



The Anabaptists

Long ago and far away
In lands across the sea,
A faithful band of followers
Of Jesus came to be.



Many things taught by the priests
In churches in that day
Most certainly did not agree
With Jesus and His way.



The people living then believed
Their babies should be brought
To be baptized by the priests in church
As this was what was taught.

This faithful band that searched God's Word
Said let your children grow,
And then be baptized when they love
And Jesus come to know.

They baptized one another,
Though the others said 'twas sin.
People called them Anabaptists,
Which means baptized again.

The priests said, "Pray to Mary,
She'll hear from heaven's throne."
The Anabaptists said that's false;
They prayed to God alone.



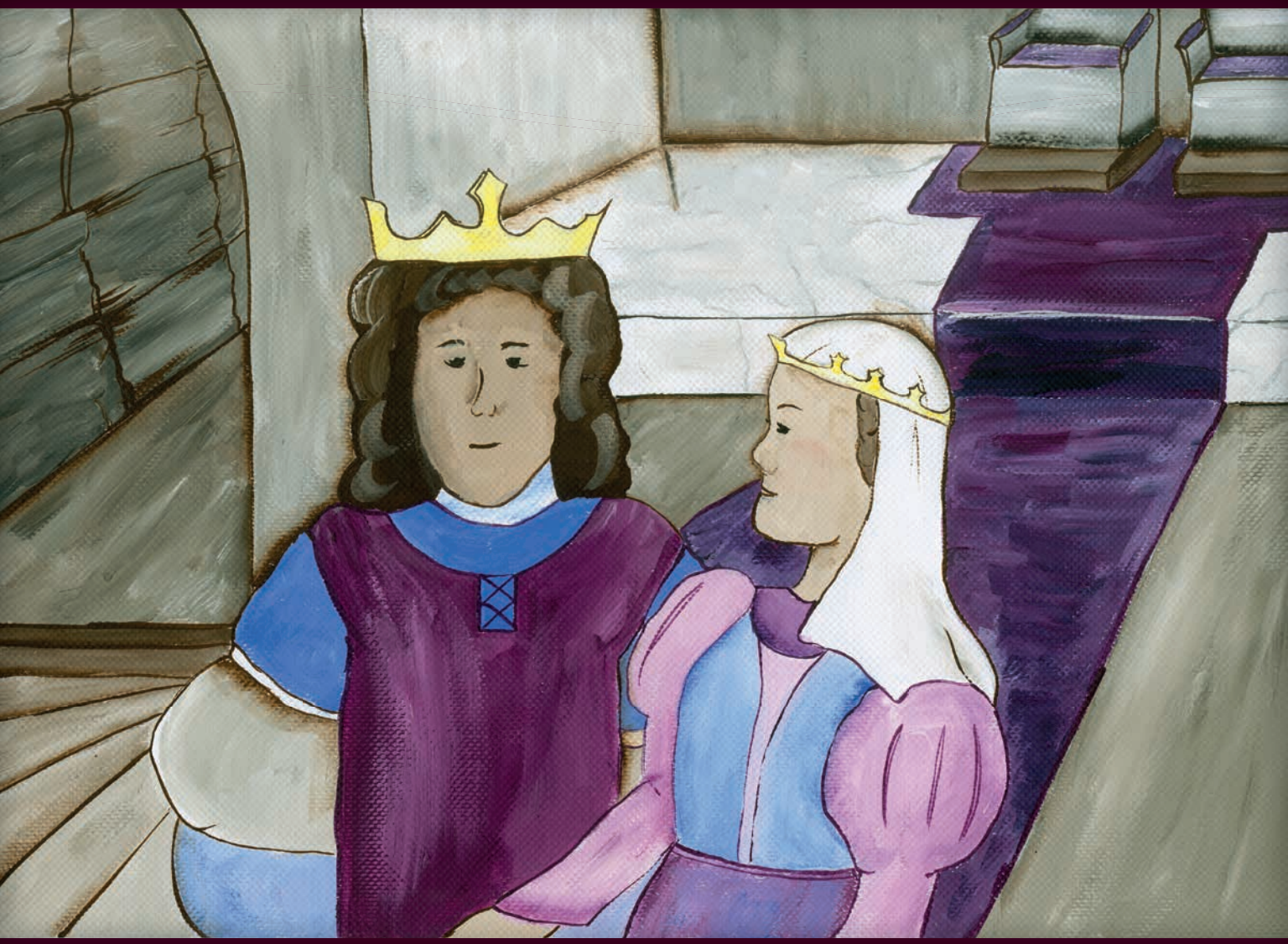


The priests had crucifixes that
Showed how our Lord was killed,
These crosses carved with Jesus' form
They said were power filled.

The Anabaptists said that God
As Spirit dwells within,
We cannot capture Him in wood,
To try, they said, 'twas sin.

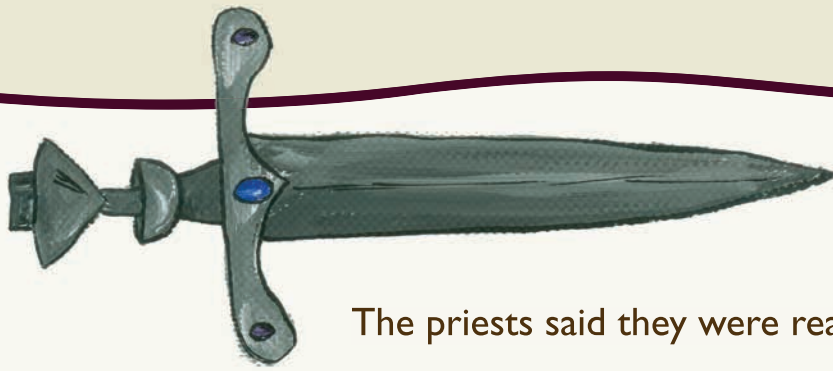
Through the course of history
The persecution came
From priests and monks, their enemies
Were not always the same.





Emperors, kings and queens,
Rulers of the land,
Later on the Reformed church
Took on this evil stand.

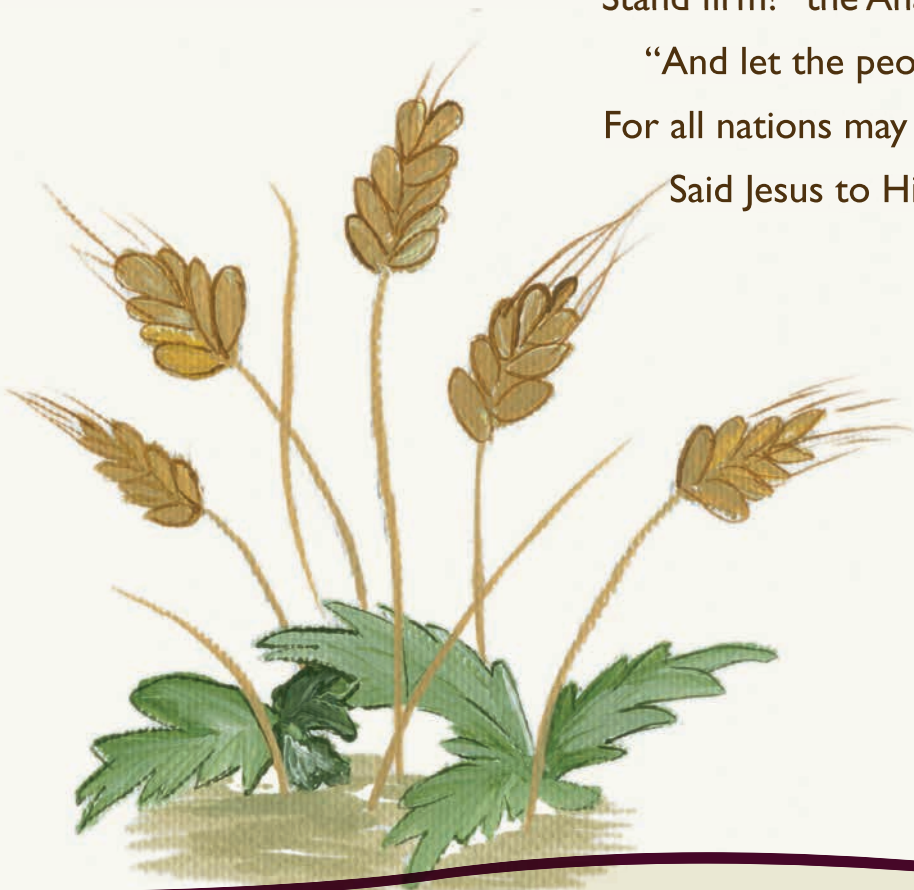
The believers of this way proclaimed
True Christians do not hate,
Or seek to kill another,
Though their faith they might debate.



The priests said they were reaping
Their acre for the Lord,
And sorting out the good from bad
With the power of their sword.

The parable that Jesus gave
Of weeds sowed while we sleep,
“Together let them grow,” He said,
“’Tis the angels who will reap.”

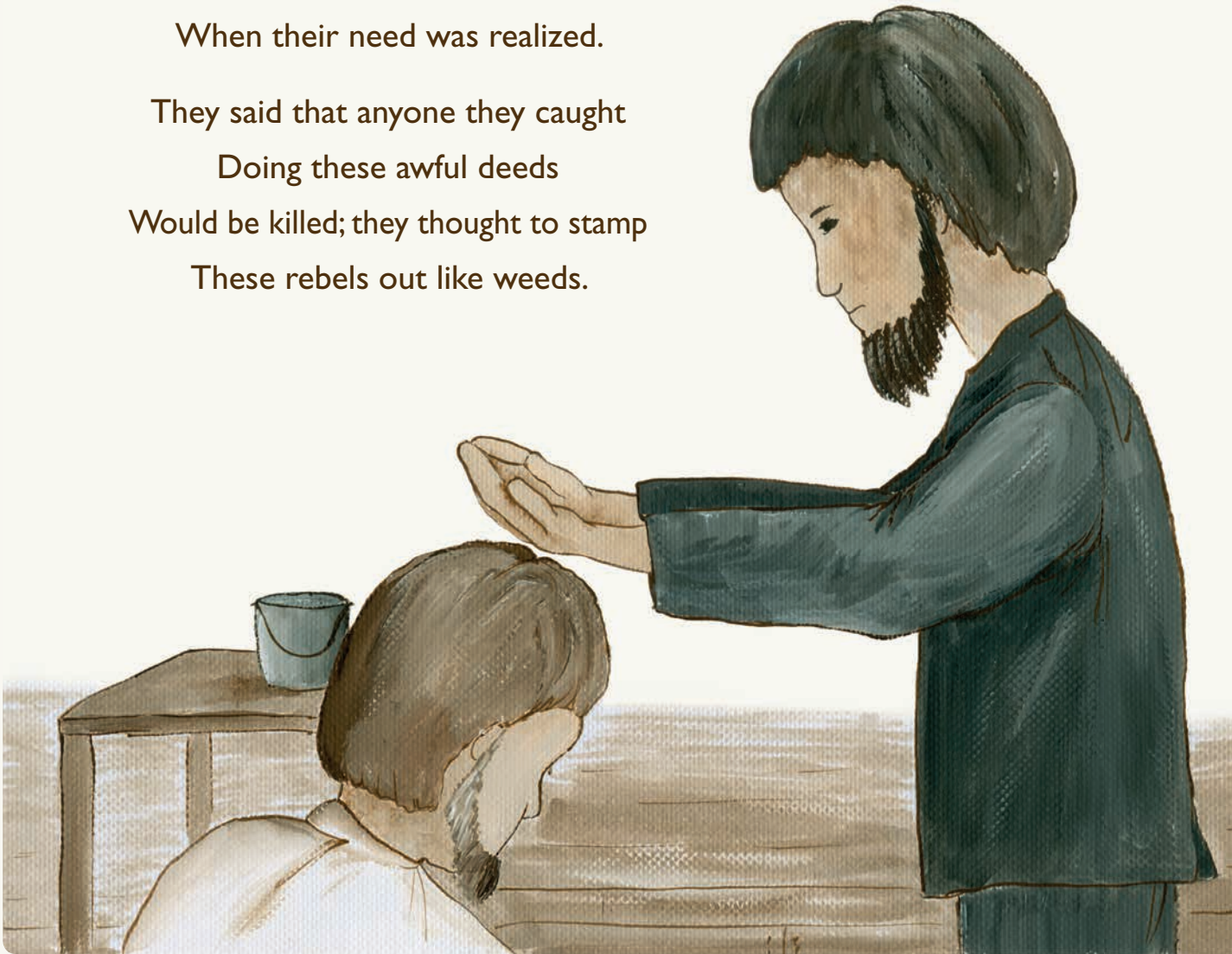
“Stand firm!” the Anabaptists said,
“And let the people mock,
For all nations may despise you,
Said Jesus to His flock.”



The Story of Felix

A law went out across the land
For those who rebaptized
Grown-ups in the Anabaptist way
When their need was realized.

They said that anyone they caught
Doing these awful deeds
Would be killed; they thought to stamp
These rebels out like weeds.





The harder that they tried to rid
The countries of this threat,
The people gathered more and more,
And the officials' minds were set.

A leader of the Anabaptists—
Felix was so Spirit filled
He would not stop his ministry
Though he knew he might be killed.

Caring people warned him,
They knew the chance he took,
Because he put his trust in God
His faith could not be shook.

He did not quit baptizing folks
So his hands and feet were bound.
They dropped him in the river
In the icy depths he drowned.

