

Samson's Marriage

(Based on Judges 14 & 15)

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“Get me that Philistine woman to marry!” said Samson. “Those people don’t serve God! Can’t you find a wife from the people of Israel?” asked Samson’s parents. God planned to use this situation against the Philistines who were the bosses over the people of Israel at this time.



On the way to visit the Philistine girl a lion attacked Samson. The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson and he ripped that lion apart with his bare hands.



Later when Samson was on his way to marry the Philistine lady, he was surprised to find that bees were making honey inside the body of the dead lion. He took some honey and ate it on the trip.



At the wedding feast Samson told his 30 Philistine guests a riddle. "Out of the eater came something to eat and out of the strong came something sweet. If you guess what it is within 7 days then I will give you 30 suits. If not, then you give me 30 clothing outfits."



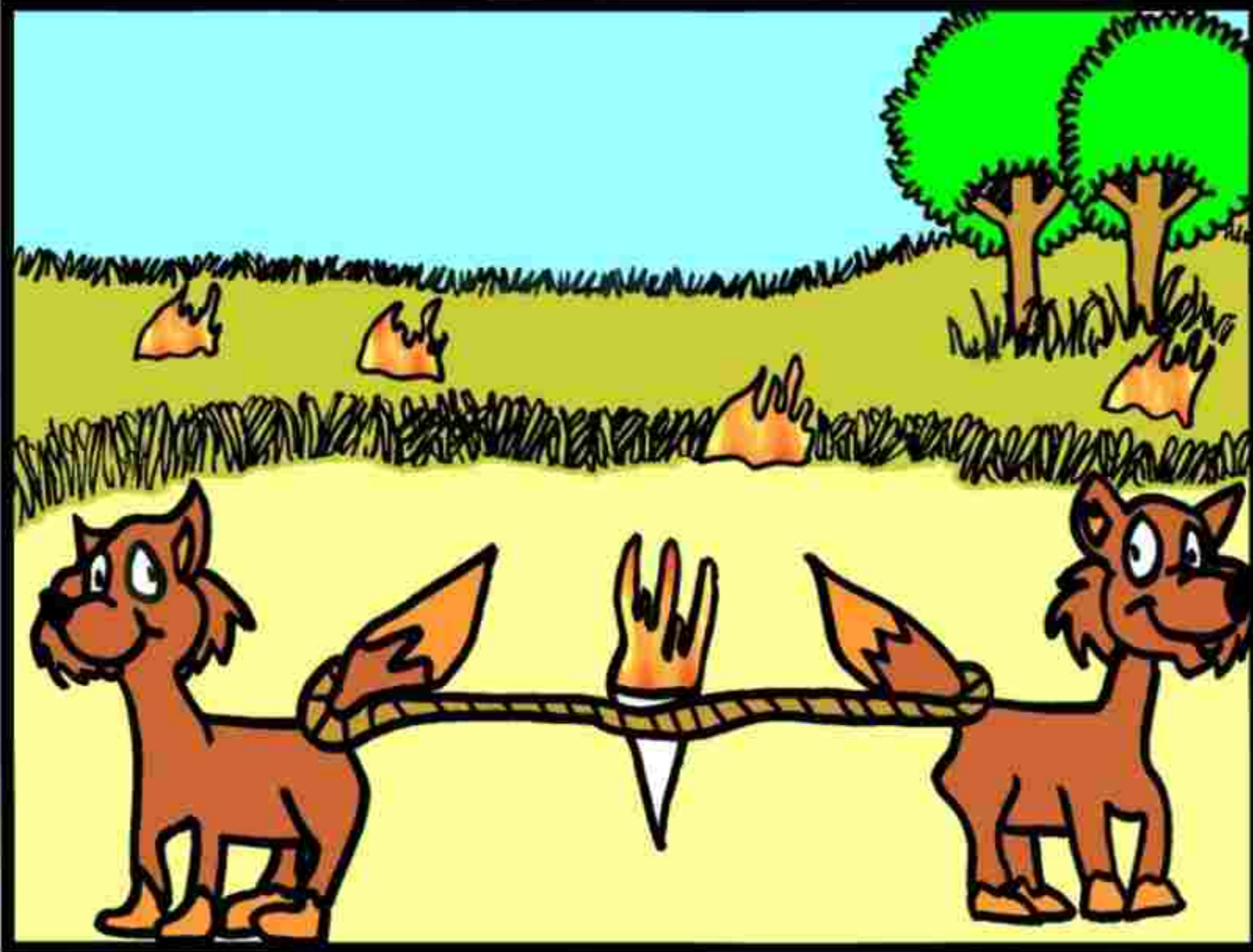
The Philistines were stumped so they came to Samson's wife and said, "You'd better learn the answer to the riddle and tell us or we are going to burn you and your family."



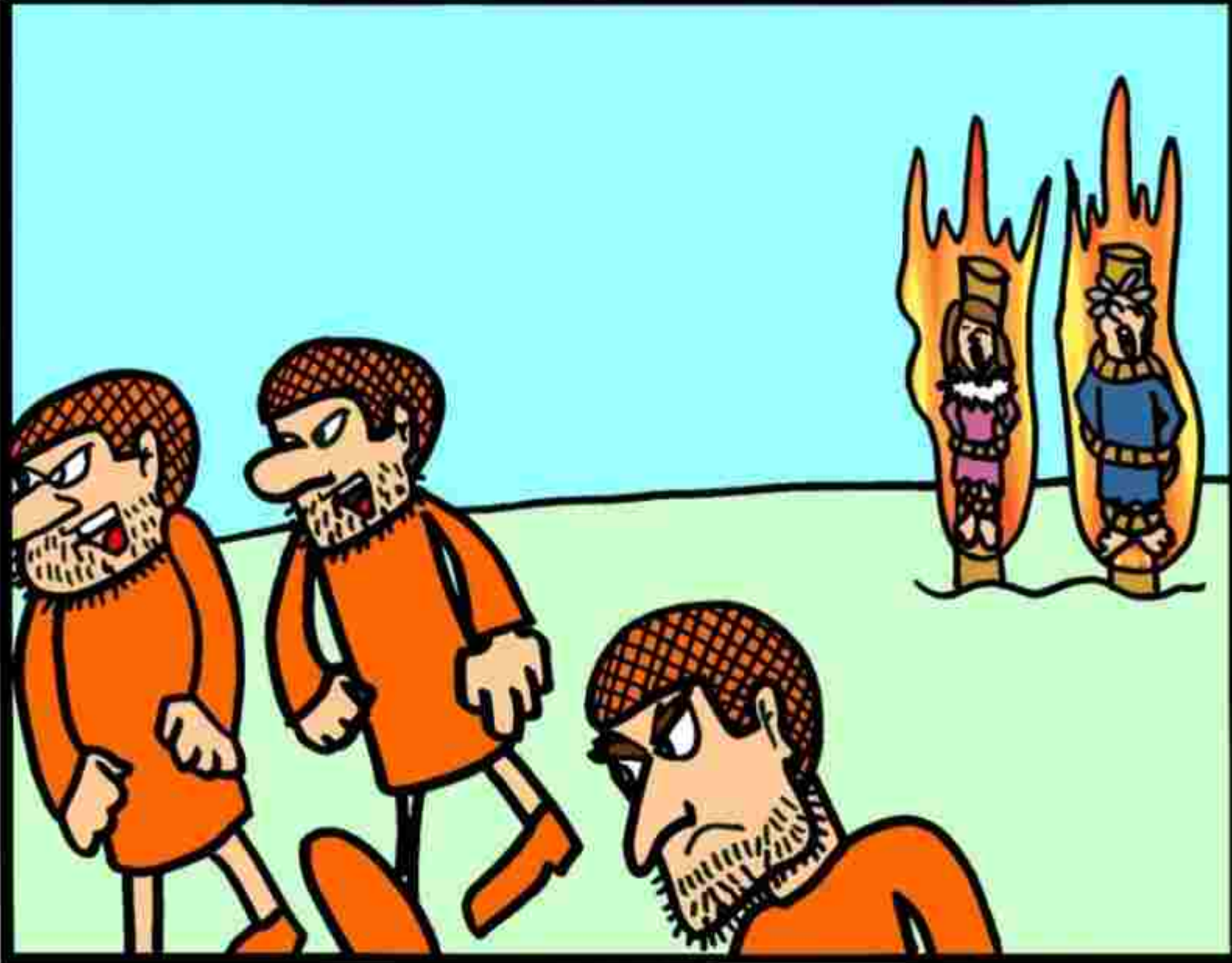
"You hate me! You hate me!" cried Samson's wife. "You say you love me, but if you really loved me you would tell me the answer to your riddle." Everyday she asked him and on the seventh day he told her the answer.



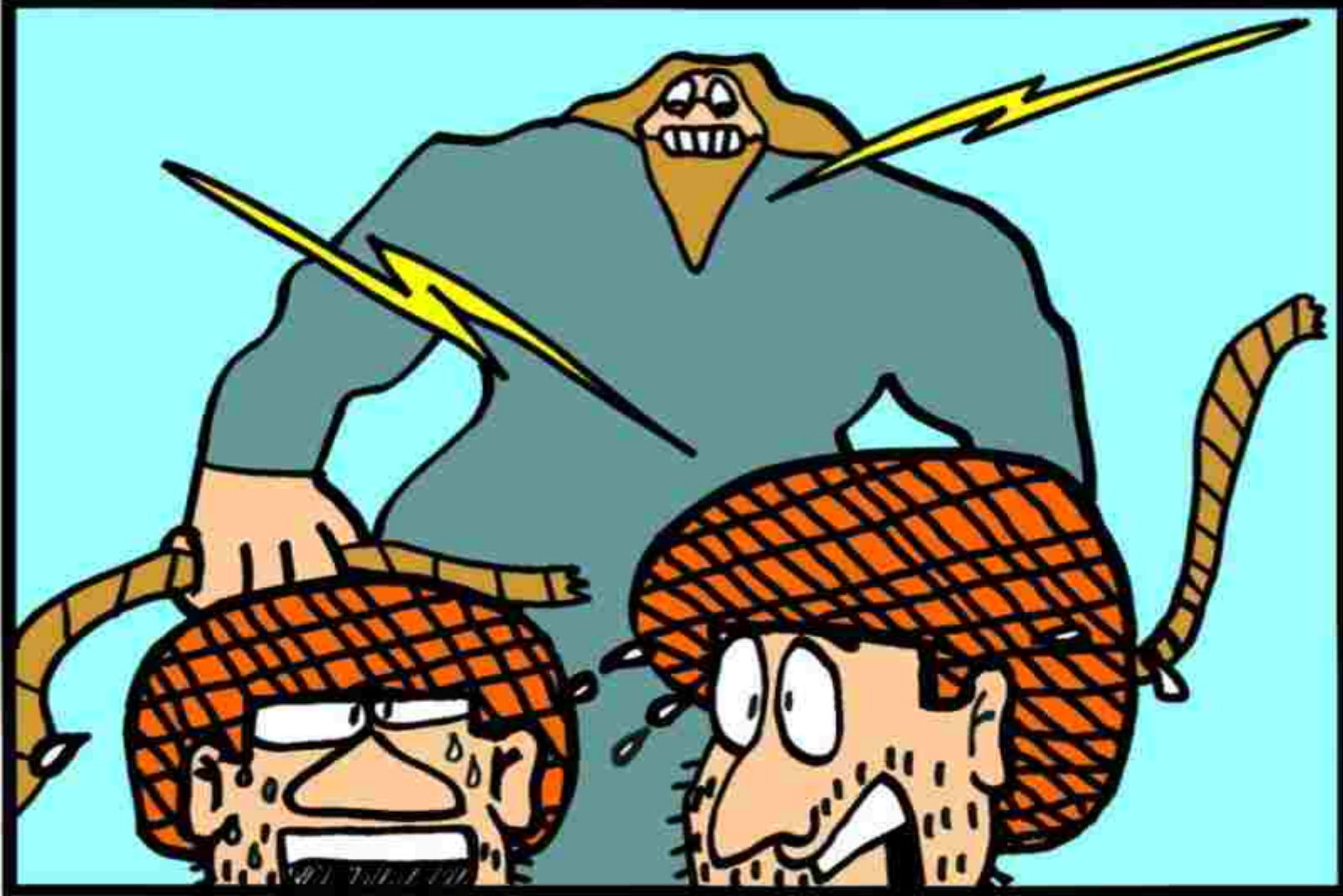
“Honey inside of a dead lion is the answer to the riddle,” said the 30 men. Samson’s wife had told them the answer. Samson attacked 30 Philistine men, took their clothes and gave them to his wedding guests.



Samson's wife married another man. Samson was very angry. He caught 300 foxes, divided them into pairs and tied a fire torch to their tails. Then he sent them into the Philistine fields and orchards. All the corn, grapes and olives were burned.



The Philistines set Samson's wife and her father on fire killing them. Then they marched into the land of Israel and demanded that Samson be turned over to them.



Samson's own people turned him over to the Philistines because they were afraid, but God's Spirit came upon him. He easily broke the new ropes that were on his arms. He found a jawbone of a donkey and killed 1,000 Philistines with it. He became the leader of Israel for 20 years.



Lord, help me to be busy doing what you want me to do. Let me not be like Samson, who did not get down to business rescuing the people of Israel from the Philistines until it affected him personally.