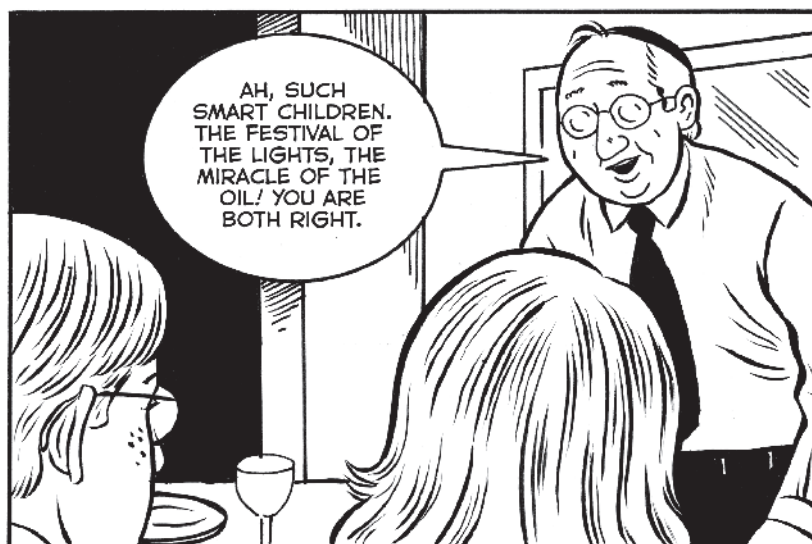


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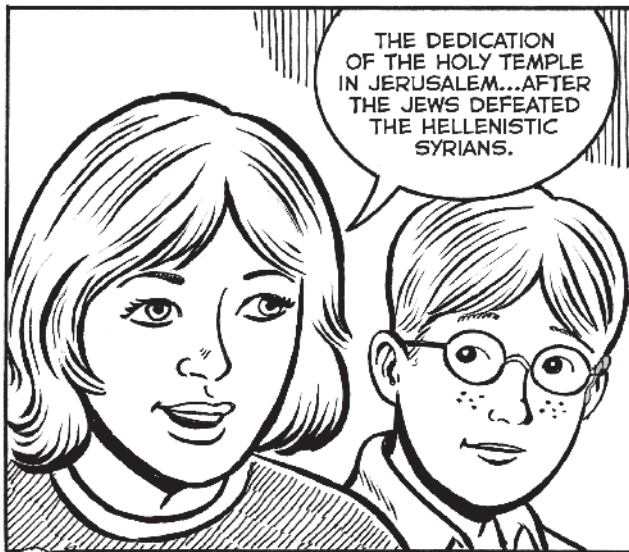
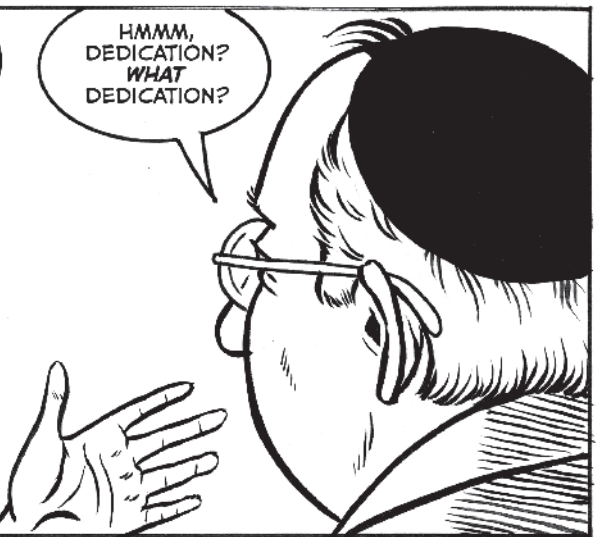
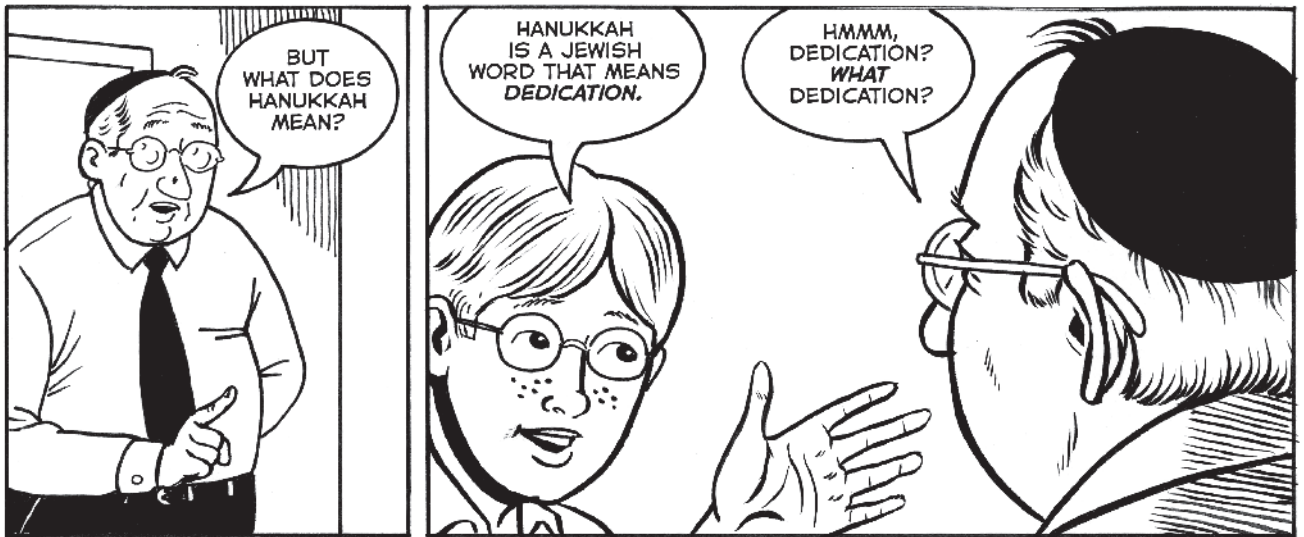
THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



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WE ARE DESCENDENTS OF THE ANCIENT ISRAELITES. IN 168 B.C. ANTOCHUS IV, THE GREEK KING OF SYRIA, BECAME THE RULER OF JUDAH, OUR ANCIENT HOMELAND. ANTOCHUS PROHIBITED THE JEWS FROM PRACTICING THEIR RELIGION. AND HE DESECRATED THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM BY DEDICATING IT TO THE WORSHIP OF ZEUS, A GREEK GOD.



MOST OF THE JEWS IN JUDAH WERE UNHAPPY WITH ANTIOCHUS AND THE GREEK CUSTOMS, BUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPENED IN THE SMALL VILLAGE OF MODIIN OUTSIDE JERUSALEM.

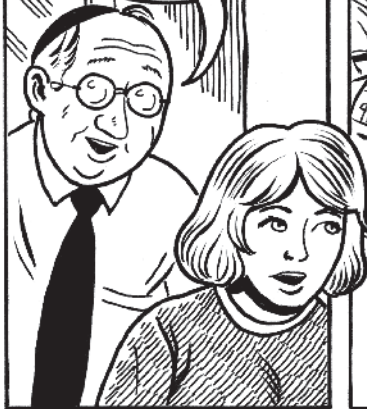


GREEK SOLDIERS GATHERED THE JEWISH VILLAGERS OF MODIIN AND TOLD THEM TO BOW DOWN TO A GREEK IDOL AND EAT THE FLESH OF A PIG.

BUT OUR FAITH PROHIBITS THAT!



THAT'S RIGHT, DANNY. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, ALIYA?



THE GREEK OFFICER IN CHARGE COMMANDED A JEWISH HIGH PRIEST NAMED MATTATHIAS TO TAKE PART IN THE GREEK RELIGIOUS CEREMONY, BUT THE PRIEST REFUSED.

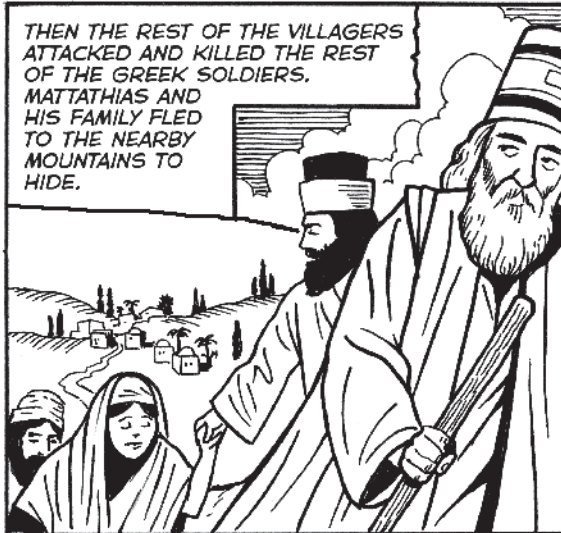
THE VILLAGERS PLEADED WITH THE GREEK OFFICER, BUT HE WOULD NOT BACK DOWN FROM HIS DEMAND...



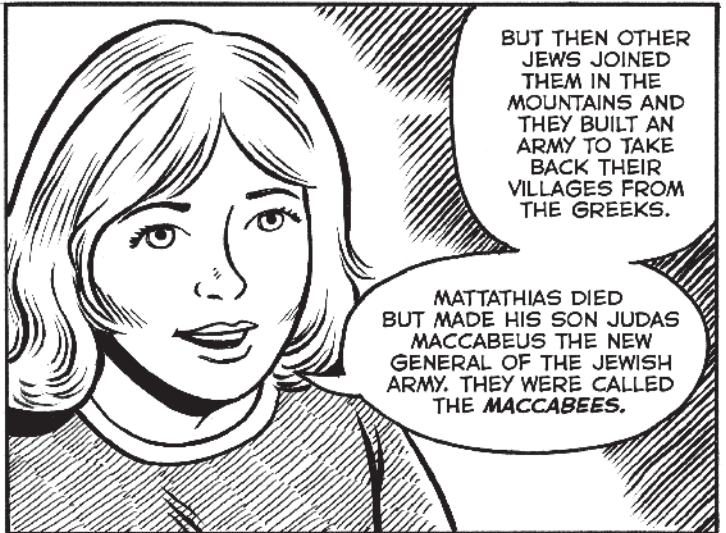
MATTATHIAS WAS SO ENRAGED THAT HE DREW HIS SWORD AND KILLED THE UNSUSPECTING GREEK OFFICER!



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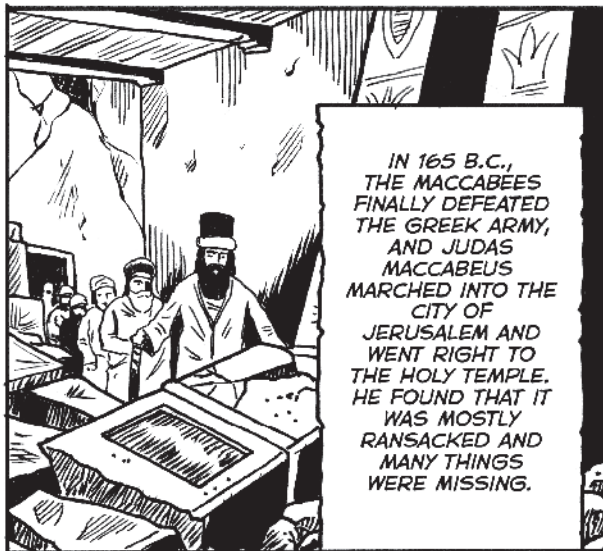


THEN THE REST OF THE VILLAGERS ATTACKED AND KILLED THE REST OF THE GREEK SOLDIERS. MATTATHIAS AND HIS FAMILY FLED TO THE NEARBY MOUNTAINS TO HIDE.

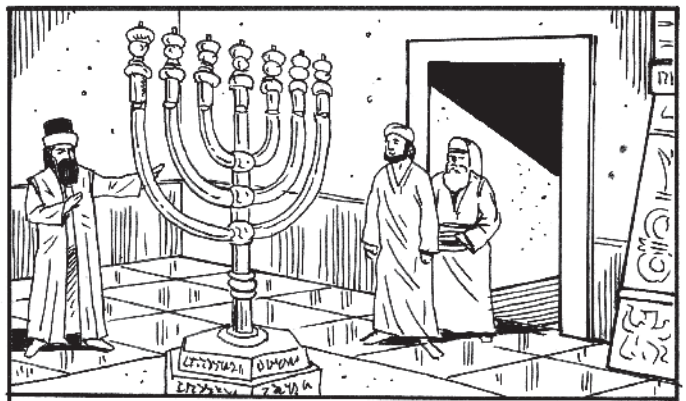


BUT THEN OTHER JEWS JOINED THEM IN THE MOUNTAINS AND THEY BUILT AN ARMY TO TAKE BACK THEIR VILLAGES FROM THE GREEKS.

MATTATHIAS DIED BUT MADE HIS SON JUDAS MACCABEUS THE NEW GENERAL OF THE JEWISH ARMY. THEY WERE CALLED THE MACCABEES.



IN 165 B.C., THE MACCABEES FINALLY DEFEATED THE GREEK ARMY, AND JUDAS MACCABEUS MARCHED INTO THE CITY OF JERUSALEM AND WENT RIGHT TO THE HOLY TEMPLE. HE FOUND THAT IT WAS MOSTLY RANSACKED AND MANY THINGS WERE MISSING.



SO THE MACCABEES CLEANED EVERYTHING UP AND WANTED TO REDEDICATE THE TEMPLE BY RELIGHTING THE GIANT MENORAH THAT IS SUPPOSED TO BURN THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, EVERY NIGHT.



BUT THEY COULD ONLY FIND ENOUGH OIL TO KEEP THE MENORAH LIT FOR ONE NIGHT, RIGHT ALIYA?

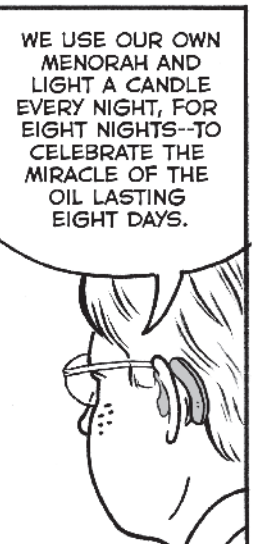


YES, DANNY, BUT THE MIRACLE OCCURRED WHEN THAT LITTLE BIT OF OIL BURNED FOR EIGHT DAYS! THAT WAS ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE FRESH OIL FOR THE TEMPLE'S MENORAH.

AND SO WE CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF THE OIL!

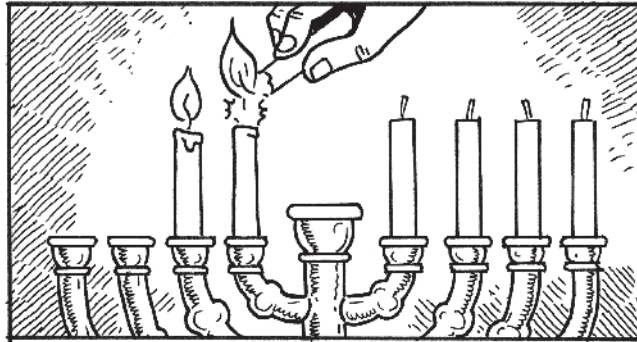
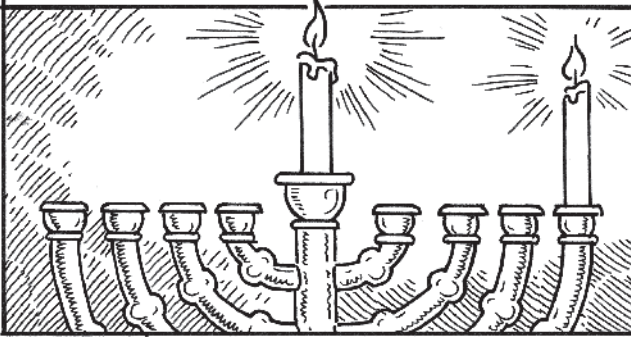


SO WHAT DO WE DO ON THIS FIRST NIGHT OF HANUKKAH?



WE USE OUR OWN MENORAH AND LIGHT A CANDLE EVERY NIGHT, FOR EIGHT NIGHTS--TO CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF THE OIL LASTING EIGHT DAYS.

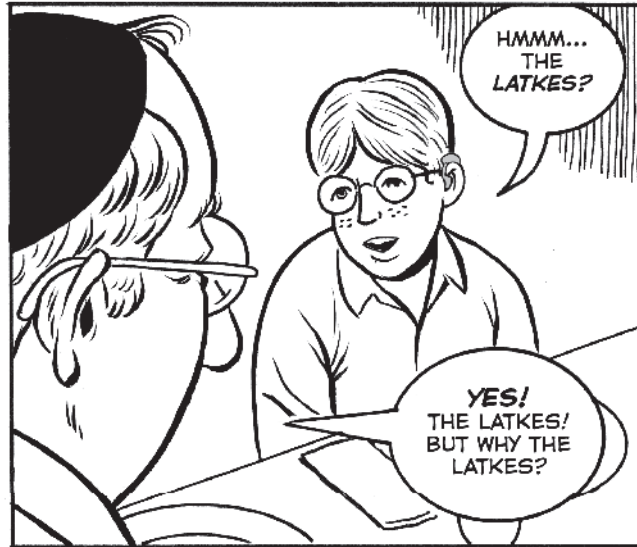
ON THE FIRST NIGHT, WE LIGHT THE SHAMUS CANDLE AND RECITE THREE BLESSINGS. THE L'HADLIK NEIR, THE SHE-ASAH NISIM, AND THE SHE-HECHEYANU. THEN WE LIGHT THE FAR RIGHT CANDLE WITH THE SHAMUS AND PUT THE SHAMUS BACK IN ITS HOLDER. BOTH CANDLES ARE ALLOWED TO BURN OUT ON THEIR OWN.



EACH NIGHT, ANOTHER CANDLE IS ADDED FROM RIGHT TO THE LEFT--JUST AS WE READ HEBREW-- BUT THE CANDLES ARE LIT FROM LEFT TO RIGHT BECAUSE WE ALWAYS HONOR THE NEWER THING FIRST. ON THE EIGHTH NIGHT, ALL NINE CANDLES (THE EIGHT HANUKKAH CANDLES AND THE SHAMUS) ARE LIT.

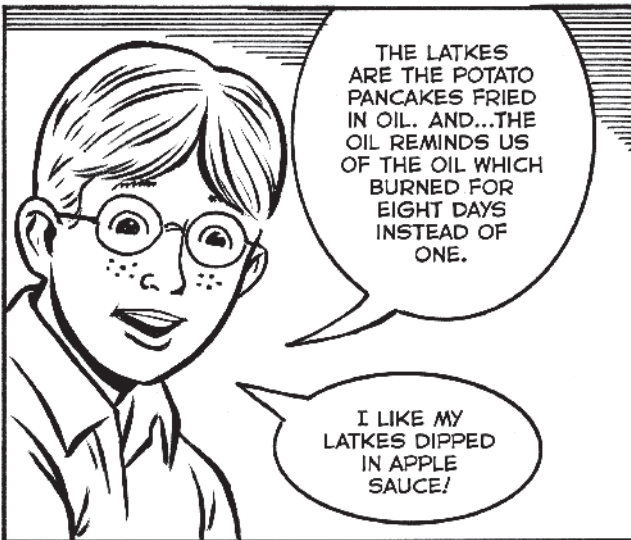


YES, DANNY, YES. AND WHAT ELSE IS PART OF OUR TRADITIONAL HANUKKAH CELEBRATION?



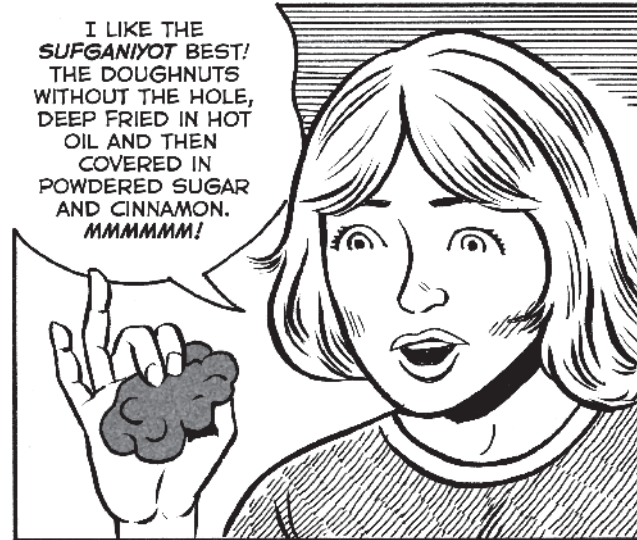
HMMM... THE LATKES?

YES! THE LATKES! BUT WHY THE LATKES?



THE LATKES ARE THE POTATO PANCAKES FRIED IN OIL. AND...THE OIL REMINDS US OF THE OIL WHICH BURNED FOR EIGHT DAYS INSTEAD OF ONE.

I LIKE MY LATKES DIPPED IN APPLE SAUCE!



I LIKE THE SUFGANIYOT BEST! THE DOUGHNUTS WITHOUT THE HOLE, DEEP FRIED IN HOT OIL AND THEN COVERED IN POWDERED SUGAR AND CINNAMON. MMMMMM!

