

Joseph





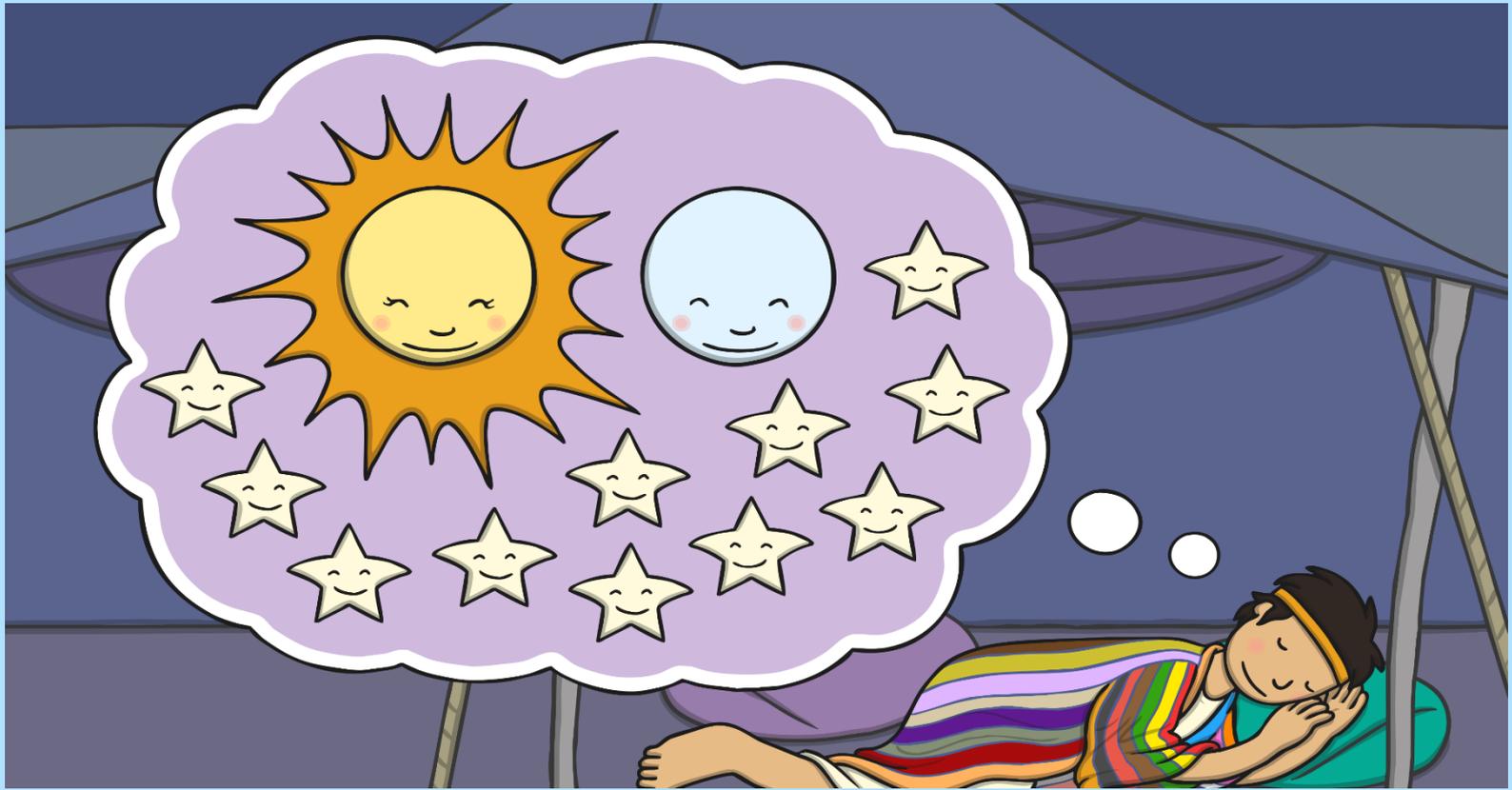
Jacob was a Hebrew who lived in Canaan. He had 12 sons.



Jacob's favourite son was Joseph and he gave him a present which was an expensive coat of many colours. This made Joseph's brothers angry and jealous.



One night Joseph had a strange dream. He told his brothers how they had all been in the harvest field tying up the corn, when their sheaves of corn bowed down to his.



Another time Joseph dreamt that the sun and moon and eleven stars were all bowing down to him. Again he told his brothers, but it made them very angry. They guessed that the dream was about them bowing to Joseph.



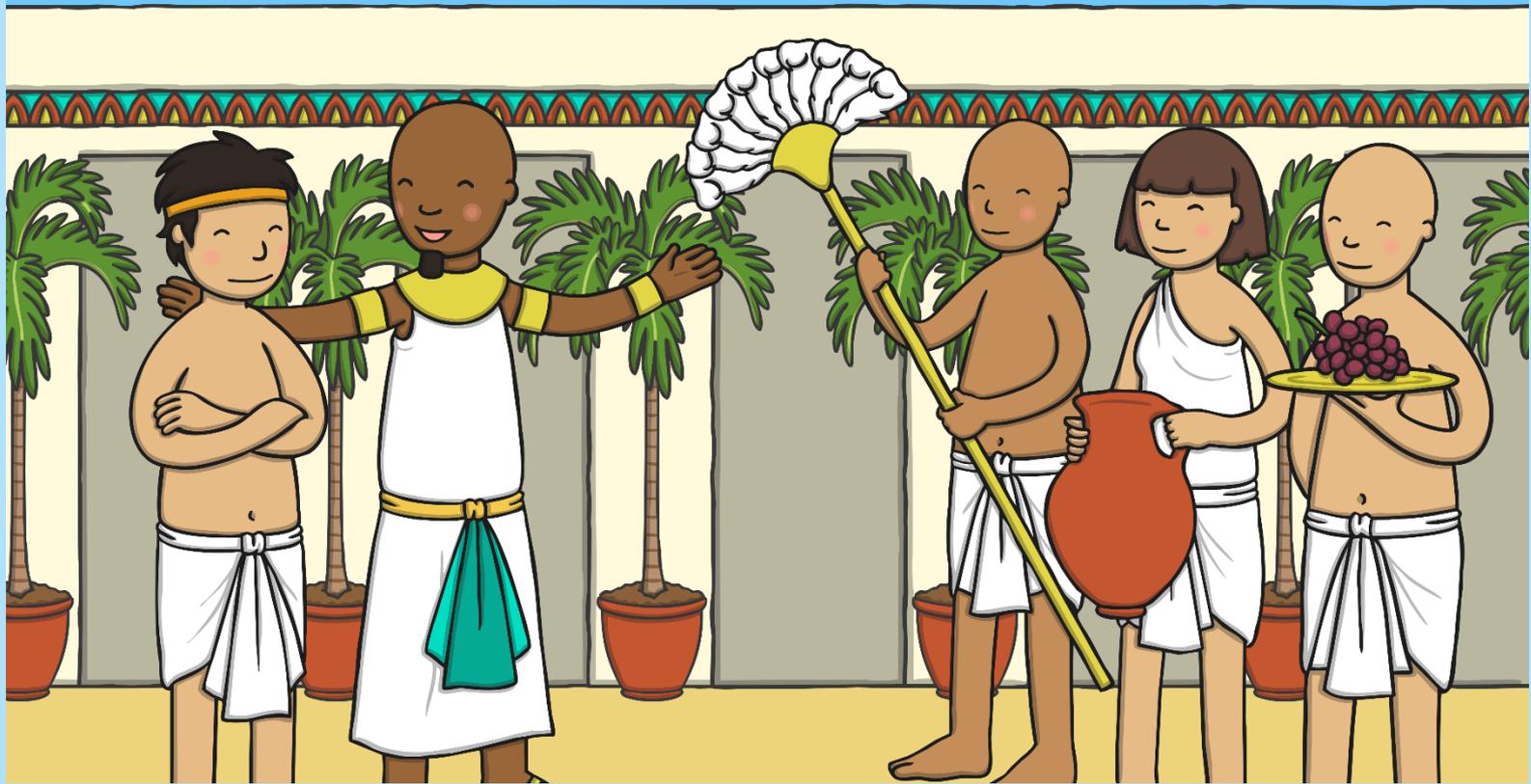
One day Joseph went out to check on his brothers in the fields. When they saw Joseph they wanted to kill him, but instead they threw him into a deep pit.



Soon after some merchants on their way to Egypt came by. The brothers decided to sell Joseph to them and make some money. They took off his coat and handed him over for twenty silver coins.



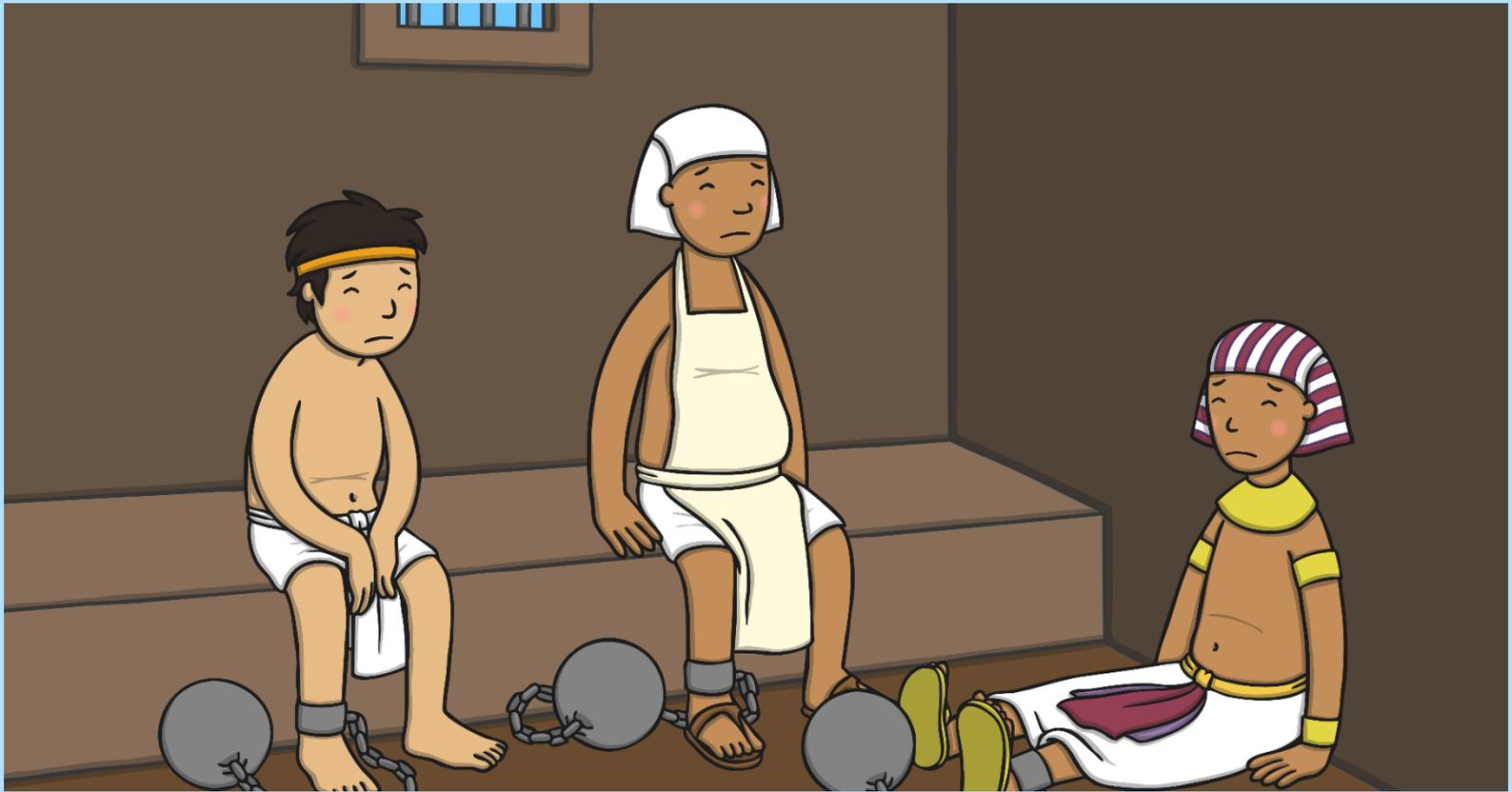
The brothers dipped Joseph's coat in goat's blood and took it to their father. Jacob believed Joseph must have died and was very upset.



Meanwhile Joseph was taken to Egypt and sold as a slave to a rich man named Potiphar. He worked hard and was soon put in charge of Potiphar's house and the other slaves.



Sadly, Joseph was soon in trouble again. He made Potiphar's wife angry so she made up lies about him and he was put in prison.



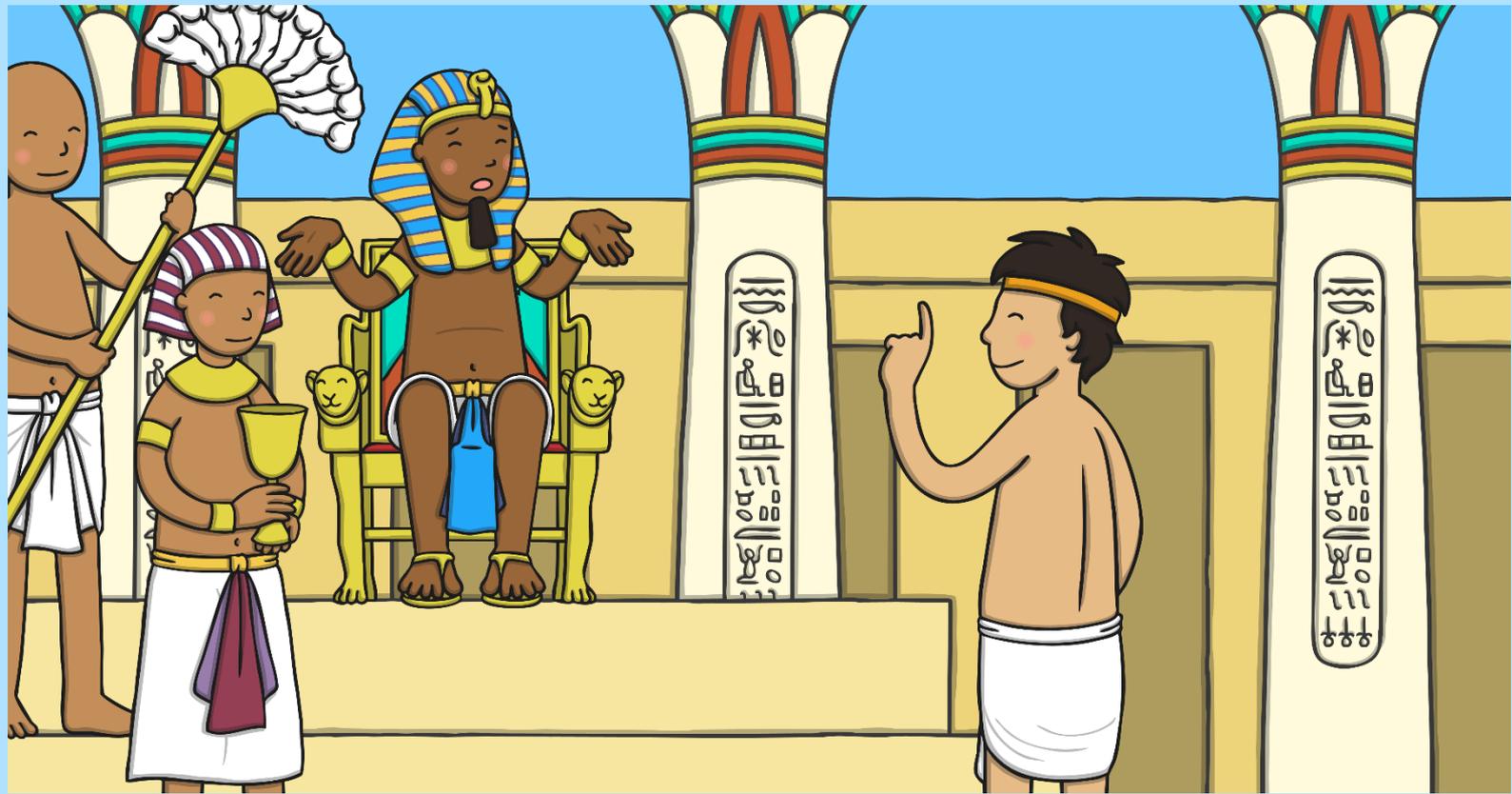
While he was there, two men who had worked for the pharaoh, were also locked up.



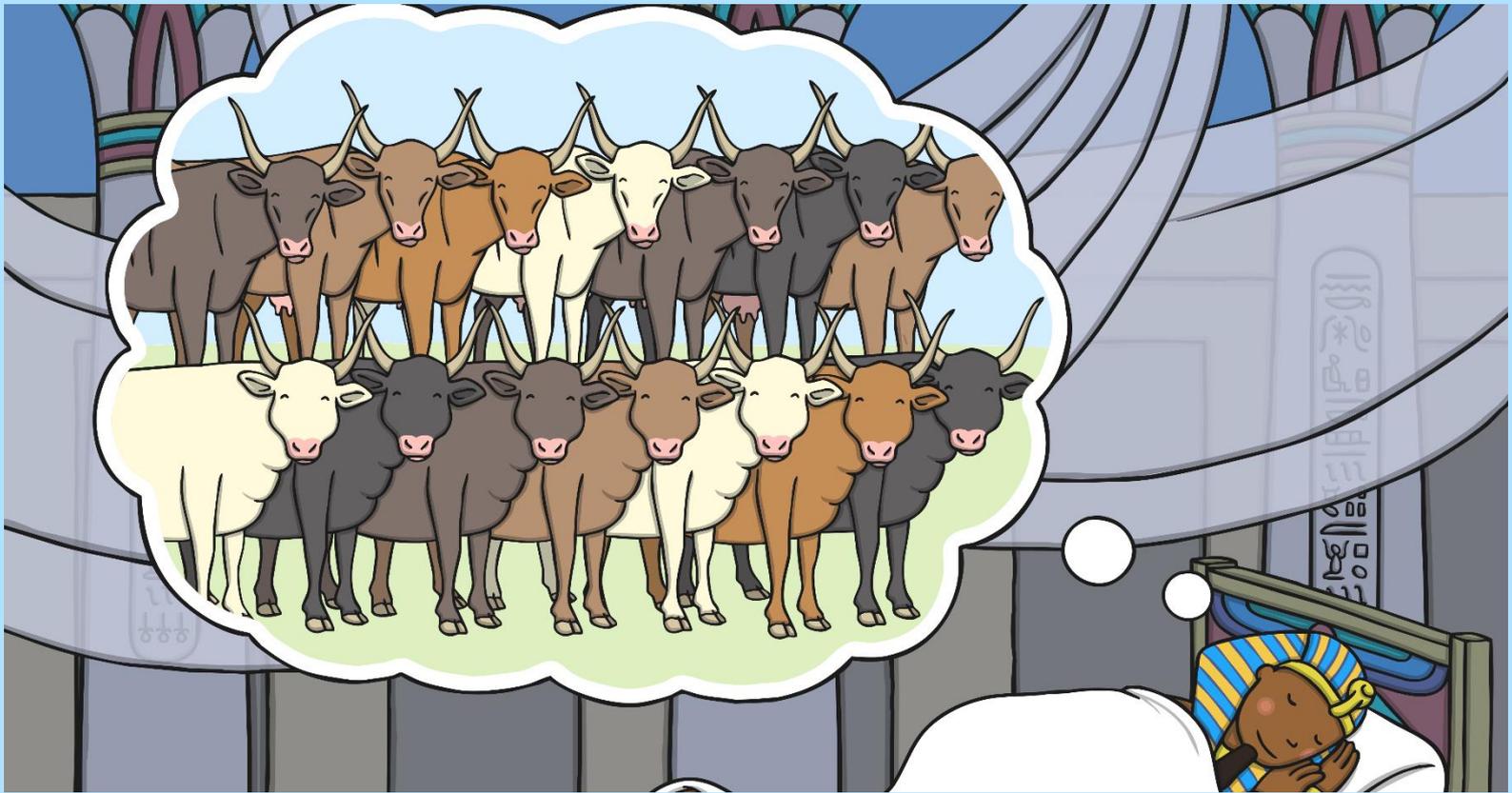
The baker told Joseph a strange dream he had been having. Joseph explained the dream to him, though the news was bad.



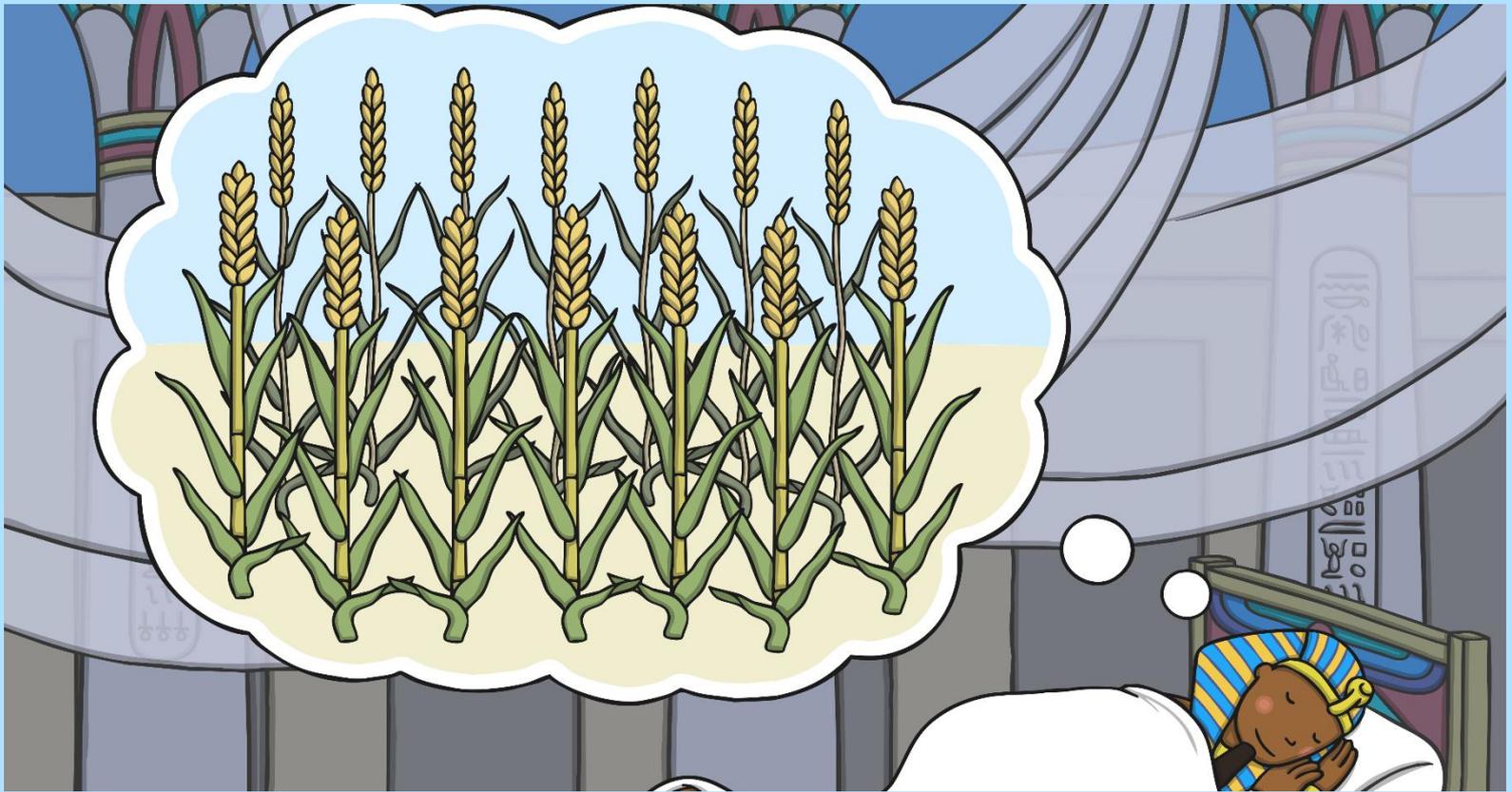
The cupbearer also had been having a strange dream and told Joseph. Joseph explained the dream to him. This time the news was good. A few days later the cupbearer was released. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him.



A while later the pharaoh started to have strange dreams. No-one could tell him what they meant. The cupbearer told the pharaoh about Joseph. Joseph was sent for and the pharaoh told him about his dreams.



In one dream, seven fat cows came out of the River Nile, followed by seven thin cows.



In the second dream, seven fat stalks of corn were eaten by seven thin ones.



Joseph explained the dreams to the pharaoh. He said there would be seven good years of harvest, followed by seven years of famine. He told the pharaoh that they should store corn so they would not starve.

Joseph was made governor.



Back in Canaan, Jacob and his sons were starving. Jacob sent ten of his sons to Egypt to buy corn from the governor. When they got to Egypt they did not recognise Joseph. Joseph accused them of being spies and said that he would give them grain but they must return with their youngest brother and Simeon would have to stay in prison.



They soon returned to Egypt with Benjamin, the youngest brother. Joseph welcomed them and set Simeon free. On their way home a horseman came after them accusing them of stealing the governor's silver cup. To their horror it was found in Benjamin's sack of corn. They were taken back to the palace.



This was all part of Joseph's plan to find out what kind of people they were now. He said Benjamin must stay behind to be his slave. Judah, the brother who sold Joseph, said "If you keep Benjamin, my father will die of grief. Please keep me instead". When Joseph saw his brothers had changed he hugged them. Soon after, the whole family moved to Egypt to be with Joseph.

