

CHAND BIBI

The Mughals thought that Ahmednagar would be easy to take as the heir was only a child and his regent, a woman. However, Akbar's mighty army was surprised when they ran into a determined band of defenders. In the battle for Ahmednagar, one woman stood between the Mughals and the fort that they sought to win – Chand Bibi. Such was the spirit of Chand Bibi that the mighty Mughals had to sue for peace.

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BRAVEHEARTS



CHAND BIBI

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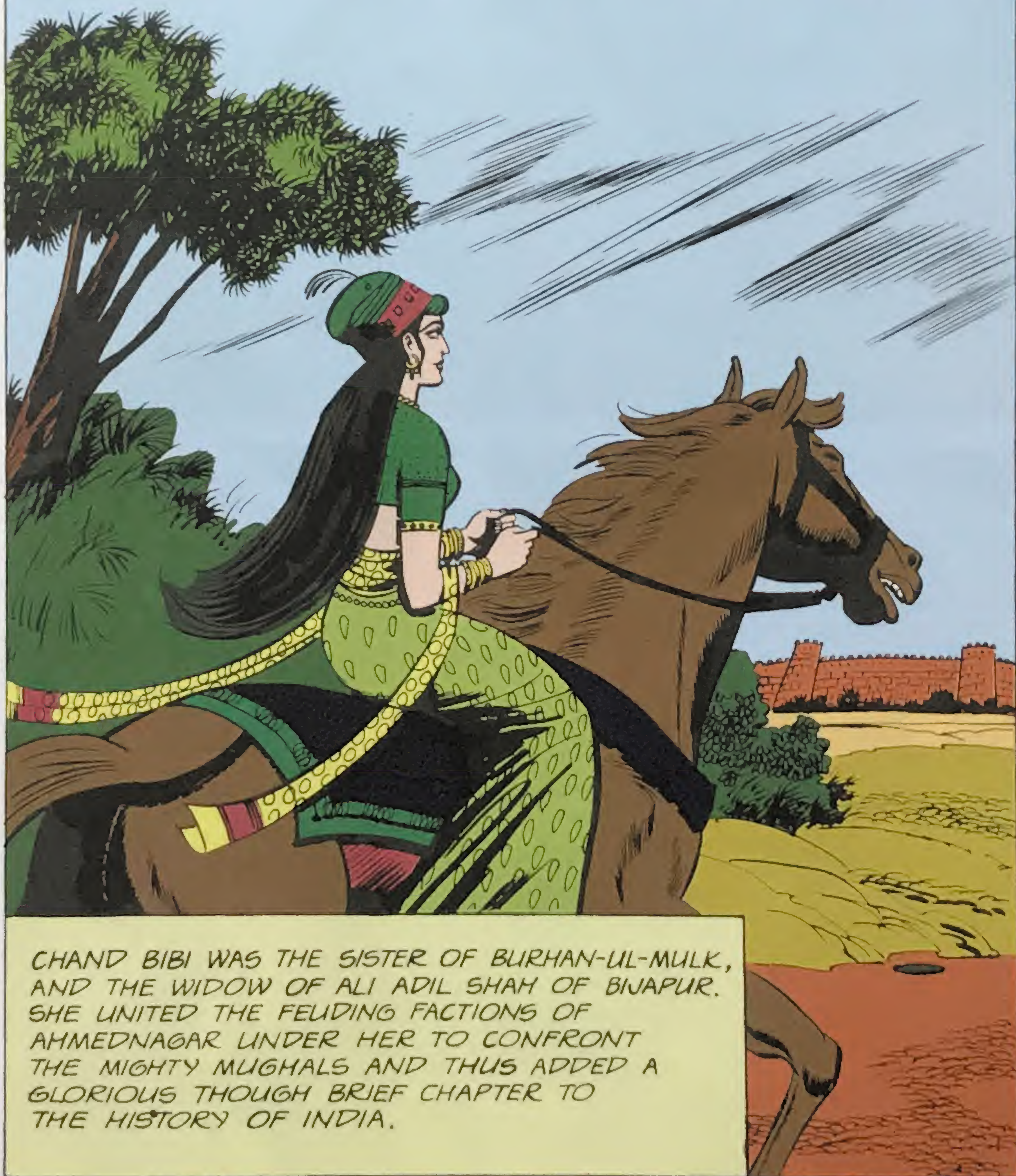


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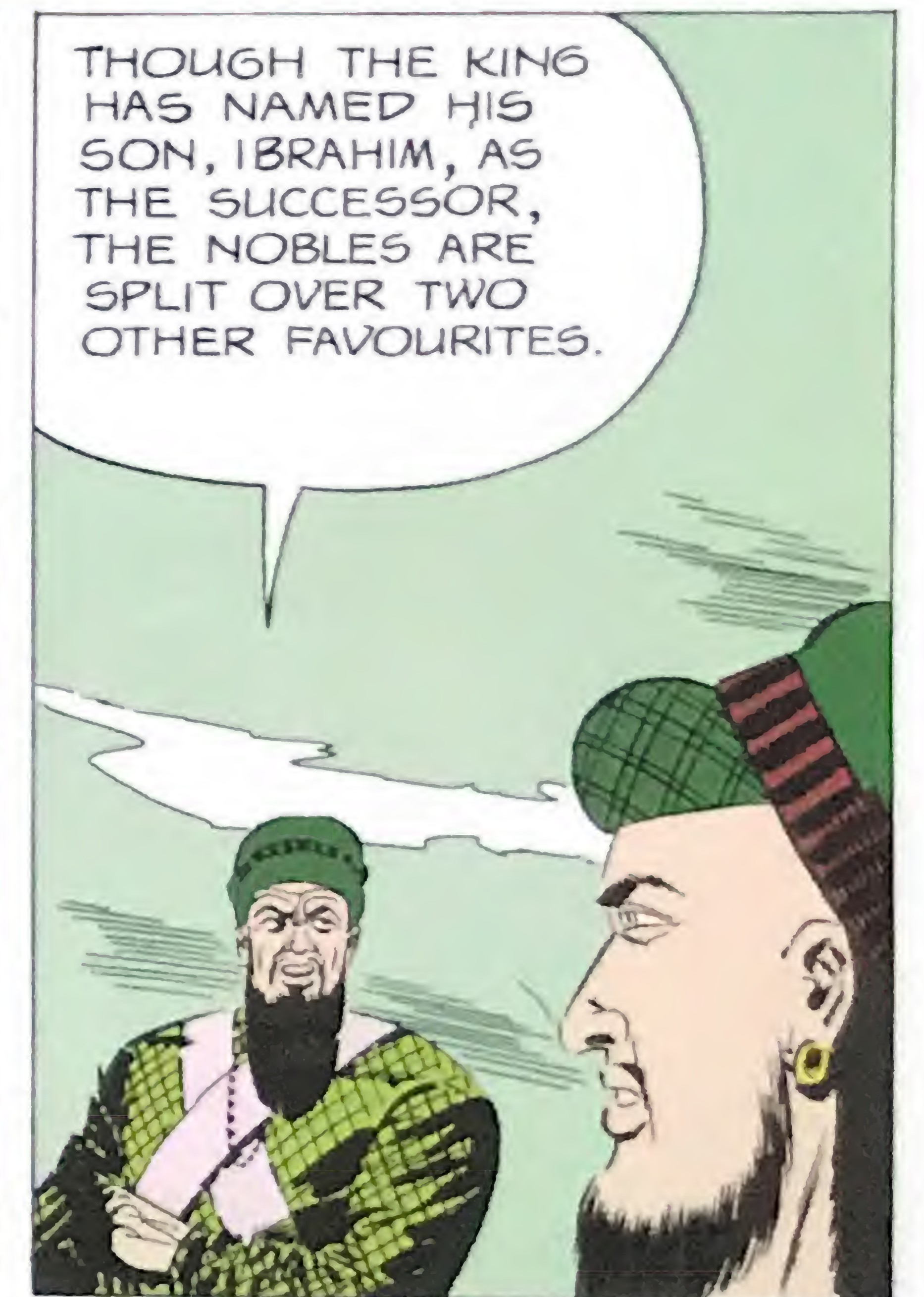
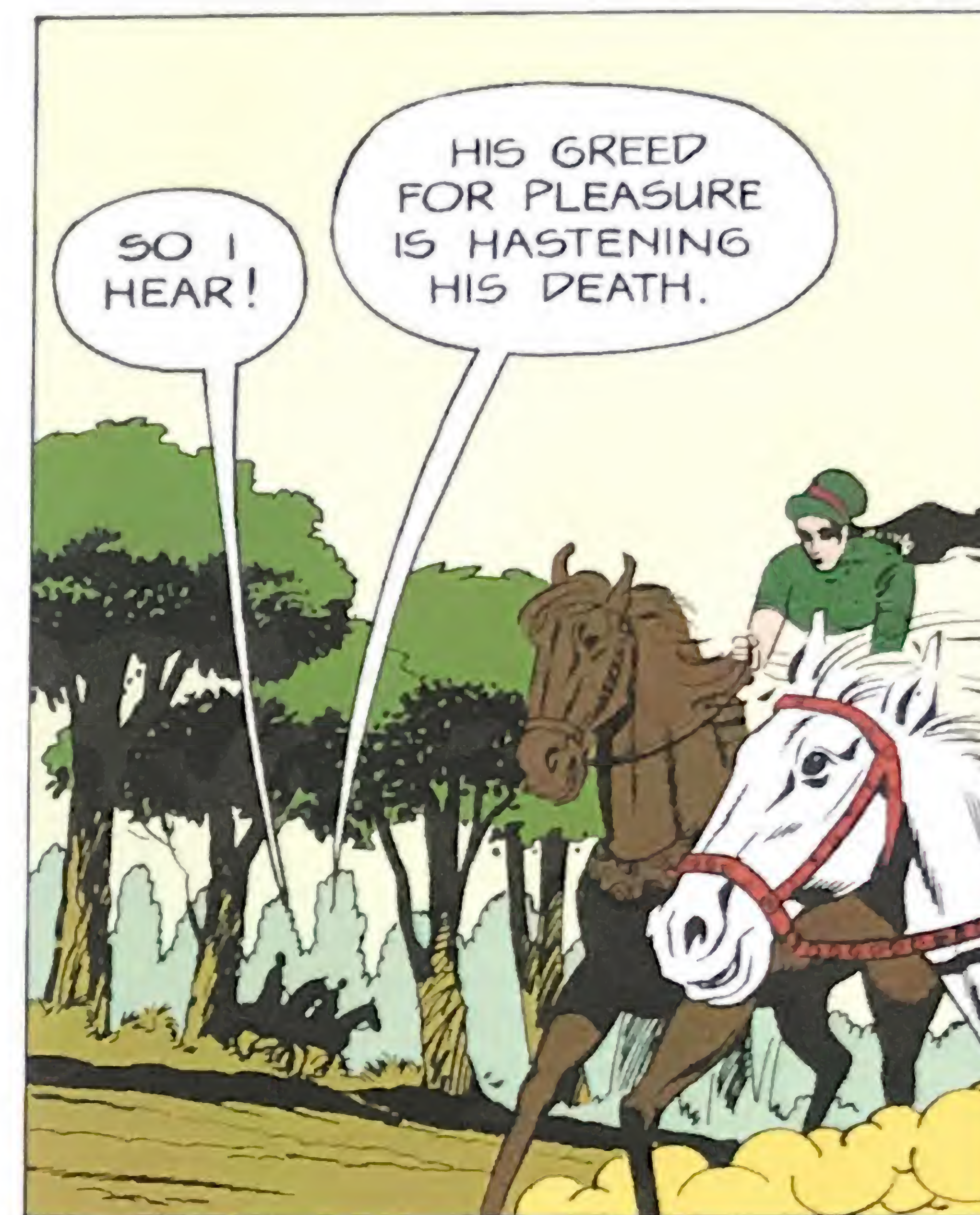
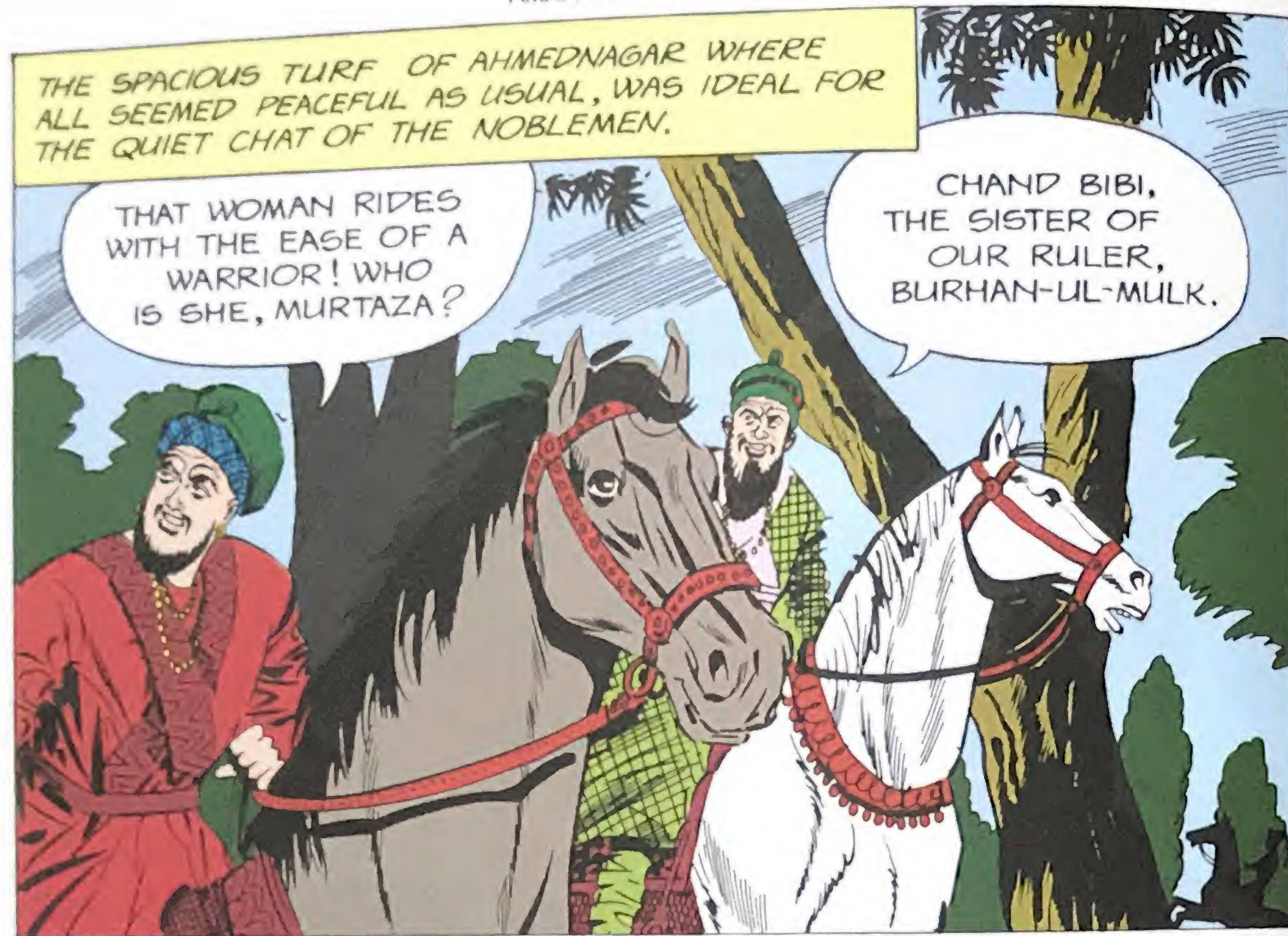


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CHAND BAI

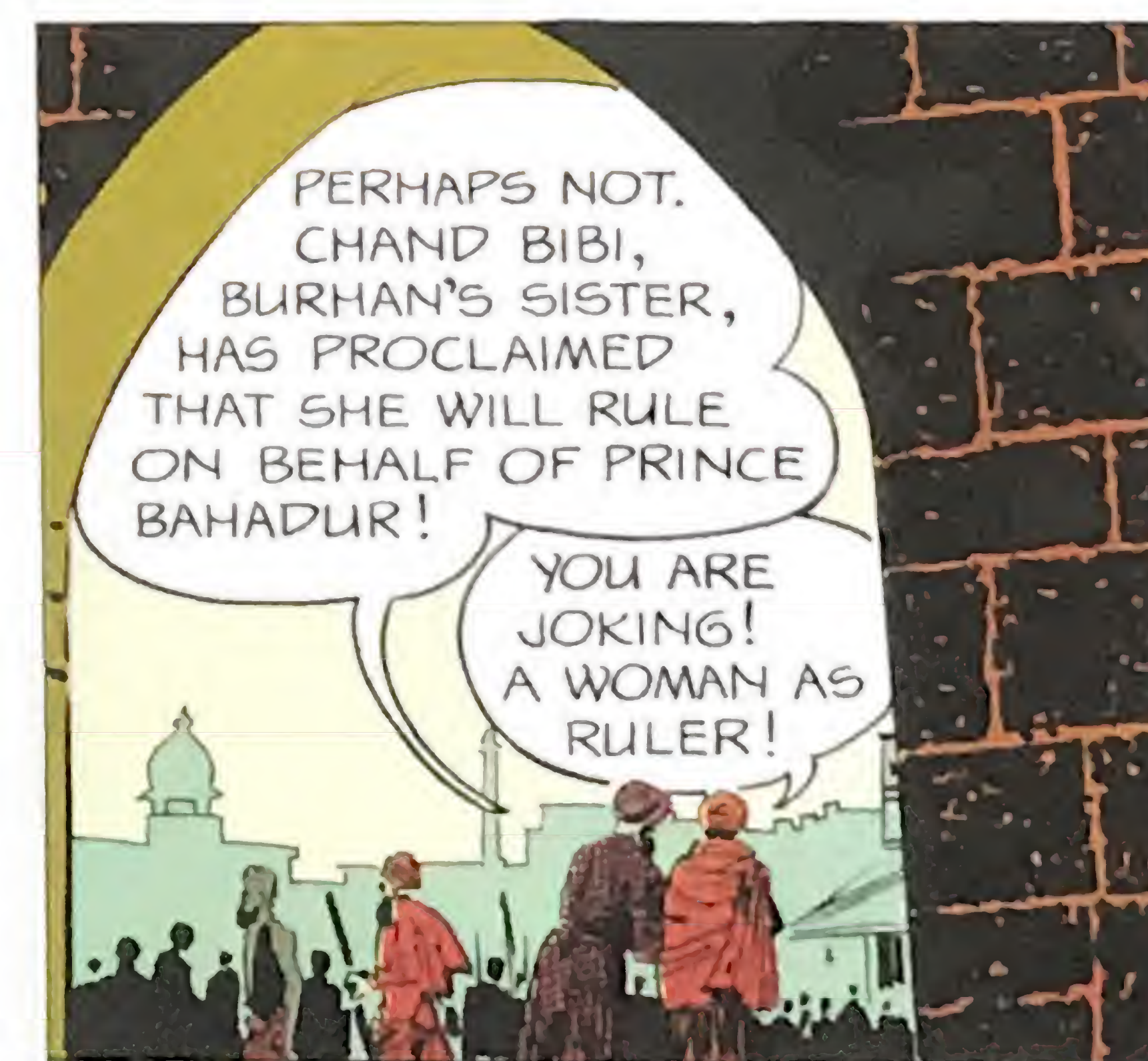
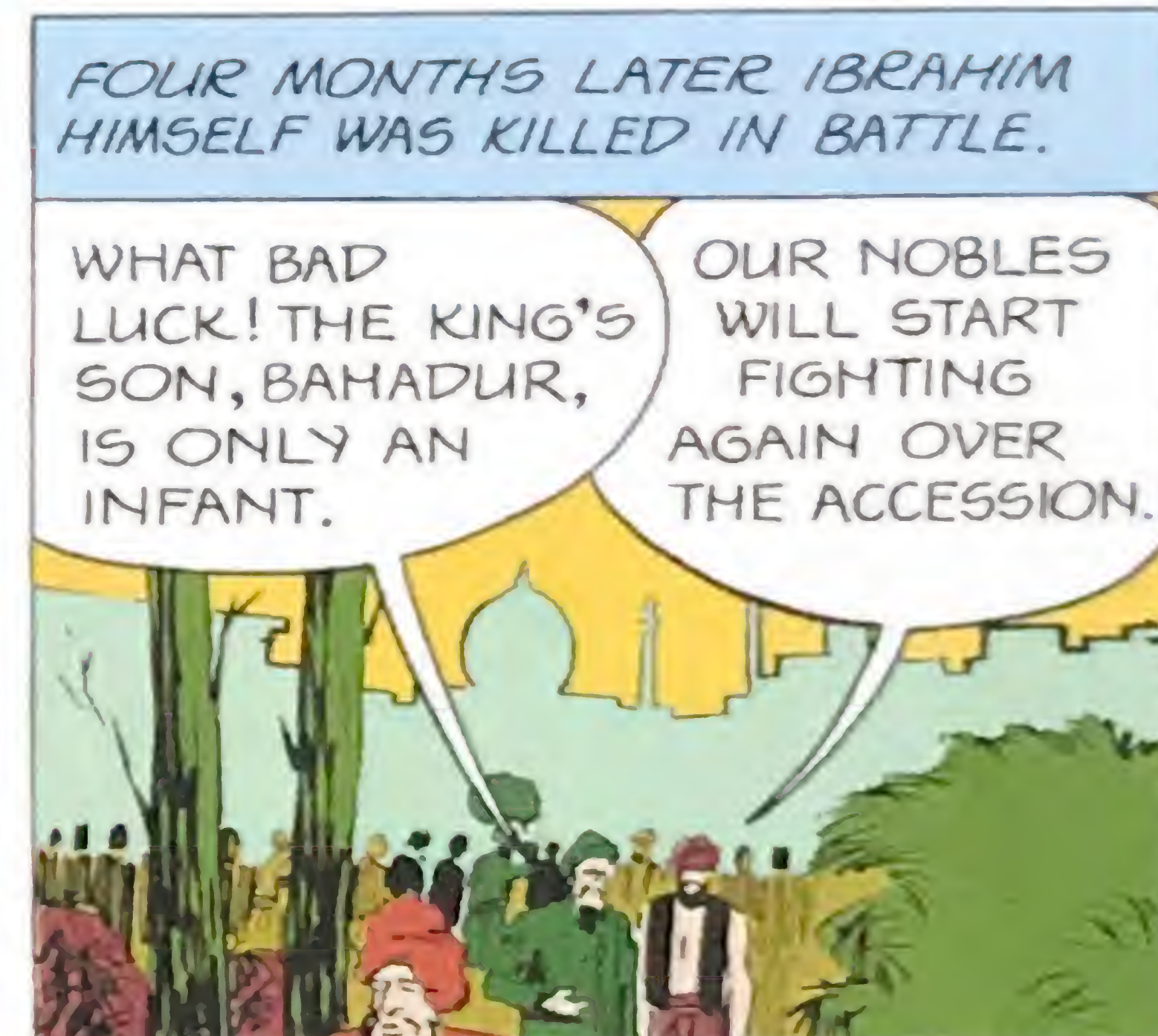
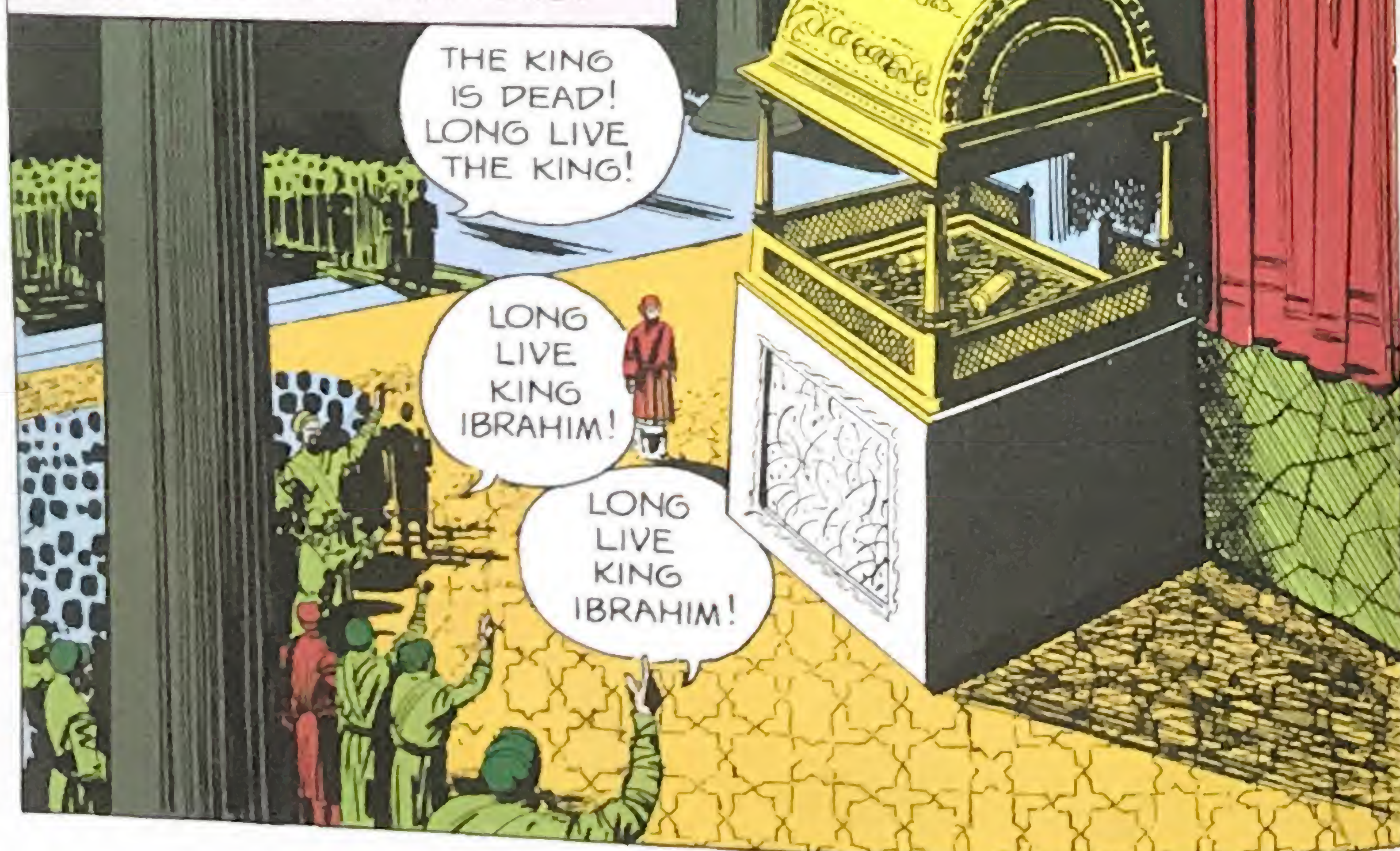


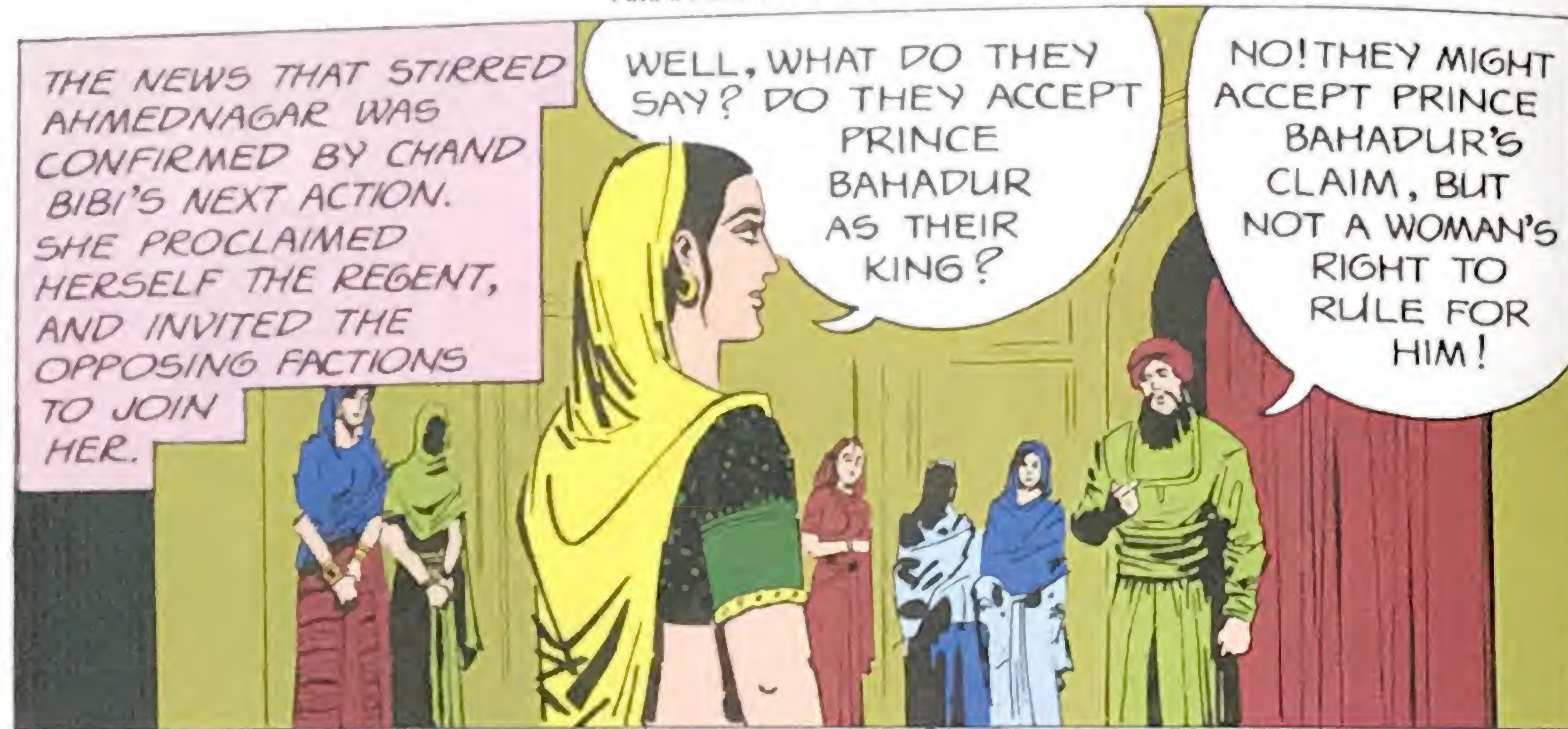
CHAND BIBI WAS THE SISTER OF BURHAN-UL-MULK, AND THE WIDOW OF ALI ADIL SHAH OF BIVAPUR. SHE UNITED THE FEUDING FACTIONS OF AHMEDNAGAR UNDER HER TO CONFRONT THE MIGHTY MUGHALS AND THUS ADDED A GLORIOUS THOUGH BRIEF CHAPTER TO THE HISTORY OF INDIA.





NOT LONG AFTER, THE AILING BURHAN-UL-MULK DIED, AND HIS SON, IBRAHIM WAS PROCLAIMED KING. AT THE PALACE HALL, LARGE NUMBERS OF NOBLEMEN WAITED AROUND THE EMPTY THRONE FOR THE NEW KING.





THE NEWS THAT STIRRED AHMEDNAGAR WAS CONFIRMED BY CHAND BIBI'S NEXT ACTION. SHE PROCLAIMED HERSELF THE REGENT, AND INVITED THE OPPOSING FACTIONS TO JOIN HER.

WELL, WHAT DO THEY SAY? DO THEY ACCEPT PRINCE BAHADUR AS THEIR KING?

NO! THEY MIGHT ACCEPT PRINCE BAHADUR'S CLAIM, BUT NOT A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO RULE FOR HIM!



IN THAT CASE, I WILL DO WITHOUT THEM!

BUT... THEY ARE QUITE STRONG!



THE PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT US EVEN IF THE NOBLES WILL NOT! LISTEN! CAN YOU HEAR THEM SHOUTING IN THE STREET?



WHAT DO THEY SAY?

THEY SAY THEY WANT A GOOD RULER; MAN OR WOMAN.



OUR NOBLEMEN FORGET, IT IS FOR THE PEOPLE THAT WE RULE!



THE OPPOSITION TO CHAND BIBI CONTINUED AND FIGHTING BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE VARIOUS FACTIONS.

RUN QUICKLY! THEY'VE STARTED THROWING STONES!

WE ARE ON THE BRINK OF CIVIL WAR!

LET'S SET FIRE TO THOSE HOUSES!



WORRIED, MURTAZA TRIED TO WIN OVER MIYAN MANJHU, LEADER OF ONE OF THE FACTIONS.

THERE IS BLOODSHED AND TERROR EVERYWHERE! THIS MUST STOP, MIYAN MANJHU!

YES. BUT HOW?



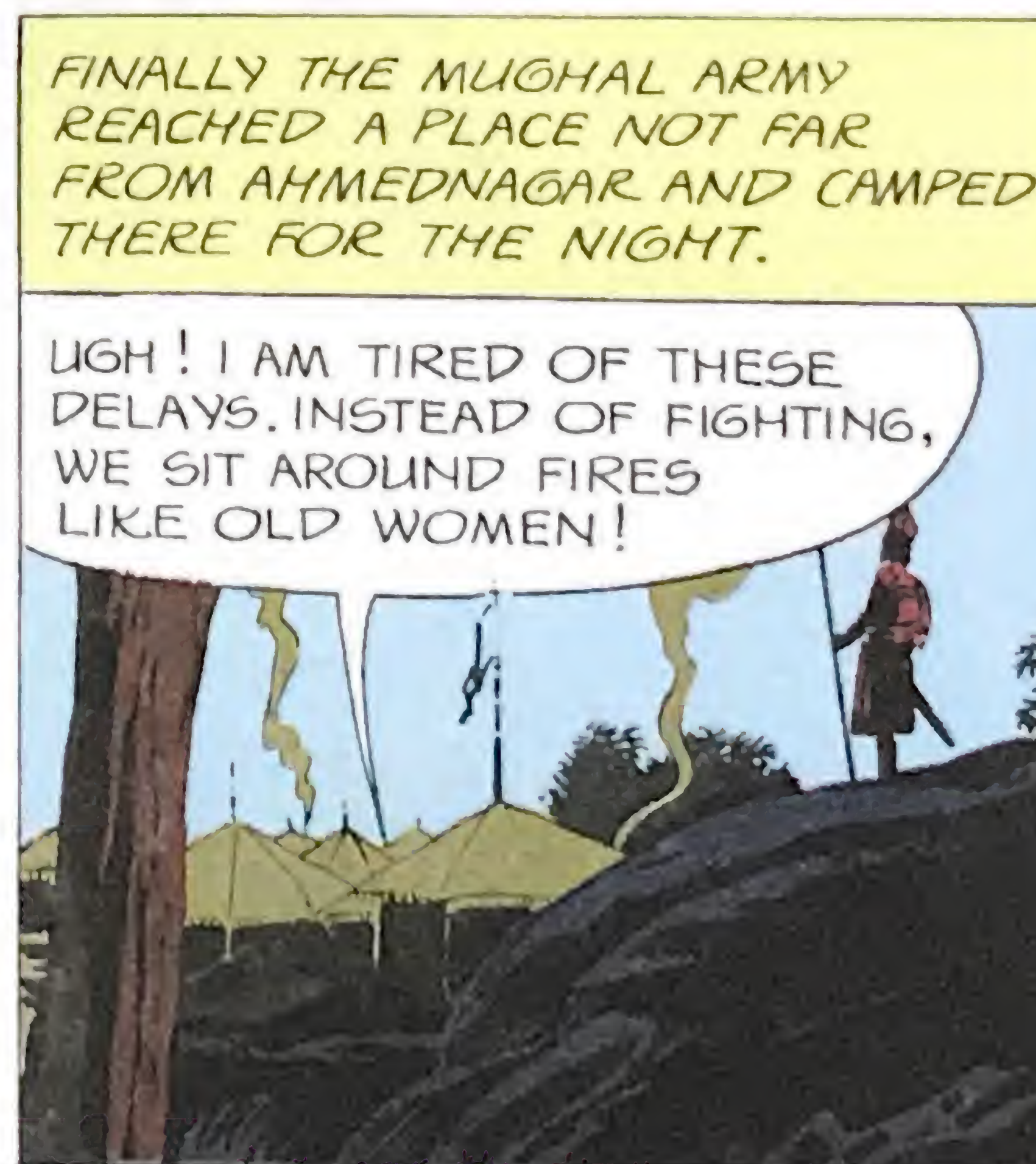
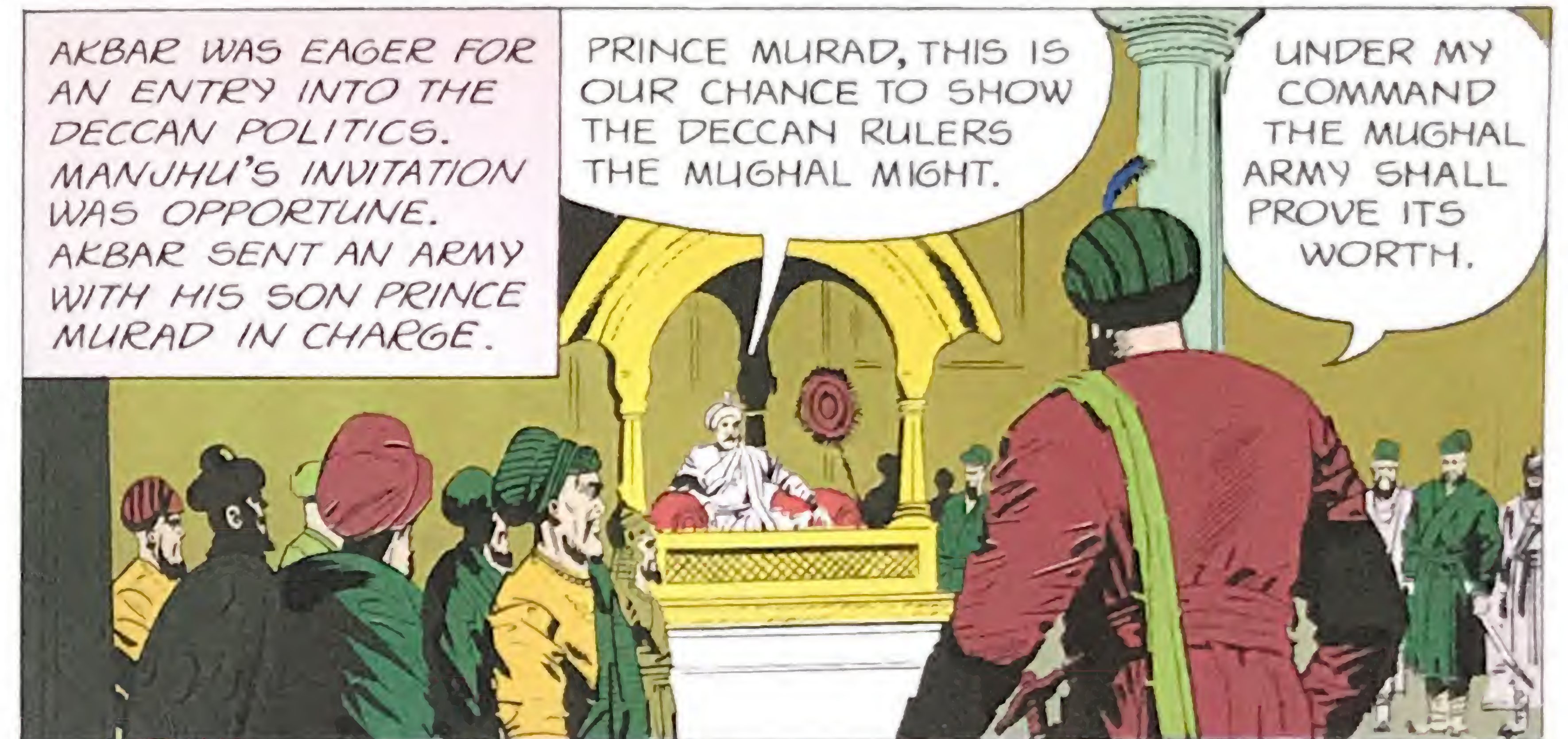
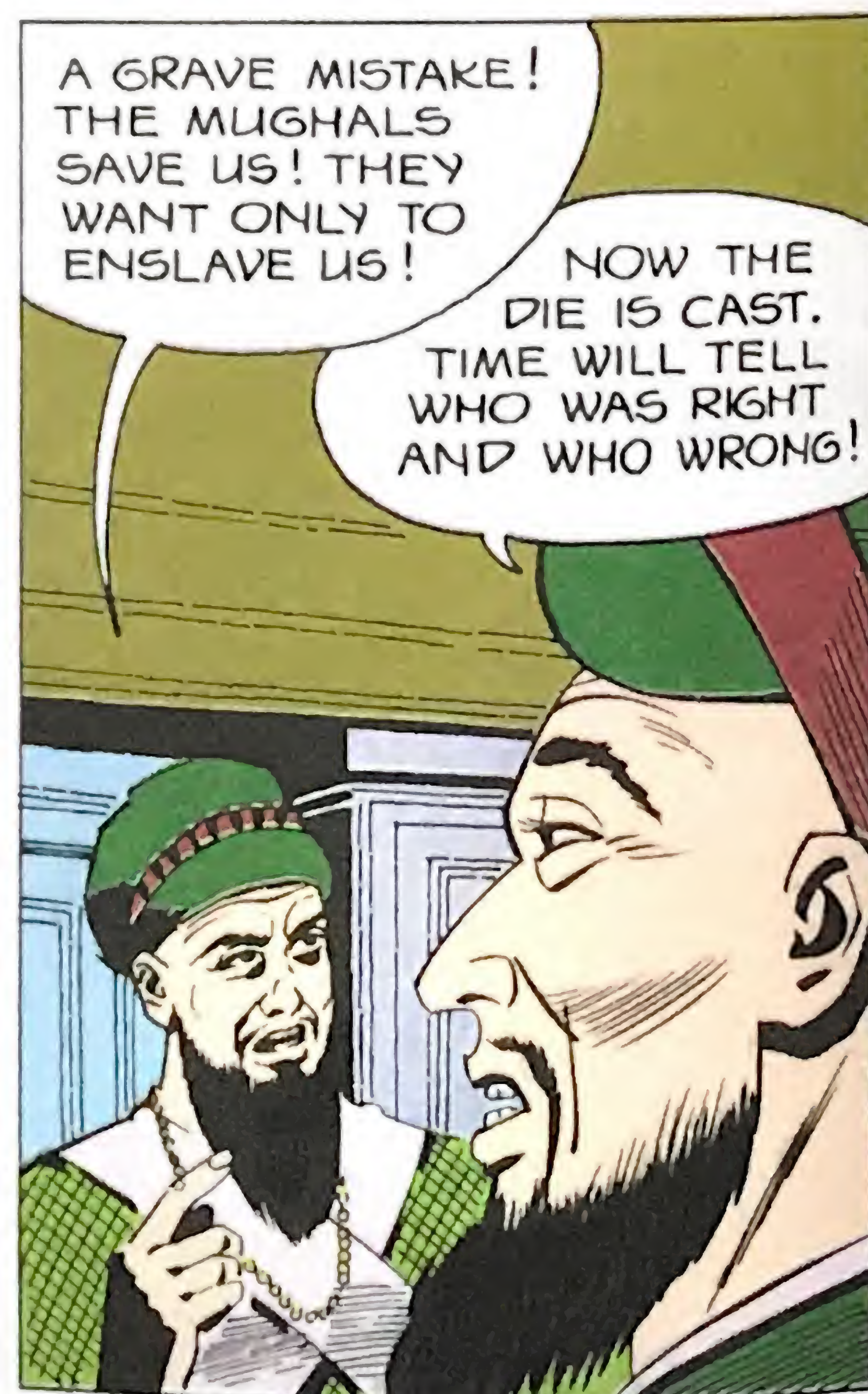
WELL, BY ACCEPTING PRINCE BAHADUR'S CLAIM!

BUT, MURTAZA, THEN CHAND BIBI WILL RULE IN HIS NAME.



THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

WHAT CAN A WOMAN KNOW OF STATE-CRAFT! SHE WILL BE A PUPPET IN THE HANDS OF SOME CLEVER ROGUE.



THE NEXT MORNING, THE MUGHAL ARMY ADVANCED, READY FOR BATTLE.



THE ELEPHANTS WERE COLOURFULLY CAPARISONED.



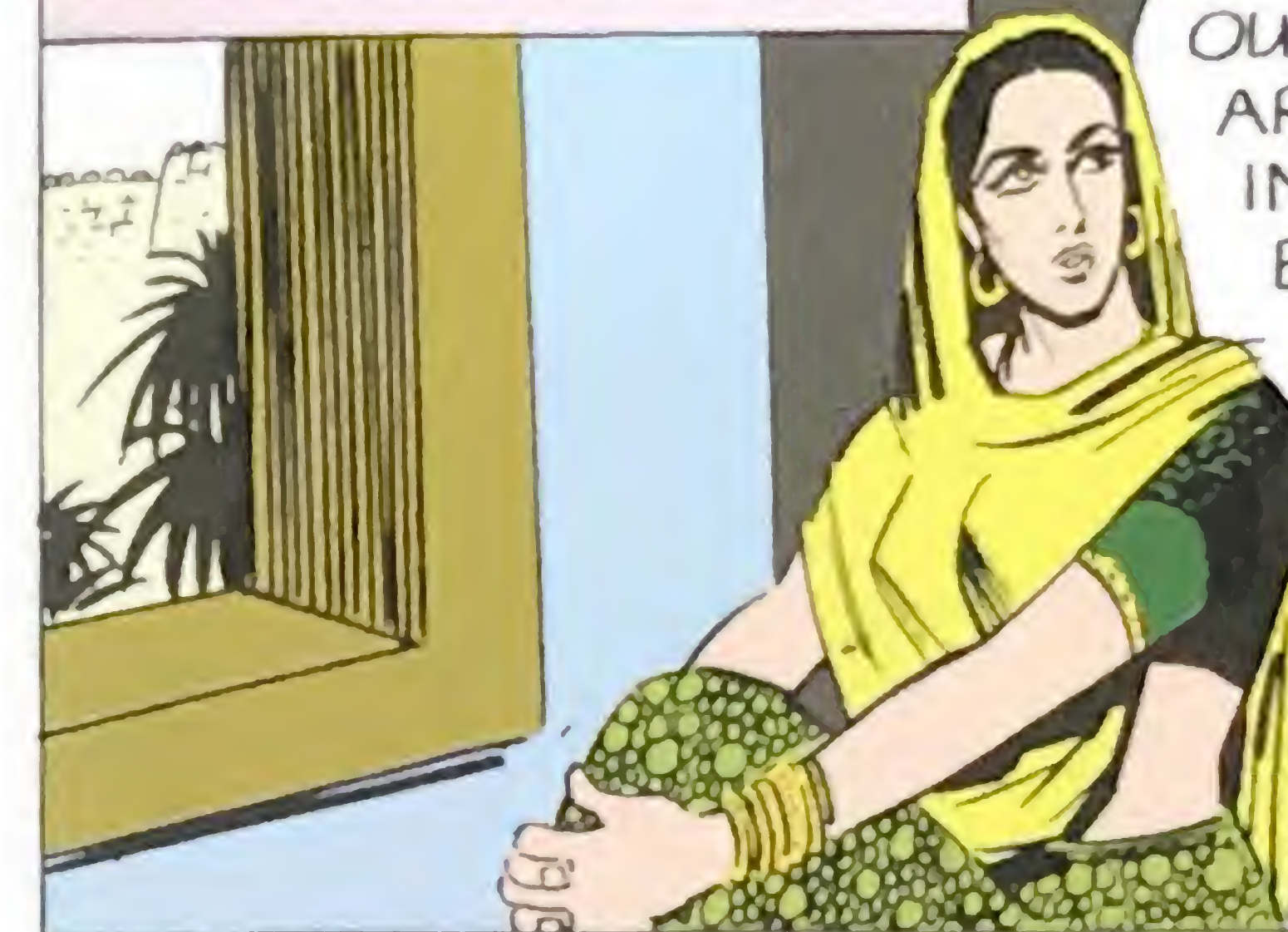
THE INFANTRY MARCHED ALONG SMARTLY.



THE CANNONS WERE OILED AND CLEANED.

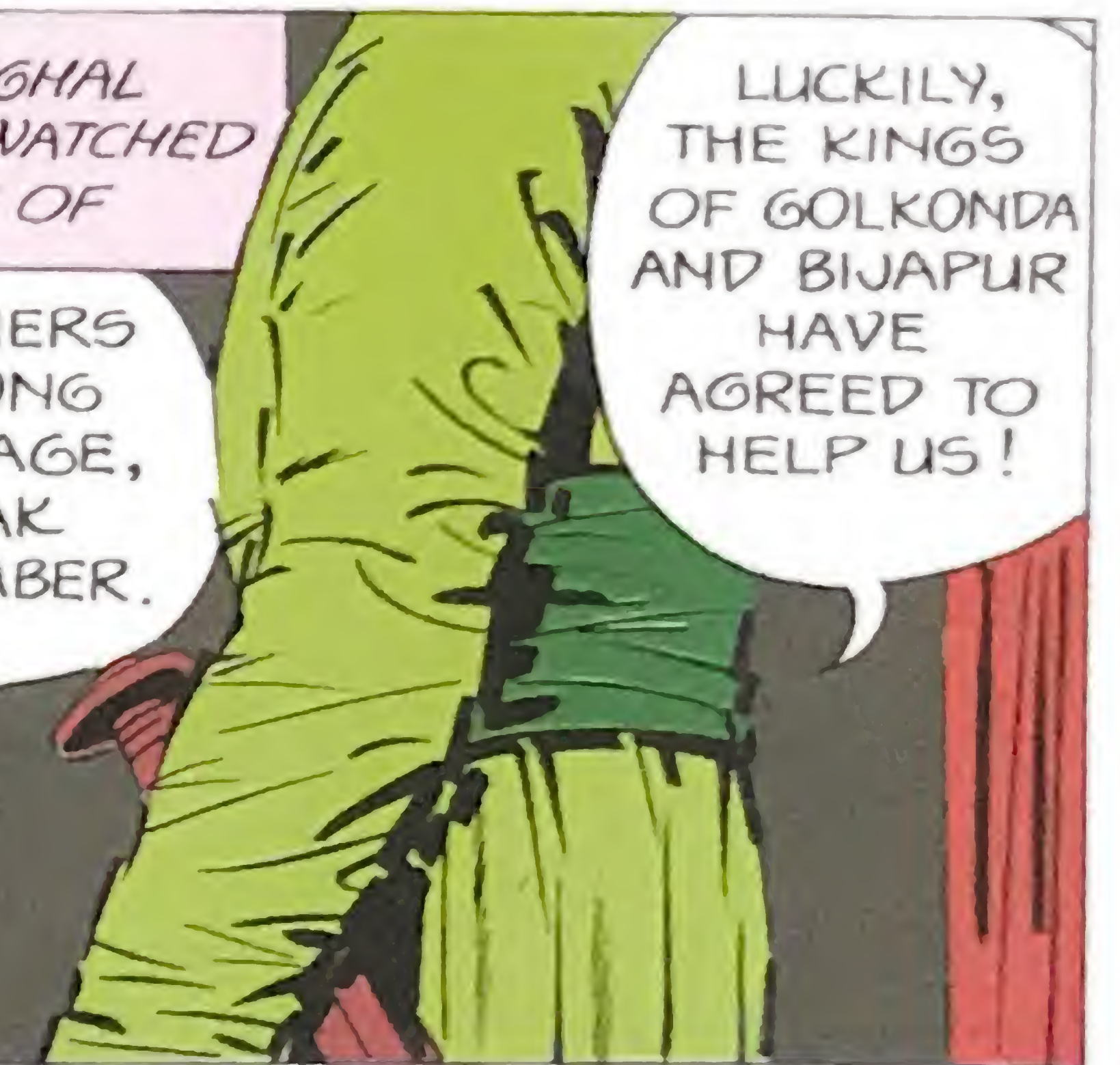


MEANWHILE, AT AHMEDNAGAR, THE MUGHAL APPROACH, SLOW BUT STEADY, WAS WATCHED WITH FEAR BY EVERYONE... BUT MOST OF ALL BY CHAND BIBI.



OUR SOLDIERS ARE STRONG IN COURAGE, BUT WEAK IN NUMBER.

LUCKILY, THE KINGS OF GOLKONDA AND BIJAPUR HAVE AGREED TO HELP US!



BUT THEIR ARMIES HAVE YET TO COME.

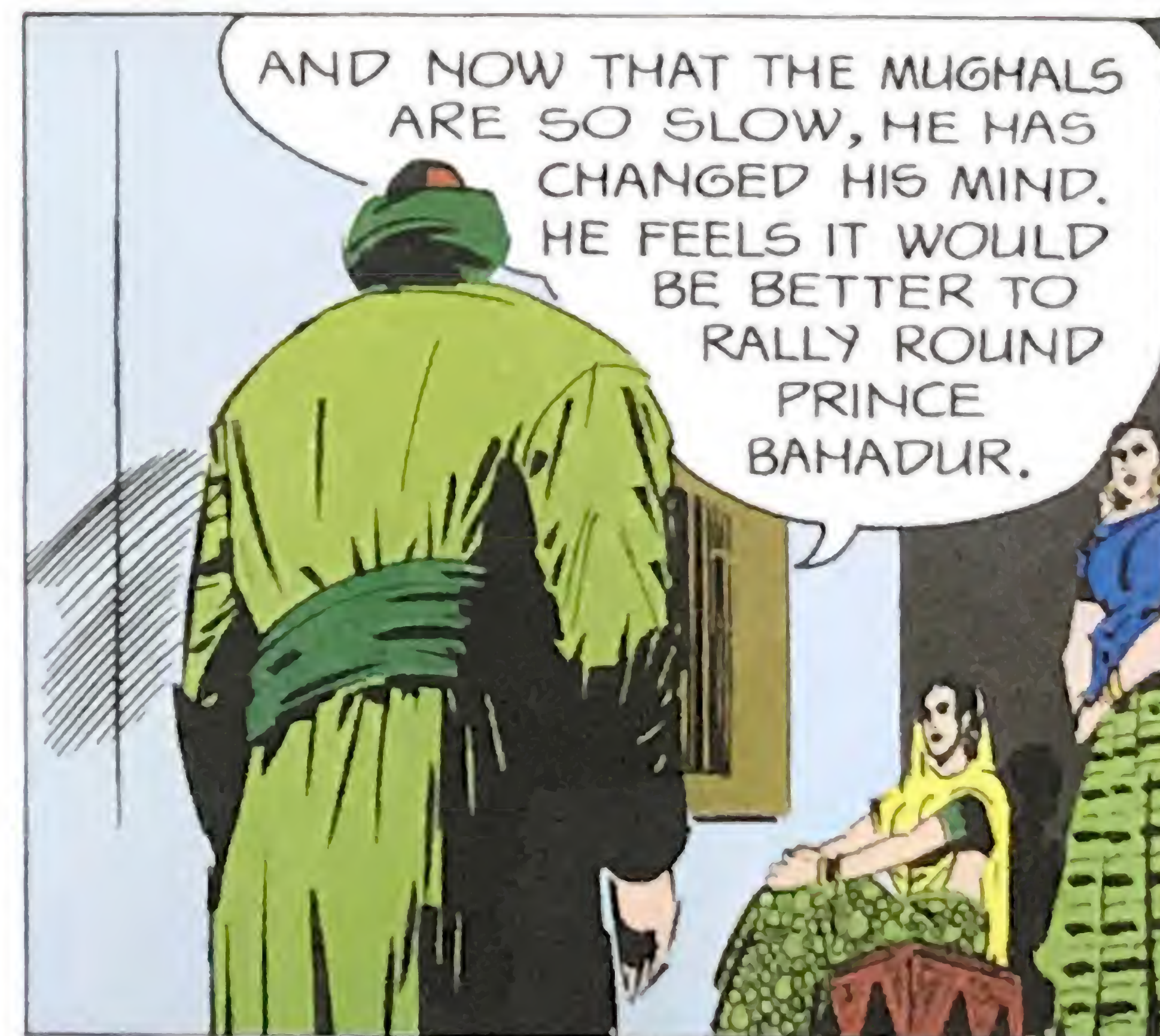


BY INVITING THE MUGHALS, MIYAN MANJHU HAS ADDED TO OUR TROUBLES.

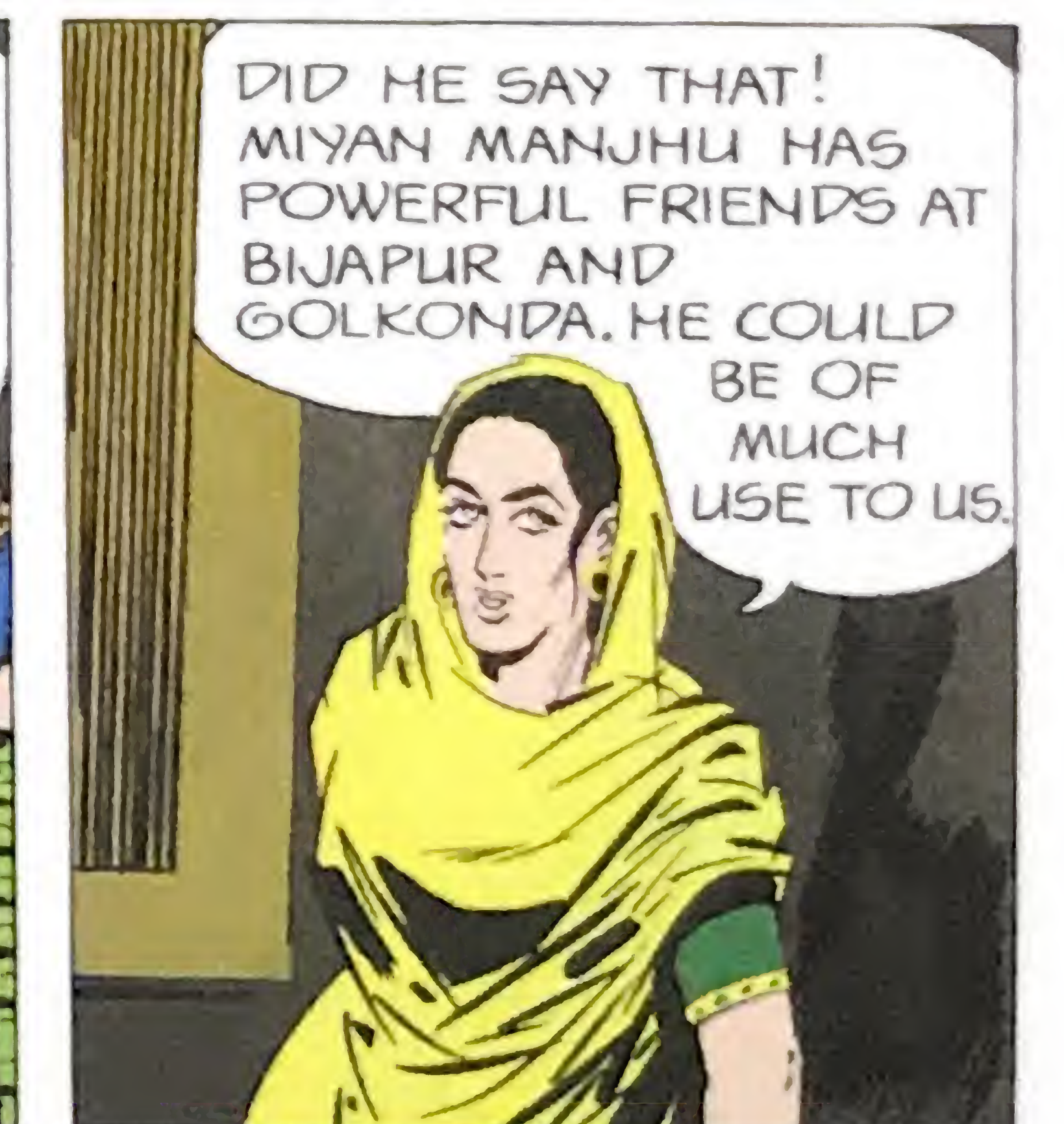
YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM IF HE LOST HIS HEAD! THINGS WERE VERY BAD HERE.

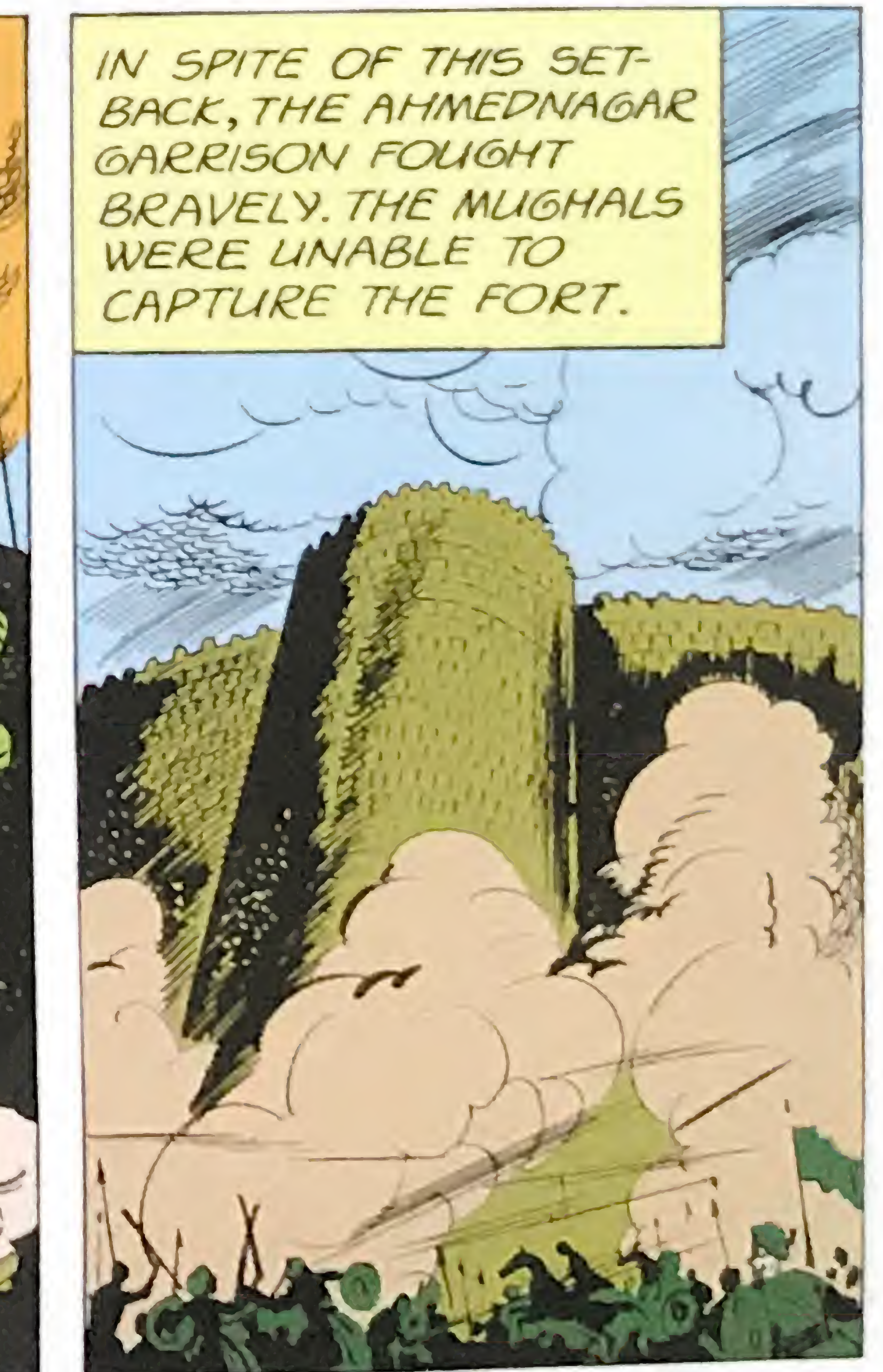
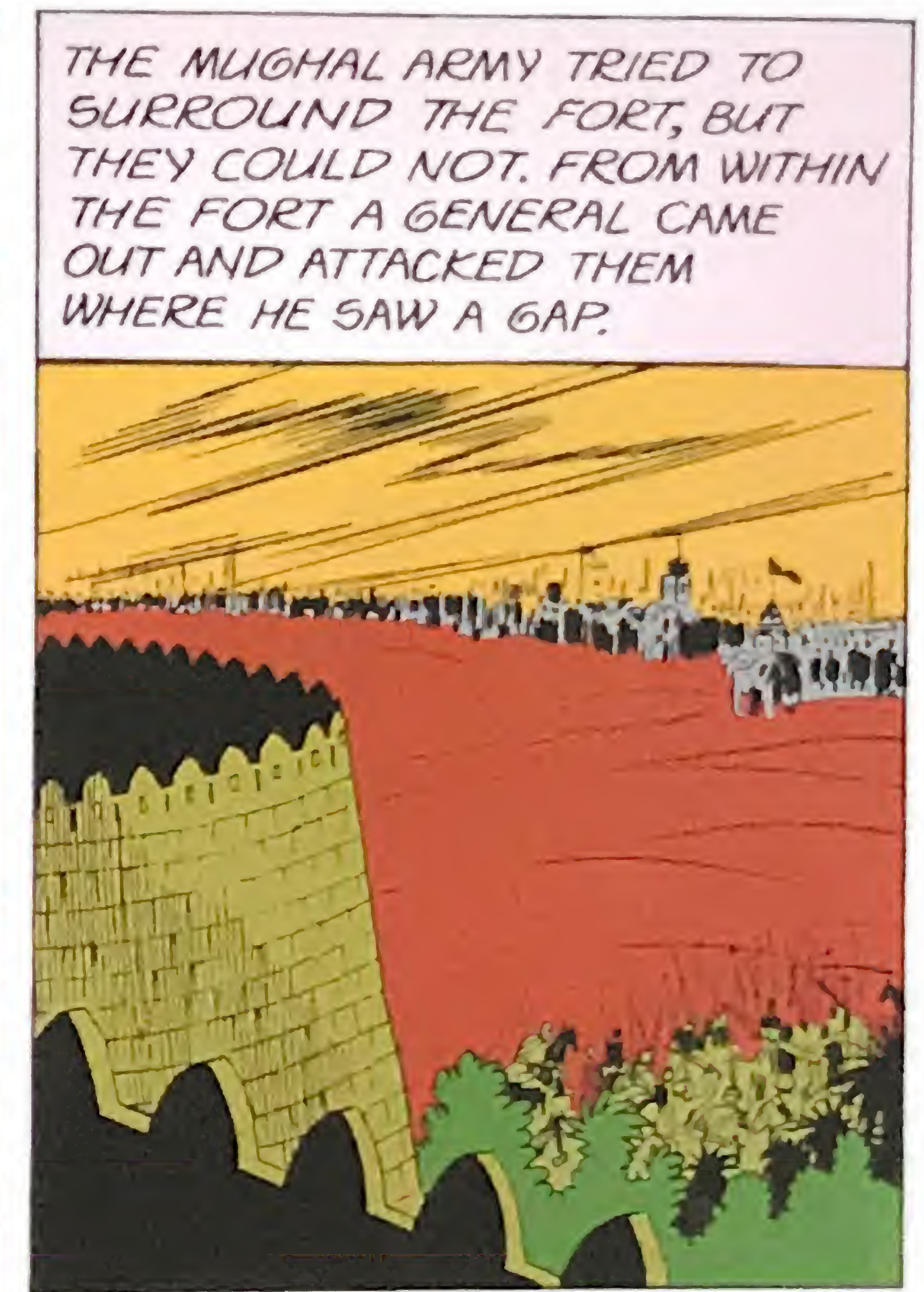
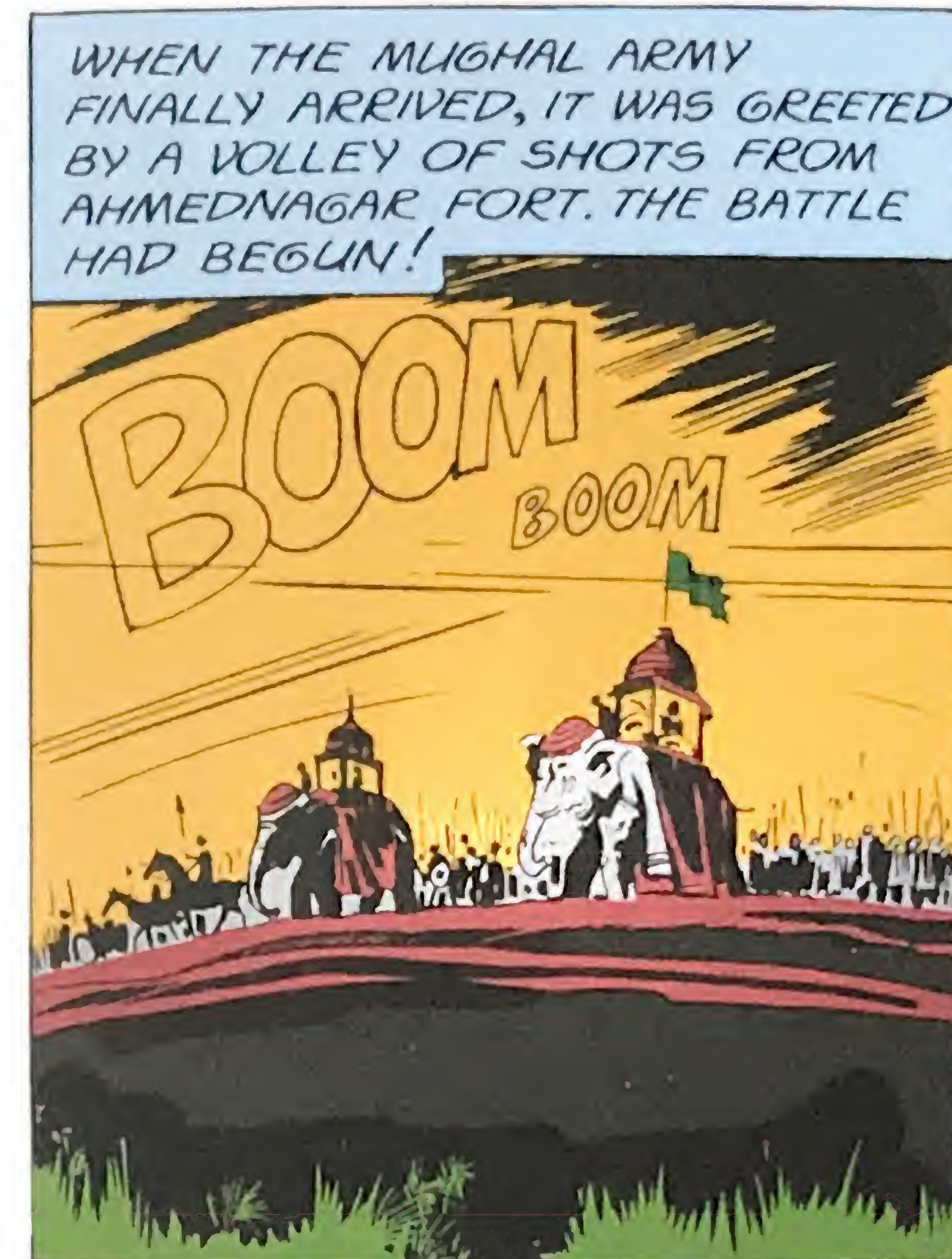
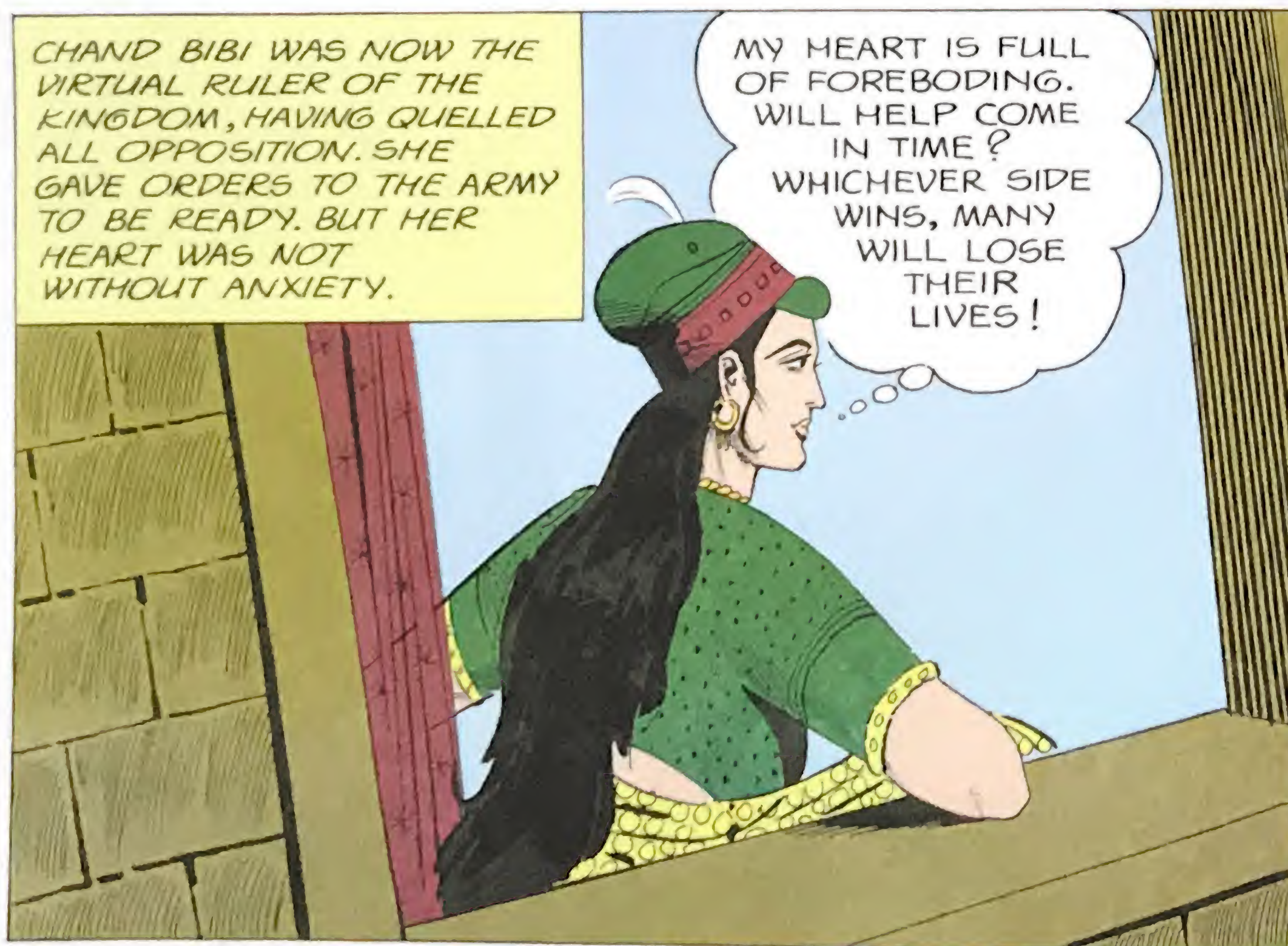


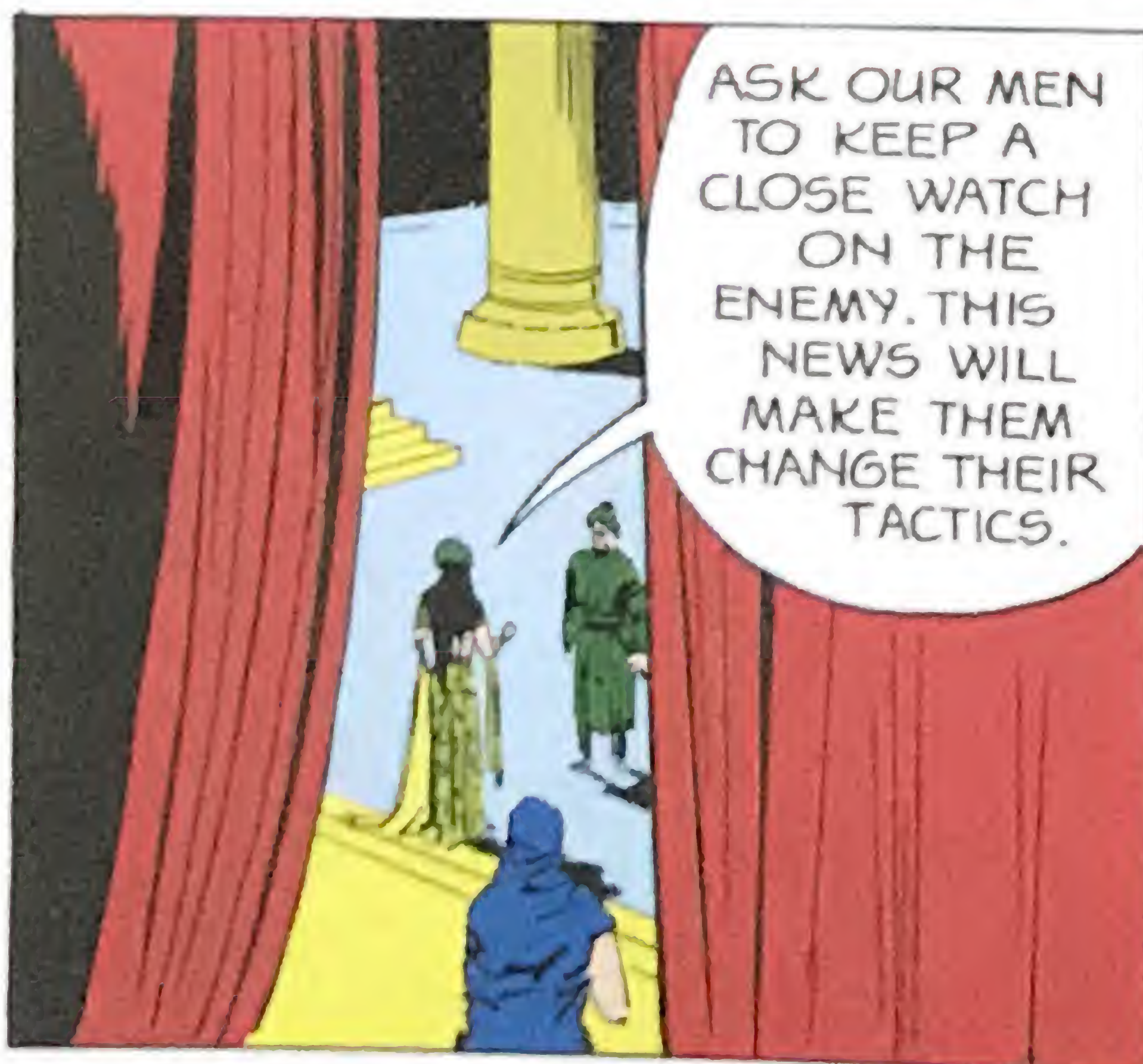
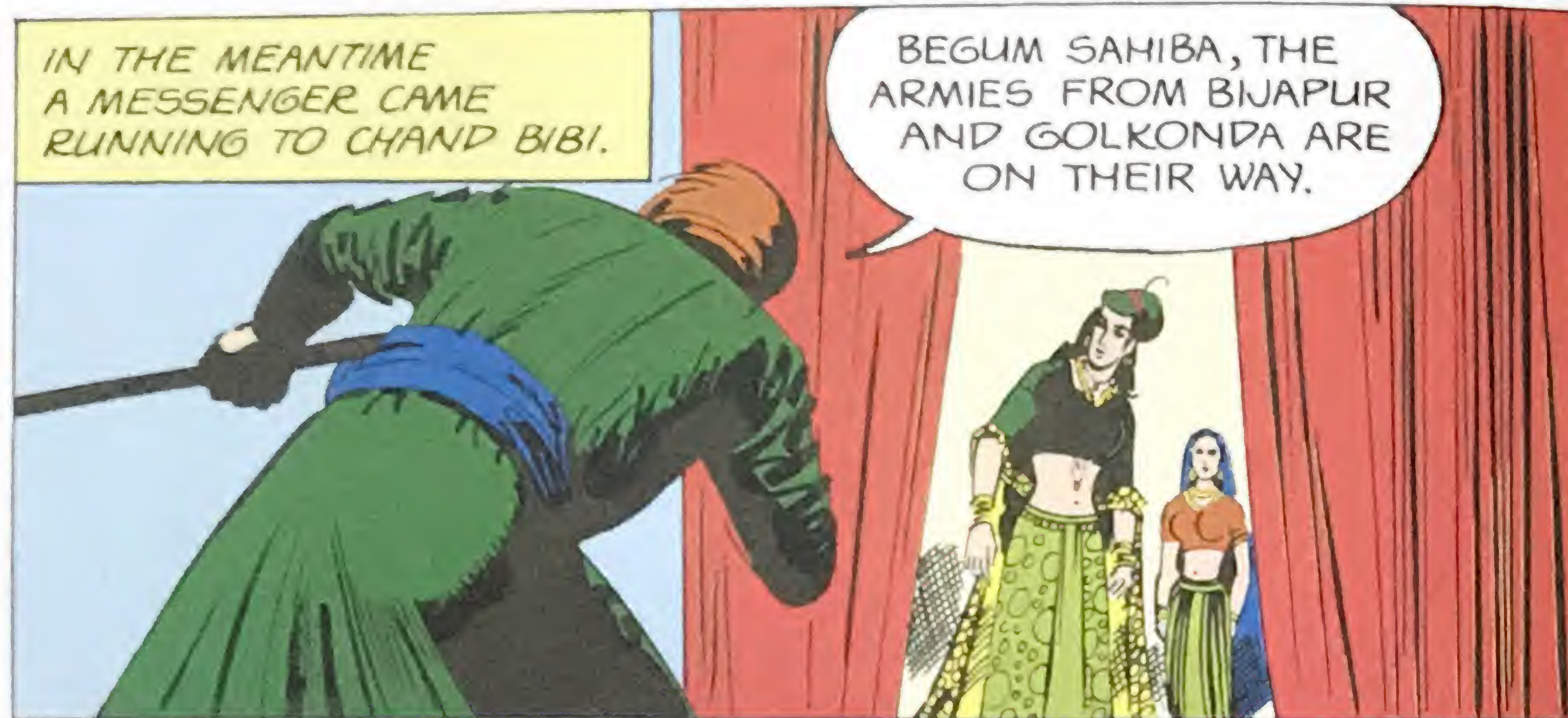
AND NOW THAT THE MUGHALS ARE SO SLOW, HE HAS CHANGED HIS MIND. HE FEELS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO RALLY ROUND PRINCE BAHADUR.



DID HE SAY THAT! MIYAN MANJHU HAS POWERFUL FRIENDS AT BIJAPUR AND GOLKONDA. HE COULD BE OF MUCH USE TO US.







THE MUGHALS BUILT FIVE MINES LEADING UP TO THE FORT AND FILLED THEM WITH GUNPOWDER.

WHEN THIS MINE EXPLODES, THE FORT WILL BE BLOWN TO BITS!

AND THESE OTHERS WILL BLOW UP THE WALL IN MINUTES.

LUCKILY CHAND BIBI'S SPIES WERE ON THE ALERT AND REPORTED THE MATTER TO HER SOLDIERS.

HE SAYS, THEY PLAN TO BLOW UP THE FORT...

...AND THE CITY WALLS! CHAND BIBI MUST BE INFORMED OF THIS.

THE MEN HASTENED TO THE PALACE TO GIVE CHAND BIBI THE NEWS.

BEGUM SAHIBA, THE MUGHALS HAVE BUILT FIVE MINES LEADING TO THE FORT AND WALLS!

THEY MAY EXPLODE ANY MINUTE!

THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE THE FORT!

HOW?

HOW?

HOW CAN WE SAVE THE FORT?

WE MUST OPEN THE MINES AND REMOVE THE GUNPOWDER...

...SO THAT WHEN THE MUGHALS DECIDE TO EXPLODE THEM, NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!

BUT THEY MAY EXPLODE WHILE WE ARE REMOVING THE GUNPOWDER!

WE WILL BE KILLED!

THEY STOOD SILENT FOR A MOMENT WATCHING CHAND BIBI'S SAD FACE.

THEN AROSE A CHORUS OF VOICES.

I'LL DO IT!

SO WILL I!

AND I!



THE DAWN WAS NEAR, BUT THE GARRISON CONTINUED TO WORK FURIOUSLY, FOR THERE WERE MINES STILL TO BE OPENED.



FORTUNATELY IN THE MUGHAL CAMP, THE SENTRIES WERE ASLEEP.



THE ONLY PERSON AWAKE WAS A SMALL BOY, PRINCE MURAD'S CUP-BEARER, WHO WAS STANDING OUTSIDE, YAWNING SLEEPILY.

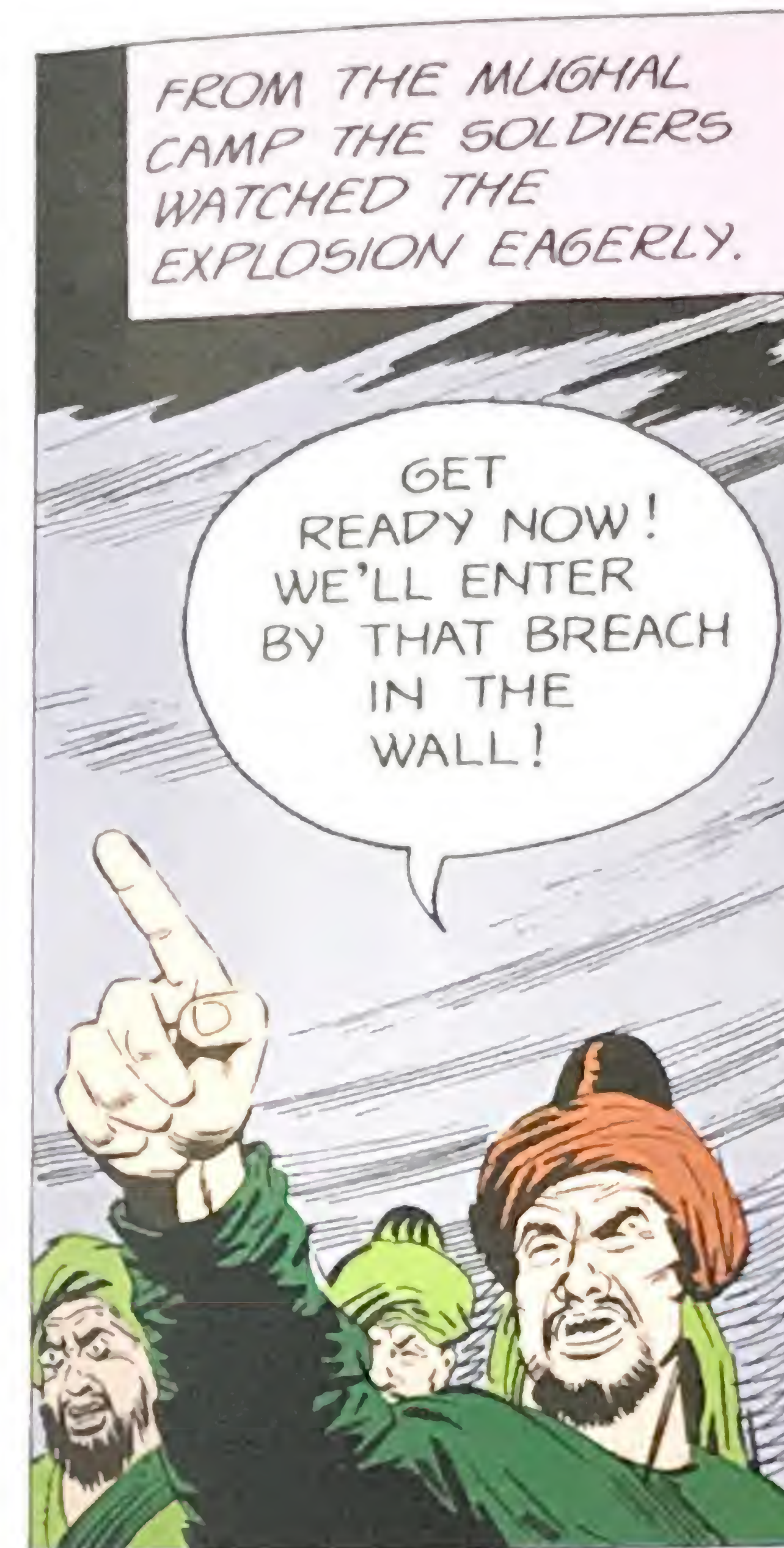


SUDDENLY, HE STOOD TRANSFIXED FOR A MOMENT, HIS MOUTH AGAPE. HE HAD SPOTTED THE MEN OPENING THE MINES.



YA, ALLAH! THEY ARE OPENING THE MINES!





THE MUGHAL SOLDIERS WATCHED THE OPERATIONS, BUT DARED NOT COME NEAR THE WALL.

THE FIRST EXPLOSION WILL SET OFF MORE MINES...



THEY COULD ONLY STAND IN READINESS WAITING FOR OTHER MINES TO EXPLODE.

WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO WAIT TILL ALL THE MINES HAVE BURST.



MEANWHILE PRINCE MURAD WAS STILL WAITING FOR THE OTHER MINES TO EXPLODE...



...WHEN TWO OF HIS MEN BURST IN WITH AGITATION.

THE BREACH IN THE WALL IS ALMOST CLOSED.

YOU MUST GIVE THE ORDER FOR BATTLE! THE TROOPS ARE BECOMING RESTLESS!

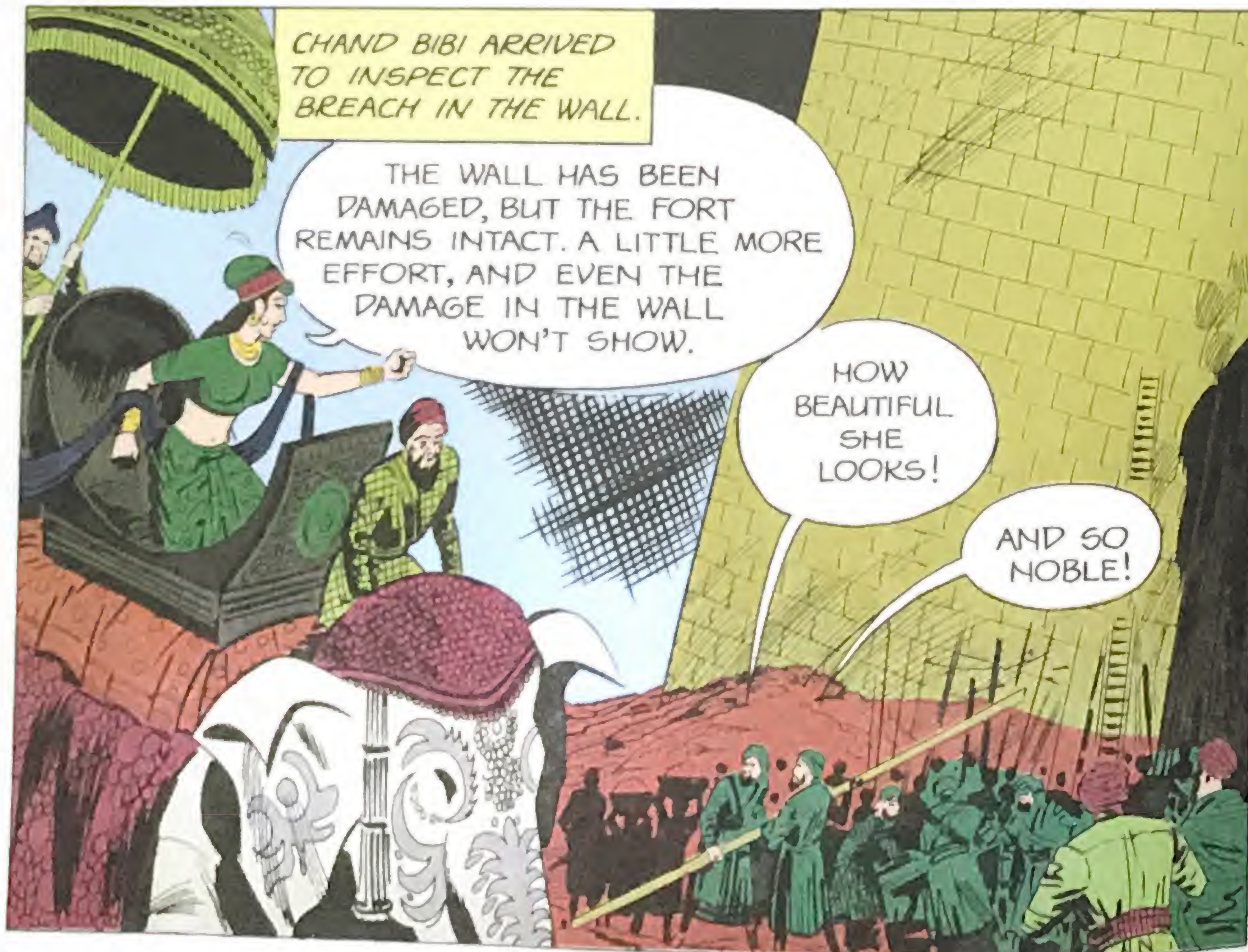


CHAND BIBI ARRIVED TO INSPECT THE BREACH IN THE WALL.

THE WALL HAS BEEN DAMAGED, BUT THE FORT REMAINS INTACT. A LITTLE MORE EFFORT, AND EVEN THE DAMAGE IN THE WALL WON'T SHOW.

HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE LOOKS!

AND SO NOBLE!



A SOUND WAS HEARD OUTSIDE.

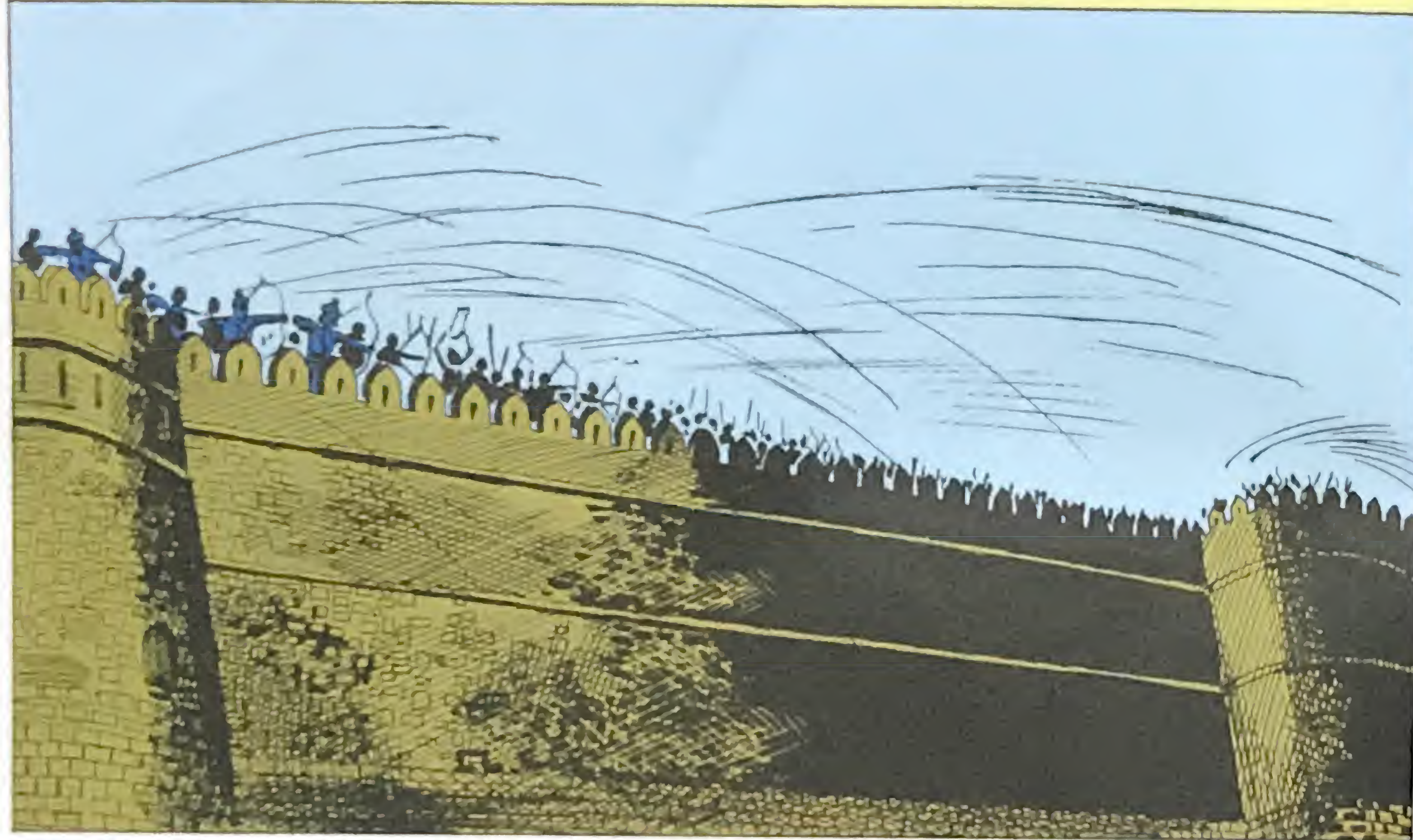
THAT NOISE! IT SOUNDS LIKE BULLETS!



AHMEDNAGAR HAS BEGUN THE ATTACK!



HAVING ALMOST REPAIRED THE WALL, CHAND BIBI DECIDED TO ATTACK WHILE THE MUGHALS WERE STILL OFF THEIR GUARD.



THE MUGHALS RETURNED THE FIRE.



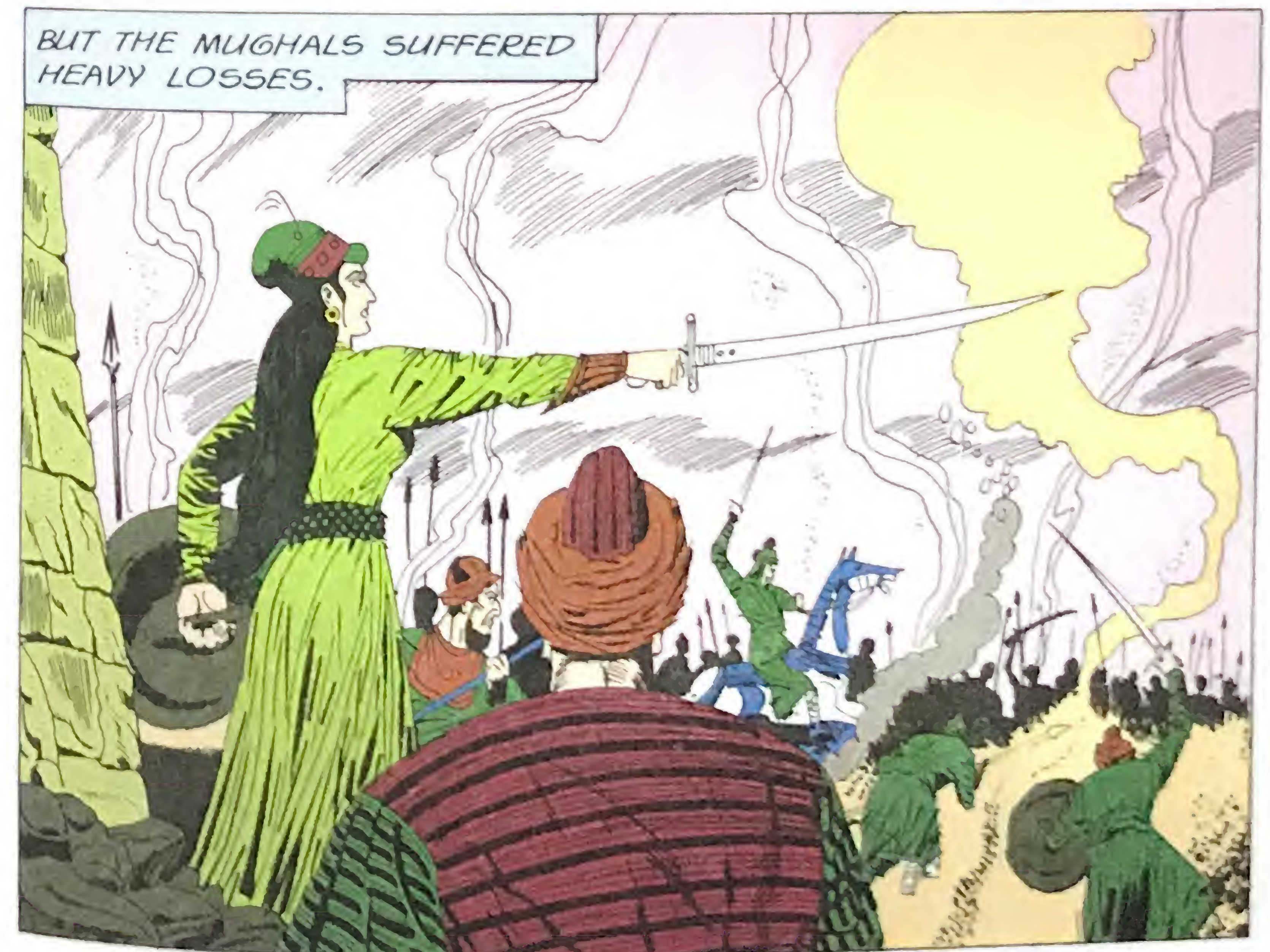
BUT THEY WERE REPULSED BY CANNON-BALLS AND BULLETS FROM THE GARRISON.



FIERCE FIGHTING ENSUED. PRINCE MURAD HIMSELF WAS PRESENT NEAR THE TRENCHES TO ENCOURAGE HIS SOLDIERS.



BUT THE MUGHALS SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES.





THEY WERE UNABLE TO CAPTURE THE FORT. BEFORE NIGHTFALL, PRINCE MURAD AND HIS MEN RETURNED TO CAMP.

IT'S NO USE FIGHTING NOW. WE MIGHT AS WELL RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT!



BUT CHAND BIBI REMAINED AT THE WALL WHILE HER MEN CONTINUED TO REPAIR THE BREACH.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO REST TILL THE WALL IS FULLY REPAIRED.

SHE IS RIGHT! THE MUGHALS SHOULD HAVE NO WAY TO ENTER OUR CITY.



THAT NIGHT THE WOMEN IN THE COURT WATCHED ANXIOUSLY.

THE FORT IS STILL INTACT, THANK GOD!

AND THE BREACH IN THE WALL IS REPAIRED!



WE SHOULD THANK CHAND BIBI FOR THIS.

THE PEOPLE WORSHIP HER.

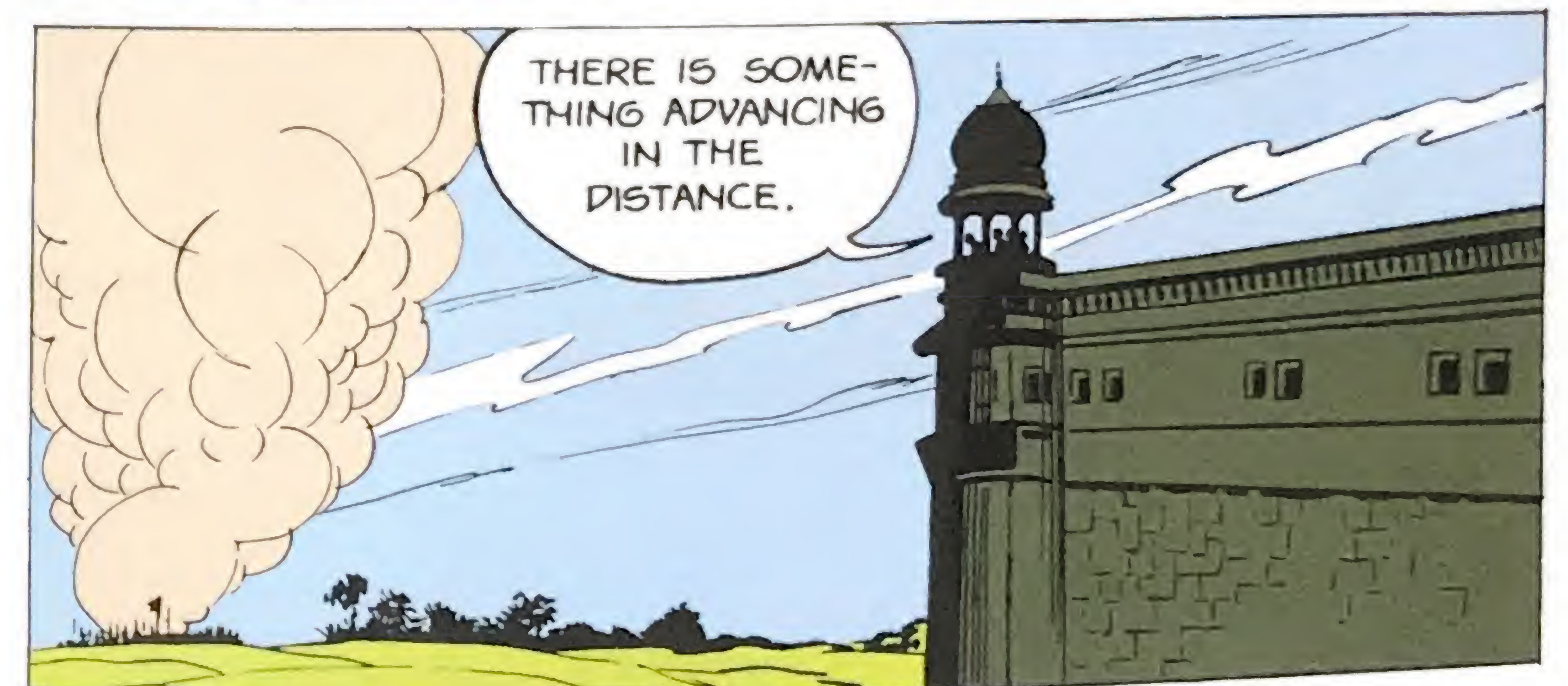
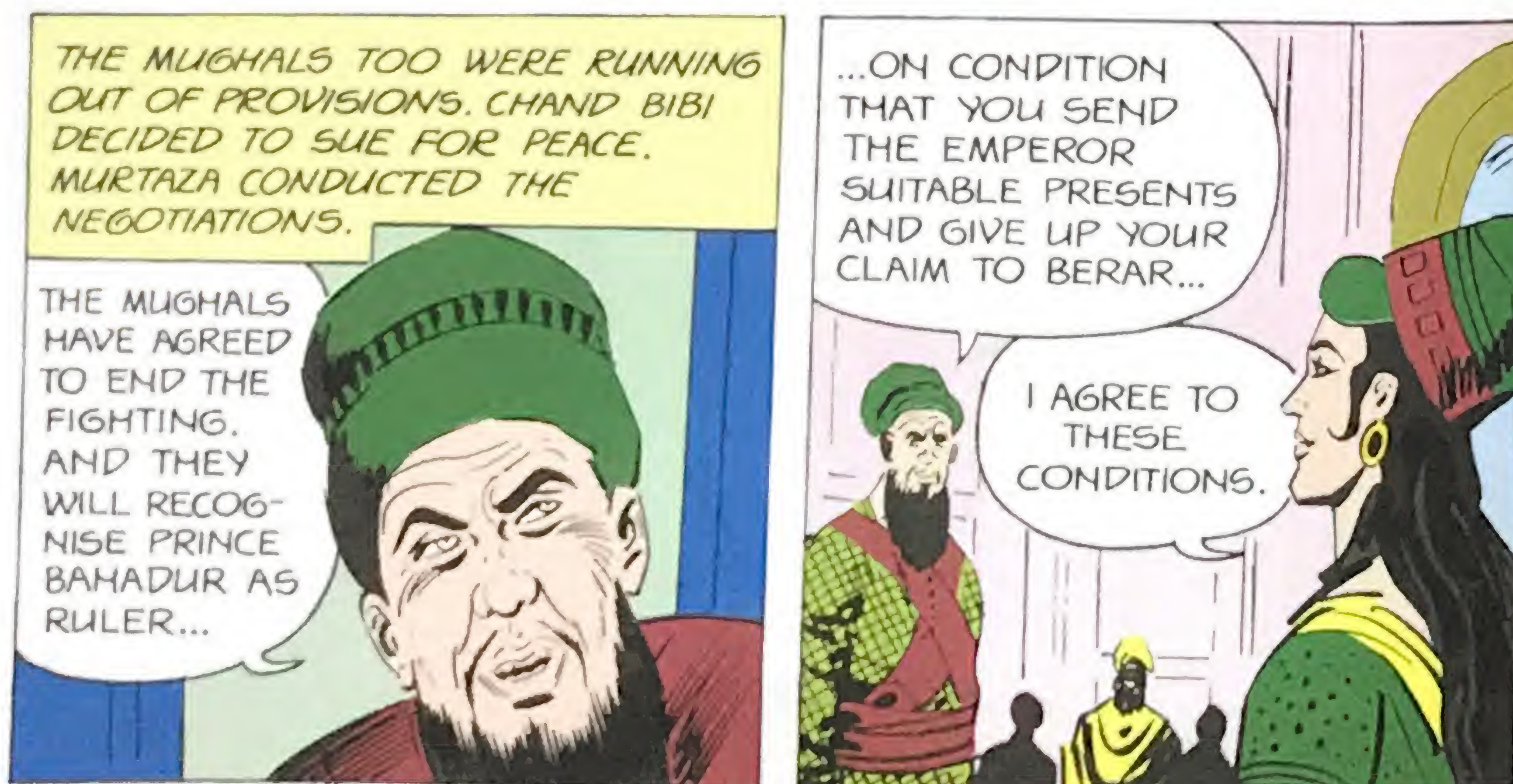
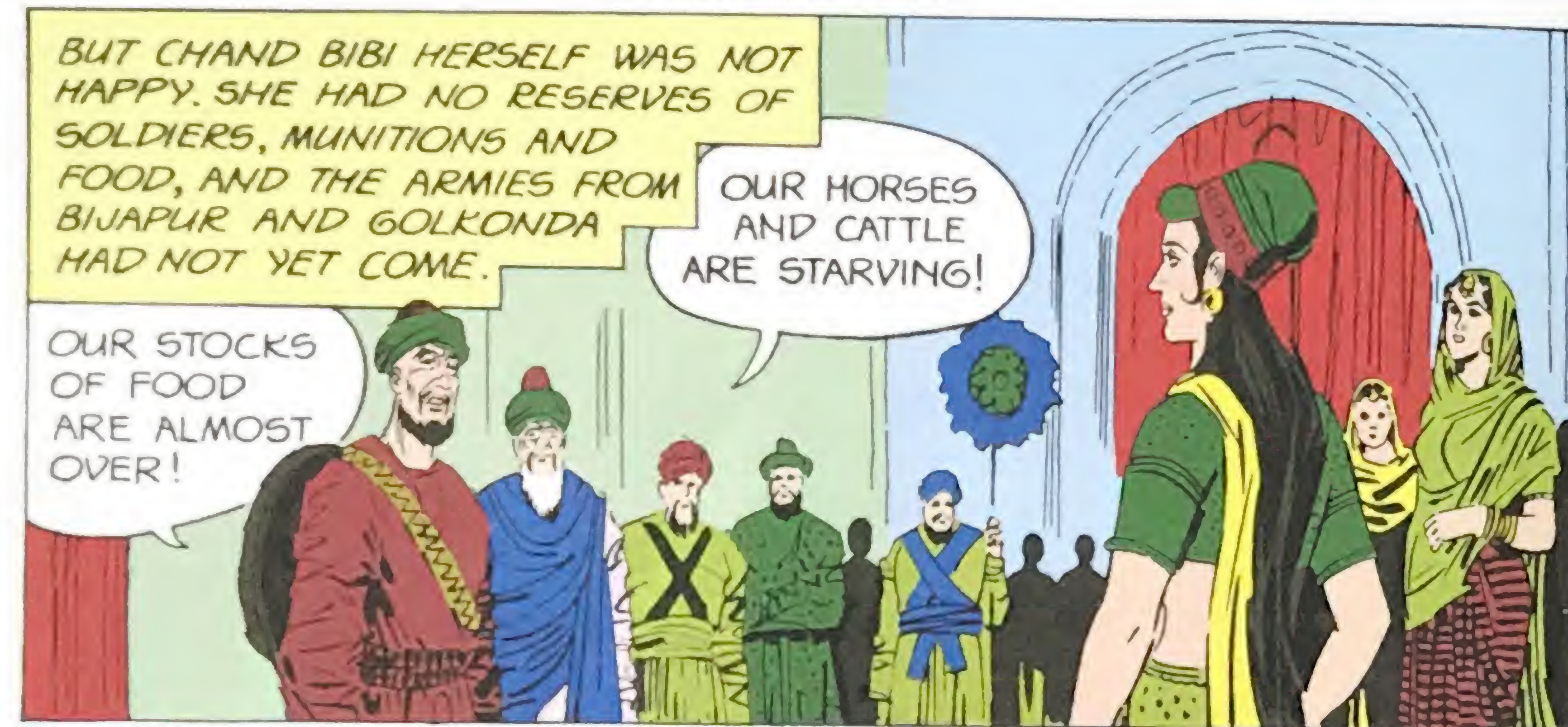
WE'VE BEEN UNITED NOW AS NEVER BEFORE!



THE NEXT DAY AS CHAND BIBI RODE THROUGH THE STREETS, SHE WAS CHEERED WILDLY BY THE PEOPLE.

VICTORY TO CHAND BIBI!

MAY SHE LIVE LONG AND PROSPER!





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