



Lines in the sand

Four short stories from the lives of the
desert fathers and mothers

An e-book by Creative Orthodox

The world turns to fictional stories of superheroes to explore what it means to be human. The Church turns to the desert fathers and mothers.

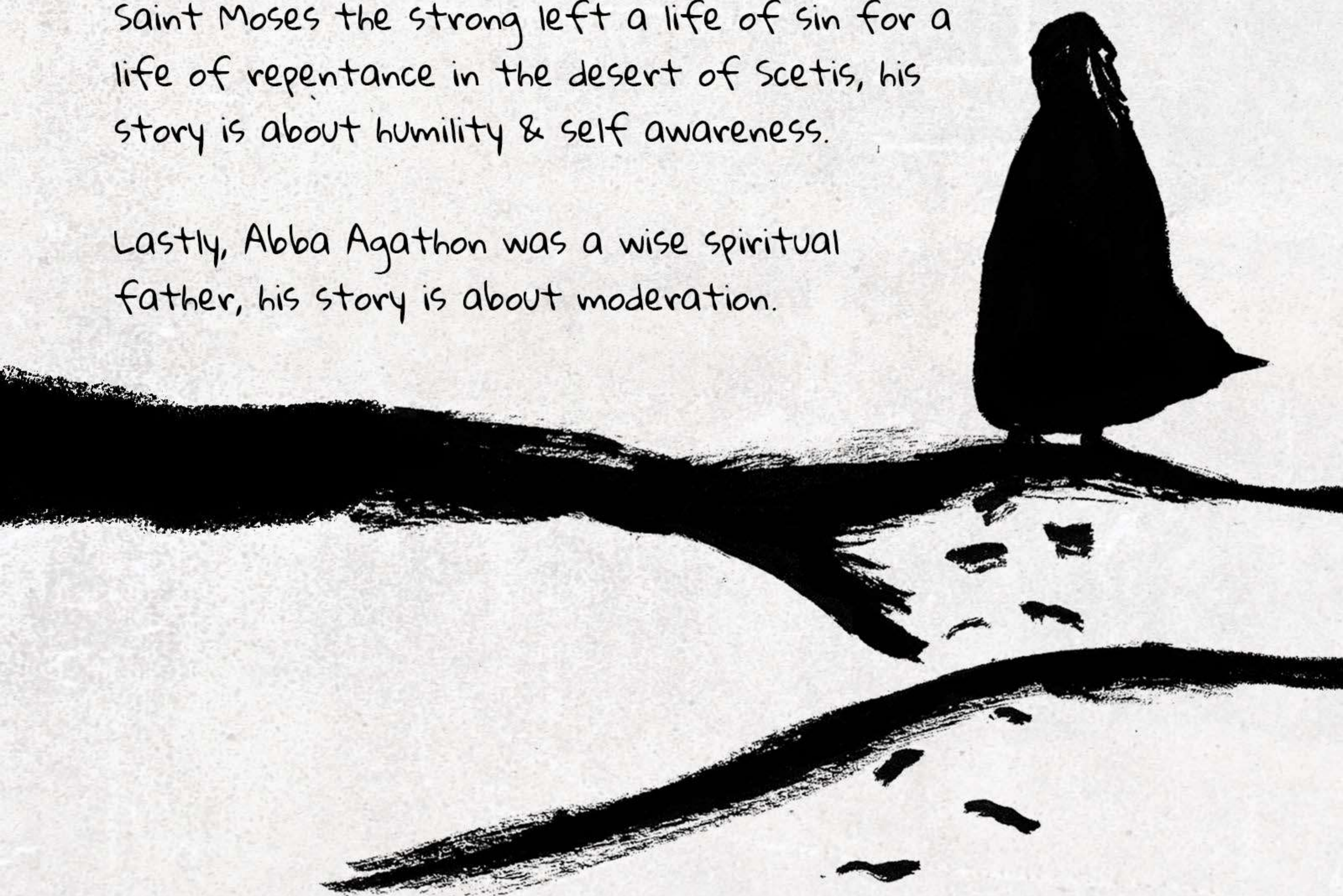
Centuries ago, these saintly men and women lived Christ-like lives, but their spirituality and wisdom are timeless. Their wisdom gives Christians priceless insight and a deeper understanding of the roots of the faith. These are just four short stories from the lives of the Church fathers and mothers.

Saint Macarius the Great started a monastery and lived in the desert of Scetis, his story is about compassion.

Amma Syncletica was a 4th century desert mother who encouraged hundreds of women to pursue monasticism, her story is about discernment.

Saint Moses the strong left a life of sin for a life of repentance in the desert of Scetis, his story is about humility & self awareness.

Lastly, Abba Agathon was a wise spiritual father, his story is about moderation.



Contents

First story
Saint Macarius &
the hyena



Second story
Saint Synecletica &
the sisters



Third story
Saint Moses & the bag
of sand

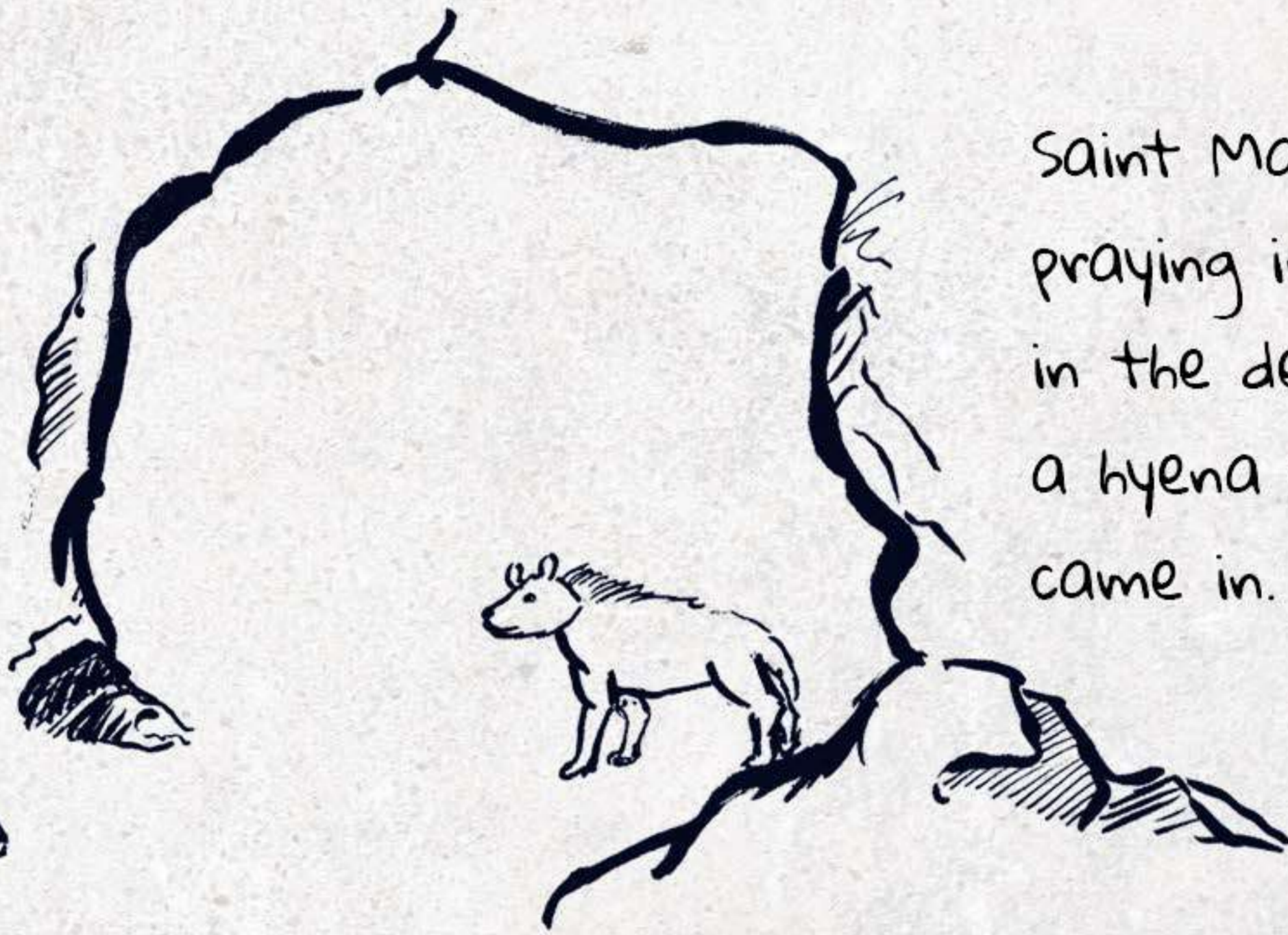


Fourth story
Saint Agathon & the novice



First Story

Saint Macarius and the Hyena



Saint Macarius was praying in a cave in the desert, when a hyena suddenly came in.



The hyena took him gently by his tunic and pulled him out of the cave.



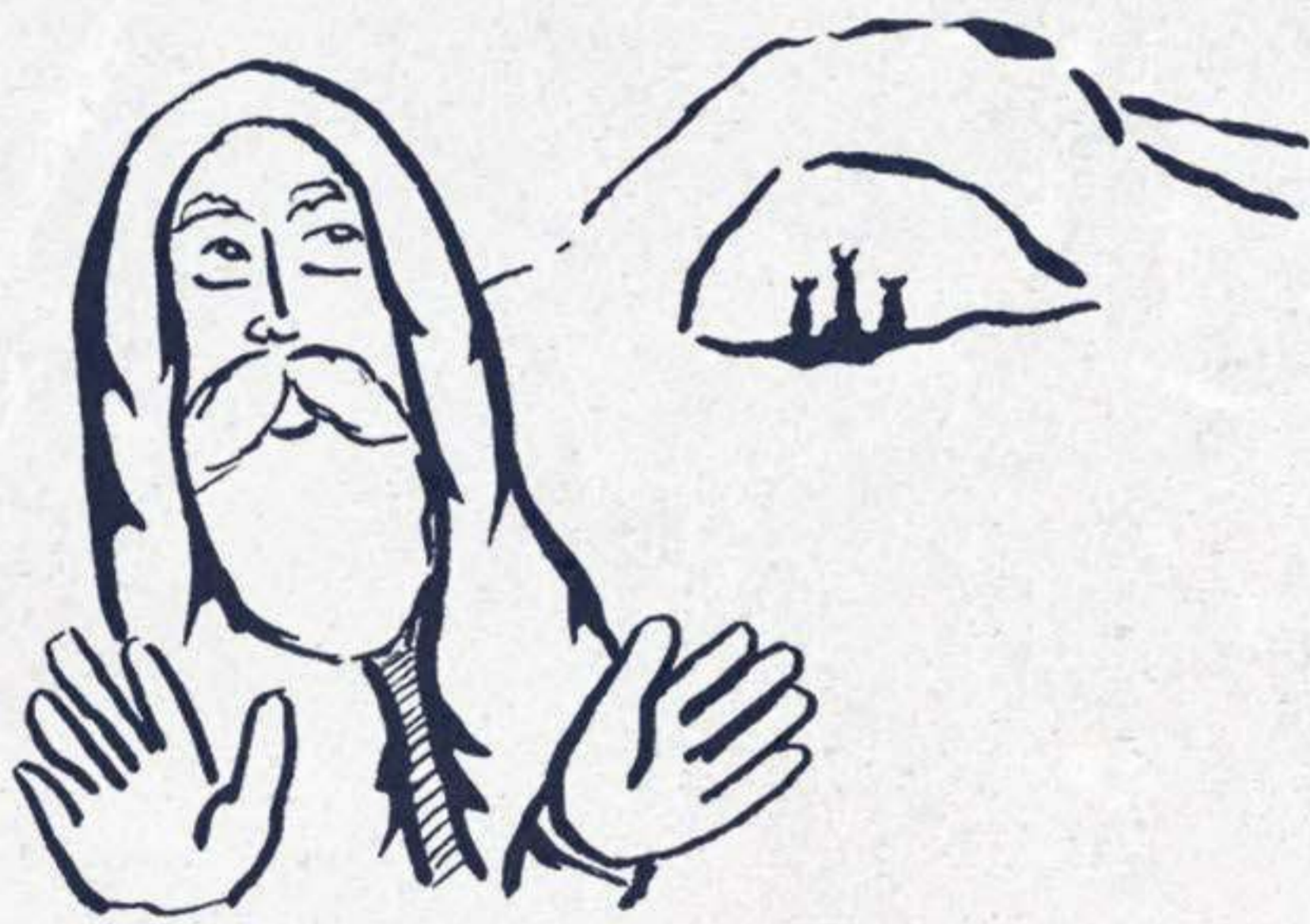
And so, saint Macarius followed the hyena through the desert. She took him to another cave and he quietly followed.

The hyena came out with two of her cubs who had been born blind.



Taking mercy on the little hyena cubs, Saint Macarius prayed over them.

Miraculously, the little cubs started seeing!



Saint Macarius glorified God and left the hyena family behind.

A while later, the hyena mother came into his cave with a blanket of sheepskin as a thank you, he smiled at her kindness and glorified God.



Second Story

Saint Syncletica & the sisters

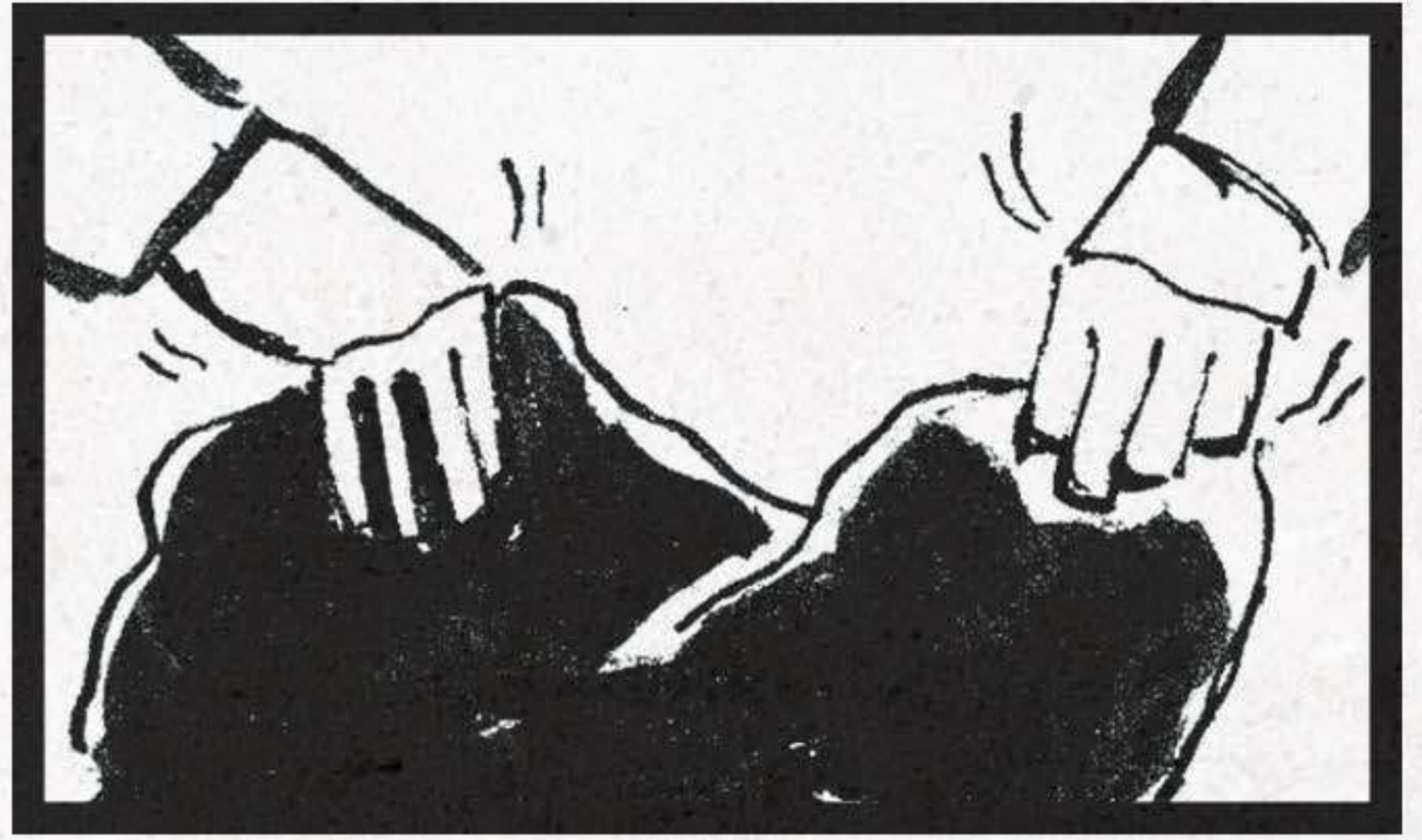
A group of righteous women gathered around Amma Syncletica to benefit from her wisdom.



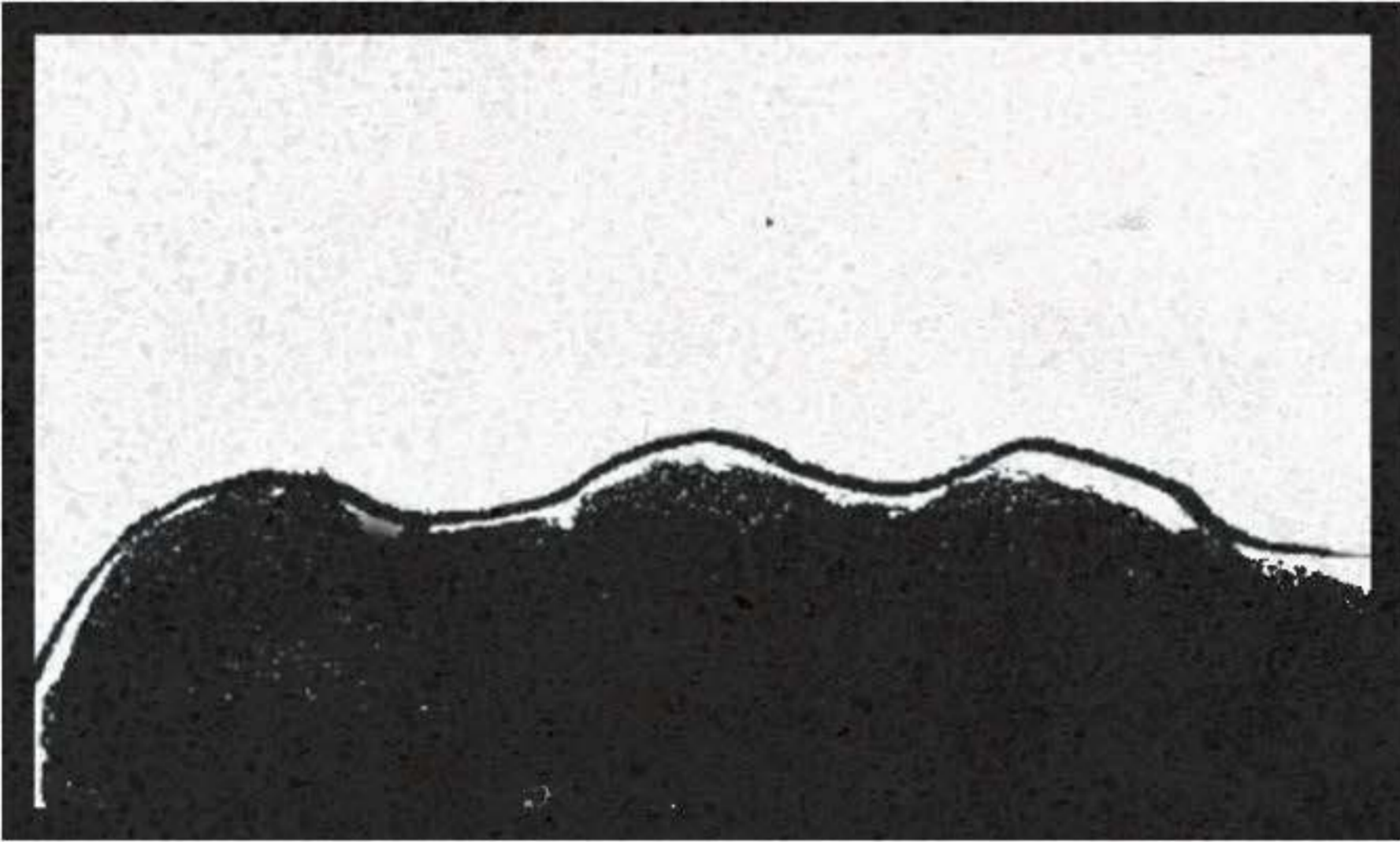
It's certainly good for those women who can endure it. The ones who live in poverty struggle bodily, but have peace in their souls.



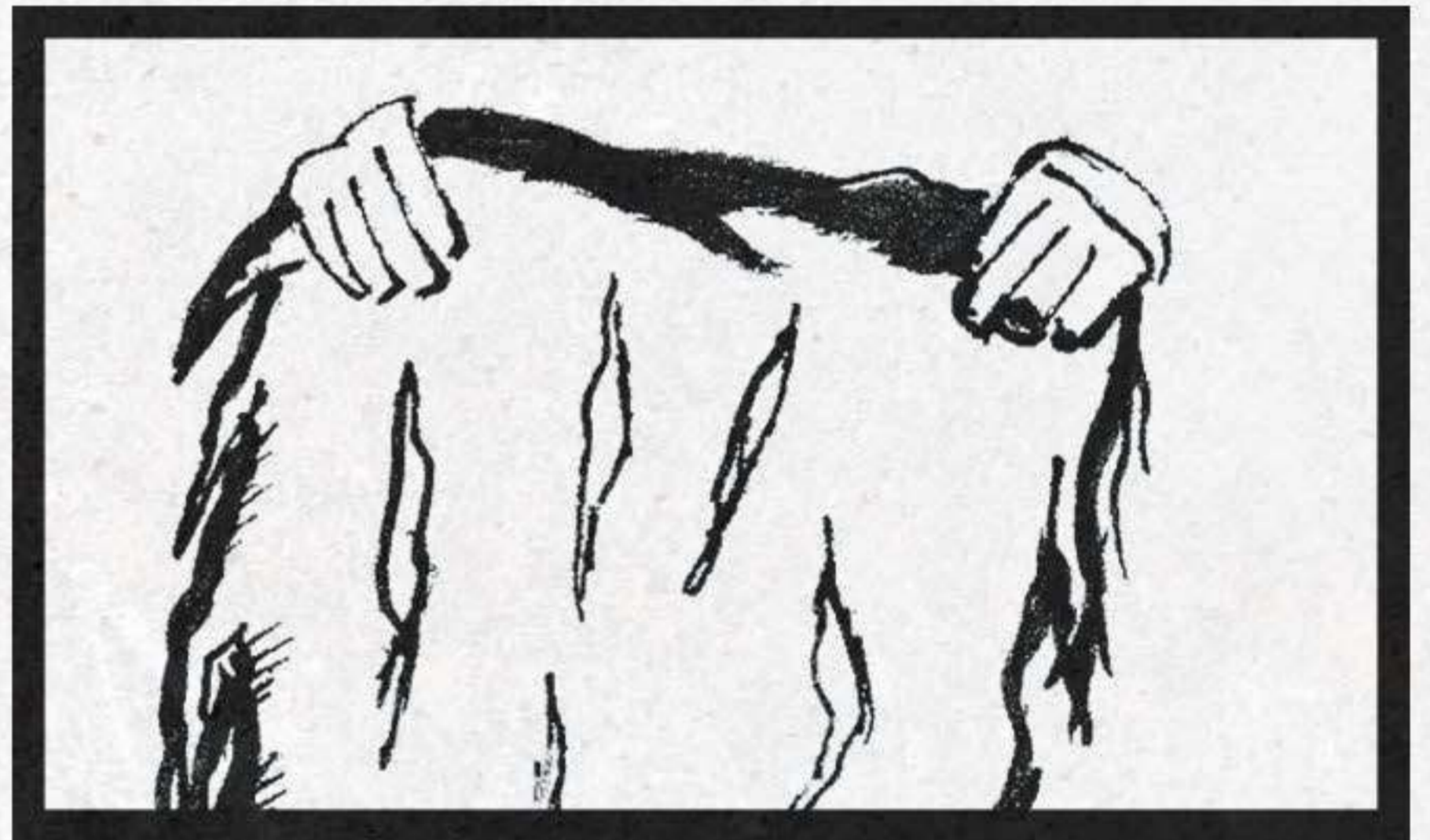
It's just like thick fabric is washed by intense scrubbing and wringing!



The strong soul is strengthened much through voluntary poverty



But the weaker soul, like weak fabric, rips when scrubbed even lightly.

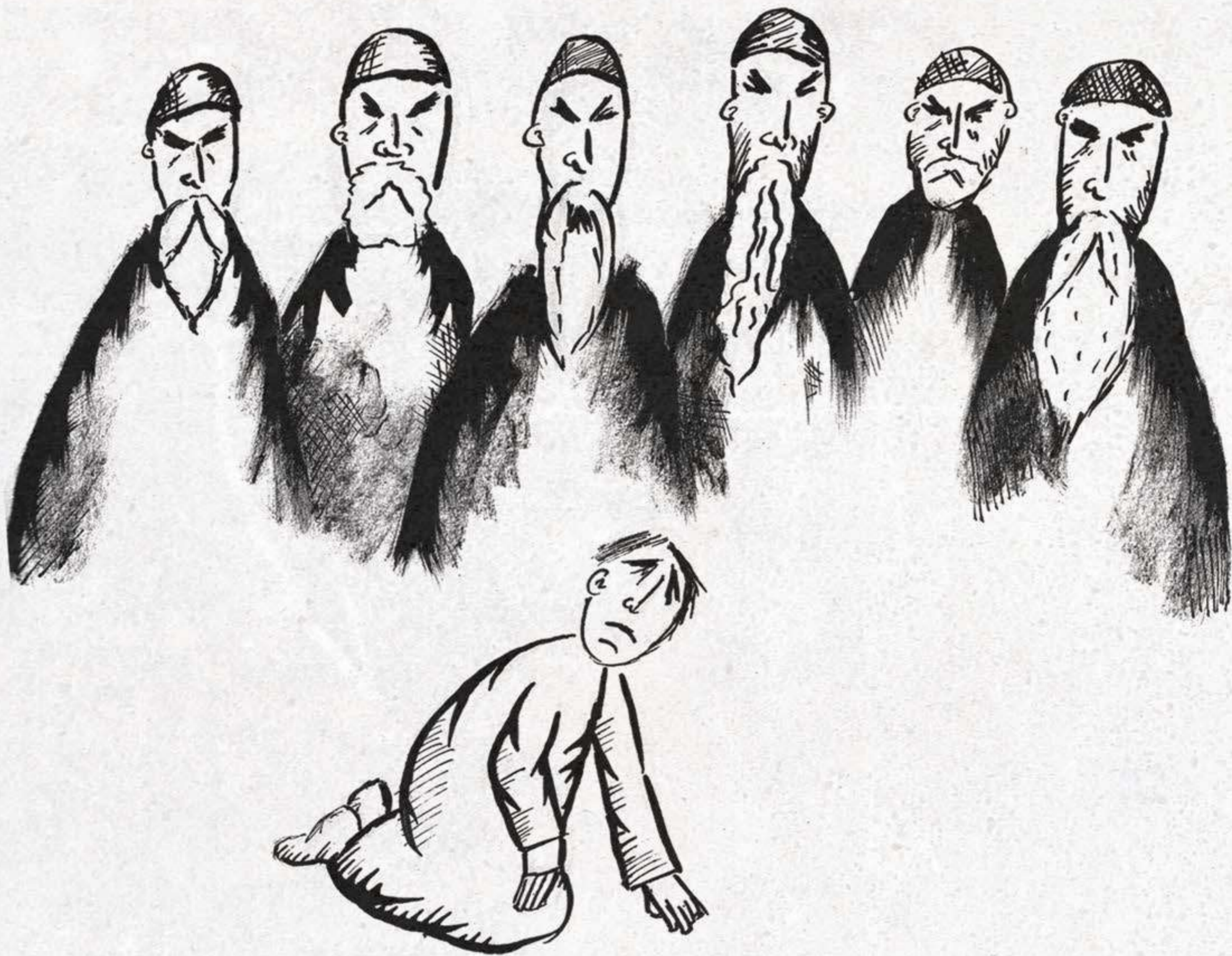


Although the action is the same, the result is different. Some are torn and rip, and others are cleaned and renewed. One could say that, for the courageous mind, voluntary poverty is good.

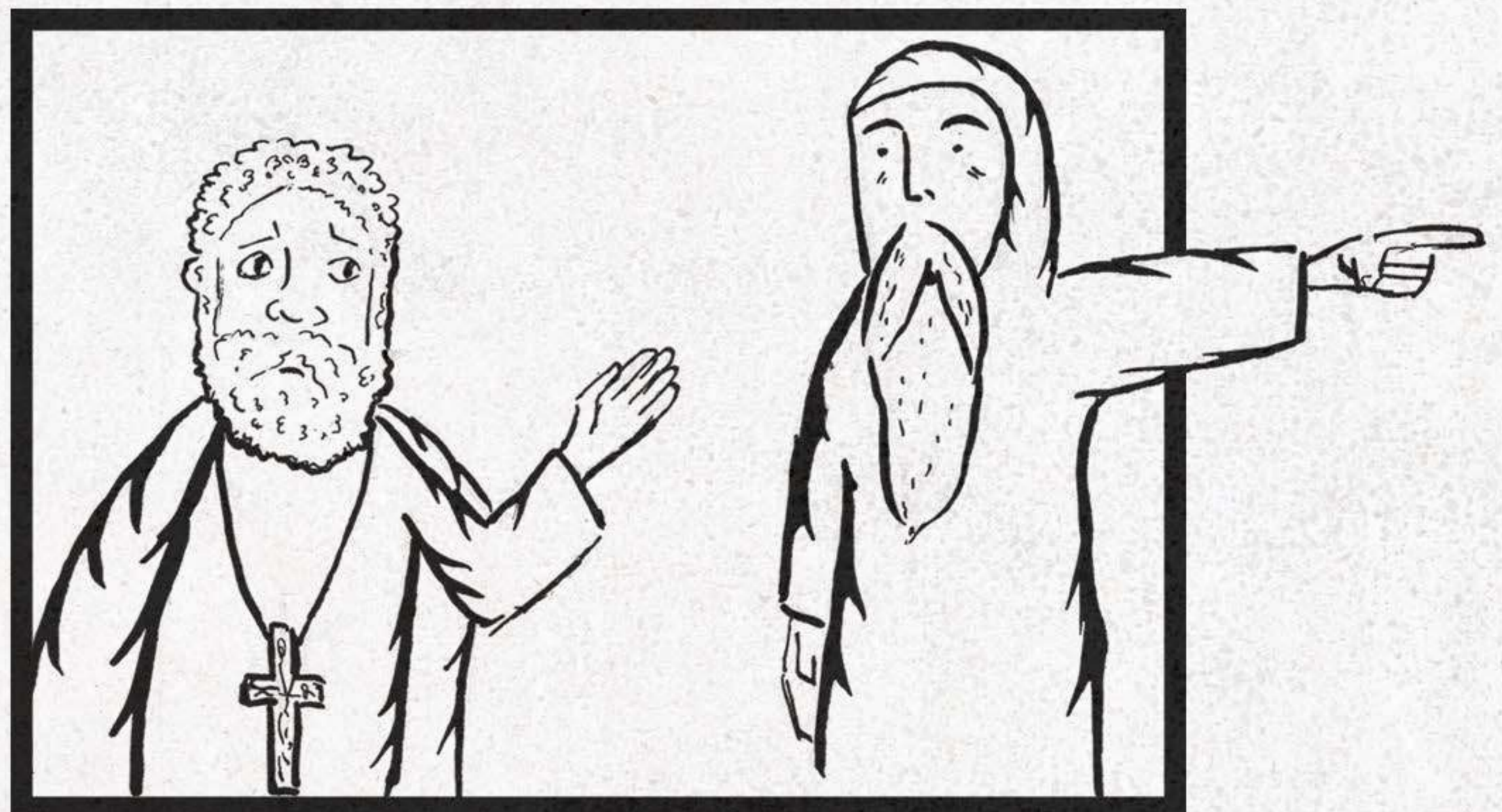
Third Story

Saint Moses & the bag of sand

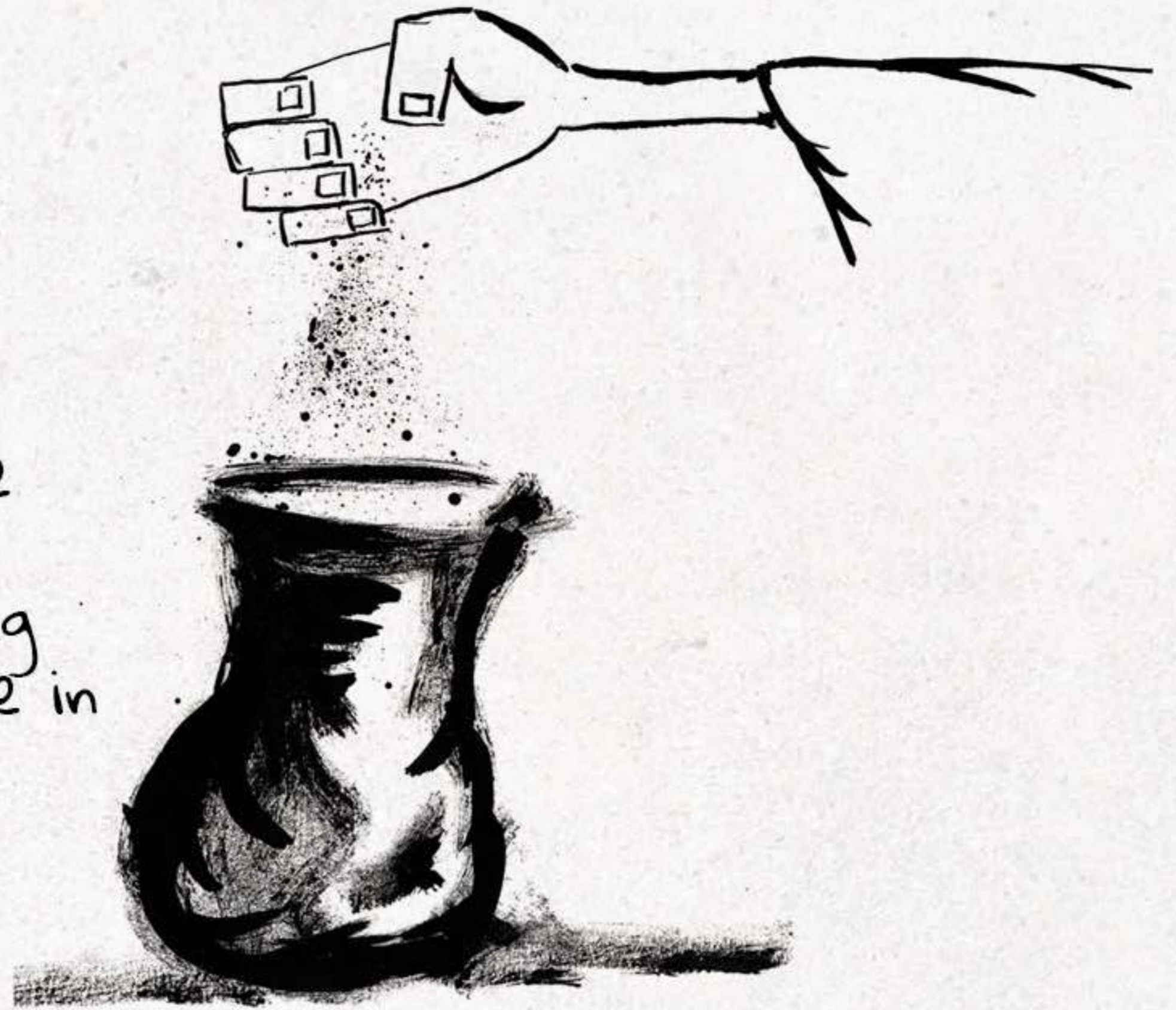
The monks in the desert of scetis caught a brother in sin. They were very angry, so they decided to meet together to decide what to do with him.



Hearing this, abba Moses felt hesitant, as he didn't want to judge the sinful brother. Even so, Abba Isidorus instructed him to join the rest of the monks.



Determined to share how he feels, abba Moses filled up a bag with sand, cut a hole in the bag and walked towards the group.



My sins are like this bag of sand. How can I judge another man while my sins trail behind me?



Fourth Story

Abba Agathon & the novice



"Bodily asceticism is like
the leaves on it..."



"...interior vigilance is
the fruit."

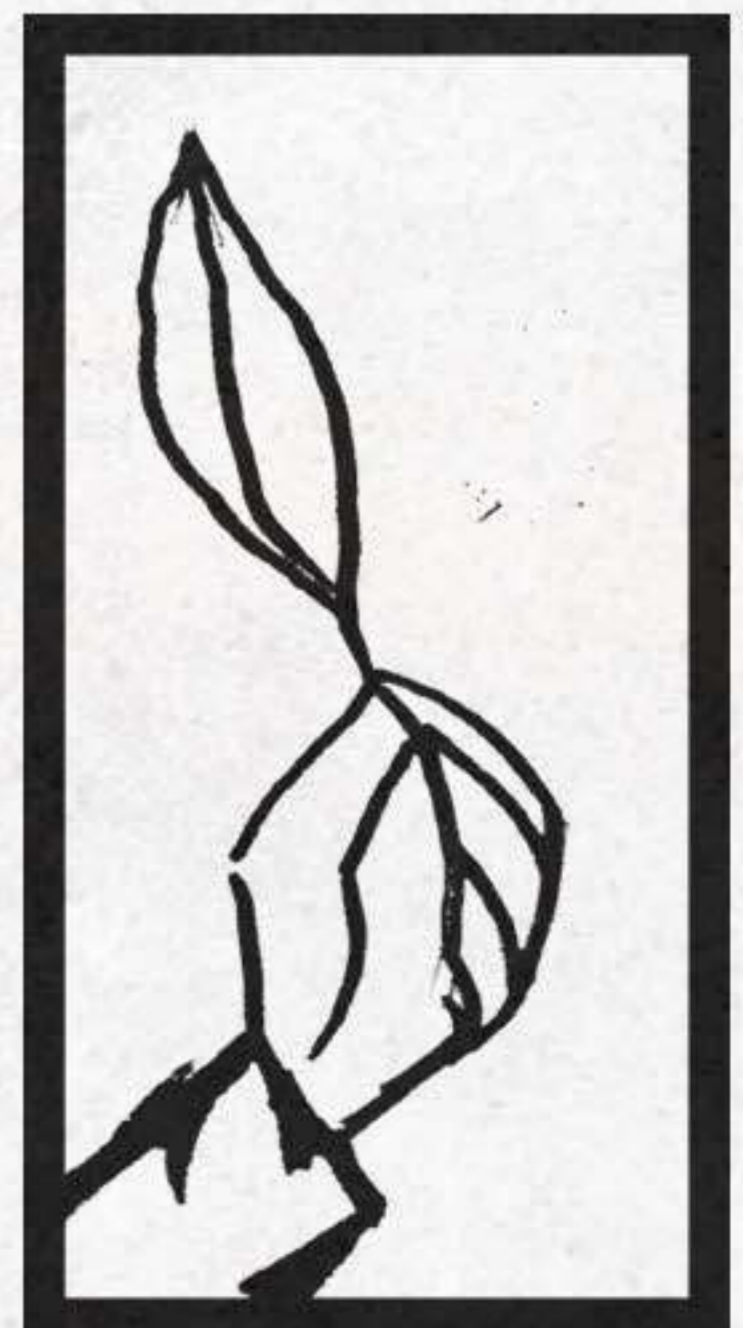


"We should obviously grow
the fruit."

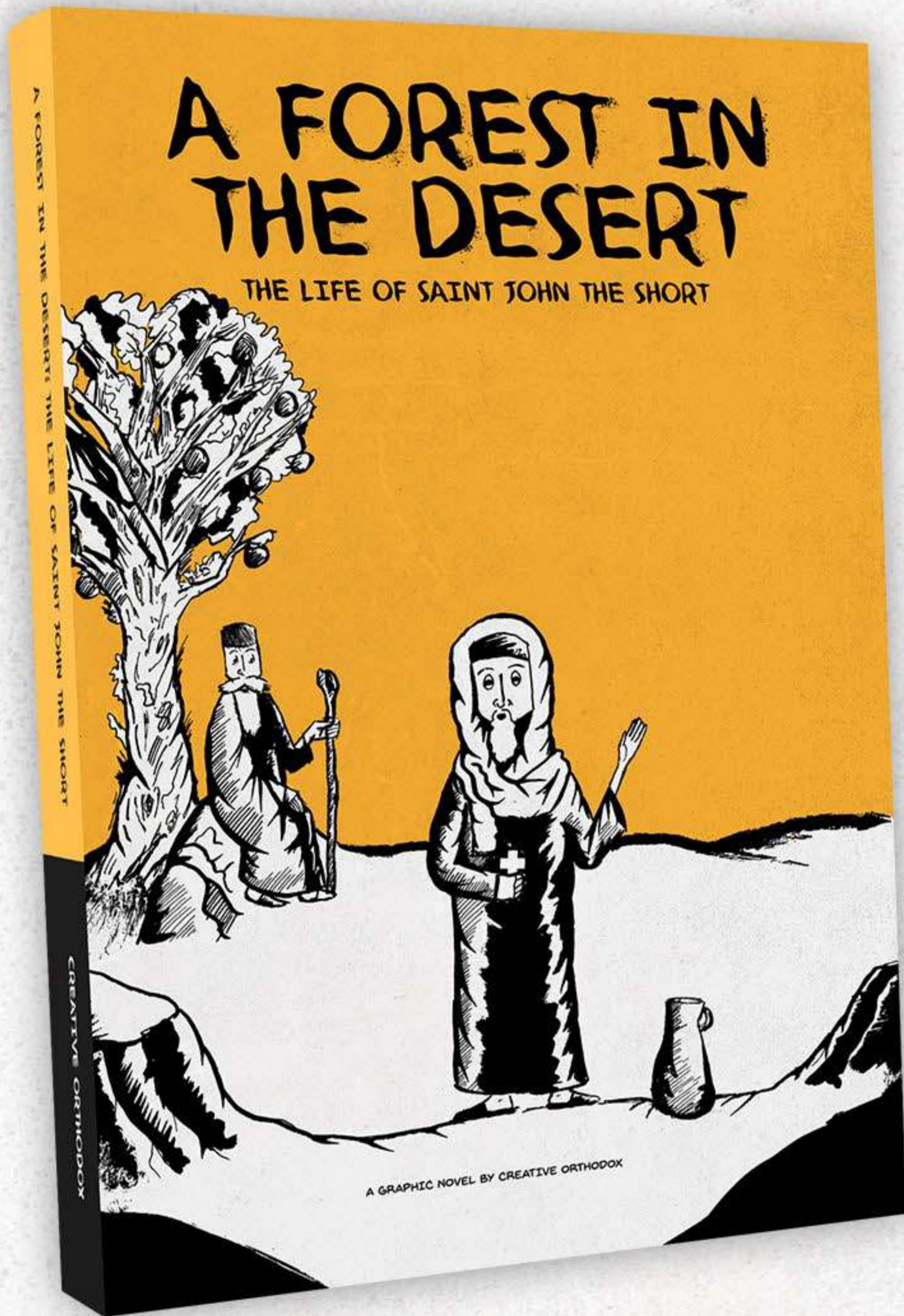
That's to say, guard the
spirit.



But it needs the
protection of the leaves,
which is bodily asceticism."

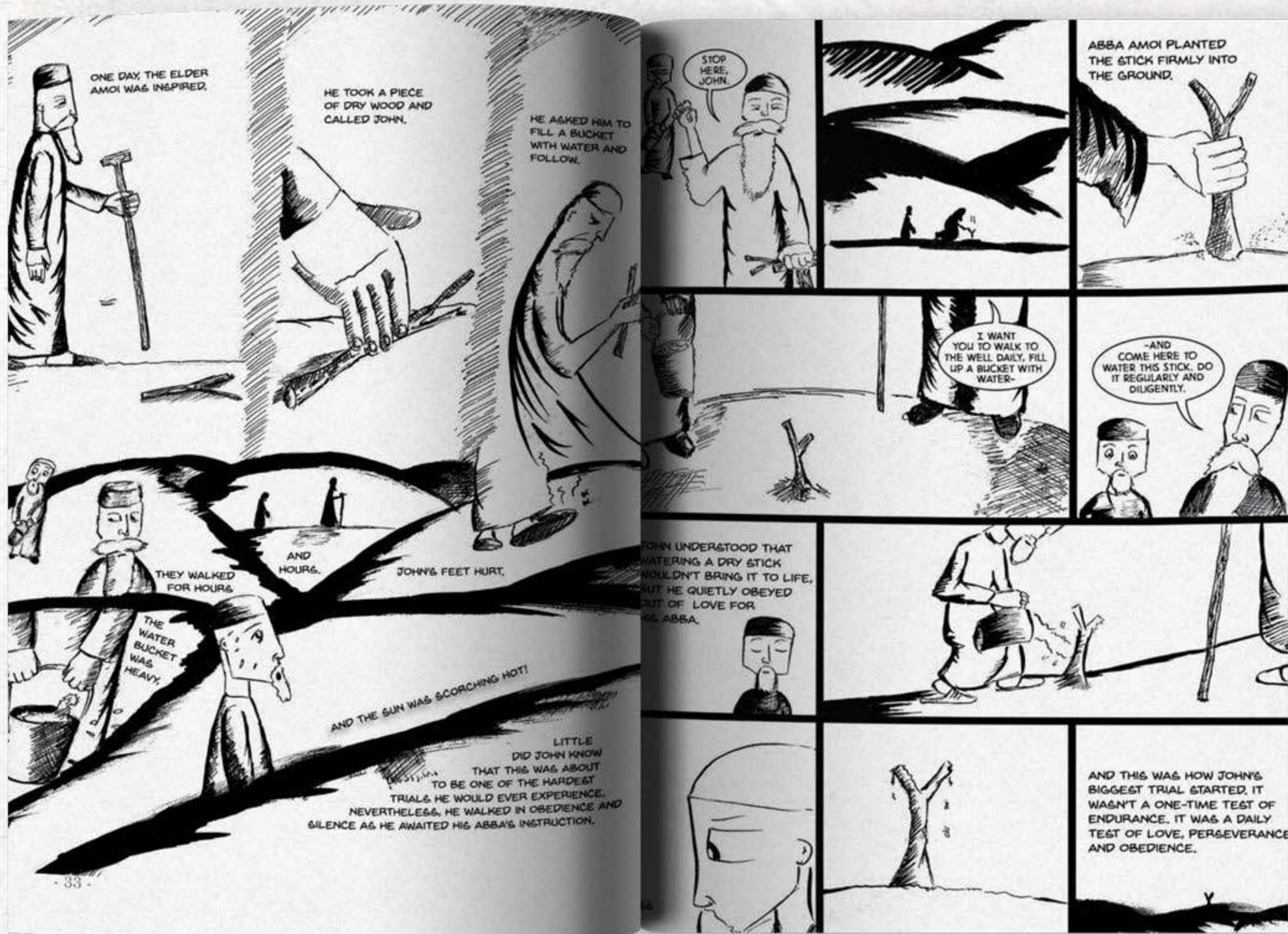


OTHER BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR



Learn about the desert fathers and get to know Saint John the Short.

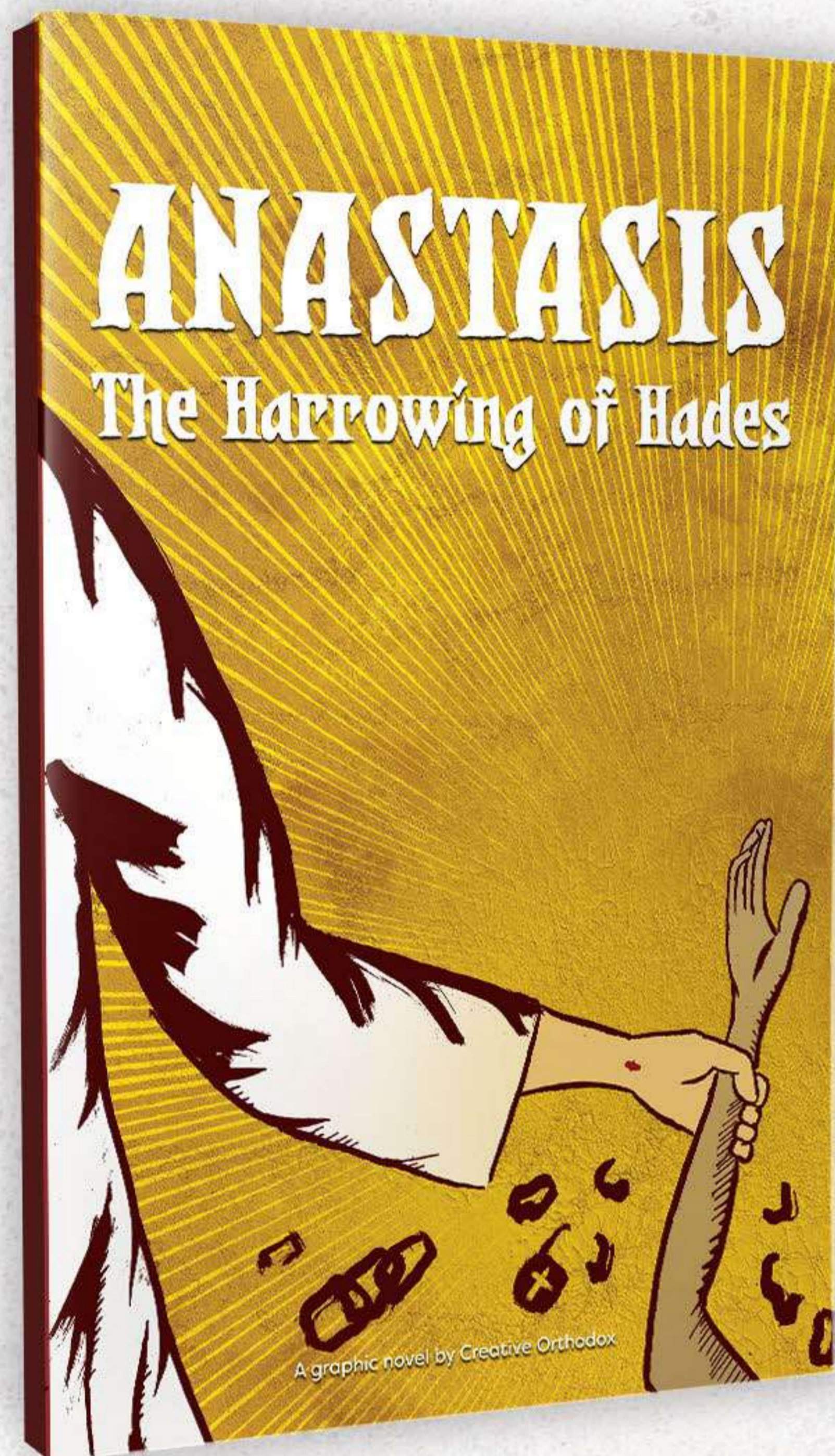
"A Forest in the Desert" is a 184 page graphic novel on the life of the early christian saint, John the Short.



AVAILABLE ON AMAZON.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.SAINTJOHNTHESHORT.COM

O DEATH, WHERE'S YOUR STING? O HADES, WHERE'S YOUR VICTORY?



"Anastasis: The Harrowing of Hades" is a full-colour Christian graphic novel that explores what happened to the Old Testament souls in Hades, the emotional build-up to the fateful crucifixion and the consequences of Christ's enigmatic descent into hell.



Available on amazon.

Learn more at [creativeorthodox.com/harrowingofhades](https://www.creativeorthodox.com/harrowingofhades)

About the author

Michael Elgamal is a Canadian writer and artist. He started the "Creative Orthodox" blog to tell stories of ancient Christianity. Michael lives in Ontario, Canada with his wife Margie.



For more christian books, illustrations & saint stories, visit www.creativeorthodox.com