

Boys Who Grew Up to Change the



Galileo Galilei



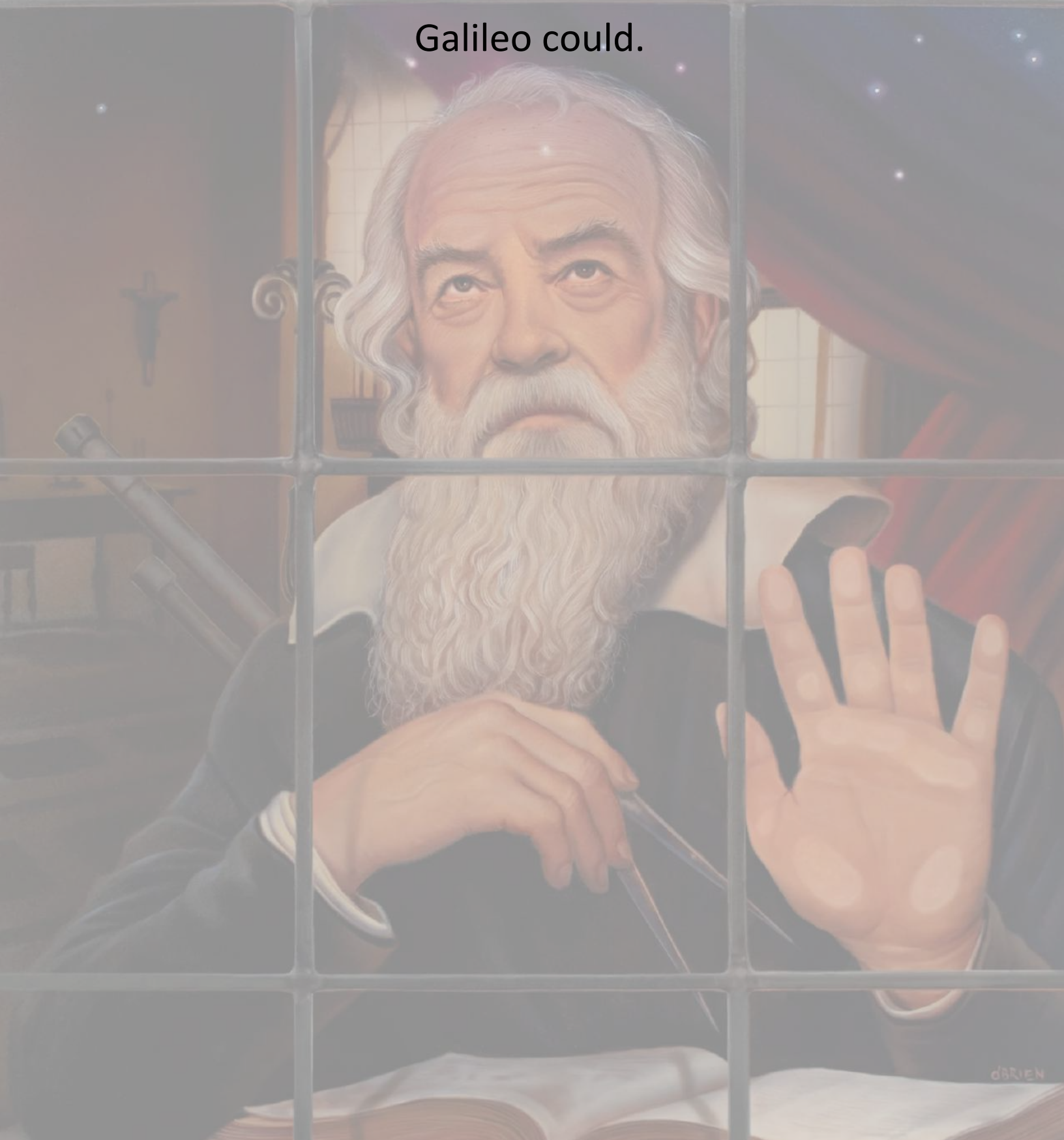
King George VI

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

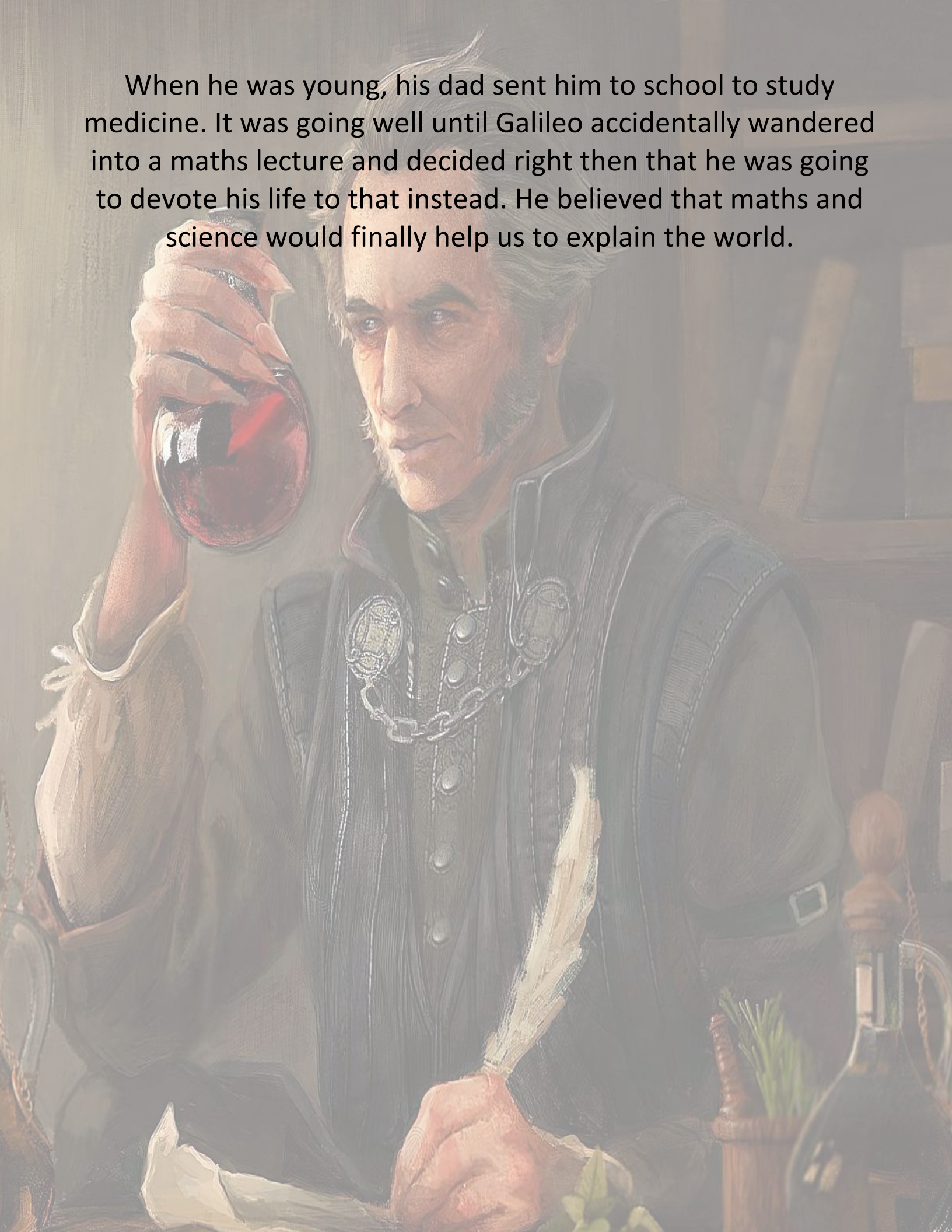


Does the sun move around the earth?
Or does the earth move around the sun?
How do you know? Could you prove it?

Galileo could.



When he was young, his dad sent him to school to study medicine. It was going well until Galileo accidentally wandered into a maths lecture and decided right then that he was going to devote his life to that instead. He believed that maths and science would finally help us to explain the world.

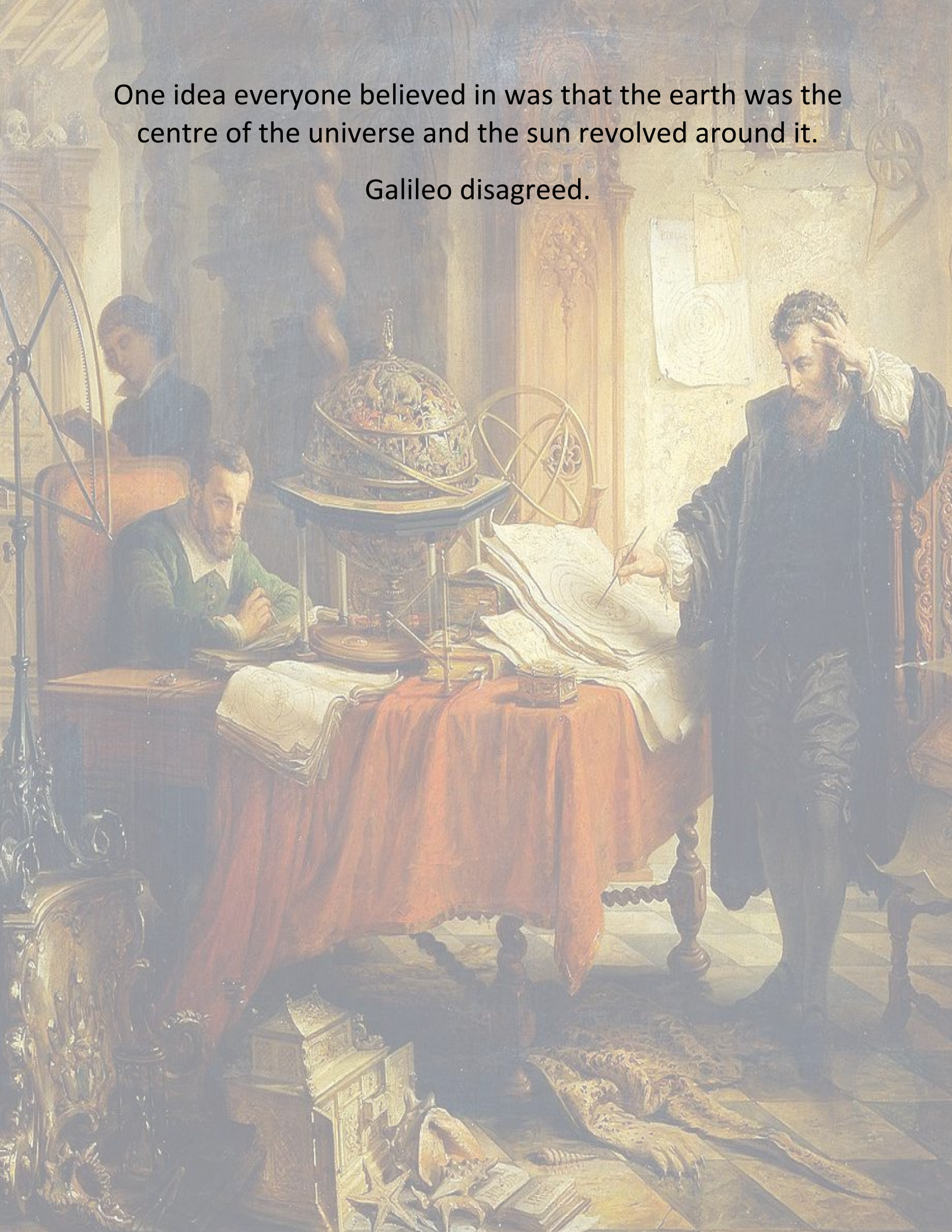


In Galileo's time, philosophers who came up with theories didn't really test them like the scientists of today. They'd simply come up with ideas, then announce they were true.

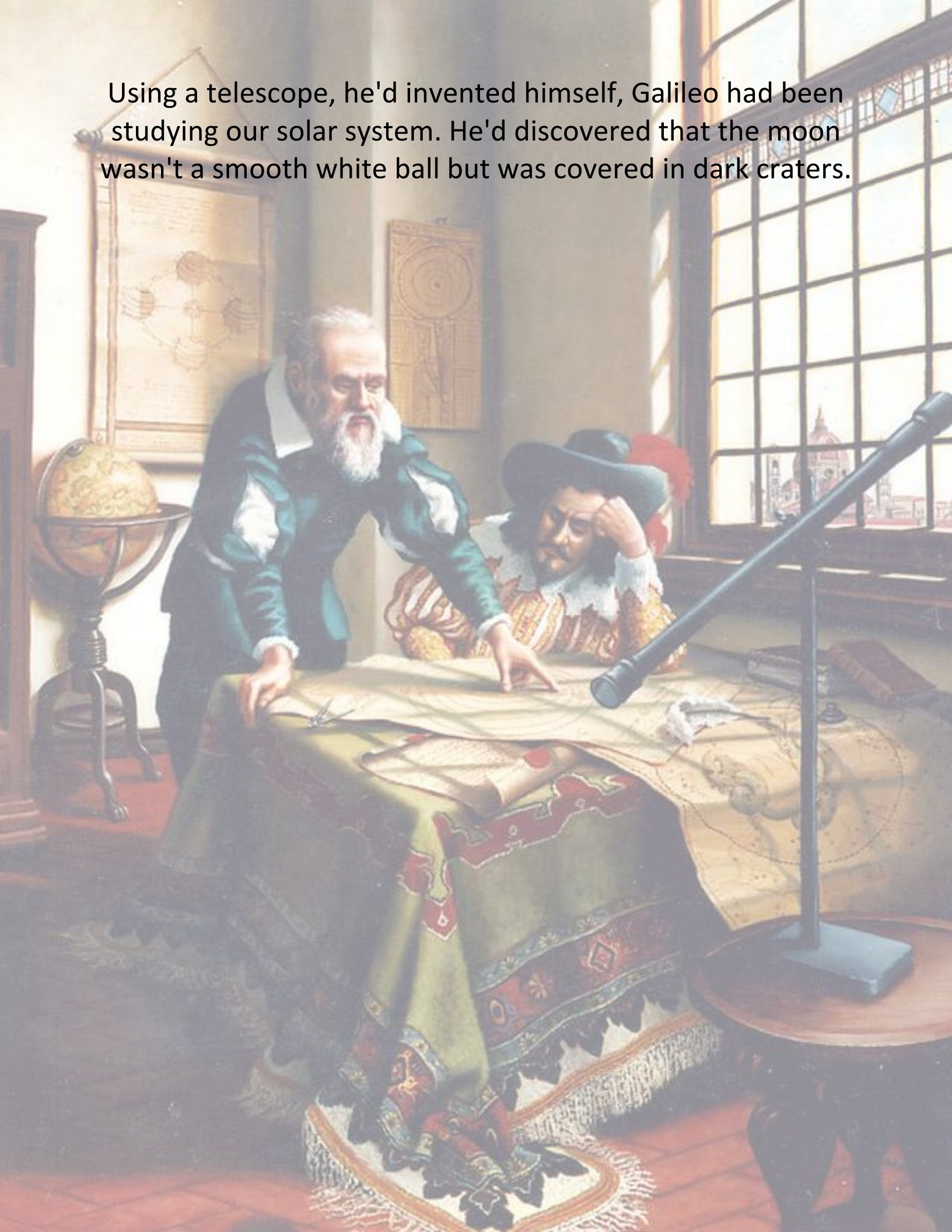


One idea everyone believed in was that the earth was the centre of the universe and the sun revolved around it.

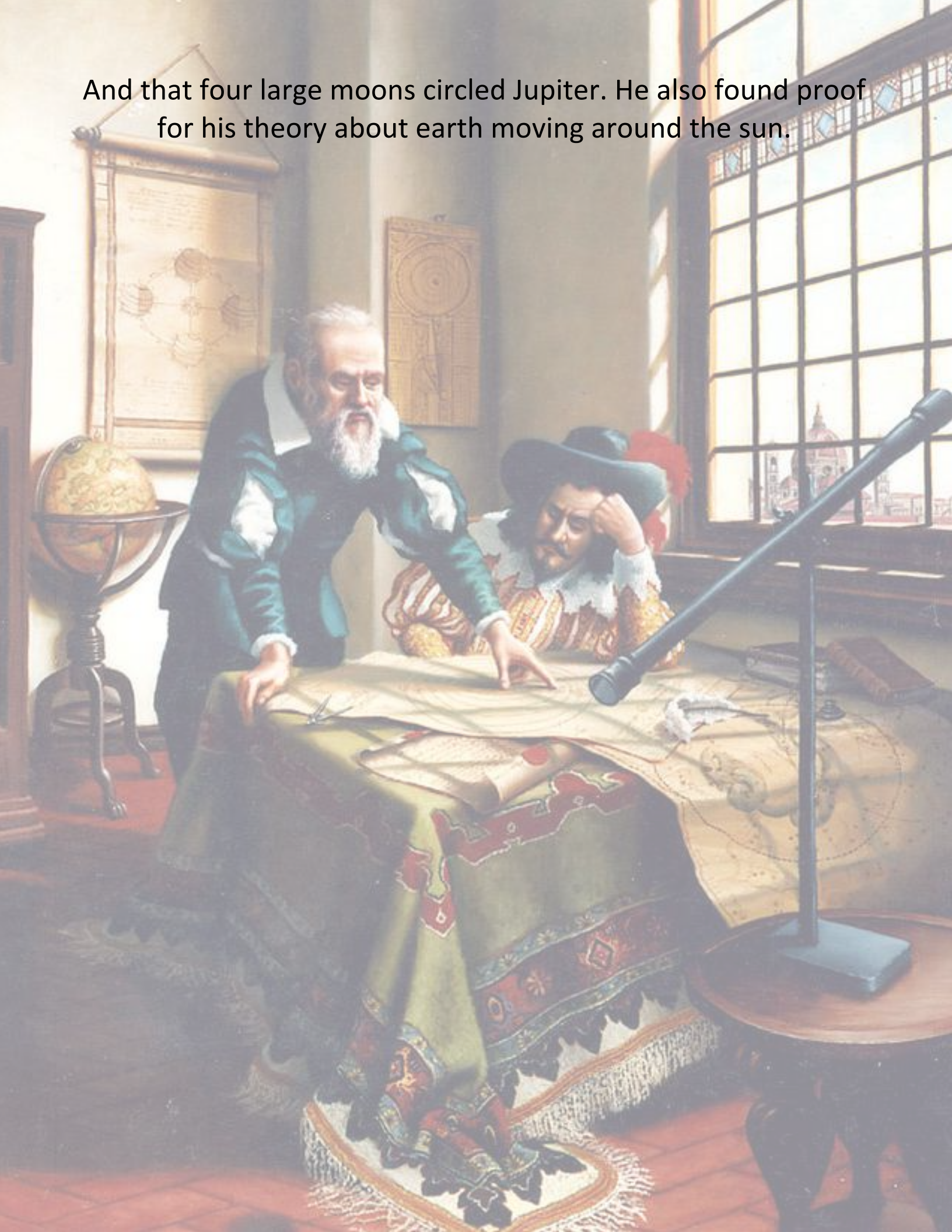
Galileo disagreed.



Using a telescope, he'd invented himself, Galileo had been studying our solar system. He'd discovered that the moon wasn't a smooth white ball but was covered in dark craters.



And that four large moons circled Jupiter. He also found proof for his theory about earth moving around the sun.

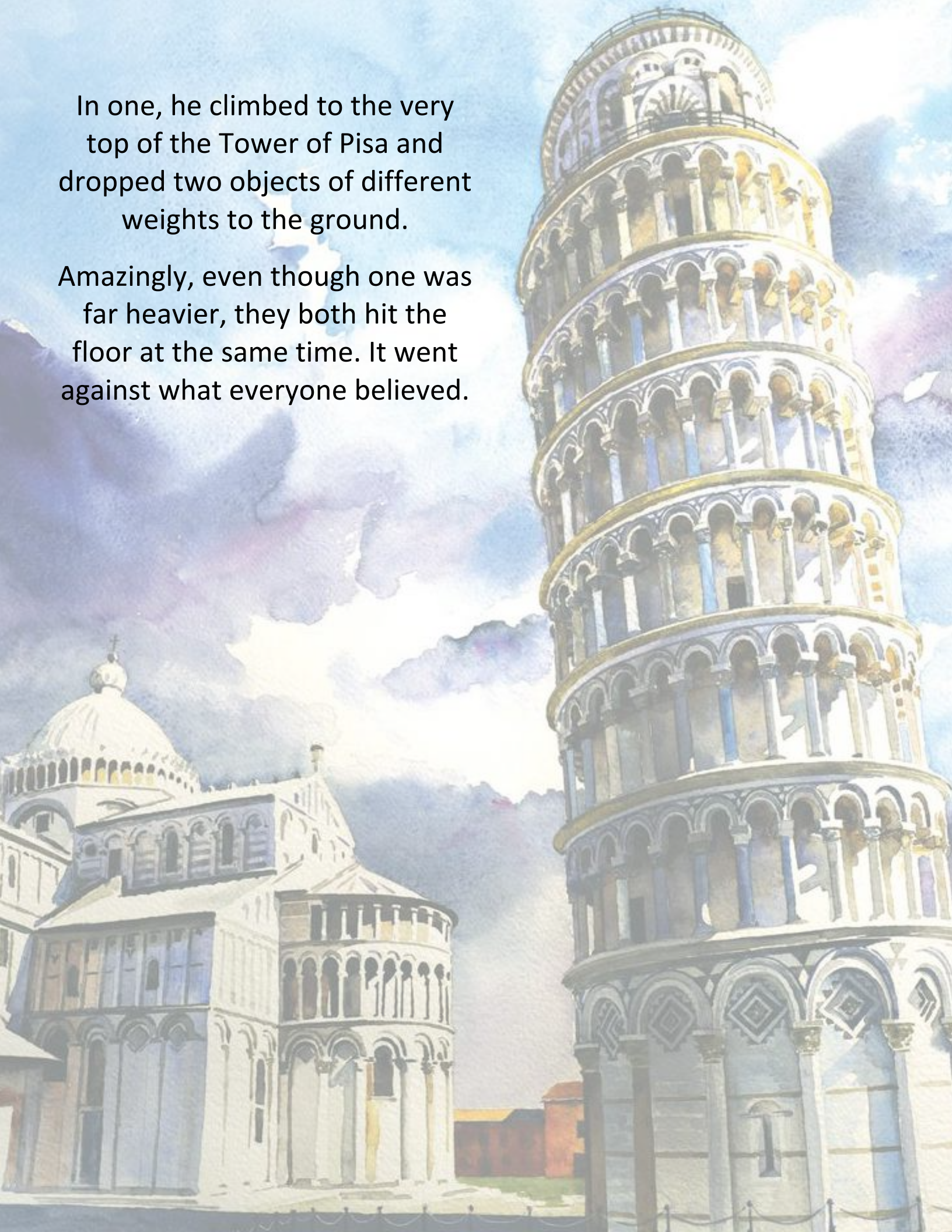


The church wasn't happy with Galileo's findings, because they went against what was believed to be true. Galileo didn't mind. He kept carrying out his experiments anyway.



In one, he climbed to the very top of the Tower of Pisa and dropped two objects of different weights to the ground.

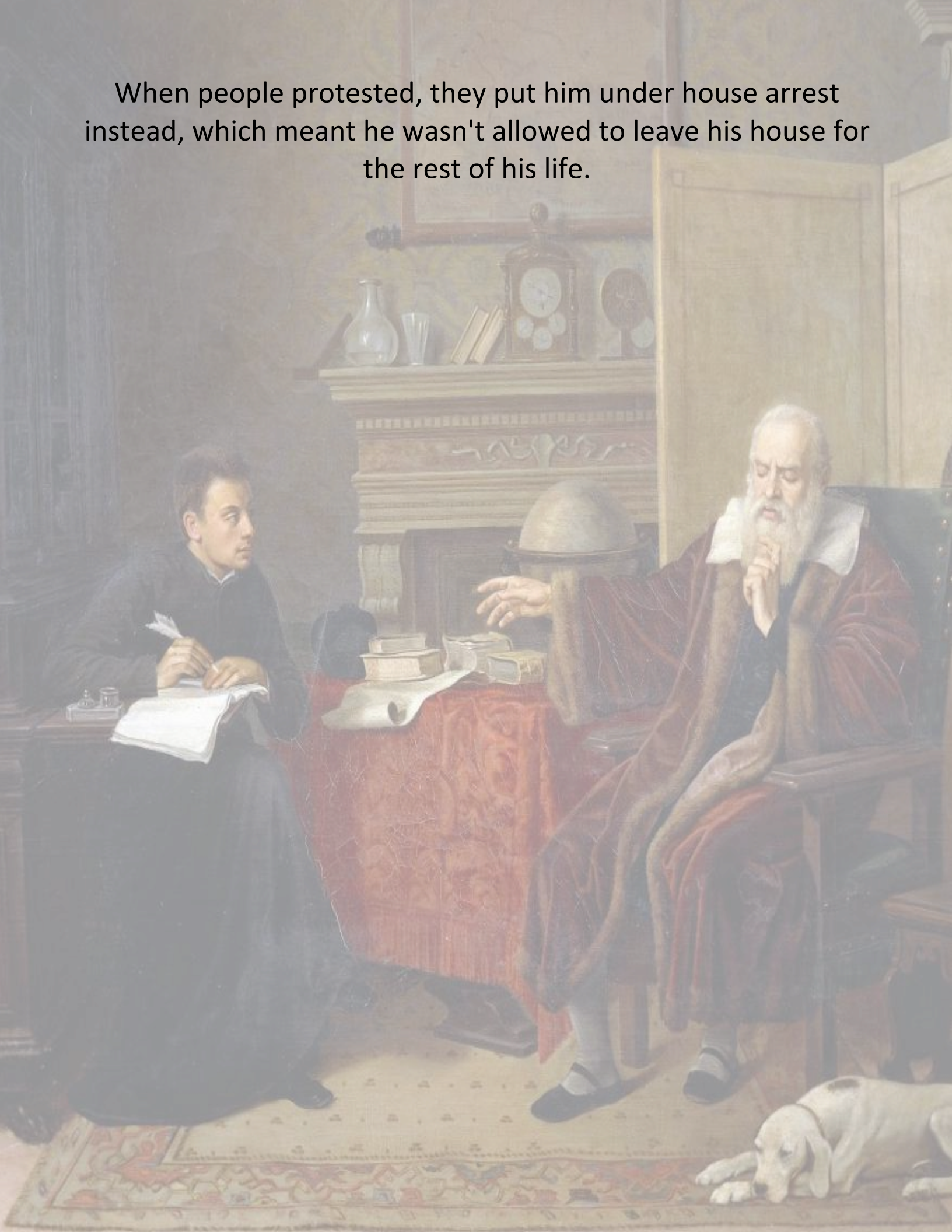
Amazingly, even though one was far heavier, they both hit the floor at the same time. It went against what everyone believed.



That was the last straw for the Church, who thought that Galileo's ideas were making fun of God. They tried to sentence him to life in prison.



When people protested, they put him under house arrest instead, which meant he wasn't allowed to leave his house for the rest of his life.



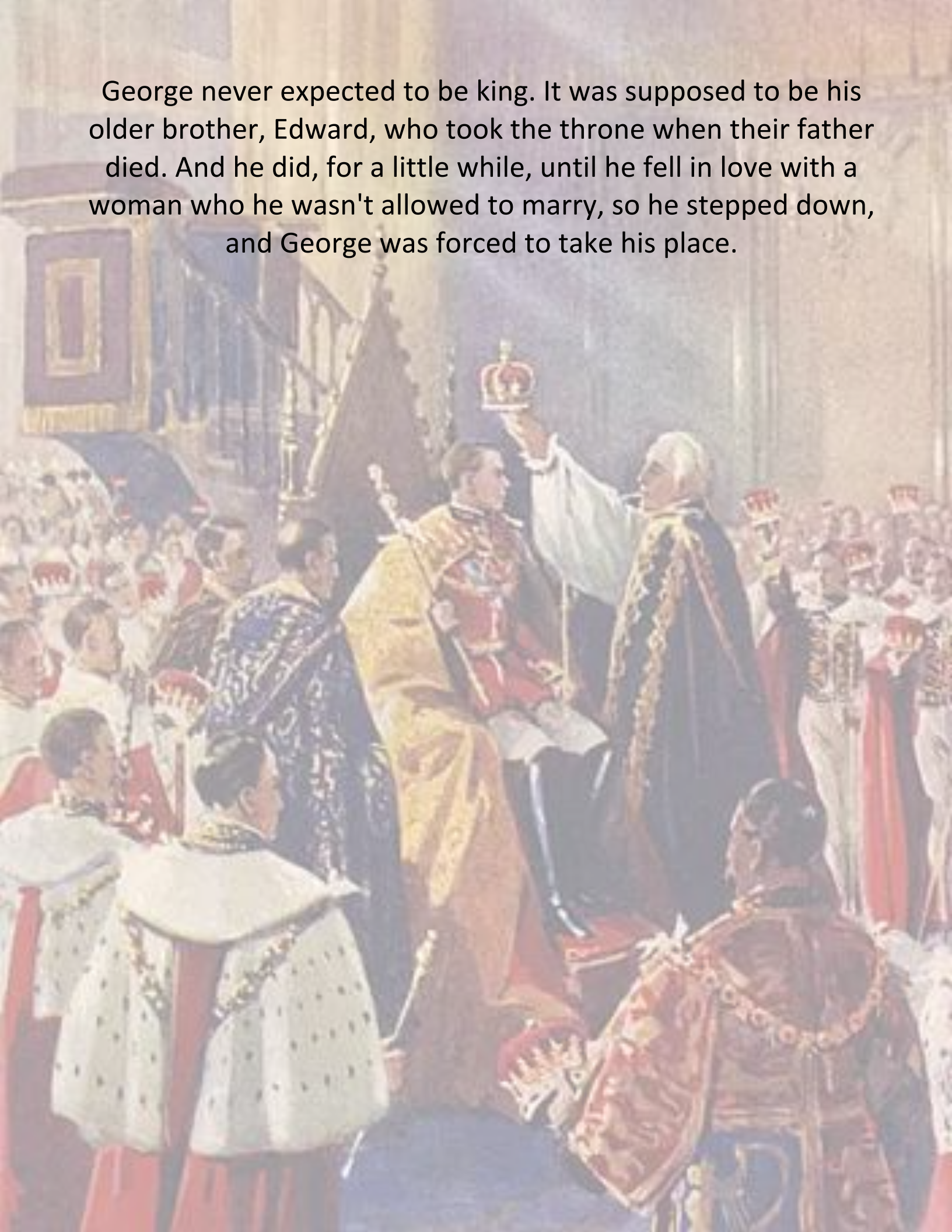
“We cannot teach people anything; Galileo said.
'We can only help them discover it within
themselves.’”



Kind George VI (1895-1952)



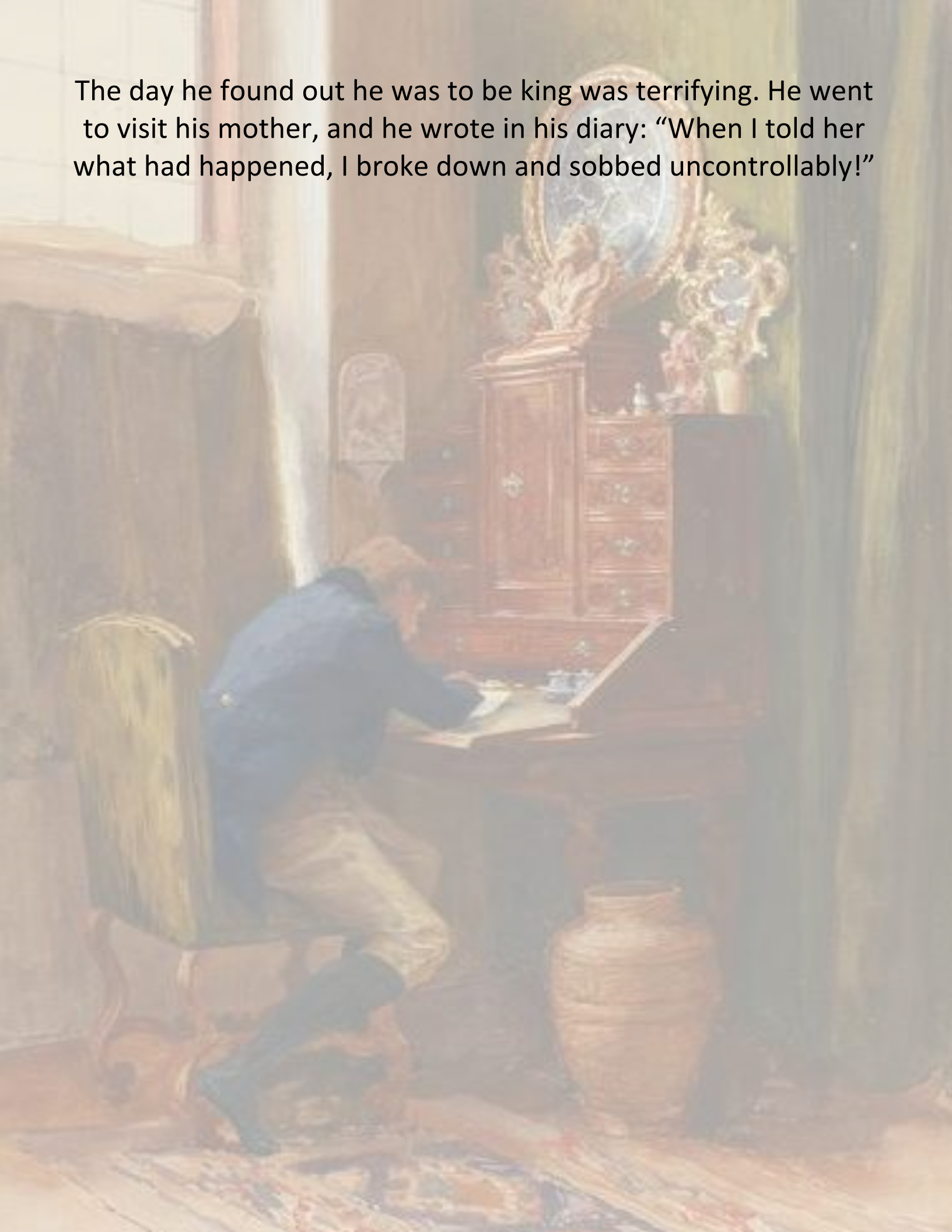
George never expected to be king. It was supposed to be his older brother, Edward, who took the throne when their father died. And he did, for a little while, until he fell in love with a woman who he wasn't allowed to marry, so he stepped down, and George was forced to take his place.



Growing up, George was often frightened, often crying and often sick. He also had a stammer, which made it difficult for him to speak, and because of that he became embarrassed and shy.



The day he found out he was to be king was terrifying. He went to visit his mother, and he wrote in his diary: “When I told her what had happened, I broke down and sobbed uncontrollably!”



One of the things he was most worried about was having to talk in front of people. It was an age when the radio was becoming popular and the royal family would have to use it to communicate with their people.



To try and prepare him, George was sent to see a speech therapist called Lionel Logue. Lionel believed that the only reason George found it difficult to speak in public was because he was so worried about how he sounded.



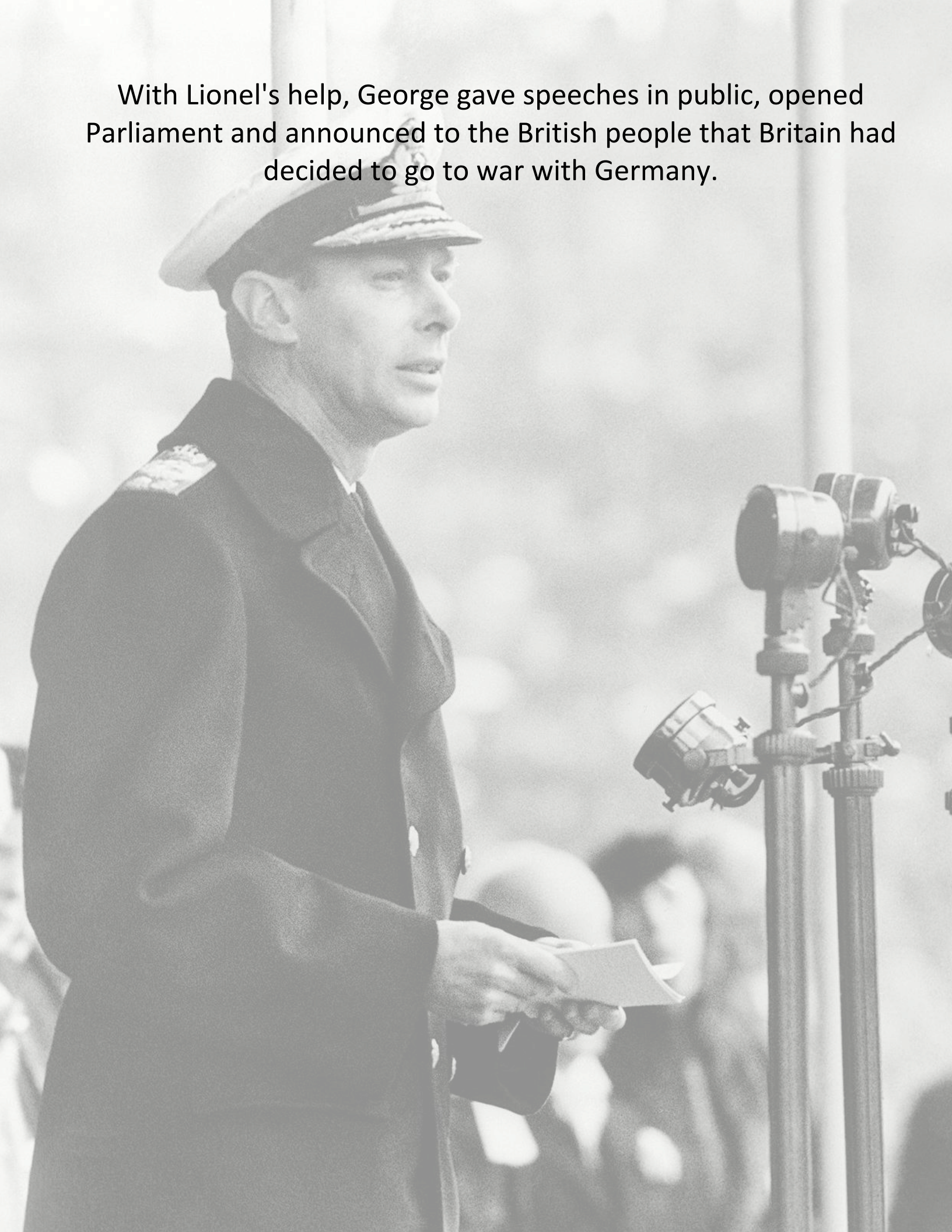
He thought that if George couldn't hear himself, he wouldn't need to be worried, and he wouldn't stammer. To test his idea, Lionel put headphones on George, loudly played music into them and gave him a speech to read. George was frustrated because he didn't think it was working. He stormed out.



Later, when he listened to a recording, he found that he wasn't stammering at all.



With Lionel's help, George gave speeches in public, opened Parliament and announced to the British people that Britain had decided to go to war with Germany.



. He stayed friends with Lionel for the rest of his life and ended up being one of the best-loved kings that England had ever had.



