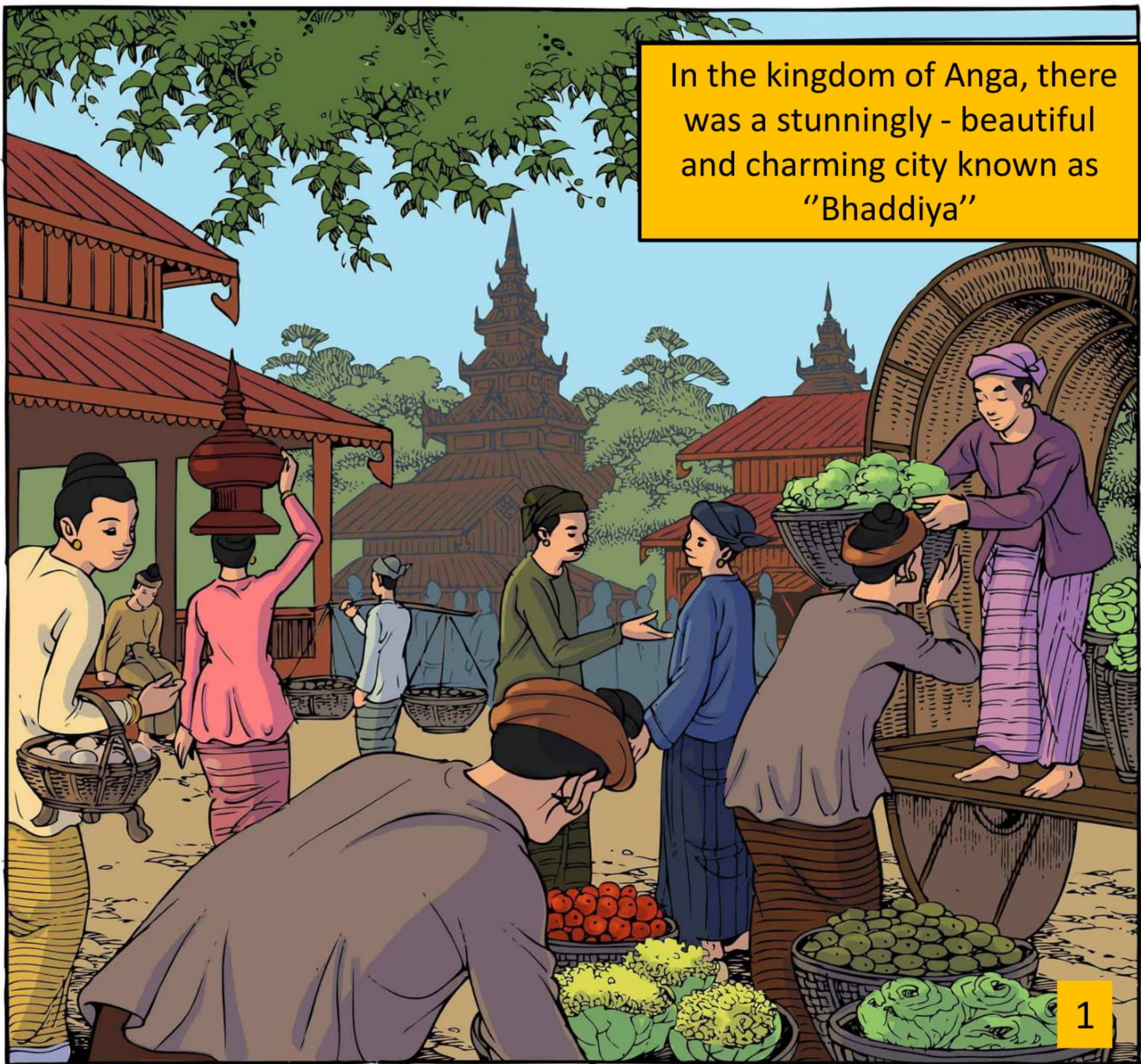


Vishaka

Part 1



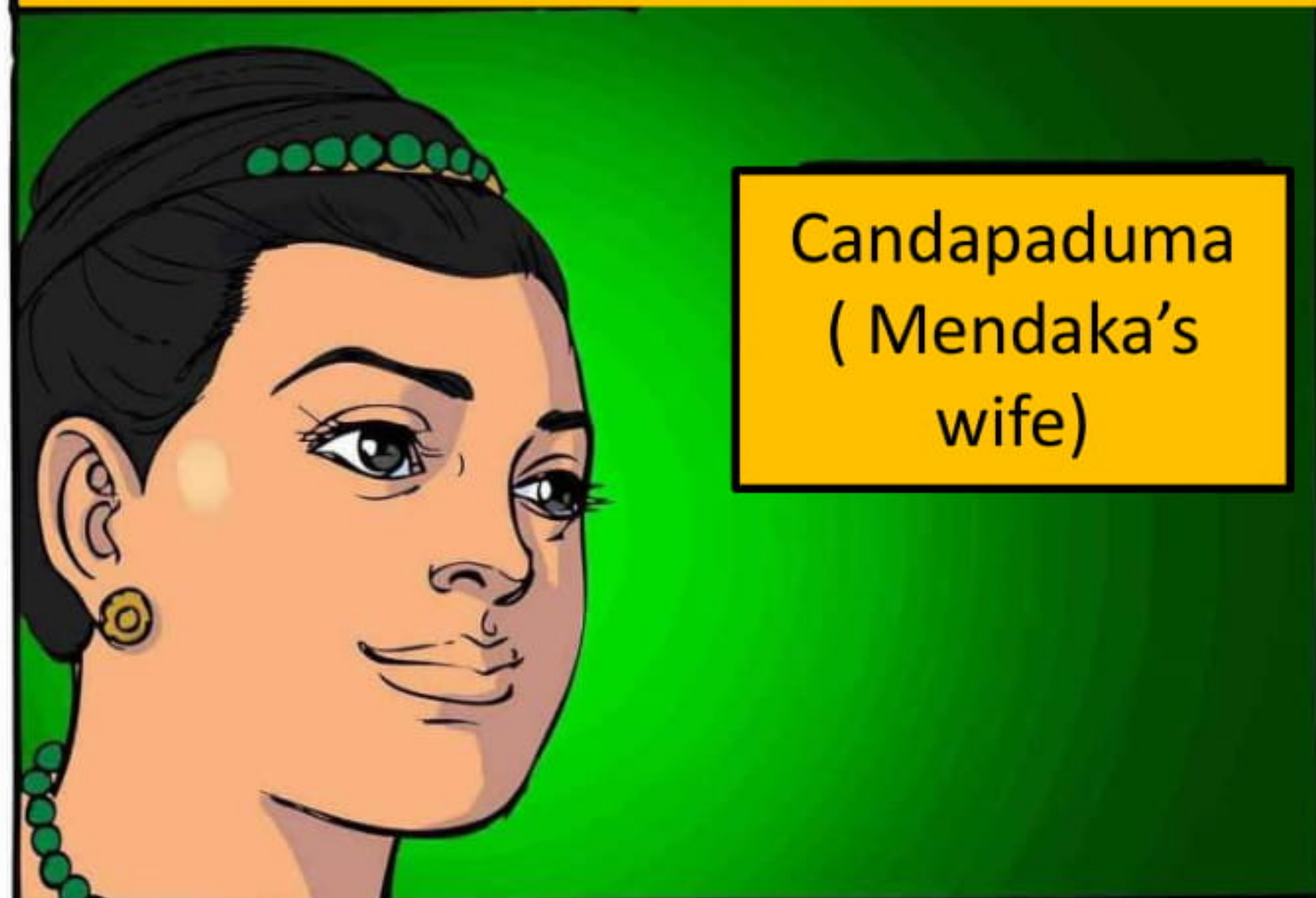
In the kingdom of Anga, there was a stunningly - beautiful and charming city known as "Bhaddiya"



In this city, there was an extremely wealthy man whose name was Mendaka and he had influence over many lives in Bhaddiya.



Mendaka's household had five well-known and popular family members. They were: Mendaka



Candapaduma
(Mendaka's wife)

Dhananjaya (Mendaka's son)



Sumanadevi
(Dhananjaya's wife)



Punna (Mendaka's slave)

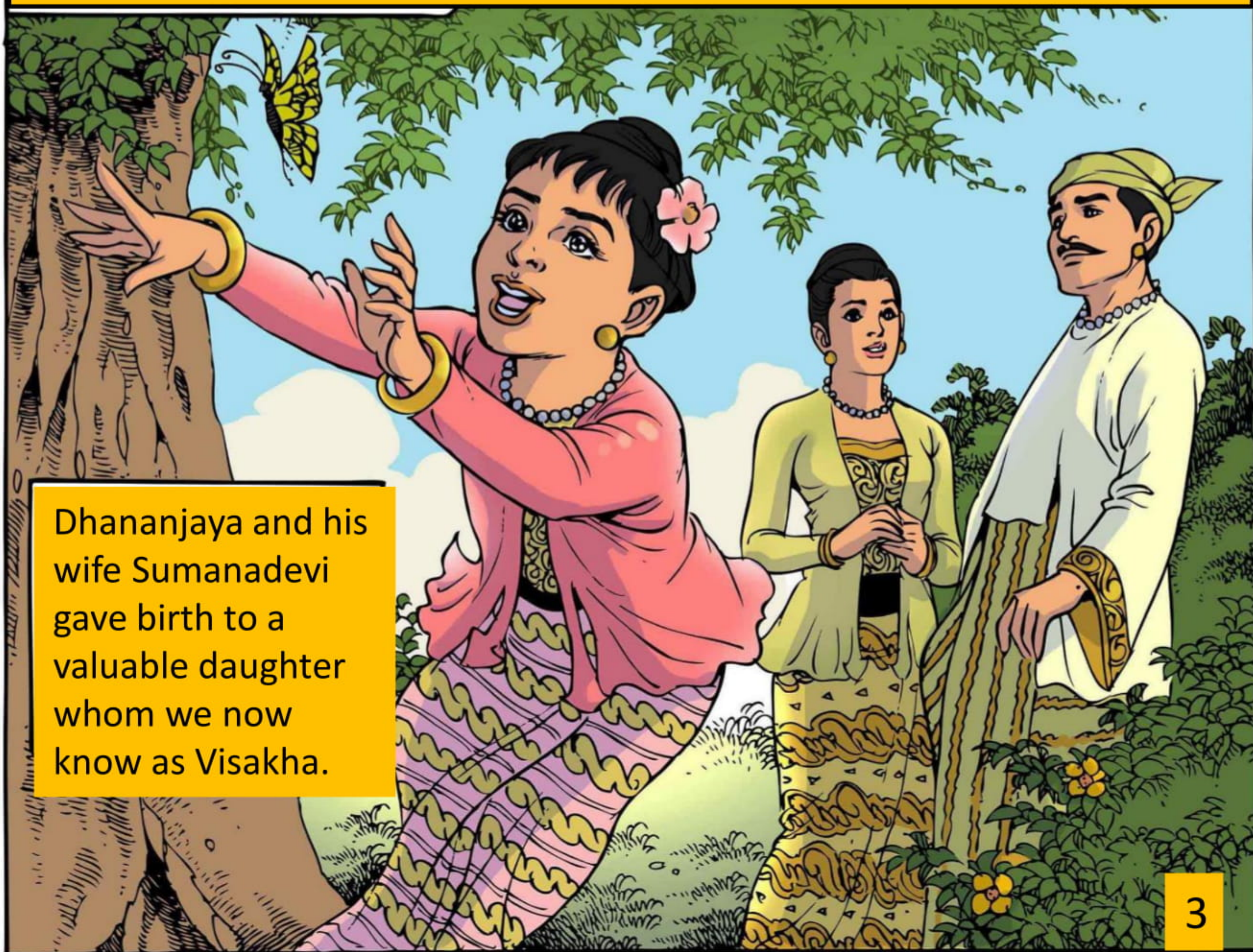


All those five possessed special merits because of the good deeds done in the past lives.

And the other fact was that, there exists five extremely wealthy persons in Bimbisara's kingdom. They were; Jotika, Jatila, Mendaka, Punnaka and Kakavaliya

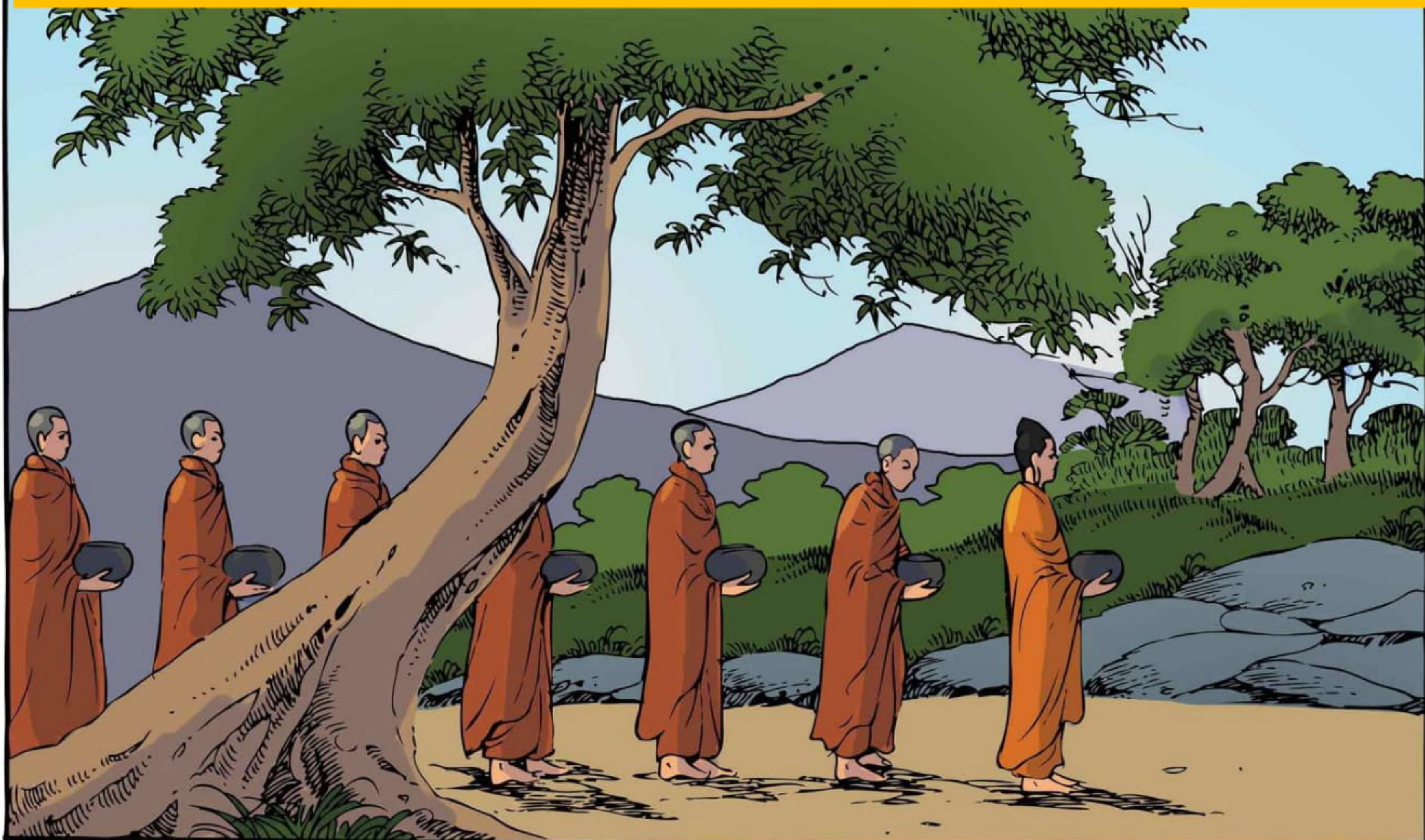


Those five setthis possessed such wealth that they can't keep track of their wealth. In other words, they had limitless wealth.




Dhananjaya and his wife Sumanadevi gave birth to a valuable daughter whom we now know as Visakha.

Visakha was a seven-year-old girl when Lord Buddha, along with a large company of monks, headed towards Bhaddiya out of compassion for a Brahmin Sela and others.



On receiving information about this visit, the locals of Bhaddiya prepared to welcome Lord Buddha and the monks.



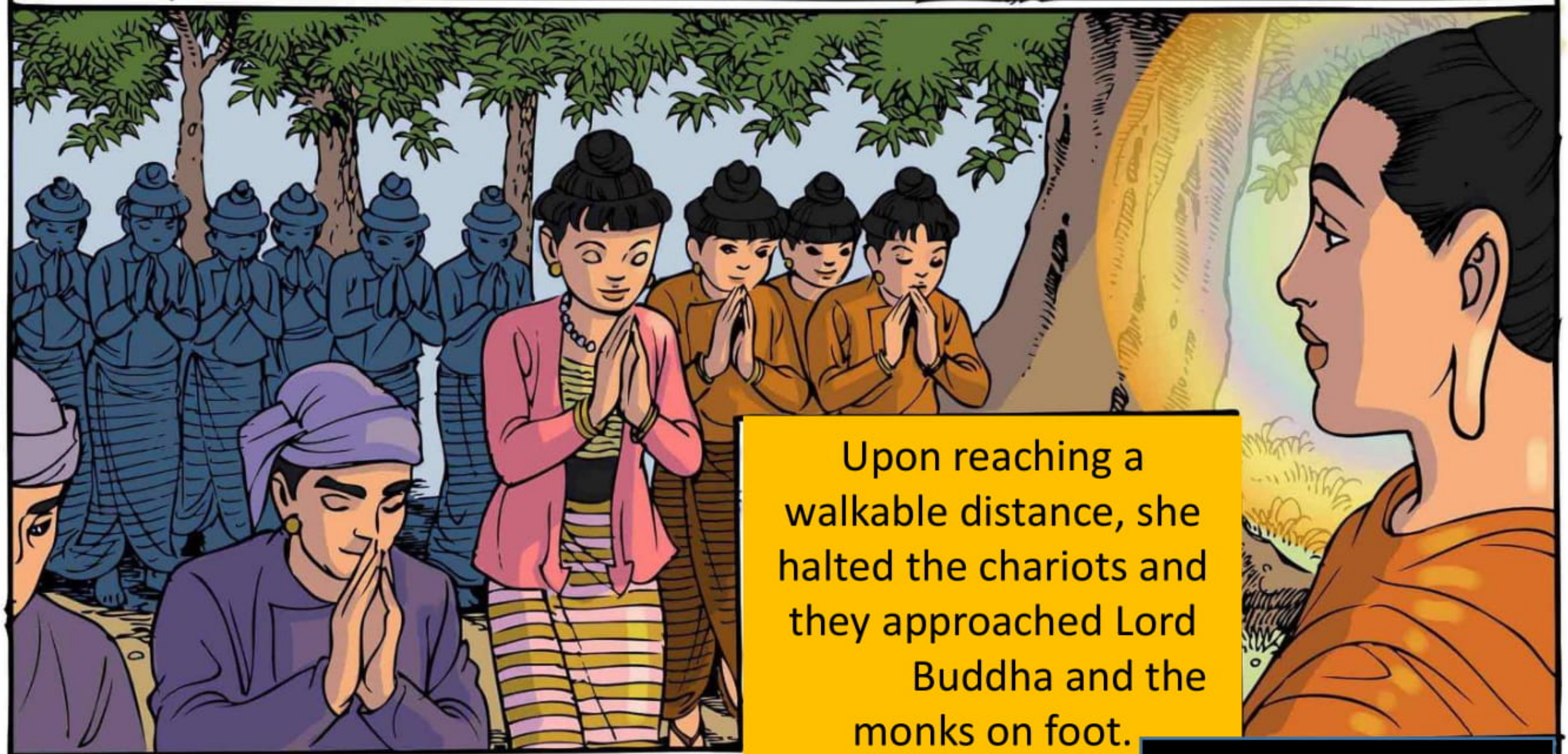


Dear Visakha, Lord Buddha's visit is an auspicious occasion for you and our family as well. Take five-hundred companions,

along with five-hundred slaves and five-hundred chariots to welcome Lord Buddha and monks

Yes, grandpa

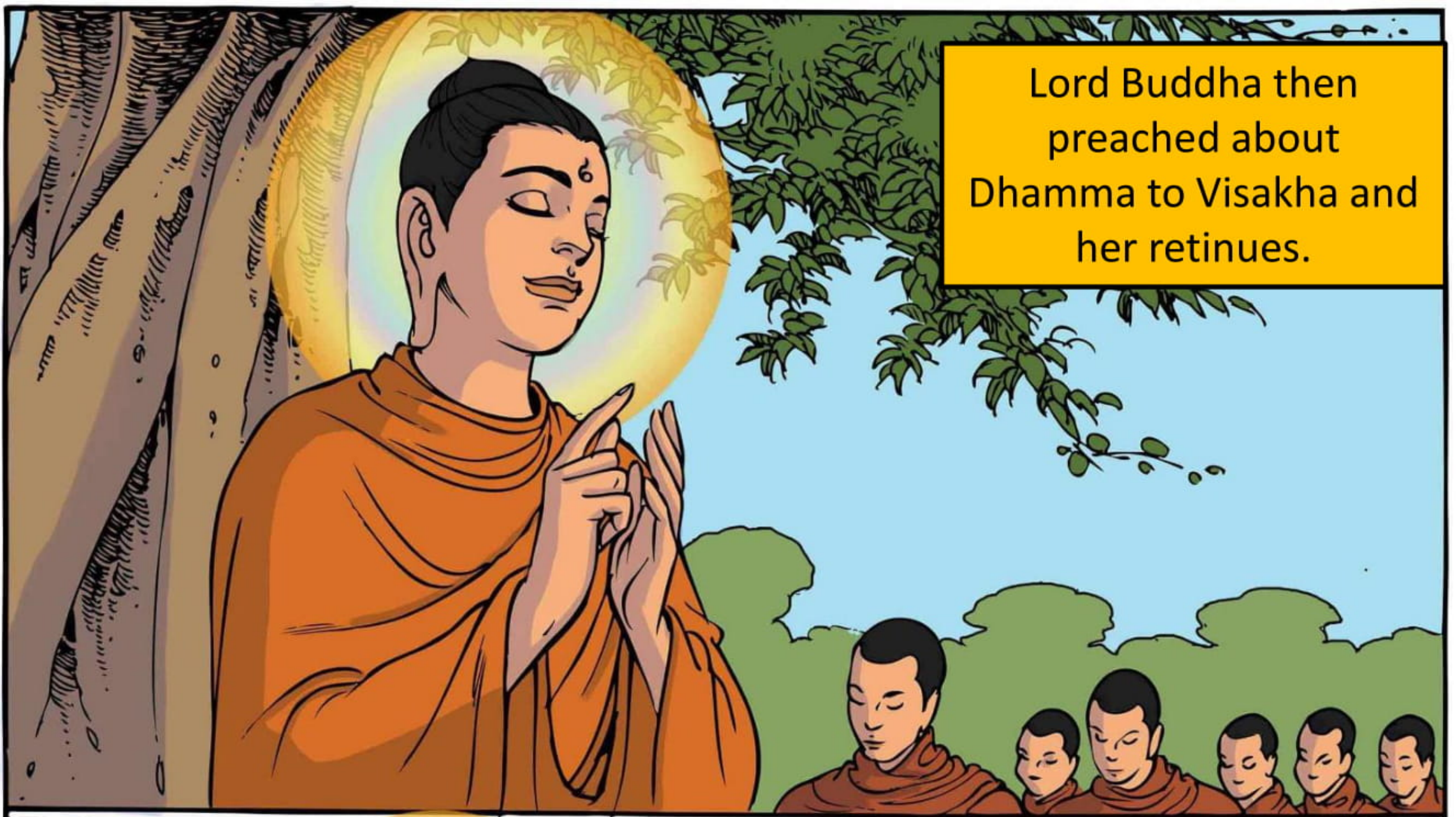
Visakha set off her journey along with her retinues.



Upon reaching a walkable distance, she halted the chariots and they approached Lord Buddha and the monks on foot.



She and her retinues bowed down in respect to Lord Buddha and the monks. After that, they sat down at a convenient place.



Lord Buddha then preached about Dhamma to Visakha and her retinues.



After the sermon, Visakha and her retinues were in a deep state of understanding Dhamma



Visakha attained Sotapanna right after the sermon at the age of seven

While Lord Buddha was in Bhaddiya,
Mendaka visited and attended
to Lord Buddha's sermon.



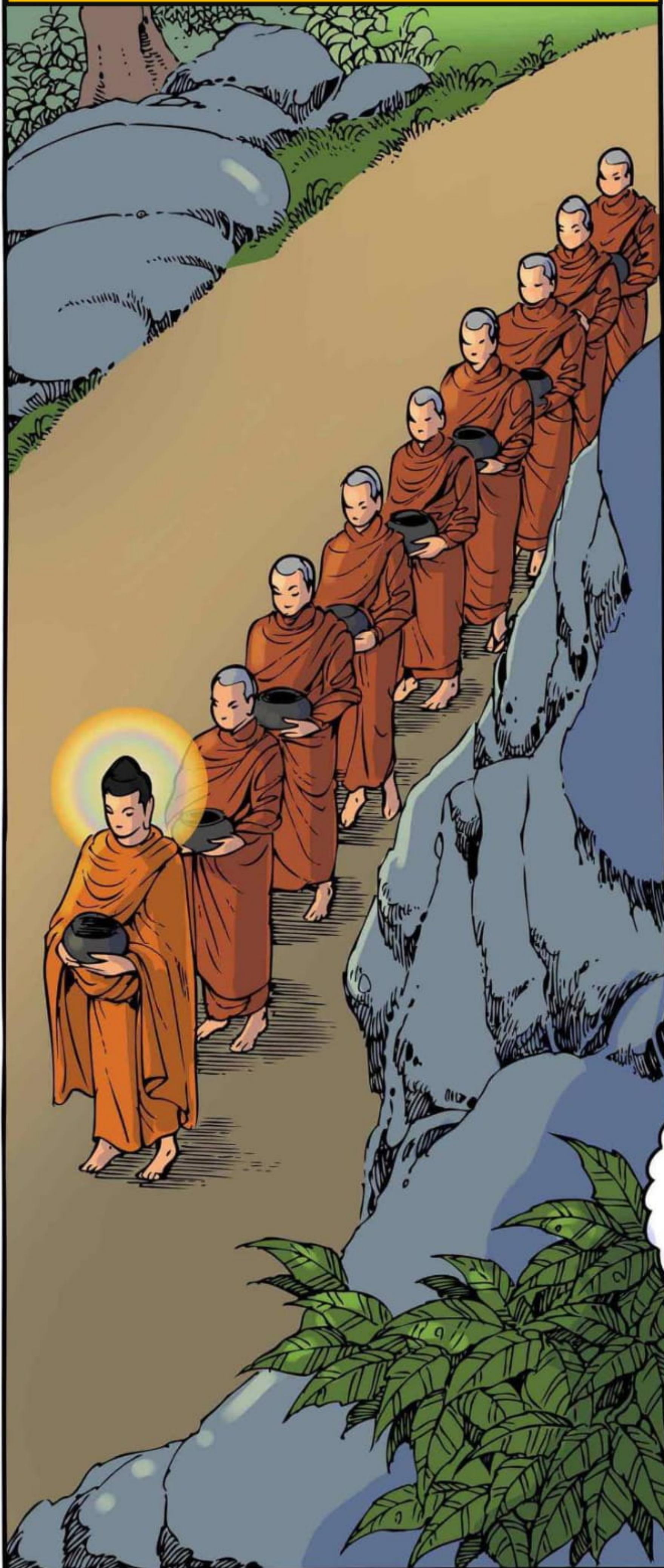
Mendaka attained Sotapanna
at the end of the sermon
and invited Lord Buddha and
the monks to visit his mansion
the next day to
collect alms and to offer
hospitality.

The next day, Mendaka offered and
donated good meals to Lord Buddha and
the monks.



Mendaka prepared and donated.
And also arranged for a grand feast for the next fortnight.

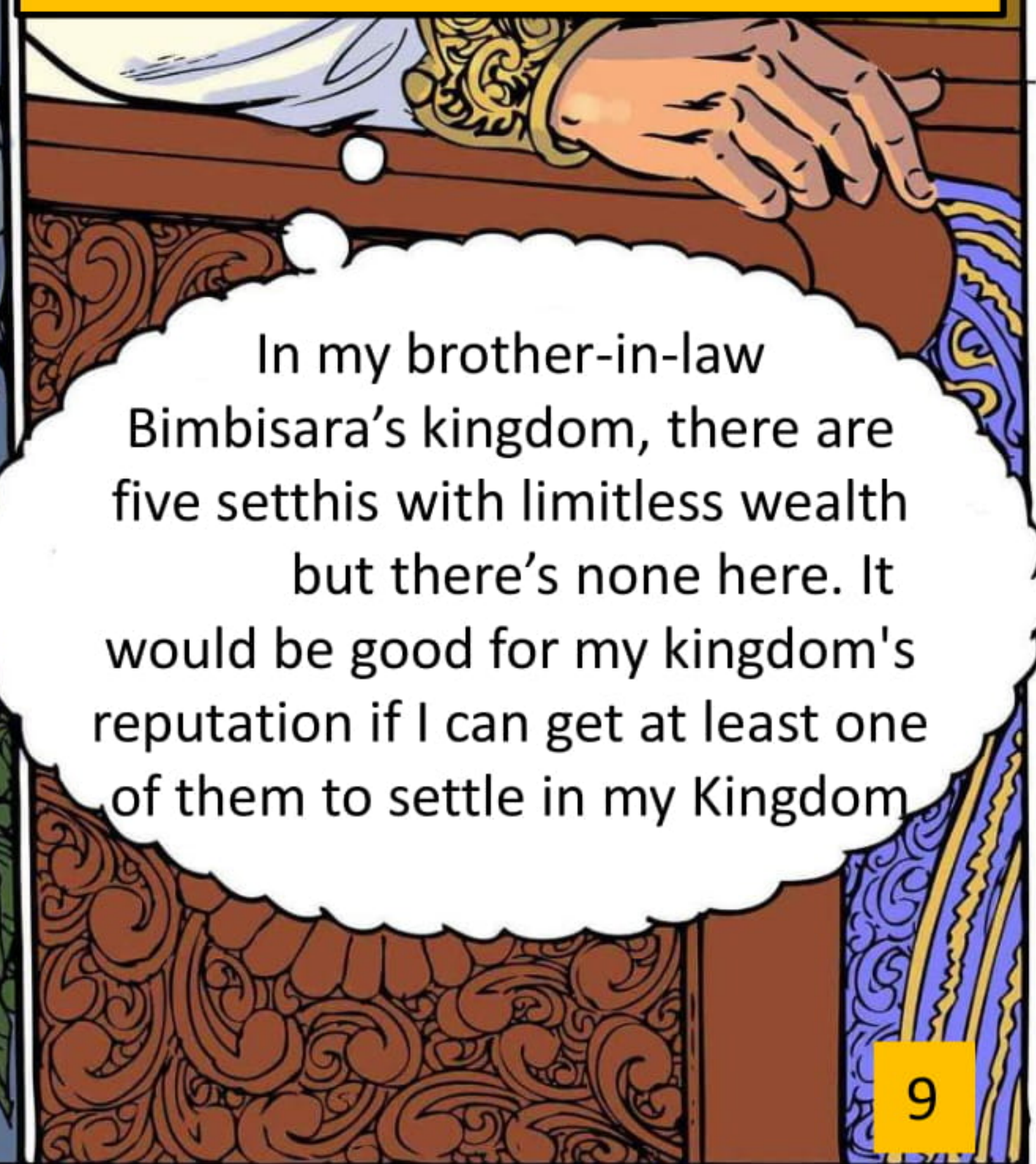
After the next fortnight, Lord Buddha and the monks departed Bhaddiya and continued their journey towards Anguttarapa (which was an another city in Anga)



King Bimbisara and King Pasenadi were related to each other as brother in law.

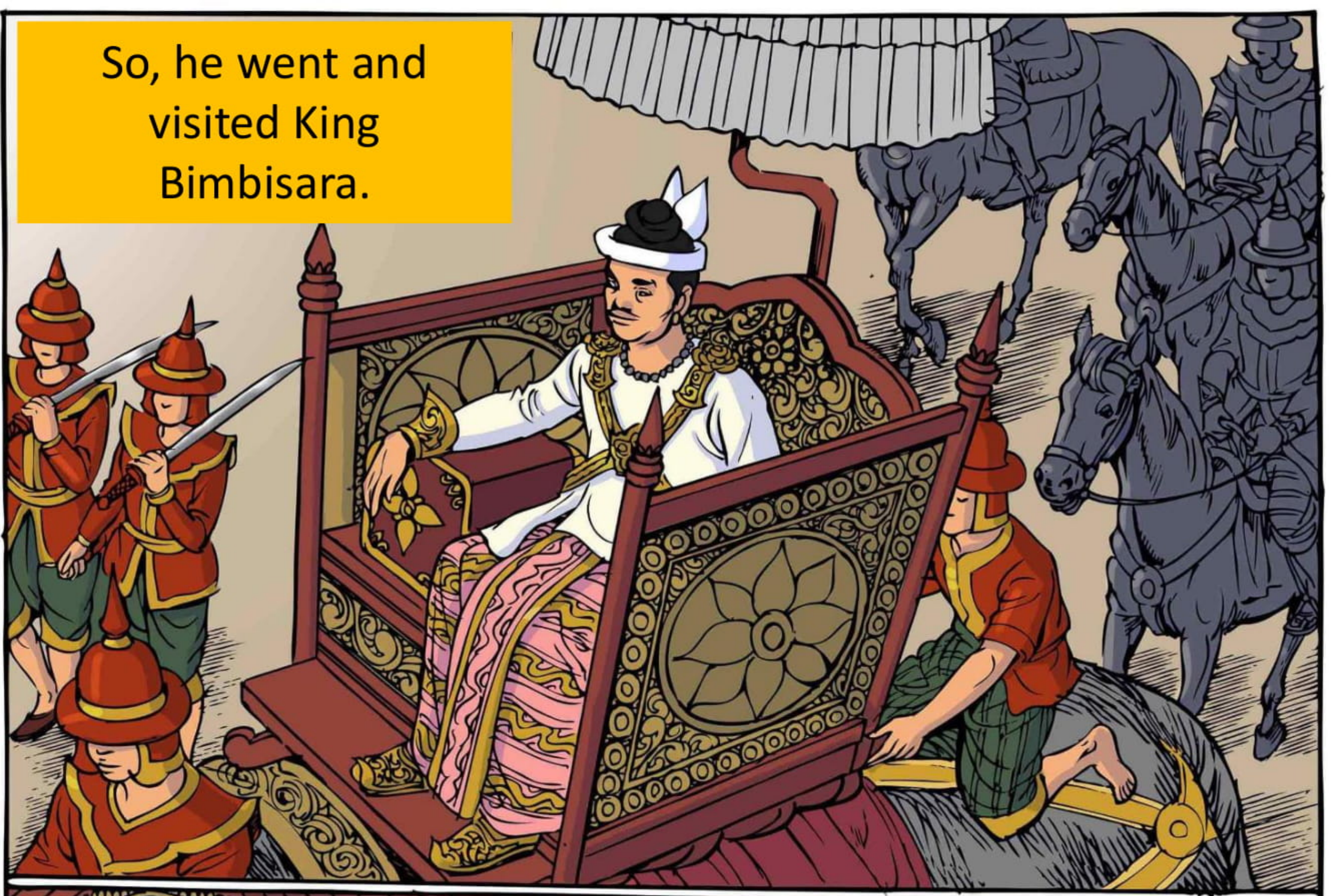


One day, King Pasenadi was in a deep thought and he happened to compare the situation of his Kingdom with King Bimbisara's and thought...



In my brother-in-law Bimbisara's kingdom, there are five setthis with limitless wealth but there's none here. It would be good for my kingdom's reputation if I can get at least one of them to settle in my Kingdom

So, he went and
visited King
Bimbisara.

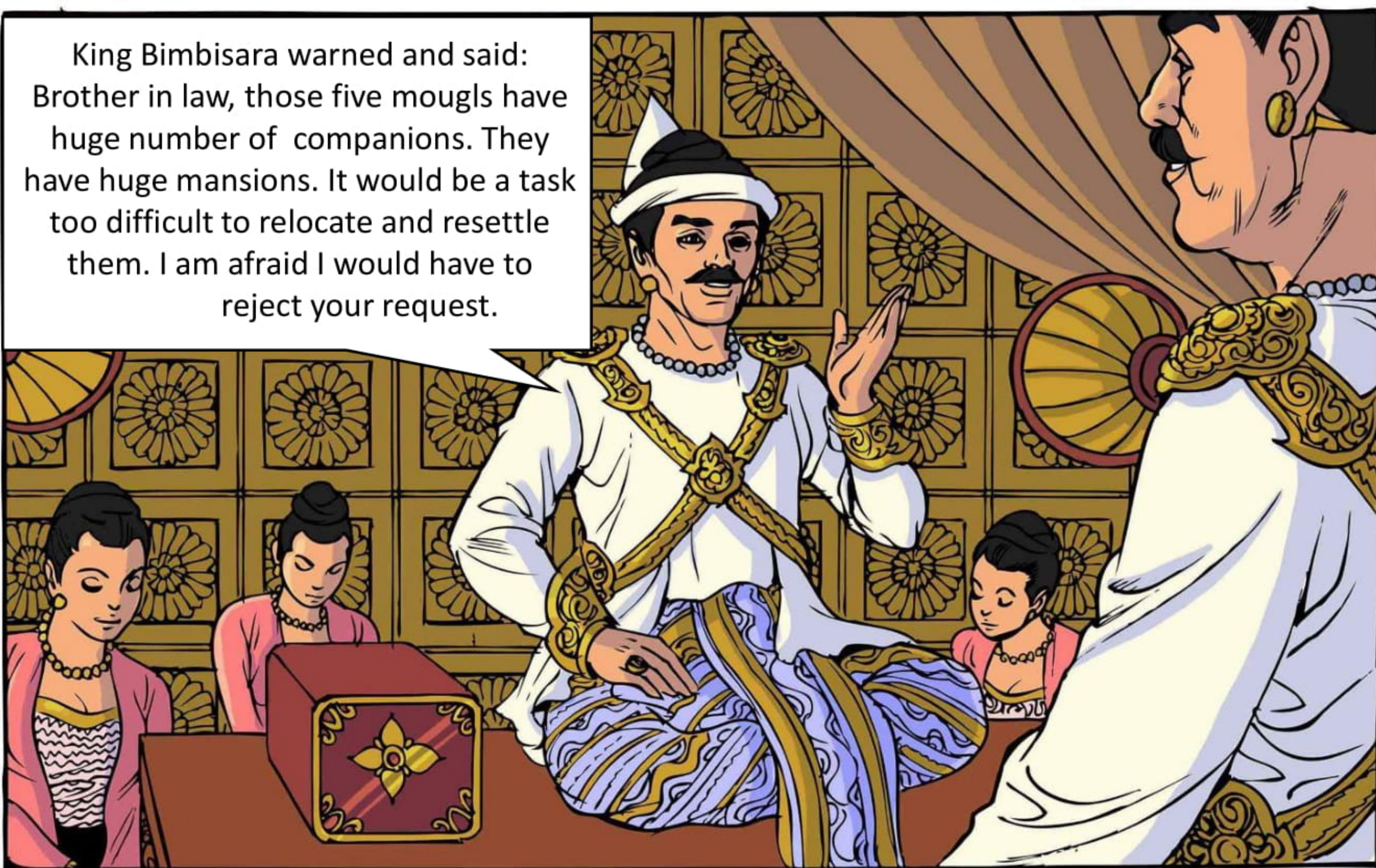


Upon his arrival,
King Bimbisara asked him:
Hello!
what made you visit me?

There are five moguls with
unlimited wealth here , but
there's none in mine, so I came
to request you to
give me one of them to
resettle in my Kingdom



King Bimbisara warned and said:
Brother in law, those five mougls have
huge number of companions. They
have huge mansions. It would be a task
too difficult to relocate and resettle
them. I am afraid I would have to
reject your request.



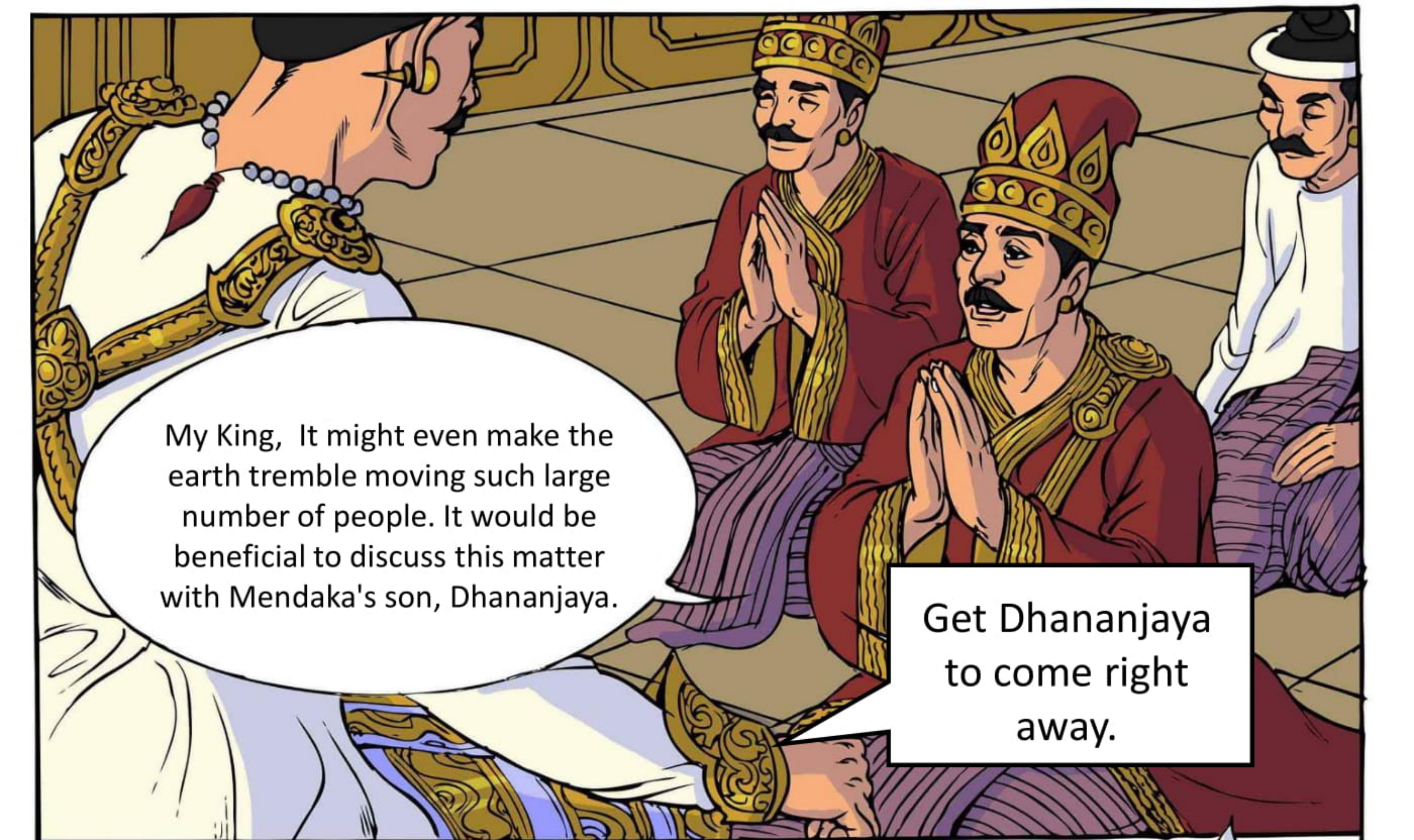
I would not go back to my
Kingdom if I couldn't get
one of them for a
resettlement in my
Kingdom



King Bimbisara got himself in a
tough situation, so he
summoned his ministers for a
meeting to settle the
issue and said to his ministers

Ministers, start a
discussion on how to
settle this matter!







My King, It might even make the earth tremble moving such large number of people. It would be beneficial to discuss this matter with Mendaka's son, Dhananjaya.

Get Dhananjaya to come right away.

When Dhananjaya reached the palace, King Bimbisara explained him the issue..

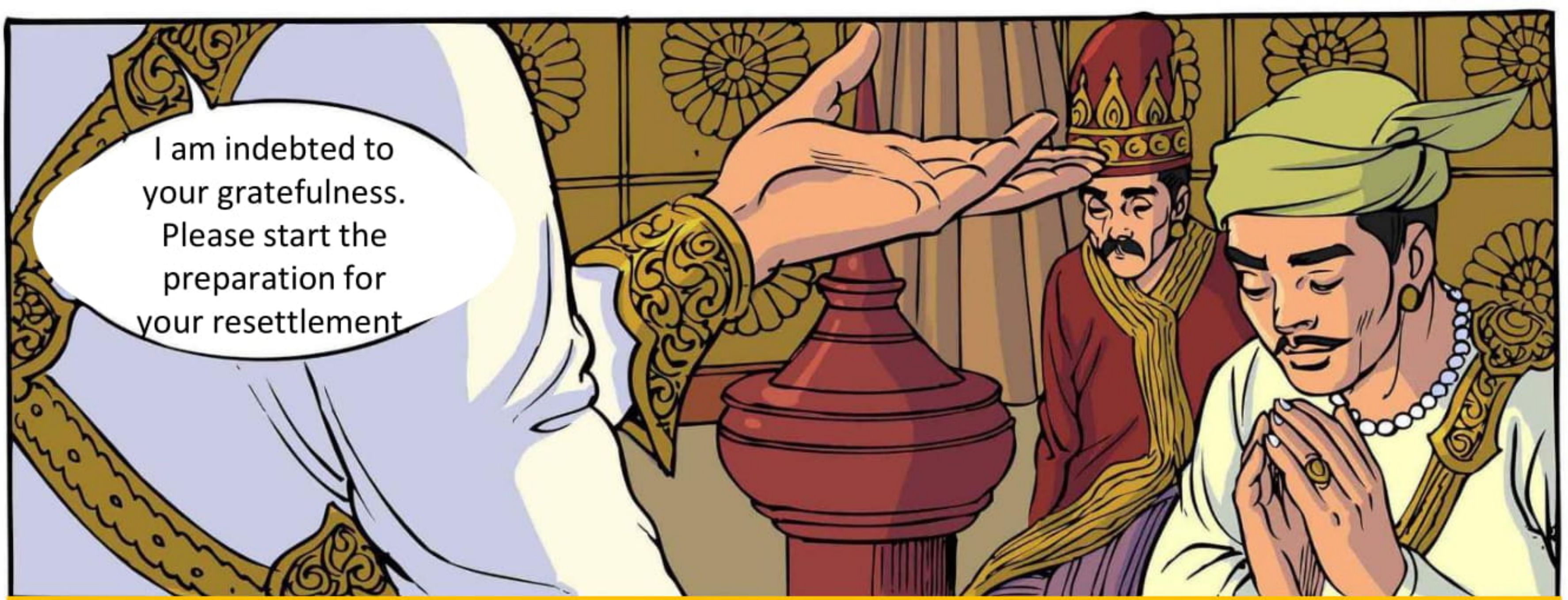


King Pasenadi urged me strongly for one of the five setthis to settle in his kingdom.



Do you wish to accept for a resettlement in King Pasenadi's kingdom?

If it would solve the issue, I would have to accept your request my king.



I am indebted to your gratefulness. Please start the preparation for your resettlement

Due to this decision, the setthi Dhananjaya hastily prepared for his resettlement. Dhananjaya was allowed to take all his wealth with him



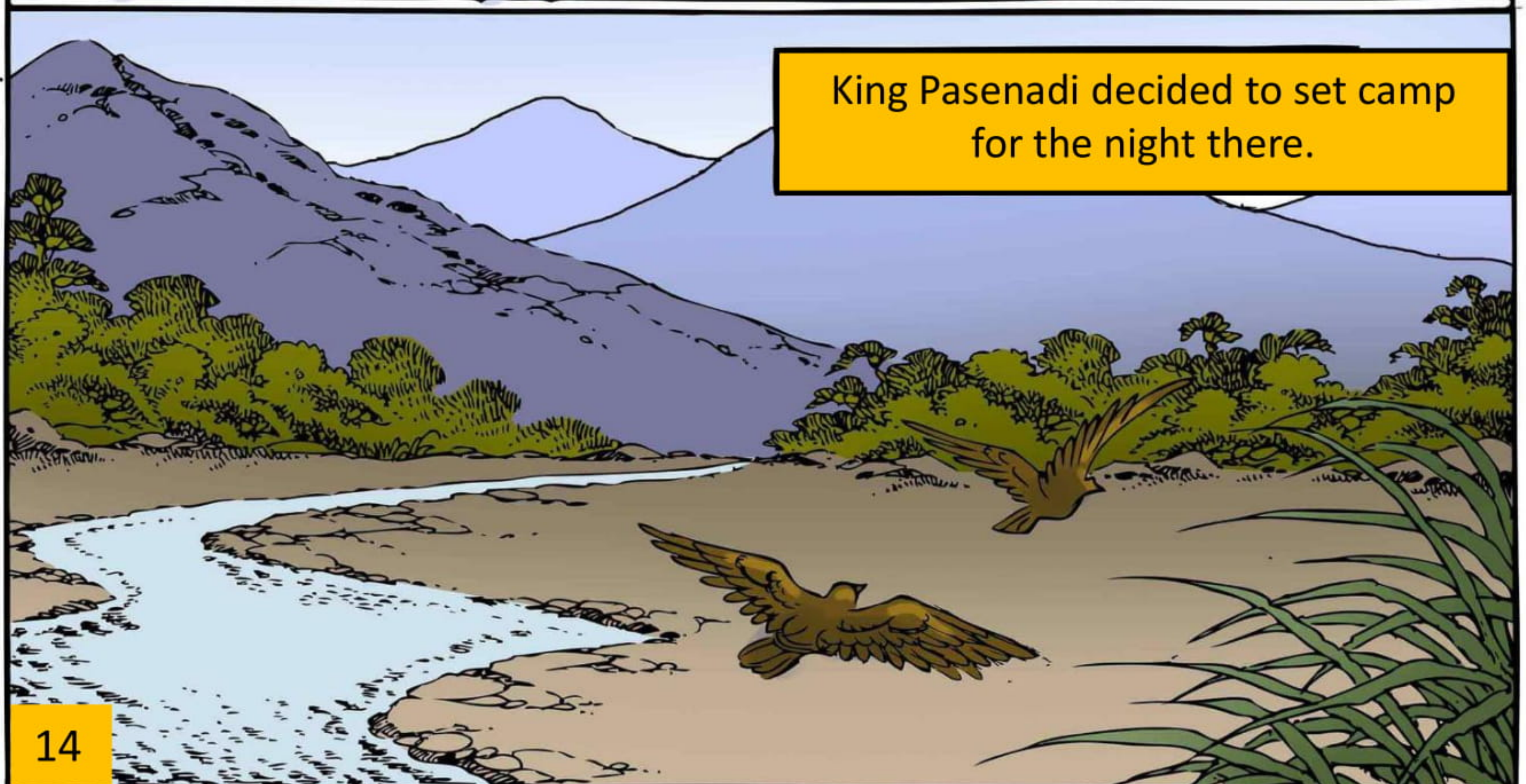
You may take Dhananjaya and his family with you. Please take good care of him in your Kingdom

Great! I would take good care of him. Their whole family presence will make my kingdom prosper!

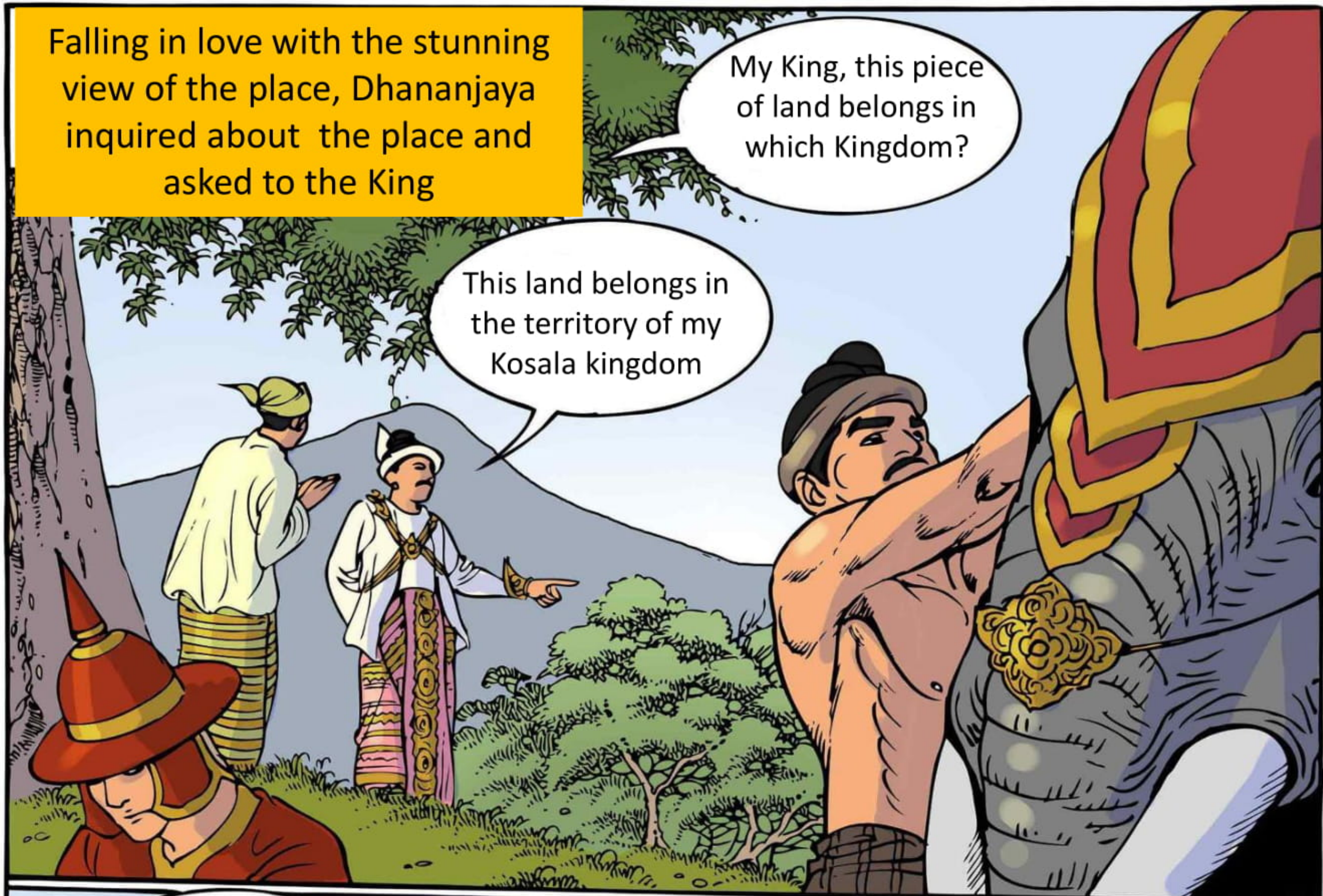
King Pasenadi of Kosala and Dhananjaya with his family departed for Savatthi, capital city of Kosala. During mid-journey in the evening, they reached a beautiful place



King Pasenadi decided to set camp for the night there.



Falling in love with the stunning view of the place, Dhananjaya inquired about the place and asked to the King



My King, this piece of land belongs in which Kingdom?

This land belongs in the territory of my Kosala kingdom



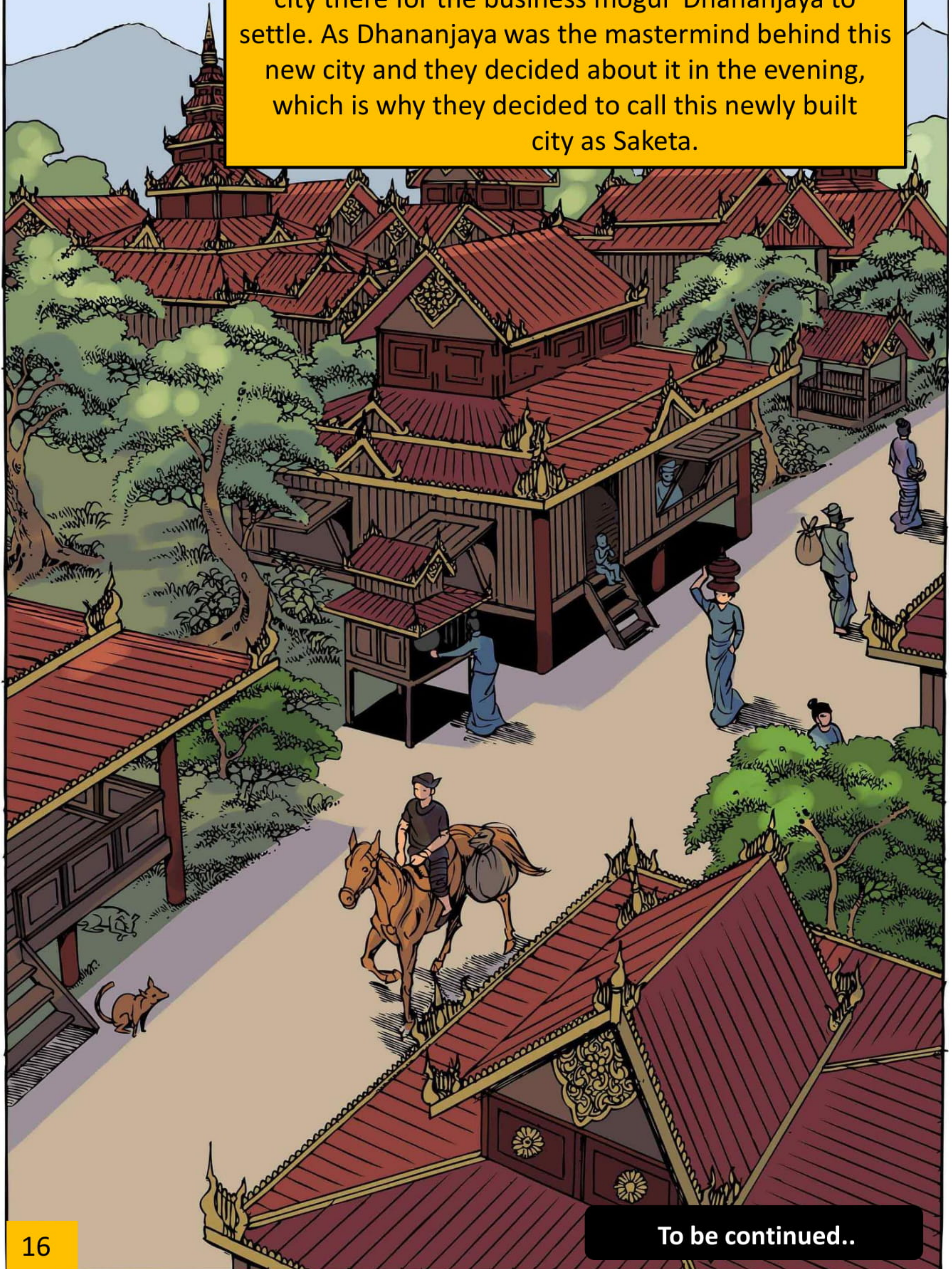
How far is this place from Savatthi, my king?

It is about seven leagues (yojanas) away from Savatthi.

My King, I have many companions. It might cause a problem in finding a place to settle in Savatthi with my large number of retainues. If you may allow, I wish to settle here.

If you wish to you may settle here

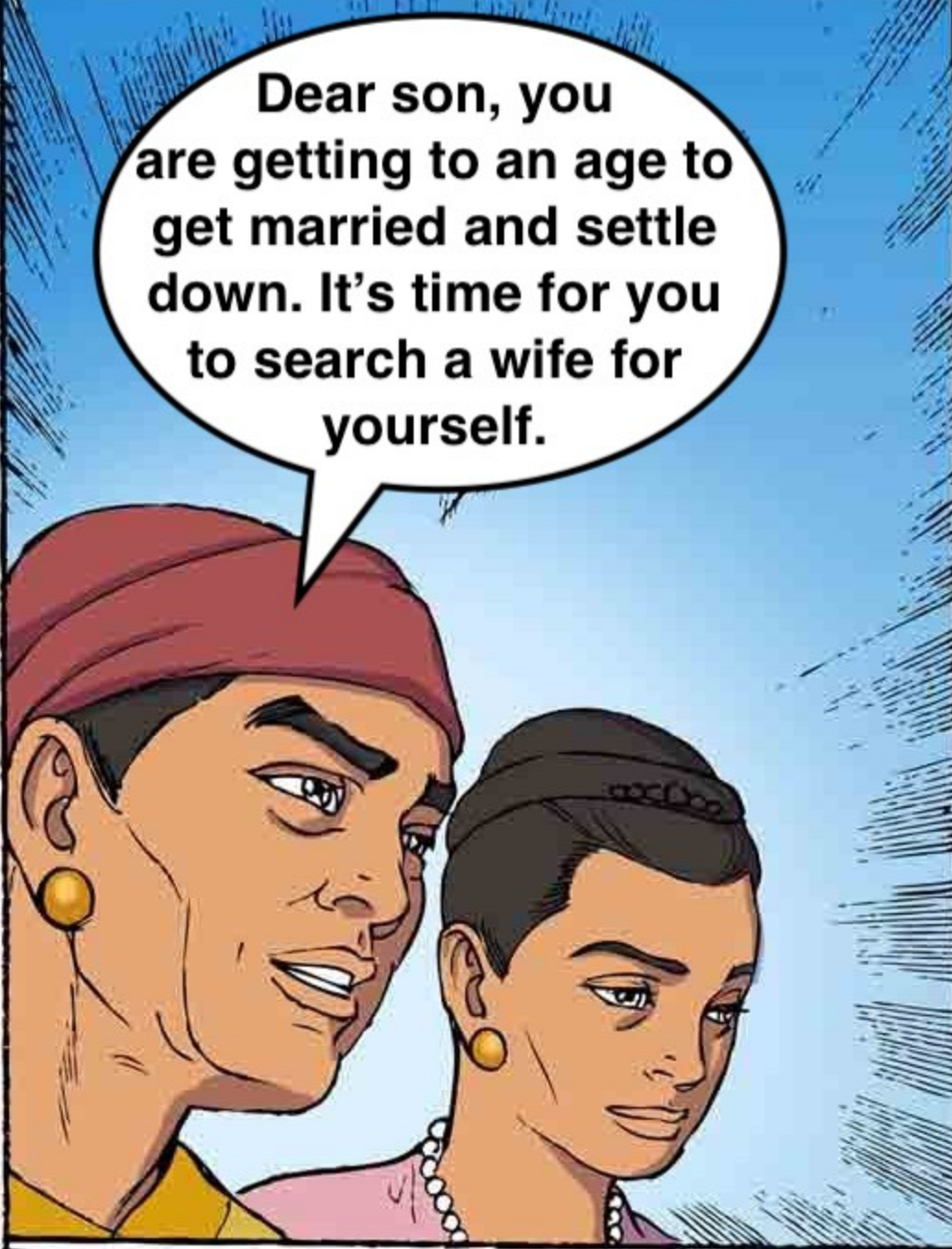
The king started the preparation for building up a new city there for the business mogul Dhananjaya to settle. As Dhananjaya was the mastermind behind this new city and they decided about it in the evening, which is why they decided to call this newly built city as Saketa.



During those days, there was a wealthy man known as Migara in the city of Savatthi.



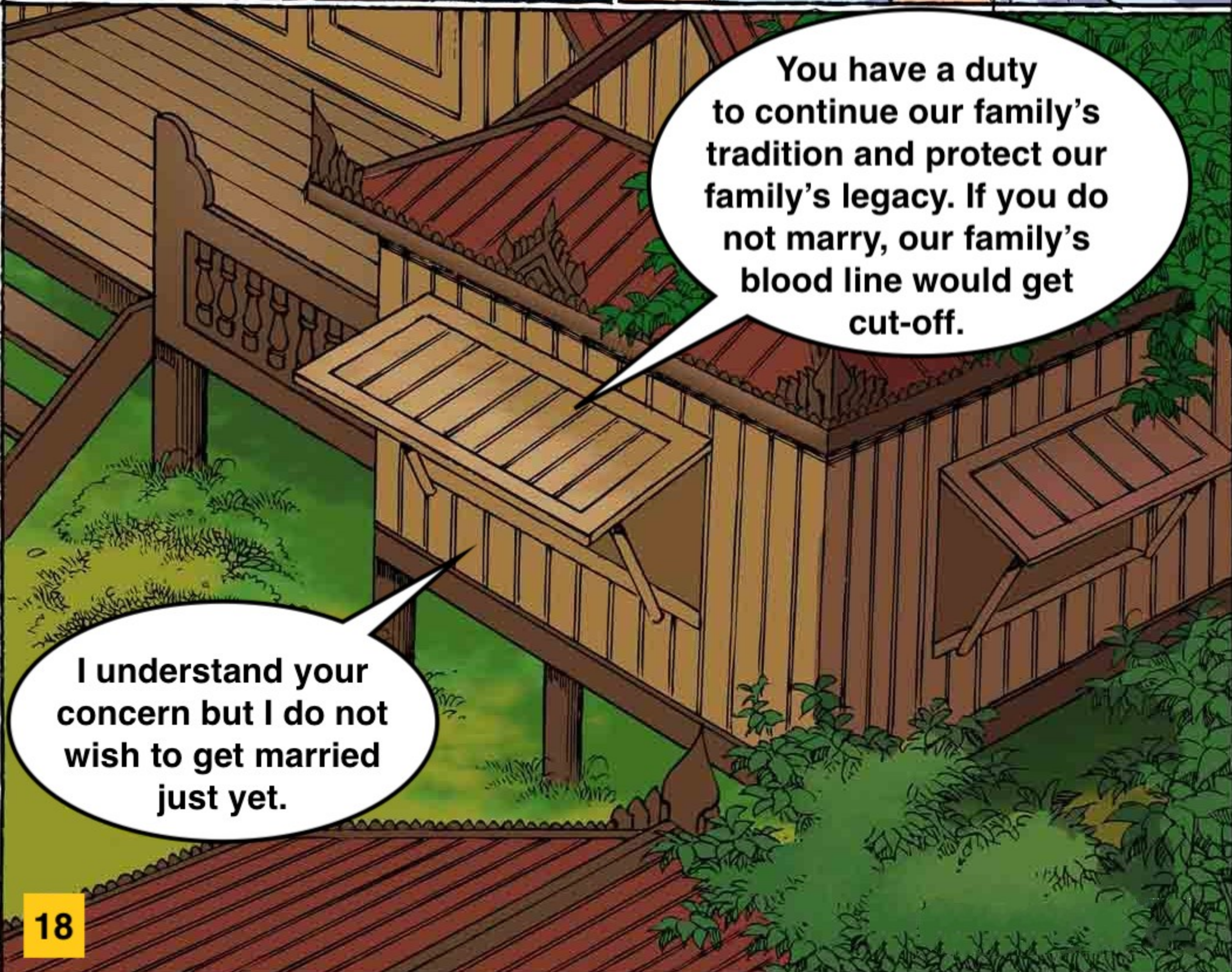
He had a son named Punnavaddhana, who was getting into marriageable age. He wanted his son to get married at the earliest possible time, so he told his son.



Dear son, you are getting to an age to get married and settle down. It's time for you to search a wife for yourself.



Dear father and mother, I wish to live my single life for bit longer and not get married right now.



You have a duty to continue our family's tradition and protect our family's legacy. If you do not marry, our family's blood line would get cut-off.

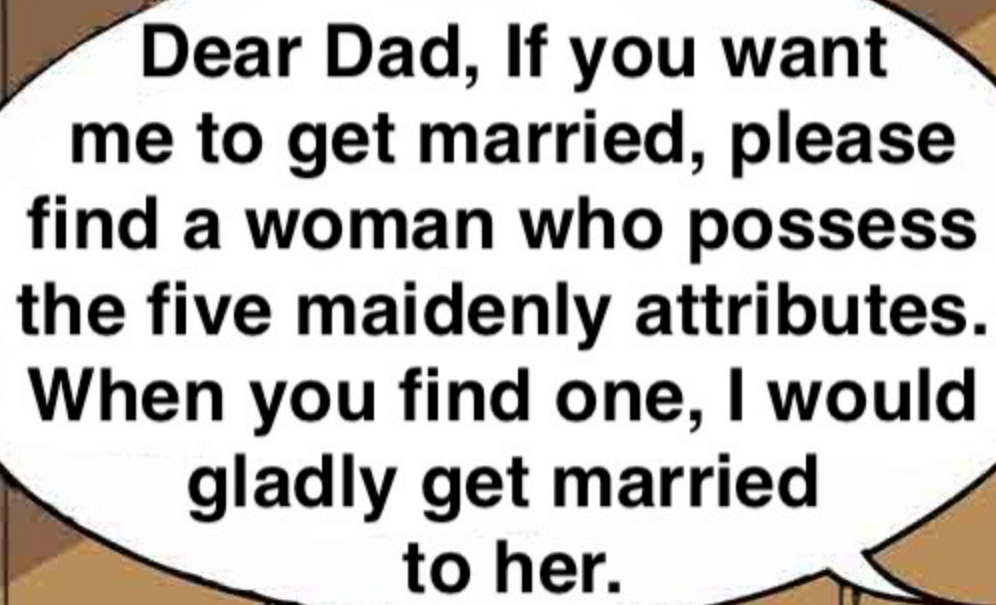
I understand your concern but I do not wish to get married just yet.

Dear son, it is not good to delay the marriage for too long. Our advice is not to delay the marriage any further...

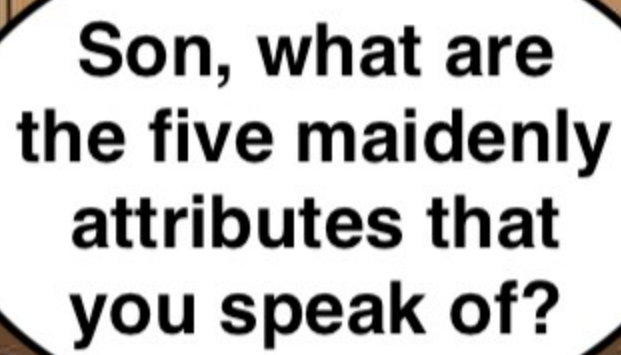


Punnavaddhana did not want to get married yet, but after a lot of persuasion from his parents, he agreed. So described a beauty trait of a woman he wished to marry. That beauty trait was nearly impossible for most woman to possess.

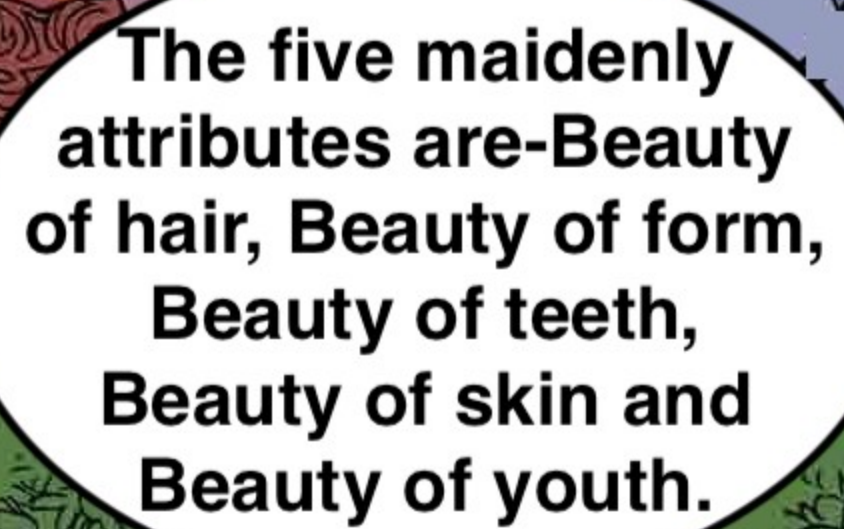




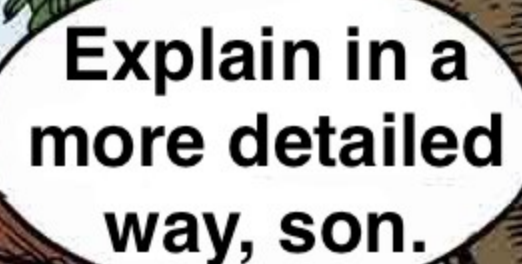
Dear Dad, If you want me to get married, please find a woman who possess the five maidenly attributes. When you find one, I would gladly get married to her.



Son, what are the five maidenly attributes that you speak of?



The five maidenly attributes are-Beauty of hair, Beauty of form, Beauty of teeth, Beauty of skin and Beauty of youth.



Explain in a more detailed way, son.




**Dear Mom and Dad,
Beauty of hair means her
hair has to be glossy and
thick, reaching down to
her ankles.**

**She has to be
beautiful with an ideal
feminine figure, not
too fat nor too thin.**

**Her teeth has to be
white and be even
like a row or pearls.**

**Her skin has to be
golden hue
coloured, soft and
flawless.**

**She has to be in the
peak of her youth,
about the ideal age
to give birth.**



If that's how you want your wife to be, we will search for a woman with such beauty traits.


The next day, Migara invited some brahmins to his house for a feast and asked:



Respected Brahmins, a woman with five maidenly attributes...

Do such woman exists in this world?

Yes, it exists.



If such women exists, I would like to send a group of eight brahmins to scout for a woman with the five maidenly attributes for my son.

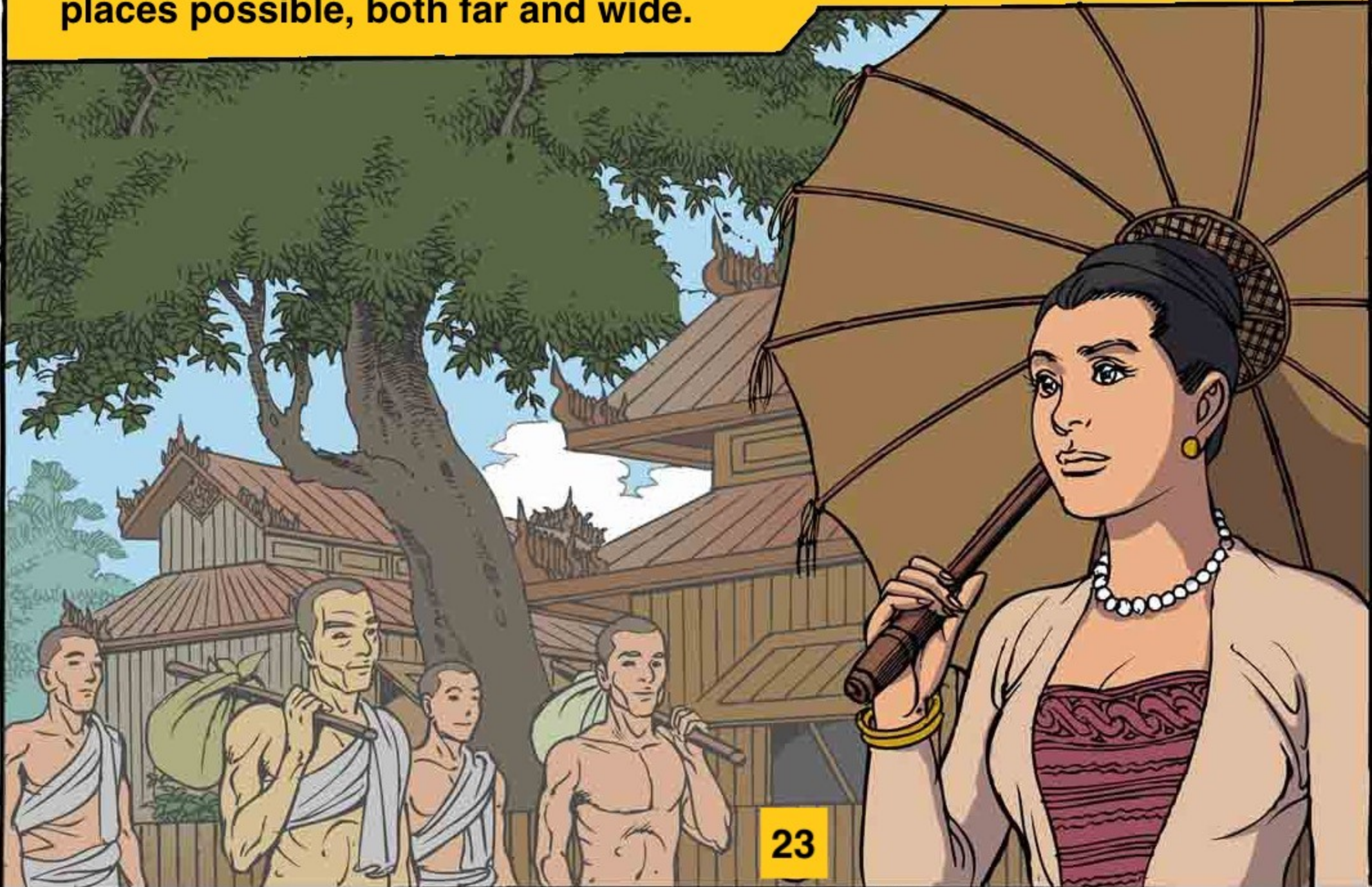
okay, we will find it for your son.

Migara donated lots of valuable items to eight brahmins as a token of gratitude

Please take this bouquet of golden flowers and propose for a marriage with this for my son when a woman with the five maidenly attributes is being found.



With the golden flowers , the brahmins began their task and went in search for such a woman to both towns and villages, to every places possible, both far and wide.

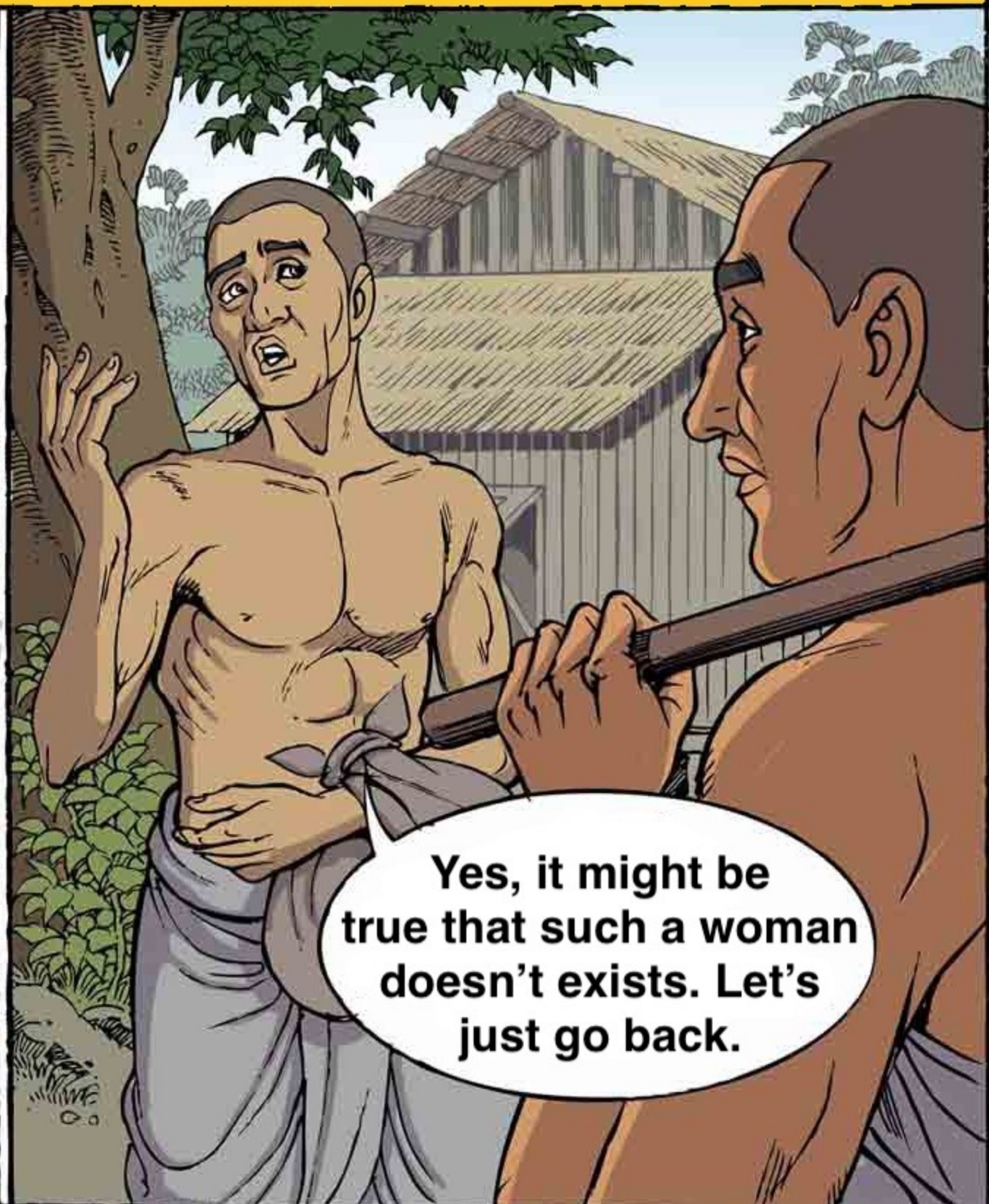




The brahmins travelled far and wide to every corner yet they couldn't find such a woman. Though they found quite a lot of beautiful women, all of them lack in at least one of the five maidenly attributes.

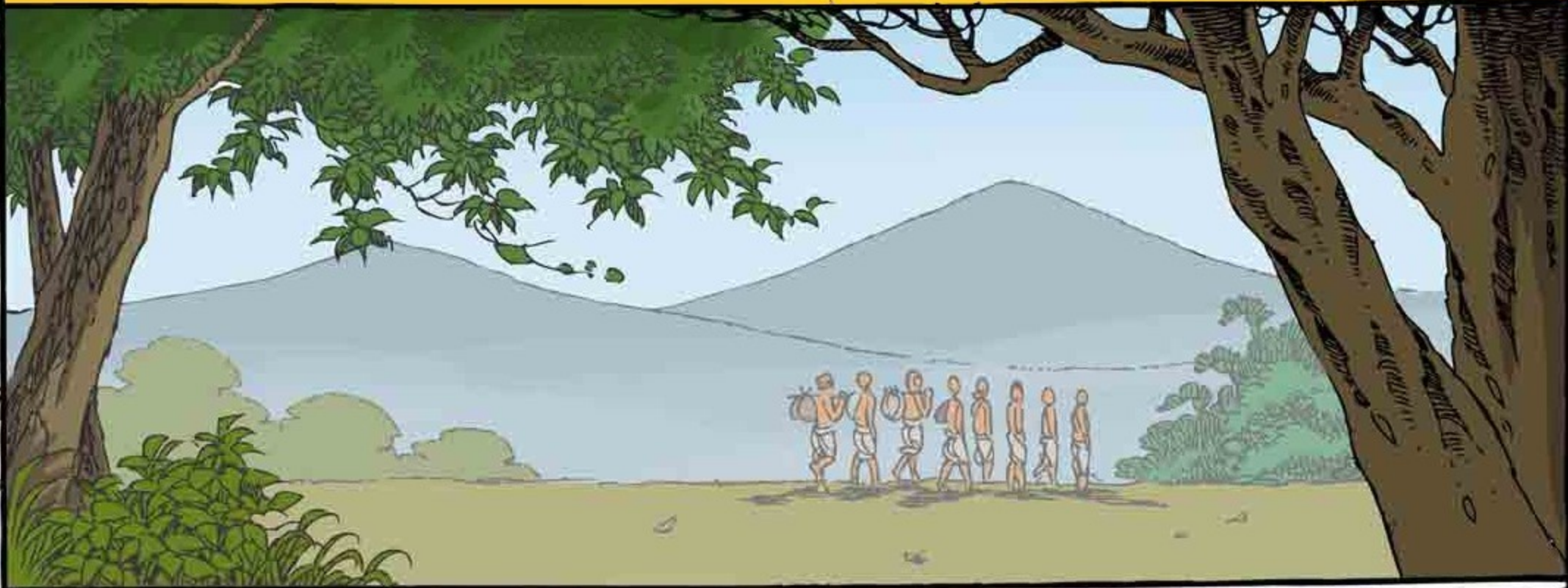


We are getting tired and about to run out of rations for this mission. Let us just give up and return back.



Yes, it might be true that such a woman doesn't exist. Let's just go back.

The Brahmins gave up their mission and headed their way back towards Savatthi.



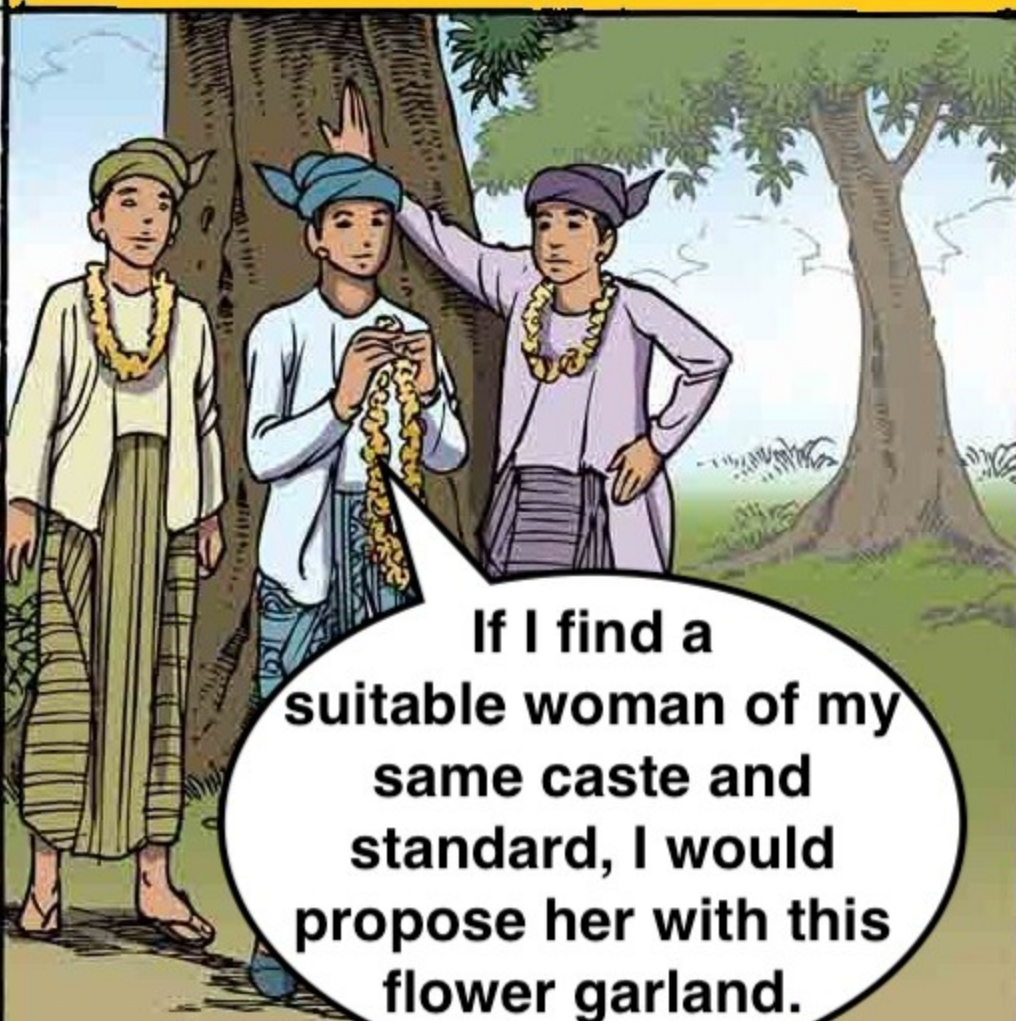
While on the way back to Savatthi, as they entered the outskirts of Saketa, they saw an ongoing festival. The Brahmins thrilled by seeing it.



This was a festival being organised every year in Saketa. During this festival, all the ladies, both rich and poor, would participate and marched towards the river bank to celebrate it.



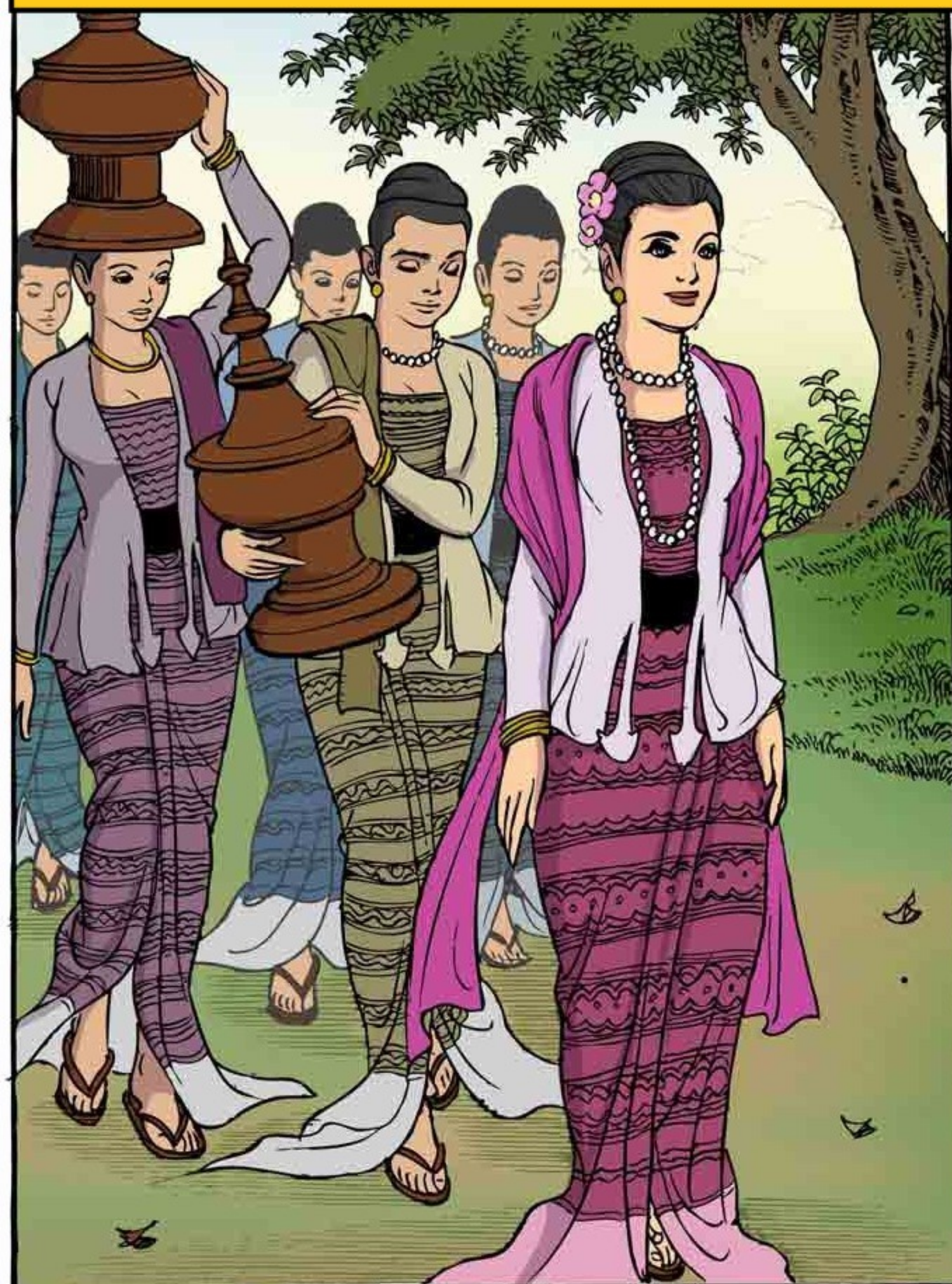
During this festival, Kings and Princes, wealthy merchants and as such would wait in search of a suitable woman to propose.



In fact, this festival had not been celebrated as just an occasion for happiness but even to look in search for a future bride as well.

The Brahmins rested in a shelter by the road leading to the river bank and waited an opportunity, in case they might find a woman with the five maidenly attributes.

Visakha who was about sixteen by that time began marching towards the river bank with her retinues to participate in the festival.



Just as Visakha and her retinues were in sight of the shelter the Brahmins rested, there began a sudden and heavy downpour.

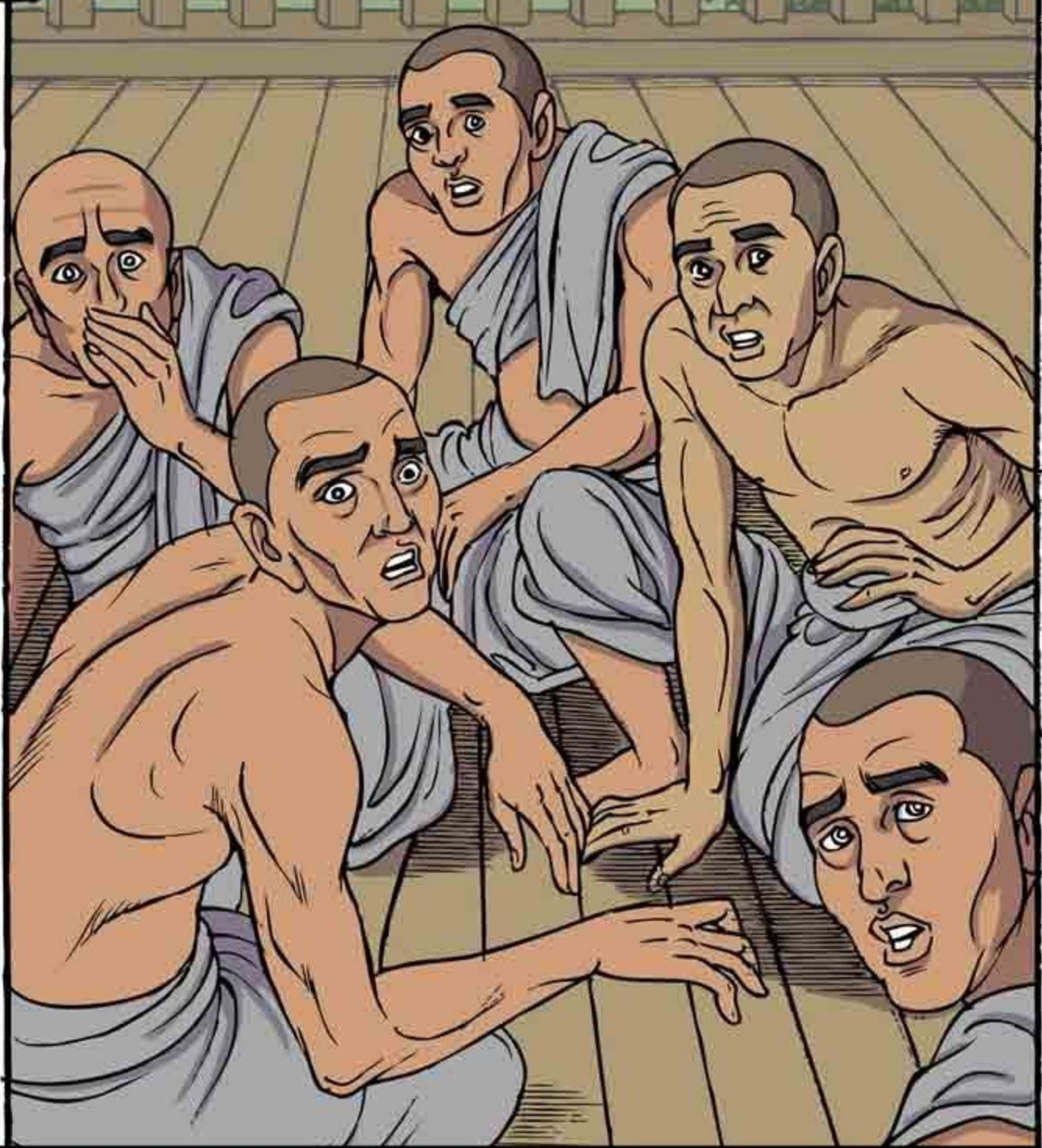
All her retinues ran to the shelter to take cover from the heavy rain.



The Brahmins inspected each and every single retinues carefully but couldn't find a single woman with the five maidenly attributes.

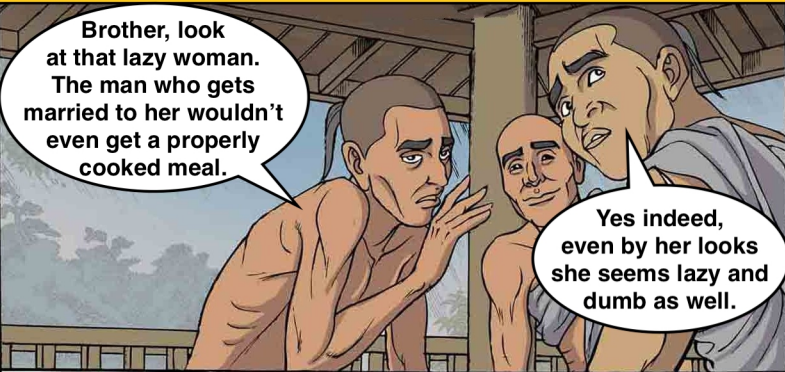


Visakha, on the other hand, walked calmly with a regular pace and entered the shelter gracefully.



On seeing Visakha, all the Brahmins became dumbstruck by her beauty because they just found a woman with four maidenly attributes, not five attributes just yet for they haven't seen her teeth yet.

As the Brahmins wanted to see and inspect Visakha's teeth, they pretended to gossip about her with a voice audible enough to be heard by Visakha.

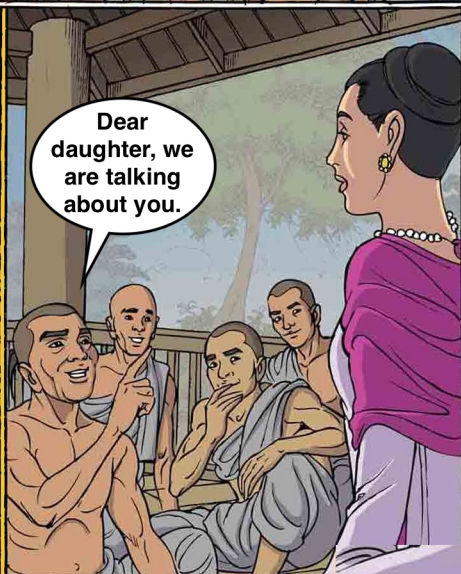


Brother, look at that lazy woman. The man who gets married to her wouldn't even get a properly cooked meal.

Yes indeed, even by her looks she seems lazy and dumb as well.




Respected Brahmins, whom are you talking about?



Dear daughter, we are talking about you.

Visakha's voice was so pleasant to hear just as the voice of the nightingale's.



**Respected
Brahmins, it isn't
appropriate and
ungraceful for four
types of people in this
world to run.**



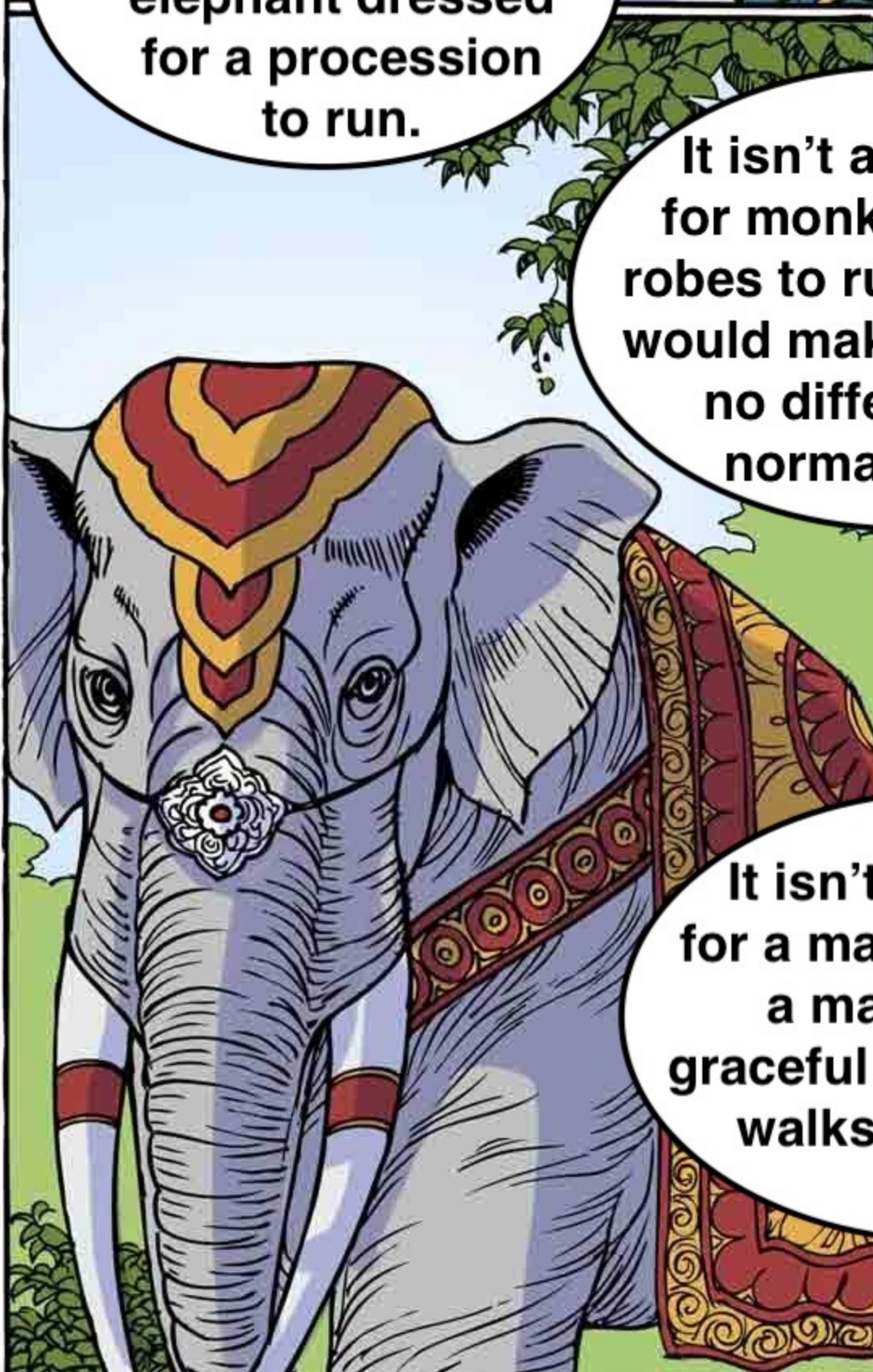
**Who are those,
dear daughter?**



Respected Brahmins, it isn't appropriate for a king in Royal attire to run...

He would be despised when seen running around with royal attire like a normal person.

It isn't appropriate for a king's royal elephant dressed for a procession to run.



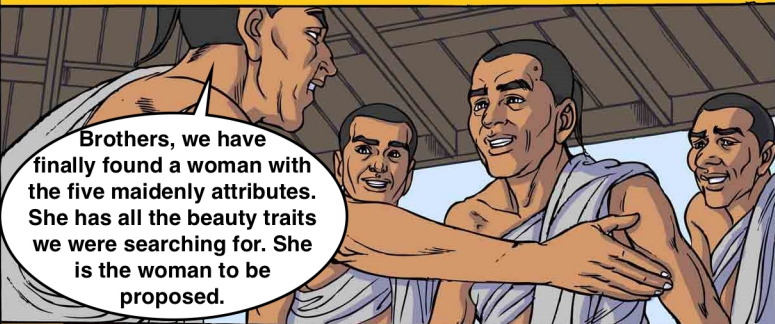
It isn't appropriate for monks in serene robes to run because it would make the monks no different than normal people.



It isn't appropriate for a maiden to run. As a maiden looks graceful only when she walks in a regular pace.



The Brahmins were delighted to hear Visakha's conviction.

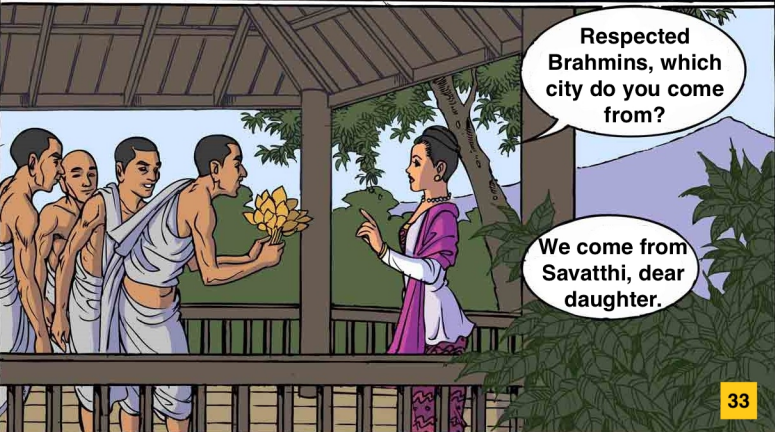


Brothers, we have finally found a woman with the five maidenly attributes. She has all the beauty traits we were searching for. She is the woman to be proposed.

The Brahmins presented the bouquet of golden flowers to Visakha.

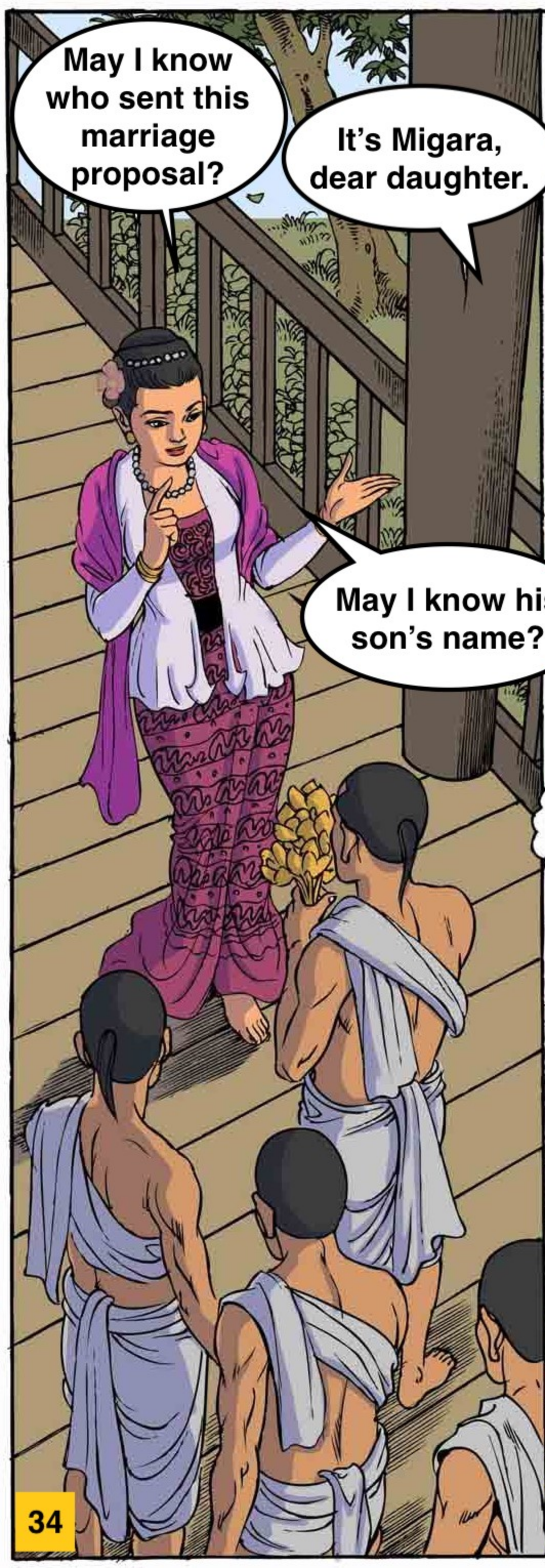


Dear daughter, only you deserve this bouquet of golden flowers. Please kindly accept this marriage proposal.



Respected Brahmins, which city do you come from?

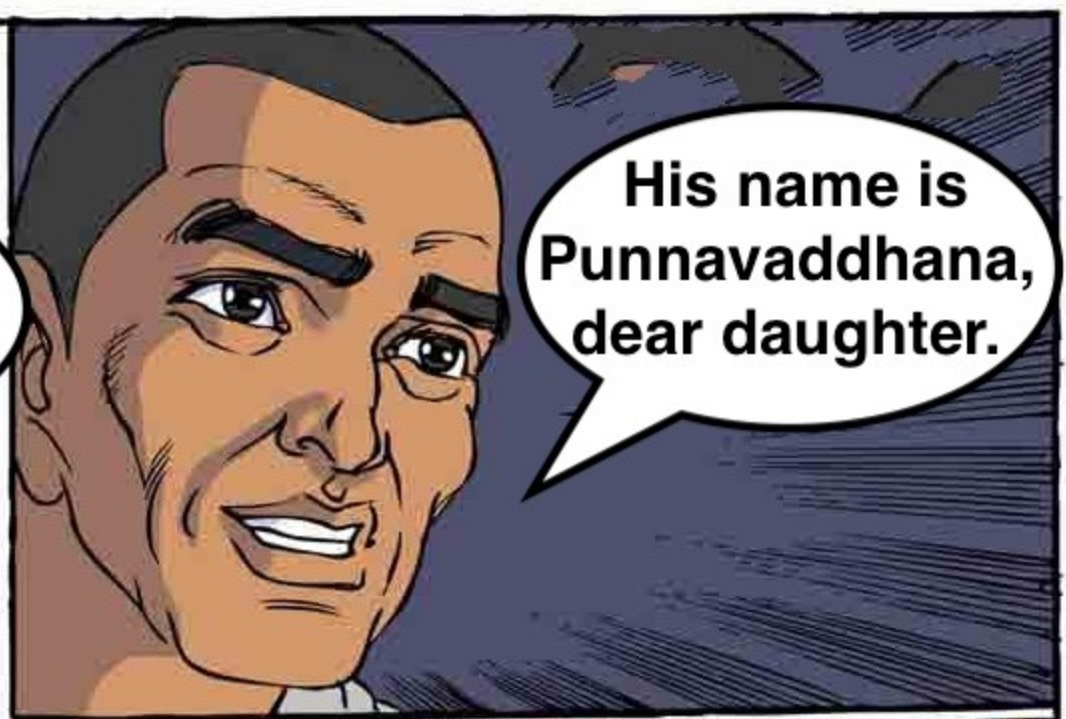
We come from Savatthi, dear daughter.




May I know who sent this marriage proposal?

It's Migara, dear daughter.


May I know his son's name?




His name is Punnavaddhana, dear daughter.



I should discuss with my parents first and get their blessings.



Visakha accepted the bouquet of golden flowers and sent a messenger to her father Dhananjaya.



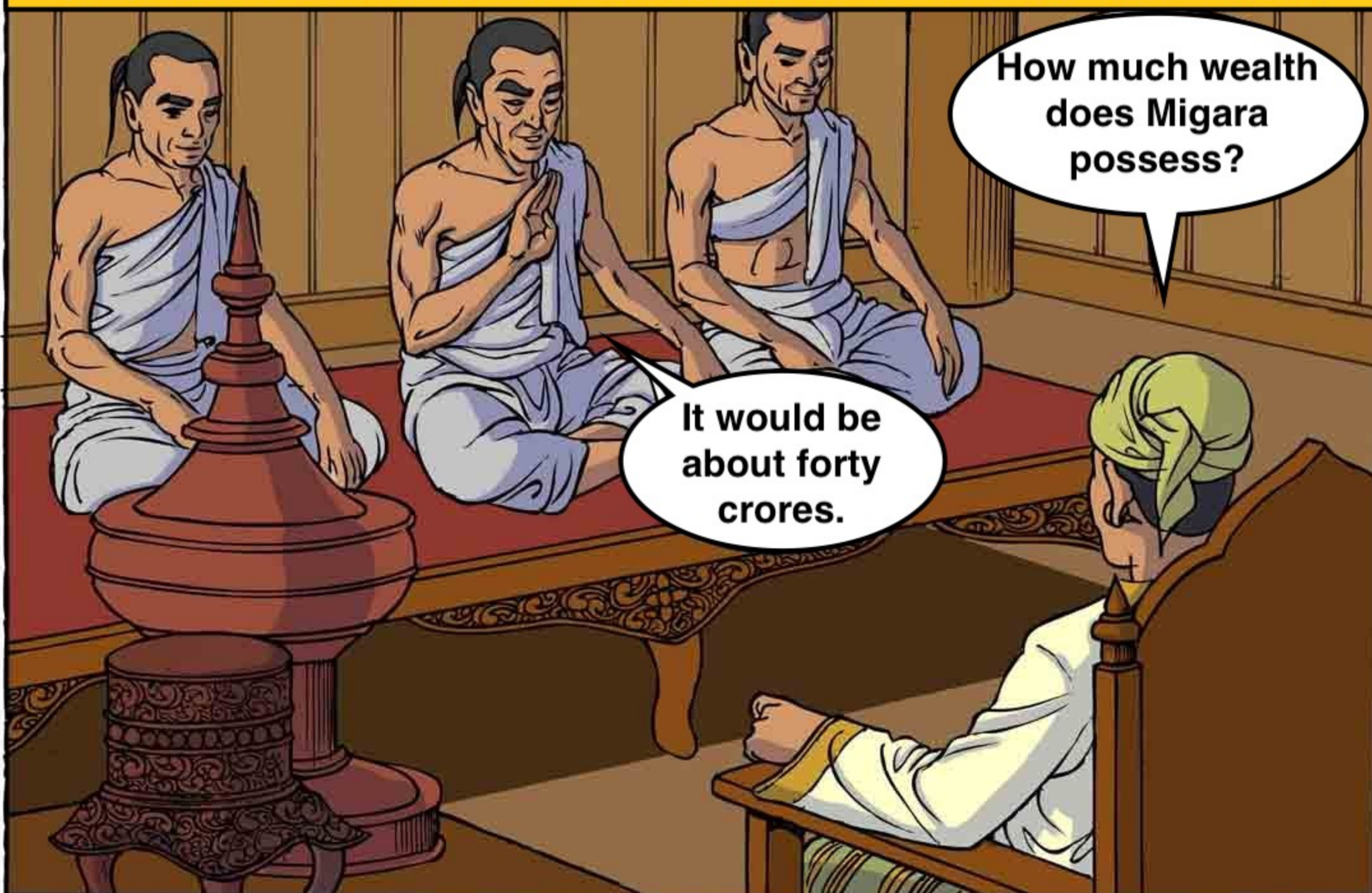
Mistress Visakha requested for chariots to return home, master Dhananjaya.

Those days they used to have closed door chariots to transfer noble members of the town, and specially grown up female family members.



Dhananjaya sent her daughter five-hundred chariots. Visakha went back to her father with her retinues, and the Brahmins followed her.

Upon reaching to Dhananjaya's mansion, he met with the Brahmins and inquired about the proposal. He asked thoroughly about who sent the proposal, what was his social status and other essential information.



Forty crores is just a tiny fraction of wealth compared to mine. But it's more important for my daughter to get a good husband. I think, I will accept it.



Dhananjaya accepted the proposal and asked the Brahmins to convey his message to Migara.

When the Brahmins reached back to Savatthi, they conveyed the message with joy.

Wealthy Migara, we have found the woman with the five maidenly attributes.

Which city is she from?

She's from Saketa.

Whose daughter is she? Is her social status equivalent to mine?

She is the daughter of the Setthi Dhananjaya. They are at least a thousand times wealthier than you. She is from a respectable family and social status. It would be wise for you to start the marriage preparation as soon as possible.

Without further delay, Migara went to Kosala's king Pasenadi and requested permission to travel to Saketa for his son's marriage proposal.



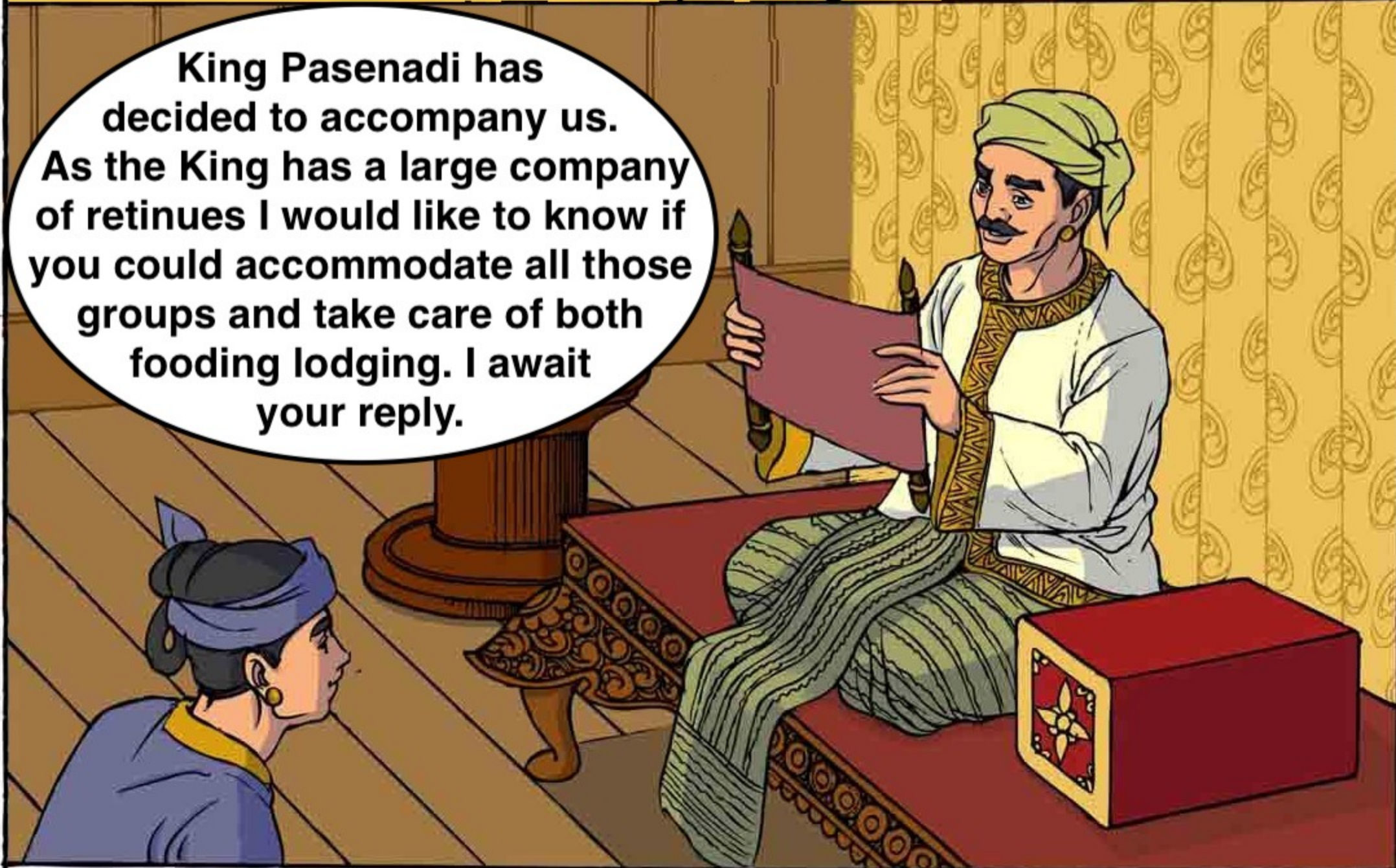
The setthi Dhananjaya that you speak of is the one with limitless wealth whom I had requested from King Bimbisara for a resettlement in our kingdom. I built Saketa city for him to settle there. Dhananjaya deserves to be congratulated personally by me. I will follow along to Saketa.



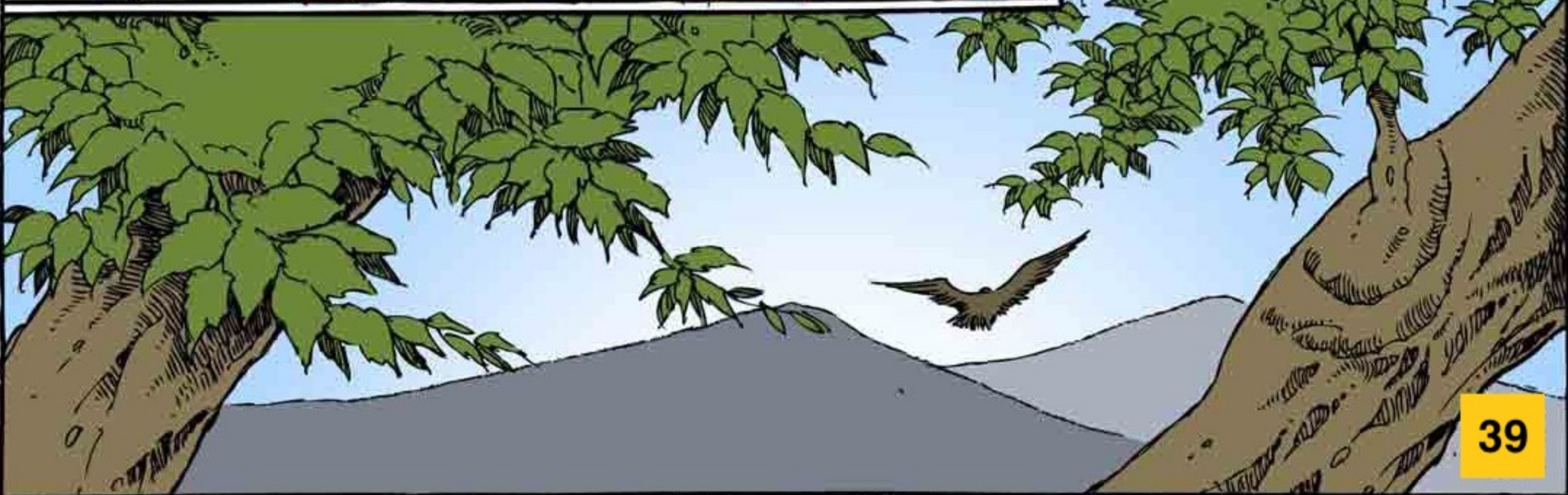
It would be such a great honour for us, my king.

Soon after that, Migara sent a messenger to Dhananjaya to inform the upcoming event

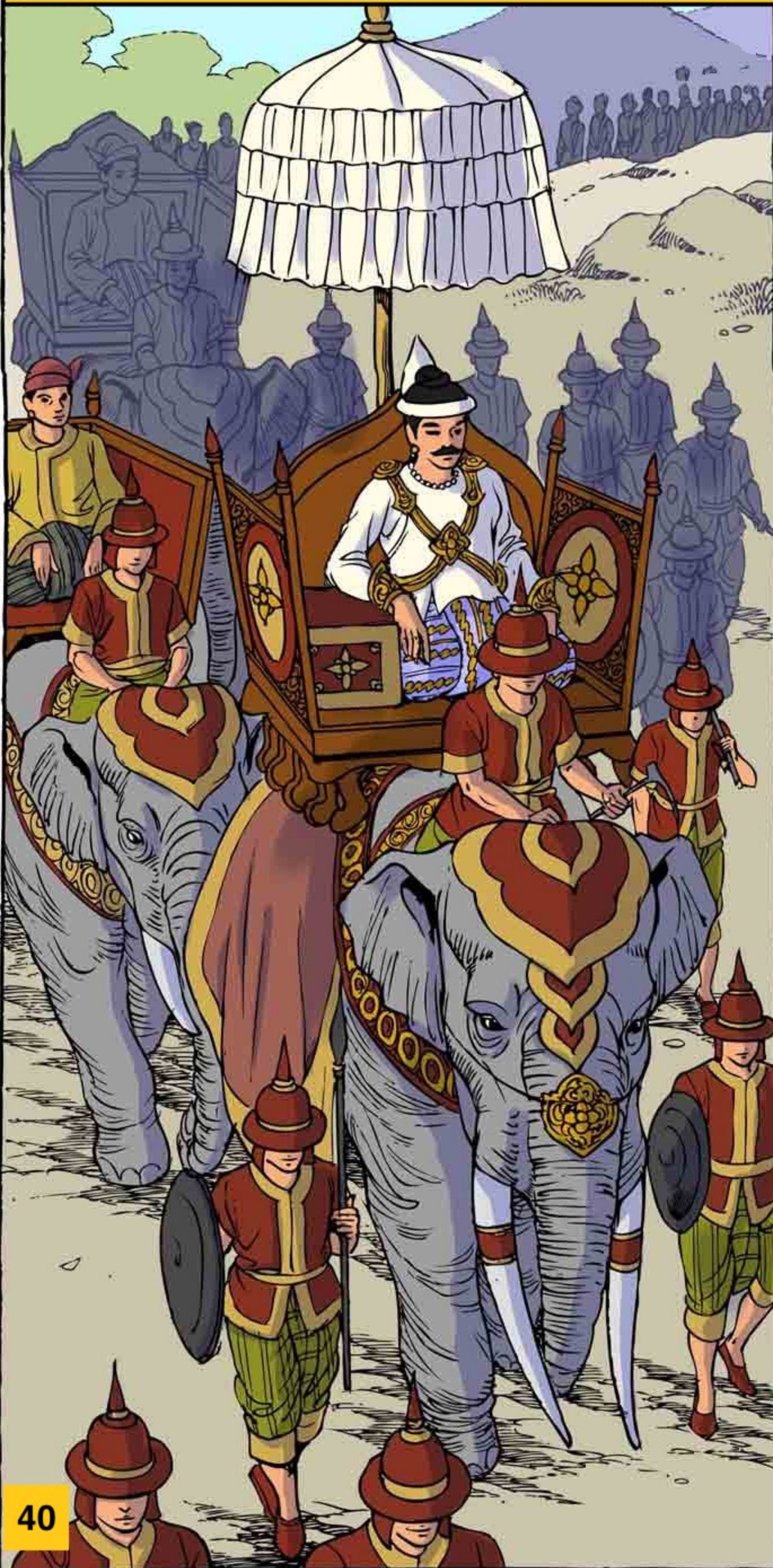
King Pasenadi has decided to accompany us. As the King has a large company of retainers I would like to know if you could accommodate all those groups and take care of both fooding lodging. I await your reply.



I can accommodate and take care of not just one but ten kings. I await for the honour to welcome the king.



Upon receiving the reply, Migara left only some guards in his mansion and he even called all the city folks who wish to follow them and departed for Saketa.



On reaching about just half a league (yojana) distance to reach Saketa, they decided to rest and sent a messenger to Dhananjaya.

The messenger conveyed the message to Dhananjaya, which states: we are about half a League away from Saketa.



Dhananjaya also sent a welcome party with numerous gifts to welcome King Pasenadi and Migara.

Dhananjaya called his daughter Visakha



Dear daughter, your future father in law is on his way along with king Pasenadi. Which mansions shall we prepare to accommodate the king and your future father in law?

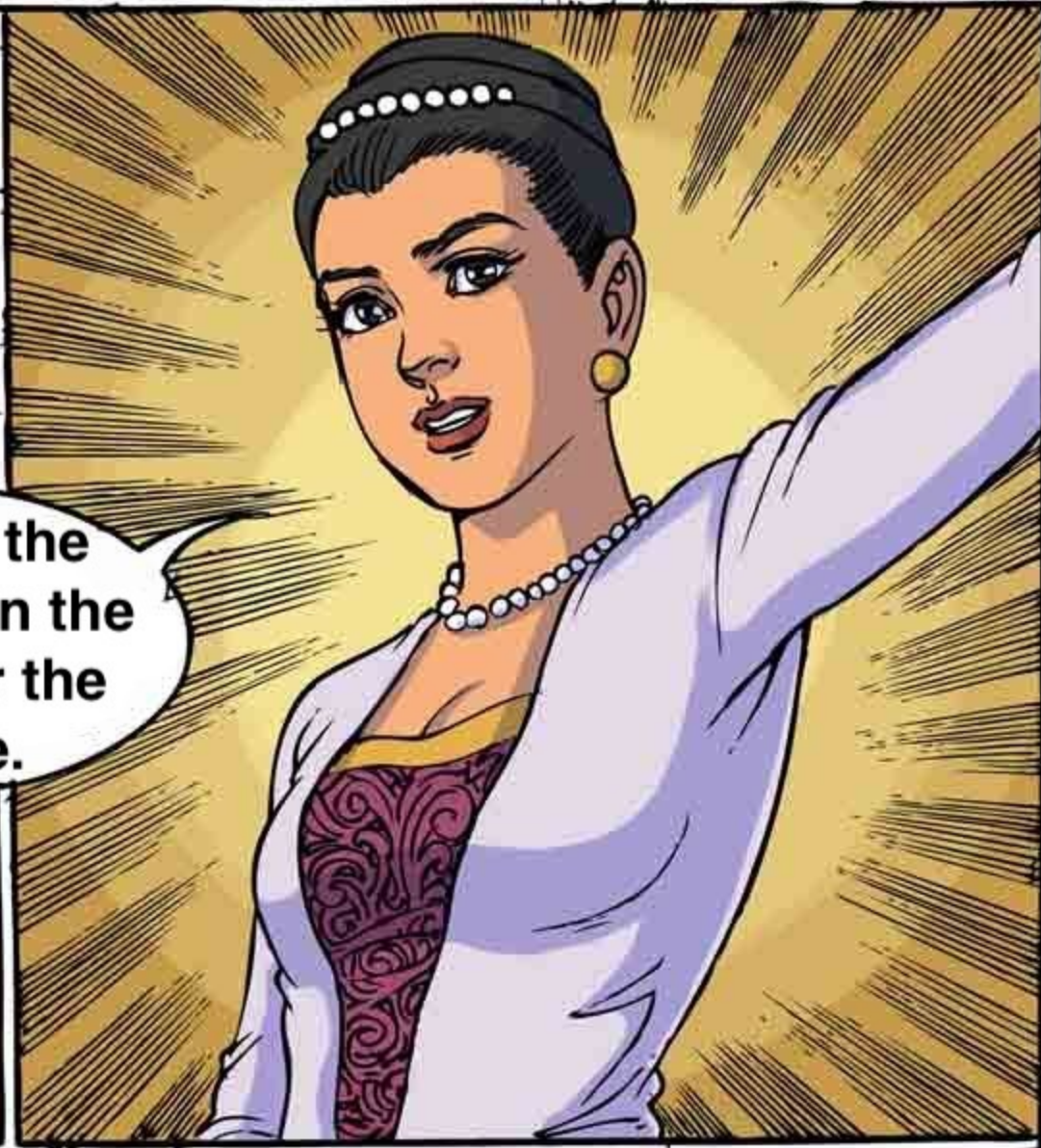
And which mansions should be allocated for the princes and retinues?



The intelligent Visakha wasted no time and began managing her workers to prepare for the accommodation immediately.

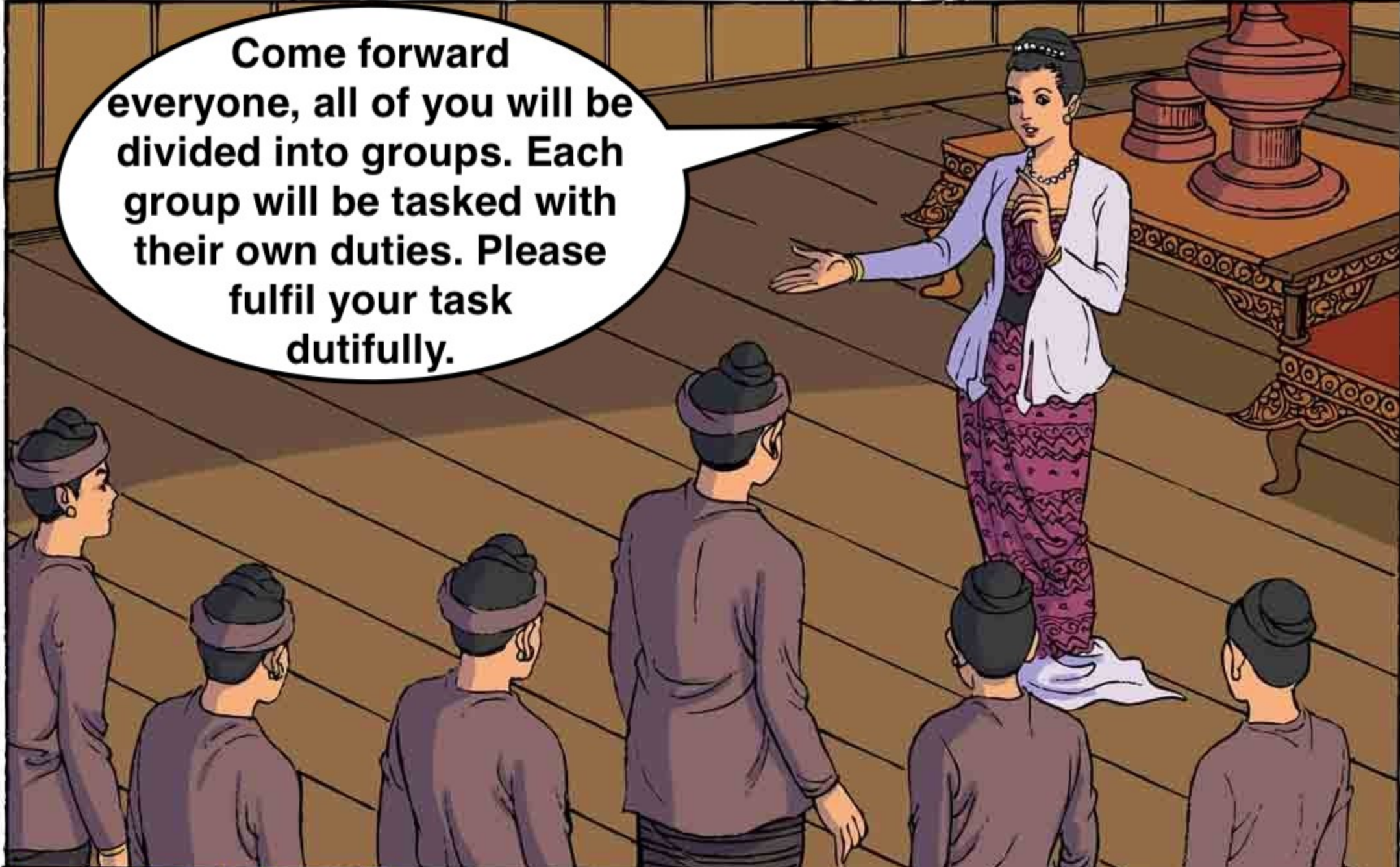
Prepare this mansion for my future father in law.






After all the preparation works were done for the accommodation, Visakha summoned all her workers and said,






Come forward everyone, all of you will be divided into groups. Each group will be tasked with their own duties. Please fulfil your task dutifully.

Visakha began dividing the task.



Your group will be tasked to take care of the king's needs and comfort.



And your group should take care of the needs and comfort of my future father in law.

Your group will take care of and feed the elephants and horses that would be brought along. We must allow the elephants and horses attendants who followed along to rest and attend the ceremony peacefully.

I do not wish to be criticized that we lack decent hospitality for our guests. Everyone, please be dedicated to your own task.



The intelligent Visakha, who was good in management quality as well, was busy managing her workers.

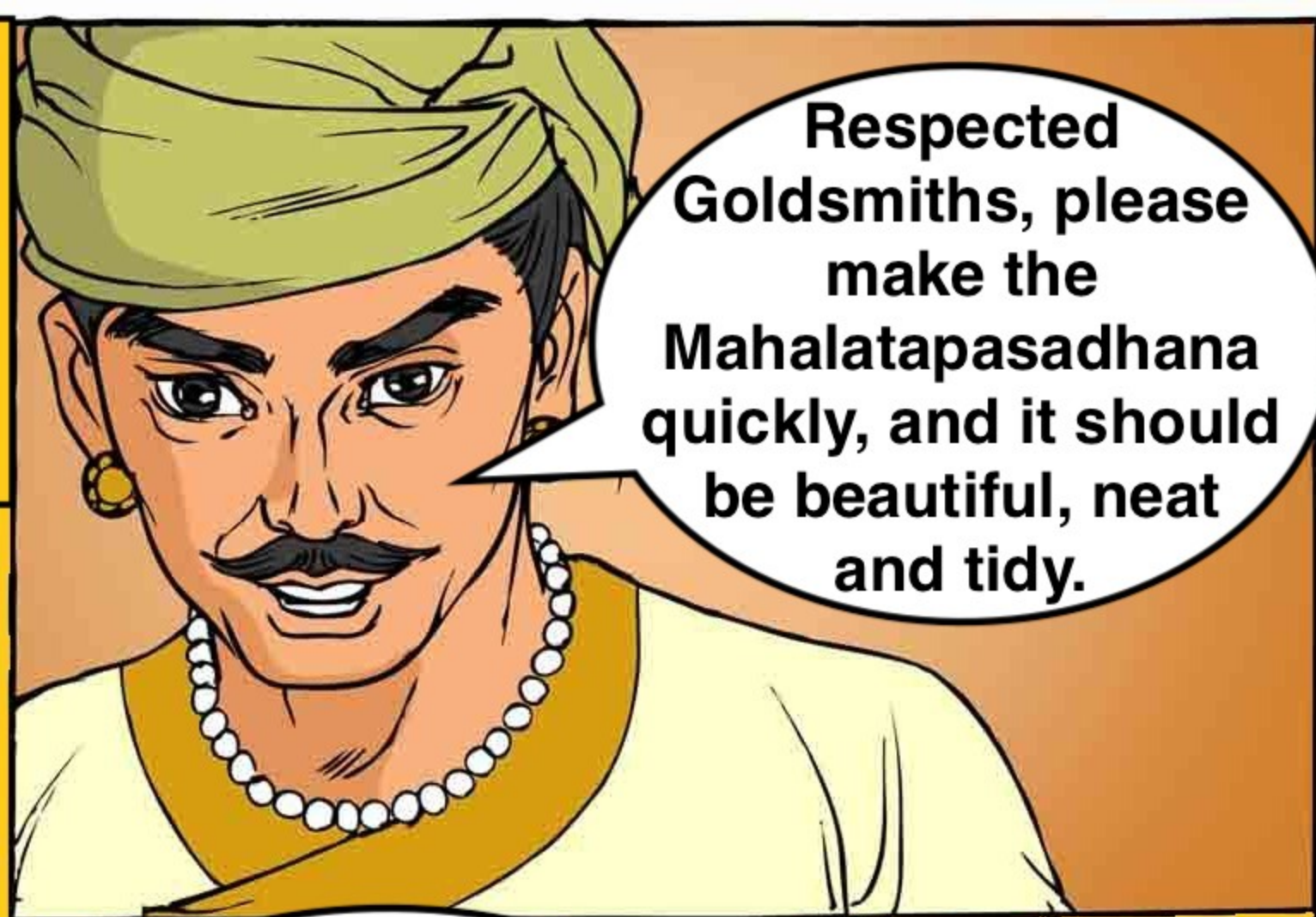


Visakha's father Dhananjaya was busy preparing a wedding dress for his daughter. He called the best five hundred Goldsmiths from Saketa, hired them for the task.



I want to make Mahalatapasadhana for my daughter's wedding.

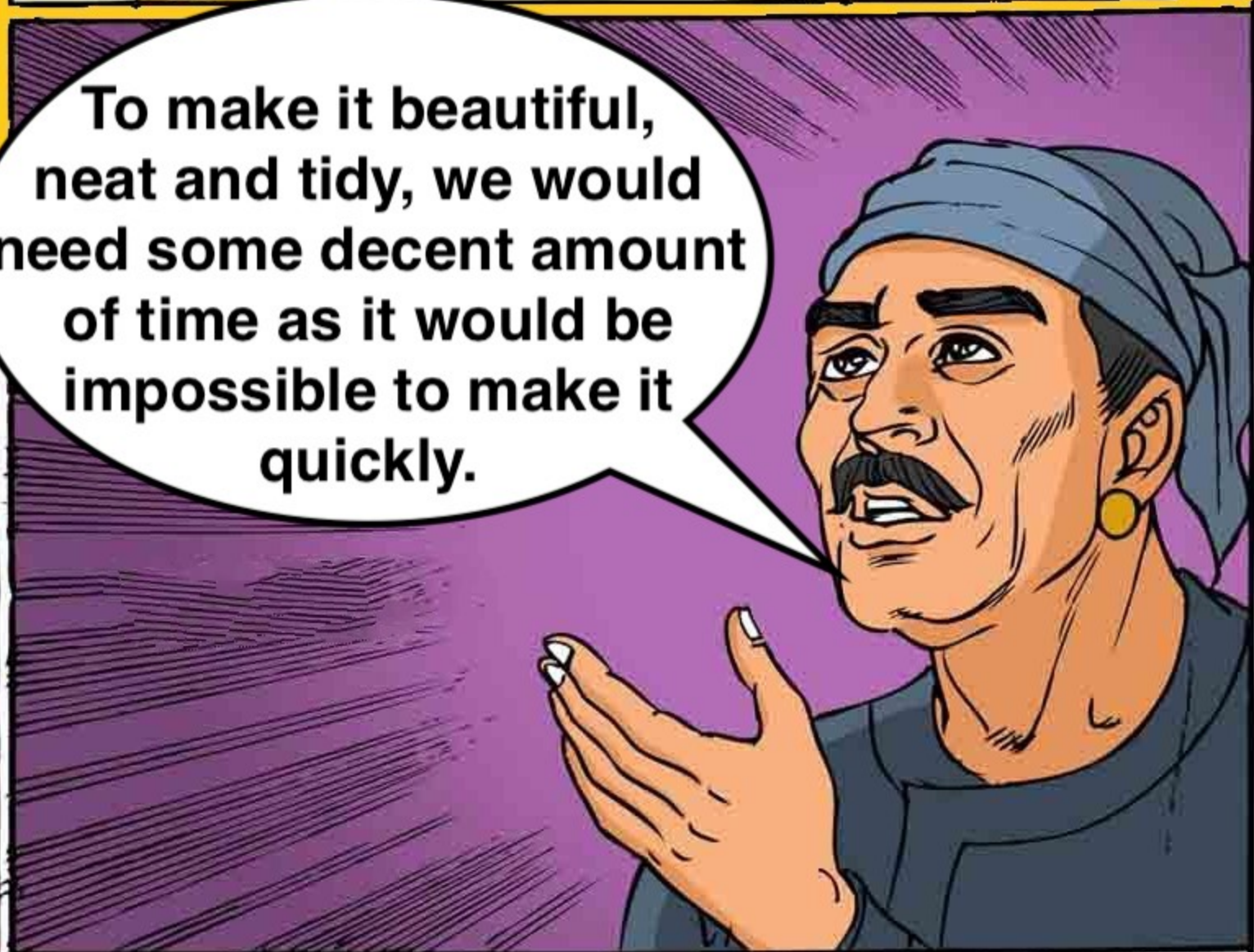
Dhananjaya gave the Goldsmiths one thousand pint pots of gold, and other matching valuable items like silver, rubies, pearls, coral, diamonds.



Respected Goldsmiths, please make the Mahalatapasadhana quickly, and it should be beautiful, neat and tidy.



To make it beautiful, neat and tidy, we would need some decent amount of time as it would be impossible to make it quickly.



How much time would it be needed?



We would need about 3-4 months, provided that we work on it day and night.

Okay, but it needs to be beautiful, neat and tidy as well.

As the Mahalatapasadhana was being made for Visakha, her wedding had to be postponed and everybody waited for it to be completed.



After some days, King Pasenadi out of compassion, didn't want to be a burden for Dhananjaya said:



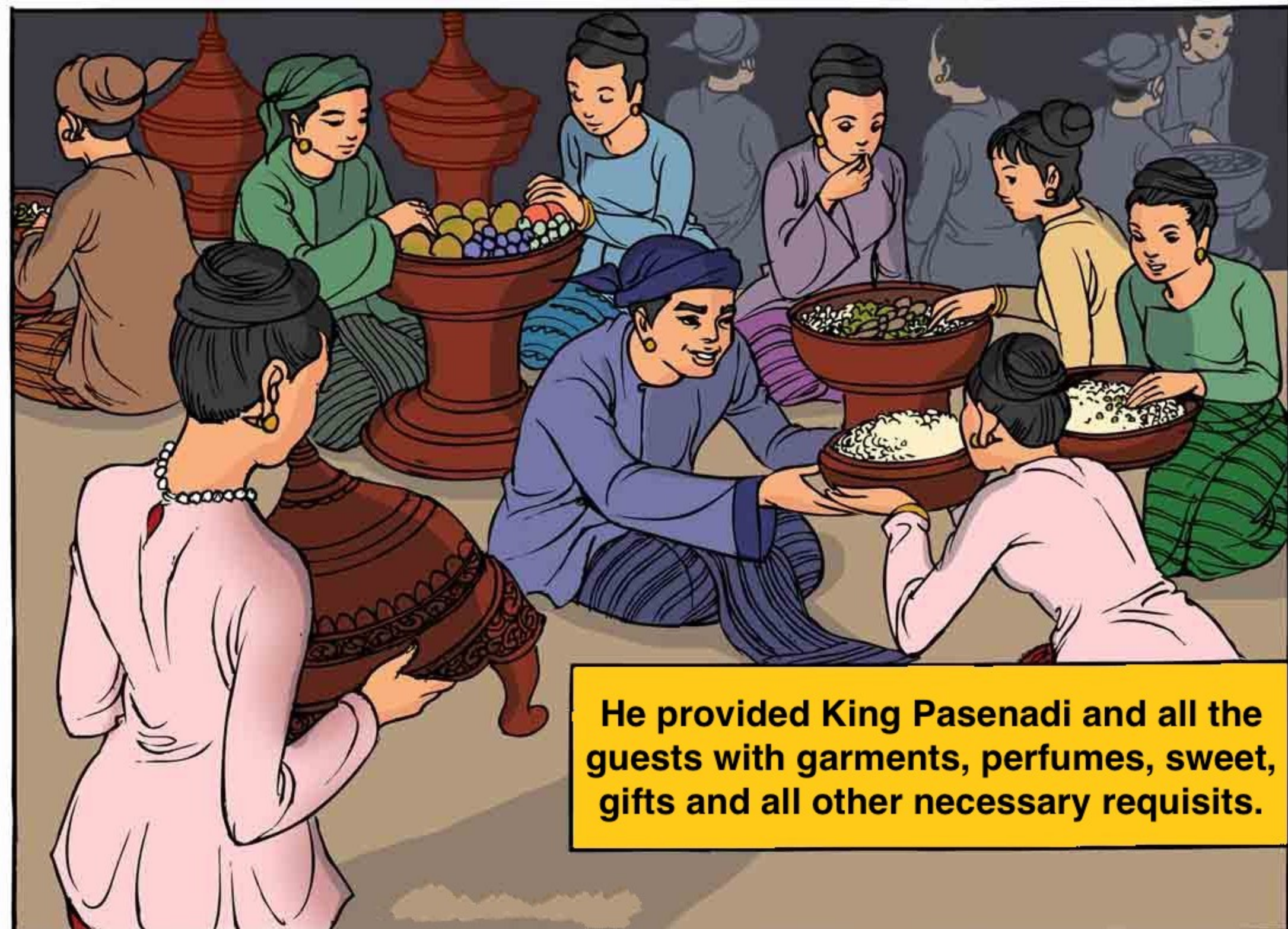
Setthi Dhananjaya, it would be a huge burden for you to accommodate for your King as I came along with lots of attendants. Please settle a date for the wedding, so that I could return back soon.

My lord, now is the start of the rainy season. It is not a great time to travel. Please spend the four months of rainy season here till the day arrives for my daughter's wedding. Do not worry that you would cause a burden to me. I can afford to take good care of you and all your attendants.

If you wish, so be it!

From that moment on, Dhananjaya made everyone in Saketa feel as if they were in a continual festival.



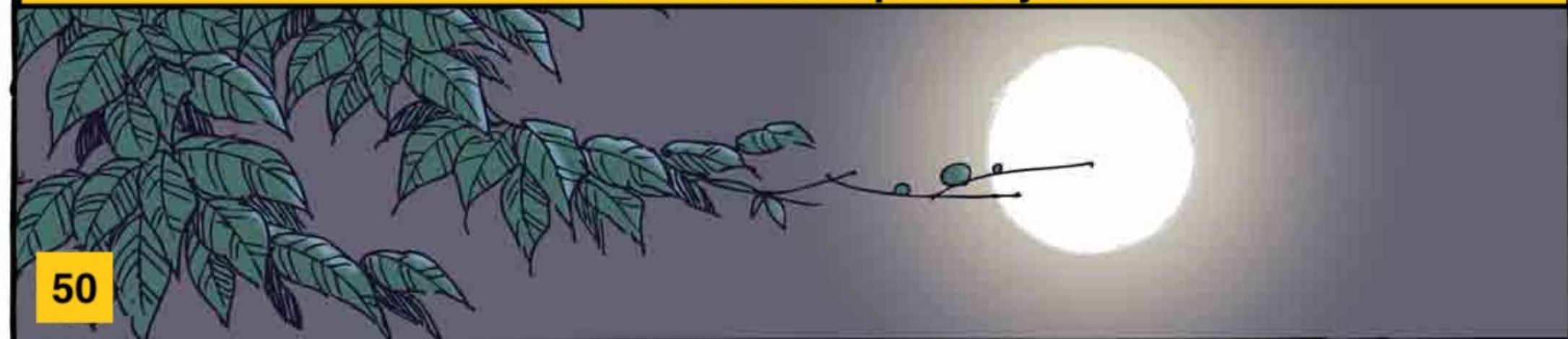


He provided King Pasenadi and all the guests with garments, perfumes, sweet, gifts and all other necessary requisits.


Which made each of them feel the special hospitality of the Setthi Dhananjaya.




This became the norm for the upcoming days, and time passed to a period of three Months. But the making of Mahalatapasadhana had not been completed yet.



Soon after that, workers serving the guests informed Dhananjaya.



Respected Setthi,
all the supplies are still in
stock but we are about to
run out of firewood supply
to cook meals.



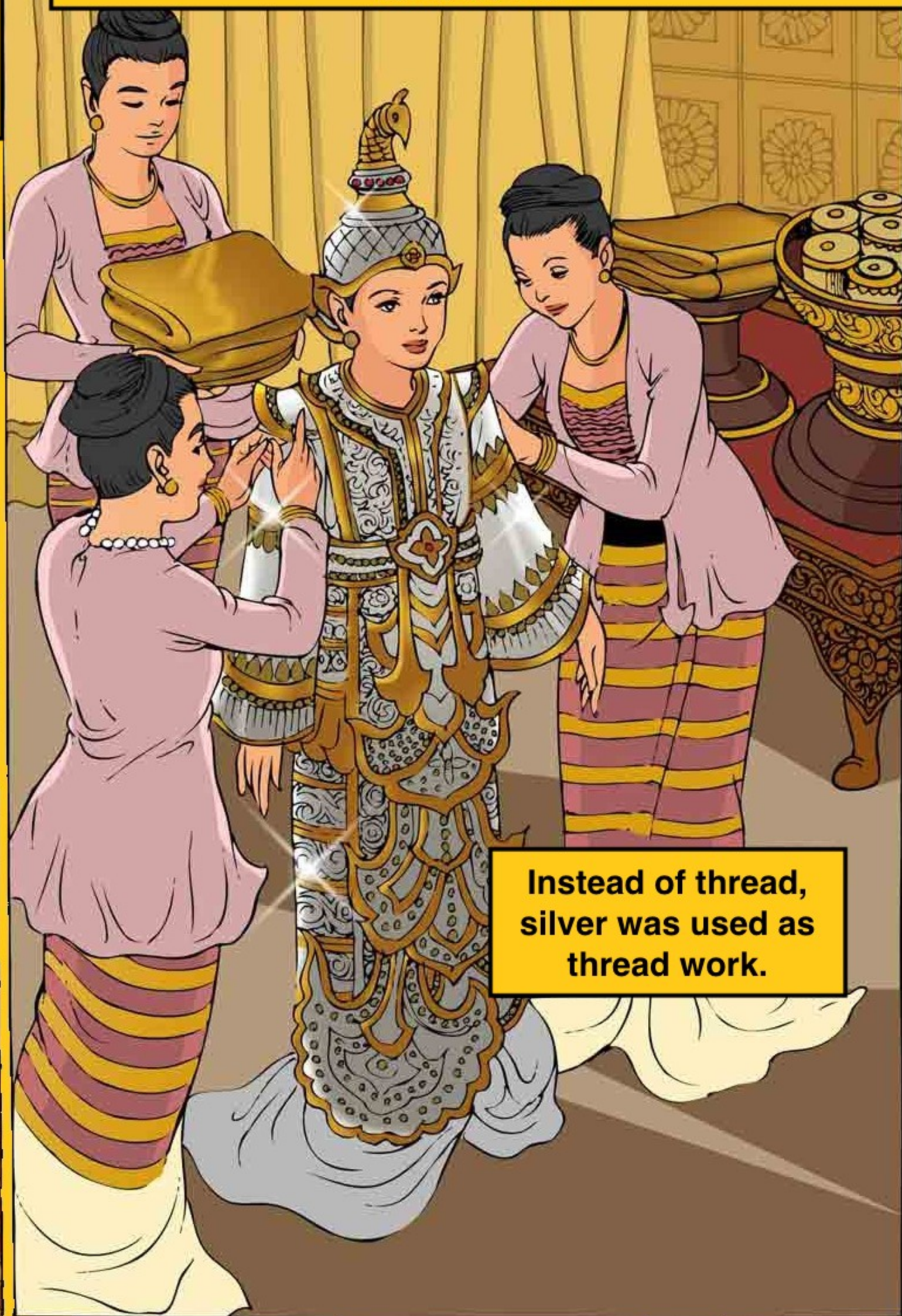
Destroy all the
dilapidated houses
and use the wood
received as
firewood.

All the abandoned houses had been destroyed but after about a fortnight, there was shortage of firewood, so they reported again to Dhananjaya.



By that time, the Goldsmiths completed the Mahalatapasadhana and the guests had been in Saketa for four months.

Mahalatapasadhana was made with four nali of diamonds, eleven nali of pearls, twenty two nali of coral, thirty three nali of rubies, one thousand nali of gold and decorated with other valuable items as well.



Instead of thread, silver was used as thread work.

The parure began from the head and reached till the ankle. It was also decorated in various places with gold and silver.



The most important part of the parure was the crown, because When placed on Visakha's head, it appeared as a dancing peacock.

The parure also produced sounds like music when Visakha walked around.

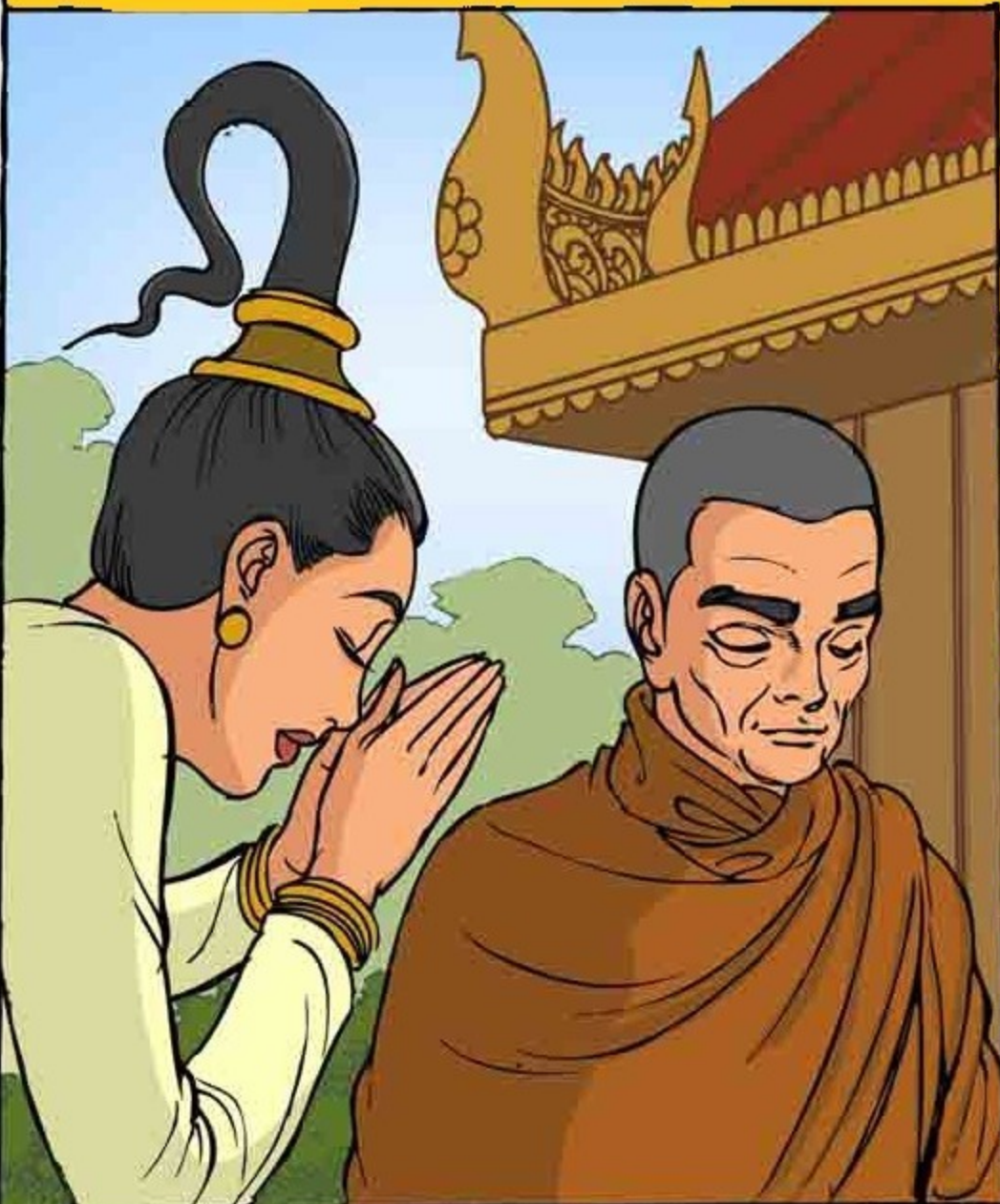
Mahalatapasadhana's value was of nine crores and the fee to make it costs one lakh.

Visakha received such a magnificent parure because of the merits from one of her past lives.

During Kassapa Buddha's time, Visakha was born as Sanghadasi; the youngest of the seven daughters of King Kiki.



In that life, she donated robes, needles, threads and dyeing materials to twenty-thousand monks.



After Visakha's marriage was celebrated with great pomp, Dhananjaya gave five-hundred carts full of money, five hundred carts full of gold, five hundred carts full of silver, five hundred carts each full of copper, silk garments, butter, husked and winnowed rice, ploughshares and other farm implements to Visakha to take it with her to her husband's house.



I have to make sure that my daughter needn't borrow anything from her new neighbours when she stays at her father-in-law's house.

Dhananjaya also prepared five hundred chariots with three beautiful and richly dressed attendants on each of the chariots

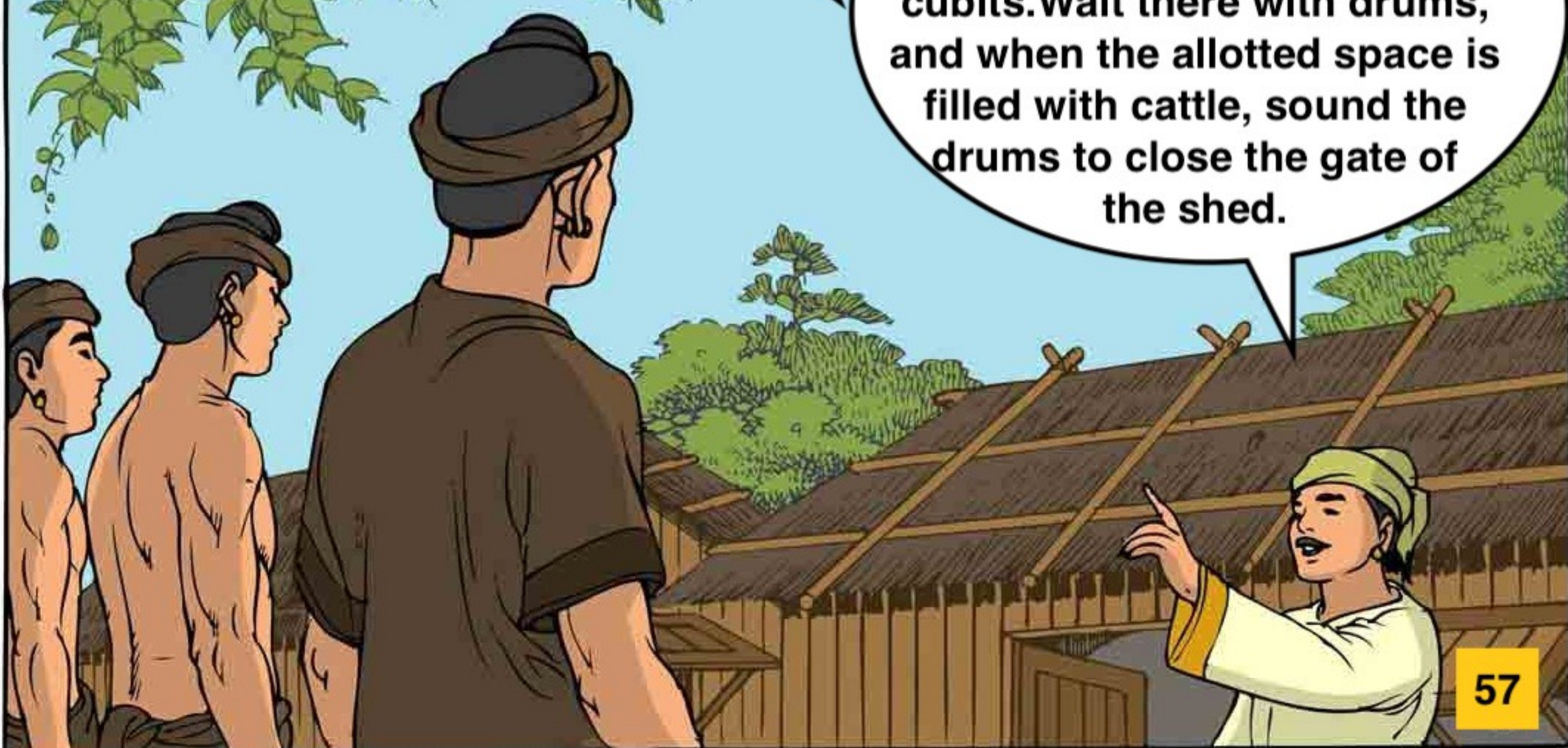


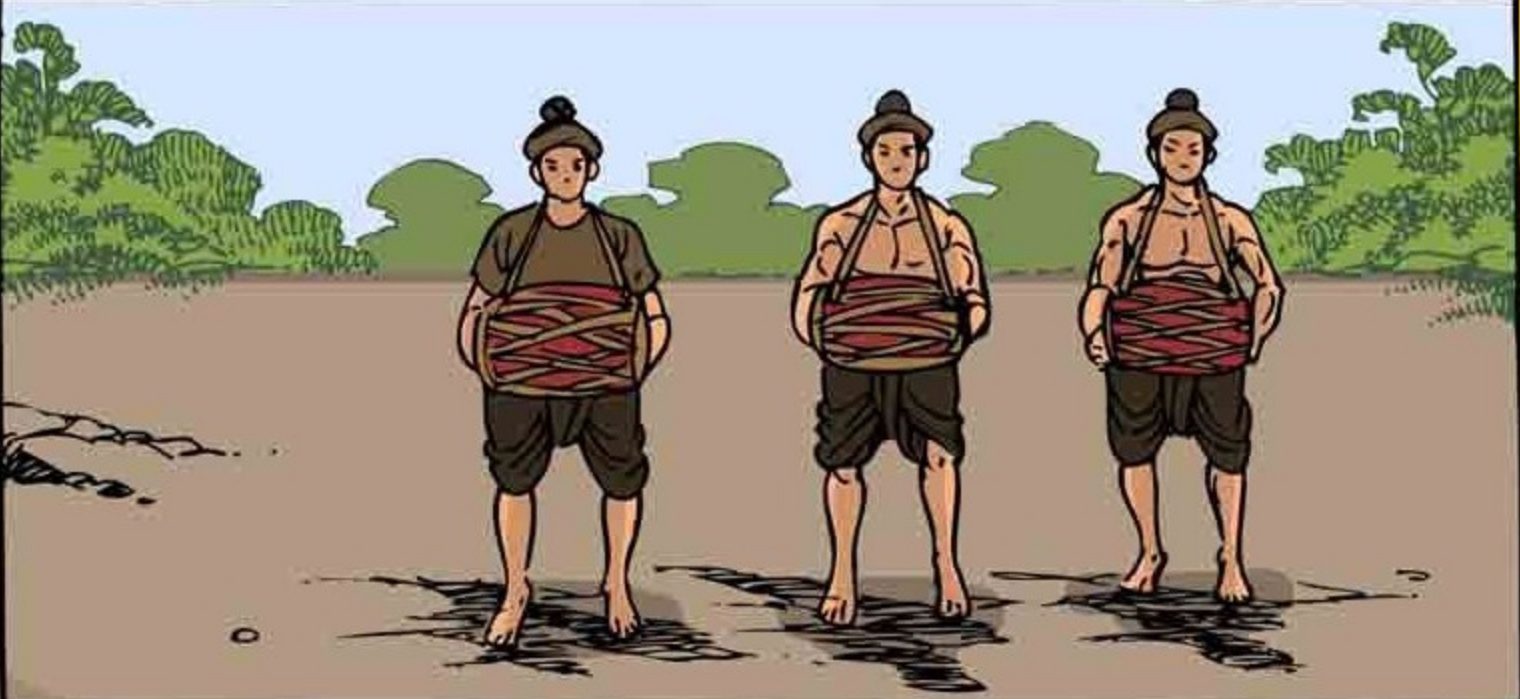
All one thousand and five hundred of you must attend to Visakha's wellbeing and household chores.

After that, he prepared to give cattle to Visakha.

Go to a distance of three quarters of a league and wait with drums.

And for the width, go to a distance of eight rods for about a hundred and fifty cubits. Wait there with drums, and when the allotted space is filled with cattle, sound the drums to close the gate of the shed.

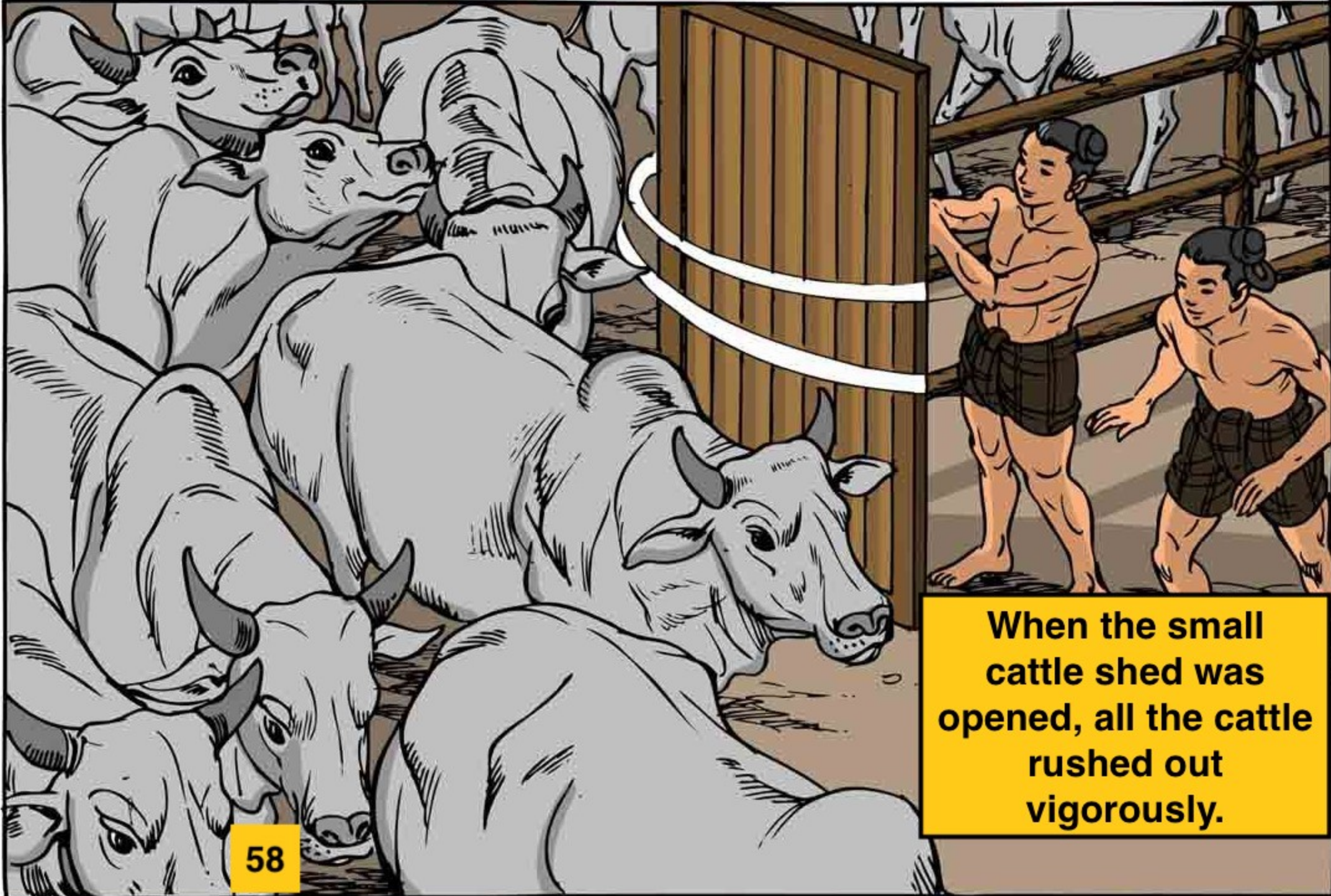




Three attendants went to a distance of three quarters of one yojana with each holding a drum.



Two attendants went and stood on the opposite sides of eight rods distance with drums.

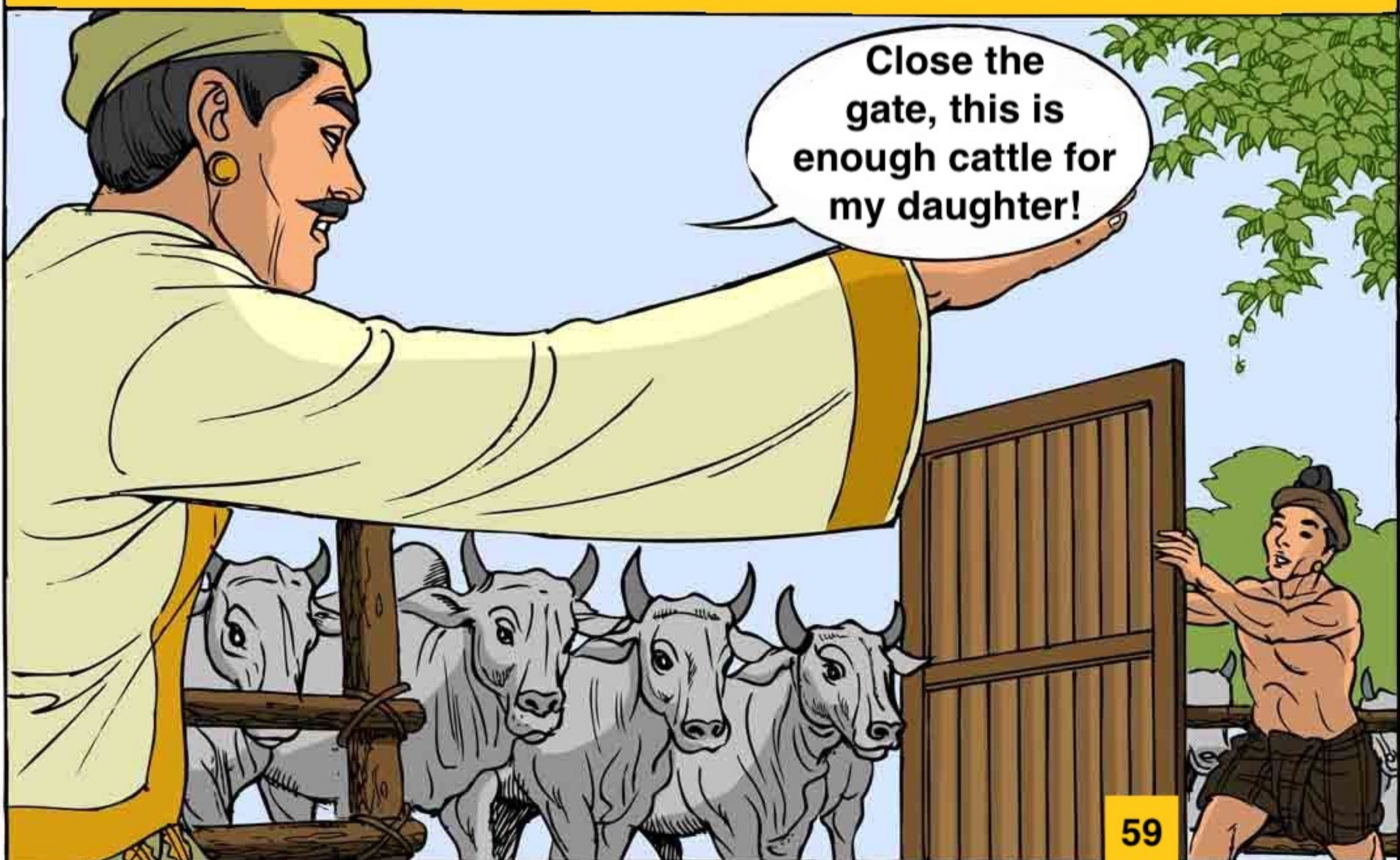


When the small cattle shed was opened, all the cattle rushed out vigorously.

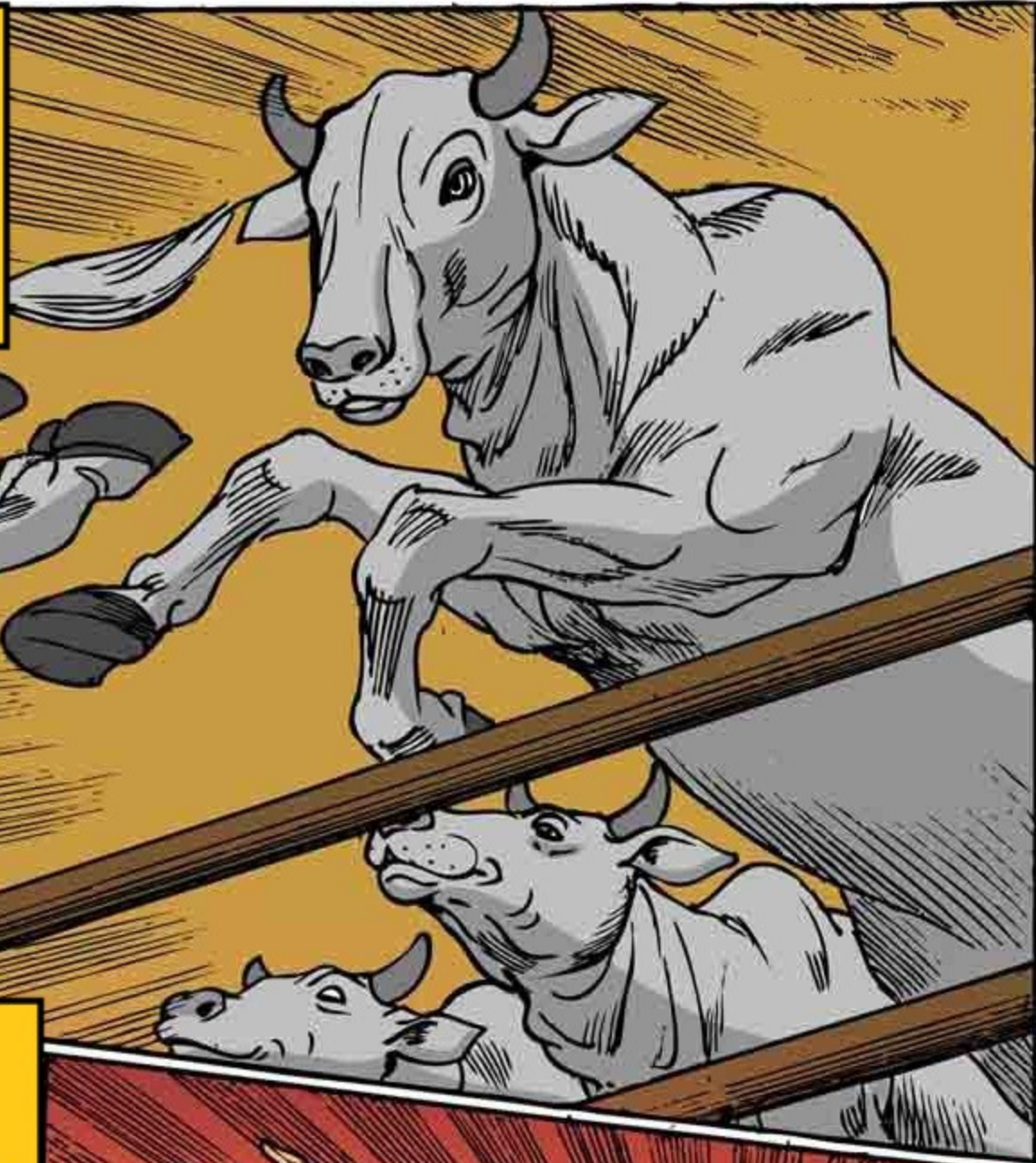
When the cattle occupied the allotted space and stood so closed to each other, the attendants sounded the drums.



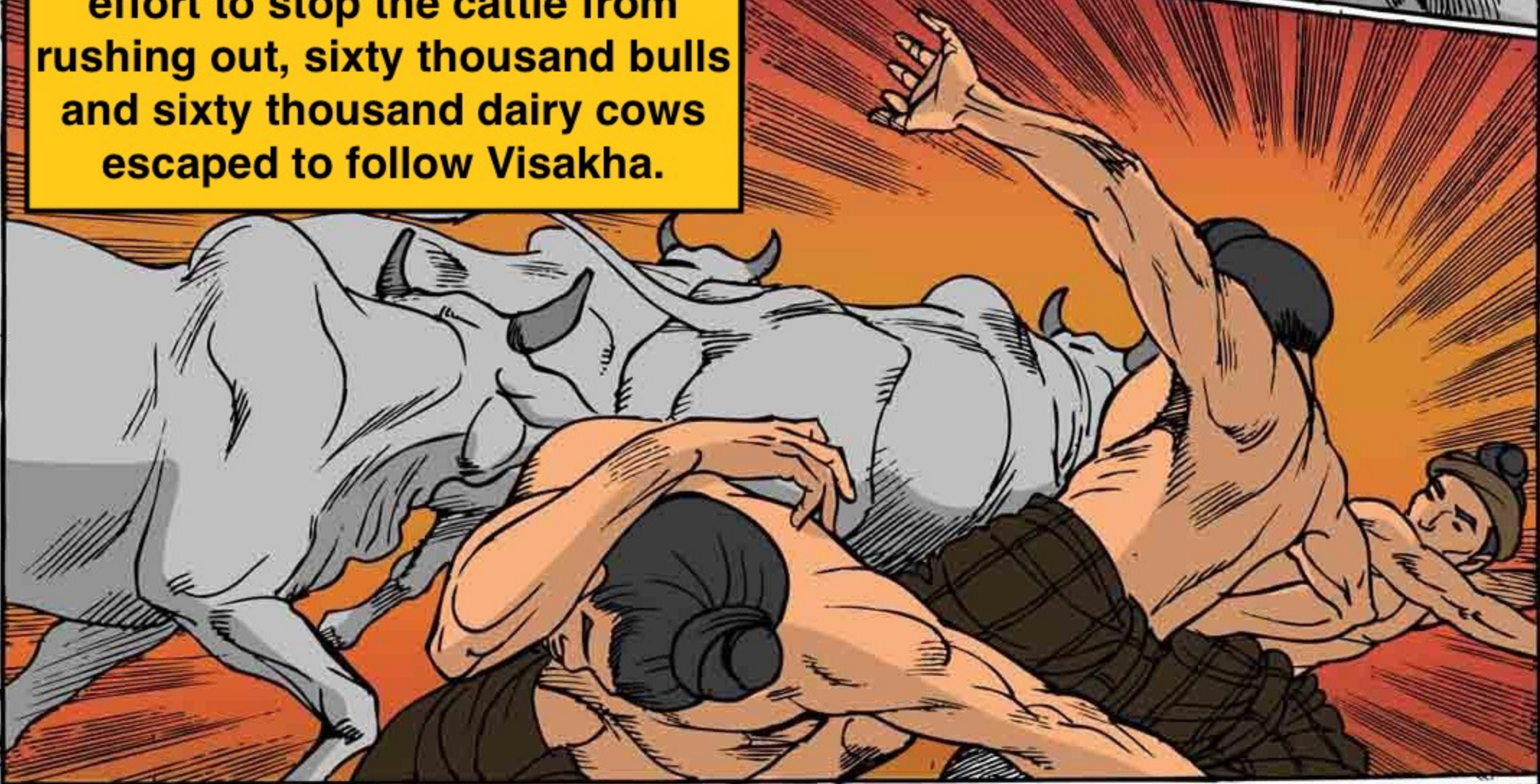
On hearing the signal, Dhananjaya ordered to close the gate.



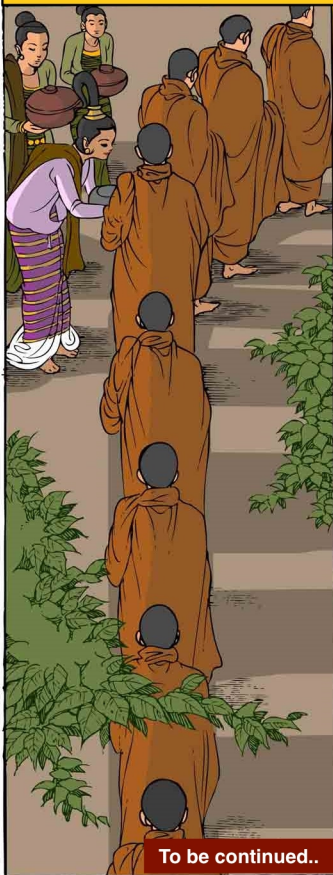
Though the attendants closed the gate of the shed, the cattle leaped out of the fence ferociously due to Visakha's merit from one of her past lives.



In spite of all the attendants effort to stop the cattle from rushing out, sixty thousand bulls and sixty thousand dairy cows escaped to follow Visakha.



This happened because during Kassapa Buddha's time, Visakha was born aa Sanghadasi. She donated dairy products to monks. When their bowls were full, the Monks closed the bowls with their hands and said it was full but she couldn't be stopped from donating more.



To be continued..