

# 17

# LEADERSHIP STORIES



SWIPE



A cartoon illustration of a man with short brown hair, a beard, and a mustache, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue zip-up jacket over a red and black plaid shirt. A large white speech bubble originates from his mouth, containing text in a hand-drawn font.

IN 2020, I STARTED  
ILLUSTRATING A  
LEADERSHIP COMIC

TO SHOW  
LEADERSHIP STORIES  
AND INSIGHTS



INSIGHTS FROM  
COACHING DEV TEAMS  
IN 70+ TECH ORGS

HERE ARE 17  
OF MY FAVORITE

# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

UNCERTAINTY IS KILLING  
TEAM PERFORMANCE



A LEADER'S JOB IS TO  
SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

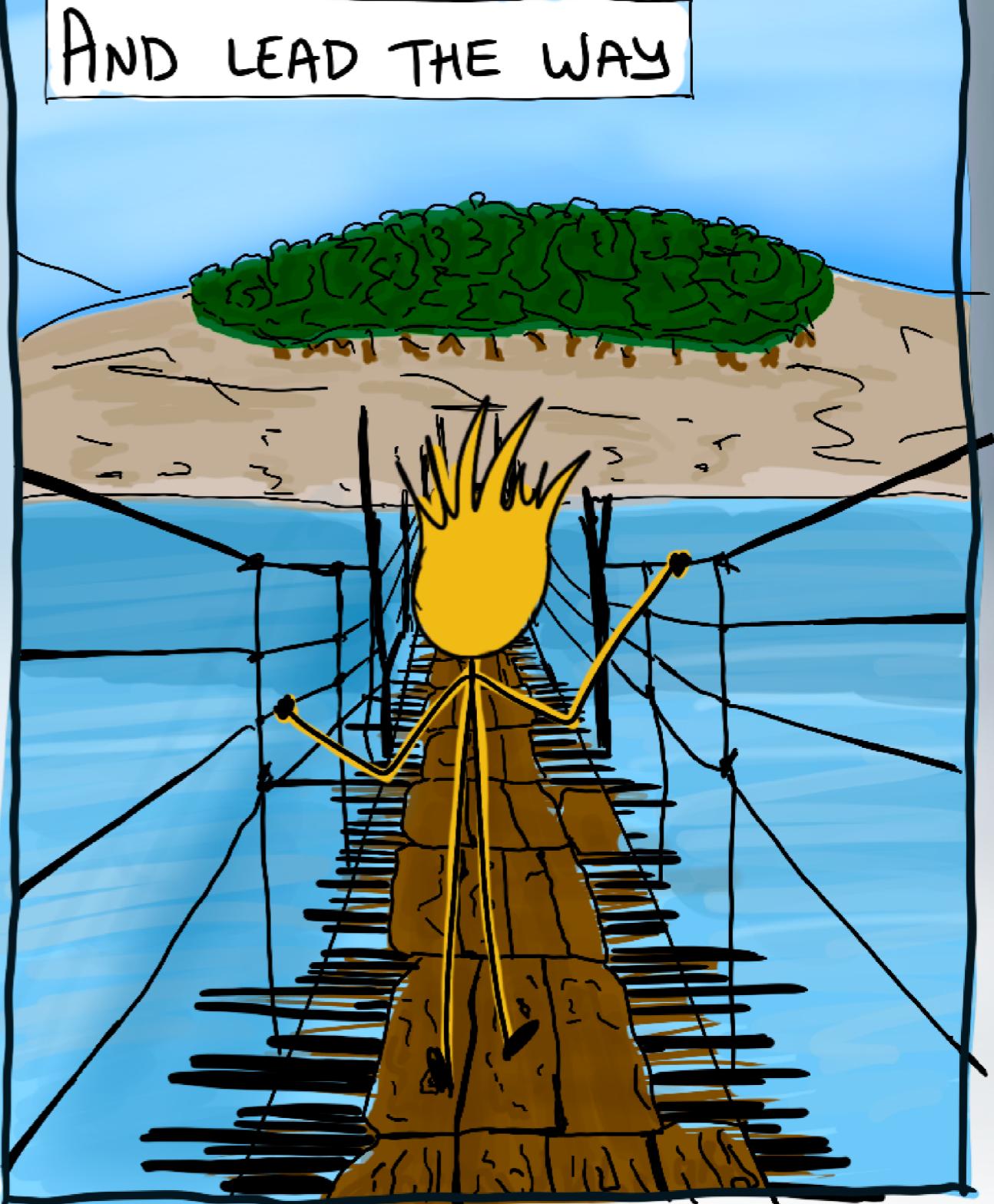


PAINT A CLEAR PICTURE



AND LEAD THE WAY

SEP 27, 2021  
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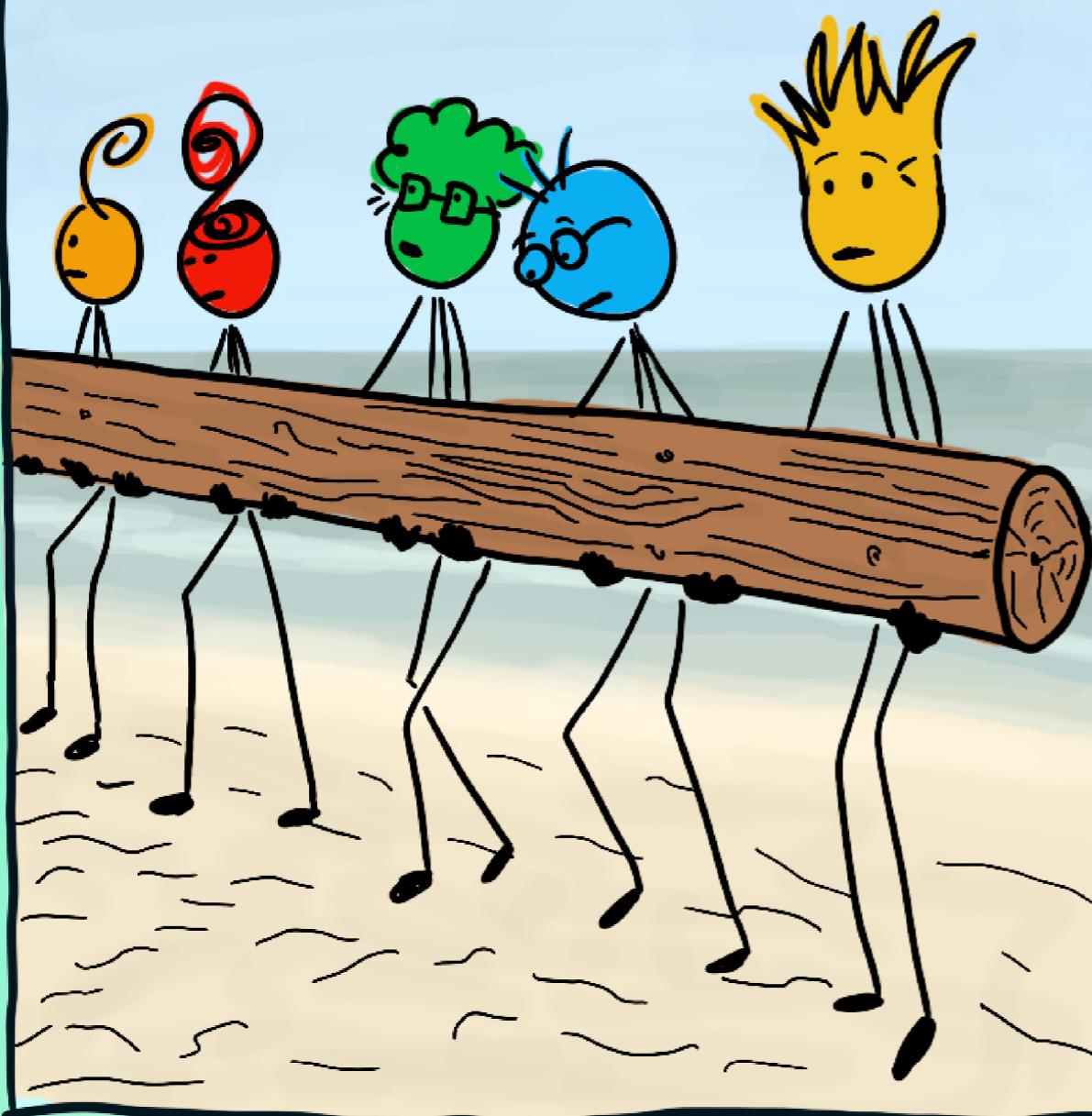


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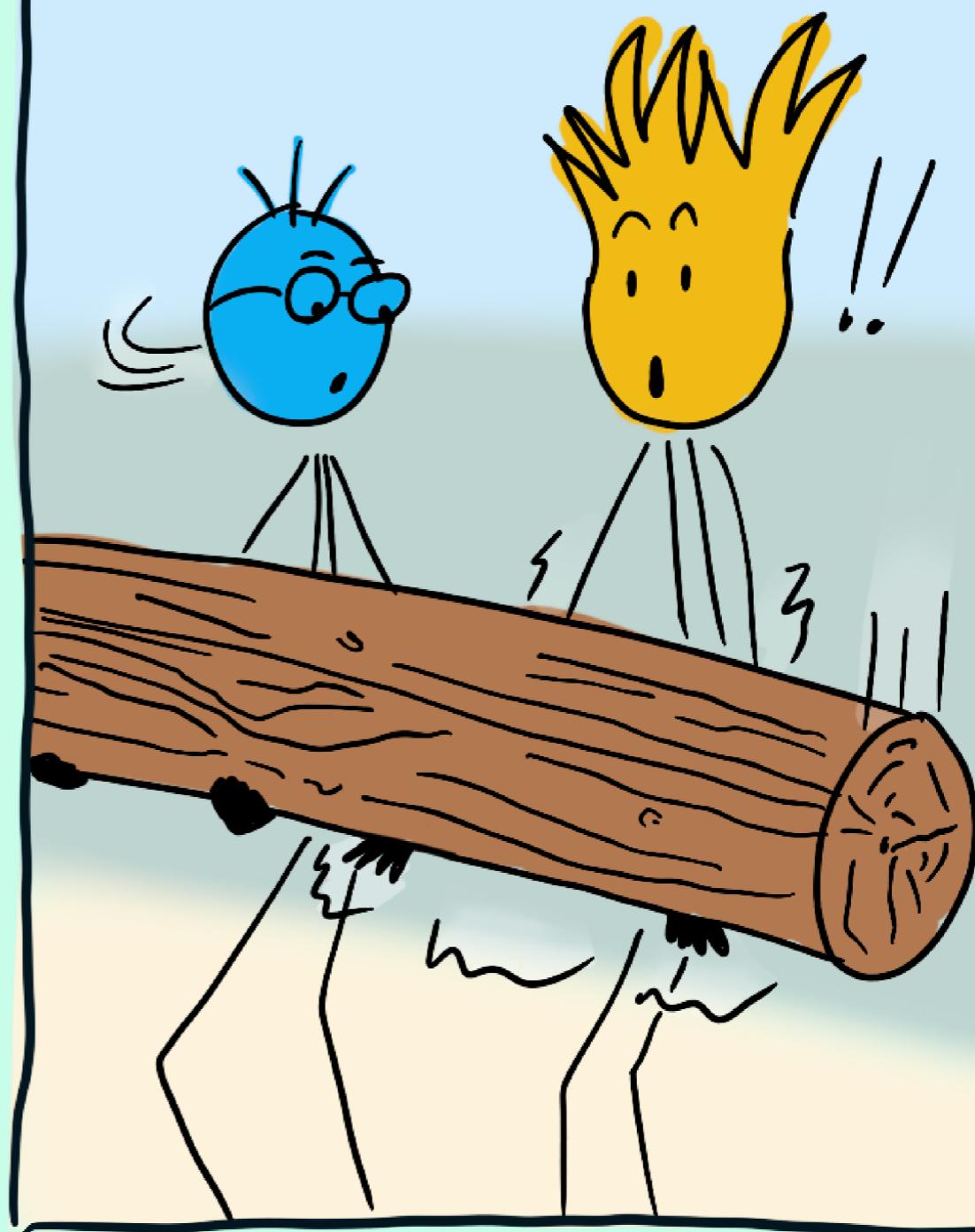
# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

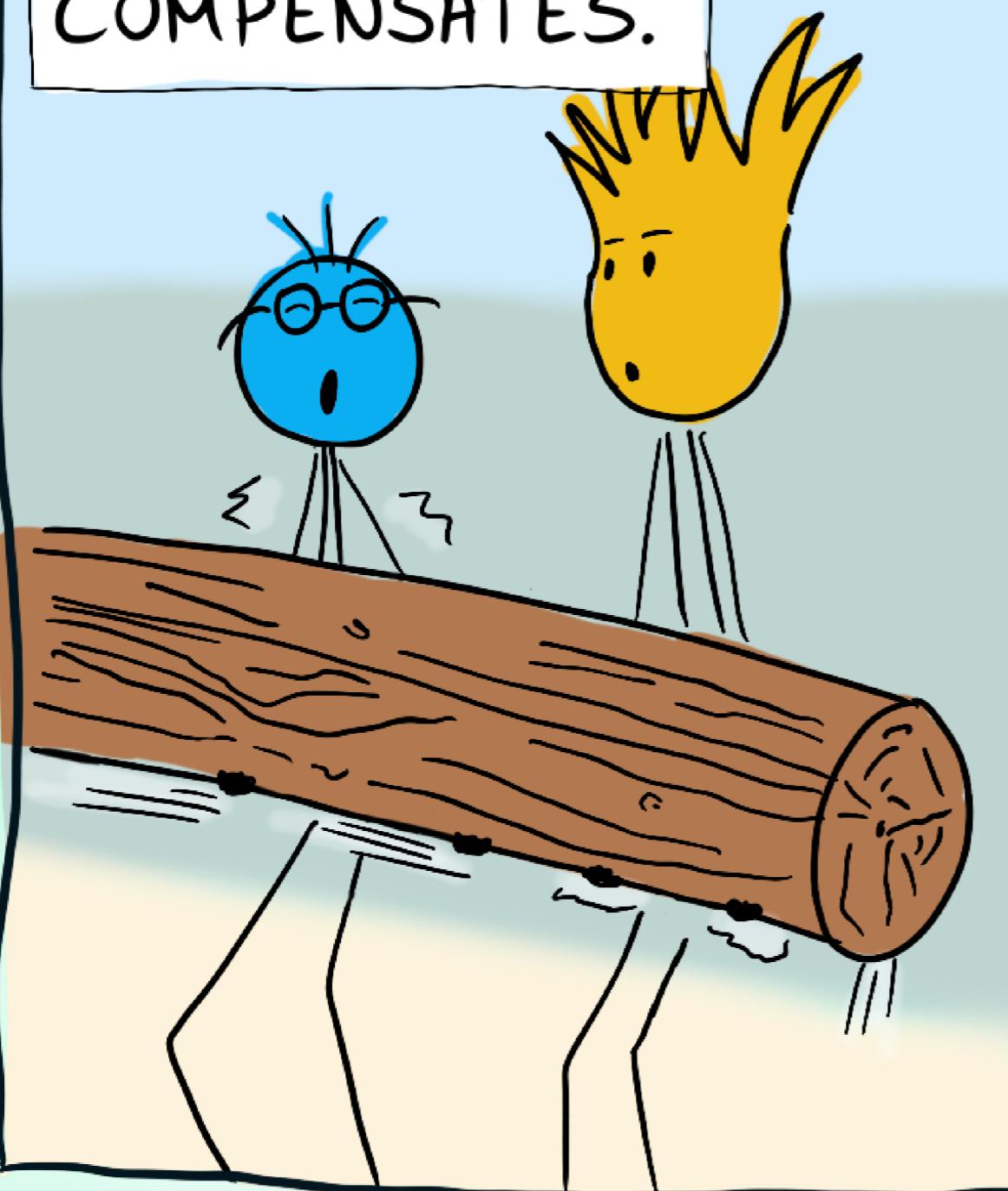
STRONG TEAMS  
SENSE THEIR PEOPLE.



WHEN ONE STRUGGLES...

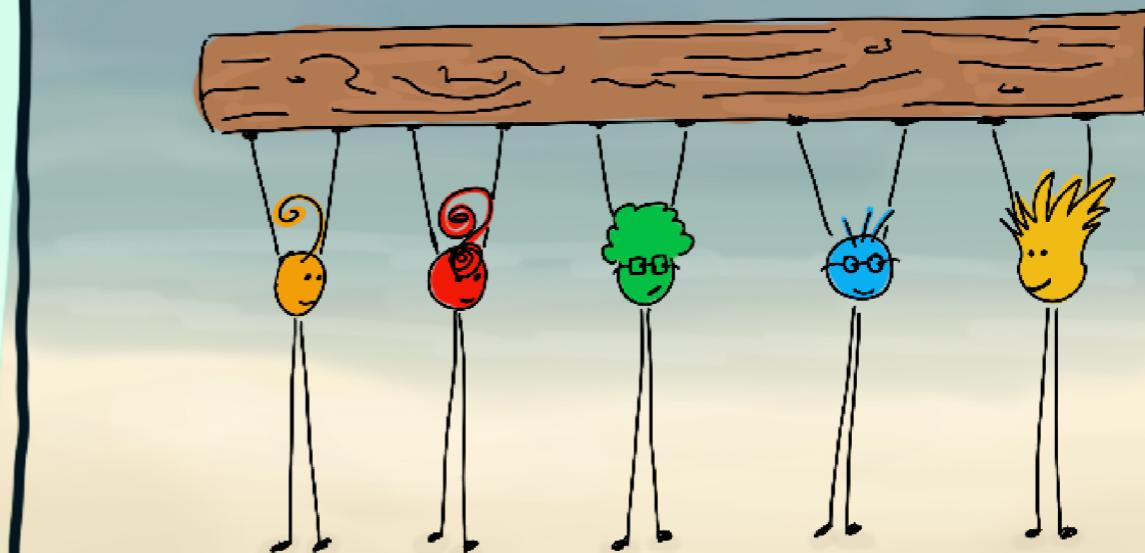


SOMEONE ELSE  
COMPENSATES.



THE PAIN OF ONE IS  
THE PAIN OF THE TEAM!

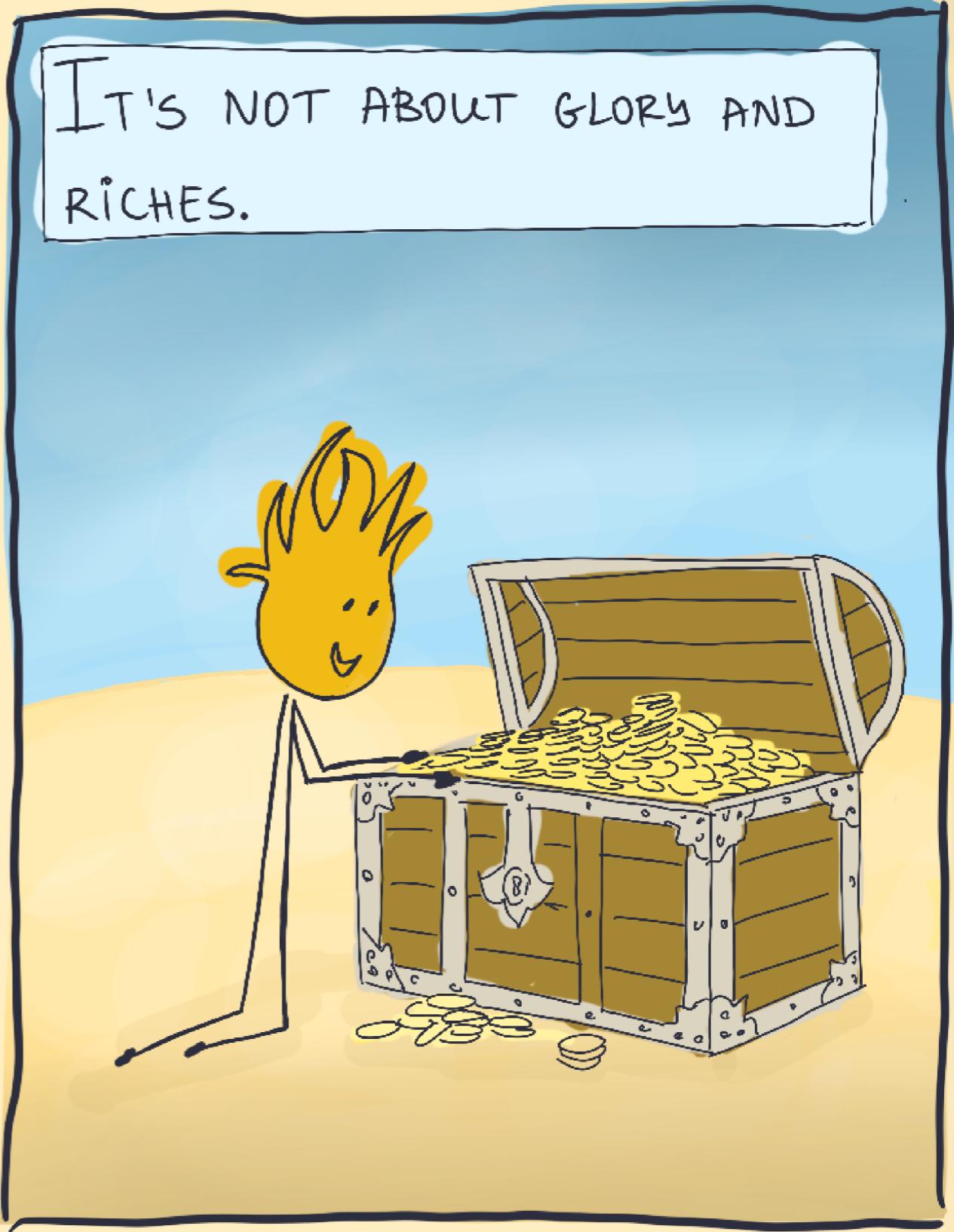
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# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP



4

# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

AS A LEADER I OFTEN FEEL I'M IN A TV DRAMA.



SOMETIMES A HERO...

SOMETIMES THE VILLAIN.



# 5 A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

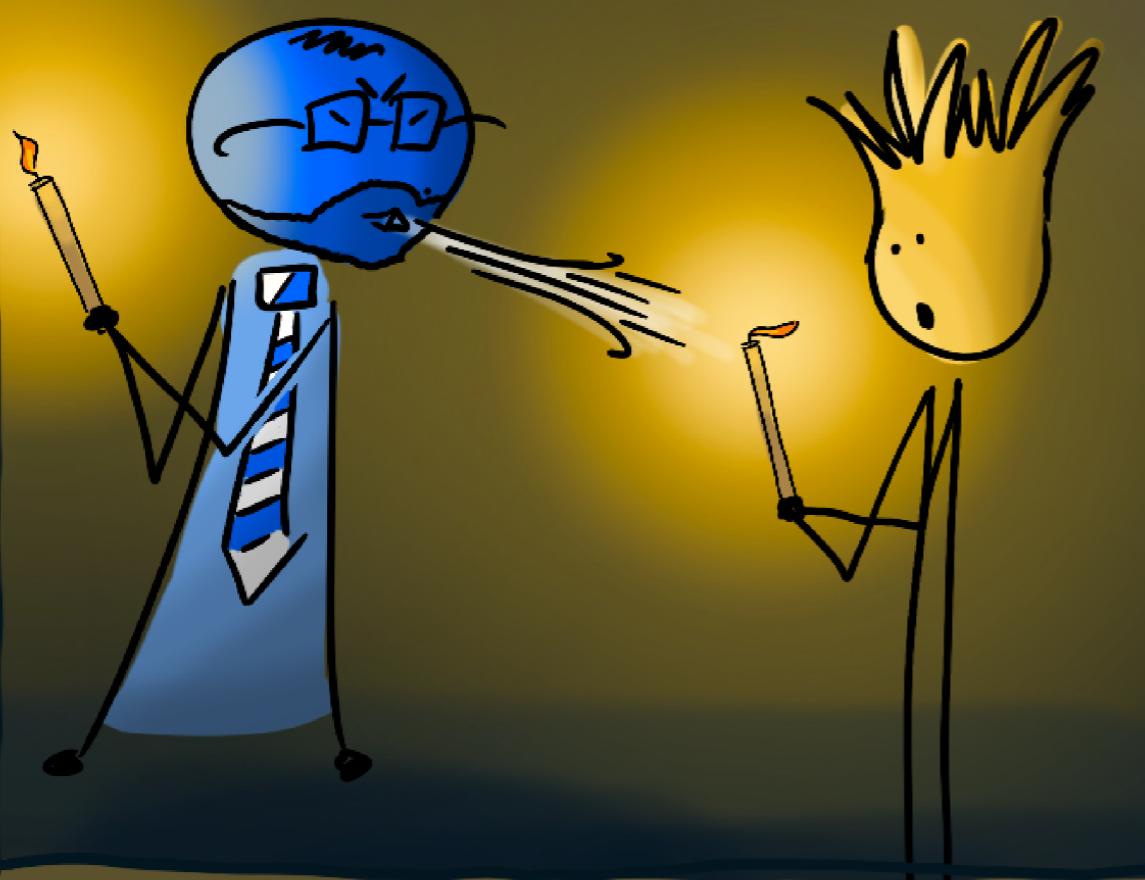


# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

BLOWING OUT SOMEONE ELSE'S CANDLE WON'T MAKE YOURS BRIGHTER.

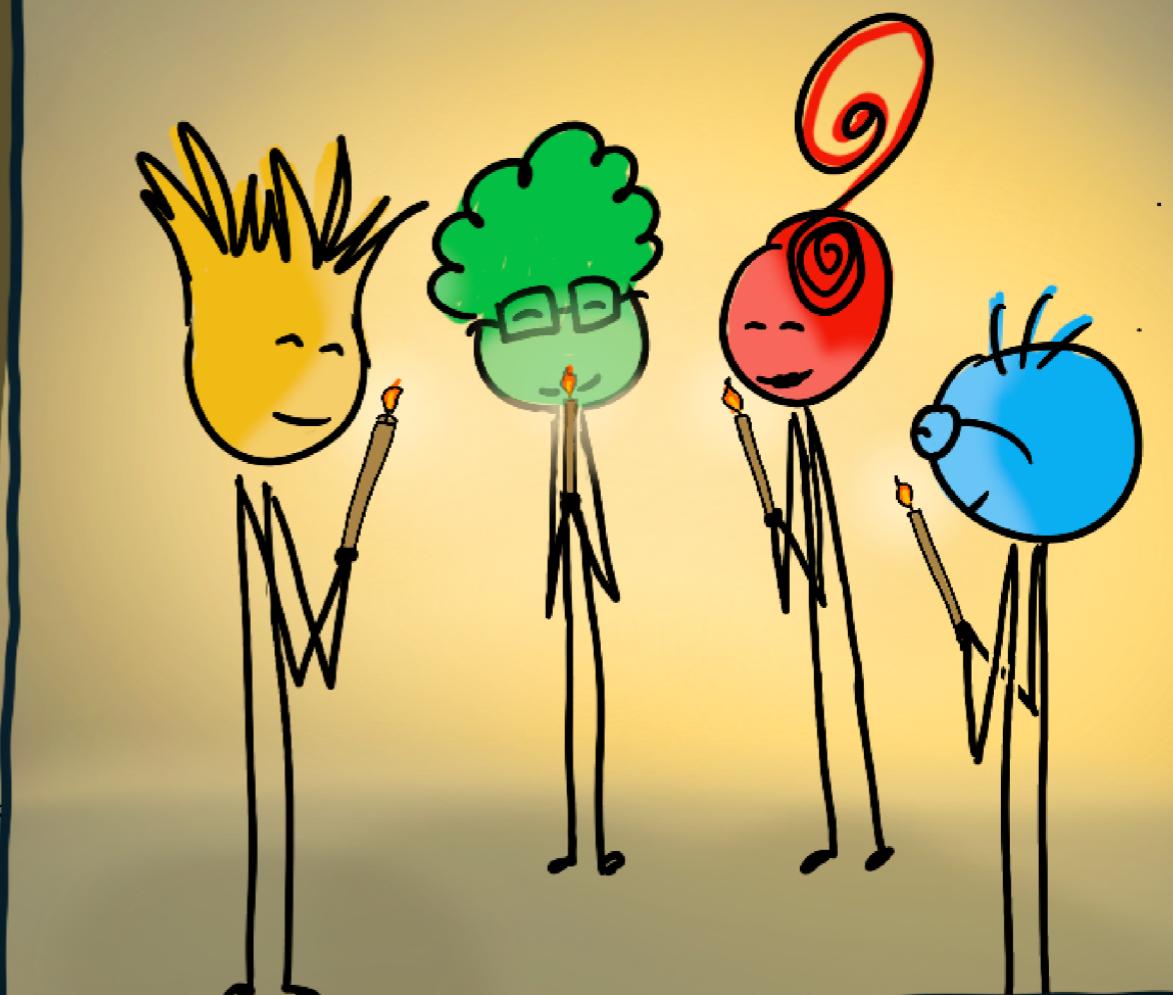
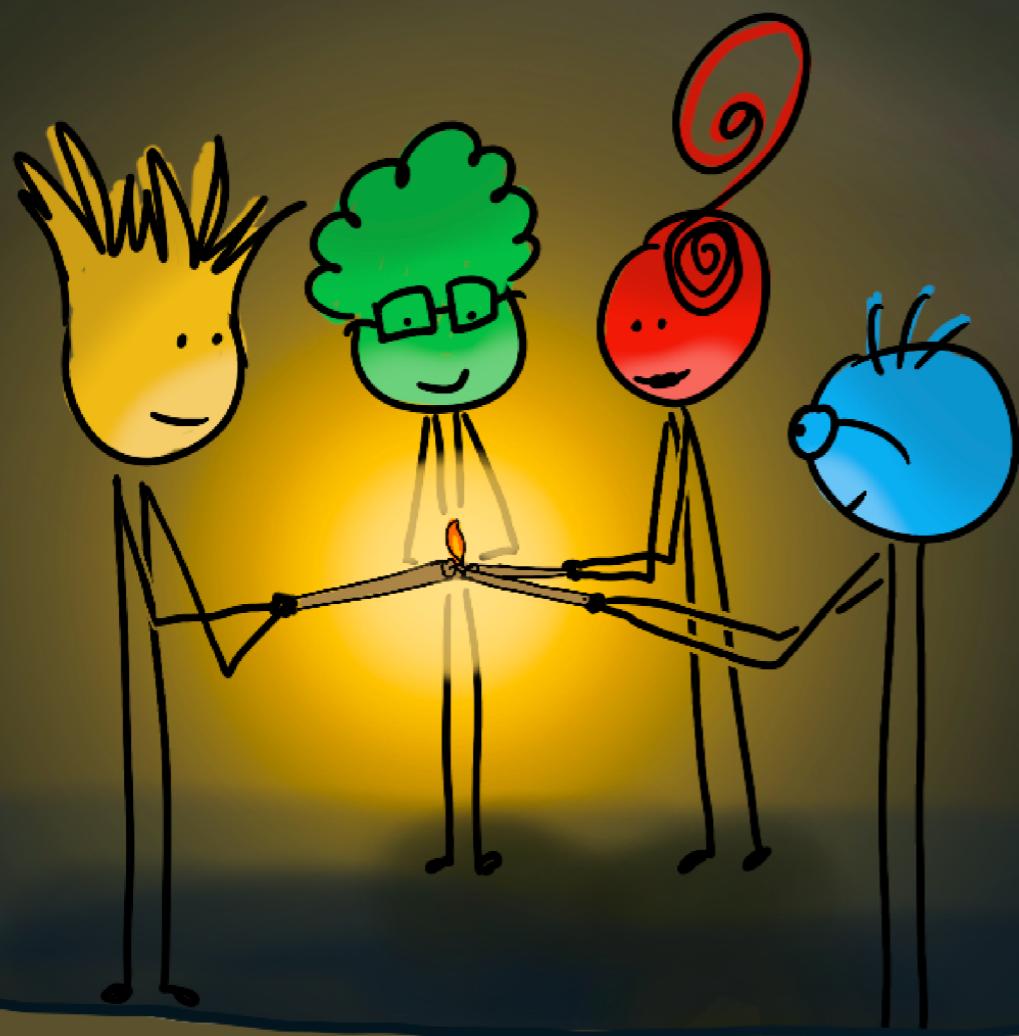
IT JUST MAKES THE ROOM DARKER.



LIGHTING OTHER PEOPLE'S CANDLES

IS WHAT LEADERSHIP IS ALL ABOUT.

SOFT Skills PILLS.COM / A LEADER'S TALE JUN 30, 2022



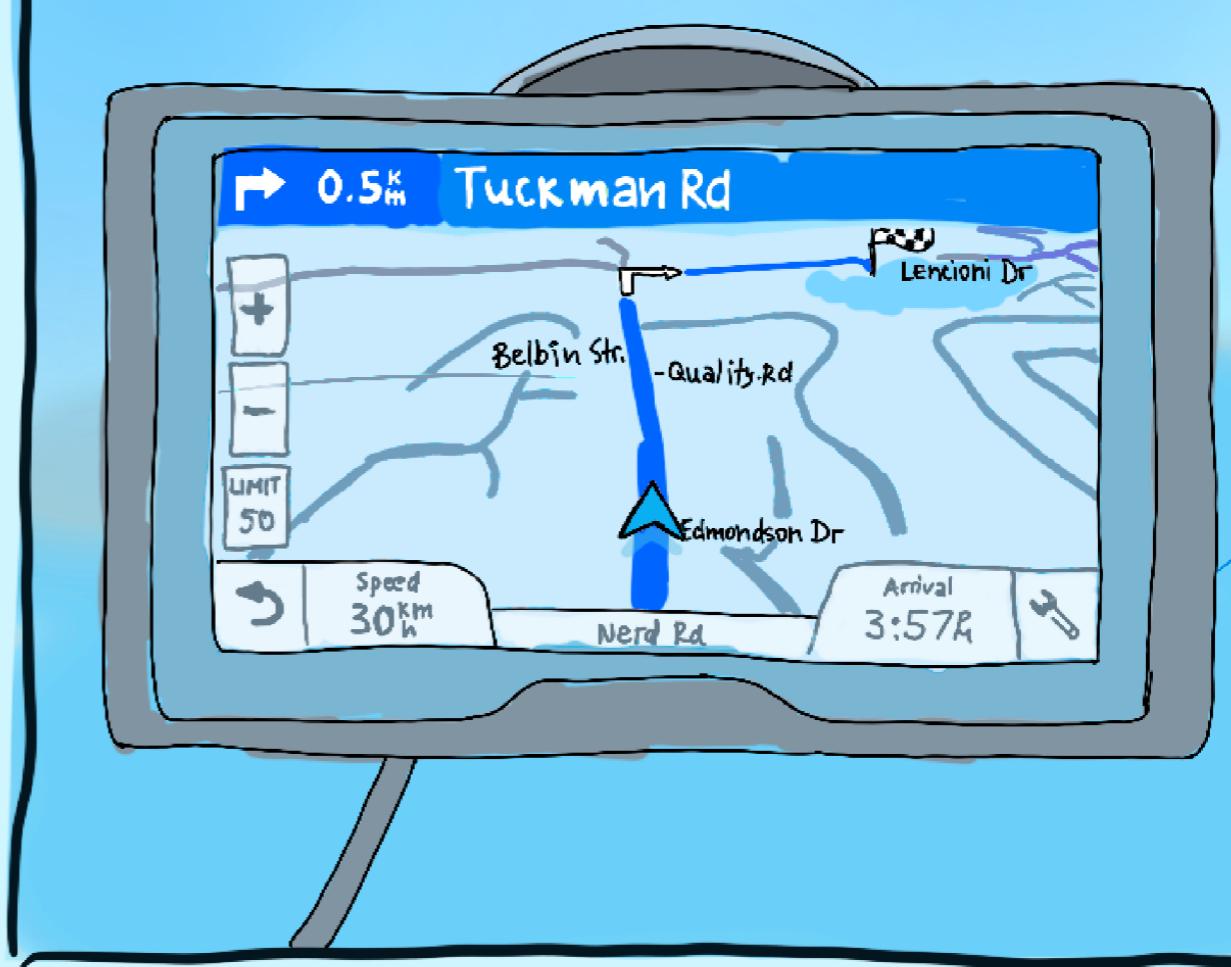
# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

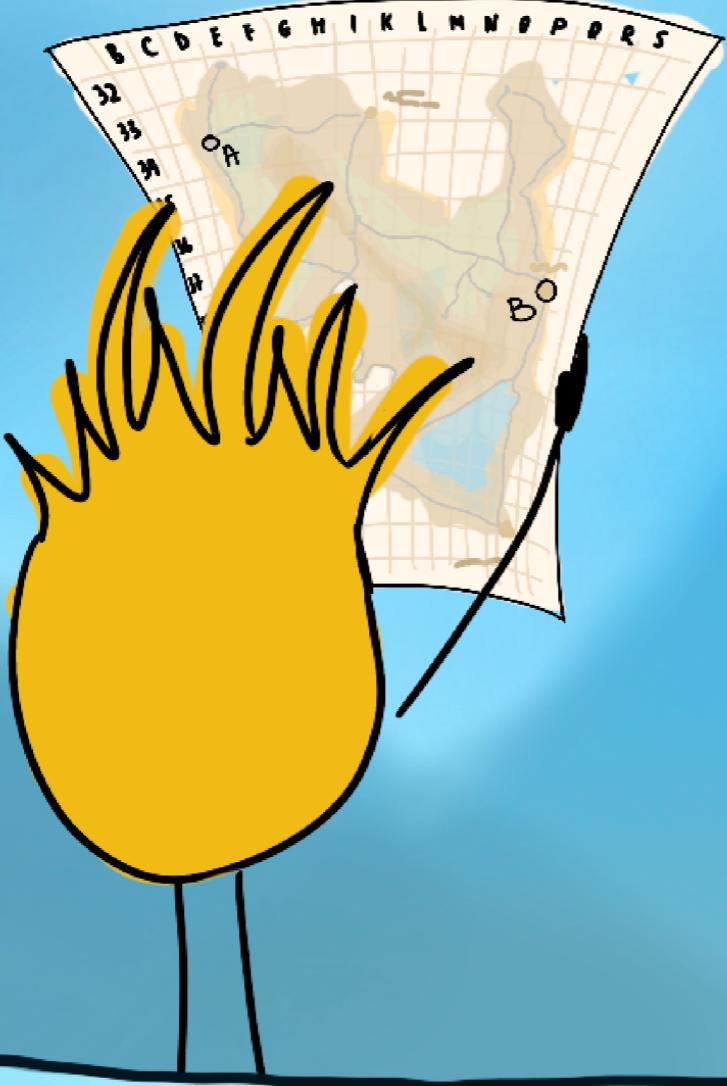
DELEGATION IS NOT  
SOMEONE DOING THE  
WORK YOUR WAY.



GIVE A GPS WHEN  
PEOPLE NEED CLEAR  
INSTRUCTIONS.

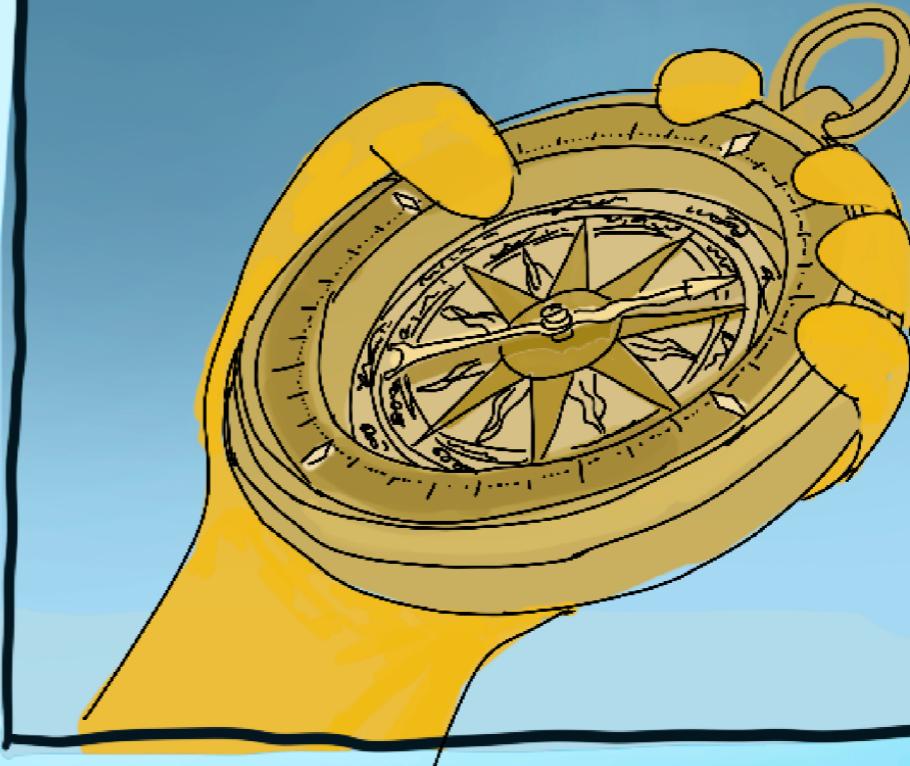


GIVE A MAP WHEN  
PEOPLE NEED GUIDANCE.



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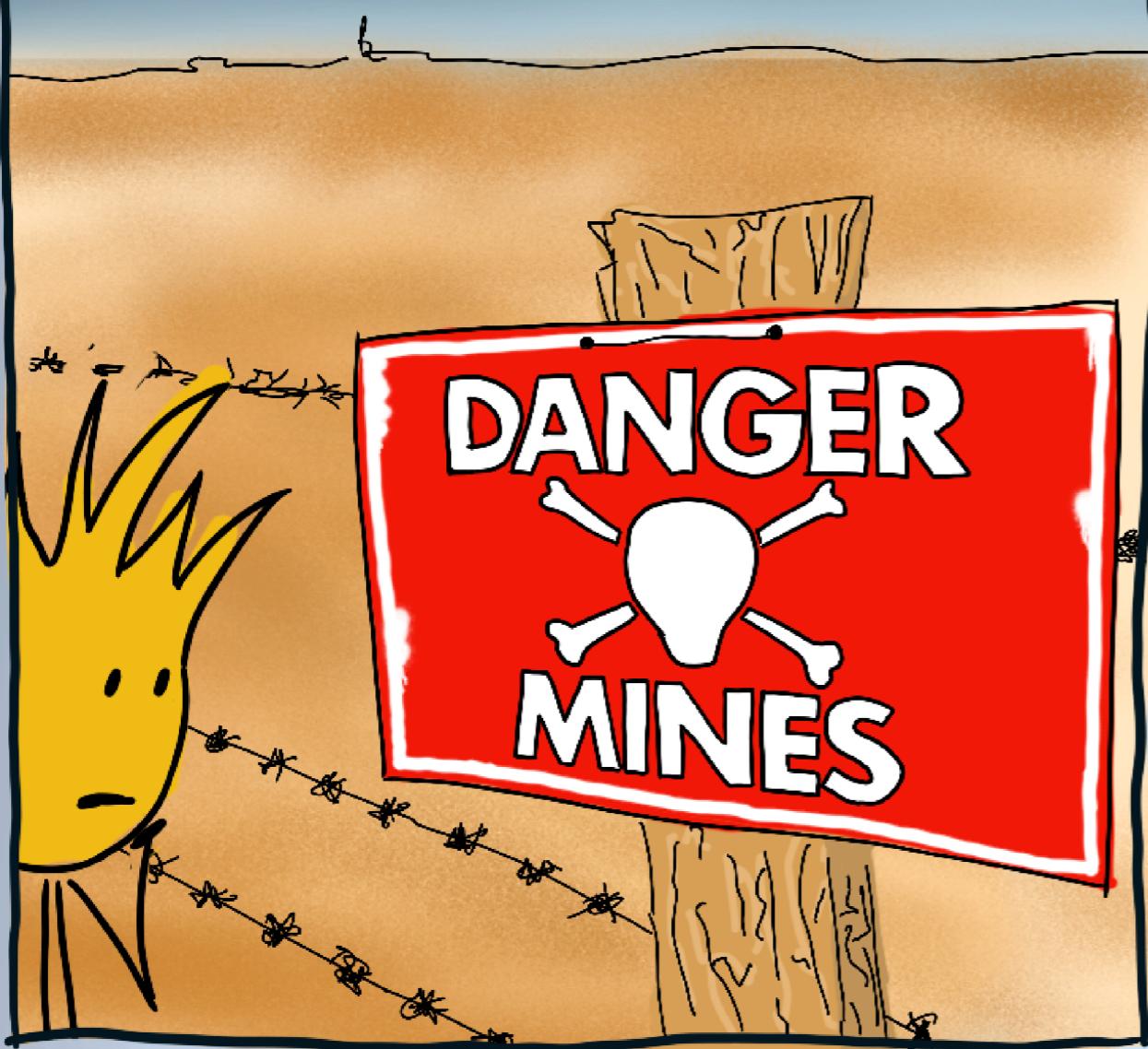
GIVE A COMPASS  
WHEN PEOPLE NEED  
FULL AUTONOMY.



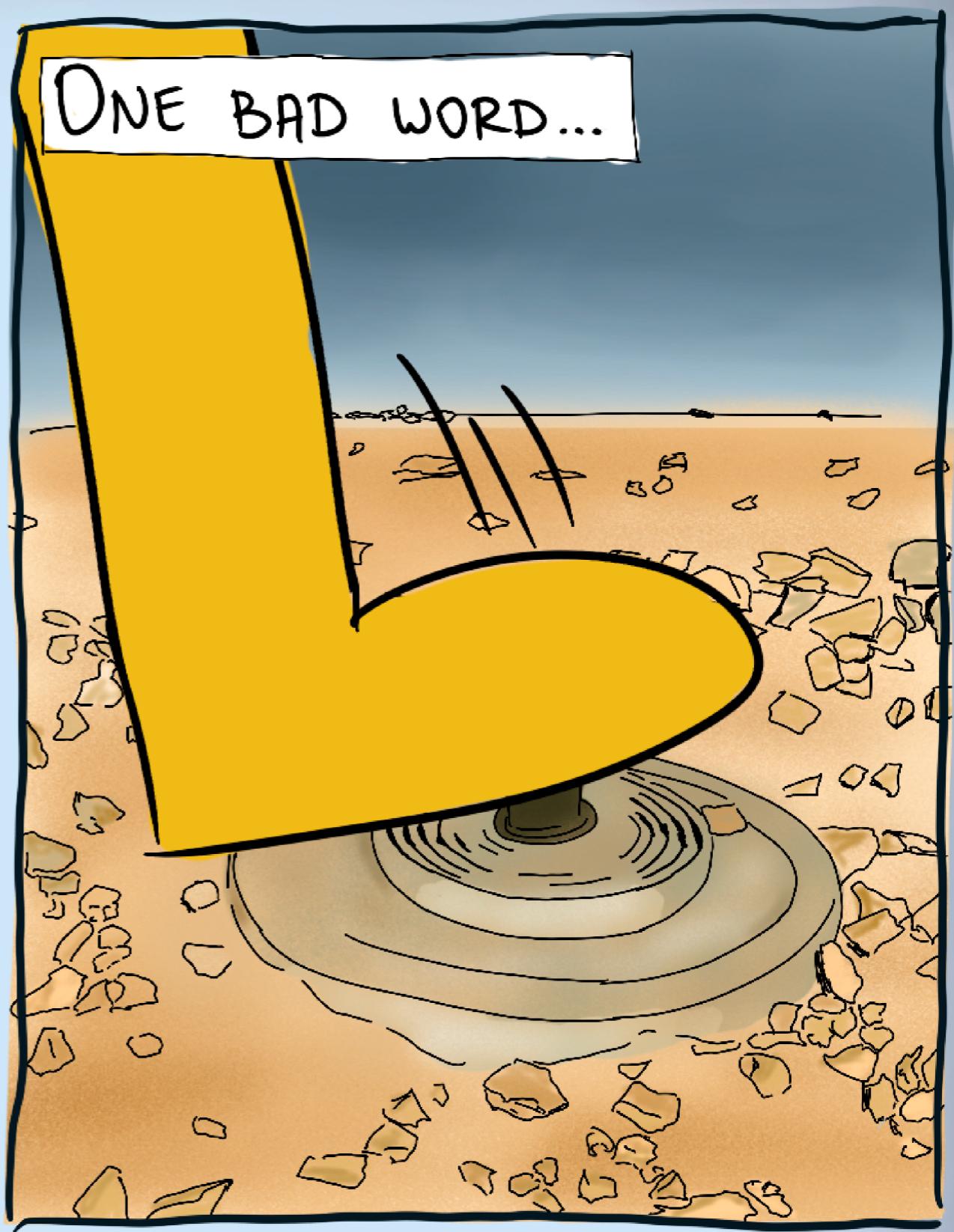
# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

MANAGING CONFLICTS IS LIKE WALKING IN A MINEFIELD.



ONE BAD WORD...



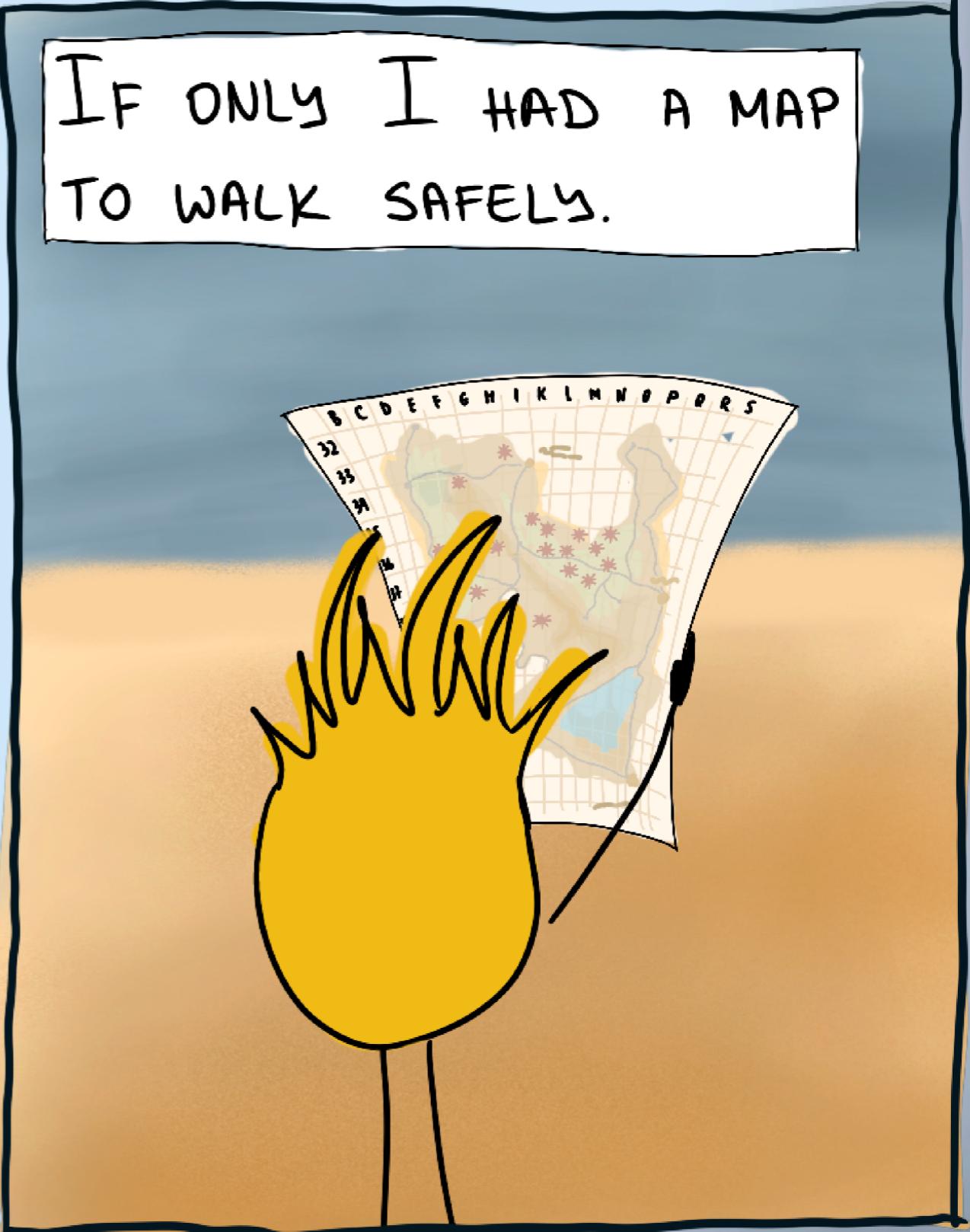
... AND THINGS QUICKLY ESCALATE.



IF ONLY I HAD A MAP TO WALK SAFELY.

MAY 3, 2021

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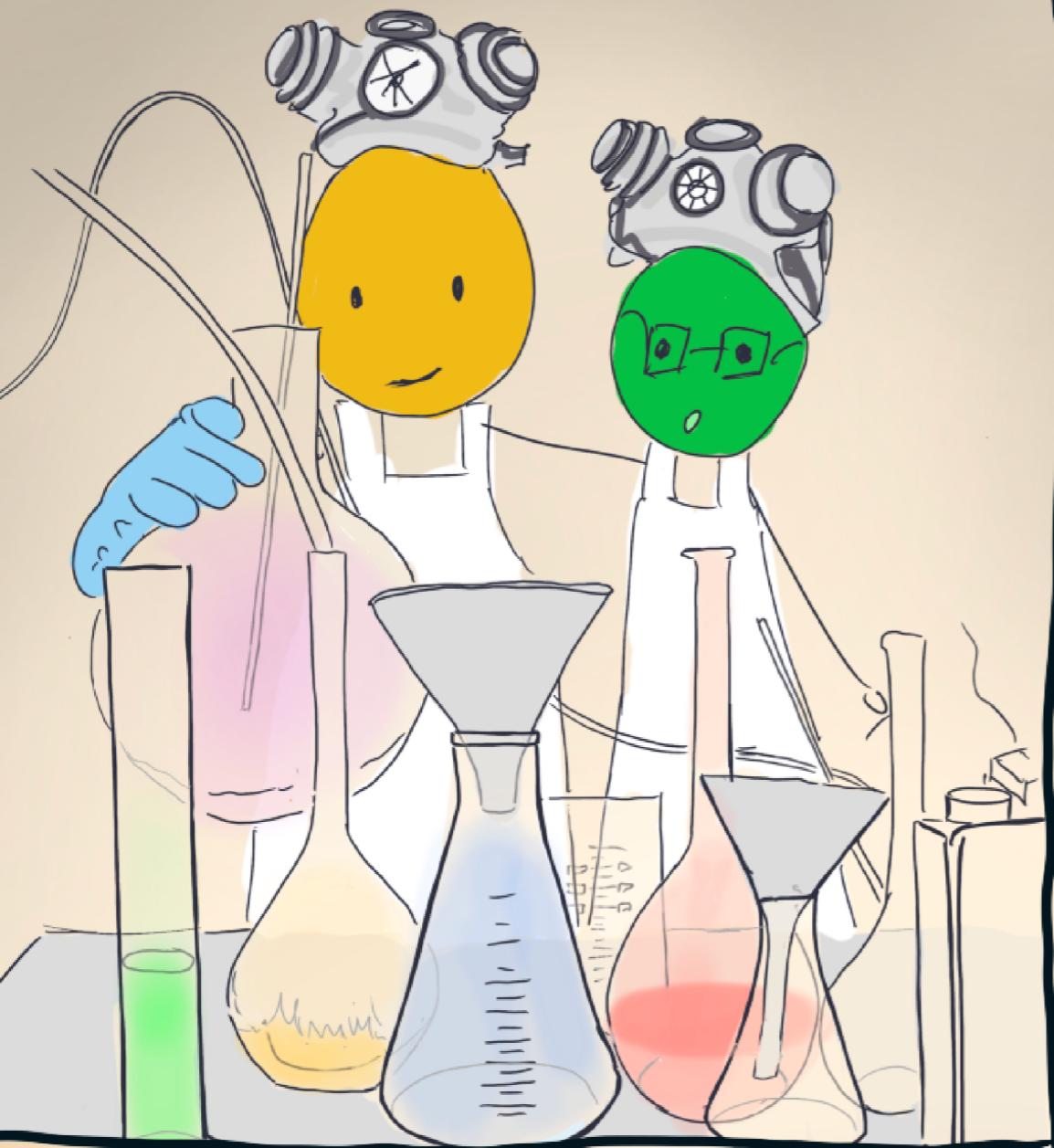


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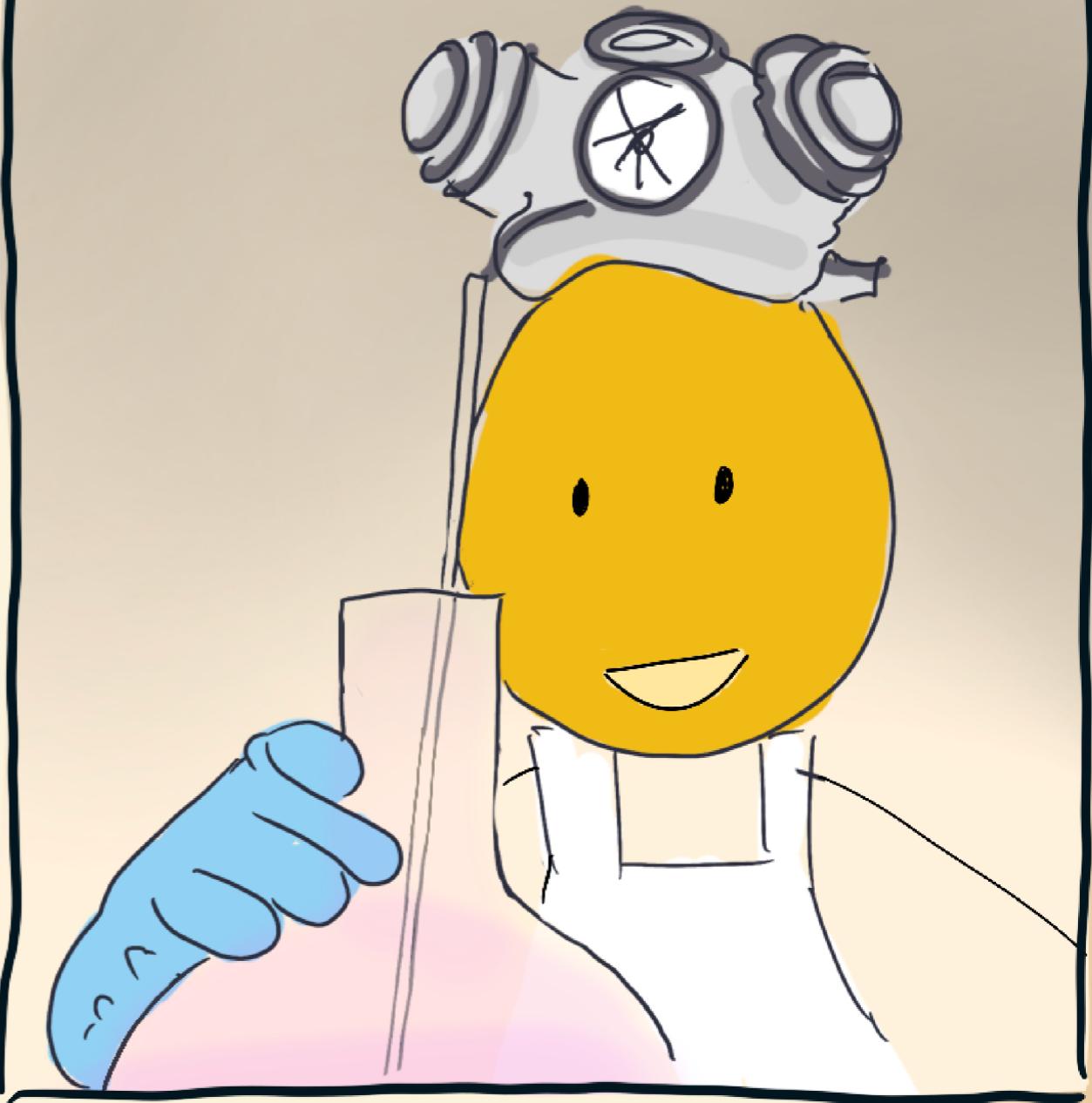
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WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

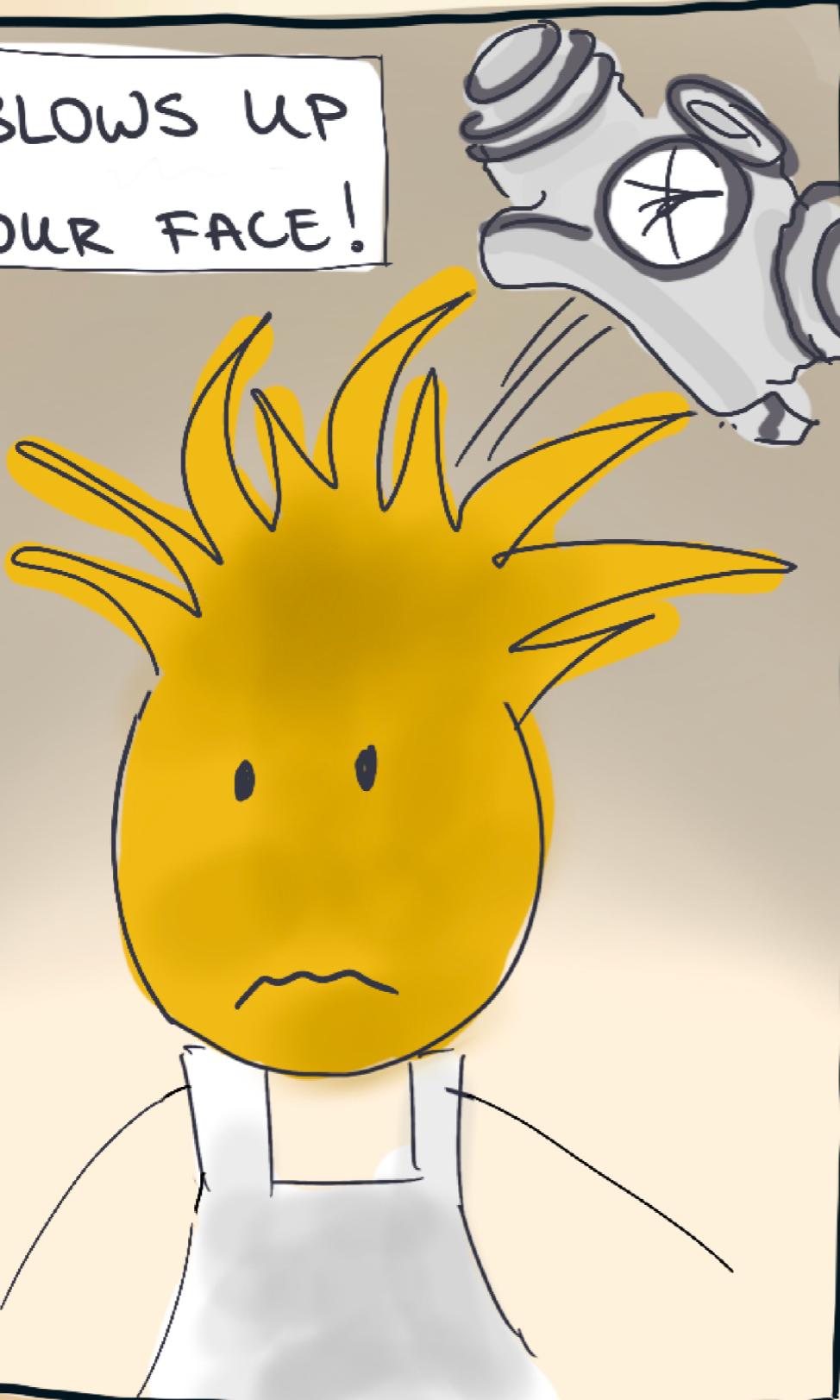
LEADERSHIP IS NOT  
AN EXACT SCIENCE.



EVERY TIME YOU THINK  
YOU'VE FOUND A FORMULA...



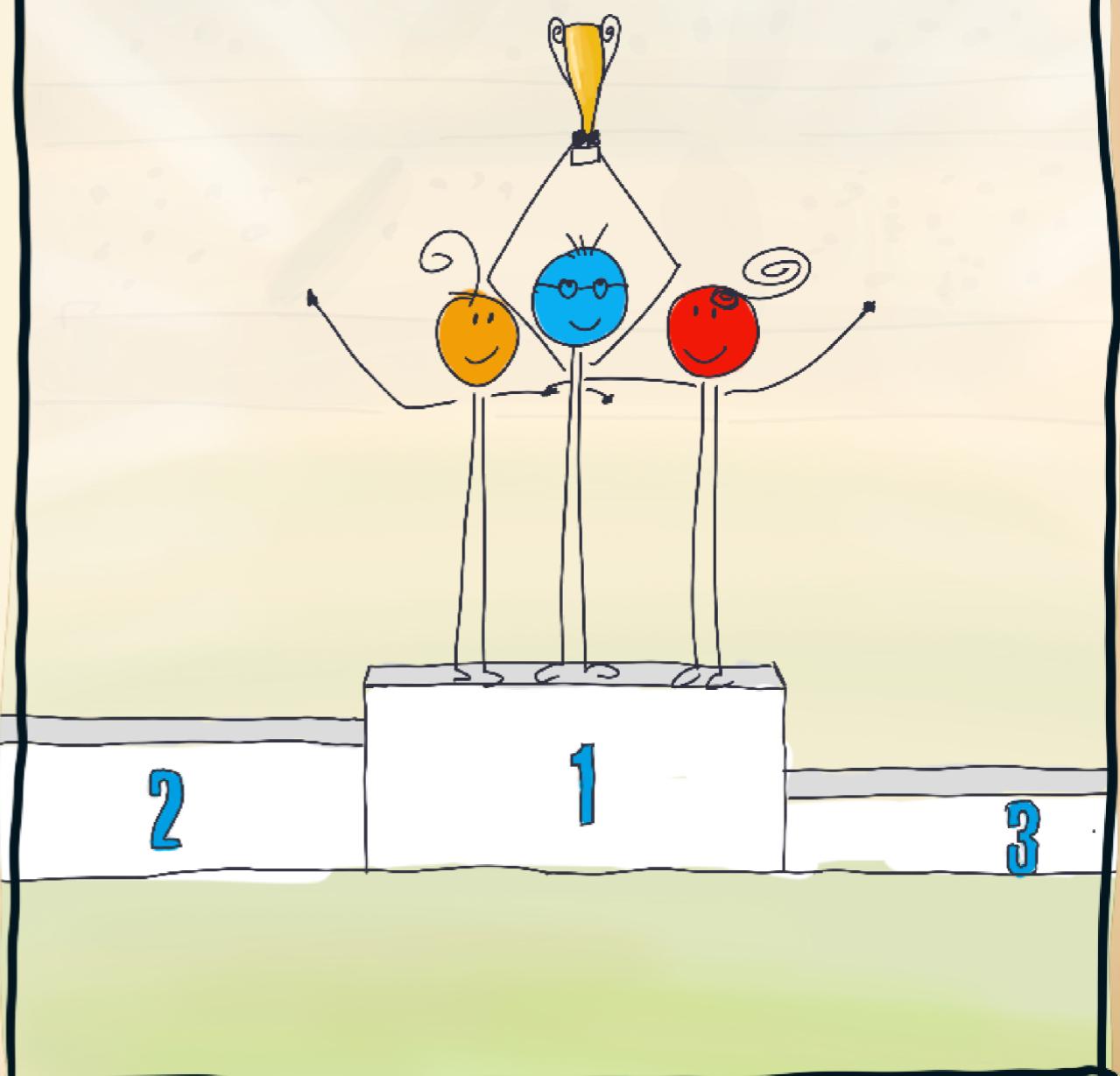
IT BLOWS UP  
IN YOUR FACE!



JUL 18, 2021

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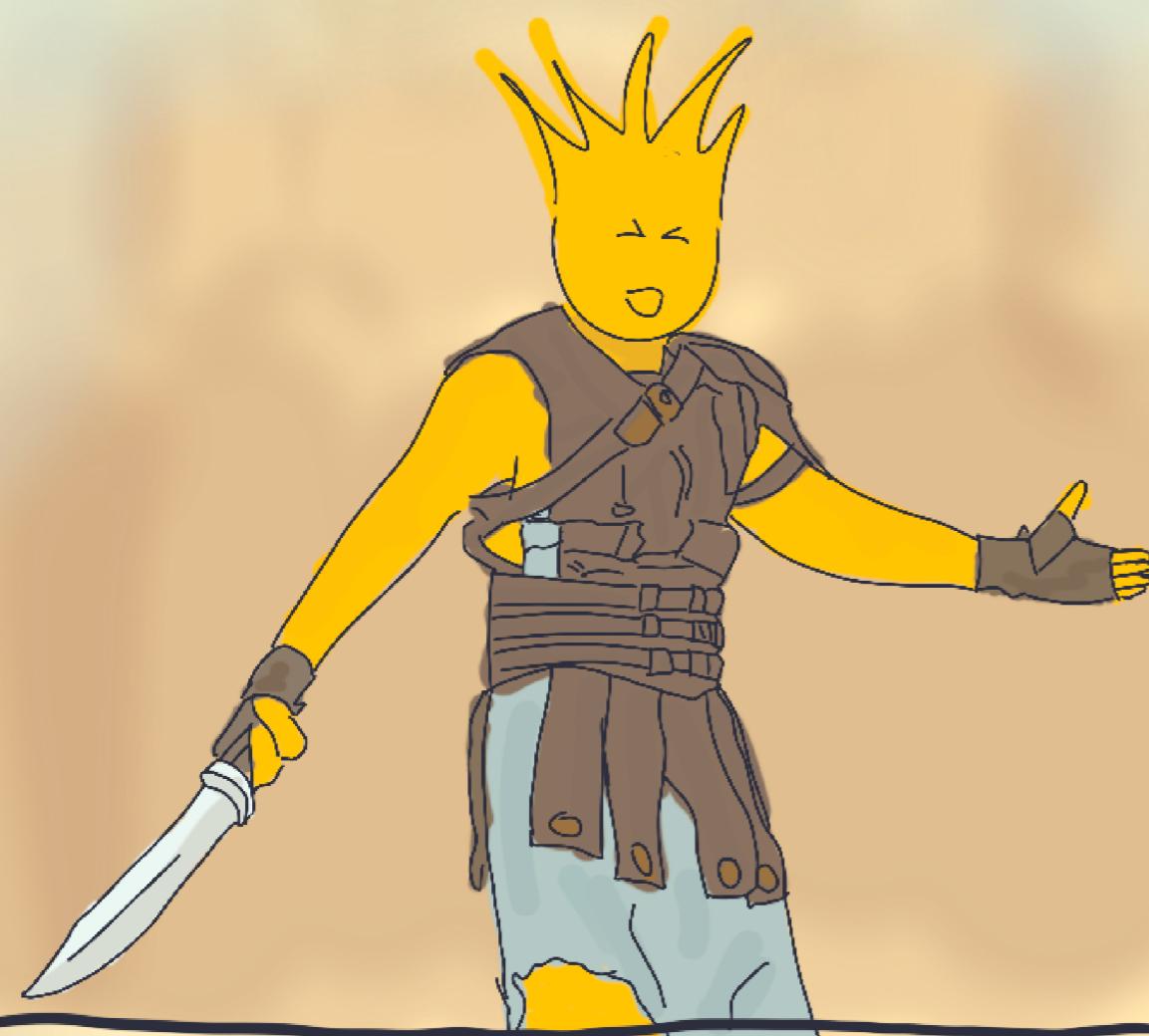
JUST THINK PEOPLE FIRST!



# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

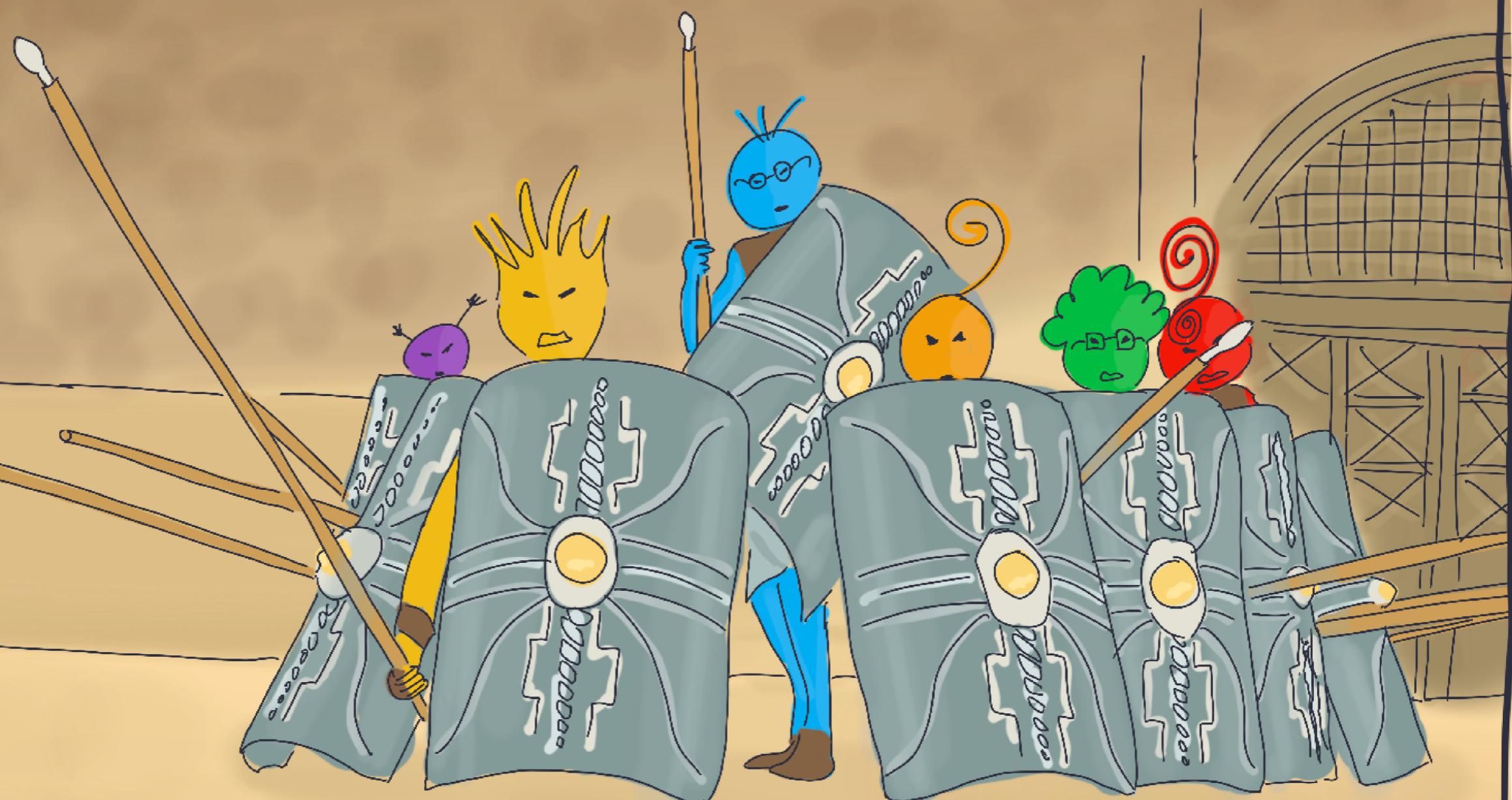
A LEADER IS NOT STRONG...



...IF HE CAN DEFEAT  
ANY ENEMY ON HIS OWN.

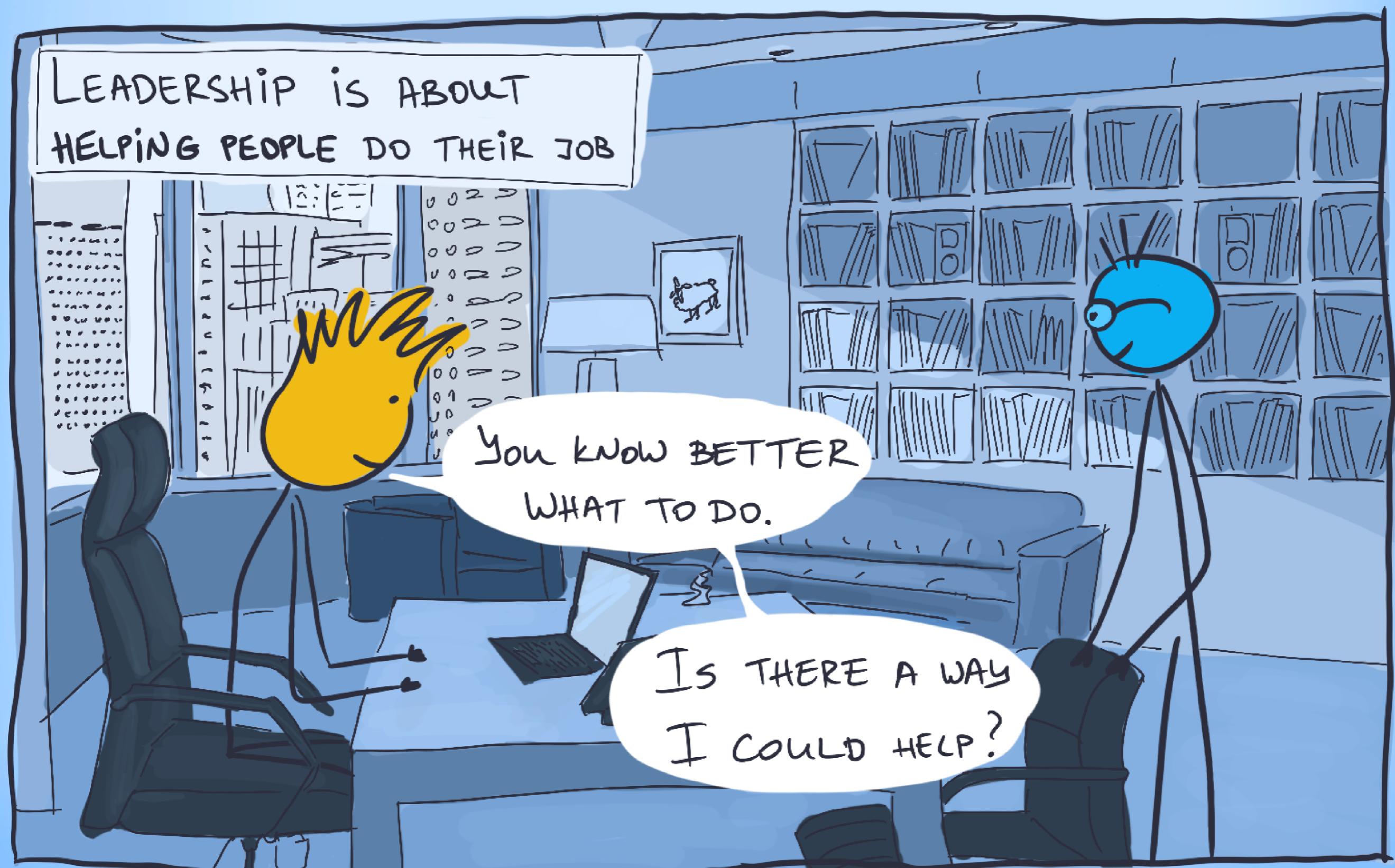


A LEADER IS STRONG IF HE CAN UNITE PEOPLE TO FIGHT TOGETHER.



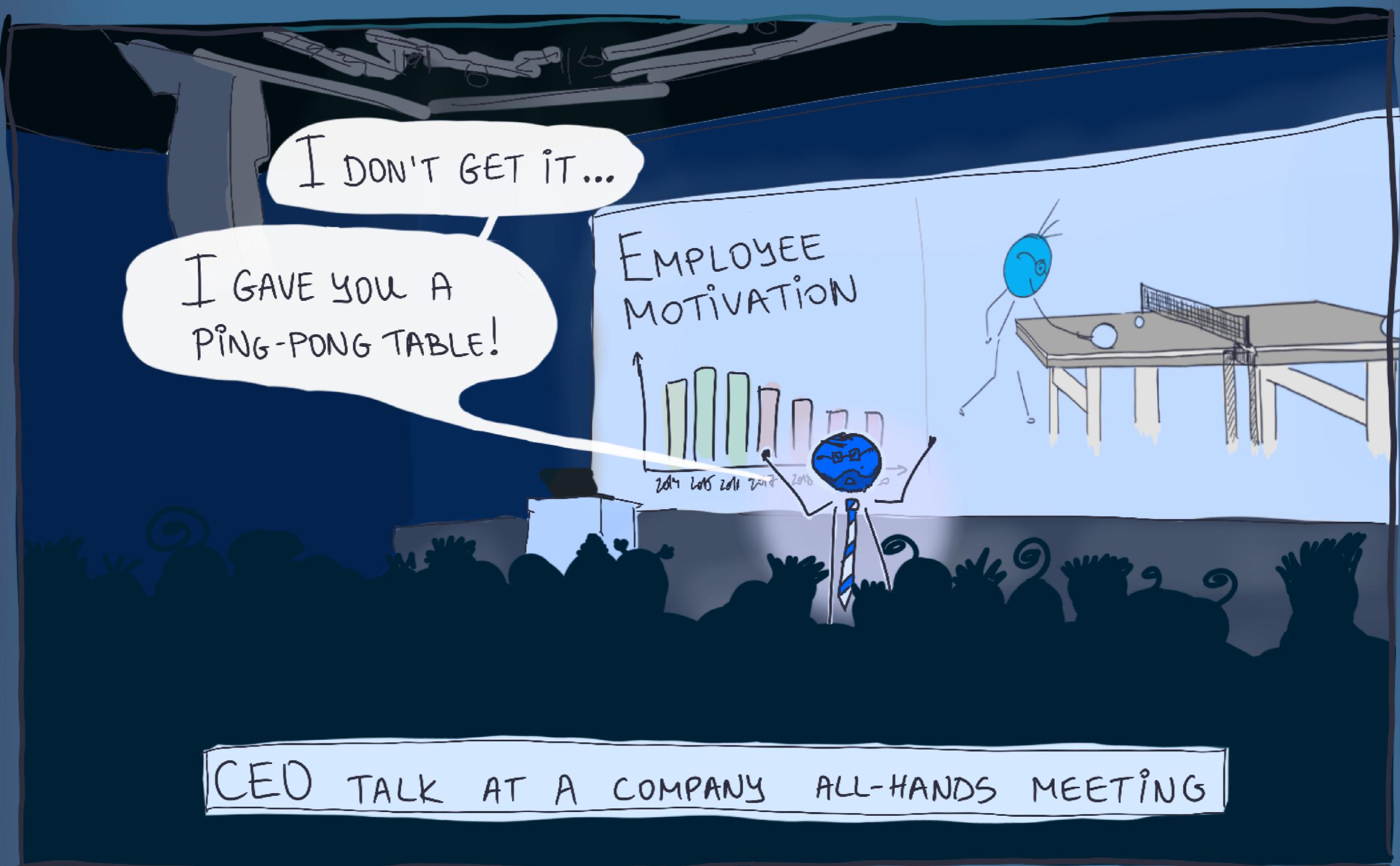
# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP



# A LEADER'S TALE

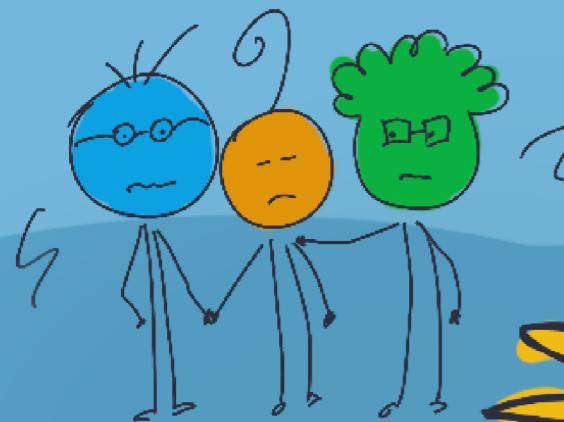
WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP



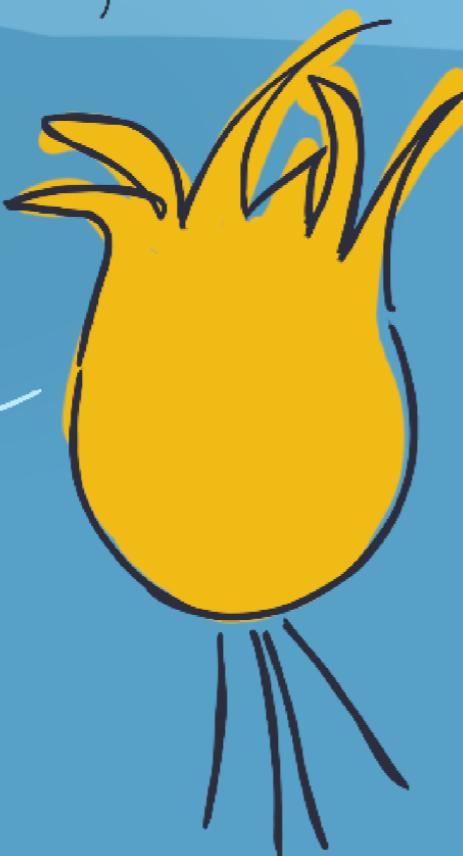
# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP IS NOT ABOUT  
BEING CONFIDENT



I KNOW  
YOU ARE  
WORRIED



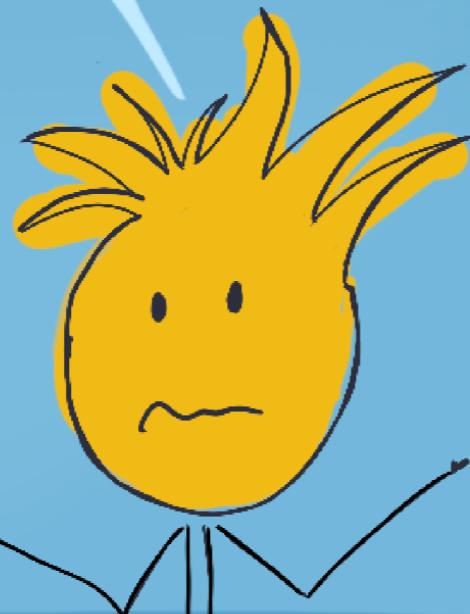
IT'S ABOUT BEING HONEST

THE  
SITUATION  
IS BAD



AND VULNERABLE

I'M WORRIED AS WELL.  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN.



IT'S ABOUT TAKING ACTION  
IN THE FACE OF THE UNKNOWN

BUT I BELIEVE WE  
SHOULD GO THERE...



# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

INSPIRED BY  
ADAM GRANT'S  
"THINK AGAIN"

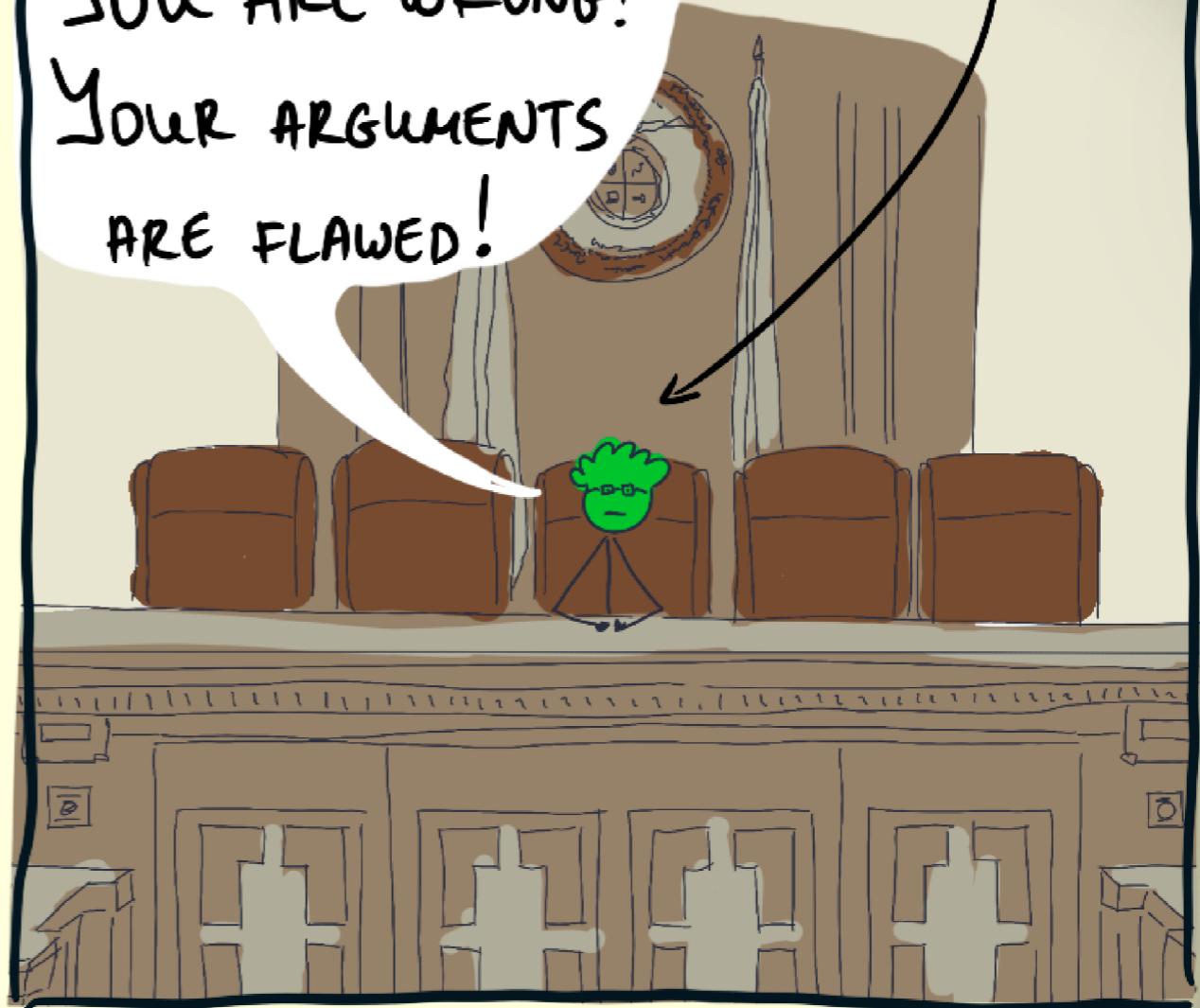
WHEN WE THINK AND TALK WE OFTEN SLIP INTO THESE THREE MODES.

THE PREACHER



THE PROSECUTOR

YOU ARE WRONG!  
YOUR ARGUMENTS  
ARE FLAWED!



THE POLITICIAN

I WANT YOU ALL  
TO SUPPORT ME!



OCT 26, 2021

IF YOU MOVE INTO SCIENTIST MODE, YOU'LL BE AWARE OF THE LIMITS OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SEEK THE TRUTH.

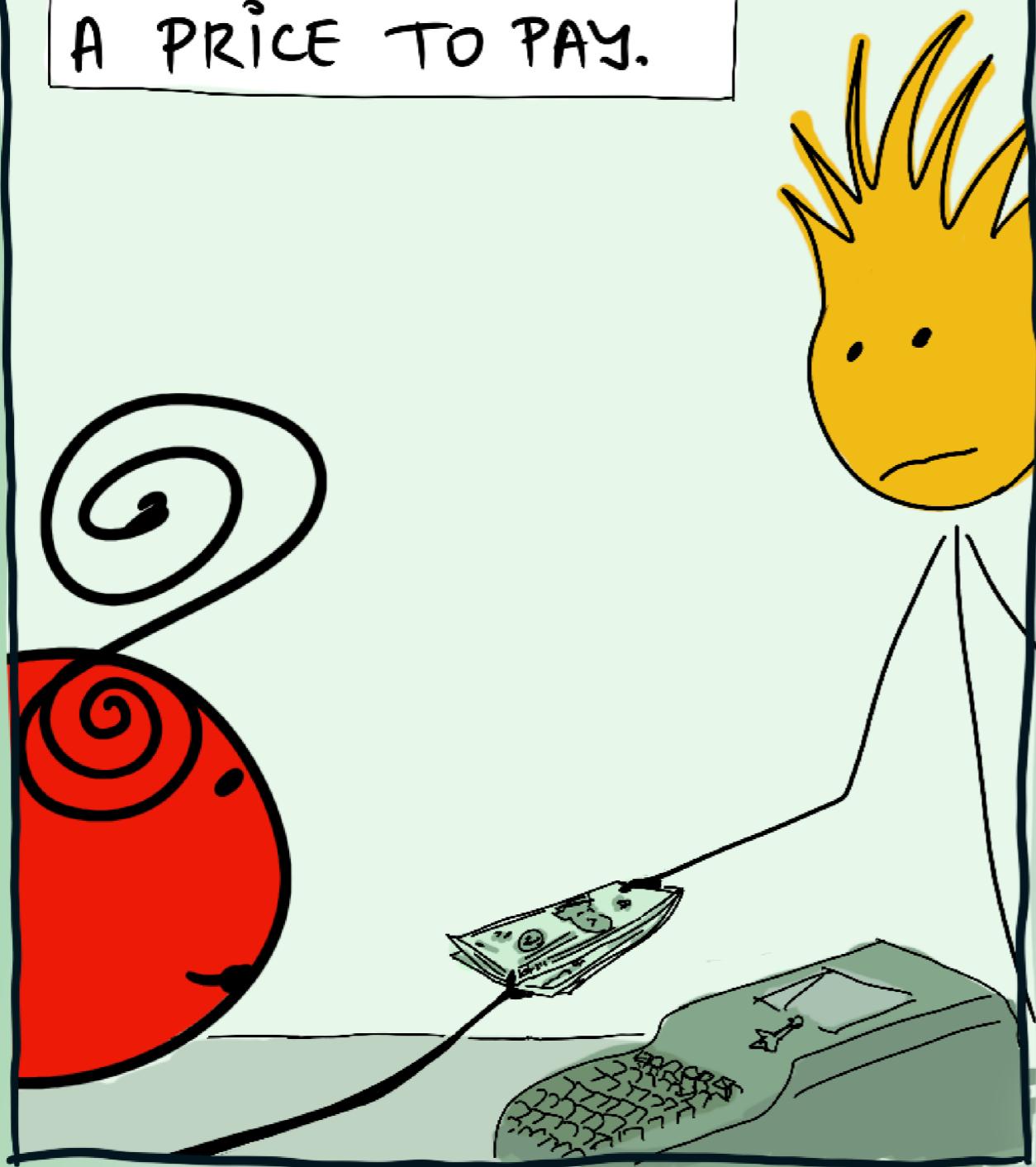
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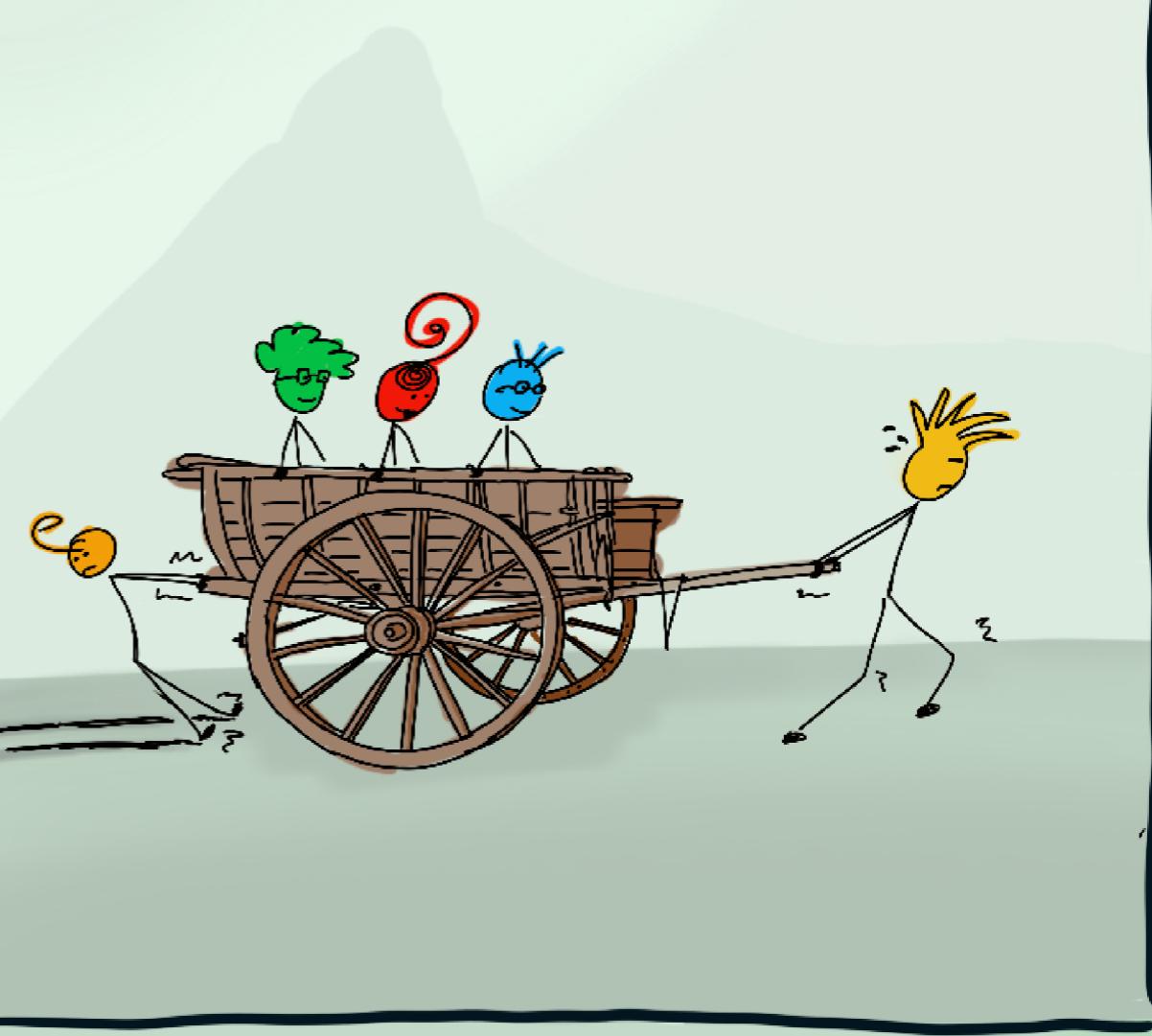
# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP HAS  
A PRICE TO PAY.



YOU PULL PEOPLE WHO  
DON'T WANT TO BE PULLED.

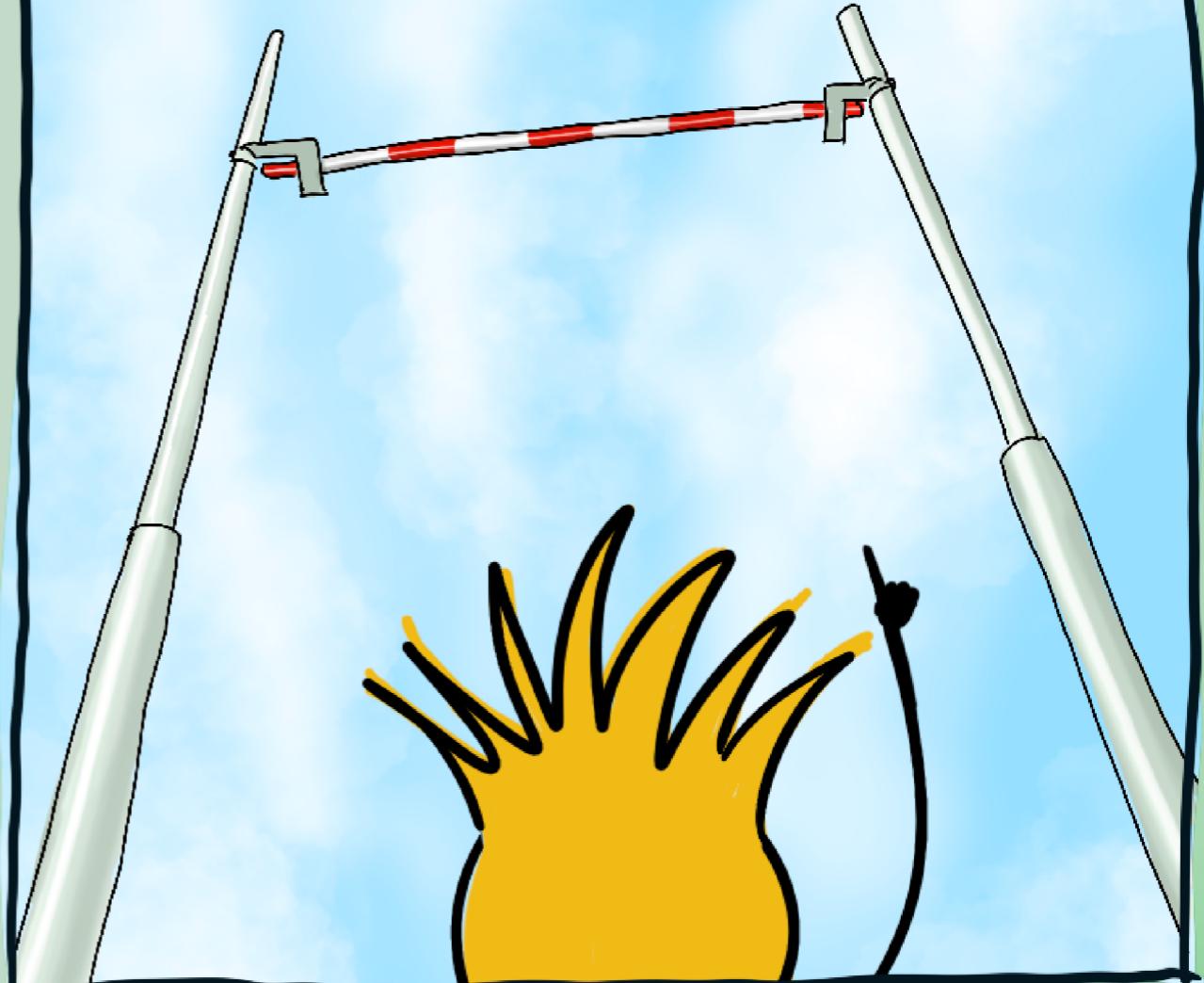


YOU CHALLENGE PEOPLE  
WHO DON'T WANT TO BE  
CHALLENGED.

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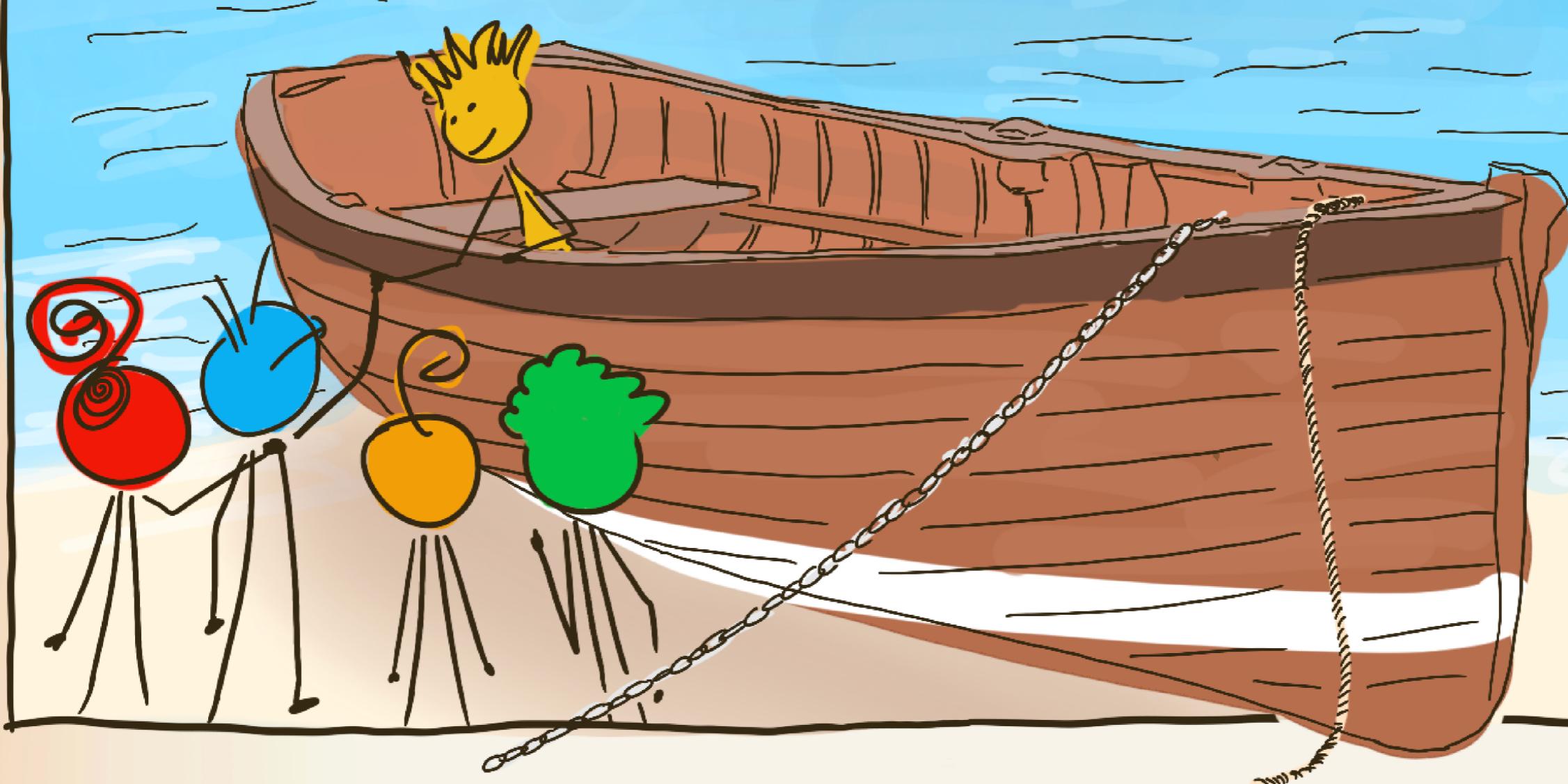
BUT IT'S YOUR JOB TO  
SET THE STANDARDS HIGH.



# A LEADER'S TALE

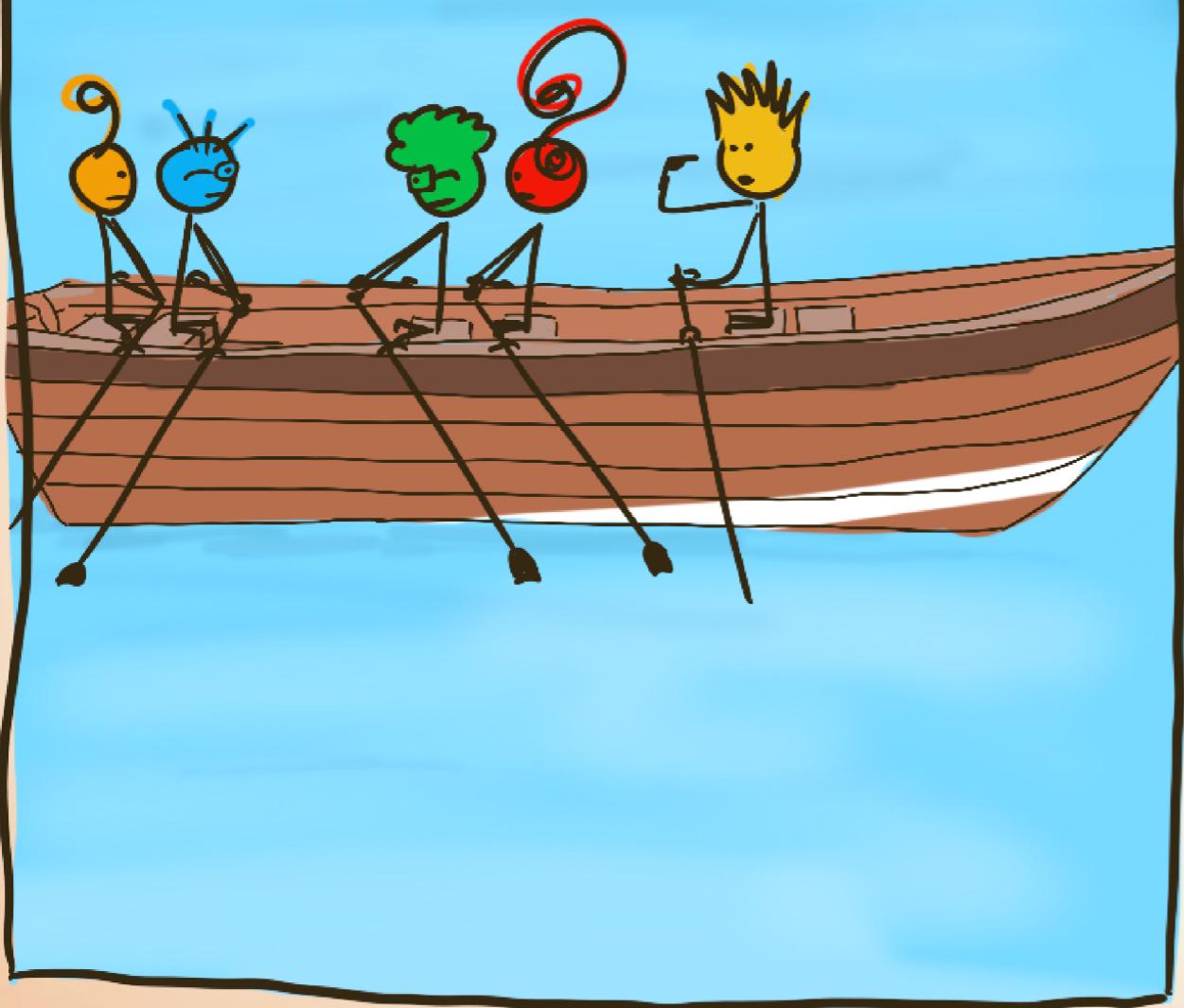
WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

A LEADER'S JOB DOESN'T END WITH FINDING THE RIGHT CREW...



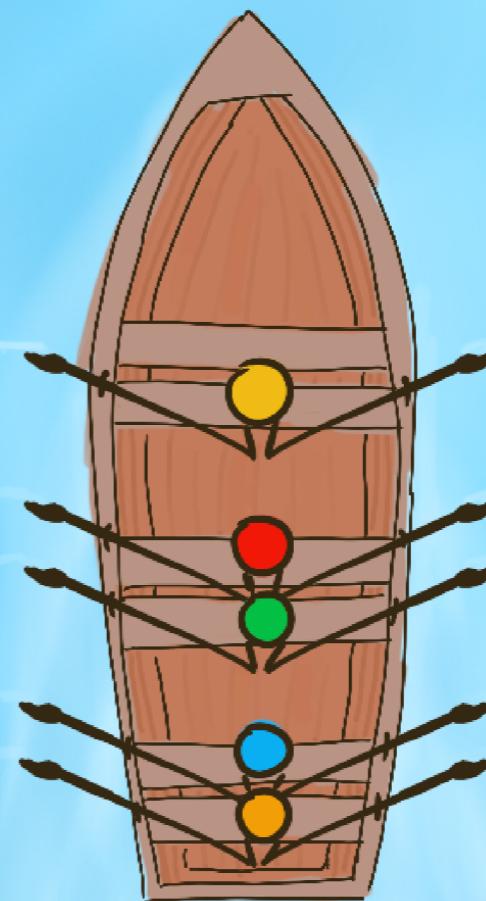
IT'S ABOUT HELPING THEM  
ROW IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

FEB 18, 2021



AND ROW TO THE  
SAME BEAT.

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# A LEADER'S TALE

WEBCOMICS ABOUT LEADERSHIP

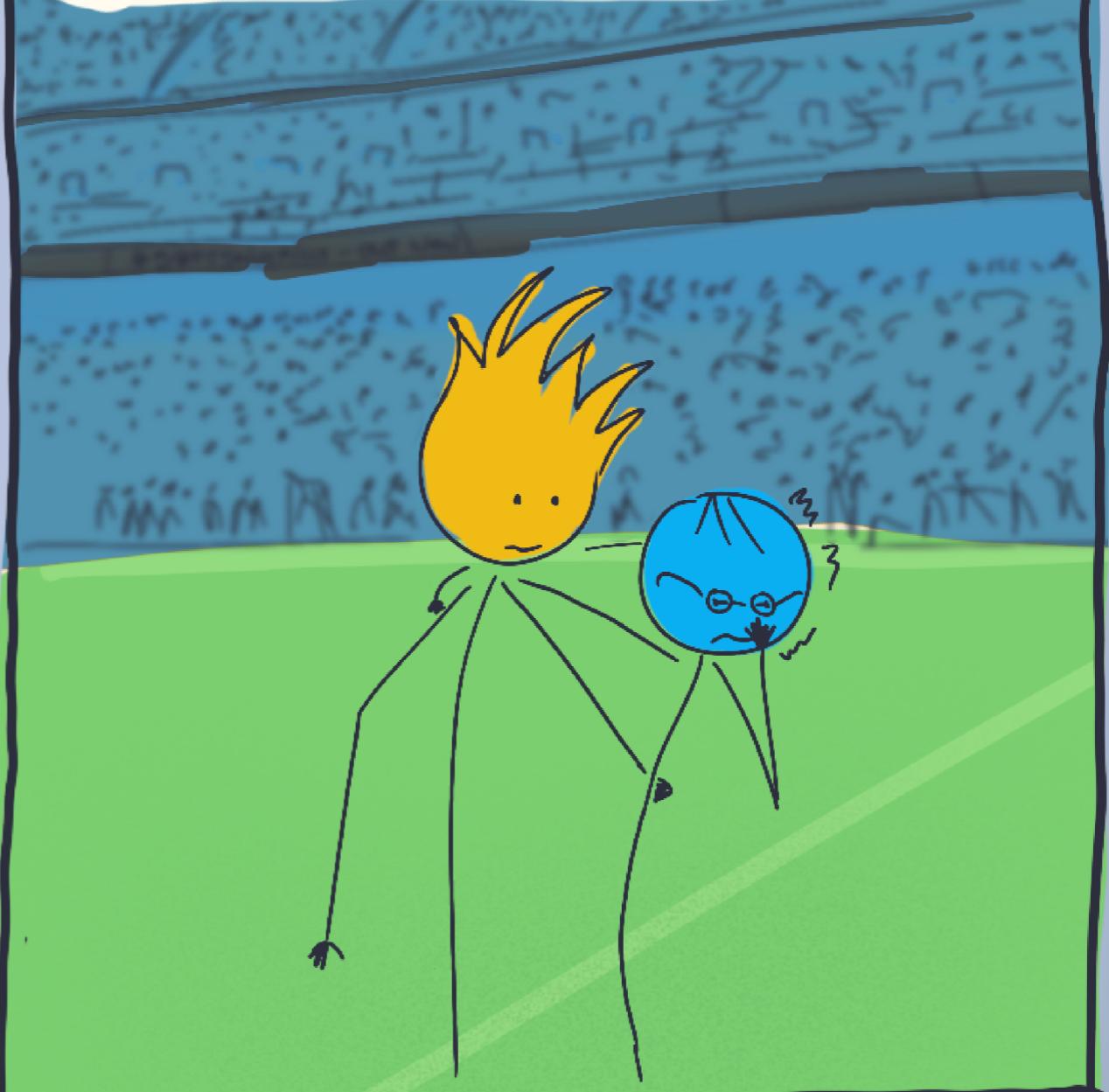
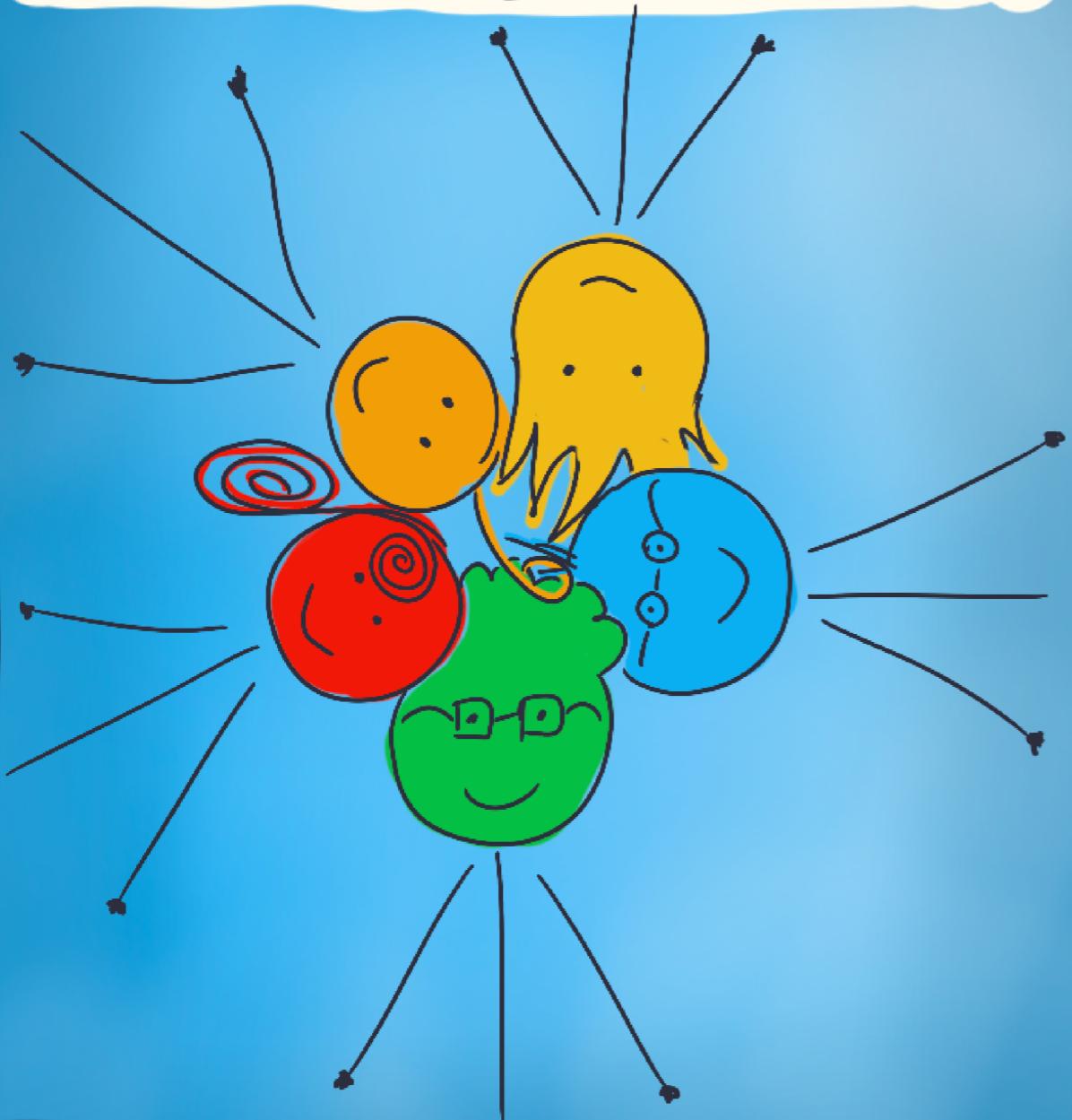
LEADERSHIP IS NOT ABOUT BEING A JUDGE OF OTHERS.

IT'S NOT ABOUT DOING IT YOUR WAY.



IT'S ABOUT BEING THE GLUE THAT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER.

IT'S ABOUT BEING THERE FOR YOUR TEAM.





WHICH COMIC DO YOU  
LIKE THE MOST?

SHARE THE NUMBER  
IN A COMMENT



BY THE WAY,  
'A LEADER'S TALE' IS  
NOW A NEWSLETTER

FILLED WITH STORIES  
AND ACTIONABLE  
TIPS

# A LEADER'S TALE

ENJOY MORE LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS AND STORIES  
LEARNED FROM COACHING 300+ DEV TEAMS IN  
70+ TECH ORGS

A LEADER'S TALE #52

HOW TO MAKE YOUR  
PEOPLE SPEAK UP

SOFTSKILLSPILLS.COM



A LEADER'S TALE #53

HANDLING BAD APPLES  
ON YOUR TEAM

SOFTSKILLSPILLS.COM



A LEADER'S TALE #54

HOW TO HAVE HEALTHY  
TEAM CONFLICTS

SOFTSKILLSPILLS.COM



A LEADER'S TALE #55

KEEPING MOTIVATION  
DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES

SOFTSKILLSPILLS.COM



A LEADER'S TALE #56

WHEN YOUR TEAM IS NOT  
PERFORMING

SOFTSKILLSPILLS.COM



A LEADER'S TALE #57

5 PRINCIPLES FOR  
GIVING FEEDBACK

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# A LEADER'S TALE

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FOR LEADERS IN TECH &  
MAKE YOUR TEAM STRONGER



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