

How do people express their faith through the arts?

Learning Objective:

To understand how art can be sacred and spiritual for believers.

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Why do
you think
people
draw and
paint
pictures?

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For thousands of years, artists have used images to portray religious stories, beliefs and ideas. Today we will be looking at some of these images and as you look at them, see if you can answer these questions:

How does this work of art make you feel?

How do you think the artist felt when they painted this picture?

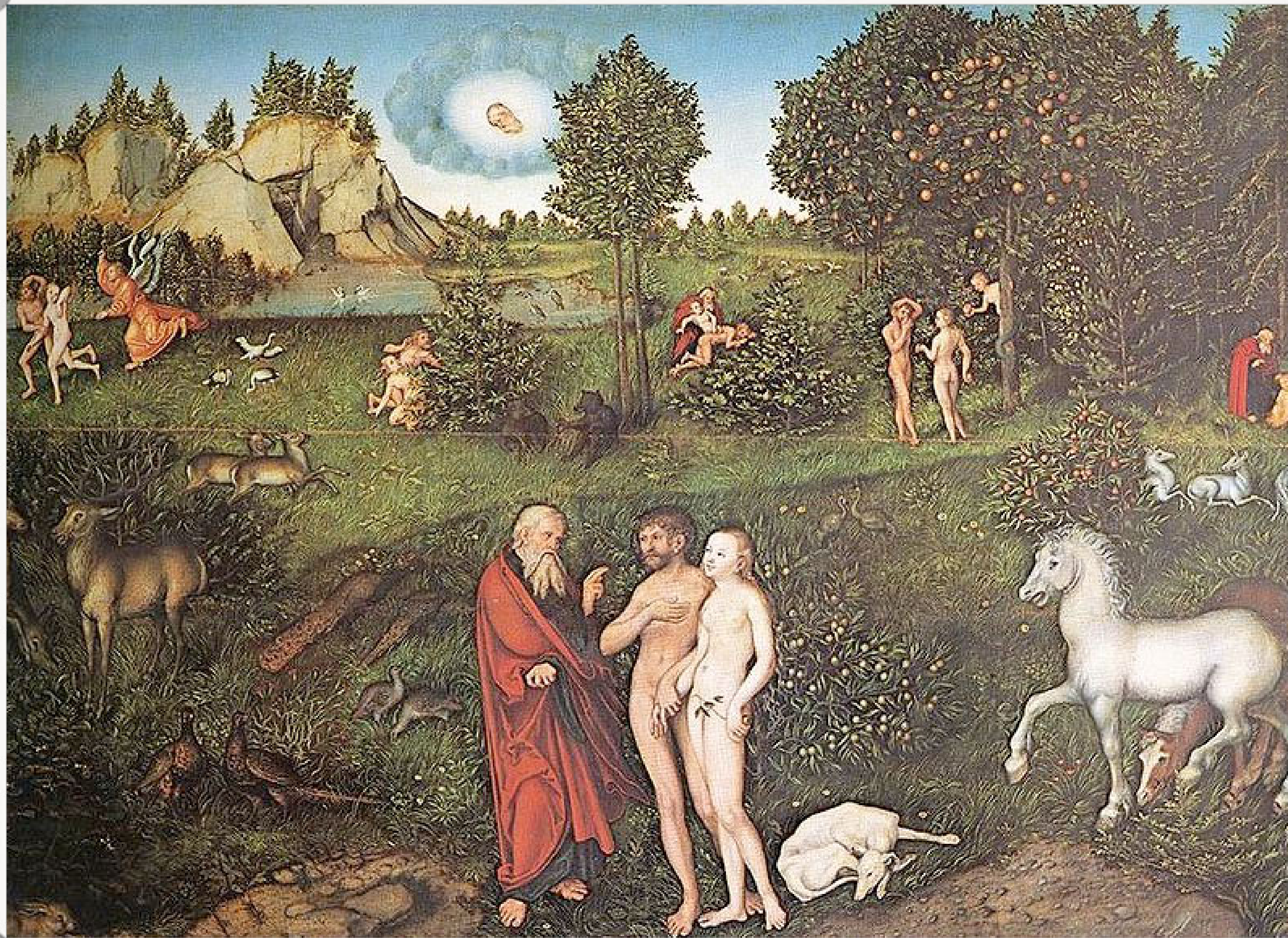
How is the image used to teach religious beliefs, to instil moral values or to inspire passion?

Do you think the picture is traditional or modern?

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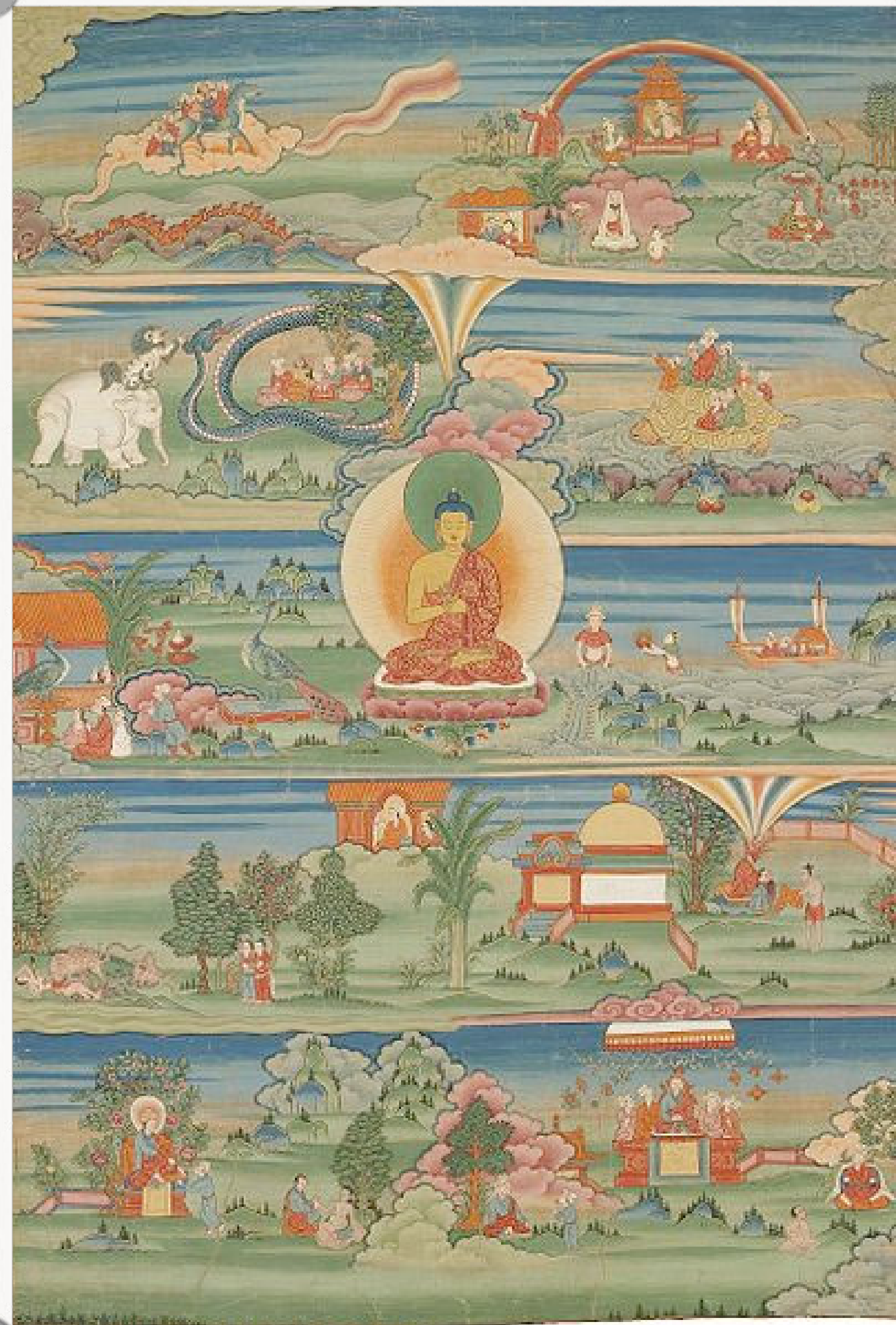
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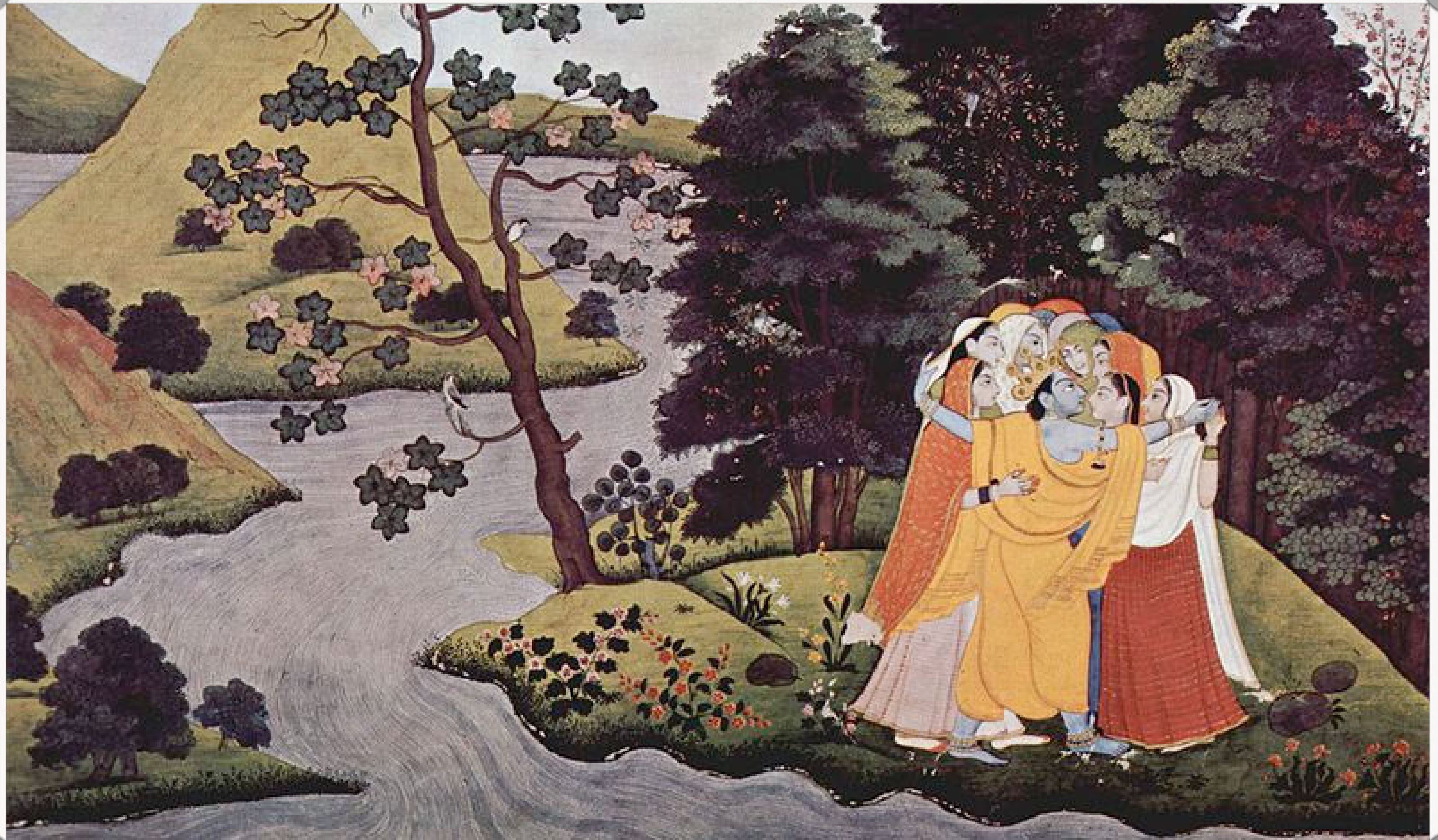
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The following paintings all show scenes from the life, death or resurrection of Jesus.

Let's have a look at how the artist has used symbolism to portray his or her ideas...

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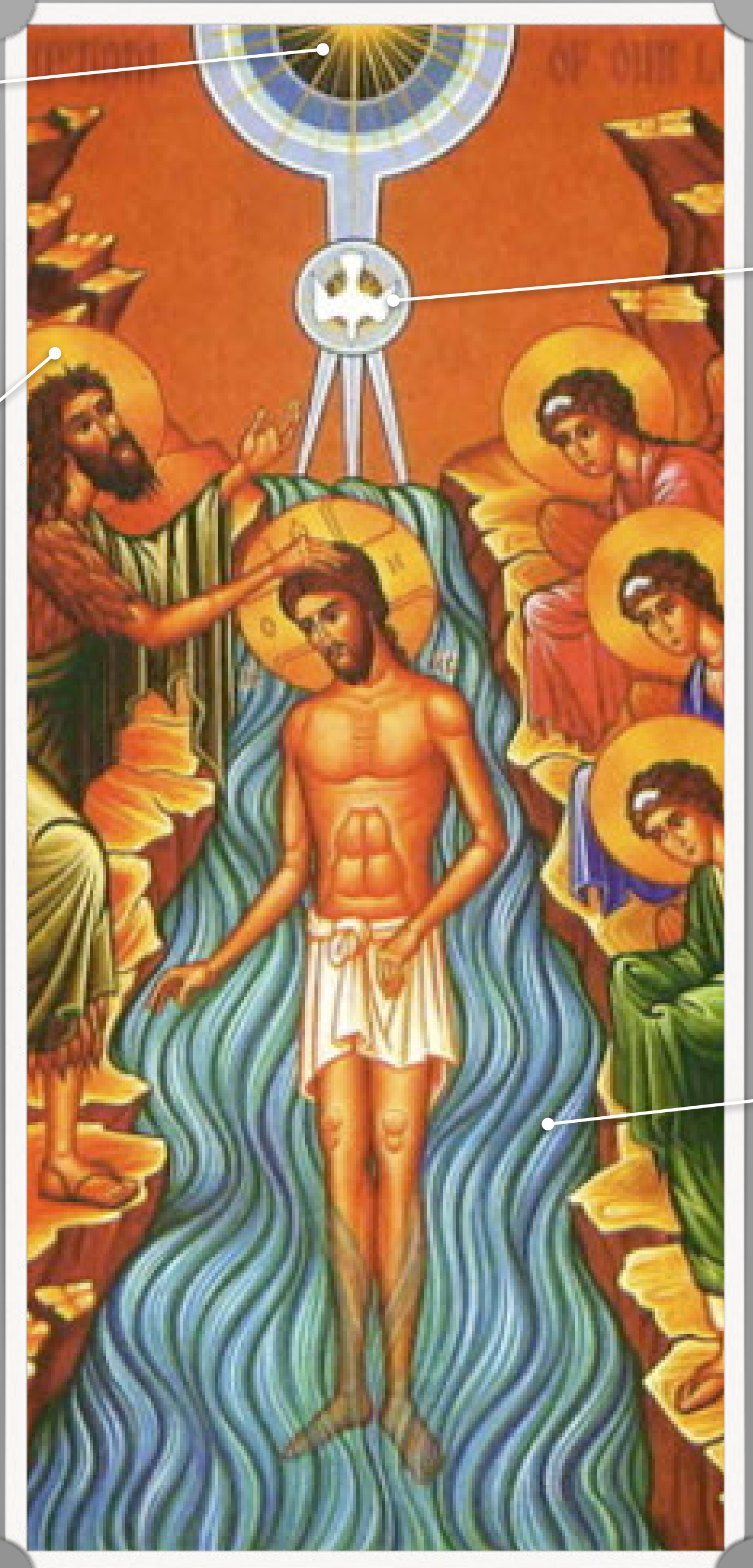
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The light of God

The dove is a symbol of peace.

The halos show that these people are holy.

The water shows Jesus being baptised. It is a symbol of cleansing and new life.



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The halo shows light. It is another symbol of holiness.

Jesus is shown in brighter, white colours to symbolise goodness



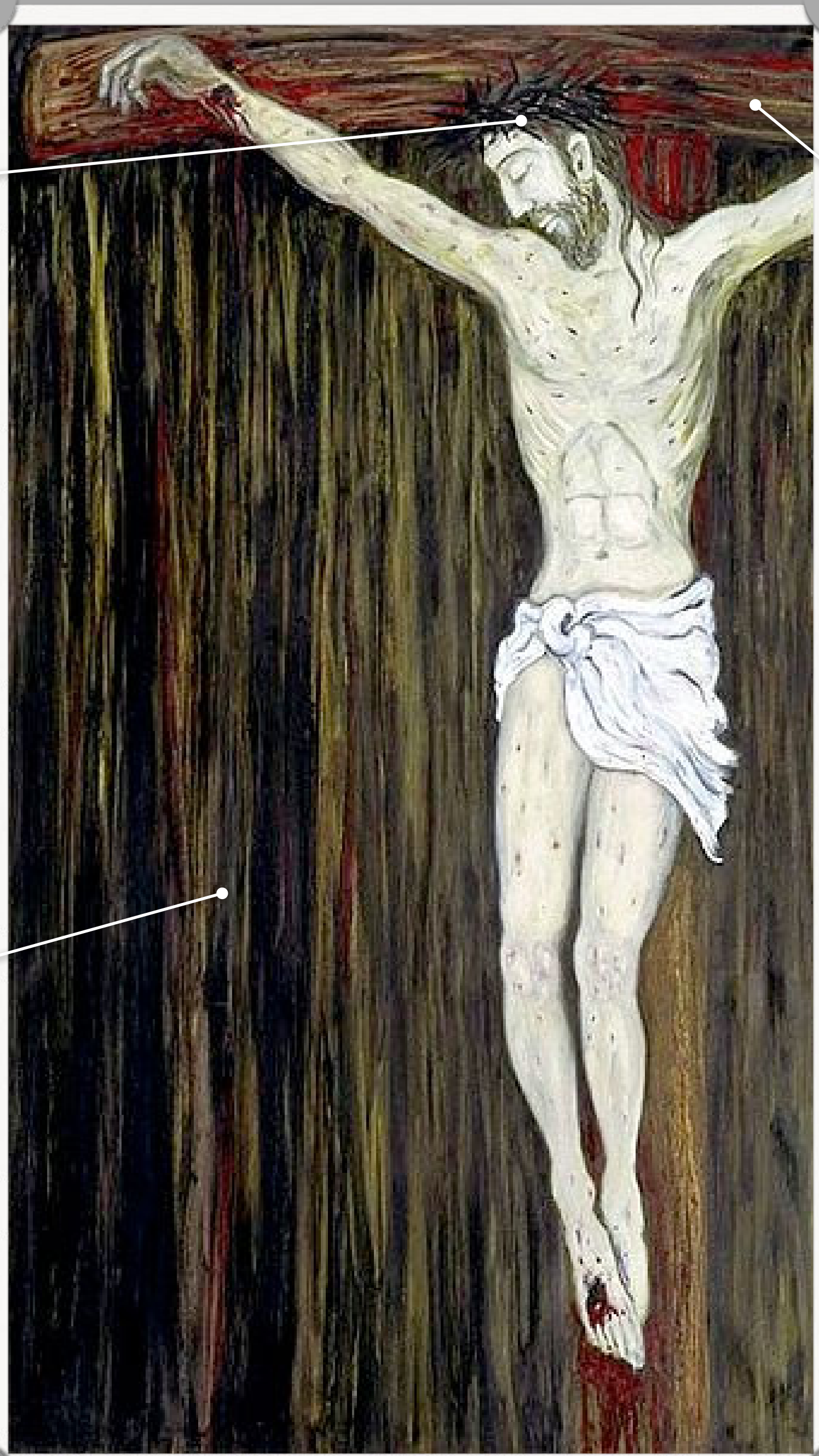
The devil is trying to tempt Jesus. He is shown in dark colours to symbolise evil.

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The crown of thorns symbolises how Jesus suffered for his kingdom.

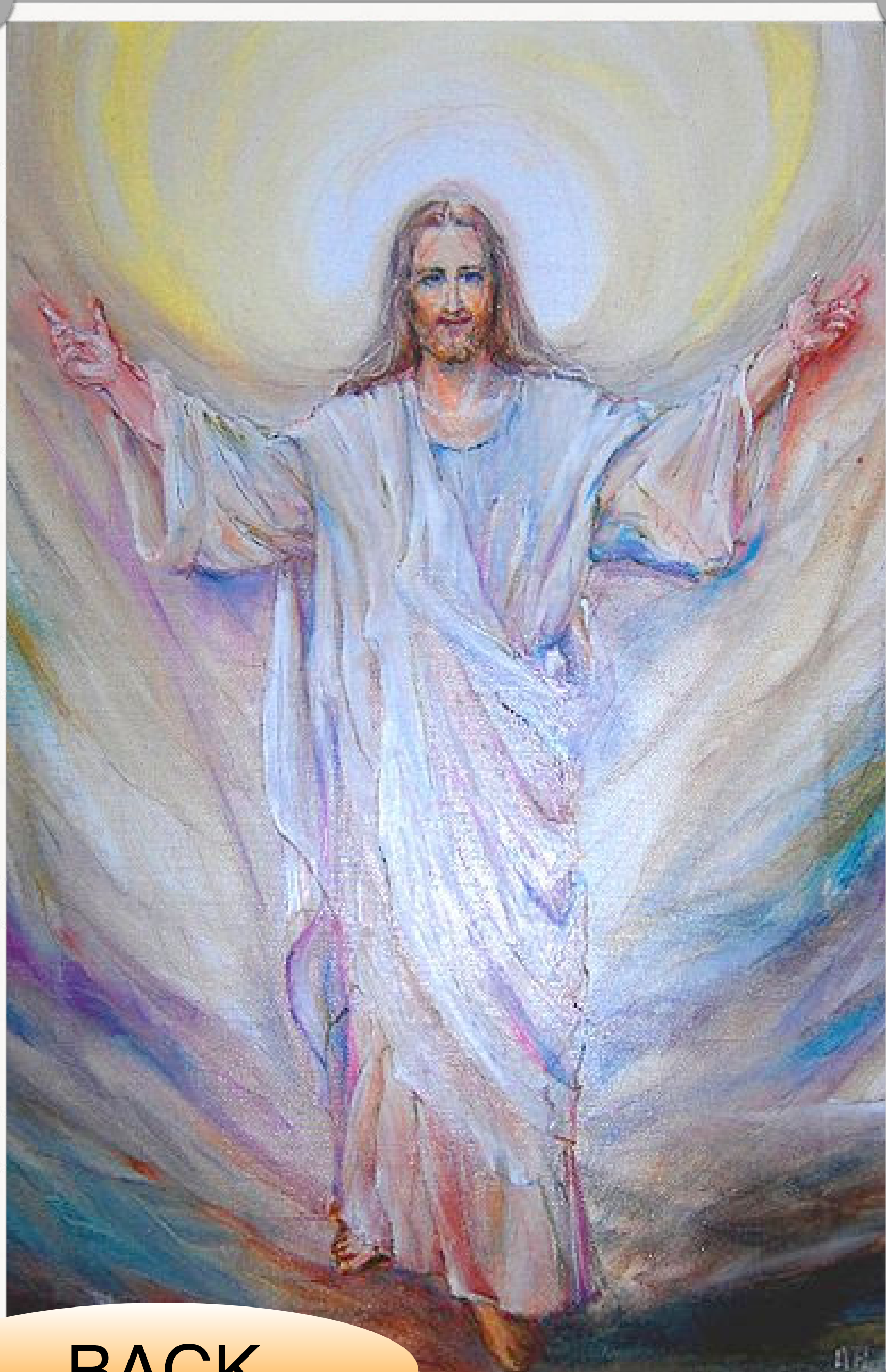
The mixture of colours here shows that even in the darkness of death there is hope (yellow).



The use of the colour red reflects Jesus' blood.

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This painting shows the resurrection of Jesus. What do you think the use of colour symbolises?



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Religious paintings are not just produced to look nice. Some religious people believe paintings that show religious figures, stories and beliefs to be sacred because they are a reflection of what is written in scriptures. They can be used as part of worship too.

Lots of churches and other religious buildings have paintings, statues and murals on the walls to remind people why they are worshipping and to help them focus on holy thoughts.



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