

DEER STORIES

Deer, in the Jataka tales, are often gentle bodhisattvas or Buddhas-to-be. They are noble, selfless, wise and virtuous. As models of right thinking and right living, they strongly advise a life of non-violence and peace for ultimate happiness. Even if greed leads them astray, they are soon guided back to the correct path.

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FABLES &
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DEER STORIES

THE GENTLE WISDOM OF THE JATAKA

Vol 555 | ₹50



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TRUE FRIENDSHIP

IN A THICKET NEAR A LAKE,
LIVED THREE FRIENDS, A
TORTOISE, A WOODPECKER
AND AN ANTELOPE.



ONE DAY A HUNTER CAME THAT WAY.

AH! FOOTPRINTS! I'LL SET THE
TRAP RIGHT HERE.



HE IS BOUND TO PASS THIS WAY
TO DRINK WATER.

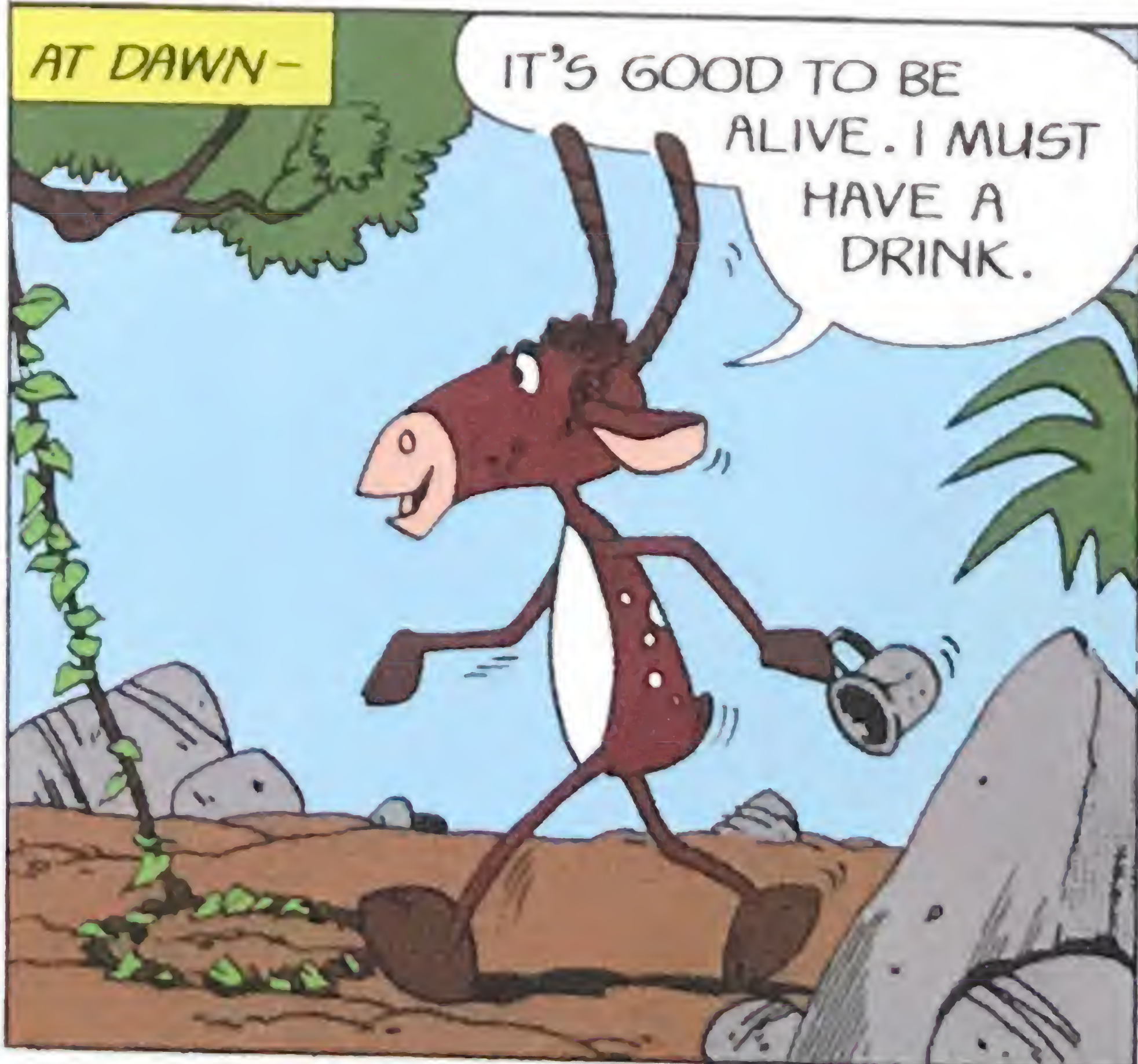


I'LL COME BACK
FOR HIM
TOMORROW.

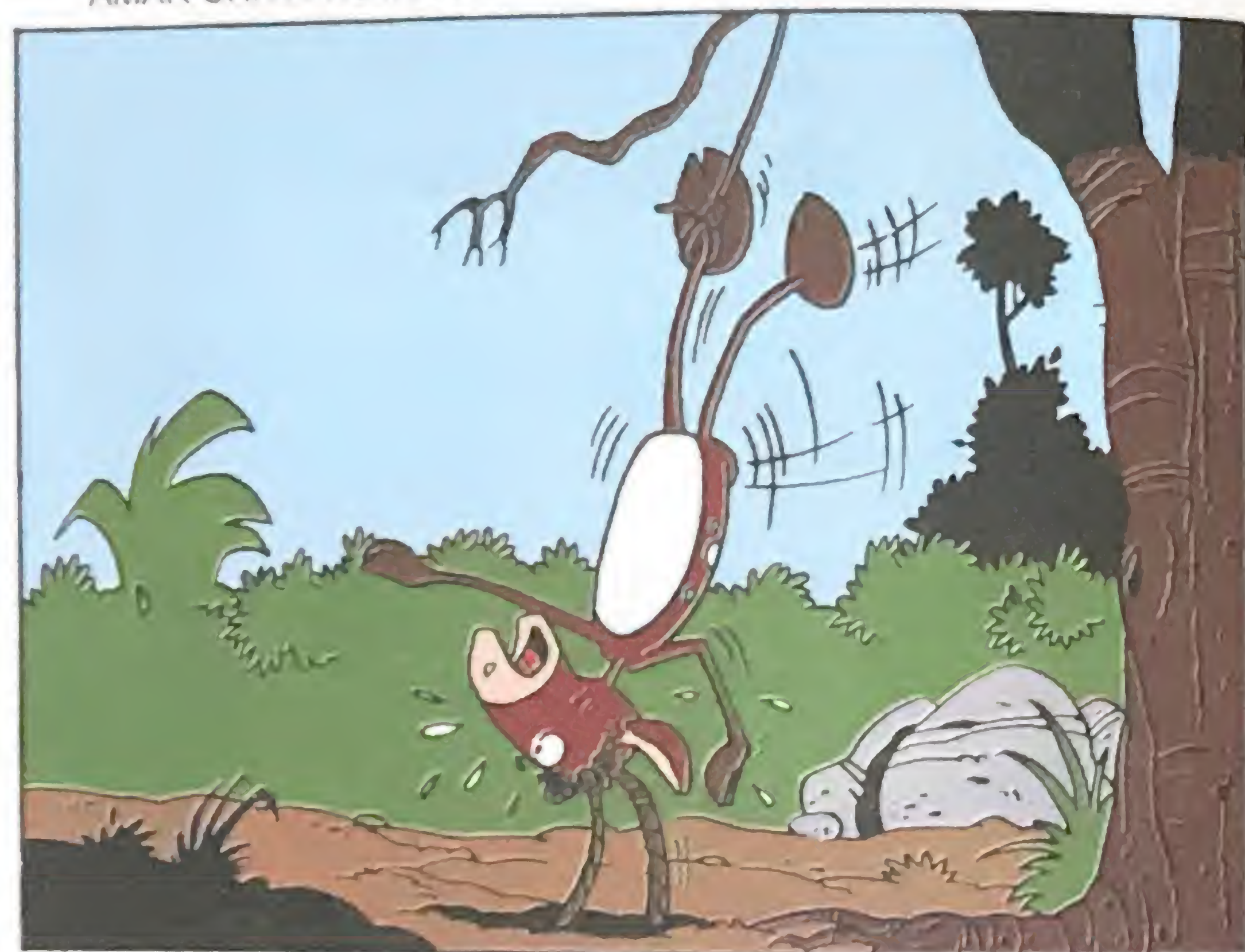


AT DAWN—

IT'S GOOD TO BE
ALIVE. I MUST
HAVE A
DRINK.



* Based on Kurunga Miga Jataka



THE TORTOISE AND THE WOODPECKER HEARD HIS CRIES AND RUSHED TO HIM.



WHEN HE COMES OUT OF HIS HUT, I'LL GIVE HIM A GOOD PECKING.

THE TORTOISE WAS AS SLOW AS A TORTOISE COULD BE.

WILL YOU PLEASE HURRY.

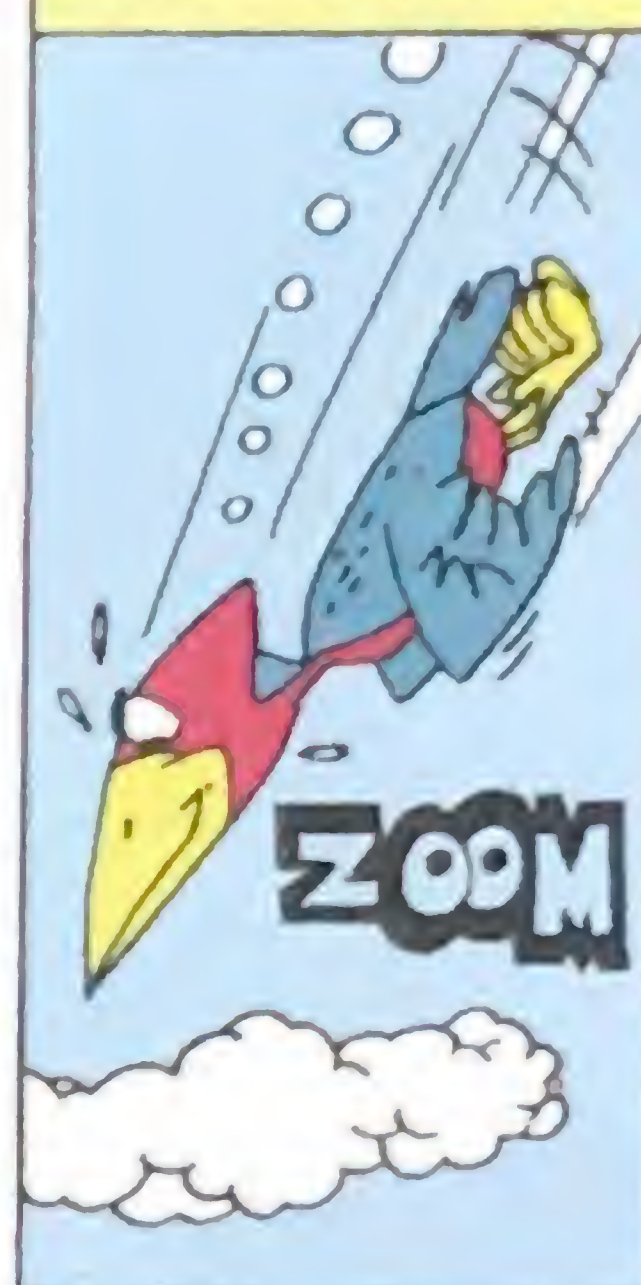


MEANWHILE THE HUNTER TOO HAD HEARD THE ANTELOPE'S SHOUTS FOR HELP AND HAD RUSHED OUT.



AH...AH, HE'S CAUGHT.

THE WOOD-PECKER SPIED HIM.



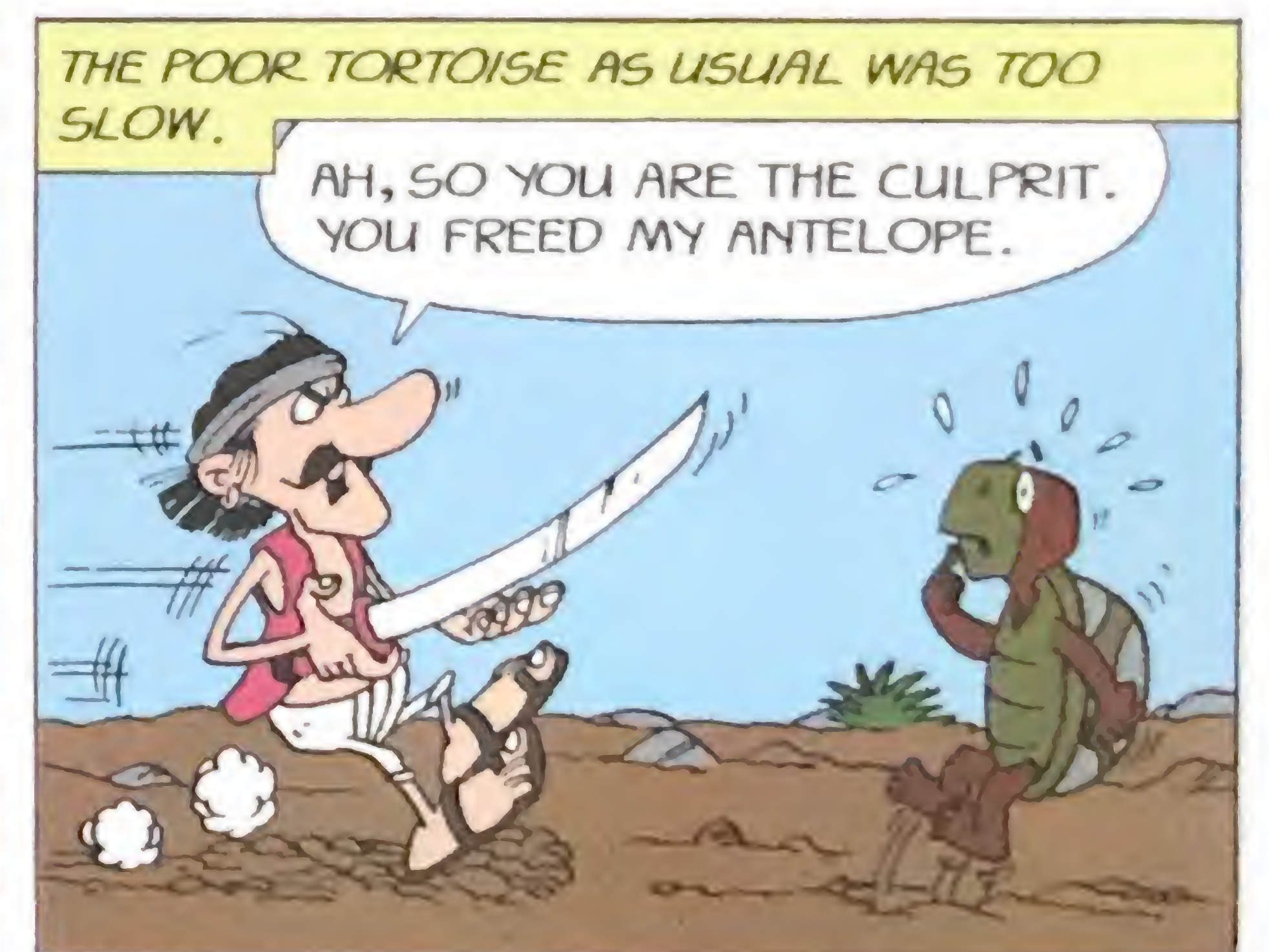
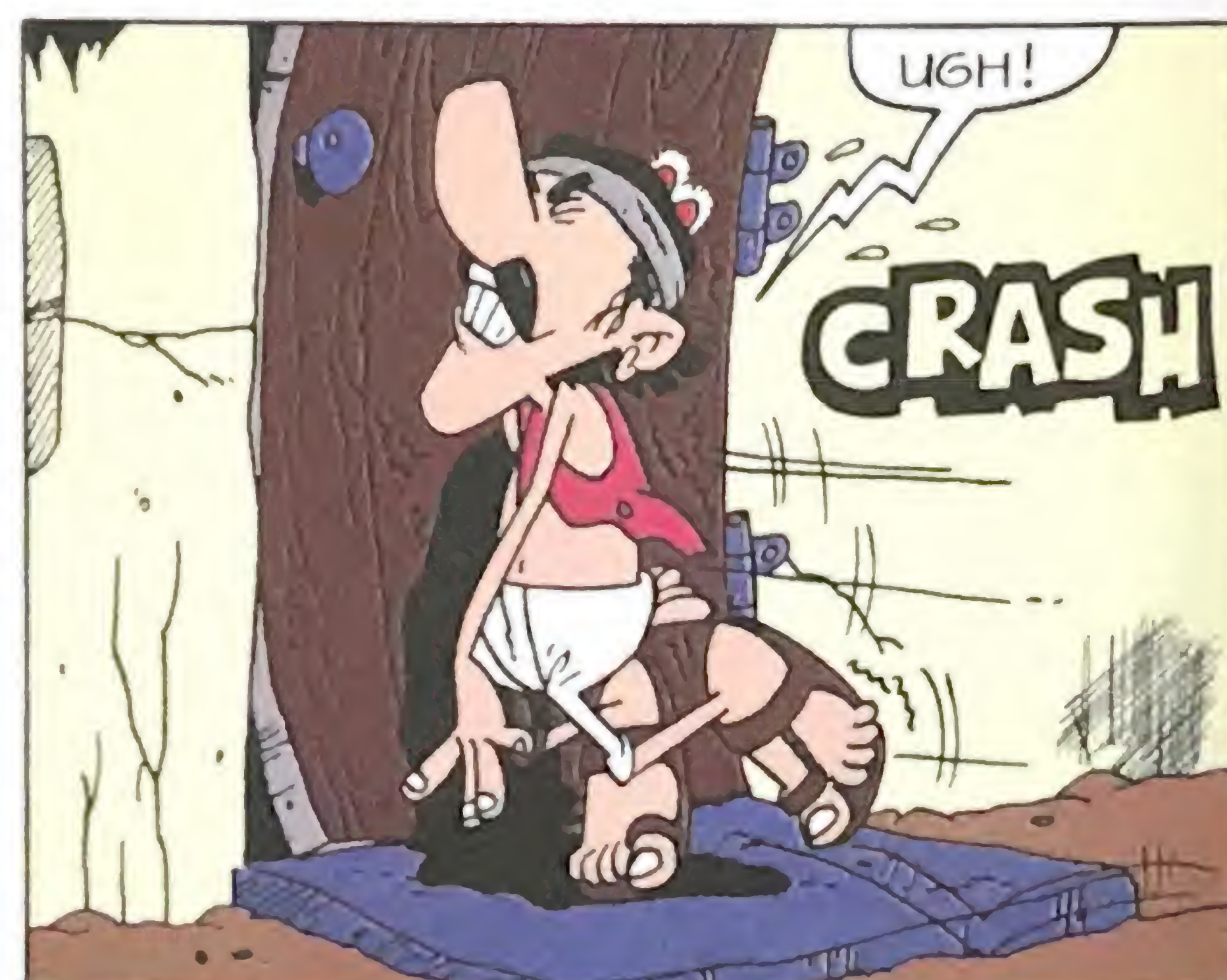
SCREEEE EEECH!!

I'D BETTER GET INDOORS.



BUT—





IT WAS NOW THE ANTELOPE'S TURN TO SAVE HIS FRIEND.

IF HE SEES ME, HE WILL CHASE ME, AND MY FRIEND CAN ESCAPE.



THE ANTELOPE SHOWED HIMSELF.

THERE GOES MY ANTELOPE.



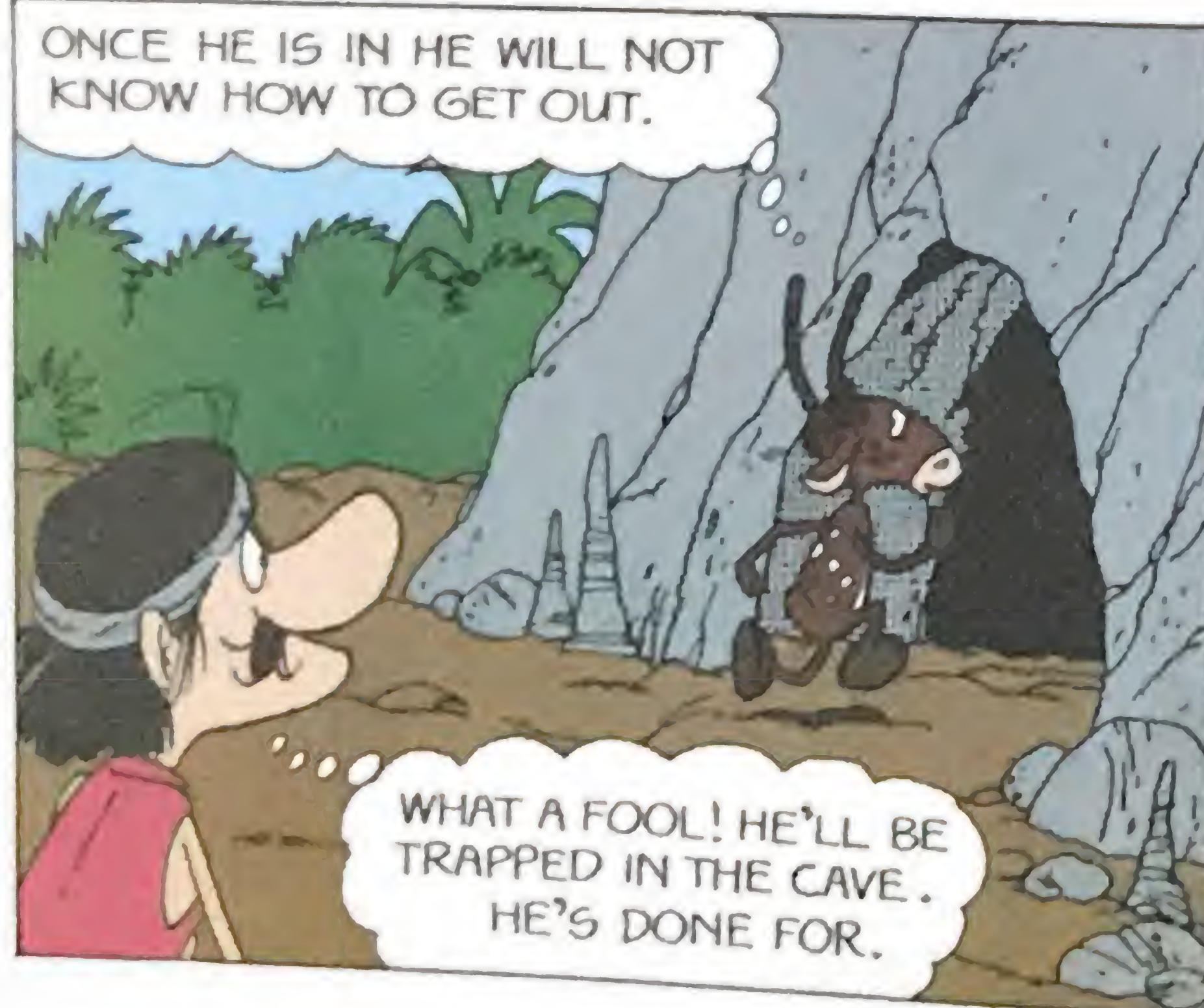
THE HUNTER DROPPED HIS SACK AND RAN AFTER THE ANTELOPE.

I'LL LEAD HIM INTO MY FAVOURITE OLD CAVE.



ONCE HE IS IN HE WILL NOT KNOW HOW TO GET OUT.

WHAT A FOOL! HE'LL BE TRAPPED IN THE CAVE. HE'S DONE FOR.



HUH - WHERE DID HE GO?



I HOPE, FRIEND TORTOISE IS SAFE.



THE ANTELOPE RUSHED BACK TO THE SPOT WHERE THE TORTOISE HAD BEEN ABANDONED.

DON'T WORRY, MY FRIEND, I'LL SOON GET YOU OUT OF THE BAG!

MUFF MUFF



WHEN THE ANTELOPE LET THE TORTOISE OUT, THE WOOD-PECKER CAME DOWN FROM THE TREE.



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HUNTER?

HA! HA! HA! HE IS RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES IN OUR OLD CAVE!



the end

RURU, THE GOLDEN DEER

MAHADHANAKA WAS THE SON OF A RICH MERCHANT OF VARANASI. HIS FATHER, INSTEAD OF SENDING HIM TO SCHOOL, SPOILT HIM WITH ALL THE PLEASURES OF THE WORLD.

ENJOY YOURSELF, MY SON! I CAN GIVE YOU EVERYTHING.

I KNOW, FATHER!

WHEN HE CAME OF AGE, MAHADHANAKA WAS MARRIED TO A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.

YOUR MOTHER HAS COOKED THIS FOR YOU, MY LORD.

HM...M...M, IT SMELLS DELICIOUS!

SOON HIS PARENTS DIED AND HE WAS LEFT ALONE.

ALAS! WHO WILL LOOK AFTER ME NOW?

HIS FRIENDS WERE AFTER HIS MONEY.

COME ON MAHADHANAKA, CHEER UP. LET US HAVE A GAME OF DICE AND SOME WINE TO WARM US UP.

YES, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

MAHADHANAKA HAD NEVER HANDLED MONEY BEFORE, SO HE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO USE IT.

USE THE MOST EXPENSIVE CLOTH YOU HAVE, FOR OUR CLOTHES.

LET US HAVE SOME MORE LIQUOR AND PLAY ANOTHER ROUND OF CARDS.

I CERTAINLY WILL, SIR.

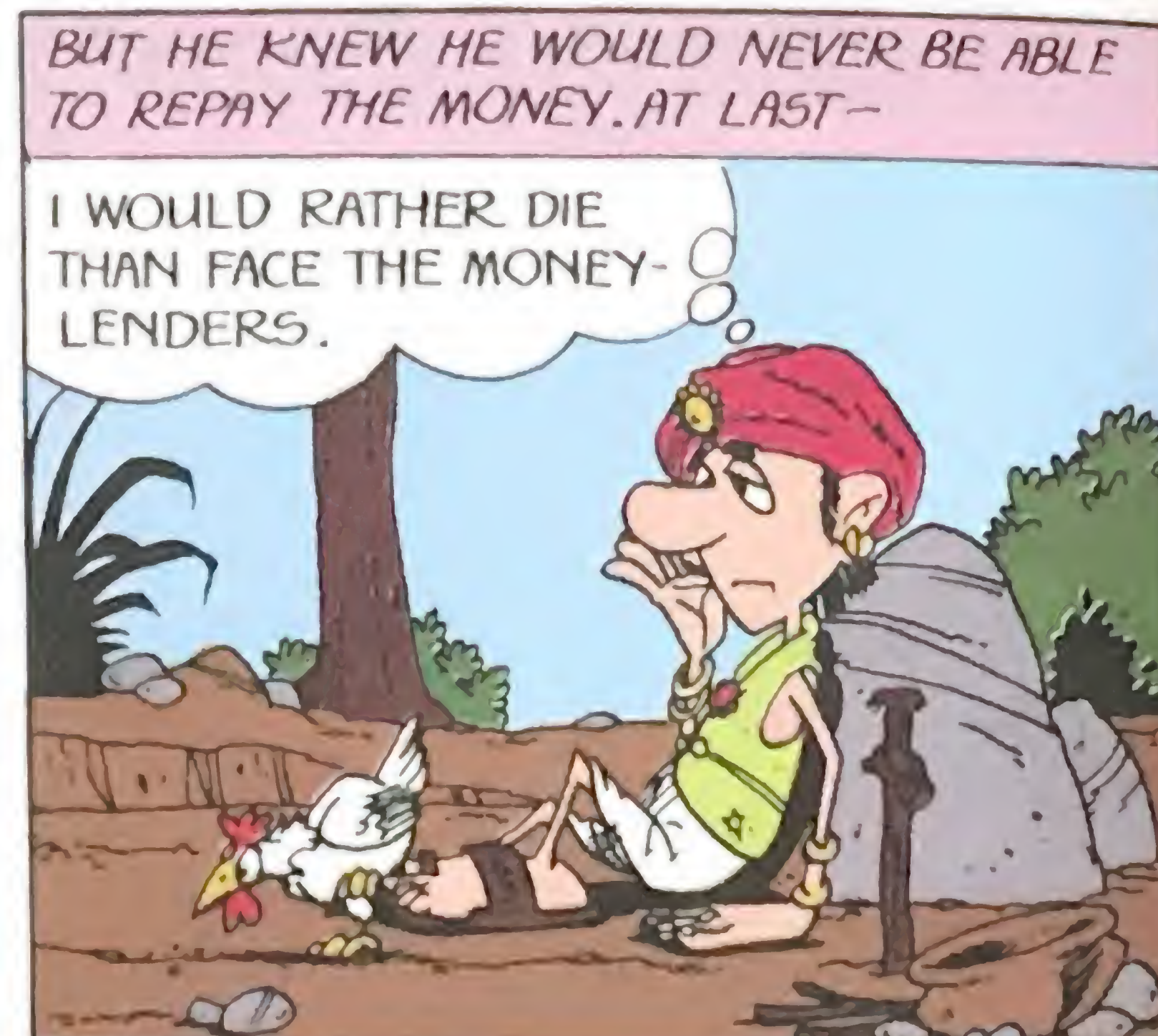
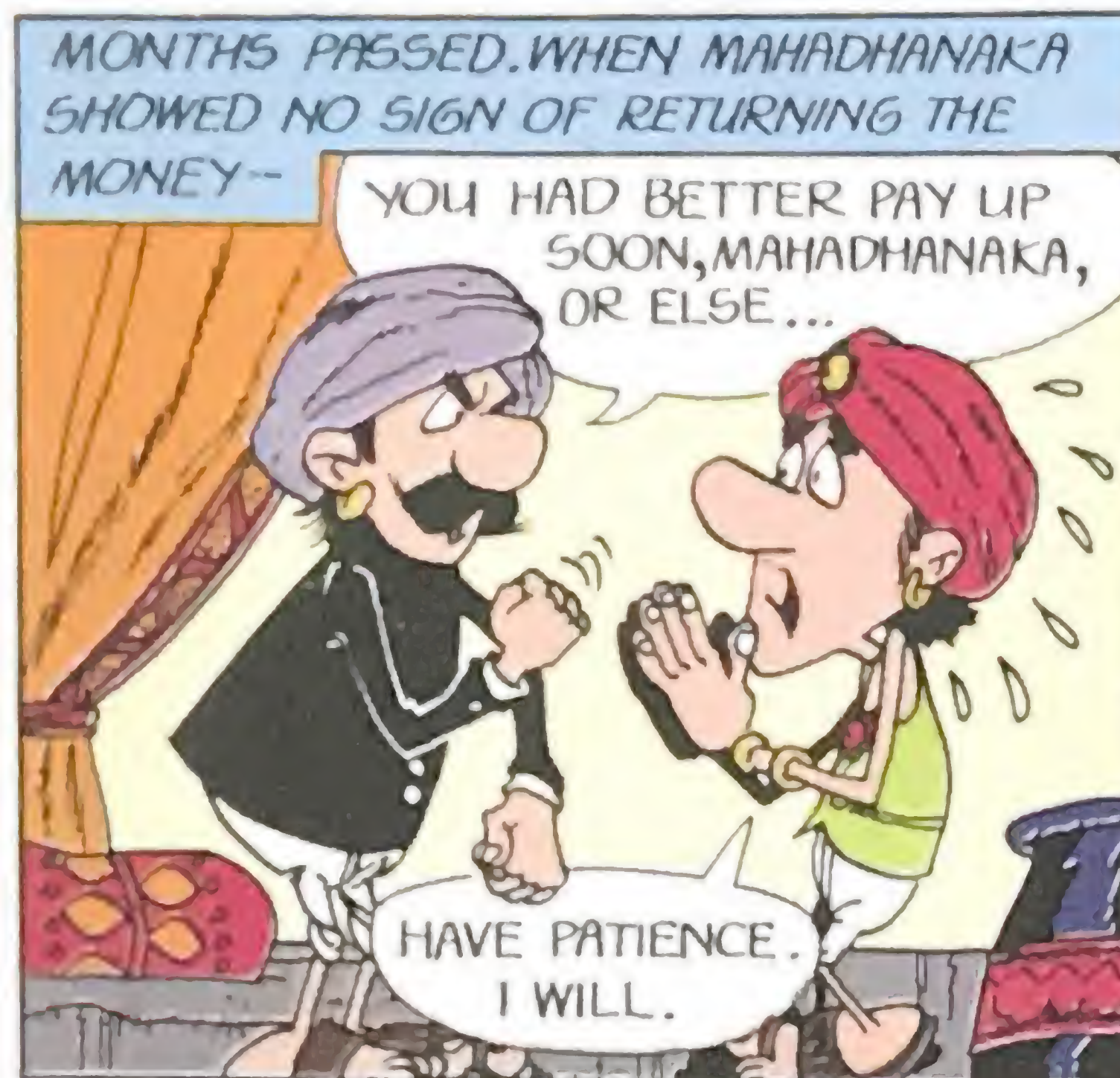
ONE DAY—

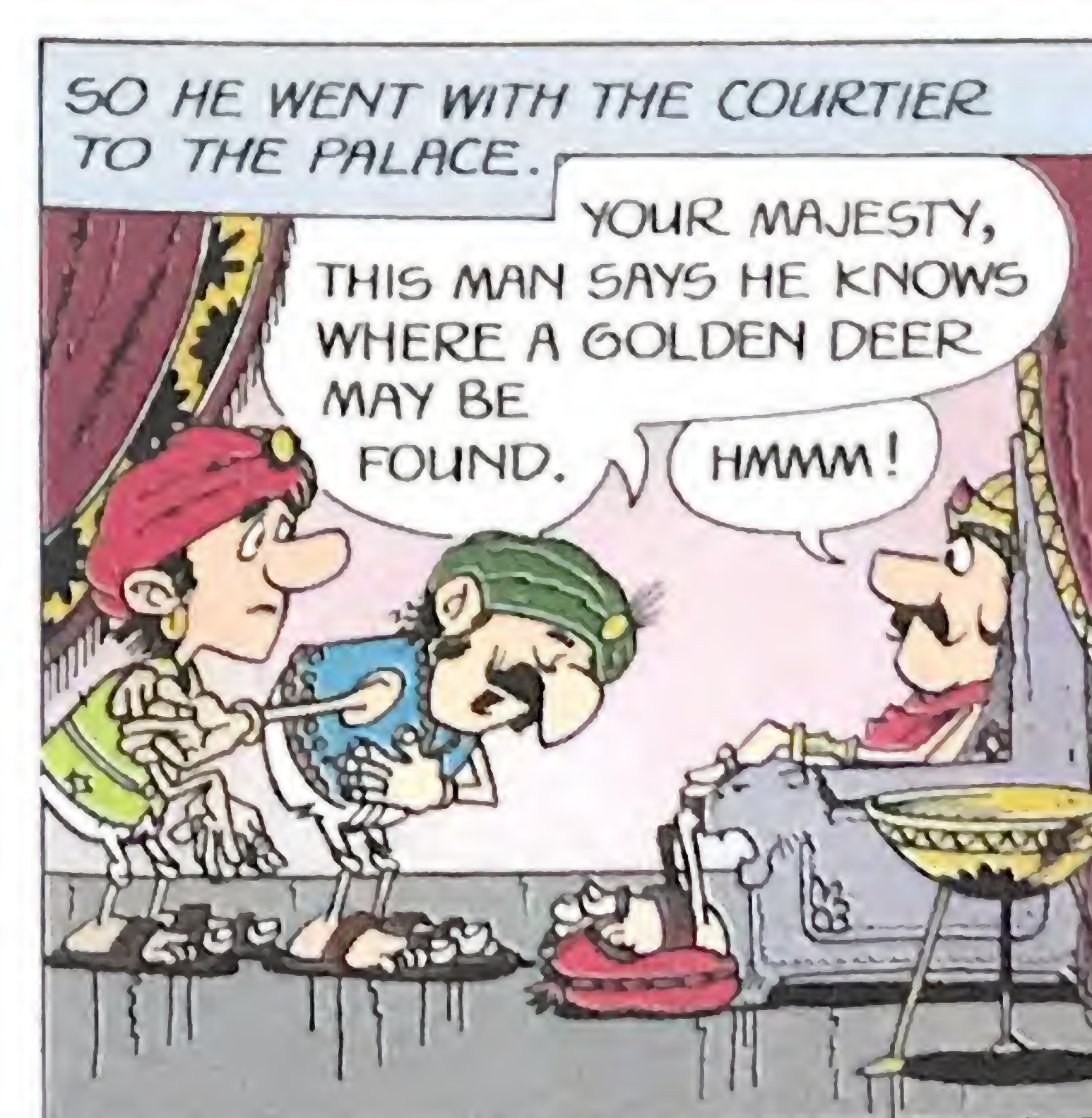
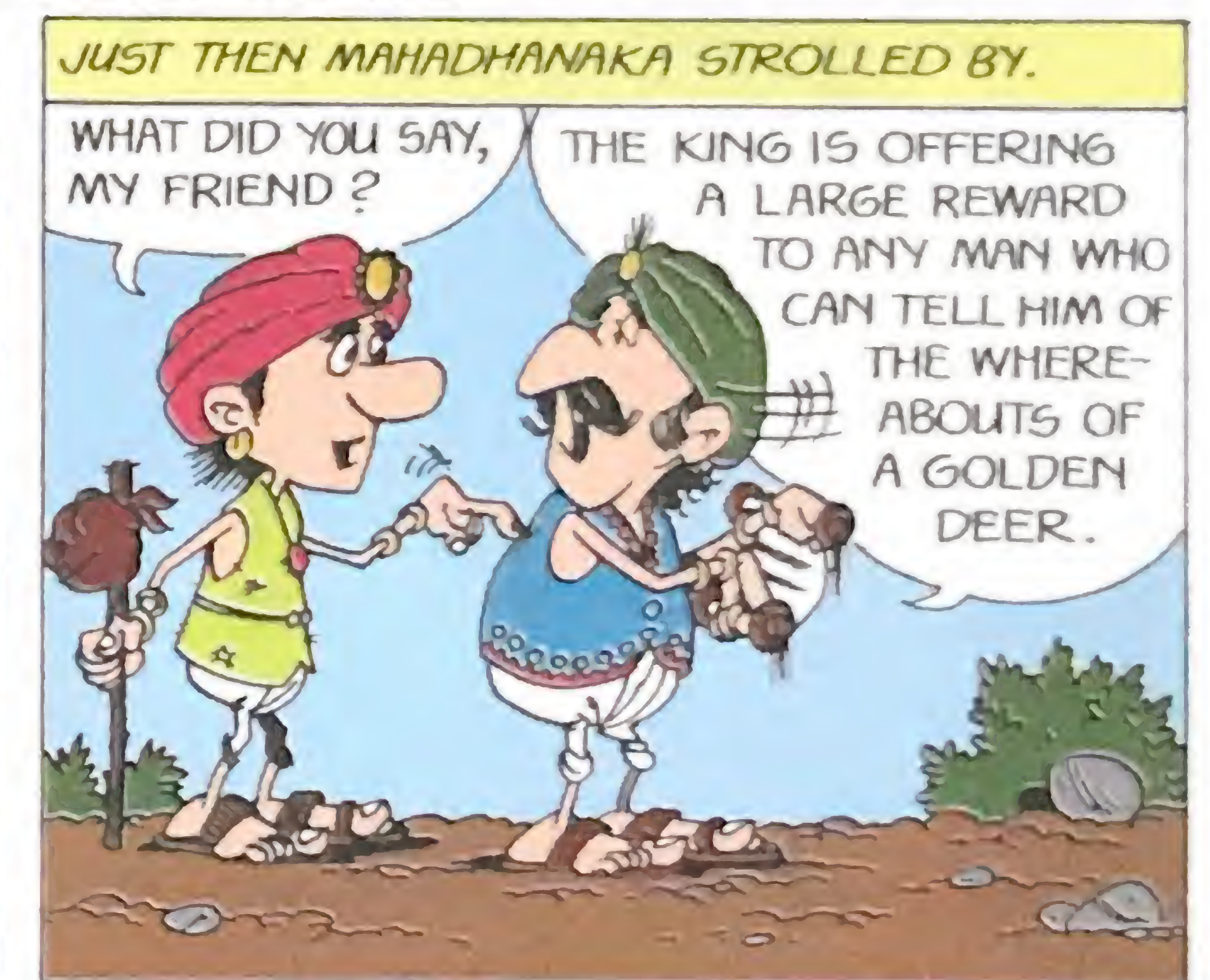
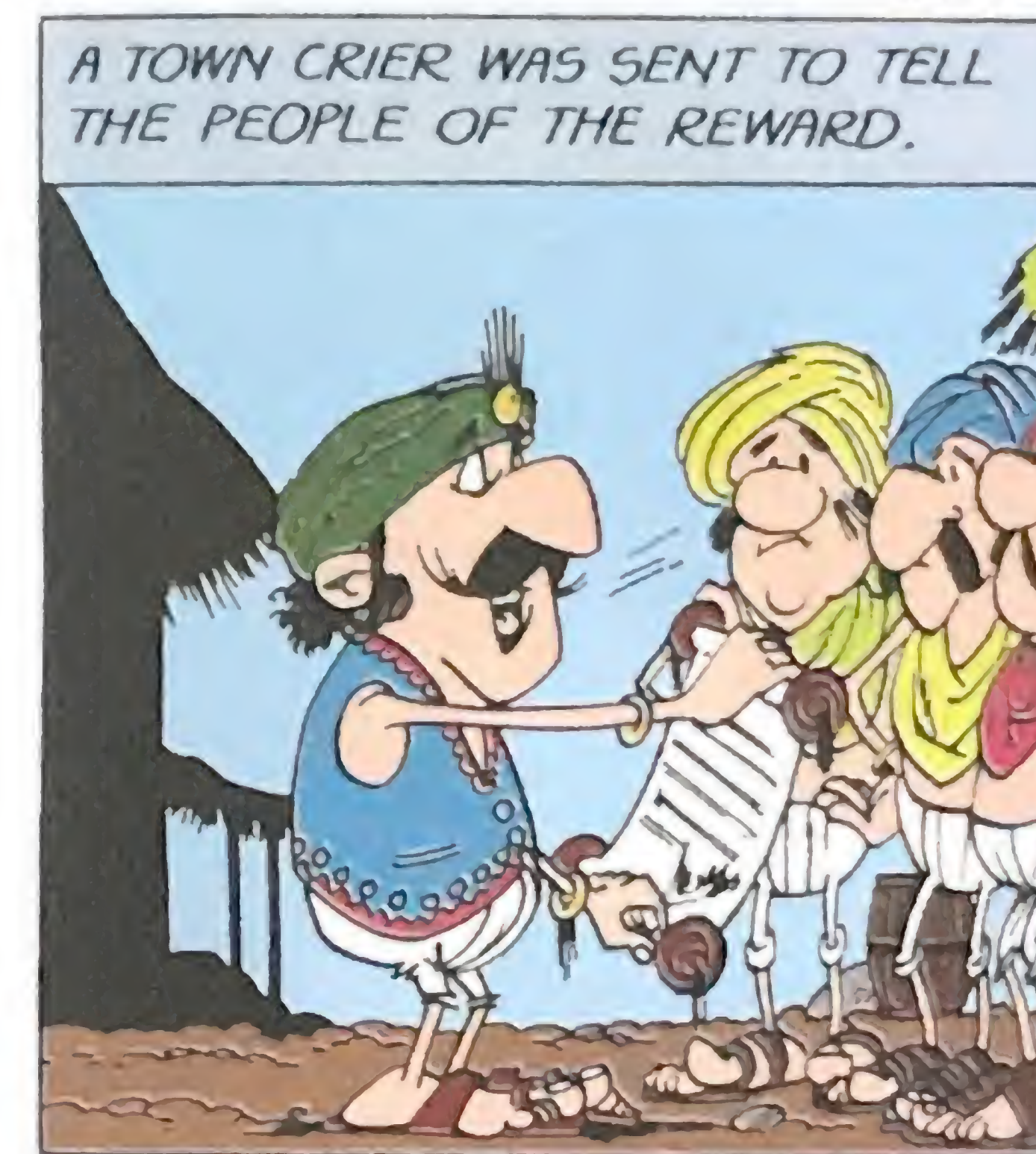
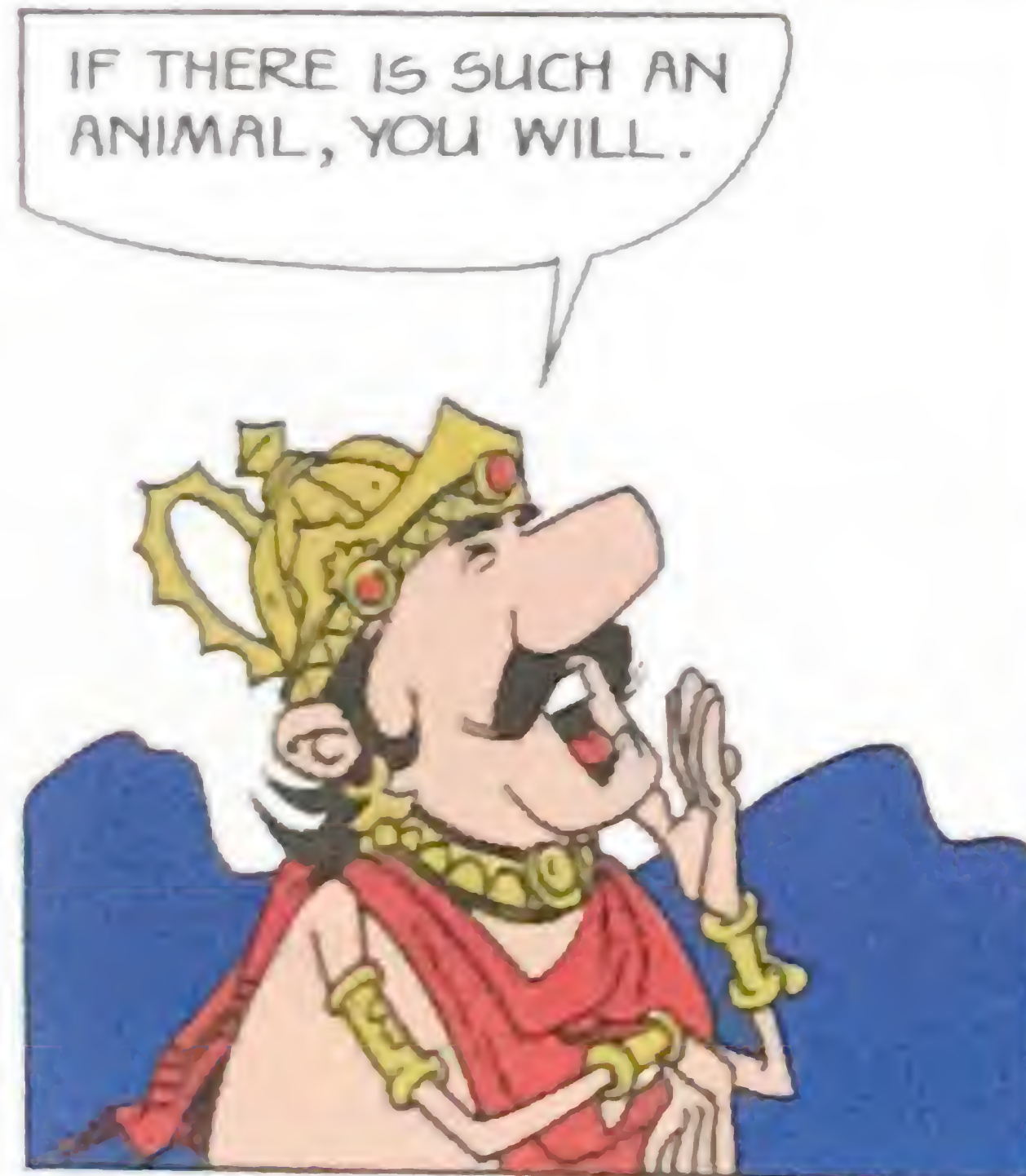
WHAT! NO MONEY! IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING I'LL SOON HAVE NO FRIENDS EITHER.

YES, THAT'S IT. I'LL BORROW SOME MONEY AND PAY IT BACK LATER.

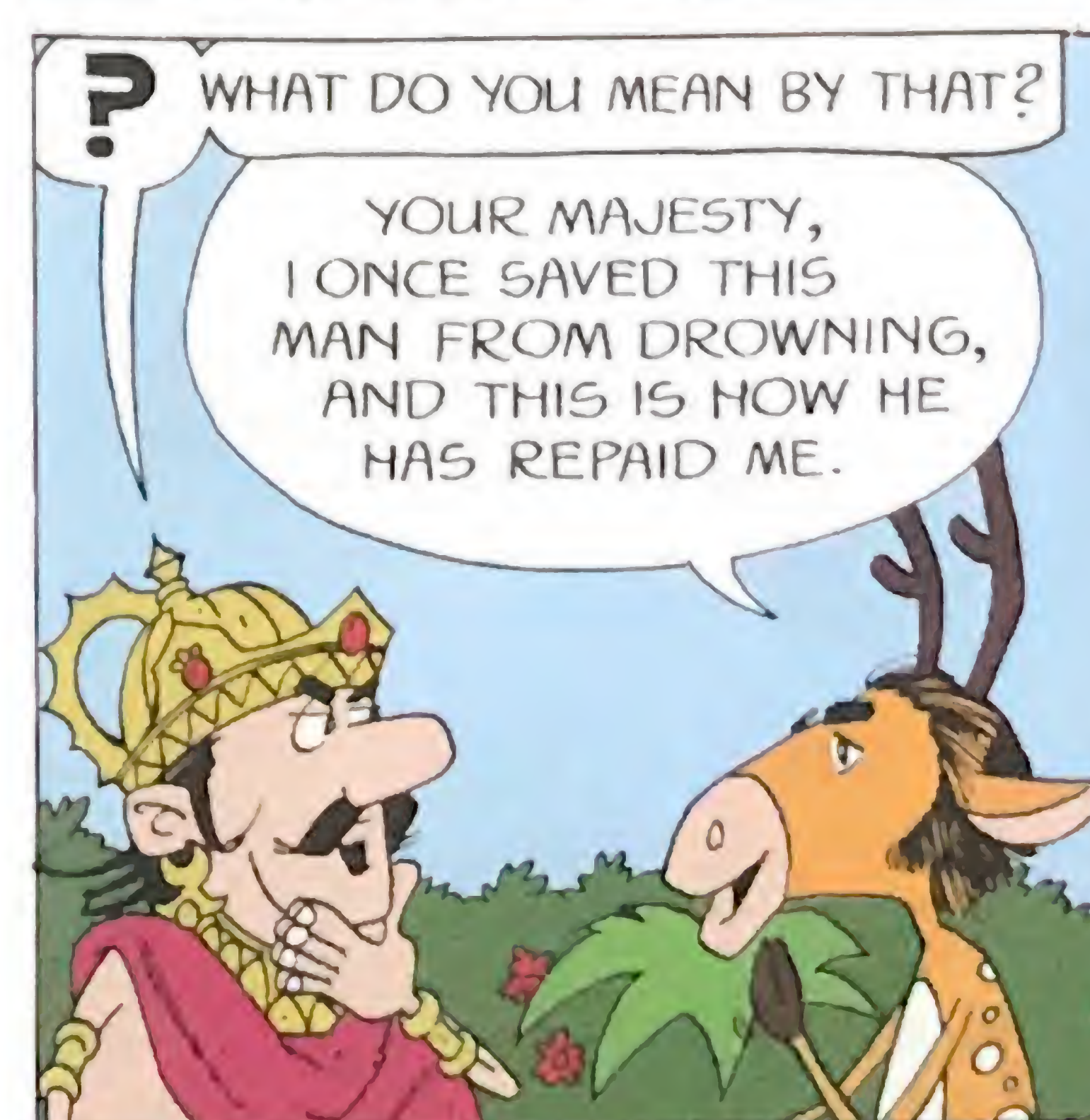
HE WENT FROM ONE MONEY-LENDER TO ANOTHER AND PROMISED THEM THE SAME THING.

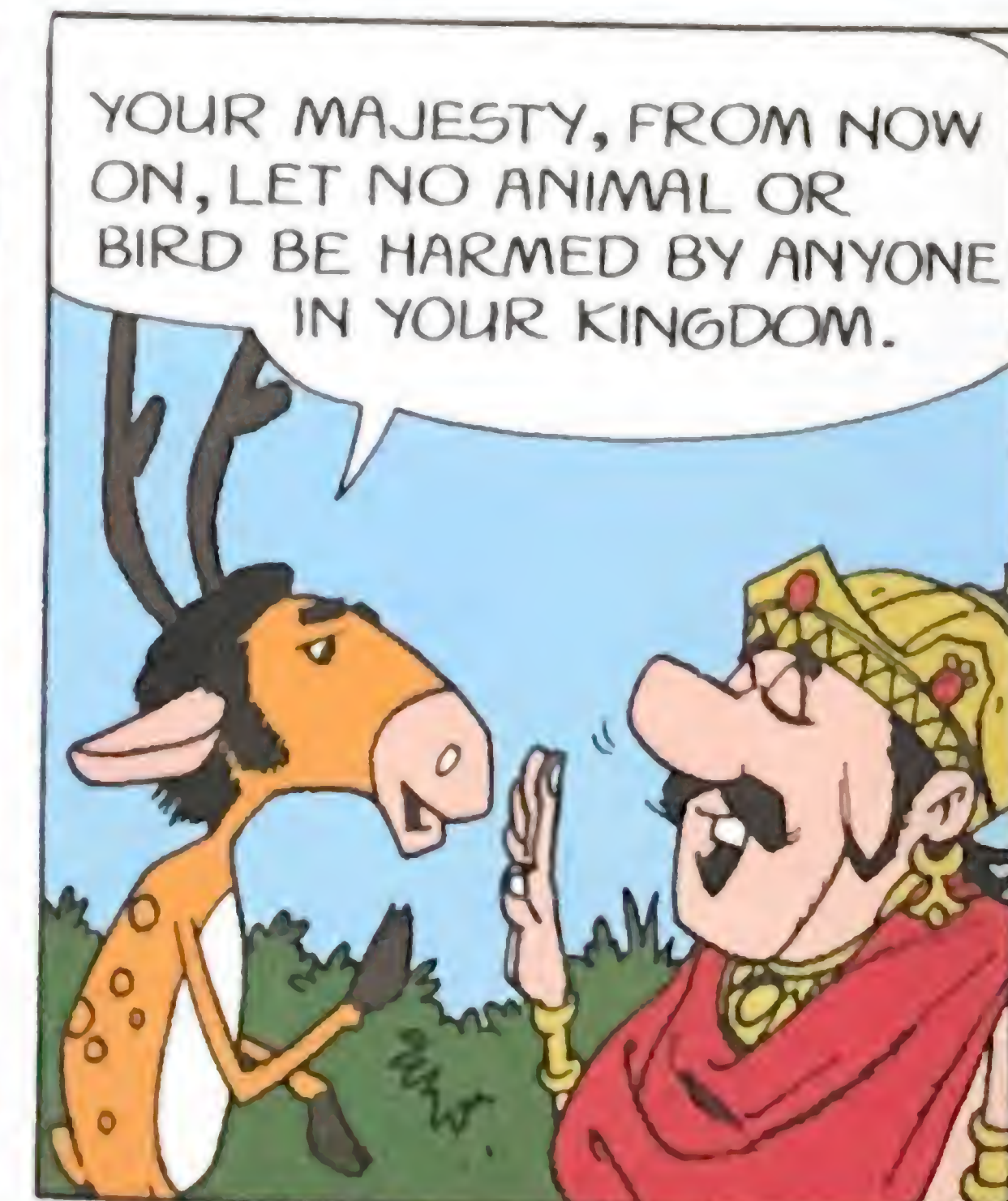
I'LL RETURN YOUR MONEY AS SOON AS I BECOME RICH AGAIN.





AT DAWN—





RURU THEN WENT WITH THE KING TO THE PALACE, DISCOURSED TO THE QUEEN AND RETURNED TO THE FOREST.

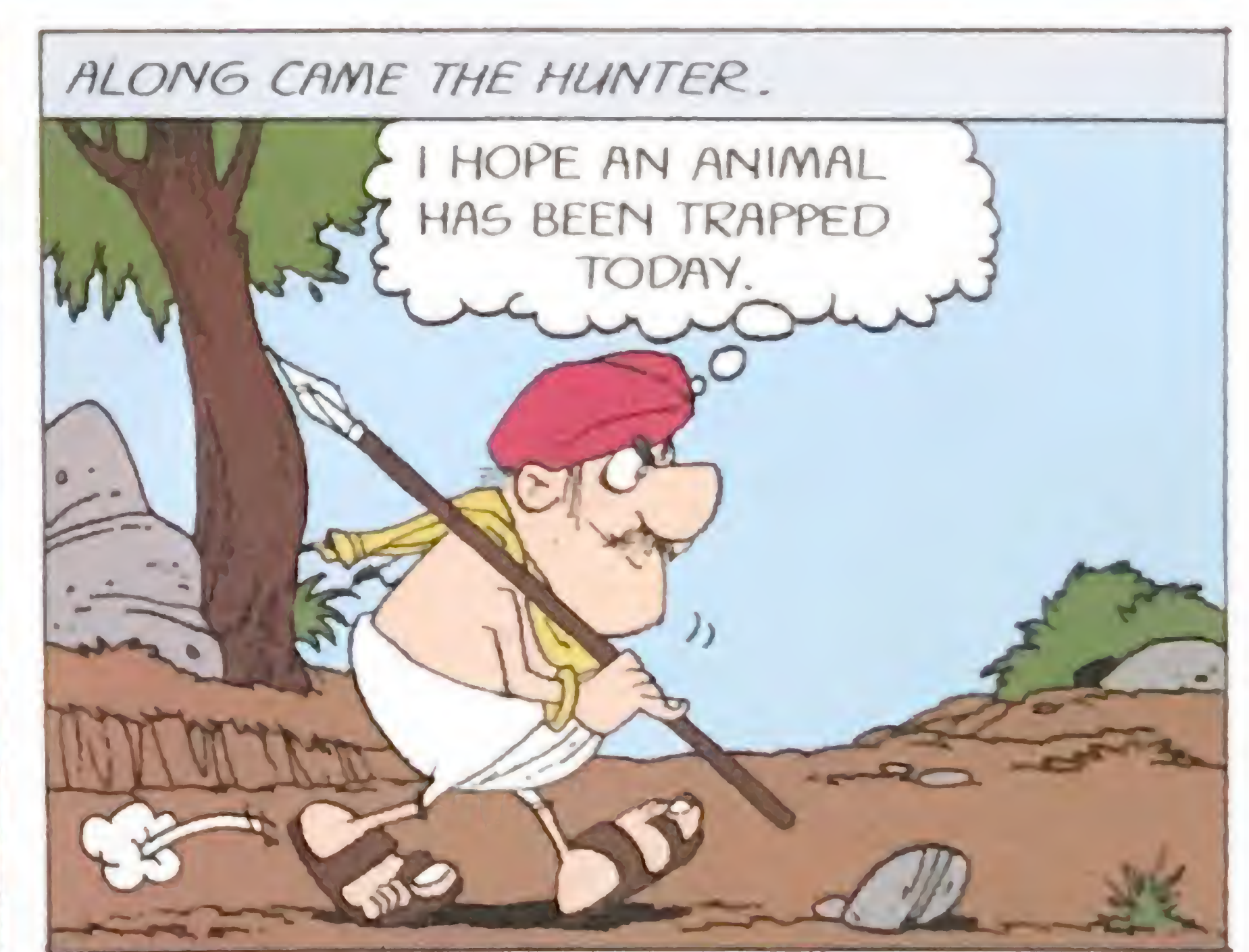
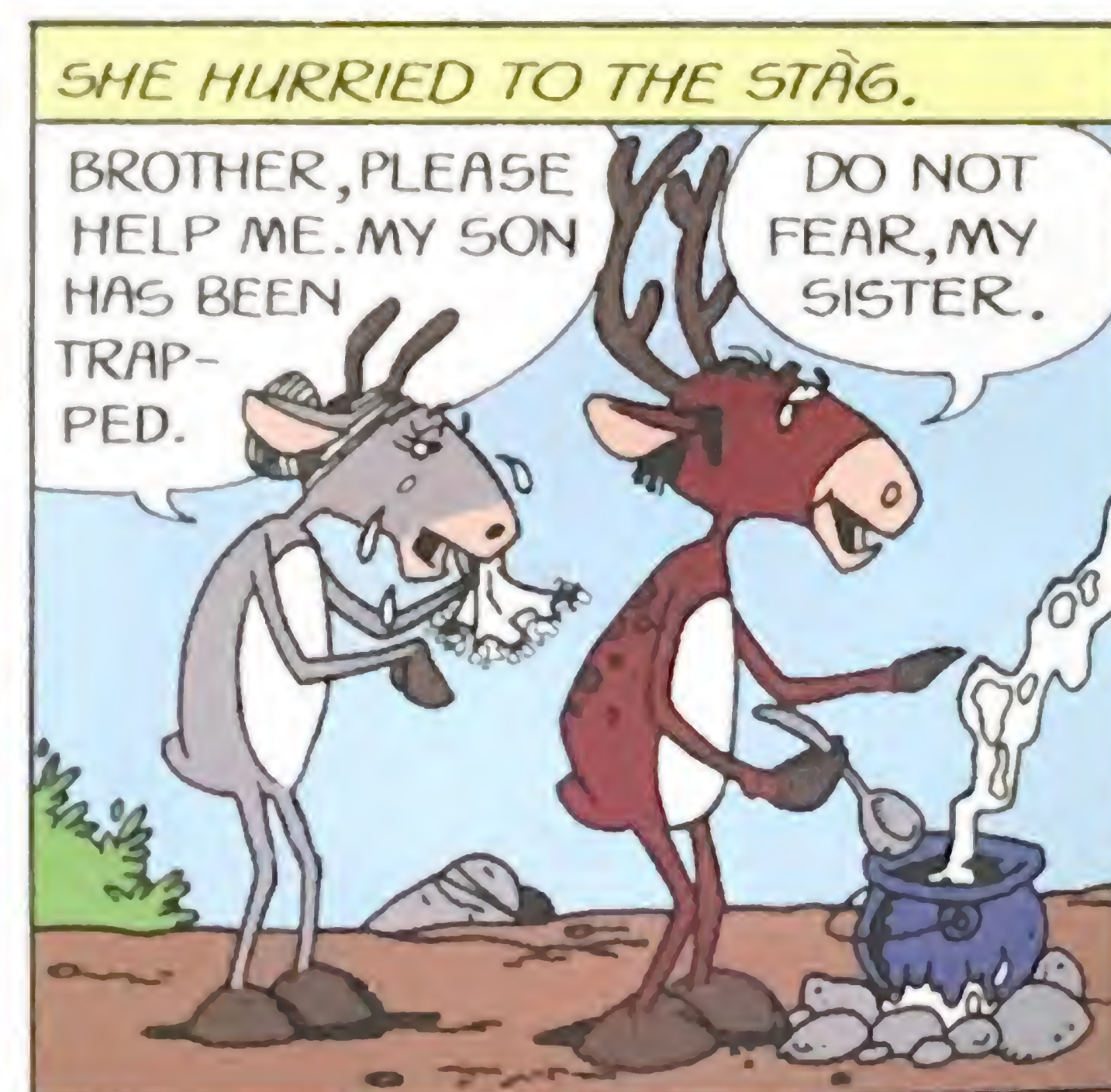
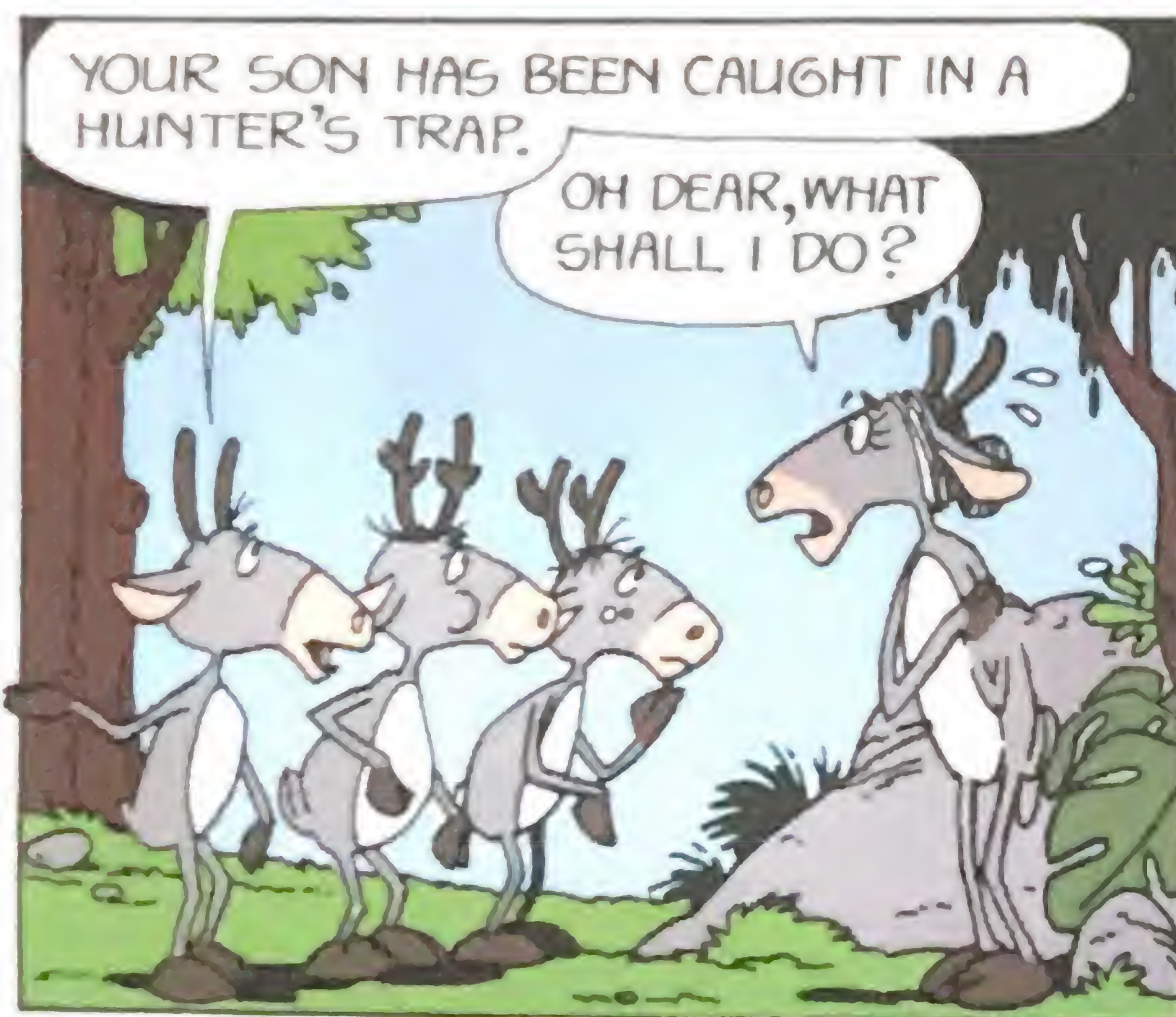
the end.

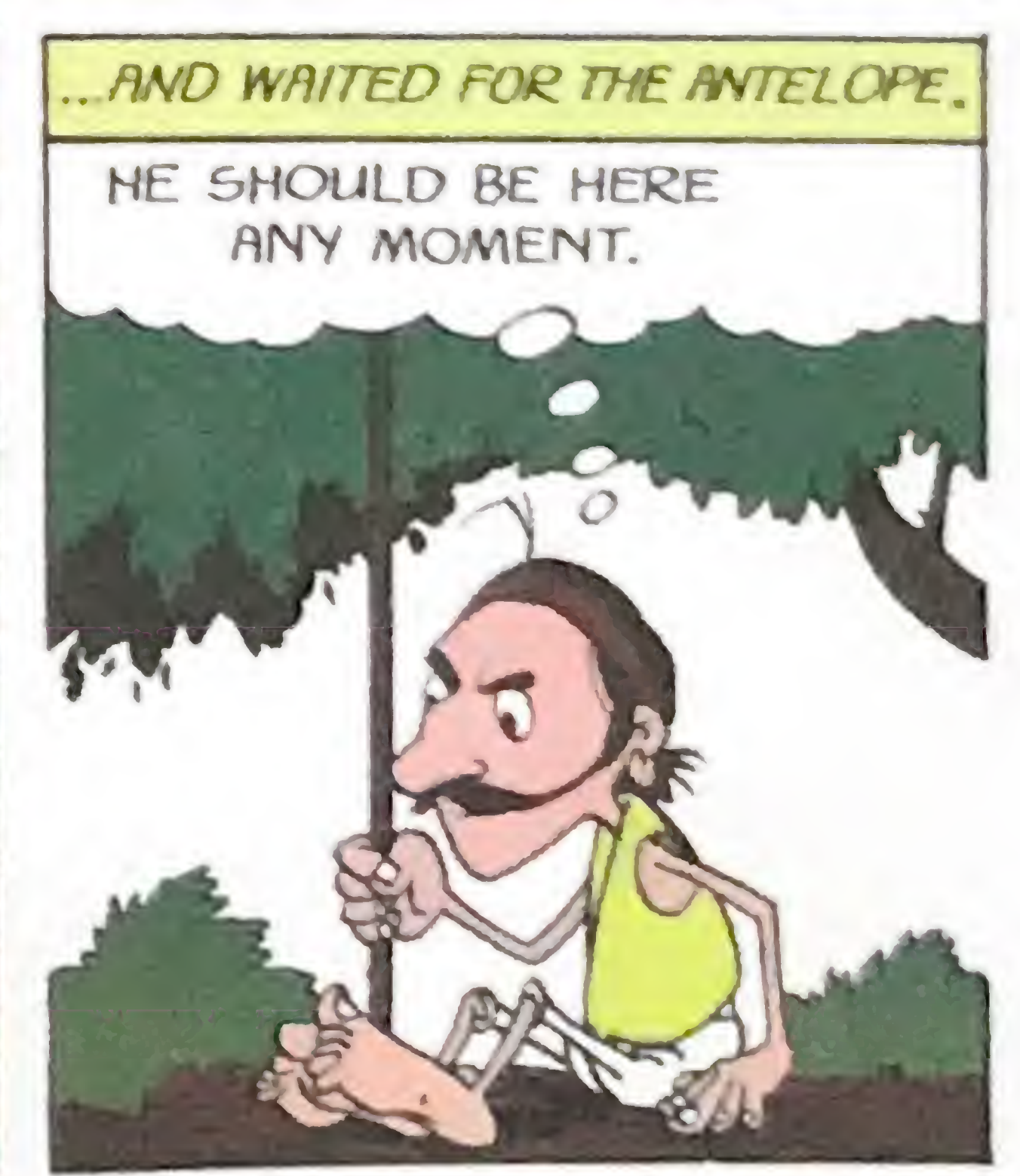
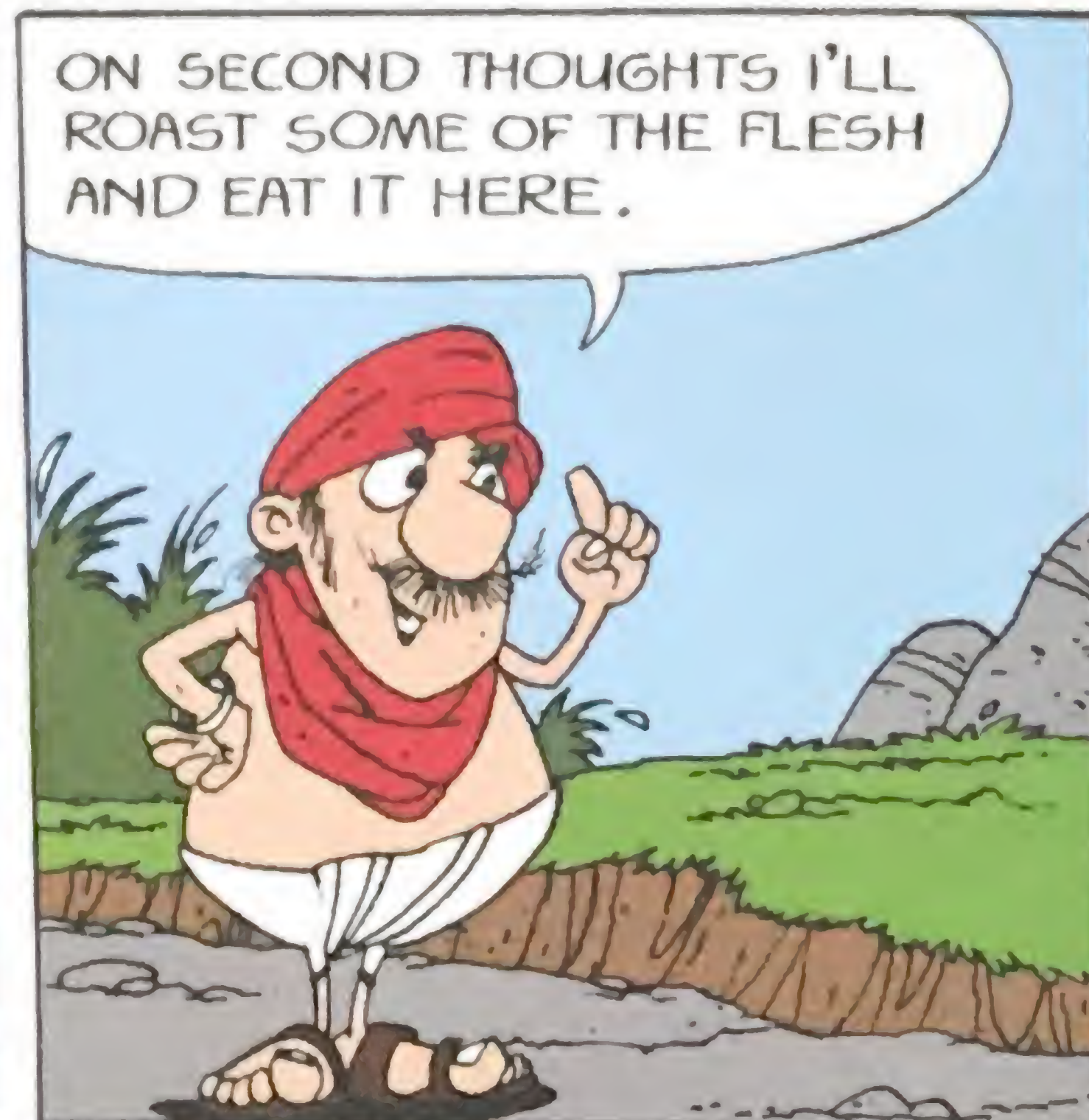
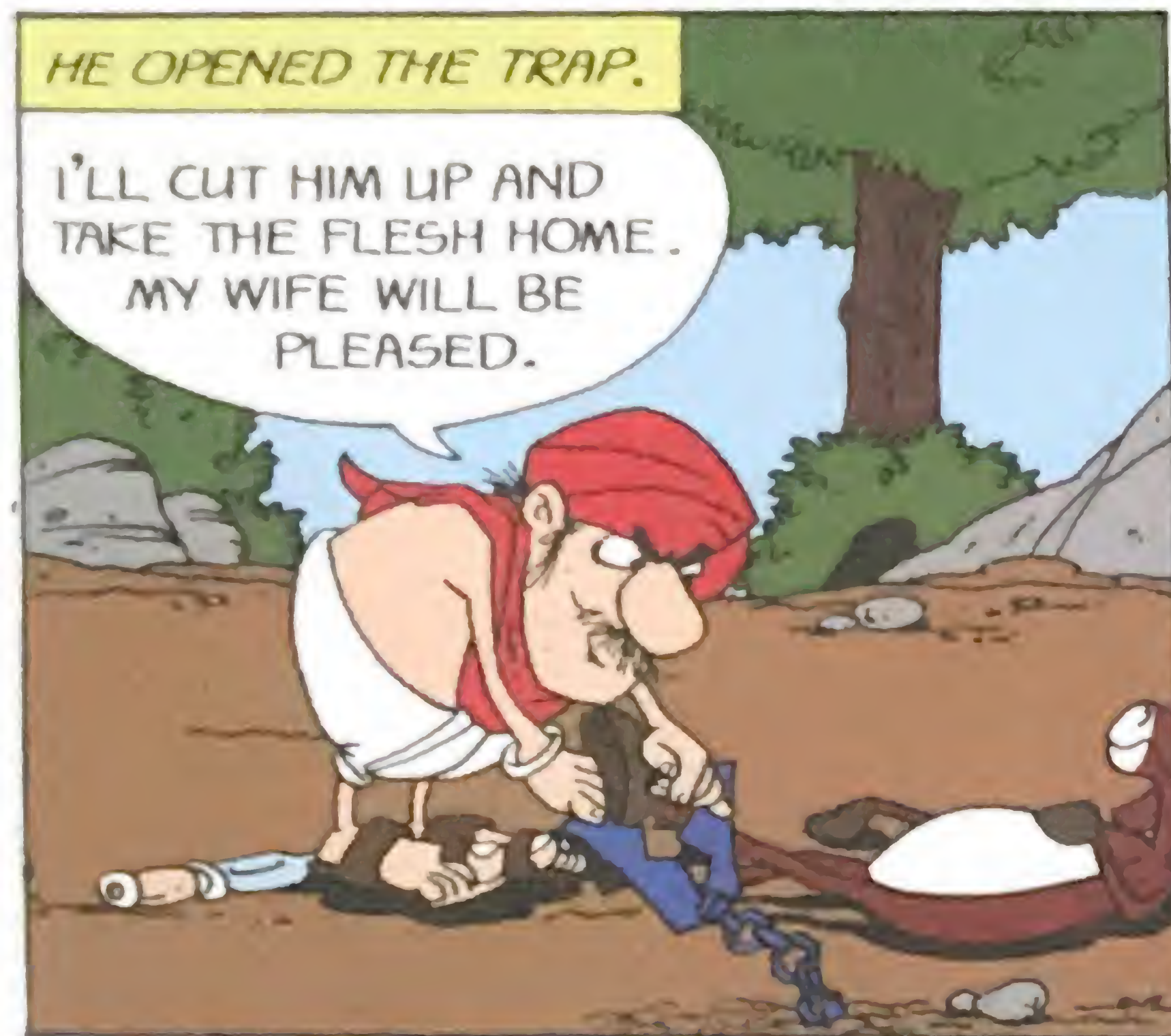


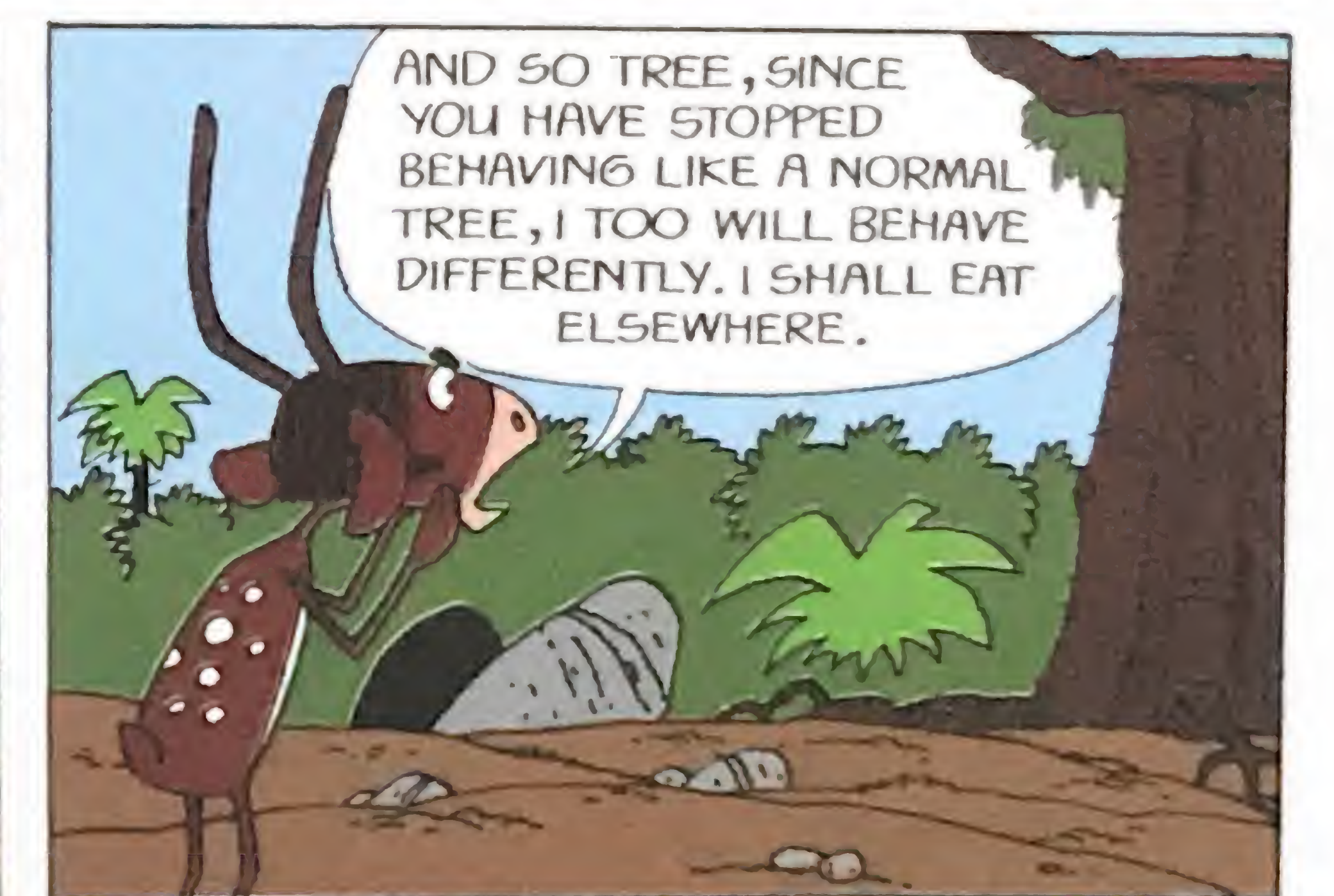
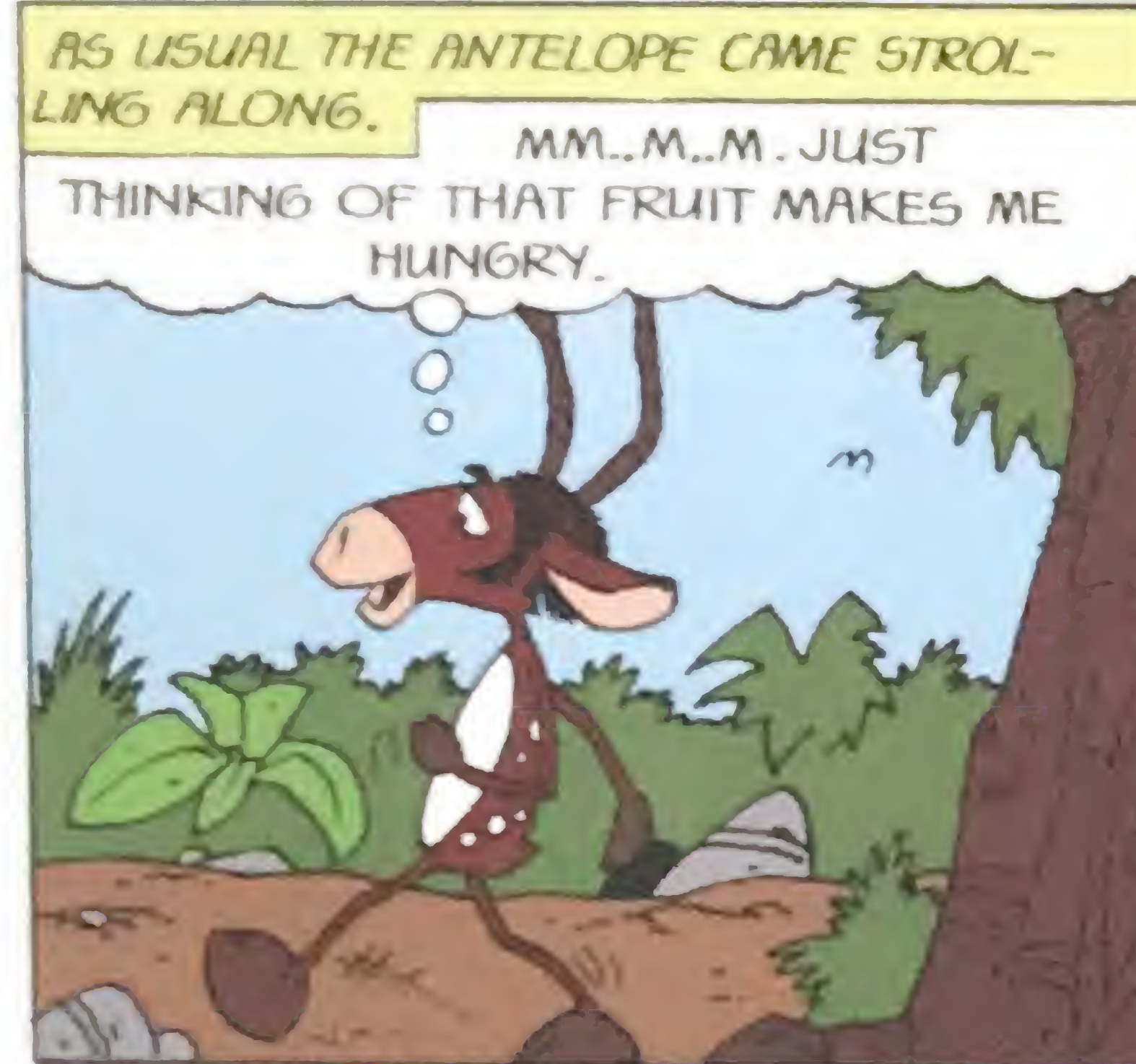
THE HUNTER OUTWITTED

THERE ONCE LIVED A STAG IN THE FOREST NEAR RAJAGRIHA. ONE DAY HIS SISTER CAME TO HIM WITH HER SON.









'THE GOLDEN ANTELOPE

LONG AGO THERE LIVED A KING IN VARANASI WHO HAD A GARDENER NAMED SANJAYA. EVERY DAY AN ANTELOPE CAME TO GRAZE IN THE ROYAL GARDEN.

POOR ANTELOPE! EVERY TIME HE SEES ME HE RUNS AWAY IN FRIGHT.

AFTER SOME TIME THE ANTELOPE BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO SEEING SANJAYA ABOUT AND STOPPED RUNNING AWAY.

ONE DAY WHILE HE WAS TAKING FRUIT AND FLOWERS TO THE PALACE, THE KING STOPPED HIM.

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING STRANGE IN THE GARDEN, SANJAYA?

NOTHING, YOUR MAJESTY, EXCEPT THAT A WILD ANTELOPE COMES TO GRAZE HERE FROM TIME TO TIME.

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CATCH HIM?

OH YES. IF I HAD A LITTLE HONEY I WOULD BRING HIM RIGHT INTO YOUR PALACE.

THE KING ORDERED SOME HONEY TO BE GIVEN TO SANJAYA.

I SHALL COAT THE GRASS WHERE HE GRAZES WITH HONEY, THEN HIDE MYSELF AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

ALONG CAME THE ANTELOPE.

HMM. THIS GRASS TASTES EXCEPTIONALLY SWEET TODAY.

SO MY PLAN HAS WORKED. NOW FOR THE SECOND STAGE. HEE HEE.

THE ANTELOPE WAS SO SNARED BY THE TASTE OF THE SWEETENED GRASS, HE WOULD EAT NOWHERE ELSE.

HMM. NOW TO SHOW MYSELF GRADUALLY.

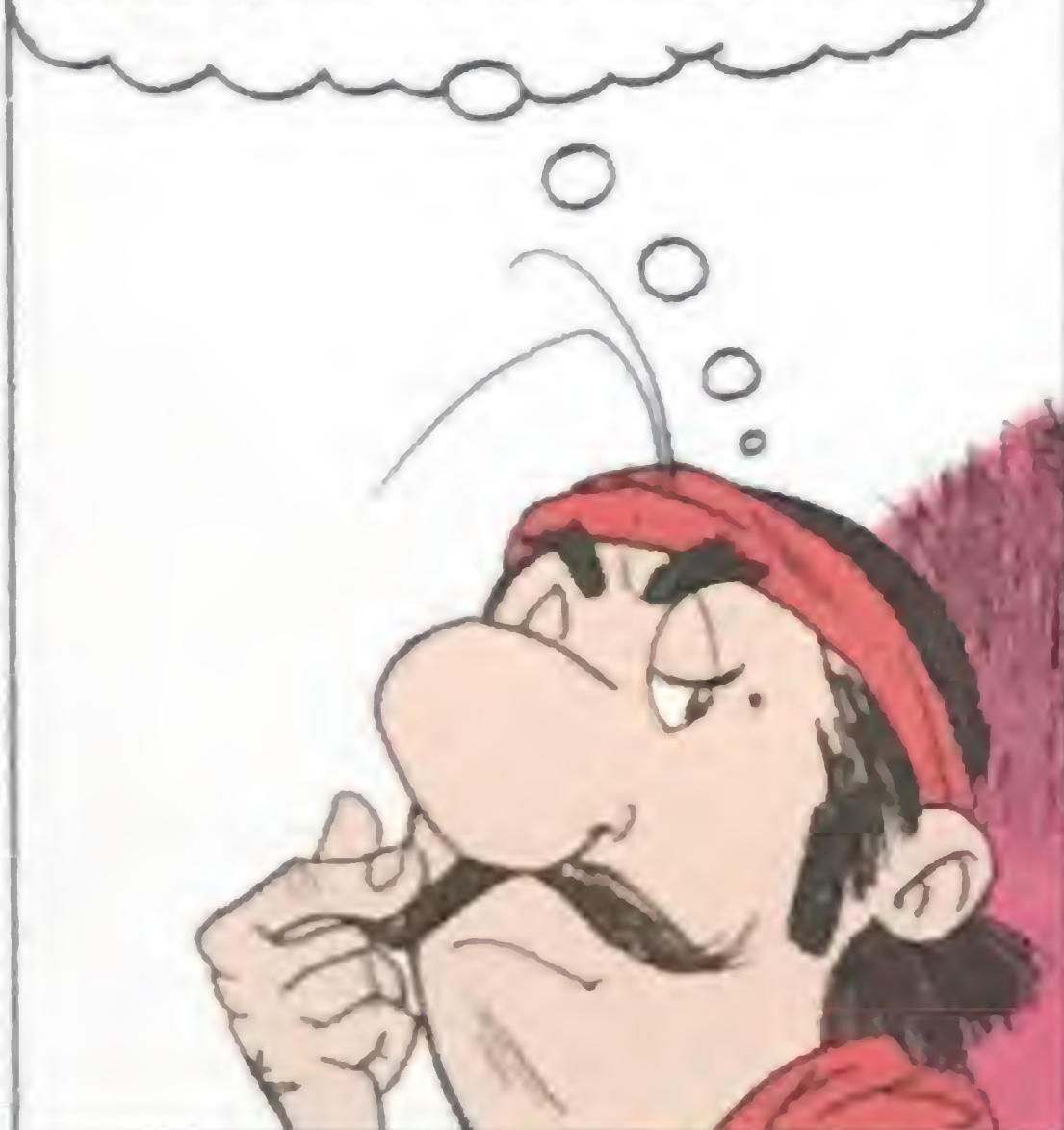
AT FIRST THE ANTELOPE WAS STARTLED AT THE APPEARANCE OF SANJAYA.



BUT SOON HE WAS EATING THE SWEET GRASS THAT SANJAYA OFFERED HIM.



NOW I MUST LEAD HIM TOWARDS THE PALACE.



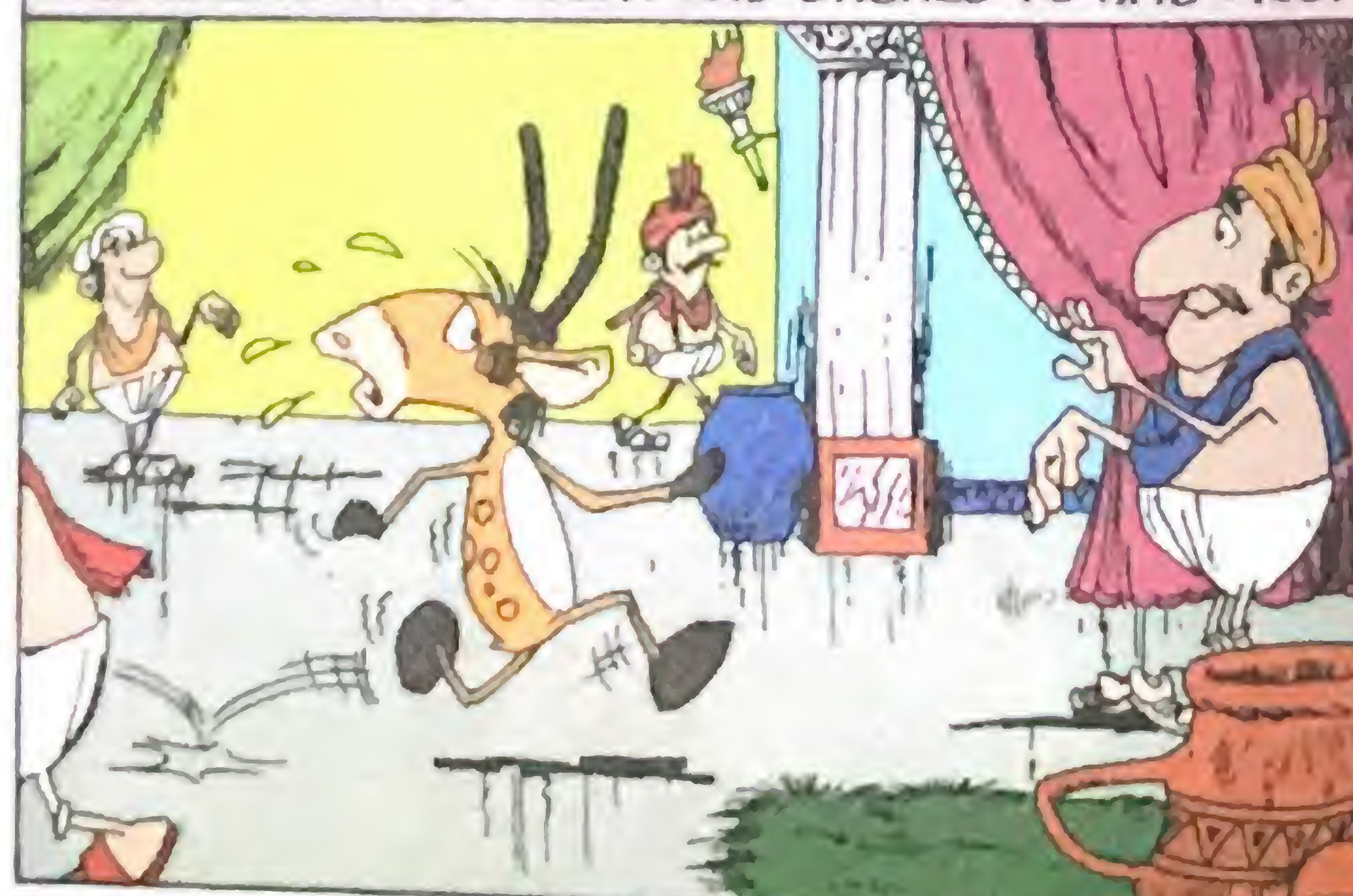
HE HASN'T EVEN NOTICED WE ARE NEAR THE PALACE.



ONCE HE WAS INSIDE THE PALACE, SANJAYA QUICKLY SHUT THE DOOR.



AT THE SIGHT OF SO MANY MEN AND KNOWING THAT HE WAS TRAPPED, THE ANTELOPE BEGAN TREMBLING WITH FRIGHT AND DASHED TO AND FRO.



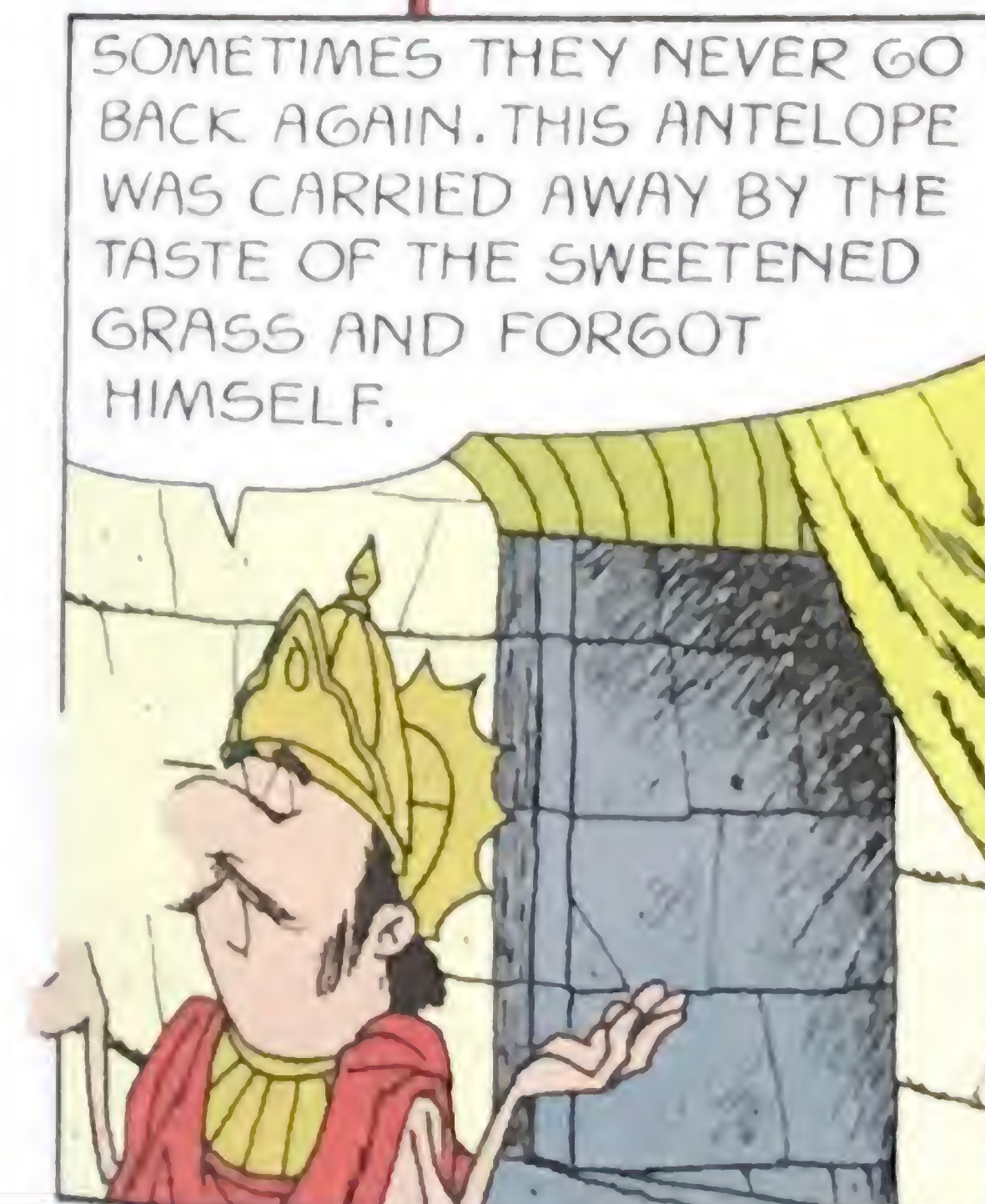
WHEN THE KING CAME DOWN FROM HIS CHAMBER AND SAW THE ANTELOPE HE FELT SORRY FOR IT.



ANTELOPES ARE SO TIMID THAT THEY NEVER REVISIT A PLACE FOR AT LEAST A WEEK IF THEY HAVE SEEN A MAN THERE.



SOMETIMES THEY NEVER GO BACK AGAIN. THIS ANTELOPE WAS CARRIED AWAY BY THE TASTE OF THE SWEETENED GRASS AND FORGOT HIMSELF.



SURELY THERE IS NOTHING VILER IN THE WORLD THAN THE LUST OF TASTE. YOU HAVE TAUGHT US A VALUABLE LESSON.

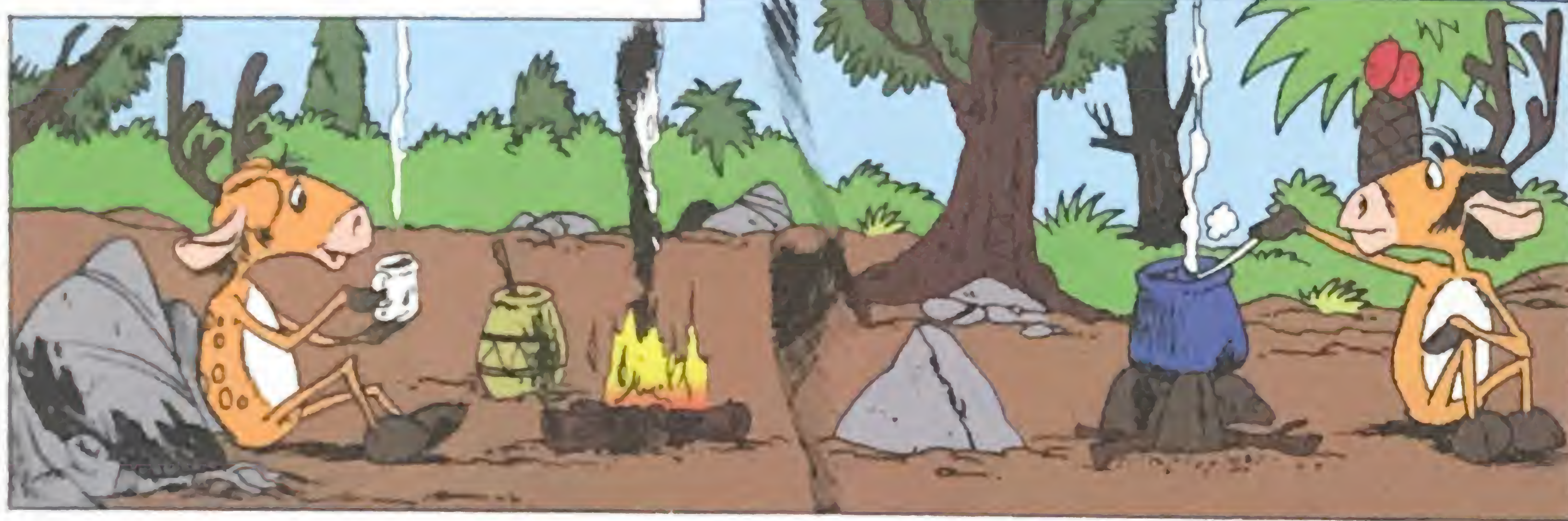


GO MY FRIEND. YOU ARE FREE TO GO WHEREVER YOU PLEASE.



THE BANYAN DEER

IN TWO DIFFERENT PARTS OF A FOREST LIVED TWO HANDSOME GOLDEN STAGS. ONE WAS CALLED THE BANYAN DEER AND THE OTHER THE BRANCH DEER. EACH HAD A HERD OF ITS OWN.



NOW THE KING OF VARANASI WAS VERY FOND OF HUNTING DEER AND IN HIS LOVE OF IT HE DISTURBED ALL HIS TOWNSFOLK.

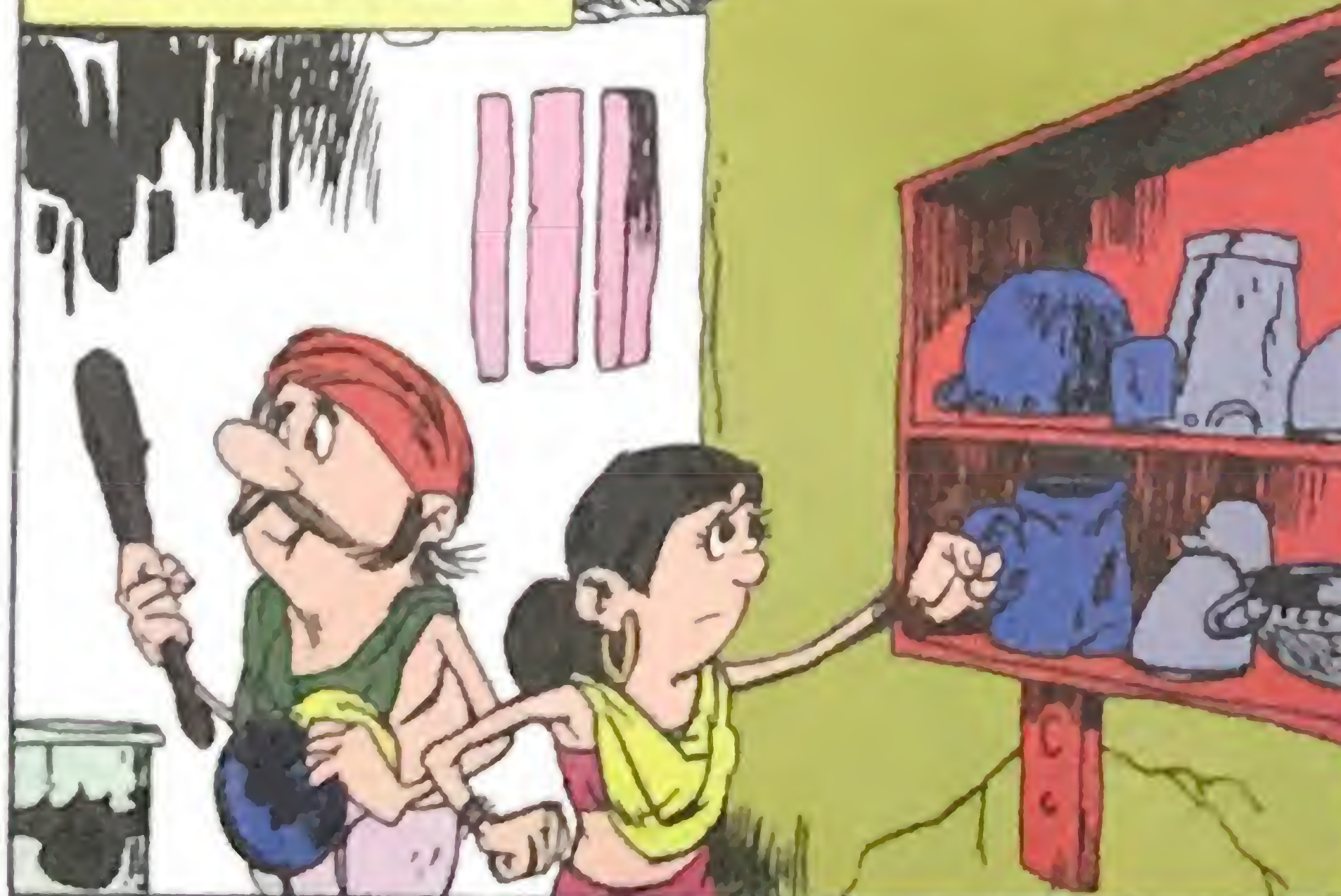


ONE DAY THE PEOPLE GOT TOGETHER AND HIT UPON A PLAN.

LET US CHASE ALL THE DEER INTO THE KING'S GARDEN. THEN HE WILL NOT DISTURB US AT ODD HOURS TO GO INTO THE FOREST.



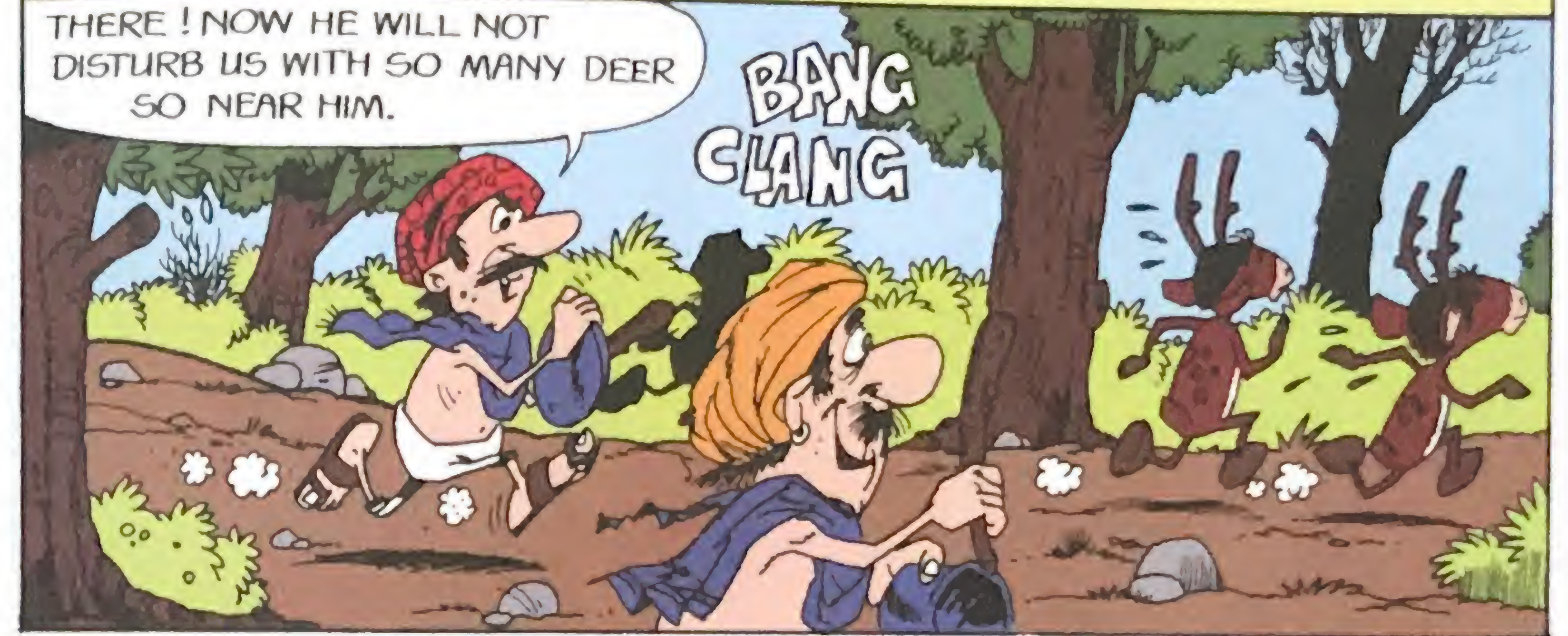
THEY GATHERED STICKS, POTS, PANS AND ANYTHING THAT MADE A NOISE TO DRIVE THE DEER INTO THE GARDEN.



* Based on Nigrodha Miga Jataka

THE NEXT DAY THEY SURROUNDED THE FOREST AND CHASED ALL THE DEER INTO THE KING'S GARDEN.

THERE ! NOW HE WILL NOT DISTURB US WITH SO MANY DEER SO NEAR HIM.



A FEW TOWNSMEN WENT TO THE KING

SIR, YOU DISTRACT US FROM WORK WHEN YOU GO HUNTING; SO WE HAVE DRIVEN ALL THE DEER INTO YOUR GARDEN. SHOOT THEM WHENEVER YOU WISH.



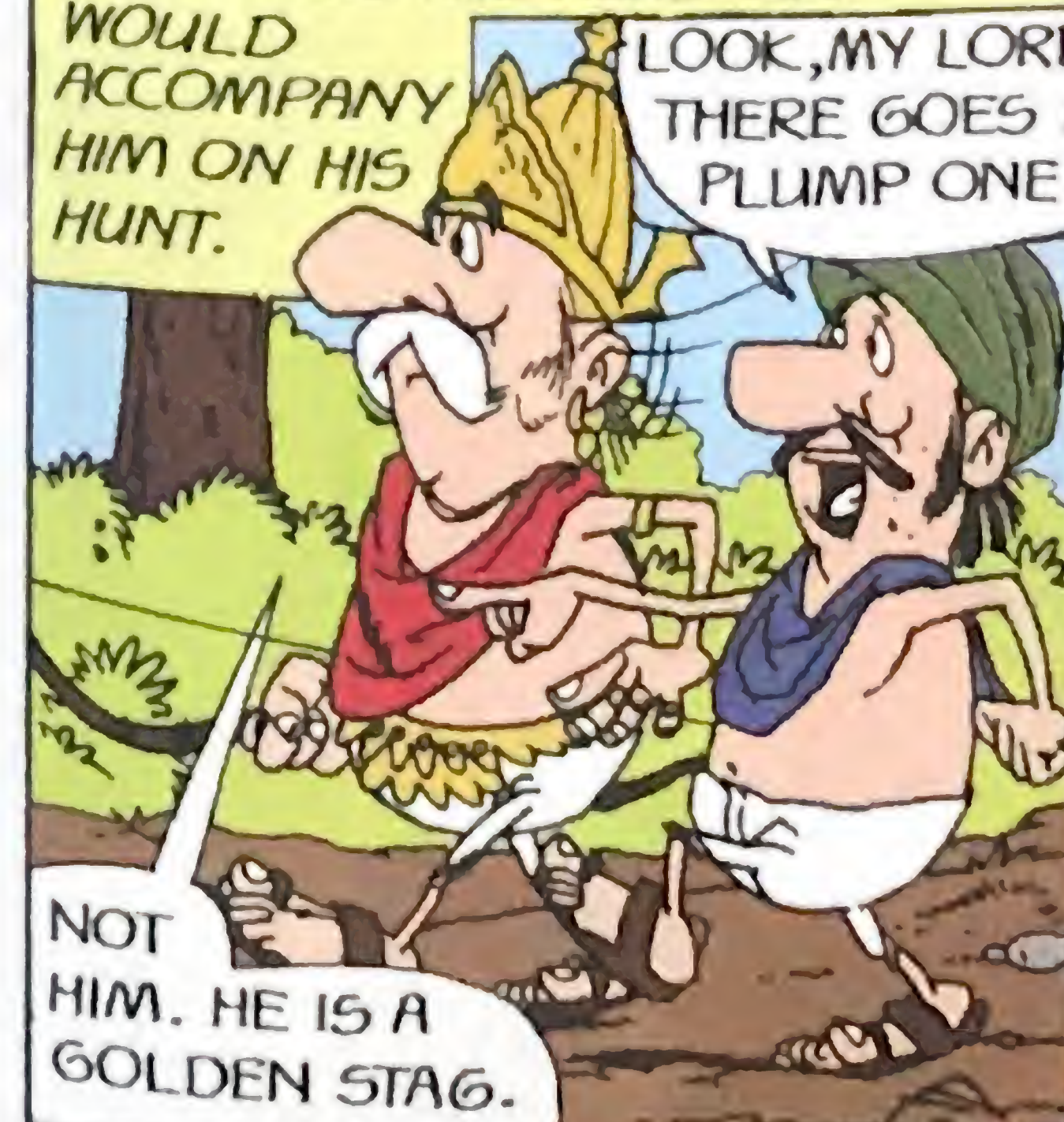
AND SO THE KING WOULD GO OUT AND SHOOT DEER NOW AND AGAIN.

I MUST WARN MY MEN TO LEAVE THE GOLDEN STAGS ALONE.



SOMETIMES THE HEAD COOK WOULD ACCOMPANY HIM ON HIS HUNT.

LOOK, MY LORD! THERE GOES A PLUMP ONE.

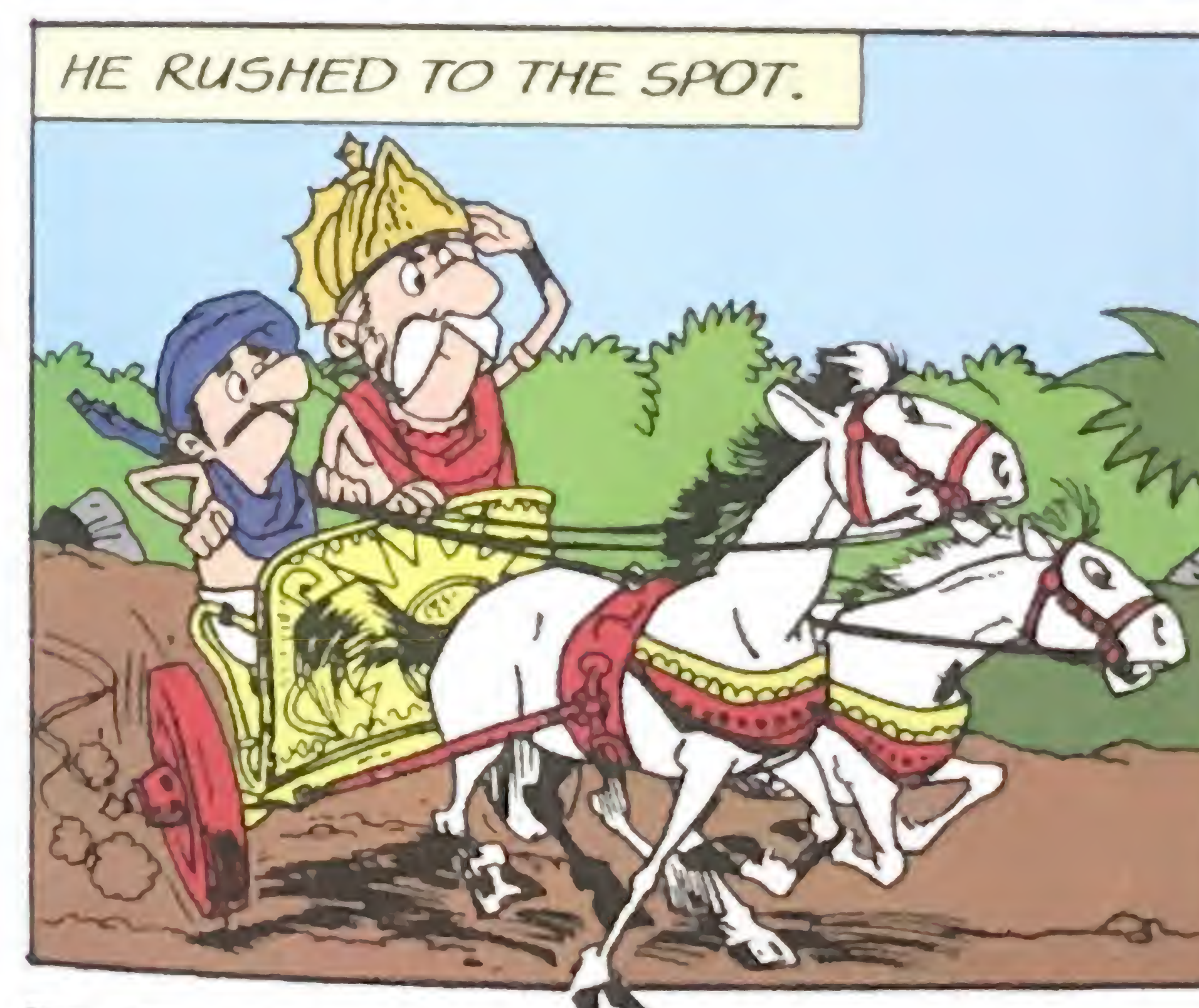
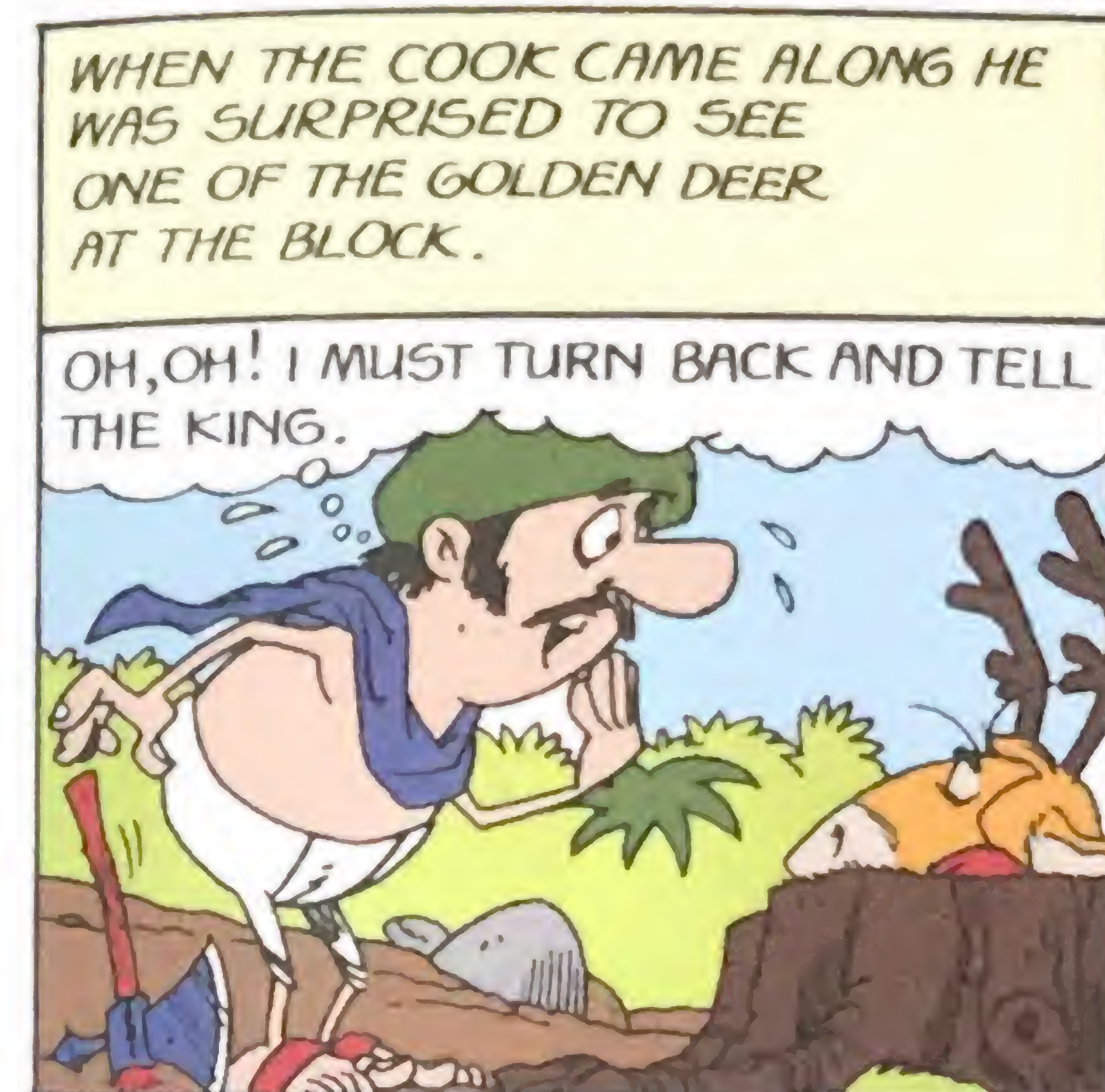
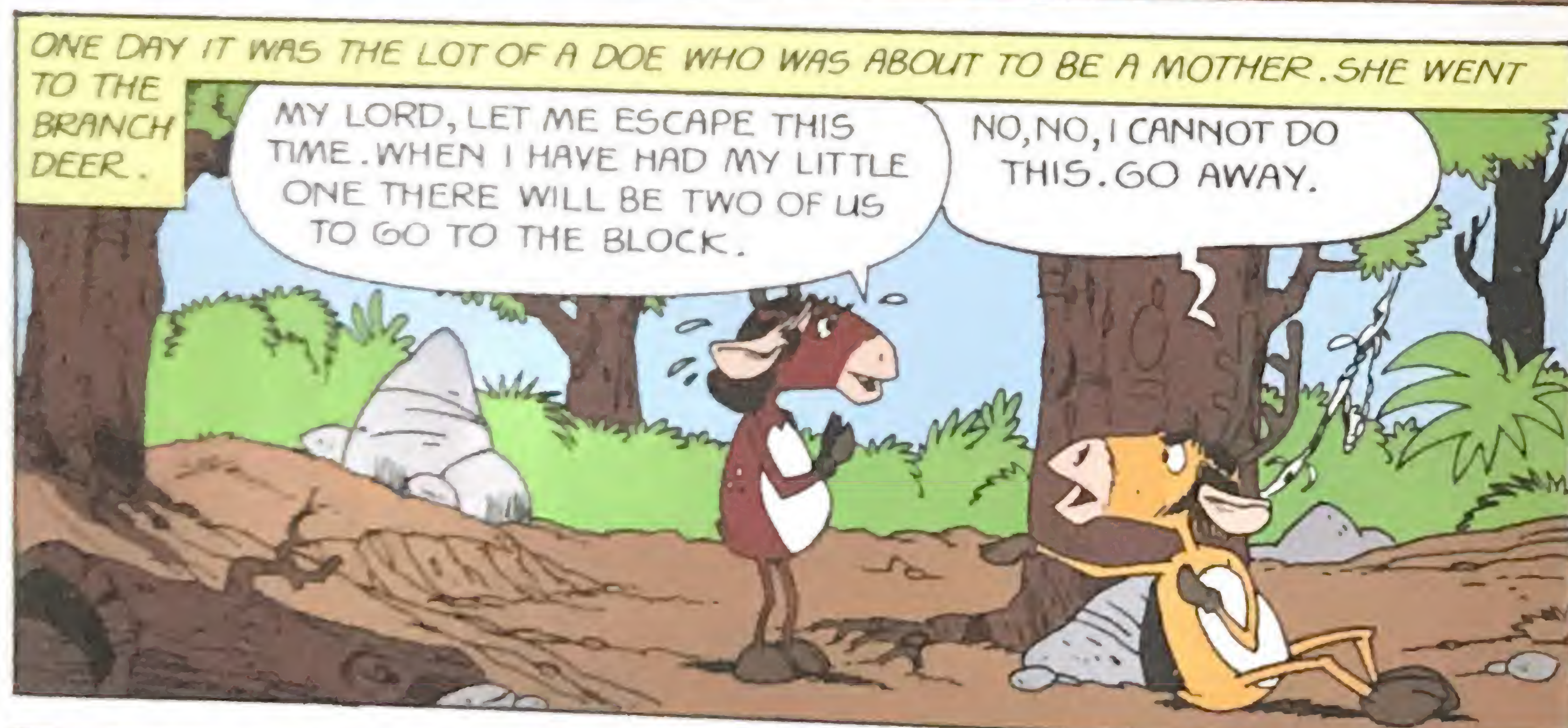
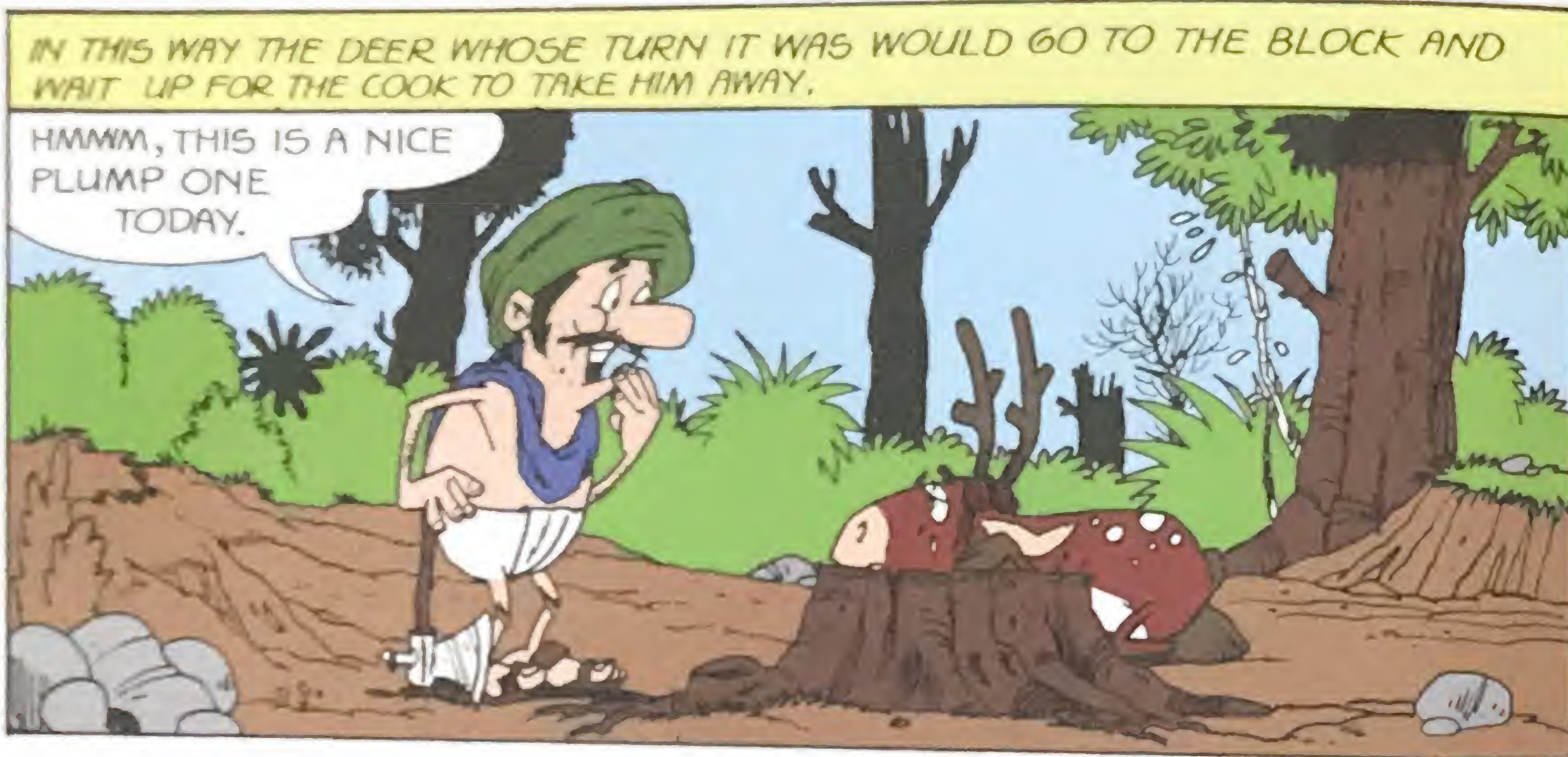


NOT HIM. HE IS A GOLDEN STAG.

BUT THE DEER WERE BEING SLAIN IN SUCH LARGE NUMBERS THAT THE BANYAN DEER DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

MY FRIEND, OUR DEER CANNOT ESCAPE DEATH BUT LET THEM NOT BE KILLED NEEDLESSLY. WE WILL SEND THEM TO THE BLOCK BY TURNS - ONE FROM MY HERD ONE FROM YOURS - EACH DAY.





THE KING WAS ASTOUNDED AT SUCH LOVE. HE WAS DEEPLY MOVED.



HE TURNED TO THE BANYAN DEER.

BOTH OF YOU SHALL LIVE. YOU DESERVE IT.

IF YOU CAN SPARE OUR LIVES, CAN'T YOU SPARE THE LIVES OF ALL THE DEER, YOUR MAJESTY?



I CAN! I WILL!

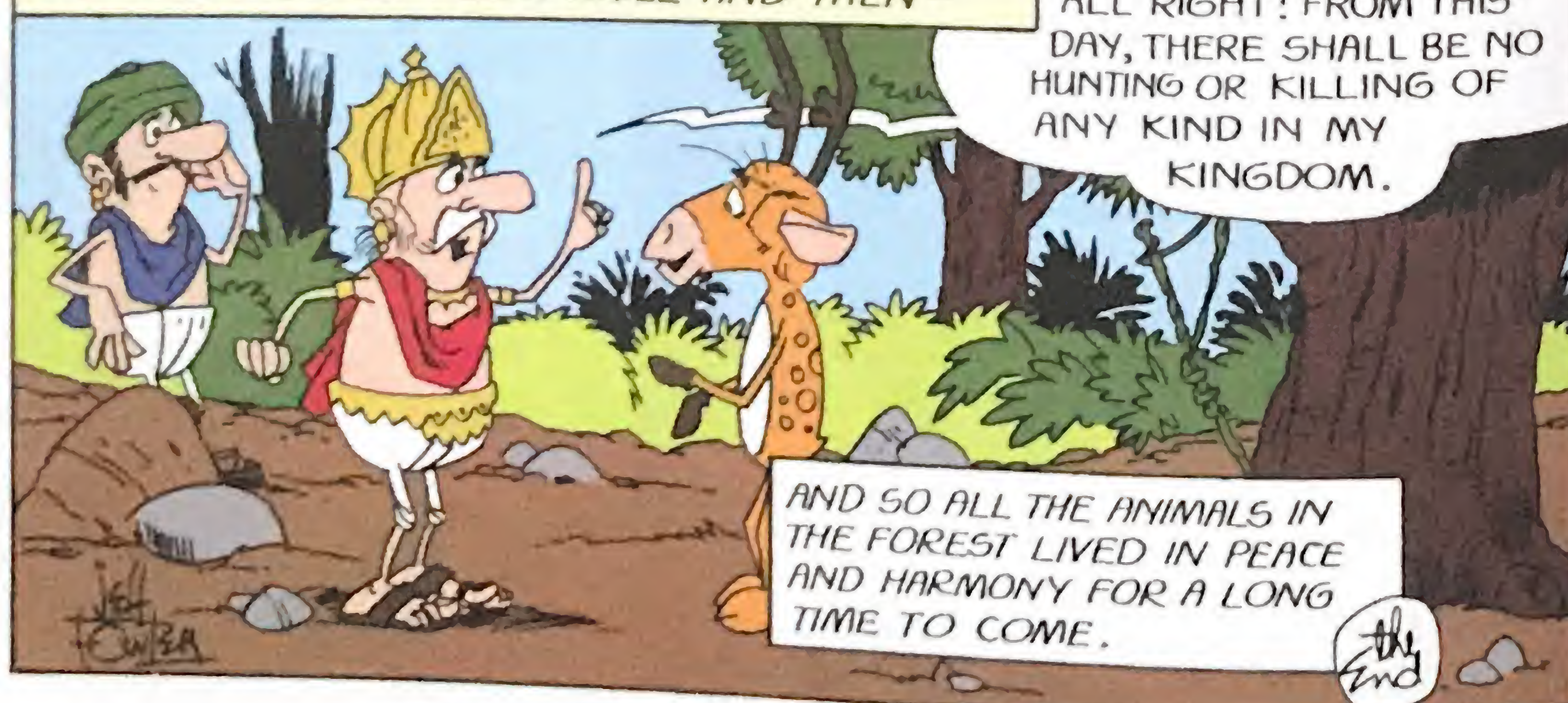


AND COULDN'T YOU SPARE THE LIVES OF ALL THE CREATURES IN YOUR FOREST, YOUR MAJESTY?



THE KING THOUGHT FOR A WHILE AND THEN—

ALL RIGHT! FROM THIS DAY, THERE SHALL BE NO HUNTING OR KILLING OF ANY KIND IN MY KINGDOM.



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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