

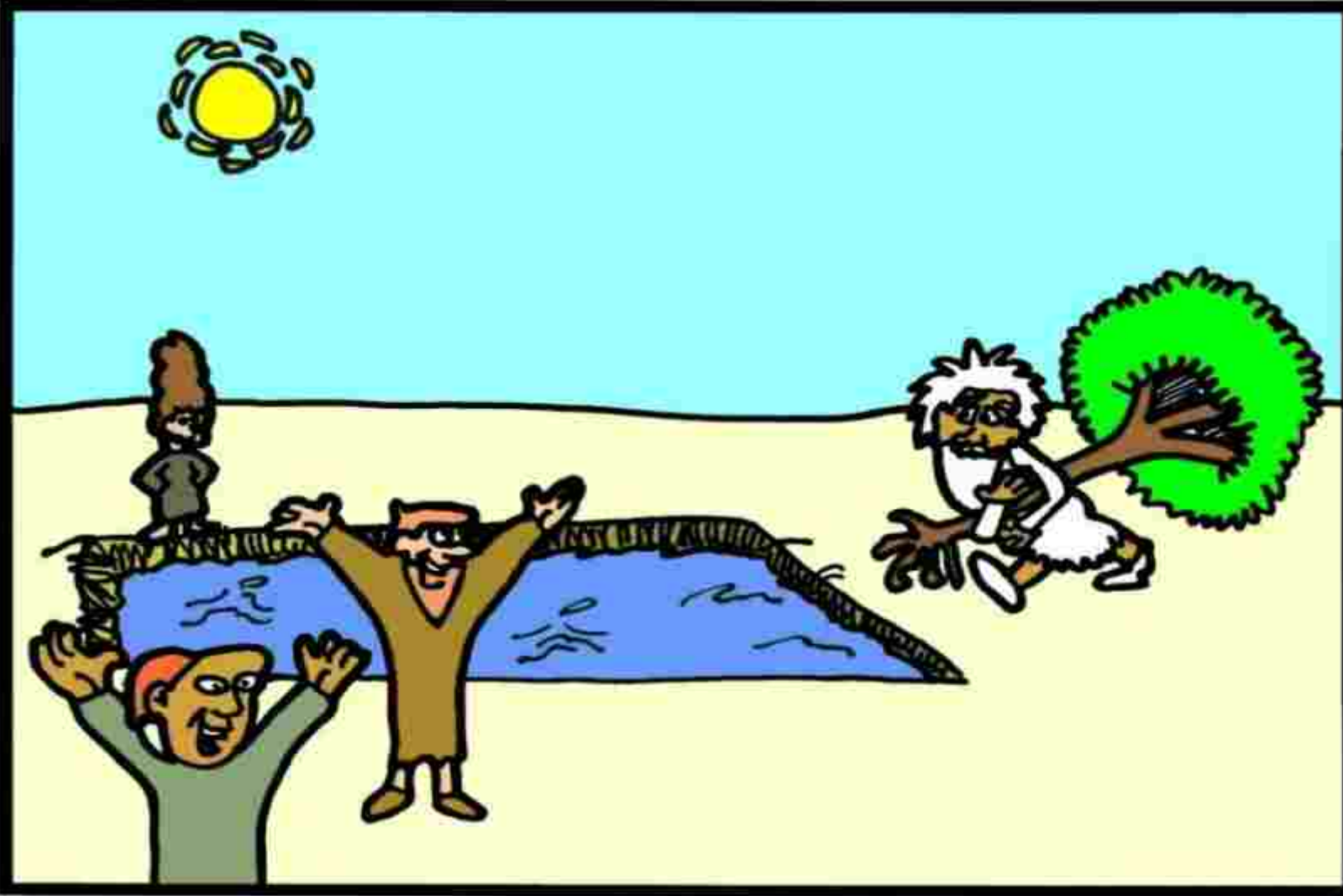
Complainers Displease the Lord

(Based on Exodus 15:22-17:7)

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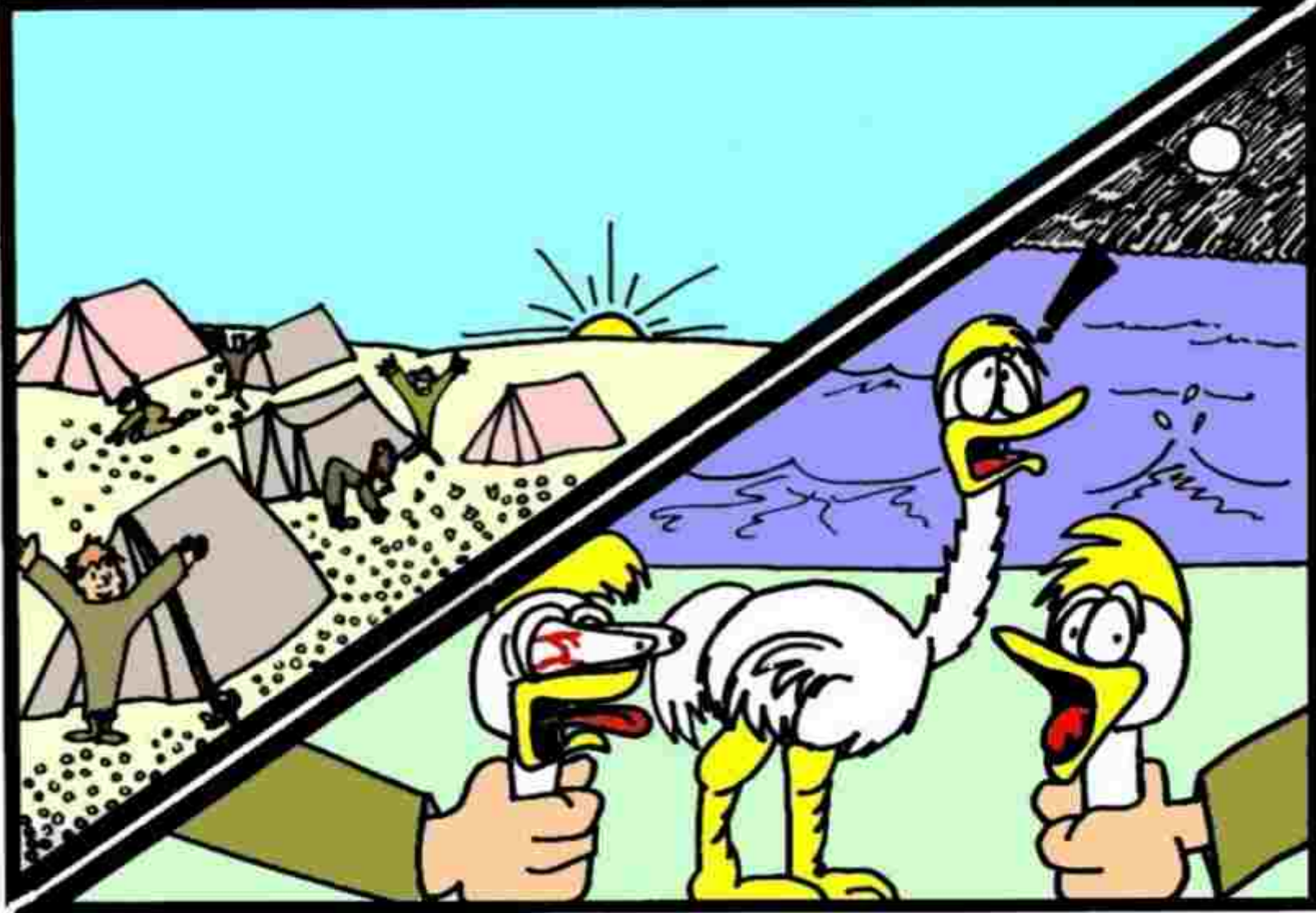
After the Lord opened the Red Sea for the people of Israel they traveled for three days in the wilderness to a place called Marah. "What are we going to drink Moses?" complained the people. "The water here tastes yuckie!"



God showed Moses a certain tree, and when Moses threw it into the water, the water became sweet to drink. The Lord said, "If you listen to me, and do what I say, then I will not put any of the diseases on you which I put on the Egyptians because I am the Lord who heals you."



About a month later the people complained to Moses. "Oh that God would have killed us back in Egypt. We used to have lots of food. You brought us here to starve us to death!" "You are grumbling against God and he hears you!" answered Moses.



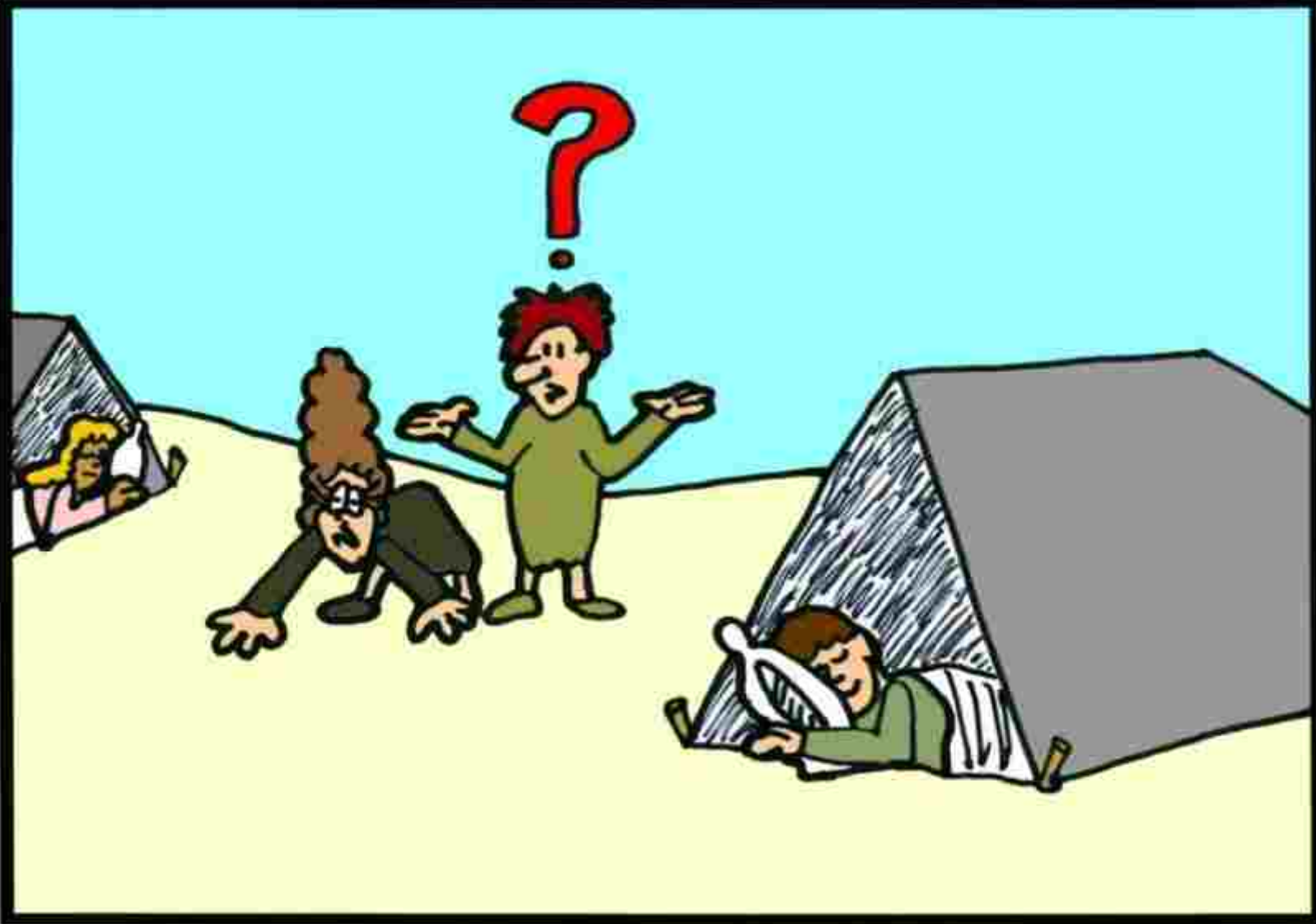
Indeed God did hear. In the evening birds called quail flew into the camp. The people cooked and ate them. In the morning he put white flakes on the ground. The people called it manna, which means, "What is it?" They tasted like honey cookies and they made cakes with it.



The Lord tested the people with the manna to see if they would obey him. Moses said, "This is the bread which God has given you to eat. Only take enough for each day for your family."



But some people did not obey Moses. They collected manna for the next day too. Worms grew in the left-over manna and it stank really bad! Moses was very angry with those people. Every morning the manna was on the ground, but when the sun became hot, it melted.



Moses told the people to collect double the amount of manna on the day before the Sabbath Day (the day of rest), but some people did not obey. There they were on the Sabbath morning walking around looking for manna, but there was none.



"Aaron," said Moses. "God says for us to collect some of this manna and put it into a container so that our people in the future can see the food that God fed to us when we came out of Egypt."



"Moses we're thirsty again! Did you bring us out here to make us die of thirst?" grumbled the people. "Is the Lord with us or not?" God told Moses to hit his rod against a certain rock and He would make water come out of it. Moses obeyed and water came out for everyone.



Lord, help me to trust you in difficult times. Help me not to grumble but to praise you even BEFORE I see the answer to my prayers.