

CLASSICS

STORYUISION

John Bunyan's

Pilgrim's

Progress

Part Five

For teens and adults

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Produced by Genesis Research Corporation

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Next morning Christian looked back and saw by the light of day what dangers he'd gone through in the dark. The ditch, the swamp, the dreadfully narrow path between, even the horrible spirit beings were all plain to see.





The second part of the valley was even more dangerous, being set with snares, nets and filled with deep dark holes. But the sun was up. "God preserved me, I walked through darkness," Christian recalled. And on he went once more.



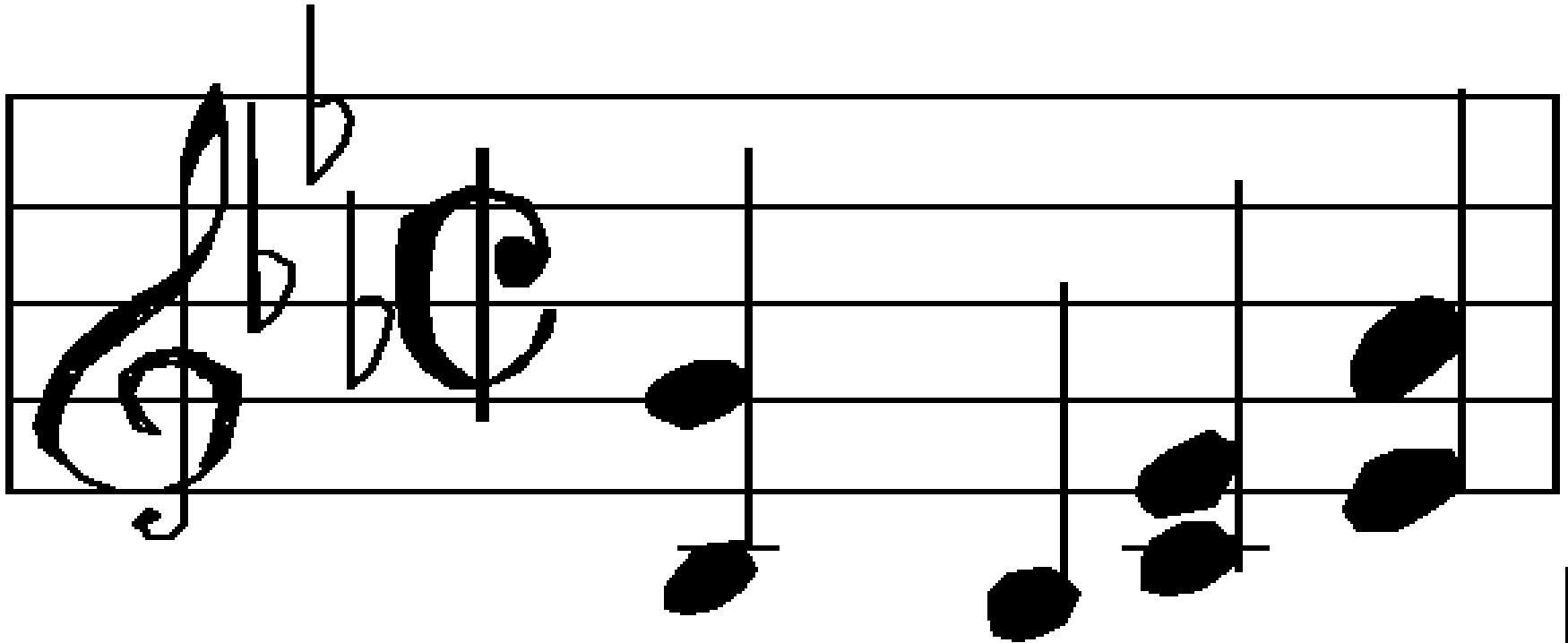


Finally, Christian reached the end of the valley. It had been filled with horror and fear, but the Lord delivered him through them all. As he walked on, Christian began to sing praises of the Lord he loved.



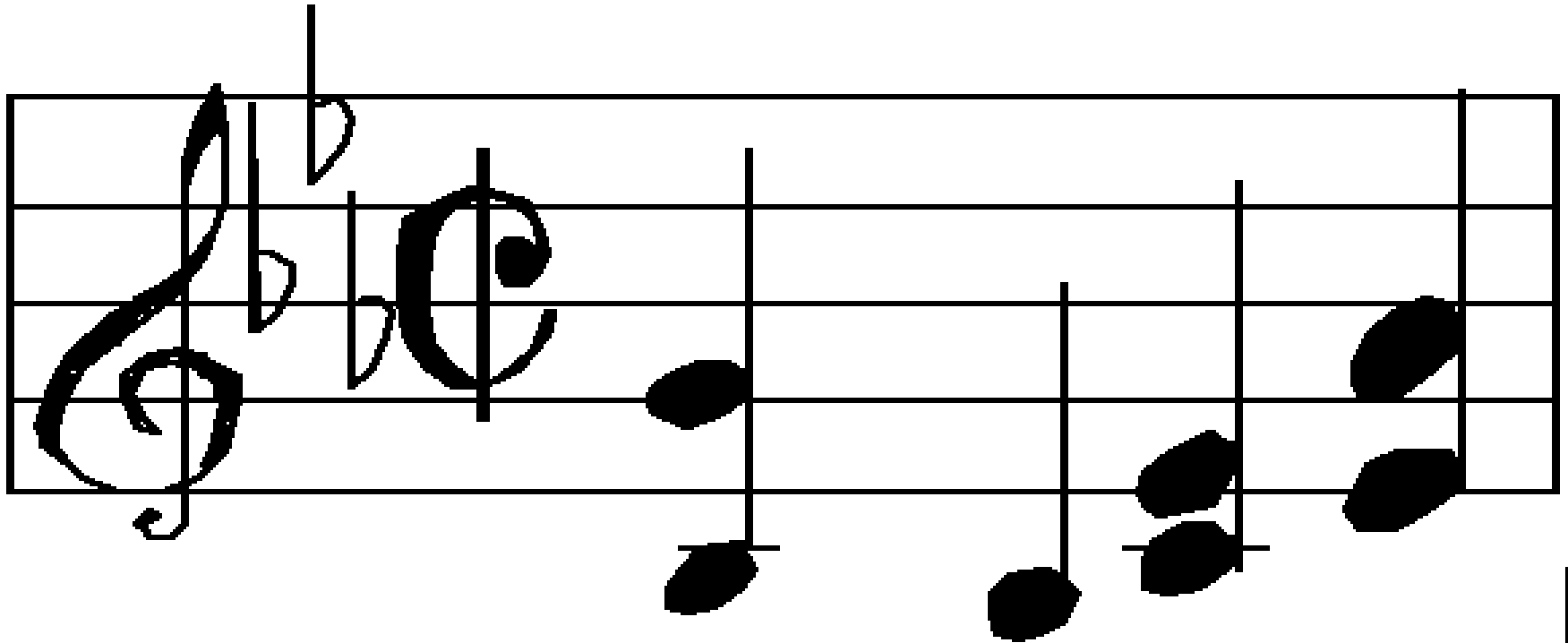
This was Christian's song:

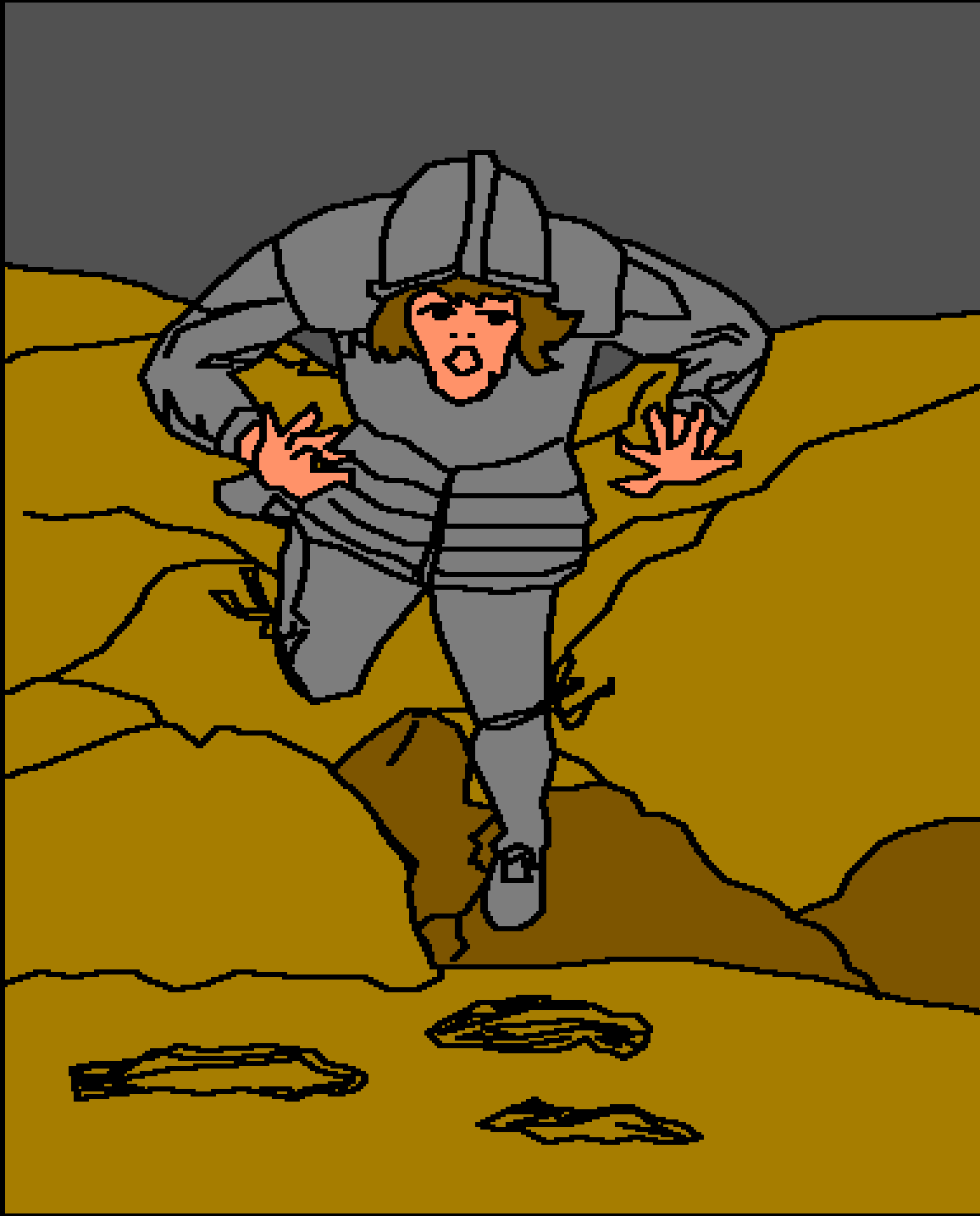
"Oh, world of wonders (I can say no less)
That I should be preserved in such distress
That I have met with here! Oh, blessed be
The Hand that from distress delivers me!
Darkness, devils, Hell could not prevail
Though they encompassed me within that vale."



Pausing for breath, Christian grinned in sheer joy at the wonderful salvation of God, then finished his song:

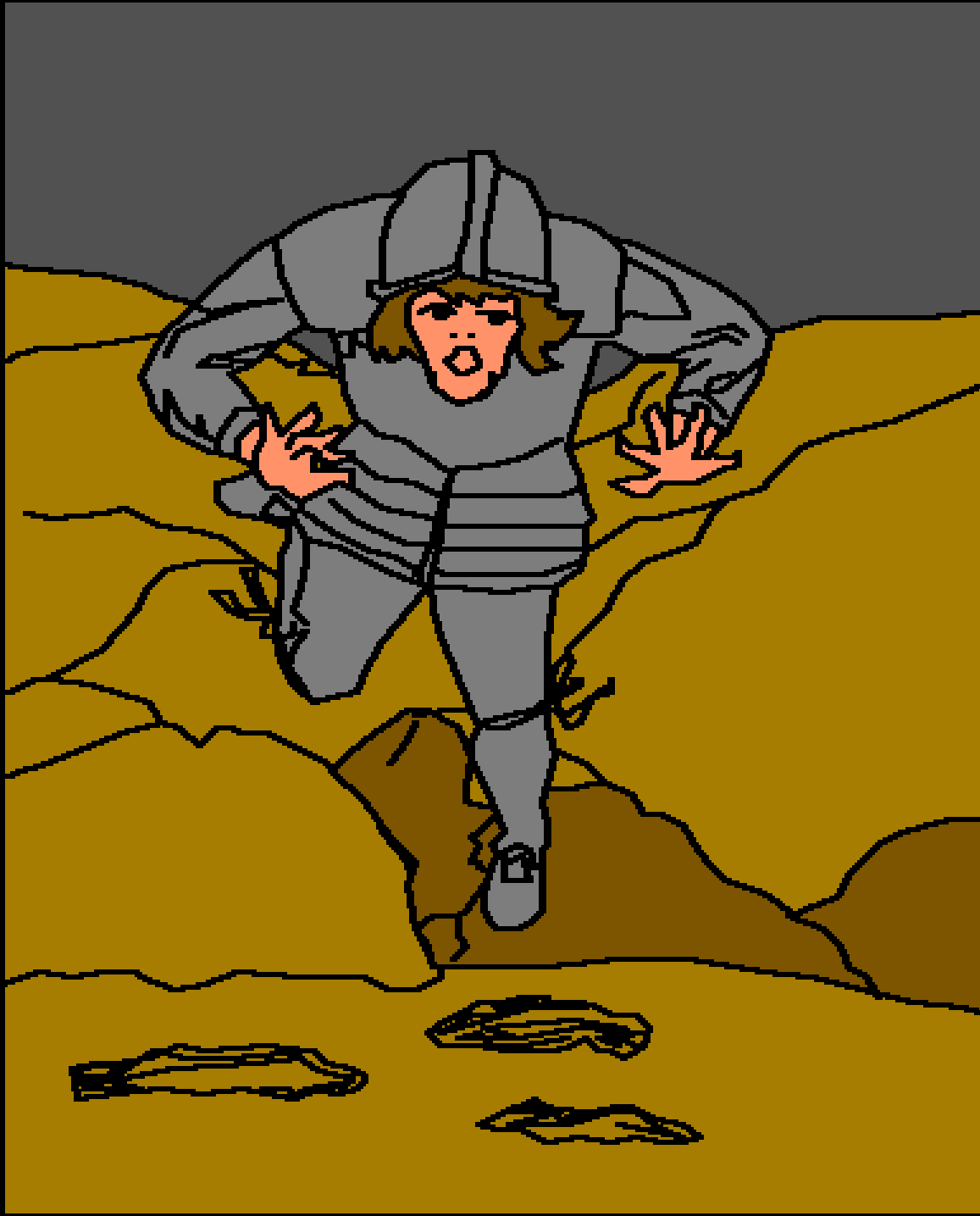
"Yes, snares and pits, traps and nets all lay
Around my path, that worthless silly I may
Have been caught, entangled, fearfully amazed
But, since I live, let Jesus Christ be praised!"





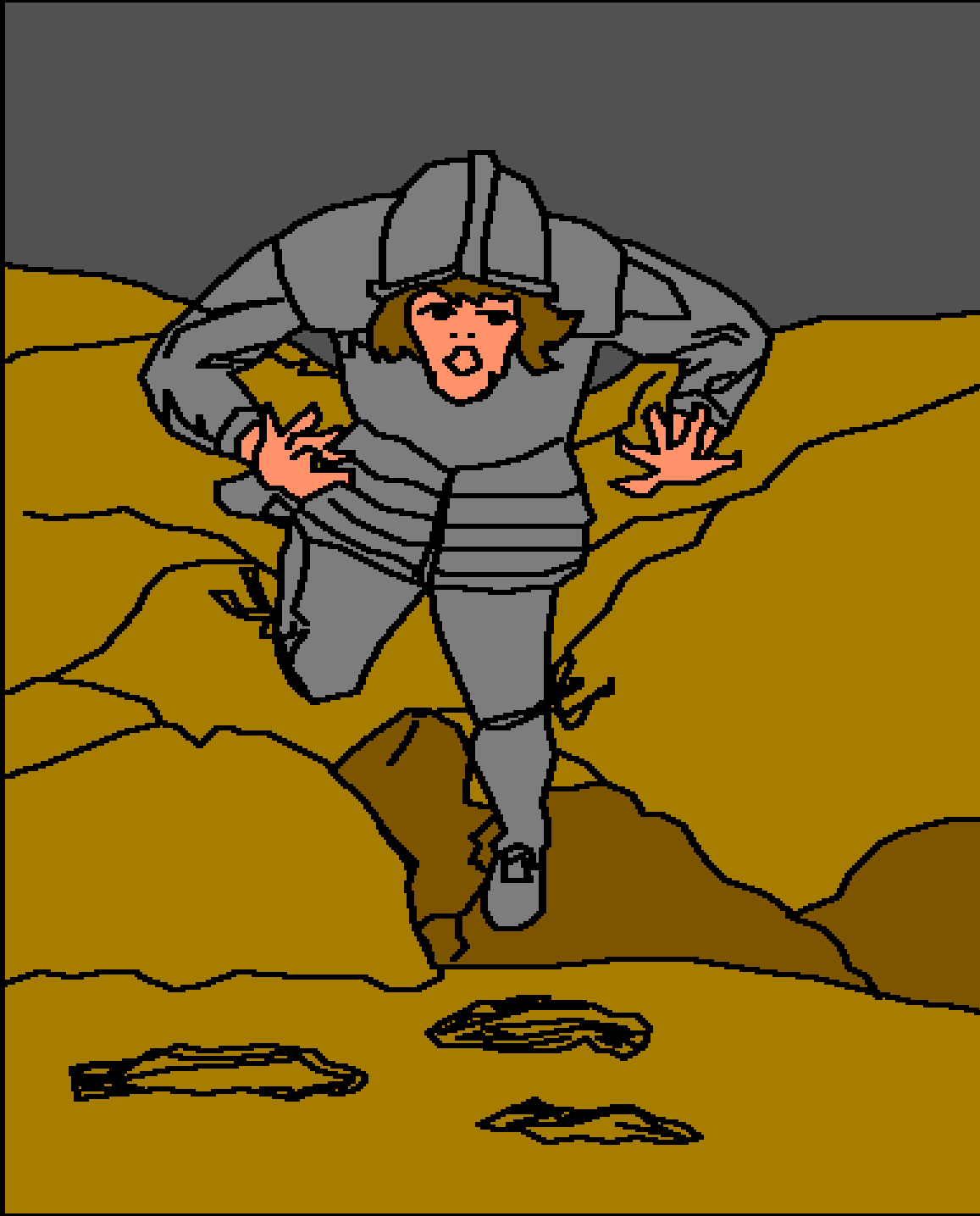
As Christian went on his way he came to a little hill from where he spotted Faithful hurrying along the path before him. "Ho! Ho!" Christian called out. "Wait for me. We'll travel together."





Instead of waiting, Faithful began to run. "The avenger of blood is behind me," he gasped. Not recognizing Christian, he was taking no chances. Running hard, Christian soon caught up. Then Faithful saw who he was.

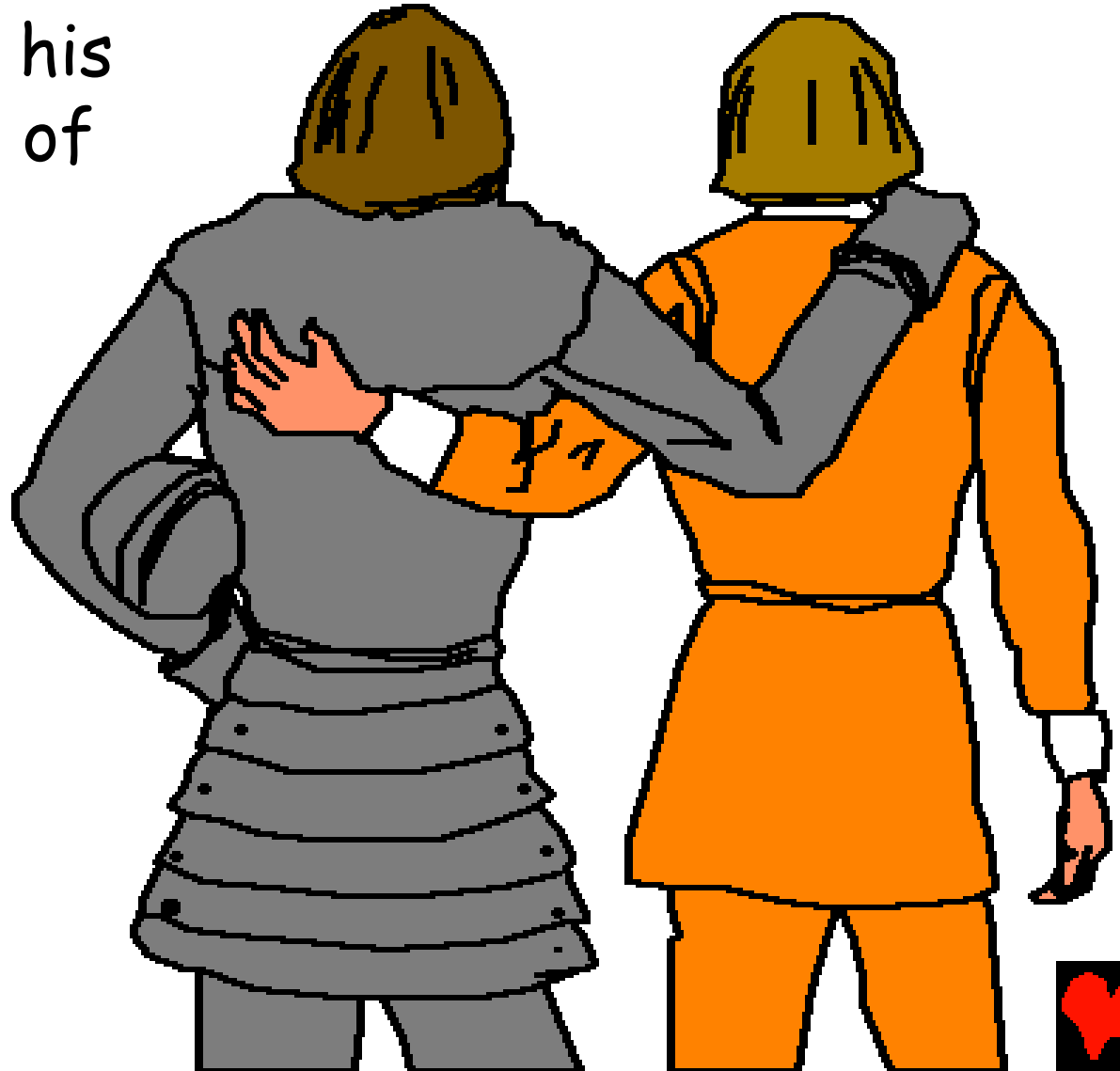




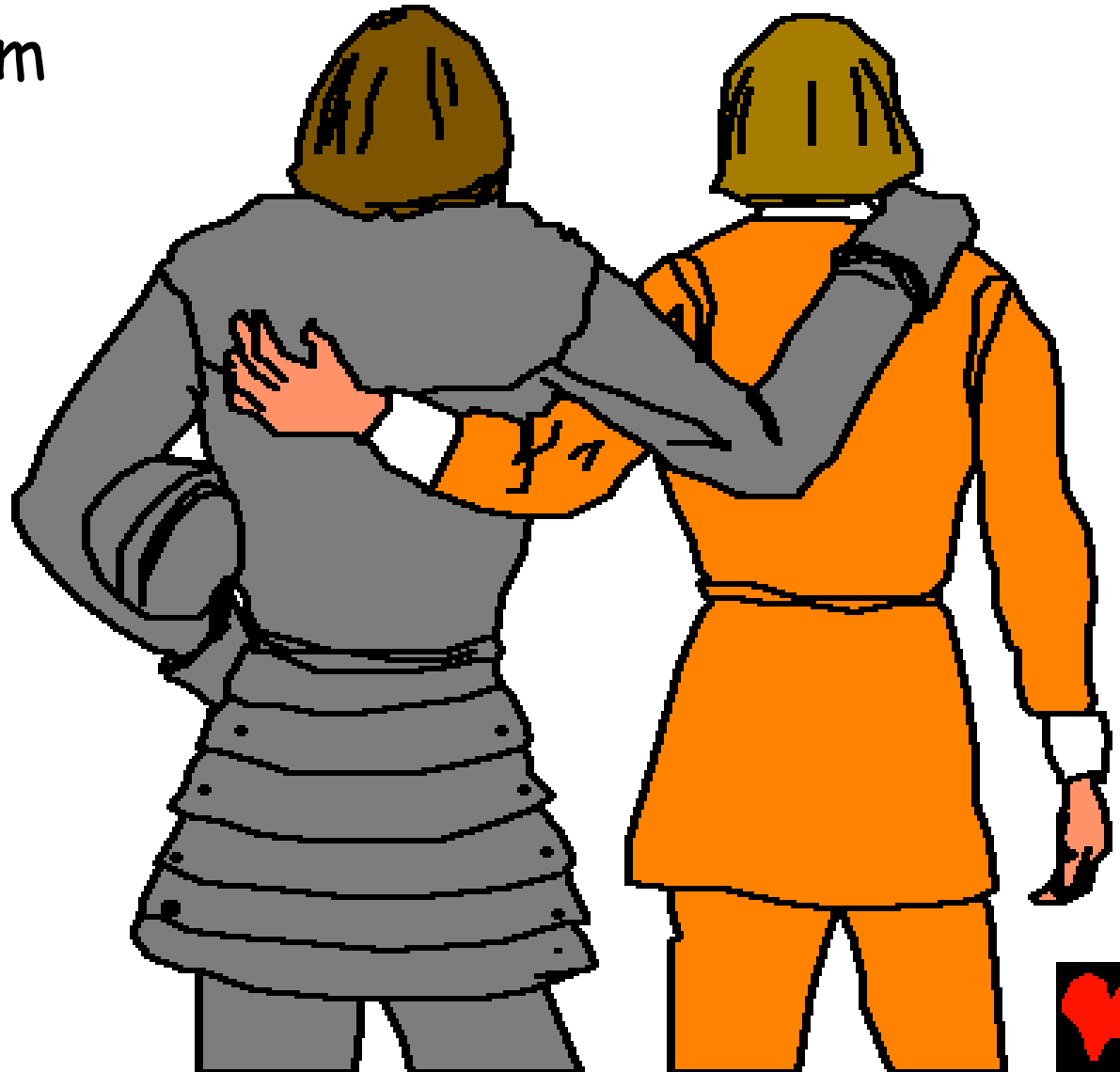
Proud that he could out-run Faithful, Christian took his eyes off the path - and fell into a muddy patch. Silently, Faithful helped him out and they walked on, eagerly sharing the adventure they'd come through so far.



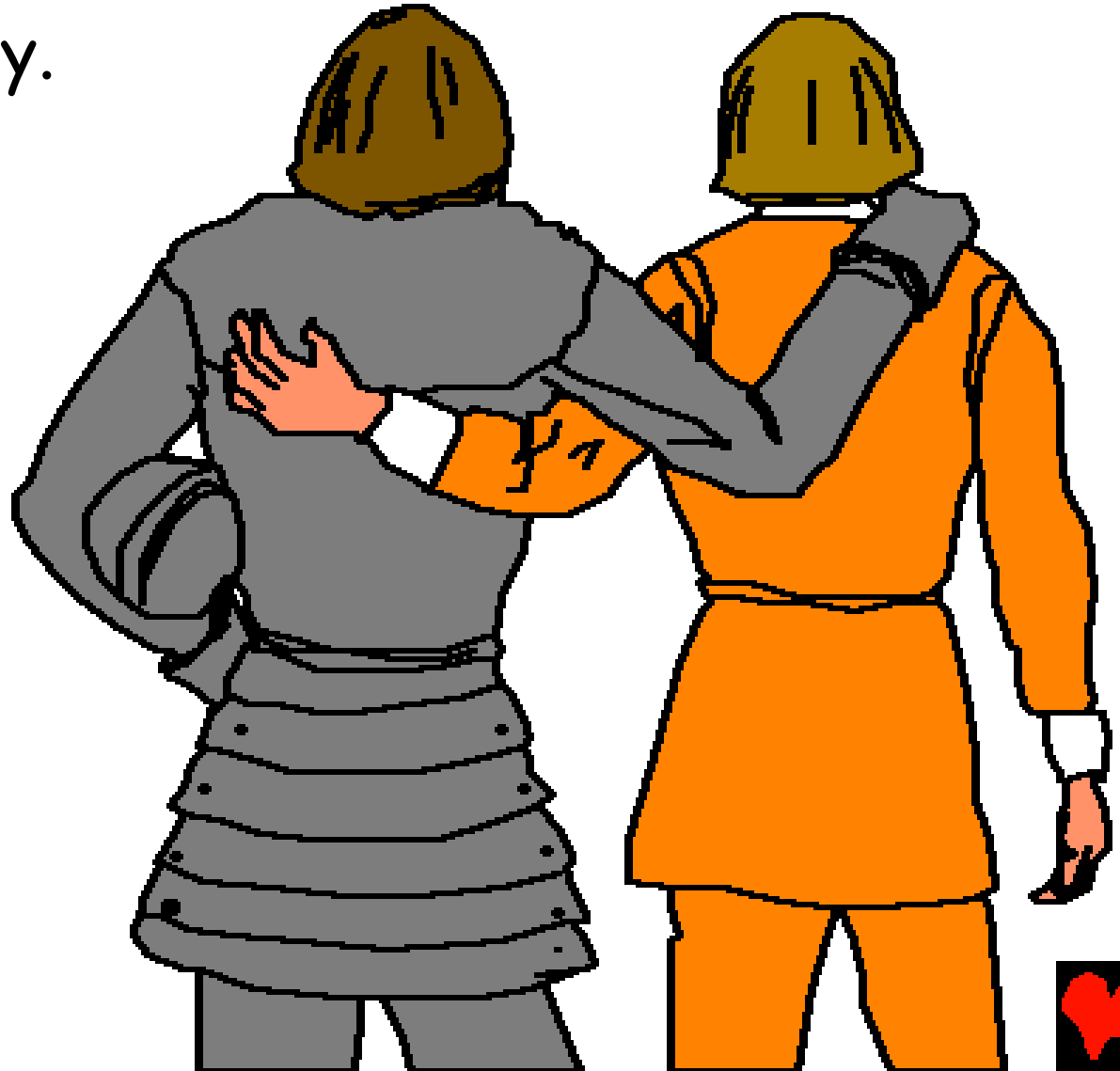
You can be sure the two pilgrims had much to discuss. Faithful told Christian how his friends in the city of Destruction spoke mockingly of him. But Faithful had opened his heart to the warnings and promises of the Lord.



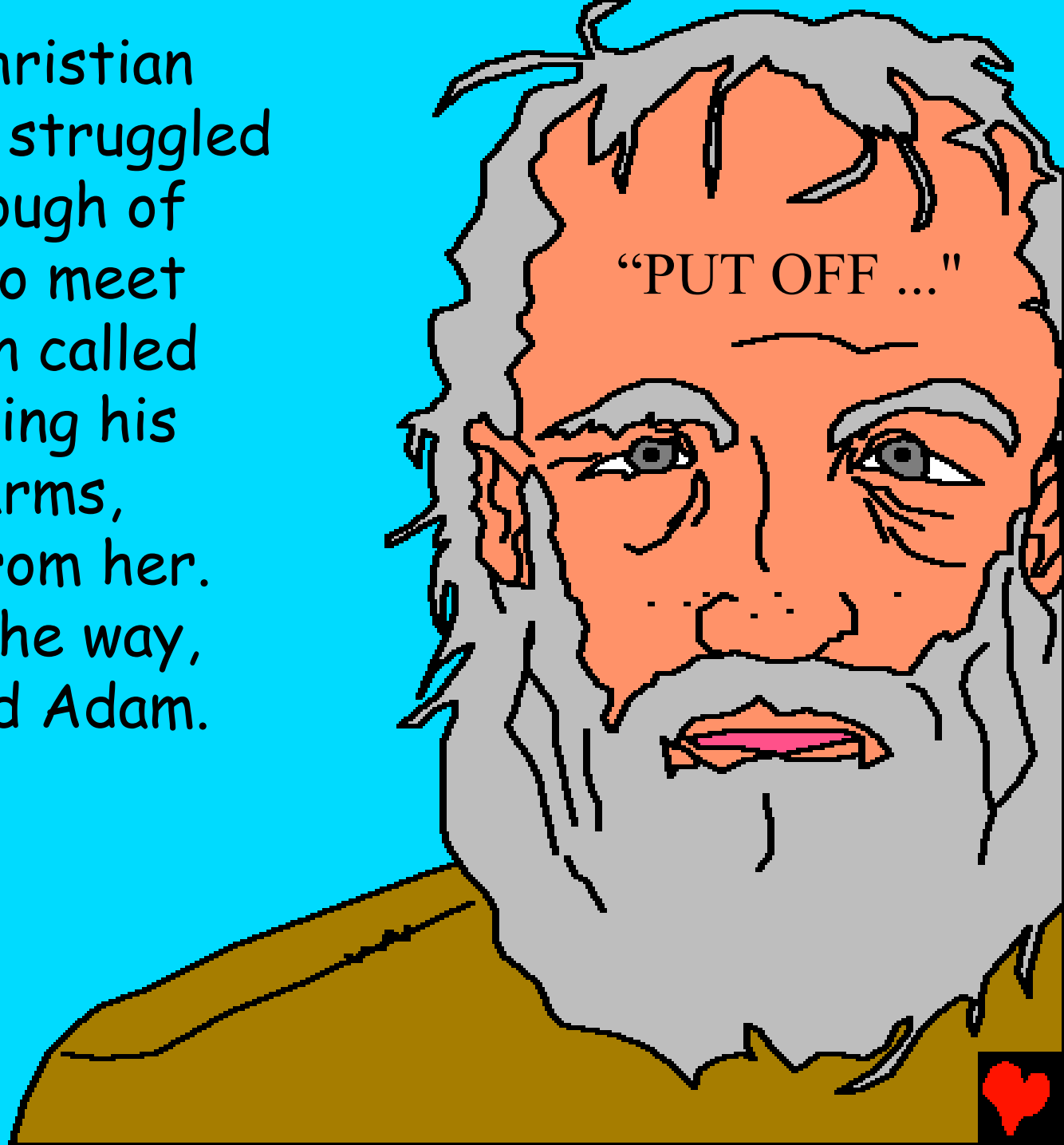
"When I heard that our city will end in a judgement of fire and brimstone from above, I, like you, made my escape," Faithful said. He also told Christian how Pliable was despised by even his ungodly neighbors for turning back.



"Pliable is like a pig which has been freshly washed," Christian said sadly. "He turned right back again to wallowing in the mud. I fear he will perish in the city's overthrow. But tell me Faithful, what have you met on the way?"



Faithful told Christian how he too had struggled through the Slough of Despond, only to meet up with a woman called Wanton. Shutting his eyes to her charms, Faithful fled from her. Further along the way, Faithful met old Adam.



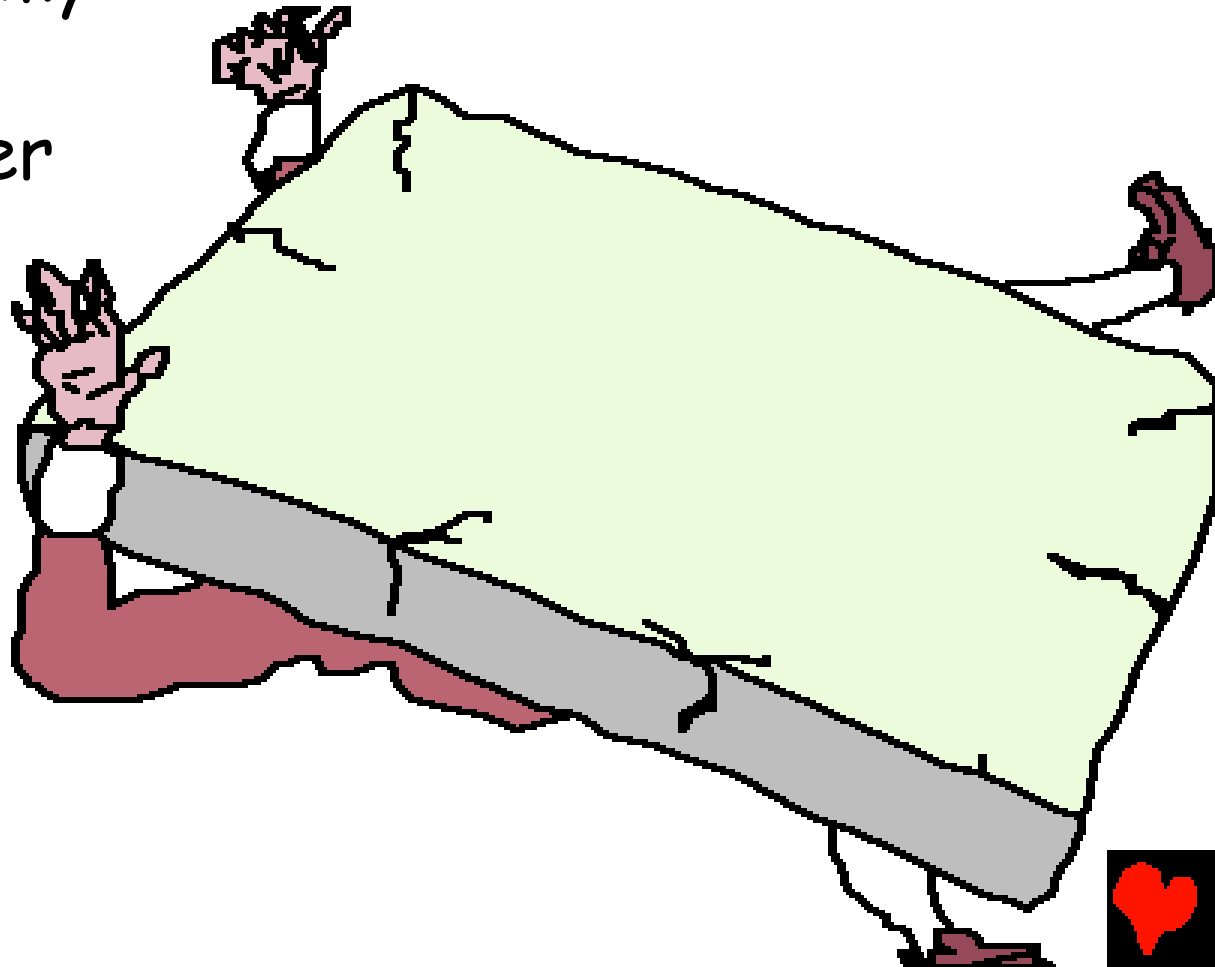
"Old Adam tempted me to live in his house," Faithful continued. "He has three daughters, called the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life. I could marry any one or all three, he told me."



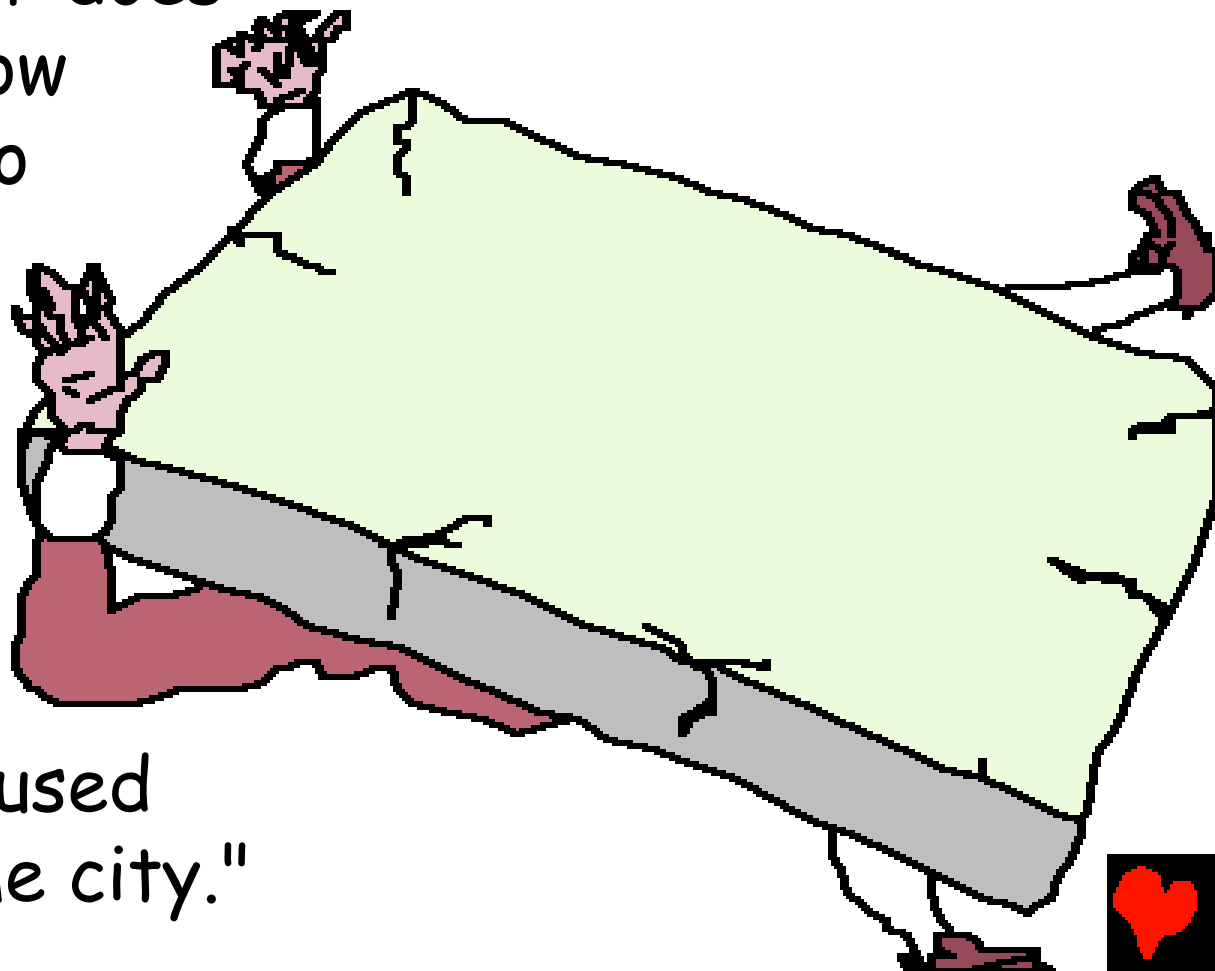
"How did that end?"
Christian asked. "I saw
writing on his forehead,"
Faithful answered. "It said
'Put off the old man with
his deeds.' I refused him.
'I'll send someone to make
your way bitter,' he
warned."



Faithful shook his head as he remembered. "Just as I turned to leave, I felt old Adam take hold of my flesh and give me such a deadly pinch that I thought he'd pulled my skin off. 'O wretched man!' I cried and ran on my way up the hill. Somebody ran after me and knocked me down, almost killing me. I asked him why he did that."



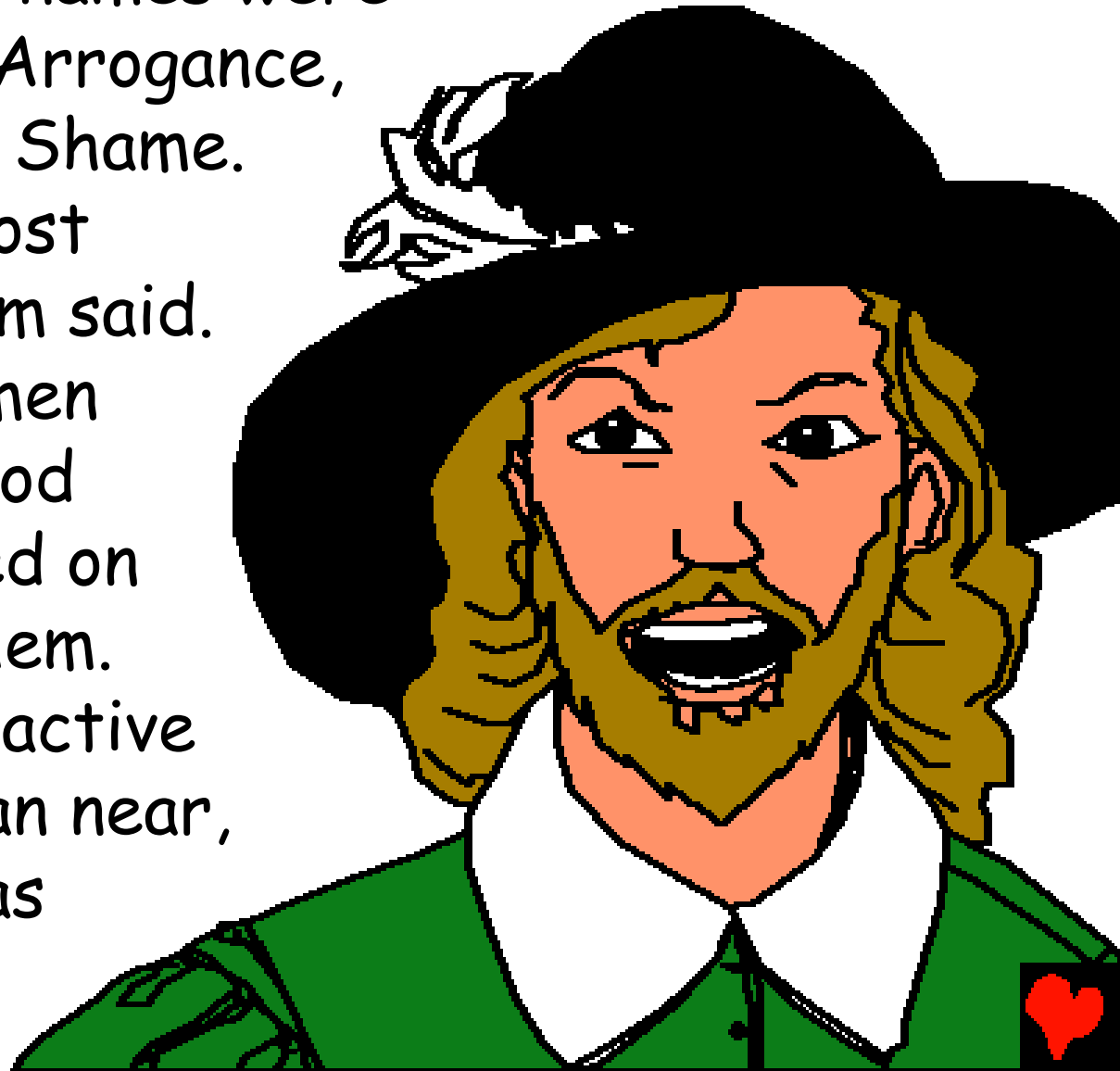
"He said," Faithful went on, "because part of my heart wanted to join with old Adam. I cried for mercy. He said he did not know what mercy was."
"That was Moses," Christian informed Faithful. "He spares nobody. Nor does he know how to show mercy to those who break his law. He knows only judgement."
"Yes," Faithful agreed. "It was Moses and his broken law that caused me to flee our home city."



Faithful told how he had met and overcome other persons on the path, whose names were Discontent, Pride, Arrogance, Worldly Glory, and Shame.

"Shame gave me most trouble," the pilgrim said.

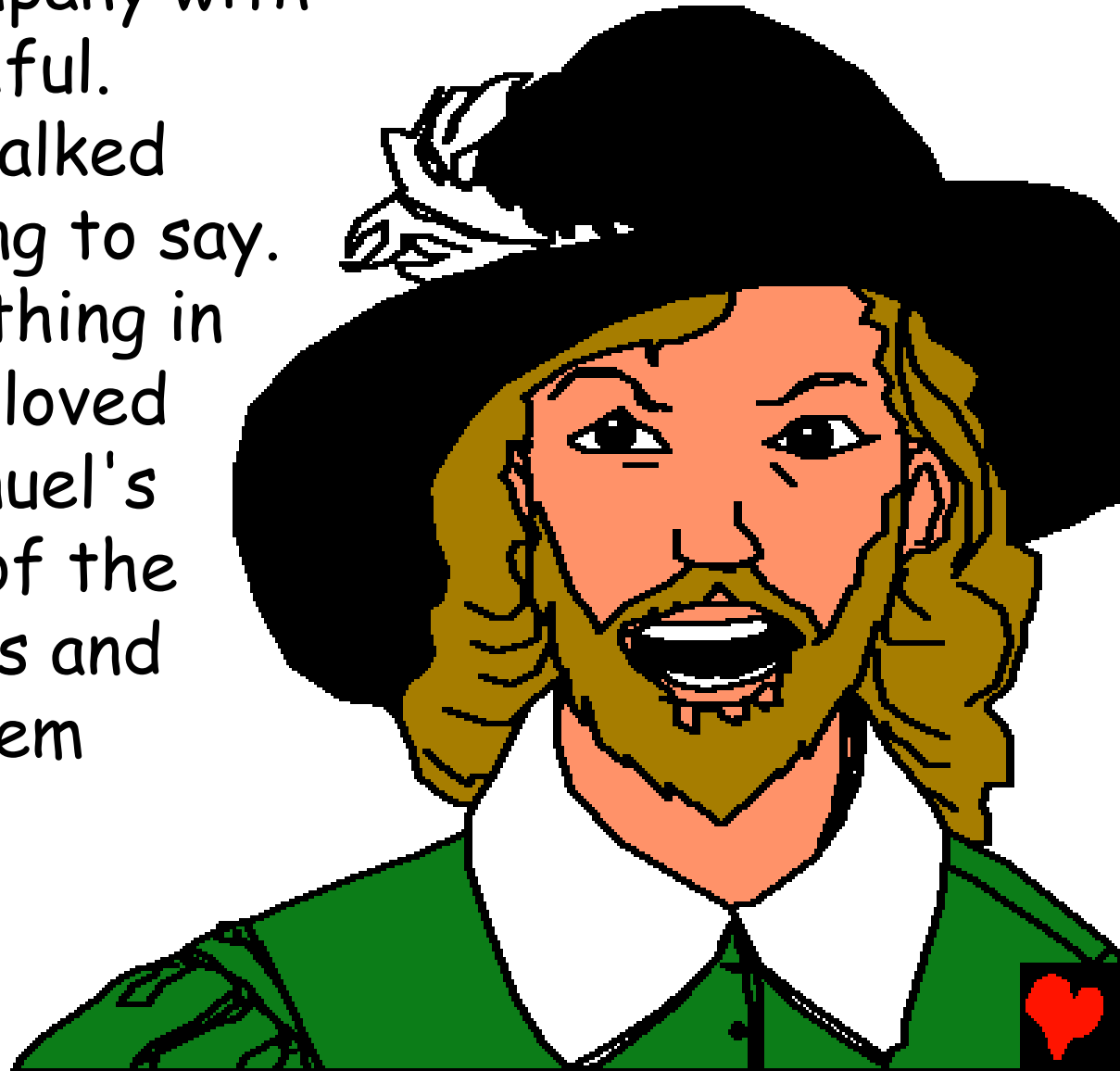
"He told me what men are but not what God is." A man appeared on the path before them. Tall, and more attractive at the distance than near, this man's name was Talkative.



Saying he was on his way to the heavenly country, he willingly joined company with Christian and Faithful.

Though Talkative talked much he had nothing to say.

Nor was there anything in his life to show he loved the Lord of Emmanuel's Land. Soon tiring of the other men's praises and prayers, he left them to walk alone.



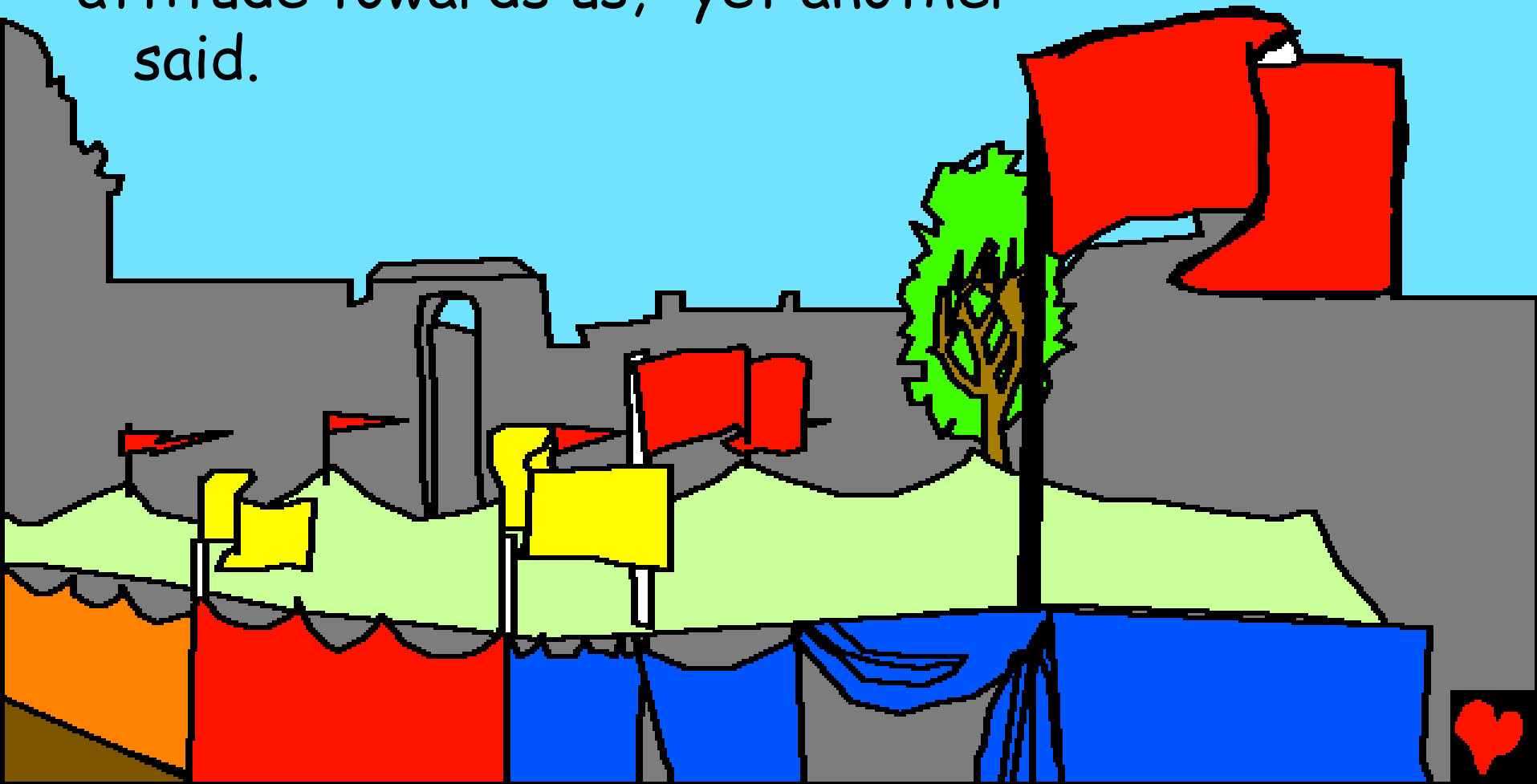
Almost out of the wilderness, the men looked back and saw an old friend coming their way. "I come to warn you," Evangelist told them. "You must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of heaven." Evangelist's tone was solemn. "In the town close by you will be surrounded by enemies," Evangelist told them.



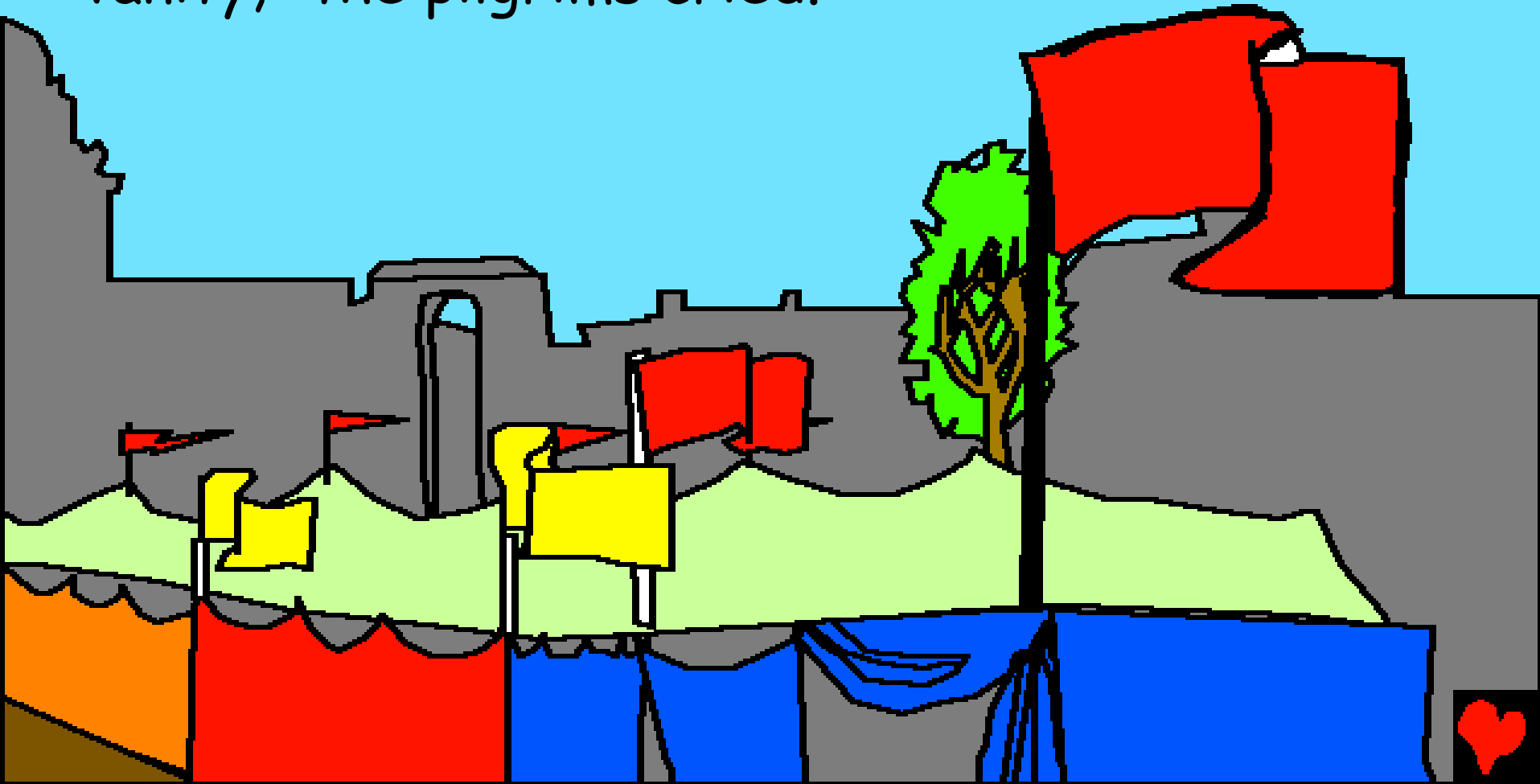
"They will try to kill you. Remember, 'be faithful unto death and the King will give you a crown of life'. If one dies, he will reach Celestial City first." Evangelist pointed. "There! The town of Vanity, which hosts a fair all year. The fair was started by the Devil long ago. Buying; selling; idle wicked amusements; thefts; murders and adulteries; all happen at Vanity Fair."



A crowd gathered round the two pilgrims as soon as they entered the city. "Look at their odd robes," one rude fellow called out. "Listen to their funny speech," another scoffed. "I don't like their attitude towards us," yet another said.

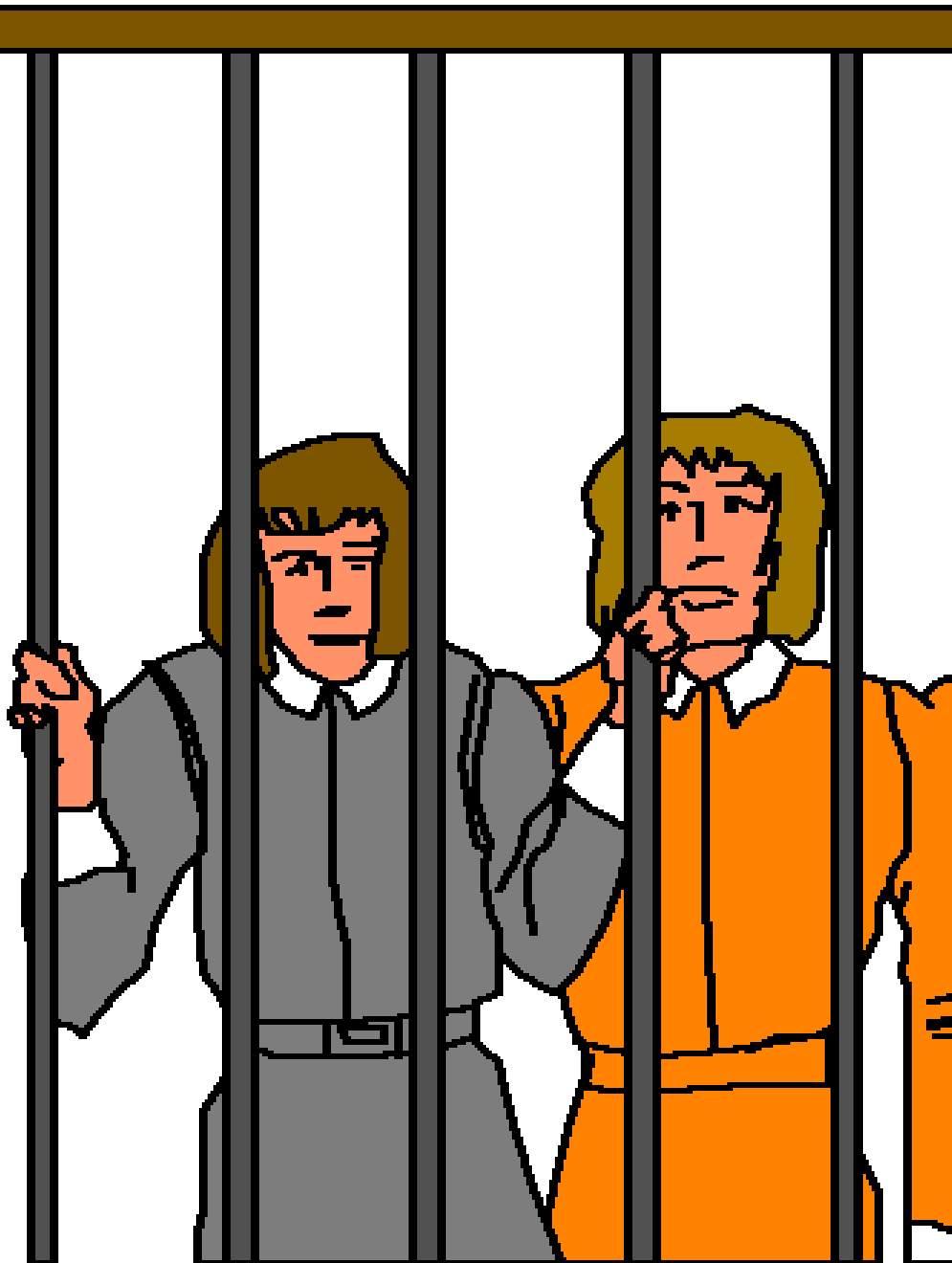


Angrily, the stall-holders mobbed the two pilgrims who not only refused to look at the merchandise but stuck their fingers in their ears, shutting out enticements to buy. "Turn my eyes from beholding vanity," the pilgrims cried.



While Christian and Faithful gazed upwards to show their allegiance to Heaven, one mocker taunted them. "What will you buy?" Gravely, they answered. "We buy the truth." This caused even more anger. Finally, the two were arrested.





A judge named Lord Hategood heard the complaints against the two pilgrims. "Who are you, where are you going, and why are you dressed so differently?" he asked. "We're pilgrims in this world," they replied, "on our way to Heavenly Jerusalem."





"We did nothing wrong," the men continued. "Except we would not buy at Vanity Fair." At this, the mob surged forward. "Mad trouble-makers," they shouted. Smearing the two with dirt, they threw them into a cage for public display.

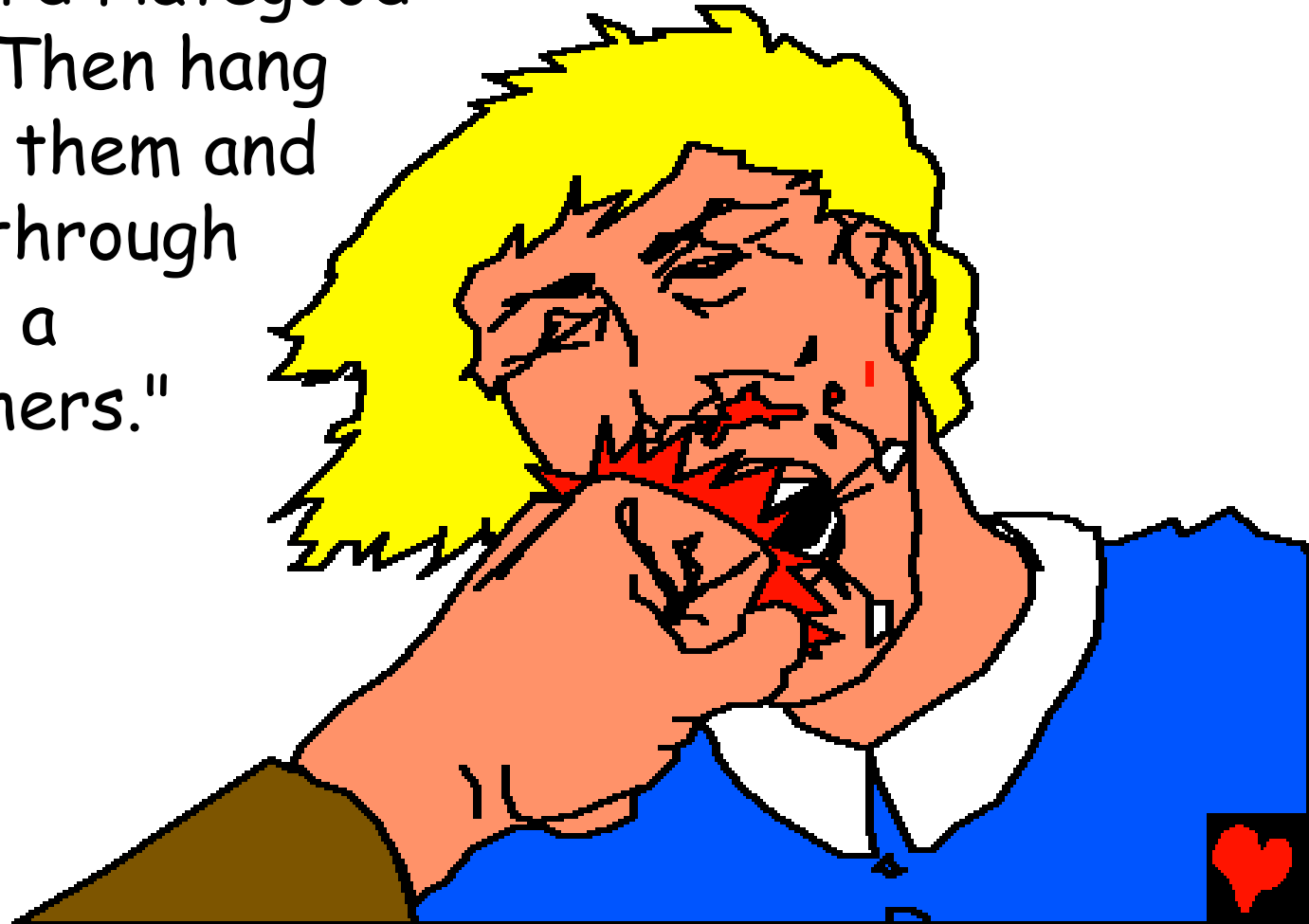




Lord Hategood laughed scornfully as people hurled rotten vegetables, pebbles, and sticks at Christian and Faithful. For their part, they sat patiently, praying quietly for the people who treated them so shamefully.



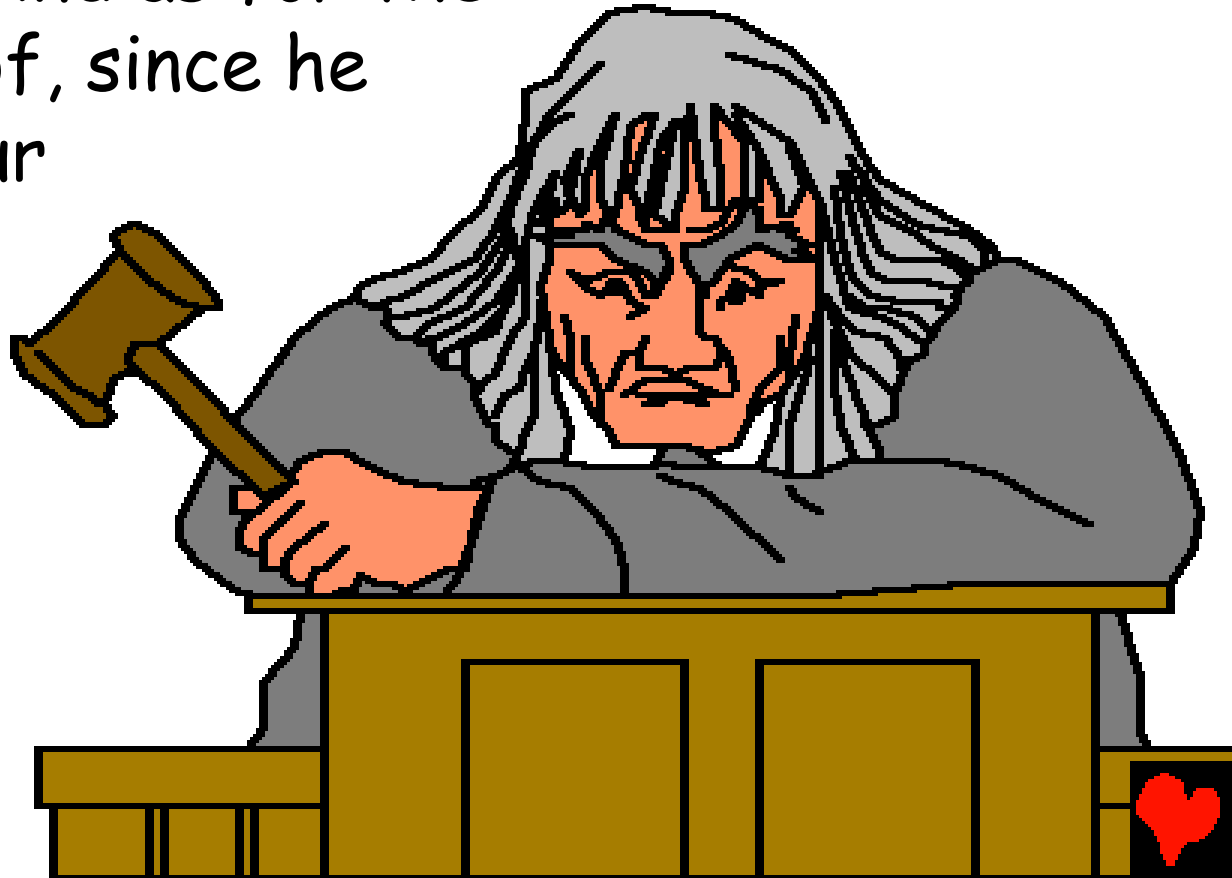
A few people in the crowd who were less prejudiced than others spoke up for the pilgrims. Soon a fight broke out between the two groups. Lord Hategood blamed the pilgrims for that, too. "Whip the prisoners," Lord Hategood commanded. "Then hang iron chains on them and parade them through Vanity Fair as a warning to others."



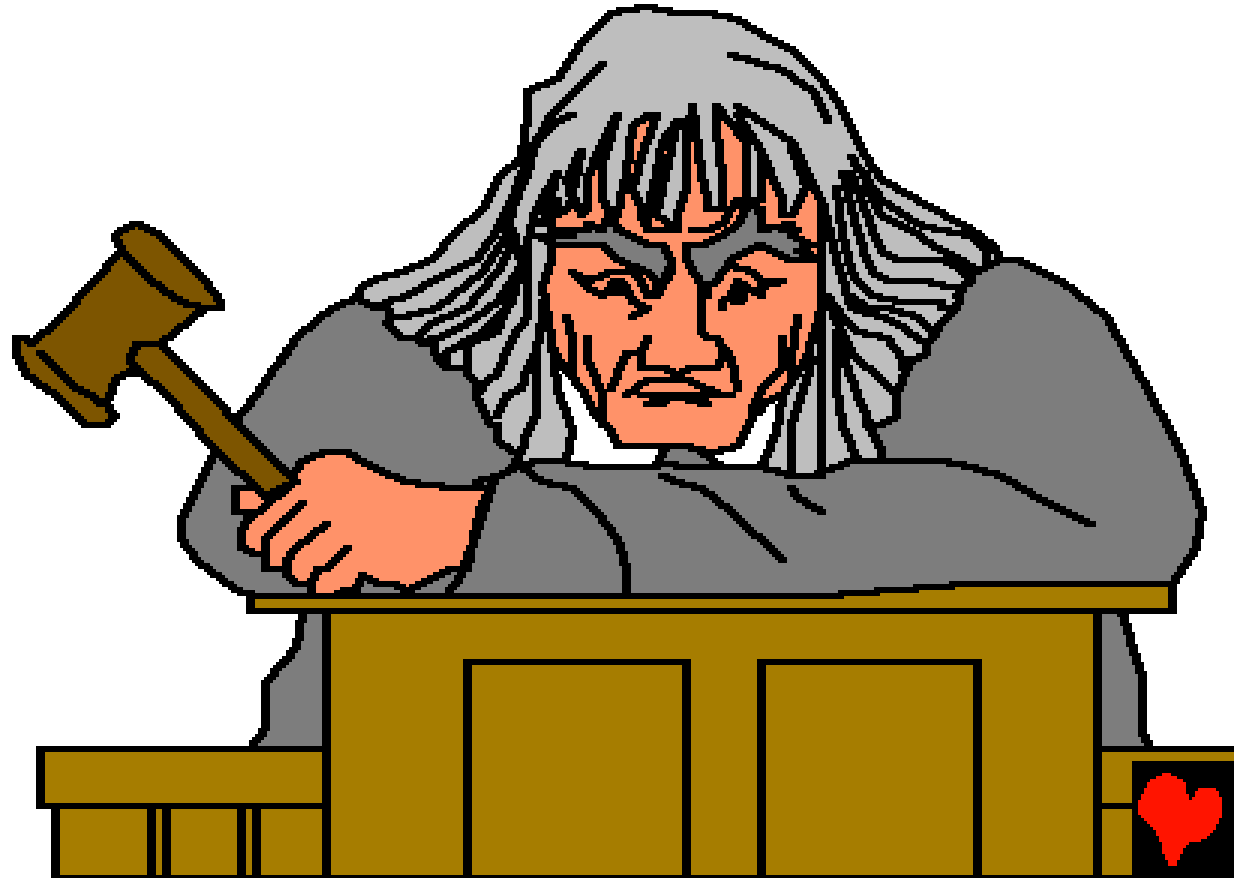
Still Christian and Faithful behaved meekly and patiently - which made the mob even more angry. "Kill them!" The cry sounded on all sides. Christian and Faithful remembered Evangelist's words and realized one or both may die there at Vanity Fair. "The quicker we will reach the Celestial City," they comforted each other.



The trial was as unjust as the charges. Christian and Faithful were accused of disturbing trade in Vanity Fair; creating divisions in the town; and forming a party of citizens in contempt of the laws set by Vanity's Prince. "We deny the charges," Faithful stated. "And as for the Prince you speak of, since he is the enemy of our Lord, I defy him and all his angels."



Three witnesses rose to speak against the prisoners. Their names were Envy, Superstition, and Pickthank. Being sworn to tell nothing but the truth, they all testified against Christian and Faithful. Envy spoke first.



Envy: "This man Faithful is vile. He does not regard our Prince, laws or customs, but teaches unfaithful notions which he calls



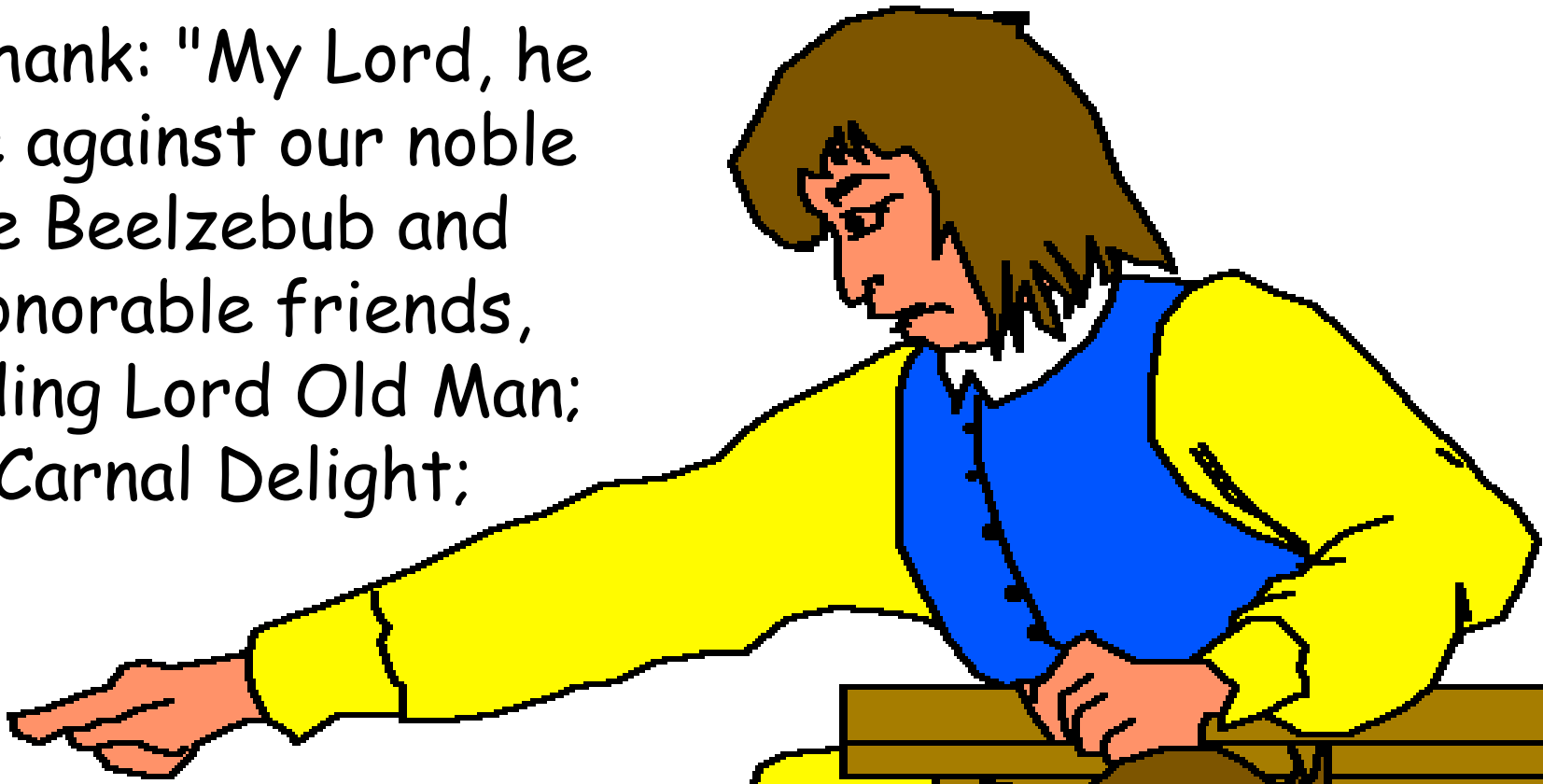
principles of faith and holiness. He judges Vanity's customs (and us who follow them) as ungodly."

Superstition: "My Lord,
I don't know this man,
nor do I want to know
him. But the other day
in discussion he said our
religion did not
please God;

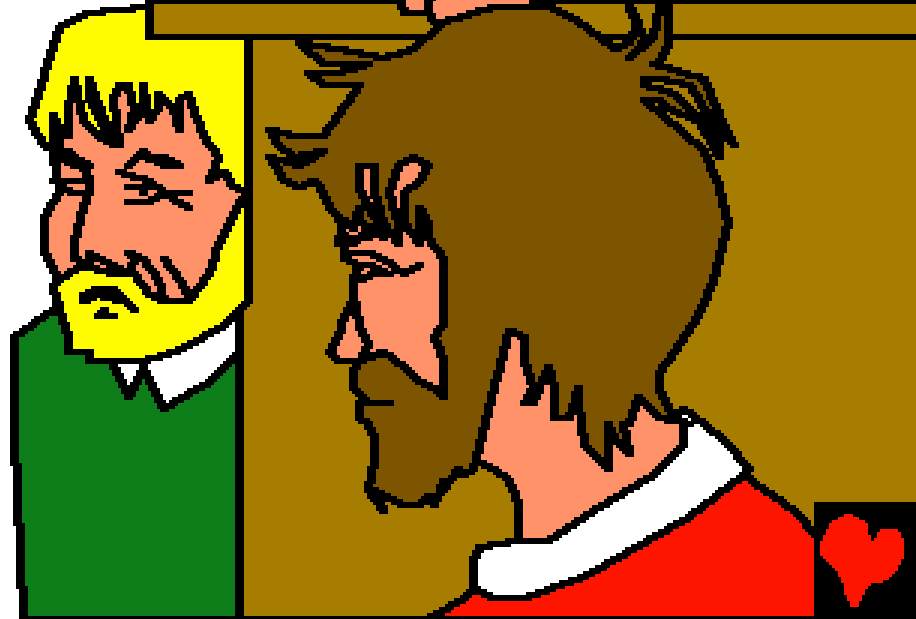
that we worship in vain;
and that we are yet in
our sins and will be
finally damned."



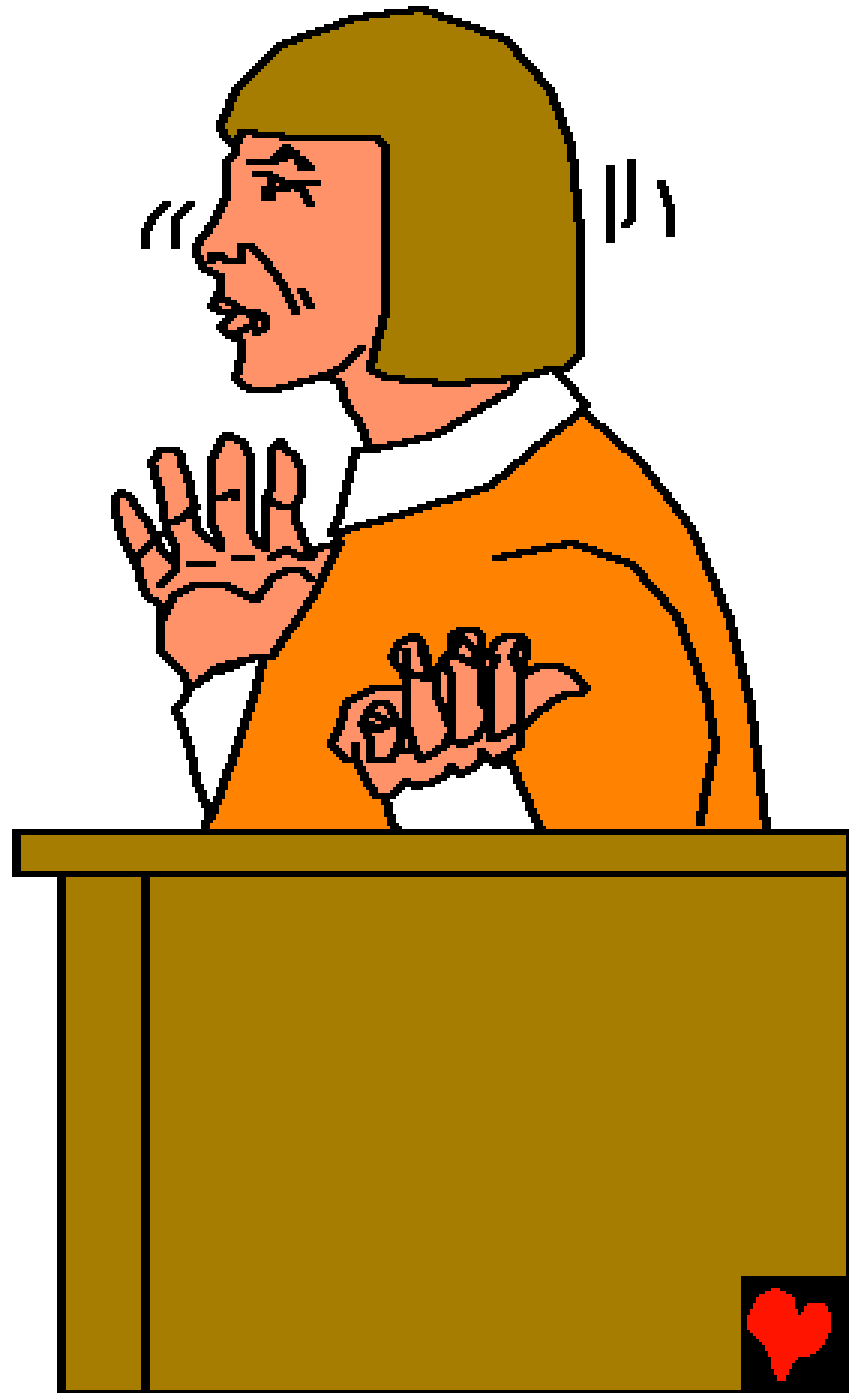
Pickthank: "My Lord, he spoke against our noble Prince Beelzebub and his honorable friends, including Lord Old Man; Lord Carnal Delight;



Lord Luxurious; Lord Desire of Vain Glory; Lord Lechery; Lord Having Greedy; and other nobility."



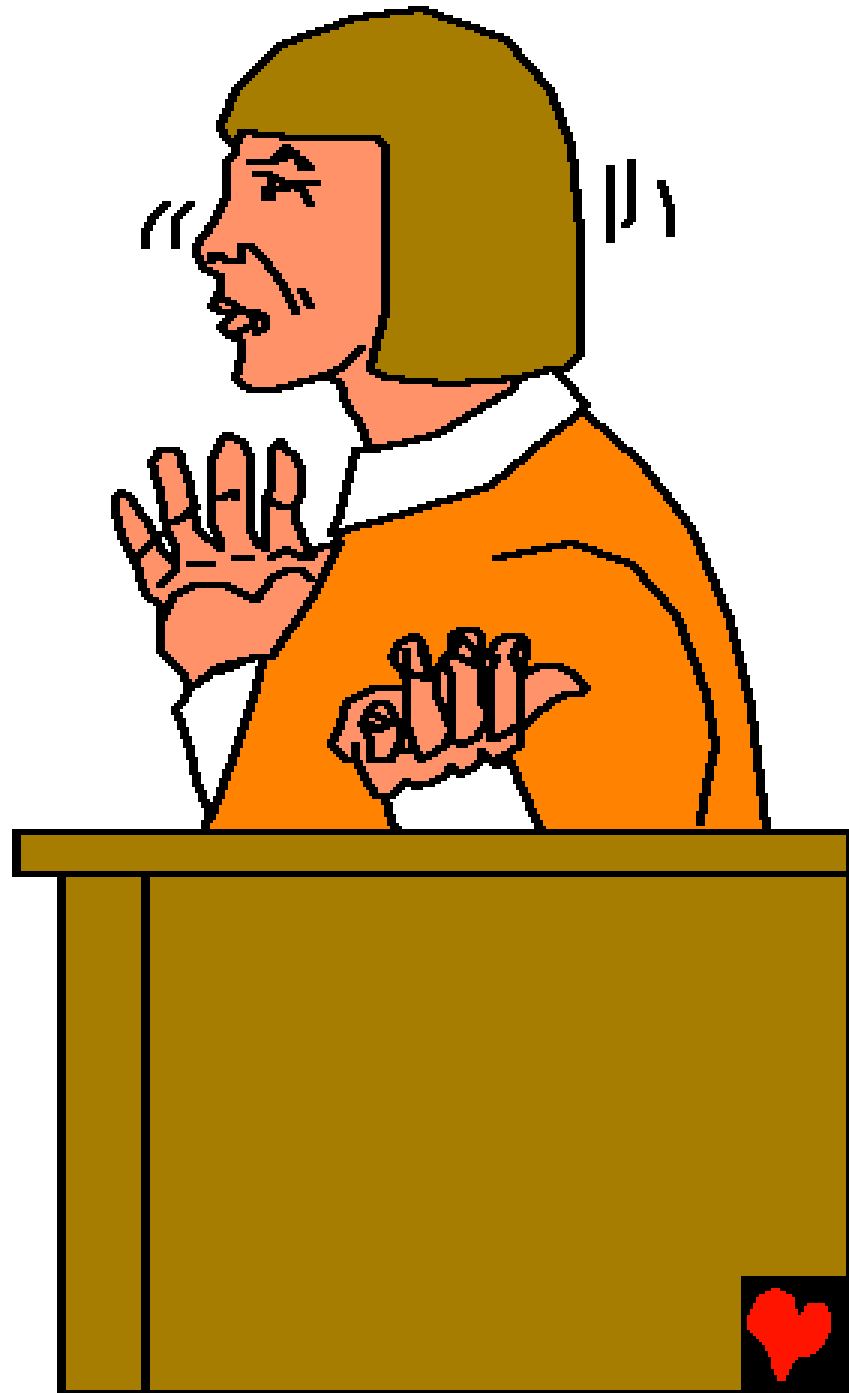
"You heretic and traitor, do you hear what these honest gentlemen witness against you?" Lord Hategood thundered. "Yes, sir, and I would like to defend myself," Faithful replied. Lord Hategood gave permission grudgingly. "To Mr. Envy I said that rules, laws, customs or people which are against the Word of God are also diametrically opposed to Christianity," Faithful said.



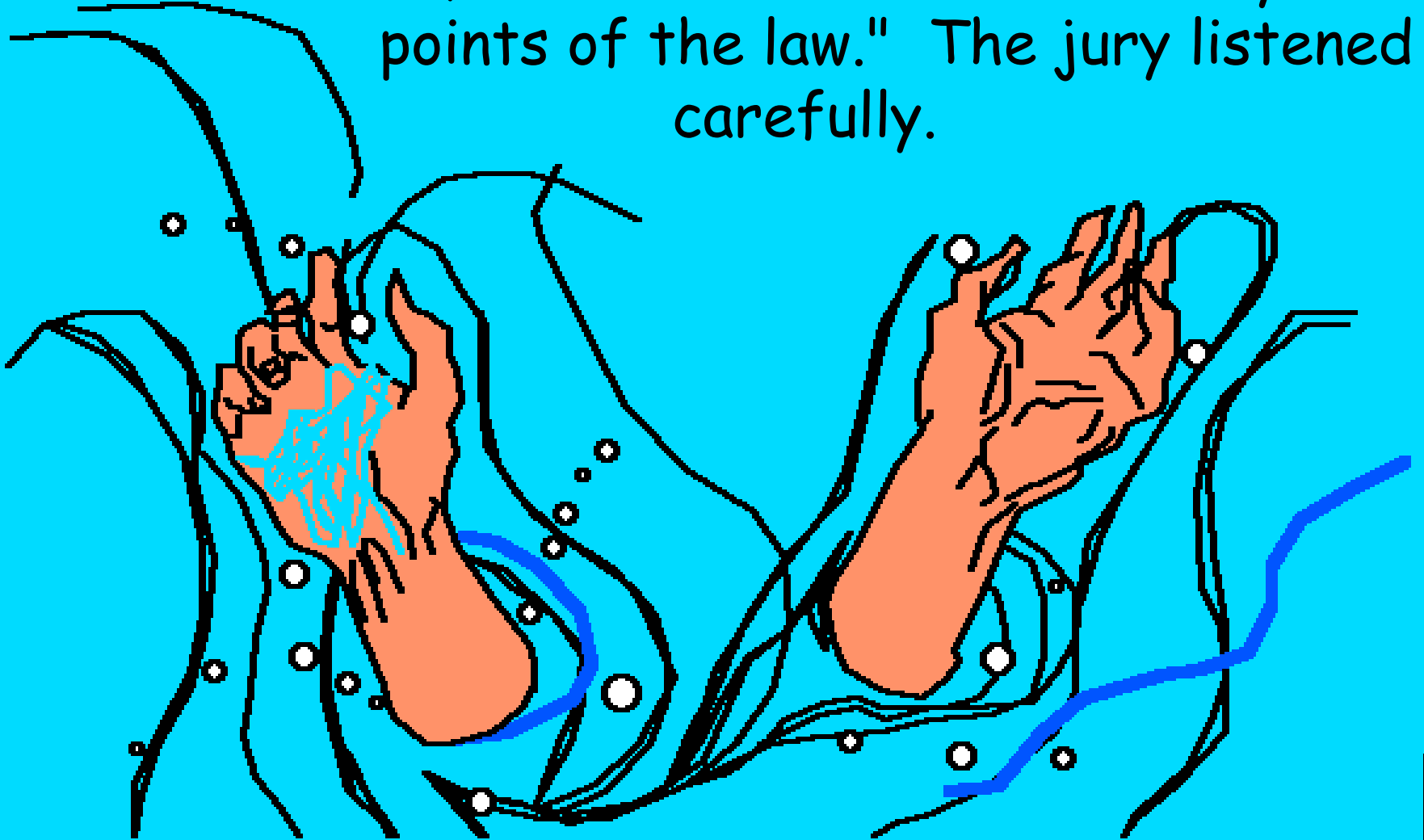
"I told Mr. Superstition that only divine faith revealed by God can give eternal life." Faithful looked at Mr. Pickthank.

"To that gentleman I said that the Prince of this town and the nobility named by Mr. Pickthank are more fit for Hell than here." And so Faithful fell silent after one prayer.

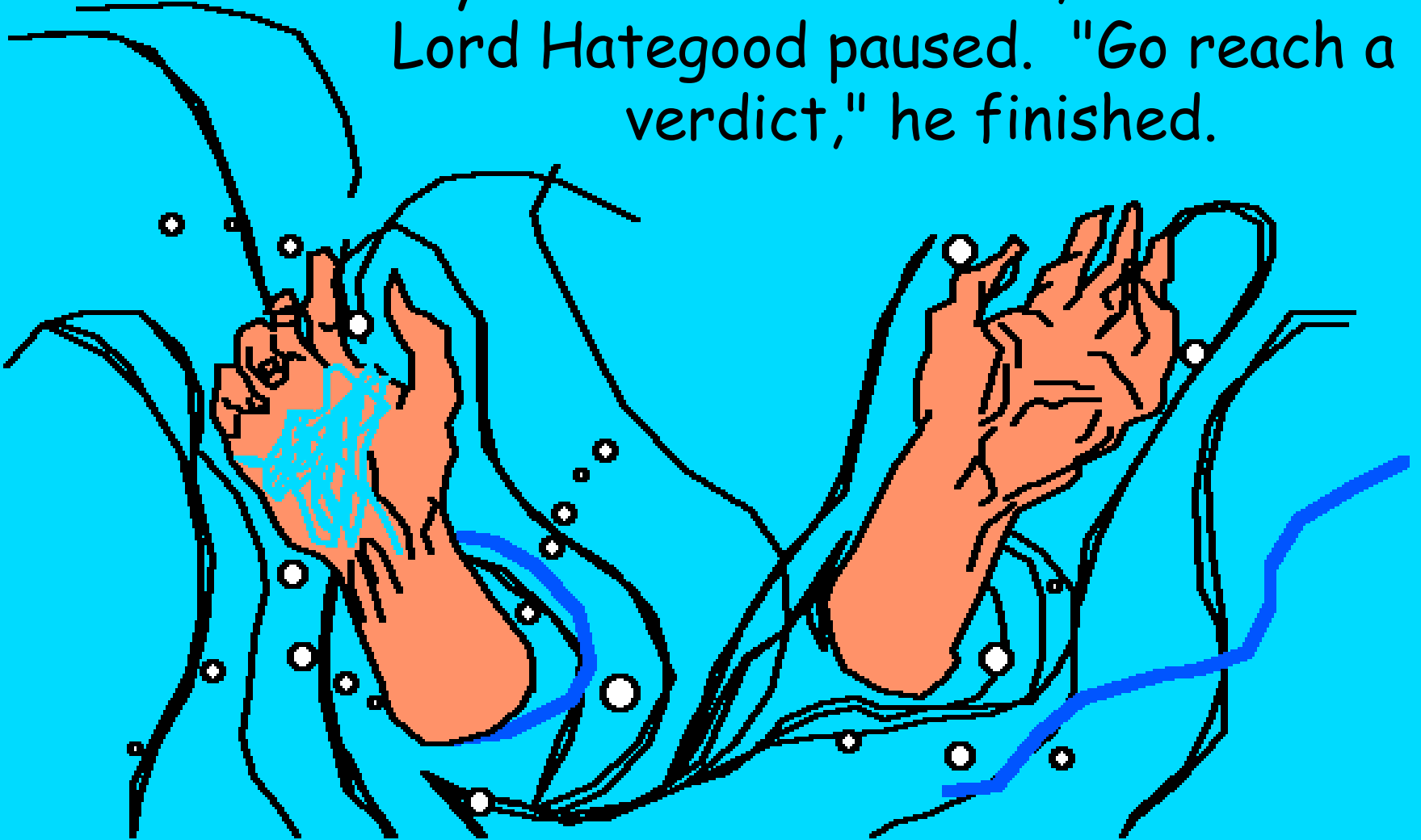
"The Lord have mercy upon me."



"Gentlemen of the jury," Lord Hategood called out. "You've heard the witnesses - and this man's reply and confession. You may hang him or save his life. Yet, I must remind and instruct you in points of the law." The jury listened carefully.



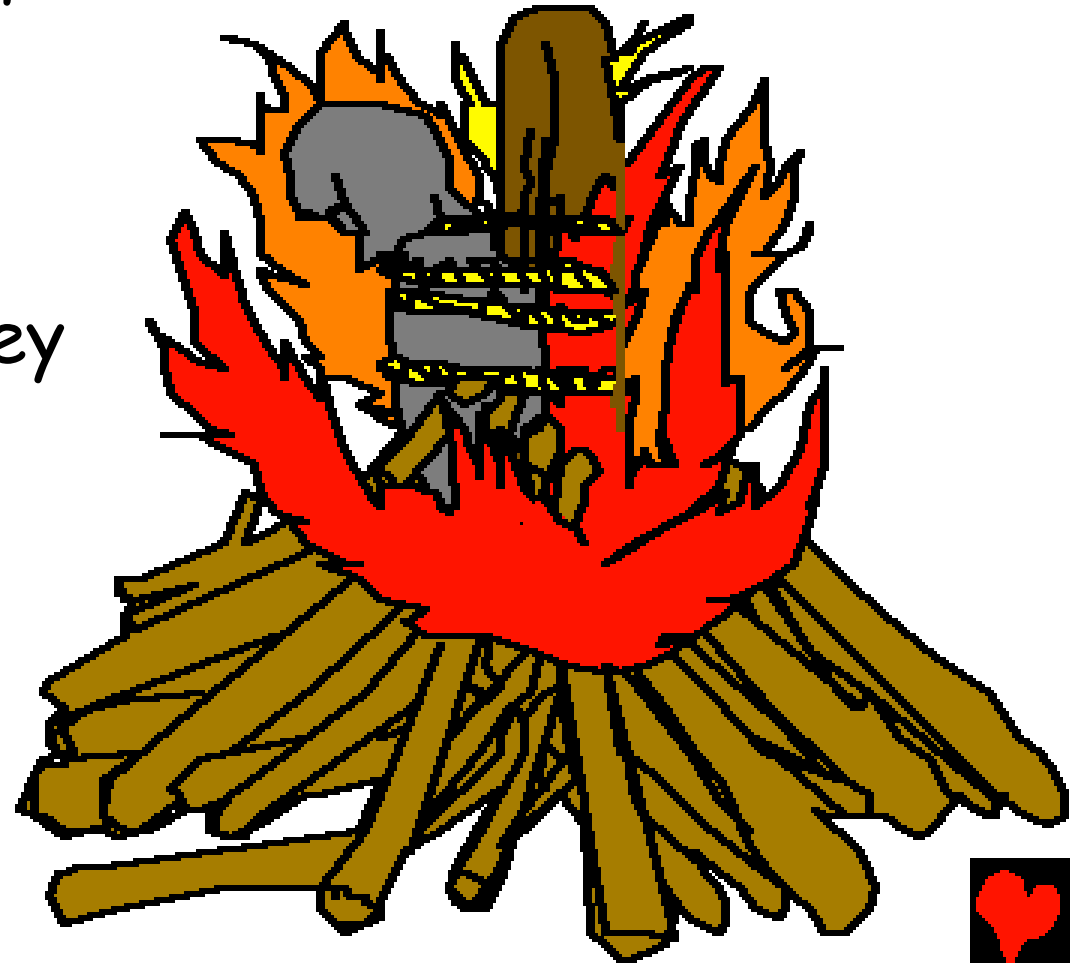
"Pharaoh, great servant to our Prince, made a law that those of a contrary religion should be thrown to their death in the river; Nebuchadnezzar used a fiery furnace; and Darius, a lion's den."
Lord Hategood paused. "Go reach a verdict," he finished.



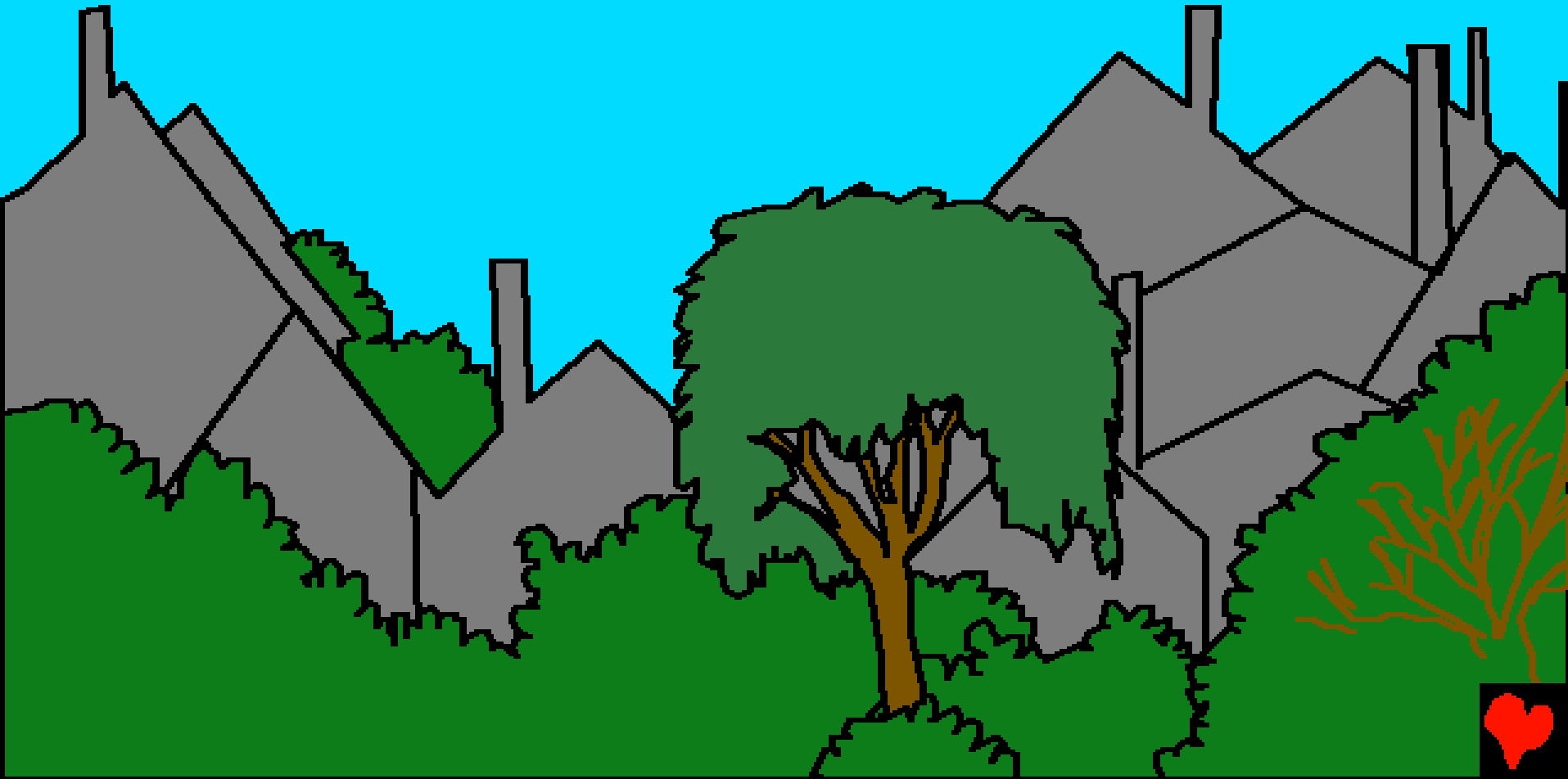
Lord Hategood read the sentence. "Condemned to be put to the most cruel death that could be invented." They brought Faithful out to be dealt with according to their law. First, they whipped him, beat him, and cut his flesh with knives. They stoned Faithful; stuck swords into him; and finally, tied him to a post and burnt him to ashes. None there saw it, but as Faithful died, a chariot descended and bore him to Heaven.



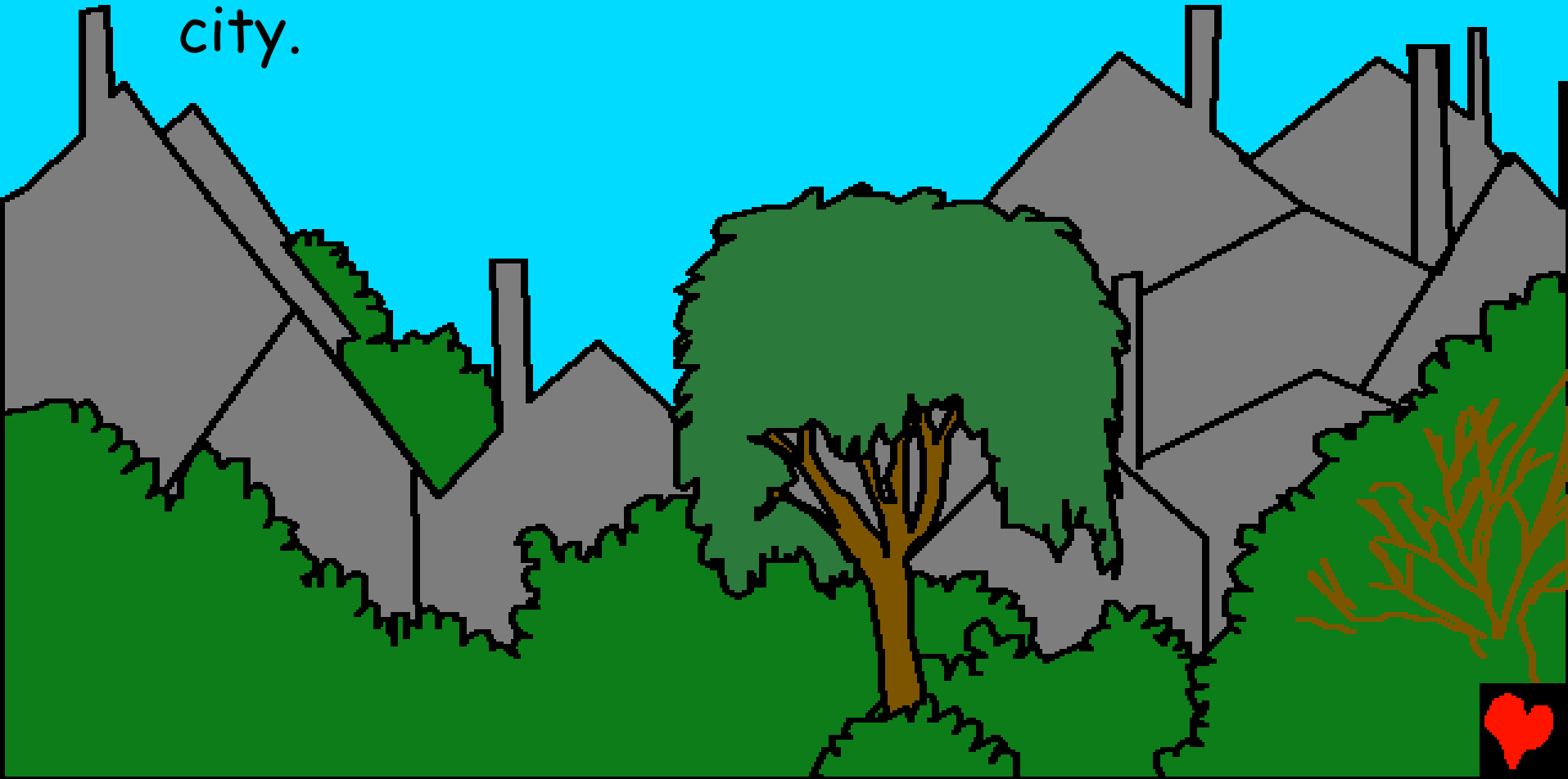
Christian, remanded in prison, was able to escape. He then sang: "Well, Faithful, you have faithfully professed before the Lord with Whom you will be blessed; When faithless ones, with all their vain delights, are crying out beneath their hellish plights; Sing, Faithful, sing and let your name survive, For though they killed you, you are still alive."



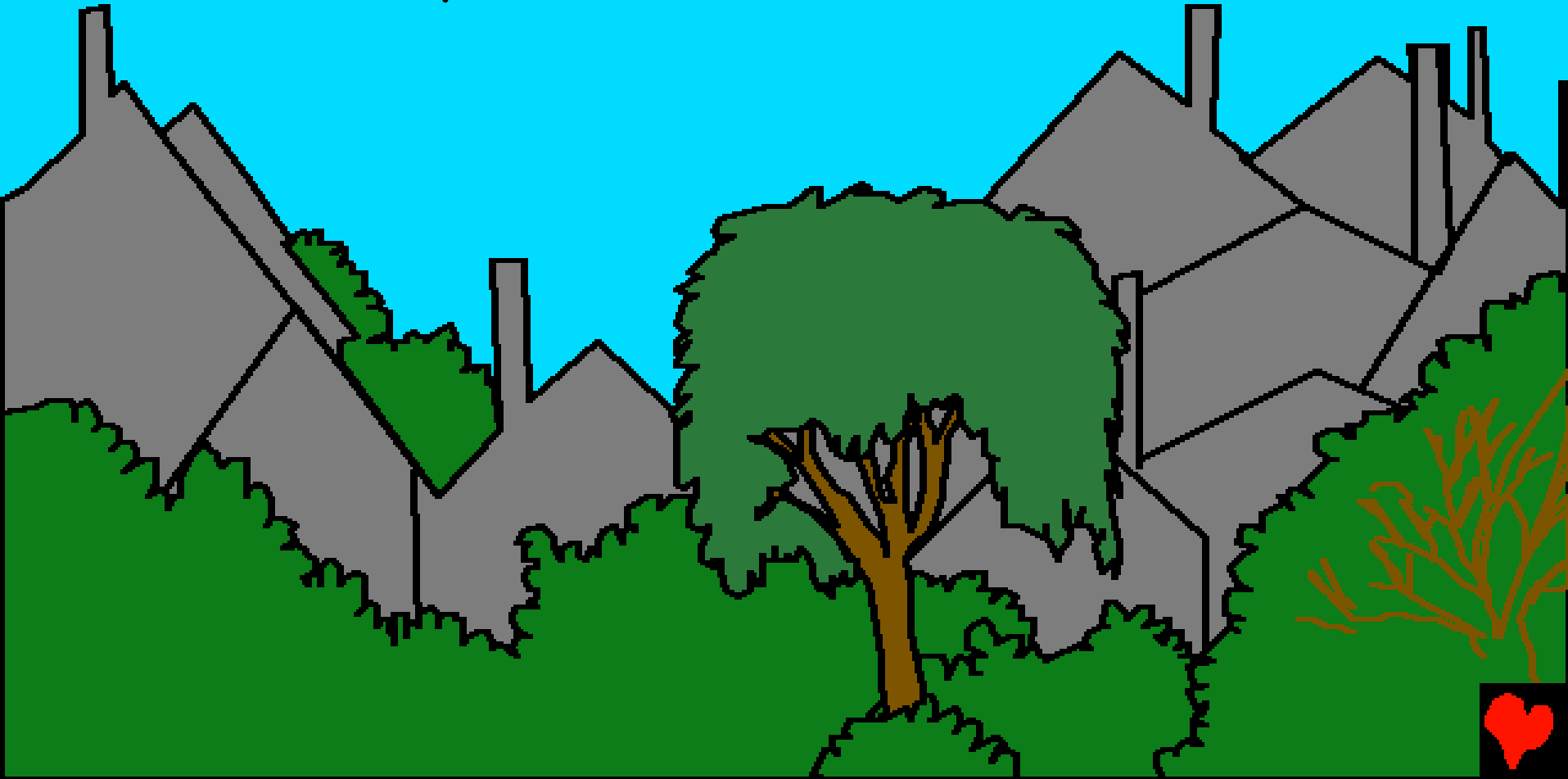
When Christian escaped, Hopeful, a citizen of Vanity Fair, left with him. Hopeful's heart was touched by the two pilgrims' words and actions during their sufferings. So, one died for the truth - and another turned to the truth.



"In their own time others will follow from Vanity Fair," Hopeful assured Christian. Walking on together, they over-took another traveller named By-ends coming from the town of Fair Speech and heading, so he said, for the Celestial city.

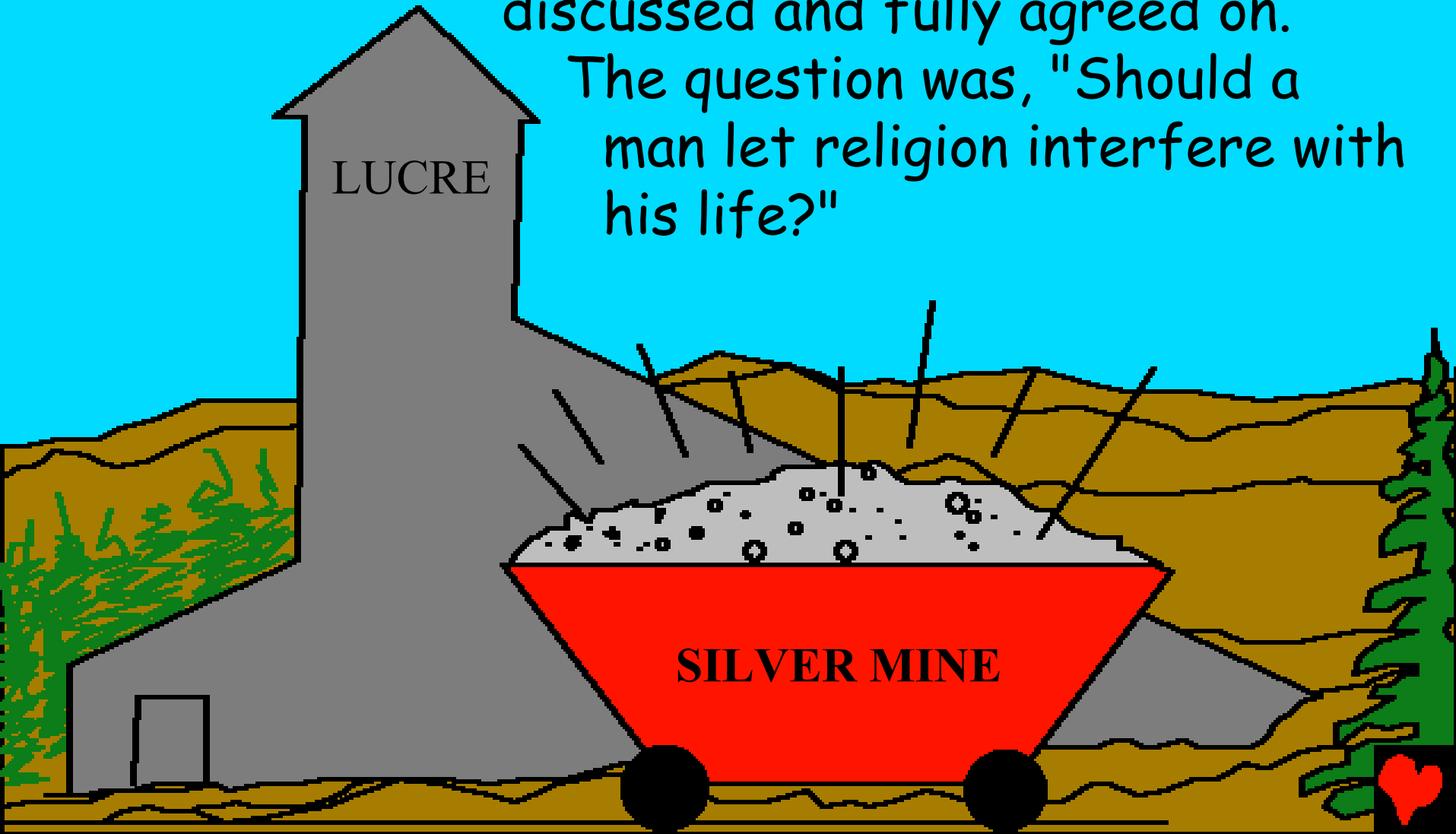


Christian discovered that By-ends would not surrender his heart to the Lord, though his words sounded right. They parted ways. Soon, By-ends was joined by three friends: Mr. Hold-the-world, Mr. Money-love, and Mr. Save-all.



By-ends and his three companions caught up with Christian and Hopeful and asked them a question which By-ends and his friends had already discussed and fully agreed on.

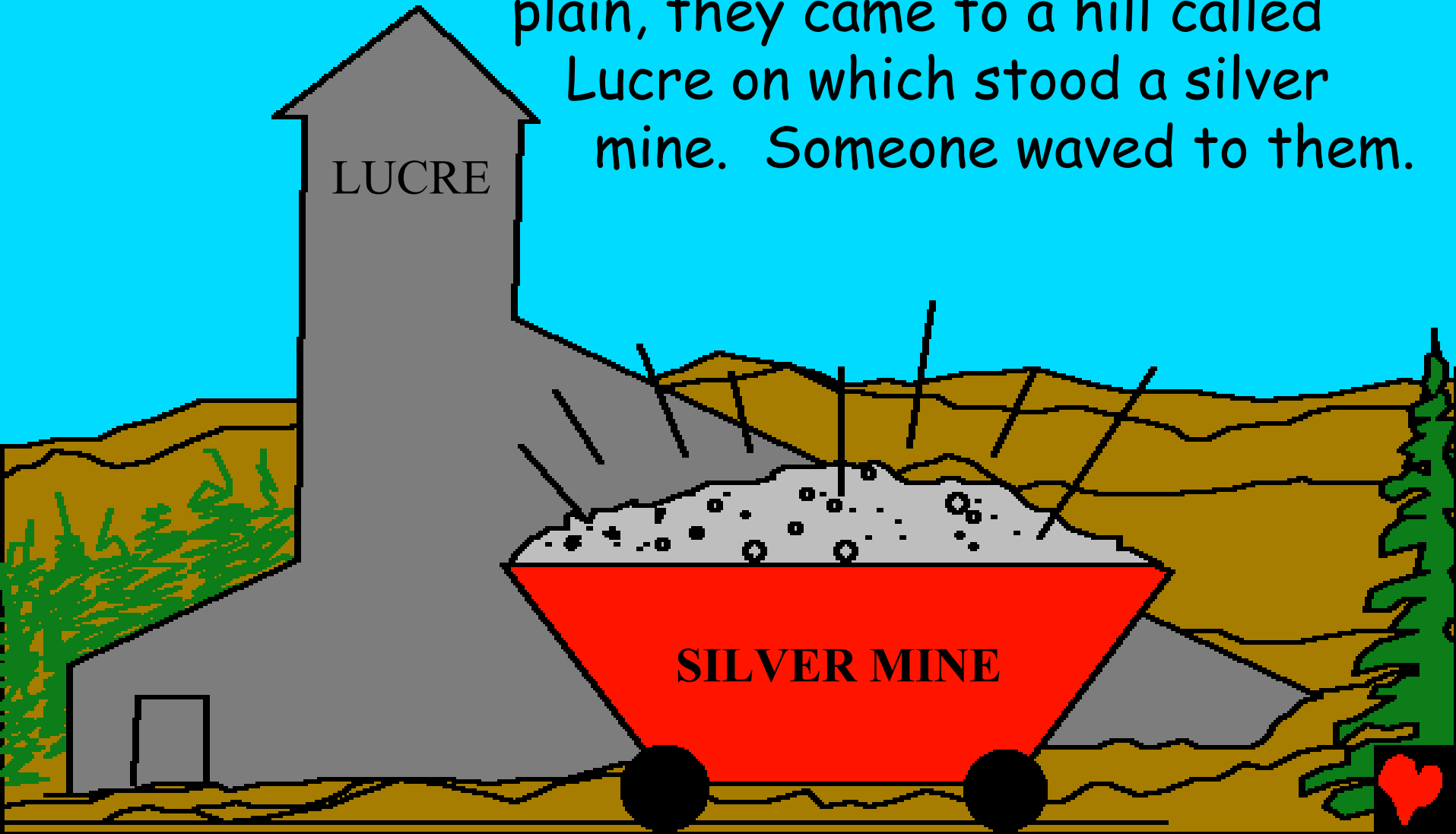
The question was, "Should a man let religion interfere with his life?"



"A babe in religion could answer that," Christian responded. "The Pharisees were of your kind of religion, the kind which served them well. So was Judas who denied our Lord for silver. Your reward will be according to your works."



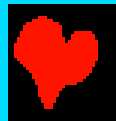
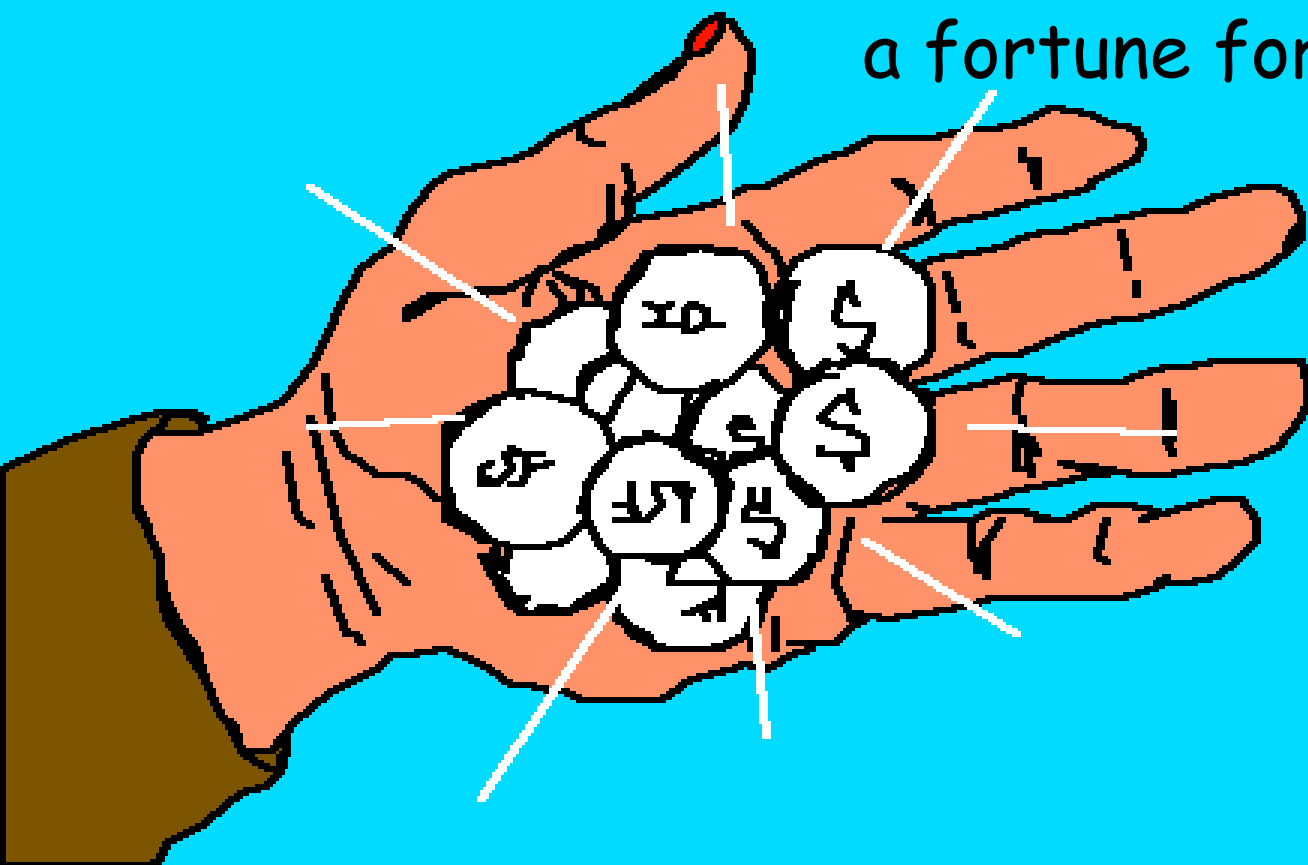
By-ends and his friends stood silent, with no answer. Again, Christian and Hopeful went on alone, crossing a plain called Ease. At the far end of the plain, they came to a hill called Lucre on which stood a silver mine. Someone waved to them.



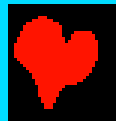
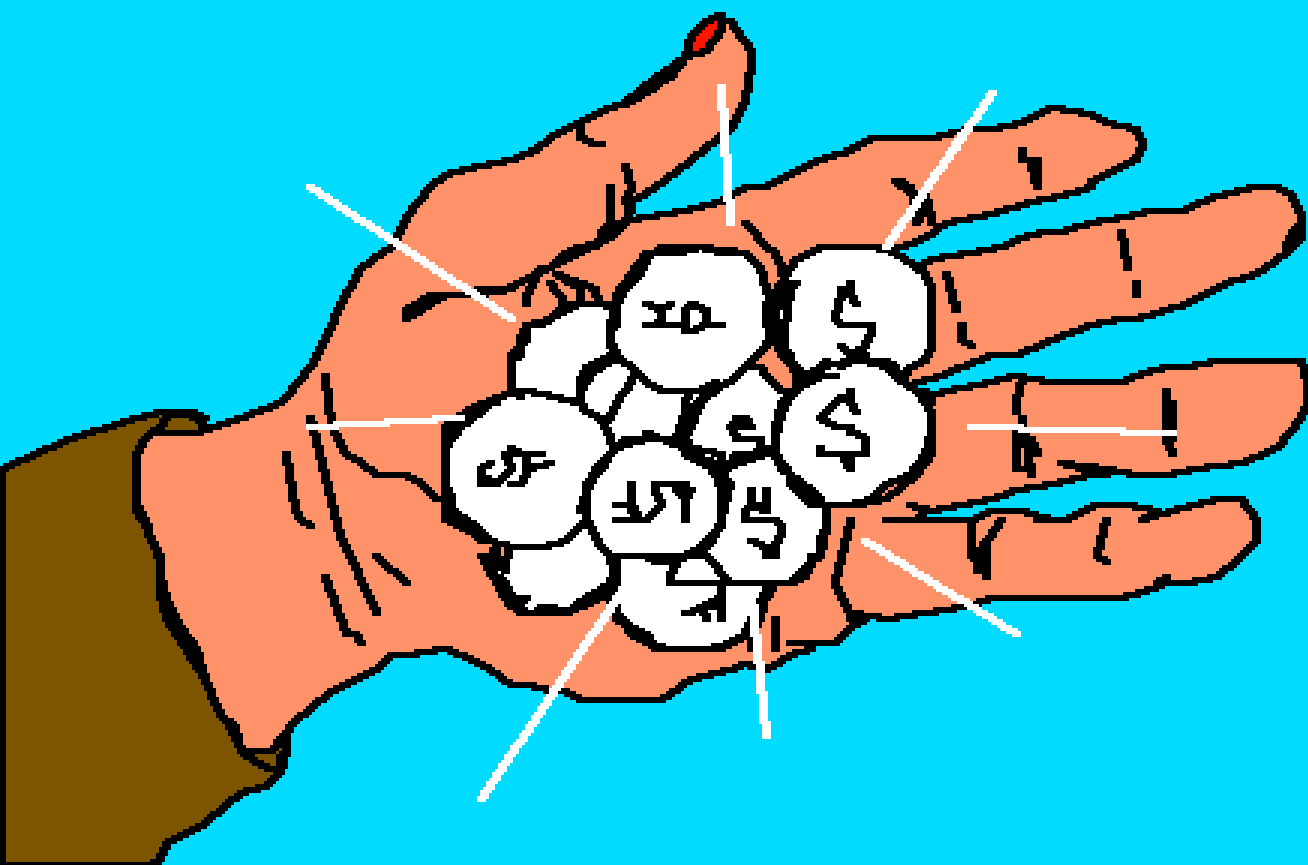
Demas: "Ho! Turn aside here. I want to show you something."

Christian: "What's so special that it should take us out of the way to the Celestial city?"

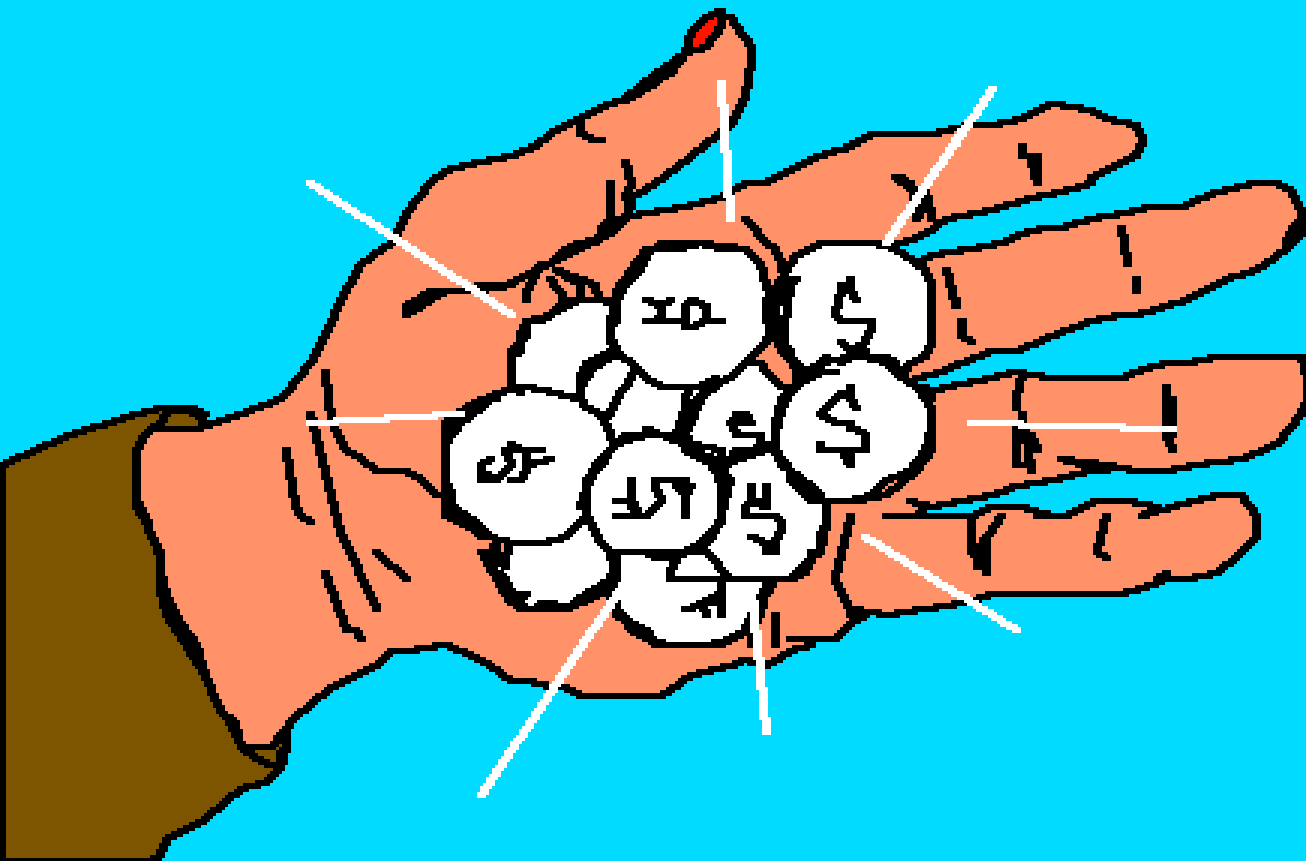
Demas: "A silver mine! Treasure for you! With the smallest effort you can provide a fortune for yourself."



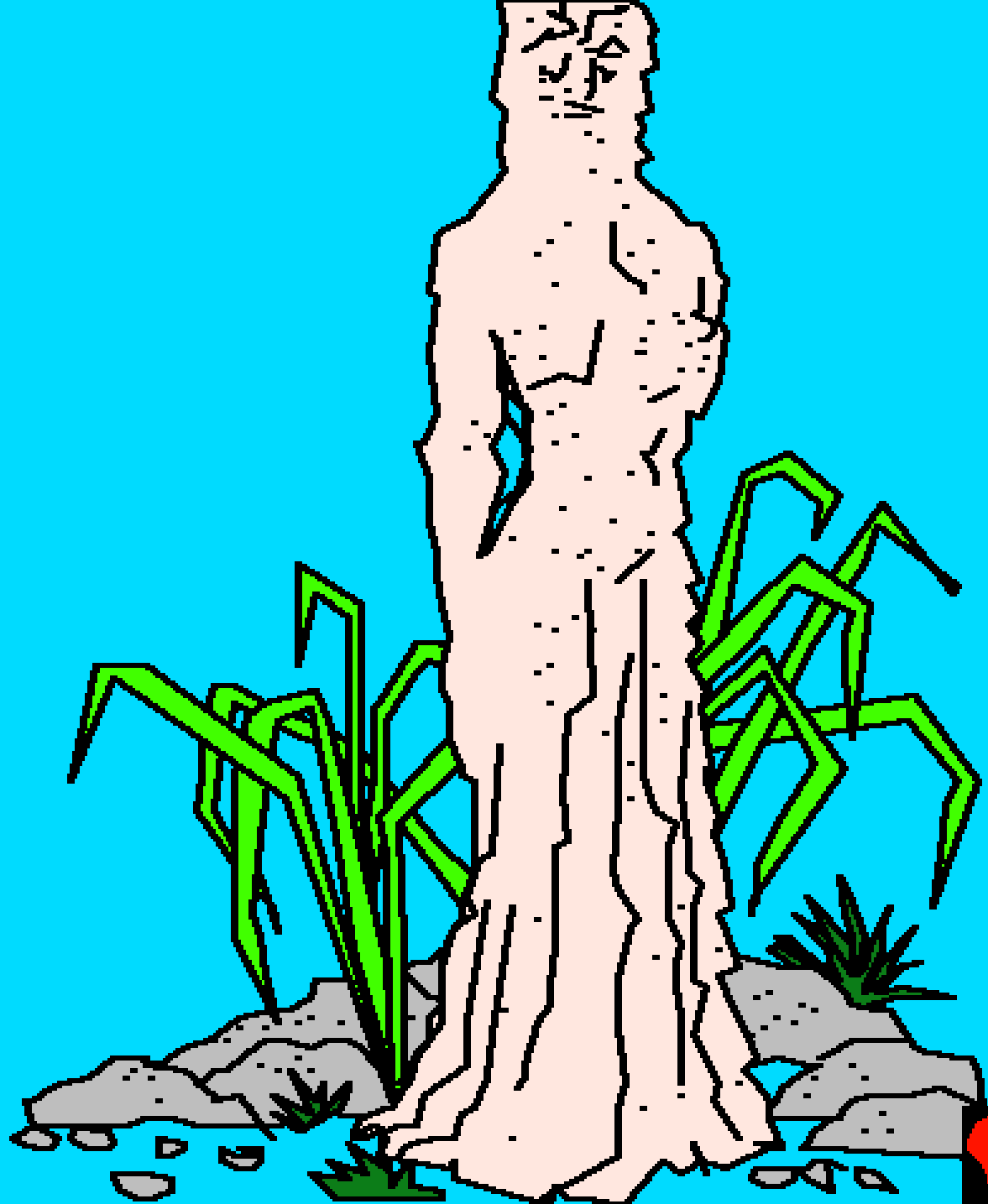
"Let's check it out," Hopeful suggested. "No!" Christian said. "This place is a snare to hinder our pilgrimage." He called back to Demas. "Isn't it dangerous?" "Not at all, except to the careless," Demas replied - but he blushed as he spoke.



"If By-ends gets the same invitation, he'll jump at it," Hopeful remarked. Christian nodded. "Come over and see," Demas coaxed. "Demas, you are an enemy of the right way," Christian responded. Turning, the two pilgrims walked on.

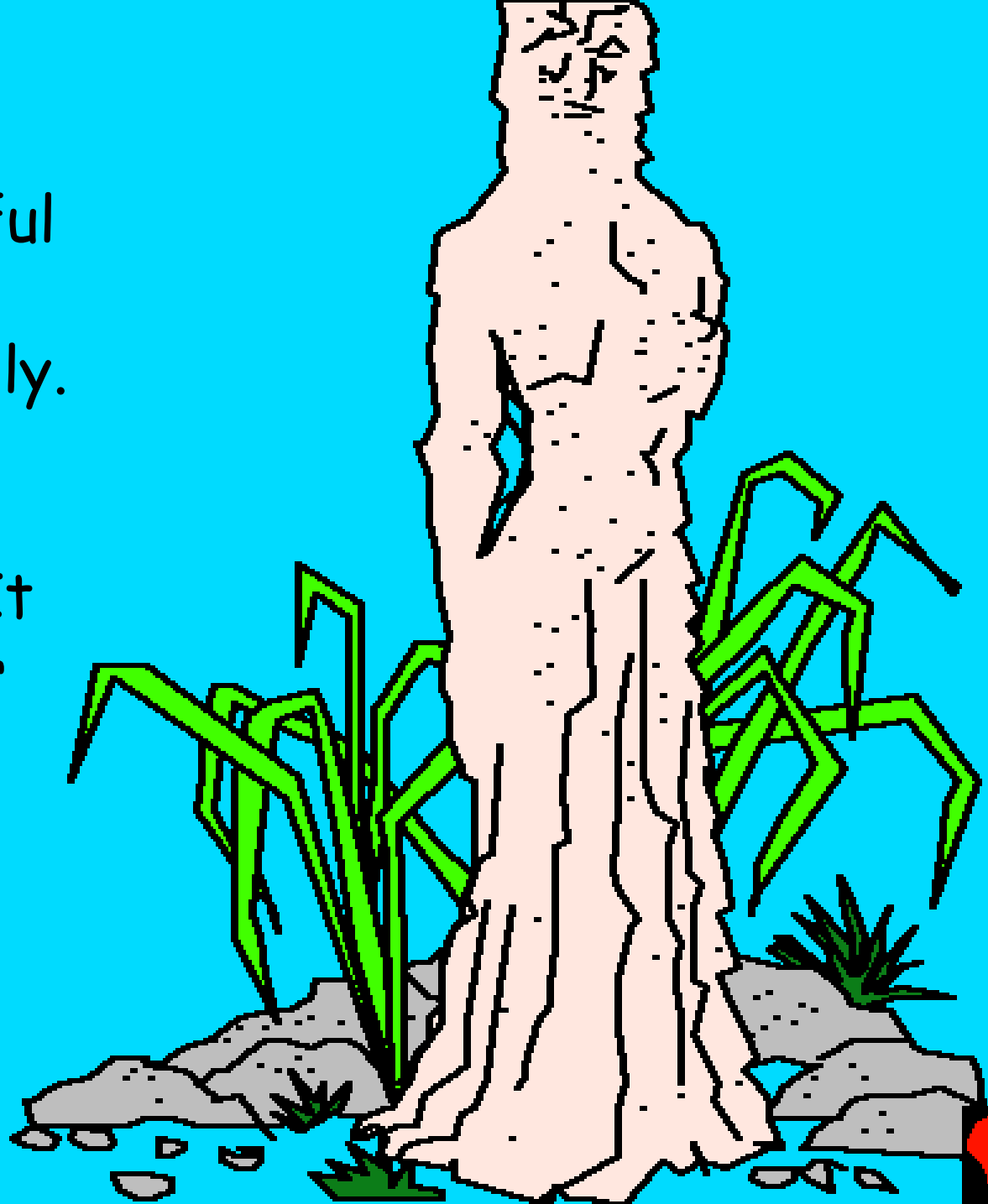


Just beyond
Lucre hill the
pilgrims came
to a place where,
by the roadside,
there stood an
old monument.
It looked like a
woman who had
somehow been
transformed
into the shape
of a pillar. They
both stared at it
for a long time.

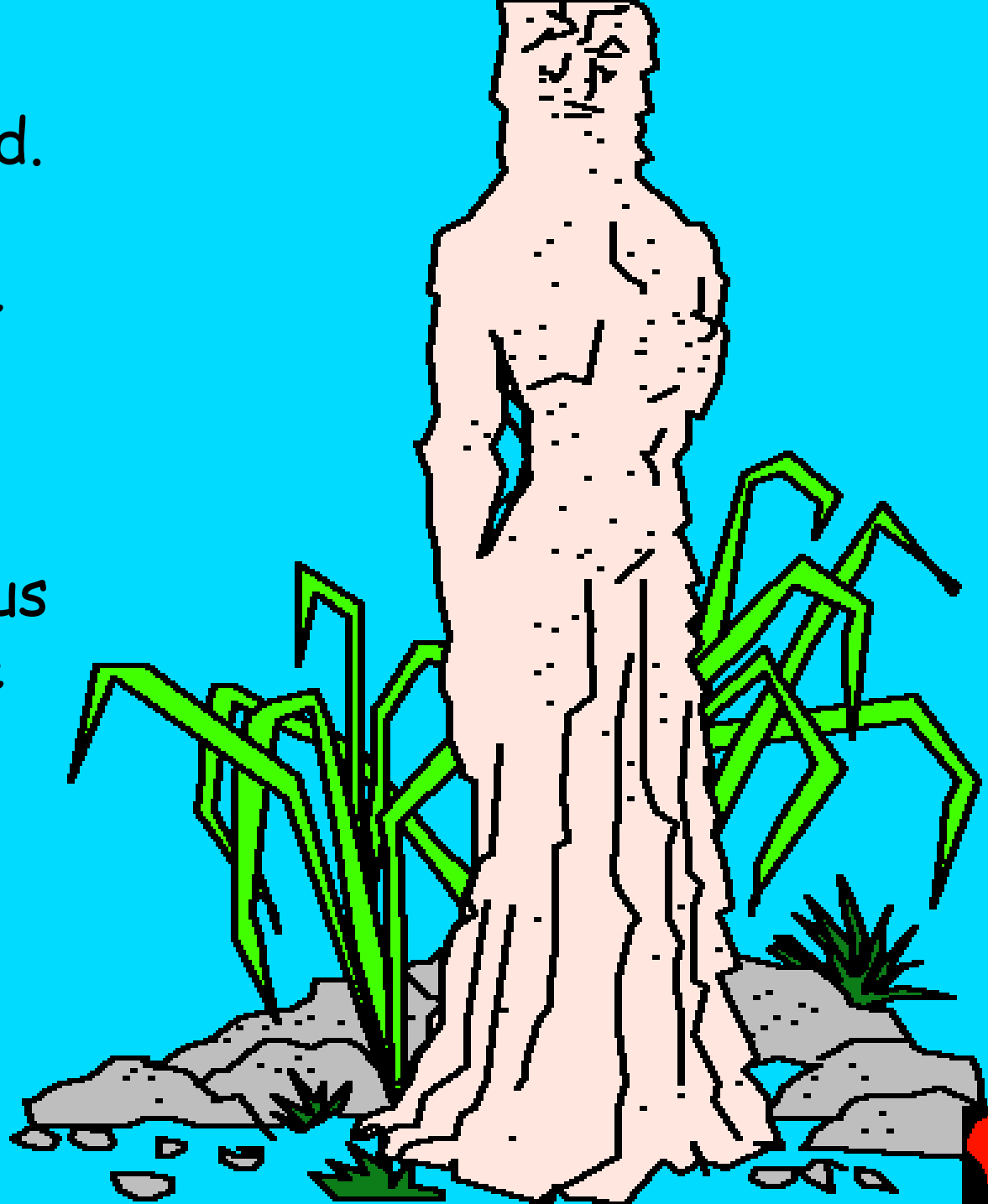


"What does that writing say above the head?" Hopeful asked. Christian studied it carefully.

"It says, 'Remember Lot's wife,'" he said. "It must be the pillar of salt Lot's wife was turned into because her covetous heart turned back to Sodom."



"My brother,"
Christian observed.
"It is the right
time for us to see
such a thing. Had
we gone over to
the silver mine on
Lucre, our covetous
hearts would have
brought us a like
fate." The men
prayed and
thanked God for
his deliverance.



To be
continued...