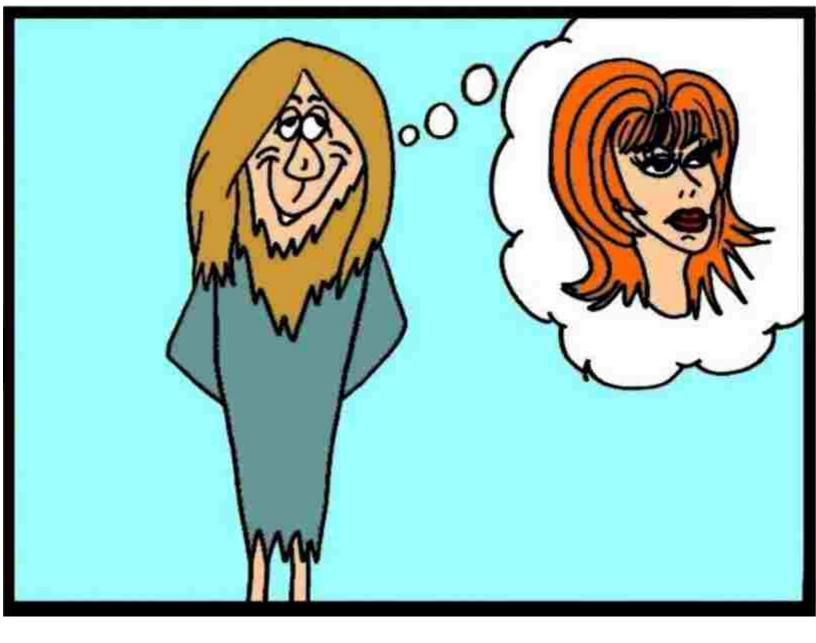
Samson and Delilah

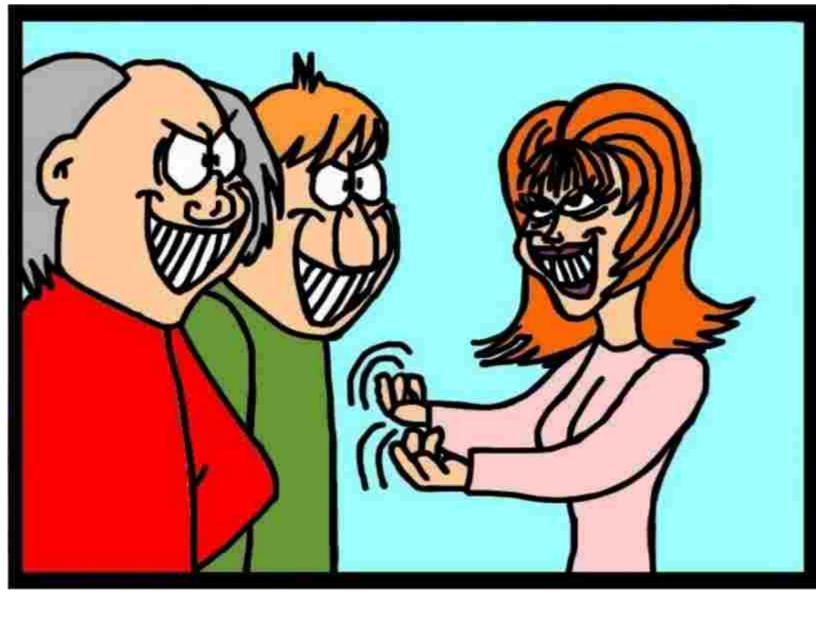
(A story based on Judges 16)

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The Philistines were desperate. They didn't know how to stop Samson until one day they heard that Samson was in love with a lady from their country named Delilah. Imagine that! Samson had an enemy girlfriend!

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"Find out where he gets his superhuman strength and what we have to do to overpower him, then we'll come, tie him up and torture him. If you will do this, each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver," said the Philistines to Delilah.

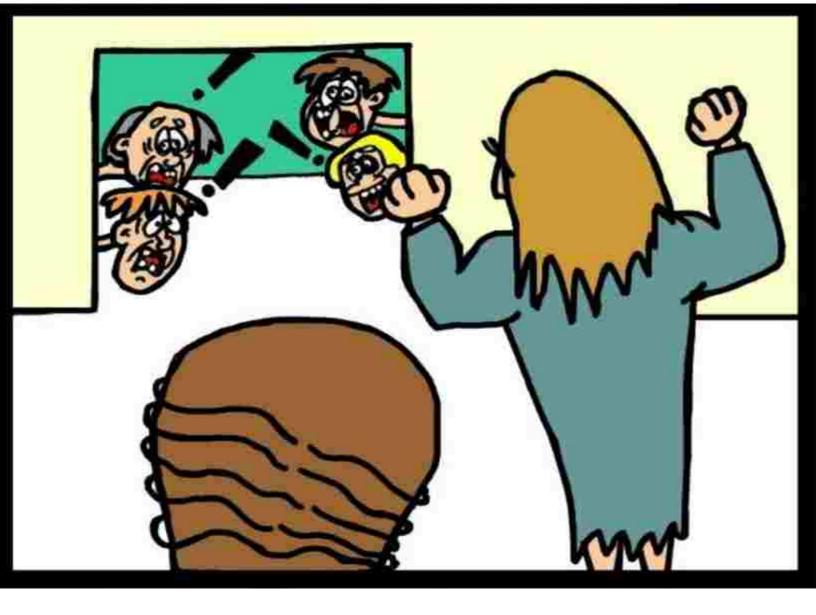


"Samson darling," said Delilah. "Please tell me where you get your mighty strength and what we have to do to tie you up." Samson played along with her game. "Oh just tie me up with 7 fresh bowstrings, then I'll be weak like any other man."

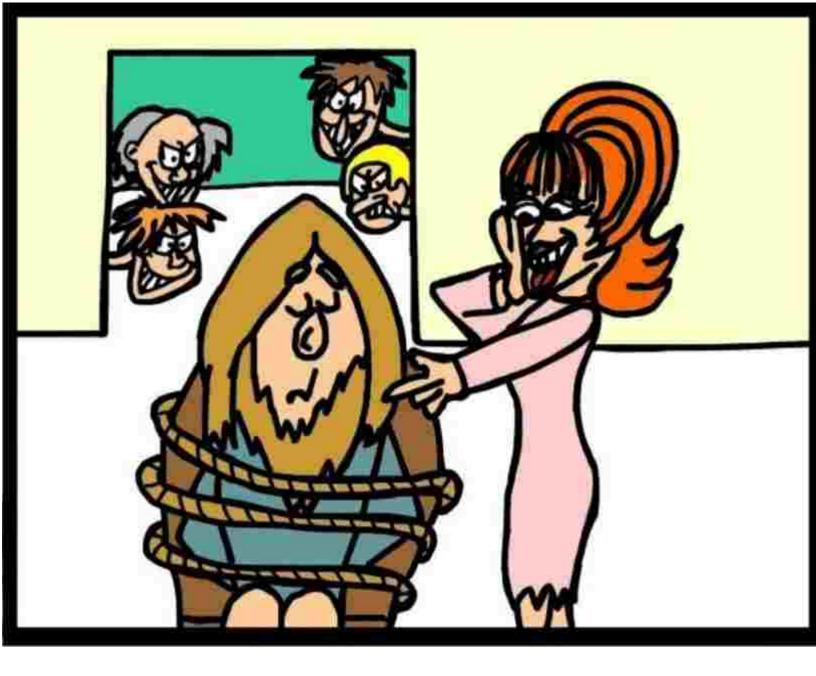


The Philistines brought the 7 fresh bowstrings to Delilah and waited in the other room while Delilah tied Samson. "Samson! Samson!" shouted Delilah. "The Philistines are here!"

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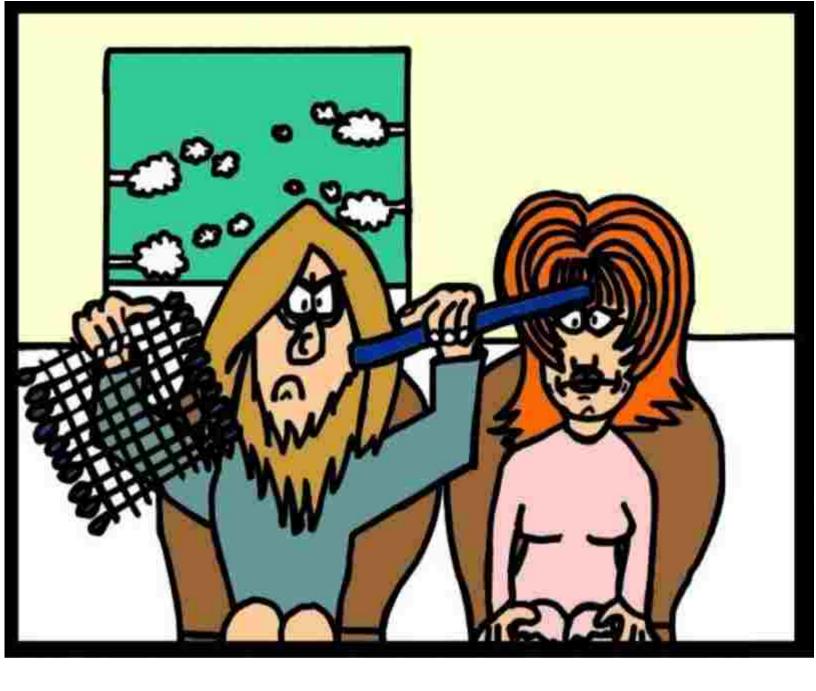
Samson got up and broke those 7 bowstrings as if they were just a single thread of yard. Delilah was not happy! "If you tie me with new ropes that have never been used, then I will become weak and be like any other man," said Samson to her.



Delilah tied him with the new ropes and shouted. "Samson! Samson! The Philistines are here!" Samson got up and broke those ropes as if they were a piece of thread.



"You made fun of me again and told me lies! Tell me what can tie you up!" "If you weave the 7 locks of my head into the web of a weavers loom, I'll be weak."



Delilah weaved his hair but when Samson woke up he pulled out the web and batton. "How can you say you love me when you haven't told me the secret of your mighty strength?" sobbed Delilah.

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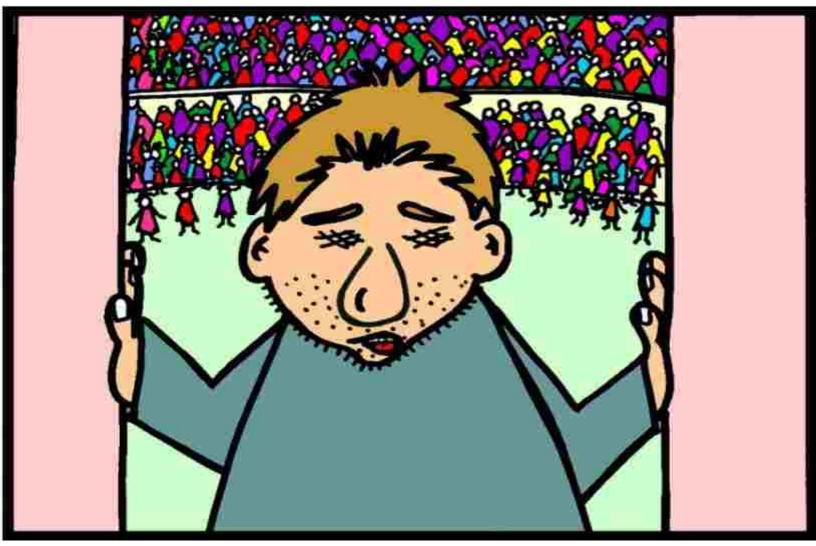
Delilah pestered Samson until he wished he could die and he told her, "If my head is shaved then I will become weak and be like any other man." The Philistines were so sure he was telling the truth, they brought the money to Delilah ahead of time.



That night while Samson slept, a Philistine man shaved off his hair. Samson became so weak he could not even fight back against Delilah. "I'll just shake myself free like I did other times," said Samson. Only Samson didn't know that the Lord was not with him.



The Philistines plucked out his eyes, chained him up and made him grind in the prison. But his hair began to grow again.



Then the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice unto Dagon their god. They brought Samson from the prison and they made fun of him. Samson said unto the boy that led him, "Let me feel the pillars that are supporting the building so that I can lean upon them.



Now the building had 3,000 people. Samson said, "O Lord GOD, strengthen me, only this once, so that I can pay back the Philistines for taking my 2 eyes." And Samson took hold of the middle pillars with his hands. He used all his might and caused the building to collapse. Everyone died, Samson too.



Lord, help me to stay close to you. Help me not to fall for the temptations that the devil puts in front of me. Help me to choose Godly friends who will lift me up and not pull me down. Even super heroes can fall when they pick the wrong friends.

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