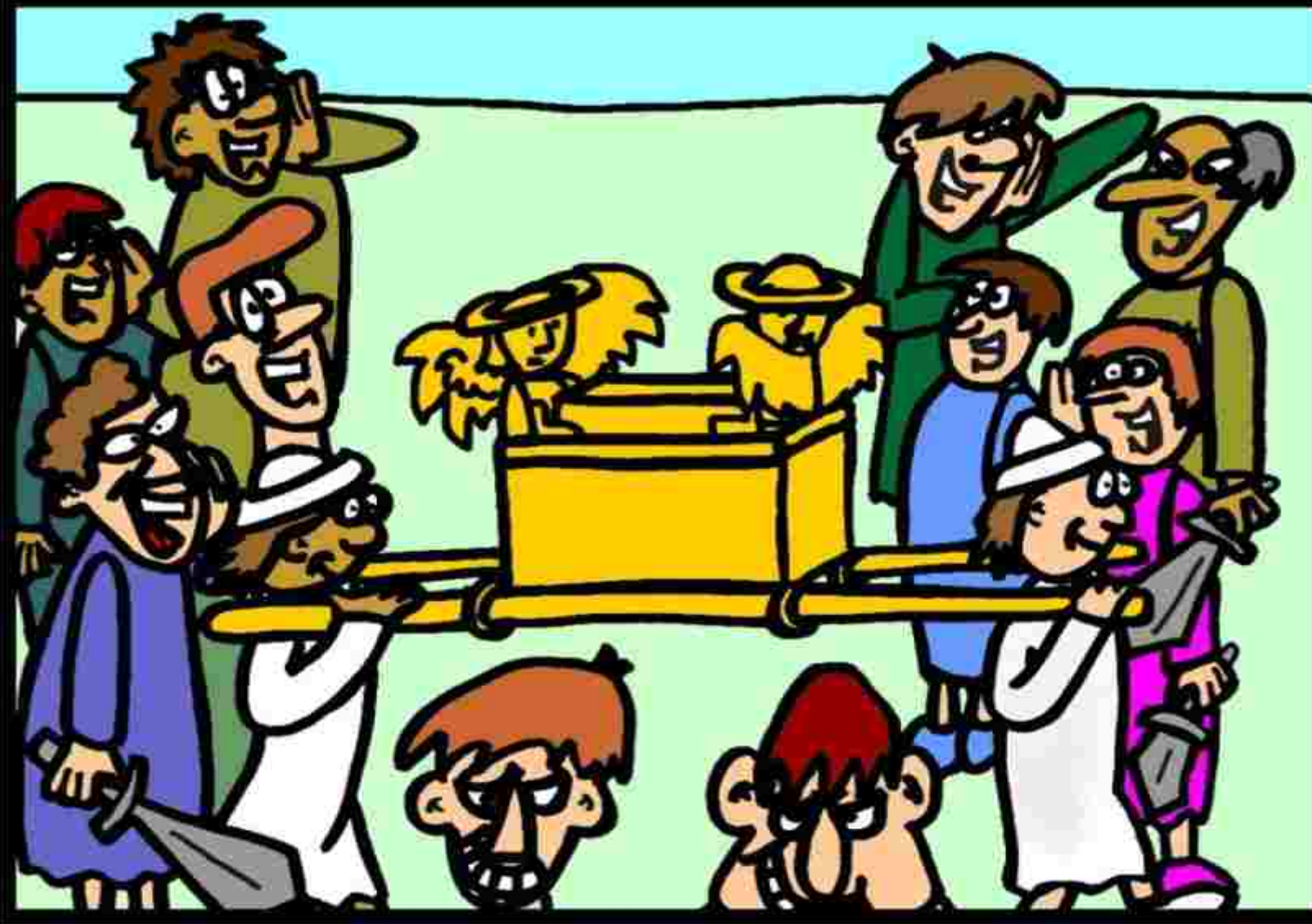


# The Ark is Captured

*(Based on 1 Samuel 4, 1 Samuel 3:19-21, 1  
Samuel 7:3-4, 1 Samuel 2:26)*

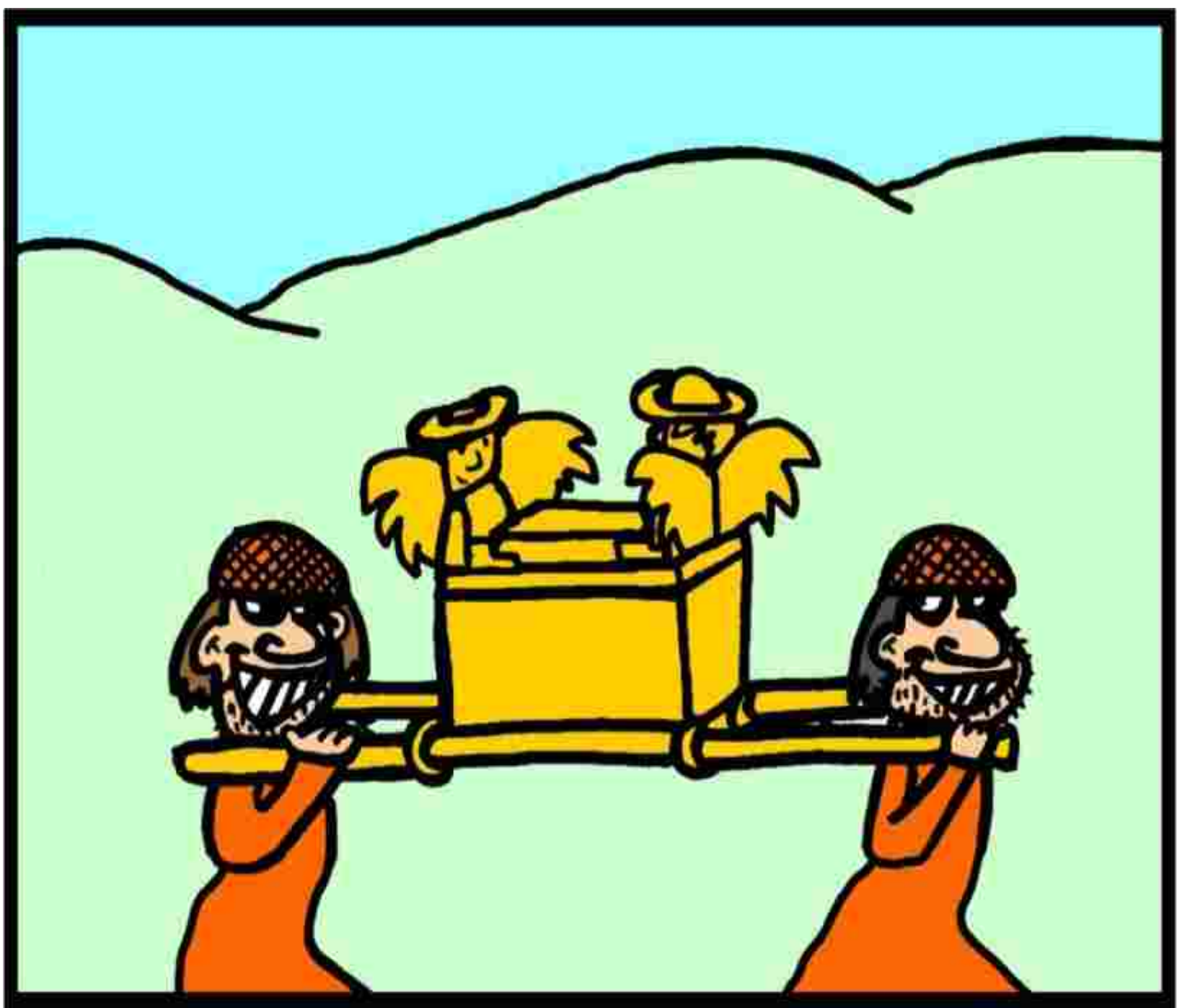
Copyright © 2013 Patricia Loranger



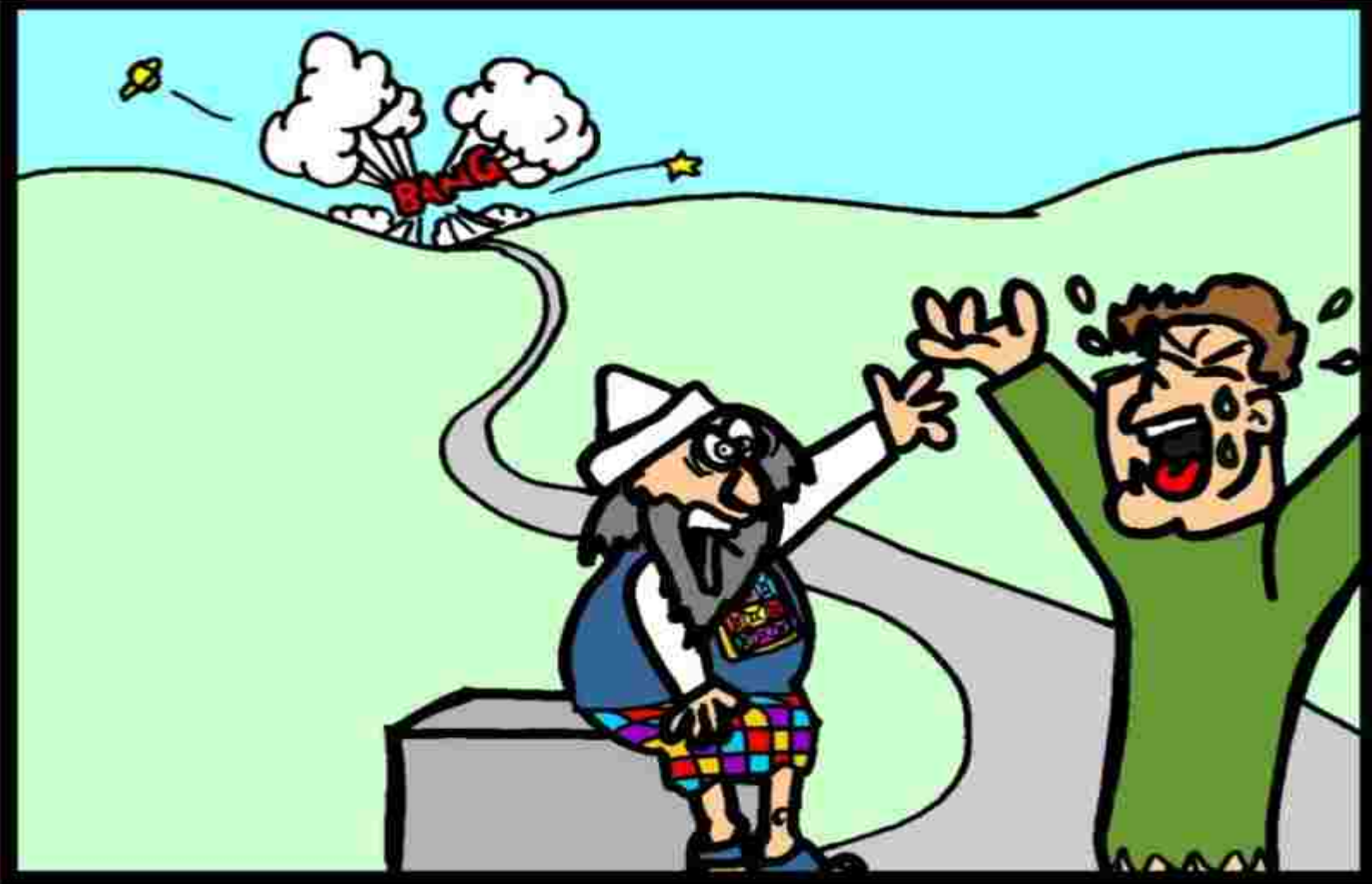
Israel went to war against the Philistines and they were losing badly. The leaders came up with the foolish idea of carrying the ark of God to the battle. Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas went with the ark into the battle. The people of Israel shouted and made a lot of noise.



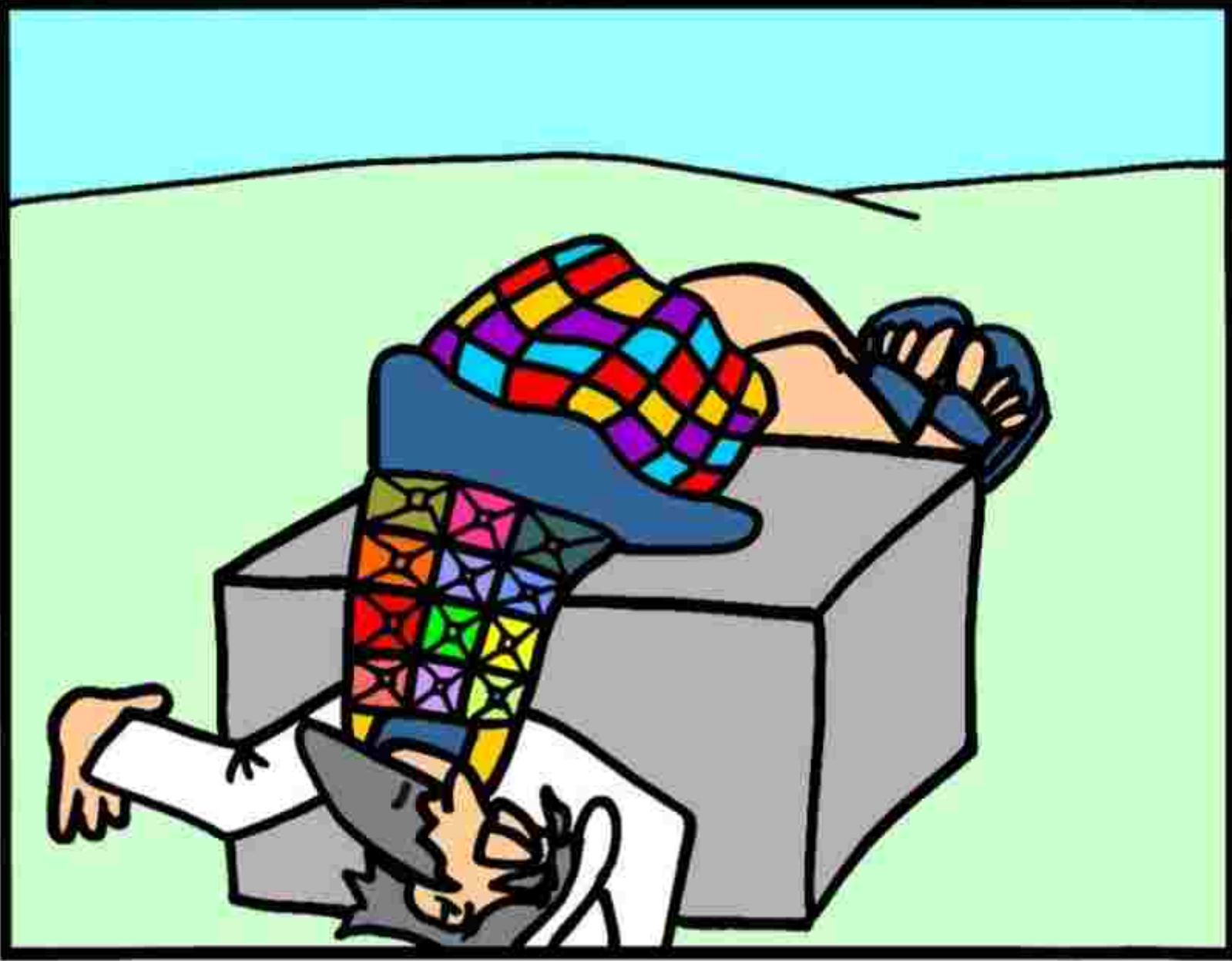
The Philistines were afraid when they heard that the ark of God was there. "Fight like men!" said the Philistine leaders. "Remember we don't want to become servants, like the people of Israel are to us."



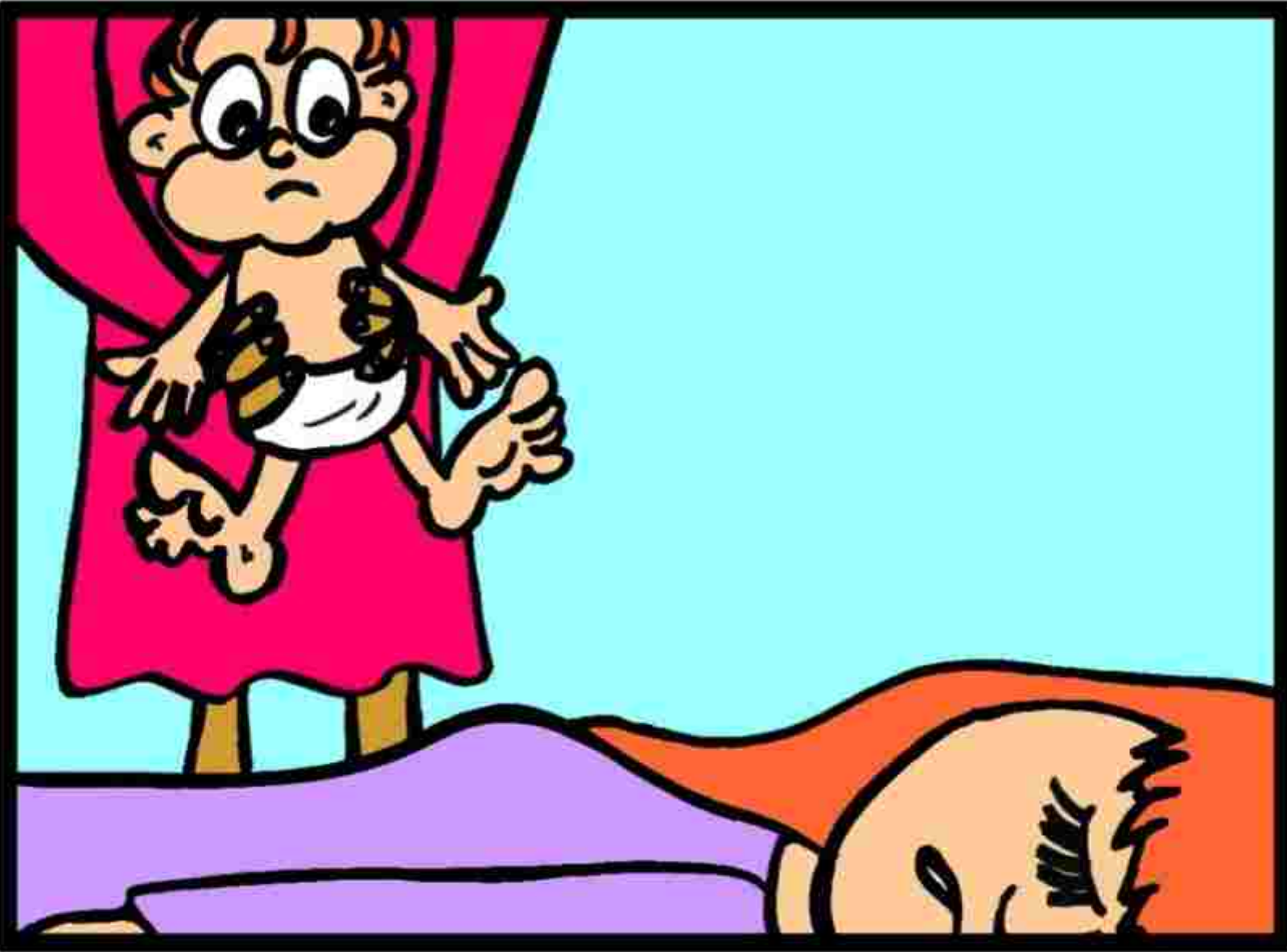
And fight they did. They fought so hard they not only won the war but they also captured the ark of God.



Old Eli sat by the side of the road and waited for news about the war. He was 98 years old, almost blind and was very worried about the ark of God. A soldier who escaped came with the news. “The people of Israel lost badly. Your sons were killed and the ark of God has been captured!”



When Eli heard that the ark of God (which he was supposed to take care of) was captured, he fell backwards off his seat. He was so heavy that the fall broke his neck and he died.



Phinehas' wife was pregnant and when she heard that the ark of God was captured she suddenly had to have her baby. Something went wrong and before she died she called her baby, "Icabod", which means the glory has left.

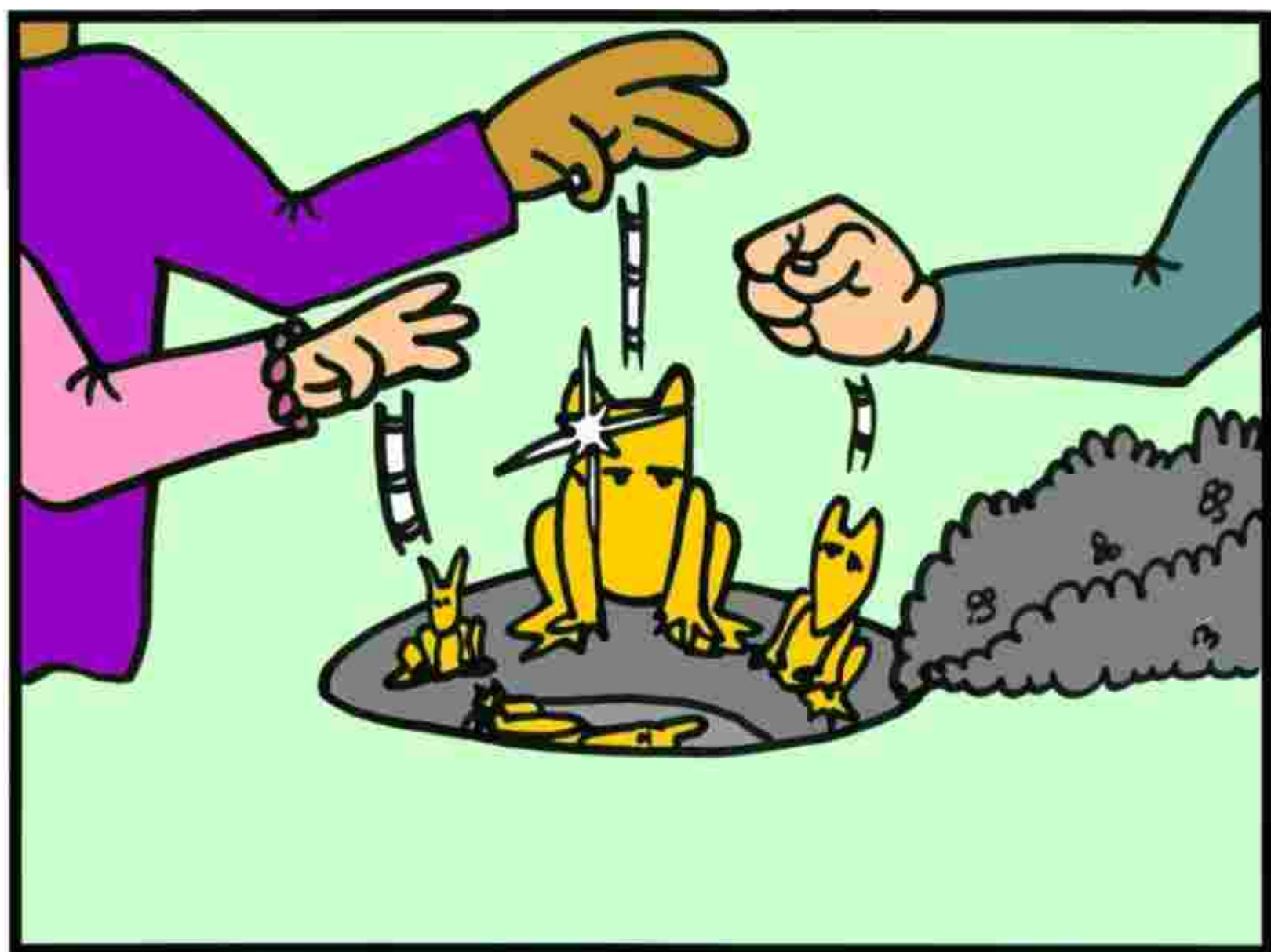


Now during the years that Eli's sons had been doing bad things, Samuel grew up. He faithfully worked behind the scenes in the tabernacle. Not only did the Lord love him, but the people loved him too.





Now that Eli and his sons were dead it was time for Samuel to become the spiritual leader of the people. "People," said Samuel. "You need to throw away all your false gods that you worship and worship only the Lord."



The people of Israel threw away the statues that they worshipped. They listened to Samuel because everything that he said always happened and they knew God had spoken to him when he was a child.



Lord, help me to grow and take care of the spiritual gifts that you give to me. Help me to be ready like Samuel to take my place in your kingdom's work.