

THE GREAT DECISION



[the last steps of a young man towards real Adoption]

THE GREAT DECISION

[true story]

Text by A. Vasileiou

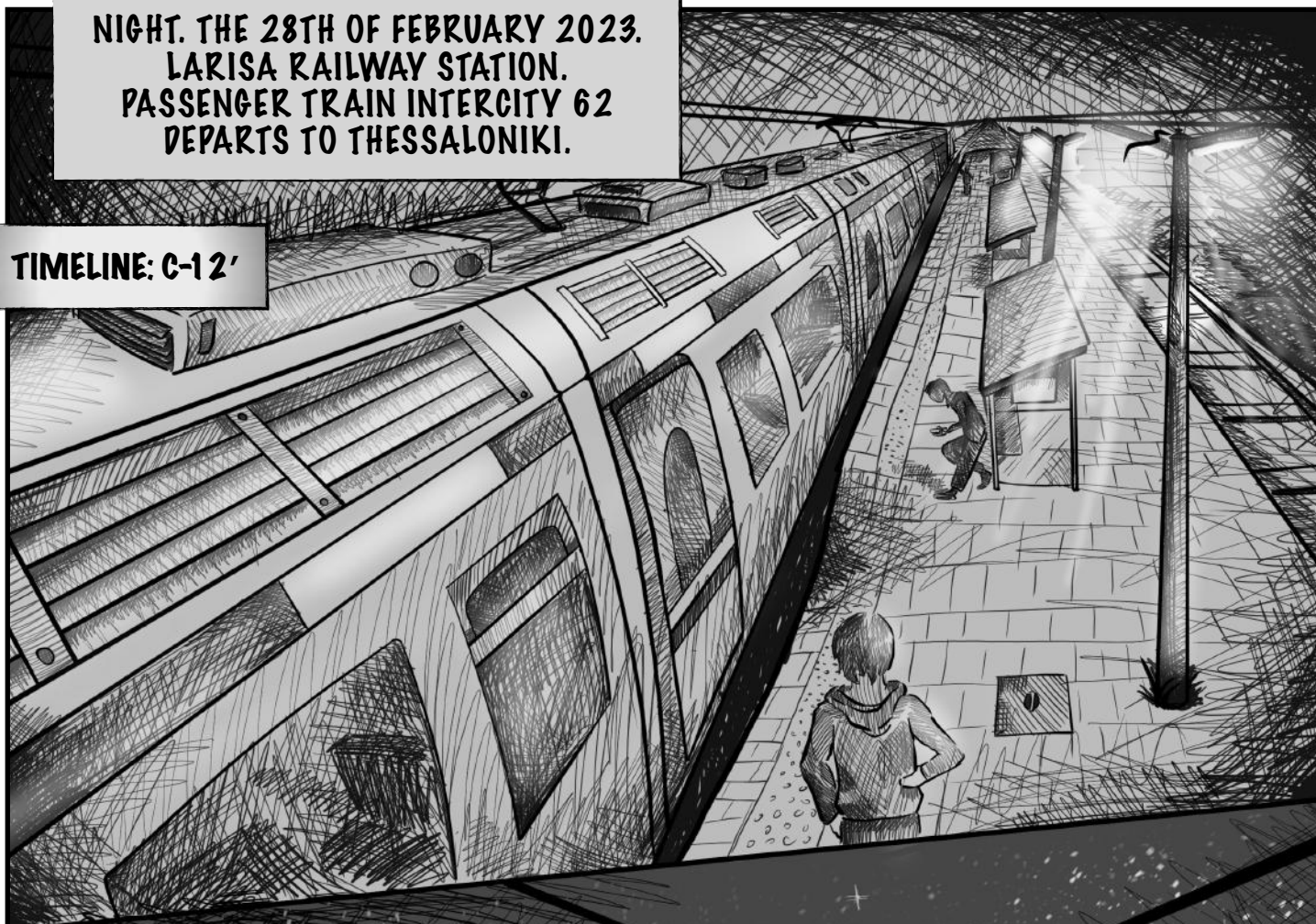
Illustrations by G. Vasileiou

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...is dedicated to the young people
who are struggling in these difficult times
of the apostasy...

NIGHT. THE 28TH OF FEBRUARY 2023.
LARISA RAILWAY STATION.
PASSENGER TRAIN INTERCITY 62
DEPARTS TO THESSALONIKI.

TIMELINE: C-12'



TIMELINE: C-10'



A SERIES
OF MISTAKES
AND PROBLEMATIC
SITUATIONS, LEAD THE IC62
TRAIN TO THE OPPOSITE LINE...
THE DOWN LINE!

TIMELINE: C-8'



THE 350 OR SO UNWARY PASSENGERS ON THE TRAIN CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY, EACH IN THEIR OWN WAY: SOME SLEEP, OTHERS TALK, OTHERS "SURF"...



TIMELINE: C-5'

IN THE SECOND CARRIAGE, A YOUNG MAN, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT, IS TRYING TO PRAY!

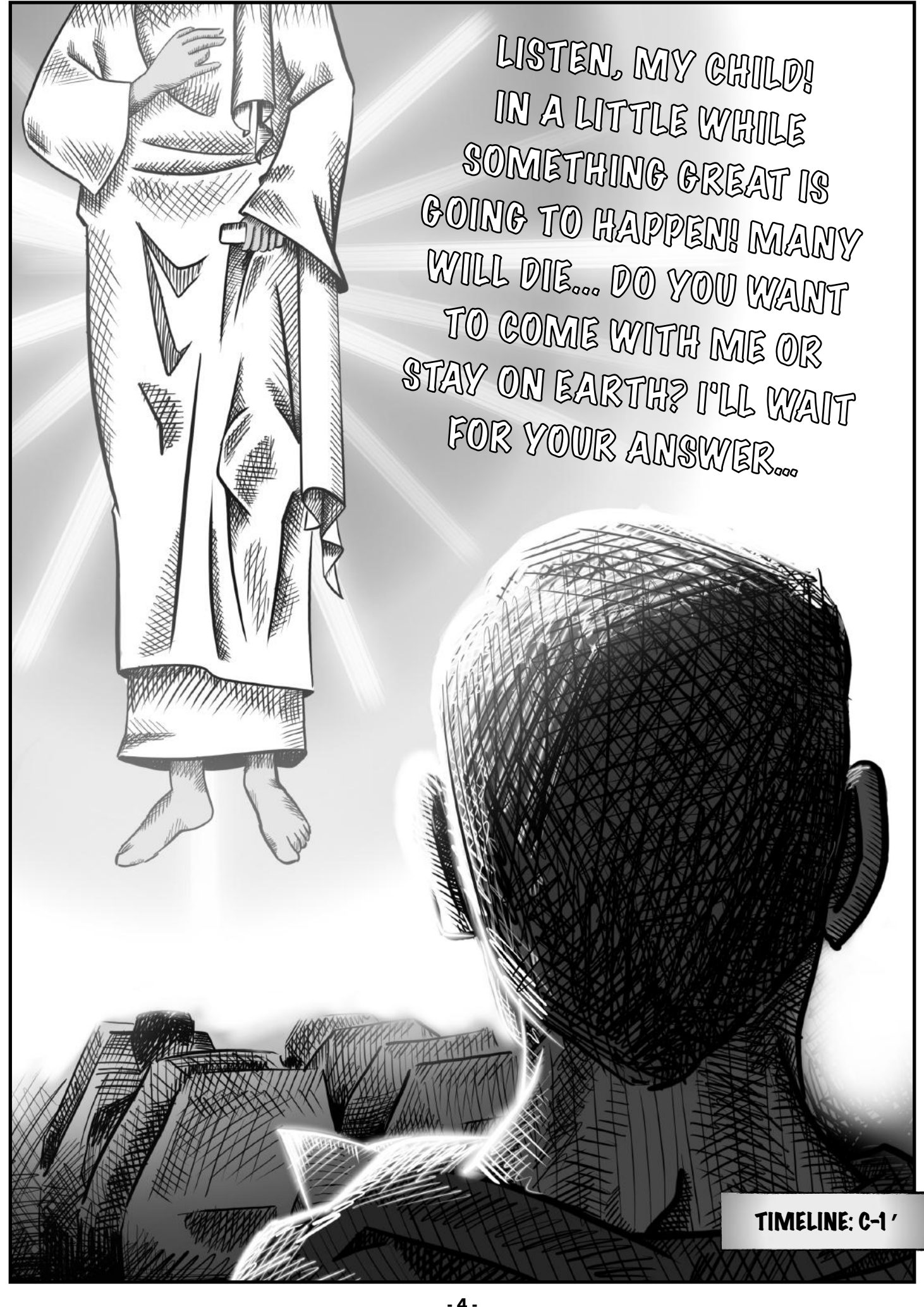
TIMELINE: C-2'

WHO IS SPEAKING TO ME IN THE NIGHT? I HEAR THE ANSWERS I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR! BUT I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON MY PRAYER... BUT WHO IS ANSWERING ME?

I,
GOD,
AM
ANSWERING
YOU,
MY
CHILD!

MY CHRIST!

HOW COULD YOU ALLOW ME TO SEE YOU?



LISTEN, MY CHILD!
IN A LITTLE WHILE
SOMETHING GREAT IS
GOING TO HAPPEN! MANY
WILL DIE... DO YOU WANT
TO COME WITH ME OR
STAY ON EARTH? I'LL WAIT
FOR YOUR ANSWER...

TIMELINE: C-1'



AT THE SAME TIME, CARGO TRAIN 63503 IS TRAVELLING FROM THESSALONIKI TO LARISA...

TIMELINE: C-8''

...ON THE SAME DOWN LINE...



TIMELINE: C-1''

TIMELINE: C=0



THE MASSIVE COLLISION CAUSES A HUGE EXPLOSION! THE TWO FRONT CARRIAGES OF THE PASSENGER TRAIN ARE COMPLETELY BURNT OUT.

**AT LEAST 57 SOULS GO TO THE SKIES!
INCLUDING THE YOUNG MAN, WHO, NOW HAS
TO MAKE THE BIG DECISION...**





I'M IN MY FINAL YEAR OF LAW SCHOOL. I'M GRADUATING IN 5 MONTHS!

MY BELOVED AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR TWO YEARS. WE HAVE ALREADY BLESSED OUR WEDDING CROWNS! WE'RE GETTING MARRIED IN 6 MONTHS!

IT WILL BE A BYZANTINE WEDDING!




WE'RE GOING TO BUILD OUR HOUSE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. WE'LL HAVE OUR OWN RANCH! WE'LL GO ON JOURNEYS. OUR CHILDREN WILL GROW UP IN PEACE, LOVING GOD AND LOVING OUR COUNTRY.





I'VE ALWAYS HAD THE DESIRE TO BE A PRIEST...
TO PRAISE GOD IN FRONT OF THE HOLY ALTAR TABLE!
TO HELP THE WHOLE WORLD COME TO YOU!



BUT WHAT I WANTED ALL MY LIFE
WAS TO BE CLOSE TO YOU!
HERE, NEXT TO YOU, THE JOY I FEEL
IS BOUNDLESS.
BUT I DON'T WANT MY FAMILY AND
LOVED ONES TO BE SAD.

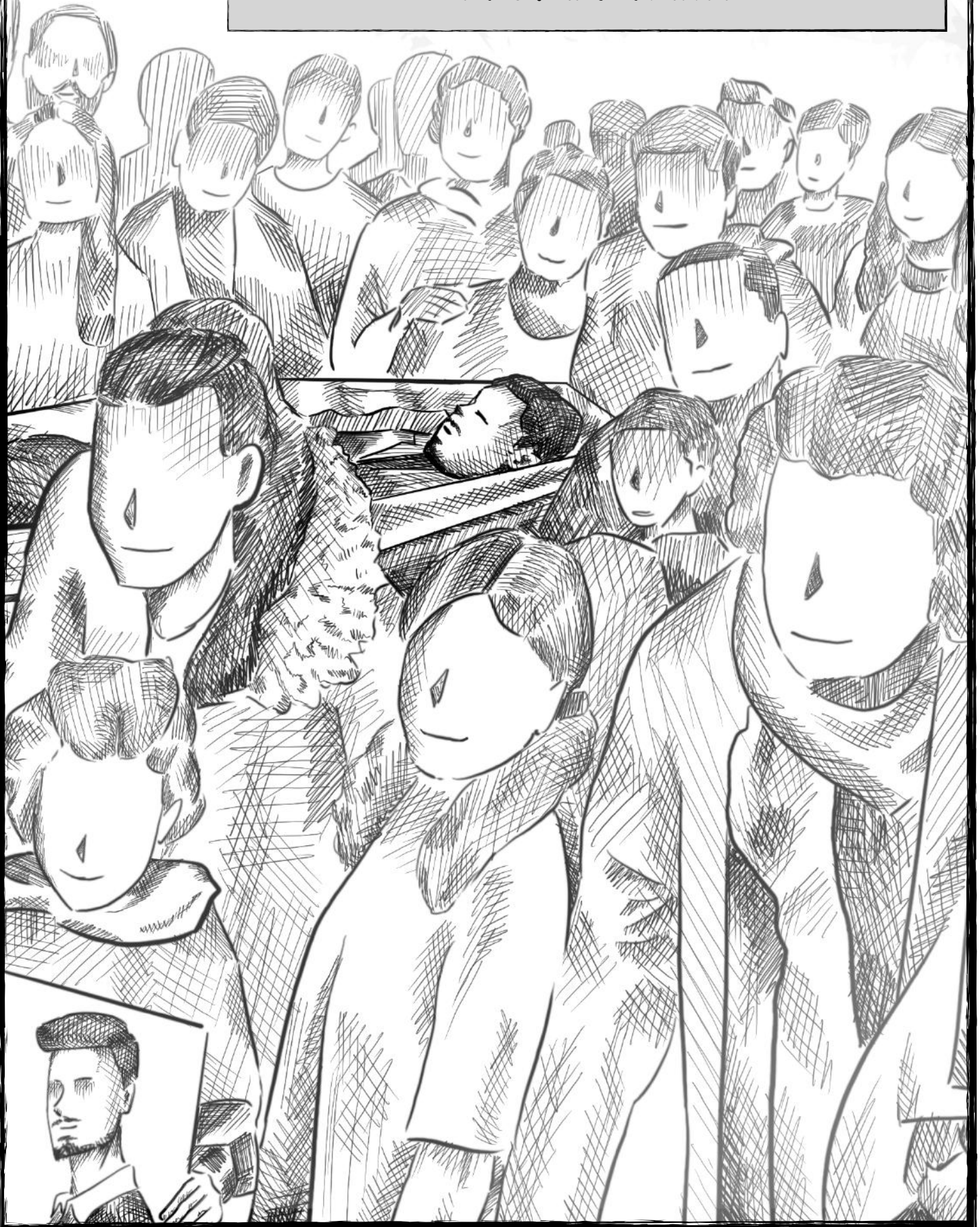
SURELY, NEXT TO YOU,
THE STRENGTH TO
HELP THEM AND GIVE
THEM JOY WILL BE
UNLIMITED...



**YES,
MY CHRIST!
I WANT TO COME
WITH YOU!**



**FUNERAL SERVICE: AN IMAGE OF THE RESURRECTION!
SMILING FACES BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE YOUNG MAN
ON HIS WAY TO HEAVEN!**



SINCE THE DAY THIS YOUNG MAN LEFT, HE'S DONE A LOT OF WORK.
HE HAS TOUCHED MANY, BROUGHT MANY TO CHRIST!
BUT HOW DID IT ALL HAPPEN? HOW DID HE MAKE THIS DECISION?

HIS PARENTS RAISED HIM WITH THE VALUES AND
IDEALS OF ROMEOSYNE:
LOVE OF CHRIST AND LOVE OF GREECE!

HE, FOR HIS PART, WAS WORKING ON MEEKNESS,
TEMPERANCE, FASTING, PRAYER, CHASTITY, VIRGINITY,
FAITH, HOPE, LOVE!

HE WAS ECLECTIC. SEARCHING FOR THE
GENUINE, THE TRUE, THE PERFECT.

HE'D ALWAYS TAKE COMMUNION.
HE DID NOT LESSEN THE LAW OF GOD - HE
MAINTAINED A PRECISE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

HE RESPECTED HIS PARENTS.
HE CONSCIOUSLY LIVED THE
SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE
ORTHODOX CHURCH.

LET US HOPE THAT ALL OUR
YOUNG PEOPLE WILL FOLLOW
HIS EXAMPLE...
CHRIST IS RISEN!



[little **details**]

...the young man's remains were found intact,
two days after the crash,
as was the deadline he had been given.

St. Marina, whom he deeply cherished,
protected his body from fire and destruction
until he made his great decision...



***“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life:
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.
Believest thou this?”***

JOHN, 11:25-26