

# Boys Who Grew Up to Change the

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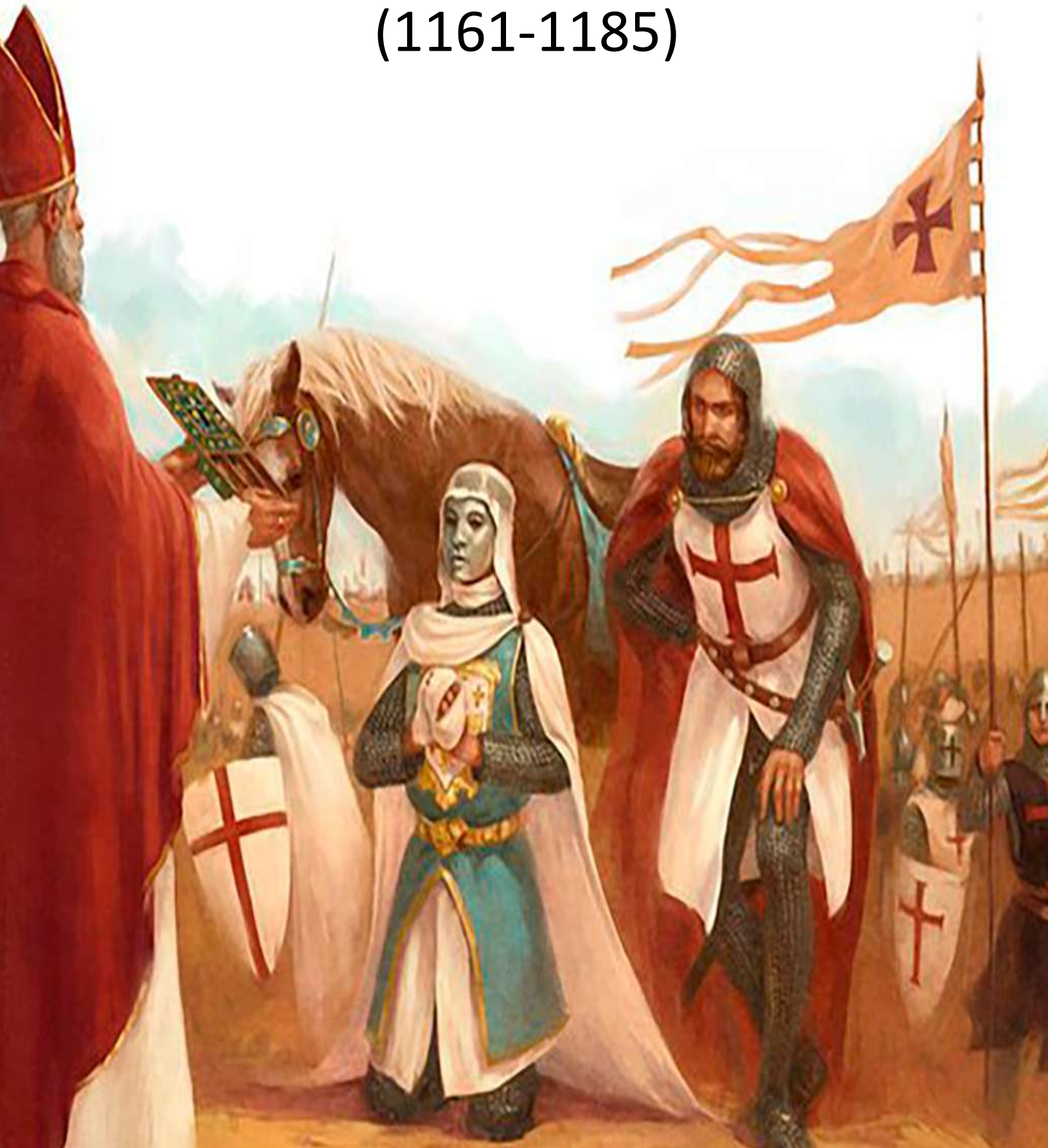
Baldwin IV



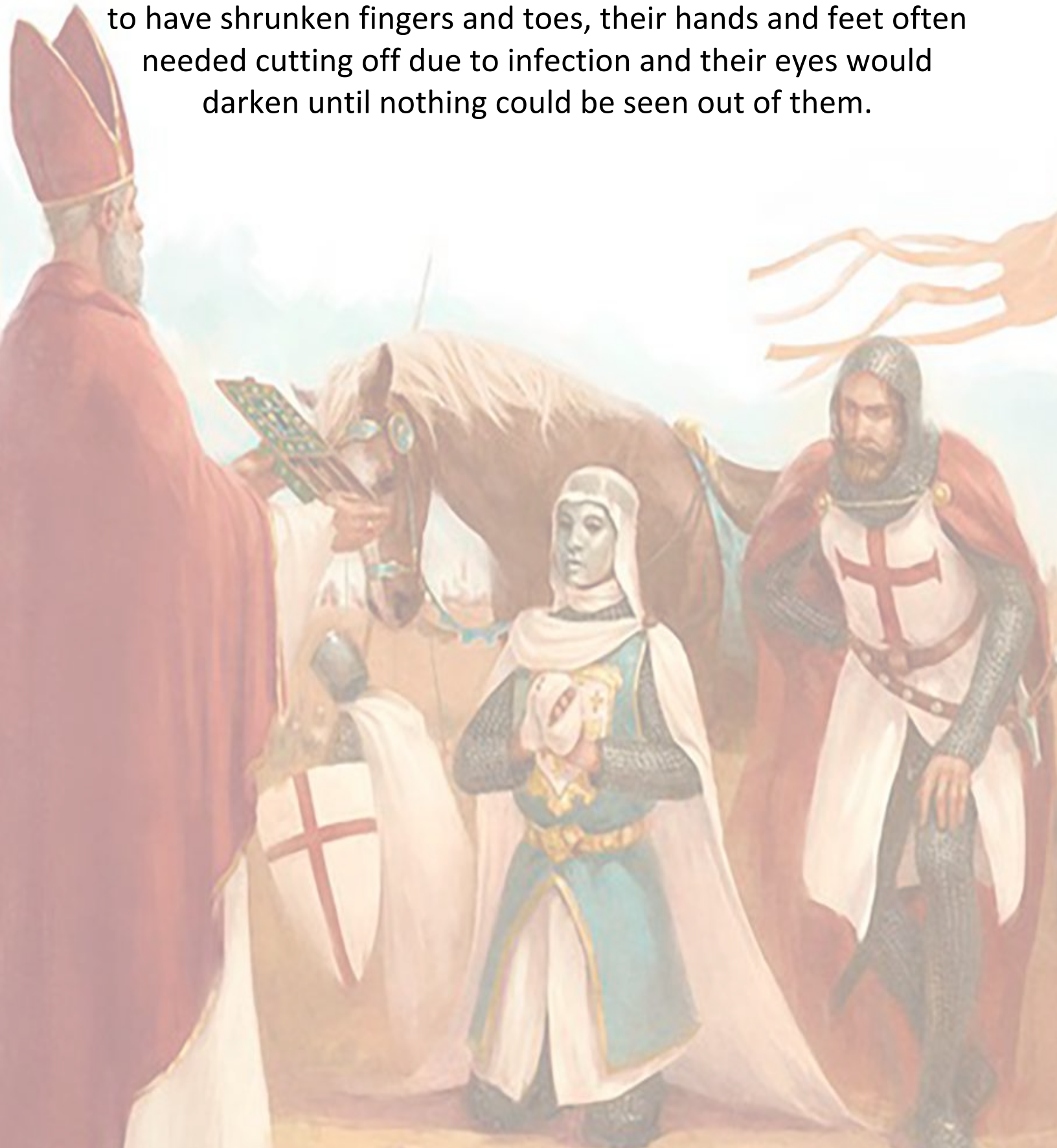
Bill Gates

# Baldwin IV

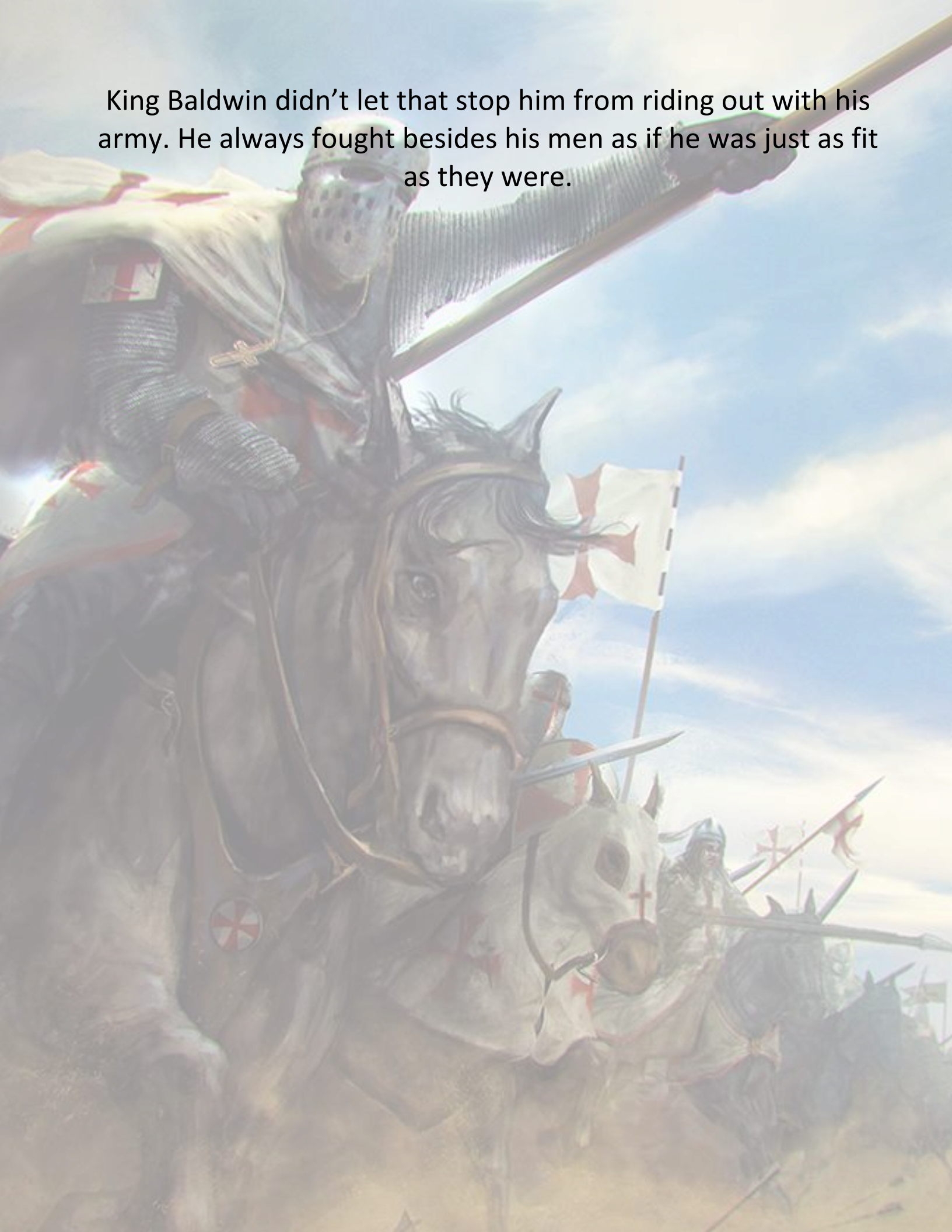
(1161-1185)



In the year 1174, Baldwin's father died and he was crowned King of Jerusalem. He was thirteen years old. He also had leprosy, a disease that had no cure. People with leprosy tended to have shrunken fingers and toes, their hands and feet often needed cutting off due to infection and their eyes would darken until nothing could be seen out of them.



King Baldwin didn't let that stop him from riding out with his army. He always fought besides his men as if he was just as fit as they were.

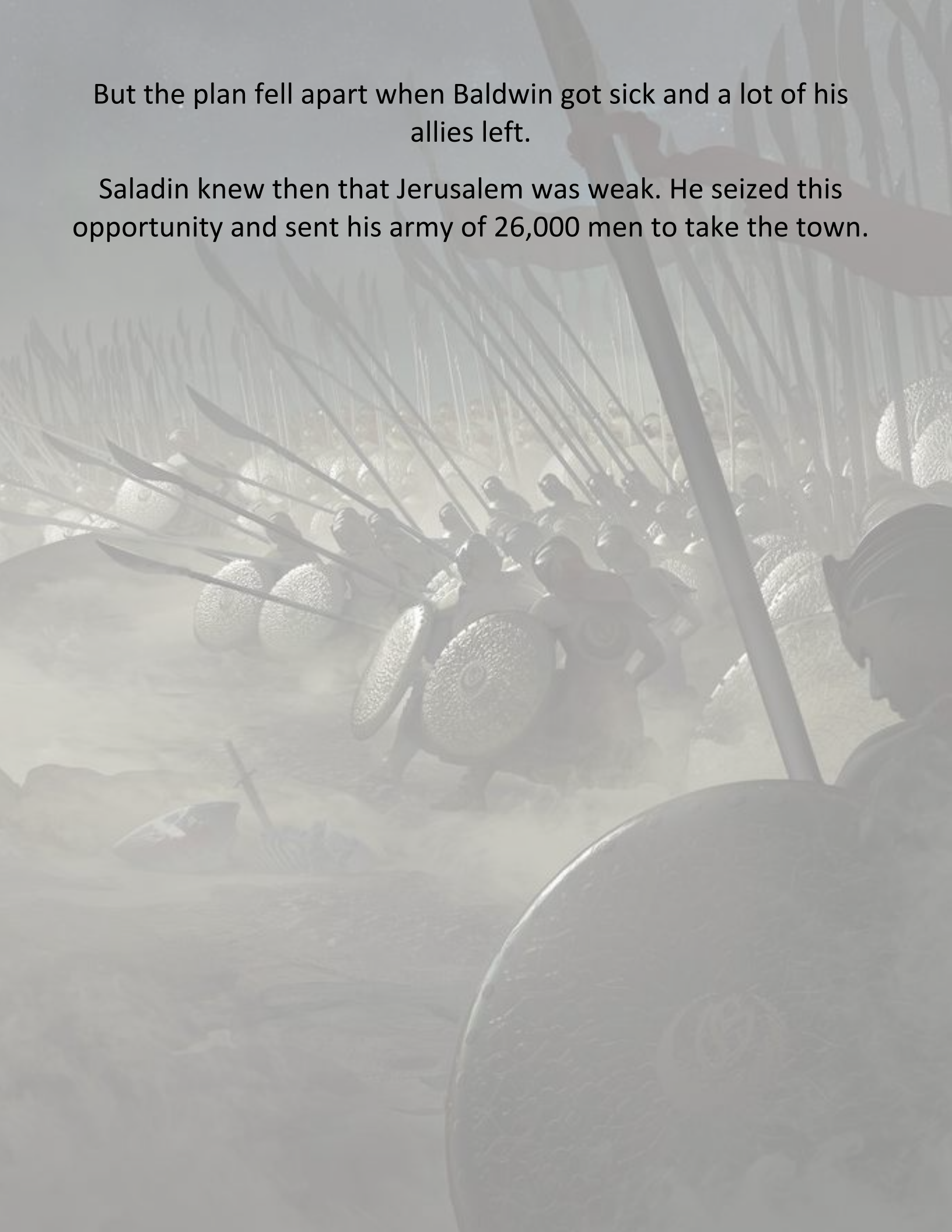


Their biggest enemy was a sultan named Saladin, who ruled over Egypt, and Baldwin had started putting together a plan to attack his base in Cairo.

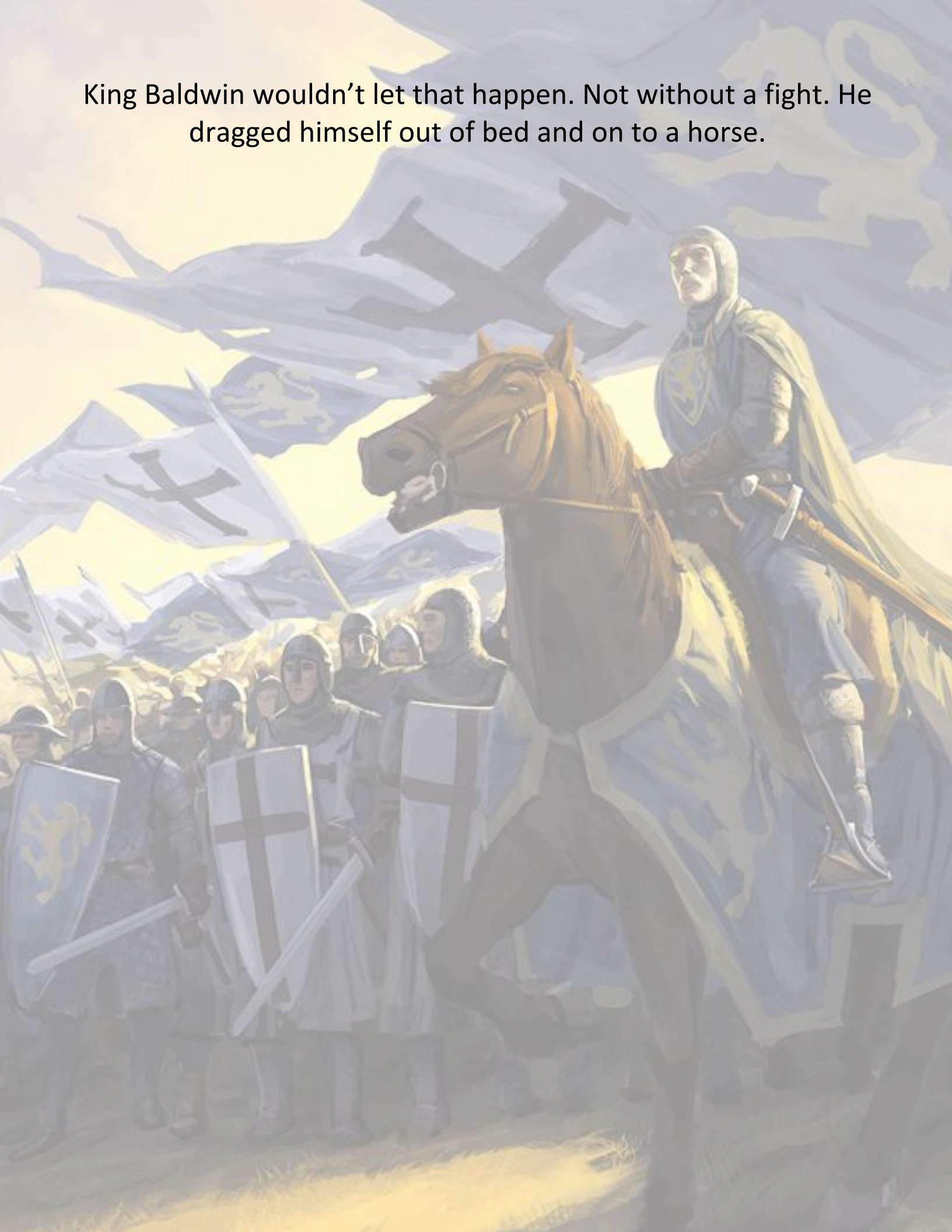


But the plan fell apart when Baldwin got sick and a lot of his allies left.

Saladin knew then that Jerusalem was weak. He seized this opportunity and sent his army of 26,000 men to take the town.



King Baldwin wouldn't let that happen. Not without a fight. He dragged himself out of bed and on to a horse.

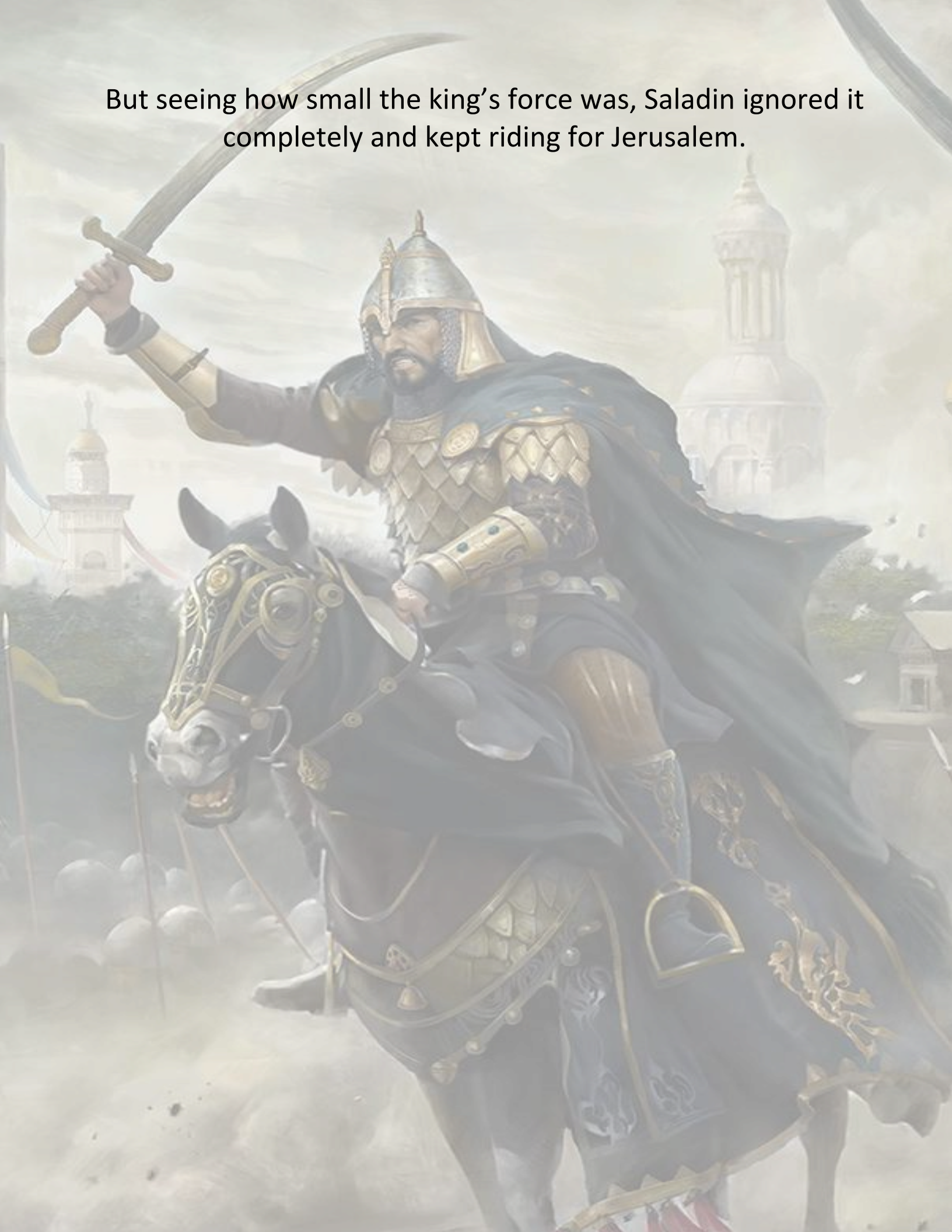


He was so unwell, one writer at the time described him as being 'half dead'. His bloody hands were wrapped in bandages and he could barely see through his swollen, cloudy eyes. With only 500 men, he rode out to meet Saladin.





But seeing how small the king's force was, Saladin ignored it completely and kept riding for Jerusalem.

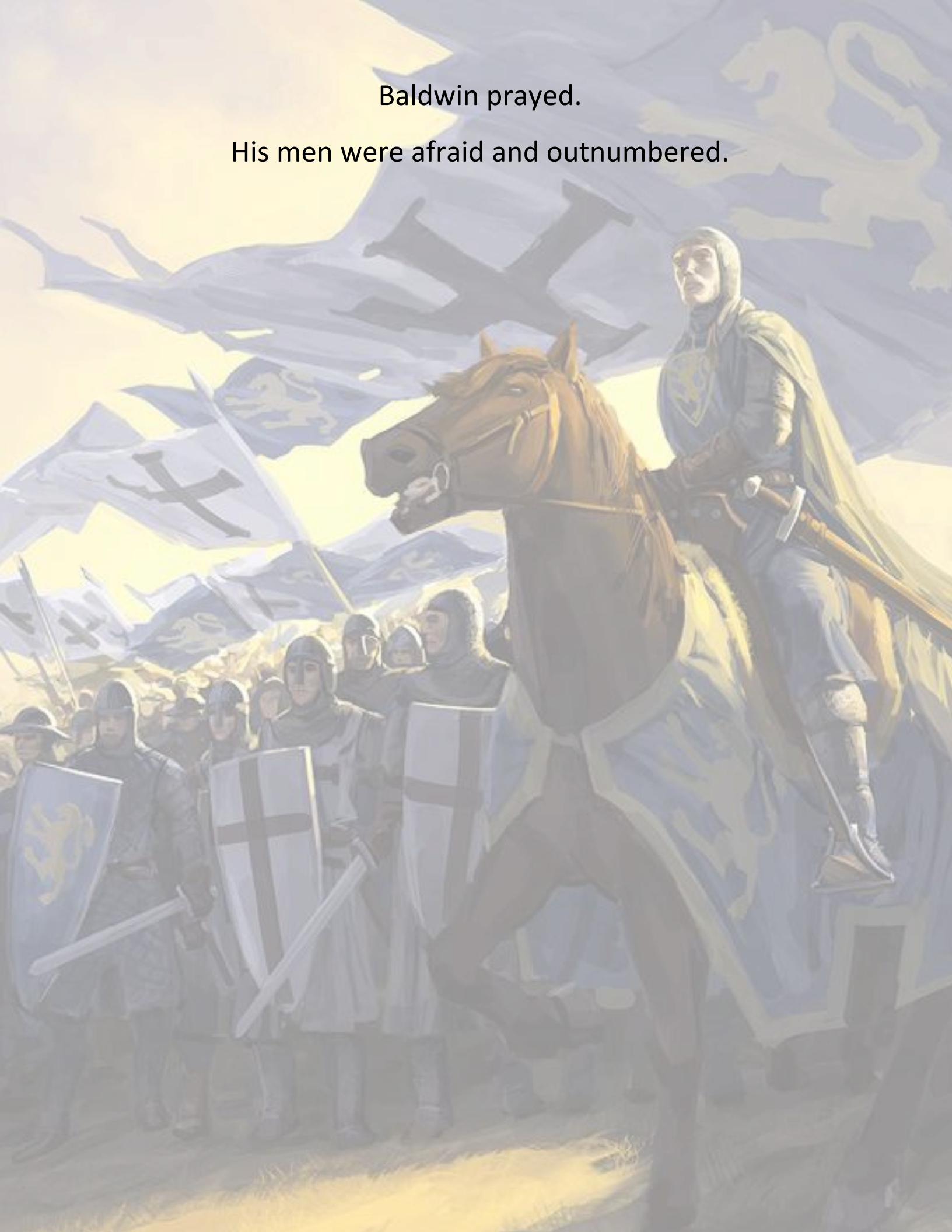


The people in the city were terrified, fearing for their homes and lives.



Baldwin prayed.

His men were afraid and outnumbered.



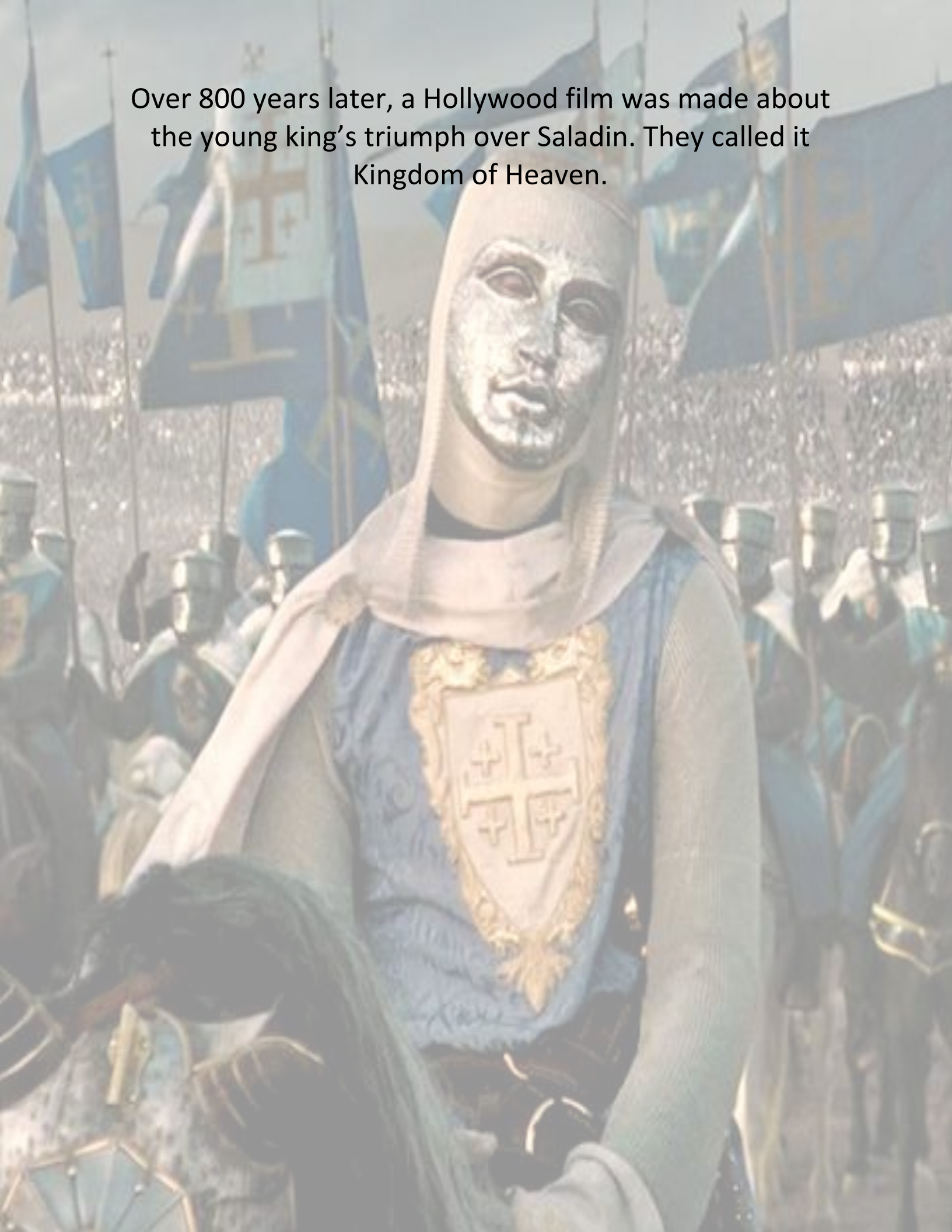
But, rallying his soldiers, King Baldwin led them into battle.



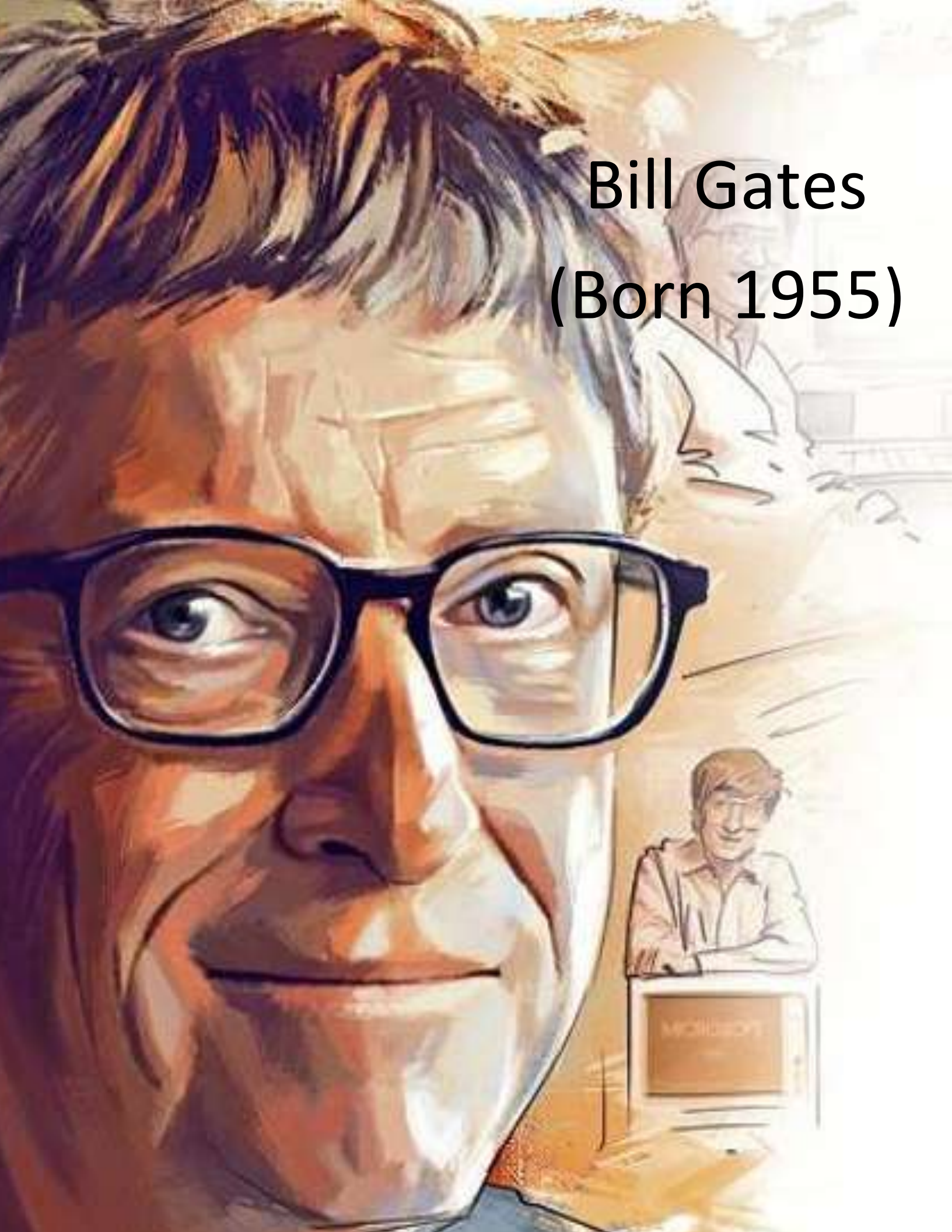
Somehow, they completely destroyed the invading forces:  
500 men rescued their city from a force of 26,000.  
Jerusalem was saved.



Over 800 years later, a Hollywood film was made about the young king's triumph over Saladin. They called it Kingdom of Heaven.



**Bill Gates**  
**(Born 1955)**



'There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home,' announced a rich businessman, forty years ago.





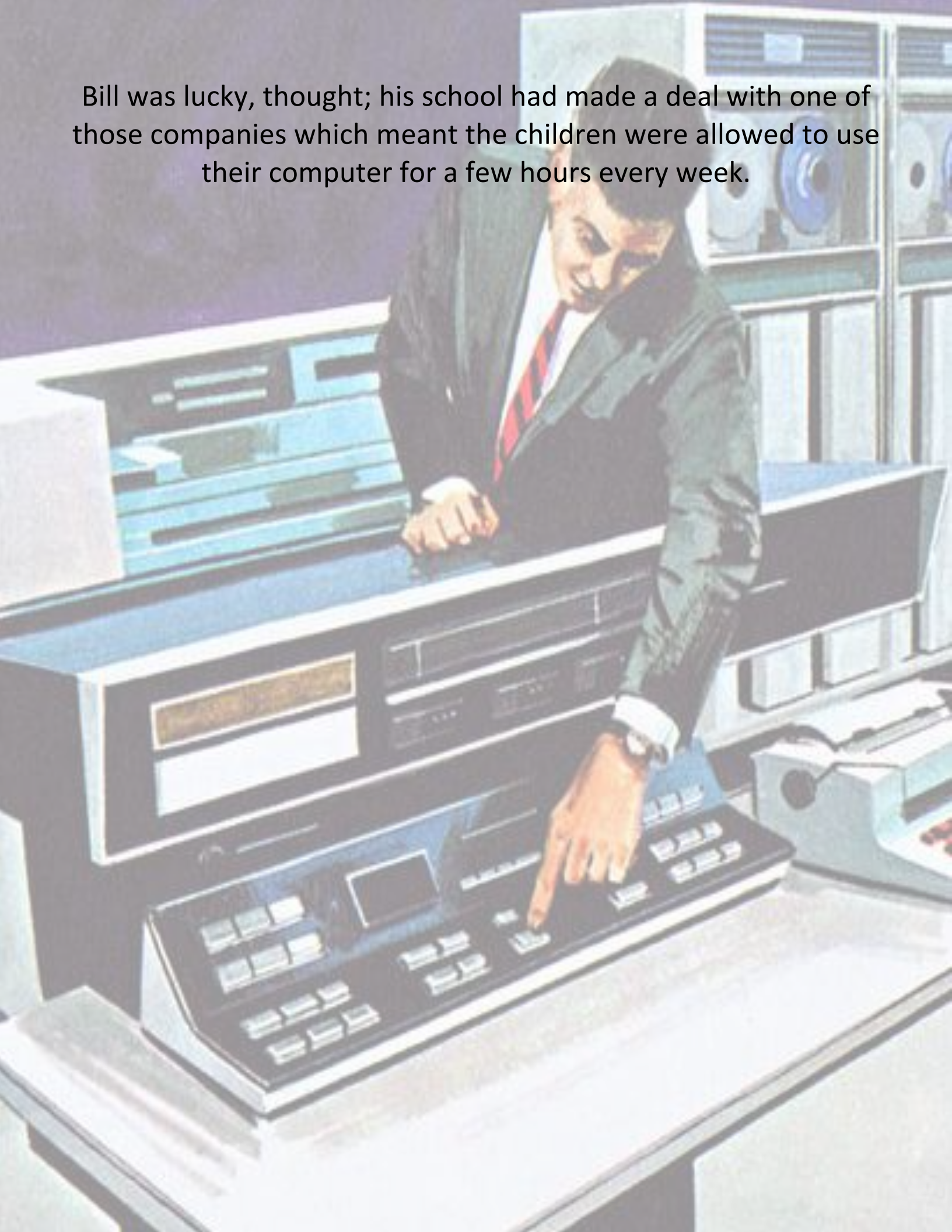
Bill thought the opposite was true. He thought that one day, every home in the world would have a computer.



It seems obvious now, but it wasn't back then. At the time, computers were the size of ovens and couldn't do anything we'd find exciting. They were so expensive that only big companies could afford to own them.



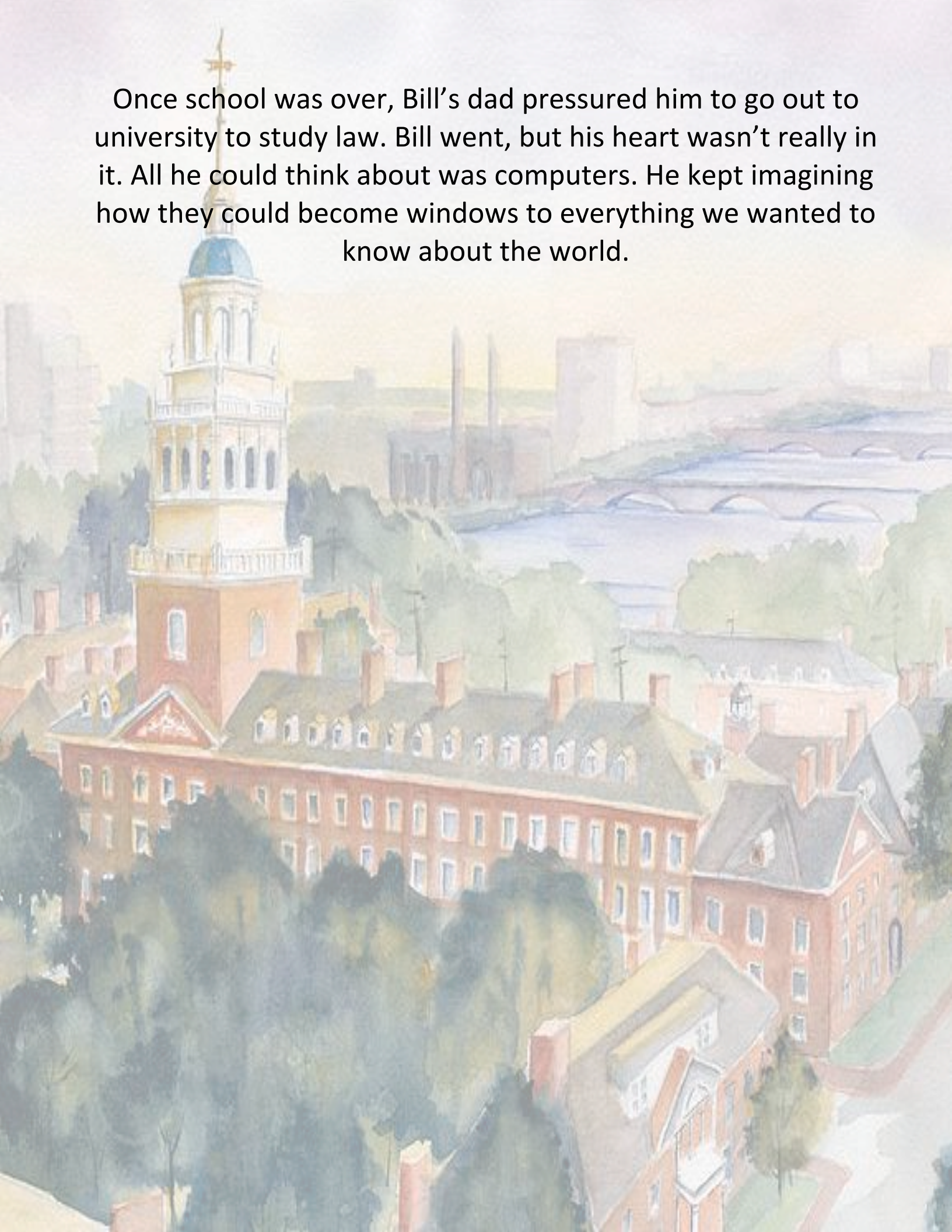
Bill was lucky, thought; his school had made a deal with one of those companies which meant the children were allowed to use their computer for a few hours every week.



Straight away, Bill was amazed by the possibilities. Together with his best friend, Paul Allen, Bill started missing classes and hiding out in the computer room, hacking in to get more time. When he was only fifteen, he created a program that counted traffic and he sold it for \$20,000.

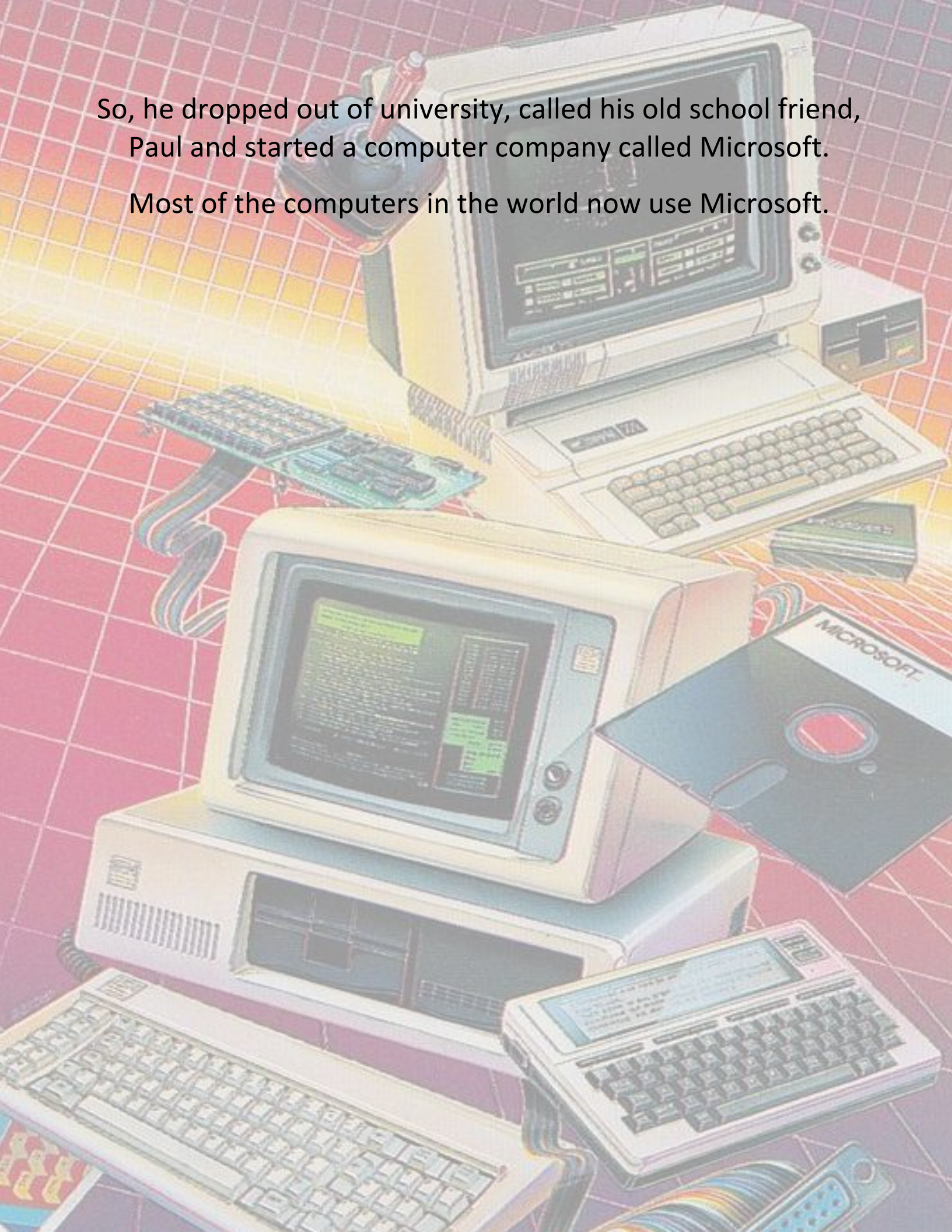


Once school was over, Bill's dad pressured him to go out to university to study law. Bill went, but his heart wasn't really in it. All he could think about was computers. He kept imagining how they could become windows to everything we wanted to know about the world.



So, he dropped out of university, called his old school friend, Paul and started a computer company called Microsoft.

Most of the computers in the world now use Microsoft.



It's made Bill one of the richest people alive.



To spend the money wisely, he started a charity with his wife, Melinda and together they help people all over the world get access to clean water, food, disaster relief, education, medicine and libraries.







THINK

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