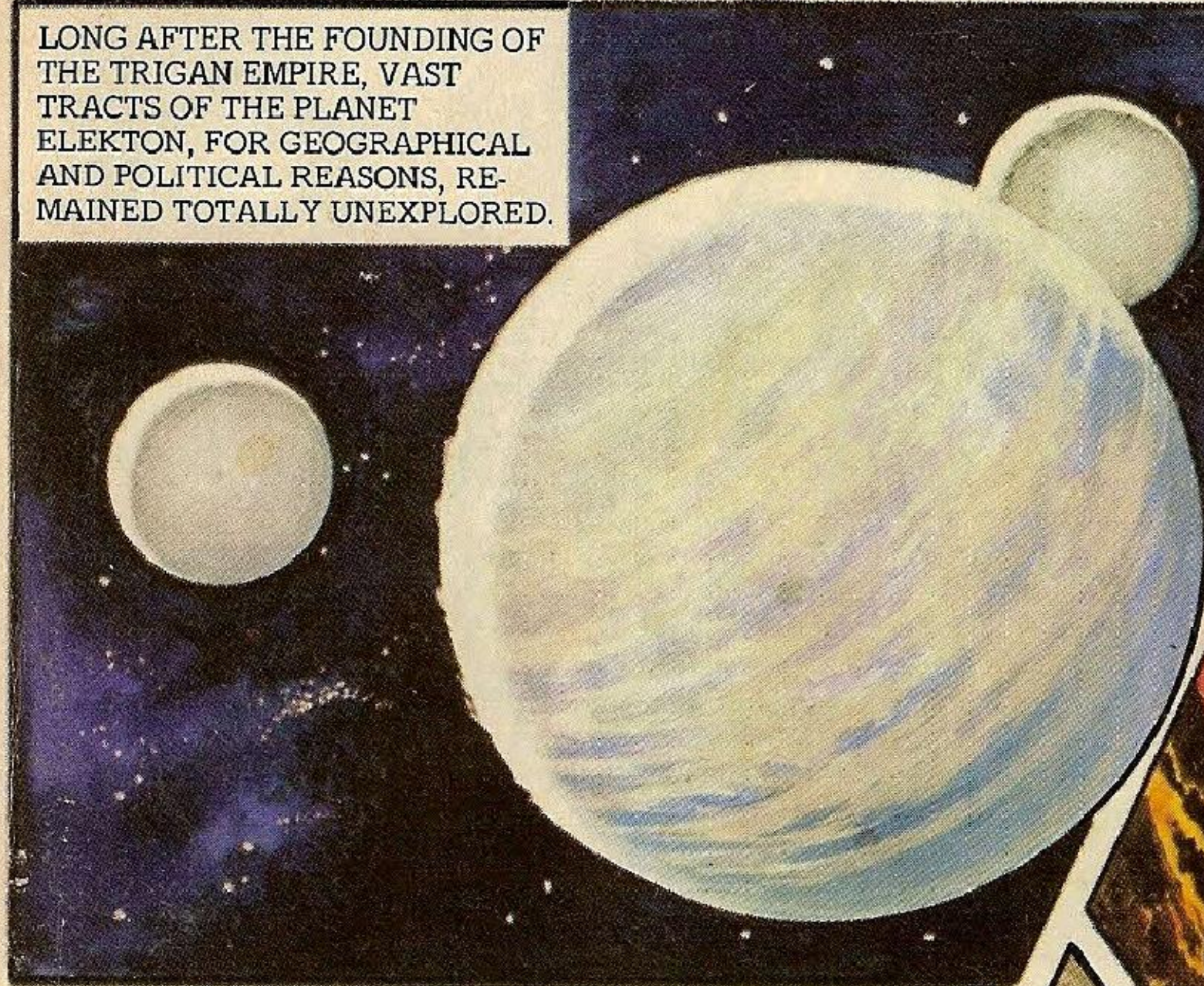


# TRIGAN EMPIRE

net Elekton lies in the depths of space. The greatest city on Elekton is the Trigan Empire, ruled over by the Emperor Trigo.

LONG AFTER THE FOUNDING OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE, VAST TRACTS OF THE PLANET ELEKTON, FOR GEOGRAPHICAL AND POLITICAL REASONS, REMAINED TOTALLY UNEXPLORED.



IN THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR OF ZEMM, AN ERUPTION OF CATACLYSMIC PROPORTIONS RENT THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN RANGE OF ZEROS, IN THE CONTINENT OF THARV.



A ROCK WALL FELL DURING THE ERUPTION, REVEALING A VAST AND FERTILE VALLEY LYING WITHIN THE HEART OF THE RANGE.

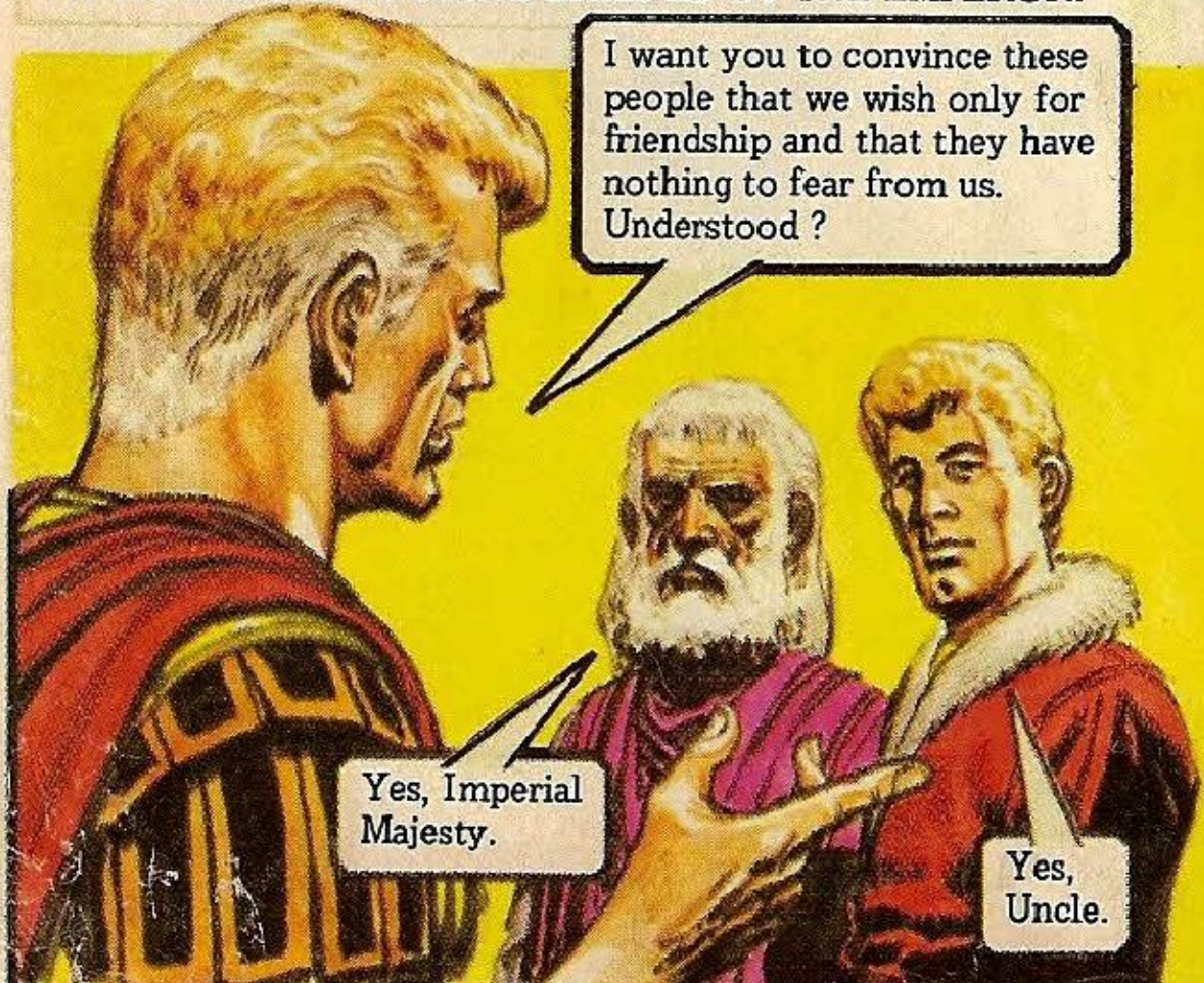


NEWS OF THE DEVELOPMENT WAS RECEIVED IN FAR-OFF TRIGAN CITY, AND A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WAS BROADCAST IN THE GREAT SQUARE.

A race of strange people have been found living in the secret valley since the beginning of time. His Imperial Majesty is appointing a commission to visit these people and convey to them the good-will of the Empire.



IN FACT, IT WAS THE EMPEROR'S NEPHEW JANNO AND THE TOP SCIENTIST PERIC, WHO WERE EVEN AT THAT MOMENT BEING BRIEFED BY THE EMPEROR.

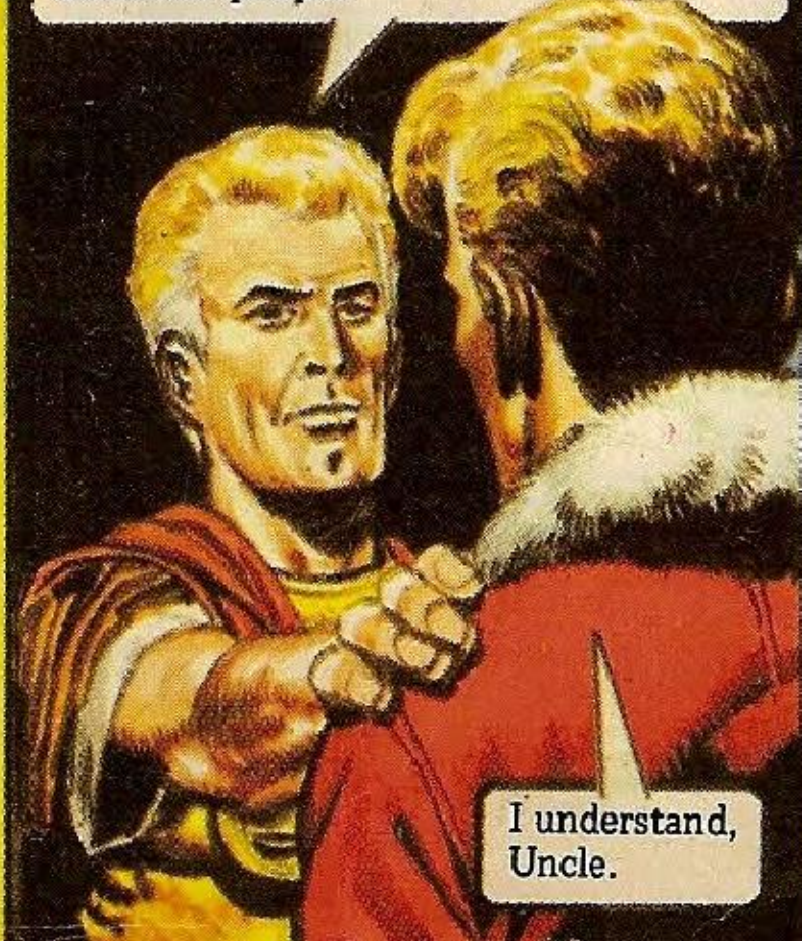


I want you to convince these people that we wish only for friendship and that they have nothing to fear from us. Understood?

Yes, Imperial Majesty.

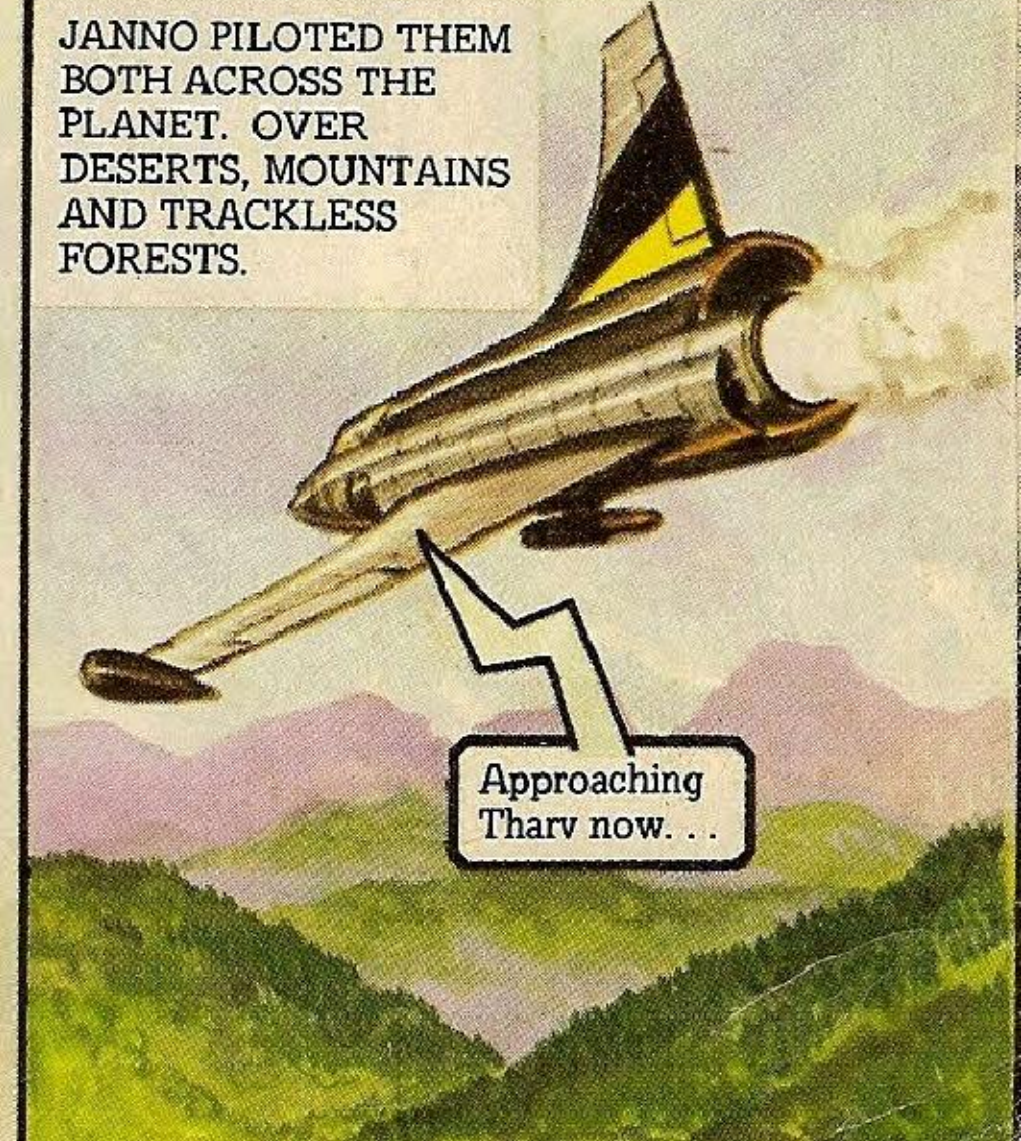
Yes, Uncle.

Always remember, Janno, that you may, one day, be Emperor of the Trigans. We have no wish to make enemies of these unknown people.



I understand, Uncle.

JANNO PILOTED THEM BOTH ACROSS THE PLANET. OVER DESERTS, MOUNTAINS AND TRACKLESS FORESTS.

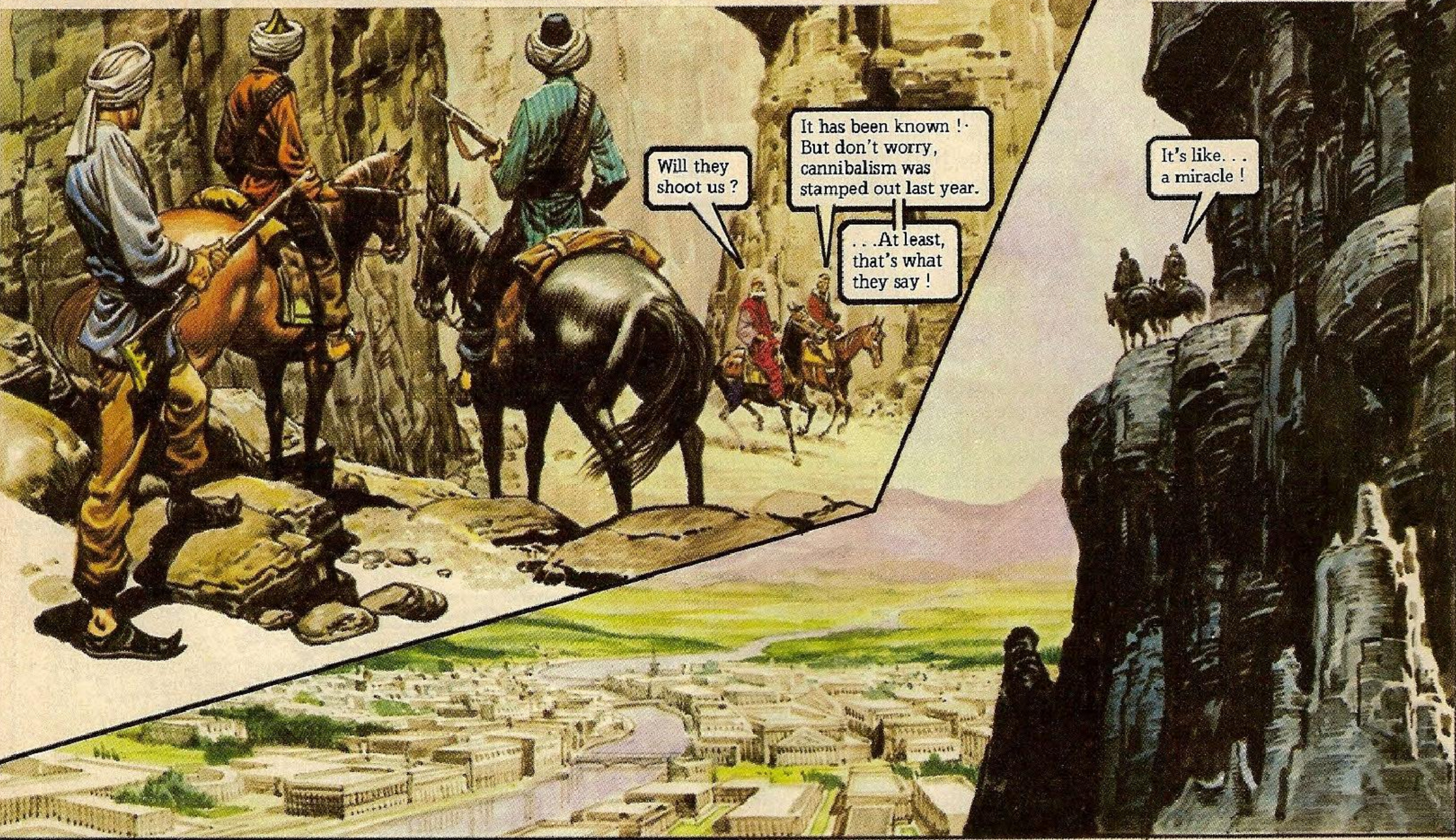


Approaching Tharv now...



THE AIR SPACE OVER THE THARV PROVINCE SURROUNDING THE ZEROS RANGE WAS JEALOUSLY GUARDED BY A TREATY THAT THE THARVS HAD MADE WITH THE EMPIRE. THE TWO EMISSARIES WERE OBLIGED TO TRAVEL BY KREED, UNDER THE SUSPICIOUS EYES OF MOUNTAIN TRIBESMEN.

PRESENTLY, THEY CAME SAFELY TO THE STRANGE VALLEY.



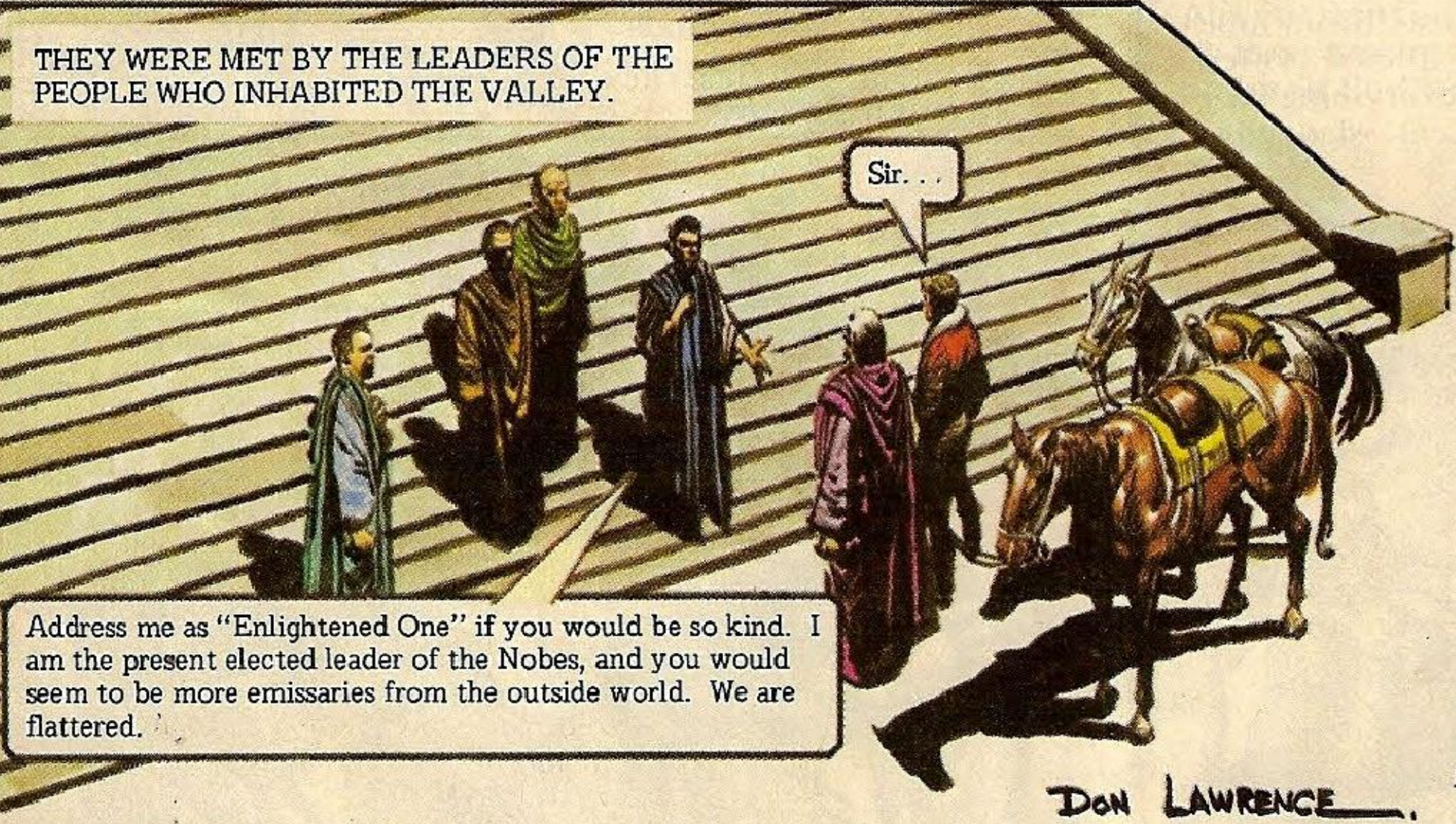
Will they shoot us ?

It has been known !- But don't worry, cannibalism was stamped out last year.

... At least, that's what they say !

It's like... a miracle !

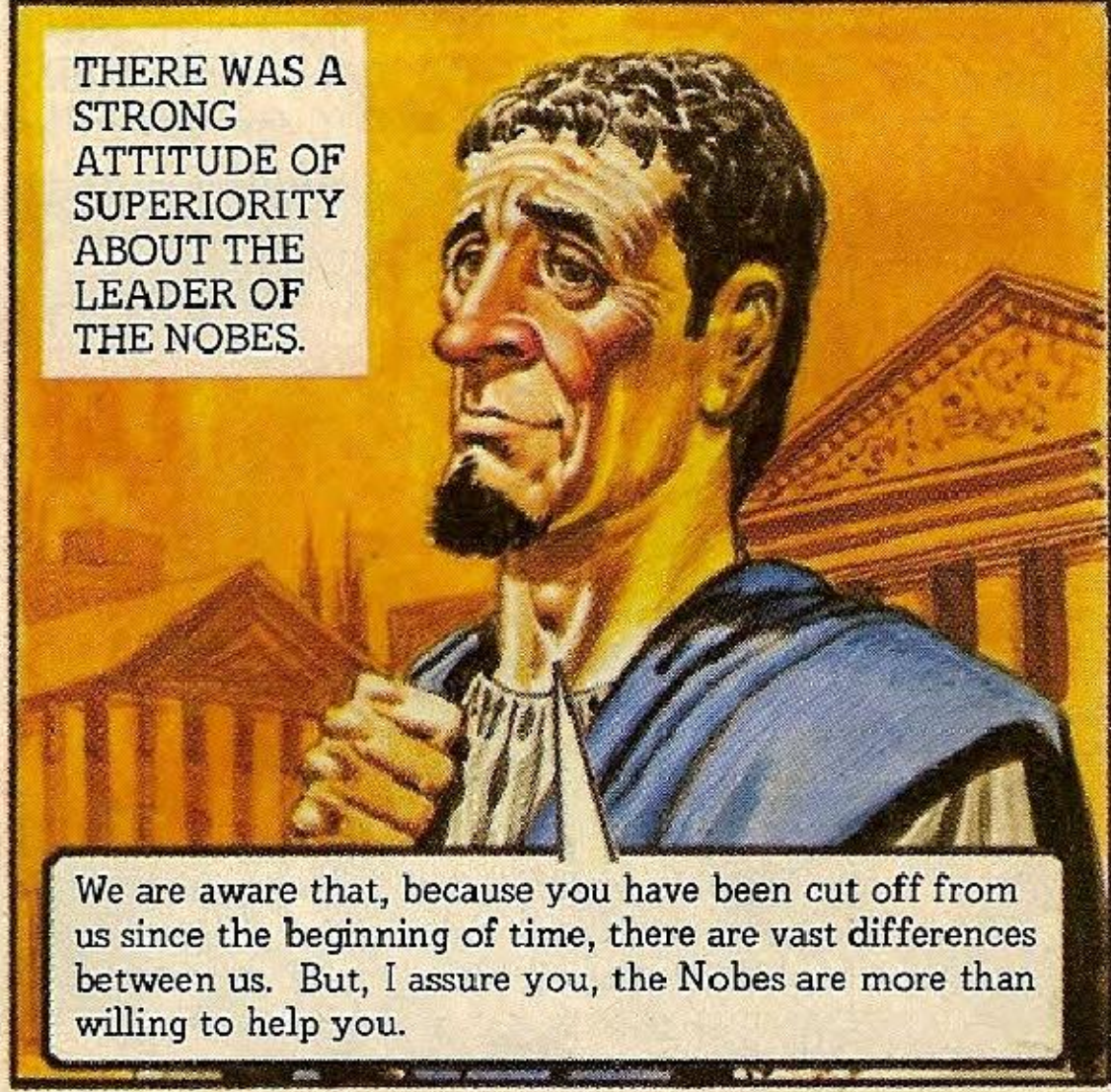
THEY WERE MET BY THE LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE WHO INHABITED THE VALLEY.



Sir...

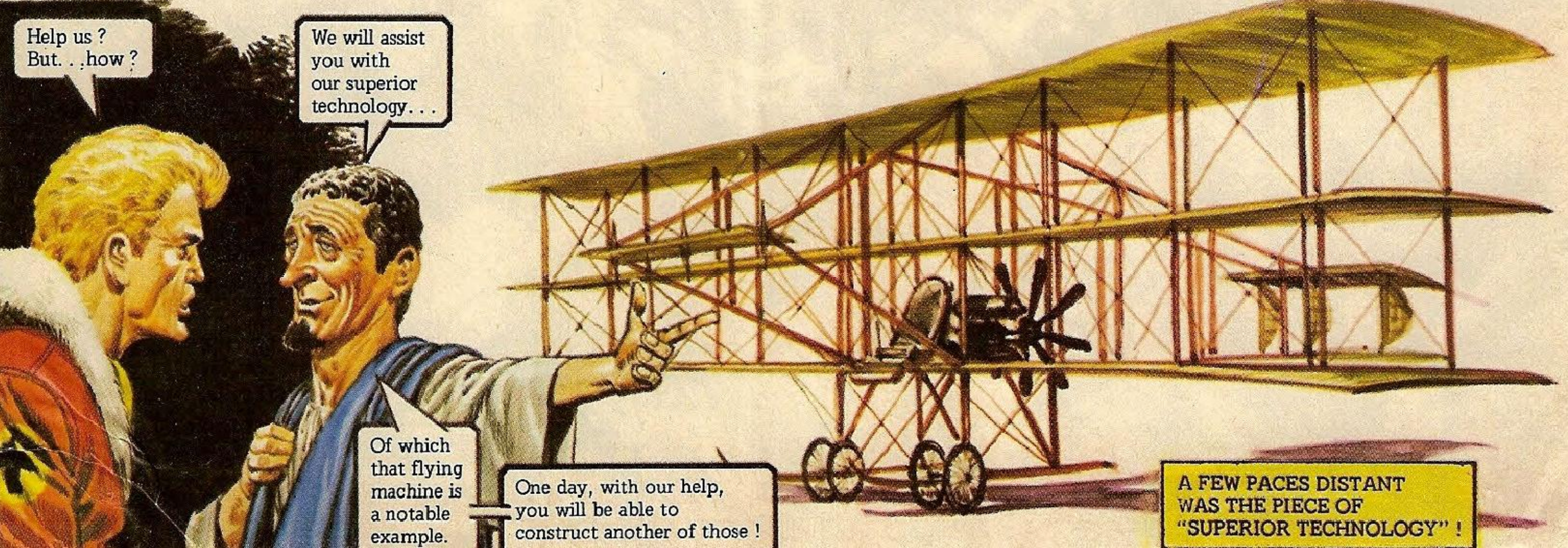
Address me as "Enlightened One" if you would be so kind. I am the present elected leader of the Nobes, and you would seem to be more emissaries from the outside world. We are flattered.

THERE WAS A STRONG ATTITUDE OF SUPERIORITY ABOUT THE LEADER OF THE NOBES.



We are aware that, because you have been cut off from us since the beginning of time, there are vast differences between us. But, I assure you, the Nobes are more than willing to help you.

DON LAWRENCE



Help us ? But... how ?

We will assist you with our superior technology...

Of which that flying machine is a notable example.

One day, with our help, you will be able to construct another of those !

A FEW PACES DISTANT WAS THE PIECE OF "SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY" !



MORE ADVENTURES OF THE

# TRIGAN EMPIRE

An eruption on the Trigar planet has revealed a valley peopled by a race called the Nobes. Janno and Peric discover that the Nobes have invented a plane which they think is the last word in technology.

AS THE TRIGANS WATCHED, A YOUNG NOBE CLIMBED ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT AND TOOK OFF.

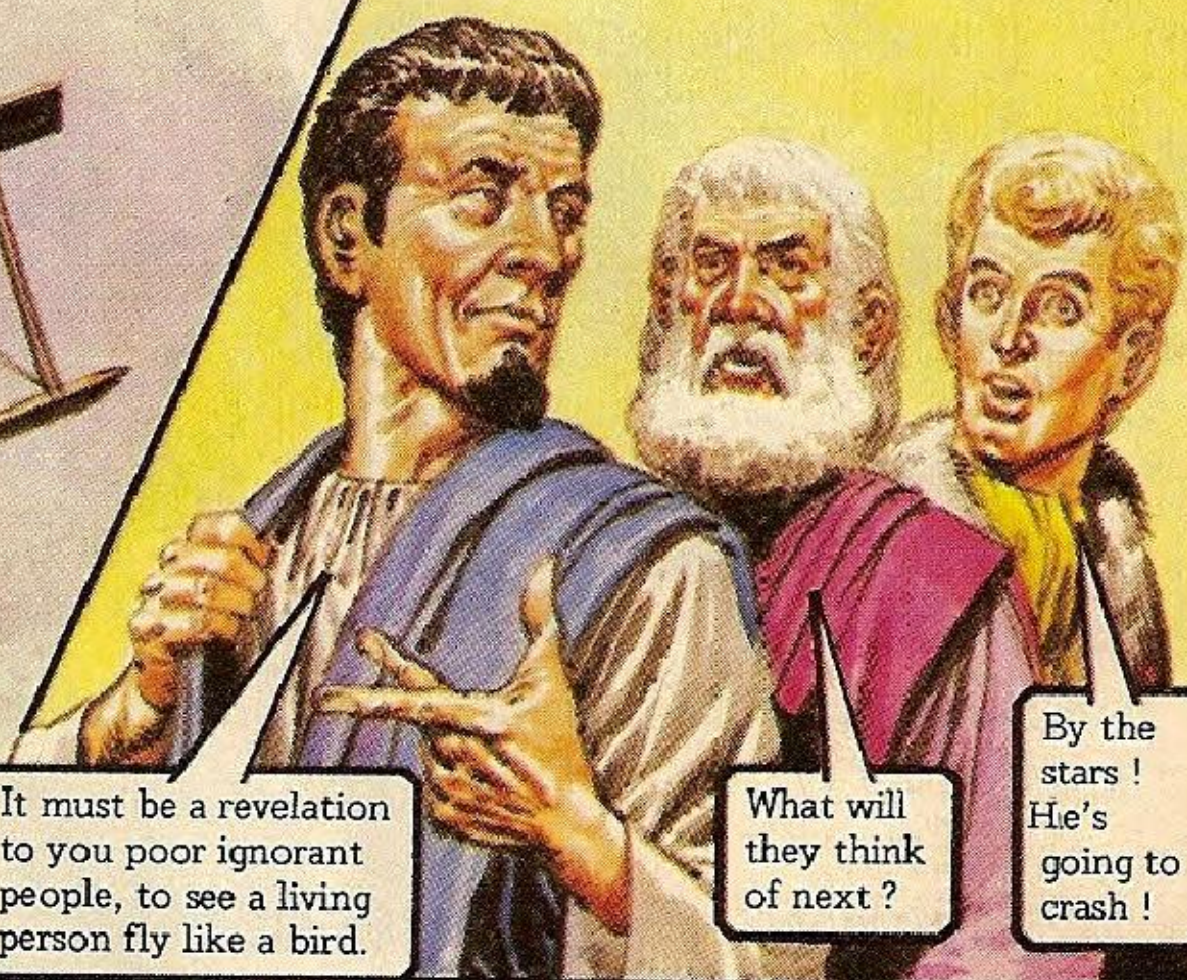


THERE WAS PRIDE IN THE VOICE OF THE NOBE LEADER.

It must be a revelation to you poor ignorant people, to see a living person fly like a bird.

What will they think of next?

By the stars! He's going to crash!

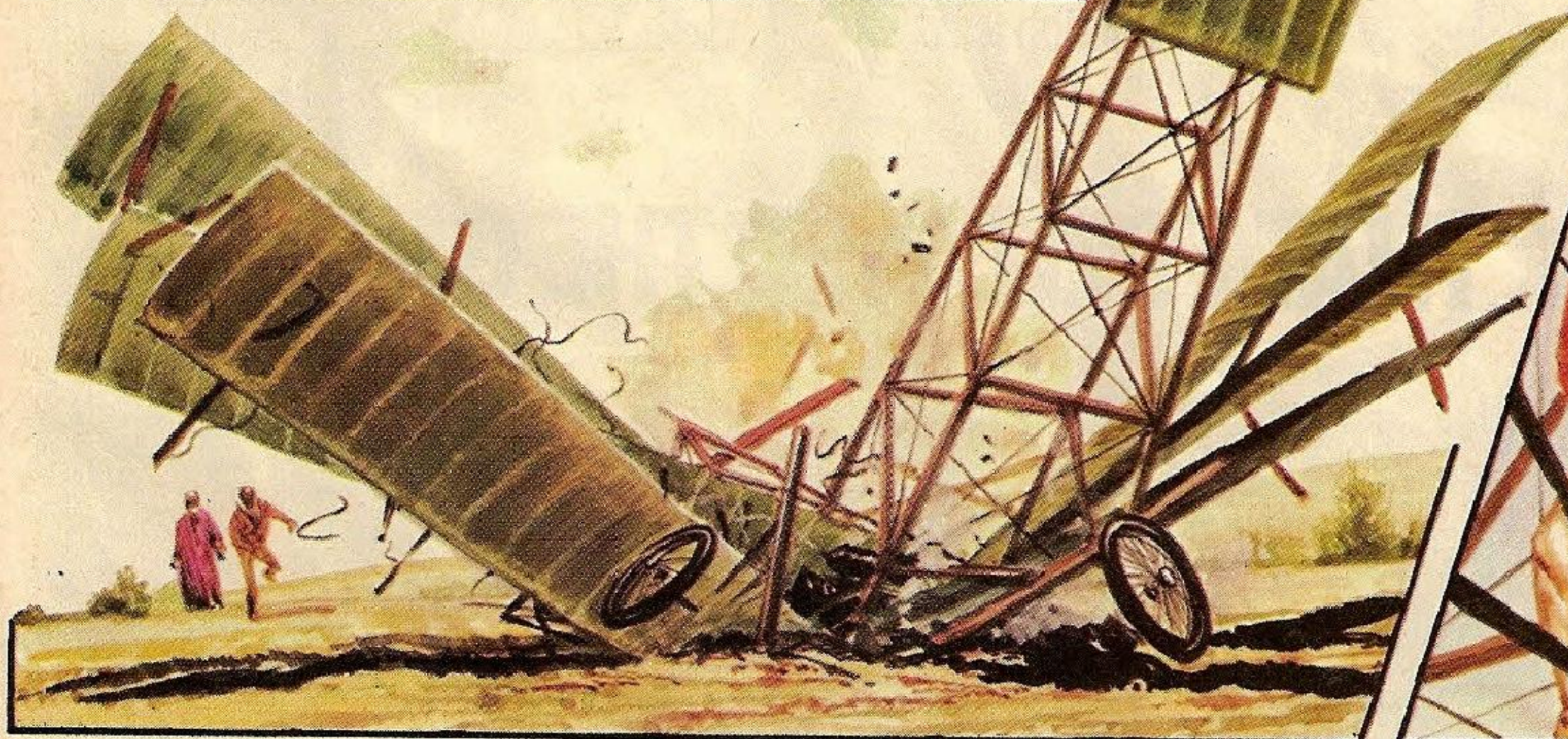


THEY LIFTED OUT THE STUNNED PILOT.

What hard luck. He was doing quite nicely.

What are you saying, young man? That was a perfect landing.

There is only one way to land an aircraft... that is, to crash it!



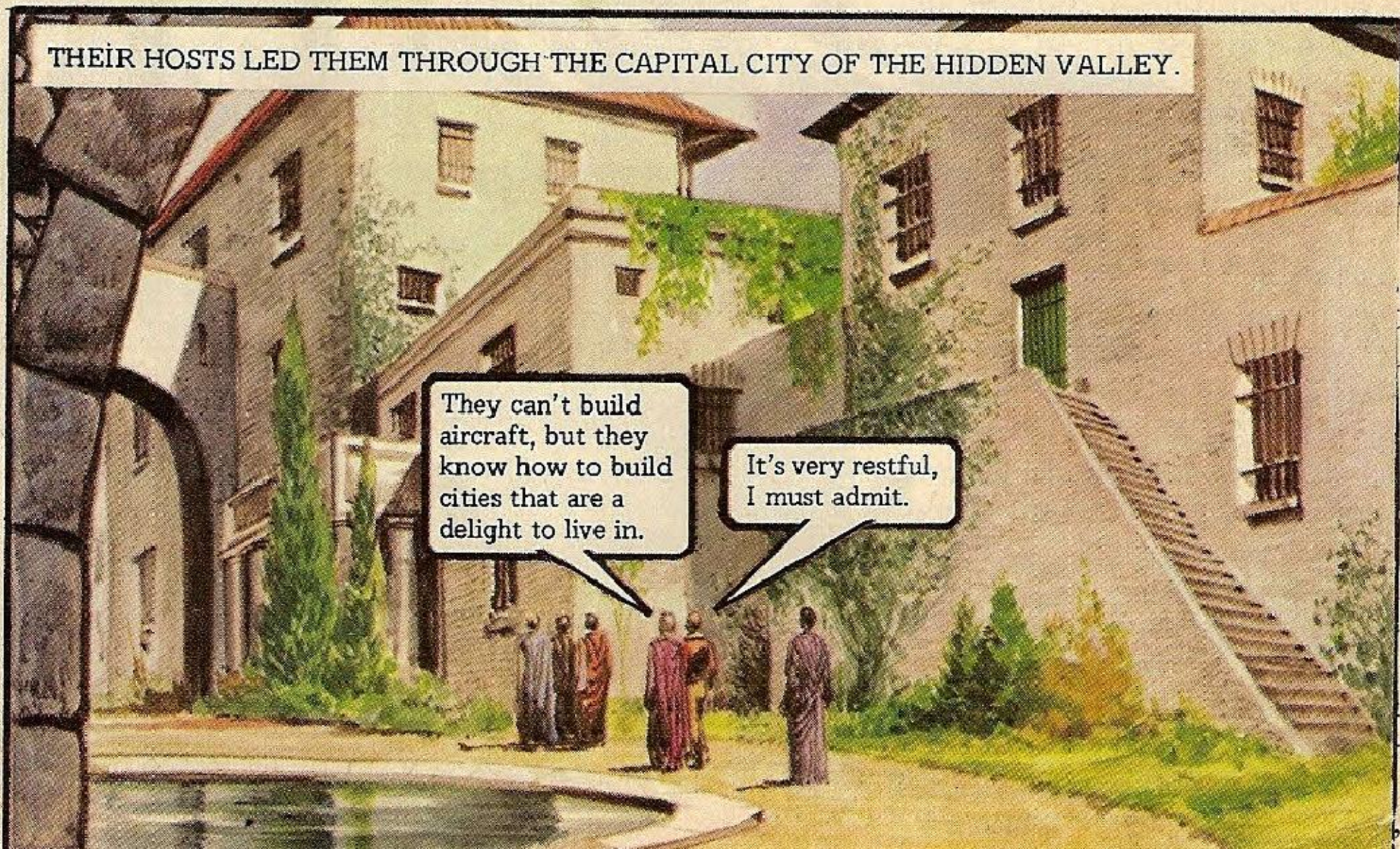
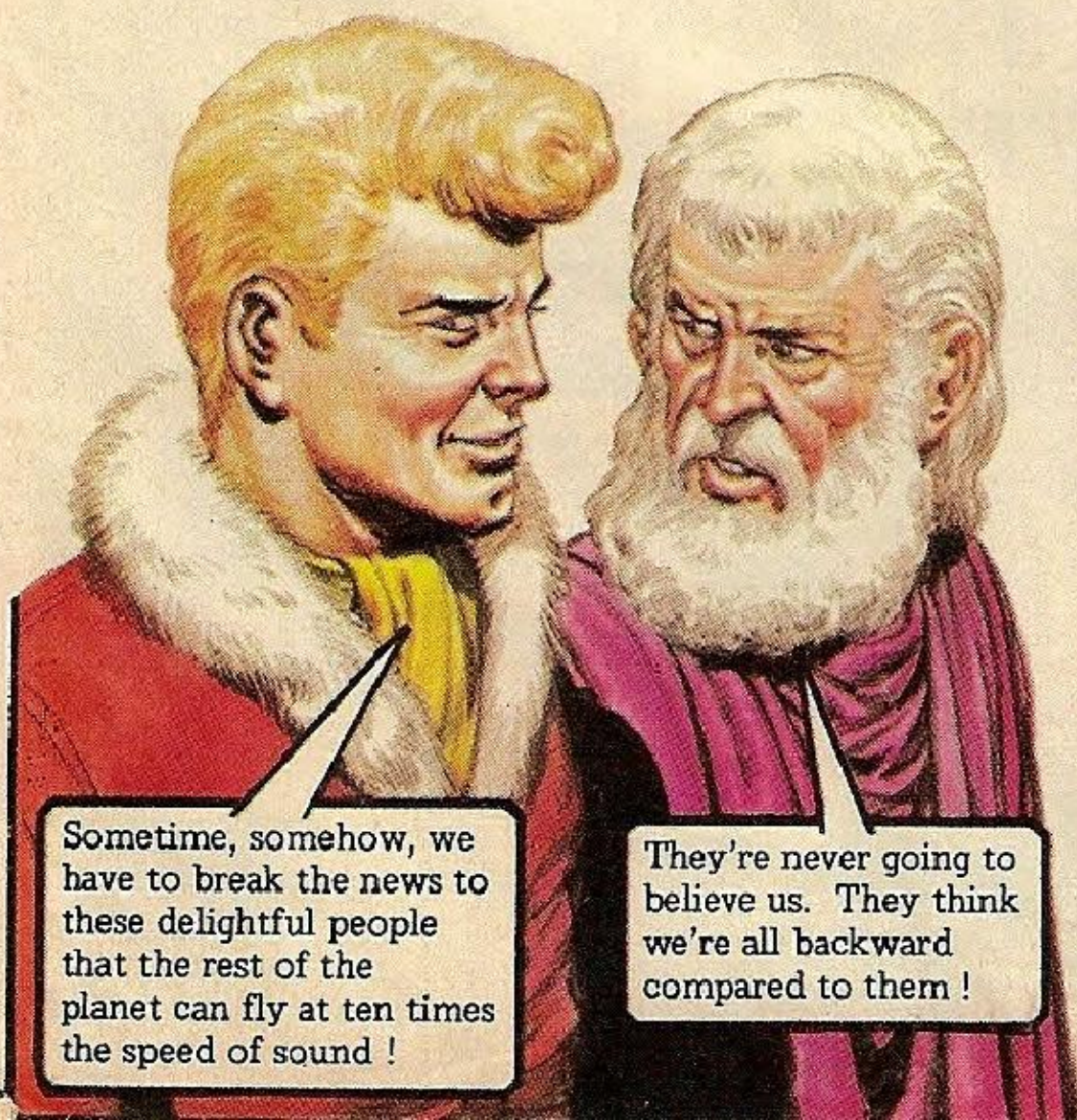
THEIR HOSTS LED THEM THROUGH THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY.

They can't build aircraft, but they know how to build cities that are a delight to live in.

It's very restful, I must admit.

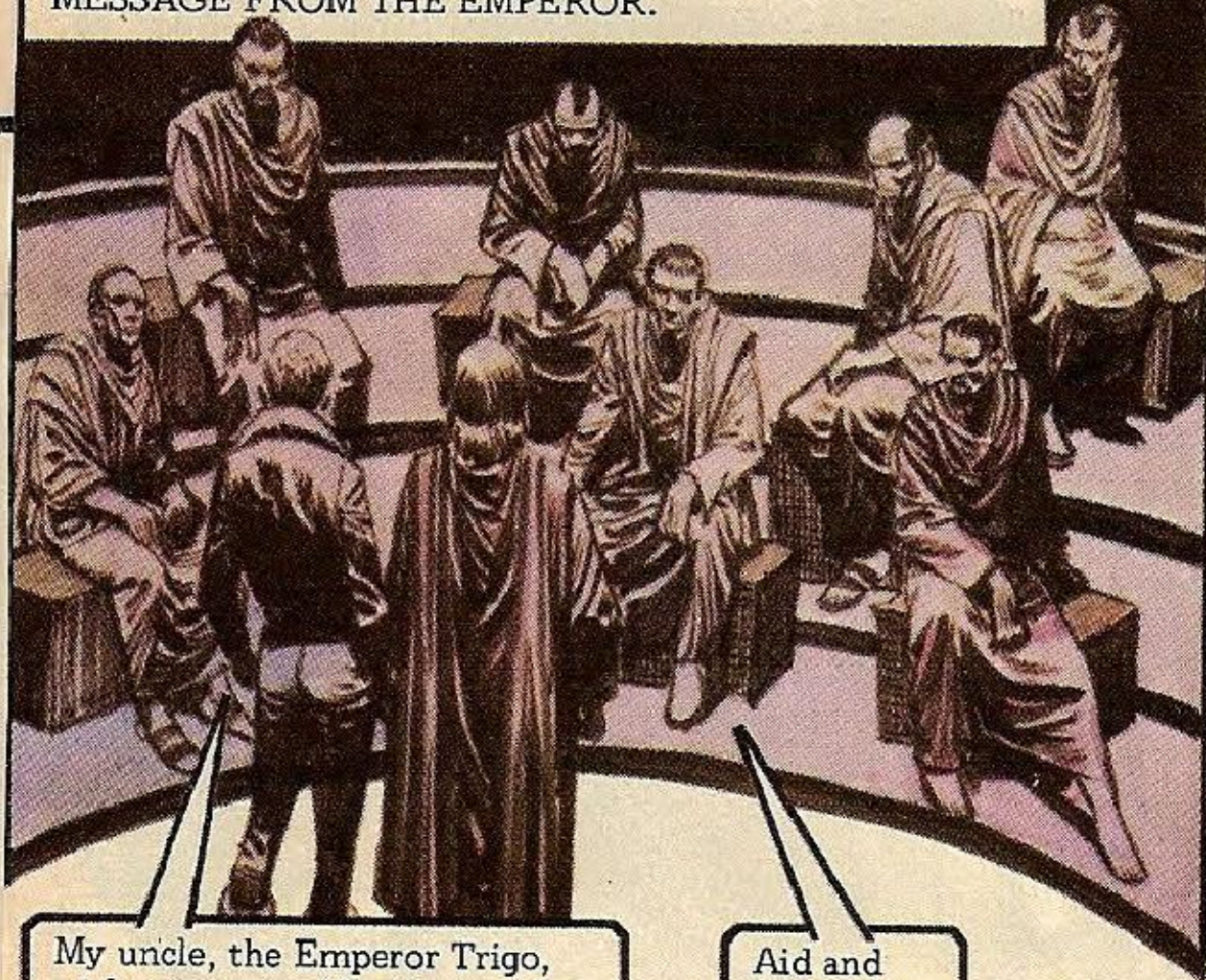
Sometime, somehow, we have to break the news to these delightful people that the rest of the planet can fly at ten times the speed of sound!

They're never going to believe us. They think we're all backward compared to them!



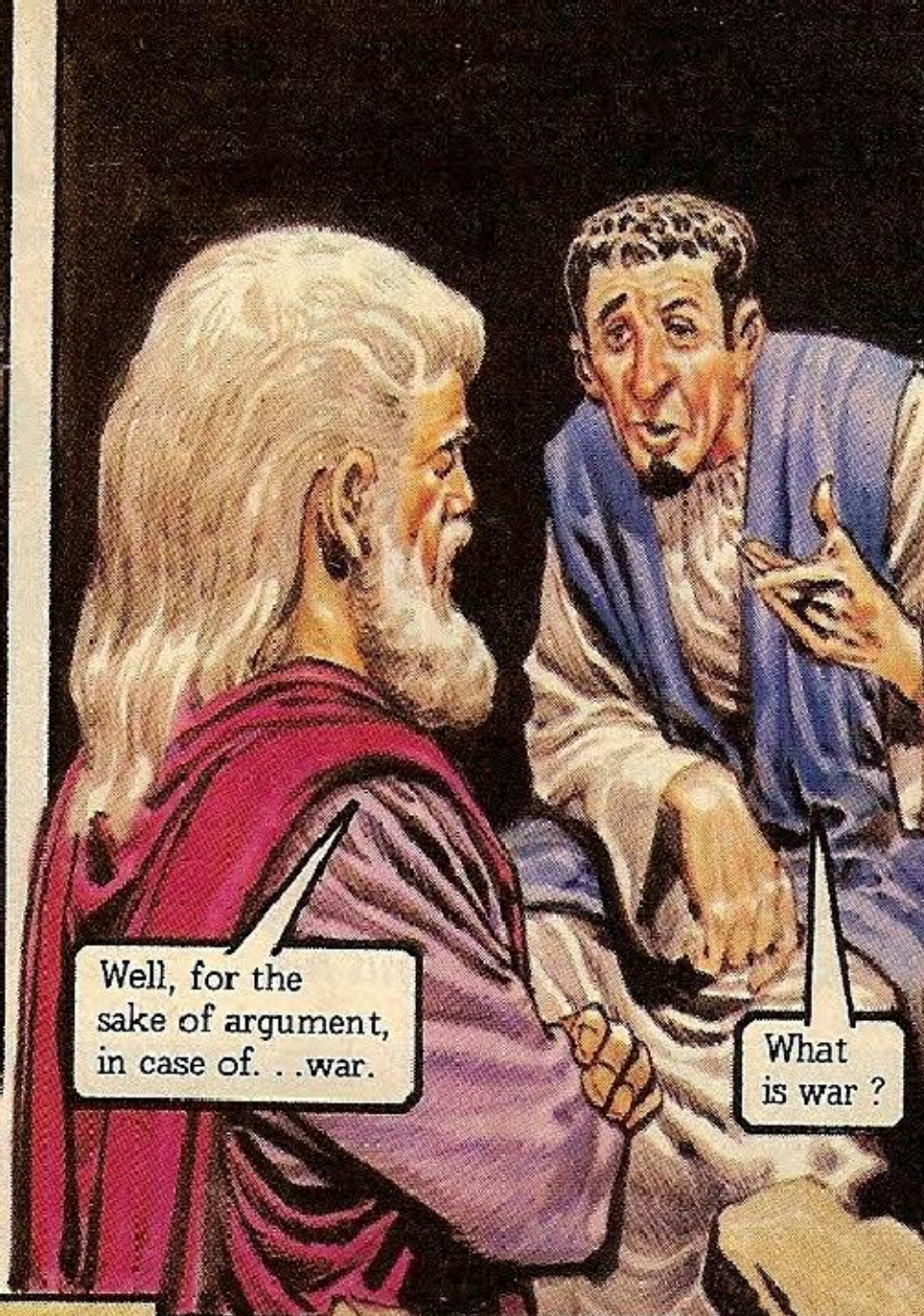


THEY WERE TAKEN BEFORE THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE NOBES, WHERE JANNO GAVE THEM THE MESSAGE FROM THE EMPEROR.



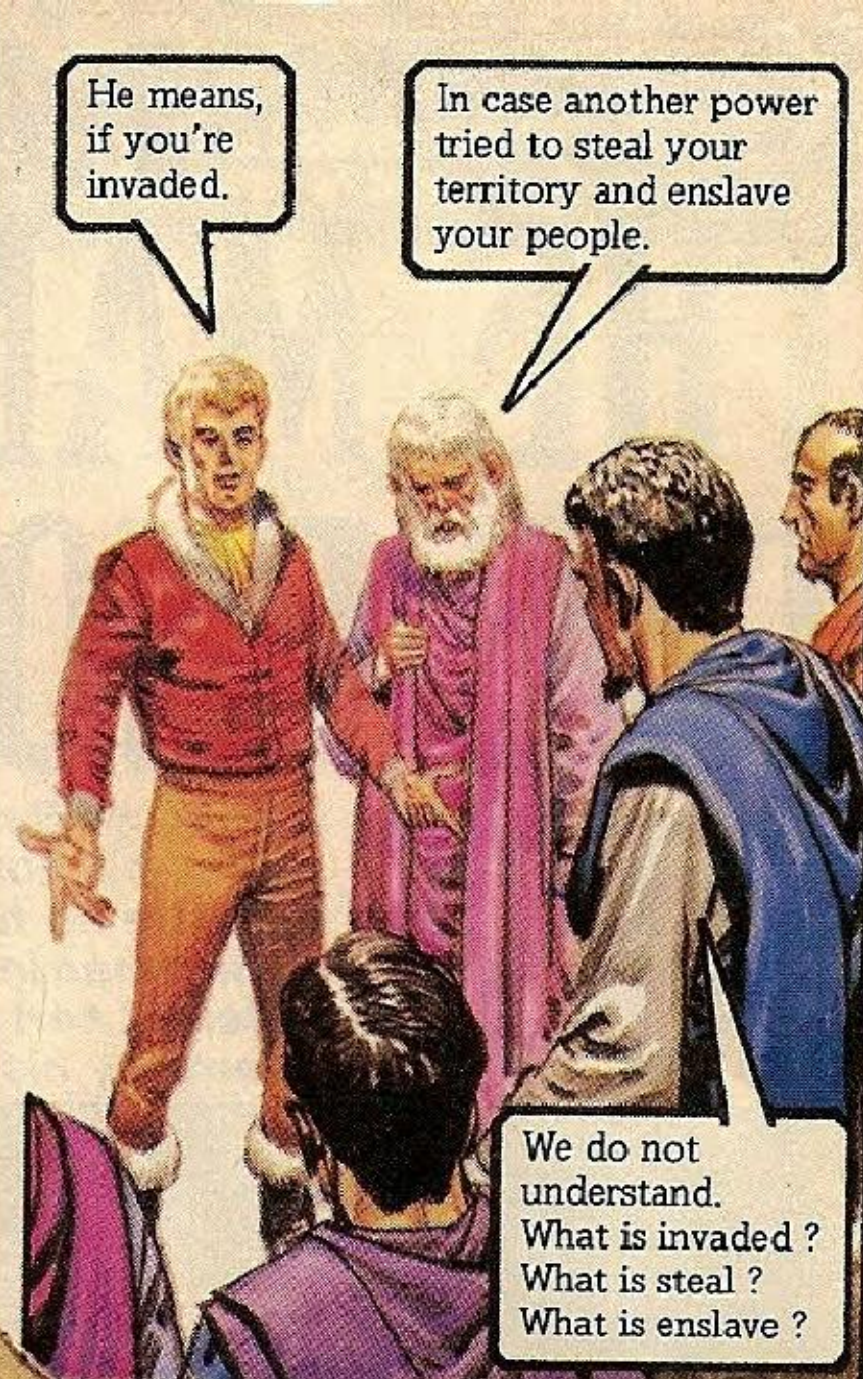
My uncle, the Emperor Trigo, wishes to extend to the people of this valley the aid and protection of the Trigan Empire.

Aid and protection. Why ?



Well, for the sake of argument, in case of... war.

What is war ?

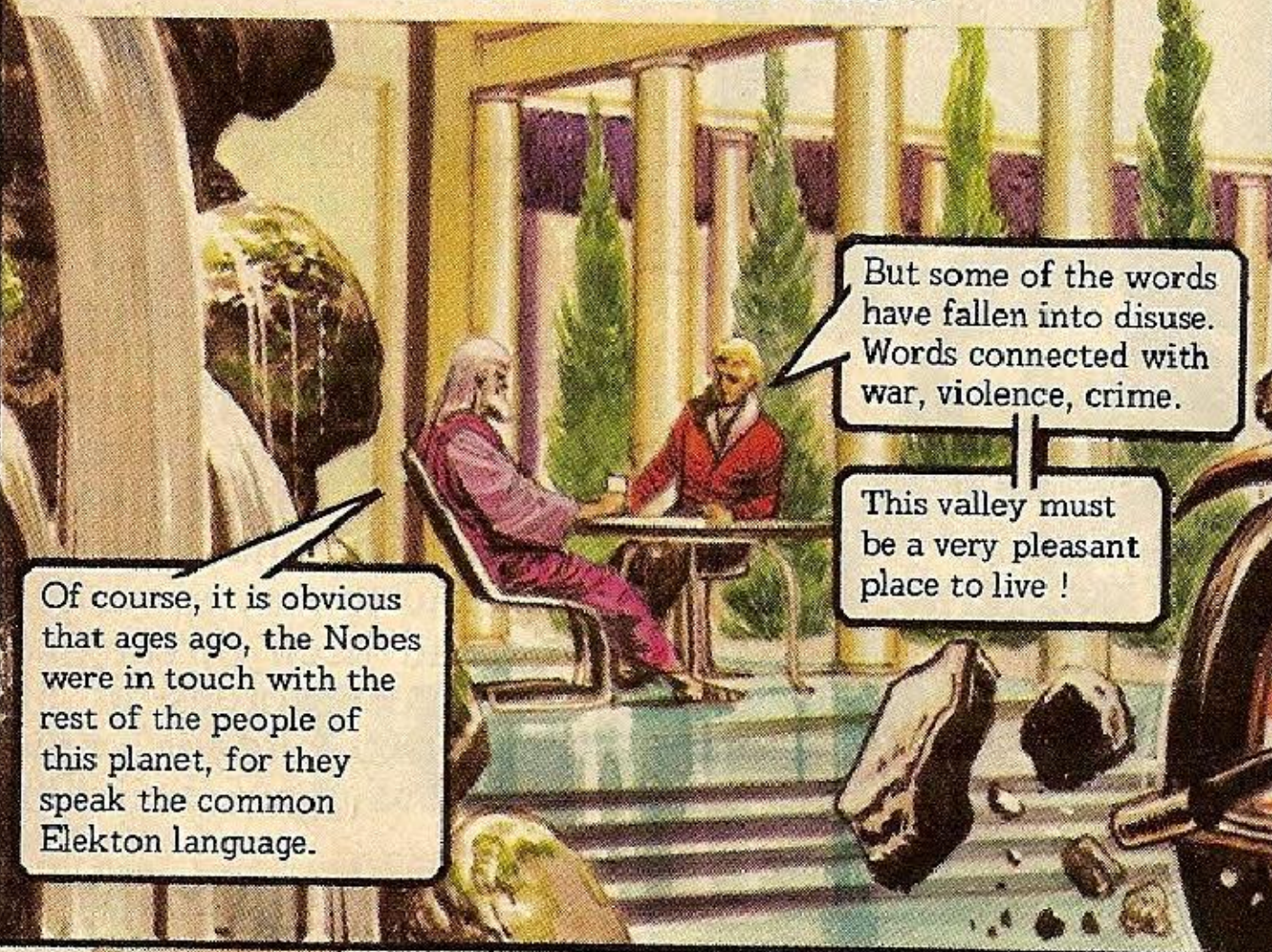


He means, if you're invaded.

In case another power tried to steal your territory and enslave your people.

We do not understand. What is invaded ? What is steal ? What is enslave ?

LATER, WHEN THEY WERE GIVEN A PLEASANT GROUND-FLOOR APARTMENT IN ONE OF THE CITY INNS...

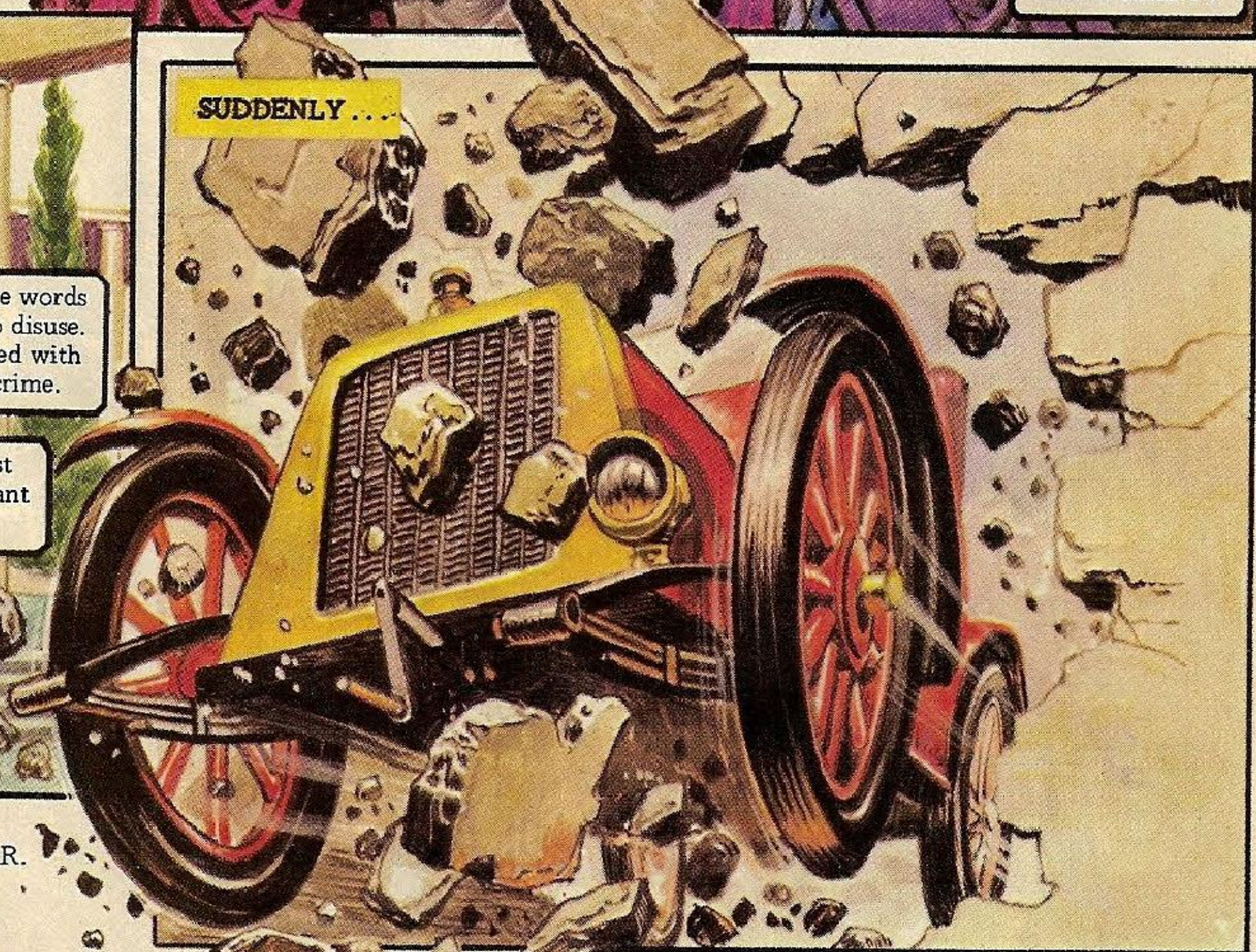


But some of the words have fallen into disuse. Words connected with war, violence, crime.

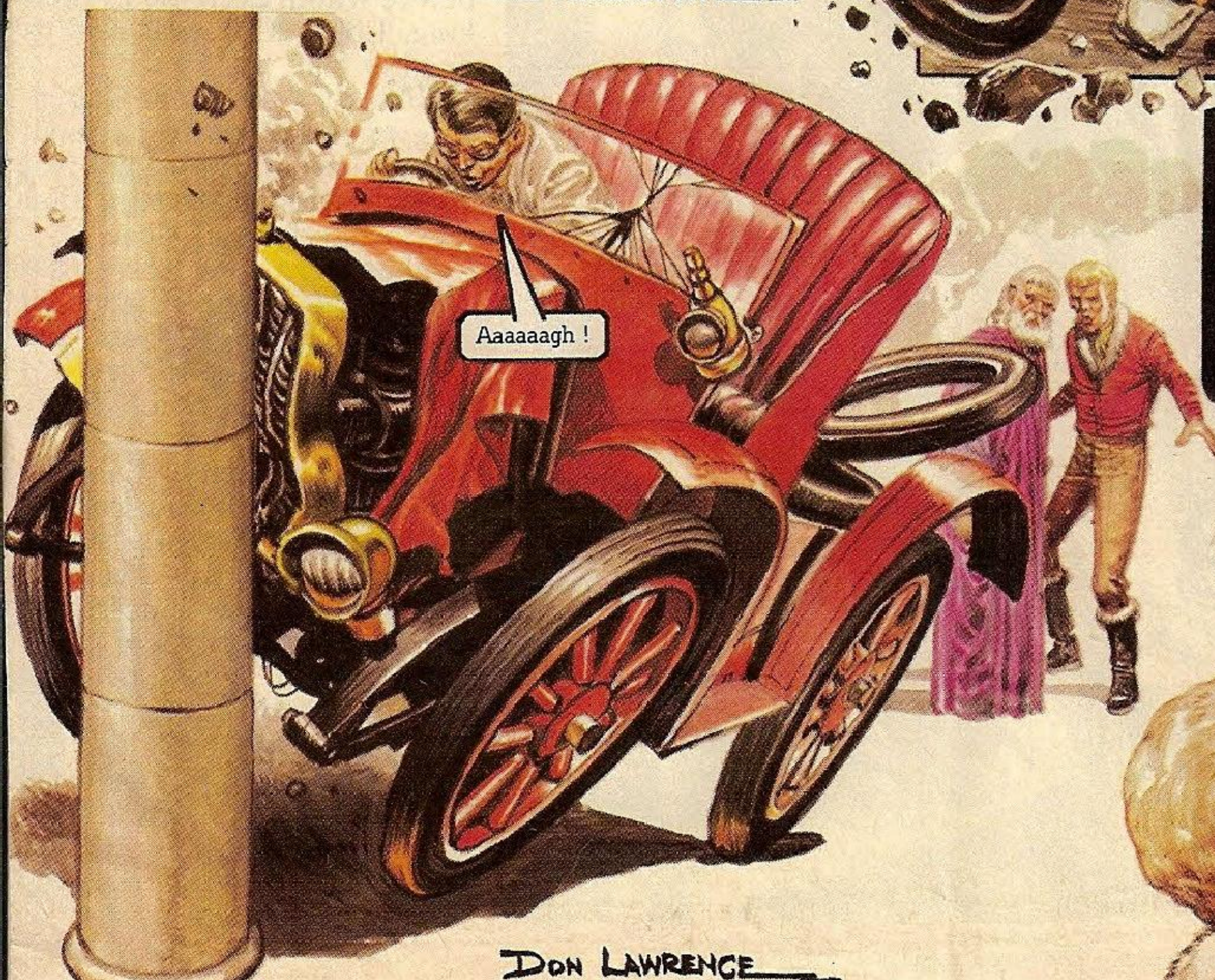
This valley must be a very pleasant place to live !

Of course, it is obvious that ages ago, the Nobes were in touch with the rest of the people of this planet, for they speak the common Elekton language.

SUDDENLY...



THE STRANGE VEHICLE SMASHED ITSELF AGAINST A PILLAR.



Aaaaaagh !



Are you all right ?

Perfectly fine, thanks.

You know, one day, someone will have to contrive a way of stopping these things without having to run into a wall !

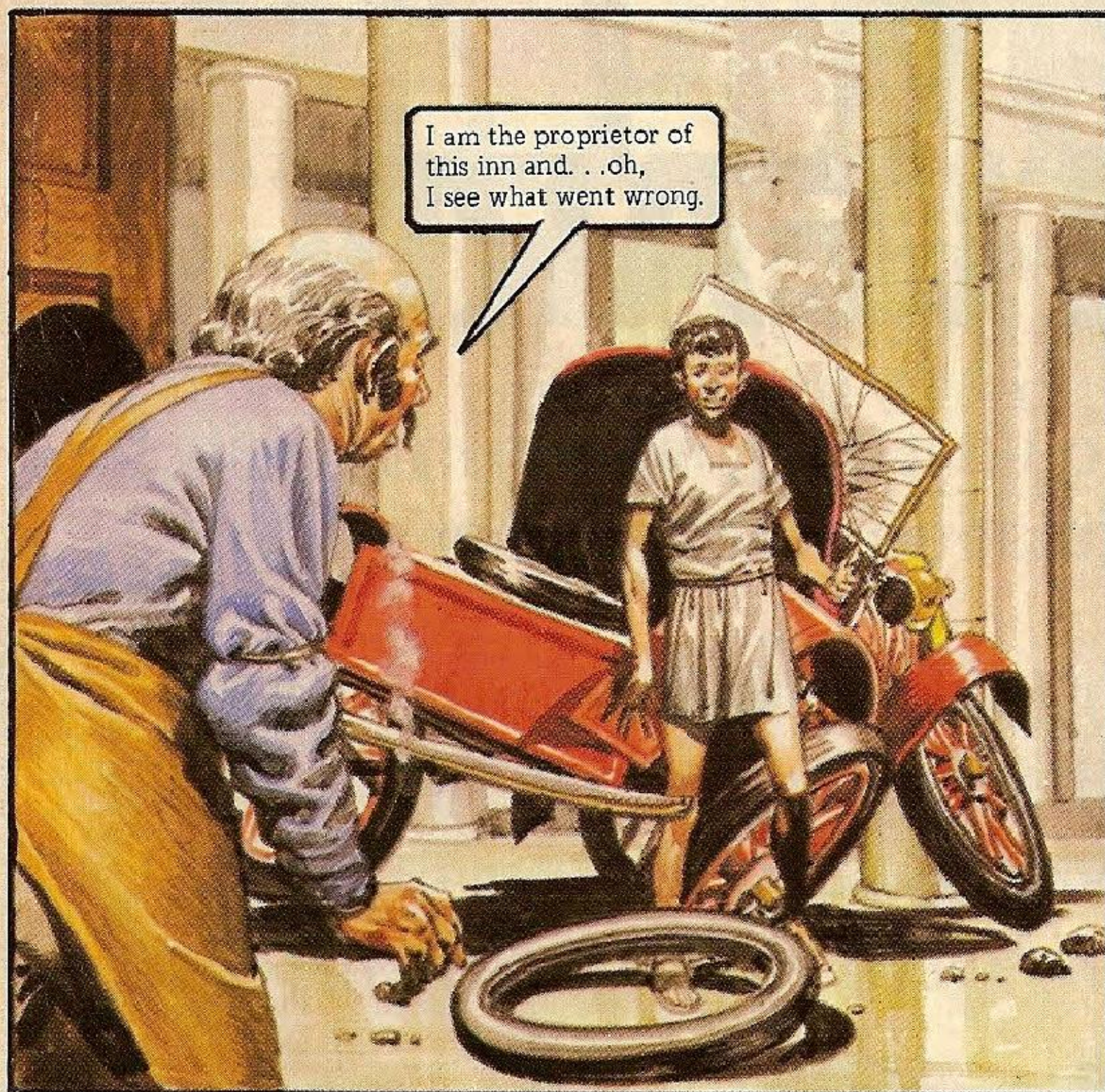
DON LAWRENCE



MORE ADVENTURES OF THE

# TRIGAN EMPIRE

An unexpected eruption has revealed a race of strange people called Nobes. The Nobes have a curious attitude to technology as Janno and Peric discover when a youth crashes through a wall, interrupting their peaceful meal.

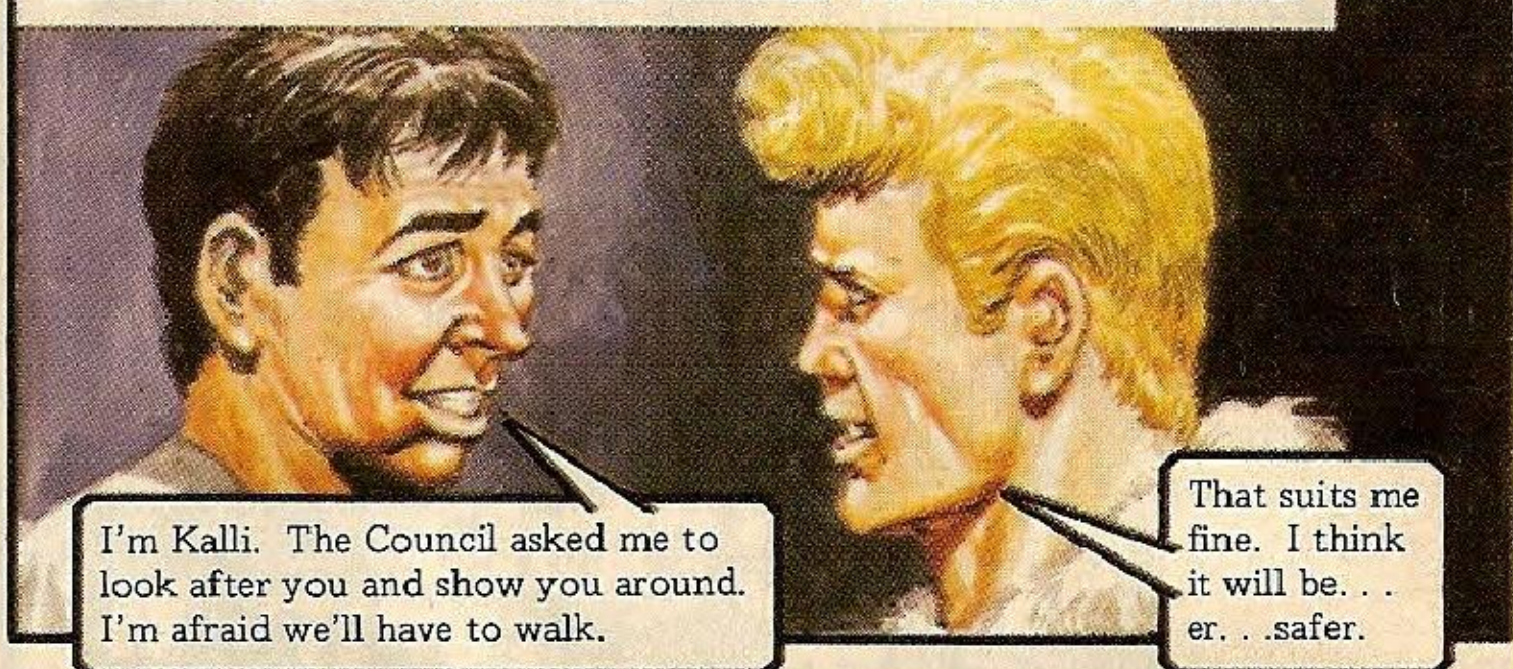


NEITHER THE MANAGER NOR THE YOUNG DRIVER SEEMED AT ALL PUT OUT BY THE INCIDENT.

I forgot to slow down in time and had to crash through your wall.



THE NEWCOMER INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO JANNO AND PERIC.



THEIR GUIDE TOOK THEM THROUGH THE DELIGHTFUL CITY OF THE NOBES.



BOLLO, THE TRIGANS DISCOVERED, WAS PLAYED WITH A HARD METAL BALL. THE GAME WAS FAST...

...AND VIOLENT!





AFTER THE GAME, JANNO AND PERIC HAD A CONFRONTATION.

Trust the Trigans to be here already !

Emissaries from Cato. There's going to be trouble !

CATONS AND TRIGANS WERE IMPLACABLE RIVALS AND ENEMIES.

I suppose you are looking around to see what's in it for the Trigans. I wager you'll soon be moving in to take over the Nobes.

That is a most improper suggestion !

JANNO LEAPT AT THE TAUNTING CATON AND IT TOOK ALL THE EFFORTS OF THE OTHERS TO PART THEM.

Gentlemen, Gentlemen ! Let there be peace. This sort of behaviour is not permitted in the land of the Nobes !

The Trigans' method is to come in friendship. After that, they take over your country and enslave your people ! Never trust a Trigan. Every Caton child learns that almost as soon as he can walk !

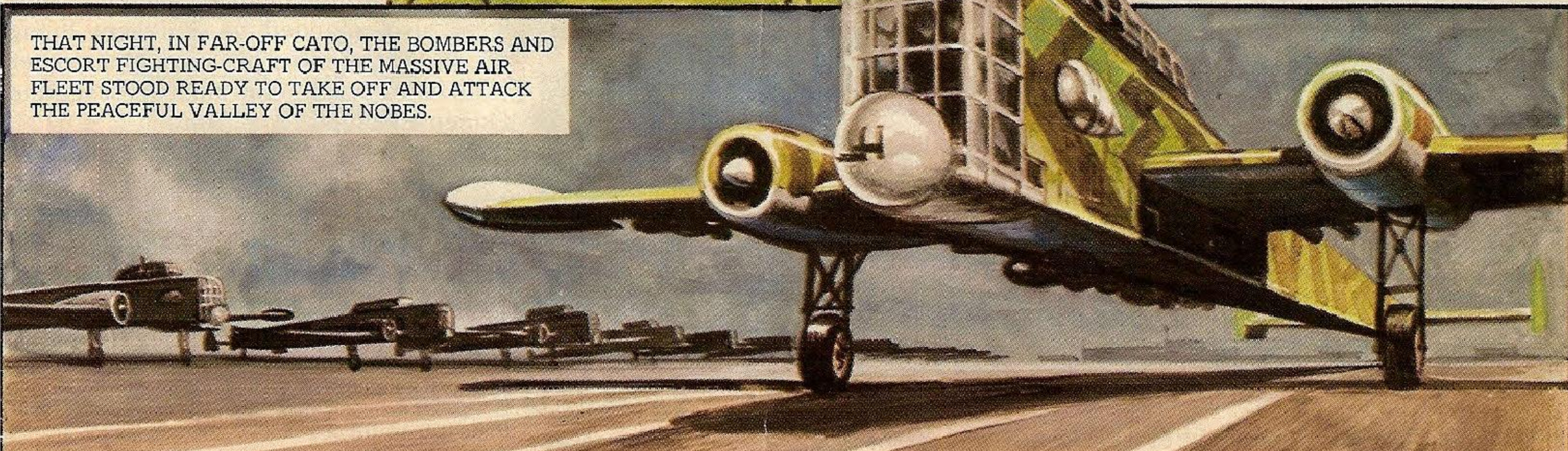
JANNO AND PERIC WENT ON THEIR WAY AND THE CATONS WATCHED THEM GO.

Trigan animal ! I'd like to have destroyed him with my bare hands !

Quite unnecessary, you did well. I found out all I needed to know. The Trigans do not intend to take over the Nobes' territory.

What they do not want, the Catons will have ! I shall send a message to Cato this day, advising an immediate invasion of this valley, which is rich in mineral resources and a people who will make excellent slave labourers !

THAT NIGHT, IN FAR-OFF CATO, THE BOMBERS AND ESCORT FIGHTING-CRAFT OF THE MASSIVE AIR FLEET STOOD READY TO TAKE OFF AND ATTACK THE PEACEFUL VALLEY OF THE NOBES.

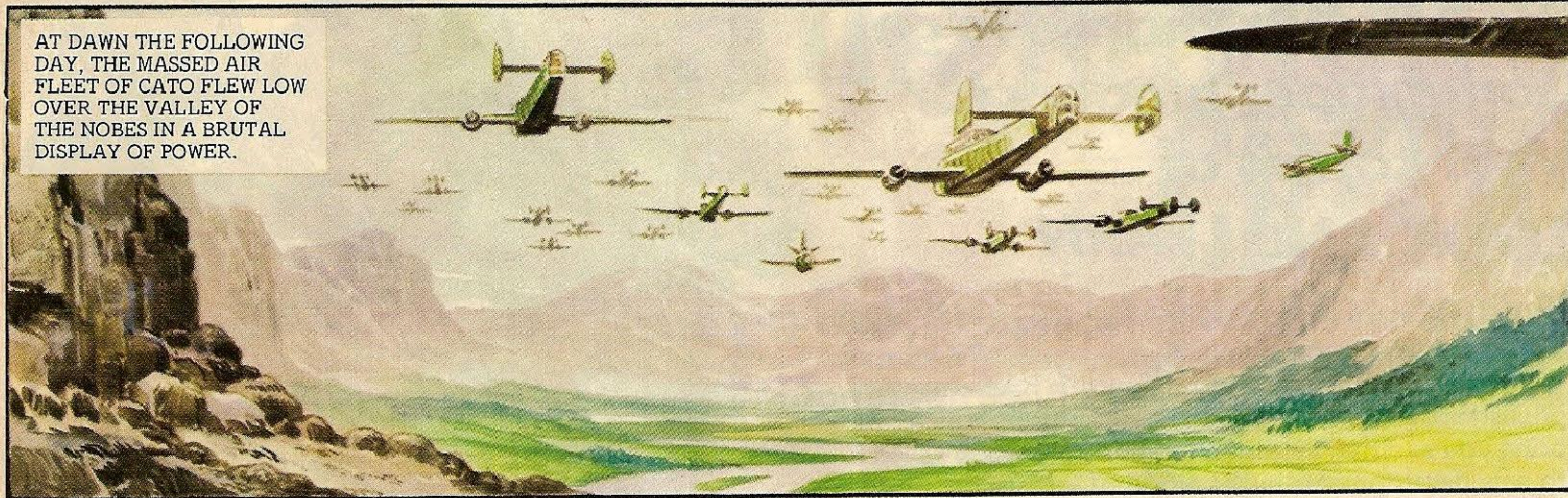




# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

An eruption has revealed a strange race of people called the Nobes. The Caton state is soon casting greedy eyes upon the peaceful valley of the Nobes and are already making plans to enslave the whole populace...

AT DAWN THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE MASSED AIR FLEET OF CATO FLEW LOW OVER THE VALLEY OF THE NOBES IN A BRUTAL DISPLAY OF POWER.

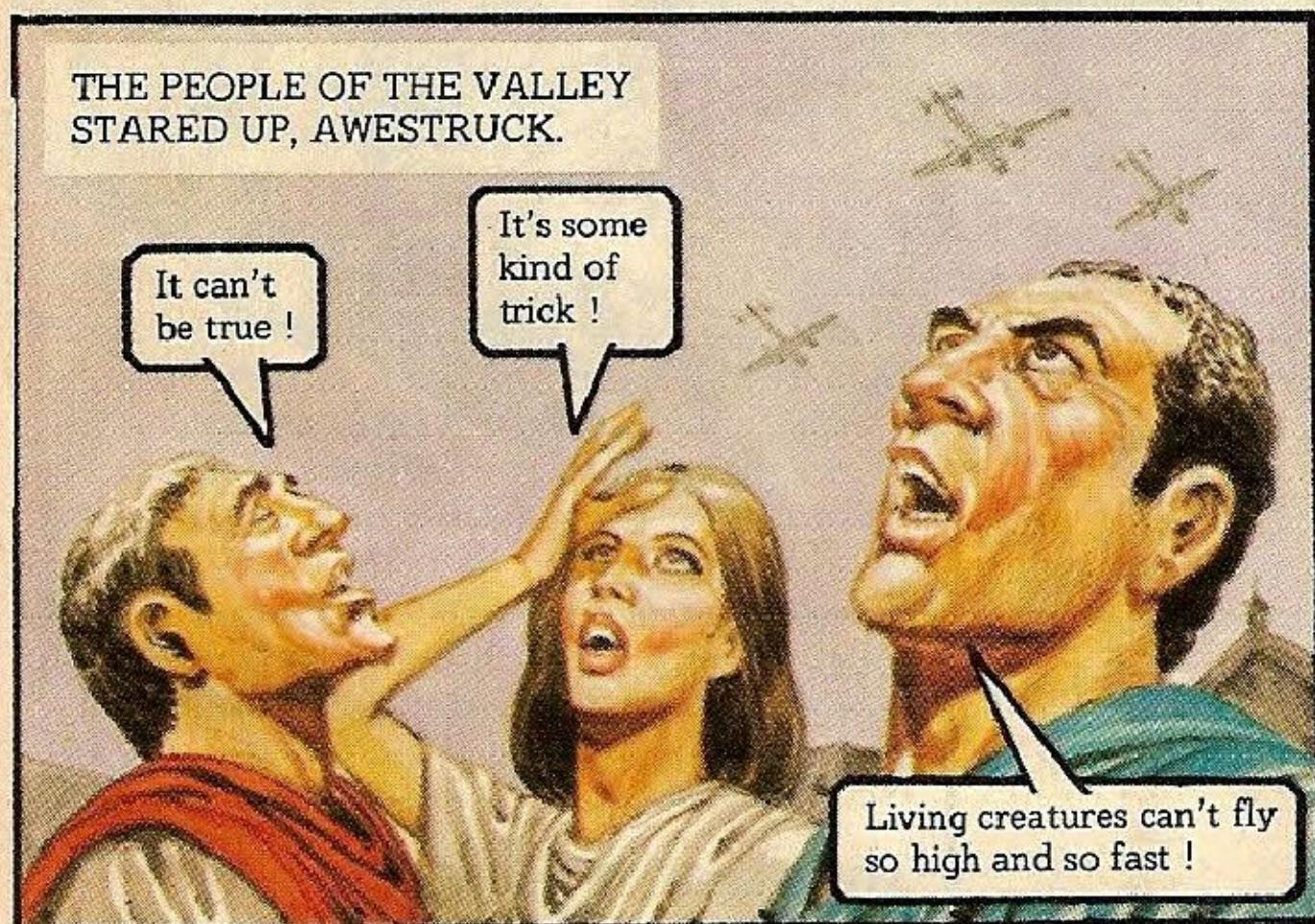


THE PEOPLE OF THE VALLEY STARED UP, AWESTRUCK.

It can't be true!

It's some kind of trick!

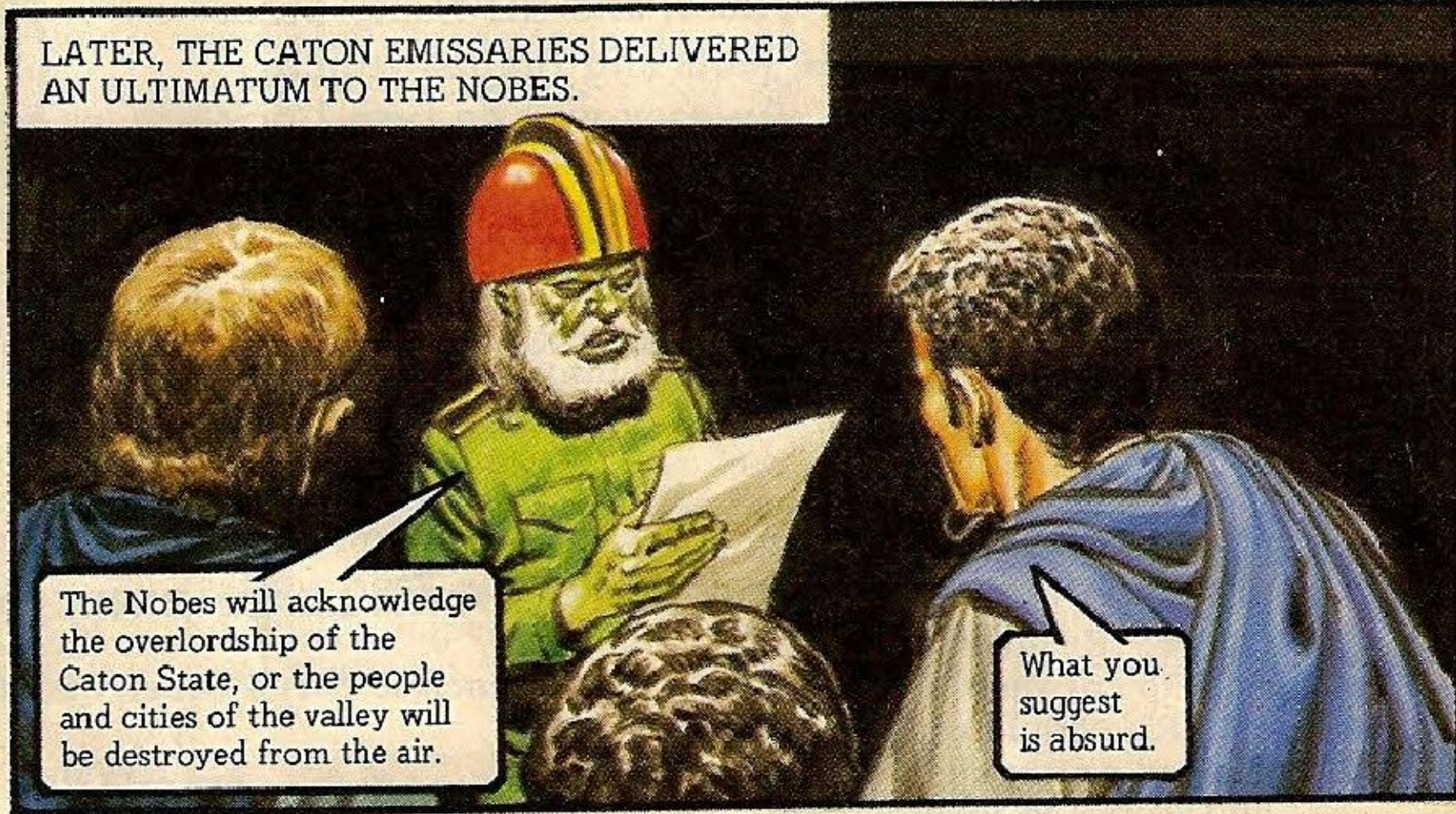
Living creatures can't fly so high and so fast!



LATER, THE CATON EMISSARIES DELIVERED AN ULTIMATUM TO THE NOBES.

The Nobes will acknowledge the overlordship of the Caton State, or the people and cities of the valley will be destroyed from the air.

What you suggest is absurd.

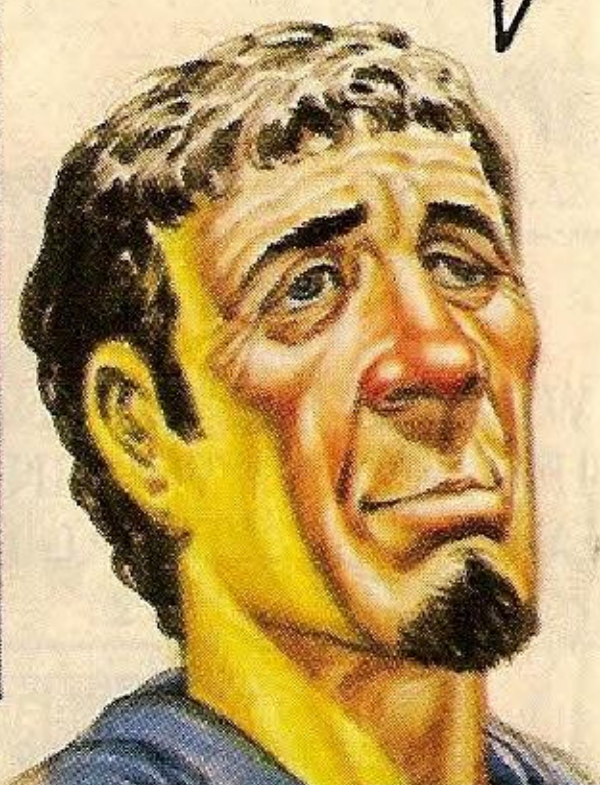


NEXT, THE EMISSARIES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE, WITH JANNO AS SPOKESMAN.

The Trigan Empire offers you the protection of its power. All you have to do is ask.

I thank the Trigan Empire, but we can look after ourselves.

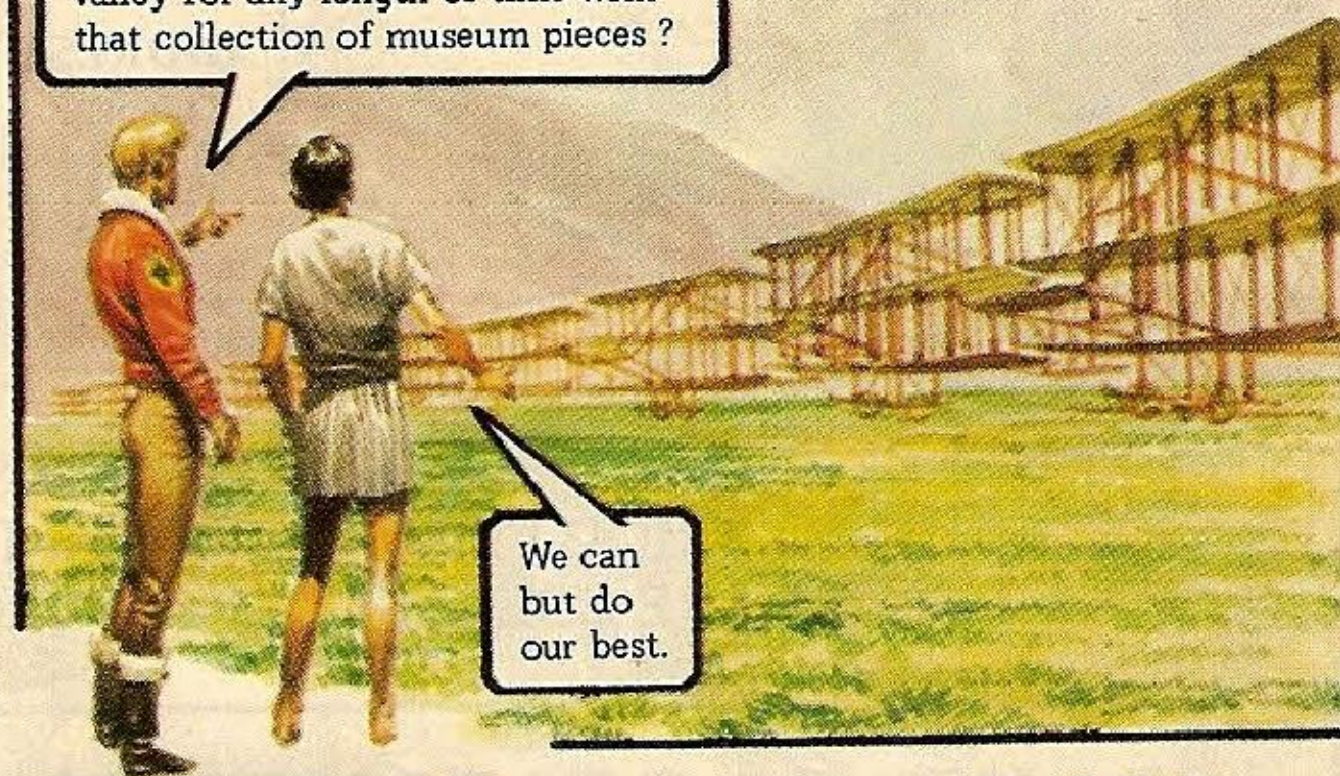
After all, we, too, have a superior technology. Think, for instance of our air fleet!



AS JANNO SAID LATER, TO HIS NEW FRIEND KALLI.

Do you think you could defend the valley for any length of time with that collection of museum pieces?

We can but do our best.

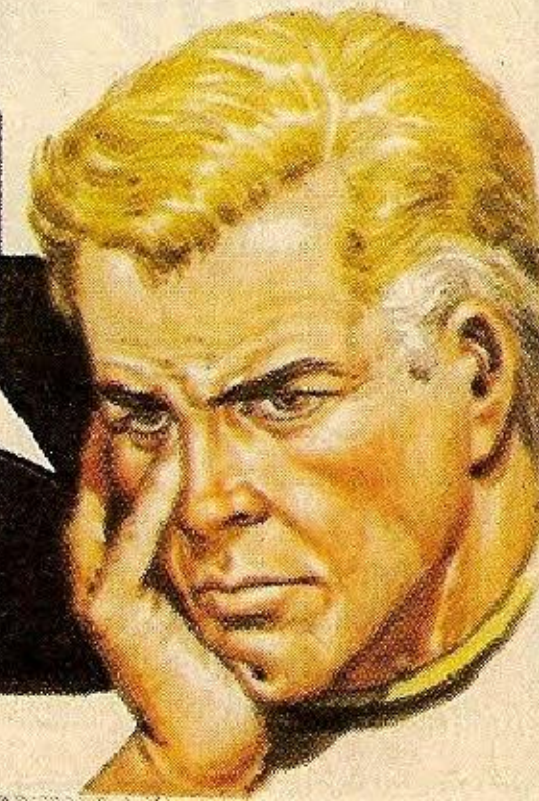


BACK IN FAR-OFF TRIGAN CITY, THE LATEST NEWS REACHED THE EMPEROR TRIGO AND HIS ADVISORS.

Well, gentlemen, what can we do?

The Nobes have rejected our help. If our forces entered now, we would be as guilty of invasion as the Catons.

Then the Catons have outmanoeuvred us. Order Janno and Peric to return.



If the Catons come, I, for one, will take the air against them!

Then I request the honour to accompany you, Kalli!



BUT THE MESSAGE OF RECALL NEVER REACHED JANNO AND PERIC. AT NOON, A FORCE OF CATON LOW-LEVEL BATTLE-CRAFT ENTERED THE VALLEY.

Commence a pattern of destruction ! Fire upon everything that moves, and reduce all buildings to rubble !

THE NOBE'S LOVELY AND GRACIOUS TOWNS WERE POUNDED WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVE AND THEIR GENTLE INHABITANTS SENT FLEEING IN PANIC.

Aaaah !  
It's the  
end of  
the world !

ONE OF THE CATON GUNNERS HAPPENED TO SCAN THE HORIZON BEHIND HIS CRAFT.

I see it, but  
I... I don't  
believe it !

Here comes  
the Nobes'  
fighting  
air fleet !

... All of it !

DON  
LAWRENCE



# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

An eruption has revealed a strange race of people called the Nobes. The Caton nation tries to take over the Nobes but their air fleet is challenged by a single primitive craft crewed by Janno and his Nobe friend, Kalli.

AS THEY CLOSED WITH THE CATON BATTLE-CRAFT, JANNO FIRED HIS PISTOL.

THE NEXT INSTANT, HE WAS CLINGING FOR DEAR LIFE AS HIS FRIEND, KALLI, BANKED VIOLENTLY TO AVOID THE RETURN FIRE.



One down and five to go!

Hey! Are you trying to get rid of me?

HANGING ON TO A STRUT WITH ONE HAND, JANNO BLASTED LOOSE AGAIN.

JANNO'S SECOND VICTIM SWERVED INTO THE PATH OF ONE OF ITS WING-MATES - WITH DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES.



Got him!

Sorry!



That's three out of six.

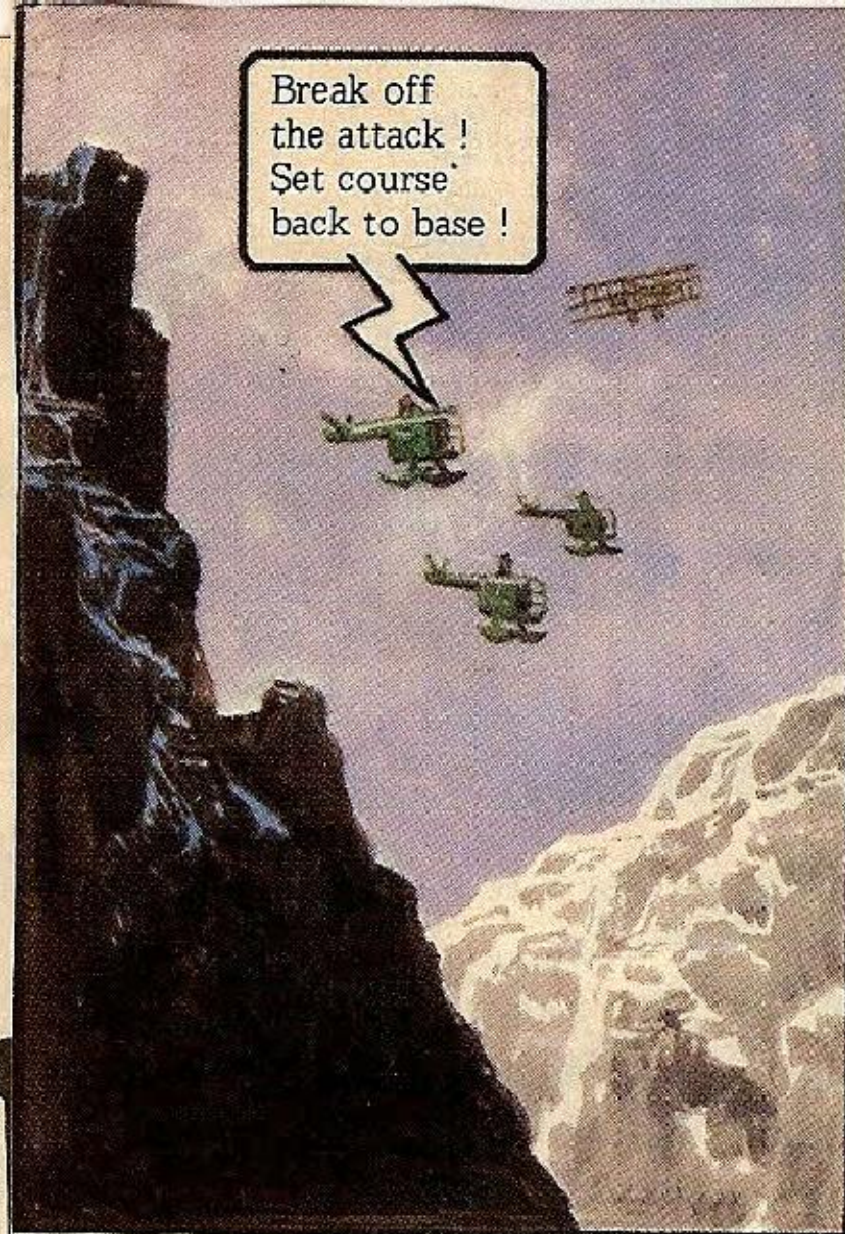
Great! Let's down the other three!

BUT THE REMAINING CATON CREWMEN HAD OTHER IDEAS.



We've lost half our force. That hostile craft must be armed with a secret weapon of invincible power.

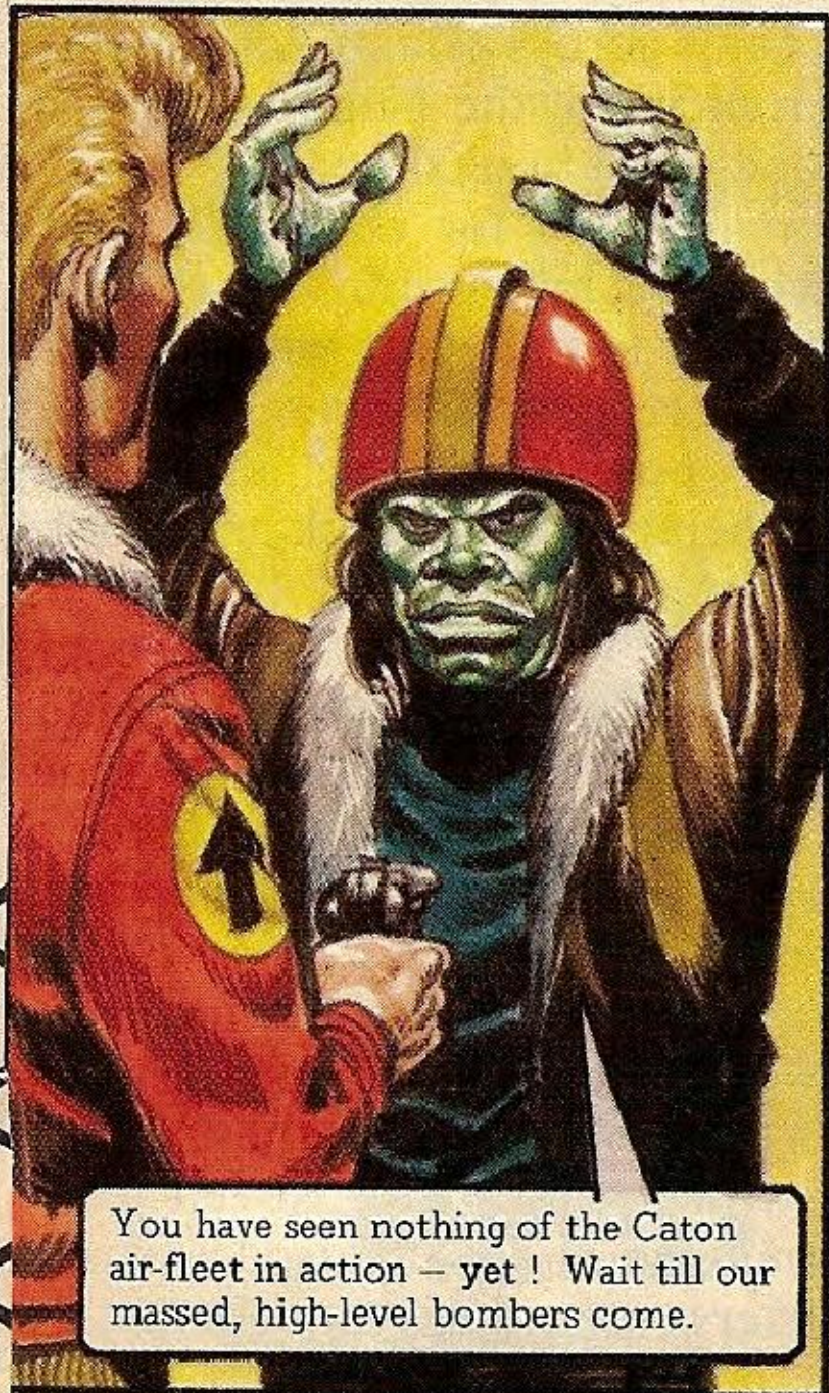




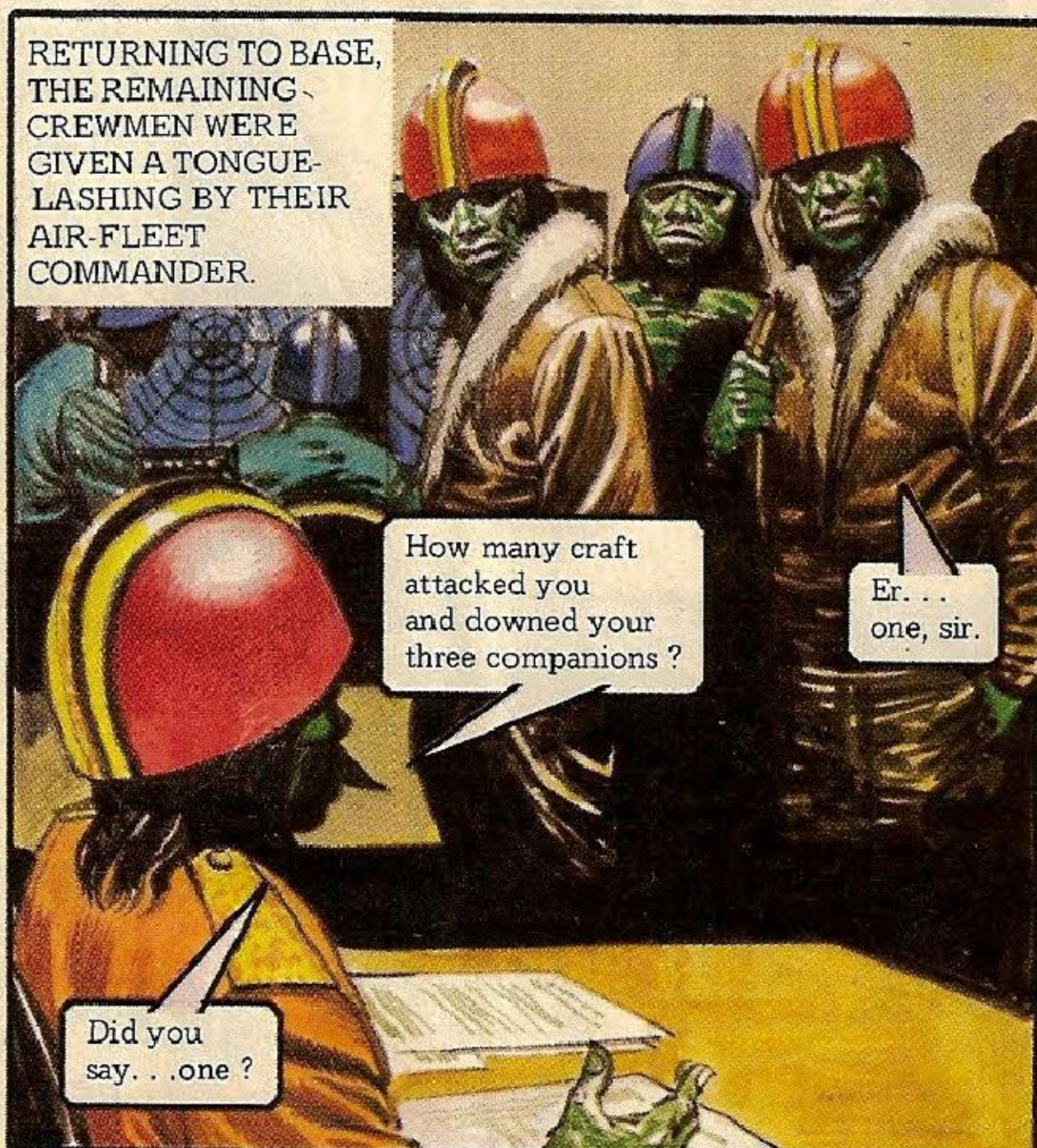
Break off the attack !  
Set course back to base !



Who was it who said we were not a match for the Caton air-fleet ?



You have seen nothing of the Caton air-fleet in action — yet ! Wait till our massed, high-level bombers come.

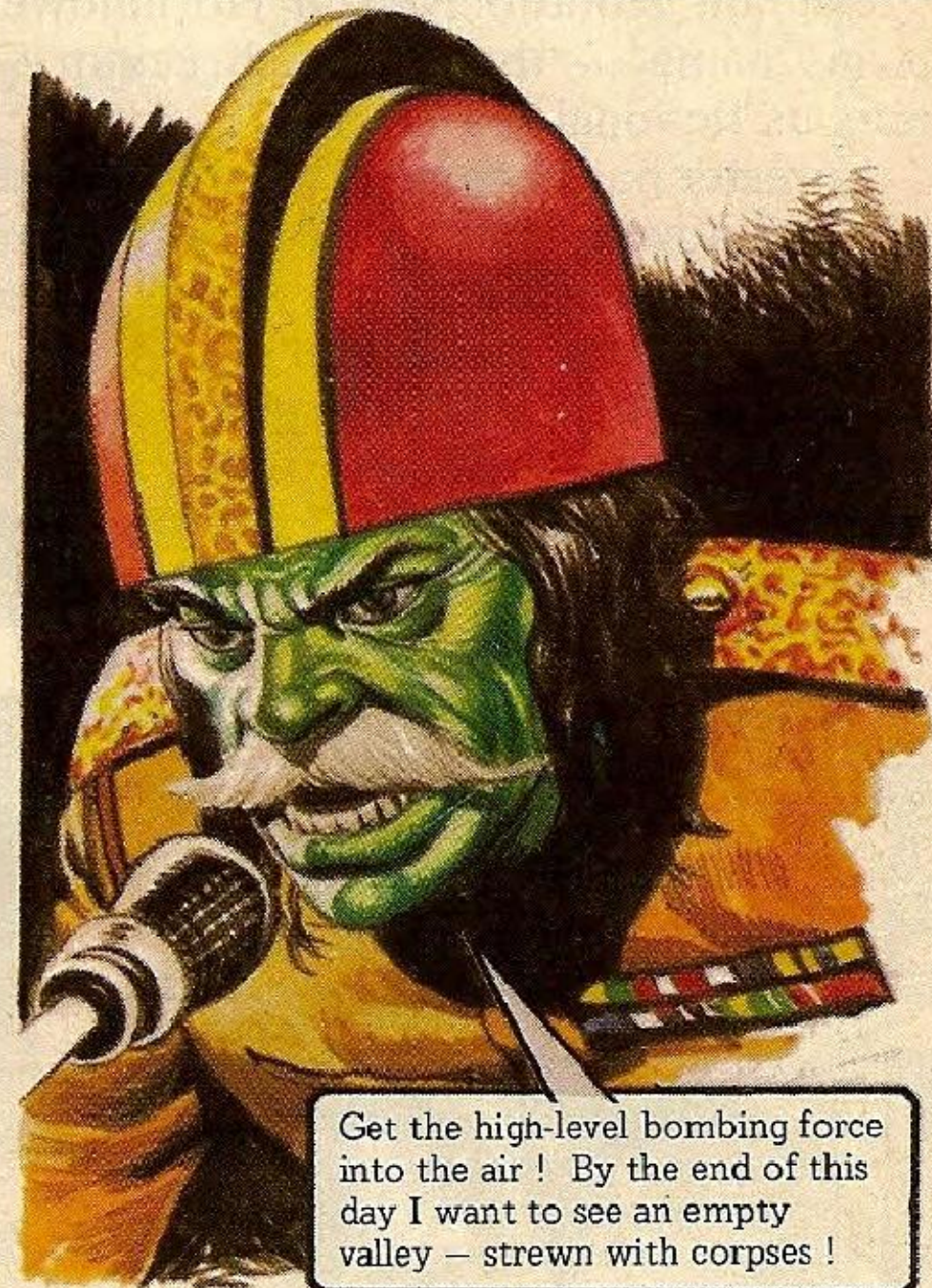


RETURNING TO BASE, THE REMAINING CREWMEN WERE GIVEN A TONGUE-LASHING BY THEIR AIR-FLEET COMMANDER.

How many craft attacked you and downed your three companions ?

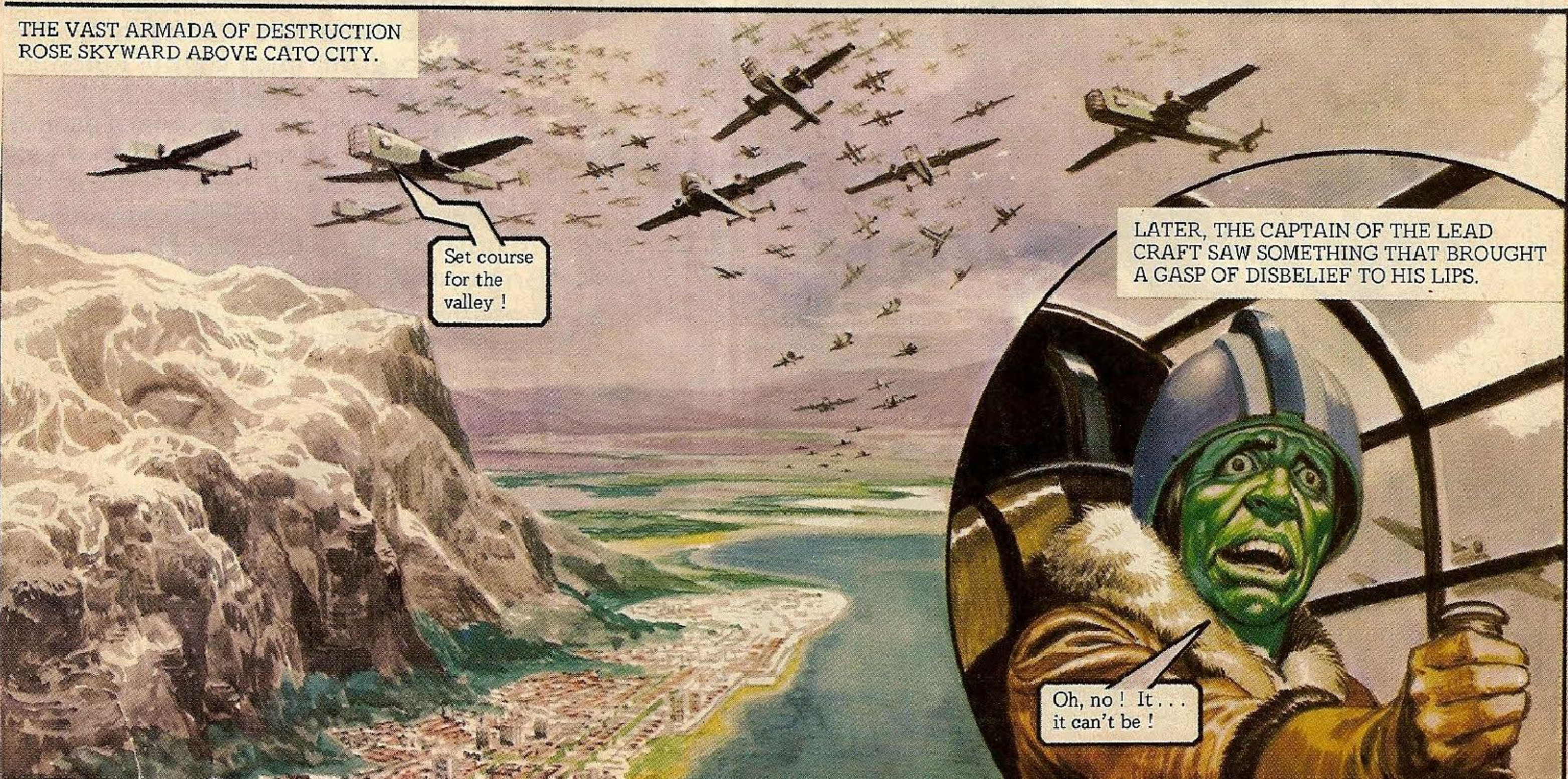
Er... one, sir.

Did you say... one ?



Get the high-level bombing force into the air ! By the end of this day I want to see an empty valley — strewn with corpses !

THE VAST ARMADA OF DESTRUCTION ROSE SKYWARD ABOVE CATO CITY.



Set course for the valley !

LATER, THE CAPTAIN OF THE LEAD CRAFT SAW SOMETHING THAT BROUGHT A GASP OF DISBELIEF TO HIS LIPS.

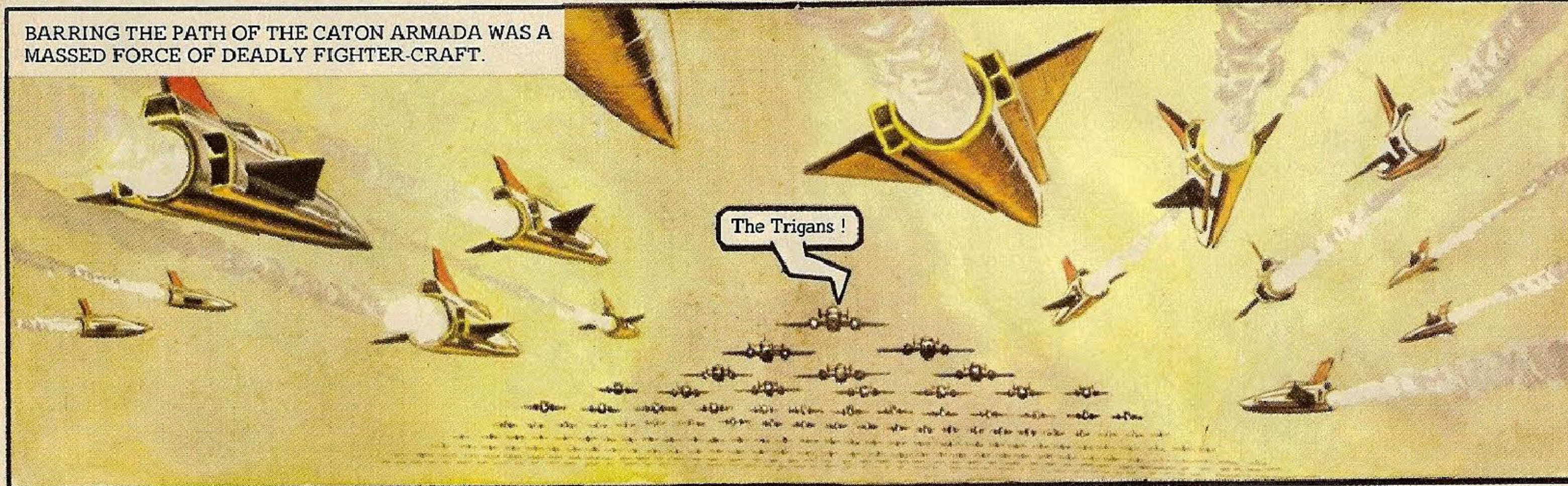
Oh, no ! It... it can't be !



# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

The Catons are determined to conquer a race of people called the Nobes. The main Caton bombing force is on its way to devastate the valley of the Nobes, when it meets another air fleet.

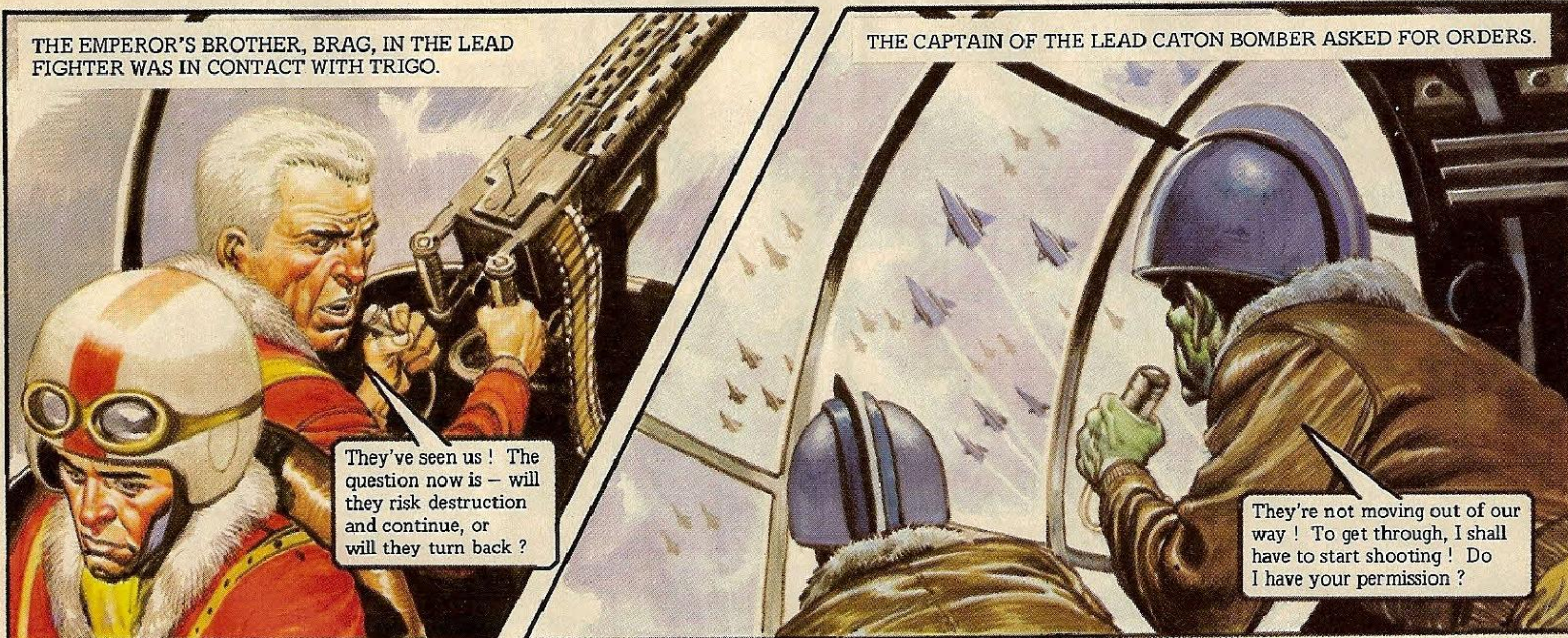
BARRING THE PATH OF THE CATON ARMADA WAS A MASSED FORCE OF DEADLY FIGHTER-CRAFT.



The Trigans !

THE EMPEROR'S BROTHER, BRAG, IN THE LEAD FIGHTER WAS IN CONTACT WITH TRIGO.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE LEAD CATON BOMBER ASKED FOR ORDERS.



They've seen us ! The question now is — will they risk destruction and continue, or will they turn back ?

They're not moving out of our way ! To get through, I shall have to start shooting ! Do I have your permission ?

IT WAS A TENSE MOMENT BACK AT CATON HIGH COMMAND.

Prime Minister, are we ready to go to war with the Trigan Empire for the sake of an obscure valley ?

There are other methods of getting the valley. Call back the bomber force !

Even if this valley contains the richest mineral resources on the planet ?

We will take the valley with our ground forces. To do this, they will have to pass through the Tharv province. Send emissaries to the Potentate of Tharv, to ask permission for our army to cross his territory.

Break off the operation ! Return to base !



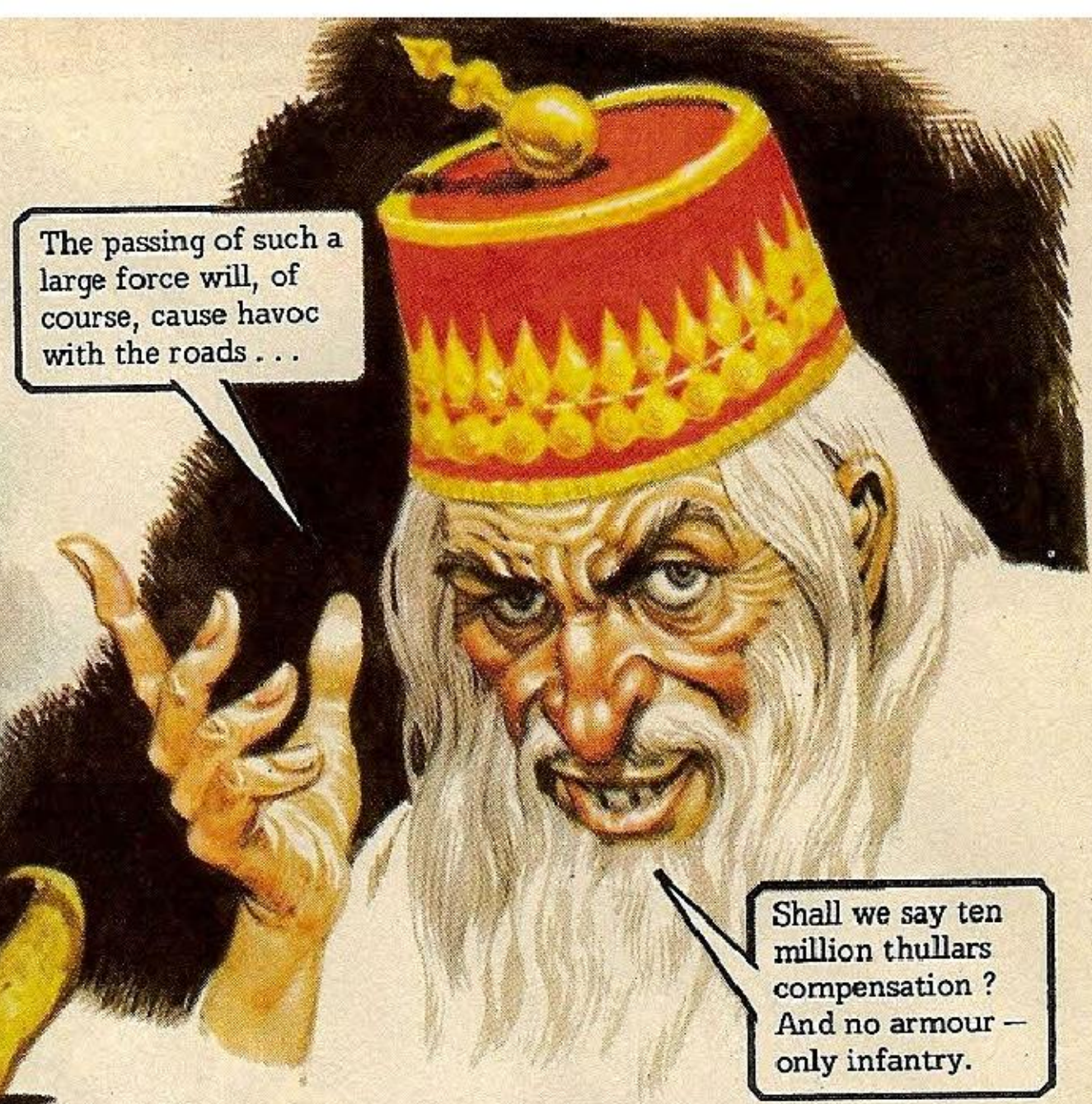


ZAD KRAKKAR, THE WILY OLD POTENTATE OF THARV, HELD HIS RAMSHACKLE EMPIRE TOGETHER BY PLAYING OFF ONE MAJOR FOREIGN POWER AGAINST THE OTHER.



Sit down, gentlemen. Of course your soldiers may pass through my province...

The passing of such a large force will, of course, cause havoc with the roads...



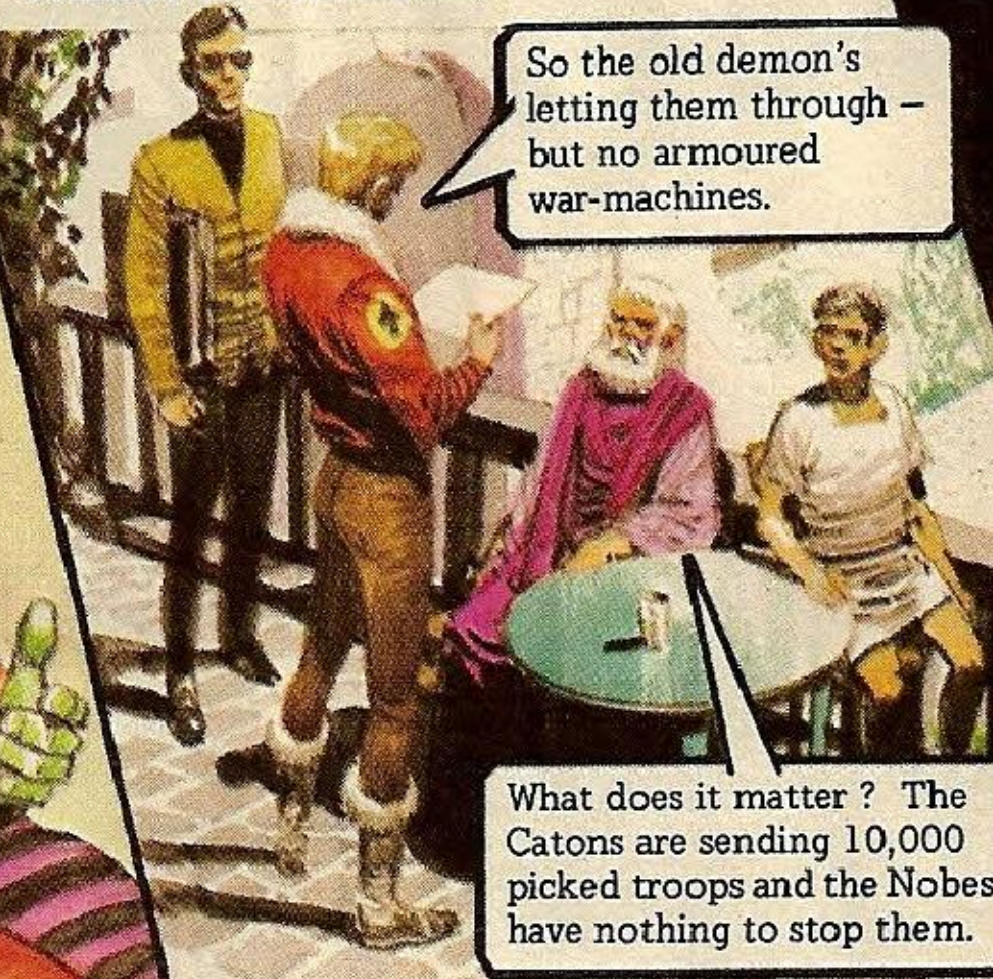
Shall we say ten million thullars compensation? And no armour — only infantry.



But, Excellency...

No armour! I have a treaty with the Trigan Empire that forbids the passing of foreign armoured troops through my territory!

A FULL REPORT OF ALL THIS TORTUOUS DIPLOMACY WAS BROUGHT TO JANNO AND PERIC IN THE VALLEY OF THE NOBES.



So the old demon's letting them through — but no armoured war-machines.

What does it matter? The Catons are sending 10,000 picked troops and the Nobes have nothing to stop them.

We can raise 10,000 strong young Nobes. Can't we, Kalli?



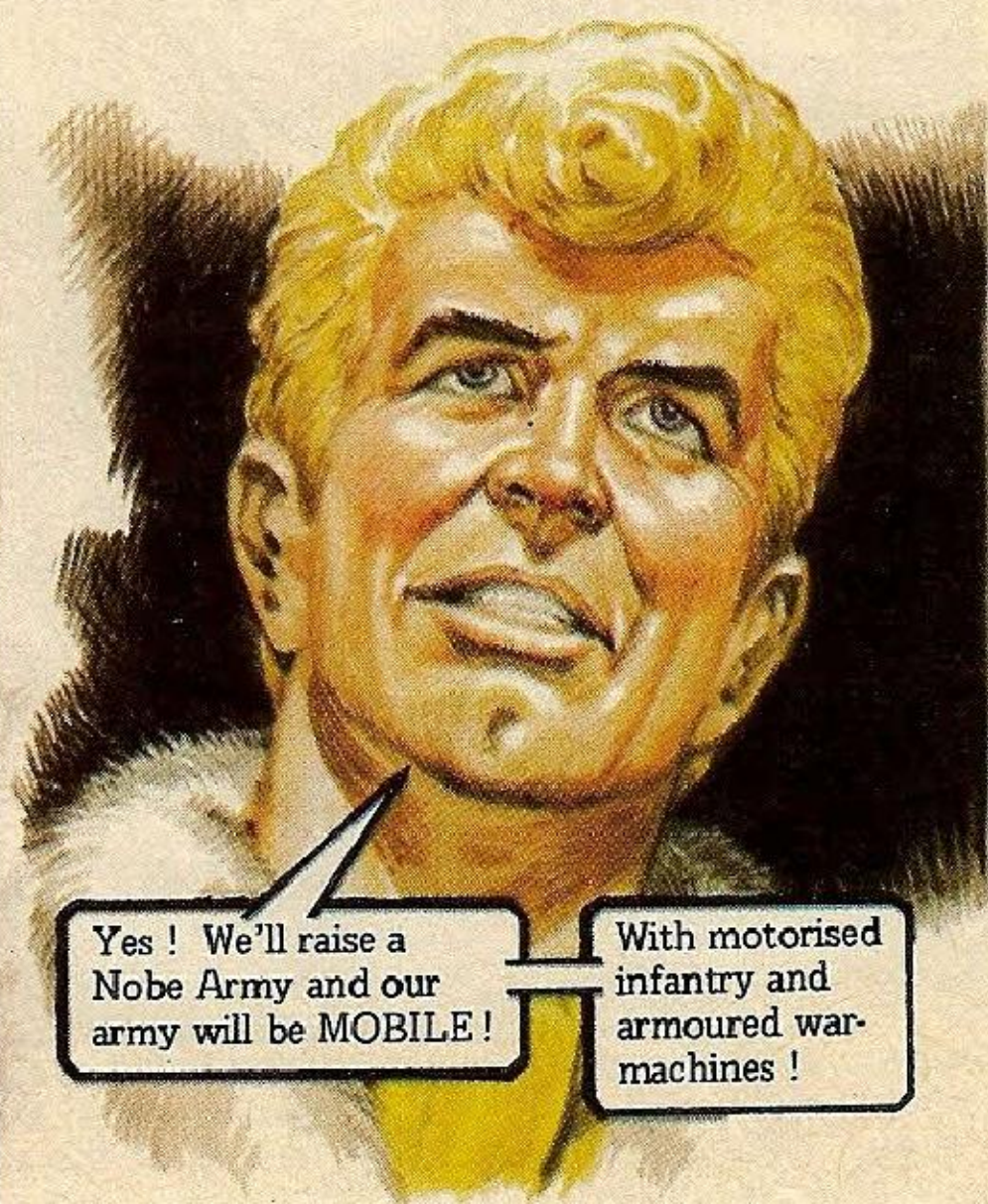
Yes! They don't know what the word war means but you can teach them.

IT WAS THEN THAT JANNO HAD HIS BRAINWAVE.

AT THAT MOMENT THEY WERE INTERRUPTED BY A DISTURBANCE IN THE STREET.



Get out of the way! I... I can't stop it!



Yes! We'll raise a Nobe Army and our army will be MOBILE!

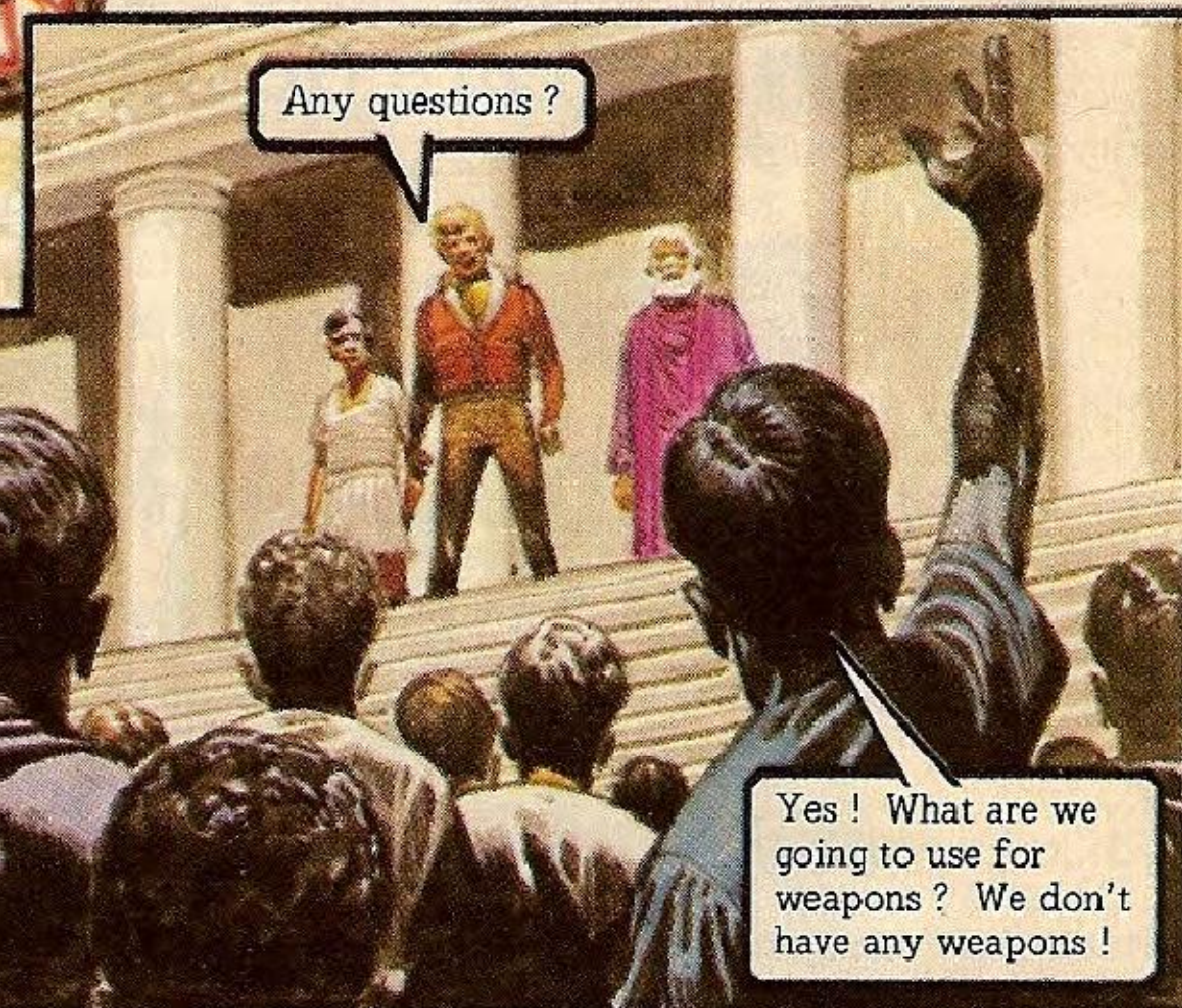
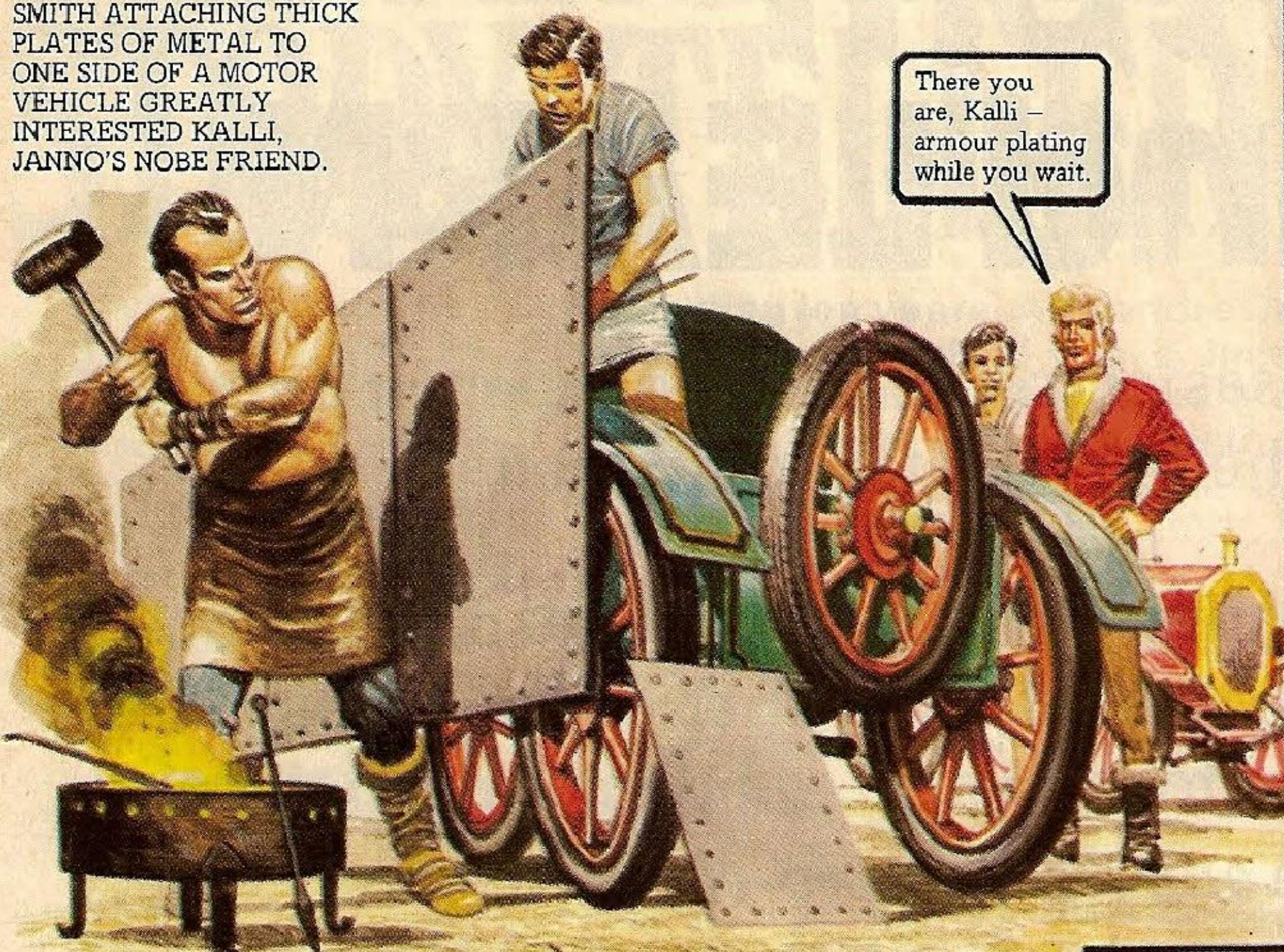
With motorised infantry and armoured war-machines!



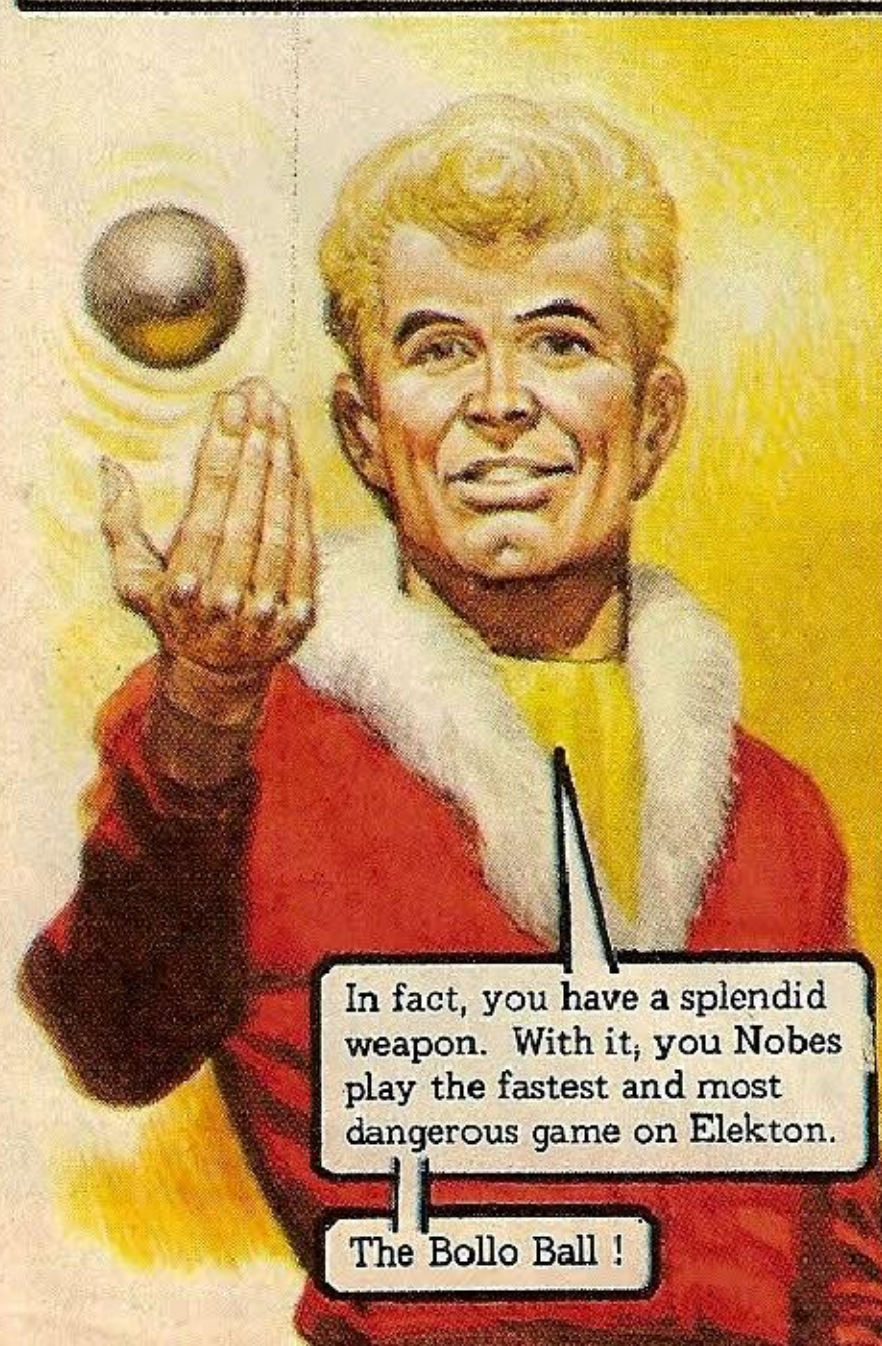
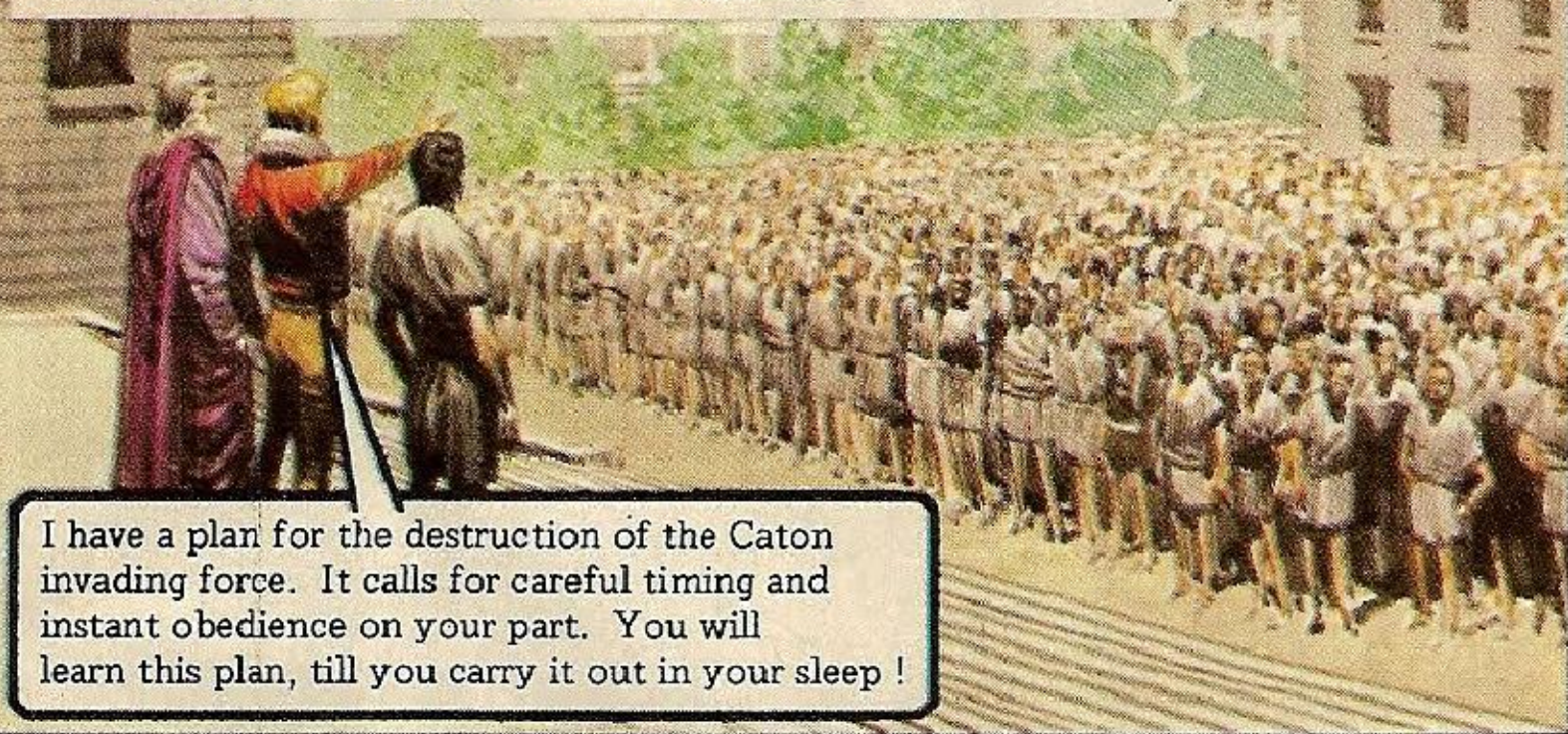
# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

The Catons are intent on conquering the valley of the Nobes. The Nobes are a gentle race who are far behind the rest of the planet in technology. Janno is helping them to resist the Catons.

THE SIGHT OF A BLACK-SMITH ATTACHING THICK PLATES OF METAL TO ONE SIDE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE GREATLY INTERESTED KALLI, JANNO'S NOBE FRIEND.



LATER, THE PICK OF THE VALLEY'S YOUNG ATHLETES WERE GATHERED IN THE MAIN SQUARE.



SHORTLY AFTER DAWN THE NEXT DAY, THE CATONS ENTERED THE VALLEY. THEY MARCHED TO ATTENTION, COLOURS FLYING.



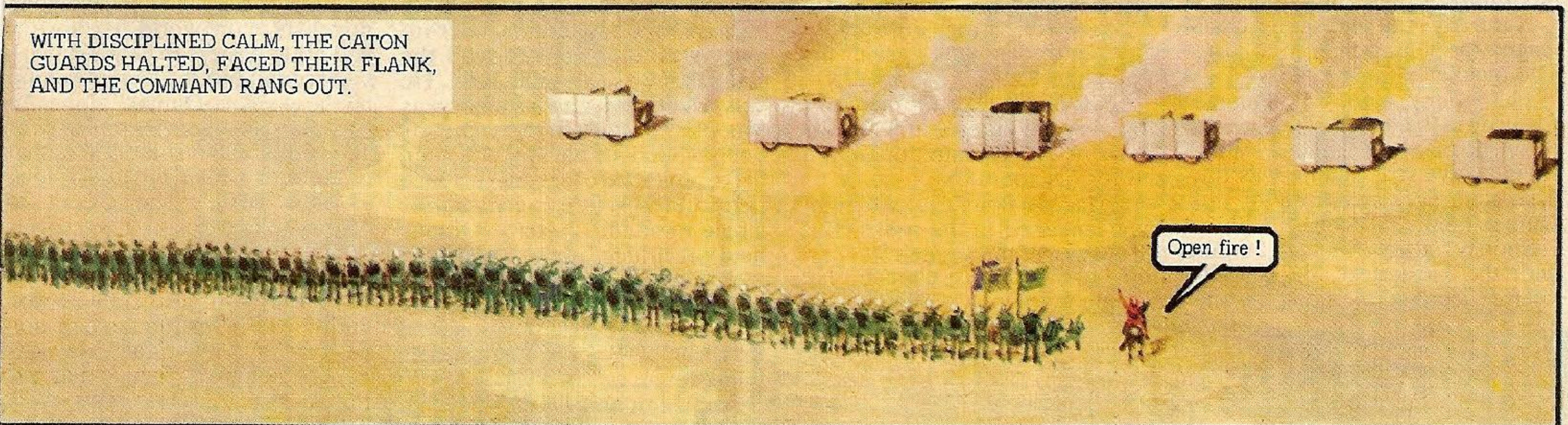


AND THEN...

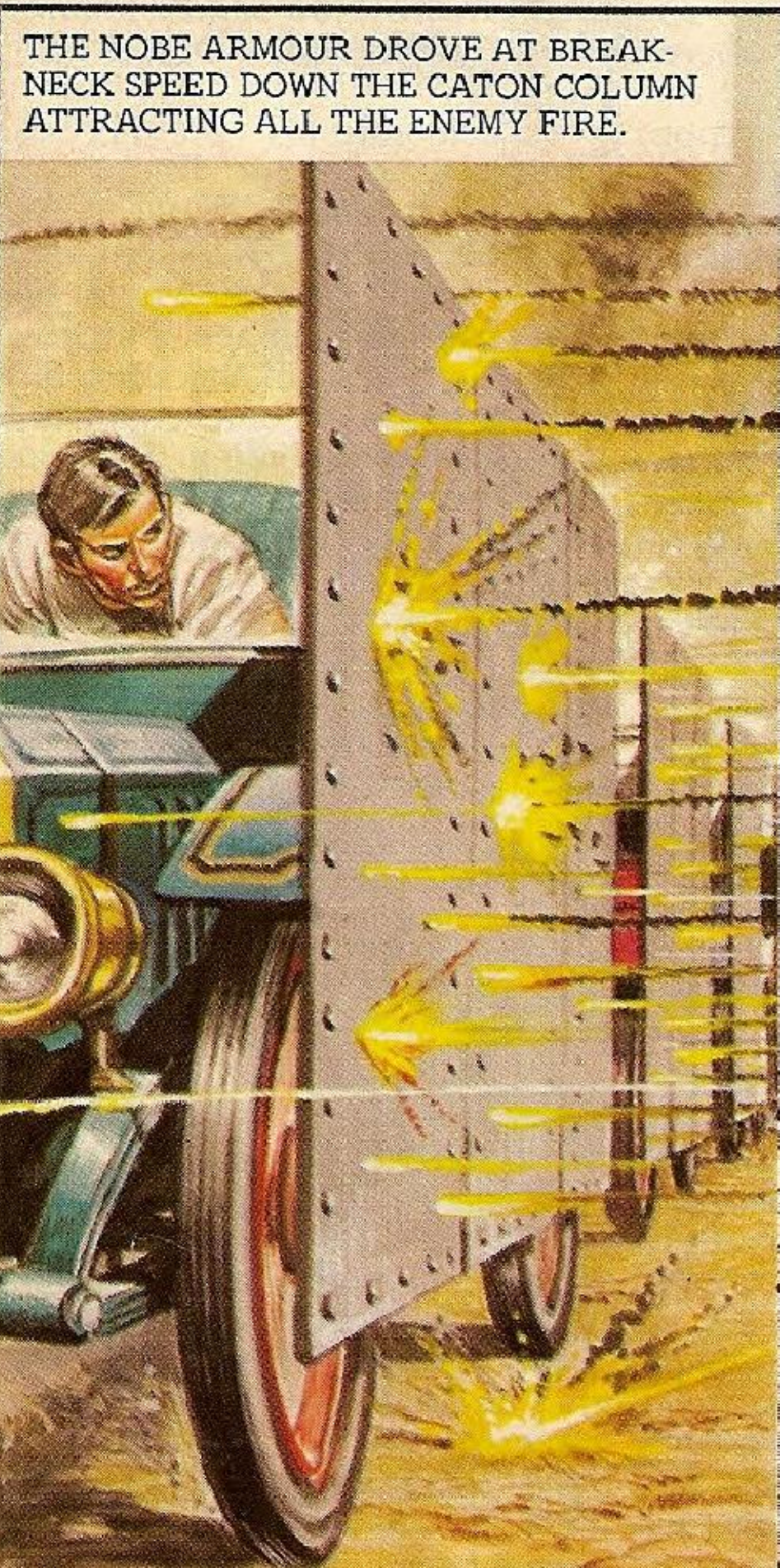
THE NOBE ARMOUR DIVISION WAS HEADING INTO BATTLE !



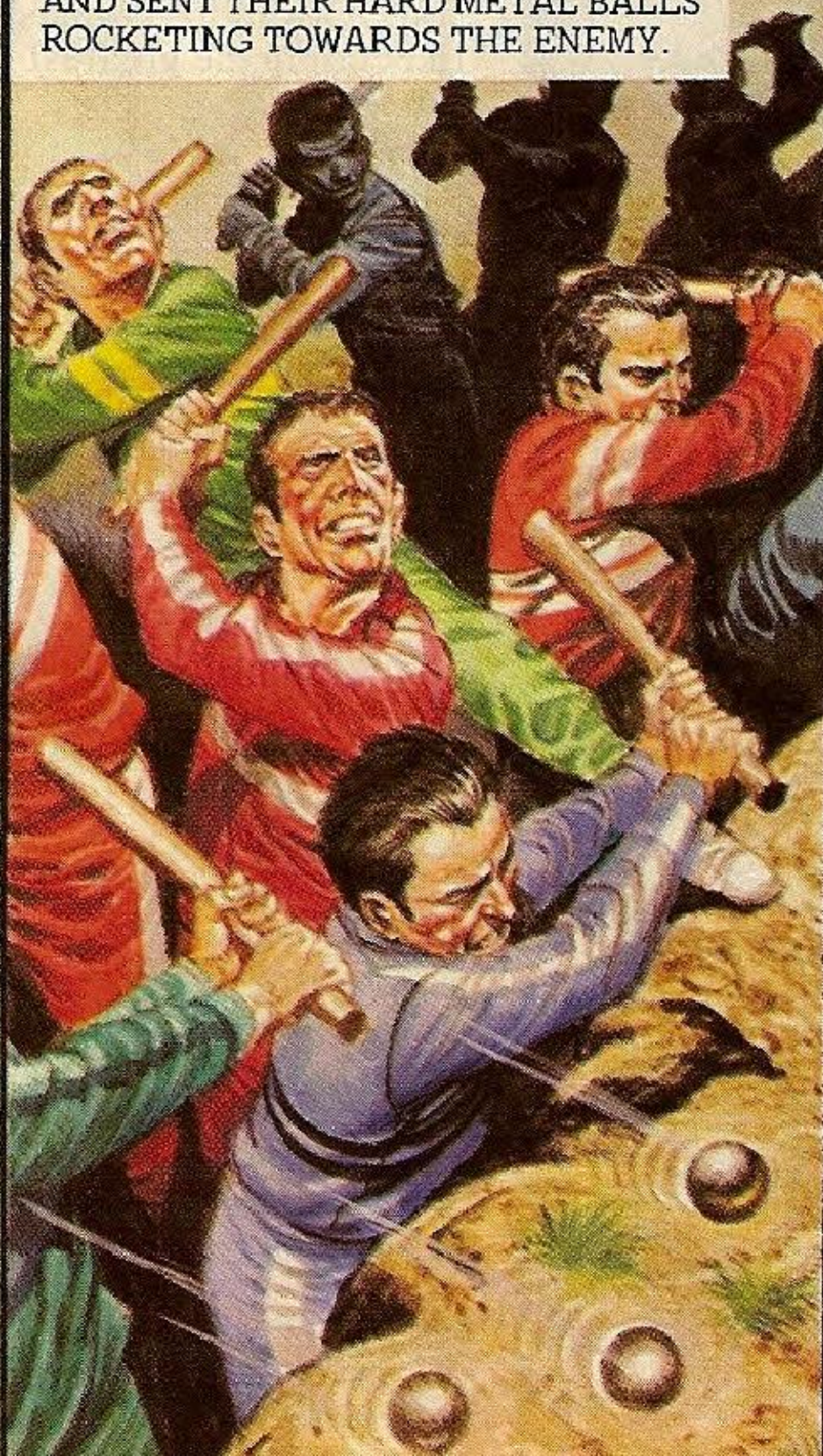
WITH DISCIPLINED CALM, THE CATON GUARDS HALTED, FACED THEIR FLANK, AND THE COMMAND RANG OUT.



THE NOBE ARMOUR DROVE AT BREAK-NECK SPEED DOWN THE CATON COLUMN ATTRACTING ALL THE ENEMY FIRE.



IT WAS THEN, BEHIND THE CATONS, THAT THE BEST BOLLO PLAYERS IN THE VALLEY ROSE FROM THEIR HIDING PLACE IN A DRIED RIVER BED, AND SENT THEIR HARD METAL BALLS ROCKETING TOWARDS THE ENEMY.



THE CATON GUARDS WERE TAKEN ENTIRELY UNAWARES BY THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME ON ELEKTON.





# MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

secret race called the Nobes has been revealed. The Caton invaded the Nobes but Janno utilises the Nobes' skill at the national game to strike back at the invaders...

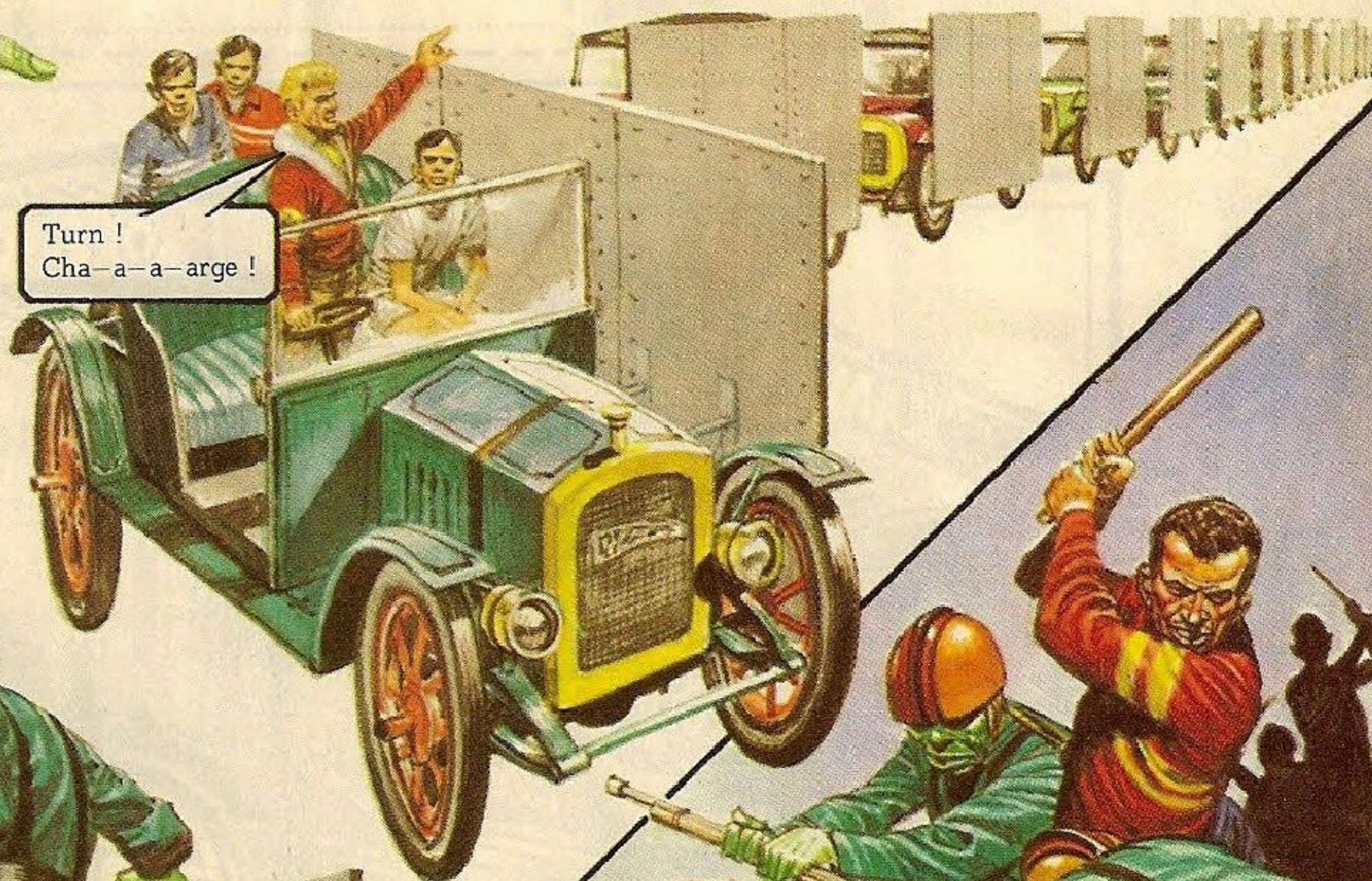
A THOUSAND BOLLO PLAYERS SENT THEIR METAL BALLS ROCKETING TOWARDS THE ENEMY.



TOO LATE, THE CATON COMMANDER SAW THE NEW SOURCE OF ATTACK.



IT WAS THEN THAT JANNO, LEADING THE NOBE "ARMOURED DIVISION", GAVE THE ORDER.



THE CAREERING VEHICLES TORE THROUGH THE CRUMBLING LINE OF THE CATON GUARDS, SCATTERING THEM LIKE LEAVES.



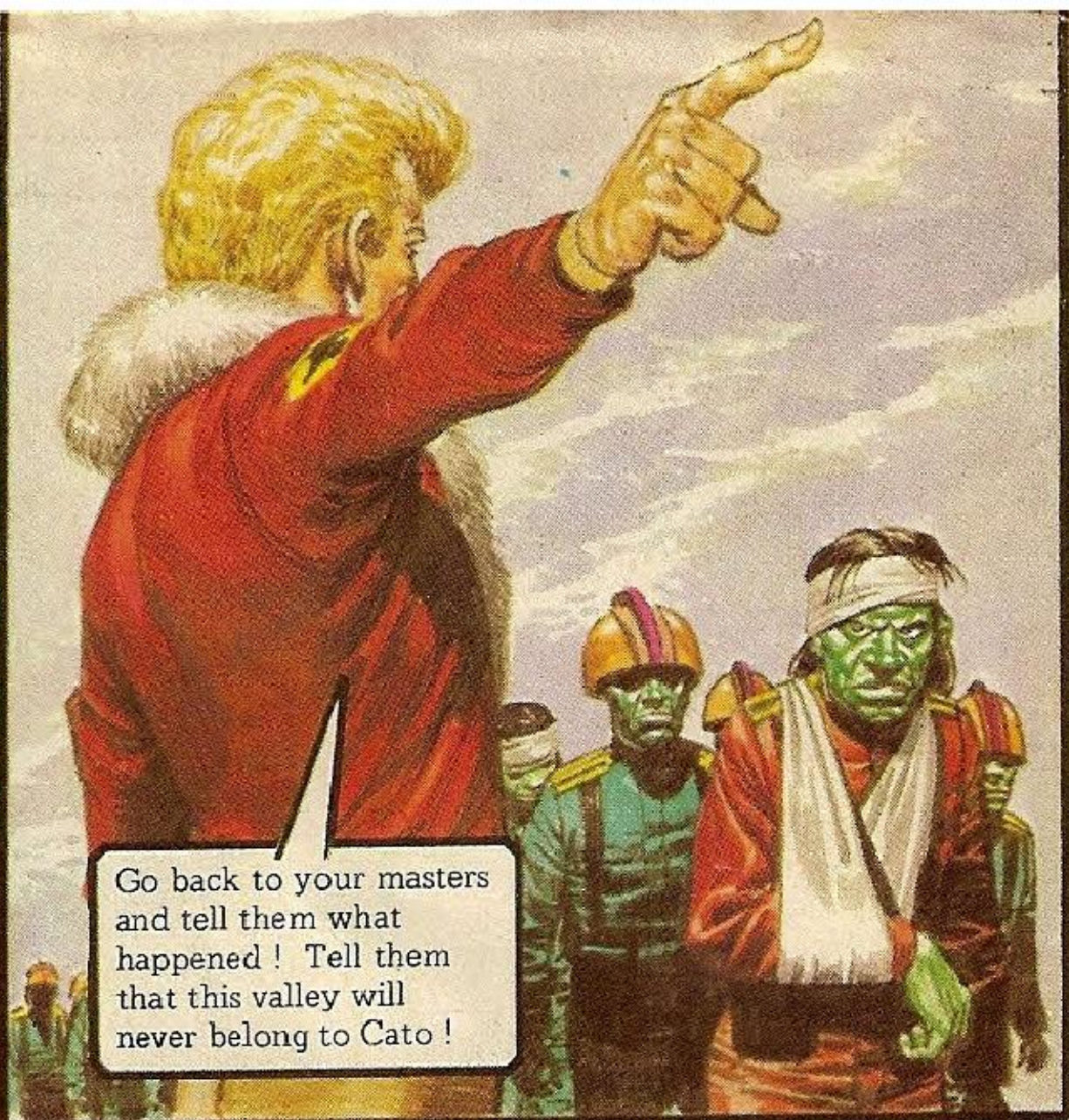


PRESENTLY, IT WAS ALL OVER. THE CREAM OF THE CATON GROUND FORCES SURRENDERED TO AN ARMY OF AMATEUR SPORTSMEN.



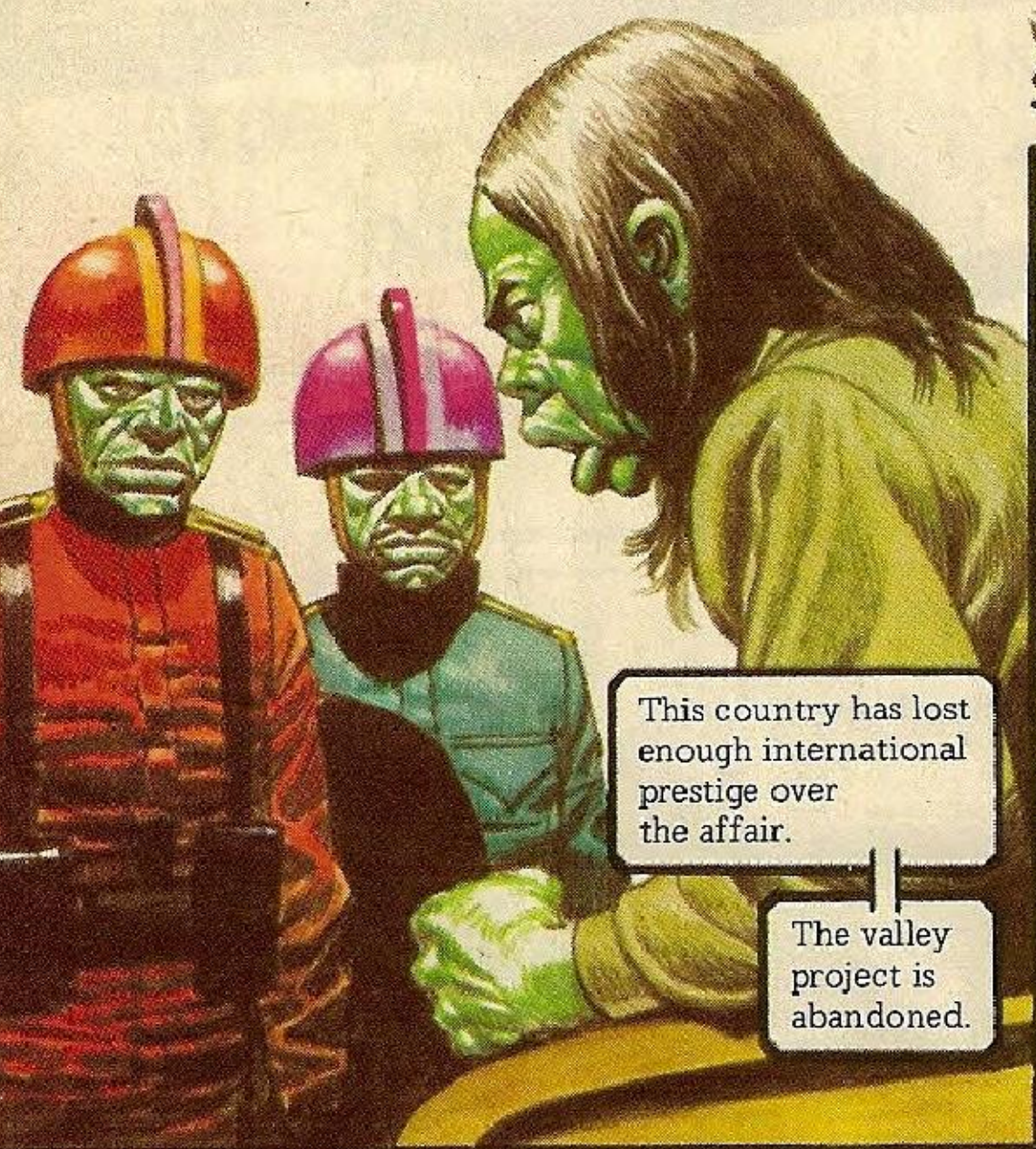
We did it! Thanks to Bollo!

Thanks to you, Janno!



Go back to your masters and tell them what happened! Tell them that this valley will never belong to Cato!

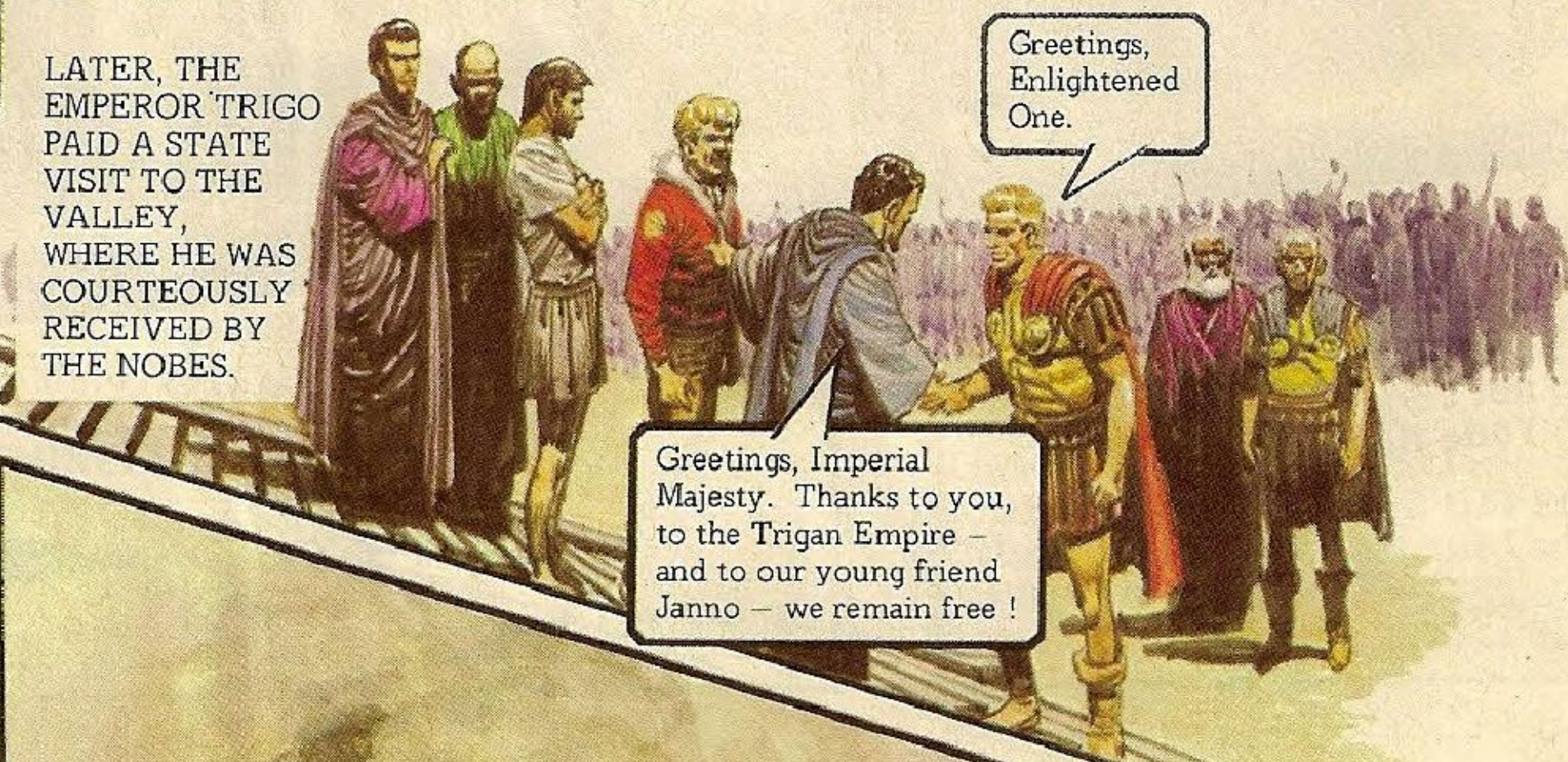
THE LESSON WAS NOT LOST UPON THE CATON LEADERS. A FEW DAYS LATER, THEIR PRIME MINISTER CAME TO A DECISION.



This country has lost enough international prestige over the affair.

The valley project is abandoned.

LATER, THE EMPEROR TRIGO PAID A STATE VISIT TO THE VALLEY, WHERE HE WAS COURTEOUSLY RECEIVED BY THE NOBES.



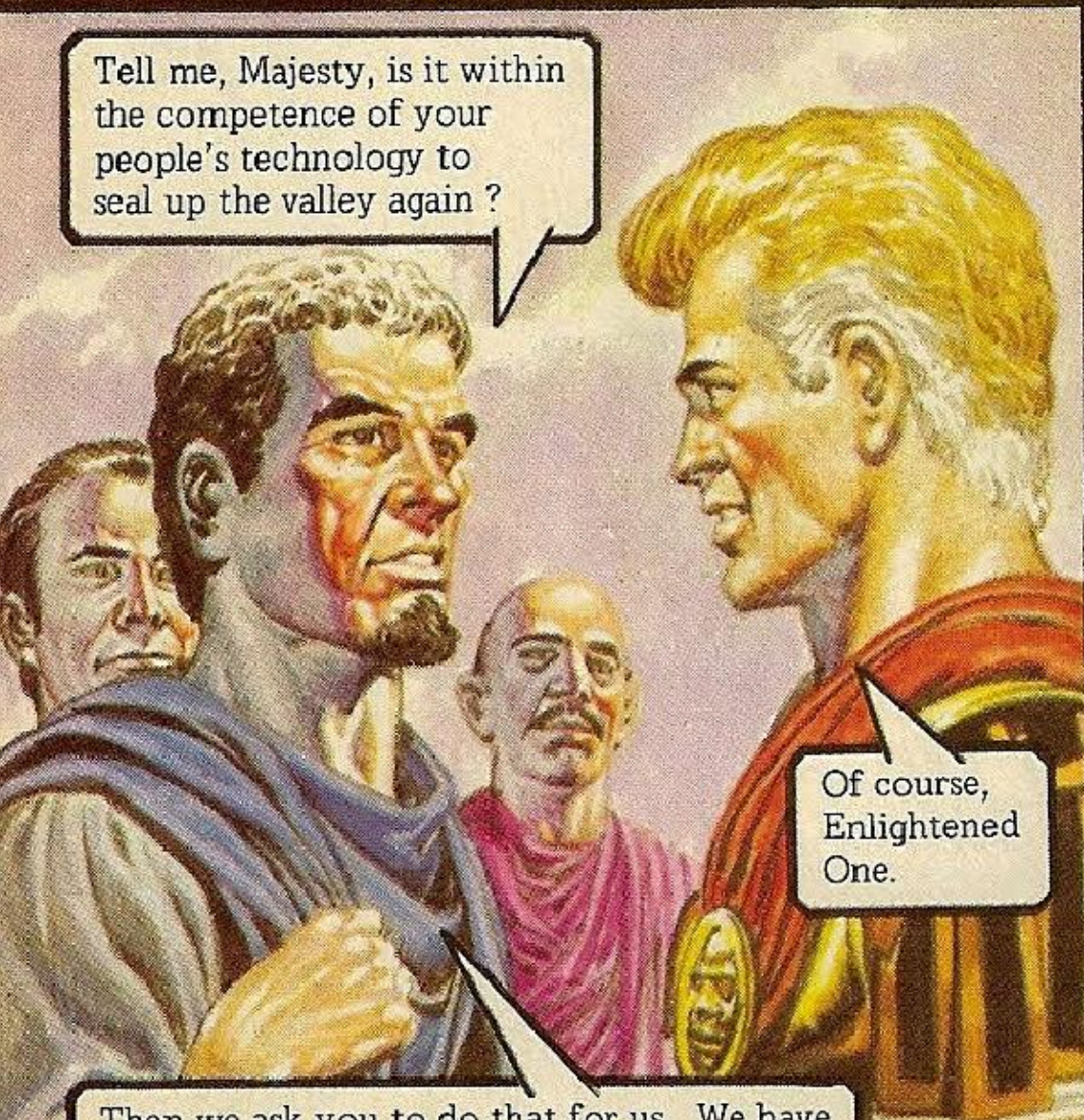
Greetings, Enlightened One.

Greetings, Imperial Majesty. Thanks to you, to the Trigan Empire – and to our young friend Janno – we remain free!



WHEN ALL WAS SILENT, JANNO RAISED HIS HAND IN SALUTE TO THOSE HE WOULD NEVER SEE AGAIN.

Tell me, Majesty, is it within the competence of your people's technology to seal up the valley again?



Of course, Enlightened One.

AND SO, A HEAVY CHARGE OF EXPLOSIVE WAS DETONATED IN THE PASS. THE MOUNTAIN WALL FELL – AND THE SECRET VALLEY WAS SECRET ONCE

Then we ask you to do that for us. We have seen what happens in the outside world and, with respect, we like our old ways best.

Farewell, Kalli! Farewell, brave Nobes! May you and yours live in peace and tranquility for ever!