



No. 45

JATAKA tales

MONKEY STORIES

AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA



JEFFREY
FOWLER

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

The Jatakas on which the present title is based is a collection of five hundred and fifty stories, included in the Pali canon. They are tales in which the life of Bodhisatva in his previous births is narrated. The Bodhisatva is one, who by performing virtuous, kind and intelligent acts, aspires to become a Buddha.

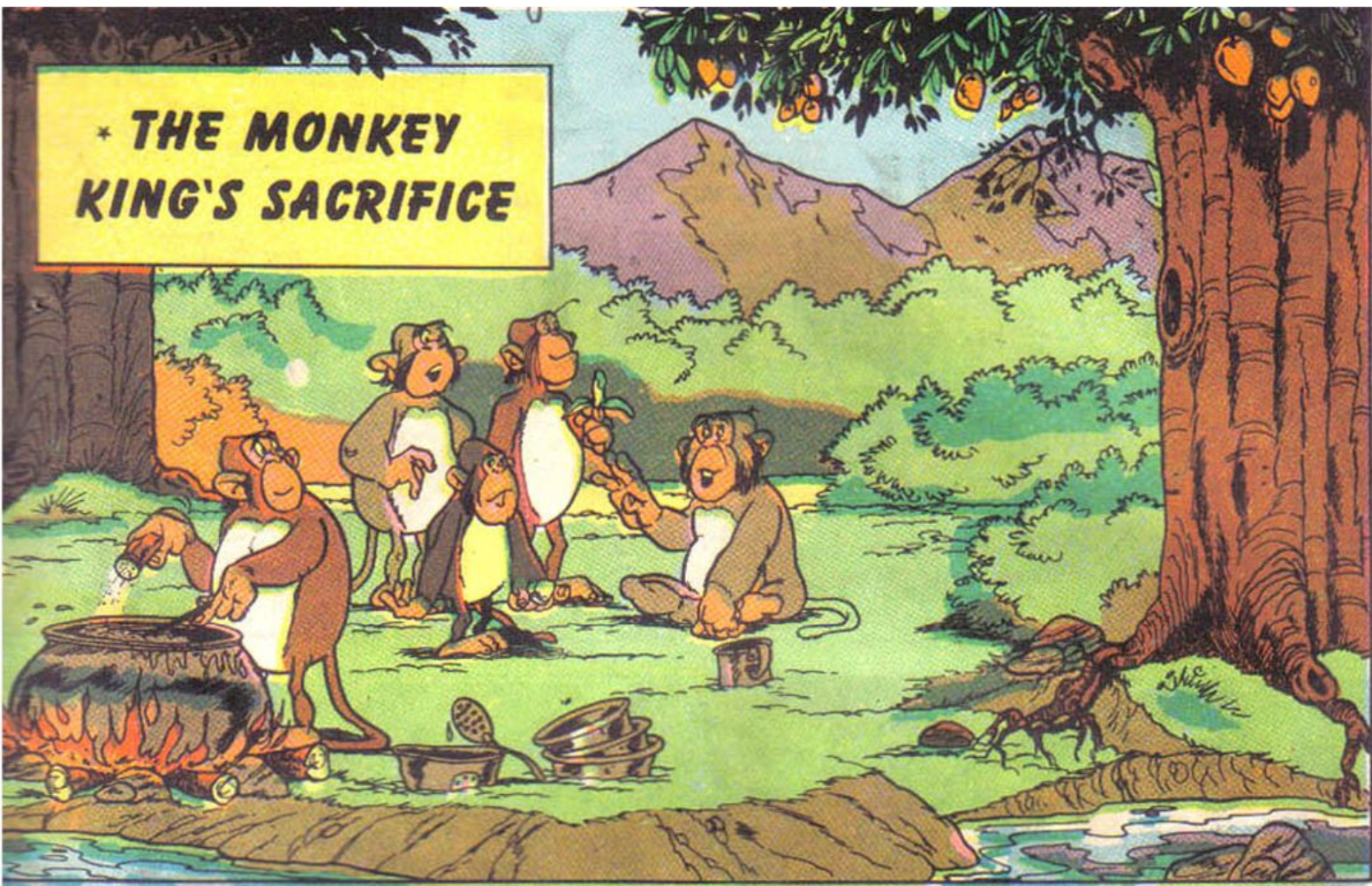
Jataka tales are based on folklore, legends and ballads of ancient India. We cannot assign a definite date to the Jataka stories. Taking into account archaeological and literary evidence it seems likely that they were compiled in the period, third century B.C. to fifth century A.D. They give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

The Jataka stories have been very popular in the Buddhist world. These stories have been translated almost in all the languages of the Buddhist countries such as the Chinese, Tibetan, Sinhalese, Siamese, Burmese, Japanese and also in many modern European languages. These stories have encouraged painting and sculpture in ancient India and other Buddhist countries. Sanchi, Bharhut, Amaravati and Ajanta in India, Borobudur in Java, Pagan in Burma and Sukhodaya in Siam bear testimony to the popularity of these tales.

The present book is a collection of a few Jataka stories in which the Bodhisatva is born as a monkey. We hope, in the words of Prof. Rhys Davids that "we may still turn with appreciation to the ancient book of the Buddhist Jataka tales as a priceless record of the childhood of our race".

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
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* THE MONKEY KING'S SACRIFICE



FRIENDS! WE HAVE BEEN
LIVING HAPPILY
ON THIS MANGO TREE
FOR YEARS.



BUT I ANTICIPATE
TROUBLE, SOON.

WHY
MASTER?

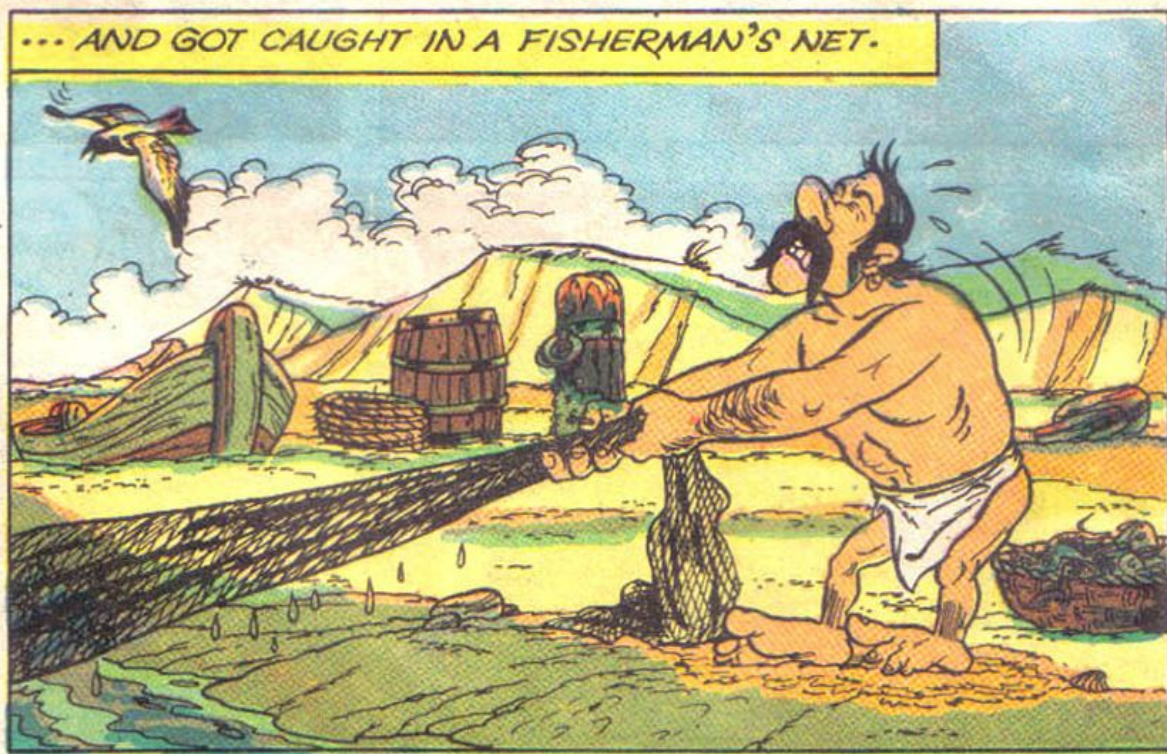


MEN HAVE COME TO LIVE
NEAR OUR FOREST. THEY
HAVE NEVER TASTED THE
MANGO FRUIT.





BUT IN SPITE OF ALL
THIS CARE, A JUICY
RIPE MANGO FELL
INTO THE RIVER...



WHEN HE GOT HOME AND BEGAN SORTING OUT THE FISH—

LOOK! SEE WHAT I HAVE FOUND AMONG THE FISH. A STRANGE FRUIT. IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A FRUIT LIKE THAT BEFORE.



I THINK WE OUGHT TO TAKE IT TO THE KING.

YES. I THINK I'D BETTER.



SO, ALONG WITH A FRIEND, HE SET OFF FOR THE KING'S PALACE.

THE KING WILL BE OVERJOYED WHEN HE SEES IT.

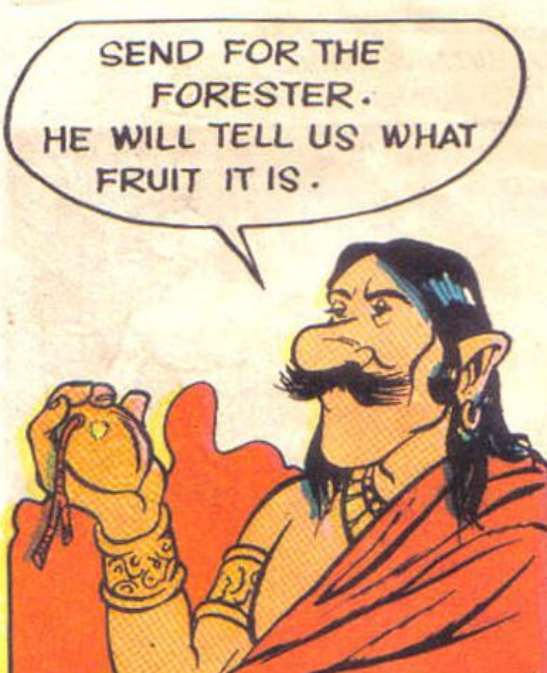


THEY REACHED THE PALACE LATE THAT NIGHT.

HALT

WE'D LIKE TO SHOW THIS FRUIT TO THE KING.

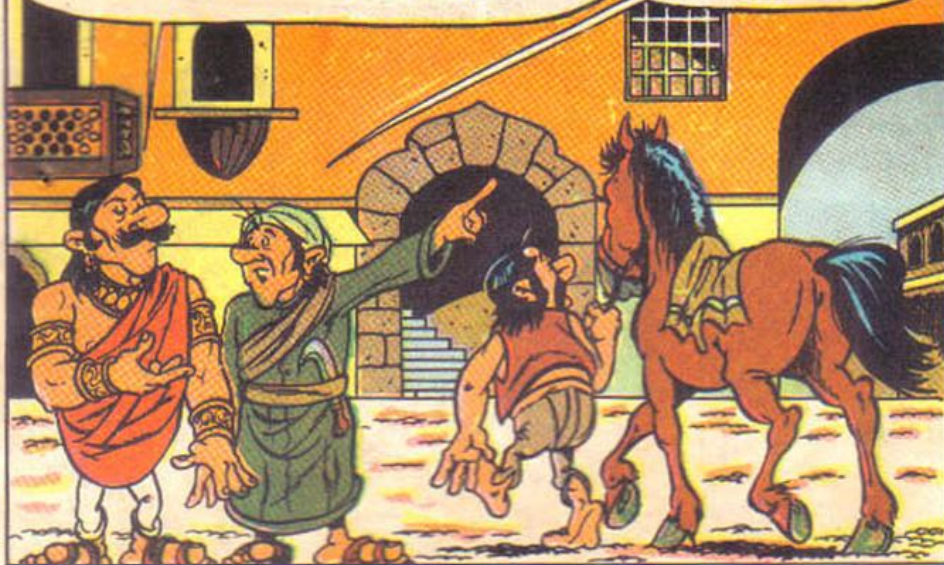




NEXT MORNING —

TELL ME FORESTER, WHERE DOES THIS MANGO FRUIT GROW.

THERE IS A MANGO GROVE, JUST A LITTLE UPSTREAM, SIR.



MINISTER, MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. WE ARE LEAVING FOR THAT GROVE.

YES, SIR.



SOON THEY WERE OFF.

I HOPE YOU HAVE BROUGHT SOME ARCHERS ALONG.

I HAVE, SIR.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE SPOT —

TELL EVERYONE TO EAT AS MUCH AS THEY CAN.



MINISTER, WE WILL STAY HERE FOR A DAY OR TWO.

I WILL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS, SIR.



AS NIGHT FELL, THE MONKEYS BEGAN
MOVING ABOUT.

MINISTER,
WHAT WAS THAT?

JUST MONKEYS
SIR, SCAMPERING
AMONG THE BRANCHES.

WHEN IT'S MORNING, TELL THE
ARCHERS TO SHOOT
EVERY SINGLE MONKEY.

I SHALL, SIR.

THE NEXT MORNING—

TODAY
ALONG WITH THE
MANGOES WE SHALL
EAT MONKEY'S
FLESH.

OH MASTER,
WE'RE
TRAPPED.

WHAT ARE WE
TO DO NOW?

EYOW

DON'T PANIC. I'LL
FIND A WAY OUT.

THEY MANAGED TO GET TO
A TREE
NEAR THE RIVER.

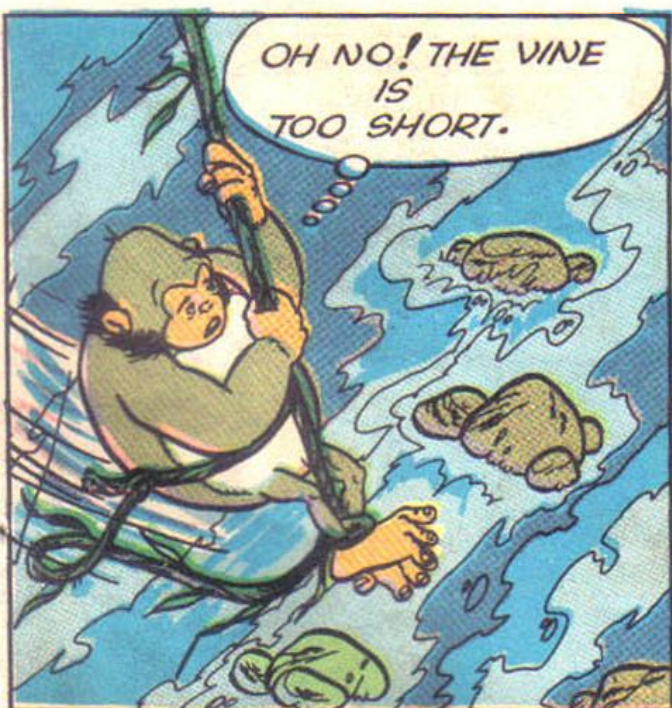


NOW ALL OF YOU
DO AS I TELL
YOU.

HE GOT HOLD OF A THICK LONG CREEPER. HE TIED
ONE END OF IT TO A BRANCH AND THE OTHER TO HIS
WAIST.



NOW I WILL SWING OVER THE
RIVER TO THAT FIG TREE ON
THE OPPOSITE BANK. ONE BY ONE
YOU CAN COME ACROSS TO THE
OTHER SIDE.



OH NO! THE VINE
IS
TOO SHORT.

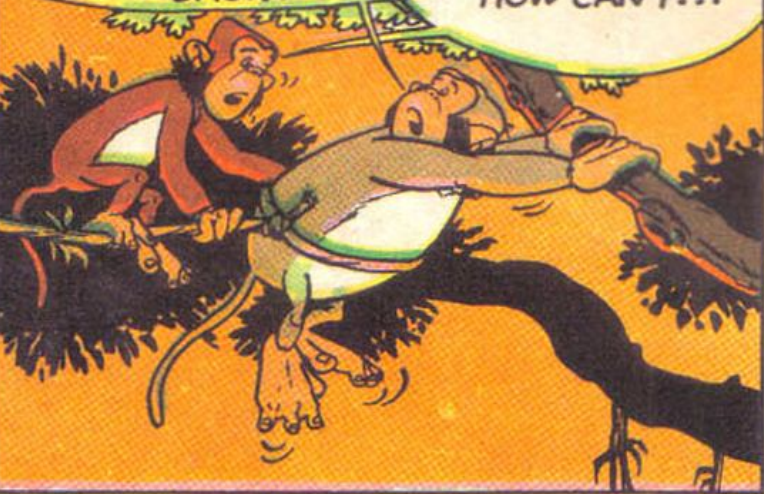


I WILL TRY TO GET
HOLD OF THIS
BRANCH AND BRIDGE
THE GAP.



LOOK AT THAT
MONKEY KING.
HOW HE MUST LOVE
HIS SUBJECTS.

THE MONKEYS BEGAN CROSSING.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING
FOR? CROSS OVER MY
BACK.

BUT,
MASTER,
HOW CAN I...



THIS IS NO TIME TO
THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.
CROSS QUICKLY.

YOU ARE
VERY KIND,
MASTER.

ALL THE MONKEYS CROSSED
OVER IN THIS MANNER. THE
LAST ONE WAS A WICKED
MONKEY WHO HAD NEVER
LIKED HIS KING.



HERE IS MY CHANCE
TO TAKE REVENGE

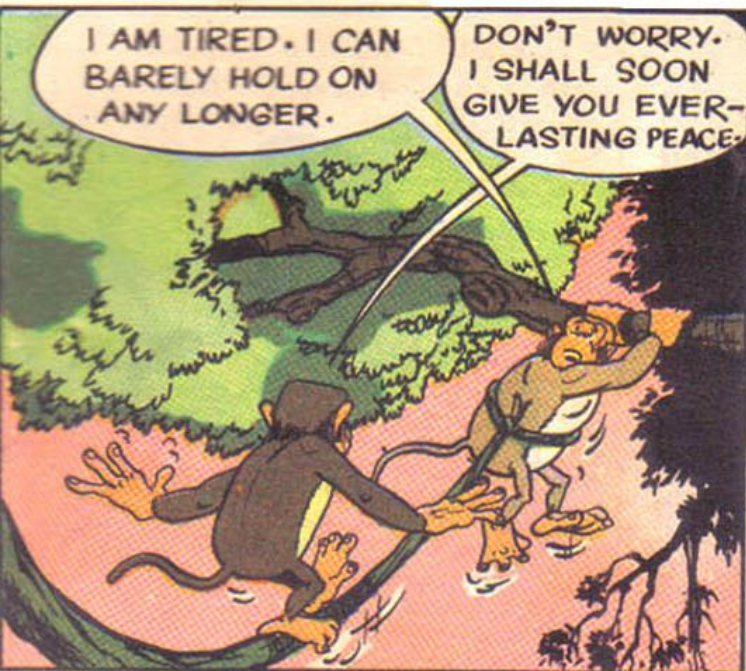


I SHALL
JUMP ACROSS
AND PUSH HIM
DOWN.

COME ON. PLEASE
HURRY.

I AM TIRED. I CAN
BARELY HOLD ON
ANY LONGER.

DON'T WORRY.
I SHALL SOON
GIVE YOU EVER-
LASTING PEACE.



THE WICKED MONKEY RUTHLESSLY JUMPED WITH
ALL HIS MIGHT ON HIS KING'S BACK.

YE-A-A

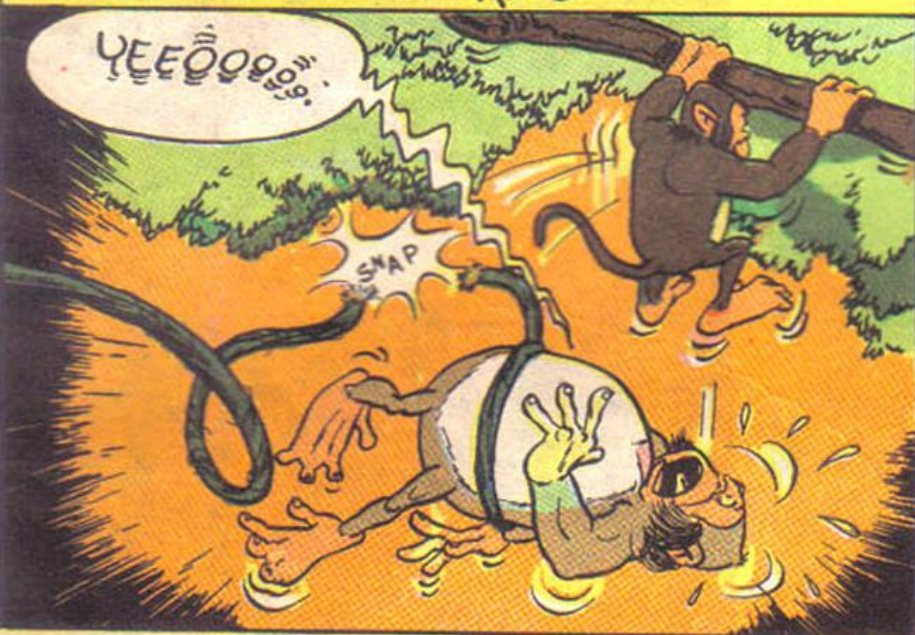
HELP!



THE VINE SNAPPED AND DOWN FELL
THE MONKEY-KING.

YEEEOOOO!!!

SNAP



HE FELL ON A ROCK AND
BROKE HIS JAW.

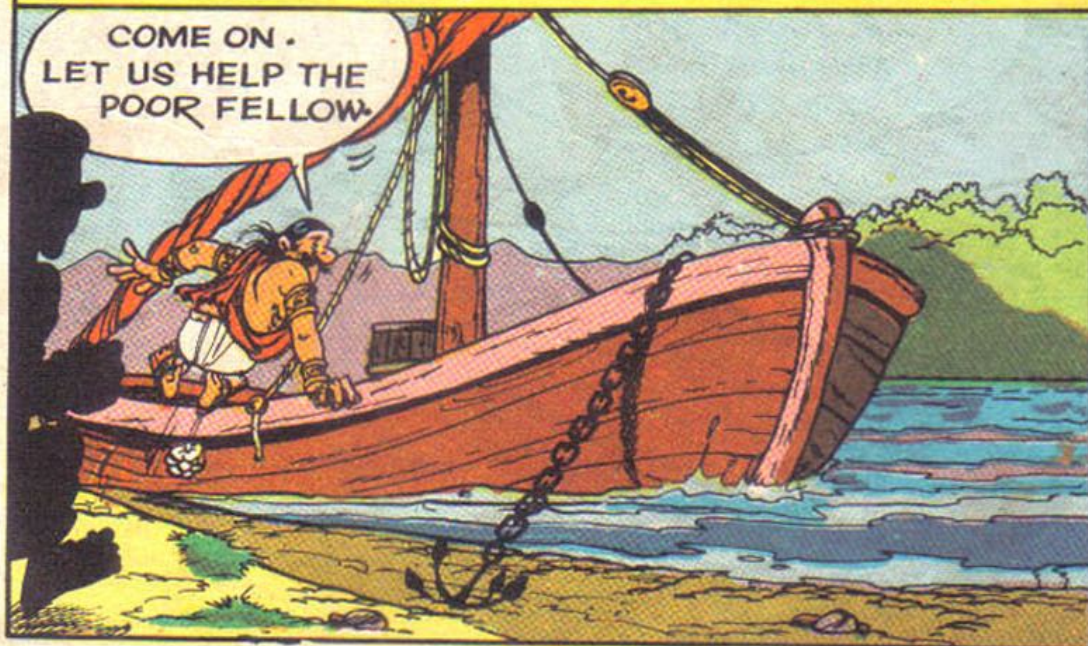
THUD

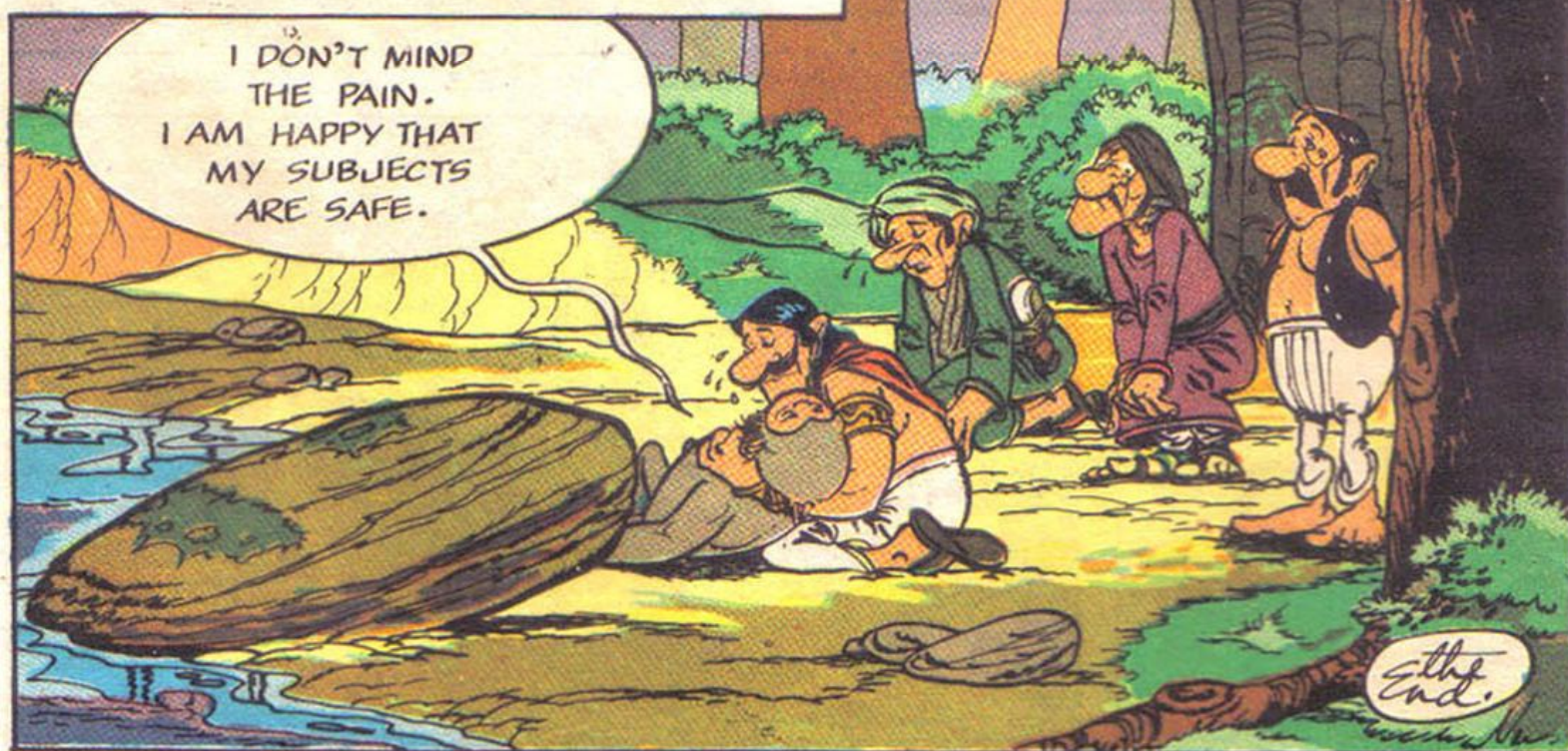
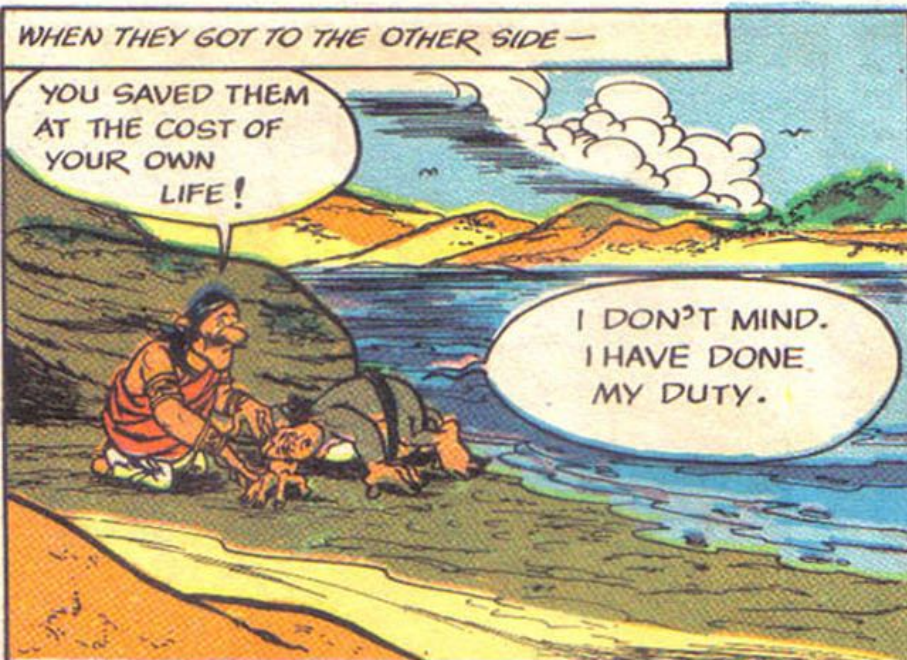


ON THE OTHER BANK, THE KING WAS WATCHING.

COME ON.
LET US HELP THE
POOR FELLOW.

GROAN

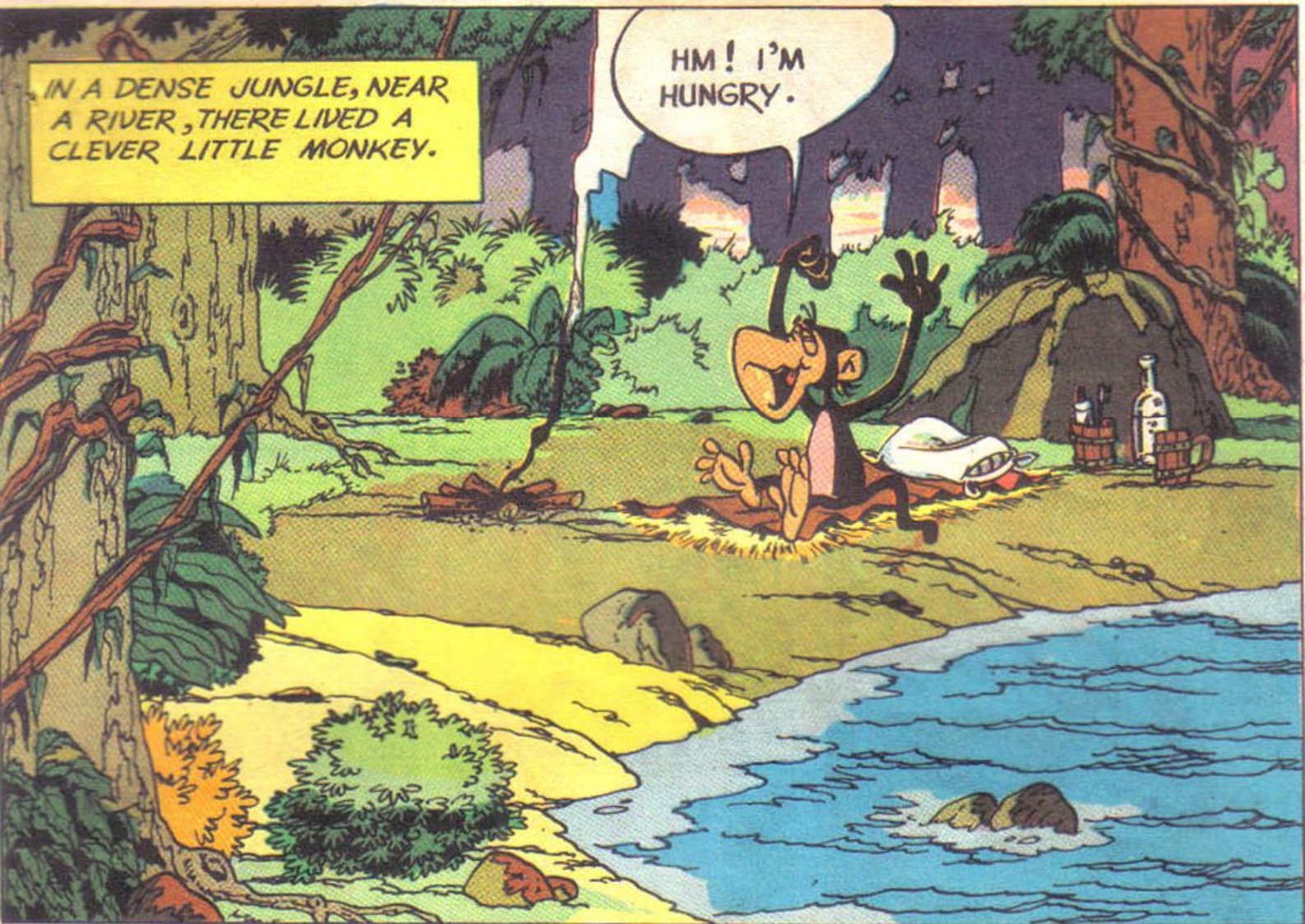




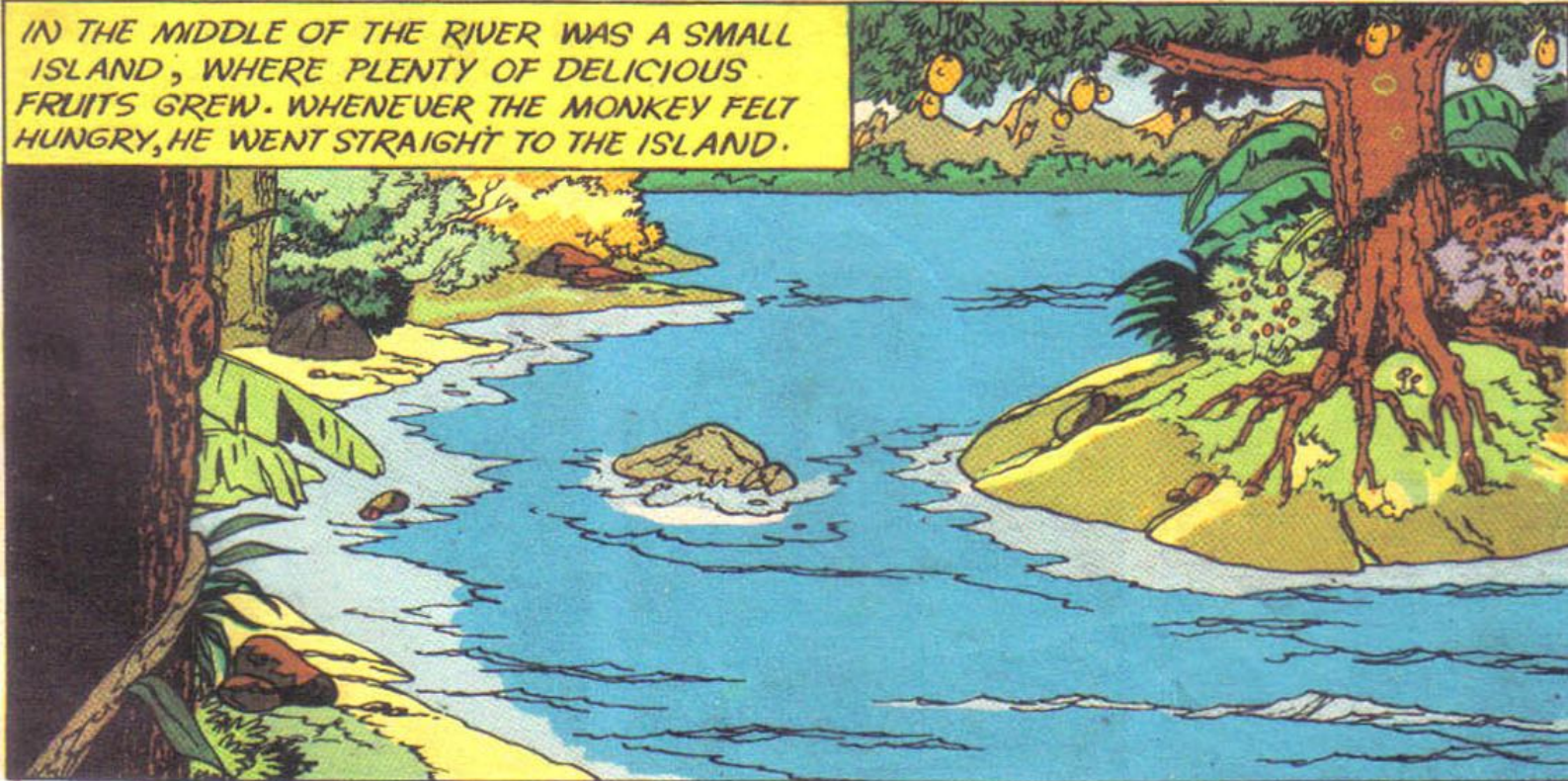
•THE STUPID CROCODILE AND THE MONKEY

IN A DENSE JUNGLE, NEAR
A RIVER, THERE LIVED A
CLEVER LITTLE MONKEY.

HM! I'M
HUNGRY.

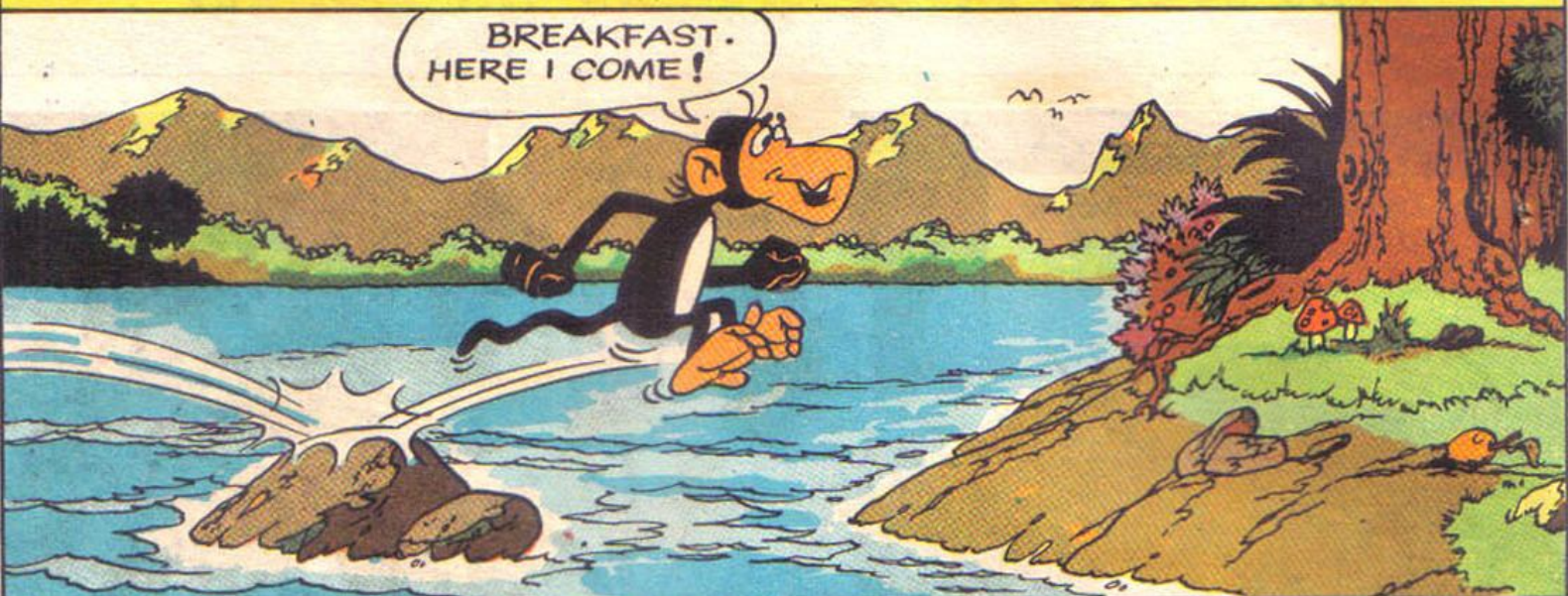


IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER WAS A SMALL
ISLAND, WHERE PLENTY OF DELICIOUS
FRUITS GREW. WHENEVER THE MONKEY FELT
HUNGRY, HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE ISLAND.

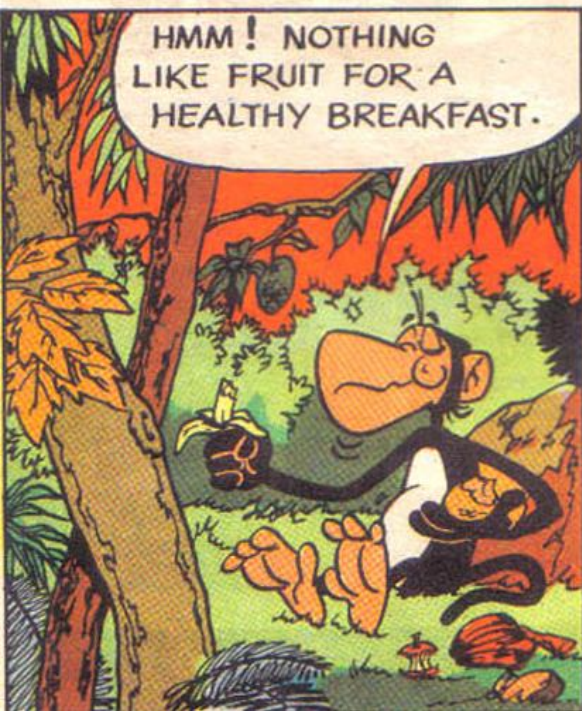


HE WOULD JUMP FROM THE BANK, ONTO A ROCK IN THE RIVER AND THEN TO THE SMALL ISLAND.

BREAKFAST.
HERE I COME!



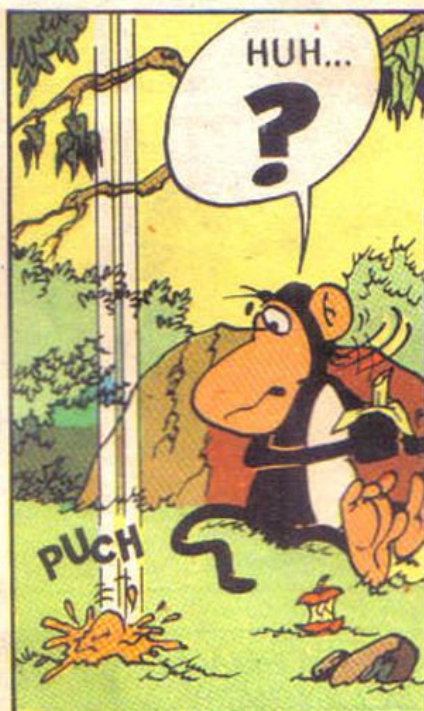
HMM! NOTHING
LIKE FRUIT FOR A
HEALTHY BREAKFAST.



HUH...

?

PUGH



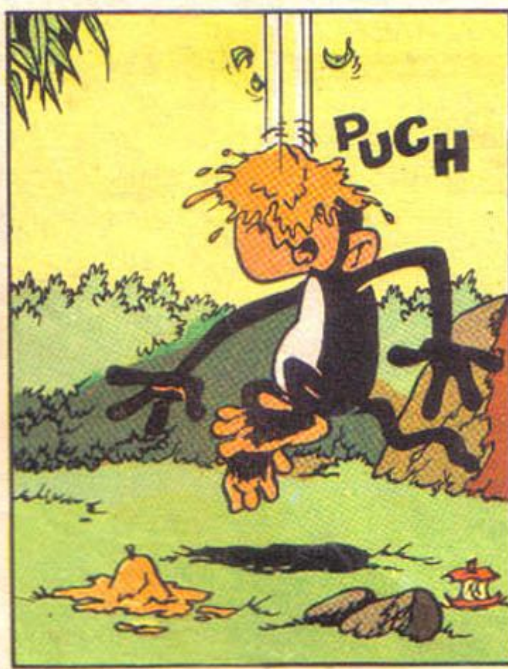
ROTTEN FRUIT!



I WONDER WHERE
IT CAME FROM.



PUGH



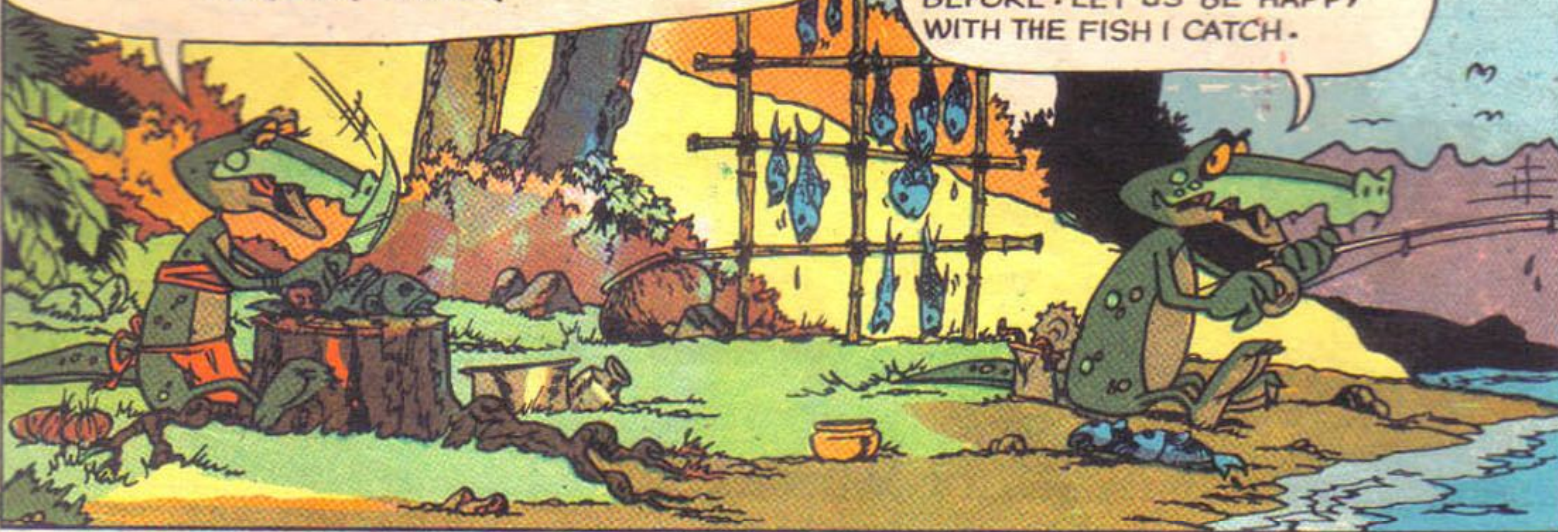
OH WELL! ONE MUST
TAKE THE GOOD
WITH THE BAD!



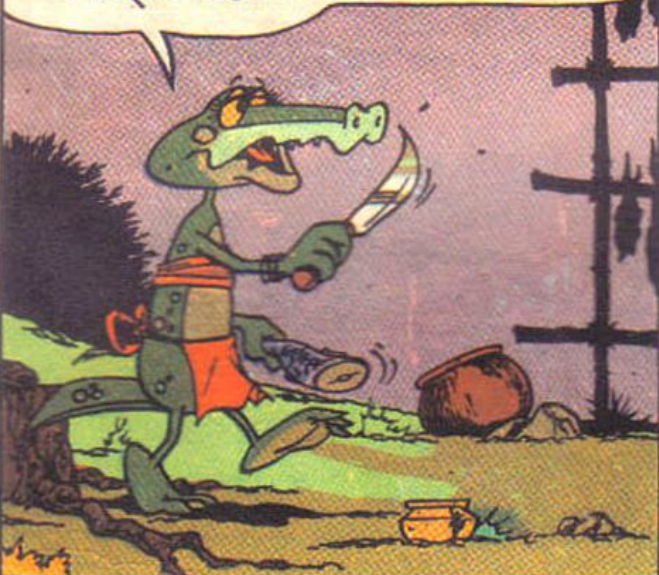
NOT FAR AWAY THERE LIVED A CROCODILE AND HIS WIFE.

YOU KNOW DEAR, I'VE GOT IT! I KNOW HOW WE CAN CATCH THAT LITTLE MONKEY FOR OUR DINNER.

OH PLEASE! NOT AGAIN. WE'VE TRIED IT TOO MANY TIMES BEFORE. LET US BE HAPPY WITH THE FISH I CATCH.



THIS TIME MY PLAN WON'T FAIL. I PROMISE.



SO THEY CAUTIOUSLY APPROACHED THE SPOT WHERE THE MONKEY LIVED.

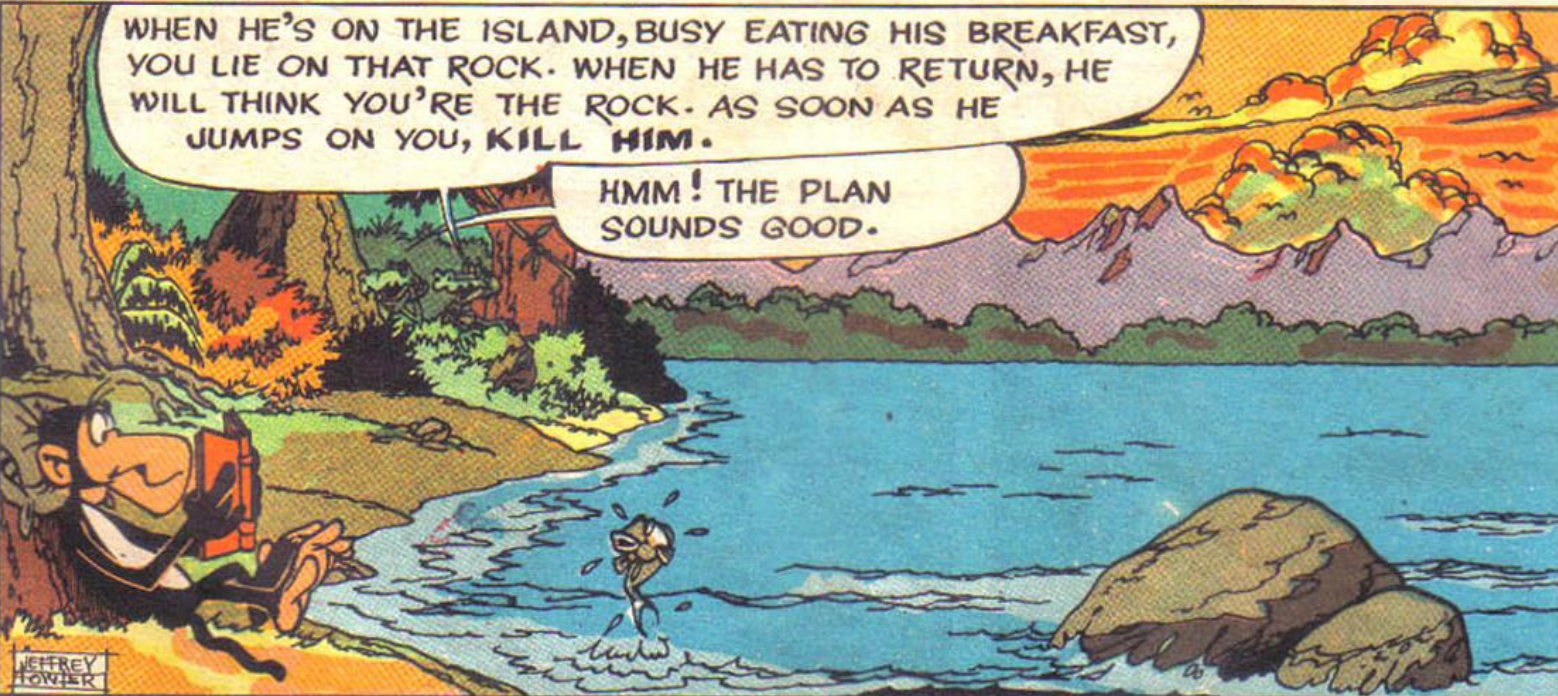
YOU SEE THAT ROCK THERE? THE MONKEY USES IT TO REACH THE ISLAND.

SHH! QUIET. HE MIGHT HEAR YOU.



WHEN HE'S ON THE ISLAND, BUSY EATING HIS BREAKFAST, YOU LIE ON THAT ROCK. WHEN HE HAS TO RETURN, HE WILL THINK YOU'RE THE ROCK. AS SOON AS HE JUMPS ON YOU, KILL HIM.

HMM! THE PLAN SOUNDS GOOD.



THE NEXT DAY AS USUAL THE MONKEY SET OUT FOR THE ISLAND.

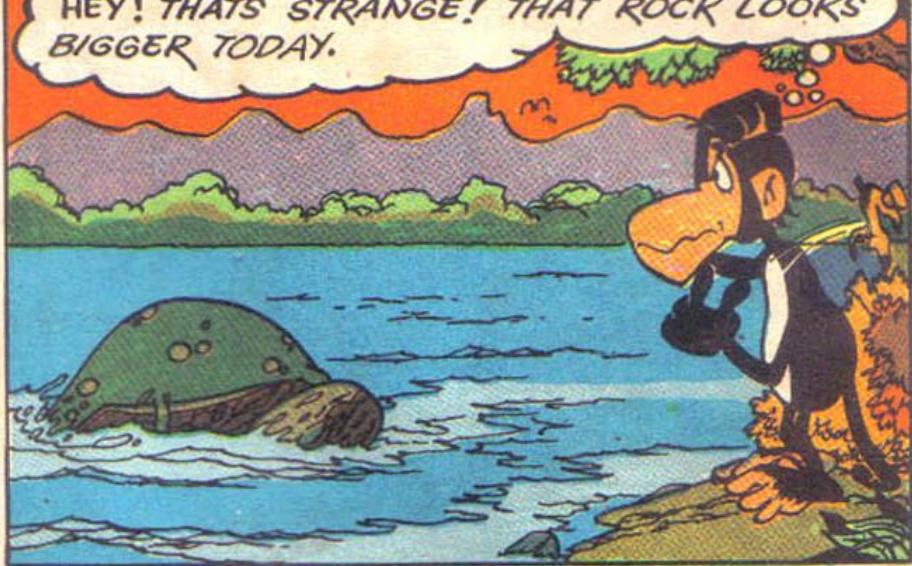
I'M HUNGRY!

SO AM I!
HEE!HEE!

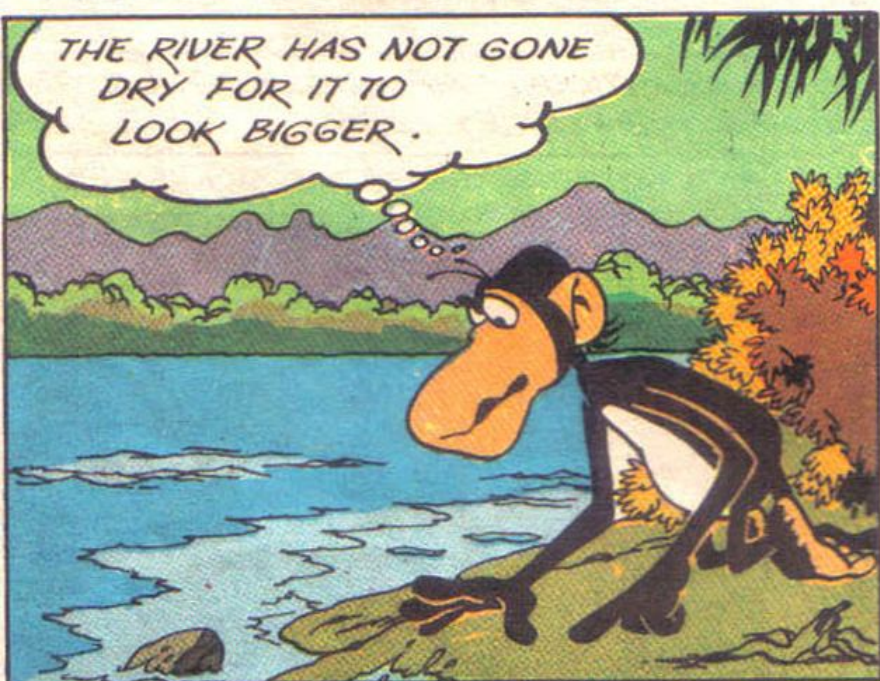


WHEN HE HAD EATEN TO HIS STOMACH'S CONTENT—

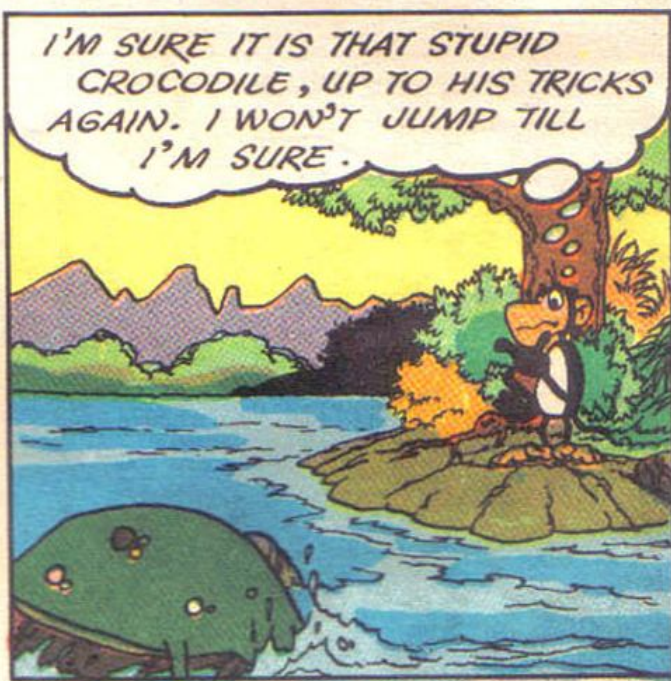
HEY! THAT'S STRANGE! THAT ROCK LOOKS BIGGER TODAY.



THE RIVER HAS NOT GONE DRY FOR IT TO LOOK BIGGER.

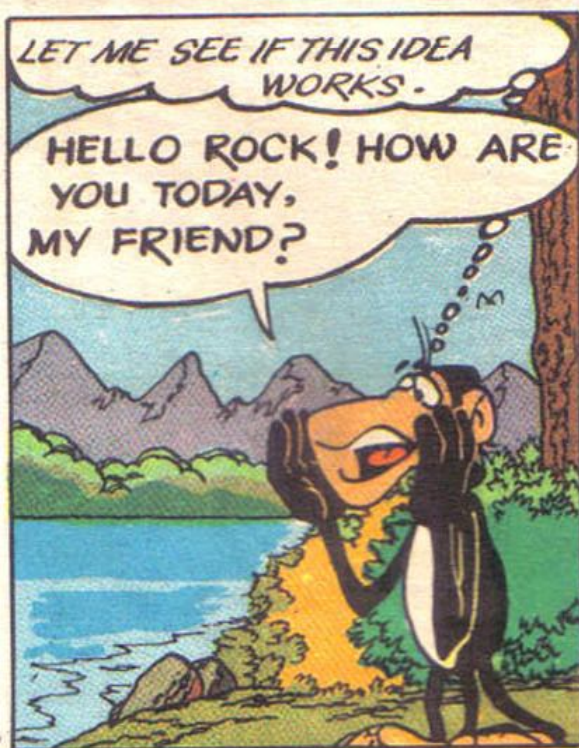


I'M SURE IT IS THAT STUPID CROCODILE, UP TO HIS TRICKS AGAIN. I WON'T JUMP TILL I'M SURE.



LET ME SEE IF THIS IDEA WORKS.

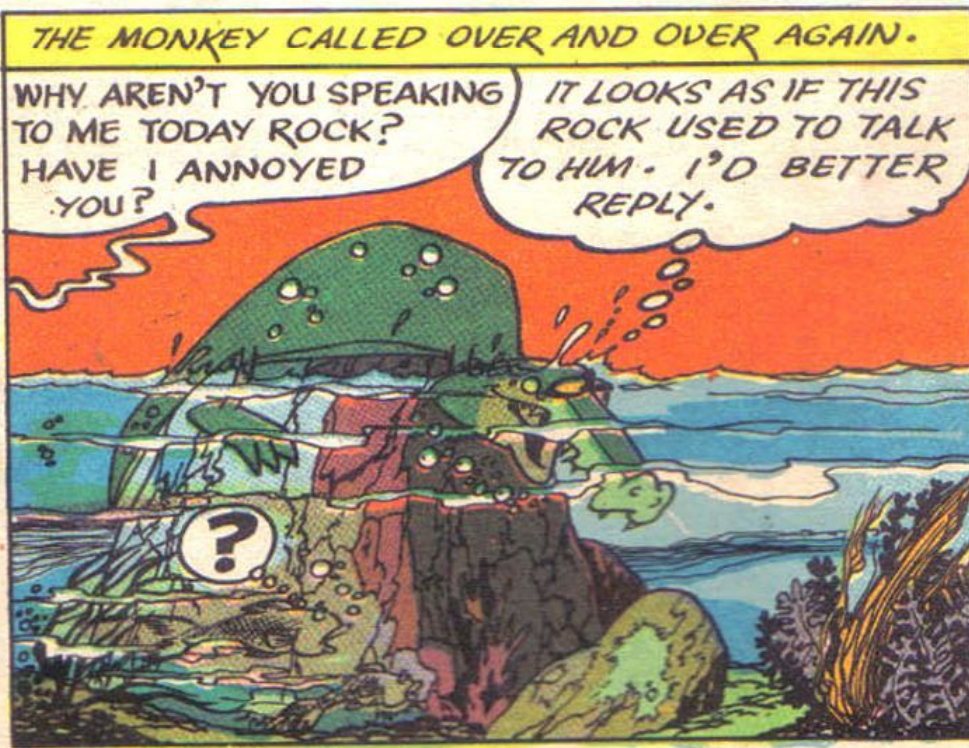
HELLO ROCK! HOW ARE YOU TODAY, MY FRIEND?



THE MONKEY CALLED OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

WHY AREN'T YOU SPEAKING TO ME TODAY ROCK? HAVE I ANNOYED YOU?

IT LOOKS AS IF THIS ROCK USED TO TALK TO HIM. I'D BETTER REPLY.



WHAT IS IT, MONKEY?

YOU LOOK RATHER BIG TODAY, ROCK.

I'M NOT A ROCK. I'M A CROCODILE AND I'M GOING TO KILL YOU FOR MY DINNER.

I WAS RIGHT. IT IS HIM. NOW I'M IN REAL TROUBLE. MUST THINK FAST.

I'VE GOT IT. I'VE SEEN HIM EATING MANY TIMES BEFORE. WHENEVER HE OPENS HIS MOUTH WIDE HIS EYES ALWAYS CLOSE.

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, CROCODILE. YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND I'LL JUMP RIGHT INTO IT FROM HERE.

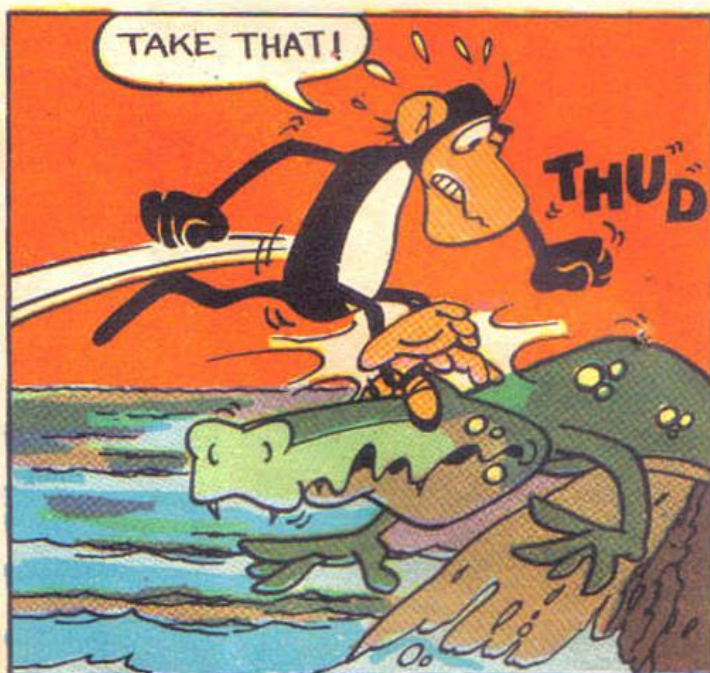
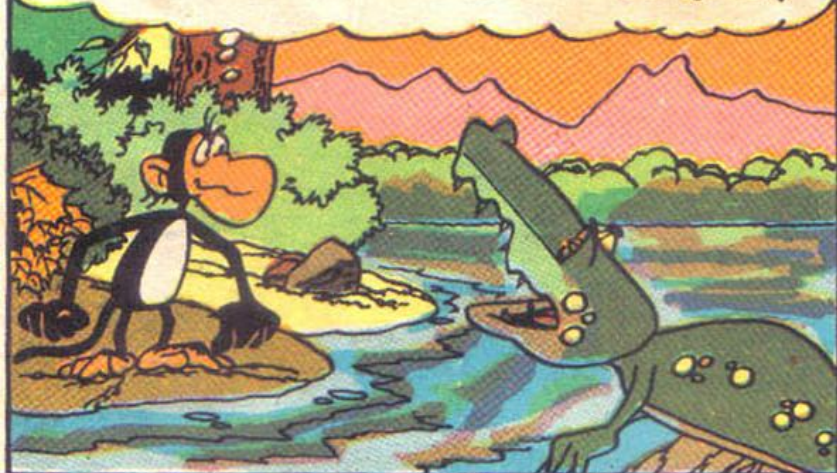
GOOD! THIS IS GOING TO SAVE US BOTH A LOT OF TROUBLE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, FRIEND.

OKAY GET READY NOW.

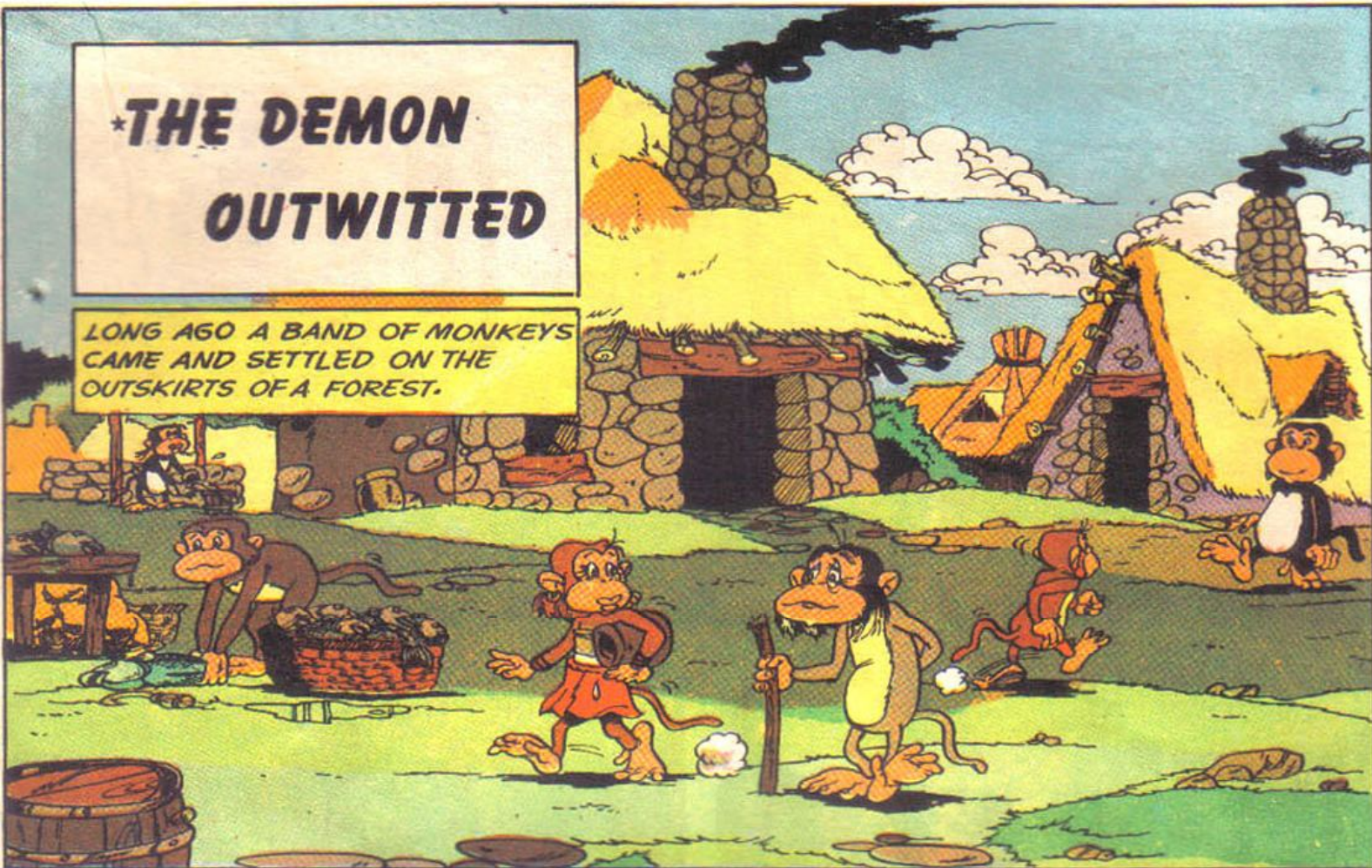
AS THE MONKEY HAD EXPECTED, THE MOMENT THE CROCODILE OPENED HIS MOUTH WIDE, HIS EYES CLOSED.

NOW'S MY CHANCE. I'LL JUMP ON HIM AND ONTO THE BANK. I'LL HAVE TO BE QUICK.



*THE DEMON OUTWITTED

LONG AGO A BAND OF MONKEYS
CAME AND SETTLED ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF A FOREST.

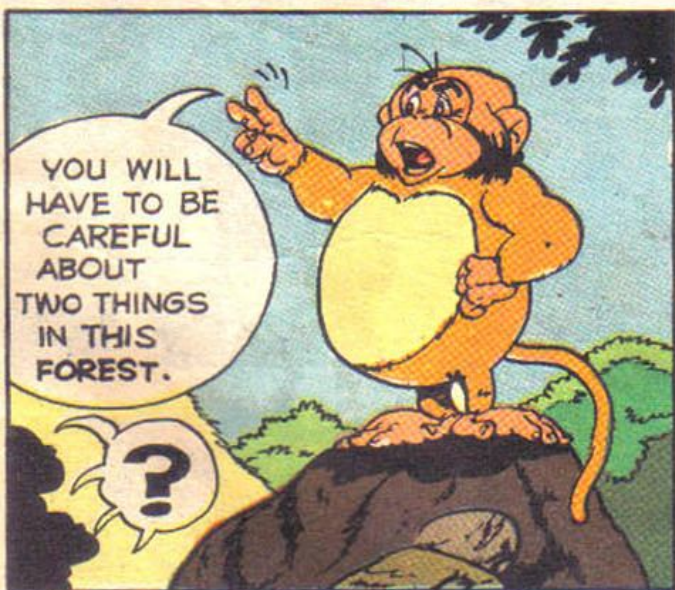


THE LEADER WHO KNEW THE PLACE
WELL, CALLED A MEETING.

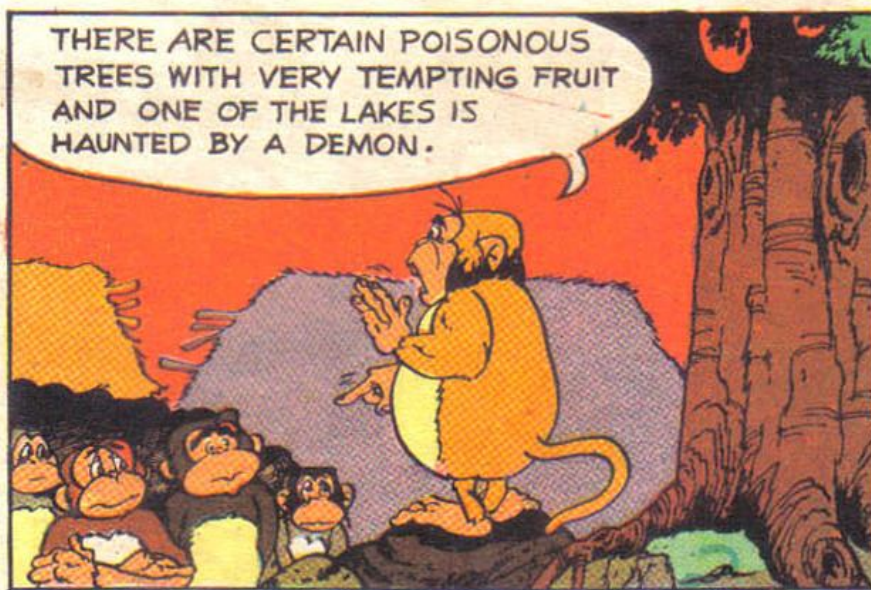
ATTENTION, ALL OF YOU!
I HAVE
SOMETHING IMPORTANT
TO SAY.



YOU WILL
HAVE TO BE
CAREFUL
ABOUT
TWO THINGS
IN THIS
FOREST.



THERE ARE CERTAIN POISONOUS
TREES WITH VERY TEMPTING FRUIT
AND ONE OF THE LAKES IS
HAUNTED BY A DEMON.



YOU MUST NOT DRINK
WATER OR EAT ANY FRUIT
WITHOUT ASKING ME.



ONE DAY WHILE SEARCHING FOR FIREWOOD, THE
MONKEYS WANDERED DEEP INTO THE FOREST.



MOTHER, I'M
THIRSTY.

AH! THERE IS
A LAKE
CLOSE BY.



WAIT! DON'T GO
NEAR THE WATER.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER
OUR LEADER'S
WARNING?



OH DEAR! I'D COMPLETELY
FORGOTTEN. THANK YOU FOR
REMINING ME.

ALL RIGHT!
LET US WAIT
TILL OUR LEADER
COMES.



A LITTLE LATER -

AH! HERE HE IS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU SEEM TO HAVE A PROBLEM.

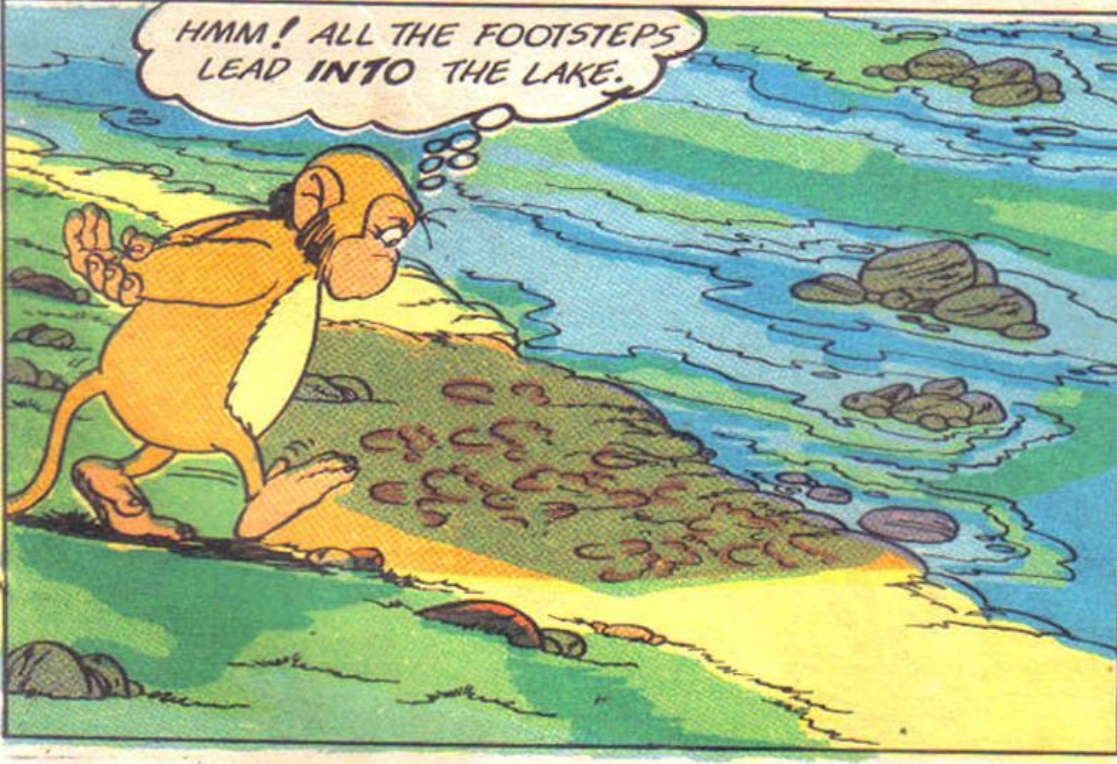


MASTER, WE ARE VERY THIRSTY.

WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU TO LET US KNOW IF THIS LAKE IS SAFE.



THAT WAS VERY WISE OF YOU. NOW LET ME EXAMINE THE LAKE.



HMM! ALL THE FOOTSTEPS LEAD INTO THE LAKE.

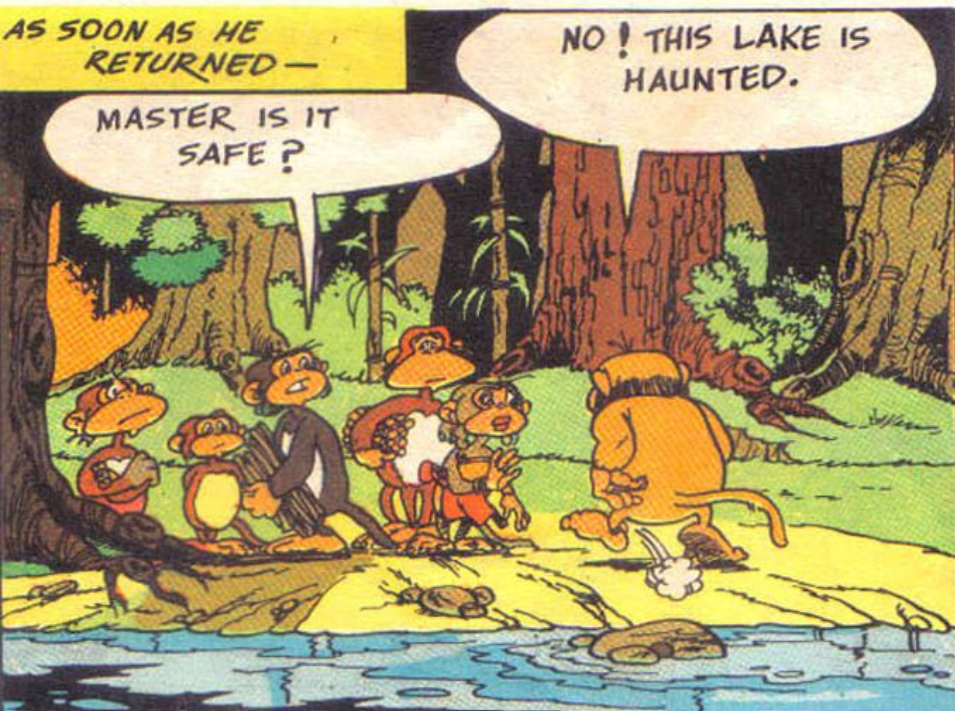
BUT NOT A SINGLE ONE LEADS OUT OF IT.



AS SOON AS HE
RETURNED —

MASTER IS IT
SAFE ?

NO ! THIS LAKE IS
HAUNTED.



I'M VERY THIRSTY. I MUST
HAVE SOME WATER.

OH DEAR!
WHAT SHALL
WE DO?



HM... M. LET ME
THINK IN PEACE.



SUDDENLY —

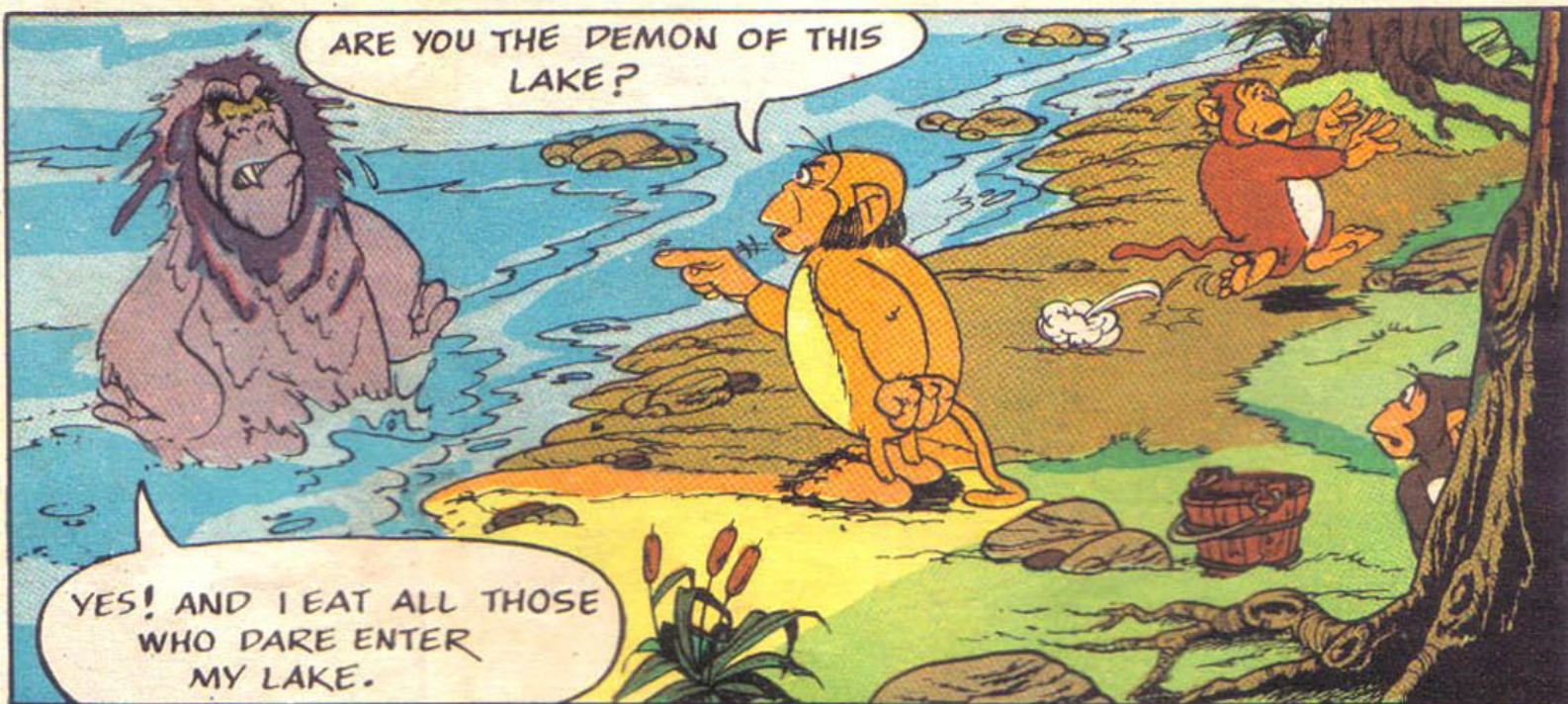
WHA...

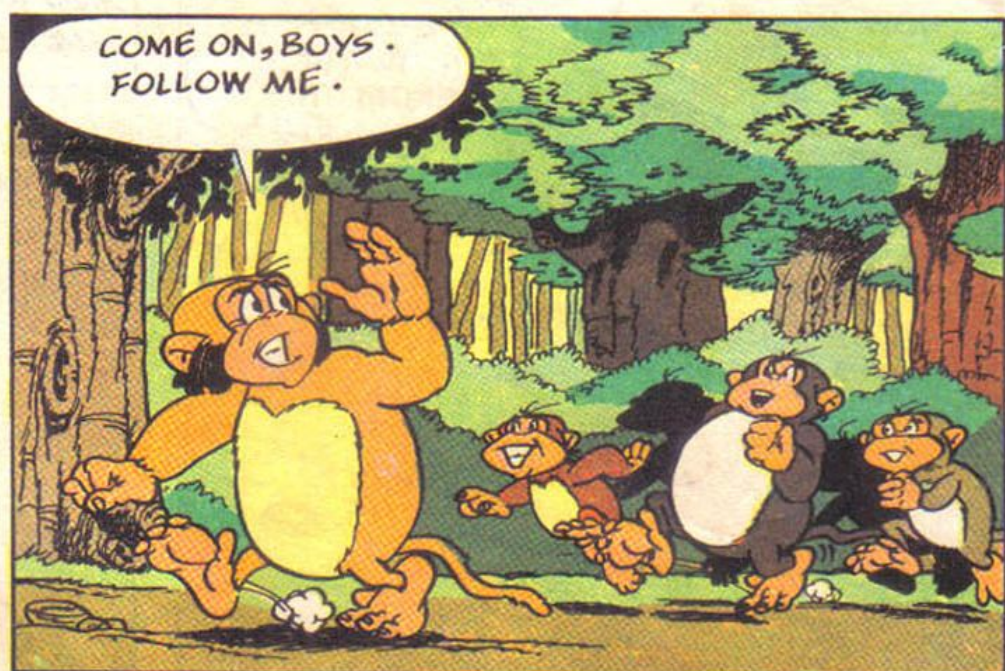
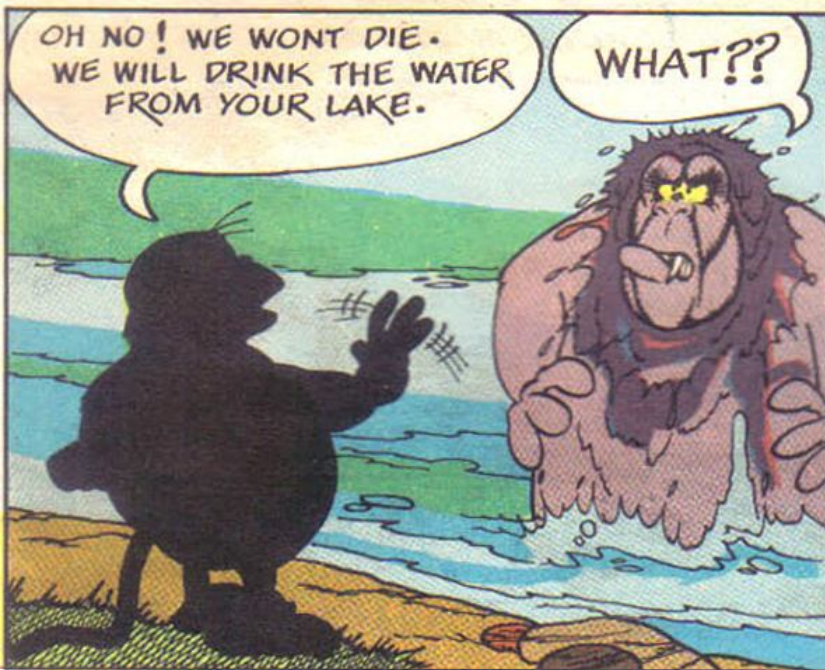
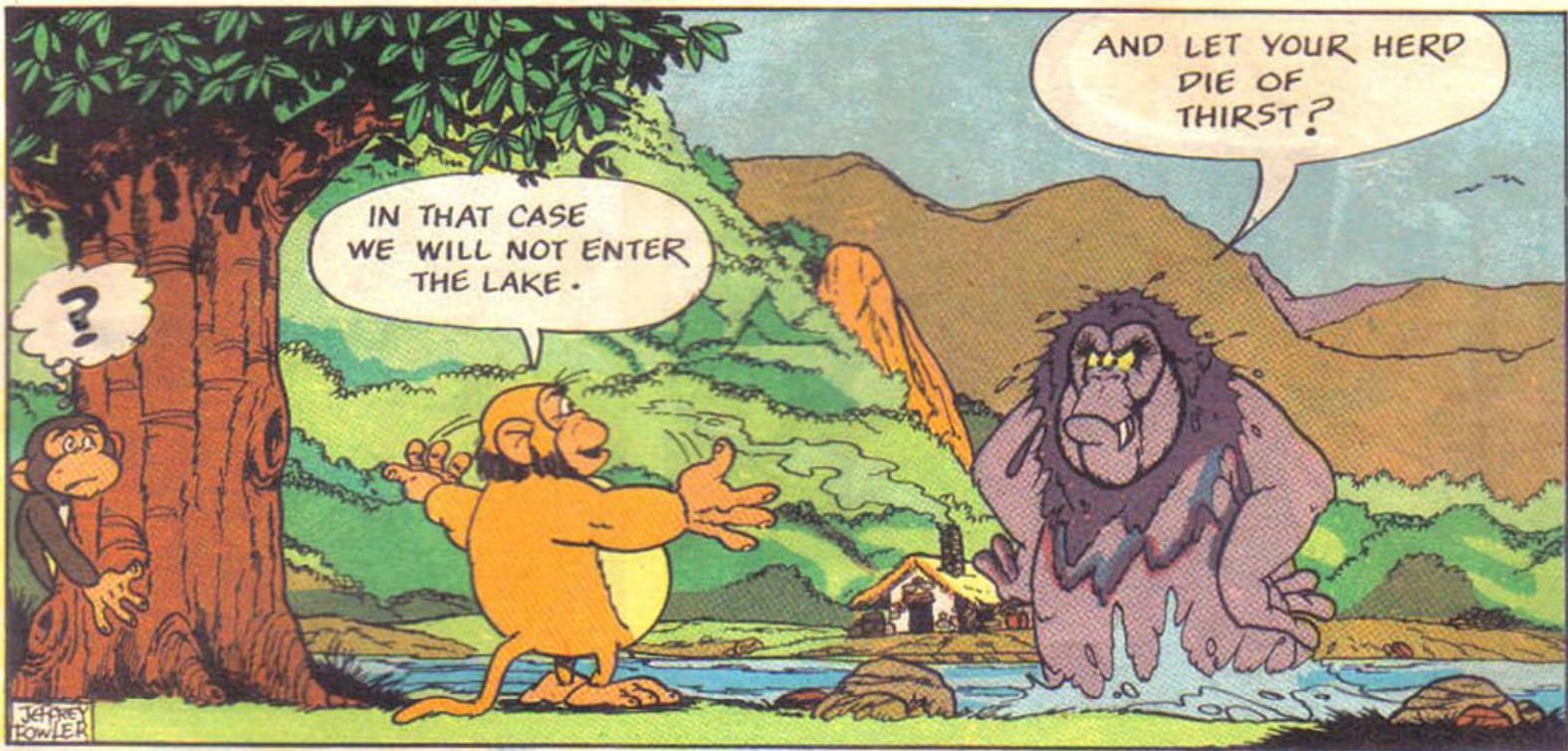
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING NEAR MY
LAKE?

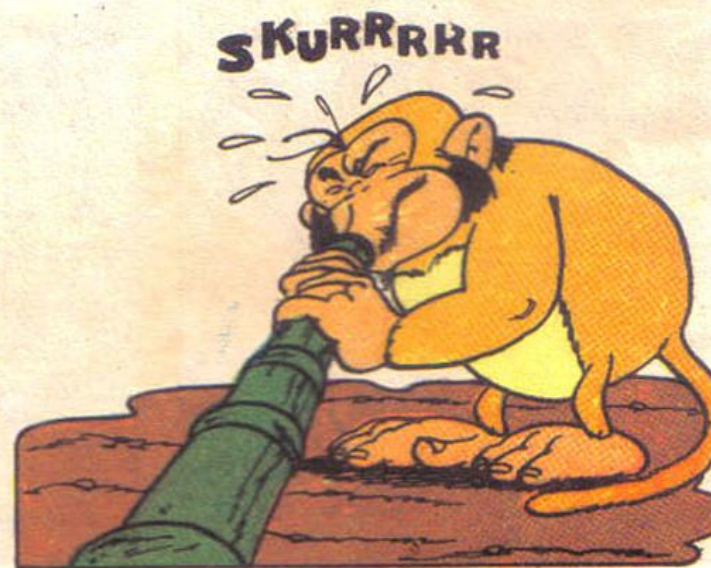
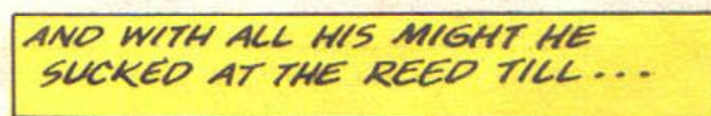
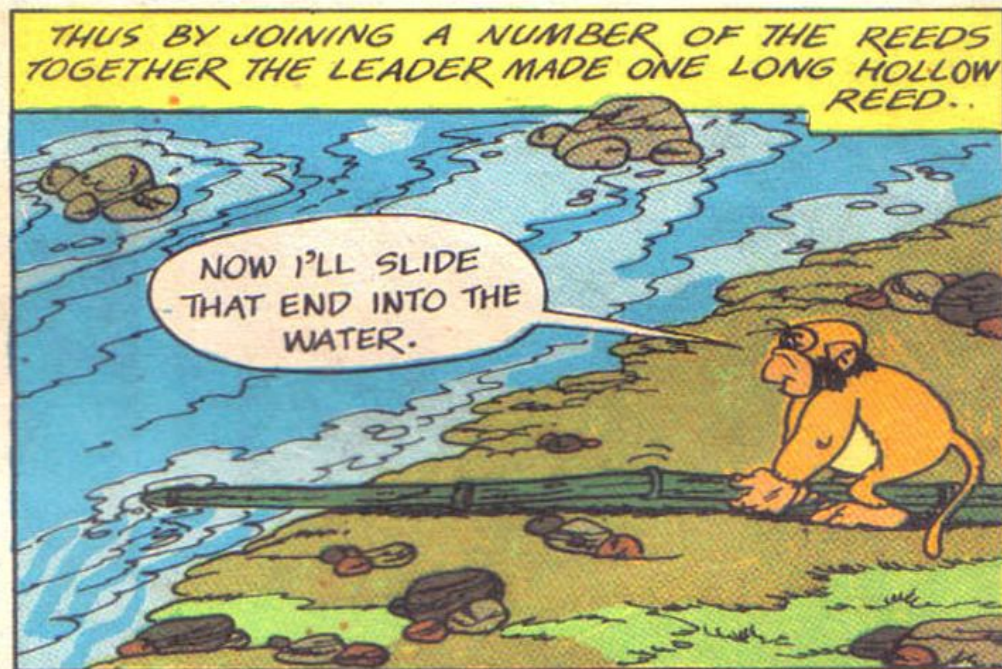


ARE YOU THE DEMON OF THIS
LAKE?

YES! AND I EAT ALL THOSE
WHO DARE ENTER
MY LAKE.







...THE WATER GUSHED OUT
IN A THICK STREAM.

SPLAT

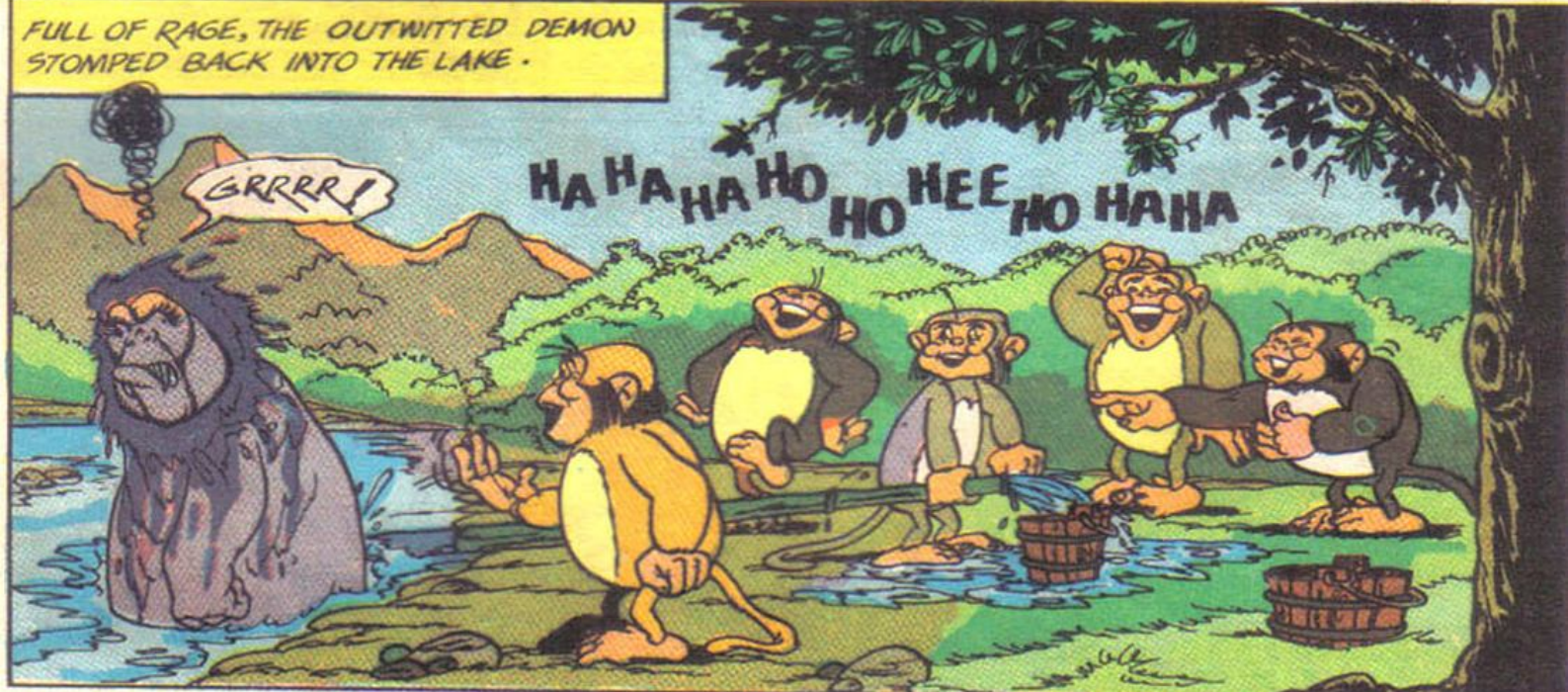
WATER!
DELICIOUS WATER!
AND ALL FOR US.



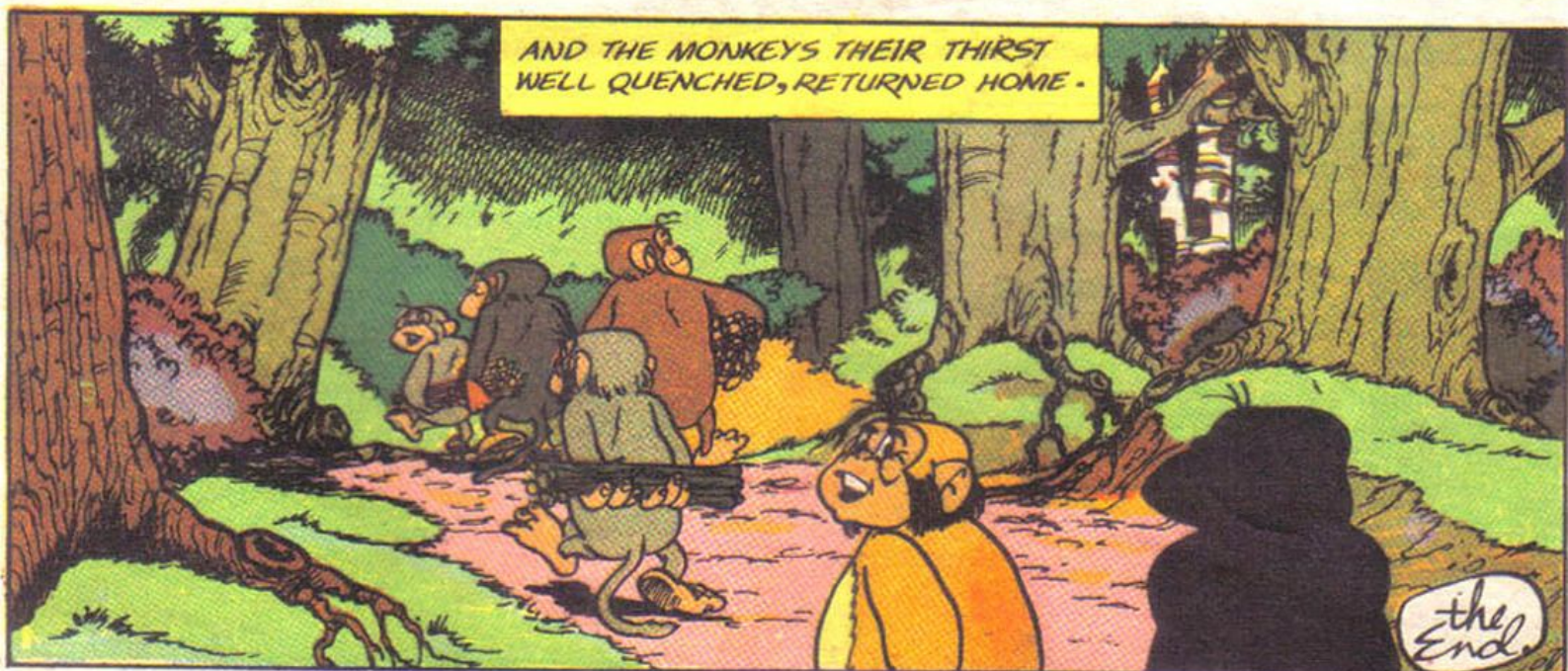
FULL OF RAGE, THE OUTWITTED DEMON
STOMPED BACK INTO THE LAKE.

GRRRR!

HA HA HA HO HO HEE HO HA HA



AND THE MONKEYS THEIR THIRST
WELL QUENCHED, RETURNED HOME.



*THE MONKEY'S HEART

THERE ONCE LIVED A MONKEY ON THE BANK OF A RIVER

WHAT A LOVELY DAY!

MR. MONKEY

A LITTLE DOWNSTREAM LIVED A CROCODILE AND HIS WIFE.

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT PLUMP MONKEY UPSTREAM? I'M LONGING TO EAT HIS HEART.

I WOULD LOVE TO GET IT FOR YOU. BUT HE LIVES UP IN THE TREES. HOW CAN I CATCH HIM?

YOU ARE A CROCODILE, AREN'T YOU? USE YOUR CUNNING.

HUMM! LET'S SEE. MY IDEA MIGHT JUST WORK.

HELLO MONKEY!
AREN'T YOU SICK OF
EATING THE FRUIT OF THE
SAME TREE EVERY DAY?

HMM!
I GUESS
SO.

WHY DON'T YOU GO ACROSS TO THE
OPPOSITE BANK? THERE ARE SOME
DELICIOUS FRUITS THERE.

BUT
HOW SHALL I GET
ACROSS? I CAN'T SWIM.

OH, THAT'S SIMPLE. YOU CAN
RIDE ON MY
BACK.

YOU ARE
A FRIEND INDEED.
LET'S GO.

AND SO —

THIS IS AN
EXCELLENT IDEA.
WHY DIDN'T WE THINK
OF IT BEFORE?

WHEN THEY WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER—

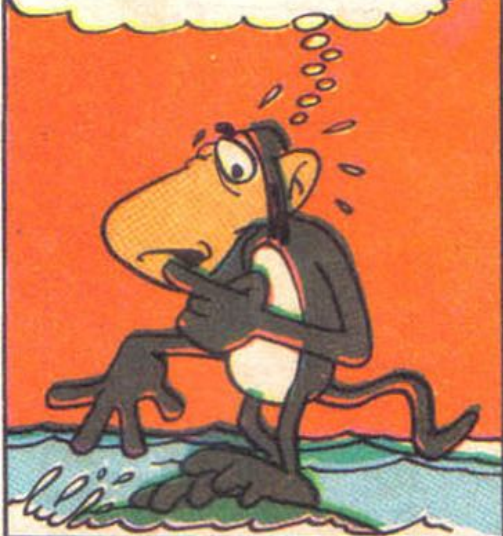
HEY! ARE YOU TRYING TO
DROWN ME?

NOT AT ALL. FOR I'M
GOING TO KILL
YOU.

BUT WHY? WHAT HAVE I DONE??

NOTHING. BUT
MY WIFE WANTS
TO EAT YOUR HEART.
SO YOU DIE.

I'D BETTER THINK FAST IF
I LOVE MY LIFE.



HA! HA! HA! HO! HO! HEE! HEE!
THE JOKE'S ON YOU, CROCODILE.

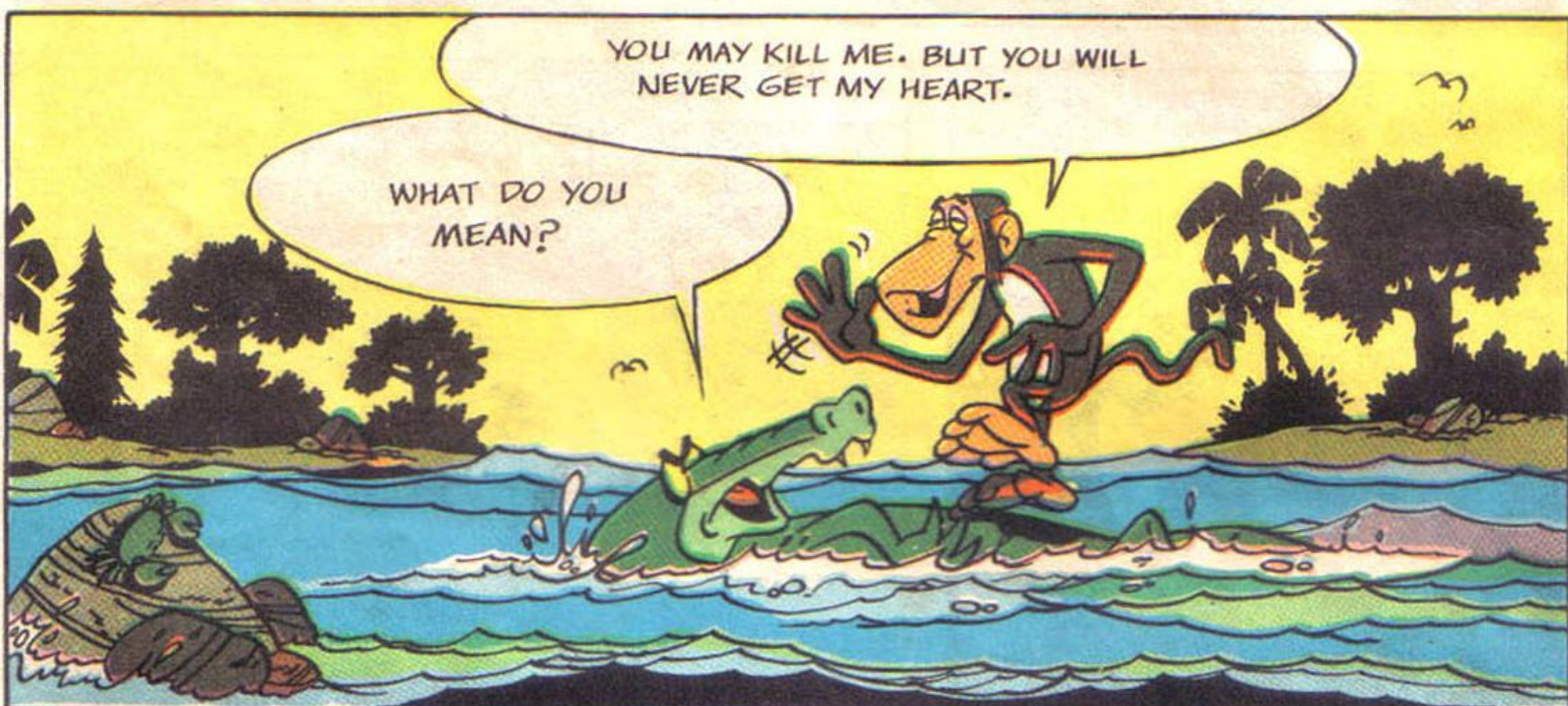
STOP THAT.
WHAT'S SO
FUNNY ABOUT
DYING?

CLACK



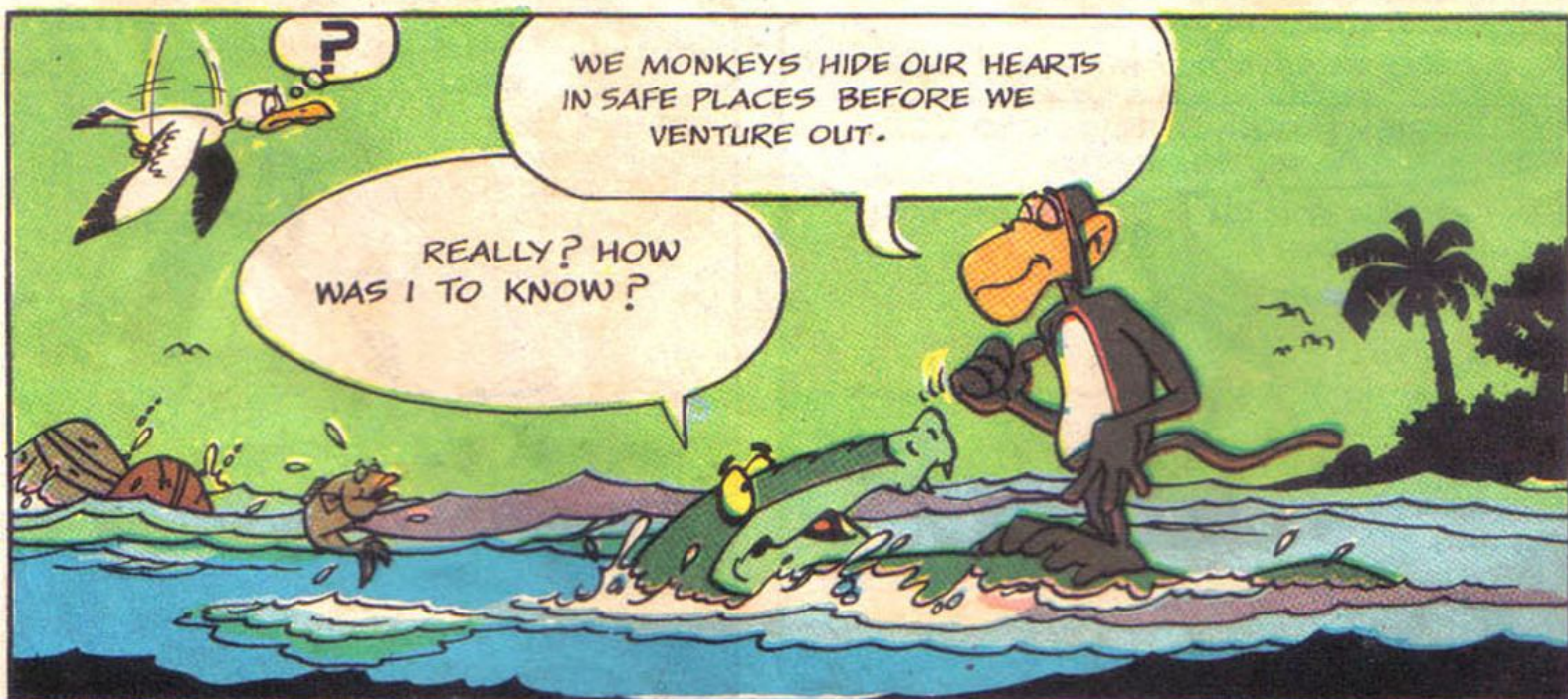
YOU MAY KILL ME. BUT YOU WILL
NEVER GET MY HEART.

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?



WE MONKEYS HIDE OUR HEARTS
IN SAFE PLACES BEFORE WE
VENTURE OUT.

REALLY? HOW
WAS I TO KNOW?



NEVER MIND. TURN BACK. SINCE YOU WERE SO KIND TO ME I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE MY HEART IS.

?



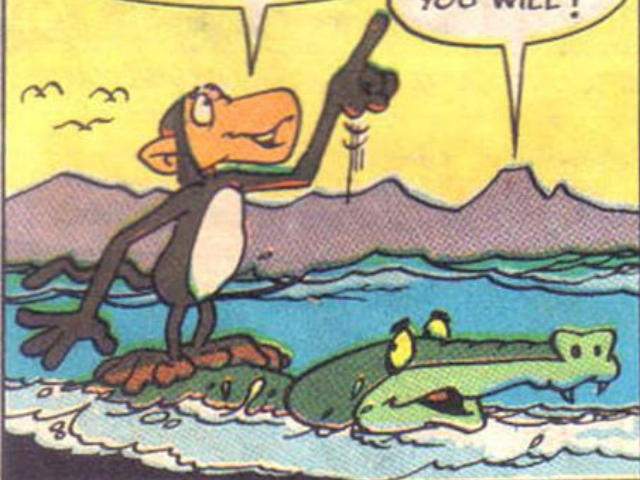
THERE. CAN YOU SEE THAT TALL BIG TREE ON THE BANK WHERE I LIVE?

OF COURSE, I CAN.



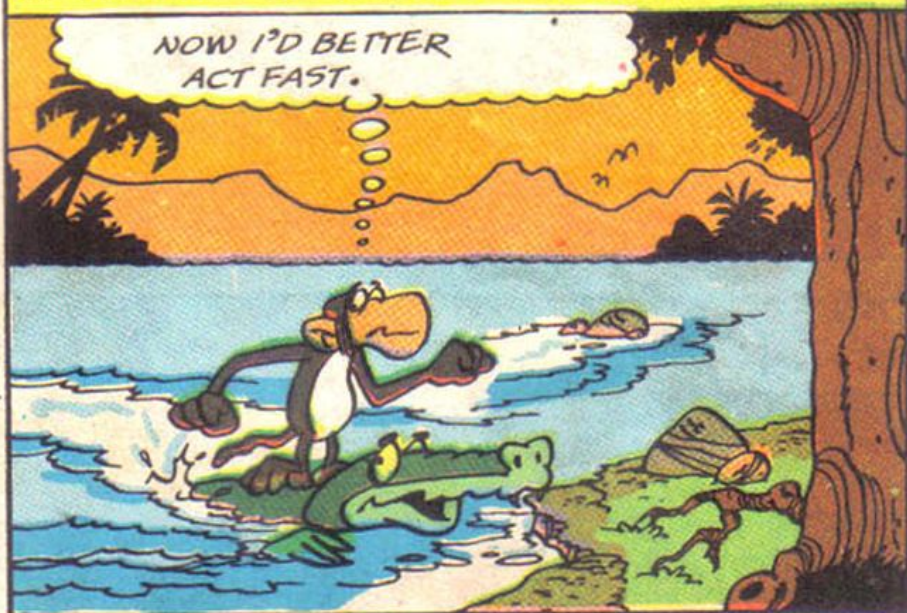
I HIDE IT IN THE TOPMOST BRANCH OF THAT TREE. TAKE ME BACK AND I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.

YOU WILL?

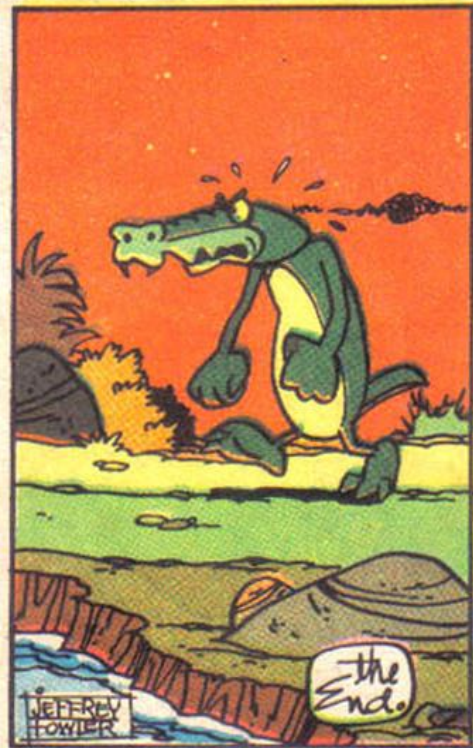


AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE BANK—

NOW I'D BETTER ACT FAST.



YOU POOR FOOL. IF MY HEART WERE REMOVED FROM MY BODY I'D BE DEAD. IT'S SAFE INSIDE ME AND YOU'LL NEVER LAY YOUR HANDS ON IT.



JEFFREY FOWLER

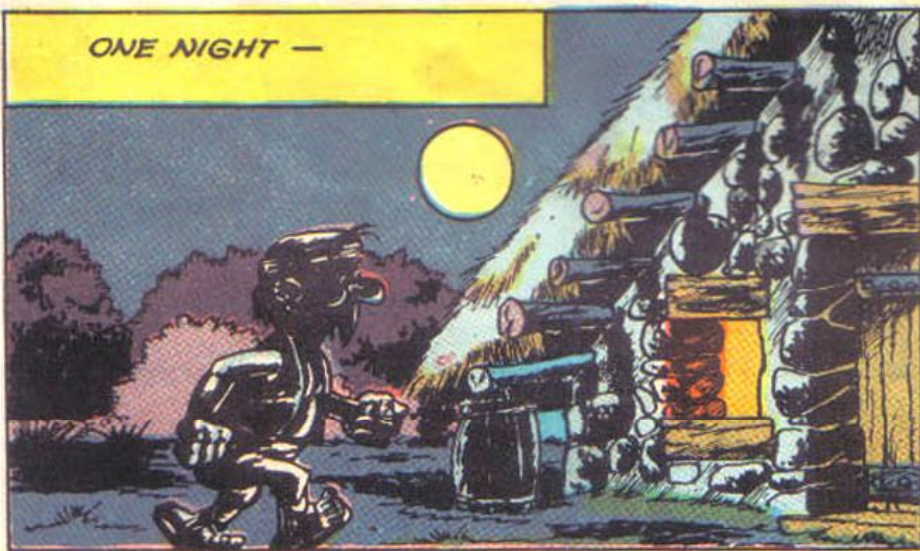
-the End-

* THE MONKEYS AND THE GARDENER



THE KING OF VARANASI HAD A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN, WHICH WAS LOOKED AFTER BY A LOYAL GARDENER.

ONE NIGHT —



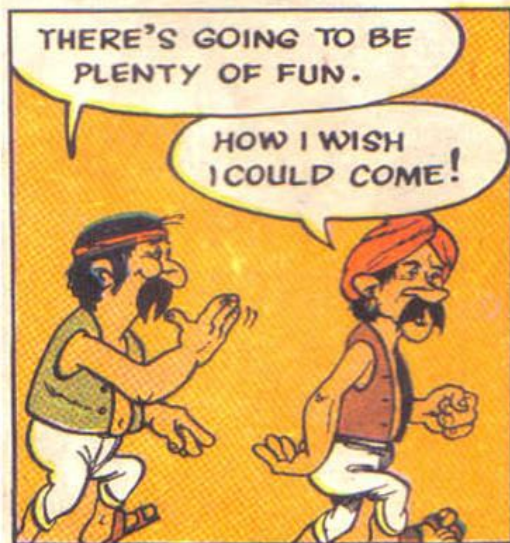
HELLO FRIEND. THE FESTIVAL IN TOWN BEGINS TOMORROW.

I KNOW!



THERE'S GOING TO BE PLENTY OF FUN.

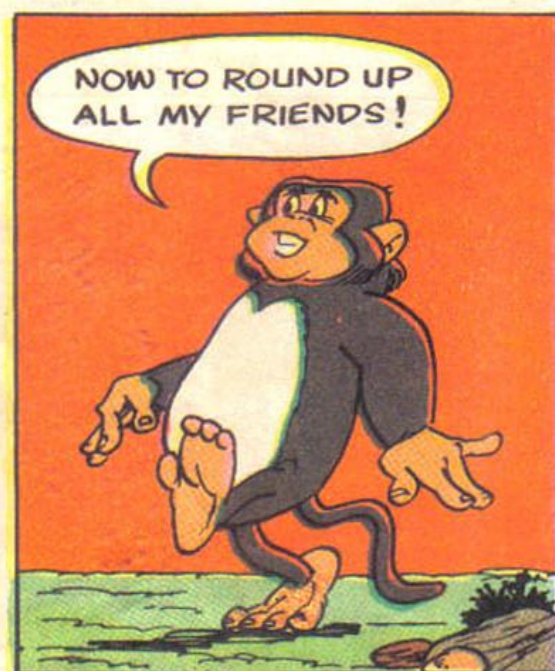
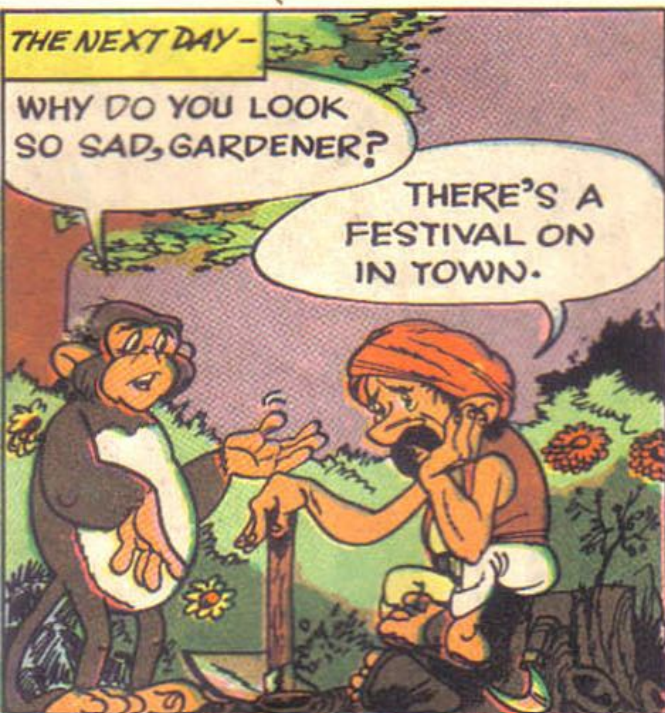
HOW I WISH I COULD COME!

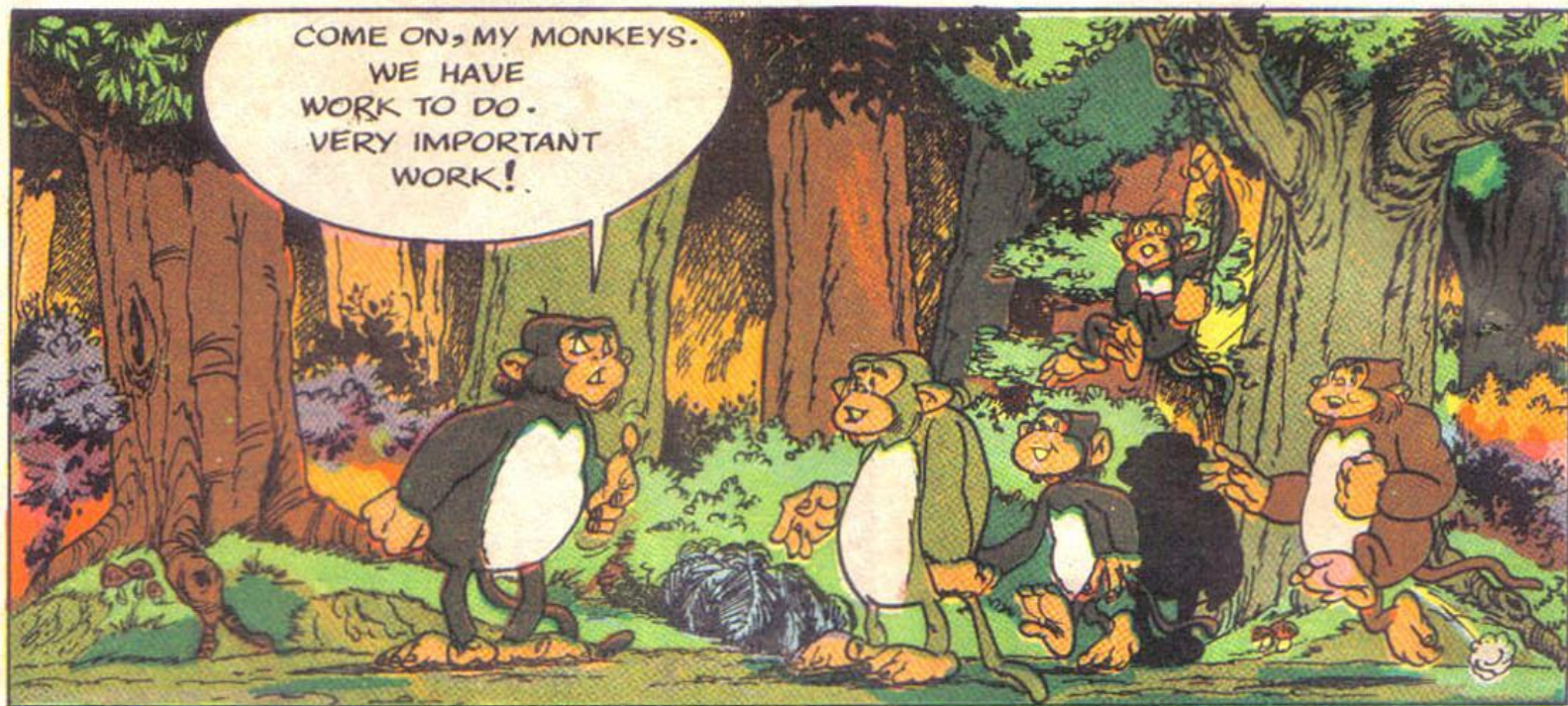


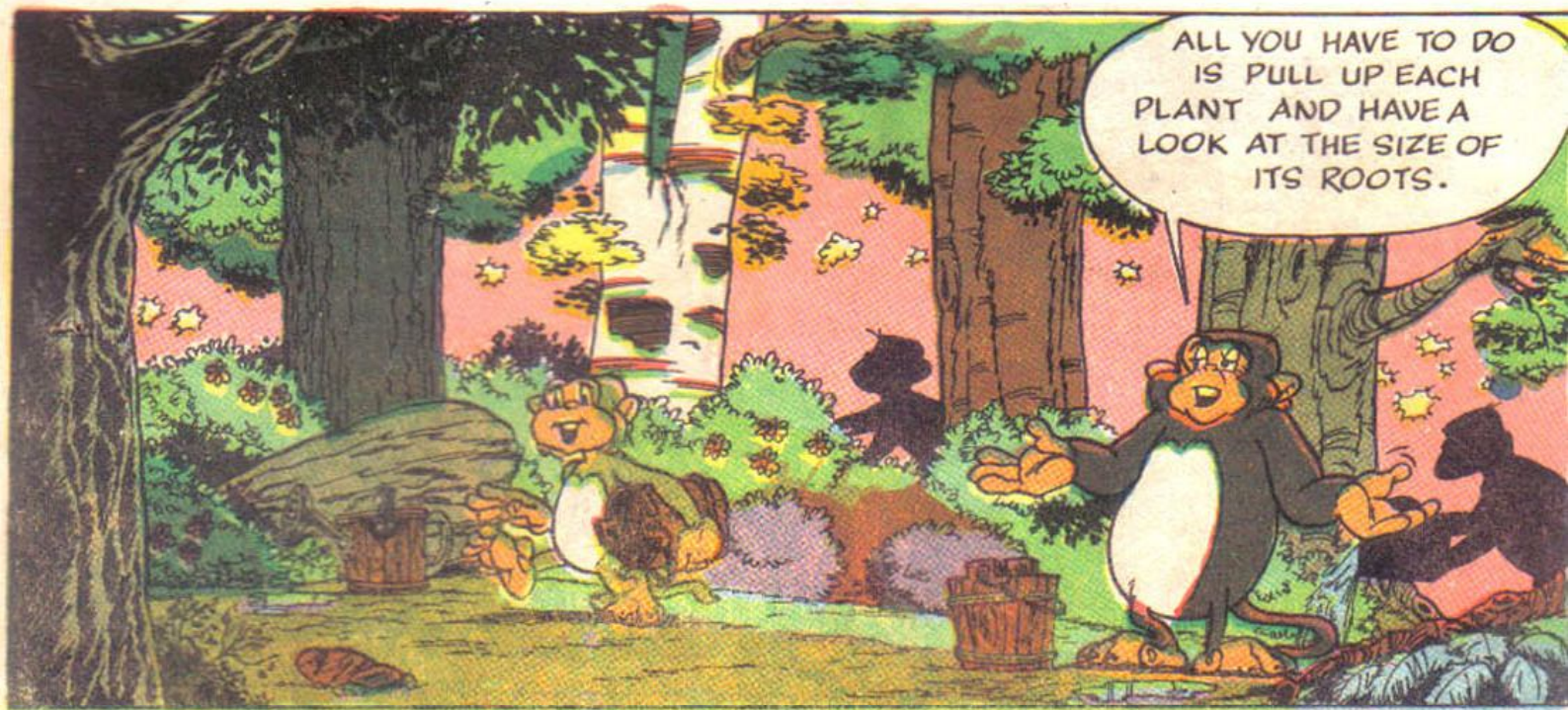
WHAT! AREN'T YOU COMING?

IF I DO, WHO WILL WATER THE GARDEN?









ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PULL UP EACH PLANT AND HAVE A LOOK AT THE SIZE OF ITS ROOTS.



AND THEN?

YOU POUR LESS FOR THE SMALLER ROOTS AND MORE FOR THE BIGGER ROOTS.



YOU ARE REALLY CLEVER.

WHAT A WONDERFUL IDEA.

OH, IT WAS QUITE SIMPLE REALLY.



AND SO THEY BEGAN UPROOTING ALL THE PLANTS.

MEANWHILE IN TOWN —

I WONDER HOW MY MONKEY FRIENDS ARE GETTING ALONG WITH THEIR TASK?

TWO DAYS LATER THE GARDENER RETURNED HOME.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

WE WATERED EACH PLANT ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF ITS ROOTS

THAT'S RIGHT. WE DID.

WHATEVER, SHALL I DO NOW? WHAT SHALL I TELL THE KING?

THAT'S WHAT COMES OF DEPENDING ON A FOOL. HE MAY MEAN WELL BUT WILL END UP DOING MORE HARM THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

the end.



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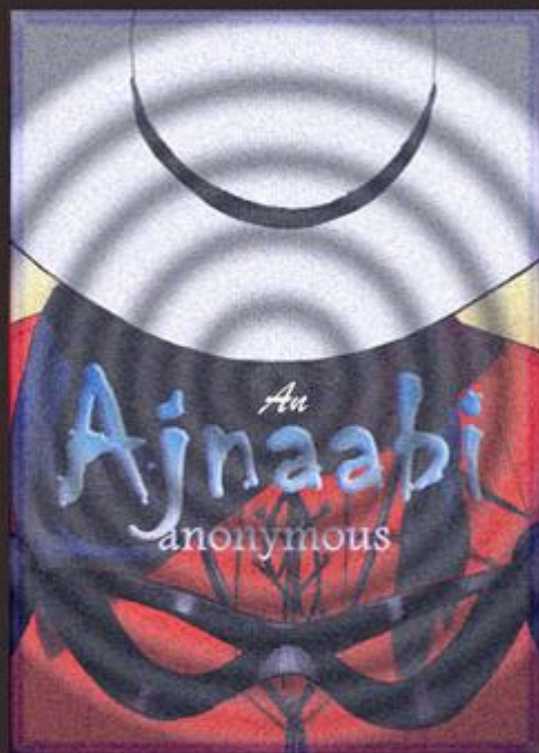


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