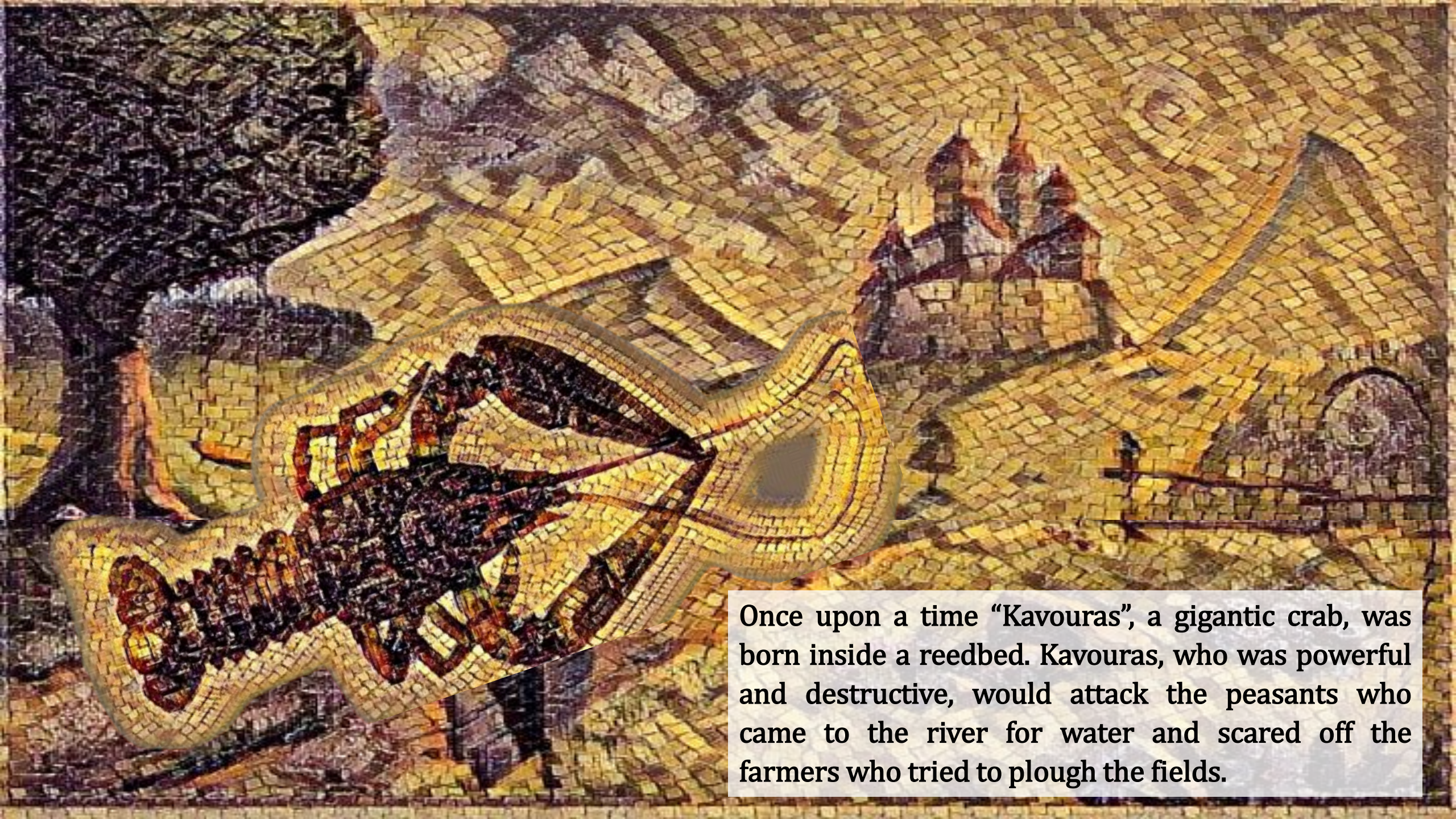




Digenis and the Gargantuan Crab

a medieval myth
from Cyprus



Once upon a time “Kavouras”, a gigantic crab, was born inside a reedbed. Kavouras, who was powerful and destructive, would attack the peasants who came to the river for water and scared off the farmers who tried to plough the fields.



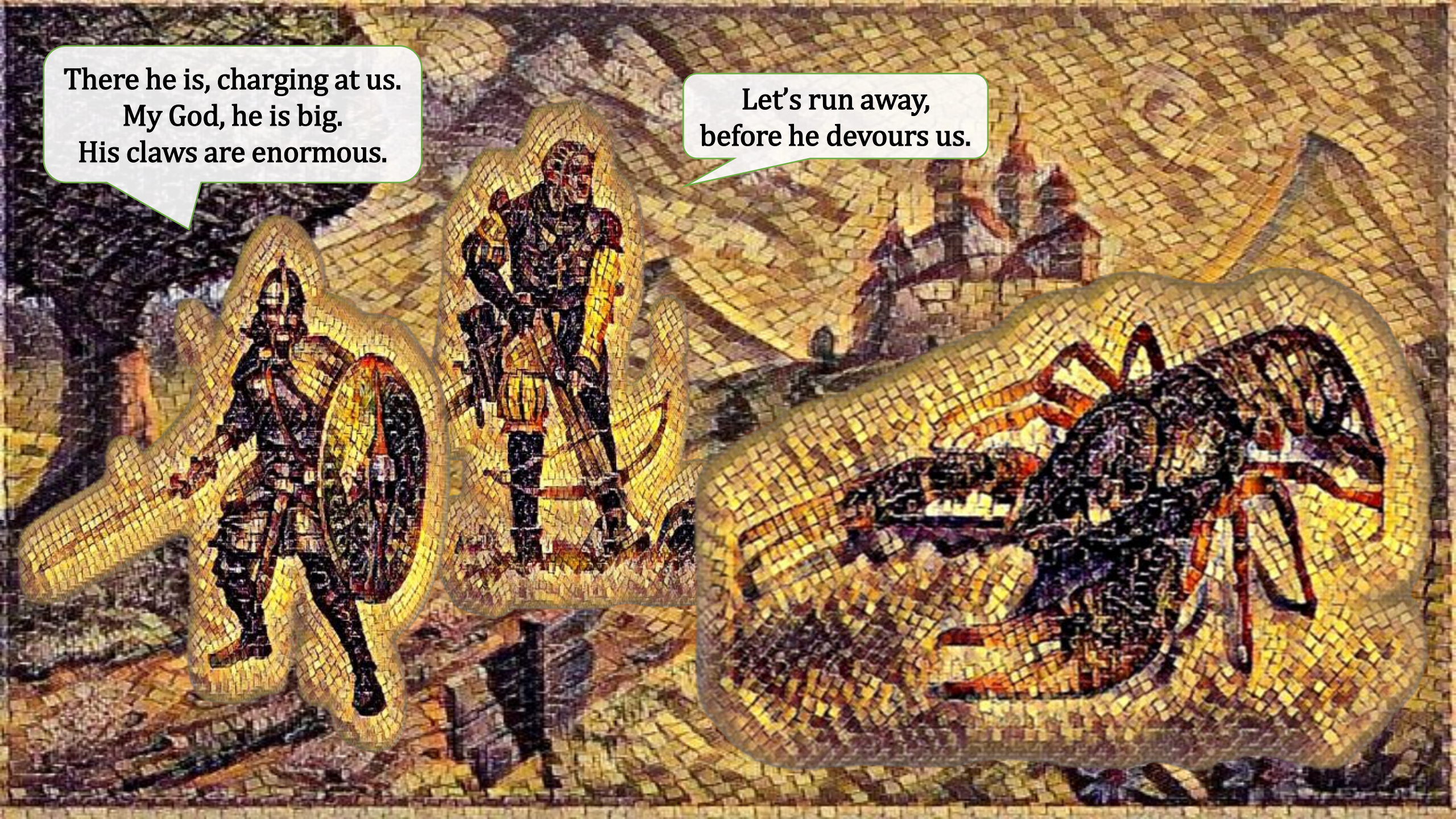
Kavouras is scaring our families away. We need to do something.

We are the bravest villagers of the country. Let's get rid of him.

We must set up an ambush. When Kavouras emerges from inside the reeds, we will draw our swords and cut off his path.

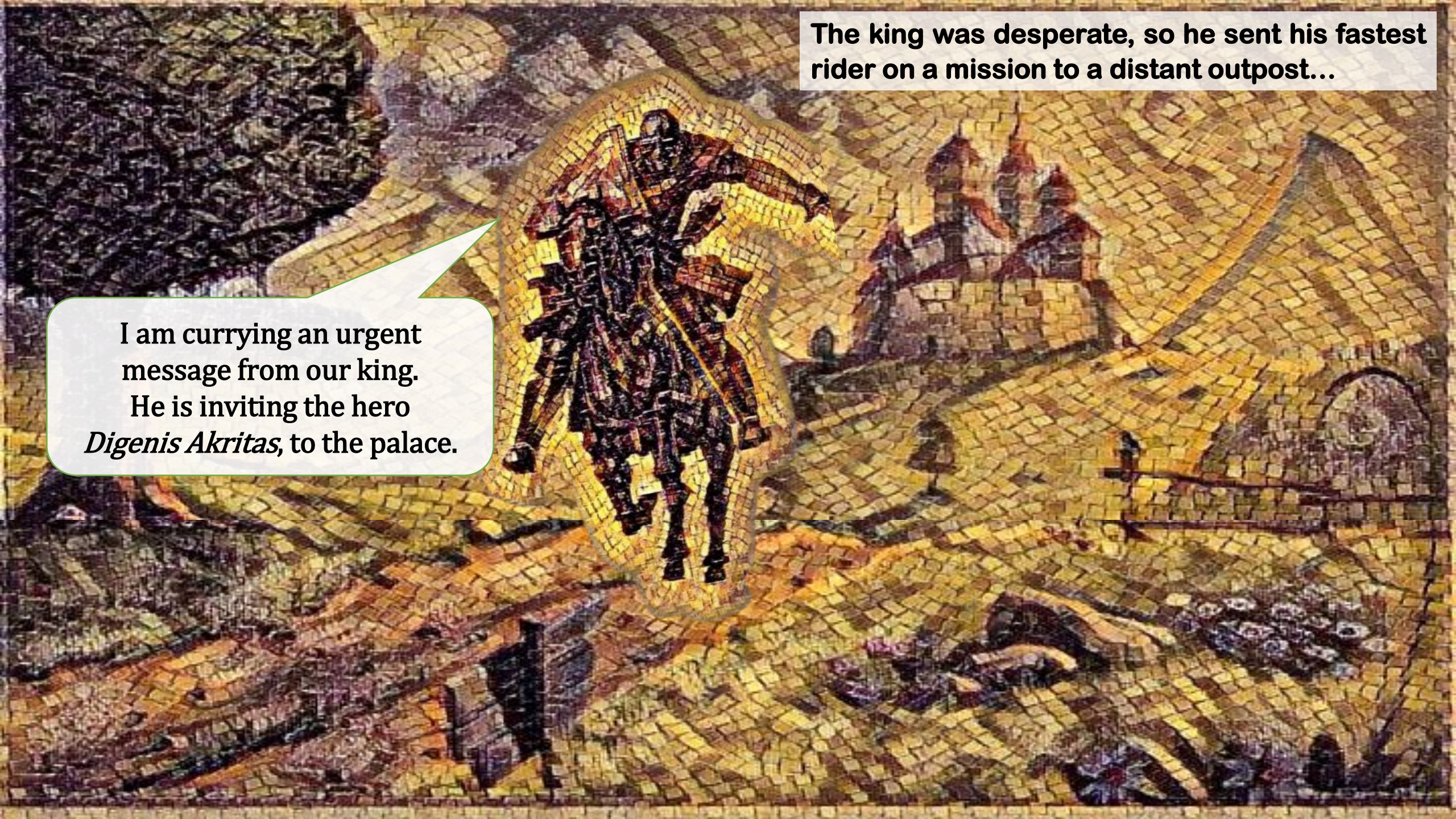
There he is, charging at us.
My God, he is big.
His claws are enormous.

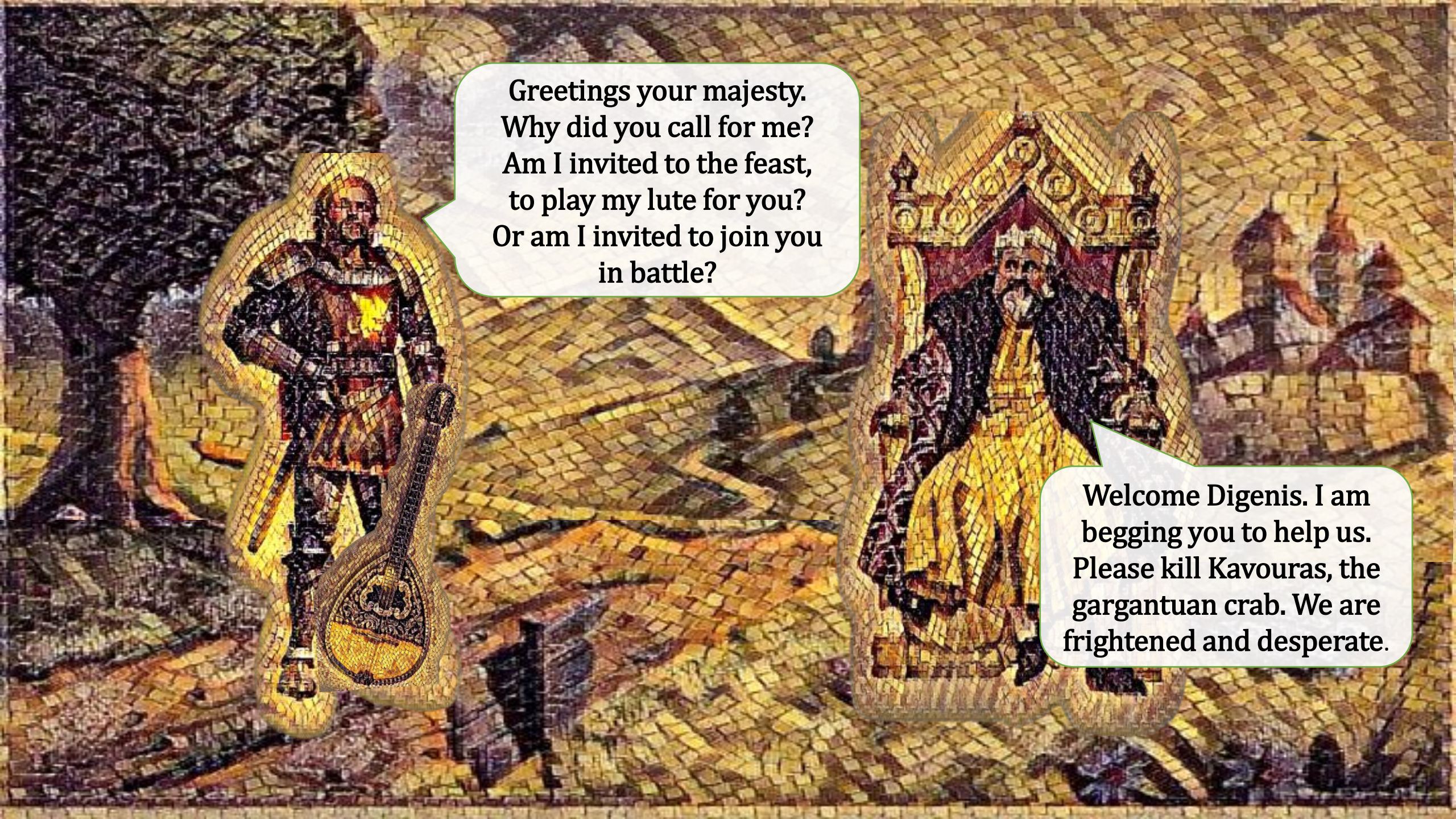
Let's run away,
before he devours us.



The king was desperate, so he sent his fastest rider on a mission to a distant outpost...

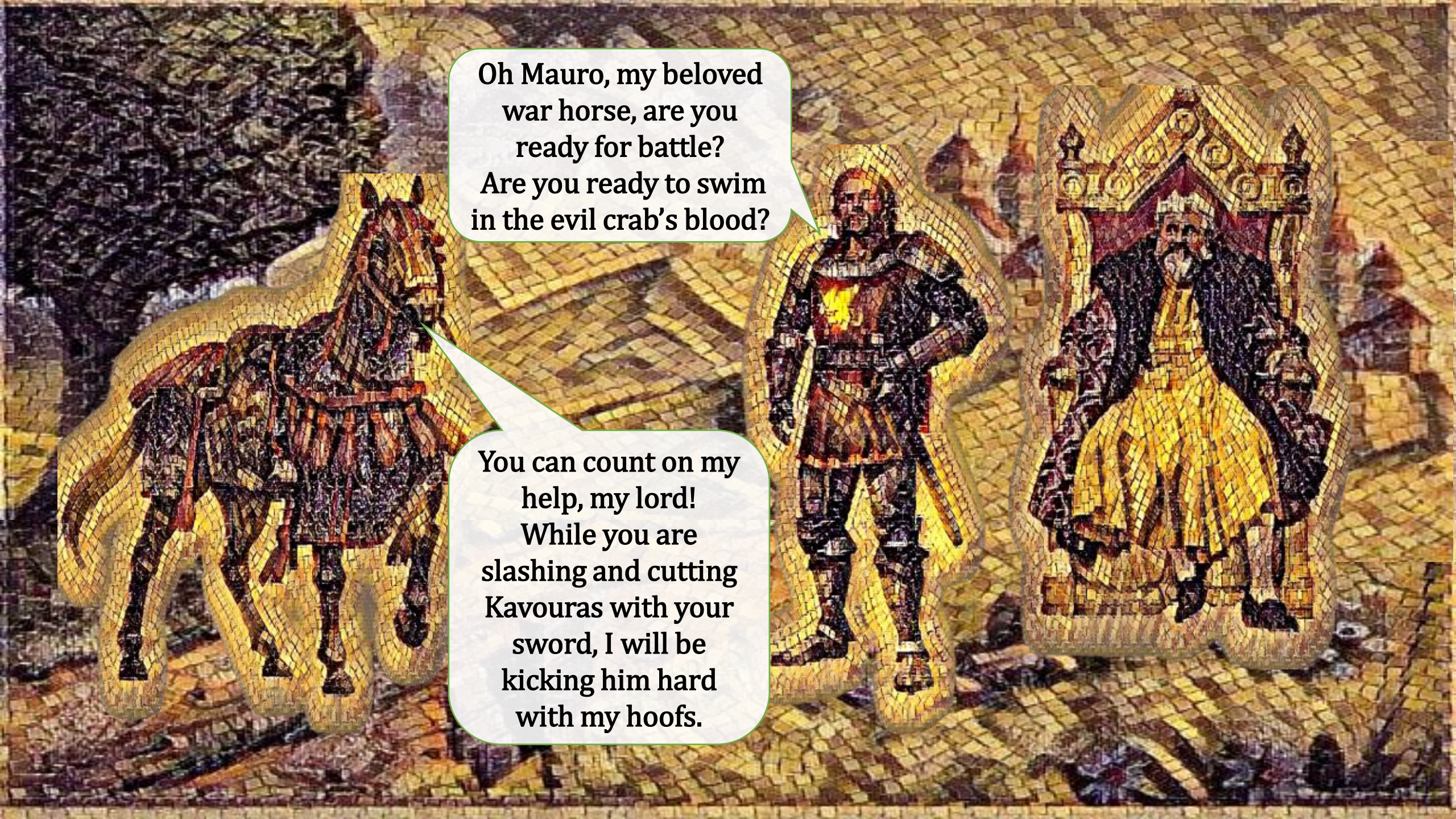
I am currying an urgent message from our king. He is inviting the hero *Digenis Akritas*, to the palace.





Greetings your majesty.
Why did you call for me?
Am I invited to the feast,
to play my lute for you?
Or am I invited to join you
in battle?

Welcome Digenis. I am
begging you to help us.
Please kill Kavouras, the
gargantuan crab. We are
frightened and desperate.

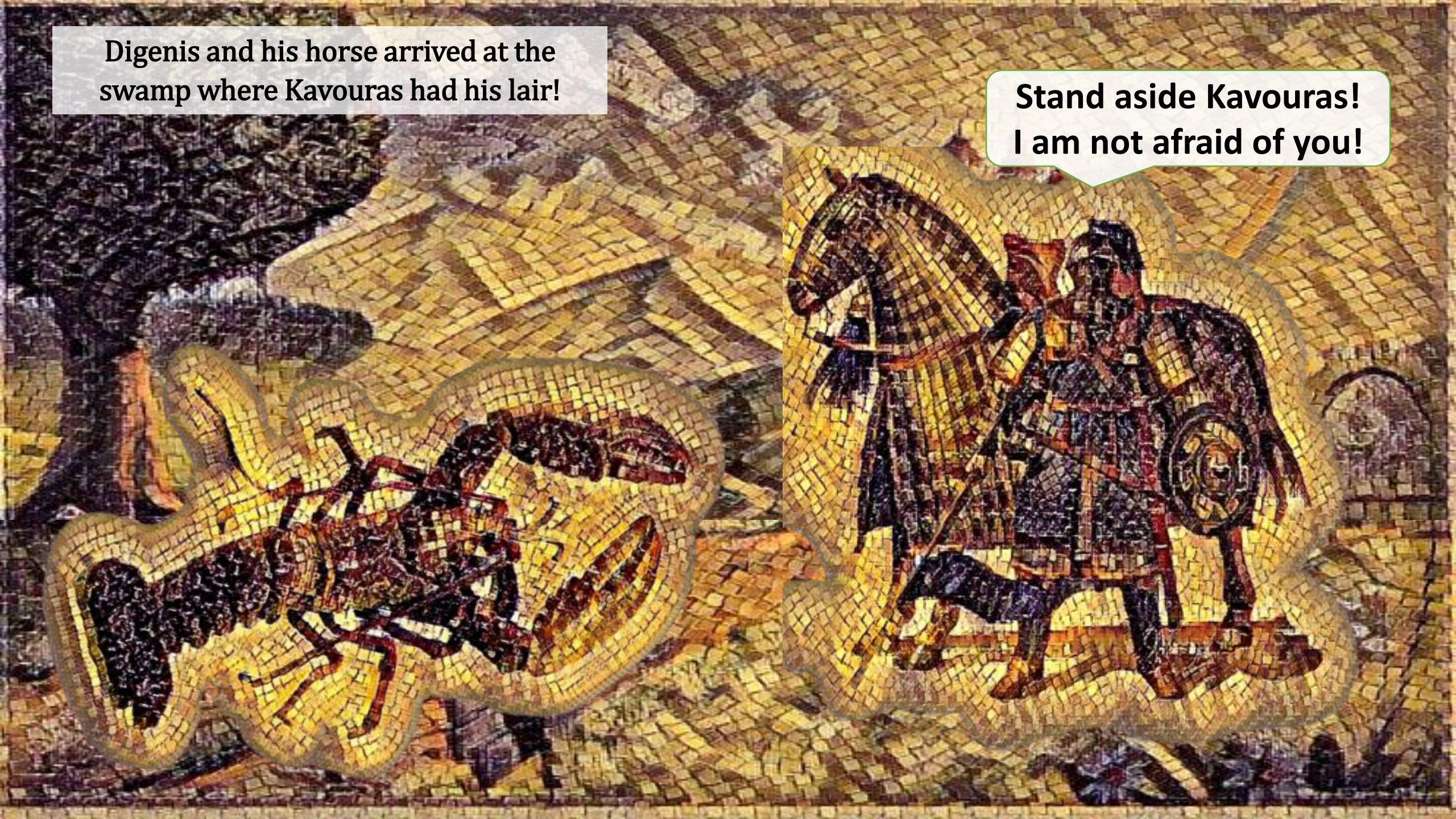


Oh Mauro, my beloved
war horse, are you
ready for battle?
Are you ready to swim
in the evil crab's blood?

You can count on my
help, my lord!
While you are
slashing and cutting
Kavouras with your
sword, I will be
kicking him hard
with my hoofs.

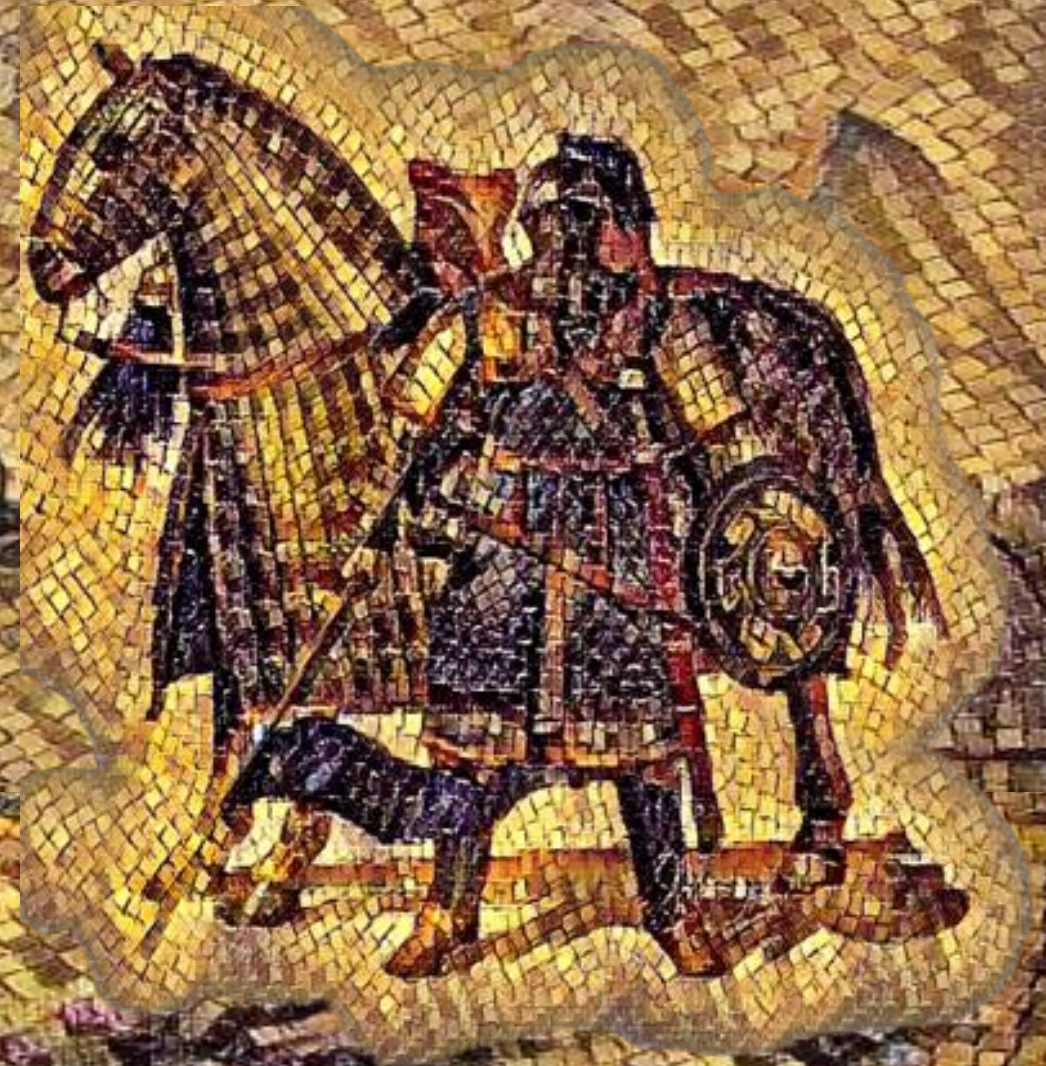
Digenis and his horse arrived at the swamp where Kavouras had his lair!


Stand aside Kavouras!
I am not afraid of you!



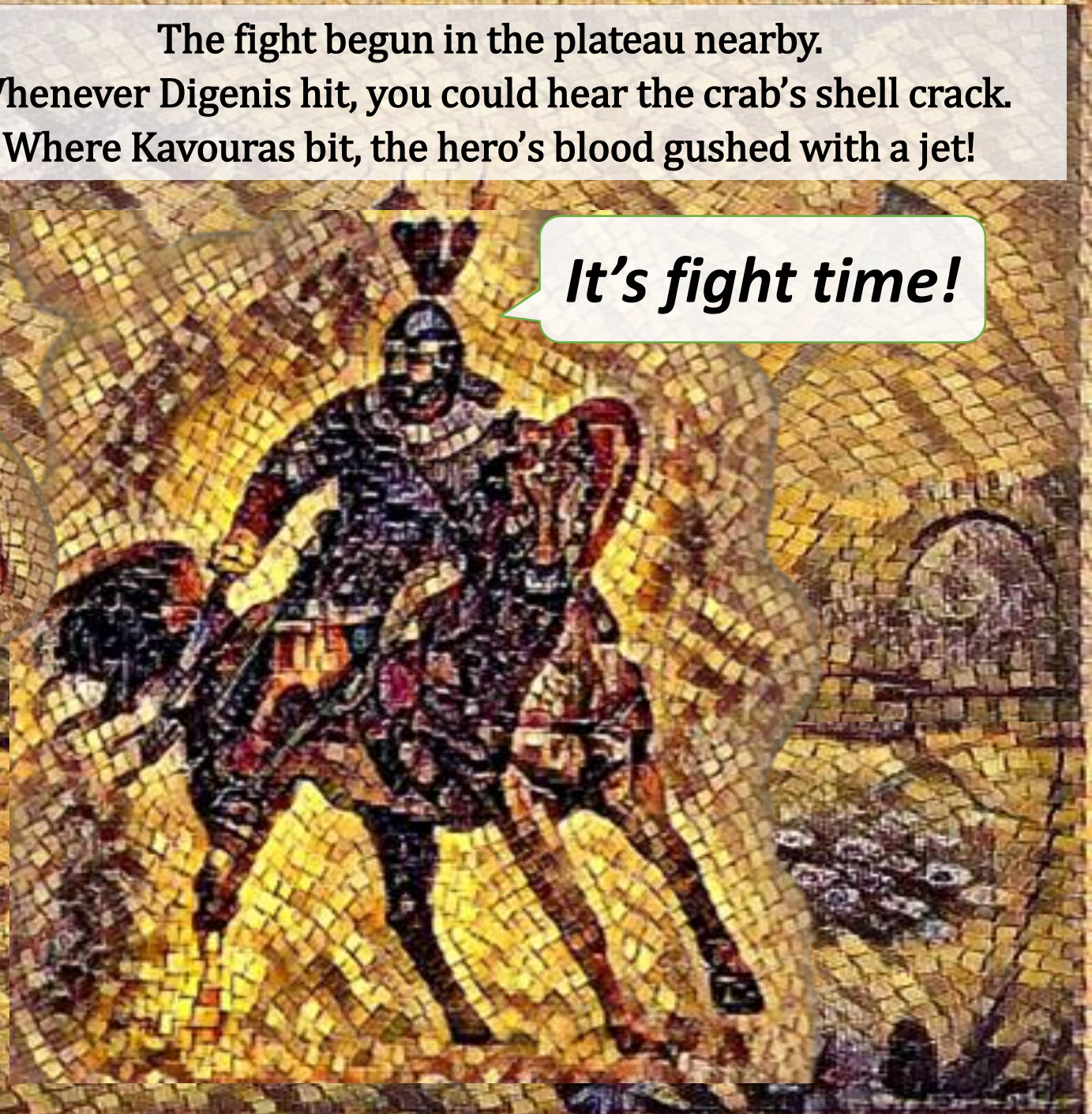
Eh eh eh eh!

**Welcome to my river, to become dinner Digenis!
Soon we will know how brave you are! Are you
going to fight me and get eaten, or are you going
to run away like all the other men?**





The fight begun in the plateau nearby.
Whenever Digenis hit, you could hear the crab's shell crack.
Where Kavouras bit, the hero's blood gushed with a jet!




*Eh eh eh eh!
It's dinner time!*

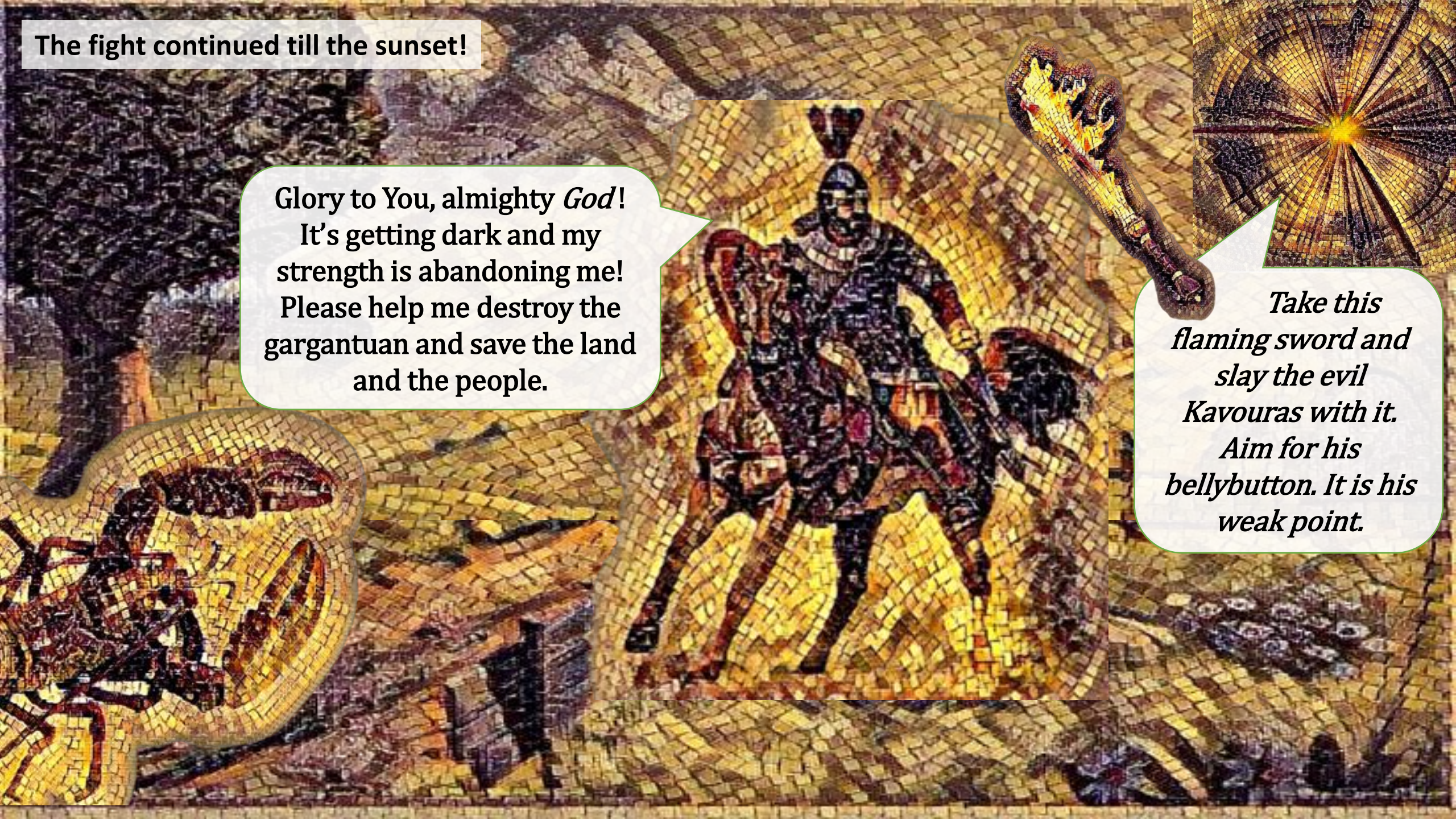
It's fight time!

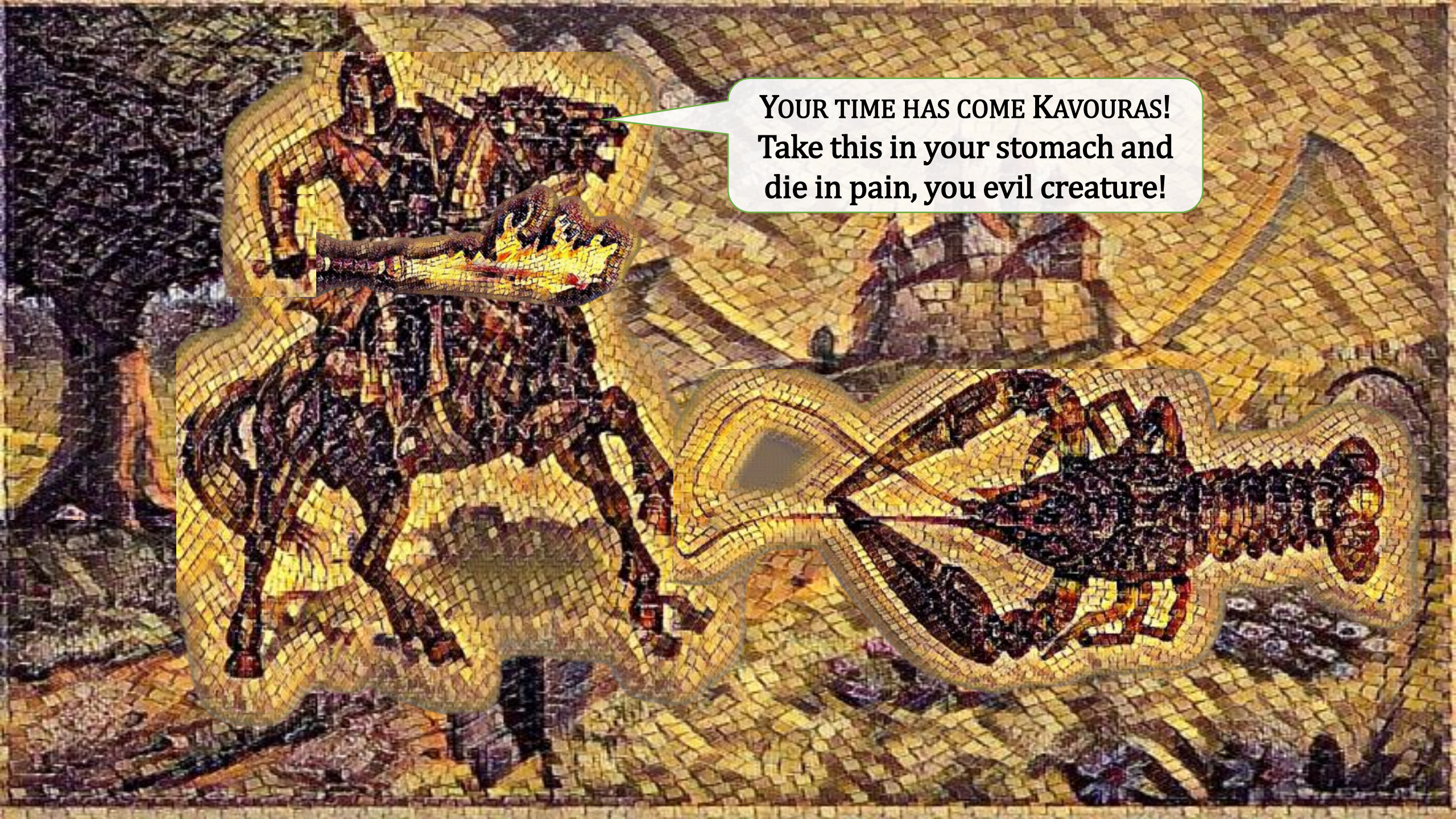
The fight continued till the sunset!

Glory to You, almighty *God!*
It's getting dark and my
strength is abandoning me!
Please help me destroy the
gargantuan and save the land
and the people.




*Take this
flaming sword and
slay the evil
Kavouras with it.
Aim for his
bellybutton. It is his
weak point.*



A detailed mosaic depicting a large snake swallowing a man. The snake is coiled around the man, with its head at the top left and its body forming a large loop that engulfs the man's body. The man is shown in a dark, almost black, color, contrasting with the lighter, yellowish-brown tones of the snake's body. The background is a complex pattern of small, irregular tiles in various shades of brown, tan, and grey, creating a textured, aged appearance. A speech bubble with a green border and a tail pointing to the snake's head contains the text: "YOUR TIME HAS COME KAVOURAS! Take this in your stomach and die in pain, you evil creature!".

**YOUR TIME HAS COME KAVOURAS!
Take this in your stomach and
die in pain, you evil creature!**

A mosaic depicting a scene from the legend of Digenes Akrotairos. On the left, a knight in full plate armor sits on a horse. In the center, a man in a yellow and red tunic stands with his hands on his hips. On the right, a large snake is coiled on the ground, its head raised. The background is a textured mosaic of yellow and brown tiles.

I warned you that you would die from my sword!

OUGH!!!

I admit that you are stronger than me Digenis. When I die, take my hard shell and make a shield with it.

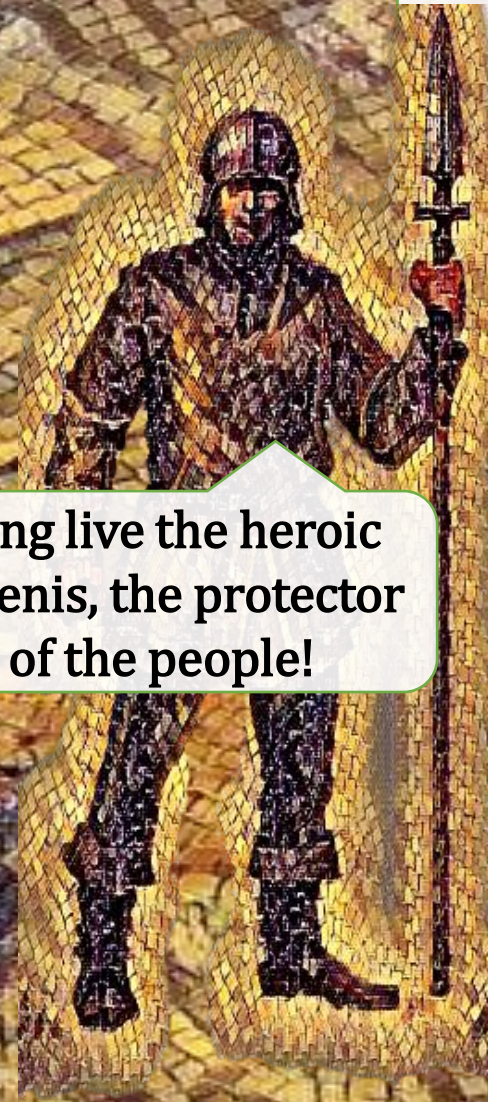
The heroic Digenis had once again saved the Byzantine Empire from danger. The people were grateful.

Congratulations Digenis!
Thank you for saving our city!
We will organize a three-day and three-night feast to honor you!

Long live Digenis!



Long live the heroic Digenis, the protector of the people!



a story presented
as a comic strip
by class E1

Polemi Public Primary School

