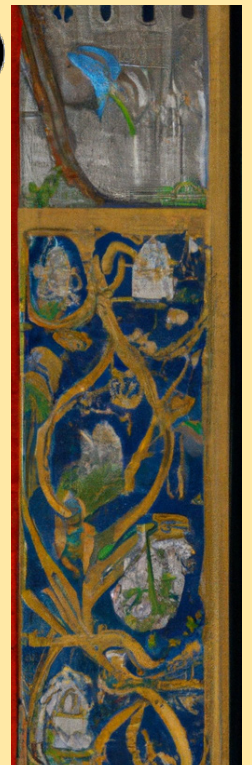
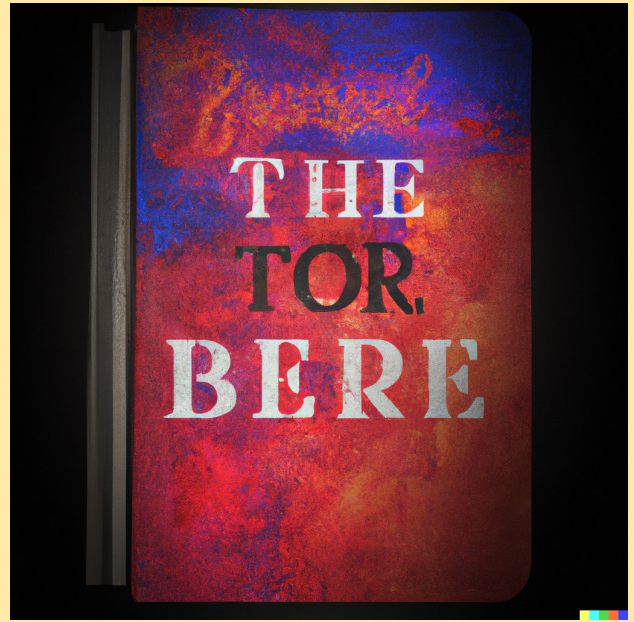


The
Bible
Reimagined

by Joe Maffa & Kai Suang

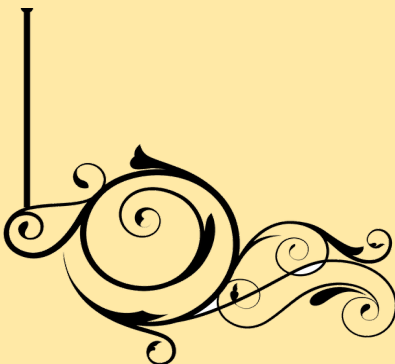




Samson was a man of many talents. As he grew up, he discovered he had one other talent: girls. He could talk to them, charm them, and make them fall in love with him.

He had a girlfriend named Delilah, and she loved him dearly. She wanted to marry him and live happily ever after with him. However, Samson had a secret that would change everything: he was a girl himself!

The people of Israel were shocked by this revelation—and they were even more shocked when they realized that Samson's friend did not know how to tell anyone this secret either. Samson was a girl, and Delilah was his girlfriend. They were both shocked by this revelation. Delilah said she loved Samson because he was strong and brave, but it turned out that he was just a big baby who



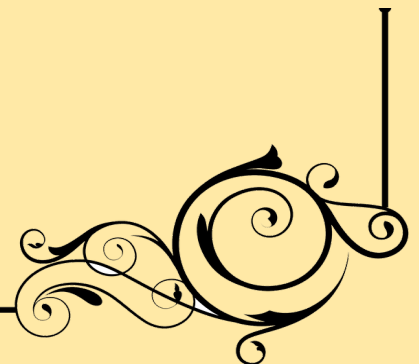
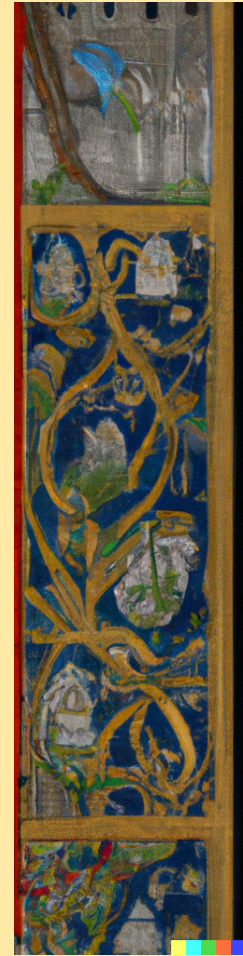


couldn't tell the truth when he needed to! Delilah was very disappointed by this. She told Samson that she did not love him anymore and was going to leave him. Samson begged her not to go, but Delilah had had enough of his lies; she left for good. Delilah was a pretty girl, and her name means "deceptive." Delilah was gullible enough to believe Samson's lies. She thought that he was strong because he could lift heavy rocks, but she did not realize that he was actually weak because he couldn't tell the truth.



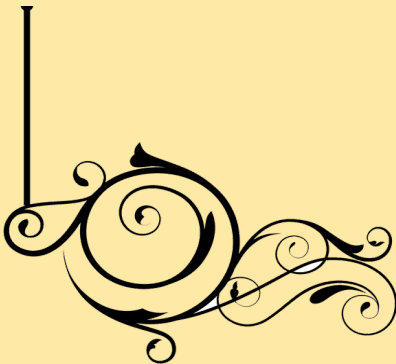
Samson was not a very good person because

he lied to Delilah, and then he cried when she left him. Samson should have been honest with Delilah and told her the truth about his weakness so that she could help him. Samson was very sad when Delilah left him. He sat there crying and wishing that she had stayed. He felt bad about lying to her, but he thought it would be better if he just let her go without telling her





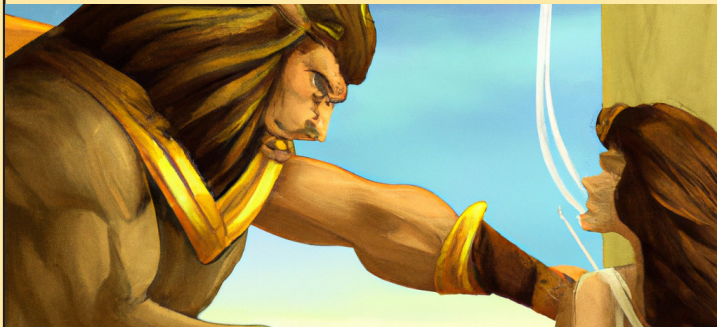
the truth. Delilah was very angry with Samson because he lied to her. She thought that he was strong, but it turns out that he was really weak. Delilah left him because she did not want to be with someone who could not tell the truth. Samson should have been honest with Delilah about his weakness and then maybe she would not have left him. Even though Delilah left him, Samson still loved her. He felt very bad about lying to her and thought that he could not tell the truth because he had been hiding it for so long. Samson wished that she would come back, but he knew that she would never forgive him if she knew the real reason why he lied to her. Samson knew that he had to tell Delilah the truth, so he asked her to meet him. She agreed and they met at a beautiful place in the mountains. Samson told her that he was weak and that his hair was all that was keeping him strong. He also told her how much he loved her and how sorry he





was for lying to her. Delilah felt very bad for Samson because she thought that if he could lose his strength then no one could ever love him again. Delilah felt very sorry for Samson and told him that she would do anything to help him. She said, "I love you Samson and I want to make things right again."

Delilah went back to the city and called together all of her friends who were also prostitutes. They went into their rooms with men while they waited for Samson's hair to grow

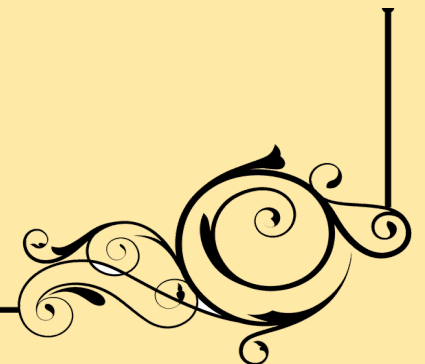
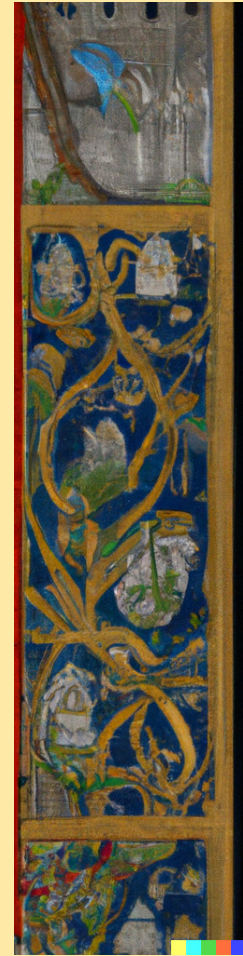


back out.

Delilah and her friends waited

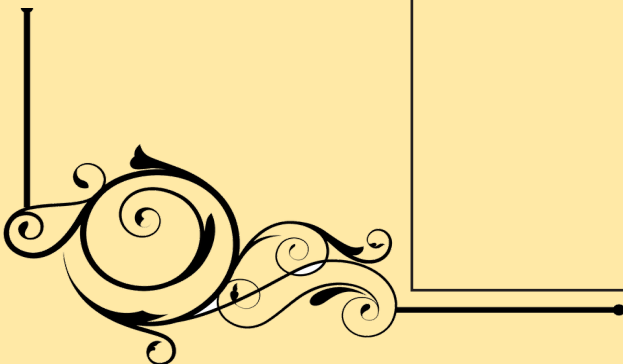
for a

long time. They started to wonder if Samson was going to come at all, but they knew that he would not leave without his strength. After many days of waiting, Delilah thought that she should go outside and see what was taking him so long. When Delilah opened the door, she saw Samson walking towards her with a smile on his face. She jumped into his arms and





kissed him deeply while tears ran down both of their faces. Delilah said, "I'm so glad that you came back to me. I was worried that something had happened to you." Samson laughed and said that he just needed some time away from the things he loved the most. Delilah asked him if he had seen anyone else while he was gone, and Samson told her no, because what had happened between them was unique and special in every way. Delilah was relieved to hear that there was no one else, but she also felt confused about why Samson had left in the first place. Samson explained that he just needed some time alone and didn't want to be reminded of his weakness by seeing her face every day. Delilah said that it made sense, but then she asked him why he had come back so soon if he wasn't going to see anyone else while he was gone.





He knew that Daniel was a good worker so he decided to put Daniel in charge of the whole country. The other servants of the king were very jealous of Daniel and they tried to find something that would get Daniel in trouble.

"I'm going out for a walk," Daniel said, "I'll be back before supper." But when he came home from walking around town, his dinner wasn't ready. He went to bed early and didn't eat any-

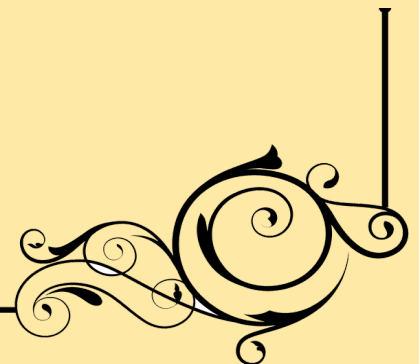
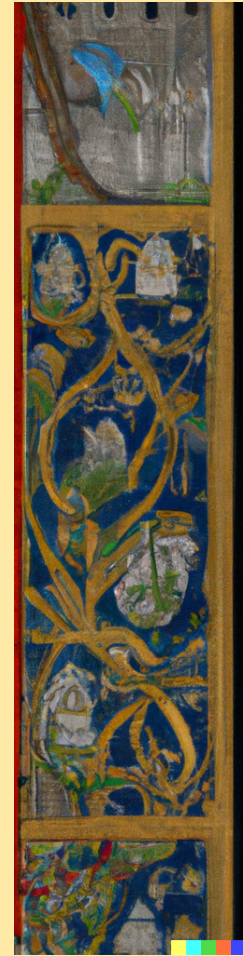


thing until morning. When Daniel got up he

found that the food had been waiting for him on the table.

When Daniel told the king about what happened, the king was furious!

"You are not putting yourself above your fellow man!" the king exclaimed. "How dare you





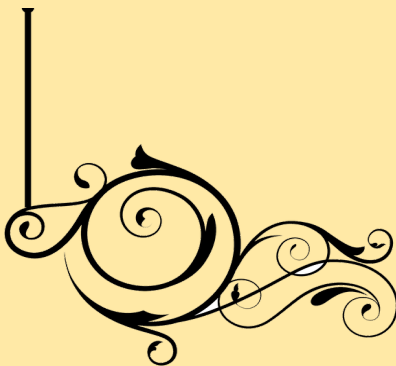
disobey me and do as you please? I will have an answer for you tomorrow at three o'clock in the afternoon."

The next day Daniel showed up bright and early at three o'clock with no idea why he had been called there. The king sent him to see the chief eunuch who ran the palace. The chief eunuch took Daniel into a room where there were two chairs and sat down across from him.

"What is it you want?" asked the chief eunuch.

Daniel thought for a moment about how to explain everything that had happened. Then he remembered God's promise to protect him if he obeyed Him. So Daniel began to pray.

"O Lord," Daniel prayed, "I thank You for hearing me. I am telling vthe truth, and I don't lie. My God has sent His





angel to tell me this.

The Lord sent Gabriel to speak to me and to tell me that I must serve only you, O King of Babylon. And now, O king, I beg you: Don't be angry with me because I spoke up for my God. I just did what God wanted me to do, as I always do.

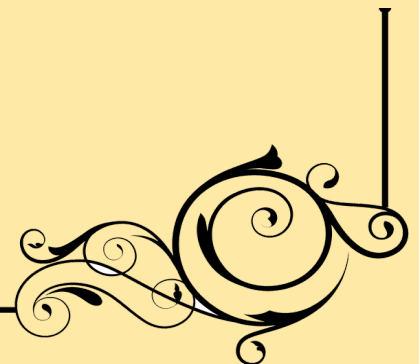
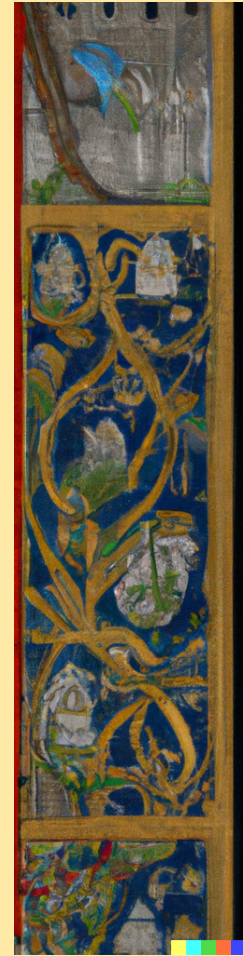
Now then, O king, let my life be taken away since I've spoken up for the honor of my God.



But I will never stop speaking up for Him."

When Daniel finished praying, the chief eunuch sent Daniel home. Three days later, the chief eunuch brought Daniel back to the same room and sat down again in his chair.

"Daniel, I'm sorry about what happened to you," the chief eunuch said. "But I just don't





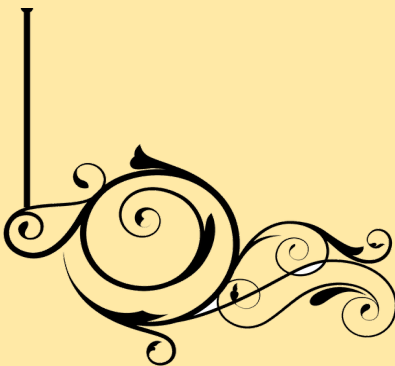
know how one person could have done all those things without you knowing about them. It seems like you're lying to me. Tell me, did you or did you not disobey me by not eating your meals on time?"

"Yes, I did disobey you," Daniel admitted. "But I didn't do it on purpose. I didn't even realize that I was doing it until the third day when my food was already prepared and waiting for me."

"That's impossible!" the chief eunuch exclaimed. "There's no way that anyone could have known that you wouldn't eat until lunch-time the next day."

Daniel looked straight into the chief eunuch's eyes. "I'm telling you the truth," he insisted. "God sent an angel to tell me that I must obey you."

Then the chief eunuch became





frightened and shook his head. "No," he said.

"It can't be true."

All of the sudden the chief eunuch started to feel dizzy, and he fell over onto the floor. An evil spirit had come out of the chief eunuch and was trying to control him, but Daniel fought against it.

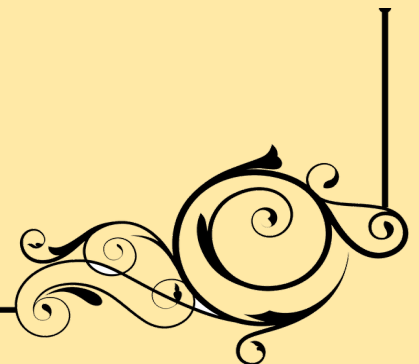
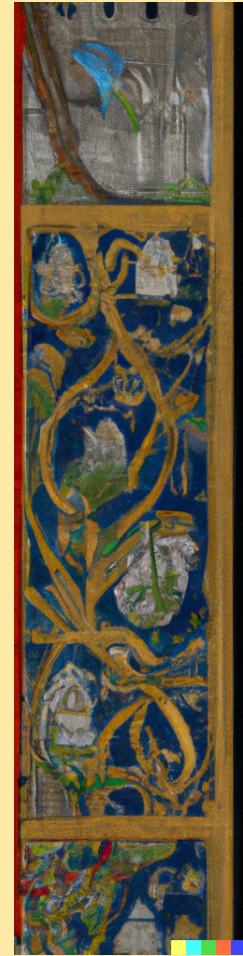
"Don't listen to him!" Daniel shouted at the chief eunuch. "The Lord has told me that I must not eat any food until sunset today.



That's why I won't eat lunch and I won't eat sup-

per either."

As soon as Daniel got home, he fell asleep. He slept through the night and woke up before sunrise the next morning. As Daniel was preparing to go to work, the chief eunuch came to see him.



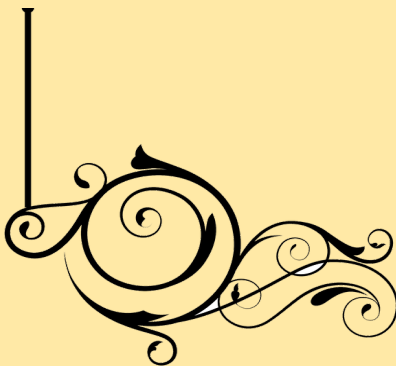


“Daniel, I’ve been thinking about what you said yesterday,” the chief eunuch said. “I’m beginning to think that maybe you really are different from other people. Maybe you really do have special powers.”

“Oh, yes, I do,” Daniel replied. “And God has given me even more than I need to defend myself.”

“Well, we need you around here,” the chief eunuch said. “I’m starting to like you a lot. If you keep working hard for me, I’ll do everything I can to help you.”

When the chief eunuch left, Daniel took some bread and ate it. He waited until sunset and then he went to work for another full day. By midnight, the chief eunuch was so hungry that he couldn’t stand it anymore. He crawled under a nearby table and





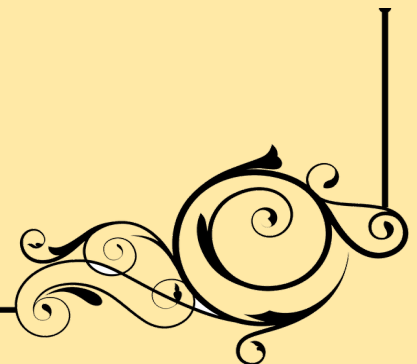
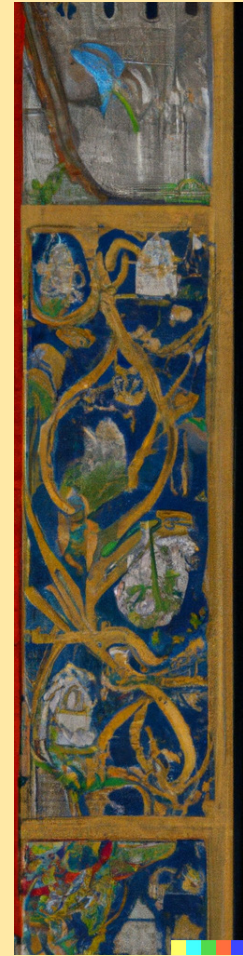
fell asleep right away.

In the middle of the night, an evil spirit suddenly appeared in the room and held the chief eunuch down while it began to cut off pieces of his body. The chief eunuch yelled out in pain, but Daniel didn't wake up. He lay quietly on his bed and pretended to be asleep.

When the chief eunuch was dead, the evil spirit finally left and Daniel was able to rise and leave the palace.



After this terrible experience, Daniel realized that he needed to be much more careful about whom he chose to serve. But Daniel also learned that God protects those who follow Him.





“Please don’t make me go,” begged Esther. “I’ll do anything you want.”

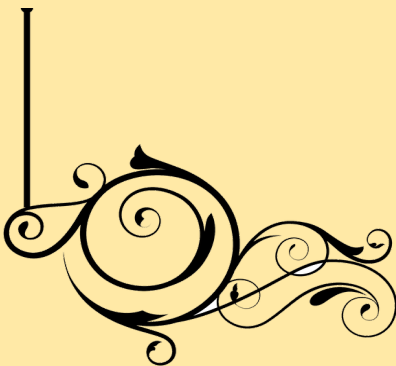
Nicky was annoyed and impatient with her. He looked at the two men sitting on the other side of Esther, then turned to his wife. “You know I can’t be involved in this,” he said quietly. “It would ruin our marriage.”

Esther started to sob again. Nicky put his arm around her shoulders, but did not say another word as she cried herself out. Finally she stopped crying and sat silently for a few seconds before speaking.

“There’s something else I need you to know,” she said. “The reason I’m here is because of an article that was written about my husband in the newsmagazine last week.”



Both men stared





at her blankly.

“It made some serious accusations against him and me,” she explained. “He knew it would upset me, so he told me not to read it until after we were married.”

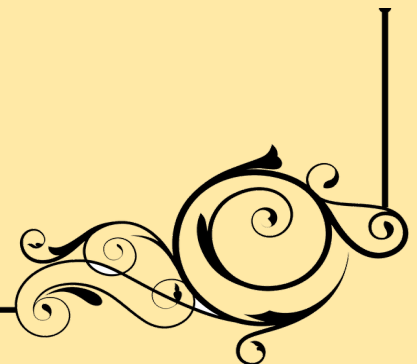
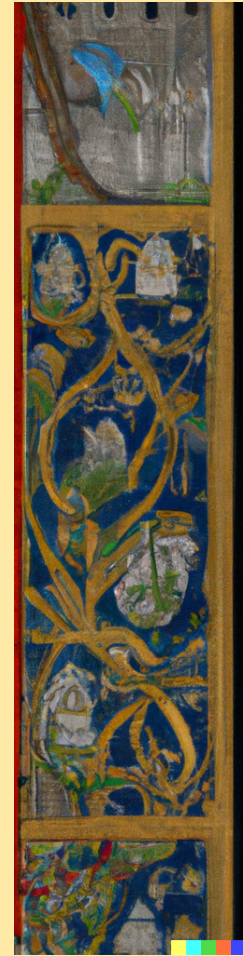
Miles and Patrick exchanged looks.

“So what happened?” asked Miles.



“Well, I couldn’t wait any longer,” admitted Esther.

She took a deep breath and continued. “My father called me while I was still at the wedding reception. He told me that the magazine had been purchased by a major media conglomerate for almost \$10 million, and they wanted to publish the article in full—including the part about the incestuous relationship between my parents.”





She paused.

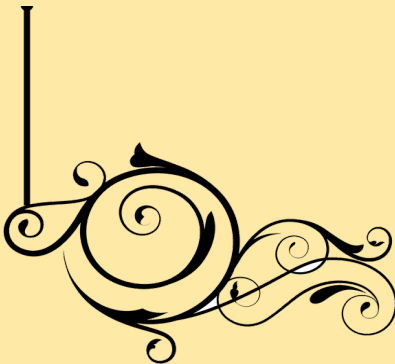
“I guess you could say that changed everything,” said Esther. “The reason I couldn’t leave town yesterday like I’d planned was because I needed time to think things through. After much soul-searching, I decided that I would stay here and give my marriage a chance.” She gave Nicky an apologetic look.

“But how does that help us?” demanded Nicholas.

“It doesn’t,” answered Esther sadly. “I promised myself that I would never tell anyone about my parents’ past, but now it seems I have no choice.”

“Why not?”
asked Patrick.

“Because if I do,
there’s a good
chance that your
families will find





out about it too," she replied. "I'm sure you're aware of their reputation."

Patrick and Miles nodded in agreement.

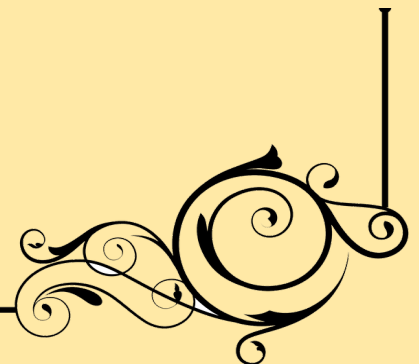
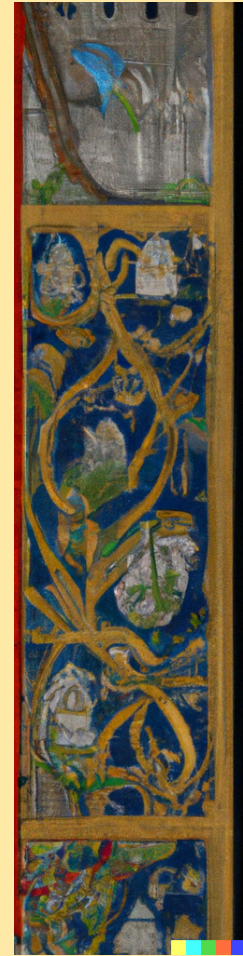
"If I was forced to choose between keeping a secret and telling everyone who I really am, I'd have to tell them," added Esther. "That's why I came here tonight hoping that you two could help me get it off the record."



"How are we supposed to do that?" asked Miles.

"The article says that my father sexually abused me from the age of four to sixteen years old," explained Esther. "He also raped my mother for many years before I was born, and fathered eight children with her."

"What?" exclaimed Patrick.





“And all these people think my father was a saint,” added Esther. “They believe he was murdered because he wouldn’t stop molesting little girls.”

“You mean to tell us that both your parents are serial killers?” asked Patrick.

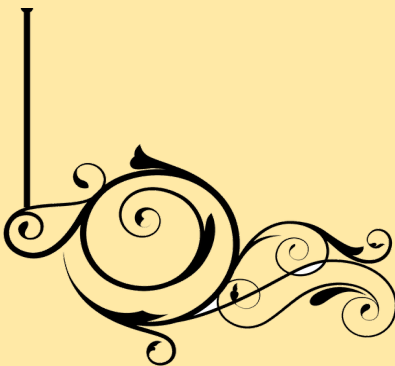
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“Oh my God,” gasped Patrick.

“My father was her accomplice for the last twenty-five years,” continued Esther. “He helped her lure her victims into their homes, and sometimes even participated in the murders. He actually enjoyed it more than she did.”

“This is insane!” exclaimed Patrick.

“Tell us about yourself,” suggested Esther.





“We want to hear everything.”

“Ok,” agreed Patrick. “All right, let’s start with the beginning. When and where were you born?”

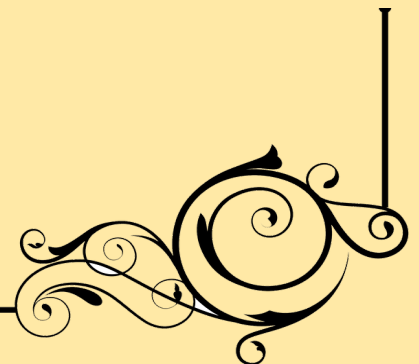
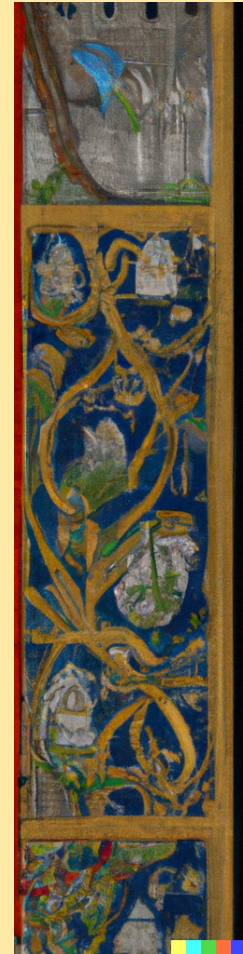
“I was born in 1986 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland,” answered Patrick. “My dad was a Navy doctor and worked on the submarine fleet in Virginia. My mom was a nurse working at the same



hospital. We moved around a lot, so I didn’t

learn how to swim until we were stationed in San Diego, California, during the summer of 1990. That was the first time I ever saw the ocean.”

Patrick paused and took a long drink from his water bottle.





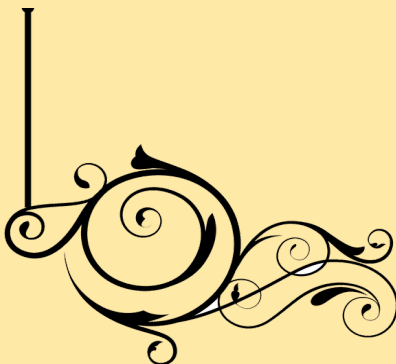
“That’s not important,” he continued. “After that I grew up in northern Illinois, and graduated high school in 1995. I went to college at the University of Minnesota and majored in journalism. I’ve always loved writing stories and playing sports, but when I got involved with the campus radio station I discovered that I had an ear for music too. I started producing and hosting my own shows, and eventually became the program director.”

“Do you still do that?” asked Miles. “I used to listen to you all the time.”

“I haven’t done it in a few years,” confessed Patrick. “The radio station is primarily a commuter college, so they don’t offer much in the way of educational programs anymore.”

“So what happened?” asked Miles.

“I met my wife there,” responded





Patrick. "Her name is Shannon; she's a senior editor at a publishing company."

"And how did that happen?" asked Esther.
"What was your first date like?"

Patrick laughed. "Well, we went to see the movie, 'The Lion King.' It was one of those romantic comedies, and I remember the theater was packed. We had a great time and ended up going out to dinner afterwards. The next day

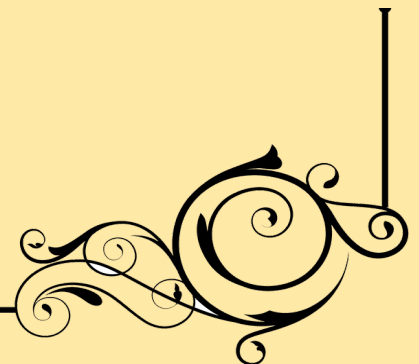
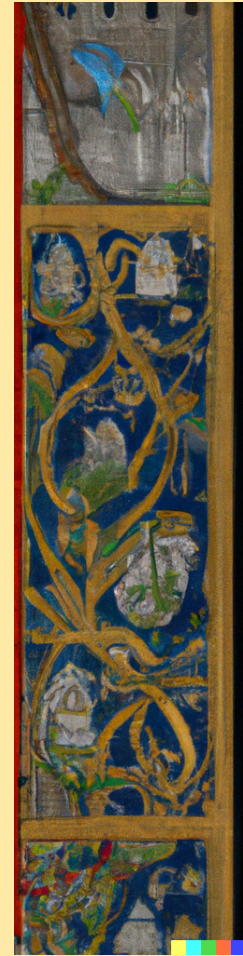


we hung around campus and talked for hours."

"Sounds nice," said Miles.

"It was," agreed Patrick. "Shannon and I were married two years later, and now we have two beautiful kids: Emma and Jake."

"Two?" exclaimed Miles. "You don't say."





Patrick smiled at him.

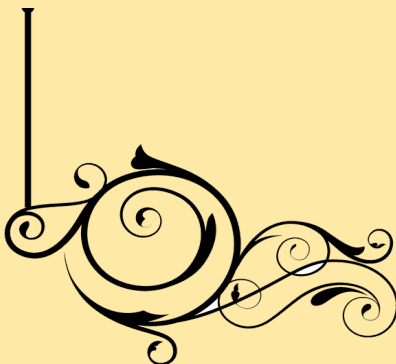
“Do you mind if I continue?” he asked. “We haven’t gotten very far yet.”

“Go ahead,” responded Miles. “We’re listening.”

“Emma is four years old and in kindergarten,” continued Patrick. “Jake is just a year older and is already in second grade. Both of them are great kids, and I love spending time with them.”

“What about your wife?” inquired Esther. “Are you close?”

“We get along pretty well, but we have different interests,” answered Patrick. “She loves to go shopping,





and I hate it. She likes to watch television, and I prefer reading. She's always telling me I should broaden my horizons, and I agree, but there's only so much I can do."

"Well, I hope you don't stay that way for long," advised Esther. "Your kids are growing up fast."

"Yeah, I know," replied Patrick. "That's why I want to spend as much time with them as

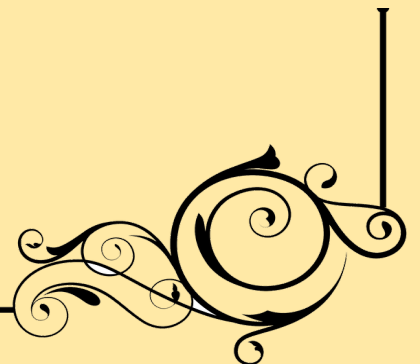
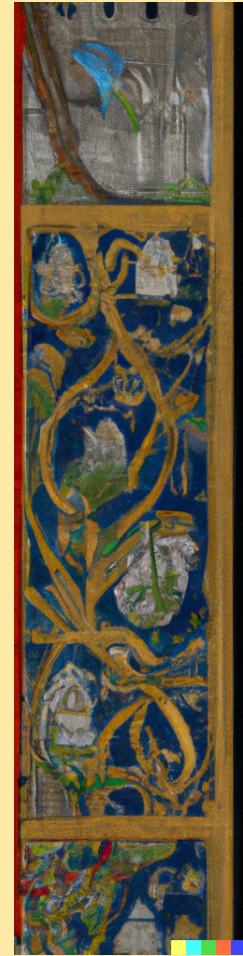


possi-
ble."

"I'm glad
to hear
that,"

said Esther. "How did you meet your wife?"

"Actually, it was her father who introduced us," answered Patrick. "He was the president of a local charity foundation and invited me to a fund-raising gala. I'm not really a big fan of these kinds of events, but my wife insisted that we attend together."





“Did you enjoy it?” asked Esther.

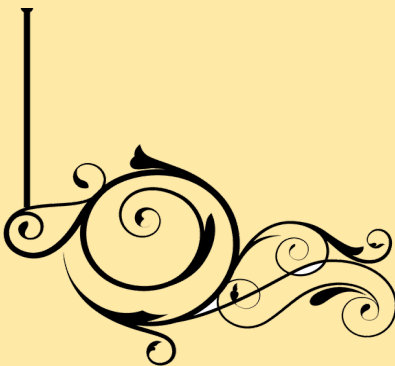
Patrick shrugged. “It wasn’t bad, I guess. The food was excellent, and the room was filled with influential people. I felt kind of out of place though. I didn’t know anyone there except for my wife. By the end of the evening I was feeling pretty uncomfortable, and I thought about leaving early.”

“Why didn’t you?” asked Esther.

“I don’t know,” admitted Patrick. “Maybe it was because I was with my wife. Maybe I thought I had to stay for her sake.”

“I think you should tell us about that,” encouraged Esther. “It sounds like a turning point in your life.”

“Well, I did decide to stick





around for a while,” continued Patrick. “I figured I’d be able to mingle with the other guests and make new connections. I was wrong. I soon realized that everyone there was either looking at me or talking about me behind my back. I don’t know why, but it seemed that every person I spoke to was rude and condescending.”

“That must have been awful,” said Esther.

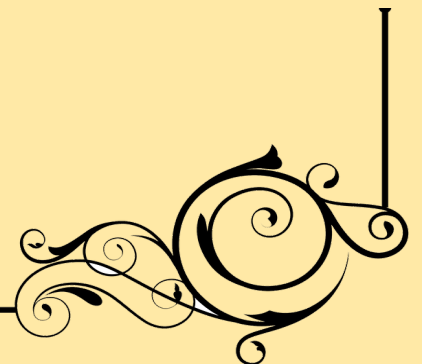
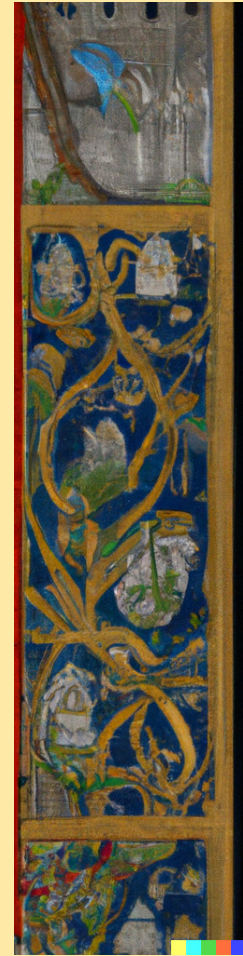


“Yeah,
it was,”
admitted
Patrick.
“I tried
to ignore

them and focus on my wife, but she couldn’t take it. Every time someone insulted me she would turn to them and defend me, which only made matters worse.”

“How did she react?” asked Esther.

“She got angry,” replied Patrick. “She grabbed the arm of the closest person she could find and





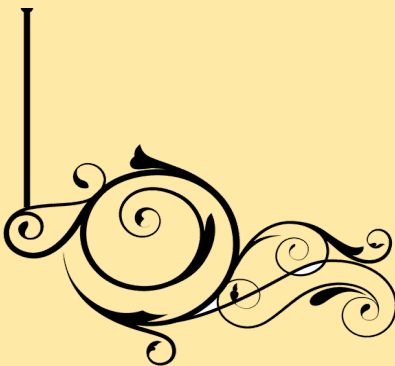
started shouting at him. Then she punched him in the face.”

“What?” exclaimed Miles. “You’re kidding!”

Patrick shook his head. “No, I’m not,” he responded. “She did it so quickly, nobody even had time to react. She kept yelling at the guy until security dragged her away.”

“Wow,” said Esther. “I wonder what made her do that?”

“Probably the humiliation,” answered Patrick. “When she calmed down she apologized to the man she hit, and he forgave her. But everyone else was so shocked by her behavior that no one would speak to me again. I left as soon as I could, and the rest of the night was miserable. I tried to relax, but I couldn’t stand being there without my wife.”





“Well, that was a long time ago,” said Esther.
“Has anything like that ever happened since then?”

“Not yet,” answered Patrick. “But I can’t guarantee that it won’t.”

“Let’s talk about the present,” suggested Miles.
“How do you feel about your children? Are they happy and healthy?”

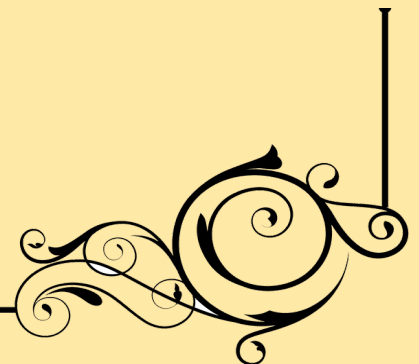
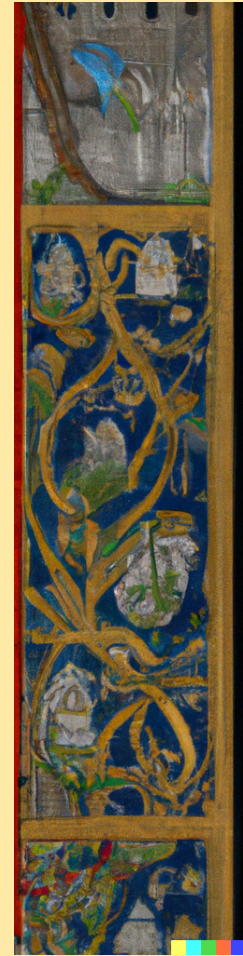


Patrick
smiled.
“Yes,
thanks
for ask-

ing. They’re wonderful kids, and they keep me very busy.”

“What’s your relationship like with your wife?” asked Esther.

“We’re not completely estranged, but we don’t see each other very often anymore,” he ex-





plained. “She works crazy hours and has a demanding job. At least once a week she’ll fly out to another city, and the next thing you know she’s gone for days.”

“What about your parents?” asked Esther.
“Are they still alive?”

“My mother died shortly after my daughter was born,” answered Patrick. “I found out about it when I called home one morning and no one picked up the phone.”

“Oh my God,” exclaimed Miles. “What a tragedy.”

“Yeah, it was,” agreed Patrick. “My father stayed with my grandmother for a while, but he passed away a few months later. He was in his late seventies.”

