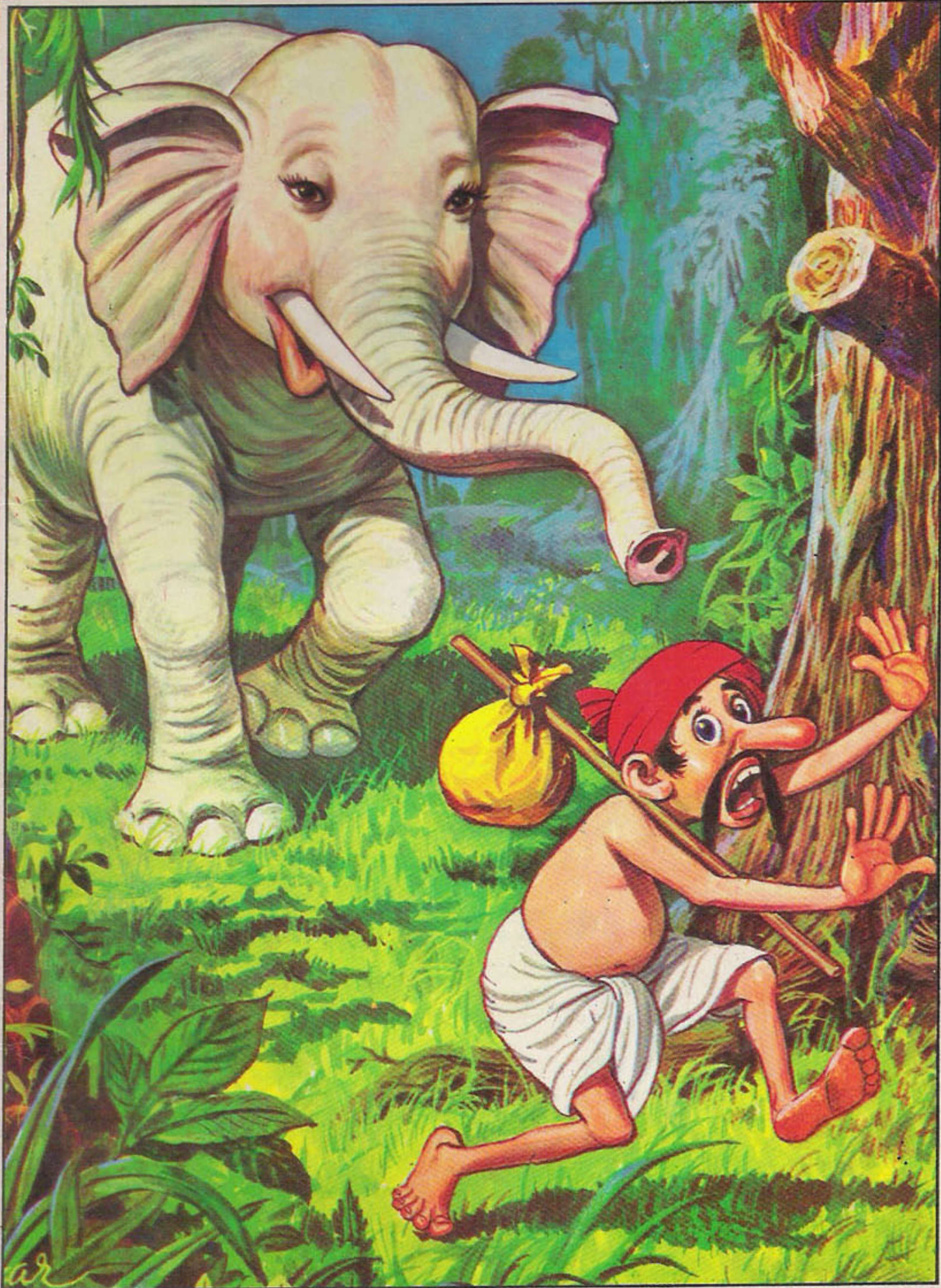




Jataka Tales

Elephant Stories

Vol. 554 Rs 25



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



Jataka Tales

Elephant Stories

All living creatures die to be born again, so the Hindus believe. The Buddha was no exception. Legend has it that several lifetimes as a Bodhisattva went into the making of the Buddha, the Enlightened one.

The Bodhisattva came in many forms - man, monkey, deer, elephant. Whatever his mortal body, he spread the message of justice and wisdom, tempered with compassion. This wisdom, the wisdom of right thinking and right living, is preserved in the Jataka tales.

India has been called the story-teller of the world. It is her particular glory to have told the world story after entertaining story that illustrates the precepts of righteous living.

Amar Chitra Katha has already brought to the reader Jataka monkey stories and Jataka deer stories. In this issue we bring you elephant tales that will teach some of the truths that the Bodhisattva experienced in his numerous lives on earth.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
Over 78 million copies sold so far.

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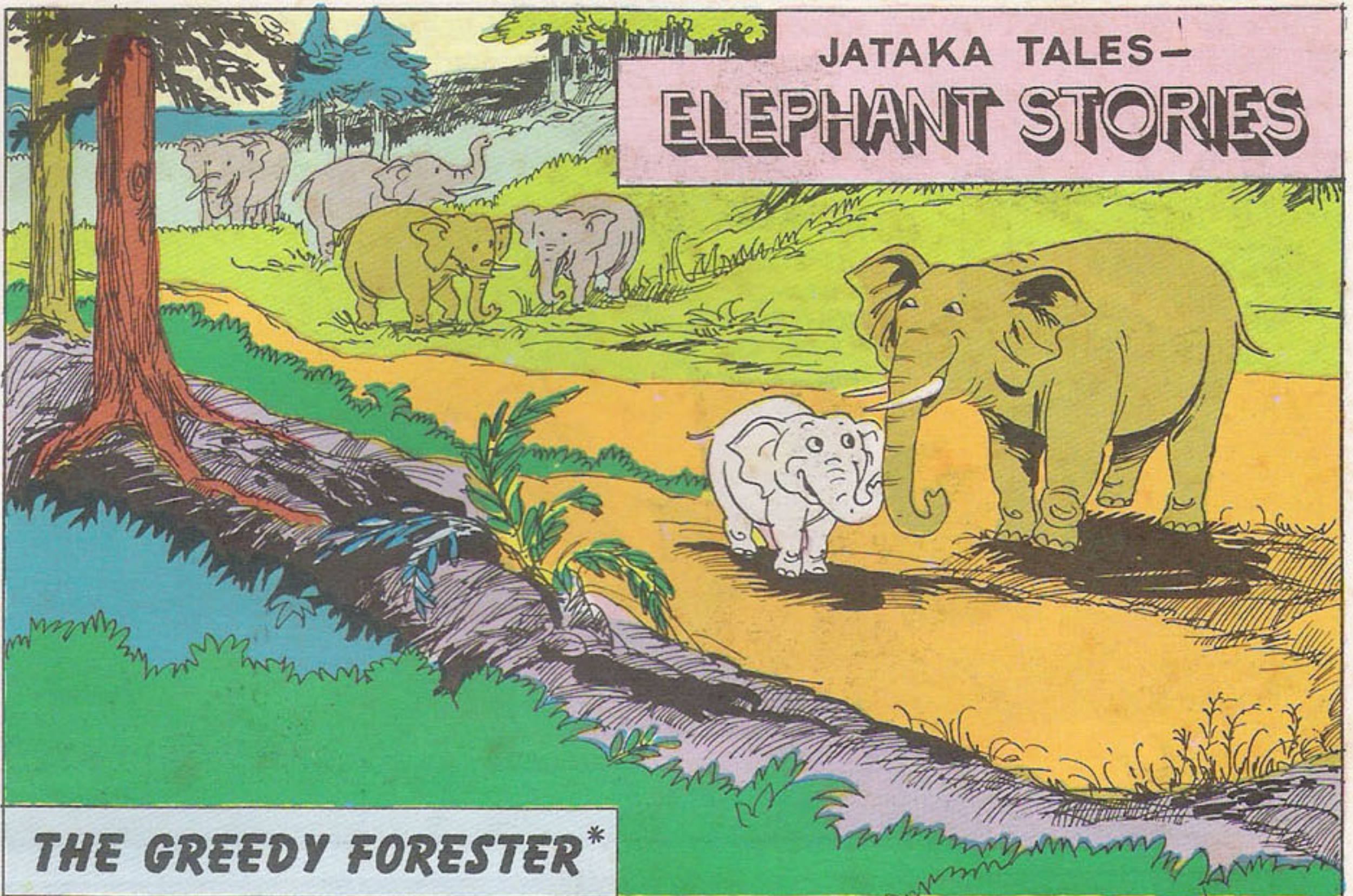
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JATAKA TALES— ELEPHANT STORIES



THE GREEDY FORESTER*

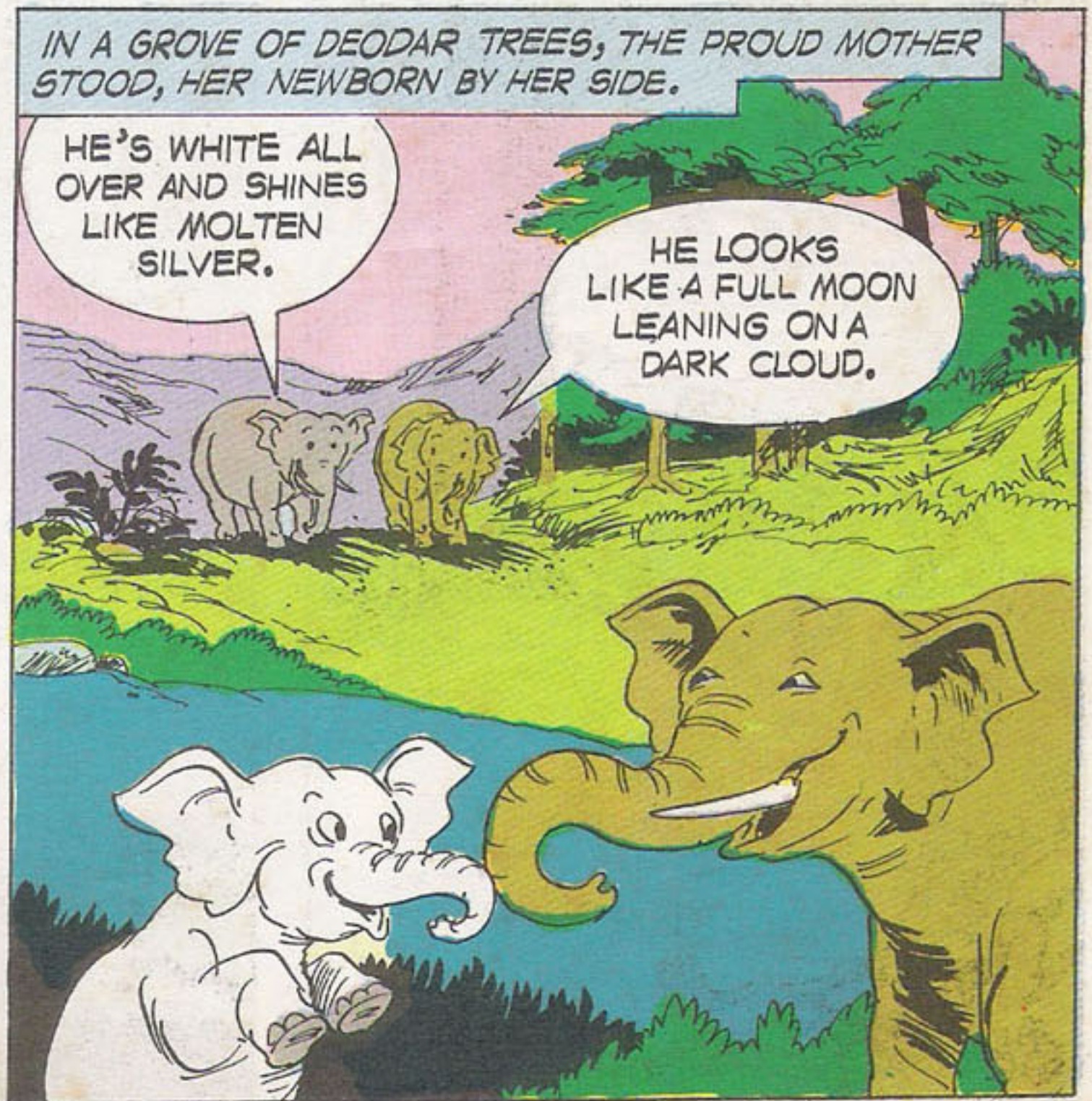
THE BODHISATTVA ASSUMED MANY FORMS THROUGH MANY LIFE CYCLES. AND SO IT WAS THAT WHEN BRAHMA DATTA REIGNED IN VARANASI, HE WAS BORN AN ELEPHANT IN A FOREST IN THE HIMALAYAS.



IN A GROVE OF DEODAR TREES, THE PROUD MOTHER STOOD, HER NEWBORN BY HER SIDE.

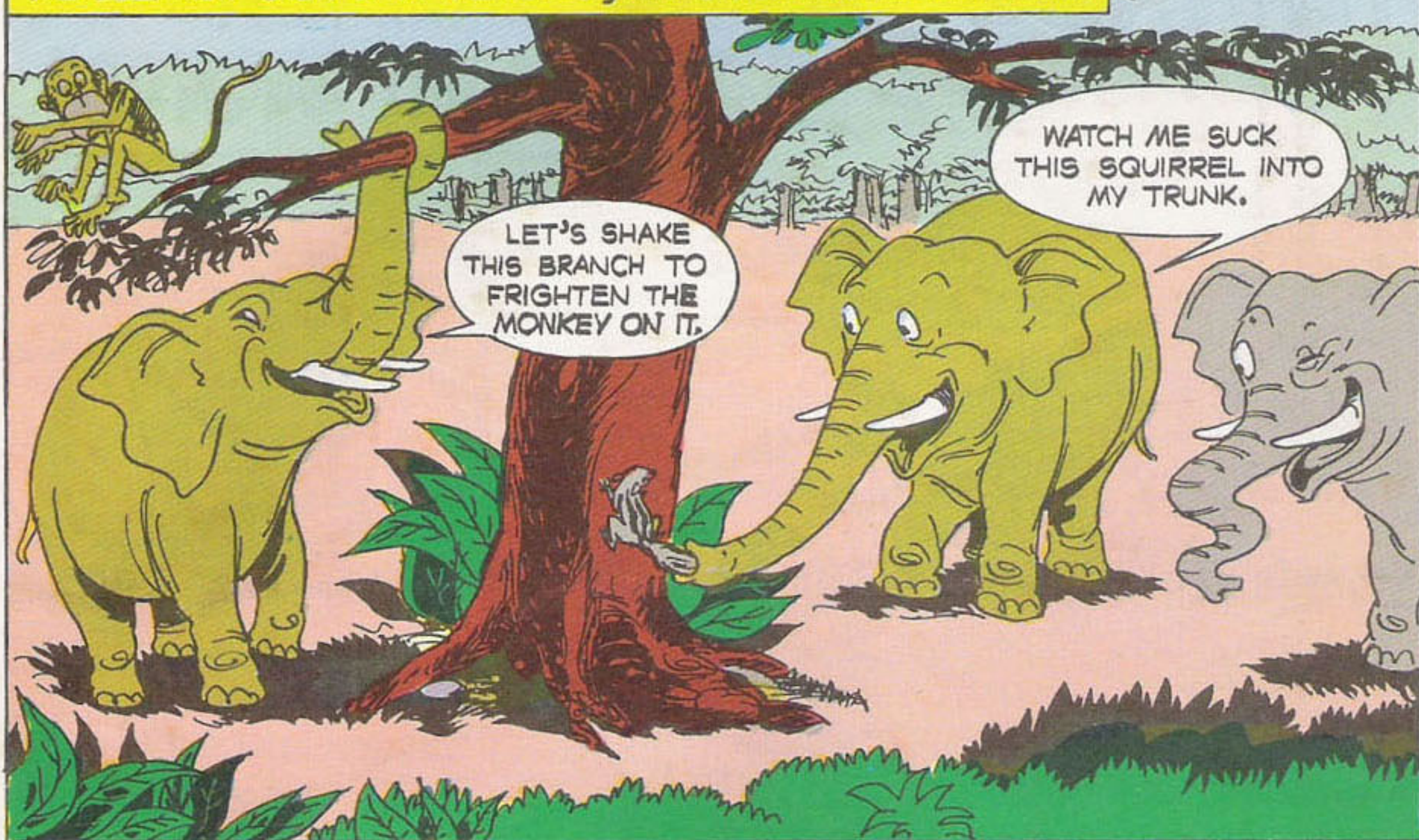
HE'S WHITE ALL OVER AND SHINES LIKE MOLTEN SILVER.

HE LOOKS LIKE A FULL MOON LEANING ON A DARK CLOUD.



* BASED ON SEELAVA NAGARAJA JATAKA

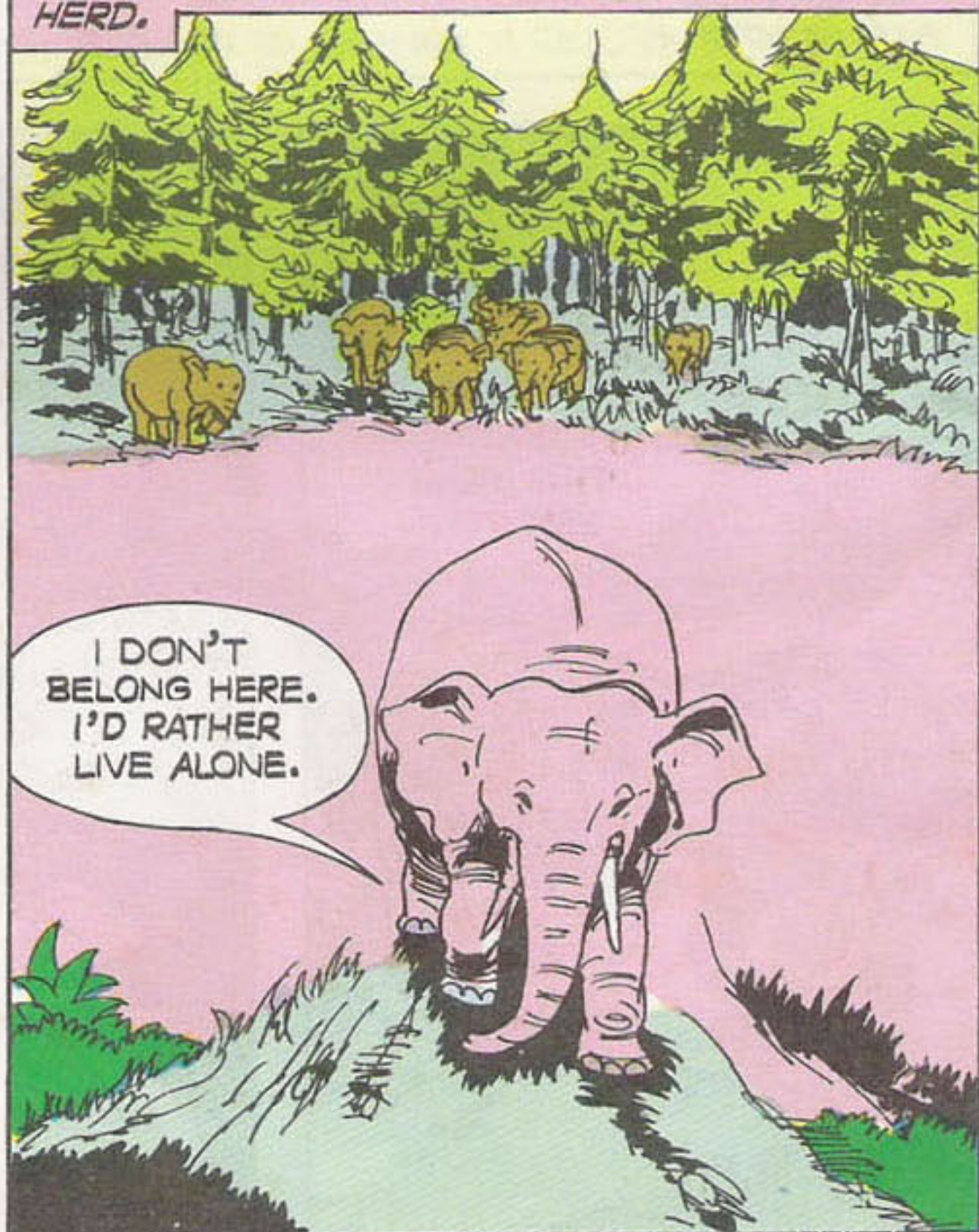
THE ELEPHANT GREW UP IN THE FOREST, WITH OTHER LITTLE ELEPHANTS.



AS HE GREW OLDER, HE NOTICED THAT MOST OF HIS COMPANIONS WERE SELFISH, GREEDY, EVEN CRUEL.



THE WHITE ELEPHANT DECIDED TO LEAVE THE HERD.



AND SO HE DWELT APART, GIVING HELP AND GOOD COUNSEL WHEN NEEDED. ONE DAY HE SAW A LITTLE MONKEY WEeping.



HE GOT THE THOUGHTLESS MONKEYS TOGETHER.

SHAME ON YOU! WHY DO YOU HARASS YOUR WEAKER BROTHER, YOU WHO SHOULD PROTECT HIM? HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THE STORY OF...?



MANY AN EVENING FOUND HIM ADVISING AN EAGER GROUP OF ANIMALS, YOUNG AND OLD. SOON HE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS GOOD KING ELEPHANT.

ONE DAY, A FORESTER FROM VARANASI LOST HIS WAY IN THAT FOREST.

I HAVE NEVER FELT MORE FRIGHTENED IN MY LIFE. EVERY PATH SEEMS TO LEAD ME FARTHER AWAY FROM HOME.



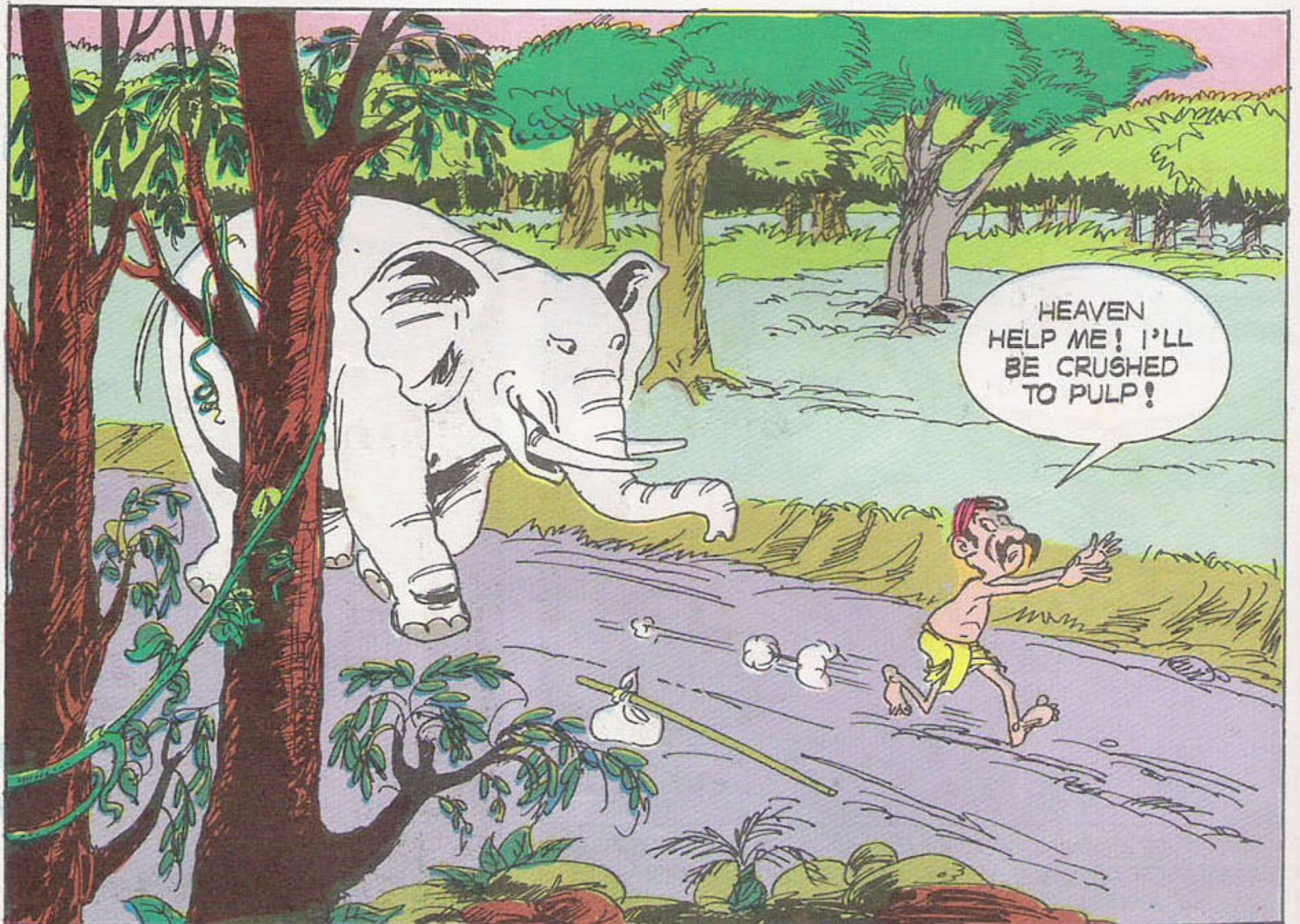
AS THE LIGHT GREW
FAINTER —

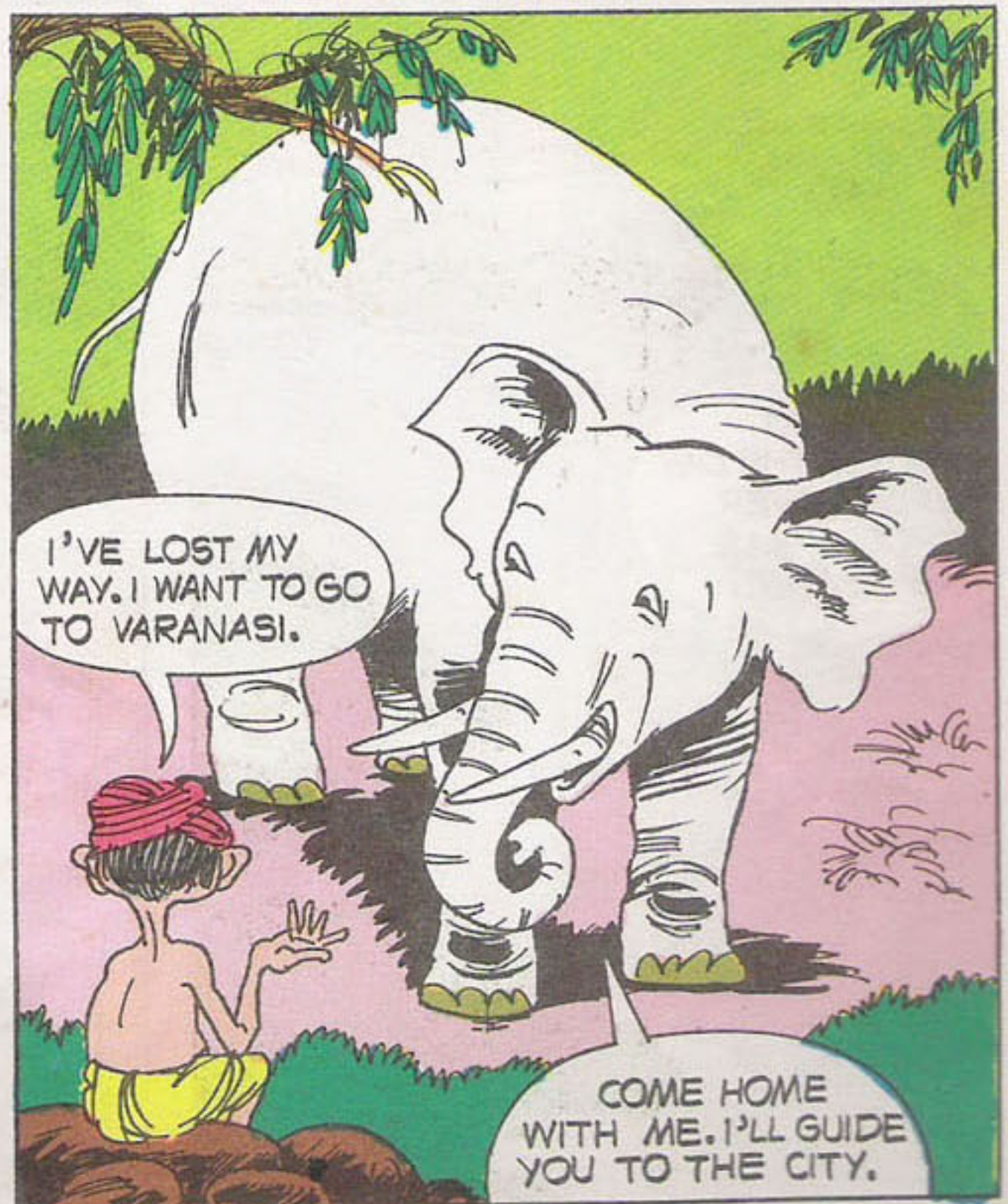
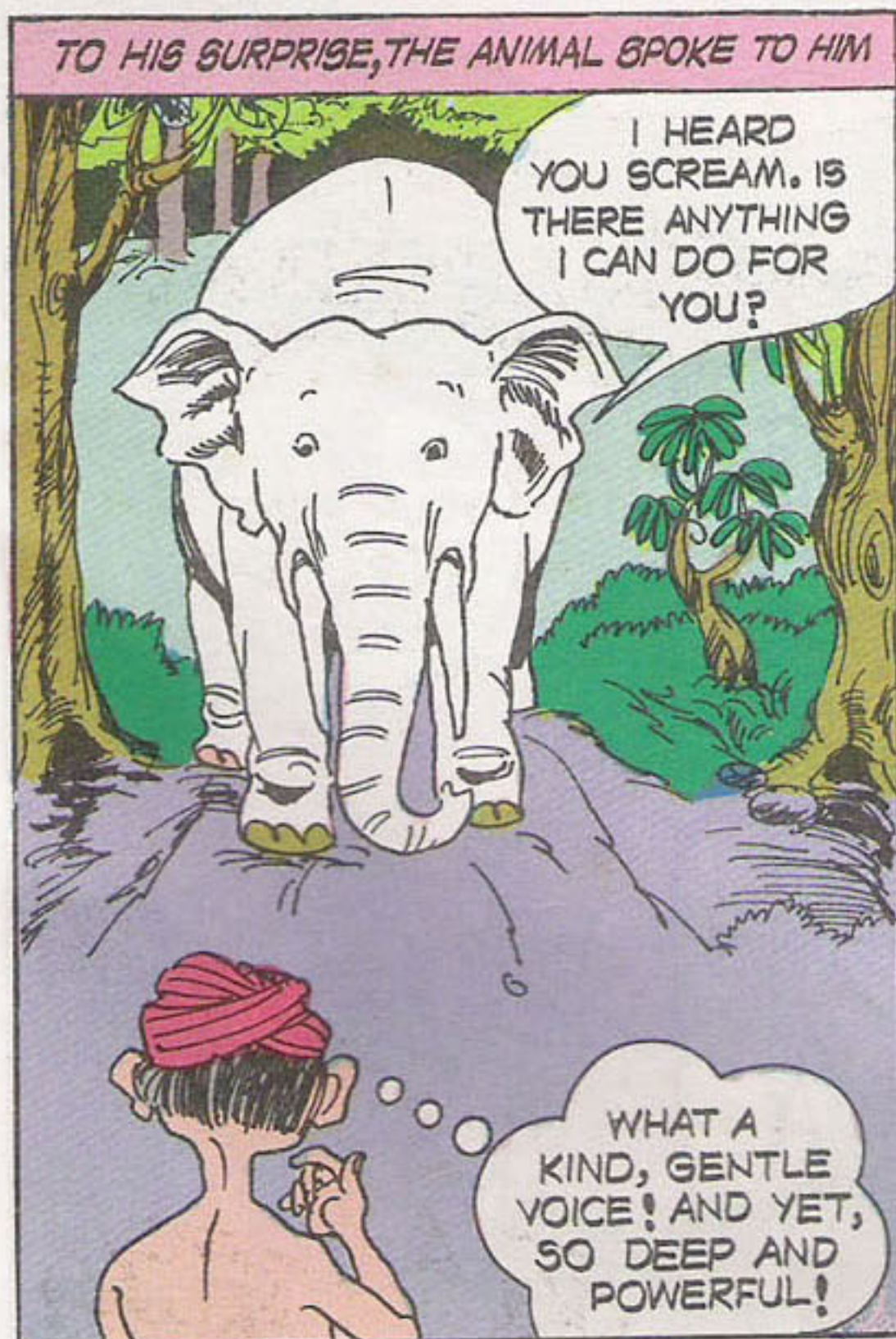
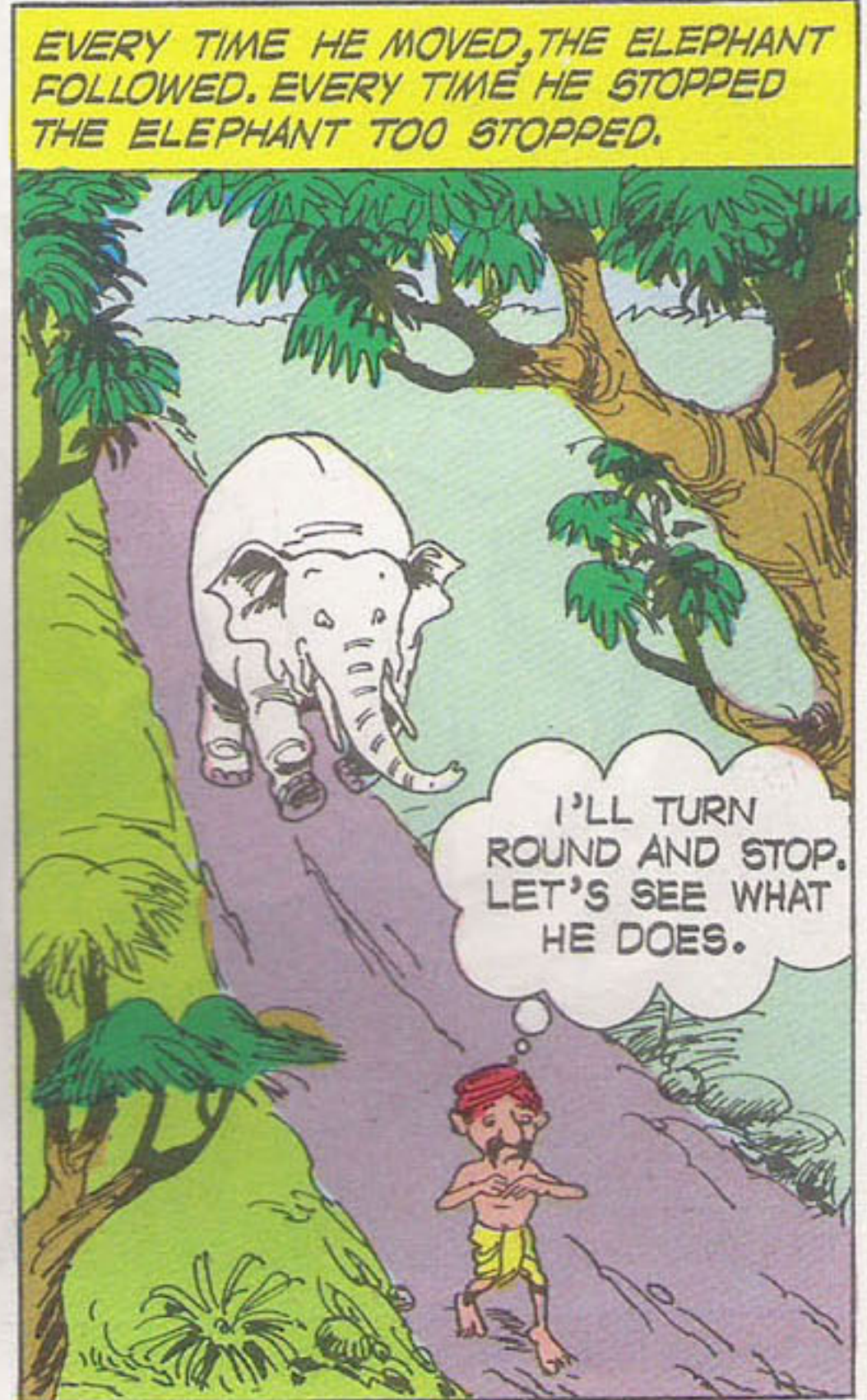
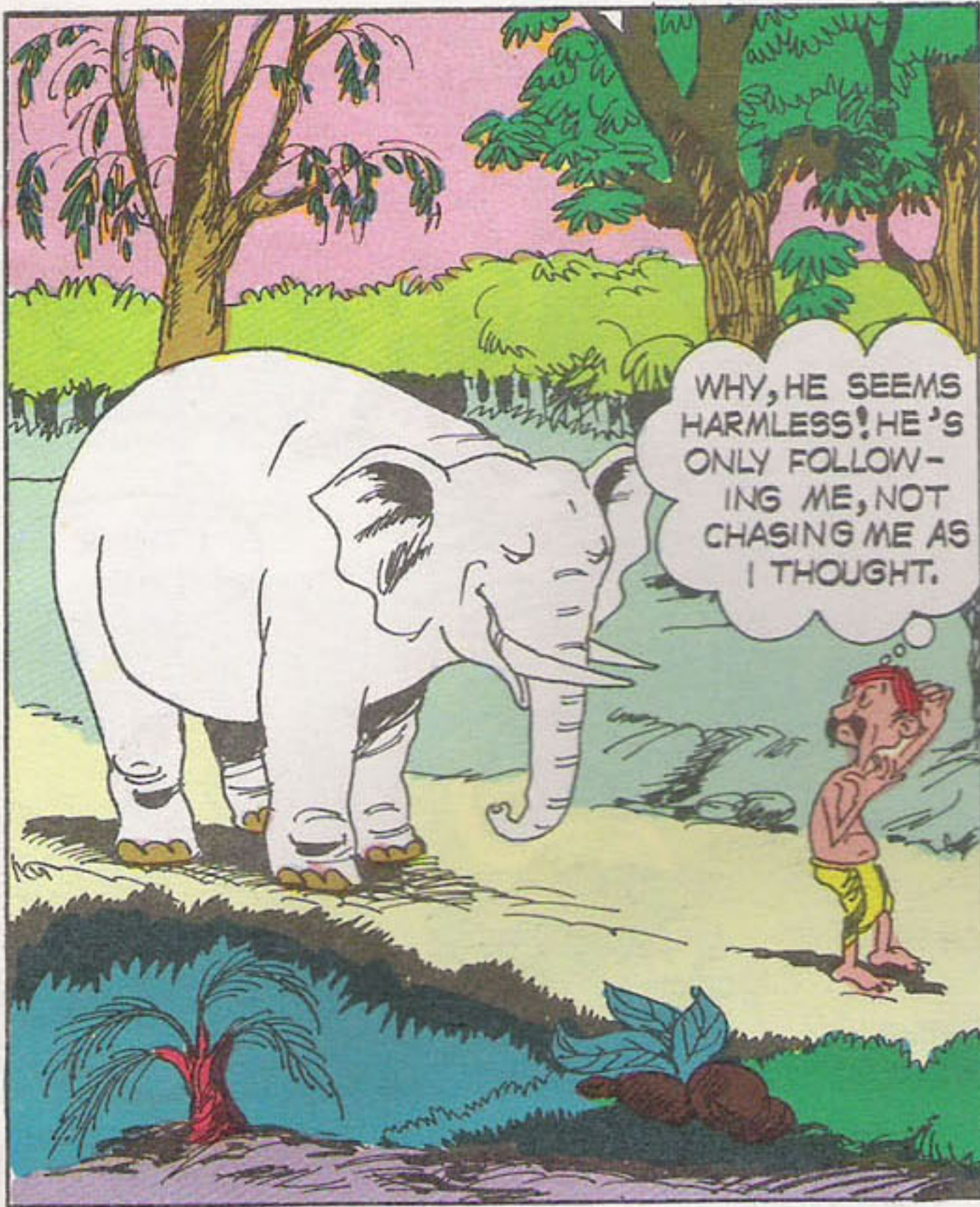


OH! IT WAS
ONLY A SHADOW,
HOW FOOLISH
OF ME!

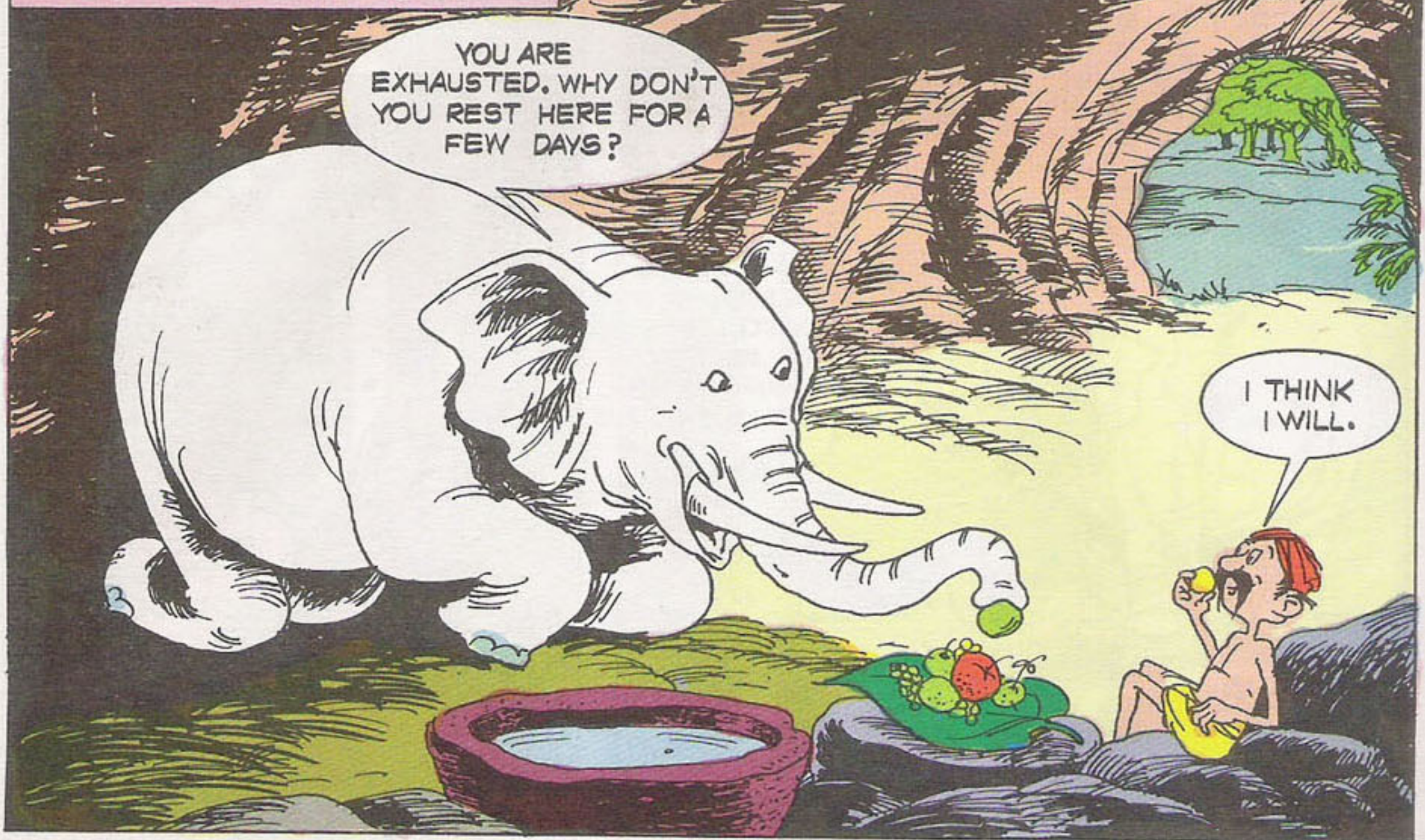


GATHERING COURAGE, HE WALKED ON.
SUDDENLY —

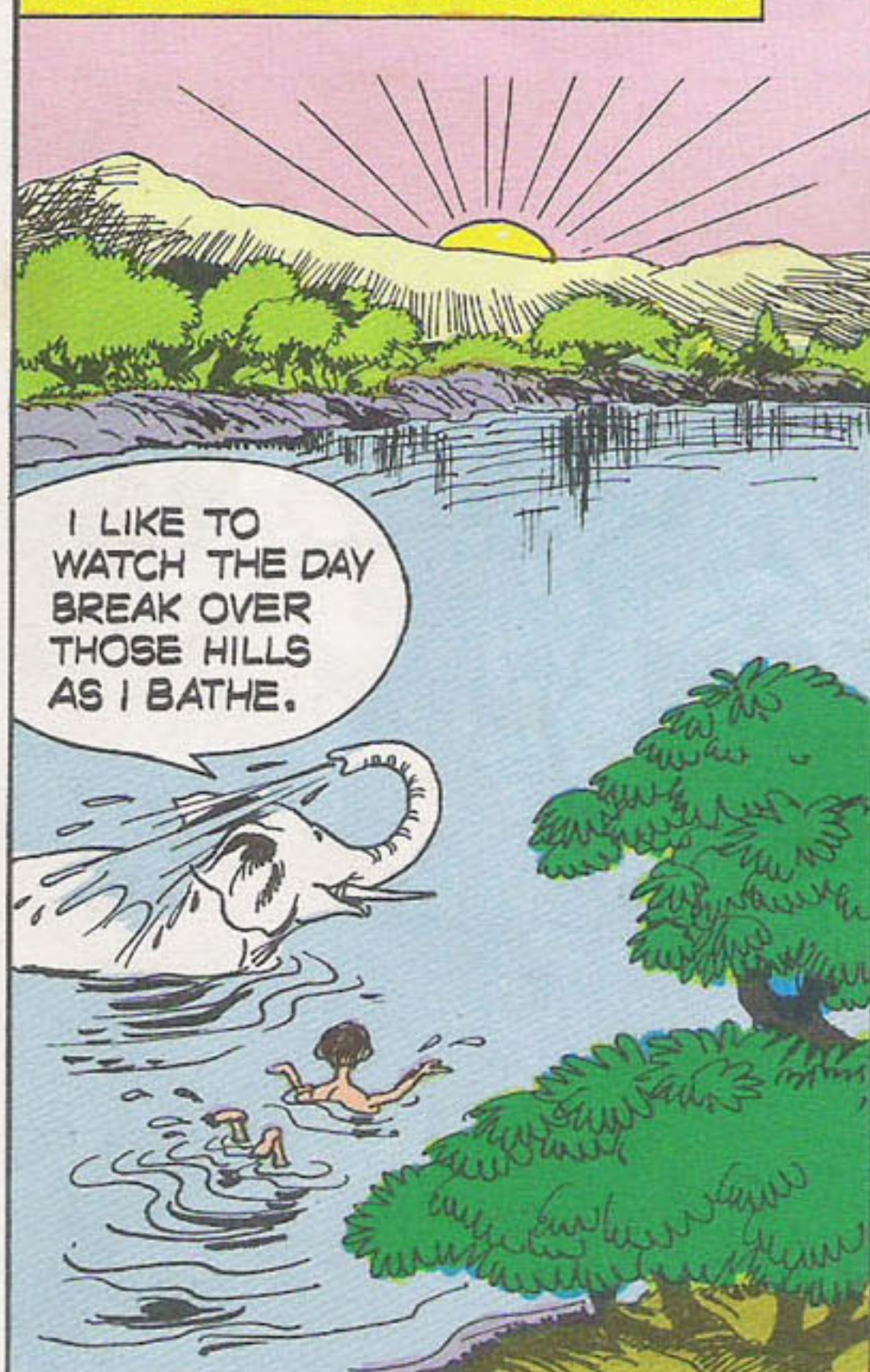




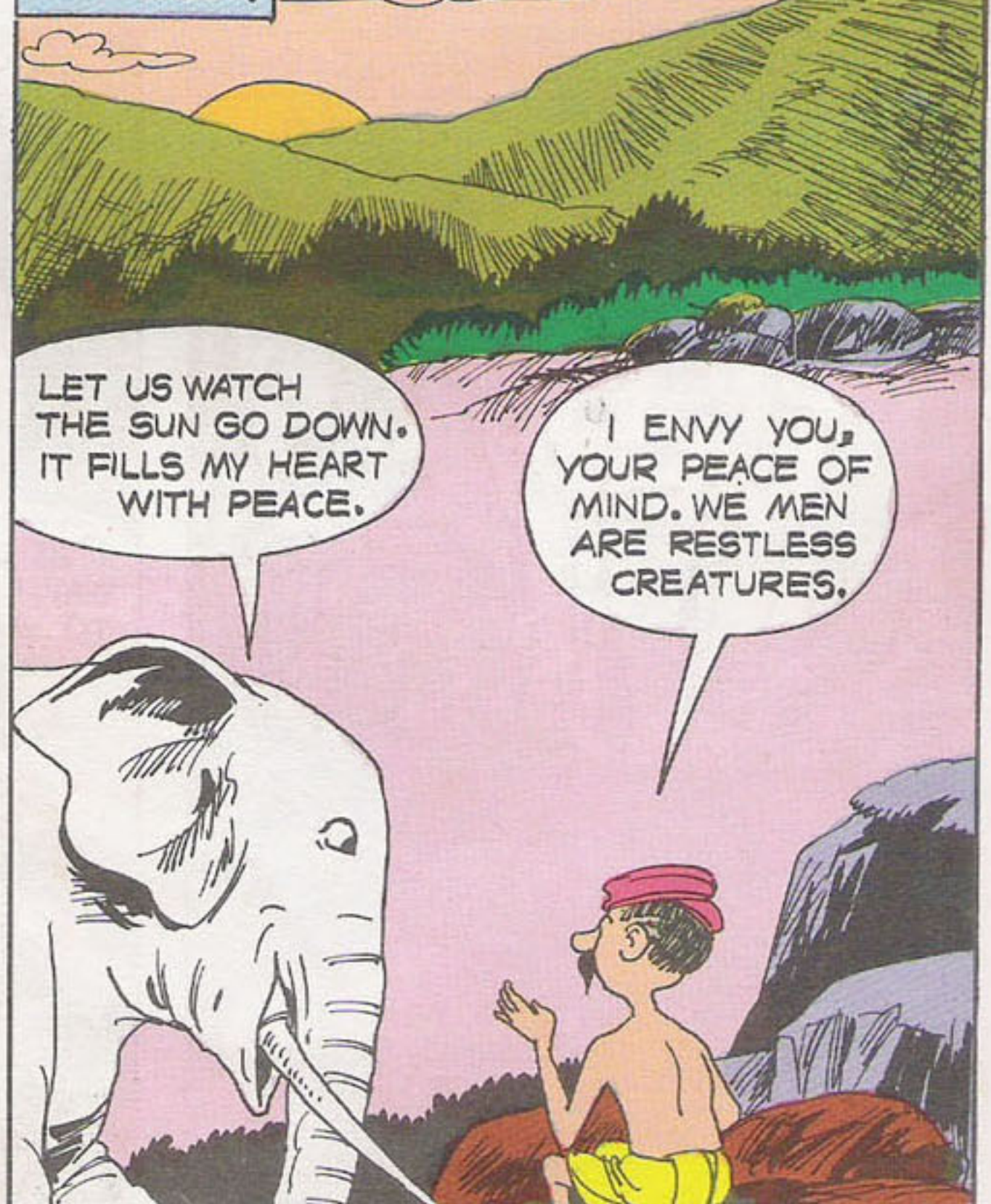
LATER, AT THE ELEPHANT'S CAVE —

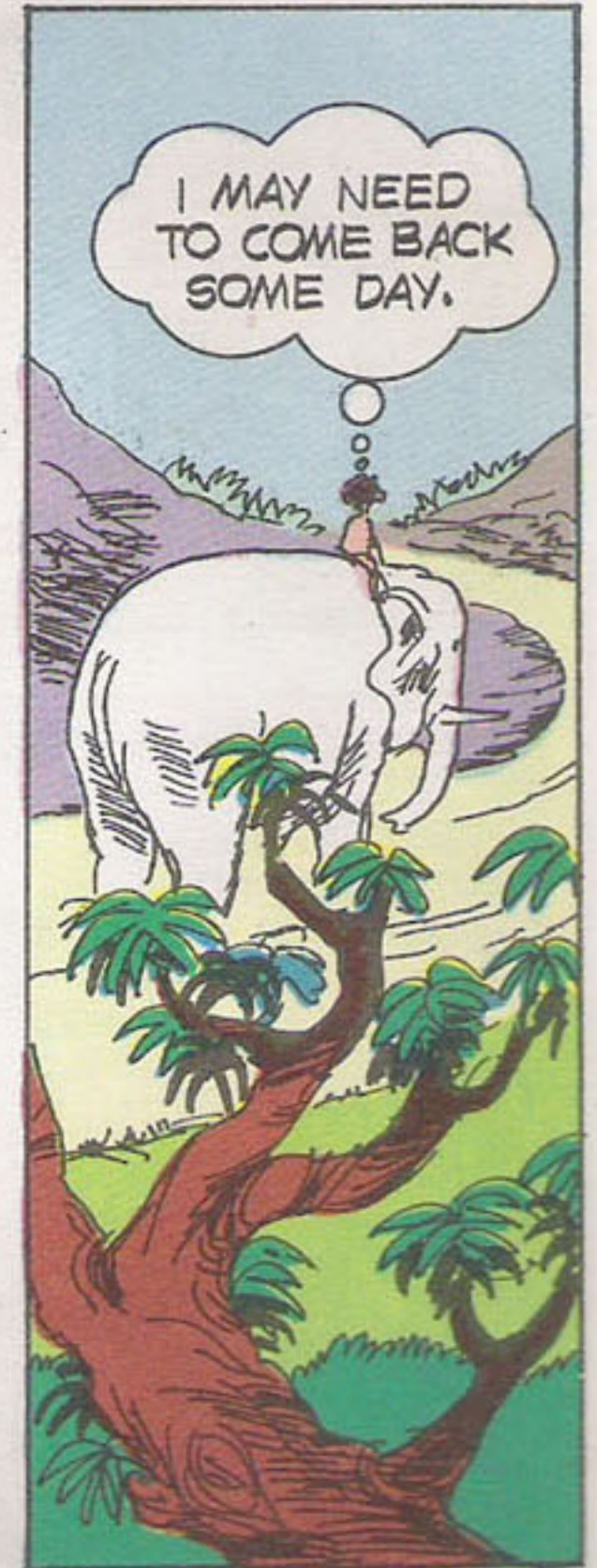
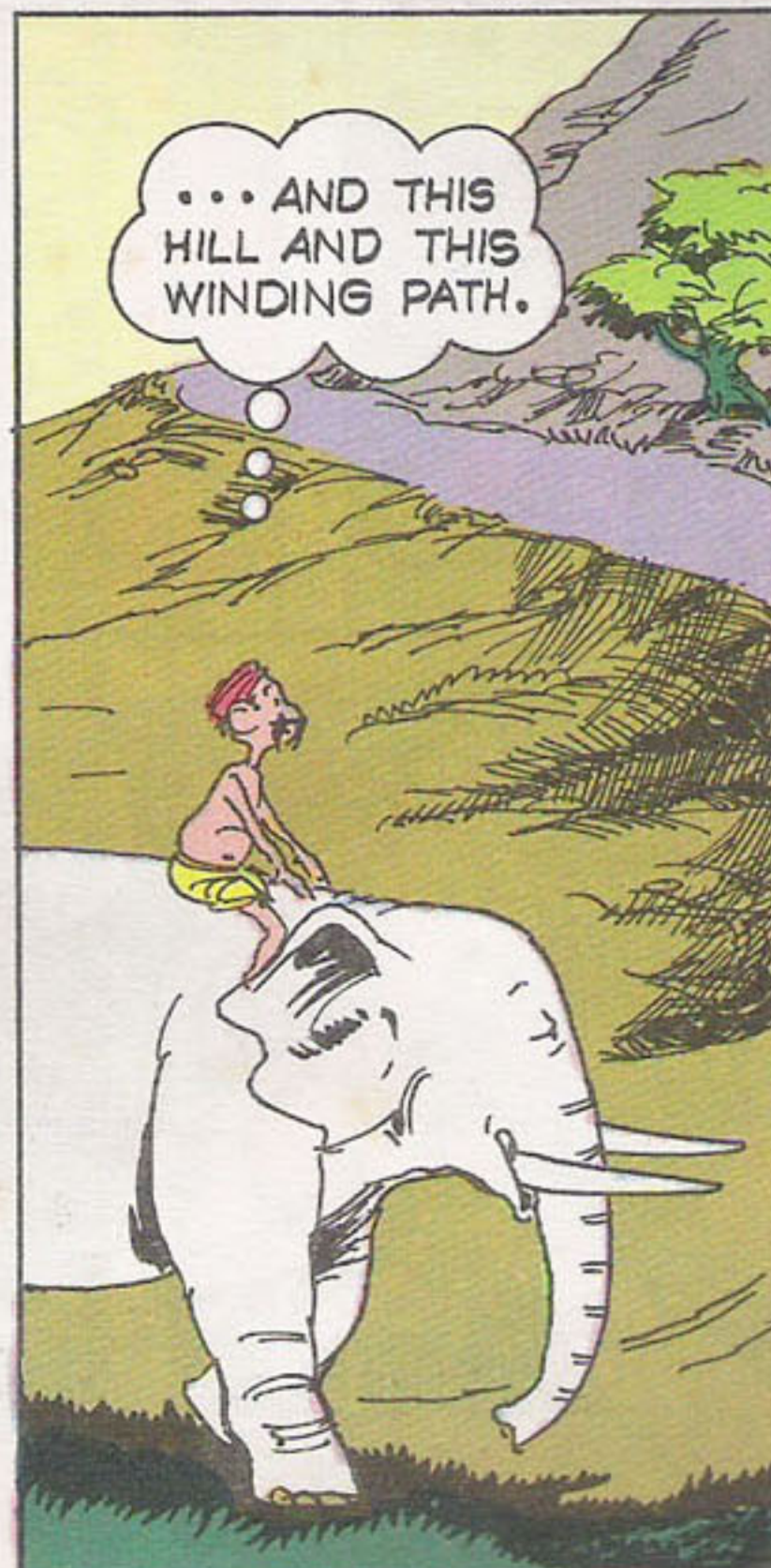
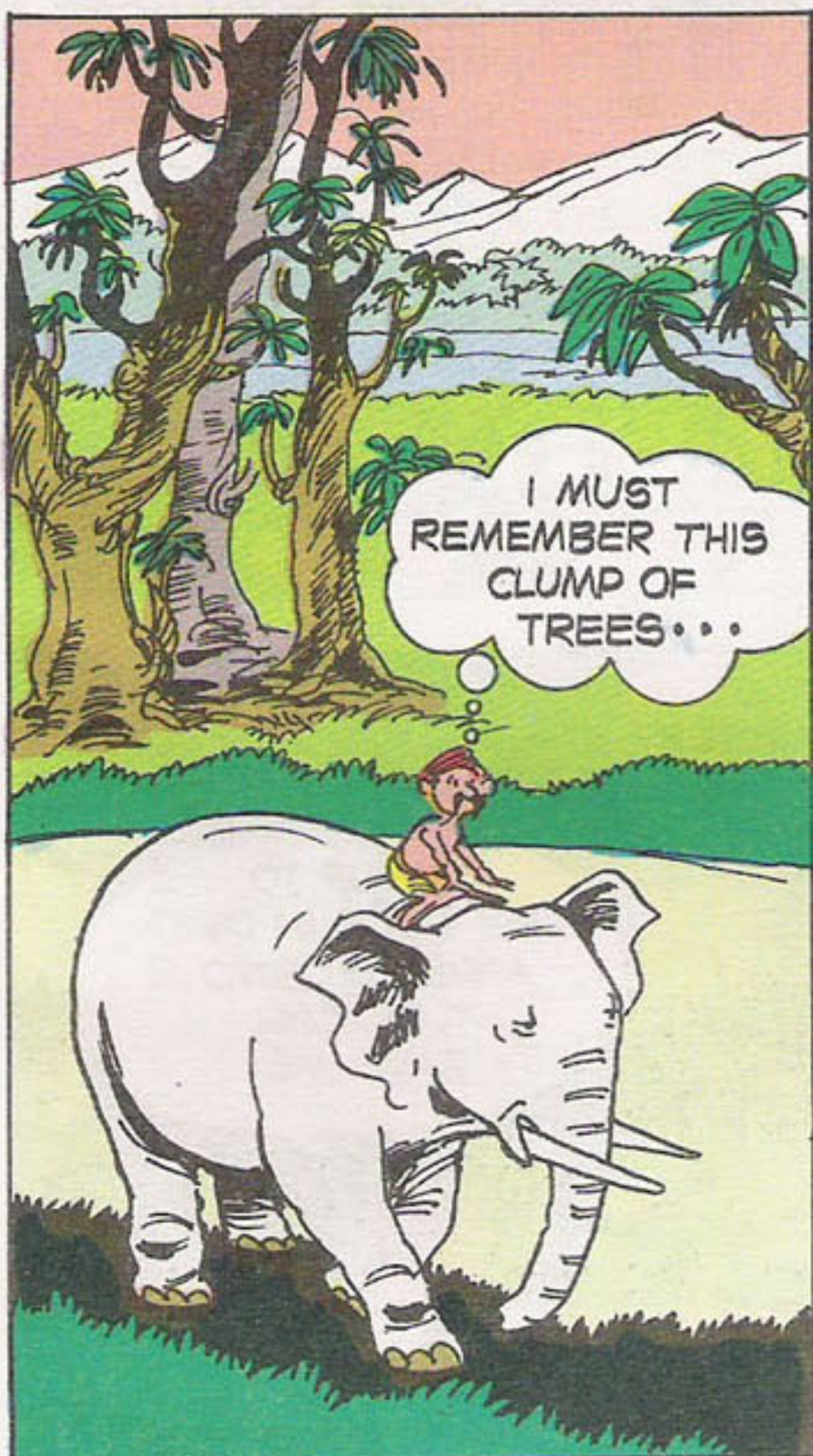
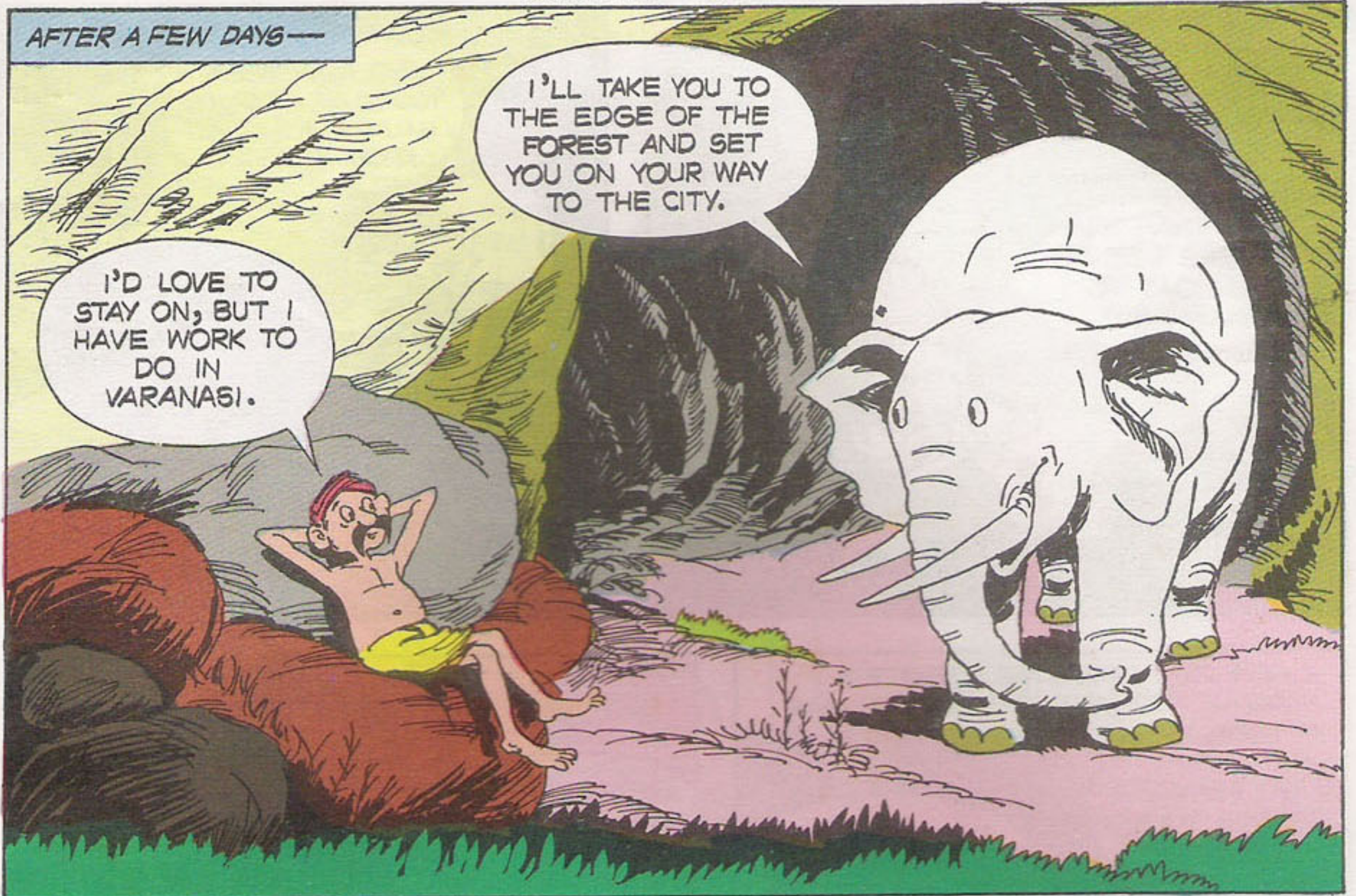


THE ELEPHANT'S DAY BEGAN EARLY.

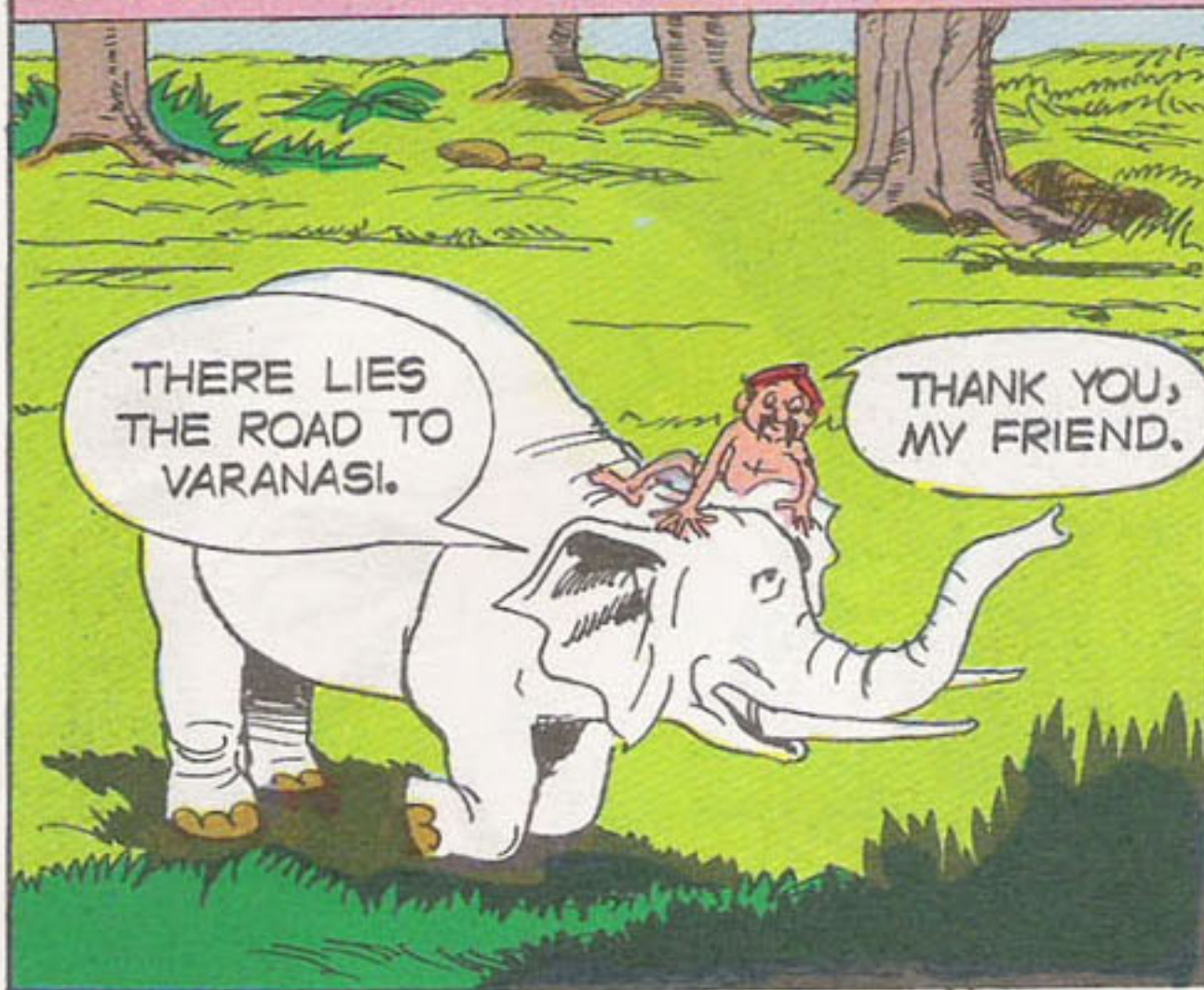


IN THE EVENING THEY WALKED TO A CLEARING IN THE FOREST.

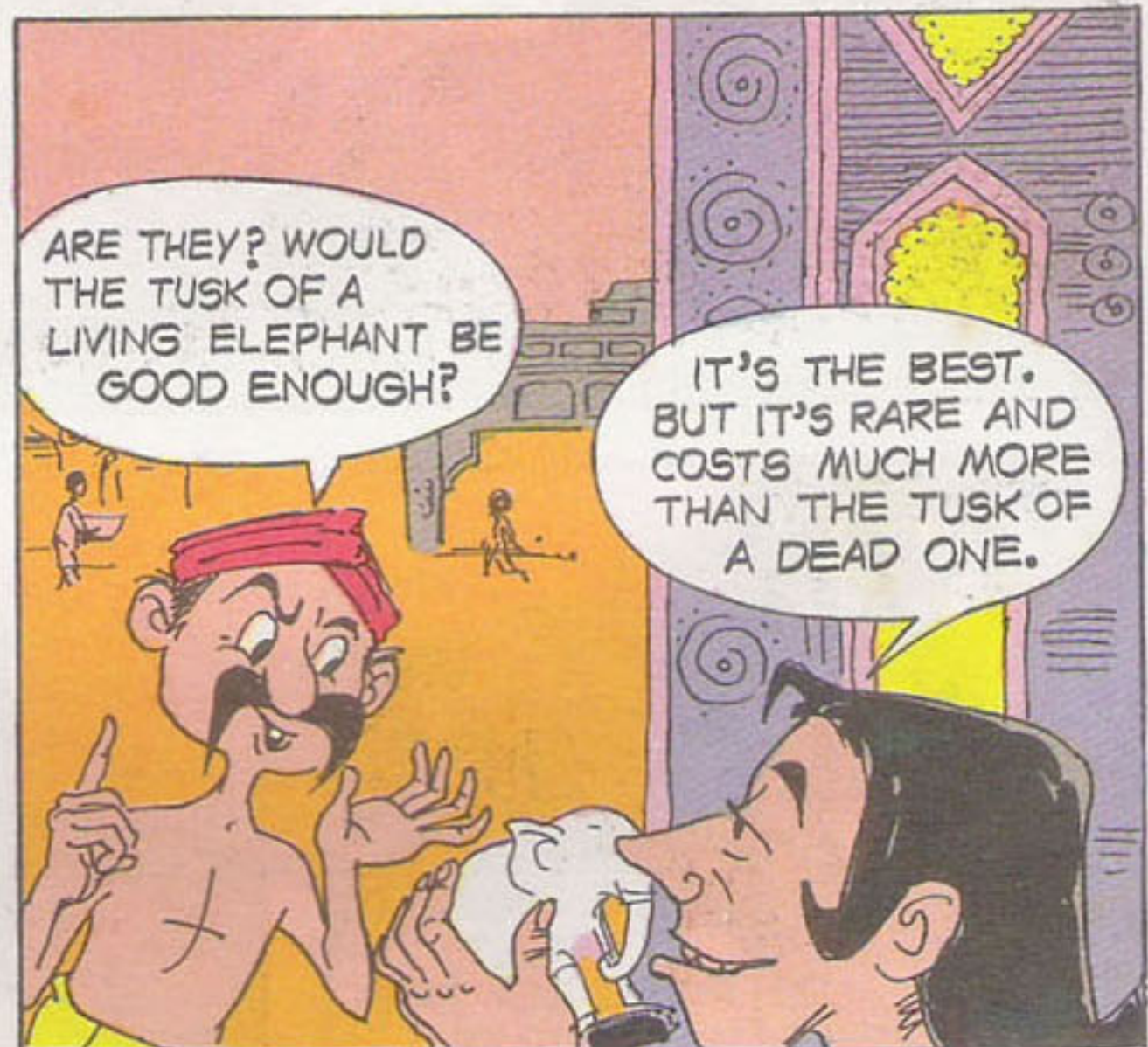
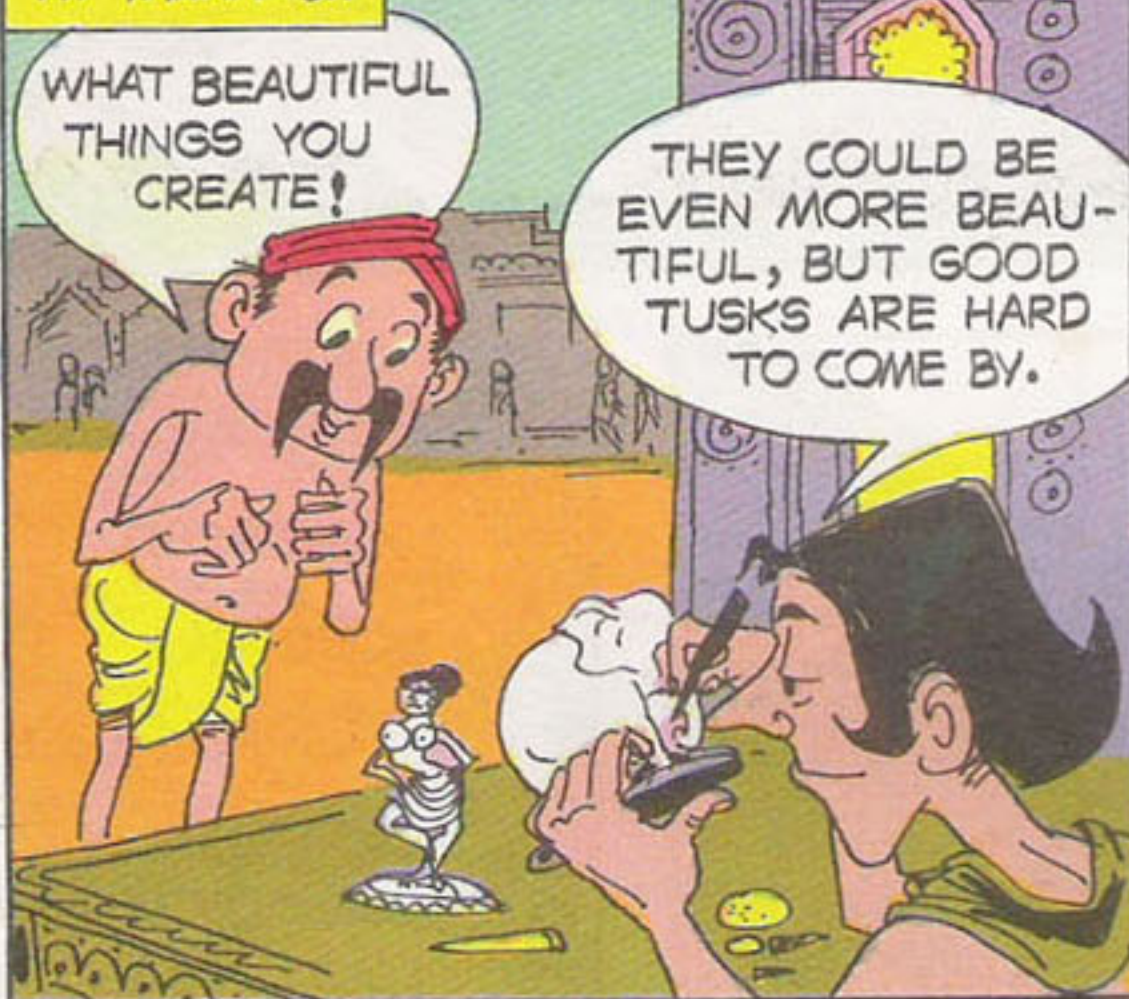




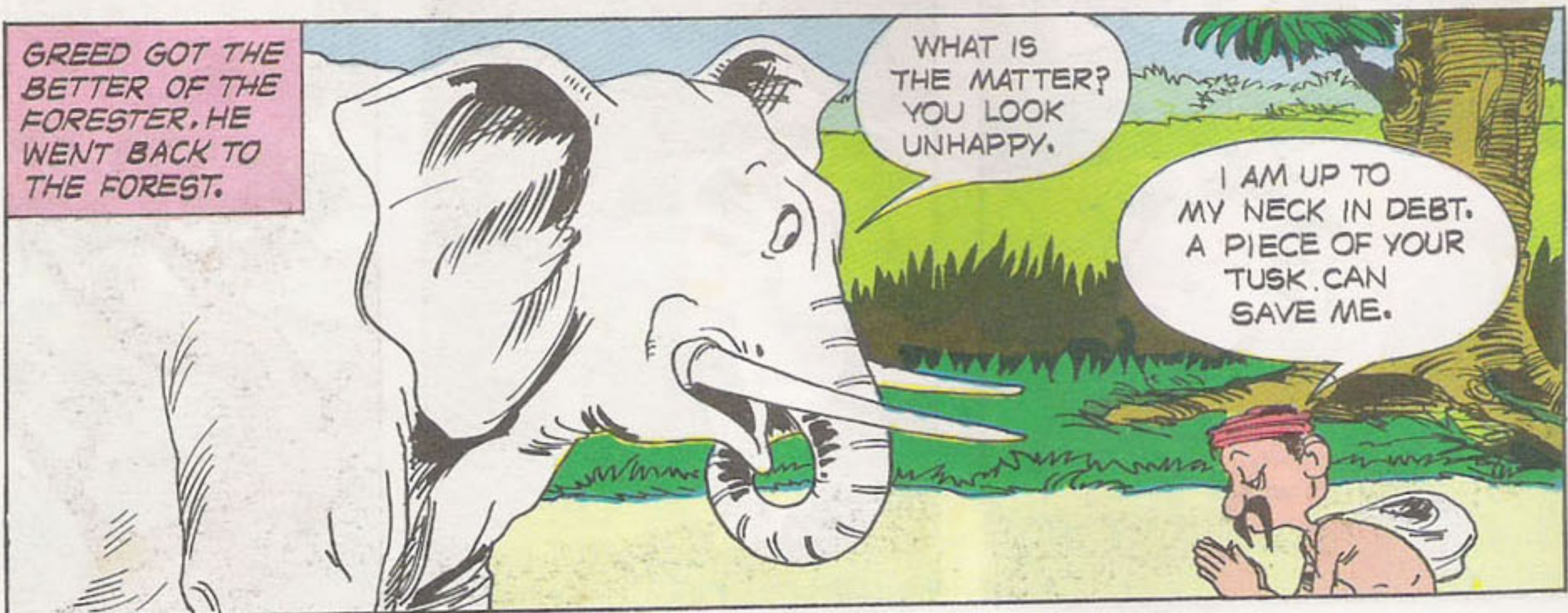
AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST, HE DISMOUNTED.

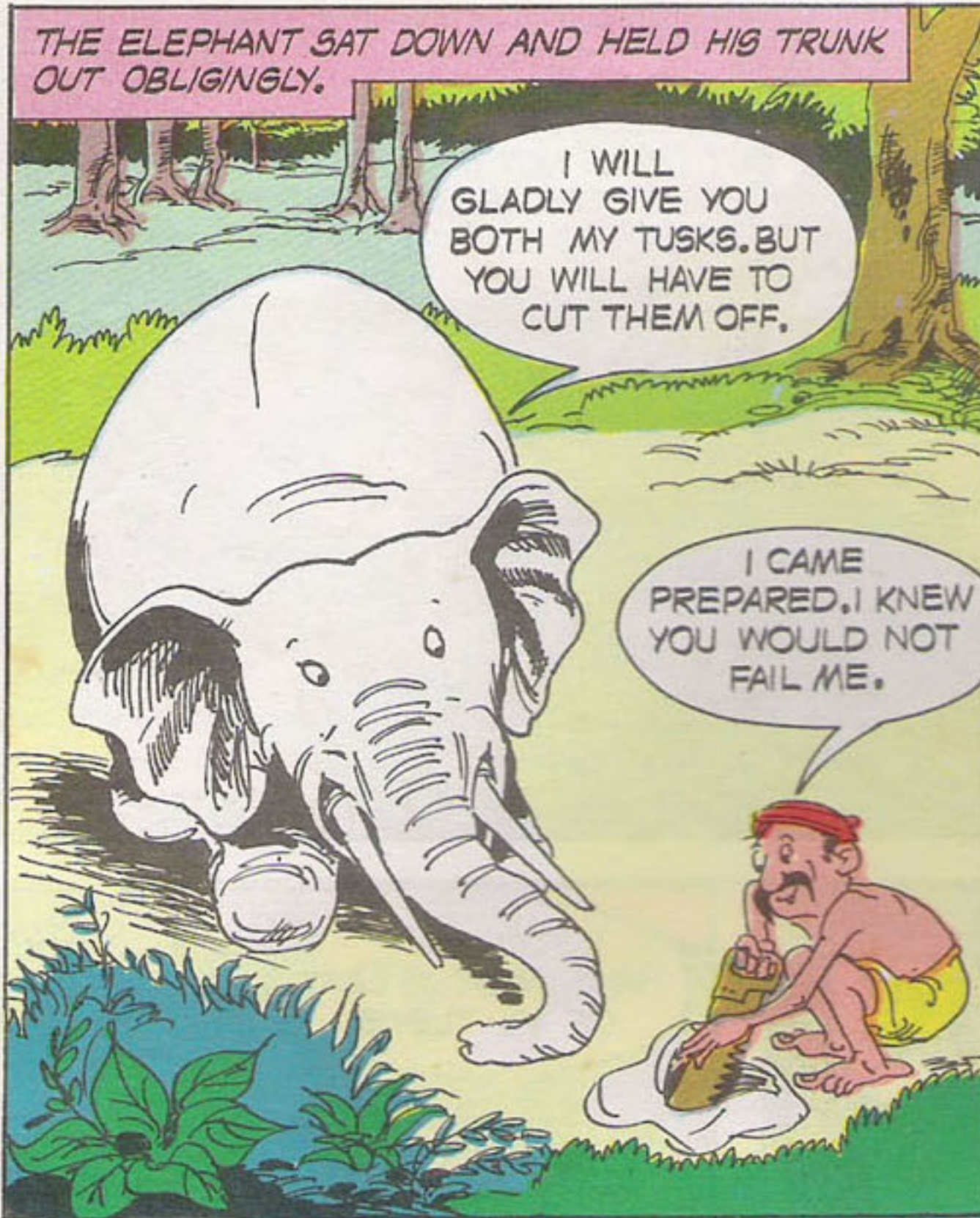


A FEW DAYS LATER, THE FORESTER HAPPENED TO VISIT THE IVORY BAZAAR AT VARANASI.

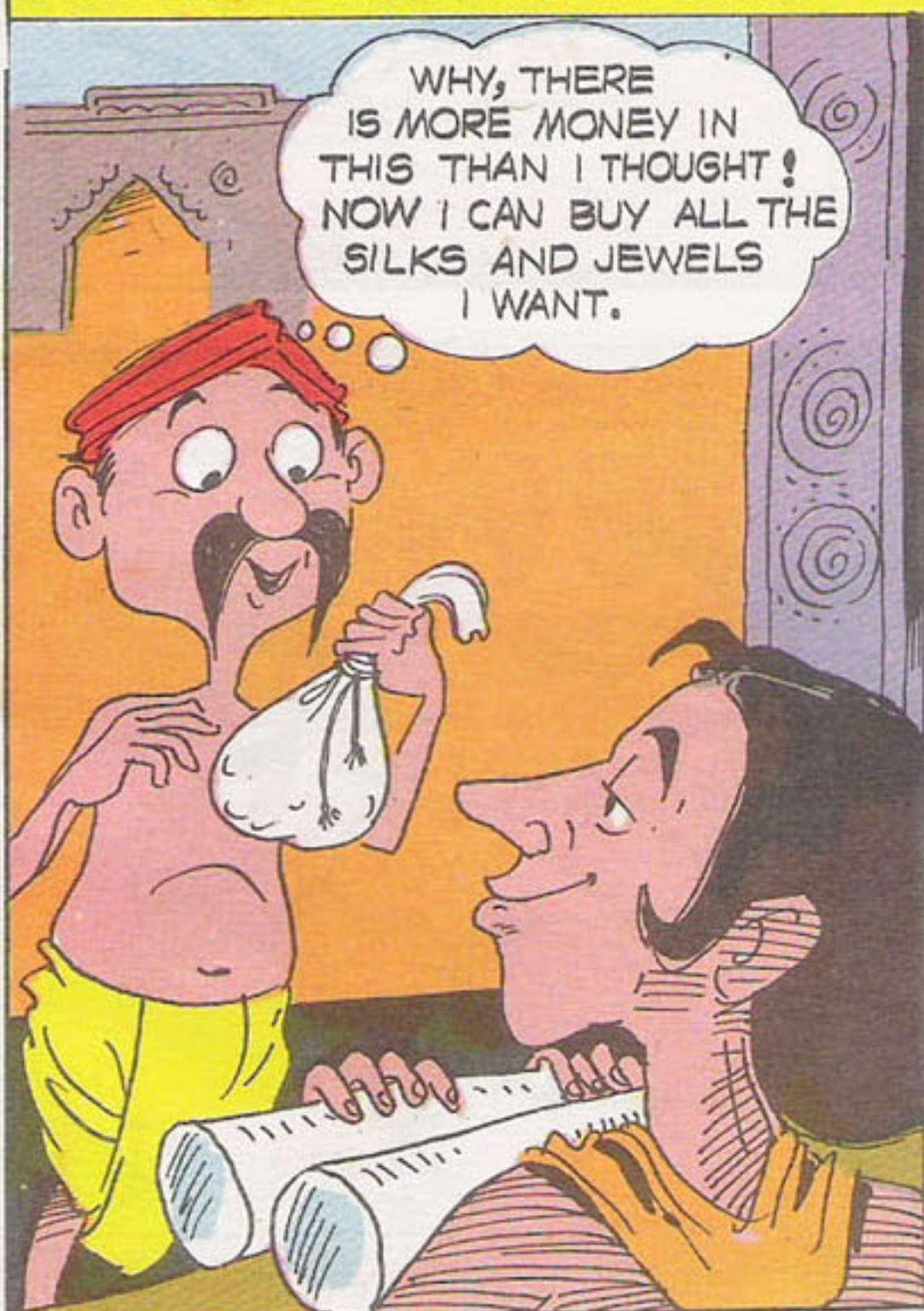


GREED GOT THE BETTER OF THE FORESTER. HE WENT BACK TO THE FOREST.





BACK IN VARANASI, THE FORESTER RECEIVED A BIG SUM OF MONEY FOR THE TUSKS.



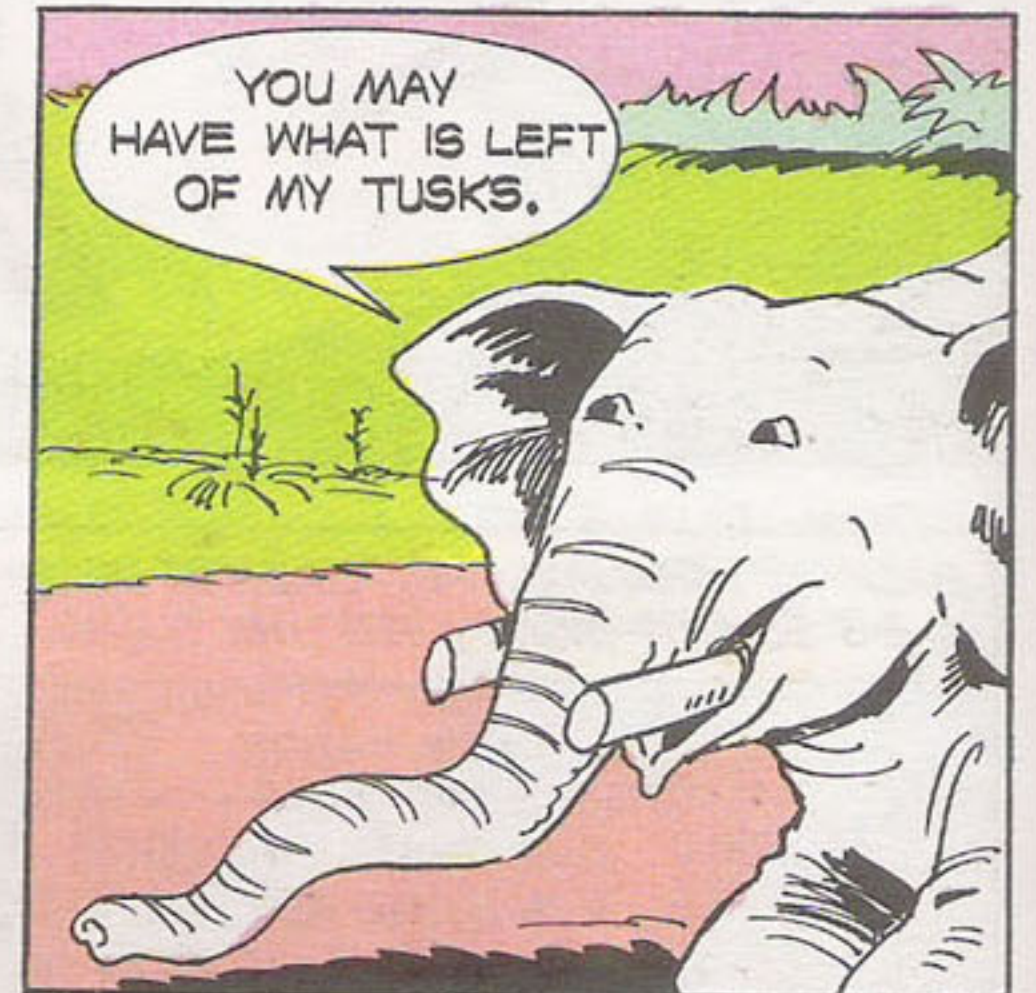
THAT NIGHT THE FORESTER COULD NOT SLEEP.



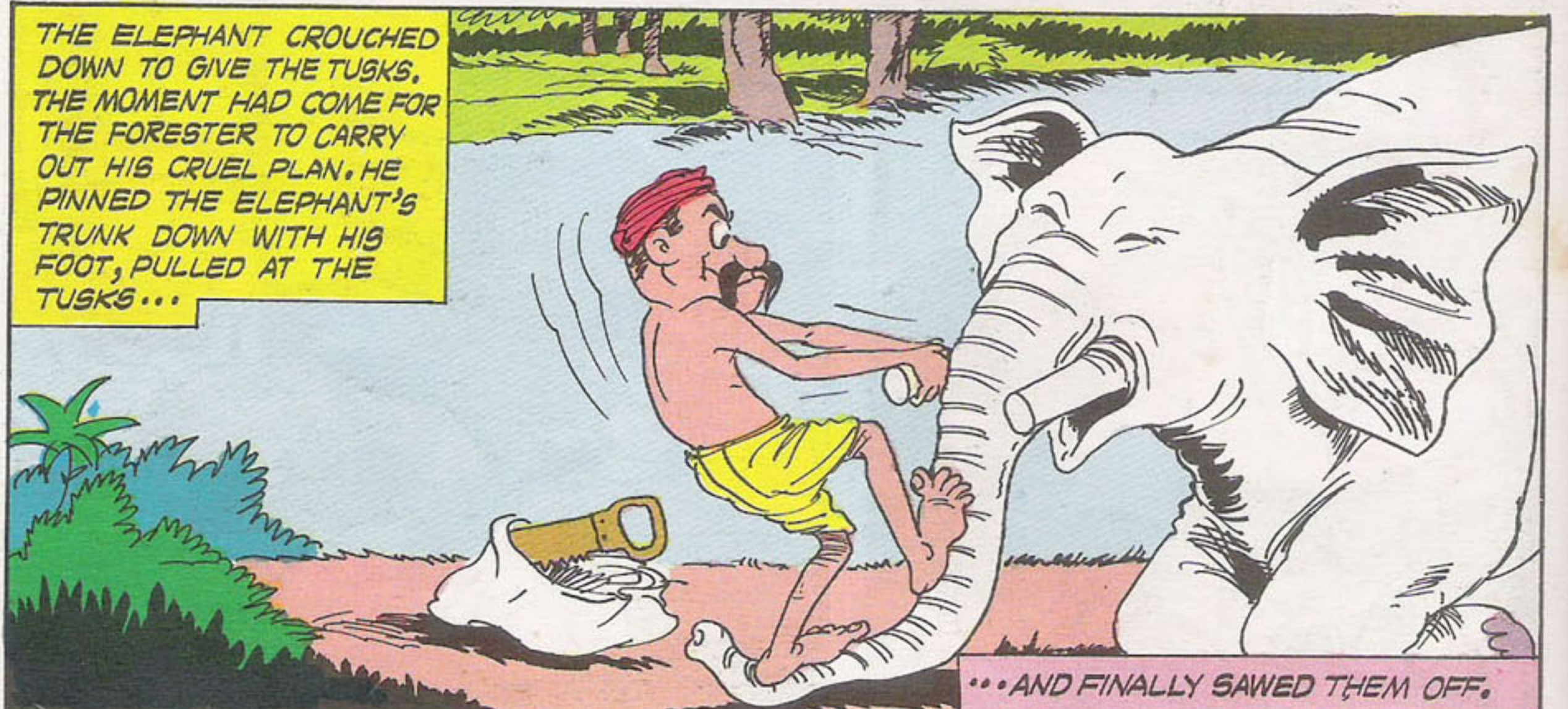
SO BACK HE WENT TO THE ELEPHANT. GREED HAD HARDENED HIS HEART.

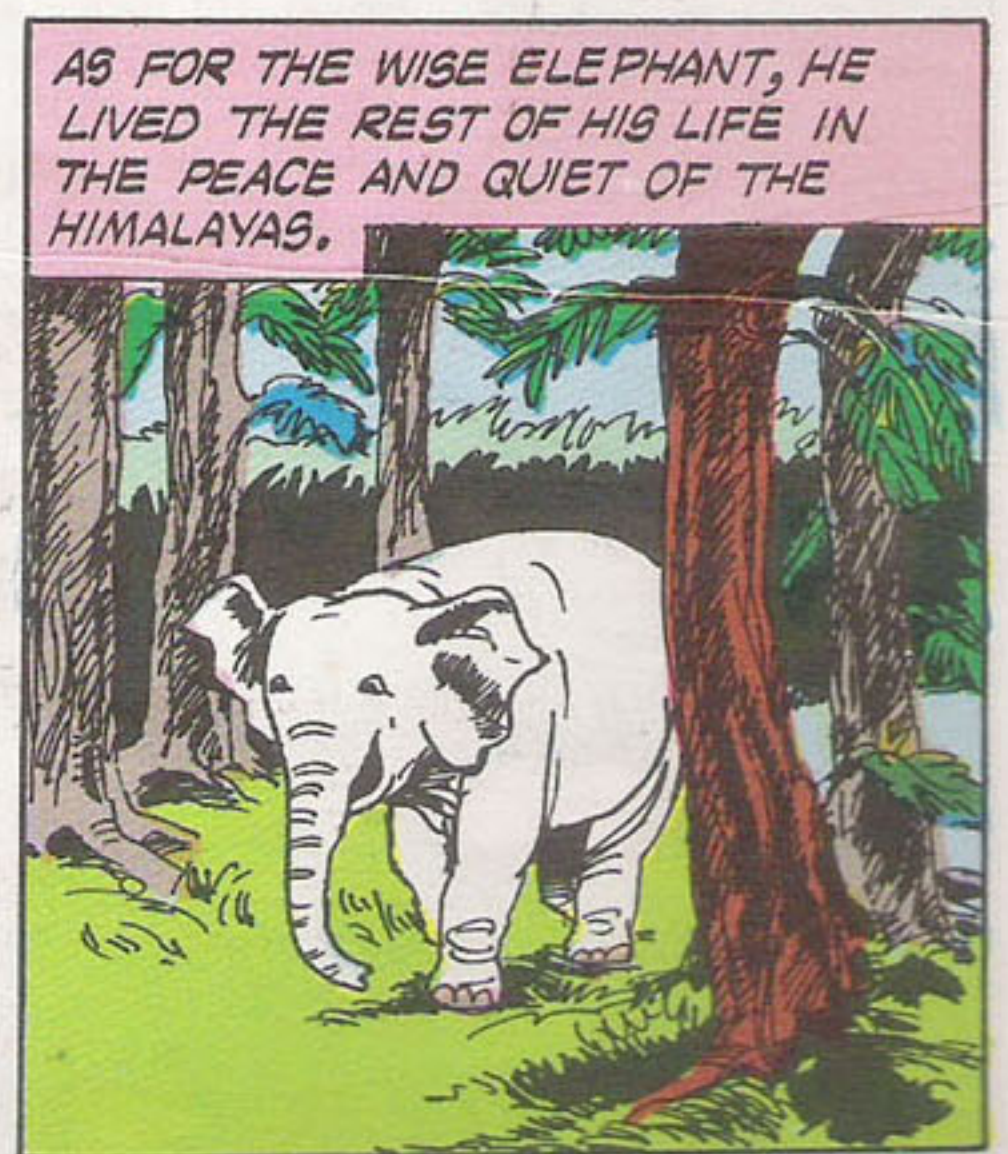
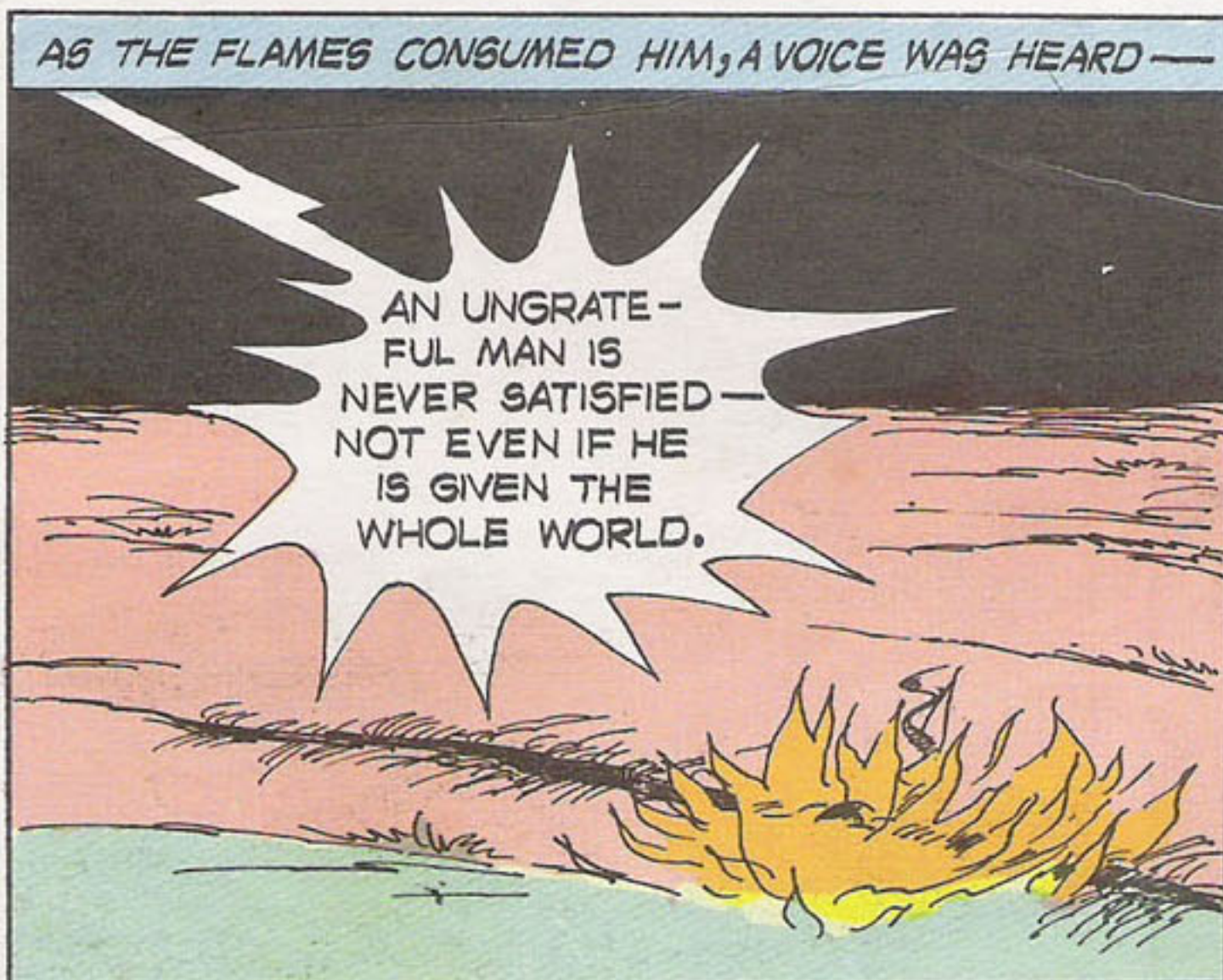
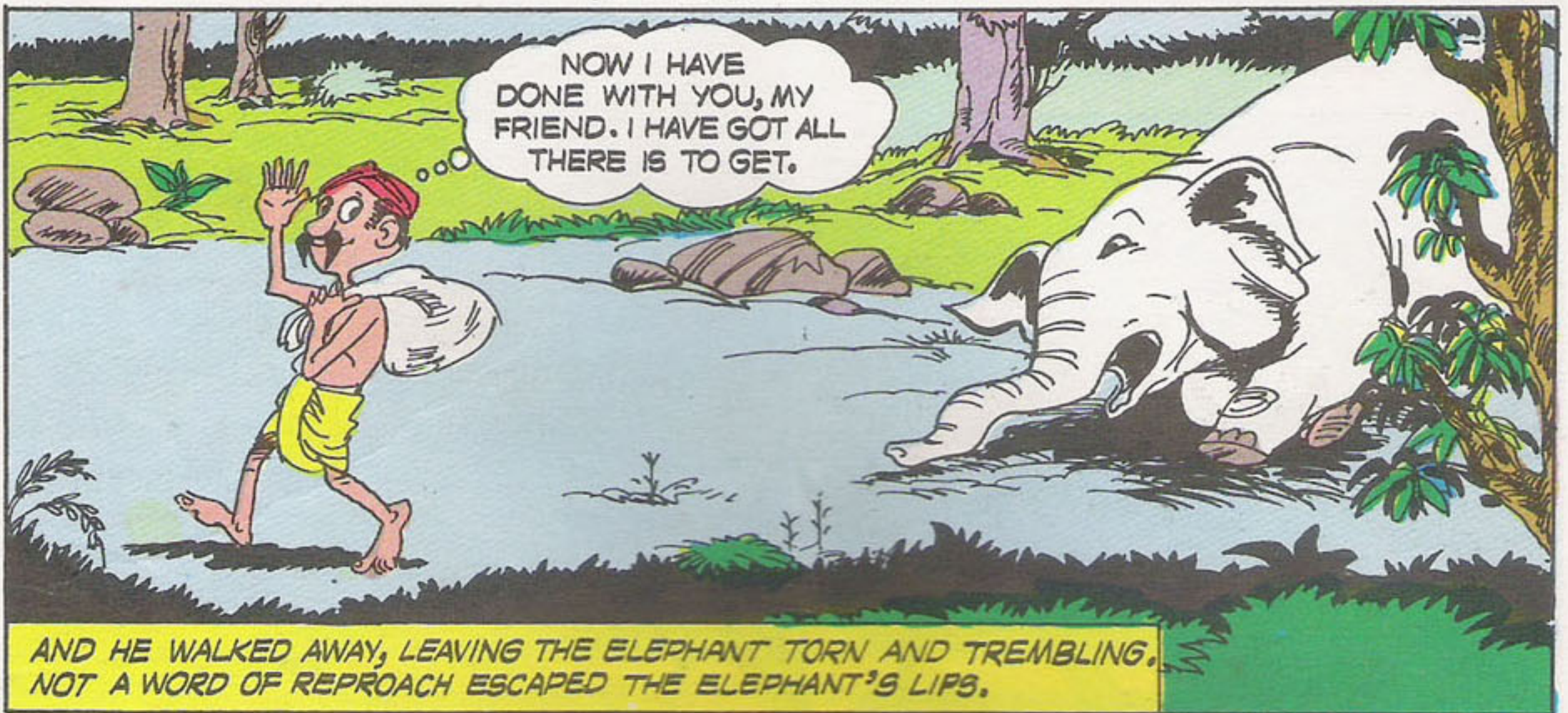


YOU MAY HAVE WHAT IS LEFT OF MY TUSKS.

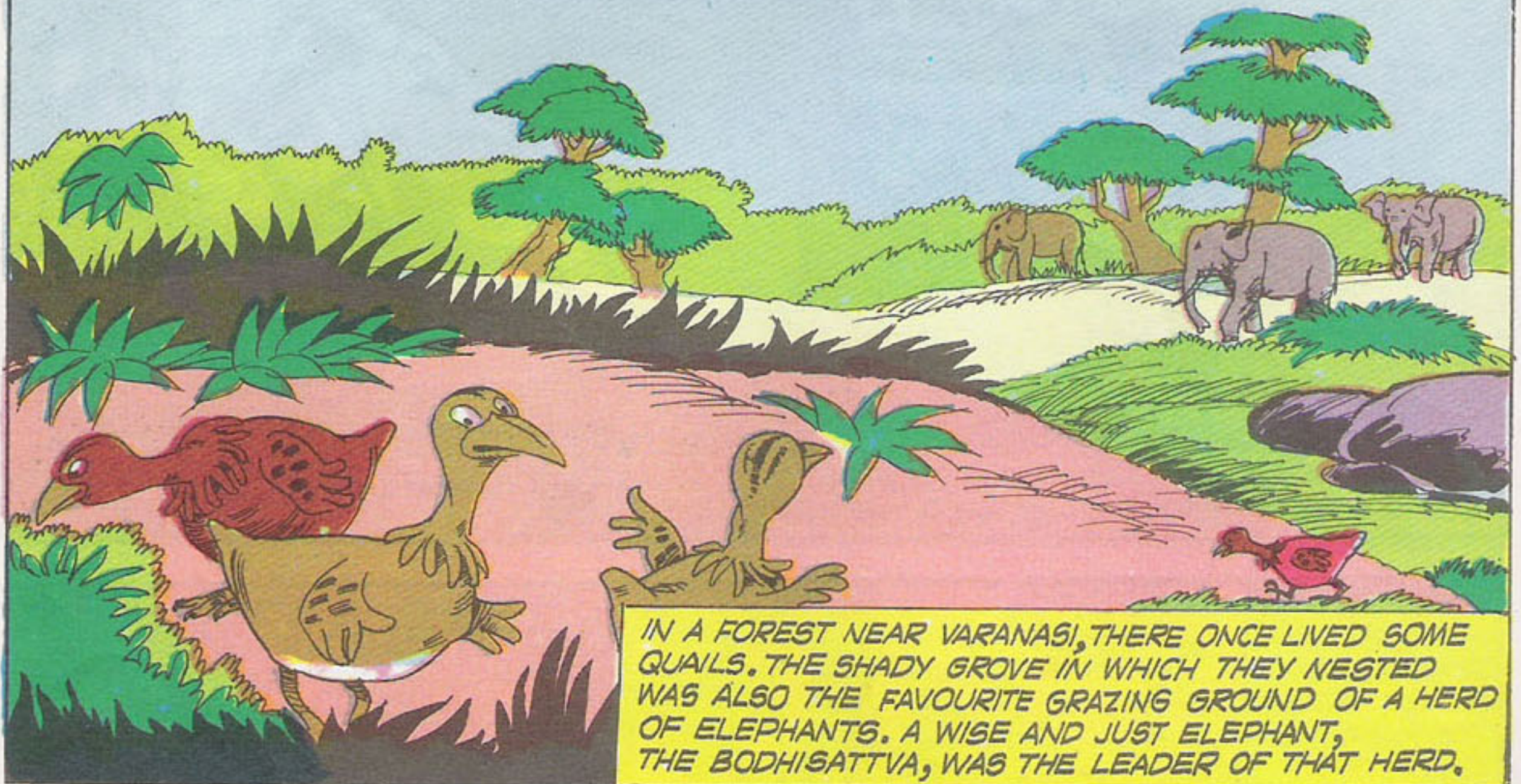


THE ELEPHANT CROUCHED DOWN TO GIVE THE TUSKS. THE MOMENT HAD COME FOR THE FORESTER TO CARRY OUT HIS CRUEL PLAN. HE PINNED THE ELEPHANT'S TRUNK DOWN WITH HIS FOOT, PULLED AT THE TUSKS...

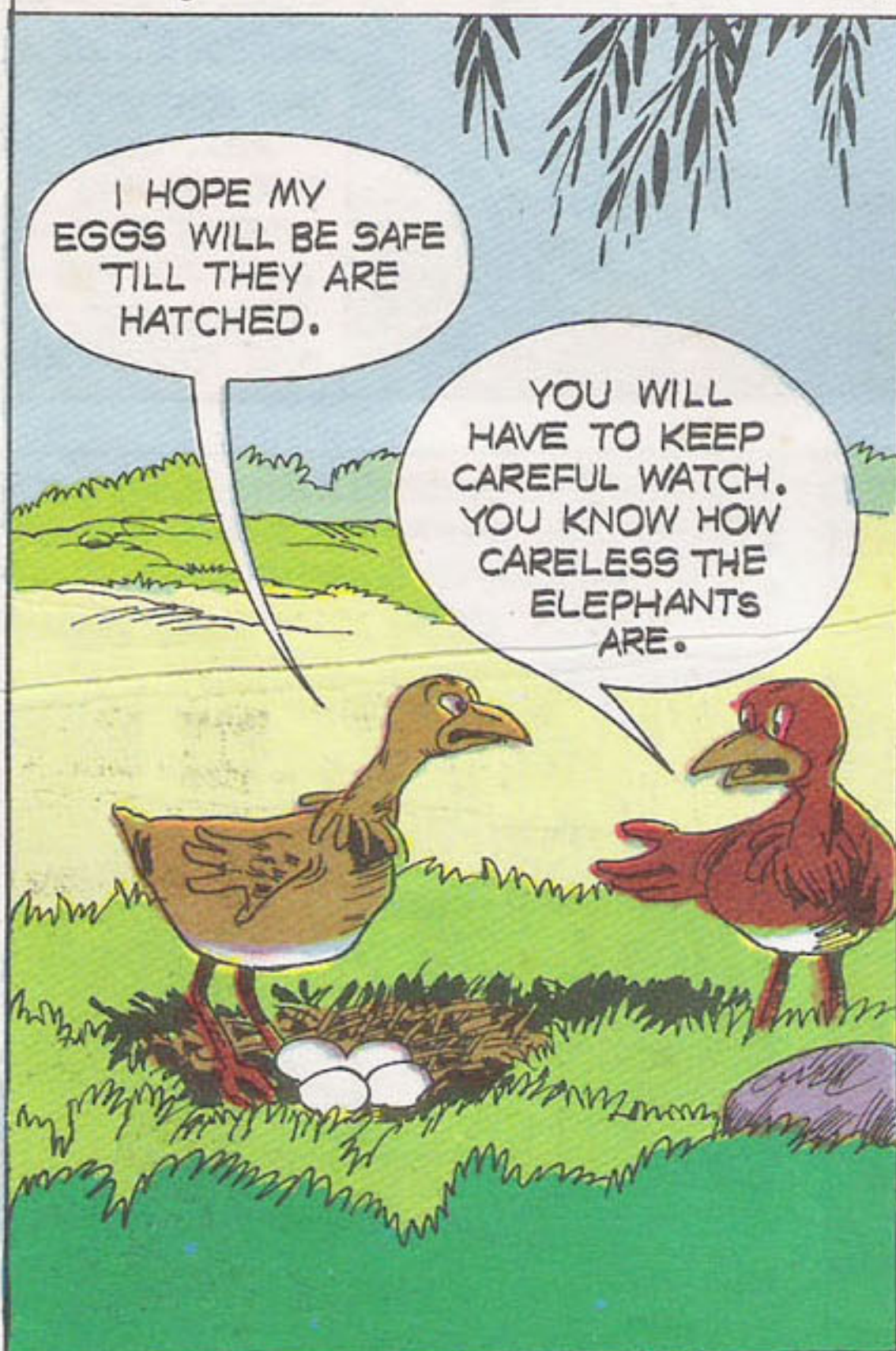




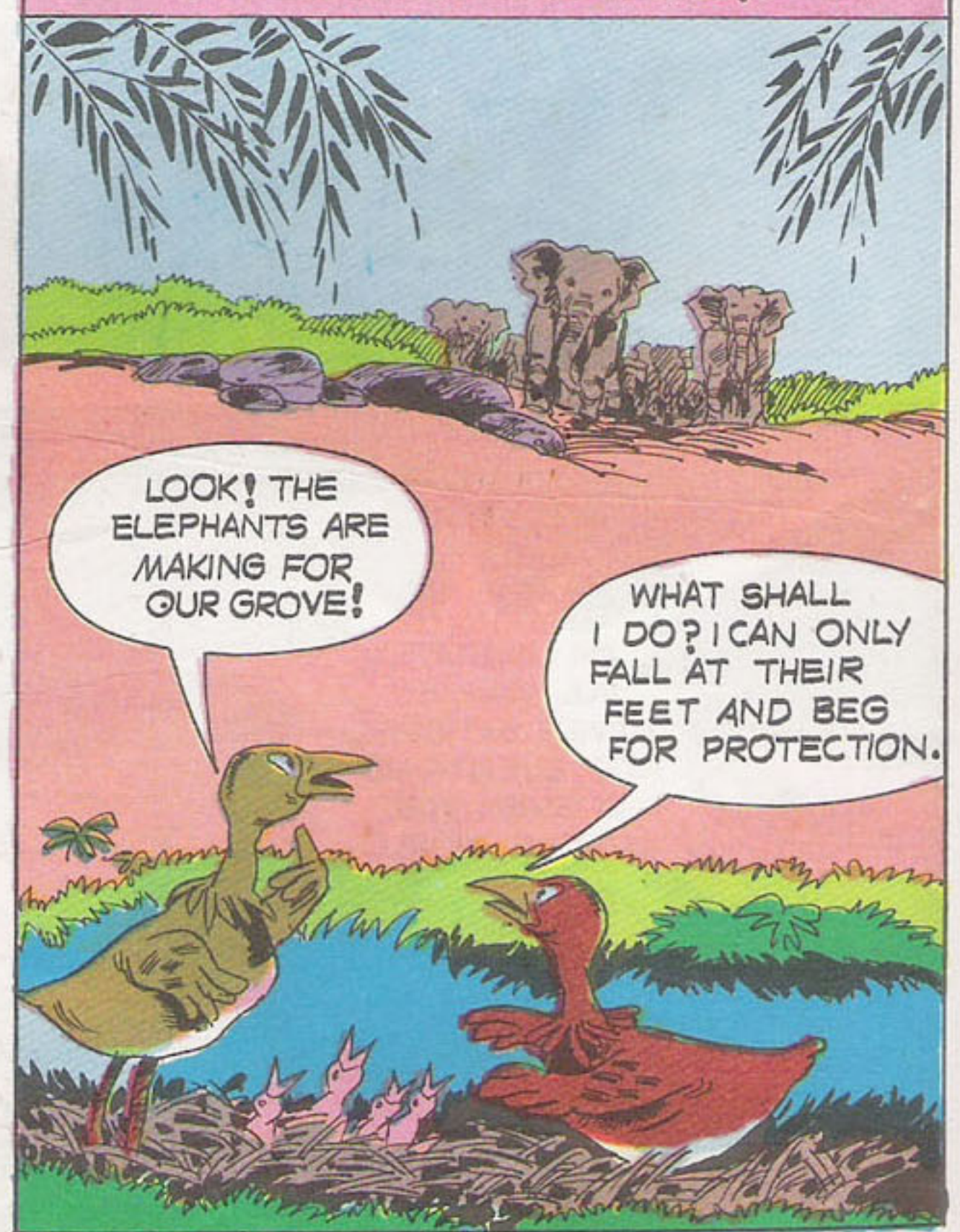
THE BRAVE QUAIL*



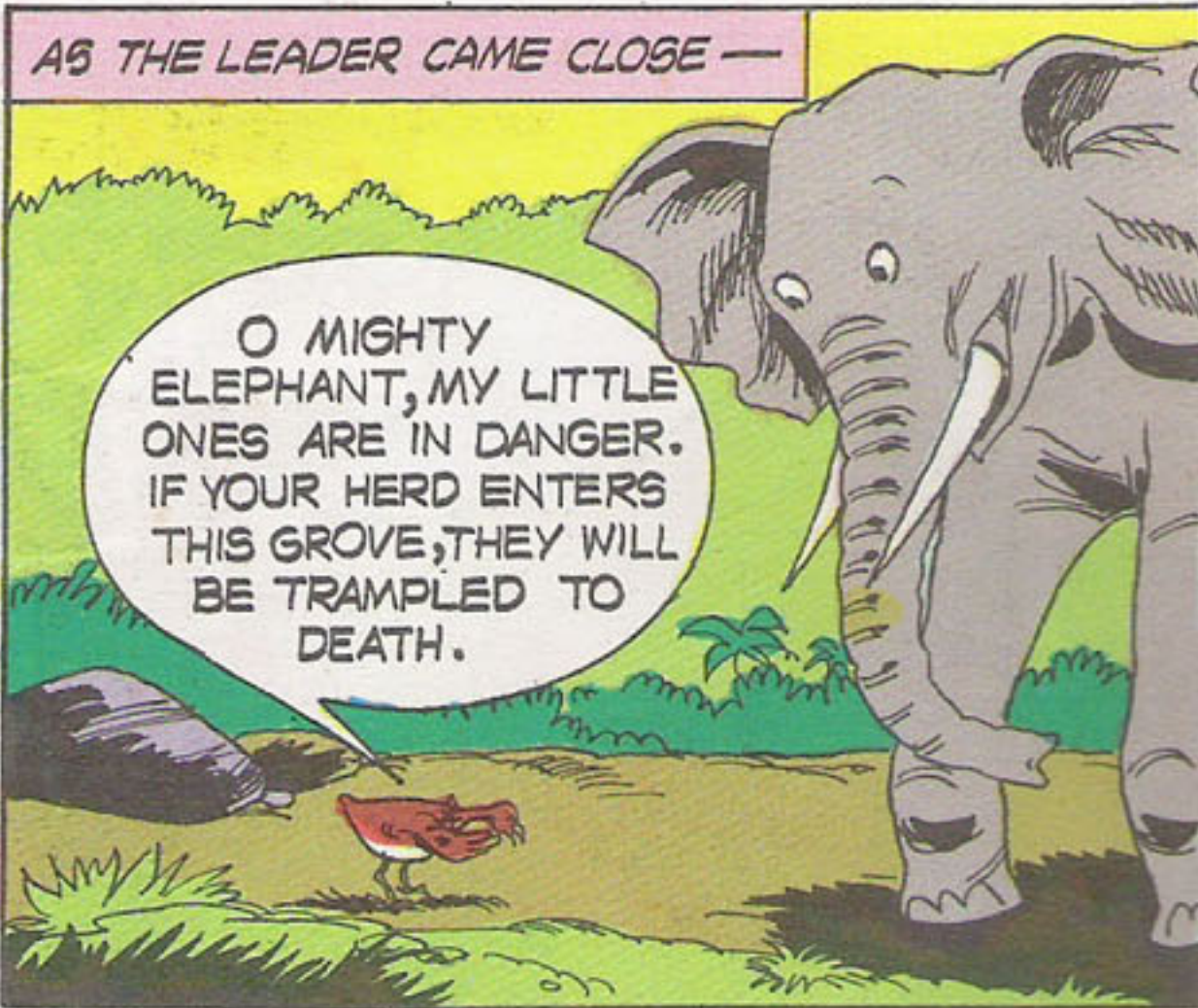
ONE DAY, ONE OF THE QUAILS LAID SOME EGGS.



SOON THE FLEDGLINGS WERE HATCHED, ONE DAY—

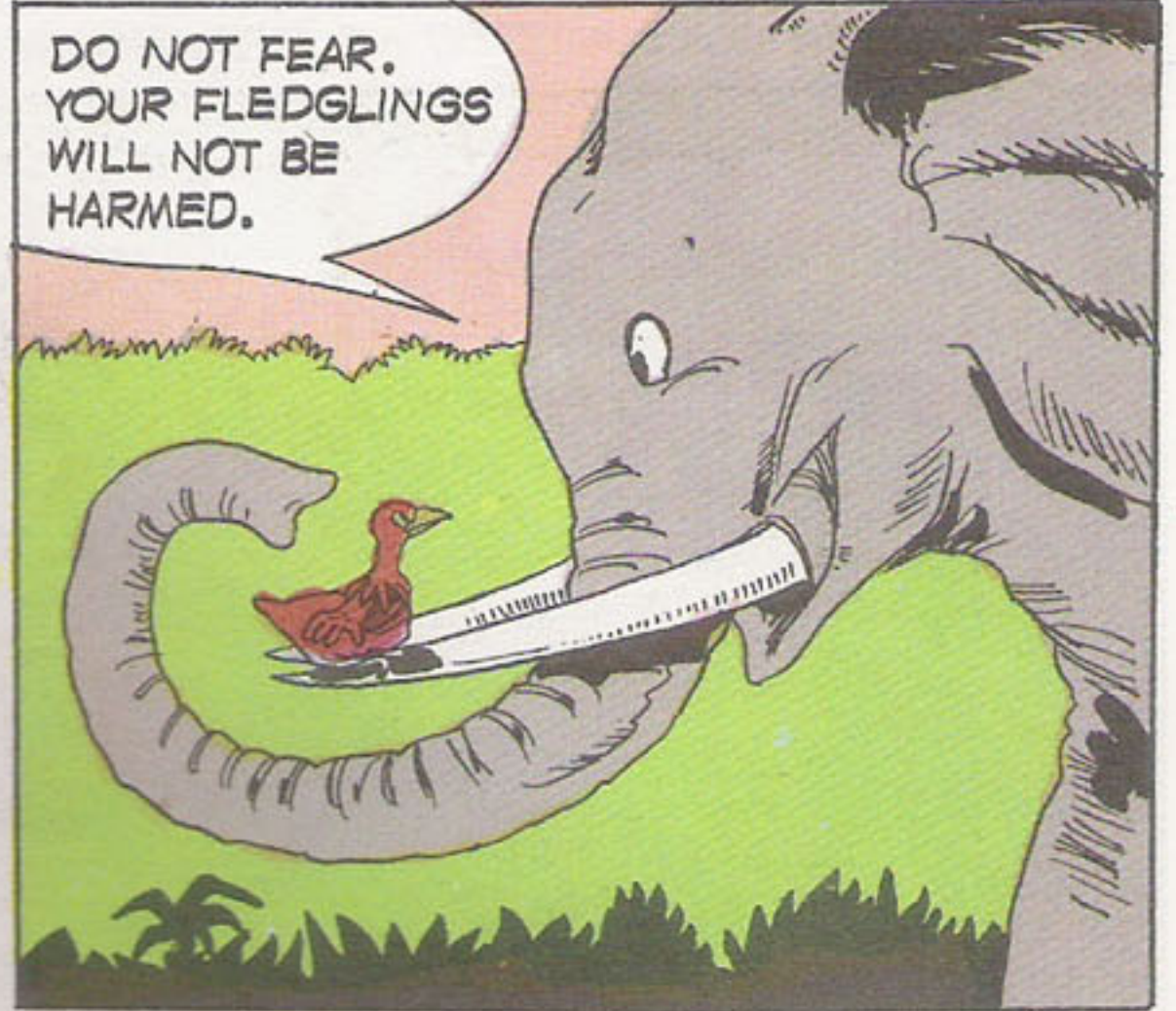


AS THE LEADER CAME CLOSE —

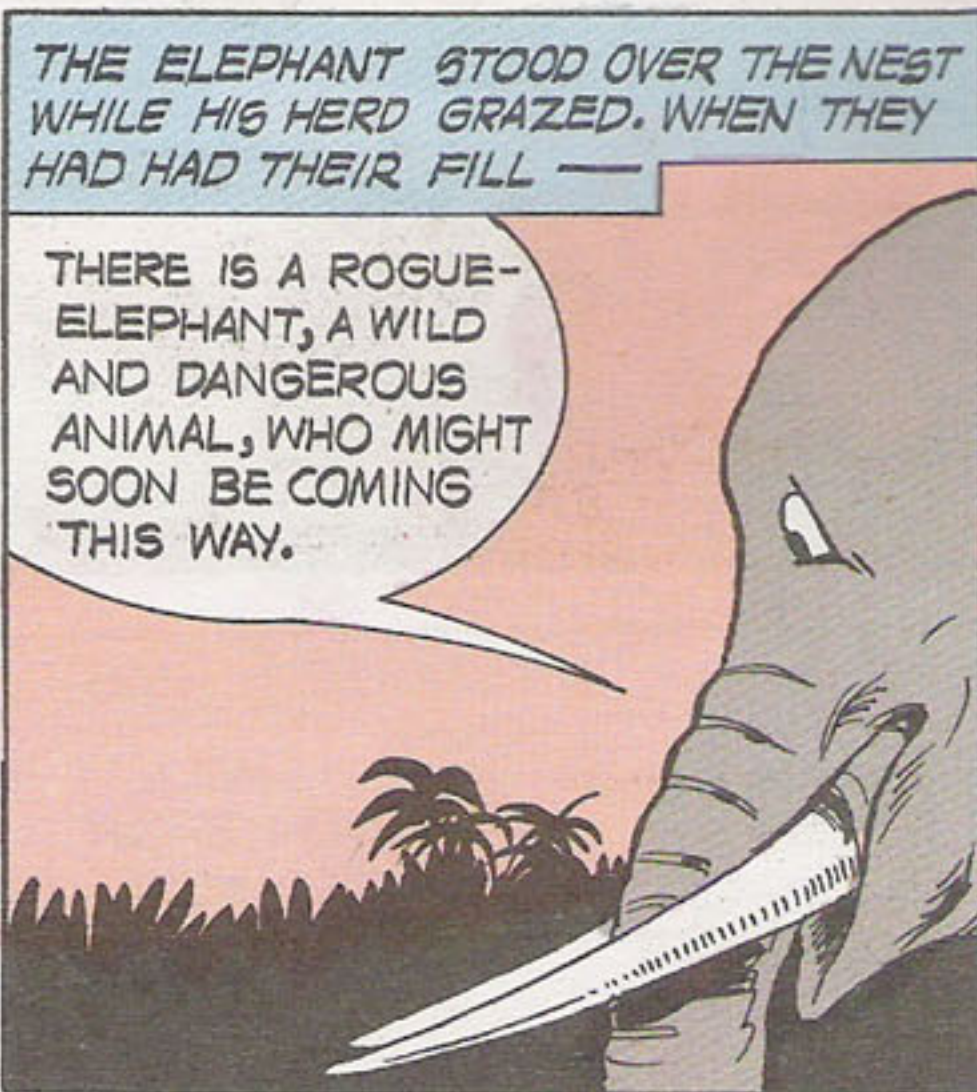


O MIGHTY ELEPHANT, MY LITTLE ONES ARE IN DANGER. IF YOUR HERD ENTERS THIS GROVE, THEY WILL BE TRAMPLED TO DEATH.

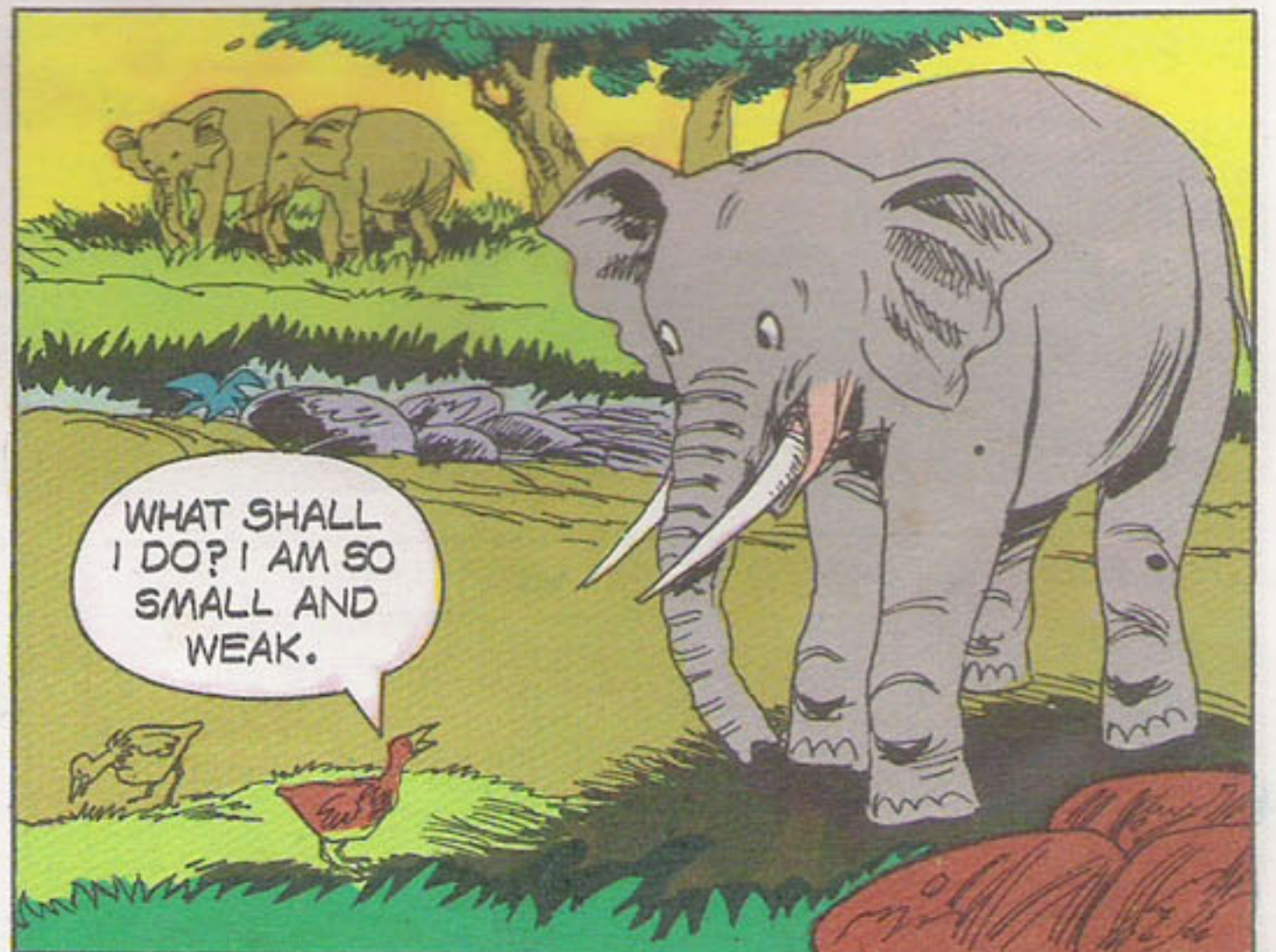
DO NOT FEAR. YOUR FLEDGLINGS WILL NOT BE HARMED.



THE ELEPHANT STOOD OVER THE NEST WHILE HIS HERD GRAZED. WHEN THEY HAD HAD THEIR FILL —

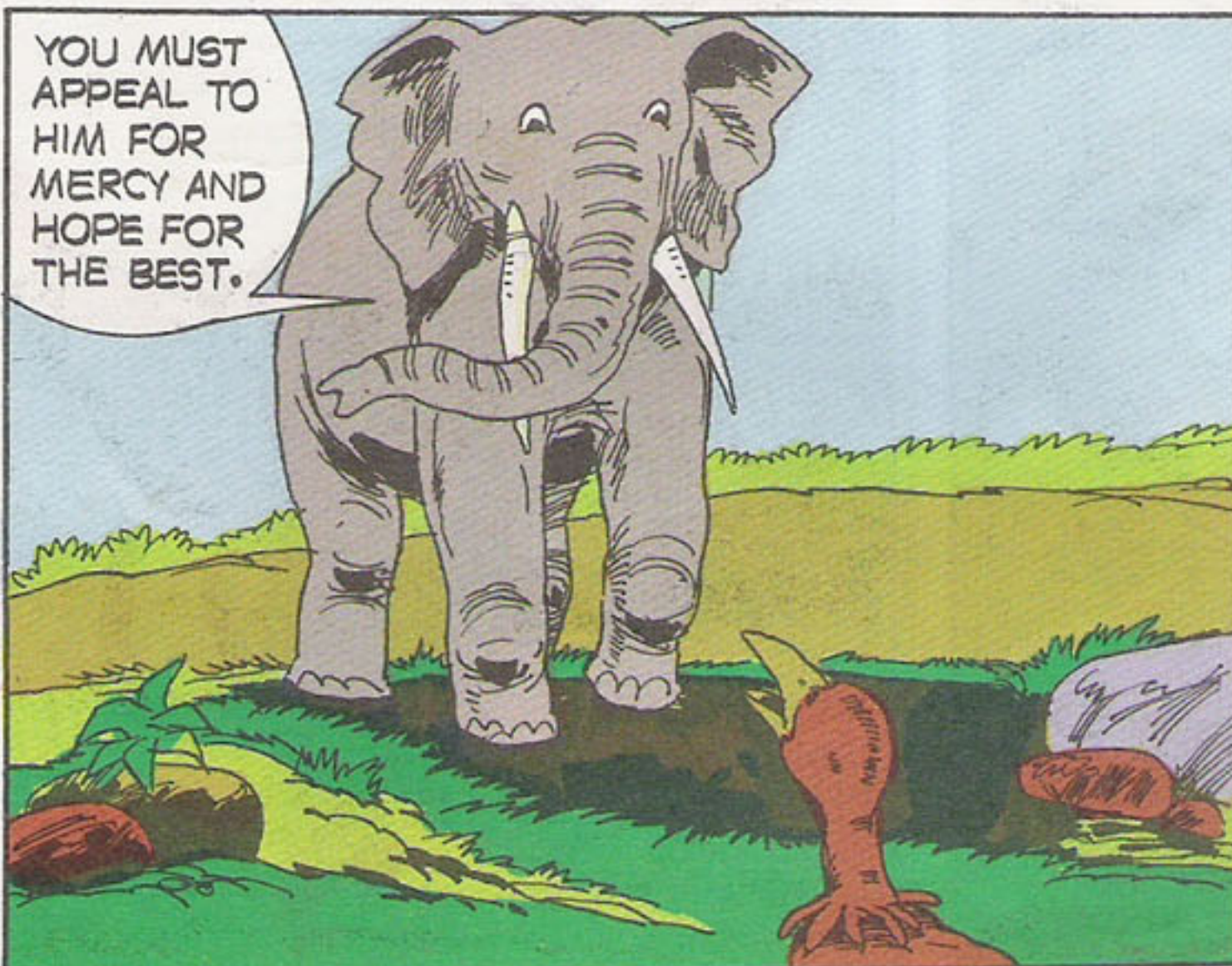


THERE IS A ROGUE-ELEPHANT, A WILD AND DANGEROUS ANIMAL, WHO MIGHT SOON BE COMING THIS WAY.

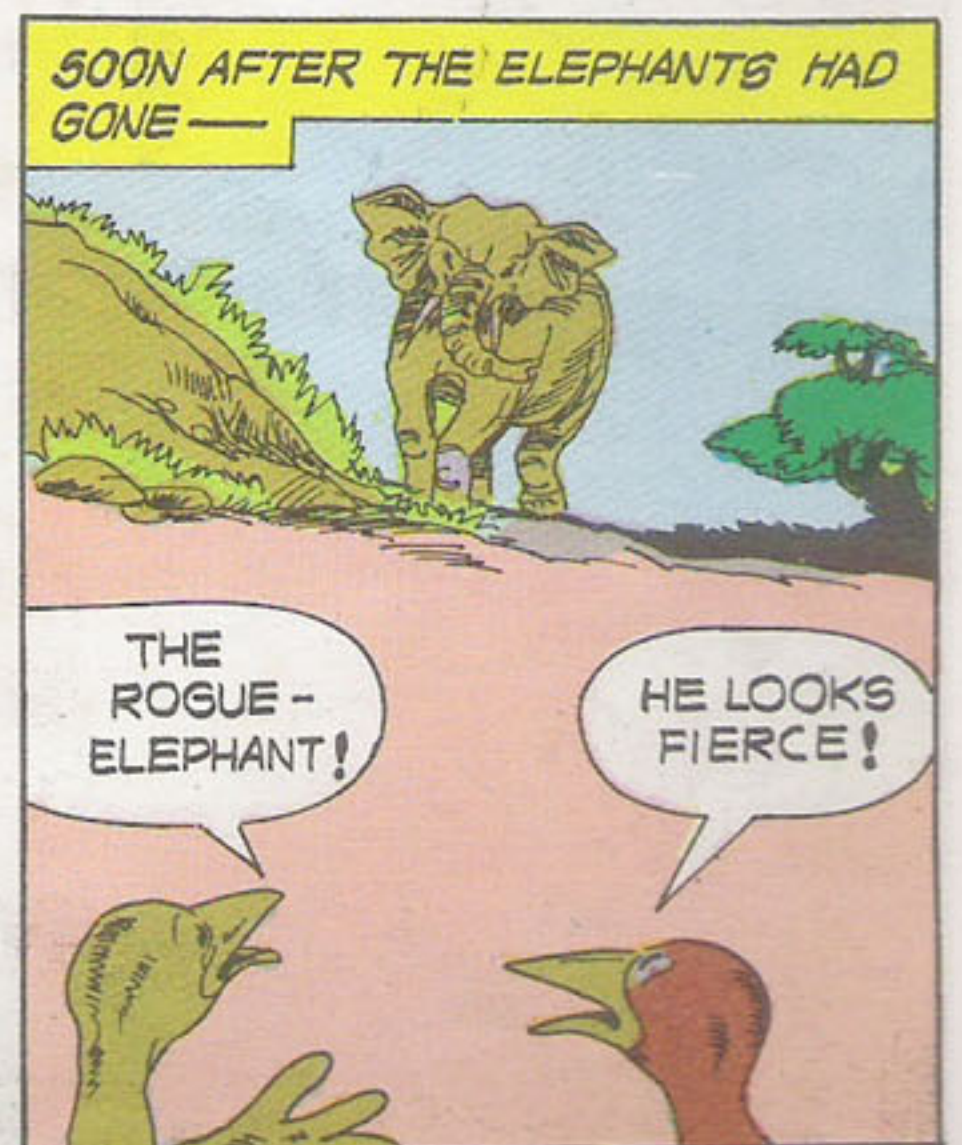


WHAT SHALL I DO? I AM SO SMALL AND WEAK.

YOU MUST APPEAL TO HIM FOR MERCY AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.



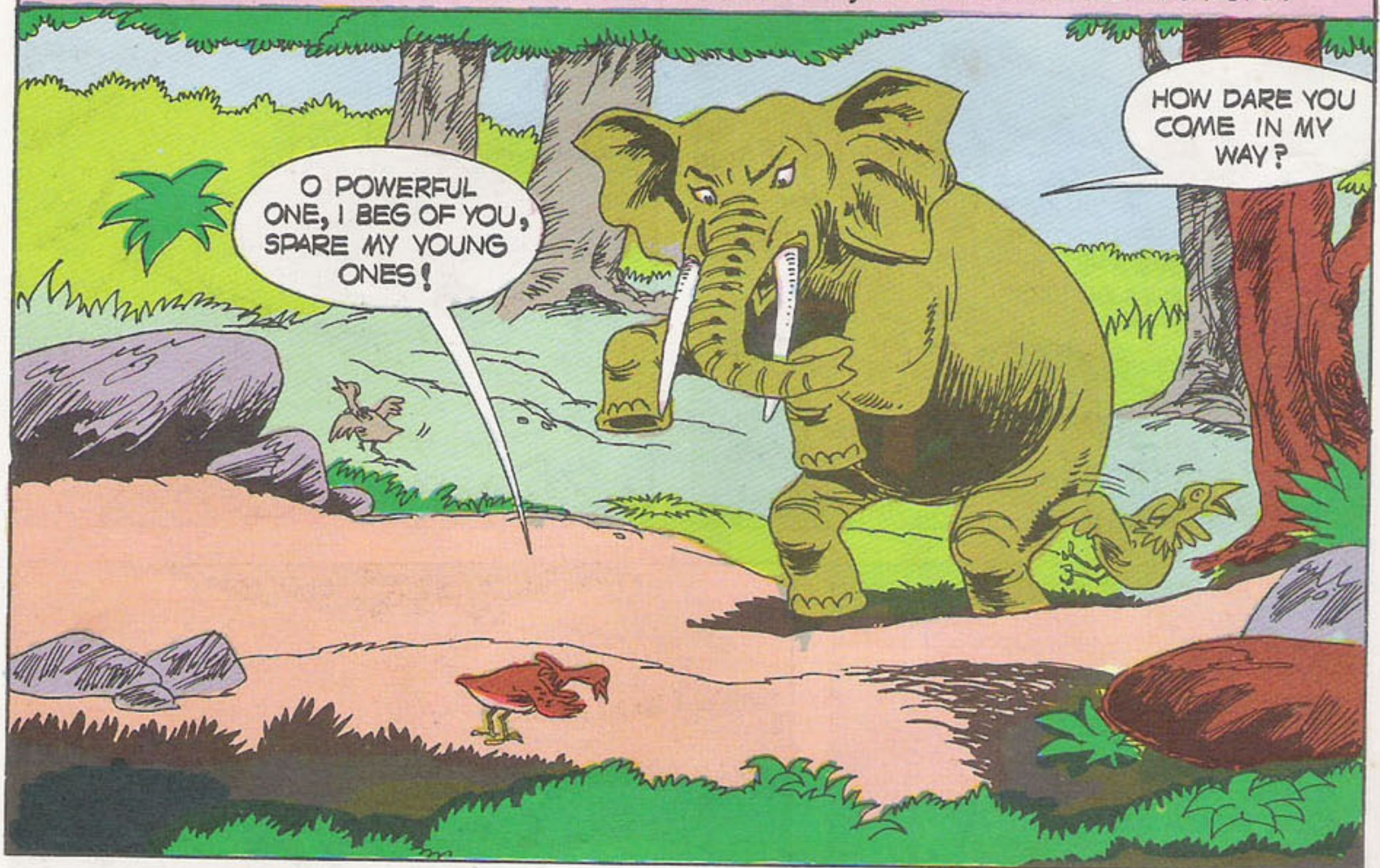
SOON AFTER THE ELEPHANTS HAD GONE —



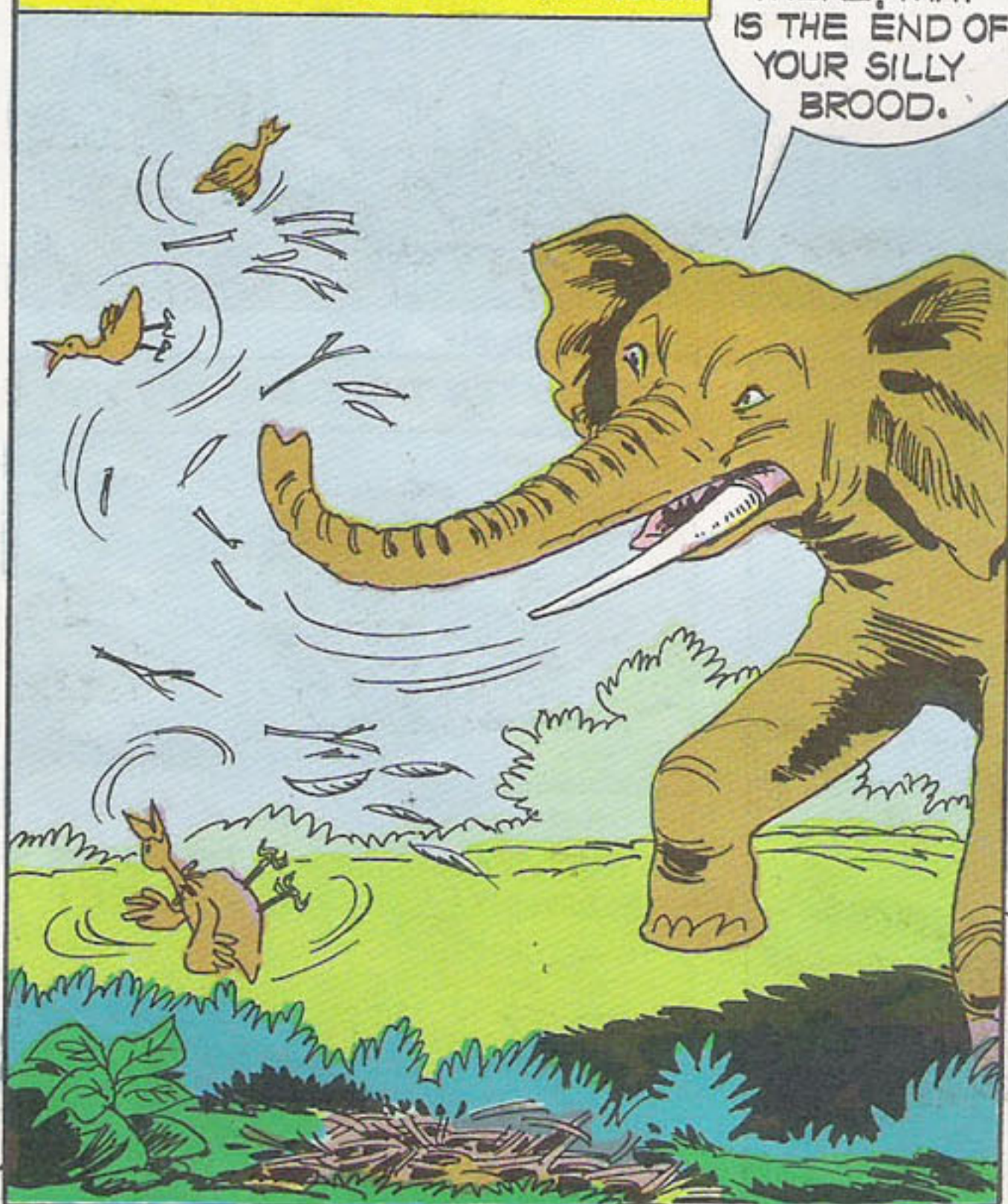
THE ROGUE-ELEPHANT!

HE LOOKS FIERCE!

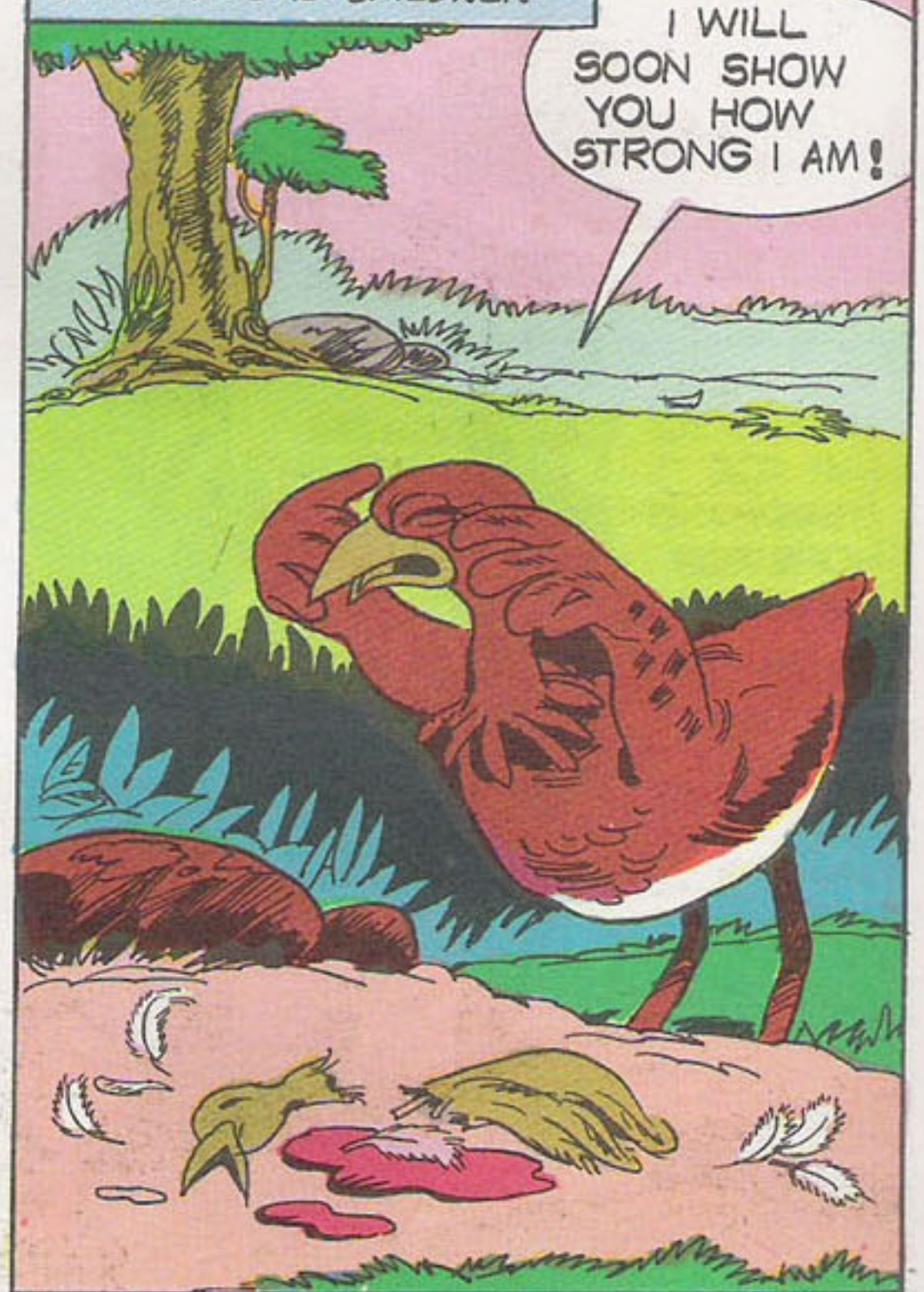
THE MOTHER QUAIL WASTED NO TIME. SHE WAS AT HIS FEET, HER HEAD LOWERED IN SALUTE.



THE ELEPHANT LASHED AT THE NEST.



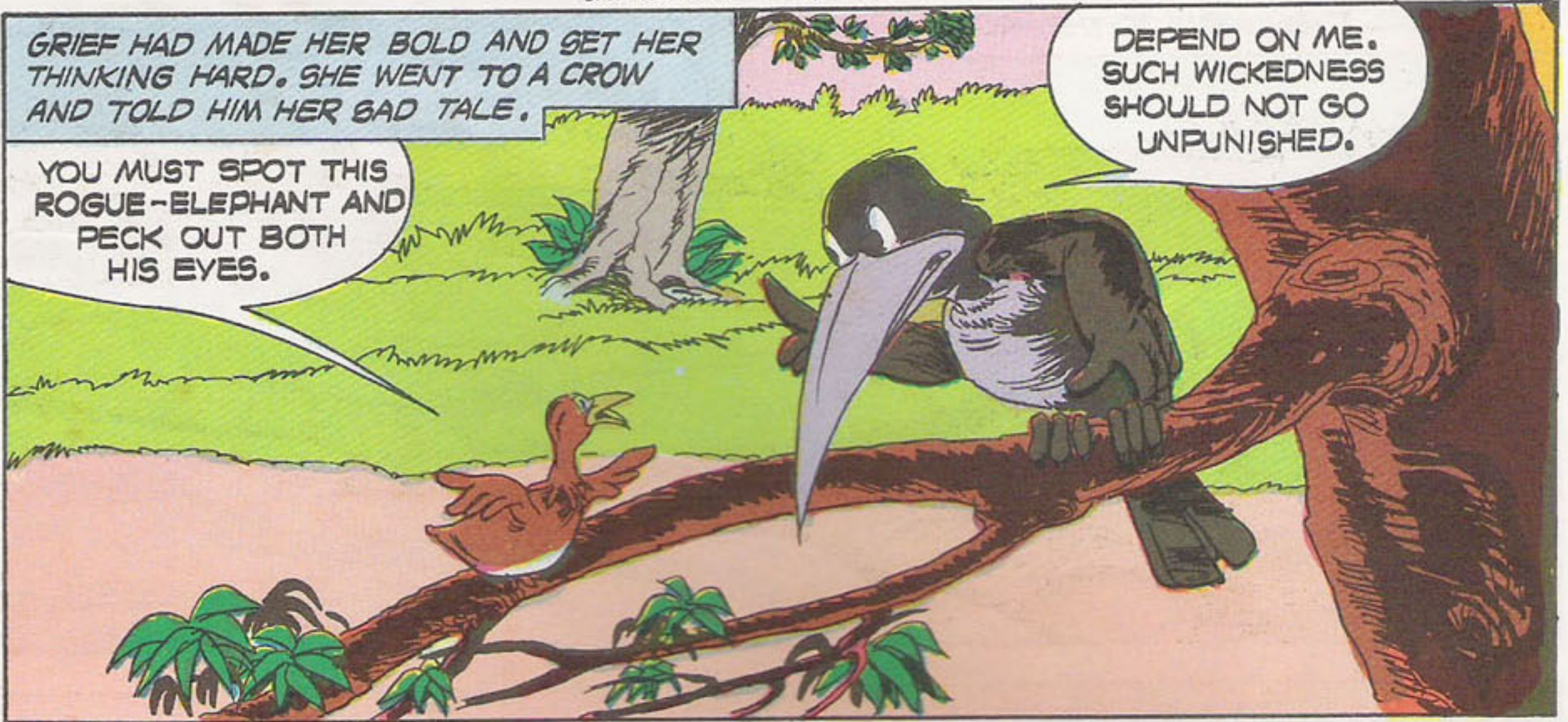
AS THE QUAIL WEPT OVER THE REMAINS OF HER DEAD CHILDREN —



GRIEF HAD MADE HER BOLD AND GET HER THINKING HARD. SHE WENT TO A CROW AND TOLD HIM HER BAD TALE.

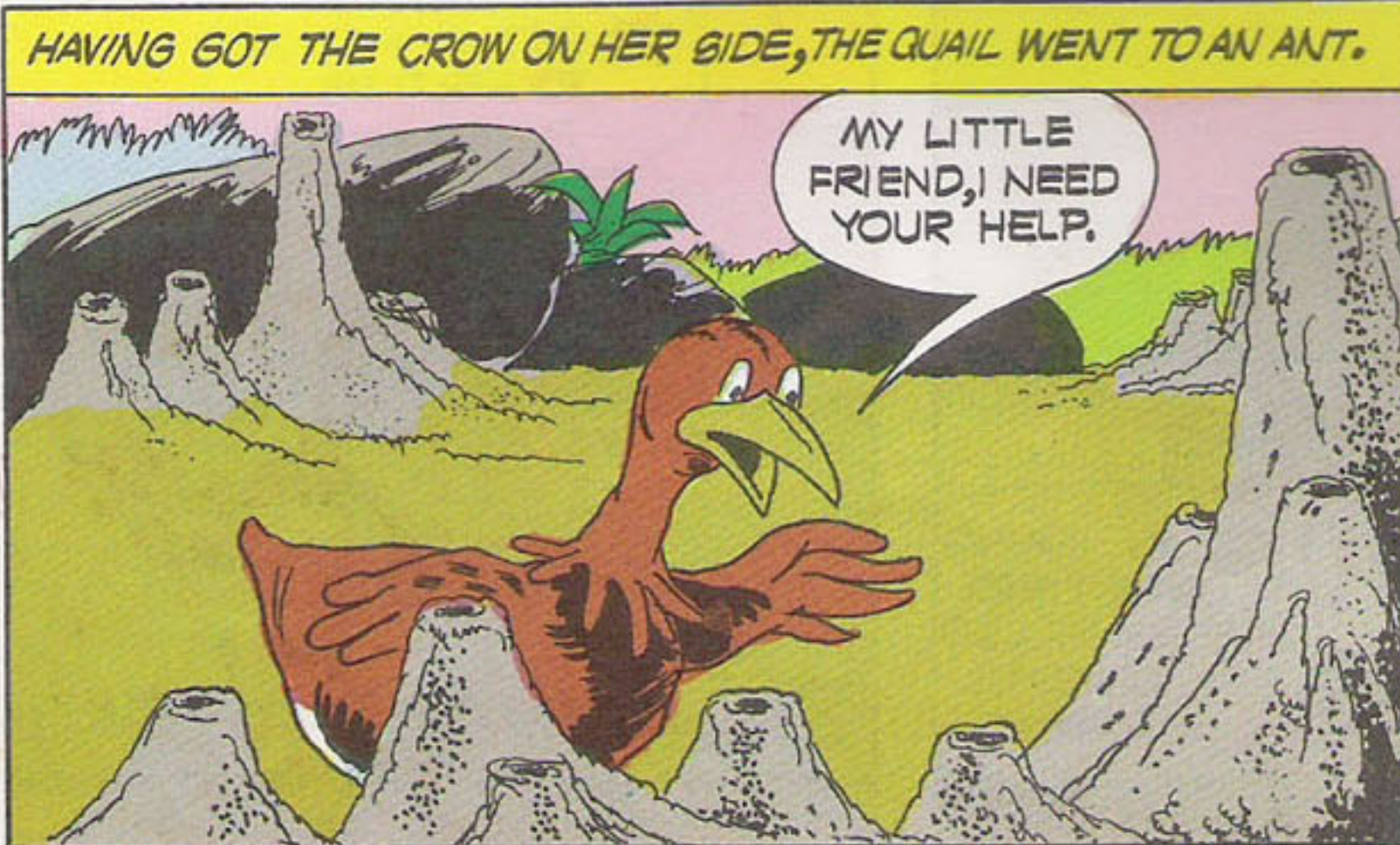
DEPEND ON ME. SUCH WICKEDNESS SHOULD NOT GO UNPUNISHED.

YOU MUST SPOT THIS ROGUE-ELEPHANT AND PECK OUT BOTH HIS EYES.



HAVING GOT THE CROW ON HER SIDE, THE QUAIL WENT TO AN ANT.

MY LITTLE FRIEND, I NEED YOUR HELP.

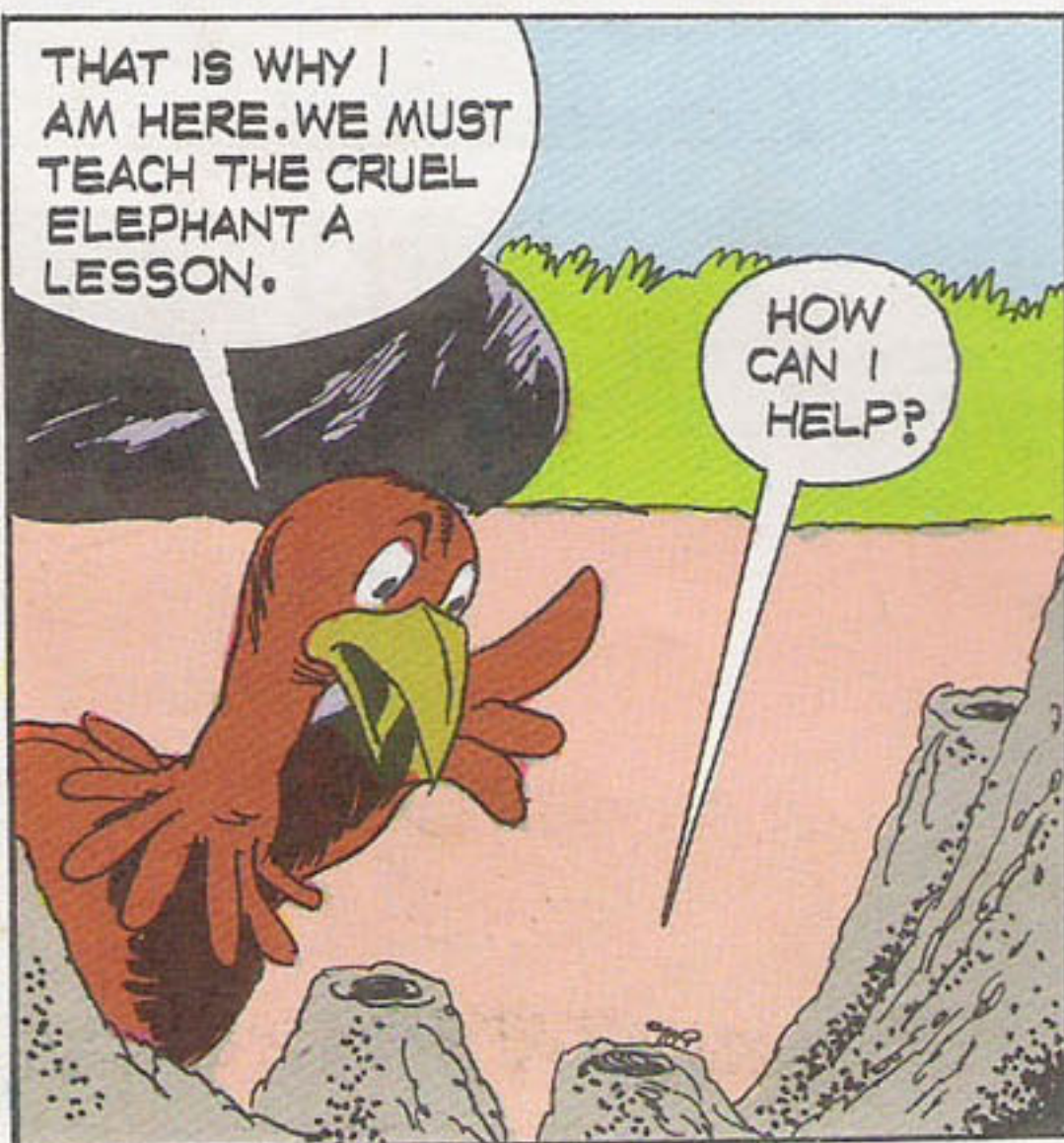


I HEARD ABOUT YOUR BABIES. I AM DEEPLY GRIEVED.



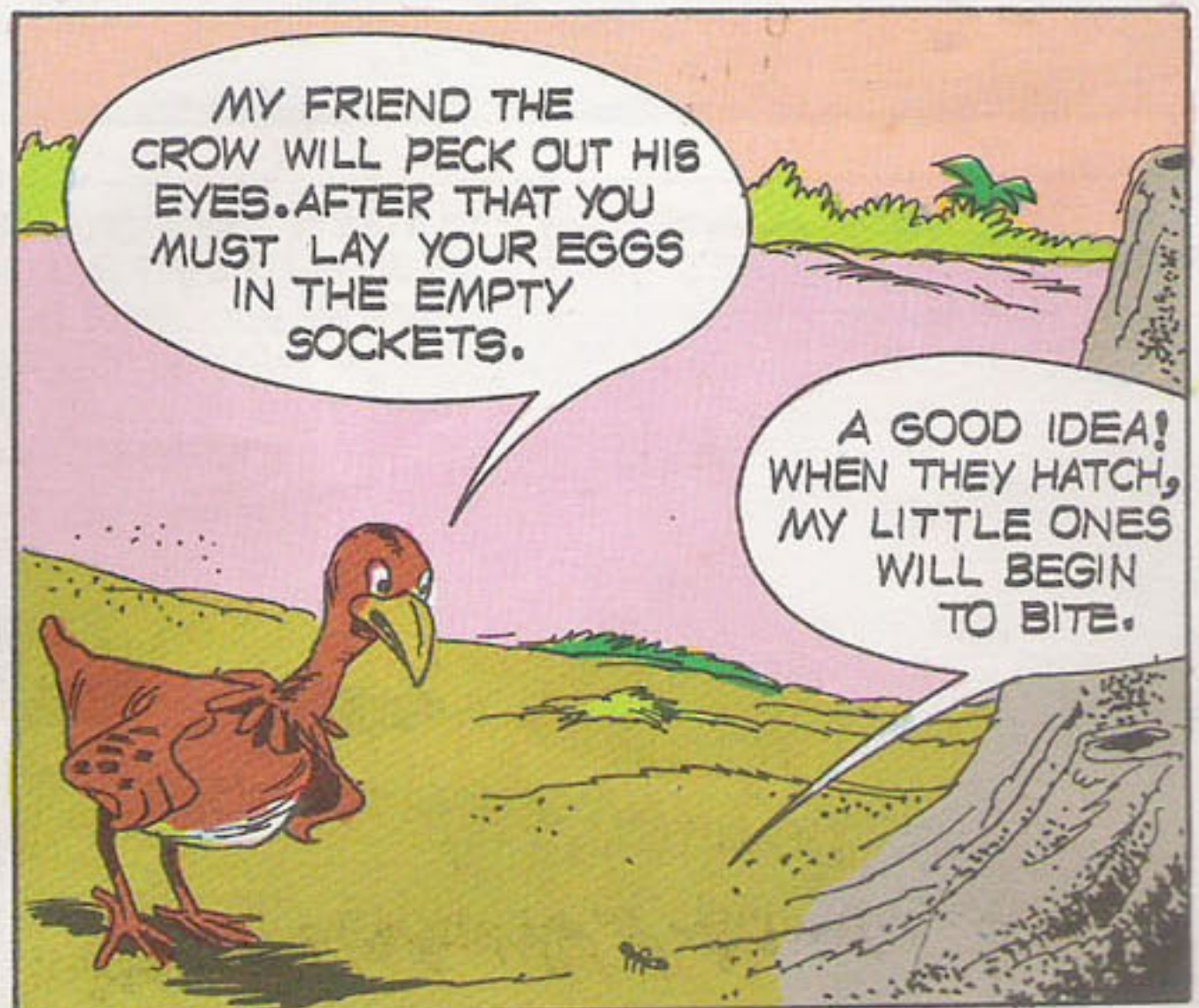
THAT IS WHY I AM HERE. WE MUST TEACH THE CRUEL ELEPHANT A LESSON.

HOW CAN I HELP?



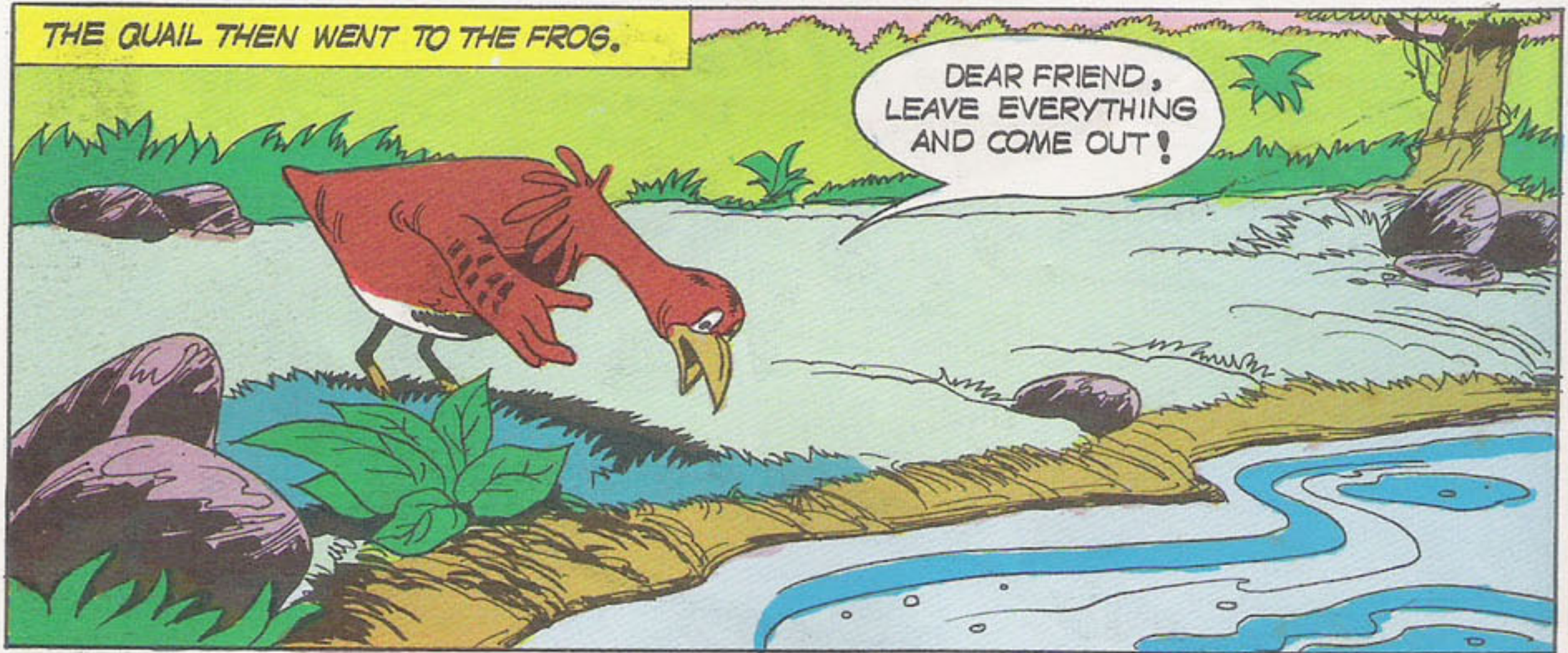
MY FRIEND THE CROW WILL PECK OUT HIS EYES. AFTER THAT YOU MUST LAY YOUR EGGS IN THE EMPTY SOCKETS.

A GOOD IDEA! WHEN THEY HATCH, MY LITTLE ONES WILL BEGIN TO BITE.



THE QUAIL THEN WENT TO THE FROG.

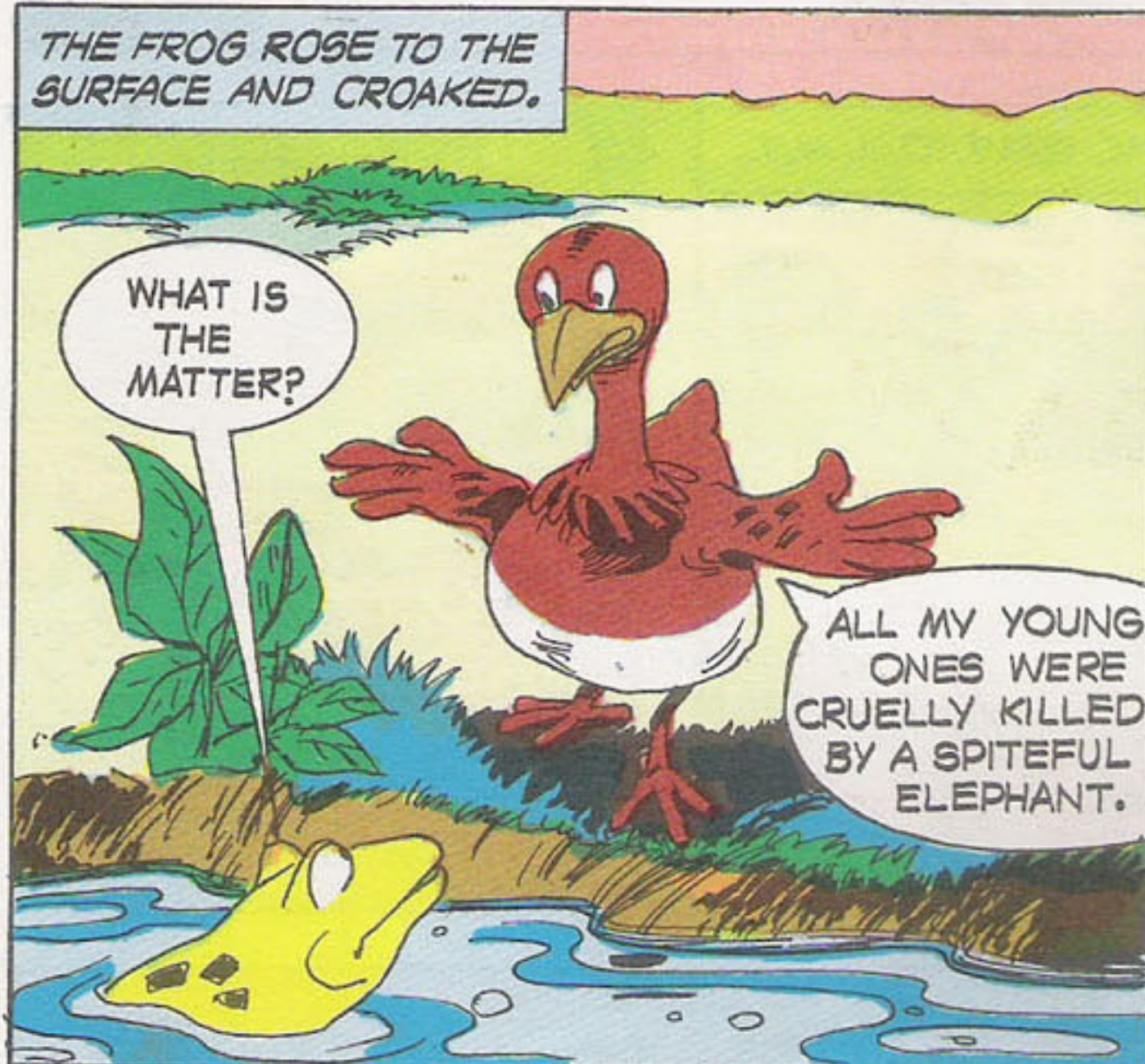
DEAR FRIEND,
LEAVE EVERYTHING
AND COME OUT!



THE FROG ROSE TO THE
SURFACE AND CROAKED.

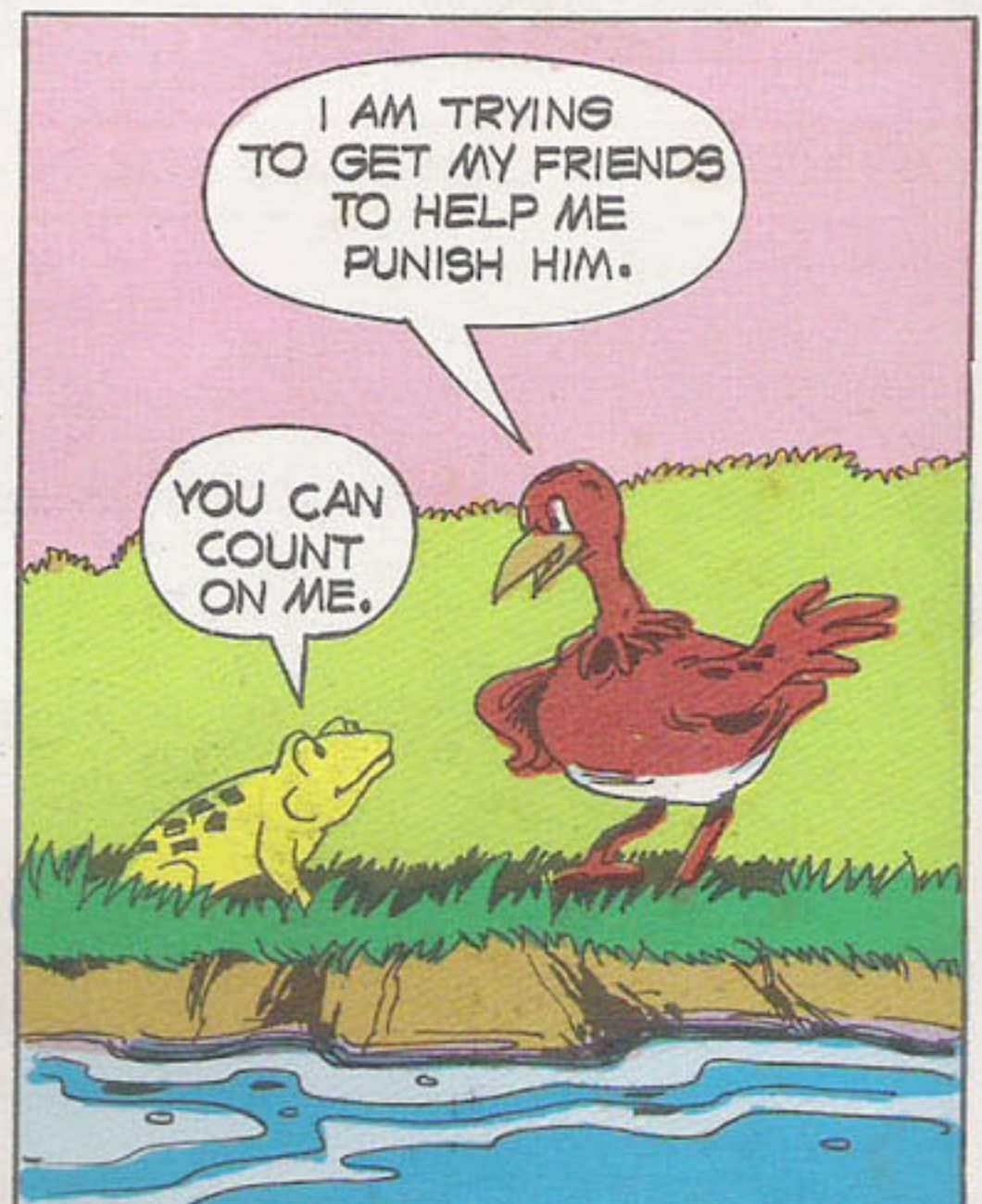
WHAT IS
THE
MATTER?

ALL MY YOUNG
ONES WERE
CRUELLY KILLED
BY A SPITEFUL
ELEPHANT.



I AM TRYING
TO GET MY FRIENDS
TO HELP ME
PUNISH HIM.

YOU CAN
COUNT
ON ME.

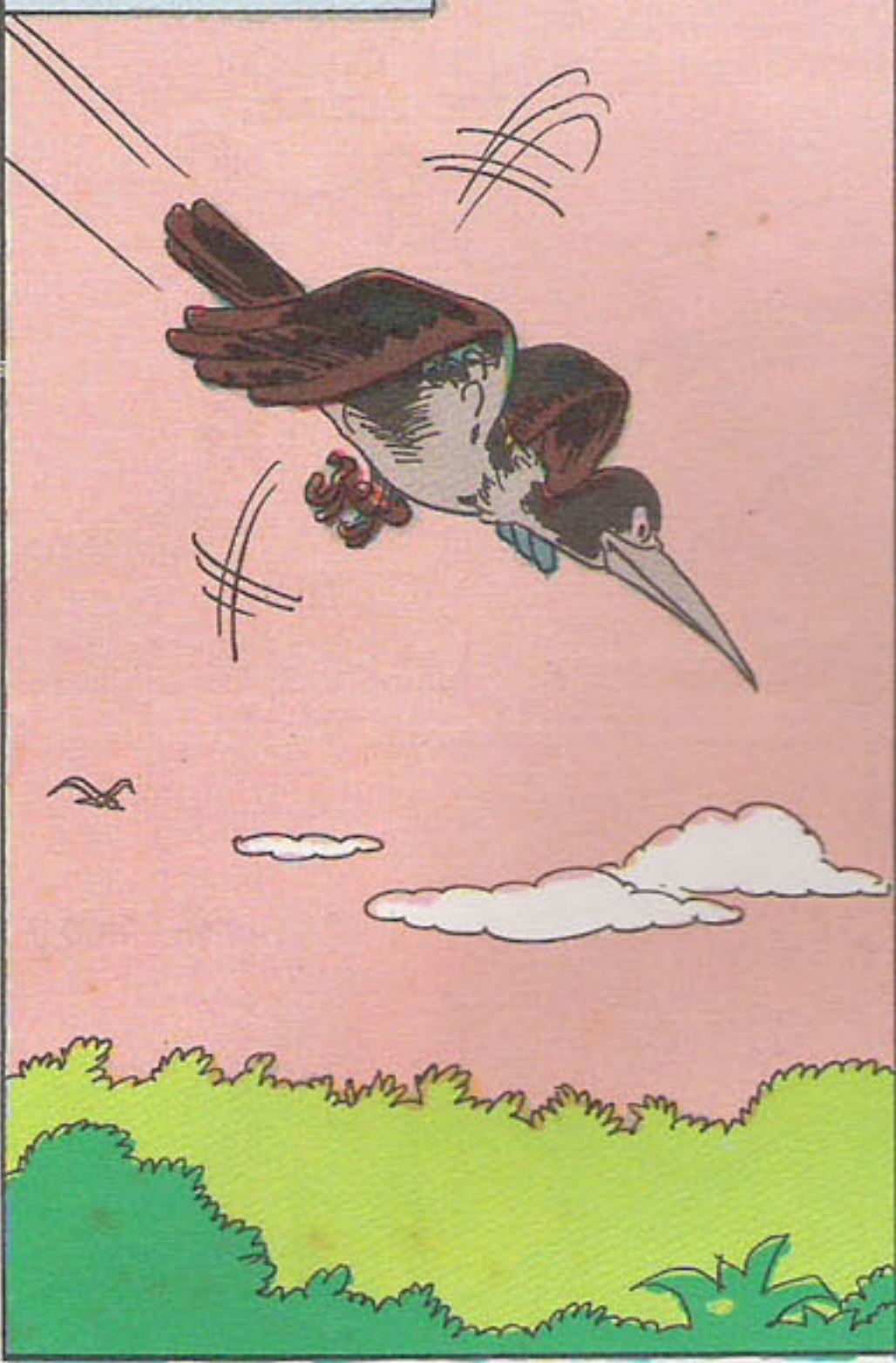


AS THEY WENT ALONG,
THE QUAIL UNFOLDED
HER PLANS.

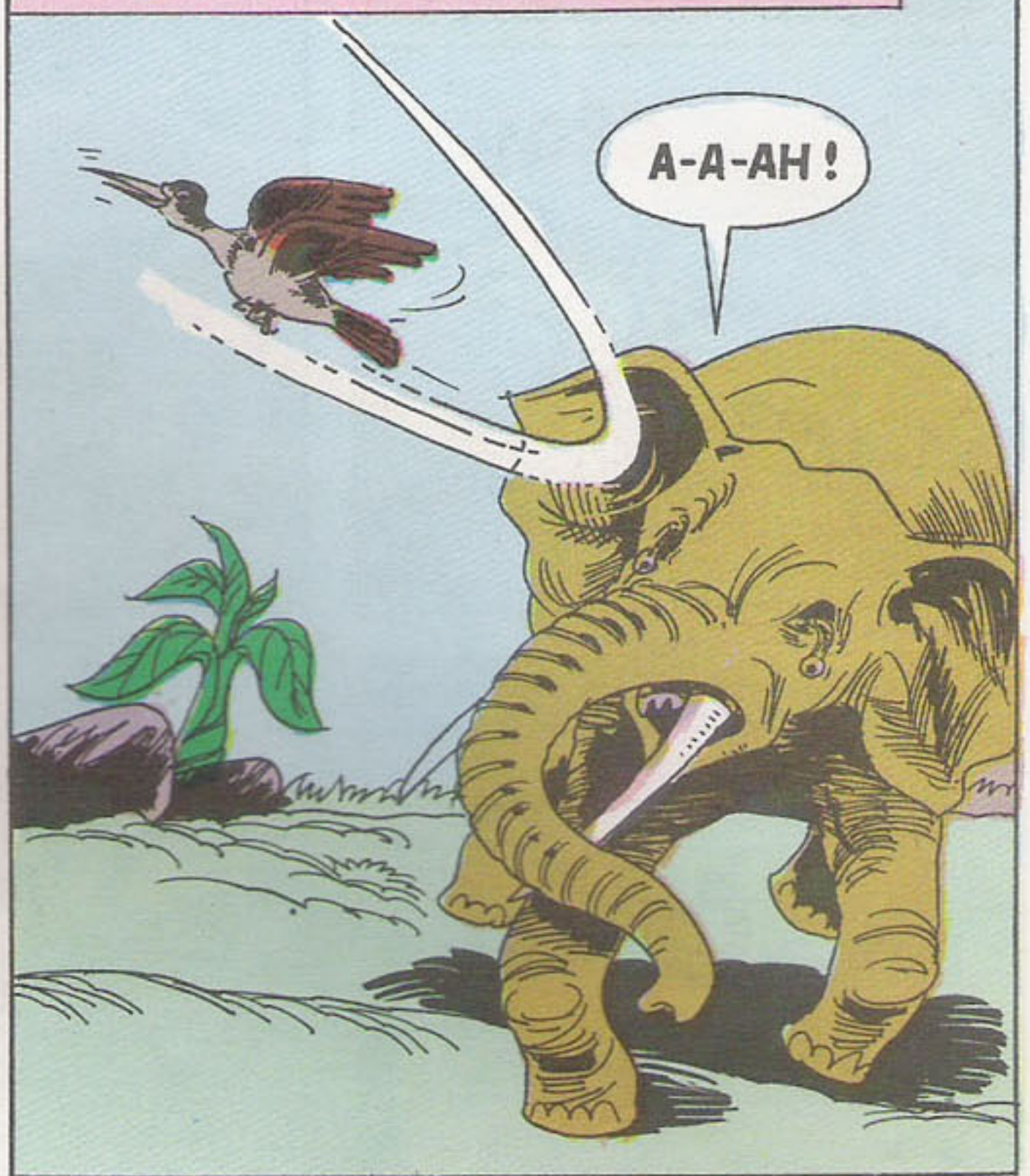
... WHEN THE ANTS HATCH, THE
ROGUE-ELEPHANT WILL BE BADLY
STUNG. HE WILL RUN BLINDLY, LOOK-
ING FOR WATER TO EASE HIS PAIN.
THIS IS WHAT I WANT
YOU TO DO...



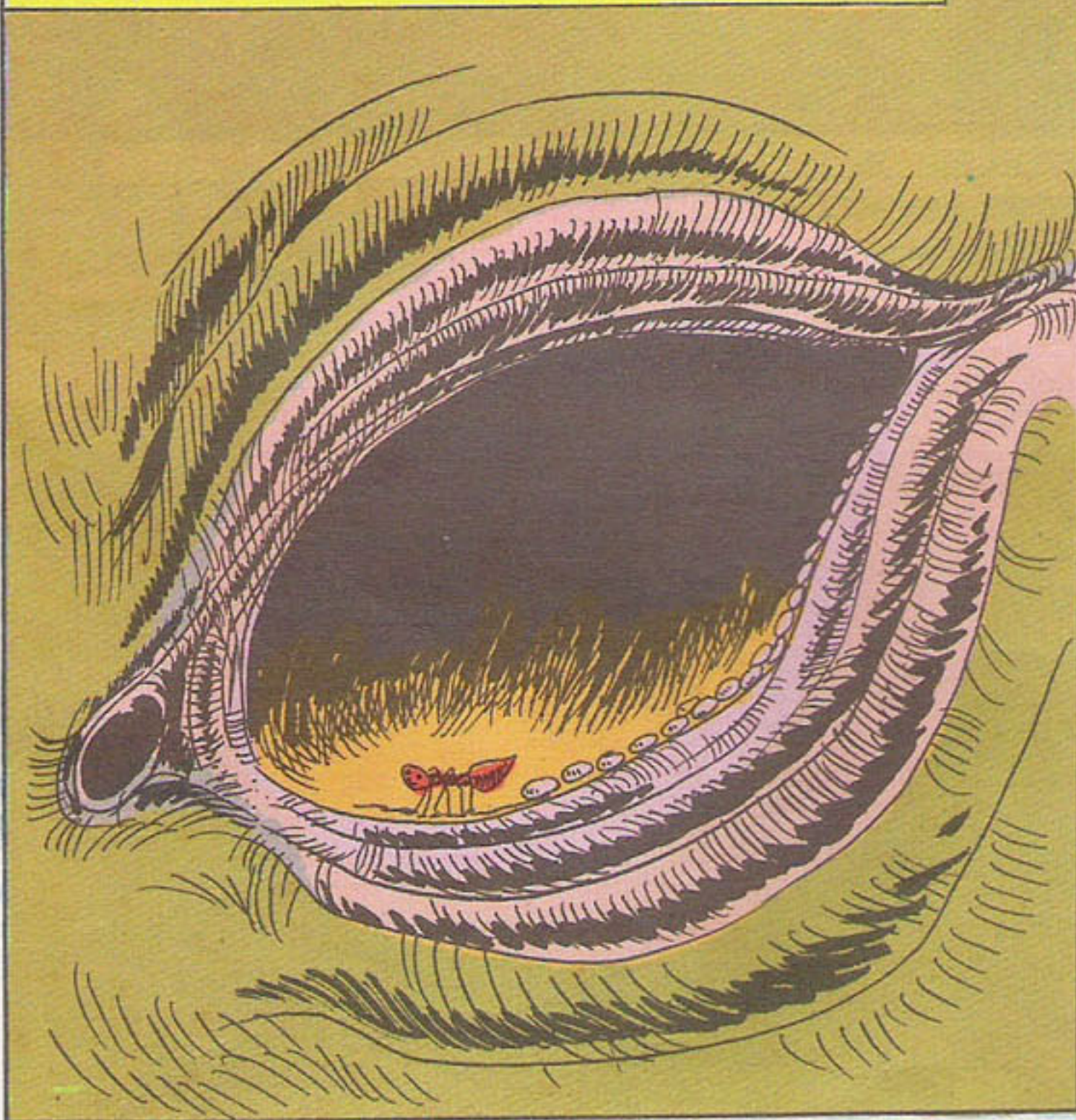
A LITTLE LATER, THE CROW DARTED AT THE ELEPHANT...



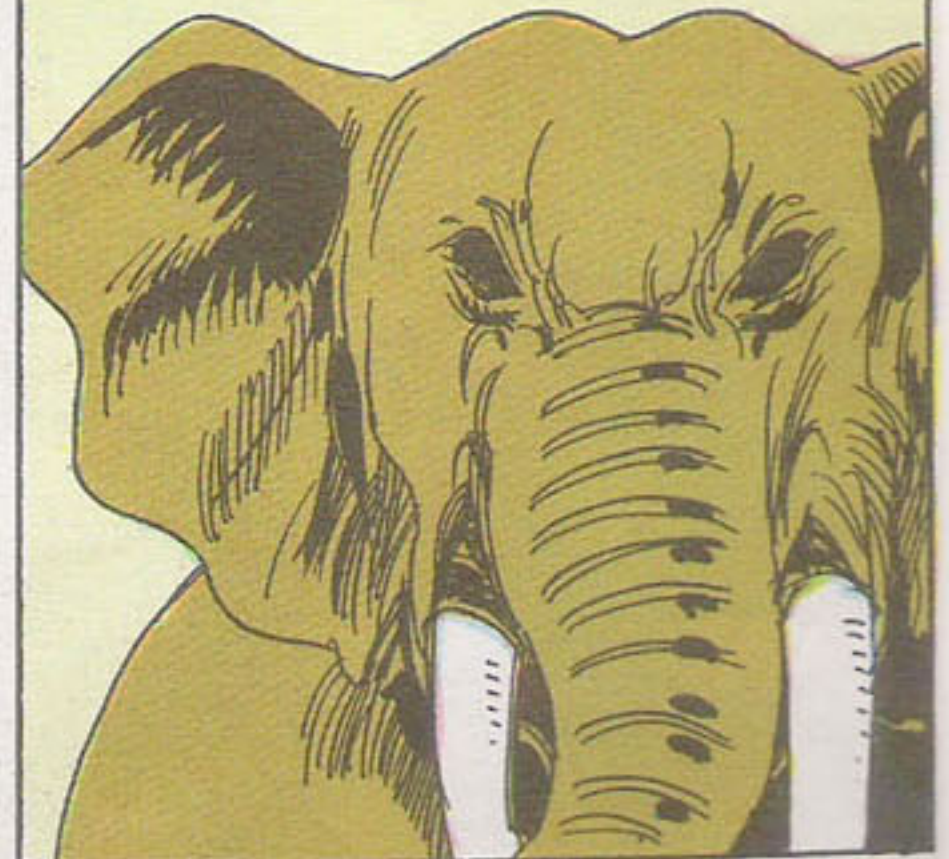
... PLUCKED HIS EYES OUT AND FLEW AWAY.



THEN, THE ANT LAID HER EGGS IN HIS BLIND EYES.



A-A-AH!
MY EYES ARE
ON FIRE. WATER!
I NEED WATER!



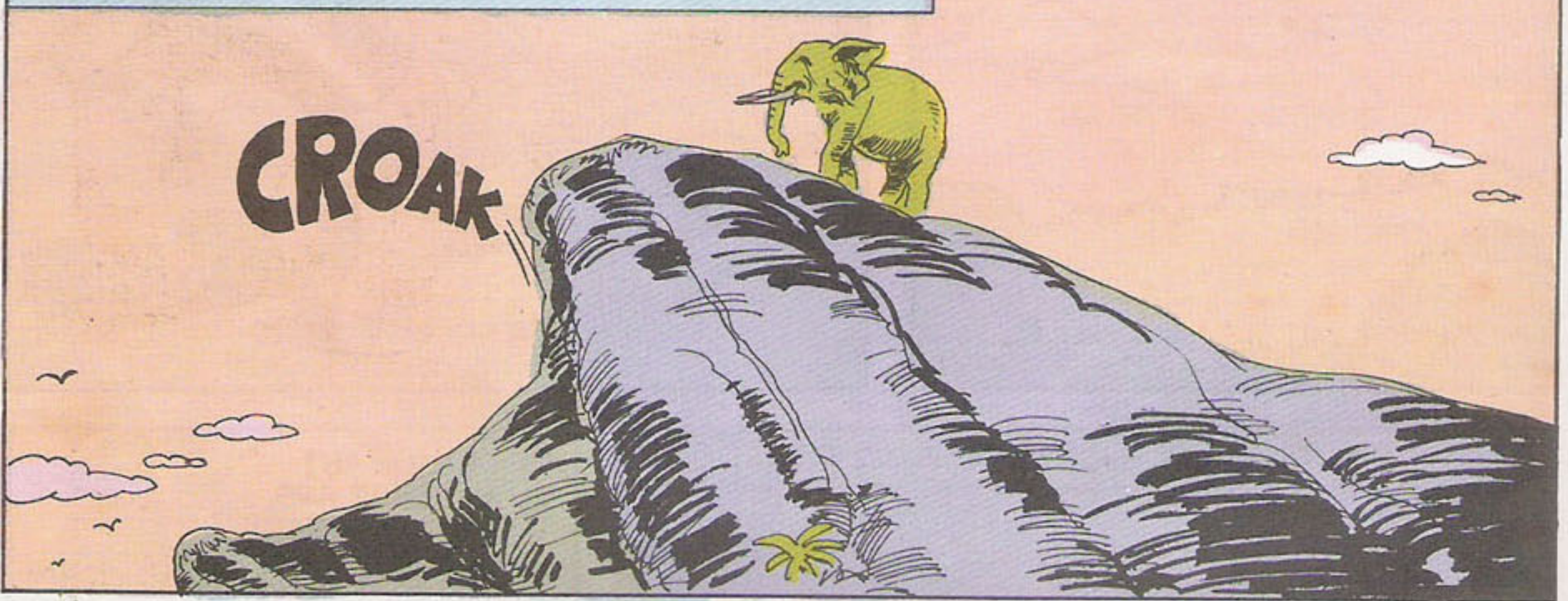
JUST THEN THE FROG CROAKED
FROM A STEEP PRECIPICE CLOSE BY.



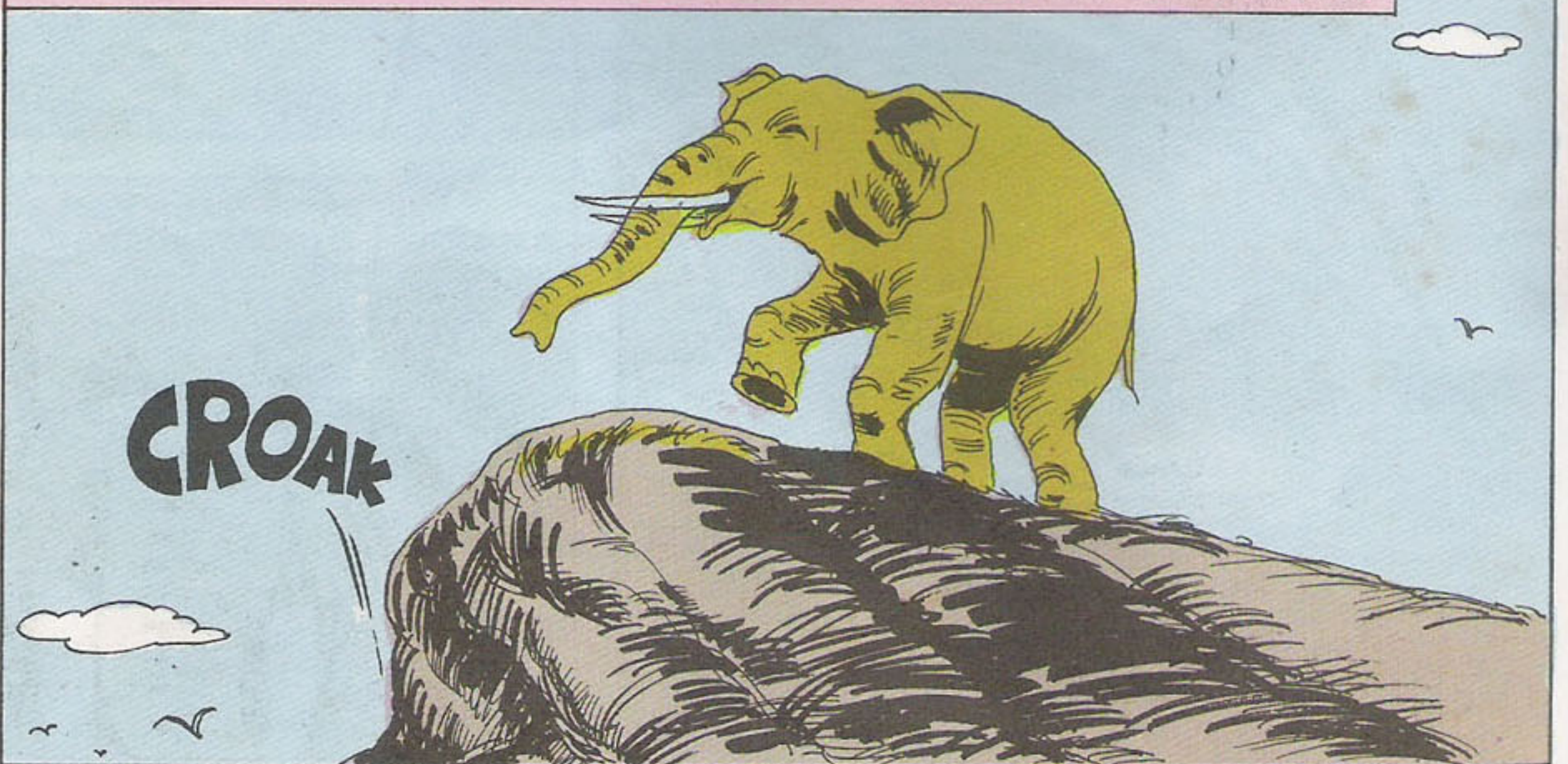
THE CROAK OF A
FROG! THERE MUST
BE WATER NEAR BY.
I'LL FOLLOW
THE SOUND.



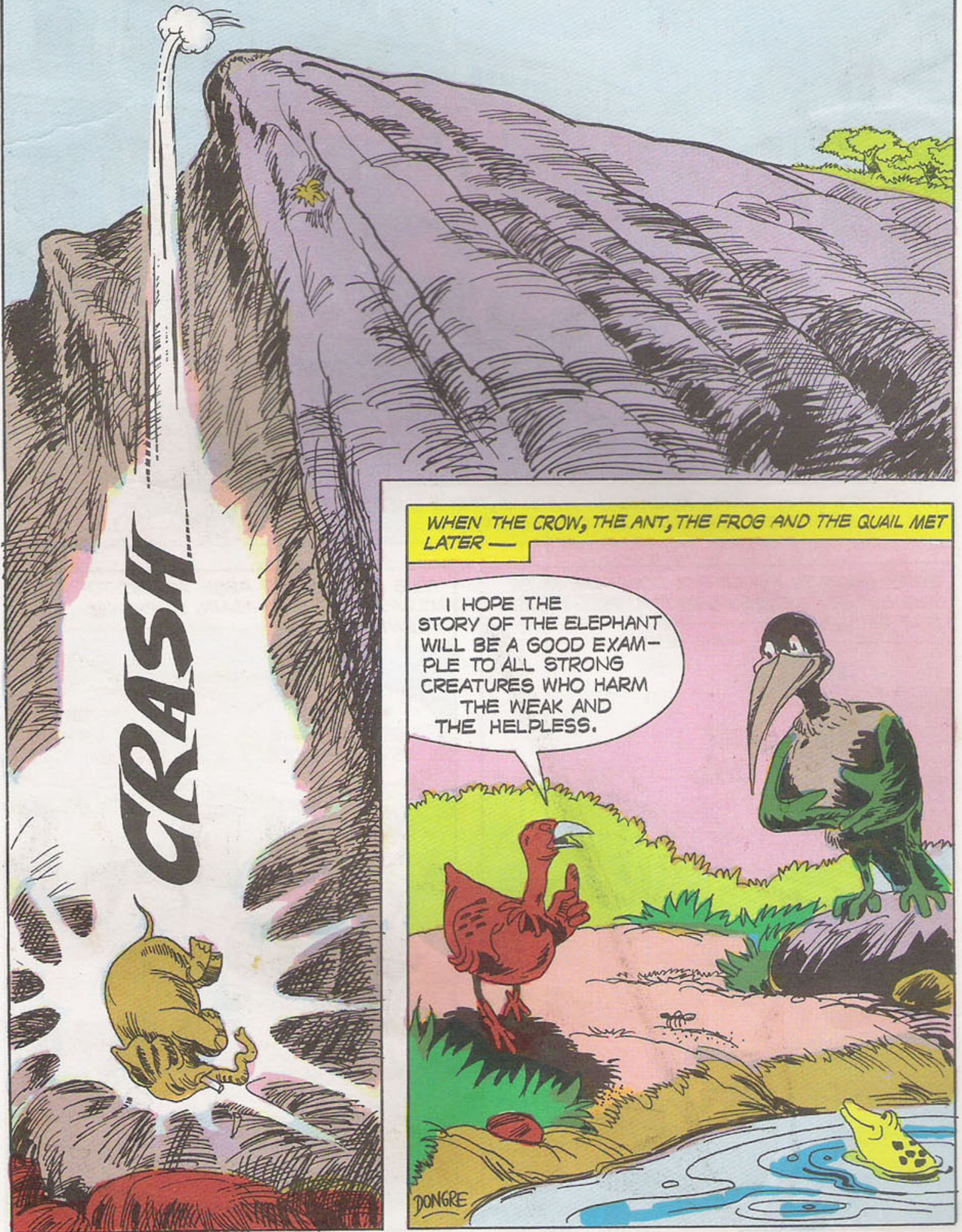
AS THE ELEPHANT GOT TO THE EDGE OF THE PRECIPICE ...



... THE FROG LEAPT ONTO A NARROW LEDGE BELOW AND CROAKED WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.

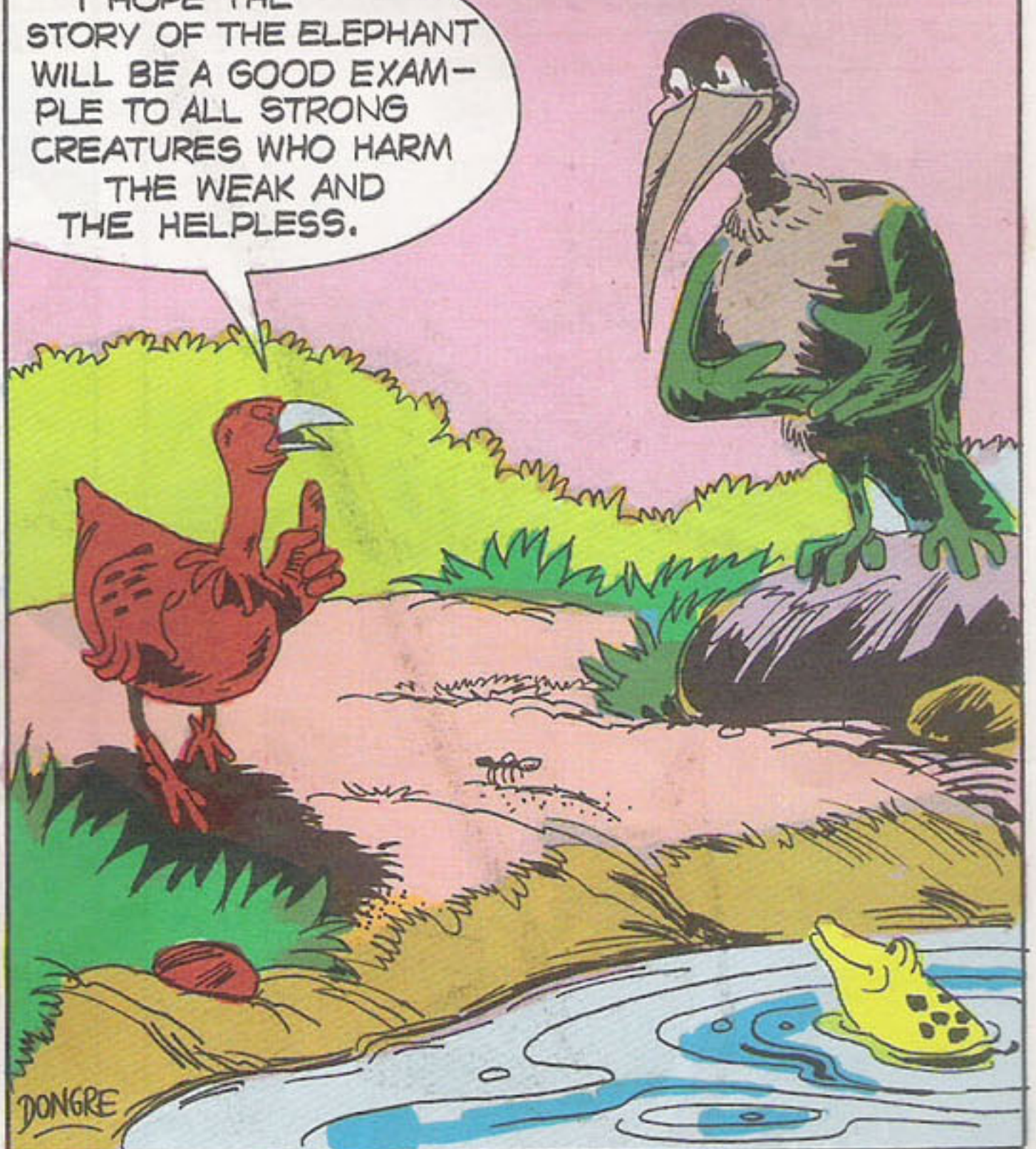


THE ELEPHANT FOLLOWED THE SOUND AND WENT HURLING DOWN TO HIS DEATH.

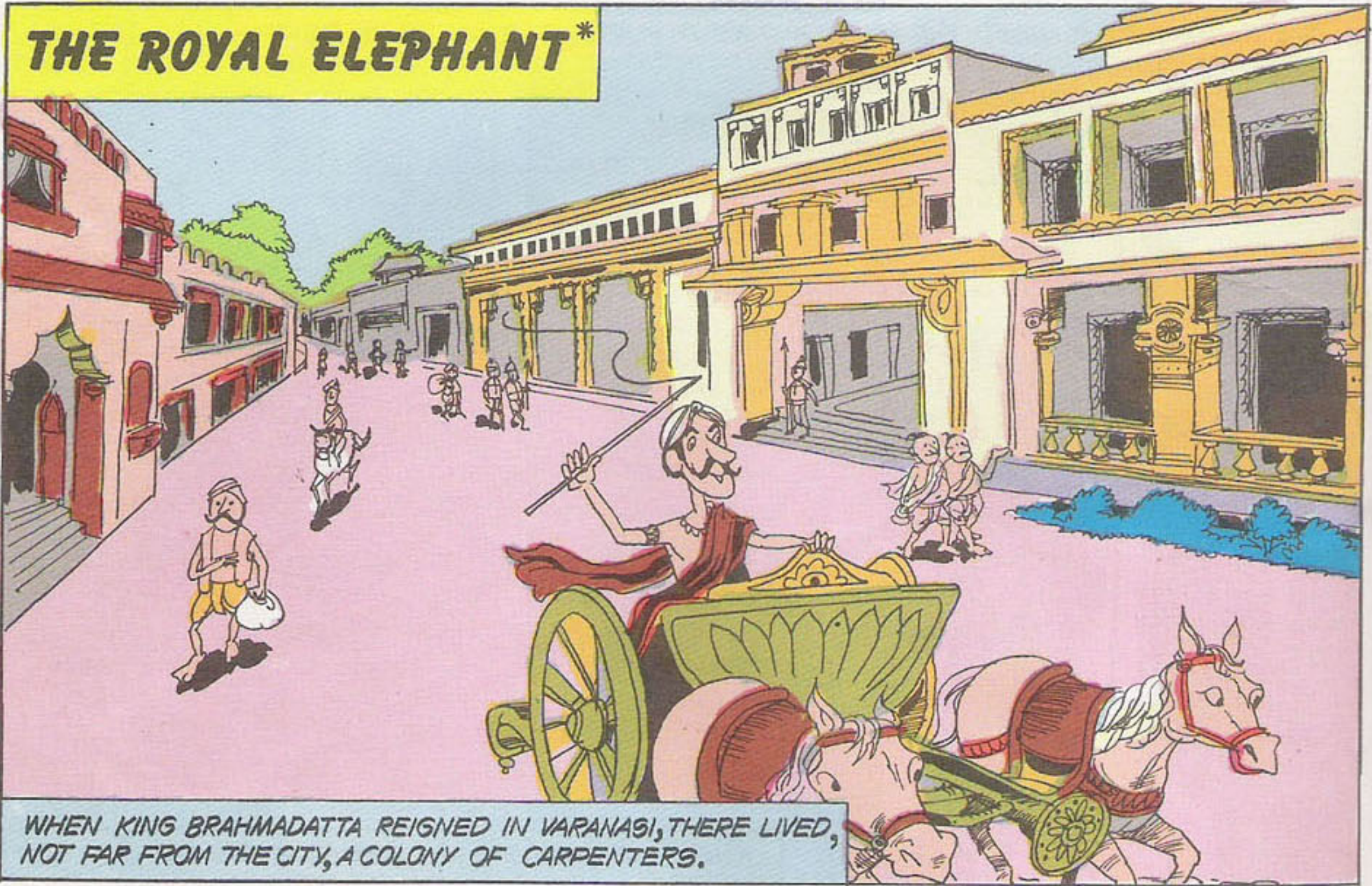


WHEN THE CROW, THE ANT, THE FROG AND THE QUAIL MET LATER —

I HOPE THE STORY OF THE ELEPHANT WILL BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO ALL STRONG CREATURES WHO HARM THE WEAK AND THE HELPLESS.

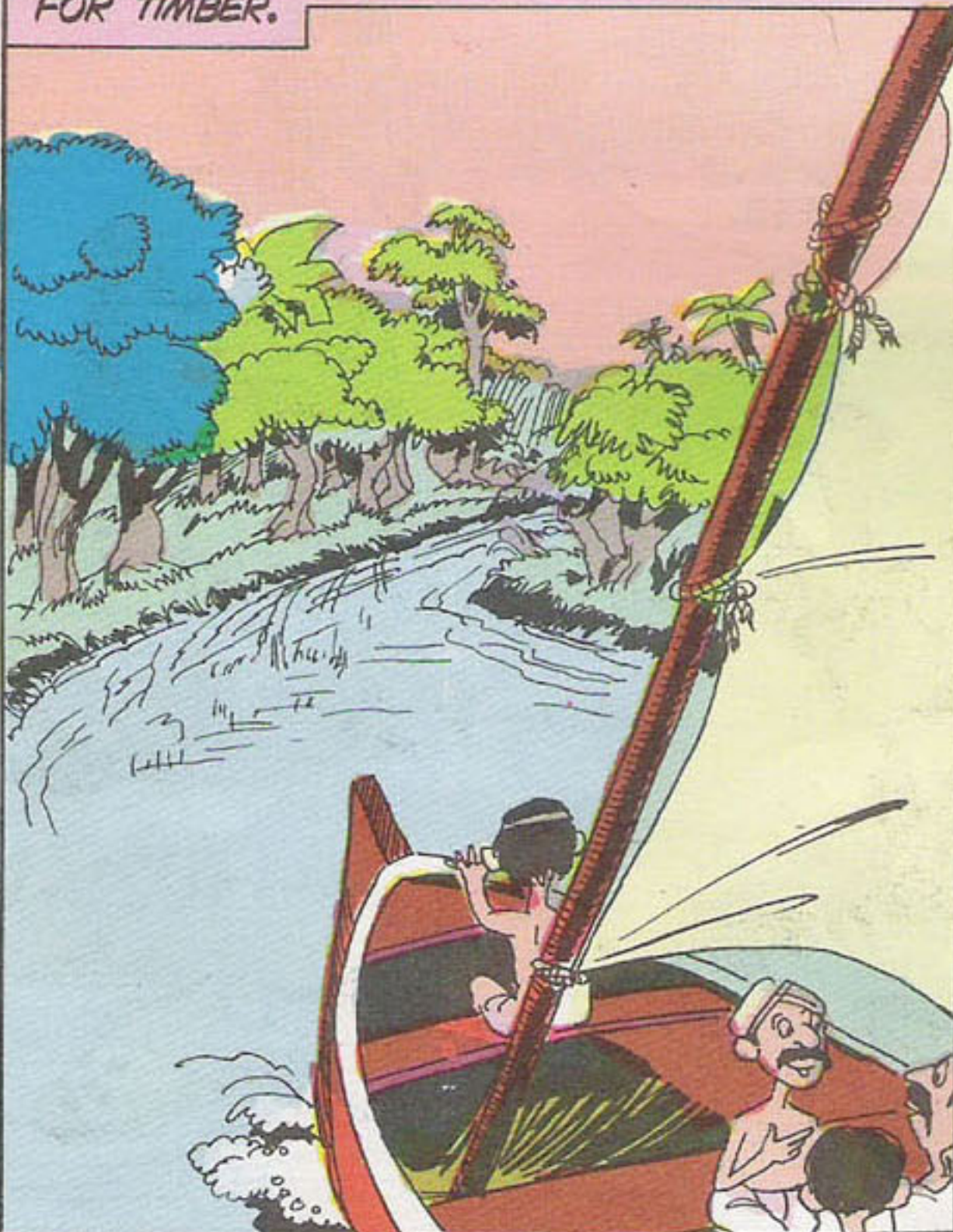


THE ROYAL ELEPHANT*



WHEN KING BRAHMADATTA REIGNED IN VARANASI, THERE LIVED, NOT FAR FROM THE CITY, A COLONY OF CARPENTERS.

EVERY DAY THEY WOULD SAIL DOWN THE RIVER AND ENTER A DENSE FOREST TO FELL TREES FOR TIMBER.

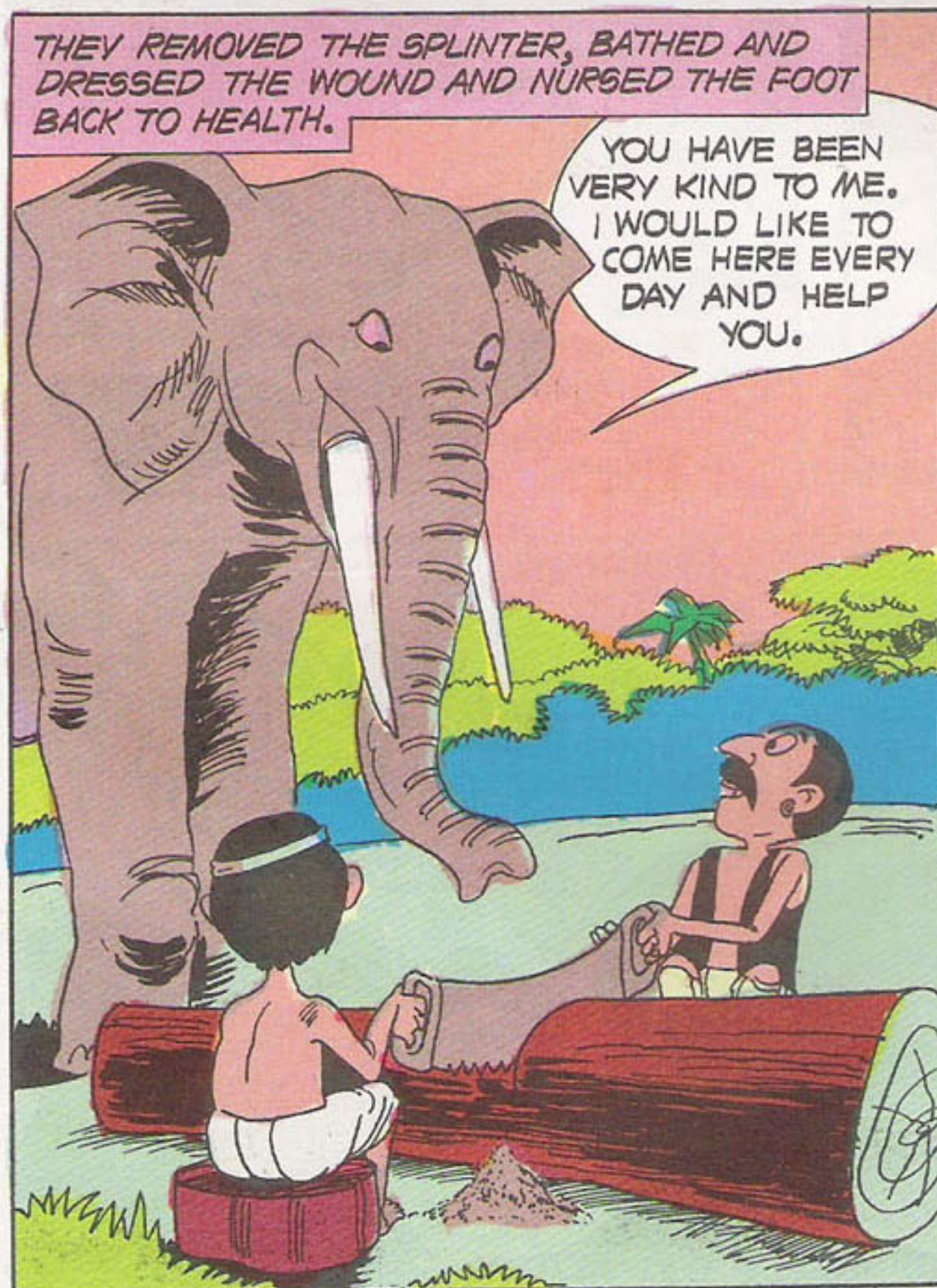
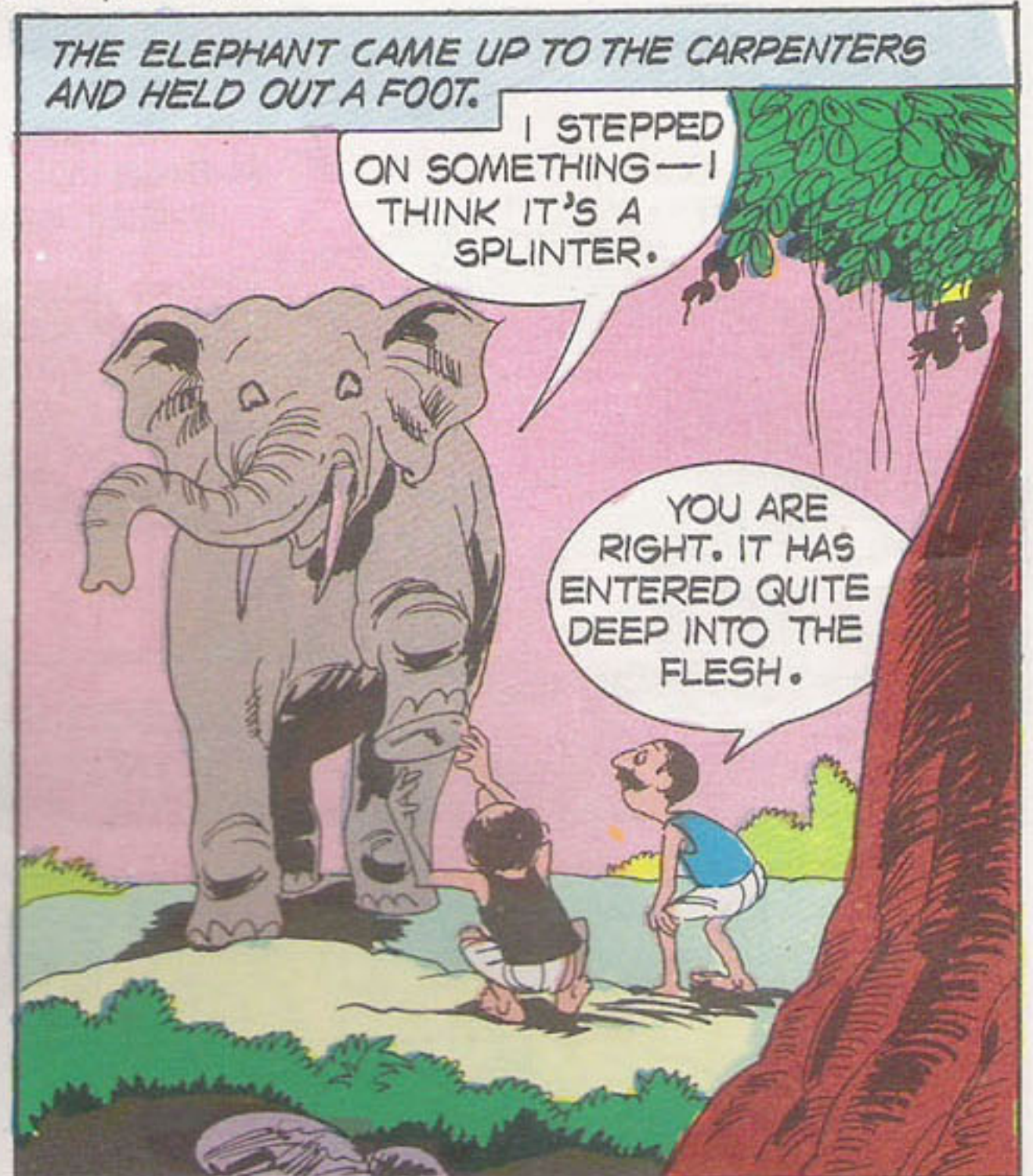


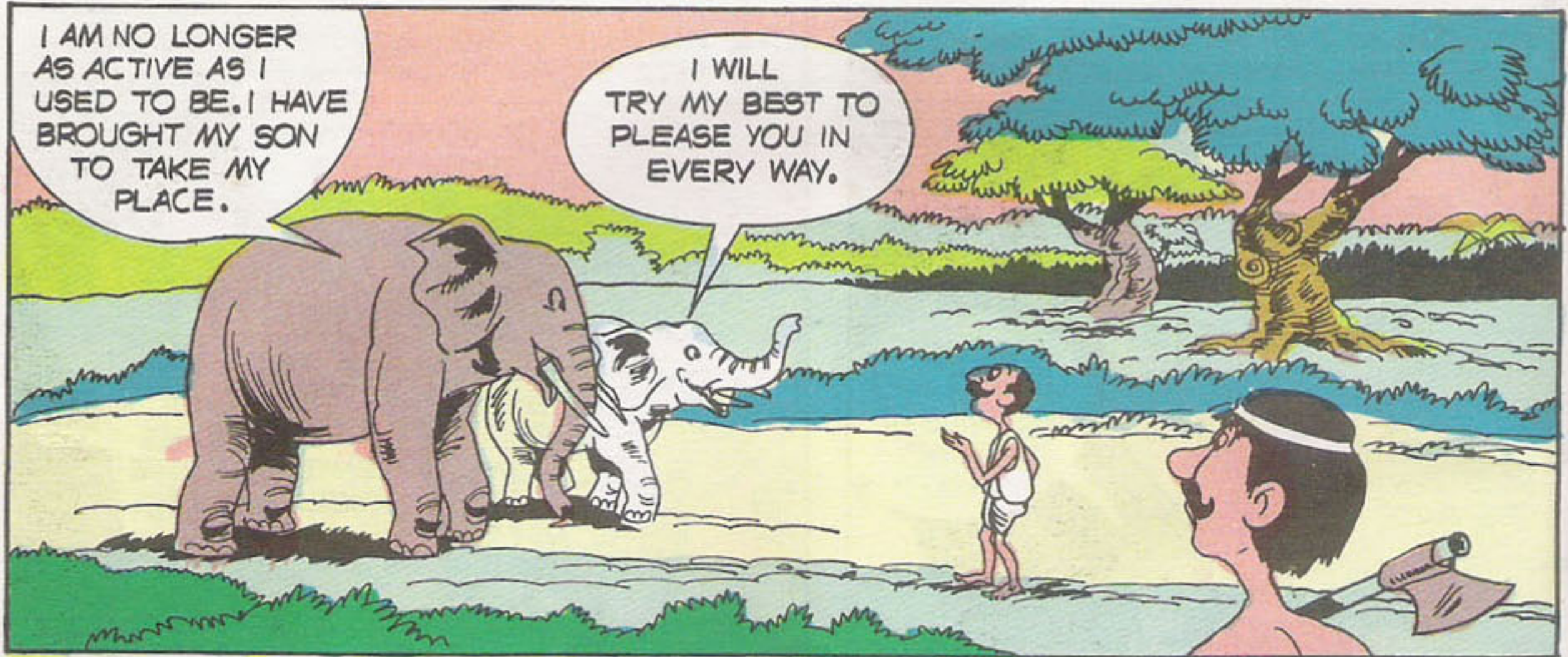
THUS THEY MOVED FROM FOREST TO VILLAGE AND BACK AGAIN. WORK WAS PLENTIFUL.



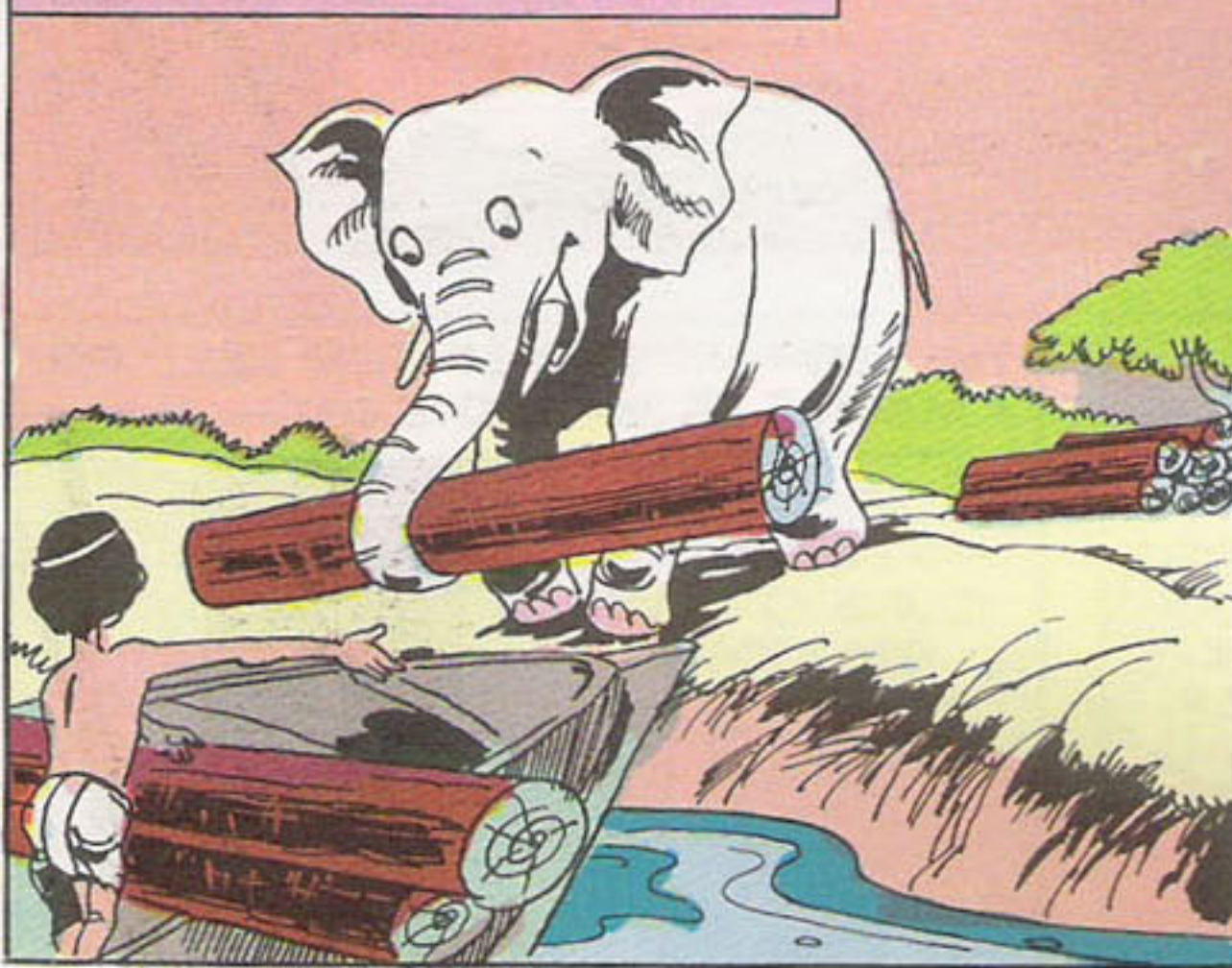
WE NEVER SEEM TO HAVE ENOUGH WOOD!

I NEVER SEEM TO HAVE ENOUGH TIME.

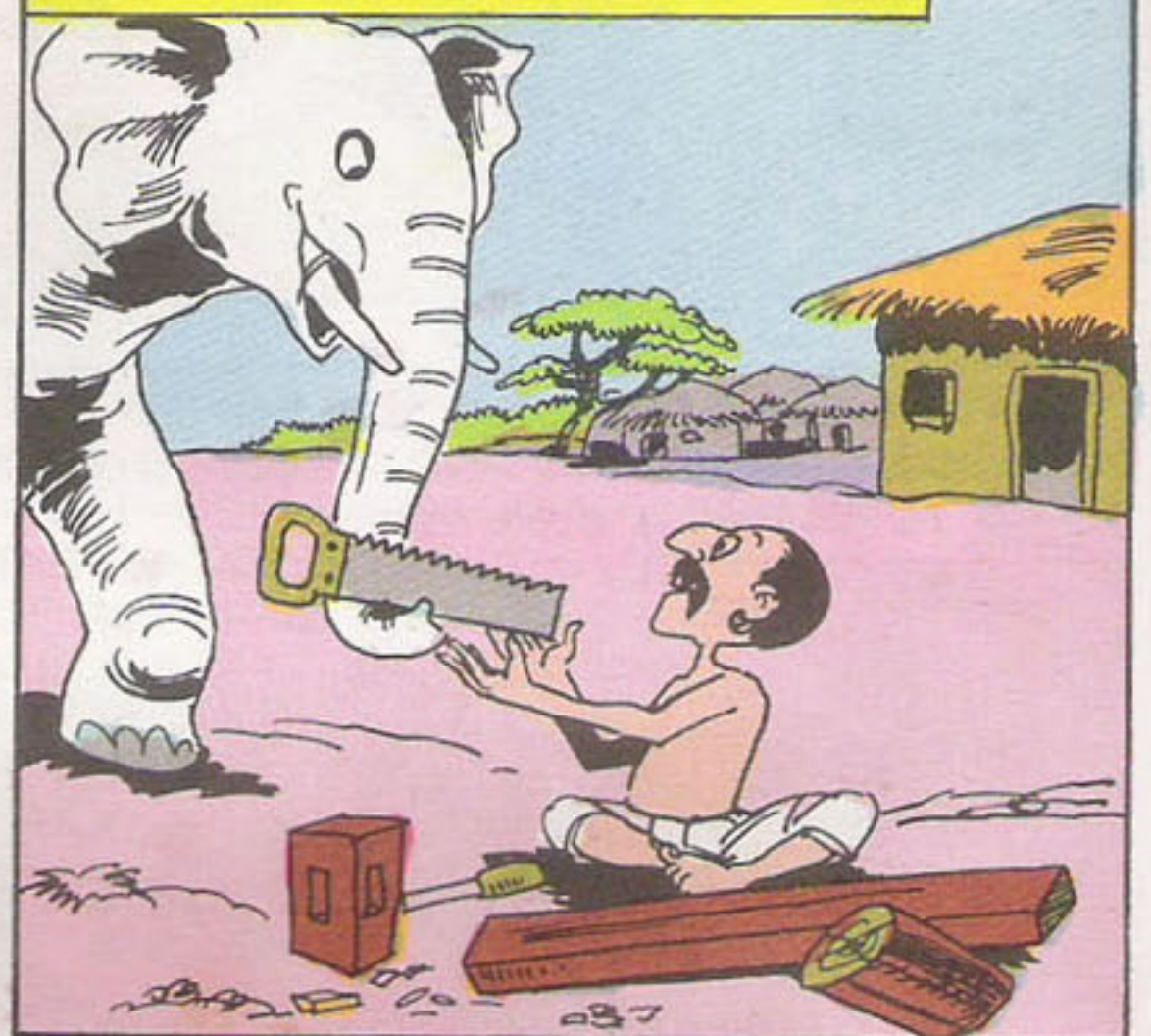




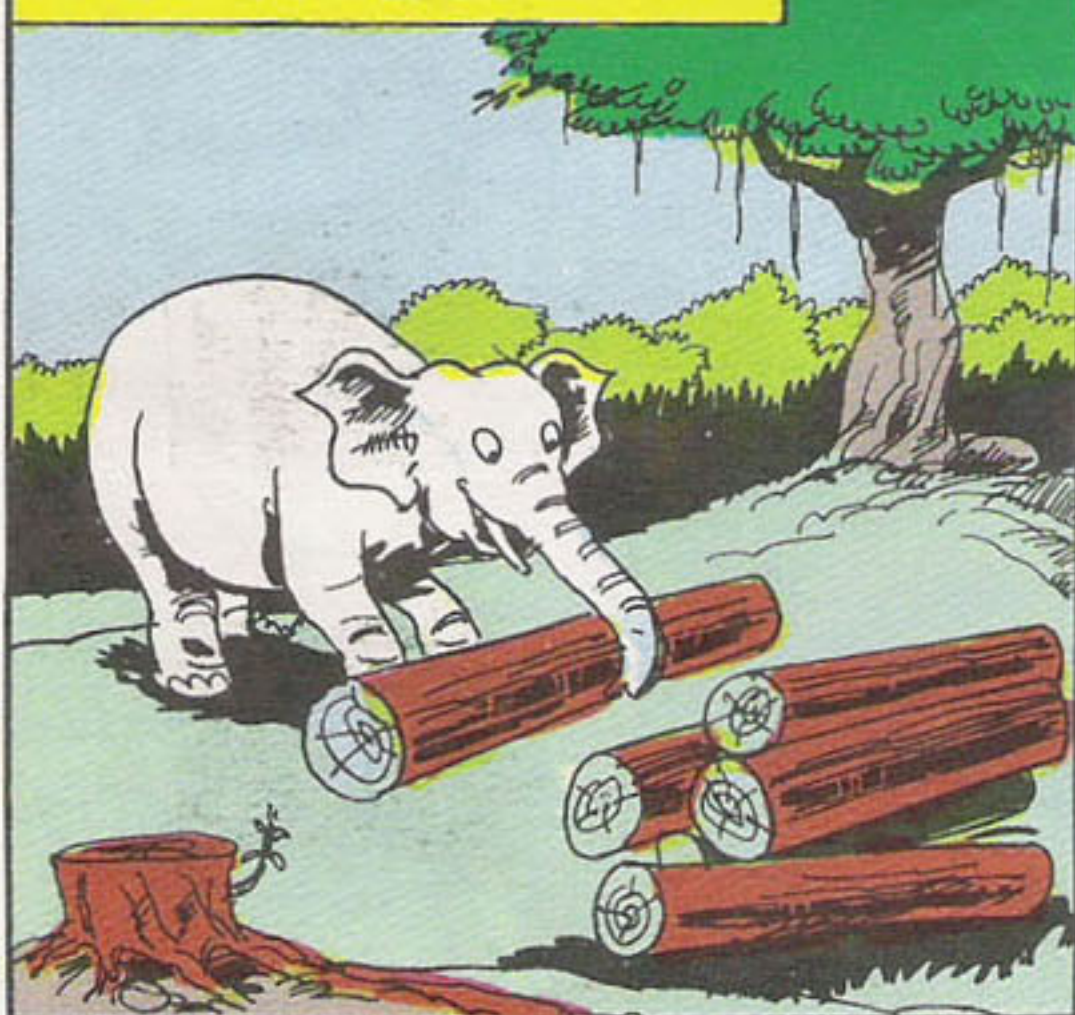
THE YOUNG ELEPHANT WORKED HARD. HE HELPED TO LOAD AND UNLOAD TIMBER.



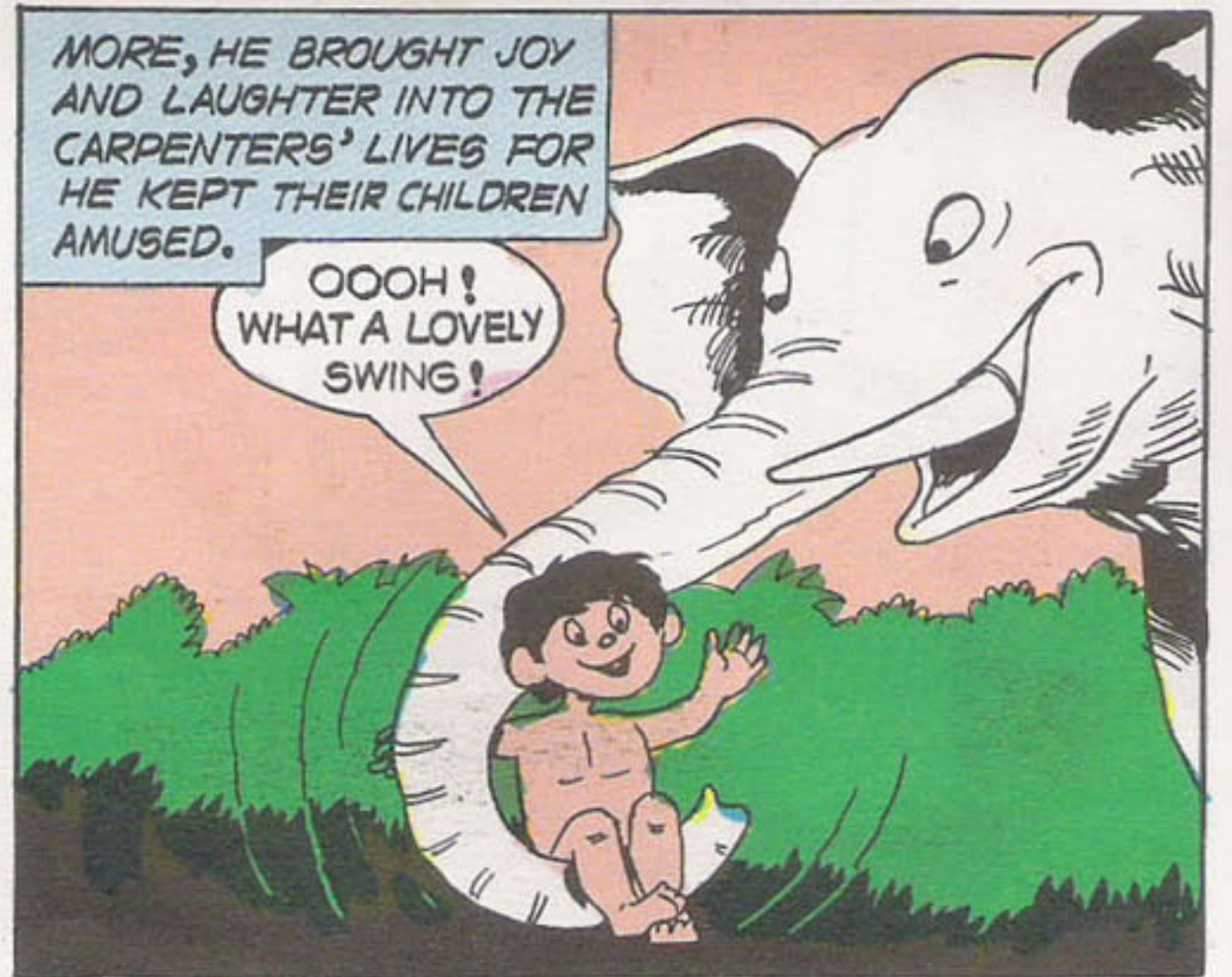
HE FETCHED AND CARRIED TOOLS...

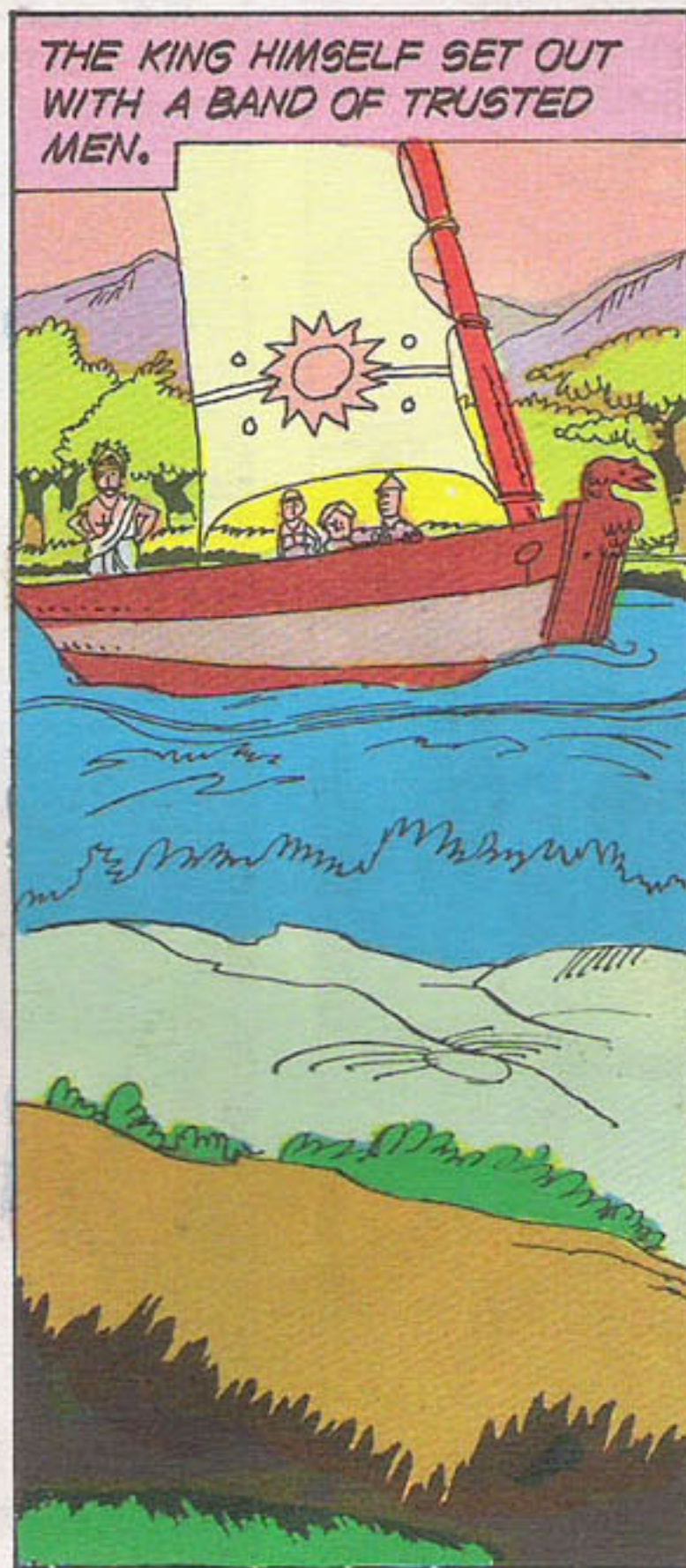
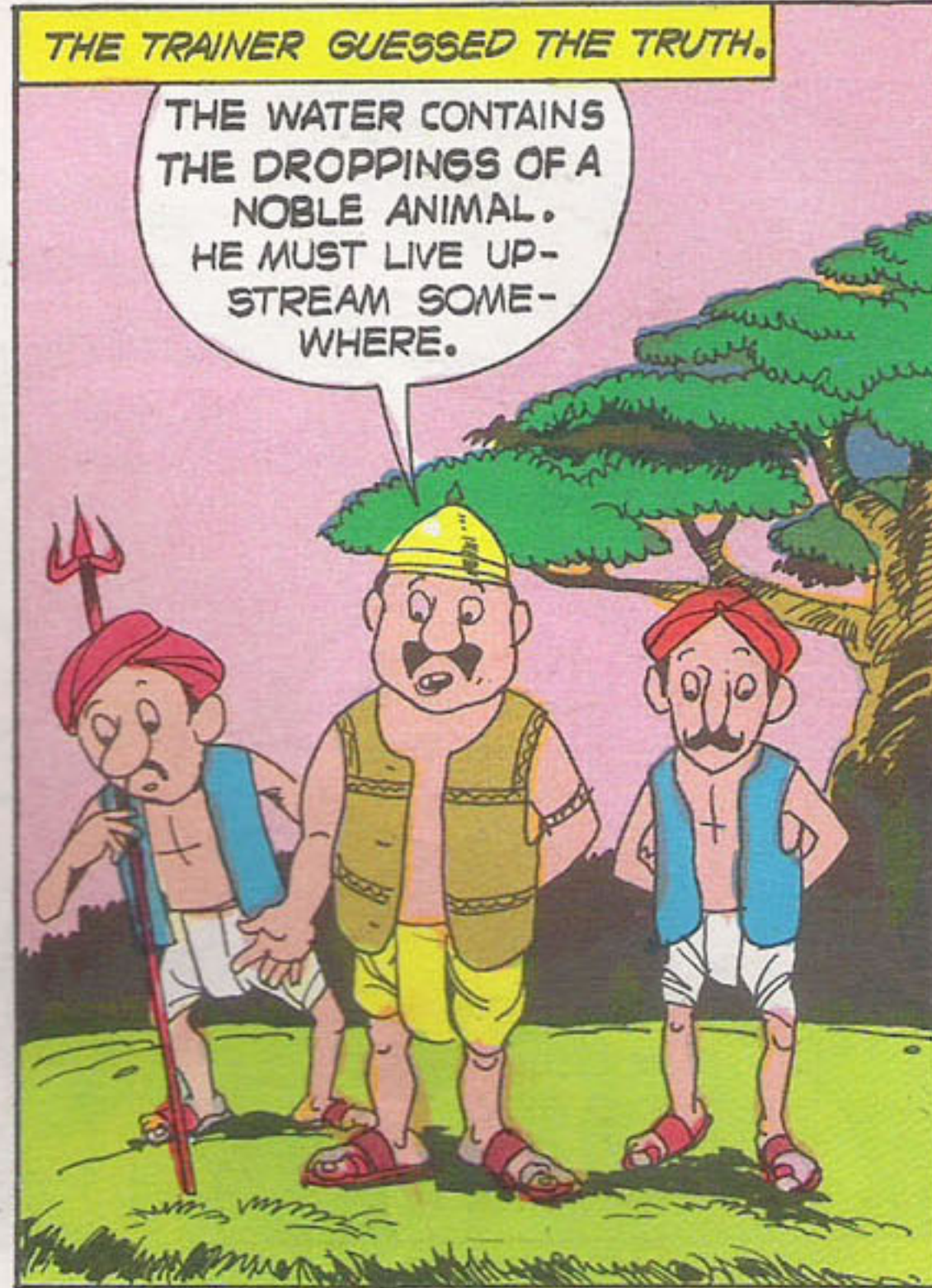
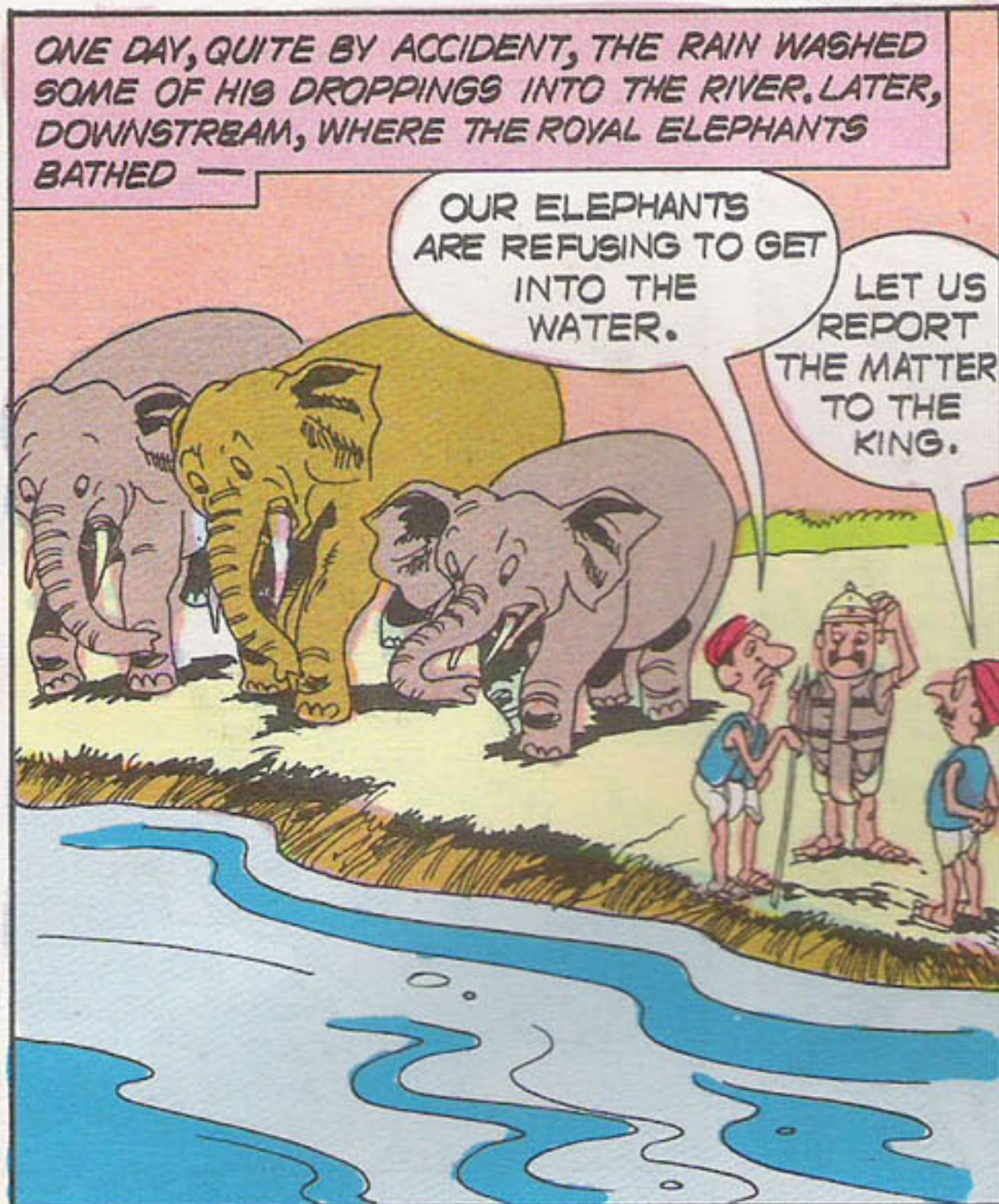


...AND TRANSPORTED LOGS.



MORE, HE BROUGHT JOY AND LAUGHTER INTO THE CARPENTERS' LIVES FOR HE KEPT THEIR CHILDREN AMUSED.

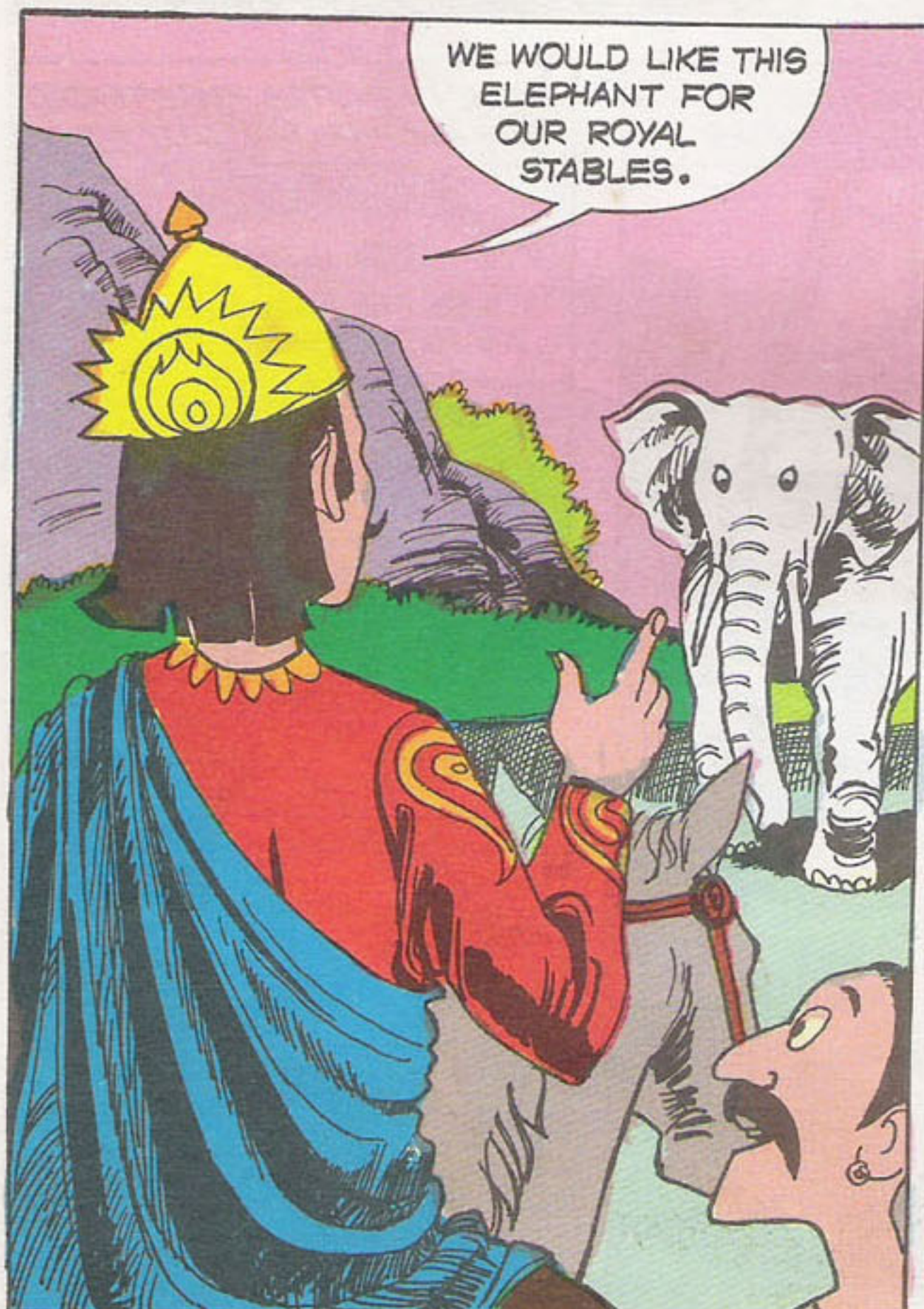
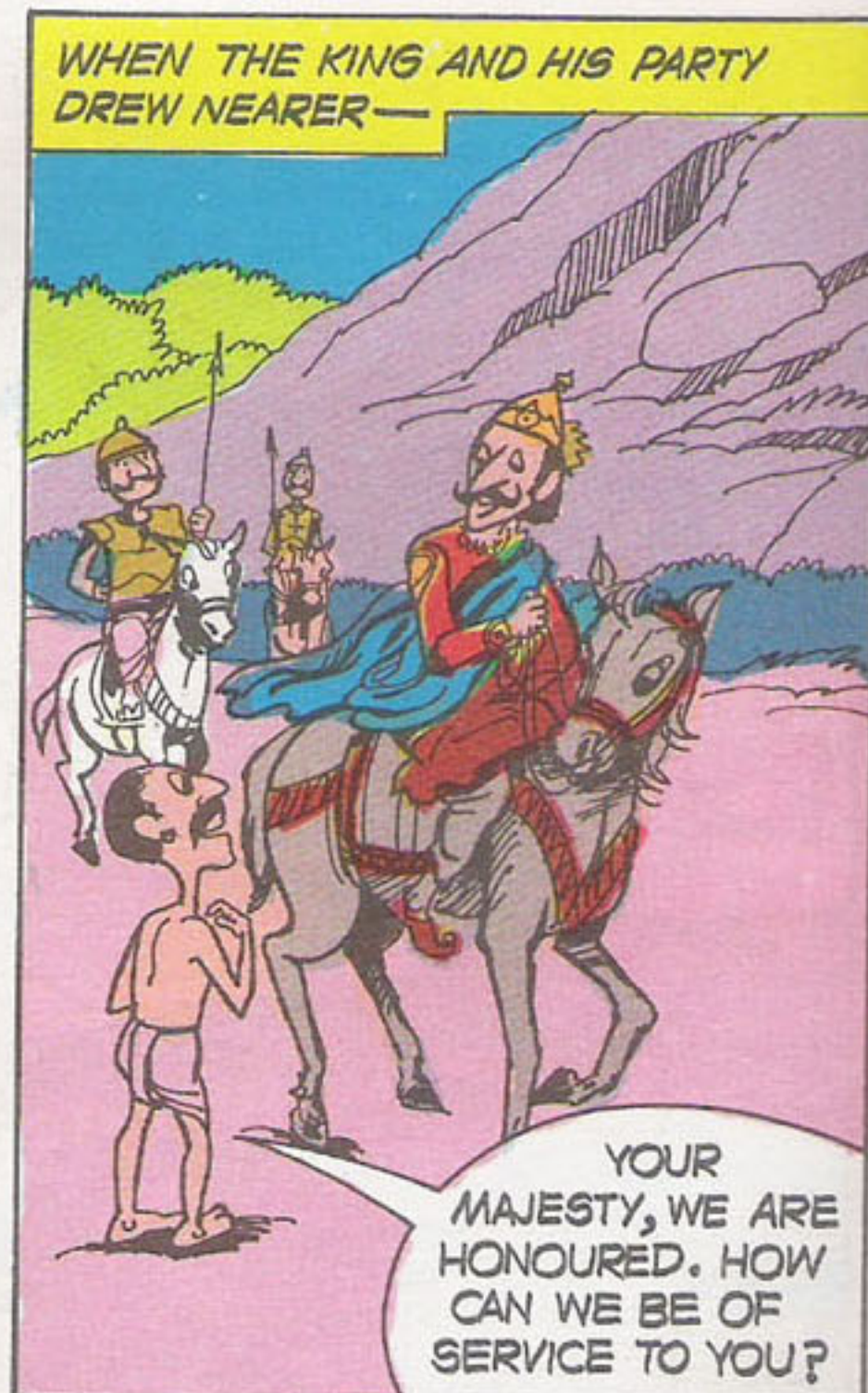




SOON —



WHEN THE KING AND HIS PARTY DREW NEARER —

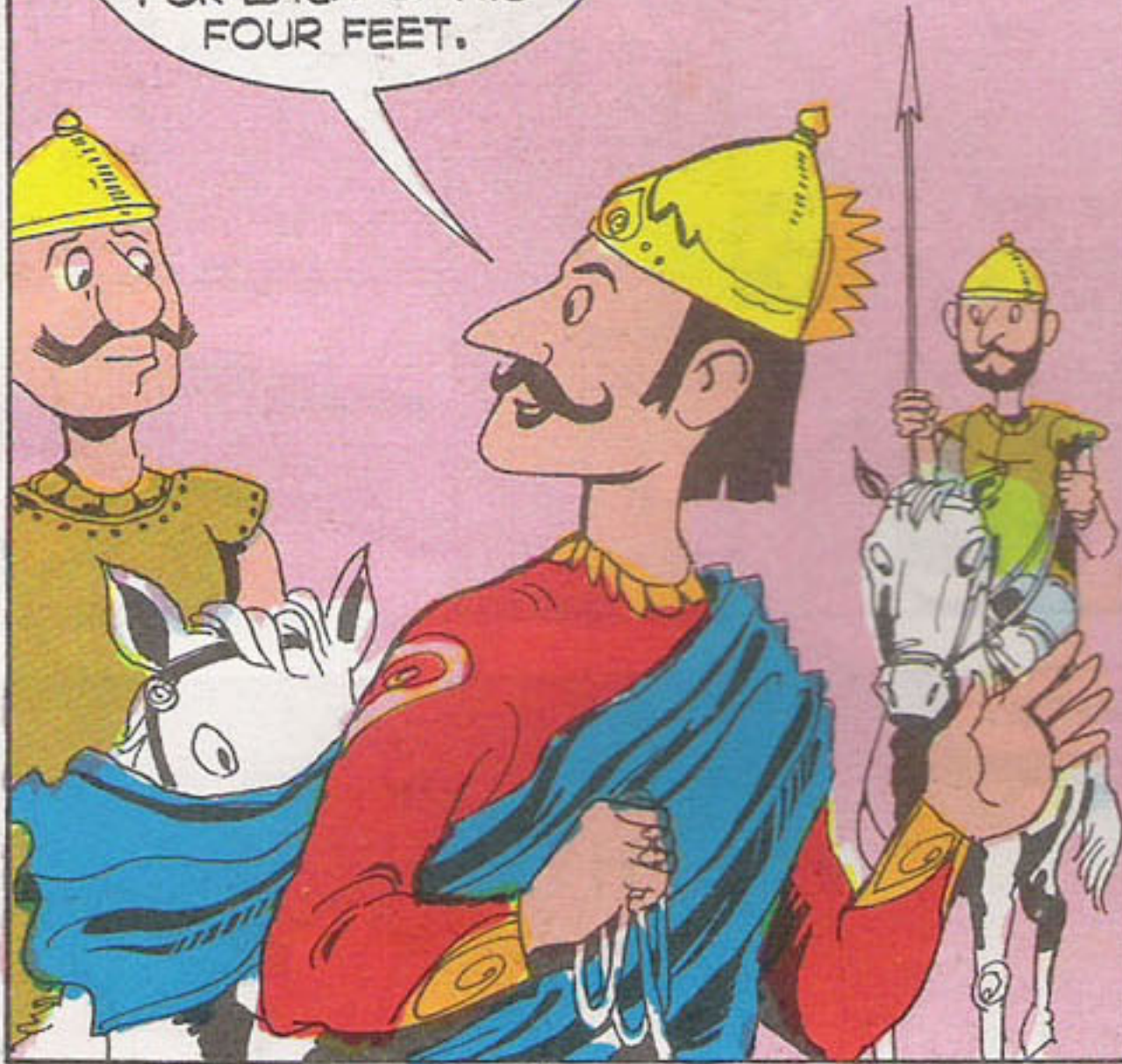


THE ELEPHANT SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HIS FRIENDS.



THE KING TURNED TO HIS MEN.

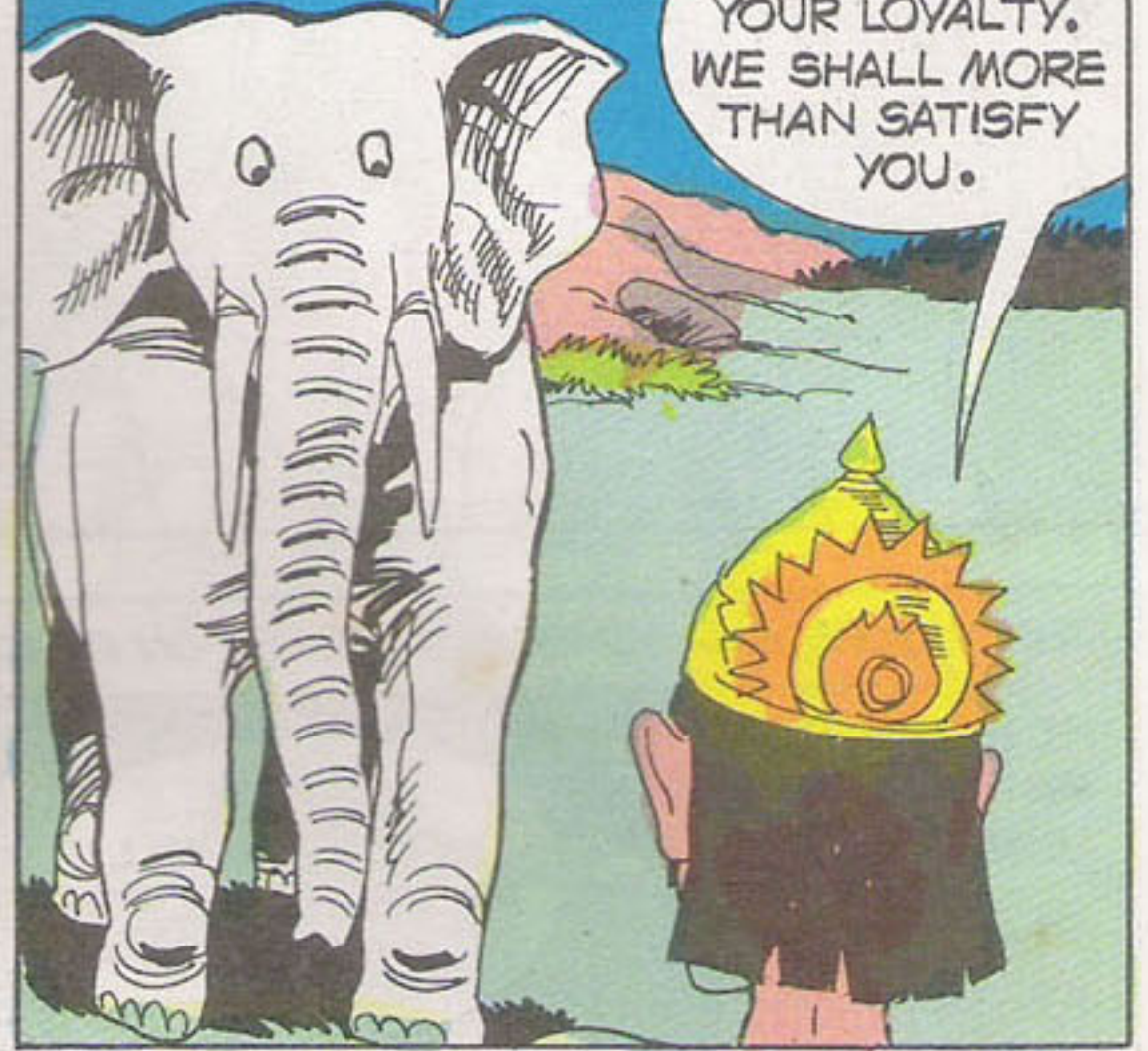
PAY THEM A HUNDRED THOUSAND PIECES OF GOLD FOR HIS TAIL, THE SAME FOR HIS TRUNK AND FOR EACH OF HIS FOUR FEET.



THE ELEPHANT WAS NOT SATISFIED.

YOU MUST NOT THINK ME GREEDY, YOUR MAJESTY. THEY NEED CLOTHES. AND THE CHILDREN TOO MUST BE PROVIDED FOR.

WE ADMIRE YOUR LOYALTY. WE SHALL MORE THAN SATISFY YOU.



UPON RECEIVING THIS ASSURANCE THE ELEPHANT AGREED TO GO WITH THE KING. IT WAS A SAD LEAVE-TAKING.

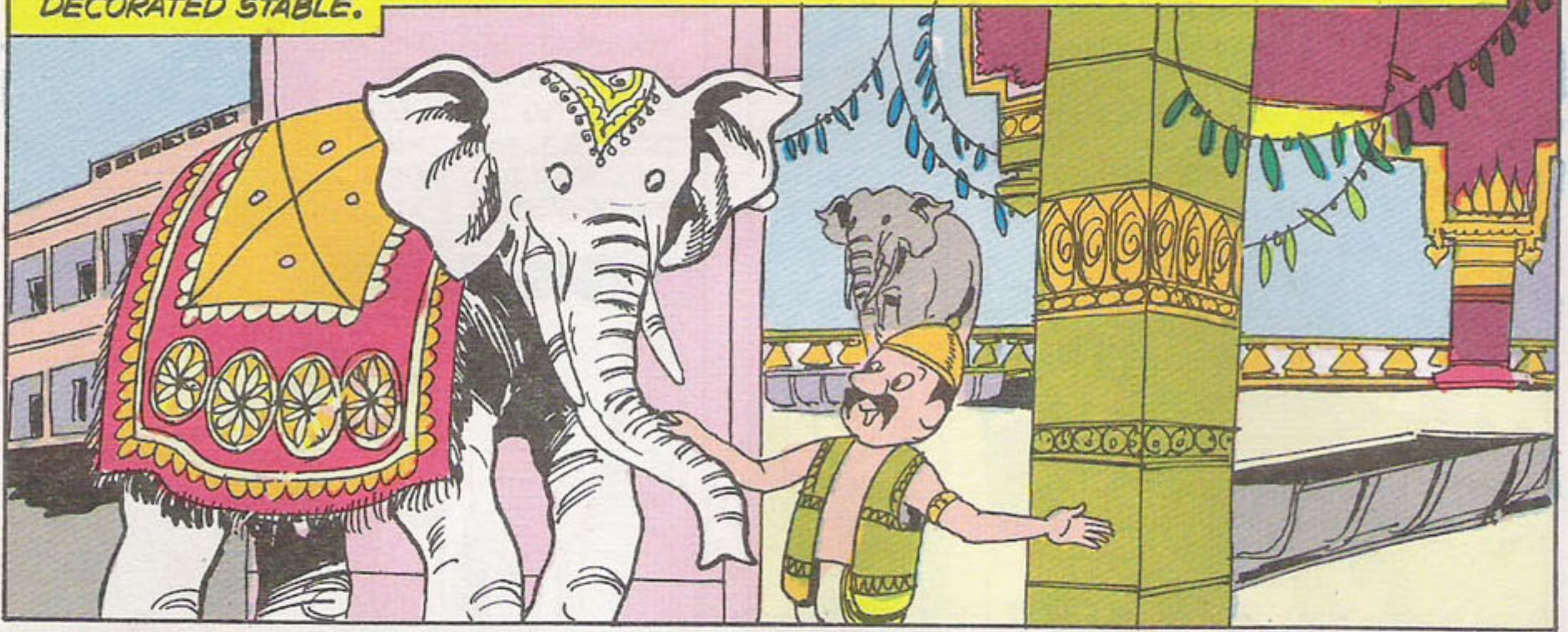
A KING'S COMMAND MUST BE OBEYED. YOU ARE GOOD CHILDREN AND WILL UNDERSTAND.

WHO WILL PLAY WITH US?



AND THE ELEPHANT LEFT FOR VARANASI WITH THE KING AND HIS MEN.

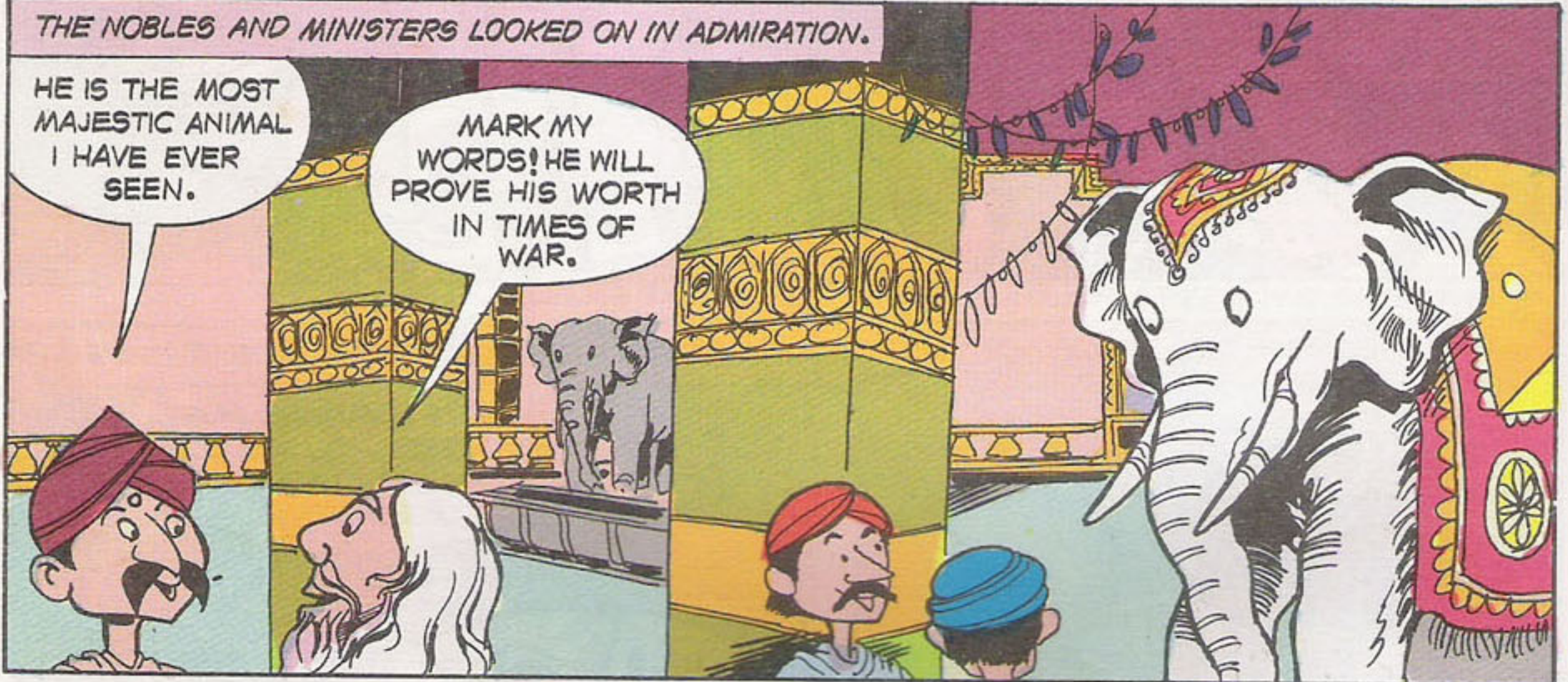
THE CITY WORE A FESTIVE AIR. THE ELEPHANT, REGALLY CAPARISONED, WAS LED TO HIS GAILY DECORATED STABLE.



THE NOBLES AND MINISTERS LOOKED ON IN ADMIRATION.

HE IS THE MOST MAJESTIC ANIMAL I HAVE EVER SEEN.

MARK MY WORDS! HE WILL PROVE HIS WORTH IN TIMES OF WAR.



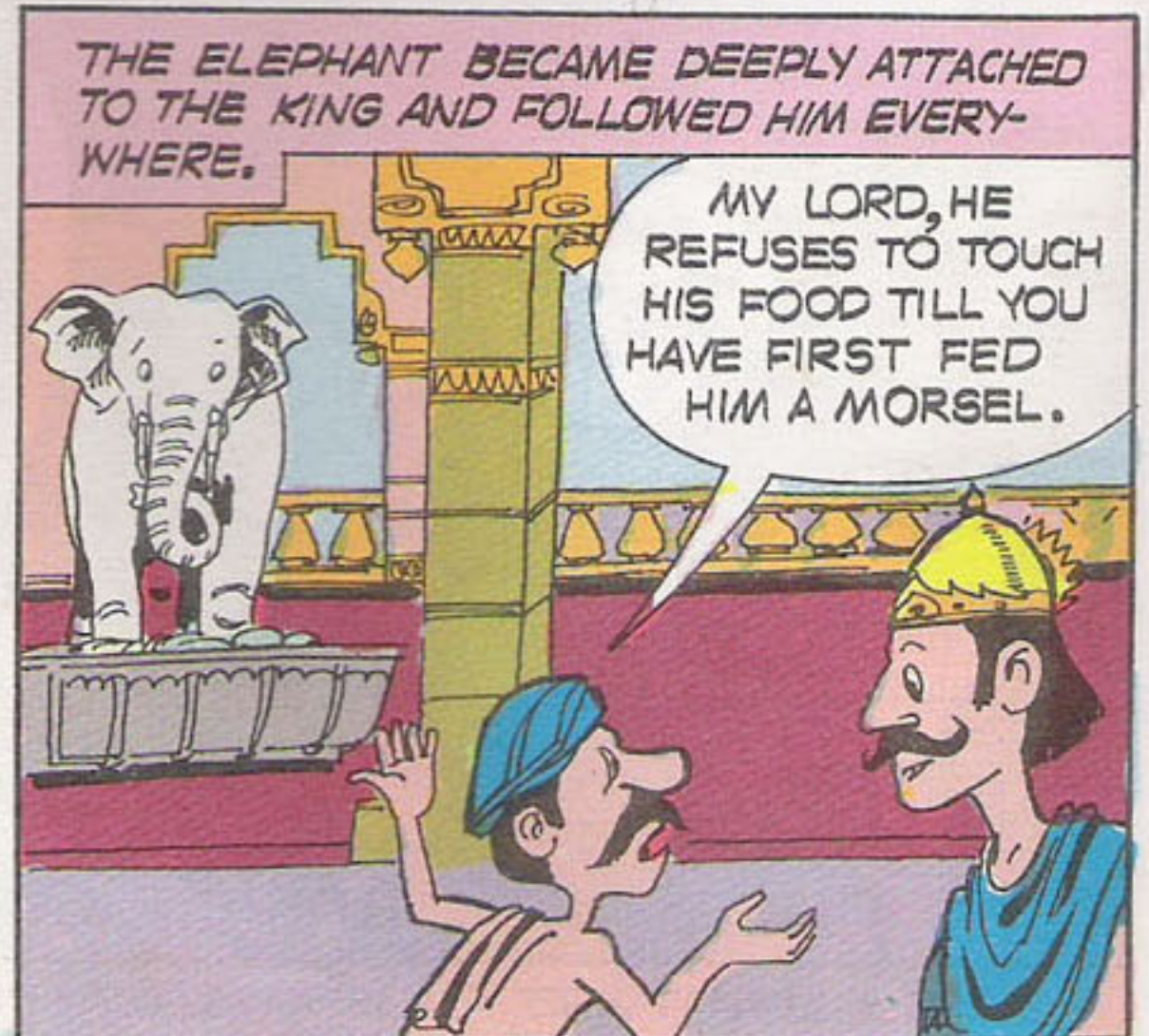
THE KING MADE OVER HALF HIS KINGDOM TO THE ELEPHANT.

YOU ARE A BROTHER TO ME AND A COMPANION FOR LIFE.

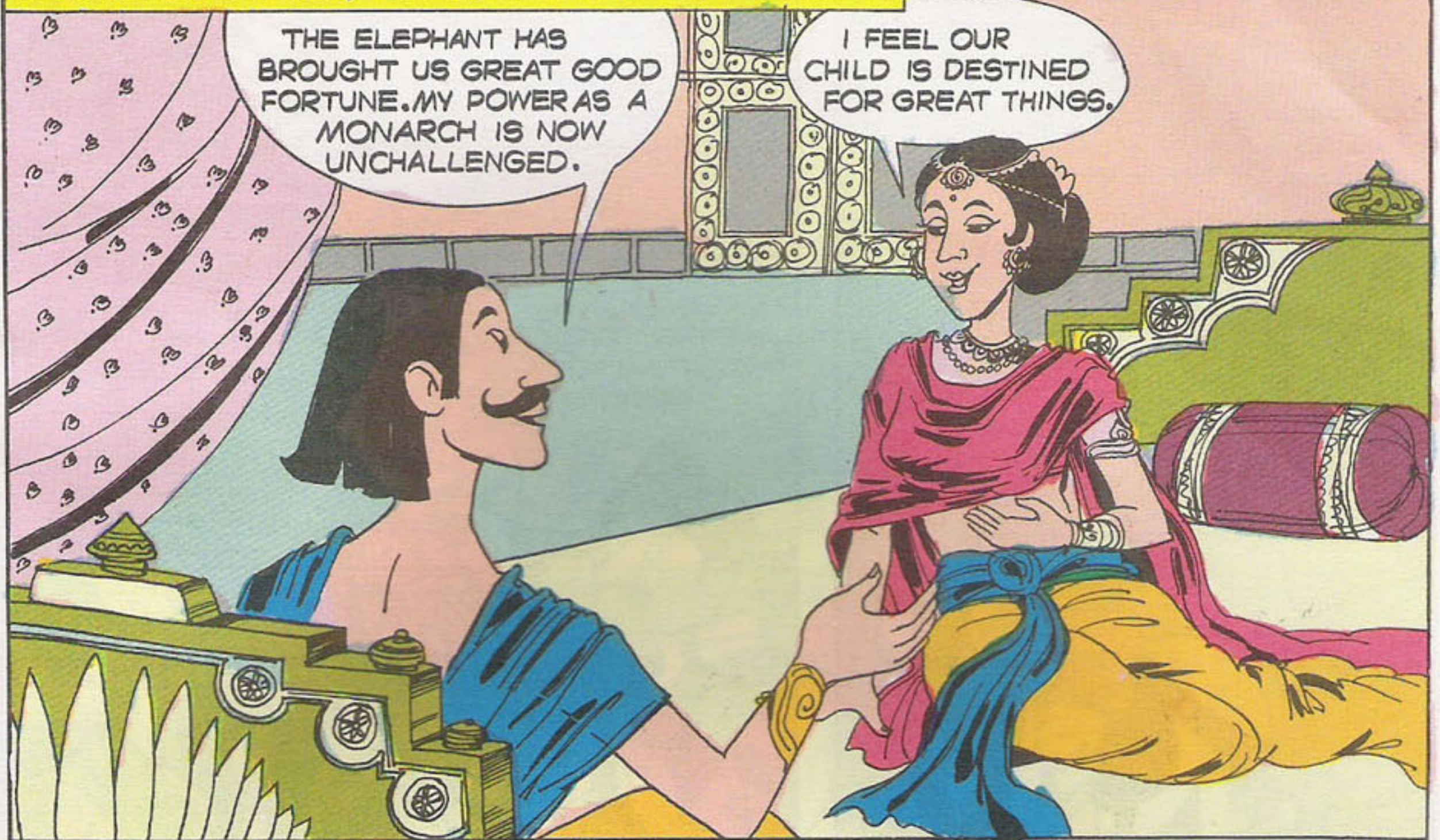


THE ELEPHANT BECAME DEEPLY ATTACHED TO THE KING AND FOLLOWED HIM EVERYWHERE.

MY LORD, HE REFUSES TO TOUCH HIS FOOD TILL YOU HAVE FIRST FED HIM A MORSEL.



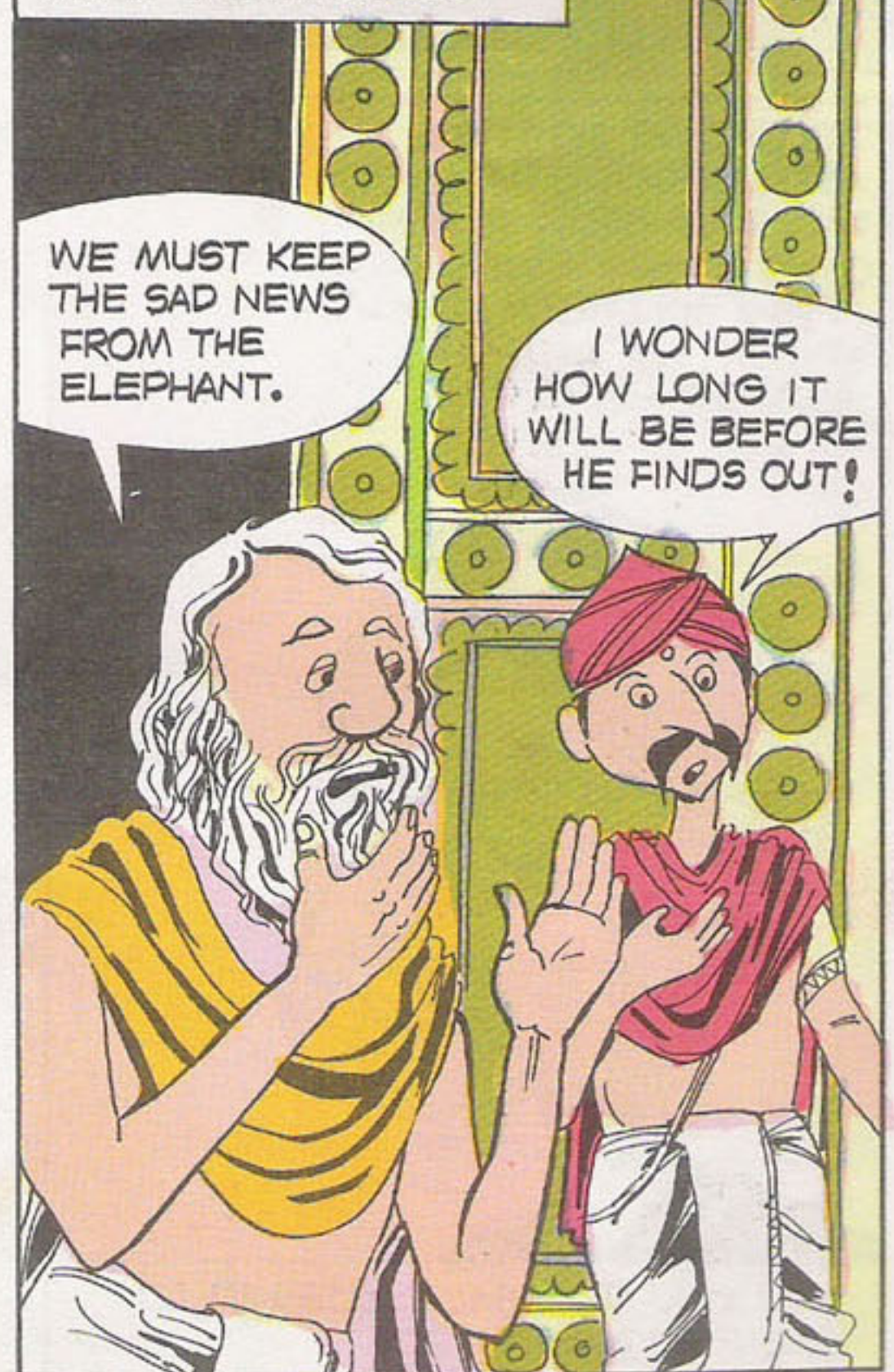
A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE QUEEN WAS EXPECTING A BABY.



BUT THEIR JOY WAS SHORT-LIVED. THE KING FELL SERIOUSLY ILL. AS HE LAY DYING —

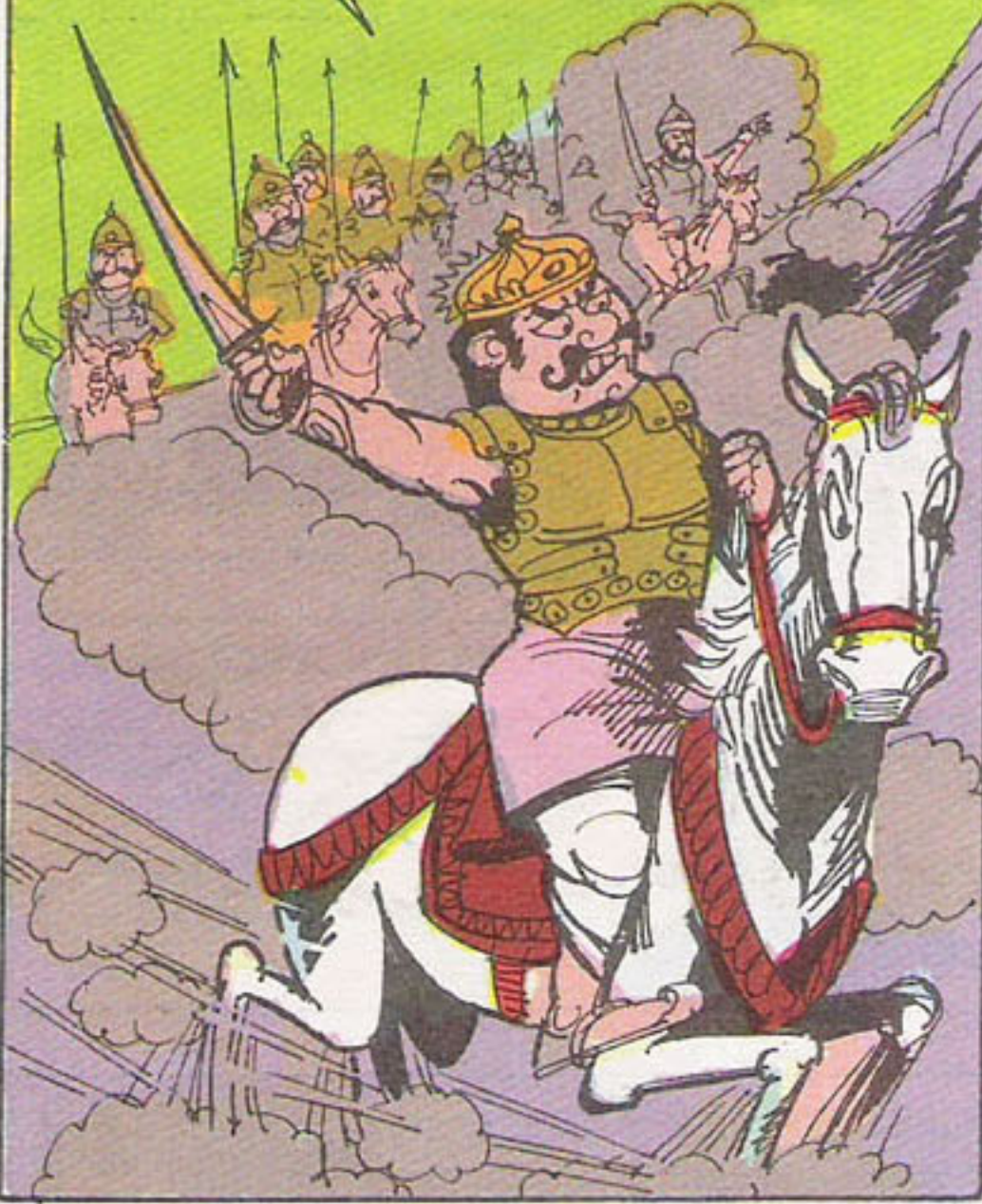


WHEN THE KING DIED —



MEANWHILE, THE KING OF KOSALA WAS MARCHING TOWARDS VARANASI.

THE KING IS DEAD, AND CONFUSION REIGNS.



ACCORDING TO THE ASTROLOGERS, THE QUEEN WILL GIVE BIRTH TO HER CHILD WITHIN A WEEK. IF IT IS A SON, WE WILL FIGHT. IF NOT, WE WILL SURRENDER.



THE KING OF KOSALA ACCEDED TO THEIR REQUEST.

THERE WERE HURRIED CONSULTATIONS AT VARANASI.



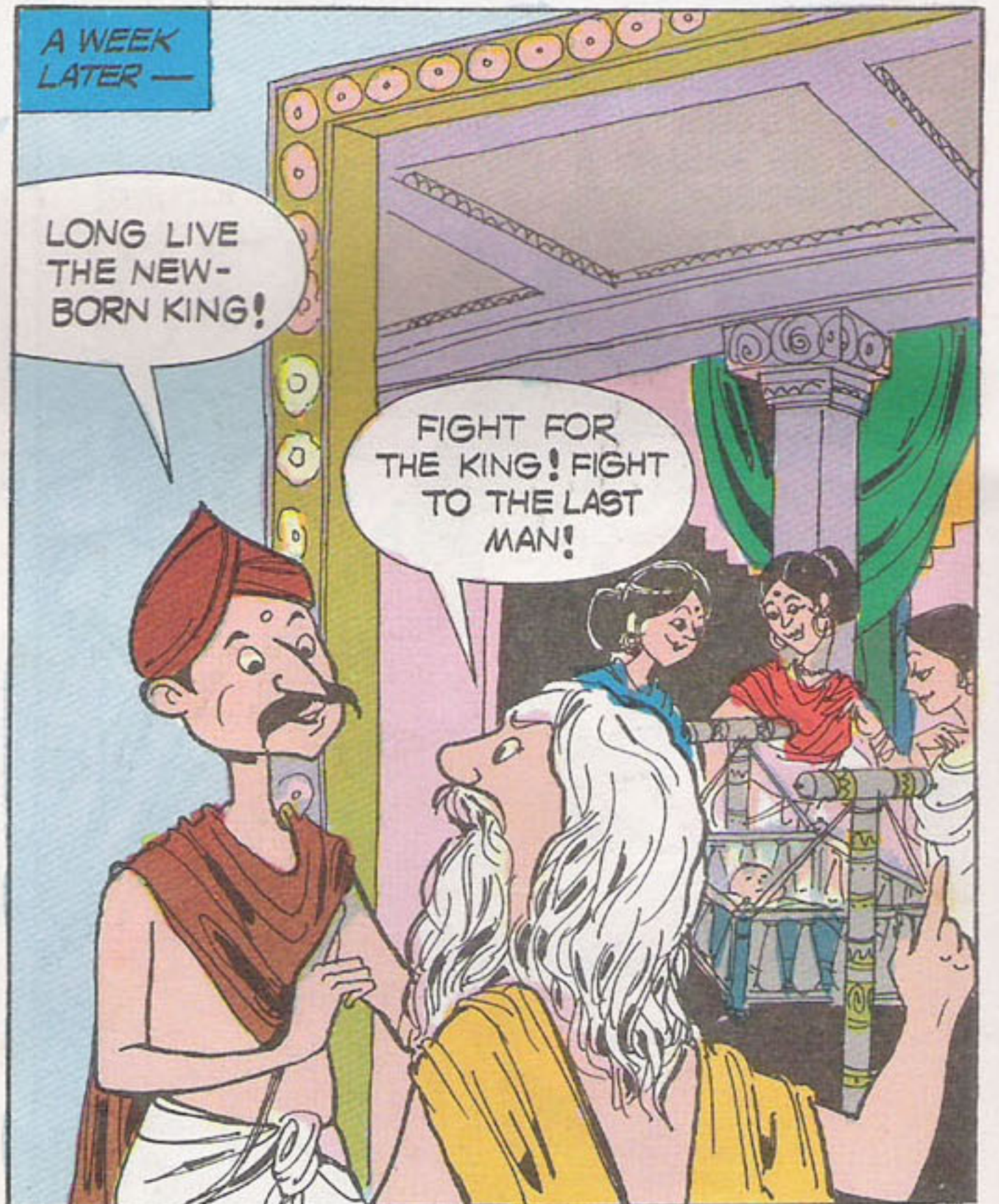
WE SHOULD ASK THEM TO SUSPEND FIGHTING FOR A WEEK.

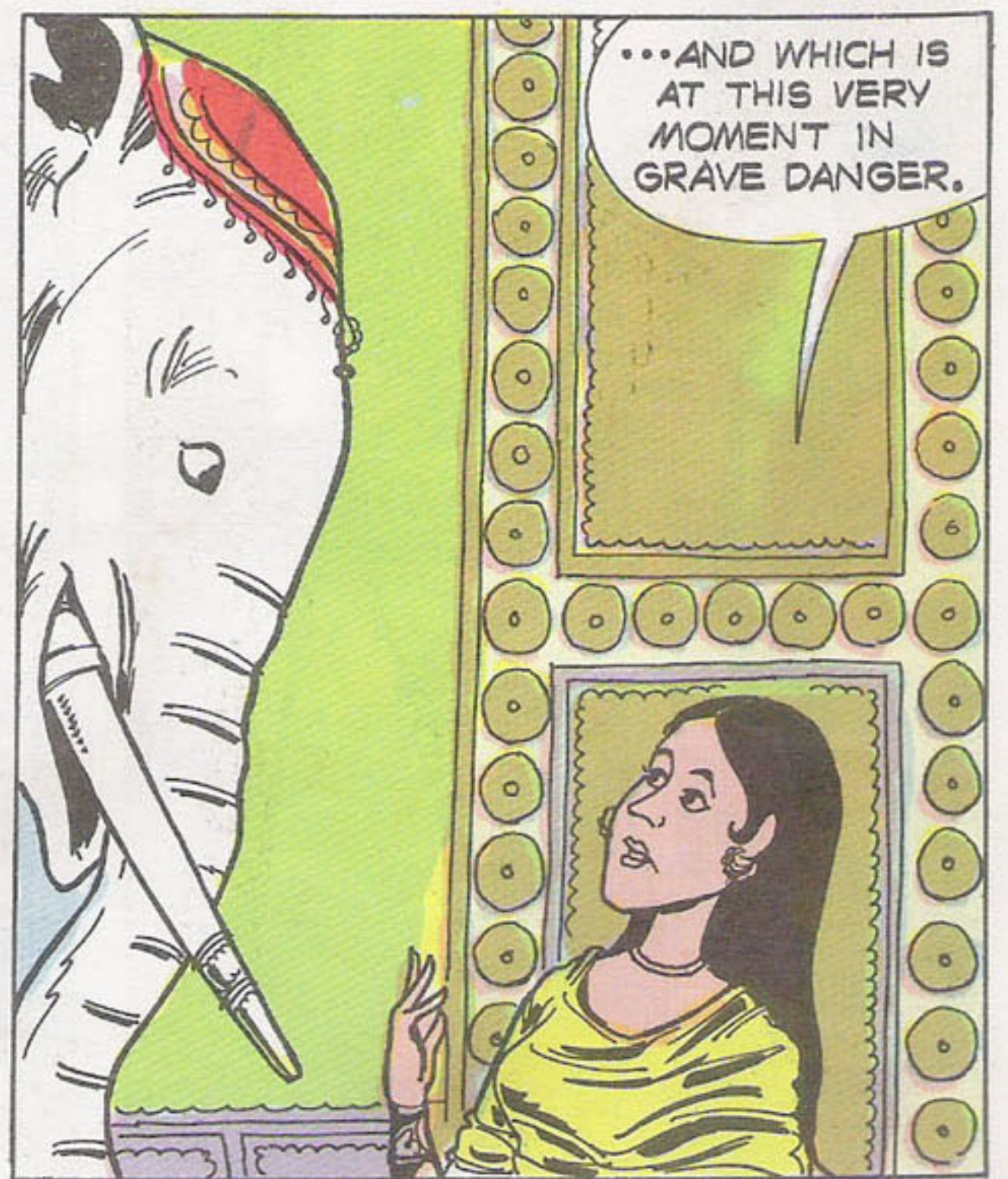
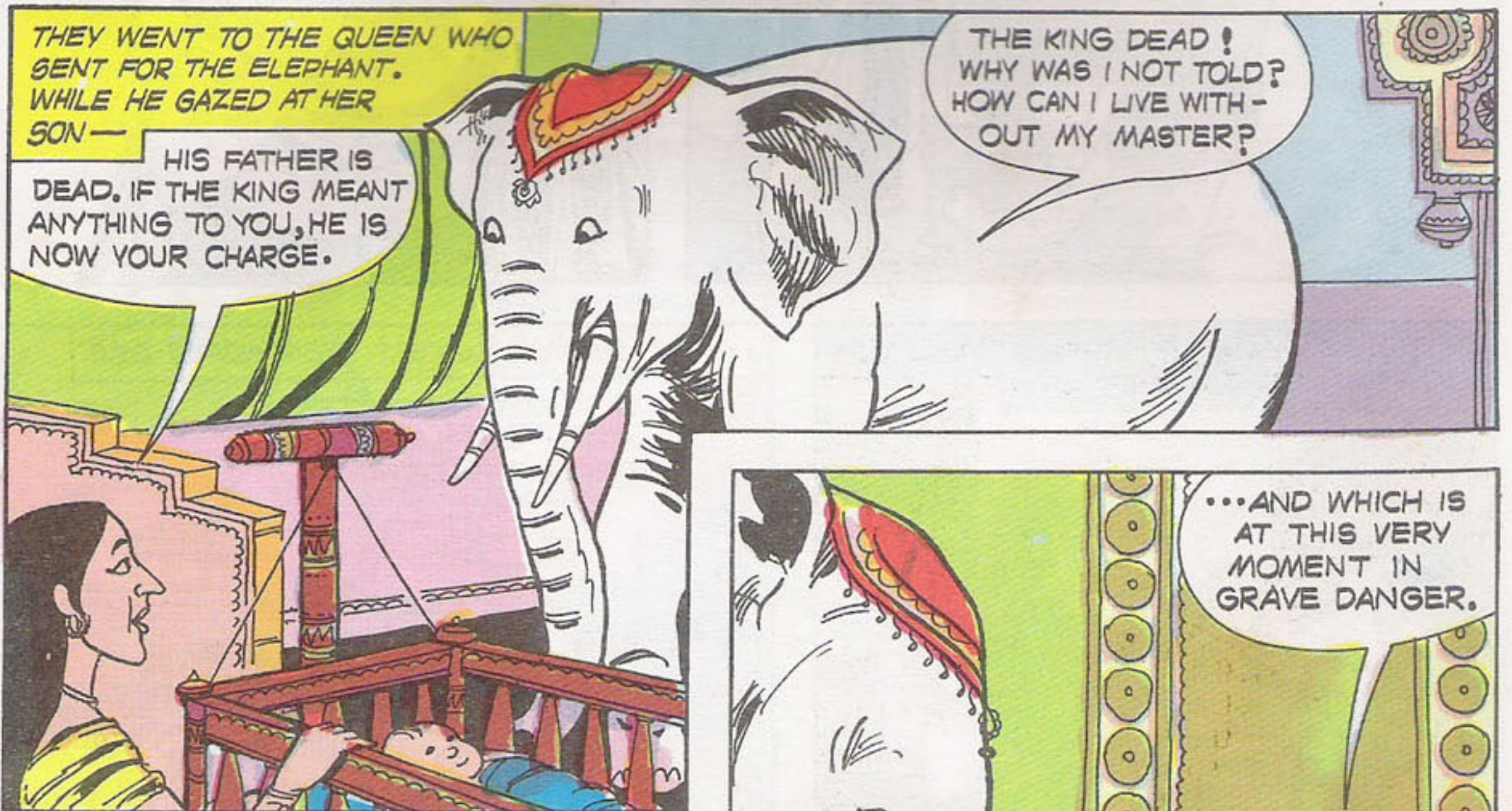
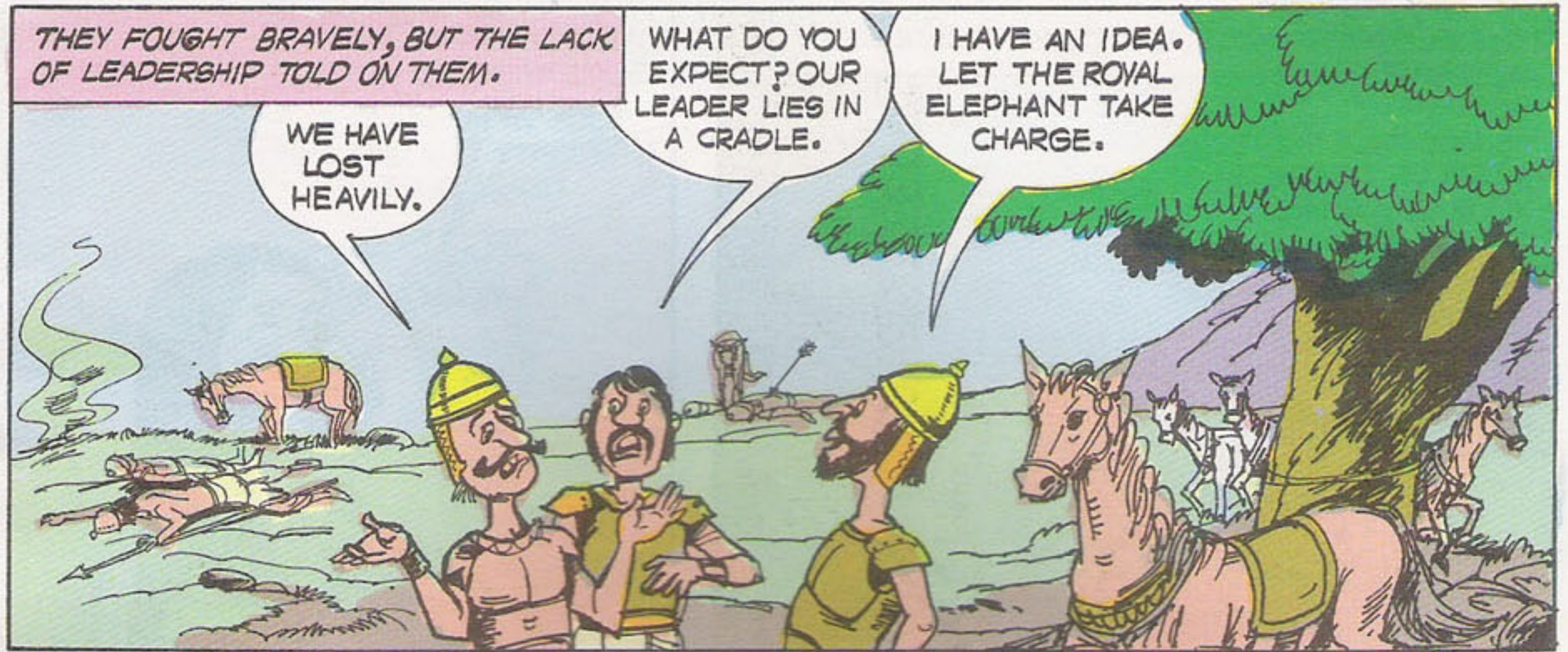
HOW WILL THAT HELP?

A WEEK LATER —

LONG LIVE THE NEW-BORN KING!

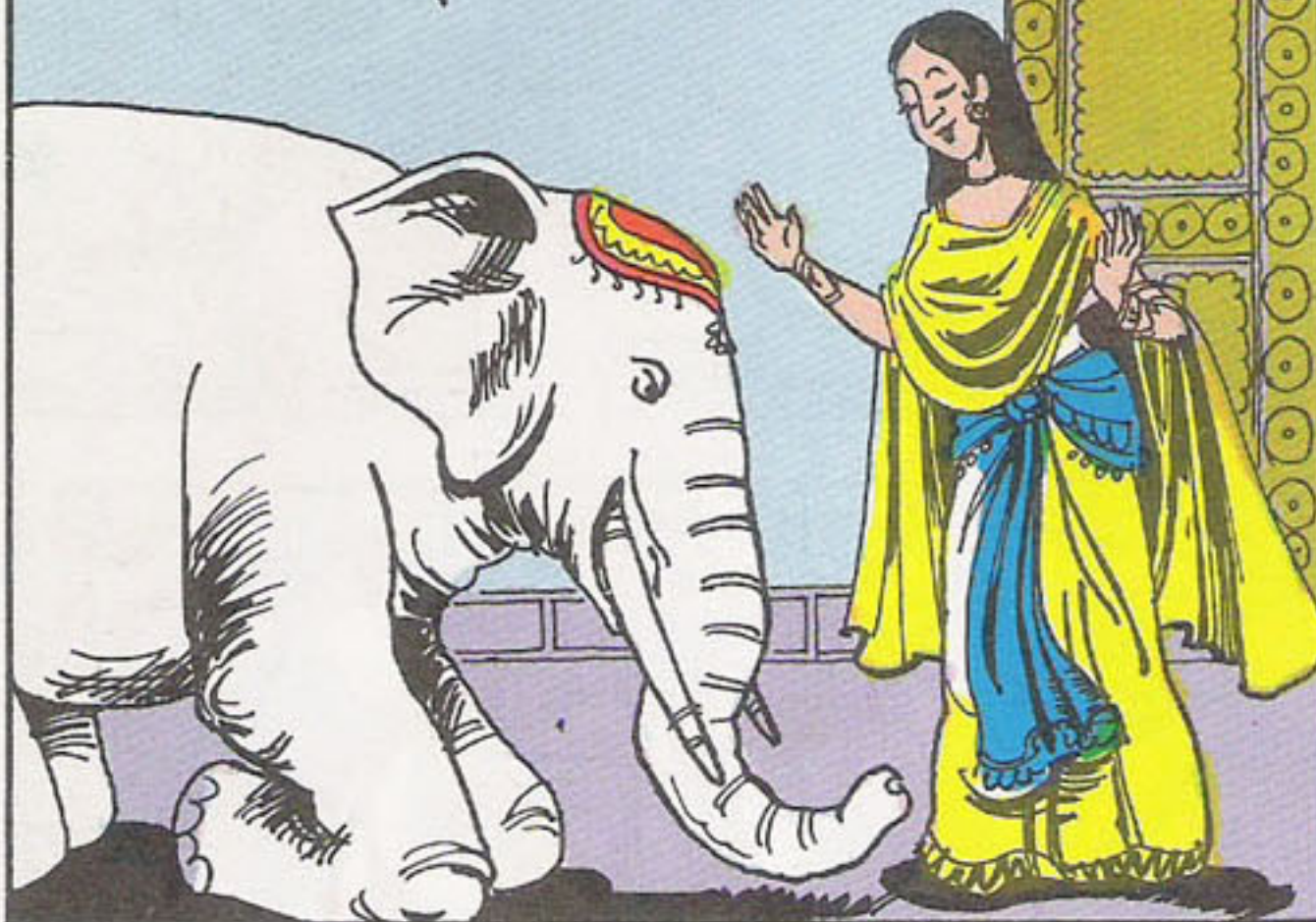
FIGHT FOR THE KING! FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN!





THE ELEPHANT KNELT TO RECEIVE THE QUEEN'S BLESSING.

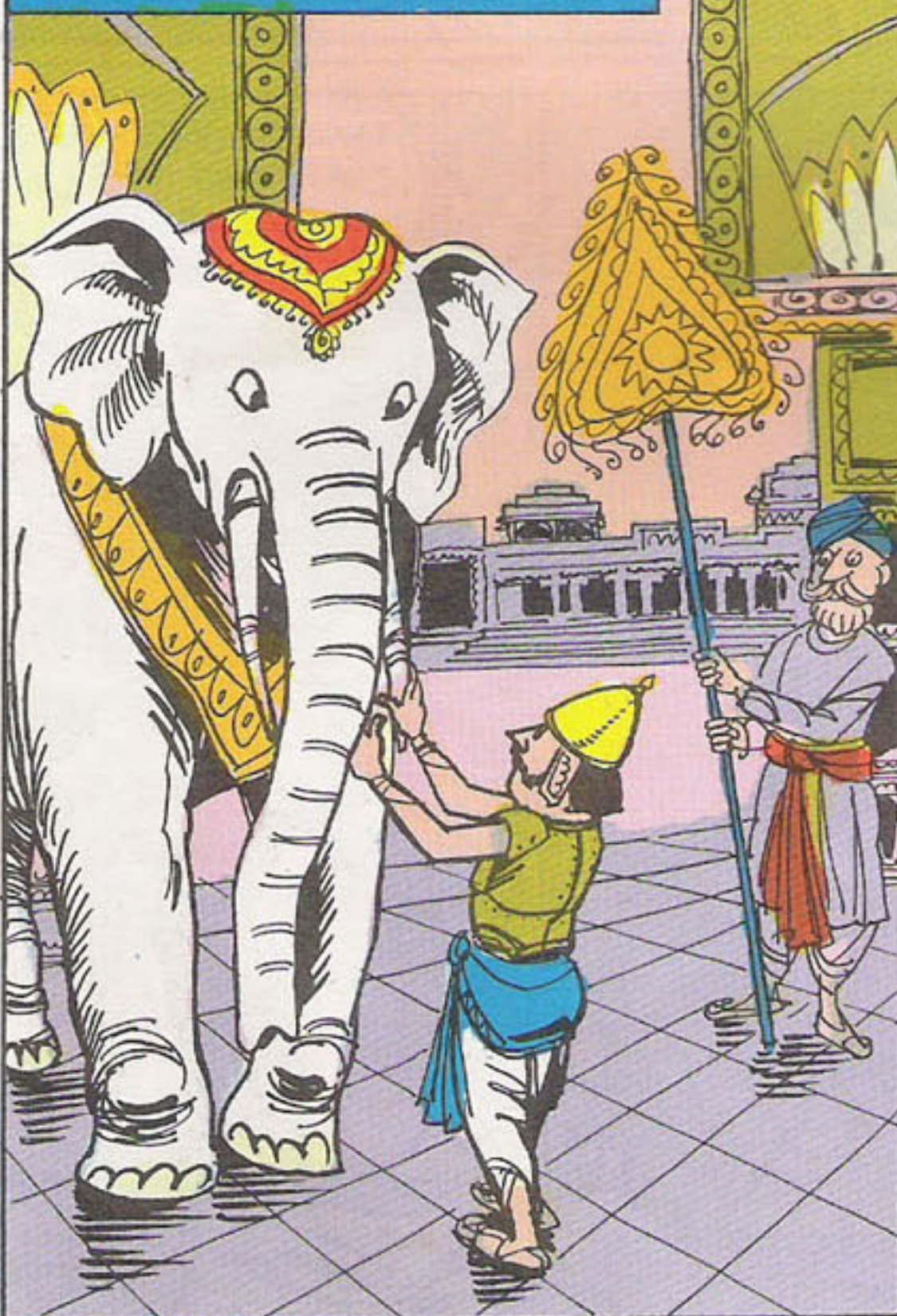
I SHALL TALK NO MORE OF DEATH. YOUR SON SHALL RULE.



WE NOW HAVE SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR.

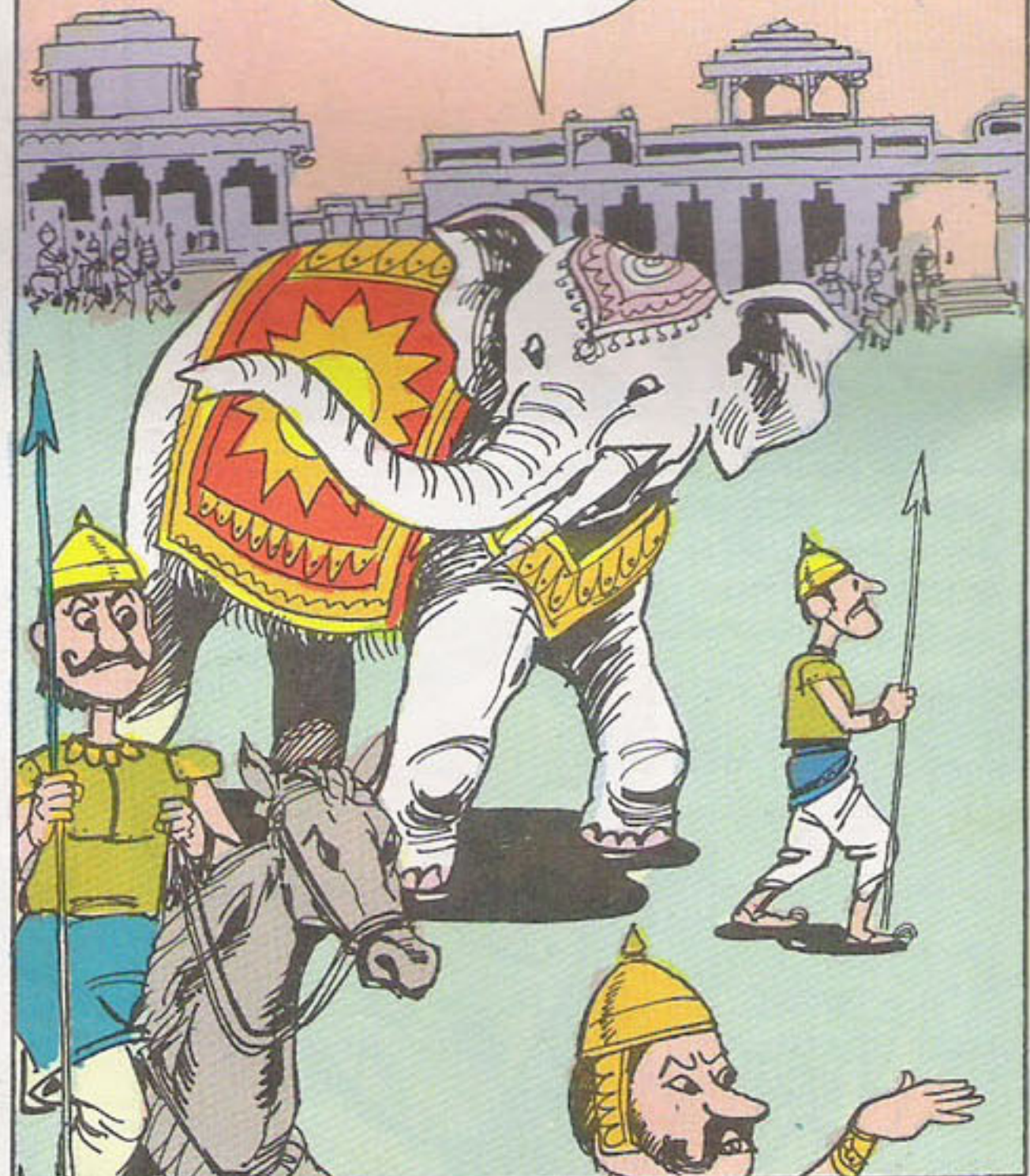


AS THE KEEPER OF THE ROYAL STABLES GOT HIM READY FOR THE BATTLE...



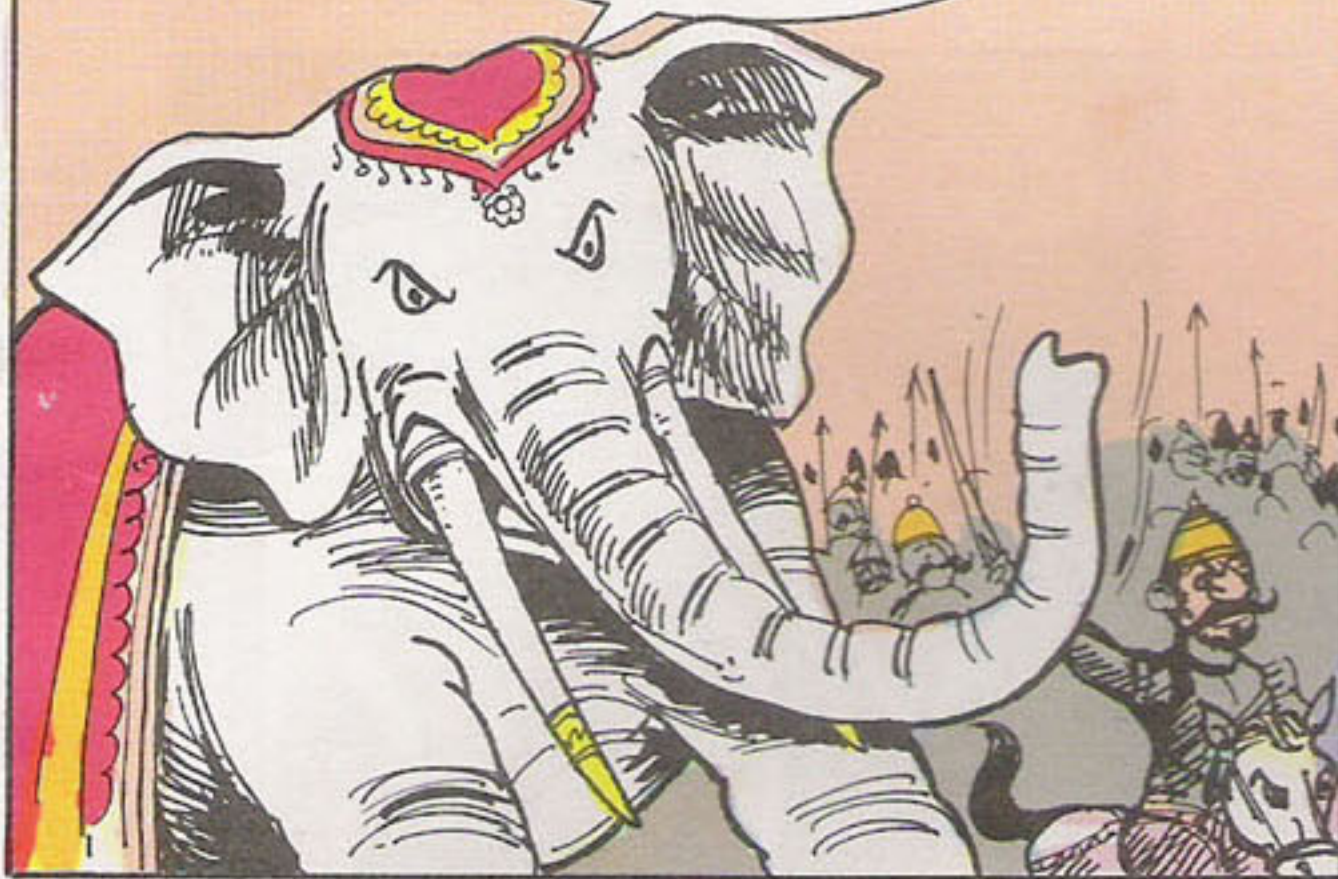
... THE KING'S MEN FELT THEIR HOPES RISE.

GET THE TROOPS OUT! LET NO MAN DAWDLE!



AND THEN THE ELEPHANT CHARGED FORWARD, THE SKIES RESOUNDING WITH HIS MIGHTY TRUMPETING.

PUT COURAGE IN YOUR HEARTS AND STRENGTH IN YOUR ARMS!

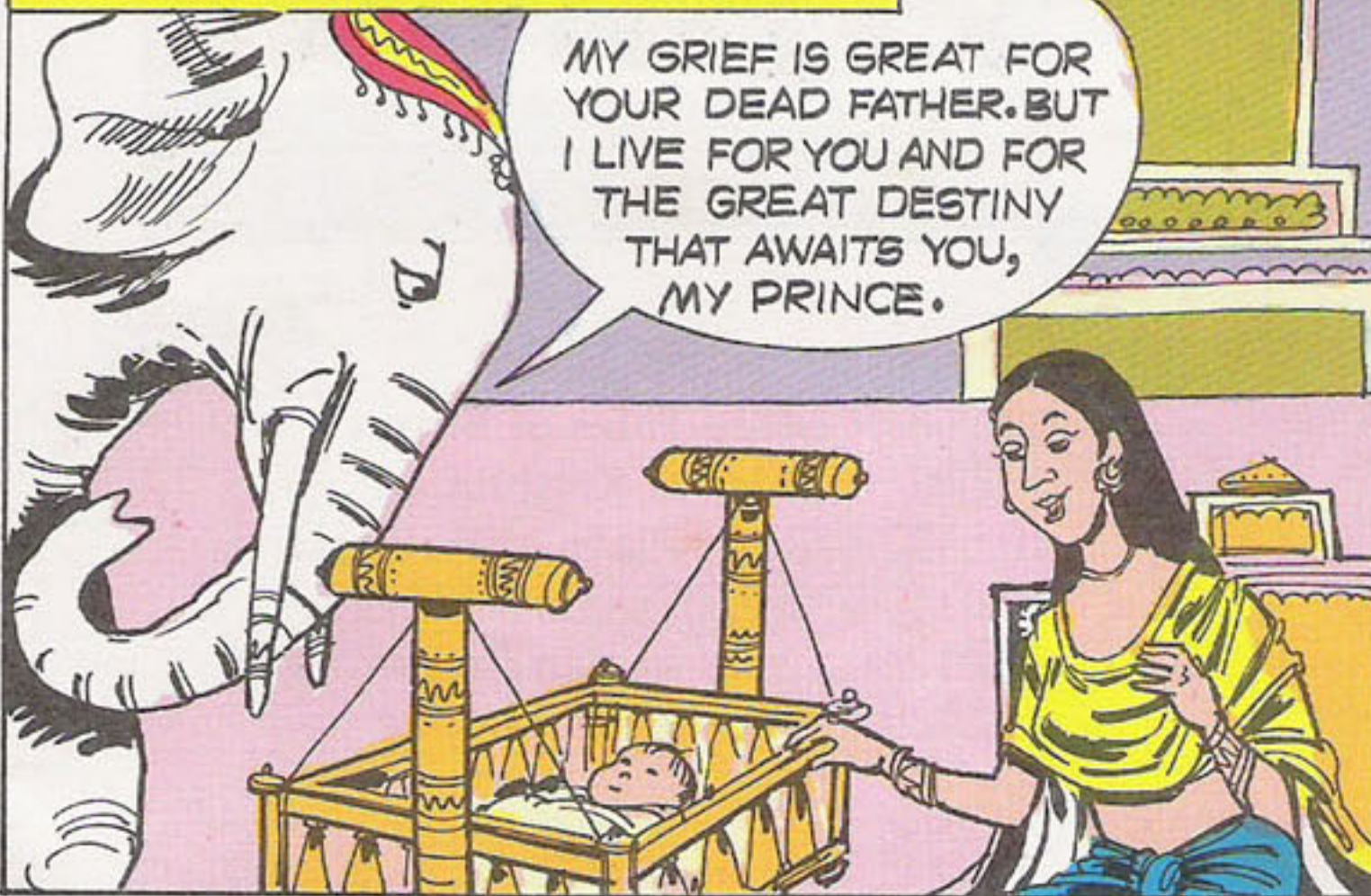


FOLLOW OUR LEADER. HE IS DIVINELY INSPIRED!

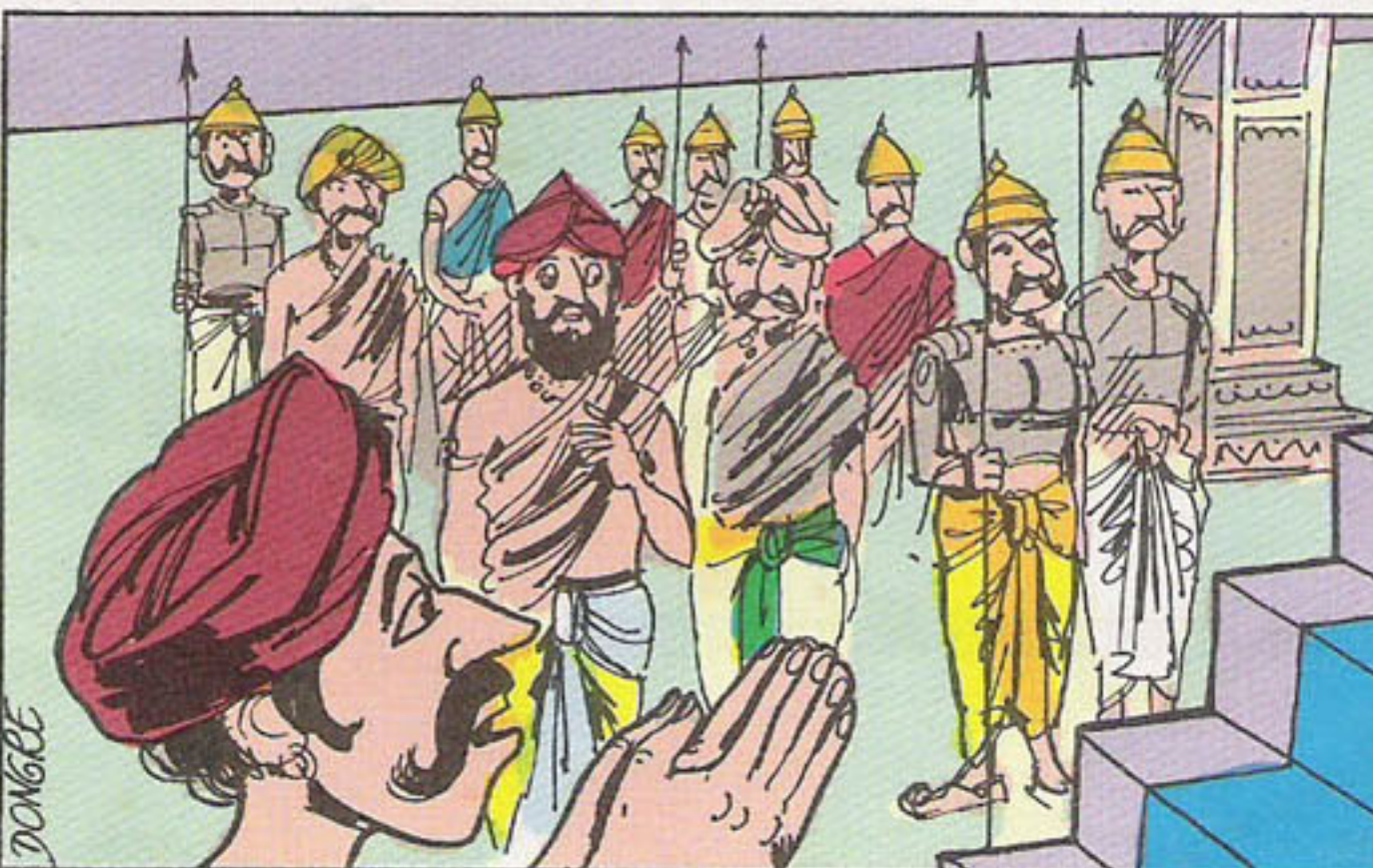
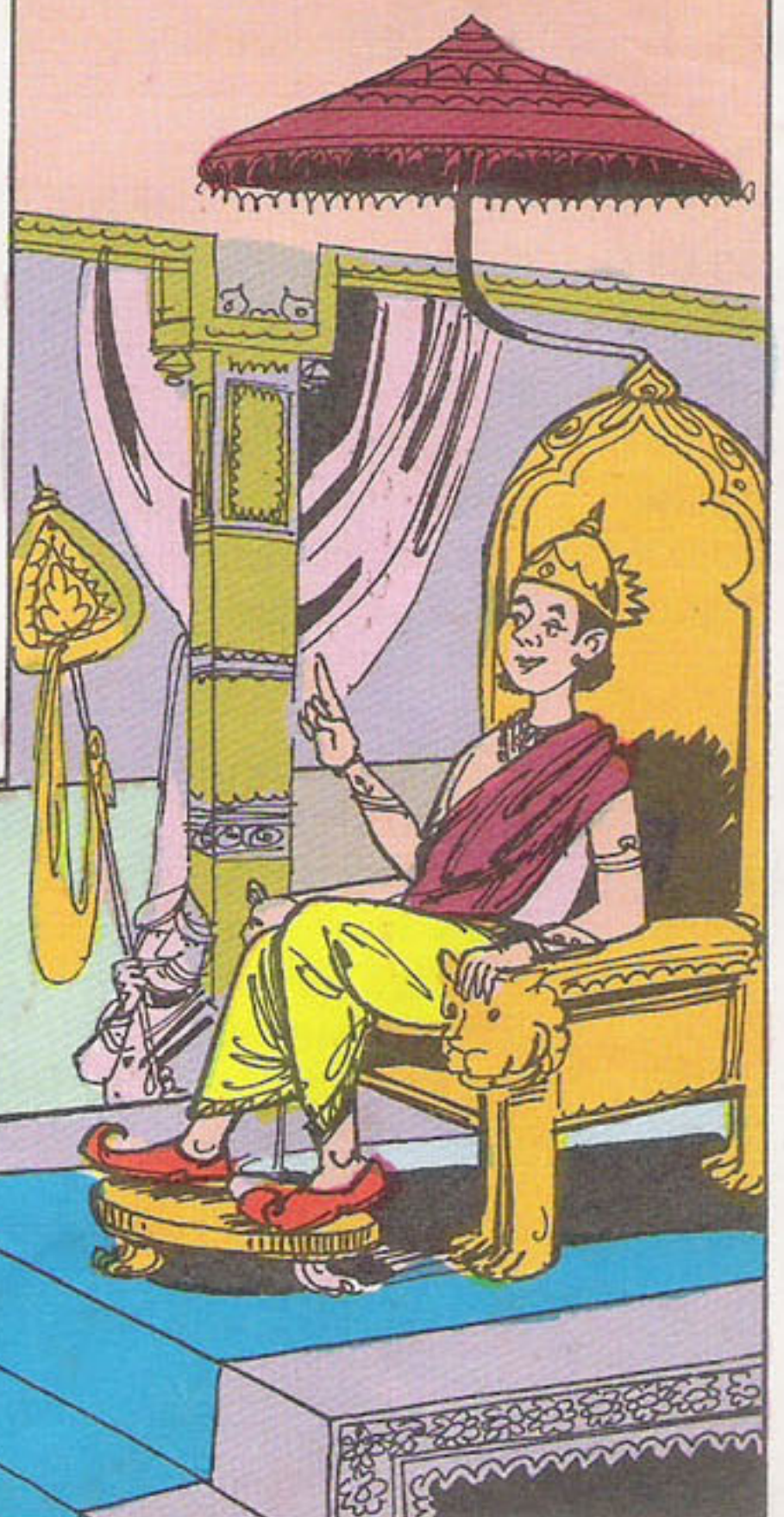


THE KOSALA ARMIES WERE ROUTED, THE BATTLE WON, THE ELEPHANT STOOD BEFORE THE QUEEN, HIS PROUD HEAD BOWED BEFORE HIS INFANT MASTER.

MY GRIEF IS GREAT FOR YOUR DEAD FATHER. BUT I LIVE FOR YOU AND FOR THE GREAT DESTINY THAT AWAITS YOU, MY PRINCE.

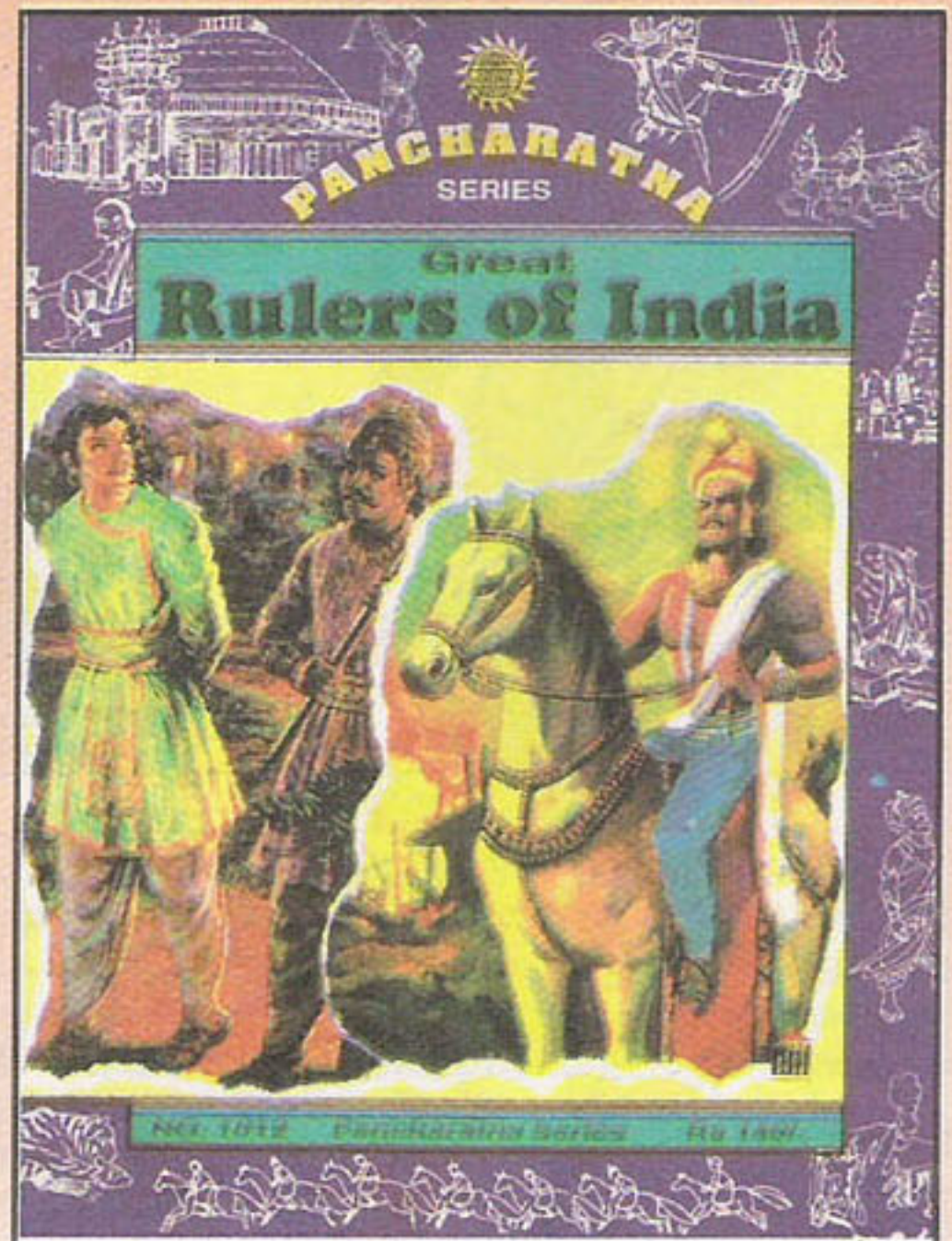
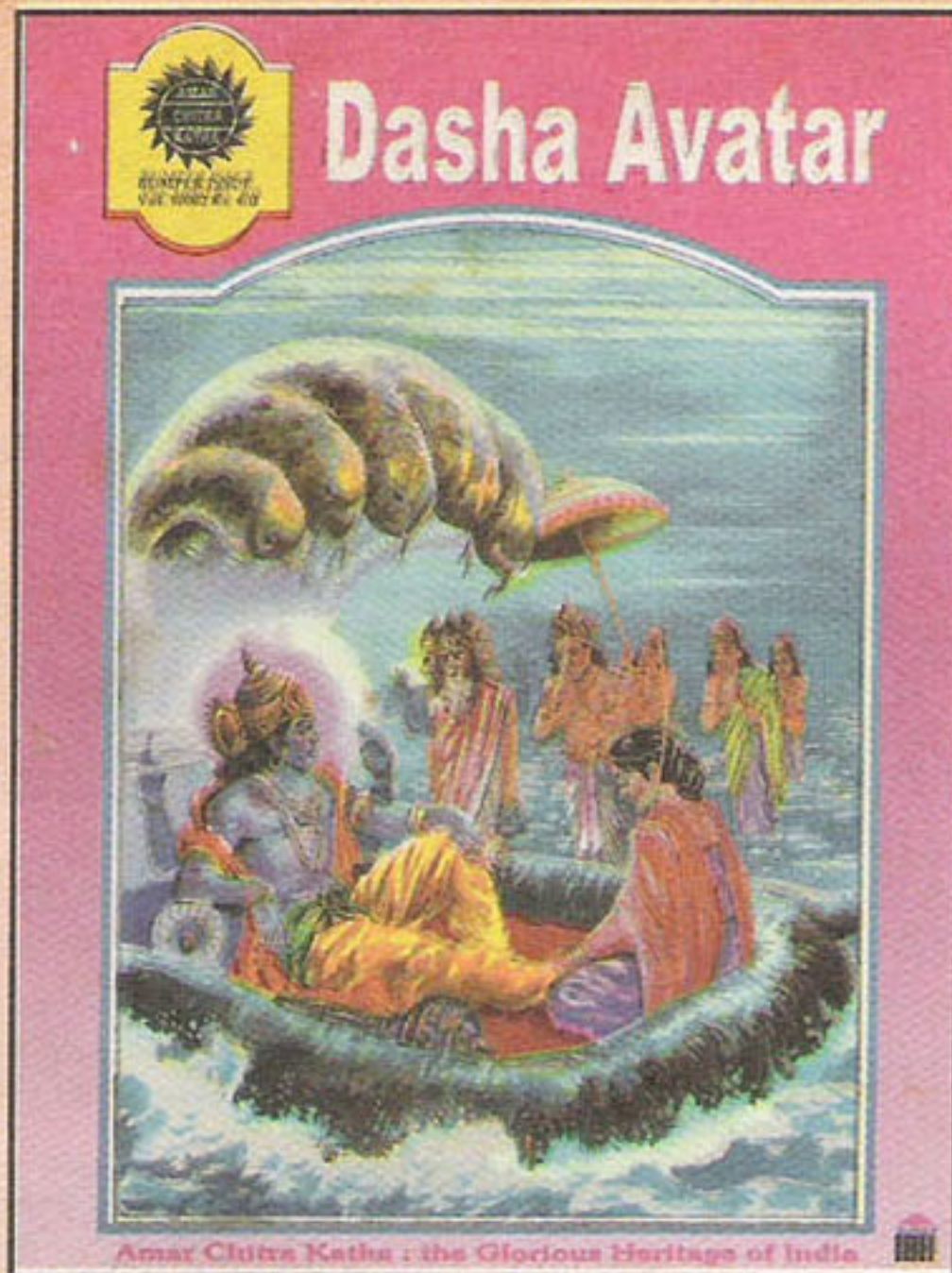


AND THE BODHISATTVA (FOR THE CHILD WAS NONE OTHER THAN HE) GREW UP TO INHERIT A KINGDOM WHICH HE RULED WISELY AND WELL.





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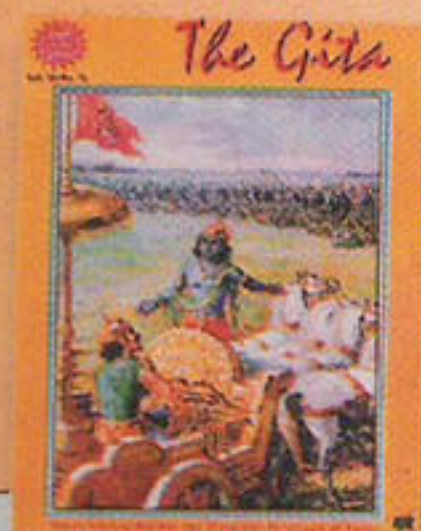
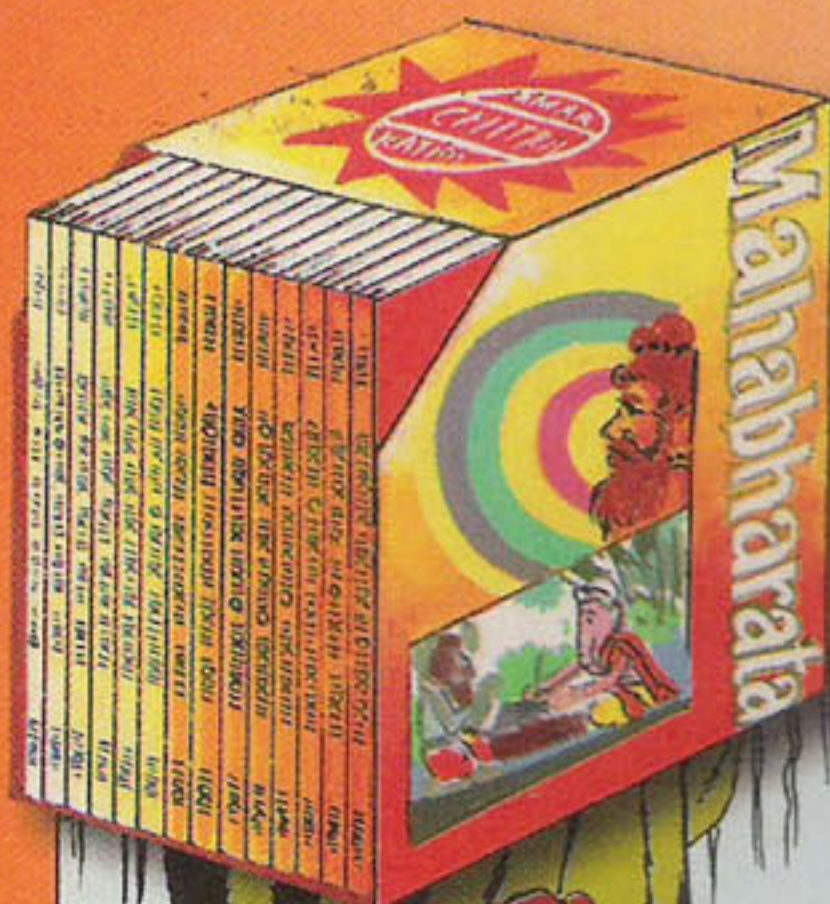
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