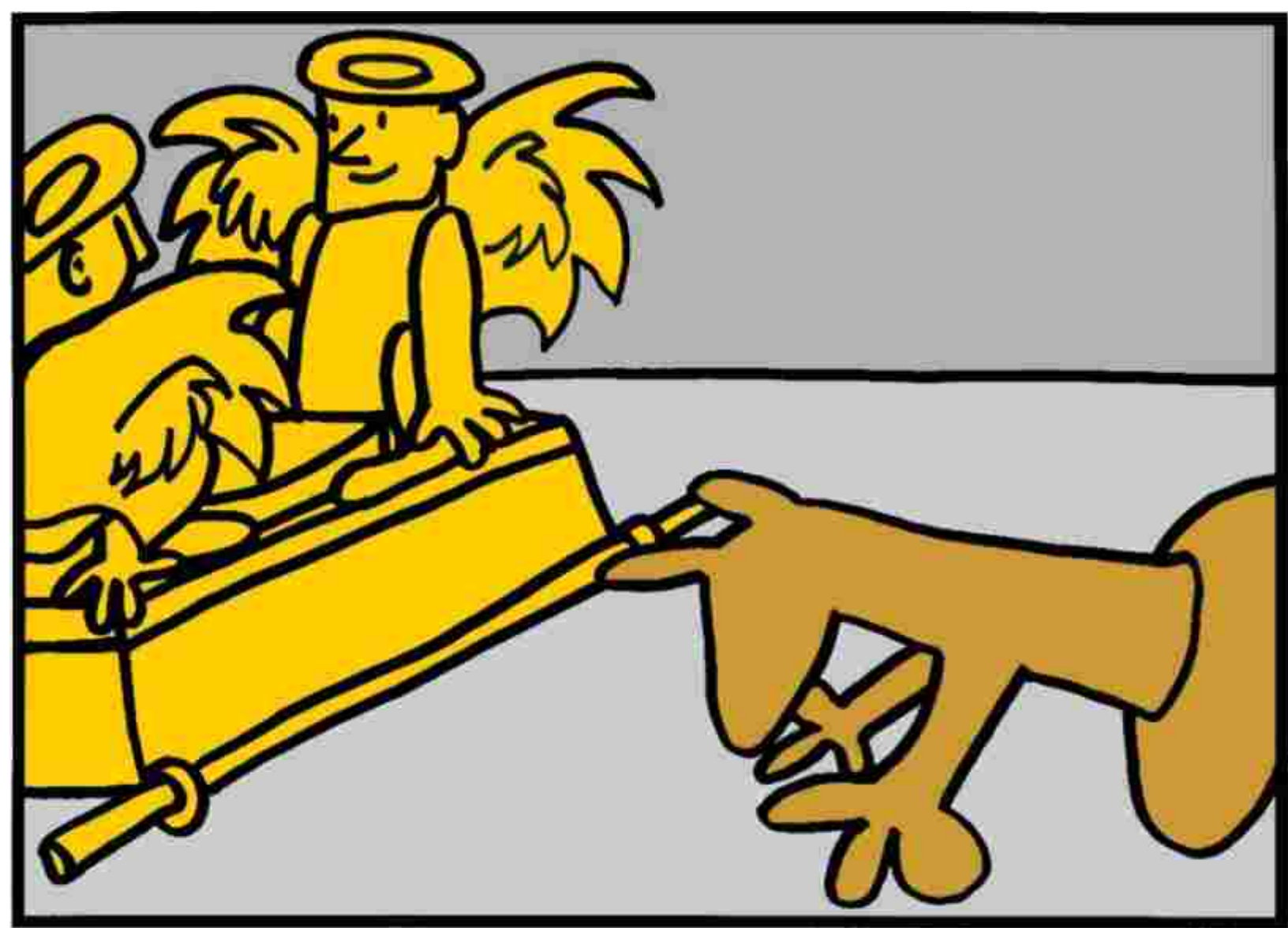


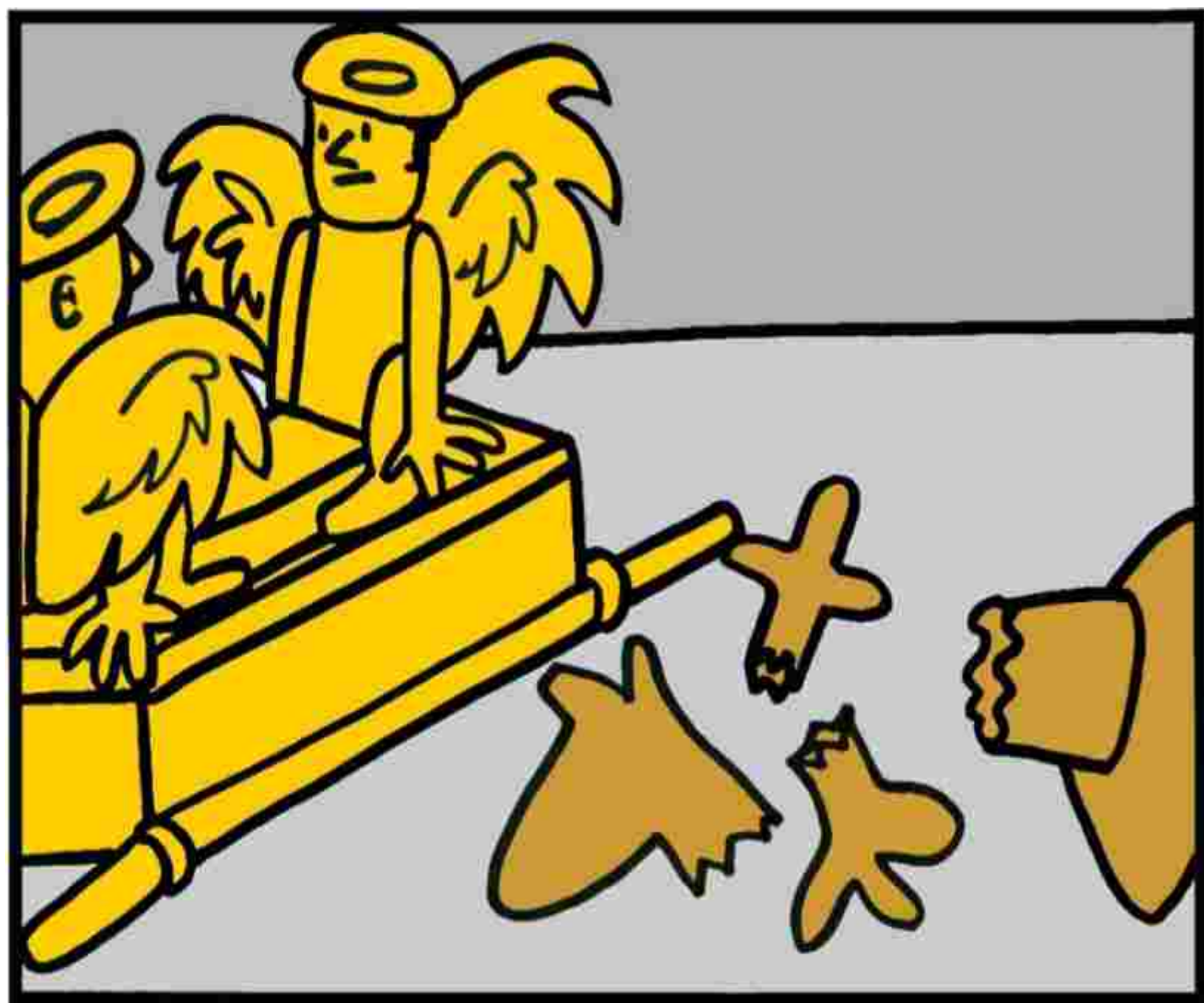
# The Ark is Returned

*(Based on 1 Samuel 5 & 6, 1 Samuel 7:2)7*

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The Philistines put the ark of God into the temple of their idol god named Dagon. The next morning they found the statue of Dagon fallen face down in front of the Ark of God. They put Dagon back in his place.



Again, the next morning they found Dagon not only face down in front of the Ark of God, but this time his head and hands were broken off.

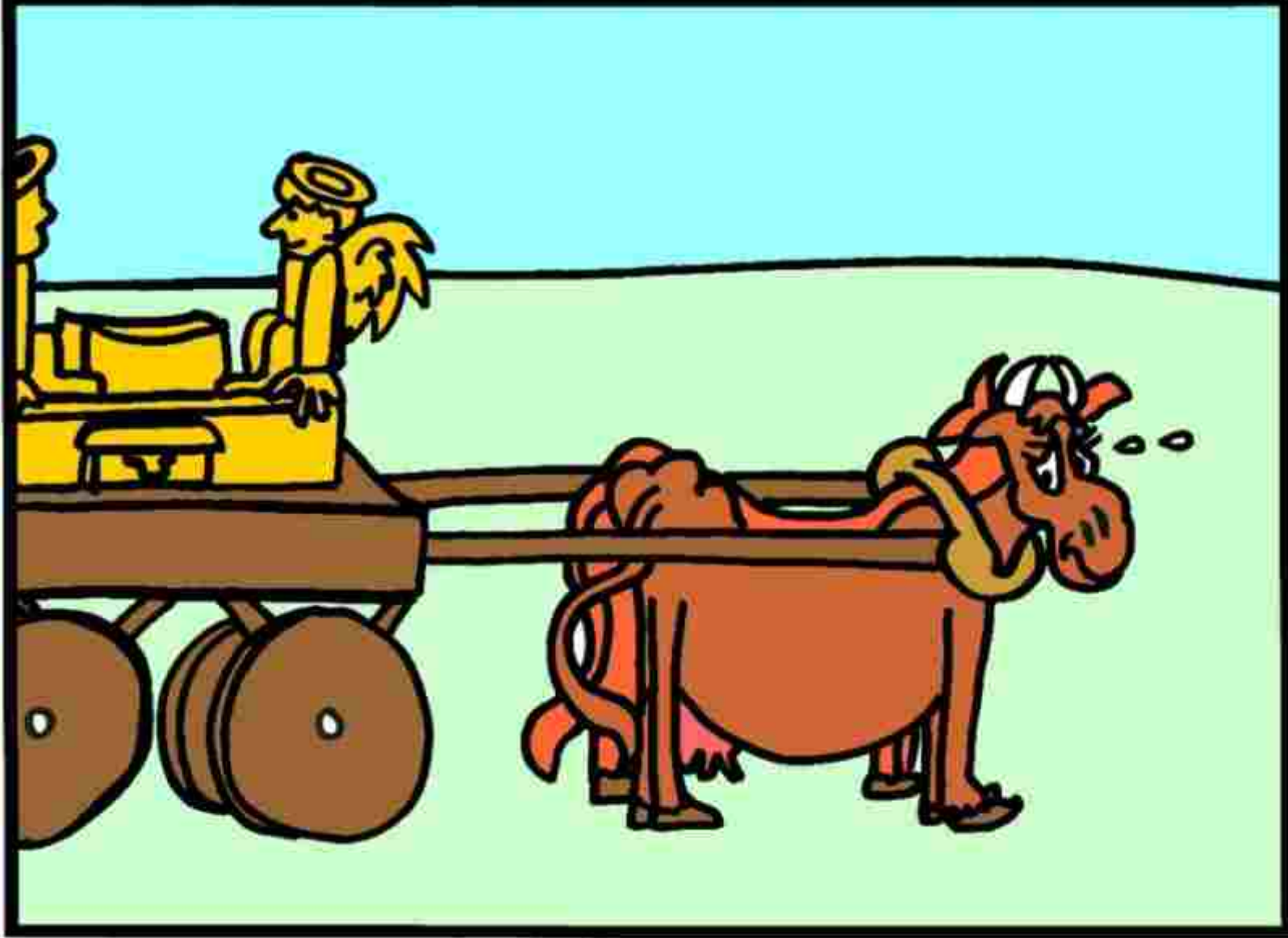




The Philistines in the town of Ashdod, where the ark of God was, became very sick with tumours. The Philistine leaders decided to send the ark of God to the city of Gath.

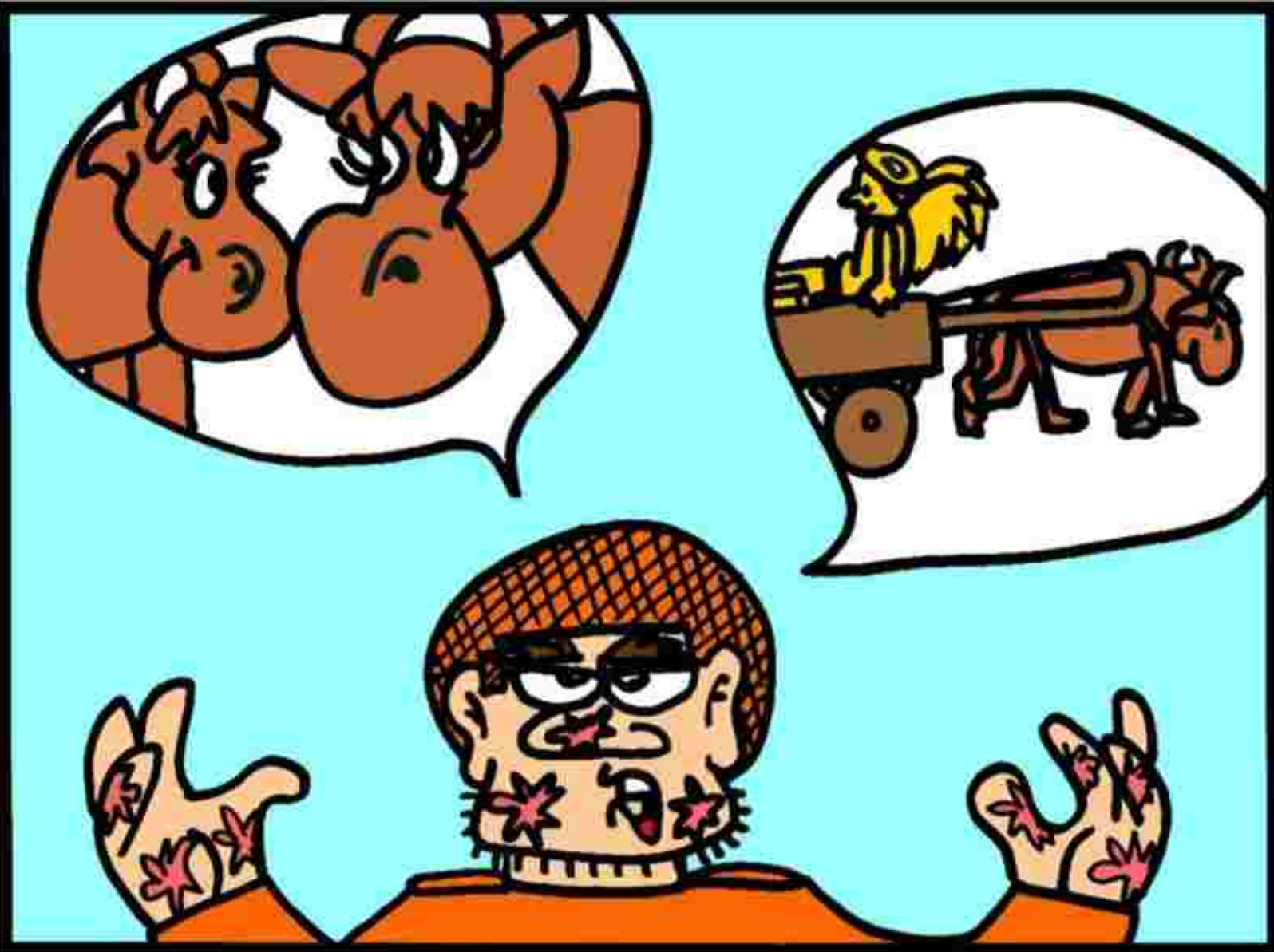


The Philistines of Gath also became sick with tumours. They decided to send the ark of God to the city of Ekron. The people of Ekron begged that the ark of God could be sent back to the people of Israel.

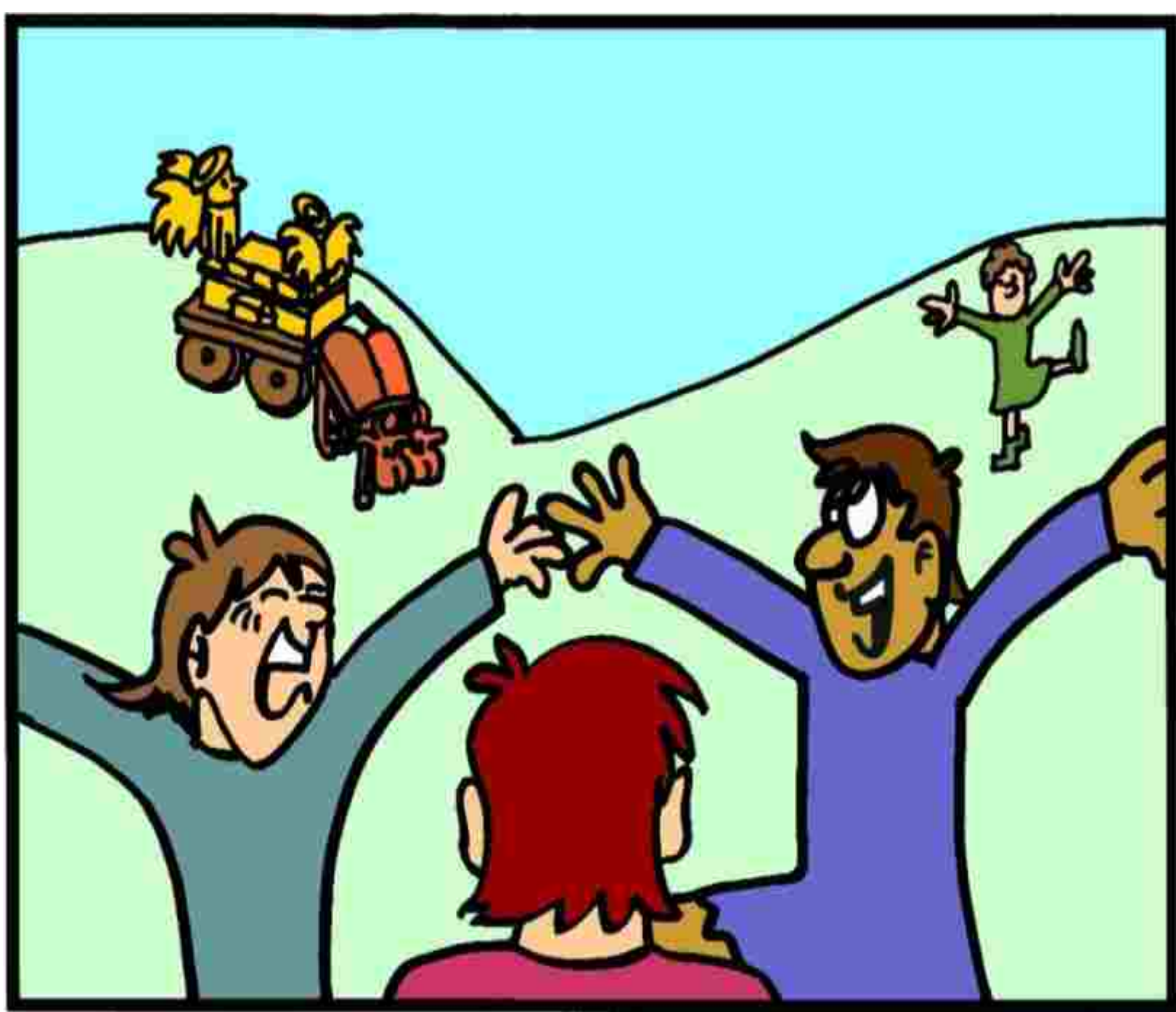


The Philistines had the ark of God for seven months. Then they made gold rats and gold tumours and they put them into a little box on the side of the ark as a sin offering. They sent the ark of God back to Israel on a cart pulled by two mother cows.



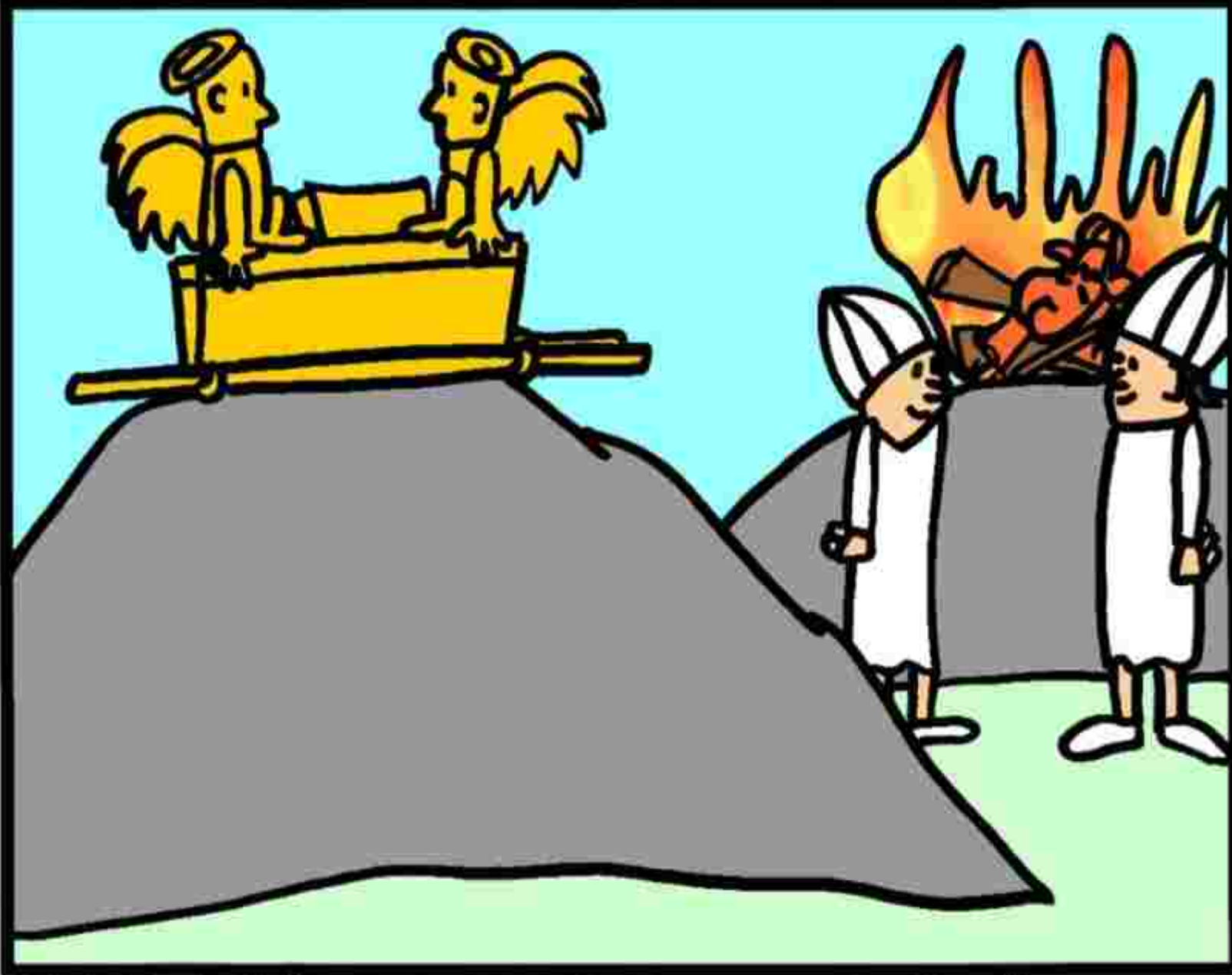


“If the cows go straight to the land of Israel, then we know God did this to us. But, if the cows go home to be with their baby calves, then we know that all this trouble happened to us by coincidence,” said the Philistines.

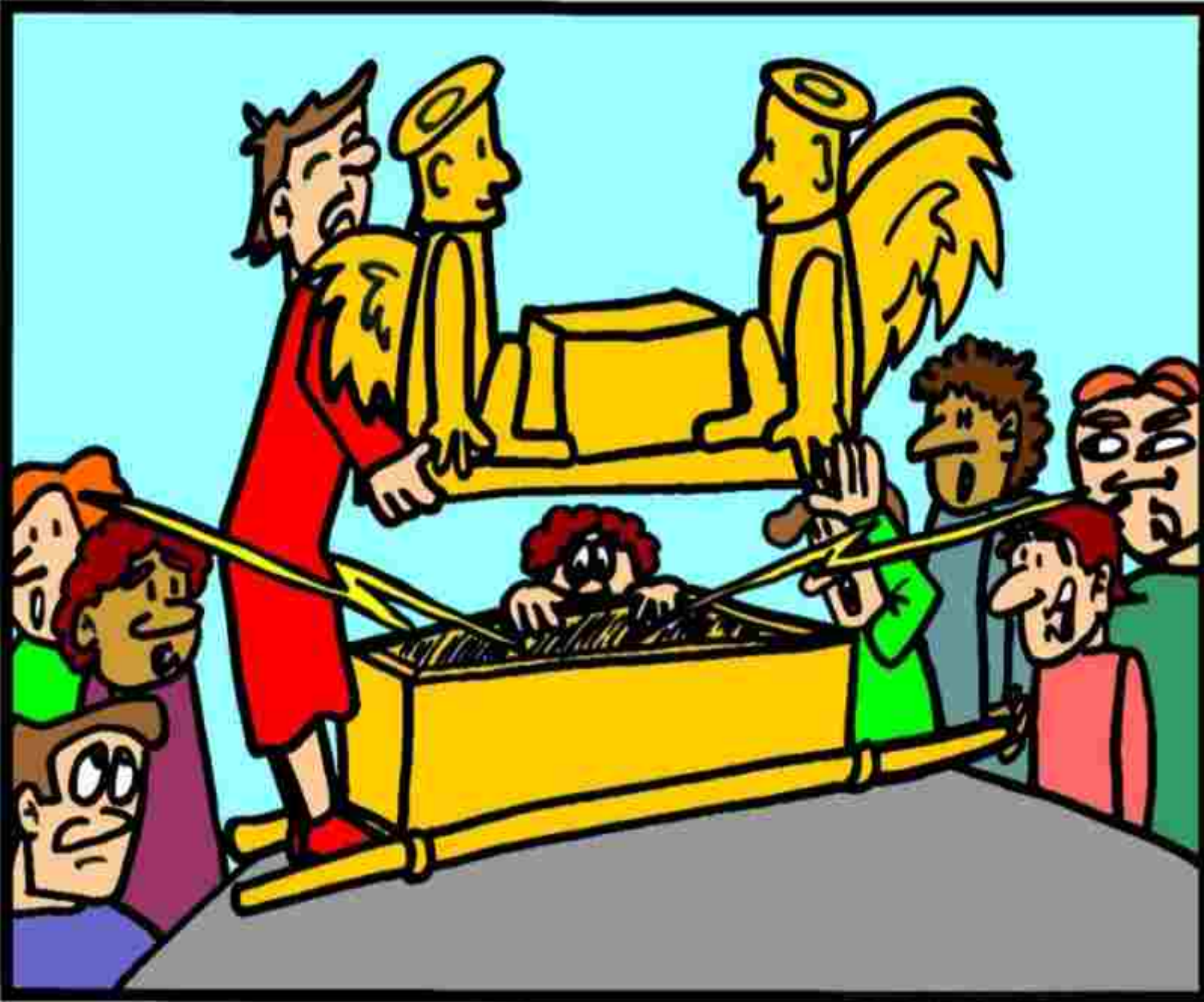


The cows went straight to the land of Israel. The people of Israel were very happy to see the ark of God.

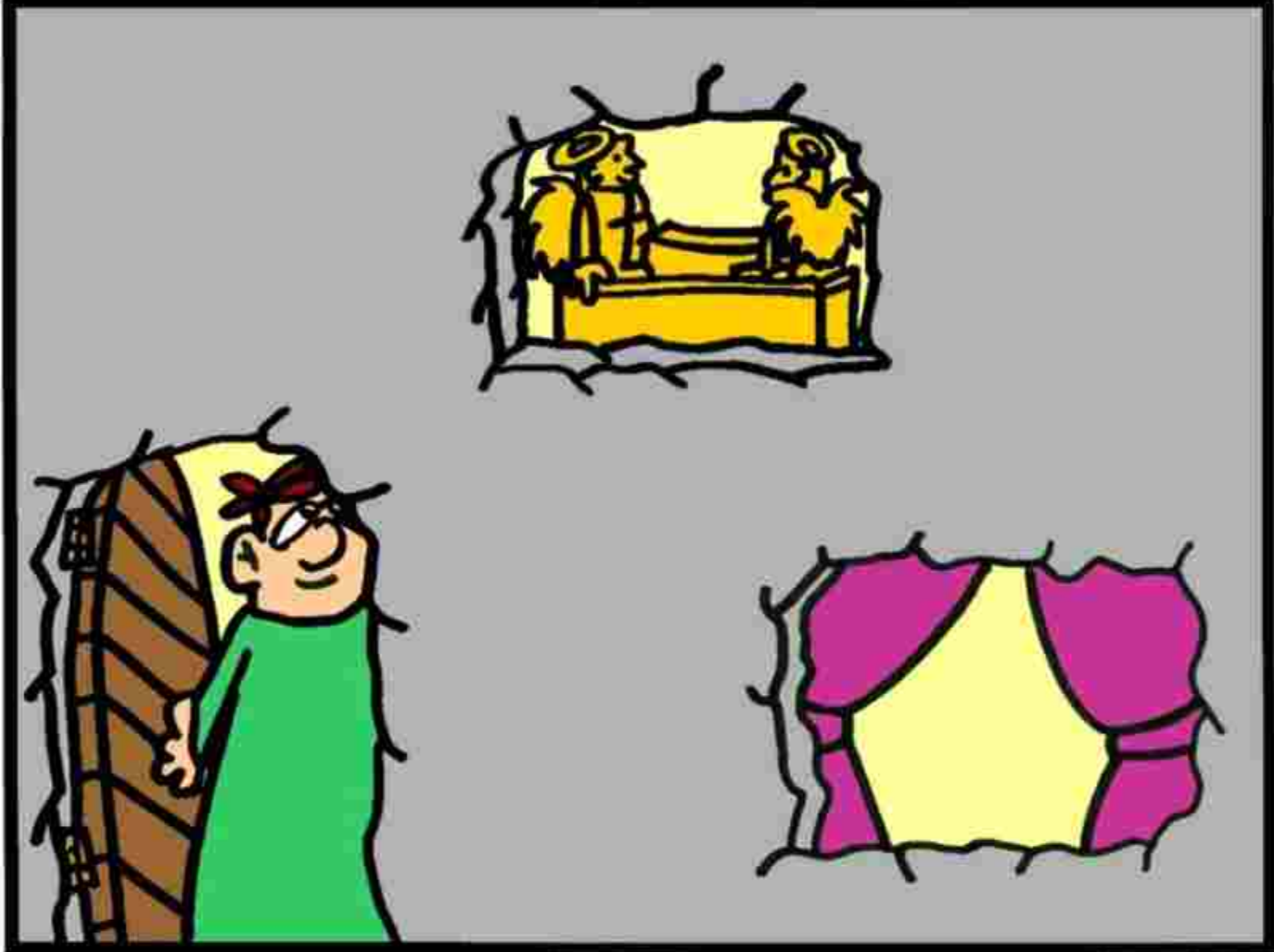




The Levites (*men from the tribe of Levi*) came and took the ark of God and put it on a rock. They used the wood from the cart to make a fire and they offered the cows as a burnt offering to God.



The men in that place looked into the ark and many of them died.



They put the ark into the house of a man named Abinadab. His house was built in the hill and it was his job to take care of the ark of God. The ark was there for a very long time, over twenty years.





Lord, help me to live close to you and keep the sin out so that your presence will always bring blessings to me and those I come in contact with.