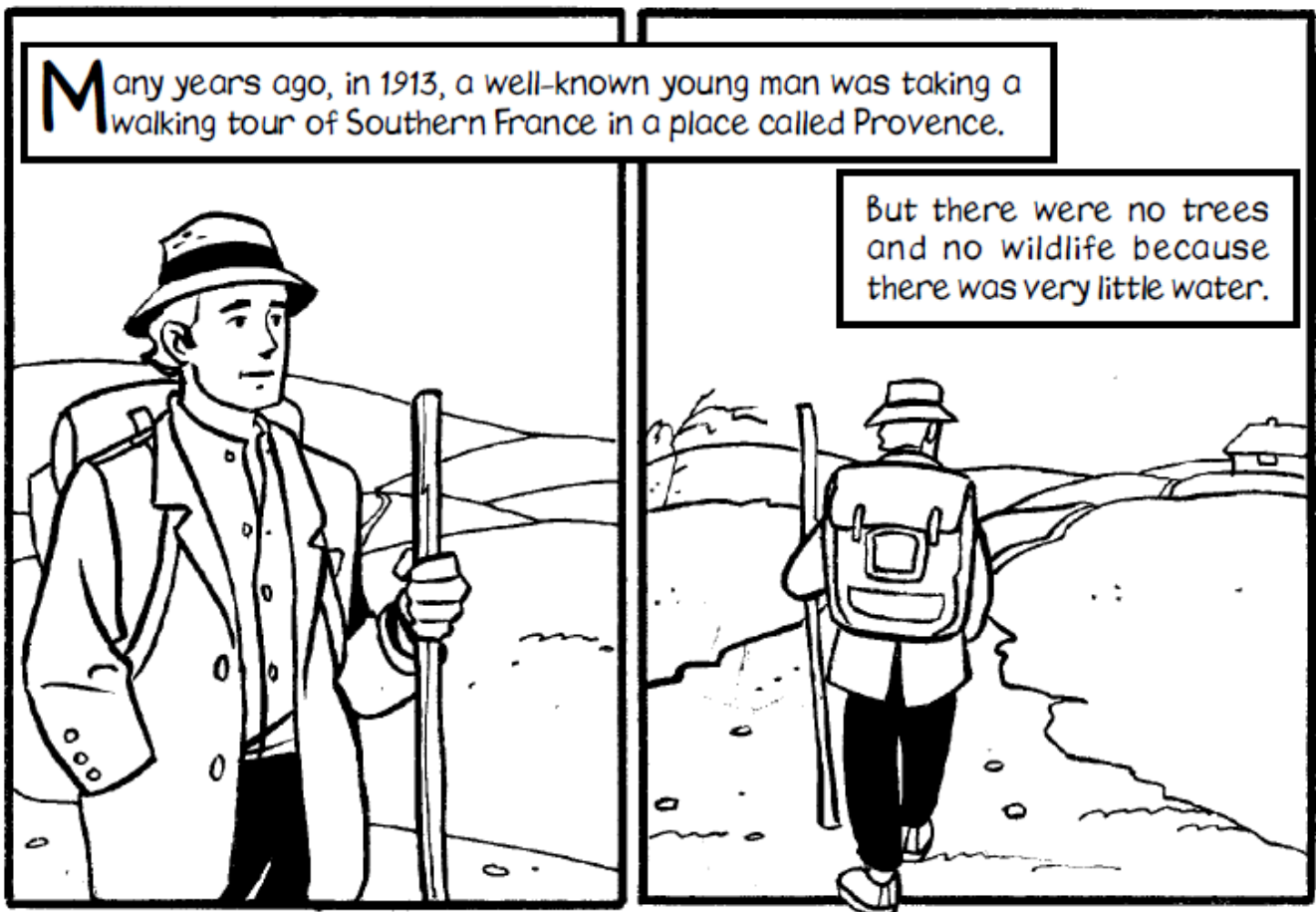


Change the World!

We read that great empires and governments, armies, and wars change the course of history and the face of the earth, so sometimes we're discouraged and think, *Who am I? What can I do?*

But as proven by this humble shepherd, over a period of years one man can change the world!

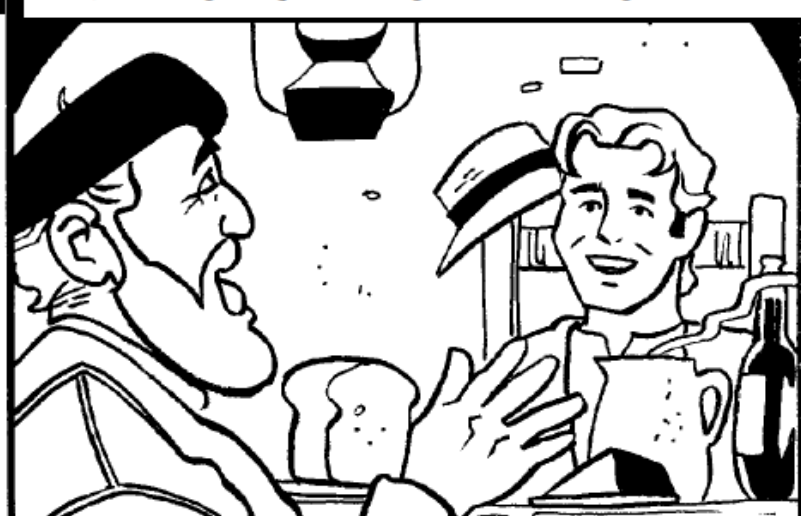


The villages were old and rundown, and many people had left.



The young man stopped one night at the humble cottage of an old shepherd.

He spent the night there, and the shepherd was very kind, so the young man stayed several days with him.



Every evening the old shepherd would sort nuts like acorns, hazelnuts and chestnuts, put them in a row and take out the bad ones ...

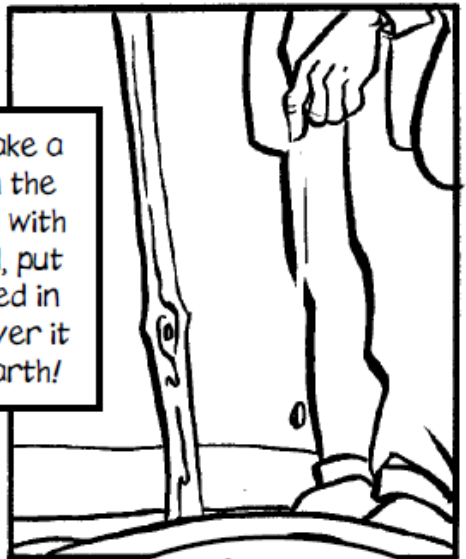
Then he would put the good ones in a bag!



The next day, as he led his sheep to graze, he would plant the nuts along the way.



He'd make a hole in the ground with his rod, put the seed in and cover it with earth!



What are you doing?



It's obvious! I'm *planting trees!*



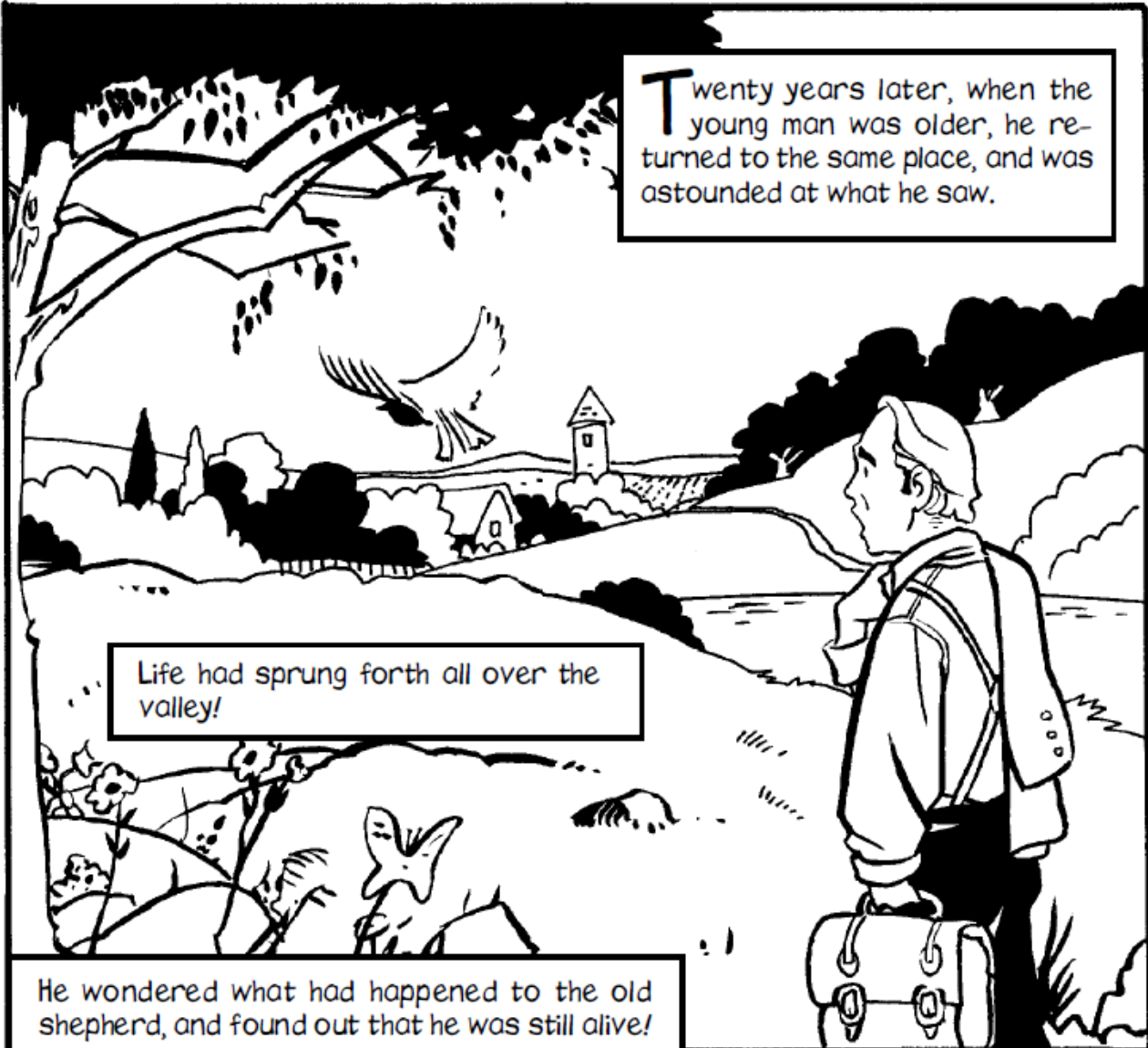
But you might not even live long enough to see them *grow!*



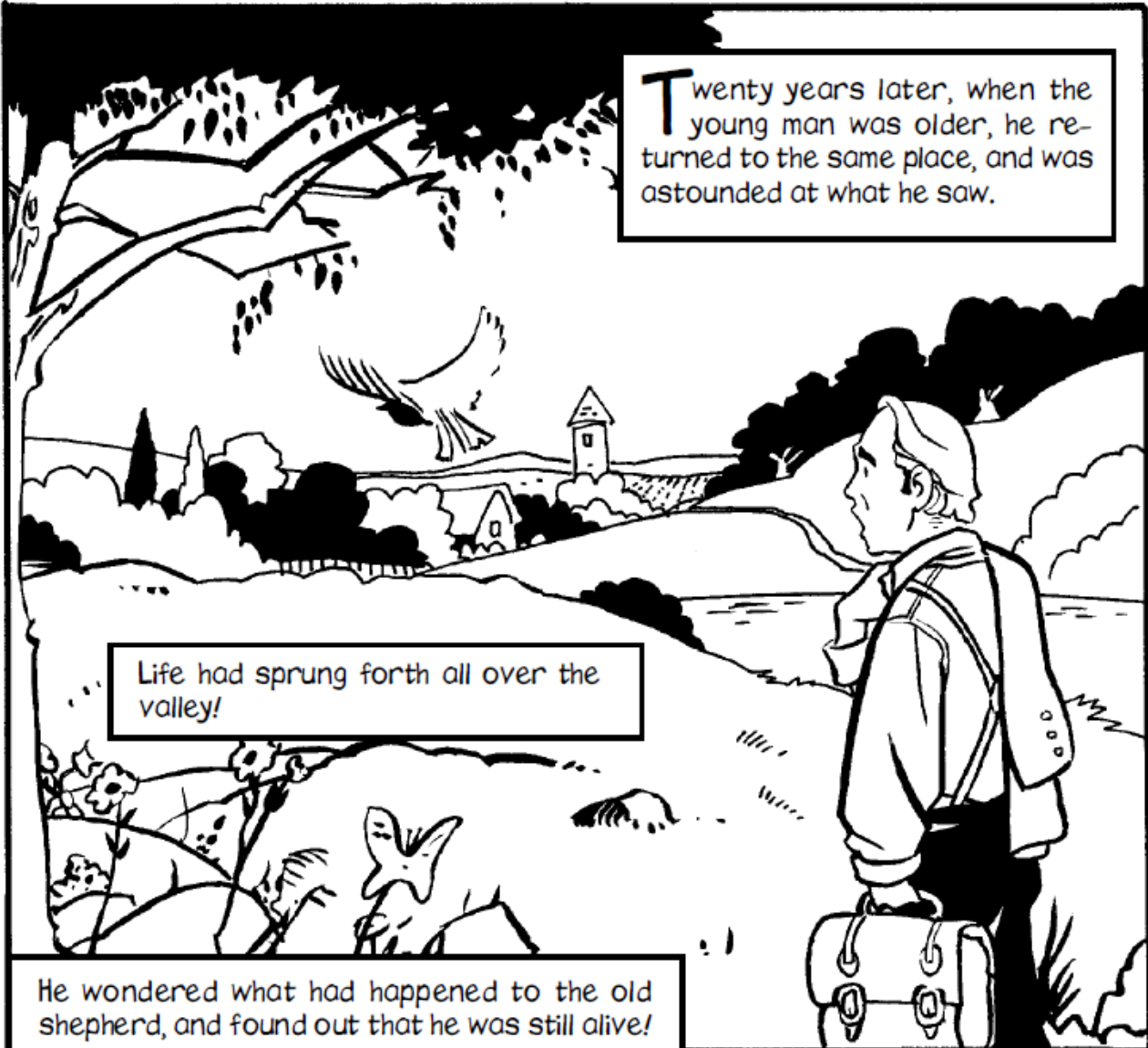
Yes, but *someday* they'll do *somebody* some good, and help restore this dry land. I may never see it ...

... but perhaps my children *will!*

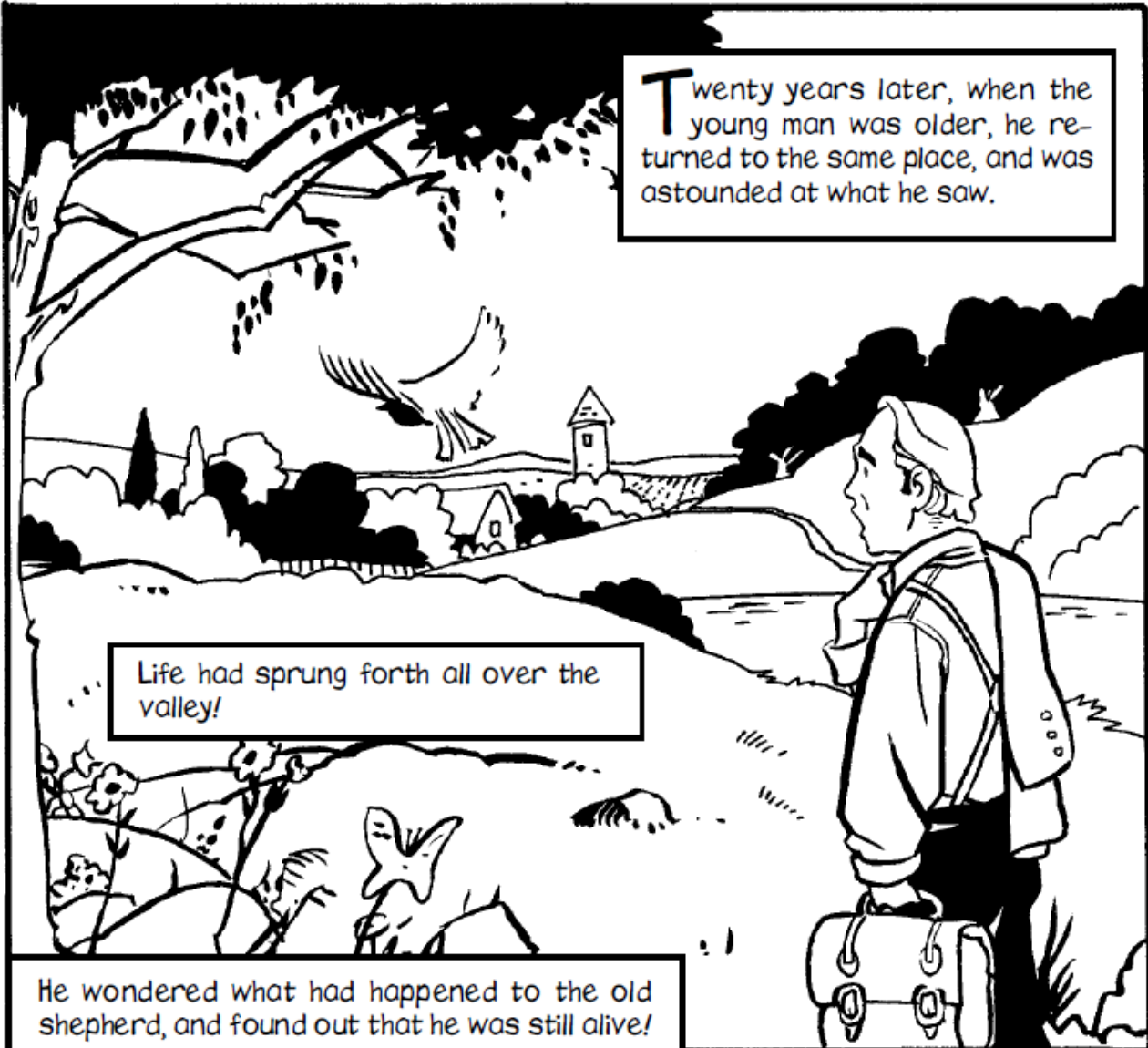
The young man marveled at the old shepherd's unselfishness. He was willing to prepare the land for future generations though he might never see it himself.



Twenty years later, when the young man was older, he 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 old shepherd, and found out that he was still alive!



He was now about seventy-five years old and hearty, and still sorting his 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.



So the land of Provence that was once deserted now had farms and newly-painted villages, and the people were happy because of the trees ...



... that had grown because of the faithfulness, patience and hard work of just *one* old shepherd.



You may not be able to change the whole world, but you can change your part of the world. Even the little things you do can mean a lot. The light of your smile, the kindness of your face, the influence of your life can shed light on many. Just a little love can go a long way—much further than you would have ever dreamed.