

The monks and the rabbi

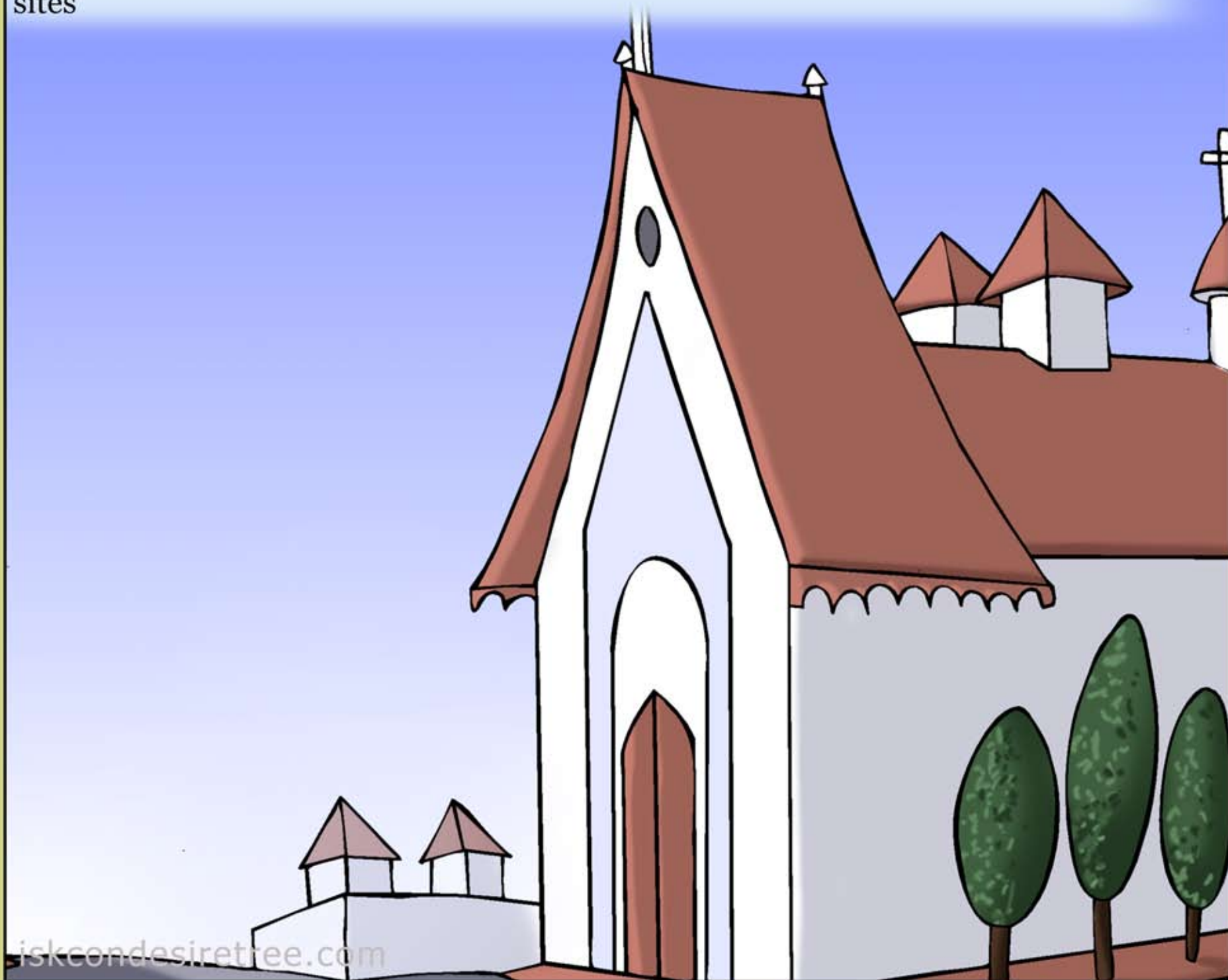
INSTRUCTIVE STORIES BY
SRILA PRABHUPADA



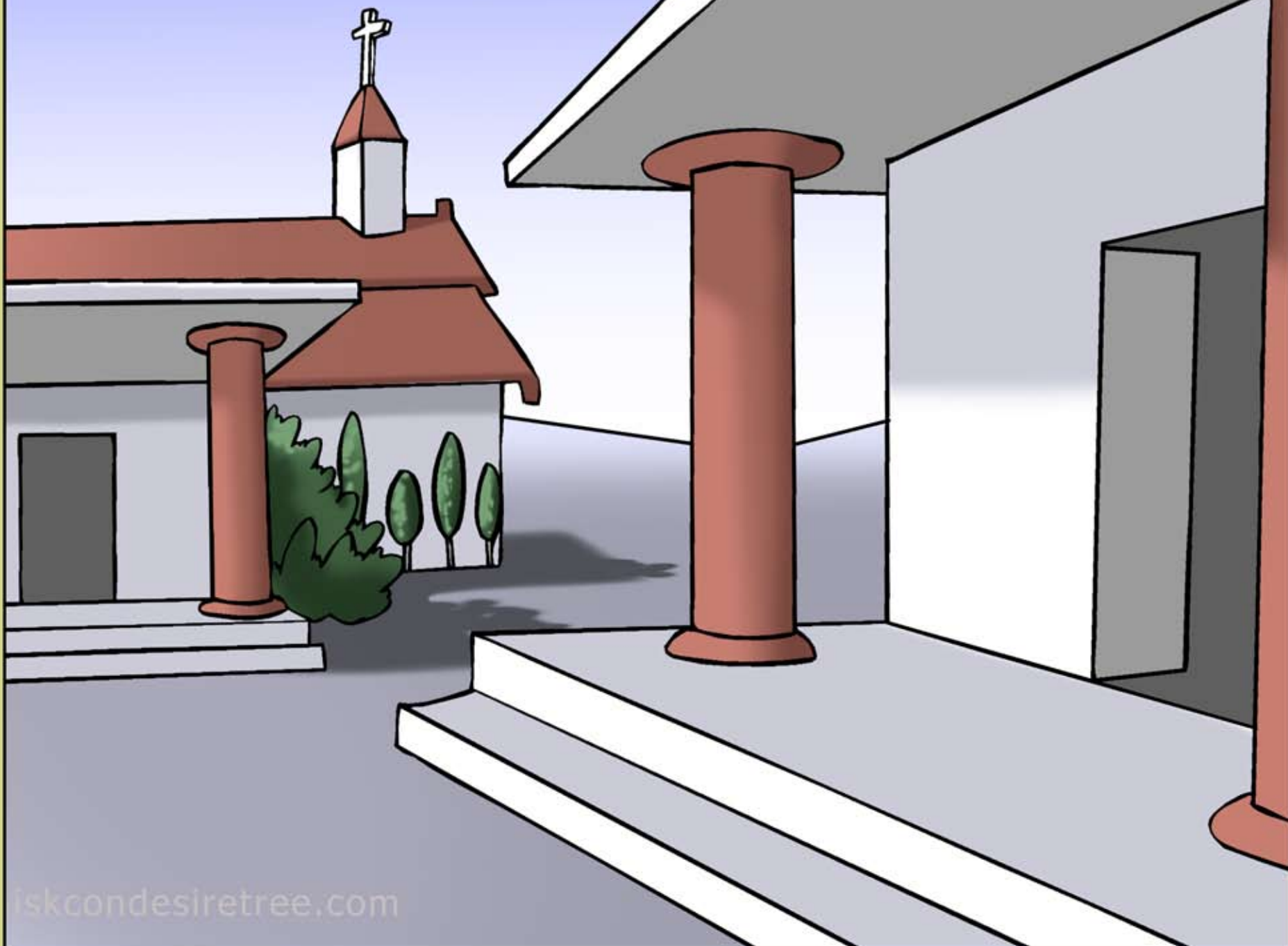
Prior to the 18th century, the church had a great influence over Europe, especially the catholic monasteries where the monks performed austerities



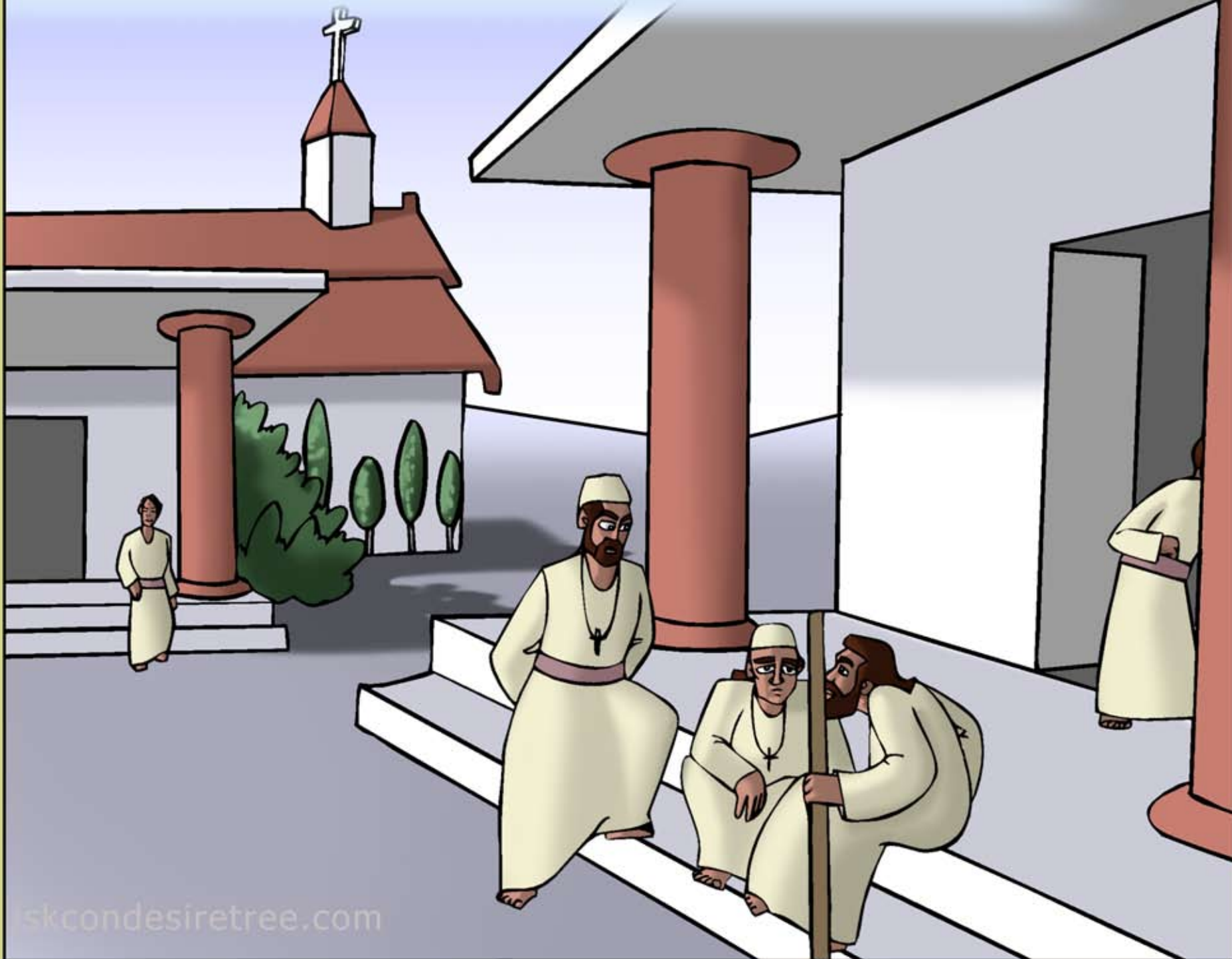
But the monasteries dwindled as time went on and gradually they became historic sites



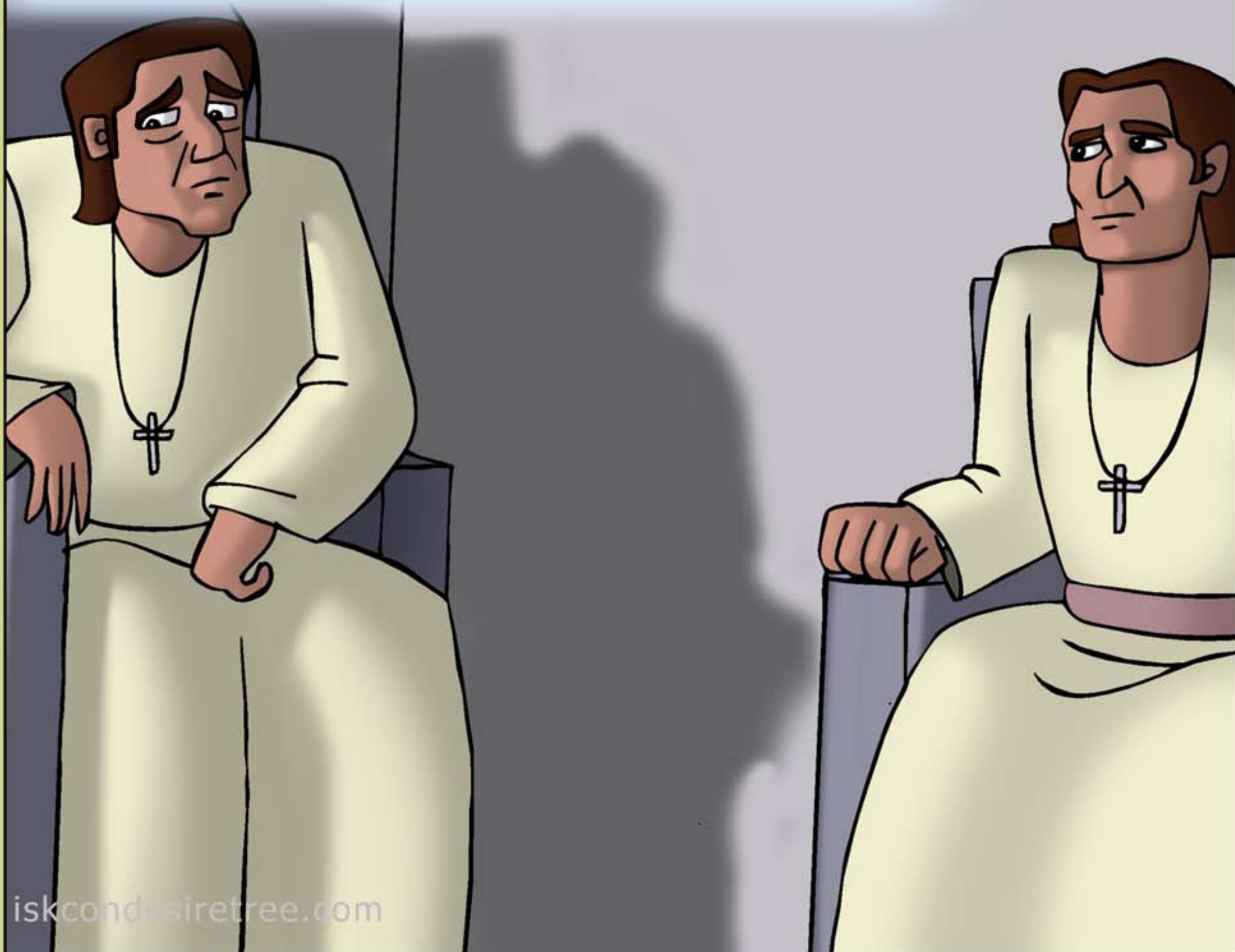
One such monastery was inhabited by an order of monks who had previously consisted of many branches



But now only one monastery remained, with only five monks living there, and all of them were over seventy years old



The abbot was worried that the order would be lost, so he was trying to make recruits, but all his efforts were going in vain



The monastery was situated on the edge of a forest and people used to come there for picnic




In the forest was a hut which was visited by a rabbi



They all knew the rabbi and also they knew the times when he visited the hut



So one time when the abbot came, the abbot thought to go and visit him



Maybe he can give me some advice about how to save the order

So the abbot went there and when he arrived he and the rabbi embraced



They were glad to see each other and they began to discuss deep spiritual topics



So he was just about to leave when he remembered the purpose of his visit

Can you give me any advice about how to save the order?



Well to tell the truth,I also
have the same problem. No one is
interested in coming to the synagogue.
I can't really help you

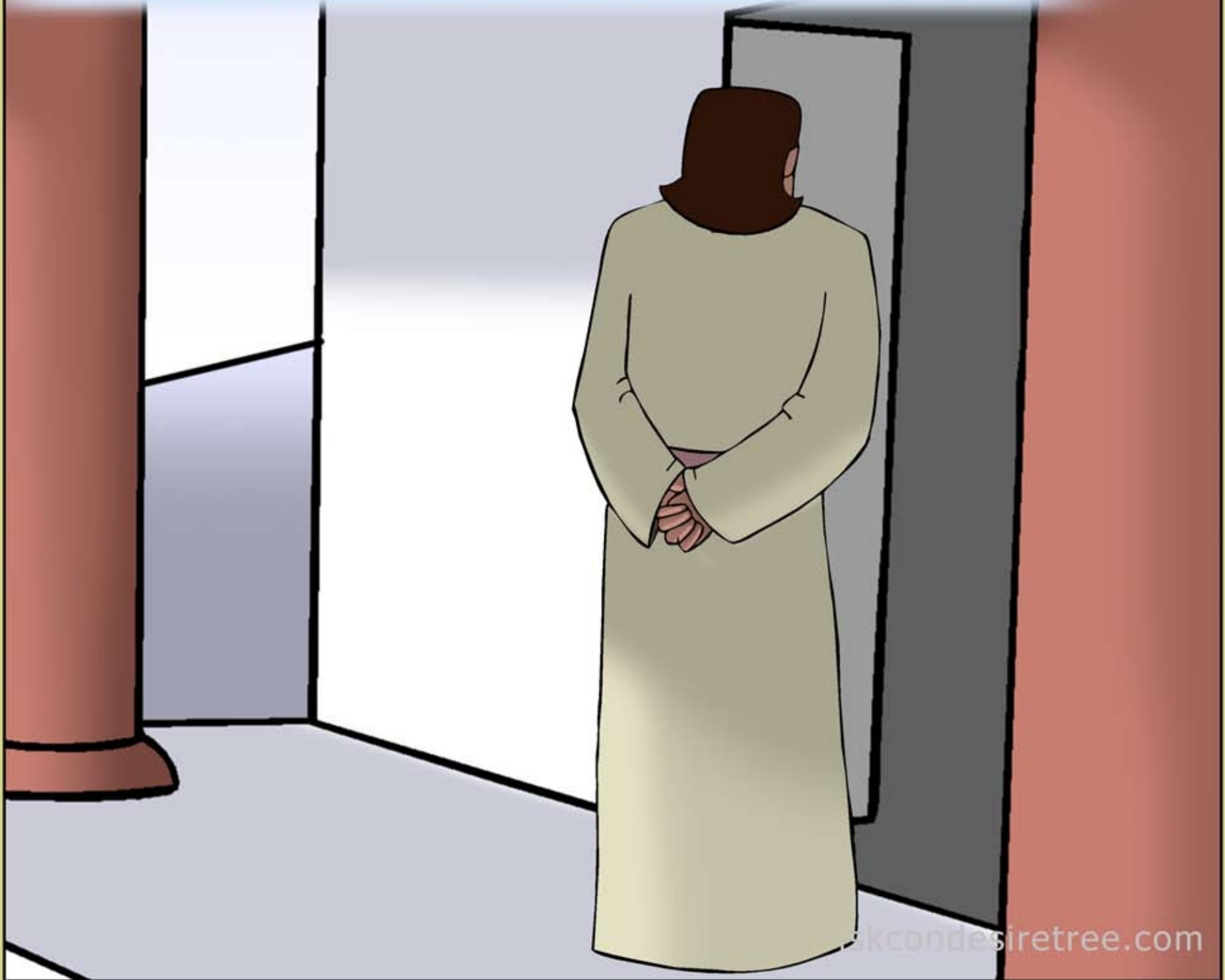


So the abbot was just about to leave when the rabbi said to him..

I do know one thing, however.
One of you is the new messiah



This cryptic answer confused the abbot and he returned to the monastery.




He related his meeting with the rabbi to all the other monks and told them of the cryptic answer he had received




From then on, all of the monks began to think

I wonder which one of us is the new messiah?





Maybe it's Brother Frederick,
he's so strong willed.
Or maybe it's Brother Peter,
he's very shy and humble,
always willing to lend a hand



It couldn't be me, could it?
I mean, God, would have to be
pretty hard up to pick me as
the new messiah

So, thinking like this, the monks all began to act very nicely towards one another, as they didn't want to commit any offence if one of their Godbrothers might be the new messiah. And they also began to act in a very dignified way themselves, just in case they themselves were the new messiah.



And the people who came and picnicked by the monastery at the edge of the forest also began to come and pray in the monastery



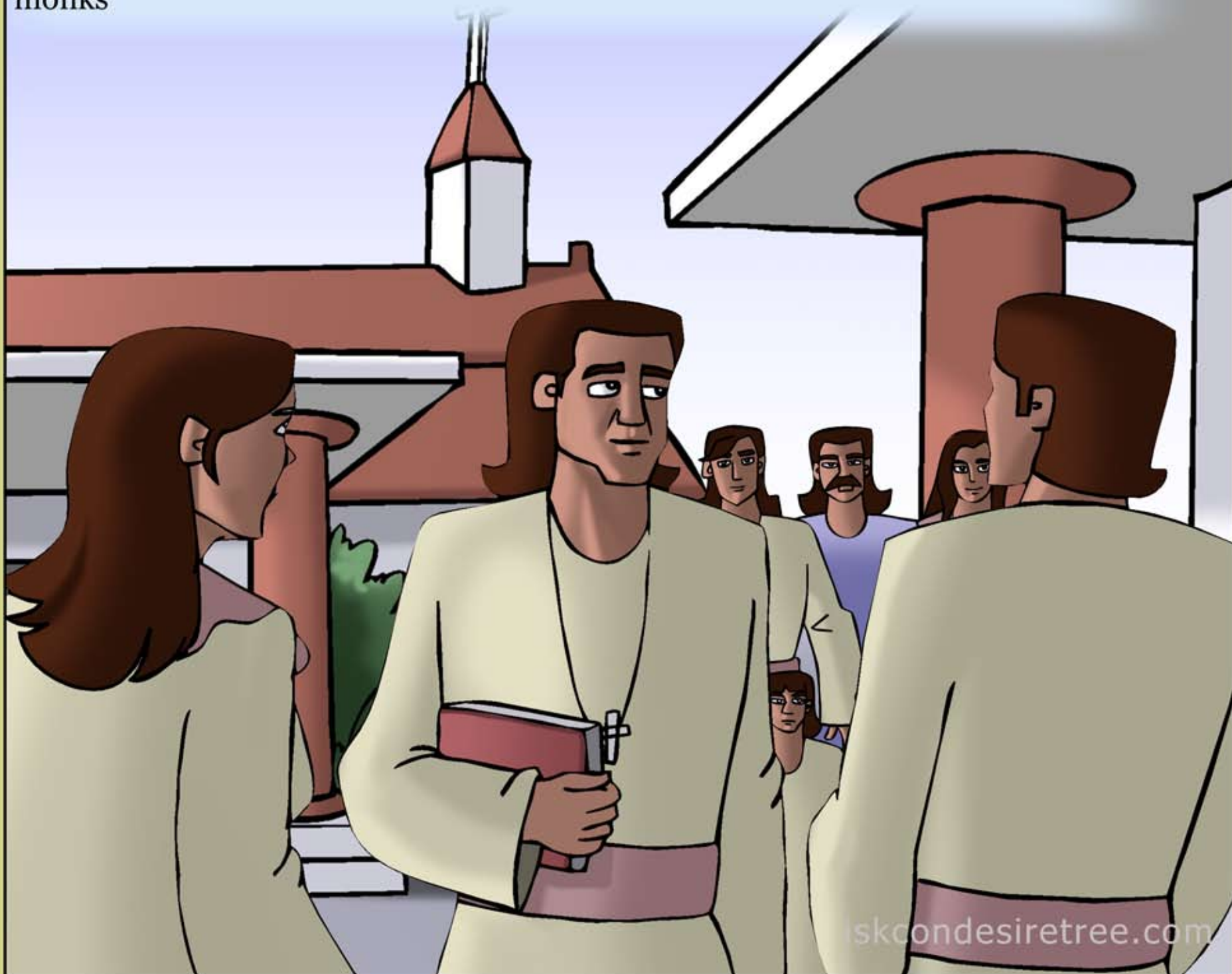
They noticed a change of mood in the monastery, that the monks were acting very reverentially towards their Godbrothers and that they seemed to have a very nice relationship



The people also noticed that the monks themselves also appeared very dignified and seemed to be emanating an aura



The people noticed this distinct change and sometimes they would talk with the monks



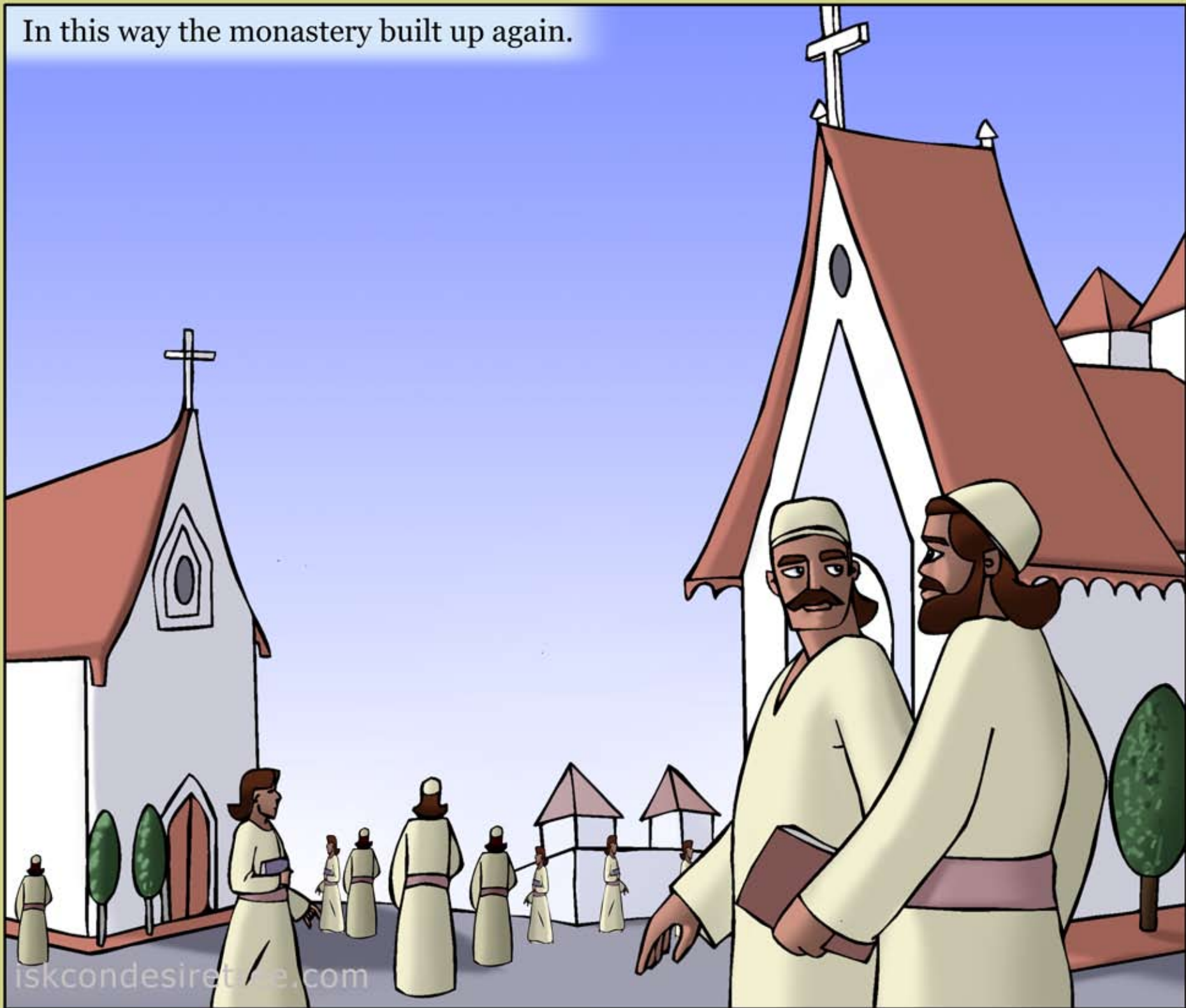
One man decided that he wanted to experience what the monks were experiencing, so he joined up



His friend came along to see what he was up to and he also joined



In this way the monastery built up again.



MORAL :

If we can act nicely toward each other and behave nicely ourselves, then people will become attracted.

- Srila Prabhupada.