

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE

TRIGAN EMPIRE

The planet Elekton lies in the galaxy of Yarna, situated in the deepest reaches of space. The greatest power on Elekton is the Trigan Empire, ruled over by its founder, the Emperor Trigo . . .

THE ZALLUS WERE A RACE OF WARRIORS LIVING ON THE BORDERS OF VORG PROVINCE. ONE DAY, THEIR DREADED CAVALRY POURED OVER THE FRONTIER AND ATTACKED !



ALTHOUGH THE TRIGAN FORCES WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE, THE ZALLUS REALLY HAD NO HOPE, IN THE LONG RUN, AGAINST THE MIGHT OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE. THEY WERE SURROUNDED AND CUT TO PIECES.



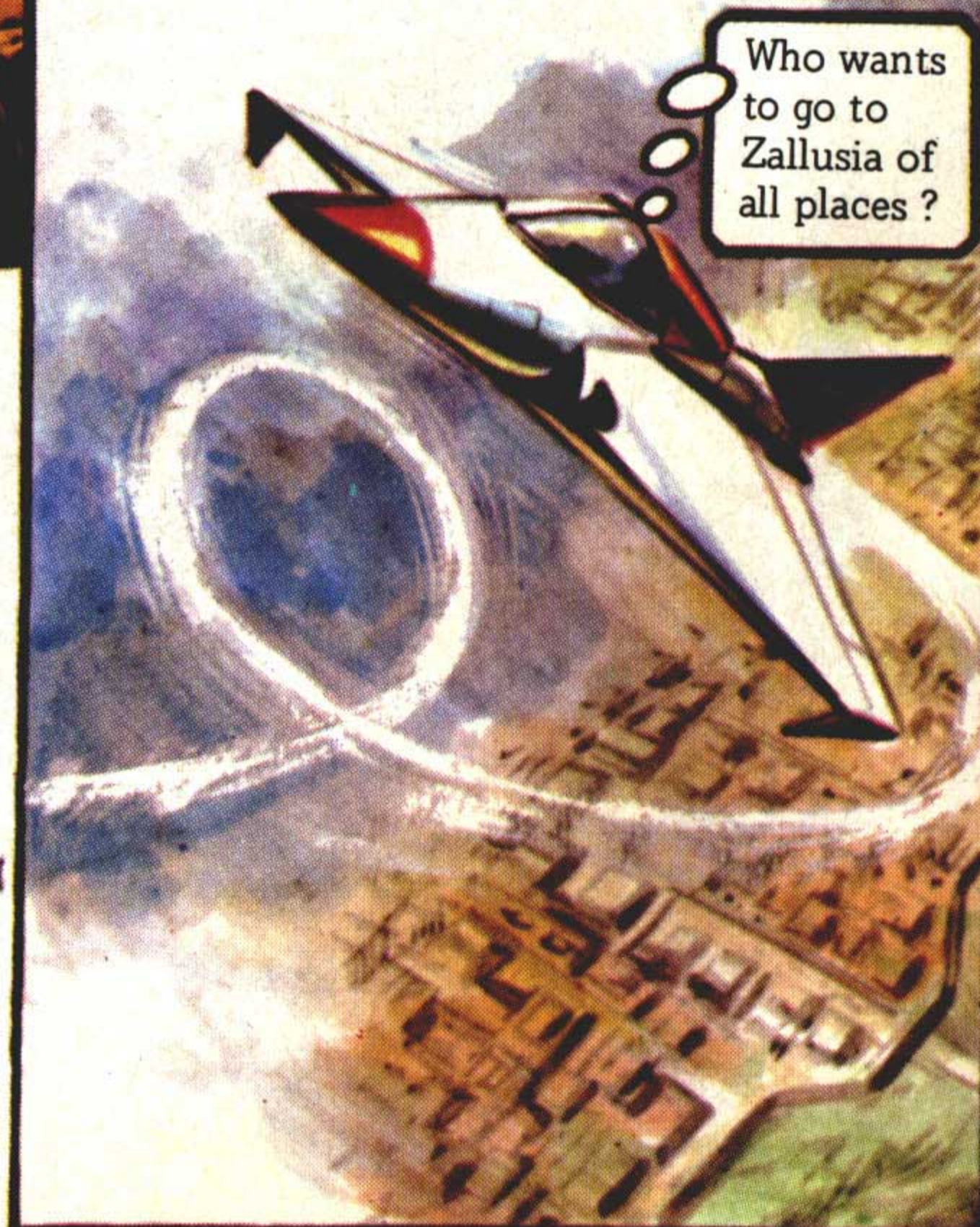
THE LAST ZALLU WARRIOR HURLED HIMSELF INTO THE ABYSS, WITH DEFIANCE STILL ON HIS LIPS.



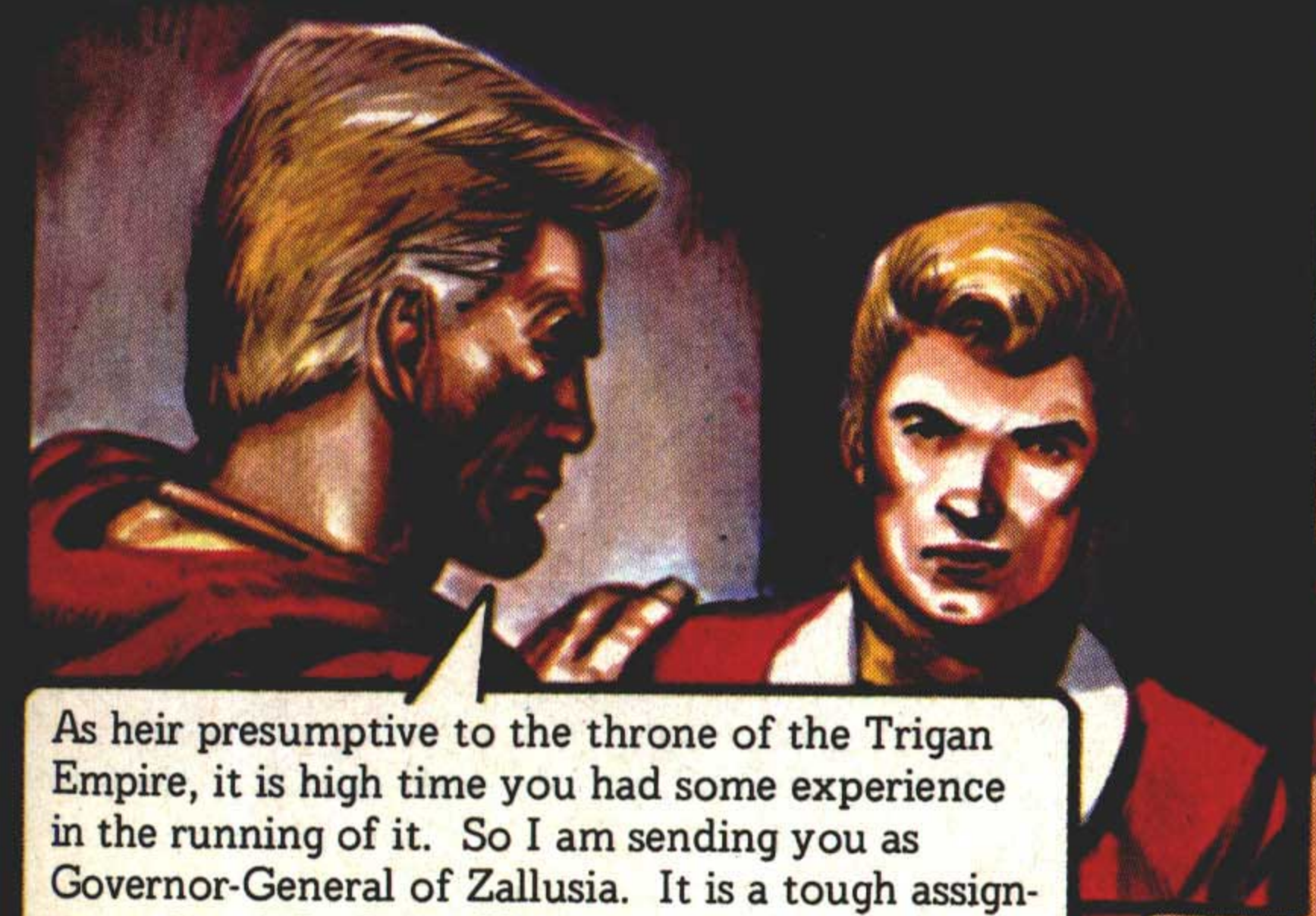
SO IT WAS THAT, FOR THE SAKE OF FUTURE PEACE, THE TRIGANS WERE OBLIGED TO OCCUPY THE COUNTRY OF THE ZALLUS.



BACK IN TRIGAN CITY, JANNO THE EMPEROR'S NEPHEW, WAS TAKING UP HIS SLEEK FIGHTING CRAFT FOR WHAT SEEMED TO BE HIS LAST FLIGHT FOR A LONG TIME.



LATER, THE EMPEROR TRIGO EXPLAINED MATTERS.



As heir presumptive to the throne of the Trigan Empire, it is high time you had some experience in the running of it. So I am sending you as Governor-General of Zallusia. It is a tough assignment, but I think you'll make a success of it.

AND SO, A LUNAR MONTH LATER, JANNO DEPARTED.



Good luck !

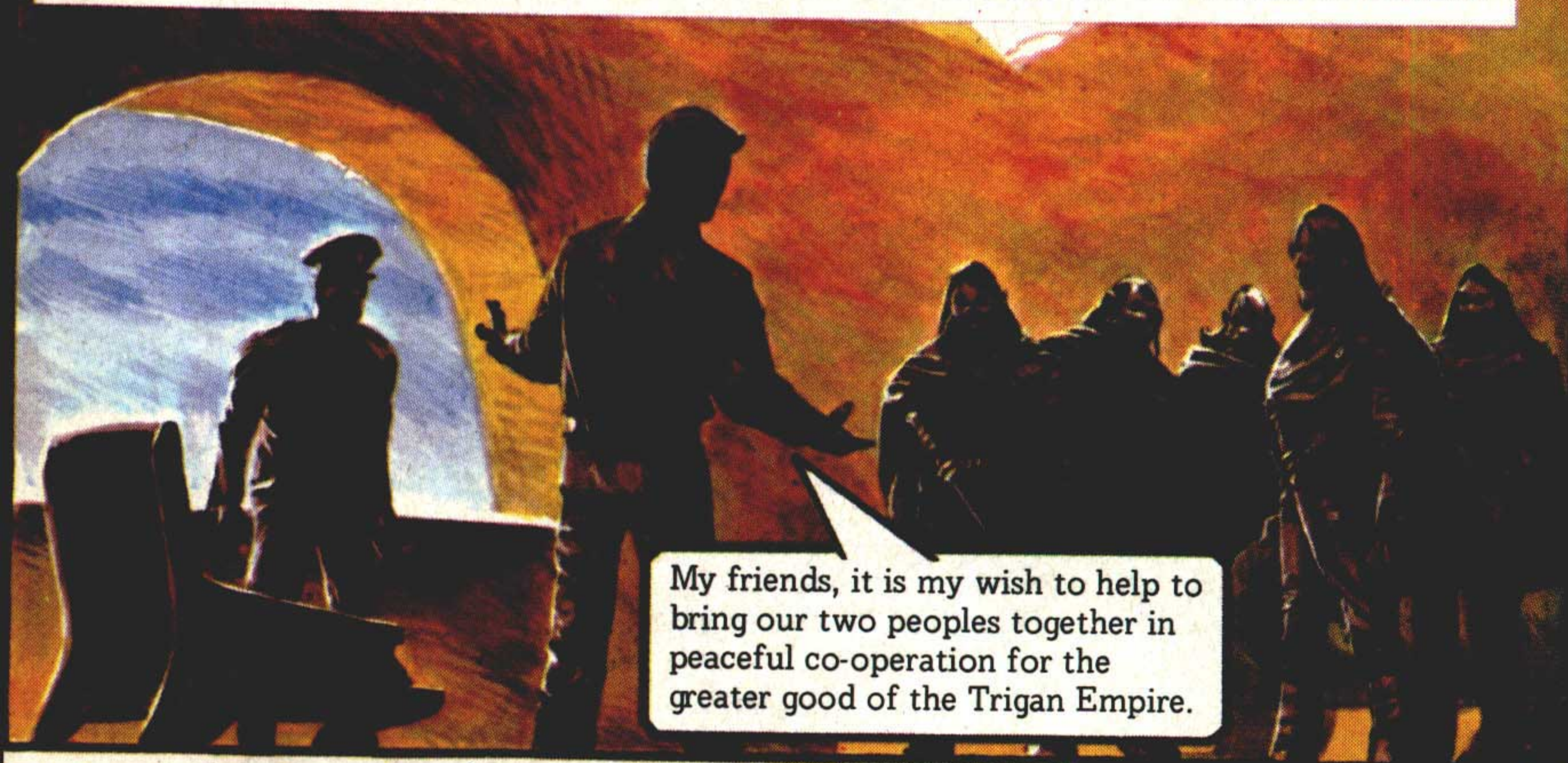
LANDING IN ZALLUSIA, THE NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL BECAME IMMEDIATELY AWARE OF THE HATRED DIRECTED AT HIM.



They look a sullen lot, Colonel.

I've been here a long time, Excellency, and not once have I seen a Zallu smile.

JANNO'S FIRST TASK WAS TO ADDRESS THE FIVE ELDERS OF THE ZALLU NATION.



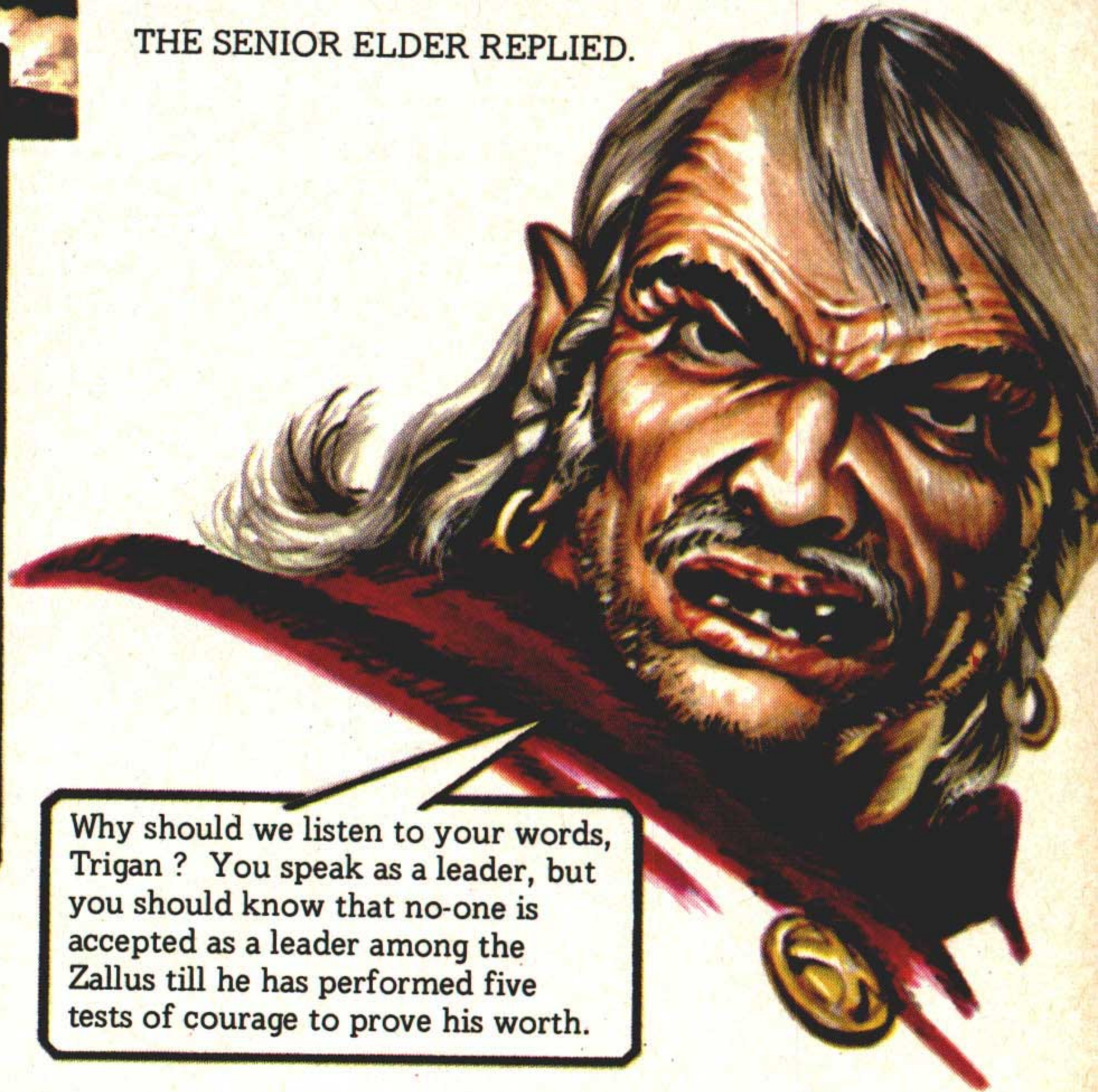
My friends, it is my wish to help to bring our two peoples together in peaceful co-operation for the greater good of the Trigan Empire.

JANNO REPLIED WITHOUT HESITATION.



Very well ! I, myself will perform any five tasks you choose to set me.

THE SENIOR ELDER REPLIED.



Why should we listen to your words, Trigan ? You speak as a leader, but you should know that no-one is accepted as a leader among the Zallus till he has performed five tests of courage to prove his worth.

The young fool fell neatly into our trap.

He is as good as dead ! The tasks we shall set him would break the courage of a wild Zargot !



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE

TRICAN EMPIRE

Janno has been appointed as Governor-General over the Zallu' nation. In order to gain the respect of the people, Janno agrees to perform the traditional five tests of courage . . .

THE ZALLU ELDERS CONFERRED AMONG THEMSELVES FOR SOME TIME, AND THEN THEIR SPOKESMAN POINTED TO JANNO.

We have decided what shall be your first task.

You will cross the desert of Zath, alone, unarmed, and on foot.

JANNO'S AIDE HISSED, DESPERATELY, IN HIS CHIEF'S EAR.

This is madness, your Excellency. These animals are out to kill you — and they'll succeed. The desert of Zath is crawling with savage predators, and it is also half — quicksand !

Silence, Colonel !

I accept !

By tomorrow's suns, we shall be without our headstrong young master.

No one has attempted to cross the desert of Zath and lived to tell the tale.

THE FOLLOWING DAWN, JANNO WAS TAKEN TO THE EDGE OF THE FORBIDDING TRACT OF DESERT.

I will see you at the far side of the desert at sundown, Colonel.

I hope so, Excellency.

HE SET OFF IN THE SEARING HEAT OF ELEKTON'S TWIN SUNS AS THEY ROSE ON HIGH.

So far, so good. . .

AND THEN. . .

Quicksand !

If I can reach that clump of scrub. . .

OLIVER FREY

WITH THE AID OF THE SCRUB, HE PULLED HIMSELF, SLOWLY, PAINFULLY, FROM THE CLOYING GRIP OF THE QUICKSAND.

I can never hope to be so lucky again !

IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW. . . IT !

A horned Gora.
Terror of the desert of Zath.

The brute walks quickly and sure-footed through the desert. Either it knows — or senses — the safe paths through the quicksands. What if I were to — follow it ?

If it turns its head, I'm done for !

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE

TRICAN EMPIRE

In order to gain the respect of the hostile Zallu, Janno agrees to perform the traditional five tests demanded of all Zallu leaders. He is now crossing the quicksands of Zath, on the heels of a savage, horned Gora who knows the path . . .

JUST WHEN IT SEEMED THAT THEY MUST BE CLEAR OF THE QUICKSAND, JANNO'S FOOT SENT A STONE BOUNDING ALONG THE PATH.

Now for trouble — big trouble !

Gnaaaaaaghh !

HE CROUCHED TO MEET THE COMING ONSLAUGHT.

If I step to one side, I could walk straight into the quicksand !

AN INSTANT BEFORE WHAT SEEMED LIKE CERTAIN DESTRUCTION. . .

USING THE GORA'S OWN IMPETUS, HE SENT THE GREAT BEAST OVER HIS SHOULDERS !

THE QUICKSAND TOOK ITS VICTIM IN ITS DEADLY GRIP.

Farewell, Gora. It was either you or me.

JANNO SOON CAME IN SIGHT OF HIS COMPANIONS AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE DESERT.

Congratulations, Excellency ! You have performed the first test with great courage !

But remember, Colonel, there still remain four more to be carried out !

OLIVER FREY

NEWS OF JANNO'S EXPLOIT
REACHED THE EMPEROR
TRIGO WHO WAS FURIOUS !

I send him to control
the Zallus, and he
spends his time trying
to get himself killed.

Go to my nephew ! Tell him
that I do not expect the heir
presumptive to the throne of
the Trigan Empire to risk his
neck for the amusement of a
pack of Zallu barbarians !

Yes,
Imperial
Majesty !

BRAG HAD A WRY COMMENT
TO MAKE TO HIS BROTHER. . .

At his age, you would have
done exactly the same !
Come now, Trigo - admit it !

I admit
nothing !

THE EMPEROR'S EMISSARY ARRIVED
IN ZALLUSIA THE FOLLOWING
DAY AND PRESENTED HIMSELF
AT JANNO'S HEADQUARTERS.

I come by order of
the Emperor to
instruct Janno that he
must not carry out
any more of these
foolhardy tasks.

I'm afraid you are
a little too late,
my dear fellow.

THE HIGHEST BUILDING IN
THE CITY WAS A GIANT
MEMORIAL TO A LONG-
DEAD ZALLU CHIEF.
JANNO WAS CLIMBING IT !

You have an
excellent view
from this
window of
Janno perform-
ing his second
task - see !

By all
the
stars !

He-he'll
never
make it.

Possibly,
but he'll
perish
trying.

AT THE FAR SIDE
OF THE SQUARE,
A HIDDEN MARKS-
MAN TOOK AIM.

Die, Trigan.

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE

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To gain the respect of the Zallus, Janno agrees to perform five tests of courage. One of these involves climbing a giant memorial ... despite the presence of a hidden marksman who takes aim and fires.

THUNKKK! A BULLET STRUCK THE MASONRY CLOSE BY JANNO'S HAND.

JANNO RECOVERED, AND MOVED SWIFTLY TO ONE SIDE. NEXT TIME THE HIDDEN MARKSMAN FIRED JANNO WAS BEHIND COVER.

He won't get me now!

OTHERS HAD SEEN THE INCIDENT...

Go and get that sniper.

SURE ENOUGH, JANNO CLIMBED SAFELY ON TO THE HIGH PLATFORM.

Janno's all right. He'll reach the top.

AFTER DESCENDING SAFELY, HE WAS ADDRESSED BY HIS GRIM-FACED AIDE.

We have no proof. I mean to show the Elders that a Trigan is not only brave, but just.

The sniper escaped. It's clear that he was acting on orders from the Elders. Let me execute a couple of those scoundrels. You won't have any more trouble then!

No, Colonel!

OLIVER FREY

NEXT DAY, JANNO SUMMONED THE ELDERS OF ZALLUS.

For your third task
you will swim the
Channel of Yulf, alone.

THE EMPEROR'S
EMISSARY
DEMANDED AN
INTERVIEW
WITH JANNO.

Excellency ! Unless you refuse to
carry out this task I shall return to
Trigan City and report on your conduct !

I wish you a
good journey
home, Captain.

AT DAWN NEXT DAY, JANNO SET
FOOT IN THE INHOSPITABLE
WATERS OF YULF.

Good luck,
Excellency !

BY NOON JANNO RECKONED THAT
HE WAS ABOUT HALF WAY ACROSS.

There's the Islets
known as The
Demon Brethren.

AND THEN - TROUBLE !

JANNO DIVED DEEP, AS A
KEEN-EDGED HARPOON
SLASHED THROUGH THE WATER.

AND THEN HE SAW - IT !

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

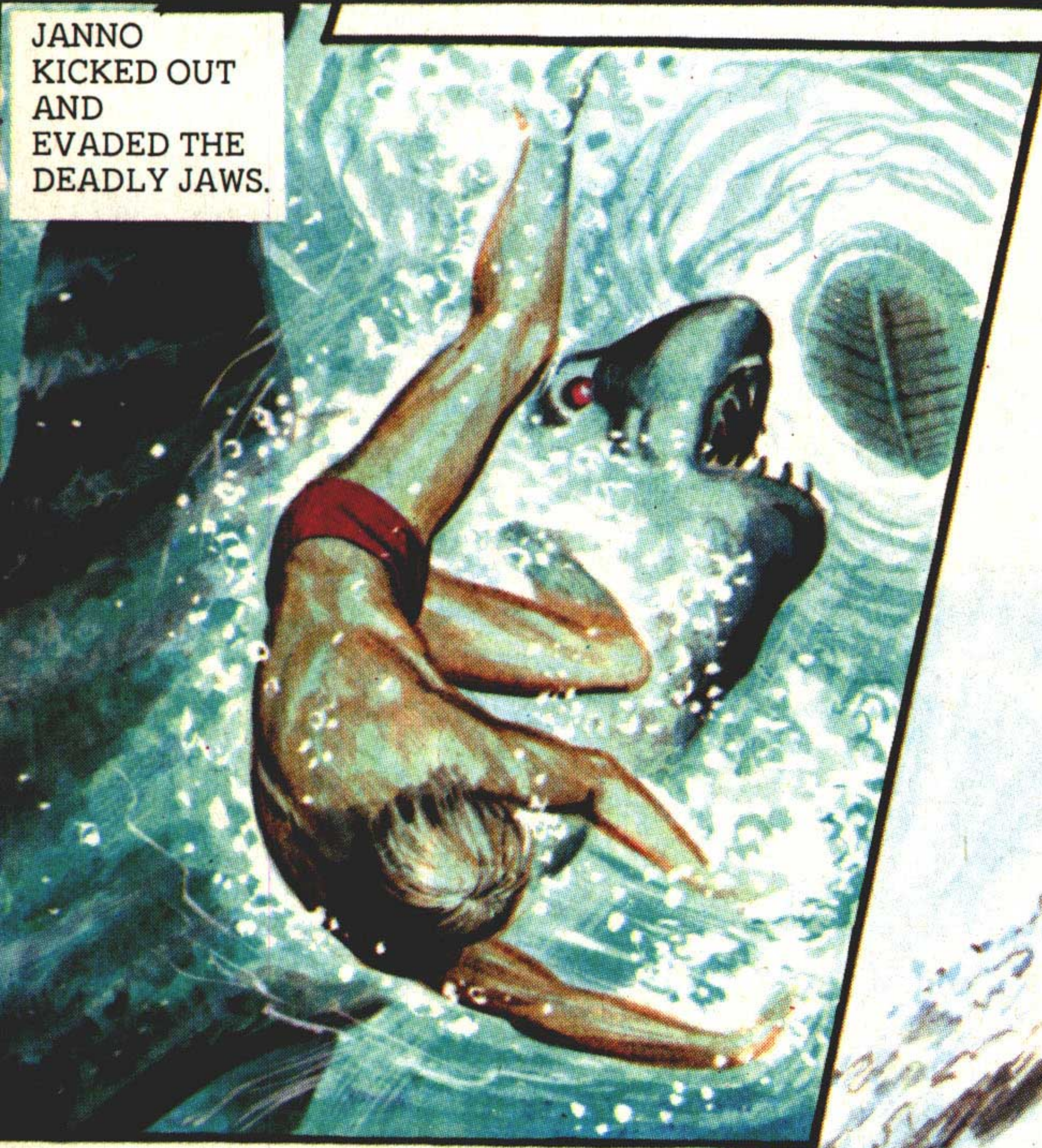
MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRICAN EMPIRE

To gain the respect of the Zallus, Janno agrees to perform five tests of courage. One of these involves swimming the dangerous channel of Yulf, where he is beset on all sides by peril.

THE MONSTER LAUNCHED ITSELF AT JANNO.



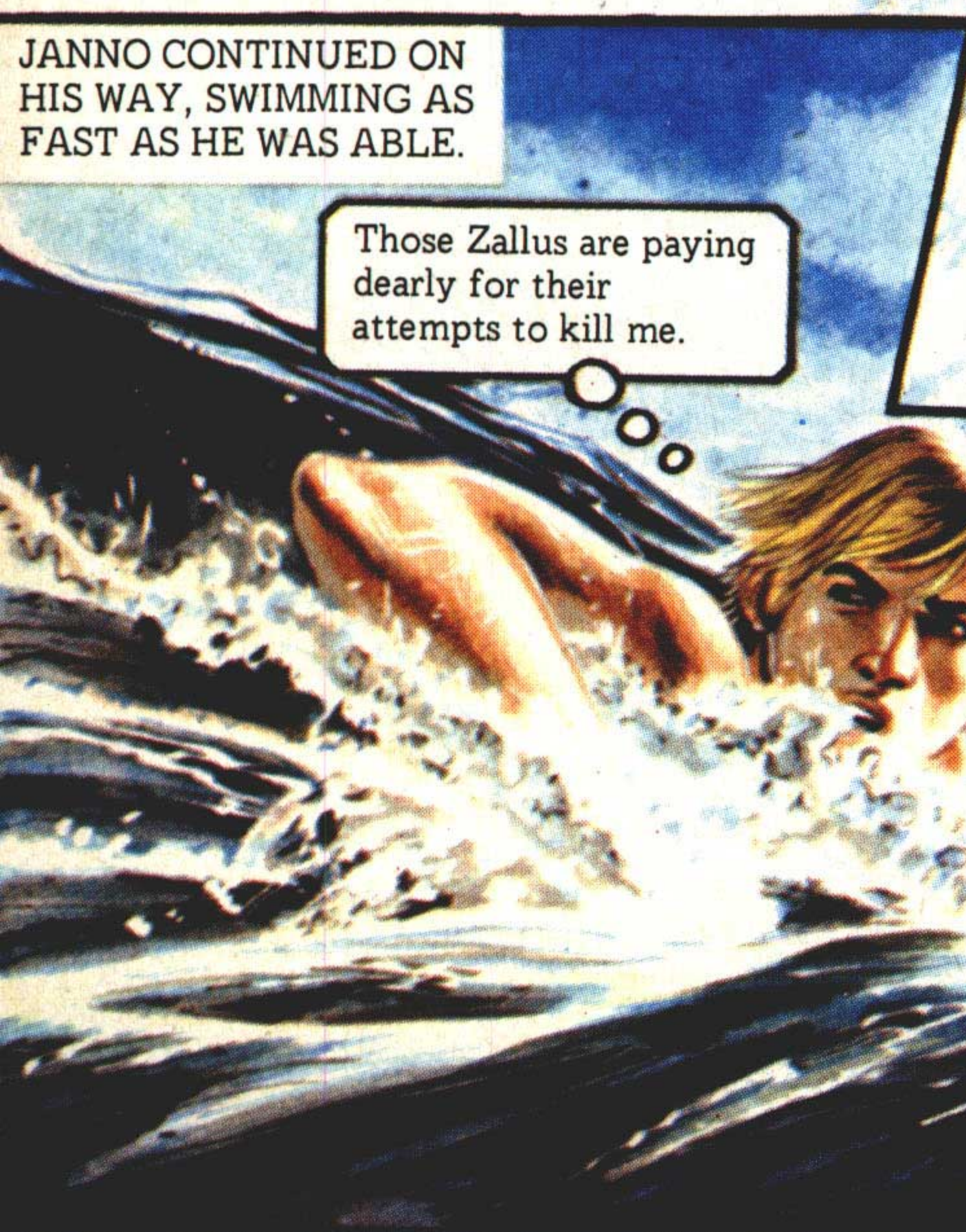
JANNO
KICKED OUT
AND
EVADED THE
DEADLY JAWS.



MISSING ITS VICTIM, THE
MONSTER BROKE
THROUGH THE SURFACE
AND DASHED THE ZALLU
FISHING BOAT TO
FRAGMENTS!

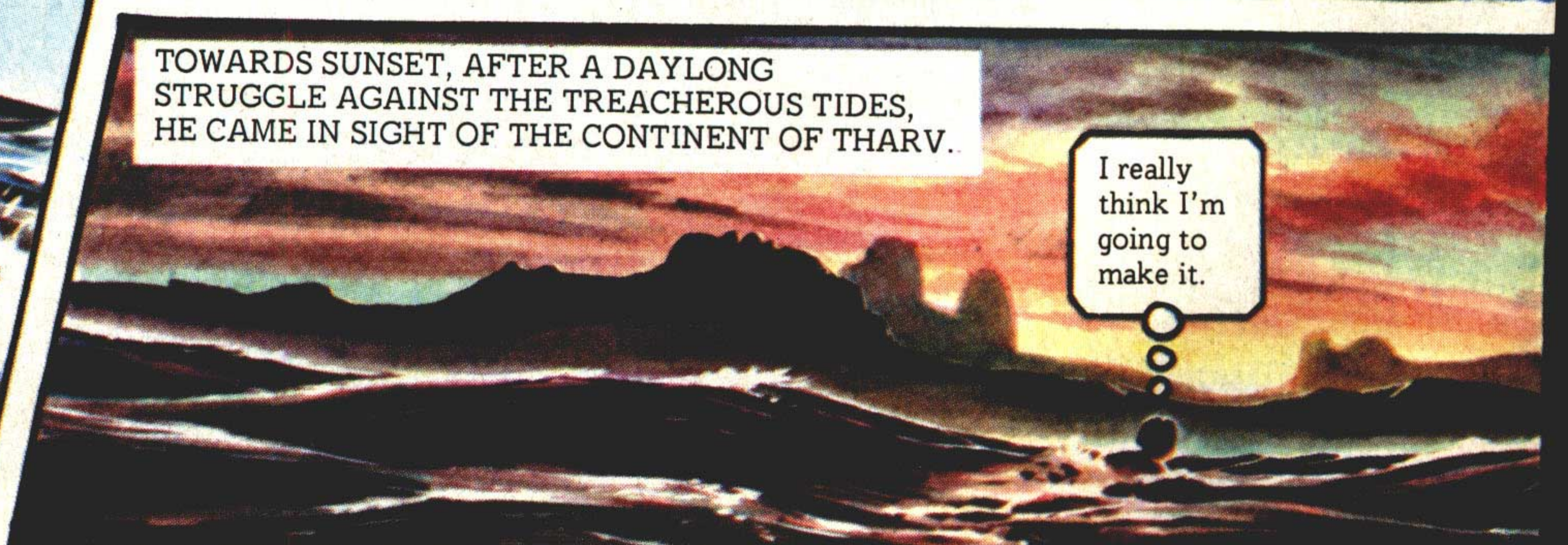


JANNO CONTINUED ON
HIS WAY, SWIMMING AS
FAST AS HE WAS ABLE.



Those Zallus are paying
dearly for their
attempts to kill me.

TOWARDS SUNSET, AFTER A DAYLONG
STRUGGLE AGAINST THE TREACHEROUS TIDES,
HE CAME IN SIGHT OF THE CONTINENT OF THARV.



I really
think I'm
going to
make it.

IT WAS NEARLY DARK WHEN HE WADED ASHORE, WHERE HE WAS GREETED BY HIS STAFF, WHO HAD FLOWN OVER TO MEET HIM.

I'm glad to see you, Colonel.

Any problems on the way, Excellency?

NEWS OF JANNO'S EXPLOITS WERE BROUGHT TO THE EMPEROR IN TRIGAN CITY.

How that young demon defies me. Did I not send orders that he was not to fall into the trap that the Zallu Elders dug for him?

I was ambushed by the people of the group of islets called "The Demon Brethren" but they bought more trouble than they bargained for.

HIS BROTHER INTERVENED - AND WAS ROUNDLY REBUKED FOR HIS PAINS.

Trigo, you would have done just the same in the lad's position.

Since my fine nephew will neither listen to reason nor recognise his duty, and since he scorns my messengers - I, myself, will travel to the land of the Zallus and settle accounts with him!

Will you shut your mouth!

AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, JANNO WAS RECEIVING HIS NEXT ORDER FROM THE ASSEMBLED ELDERS OF THE ZALLUS.

You have done well so far. We are emboldened to subject you, next, to an ordeal from which no one has ever returned alive and sane.

JANNO FELT A TREMOR PASS THROUGH HIS FRAME AS THE ELDER SPOKE...

You will pass one complete night in the Abode of the Dead!

THE ABODE OF THE DEAD WAS AN ISLAND OFFSHORE, WHERE THE SLAIN WARRIORS OF THE ZALLU RACE HAD BEEN LAID TO REST SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL. A PLACE OF SILENCE AND MYSTERY, IT WAS REPUTED TO BE HAUNTED. NO ONE EVER WENT THERE AFTER SUNSET. ITS VERY APPEARANCE CAUSED EVEN THE BRAVEST TO SHUDDER...

ONE EVE, JANNO WAS TAKEN THERE...

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE TRIGAN EMPIRE

In order to gain the respect of the hostile Zallus, Janno agrees to perform the traditional five tests of courage. The latest test is to pass one night in "The Abode of the Dead."

HAVING DEPOSITED HIS PASSENGER ON THE DREAD ISLAND, THE BOATMAN SCULLED HURRIEDLY AWAY.

You'll never see the light of tomorrow's dawn, so goodbye, Trigan !

JANNO GATHERED STICKS AND MADE A FIRE.

When will the trouble start, I wonder ?

HE HAD NOT LONG TO WAIT !

By all the stars !

Is it a - spectre ?

We'll soon see.

Now . . .

OLIVER FREY



Speed straight
and true to
your mark !

Aaaaaagghh !

THE NEXT INSTANT, THE YOUNG TRIGAN'S
WORLD DISSOLVED IN A FLASH OF AGONY.



Uuuuhhhh !

SURFACING FROM THE MISTS OF INSENSIBILITY, JANNO FOUND
HIMSELF BOUND TO A STONE PILLAR BY THE WATER'S EDGE.



We leave
you now to
your fate,
Trigan.

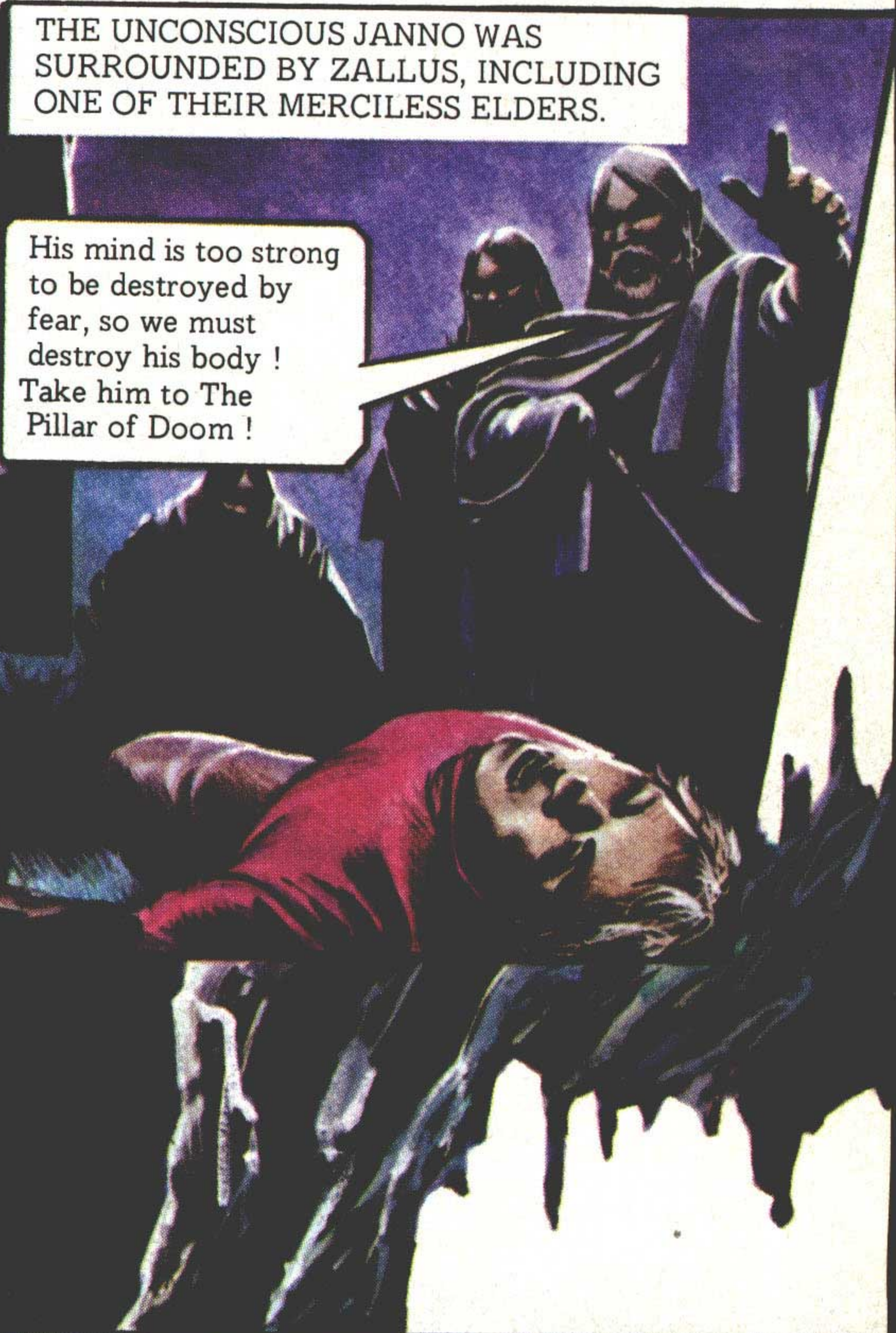


JANNO WAS BESIDE HIS VICTIM IN A FEW SWIFT
BOUNDS, AND RIPPED OFF THE HIDEOUS MASK.

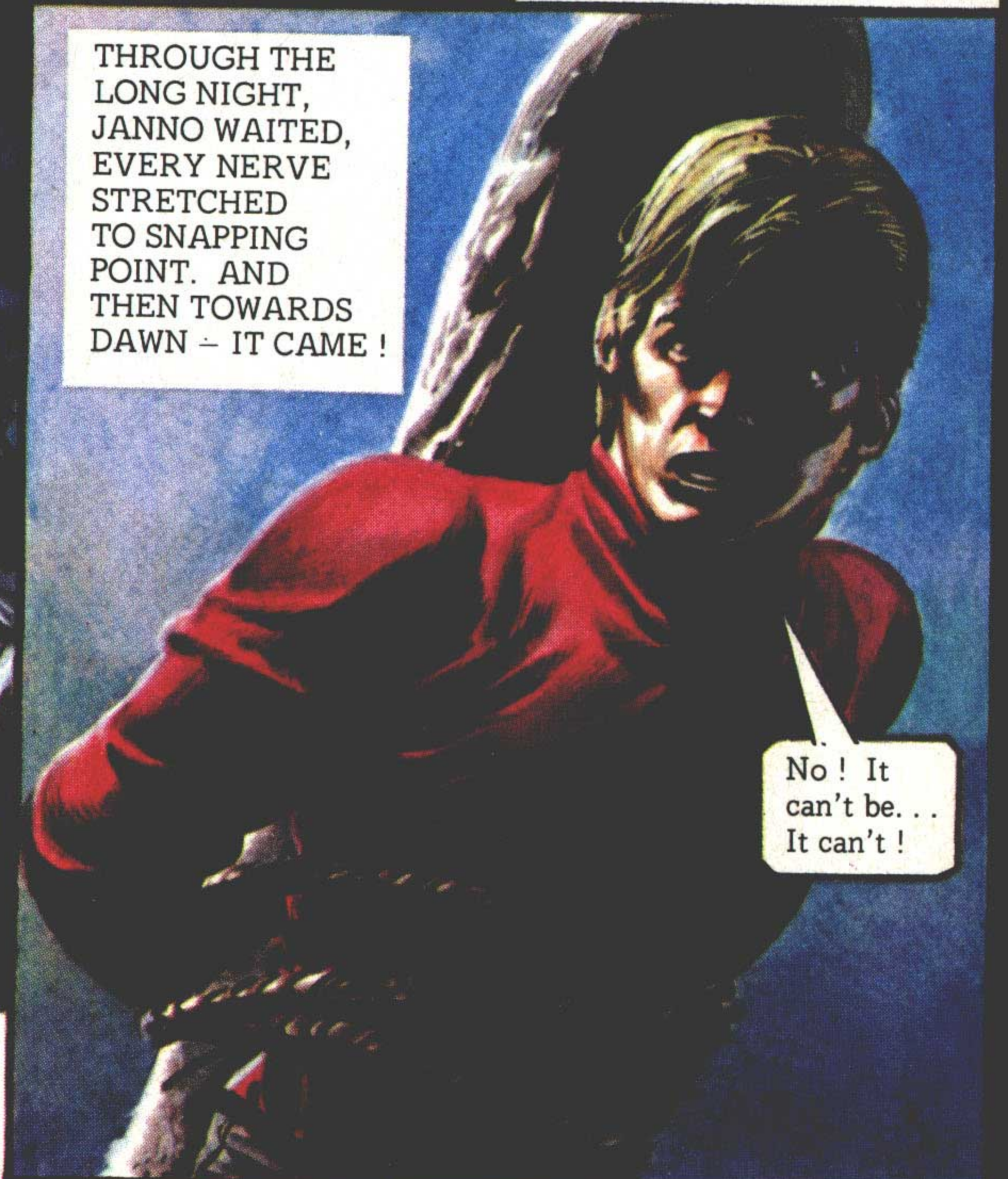
No spectre you, my
friend, just another
treacherous Zallu.

THE UNCONSCIOUS JANNO WAS
SURROUNDED BY ZALLUS, INCLUDING
ONE OF THEIR MERCILESS ELDERS.

His mind is too strong
to be destroyed by
fear, so we must
destroy his body !
Take him to The
Pillar of Doom !



THROUGH THE
LONG NIGHT,
JANNO WAITED,
EVERY NERVE
STRETCHED
TO SNAPPING
POINT. AND
THEN TOWARDS
DAWN - IT CAME !



No ! It
can't be...
It can't !

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

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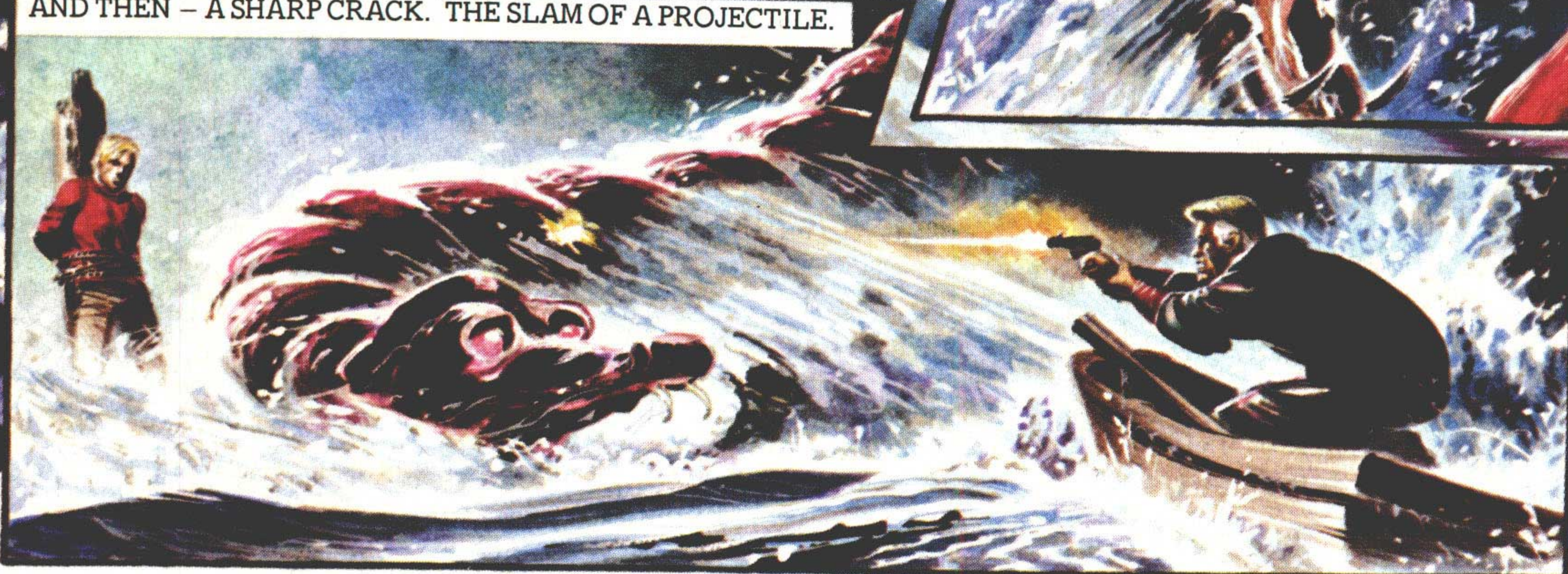
In order to gain the respect of the hostile Zallus, Janno is performing the fourth of five tests of courage. He is passing one night tied to a pillar on a so-called haunted island, there to await whatever fate may bring.

FROM OUT OF THE DEPTHS ROSE A MONSTER OF THE SEAS.



JANNO CLOSED HIS EYES AND WAITED FOR HIS END.

AND THEN — A SHARP CRACK. THE SLAM OF A PROJECTILE.



THE SEA MONSTER SLID OUT OF SIGHT, AND JANNO WAS FREED BY THE EMPEROR OF THE TRIGANS.

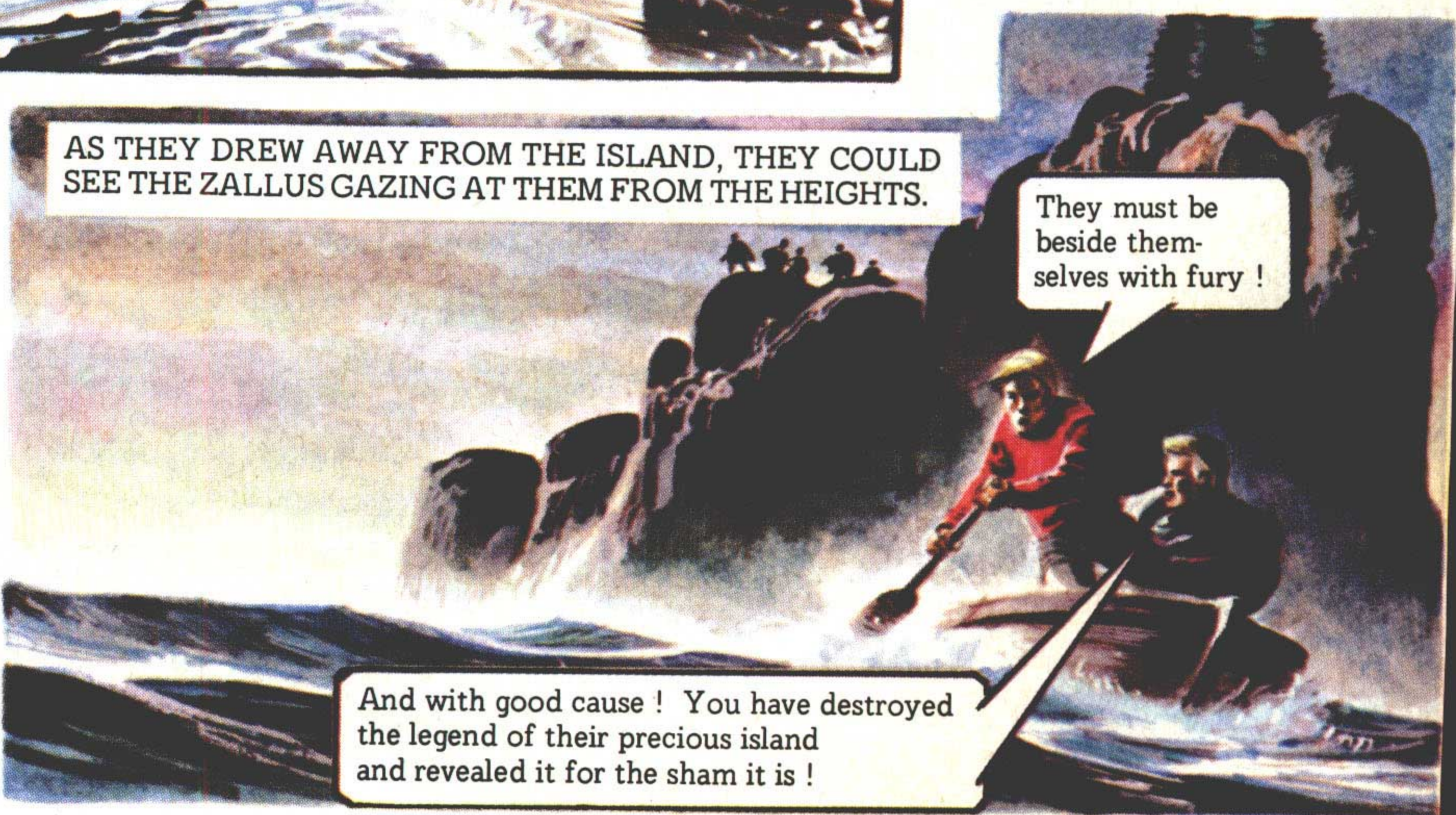
AS THEY DREW AWAY FROM THE ISLAND, THEY COULD SEE THE ZALLUS GAZING AT THEM FROM THE HEIGHTS.

They must be beside themselves with fury !

I owe you my life, Uncle. But, I have failed in this task !

How so ? You have passed one complete night here, from dusk till dawn !

And with good cause ! You have destroyed the legend of their precious island and revealed it for the sham it is !

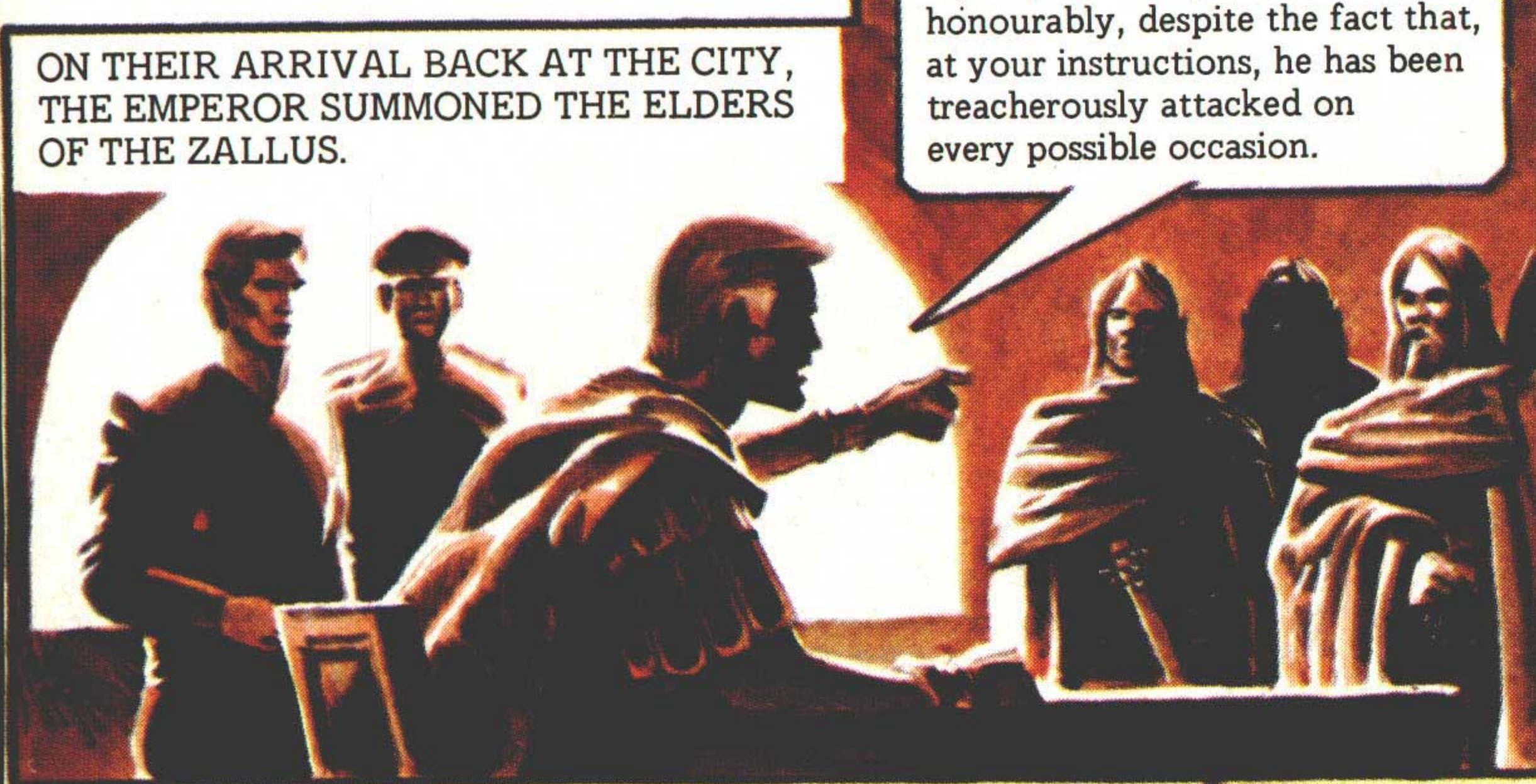




I'm sorry I disobeyed you, Uncle. But I promise you I won't attempt their final task !



You will perform whatever task they give you, and you will like it !



ON THEIR ARRIVAL BACK AT THE CITY, THE EMPEROR SUMMONED THE ELDERS OF THE ZALLUS.

My nephew has performed honourably, despite the fact that, at your instructions, he has been treacherously attacked on every possible occasion.



THE ELDERS MUTTERED AMONG THEMSELVES.

Does Trigo really think we can be shamed by his talk of treachery ?

Wait till Janno attempts the final task !

What is to be Janno's final task ? Speak !



ZORPHO OF ZALLU HAD BEEN A LEGEND IN HIS LIFETIME, AS HAD THE GREAT BLACK WAR-KREED THAT ONLY HE COULD RIDE. WAR-LORD OF THE ZALLUS, HE HAD BEEN STRUCK DOWN IN BATTLE - FALLING FROM THE SADDLE.

He is to tame the wild creed of Zorpho and ride it in triumph into the city. For such a heroic feat, the Zallus will acknowledge his overlordship.

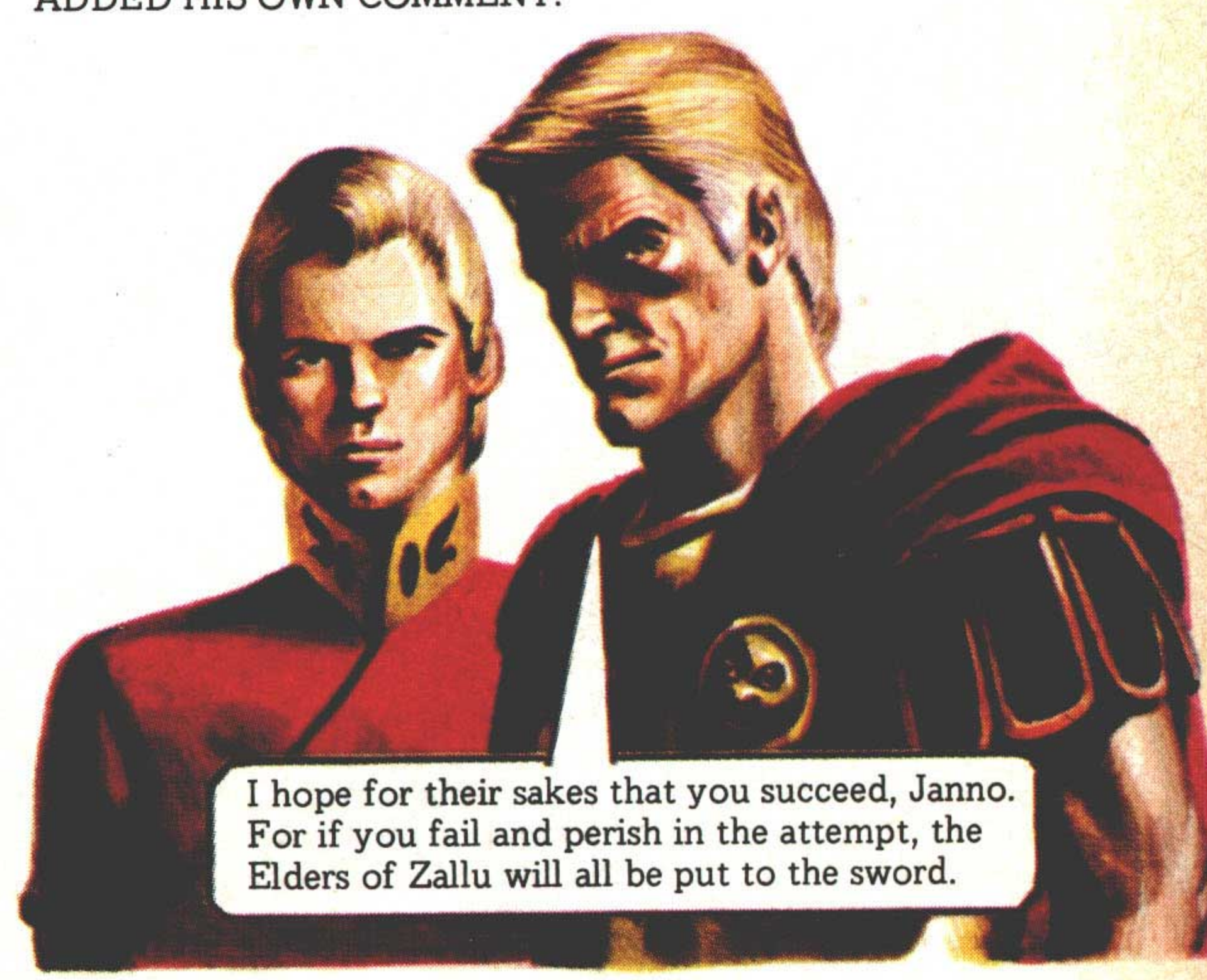


TRIGO HEARD THE CHILLING DEMAND - AND ADDED HIS OWN COMMENT.



STILL SADDLED AND CAPARISONED, THE GREAT KREED NOW RAN WILD ON THE PLAINS, TERRORISING ALL WHO CAME WITHIN ITS REACH !

It's the wild creed ! Fly for your lives !



I hope for their sakes that you succeed, Janno. For if you fail and perish in the attempt, the Elders of Zallu will all be put to the sword.

MORE ADVENTURES OF THE

TRIGAN EMPIRE

Janno is about to attempt the last of the five feats set him by the elders of the Zal-lus — to tame the wild kreed of Zorpho and ride it in triumph into the city.

GAZING SAVAGELY ABOUT THE PLAIN, THE GREAT BLACK WAR-KREED SAW ... AN INTRUDER !

RESPONDING ANGRILY, THE KREED LEPT FORWARD.

Ho, there !

Unless he overtakes me and runs me down, the first part of my ruse has worked.

JANNO LEAPT ...

SOME DISTANCE AWAY, A HIDDEN MARKSMAN SAW THAT JANNO HAD REACHED SAFETY.

Perish, Trigan.

BUT ...

No. Don't shoot !

Why ? I had orders from the Elders.

If I miss my handhold, I'm done for !

AT THAT MOMENT, JANNO LEAPT.

If Janno dies, the accursed Trigan Emperor is going to execute the Elders !

And now — the second part of my ruse !

OLIVER FREY

HE LANDED IN THE FIERY BEAST'S SADDLE.

THEN FOLLOWED A STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY.

Ho-hah !

IT CULMINATED IN A BREAKNECK GALLOP OVER THE PLAINS.

IN THROUGH THE GATES RODE JANNO, THE MASTER OF HIS MOUNT.

IT WAS EVENING. THE ZALLU GUARDS ON THE GATES OF THE CITY STARED IN AWE . . .

Look !

It can't be !

Everyone said that no one would ever mount Zorphu's creed again.

They were wrong !

BY CONQUERING THE WILD KREED, JANNO HAD SUBDUED THE WARLIKE ZALLUS, AND HE RECEIVED THE PERSONAL THANKS OF HIS UNCLE, THE EMPEROR.

THROUGH THE STREETS RODE JANNO, WITH THE STUBBORN ZALLUS MARVELLING.

We acknowledge Janno as Overlord !

We will no longer obey the Elders !

Lad, you have done well. After what you have done, the Zallus will follow you, and the Trigan Empire, anywhere !

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK