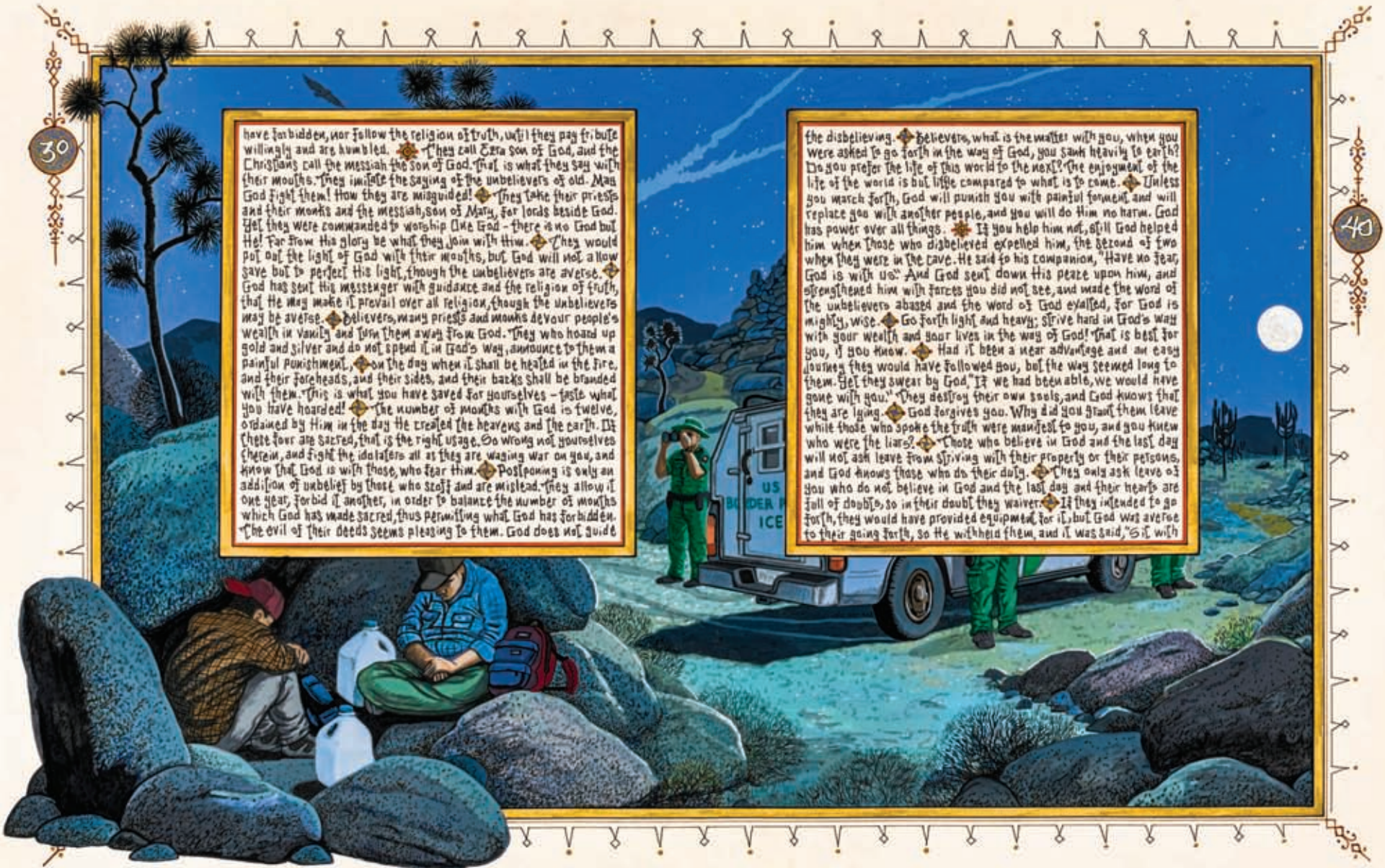


EUGENE WEEKLY



have forbidden, nor follow the religion of truth, until they pay tribute willingly and are humbled. They call Ezra son of God, and the Christians call the messiah the son of God. That is what they say with their mouths. They imitate the saying of the unbelievers of old. Man God fight them! How they are misguided! They take their priests and their monks and the messiah, son of Mary, for lords beside God. Yet they were commanded to worship One God - there is no God but He! Far from His glory be what they join with Him. They would put out the light of God with their mouths, but God will not allow save but to perfect His light, though the unbelievers are averse. God has sent His messenger with guidance and the religion of truth, that He may make it prevail over all religion, though the unbelievers may be averse. Believers, many priests and monks devour people's wealth in vanity and turn them away from God. They who hoard up gold and silver and do not spend it in God's way, announce to them a painful punishment. On the day when it shall be heated in the fire, and their foreheads, and their sides, and their backs shall be branded with them. This is what you have saved for yourselves - taste what you have hoarded! The number of months with God is twelve, ordained by Him in the day He created the heavens and the earth. Of these four are sacred, that is the right usage. So wrong not yourselves therein, and fight the idolaters all as they are waging war on you, and know that God is with those who fear Him. Postponing is only an addition of unbelief by those who scoff and are misled. They allow it one year, forbid it another, in order to balance the number of months which God has made sacred, thus permitting what God has forbidden. The evil of their deeds seems pleasing to them. God does not guide

the unbelieving. Believers, what is the matter with you, when you were asked to go forth in the way of God, you sank heavily to earth? Do you prefer the life of this world to the next? The enjoyment of the life of the world is but little compared to what is to come. Unless you march forth, God will punish you with painful torment and will replace you with another people, and you will do Him no harm. God has power over all things. If you help him not, still God helped him when those who disbelieved expelled him, the second of two when they were in the cave. He said to his companion, "Have no fear, God is with us." And God sent down His peace upon him, and strengthened him with forces you did not see, and made the word of the unbelievers abased and the word of God exalted, for God is mighty, wise. Go forth light and heavy; strive hard in God's way with your wealth and your lives in the way of God! That is best for you, if you know. Had it been a near advantage and an easy journey they would have followed you, but the way seemed long to them. Yet they swear by God, "If we had been able, we would have gone with you." They destroy their own souls, and God knows that they are lying. God forgives you. Why did you stand them leave while those who spoke the truth were manifest to you, and you knew who were the liars? Those who believe in God and the last day will not ask leave from striving with their property or their persons, and God knows those who do their duty. They only ask leave of you who do not believe in God and the last day and their hearts are full of doubts, so in their doubt they waiver. If they intended to go forth, they would have provided equipment for it, but God was averse to their going forth, so He withheld them, and it was said, "So it wish

A M E R I C A N Q U R ' A N

*Sandow Birk's illuminations of the Islamic holy text
come to the Schnitzer p. 12*