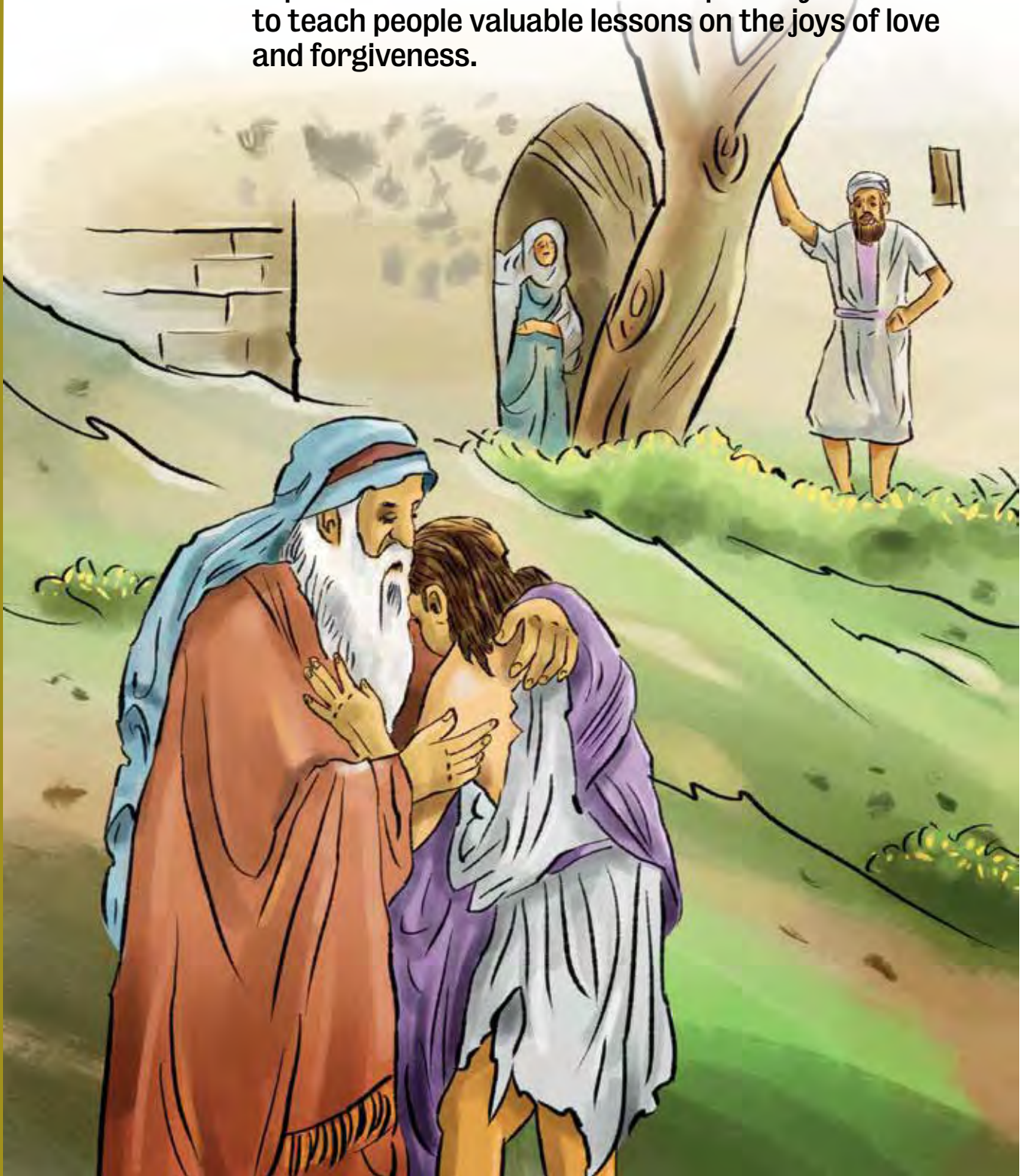




# The Prodigal Son

Many of Jesus' parables were based on the difficulties experienced in human relationships. They were meant to teach people valuable lessons on the joys of love and forgiveness.



One famous parable is that of the Prodigal Son in which Jesus talks about a father and his two sons. The younger son wanted his share of the family wealth immediately; surprisingly, the father granted him his wish.

He took everything and went to a far country, where he spent all his wealth. Hungry and repentant, the son decided to return to his father expecting him to be angry. While he was still at a distance, the father saw his son and ran to hug and kiss him.

Filled with remorse, the young man admitted that he had sinned and was no longer worthy to be called a son. He wanted to be treated as a mere servant. But the father turned to his servants and ordered a celebration. The elder son refused to join the celebration, but the father assured him that while the younger one was lost and found, he was always with him.

Presenting God as the father who forgave was unique in those times because the Jews believed they would be punished severely for not following His laws and rituals. Jesus taught them that the Father was beyond all human considerations. He does not judge and condemn sinners but patiently waits for their return.

God did not send Jesus to condemn the world. He was sent so that the world may be saved through Him. All that Jesus wants is that we experience the greatness of His Father's love and mercy.

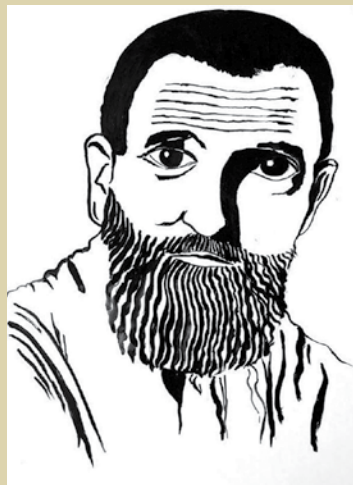


## Word of God

Luke 15: 22 – 24

But the father called out to his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.' And so the feasting began.

## Insight



Fr. Camil Bulcke (1909 - 1982) was a Belgian Jesuit priest and a reputed Hindi and Sanskrit scholar. He compiled English-Hindi dictionary with 40,000 words that is widely used even today. He was the first person to earn a doctorate for a thesis written in Hindi. The topic for his thesis was 'Ram Katha; Utpati Aur Vikas (Development of Rama's Story)'. In recognition of his academic contribution, the Indian government honoured him with a Padmabhushan.

