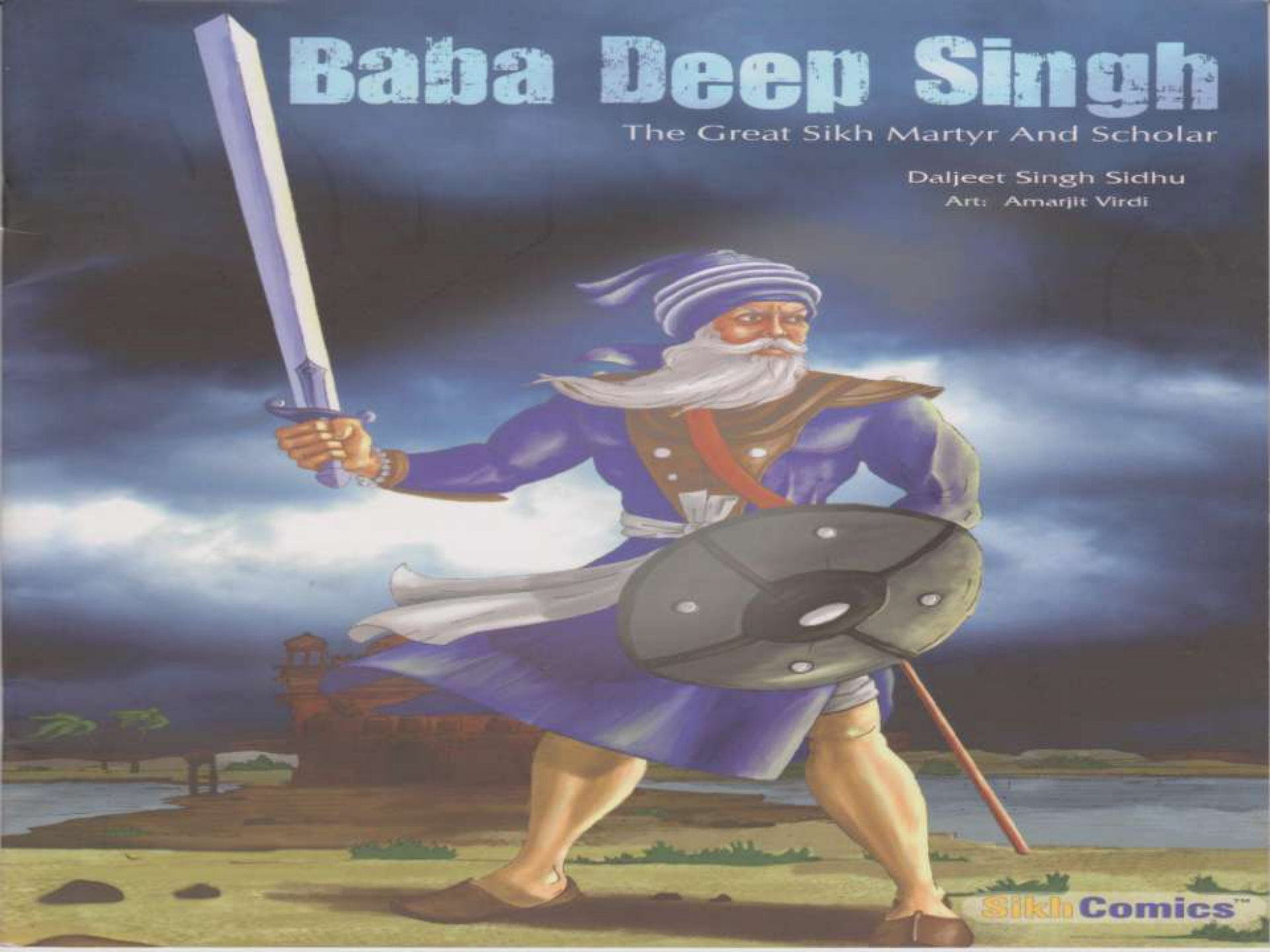


Baba Deep Singh

The Great Sikh Martyr And Scholar

Daljeet Singh Sidhu

Art: Amarjit Virdi



Baba Deep Singh

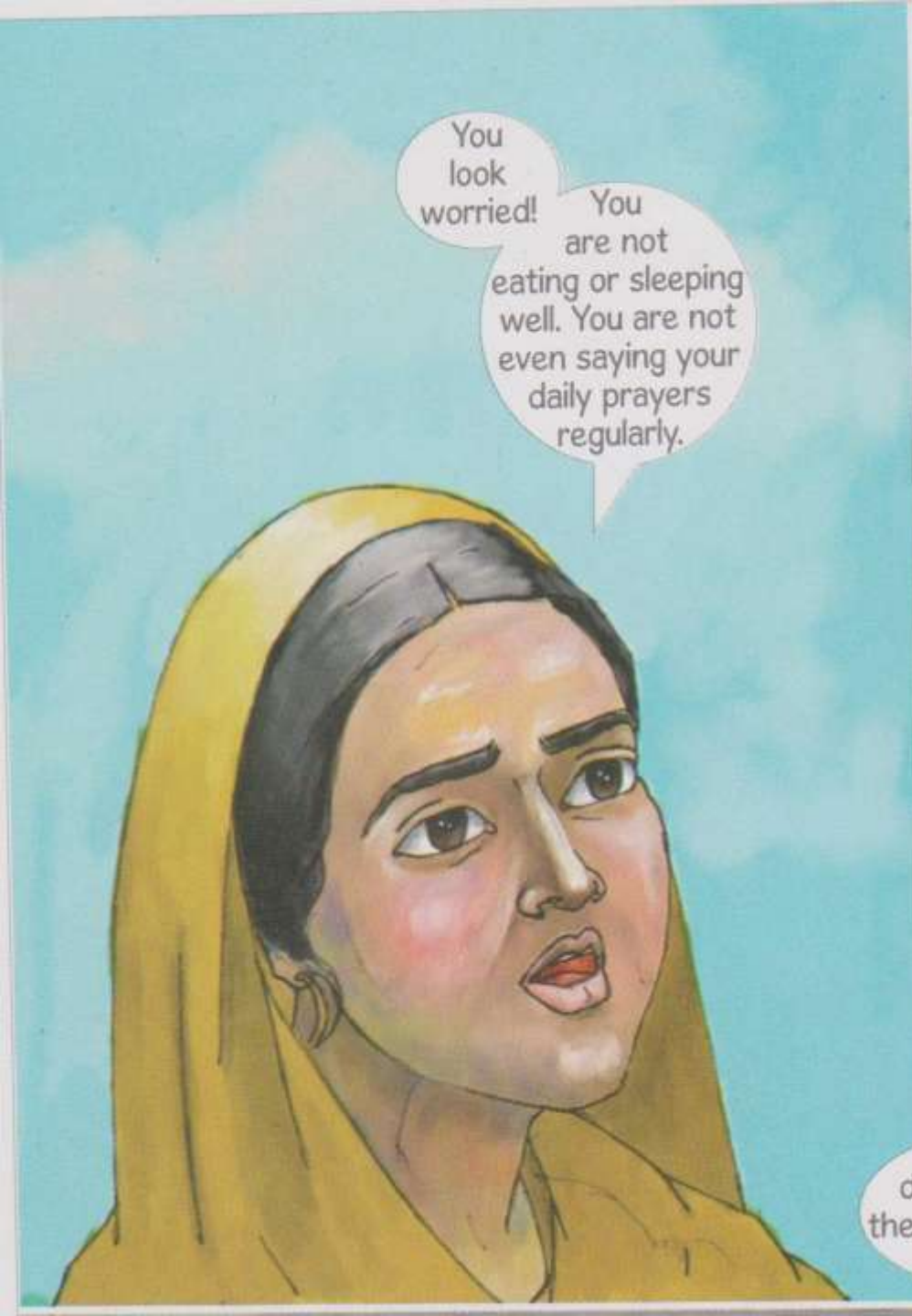
The Great Sikh Martyr and Scholar

Towards the end of the 17th century, a Sikh couple lived in Pahuwind, a small village about 35 kilometres northwest of Amritsar. They had been married for twenty years. With God's grace, they had enough food from their land to feed themselves. However, Waheguru* had not blessed them with a child.

Bhai Bhagta

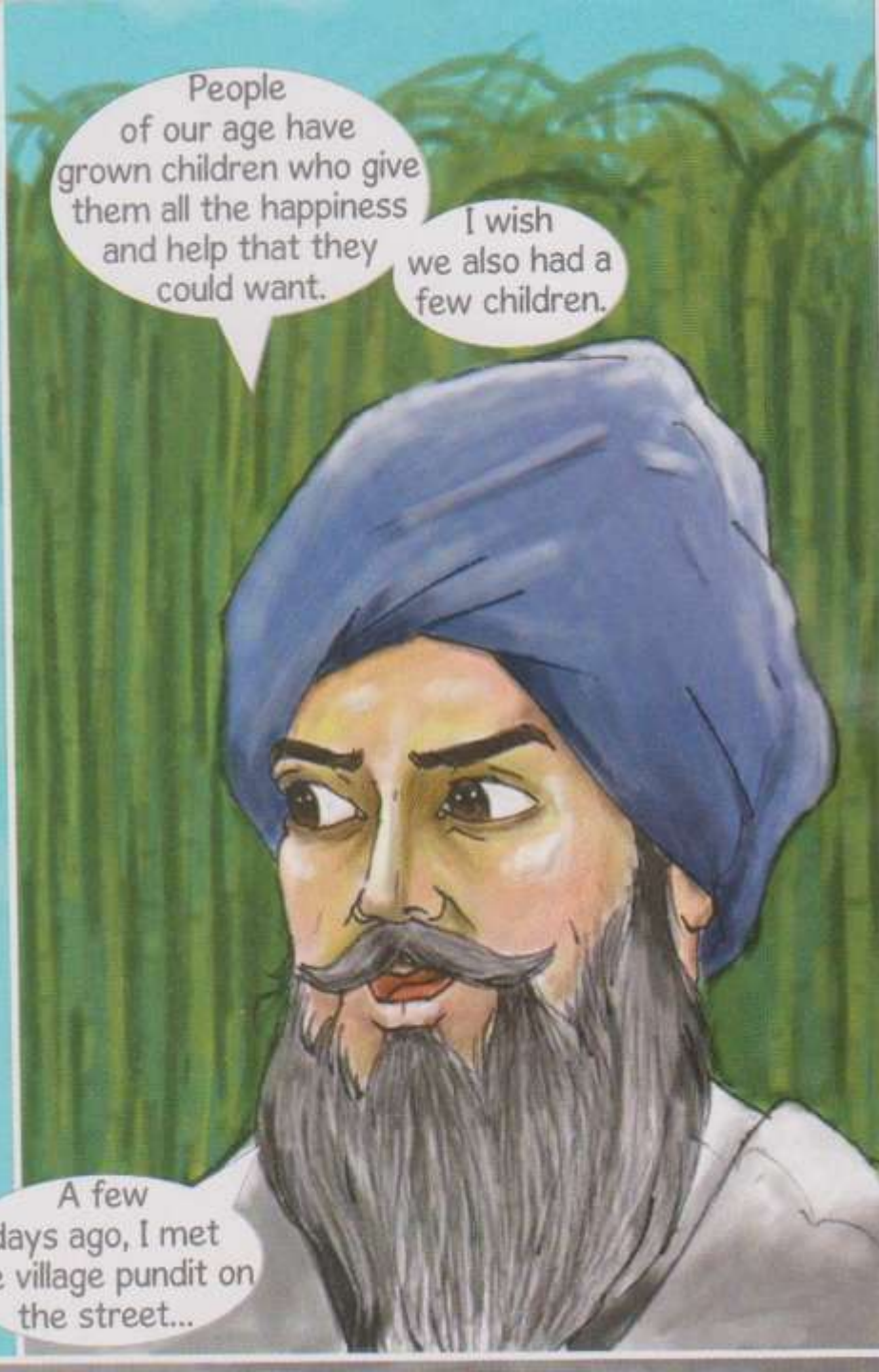
Bibi Jeevani

*To Sikhs, "Waheguru" stands for God, the wonderful dispeller of darkness and gloom, and the giver of enlightenment and bliss. "Waheguru" is also the Guru-mantra. Sikhs recite it during meditation.

A woman with a yellow headscarf and a worried expression is shown in a close-up. Her face is pale with some redness on her cheeks. She is looking slightly to the right.

You look worried!


You are not eating or sleeping well. You are not even saying your daily prayers regularly.

A man with a blue turban and a long grey beard is shown in a close-up. He has a serious expression and is looking towards the left. The background shows green foliage.

People of our age have grown children who give them all the happiness and help that they could want.

I wish we also had a few children.

A few days ago, I met the village pundit on the street...

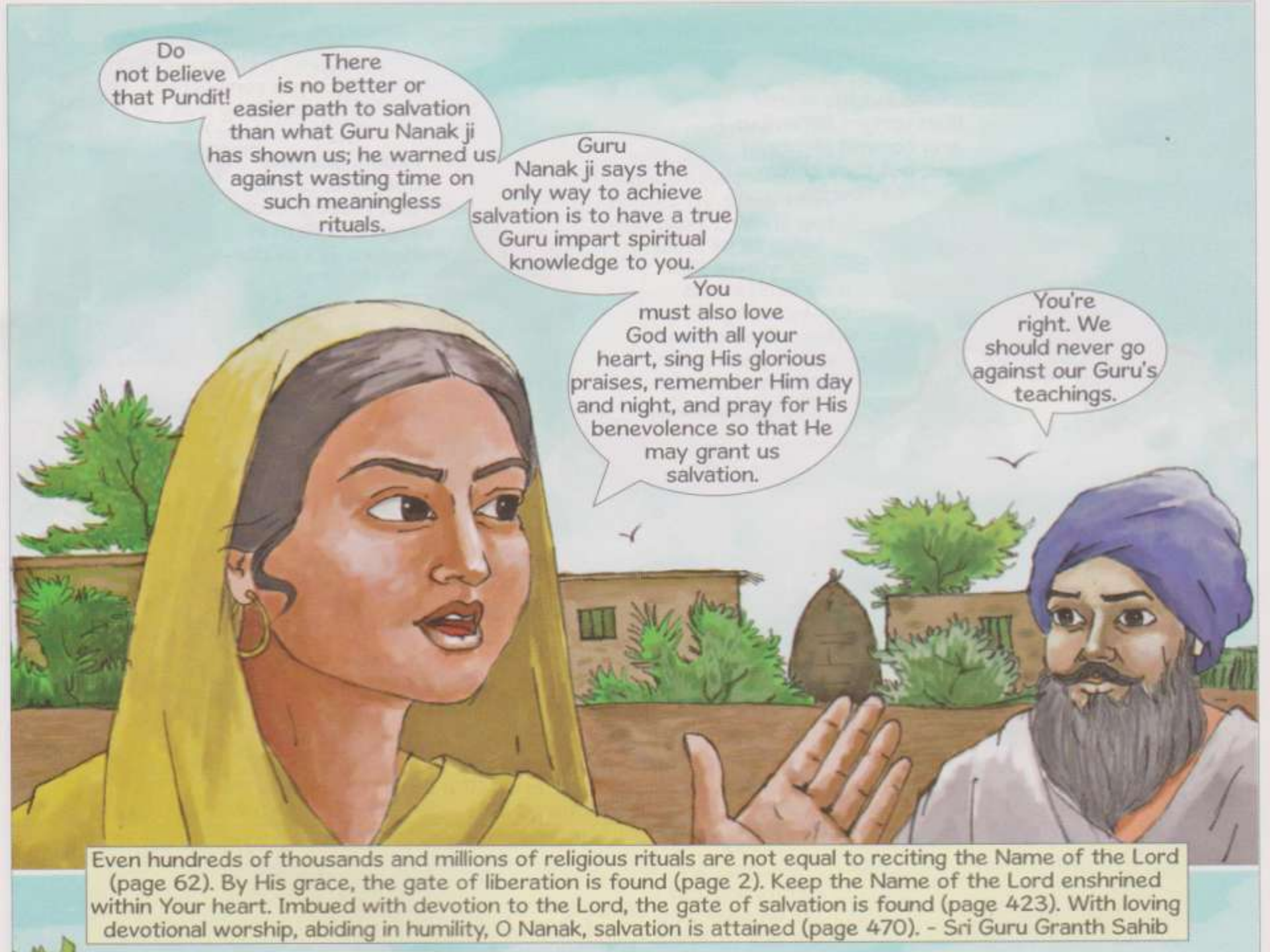


Your wife must bear you a son if you desire to enter heaven after death.

According to the ancient Hindu scriptures, you will continue to suffer through births and deaths unless a son lights the funeral pyre. ...and your salvation would be impossible!

Come to the temple after fasting for a day. I will perform a few ancient rituals so that your wife will give birth to a son.

My fee for all of this is merely a mound of wheat.



Do not believe that Pundit!

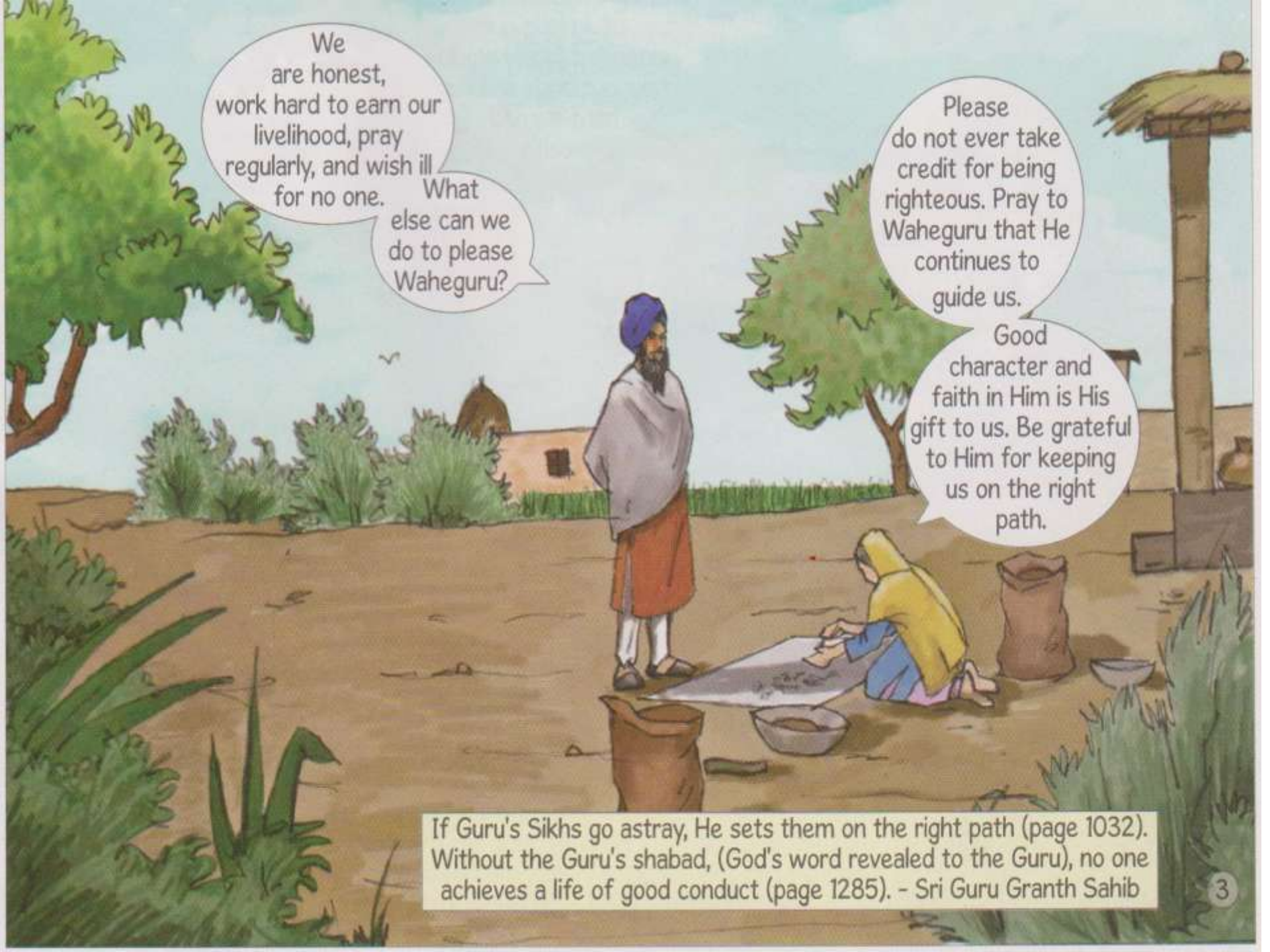
There is no better or easier path to salvation than what Guru Nanak ji has shown us; he warned us against wasting time on such meaningless rituals.

Guru Nanak ji says the only way to achieve salvation is to have a true Guru impart spiritual knowledge to you.

You must also love God with all your heart, sing His glorious praises, remember Him day and night, and pray for His benevolence so that He may grant us salvation.

You're right. We should never go against our Guru's teachings.

Even hundreds of thousands and millions of religious rituals are not equal to reciting the Name of the Lord (page 62). By His grace, the gate of liberation is found (page 2). Keep the Name of the Lord enshrined within Your heart. Imbued with devotion to the Lord, the gate of salvation is found (page 423). With loving devotional worship, abiding in humility, O Nanak, salvation is attained (page 470). - Sri Guru Granth Sahib




We are honest, work hard to earn our livelihood, pray regularly, and wish ill for no one.

What else can we do to please Waheguru?

Please do not ever take credit for being righteous. Pray to Waheguru that He continues to guide us.

Good character and faith in Him is His gift to us. Be grateful to Him for keeping us on the right path.

If Guru's Sikhs go astray, He sets them on the right path (page 1032). Without the Guru's shabad, (God's word revealed to the Guru), no one achieves a life of good conduct (page 1285). - Sri Guru Granth Sahib



THERE ARE SO MANY WHO INDULGE IN LESS THAN UPRIGHT BEHAVIOUR AND COMMIT PLENTY OF SINS, BUT THEY CONTINUE TO FLOURISH. THEY SEEM TO BE BLESSED WITH ALL THEY NEED IN THIS WORLD—including several children; they don't even pray as hard as we do!

BHAGTA JI, YOU KNOW EVERYTHING WE HAVE? OUR HEALTH, PLENTIFUL FOOD, LAND, CATTLE, HORSES, RESPECT IN OUR VILLAGE AND FAITH IN WAHEGURU! IT'S ALL DUE TO HIS GRACE. IF HE THINKS WE ARE WORTHY, HE MAY BLESS US WITH CHILDREN TOO SOMEDAY. IF NOT, SO BE IT.

GOD GRANTS HIS GRACE (TO SOME), AND HE HIMSELF TESTS (THE OTHERS). O NANAK, THIS IS HIS PLAY AND NO ONE CAN FULLY COMPREHEND IT (PAGE 318). — SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB



YOUR THOUGHTS ARE COMFORTING, BUT I STILL WONDER WHO WOULD LOOK AFTER US WHEN WE ARE OLD? I FEAR, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN HEIR, OUR EXTENDED FAMILY WOULD TAKE OUR LANDS AND OUR HARD EARNED WEALTH.

YOU KNOW, THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT CAN LIFT YOU UP FROM SUCH HELPLESSNESS AND DESPAIR. TAKE REFUGE IN WAHEGURU'S NAME. RECITE GURBANI AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

I AM HELPLESS, I SEEK YOUR SANCTUARY, O MY LORD AND MASTER; PLEASE BLESS ME WITH YOUR MERCY. NANAK WORSHIPS AND ADORES THE LORD'S LOTUS FEET; EXCEPT HIM, THERE IS NO OTHER (WHO CAN HELP) AT ALL (PAGE 702). HE IS THE HELP FOR THE HELPLESS, THE MERCIFUL LORD, THE OCEAN OF PEACE, THE DESTROYER OF ALL PAINS AND FEARS (PAGE 1219). — SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

A FEW MONTHS LATER...

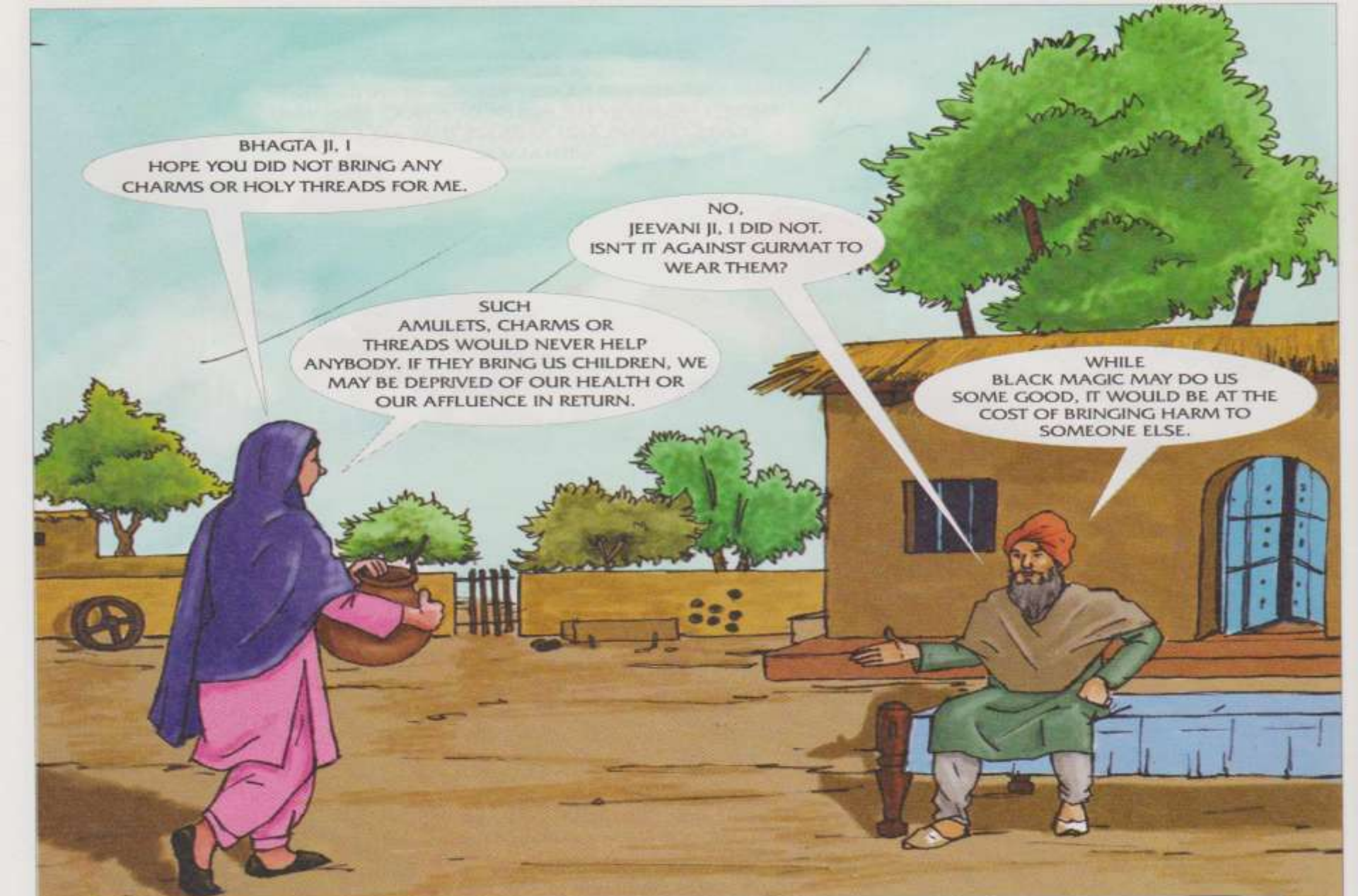
I RECENTLY VISITED THE NEARBY VILLAGE OF PATTI. THERE, I PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF A HOLY MAN WHO GIVES CHARMS AND AMULETS THAT ARE LACED WITH MAGIC...



WHAT ARE THESE PEOPLE HERE FOR?

IF A CHILDLESS WOMAN WEARS THESE CHARMS OR AMULETS, SHE IS SURE TO BEAR CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY SEVERAL SONS.





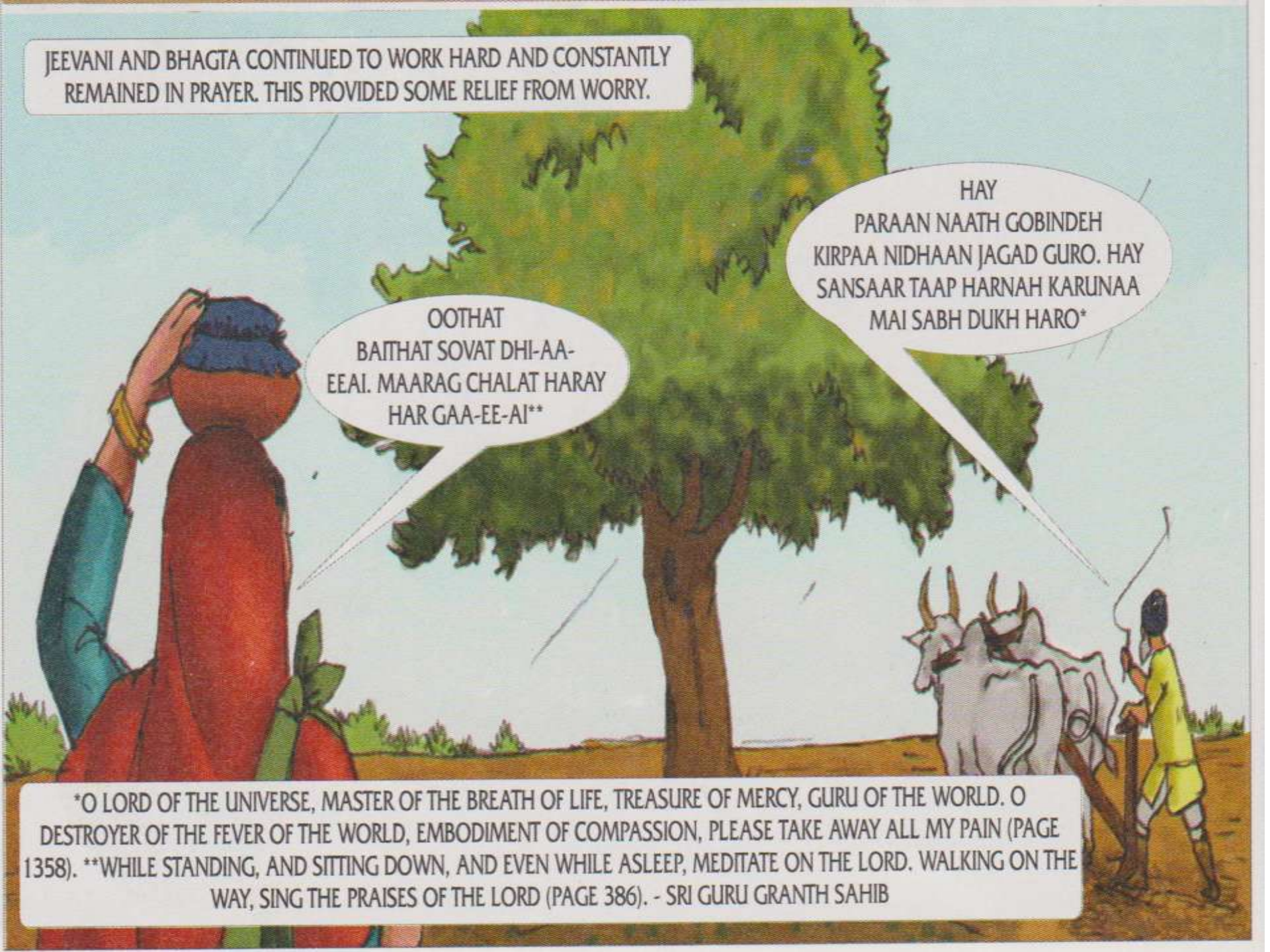
BHAGTA JI, I
HOPE YOU DID NOT BRING ANY
CHARMS OR HOLY THREADS FOR ME.

NO,
JEEVANI JI, I DID NOT.
ISN'T IT AGAINST GURMAT TO
WEAR THEM?

SUCH
AMULETS, CHARMS OR
THREADS WOULD NEVER HELP
ANYBODY. IF THEY BRING US CHILDREN, WE
MAY BE DEPRIVED OF OUR HEALTH OR
OUR AFFLUENCE IN RETURN.

WHILE
BLACK MAGIC MAY DO US
SOME GOOD, IT WOULD BE AT THE
COST OF BRINGING HARM TO
SOMEONE ELSE.

ALL MEDICINES AND REMEDIES LIKE MANTRAS AND TANTRAS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN ASHES. INSTEAD ENSHRINE THE CREATOR LORD WITHIN YOUR HEART (PAGE 196). RELIANCE ON MORTALS IS IN VAIN - KNOW THIS WELL, THE GREAT GIVER IS THE ONE LORD GOD (ONLY RELY ON HIM) (PAGE 218). THE LORD IS THE FULFILLER OF DESIRES, THE GIVER OF TOTAL PEACE; KAAMADHAYNAA, THE MYTHICAL COW THAT FULFILS WISHES, IS IN HIS CONTROL. SO MEDITATE ON SUCH A LORD, O MY SOUL. THEN, YOU SHALL OBTAIN TOTAL PEACE (PAGE 669). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB



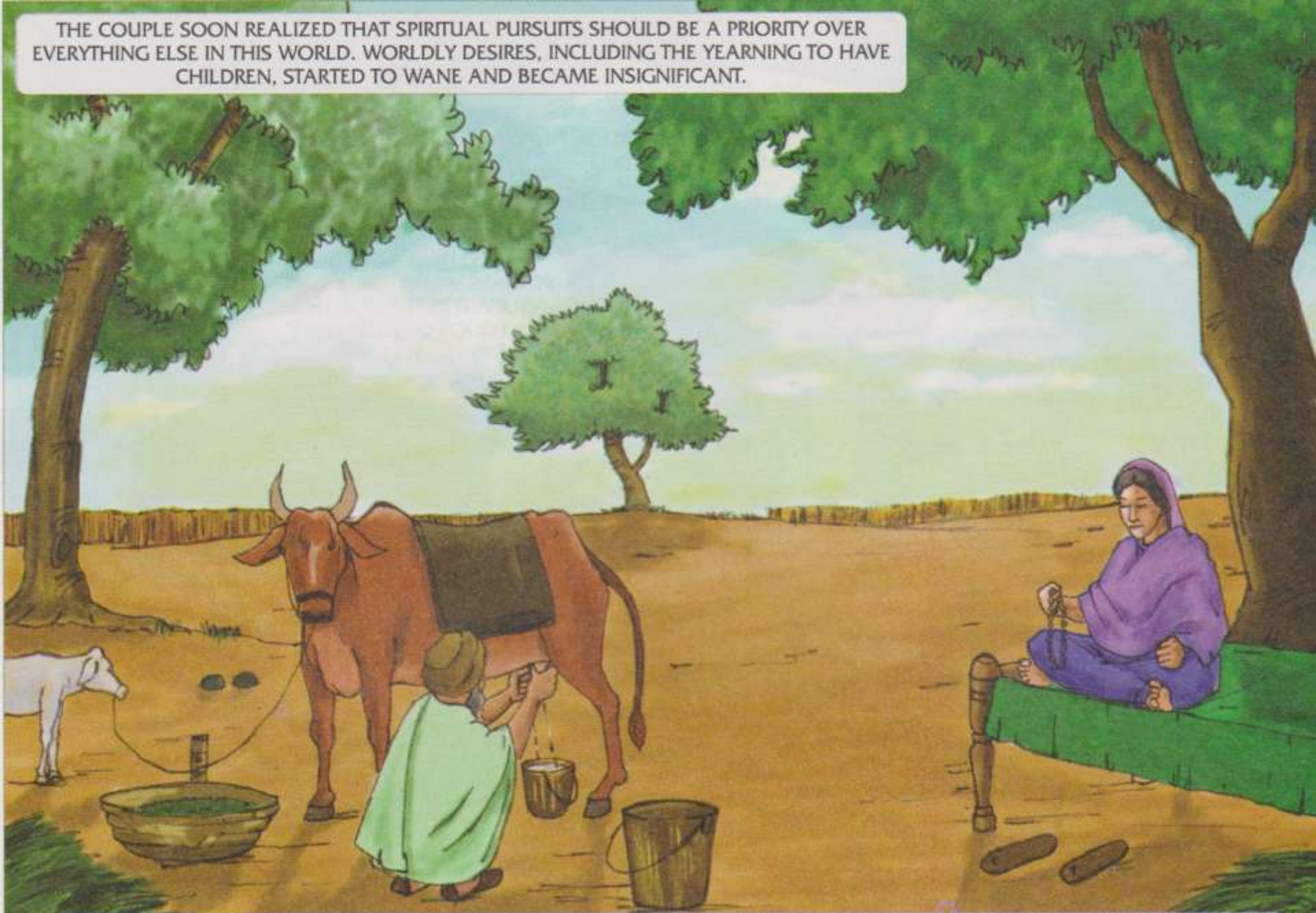
JEEVANI AND BHAGTA CONTINUED TO WORK HARD AND CONSTANTLY REMAINED IN PRAYER. THIS PROVIDED SOME RELIEF FROM WORRY.

OOTHA
BAITHAT SOVAT DHI-AA-
EEAI. MAARAG CHALAT HARAY
HAR GAA-EE-AI**


HAY
PARAAN NAATH GOBINDEH
KIRPAA NIDHAAN JAGAD GURO. HAY
SANSAAR TAAP HARNAH KARUNAA
MAI SABH DUKH HARO*

*O LORD OF THE UNIVERSE, MASTER OF THE BREATH OF LIFE, TREASURE OF MERCY, GURU OF THE WORLD. O DESTROYER OF THE FEVER OF THE WORLD, EMBODIMENT OF COMPASSION, PLEASE TAKE AWAY ALL MY PAIN (PAGE 1358). **WHILE STANDING, AND SITTING DOWN, AND EVEN WHILE ASLEEP, MEDITATE ON THE LORD. WALKING ON THE WAY, SING THE PRAISES OF THE LORD (PAGE 386). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

THE COUPLE SOON REALIZED THAT SPIRITUAL PURSUITS SHOULD BE A PRIORITY OVER EVERYTHING ELSE IN THIS WORLD. WORLDLY DESIRES, INCLUDING THE YEARNING TO HAVE CHILDREN, STARTED TO WANE AND BECAME INSIGNIFICANT.




THIRST AND DESIRE ARE NOT QUENCHED BY ENJOYING THE MANY PLEASURES OF MAYA. CHANTING THE NAAM, THE NAME OF THE LORD, TOTAL PEACE IS FOUND. WHEN THE SUPREME LORD GOD BECOMES MERCIFUL, SAYS NANAK, THEN ONE IS RID OF WORLDLY ENTANGLEMENTS (PAGE 1298). HEARING THE LORD'S NAME AND CHANTING IT WITH MY TONGUE, I HAVE BEEN



LOOK!
A HOLY MAN IS
COMING TOWARDS OUR
HOUSE. I HAVE NEVER SEEN
HIM IN THIS AREA
BEFORE.

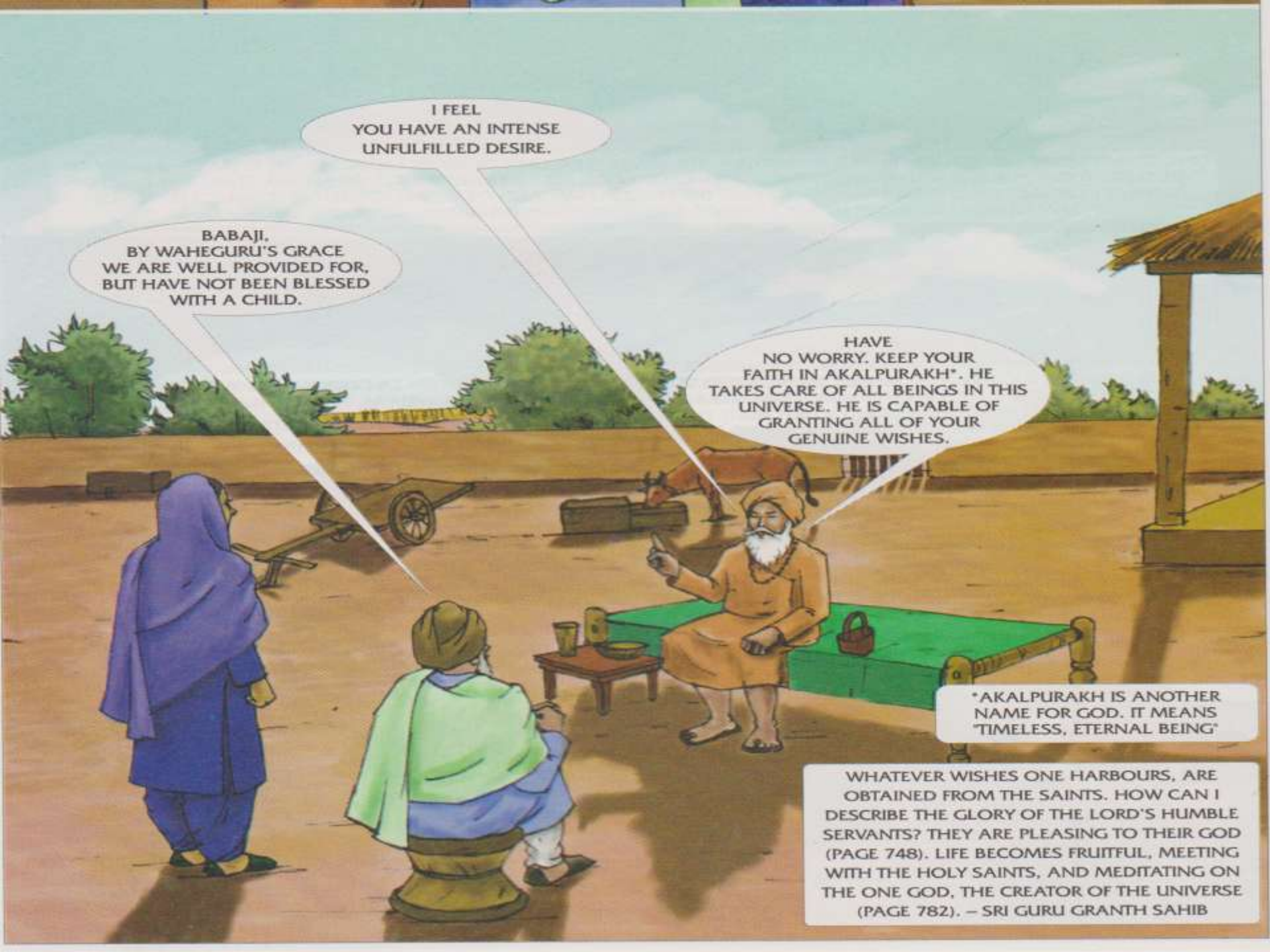
THIS IS
A GOOD OMEN. WE
HAVE NEVER HAD THE GOOD
FORTUNE OF HOSTING A HOLY
MAN.



I WAS
PASSING BY YOUR VILLAGE
AND SOME DIVINE INSPIRATION
PULLED ME TOWARDS YOUR
HOUSE.

WE ARE
FORTUNATE THAT
YOU HAVE VISITED US.
PERHAPS WAHEGURU WANTS TO
BLESS THIS PLACE WITH THE
TOUCH OF YOUR HOLY
FEET.

O GOD, PLEASE SHOWER YOUR
MERCY UPON ME. BLESS NANAK
WITH THE DUST OF THE FEET OF THE
SAINTS (PAGE 181). – SRI GURU
GRANTH SAHIB



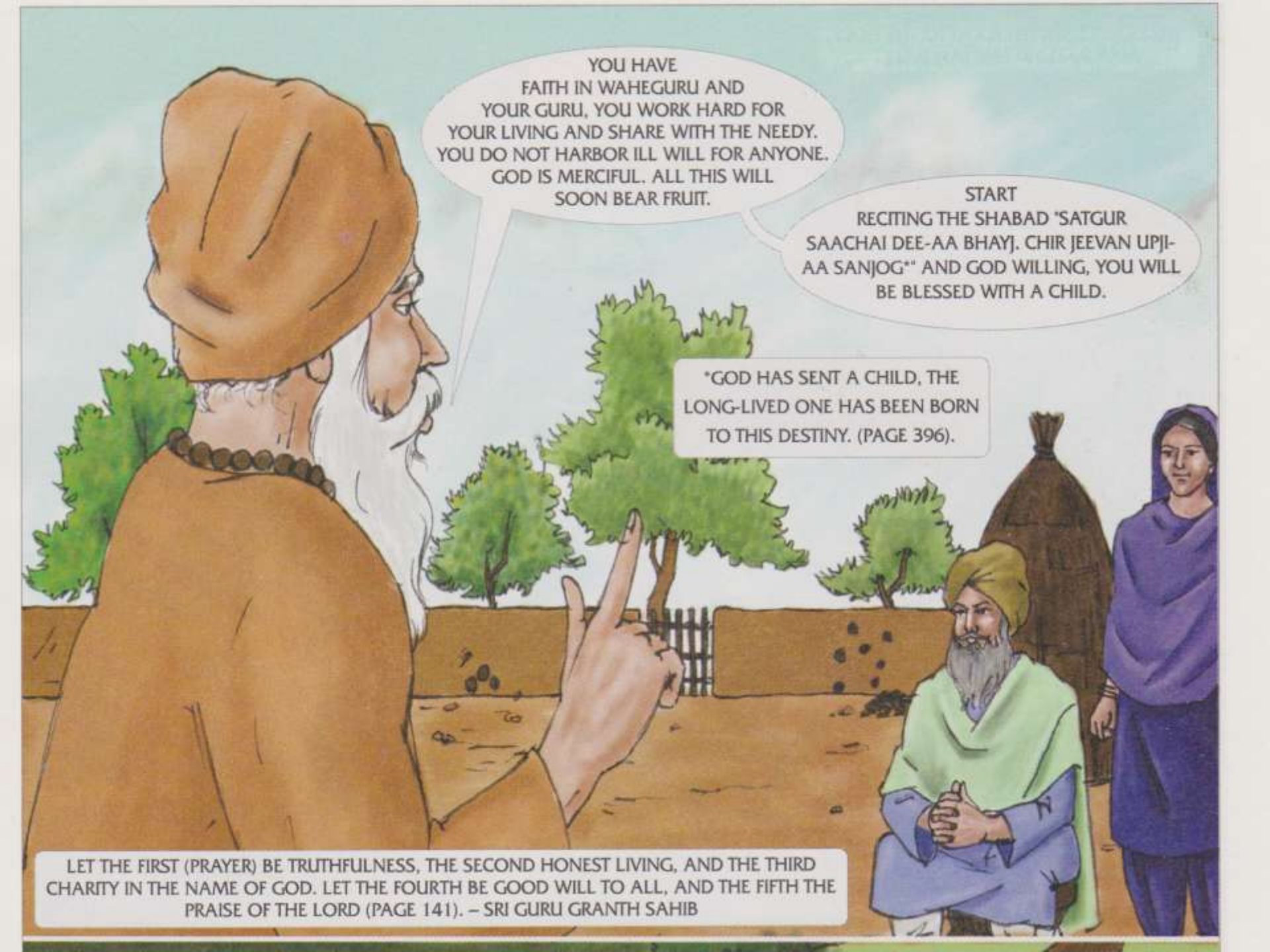
I FEEL
YOU HAVE AN INTENSE
UNFULFILLED DESIRE.

BABAJI,
BY WAHEGURU'S GRACE
WE ARE WELL PROVIDED FOR,
BUT HAVE NOT BEEN BLESSED
WITH A CHILD.

HAVE
NO WORRY. KEEP YOUR
FAITH IN AKALPURAKH*. HE
TAKES CARE OF ALL BEINGS IN THIS
UNIVERSE. HE IS CAPABLE OF
GRANTING ALL OF YOUR
GENUINE WISHES.

*AKALPURAKH IS ANOTHER
NAME FOR GOD. IT MEANS
"TIMELESS, ETERNAL BEING"

WHATEVER WISHES ONE HARBOURS, ARE
OBTAINED FROM THE SAINTS. HOW CAN I
DESCRIBE THE GLORY OF THE LORD'S HUMBLE
SERVANTS? THEY ARE PLEASING TO THEIR GOD
(PAGE 748). LIFE BECOMES FRUITFUL, MEETING
WITH THE HOLY SAINTS, AND MEDITATING ON
THE ONE GOD, THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE
(PAGE 782). – SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

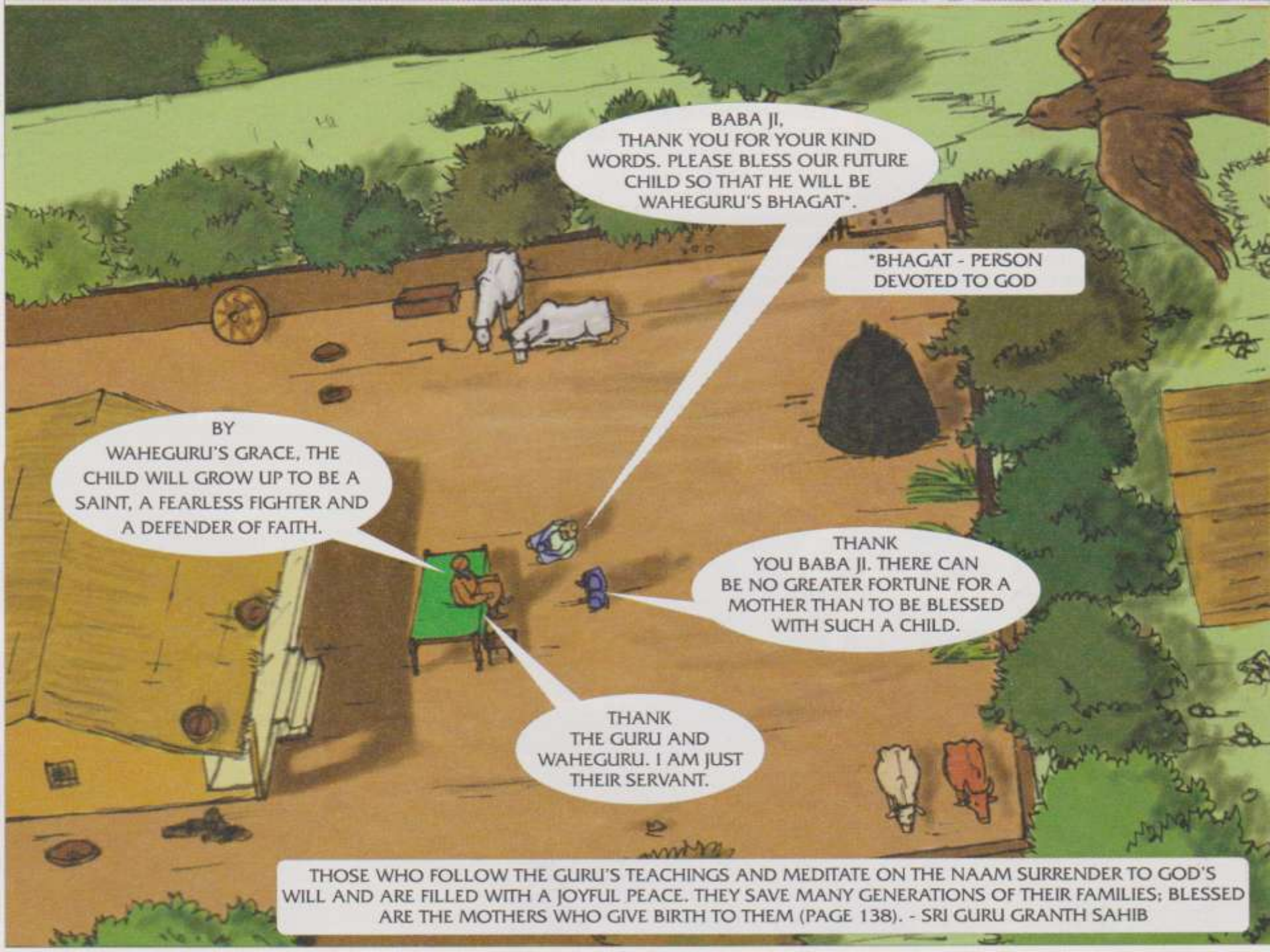


YOU HAVE
FAITH IN WAHEGURU AND
YOUR GURU, YOU WORK HARD FOR
YOUR LIVING AND SHARE WITH THE NEEDY.
YOU DO NOT HARBOR ILL WILL FOR ANYONE.
GOD IS MERCIFUL. ALL THIS WILL
SOON BEAR FRUIT.

START
RECITING THE SHABAD "SATGUR
SAACHAI DEE-AA BHAYJ. CHIR JEEVAN UPJI-
AA SANJOG*" AND GOD WILLING, YOU WILL
BE BLESSED WITH A CHILD.

*GOD HAS SENT A CHILD, THE
LONG-LIVED ONE HAS BEEN BORN
TO THIS DESTINY. (PAGE 396).

LET THE FIRST (PRAYER) BE TRUTHFULNESS, THE SECOND HONEST LIVING, AND THE THIRD
CHARITY IN THE NAME OF GOD. LET THE FOURTH BE GOOD WILL TO ALL, AND THE FIFTH THE
PRAISE OF THE LORD (PAGE 141). – SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB



BABA JI,
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND
WORDS. PLEASE BLESS OUR FUTURE
CHILD SO THAT HE WILL BE
WAHEGURU'S BHAGAT*.

*BHAGAT - PERSON
DEVOTED TO GOD

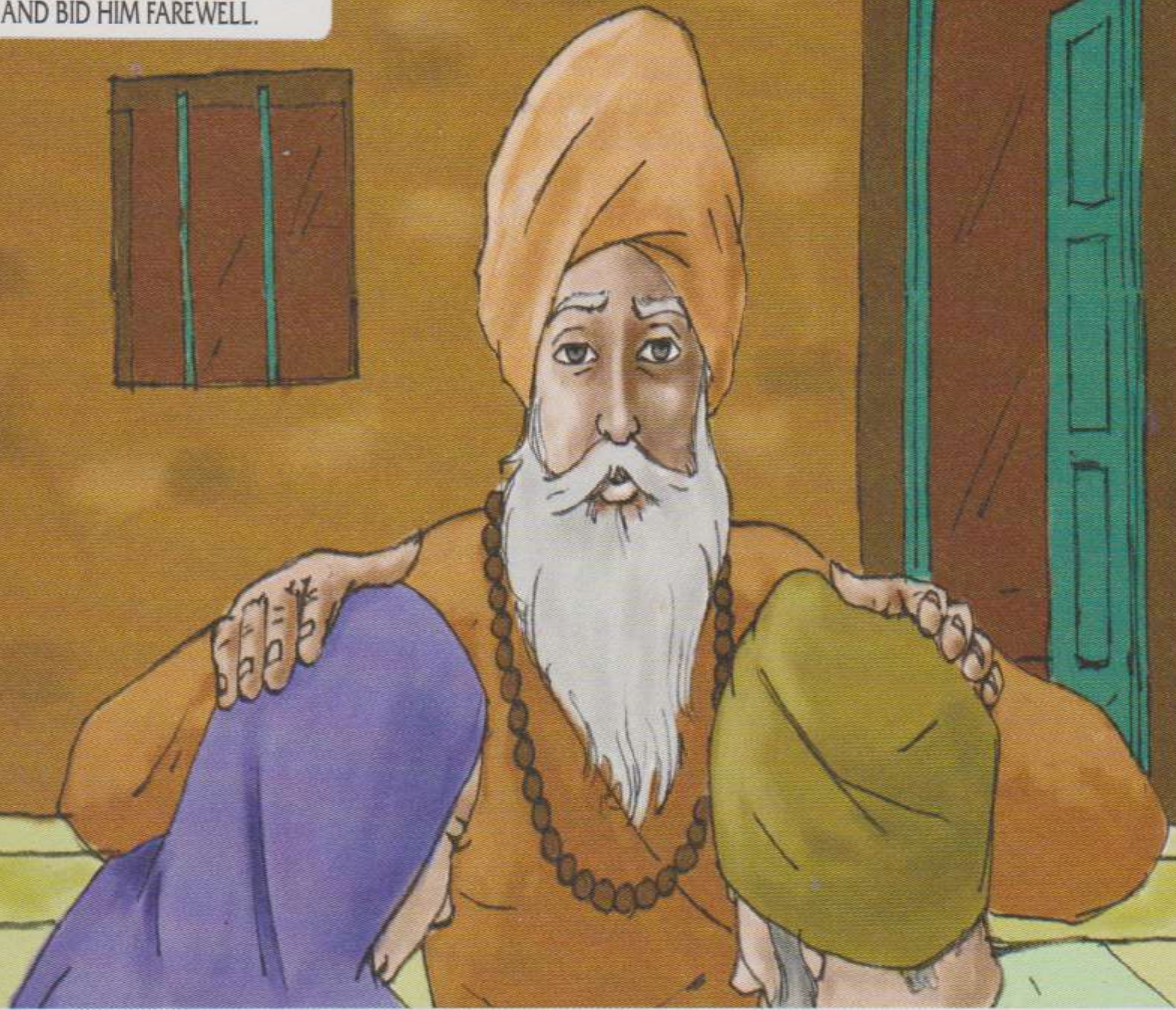
BY
WAHEGURU'S GRACE, THE
CHILD WILL GROW UP TO BE A
SAINT, A FEARLESS FIGHTER AND
A DEFENDER OF FAITH.

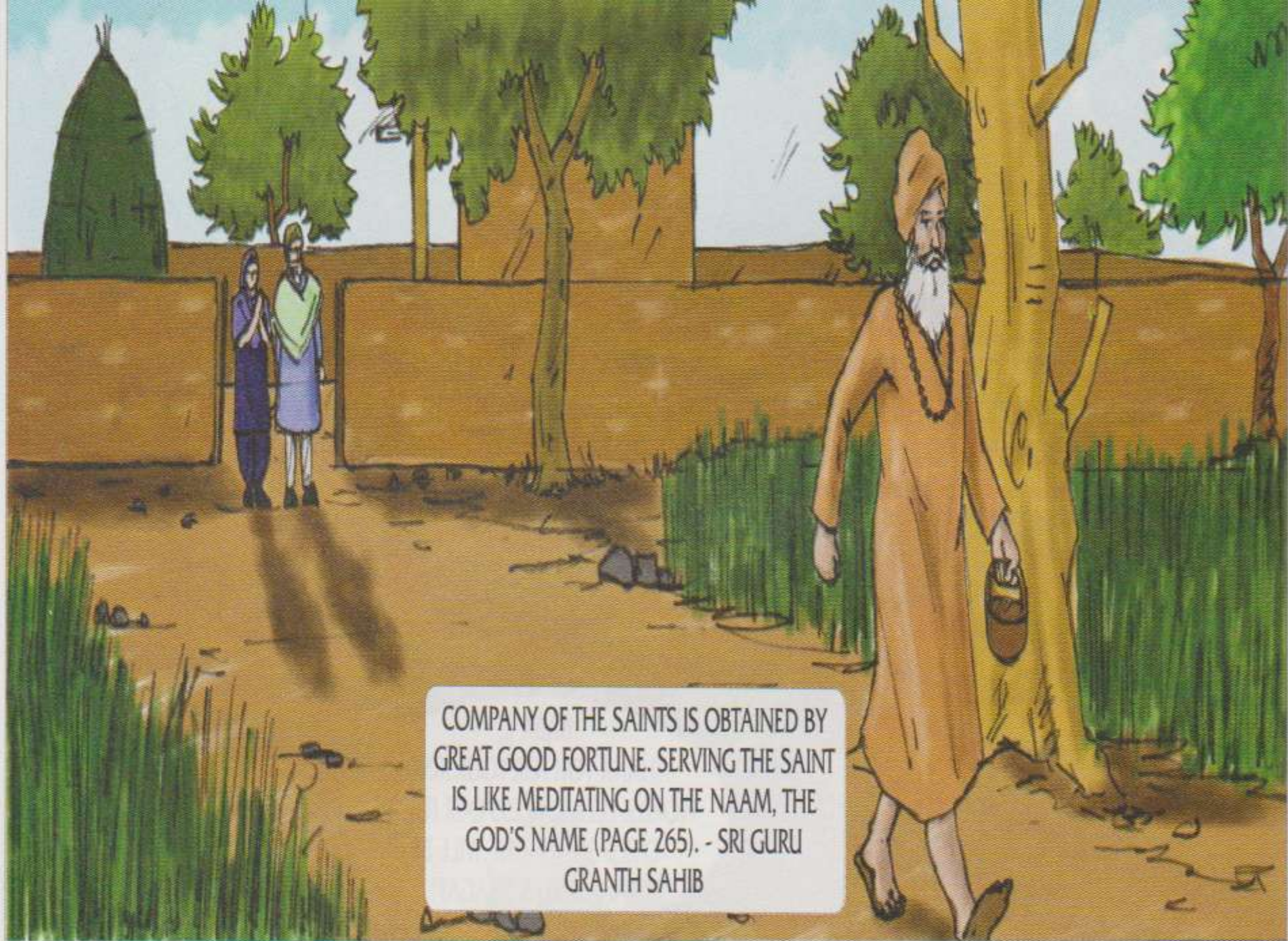
THANK
YOU BABA JI. THERE CAN
BE NO GREATER FORTUNE FOR A
MOTHER THAN TO BE BLESSED
WITH SUCH A CHILD.

THANK
THE GURU AND
WAHEGURU. I AM JUST
THEIR SERVANT.

THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE GURU'S TEACHINGS AND MEDITATE ON THE NAAM SURRENDER TO GOD'S WILL AND ARE FILLED WITH A JOYFUL PEACE. THEY SAVE MANY GENERATIONS OF THEIR FAMILIES; BLESSED ARE THE MOTHERS WHO GIVE BIRTH TO THEM (PAGE 138). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

THE COUPLE SERVED FOOD TO THE HOLY
MAN AND BID HIM FAREWELL.





COMPANY OF THE SAINTS IS OBTAINED BY GREAT GOOD FORTUNE. SERVING THE SAINT IS LIKE MEDITATING ON THE NAAM, THE GOD'S NAME (PAGE 265). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

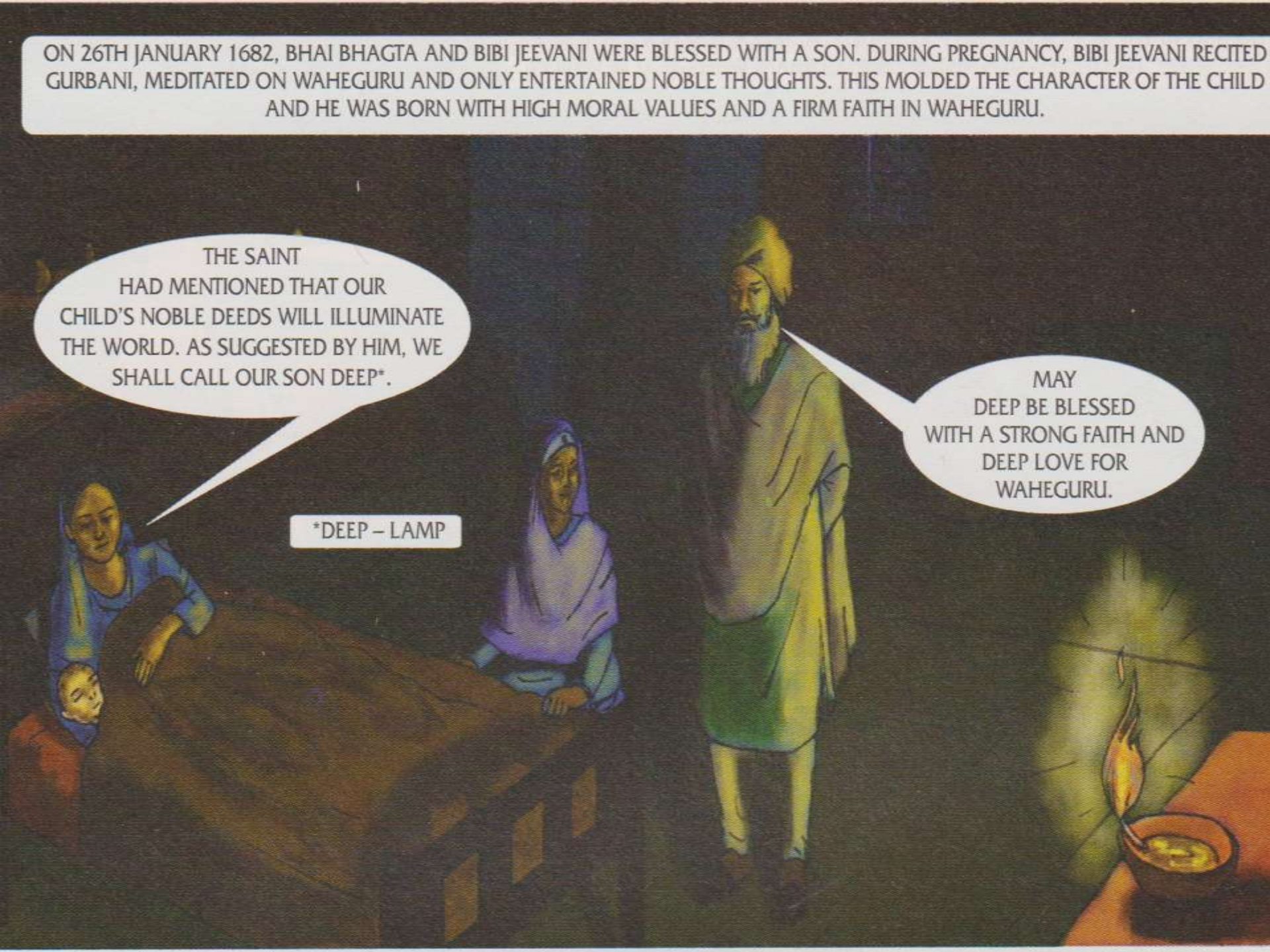
AFTER GOING A SHORT DISTANCE, THE HOLY MAN SUDDENLY BECAME INVISIBLE. THIS CONFIRMED THE COUPLE'S BELIEF THAT HE WAS A NOBLE SOUL SENT ESPECIALLY FOR THEM.

LOOK!
THE SAINT
DISAPPEARED.

HE
MUST HAVE BEEN
AN ANGEL SENT BY
WAHEGURU!



ON 26TH JANUARY 1682, BHAJ BHAGTA AND BIBI JEEVANI WERE BLESSED WITH A SON. DURING PREGNANCY, BIBI JEEVANI RECITED GURBANI, MEDITATED ON WAHEGURU AND ONLY ENTERTAINED NOBLE THOUGHTS. THIS MOLDED THE CHARACTER OF THE CHILD AND HE WAS BORN WITH HIGH MORAL VALUES AND A FIRM FAITH IN WAHEGURU.



THE SAINT
HAD MENTIONED THAT OUR
CHILD'S NOBLE DEEDS WILL ILLUMINATE
THE WORLD. AS SUGGESTED BY HIM, WE
SHALL CALL OUR SON DEEP*.

*DEEP – LAMP

MAY
DEEP BE BLESSED
WITH A STRONG FAITH AND
DEEP LOVE FOR
WAHEGURU.

DEEP WAS BROUGHT UP BY LOVING PARENTS
WHO ALWAYS SHOWED AFFECTION.



ABOUT TWO AND A HALF YEARS LATER,
JEEVANI GAVE BIRTH TO ANOTHER SON.



STARTING AT THE AGE OF FIVE, DEEP ATTENDED THE VILLAGE SCHOOL FOR NINE YEARS. THERE, HE STUDIED SIKH HISTORY AND GURBANI WITH GREAT DEVOTION.

IT WAS MY GOOD FORTUNE THAT YOU ACCEPTED ME AS YOUR STUDENT.

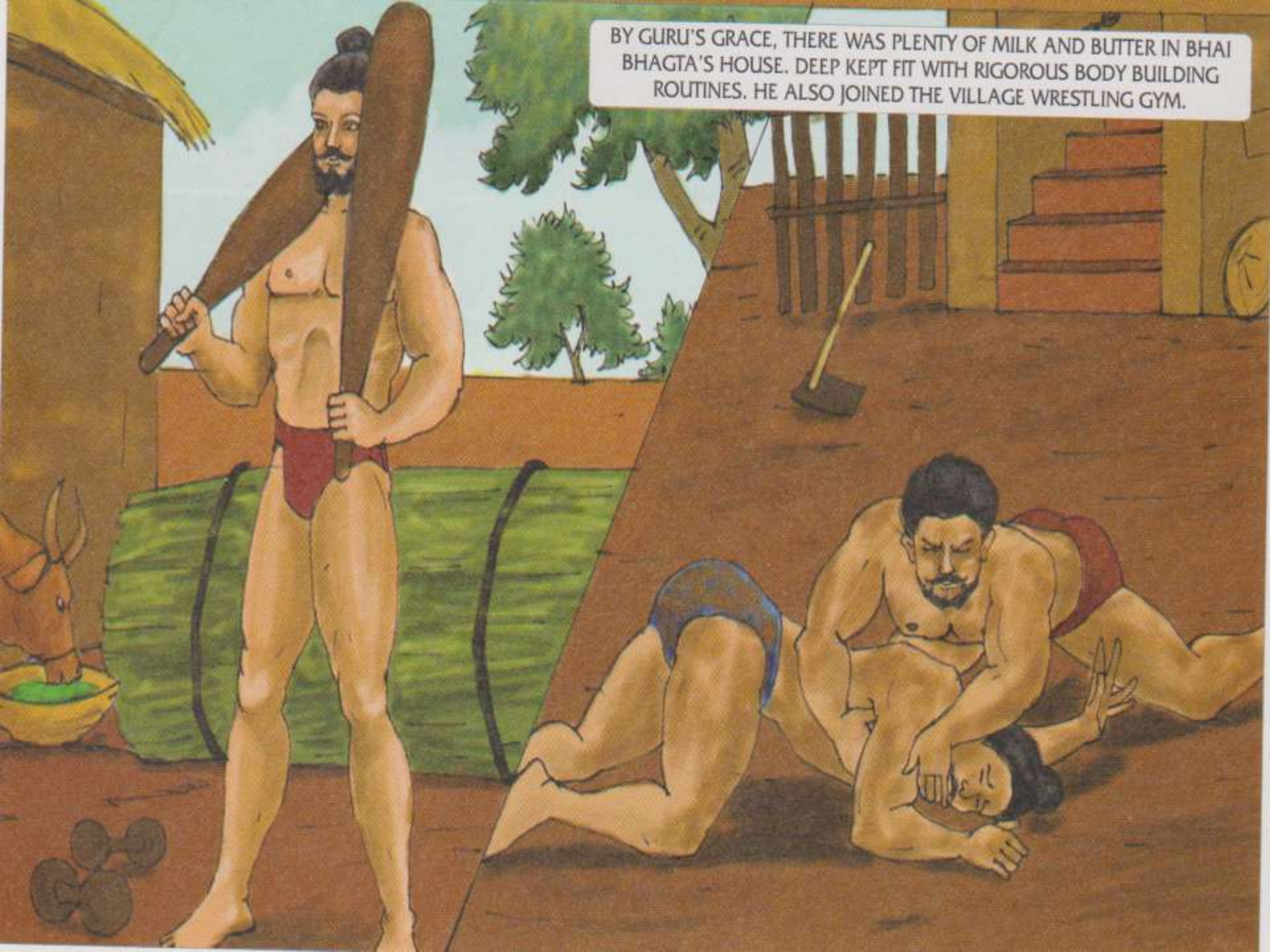
DEEP, I URGE YOU TO GO TO ANANDPUR SAHIB TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION. GREAT SCHOLARS AT ANANDPUR CAN HELP YOU FURTHER YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES AND THEOLOGY.

AT ANANDPUR SAHIB, YOU CAN ALSO LEARN THE USE OF WEAPONS AND THE ART OF WAR FROM ALL THE GREAT WARRIORS SERVING GURU GOBIND SINGH.

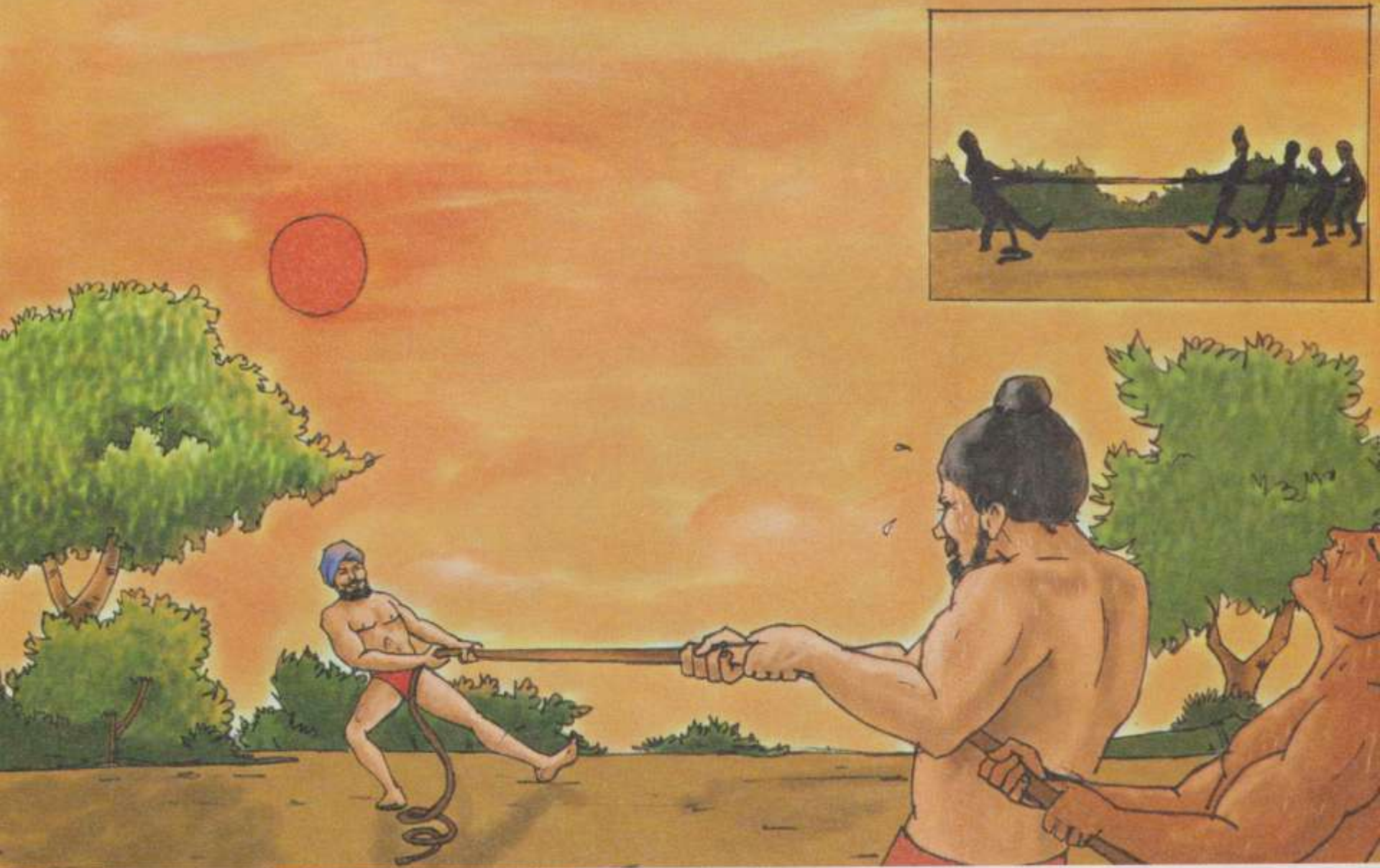
TEACHER, IT'S ALSO MY WISH TO GO TO ANANDPUR SAHIB AND SERVE GURU GOBIND SINGH—BUT MY FATHER IS OLD NOW. I MUST HELP HIM IN THE FIELDS. I WILL STAY HERE A FEW MORE YEARS UNTIL MY BROTHER GROWS UP AND CAN WORK IN THE FIELDS.



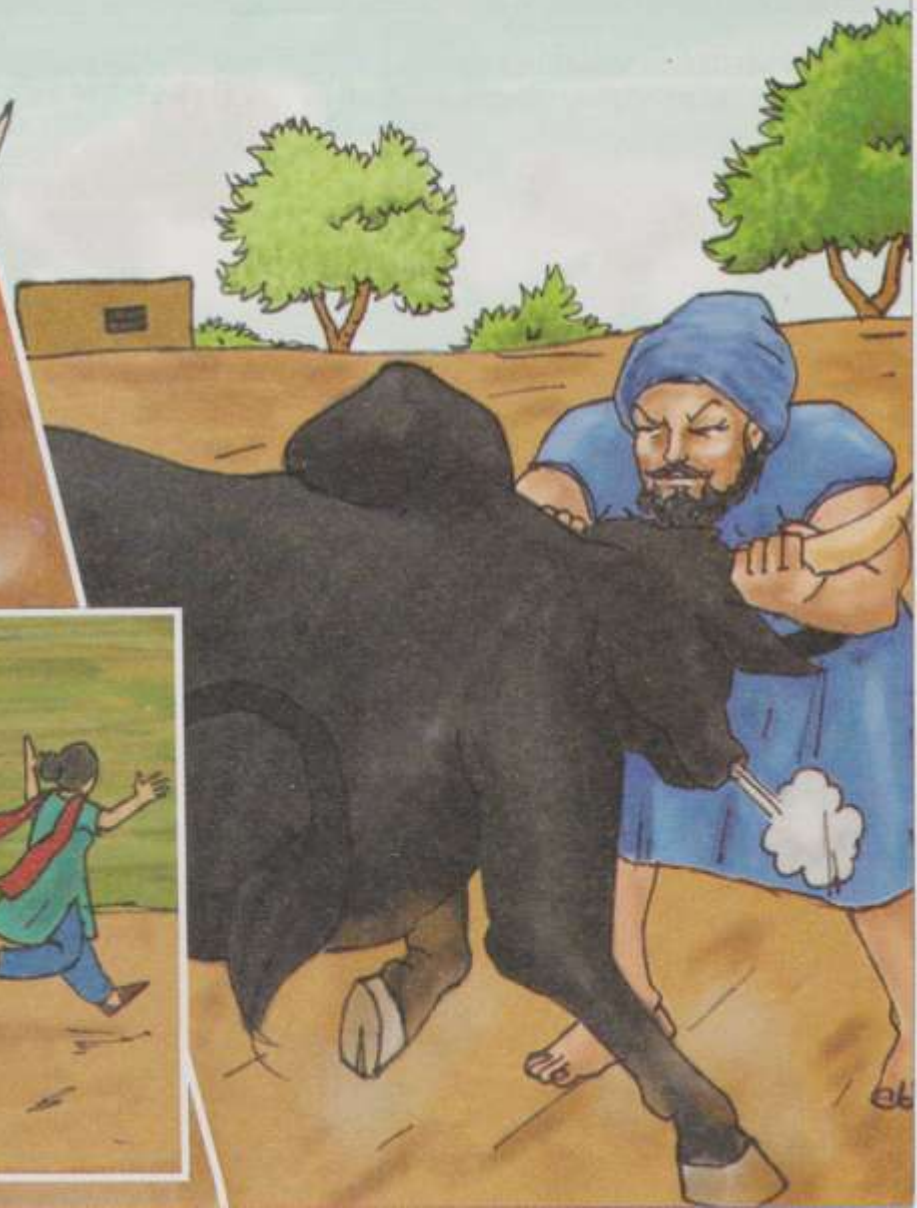
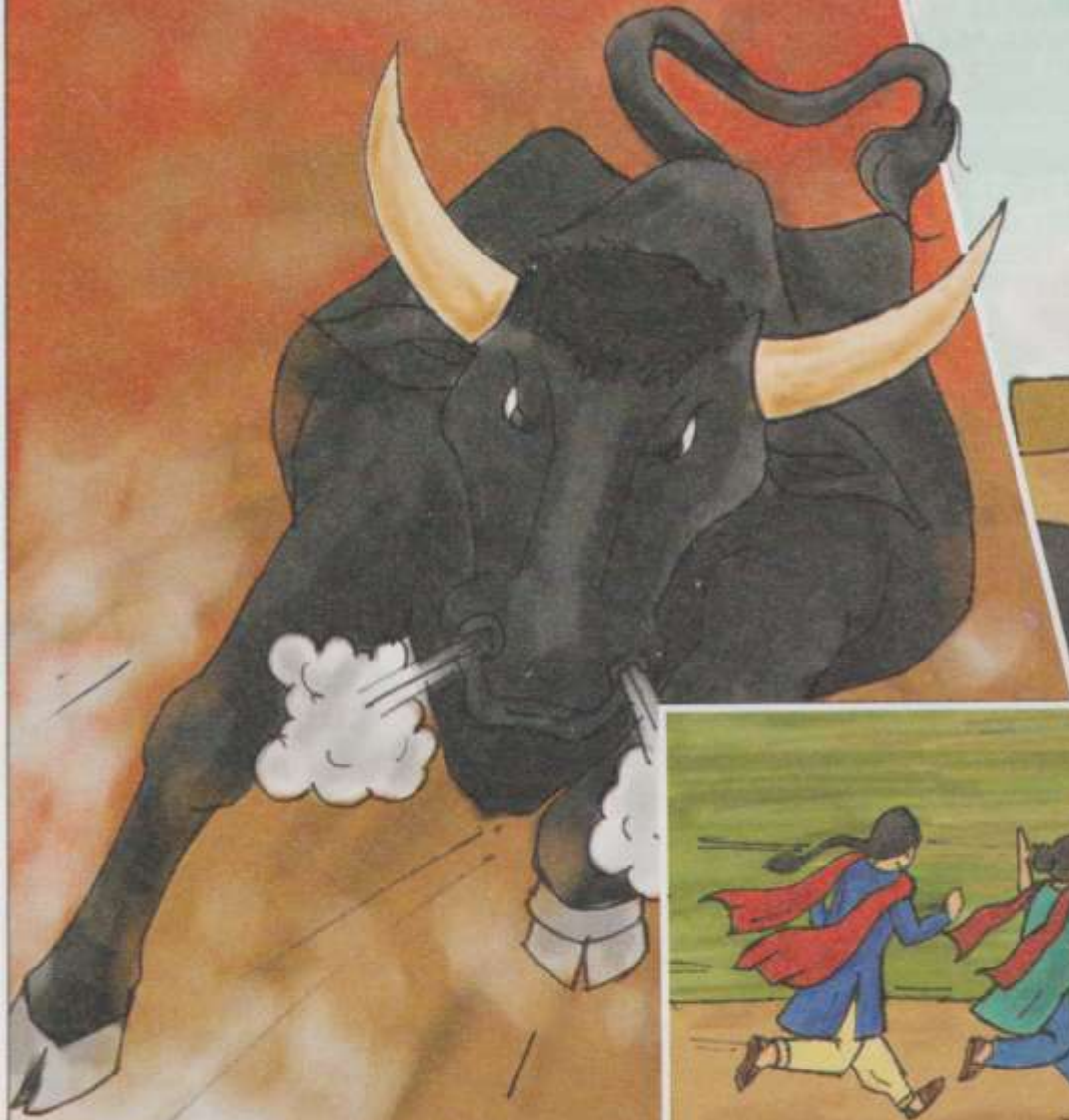
BY GURU'S GRACE, THERE WAS PLENTY OF MILK AND BUTTER IN BHAI BHAGTA'S HOUSE. DEEP KEPT FIT WITH RIGOROUS BODY BUILDING ROUTINES. HE ALSO JOINED THE VILLAGE WRESTLING GYM.



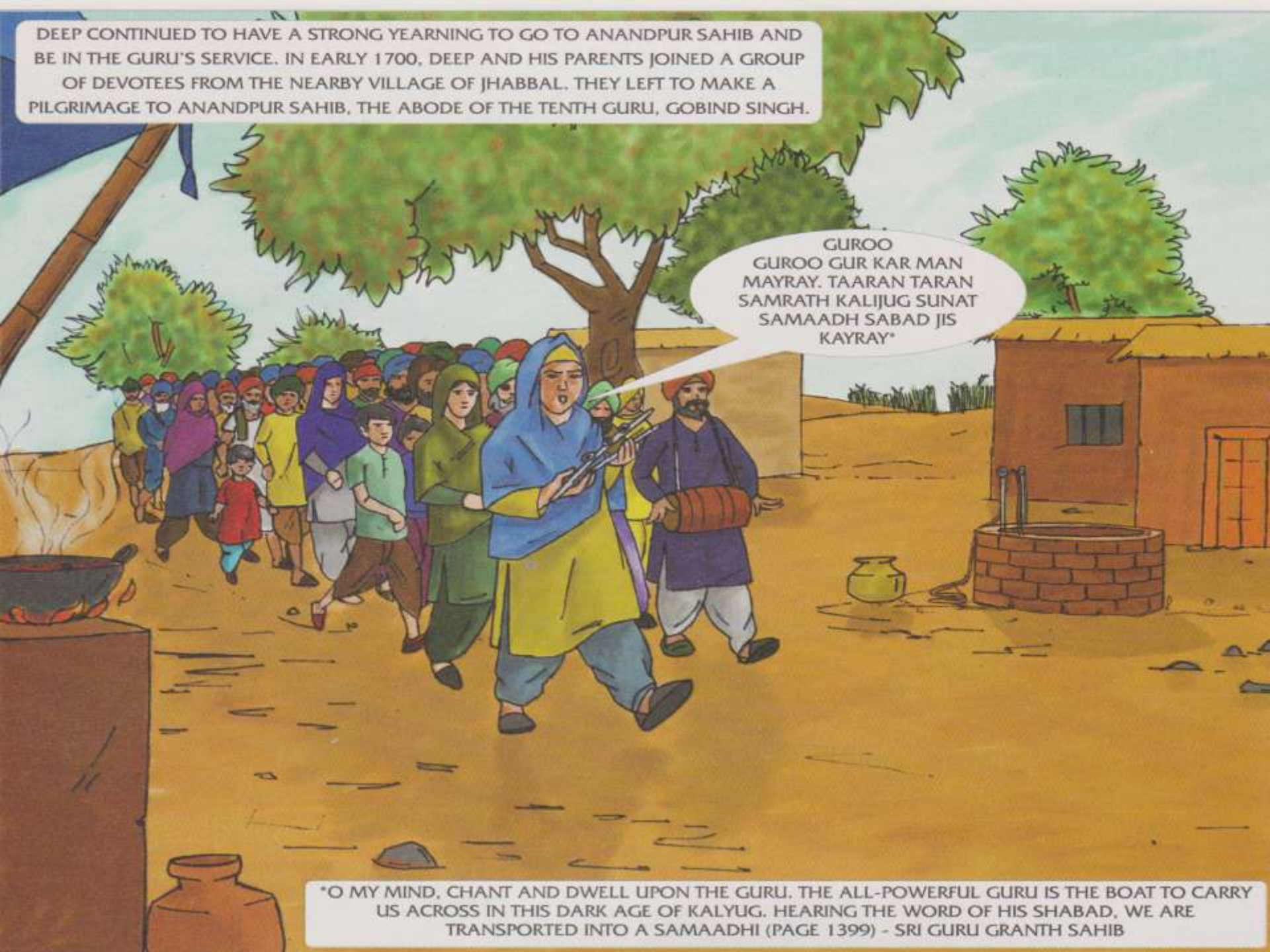
DEEP WAS MUCH STRONGER THAN THE BOYS OF HIS AGE. IT ALWAYS TOOK SEVERAL OF HIS FRIENDS TO MATCH HIS STRENGTH.



HE WAS ALSO BOLD AND FEARLESS. ONCE HE SAVED A BUNCH OF WOMEN FROM THE WRATH OF A BULL WHO WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK THEM.



DEEP CONTINUED TO HAVE A STRONG YEARNING TO GO TO ANANDPUR SAHIB AND BE IN THE GURU'S SERVICE. IN EARLY 1700, DEEP AND HIS PARENTS JOINED A GROUP OF DEVOTEES FROM THE NEARBY VILLAGE OF JHABBAL. THEY LEFT TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO ANANDPUR SAHIB, THE ABODE OF THE TENTH GURU, GOBIND SINGH.



GUROO
GUROO GUR KAR MAN
MAYRAY. TAARAN TARAN
SAMRATH KALIJUG SUNAT
SAMAADH SABAD JIS
KAYRAY*

*O MY MIND, CHANT AND DWELL UPON THE GURU. THE ALL-POWERFUL GURU IS THE BOAT TO CARRY US ACROSS IN THIS DARK AGE OF KALYUG. HEARING THE WORD OF HIS SHABAD, WE ARE TRANSPORTED INTO A SAMAADHI (PAGE 1399) - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

THEY VISITED SEVERAL HISTORICAL PLACES ON THE WAY AND REACHED ANANDPUR SAHIB IN APRIL 1700.

MAYRAA
MAN LOCHAI GUR DARSHAN
TAAEE. BILAP KARAY CHAATRIK KEE NI-AA-
EE. TRIKHAA NA UTRAI SAANT NA AAVAI BIN
DARSHAN SANT PIAARAY JEEO. HAO GHOLEE
JEEO GHOL GHUMAAEE GUR DARSAN SANT
PIAARAY JEEO**

JANAM
MARAN KEE MAL
KATEEAI GUR DARSHAN
DAYKH NIHAAL***

**MY MIND LONGS FOR THE BLESSED VISION OF THE GURU'S DARSHAN. IT CRIES OUT LIKE THE CHAATRIK, THE THIRSTY SONG-BIRD. MY THIRST IS NOT QUENCHED, AND I CAN FIND NO PEACE, WITHOUT THE BLESSED VISION OF THE BELOVED SAINT (GURU). I AM A SACRIFICE, MY SOUL IS A SACRIFICE, TO THE BLESSED VISION OF THE BELOVED SAINT GURU (PAGE 96) – SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

***THE FILTH OF BIRTH AND DEATH IS WASHED AWAY, AND ONE IS UPLIFTED, BEHOLDING THE BLESSED VISION OF THE GURU'S DARSHAN (PAGE 45) – SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

BHAI BHAGTA, BIBI JEEVANI AND DEEP WERE USHERED INTO THE PRESENCE OF GURU GOBIND SINGH JI



OH SATGURU SACHA PATSHAH*, THANK YOU FOR BLESSING US WITH YOUR DARSHAN**, PLEASE GRANT US THE BOON OF AMRIT SO THAT WE MAY BECOME KHALSA.

JAO TAO PARAYM KHAYLAN KAA CHAAO, SIR DHAR TALEE GALEE MAYREE AAO***

IT IS YOUR GOOD FORTUNE THAT YOU HAVE THE YEARNING TO BE BAPTIZED. YOU MAY PARTAKE OF AMRIT TOMORROW MORNING.

*SACHA PATSHAH LITERALLY MEANS 'THE TRUE EMPEROR' - ONE WHO IS ABOVE ALL WORLDLY KINGS. KINGS ON THIS EARTH ARE TEMPORARY. THEY EITHER DEPART IN DEATH OR MAY LOSE THEIR KINGDOM WHEREAS 'SACHA PATSHAH' IS THE ETERNAL KING, LORD OF THE UNIVERSE.

**DARSHAN - TO BEHOLD VISION OF A DIVINE BEING

***IF YOU DESIRE TO PLAY THIS GAME OF LOVE WITH ME, THEN STEP ONTO MY PATH WITH YOUR HEAD IN HAND. (PAGE 1412). BY GREAT GOOD FORTUNE, I HAVE OBTAINED THE BLESSED VISION OF THE GURU. (PAGE 572). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB



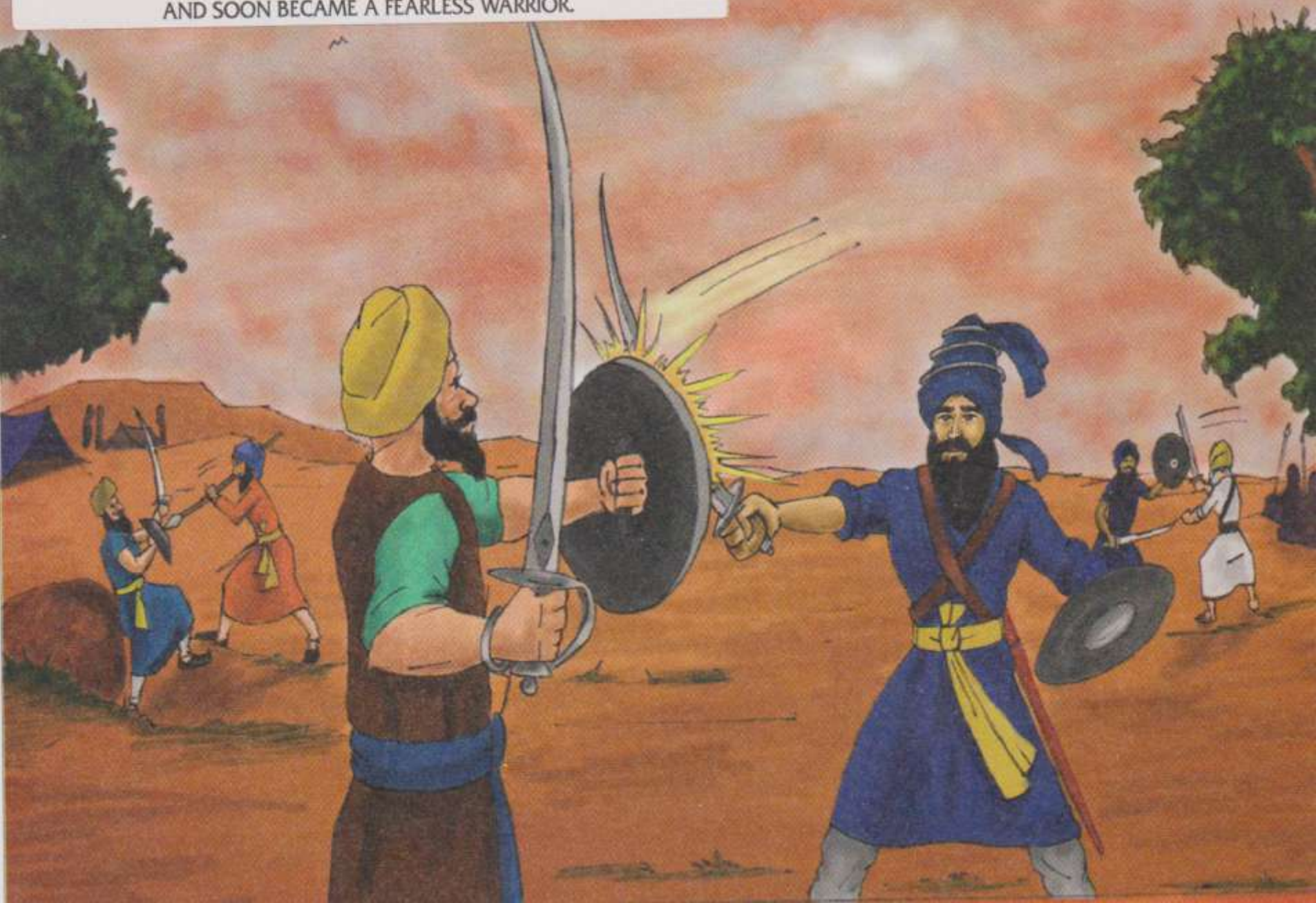
GURU GOBIND SINGH

GURU GOBIND SINGH SENSED DEEP SINGH'S DESIRE TO STAY IN HIS SERVICE AND ASKED DEEP SINGH'S PARENTS TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND.



THERE WERE MANY RENOWNED SCHOLARS OF GURBANI, SANSKRIT, PERSIAN AND ARABIC IN THE GURU'S COURT. DEEP SINGH FURTHERED HIS EDUCATION AND SERVED GURU GOBIND SINGH AT ANANDPUR SAHIB.

ANANDPUR SAHIB ALSO HAD SEVERAL TEACHERS ADEPT AT WAR STRATEGY AND USING ARMS. DEEP SINGH AVAILED THE OPPORTUNITY AND SOON BECAME A FEARLESS WARRIOR.



THE FEARLESS AND DETERMINED RESOLVE OF GURU GOBIND SINGH TO RESIST TYRANNY AND RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ALARMED THE MUGHAL EMPIRE. MUGHALS FORCED SEVERAL BATTLES ON THE GURU—ALL AGAINST HEAVY ODDS. DEEP SINGH FOUGHT IN MANY OF THESE BATTLES. HILL RAJAS OF THE AREA ALSO CAMPAIGNED AGAINST THE GURU. THEY WERE APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE GURU'S RISING POPULARITY AMONGST THE MASSES AND HIS EFFORTS TO AWAKEN THE DOWNTRODDEN AND LOW CASTE HINDU SUBJECTS TO THEIR RIGHTS.



THE FIRST BATTLE OF ANANDPUR SAHIB WAS FOUGHT IN THE YEAR 1701 WHEN MUGHAL GENERALS PAINDA KHAN AND DINA BEG, ALONG WITH RAJA AJMER CHAND OF KALHOOR, ATTACKED THE GURU WITH AN ARMY OF OVER 10,000 MEN. PAINDA KHAN WAS KILLED AND DINA BEG WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. THE ENEMY SUFFERED DEFEAT WITH HEAVY LOSSES. THIS WAS THE FIRST BATTLE IN WHICH DEEP SINGH PARTICIPATED ALONGSIDE GURU GOBIND SINGH.



IN THE YEAR 1701, HILL RAJAS AGAIN ATTACKED THE ANANDPUR FORT WITH THE HELP OF THE RANGARS AND GUJJARS. THEY BROUGHT IN A DRUNK ELEPHANT TO BREACH THE FORT. BACHHITAR SINGH, A BRAVE SIKH, ATTACKED THE ELEPHANT WITH A SPEAR AND PIERCED ITS SKULL. THE BEAST TURNED BACK ON ITS MASTERS, TRAMPLED THE ENEMY, AND CREATED PANIC. HEAVY FIGHTING FOLLOWED. THE ATTACKERS WERE ROUTED AND FORCED TO RETREAT.



THESE TWO BATTLES MADE BHAJ DEEP SINGH AWARE OF THE TOUGH TIMES AND GRIM STRUGGLE THAT LAY AHEAD FOR THE SIKHS.



IN LATTER HALF OF 1704, MUGHAL EMPEROR AURANGZEB SENT A HUGE ARMY UNDER THE COMMAND OF SAIDA KHAN AND RAMZAN KHAN. GURU GOBIND SINGH'S MEN WERE OUTNUMBERED 25 TO 1. THE BATTLE RAGED FOR DAYS. THEN ONE NIGHT, THE SIKHS LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK, FORCING THE ENEMY TO FLEE THE BATTLEFIELD.

SUCH SUCCESSIVE DEFEATS INFURIATED AURANGZEB. IN MAY 1705, HE SENT A LARGE FORCE WITH WAZIR KHAN, THE GOVERNOR OF SIRHIND, AND ZABARDAST KHAN, THE GOVERNOR OF LAHORE, TO ATTACK THE GURU. SOME OF THE HILL RAJAS ALSO JOINED THE MUGHALS. INITIAL ATTEMPTS TO STORM THE ANANDPUR FORT RESULTED IN HEAVY LOSSES FOR THE ENEMY SO THEY DECIDED TO LAY A SIEGE.



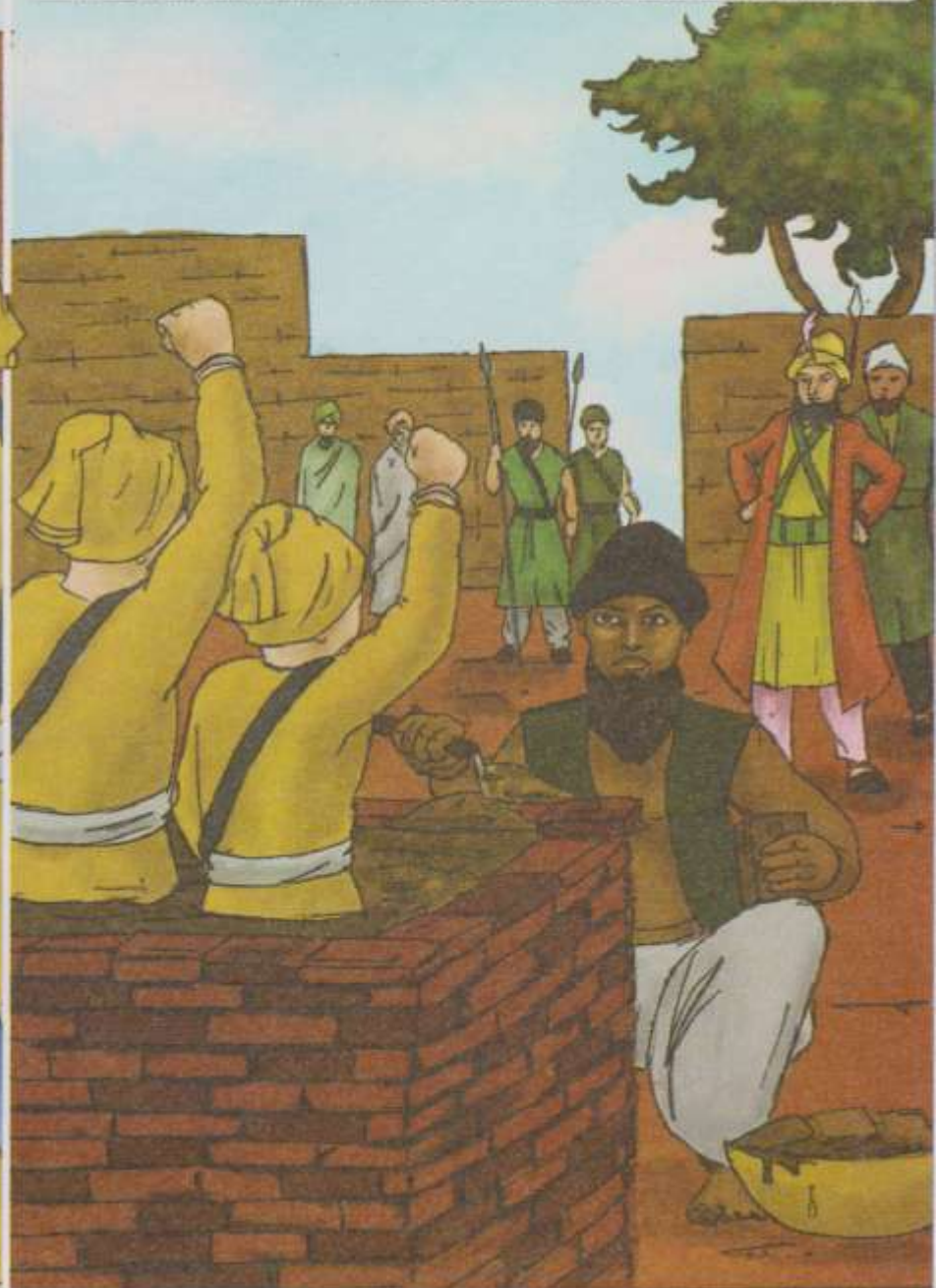
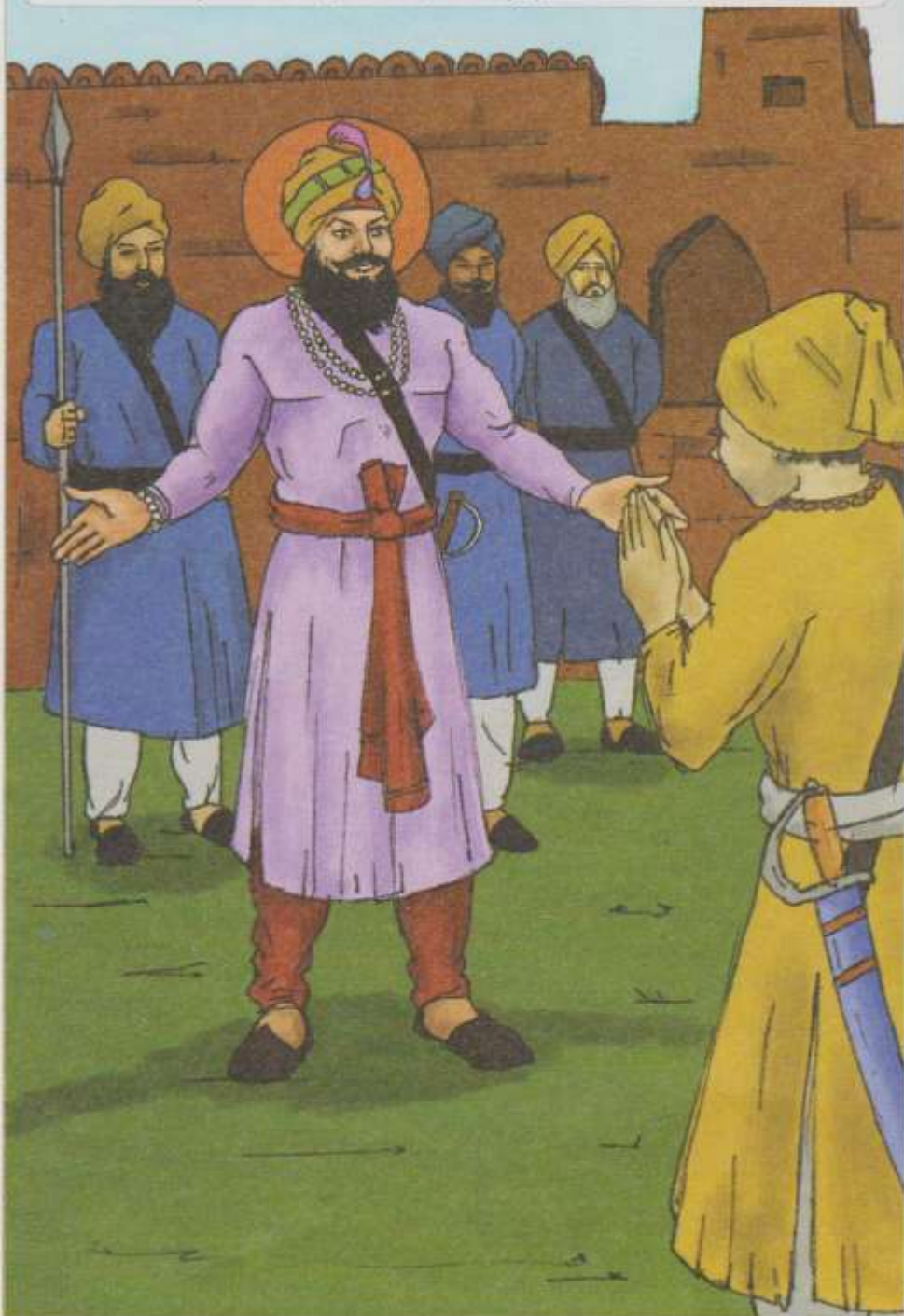
AFTER NEARLY SIX MONTHS OF SIEGE, THE IMPERIAL ARMY LOST PATIENCE AND STARTED MAKING PEACE OVERTURES. GURU GOBIND SINGH AND HIS SIKHS WERE OFFERED SAFE PASSAGE IF THEY VACATED THE FORT. THE IMPERIAL GOVERNORS AND HILL CHIEFS MADE THIS COMMITMENT WITH AN OATH ON THEIR HOLY BOOKS. GURU GOBIND SINGH WAS AGAINST ACCEPTING THE OFFER BUT RELUCTANTLY AGREED WHEN HIS SIKHS INSISTED.

THE MUGHALS BROKE THEIR OATH ON THE HOLY KORAN. THEY DID NOT KEEP THEIR PROMISE TO CEASE HOSTILITIES AND PROVIDE SAFE PASSAGE TO GURU GOBIND SINGH. THE GURU'S ENTOURAGE WAS ATTACKED FROM THE REAR AFTER IT HAD TRAVELLED ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE ANANDPUR FORT.



SONS AJIT SINGH (AGE 18) AND JUJHAR SINGH (AGE 14).

ARRESTED BY THE NAWAB OF SIRHIND. WHEN THE BOYS REFUSED TO EMBRACE ISLAM, THEY WERE EXECUCED BY BEING BRICKED ALIVE IN A WALL. MATA GUJRI DIED SHORTLY THEREAFTER.



AFTER THE ANANDPUR FORT WAS VACATED, BHAJ MANI SINGH AND BHAJ DEEP SINGH ESCORTED MATA SUNDAR KAUR, WIFE OF GURU GOBIND SINGH, AND MATA SAHIB KAUR, MOTHER OF THE KHALSA, TO THE HOUSE OF SARDAR JAWAHAR SINGH IN DELHI. AFTER A FEW DAYS IN DELHI, BHAJ DEEP SINGH RETURNED TO VILLAGE PAHUWIND.

DEEP, YOU ARE TWENTY SIX NOW. I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER TO SEE YOU MARRIED.

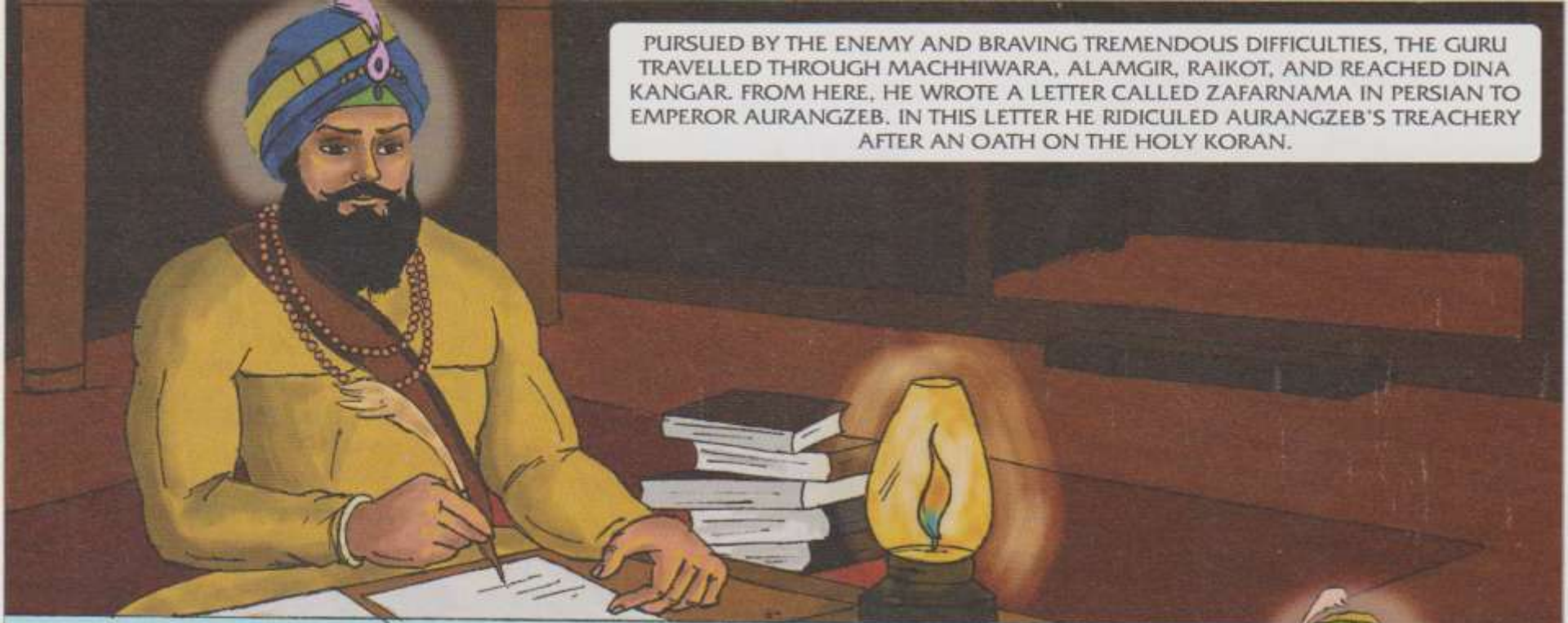
DEAREST MOTHER, GURU GOBIND SINGH HAS SACRIFICED EVERYTHING FOR THE SIKH FAITH AND THE MOTHERLAND. HE HAS FORSAKEN HIS PEACE AND COMFORT TO DEFEND THE FAITH AND FIGHT AGAINST STATE TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION. I HAVE DECIDED TO DEDICATE MY LIFE TO SERVE MY GURU AND FAITH—I'VE TAKEN A VOW OF CELIBACY.

OH MY DEAR SON, I WISH YOU HAD NOT DONE SO... BUT I RESPECT YOUR DECISION.

MOTHER I AM SORRY TO HAVE DEFIED YOUR WISHES. I MUST RE-JOIN MY GURU ONCE I LEARN ABOUT HIS NEXT DESTINATION.



THOSE WHO ARE INSPIRED TO SERVE THE GURU ARE UNITED WITH THE LORD AND BLESSED WITH HIS NAME. SUCH IS THEIR DESTINY AND IT IS WRITTEN ON THEIR FOREHEAD (PAGE 1172). THOSE SIKHS OF THE GURU, WHO SERVE THE GURU, ARE THE MOST BLESSED BEINGS. (PAGE 726). THE SUPREME LORD CONFERS HONOR AND RESPECT ON THOSE WHO SERVE THE GURU WITH TRUE LOVE (PAGE 760). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

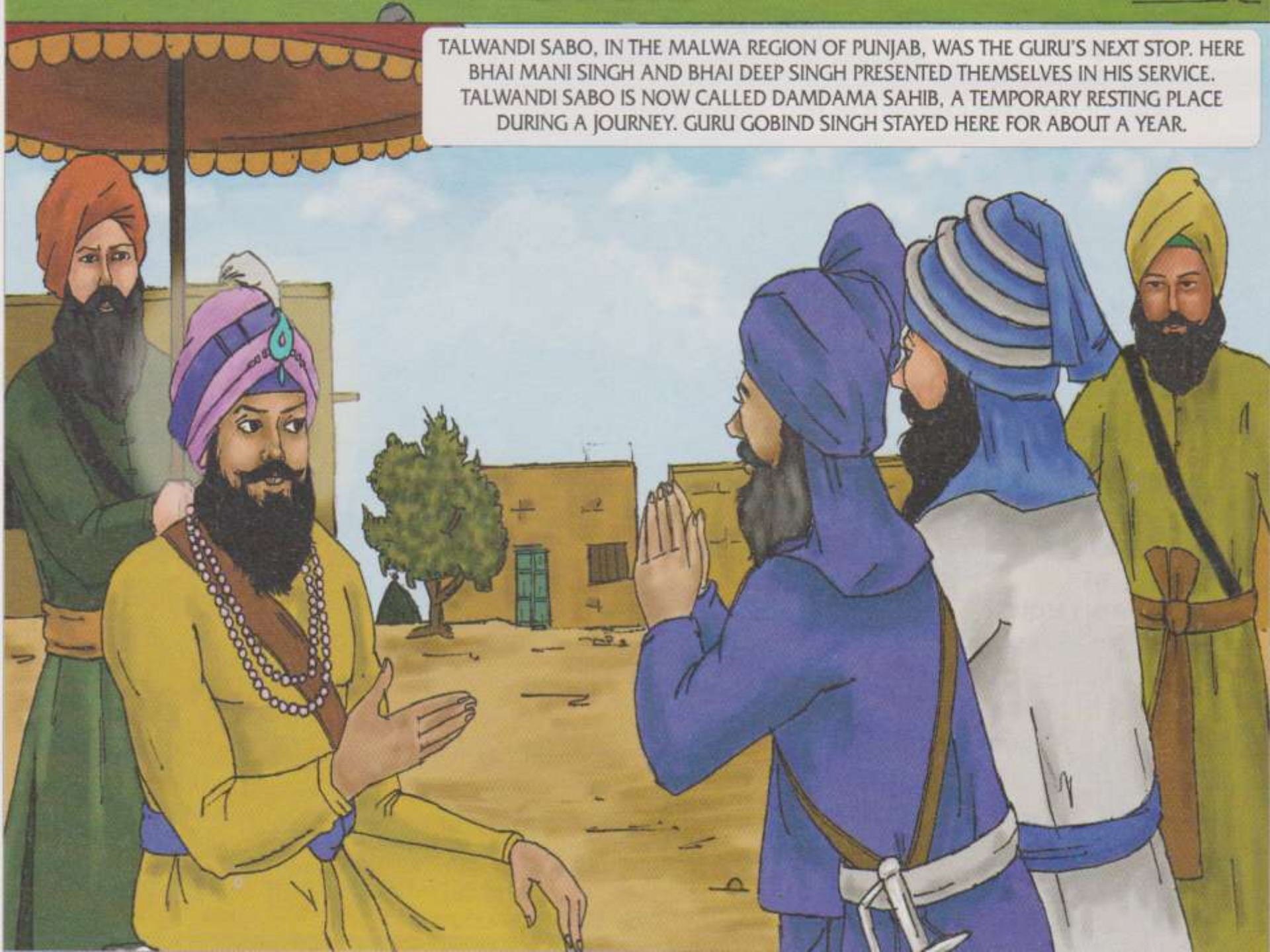
A detailed illustration of Guru Gobind Singh, a Sikh leader, seated at a desk. He is wearing a blue turban with a yellow and green band and a yellow robe. He has a long black beard and is holding a quill pen over an open book. To his right is a stack of books and a lit oil lamp. The background is a dark, simple interior.

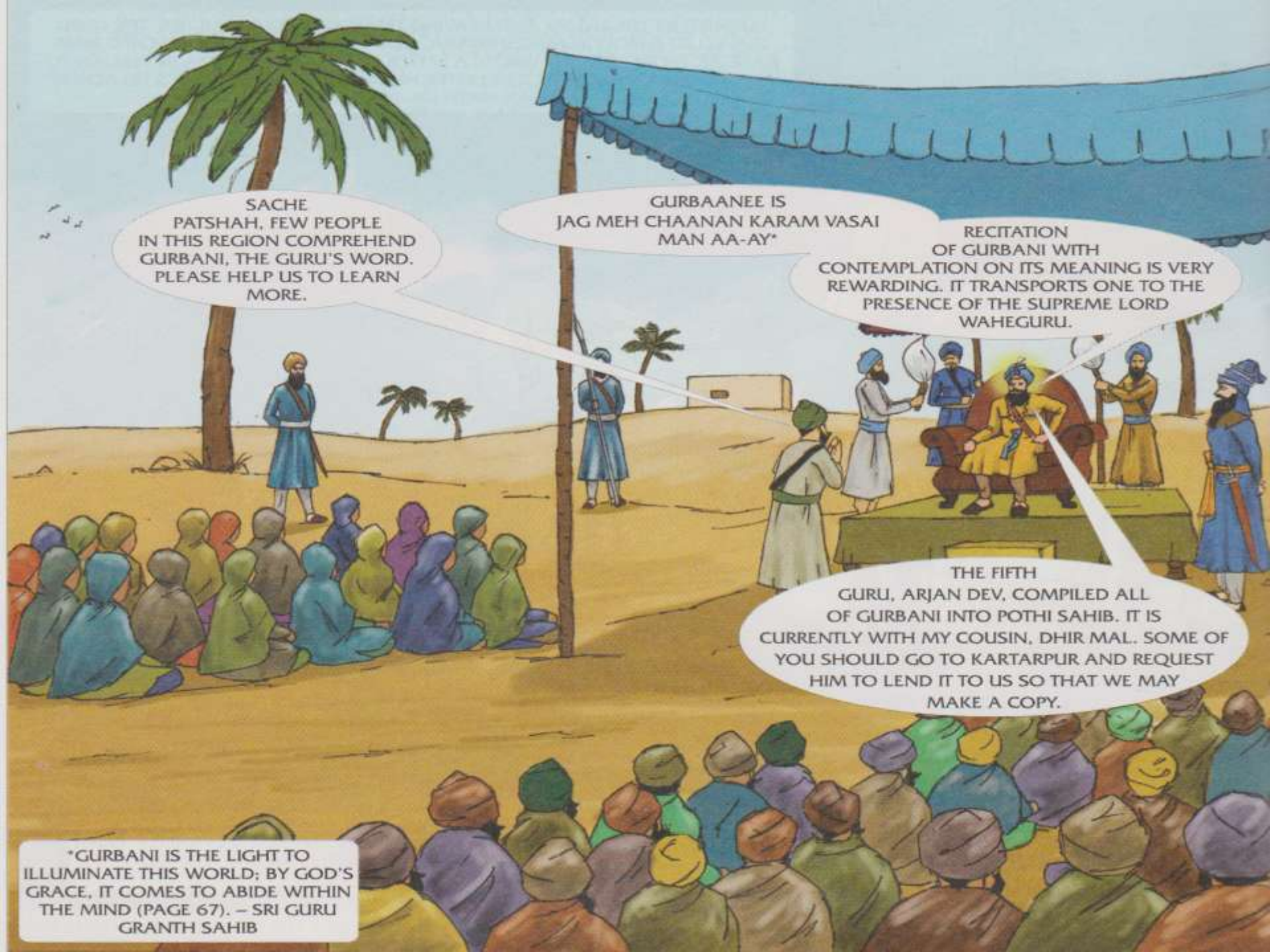
PURSUED BY THE ENEMY AND BRAVING TREMENDOUS DIFFICULTIES, THE GURU TRAVELLED THROUGH MACHHIWARA, ALAMGIR, RAIKOT, AND REACHED DINA KANGAR. FROM HERE, HE WROTE A LETTER CALLED ZAFARNAMA IN PERSIAN TO EMPEROR AURANGZEB. IN THIS LETTER HE RIDICULED AURANGZEB'S TREACHERY AFTER AN OATH ON THE HOLY KORAN.



A FEW DAYS LATER GURU GOBIND SINGH FOUGHT HIS LAST BATTLE AGAINST THE MUGHALS. FORTY SIKHS WHO HAD DESERTED THE GURU DURING THE SIEGE OF ANANDPUR FORT RETURNED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR GURU AND DIED IN BATTLE. GURU GOBIND SINGH FORGAVE THEM AND GRANTED THEM SALVATION. THE SITE OF THIS BATTLE IS NOW THE TOWN OF

TALWANDI SABO, IN THE MALWA REGION OF PUNJAB, WAS THE GURU'S NEXT STOP. HERE BHAJ MANI SINGH AND BHAJ DEEP SINGH PRESENTED THEMSELVES IN HIS SERVICE. TALWANDI SABO IS NOW CALLED DAMDAMA SAHIB, A TEMPORARY RESTING PLACE DURING A JOURNEY. GURU GOBIND SINGH STAYED HERE FOR ABOUT A YEAR.





SACHE
PATSHAH, FEW PEOPLE
IN THIS REGION COMPREHEND
GURBANI, THE GURU'S WORD.
PLEASE HELP US TO LEARN
MORE.

GURBAANEE IS
JAG MEH CHAANAN KARAM VASAI
MAN AA-AY*

RECITATION
OF GURBANI WITH
CONTEMPLATION ON ITS MEANING IS VERY
REWARDING. IT TRANSPORTS ONE TO THE
PRESENCE OF THE SUPREME LORD
WAHEGURU.

THE FIFTH
GURU, ARJAN DEV, COMPILED ALL
OF GURBANI INTO POTHI SAHIB. IT IS
CURRENTLY WITH MY COUSIN, DHIR MAL. SOME OF
YOU SHOULD GO TO KARTARPUR AND REQUEST
HIM TO LEND IT TO US SO THAT WE MAY
MAKE A COPY.

*GURBANI IS THE LIGHT TO
ILLUMINATE THIS WORLD; BY GOD'S
GRACE, IT COMES TO ABIDE WITHIN
THE MIND (PAGE 67). - SRI GURU
GRANTH SAHIB

FIVE SIKHS SOON REACHED KARTARPUR TO MEET WITH DHIR MAL.

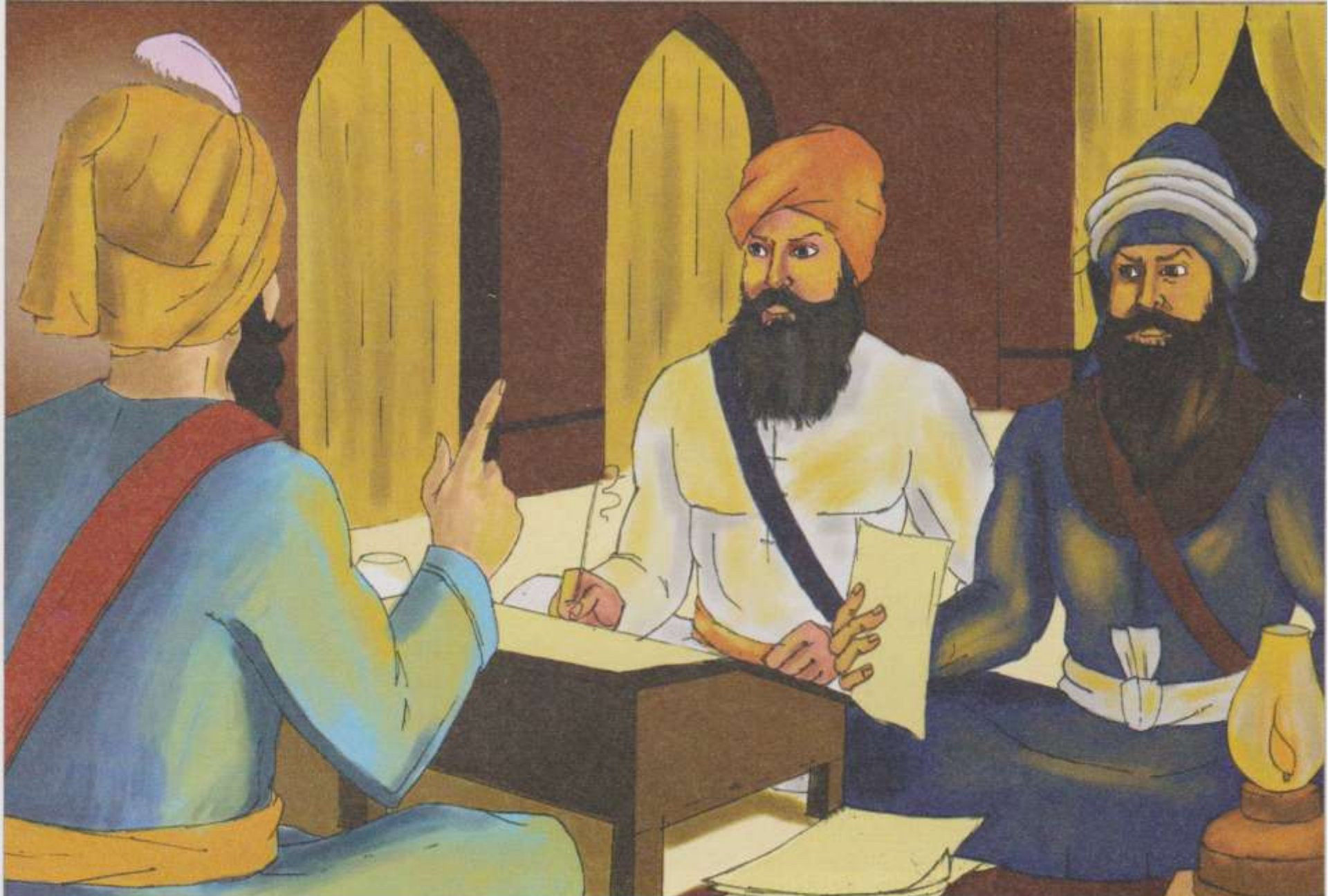


DHIR MAL

WE MOST HUMBLY REQUEST YOU TO LEND THE POTHY SAHIB TO US. WE WOULD MAKE A COPY AND RETURN IT IN A FEW WEEKS.

YOU CALL GOBIND SINGH THE SACHA PATSHA, THE TRUE GURU. WHY DOES HE NEED MY HELP TO WRITE THE POTHY SAHIB IF HE REALLY POSSESSES ANY SPIRITUAL POWERS. I AM NOT GOING TO PART WITH THE POTHY SAHIB.

DHIR MAL HELD A GRUDGE AGAINST GURU GOBIND SINGH. HE BELIEVED HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE GURU INSTEAD. HE FAILED TO REALIZE THAT THE GURUSHIP WAS NOT A BIRTH RIGHT. IT COULD NOT BE INHERITED. IT HAD TO BE BESTOWED ON THE MOST DESERVING PERSON BY THE PREVIOUS GURU.



AFTER DHIR MAL REFUSED TO LEND THE POTHI SAHIB, THE GURU DICTATED THE ENTIRE POTHI SAHIB TO BHAI MANI SINGH. HE MADE ONLY ONE CHANGE IN A SHALOK OF BHAGAT KABIR BY SUBSTITUTING THE WORD KHLASE WITH KHALSE. THE GURBANI OF THE NINTH GURU, TEG BAHADUR, AND ONE SHALOK OF GURU GOBIND SINGH WERE ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS VERSION. BHAI DEEP SINGH ASSISTED BHAI MANI SINGH IN WRITING THE POTHI SAHIB.

NINE MONTHS AND NINE DAYS LATER...

BY
AKALPURAKH'S GRACE, THE
WRITING OF POTHY SAHIB IS NOW
COMPLETE. BHAI MANI SINGH AND BHAI DEEP
SINGH, YOU HAVE DONE A GREAT SERVICE TO
THE SIKH FAITH AND TO ALL OF
HUMANITY.

SACHE
PATSHAH, YOU ARE SO
KIND. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU
FOR ALLOWING US TO BE AT
YOUR SERVICE.

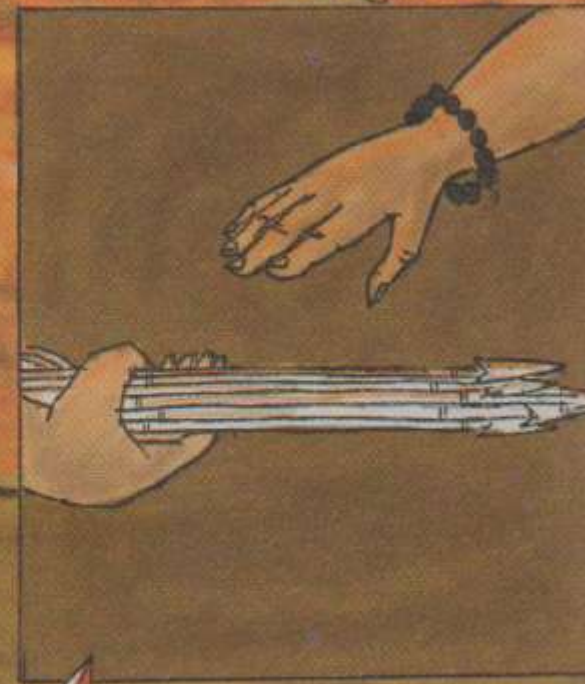
BHAI
DEEP SINGH, I ASK YOU TO
SPREAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF GURBANI
FAR AND WIDE. PLEASE PREPARE SEVERAL
COPIES OF THE POTHY SAHIB AND SEND IT
TO ALL THE TAKHTS, THE SEATS OF
SIKH RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY.

SACHE PATSHAH,
I AM HONOURED TO BE AT
YOUR SERVICE. PLEASE BLESS
ME SO THAT I AM SUCCESSFUL
IN THIS MISSION.

BHAI DEEP SINGH ESTABLISHED THREE ACADEMIES TO PROPAGATE GURBANI AND SIKH PHILOSOPHY. THESE ACADEMIES STILL CONTINUE TO RENDER THIS INVALUABLE SERVICE.

SOON AFTER COMPLETING THE POTHI SAHIB, GURU GOBIND SINGH LEFT FOR DECCAN. AT NANDED, ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER GODAVARI, HE MET MADHO DAS BAIRAGI, A MAN WITH GREAT SPIRITUAL POWERS. MADHO DAS BECAME A SIKH AND WAS BAPTIZED BY GURU GOBIND SINGH.

YOU
WILL NOW BE CALLED
BANDA SINGH BAHADUR. GO TO
PUNJAB, REORGANIZE THE KHALSA
ARMY, AND PUNISH THE
TYRANTS.



UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF BABA BANDA SINGH BAHADUR, THE SIKH FORCES BECAME VICTORIOUS IN VARIOUS BATTLES AT SIRHIND, SAMANA, BANOOR, SAHARANPUR, AND SEVERAL OTHER MUGHAL STRONGHOLDS. WAZIR KHAN, THE GOVERNOR OF SIRHIND, WAS KILLED. SIKHS ATTAINED COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE AREA FROM SAHARANPUR TO AMRITSAR.

BHAI DEEP SINGH JOINED BABA BANDA SINGH BAHADUR AND FOUGHT VALIANTLY IN THESE BATTLES.





BABA BANDA SINGH BAHADUR ABOLISHED THE ZIMIDARI SYSTEM AND GRANTED PROPERTY RIGHTS TO POOR TILLERS. THIS MADE HIM VERY POPULAR AMONGST THE MASSES. THOUSANDS JOINED HIM TO FIGHT AGAINST THE TYRANNICAL MUGHAL RULE. HE ALSO ISSUED ORDERS NOT TO OPPRESS THE MUSLIMS OR OPPOSE ISLAM, THUS PURSUING THE AGE OLD SIKH PRINCIPAL OF EQUAL RESPECT FOR ALL RELIGIONS AND THE BELIEF IN ONENESS OF THE HUMAN RACE.



AS YEARS PASSED, ATROCITIES AGAINST THE SIKHS CONTINUED TO INCREASE. IN 1737, ZAKARIA KHAN, THE GOVERNOR OF LAHORE, LEVIED AN EXORBITANT TAX FOR CELEBRATING DIWALI AT HARMANDIR SAHIB. BHAJI MANI SINGH, BY NOW THE HEAD PRIEST OF

A REIGN OF TERROR AND PERSECUTION WAS LET LOOSE AGAINST THE

IN 1740, THE GOVERNOR OF LAHORE APPOINTED MASSA RANGAR TO RUN HARMANDIR SAHIB AND ORDERED HIM TO DRIVE OUT THE SIKHS. MASSA RANGAR DESECRATED THE TEMPLE. HE STOPPED RECITATION OF GURBANI AND BROUGHT IN DANCING GIRLS FOR HIS ENTERTAINMENT. TOBACCO AND OTHER INTOXICANTS, A TABOO FOR THE SIKHS, WERE ALSO SERVED IN THE TEMPLE PREMISES.

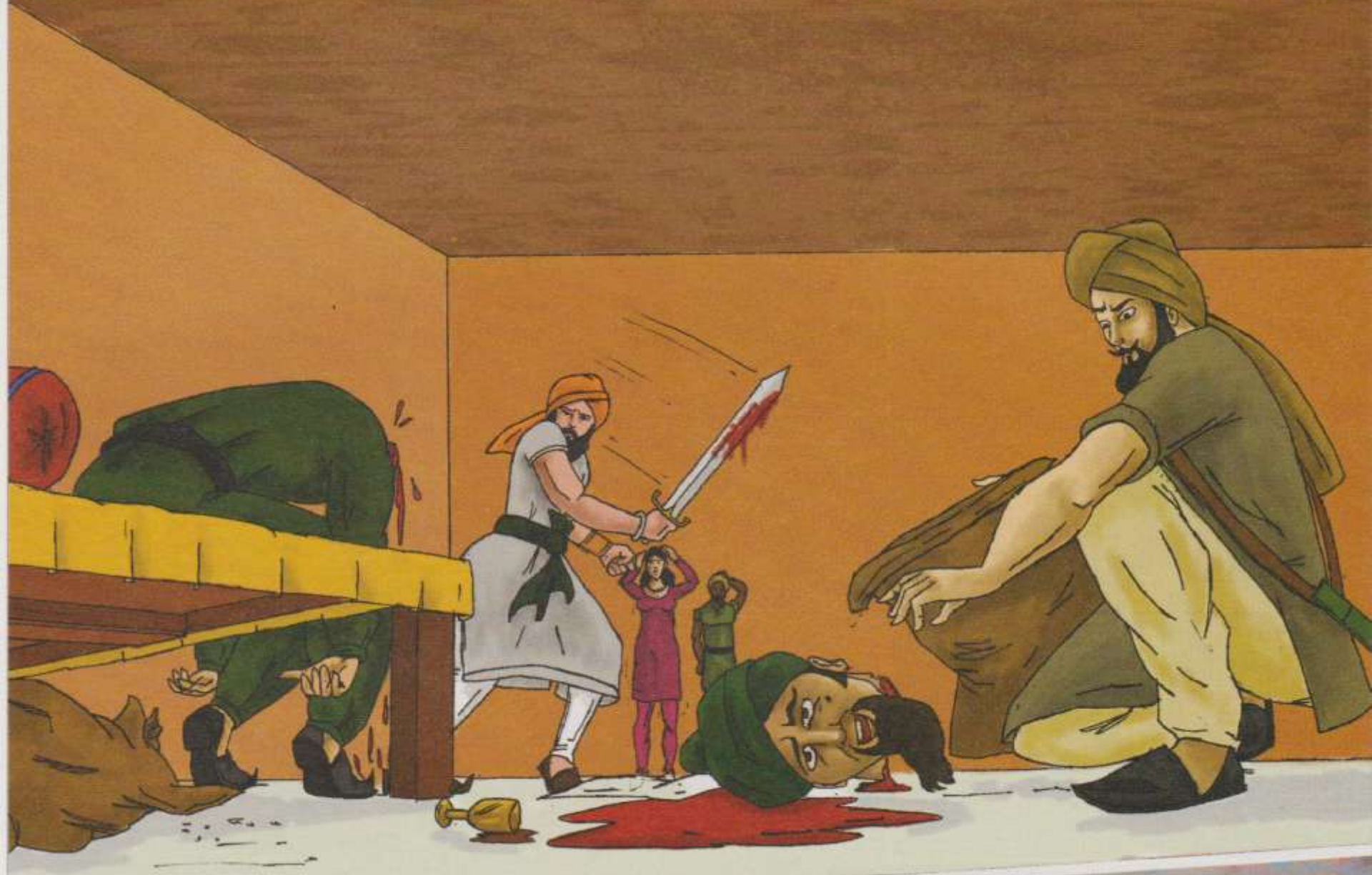
BHAI MEHTAB SINGH OF VILLAGE MEERAN KOT KHURD AND BHAI SUKHA SINGH OF VILLAGE MARI KUMBOKI STOPPED AT DAMDAMA SAHIB. THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY FROM BIKANER, IN RAJASTHAN, TO AMRITSAR. BABA DEEP SINGH WAS STILL AT DAMDAMA SAHIB AND HAD CONTINUED TO TEACH GURBANI AND MARTIAL ARTS TO SIKHS.

I ASK BOTH OF YOU TO GO TO AMRITSAR AND TEACH MASSA RANGAR A LESSON. NO ONE WHO DARES TO DESECRATE OUR PLACE OF WORSHIP SHOULD BE SPARED. MAY WAHEGURU BE WITH YOU AND HELP YOU DURING THIS NOBLE MISSION.

BABAJI,
WE WILL IMMEDIATELY
LEAVE FOR AMRITSAR AND TAKE
OUT THE TYRANT.



DISGUISED AS PATHANS, BOTH MEHTAB SINGH AND SUKHA SINGH GAINED ENTRY INTO HARMANDIR SAHIB AND CONFRONTED MASSA RANGAR WHILE HE WAS BEING ENTERTAINED BY THE DANCING GIRLS. A SWIFT STROKE OF THE SWORD SEVERED MASSA RANGAR'S HEAD. IN SPITE OF THE HEAVY GUARD, MEHTAB SINGH AND SUKHA SINGH ESCAPED WITH THE HEAD.



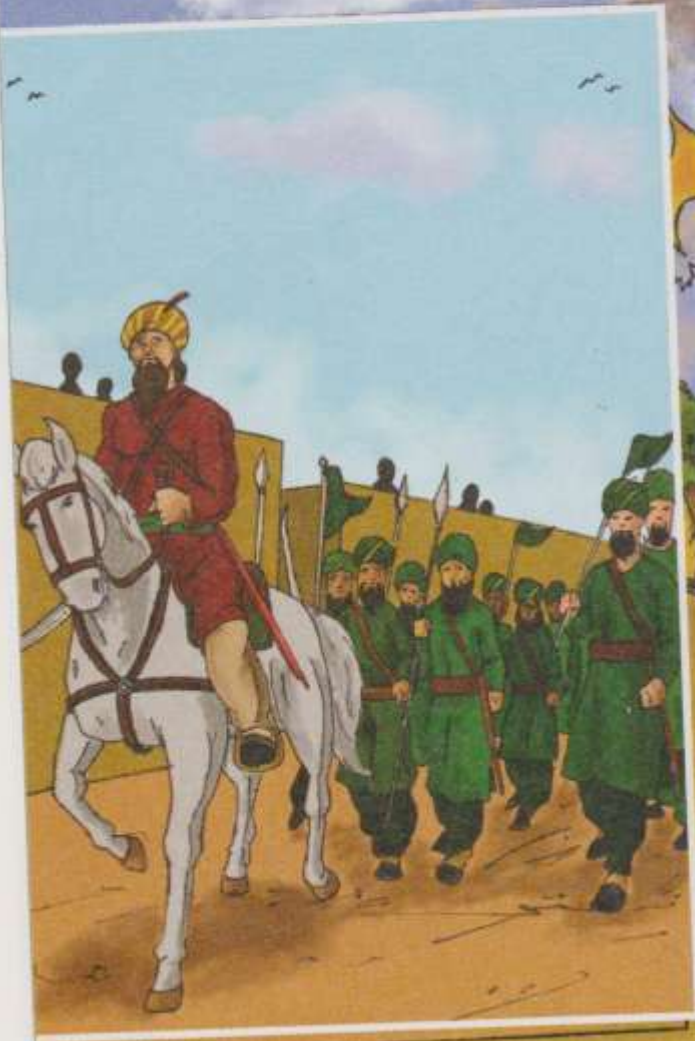
THE MUGHAL EMPIRE FURTHER INTENSIFIED ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SIKHS. ADEENA BAIG, THE GOVERNOR OF JALANDHAR, WAS THE WORST IN INFLECTING ATROCITIES AGAINST THE SIKHS.

IN 1748, BABA DEEP SINGH BECAME THE LEADER OF SHAHEEDAN MISL*. HE JOINED THE SIKH FORCES IN AN ATTACK ON ADEENA BAIG, KILLED HIM IN BATTLE AND ANNIHILATED HIS FORCES. SOON THEREAFTER, MOHAMMAD AMEEN KHAN, THE CHIEF OF SIALKOT, WAS PUNISHED FOR HIS ATROCITIES AGAINST THE SIKHS AND KILLED IN BATTLE.

*AREA UNDER SIKH CONTROL WAS DIVIDED INTO TWELVE MISLS.



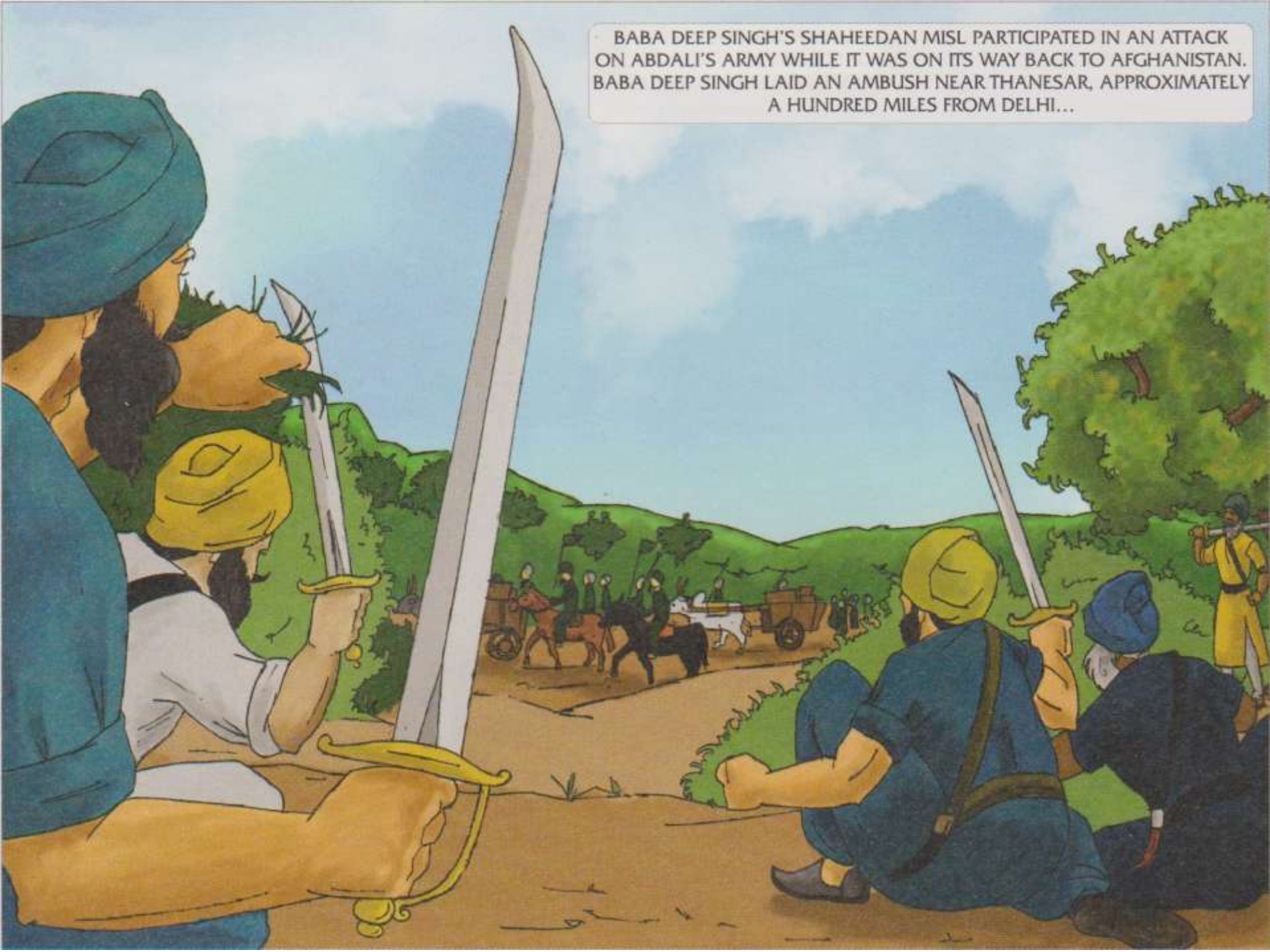
AS THE AUTHORITY OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE WANED DUE TO COURT INTRIGUES AND INFIGHTING, THE LOCAL GOVERNORS BECAME VERY POWERFUL AND ARROGANT, AND EVEN INVITED FOREIGN INVADERS. IN ONE SUCH INVASION IN 1757, AHMAD SHAH ABDALI, THE KING OF KABUL, PLUNDERED DELHI, AGRA AND MATHURA.



HE ALSO IMPRISONED HUNDREDS OF YOUNG GIRLS AND BOYS TO TAKE THEM BACK WITH HIM TO SELL IN GHAZNI.



BABA DEEP SINGH'S SHAHEEDAN MISL PARTICIPATED IN AN ATTACK ON ABDALI'S ARMY WHILE IT WAS ON ITS WAY BACK TO AFGHANISTAN. BABA DEEP SINGH LAID AN AMBUSH NEAR THANESAR, APPROXIMATELY A HUNDRED MILES FROM DELHI...



...AND TOOK THE
AFGHANS BY SURPRISE.



ABDALI'S ARMY FACED THE FURY OF BABA DEEP SINGH AND HIS MEN AND LOST HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS.



YOU ARE
FREE NOW.



ALL THE PRISONERS WERE FREED AND SAFELY RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES. ABDALI WAS DEPRIVED OF ALL HIS LOOT. THE SIKH FORCES, INCLUDING BABA DEEP SINGH AND HIS MEN, CONTINUED TO HARASS THE AFGHANS UNTIL THEY REACHED LAHORE.

KING AHMAD SHAH ABDALI WAS HIGHLY PERTURBED. UPON REACHING LAHORE, HE HELD A COURT TO DISCUSS THE ATTACKS ON HIS FORCES AT THANESAR AND SHAHABAD.

WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ROUTED THE MUGHALS IN DELHI AND HUMILIATED THEM BY ENSLAVING THEIR PRINCESSES. THE GOVERNORS OF LAHORE AND SIRHIND HAVE BEEN SUBJUGATED.

BUT WHO ARE THESE MEN WHO DARED TO ATTACK SO FEARLESSLY AND DEPRIVE ME OF ALL THE LOOT INCLUDING THE MEN AND WOMEN THAT WERE ENSLAVED BY US.

THEY ARE CALLED SIKHS OF GURU GOBIND SINGH. THEIR GURU HAS TURNED ORDINARY FOLKS INTO FEARLESS WARRIORS BY GIVING THEM AMRIT.

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?



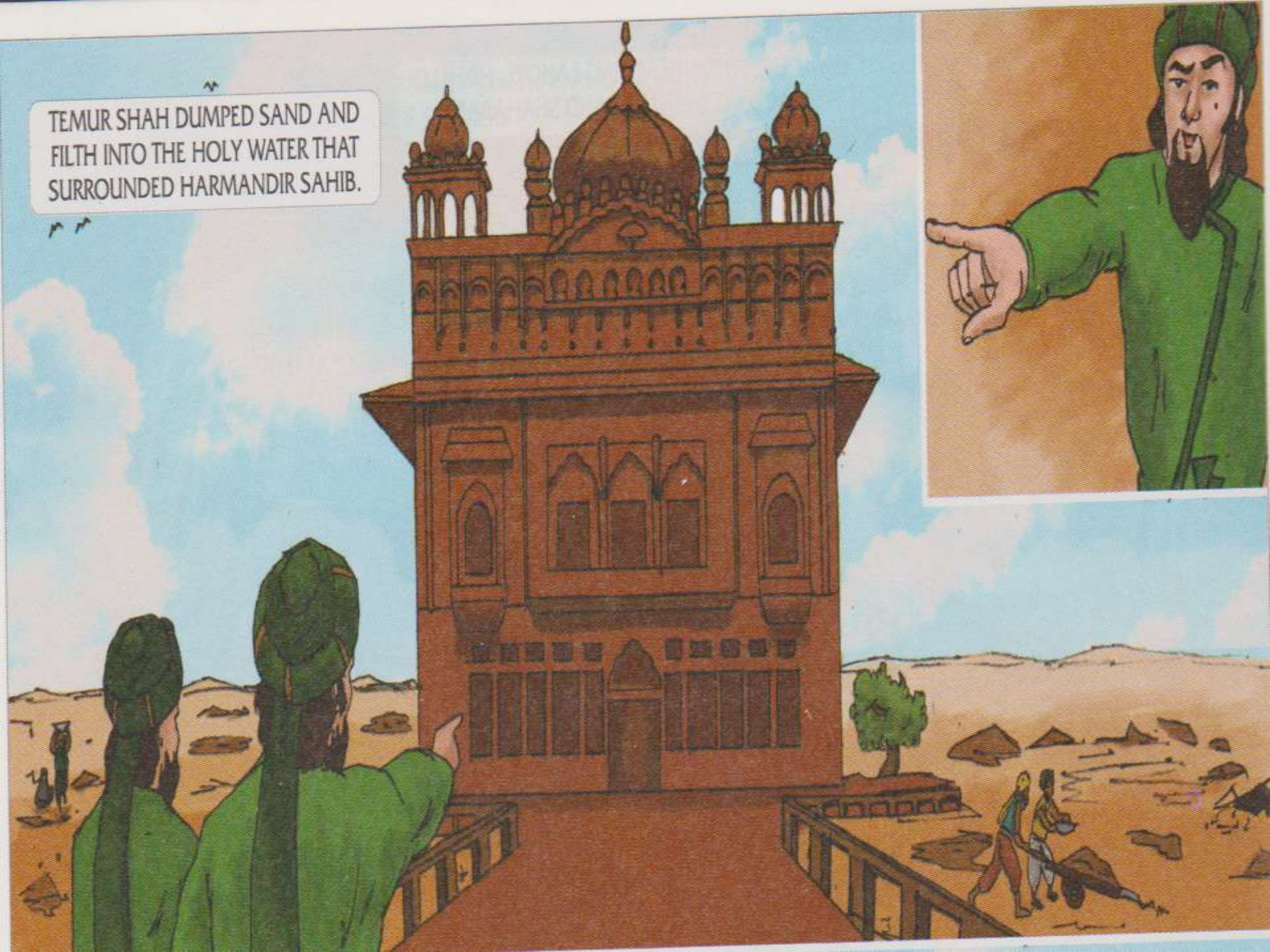
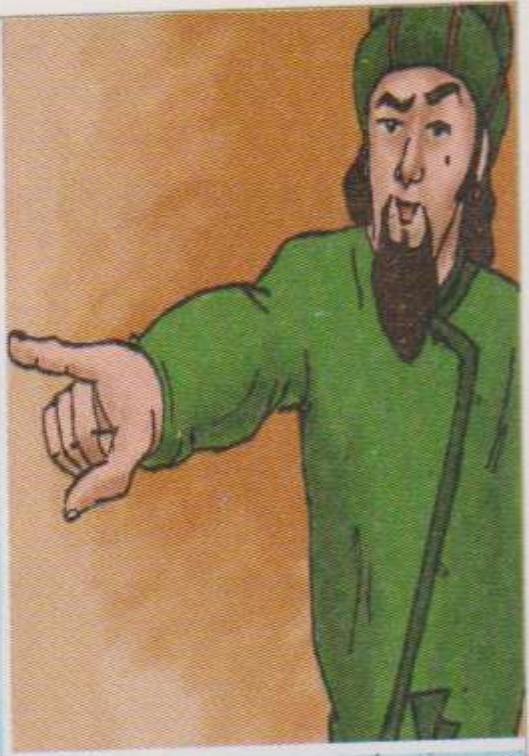
THESE
SIKHS ARE A GRAVE THREAT TO
US AND MUST BE DESTROYED. DO THEY
HAVE A HOLY PLACE WHERE THEY
PRAY?


TEMUR
SHAH, MY SON, GO AND DESTROY
HARMANDIR AND THE HOLY TANK. I WILL SOON
LEAVE FOR KABUL BUT YOU WILL STAY BACK IN
LAHORE AND ANNIHILATE THESE SIKHS.

HARMANDIR
AT AMRITSAR IS THEIR HOLIEST SHRINE.
I HAVE HEARD THAT THE WATER FROM ITS HOLY
TANK RENEWS THEIR STRENGTH TO FIGHT THE
ENEMY.

YOUR
MAJESTY, HORSEBACK IS
THEIR HOME. THEY ARE ALWAYS ON
THE MOVE. THEY FIGHT FEARLESSLY
AGAINST OPPRESSION AND
TYRANNY.

TEMUR SHAH DUMPED SAND AND FILTH INTO THE HOLY WATER THAT SURROUNDED HARMANDIR SAHIB.






HE ALSO LAID GUN POWDER IN
HARMANDIR SAHIB AND BLEW IT UP.

THE EXPLOSION HURLED A PIECE OF BRICK WITH
GREAT FORCE TOWARDS AHMAD SHAH ABDALI.

THE BRICK LANDED ON HIS NOSE EVEN THOUGH HE WAS
AT A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM THE TEMPLE. THE
WOUND ON HIS FACE FESTERED FOR A LONG TIME AND KEPT
HIM IN DEEP AGONY. HE EVENTUALLY DEVELOPED CANCER
IN THE AREA AND DIED OF IT AFTER MUCH PAIN.

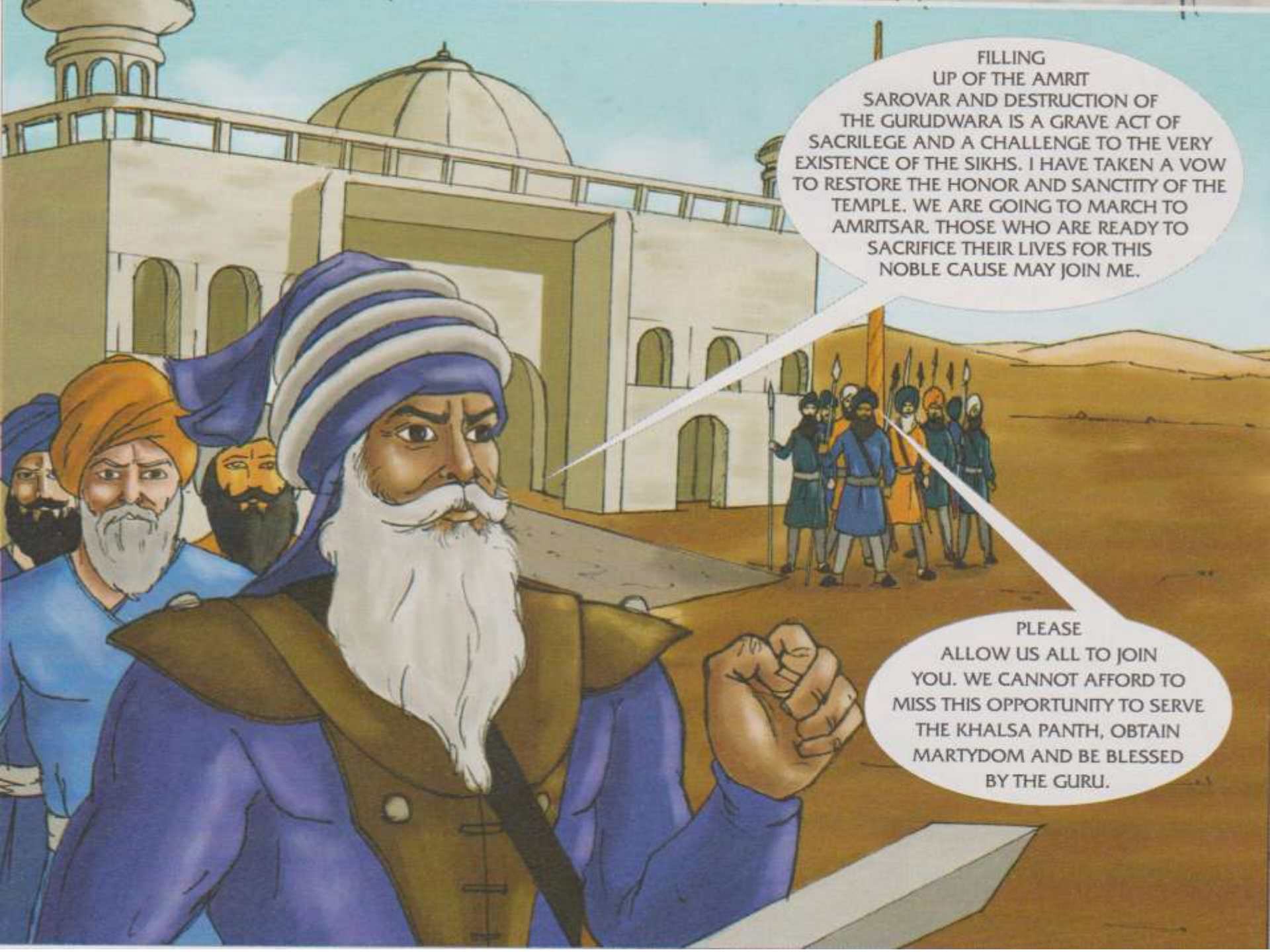


HE (GOD) HONORS THE RIGHTEOUS AND PUNISHES THE
SINNERS (PAGE 89). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB



A SIKH FROM AMRITSAR RUSHED TO DAMDAMA SAHIB TO INFORM BABA DEEP SINGH ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION WREAKED BY AHMAD SHAH ABDALI. BABAJI WAS NOW 75 YEARS OLD.

BABAJI,
AHMAD SHAH ABDALI HAS
FORBIDDEN RECITATION OF GURBANI AT
HARMANDIR SAHIB. HE HAS ORDERED HIS SON TO
DESTROY THE GURUDWARA. HE IS ALSO FILLING UP THE
AMRIT SAROVAR, THE HOLY TANK, WITH
SAND.



FILLING UP OF THE AMRIT SAROVAR AND DESTRUCTION OF THE GURUDWARA IS A GRAVE ACT OF SACRILEGE AND A CHALLENGE TO THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE SIKHS. I HAVE TAKEN A VOW TO RESTORE THE HONOR AND SANCTITY OF THE TEMPLE. WE ARE GOING TO MARCH TO AMRITSAR. THOSE WHO ARE READY TO SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES FOR THIS NOBLE CAUSE MAY JOIN ME.

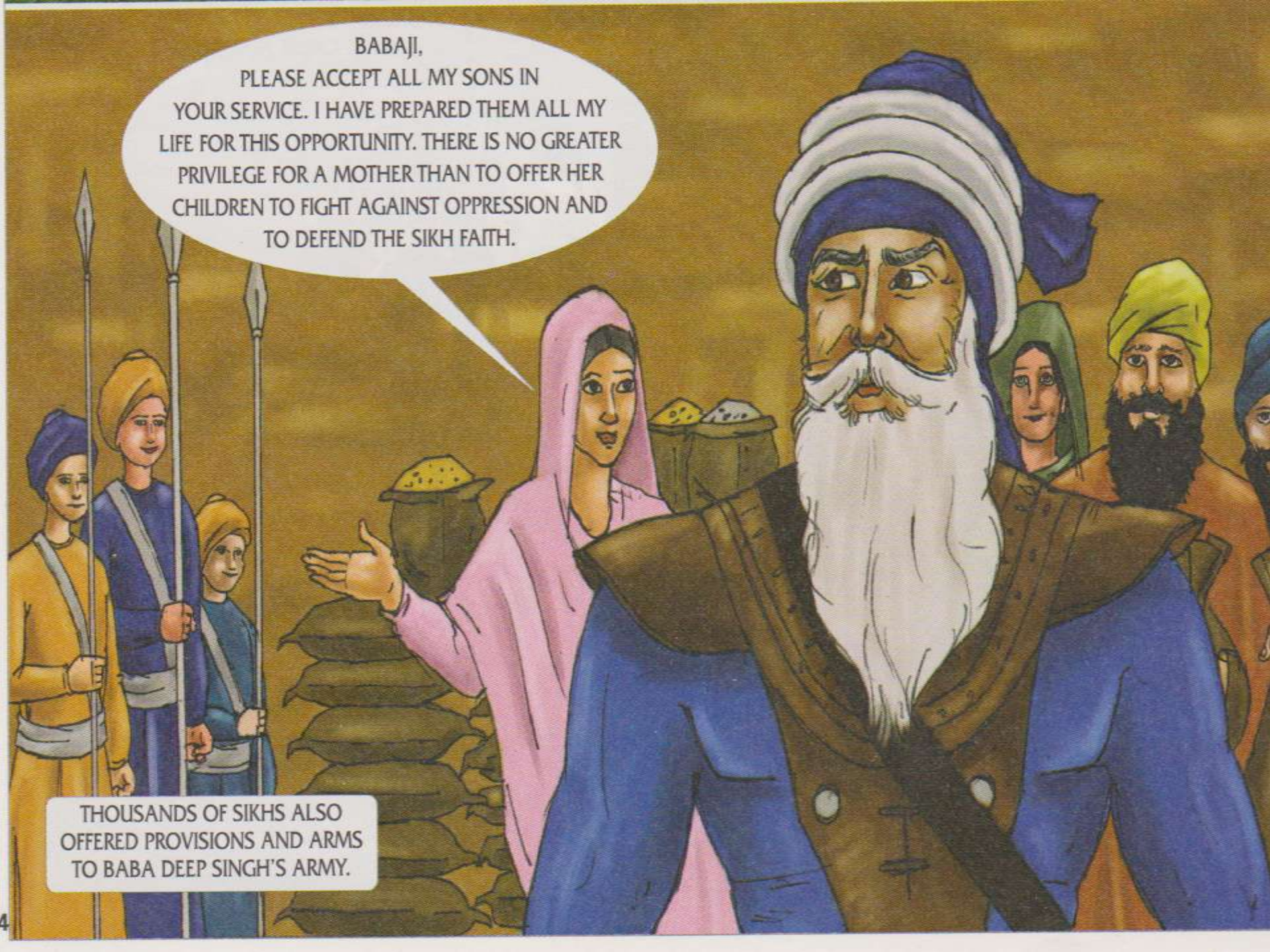
PLEASE ALLOW US ALL TO JOIN YOU. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE KHALSA PANTH, OBTAIN MARTYDOM AND BE BLESSED BY THE GURU.

BABA DEEP SINGH MARCHED THROUGH THE MALWA REGION OF PUNJAB AND WITHIN A FEW DAYS
CROSSED OVER INTO MAJHA. THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS IN HIS ARMY SWELLED TO ABOUT 10,000.

MUHI
MARNAY KAA CHAA-O HAI
MARO TA HAR KAI DU-AAR, MAT HAR
POOCHHAI KA-LIN HAI PARAA
HAMAARAI BAAR*

*I LONG TO DIE AT THE LORD'S DOOR. I HOPE
THAT THE LORD (RECOGNIZES HIS SERVANT,
ACCEPTS HIM AND) DOES NOT ASK, 'WHO IS
THIS, LYING AT MY DOOR?' (PAGE 1367) – SRI
GURU GRANTH SAHIB





BABAJI,
PLEASE ACCEPT ALL MY SONS IN
YOUR SERVICE. I HAVE PREPARED THEM ALL MY
LIFE FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. THERE IS NO GREATER
PRIVILEGE FOR A MOTHER THAN TO OFFER HER
CHILDREN TO FIGHT AGAINST OPPRESSION AND
TO DEFEND THE SIKH FAITH.

THOUSANDS OF SIKHS ALSO
OFFERED PROVISIONS AND ARMS
TO BABA DEEP SINGH'S ARMY.

NOVEMBER 11, 1757

BABA DEEP SINGH STOPPED AT VILLAGE TARAN TAARAN, ABOUT TWENTY FIVE KILOMETERS FROM AMRITSAR. HE OFFERED PRAYERS AT THE GURUDWARA AND REAFFIRMED HIS VOW TO REACH HARMANDIR SAHIB AND RESTORE ITS SANCTITY. HE THEN DREW A LINE ON THE GROUND.

IT IS TIME TO LIBERATE OUR HOLIEST SHRINE, HARMANDIR SAHIB, FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE TYRANTS AND DRIVE OUT THE AFGHANS. ONLY THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR THIS CAUSE SHOULD CROSS THIS LINE AND FOLLOW ME.

THEY ALL CROSSED THE LINE AND WERE NOW READY TO FIGHT AND DIE TO LIBERATE HARMANDIR SAHIB.



BABA DEEP SINGH'S ARMY WAS HEAVILY OUTNUMBERED BUT GOD WAS ON THEIR SIDE...

GAGAN DAMAAMAA BAAJIO PARIO NEESAANAI GHAAO. KHAYT JO MAANDIO SOORMAA AB JOOJHAN KO DAAO. SOORAA SO PAHICHAANEE-AI JO LARAI DEEN KAY HAYT. PURJAA PURJAA KAT MARAI KABHOO NA CHHAADAI KHAYT.*

"THE BATTLE-DRUM BEATS IN THE SKY, TAKE AIM AND INFLECT THE WOUND. BRAVE WARRIORS, ENTER THE BATTLE FIELD, NOW IS THE TIME TO FIGHT. A HERO IS ONE WHO FIGHTS TO DEFEND THE OPPRESSED. HE MAY BE CUT INTO PIECES BUT HE NEVER LEAVES THE BATTLE FIELD (PAGE 1105). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB



THE LORD HIMSELF HAS BECOME MY HELP AND SUPPORT. TRUE IS THE SUPPORT OF THE TRUE LORD (PAGE 628). THE LORD HIMSELF IS THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF HIS HUMBLE SERVANTS; HE DEFEATS THE SLANDERERS, AND CHASES THEM AWAY (PAGE 674). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

BABA DEEP SINGH ADVANCED WITH HIS MEN TO THE TOWN OF GOHALWARH AND CLASHED WITH JAHAN KHAN AND HIS WELL TRAINED ARMY OF FORTY THOUSAND MEN. A FIERCE BATTLE RAGED THE ENTIRE MORNING. ENEMY CHIEFS JAHAN KHAN, ZABARDAST KHAN AND RUSTOM KHAN WERE KILLED BY BABAJI.

BABA DEEP SINGH AND HIS MEN HAD STARTED TO CUT THROUGH THE ENEMY AND ADVANCE TOWARDS AMRITSAR.




JAMAL KHAN, IN HIS MID TWENTIES AND THE LAST STANDING ENEMY CHIEF, CHALLENGED BABA DEEP SINGH. BABA DEEP SINGH WITH HIS 18 KILO KHANDA* ENGAGED JAMAL KHAN IN A DUEL FOR THE BETTER PART OF THE AFTERNOON.

*KHANDA - DOUBLE EDGED SWORD



AFTER A VERY TOUGH FIGHT, BOTH JAMAL KHAN AND BABA DEEP SINGH STRUCK EACH OTHER SIMULTANEOUSLY. THEY WERE BOTH DECAPITATED.





BABAJI,
YOU TOOK A VOW TO REACH
HARMANDIR SAHIB AND LIBERATE IT
FROM THE AFGHANS—BUT HARMANDIR
SAHIB IS STILL THREE KOS* AWAY.

*A KOS IS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN A MILE

ON BEING REMINDED BY THE SIKH, BABAJI'S BODY GOT UP, PUT HIS HEAD ON HIS LEFT HAND AND RESUMED FIGHTING. THE SCENE OF A HEADLESS BODY SLICING THE ENEMY WITH AN 18 KILO KHANDA INSTILLED MORTAL FEAR IN THE AFGHANS AND WAS A DIVINE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE SIKHS. WITH HIS HEAD ON HIS PALM, BABA DEEP SINGH RESUMED HIS ADVANCE TOWARDS HARMANDIR SAHIB.

WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA
WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH

BOLE SO NIHAL,
SAT SRI AKAL



ALL BEINGS AND CREATURES LIVE BY BREATHING. BUT HE (GOD) COULD KEEP US ALIVE, EVEN WITHOUT THE BREATH (PAGE 144). IF IT PLEASURES GOD, THE BODY IS PRESERVED, EVEN WITHOUT THE BREATH OF LIFE (PAGE 277). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

THOSE WHO ARE BRANDED BY GOD FIGHT BRAVELY IN BATTLE; THOSE WITHOUT YOUR (GOD'S) BRAND RUN AWAY (PAGE 970). THE WARRIOR WHO FIGHTS ON THE BATTLE FIELD SHOULD KEEP UP AND PRESS ON. HE SHOULD NOT YIELD, AND HE SHOULD NOT RETREAT (PAGE 341). - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

AFTER HE DROVE OUT THE AFGHANS, BABA DEEP SINGH LAID DOWN HIS BODY AND HIS HEAD TO REST AT THE PERIPHERY OF THE AMRIT SAROVAR. HE HAD FULFILLED HIS VOW TO SACRIFICE HIS LIFE AT THE TEMPLE ONLY AFTER IT HAD BEEN LIBERATED. THIS CAME TO A GLORIOUS AND HONORABLE END, BABA DEEP SINGH'S LIFE LONG STRUGGLE AGAINST PERSECUTION, TYRANNY, AND RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE. TO THIS DAY, DEVOTEES WHO VISIT THE HARMANDIR SAHIB BOW WITH REVERENCE WHEN THEY PASS THE HALLOWED SPOT WHERE SHAHEED* BABA DEEP SINGH'S BODY FINALLY RESTED.

*SHAHEED - MARTYR

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, GOD HAS ALLOWED MIRACLES TO HAPPEN TO HONOUR AND GLORIFY HIS DEVOTEES. BABA DEEP SINGH'S SELFLESS SERVICE FOR THE KHALSA PANTH AND HIS FELLOW COUNTRYMEN WAS ASTOUNDING, BUT THE FINAL ACT OF HIS LIFE WAS A WONDERFUL MIRACLE WHEN GOD HIMSELF HELPED HIS DEVOTEE, BABA DEEP SINGH, TO KEEP HIS PROMISE TO RESTORE THE SANCTITY OF HARMANDIR SAHIB BEFORE LAYING DOWN HIS LIFE. AKALPURAKH GAVE BABAJI HIS SUPPORT AND HELPED HIM FIGHT THROUGH THE ENEMY FOR OVER THREE MILES WITH HIS SEVERED HEAD ON HIS PALM.



IN EVERY YUG (AGE) THE LORD CREATES HIS DEVOTEES AND PRESERVES THEIR HONOUR. THE LORD KILLED THE WICKED HARNAAKHASH, AND SAVED PRAHLAAD. HE TURNED HIS BACK ON THE EGOTISTS AND SLANDERERS (WHO TORMENTED NAAM DEV) AND SHOWED HIS FACE TO NAAM DEV (BY ROTATING THE TEMPLE). SERVANT NANAK (GURU IN HIS HUMILITY) HAS SO SERVED THE LORD THAT HE WILL DELIVER HIM IN THE END (PAGE 451) - SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB

NOTE: DALJEET SINGH SIDHU COMPILED THE SCRIPT BASED ON VARIOUS BOOKS AND ARTICLES ON SIKH HISTORY AND THE STORY AS RECOUNTED BY HIS MOTHER GURMEET KAUR AND MATERNAL UNCLE COL. GURBIRINDER SINGH SANDHU, BOTH DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF BABA DEEP SINGH'S FAMILY. FOR THE LAST TWENTY FIVE YEARS, COL. G. S. SANDHU HAS SPEARHEADED A CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE, CRIME, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, CORRUPTION AND POOR EDUCATION IN THE INDO-PAK BORDER AREAS OF PUNJAB. HE ALSO RUNS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT SCHOOL AT PAHEWIND, THE BIRTH PLACE OF BABA DEEP SINGH. PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.AAPNA PUNJAB.ORG](http://www.aapna Punjab.org) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COL. SANDHU'S ORGANIZATION.