

A PRISONER OF HOPE



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Prisoner of Hope is a collaborative production made by 19 artists who attended and staffed the Frontier Comics Seminar, a ministry of Create International. The heart of this project is to bless Mongolians with the hope found in Jesus Christ. We are especially thankful to our project partners, the YWAM Mongolia team, for their help and support. For a digital version of this comic book and other bible resources scan the QR code below or

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NEWS!
NEWS!

THE TRAITOROUS
KHENBISH HAS BEEN
FOUND IN THE
MOUNTAINS!

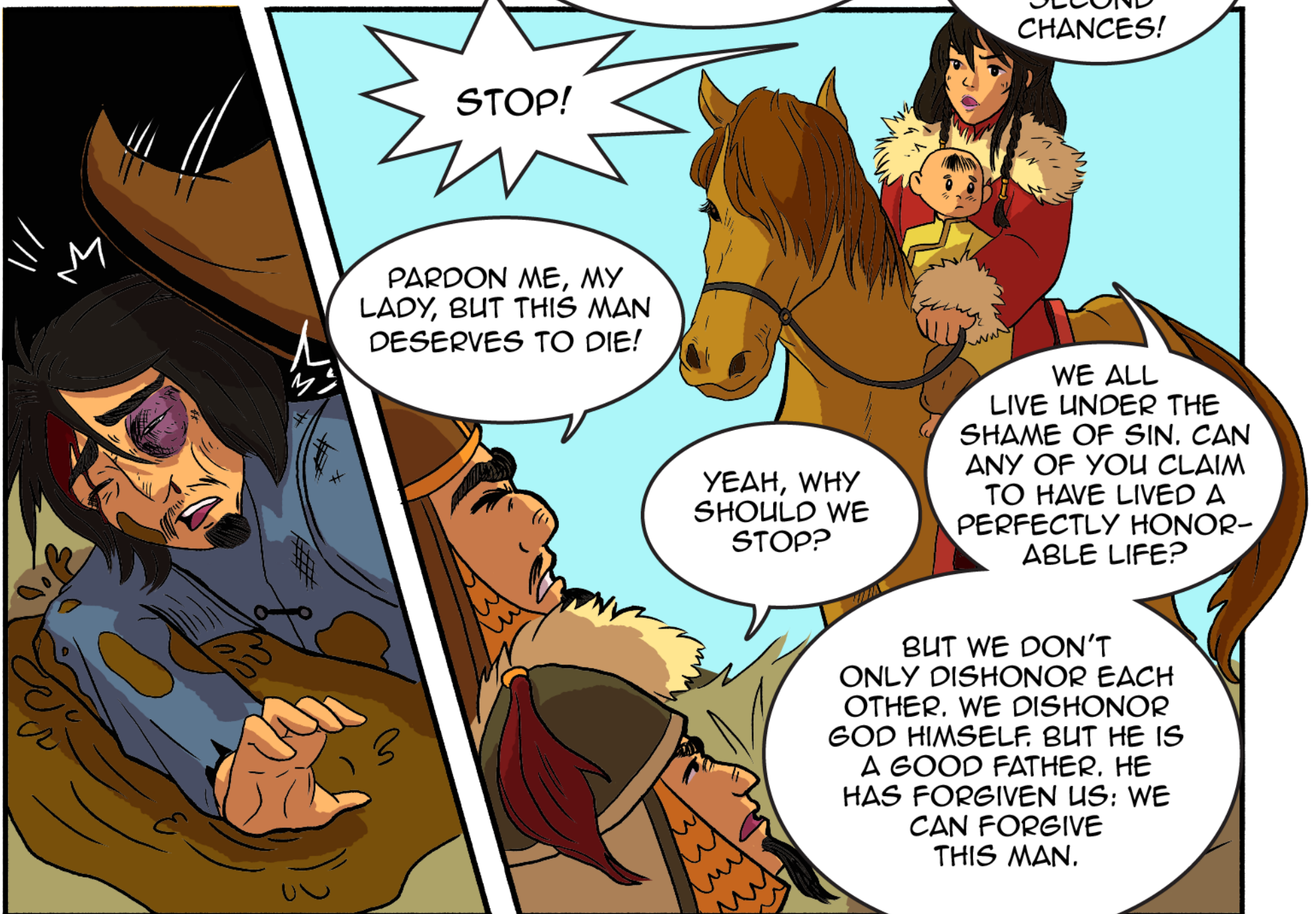
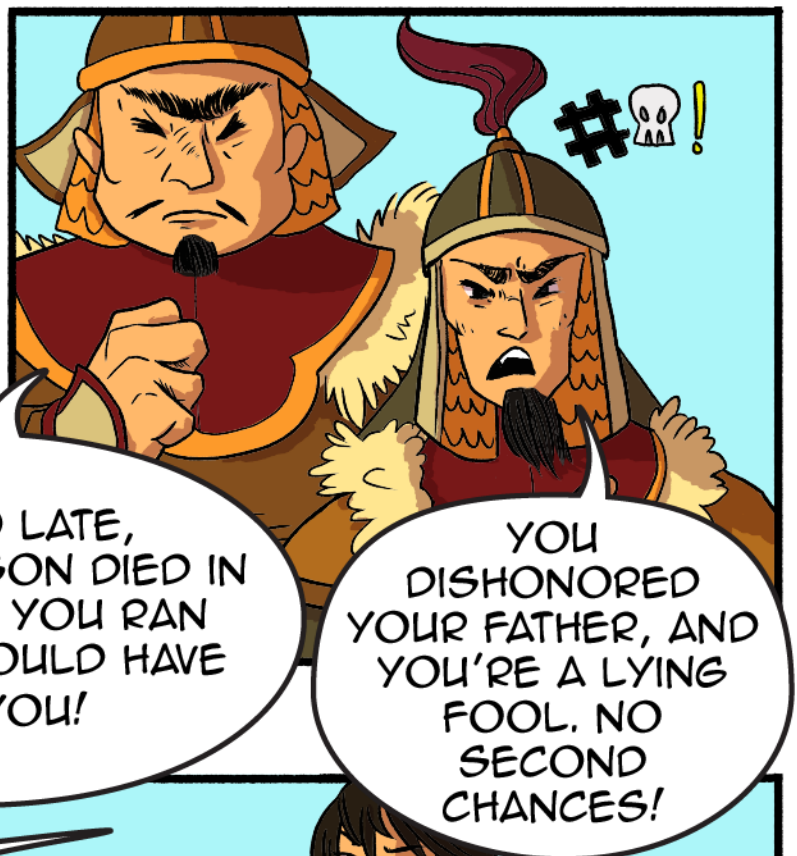
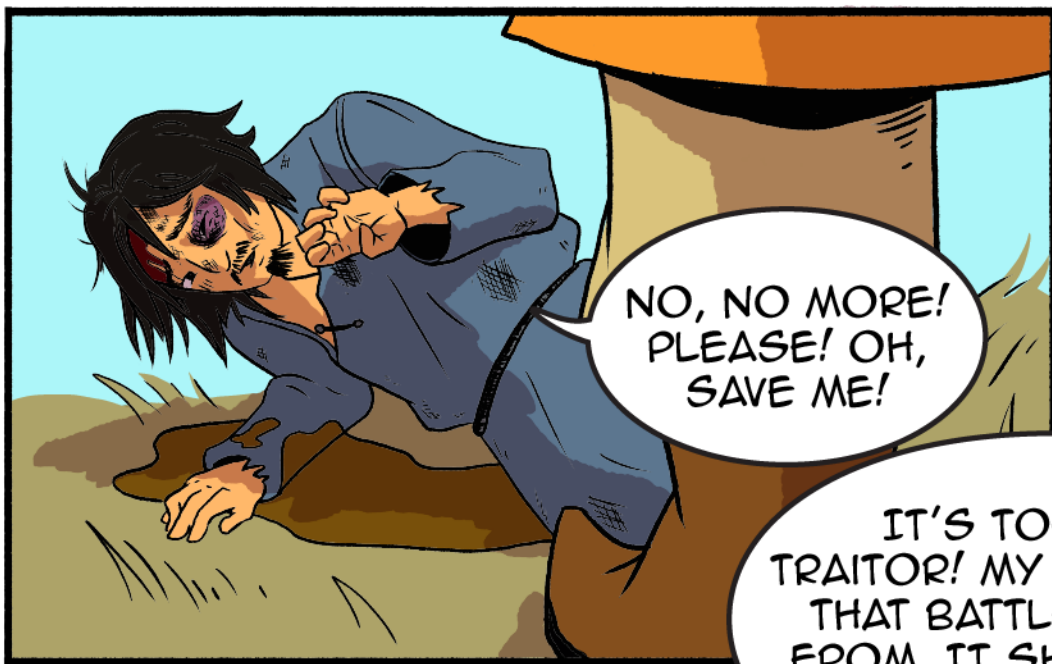
HE IS THE ONE
WHO RAN FROM
BATTLE TWO YEARS
AGO! I CAN'T
BELIEVE HE'S
STILL ALIVE!



DIDN'T HE ALSO
STEAL FROM HIS
FATHER?



YES, HE'S FAMOUS
FOR HIS MISDEEDS. I
HOPE HE'S BEATEN
WITHIN AN INCH OF
HIS LIFE!



"REPENT AND BELIEVE"

THERE ONCE WAS A WEALTHY MAN WHO OWNED MANY FLOCKS AND SERVANTS AND HORSES. HE HAD TWO SONS. ONE DAY HIS YOUNGER SON APPROACHED HIM...



FATHER, GIVE ME MY INHERITANCE NOW! I NO LONGER WISH TO LIVE WITH YOU. I WANT TO START MY OWN LIFE.

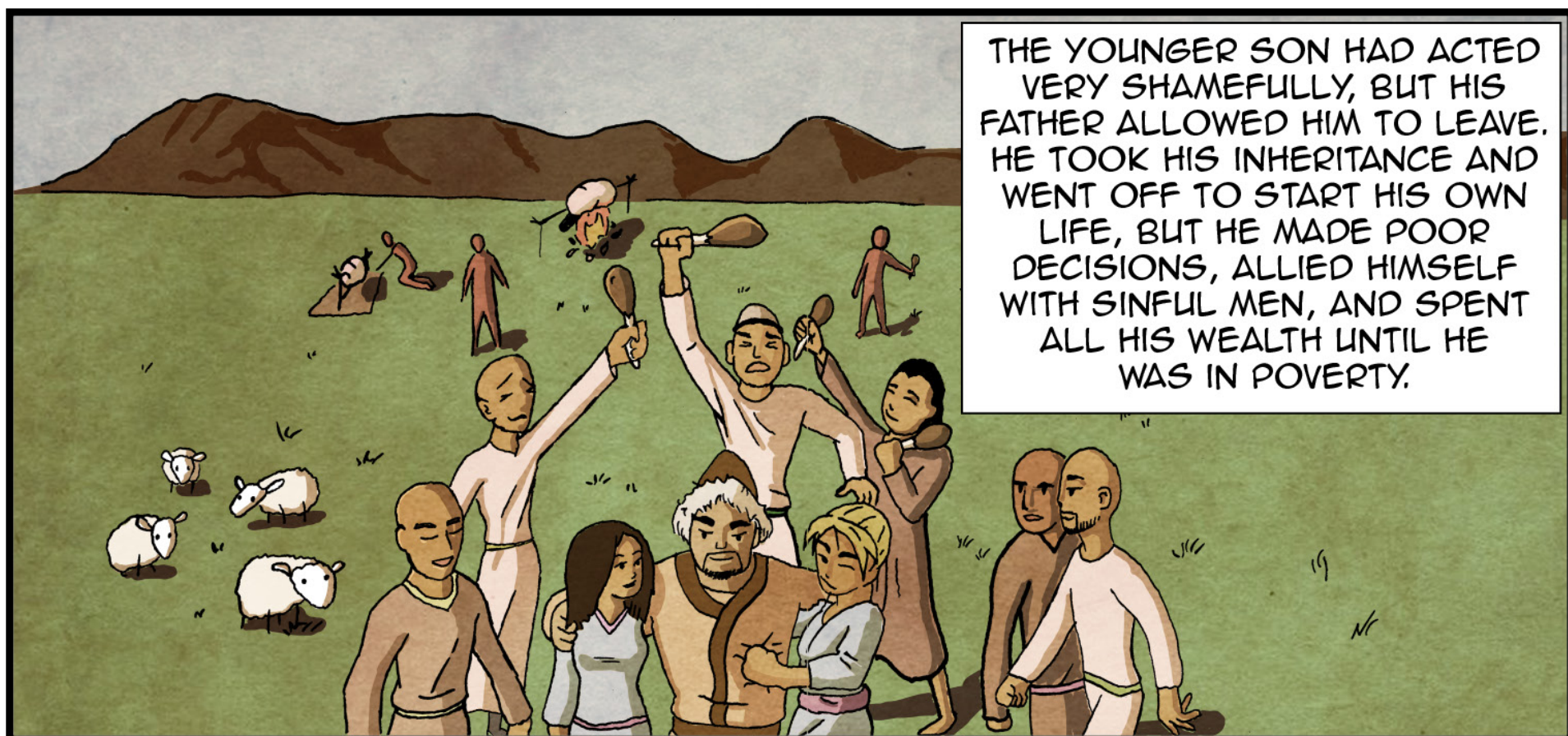


HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? WHO RAISED YOU? WHO PROTECTS YOU? WHERE IS YOUR RESPECT?



I DON'T NEED YOU OR ANYBODY. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, I HAVE NO FAMILY BUT MYSELF.





THE YOUNGER SON HAD ACTED VERY SHAMEFULLY, BUT HIS FATHER ALLOWED HIM TO LEAVE. HE TOOK HIS INHERITANCE AND WENT OFF TO START HIS OWN LIFE, BUT HE MADE POOR DECISIONS, ALLIED HIMSELF WITH SINFUL MEN, AND SPENT ALL HIS WEALTH UNTIL HE WAS IN POVERTY.

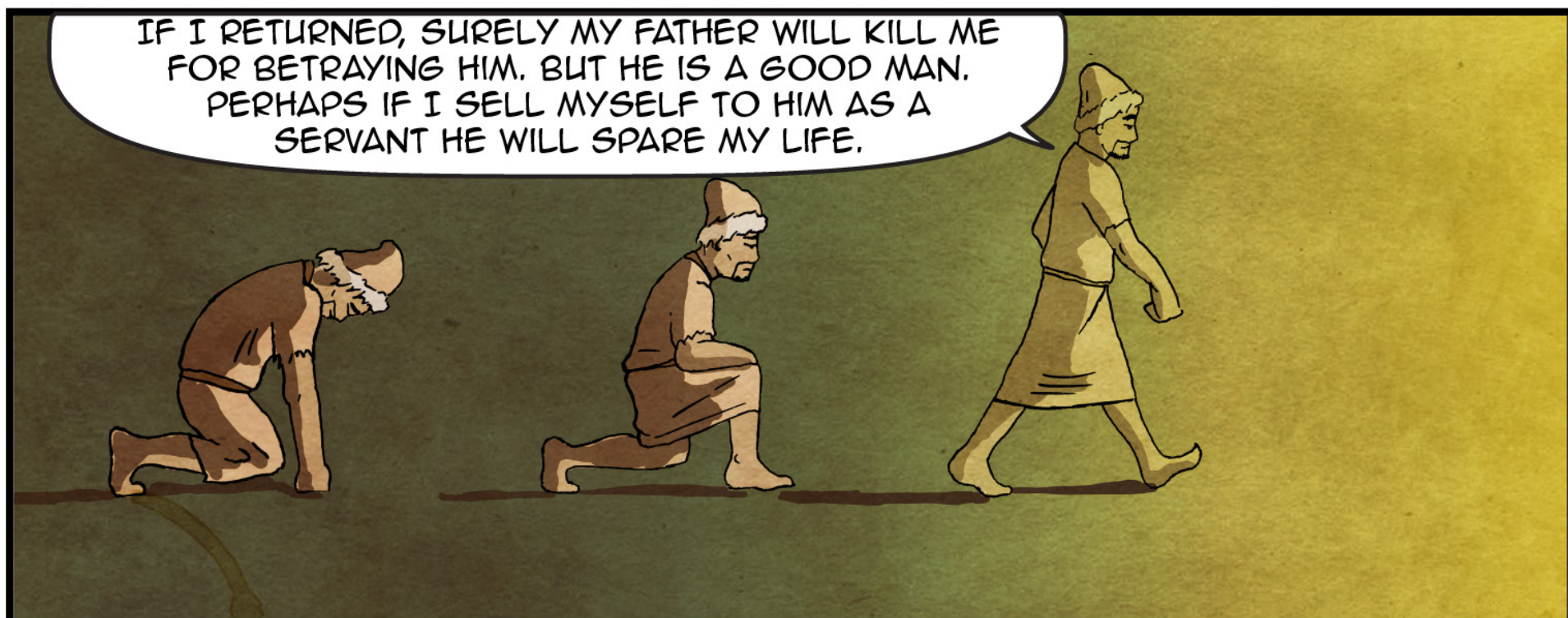


HE WENT TO HIS ALLIES FOR HELP, BUT THEY SPAT ON HIM AND PUSHED HIM OUT.



WHAT HAVE I DONE? I THOUGHT I DIDN'T NEED ANY HELP, BUT NOW I AM POOR, WEAK AND ALONE. I AM LITTERLY ASHAMED OF MYSELF.

HE REMEMBERED HIS FATHER, AND HOW HE HAD NEVER LACKED ANYTHING WHILE IN HIS COMPANY.



IF I RETURNED, SURELY MY FATHER WILL KILL ME FOR BETRAYING HIM. BUT HE IS A GOOD MAN. PERHAPS IF I SELL MYSELF TO HIM AS A SERVANT HE WILL SPARE MY LIFE.

HE TRAVELED BACK TO HIS FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD, DETERMINED TO MAKE UP FOR ALL HE HAD DONE WRONG. BUT A SURPRISE AWAITED HIM!

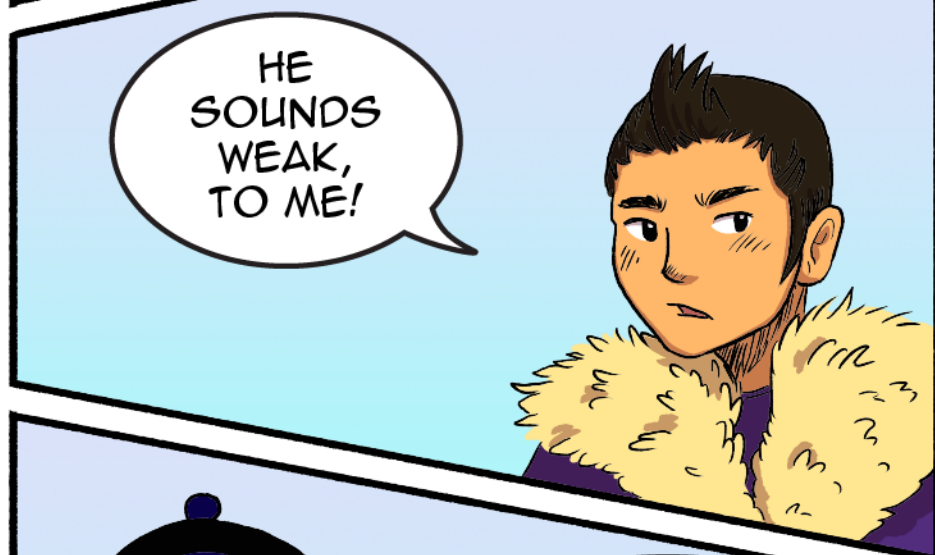
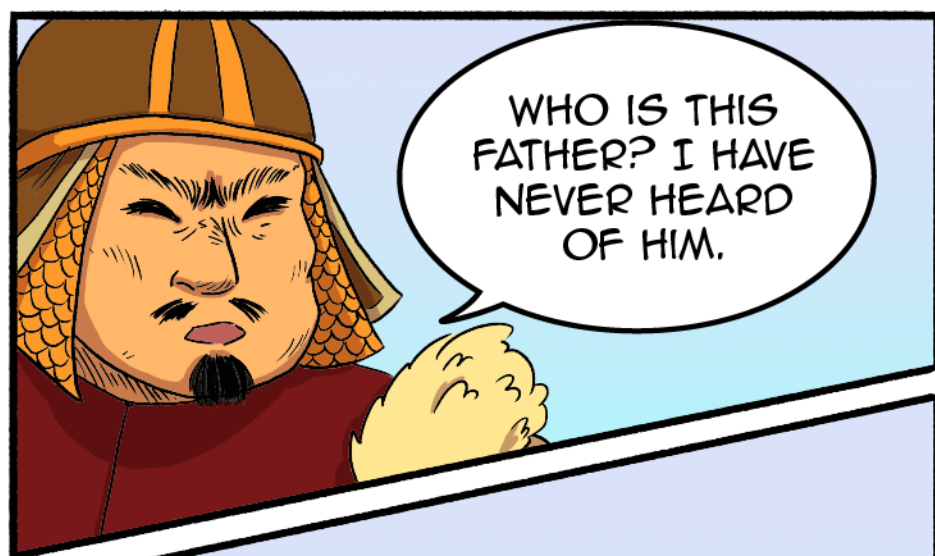
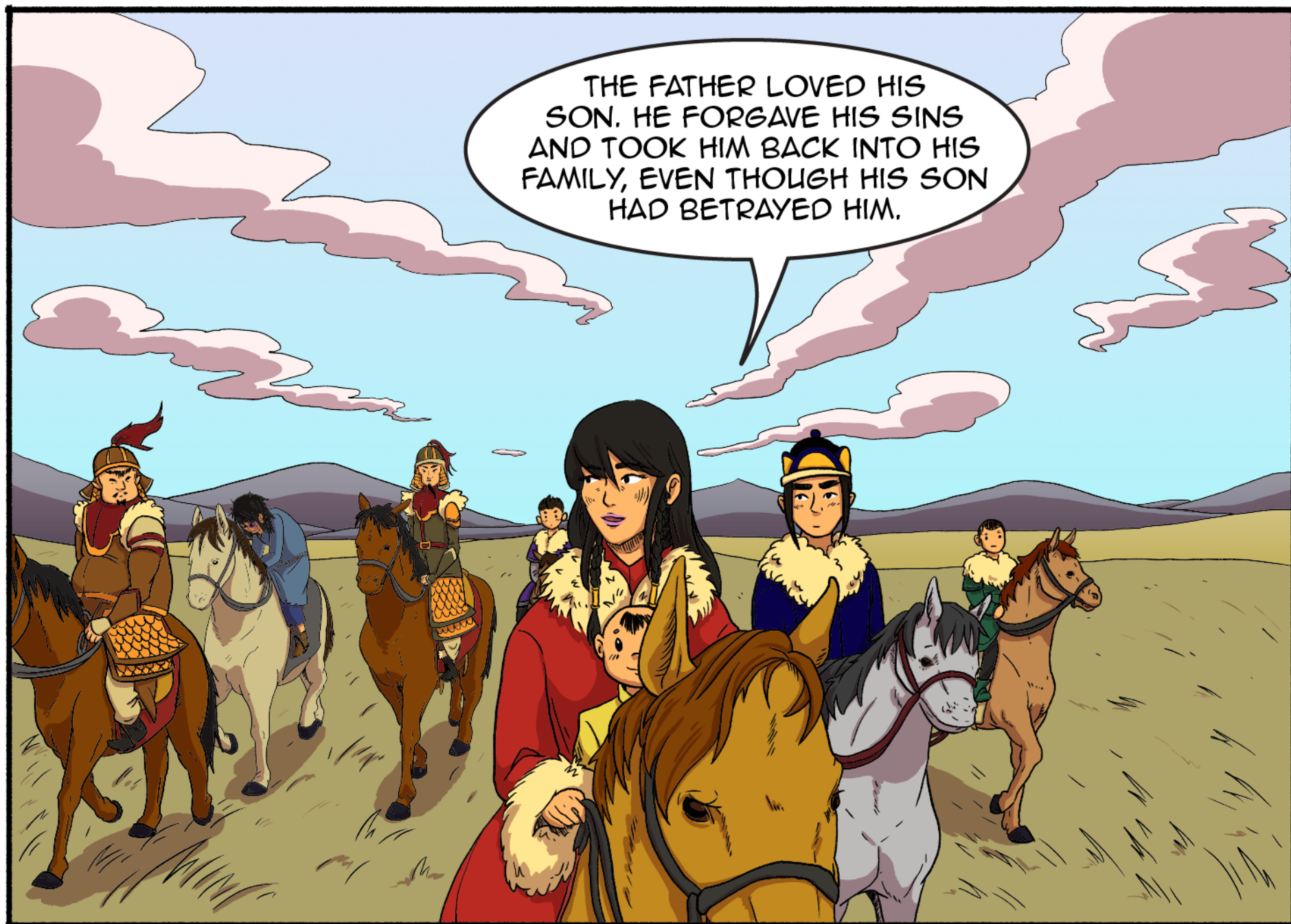
WHO IS THAT OVER THE HILL?
CAN IT BE? MY SON!

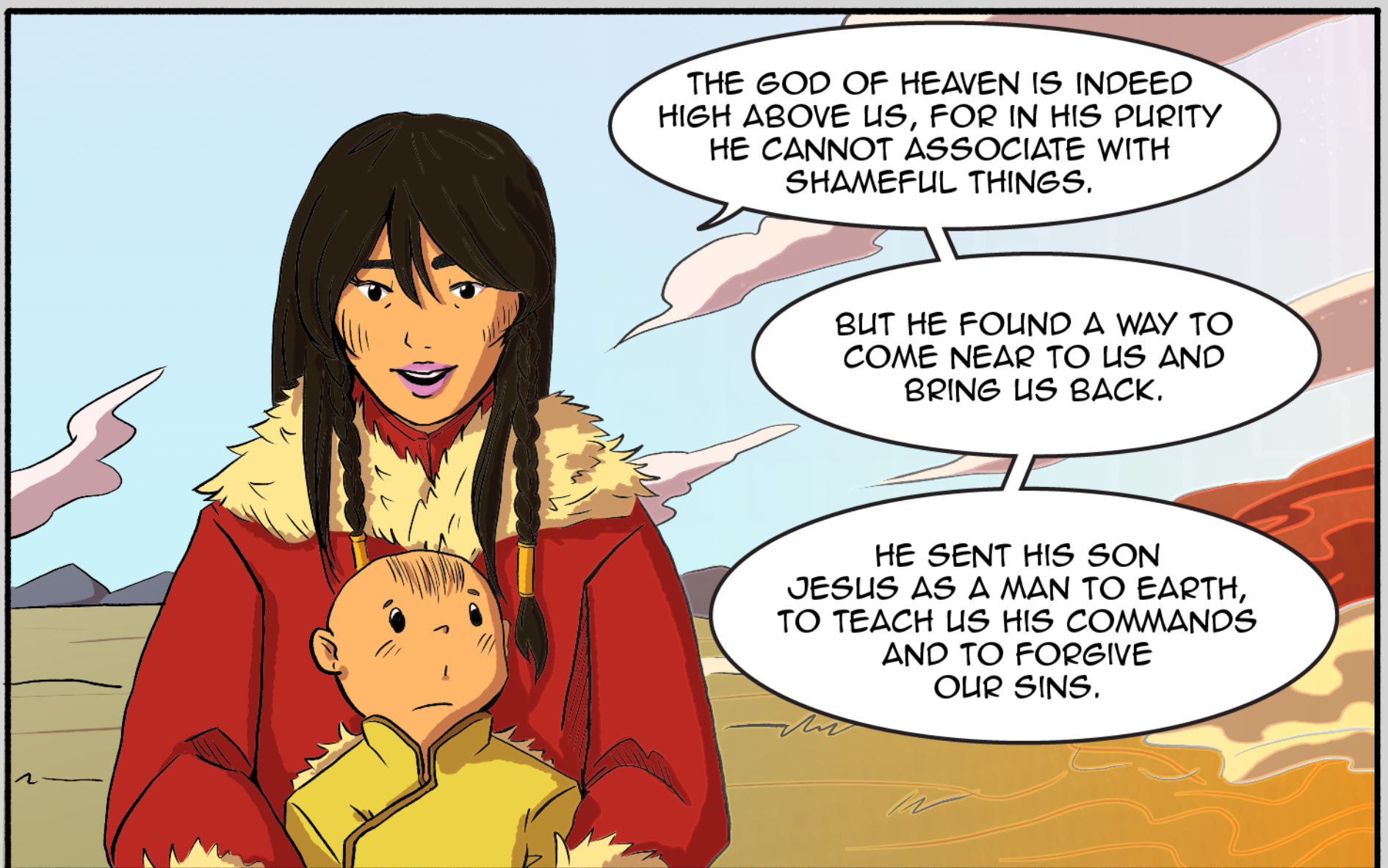
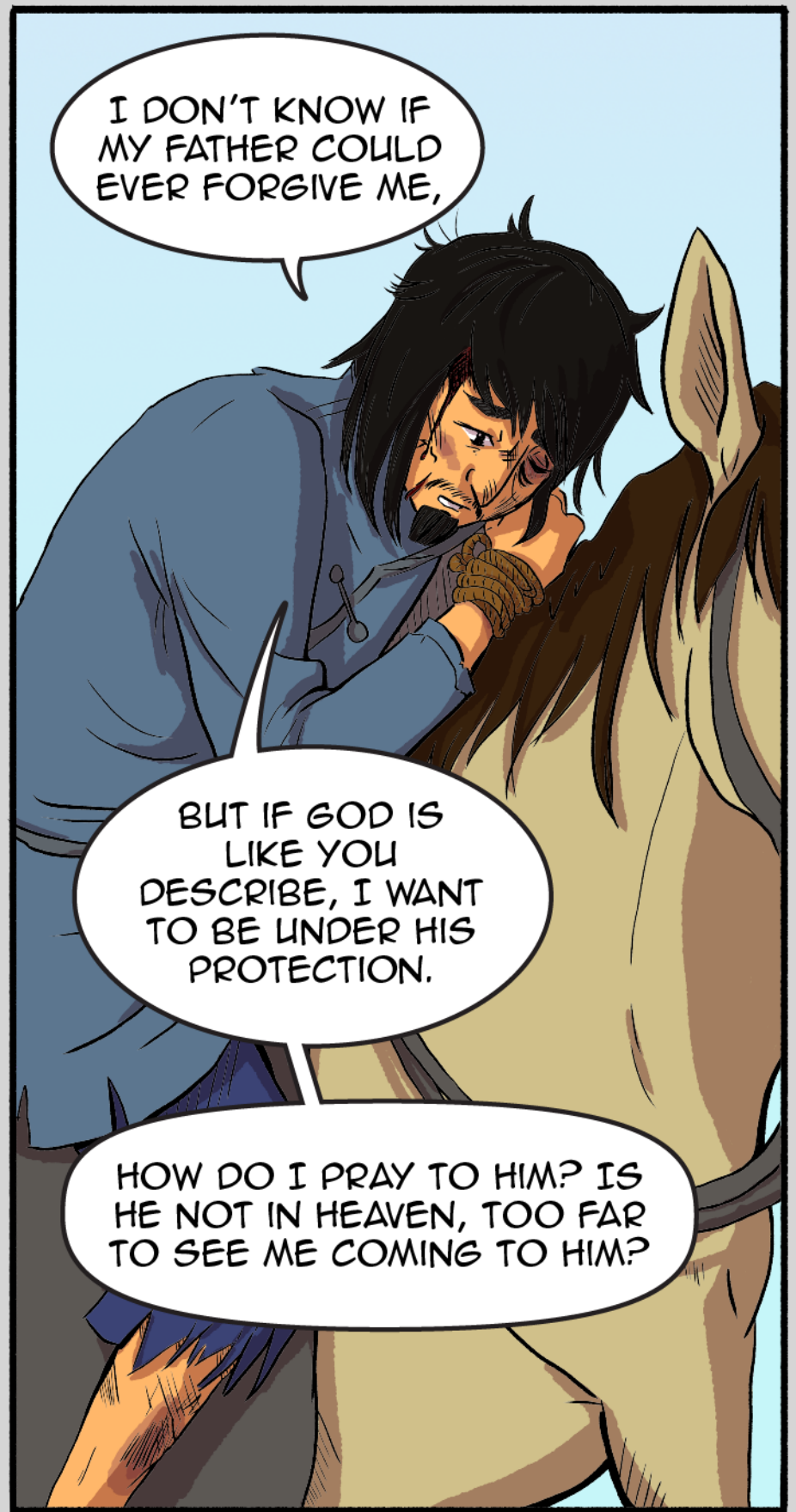
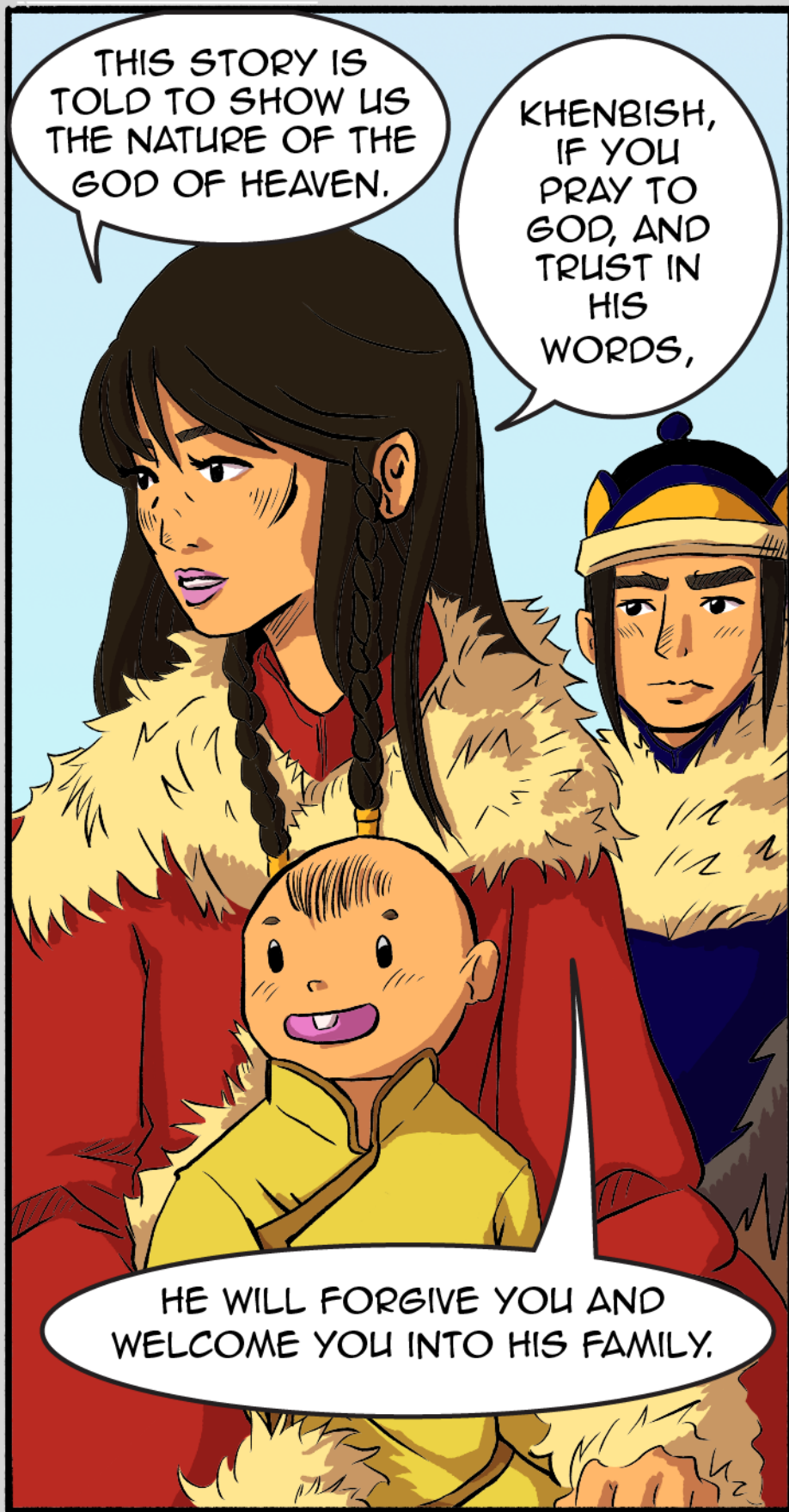


FATHER,
I DON'T
DESERVE TO BE
CALLED YOUR
SON. I STOLE
MY INHERITANCE
FROM YOU AND
WASTED IT ALL!
PLEASE, LET ME
BE YOUR
SERVANT, SO I
MAY NOT STARVE
TO DEATH.

HERE, COME INTO MY TENT! WE WILL KILL A CALF
AND HAVE A FEAST! MY SON! MY SON IS BACK!







"PRAY"

JESUS TAUGHT US A WAY TO PRAY THAT PLEASES GOD.

"AND WHEN YOU PRAY,
DO NOT HEAP UP EMPTY PHRASES
AS THE GENTILES DO, FOR THEY THINK
THAT THEY WILL BE HEARD FOR THEIR
MANY WORDS. DO NOT BE LIKE THEM,
FOR YOUR FATHER KNOWS WHAT YOU
NEED BEFORE YOU ASK HIM.
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS:

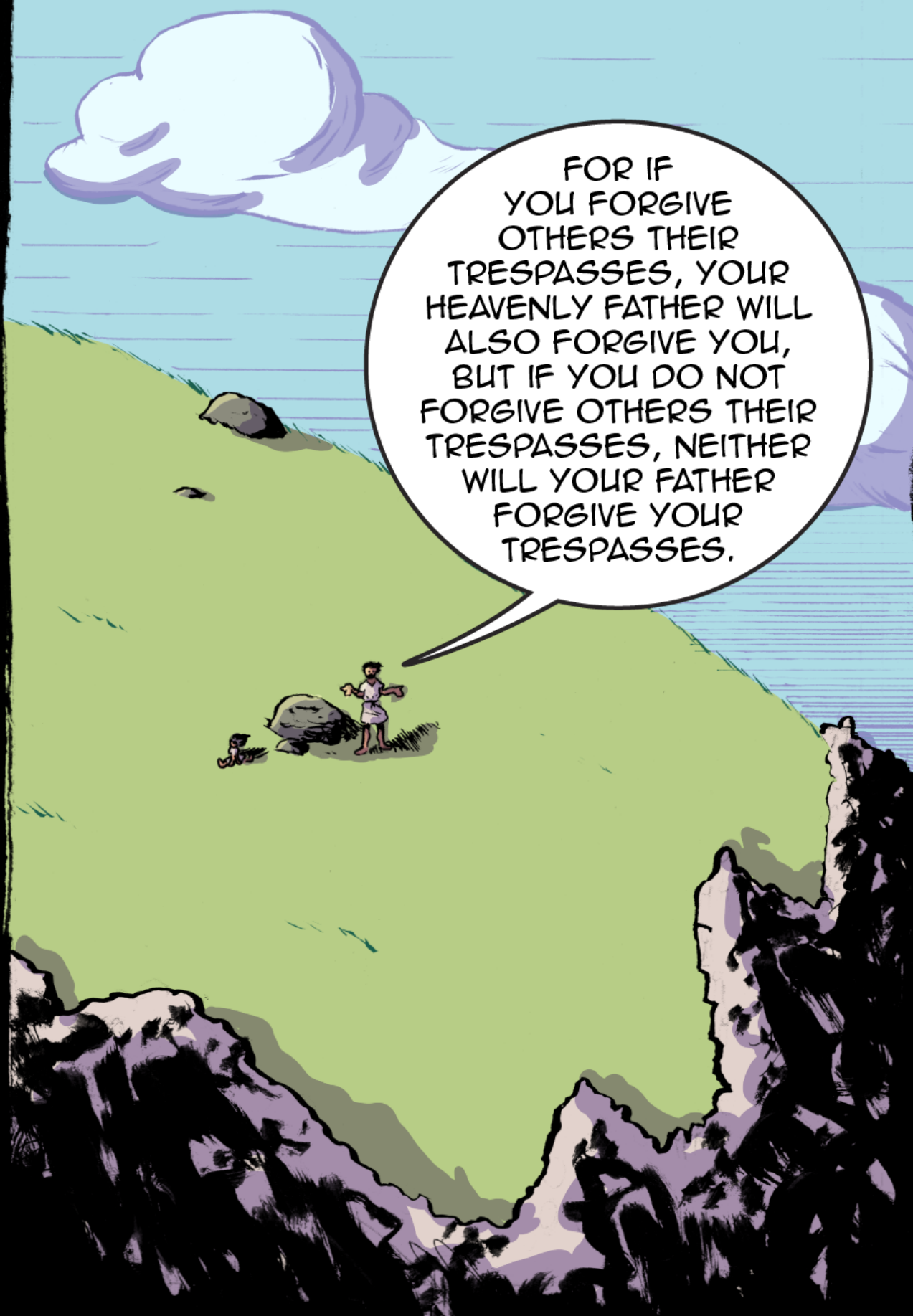
"OUR FATHER
IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE
YOUR NAME.
YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE,
ON EARTH AS IT IS
IN HEAVEN.

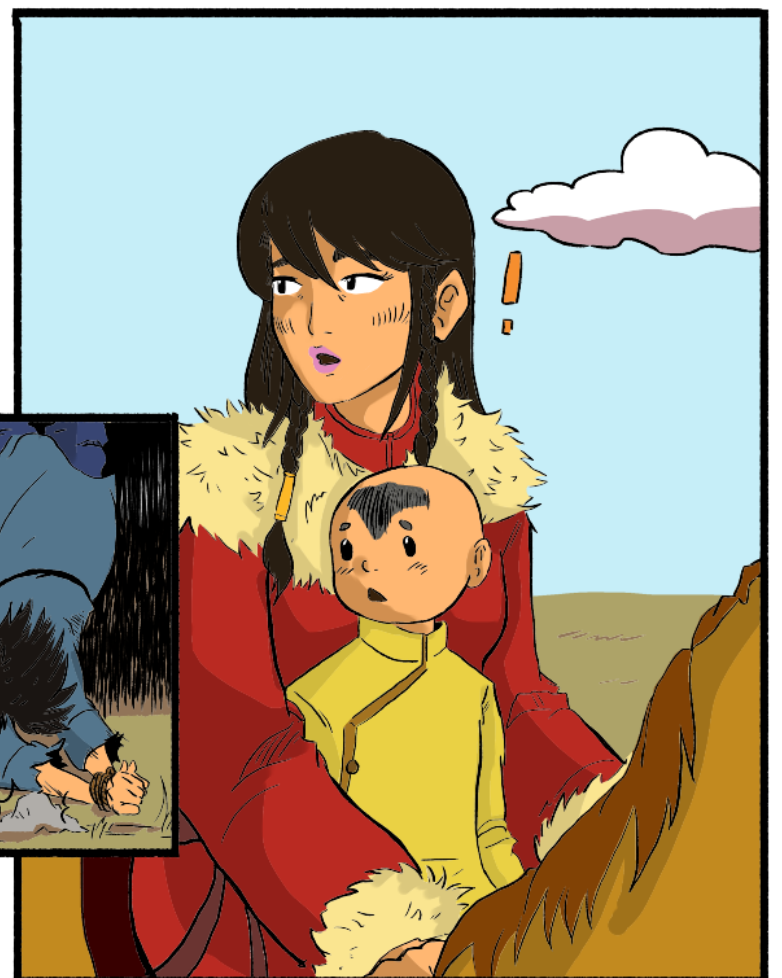
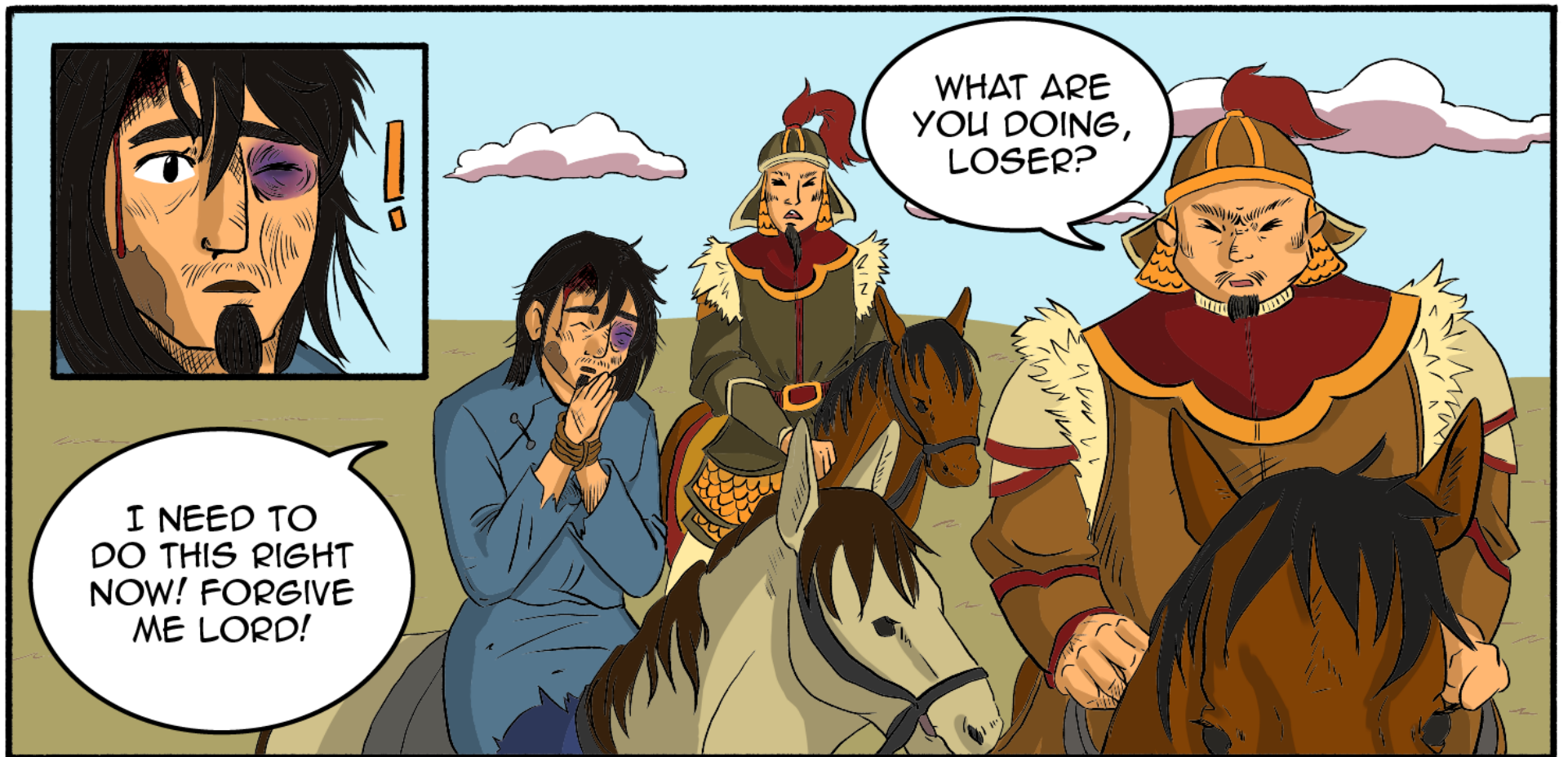


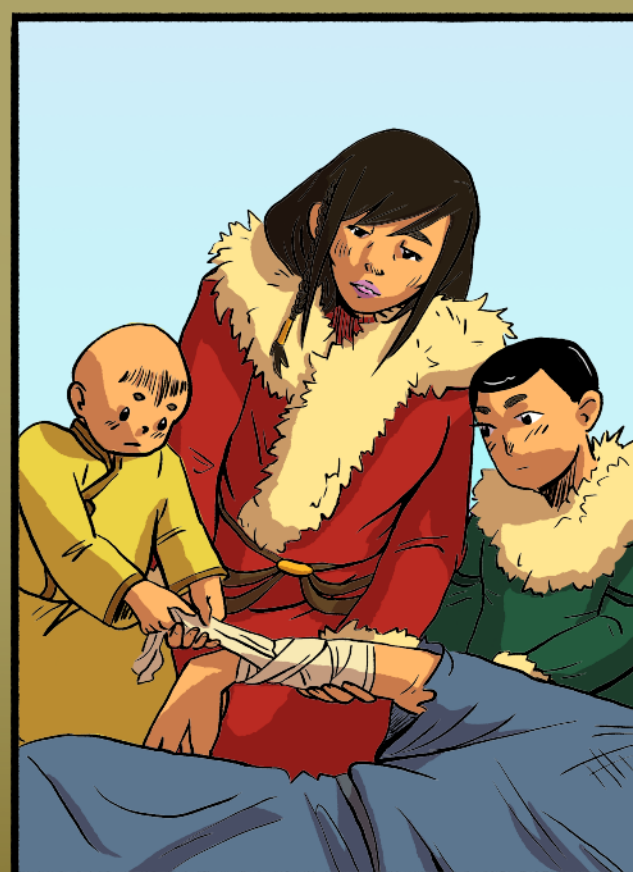
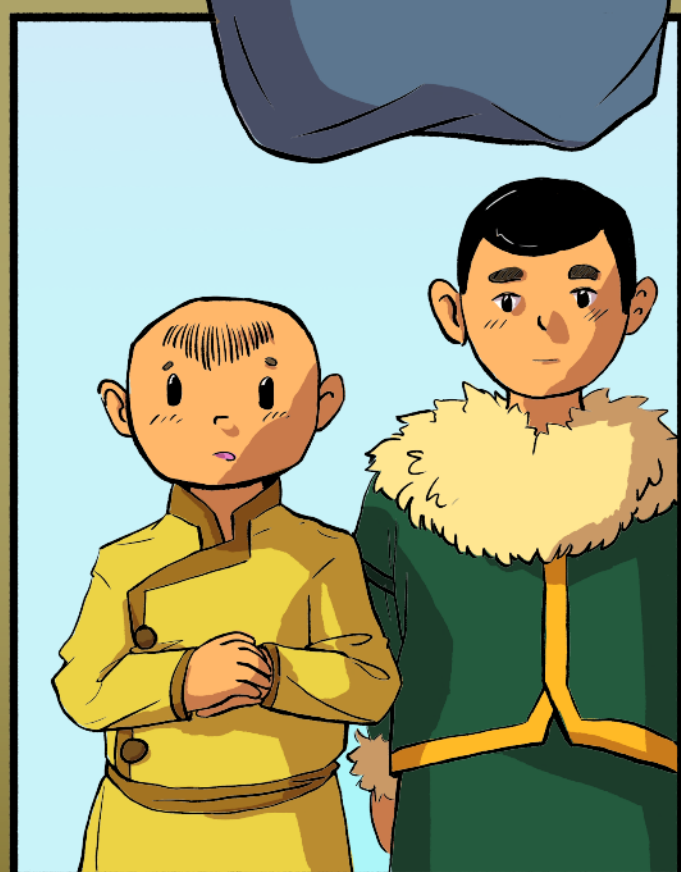
GIVE
US THIS DAY
OUR DAILY BREAD,
AND FORGIVE US
OUR DEBTS,
AS WE ALSO HAVE
FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
AND LEAD US NOT
INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US
FROM EVIL.

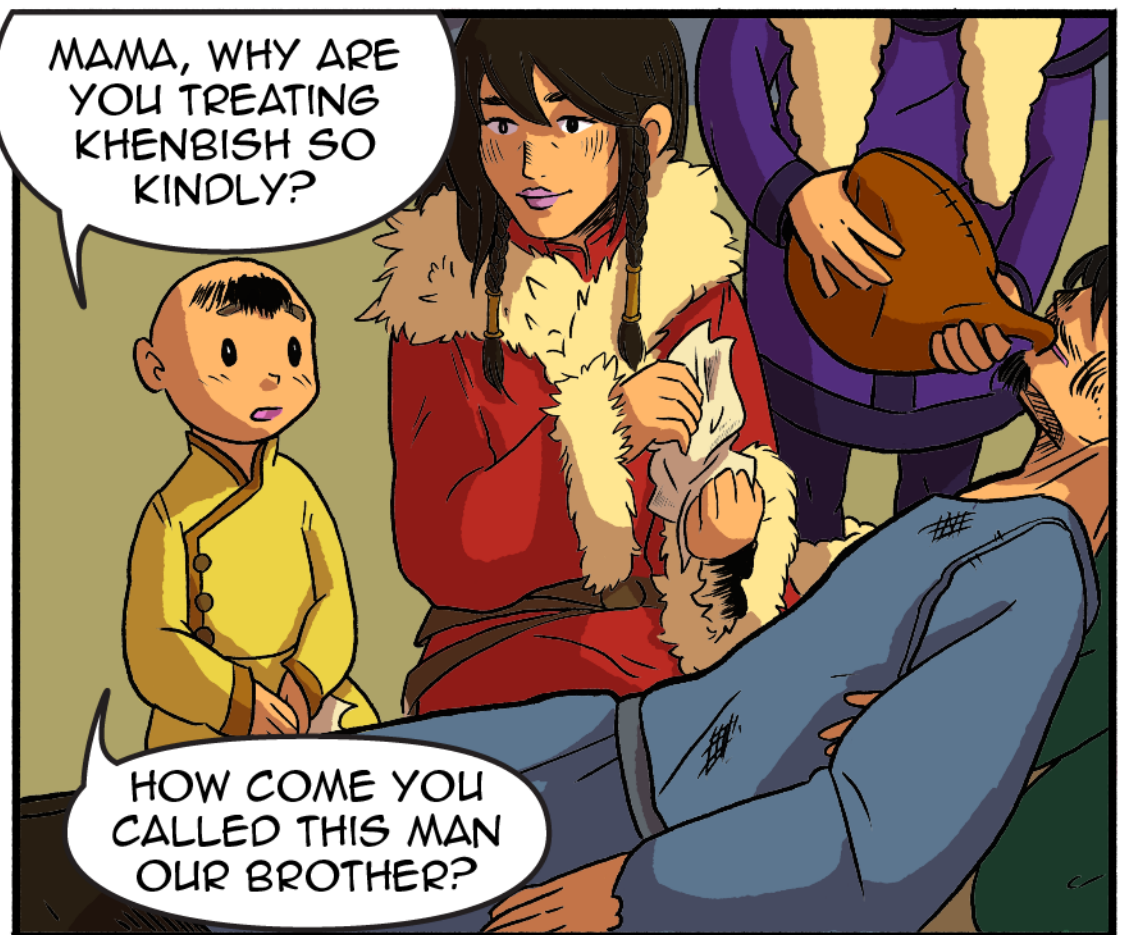


FOR IF
YOU FORGIVE
OTHERS THEIR
TRESPASSES, YOUR
HEAVENLY FATHER WILL
ALSO FORGIVE YOU,
BUT IF YOU DO NOT
FORGIVE OTHERS THEIR
TRESPASSES, NEITHER
WILL YOUR FATHER
FORGIVE YOUR
TRESPASSES.









"LOVE"

JESUS TOLD
THIS STORY:

"A MAN WAS
TRAVELLING
BETWEEN TWO
CITIES,



AND HE FELL
AMONG ROBBERS,



WHO STRIPPED HIM, BEAT HIM & DEPARTED,

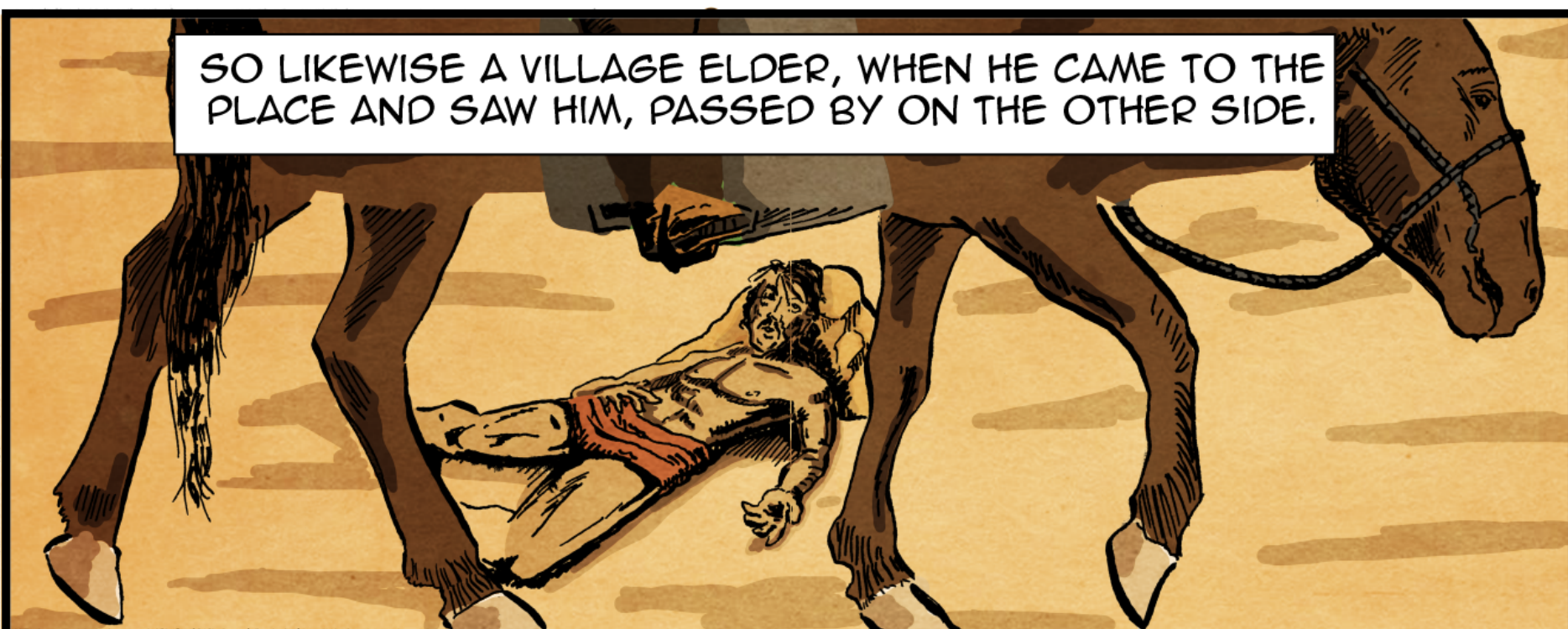


LEAVING HIM HALF DEAD.

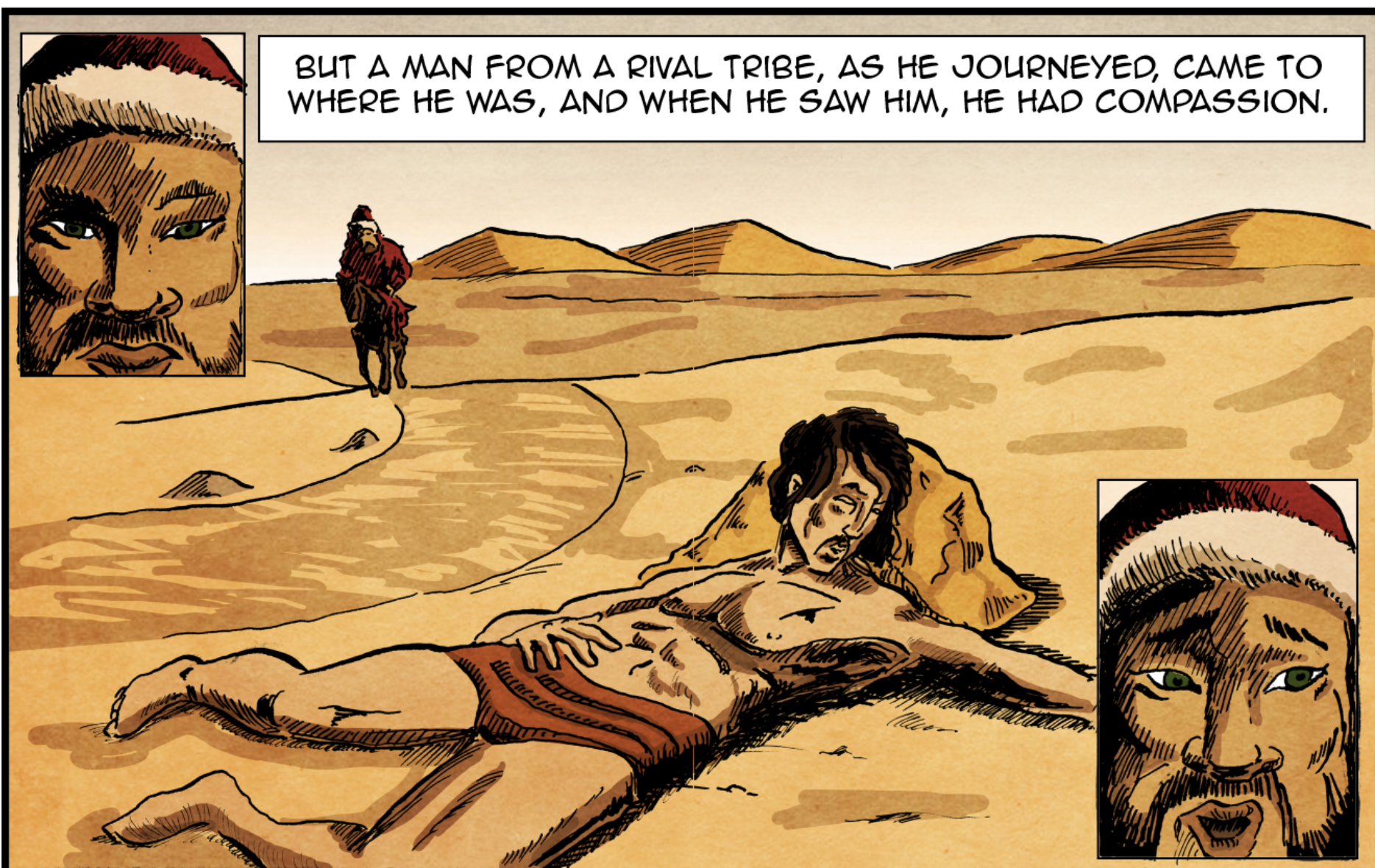
NOW BY CHANCE A HOLY MAN WAS GOING DOWN THAT ROAD,
AND WHEN HE SAW HIM HE PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.



SO LIKEWISE A VILLAGE ELDER, WHEN HE CAME TO THE
PLACE AND SAW HIM, PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.



BUT A MAN FROM A RIVAL TRIBE, AS HE JOURNEYED, CAME TO
WHERE HE WAS, AND WHEN HE SAW HIM, HE HAD COMPASSION.



HE WENT TO HIM AND

BOUND UP HIS WOUNDS,

POURING ON OIL AND WINE.

THEN HE SET HIM ON HIS OWN ANIMAL AND
BROUGHT HIM TO AN INN AND TOOK CARE OF HIM.

AND THE NEXT DAY HE TOOK OUT TWO PIECES OF
MONEY AND GAVE THEM TO THE INNKEEPER, SAYING,

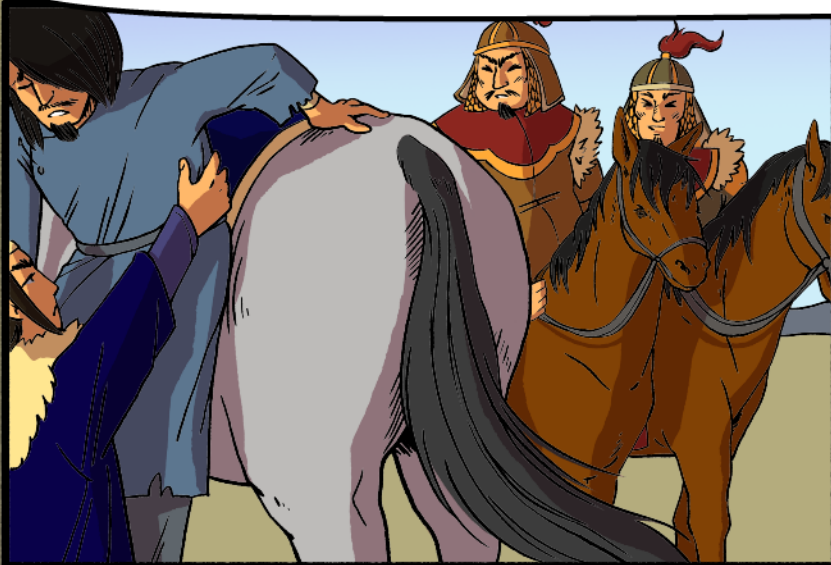
'TAKE CARE OF HIM,
AND WHATEVER MORE
YOU SPEND, I WILL
REPAY YOU WHEN I
COME BACK.'

JESUS THEN ASKED HIS DISCIPLES, "WHICH OF THESE THREE, DO
YOU THINK, PROVED TO BE A NEIGHBOR TO THE MAN WHO FELL
AMONG THE ROBBERS?" THEY SAID, "THE ONE WHO SHOWED HIM
MERCY." AND JESUS SAID TO HIM, "YOU GO, AND DO LIKEWISE."

"MAKE DISCIPLES"

AND THAT IS WHY I, A DISCIPLE OF JESUS,
AM TEACHING YOU HIS WAYS.

HE WANTED HIS FOLLOWERS TO GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS,
BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT JESUS COMMANDED US.



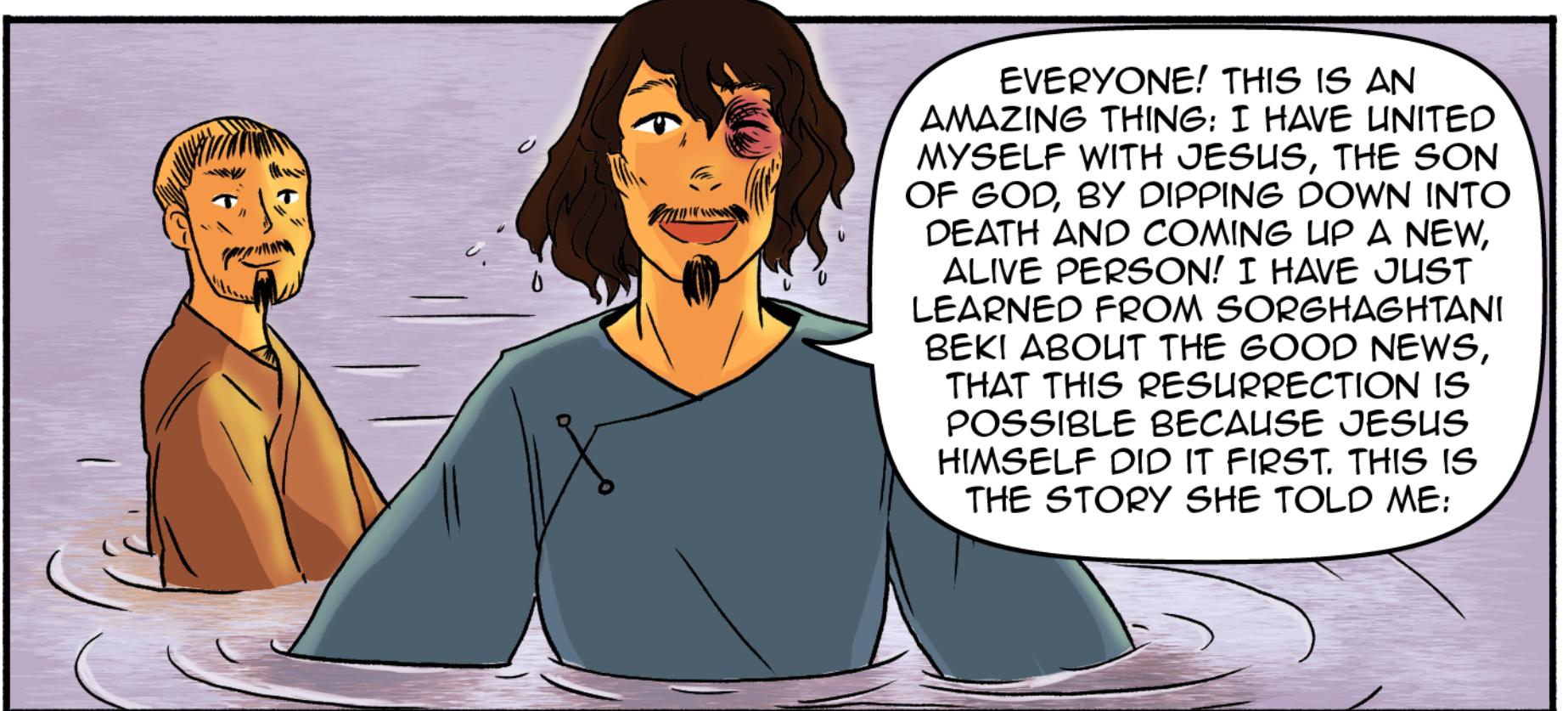
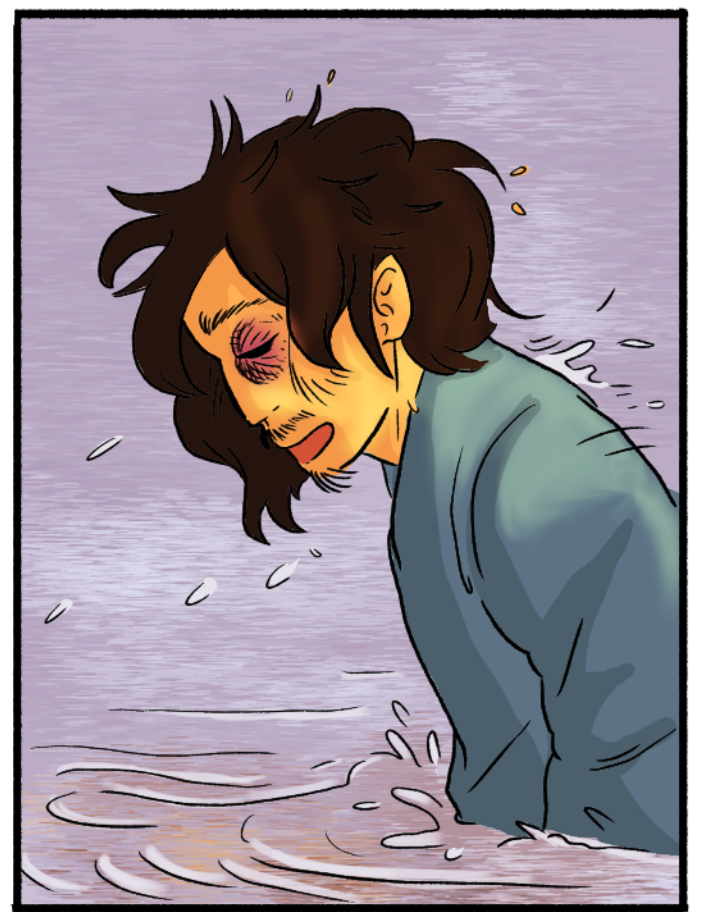
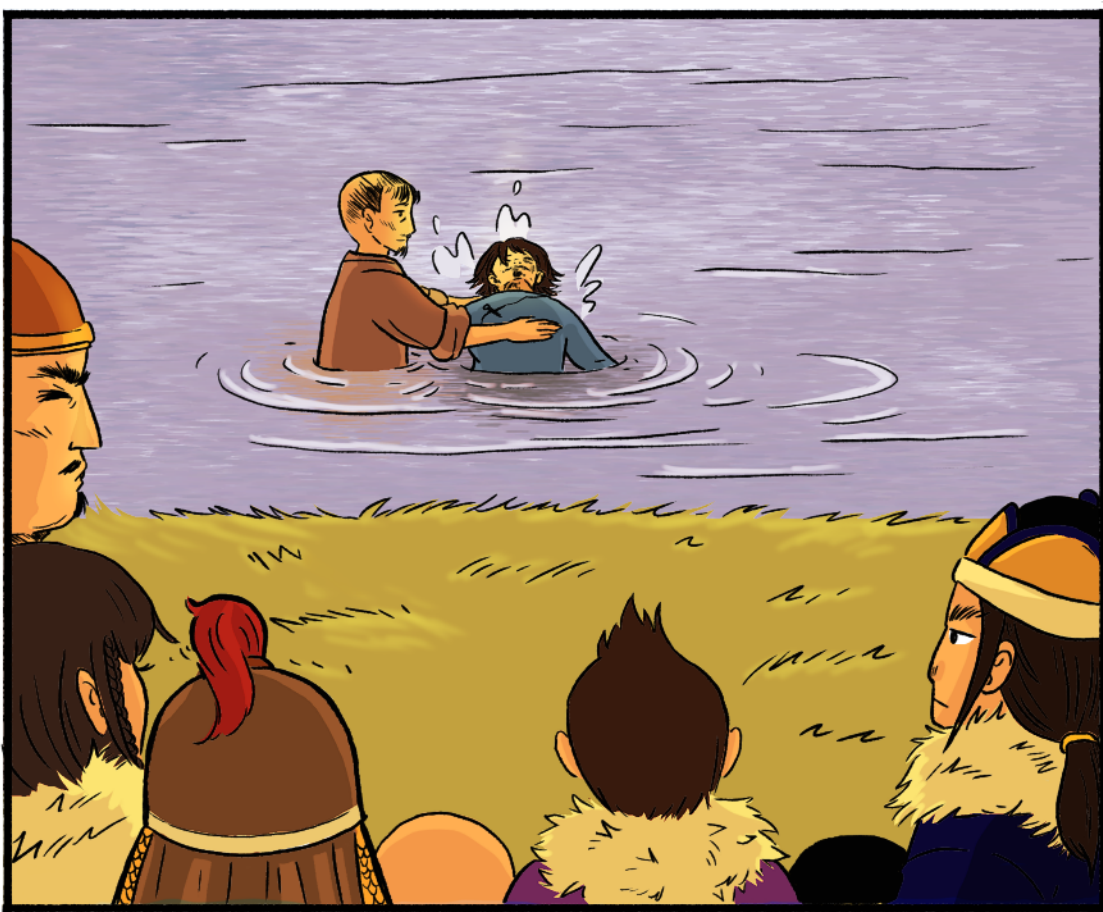
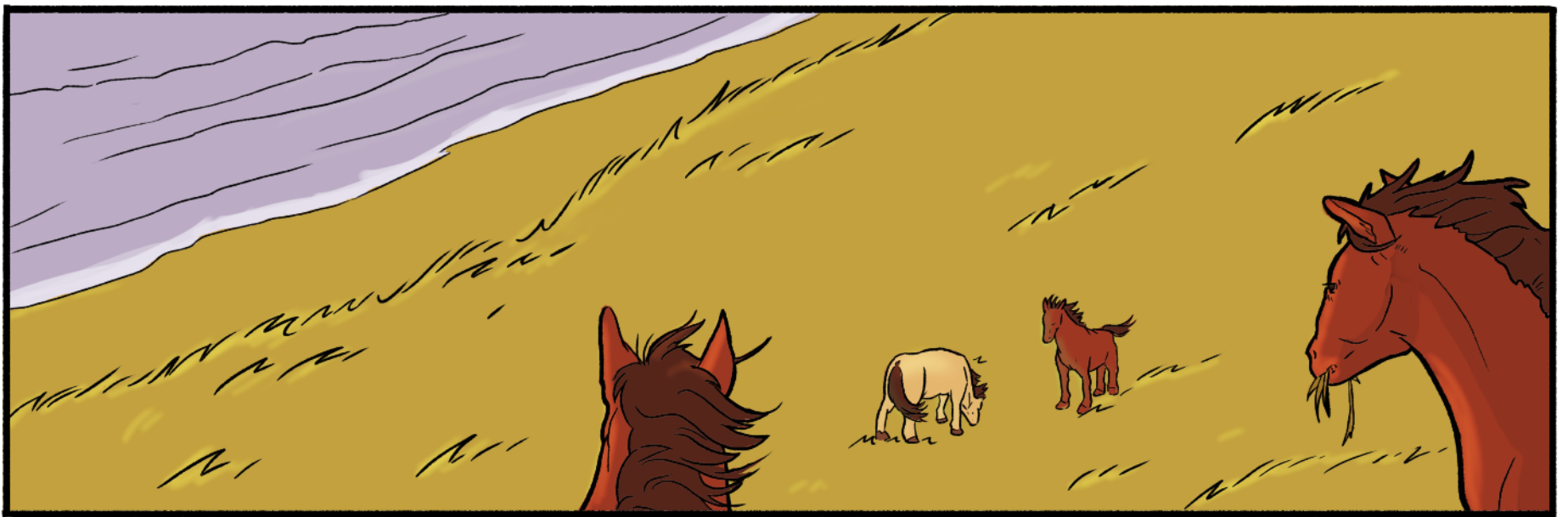
"BE BAPTIZED"

WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO BE
BAPTIZED?

WHEN A PERSON
PRAYS TO JESUS AND ASKS FOR
FORGIVENESS, IT IS LIKE THEY ARE
WASHED CLEAN OF THE SHAMEFUL DIRT
THAT COVERS THEM. THEY BECOME A NEW,
CLEAN PERSON! BAPTISM IS THE
CEREMONY THAT SHOWS THIS INWARD
CLEANNESS IN AN OUTWARD WAY,
SO THAT EVERYONE KNOWS YOU
HAVE STOPPED LIVING IN SHAME,
AND NOW LIVE FOR AND
OBEY JESUS.

WAIT... I DIDN'T DO
THAT YET. PLEASE, LET
ME BE BAPTIZED!

FIRST THING TOMORROW
MORNING, WE WILL BAPTIZE YOU.
YOU SHOULD REST NOW. LET ME
TELL YOU THE GREAT STORY OF
JESUS'S LIFE ON EARTH.

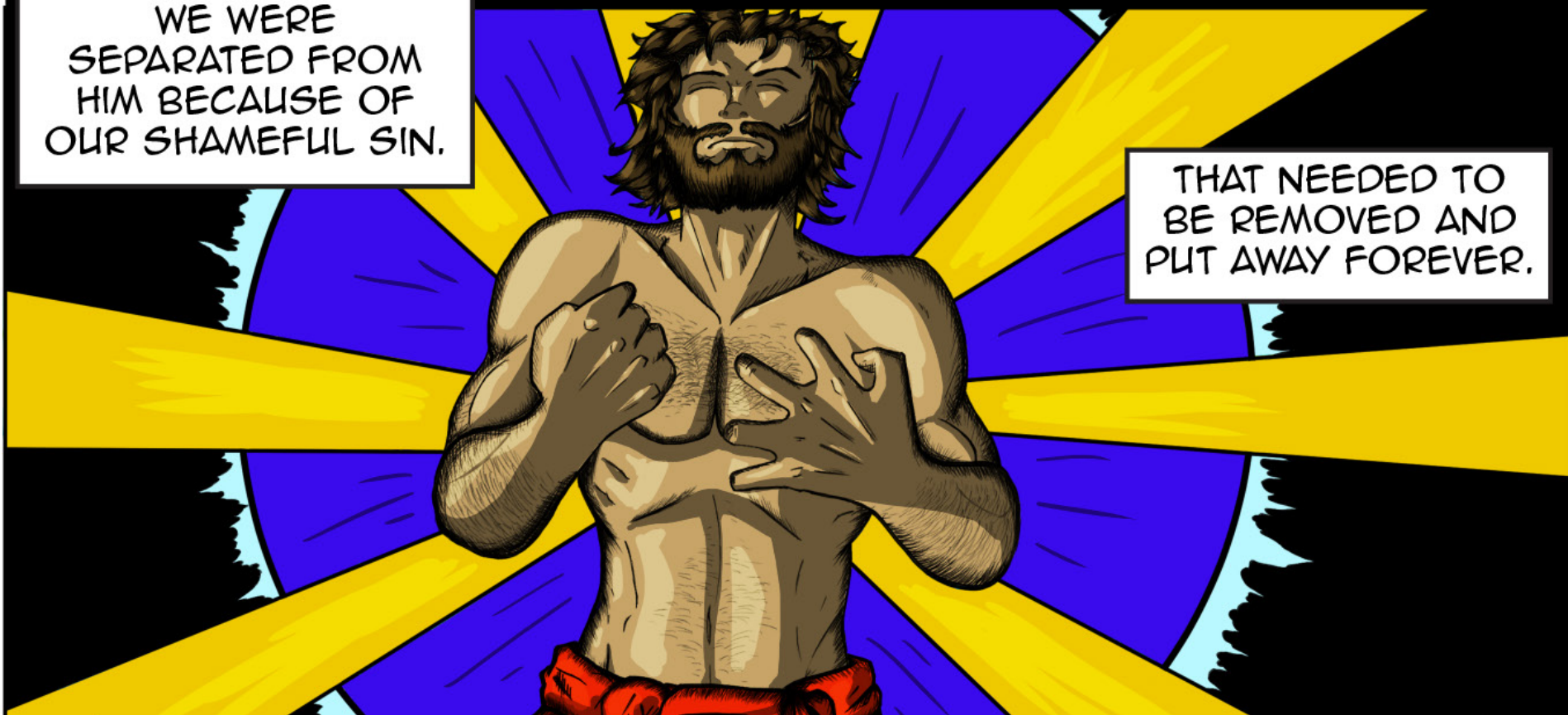


JESUS CHRIST CAME TO EARTH TO BRIDGE
THE GAP BETWEEN US AND GOD.



WE WERE
SEPARATED FROM
HIM BECAUSE OF
OUR SHAMEFUL SIN.

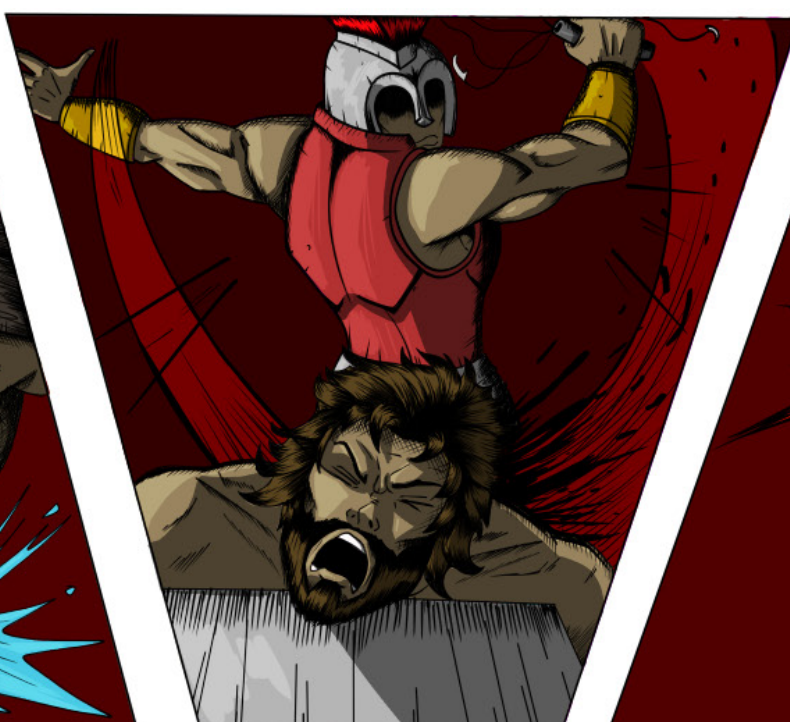
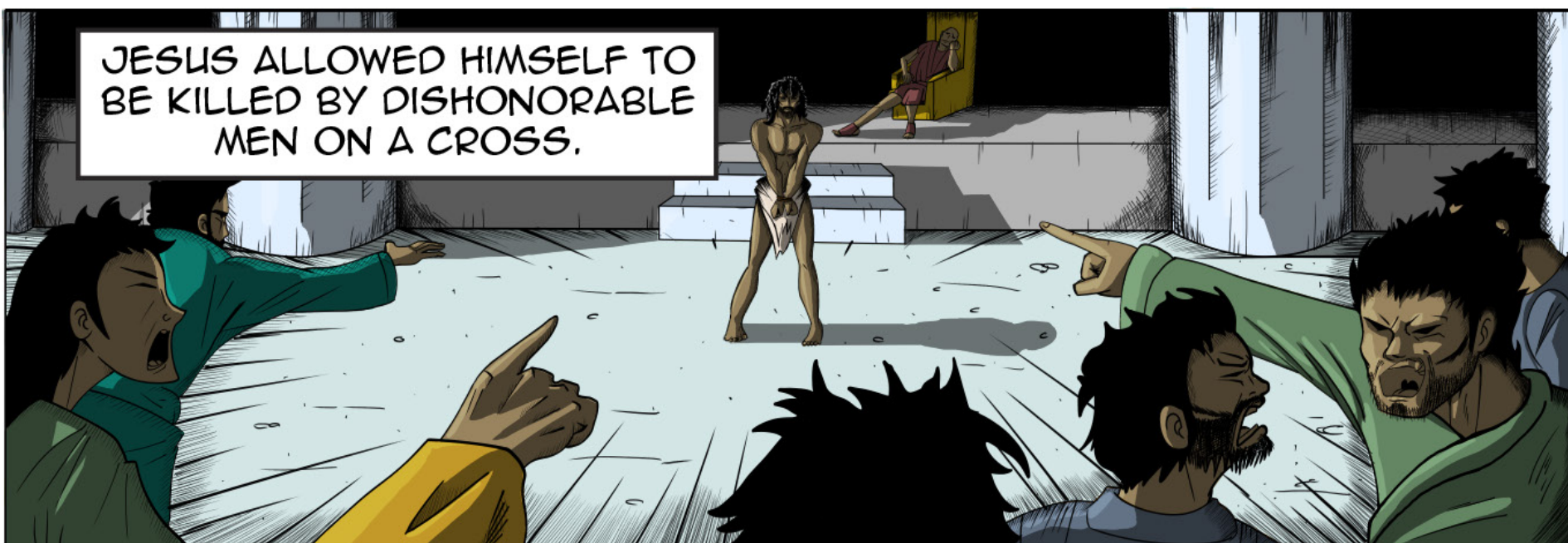
THAT NEEDED TO
BE REMOVED AND
PUT AWAY FOREVER.



JESUS, THE SON OF GOD, OFFERED TO TAKE ALL THE SHAME OF
THE WORLD ON HIMSELF, AND TAKE THE PUNISHMENT WE DESERVED,
WHICH IS DEATH, THOUGH HE HIMSELF WAS FULL OF HONOR.

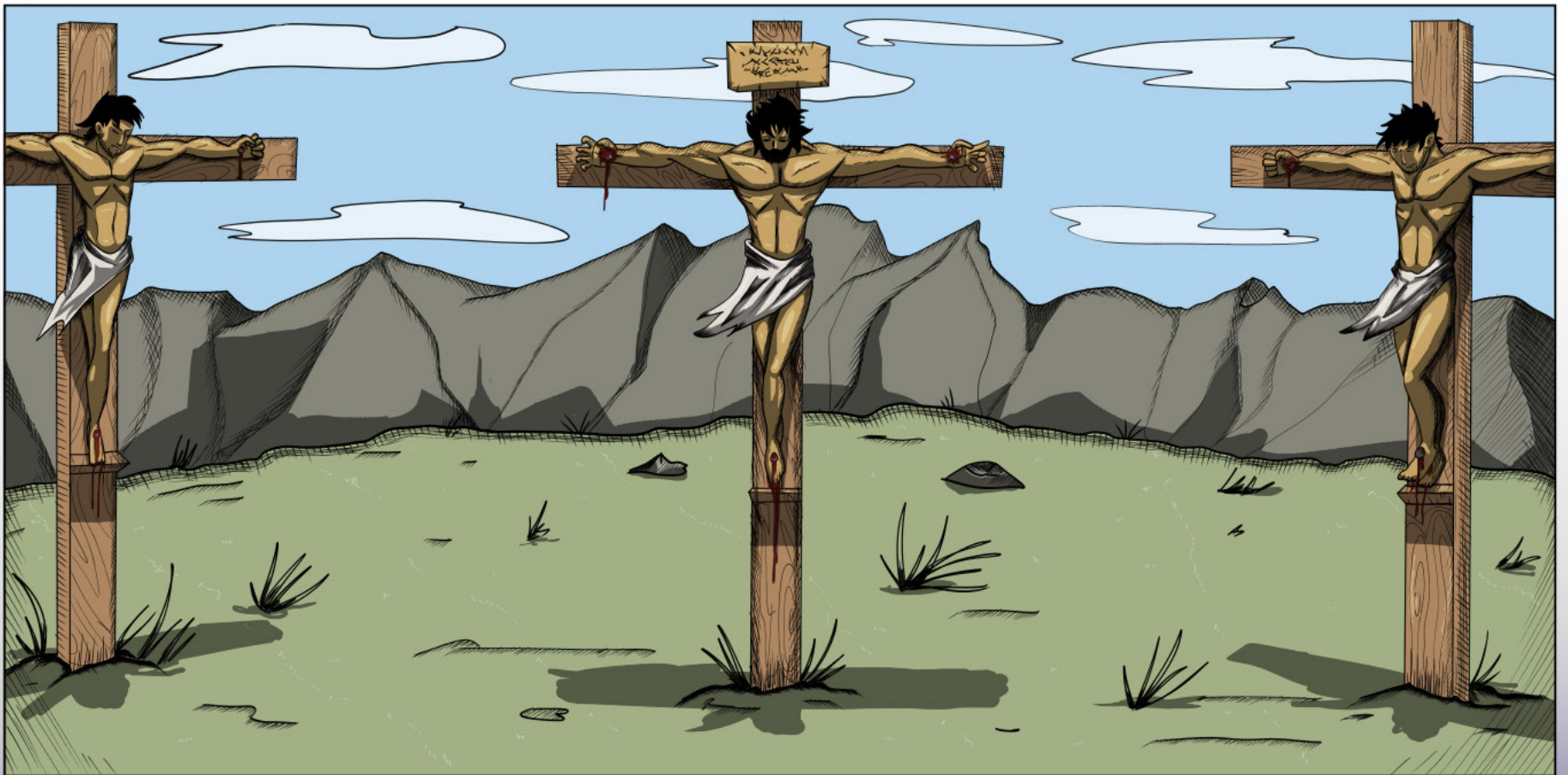


JESUS ALLOWED HIMSELF TO
BE KILLED BY DISHONORABLE
MEN ON A CROSS.

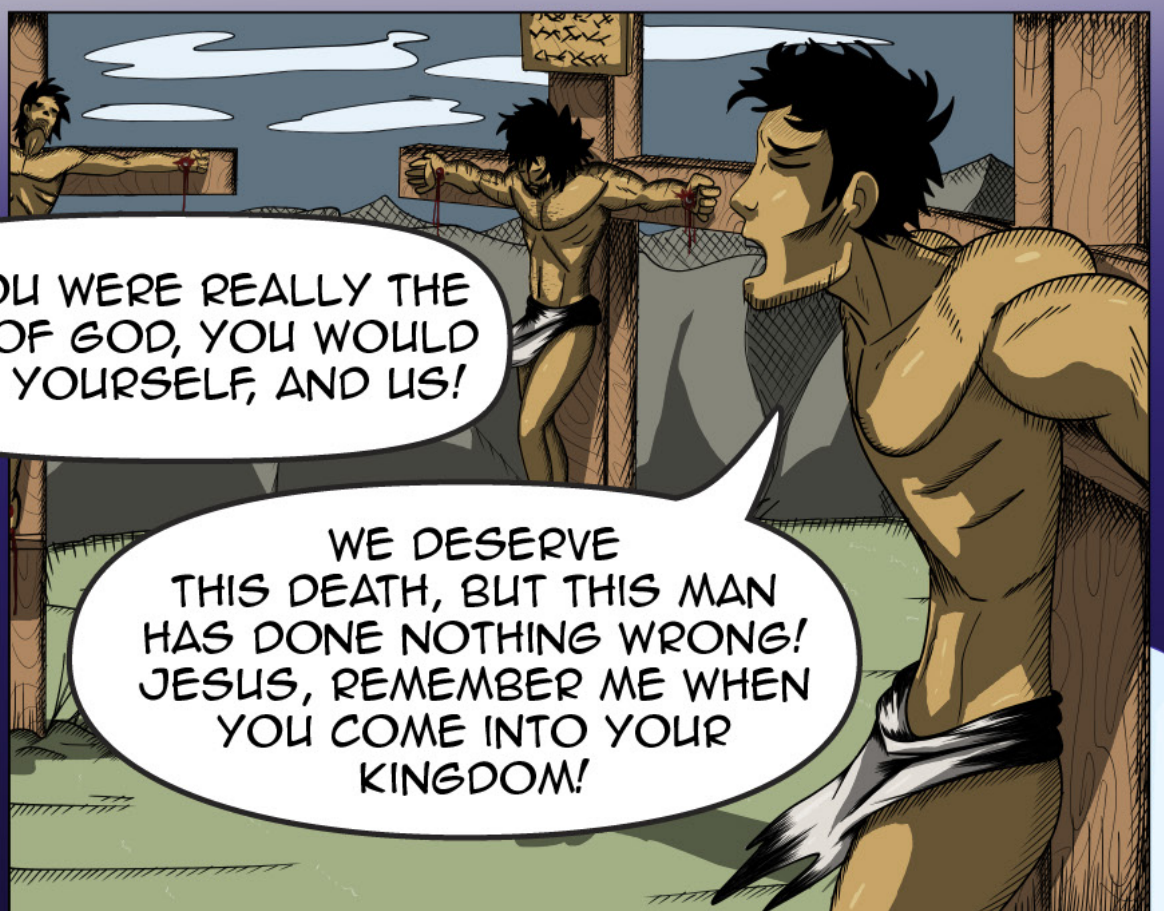


HIS BLOOD WAS SHED FOR US, AND HIS BODY WAS BROKEN FOR US, SO
THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO SUFFER SUCH A TERRIBLE DEATH.

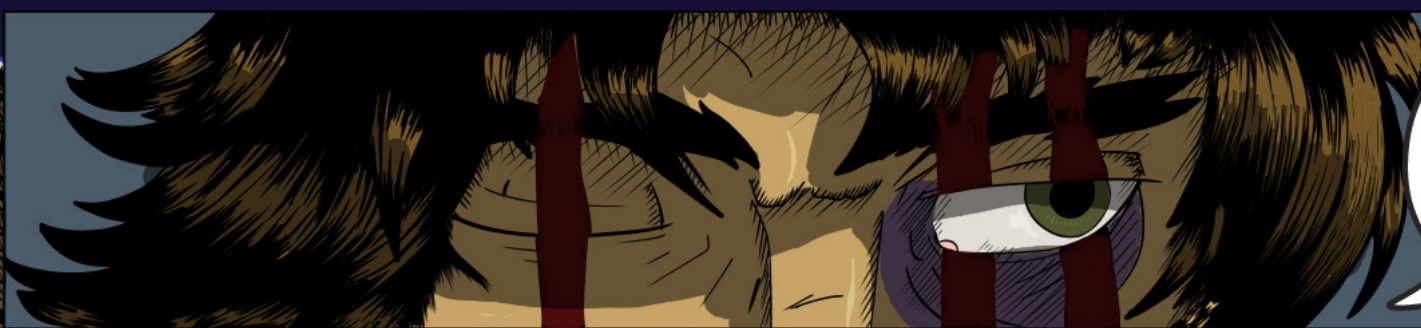




IF YOU WERE REALLY THE SON OF GOD, YOU WOULD SAVE YOURSELF, AND US!



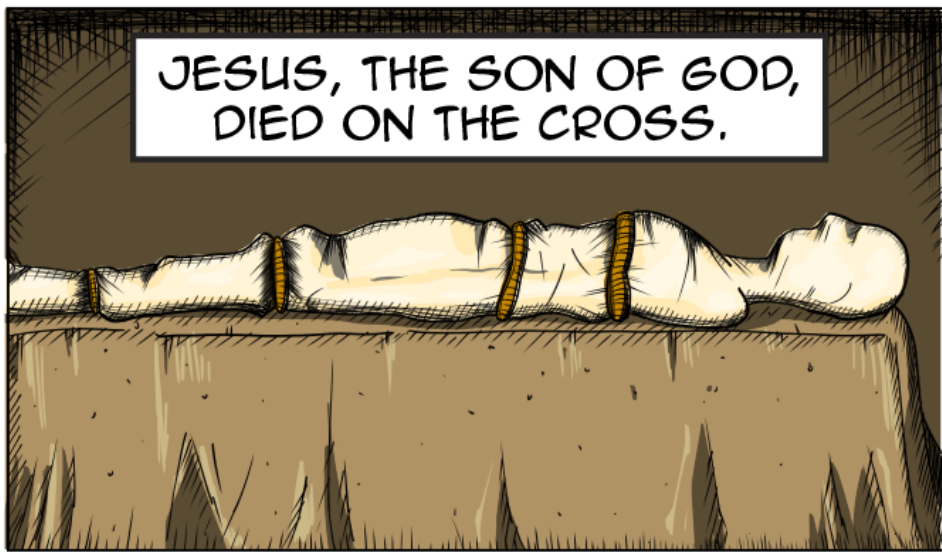
WE DESERVE THIS DEATH, BUT THIS MAN HAS DONE NOTHING WRONG! JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM!



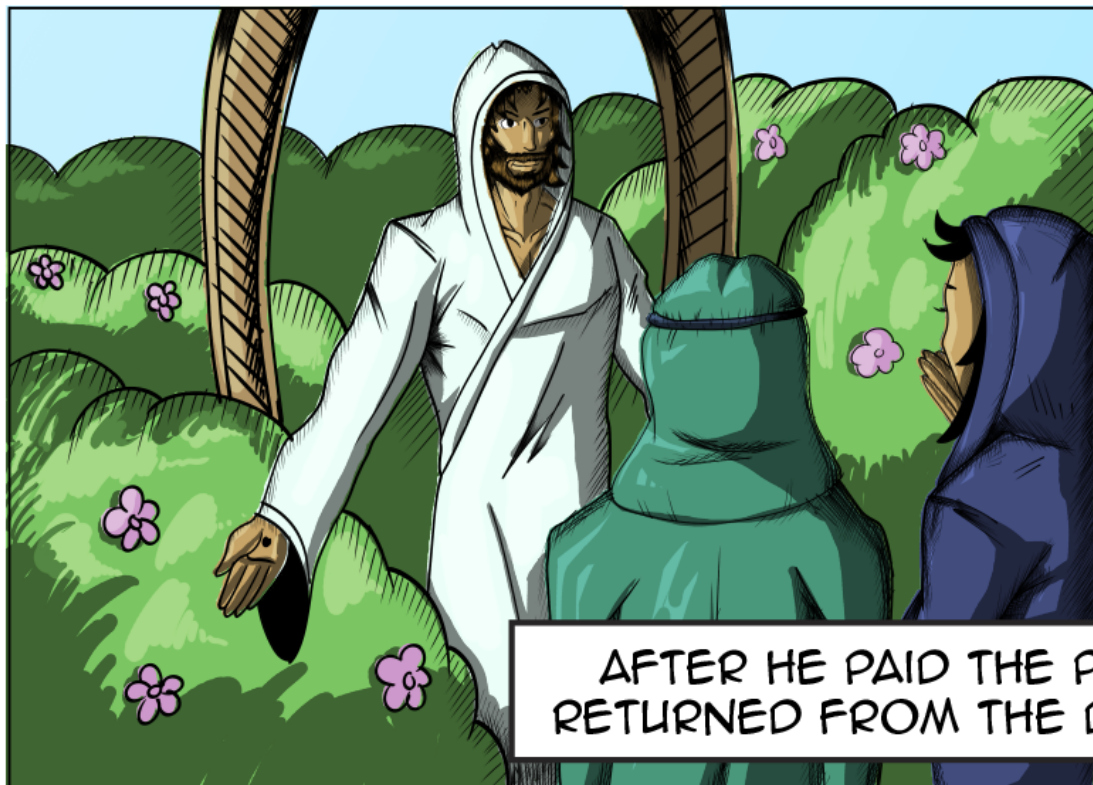
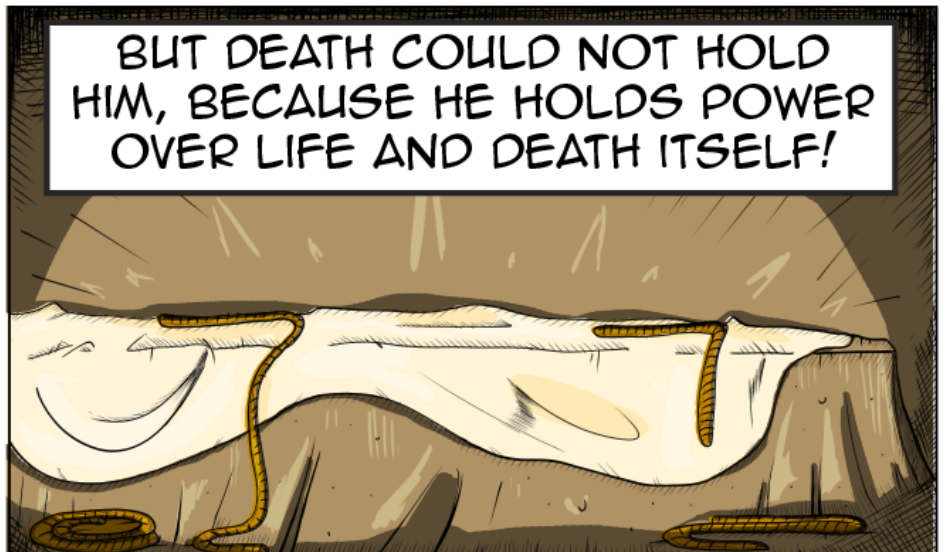
MY FRIEND, YOU WILL SEE ME IN PARADISE.



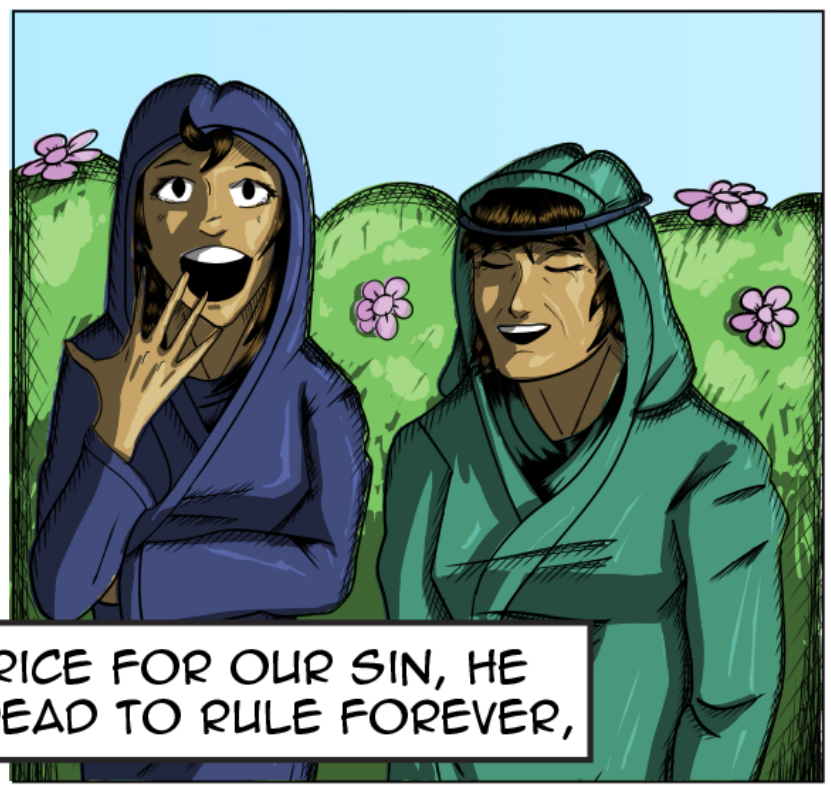
JESUS, THE SON OF GOD,
DIED ON THE CROSS.



BUT DEATH COULD NOT HOLD
HIM, BECAUSE HE HOLDS POWER
OVER LIFE AND DEATH ITSELF!

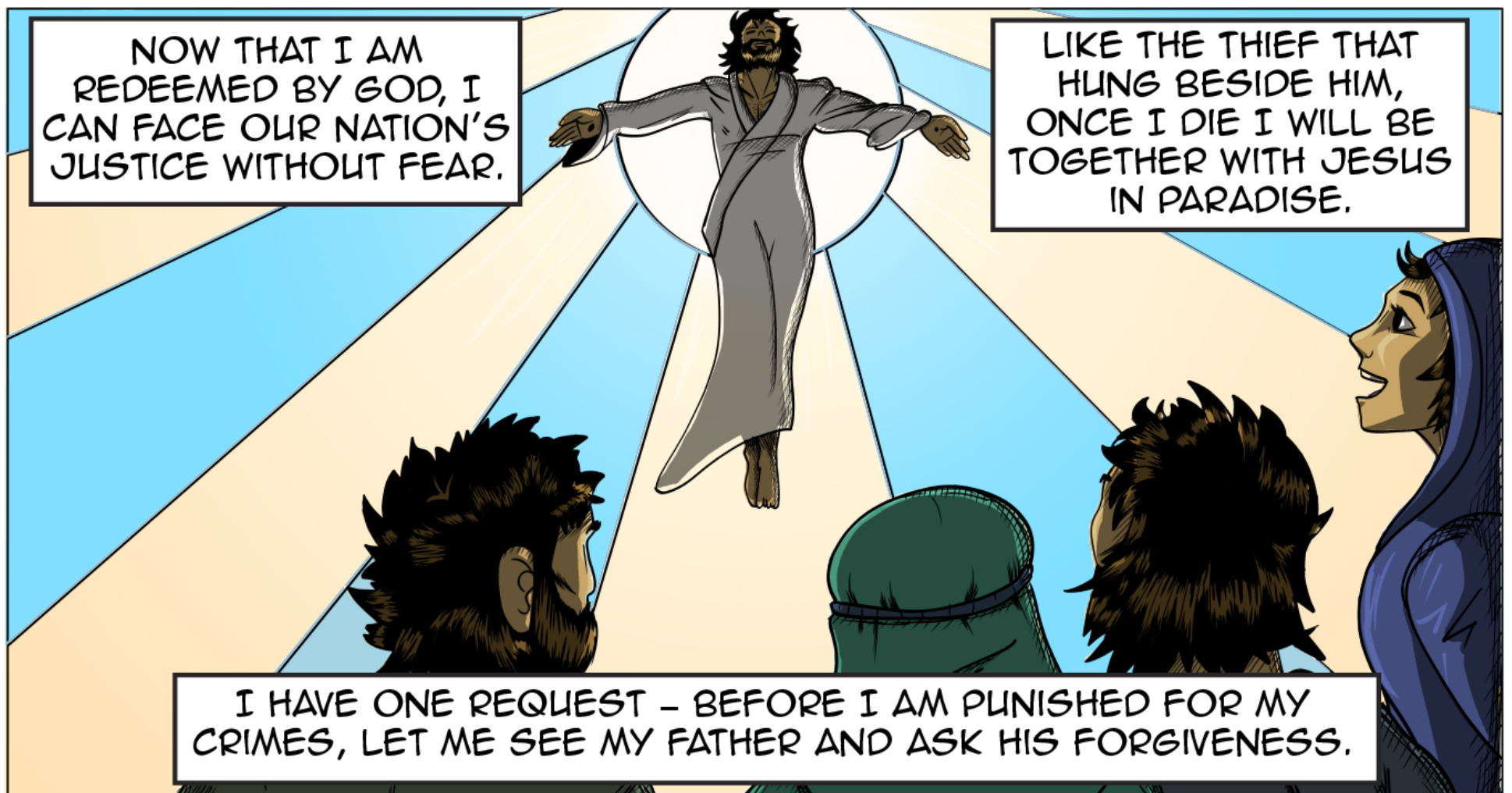


AFTER HE PAID THE PRICE FOR OUR SIN, HE
RETURNED FROM THE DEAD TO RULE FOREVER,



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS AND GOD.

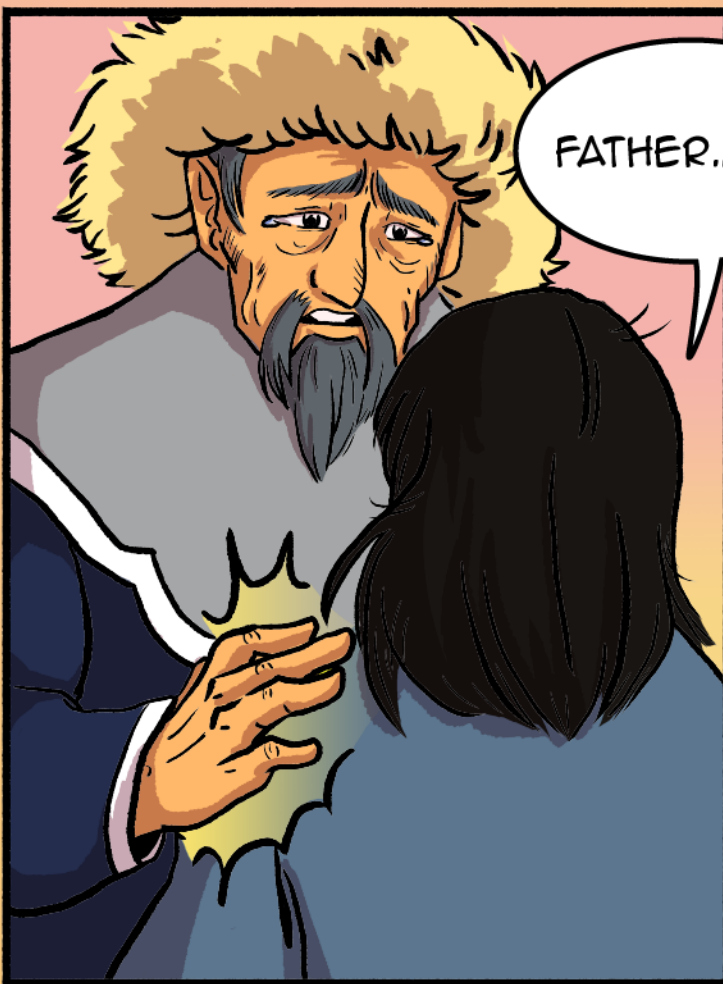
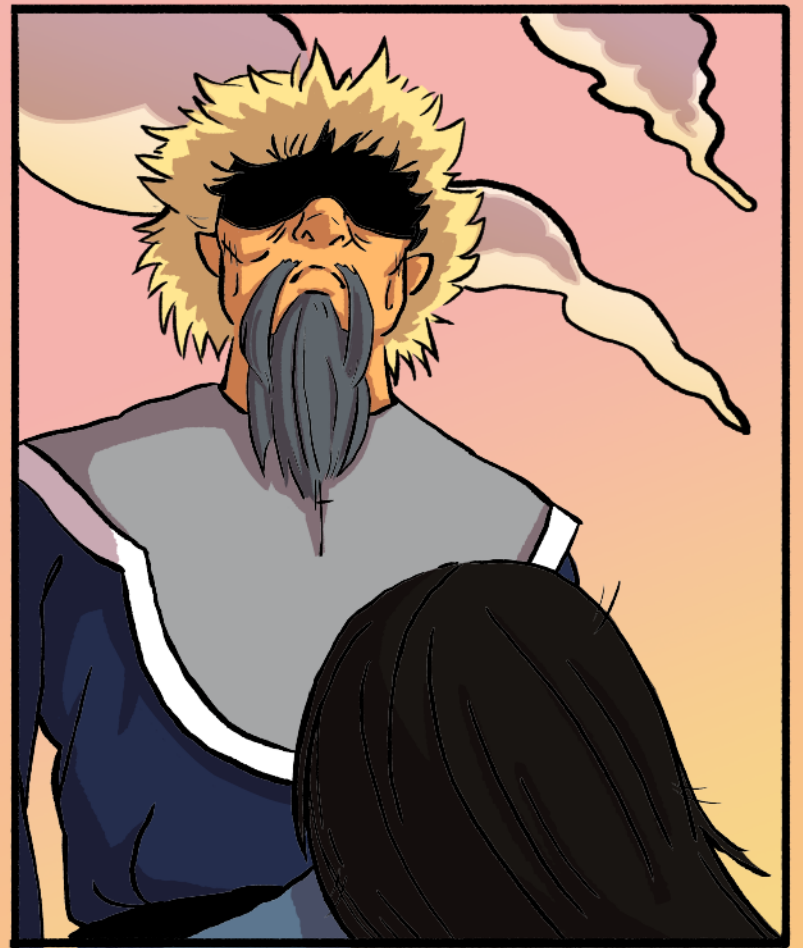
NOW THAT I AM
REDEEMED BY GOD, I
CAN FACE OUR NATION'S
JUSTICE WITHOUT FEAR.



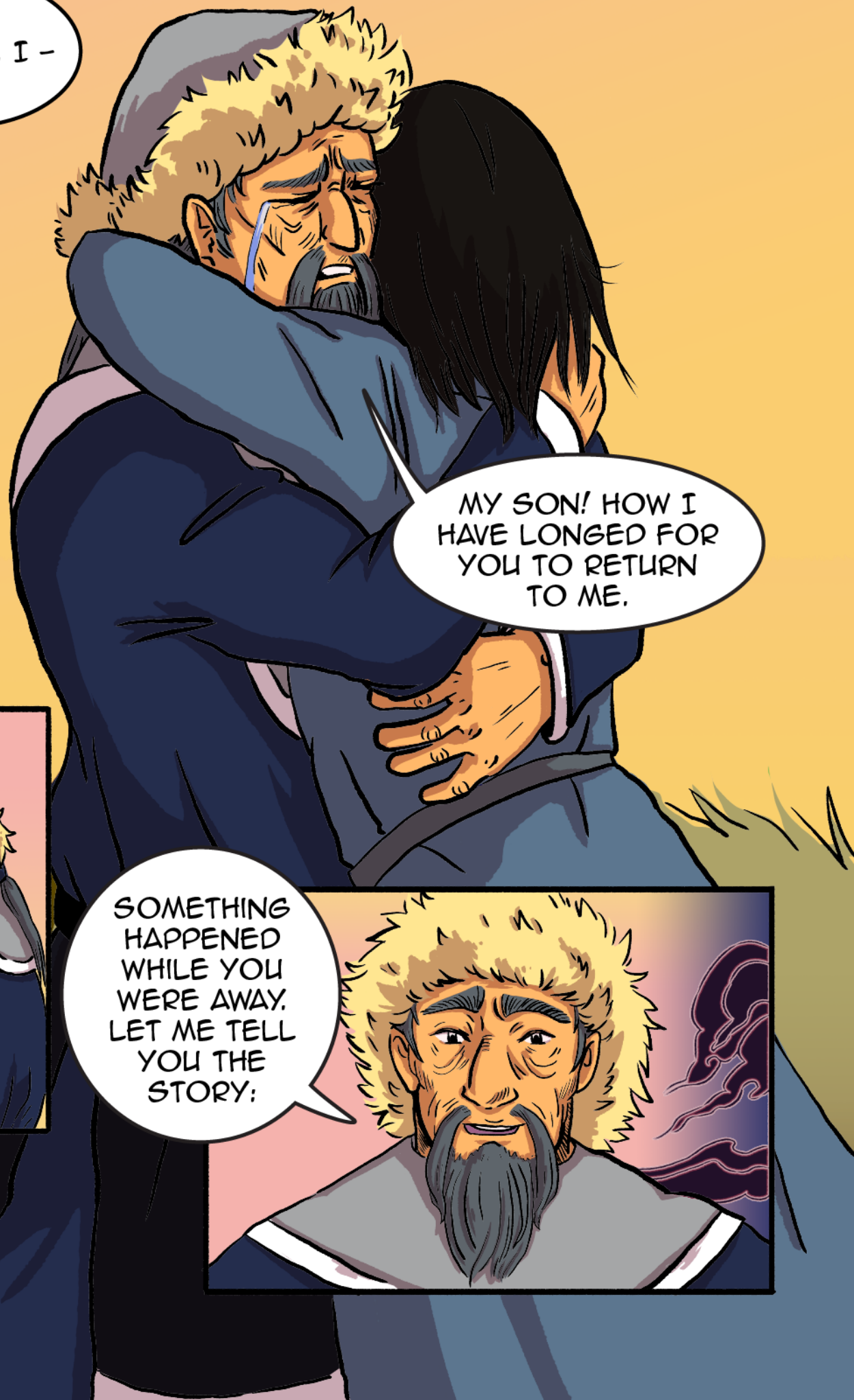
LIKE THE THIEF THAT
HUNG BESIDE HIM,
ONCE I DIE I WILL BE
TOGETHER WITH JESUS
IN PARADISE.

I HAVE ONE REQUEST - BEFORE I AM PUNISHED FOR MY
CRIMES, LET ME SEE MY FATHER AND ASK HIS FORGIVENESS.

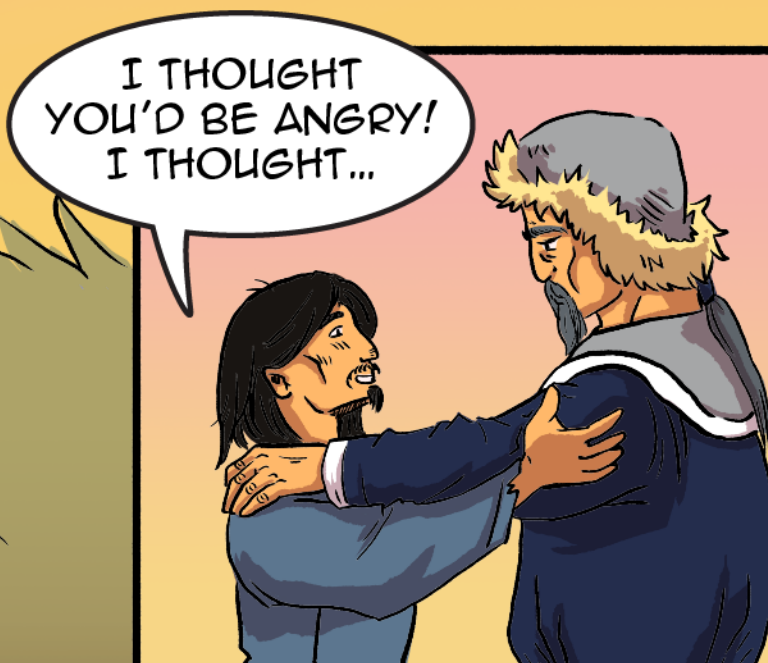




FATHER.... I -



MY SON! HOW I
HAVE LONGED FOR
YOU TO RETURN
TO ME.



I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE ANGRY!
I THOUGHT...

SOMETHING
HAPPENED
WHILE YOU
WERE AWAY.
LET ME TELL
YOU THE
STORY:



WHEN YOU DESERTED,
I WAS UTTERLY DISMAYED. I
HAD NO SON, NO HONOR.
I WANTED TO DIE.

BUT IN A DREAM
I SAW THE GOD OF
HEAVEN OPENING UP A
DOOR AND SAYING
TO ME,

"DO NOT
WORRY
ABOUT
YOUR
SON."

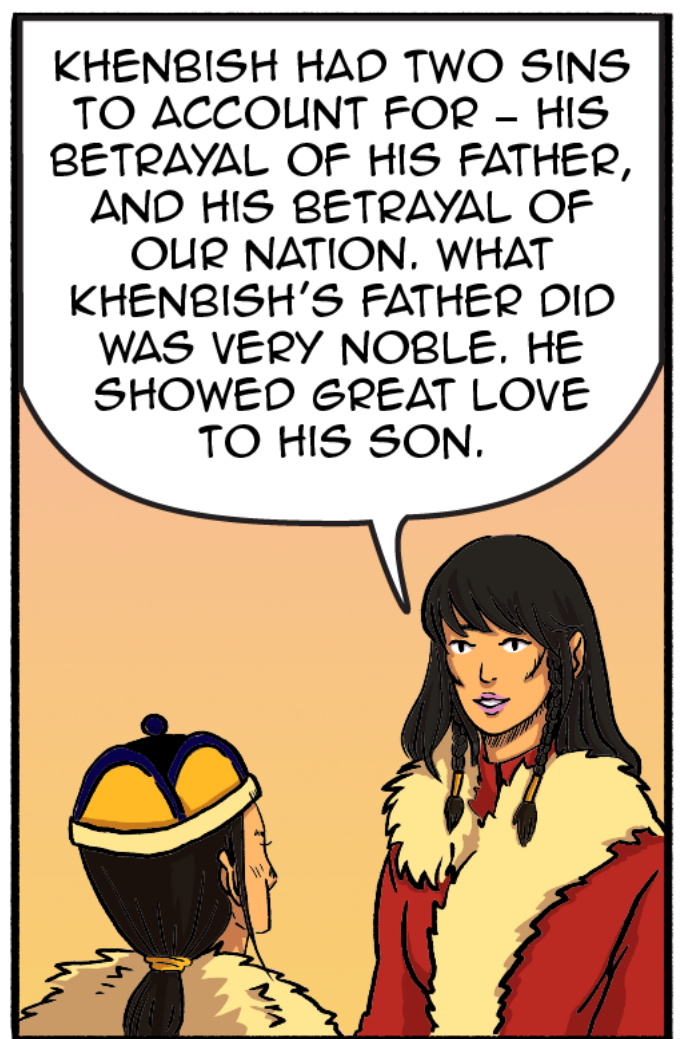


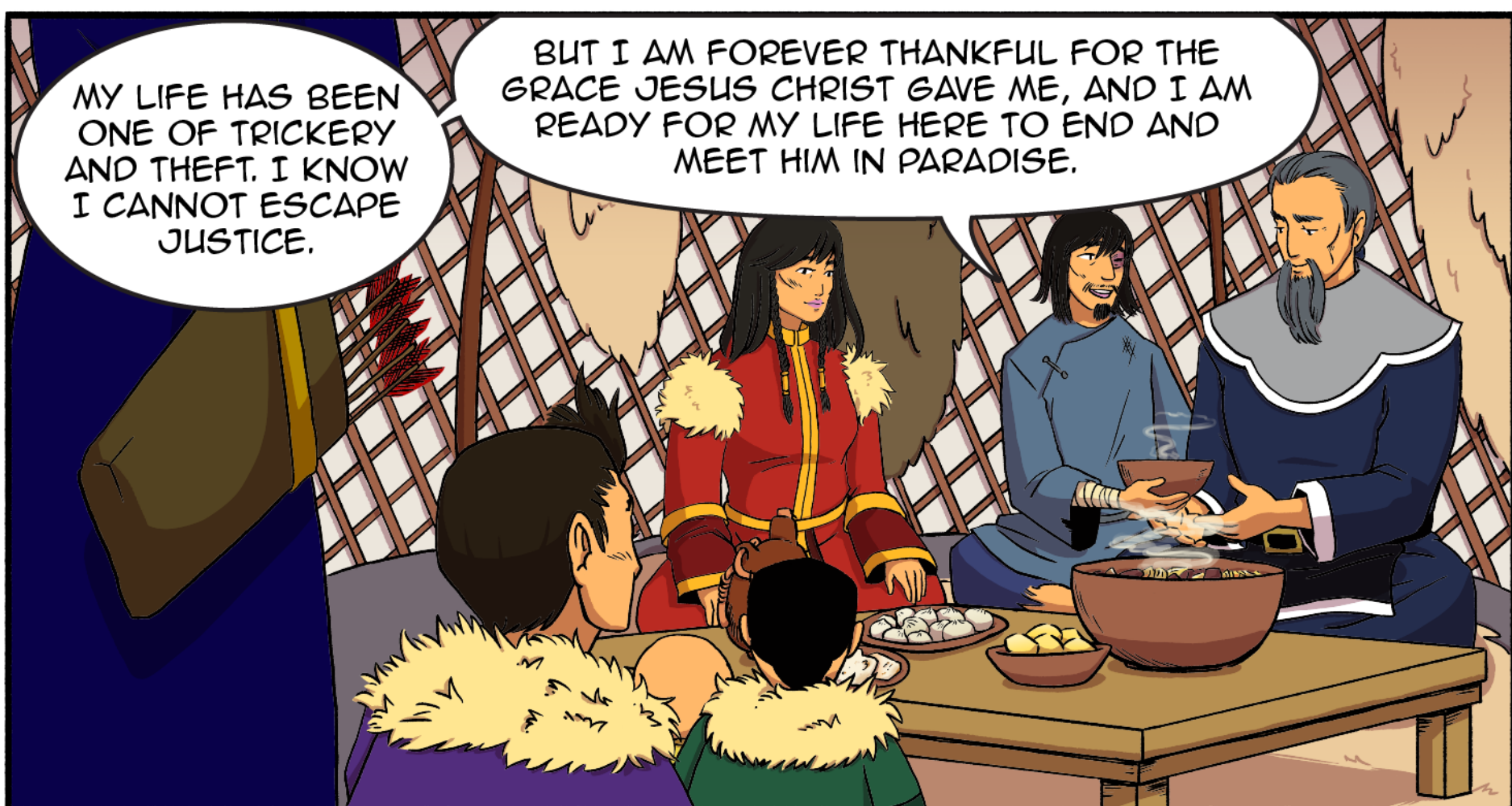
I WAS LIFTED UP
THROUGH THE DOOR AND
SAW A BEAUTIFUL LAND,
SHINING AND FERTILE.



A MAN GREETED
ME THERE AND SAID,
"FOLLOW ME." I HAVE
BEEN SEEKING THIS
GOD EVER SINCE.





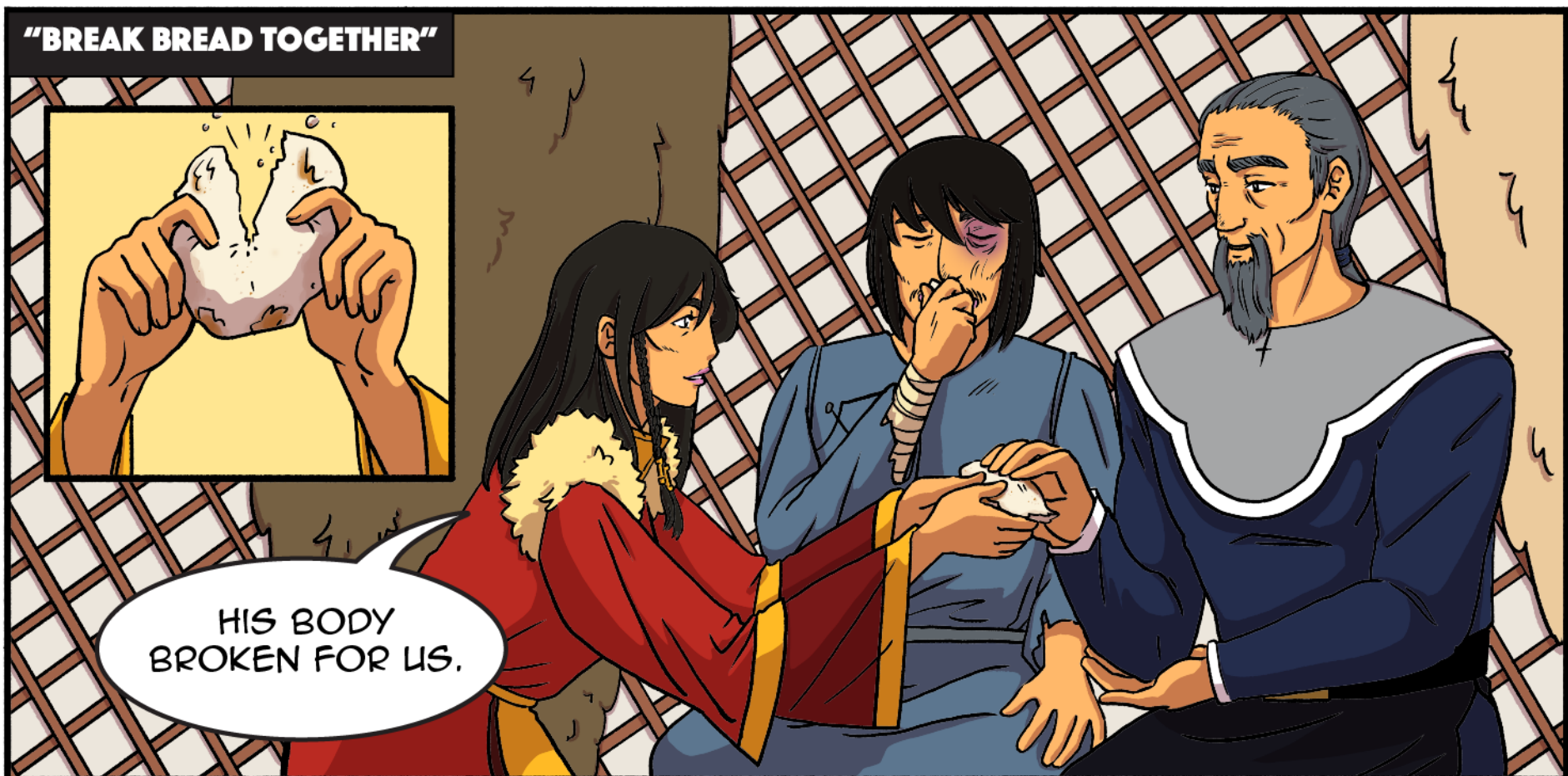


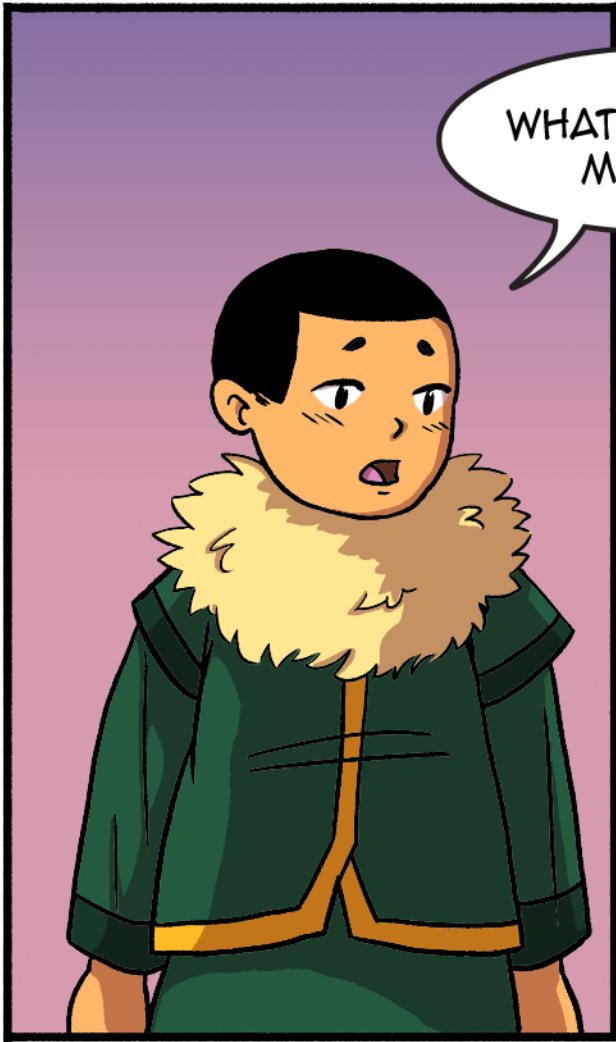
BEFORE HE DIED, HE MET ONE LAST TIME WITH HIS DISCIPLES AND TOOK SOME BREAD AND BREAKING IT HE TOLD THEM, "THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS FOR YOU. DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME."



IN THE SAME WAY ALSO HE TOOK THE CUP, AFTER SUPPER, SAYING, "THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD. DO THIS, AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME." FOR AS OFTEN AS YOU EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THE CUP, YOU PROCLAIM THE LORD'S DEATH UNTIL HE COMES.



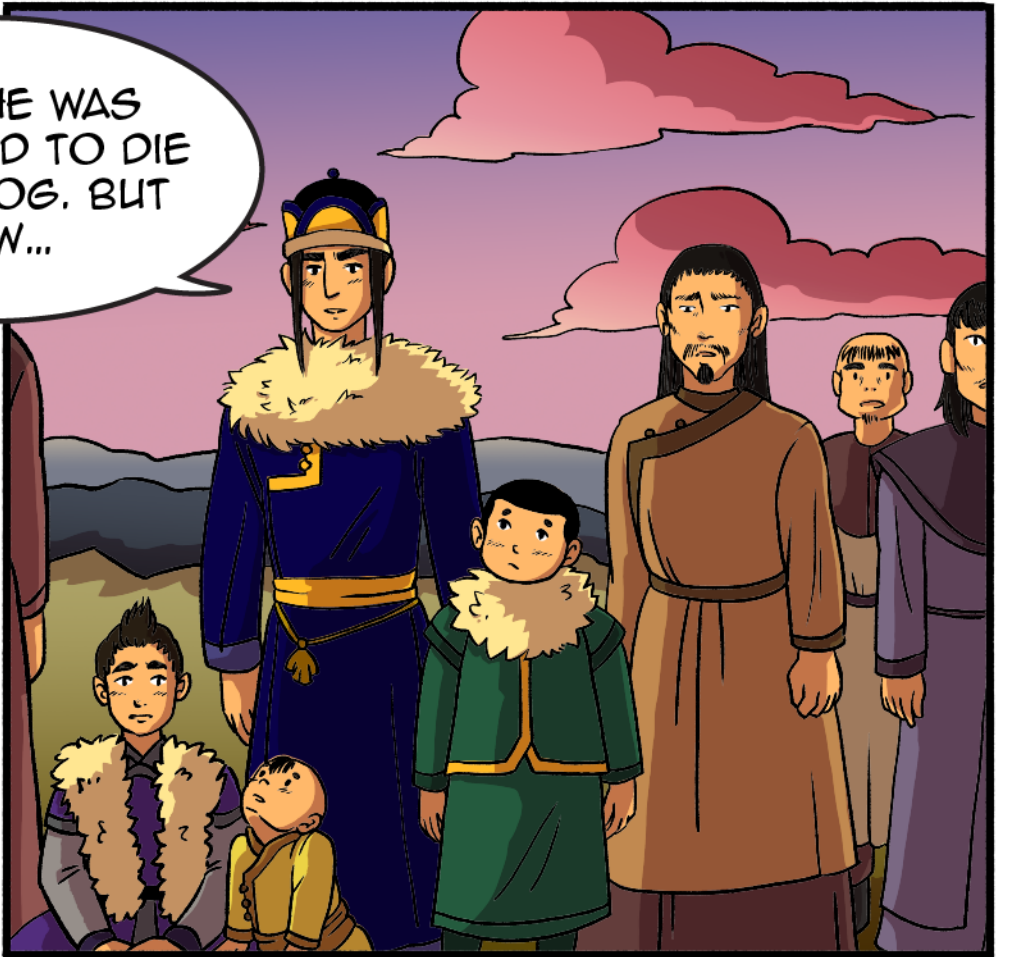




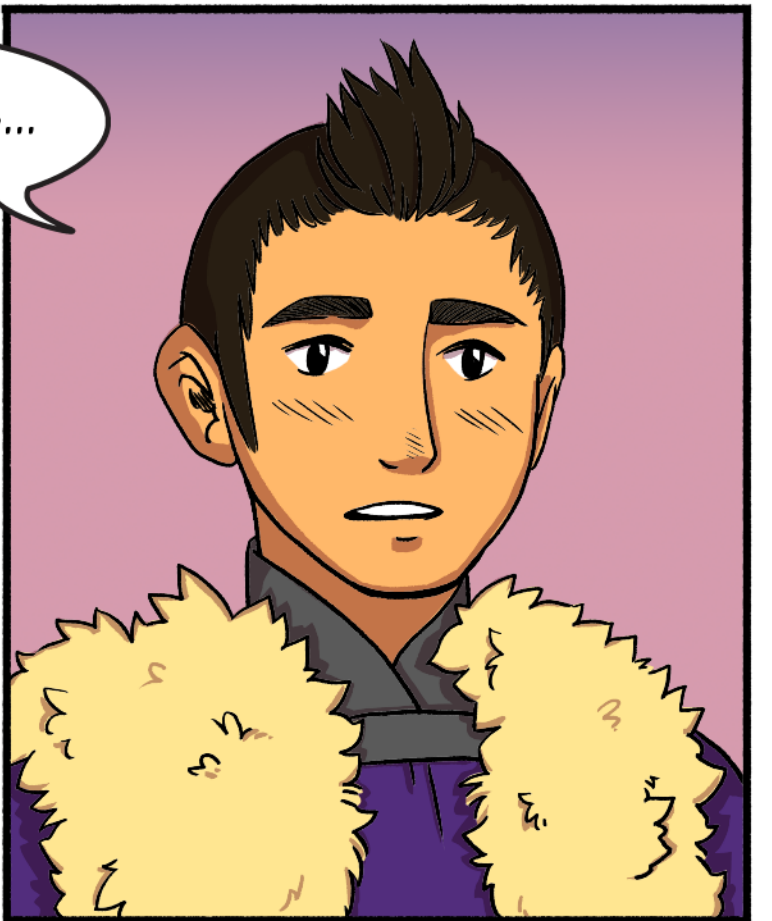
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



WELL, HE WAS SUPPOSED TO DIE LIKE A DOG. BUT NOW...



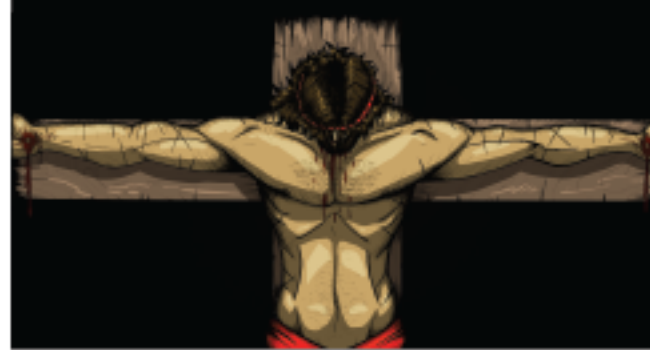
HE'S DYING...



...WITH SO MUCH HOPE.



THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS



God created people for relationship with Himself. Our sin or disobedience has broken that relationship. But our Creator made a way to restore us back to Himself. He sent his son, Jesus, who was both fully God and fully man to live a perfect life and to give himself up as a sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins. The good news of the kingdom is that through faith in who Jesus is and what He did for us, we can be forgiven and adopted into God's family to live forever as honored, beloved children (John 3:16; 17:3). We are saved from death by faith in what Jesus did, not what we can do for him. Now to show Jesus our love, we seek to please Him with our lives. Jesus said, "if you love me keep my commands." (John 14:15) There are many commands Jesus gives us but below are the most essential commands for a new believer to follow:

7 ESSENTIAL COMMANDS OF JESUS

"REPENT & BELIEVE"



When Jesus came, he proclaimed: "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news" (Mark 1: 14 & 15). To repent means to change one's mind and turn from sin. Peter, a disciple of Jesus told the people who killed Jesus to "repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." It was a command that came

with a promise: "And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38,39). The Bible says "if you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). So the first command of Jesus to obey is to repent, believe and receive the Holy Spirit, like the son who returned to his father in the story Jesus told.



"PRAY"



Prayer is conversation with God. Jesus taught us to always pray and not give up (Luke 18:1-8). He said that apart from him, we could do nothing, but if we abided in him like a branch abides in a vine then we would bear much fruit, and if we remain in Christ and let his words abide in us we then could ask him for anything and he would give it to us. (John 15:5-8).

"LOVE"



Someone once asked Jesus what the greatest commandment in the Bible was. He replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40) Jesus even taught us to love and pray for our enemies (Matthew 6:43-48).

Jesus taught us to be people of generosity. He said: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38) It's not about how much we give, it's about our hearts. Jesus tells a story of a poor widow who was only able to give a small amount but it was all she had and he commended her for such generosity (Mark 12:41-44).



"GIVE GENEROUSLY"



"BREAK BREAD TOGETHER"

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Breaking bread together speaks of sharing this meal of remembrance with other believers in a community of worship. (See Acts 2:42-47)

Before Jesus ascended to heaven he commissioned his followers saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" with the promise of his presence as we do: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)



"MAKE DISCIPLES"



"BE BAPTIZED"

In the above command, often called the Great Commission, Jesus said as we make disciples, we are to "baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". Baptism is a time we publicly declare our allegiance to Jesus by being immersed in water. It is an outward symbol of an inward reality, in which we identify with the death of Jesus, and put to death our old life, and come up from the waters, identifying with his resurrection as a new creation. (See Romans 6:4, 2 Corinthians 5:17). The book of Acts records the story of an Ethiopian traveller who immediately got baptized after coming to believe in the Lord Jesus (Acts 8:26-40). Even Jesus was baptized as an example for us to follow (Matthew 3:13-17).

THE INFLUENCE OF A LEGENDARY MONGOLIAN QUEEN

سورخاغتانی بکی



SORGHAGHTANI BEKI

مونغه



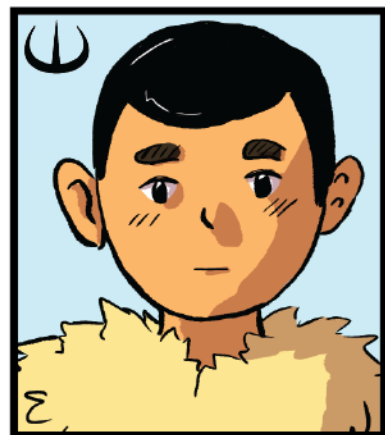
MONGKE

كوبلاي خان



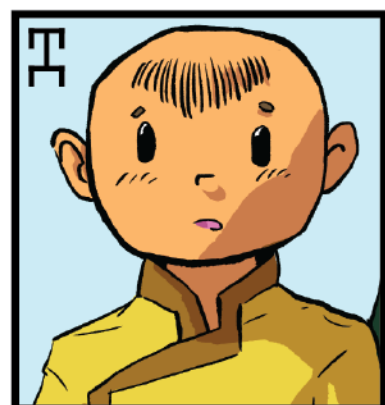
KUBLAI

هولاگو



HULAGU

أريو بوكه



ARIO BOKE

Sorghaghtani Beki is considered by many historians to be one of the most influential women in history. One Persian historian described her as “extremely intelligent and able” and as “towering above all the women in the world.” This Mongolian queen was daughter-in-law to Chingghis Khan married to his son Tolui. Our story takes place in 1225 AD, two years before the great Khan’s death. Through the great authority she held, she was able to see that her son Mongke was enthroned over the empire in 1251 assuring that future leaders of the Empire would come through the line of Tolui. She was also a Christian through the influence of the Nestorian church of the east, which spread from its center in Persia and gained presence in China as early as the 600’s. In the 1100’s many of the Kerait, a powerful Mongolian tribe from which Sorghaghtani came, converted to become followers of Christ. Her practice of treating peasants well and not exploiting them, of religious tolerance, and respect for the customs and practices of other cultures came from her faith and had influence on how her sons ruled while expanding the Mongolian empire. She died in 1252.

Mongke Khan was the fourth khagan. He made significant reforms to improve the administration of the Empire during his reign. Under his rule, Mongols conquered Iraq, Syria and the kingdom of Dali. He reigned from Karakorum from 1251-1259. Upon his death, Kublai Khan became Great Khan. He launched assaults against China and eventually ruled all of that empire, establishing the Mongol Yuan dynasty (1272-1368). Hulagu, was sent west to capture Persia, Baghdad and the Middle East. In 1253 he established the Mongol Ilkhanate, which governed Persia and parts of the middle east. He died in 1265. Ariq Boke would be appointed great khan in 1259 in the absence of his brothers, a move which led to a civil war with his brothers. He surrendered to Kublai Khan in 1263.

None of Sorghaghtani’s sons followed her faith, though all of them treated Christianity with great respect and, at times, even favor. Hulagu was married to a devout Christian, and, his main general was also a Christian. Kublai Khan also supported the small Nestorian community in China out of respect for his mother. At one point, some Christians sided with a revolt against Kublai Khan; when the revolt was put down, Kublai Khan rebuked members of his entourage who mocked Christianity. He said that the rebels were acting unrighteously, and the Christian God therefore could not and would not support them, and so it was wrong to blame Christianity for the failure of the revolt. Ariq Böke was known for being sympathetic towards Christianity from the account of Franciscan William of Rubruck, an envoy of Louis IX of France who wrote that he observed Ariq Böke make the sign of the cross and state that “We know that the Messiah [Jesus] is God”.

The events of “Prisoner of Hope” are fictional but rooted in the truths of history and truths proclaimed by Jesus of Nazereth.