

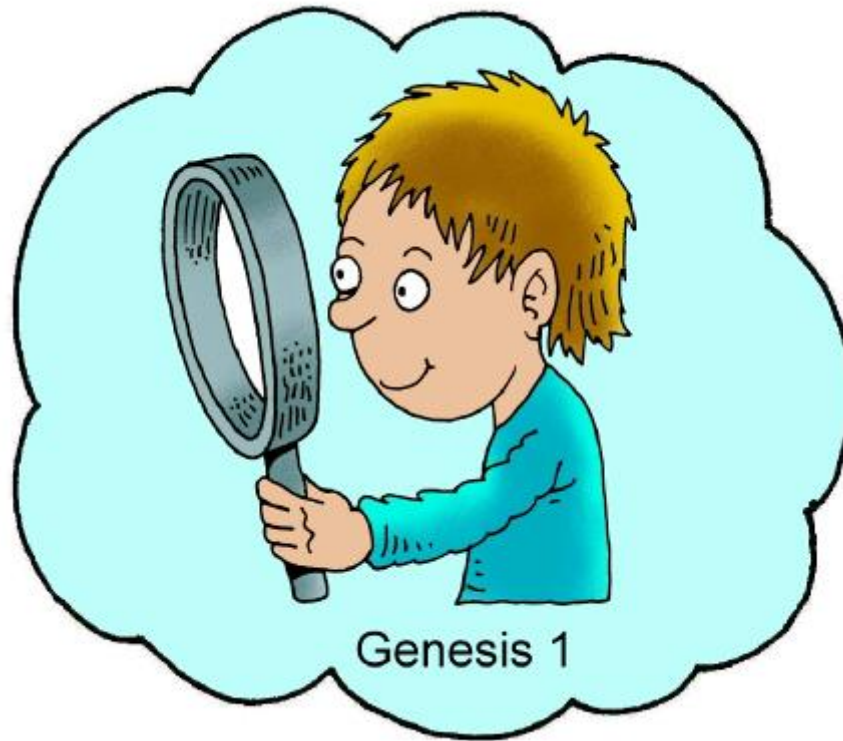
The Amazing Birds Nest Mushroom

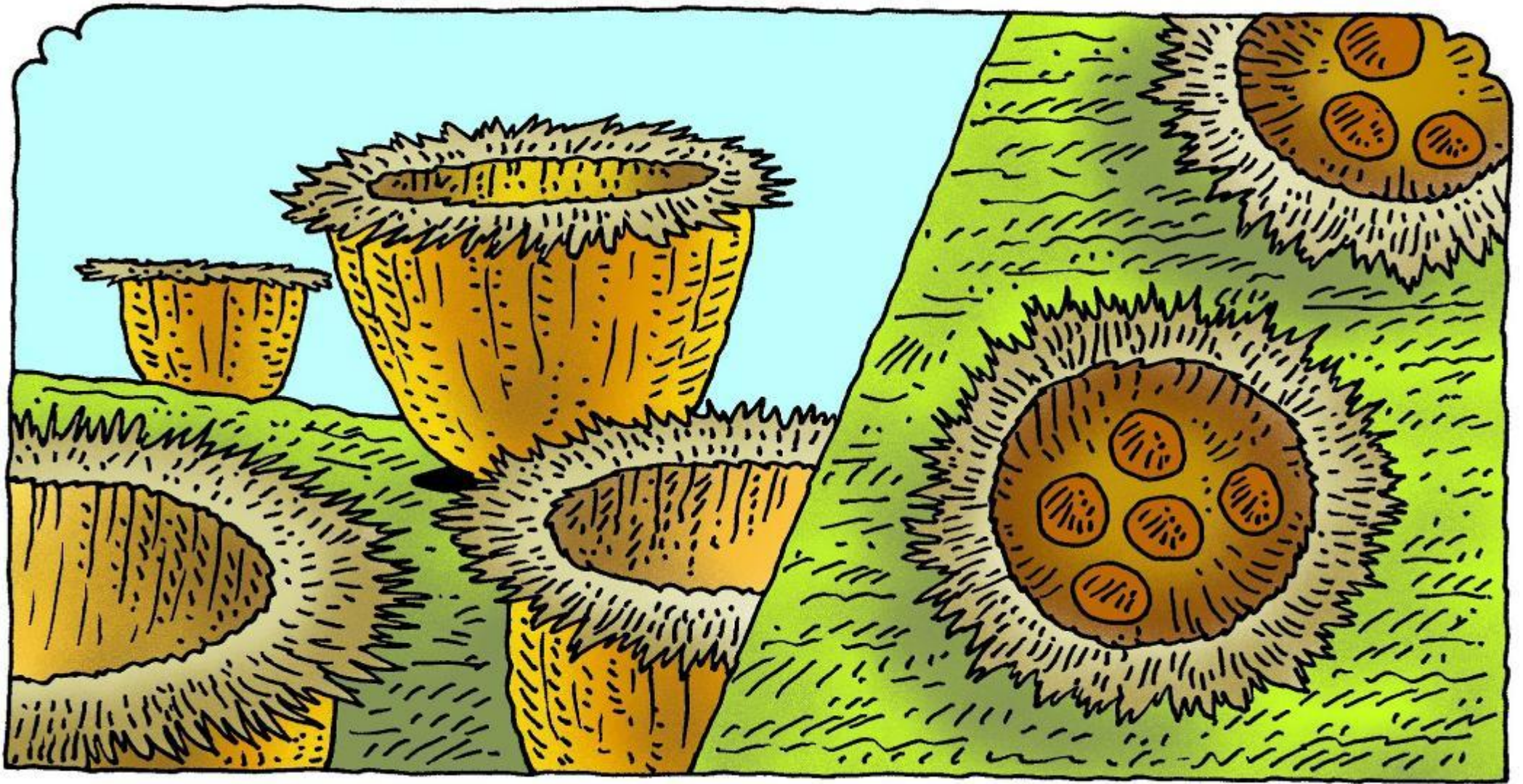
is a Peridioles Fungus

By Jill Kemp

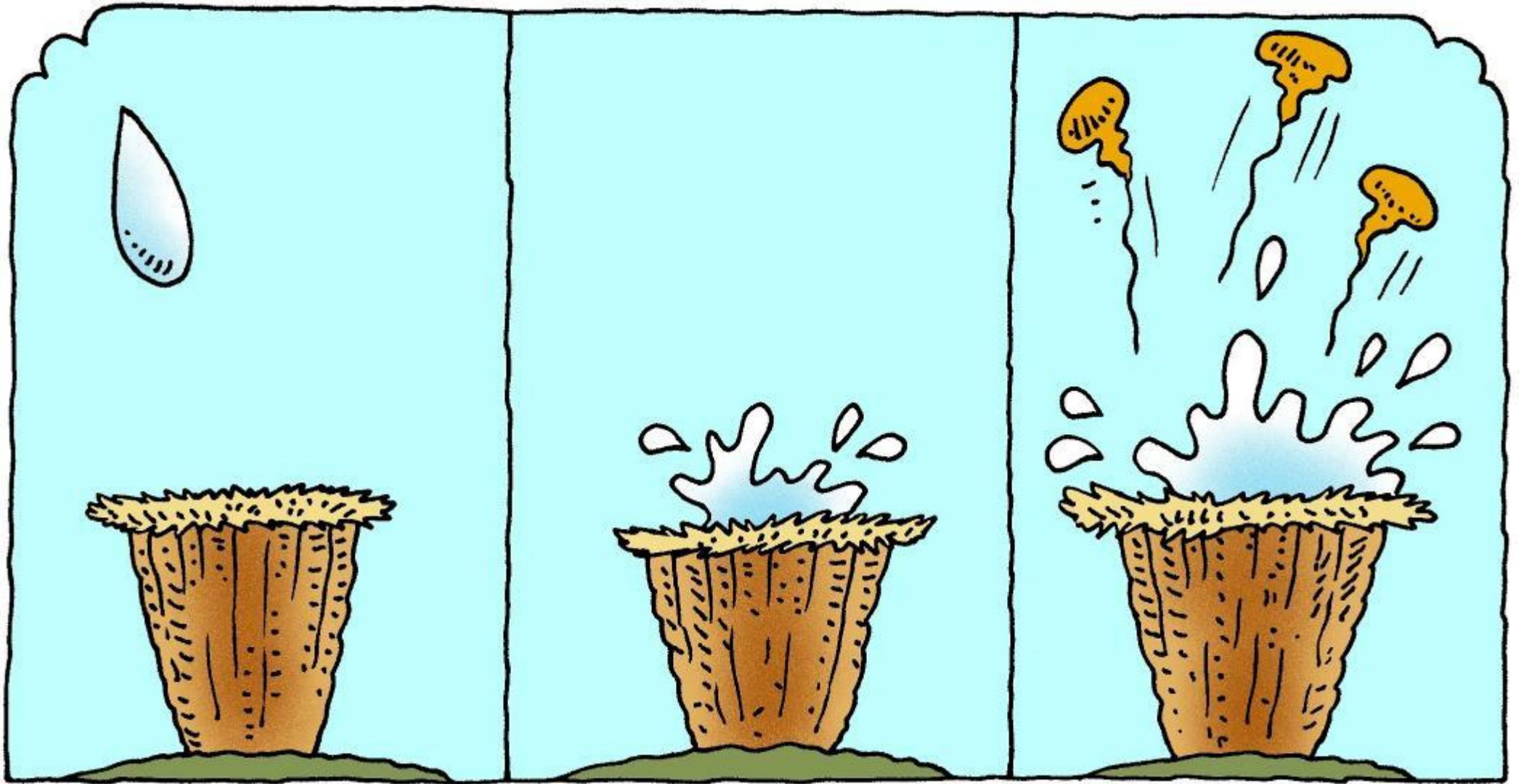
Illustrated by Richard Gunther

Original idea by Richard Gunther

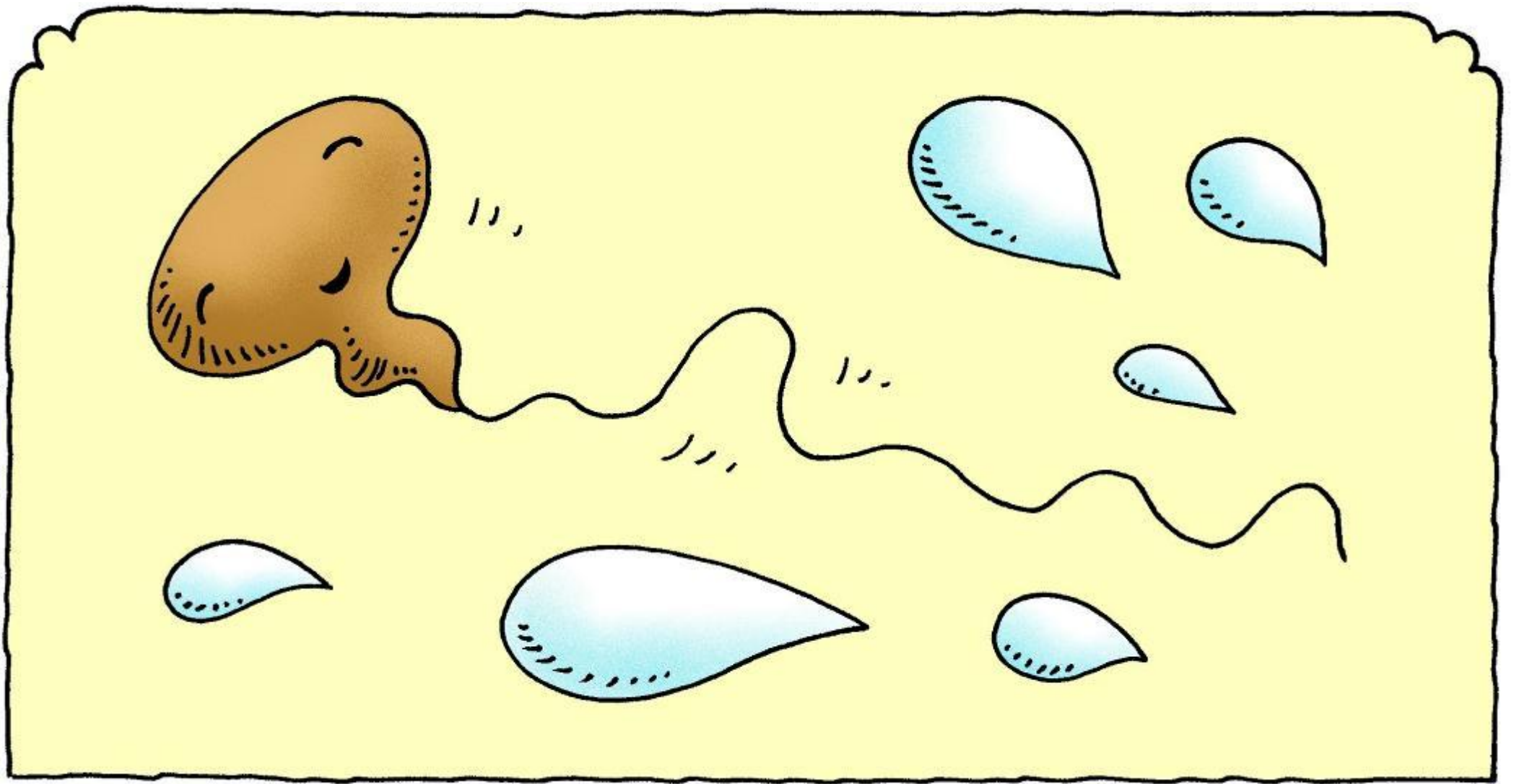




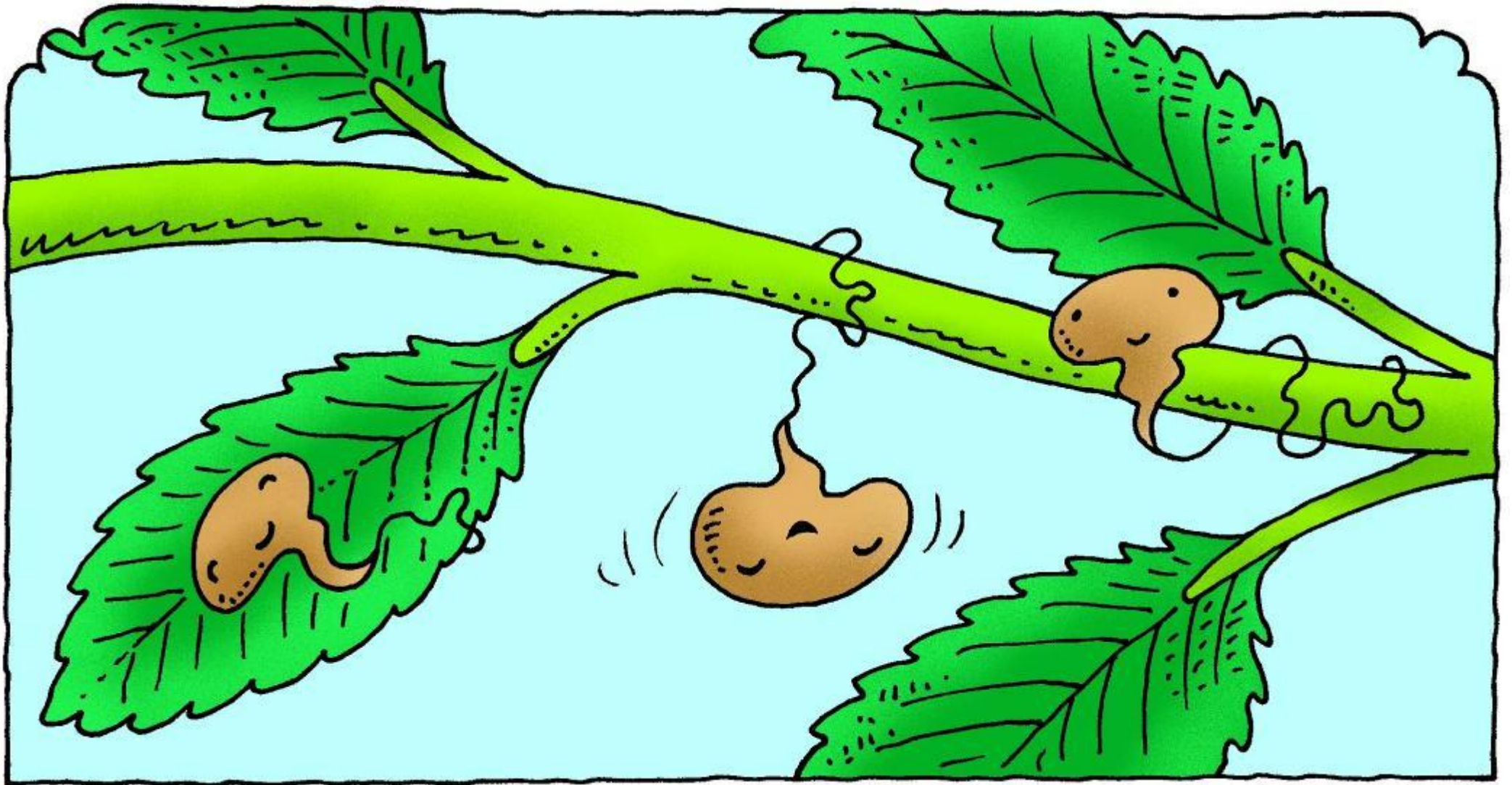
The tiny Bird's Nest mushroom looks like a small bird's nest with eggs inside it, but the way it spreads its spores is truly amazing!



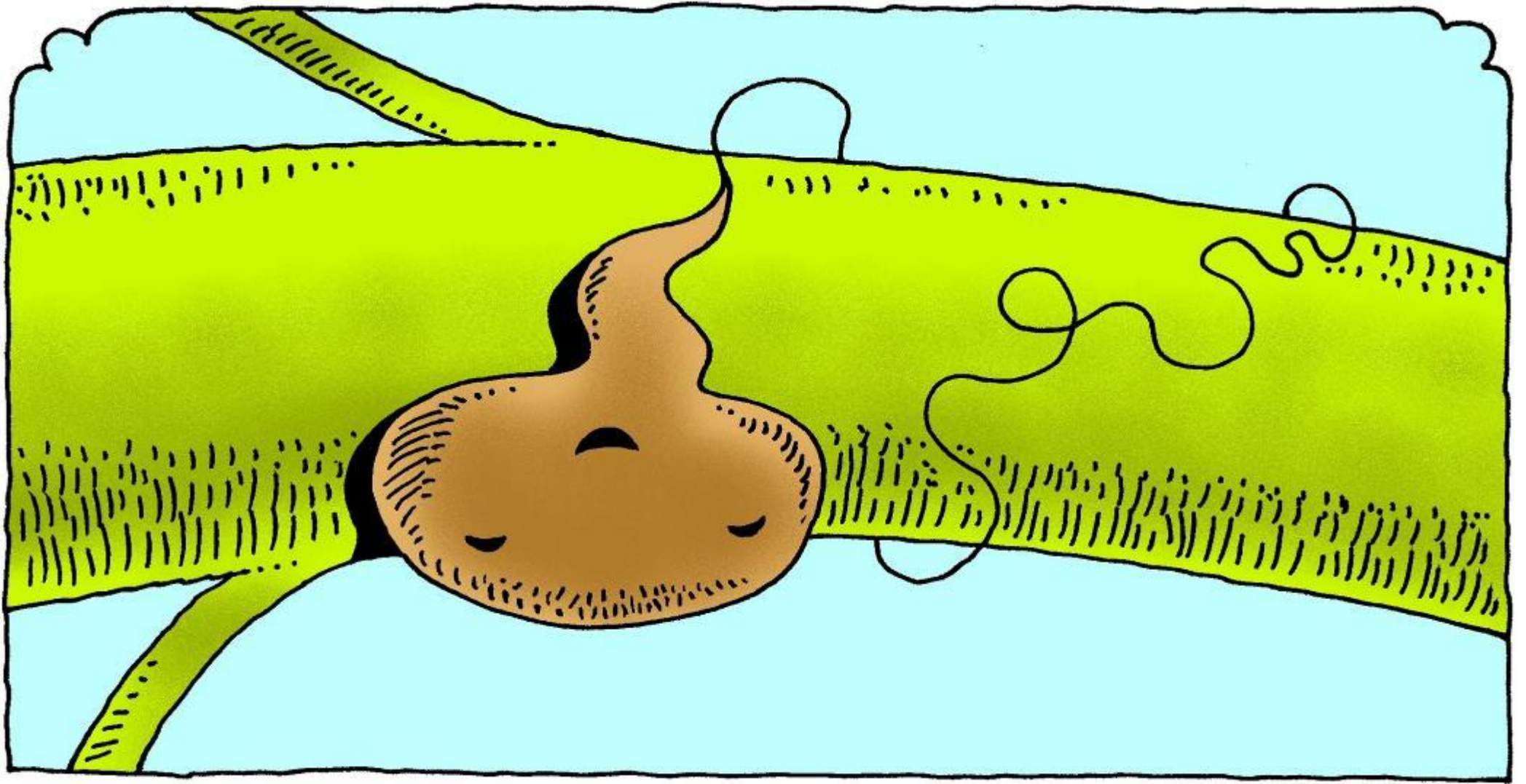
The nest is shaped like a little cup and when it rains the cup fills up with water and splashes the pods right out.



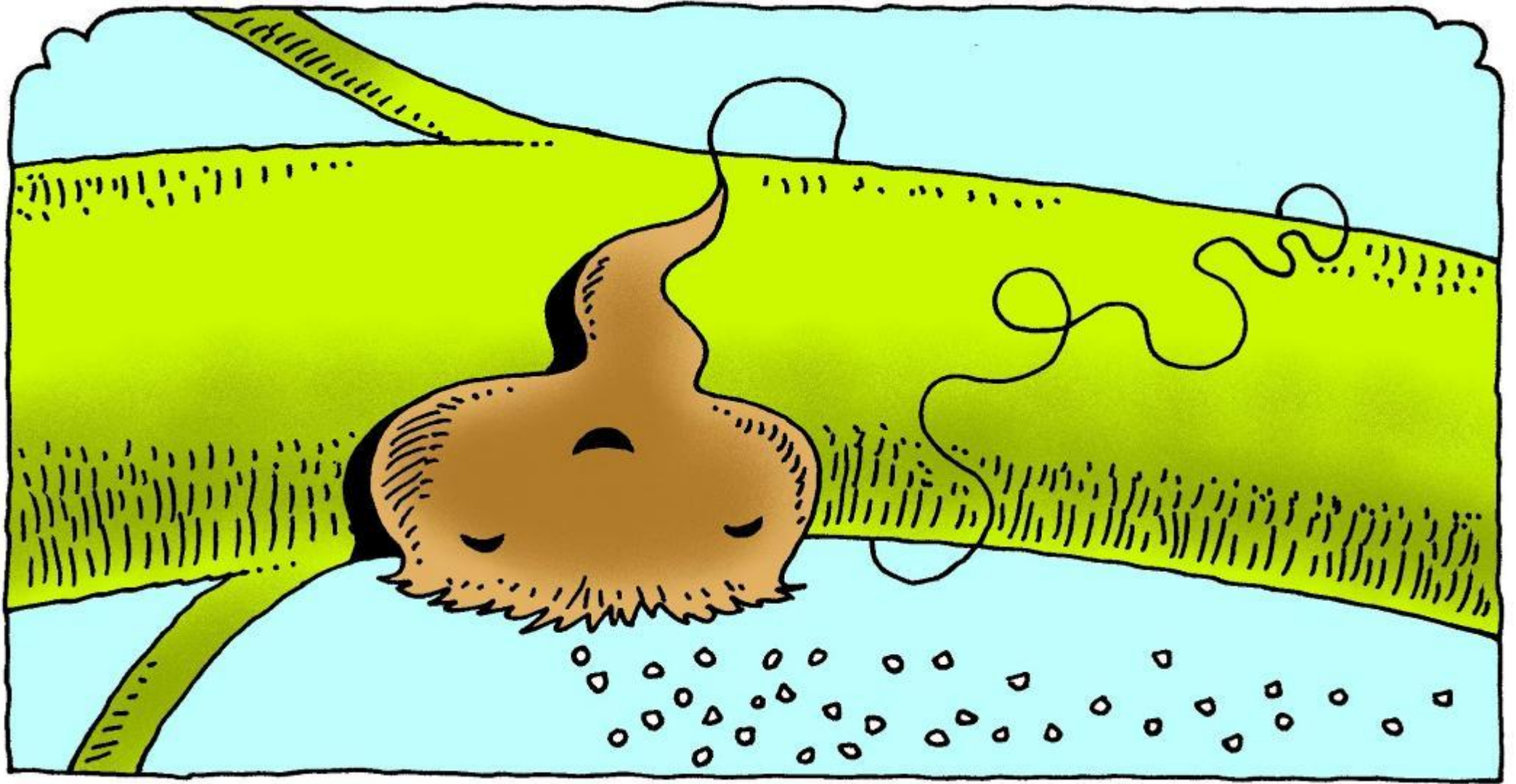
The pod has a tail curled up tightly inside it and when the pod splashes out of the cup, a tail shoots out suddenly, as though it is on a spring.



The long tail wraps itself around a branch.
then slowly shortens and pulls the pod,
with spores inside, tightly onto the branch,
in a way that is truly amazing.



The little pod hangs safely on the branch, high up off the ground, until it is just the right time to scatter its spores.



Birds Nest mushroom spores like to grow on dead wood. The pod breaks open and scatters the spores which begin to grow into new Birds Nest mushrooms.



The more closely you look at nature the more you will be amazed at the things God has made and the way He made them to work.