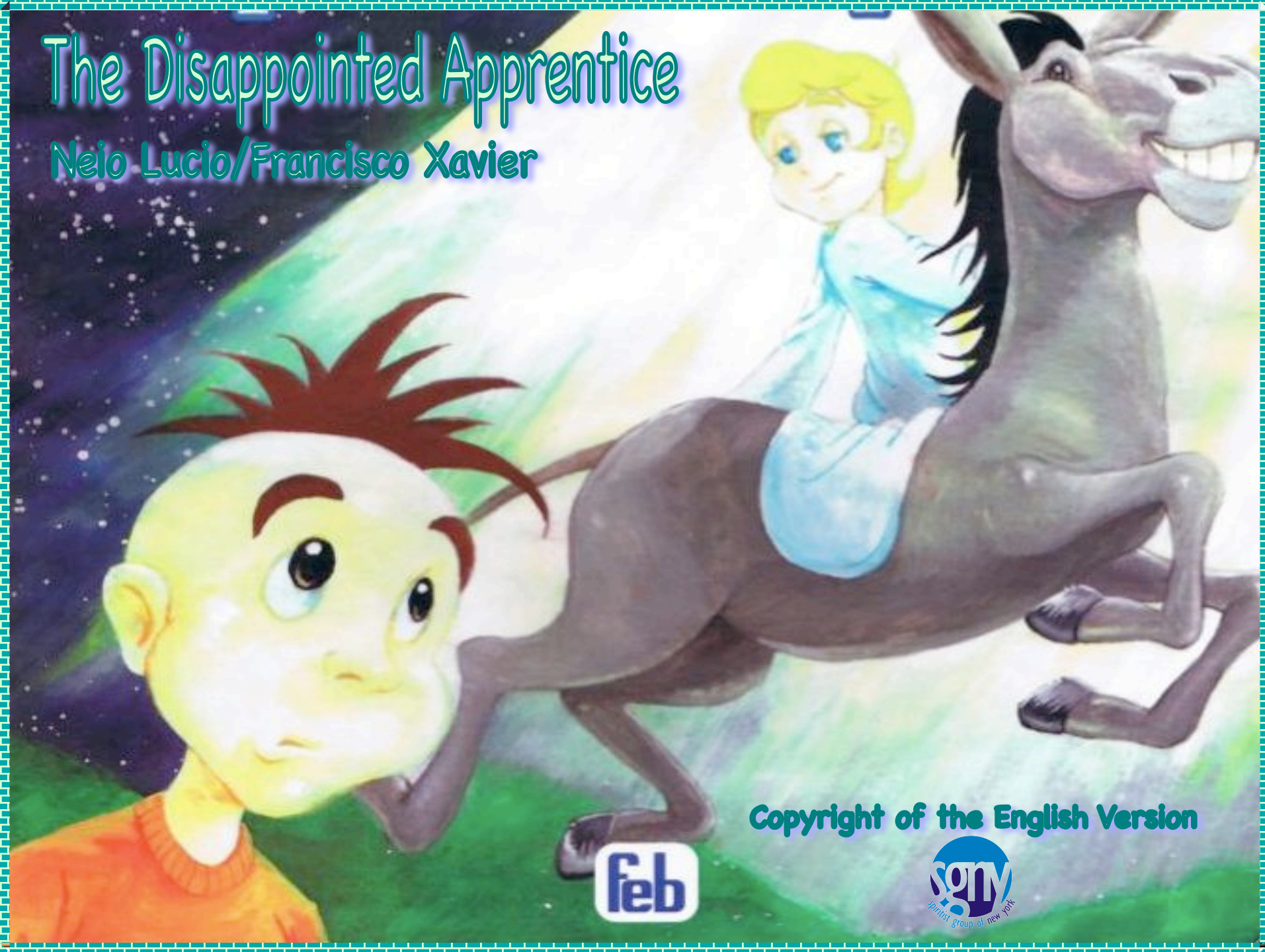


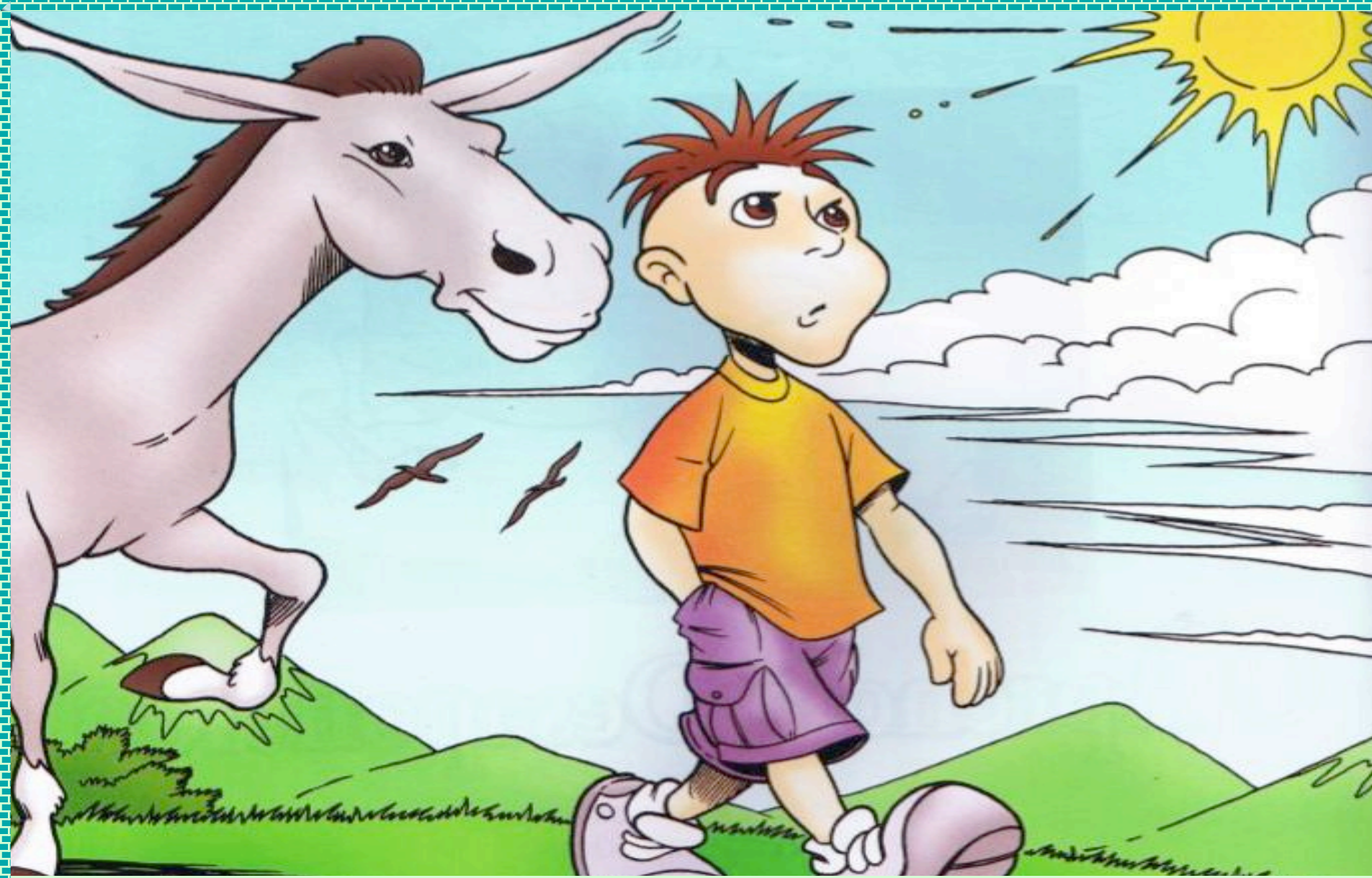
The Disappointed Apprentice

Neio Lucio/Francisco Xavier



Copyright of the English Version





On a beautiful morning, a young boy who ardently wished to live in Heaven was out in the field with a donkey when a Good Spirit visited him. He immediately recognized the emissary from above from the goodness of his smile and the luminescence of his clothes.

The boy cried: “Messenger of Jesus, I want to go to paradise! What should I do to get there?”

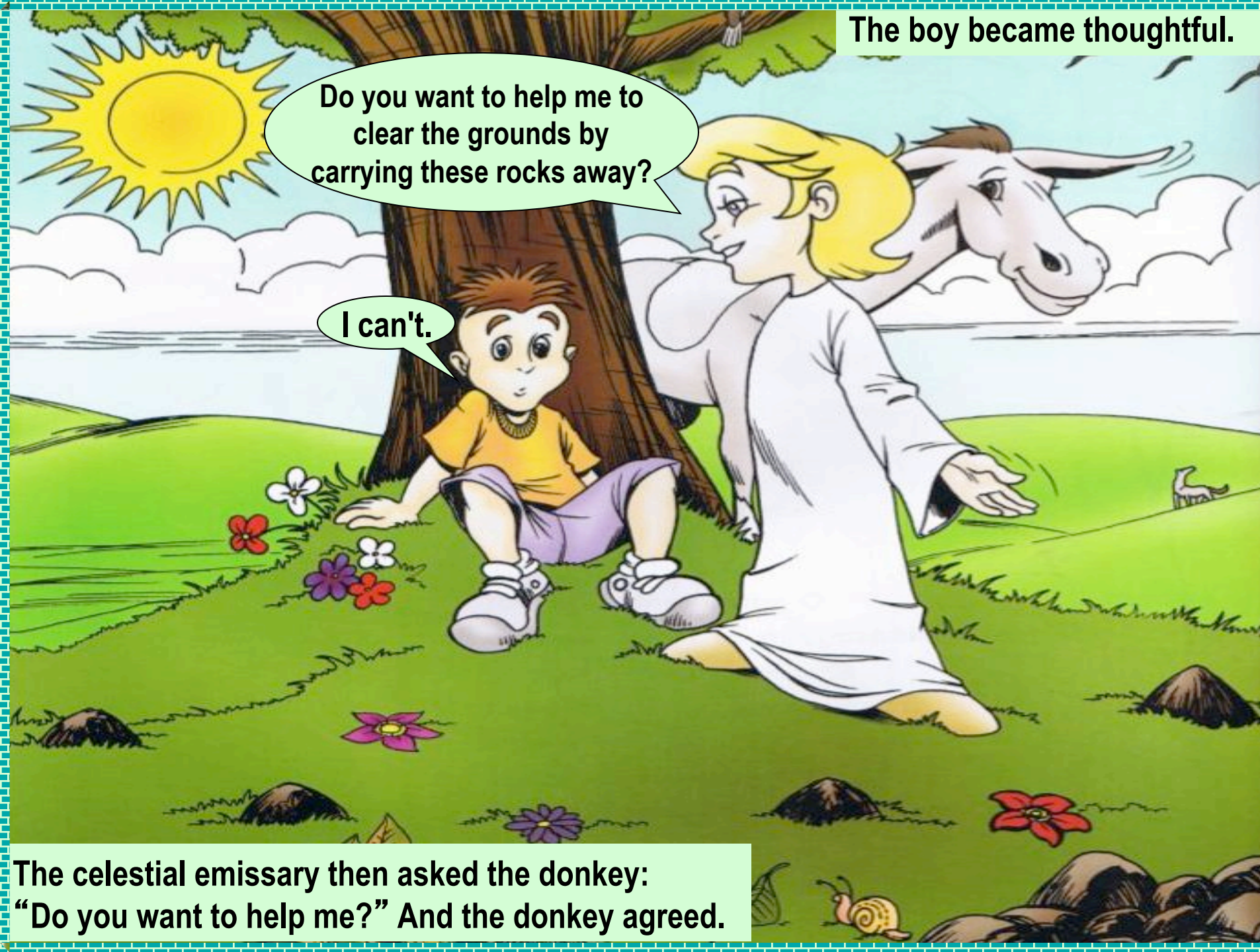


The Spirit answered with gentleness: The first path is obedience. The second is work. I came to this field in order to assist Nature.

The boy became thoughtful.

Do you want to help me to
clear the grounds by
carrying these rocks away?

I can't.



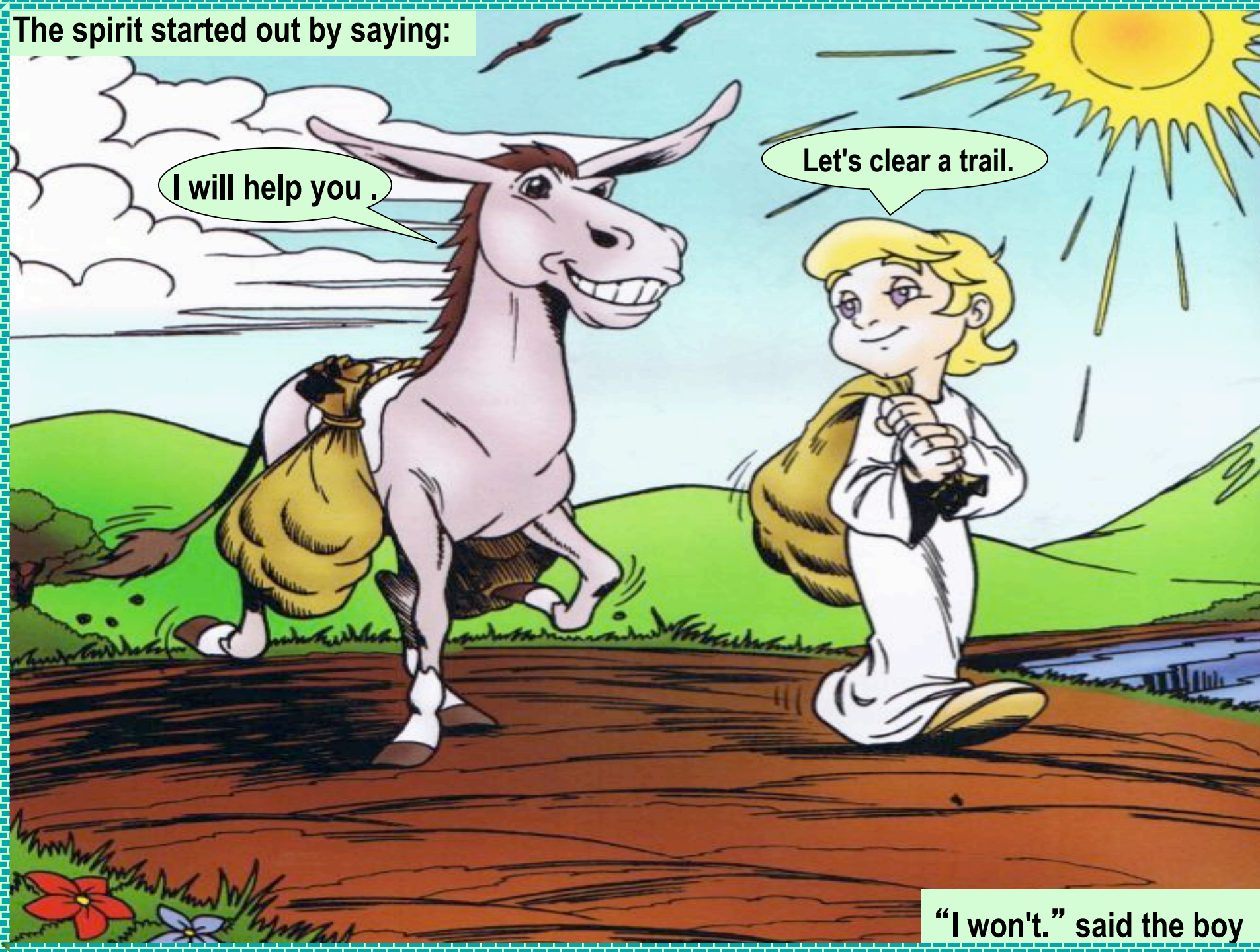
The celestial emissary then asked the donkey:
“Do you want to help me?” And the donkey agreed.


The spirit started out by saying:

I will help you .

Let's clear a trail.

"I won't." said the boy





I' ll help .

Let's pull the plow.

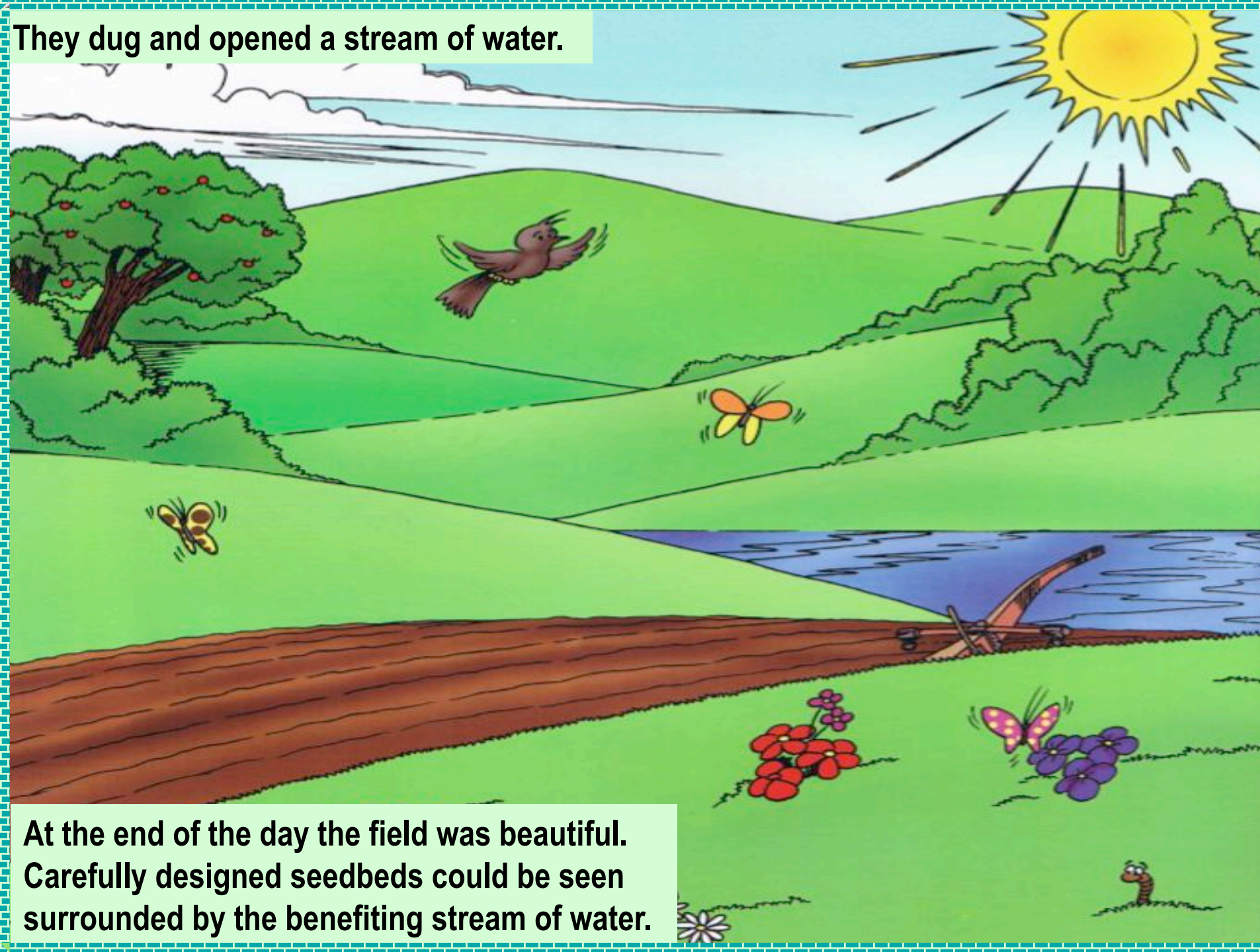
Please! I don't
want to do anything

During the sowing, the boy rested...

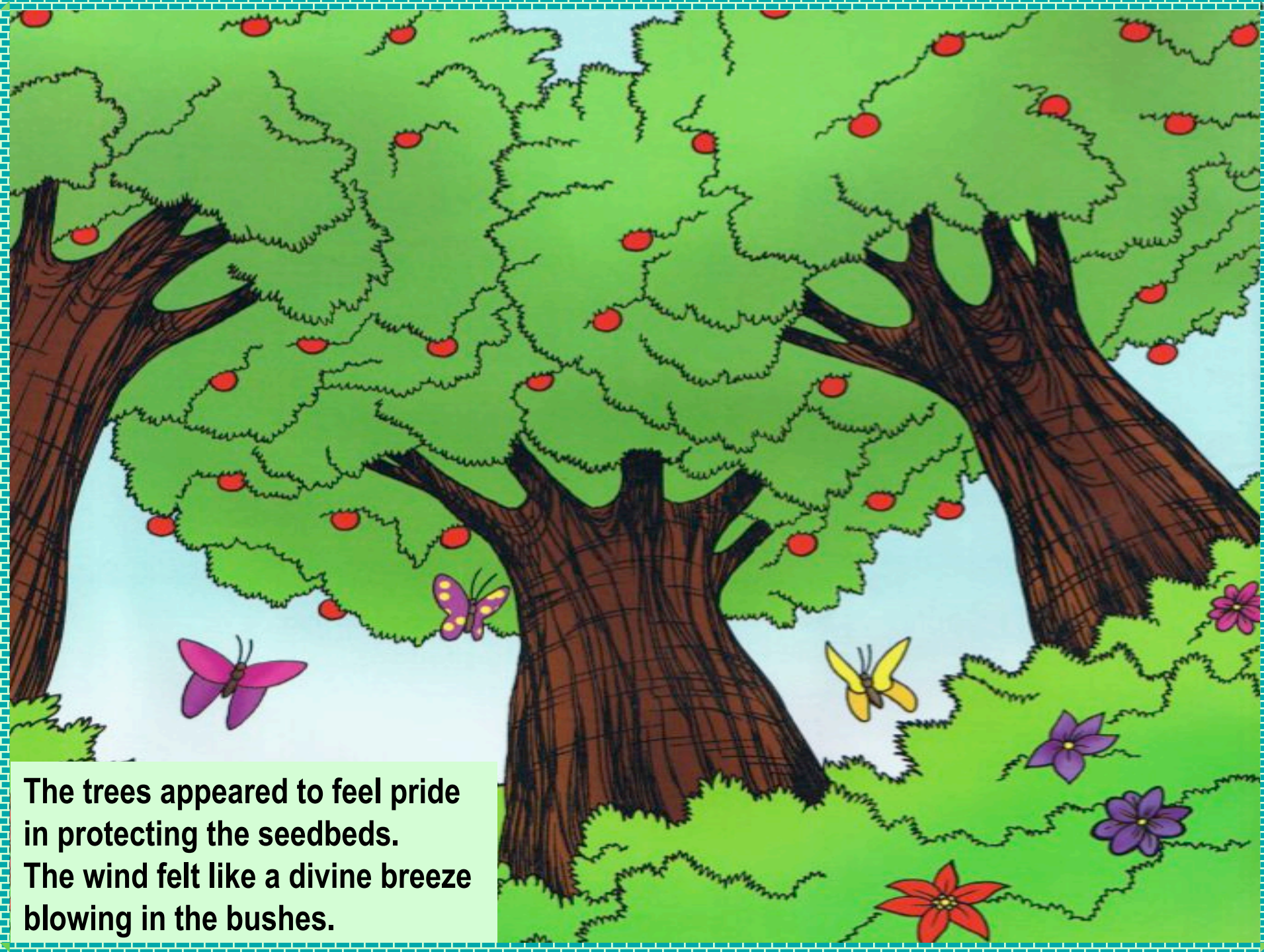


... and the donkey continued.

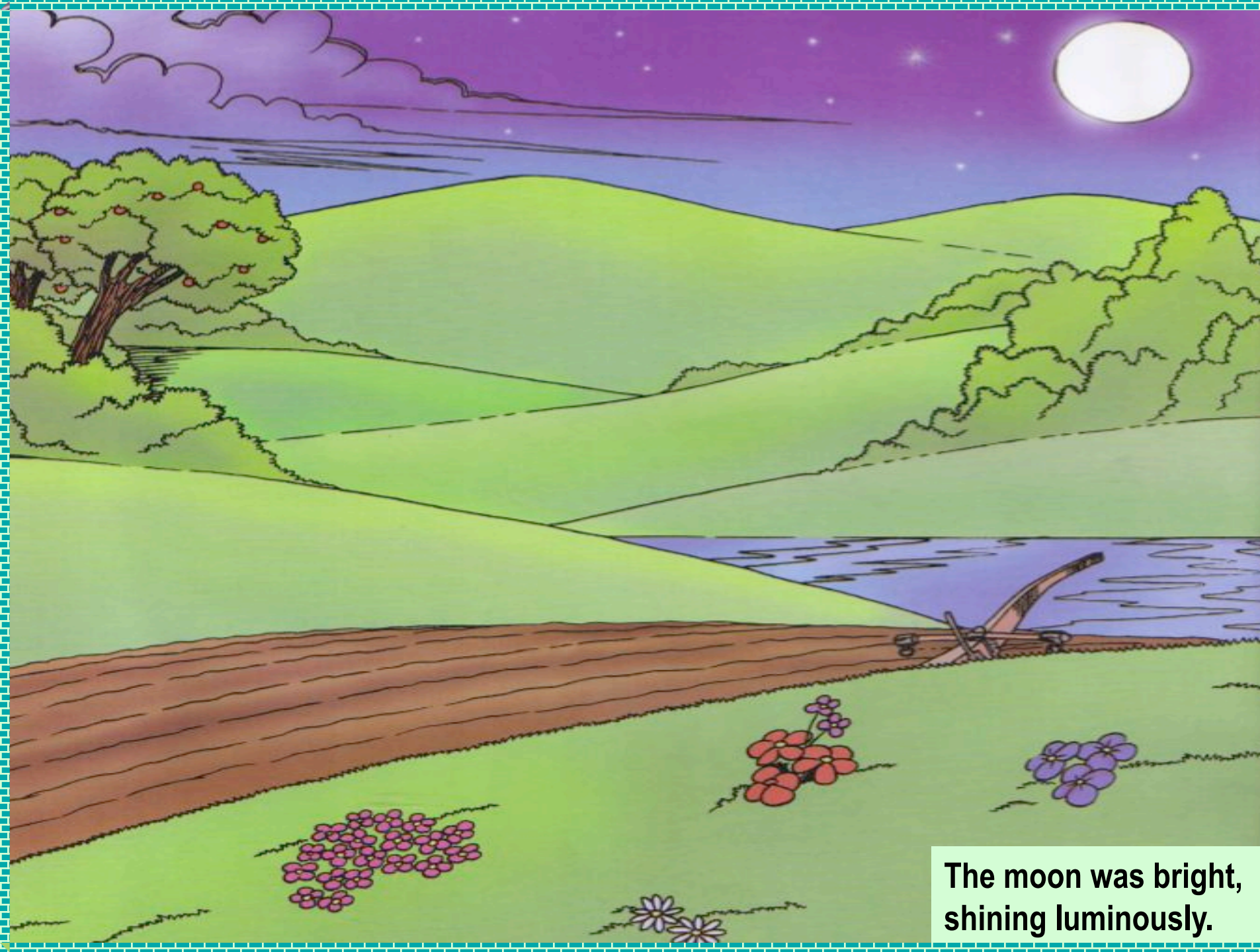
They dug and opened a stream of water.



At the end of the day the field was beautiful.
Carefully designed seedbeds could be seen
surrounded by the benefiting stream of water.



The trees appeared to feel pride
in protecting the seedbeds.
The wind felt like a divine breeze
blowing in the bushes.

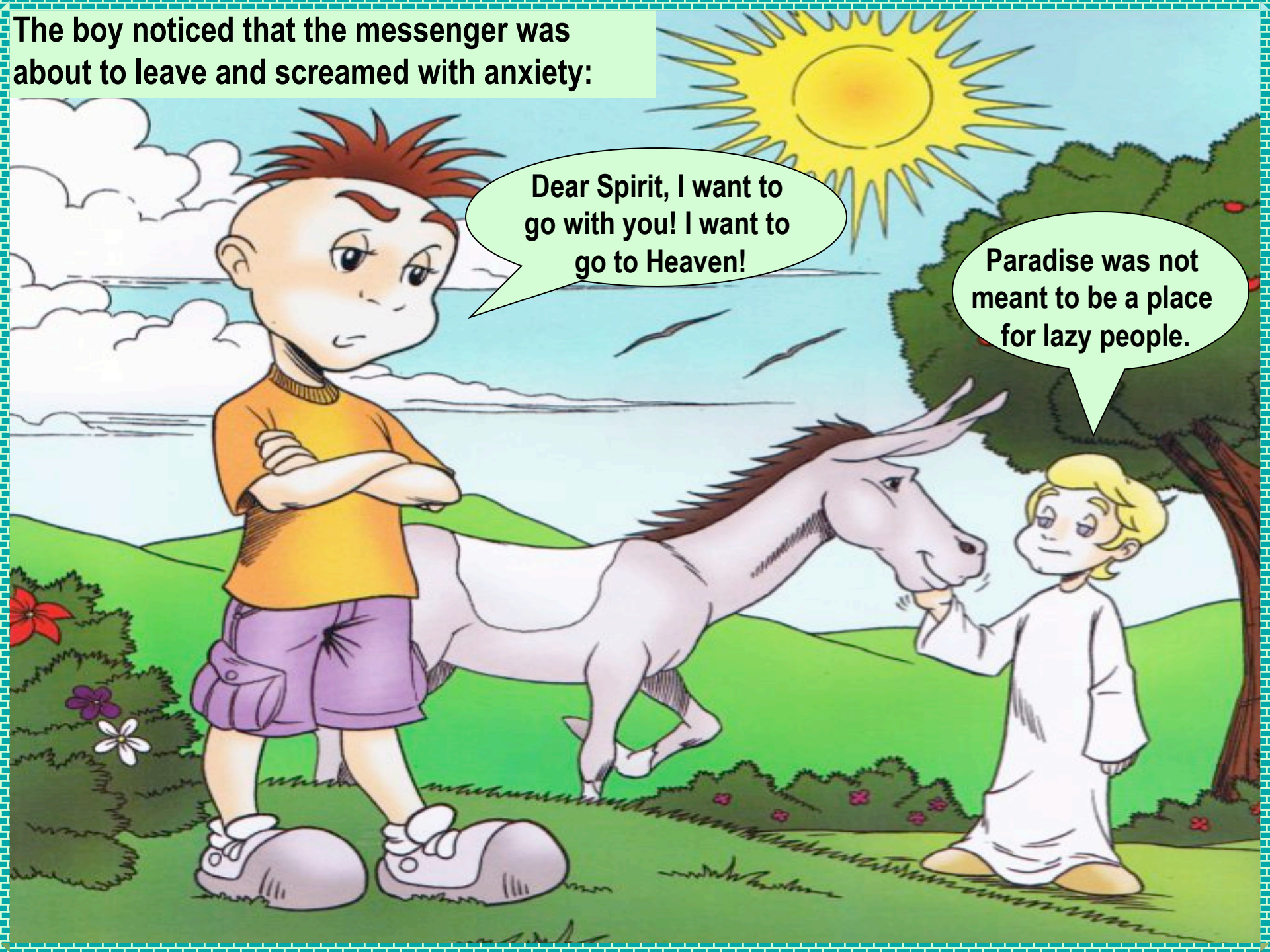


The moon was bright,
shining luminously.

**The spirit hugged the obliging donkey.
“God bless your contribution, my friend.”**

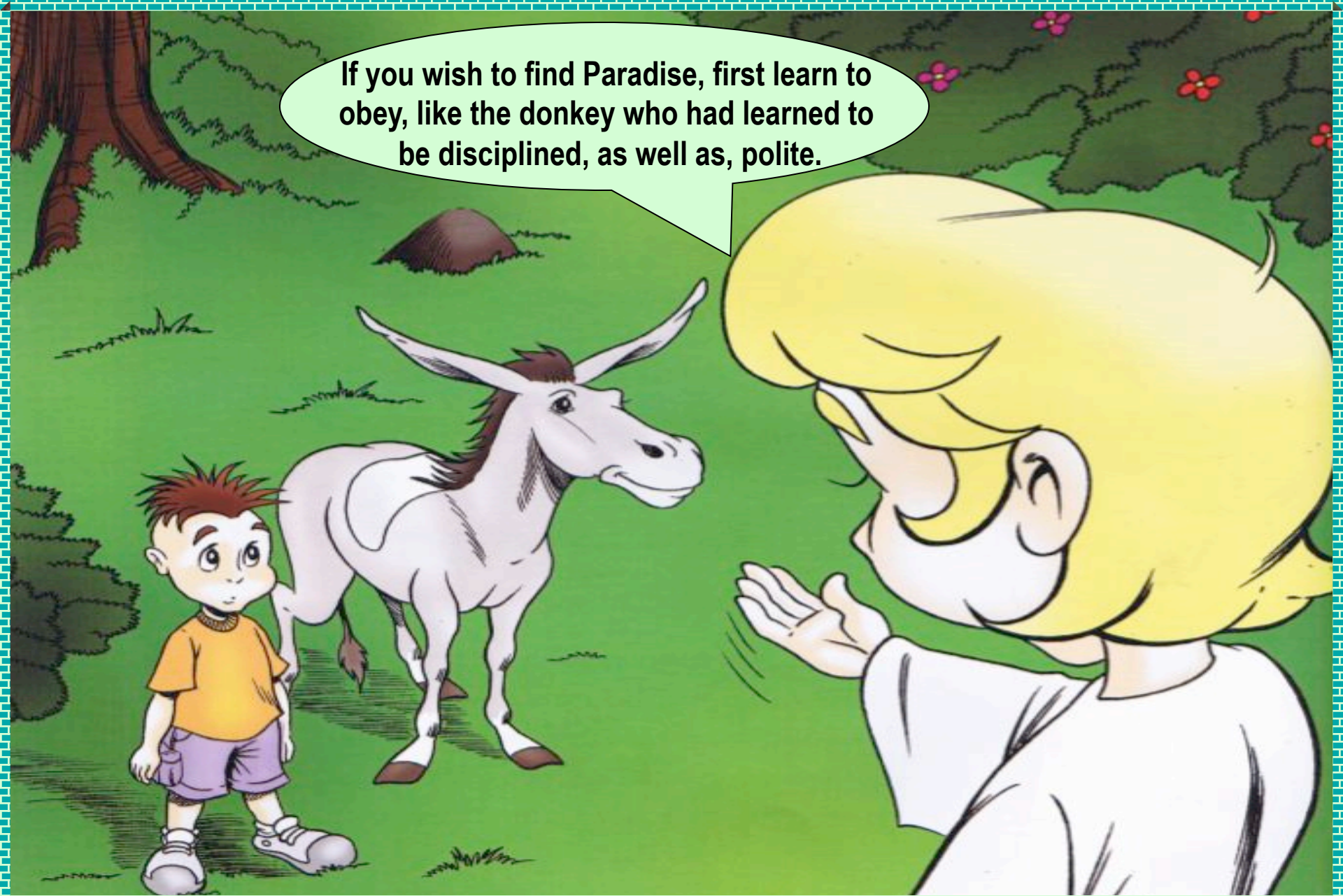


The boy noticed that the messenger was about to leave and screamed with anxiety:



Dear Spirit, I want to go with you! I want to go to Heaven!

Paradise was not meant to be a place for lazy people.



If you wish to find Paradise, first learn to obey, like the donkey who had learned to be disciplined, as well as, polite.

Then, with this clarification he returned to the stars, leaving behind a very disappointed young boy. But now, the boy was ready and willing to change his life.



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