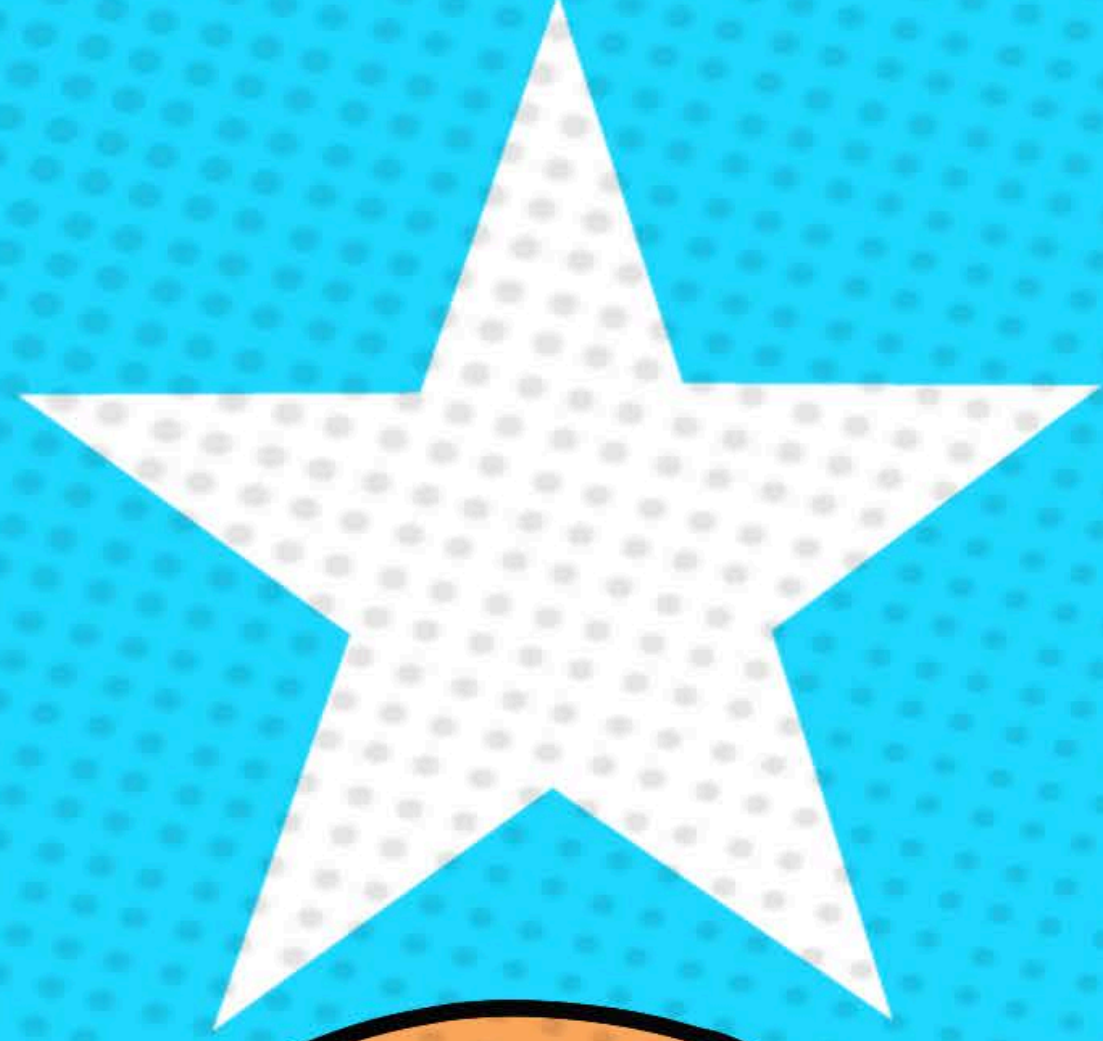


YOUTH!

RISE FOR A GREENER FUTURE



This comic book illuminates the journey of local communities overcoming challenges through resilience, dialogue, and collaboration. Supported by the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, it brings to life how international partnerships can empower local solutions for sustainable peace and environmental harmony.

Join this compelling adventure where culture, diplomacy, and innovation unite to shape a brighter future for the world.



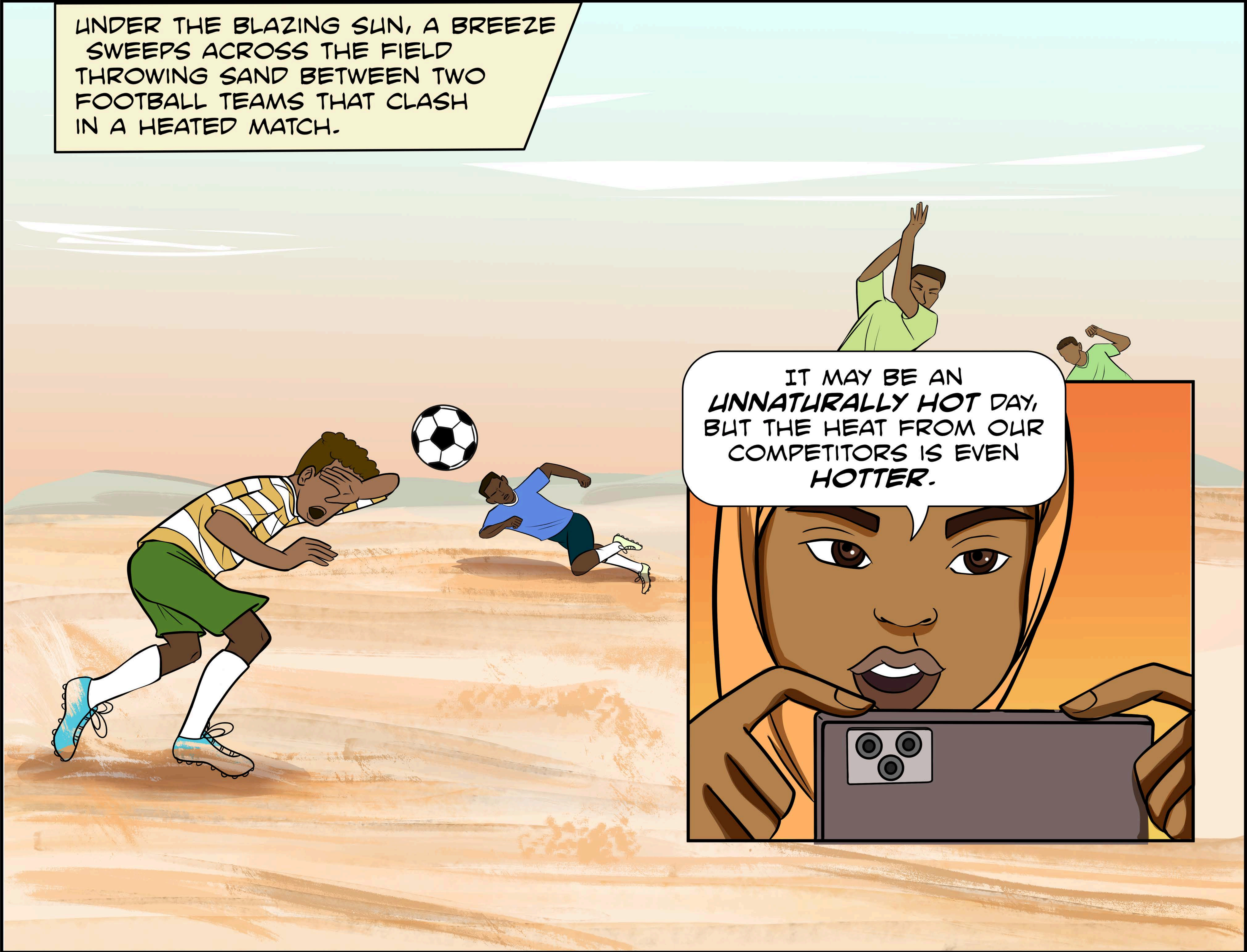
**Funded by
the European Union**



TWENTY YEARS LATER - PRESENT DAY



UNDER THE BLAZING SUN, A BREEZE SWEEPS ACROSS THE FIELD THROWING SAND BETWEEN TWO FOOTBALL TEAMS THAT CLASH IN A HEATED MATCH.



IT MAY BE AN UNNATURALLY HOT DAY, BUT THE HEAT FROM OUR COMPETITORS IS EVEN HOTTER.

OUR TWO *TEAM CAPTAINS* HAVE EACH OTHER IN THEIR SIGHTS...

LIBAN, RESERVED BUT DETERMINED. HE PLAYS STRIKER FOR HIS TEAM.

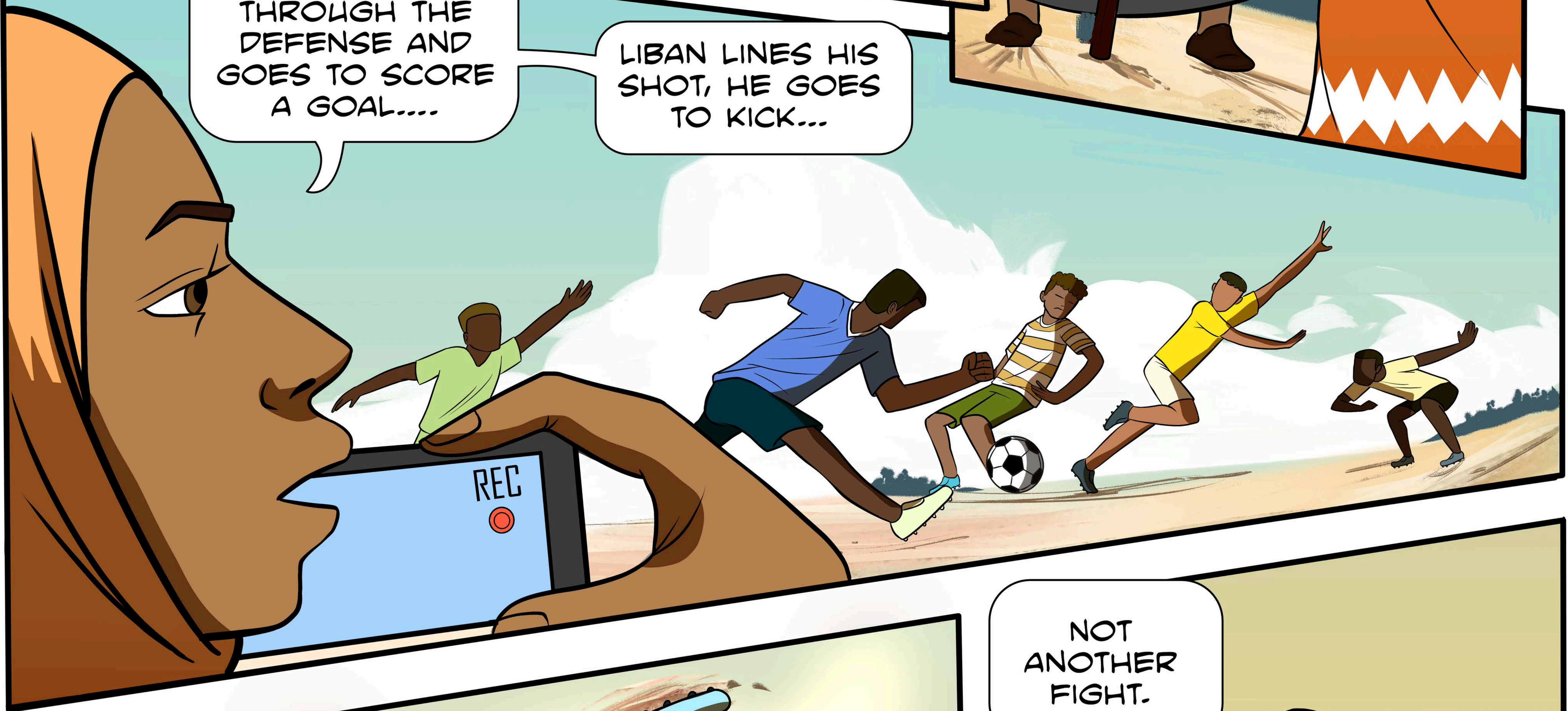
BURHAN, CONFIDENT AND CHARISMATIC. HE PLAYS DEFENSE FOR HIS TEAM.

HERE COMES *LIBAN*! HE STRIKES LIKE A WARRIOR'S SPEAR.

BURHAN! HIS DEFENSE IS LIKE A *STONE WALL*.

LIBAN BREAKS THROUGH THE DEFENSE AND GOES TO SCORE A GOAL....

LIBAN LINES HIS SHOT, HE GOES TO KICK...

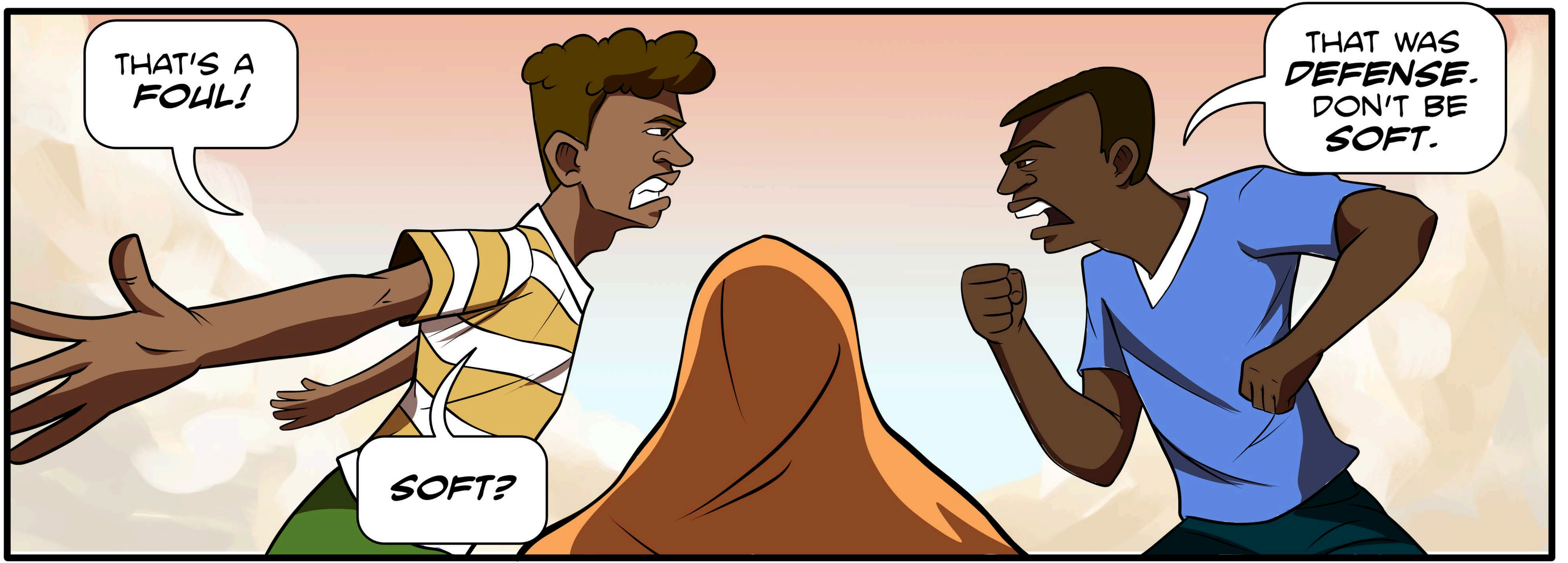


...BUT *BURHAN* IS ON HIM.



NOT ANOTHER FIGHT.





THAT'S A FOUL!

THAT WAS DEFENSE. DON'T BE SOFT.

SOFT?



THE ATMOSPHERE IS TENSE.

HAJI WARSAME, WHY DON'T YOU STOP THEM?

THEY KNOW WHAT NOT TO DO. THEY JUST CHOOSE NOT TO DO IT.



YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY FAIR!

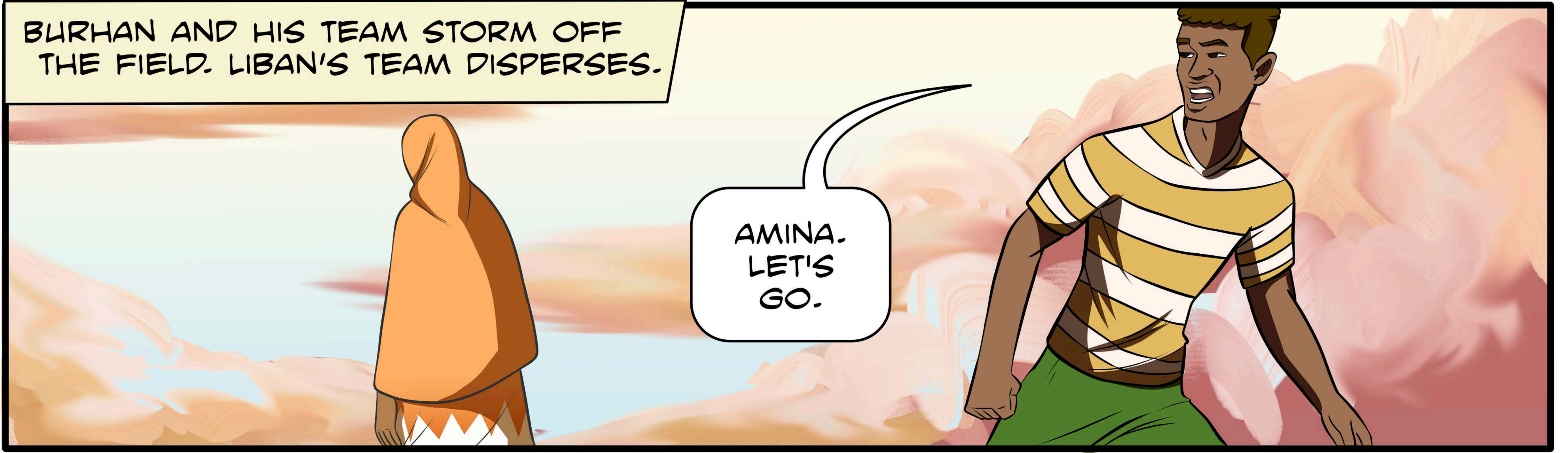
MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY AT ALL!

ONCE WE WIN THE ENTRANCE MATCH IN TOWN, WE'LL GET A SPOT ON THE MAIN FIELD! WE WON'T NEED TO PLAY AGAINST LIBAN'S TEAM OF HOMELESS NOBODIES!



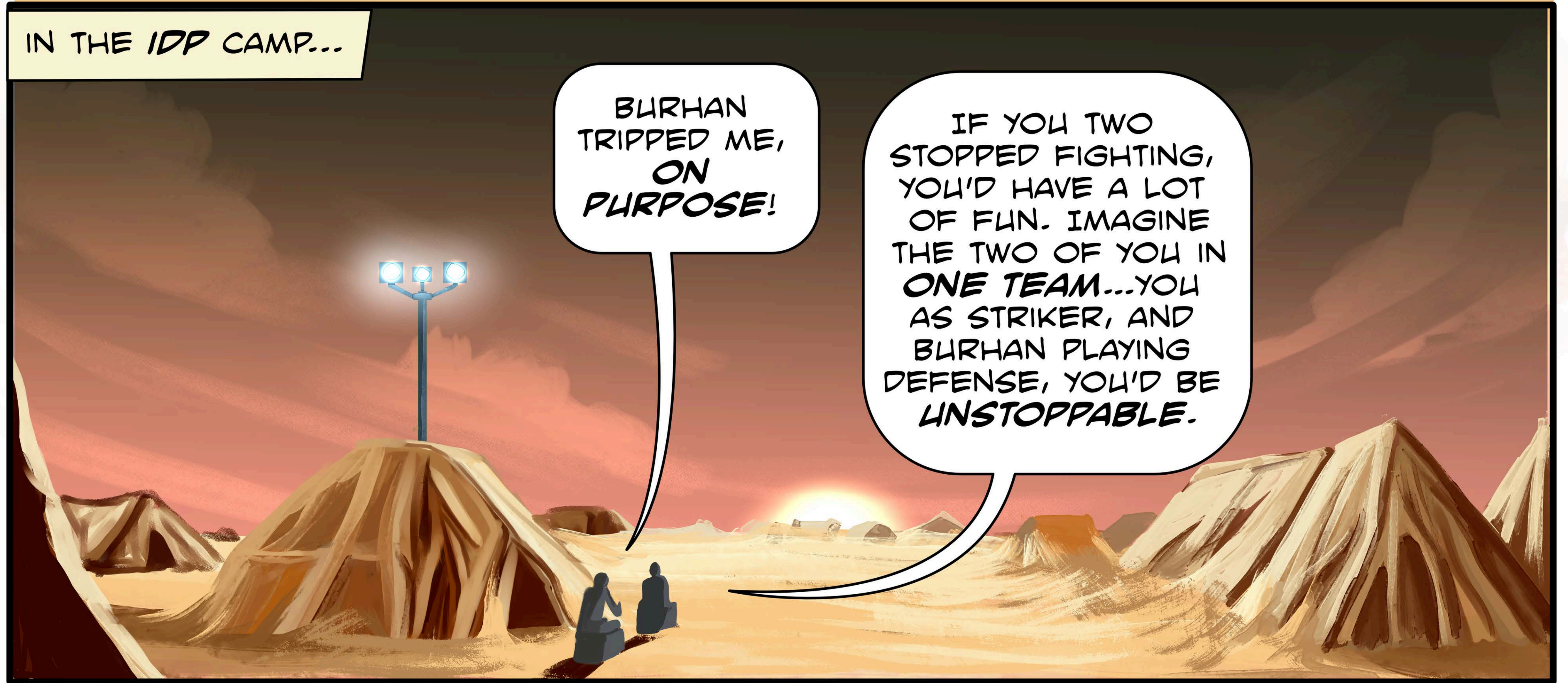
THIS IS WHY THE OTHER TEAMS IN TOWN DON'T PLAY WITH YOU. YOU BEHAVE LIKE A SMALL BOY, FROM A SMALL CLAN!

BURHAN AND HIS TEAM STORM OFF THE FIELD. LIBAN'S TEAM DISPERSES.



AMINA.
LET'S
GO.

IN THE IDP CAMP...



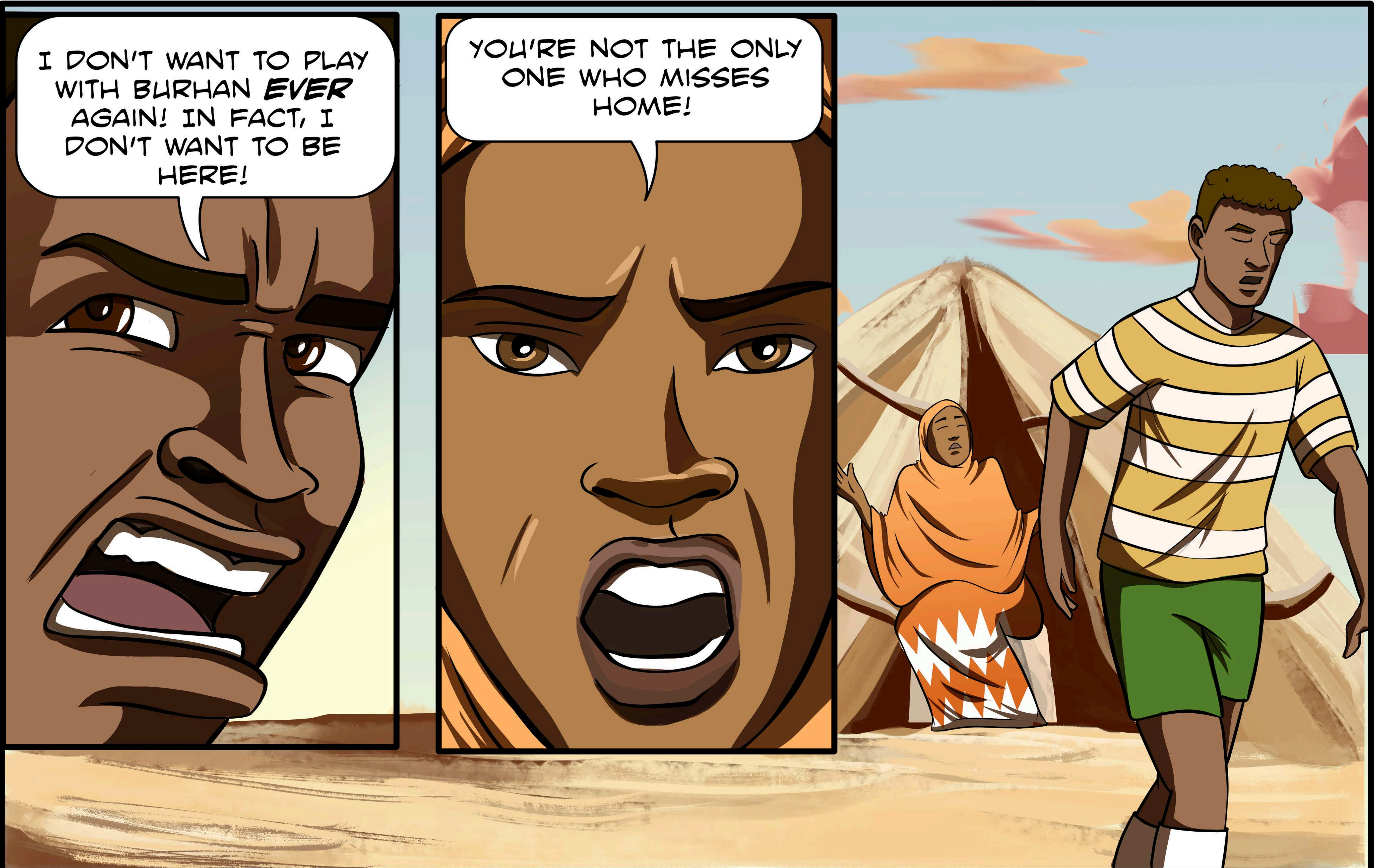
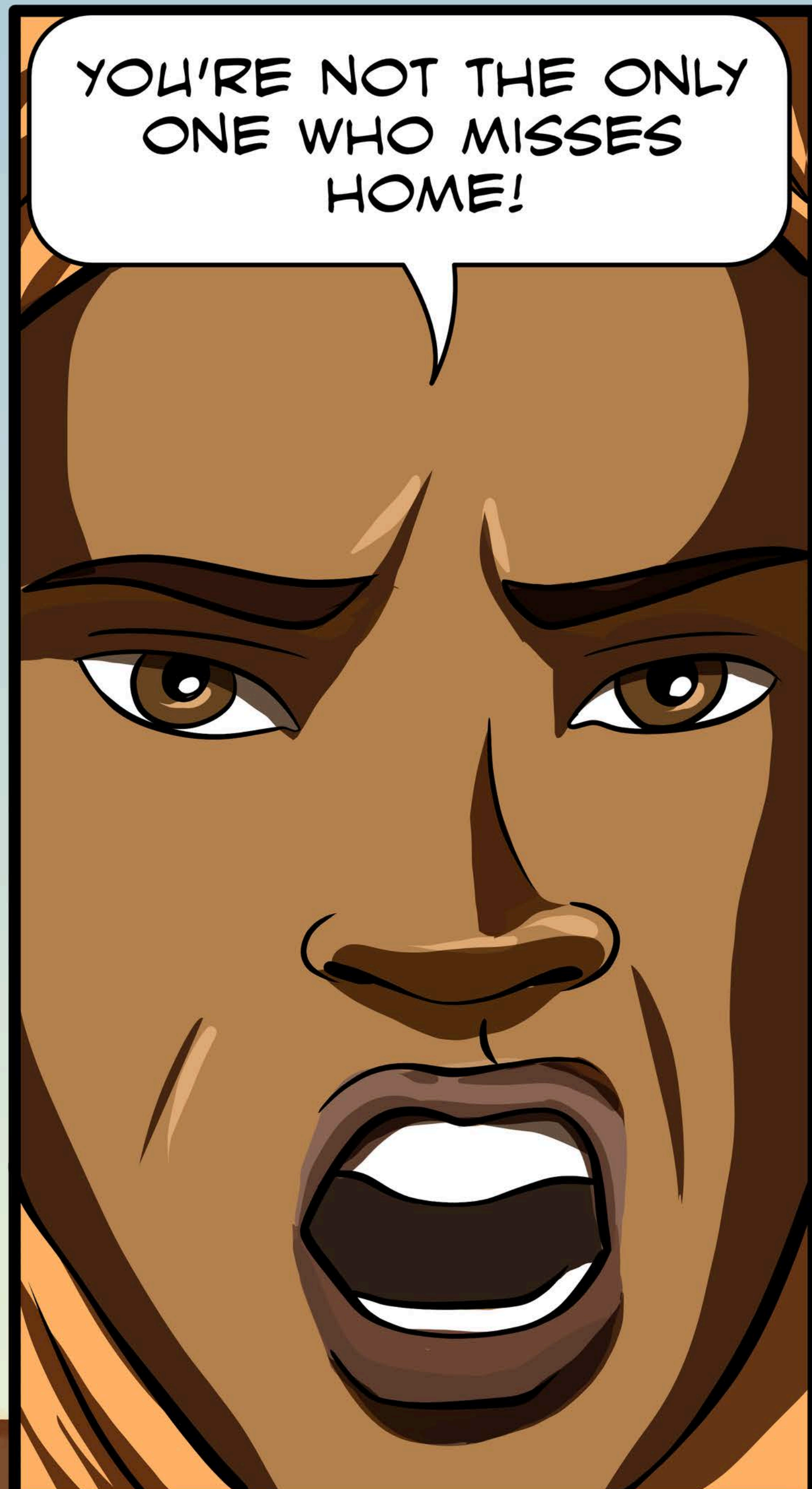
BURHAN
TRIPPED ME,
**ON
PURPOSE!**

IF YOU TWO
STOPPED FIGHTING,
YOU'D HAVE A LOT
OF FUN. IMAGINE
THE TWO OF YOU IN
ONE TEAM... YOU
AS STRIKER, AND
BURHAN PLAYING
DEFENSE, YOU'D BE
UNSTOPPABLE.

I DON'T WANT TO PLAY
WITH BURHAN **EVER**
AGAIN! IN FACT, I
DON'T WANT TO BE
HERE!



YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY
ONE WHO MISSES
HOME!



FLASHBACK - 1 YEAR AGO...

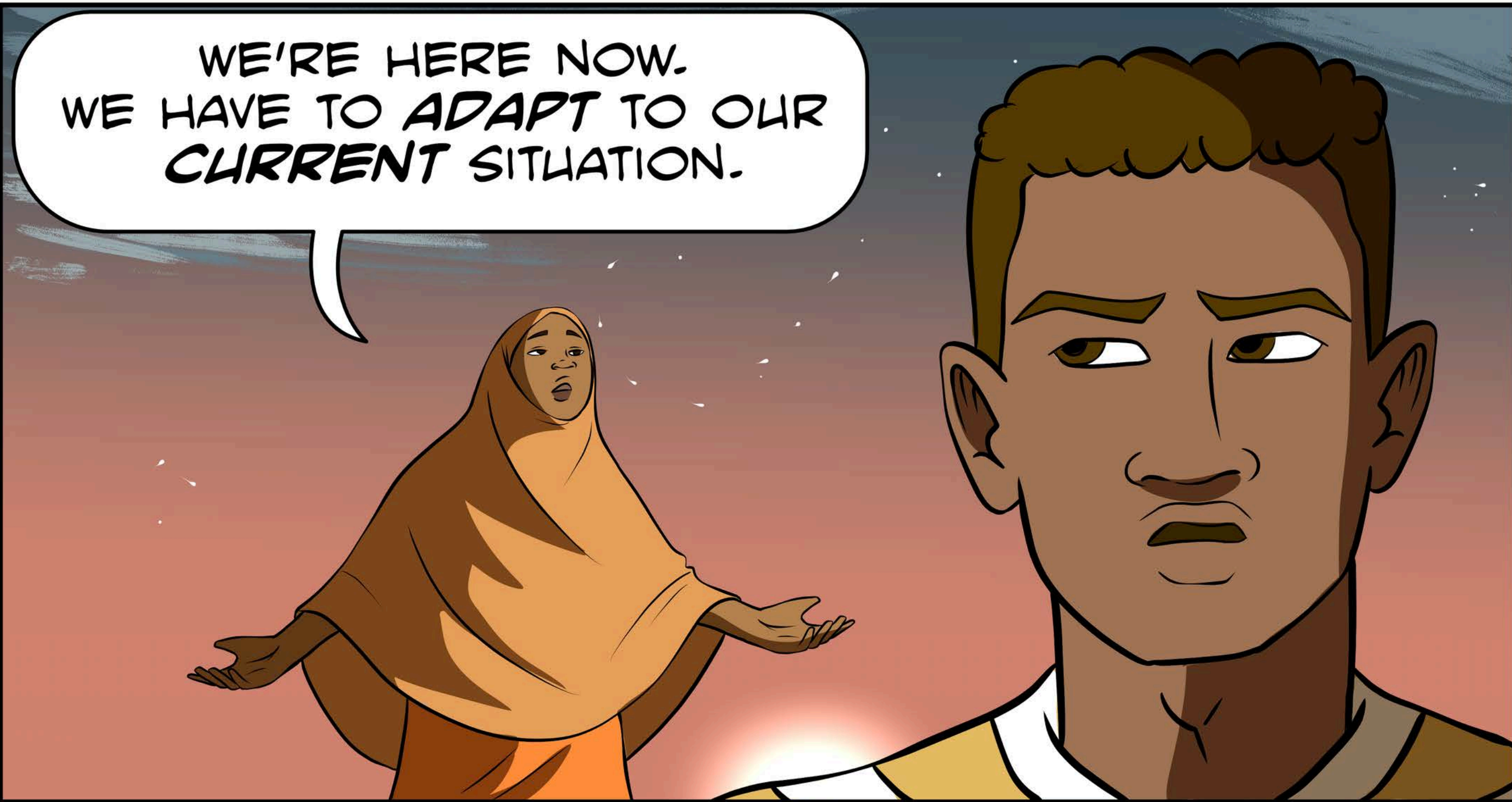


FLASHBACK - 3 MONTHS AGO...



" BUT NOW, THAT'S BEEN TAKEN BY THE SAND, THE HEAT AND DEATH..."

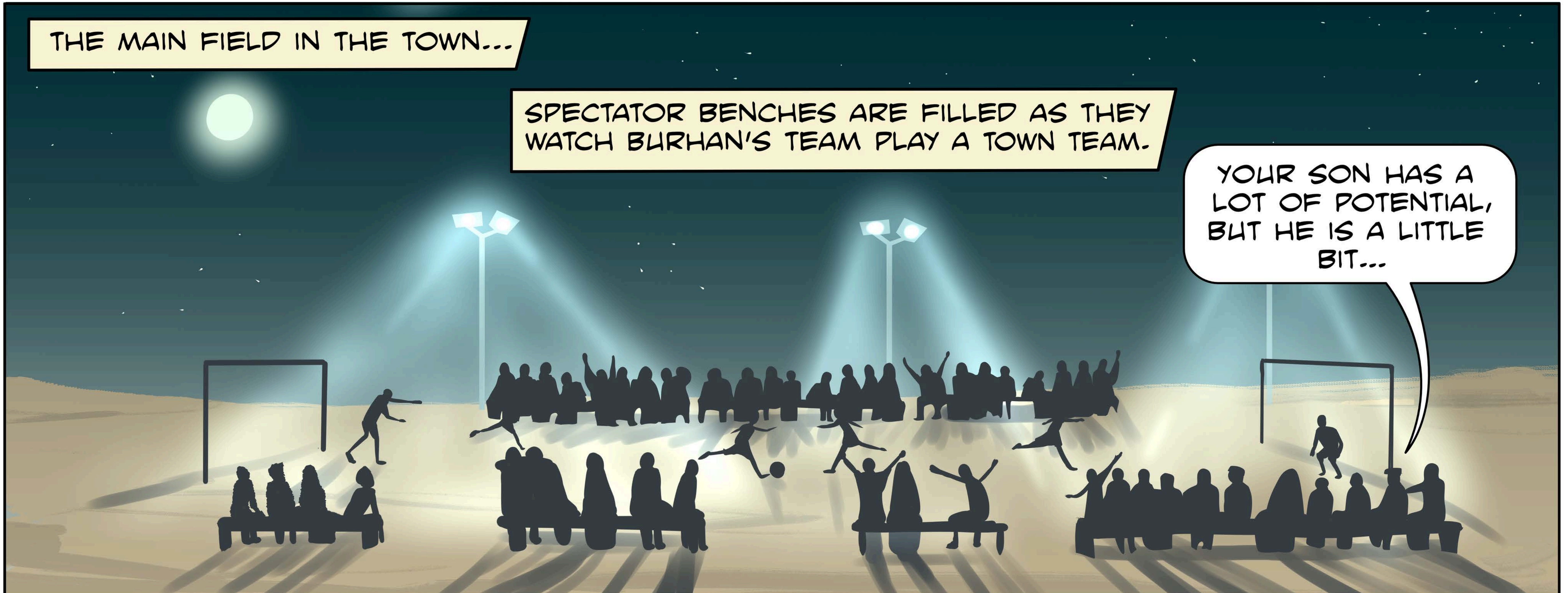
WE'RE HERE NOW. WE HAVE TO **ADAPT** TO OUR **CURRENT** SITUATION.

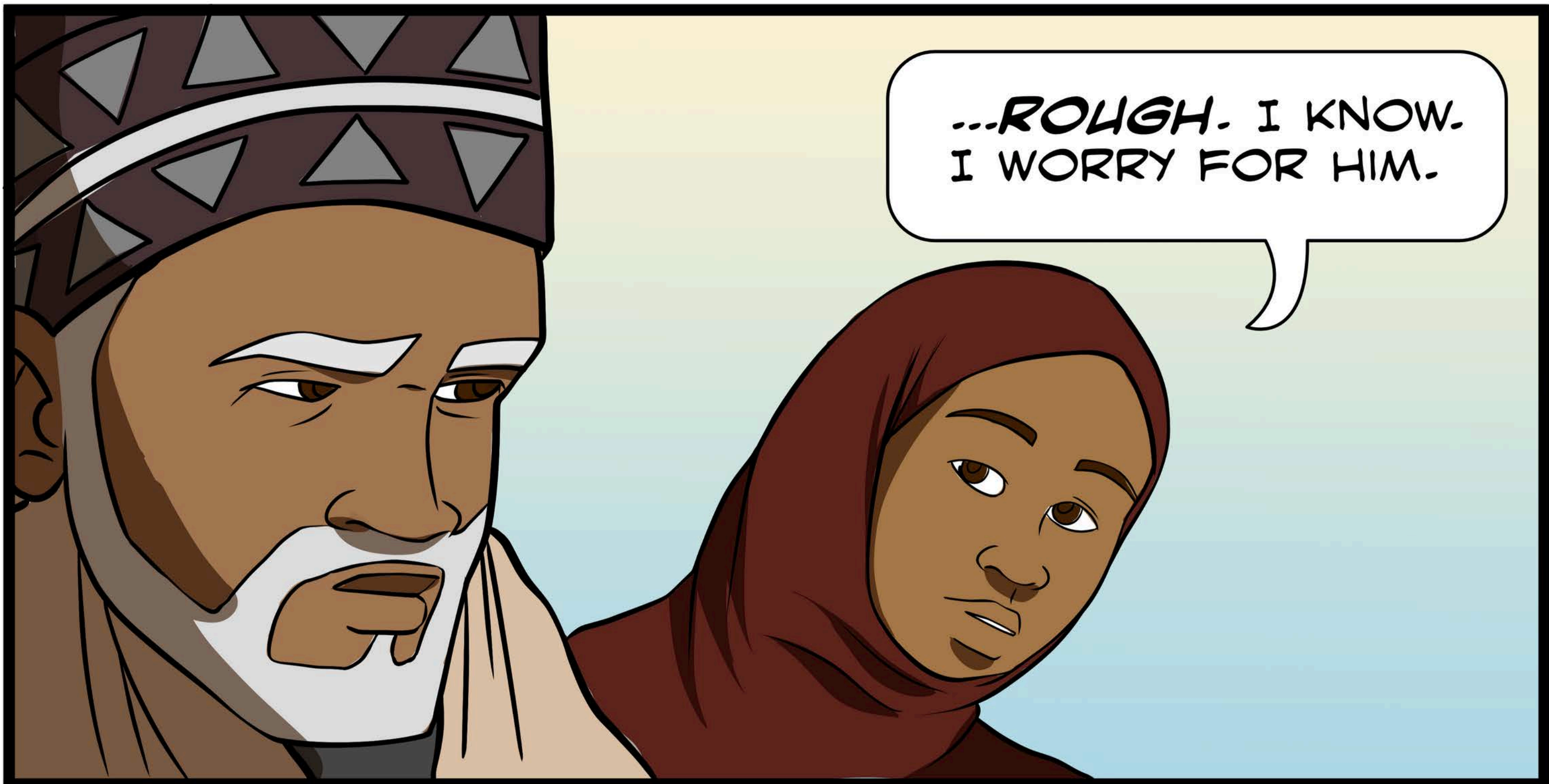


THE MAIN FIELD IN THE TOWN...

SPECTATOR BENCHES ARE FILLED AS THEY WATCH BURHAN'S TEAM PLAY A TOWN TEAM.

YOUR SON HAS A LOT OF POTENTIAL, BUT HE IS A LITTLE BIT...





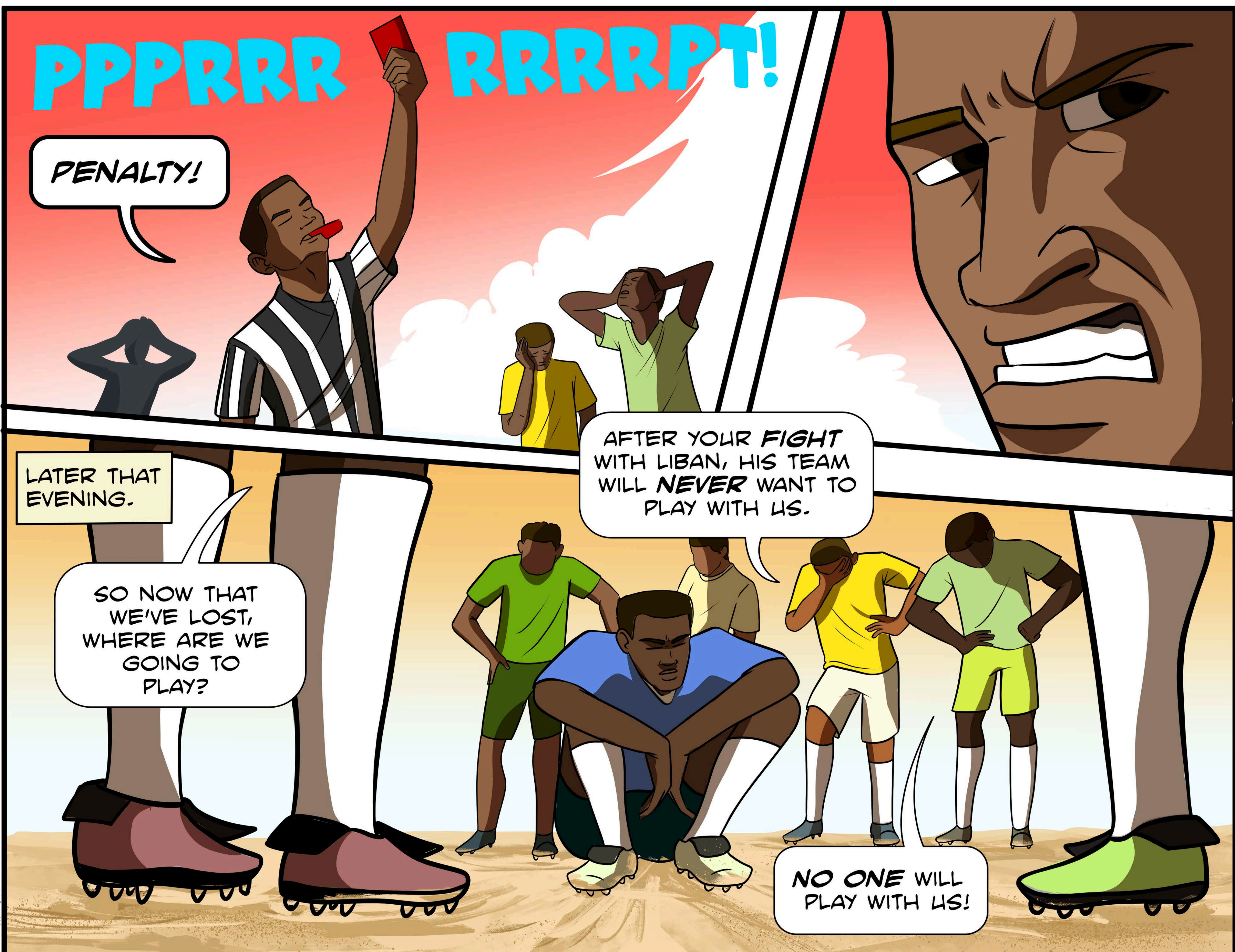
...ROUGH. I KNOW. I WORRY FOR HIM.



ONE OF THE TOWN STRIKER'S SPEEDS TOWARDS A FRAZZLED BURHAN.



BURHAN INTERCEPTS THE STRIKER, BUT HE IS ROUGH AND THE STRIKER FALLS.



PPRRRR RRRRPT!

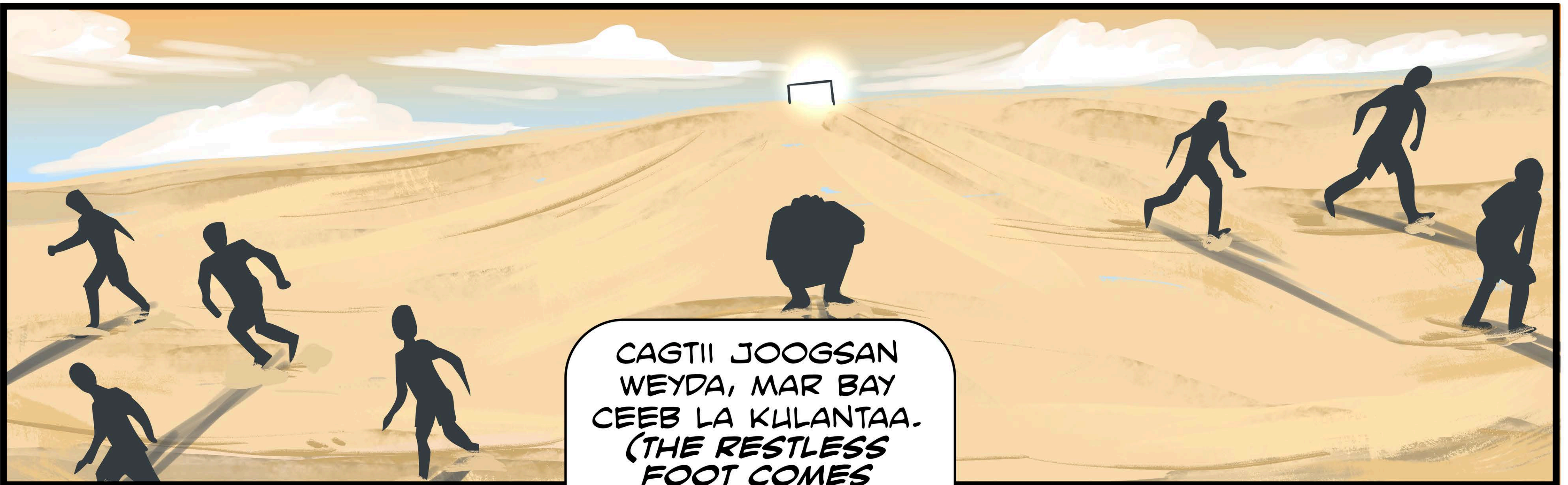
PENALTY!

AFTER YOUR FIGHT WITH LIBAN, HIS TEAM WILL NEVER WANT TO PLAY WITH US.

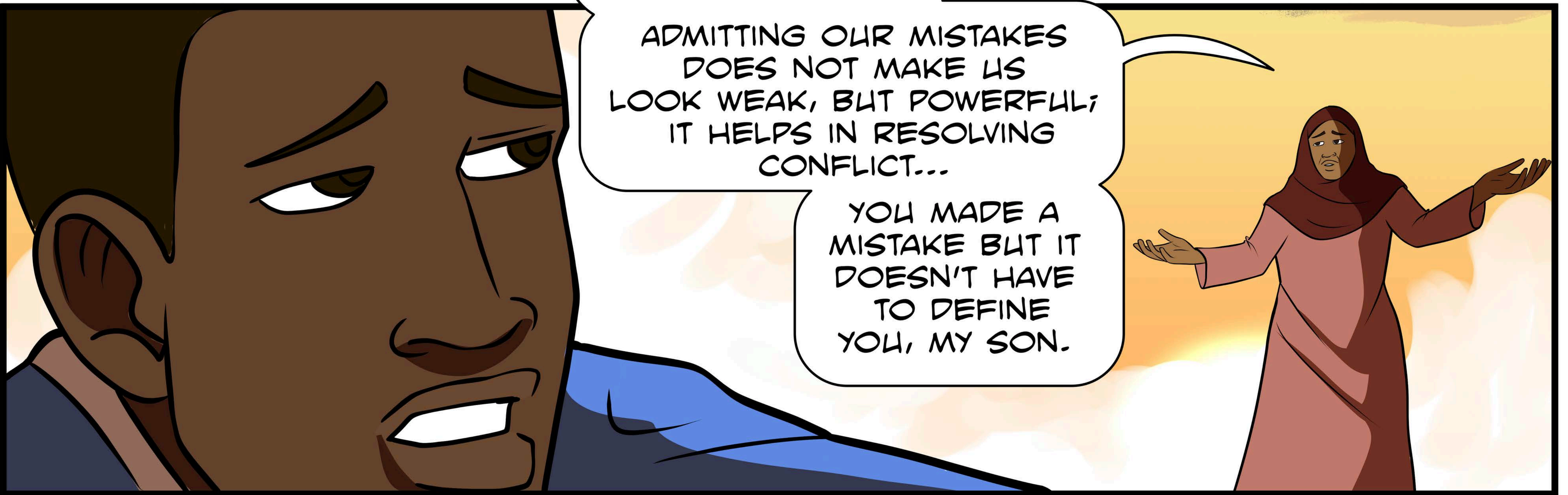
LATER THAT EVENING.

SO NOW THAT WE'VE LOST, WHERE ARE WE GOING TO PLAY?

NO ONE WILL PLAY WITH US!



CAGTII JOOGSAN WEYDA, MAR BAY CEEB LA KULANTAA. (THE RESTLESS FOOT COMES ACROSS TROUBLE).



ADMITTING OUR MISTAKES DOES NOT MAKE US LOOK WEAK, BUT POWERFUL; IT HELPS IN RESOLVING CONFLICT...

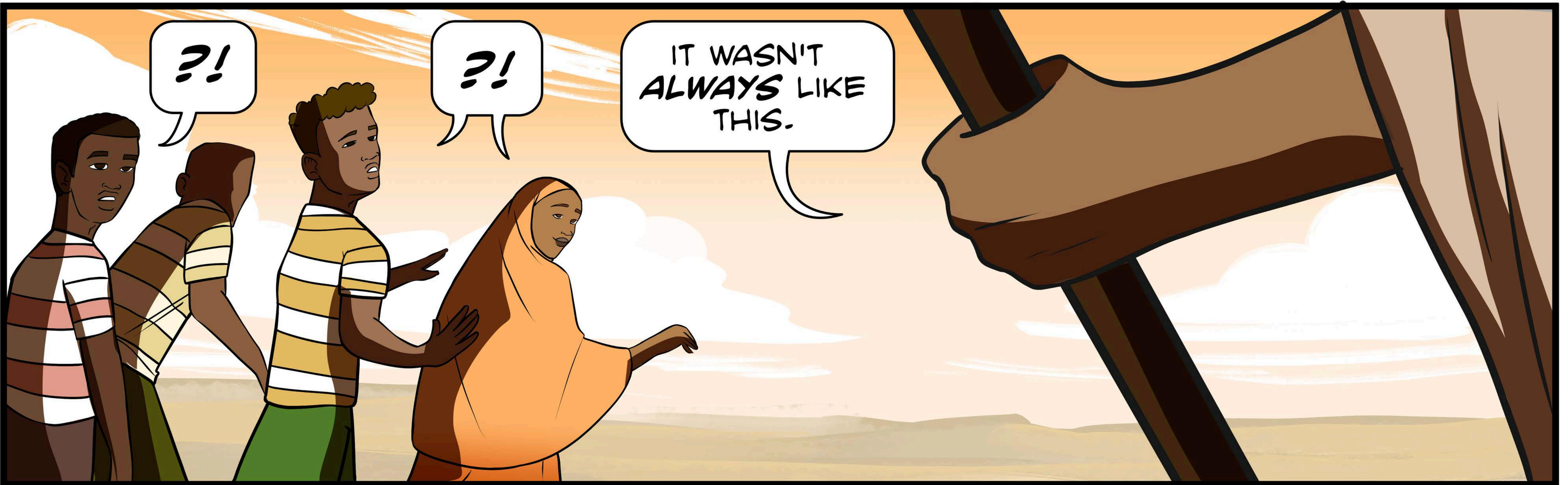
YOU MADE A MISTAKE BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO DEFINE YOU, MY SON.

LIBAN, AMINA AND THE IDP TEAM WALK INTO THE FOOTBALL FIELD...





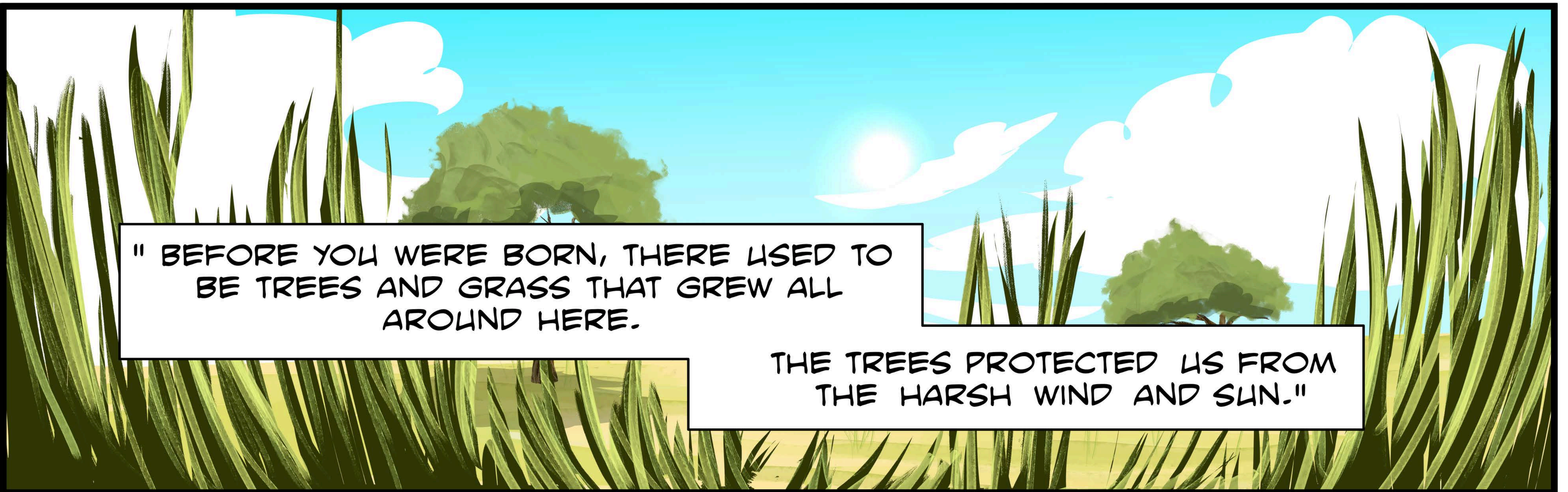
THIS IS HOW IT STARTED BACK HOME. THE WAY THE SAND TOOK OVER ALL THE LAND.



?!

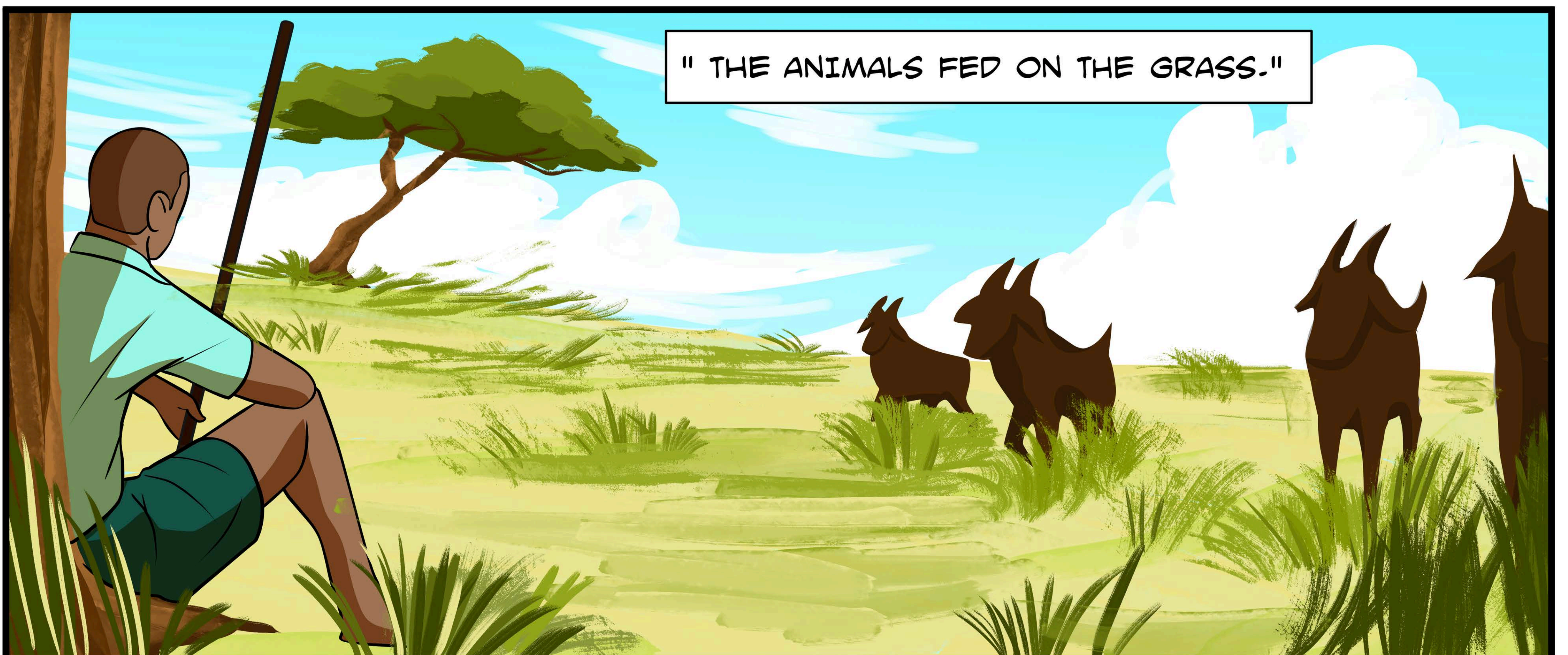
?!

IT WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

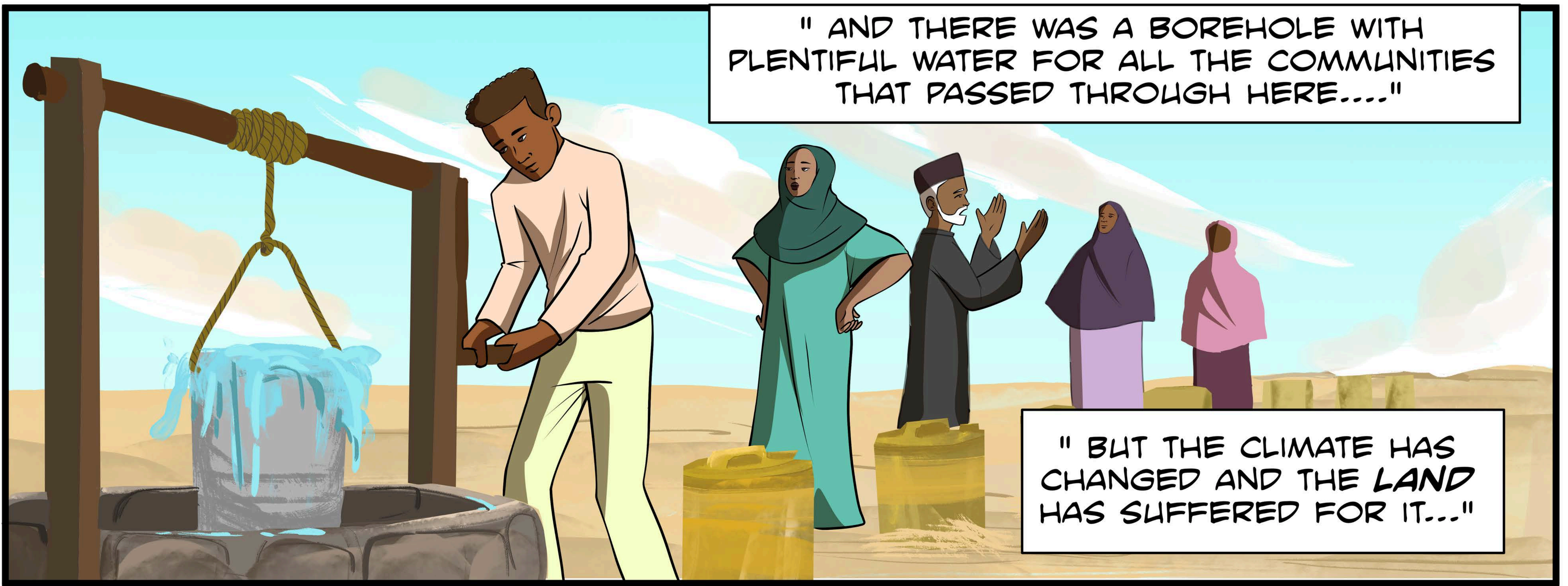


" BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, THERE USED TO BE TREES AND GRASS THAT GREW ALL AROUND HERE.

THE TREES PROTECTED US FROM THE HARSH WIND AND SUN."

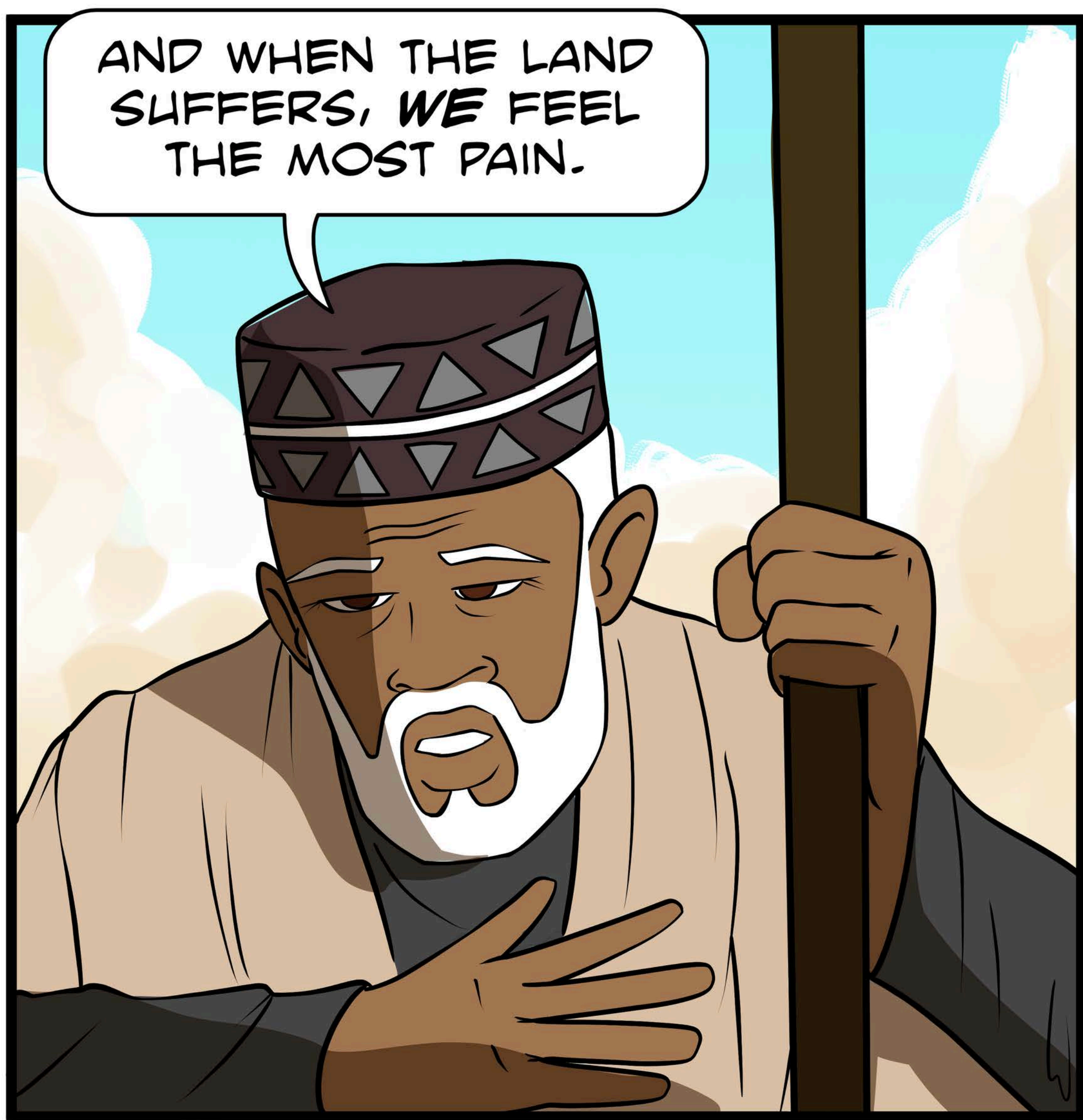


" THE ANIMALS FED ON THE GRASS."

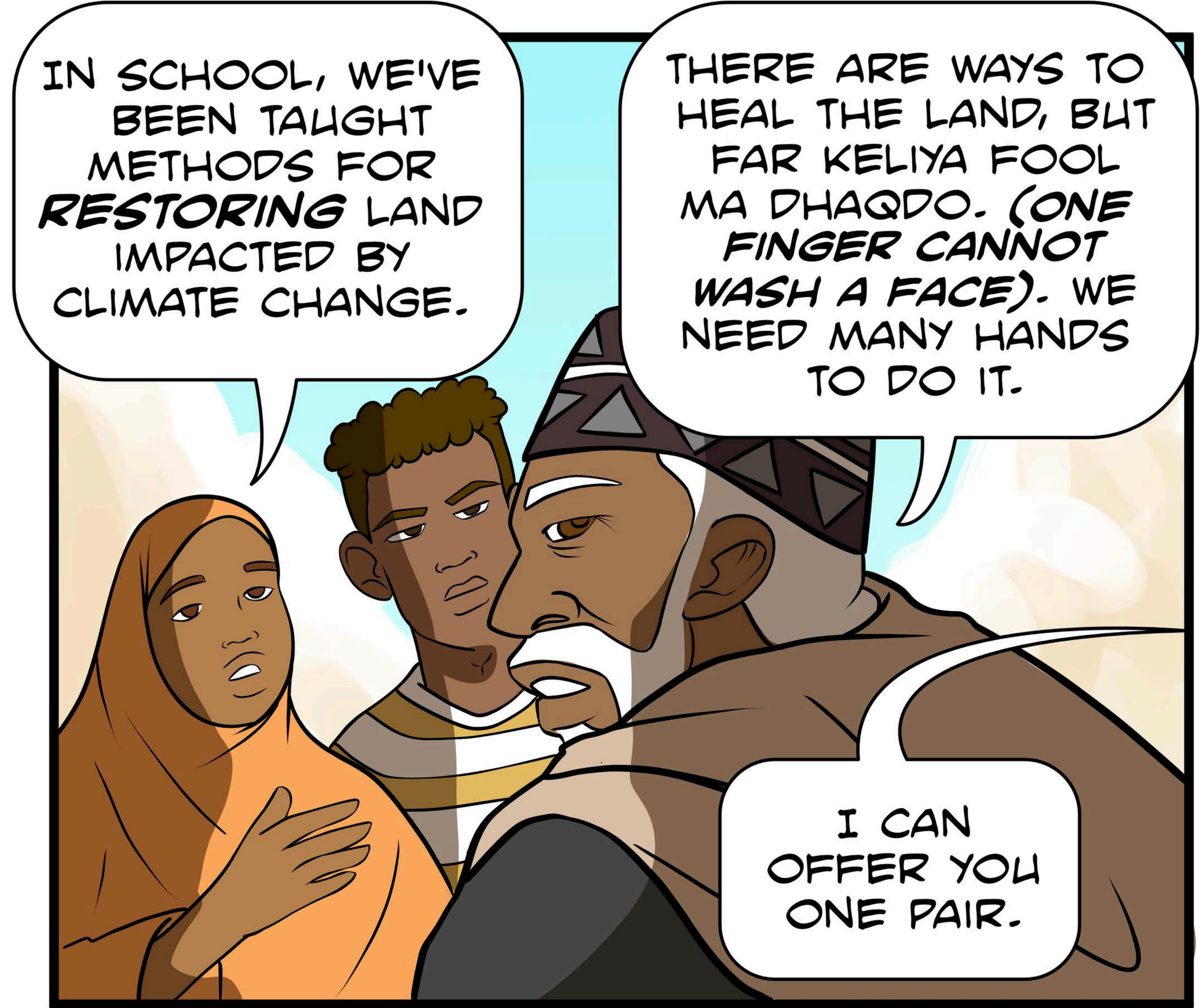


" AND THERE WAS A BOREHOLE WITH PLENTIFUL WATER FOR ALL THE COMMUNITIES THAT PASSED THROUGH HERE...."

" BUT THE CLIMATE HAS CHANGED AND THE LAND HAS SUFFERED FOR IT..."



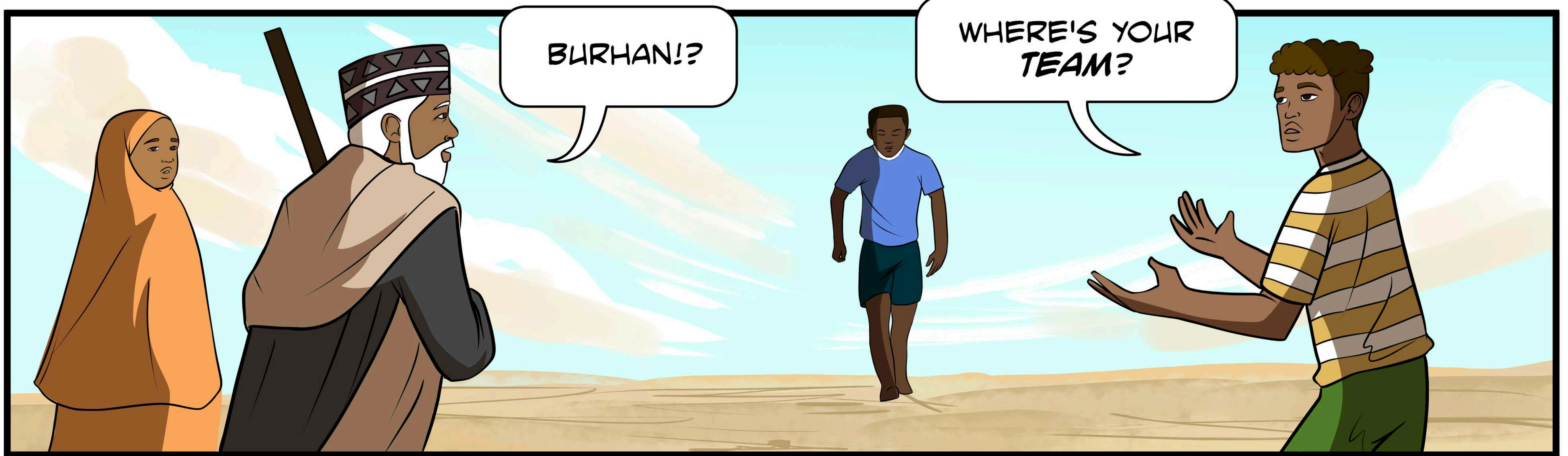
AND WHEN THE LAND SUFFERS, WE FEEL THE MOST PAIN.



IN SCHOOL, WE'VE BEEN TAUGHT METHODS FOR **RESTORING** LAND IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE.

THERE ARE WAYS TO HEAL THE LAND, BUT FAR KELIYA FOOL MA DHAQDO. (**ONE FINGER CANNOT WASH A FACE**). WE NEED MANY HANDS TO DO IT.

I CAN OFFER YOU ONE PAIR.



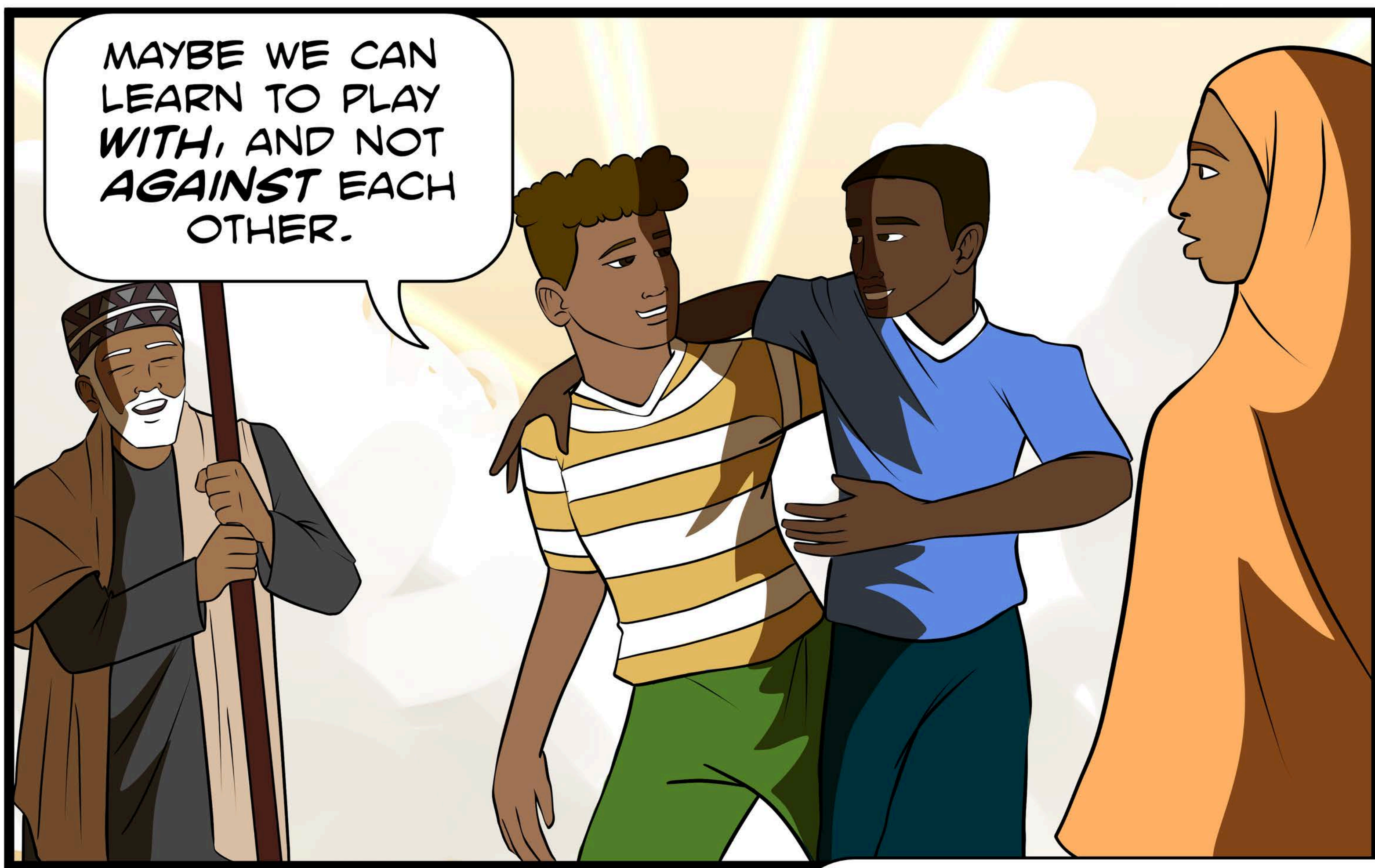
BURHAN!?

WHERE'S YOUR TEAM?



THEY'RE **ANGRY** AT ME. I CAUSED THEM TO LOSE A MATCH.

BUT I WANT TO MAKE IT **RIGHT** WITH **THEM**, AND I WANT TO MAKE IT RIGHT WITH **YOU**. I'M **SORRY** FOR HOW I PLAYED.



MAYBE WE CAN LEARN TO PLAY WITH, AND NOT AGAINST EACH OTHER.



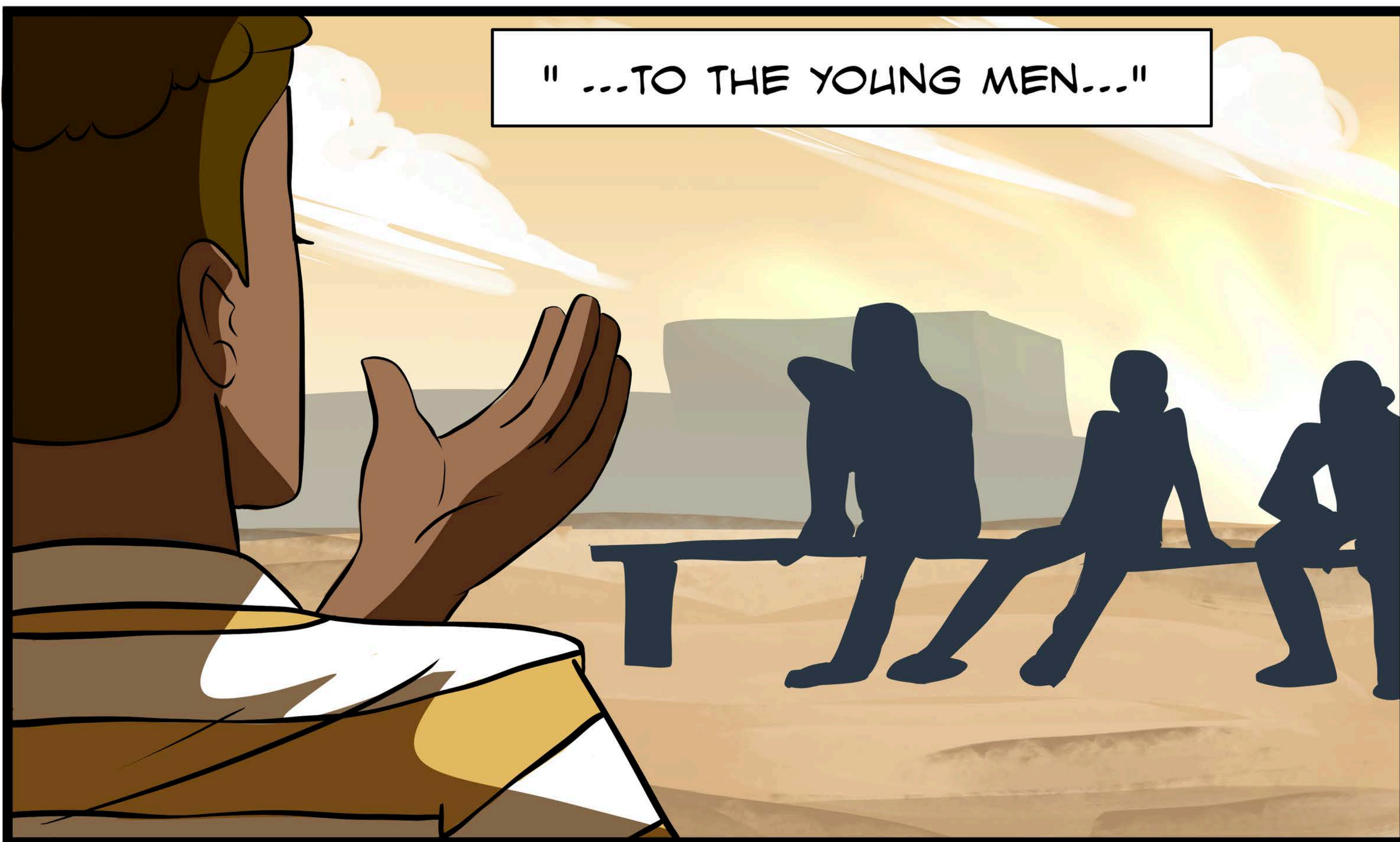
AWRBA AWRKA KA HORREEYA AYUH SAANQAADKIISA LEEYAHAY. (A CAMEL IN A CARAVAN FOLLOWS THE TRACKS OF THE LEADING CAMEL).



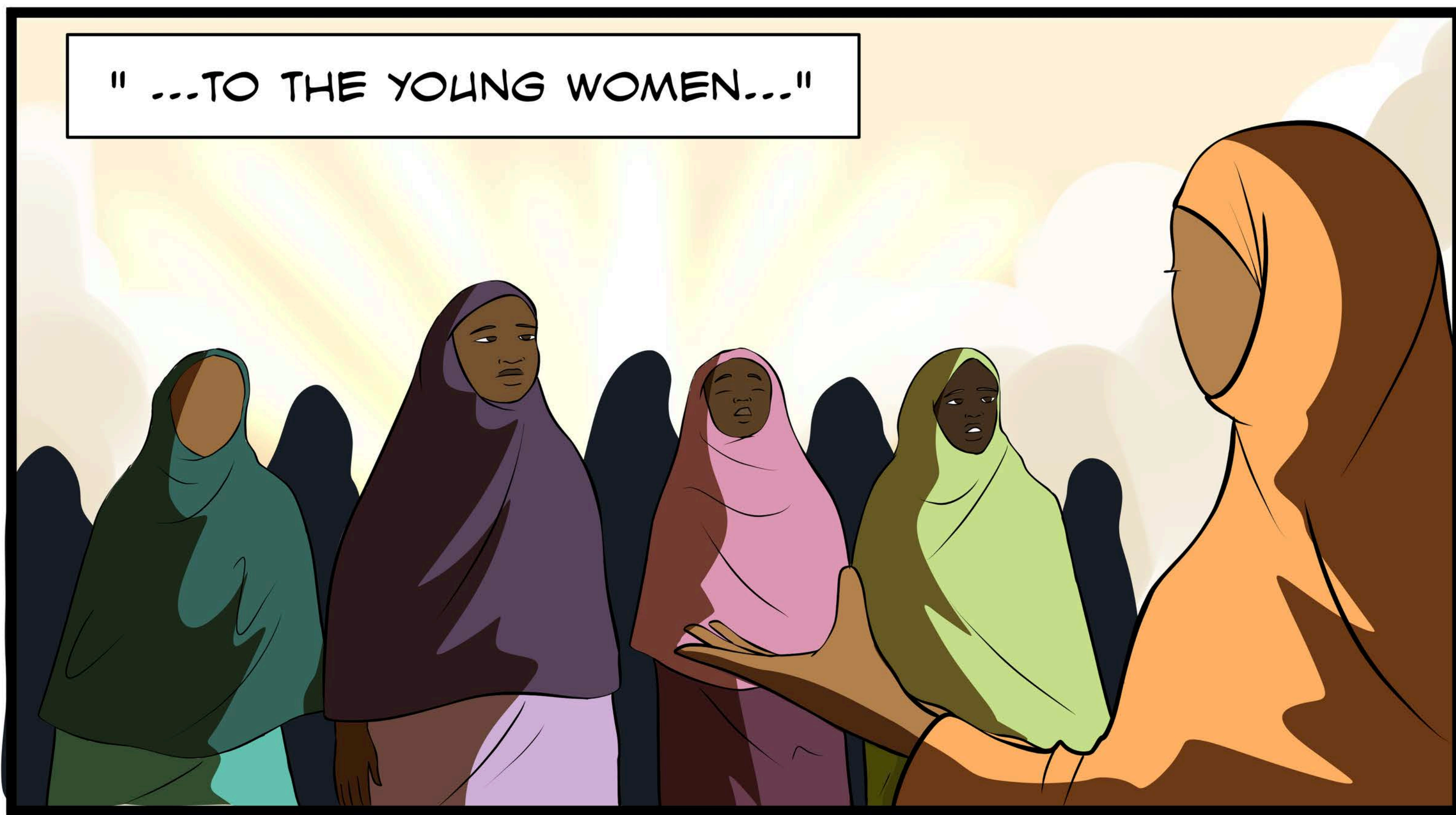
YOU, MY CHILDREN, MUST LEAD, AND YOU MUST FIND OTHER LEADERS.



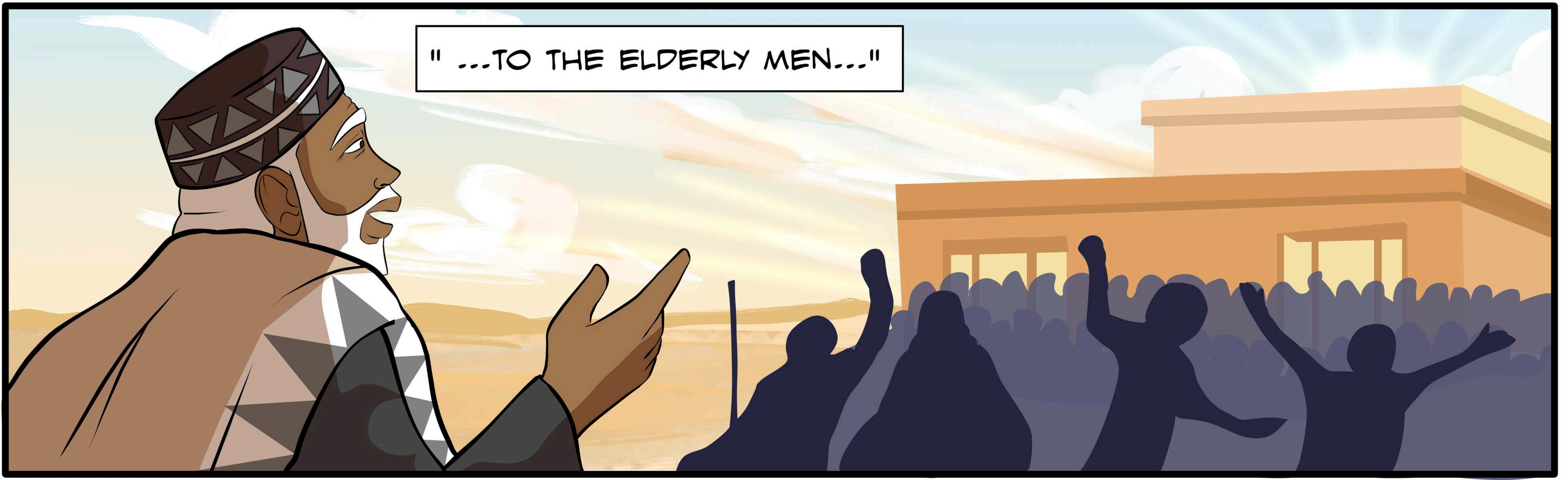
WE MUST **UNITE** THE COMMUNITIES FROM THE **TOWN** AND THE **CAMP**. WE MUST CONVINCE **EVERYONE** THAT IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT SAVING ONE FIELD, BUT THAT THE ACTIONS WE UNDERTAKE HERE ARE TO THE **BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLES**. SPREAD THIS MESSAGE...



" ...TO THE YOUNG MEN..."



" ...TO THE YOUNG WOMEN..."



" ...TO THE ELDERLY MEN..."

"...AND TO THE MOTHERS AND WOMEN, THE SEED KEEPERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. THEY KNOW THE MOST IMPORTANT INDIGENOUS TREES AND GRASSES. "

"...THEY ARE ALSO THE ONES WHO SPEAK AND WORK THE MOST FOR KEEPING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER "



AQOONLA`AANI WAA IFTIINLA`AAN. (THE ABSENCE OF KNOWLEDGE IS THE ABSENCE OF LIGHT).

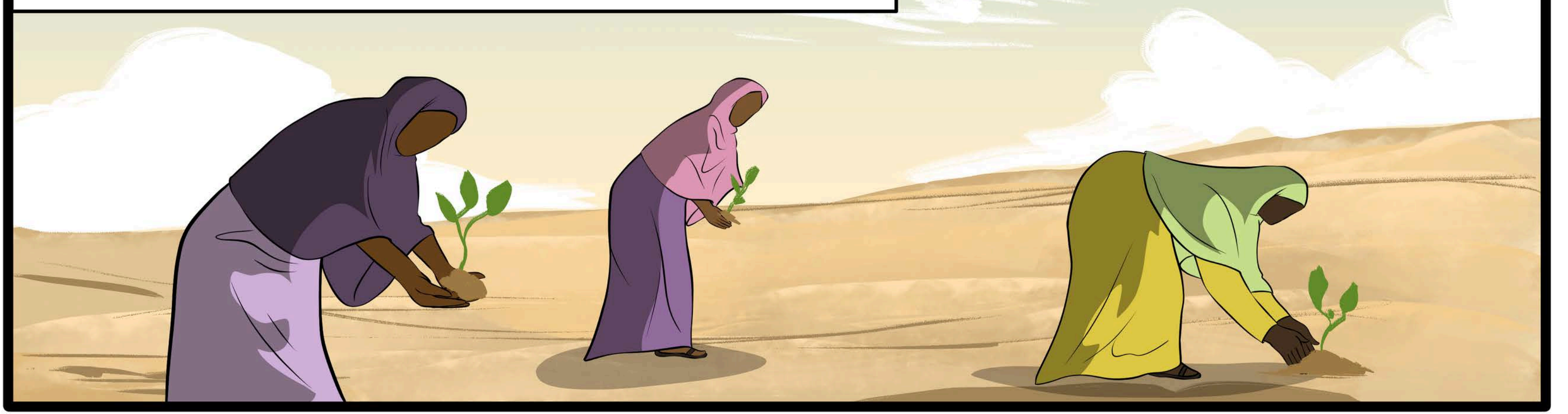
TOGETHER, WE WILL LEVERAGE THE WISDOM OF THE ELDERLY AND THE **WOMEN**, ALONG WITH THE CREATIVITY OF THE YOUTH.



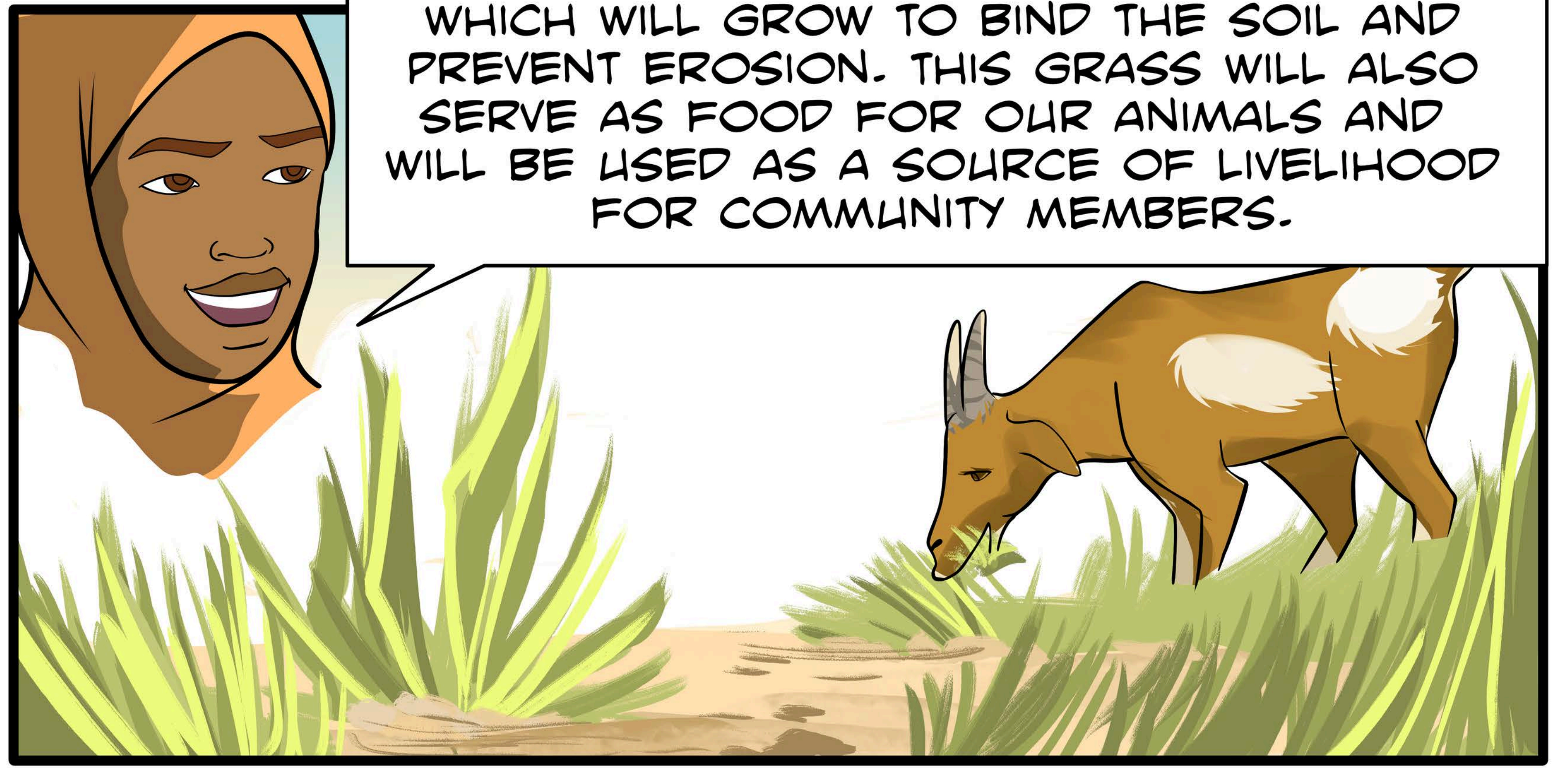
WE WILL START BY PLANTING THE SAPLINGS OF OUR *INDIGENOUS* TREES.



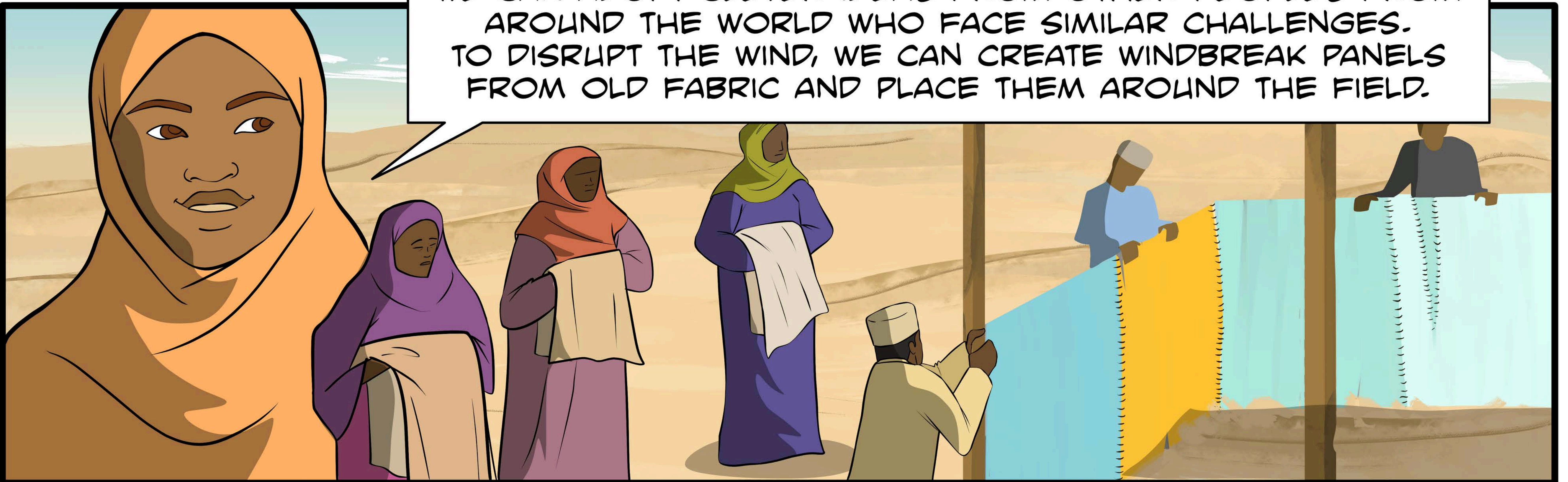
" WE WILL PROTECT THESE SAPLINGS BY CREATING SOIL BUNDS WHICH WILL CAPTURE THE RAINWATER AND SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF OUR TREES..."



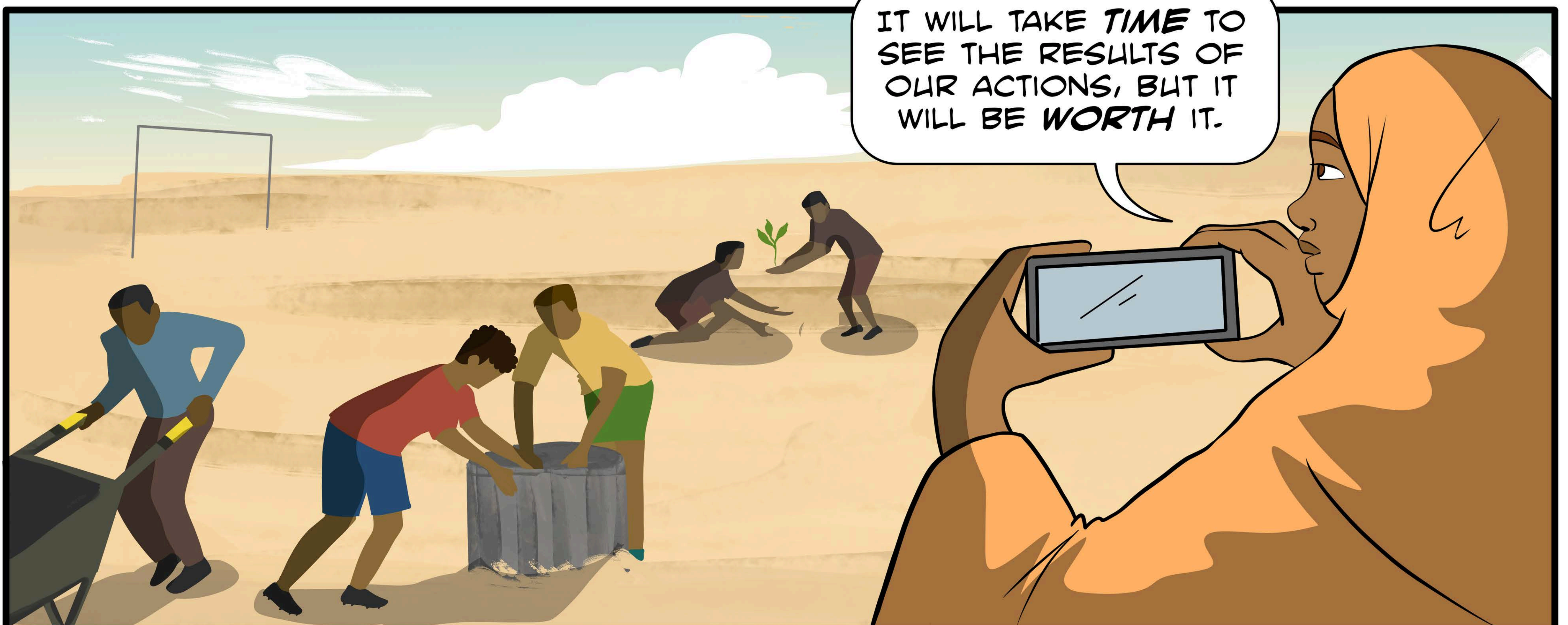
WE WILL PAIR THIS BY PLANTING GRASS, WHICH WILL GROW TO BIND THE SOIL AND PREVENT EROSION. THIS GRASS WILL ALSO SERVE AS FOOD FOR OUR ANIMALS AND WILL BE USED AS A SOURCE OF LIVELIHOOD FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS.



WE CAN ADOPT CLEVER IDEAS FROM OTHER PEOPLES FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO FACE SIMILAR CHALLENGES. TO DISRUPT THE WIND, WE CAN CREATE WINDBREAK PANELS FROM OLD FABRIC AND PLACE THEM AROUND THE FIELD.



IT WILL TAKE *TIME* TO SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR ACTIONS, BUT IT WILL BE *WORTH* IT.

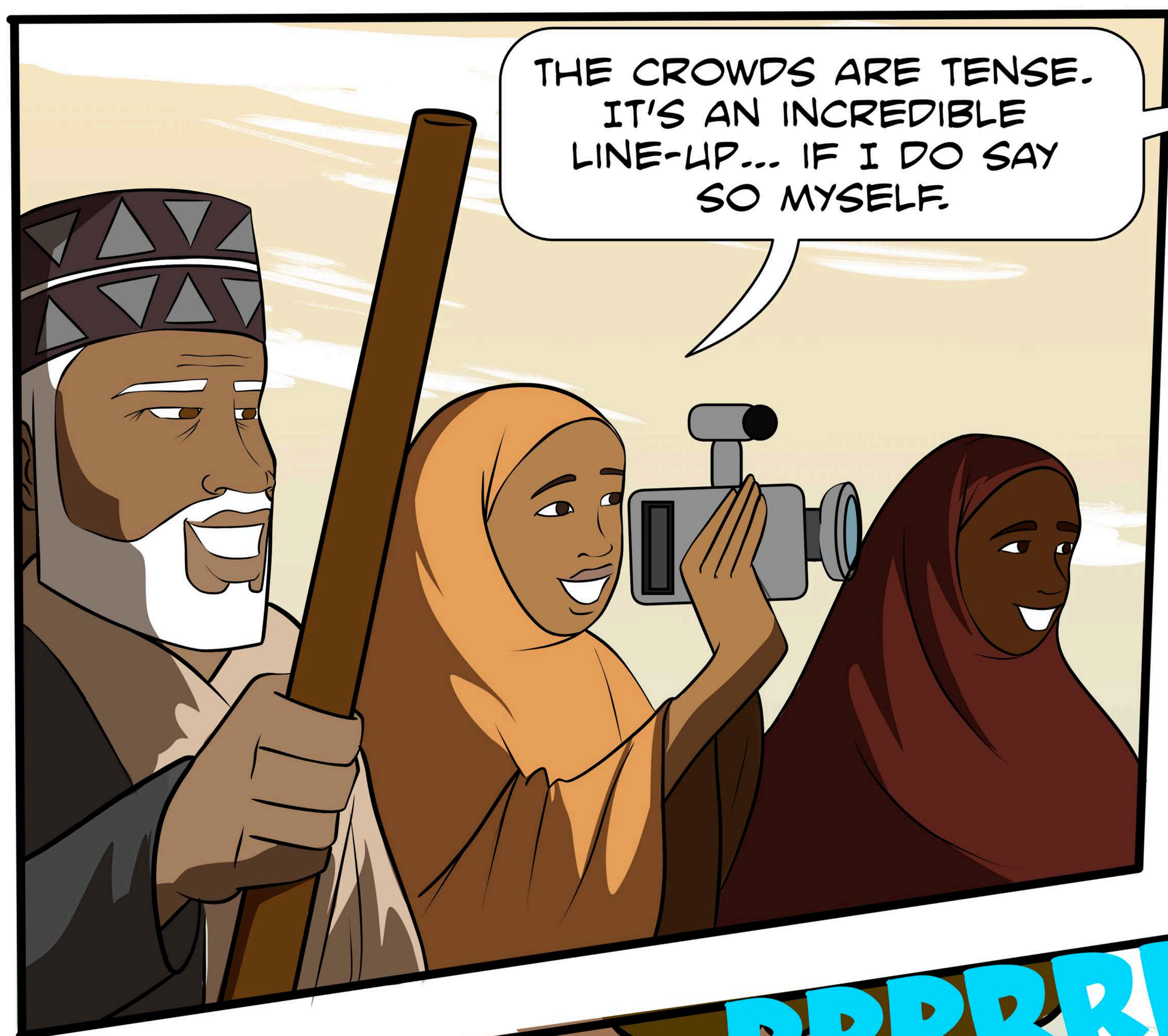


FIVE YEARS LATER...

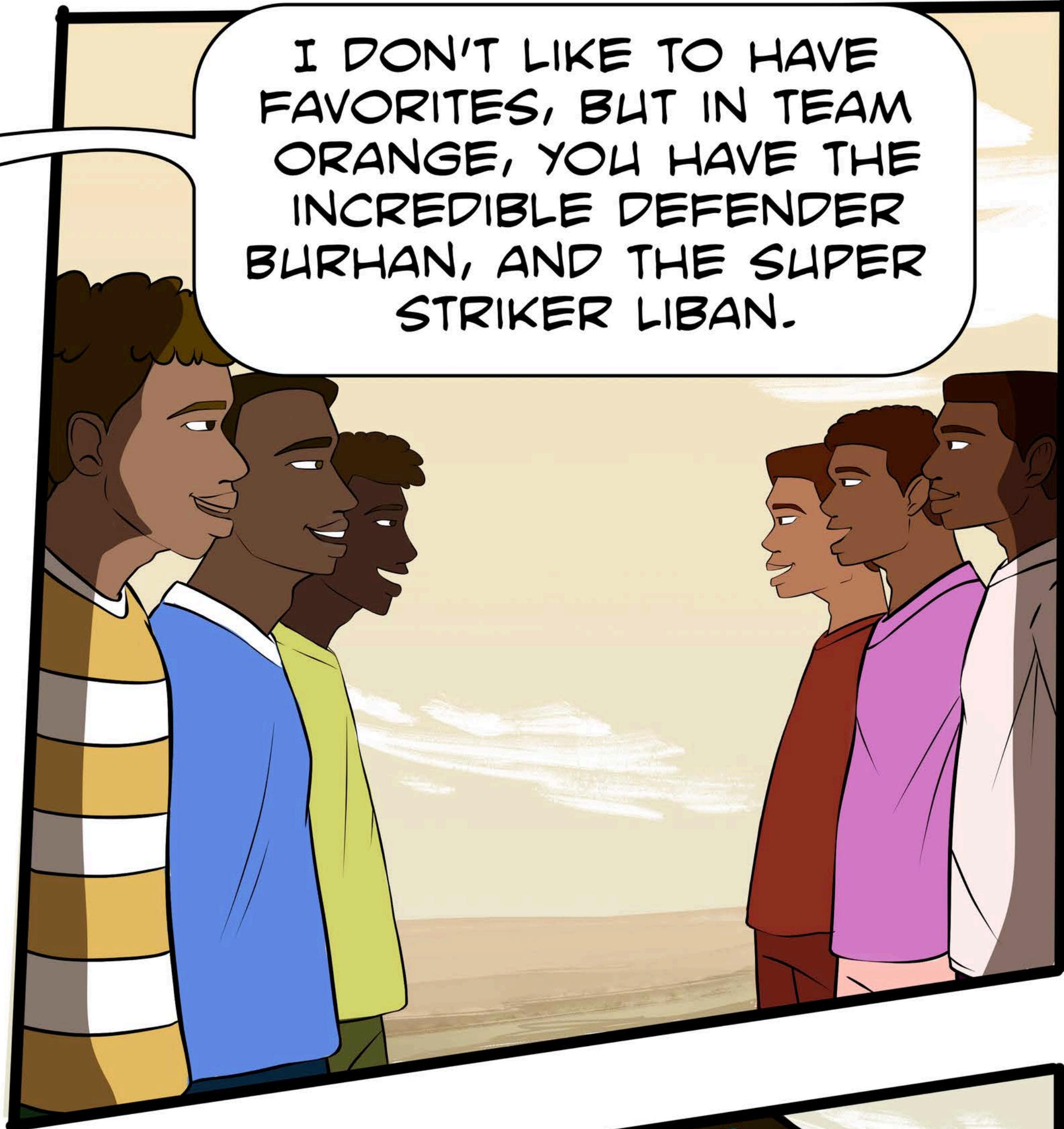


WINDBREAKERS...





THE CROWDS ARE TENSE.
IT'S AN INCREDIBLE
LINE-UP... IF I DO SAY
SO MYSELF.

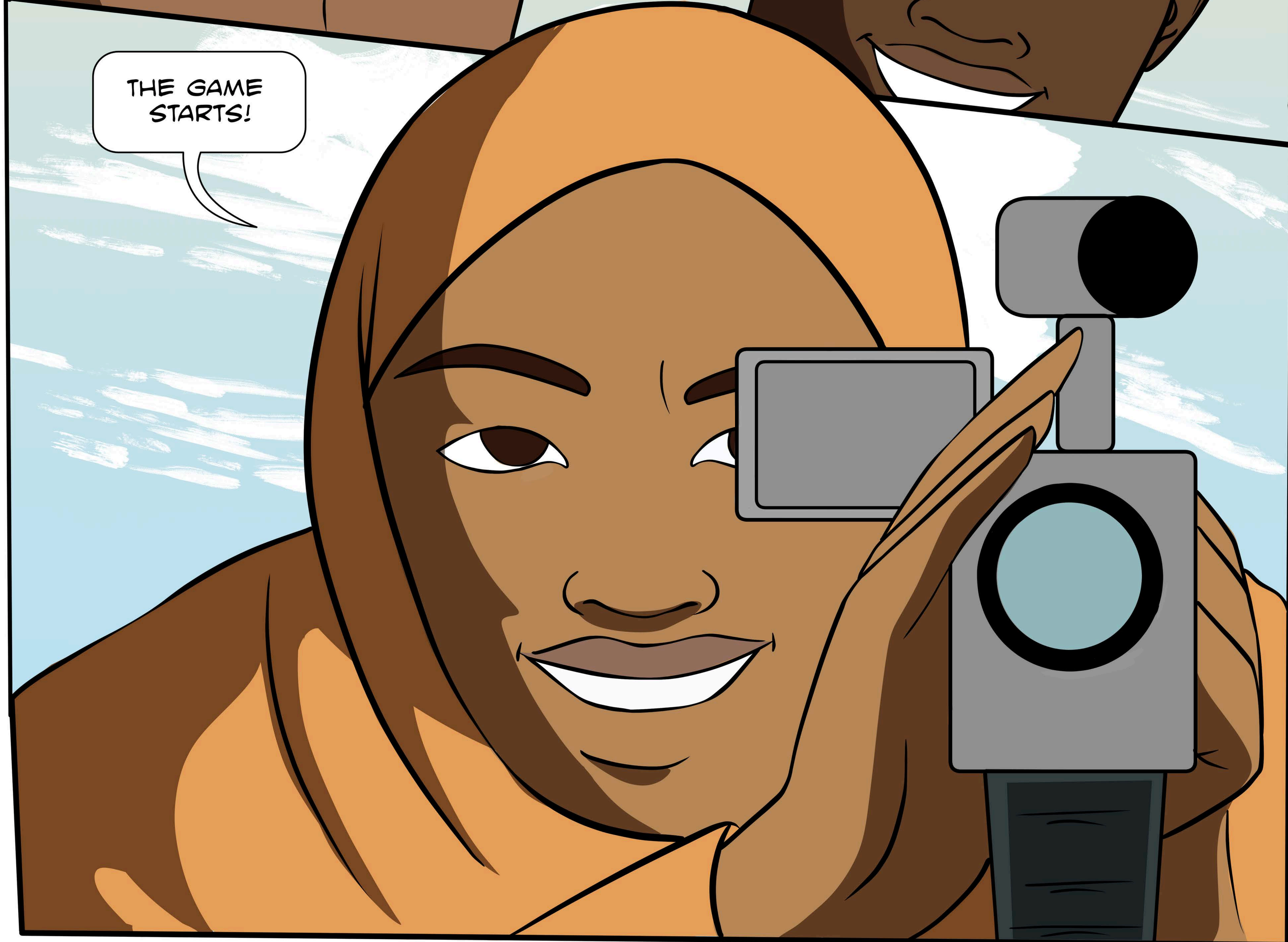


I DON'T LIKE TO HAVE
FAVORITES, BUT IN TEAM
ORANGE, YOU HAVE THE
INCREDIBLE DEFENDER
BURHAN, AND THE SUPER
STRIKER LIBAN.

PPRRRRRRRRPT!



THE GAME
STARTS!

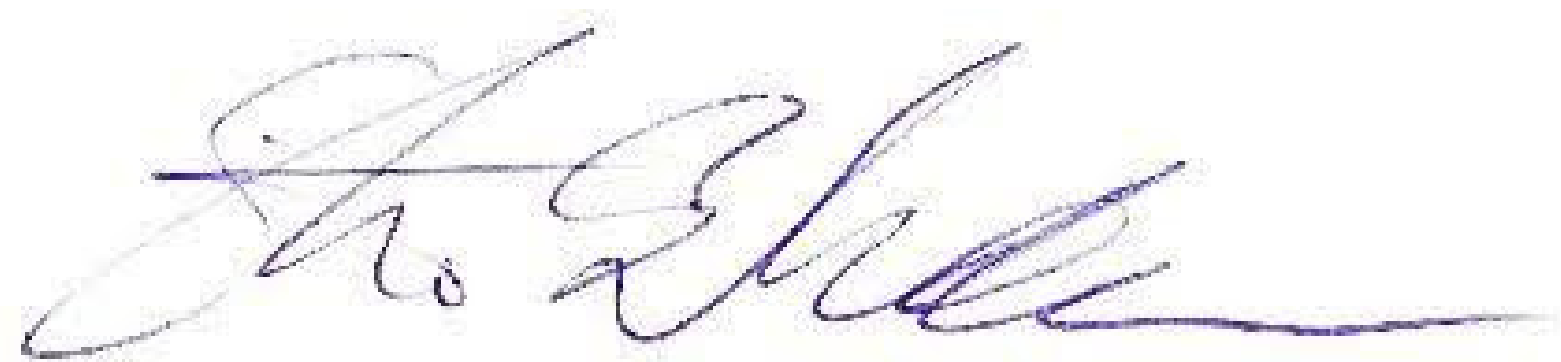


The Royal Danish Embassy is proud to support this comic book, which brings to life the transformative role of Somali youth in peacebuilding and environmental restoration. As climate change continues to accelerate, it is countries like Somalia—those who have contributed the least to the global crisis—that feel its impacts the most. Environmental pressures often deepen existing challenges, straining communities and, at times, sparking conflict. Yet, in the face of these trials, Somali youth remain a beacon of resilience, driving innovative and lasting solutions.

Through the "Forging a Greener Peace" in the Hirshabelle State of Somalia project, Denmark is committed to helping Somali communities confront the intertwined challenges of climate, peace, and security. This initiative aims to foster both social and infrastructural change, strengthening communities against the dual threats of climate change and conflict.

We are honoured to stand alongside Somali communities in their efforts to build a sustainable, peaceful future. This comic book reflects their spirit and determination, and we hope it inspires others to join in creating a brighter tomorrow.

H.E Steen Sonne Andersen



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**

This comic was made possible through the generous support of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Federal Government of Somalia, with funding from the European Union Foreign Policy Instrument and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. It is the result of a collaborative effort between the International Organization for Migration, the Berghof Foundation, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.



Funded by
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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK
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