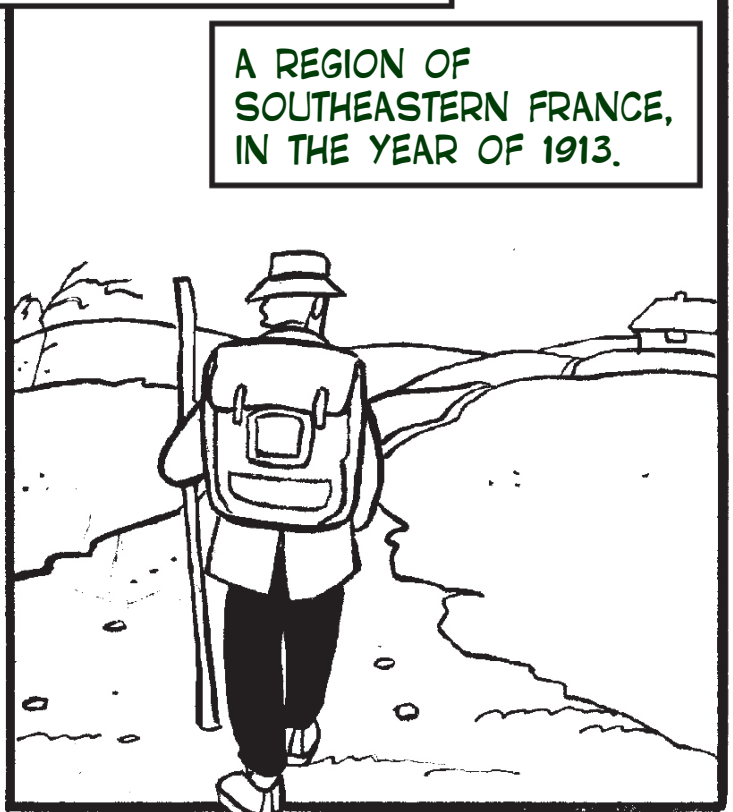


Change Your Part of the World

A STORY HAS BEEN TOLD OF A YOUNG MAN WHO
TOOK A LONE HIKING TRIP THROUGH PROVENCE,



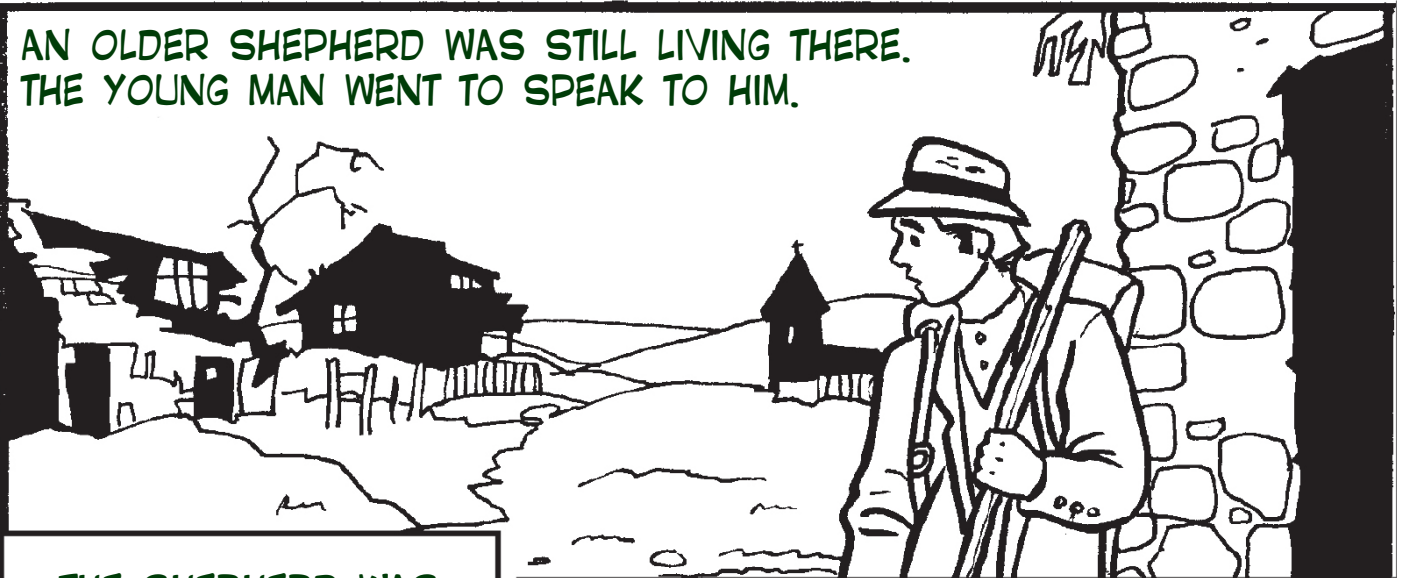
A REGION OF
SOUTHEASTERN FRANCE,
IN THE YEAR OF 1913.



HE CAME ACROSS AN AREA THAT HAD NO TREES OR WILDLIFE,
AND VERY LITTLE WATER.

THE VILLAGES WERE OLD AND RUN-DOWN, AND MANY PEOPLE HAD LEFT.

AN OLDER SHEPHERD WAS STILL LIVING THERE.
THE YOUNG MAN WENT TO SPEAK TO HIM.



THE SHEPHERD WAS
VERY KIND,

AND ENCOURAGED THE YOUNG MAN TO
STAY SEVERAL DAYS WITH HIM.



HE NOTICED THAT EVERY EVENING THE
OLD SHEPHERD WOULD SORT NUTS LIKE
ACORNS, HAZELNUTS, AND CHESTNUTS,

REMOVING THE BAD ONES AND
PUTTING THE GOOD ONES IN A BAG.



THE NEXT DAY, AS HE LED HIS SHEEP TO GRAZE, HE MADE A HOLE IN THE GROUND WITH HIS ROD,



PLANTED A NUT IN IT, AND COVERED IT WITH EARTH.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

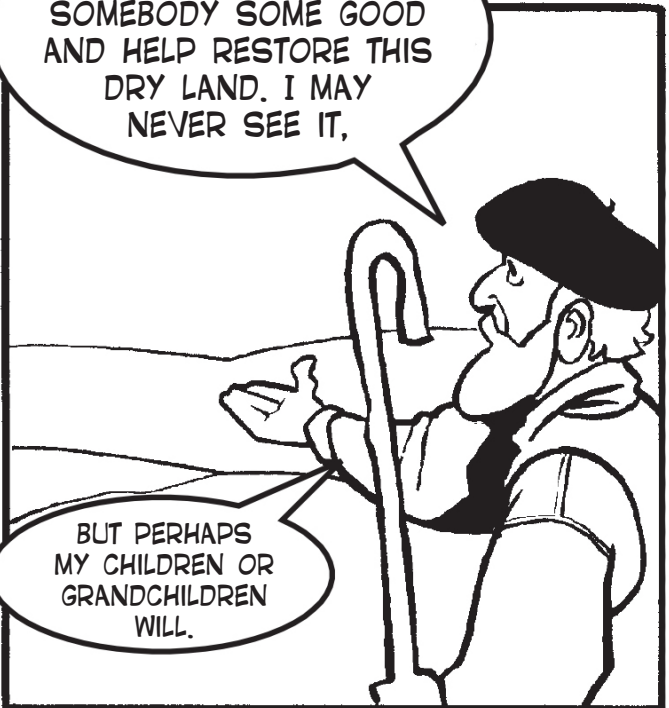


I'M PLANTING TREES,



BUT YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THEM GROW.

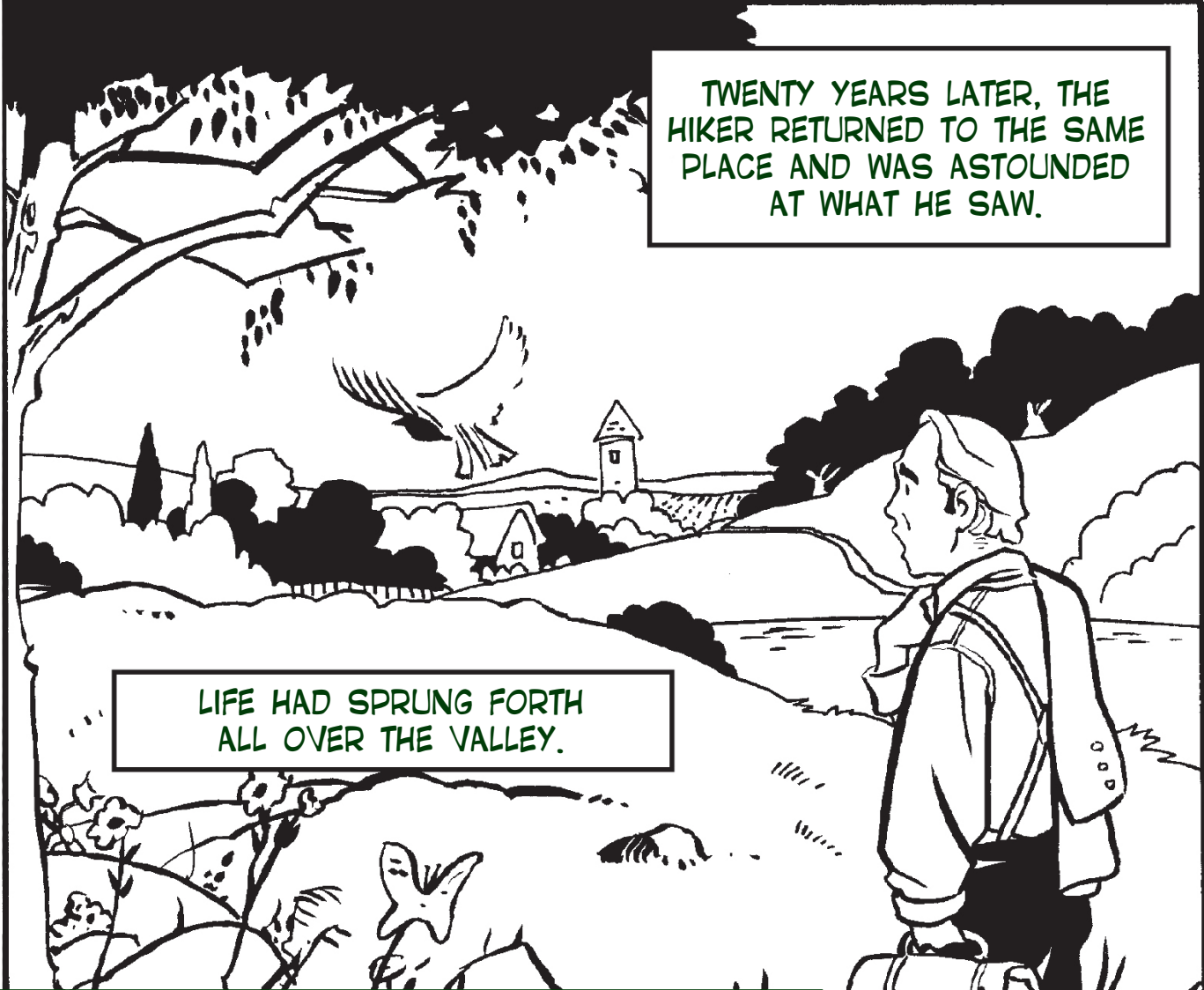
YES, BUT SOMEDAY THEY'LL DO SOMEBODY SOME GOOD AND HELP RESTORE THIS DRY LAND. I MAY NEVER SEE IT,



BUT PERHAPS MY CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN WILL.

THE ENGLISH POET, SAMUEL JOHNSON, SAID:

"FEW THINGS ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO DILIGENCE AND SKILL. GREAT WORKS ARE PERFORMED NOT BY STRENGTH, BUT PERSEVERANCE."



TWENTY YEARS LATER, THE
HIKER RETURNED TO THE SAME
PLACE AND WAS ASTOUNDED
AT WHAT HE SAW.



LIFE HAD SPRUNG FORTH
ALL OVER THE VALLEY.



HE WONDERED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE SHEPHERD,
AND DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS STILL AROUND.



BY THEN THE SHEPHERD WAS IN HIS SEVENTIES,

AND HE WAS STILL SORTING NUTS.

SOME IMPORTANT MEN FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WERE SO IMPRESSED WITH WHAT THE OLD SHEPHERD HAD DONE THAT THEY GAVE HIM A REWARD.



THIS AREA OF PROVENCE, WHICH WAS ONCE NEARLY DESERTED AND DESOLATE, NOW HAD FARMS AND A GROWING VILLAGE.



NOT ONLY WERE THERE NOW TREES, BUT GRASS AND OTHER PLANTS WERE GROWING BETWEEN THE TREES, WATER WAS NOW IN THE STREAMS, AND THE WILDLIFE HAD RETURNED. ALL DUE TO THE FAITHFULNESS, PATIENCE, AND HARD WORK OF JUST ONE SHEPHERD.



AS THIS STORY PORTRAYS, LITTLE ACTIONS CAN MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE. YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR PART OF THE WORLD. IT OFTEN STARTS BY TAKING NOTICE OF SOMETHING THAT COULD BECOME BETTER AND SEEING WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE IT BETTER.

IT MAY BE SOMETHING YOU DO FOR ANOTHER PERSON, OR A COMMUNITY EFFORT YOU JOIN, OR A PROJECT YOU TAKE PART IN. WHEN EACH PERSON DOES WHAT HE OR SHE CAN TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, EVENTUALLY THE WHOLE WORLD CAN BECOME BETTER. IT ALL STARTS WITH THE INDIVIDUAL.