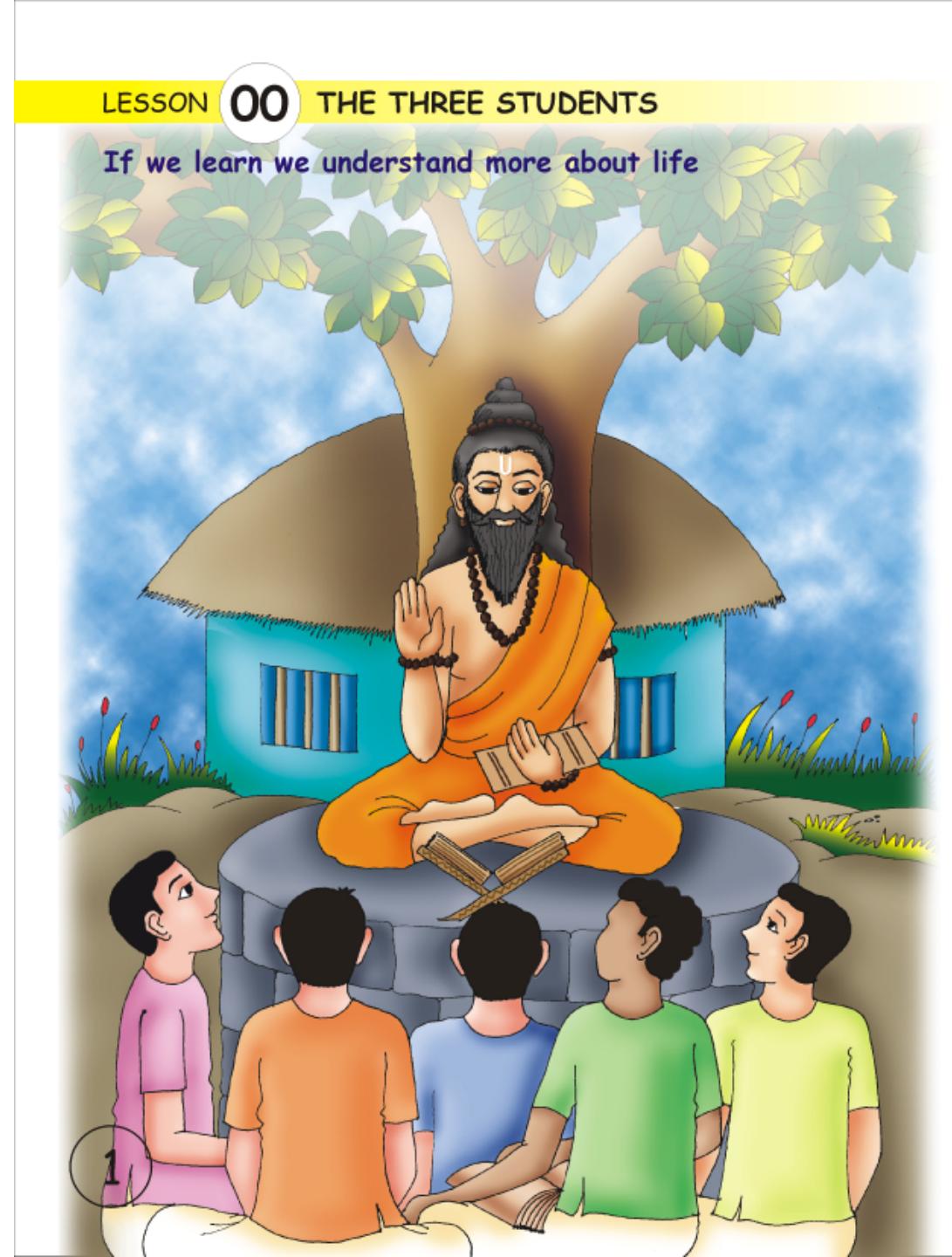


The Three Students

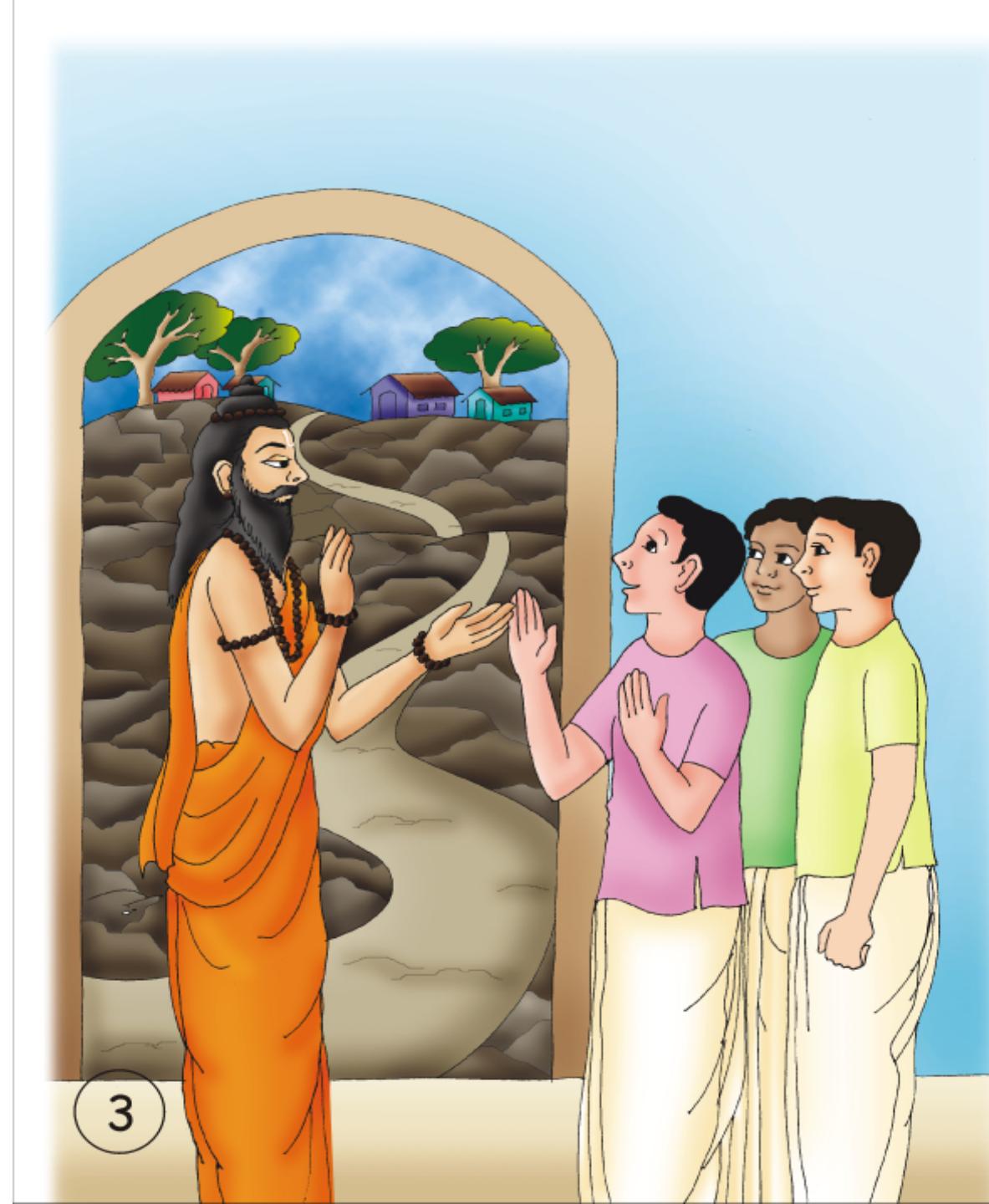
Long ago children used to study in gurukuls. The children had to go to a learned rishi's or sage's place, stay with him and learn. These schools were away from their homes.



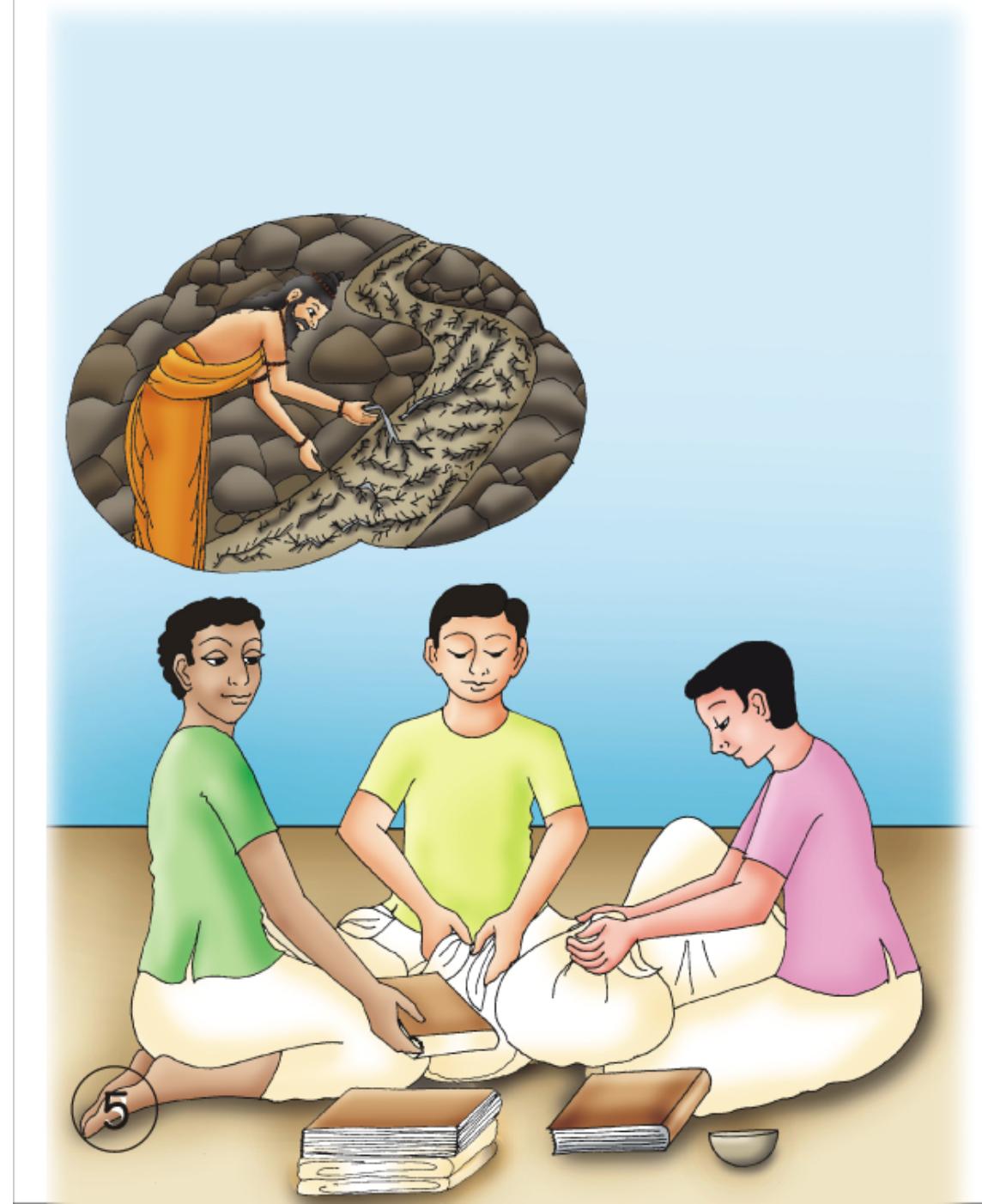
Once upon a time there was a famous sage called Vishwashruti.



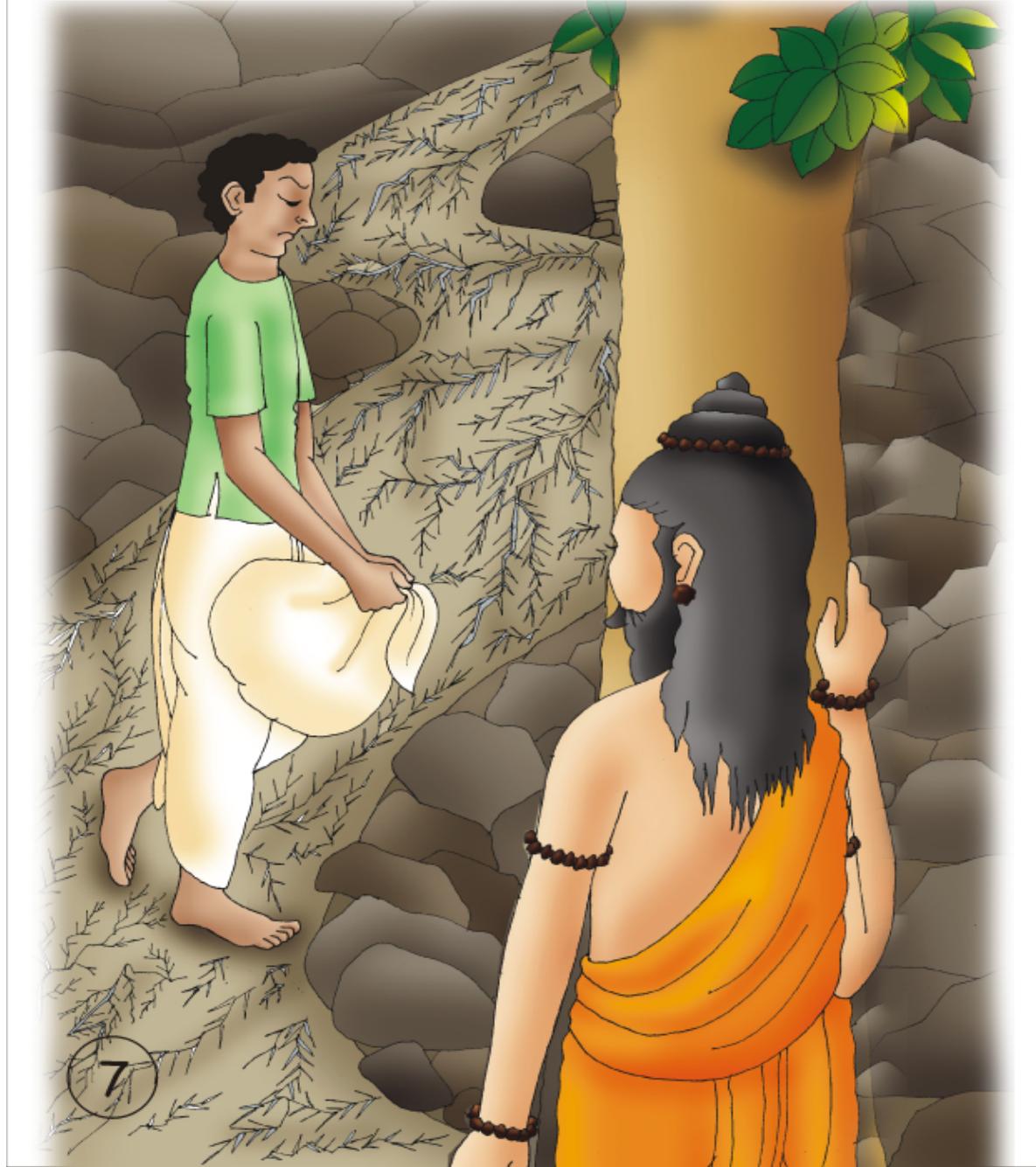
One day, three of his students said as their education was now over they would like to return home. Sage Vishwashruth gave them permission. Yet he felt that he needed to test whether all of them were ready to leave his gurukul.



As they were packing their belongings, the sage secretly spread thorns all over the path of the three boys, and waited to see what would happen.

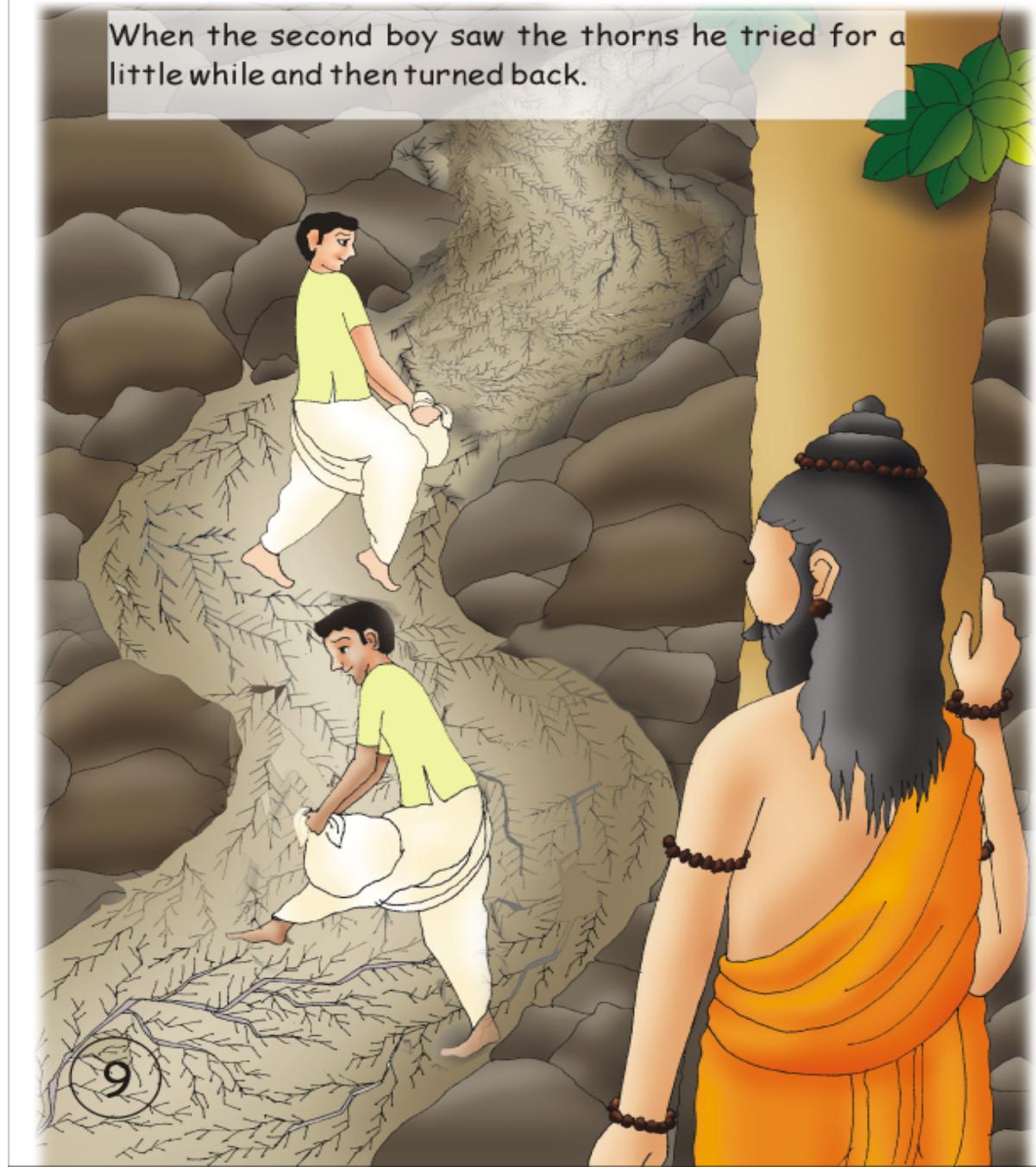


When the first boy saw the thorns he limped across and somehow managed to reach the other side.

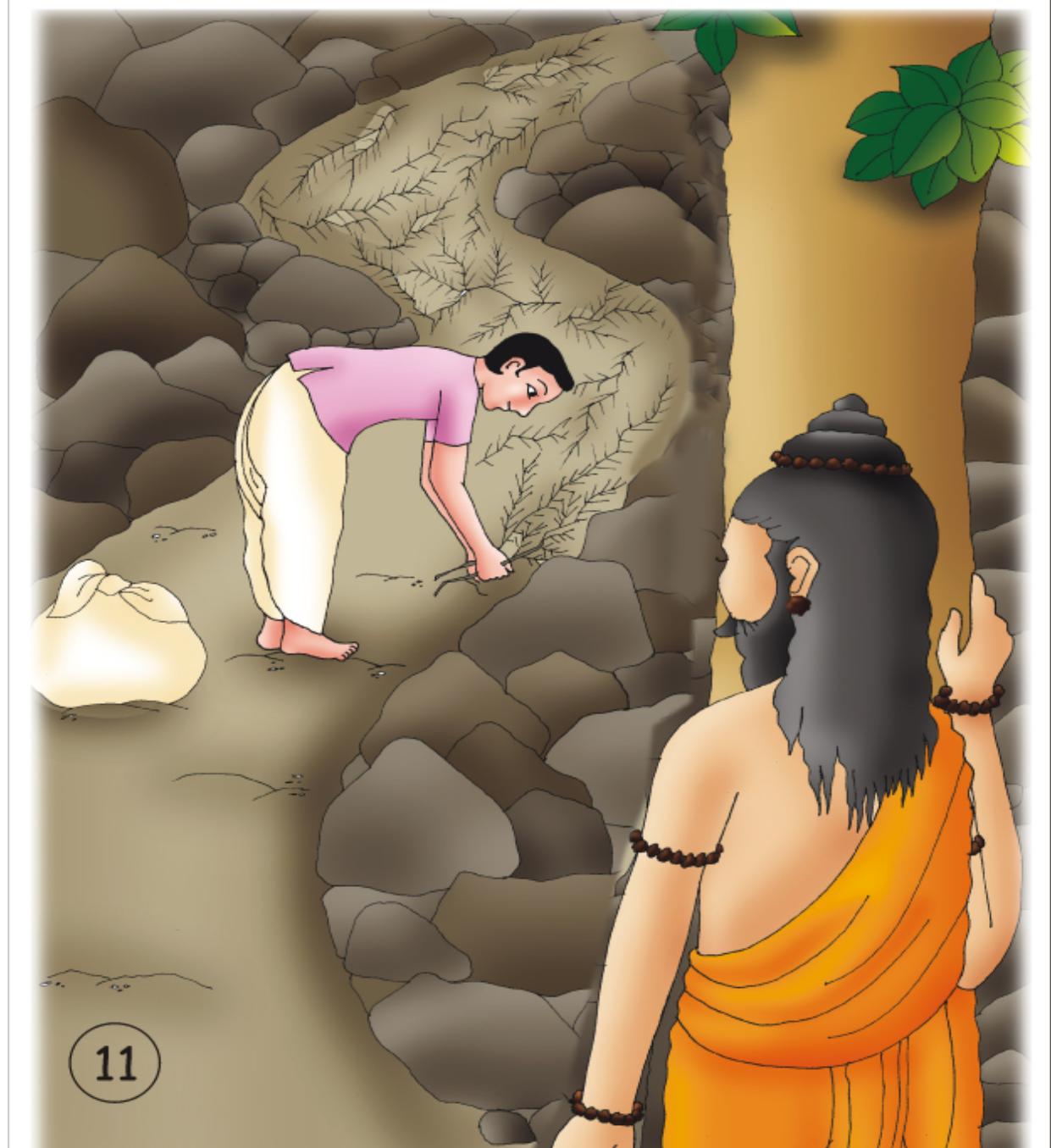


When the second boy saw the thorns he tried for a little while and then turned back.

When the second boy saw the thorns he tried for a little while and then turned back.



When the third boy saw the thorns, he first put down his luggage. Then he cleared his path of the thorns. Once he was finished, he set off.



The sage let the third boy go but he called the first two boys back. "You have a lot more to study," said the Sage Vishwashruth. "Learning teaches us to remove the thorns from our own and others path. You did not do this. You gave in to the thorns. Stay back and learn a little bit more about life."

