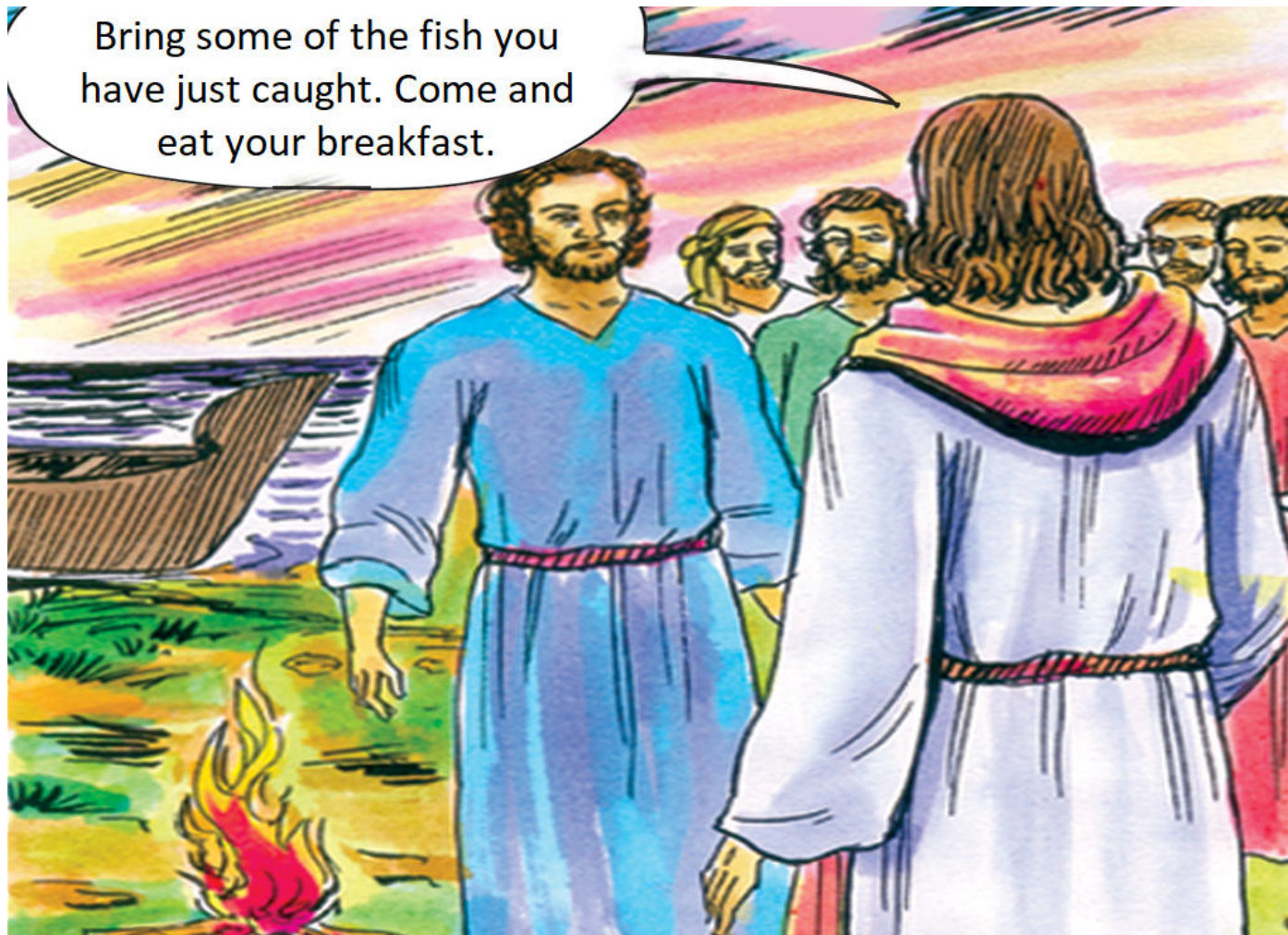


As soon Peter heard that.





Bring some of the fish you
have just caught. Come and
eat your breakfast.



Take and eat.



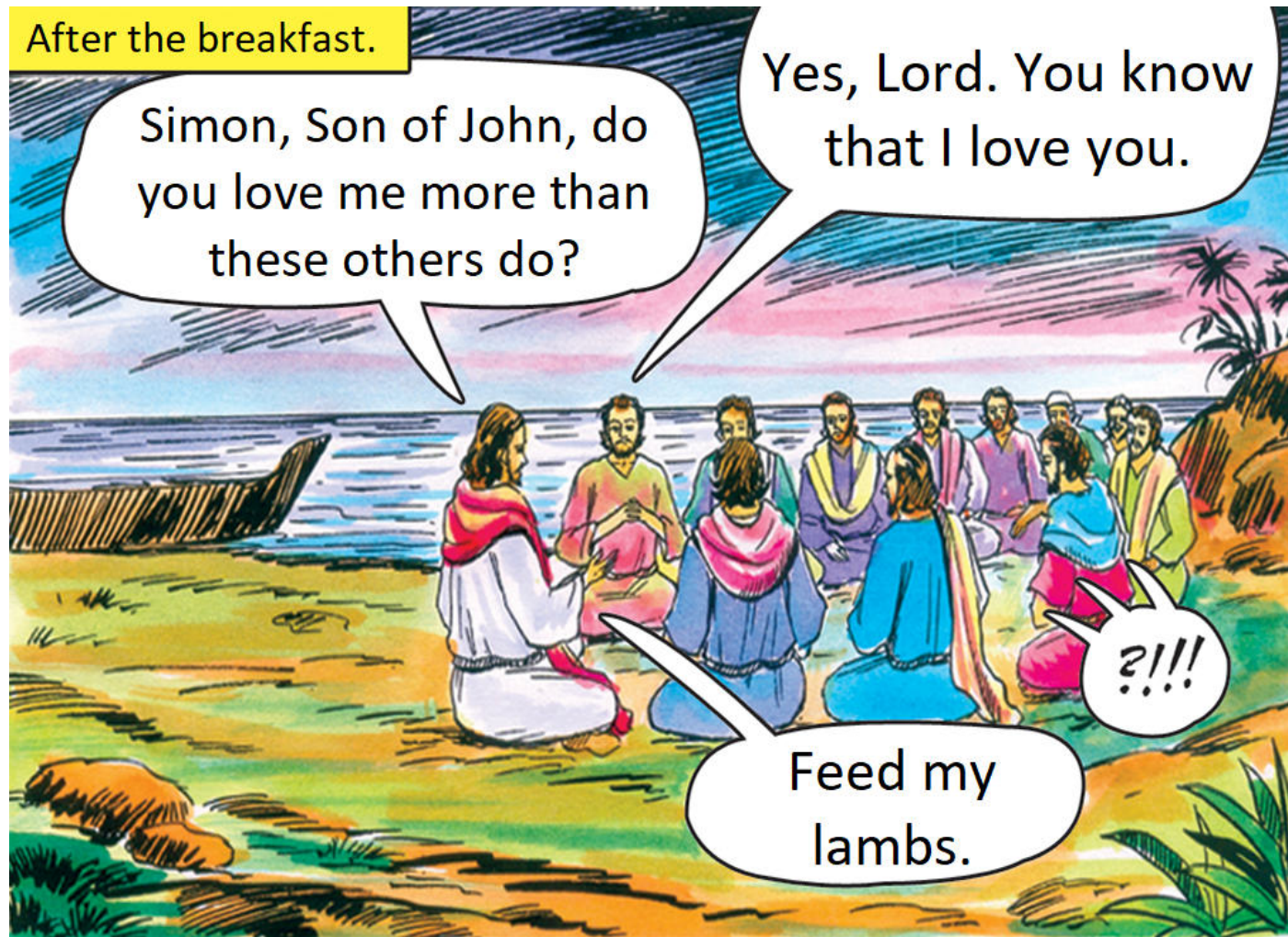
After the breakfast.

Simon, Son of John, do you love me more than these others do?

Yes, Lord. You know that I love you.

Feed my lambs.

?!!!

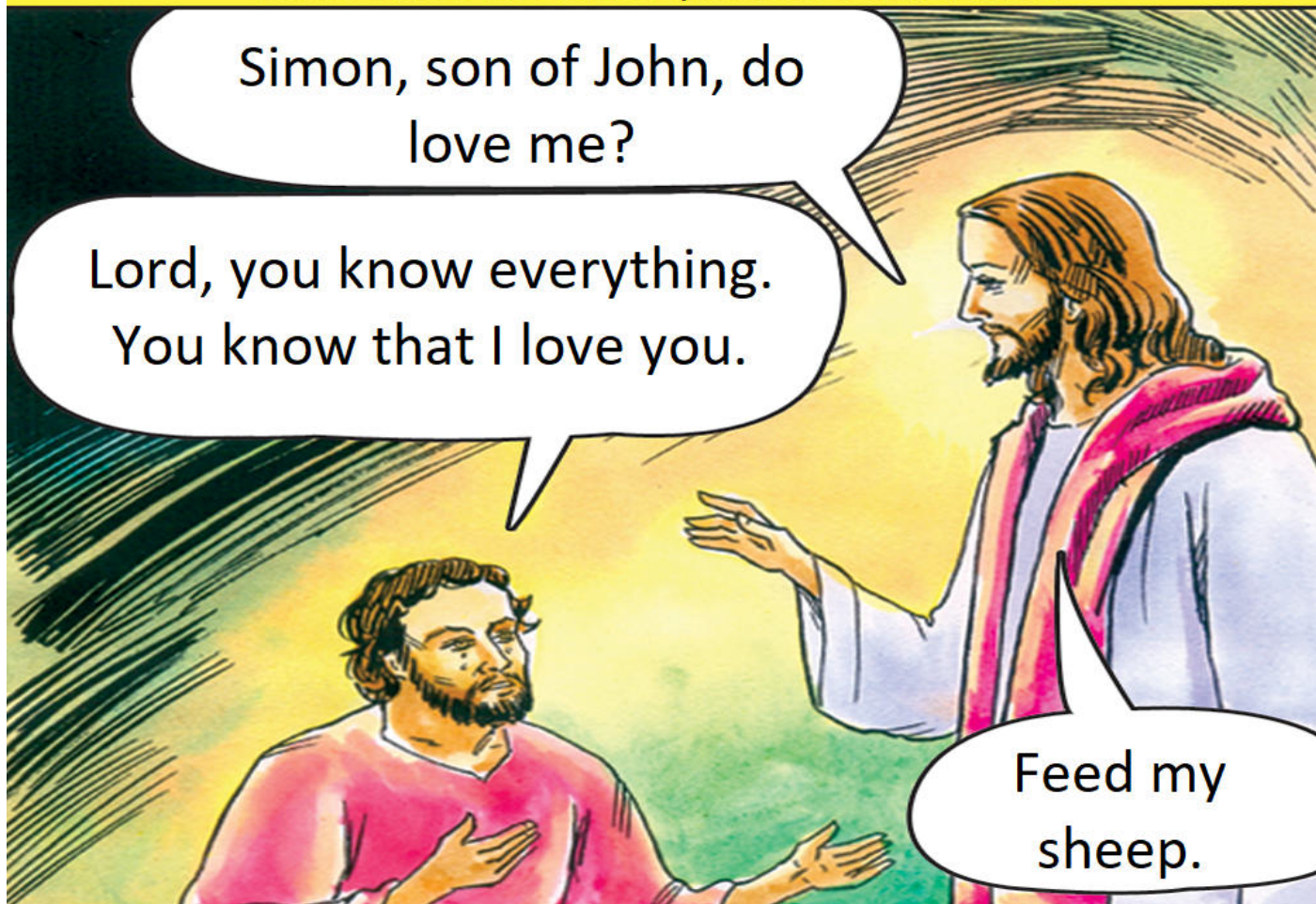


Jesus asked the same question a third time.

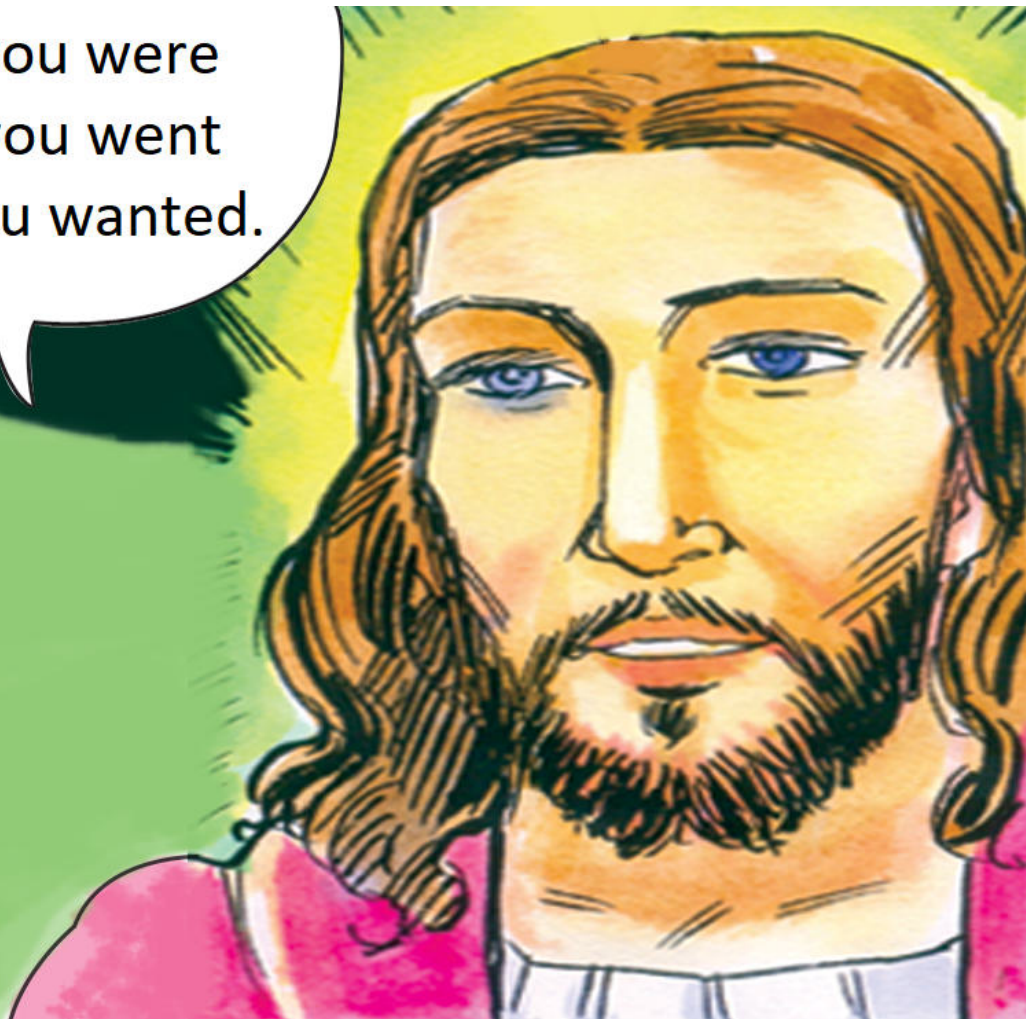
Simon, son of John, do
love me?

Lord, you know everything.
You know that I love you.

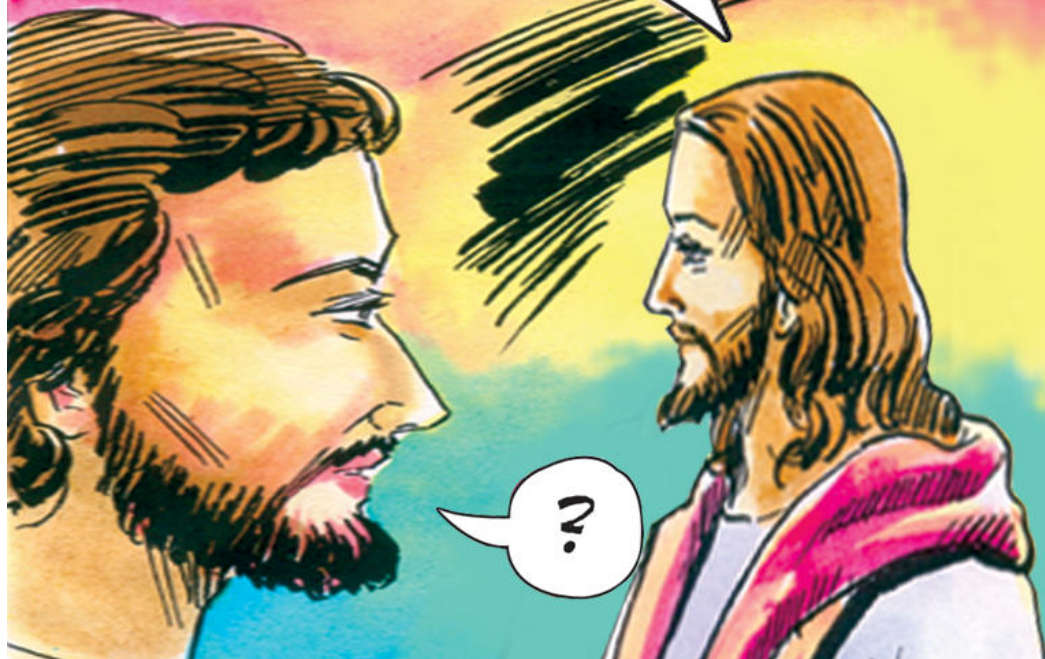
Feed my
sheep.



When you were
young you went
where you wanted.



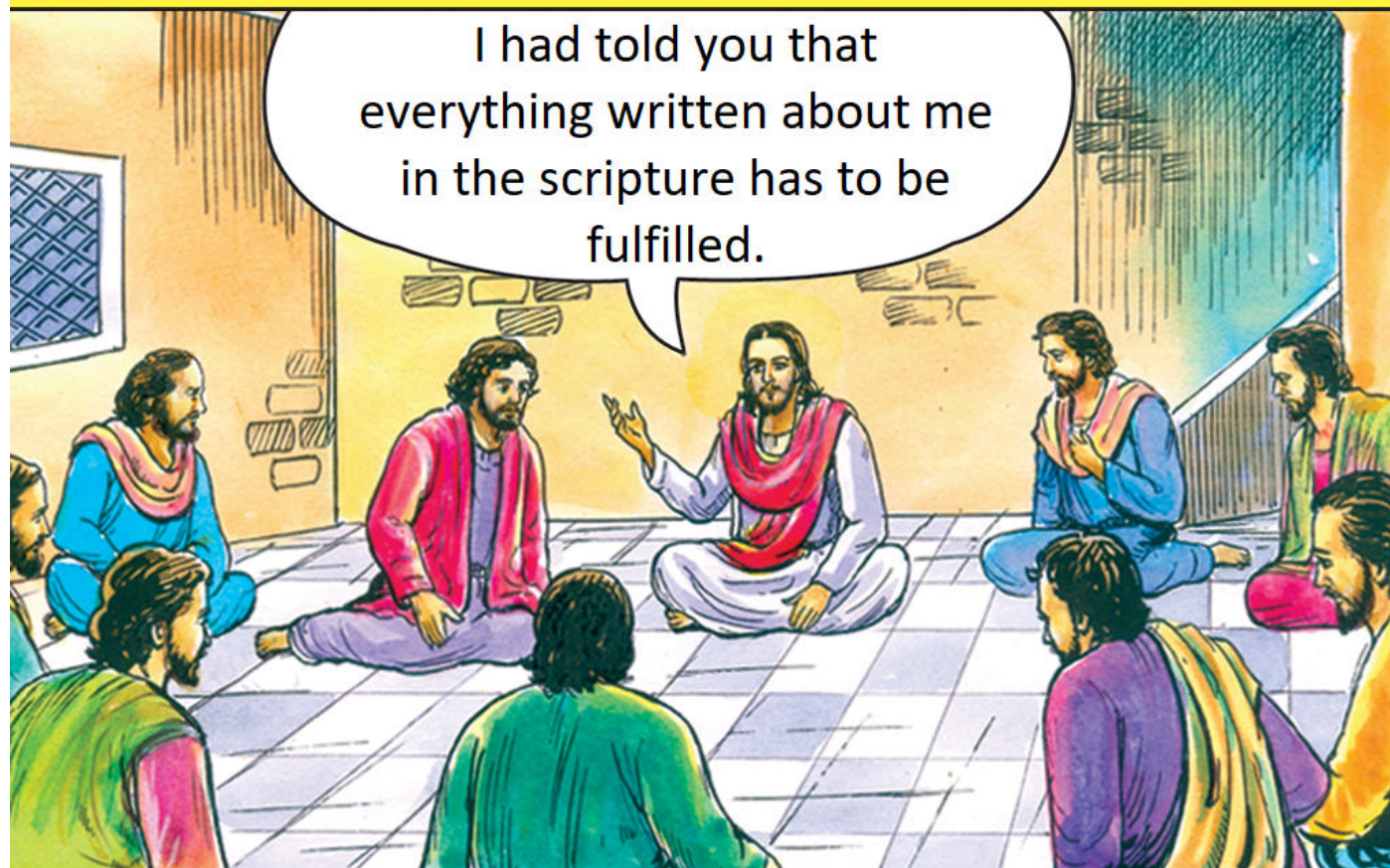
But, when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will bind you and take you where you are rather not go.



Return to Jerusalem,
there you will see me
again.



While they were in Jerusalem, Jesus appeared to them many times and taught them. On the Fortieth day of the resurrection.



All authority in heaven
and on earth has been
given to me. I send you as
my Father have
sent me.



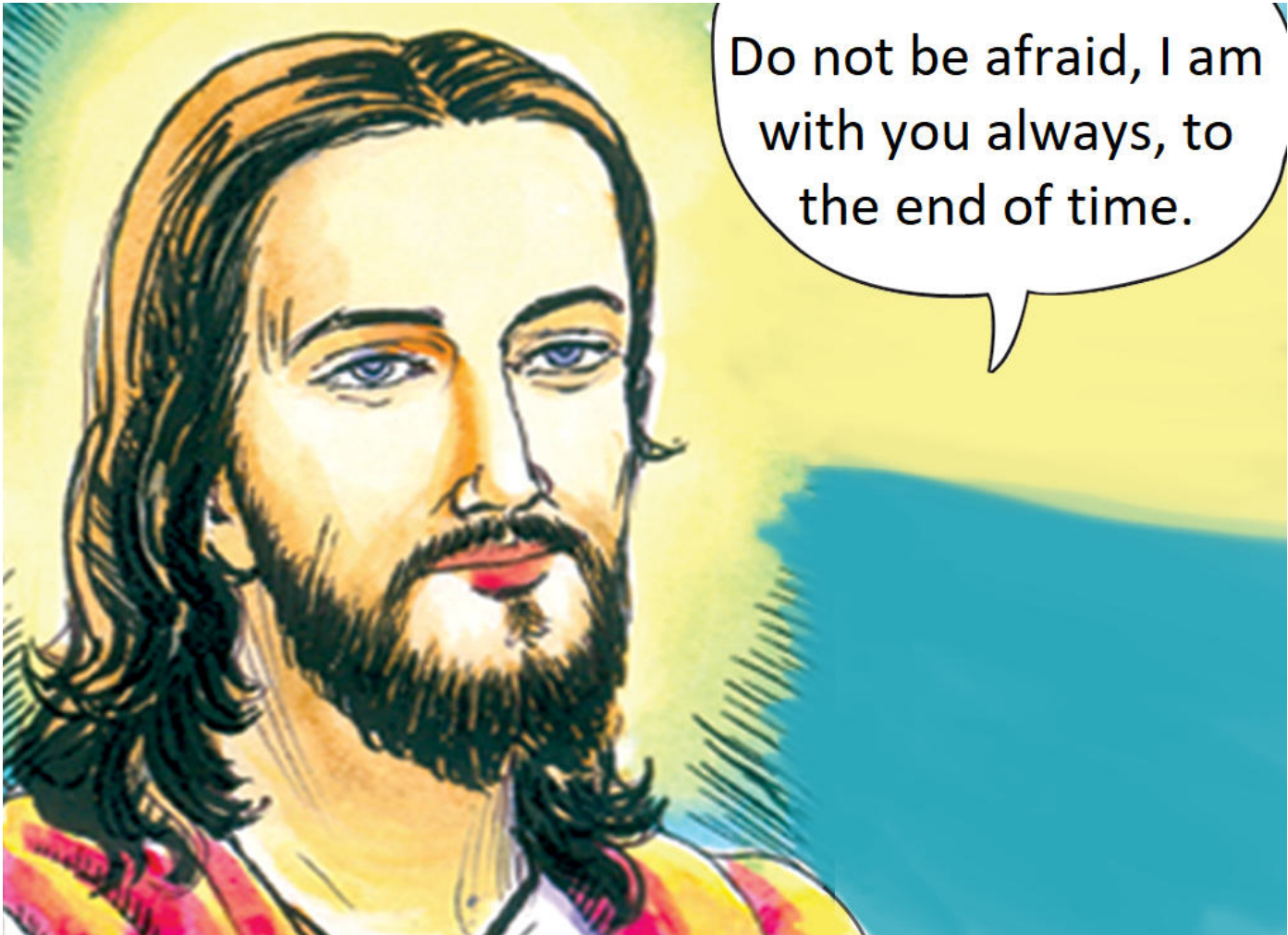
Go make disciples of all the
nations. Teach them to observe
all the commandments
I gave you.



Baptize them in name of
the Father and of the son
and of Holy Spirit.

Lord, don't leave us
alone.





Do not be afraid, I am
with you always, to
the end of time.

Then He took them to Mount of Olives.

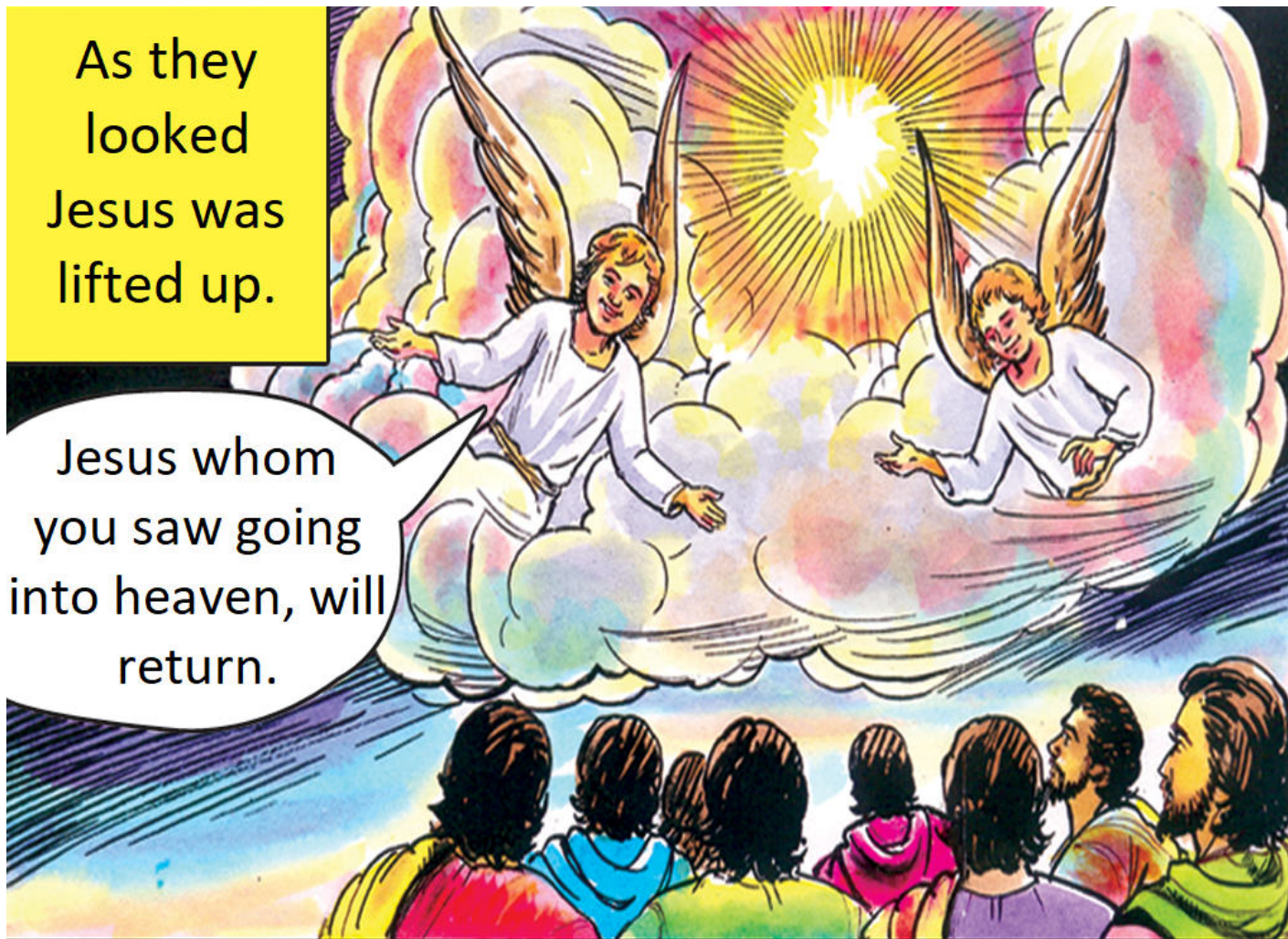
Lord, when are you going to restore the Kingdom of Israel?

It is not for you to know the time that the Father has decided. Stay in the city until you receive the Holy Spirit.

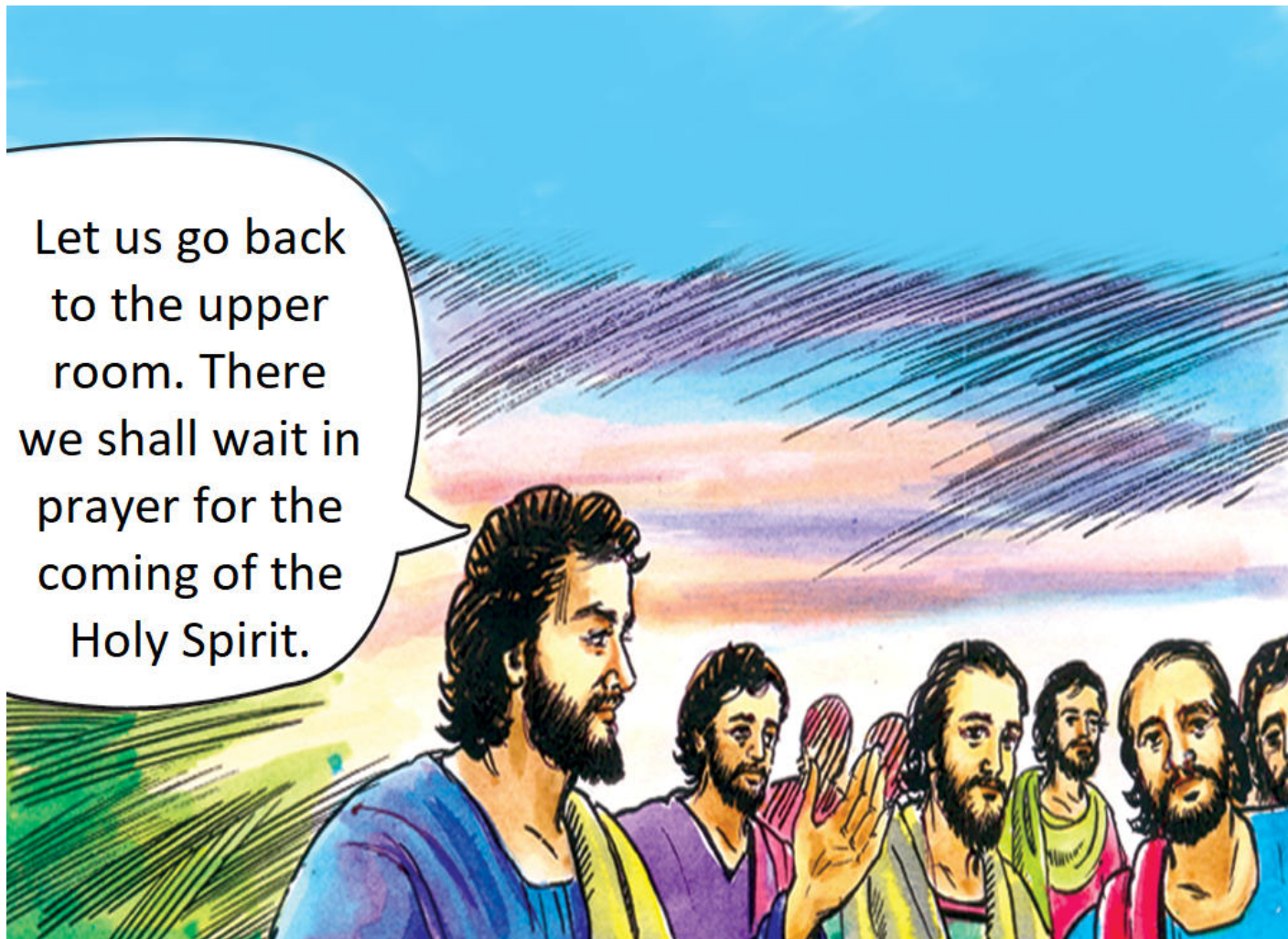


As they
looked
Jesus was
lifted up.

Jesus whom
you saw going
into heaven, will
return.



Let us go back
to the upper
room. There
we shall wait in
prayer for the
coming of the
Holy Spirit.



The series of Bible comics on Jesus Christ ends here. But the works of Jesus do not end here. The Church, born out of the blood in Calvary continues to grow in the midst of persecution....

The bottom half of the image features a stylized illustration of flames in shades of orange and yellow. Two yellow rectangular labels with blue borders are placed over the flames. The label on the left contains the text 'NEXT STORY' in red, and the label on the right contains the text 'TONGUES OF FIRE' in red.

NEXT STORY

TONGUES OF FIRE

Questions

1. Why was the tomb of Jesus guarded?
2. Why did the Jewish leaders bribe the guards?
3. When did the “Emmaus disciples” recognize Jesus?
4. What did Peter and John see in the tomb of Jesus?
5. What did the apostle Thomas say when he saw the risen Jesus?
6. When did Mary Magdalene recognize Jesus?
7. What was the mission entrusted to peter by the risen Lord?
8. What does ascension signify?
9. Which are the gospels that do not narrate the ascension?
10. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for us?

Memorize: ***“I am with you always, to the end of time”*** (Mathew 28,20)

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