



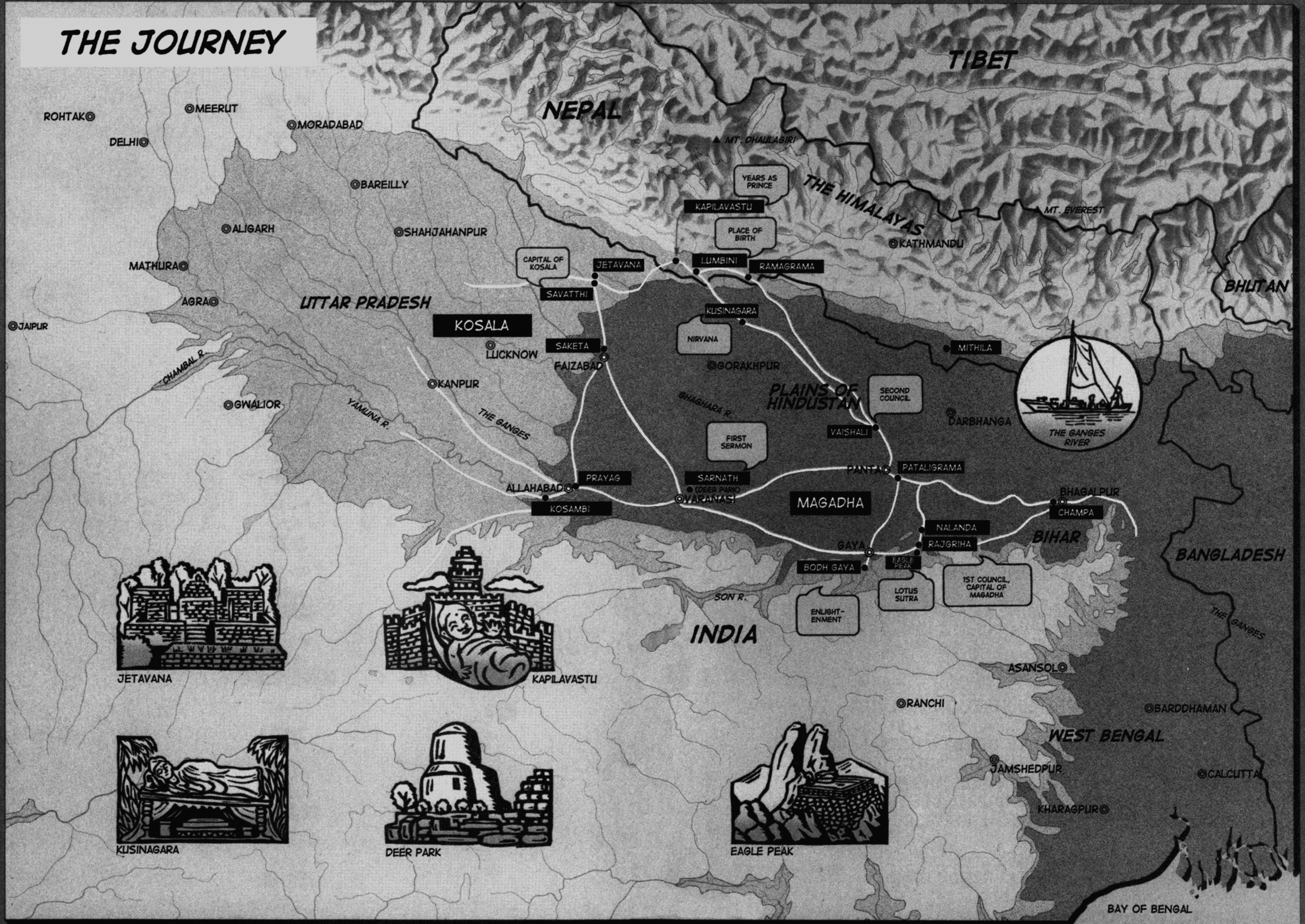
B U D D H A

O S A M U T E Z U K A

V
E
R
T
I
C
A
L.

1: *Kapilavastu*

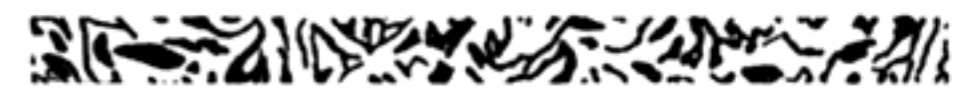
THE JOURNEY



LUMBINI ANCIENT PLACE NAMES
 MAJOR ROUTES
 ● PLACES VISITED BY THE BUDDHA



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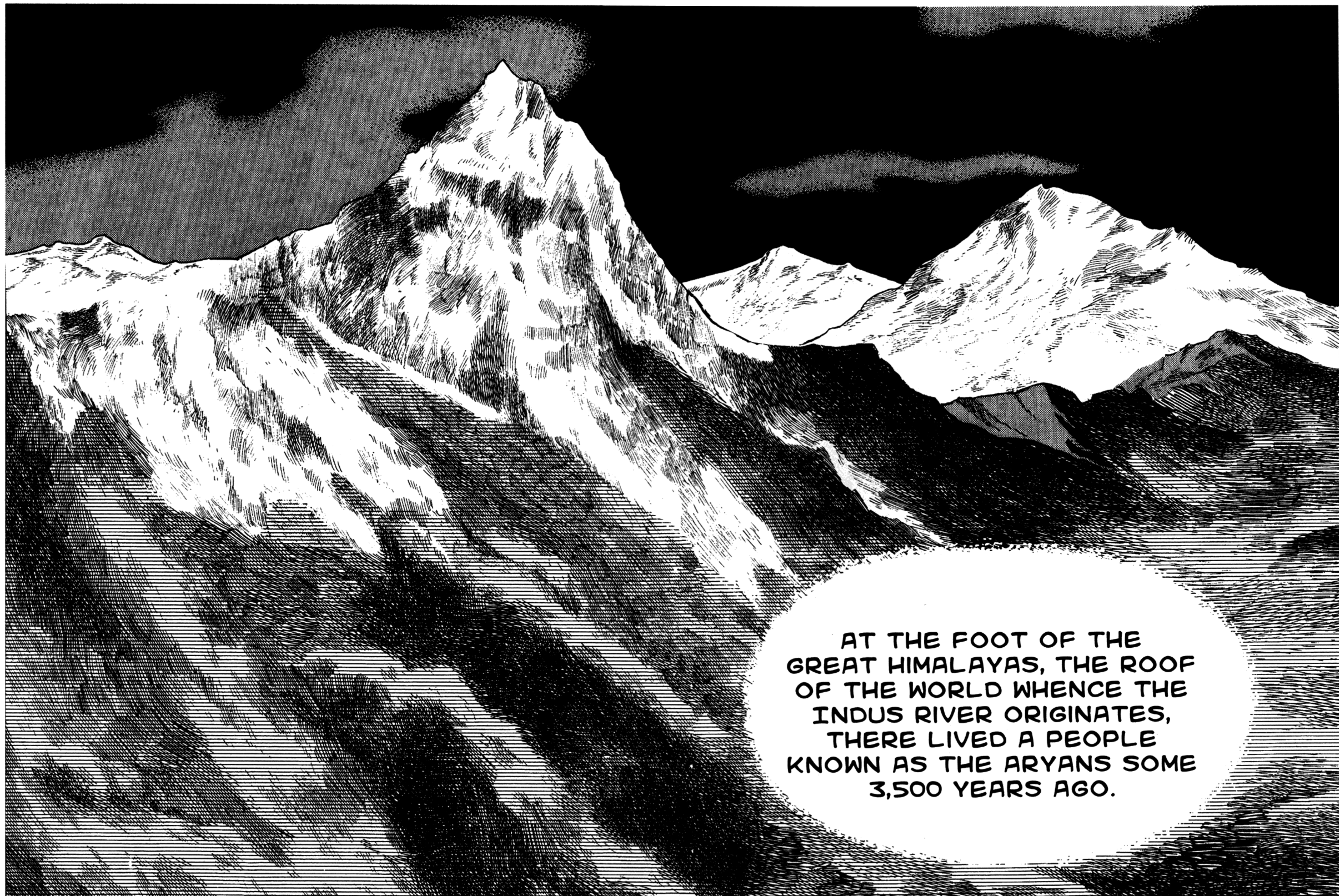
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PART ONE

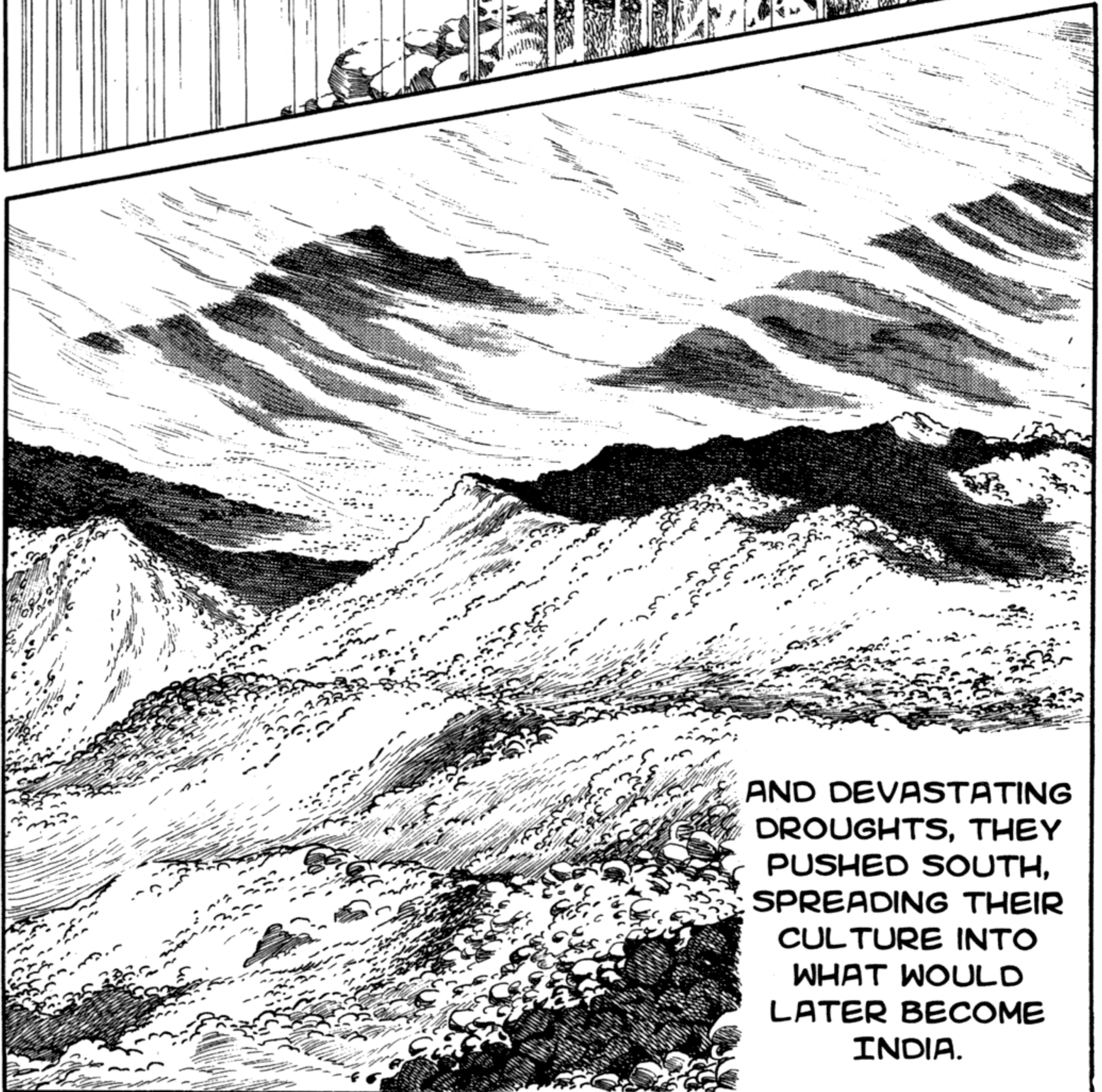
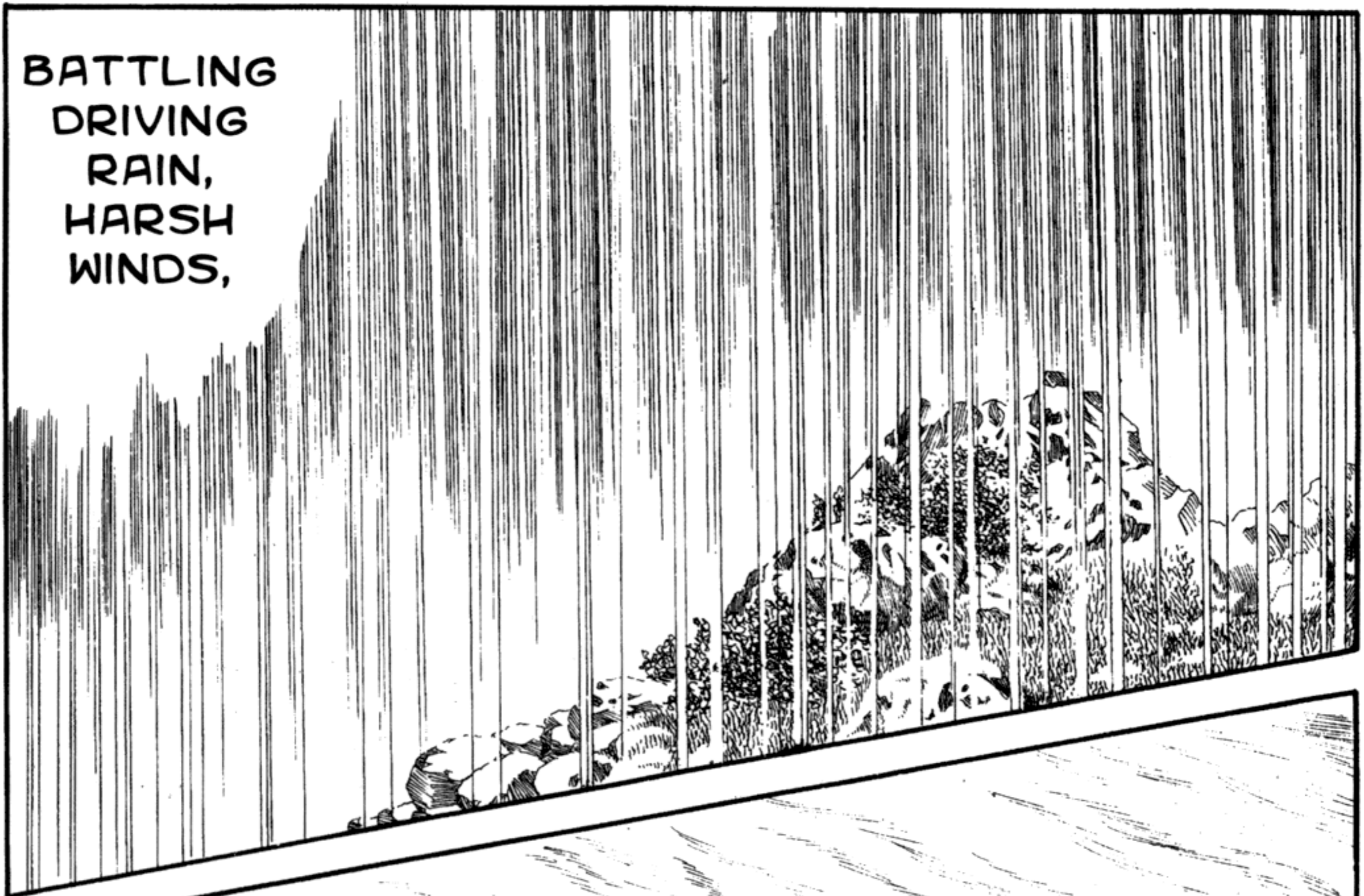
CHAPTER ONE

BRAHMIN

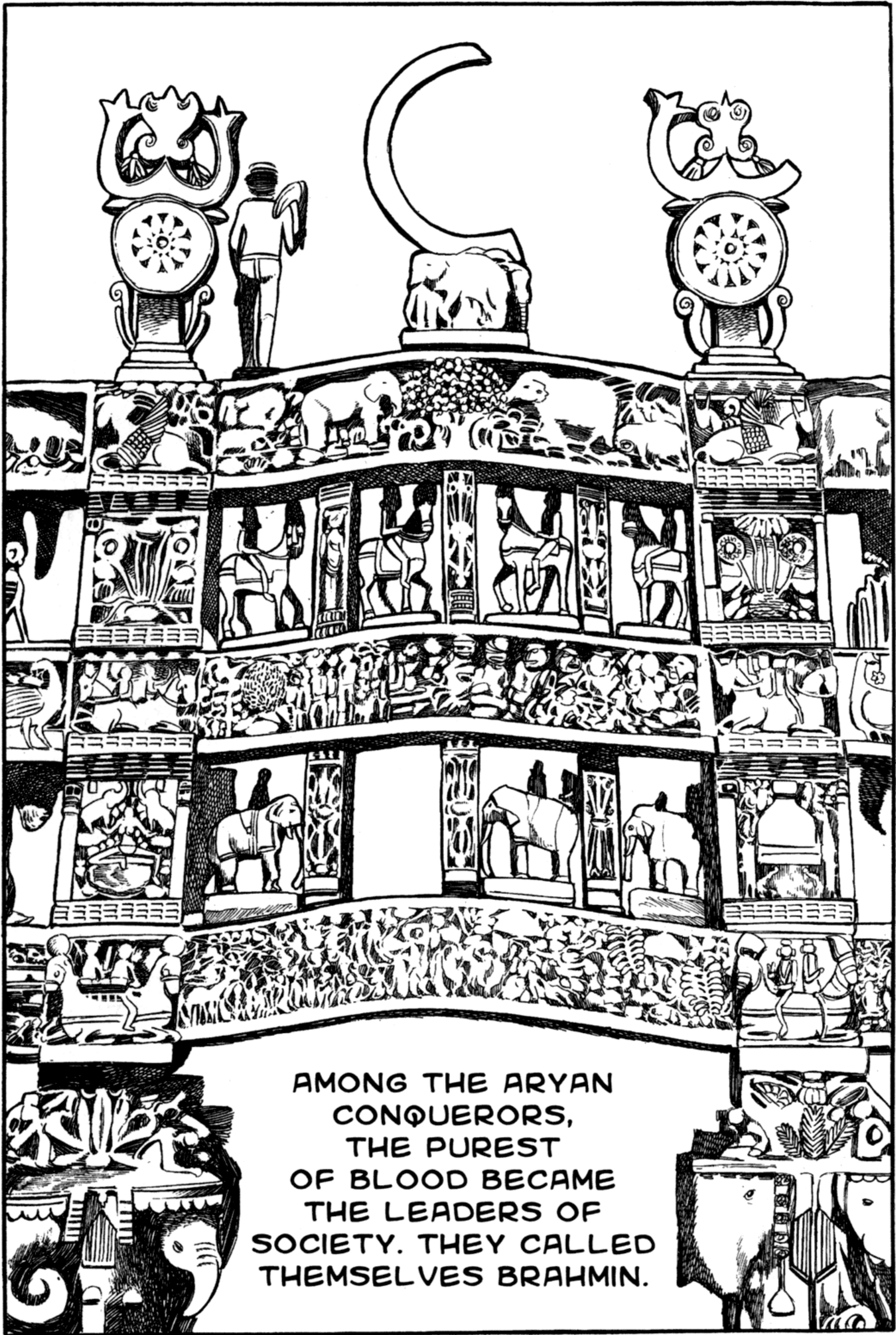


AT THE FOOT OF THE
GREAT HIMALAYAS, THE ROOF
OF THE WORLD WHENCE THE
INDUS RIVER ORIGINATES,
THERE LIVED A PEOPLE
KNOWN AS THE ARYANS SOME
3,500 YEARS AGO.

BATTLING
DRIVING
RAIN,
HARSH
WINDS,



AND DEVASTATING
DROUGHTS, THEY
PUSHED SOUTH,
SPREADING THEIR
CULTURE INTO
WHAT WOULD
LATER BECOME
INDIA.

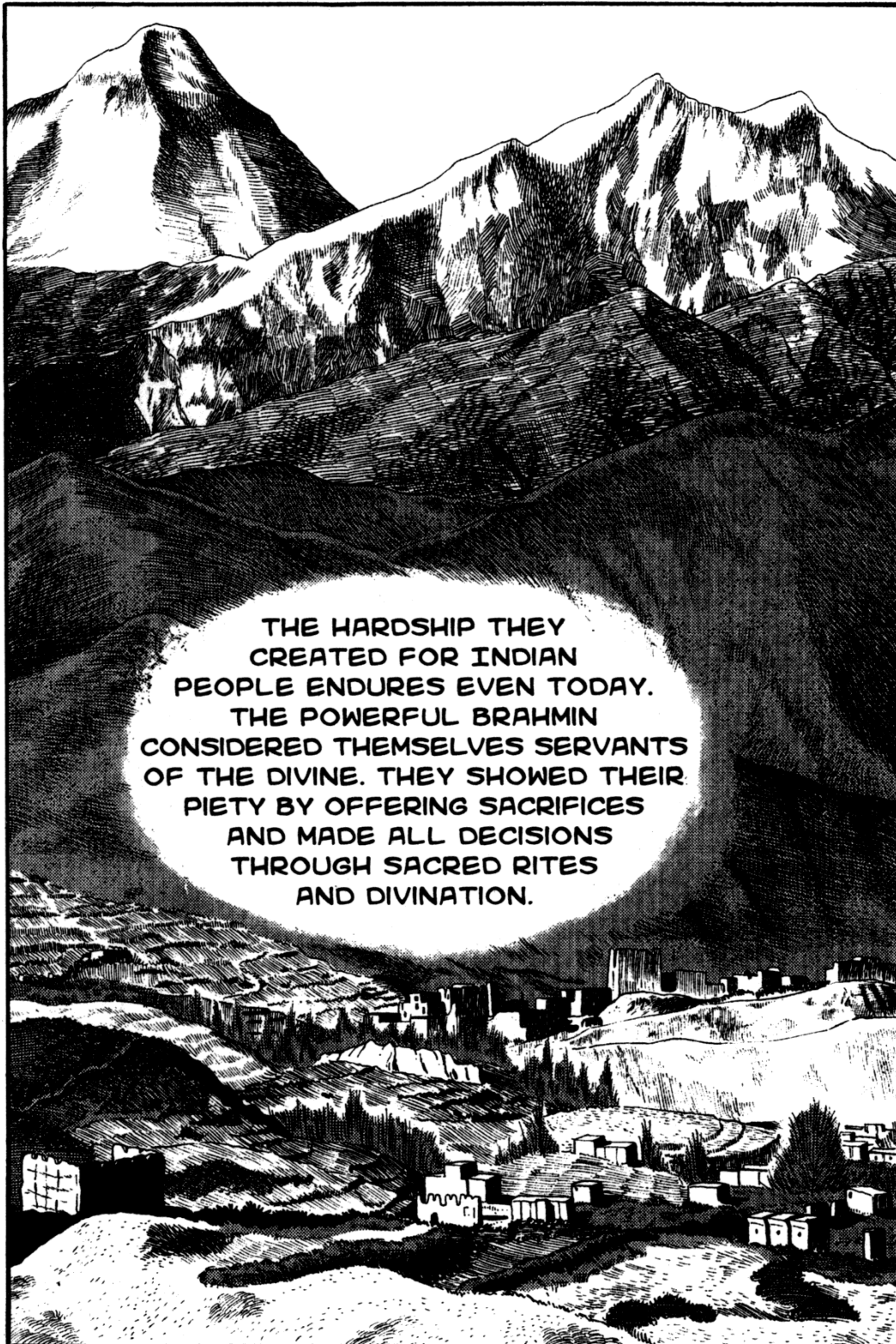


AMONG THE ARYAN
CONQUERORS,
THE PUREST
OF BLOOD BECAME
THE LEADERS OF
SOCIETY. THEY CALLED
THEMSELVES BRAHMIN.



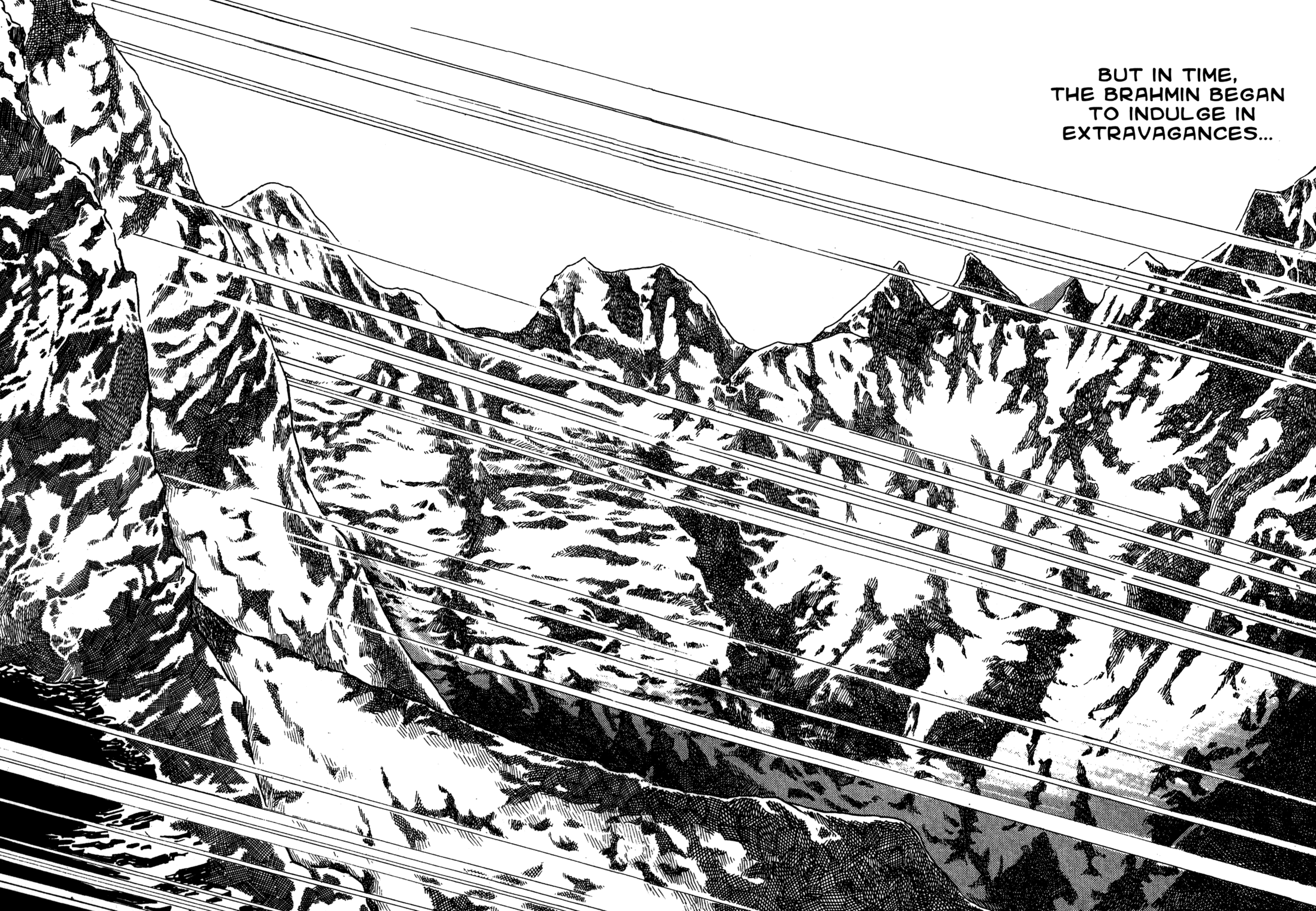
**BRAHMIN! THE VERY NAME WAS AN EMBLEM
OF INVINCIBLE POWER IN INDIAN SOCIETY
FOR CENTURIES.**

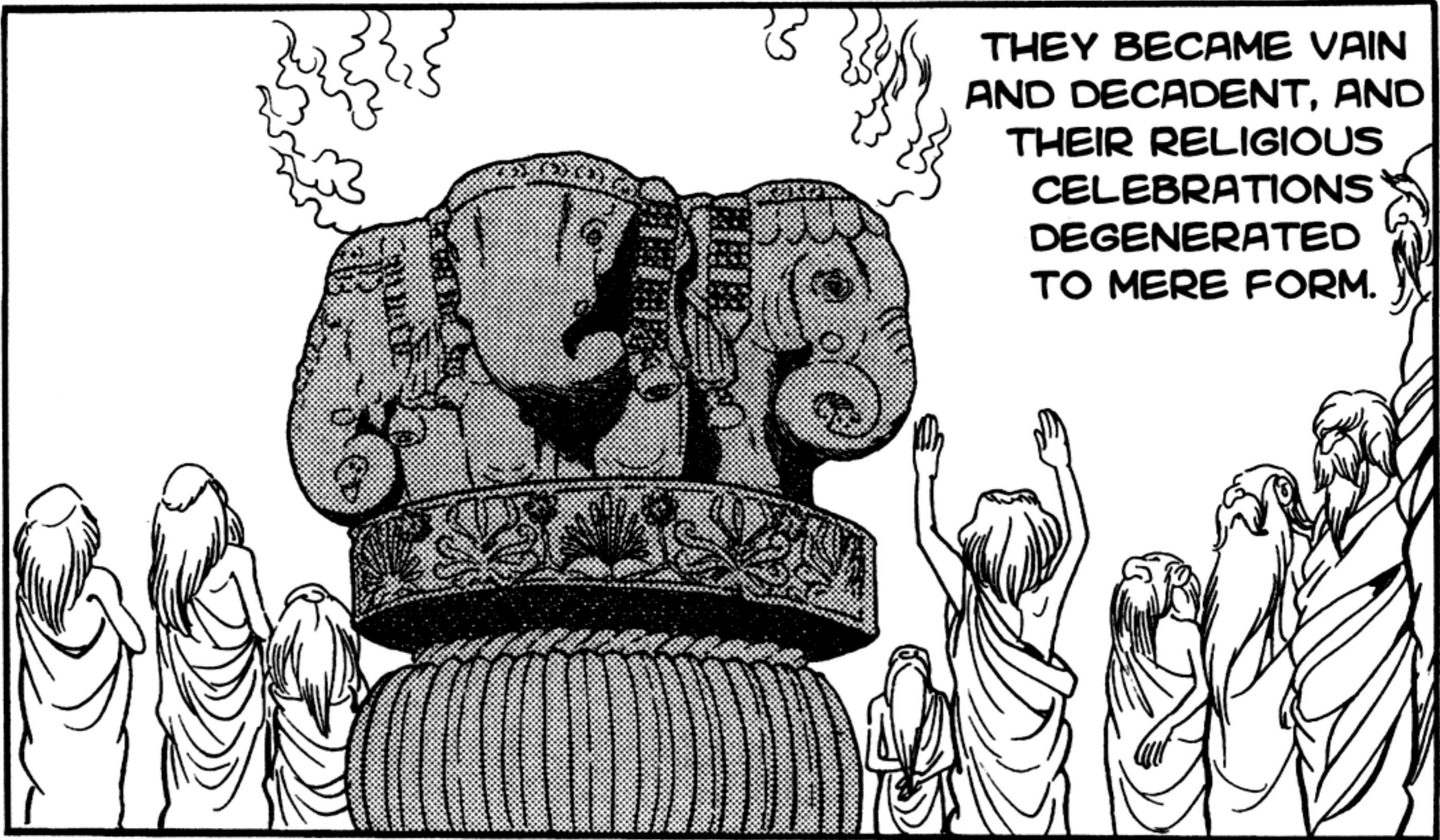
**UNDERNEATH THEM THE BRAHMIN
CREATED CLASSES LIKE
"WARRIOR," "COMMONER," AND "SLAVE,"
INTRODUCING DISCRIMINATION AMONG
FELLOW HUMANS.**



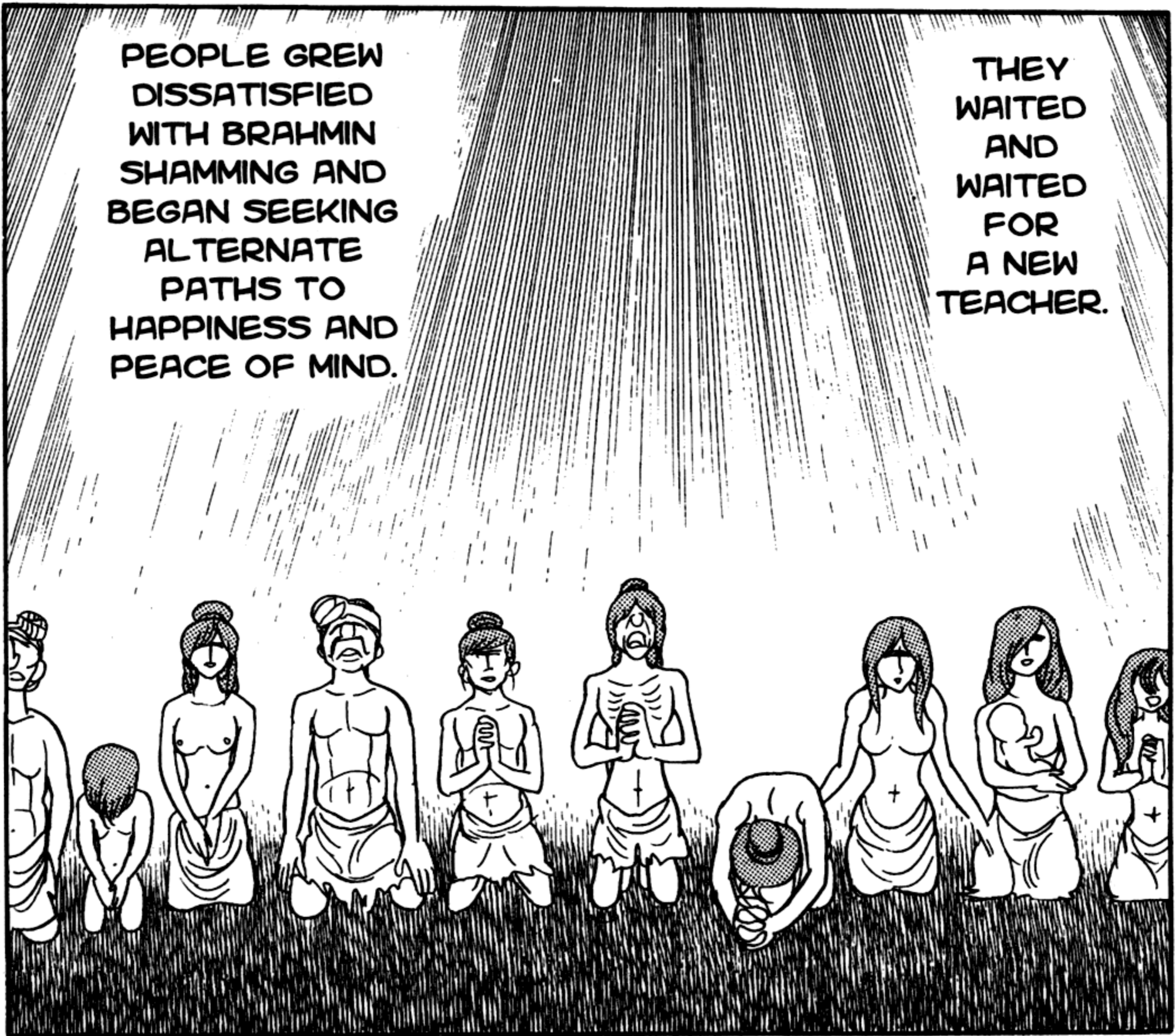
THE HARDSHIP THEY
CREATED FOR INDIAN
PEOPLE ENDURES EVEN TODAY.
THE POWERFUL BRAHMIN
CONSIDERED THEMSELVES SERVANTS
OF THE DIVINE. THEY SHOWED THEIR
PIETY BY OFFERING SACRIFICES
AND MADE ALL DECISIONS
THROUGH SACRED RITES
AND DIVINATION.

BUT IN TIME,
THE BRAHMIN BEGAN
TO INDULGE IN
EXTRAVAGANCES...



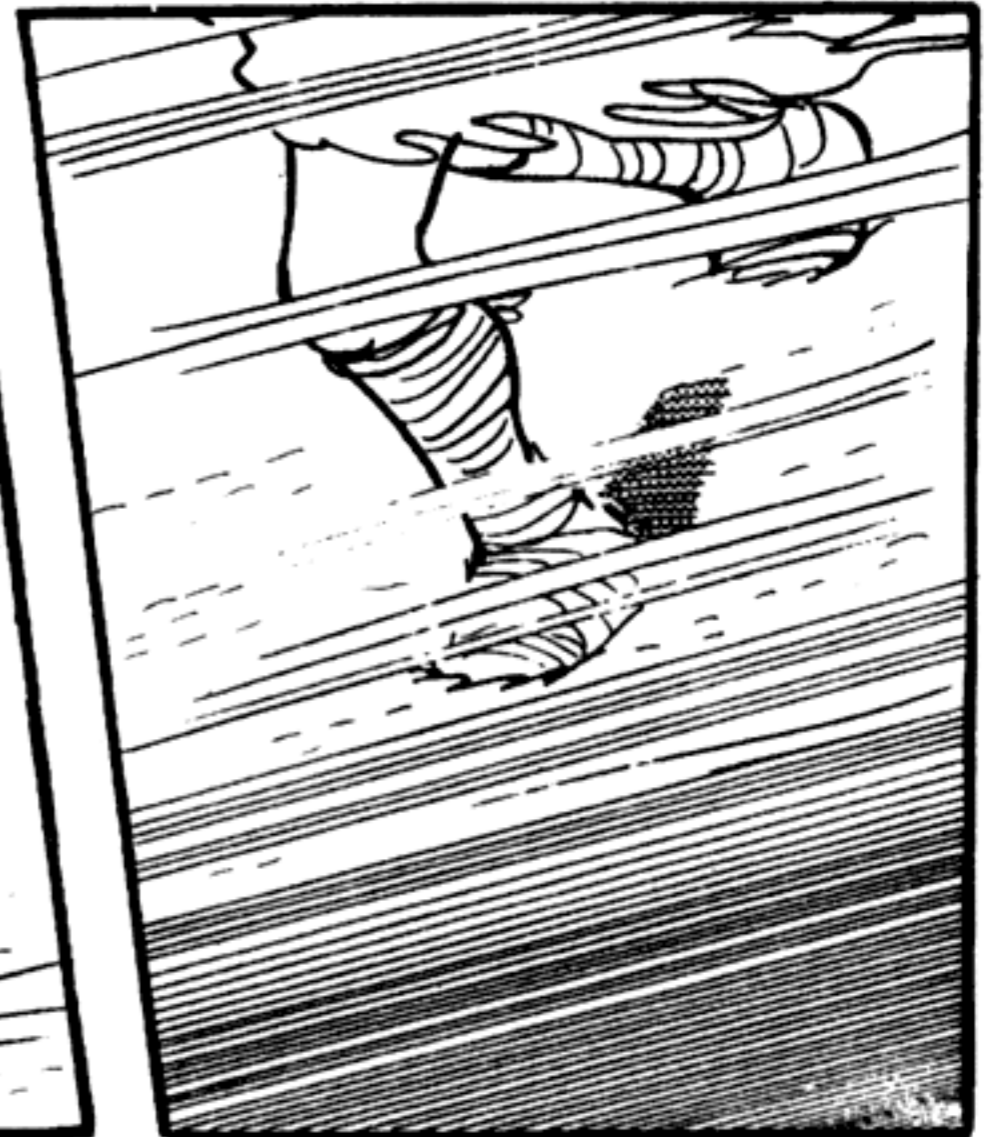
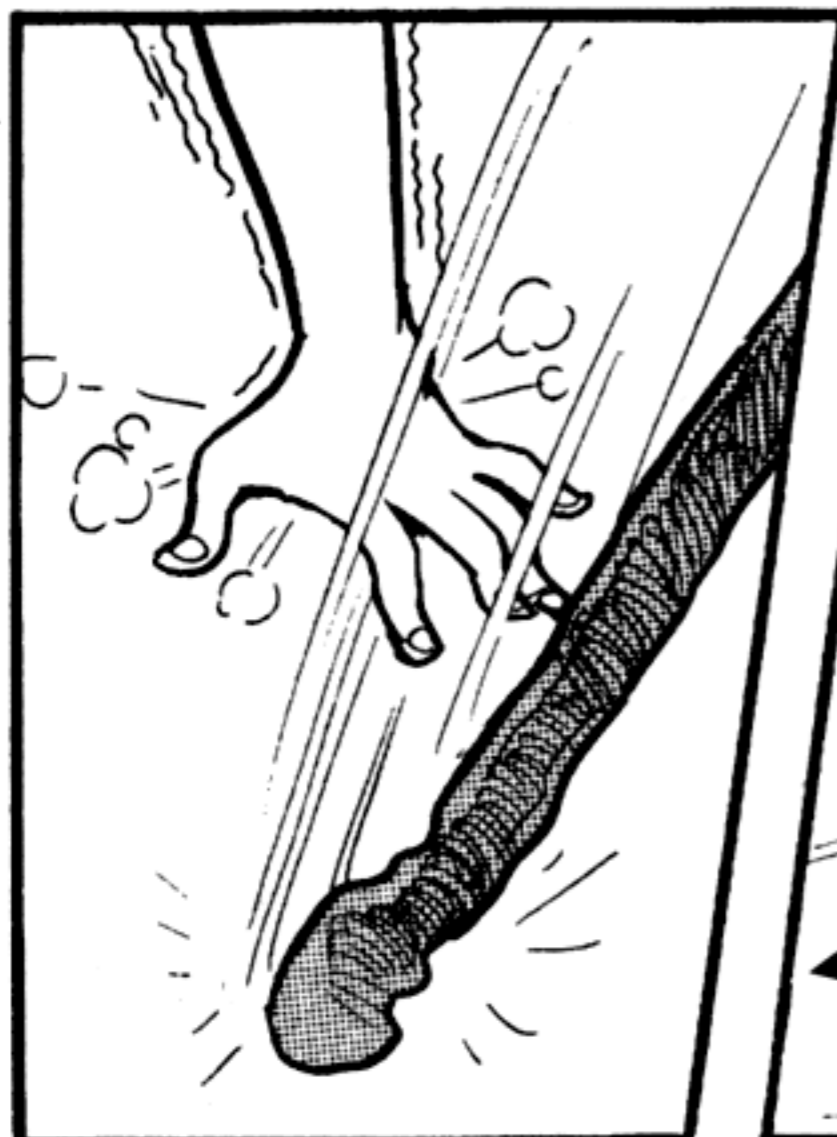


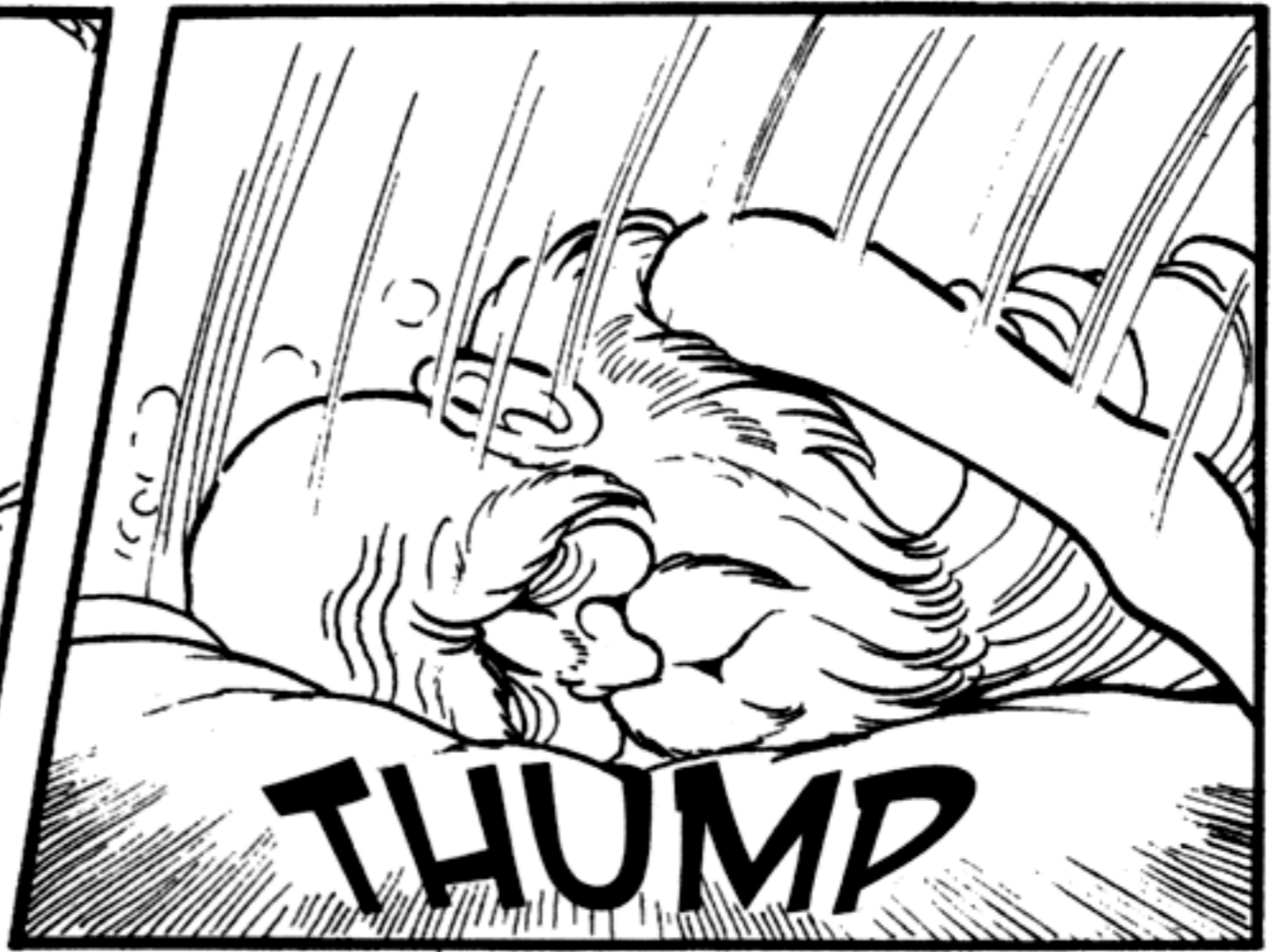
THEY BECAME VAIN
AND DECADENT, AND
THEIR RELIGIOUS
CELEBRATIONS
DEGENERATED
TO MERE FORM.

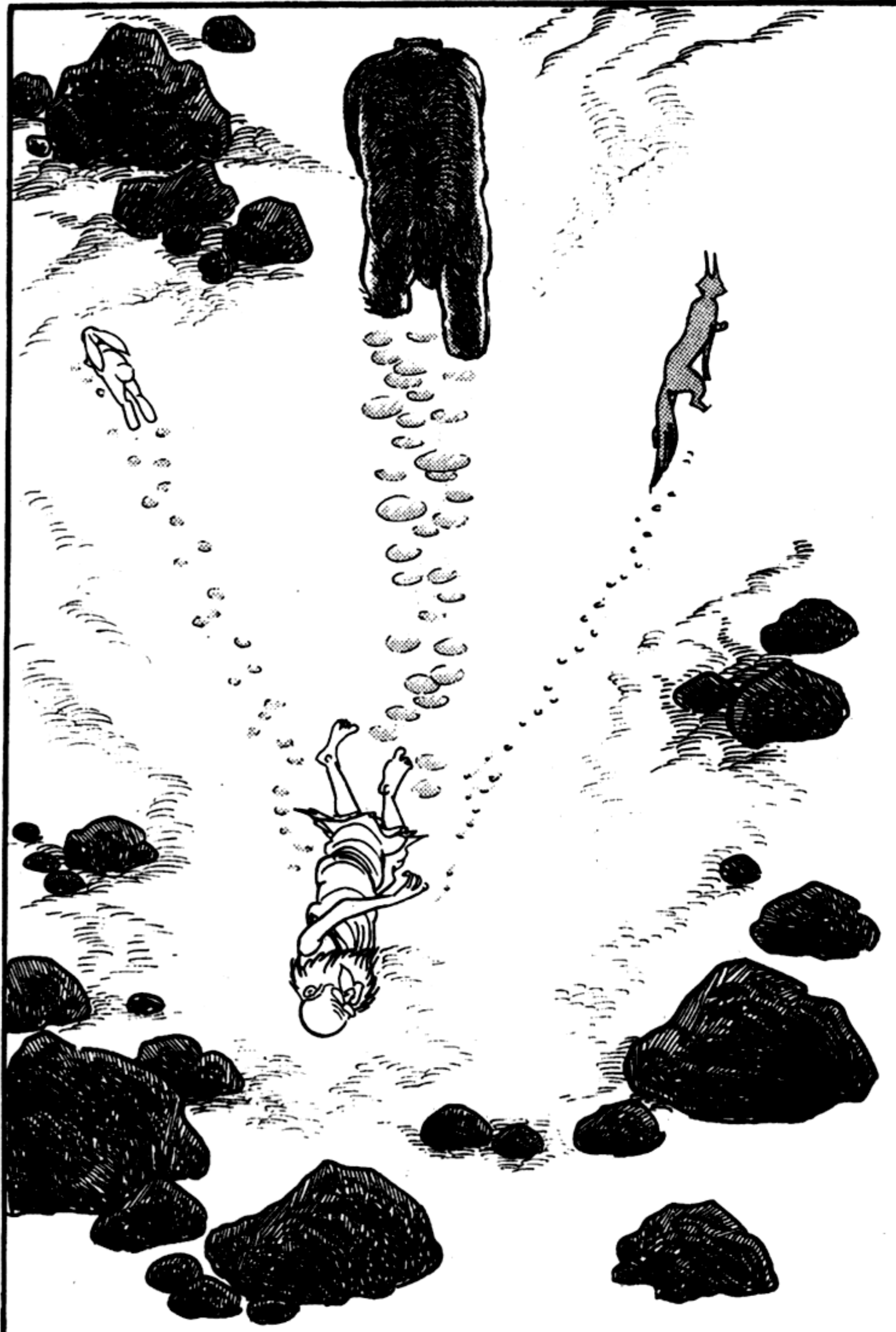
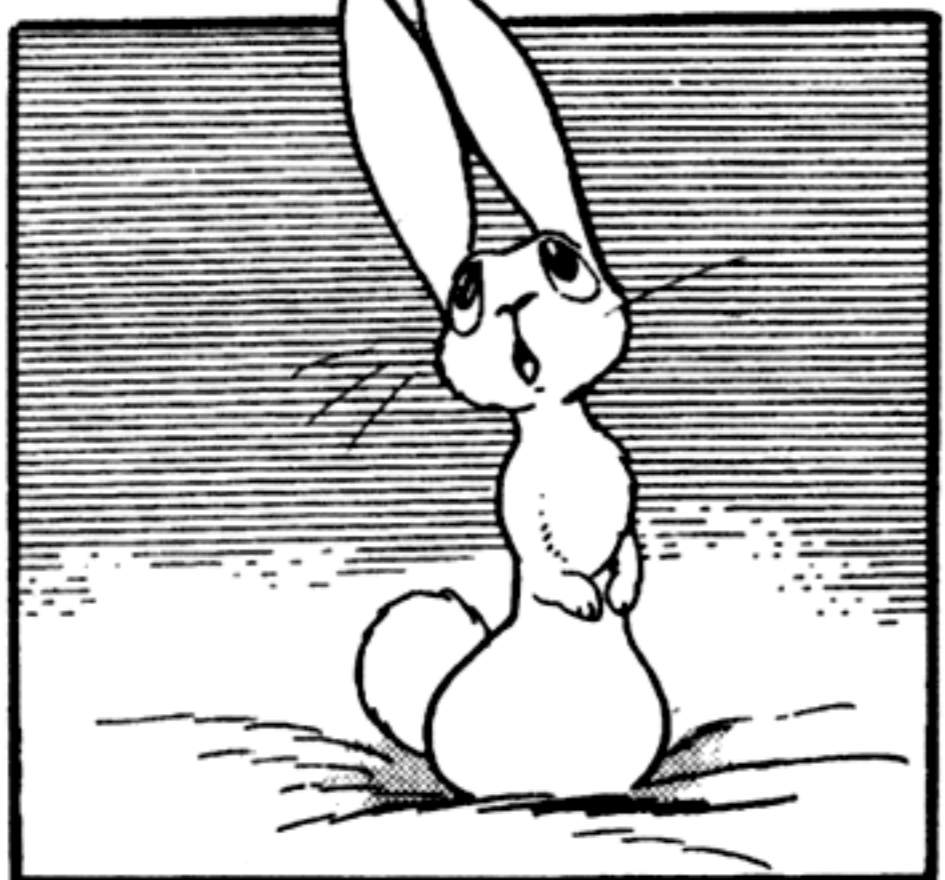
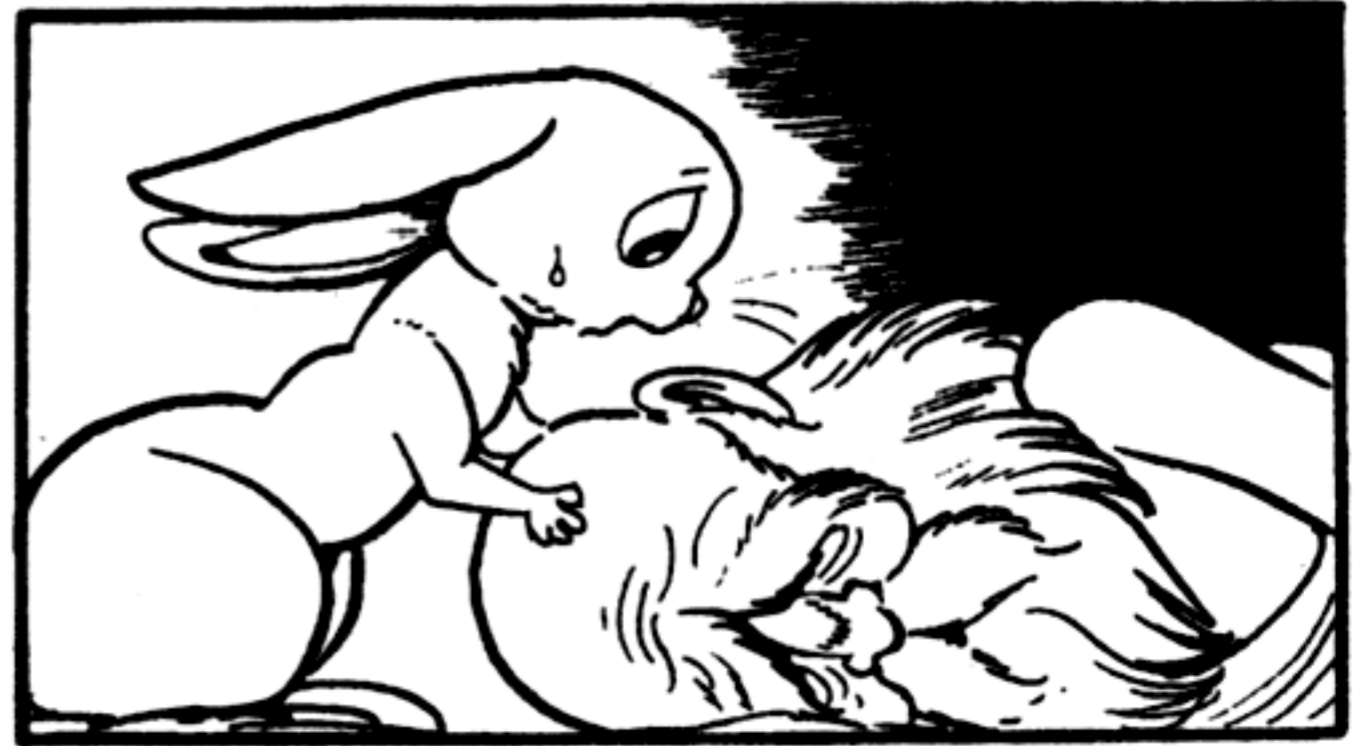
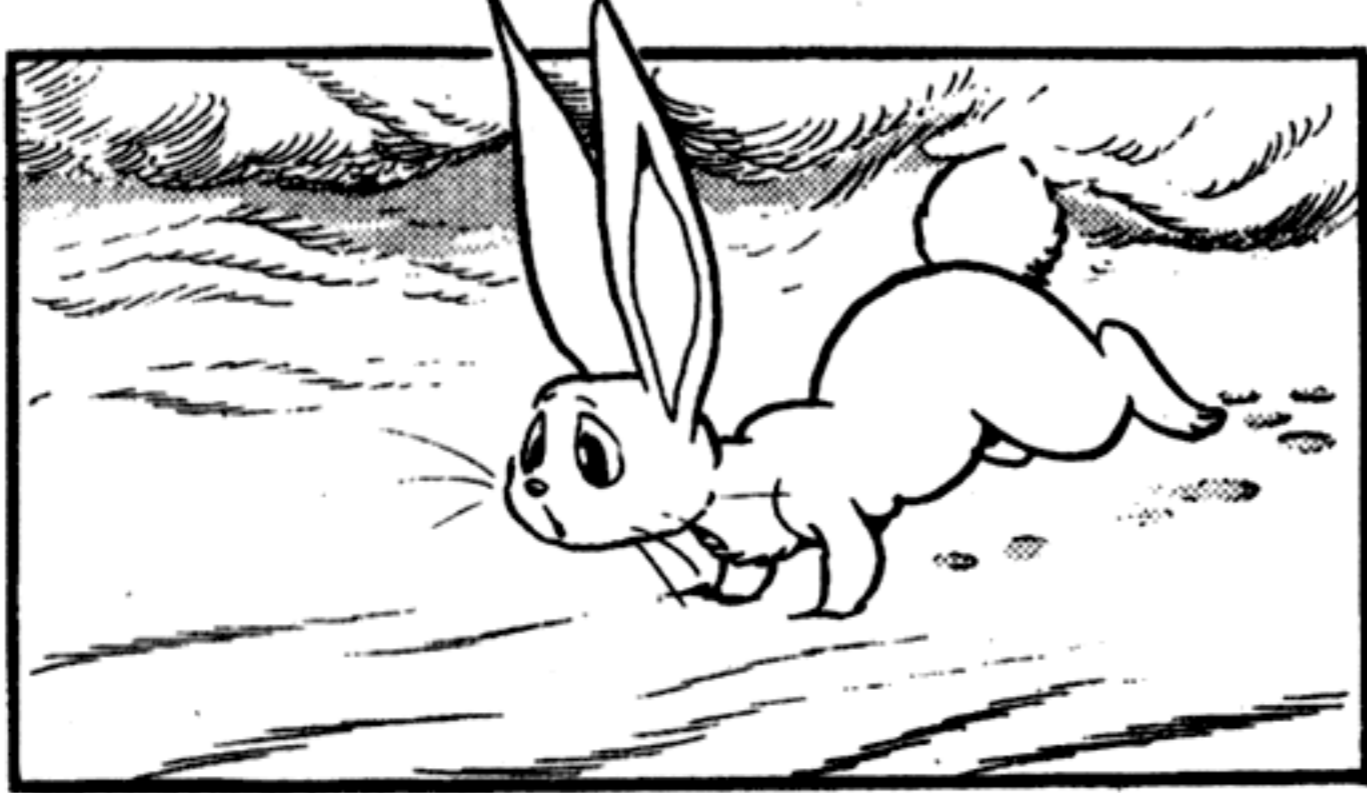


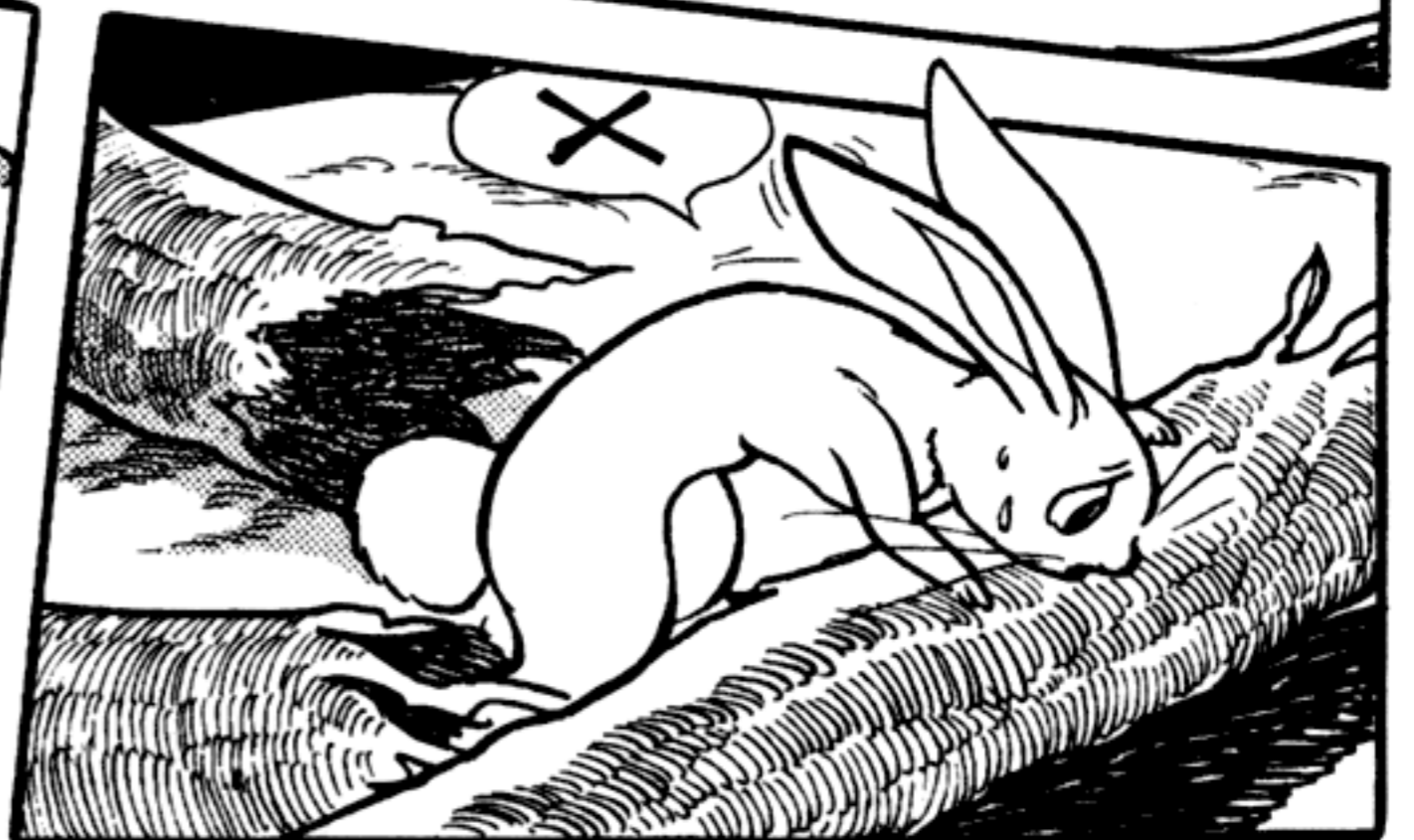
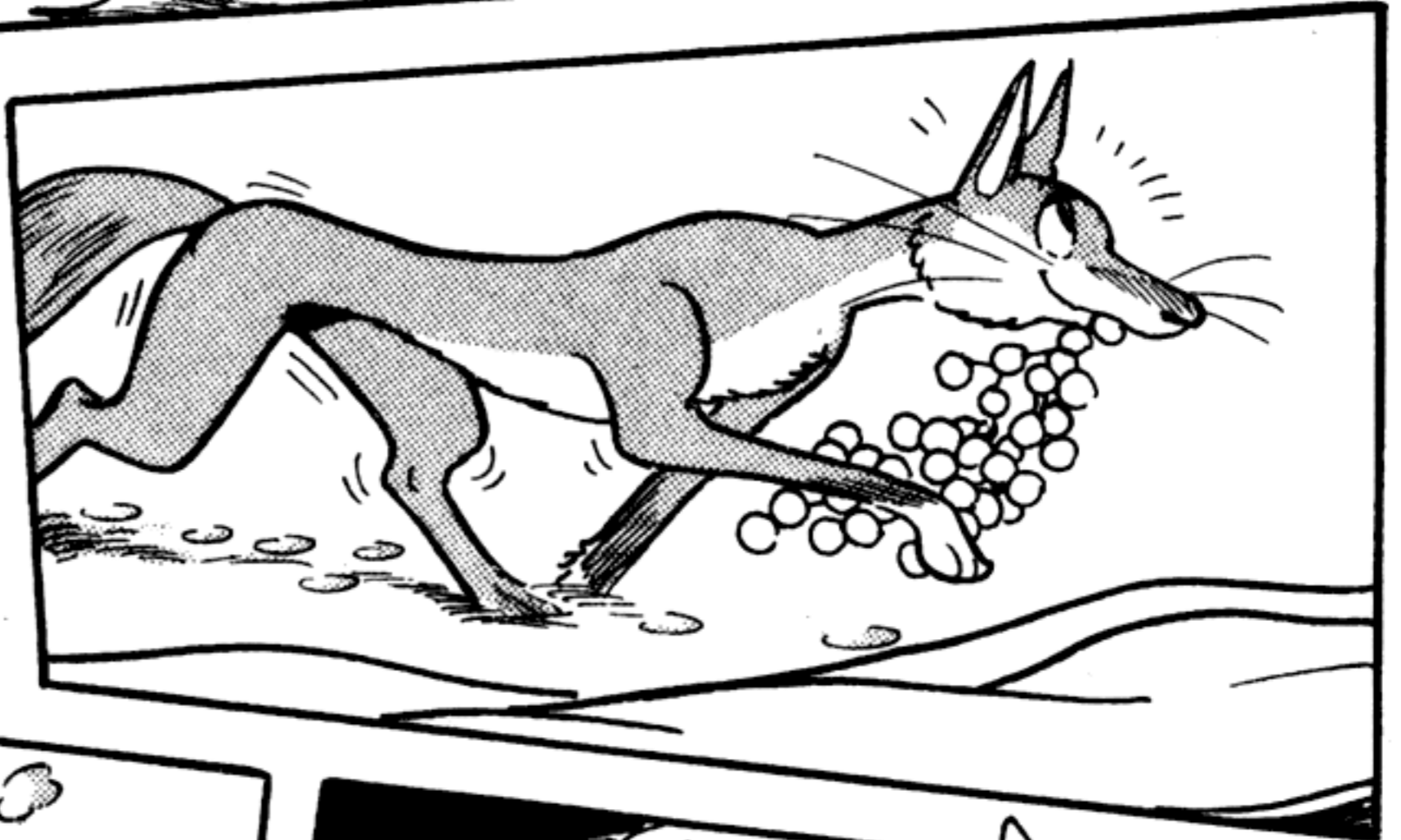
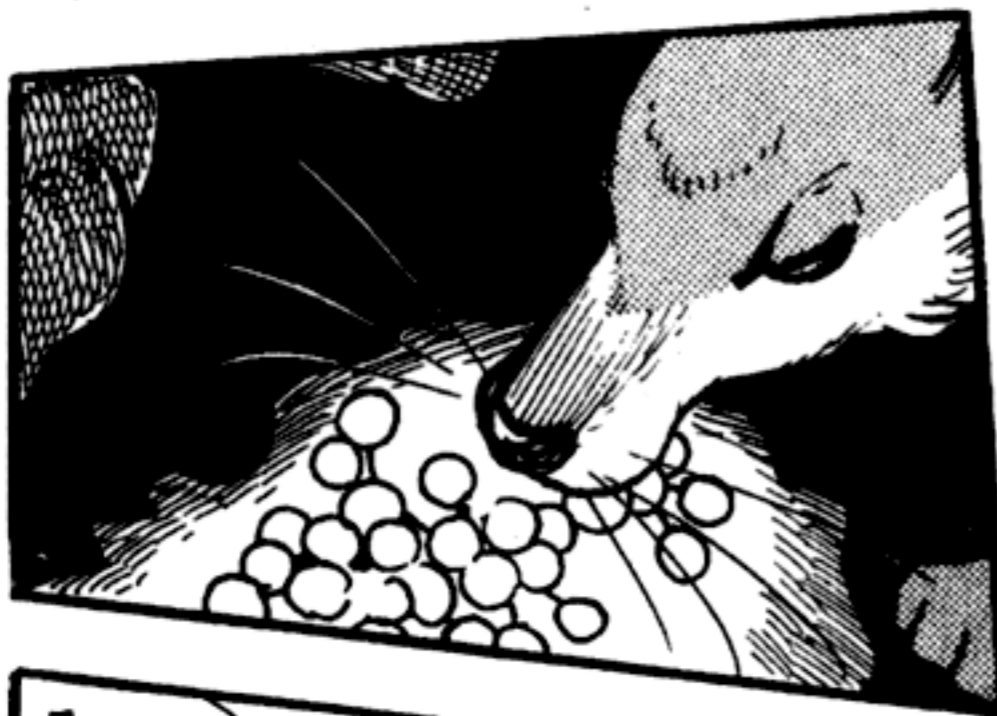
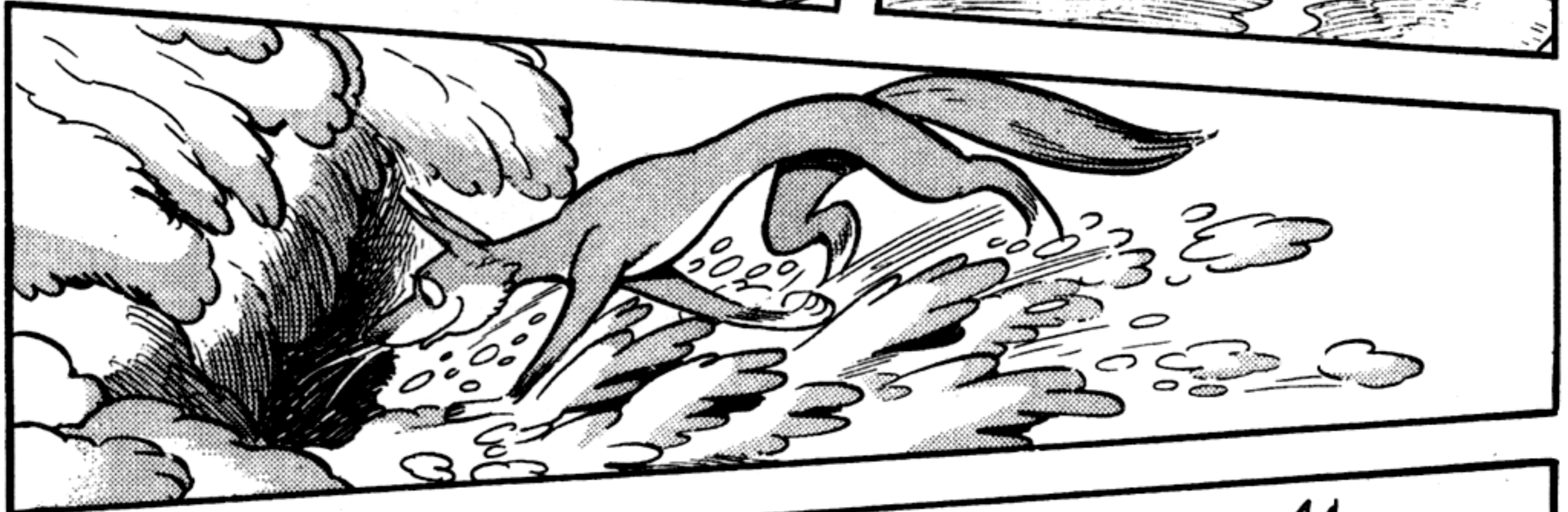
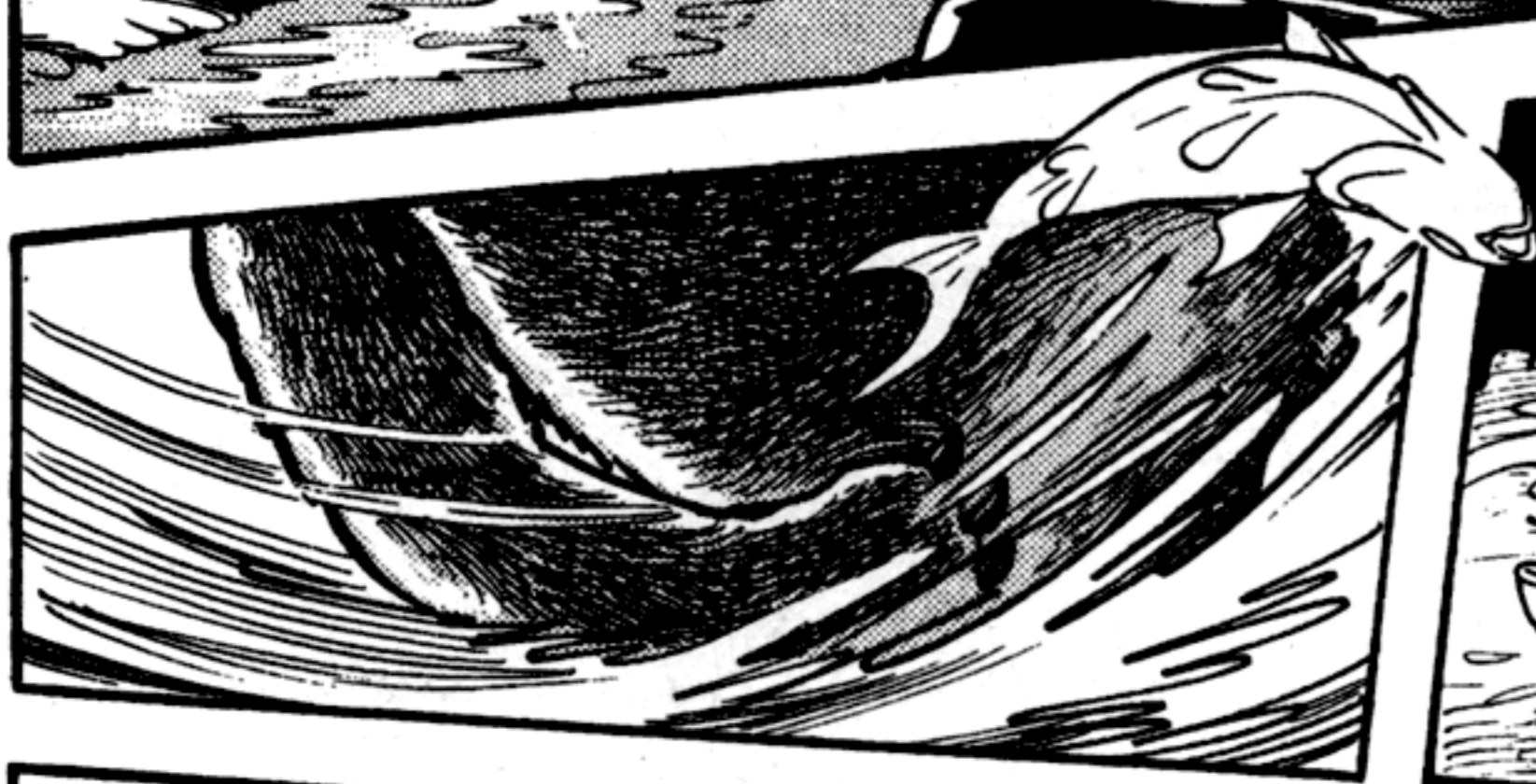
PEOPLE GREW
DISSATISFIED
WITH BRAHMIN
SHAMMING AND
BEGAN SEEKING
ALTERNATE
PATHS TO
HAPPINESS AND
PEACE OF MIND.

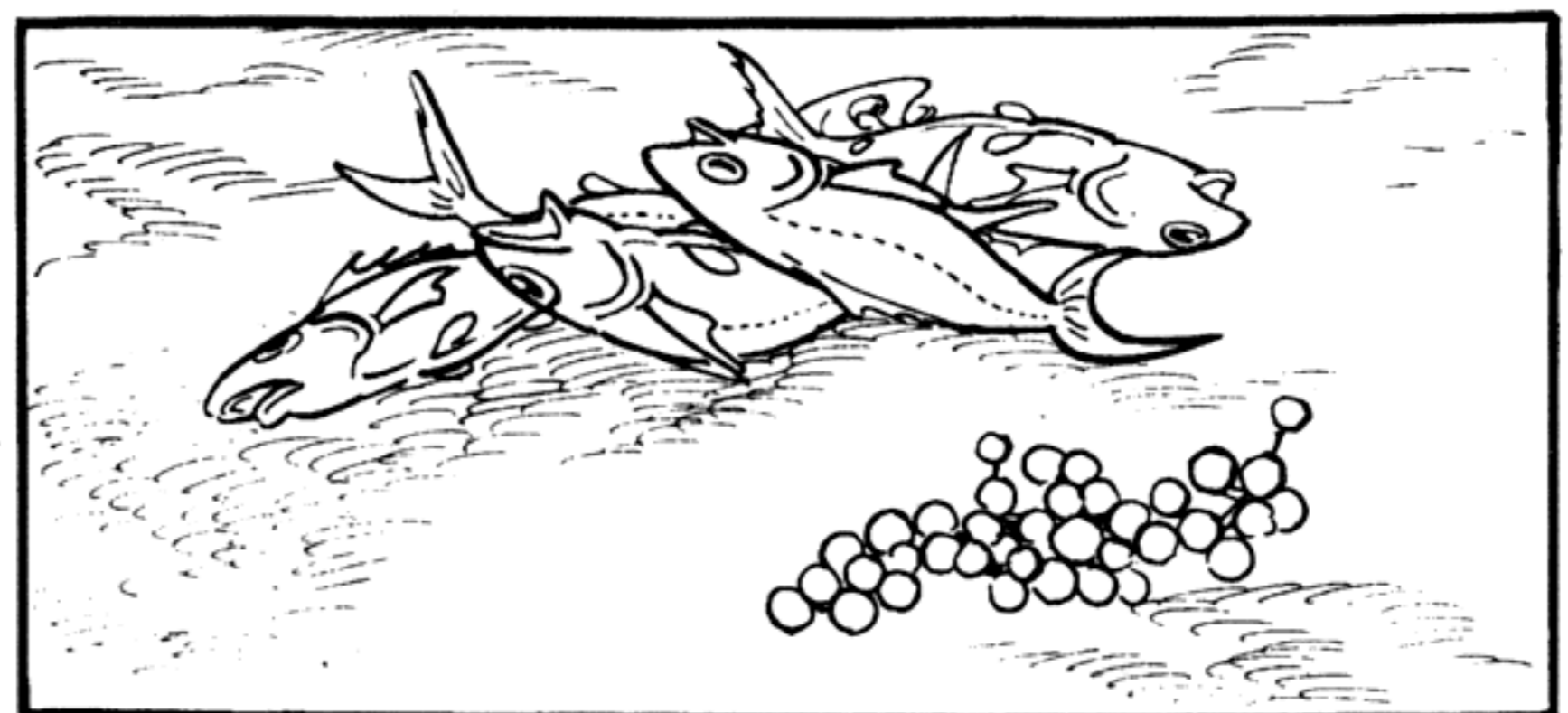
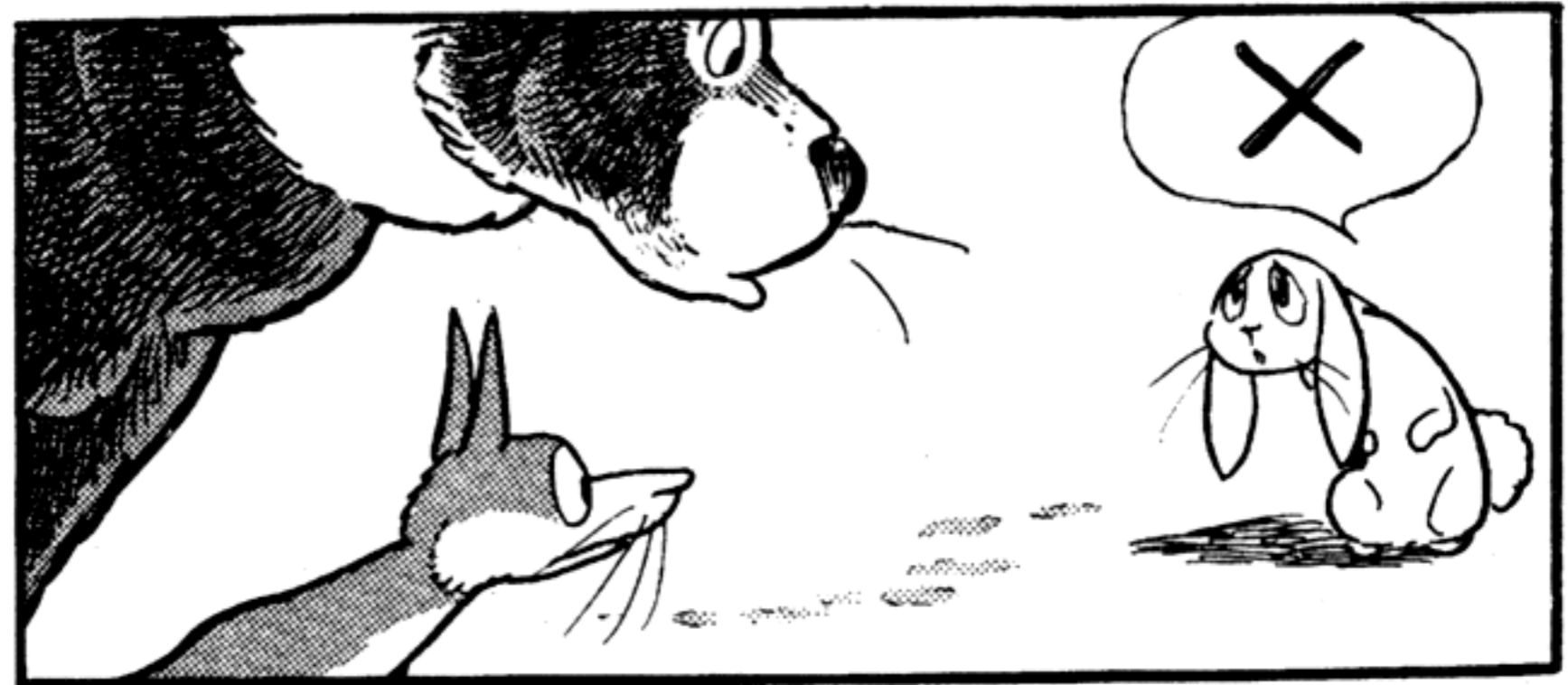
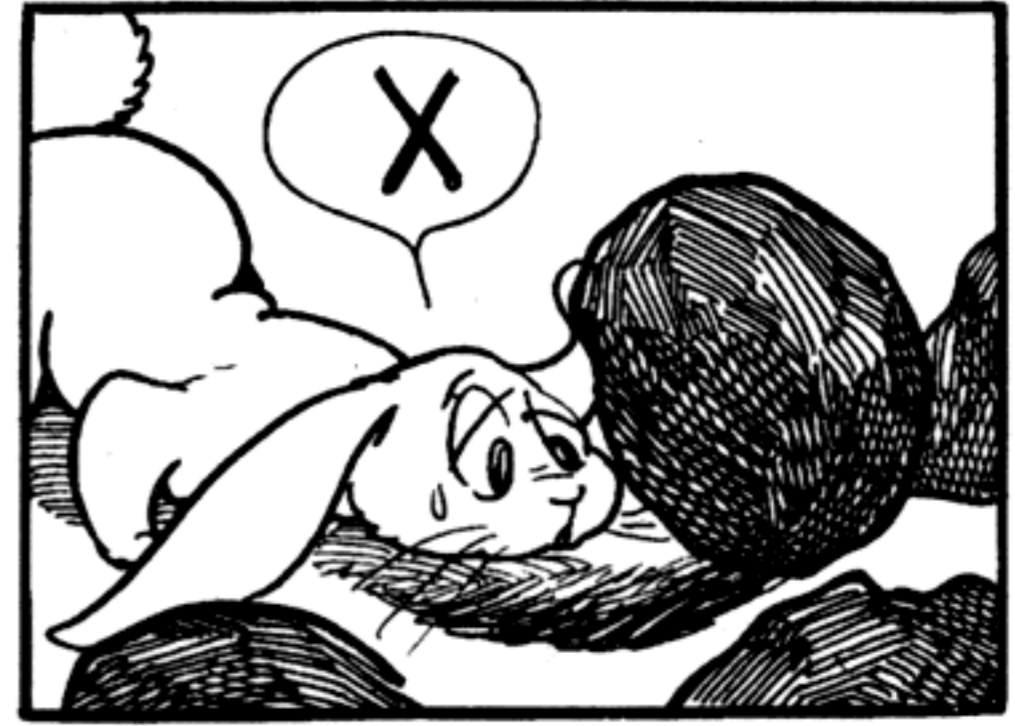
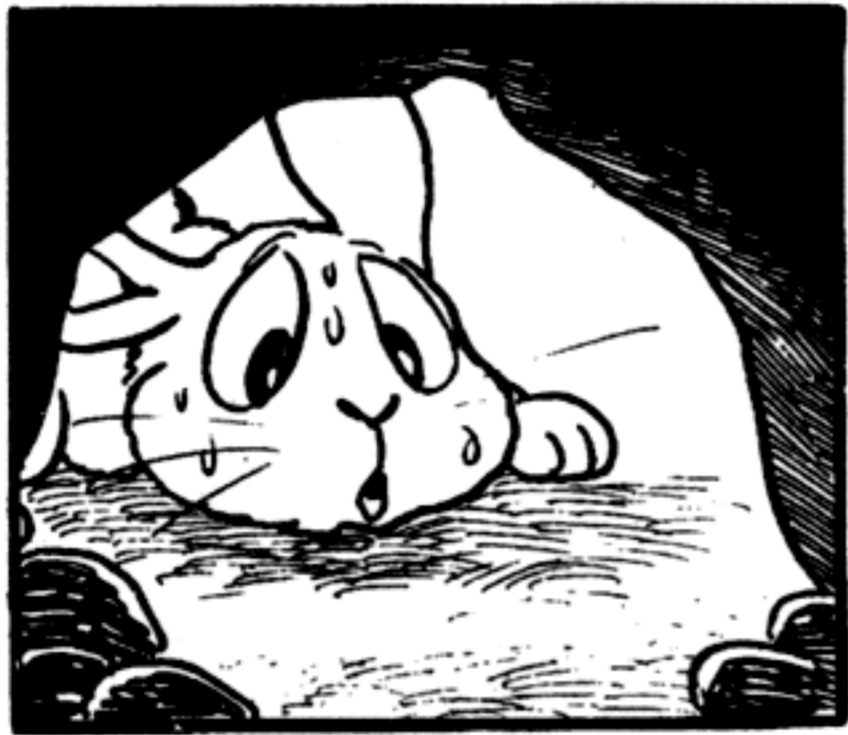
THEY
WAITED
AND
WAITED
FOR
A NEW
TEACHER.

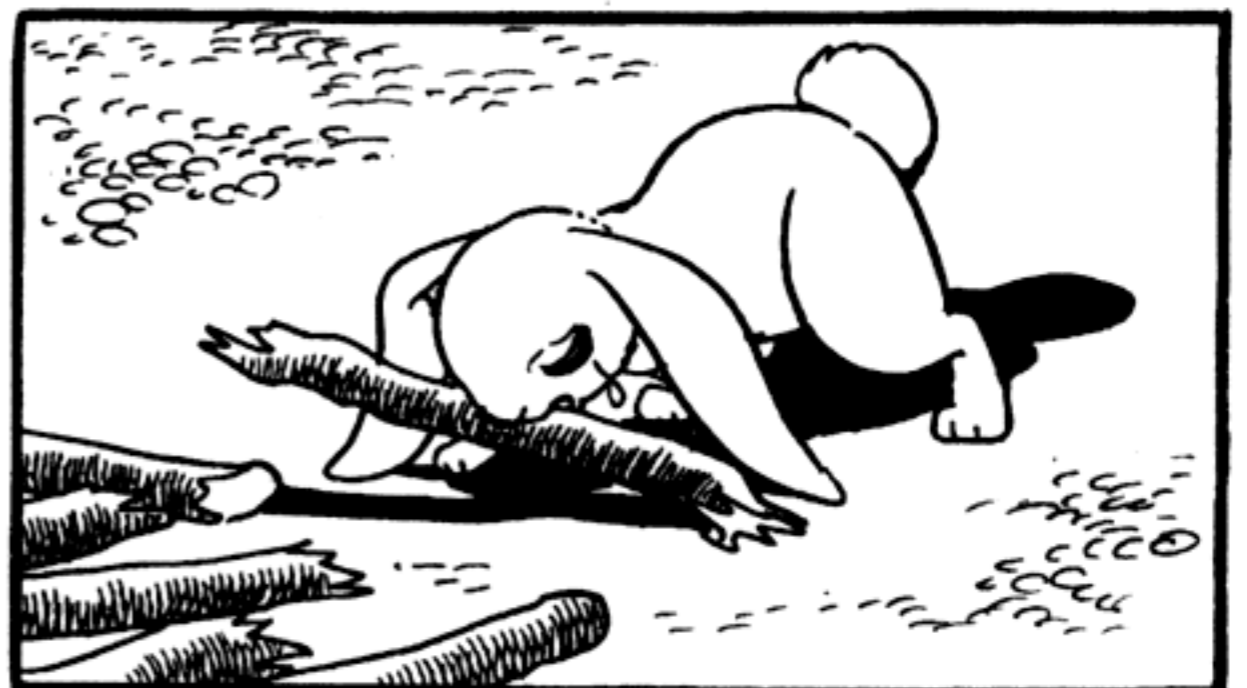
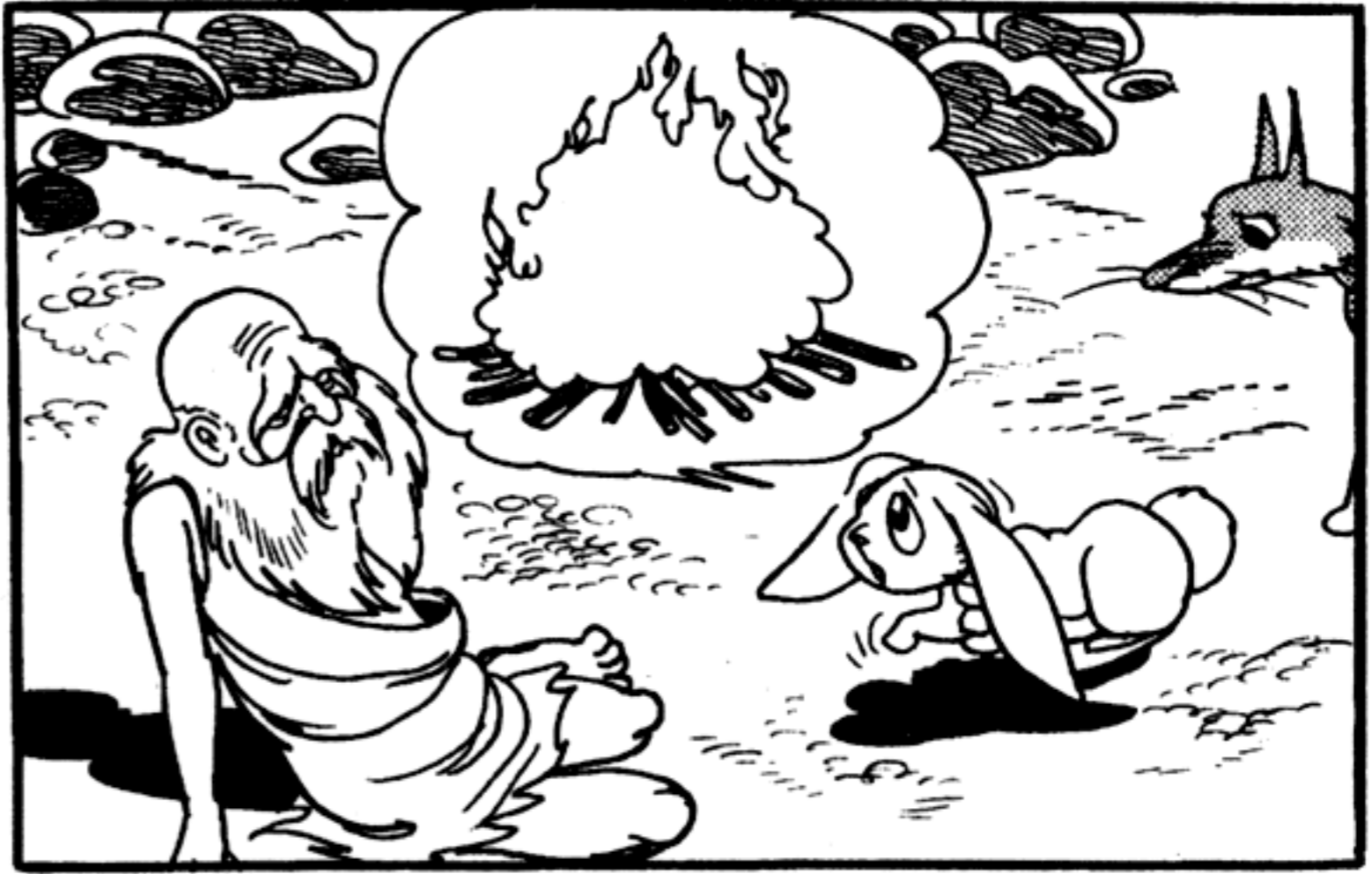
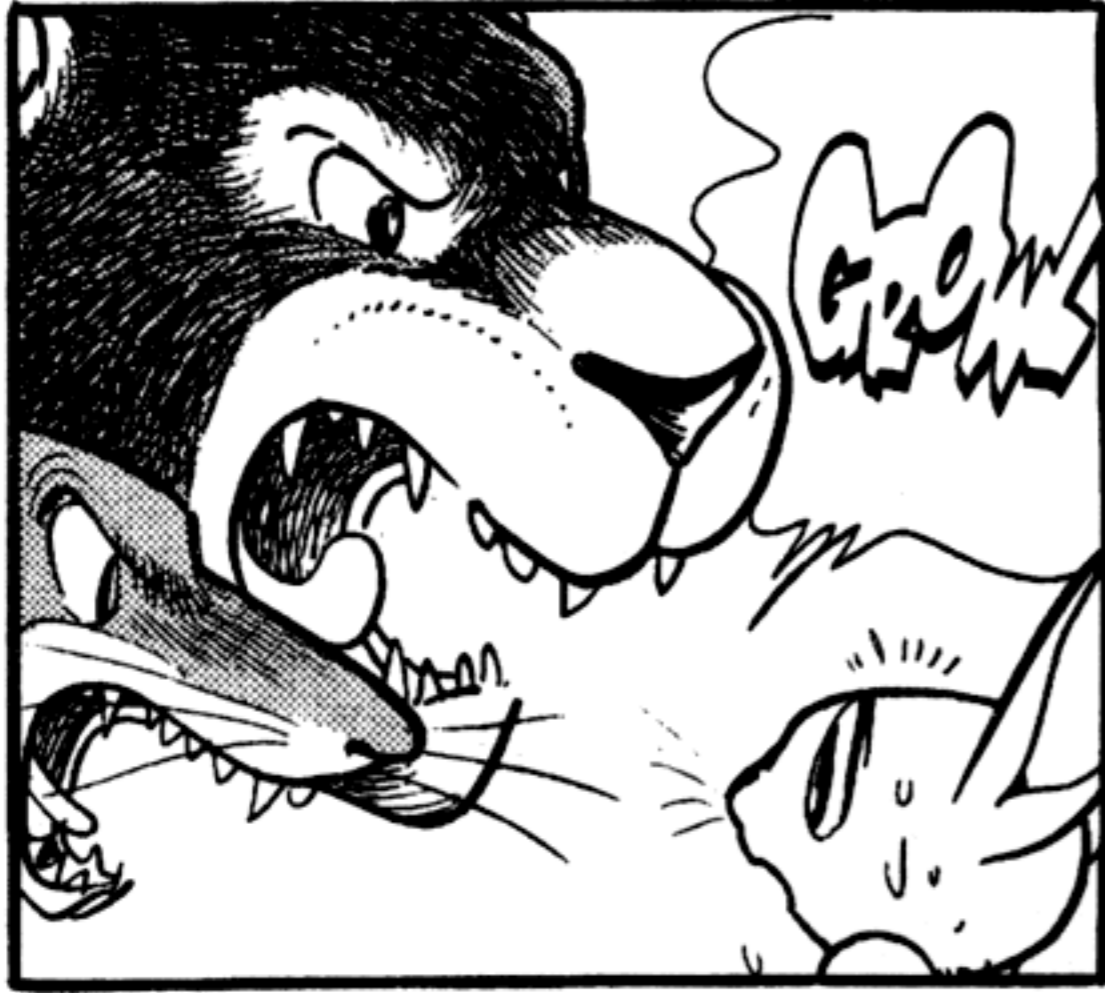


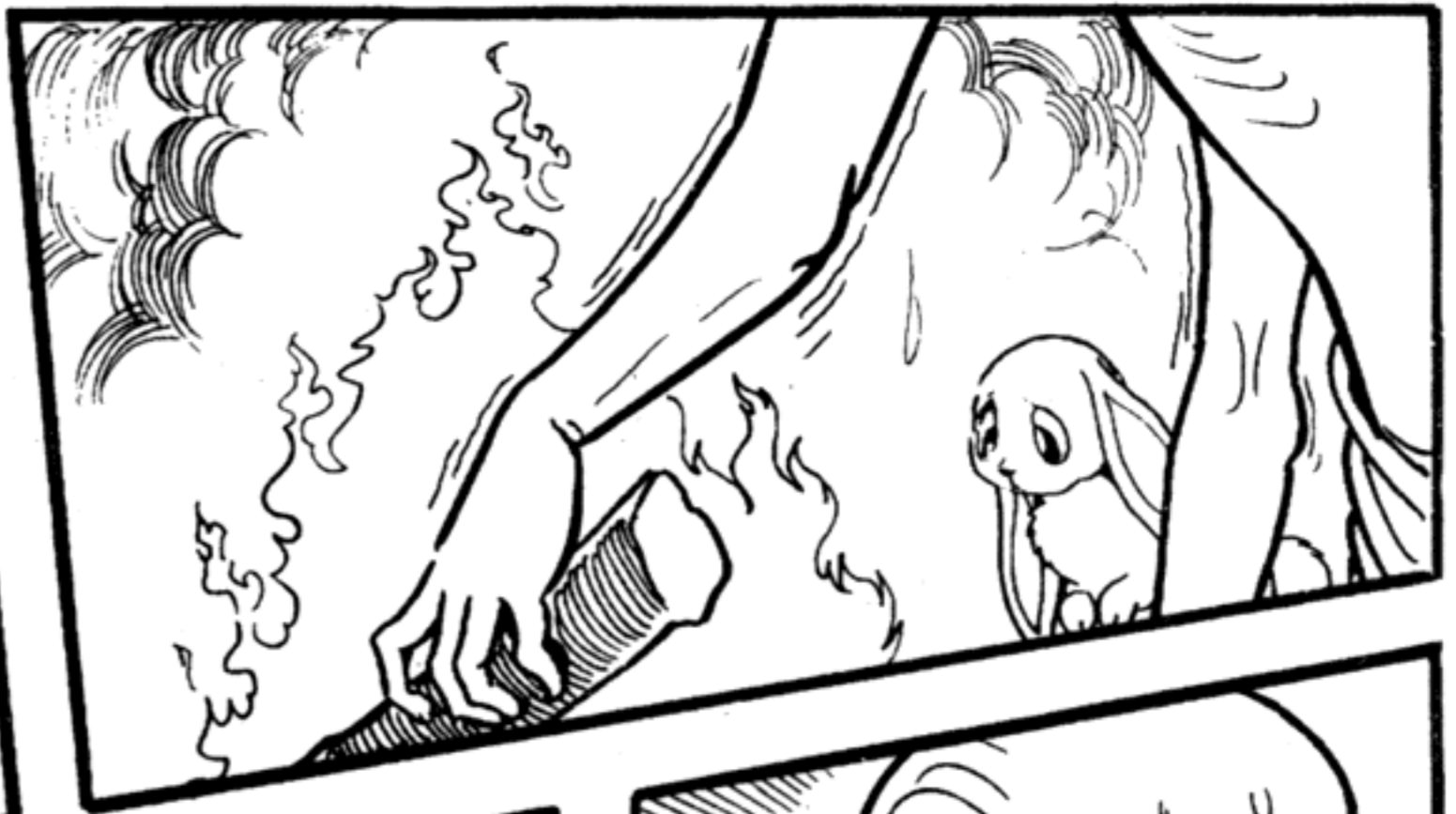
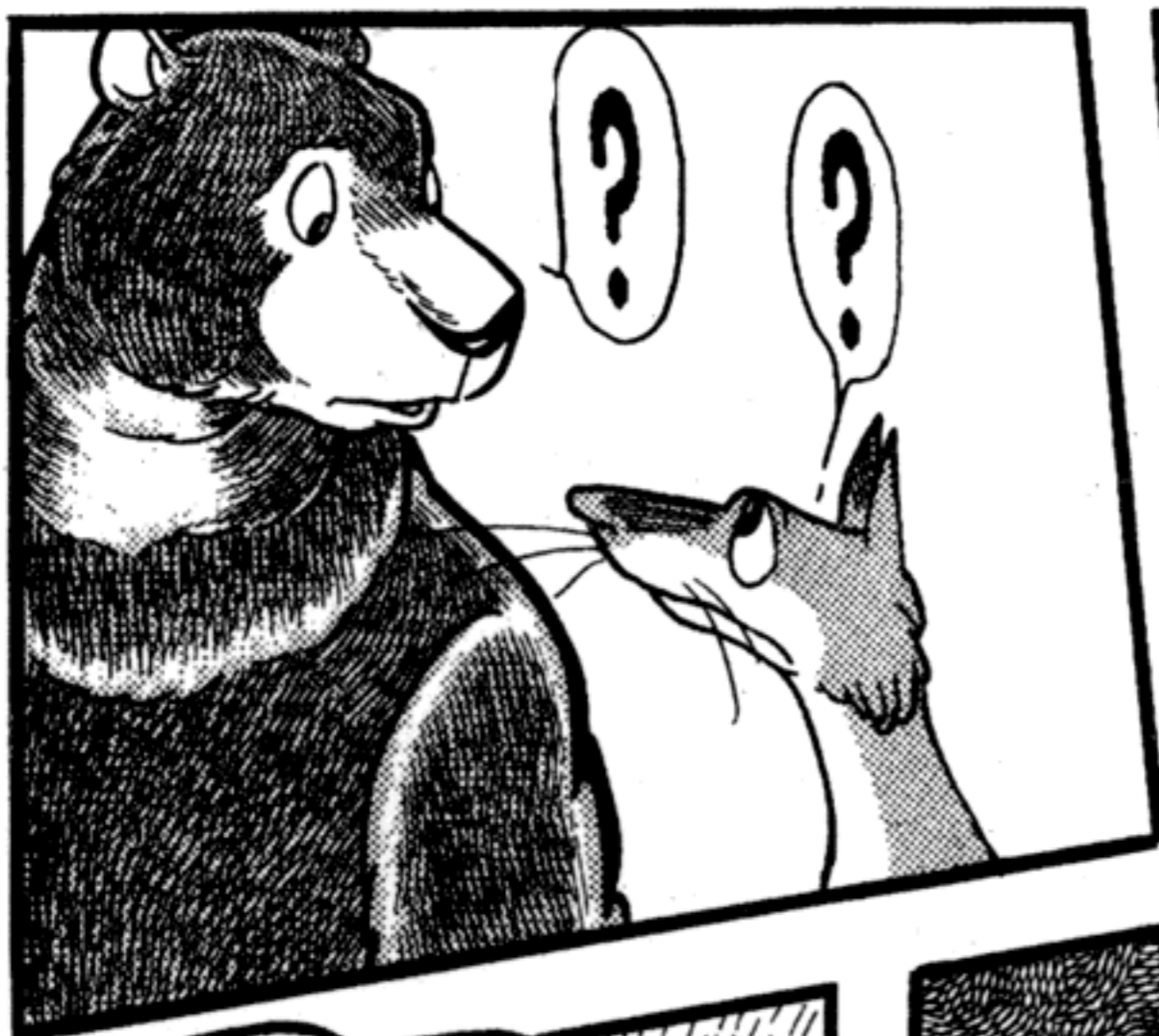


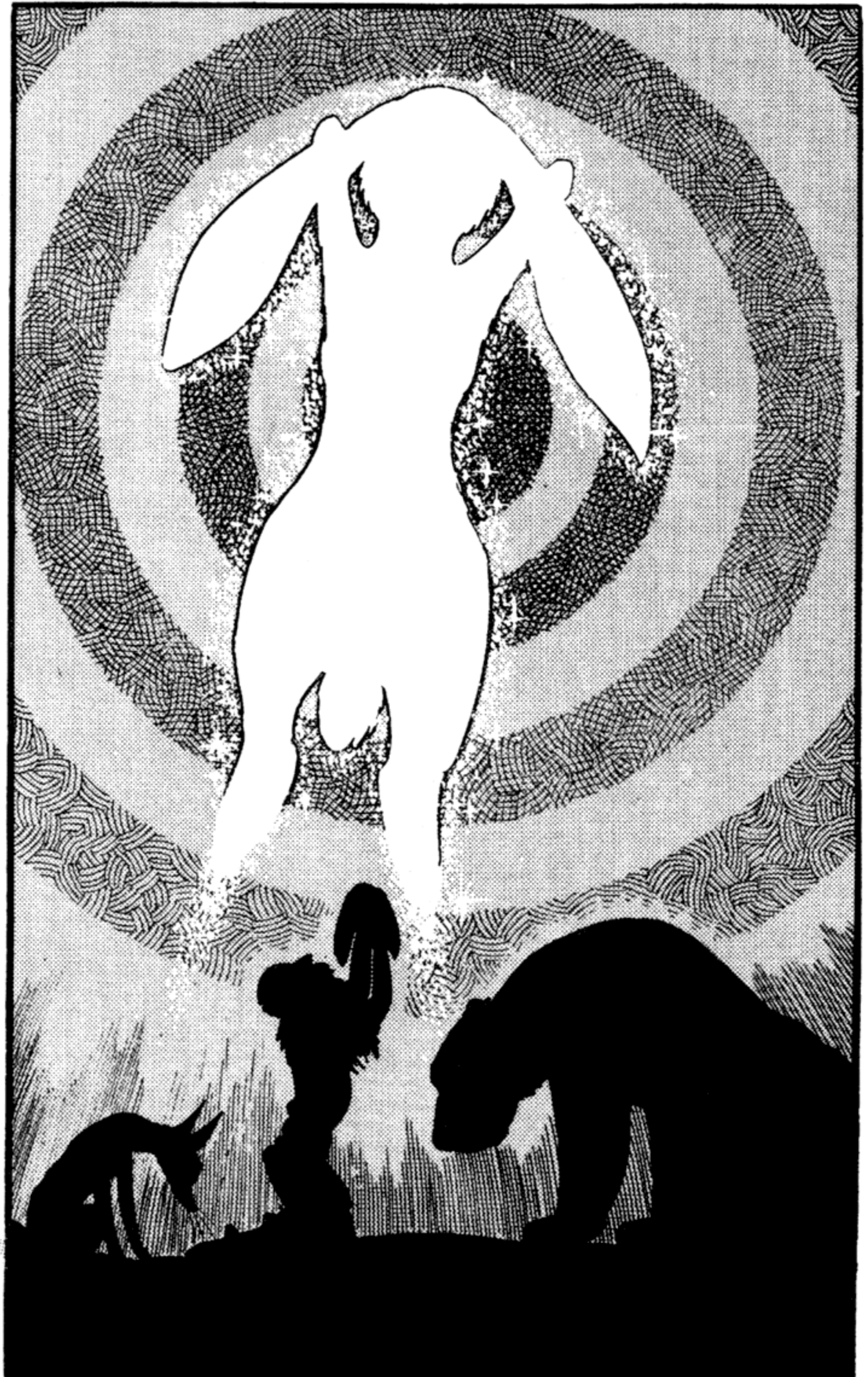
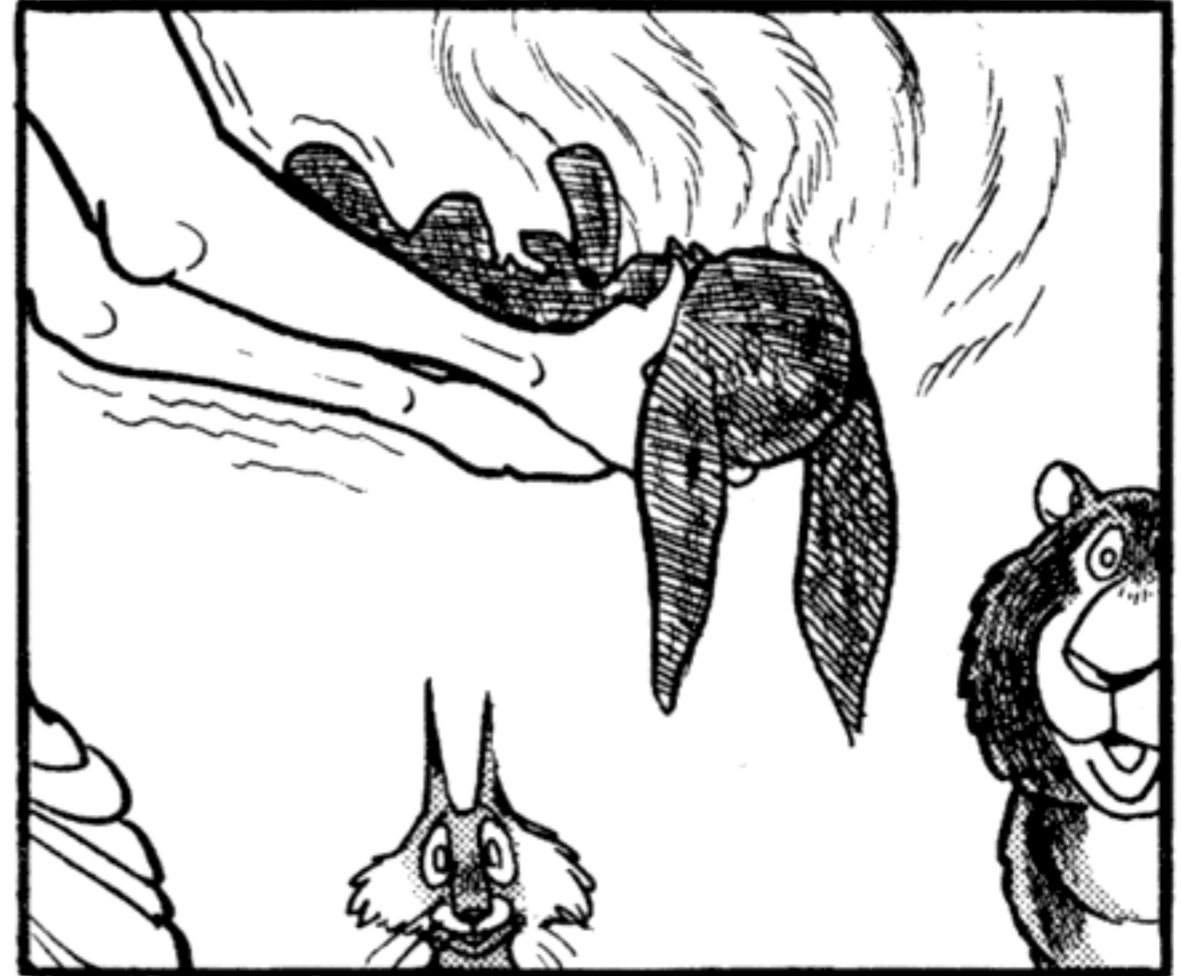
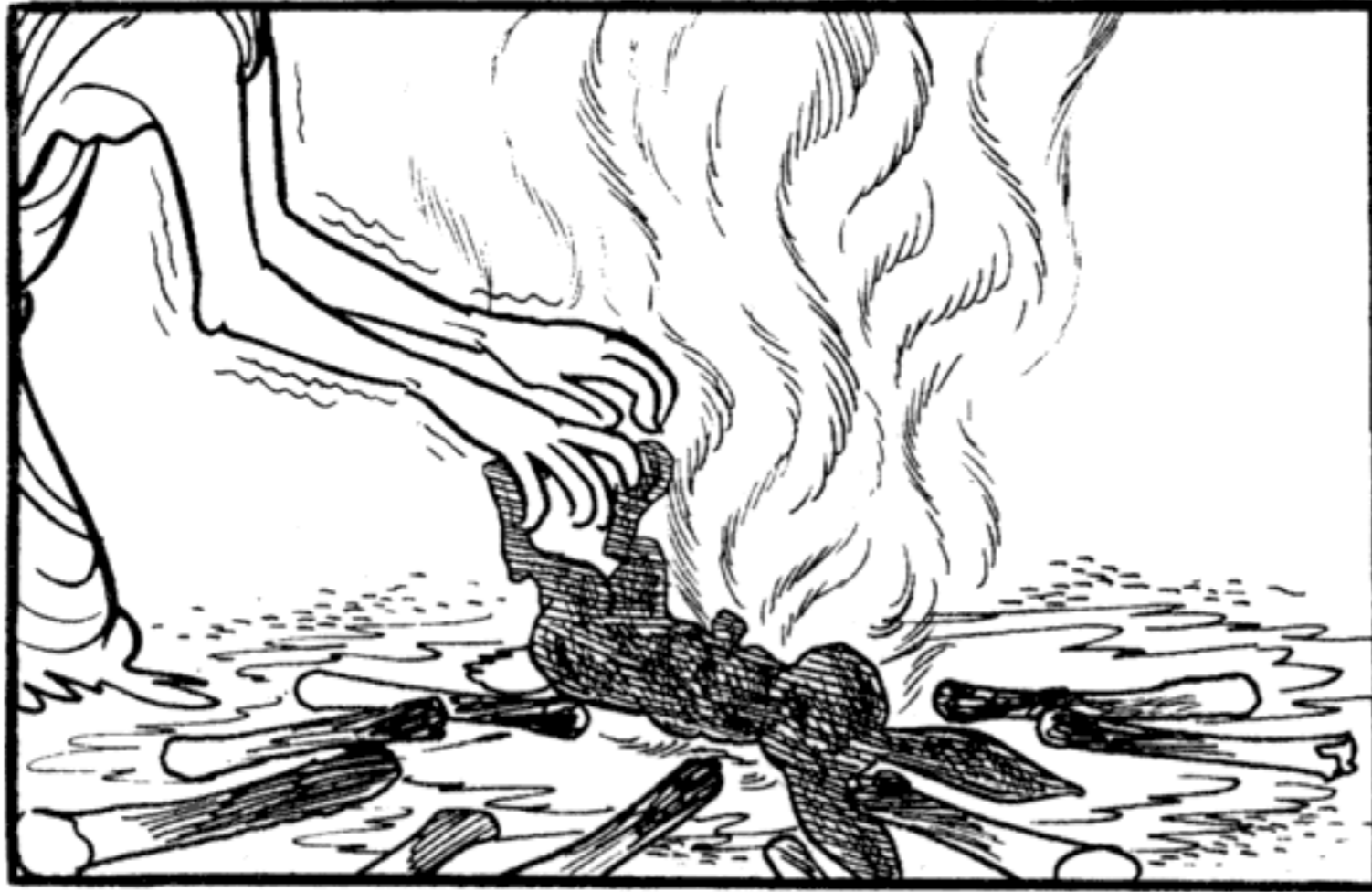












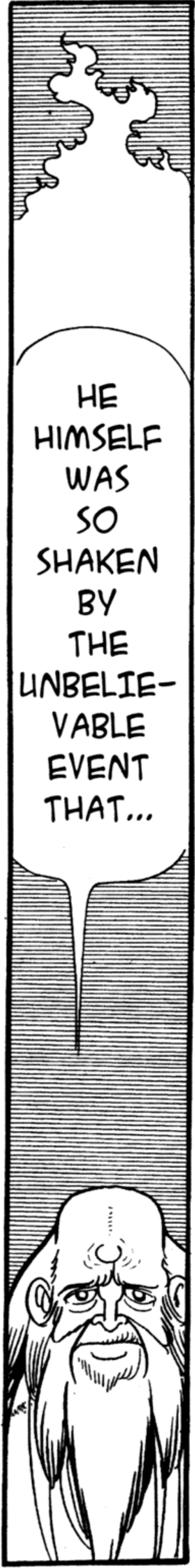




BUT MASTER ASITA,
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
A RABBIT
IMMOLATING
HIMSELF SO THAT
HE CAN BE EATEN
BY A HUMAN?!



THAT HUMAN
WAS MY
MASTER
GOSHALA,
WHO TOLD
ME THE TALE,
SO I KNOW
IT TO BE
TRUE.



HE
HIMSELF
WAS
SO
SHAKEN
BY
THE
UNBELIEVABLE
EVENT
THAT...

AFTERWARDS,
HE WANDERED DOWN
THE MOUNTAIN
IN A DAZE AND
TOOK TO BED FOR
10 FULL DAYS.

DURING
THAT TIME,
HE ACHIEVED
ENLIGHTENMENT.

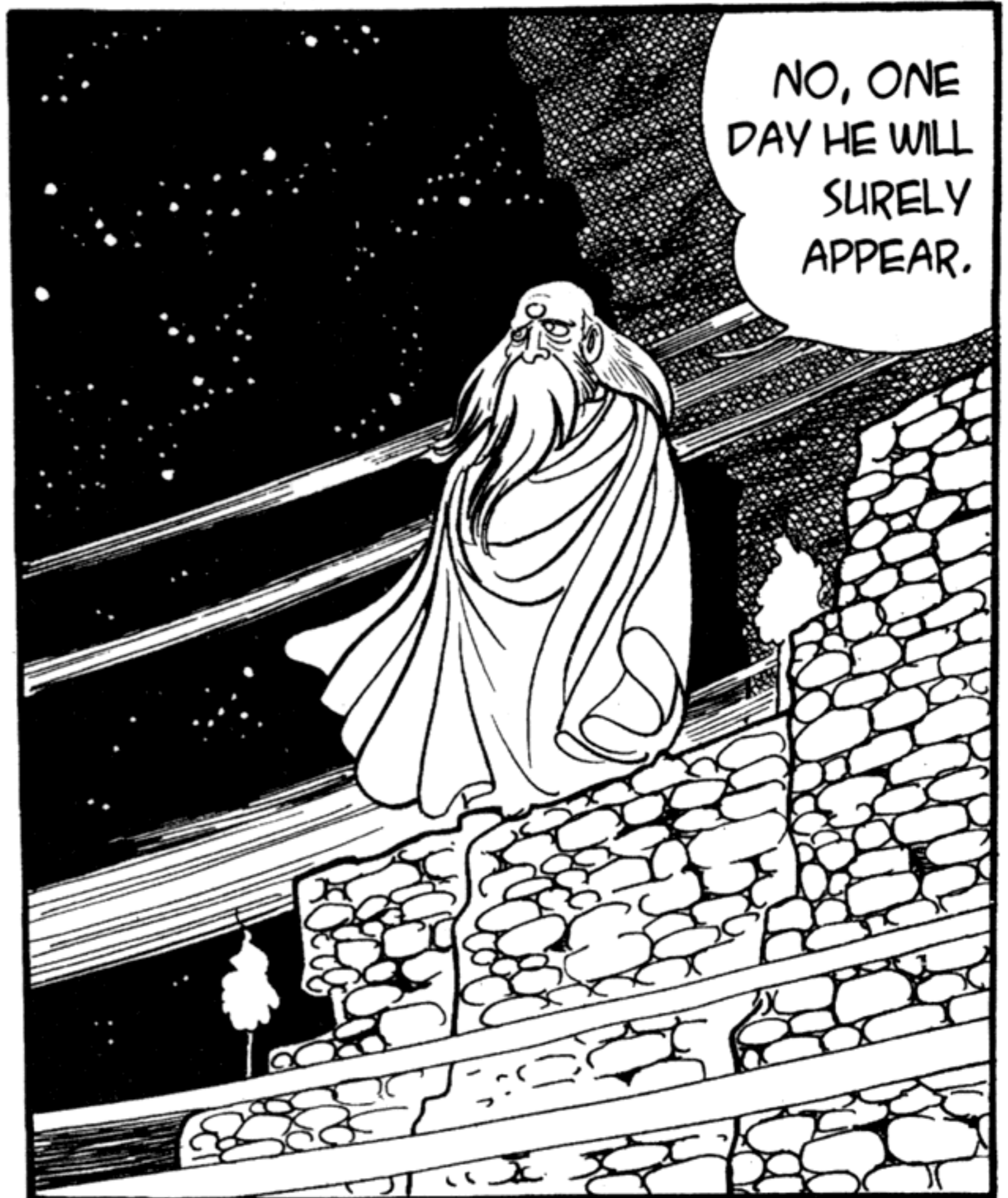
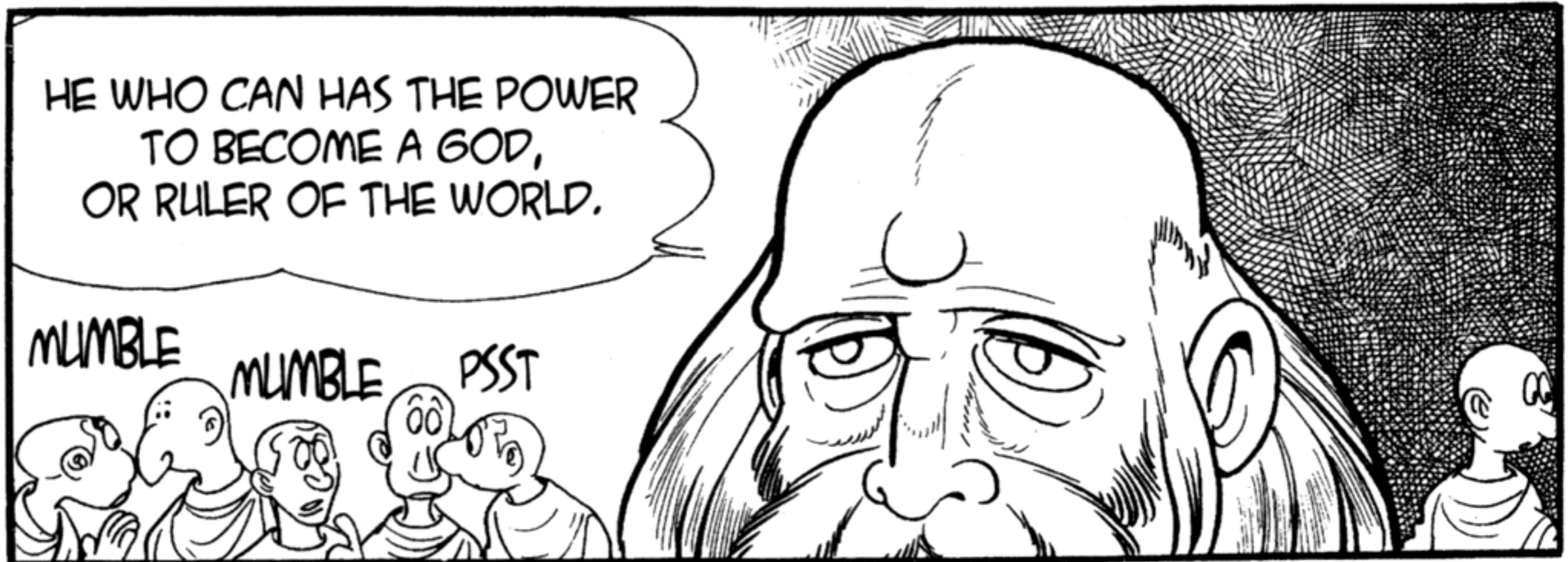
HE GRASPED
THE GREAT
CHAIN OF
EVENTS
THAT IS
OUR
WORLD.

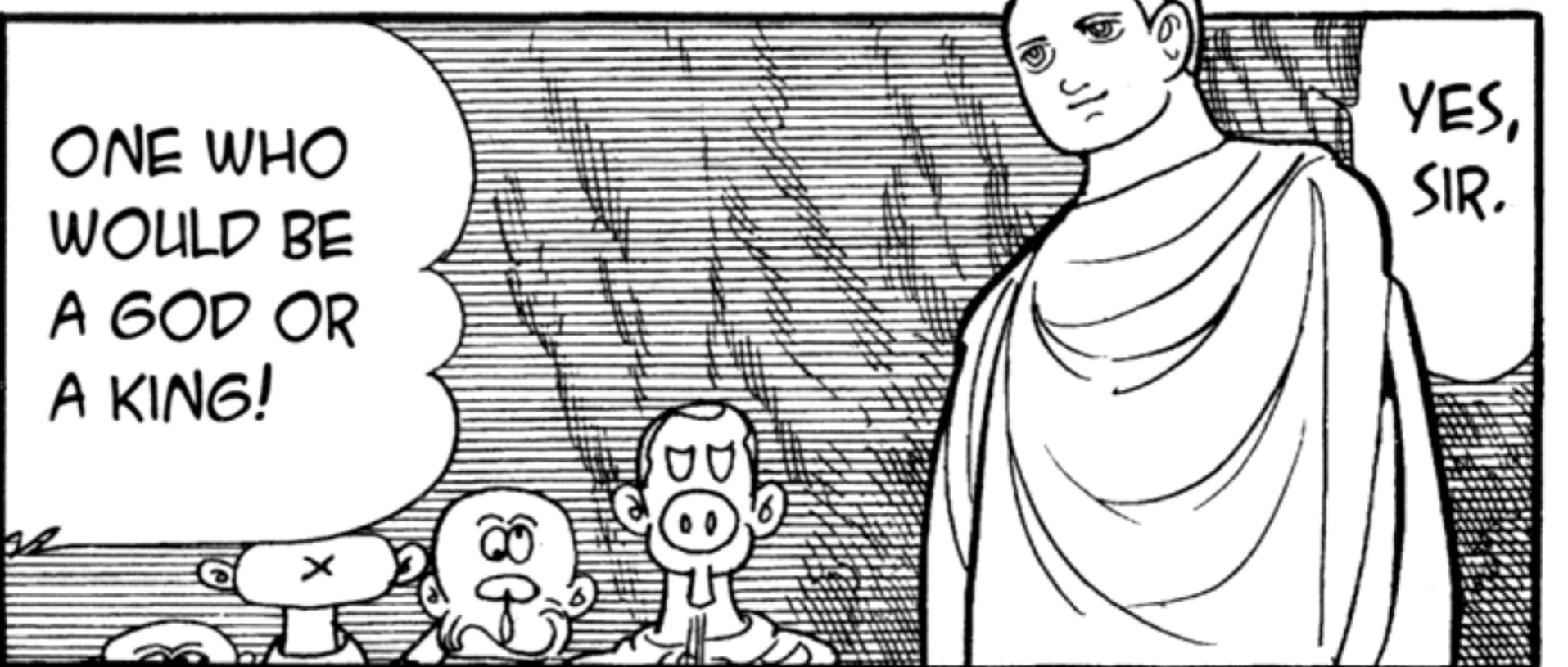
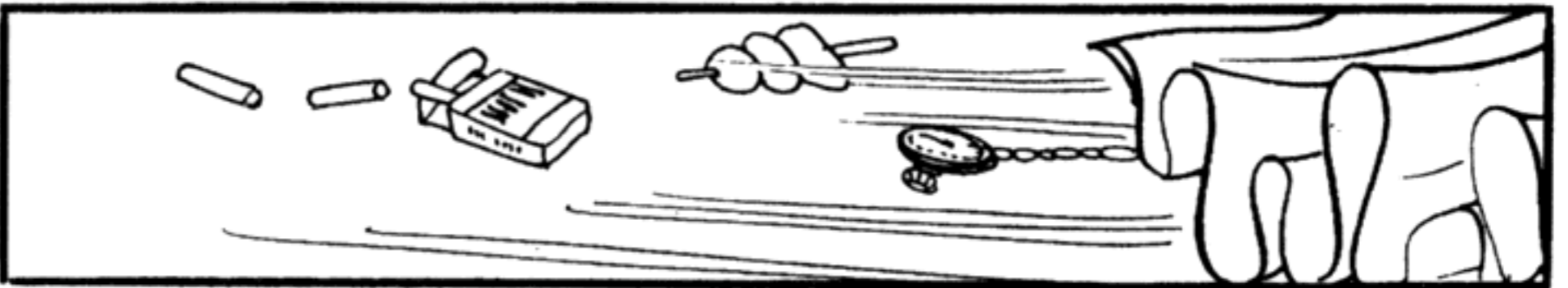


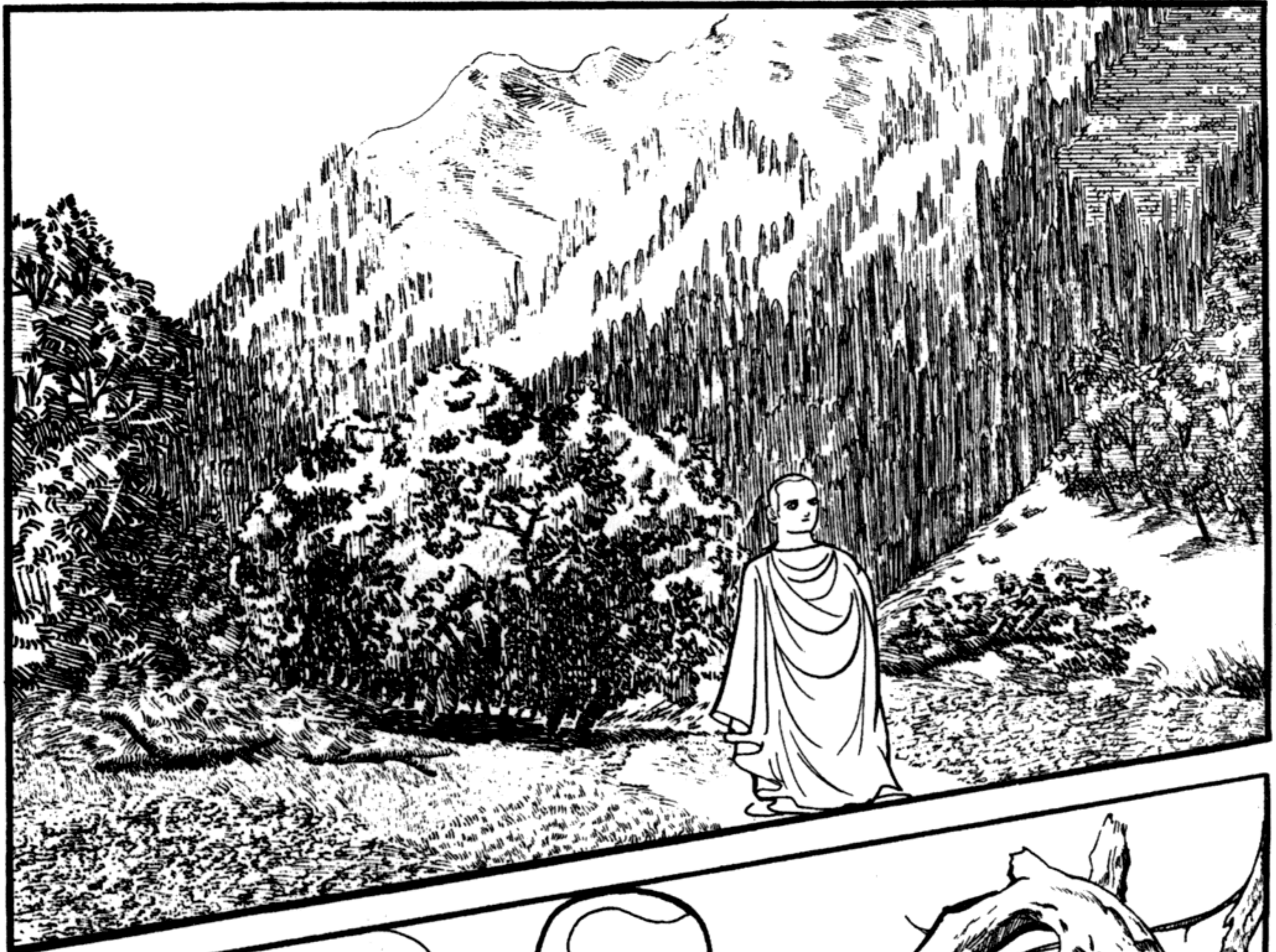
HE TOLD US
DISCIPLES THIS
TALE TIME
AND AGAIN,

BUT I NEVER ATTAINED
ENLIGHTENMENT AS MY
MASTER DID.









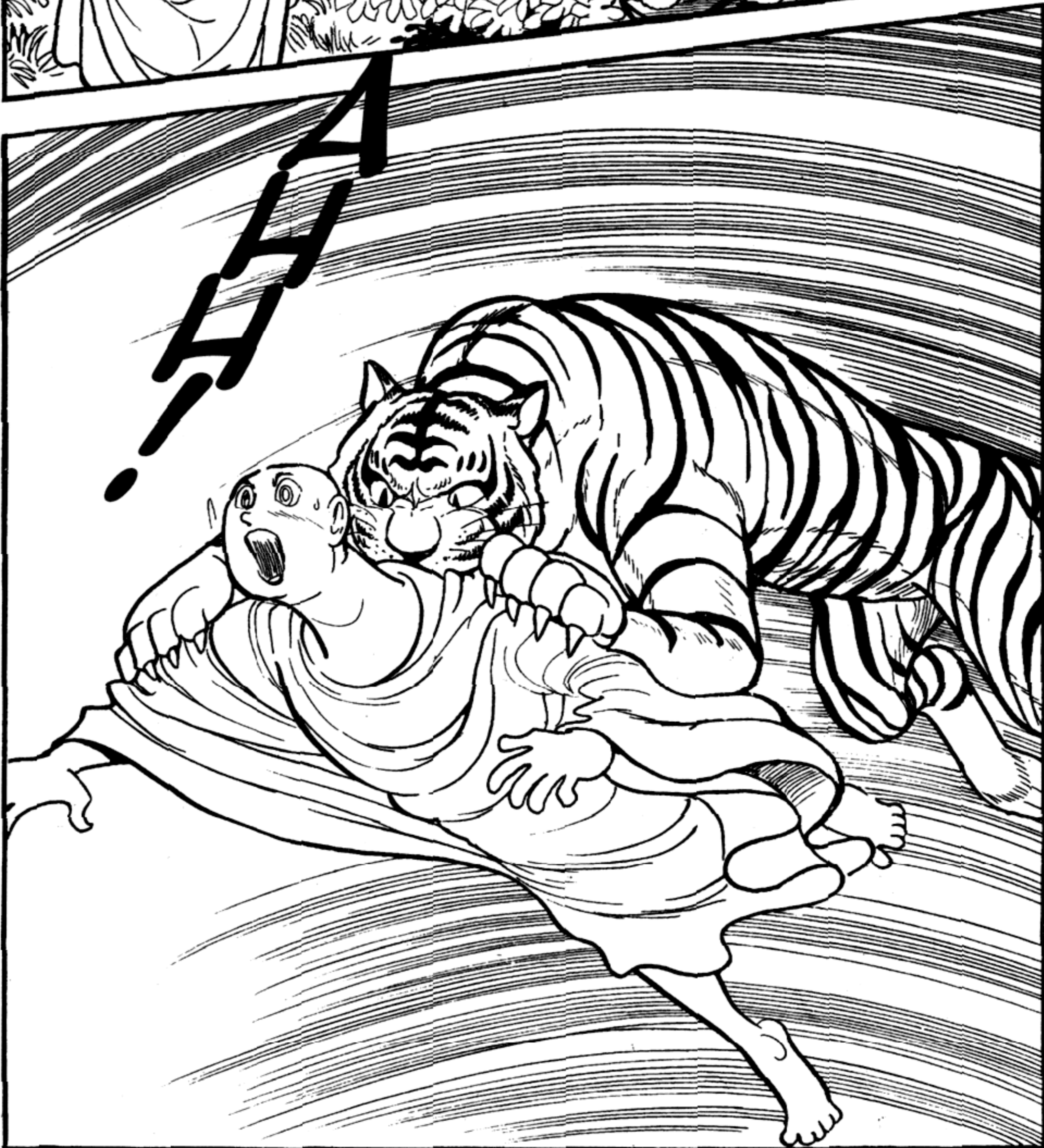
STRAIGHT SOUTH, HUH?

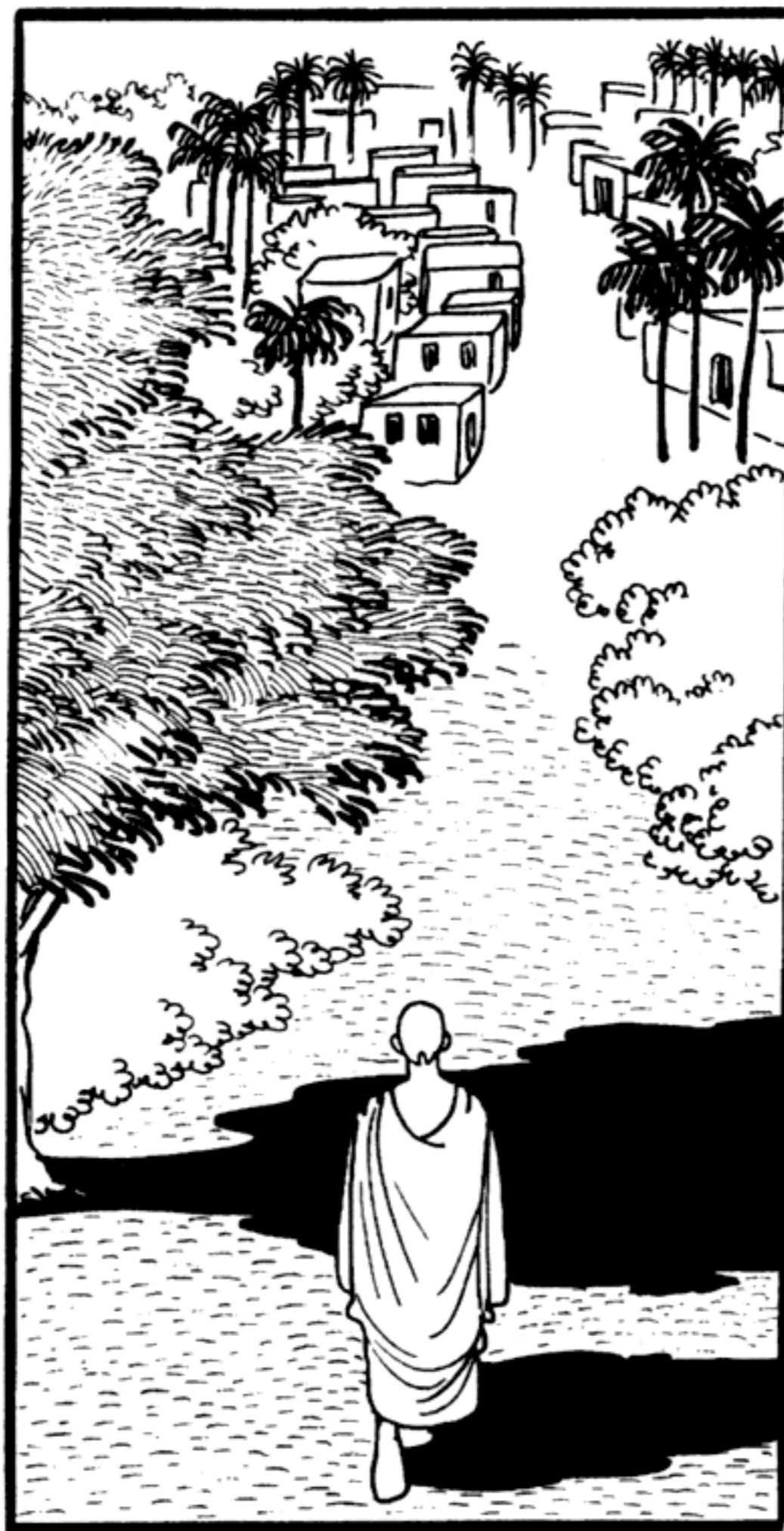
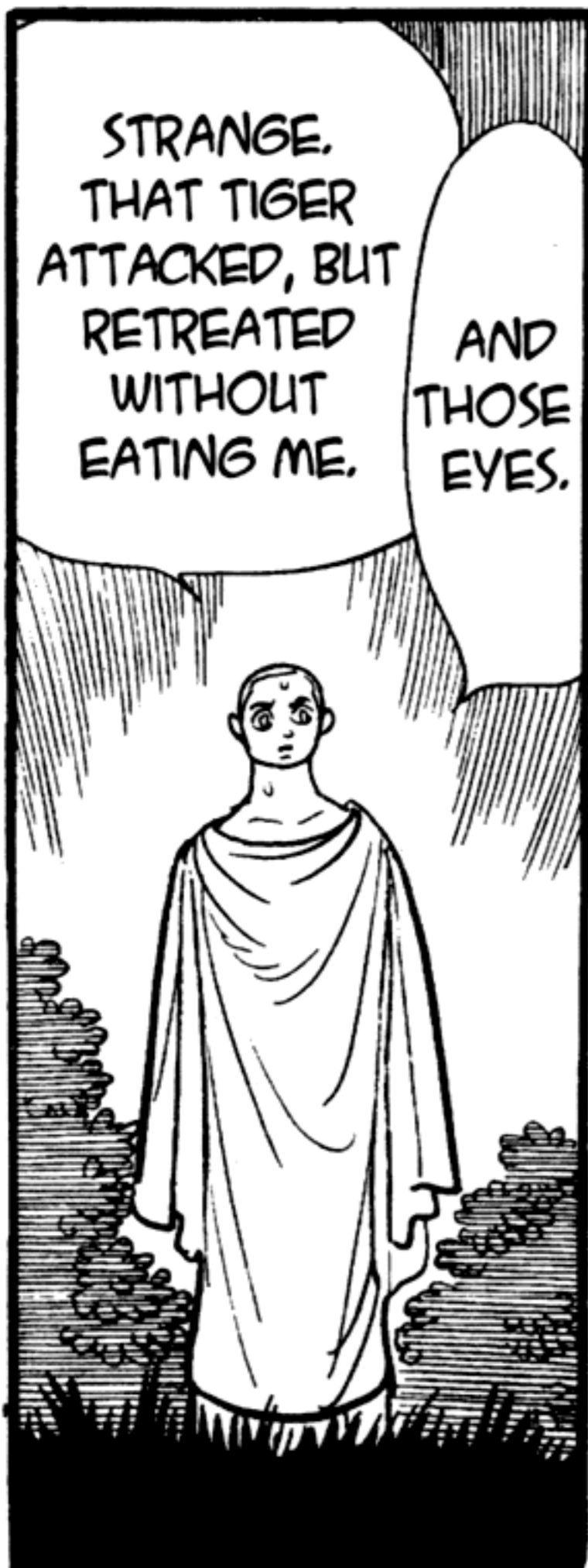
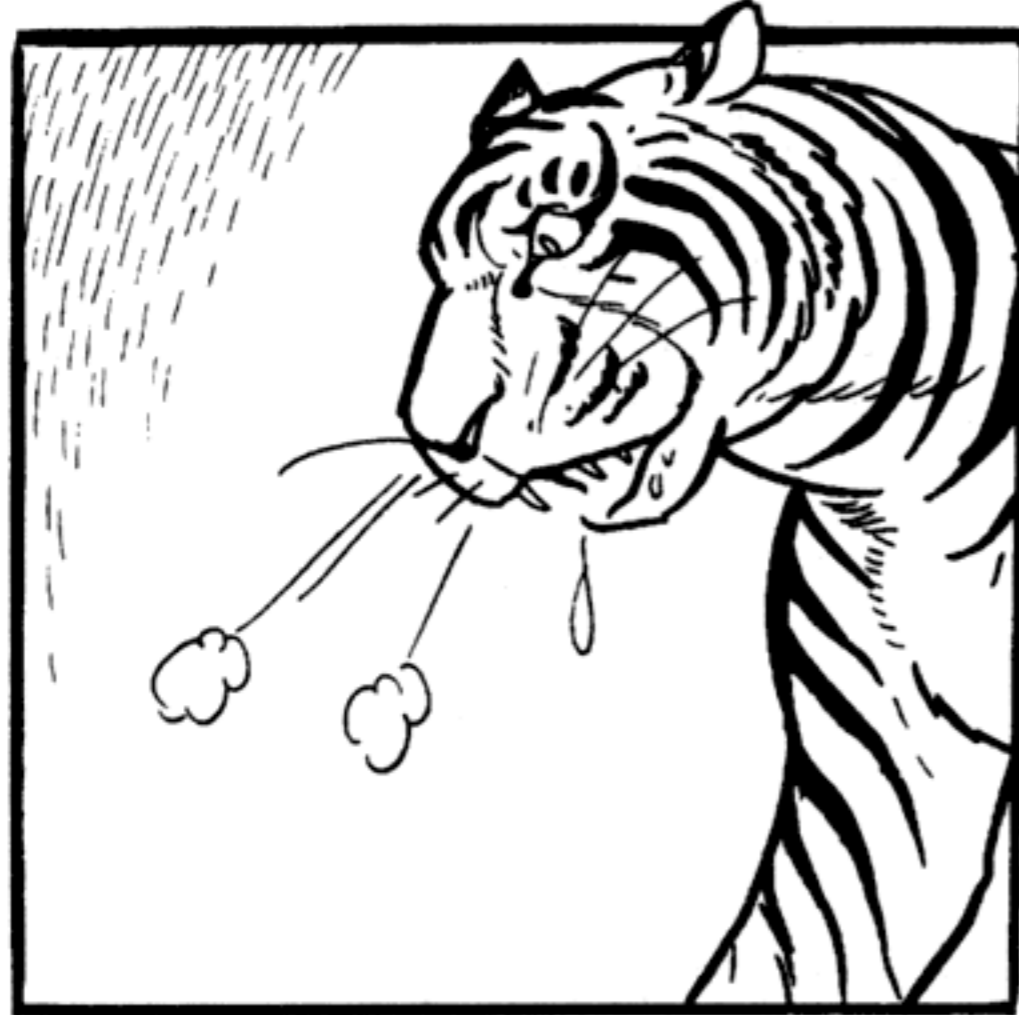


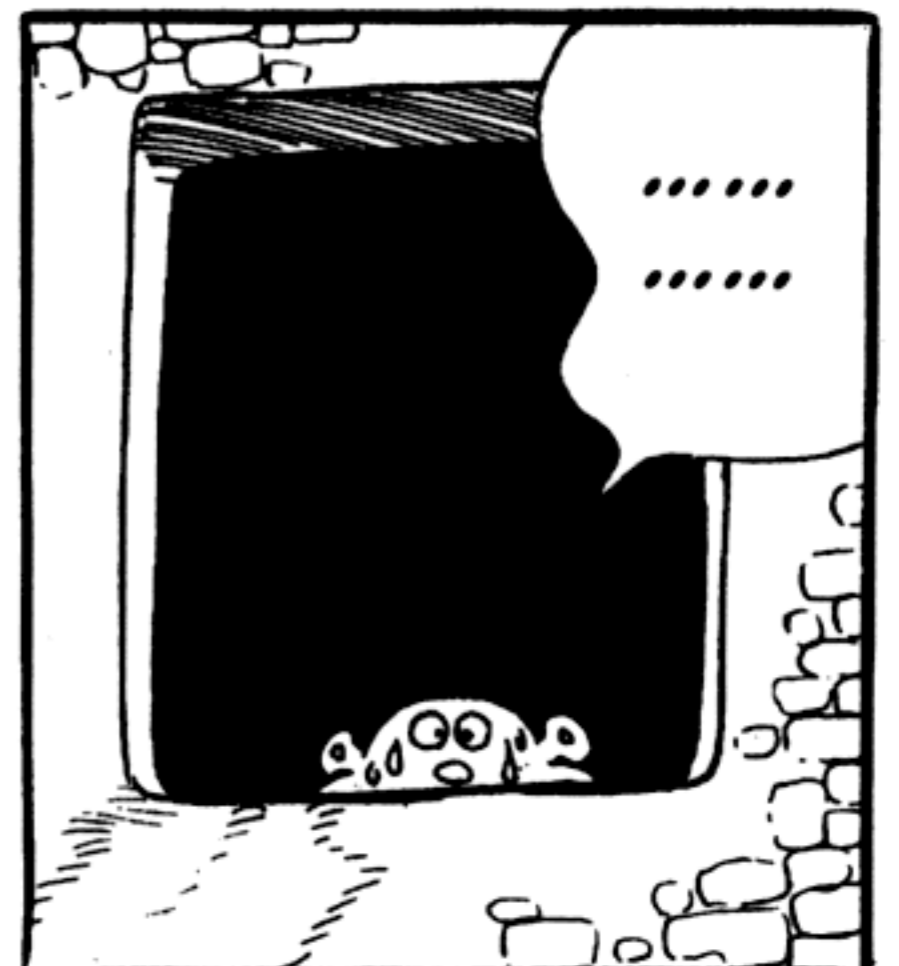
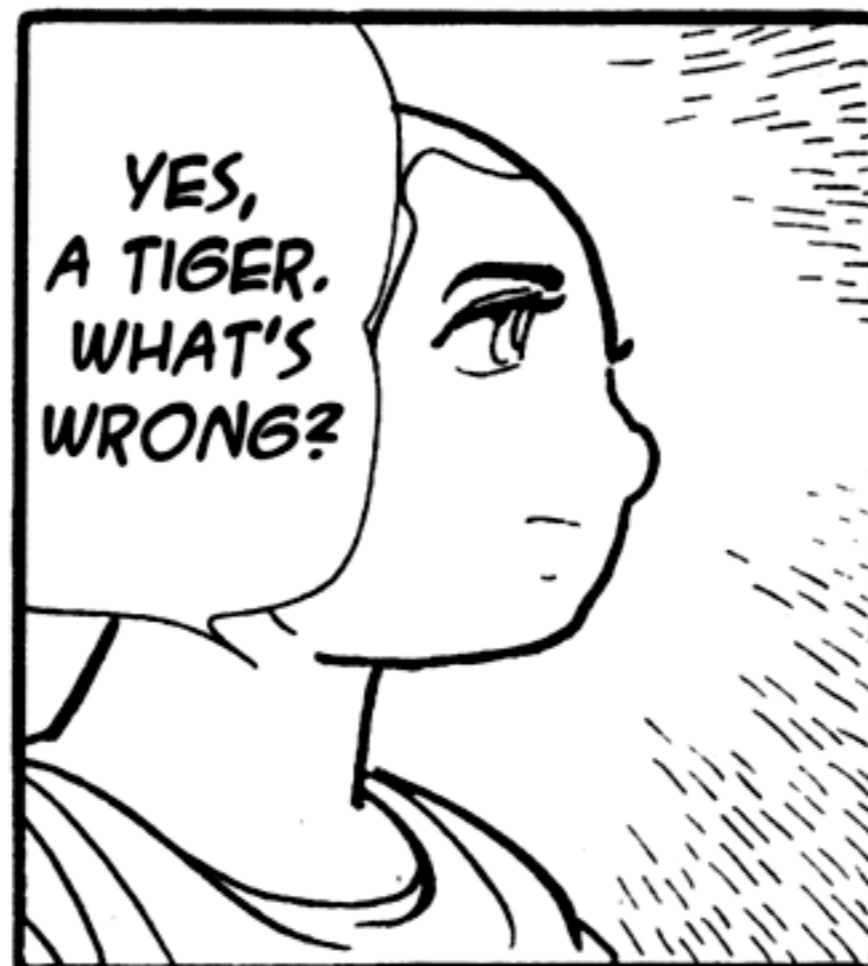
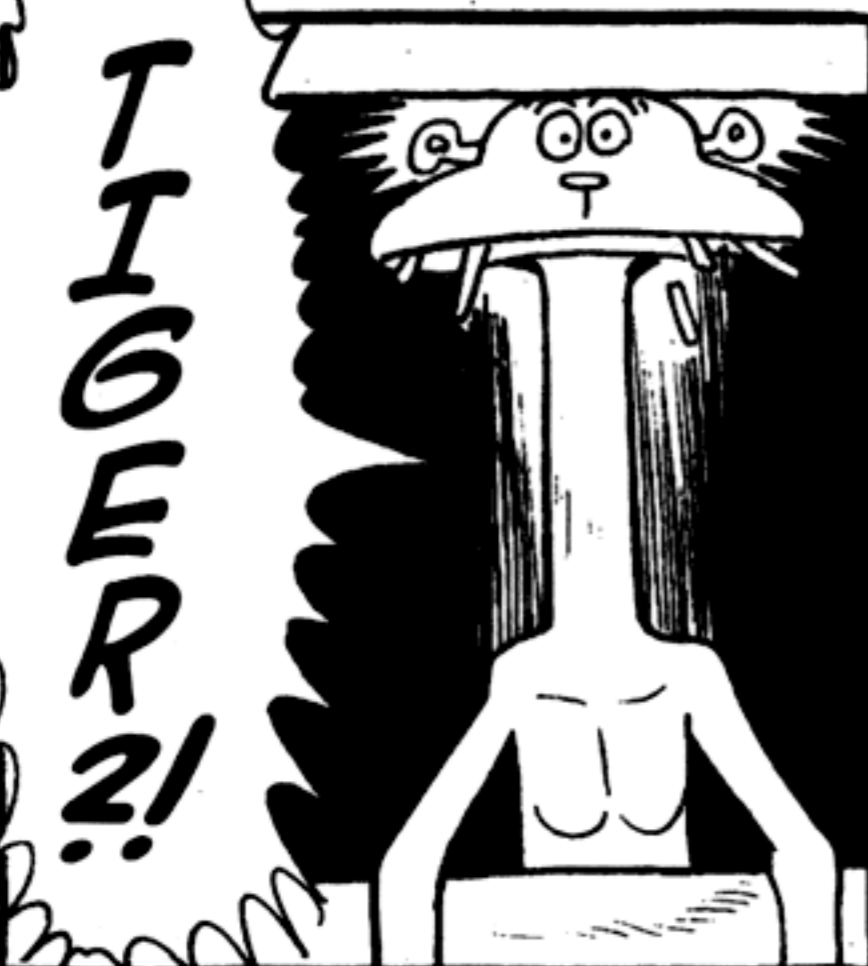
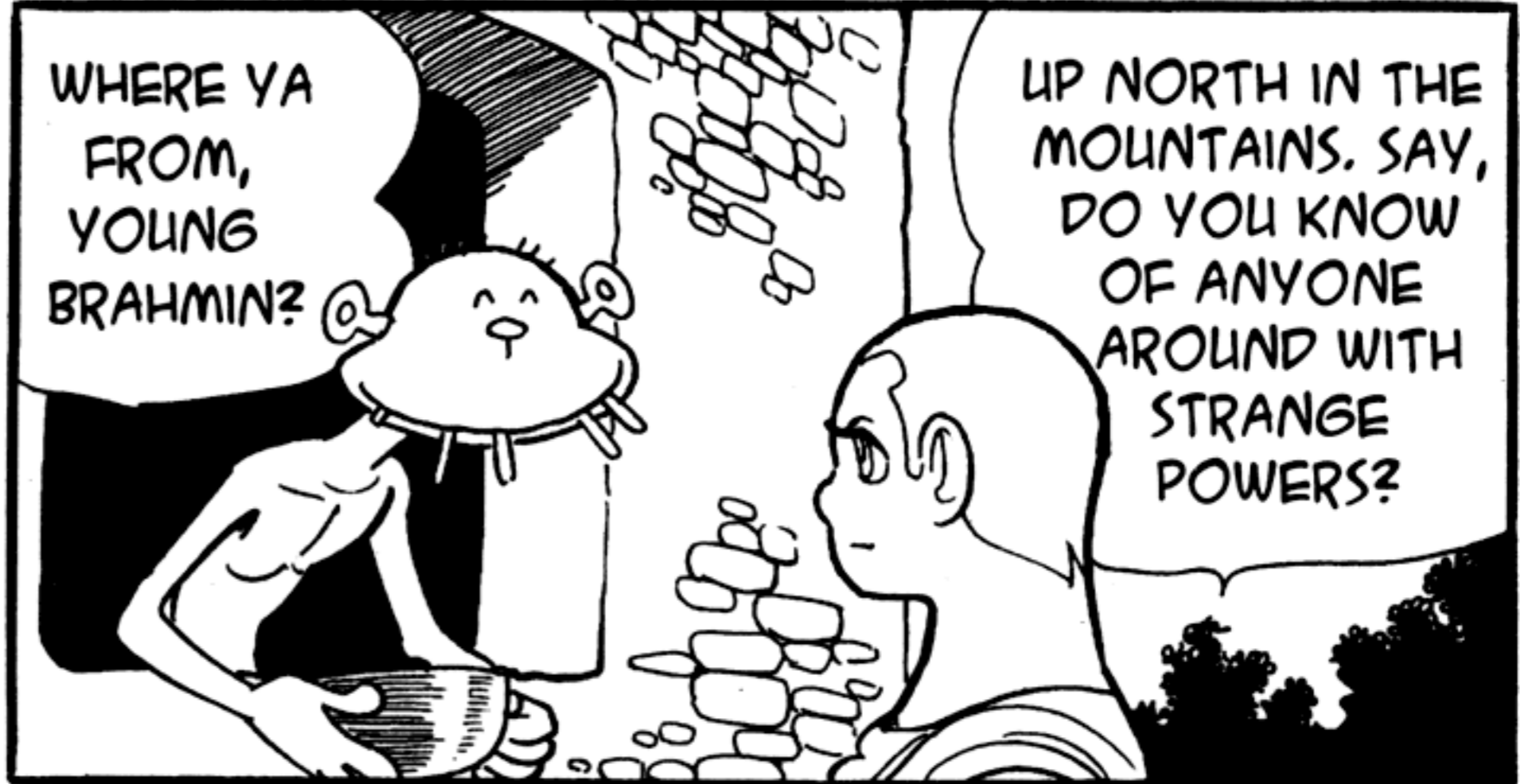
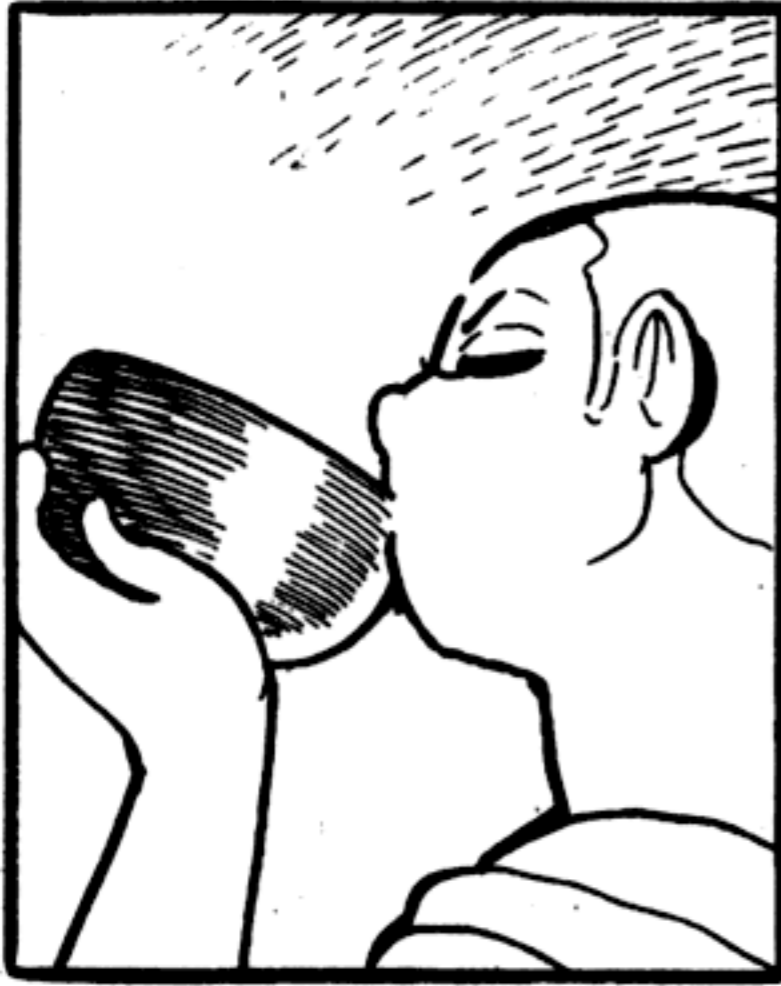
IF MASTER ASITA PREDICTED TRULY, I MAY SEE WITH MY OWN EYES A FUTURE GOD...

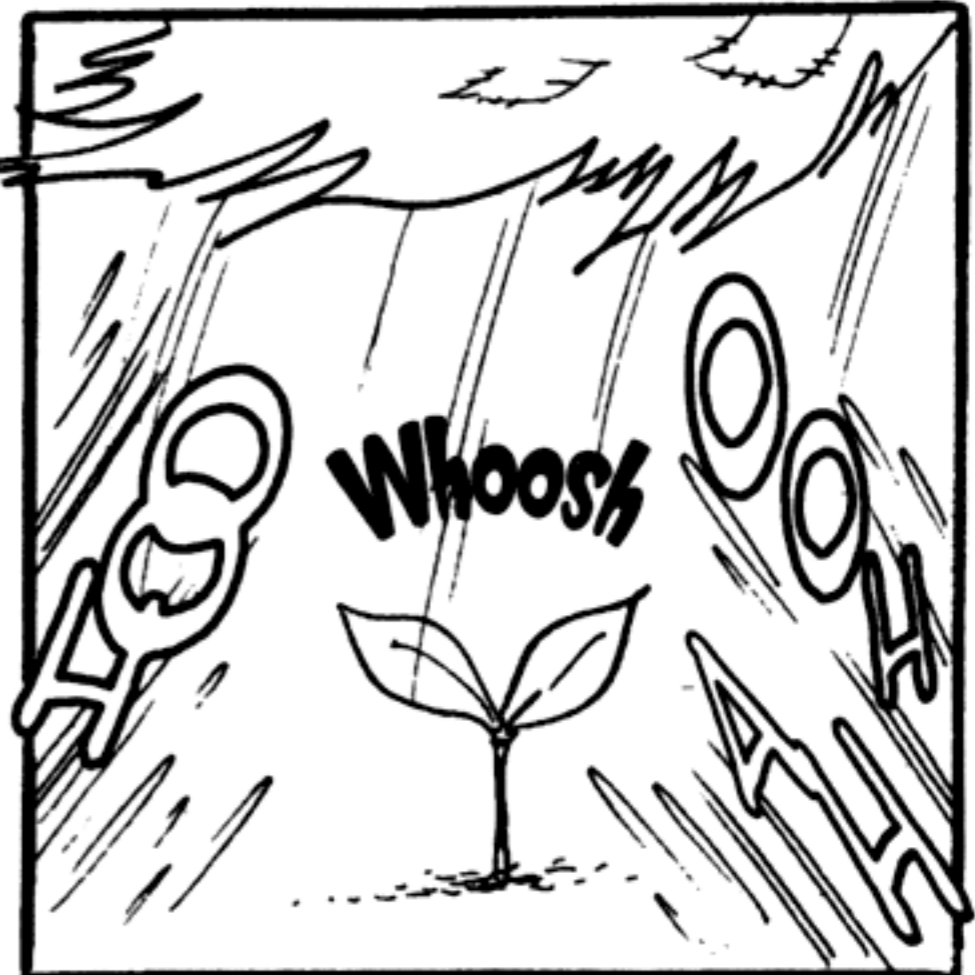
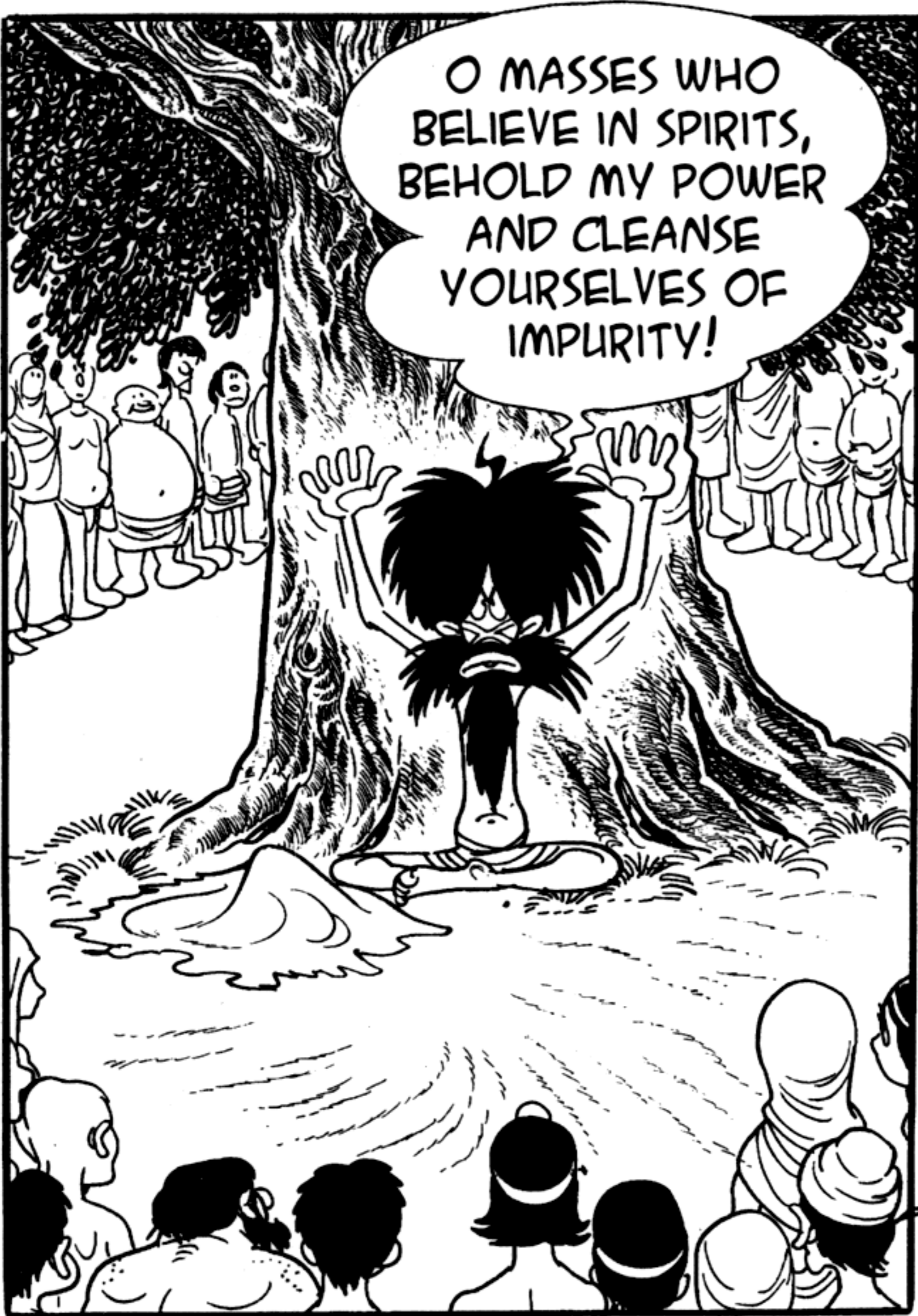
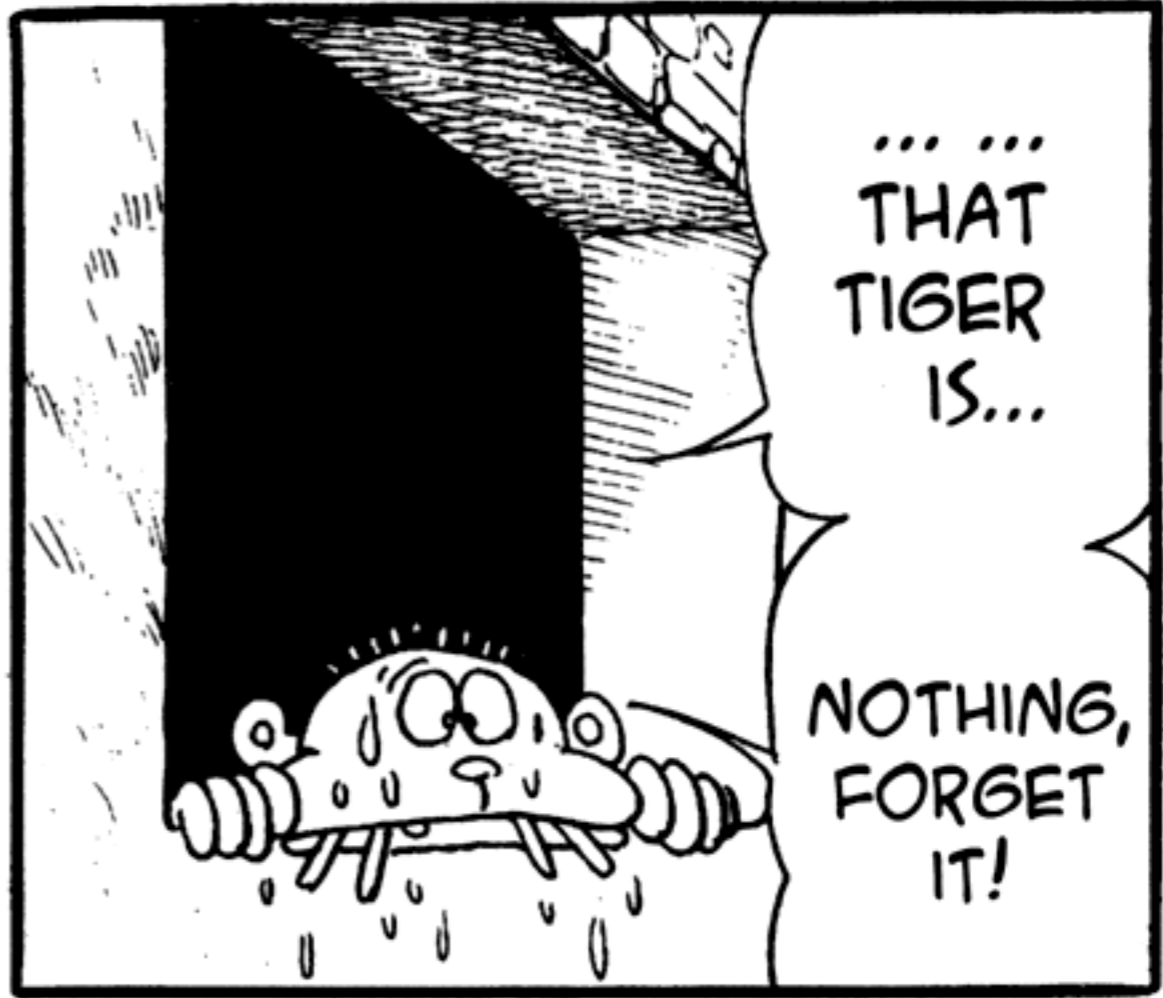
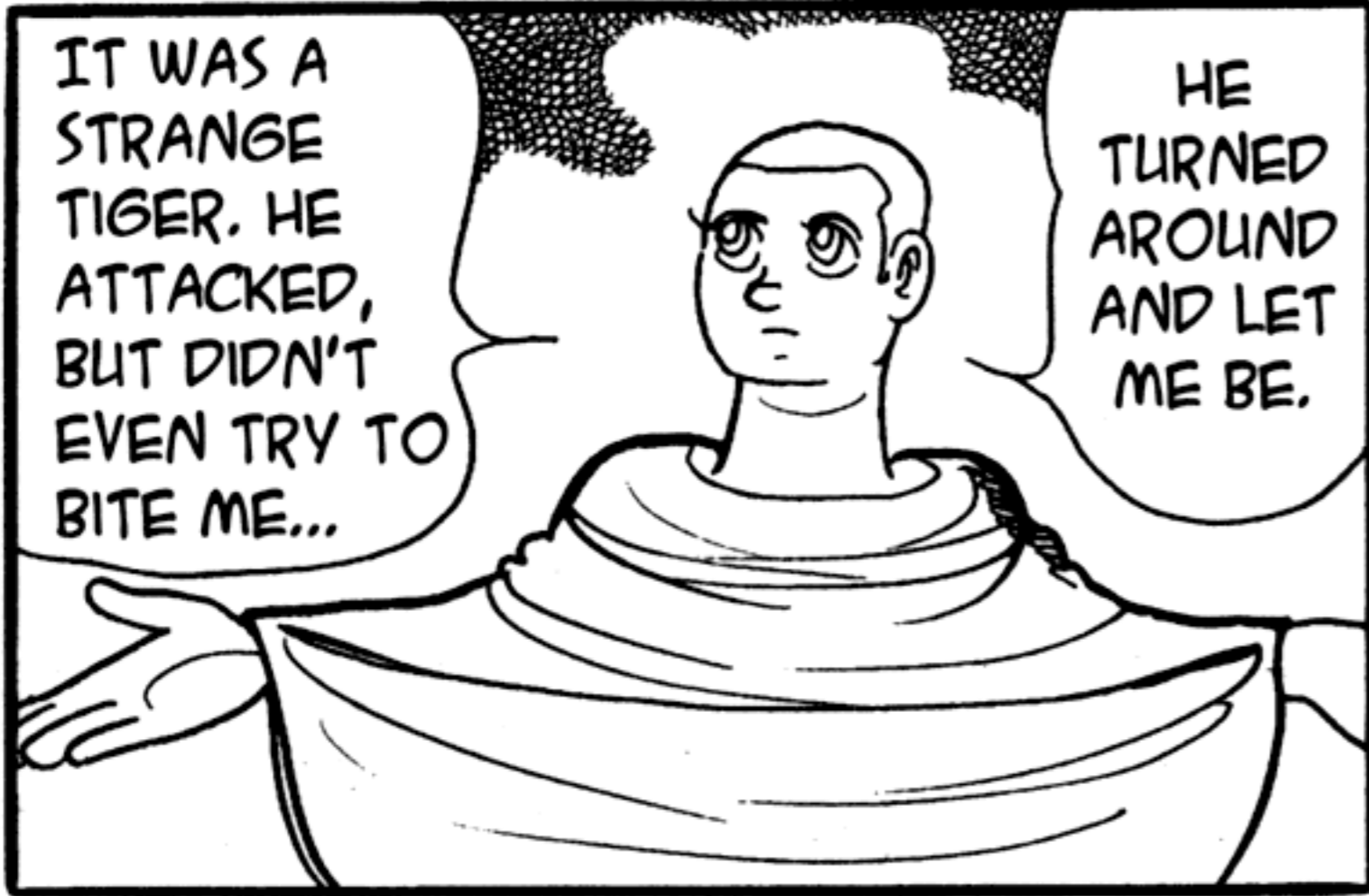
A RARE CHANCE INDEED...

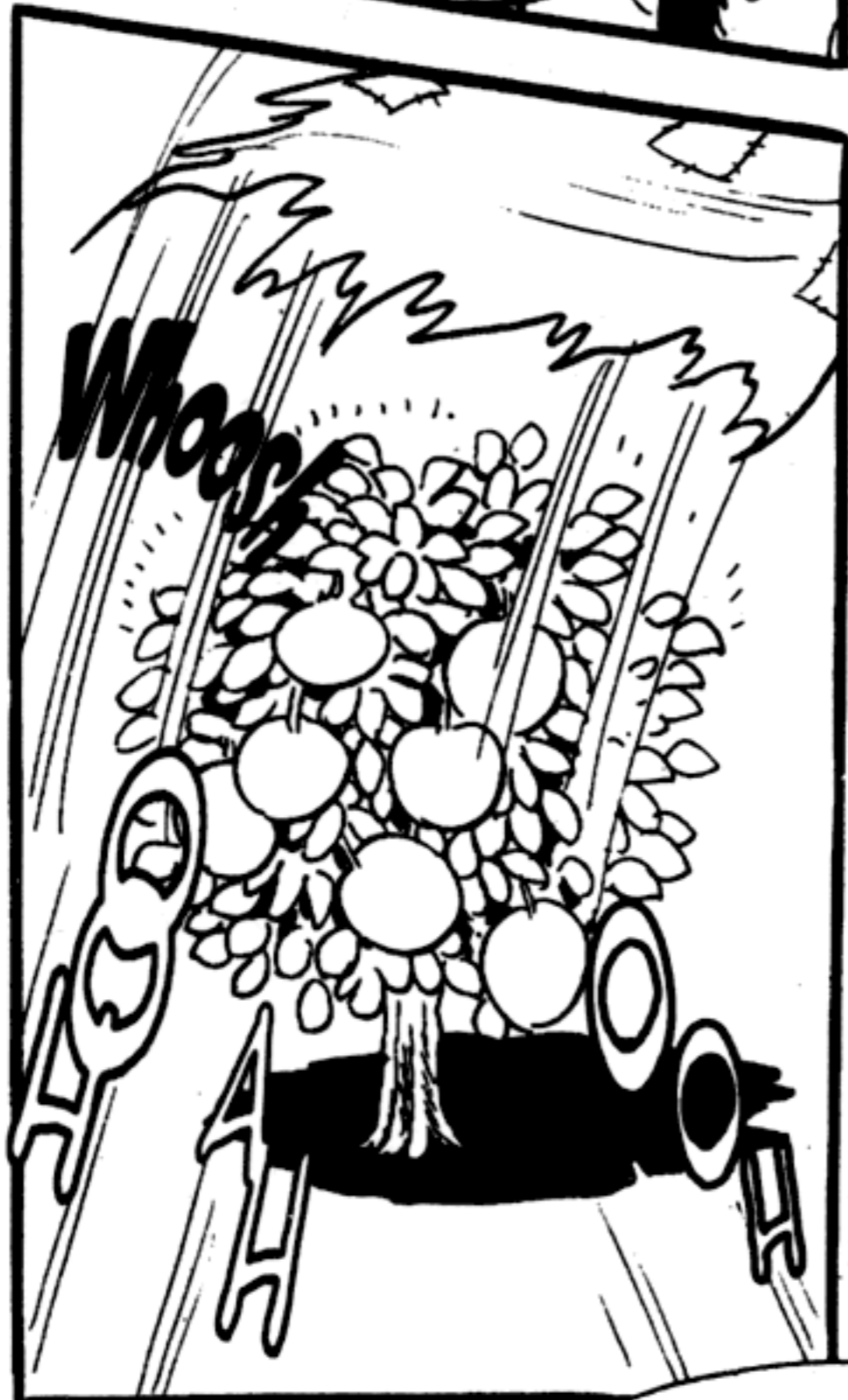
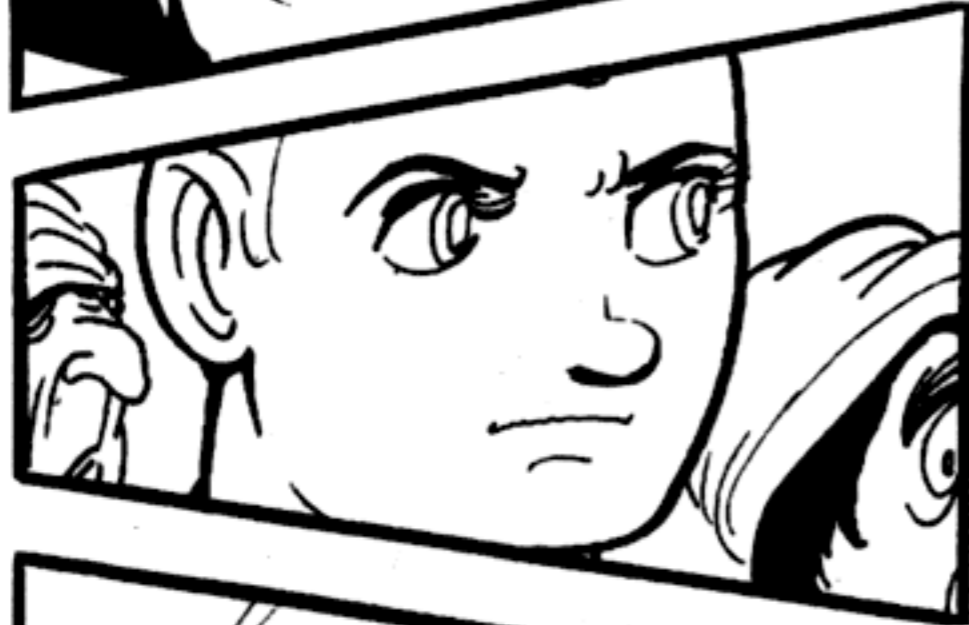












A BRAHMIN
ENGAGING
IN SUCH
SHAMELESS
SLEIGHT
OF HAND!!



BACK OFF,
ROOKIE!

I'VE SEEN ALL
TYPES OF
BRAHMIN, BUT
THE ONES WHO
FAKE SPECIAL
POWERS FOR
FILTHY LUCRE
ARE THE WORST!

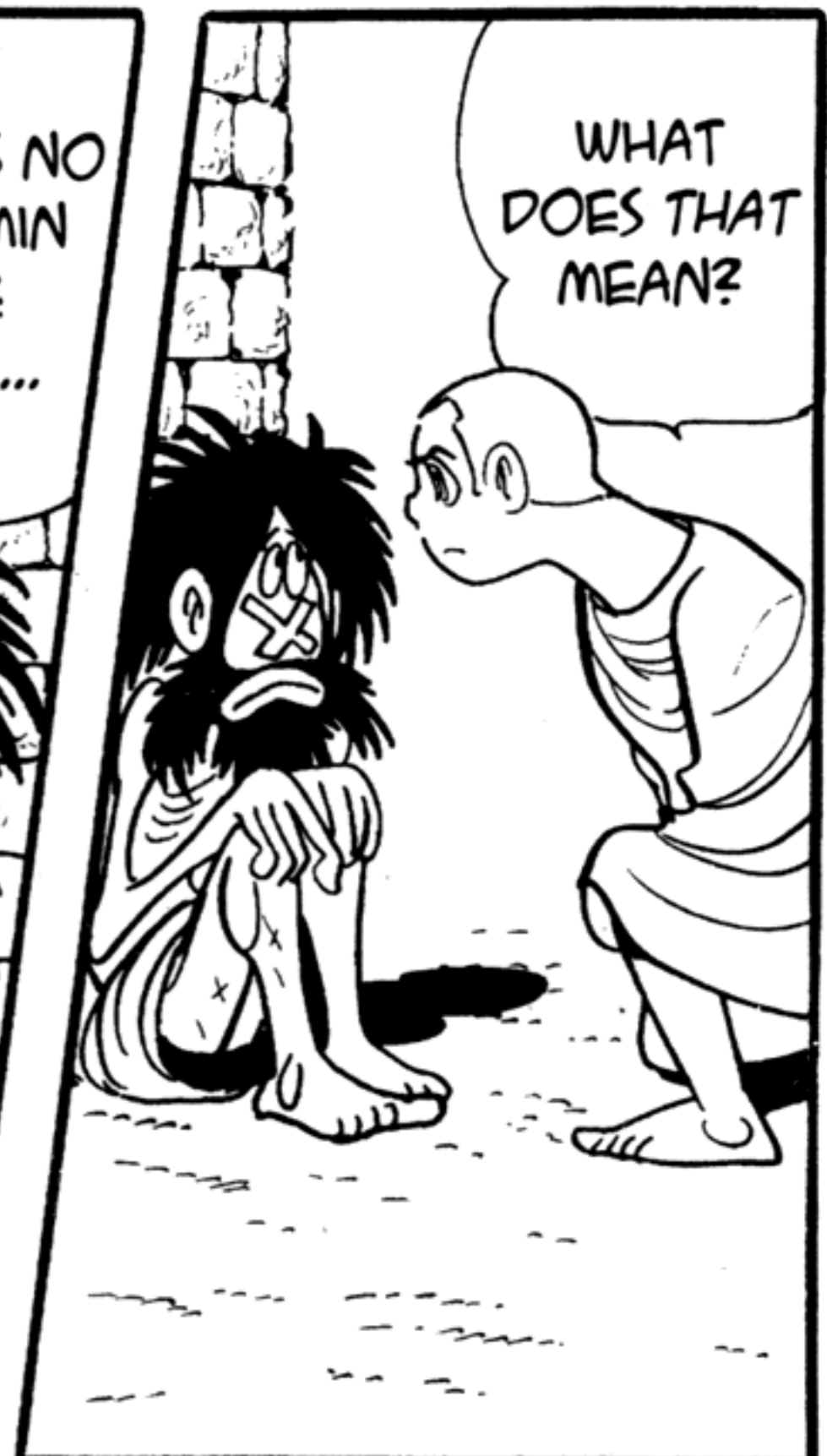
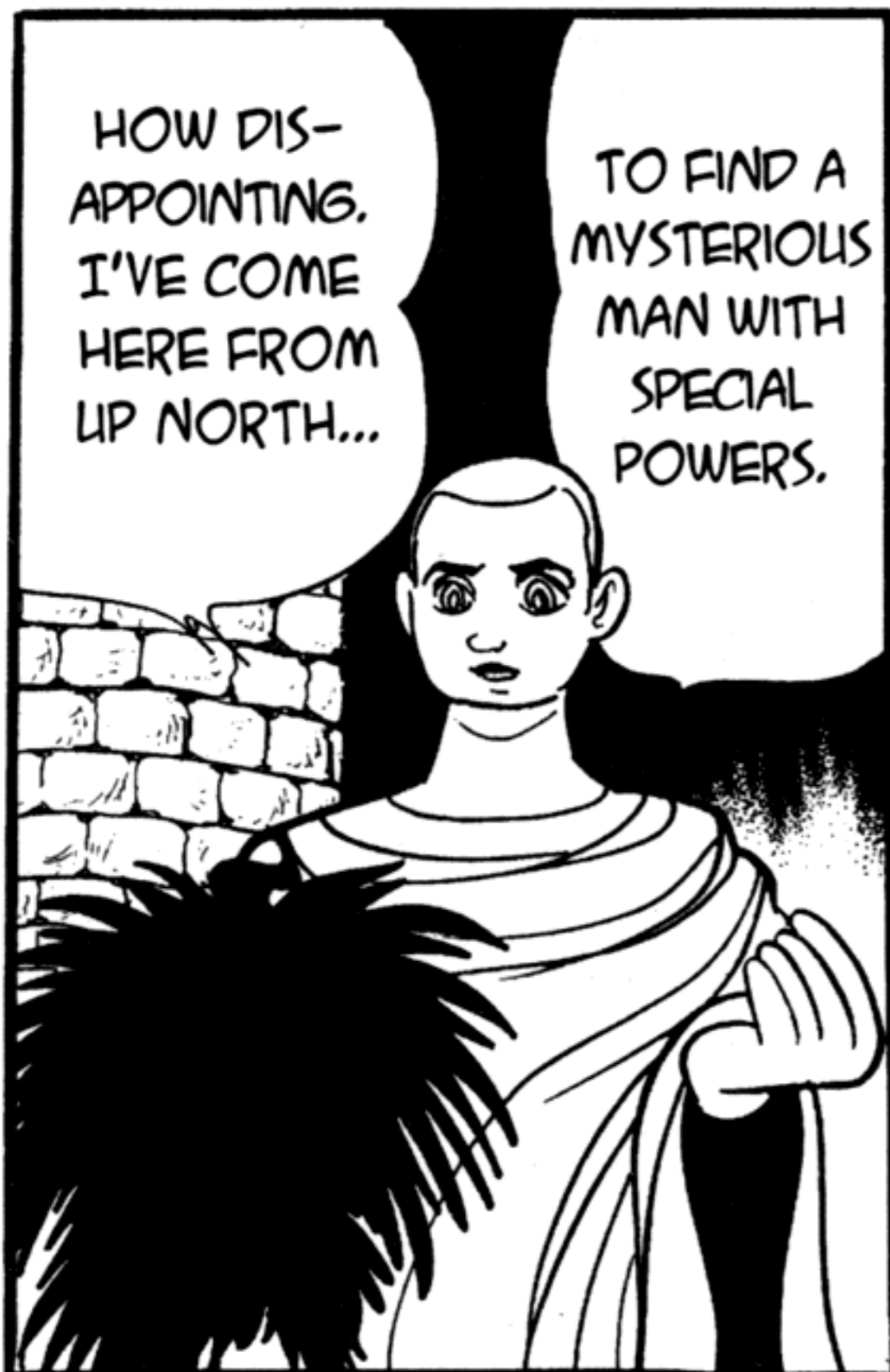
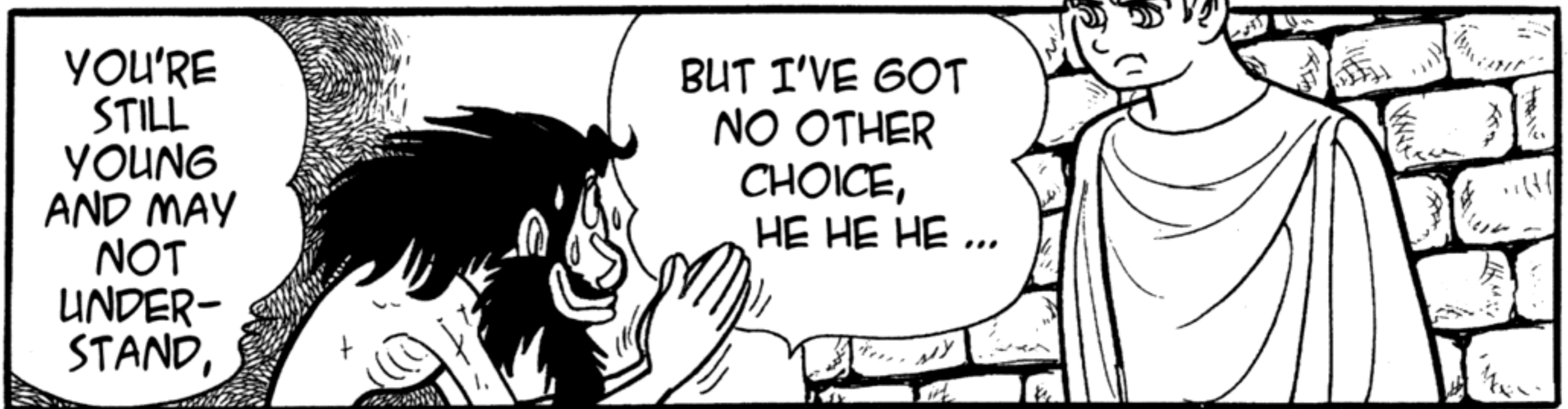
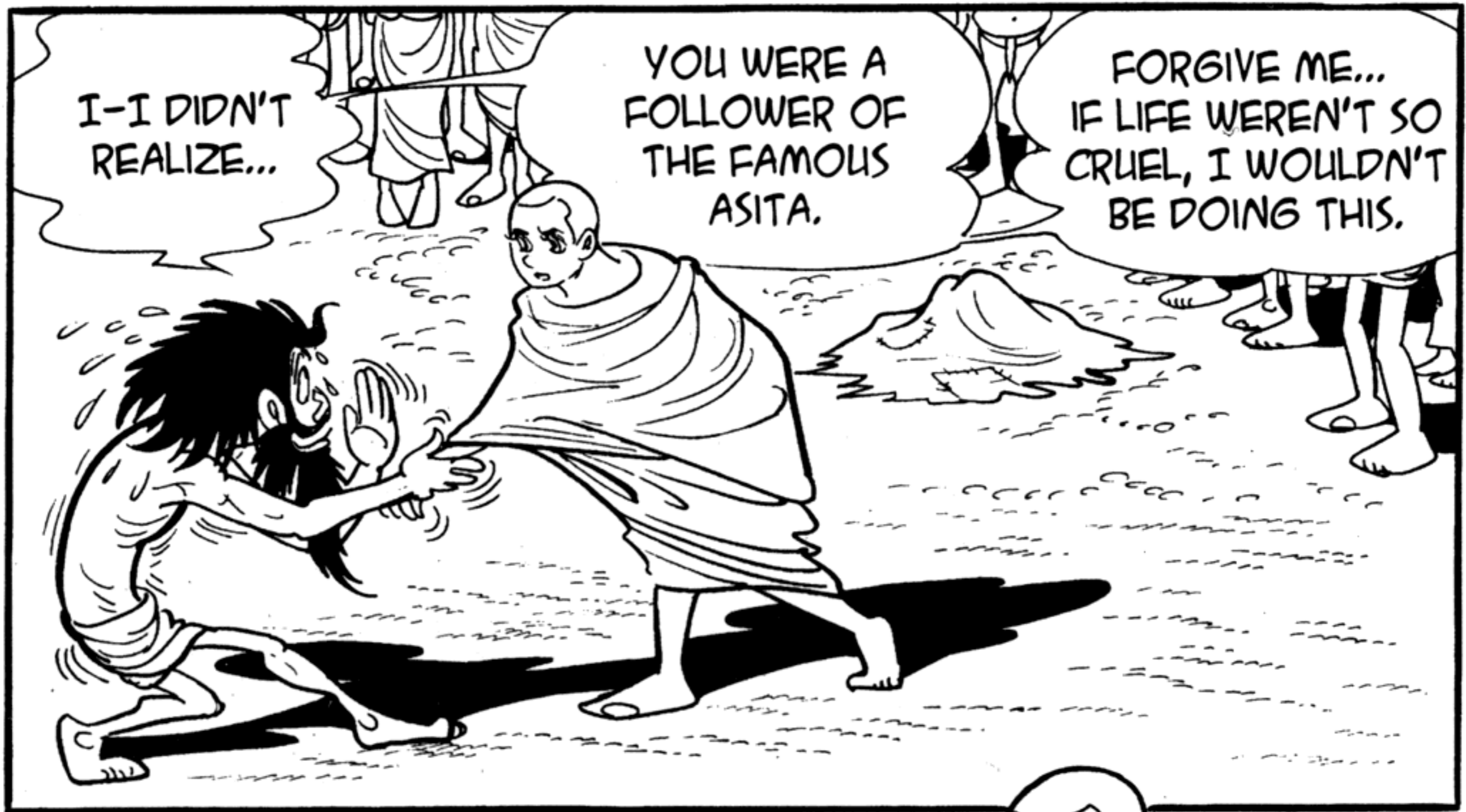


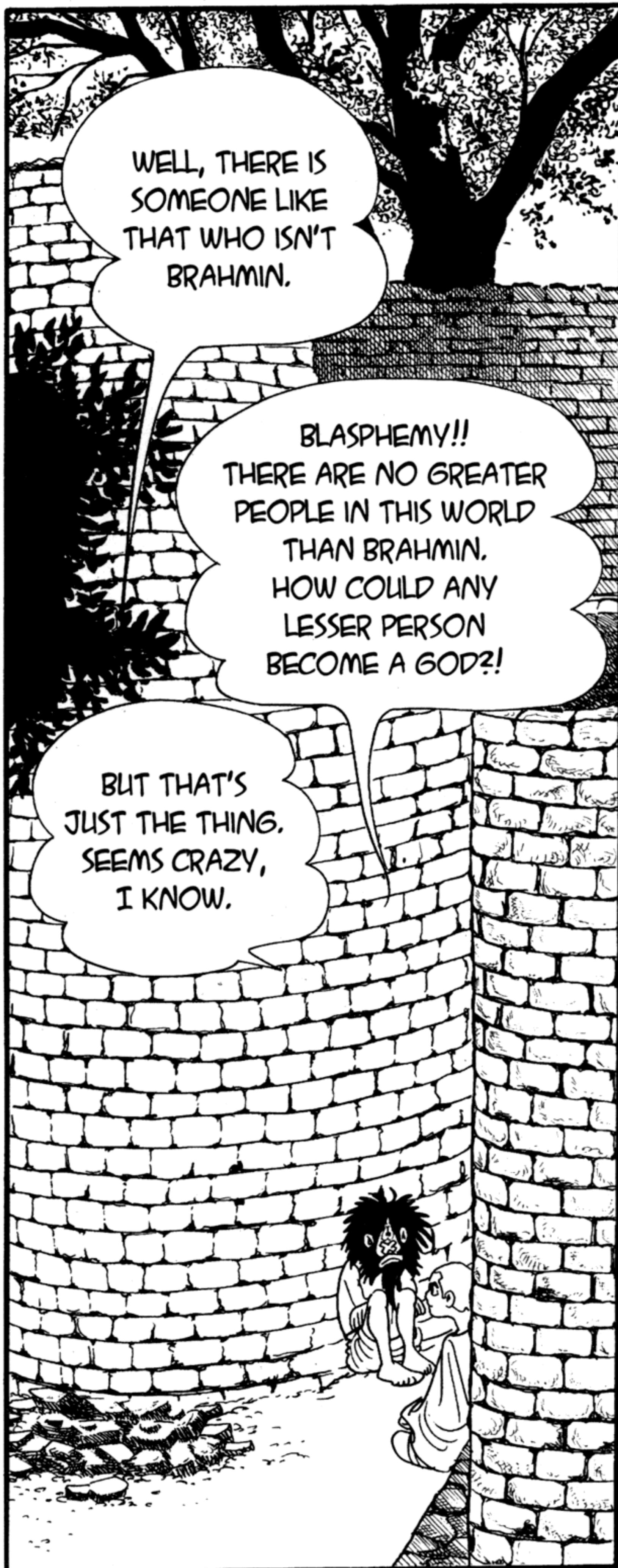
WHO
THE
HELL
ARE
YOU?!

I'M NARADATTA,
DISCIPLE OF
MASTER ASITA.



A
S
I
T
A
?





WELL, THERE IS SOMEONE LIKE THAT WHO ISN'T BRAHMIN.

BLASPHEMY!! THERE ARE NO GREATER PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD THAN BRAHMIN. HOW COULD ANY LESSER PERSON BECOME A GOD?!

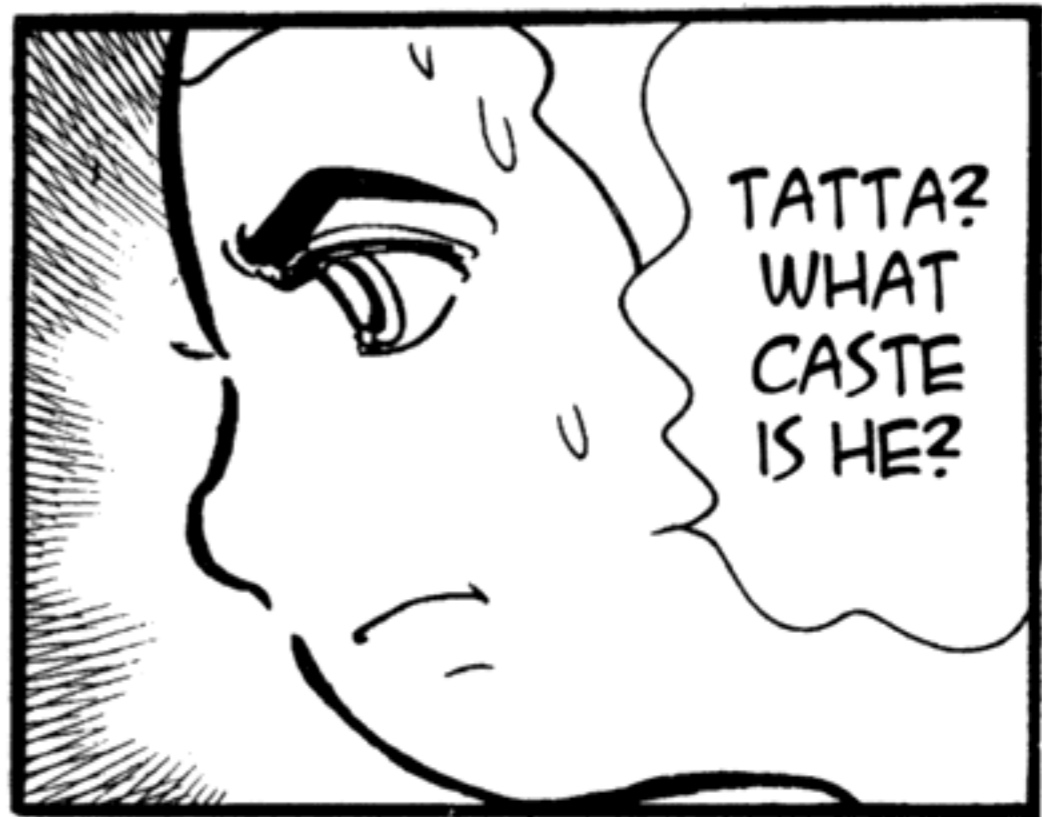
BUT THAT'S JUST THE THING. SEEMS CRAZY, I KNOW.



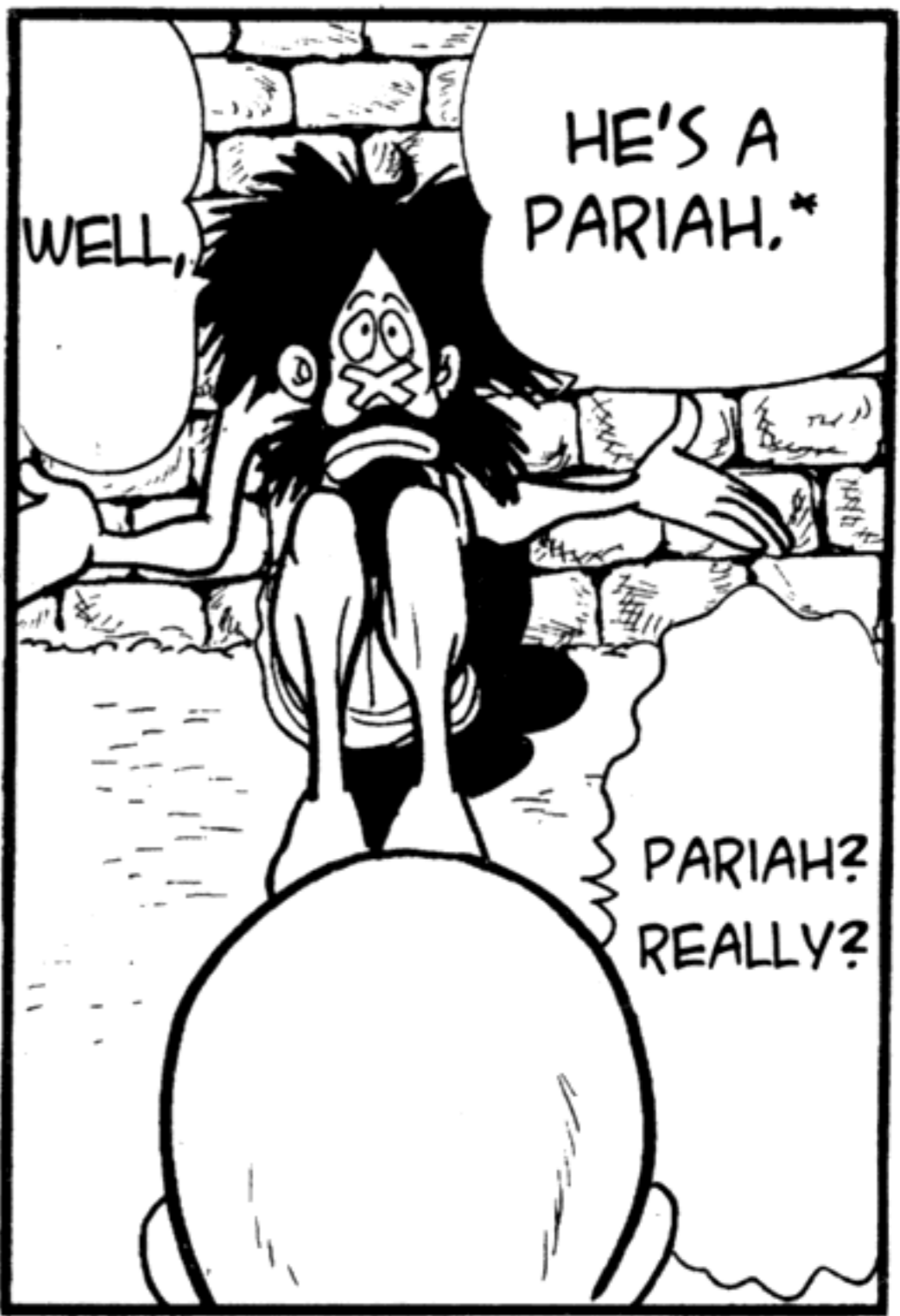
OF WHOM DO YOU SPEAK?!



ONE CALLED TATTA.



TATTA? WHAT CASTE IS HE?

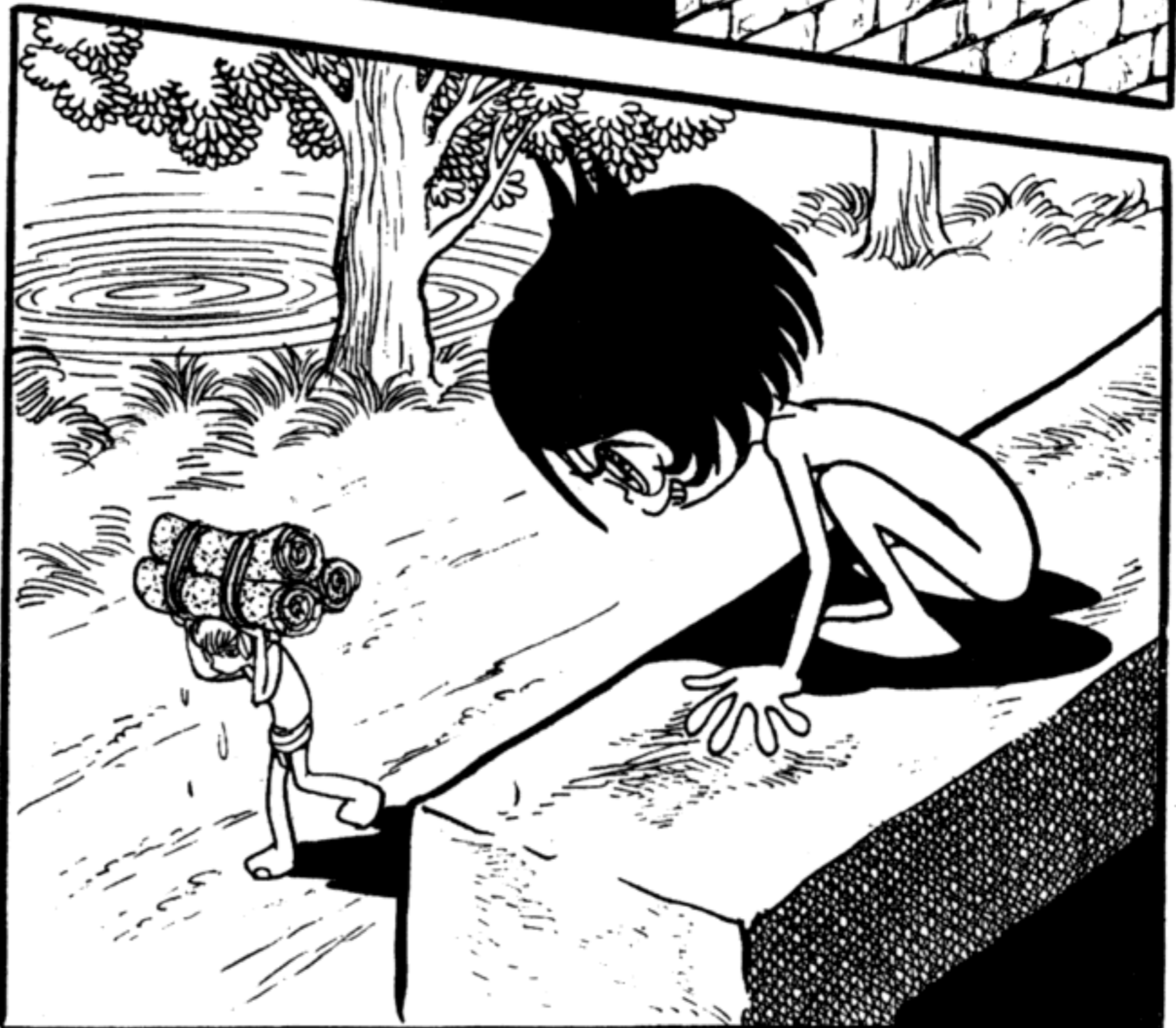
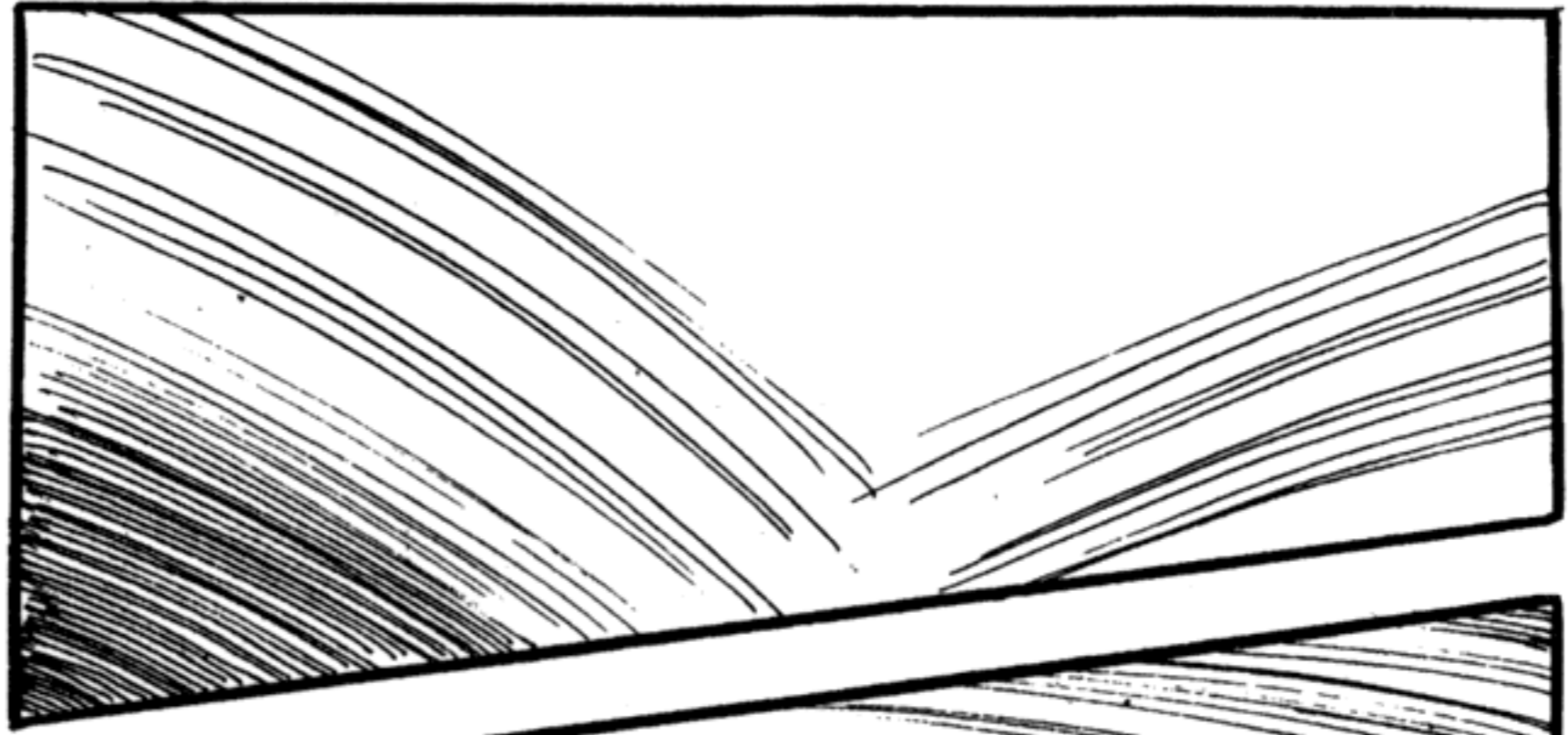
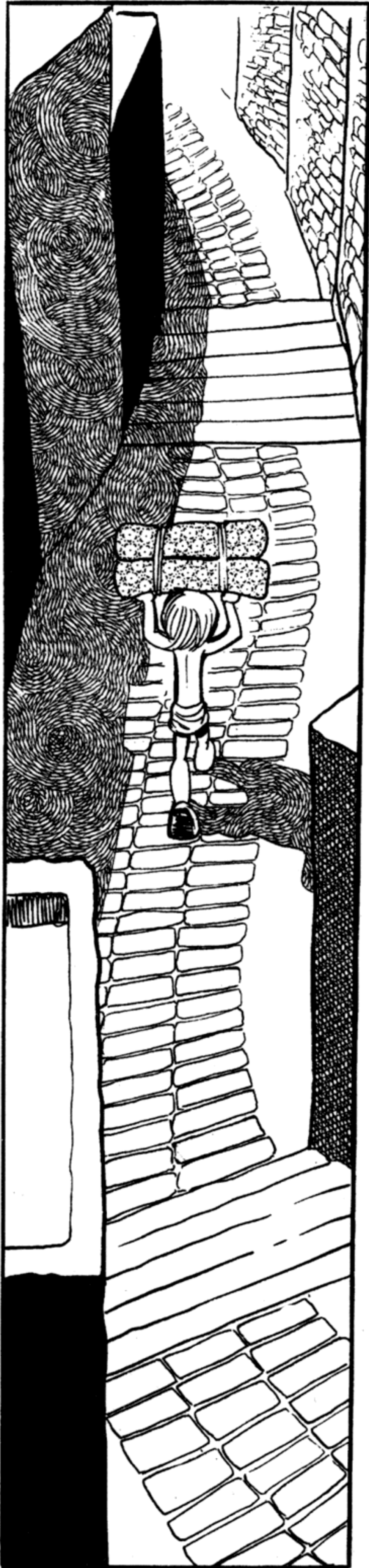


WELL,

HE'S A PARIAH.*

PARIAH? REALLY?

*THESE OUTCASTS RANKED LOWEST IN THE CLASS SYSTEM OF THE TIME, LOWER EVEN THAN SHUDRA, THE SLAVE CASTE. CONSIDERED SUBHUMAN, PARIAS SUFFERED TERRIBLE DISCRIMINATION.





WHOOSH



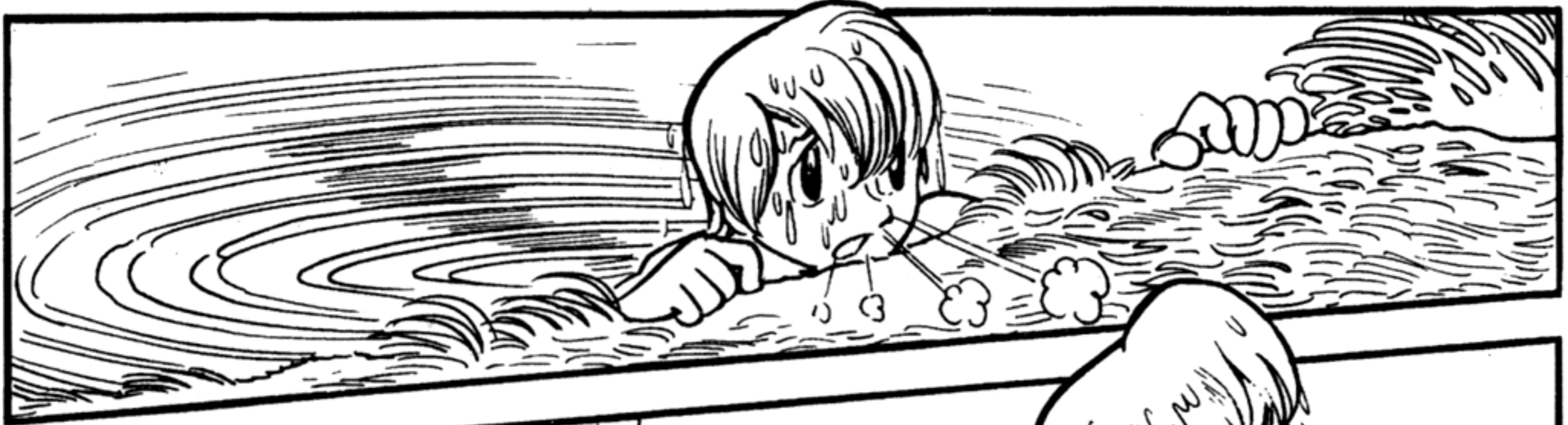
BUMP

AH!

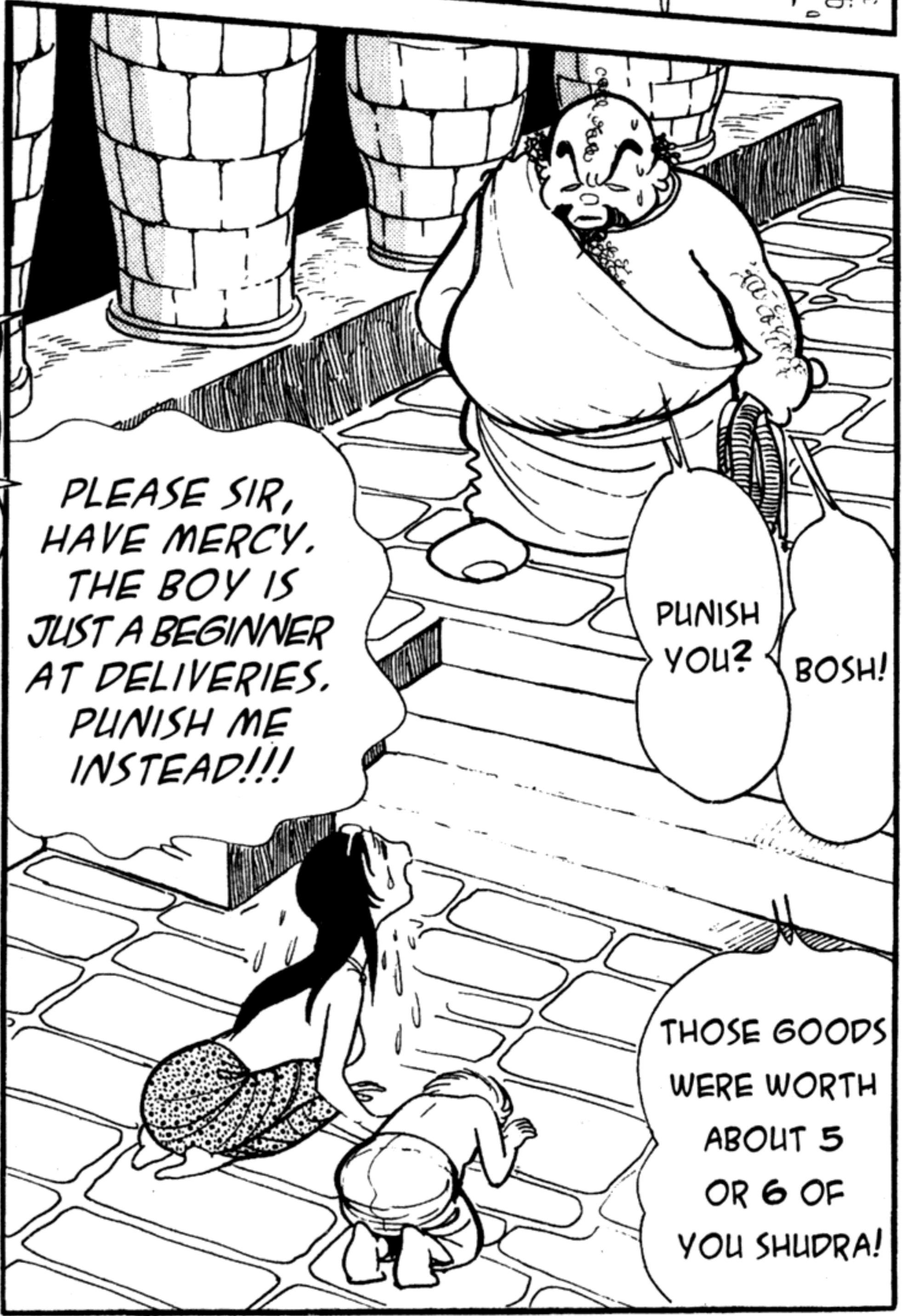


THIEF!
THIEF!!

GIVE
IT
BACK!



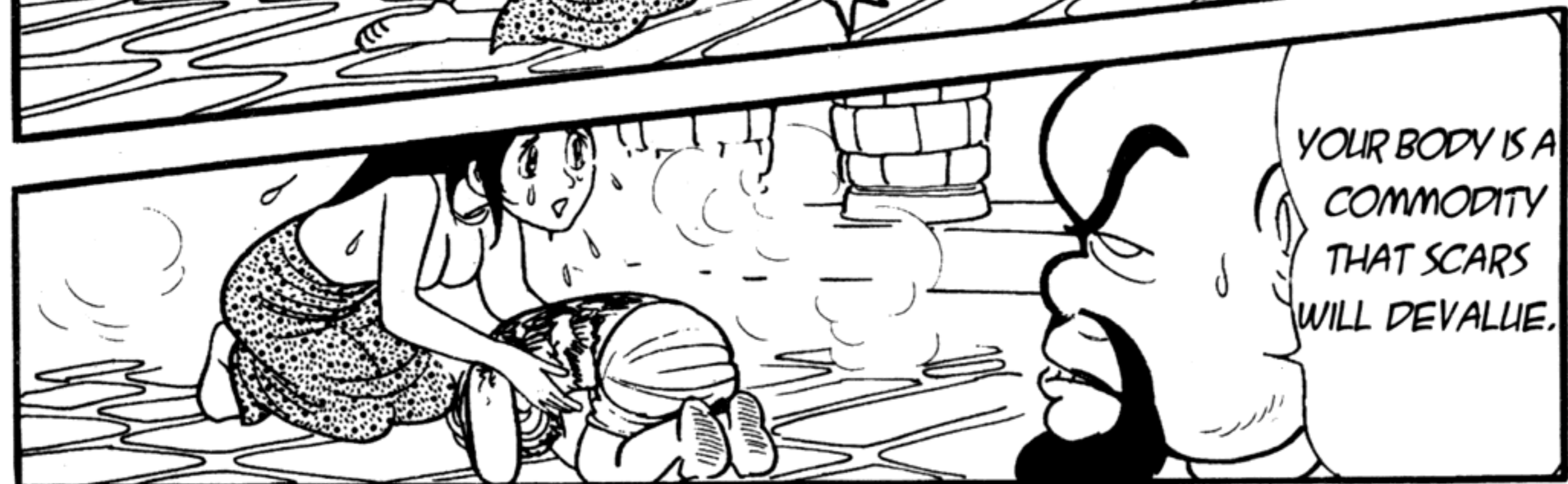
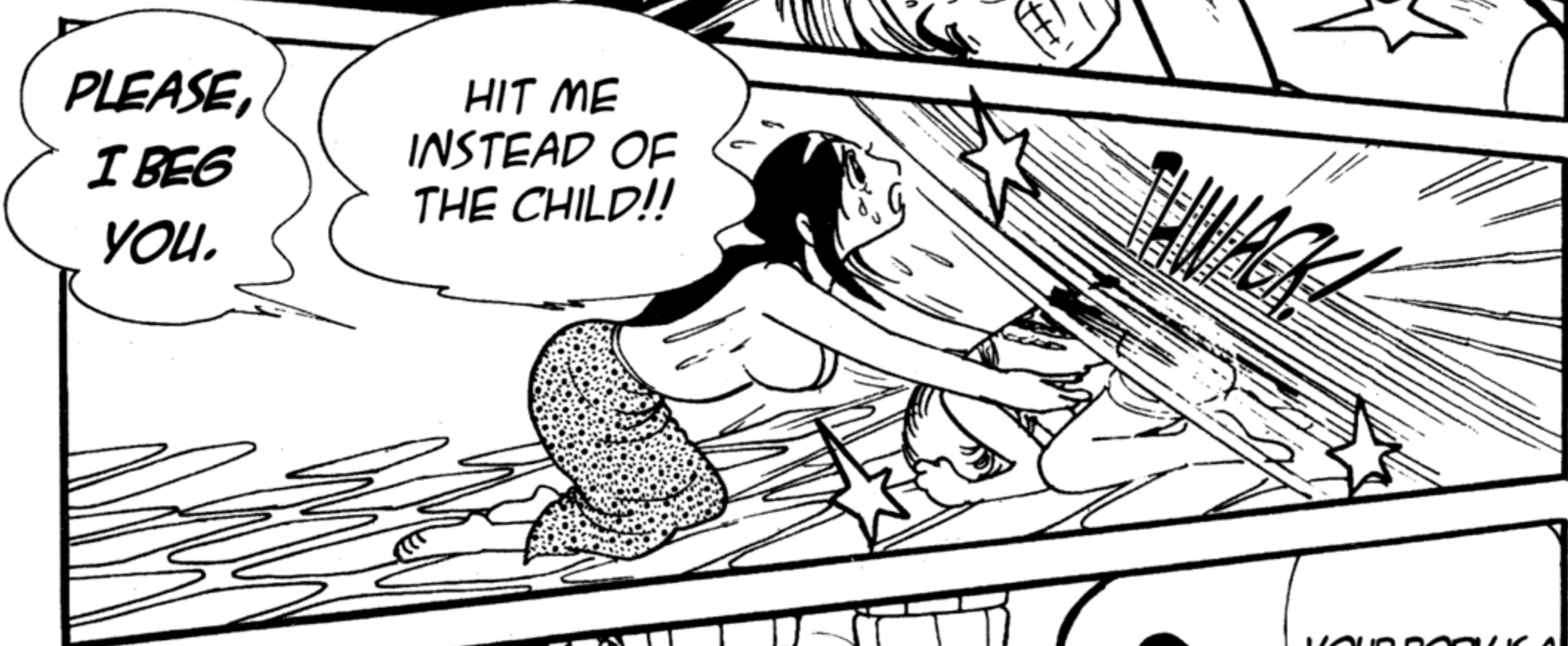
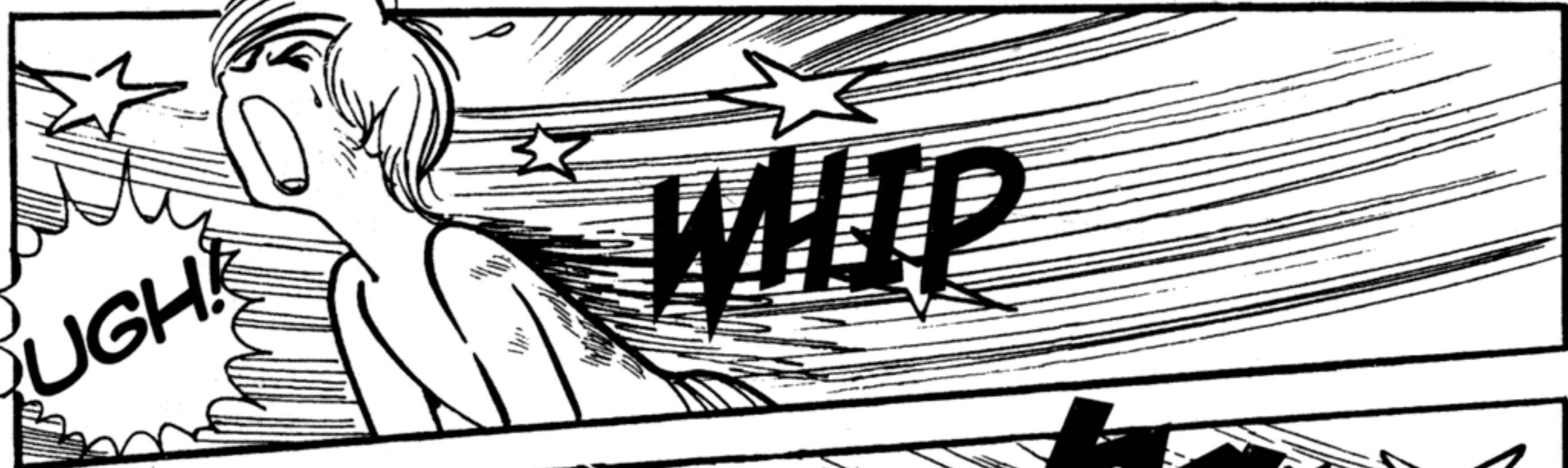
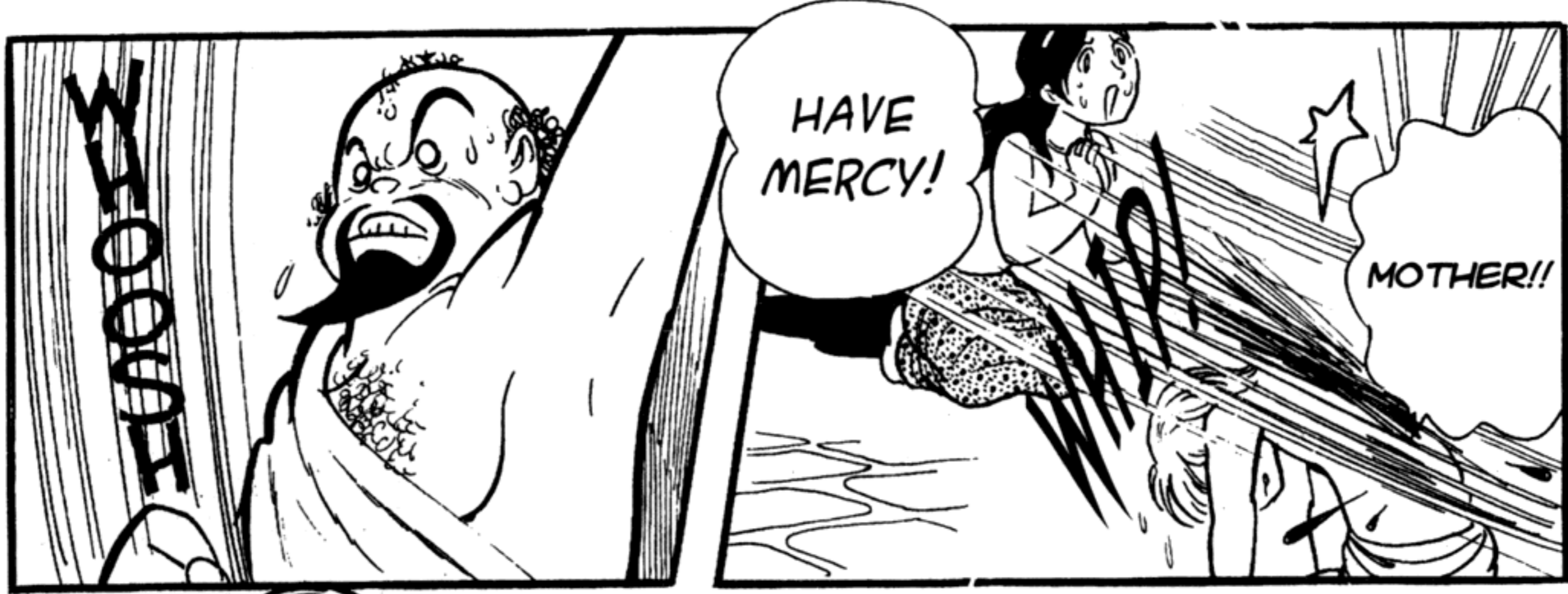
WHAT?!
YOUR LOAD
FOR OUR BEST
CUSTOMER WAS
TAKEN BY
A THIEF?!

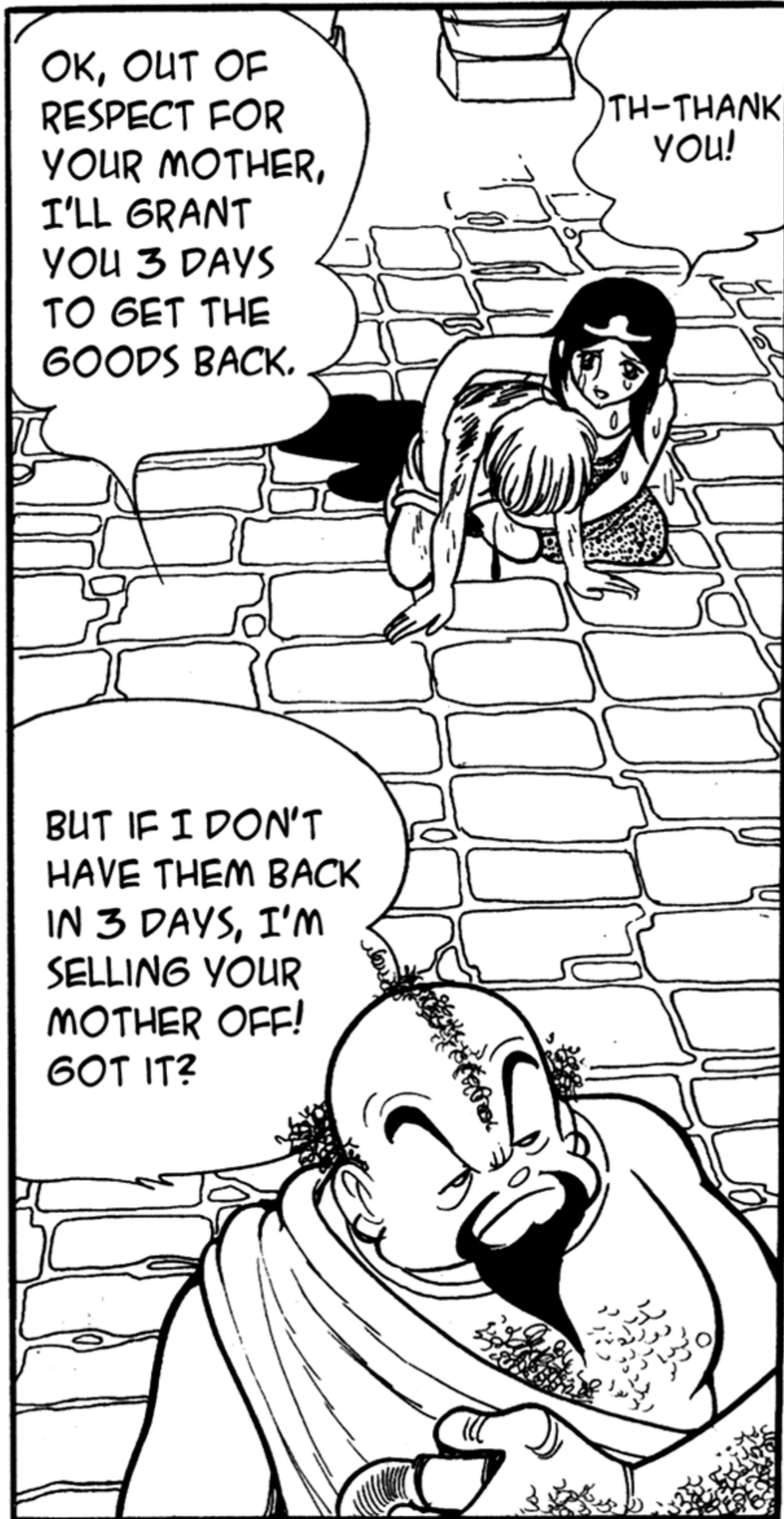


PLEASE SIR,
HAVE MERCY.
THE BOY IS
JUST A BEGINNER
AT DELIVERIES.
PUNISH ME
INSTEAD!!!

PUNISH
YOU?
BOSH!

THOSE GOODS
WERE WORTH
ABOUT 5
OR 6 OF
YOU SHUDRA!

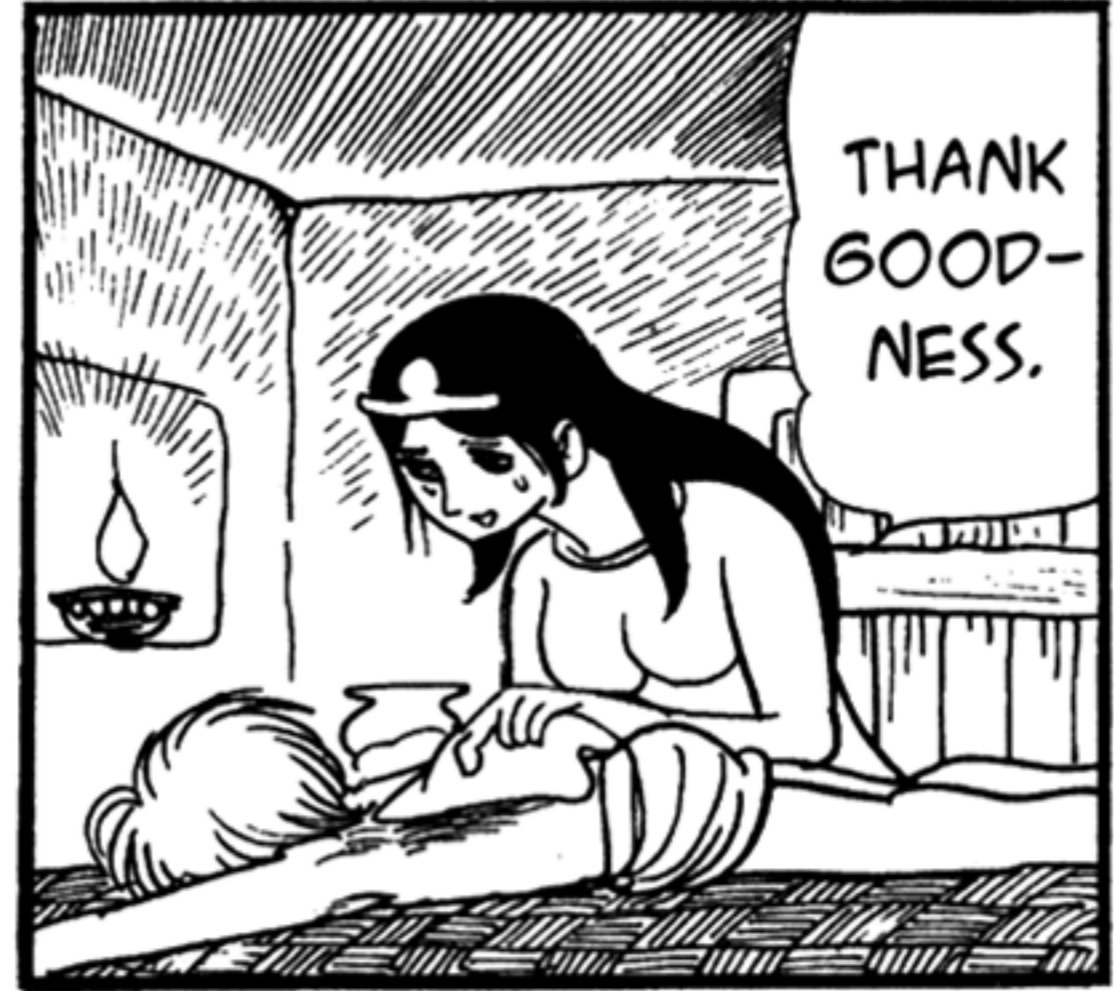




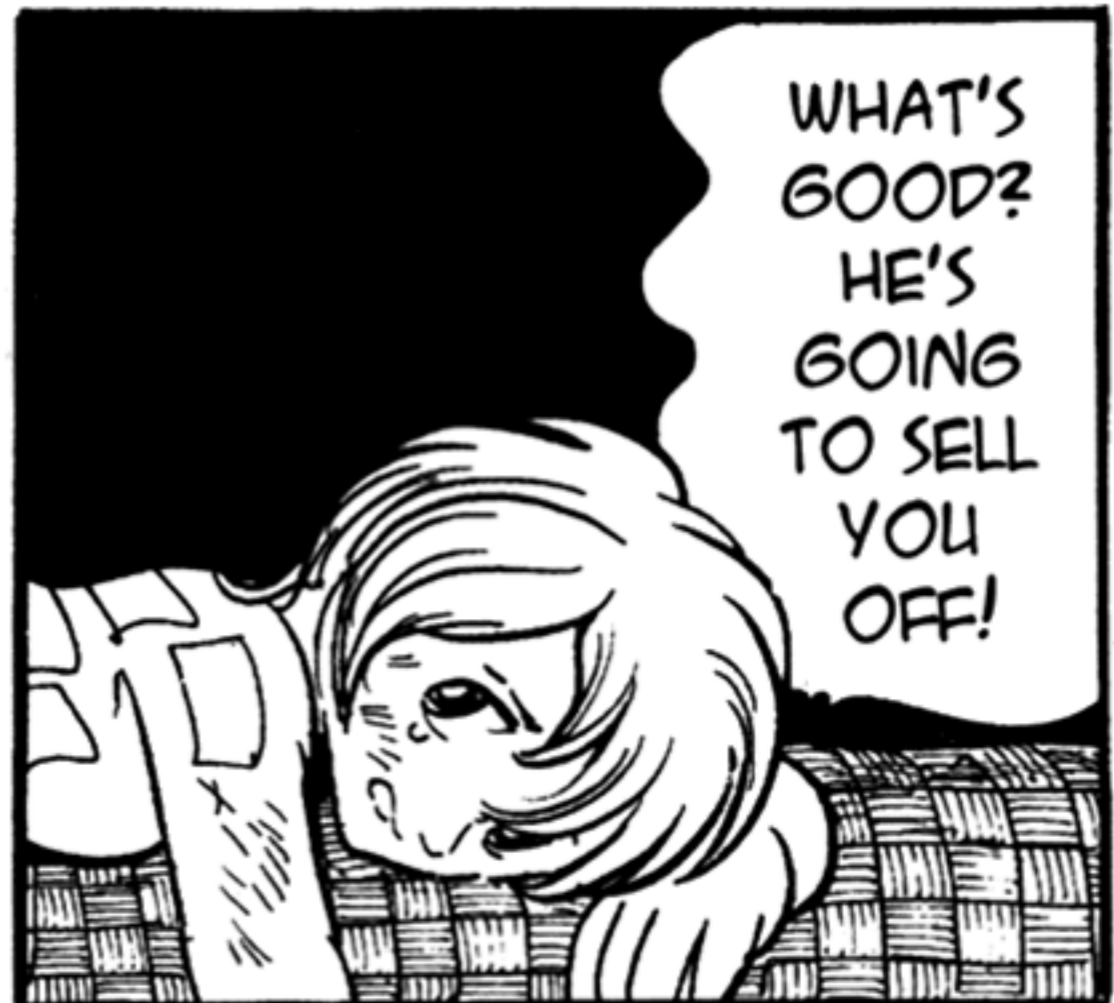
OK, OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR MOTHER, I'LL GRANT YOU 3 DAYS TO GET THE GOODS BACK.

TH-THANK YOU!

BUT IF I DON'T HAVE THEM BACK IN 3 DAYS, I'M SELLING YOUR MOTHER OFF! GOT IT?



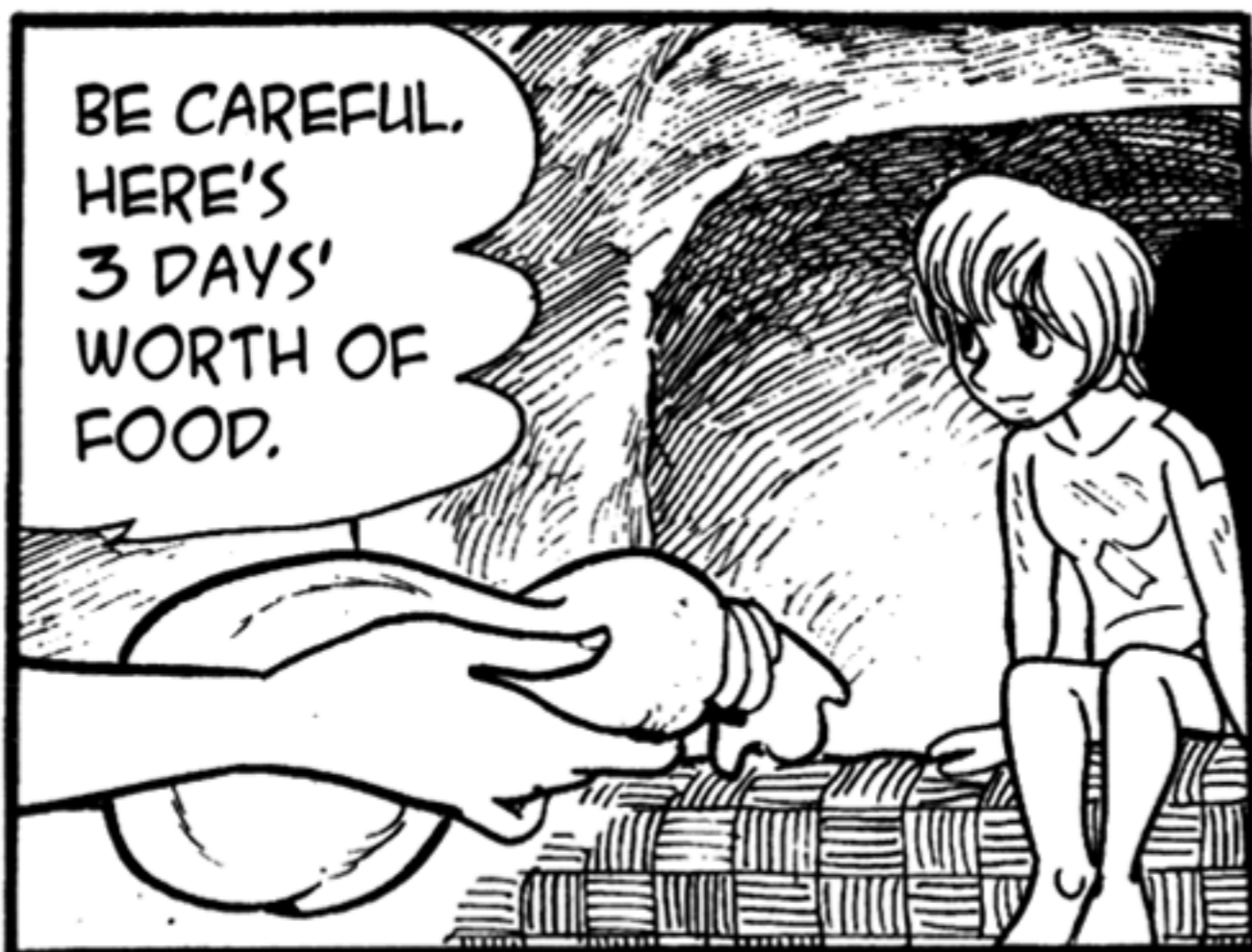
THANK GOODNESS.



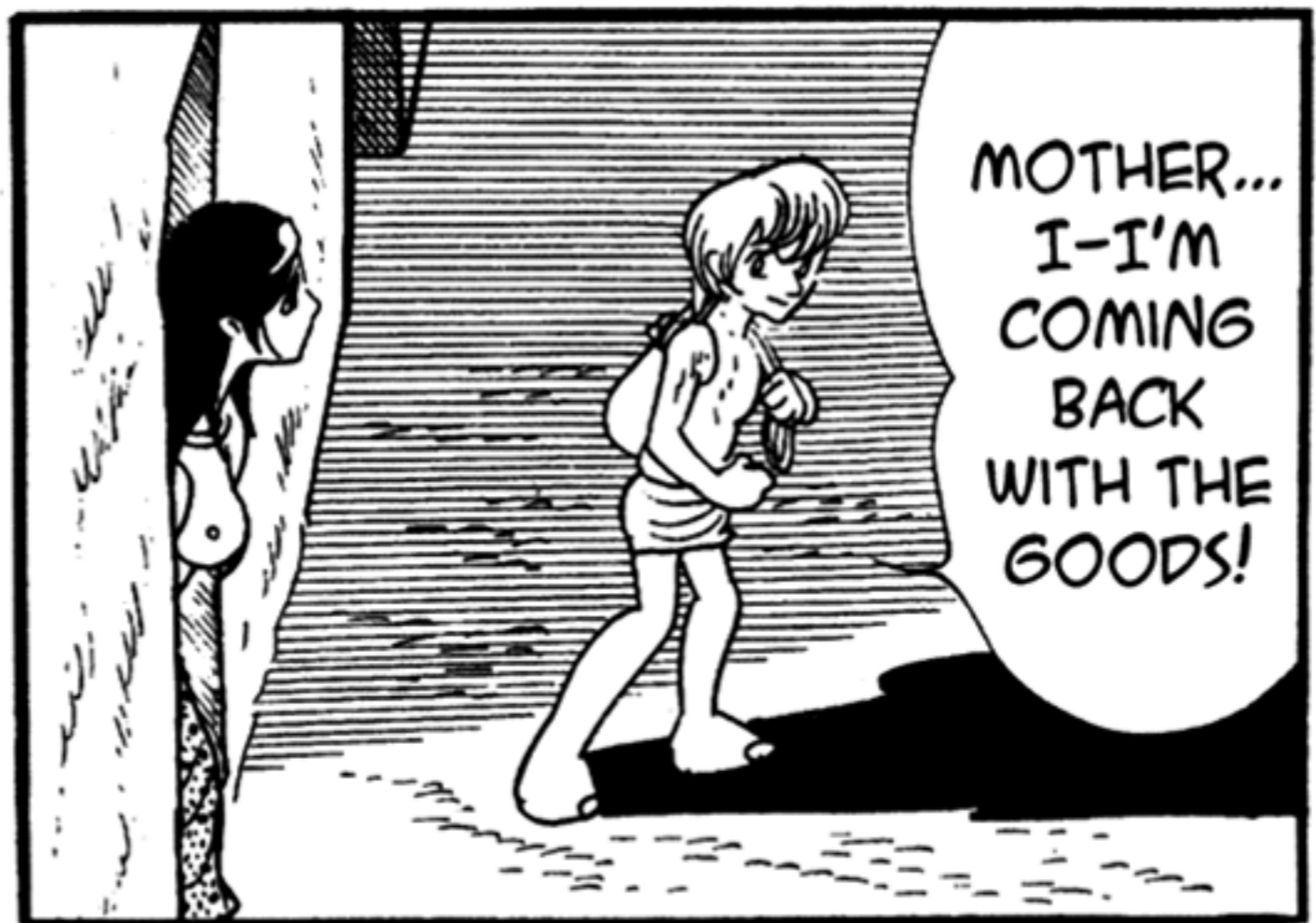
WHAT'S GOOD? HE'S GOING TO SELL YOU OFF!



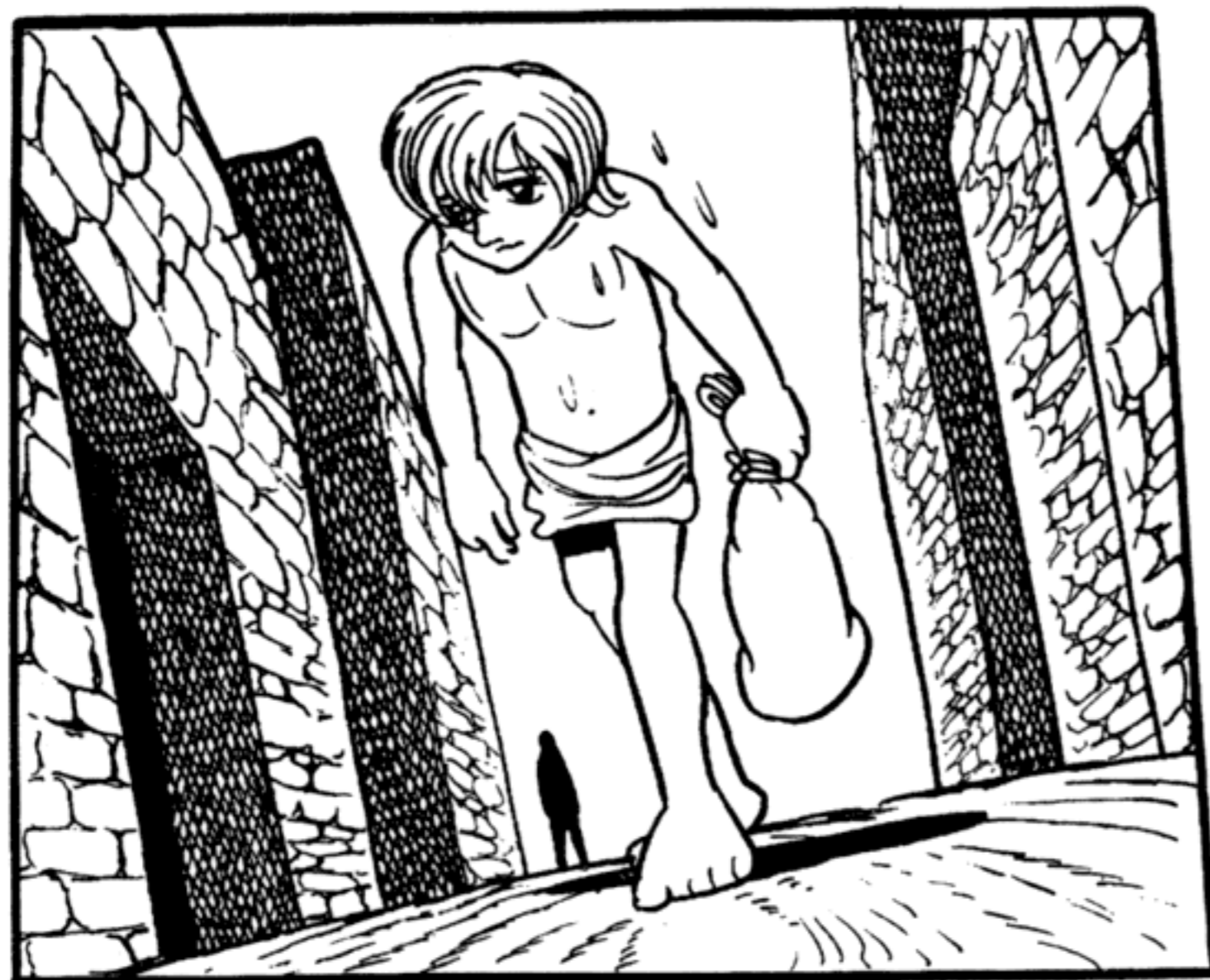
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, HONEY. COME NOW.

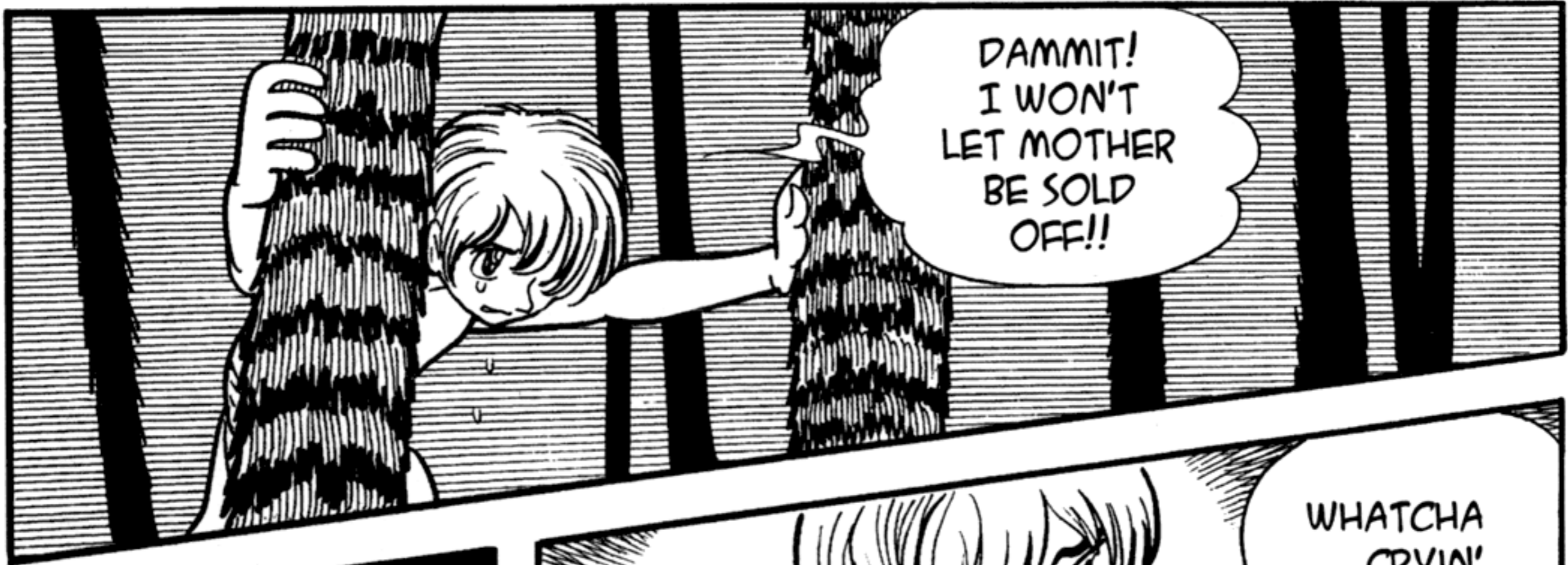


BE CAREFUL. HERE'S 3 DAYS' WORTH OF FOOD.

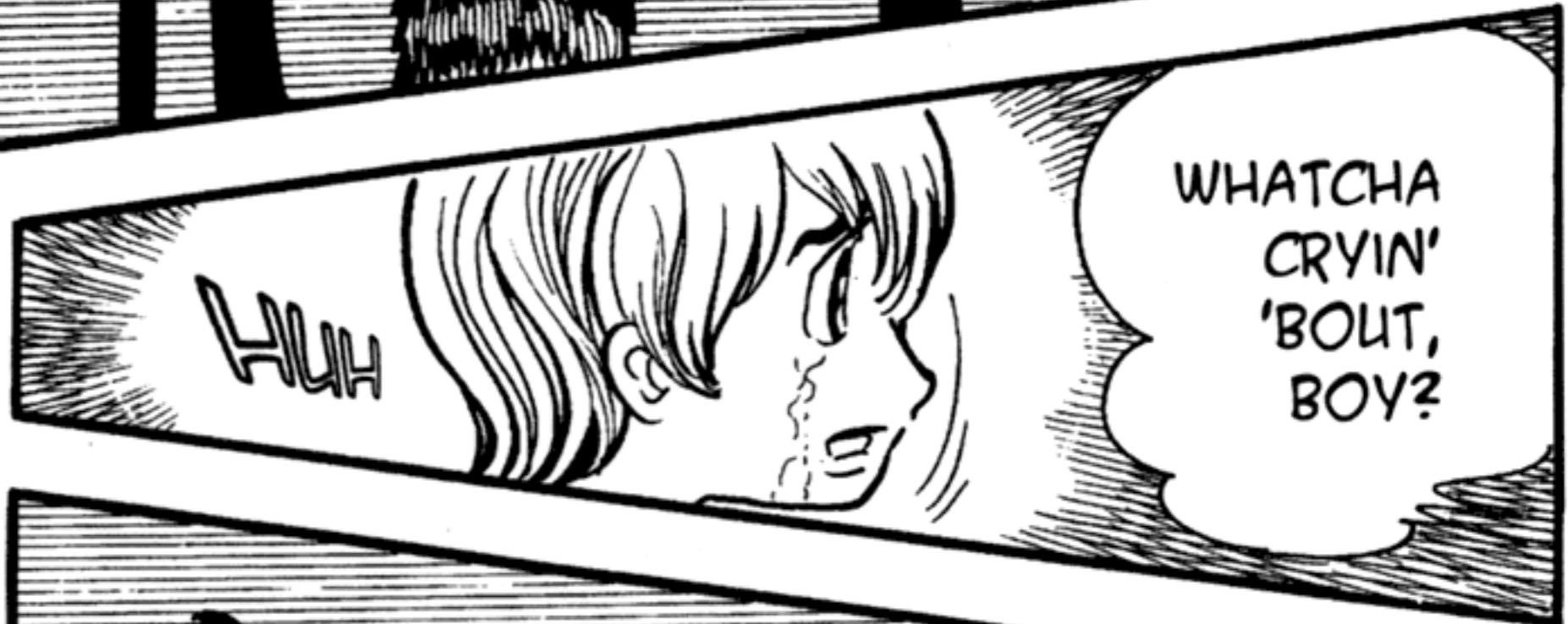


MOTHER... I-I'M COMING BACK WITH THE GOODS!





DAMMIT!
I WON'T
LET MOTHER
BE SOLD
OFF!!



WHATCHA
CRYIN'
'BOUT,
BOY?

HUH



WHY ARE WE
SO MISERABLE?

WHY WERE WE
BORN SLAVES?

WHY WEREN'T WE
BORN AS WARRIORS
OR BRAHMIN?

IT WOULD BE SO NICE TO
HAVE THAT MERCHANT
BOW AT OUR FEET!

CURSE



O!!



I'VE FOUND YOU!!

YOU STOLE MY GOODS!!

YES, I REMEMBER!

GIVE THEM BACK OR YOU'RE DEAD!!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

THEY CALL ME TATTA.

HE HE HE HE HE



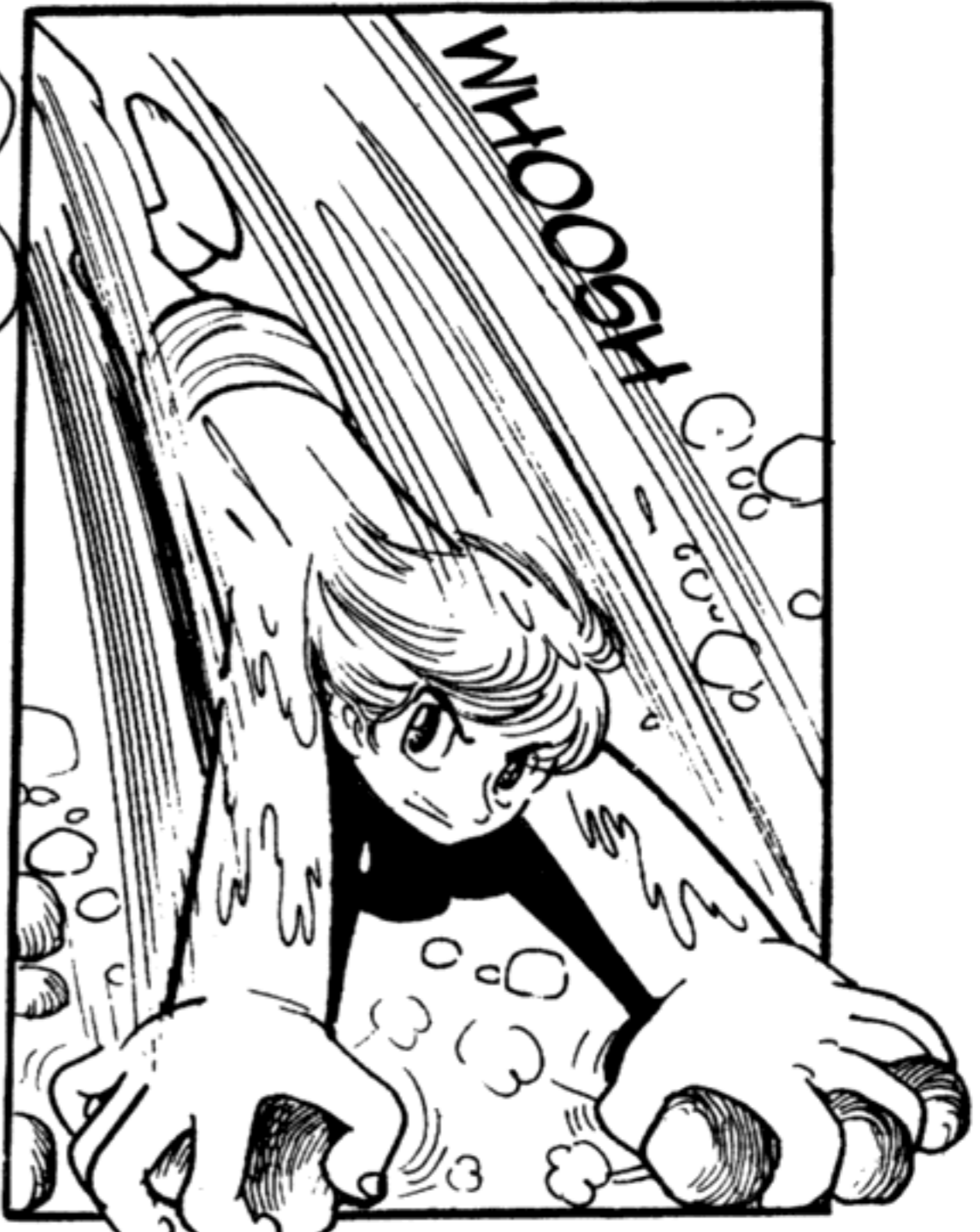
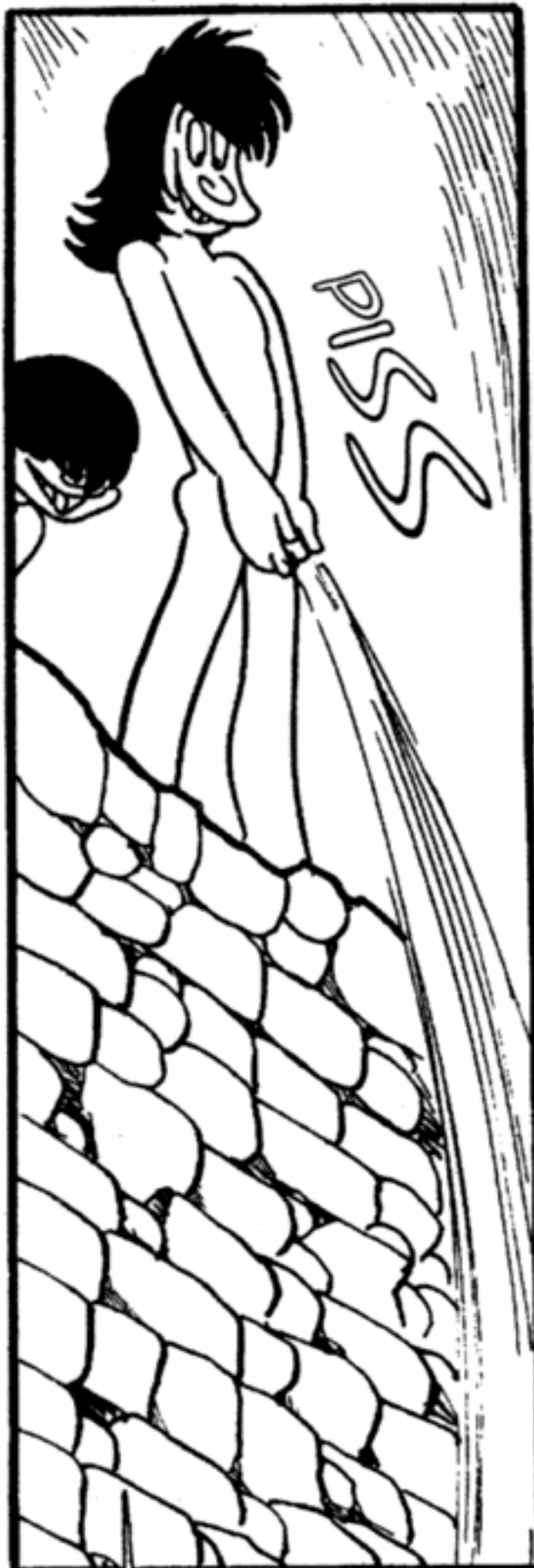
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FOR 3 DAYS...

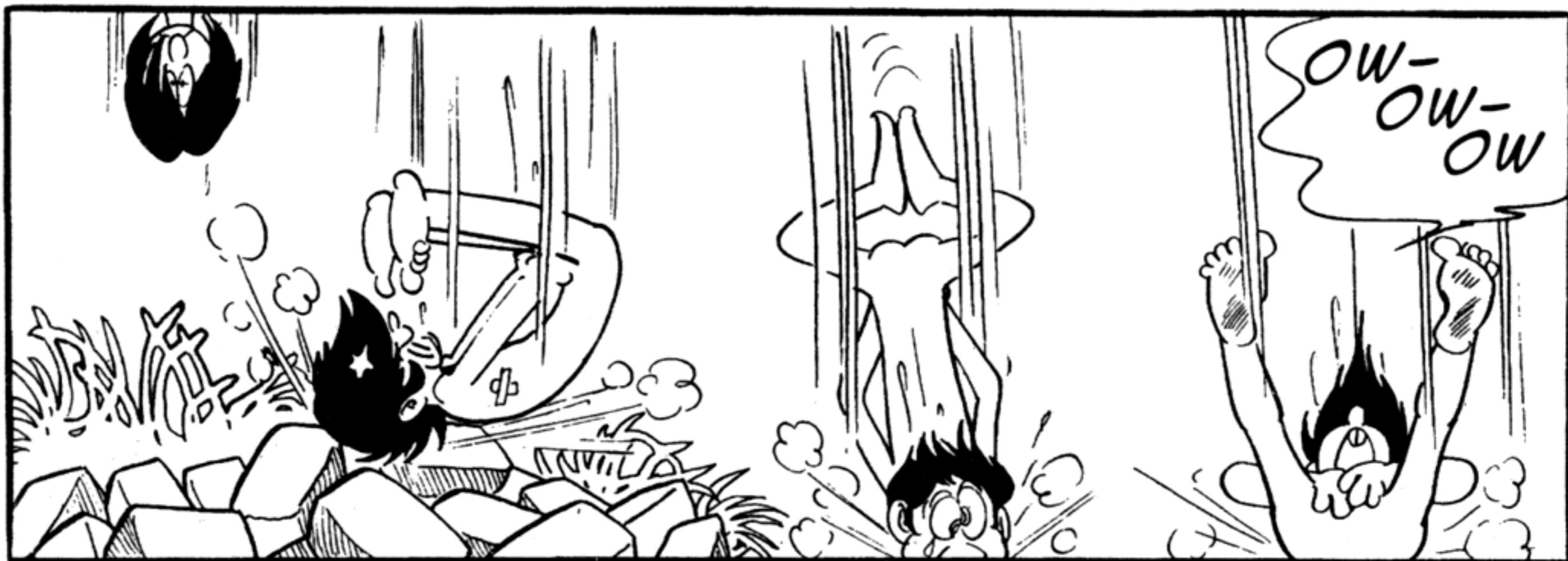
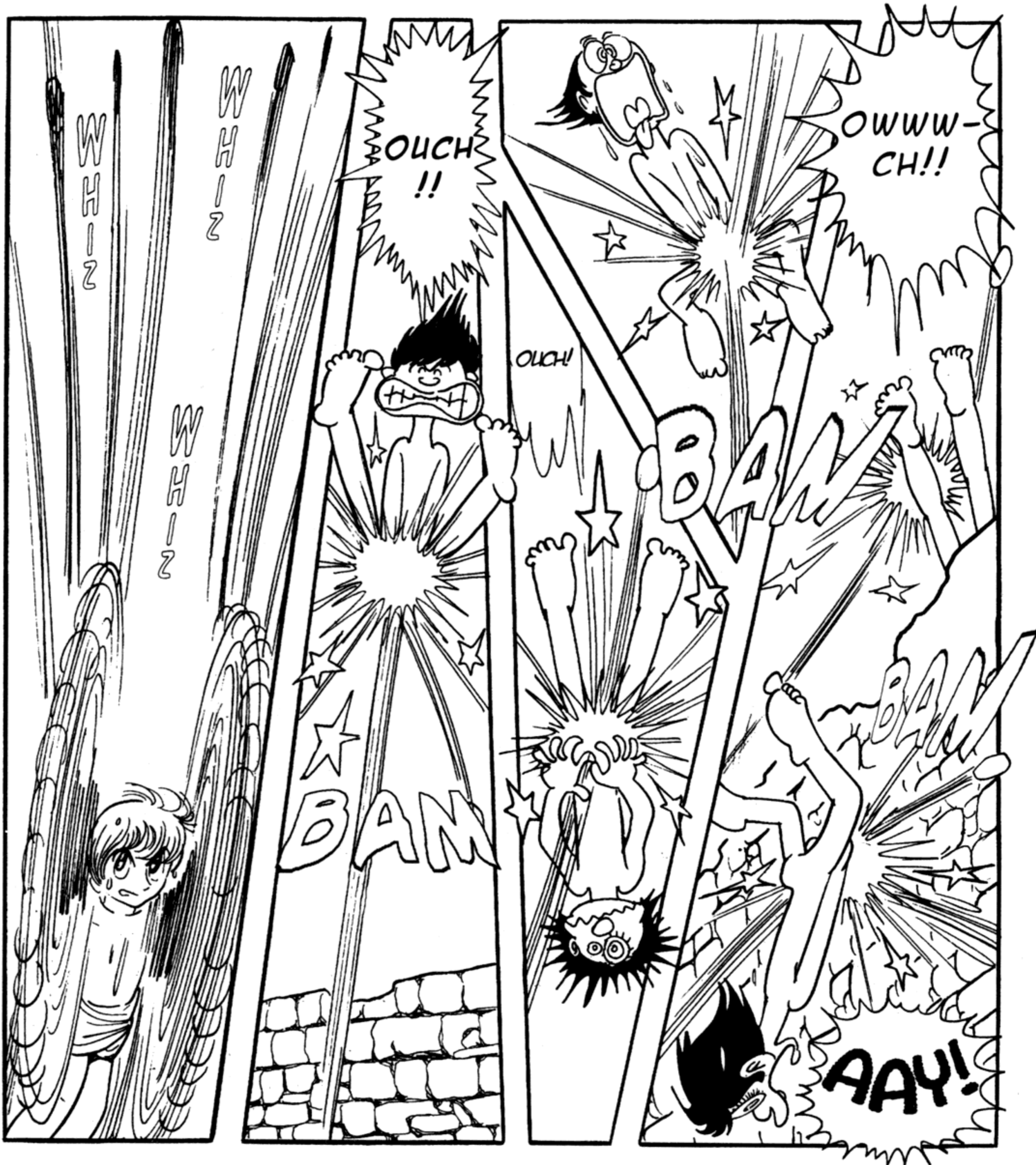
IF I DON'T
BRING THE STUFF
BACK MY MOTHER'S
GONNA BE SOLD!!

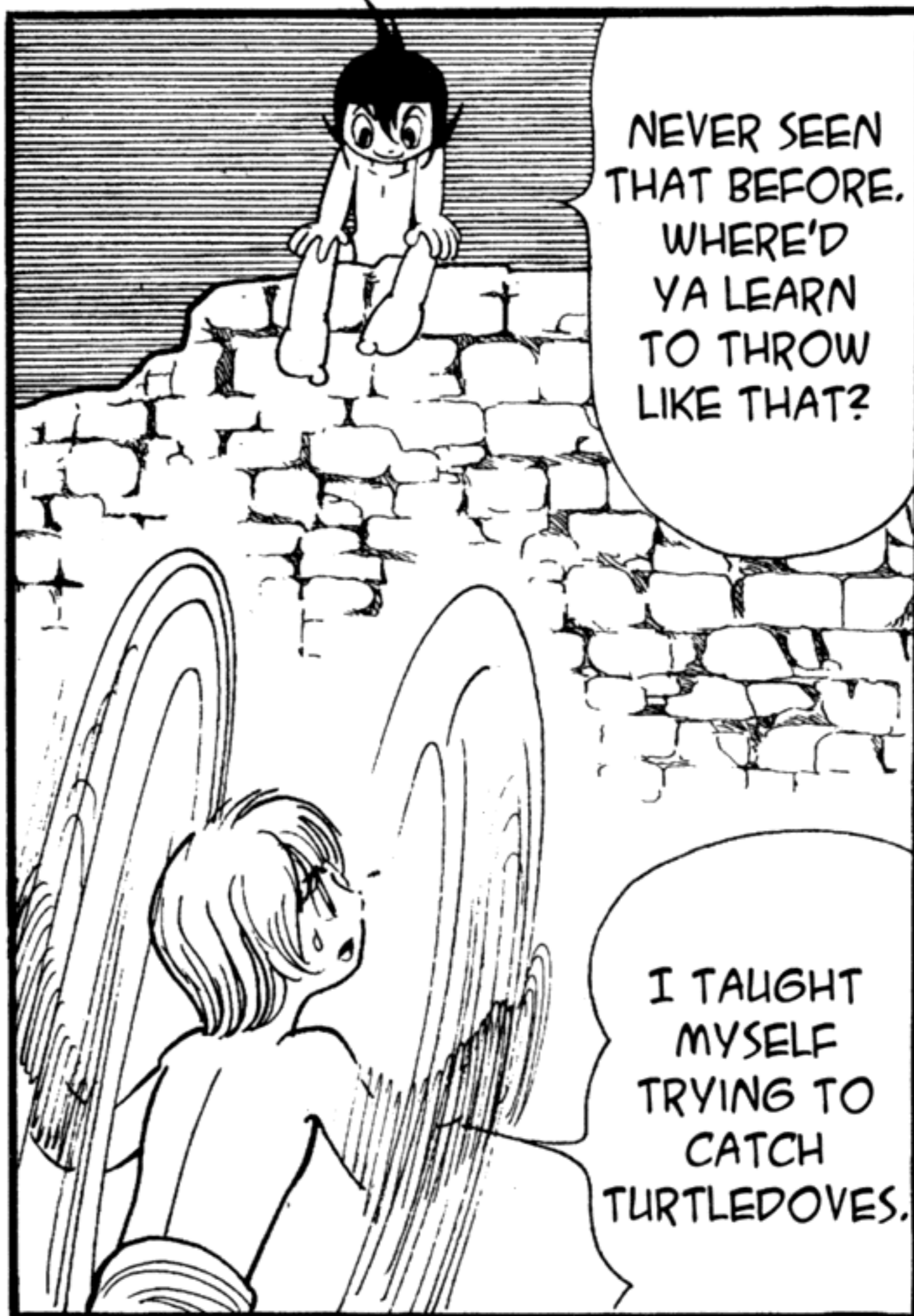
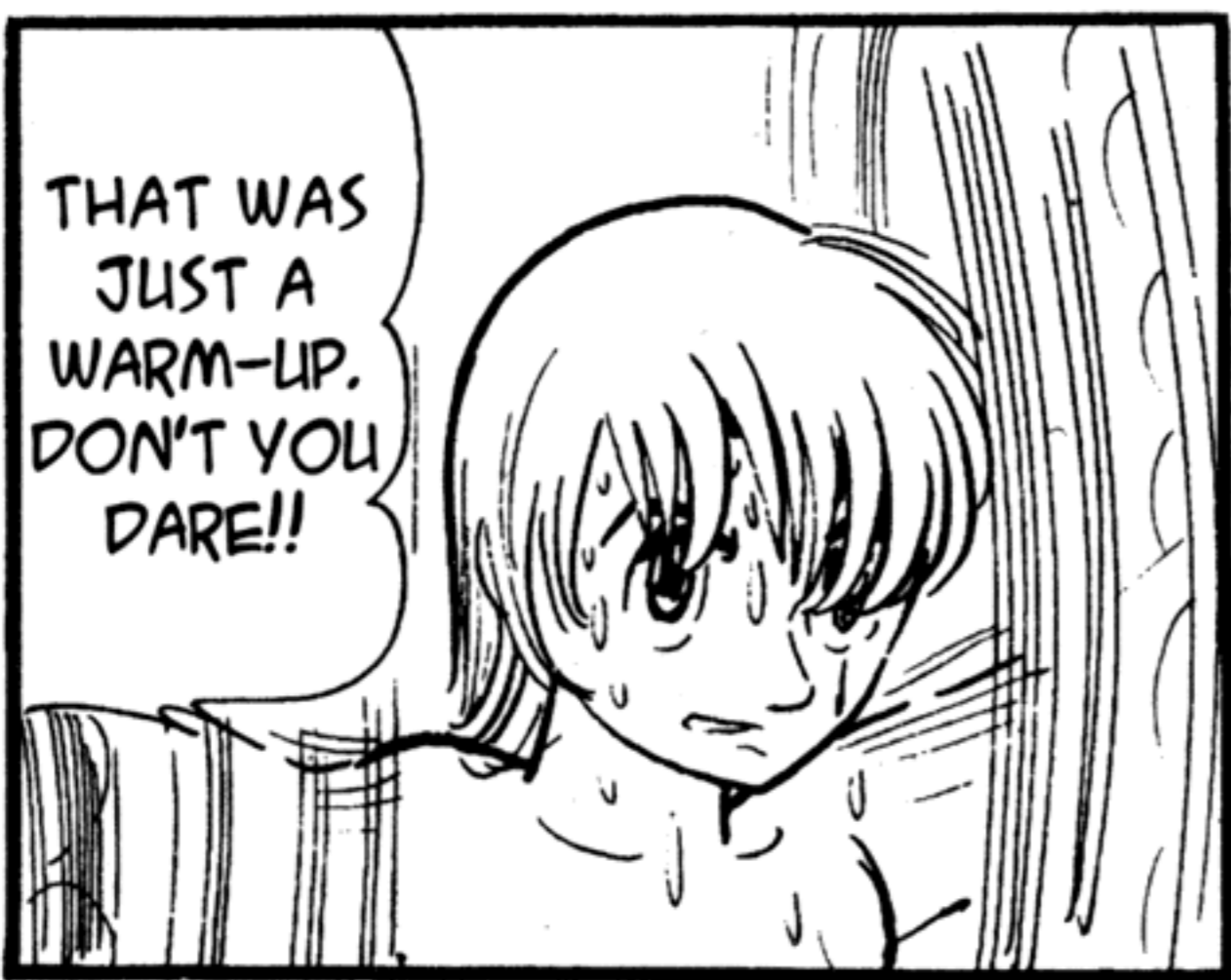
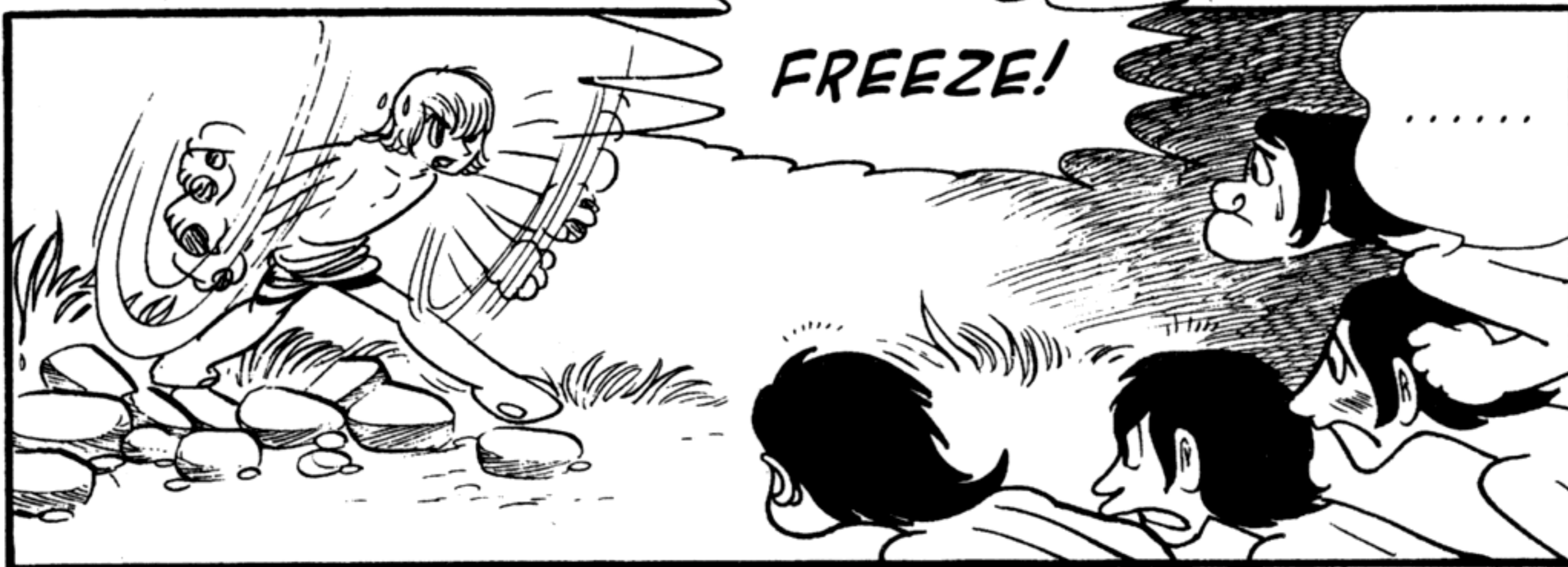
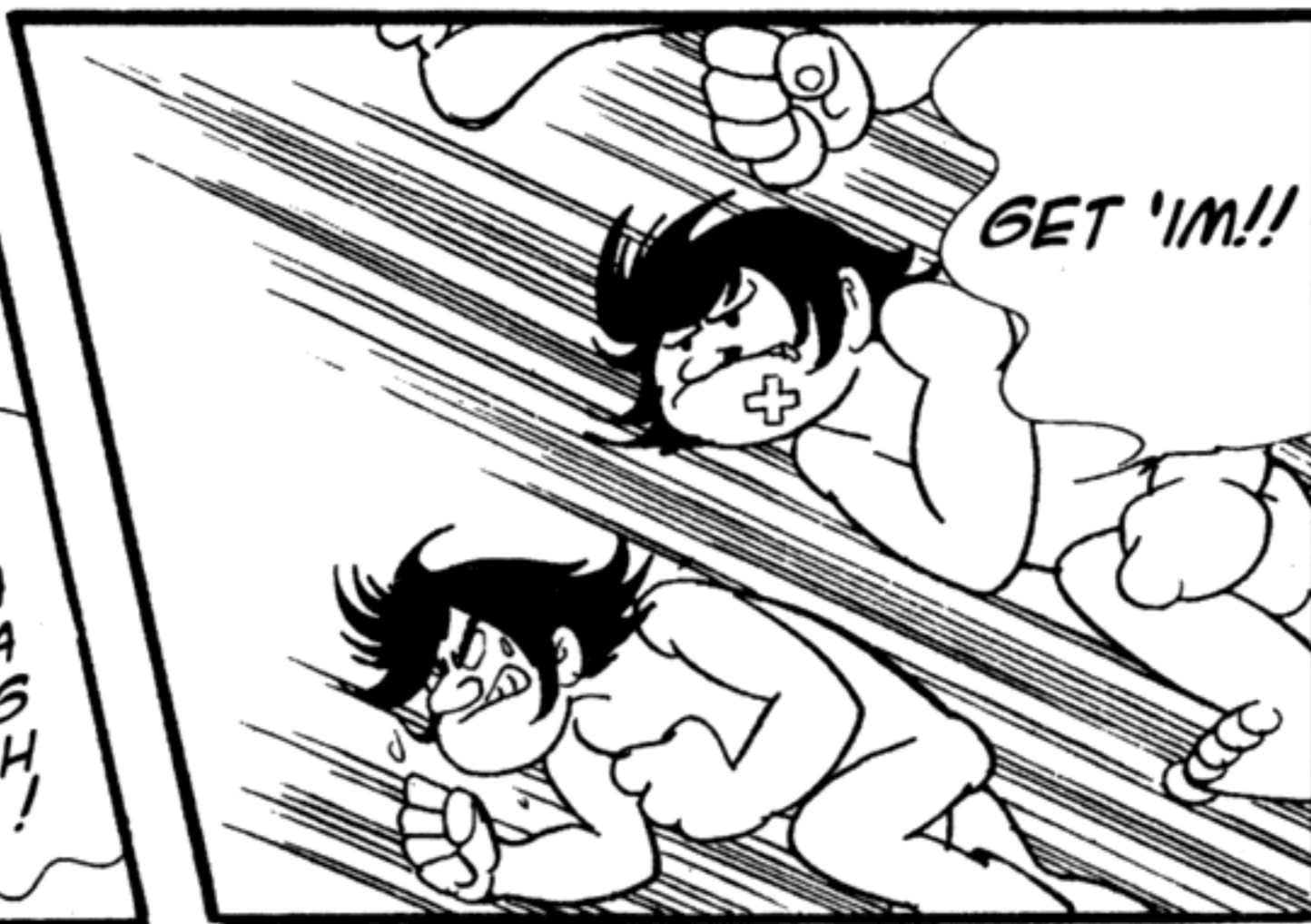
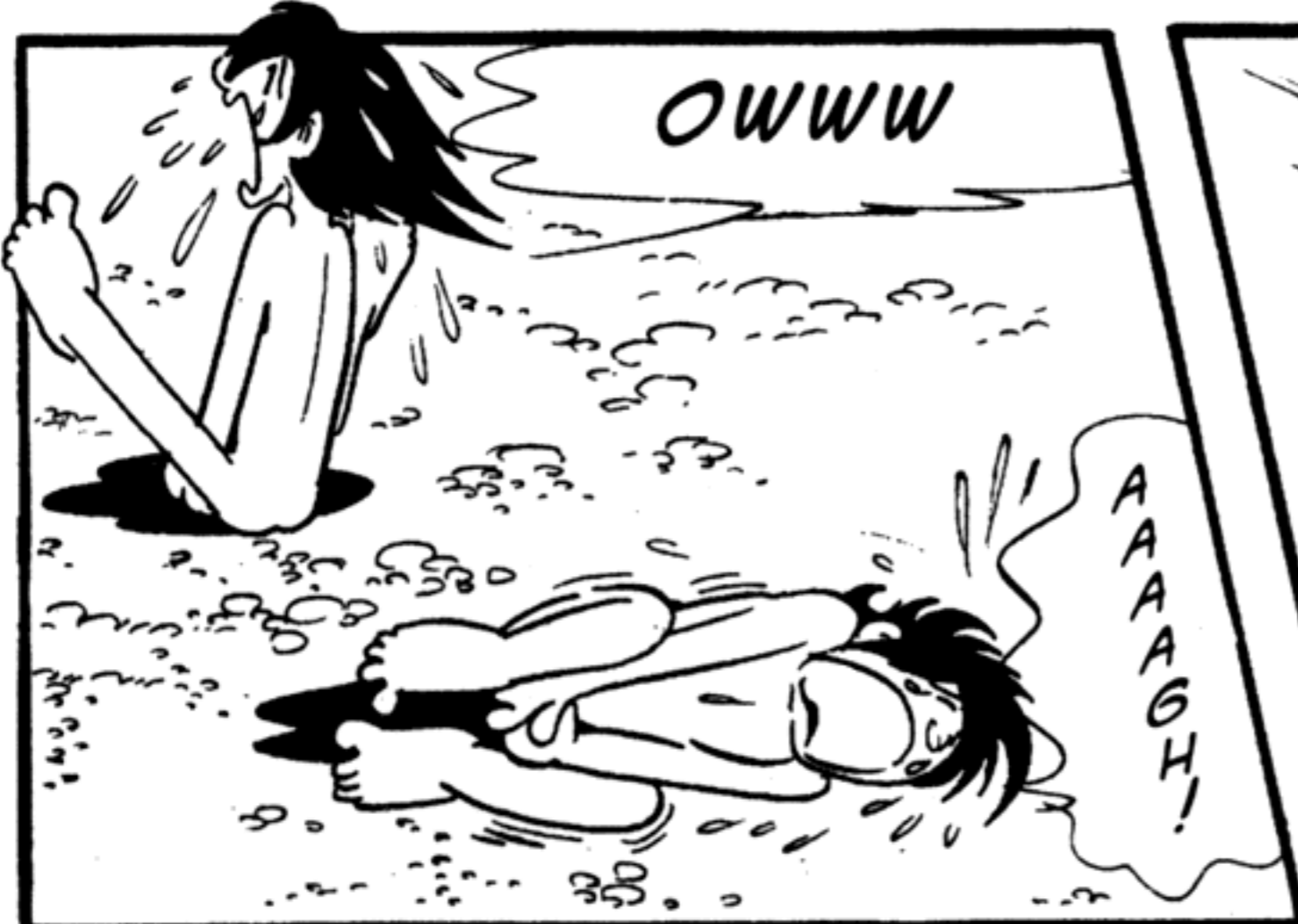


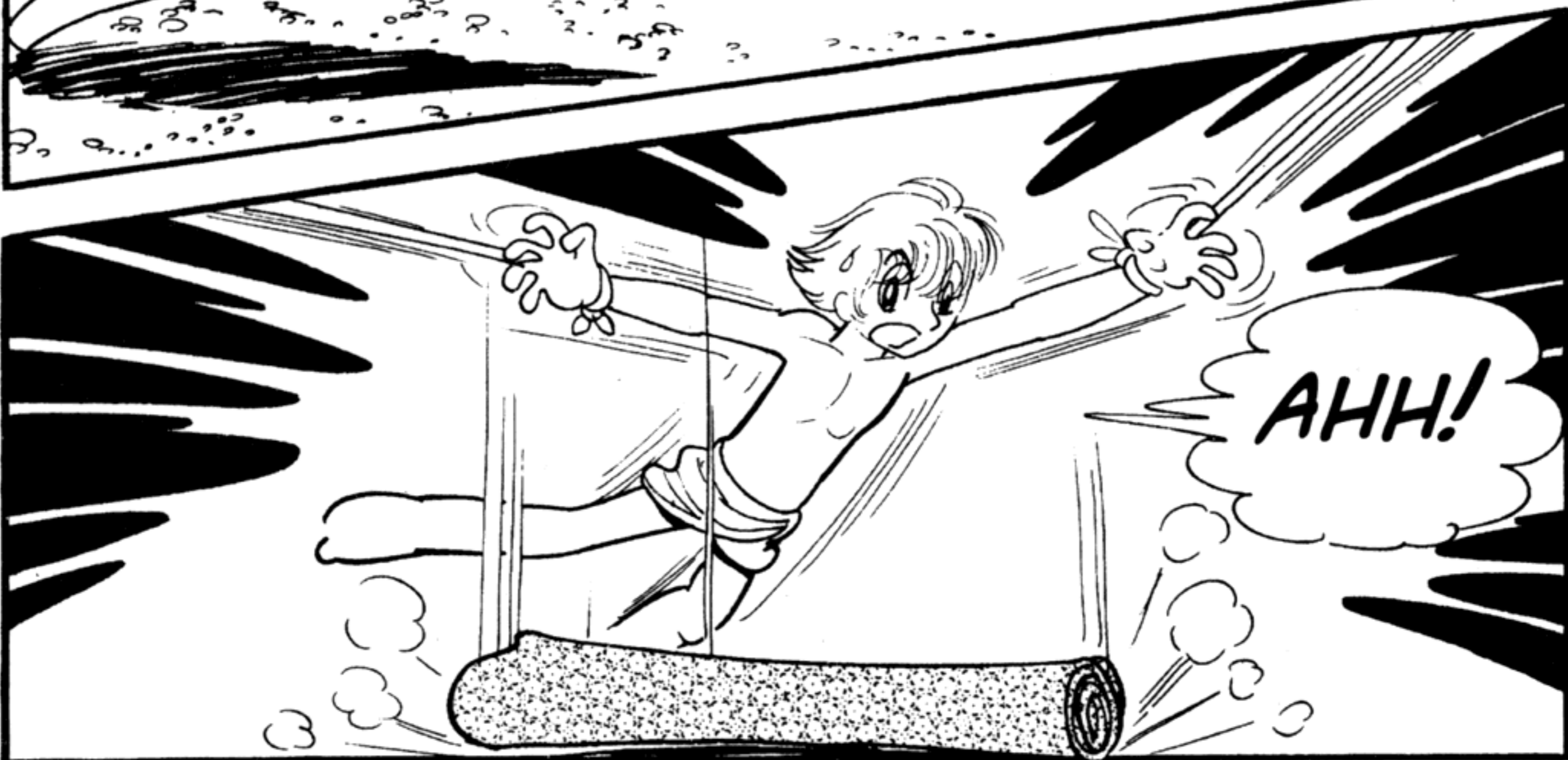
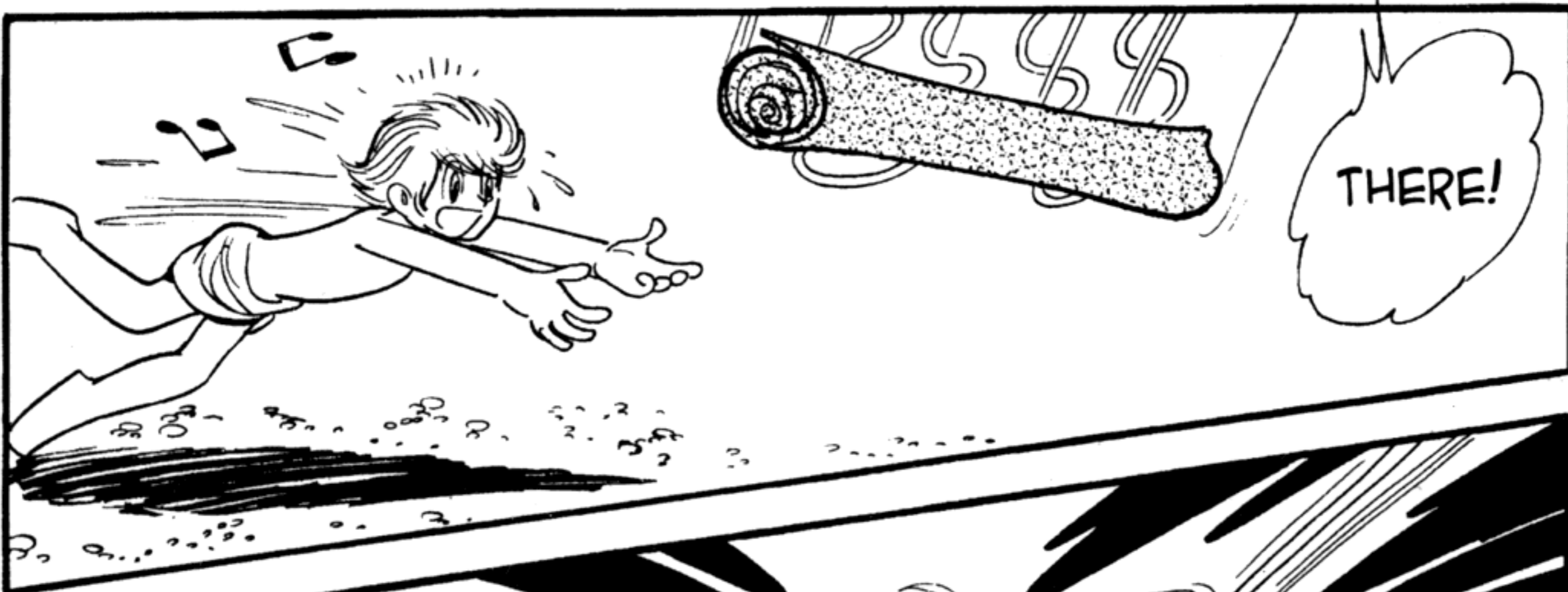
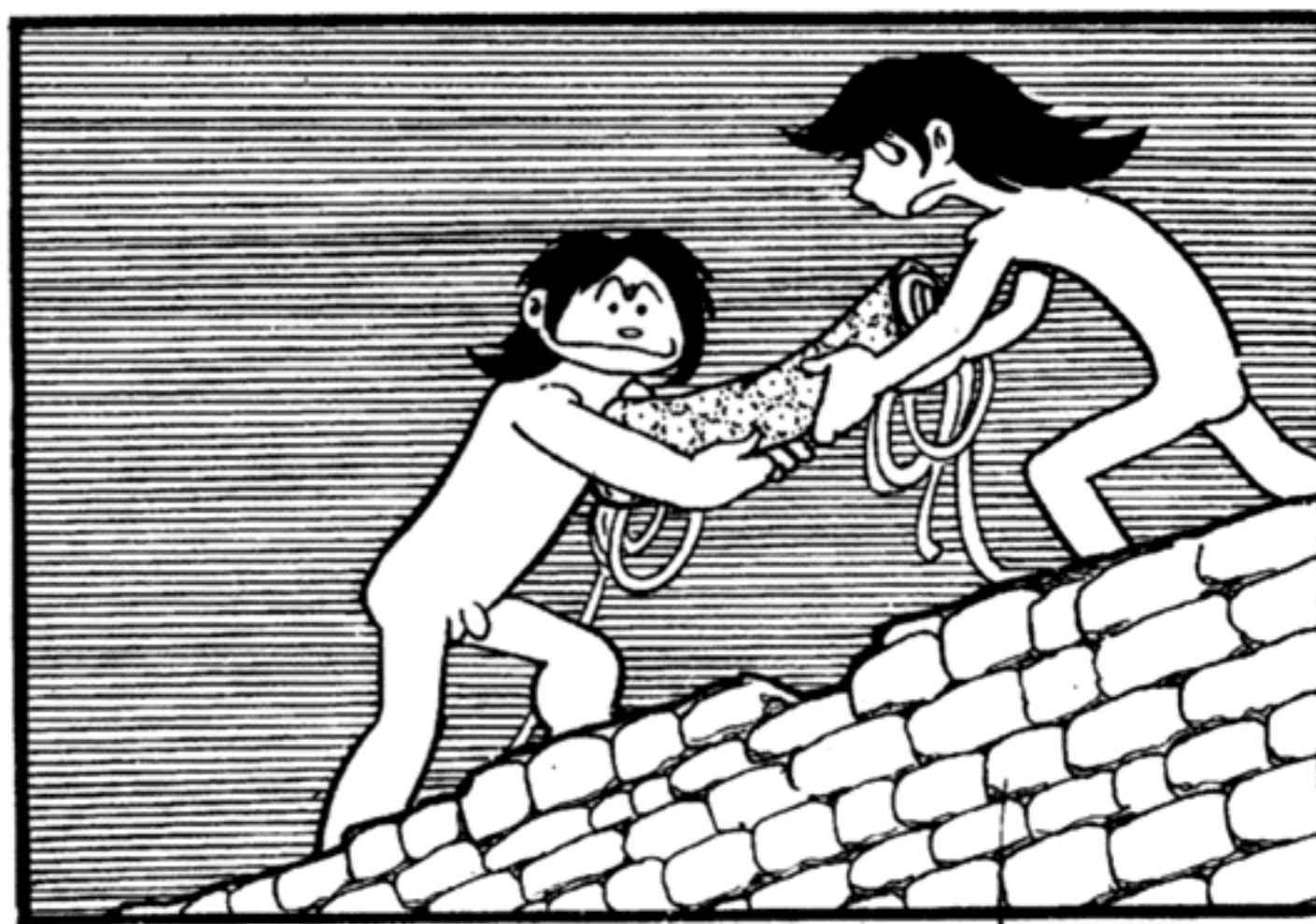
GUFFAW

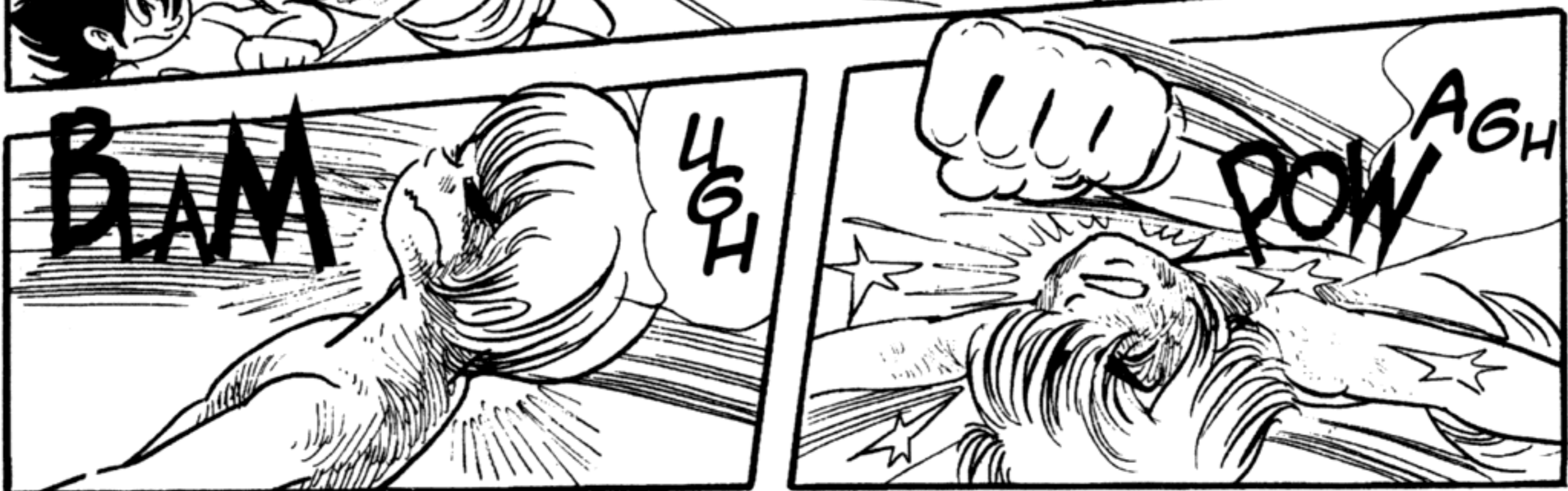
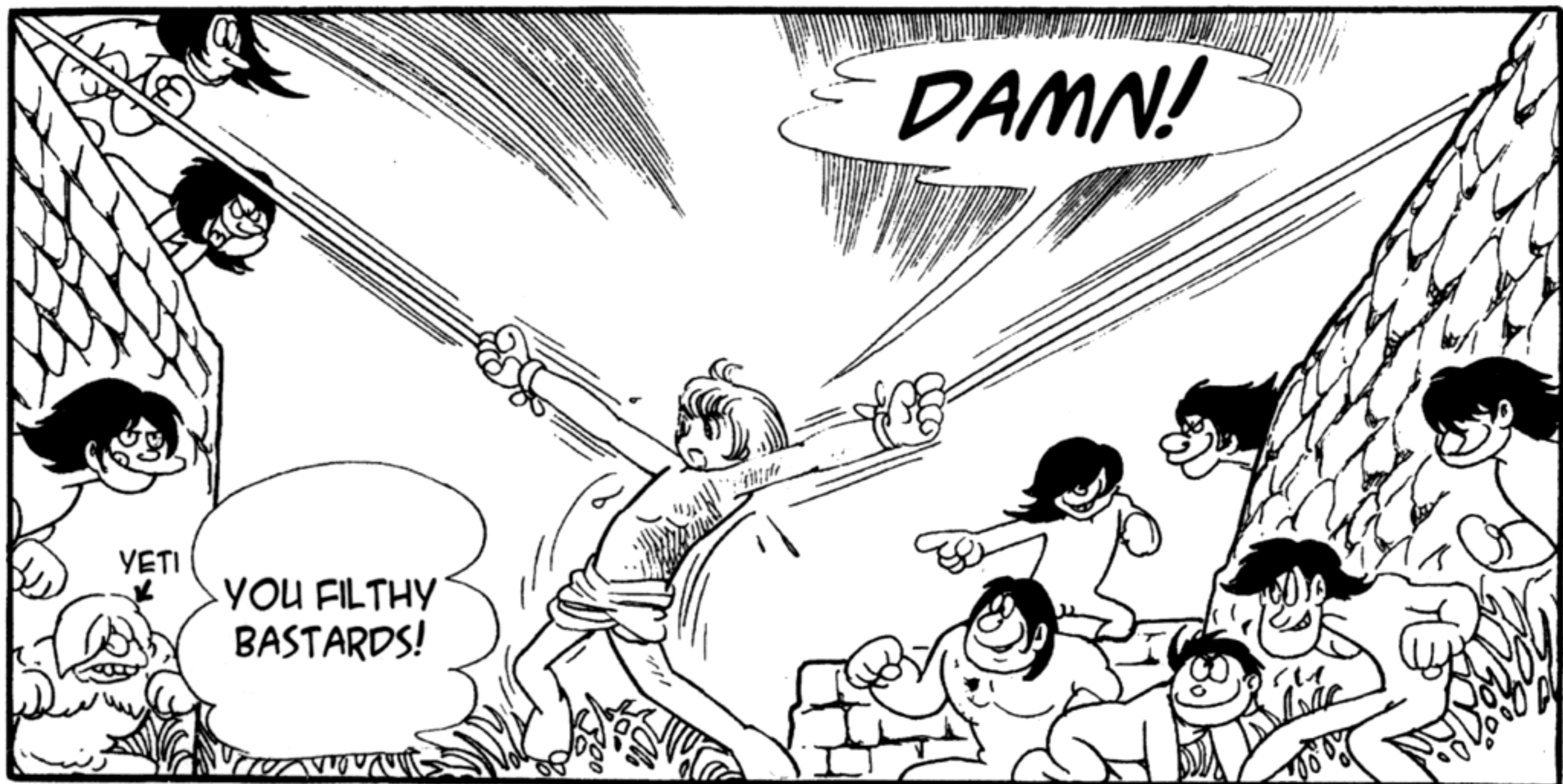
HA HA HA
HEE HEE HEE

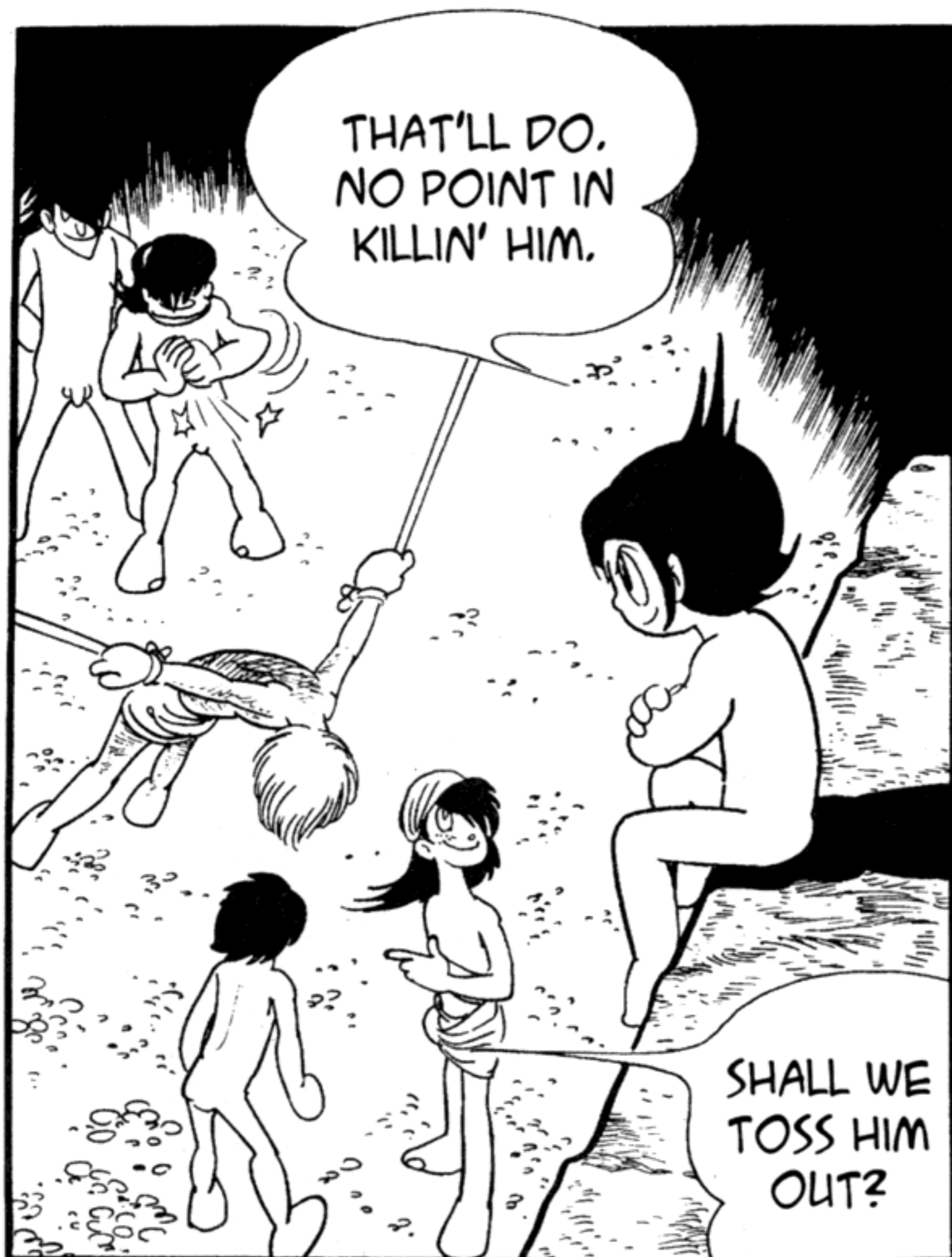


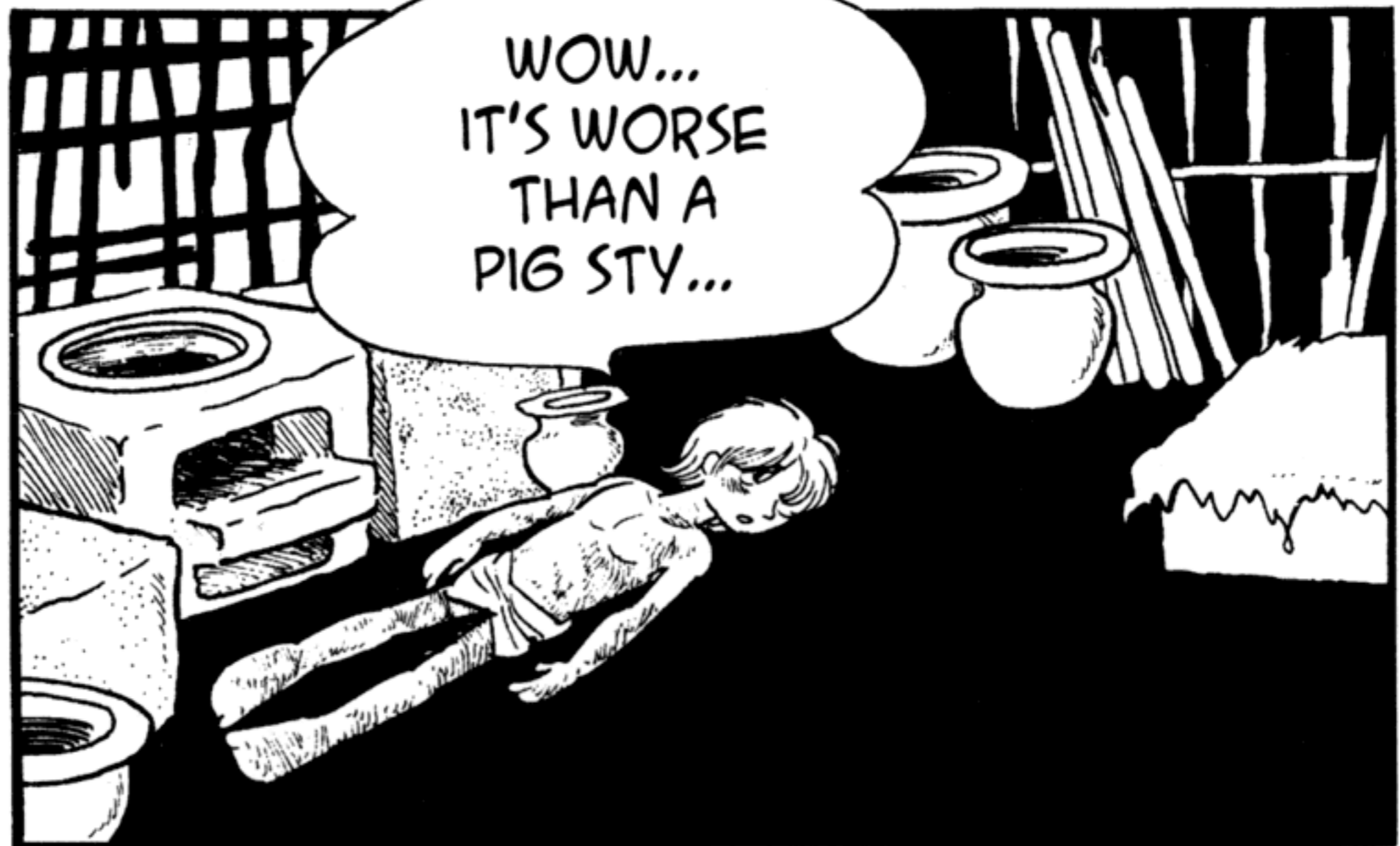
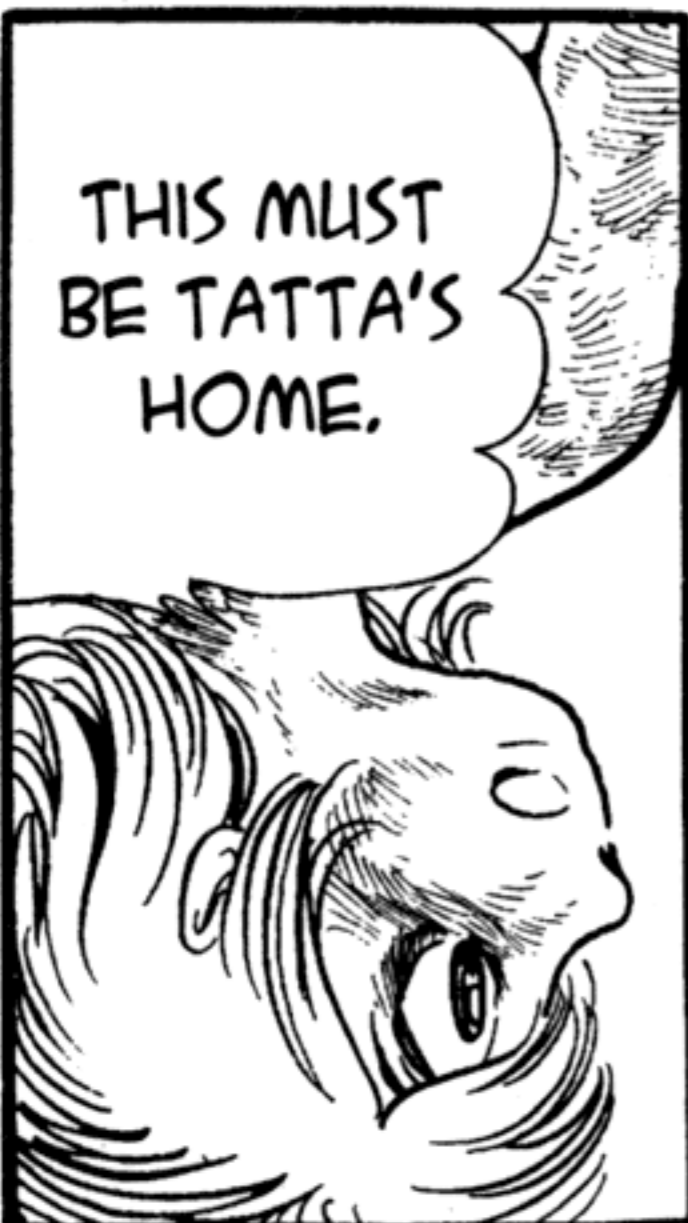
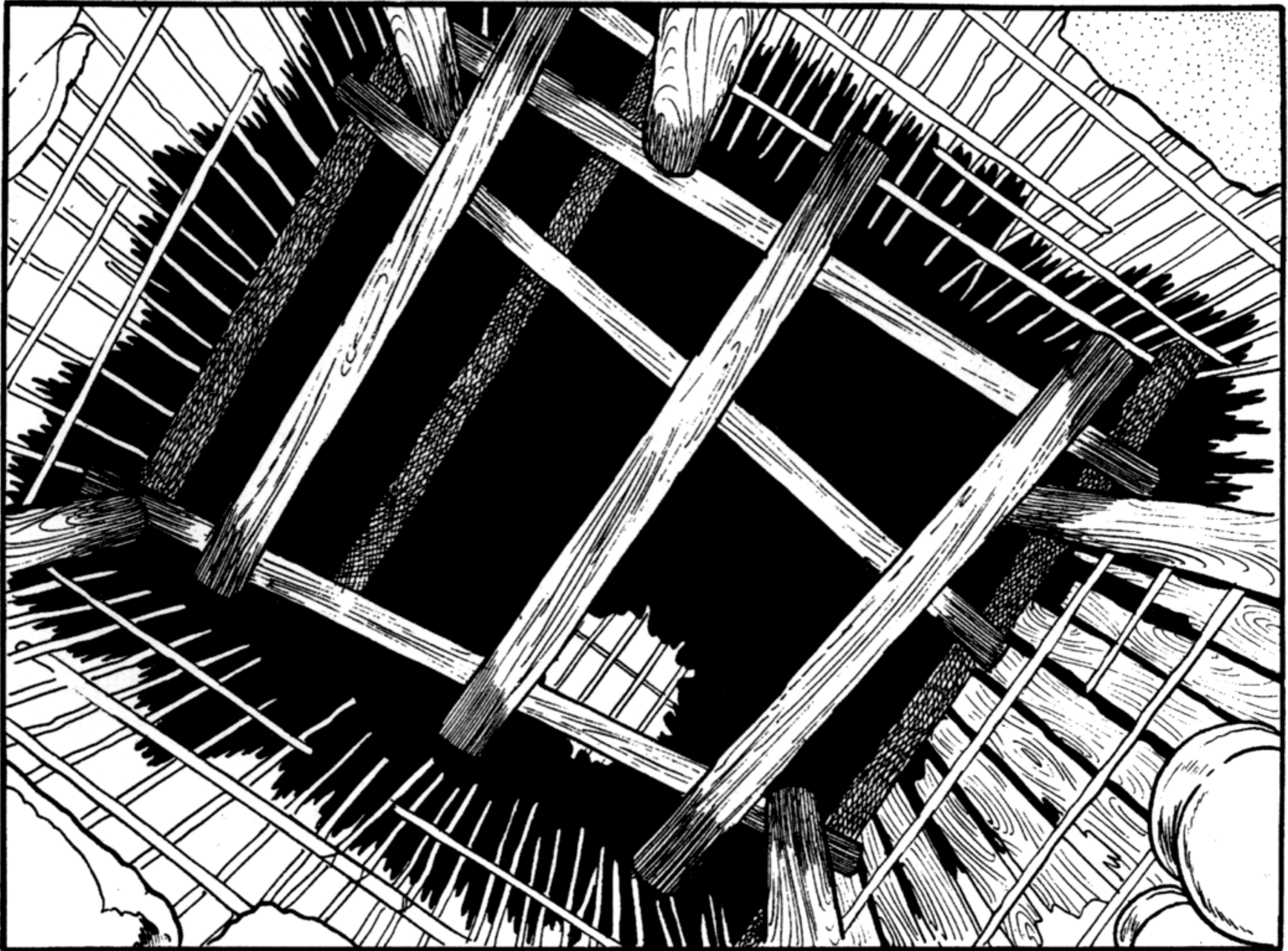


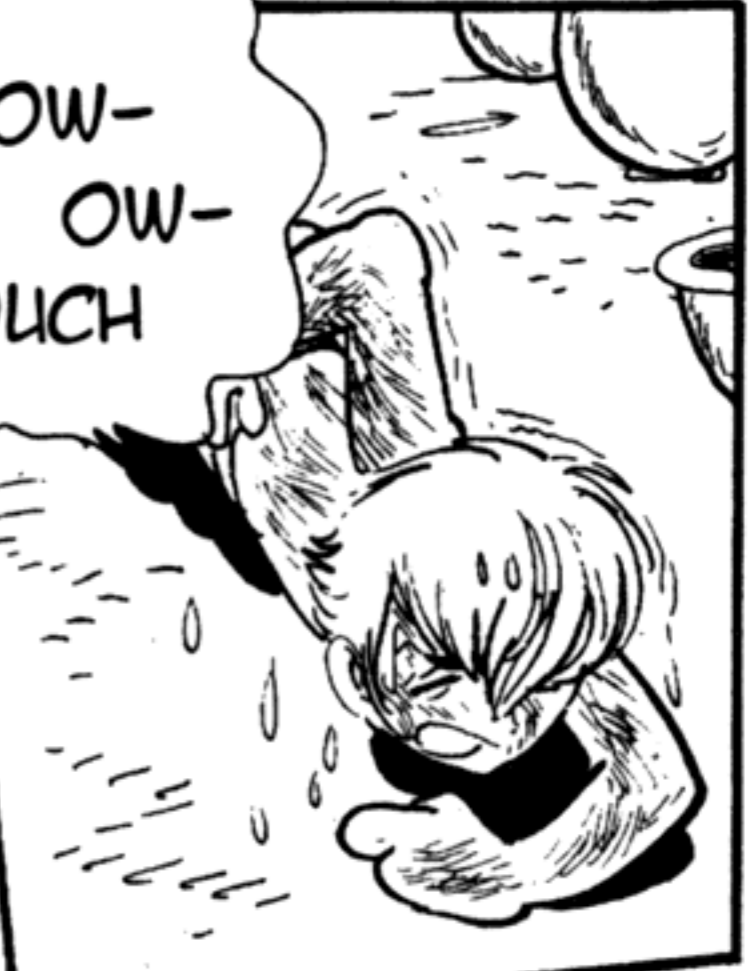
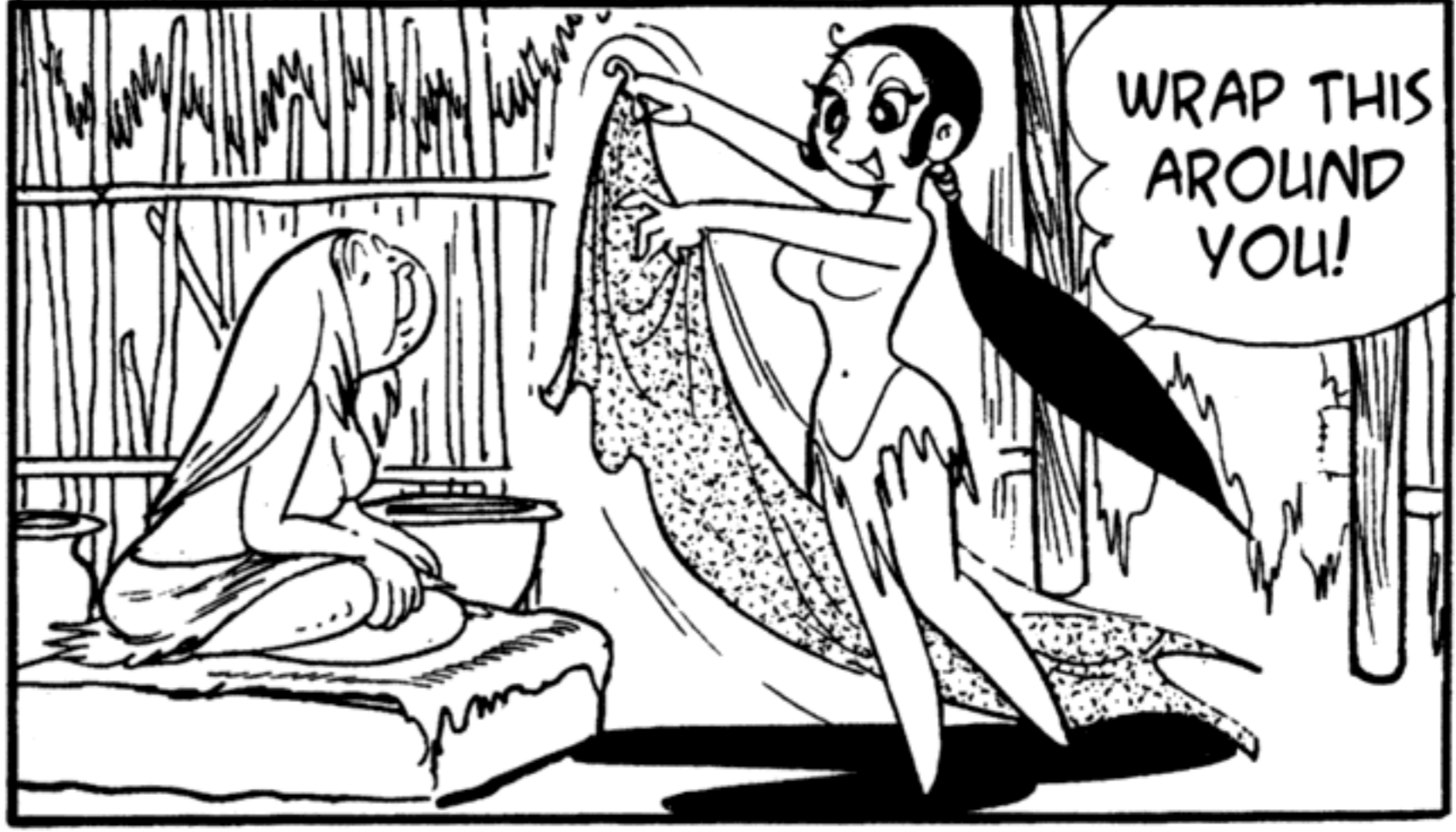


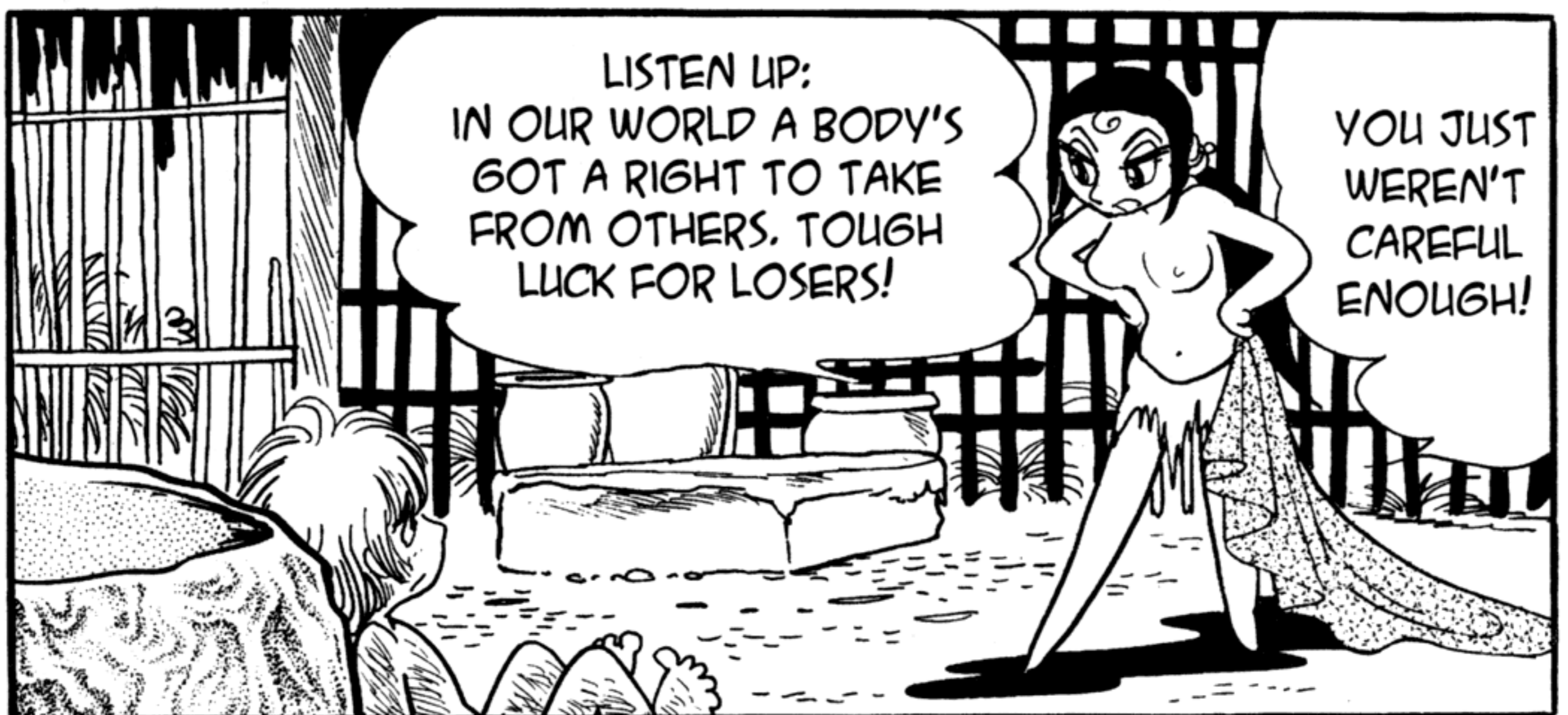
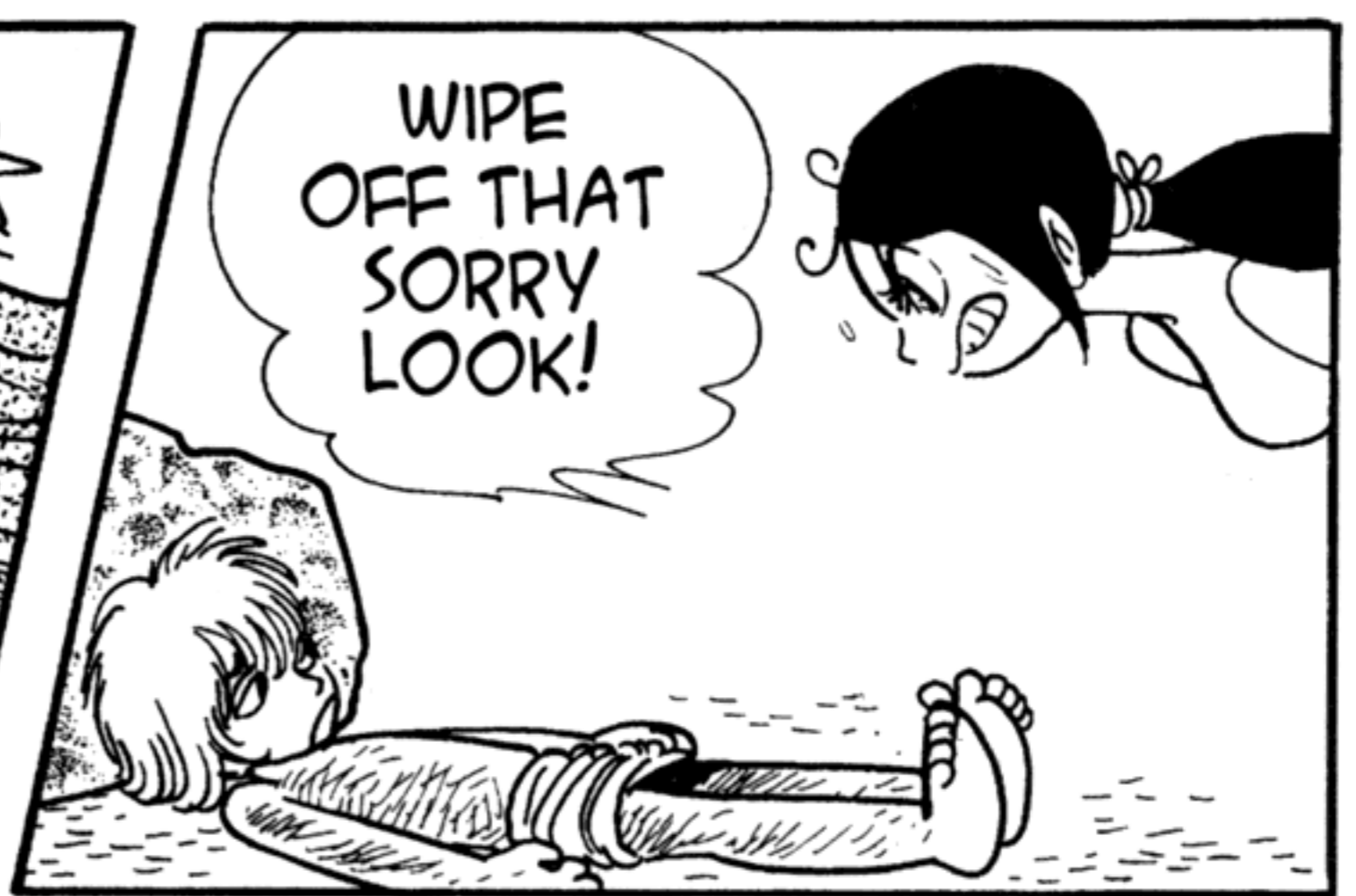
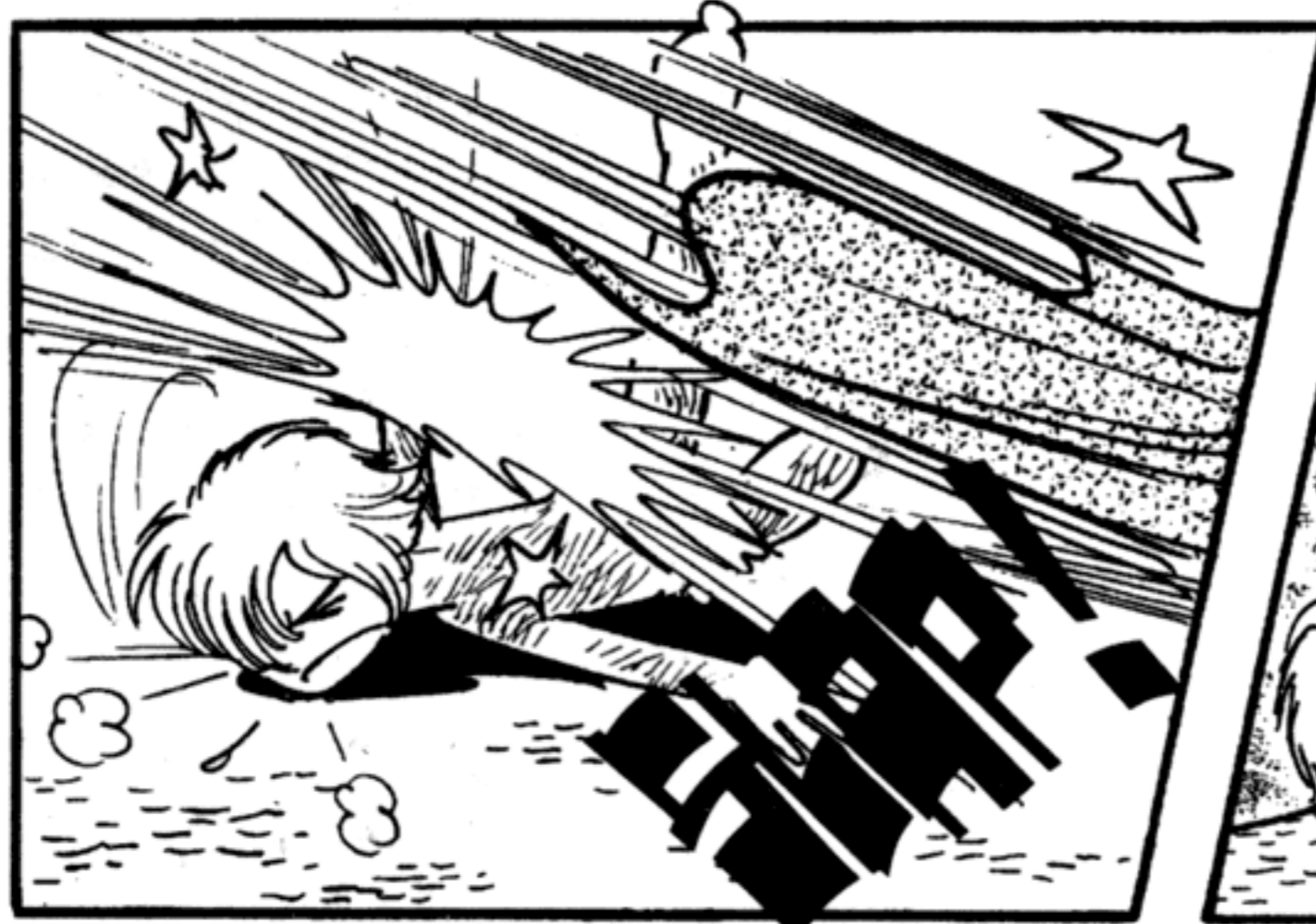
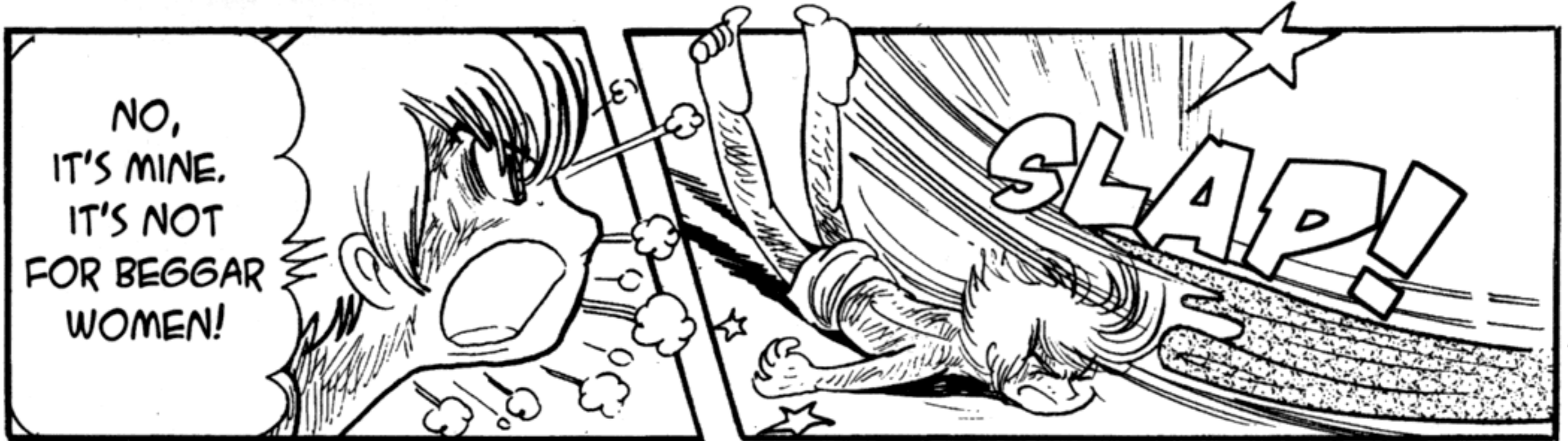


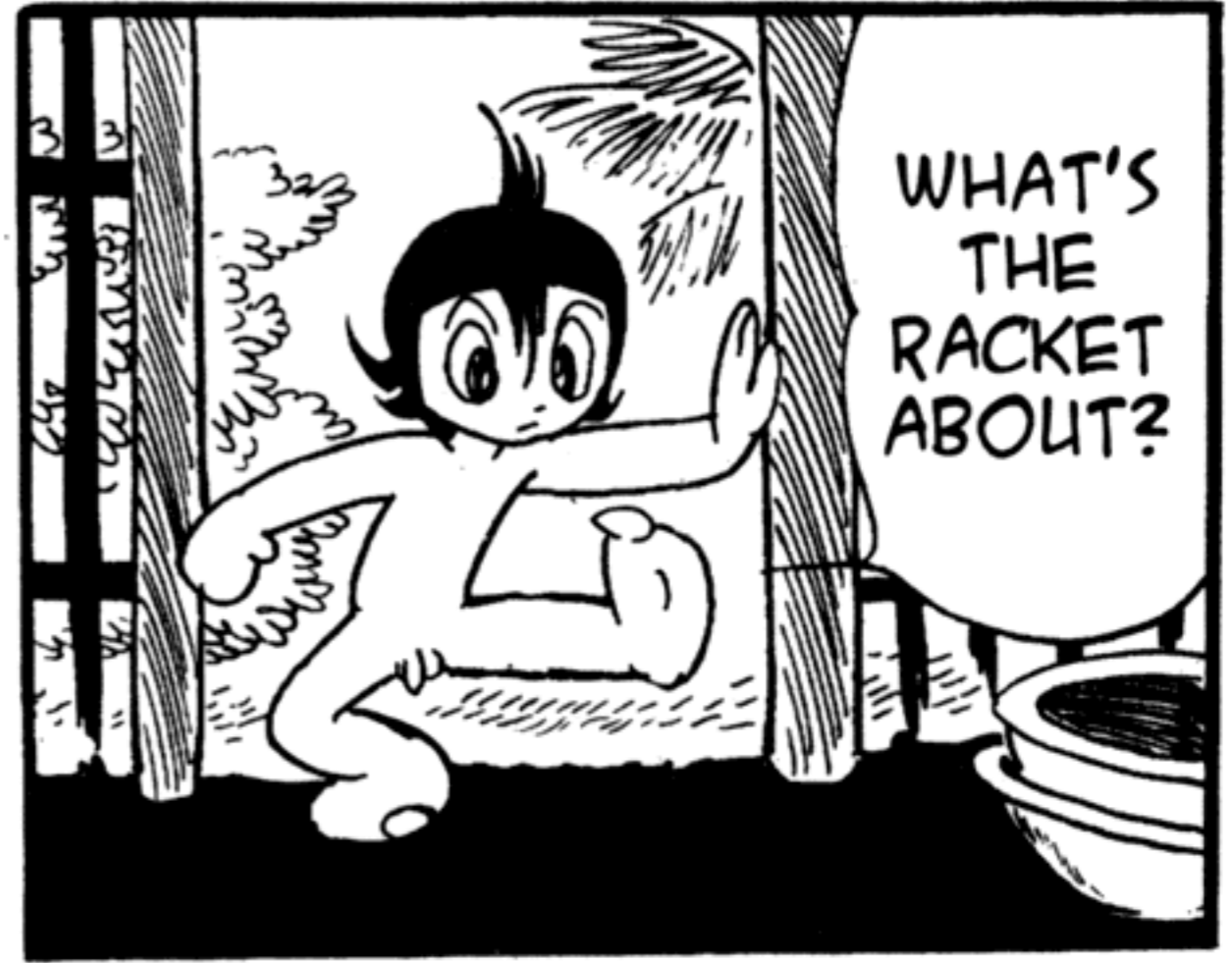
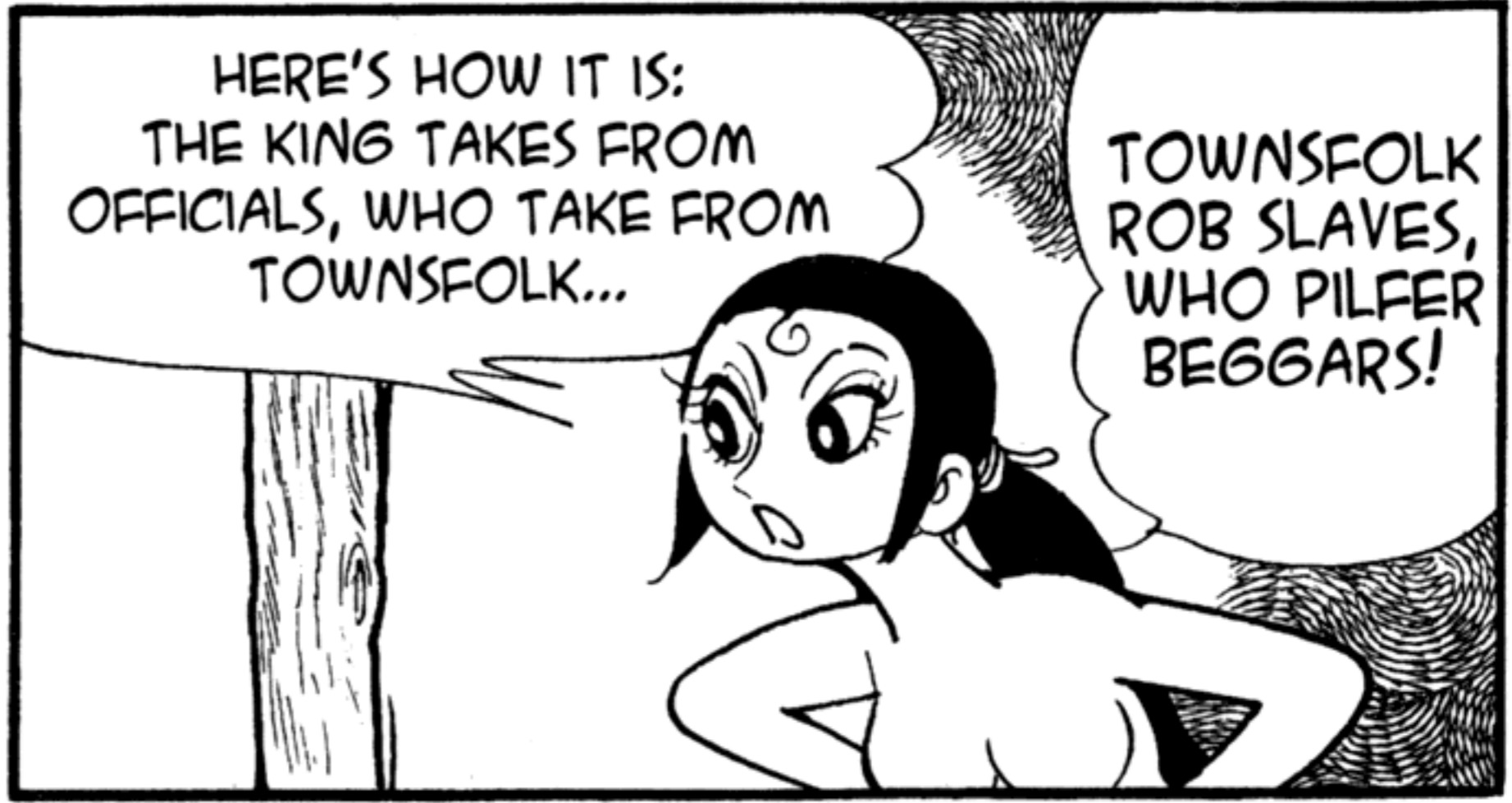


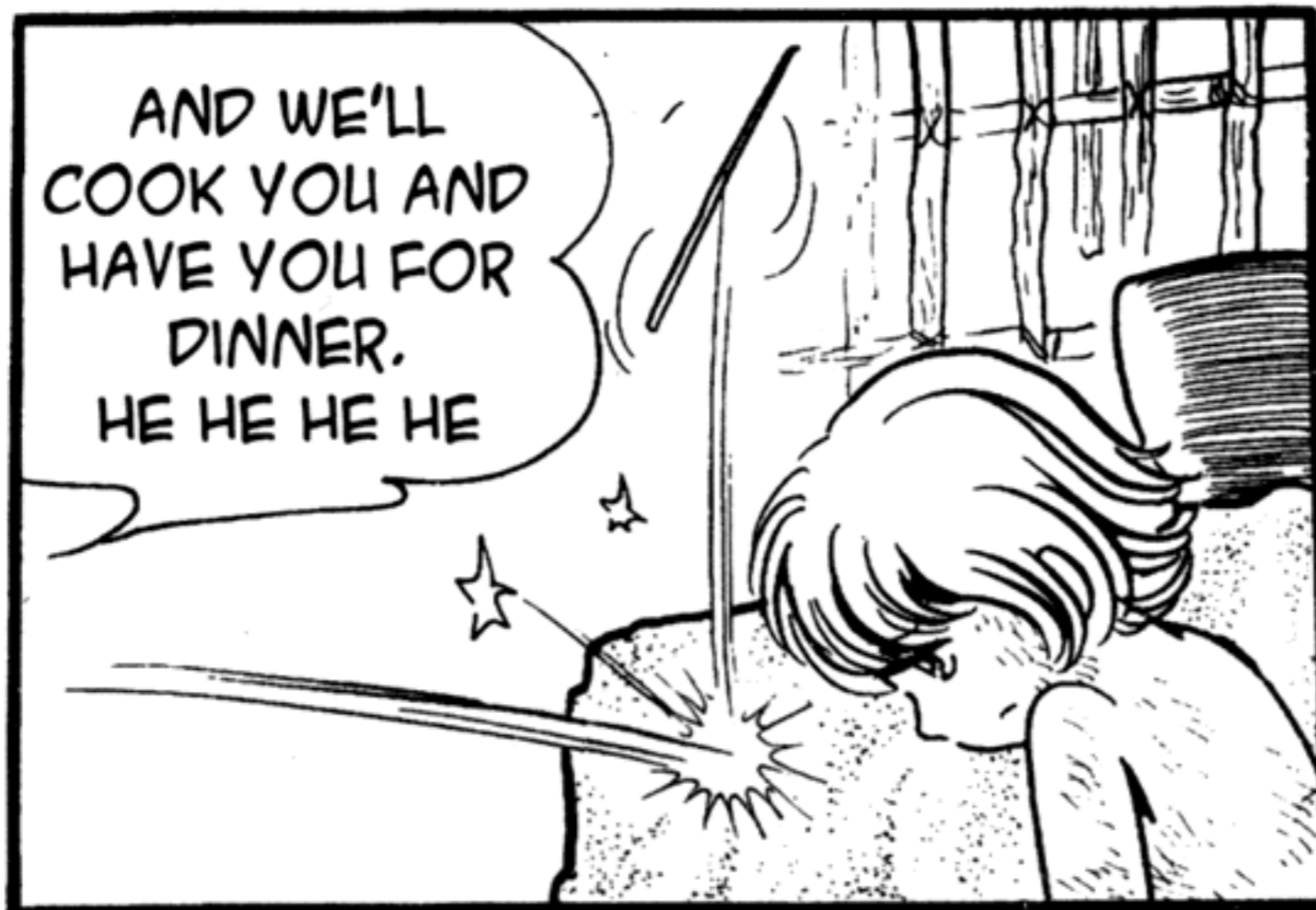




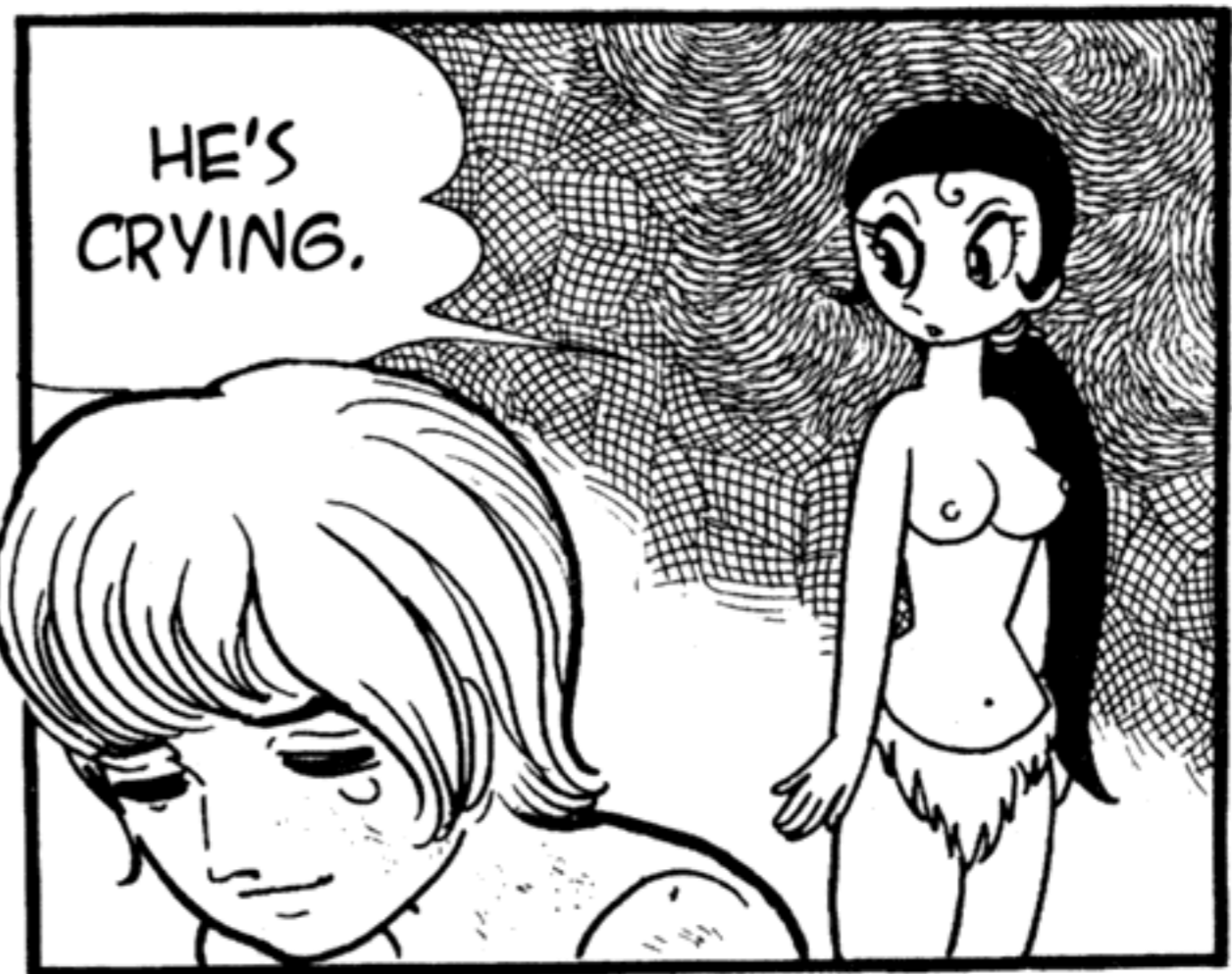








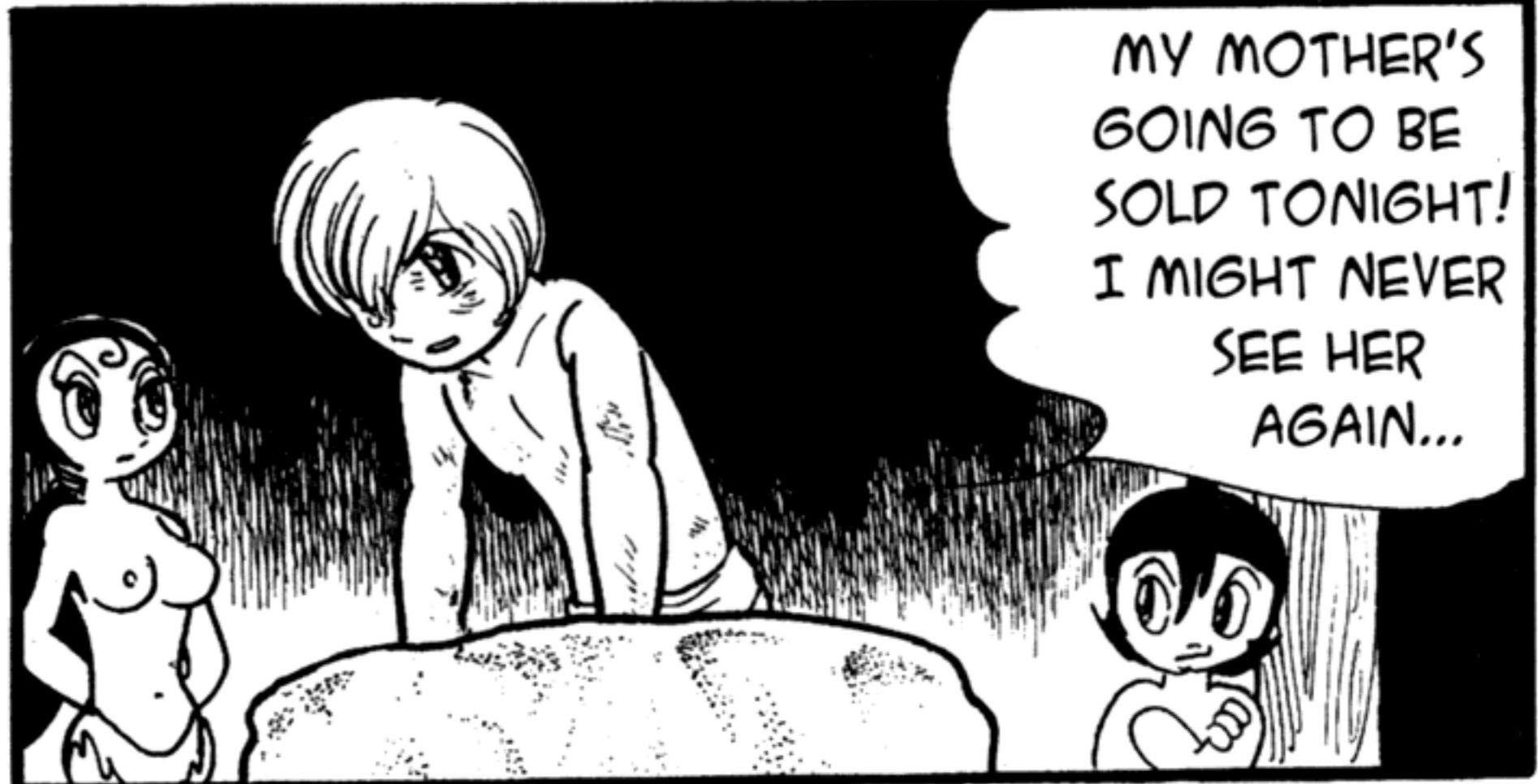
AND WE'LL
COOK YOU AND
HAVE YOU FOR
DINNER.
HE HE HE HE



HE'S
CRYING.



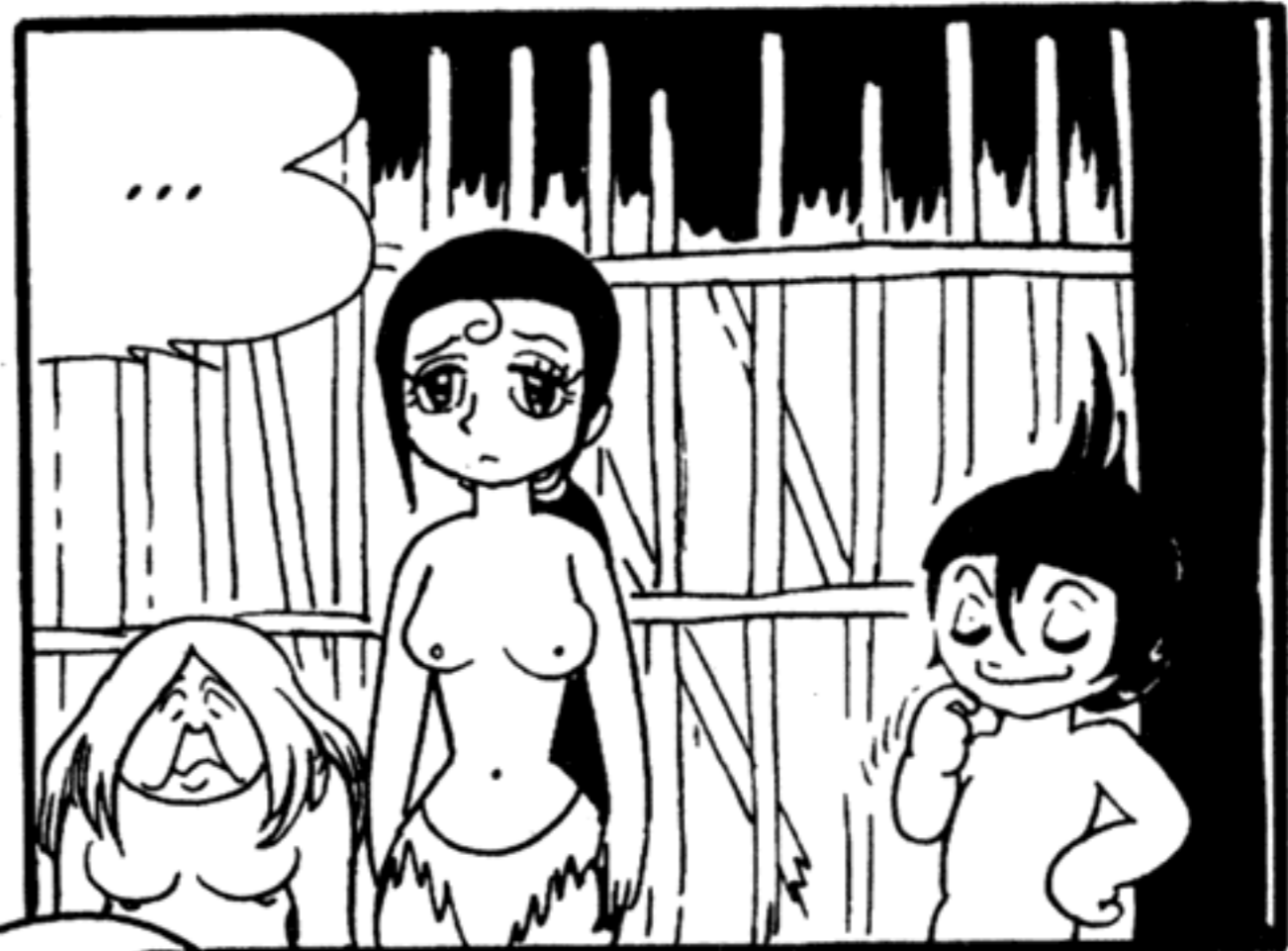
HA,
NICE TRY!



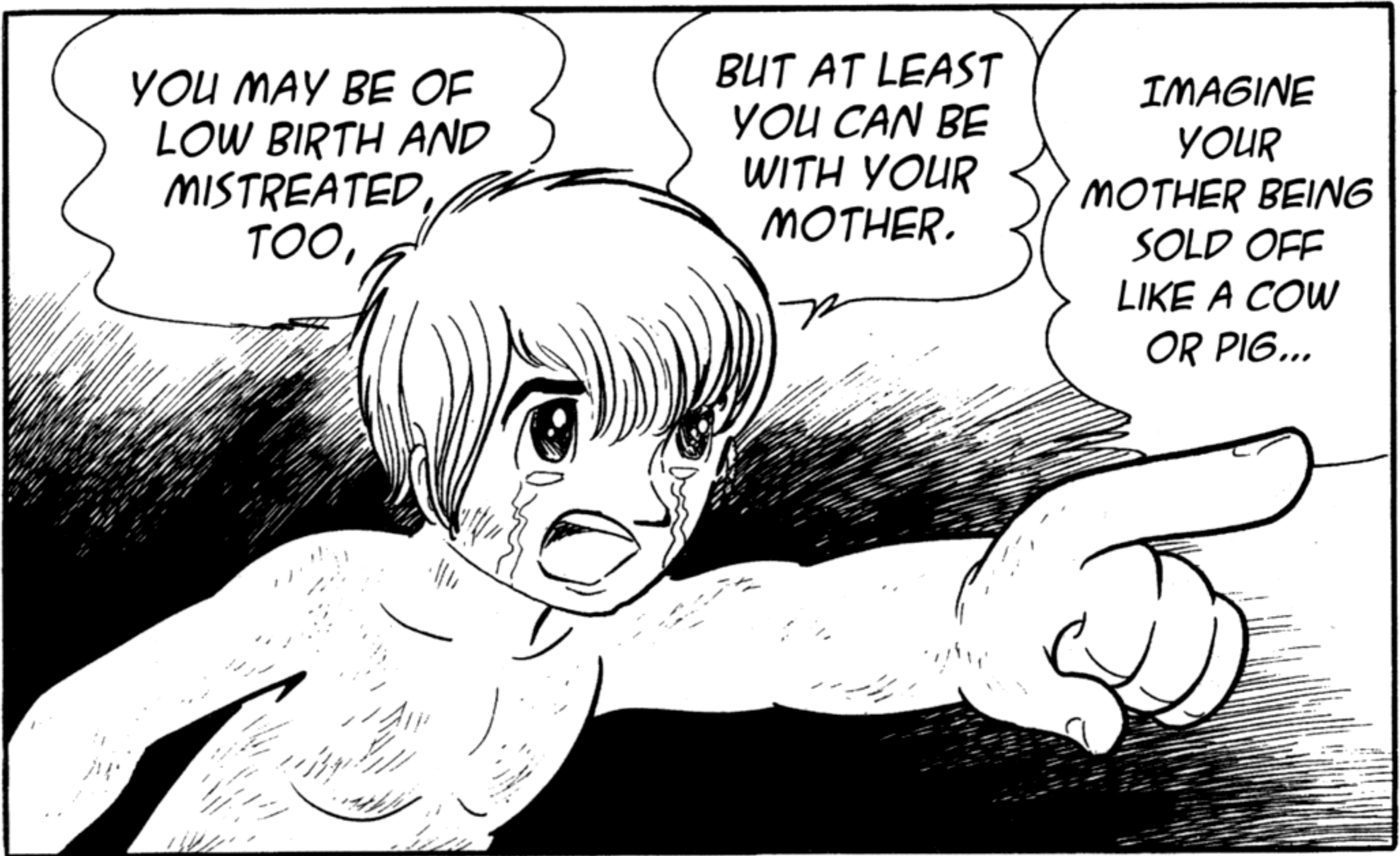
MY MOTHER'S
GOING TO BE
SOLD TONIGHT!
I MIGHT NEVER
SEE HER
AGAIN...



IF I DON'T
RETURN THE
GOODS
TONIGHT...
OUR MASTER
WILL SELL
HER OFF!!



YOU DON'T
KNOW WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO
BE A SLAVE!!



YOU MAY BE OF
LOW BIRTH AND
MISTREATED,
TOO,

BUT AT LEAST
YOU CAN BE
WITH YOUR
MOTHER.

IMAGINE
YOUR
MOTHER BEING
SOLD OFF
LIKE A COW
OR PIG...



OH
NO...



SHOULD
WE GO
HELP YOUR
MOM?

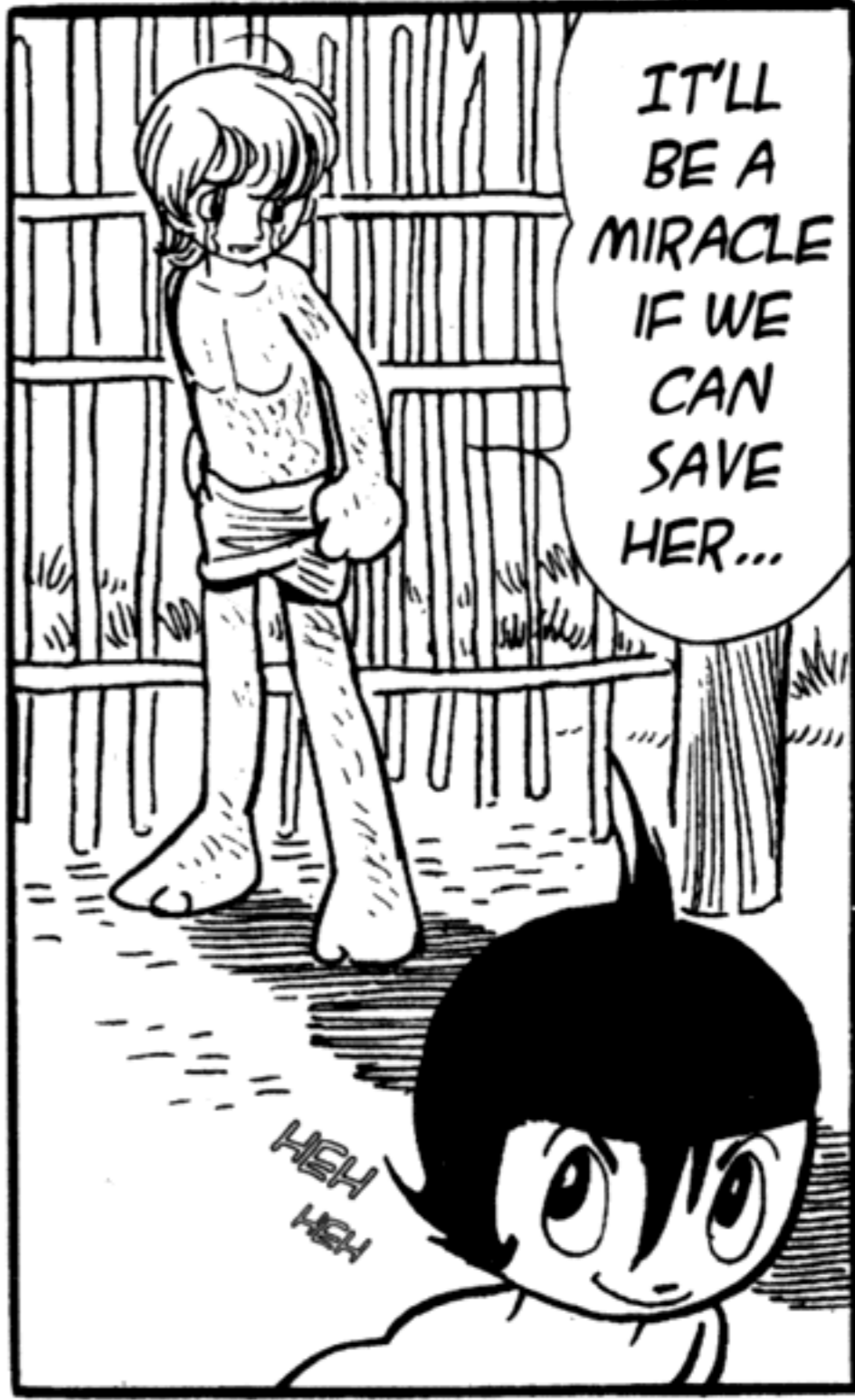


DID
YOU
SAY
"HELP"?

YOU
WON'T GIVE
BACK WHAT
YOU STOLE,
BUT YOU'LL
HELP HER?!



AND IN
RETURN, YOU
TWO DON'T
EVER HAVE TO
GO BACK TO
YOUR MASTER.

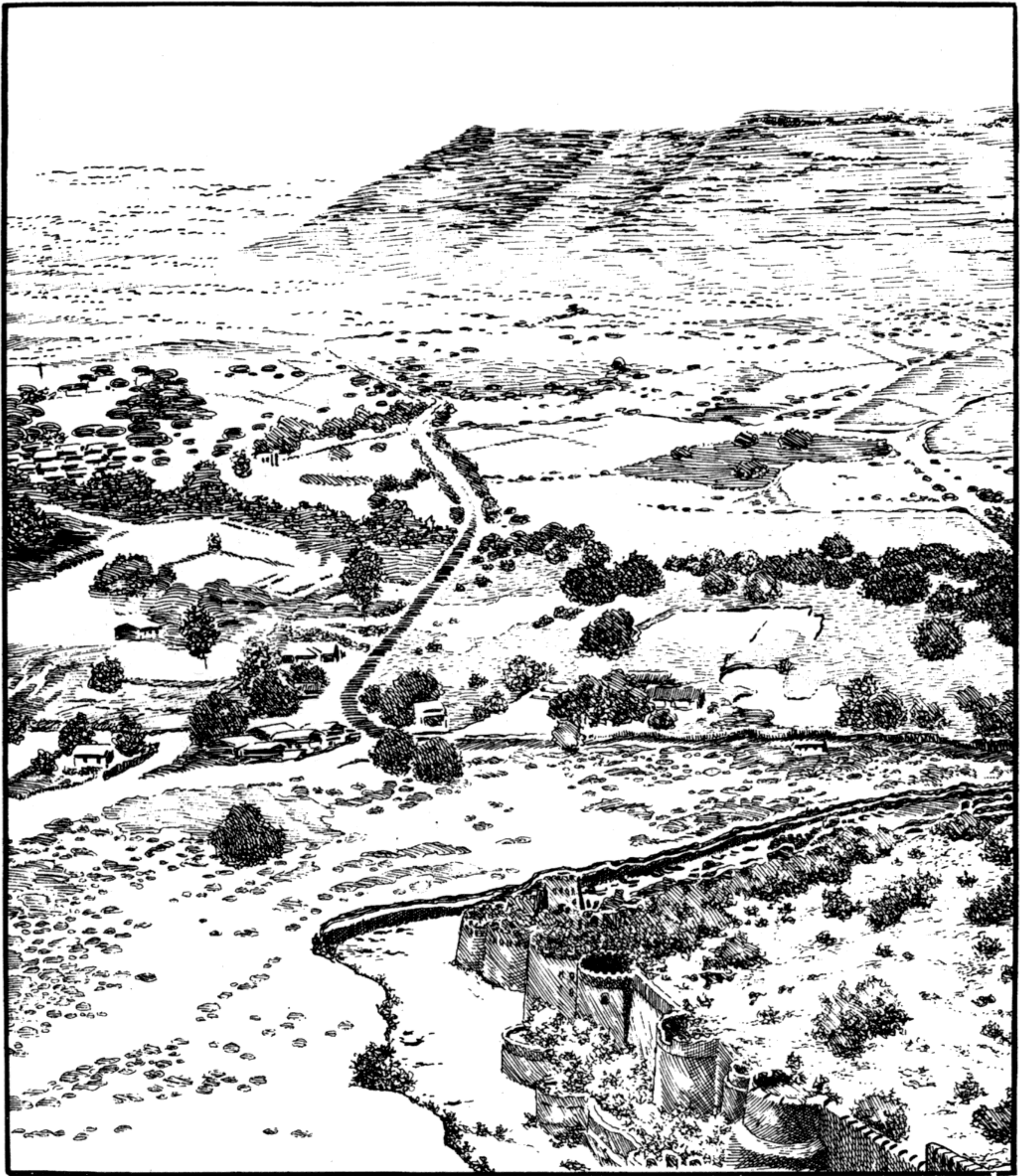


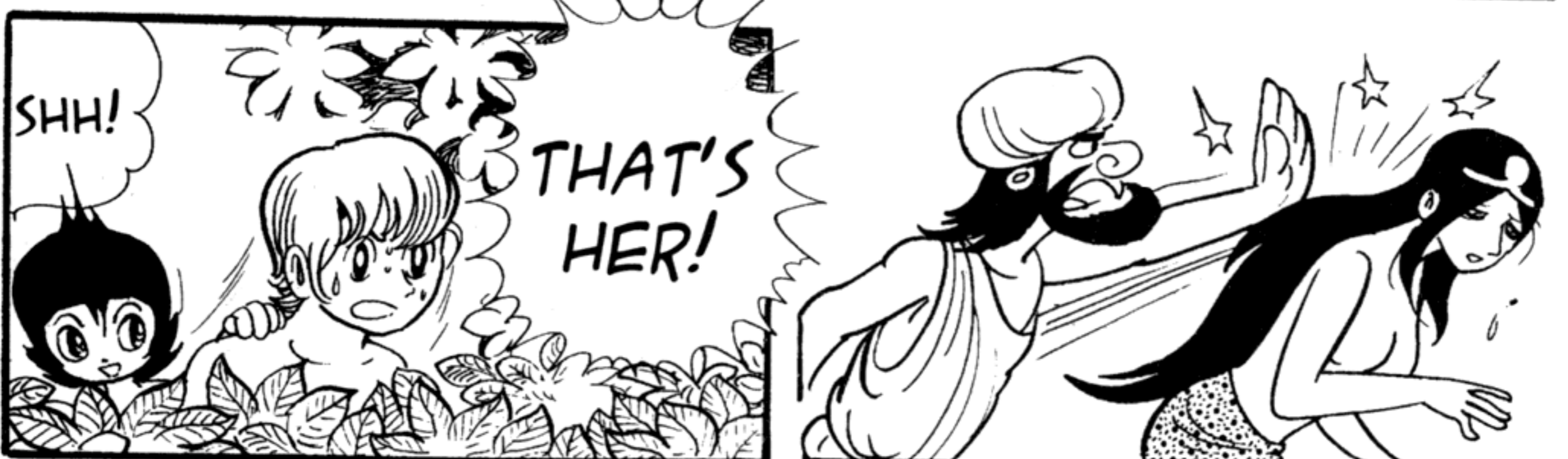
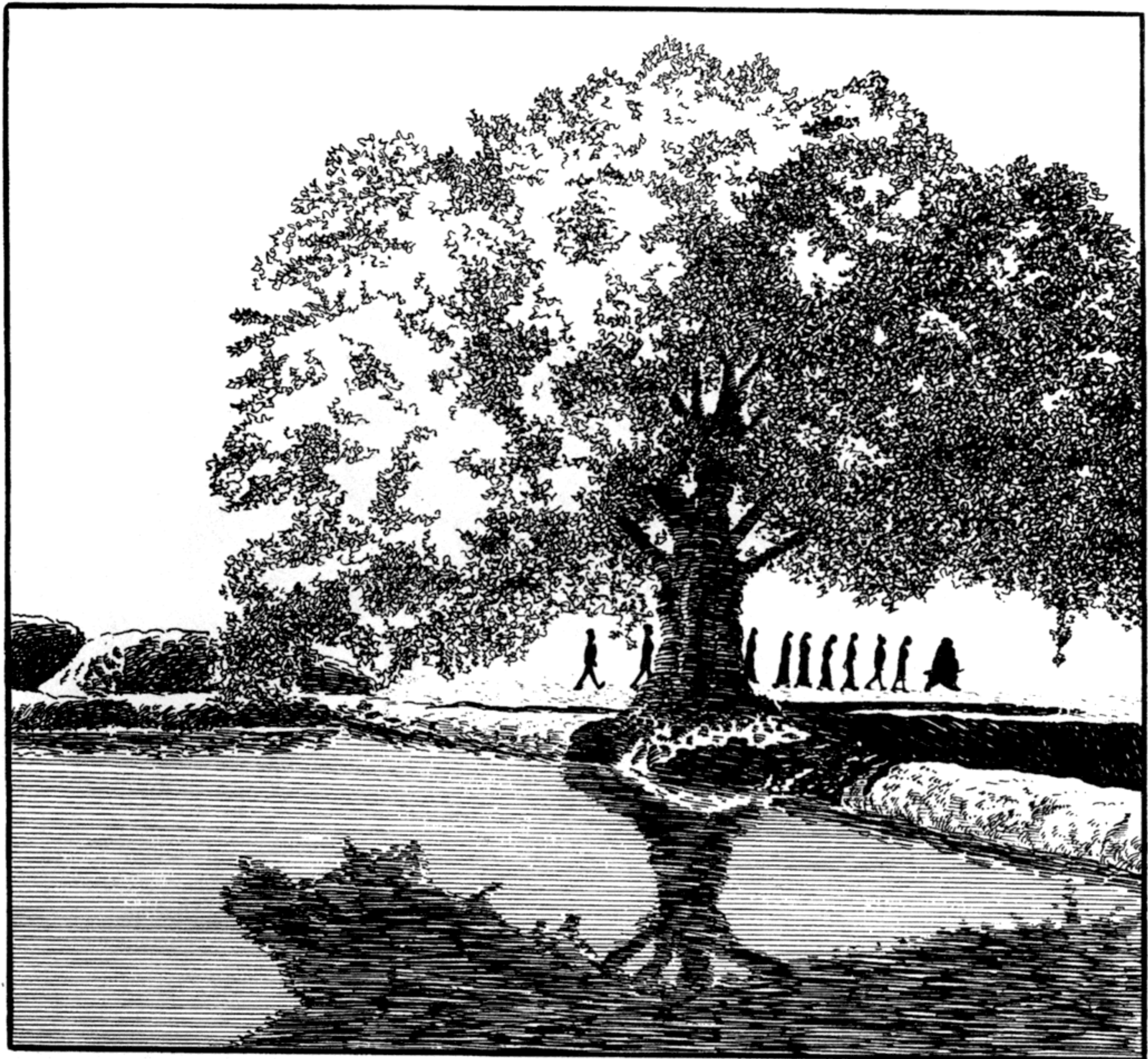
IT'LL
BE A
MIRACLE
IF WE
CAN
SAVE
HER...

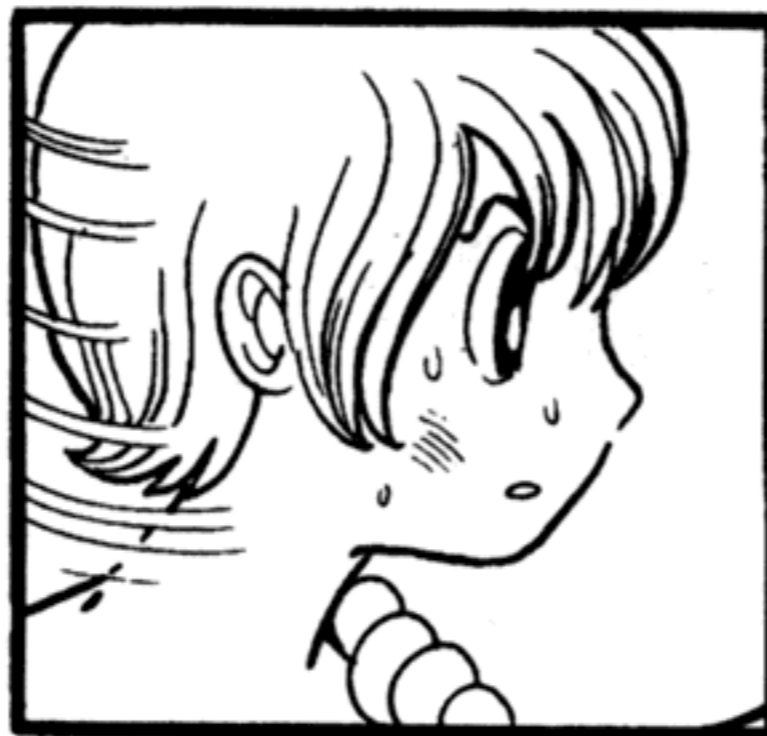
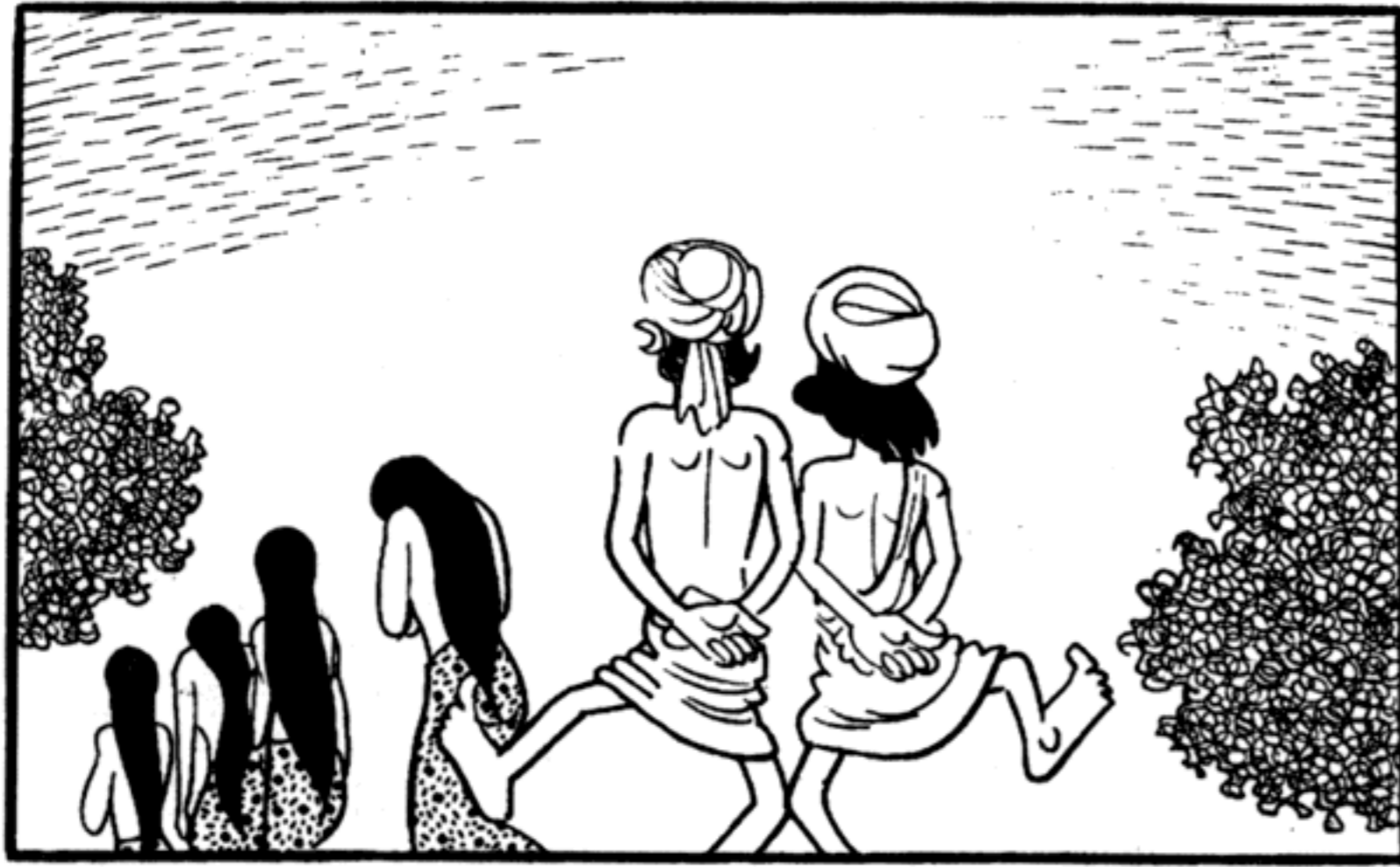
HEH
HEH

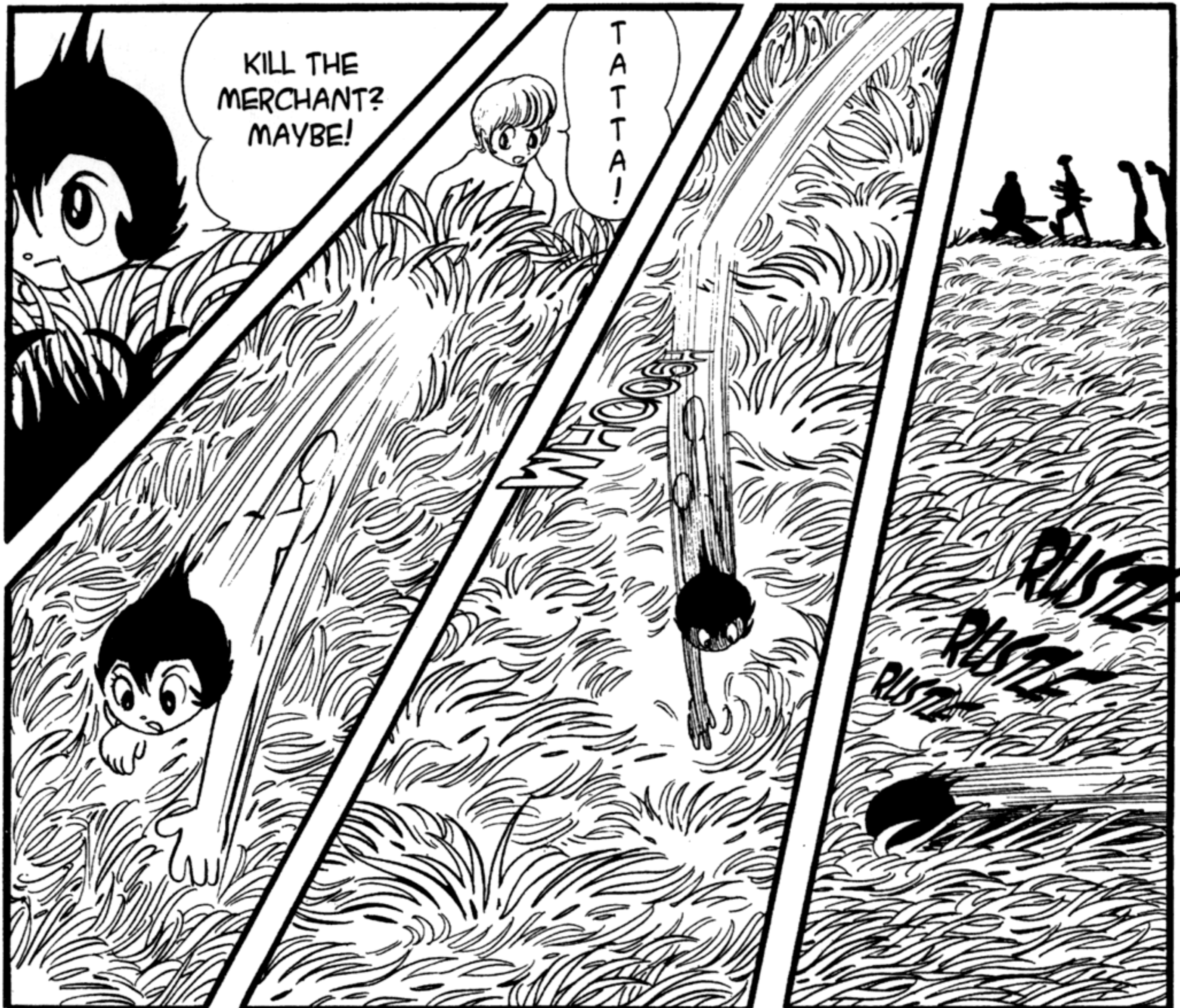
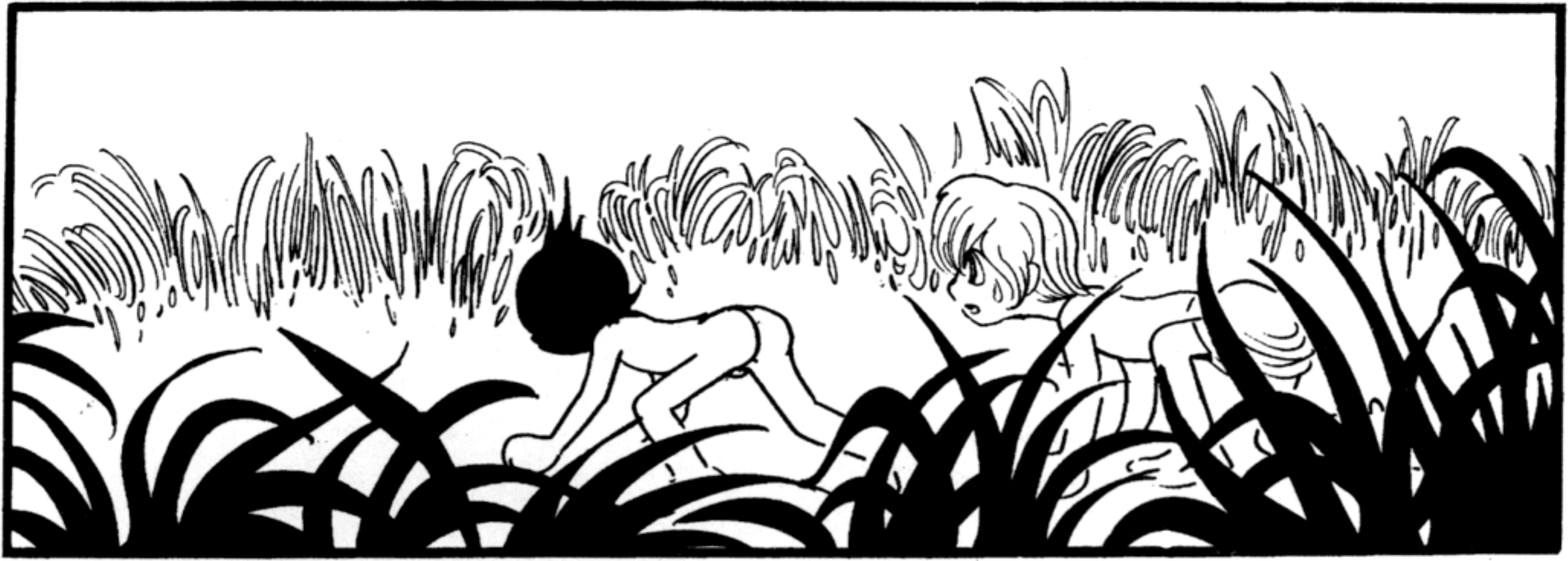
CHAPTER TWO

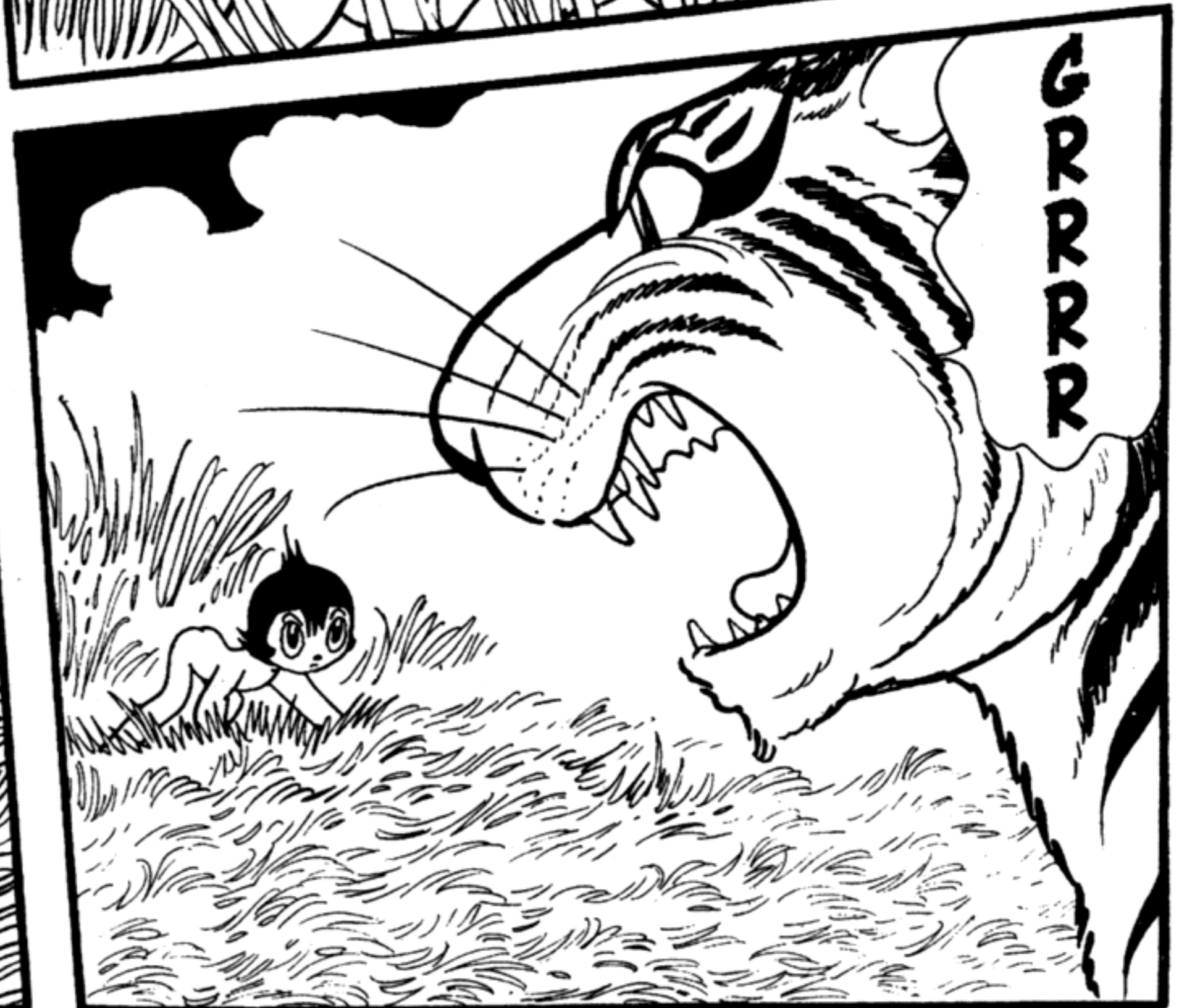
TATTA THE URCHIN

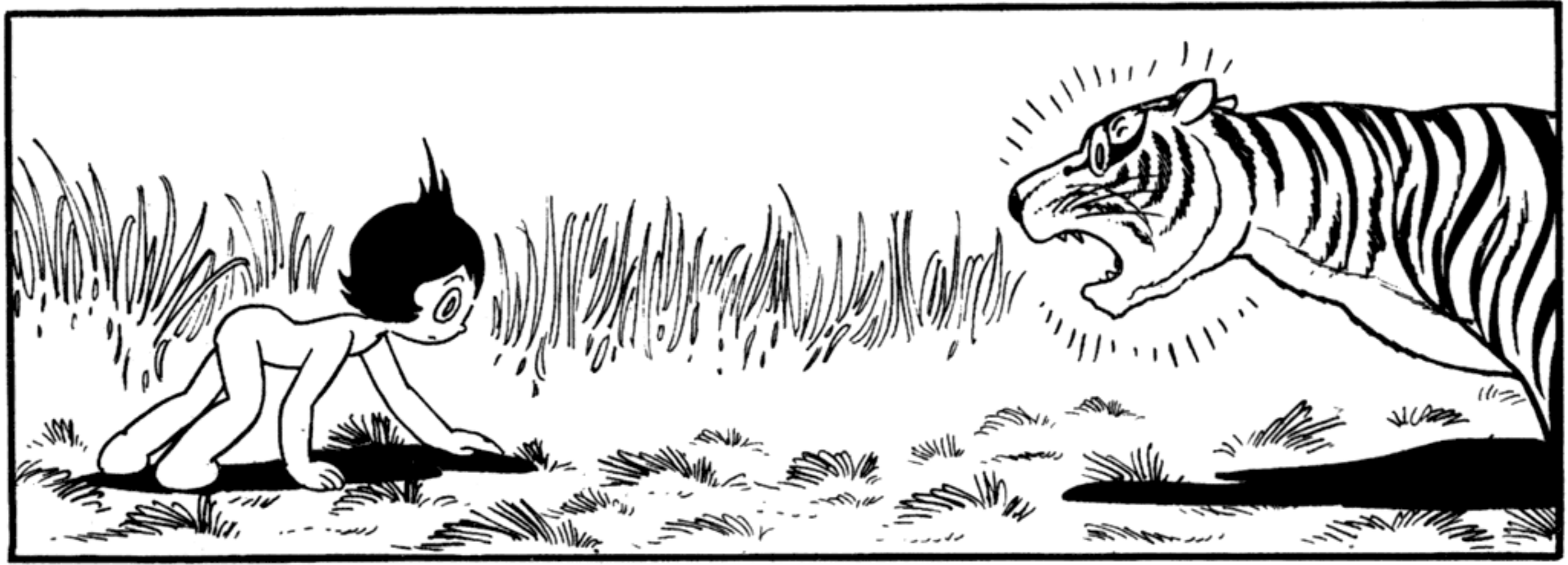
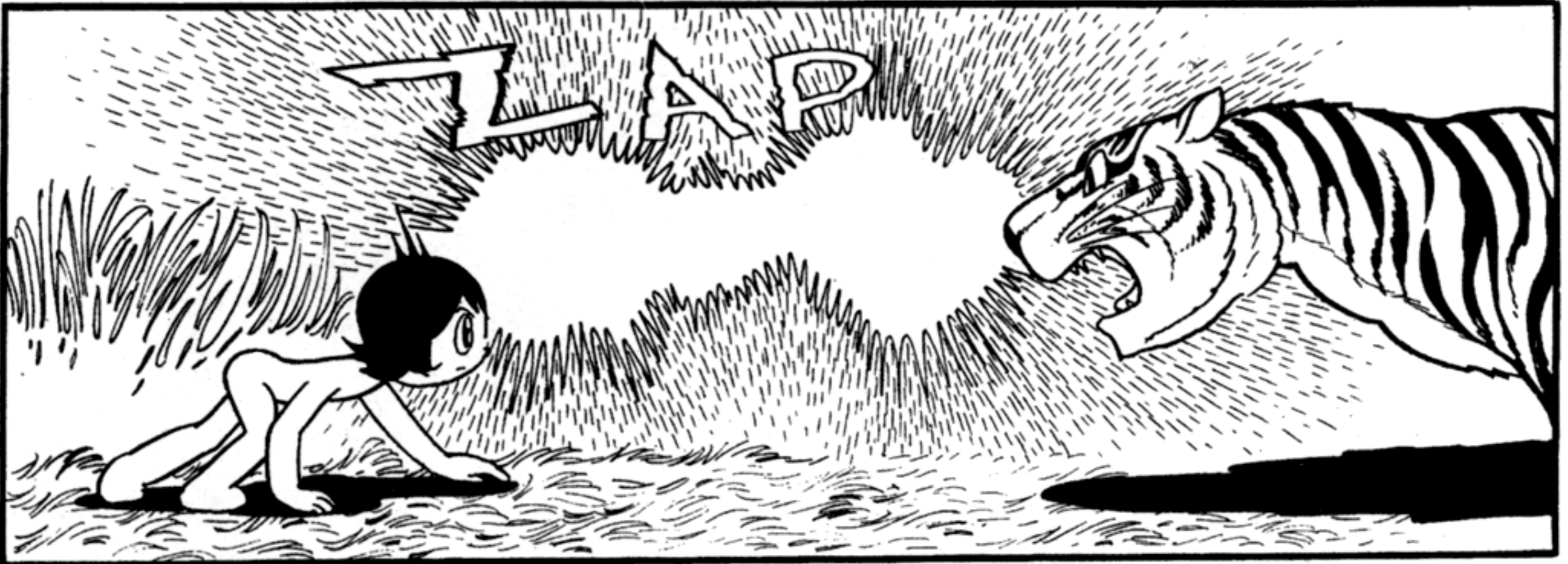


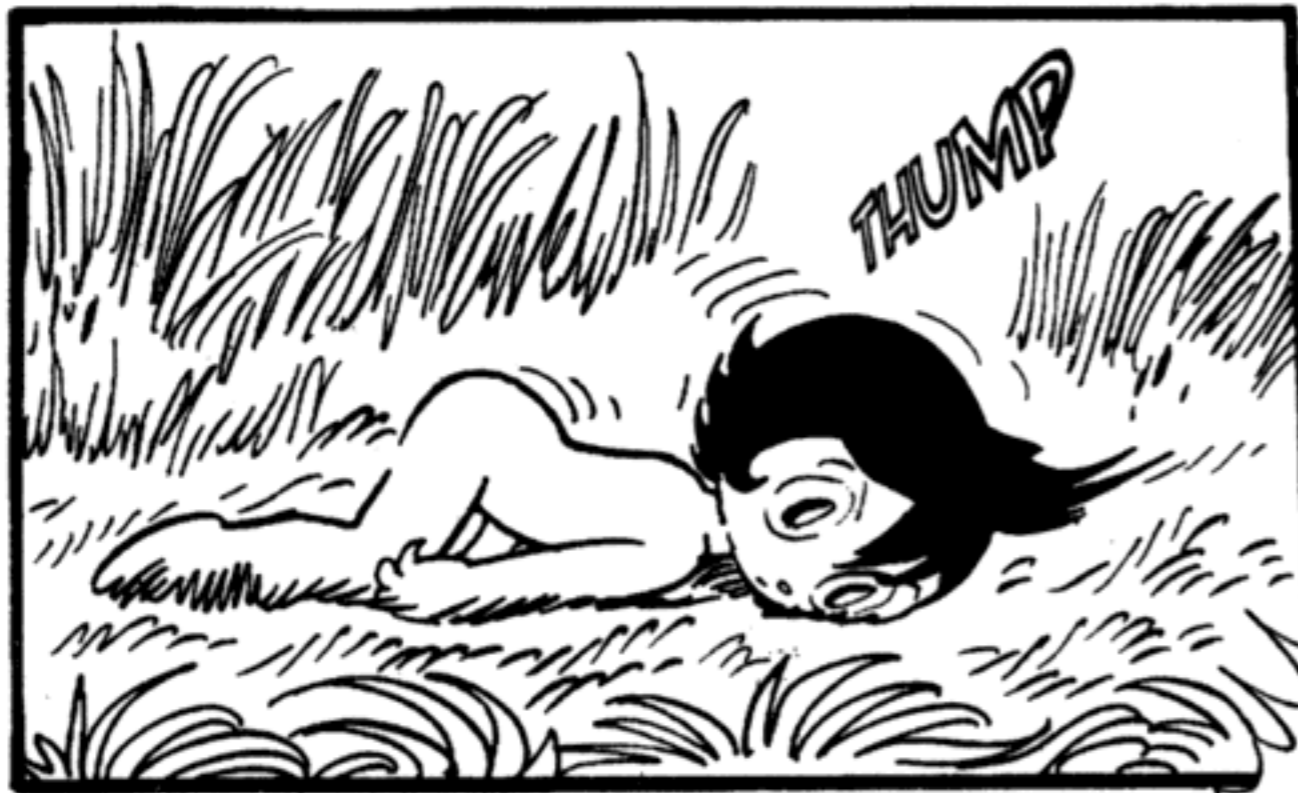




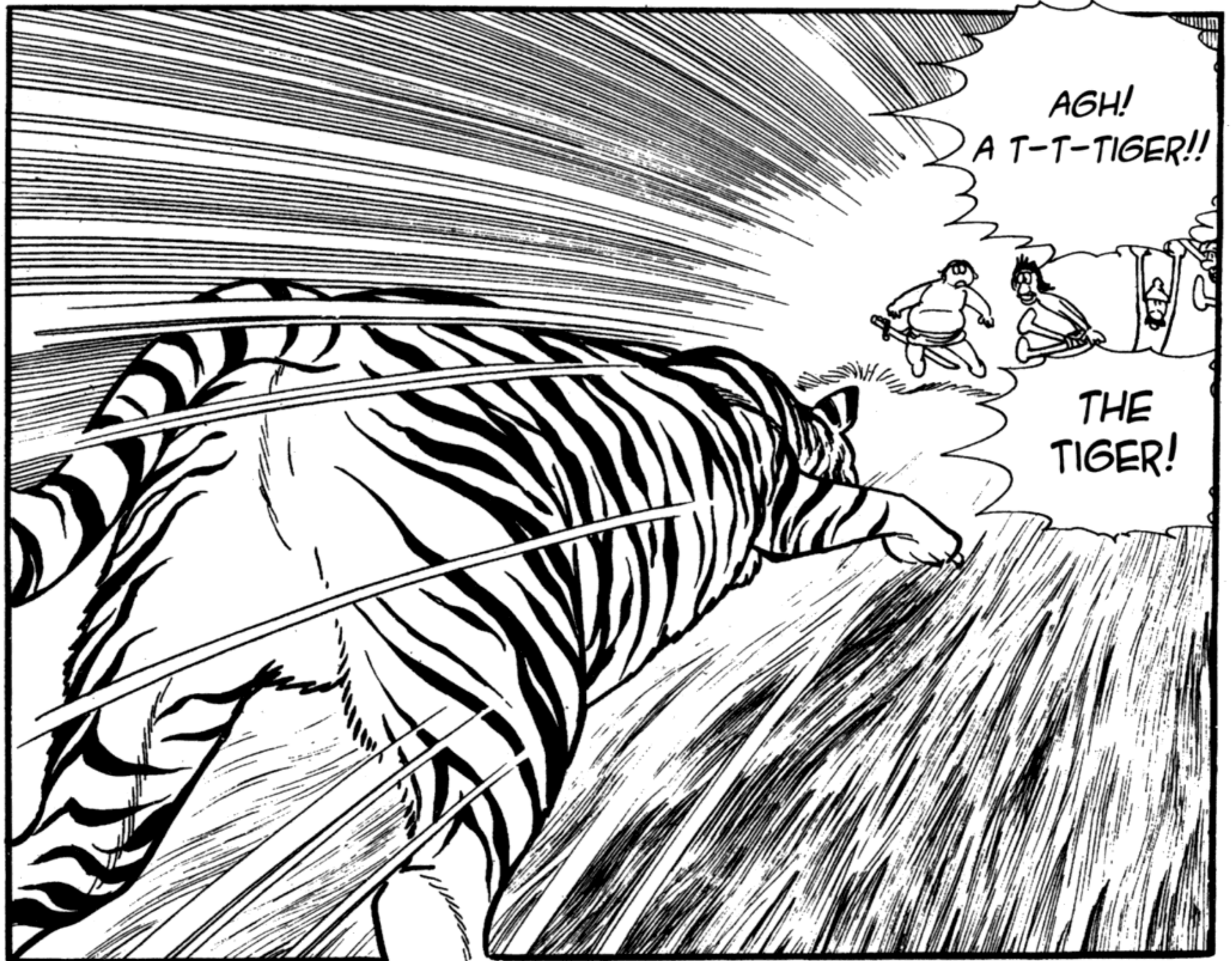






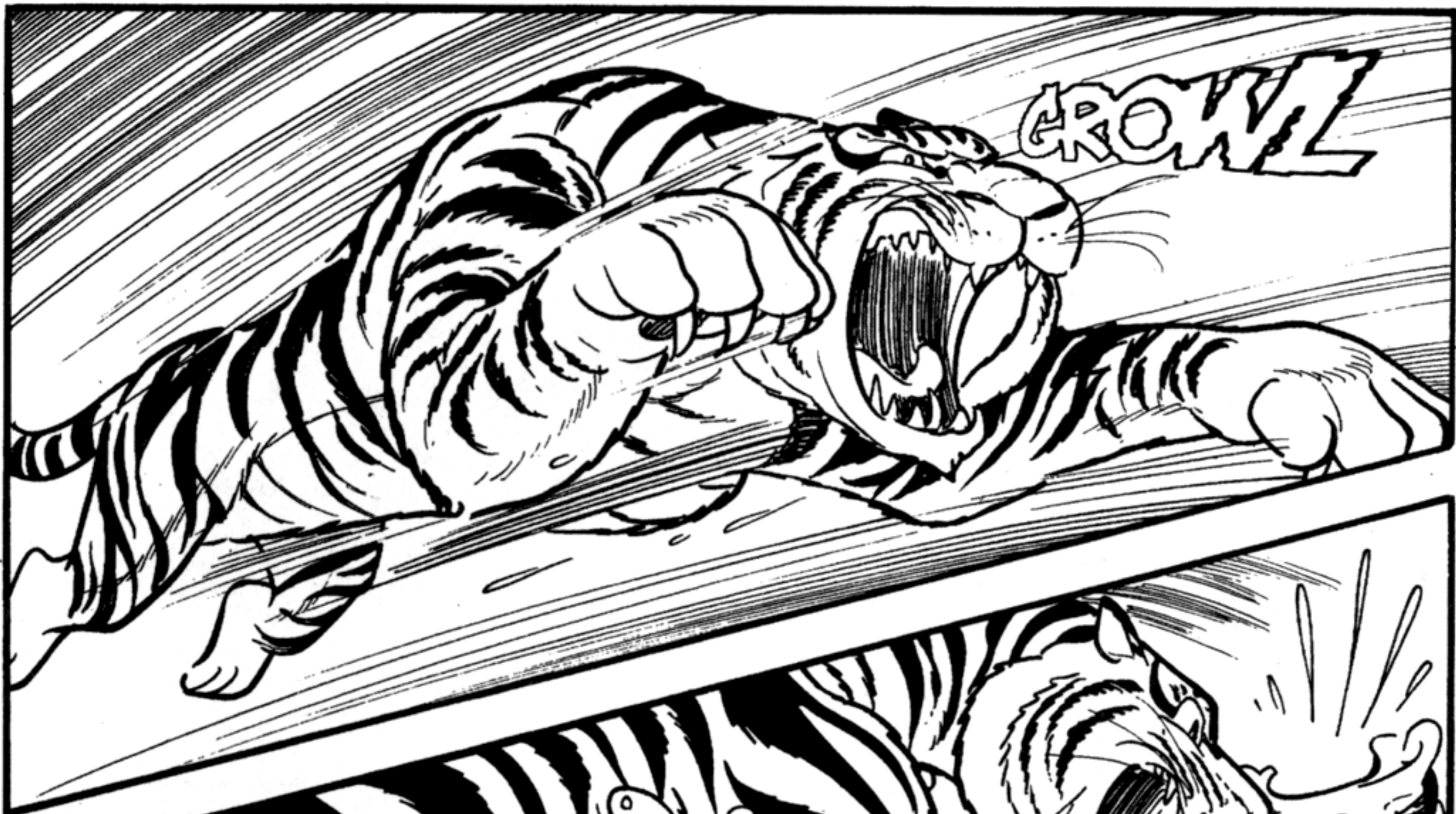


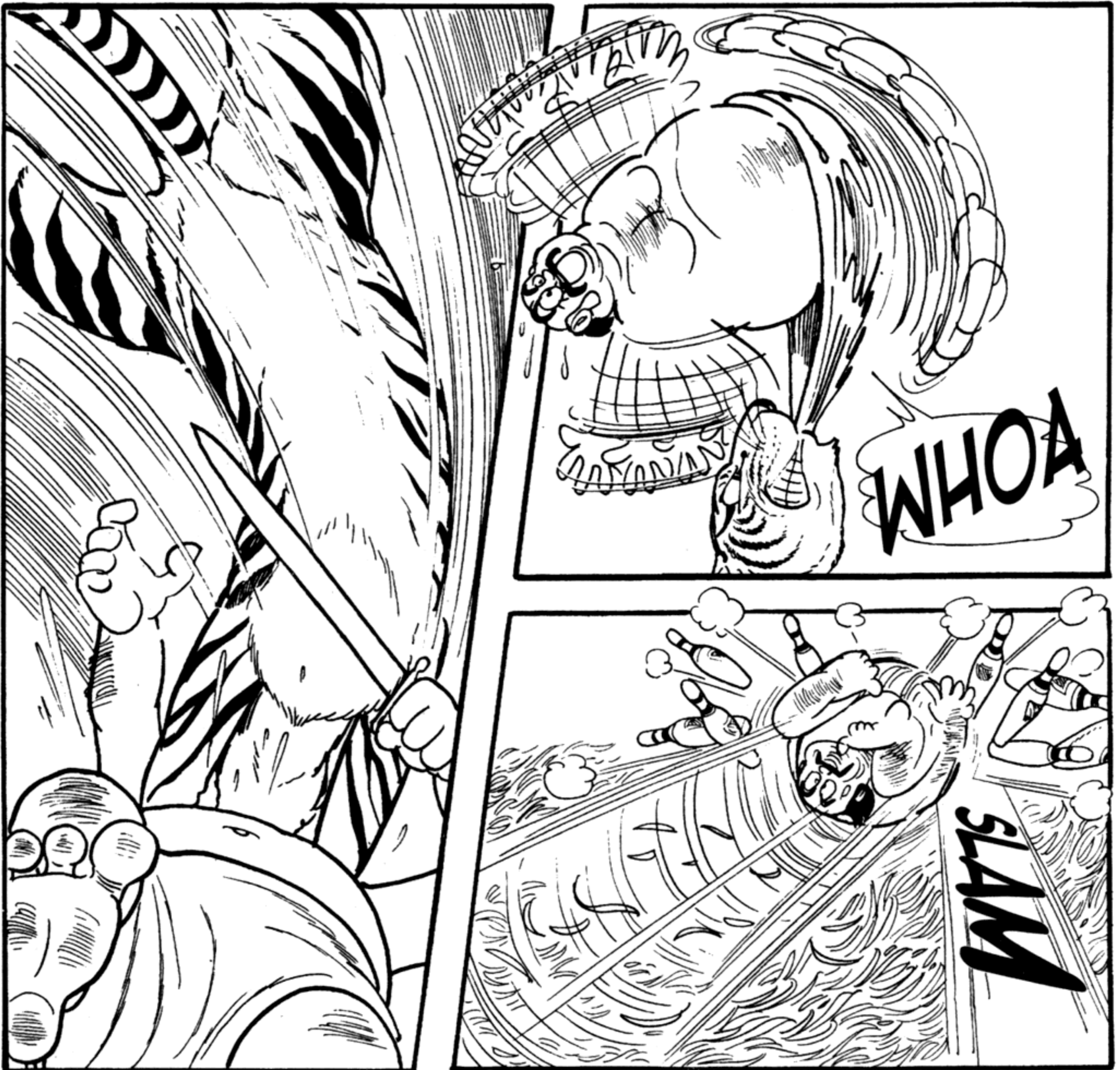
GARRH

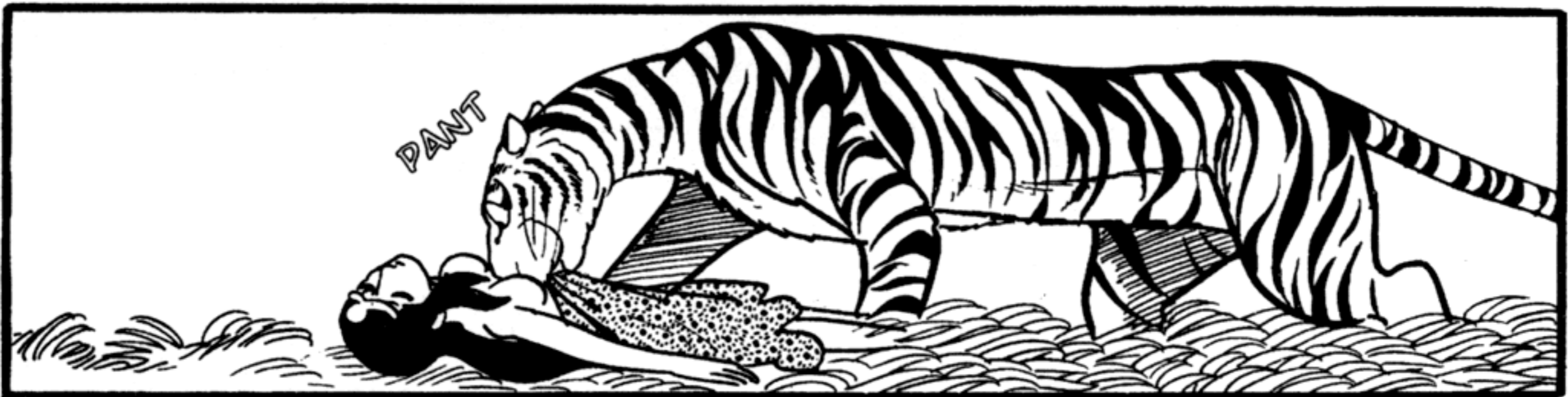
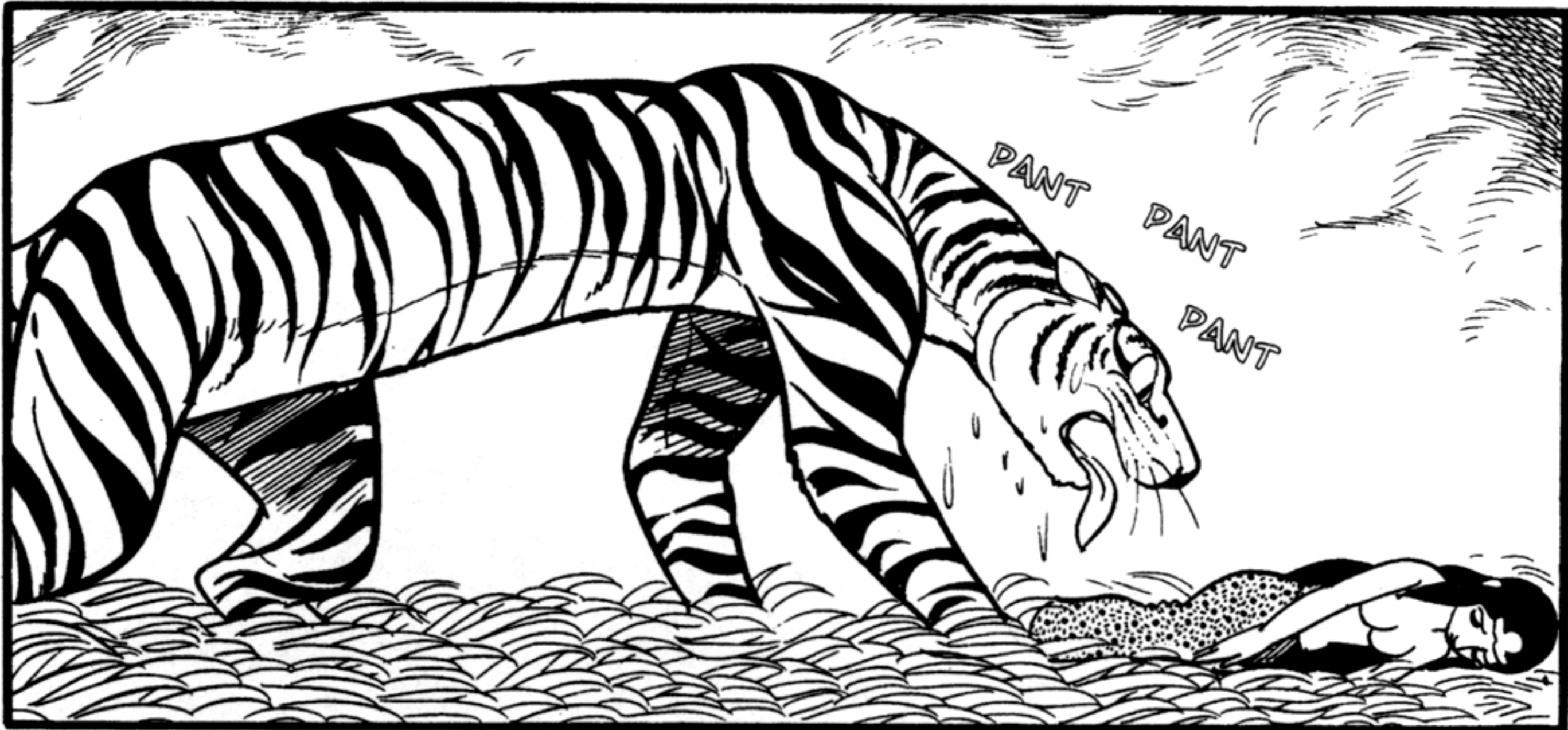


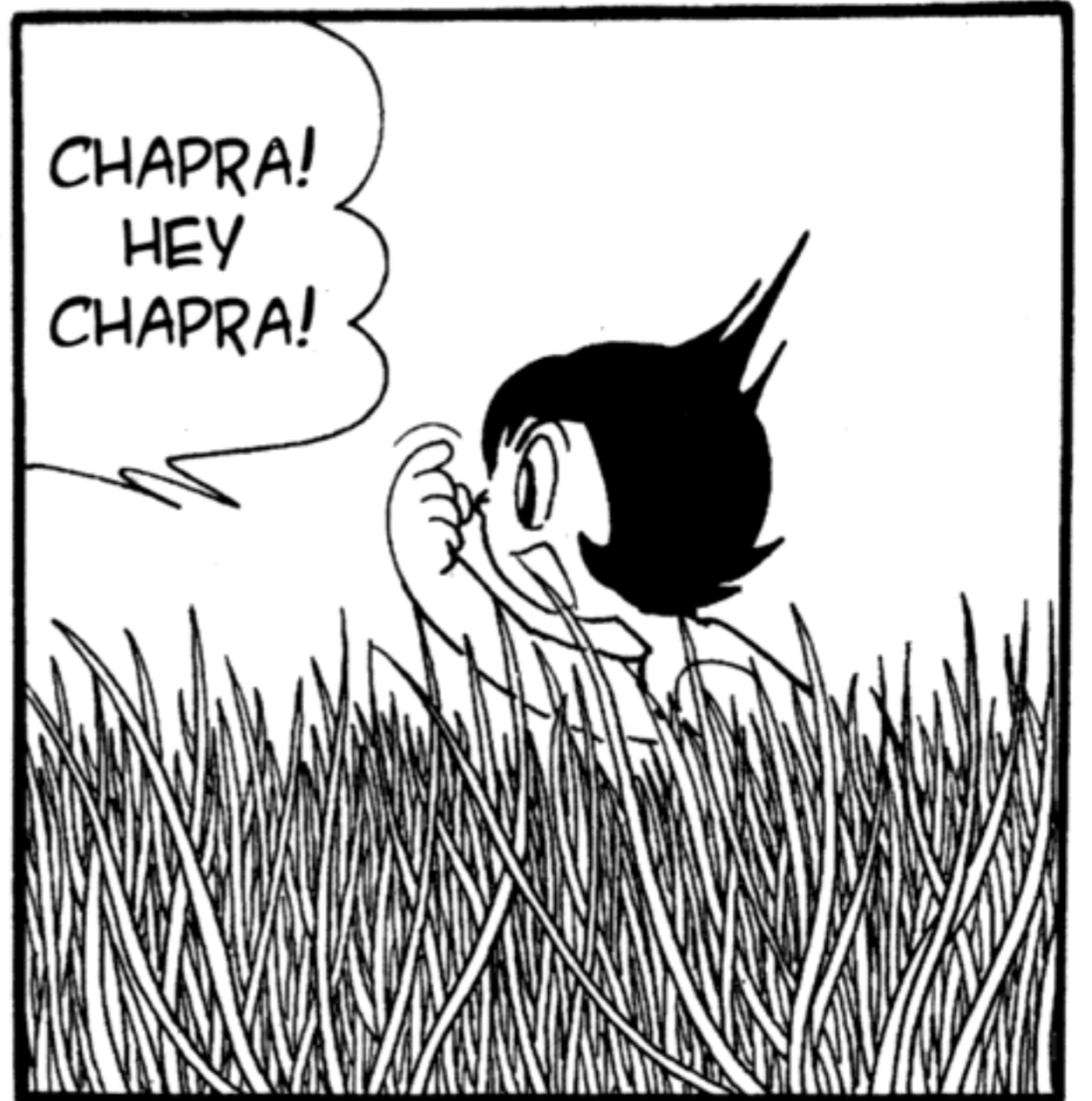
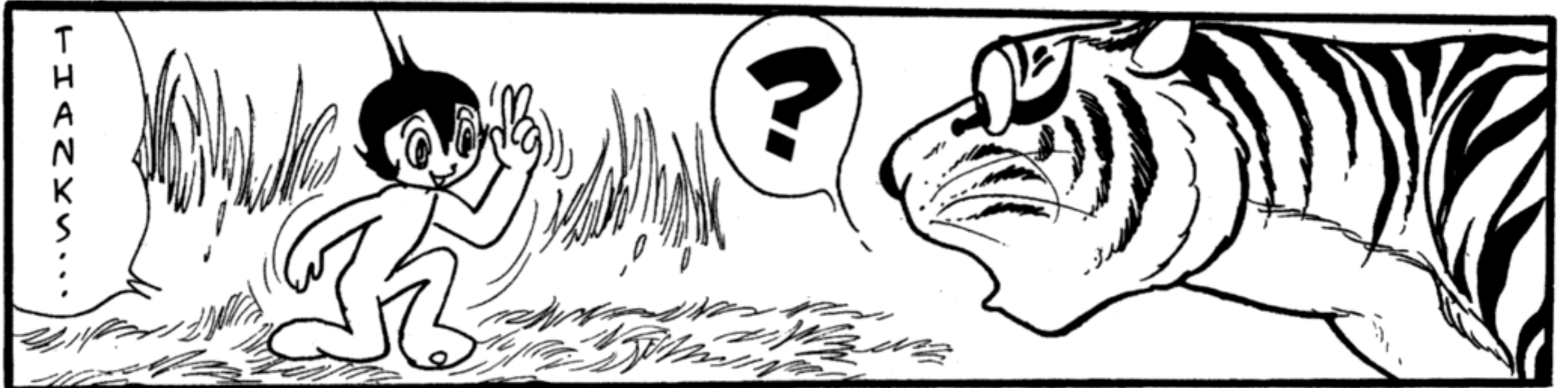
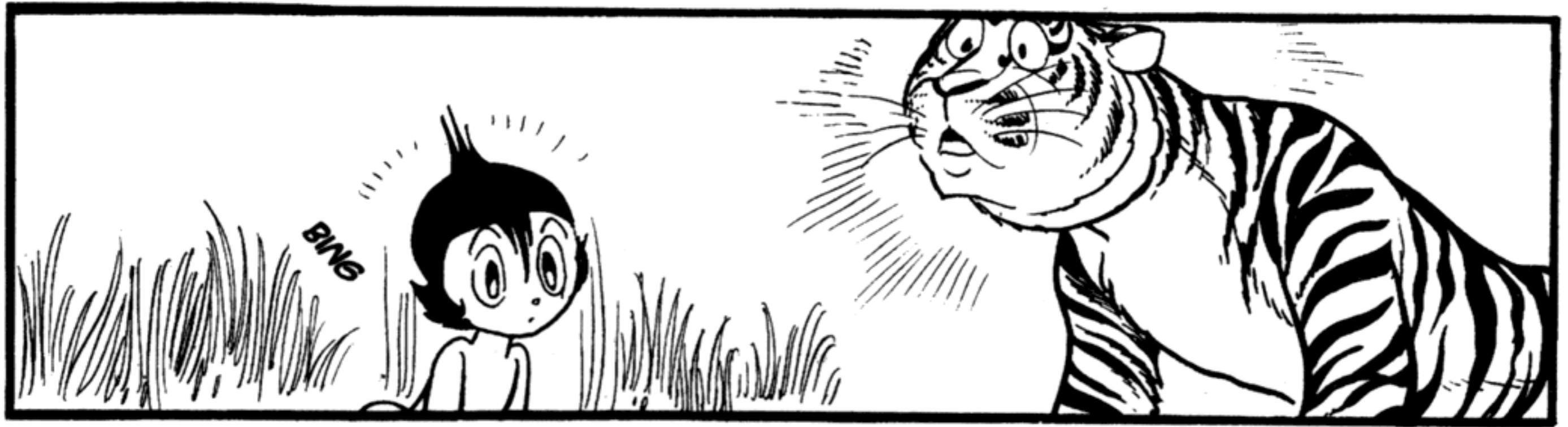
AGH!
A T-T-TIGER!!

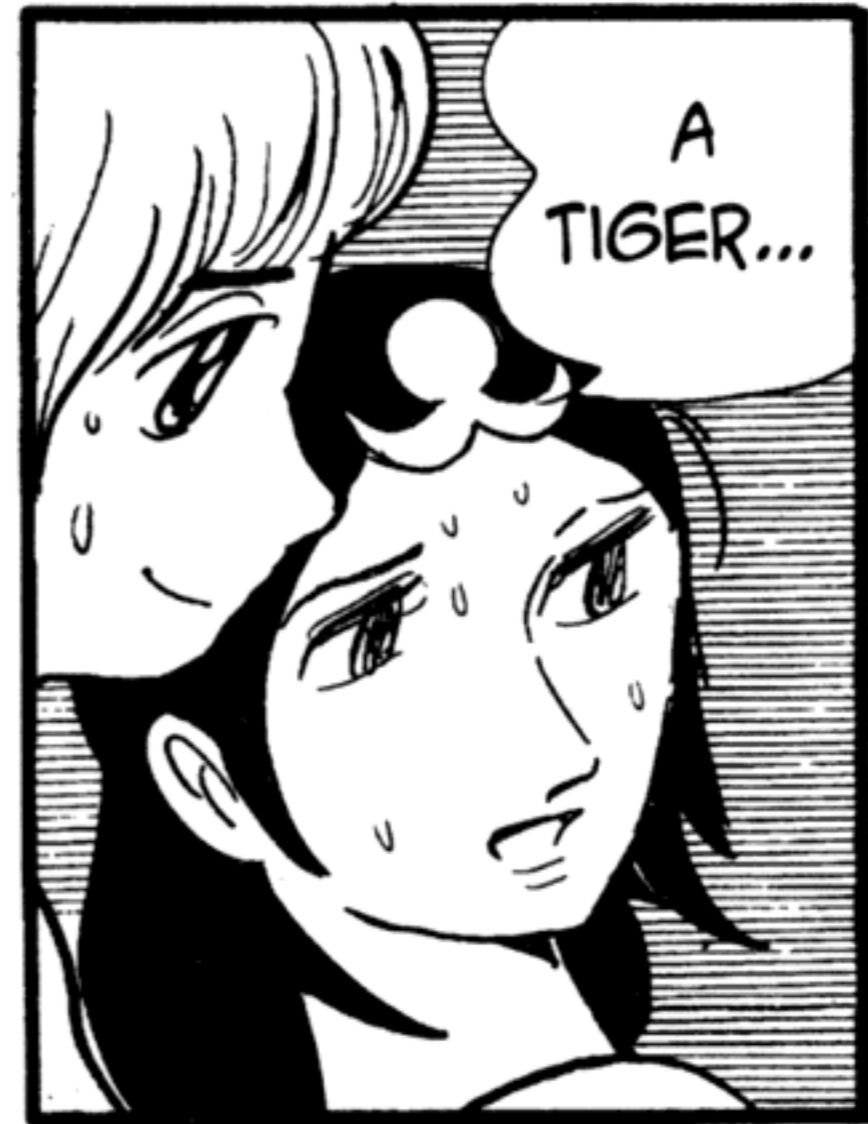
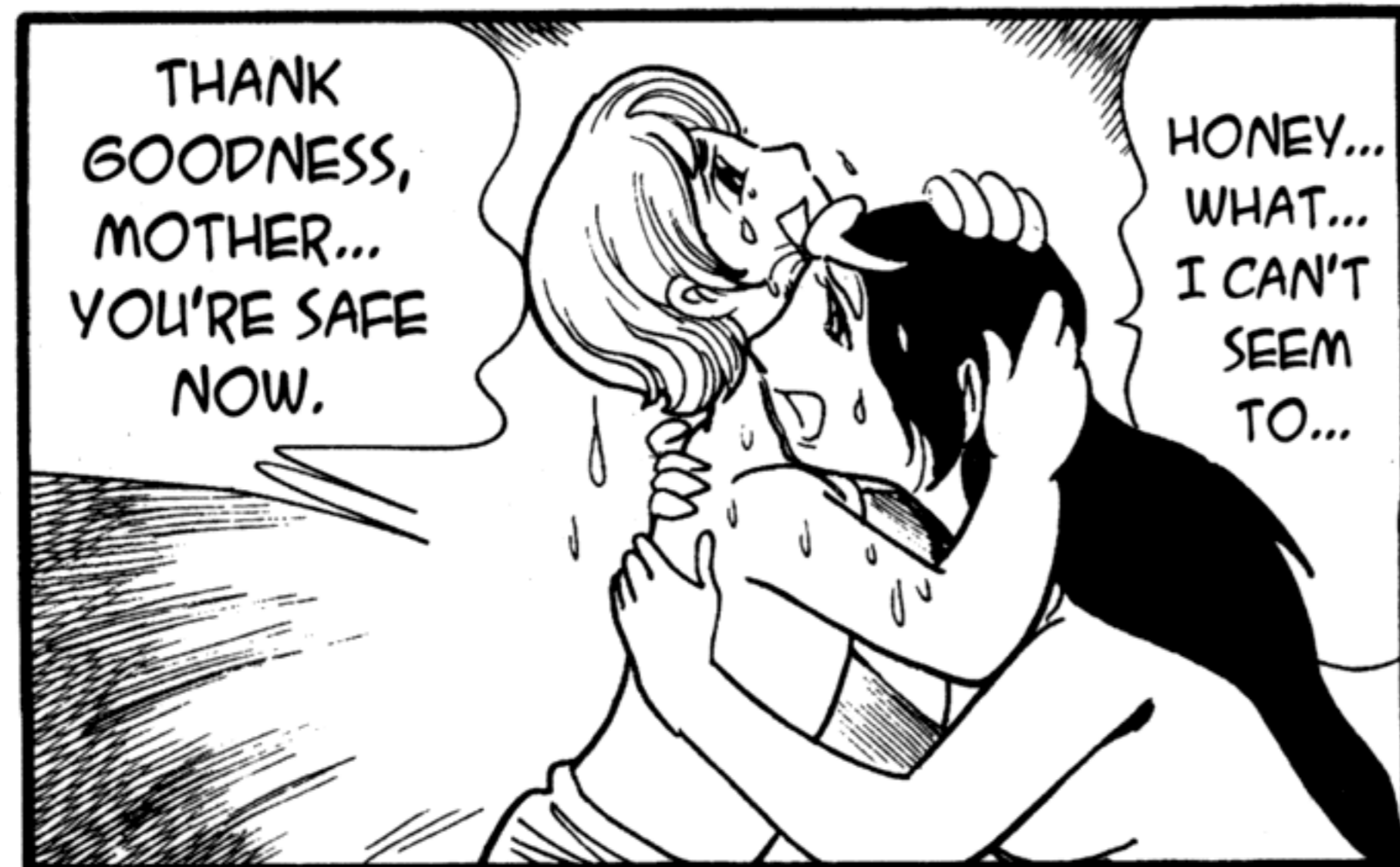
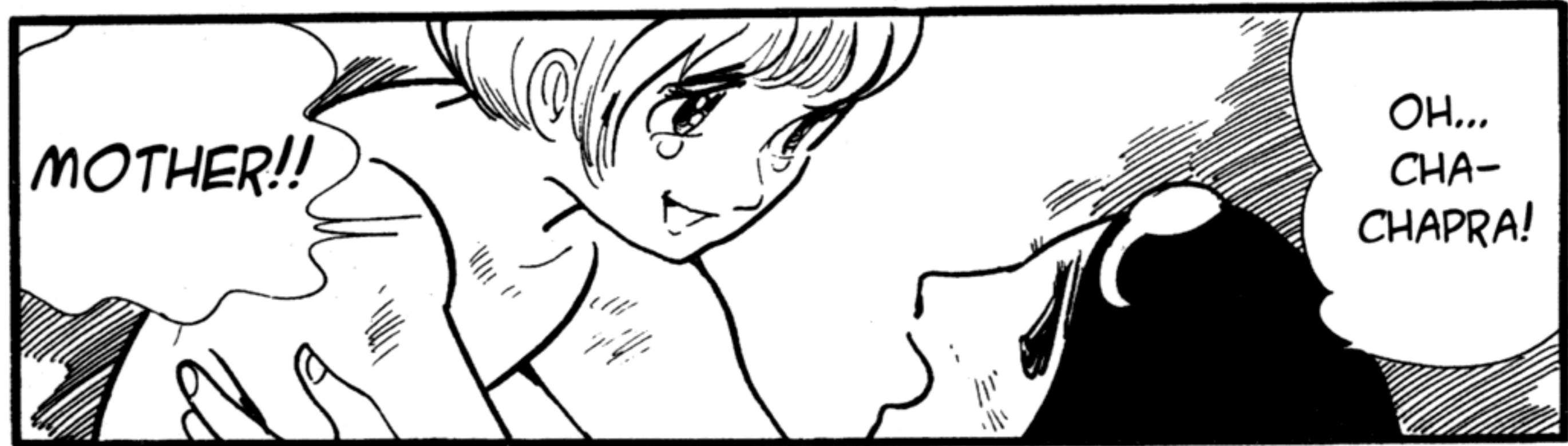
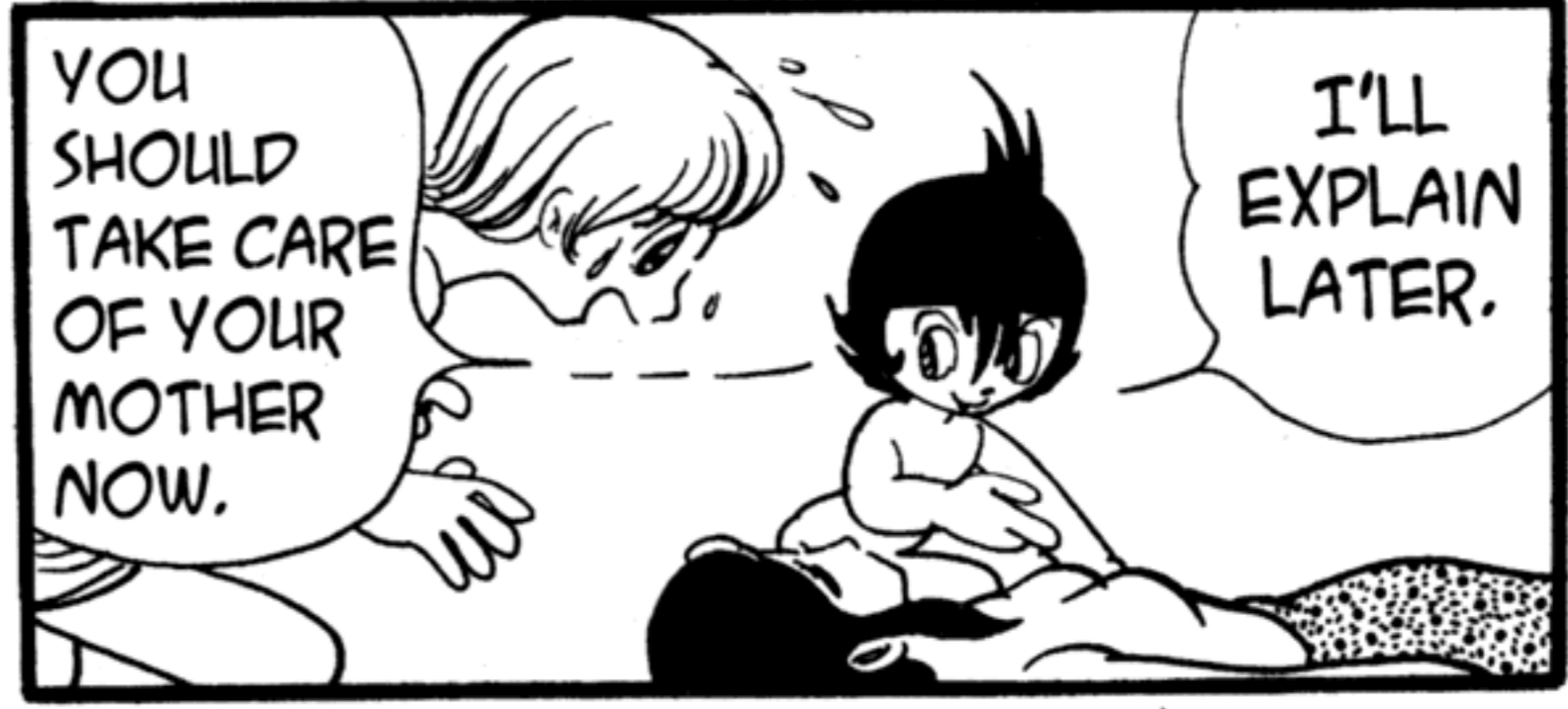
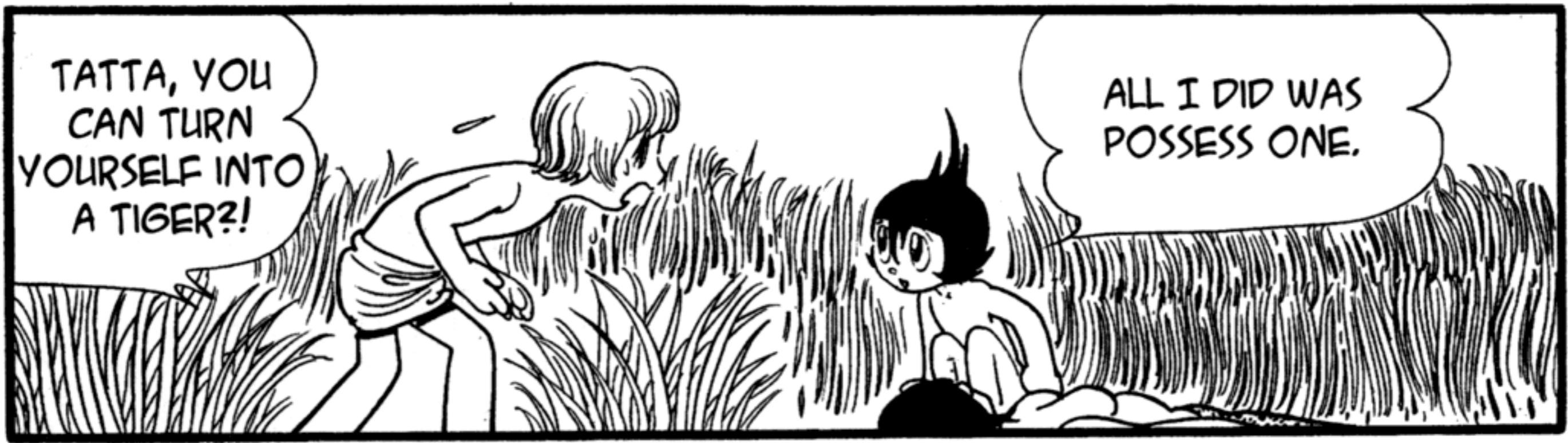
THE
TIGER!

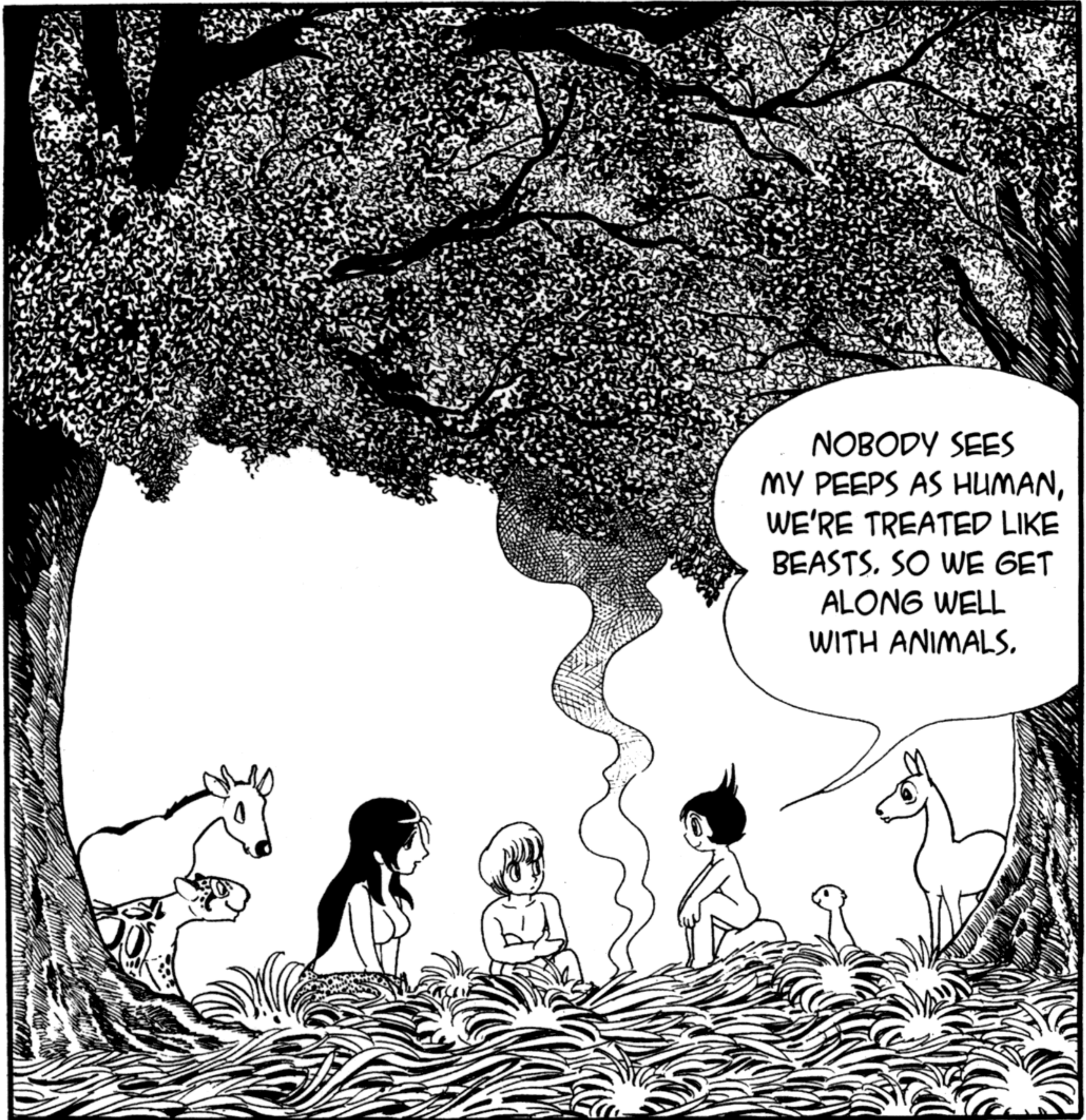




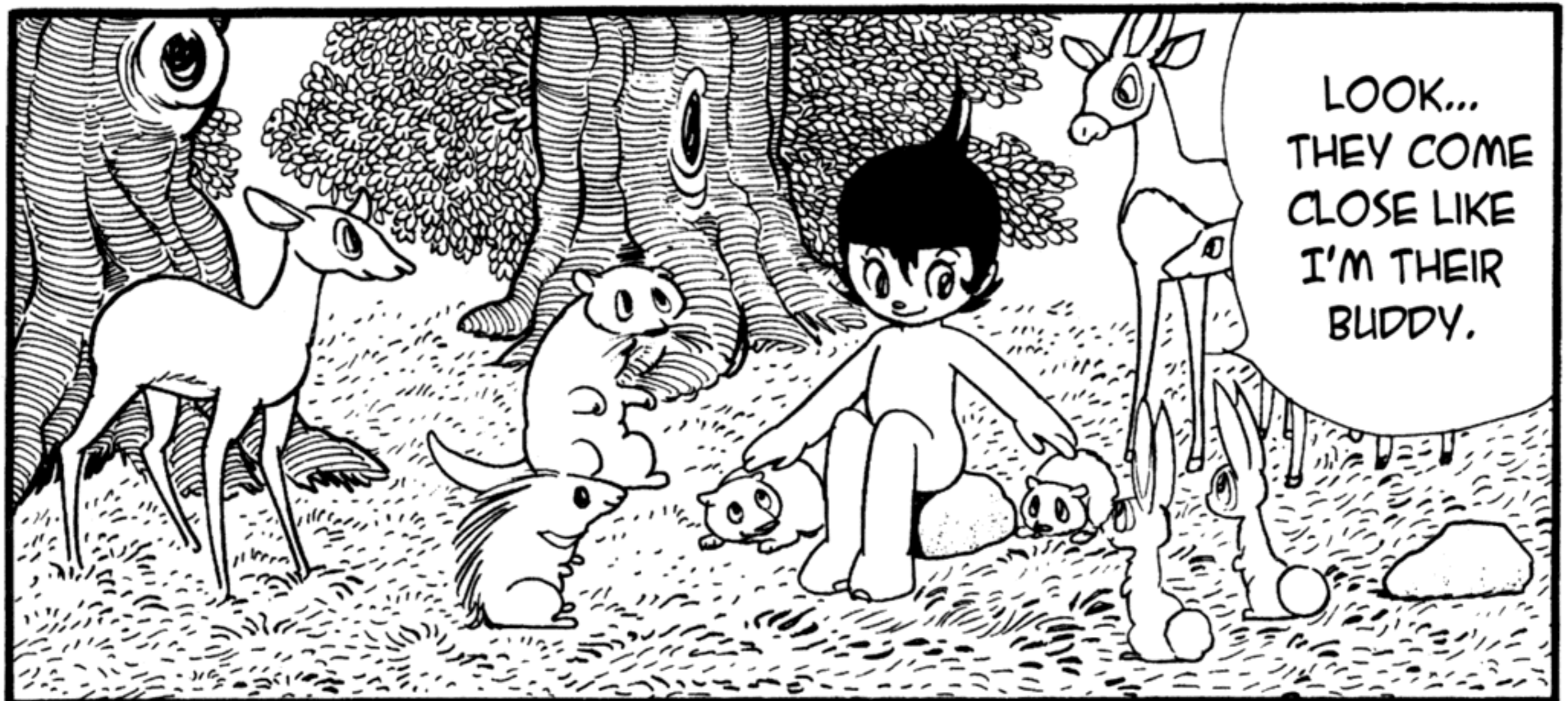




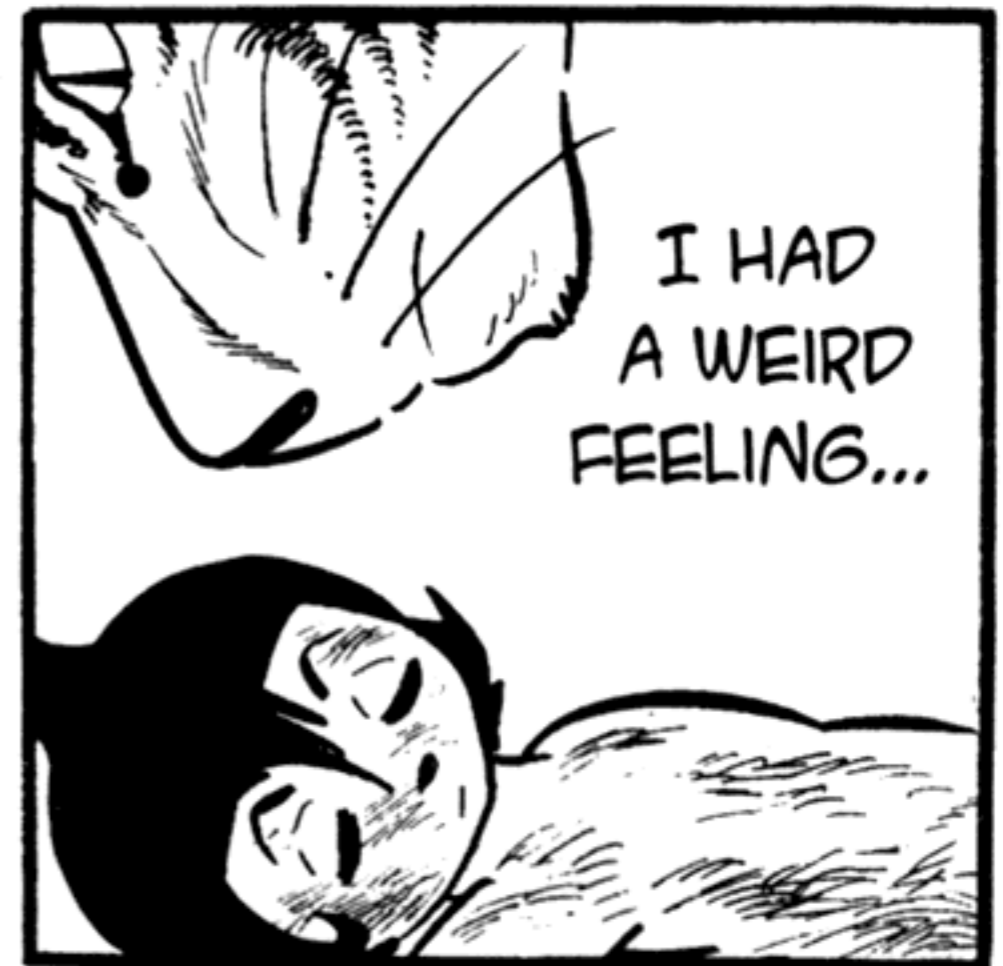
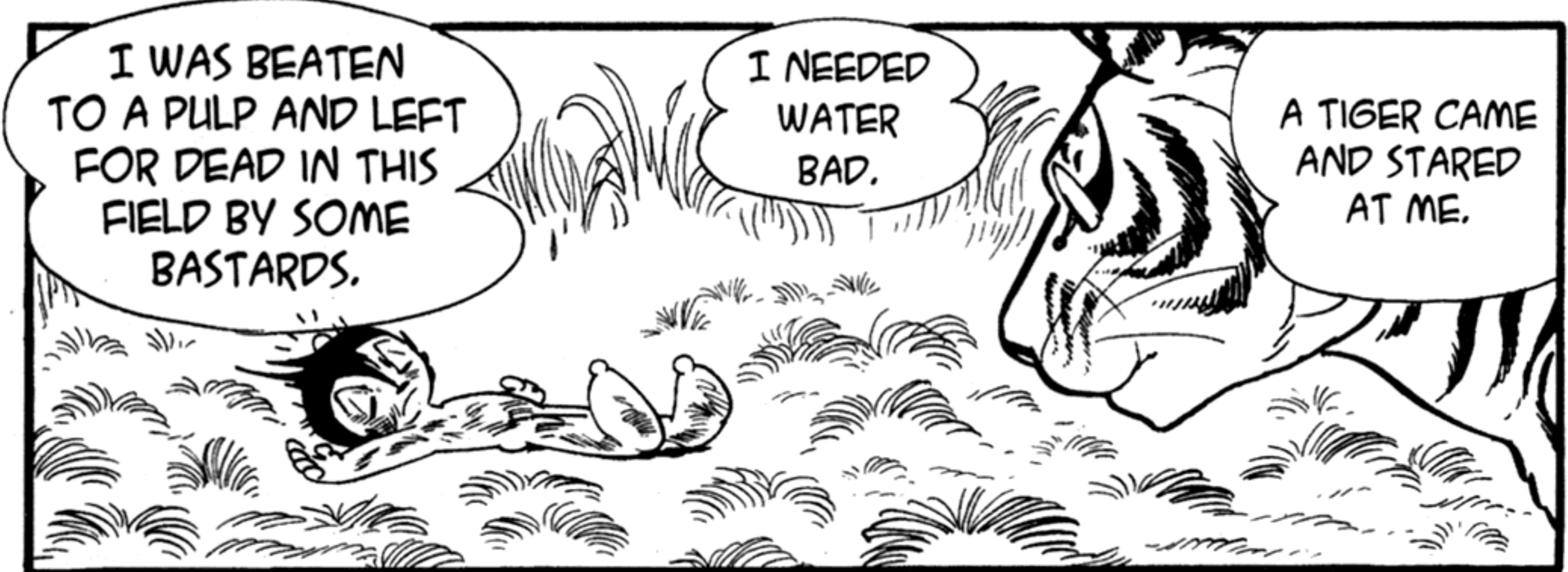


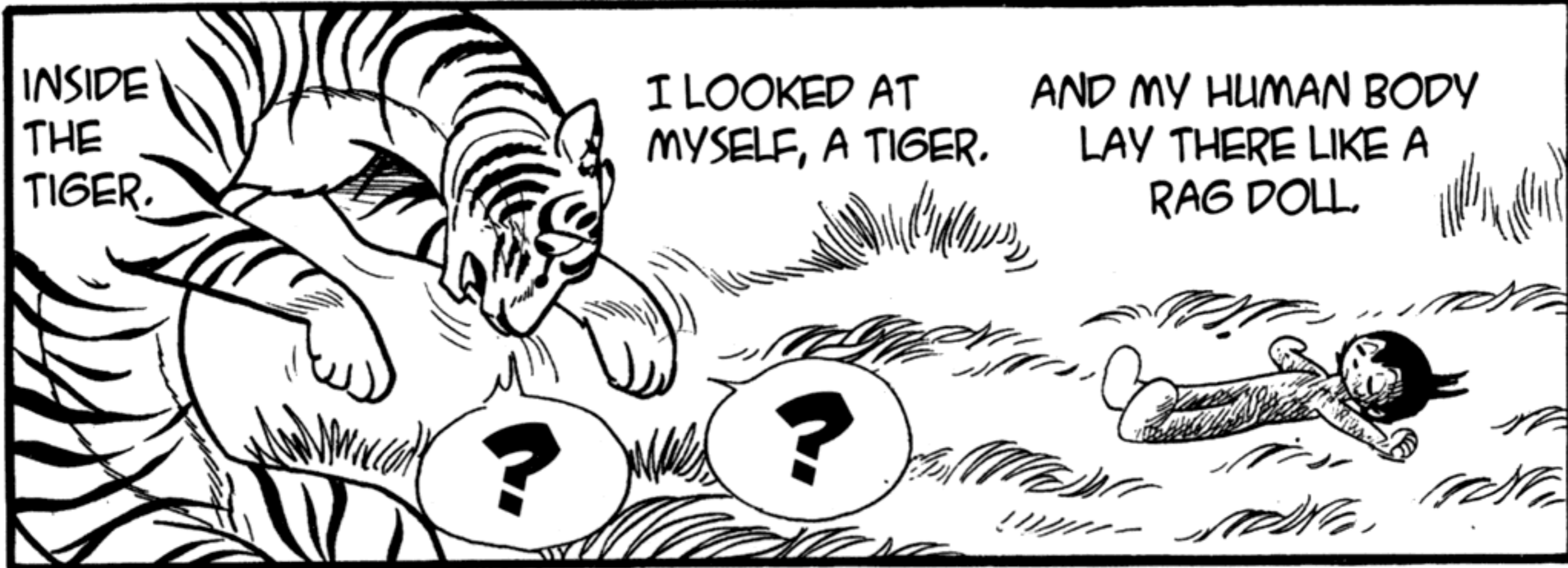


NOBODY SEES MY PEEPS AS HUMAN, WE'RE TREATED LIKE BEASTS. SO WE GET ALONG WELL WITH ANIMALS.



LOOK... THEY COME CLOSE LIKE I'M THEIR BUDDY.





INSIDE
THE
TIGER.

I LOOKED AT
MYSELF, A TIGER.

AND MY HUMAN BODY
LAY THERE LIKE A
RAG DOLL.

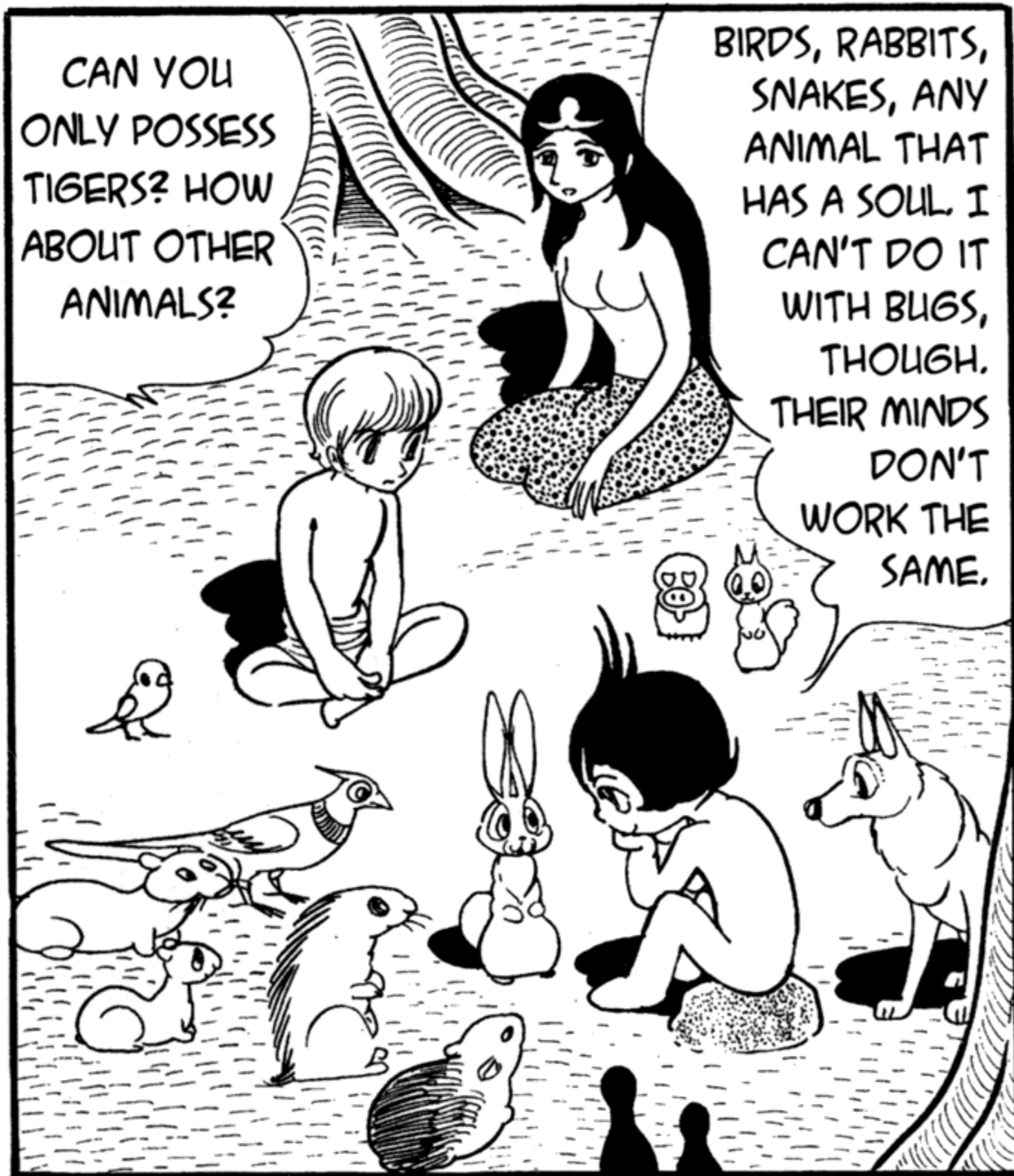


I RAN! FAST!
I WAS
STRONG!



THEN I
CARRIED MY
HUMAN BODY
OVER TO THE WATER.





CAN YOU ONLY POSSESS TIGERS? HOW ABOUT OTHER ANIMALS?

BIRDS, RABBITS, SNAKES, ANY ANIMAL THAT HAS A SOUL I CAN'T DO IT WITH BUGS, THOUGH. THEIR MINDS DON'T WORK THE SAME.



BIRDS ARE COOL, MAN. NOTHIN' LIKE SPREADING YOUR WINGS AND SOARING.



THAT'S SO COOL!! CAN YOU TEACH ME?

THIS AIN'T NO TRICK, DUDE. YOU EITHER GOT IT OR YOU DON'T.



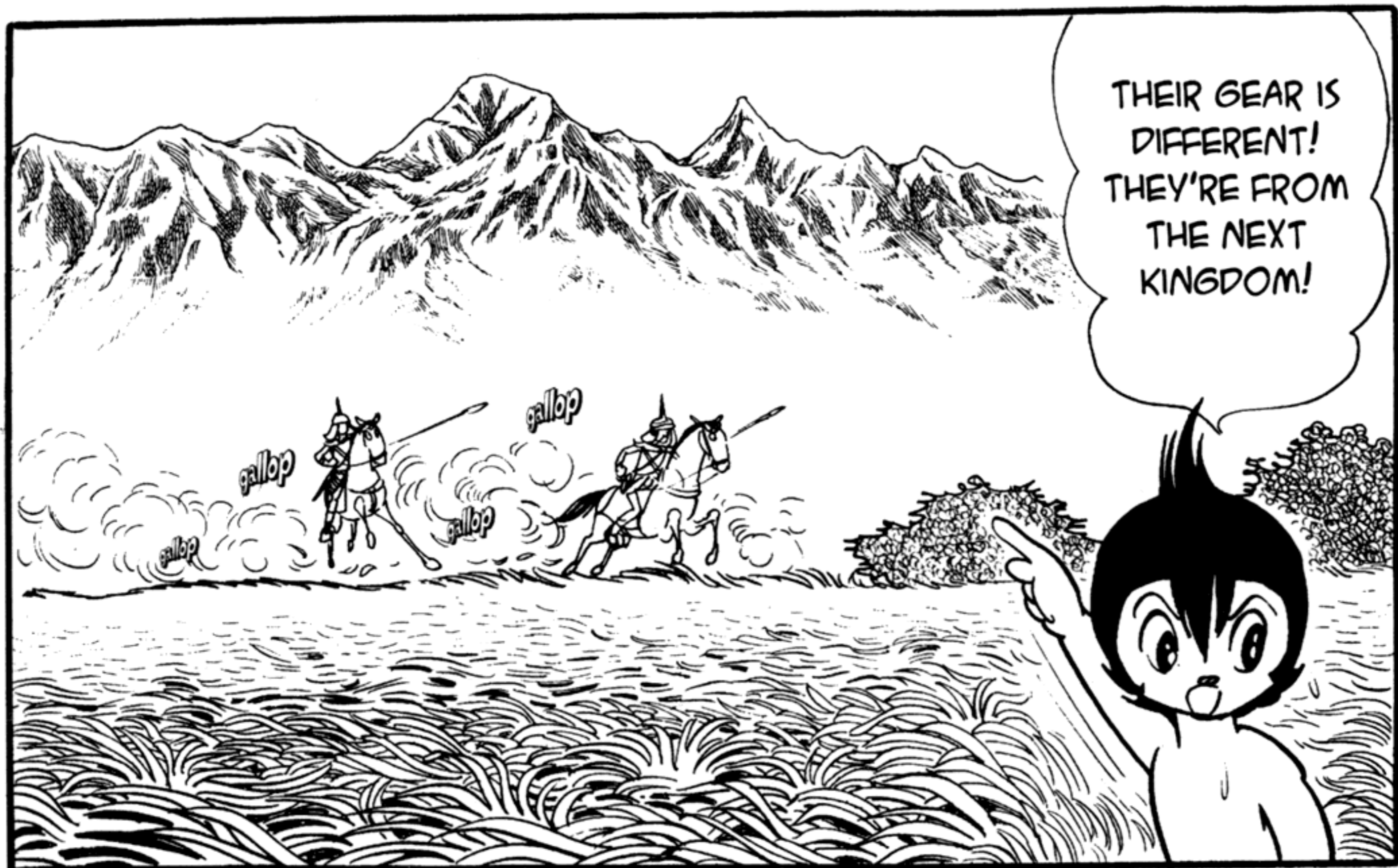
SO HOW DO YOU GET IT?

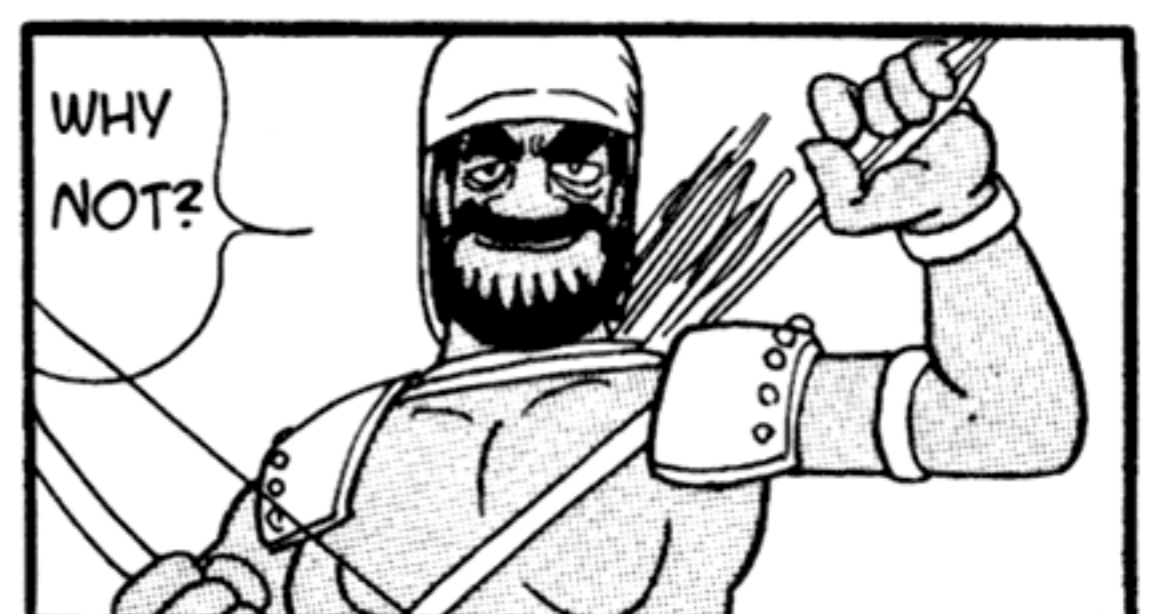
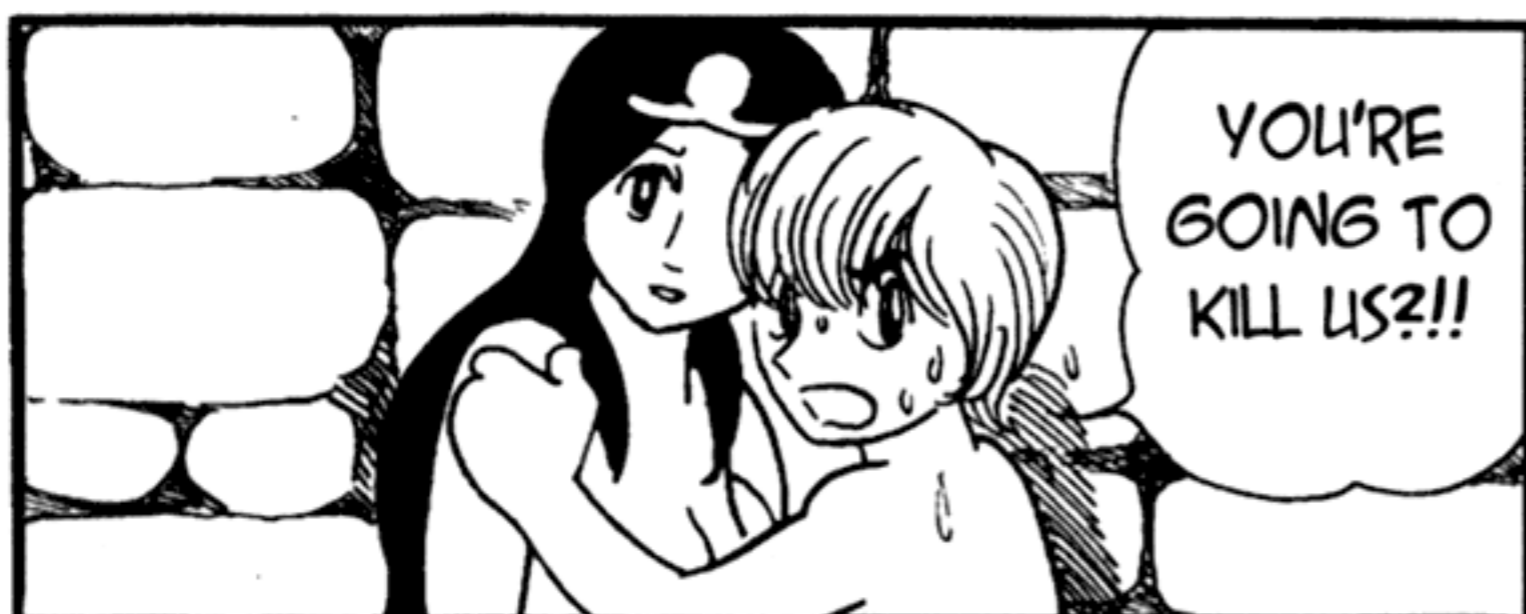
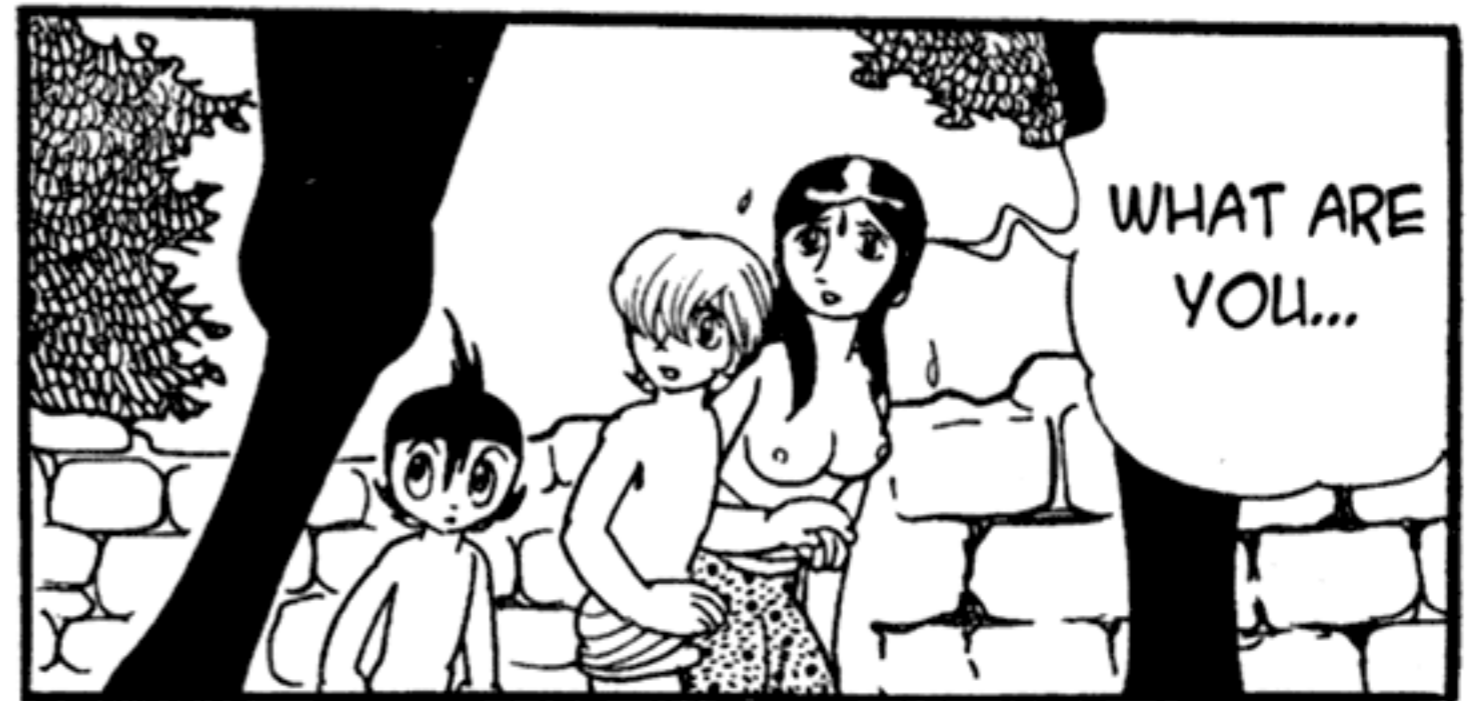
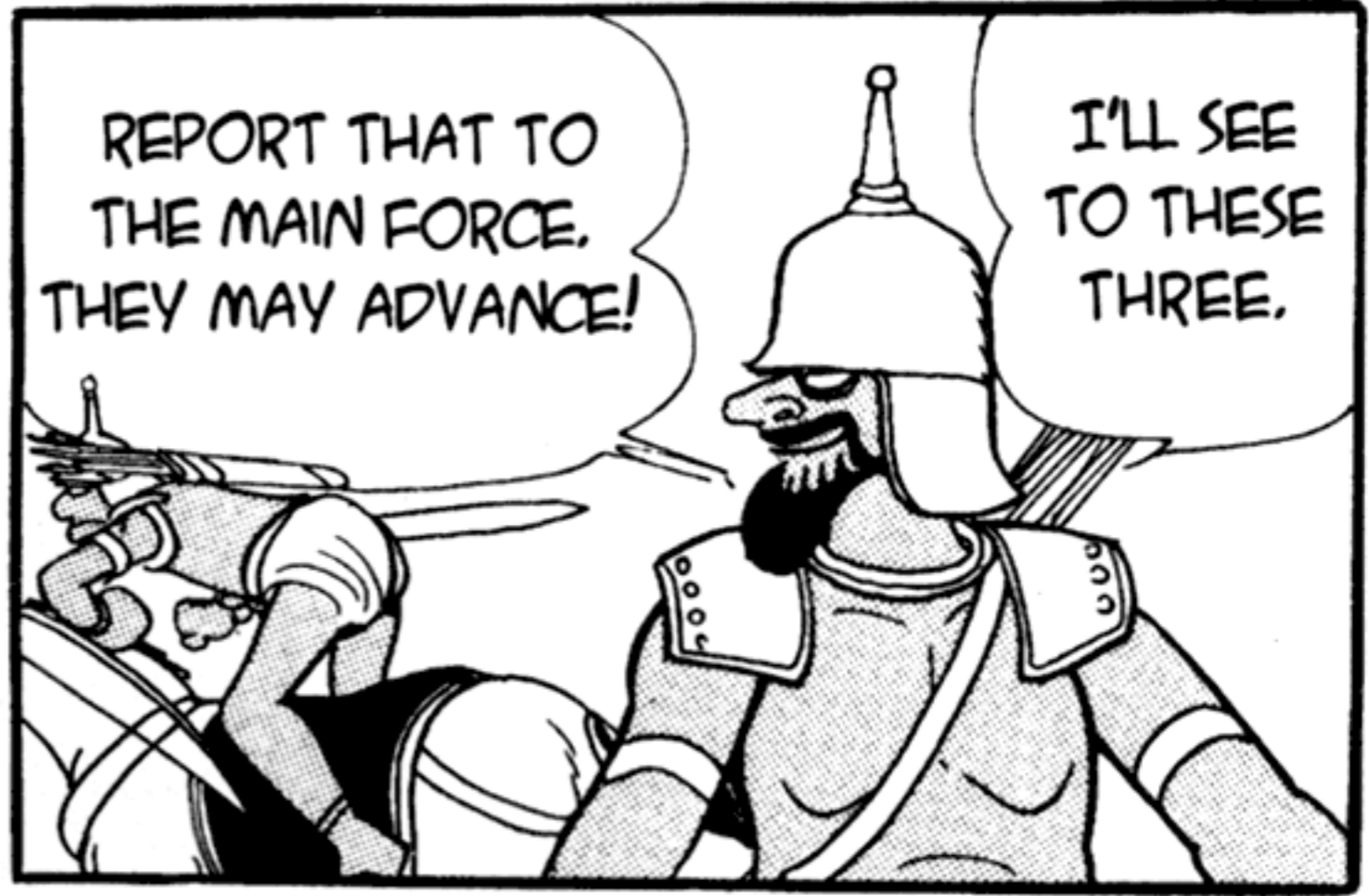
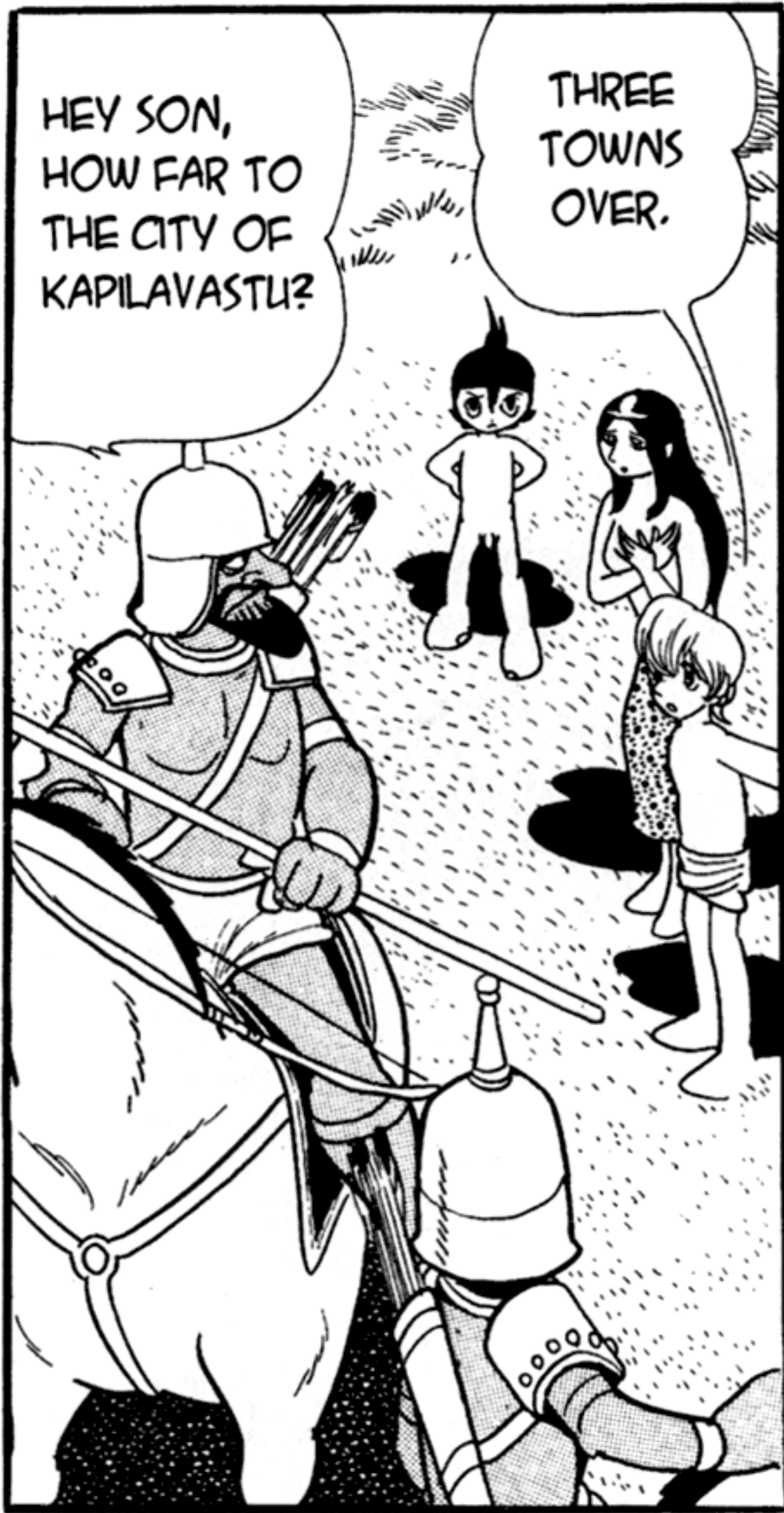
HMM, DUNNO.

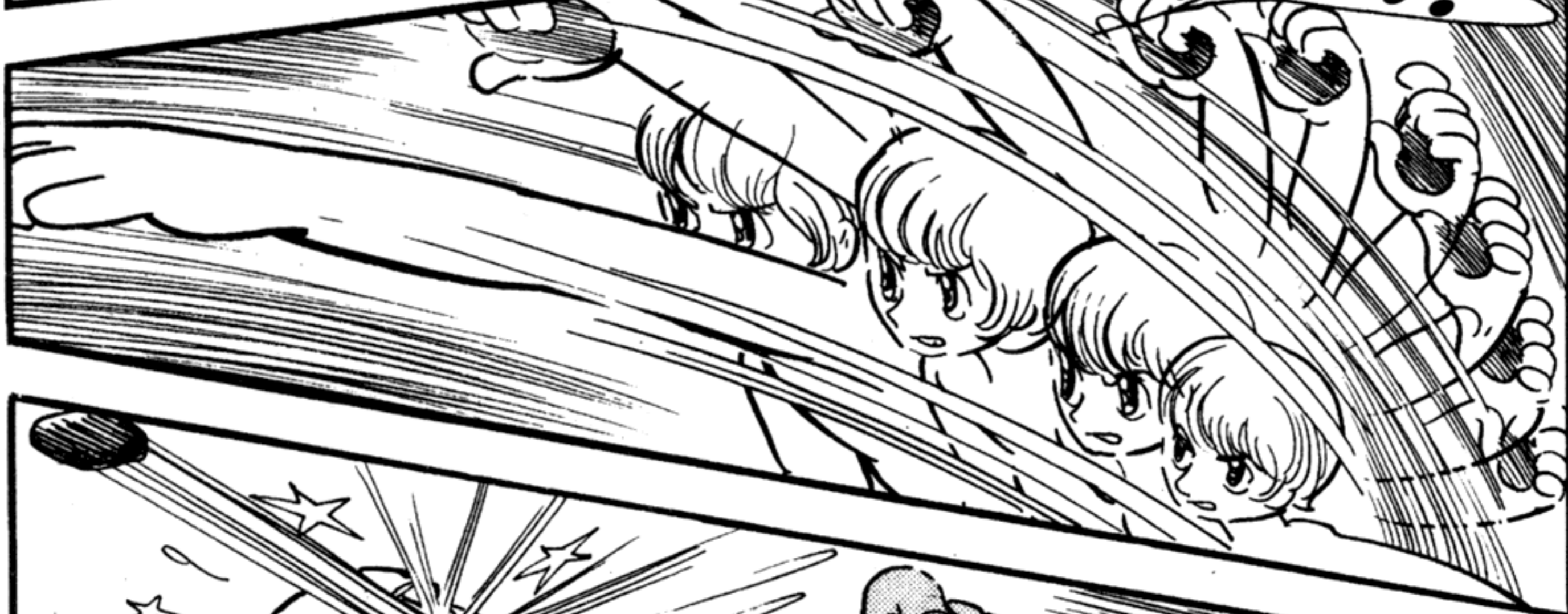
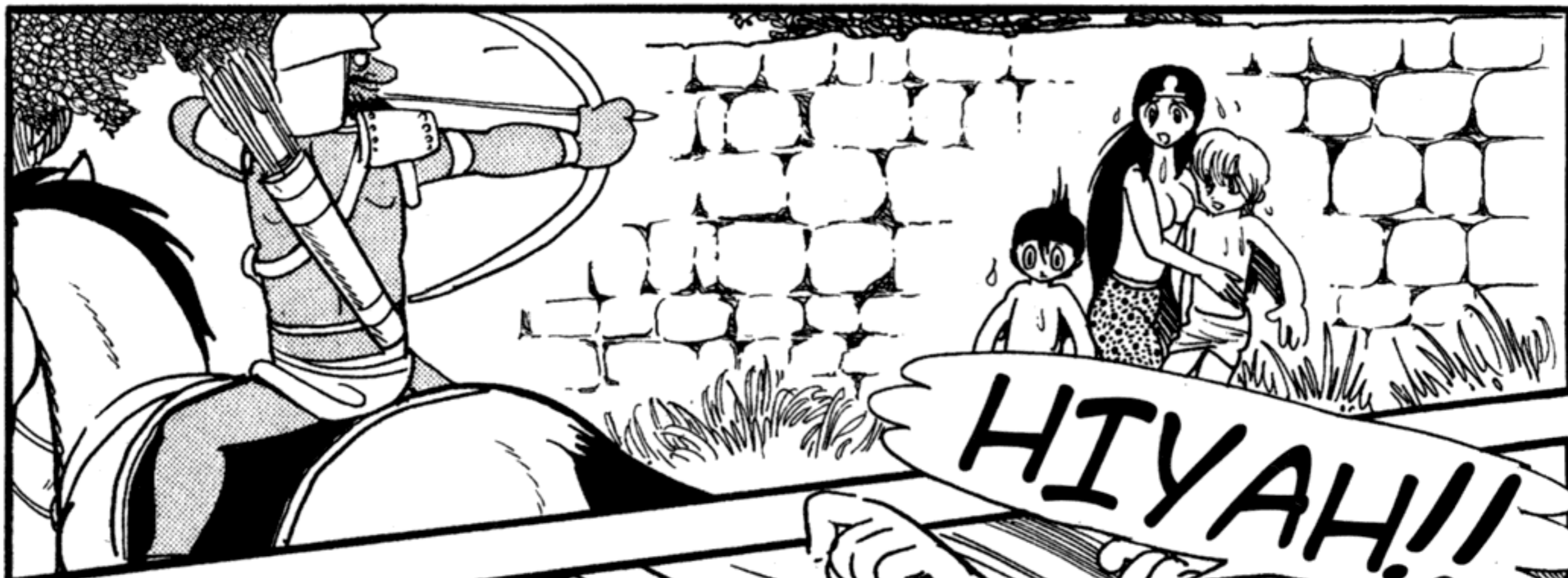
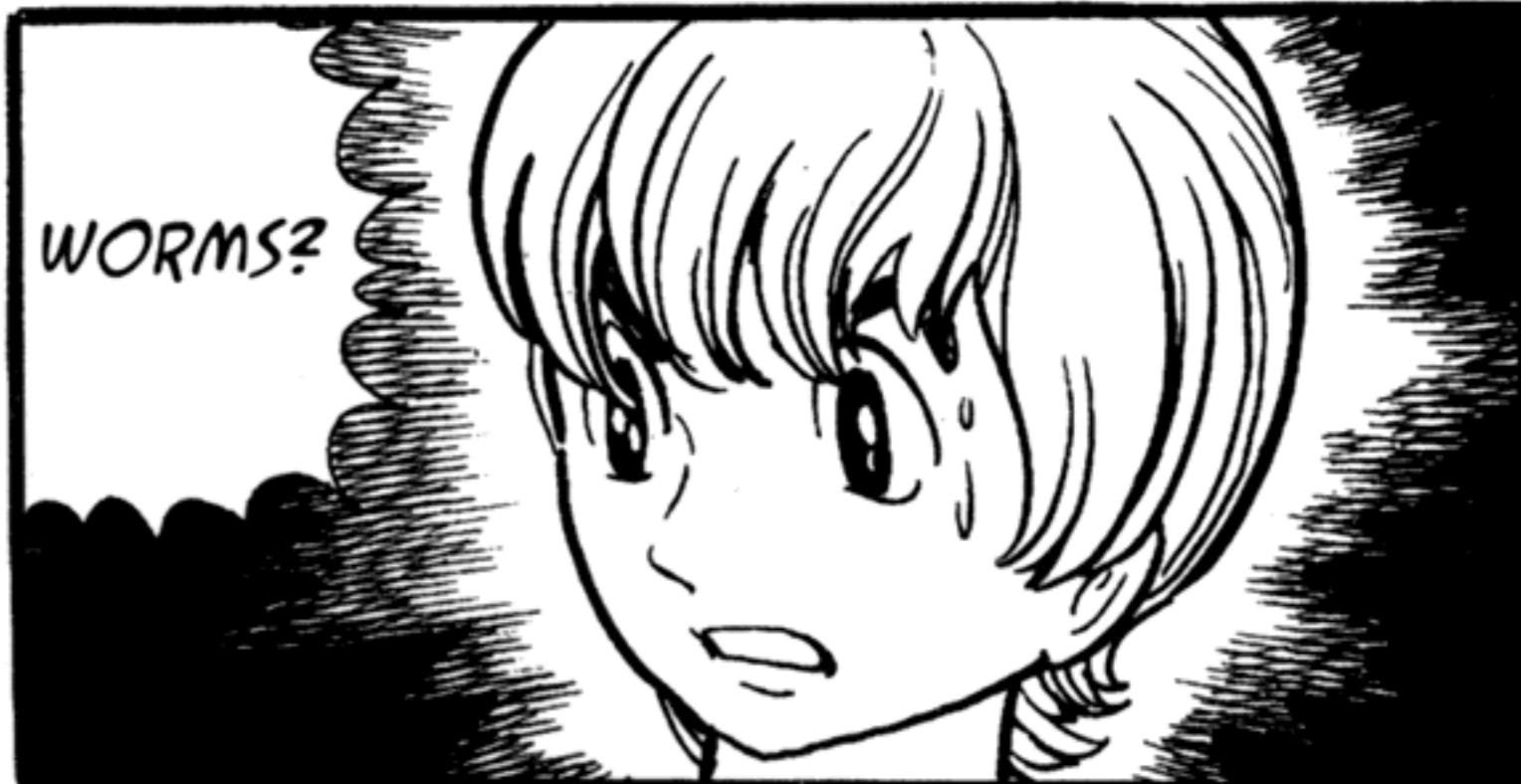
BUT...

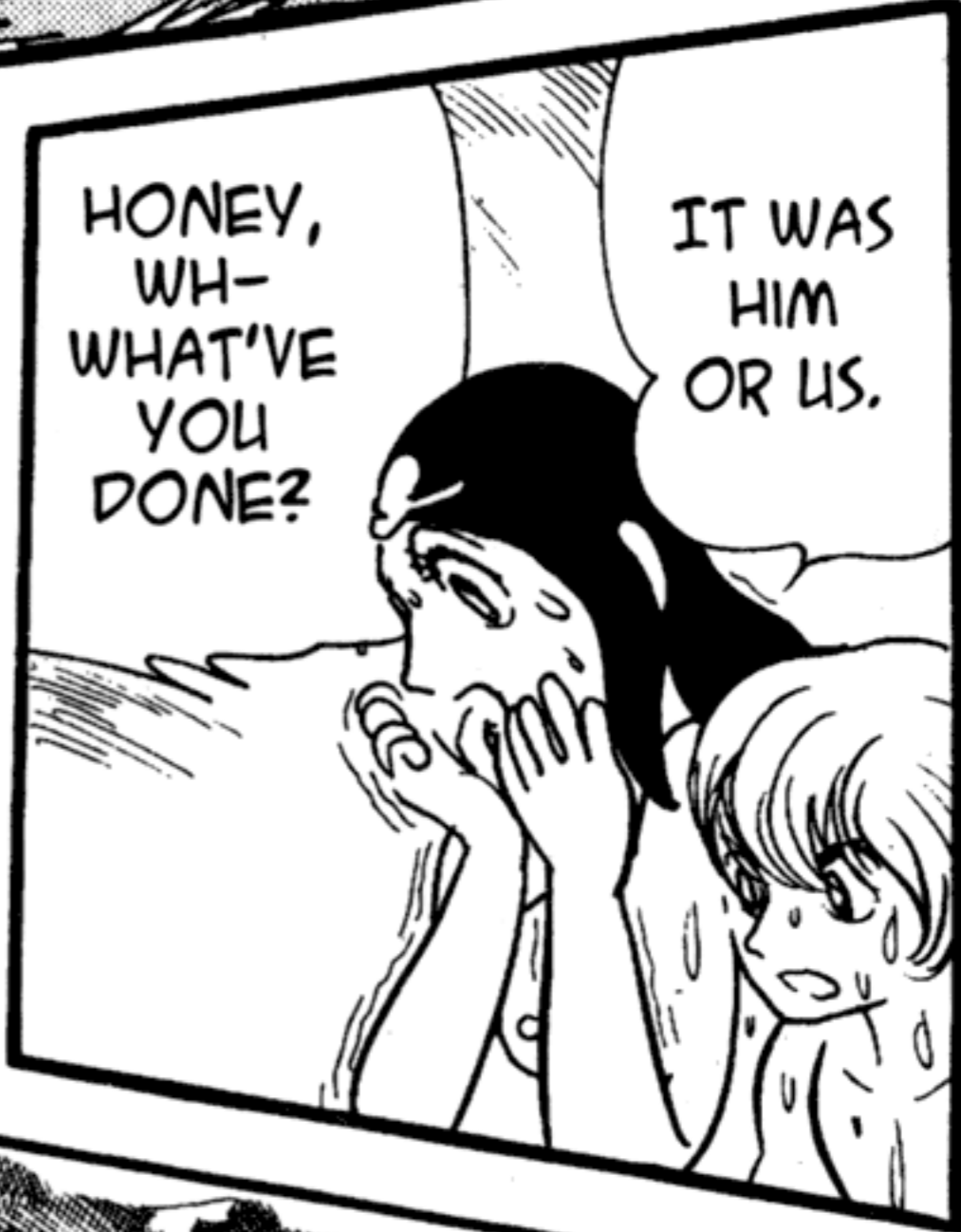
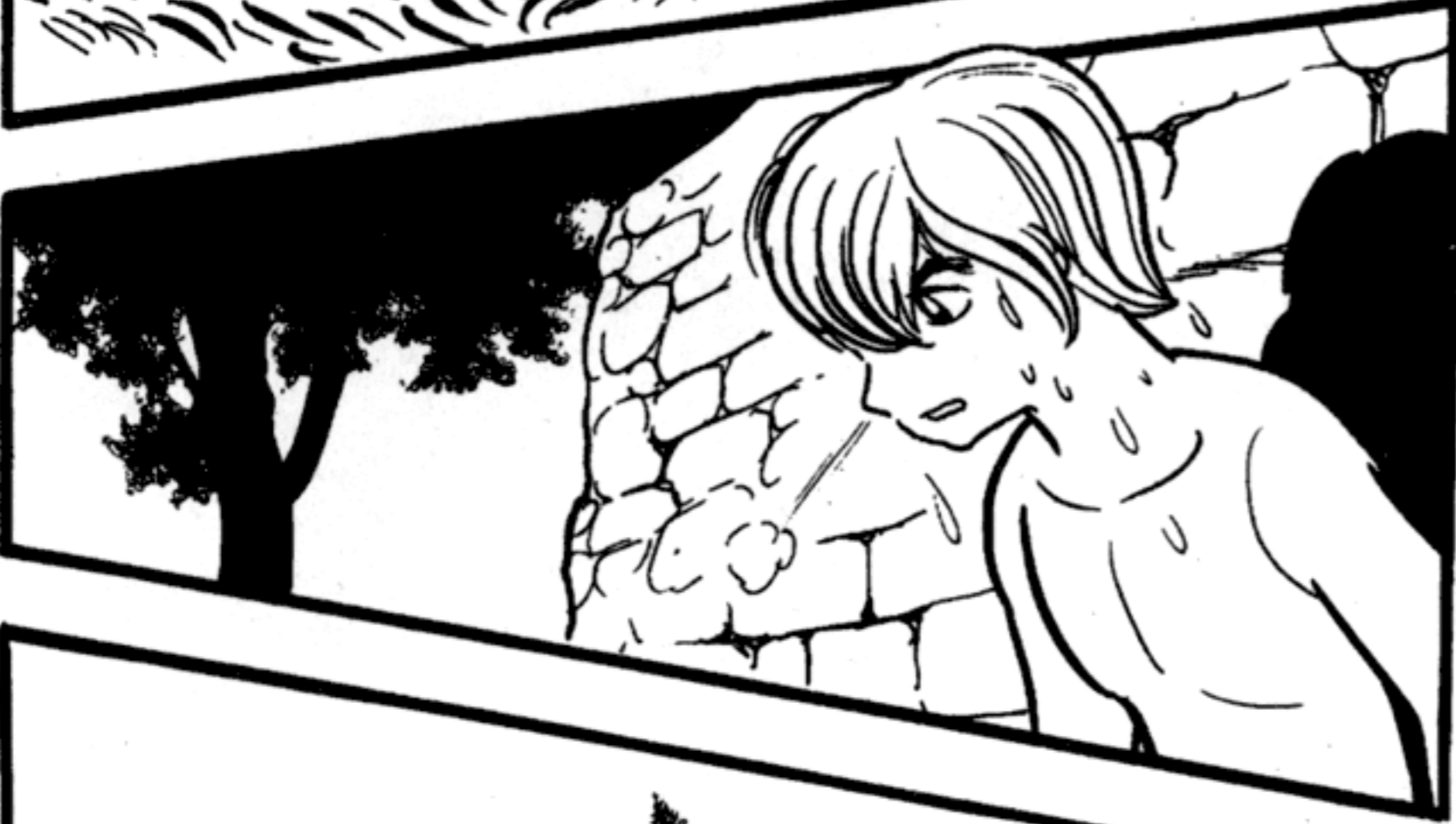


I BET YOU HAVE TO HIT ROCK BOTTOM AND START WONDERING IF YOU AREN'T JUST A BEAST AFTER ALL.







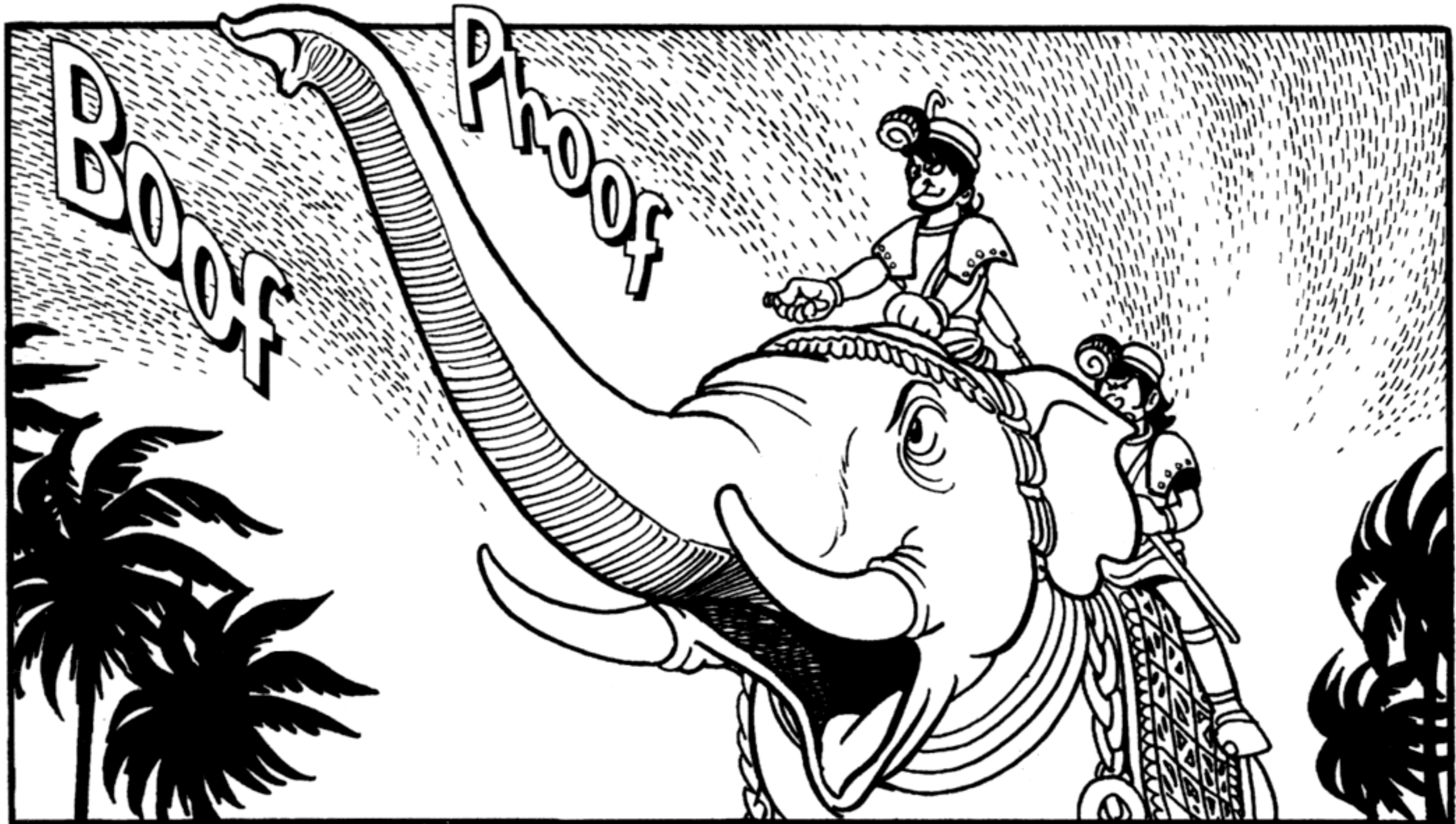
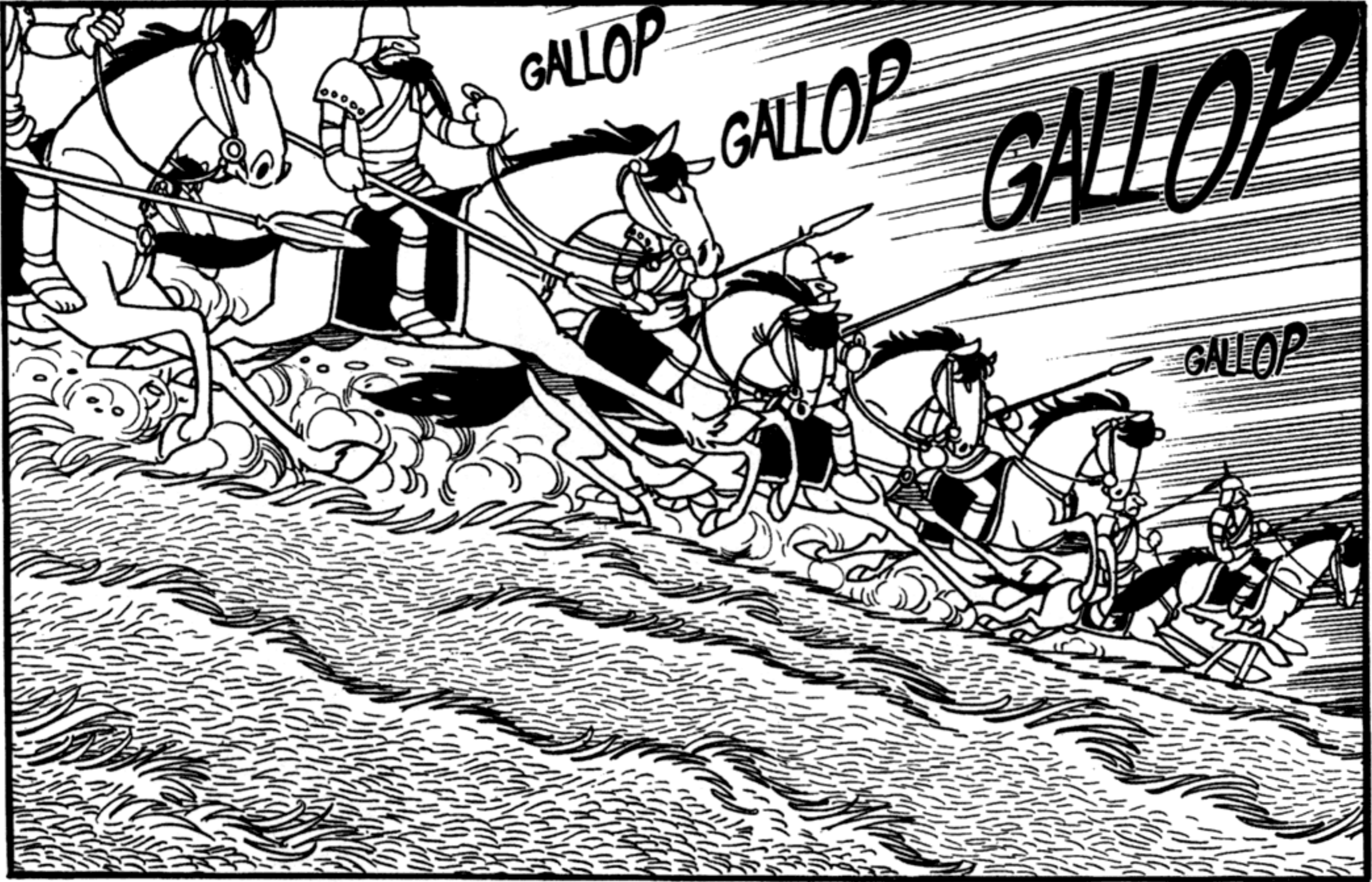


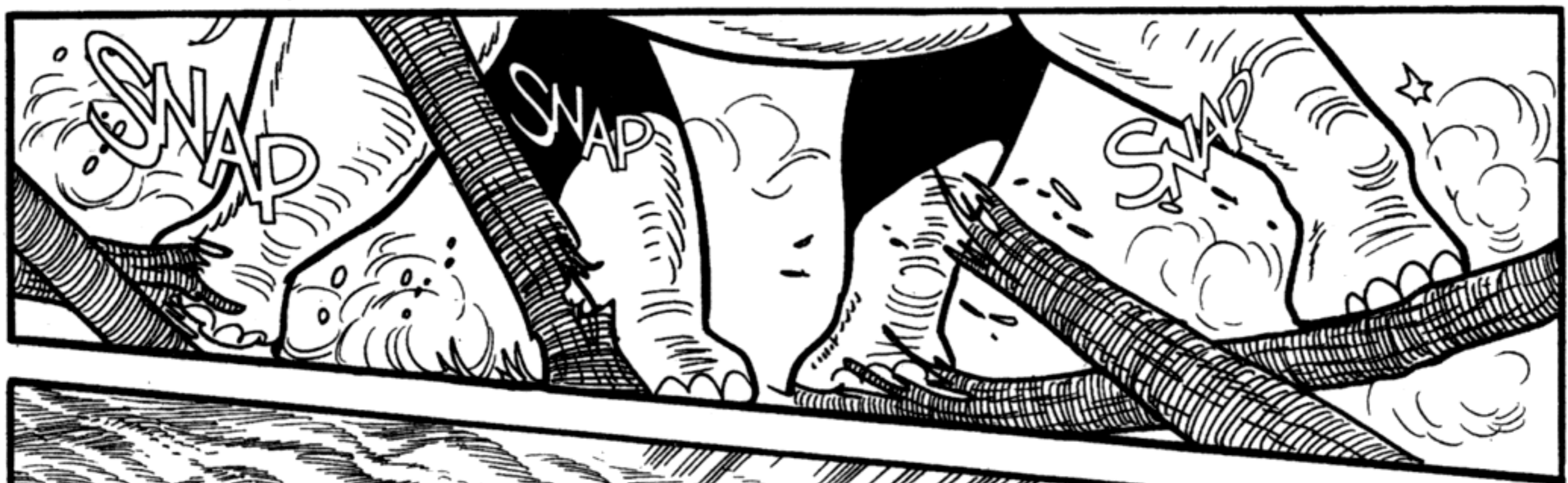
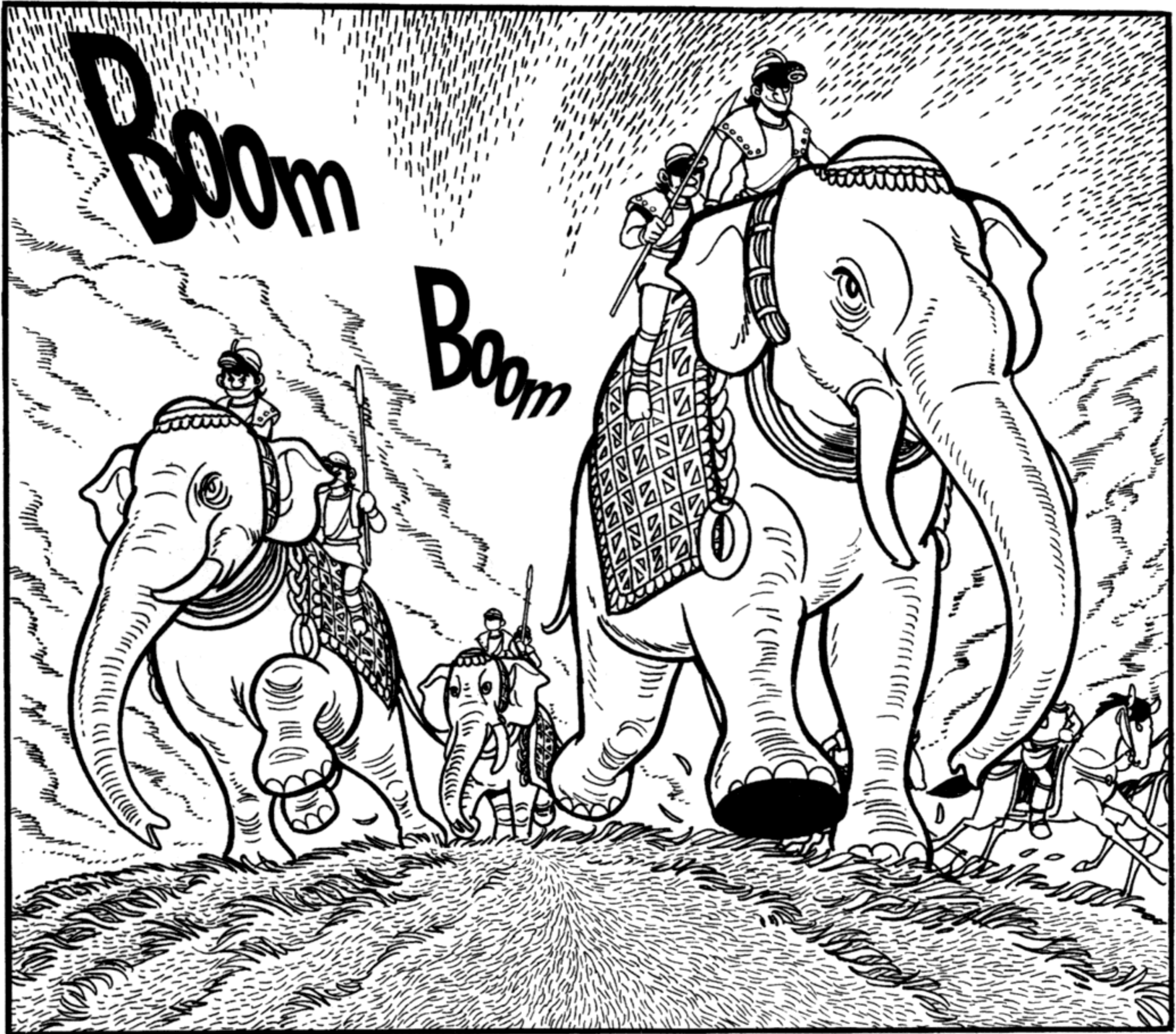
HONEY,
WH-
WHAT'VE
YOU
DONE?

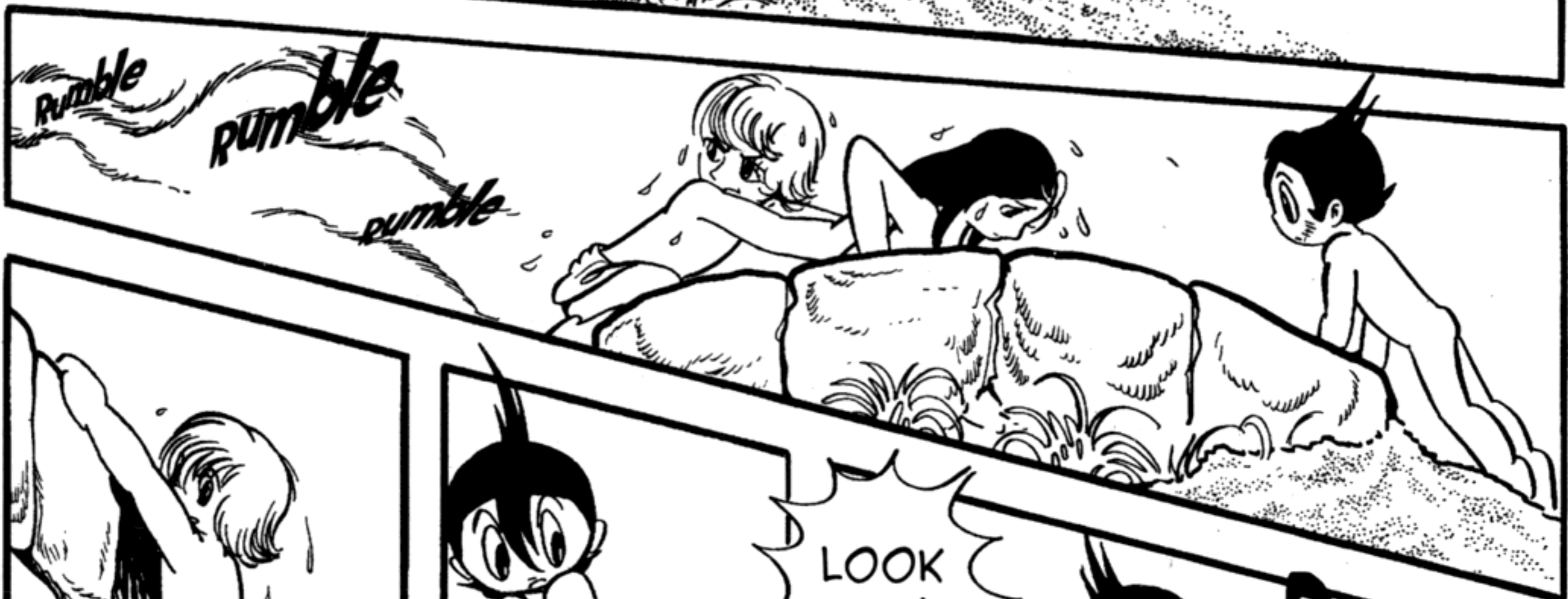
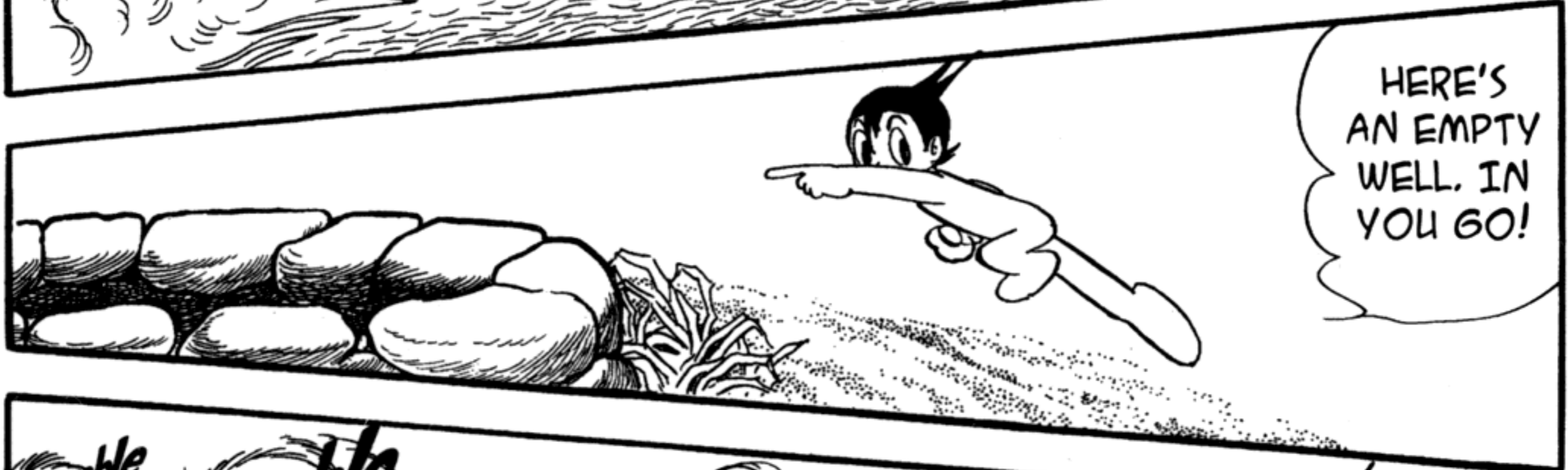
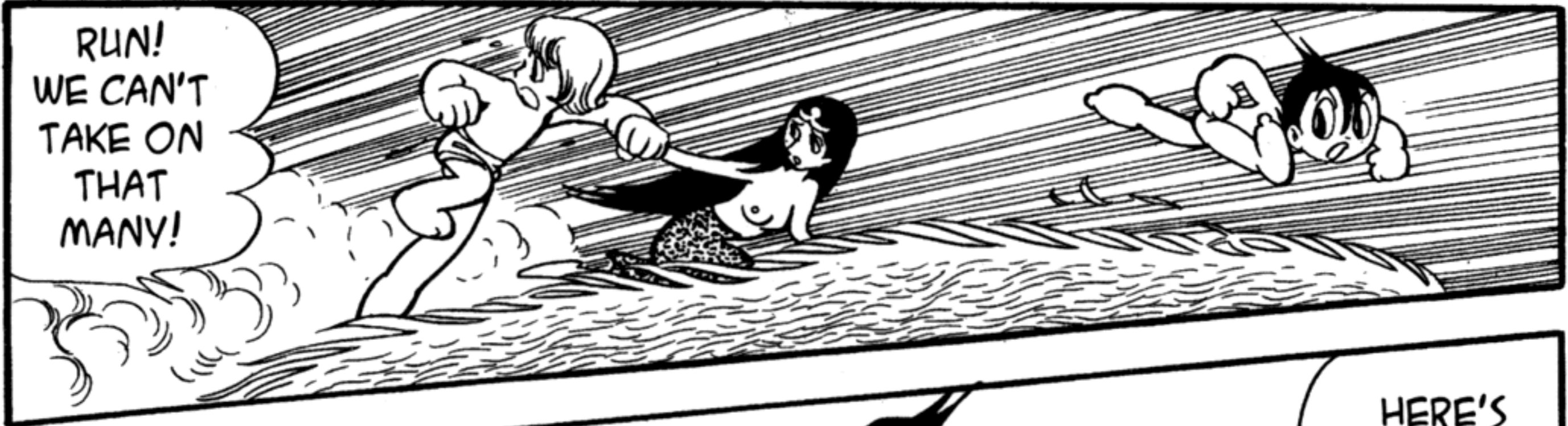
IT WAS
HIM
OR US.

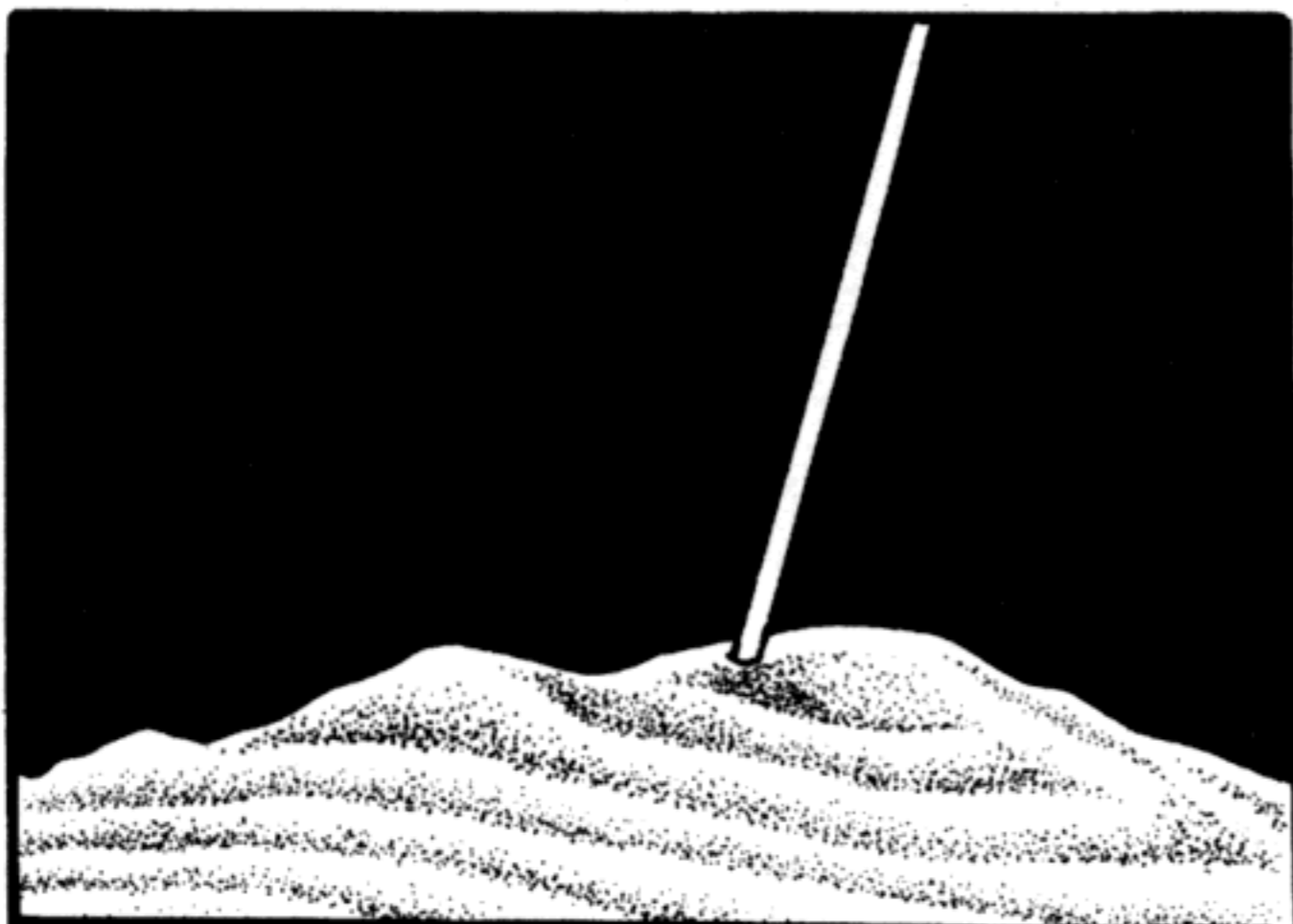
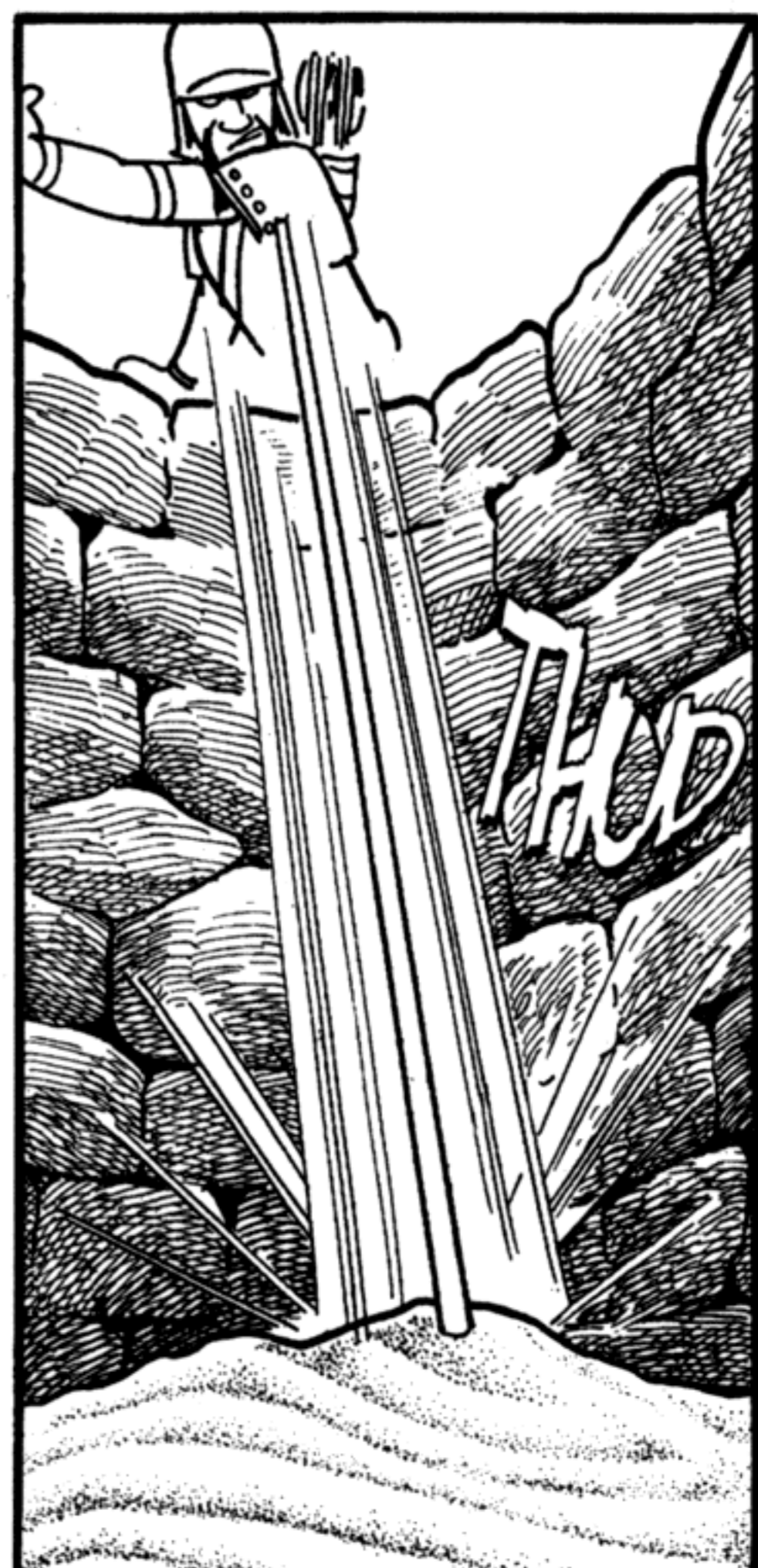
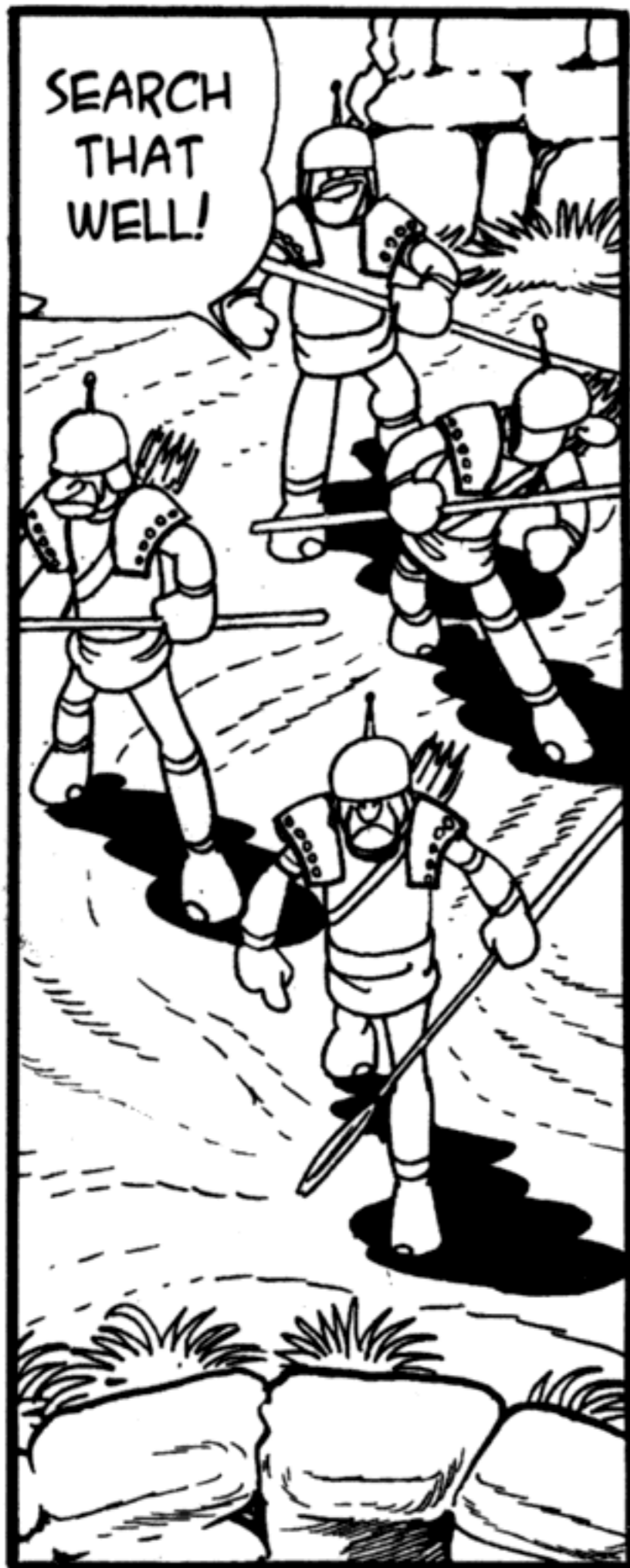
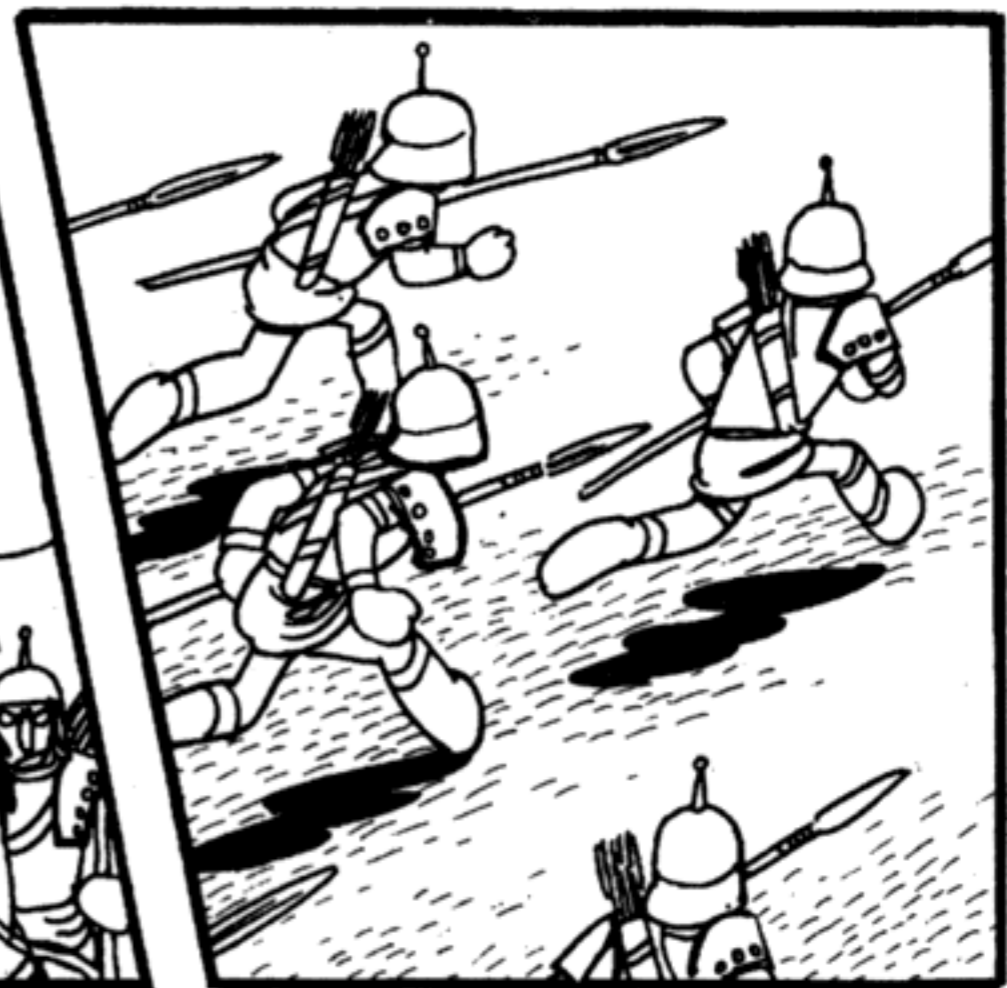
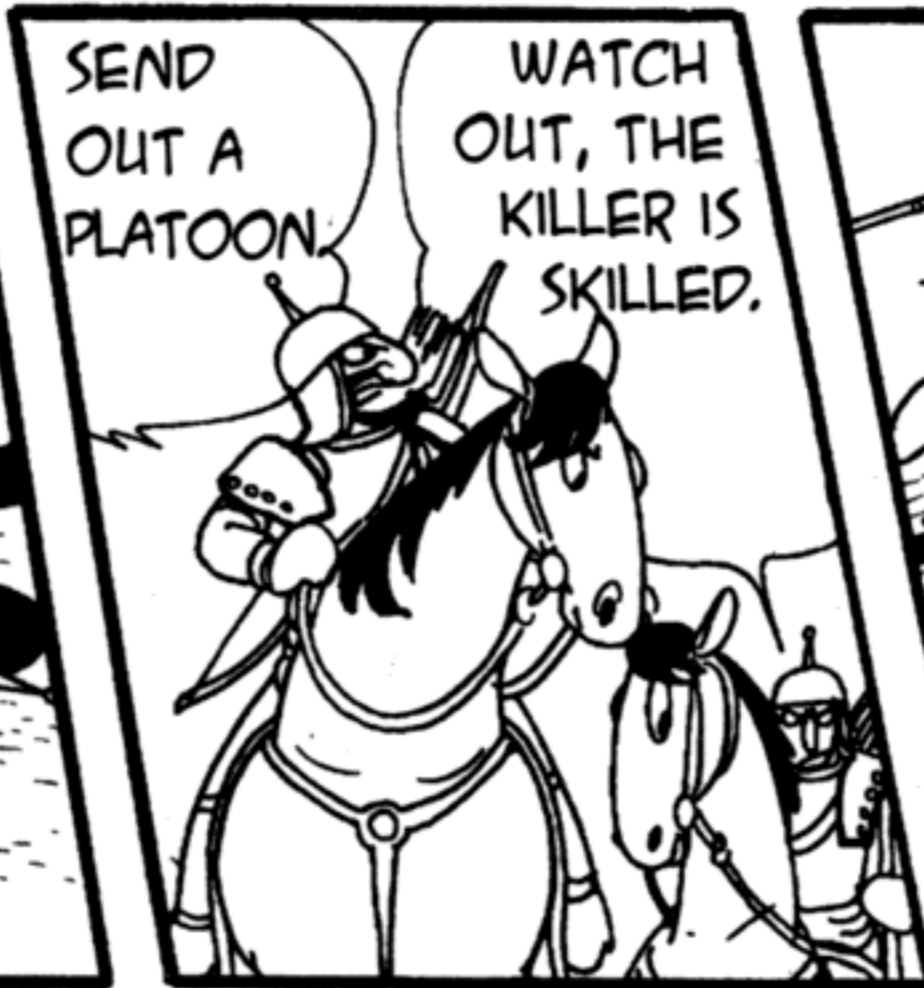
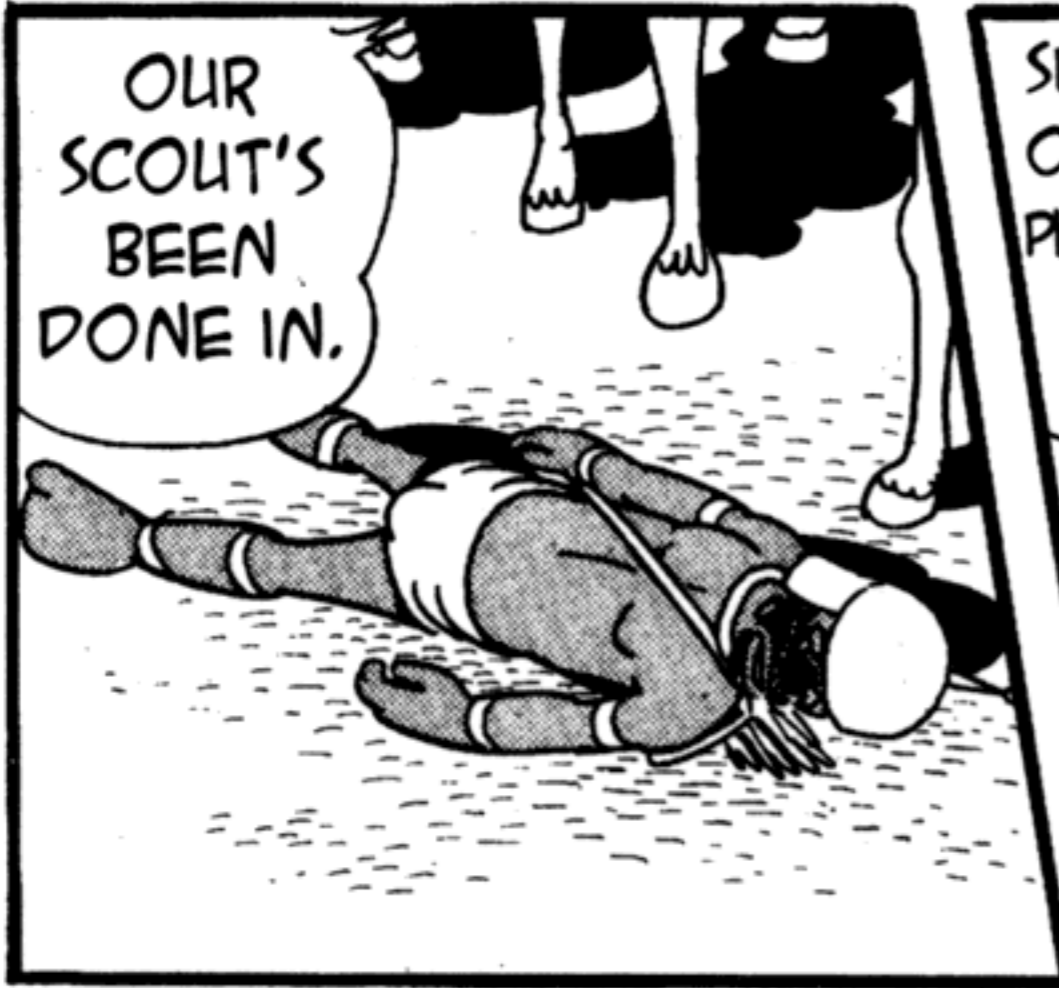


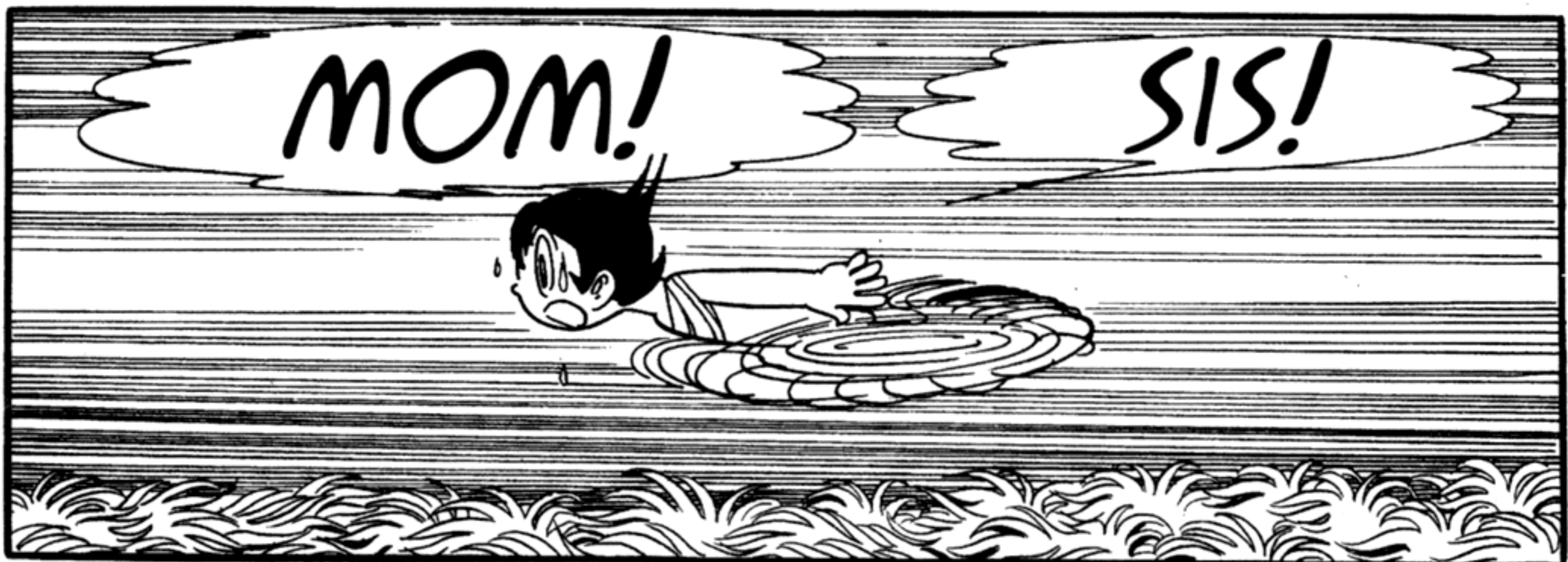
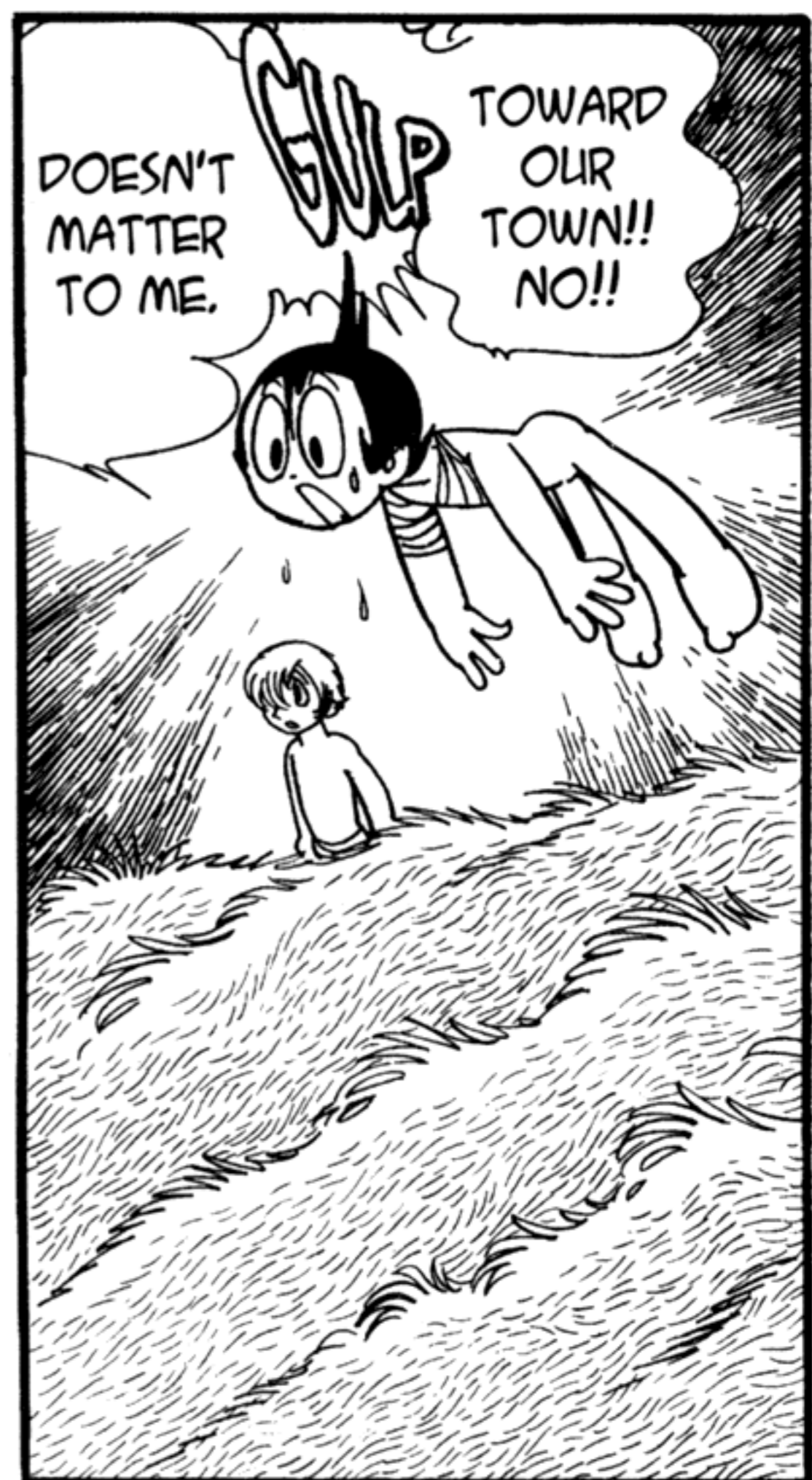
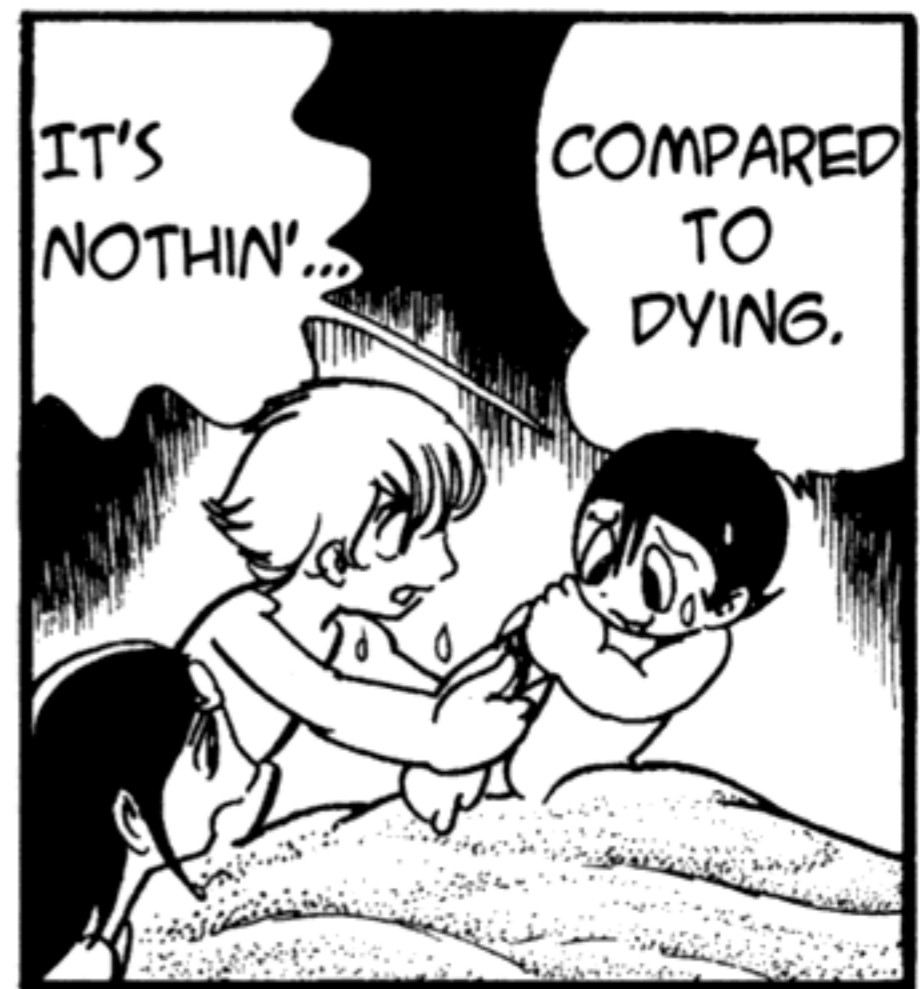
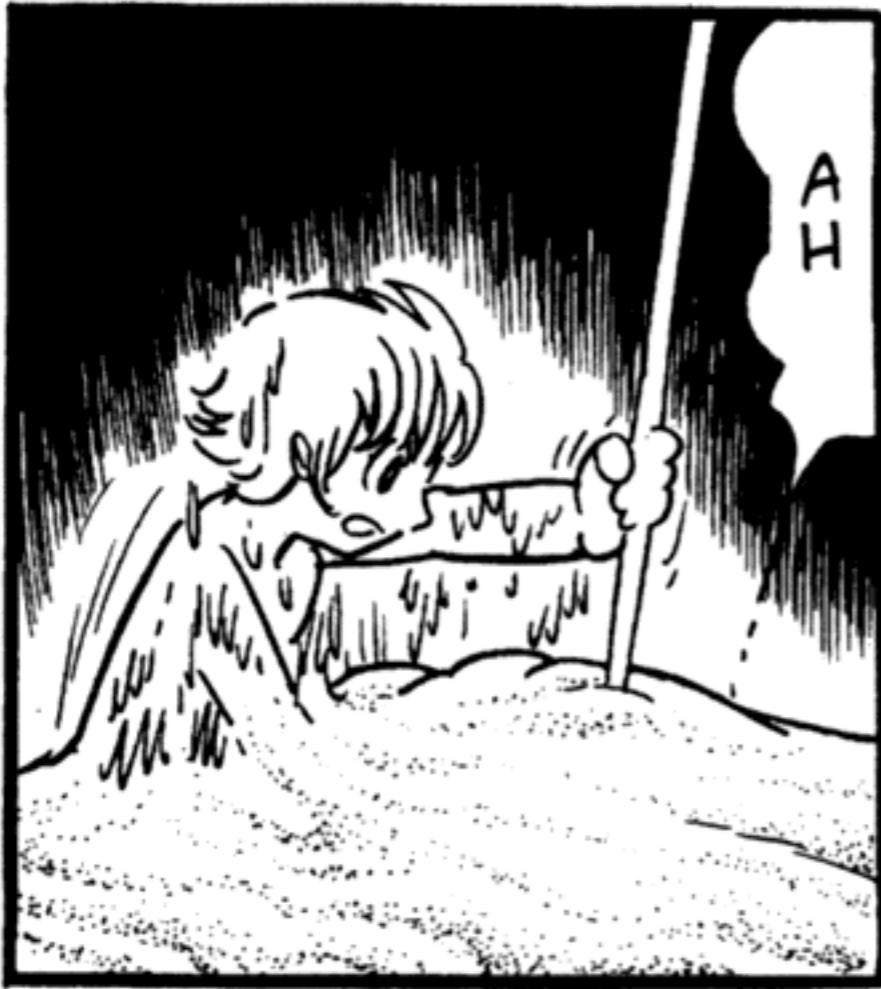
A WHOLE
ARMY!

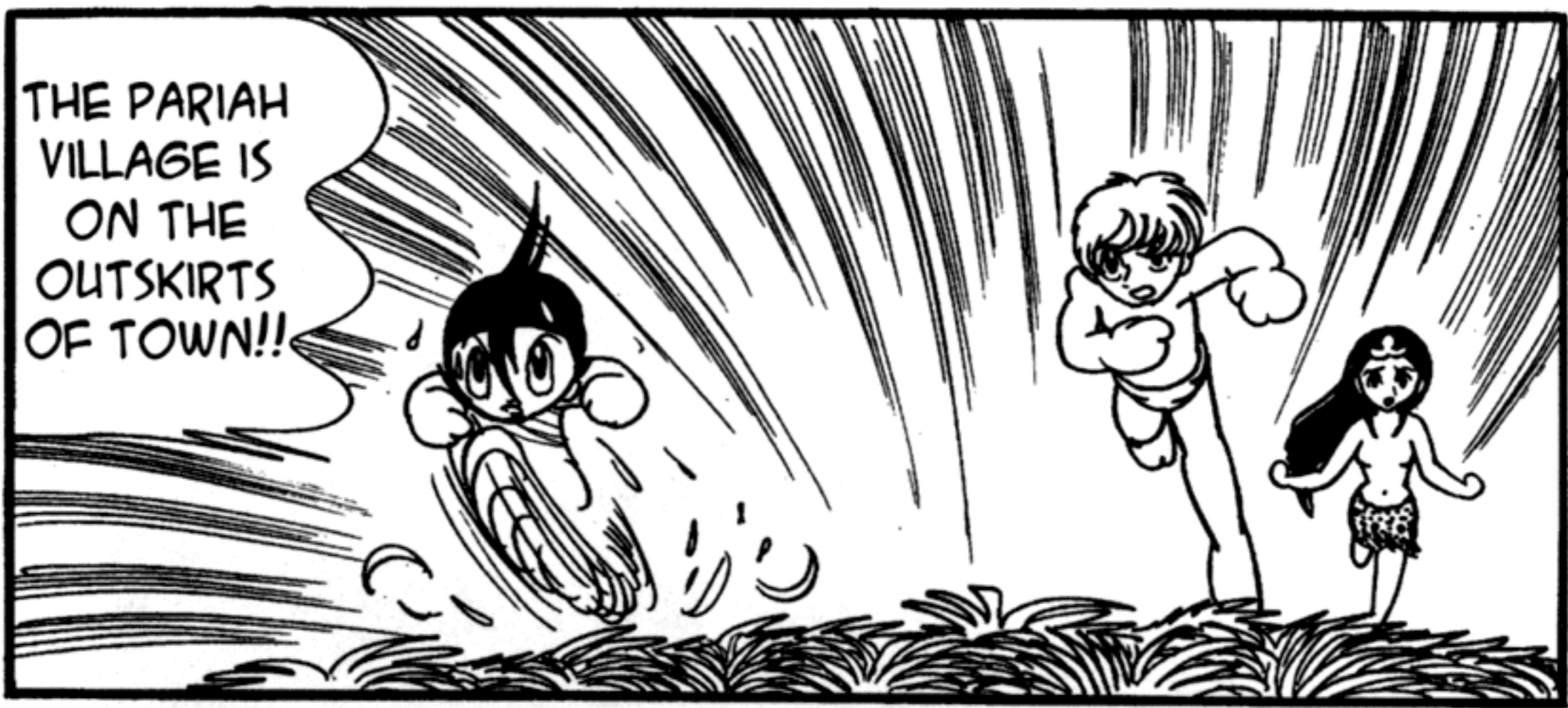








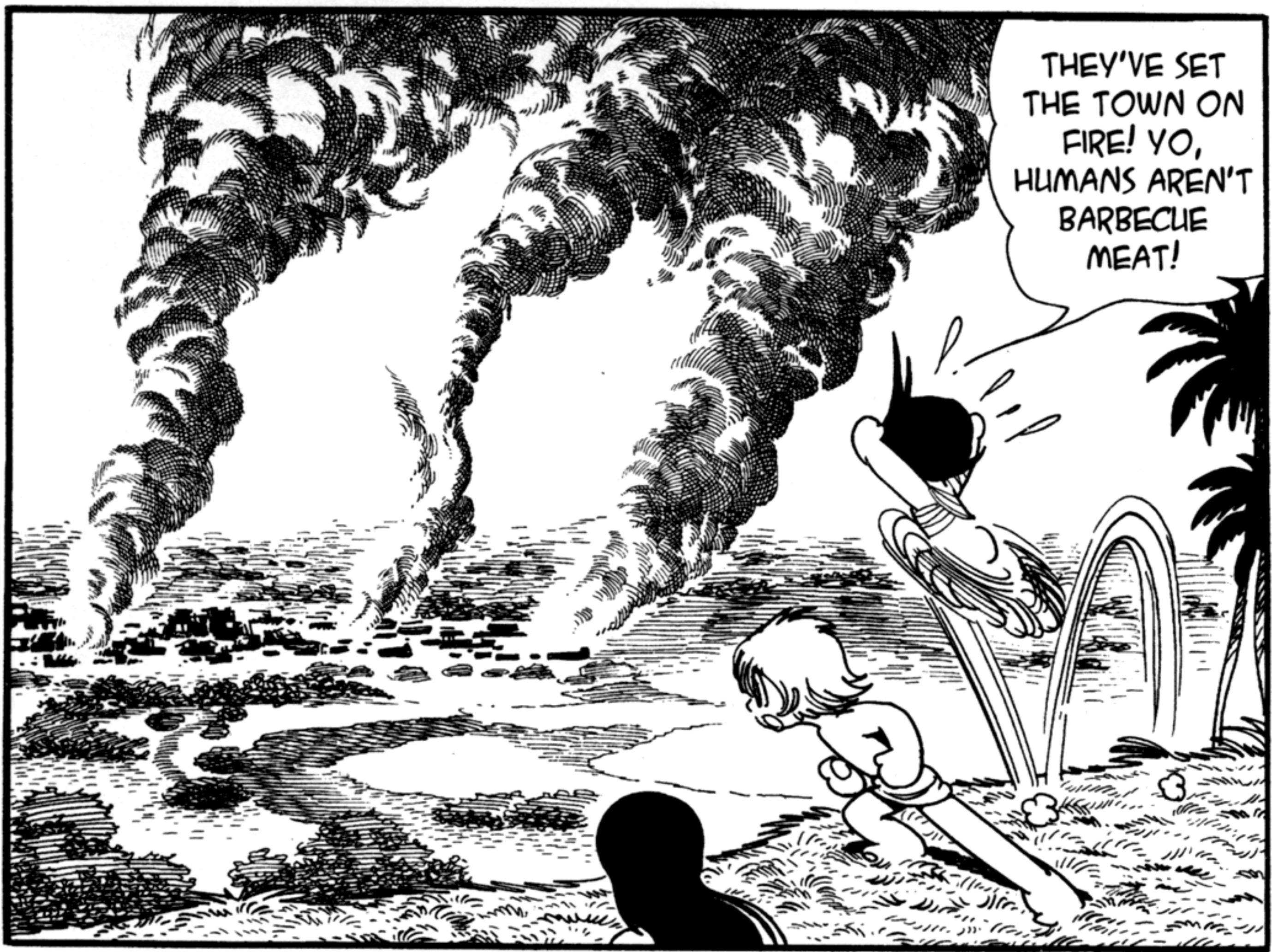




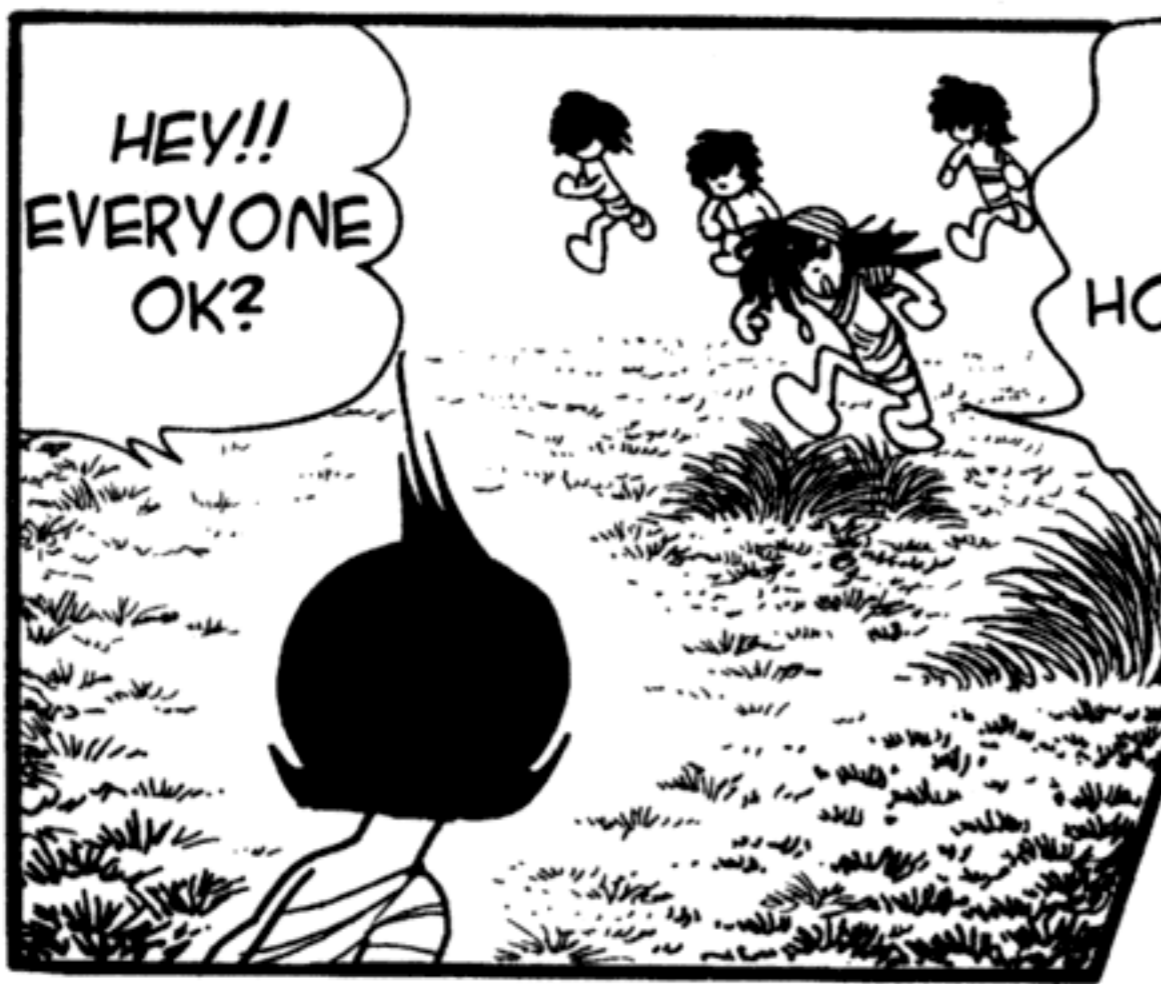
THE PARIAH VILLAGE IS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN!!



LOOK AT THAT SMOKE...



THEY'VE SET THE TOWN ON FIRE! YO, HUMANS AREN'T BARBECUE MEAT!



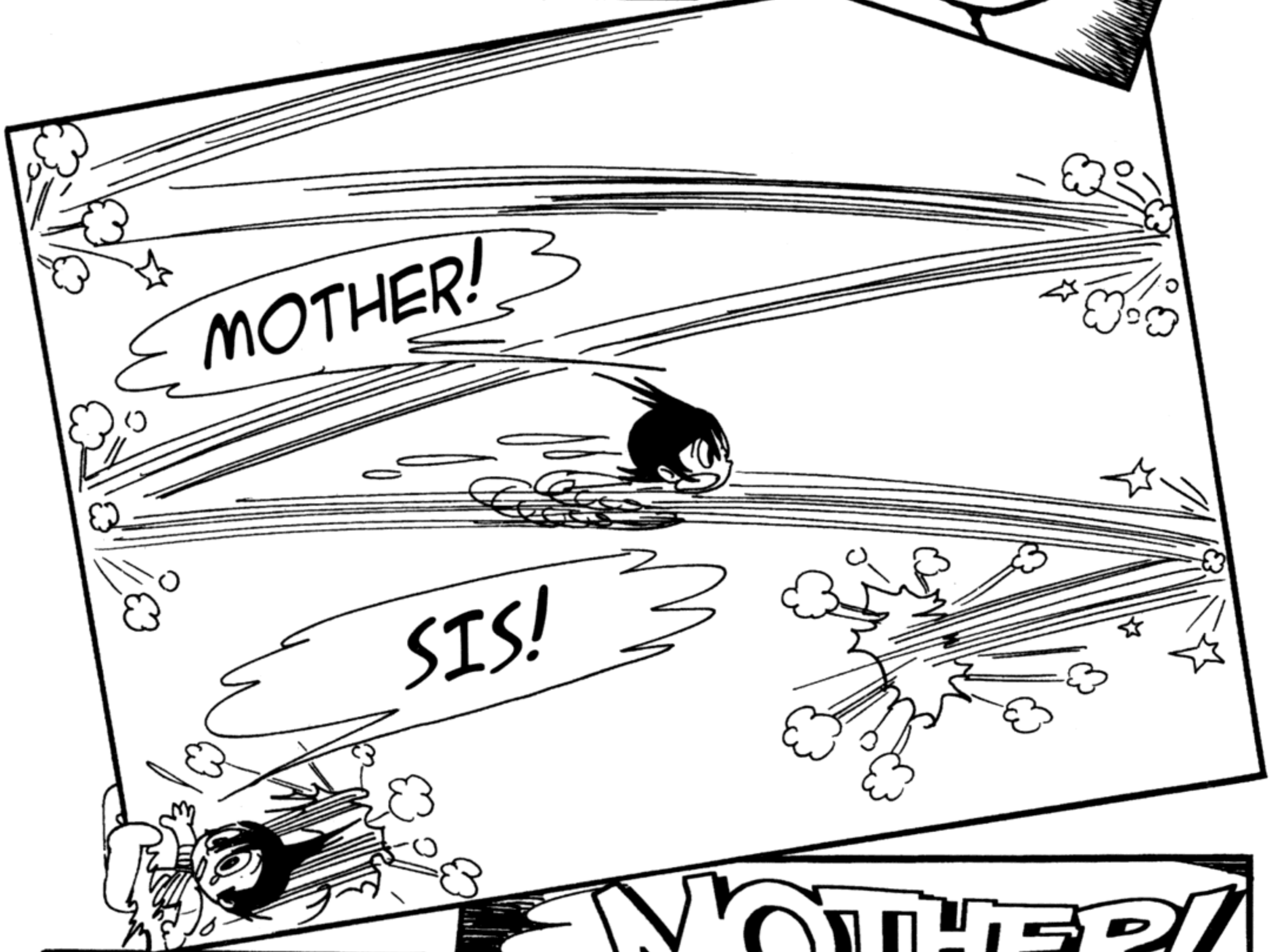
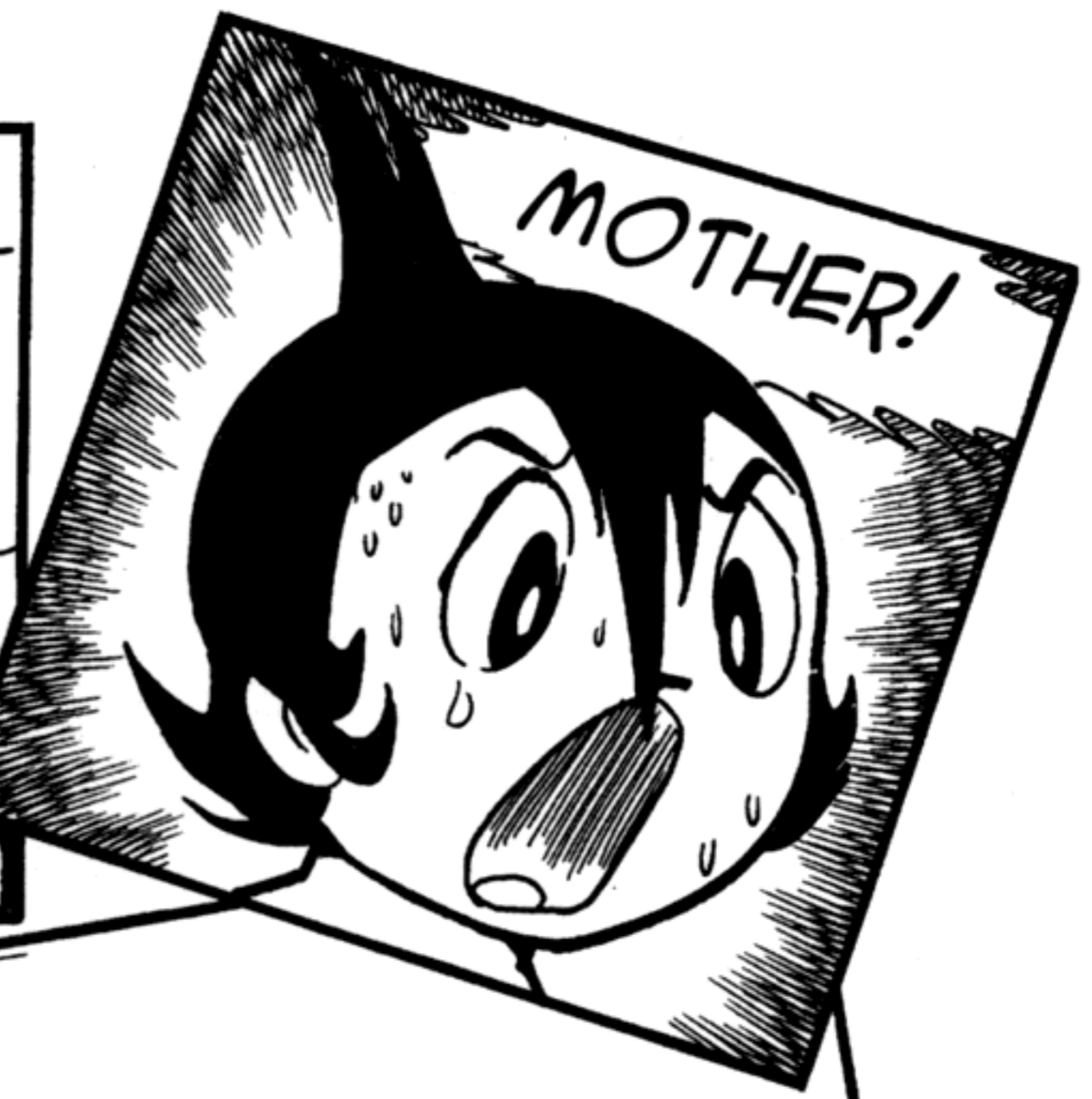
HEY!! EVERYONE OK?



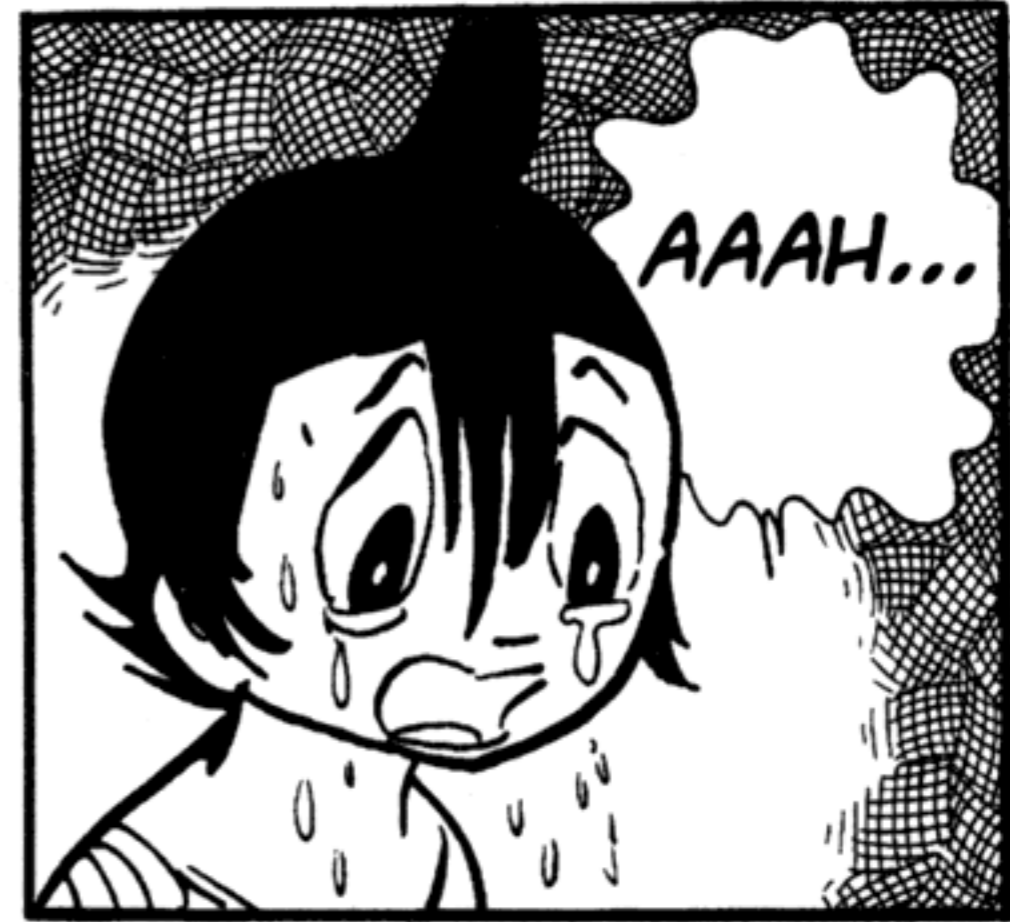
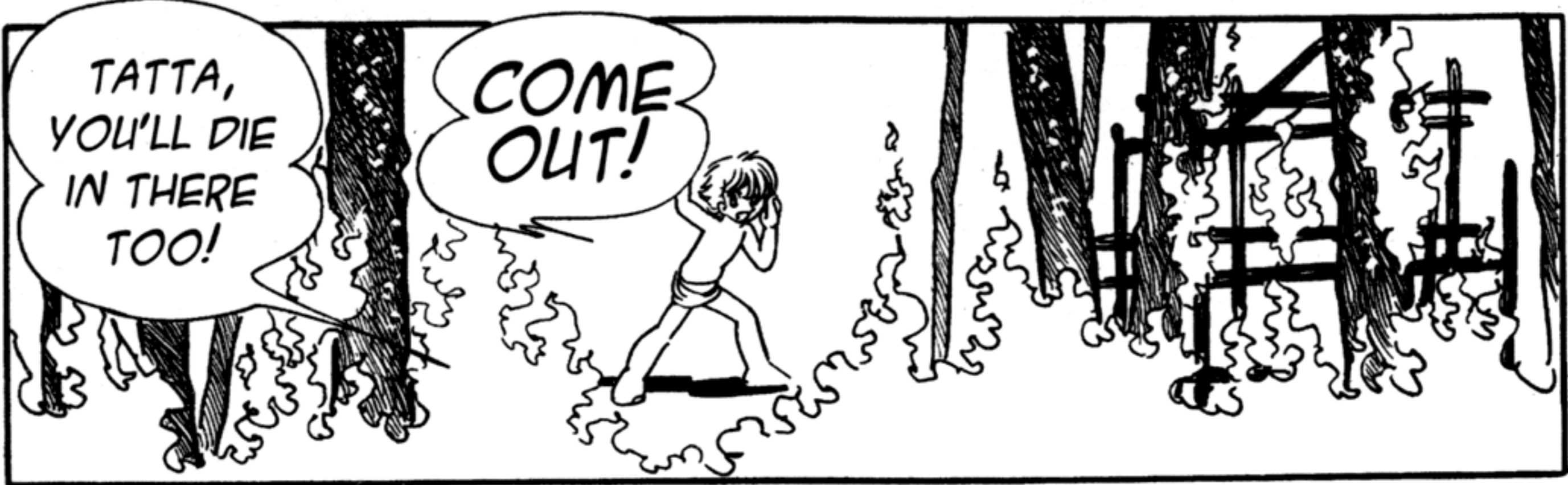
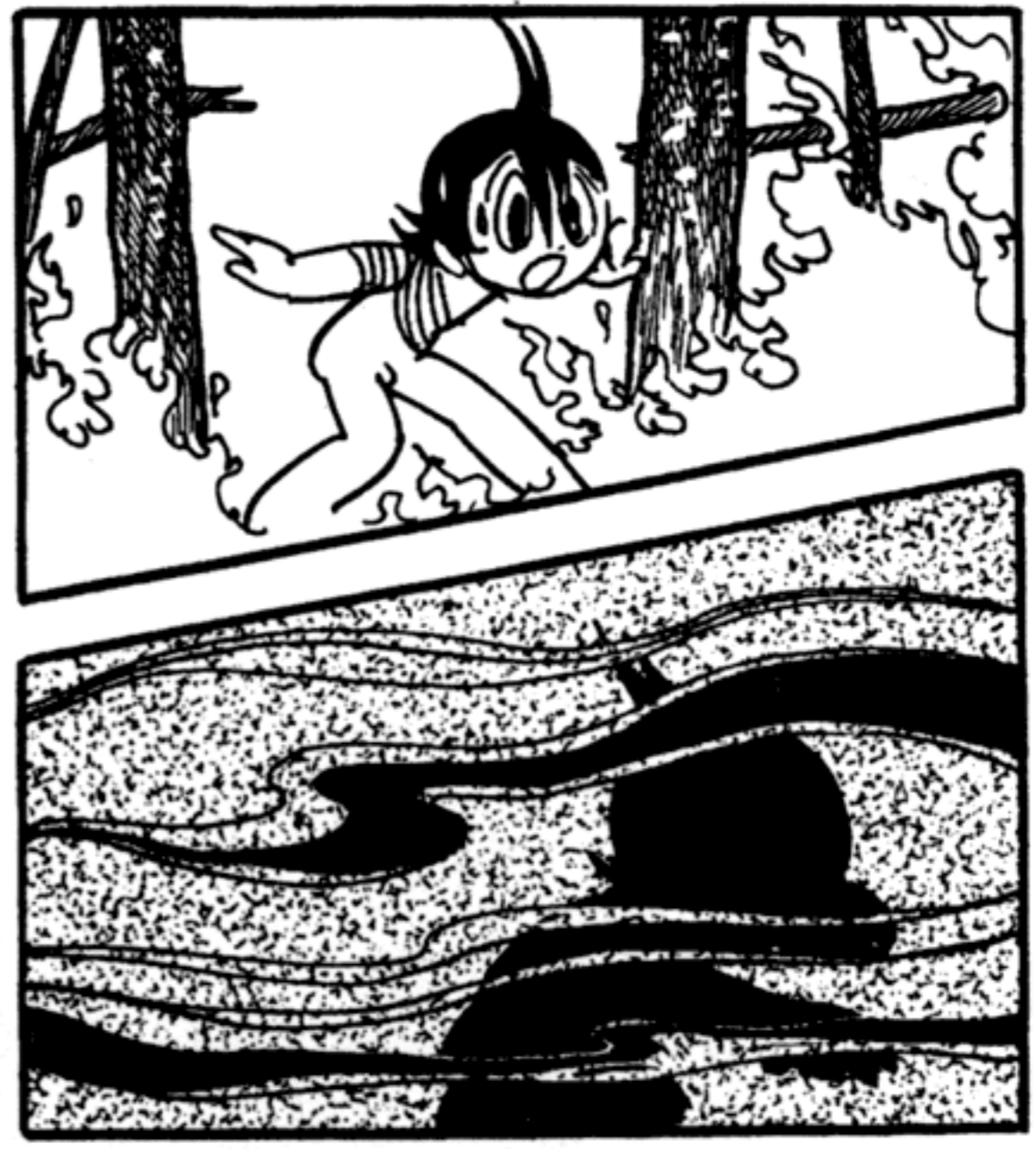
TATTA, IT'S HORRIBLE...

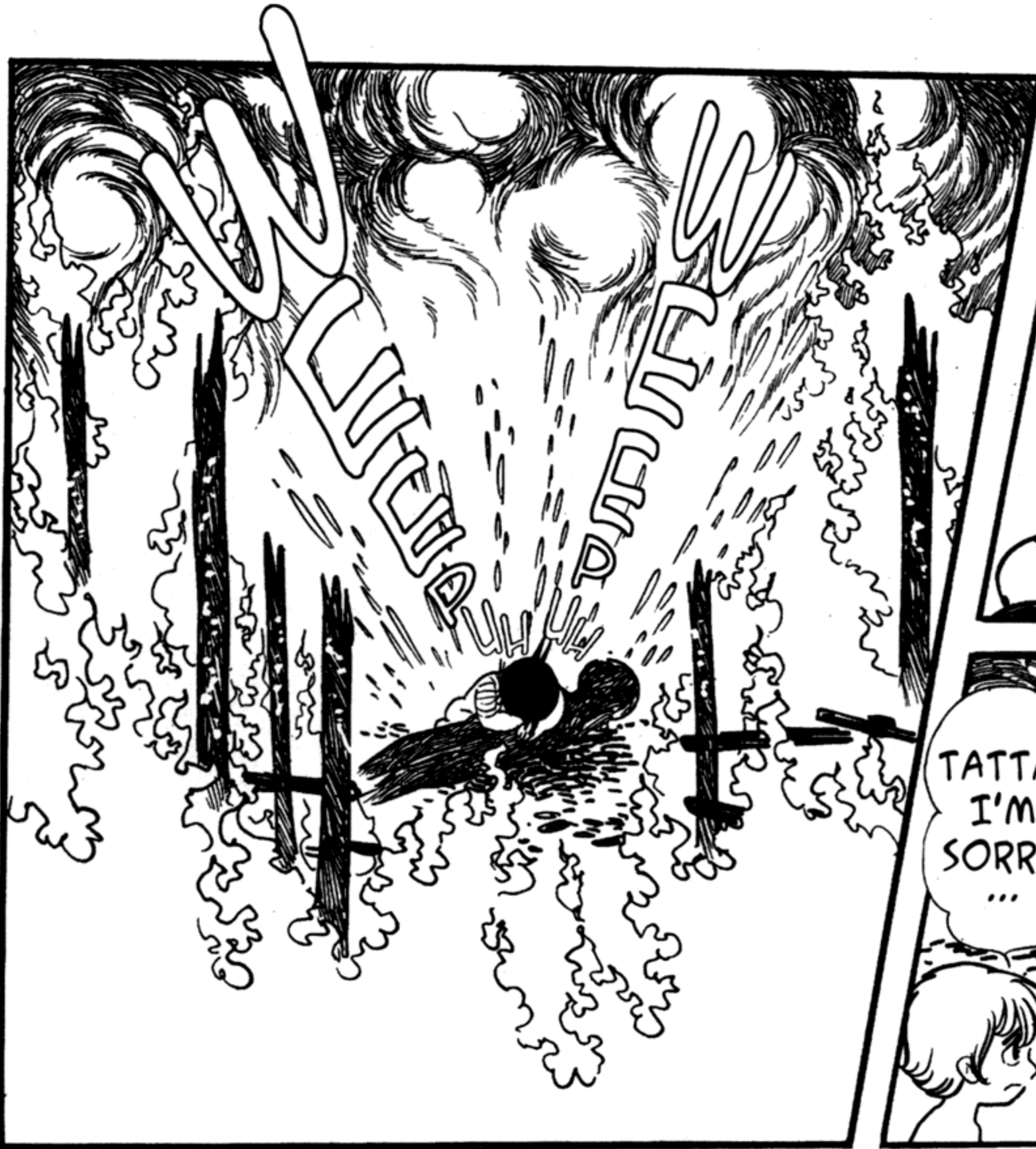


THEY USED FLAMING ARROWS. M-MOST EVERYBODY'S DEAD.









KISS
KISS



TATTA,
I'M
SORRY
...

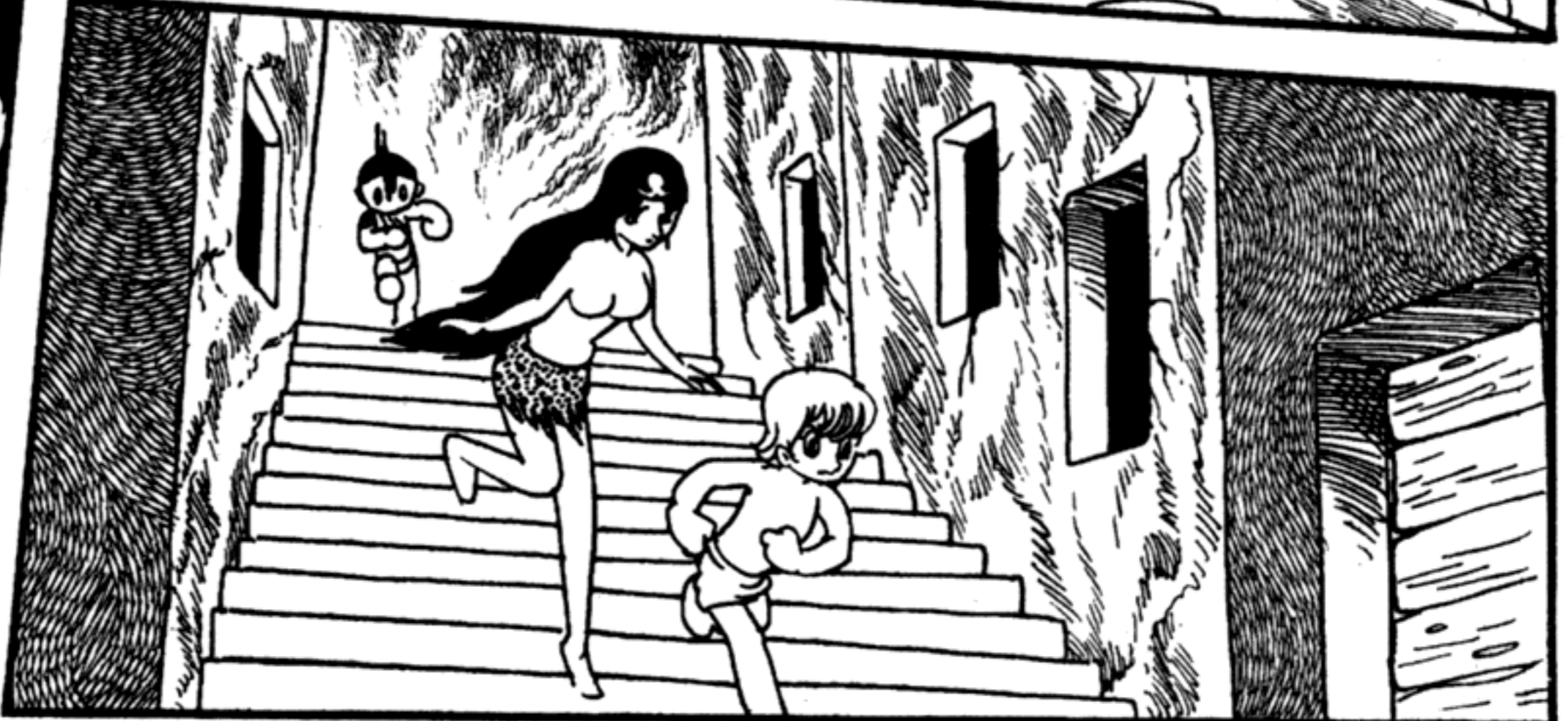
LEAVE ME
ALONE!!



HONEY, THERE'S
JUST ONE PLACE
TO HIDE: BEHIND
THE MASTER'S
HOUSE IN THE
WINE CELLAR.
IT'S SAFE FROM
THE FIRE AND
THE SOLDIERS.



LET'S
GO!

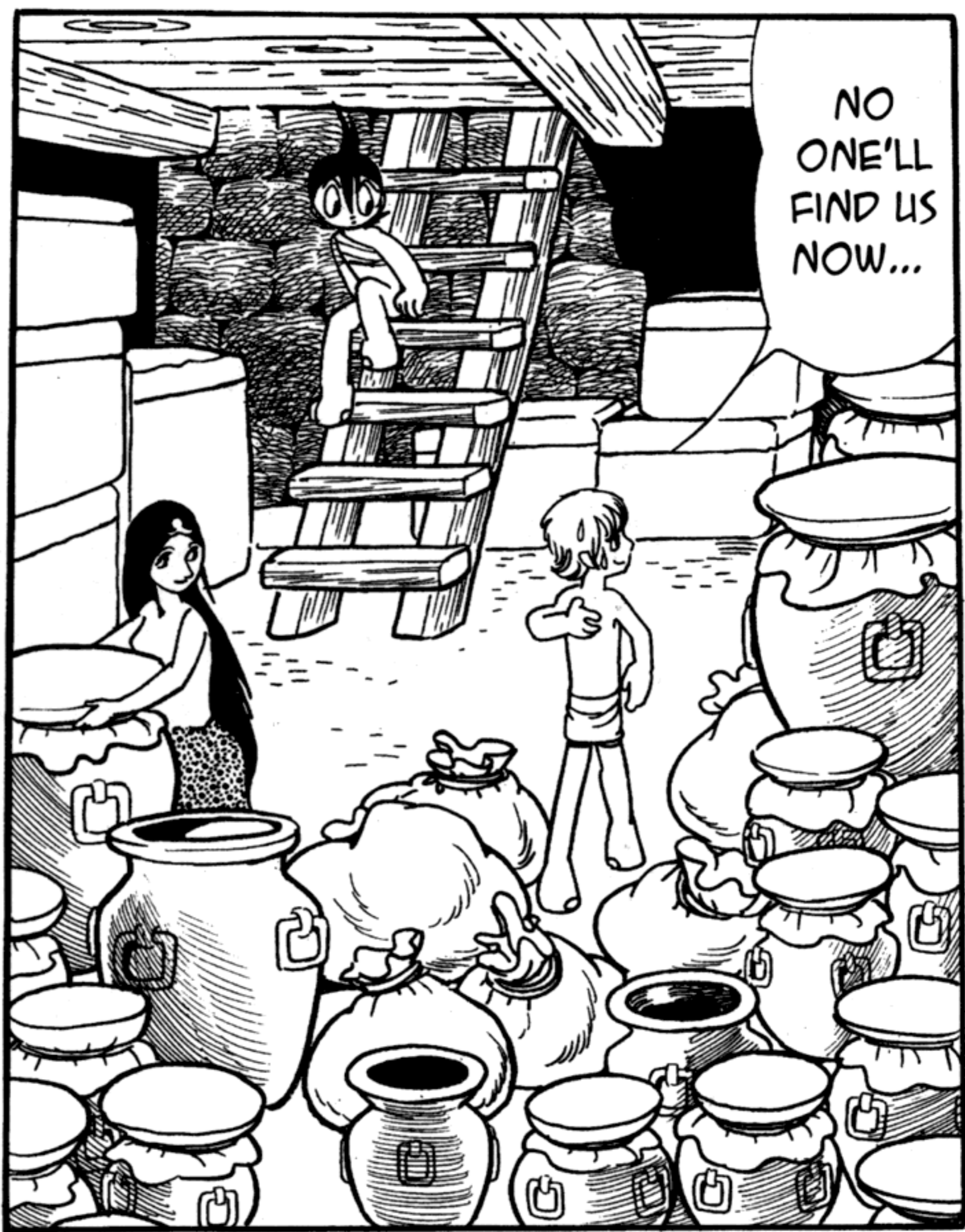




HERE YOU GO.

I'M IMPRESSED, MOM.

I HAD TO CARRY LIQUOR FOR PARTIES FROM HERE.



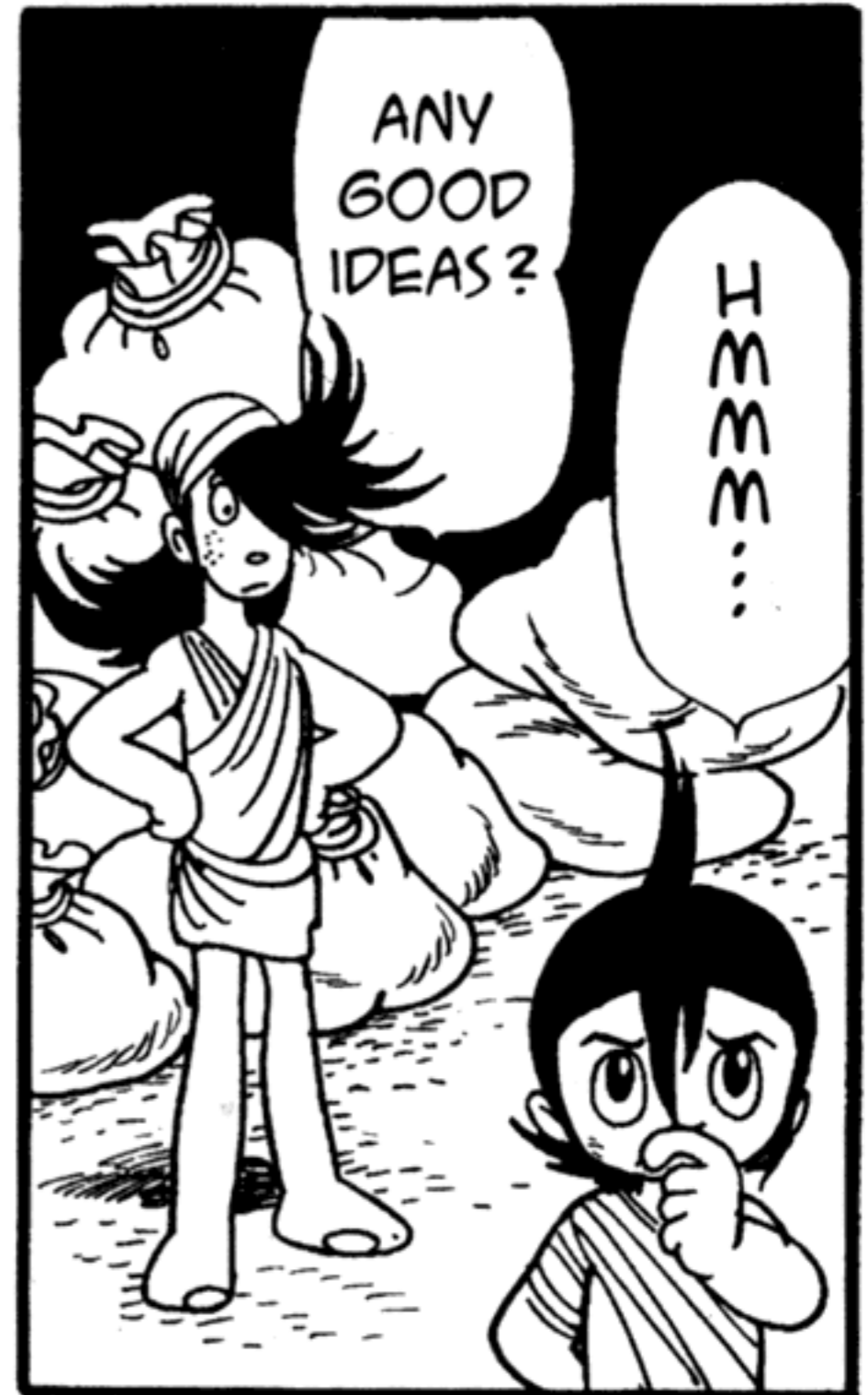
NO ONE'LL FIND US NOW...

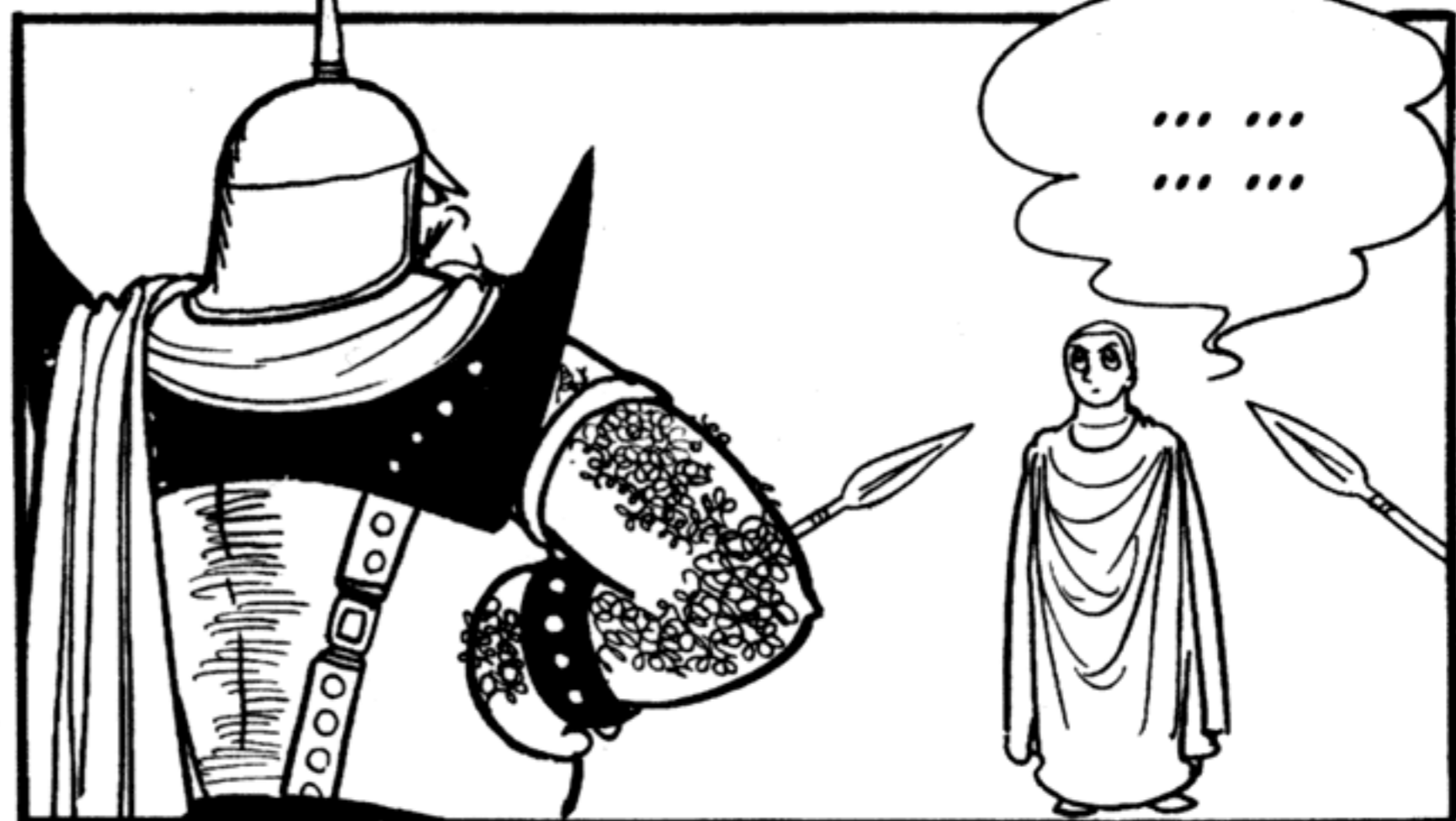
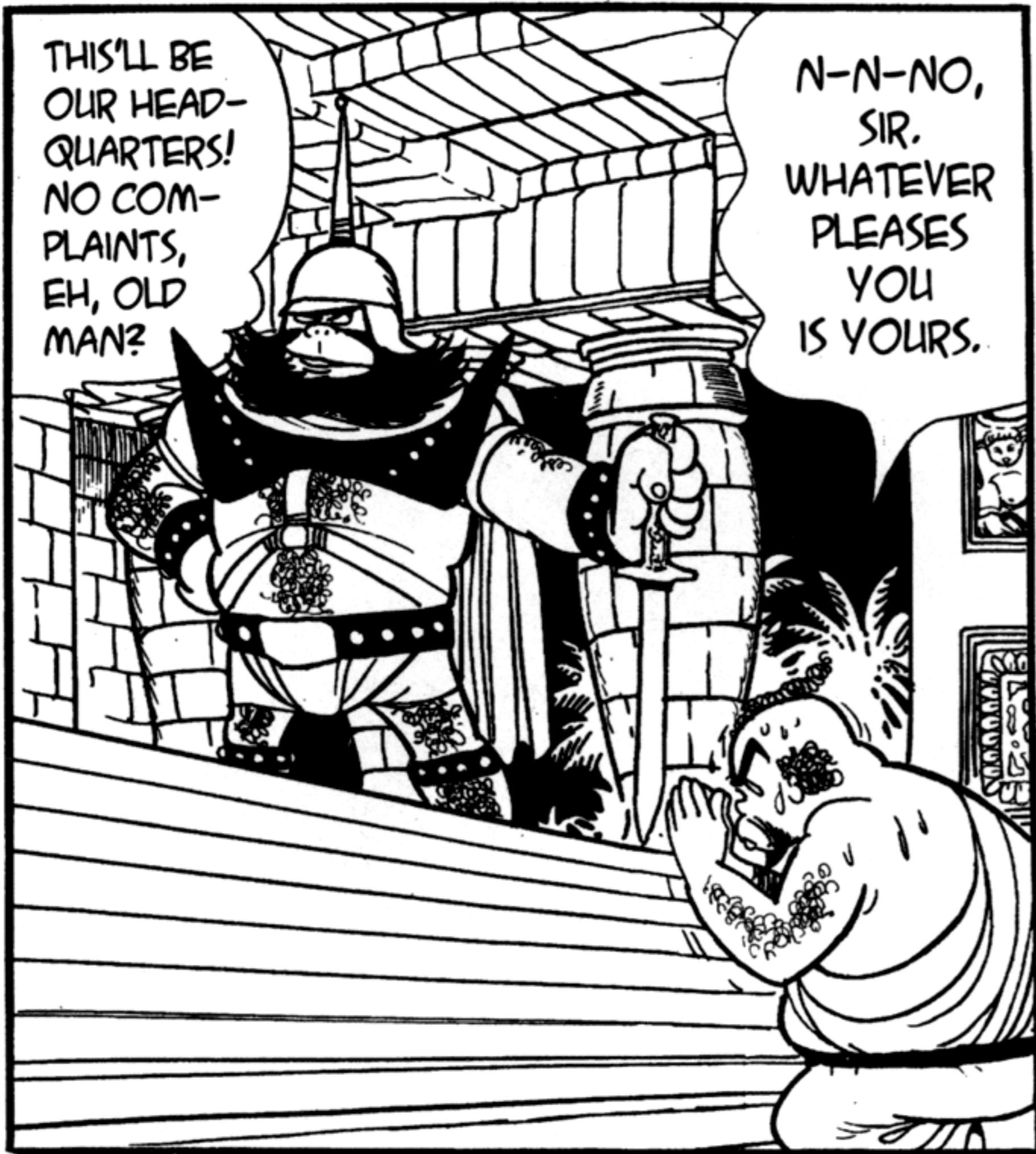


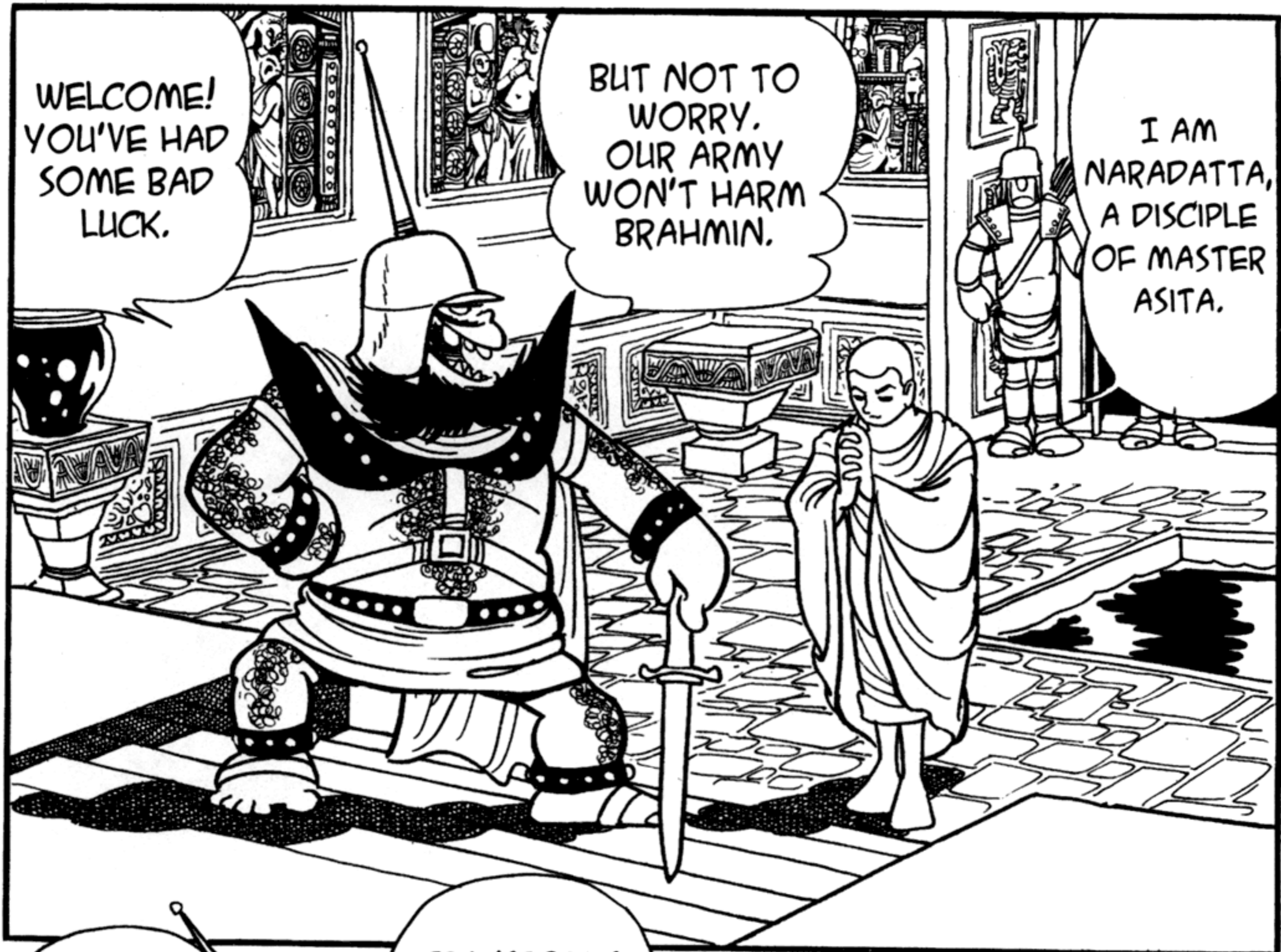
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE WON'T BE SEPARATED AGAIN.

HONEY, NOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHERS.









WELCOME!
YOU'VE HAD
SOME BAD
LUCK.

BUT NOT TO
WORRY.
OUR ARMY
WON'T HARM
BRAHMIN.

I AM
NARADATTA,
A DISCIPLE
OF MASTER
ASITA.

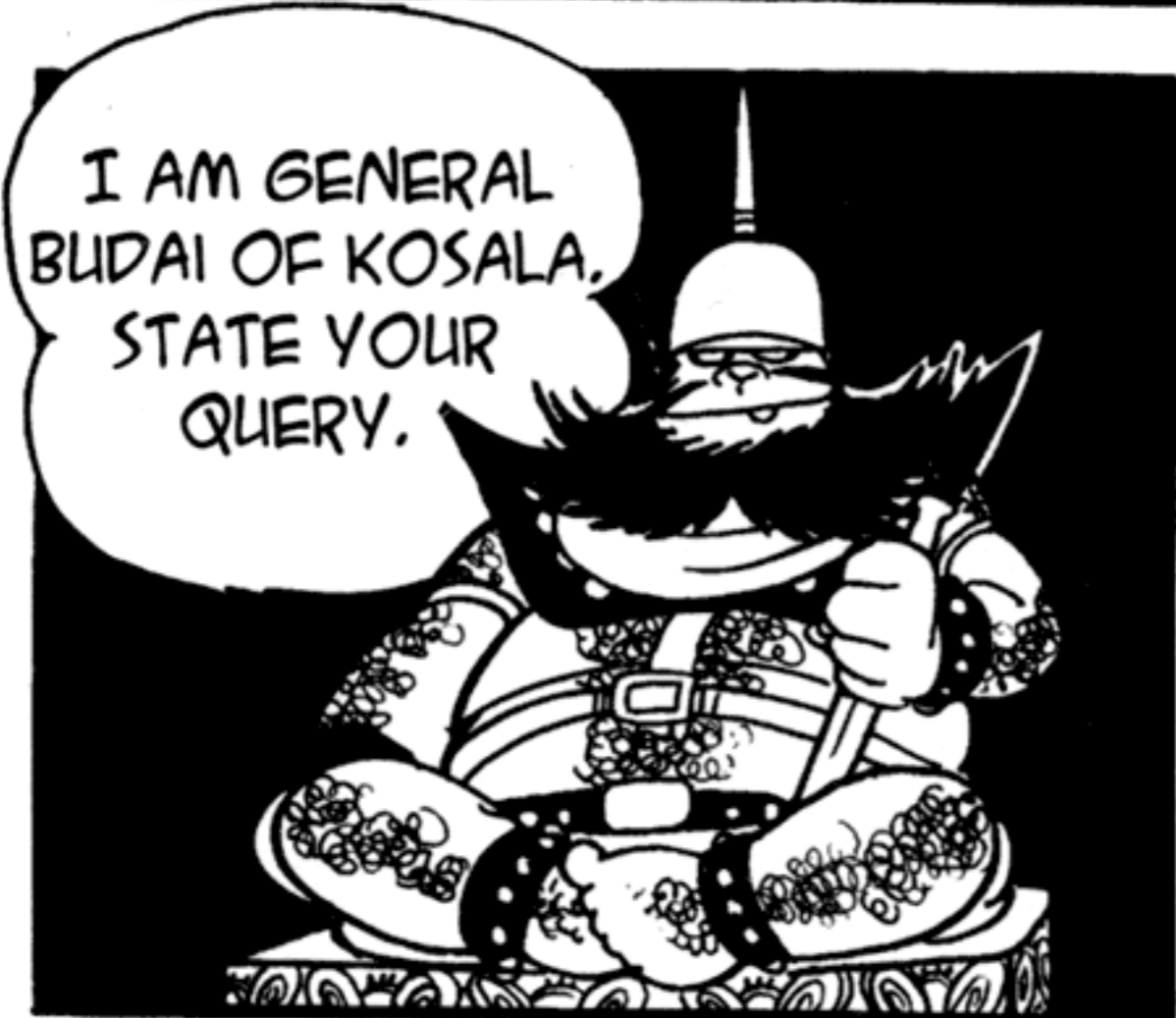


MASTER
ASITA? AH
YES, I'VE
HEARD
OF HIM.

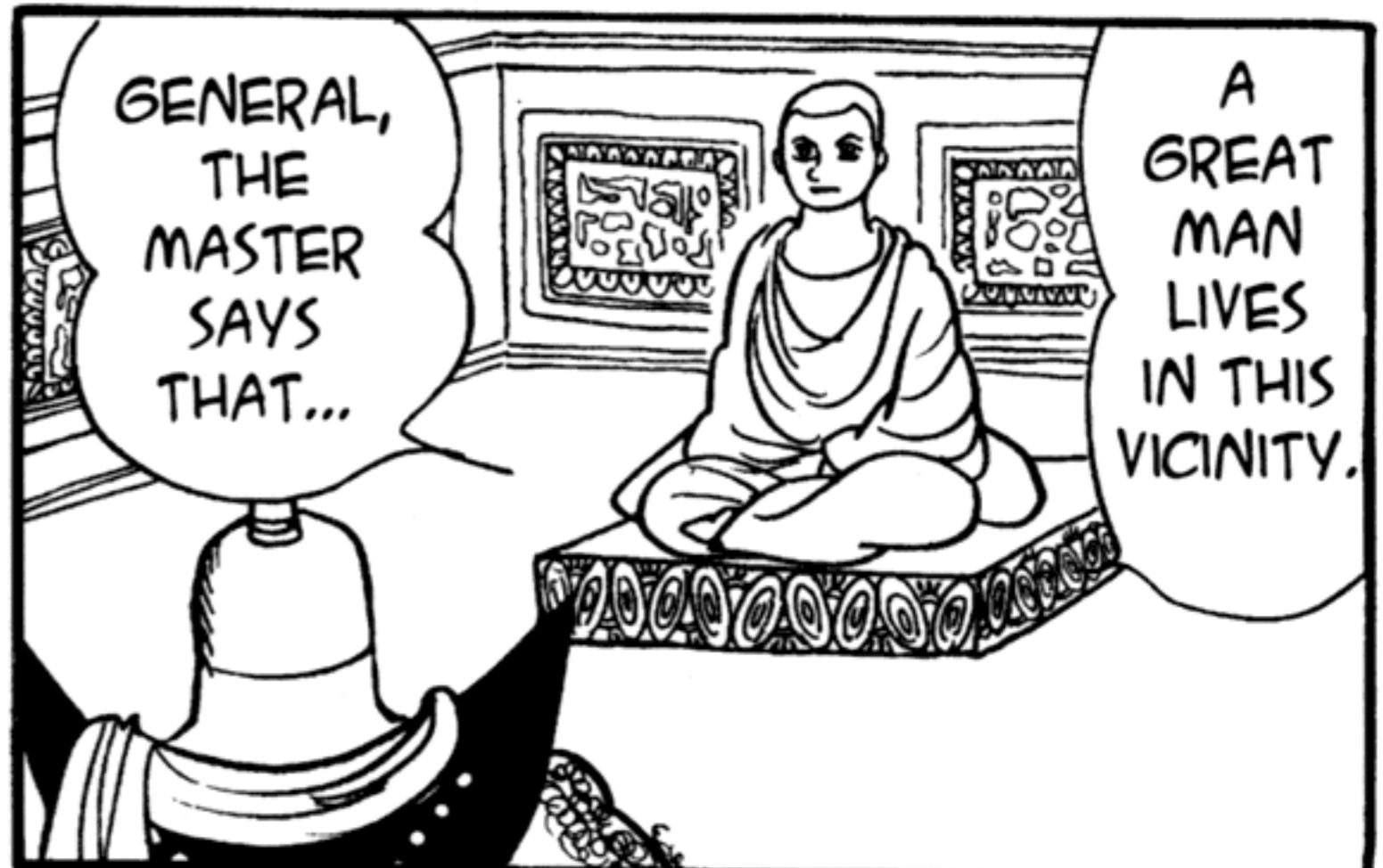
TRANSFORMS
REGULAR
TAP WATER
INTO COLA,
RIGHT?

OH DEAR,
NOT THIS
AGAIN.

I AM
SEARCHING
FOR
SOMEONE
AT HIS
ORDERS.



I AM GENERAL
BUDAI OF KOSALA.
STATE YOUR
QUERY.



GENERAL,
THE
MASTER
SAYS
THAT...

A
GREAT
MAN
LIVES
IN THIS
VICINITY.



IT IS HIS BIRTHRIGHT TO BECOME A GOD,

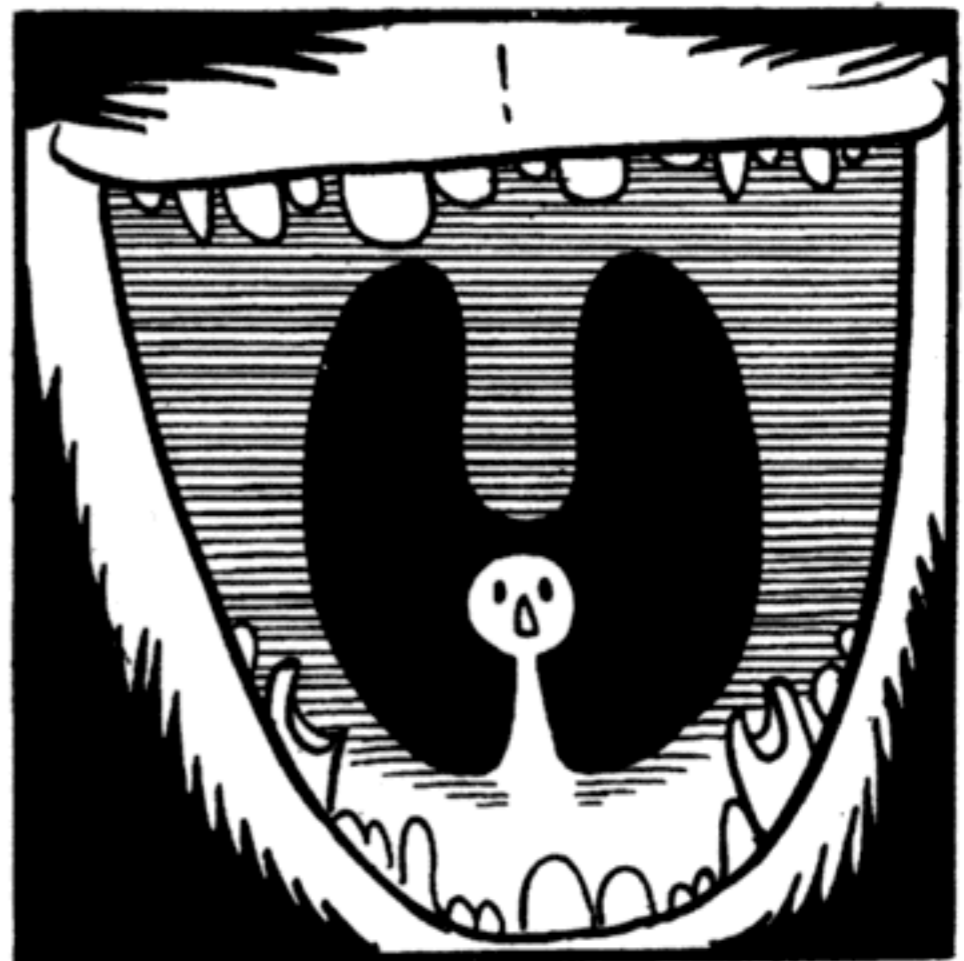
OR PERHAPS HE IS TO BECOME KING OF THE WORLD.



KING OF THE WORLD?

WORLD ?

HA HA HA HA, I LIKE THAT!



Ha Ha Ha

Ho Ho



THE GREATEST RULER IN THE WORLD IS KOSALA'S KING. YOU SAY THERE'S ONE GREATER?

HA!

THAT'S A BAD JOKE, BRAHMIN!



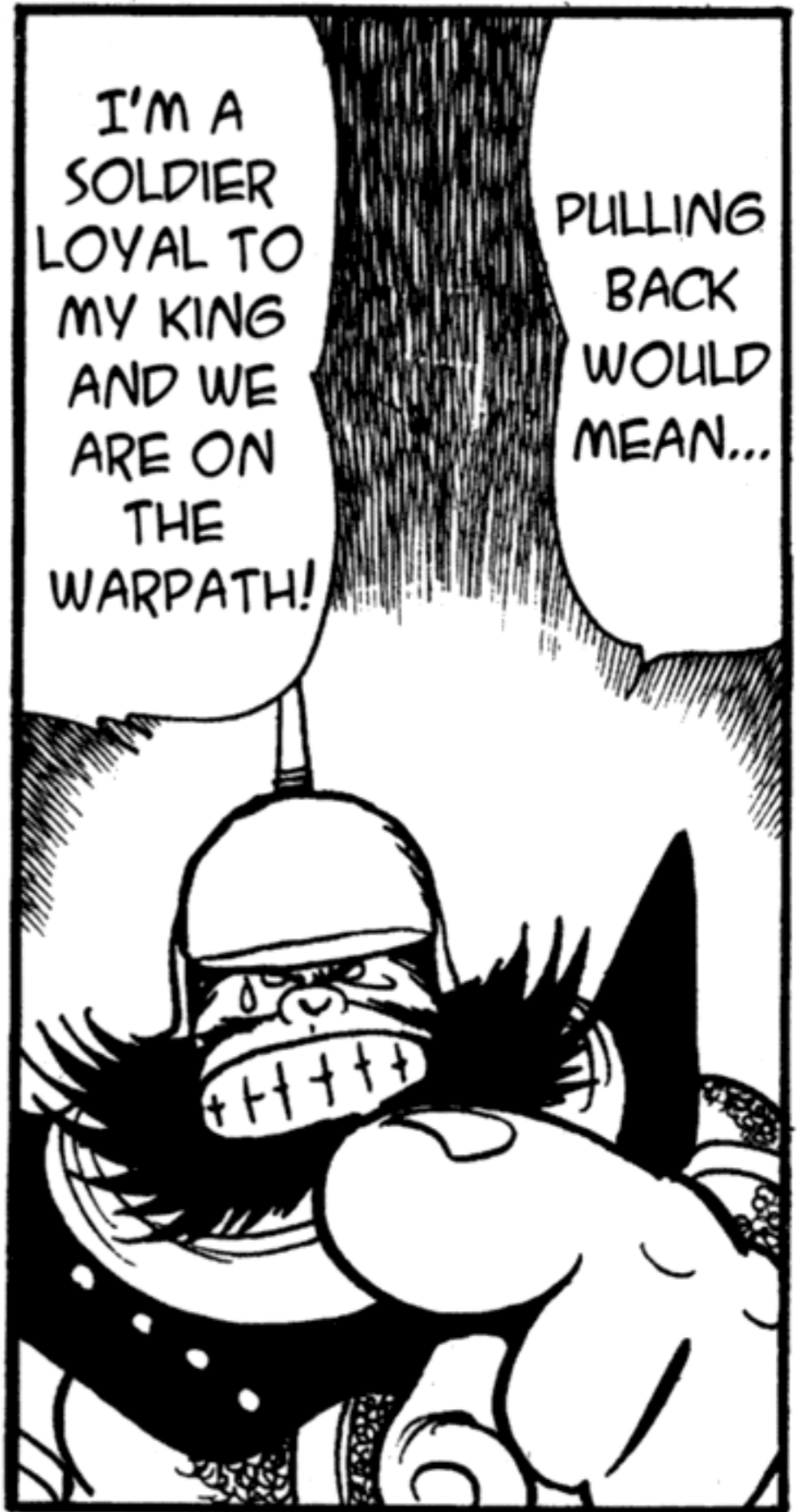
IMPOSSIBLE!



IN ANY CASE, THIS PERSON WILL APPEAR NEAR HERE.

BY ATTACKING THIS LAND, YOU DRAW YOUR SWORD AGAINST HIM.

YOU MUST PULL BACK, GENERAL!



I'M A SOLDIER LOYAL TO MY KING AND WE ARE ON THE WARPATH!

PULLING BACK WOULD MEAN...



RETREAT!

DEFEAT? RETREAT?



OUR AIM IS TO BRING DOWN THE KAPILAVASTU CASTLE!! AND FOR THE SHAKYA PEOPLE TO KNEEL DOWN BEFORE OUR KING!!

WE'VE ALREADY CRUSHED 22 TOWNS TO GET HERE!

LOOK FROM HERE, THE CASTLE IS A MERE HOP, SKIP AND A JUMP.

TO RETREAT NOW ...



NO GOOD CAN COME OF THESE ACTIONS.

TOMORROW MORNING, ALONG WITH THE OTHERS...



YOU THREATEN ME?



EVEN IF THE GREAT MAN LIVES IN THIS TOWN ...



THE DEATH SENTENCE HAS BEEN DECLARED FOR ALL!

NO ONE WILL BE SPARED!



PREPARE TO KILL THE SURVIVORS IN GROUPS OF TEN IN THE TOWN SQUARE.



DON'T BE SUCH A DULLARD. NOW JOIN ME FOR A DRINK.



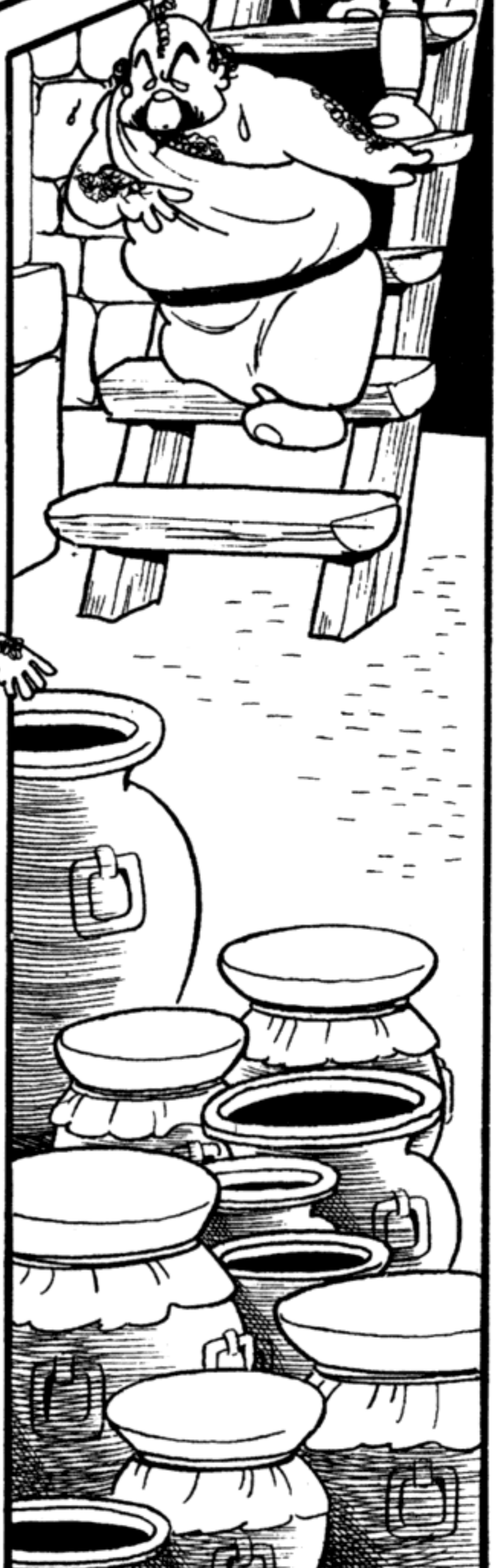
OLD MAN, LIBATIONS! WHERE'S THE WINE CELLAR?

NOW THEY'RE TAKING ALL MY WINE TOO...



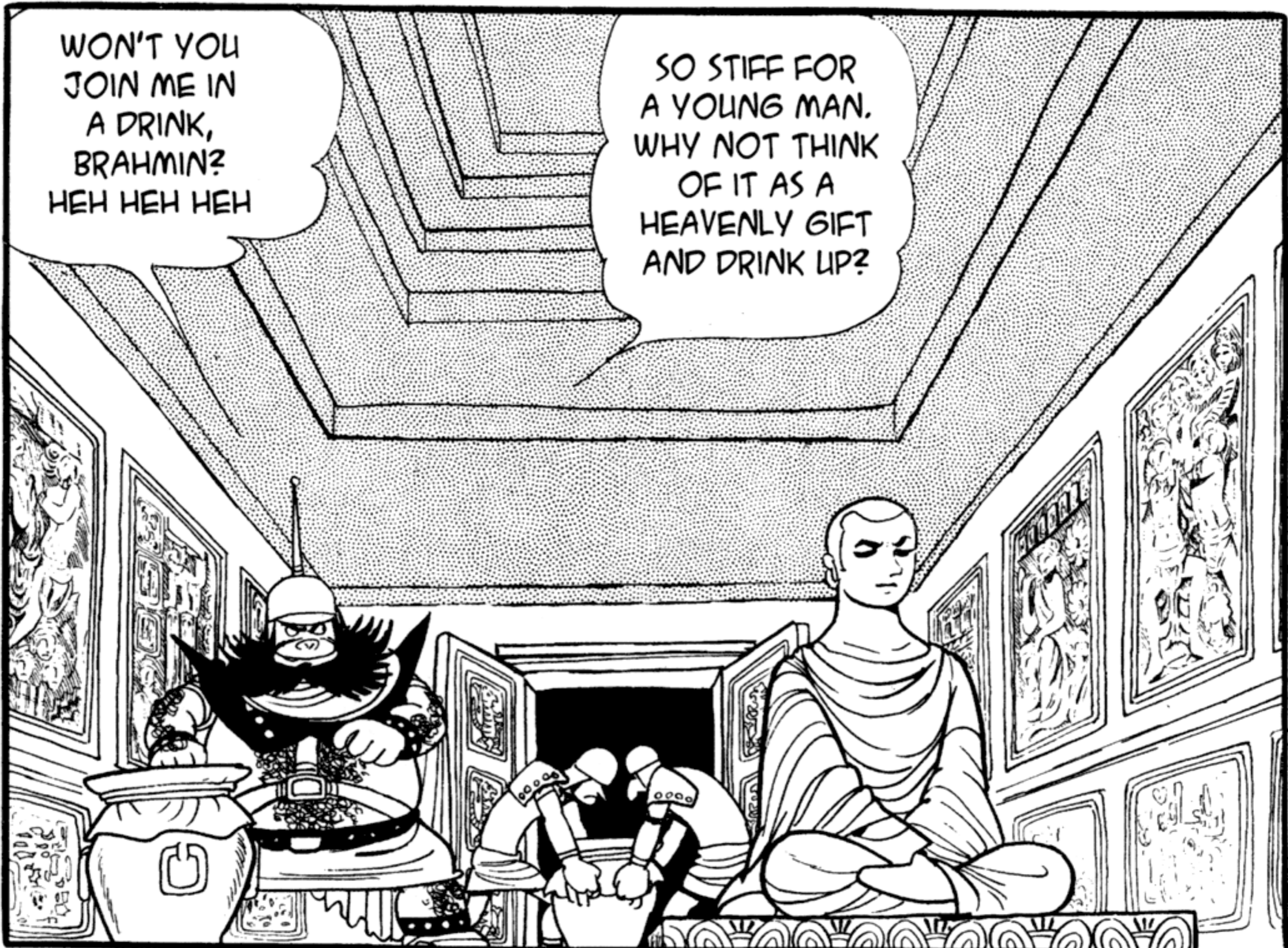
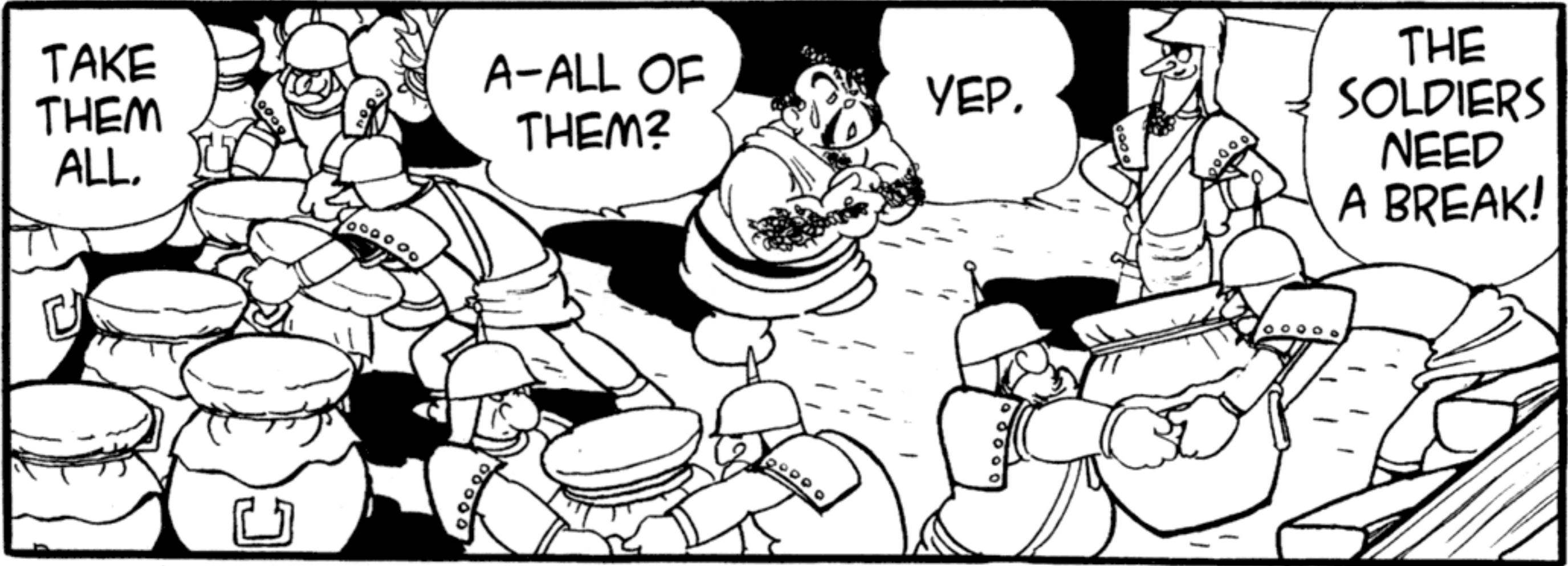
H
H
H
?

N-N-NOTHING.



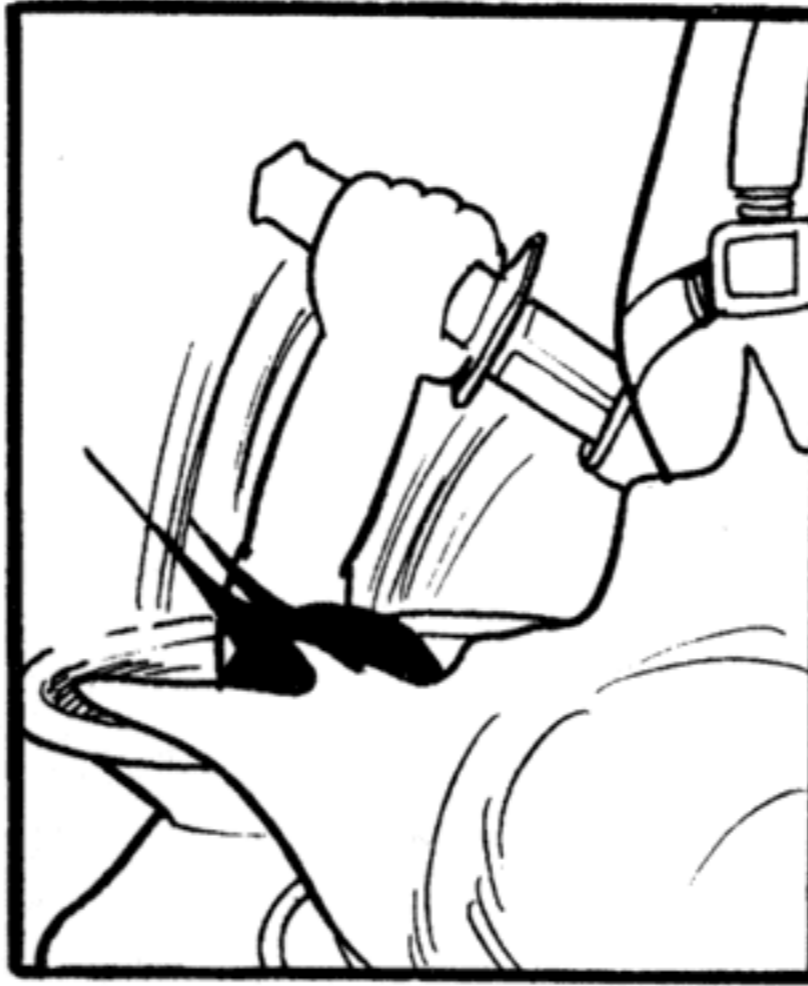
HERE THEY COME!

QUIET!





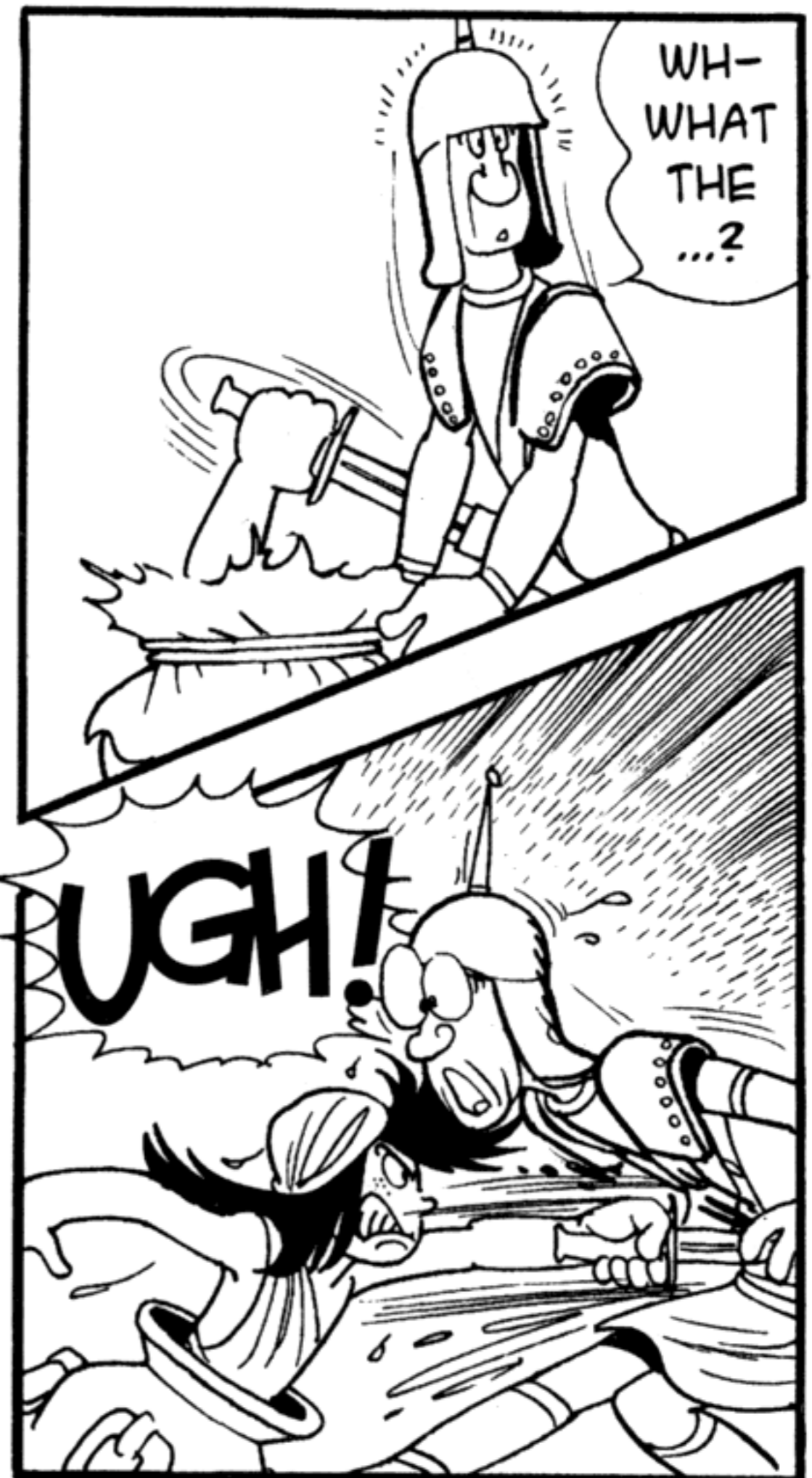
SUCH A GRUMPY MONK.



Whish

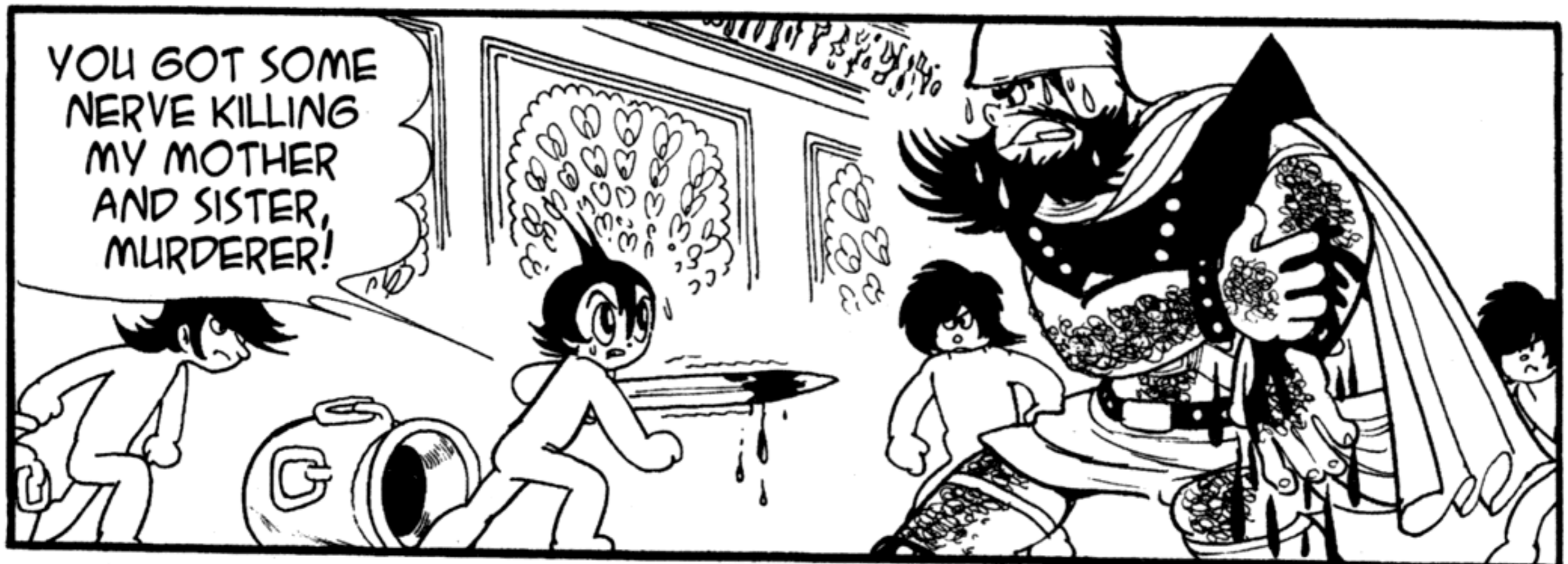


ARGH!

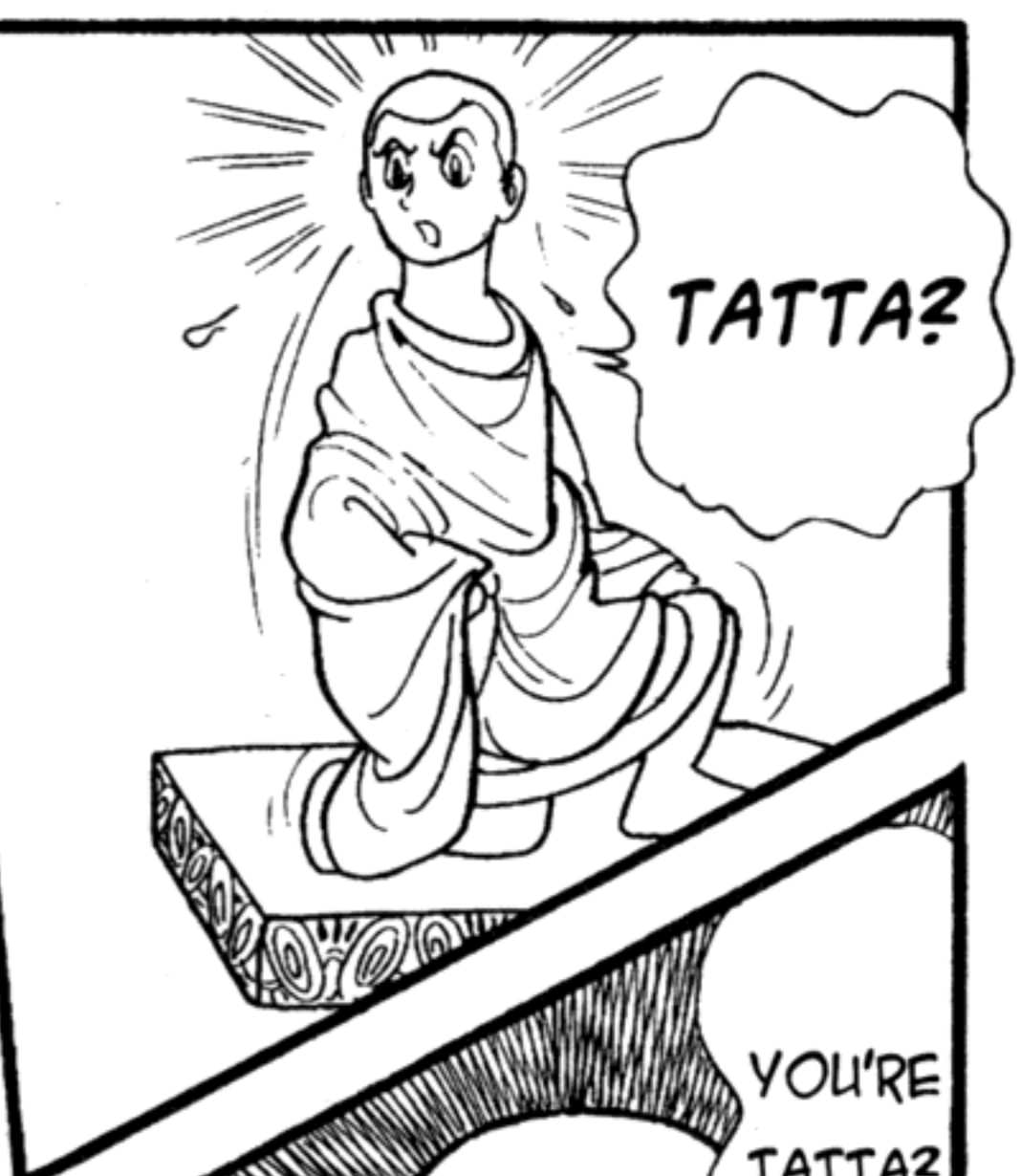
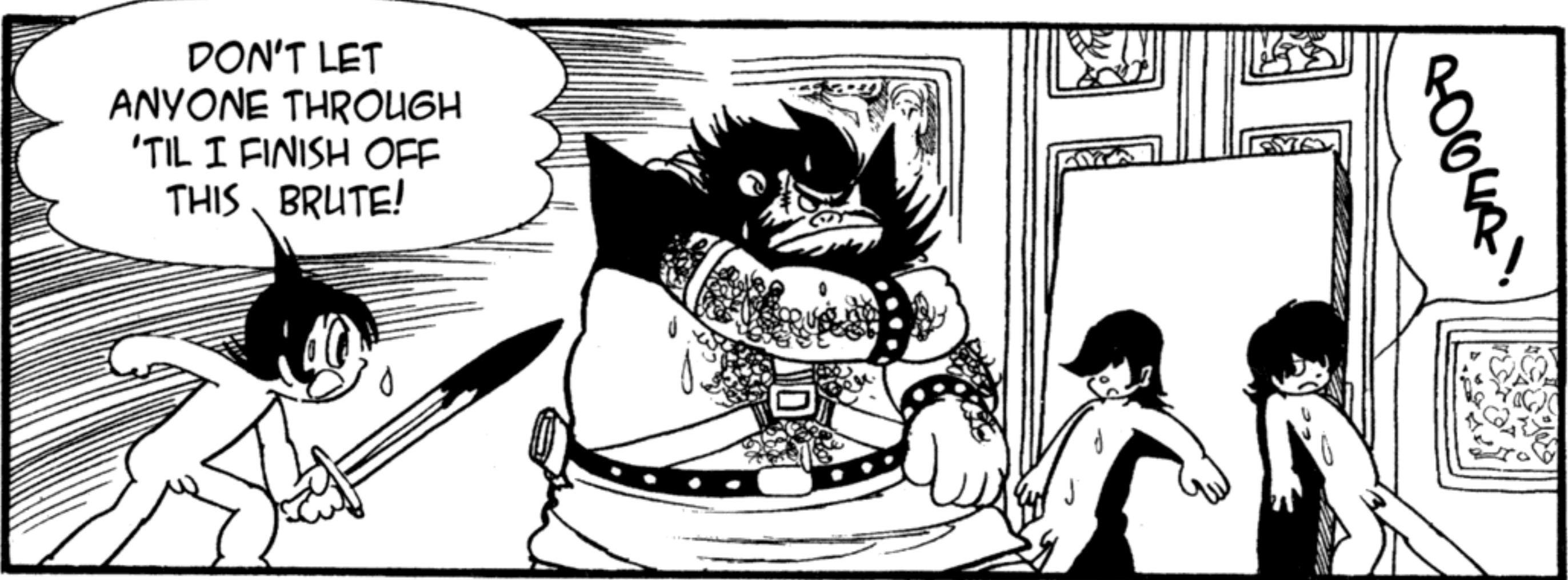
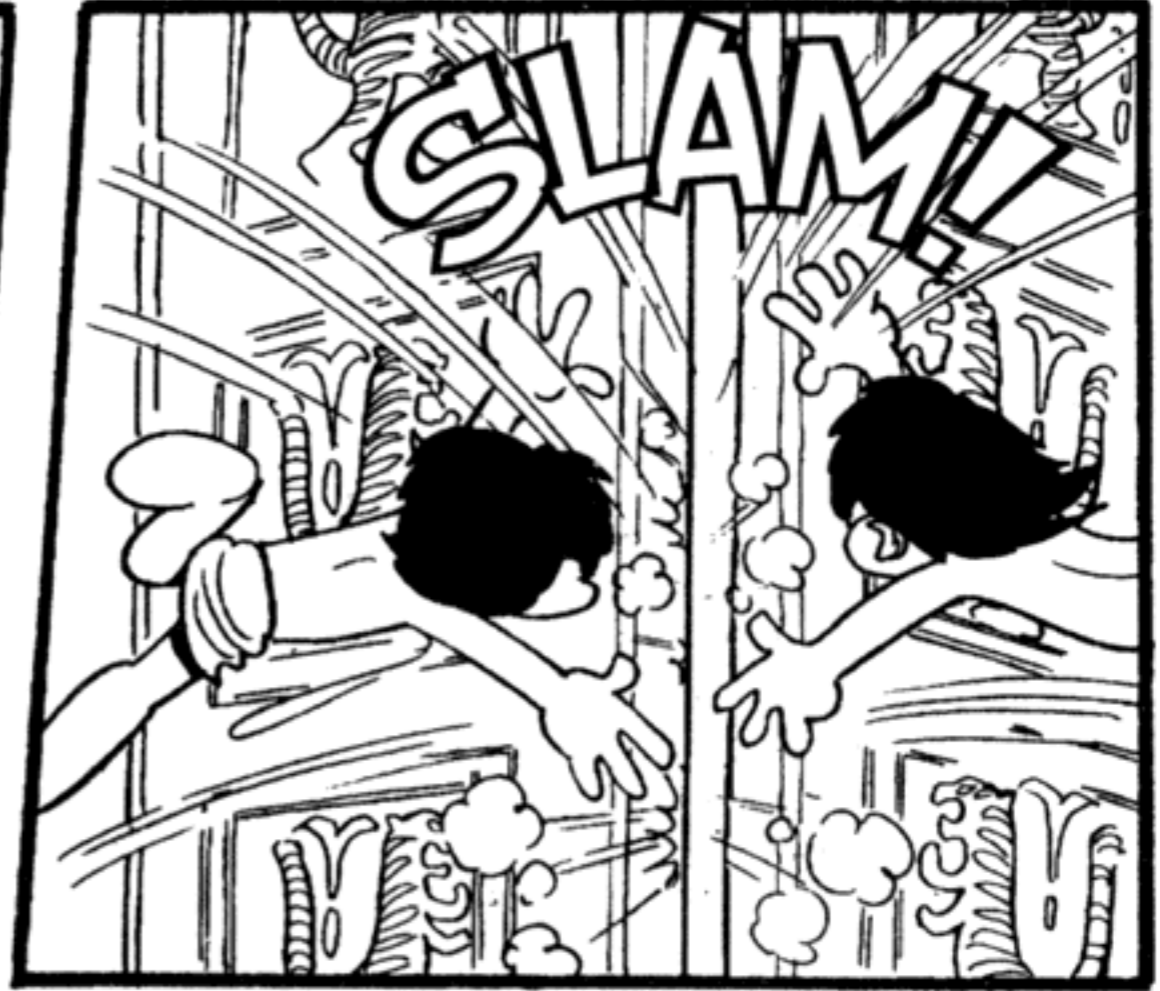
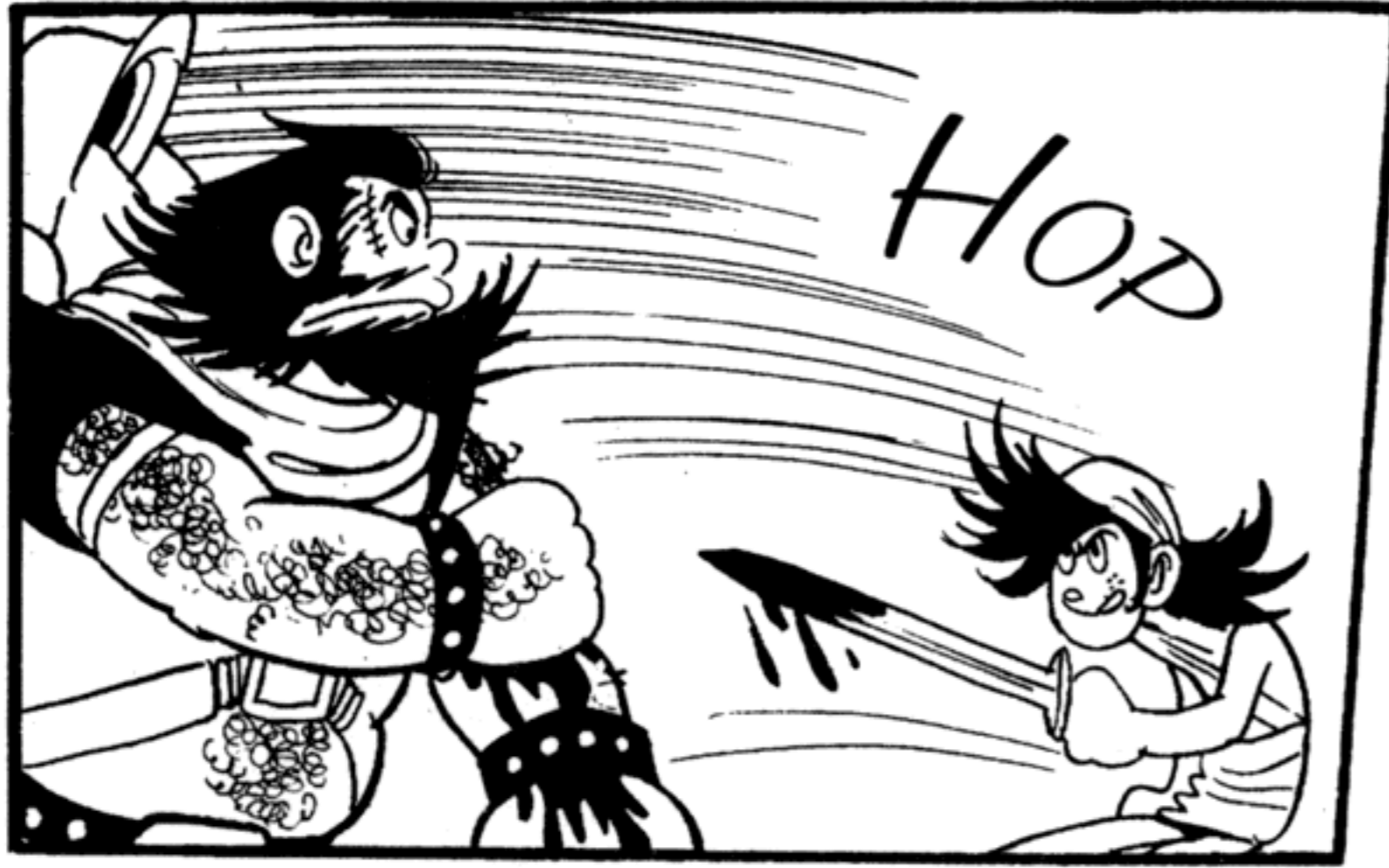


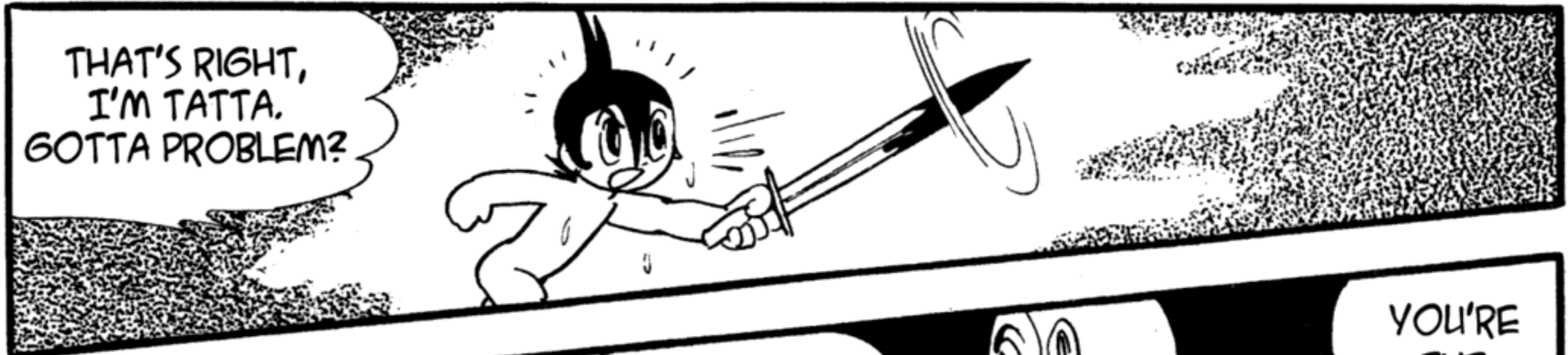
WH-WHAT THE ...?

UGH!

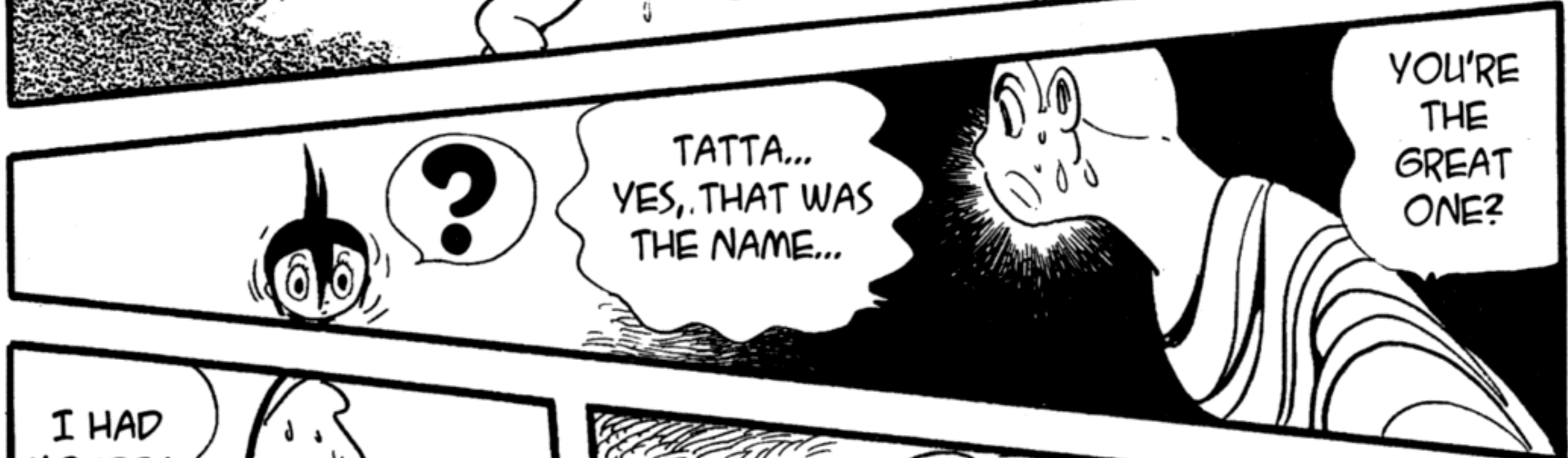


YOU GOT SOME NERVE KILLING MY MOTHER AND SISTER, MURDERER!



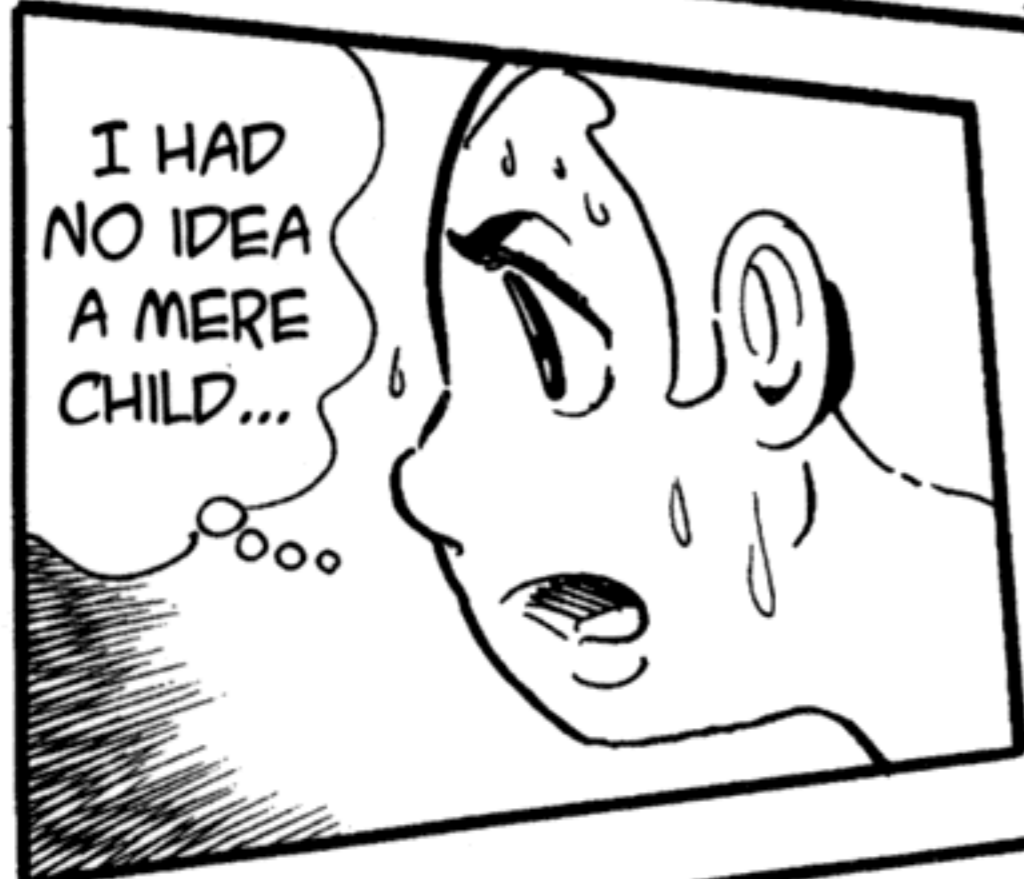


THAT'S RIGHT,
I'M TATTA,
GOTTA PROBLEM?



YOU'RE
THE
GREAT
ONE?

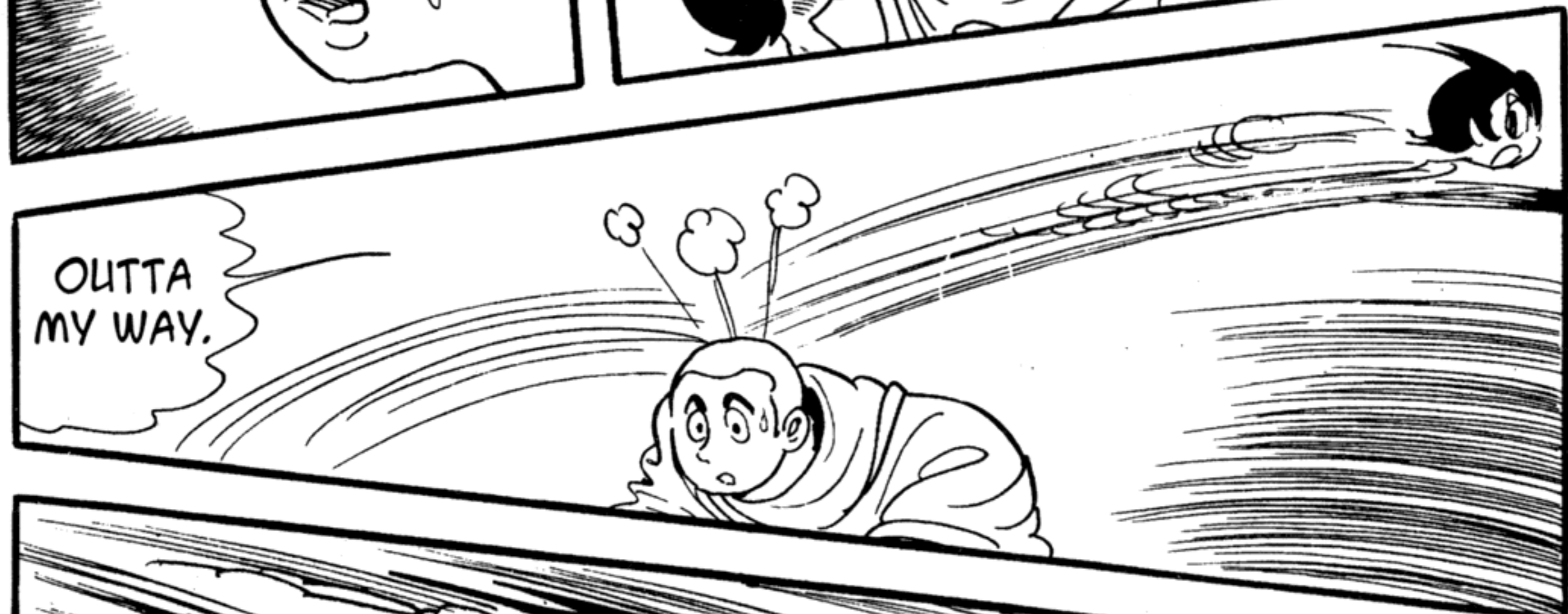
TATTA...
YES, THAT WAS
THE NAME...



I HAD
NO IDEA
A MERE
CHILD...



I HAVE
FOUND YOU!!



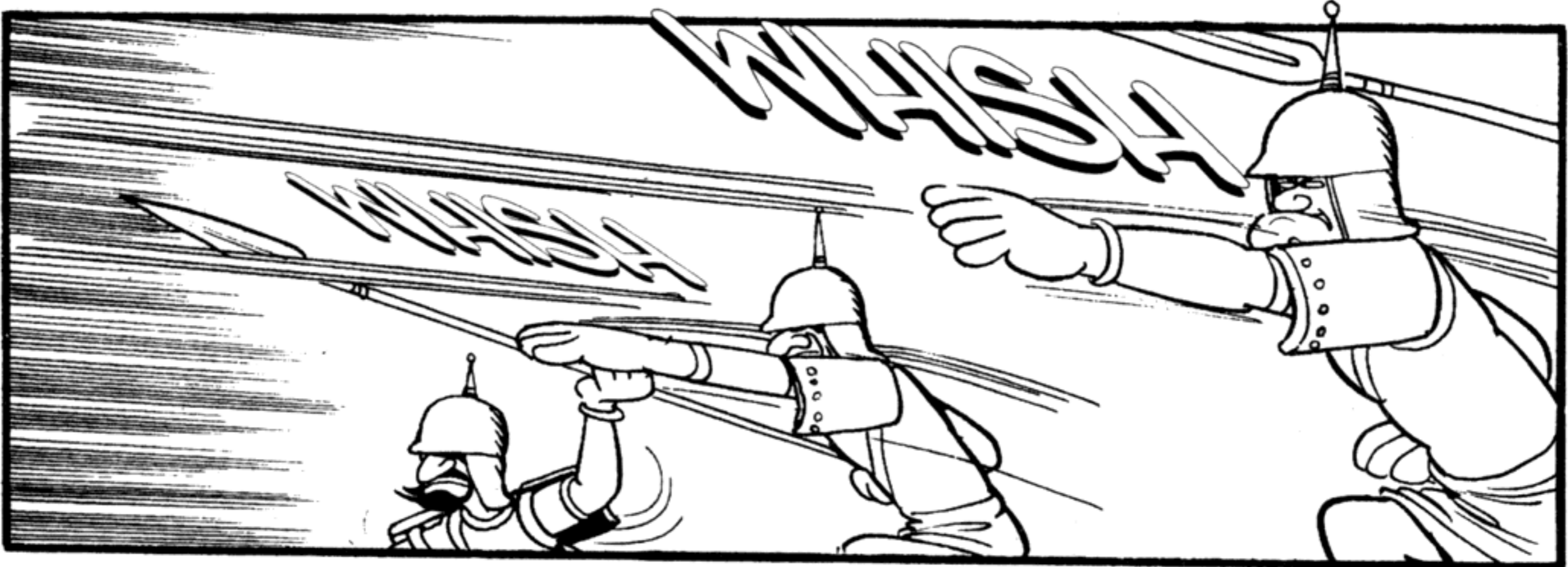
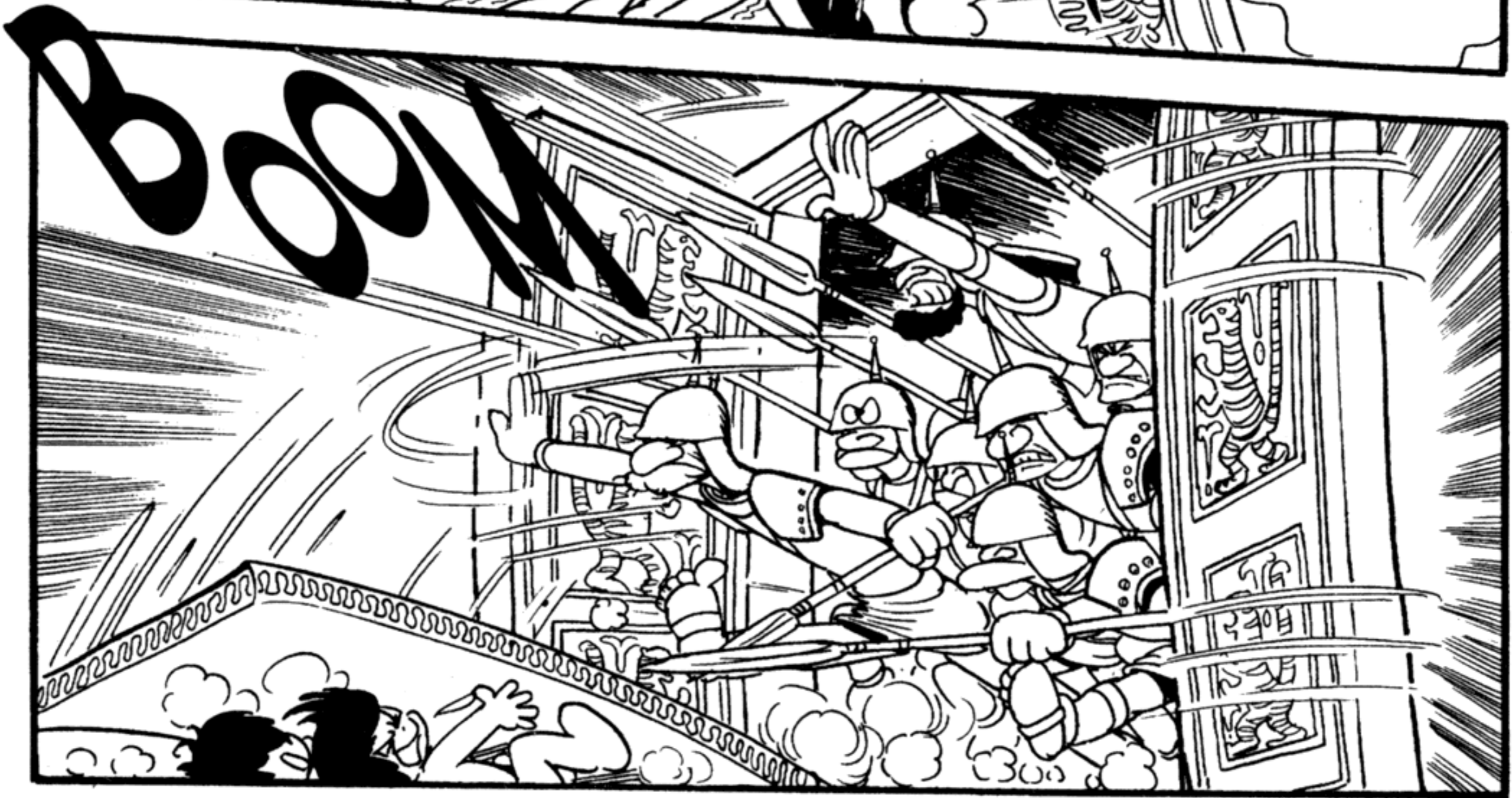
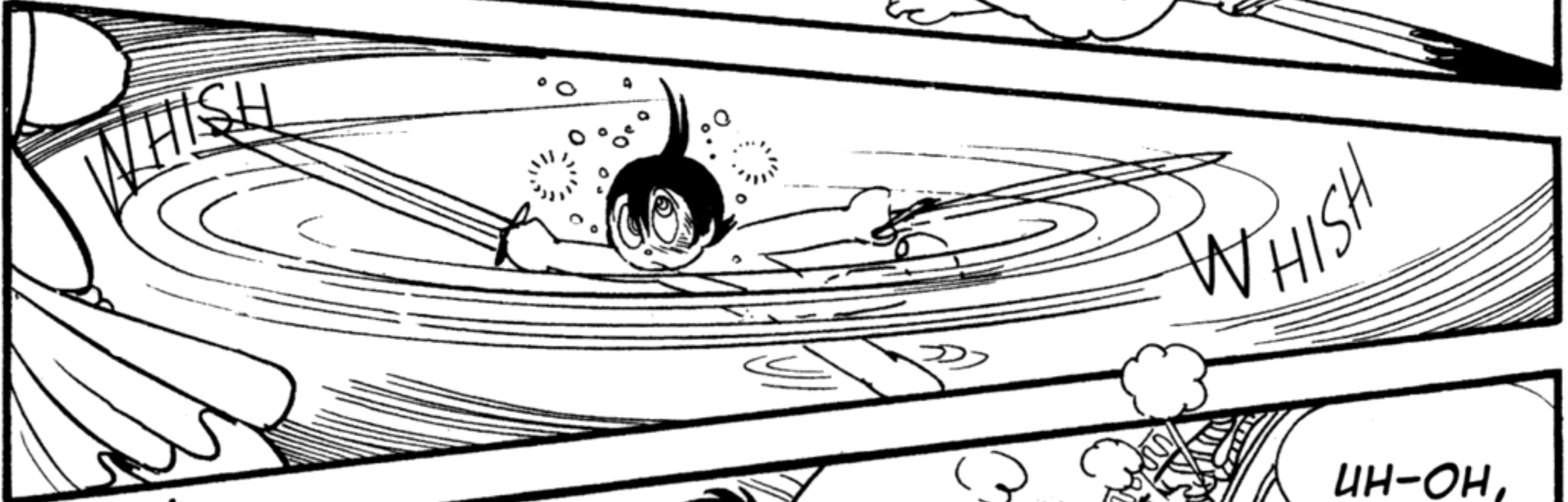
OUTTA
MY WAY.

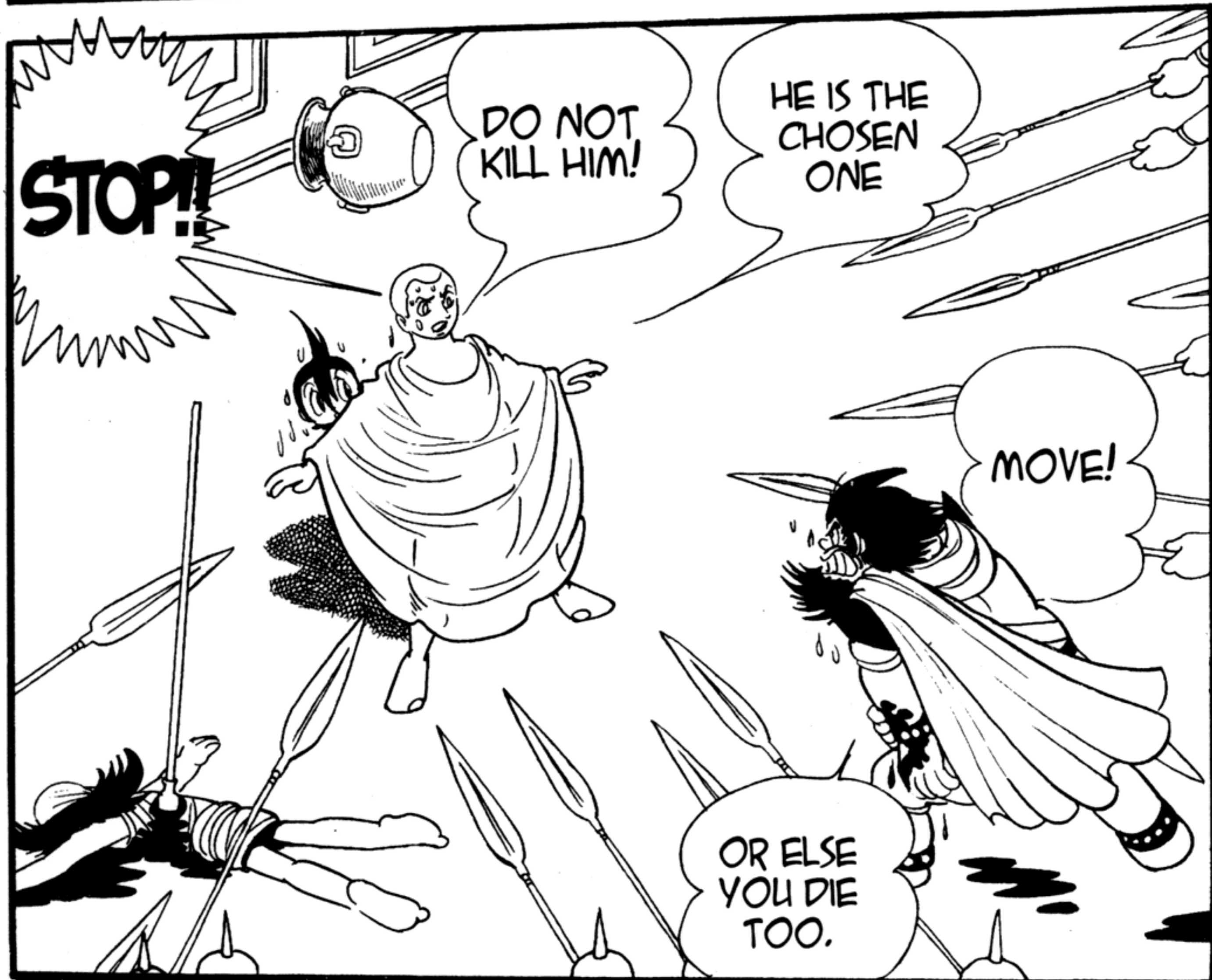
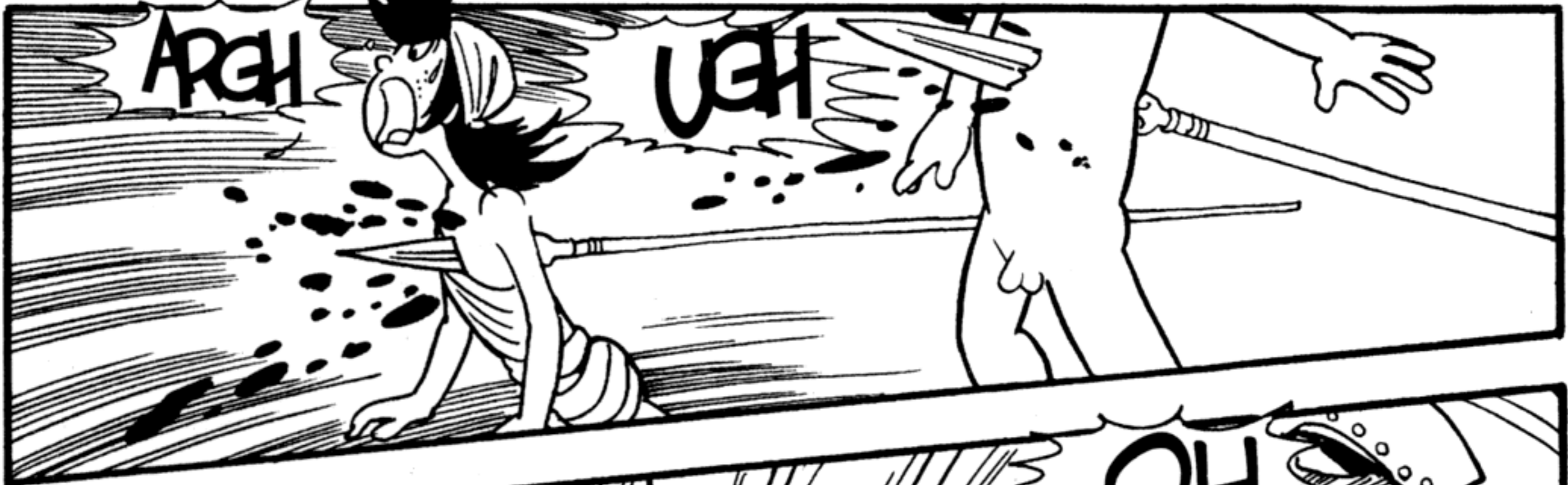


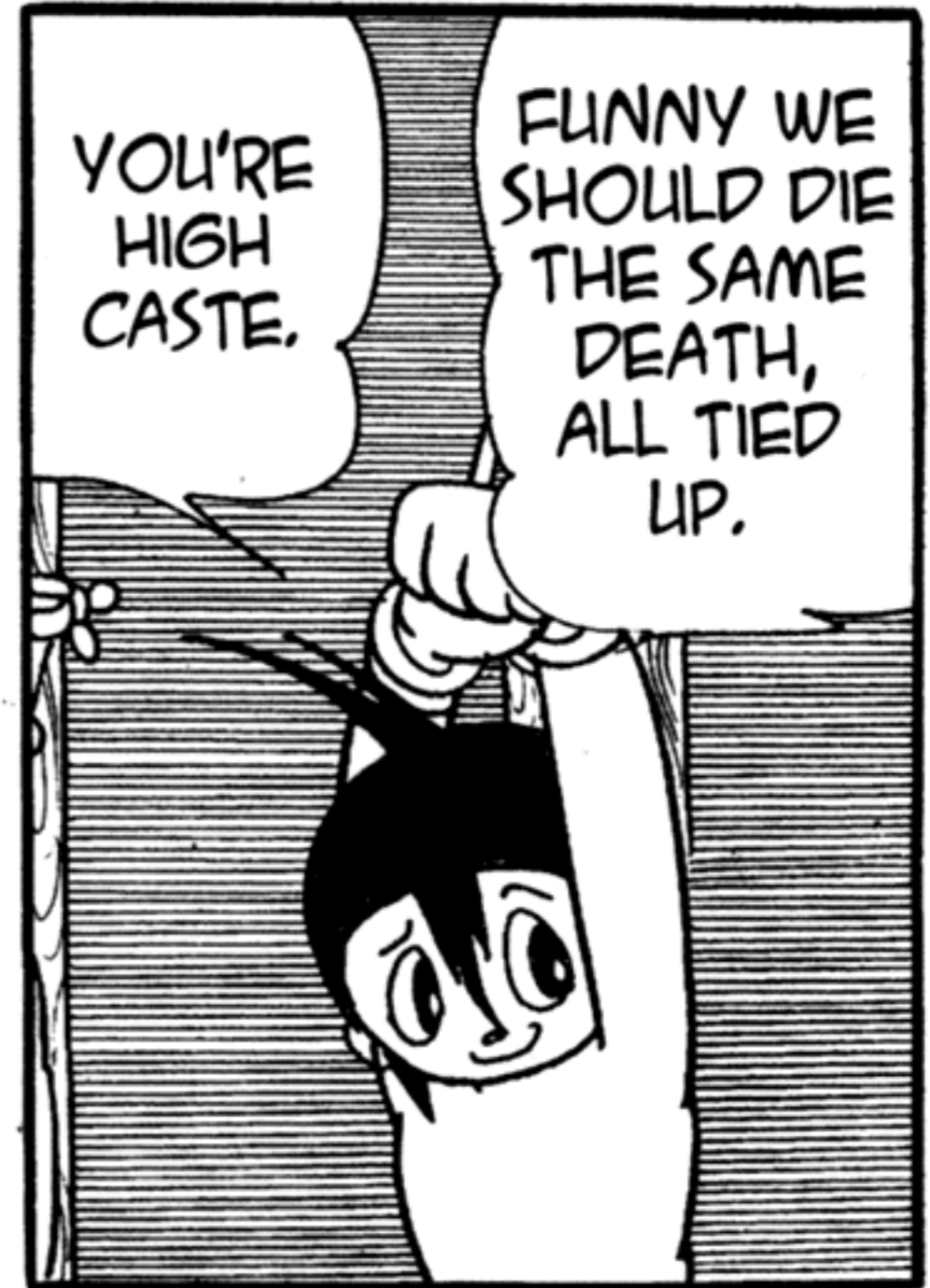
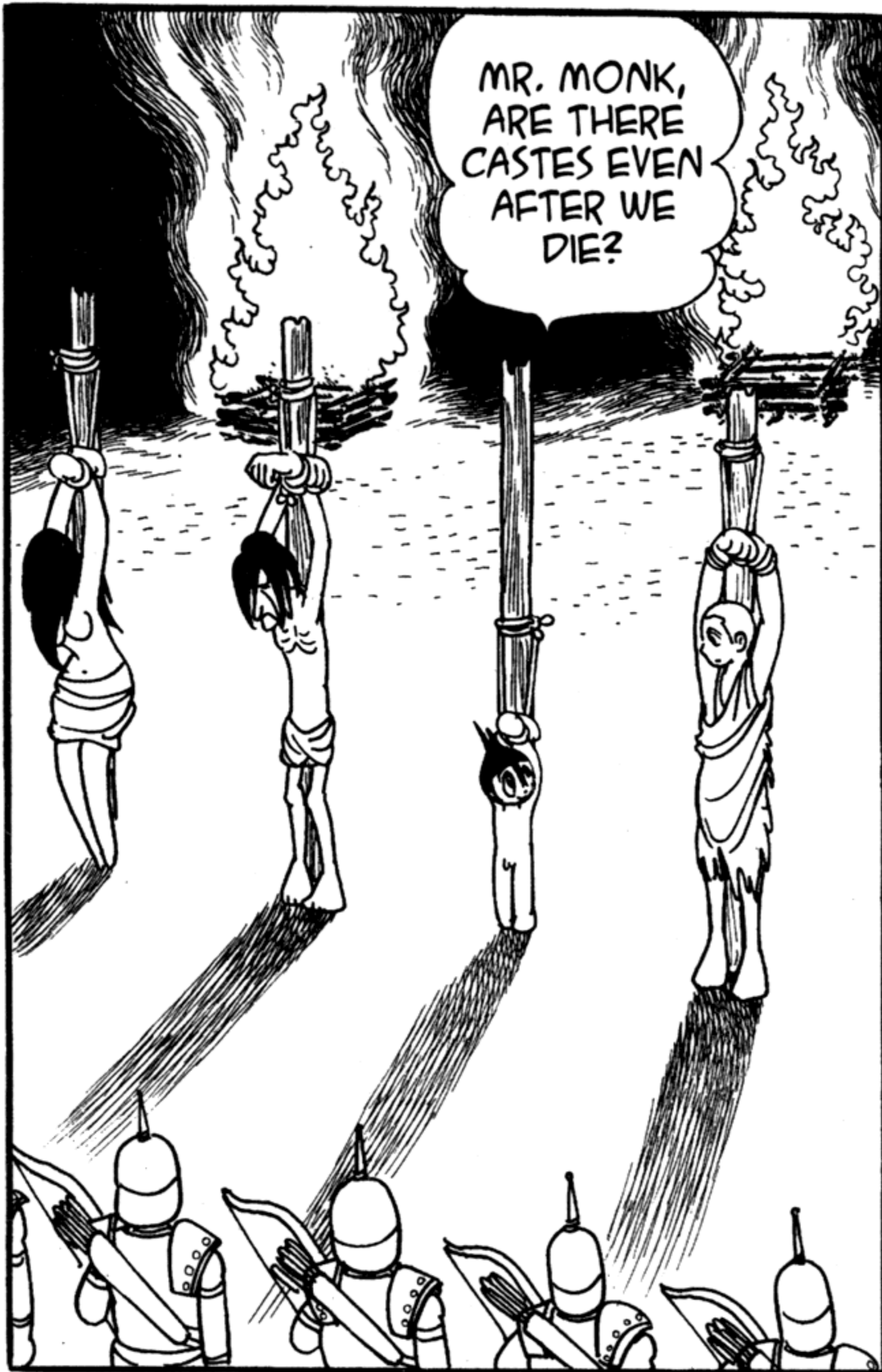
WHIZ



LITTLE
RUNT!

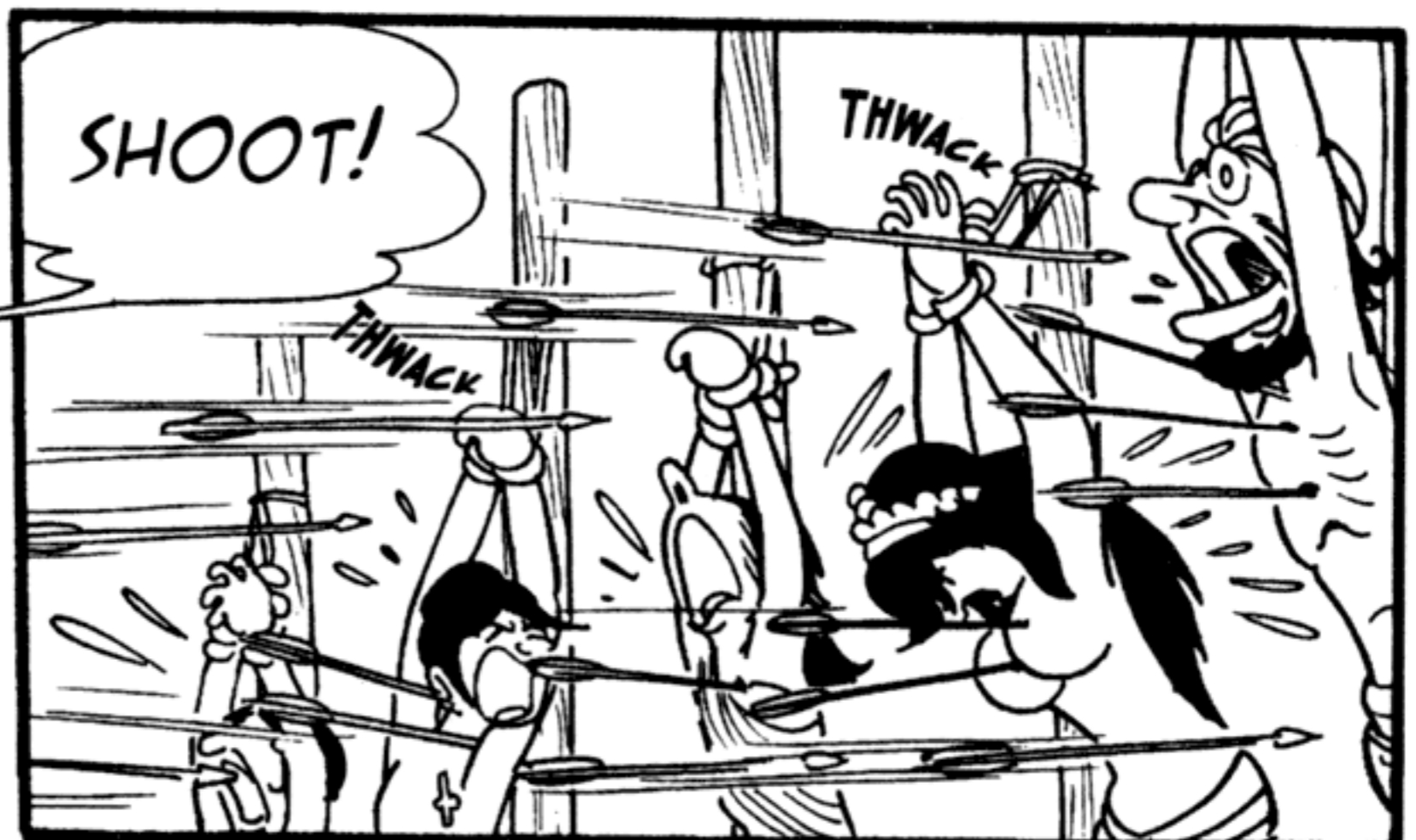
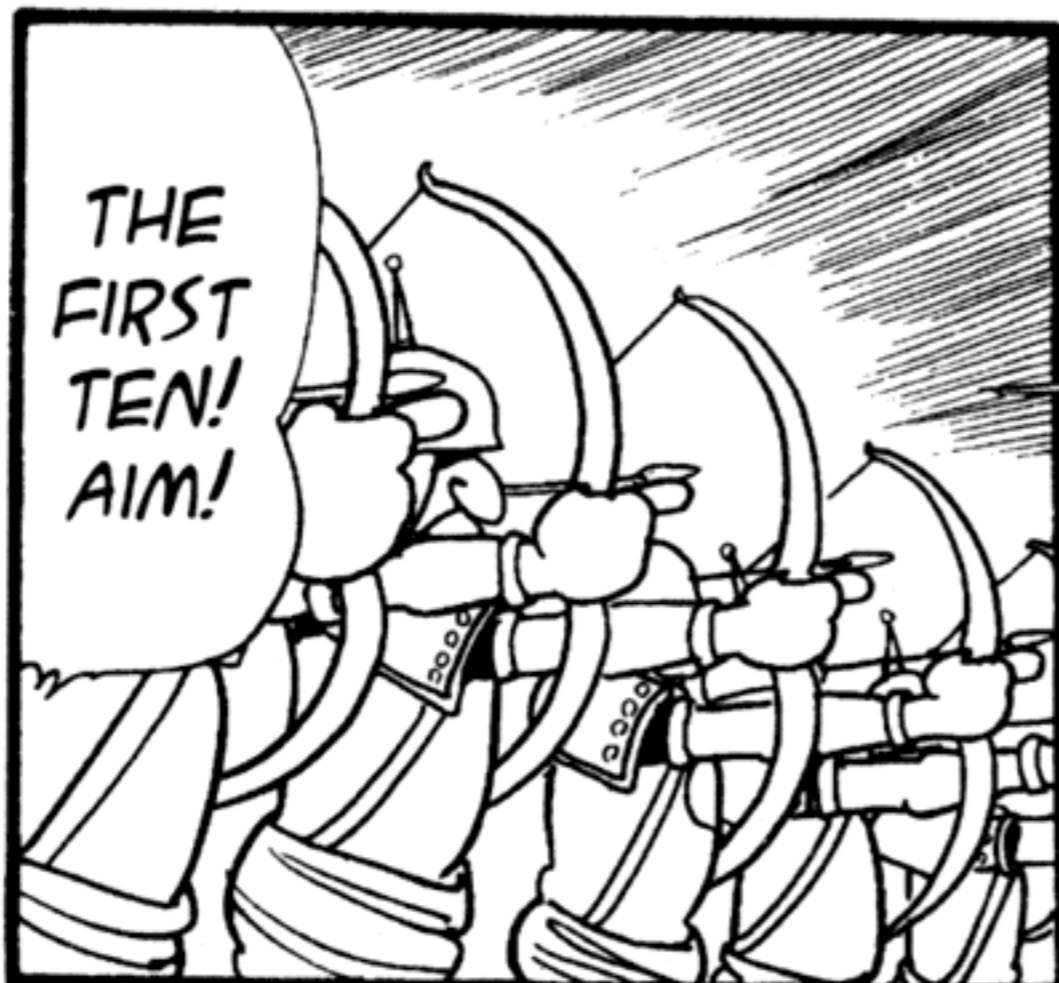
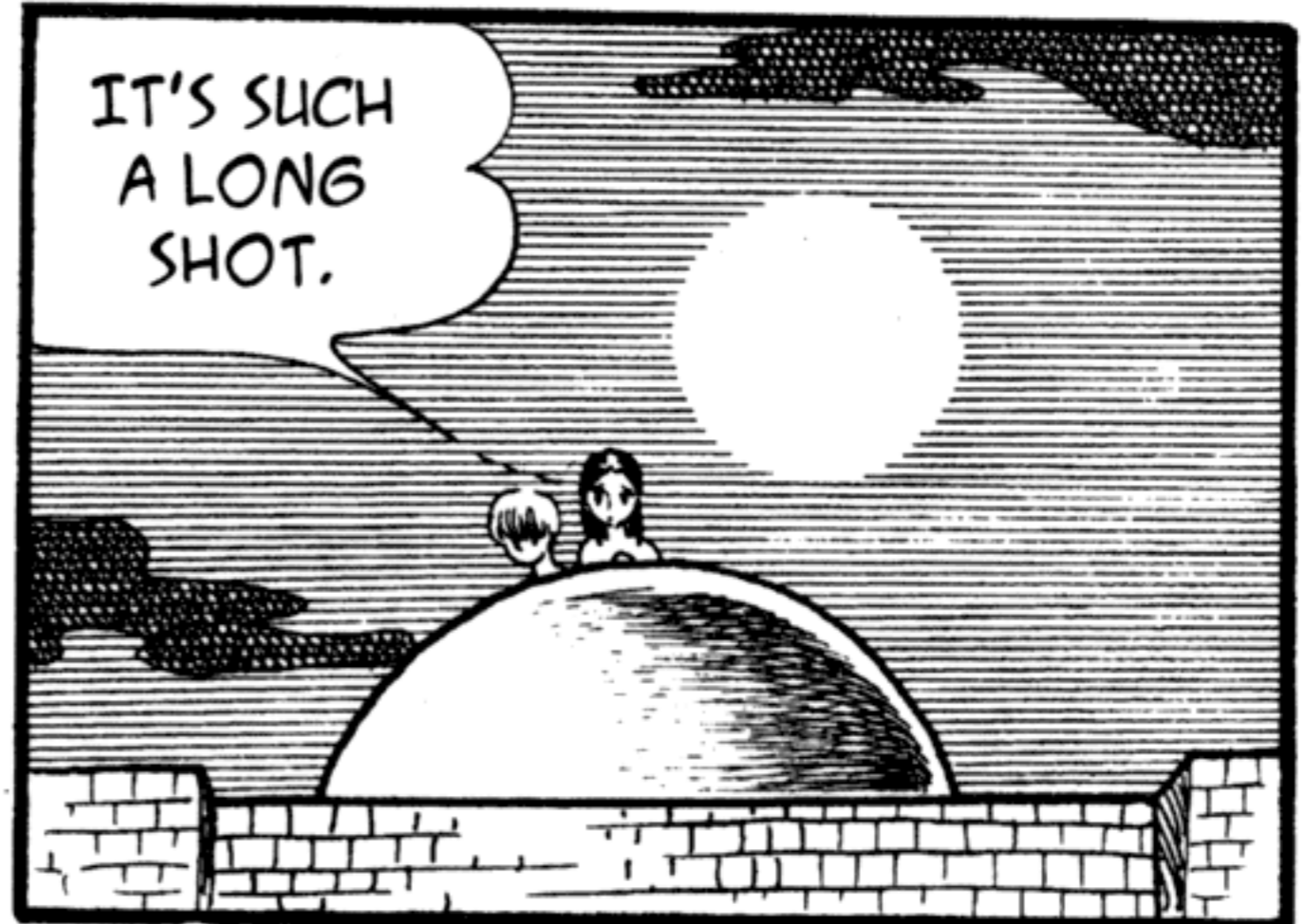
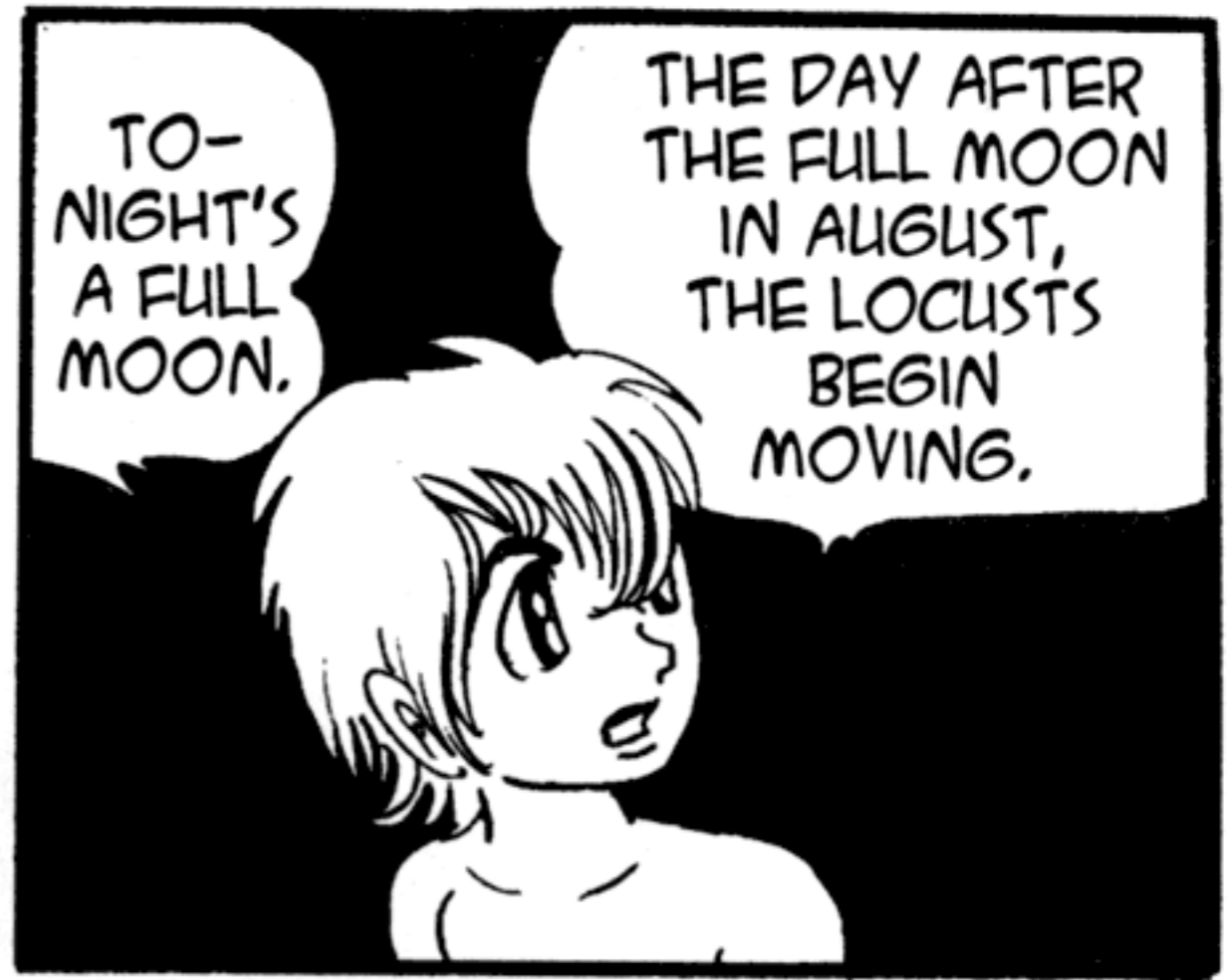






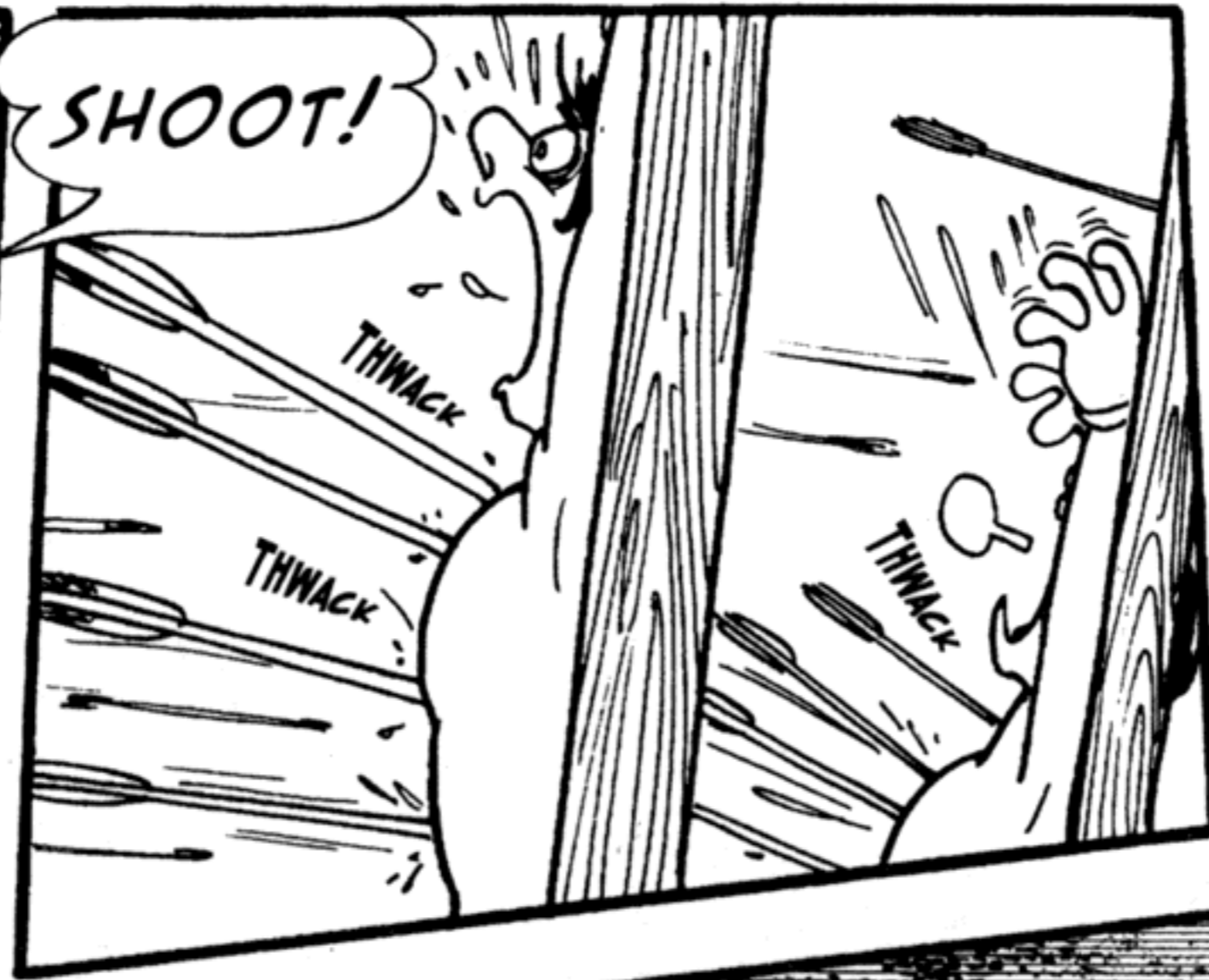
CHAPTER THREE

GENERAL BUDAI





NEXT
TEN!
AIM
BOWS!



SHOOT!

THWACK

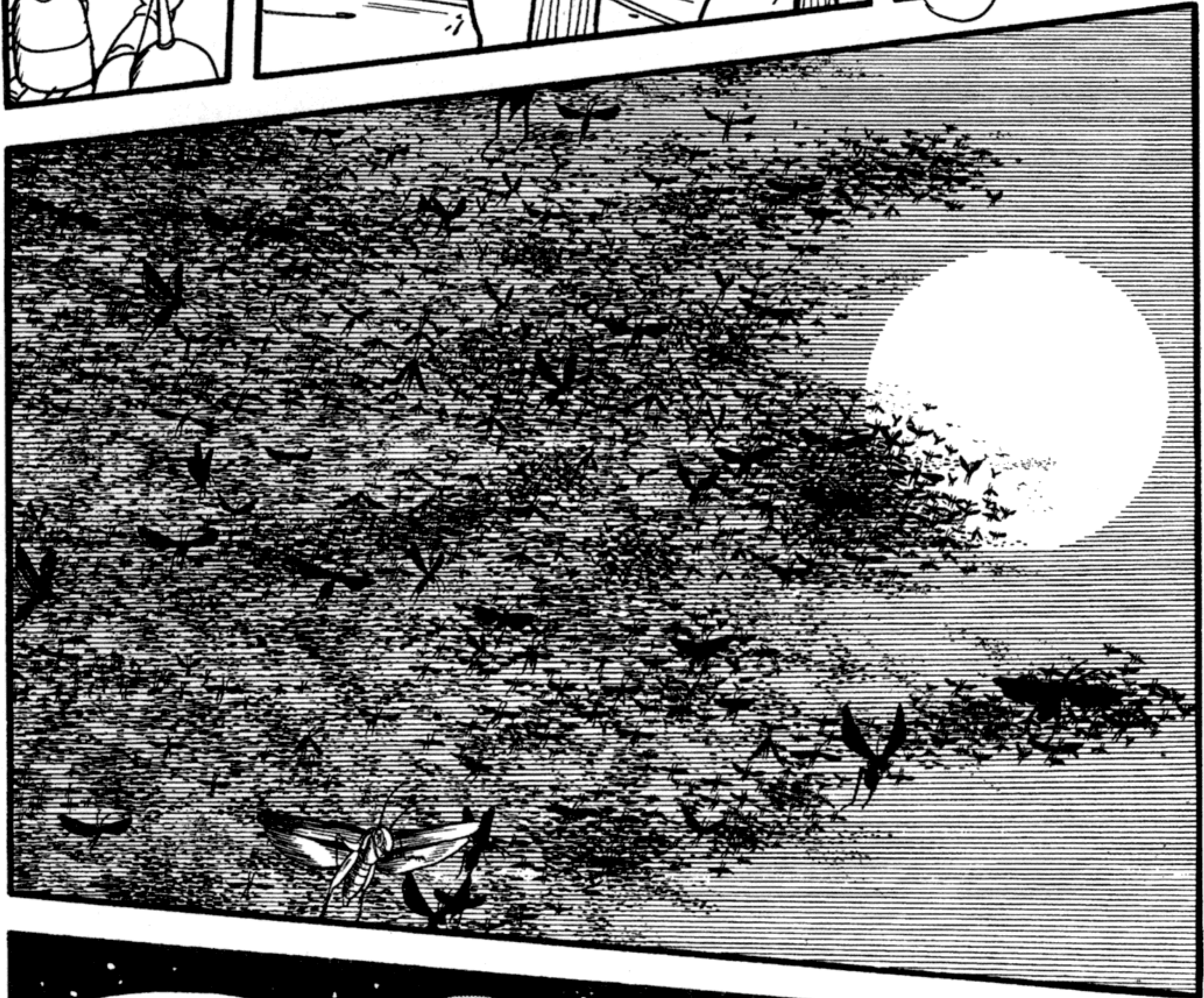
THWACK

THWACK



NEXT!
AIM!

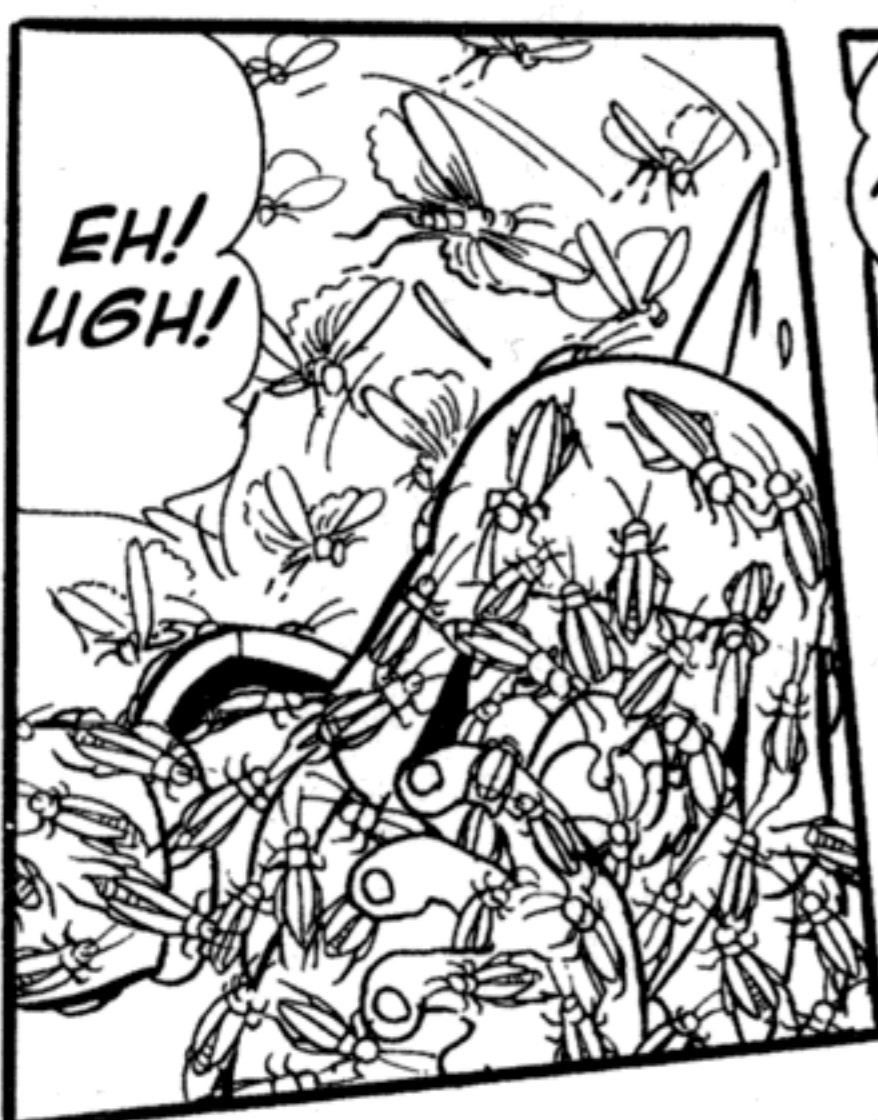
BYE
BYE

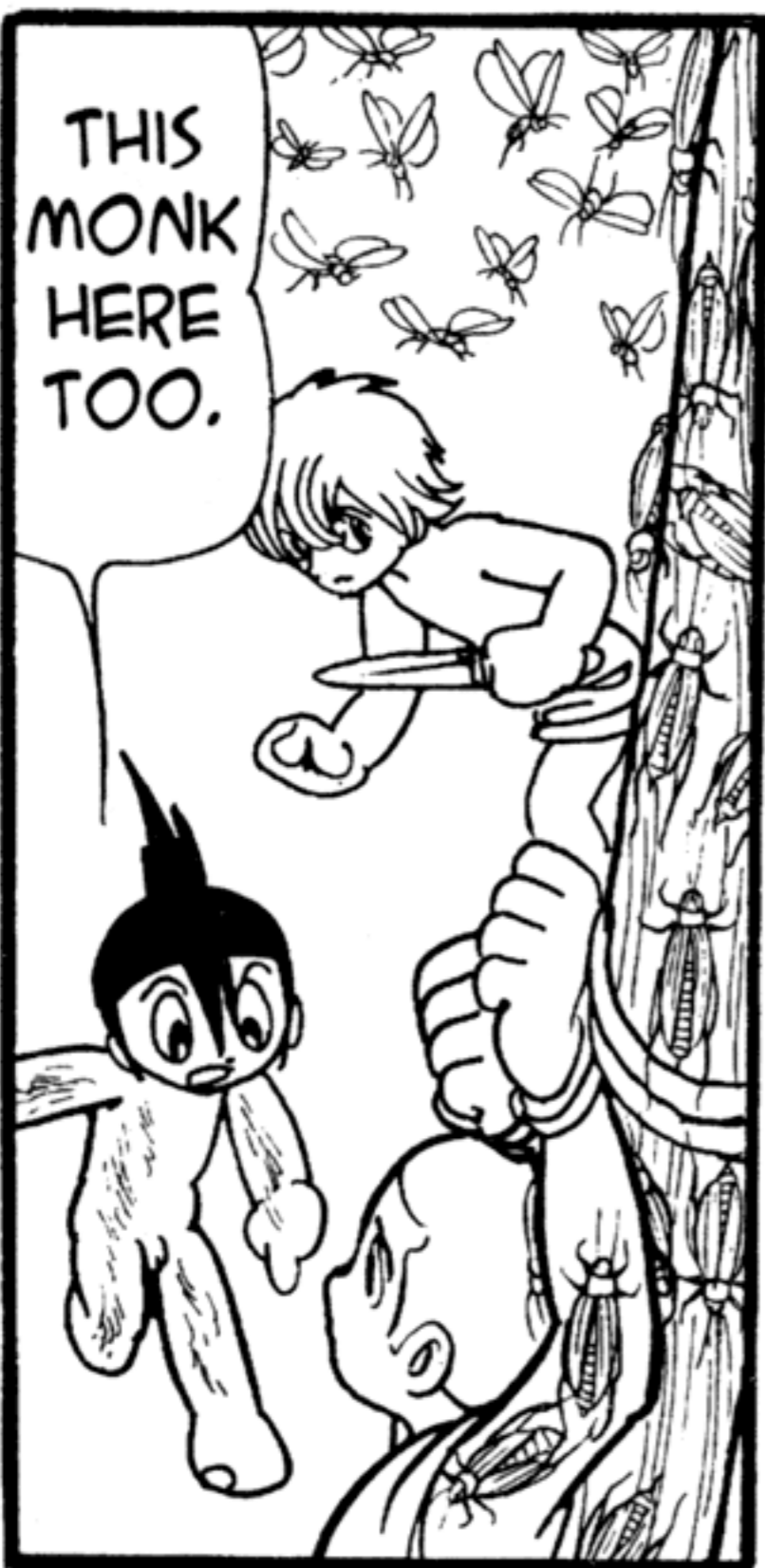
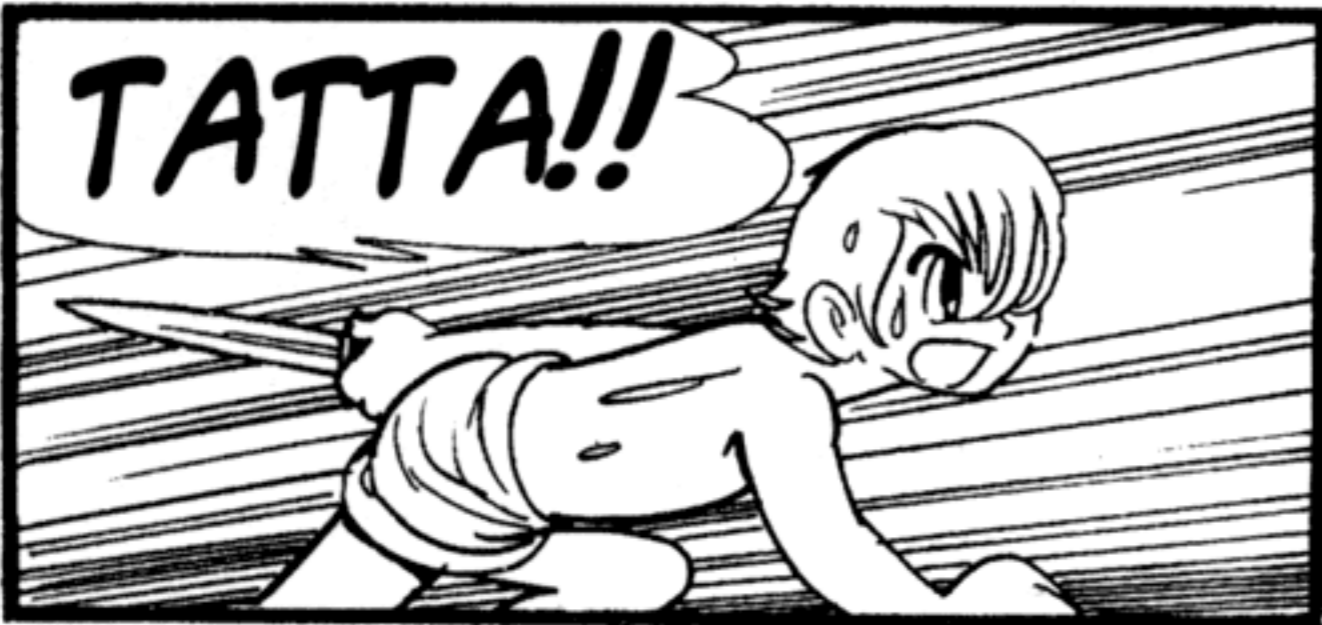


LOOK!

THE
LOCUSTS!
THEY'RE
HERE!



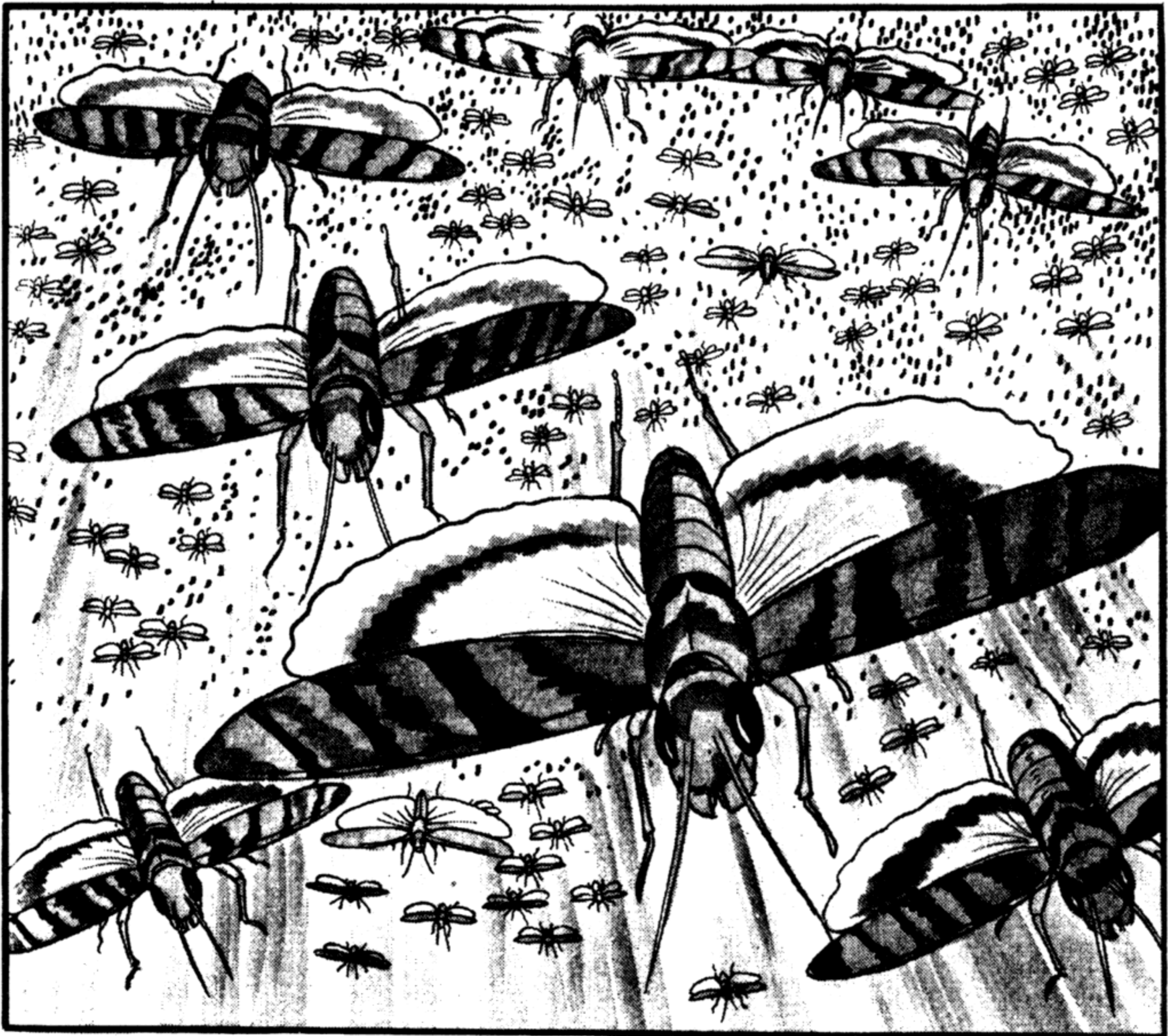
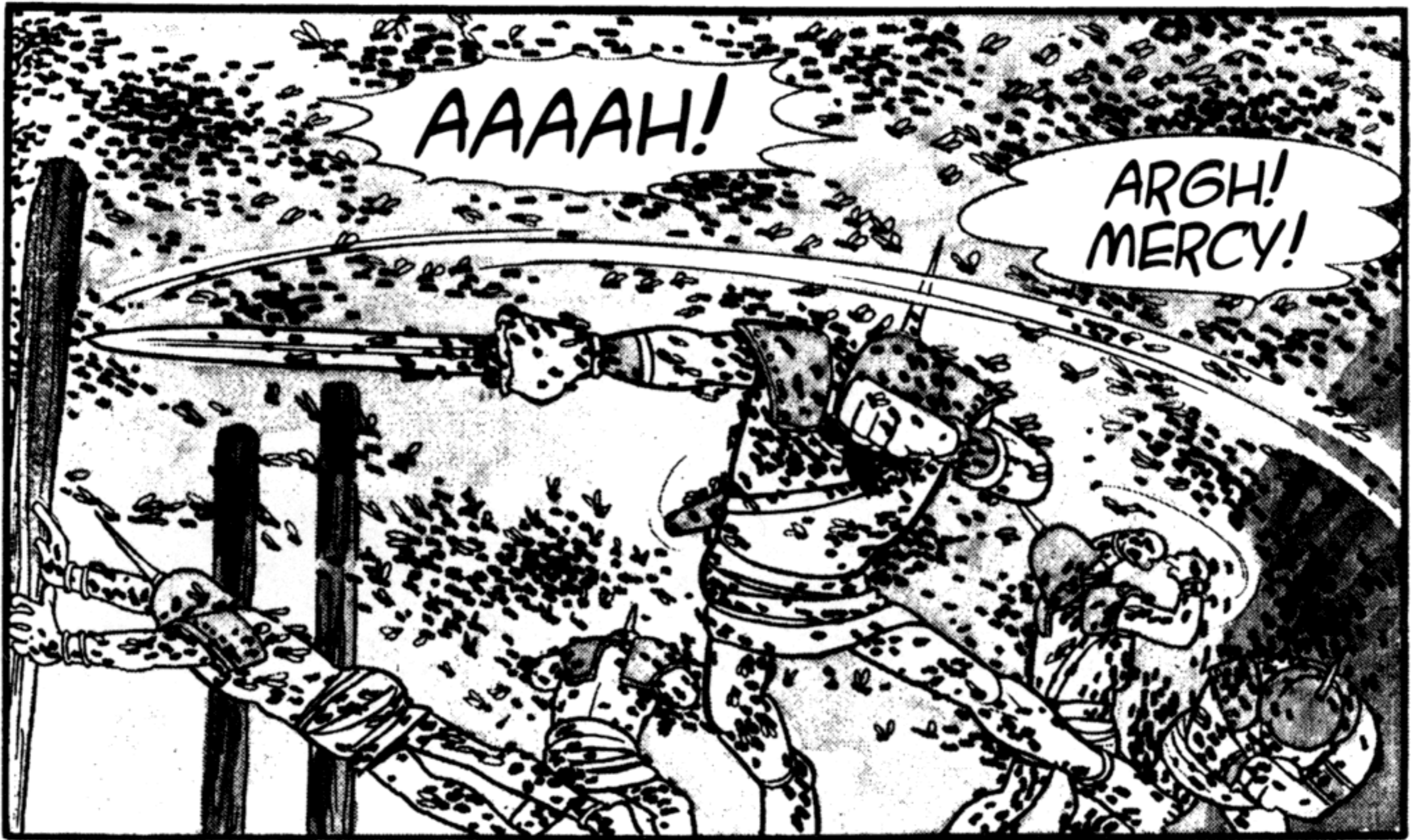







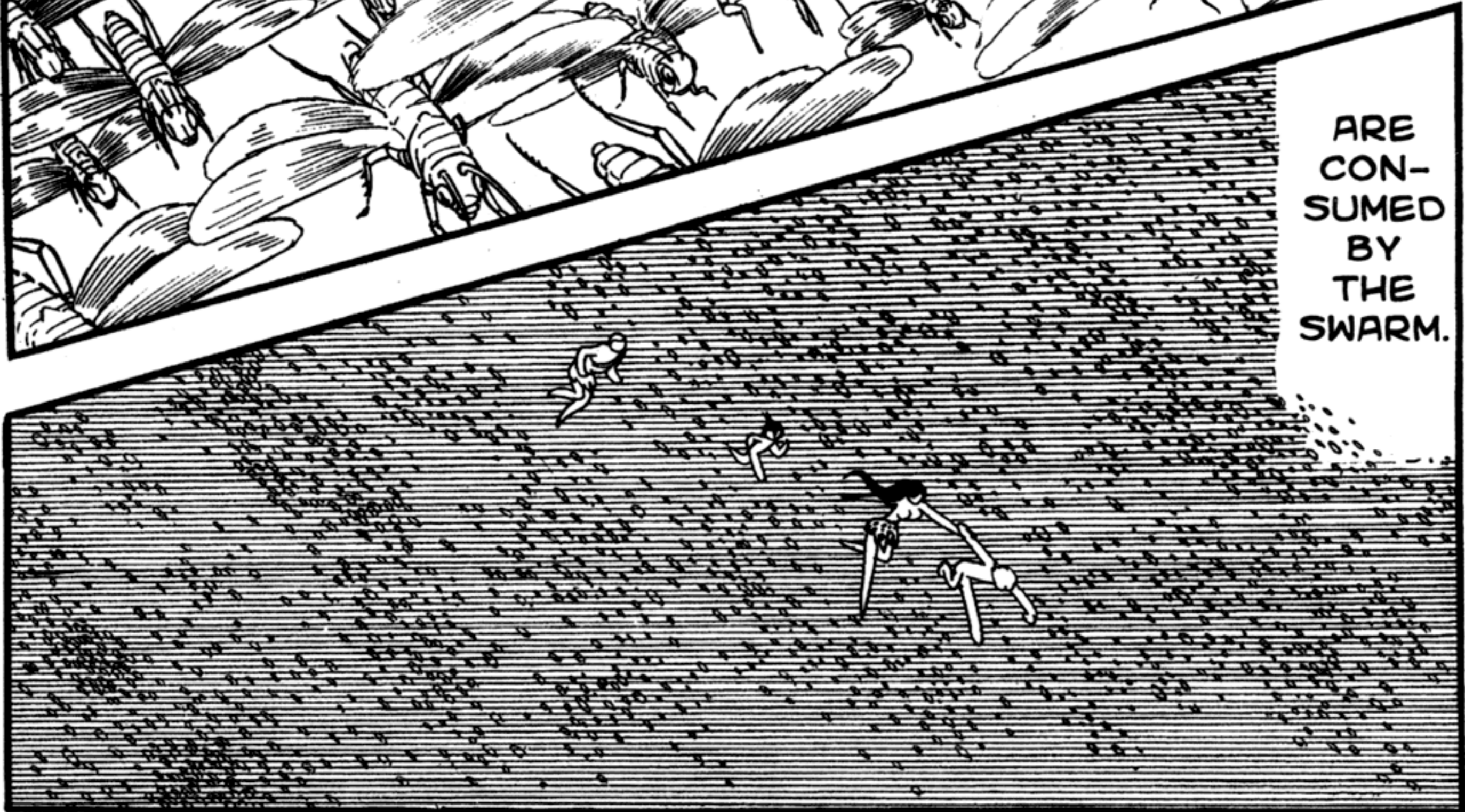
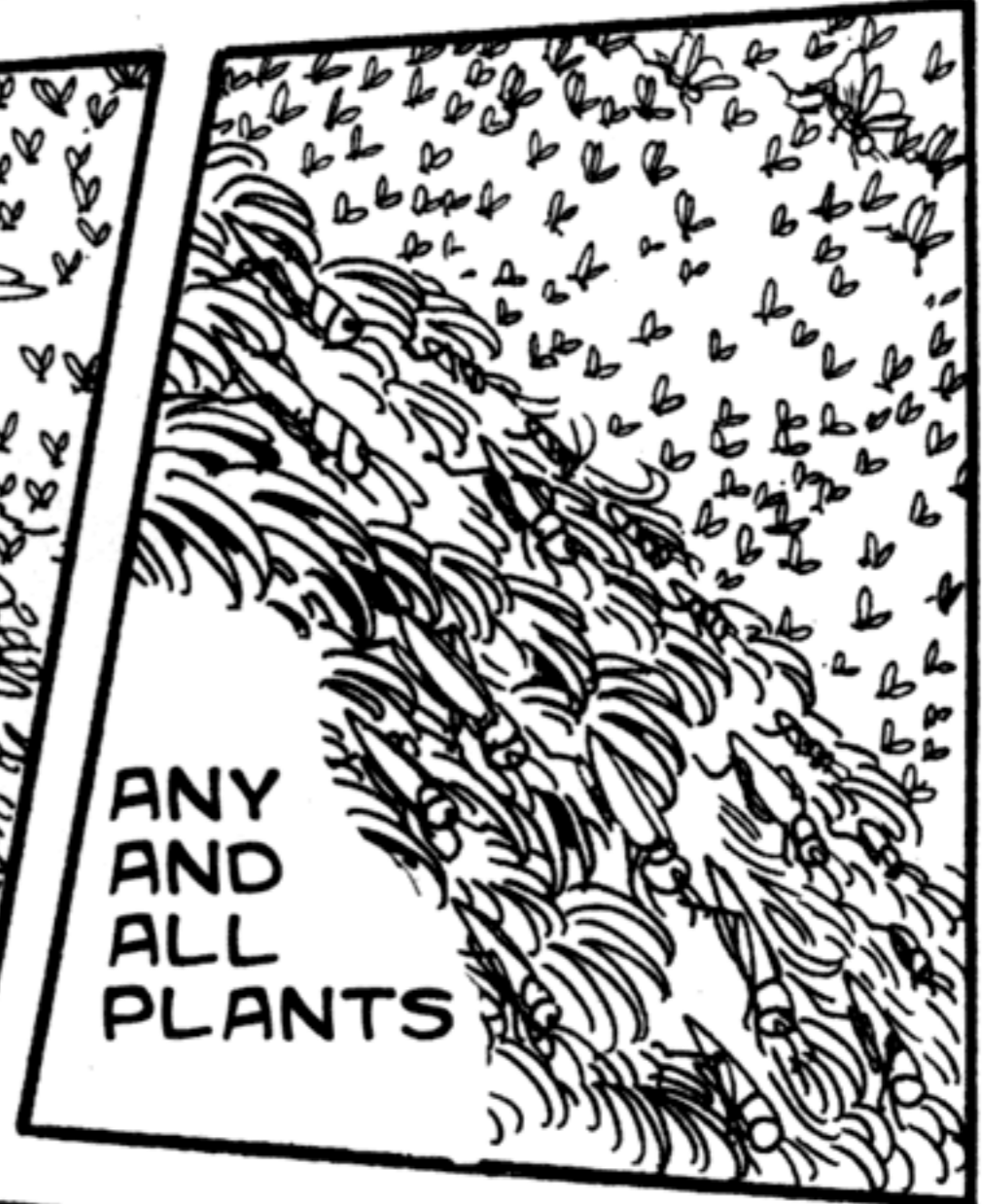
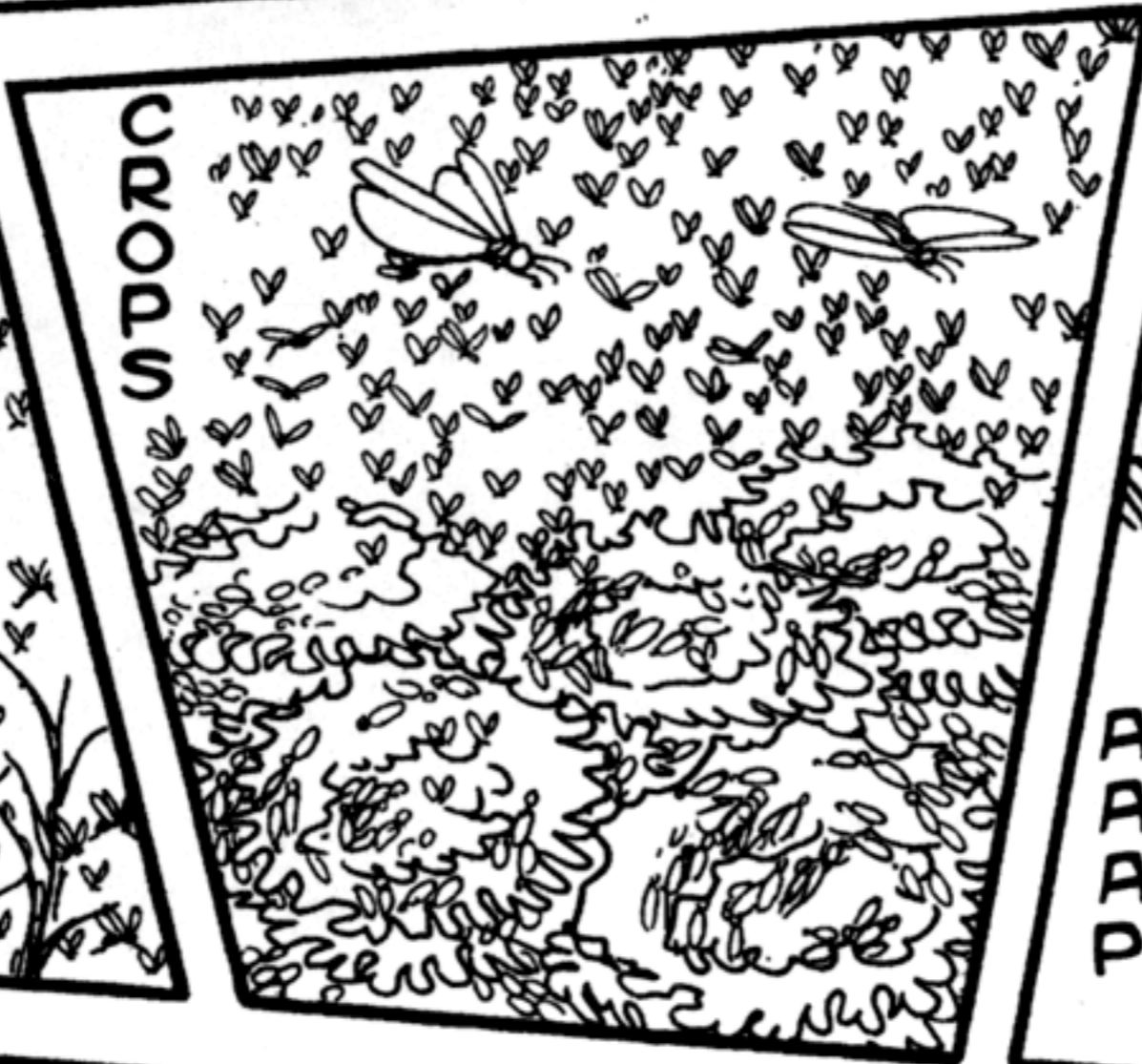
BZZ BZZ

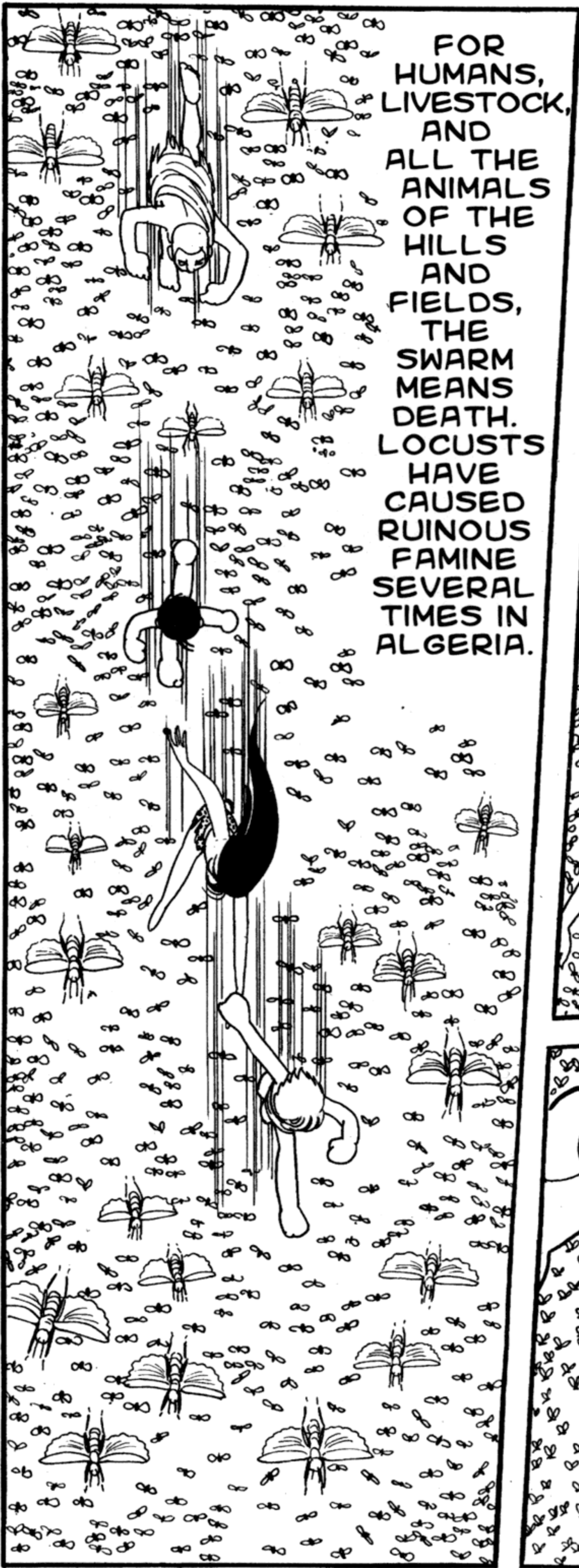
**RUN!!
THEY'RE
ON US!**





THERE EXISTS A TYPE OF
LOCUST THAT, WHEN
FOOD SOURCES RUN DRY,
TRAVEL TOGETHER IN A
SWARM TO SEEK MORE
HOSPITABLE TURF.
ON A CERTAIN SIGNAL,
THE SWARM RISES UP,
CREATING A CLOUD-
LIKE MASS SO BIG IT
NEARLY OBLITERATES
THE SUN. THEY NUMBER
SO MANY THAT THE
MIGRATION TAKES
SEVERAL DAYS. WHEN
THEY FINALLY DESCEND
ON PLANT LIFE FAR AWAY,
IT IS AS IF A STORM
HAS COME TO LIFE.
(FROM J.H. FABRE'S
"THE STORY OF SCIENCE.")

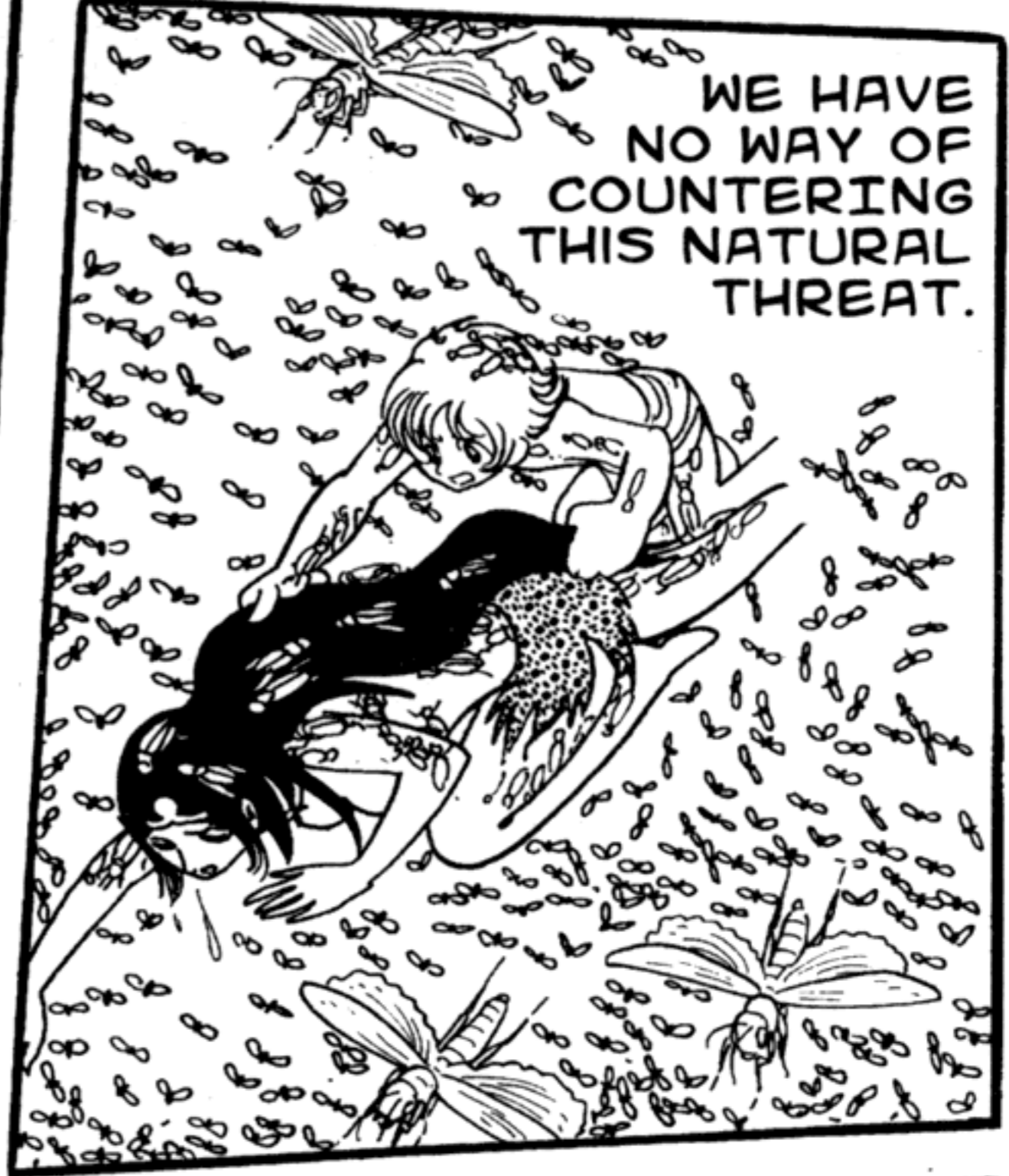




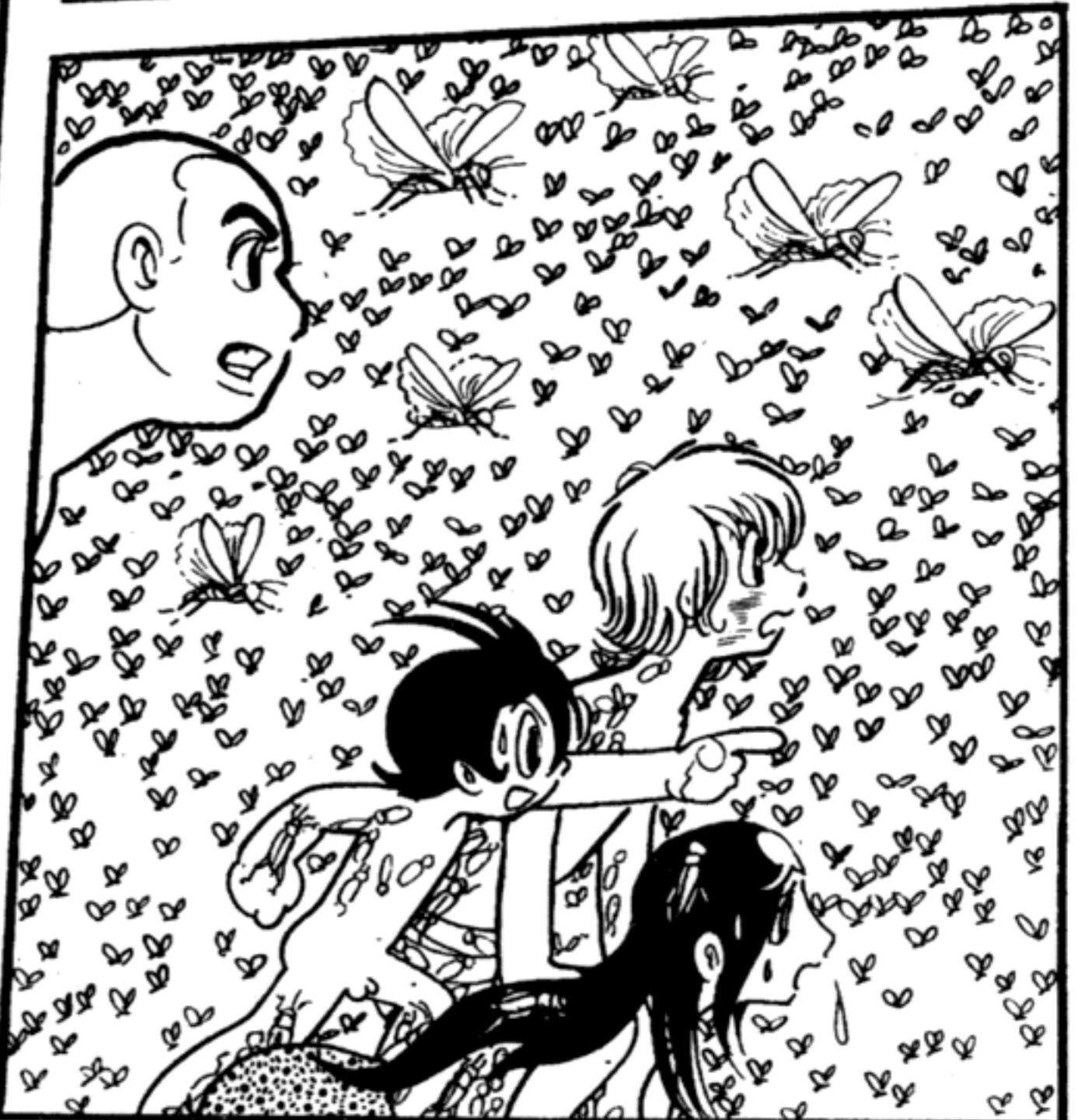
FOR HUMANS, LIVESTOCK, AND ALL THE ANIMALS OF THE HILLS AND FIELDS, THE SWARM MEANS DEATH. LOCUSTS HAVE CAUSED RUINOUS FAMINE SEVERAL TIMES IN ALGERIA.



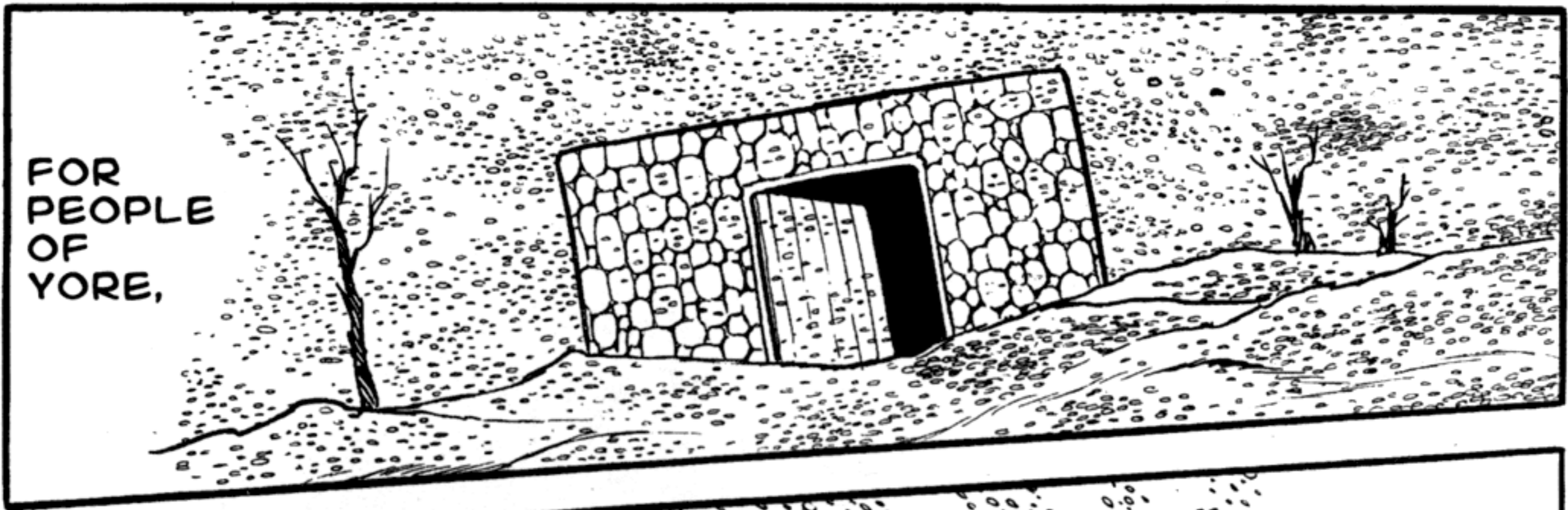
EVEN TODAY, IN THE ERA OF SCIENCE,



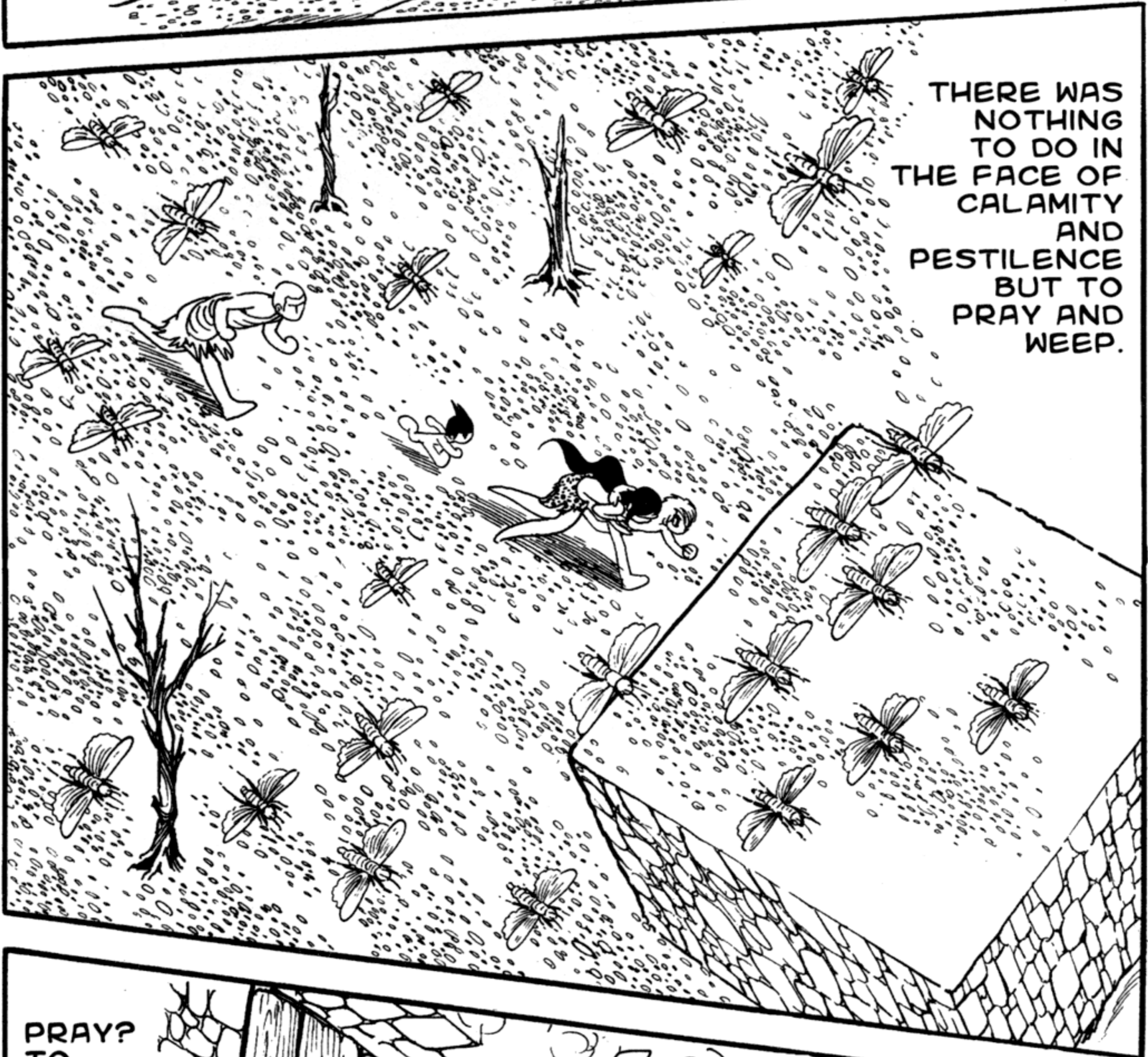
WE HAVE NO WAY OF COUNTERING THIS NATURAL THREAT.



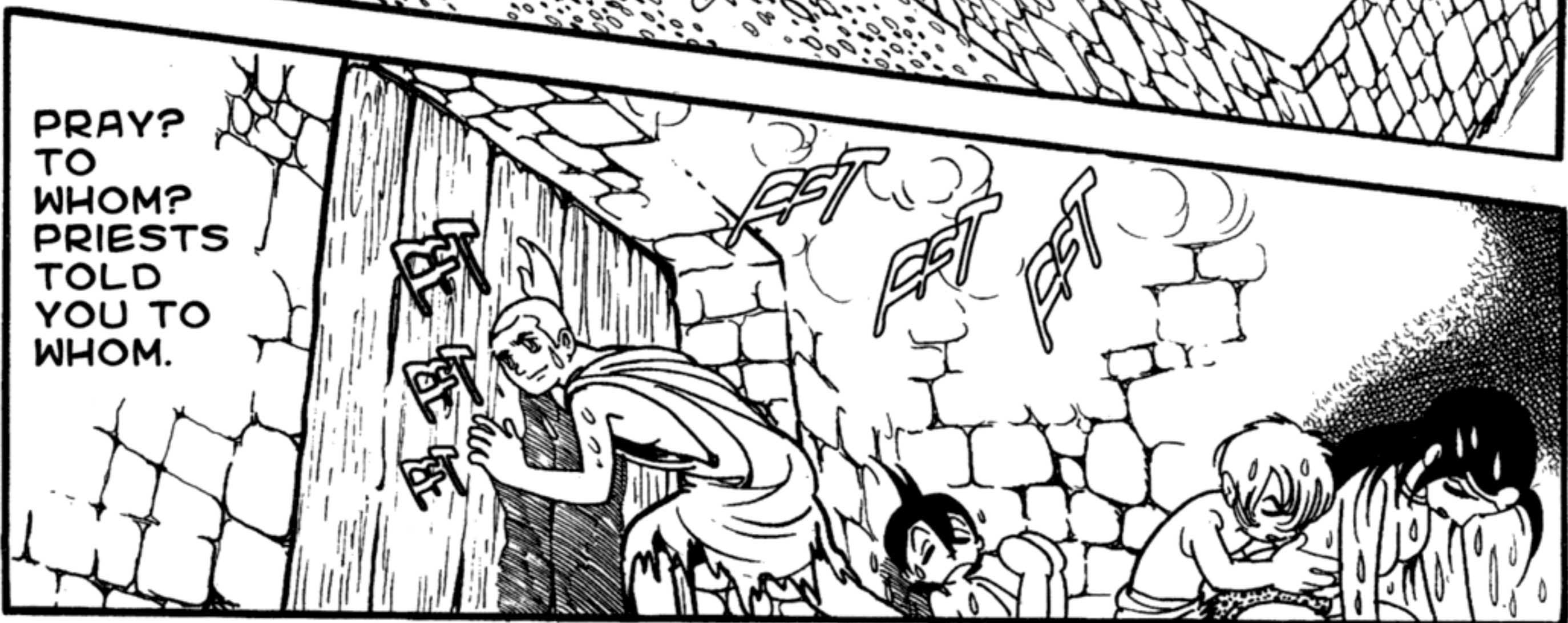
FOR
PEOPLE
OF
YORE,

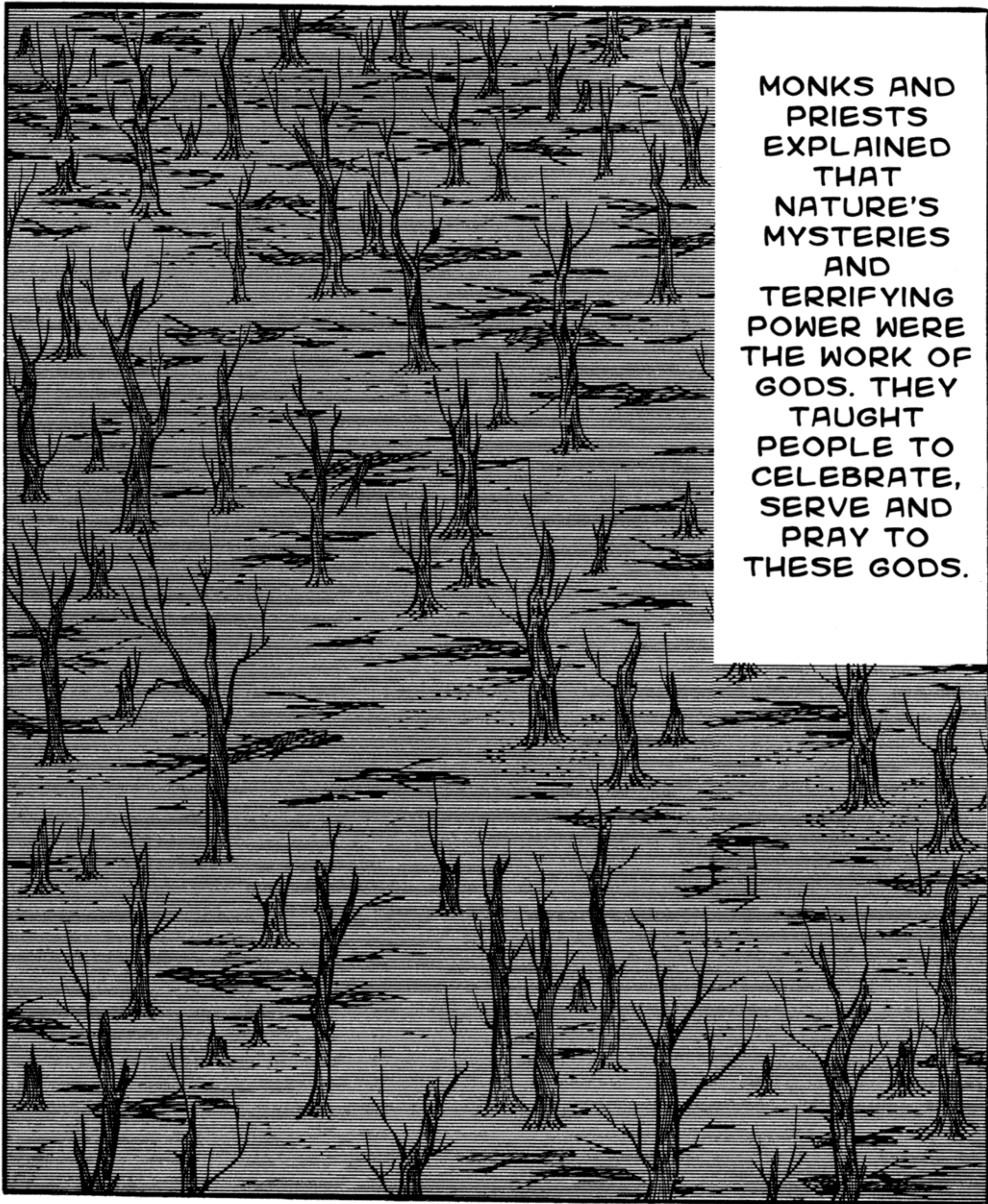


THERE WAS
NOTHING
TO DO IN
THE FACE OF
CALAMITY
AND
PESTILENCE
BUT TO
PRAY AND
WEEP.



PRAY?
TO
WHOM?
PRIESTS
TOLD
YOU TO
WHOM.

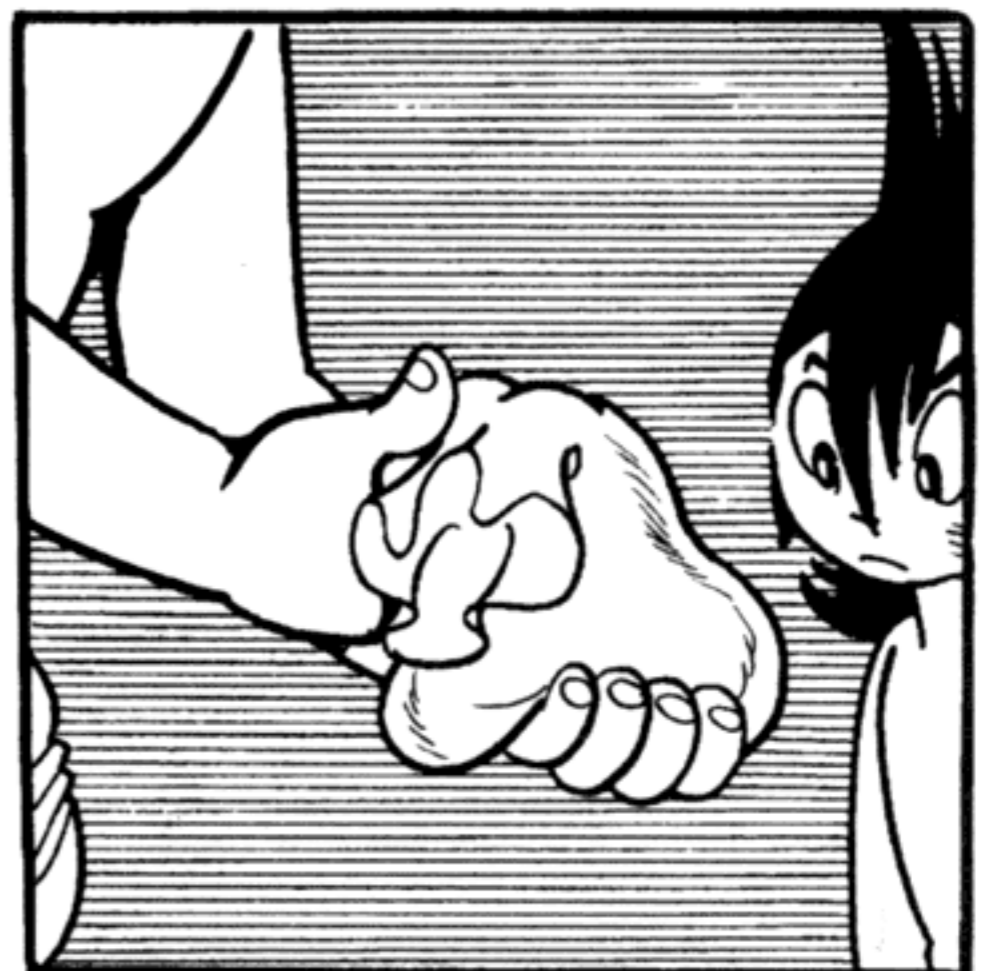
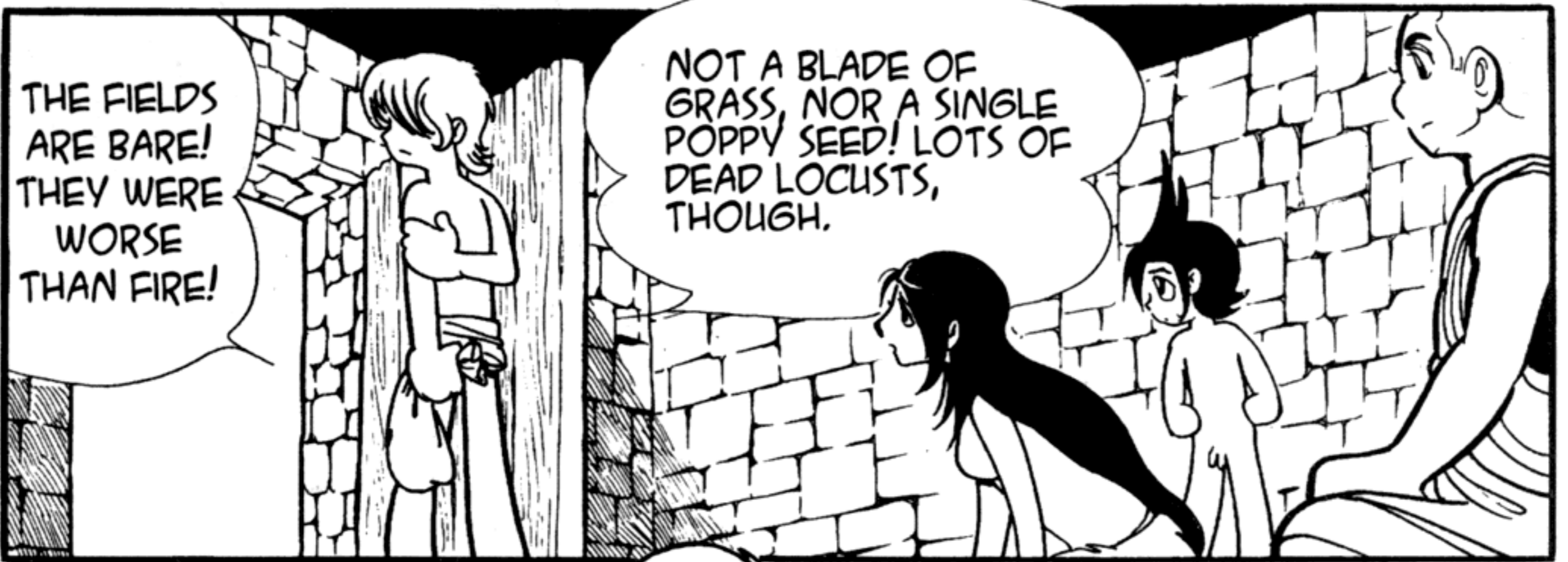
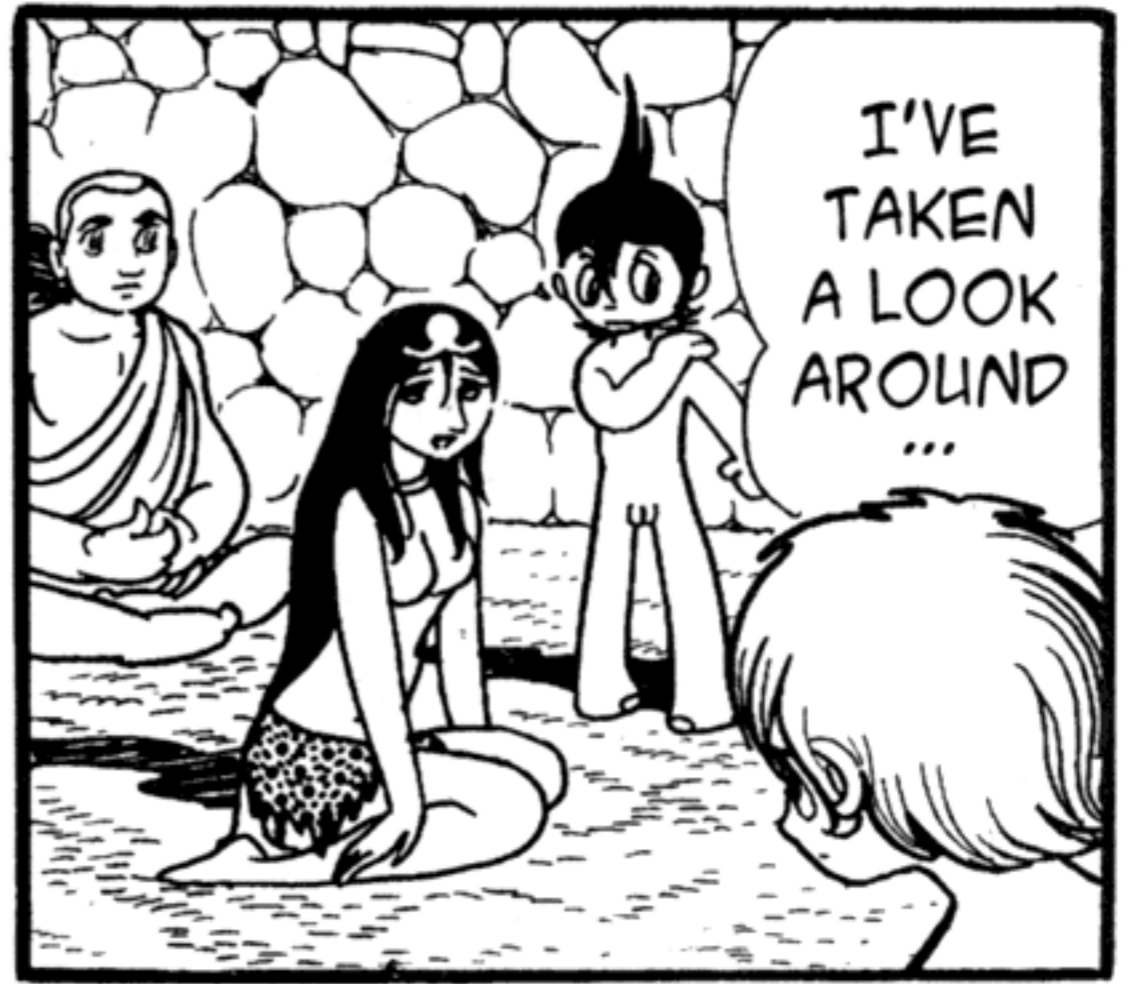
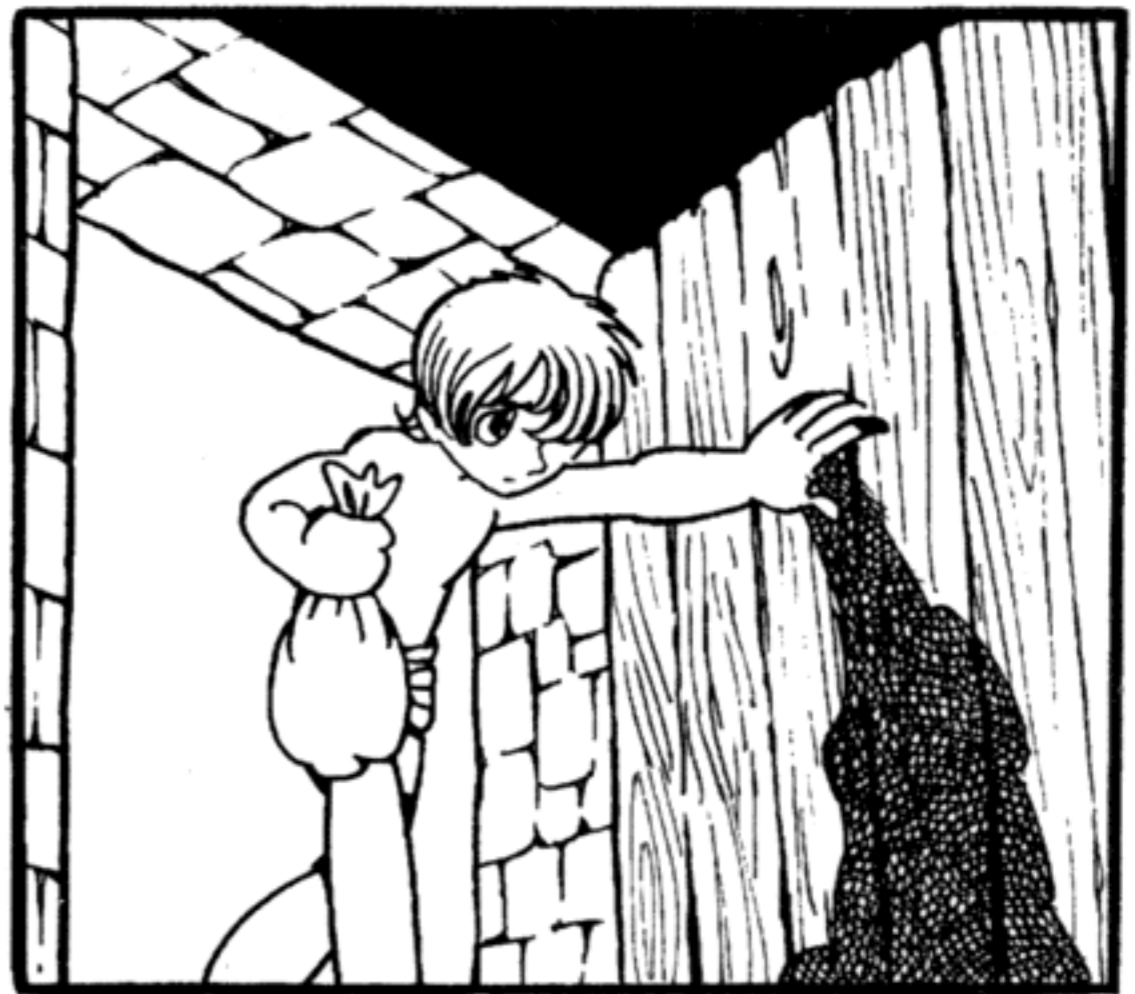
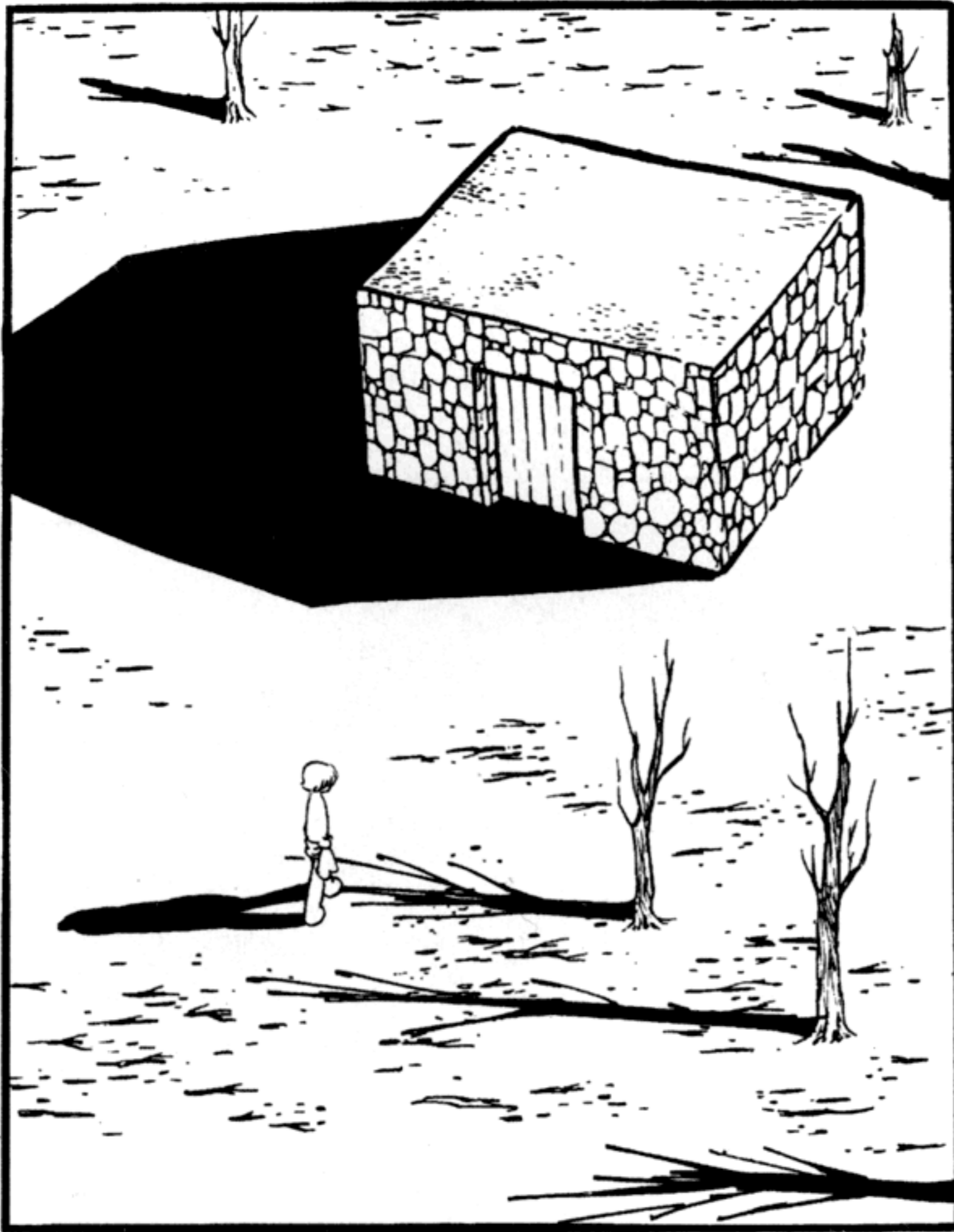


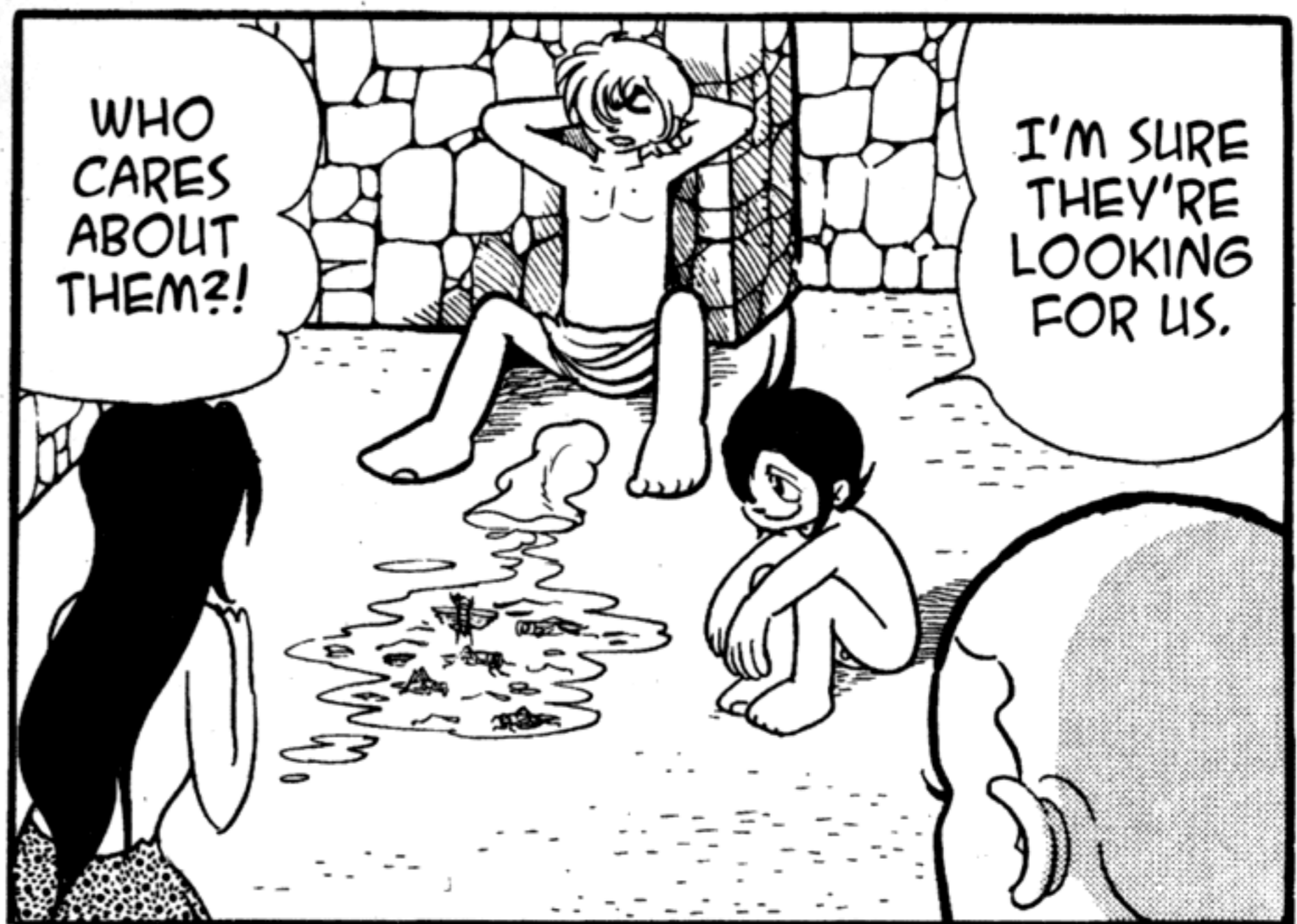
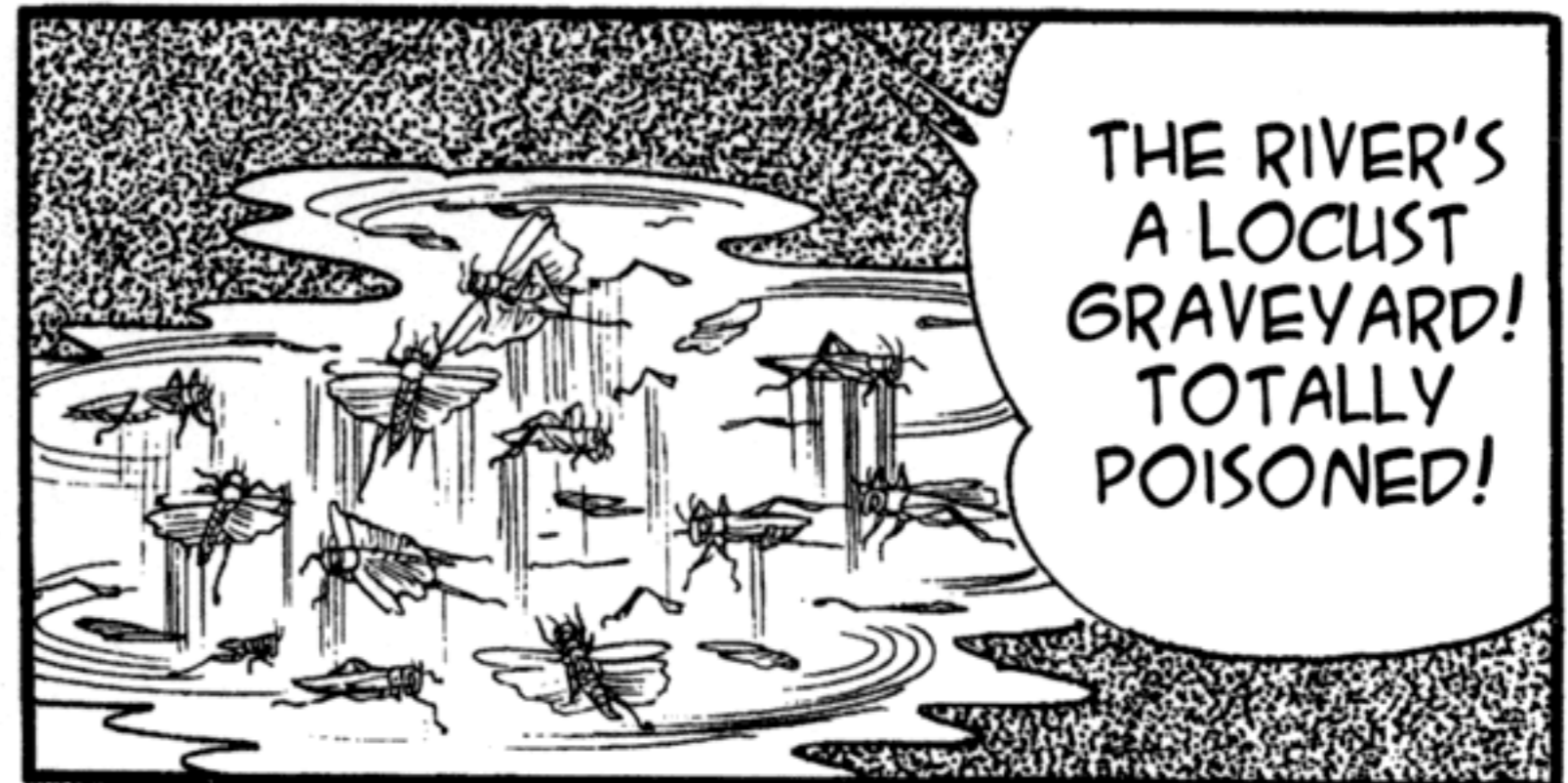
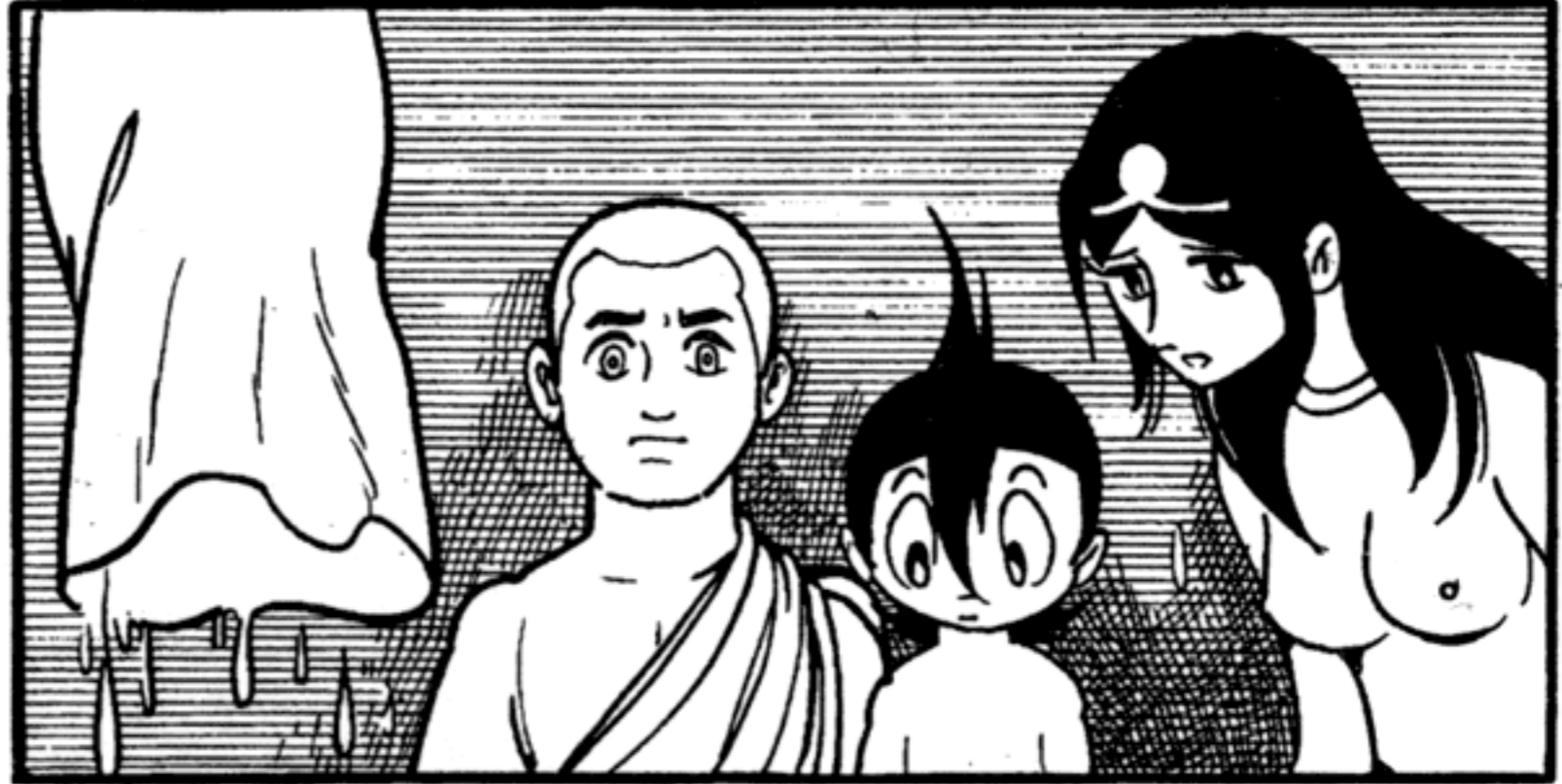


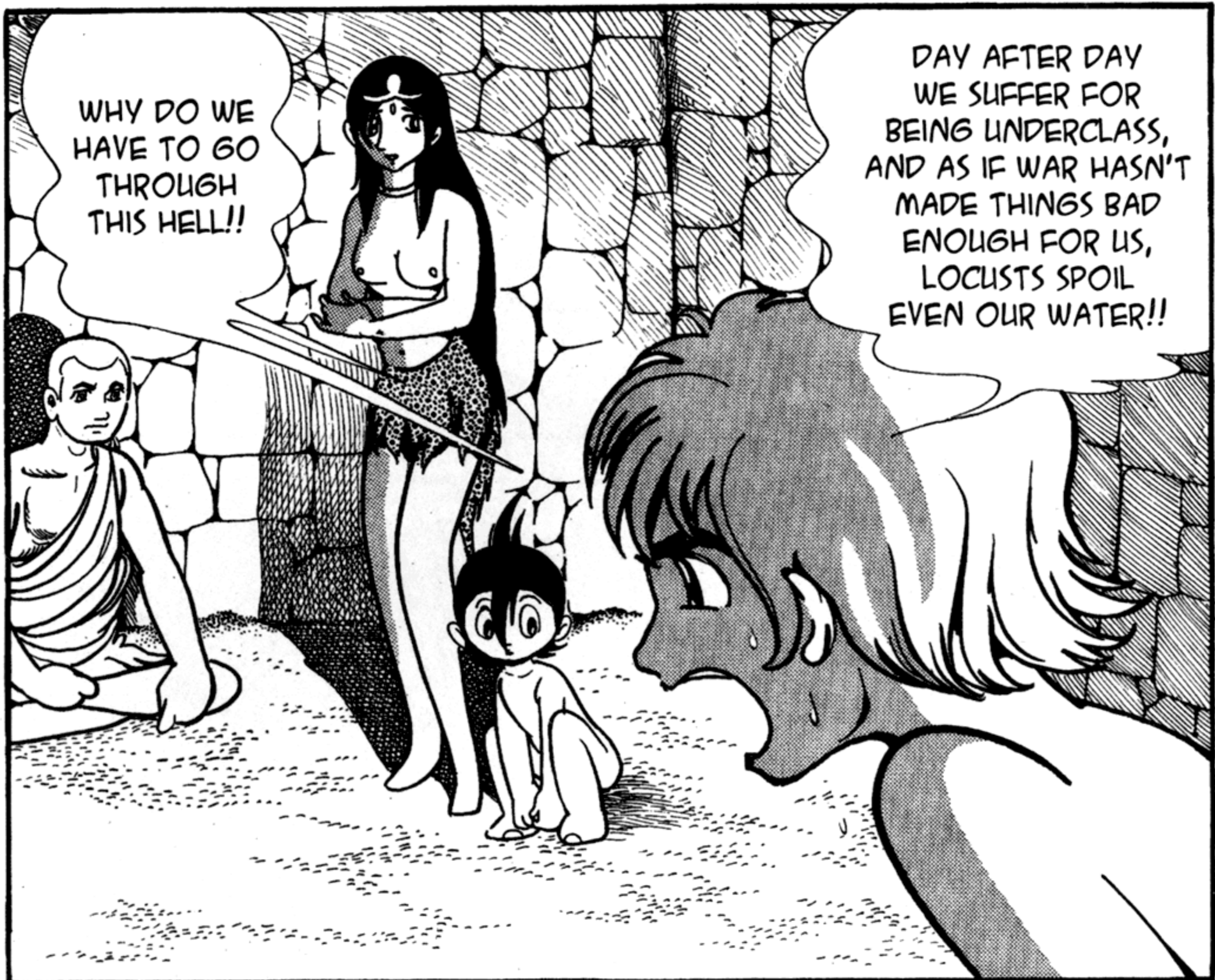
MONKS AND
PRIESTS
EXPLAINED
THAT
NATURE'S
MYSTERIES
AND
TERRIFYING
POWER WERE
THE WORK OF
GODS. THEY
TAUGHT
PEOPLE TO
CELEBRATE,
SERVE AND
PRAY TO
THESE GODS.



BUT DID
THAT HELP
THEM
ESCAPE
MISFORTUNE?

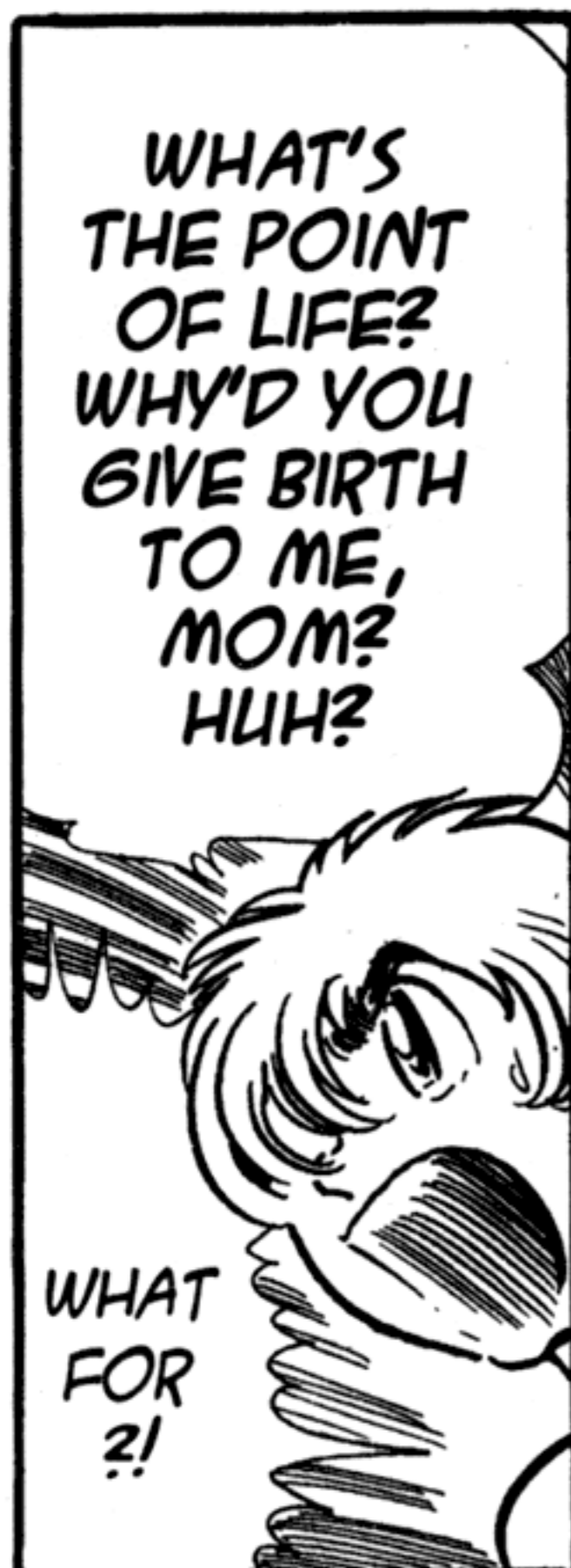






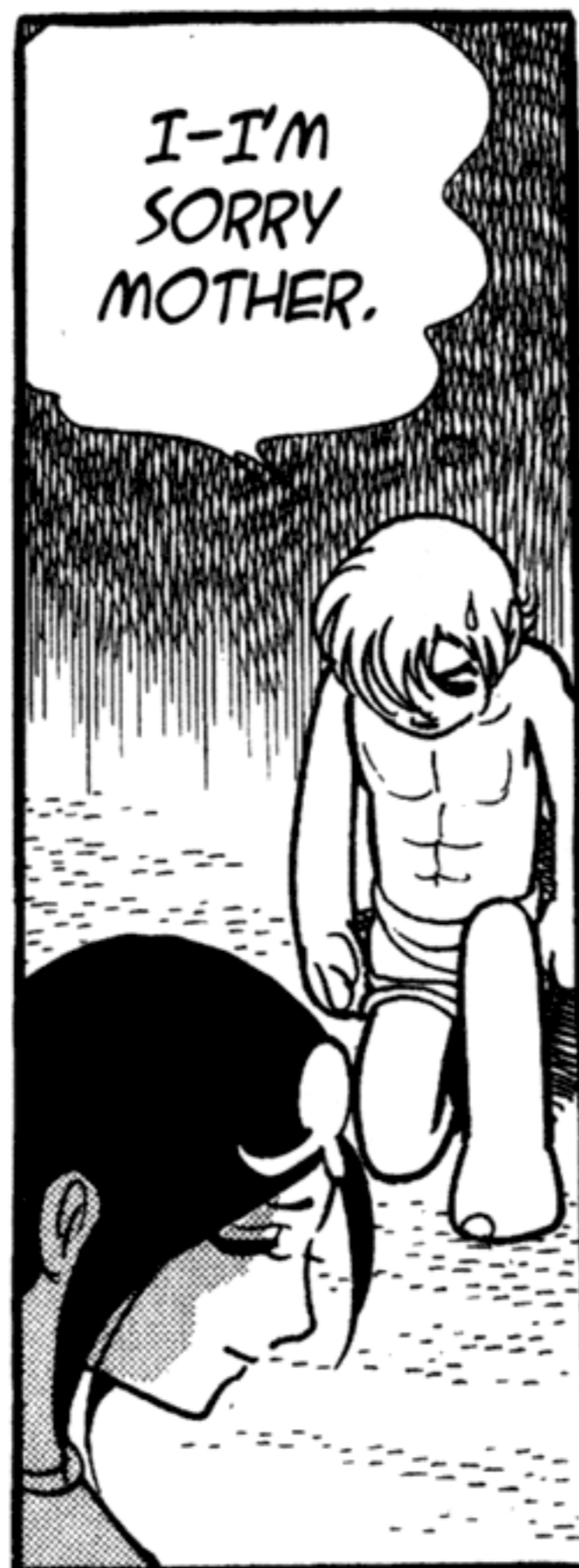
WHY DO WE
HAVE TO GO
THROUGH
THIS HELL!!

DAY AFTER DAY
WE SUFFER FOR
BEING UNDERCLASS,
AND AS IF WAR HASN'T
MADE THINGS BAD
ENOUGH FOR US,
LOCUSTS SPOIL
EVEN OUR WATER!!



WHAT'S
THE POINT
OF LIFE?
WHY'D YOU
GIVE BIRTH
TO ME,
MOM?
HUH?

WHAT
FOR
?!



I-I'M
SORRY
MOTHER.

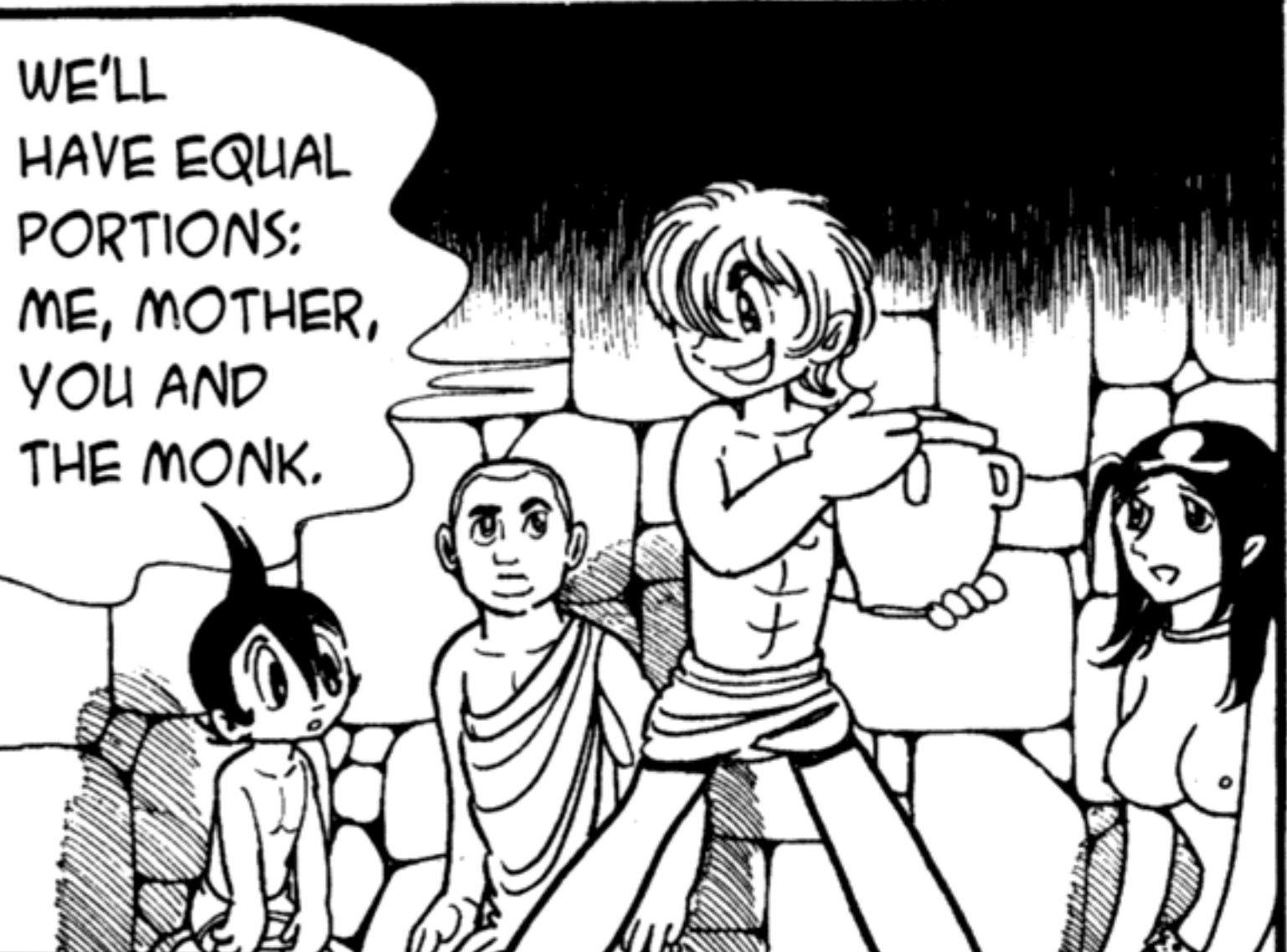
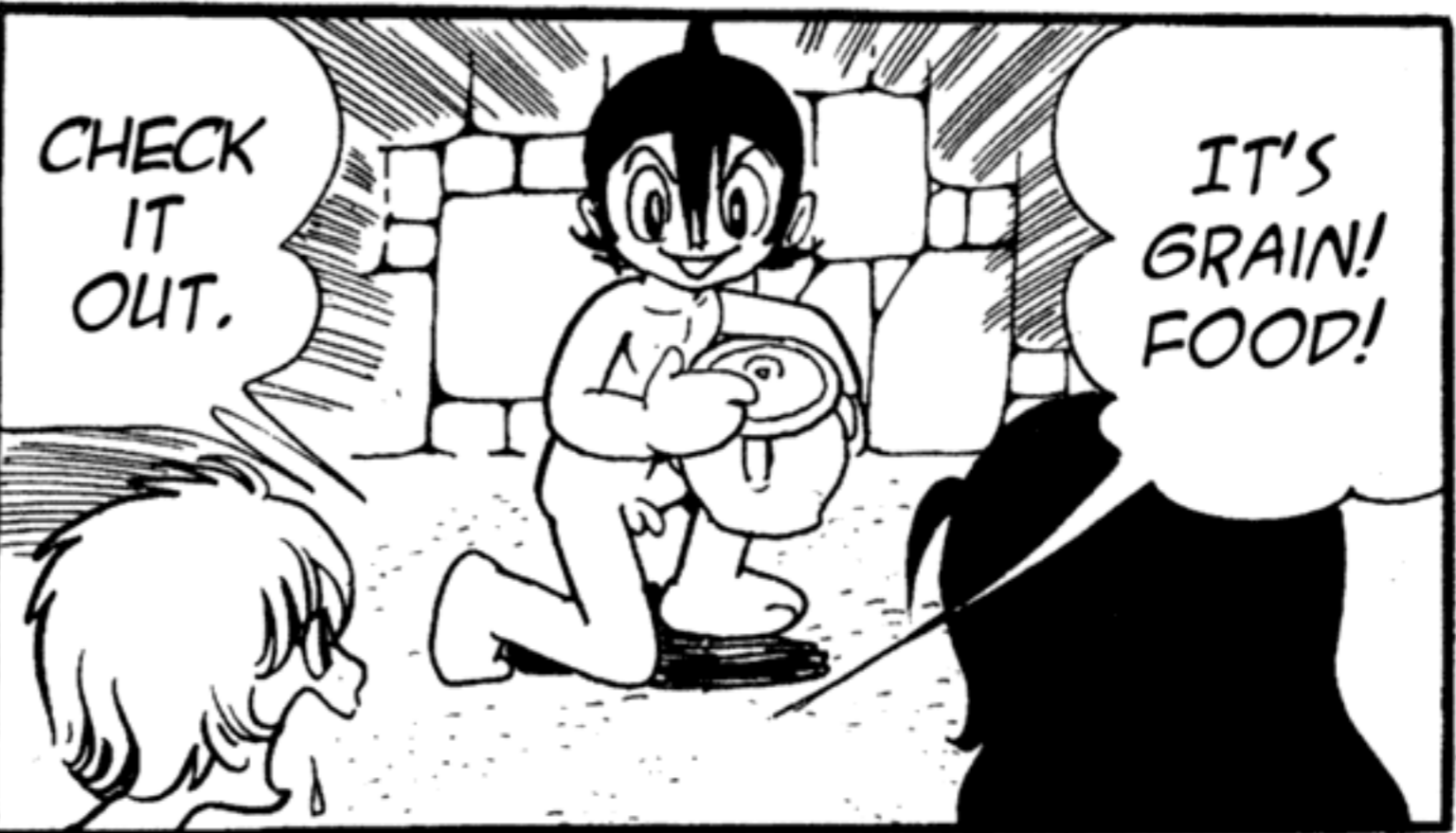
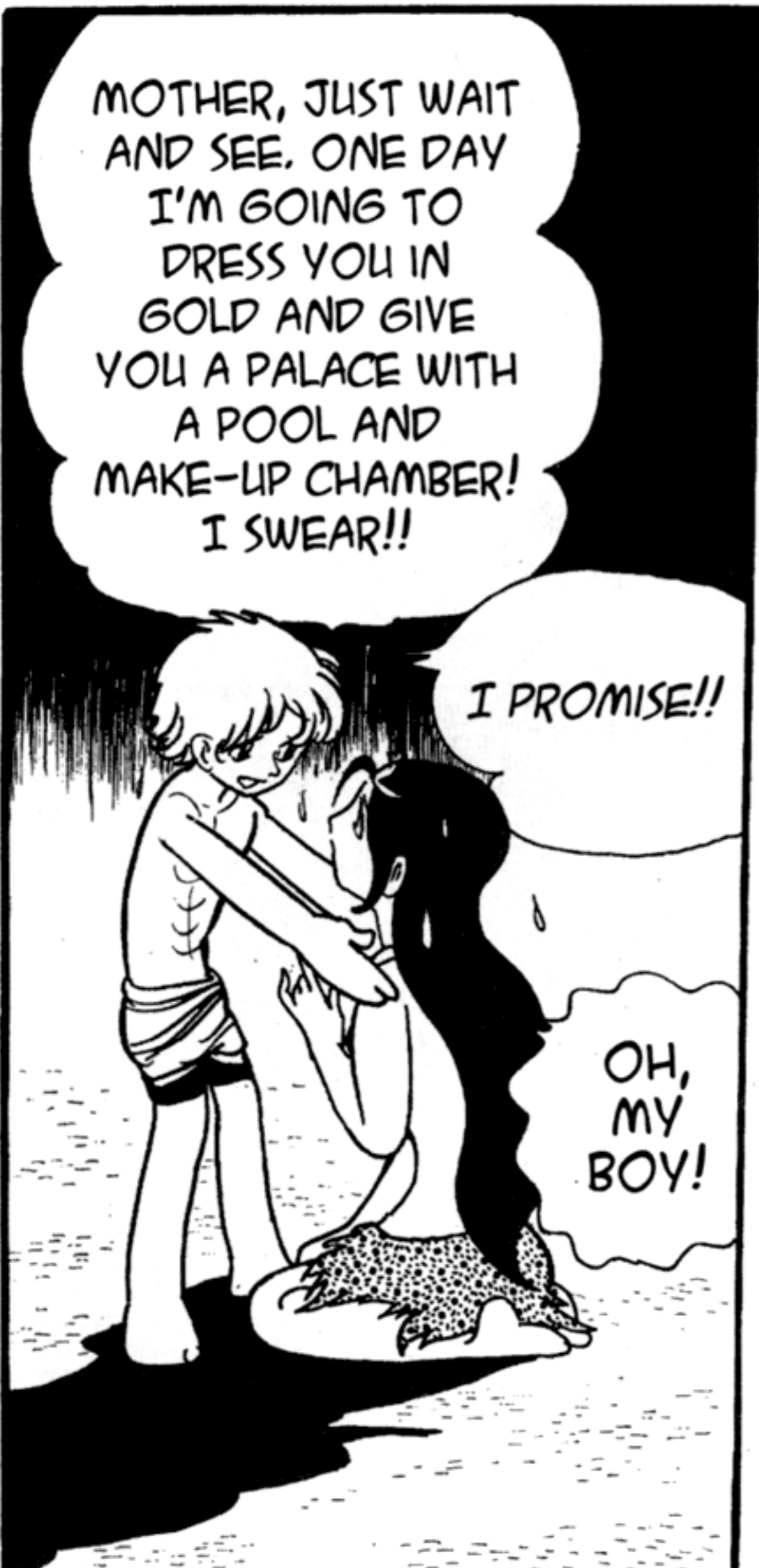


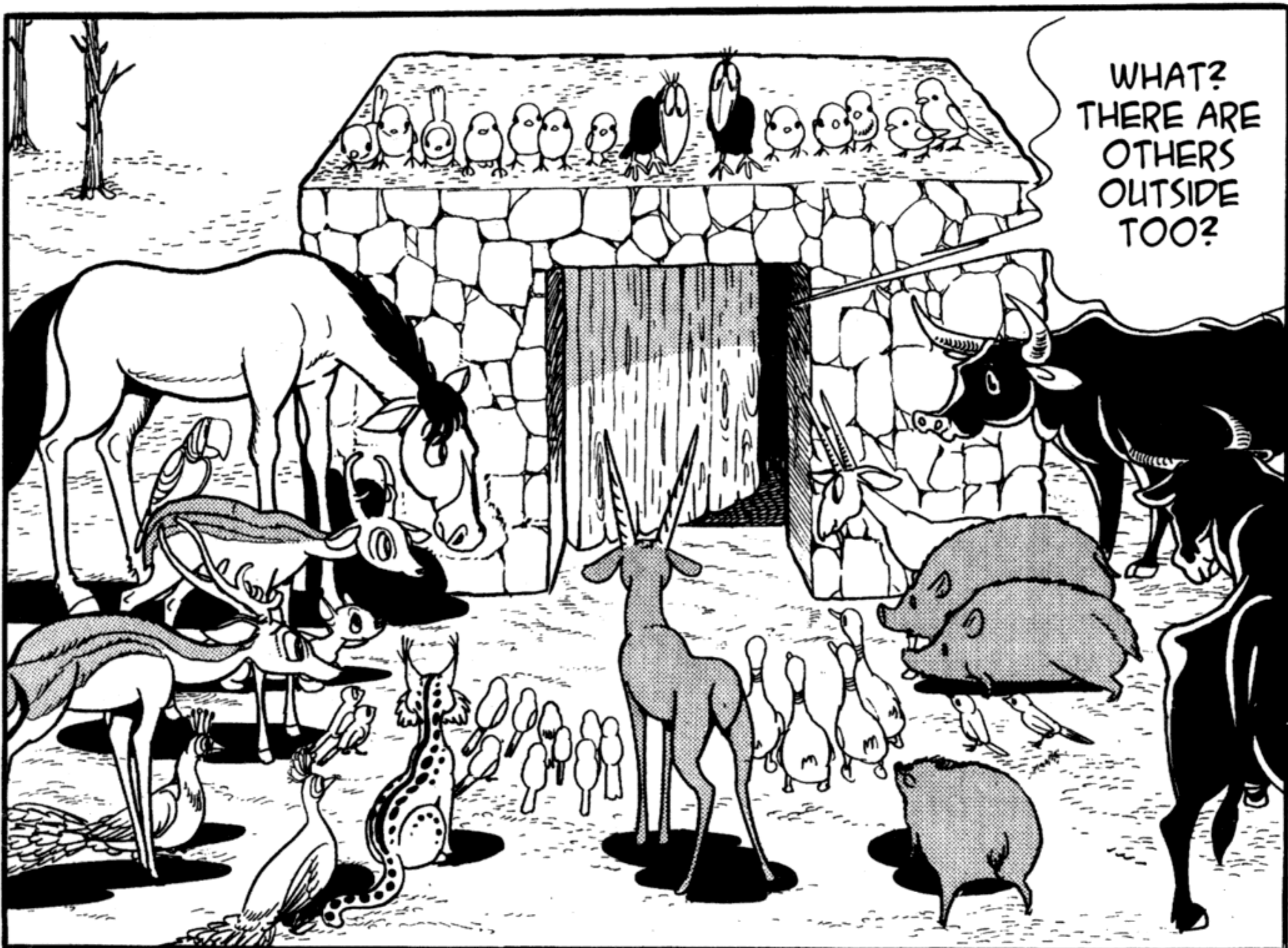
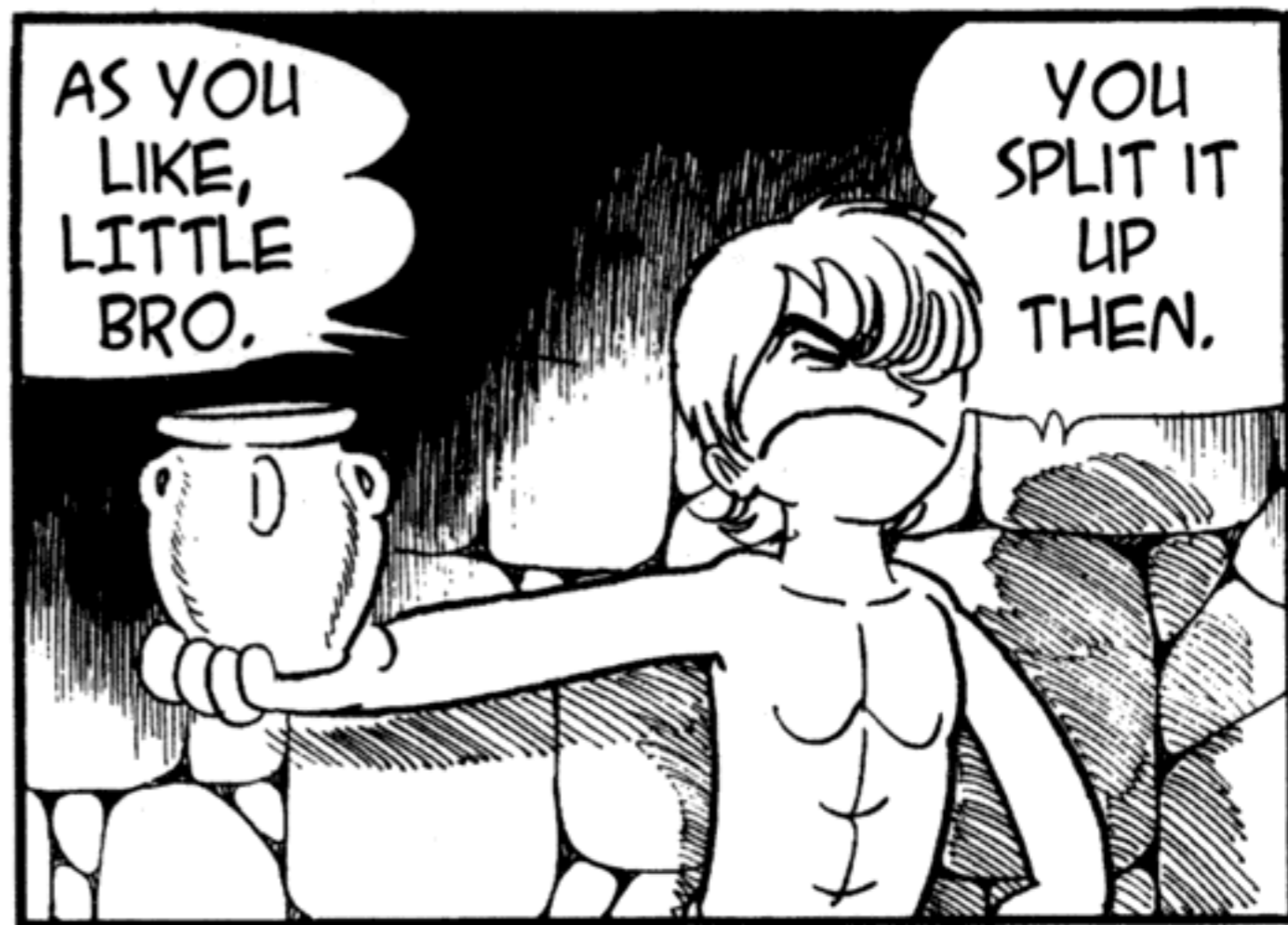
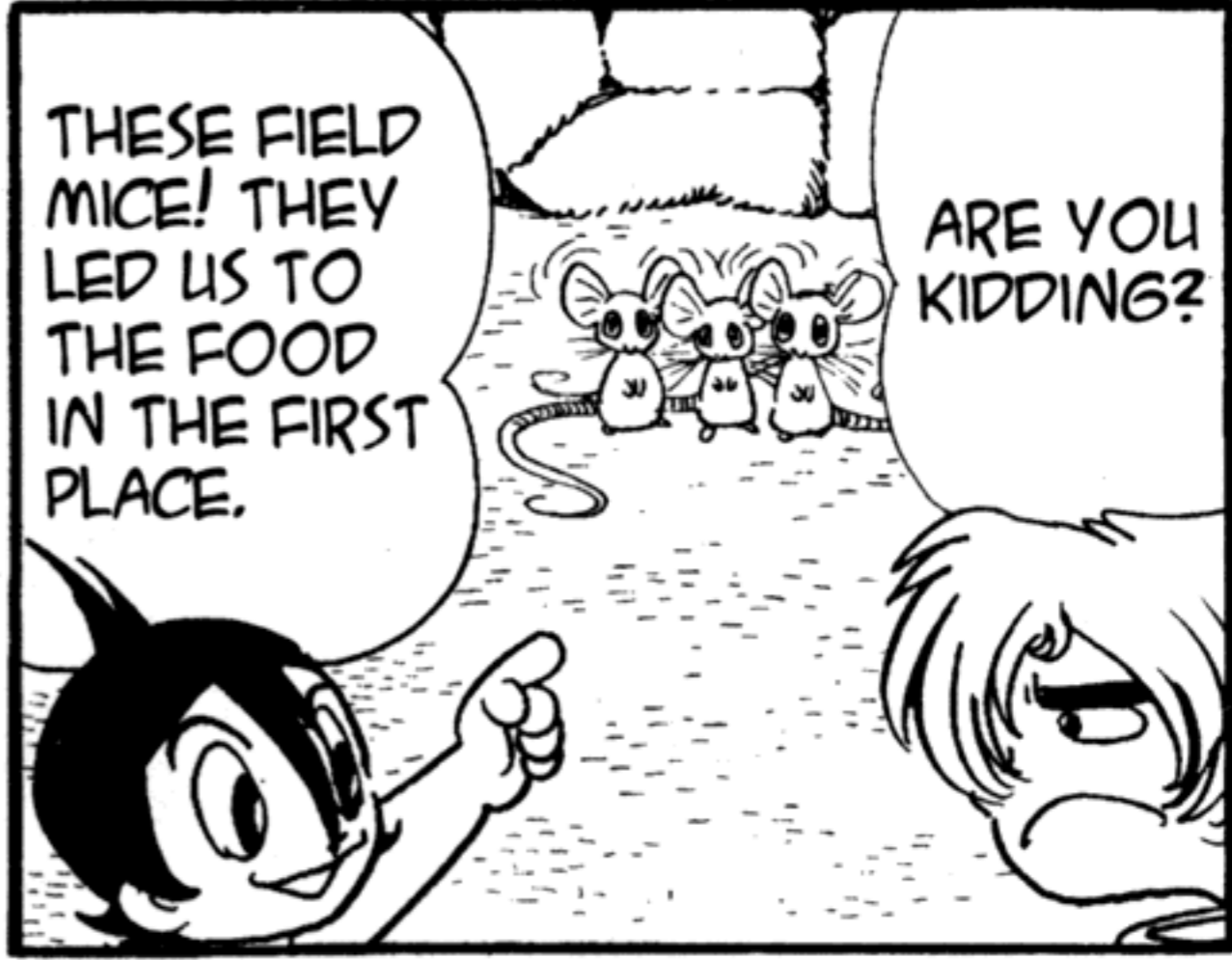
MY
DEAR
BOY.

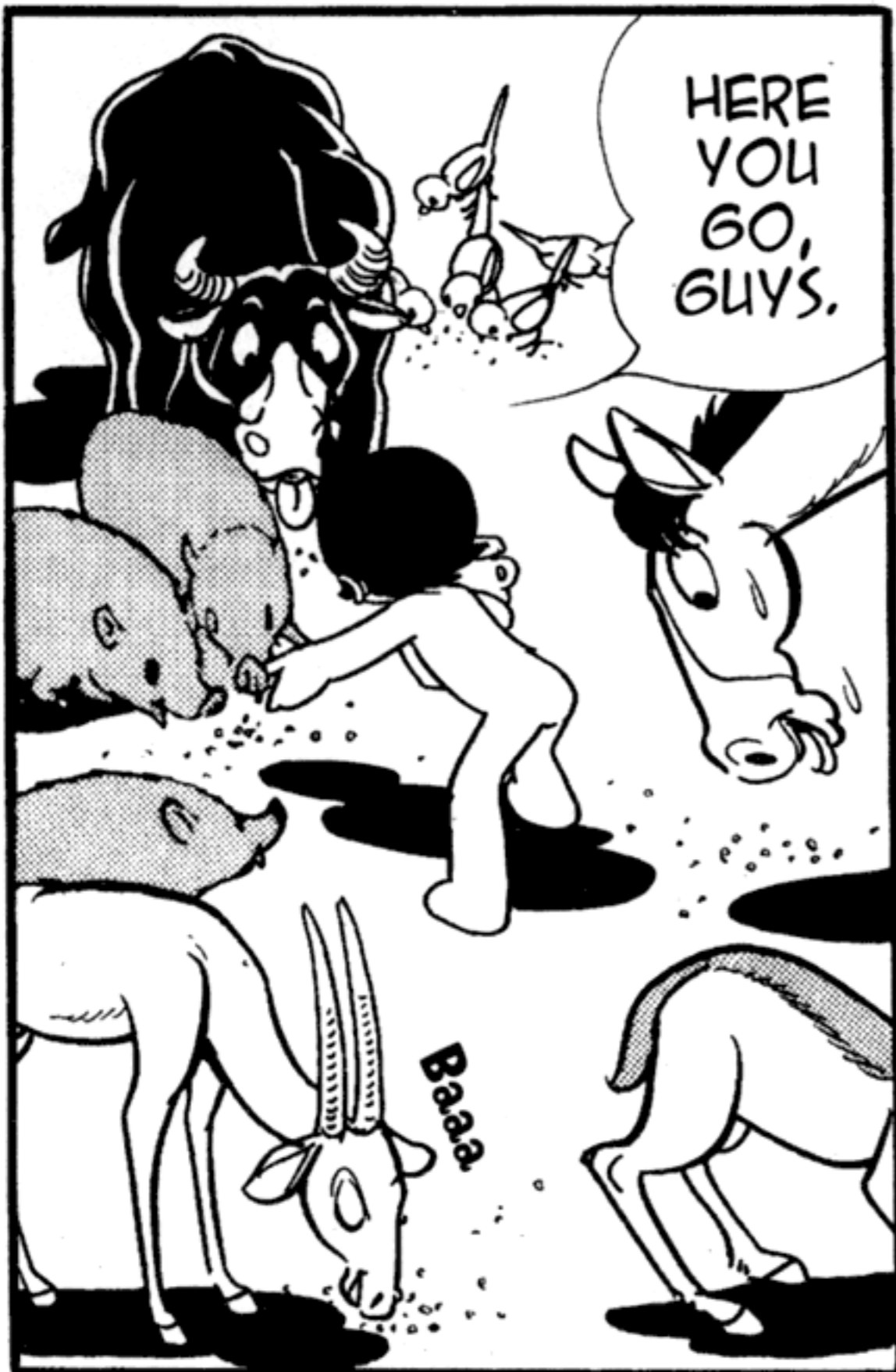
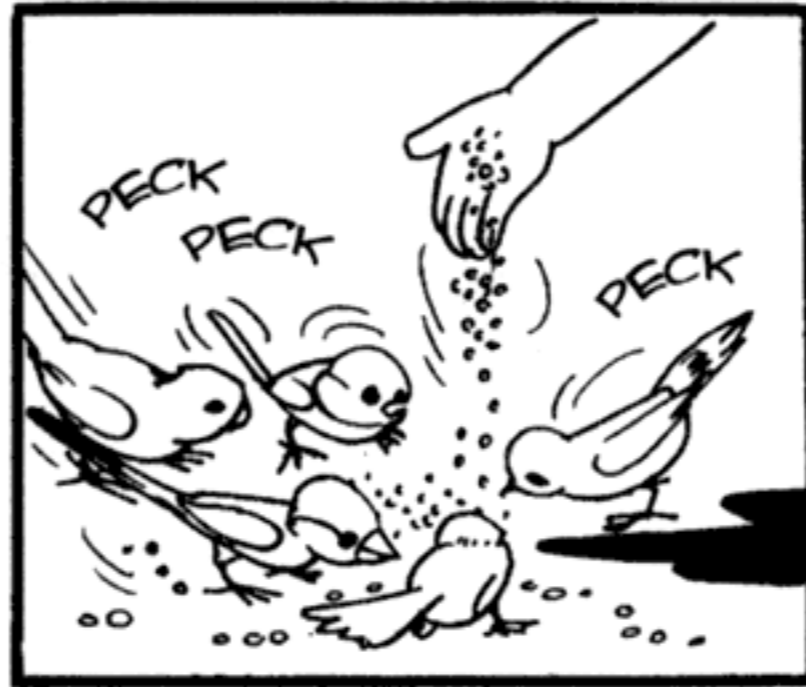


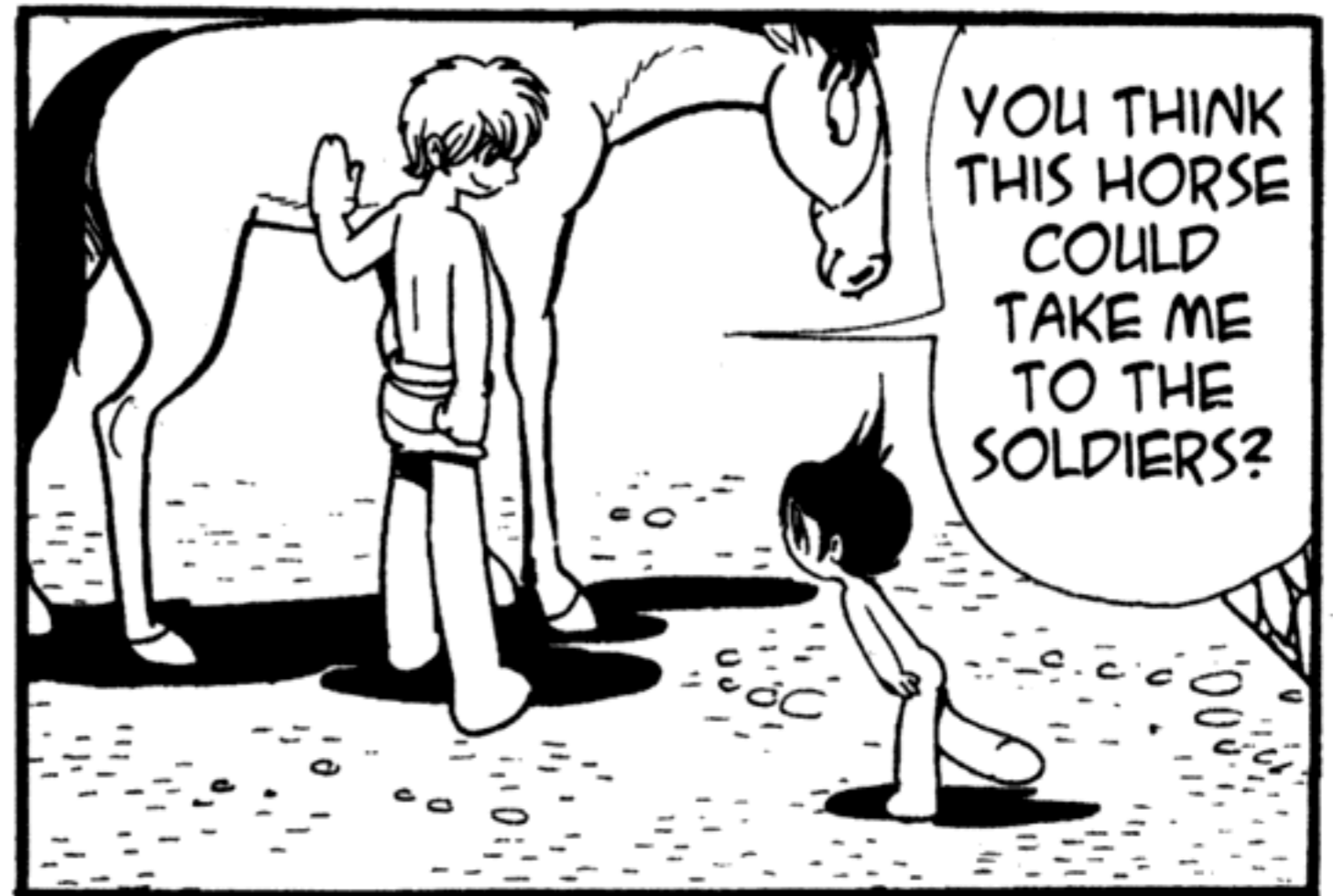
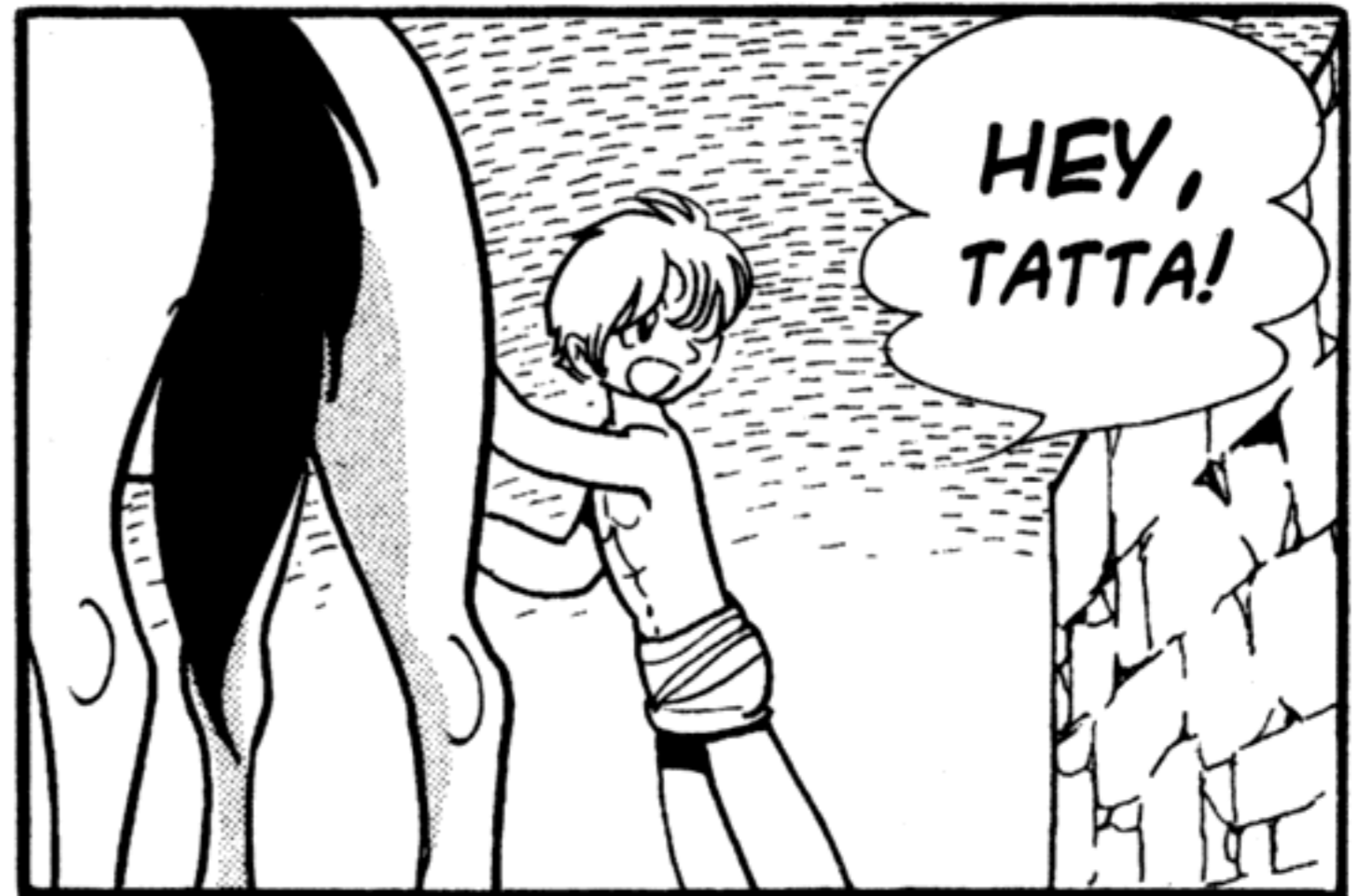
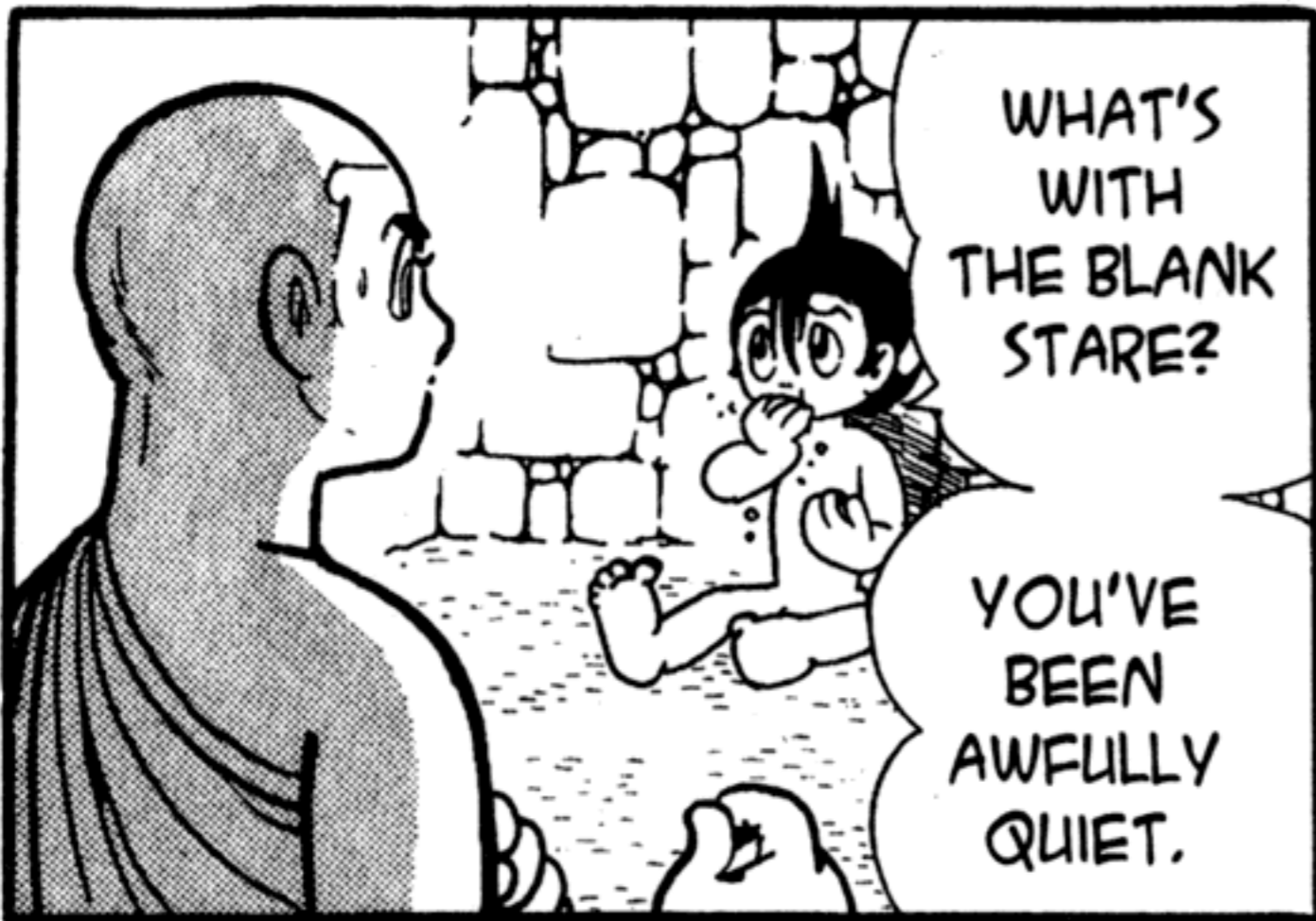
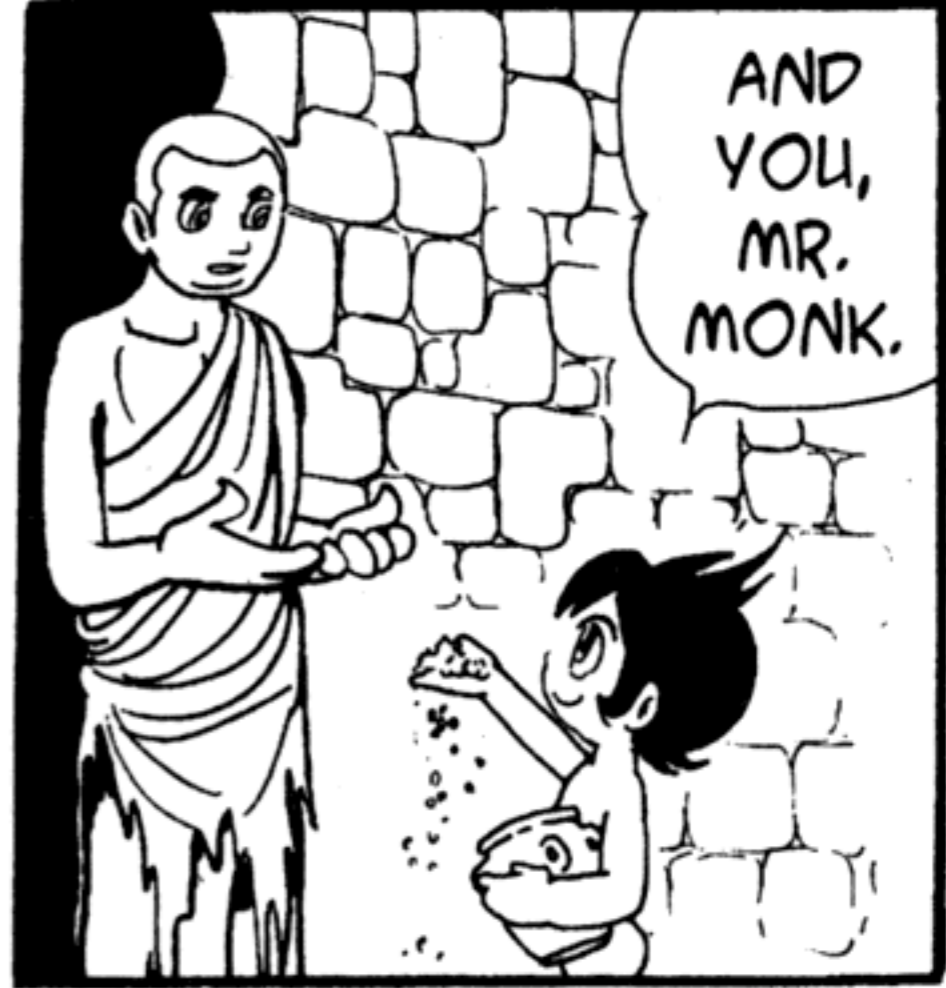
MOTHER,
WHY
CAN'T
WE BE
FREE
AT
LEAST
?

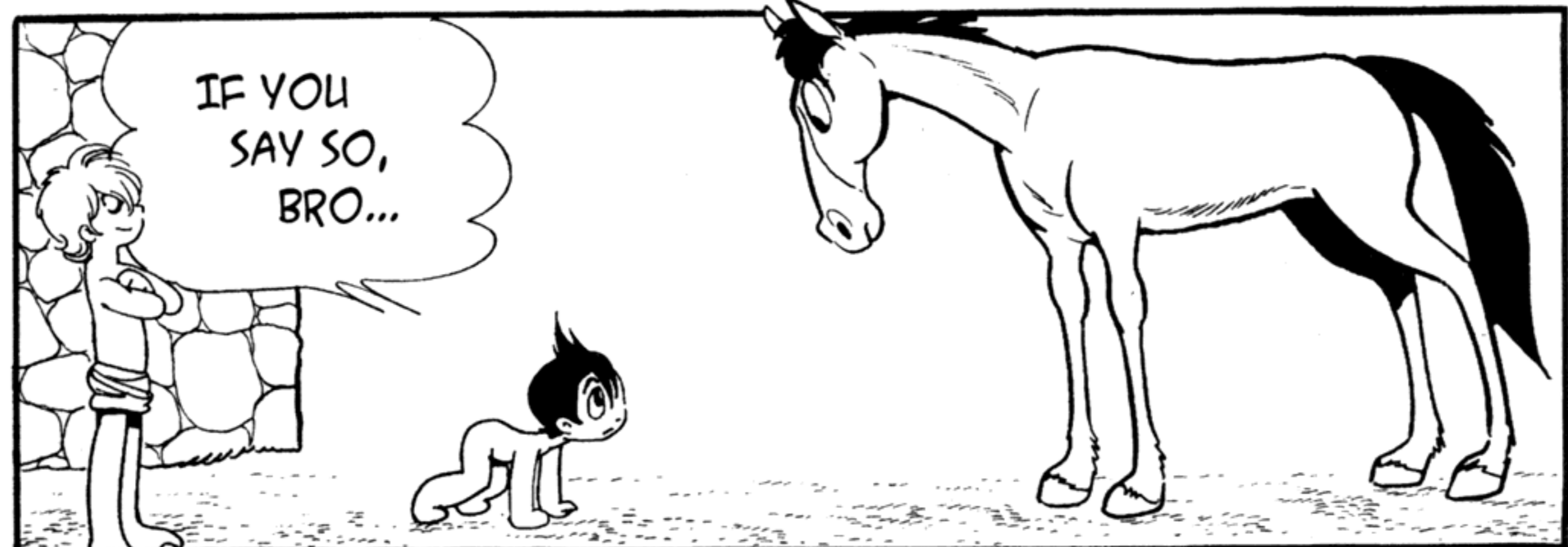
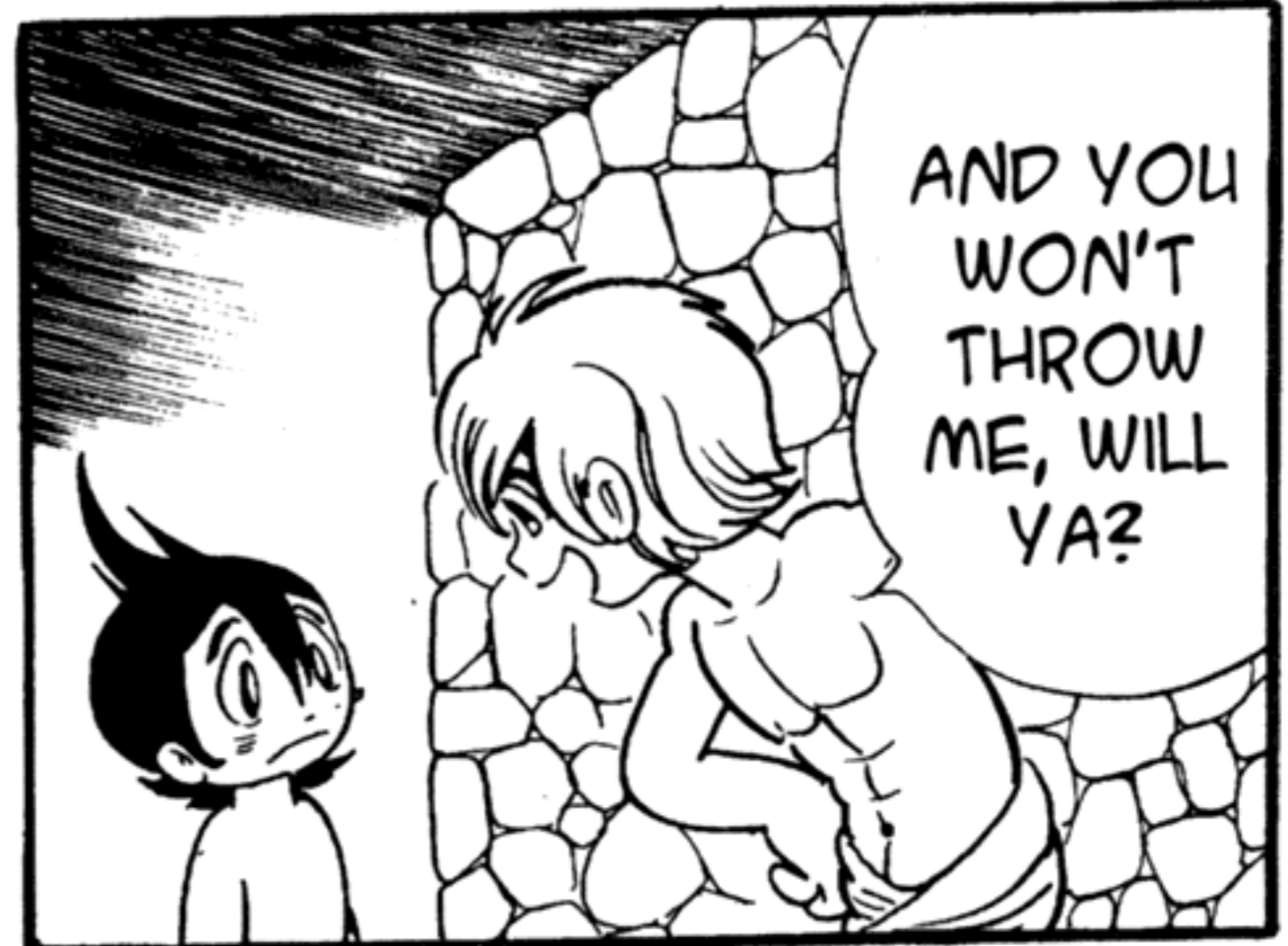
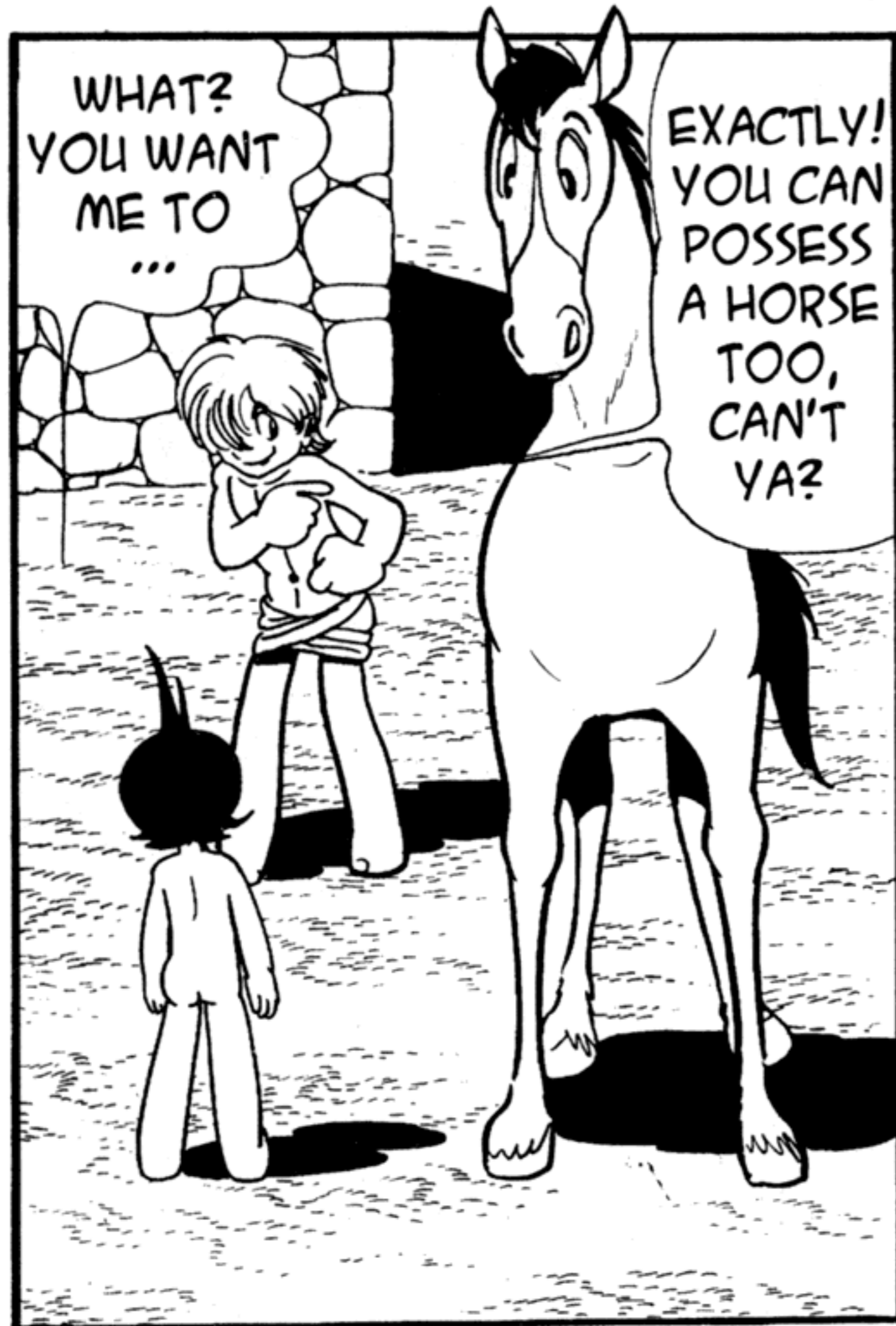
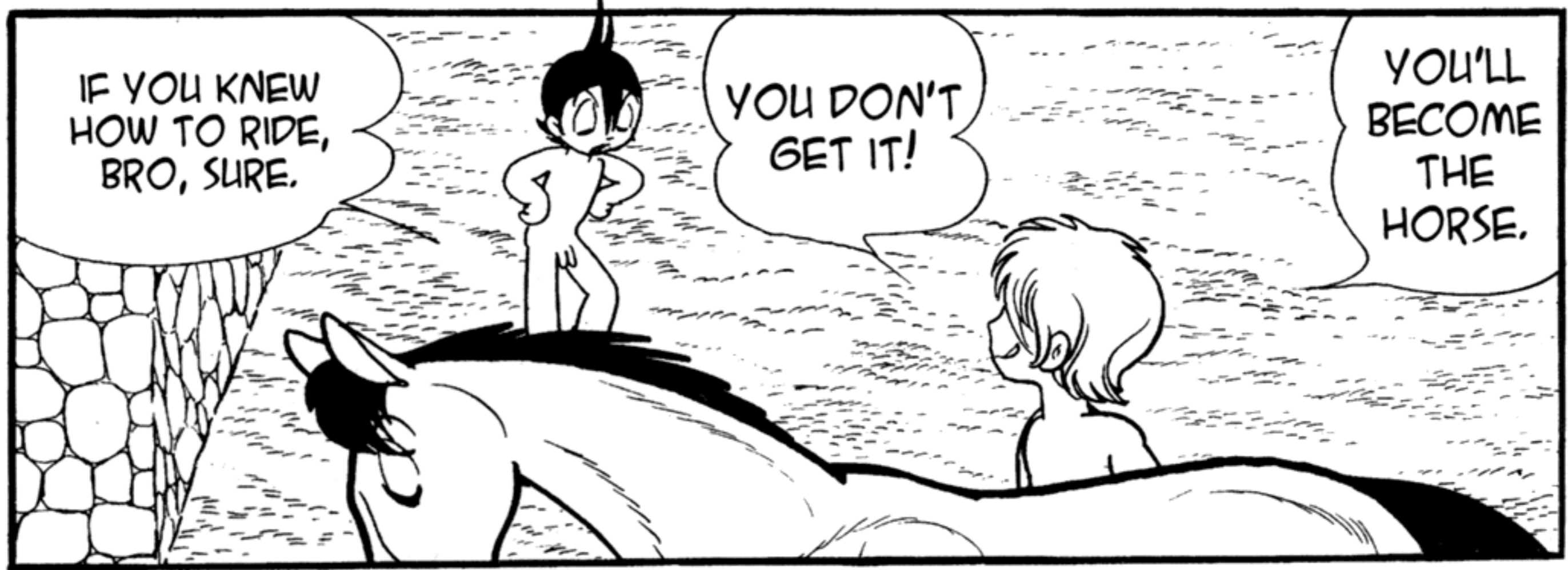


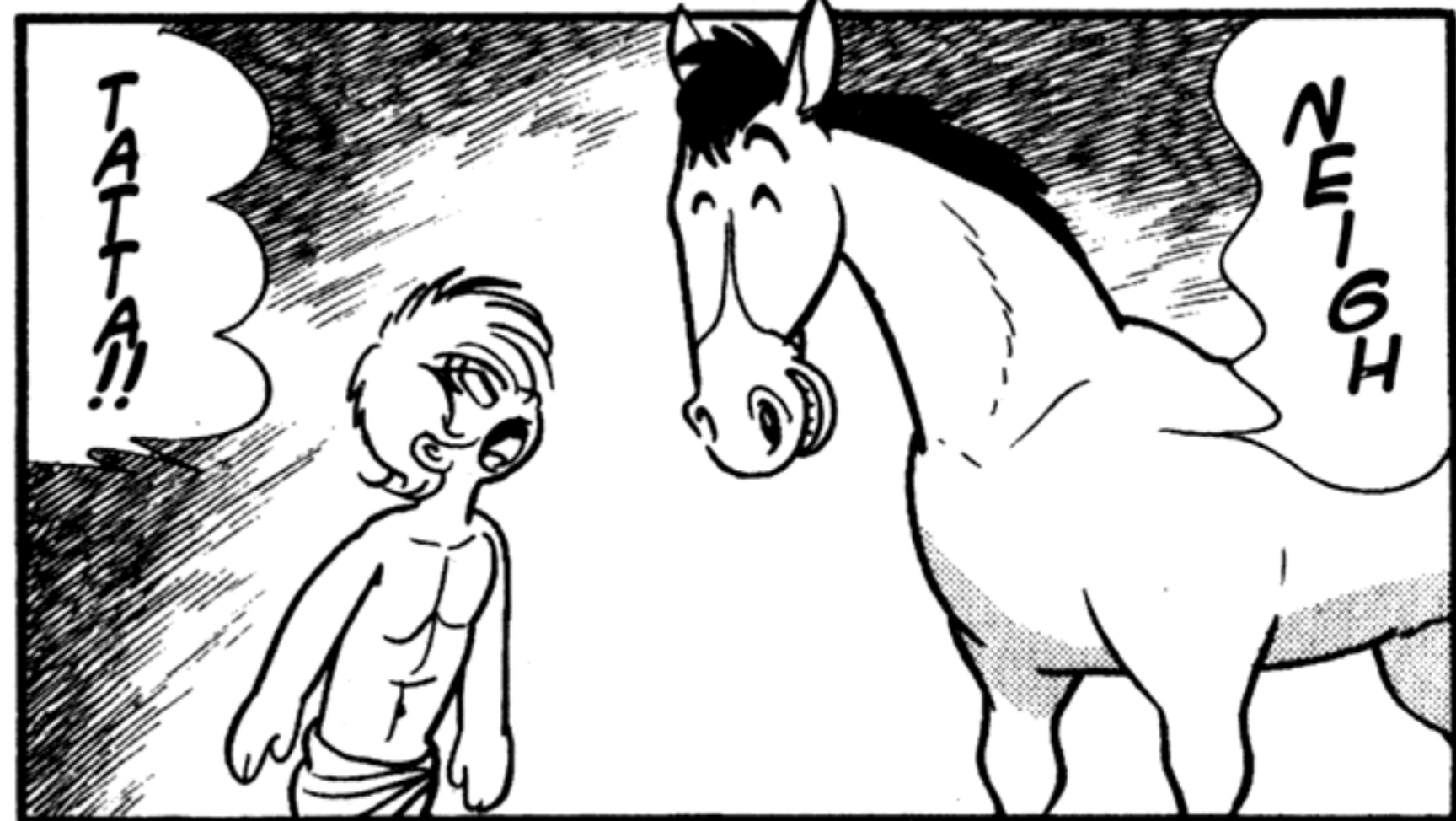
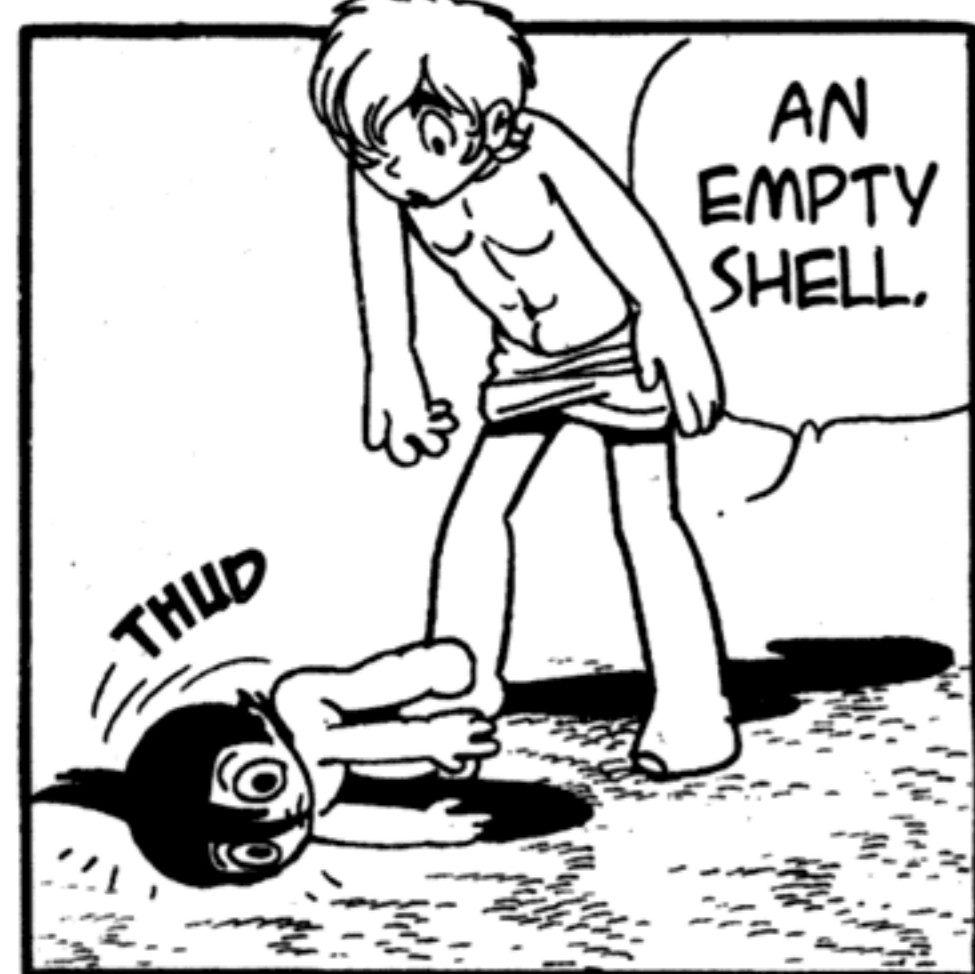
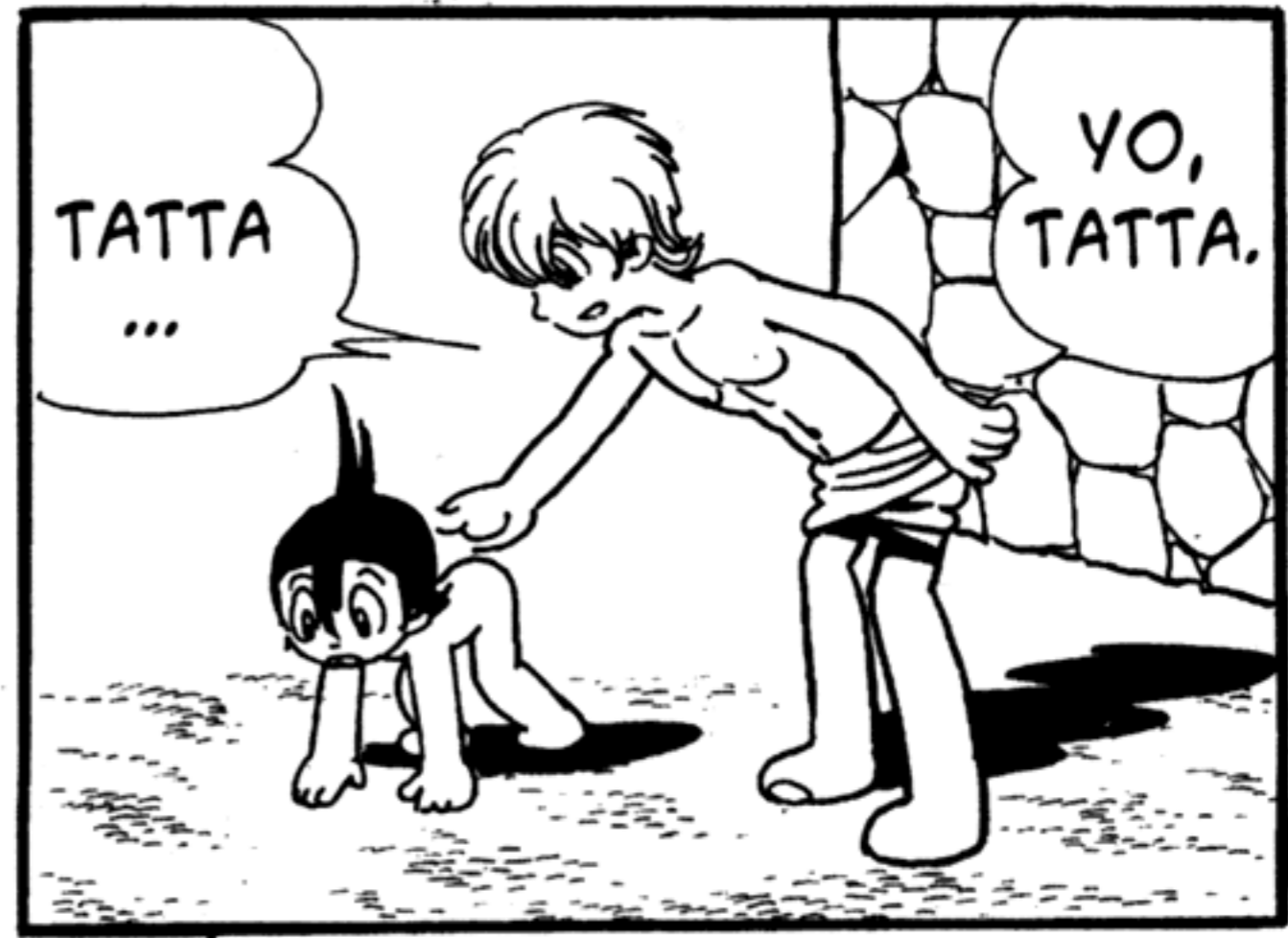
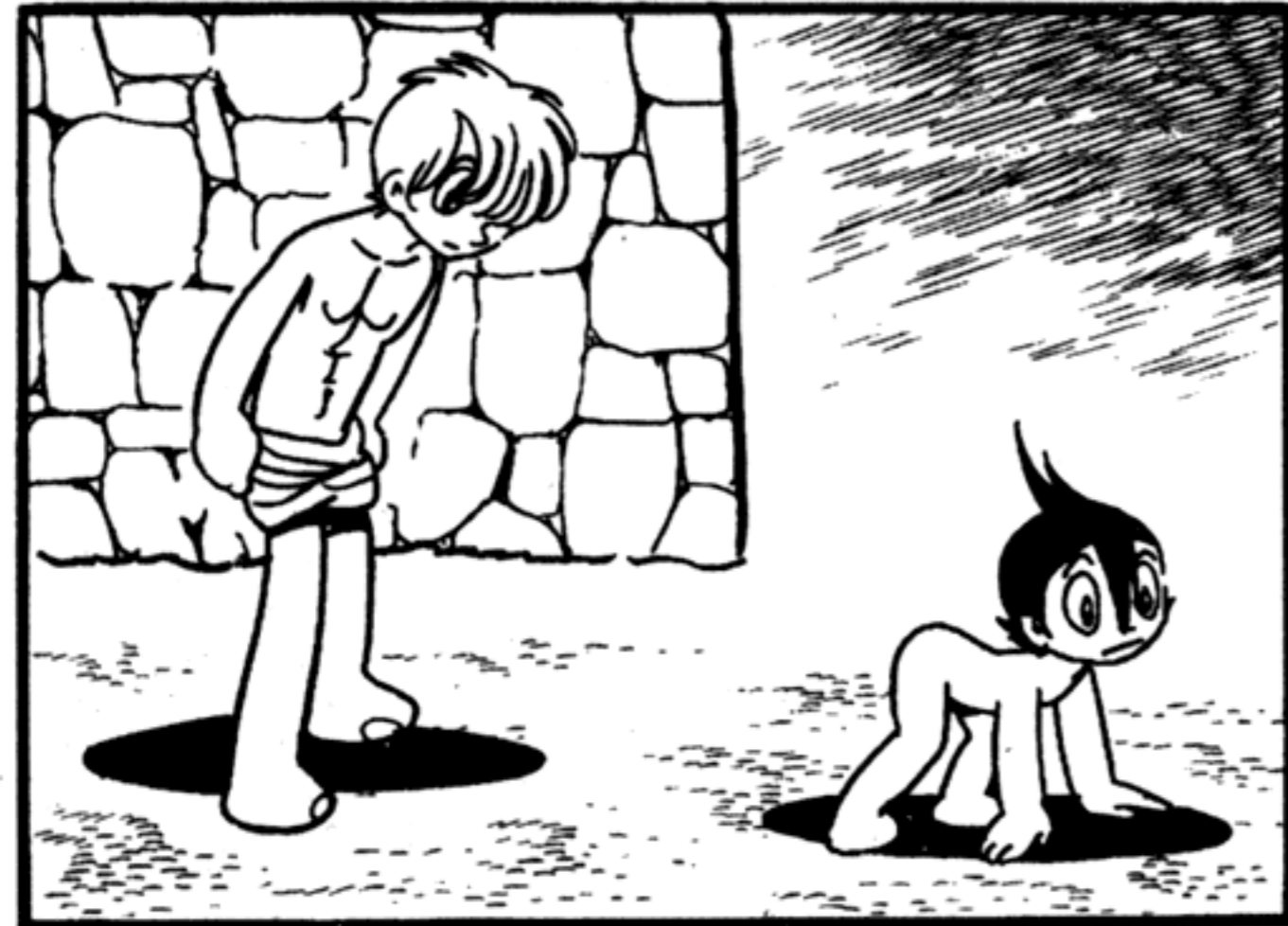
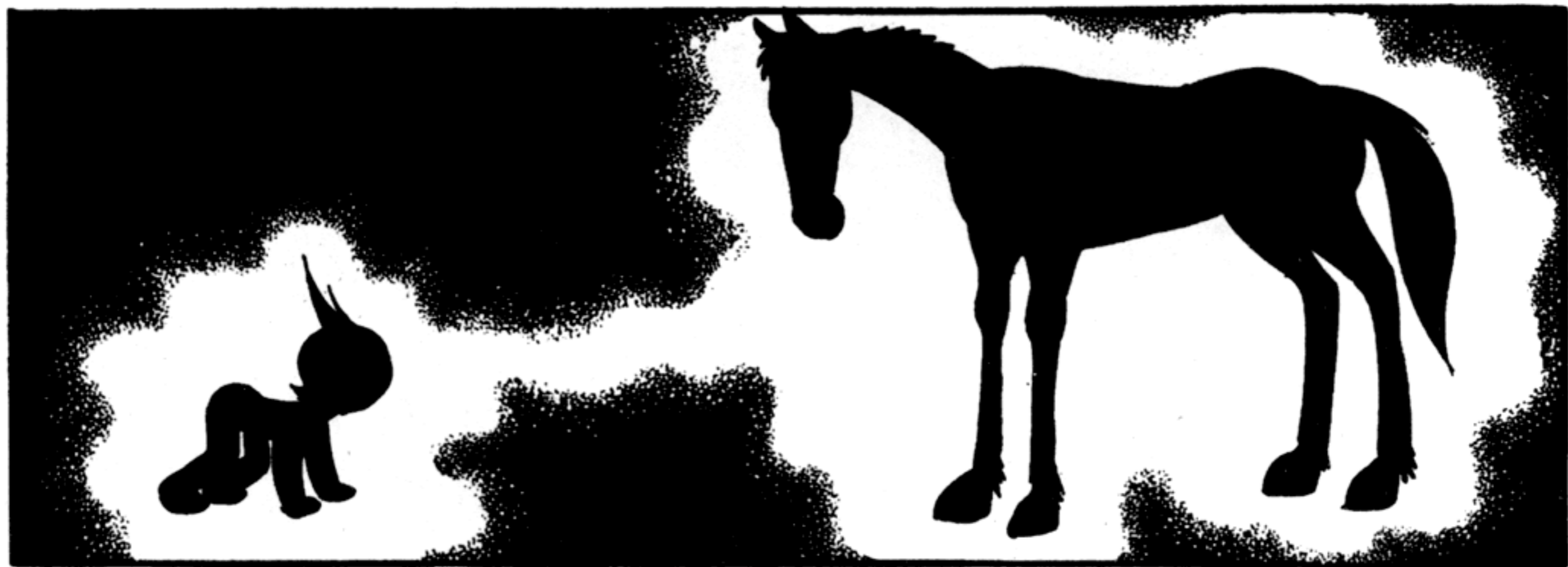
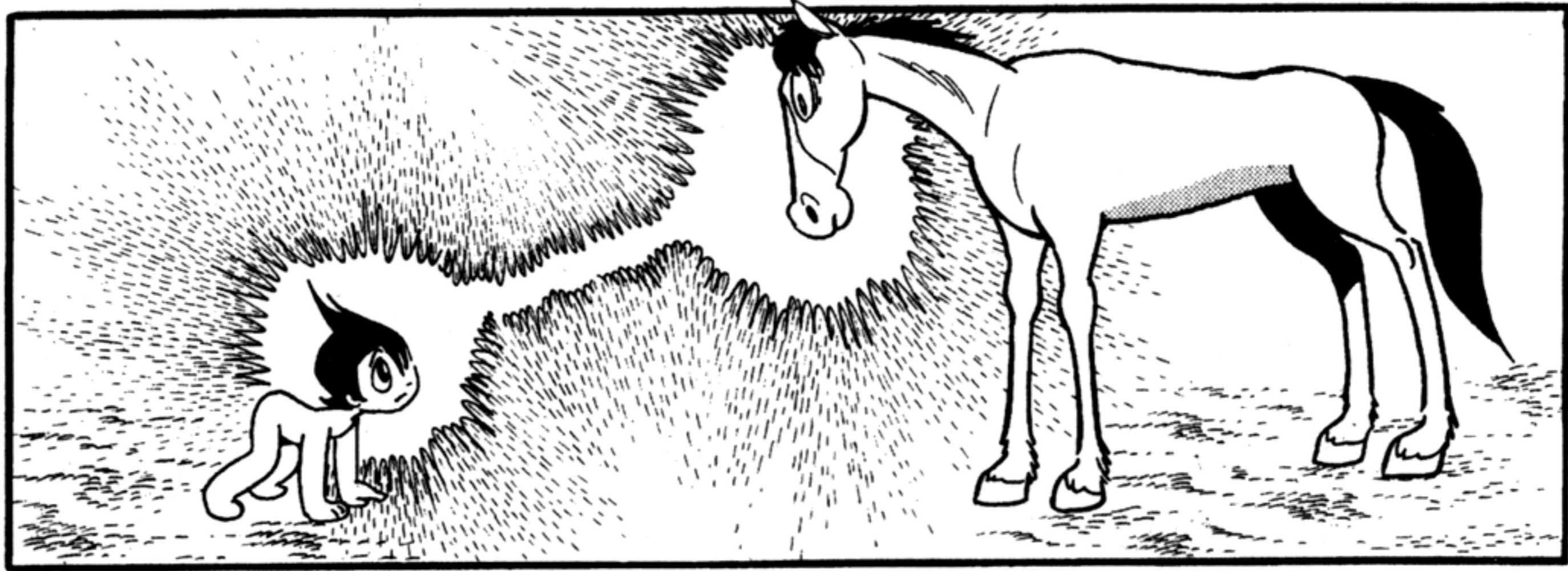


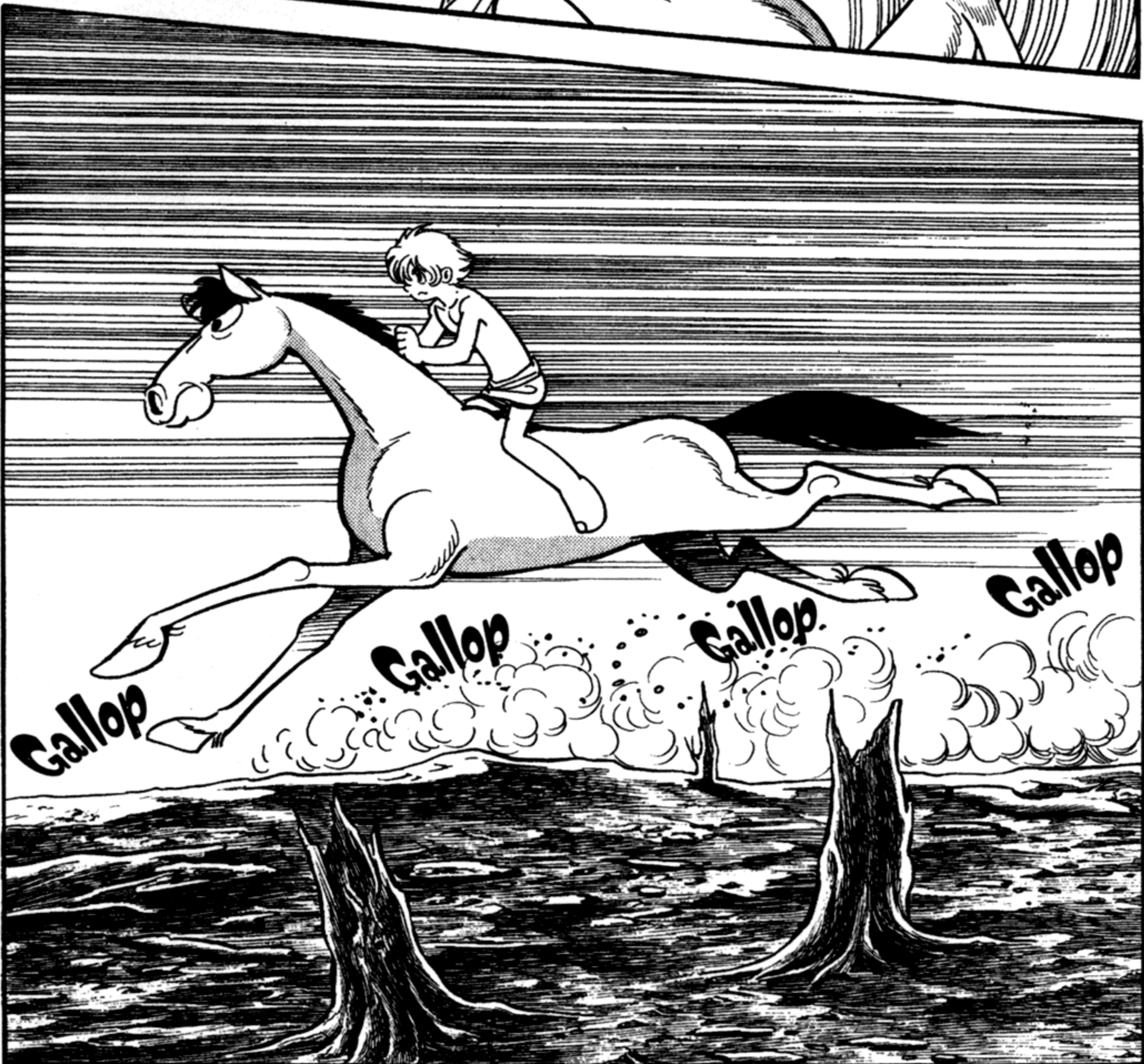
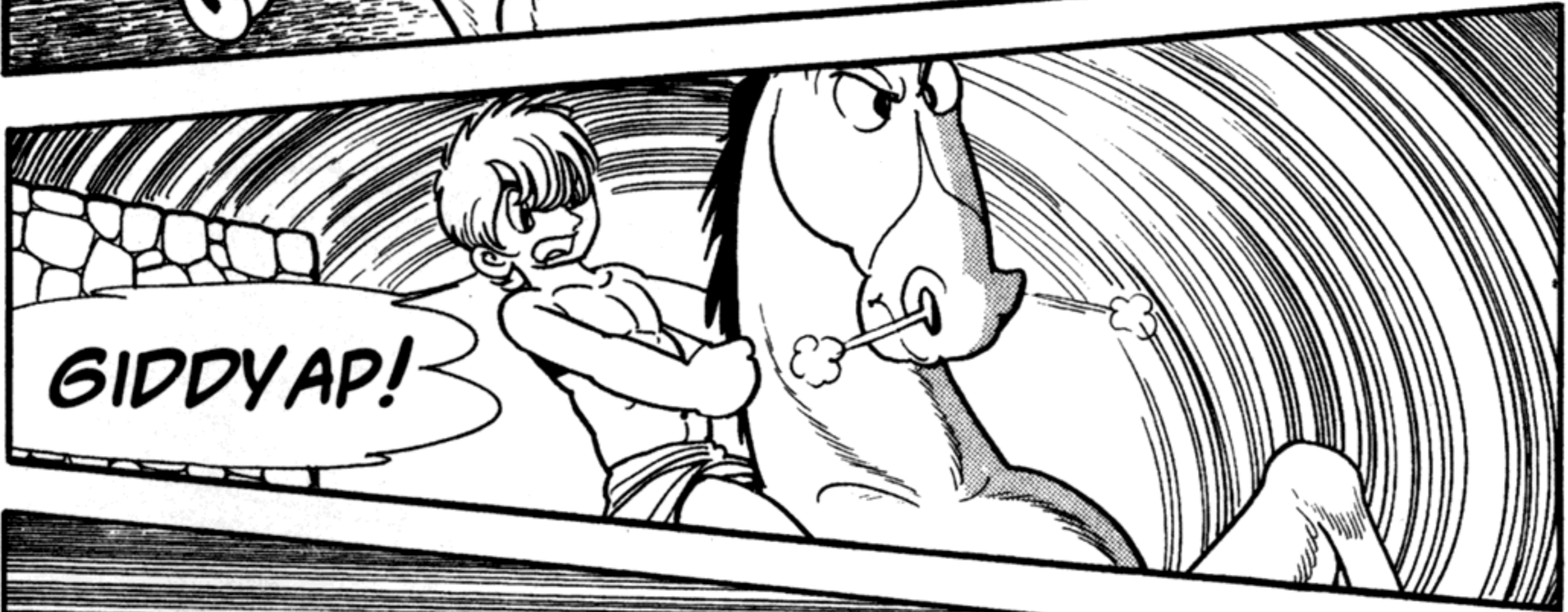
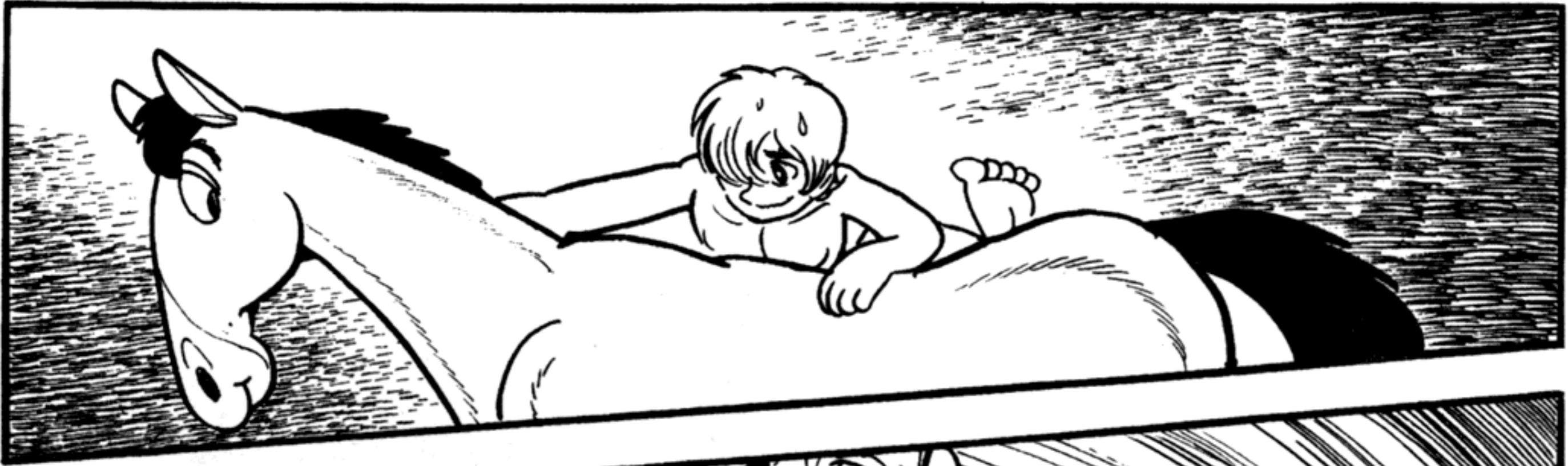


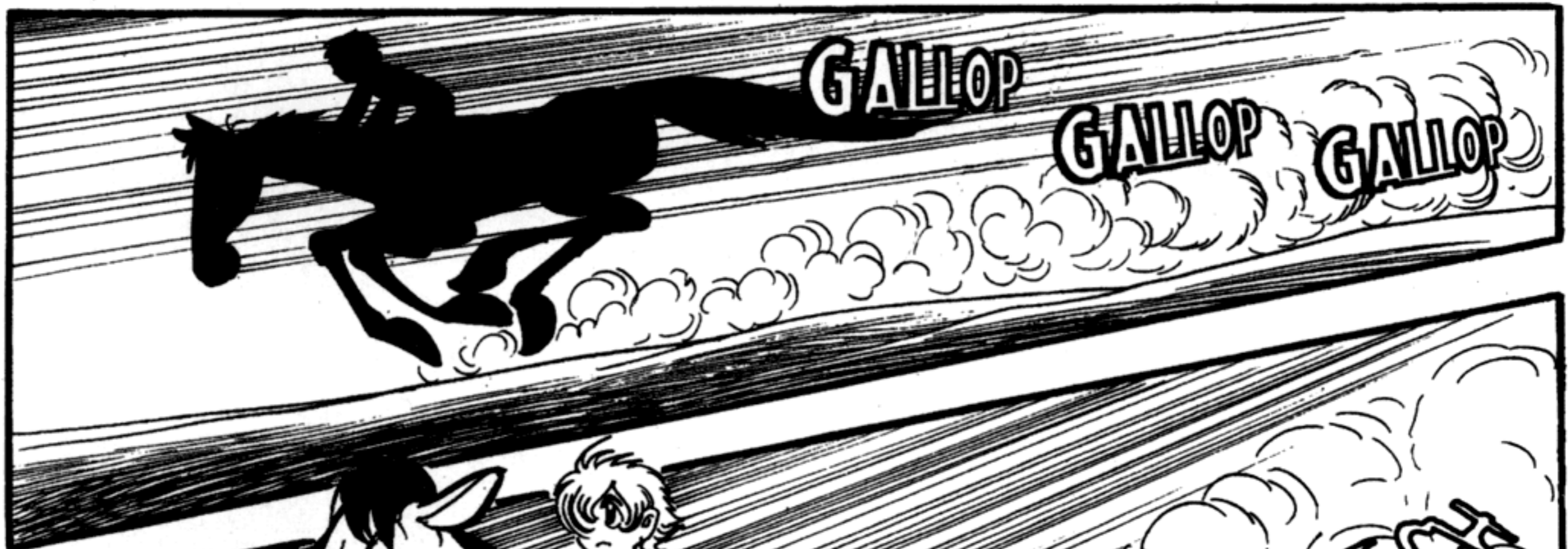
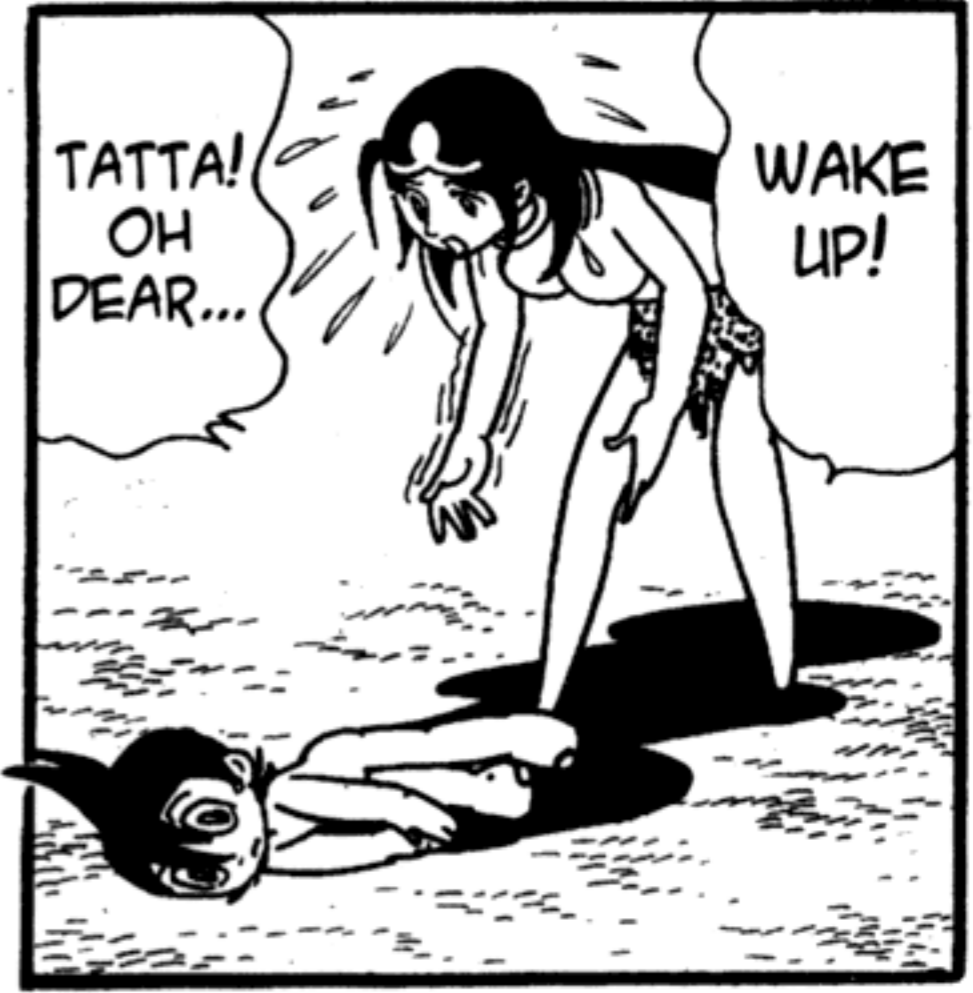








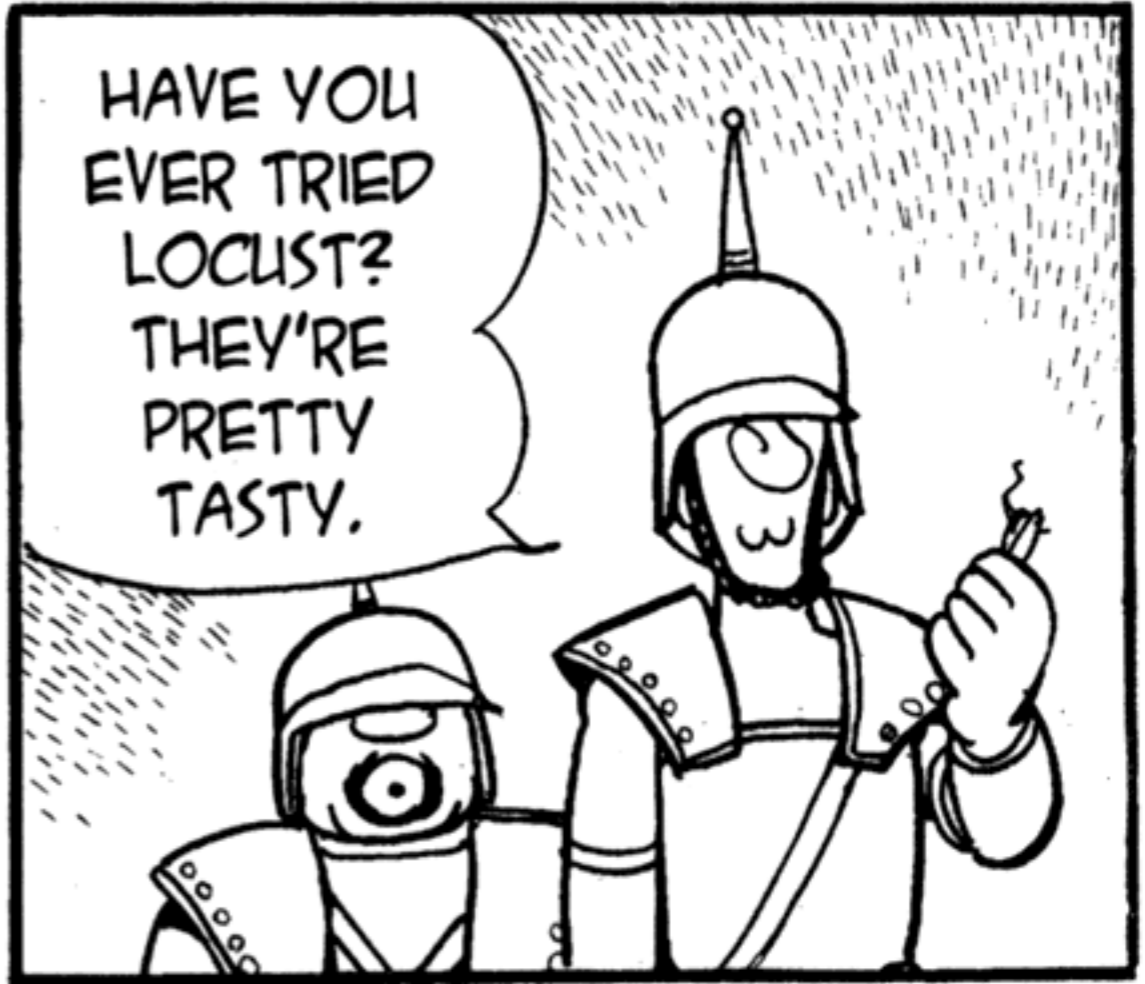






ALL OUR SUPPLIES AND THE TOWN'S HAVE BEEN DECIMATED BY THE LOCUSTS, SIR.

HMPH, WE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE UNLUCKY. OUR PLAN IS TO ATTACK THE CASTLE OF KAPILAVASTU TOMORROW!



HAVE YOU EVER TRIED LOCUST? THEY'RE PRETTY TASTY.



I NEED A BATH. IS THERE A RIVER NEARBY?

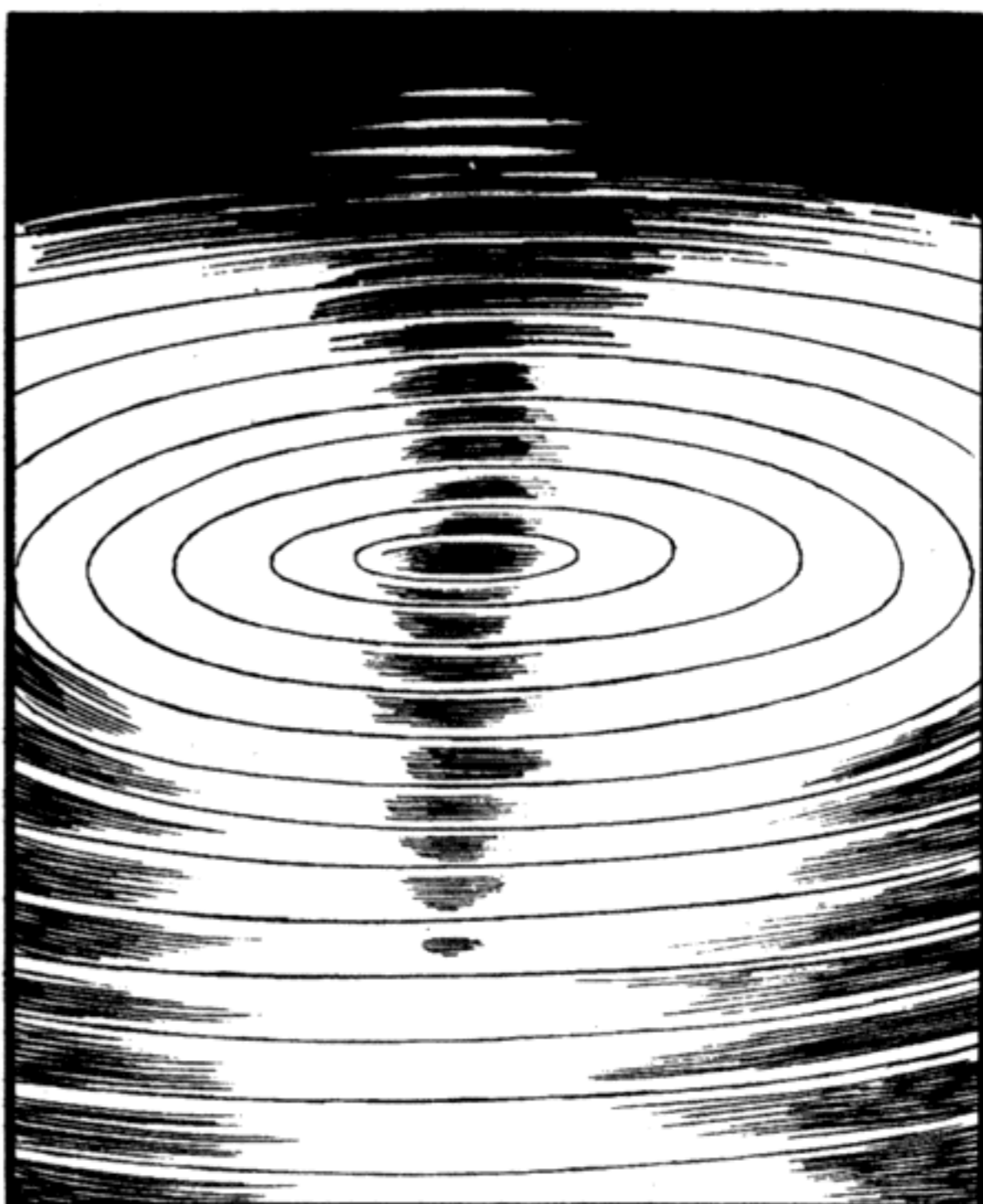
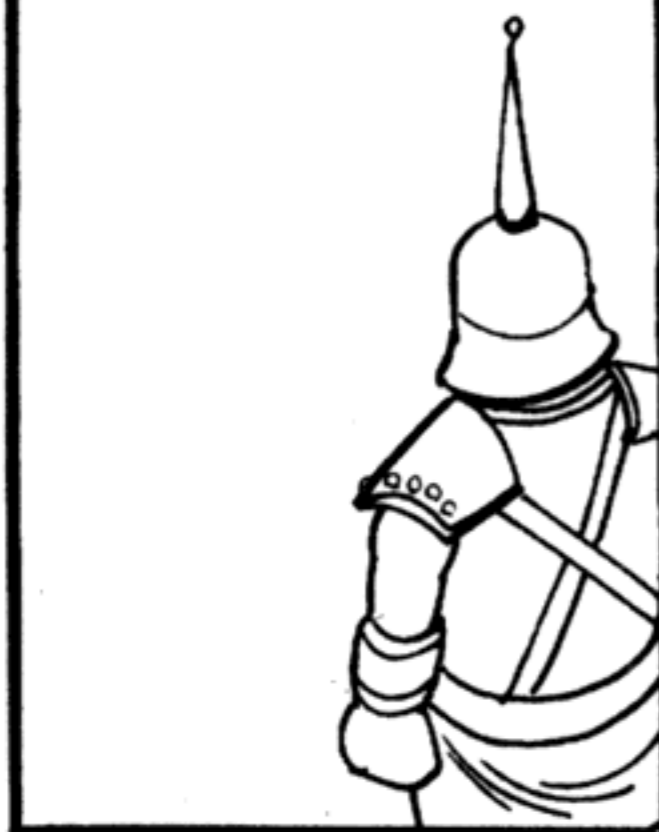
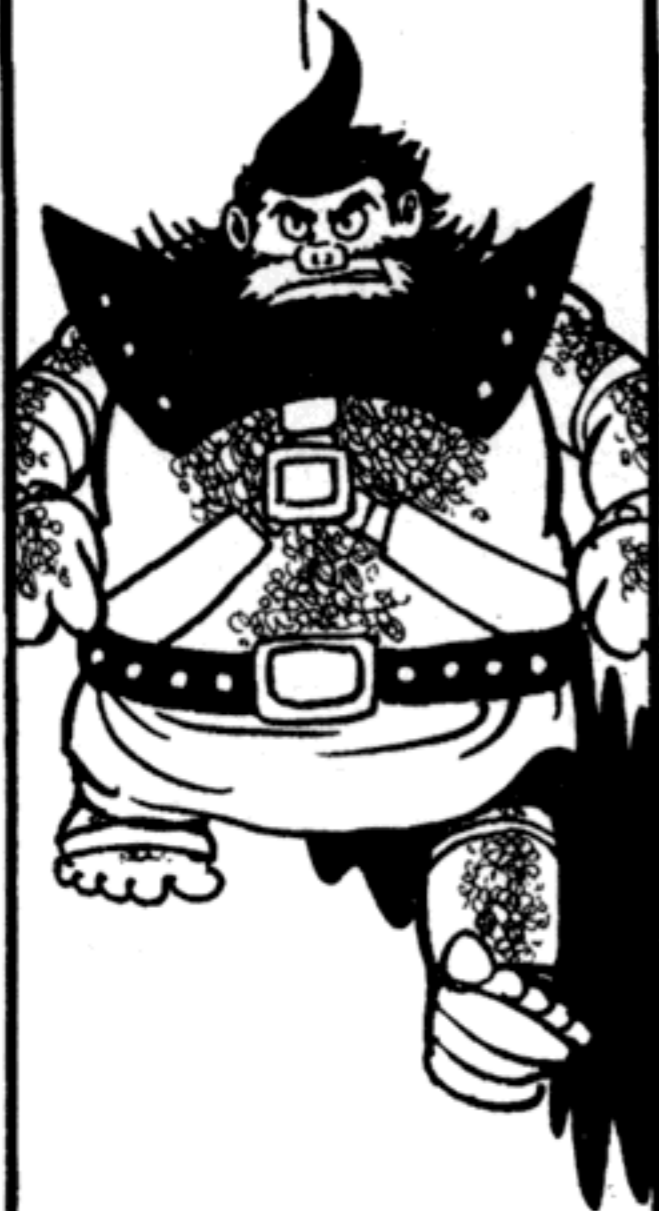


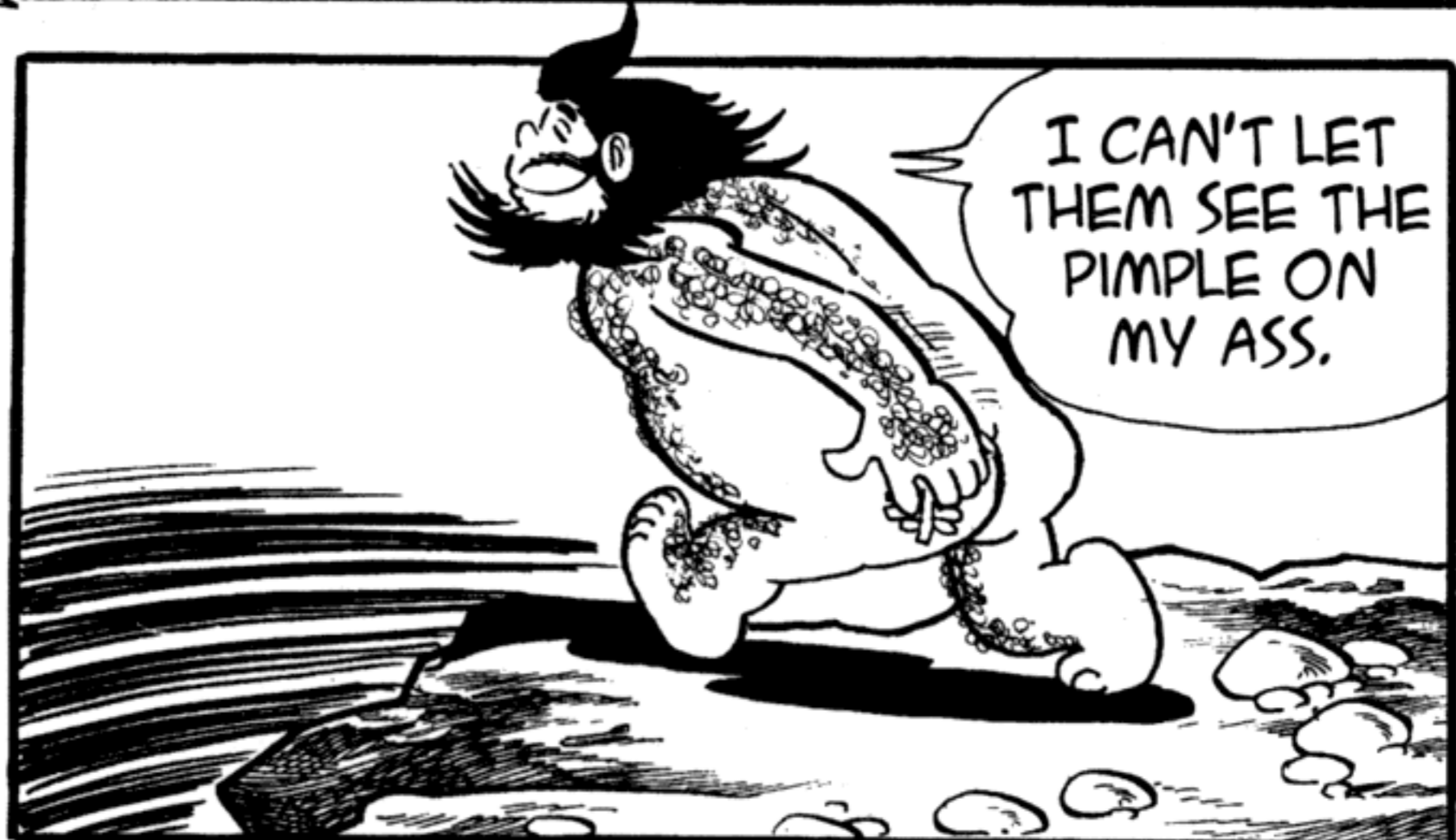
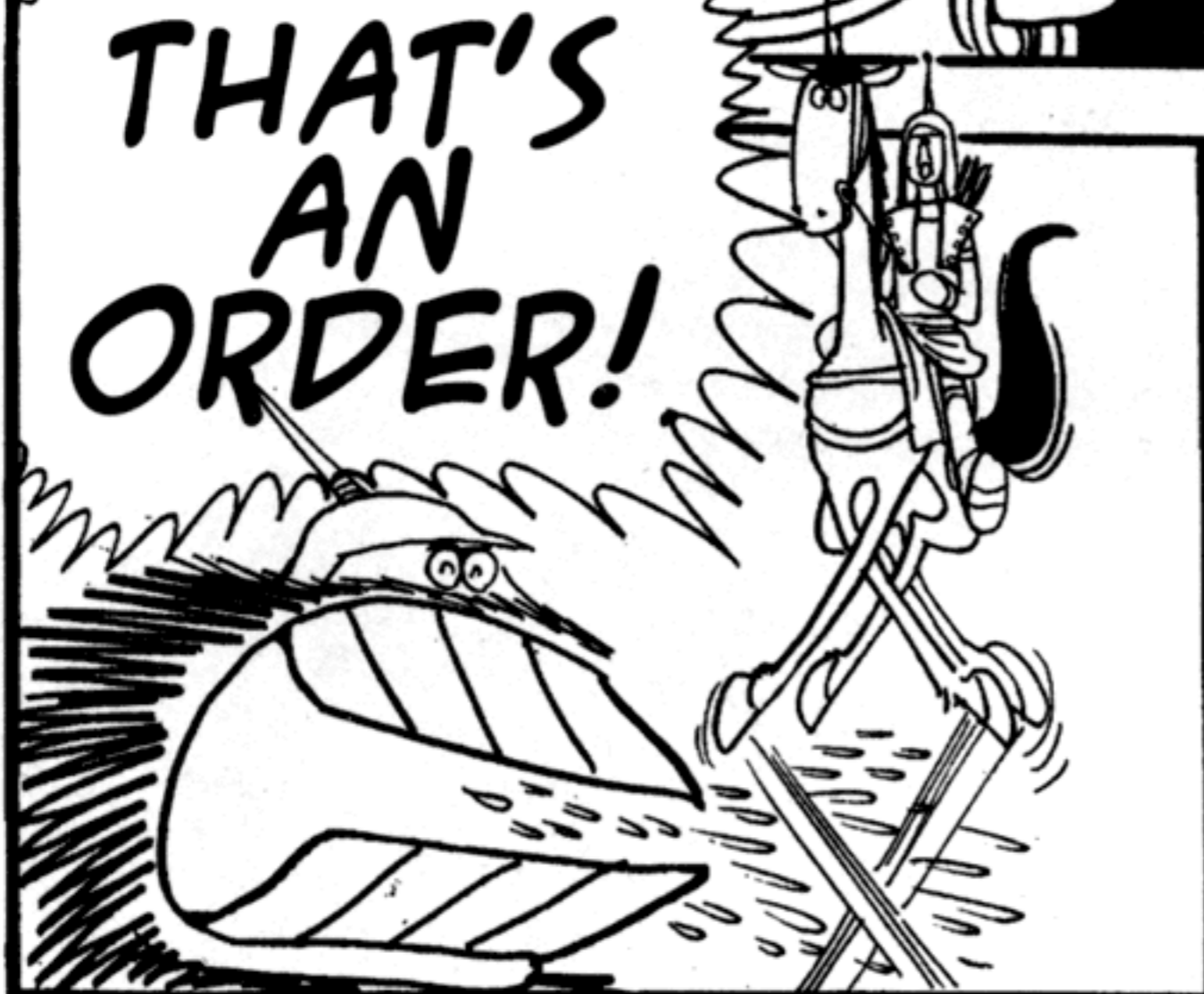
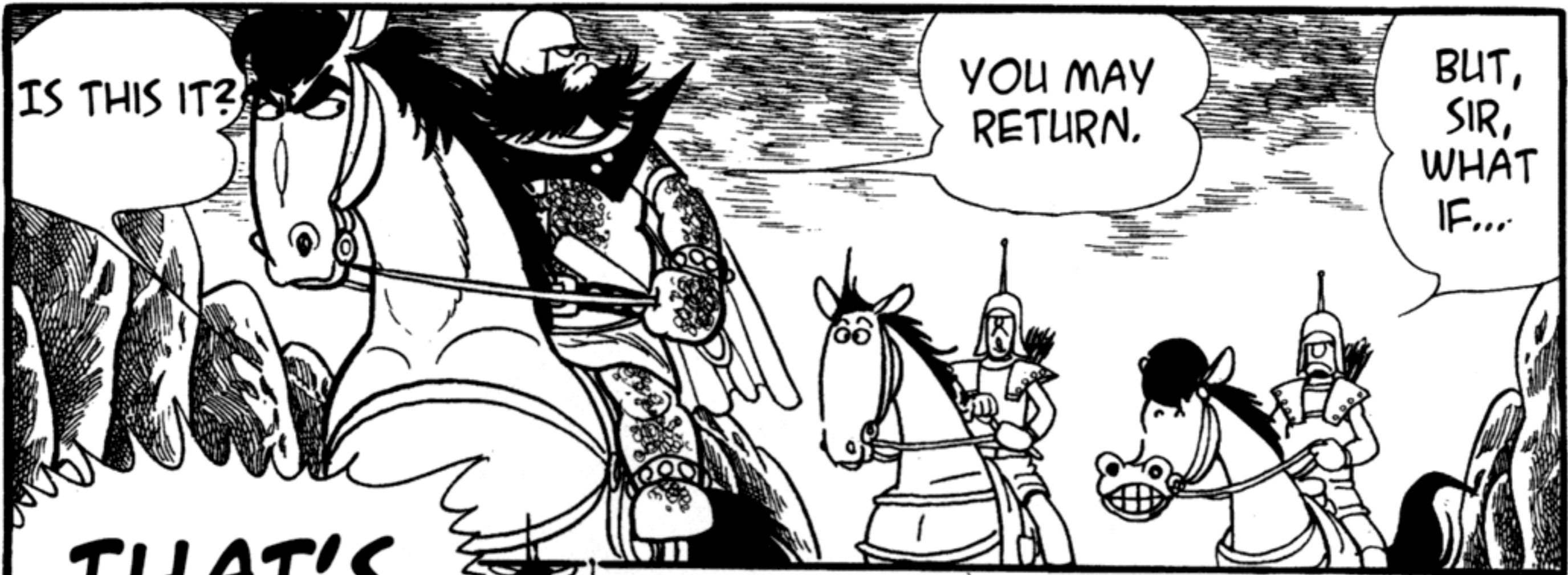
IT'S SLICK WITH DEAD LOCUSTS. NO GOOD FOR THAT.

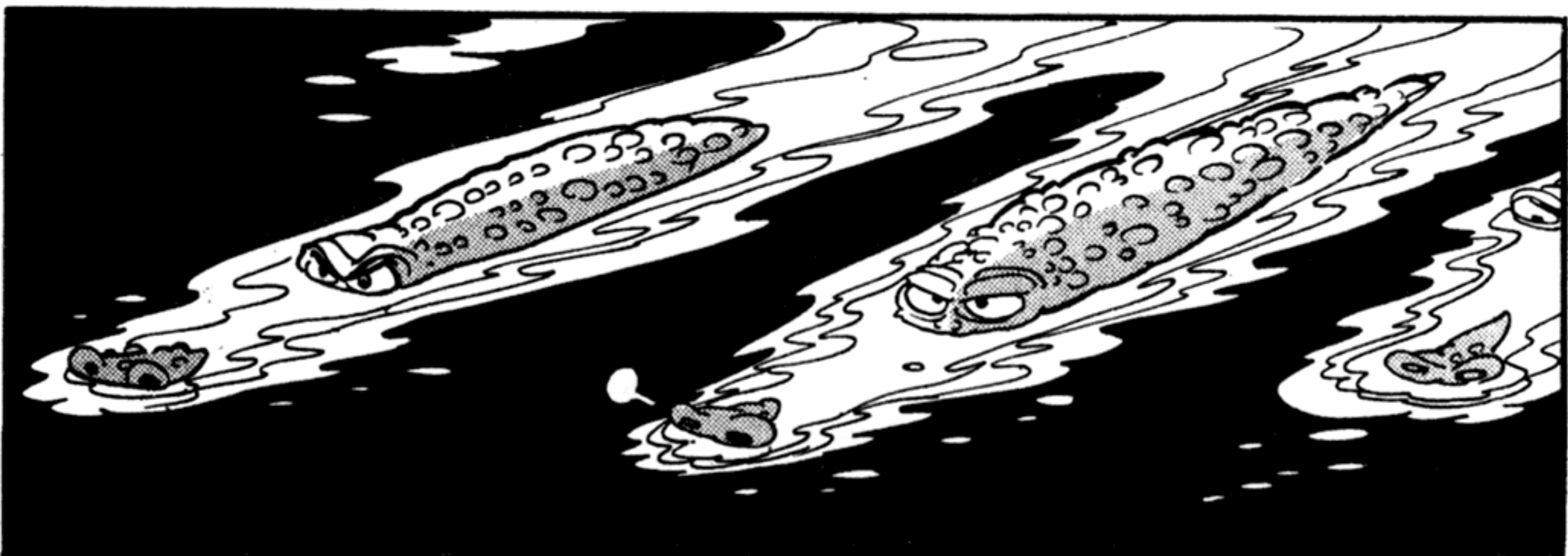
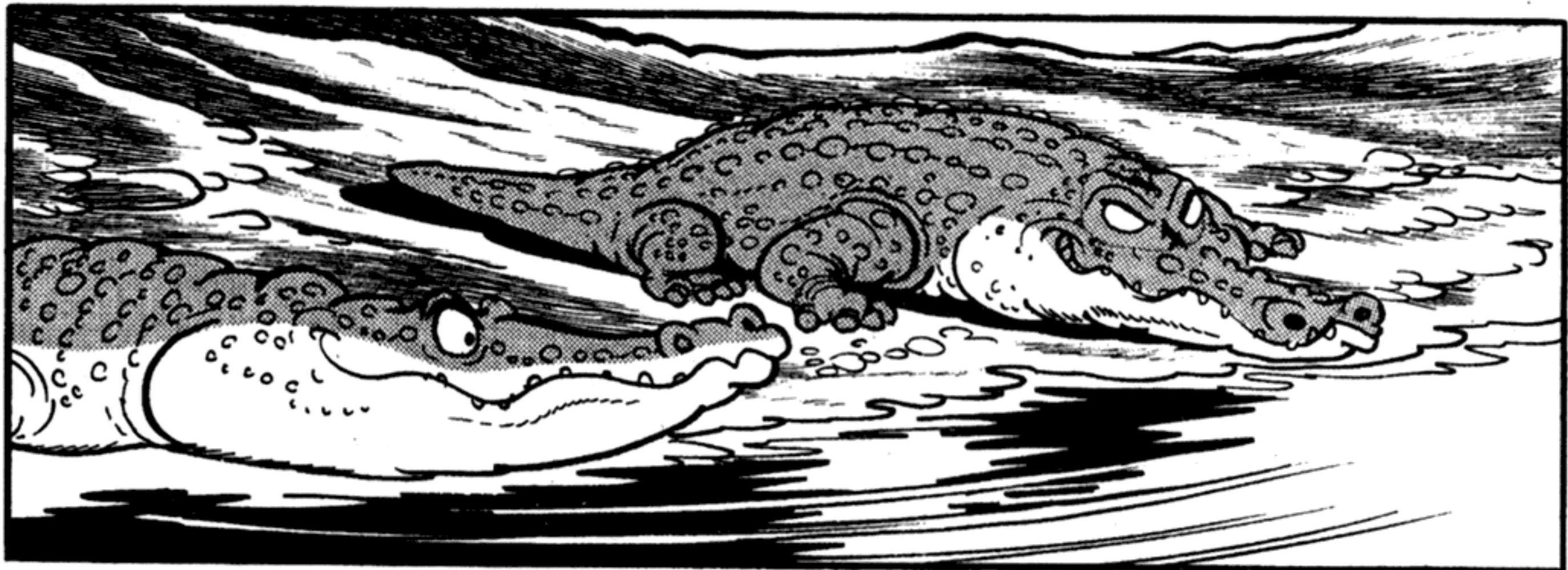
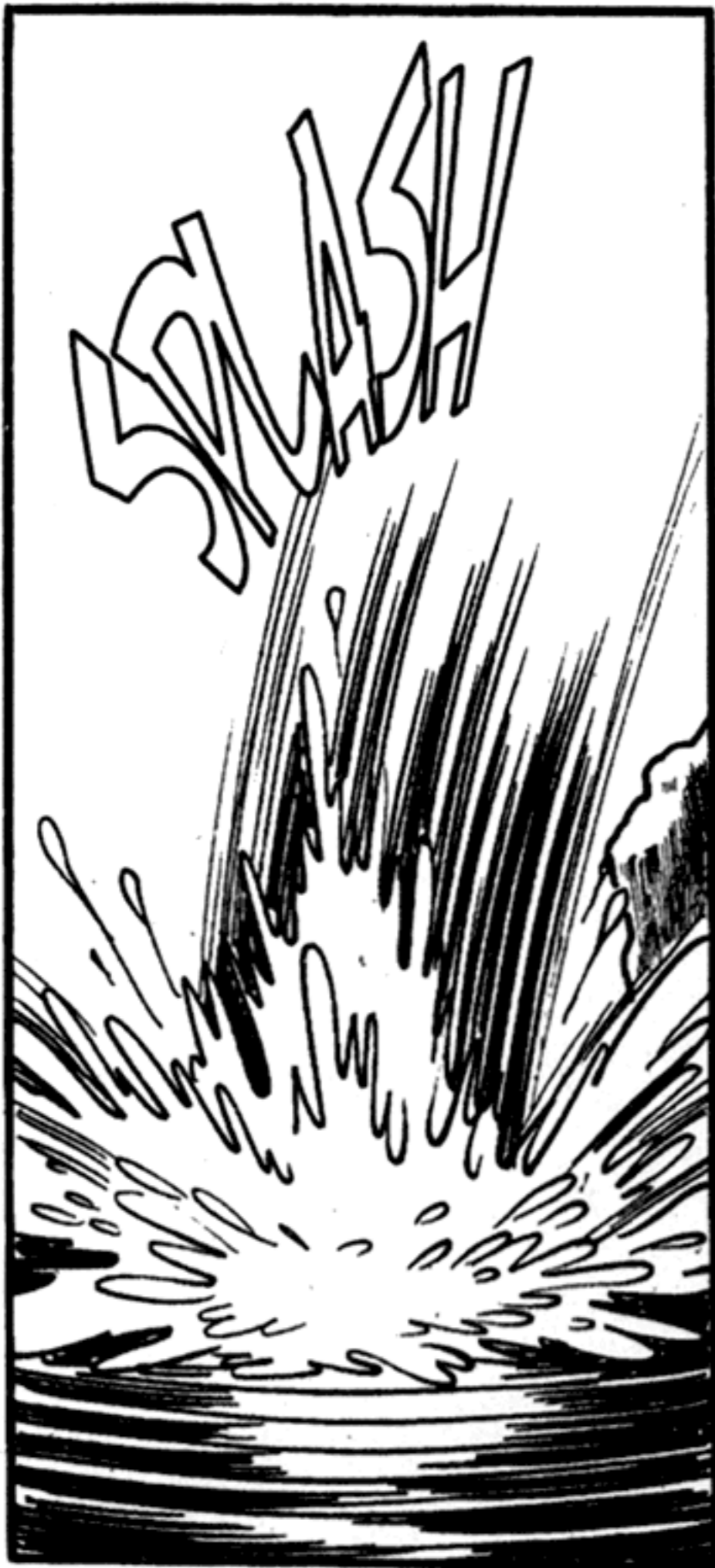
THERE'S A
NATURAL SPRING
IN THE VALLEY
TO THE
NORTHWEST.
IT MIGHT
BE CLEAN.



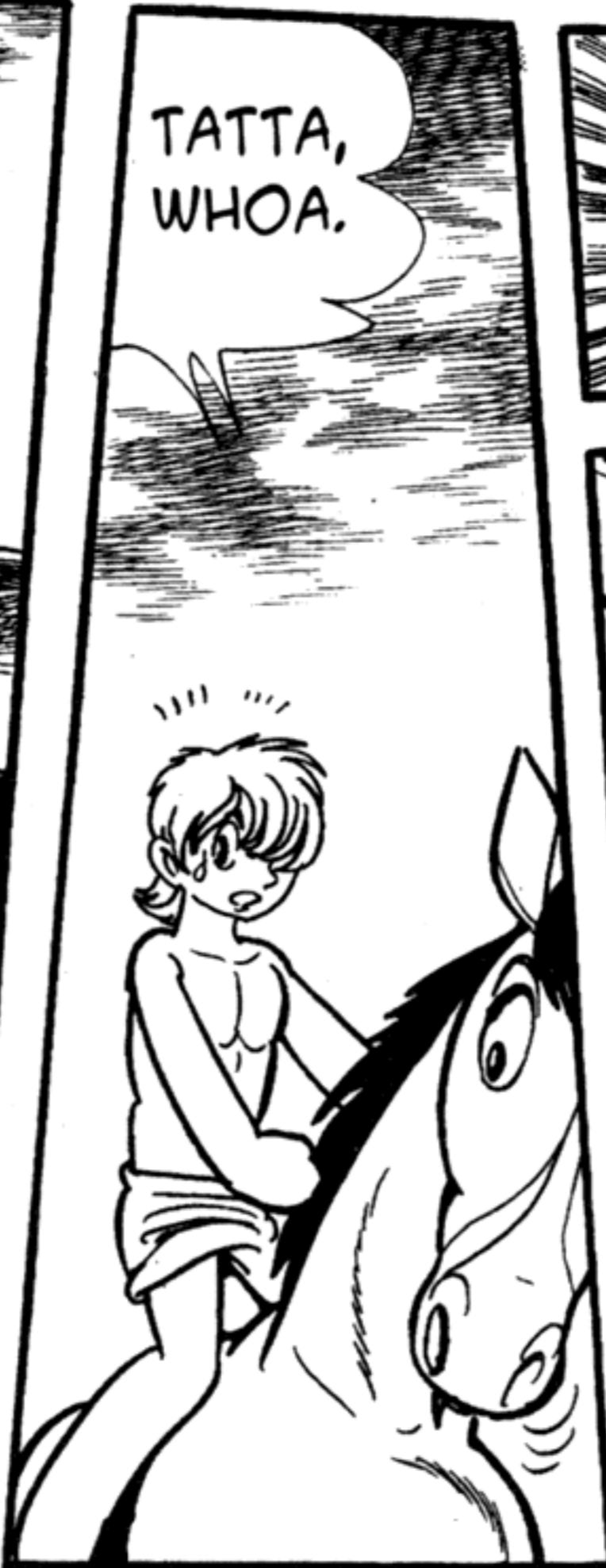
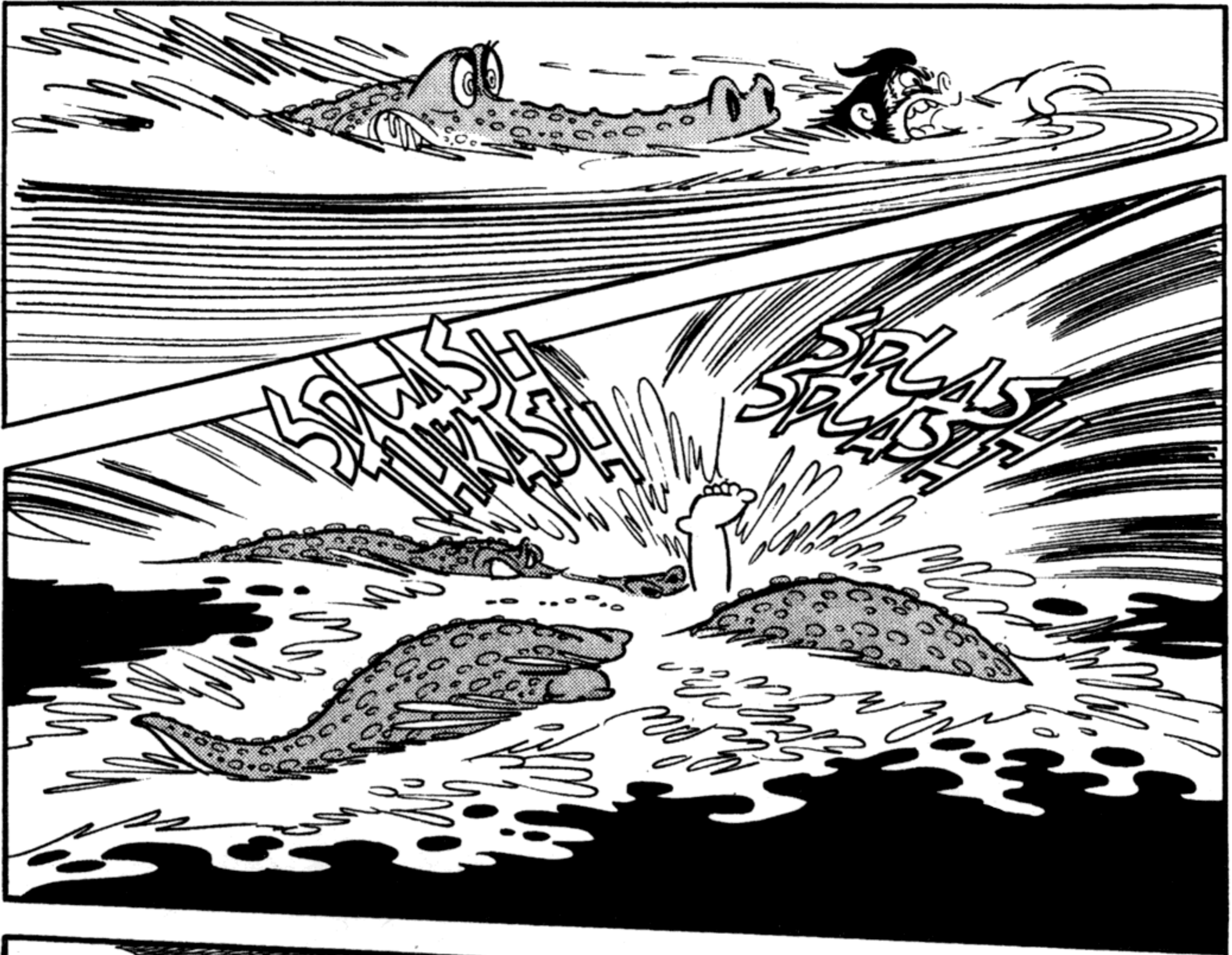
READY
MY HORSE.

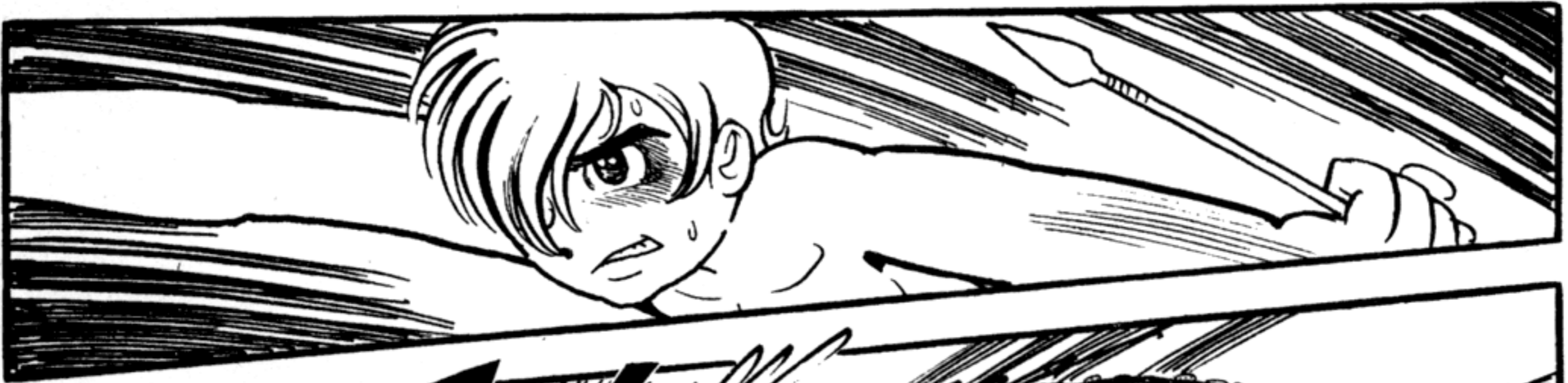
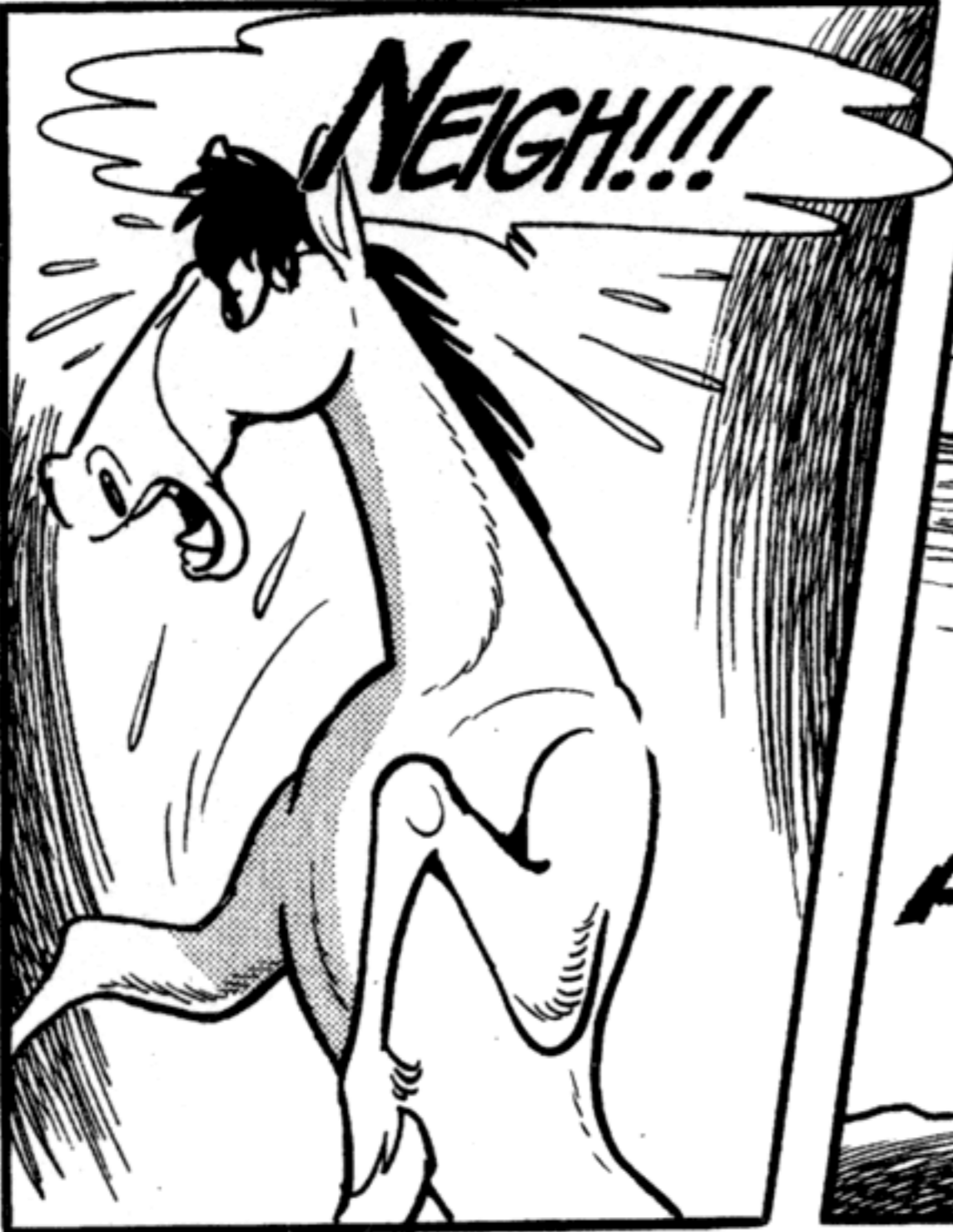
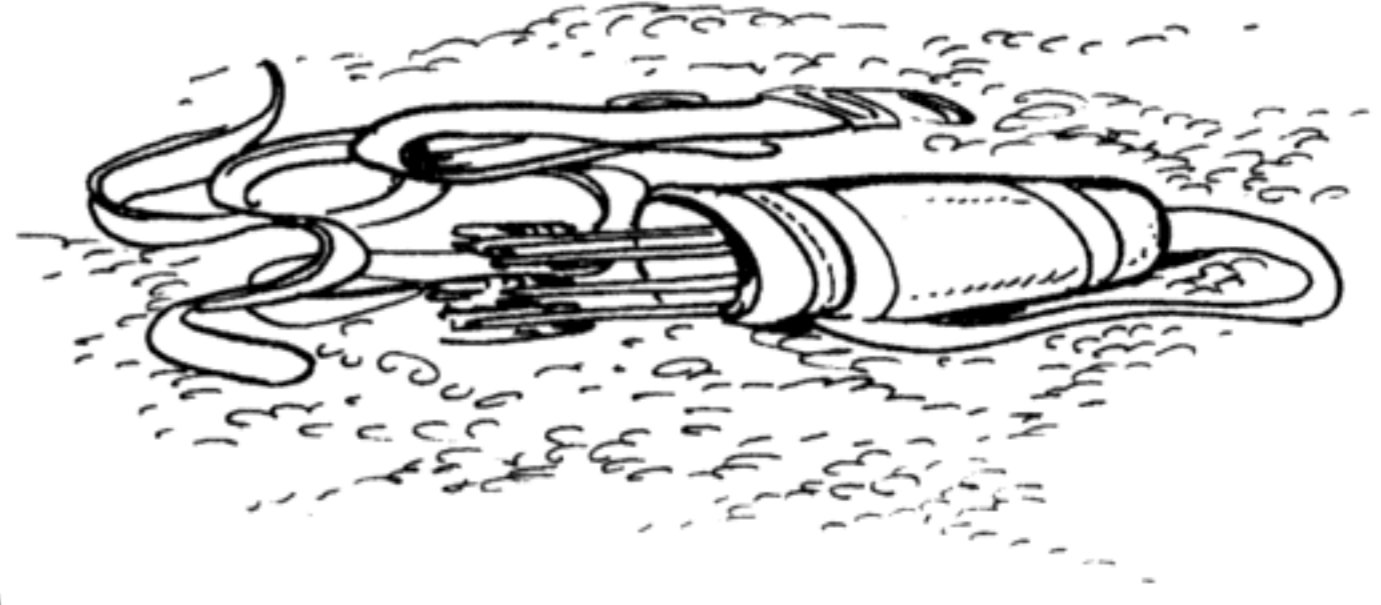
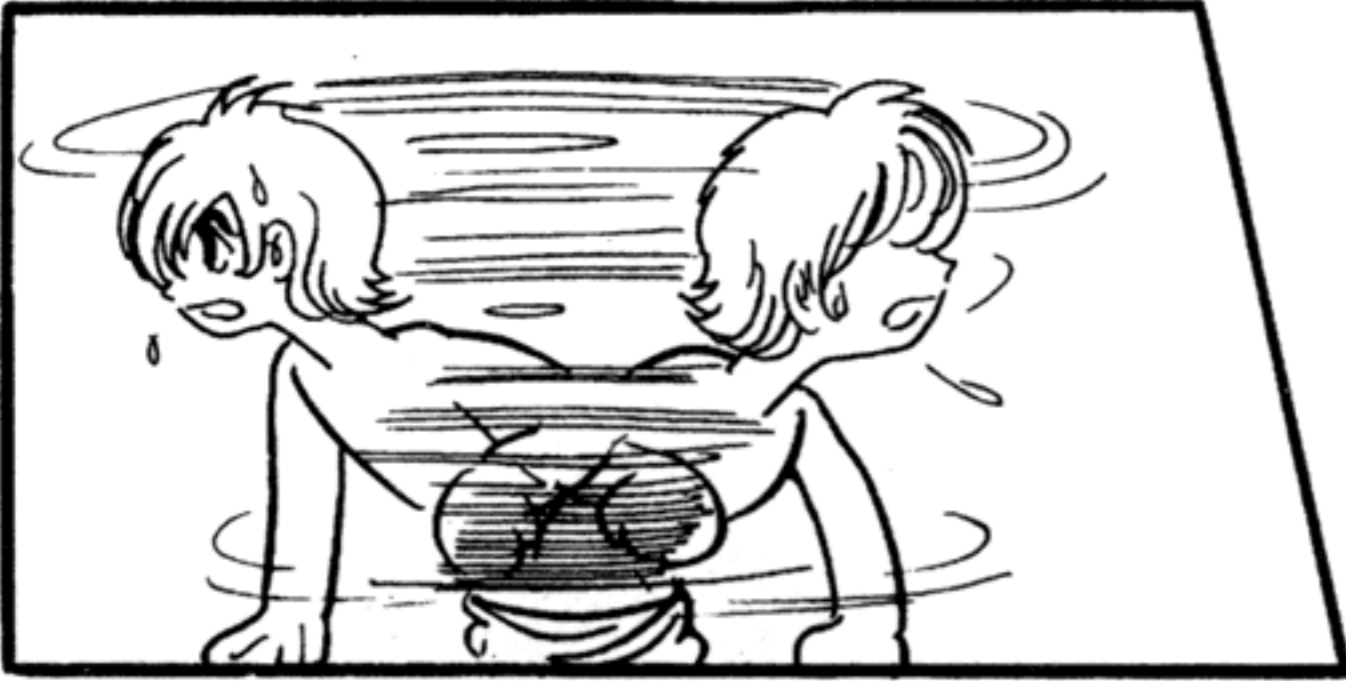


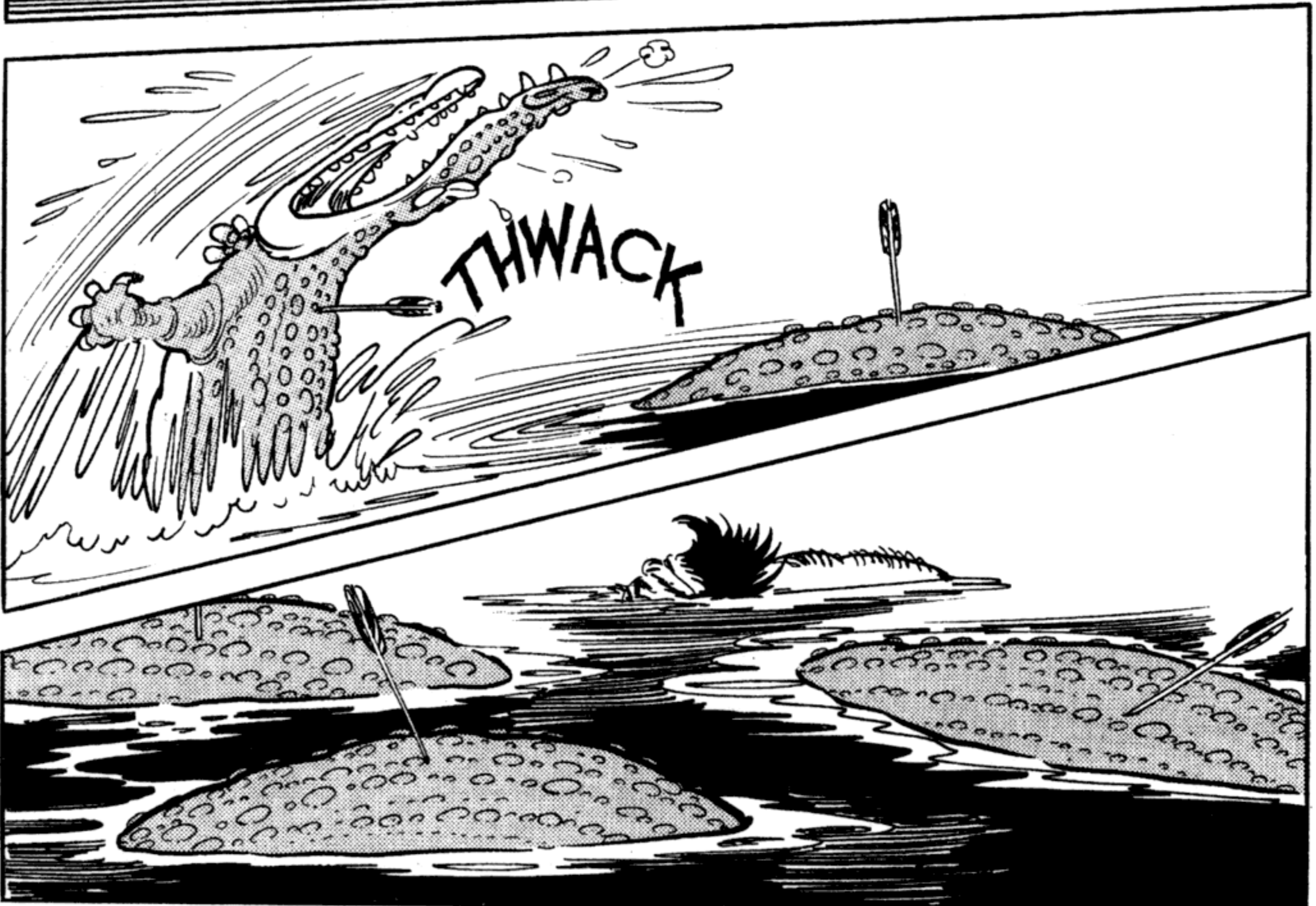


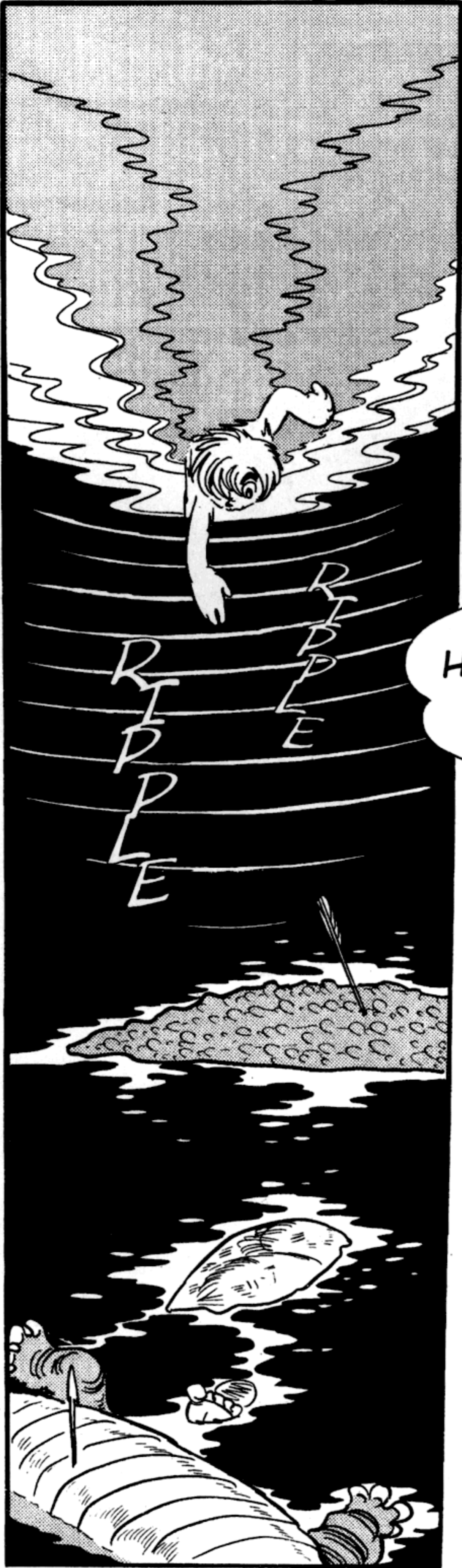




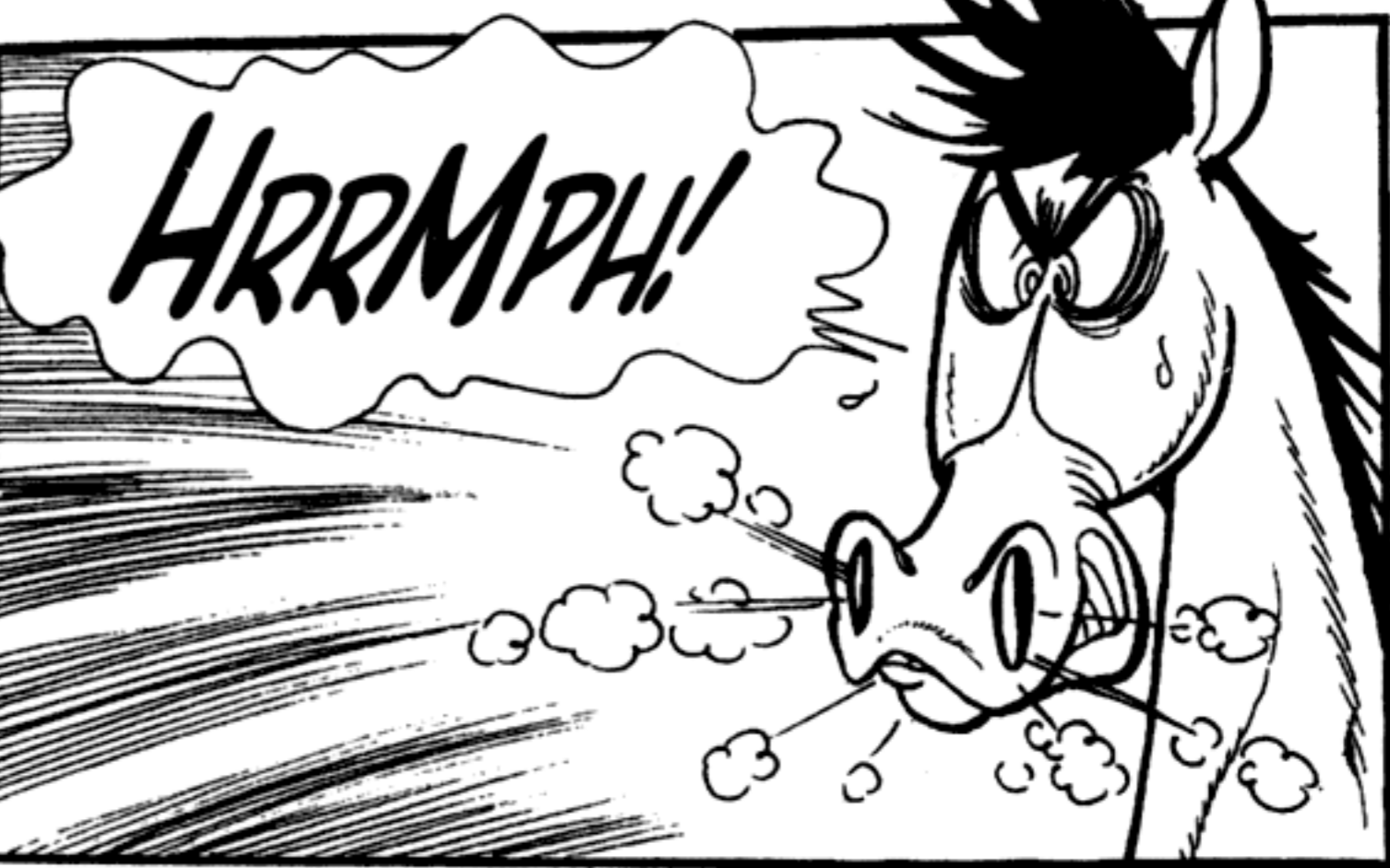


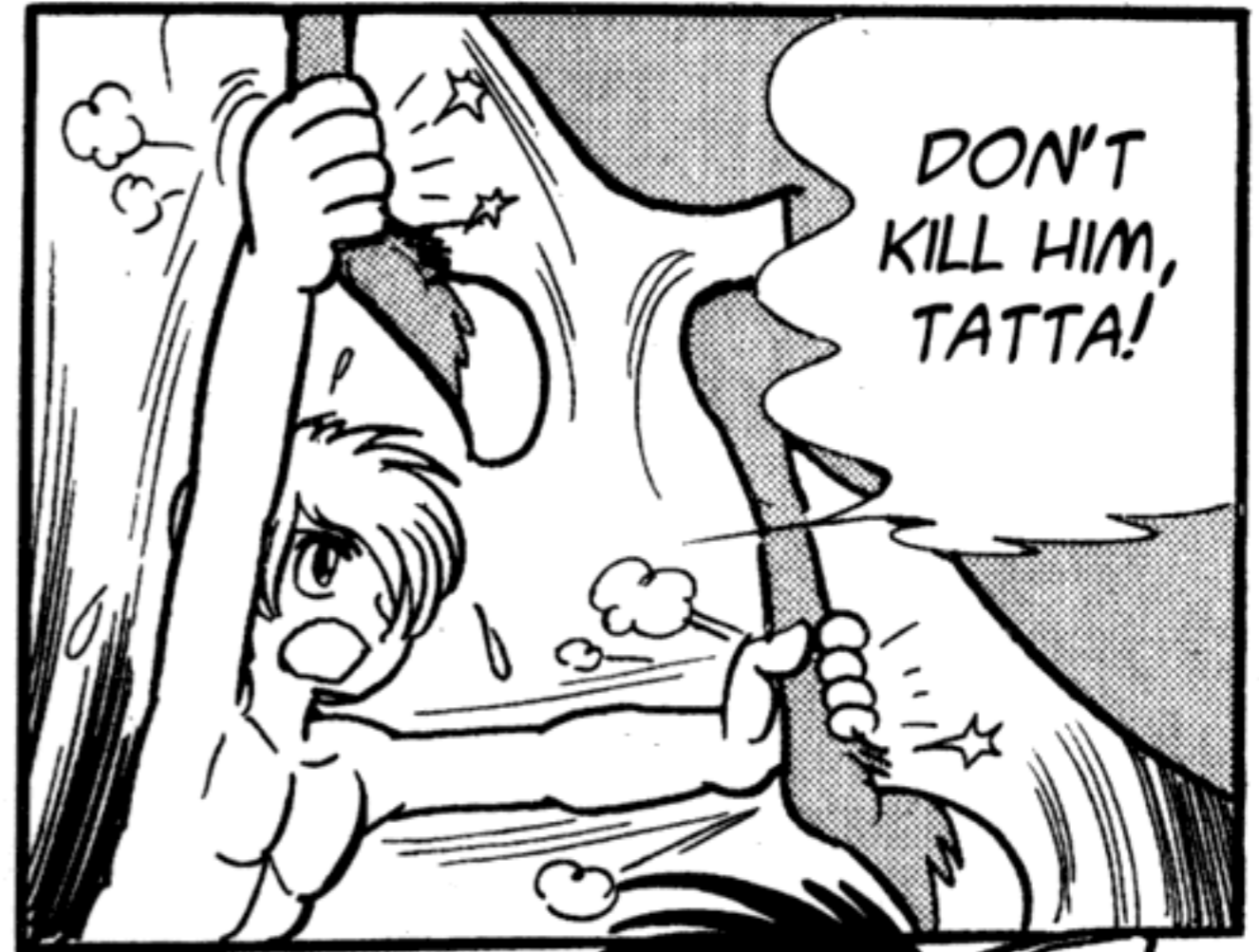
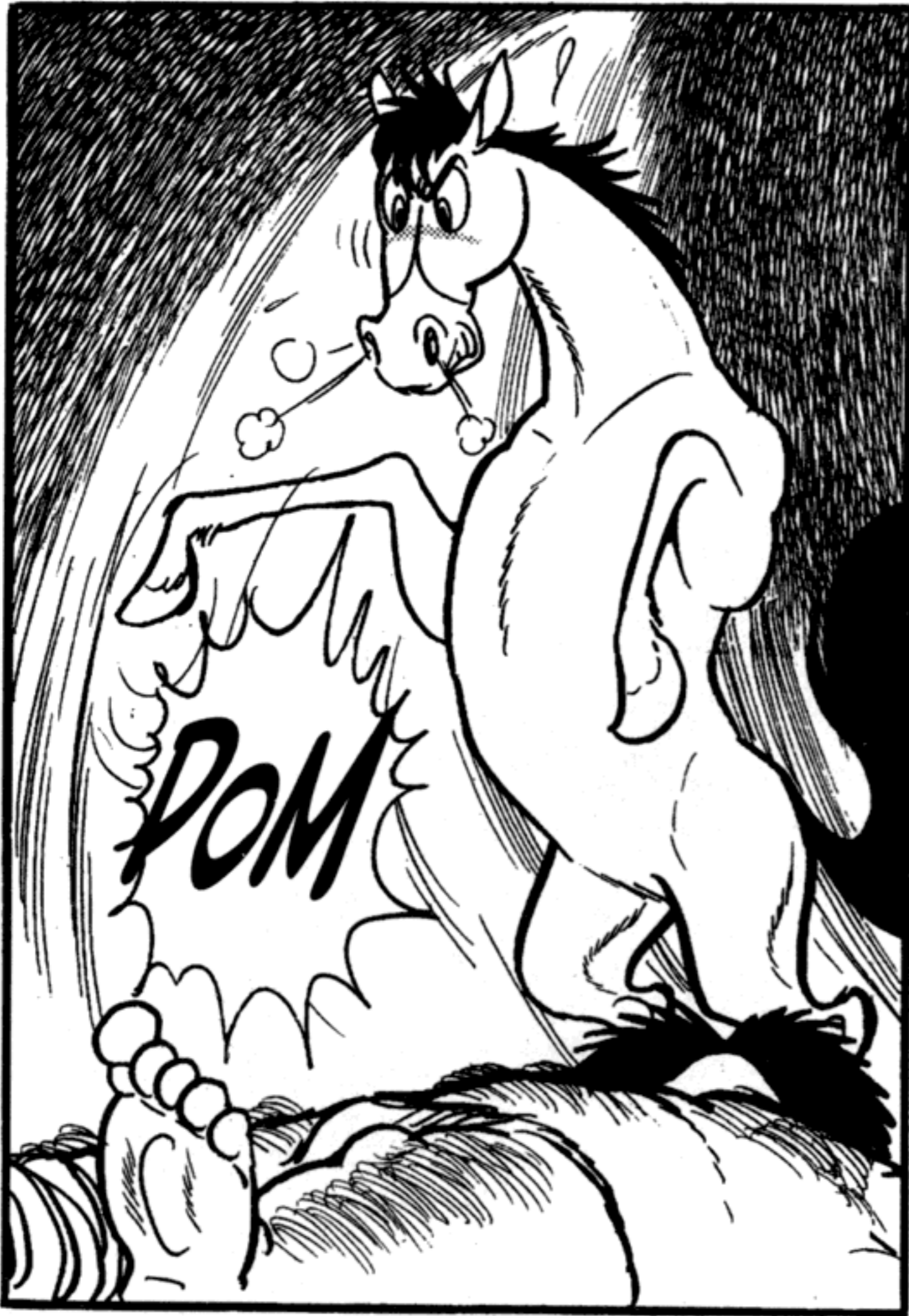




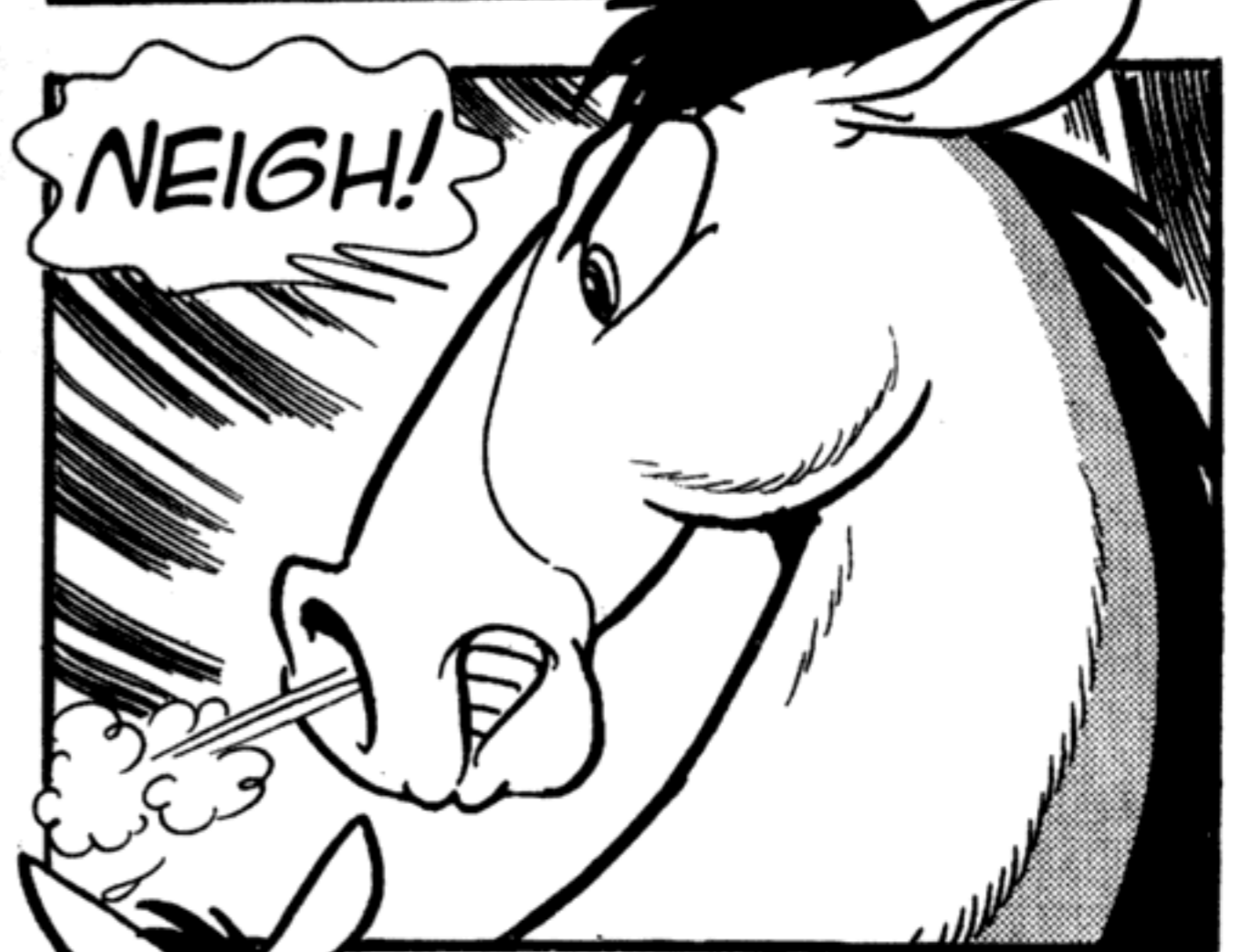


HE'S STILL ALIVE ...

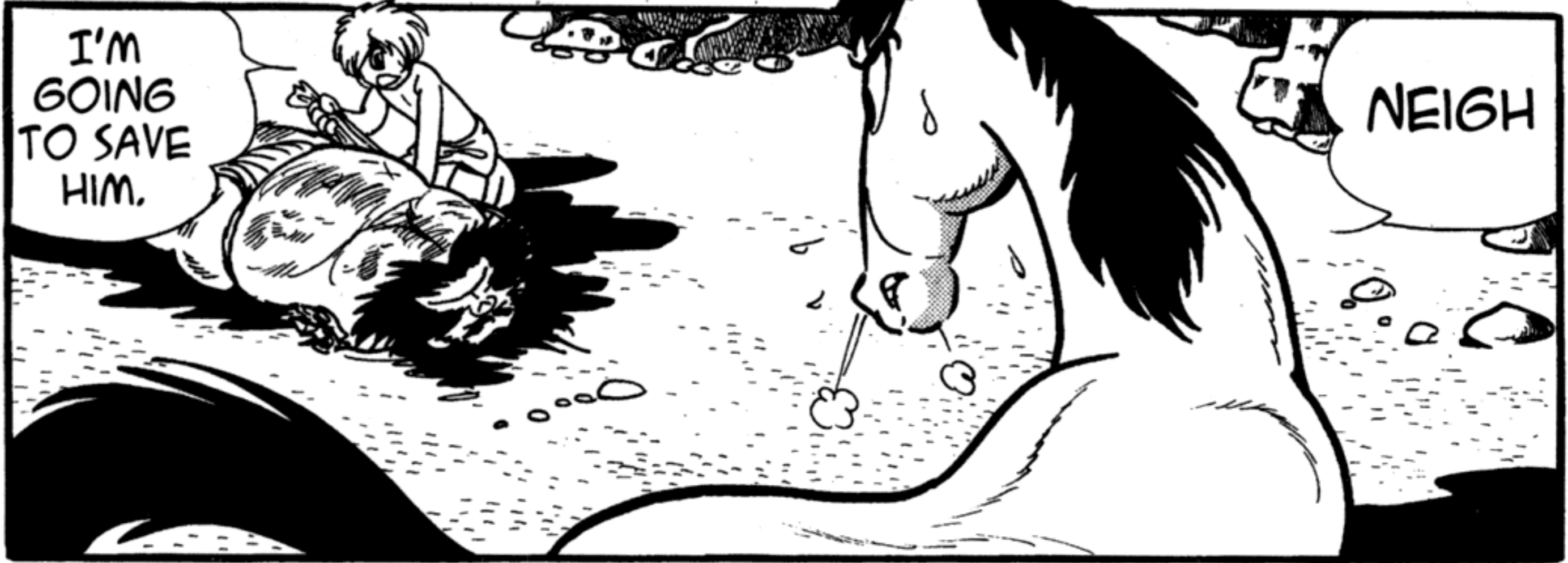




DON'T
KILL HIM,
TATTA!



NEIGH!



I'M
GOING
TO SAVE
HIM.

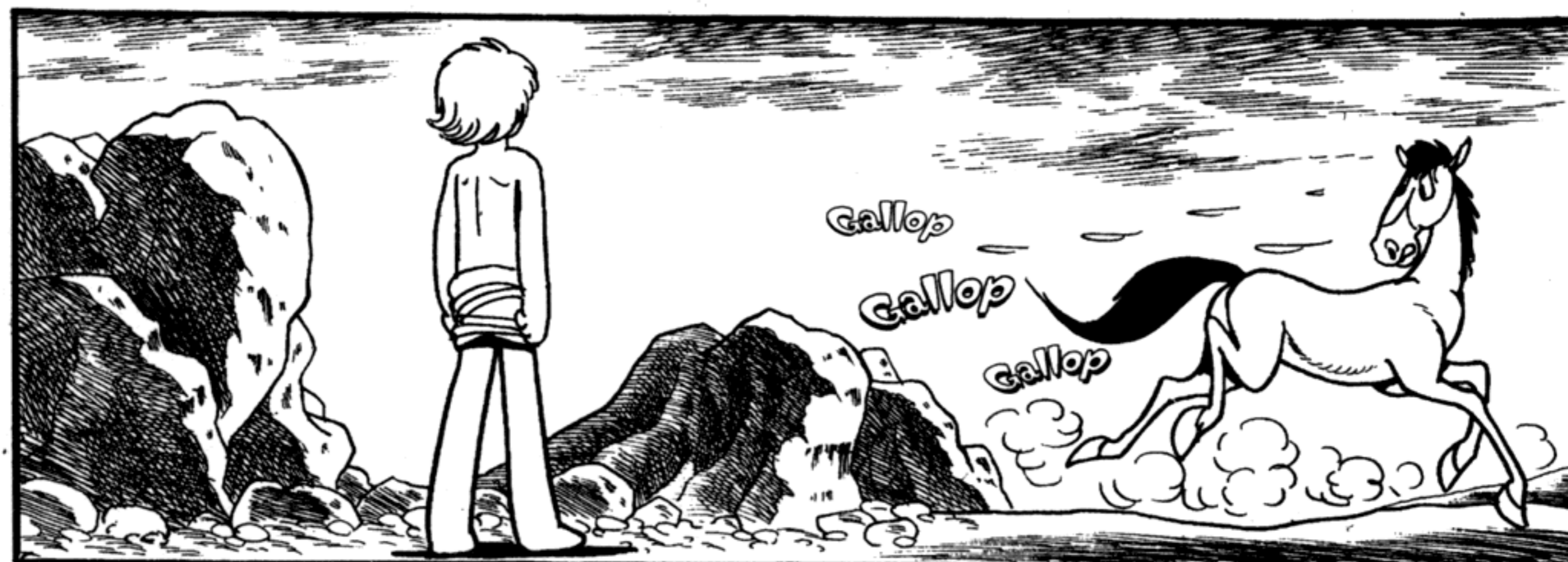
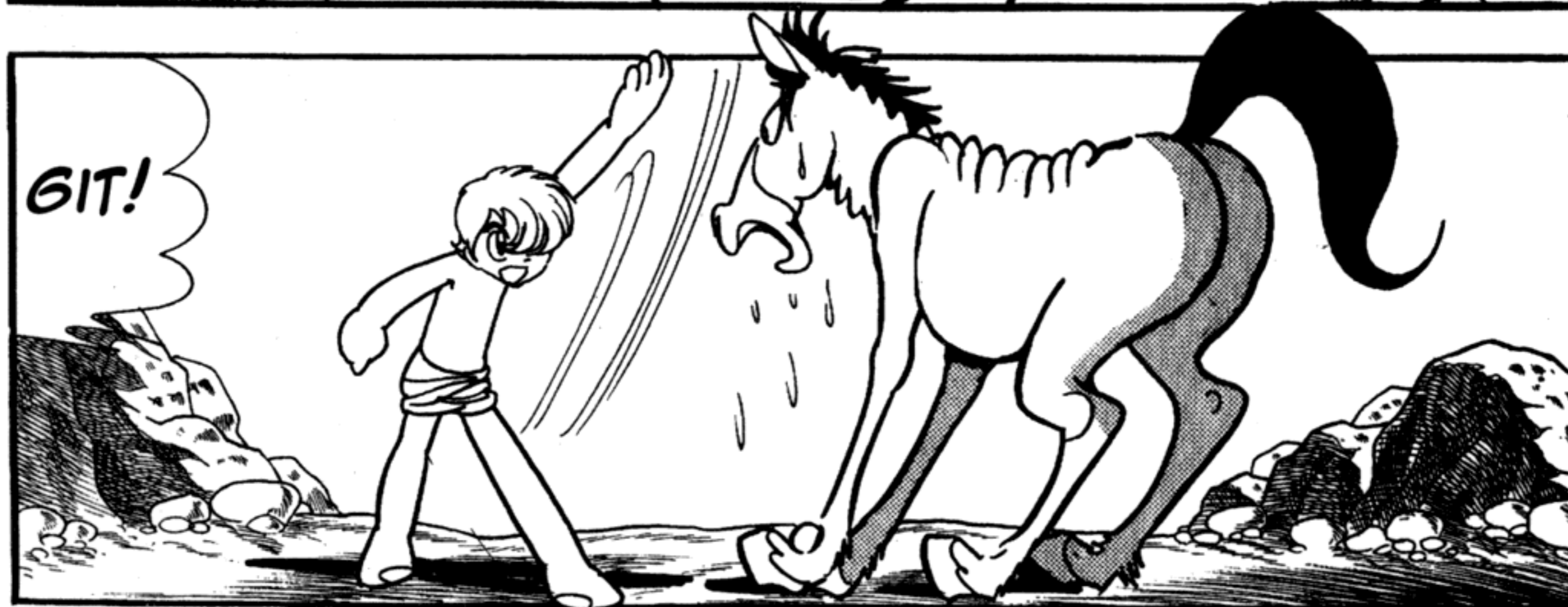
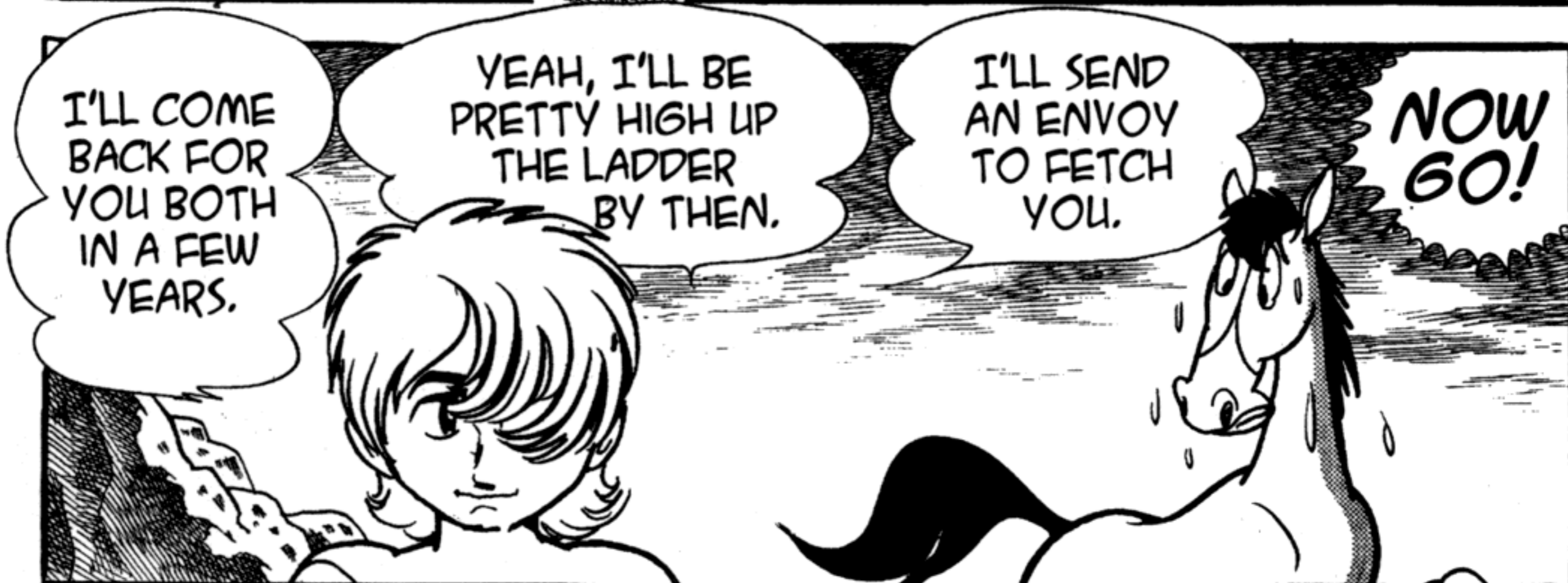
NEIGH

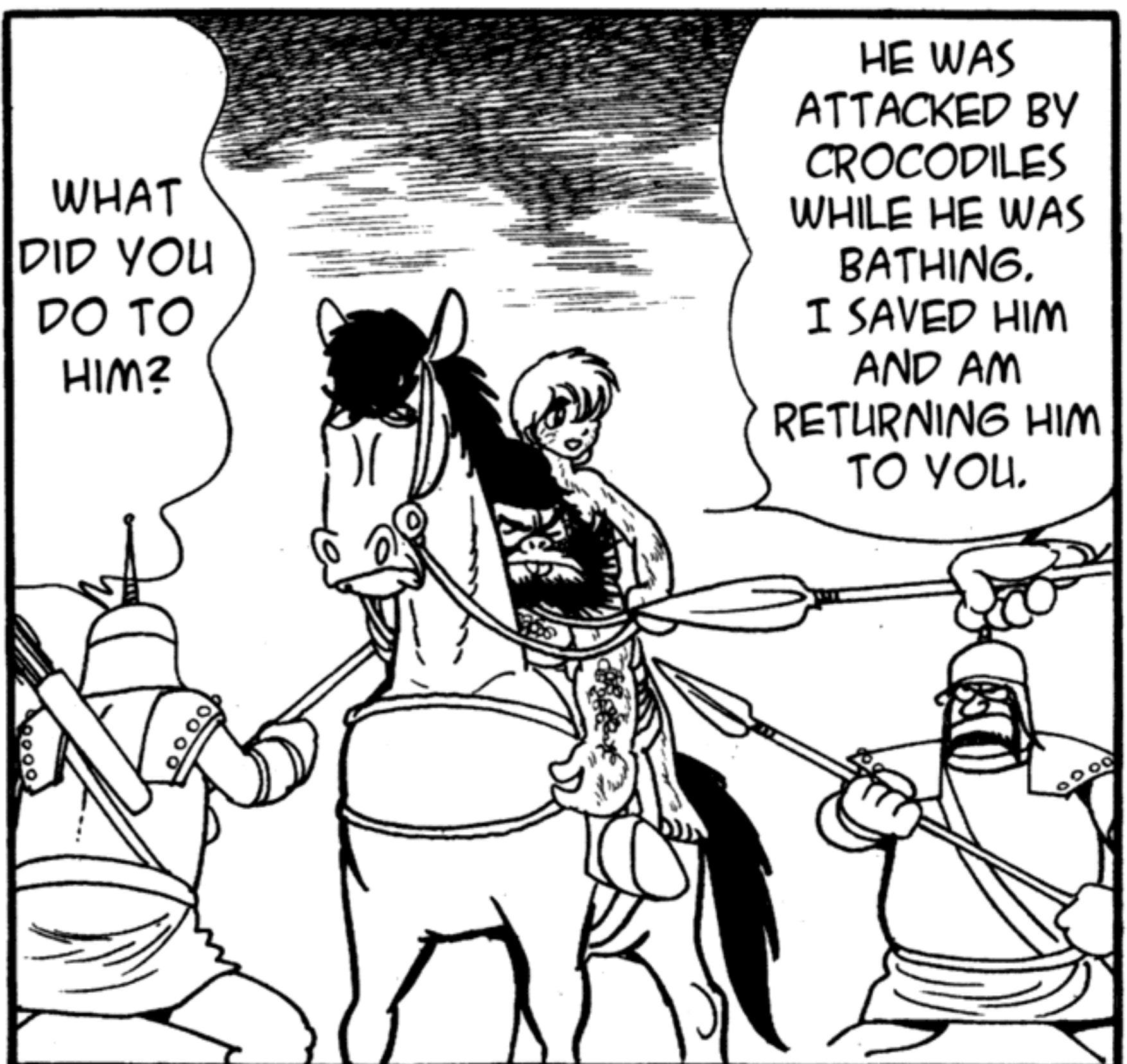
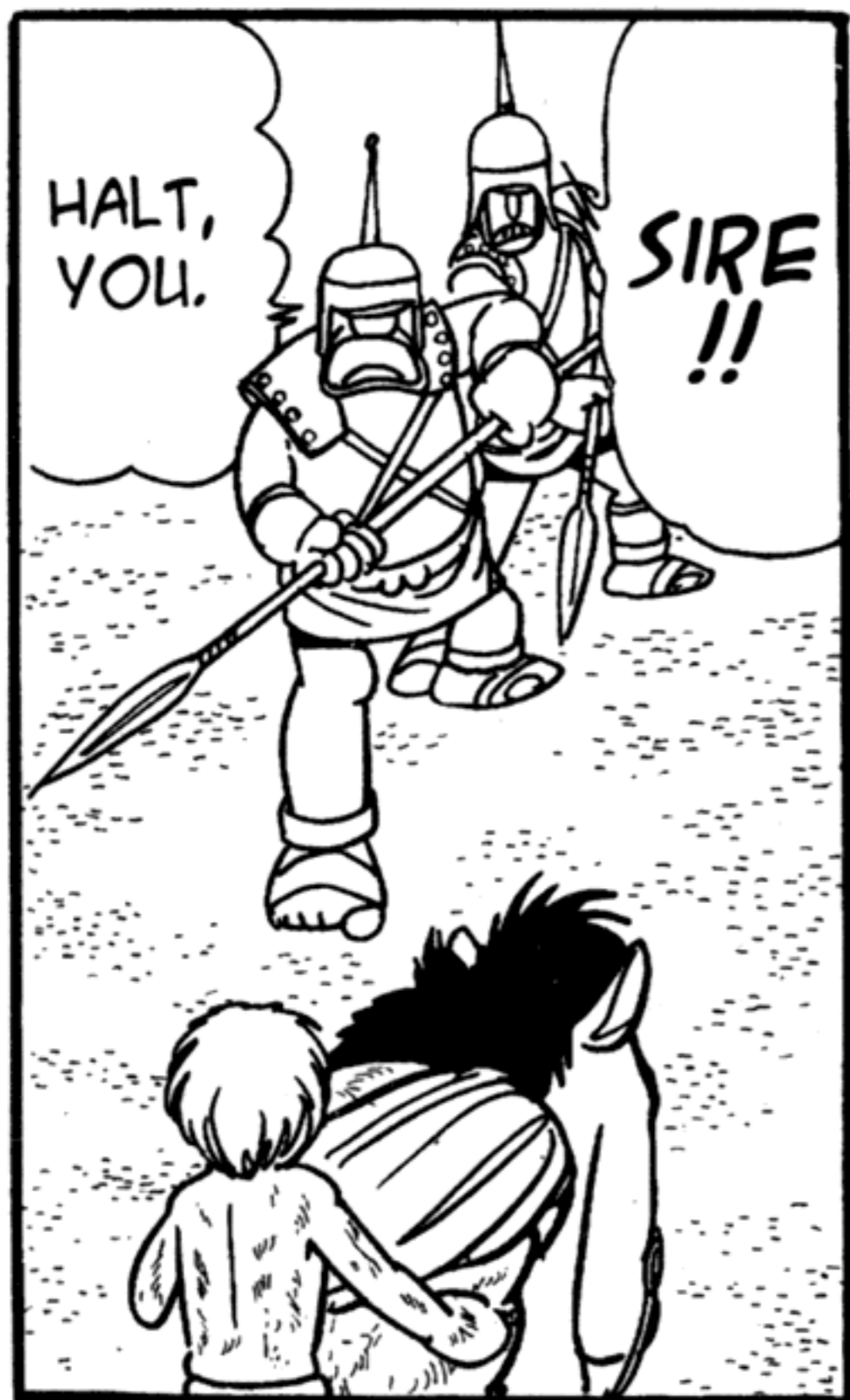


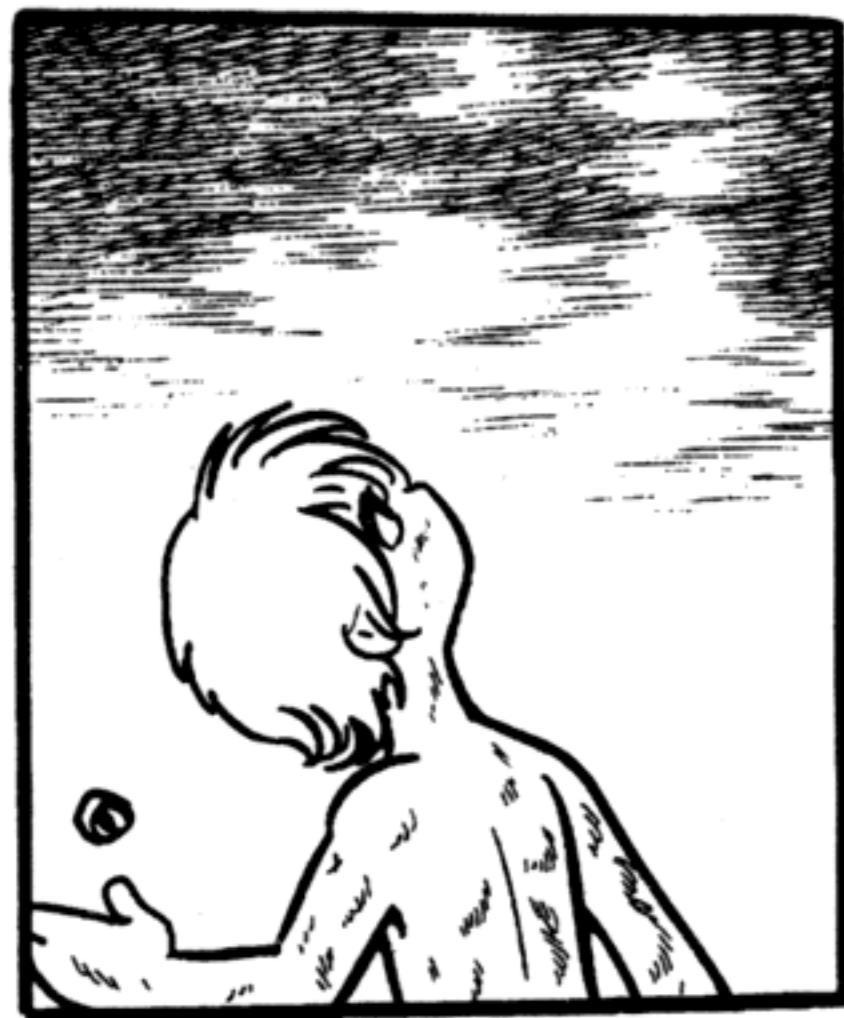
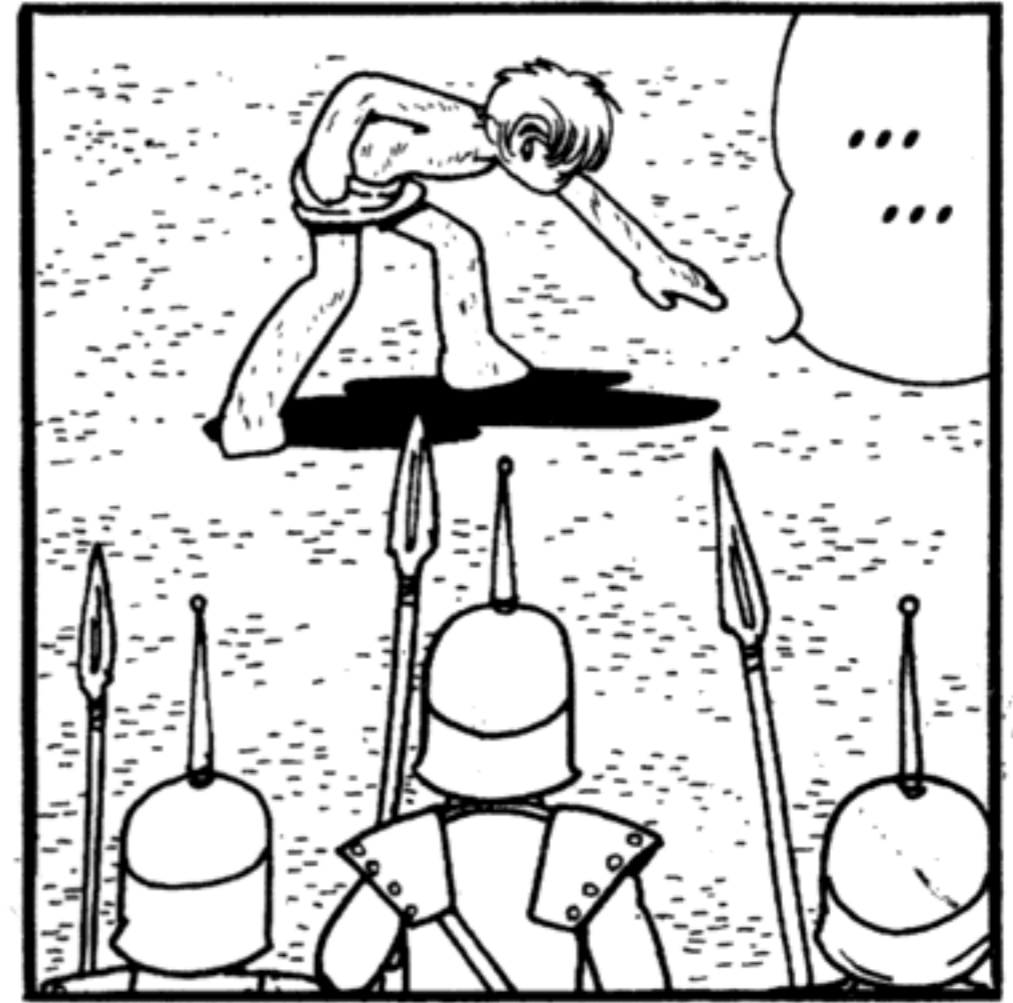
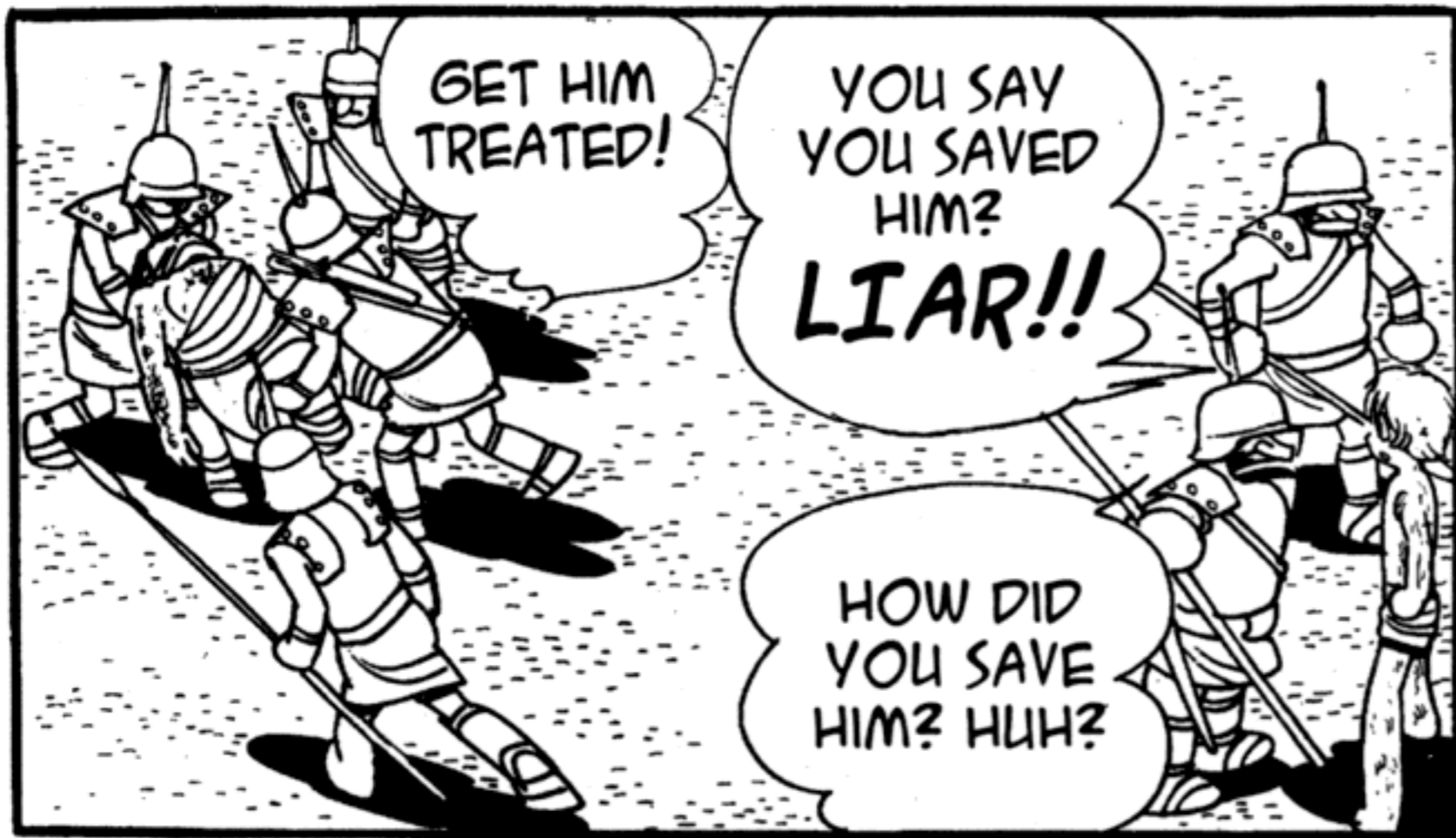
I'M LUCKY.
HE'S A
GENERAL.

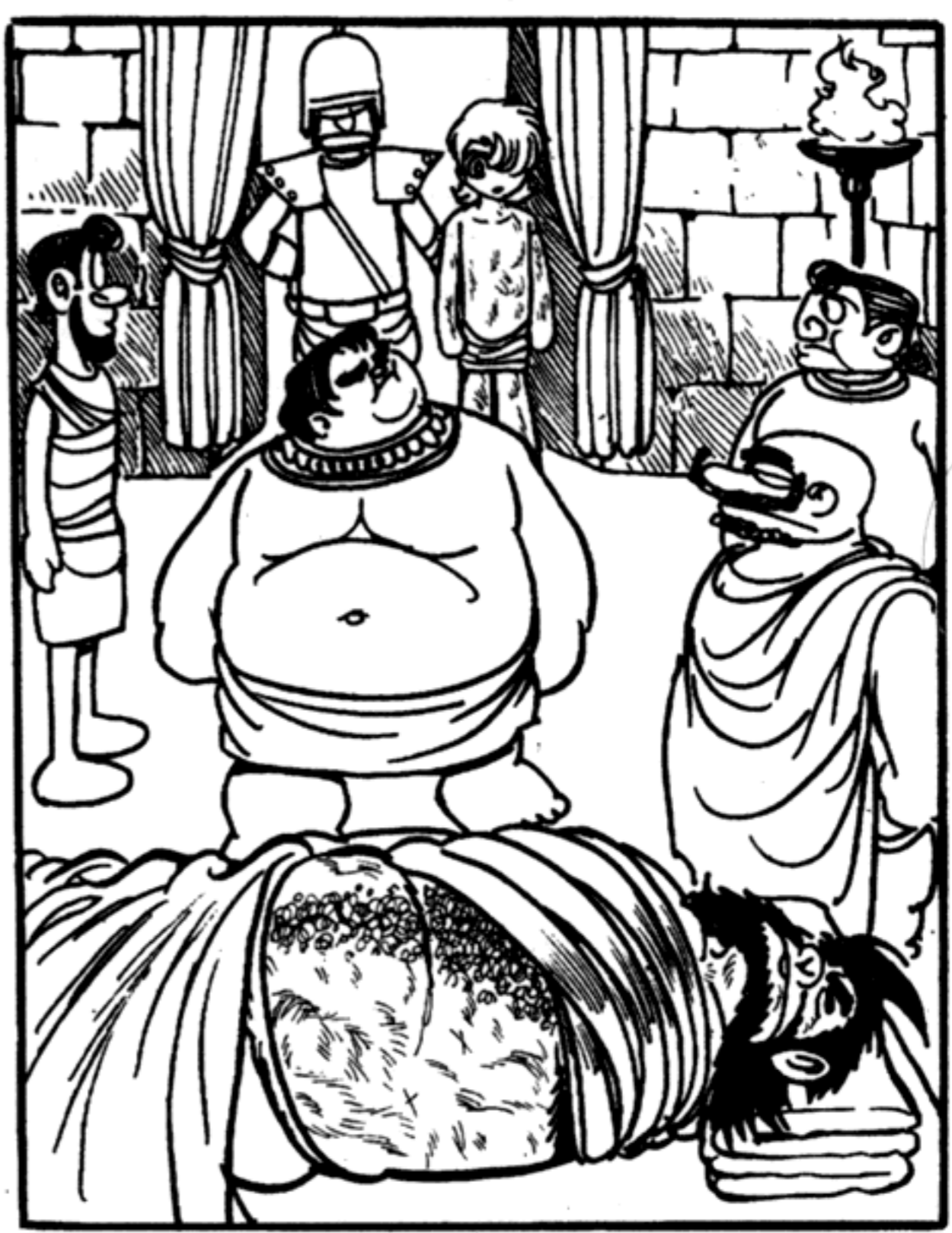
IF I TAKE HIM
BACK TO CAMP,
I'LL HAVE
SAVED HIS LIFE.

AT THE
LEAST HE'LL
MAKE ME
A SOLDIER.











BE MY...
S-SON...
I'VE GOT NO...
CHILDREN...

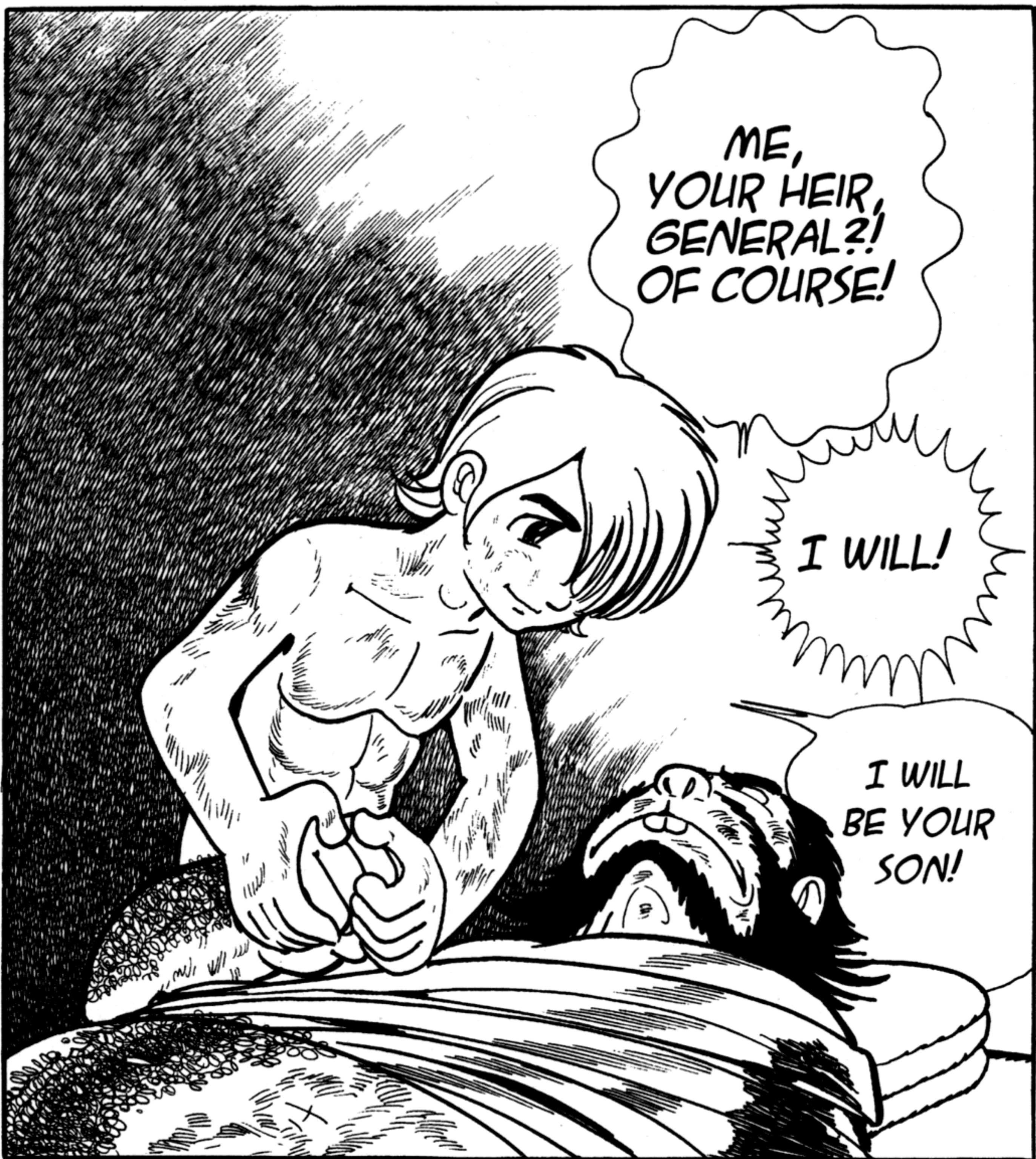


BE YOUR
SON ???



Y-YES
WHOEVER
YOU MAY BE

I HAVE
NO
GREATER
GIFT TO
OFFER...
PLEASE
ACCEPT



ME,
YOUR HEIR,
GENERAL?!
OF COURSE!

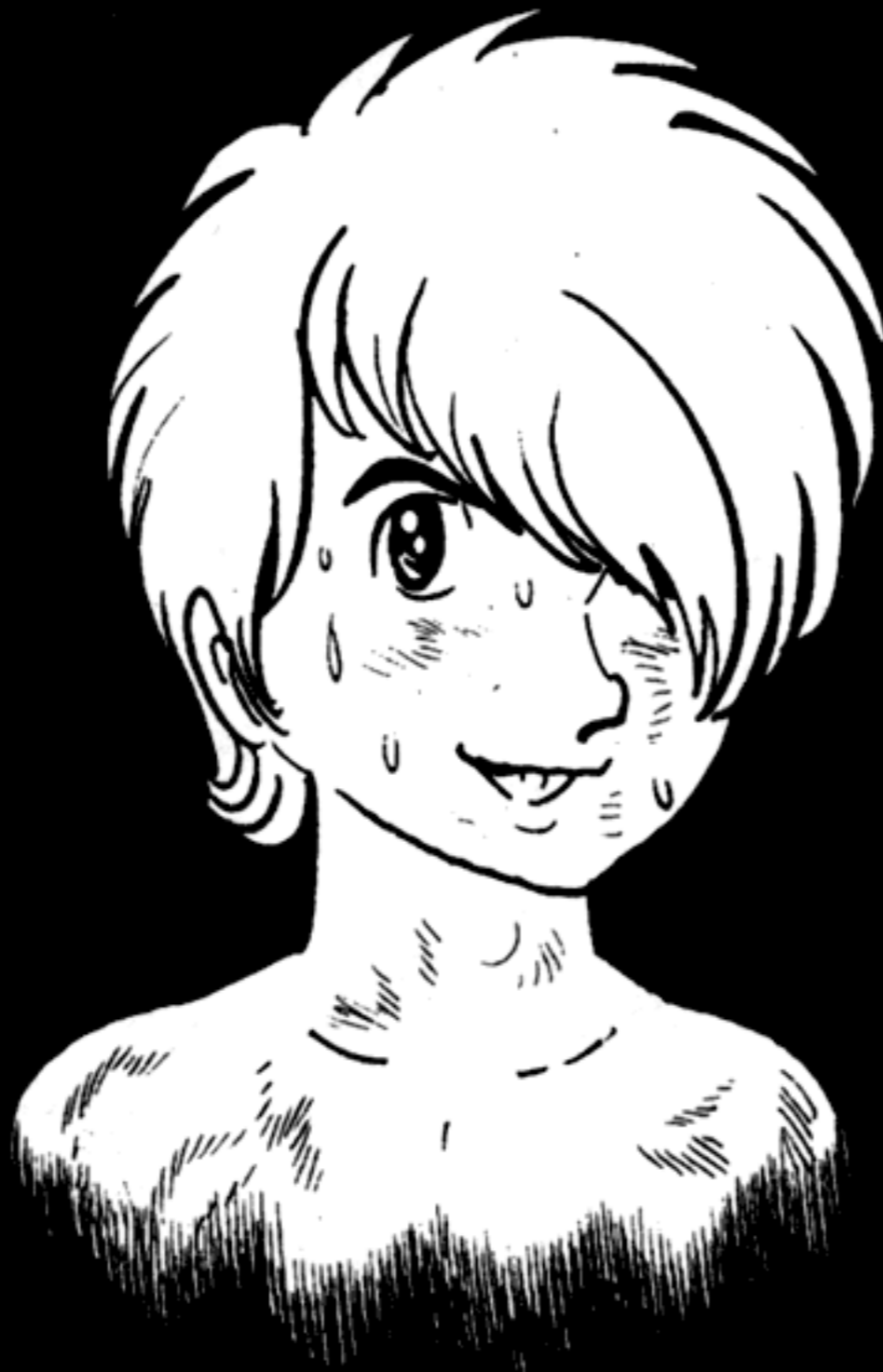
I WILL!

I WILL
BE YOUR
SON!

MAYBE...

JUST
MAYBE...

THIS
COULD
BE GREAT!



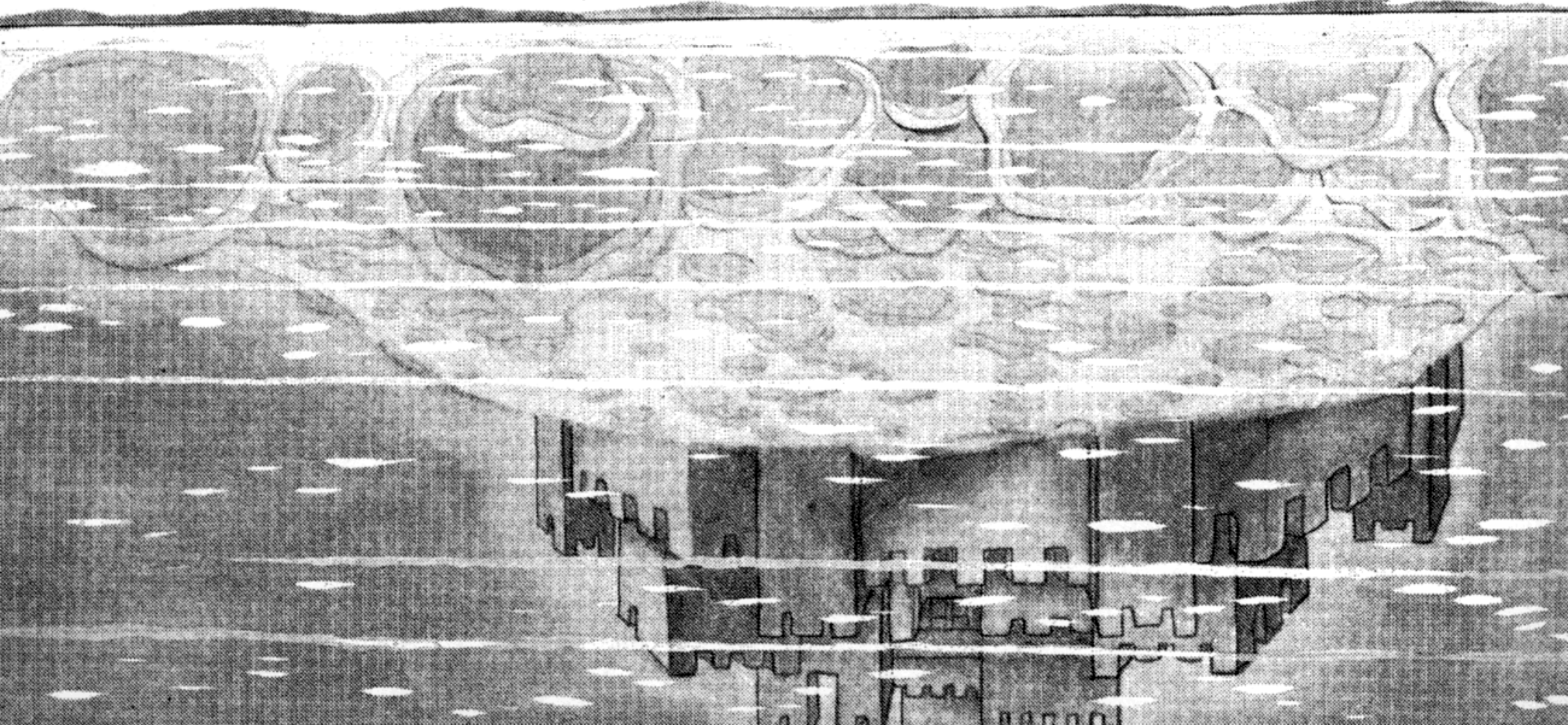
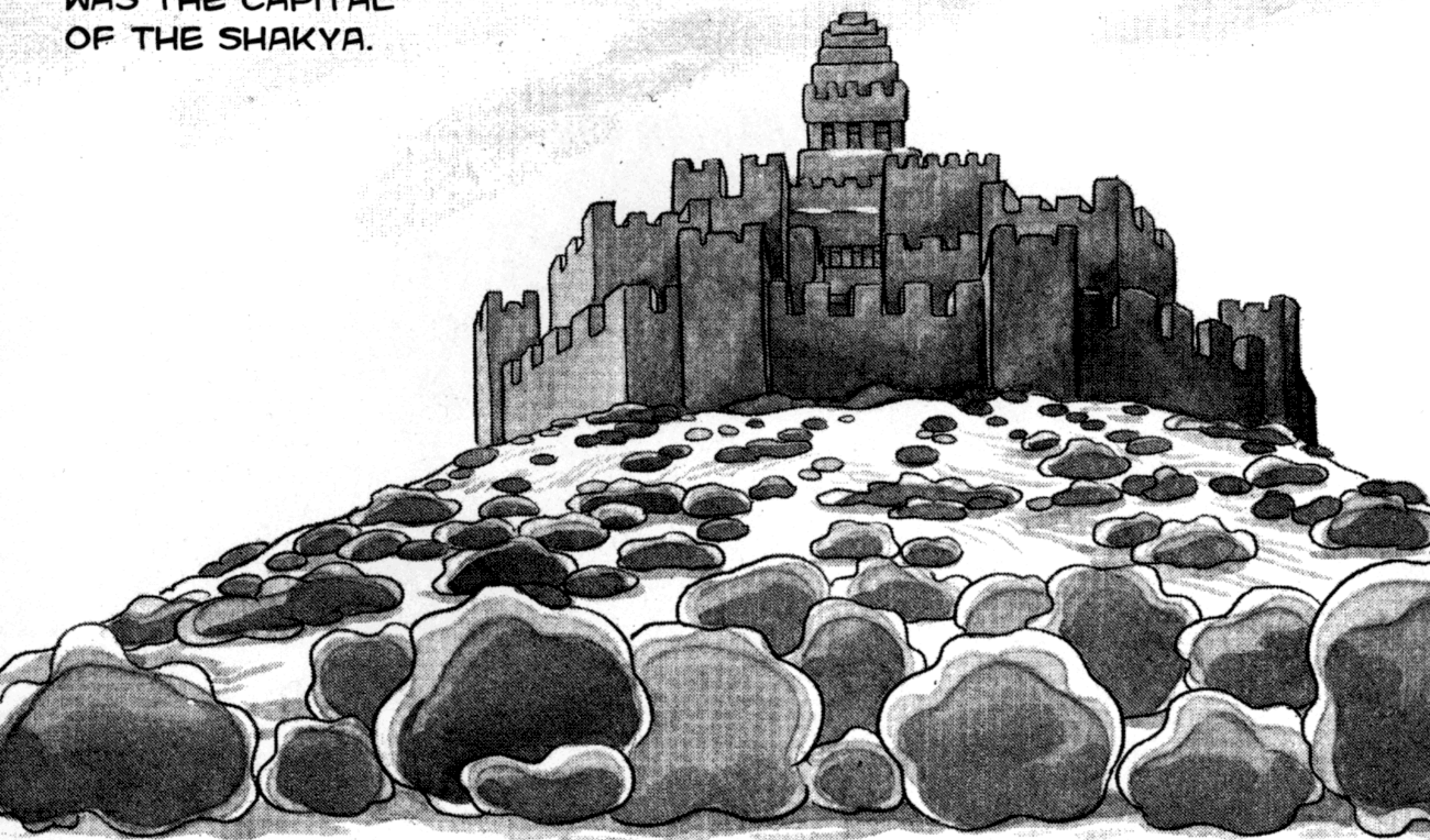
THE SON
OF A GENERAL
OF KOSALA -
WHAT LUCK!

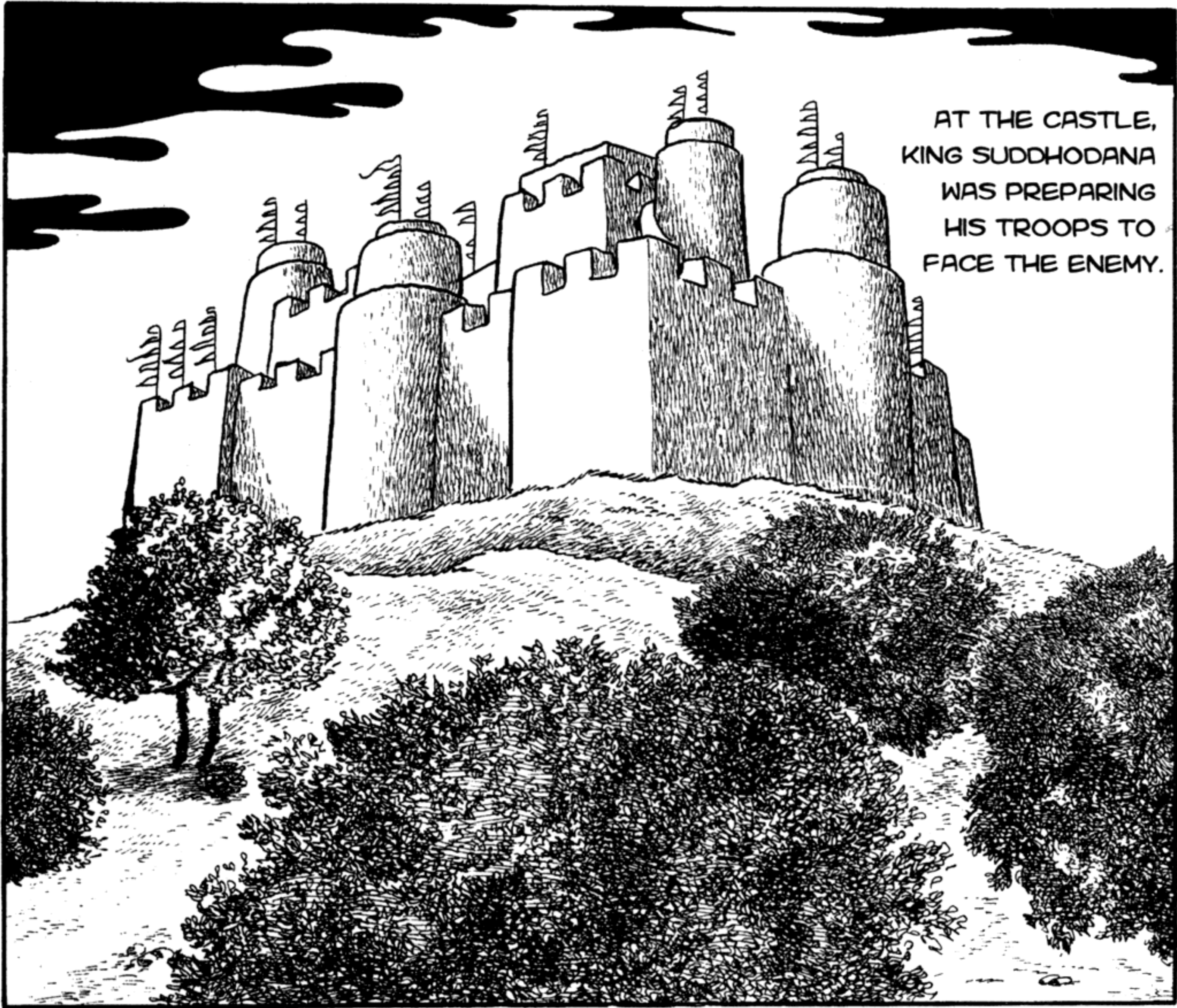
WAIT FOR ME,
TATTA.
WAIT FOR ME,
DEAR MOTHER!

CHAPTER FOUR

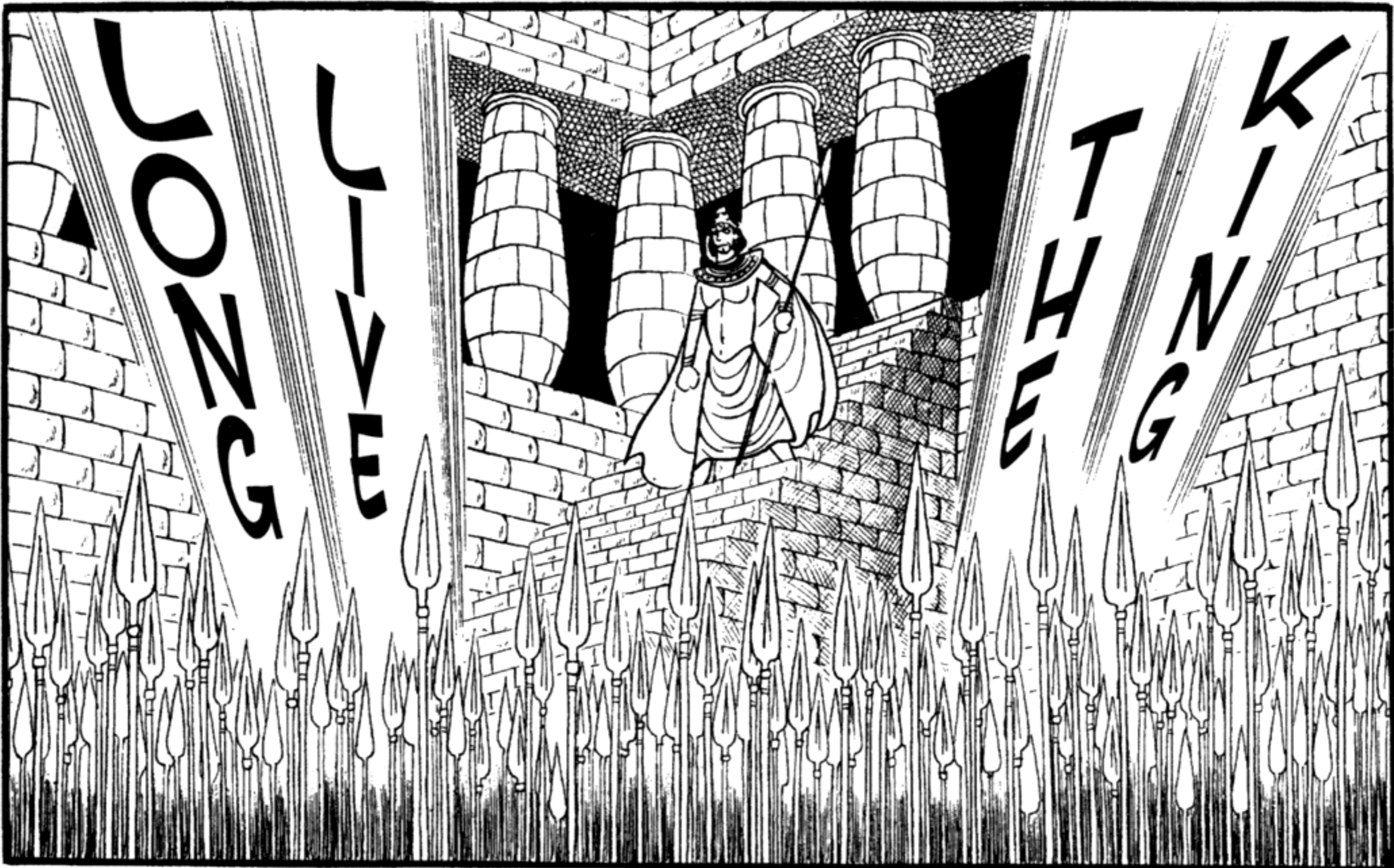
THE ANNOUNCEMENT

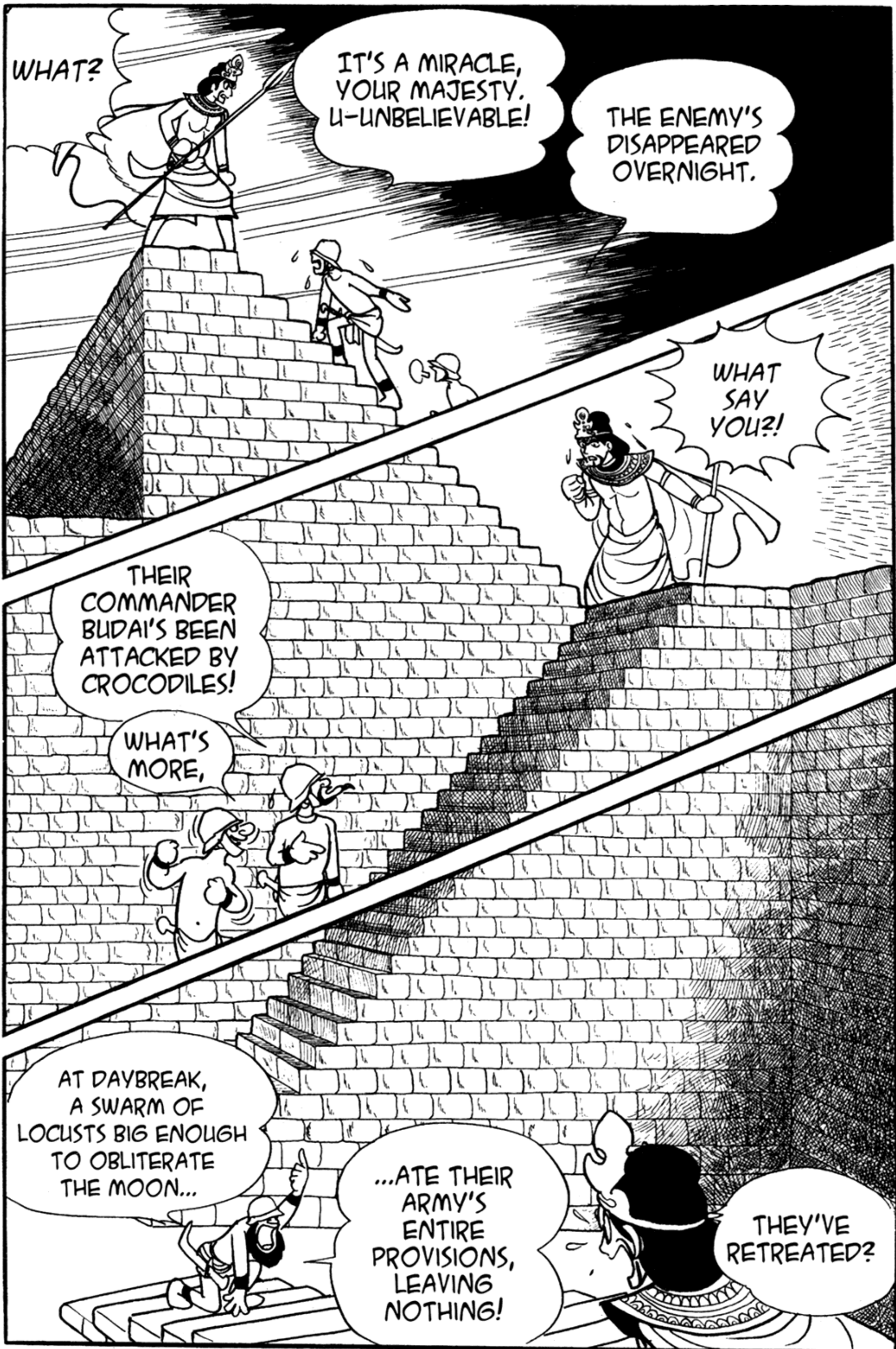
THE ARMY OF KOSALA,
LED BY GENERAL BUDAI,
HAD COME TO STORM
THE LITTLE CASTLE OF
KAPILAVASTU. TWO TRIBES,
THE SHAKYA AND THE KOLIYA,
LIVED IN HARMONY ON
EITHER SHORE OF THE
ROHINI RIVER. KAPILAVASTU
WAS THE CAPITAL
OF THE SHAKYA.





AT THE CASTLE,
KING SUDDHODANA
WAS PREPARING
HIS TROOPS TO
FACE THE ENEMY.





IT'S A MIRACLE,
YOUR MAJESTY.
U-UNBELIEVABLE!

THE ENEMY'S
DISAPPEARED
OVERNIGHT.

WHAT
SAY
YOU?!

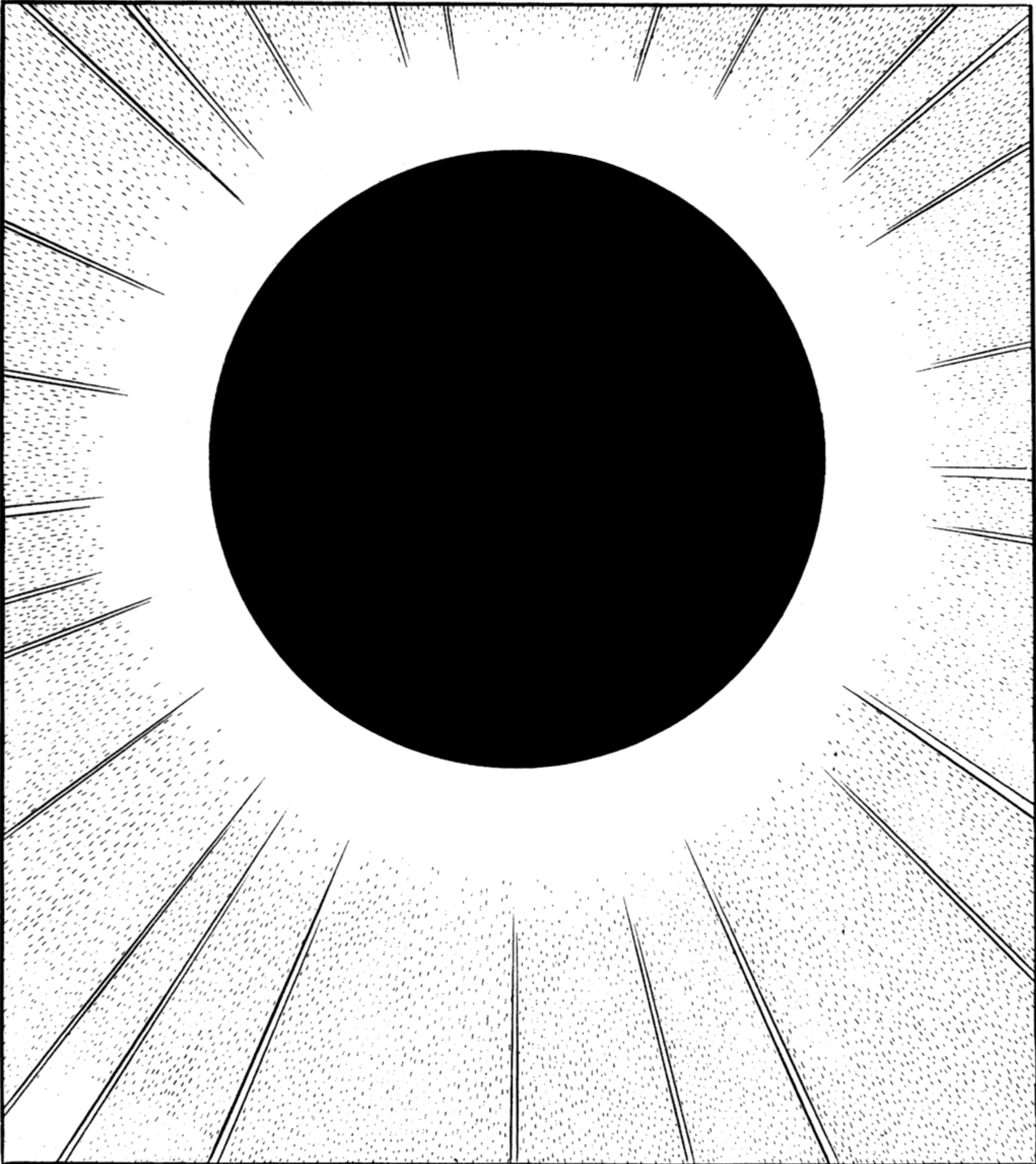
THEIR
COMMANDER
BUDAI'S BEEN
ATTACKED BY
CROCODILES!

WHAT'S
MORE,

AT DAYBREAK,
A SWARM OF
LOCUSTS BIG ENOUGH
TO OBLITERATE
THE MOON...

...ATE THEIR
ARMY'S
ENTIRE
PROVISIONS,
LEAVING
NOTHING!

THEY'VE
RETREATED?





GOOD TIDINGS, MAYA.

YES, WE HEARD THE CHEERING.

WE'VE WON.



IT'S THE STRANGEST THING, MAYA.



LOCUSTS SOMETIMES FLY IN HUGE SWARMS,

BUT THE FACT THAT THEY SWARMED OUR ENEMY JUST THEN...

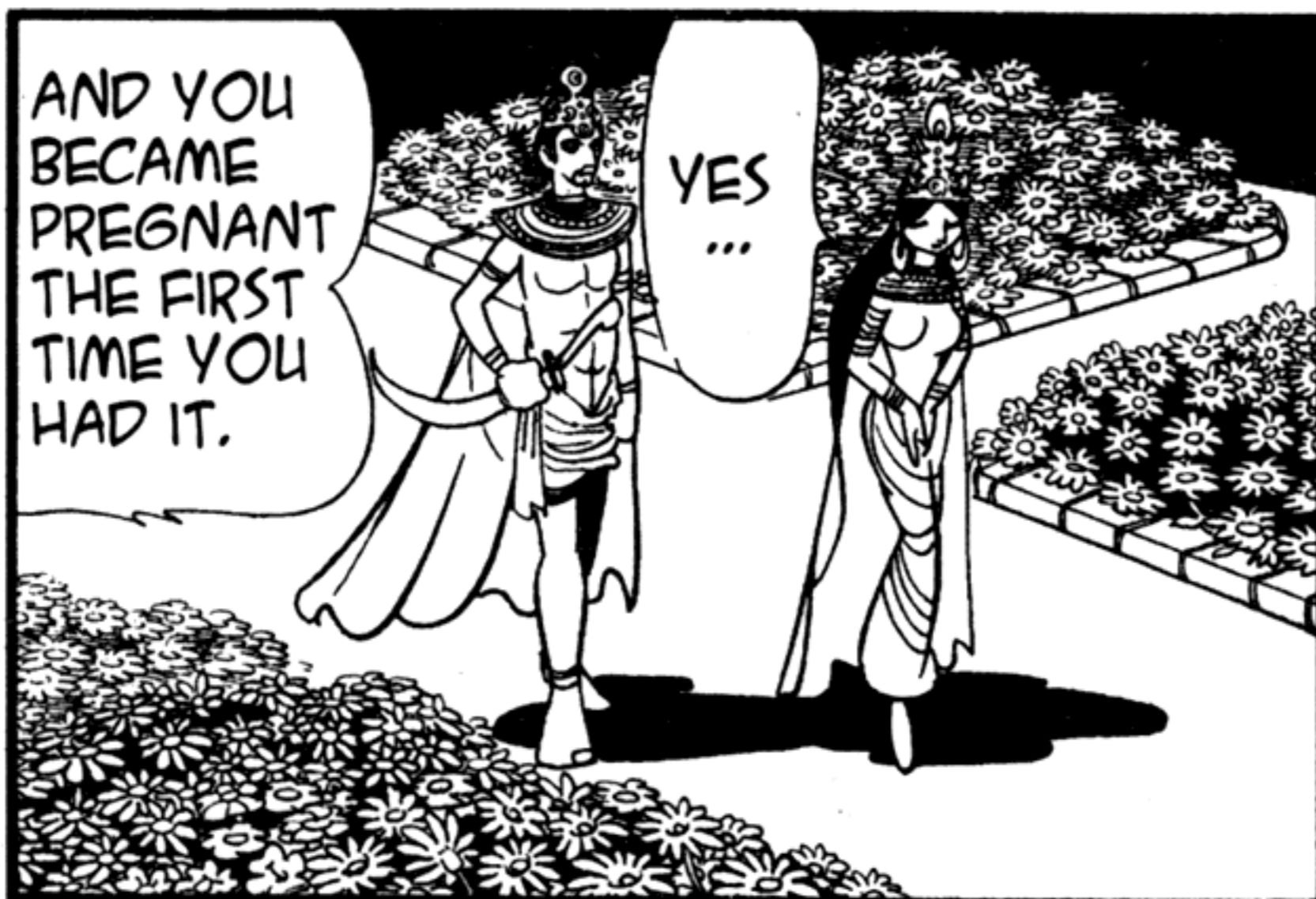
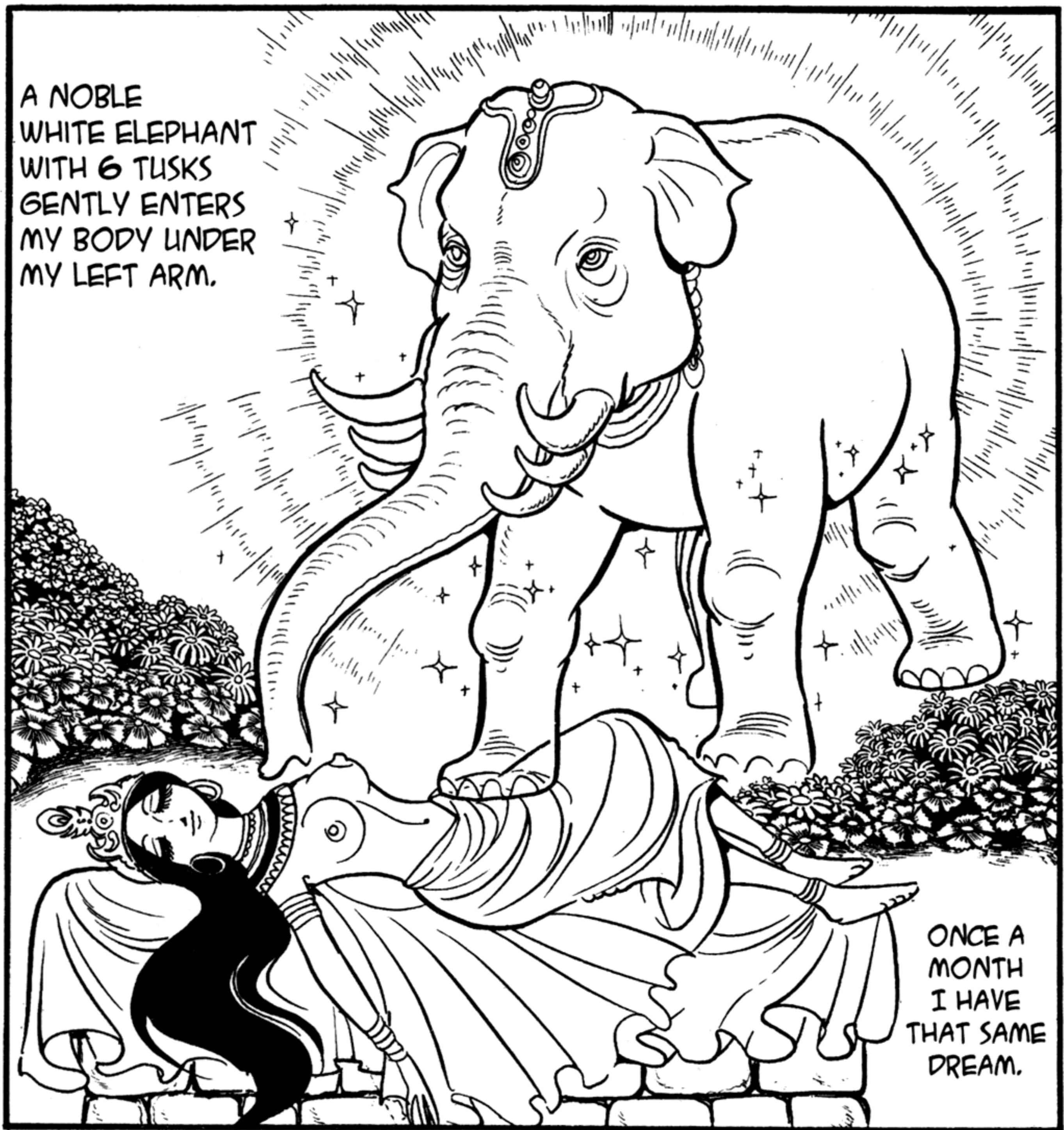


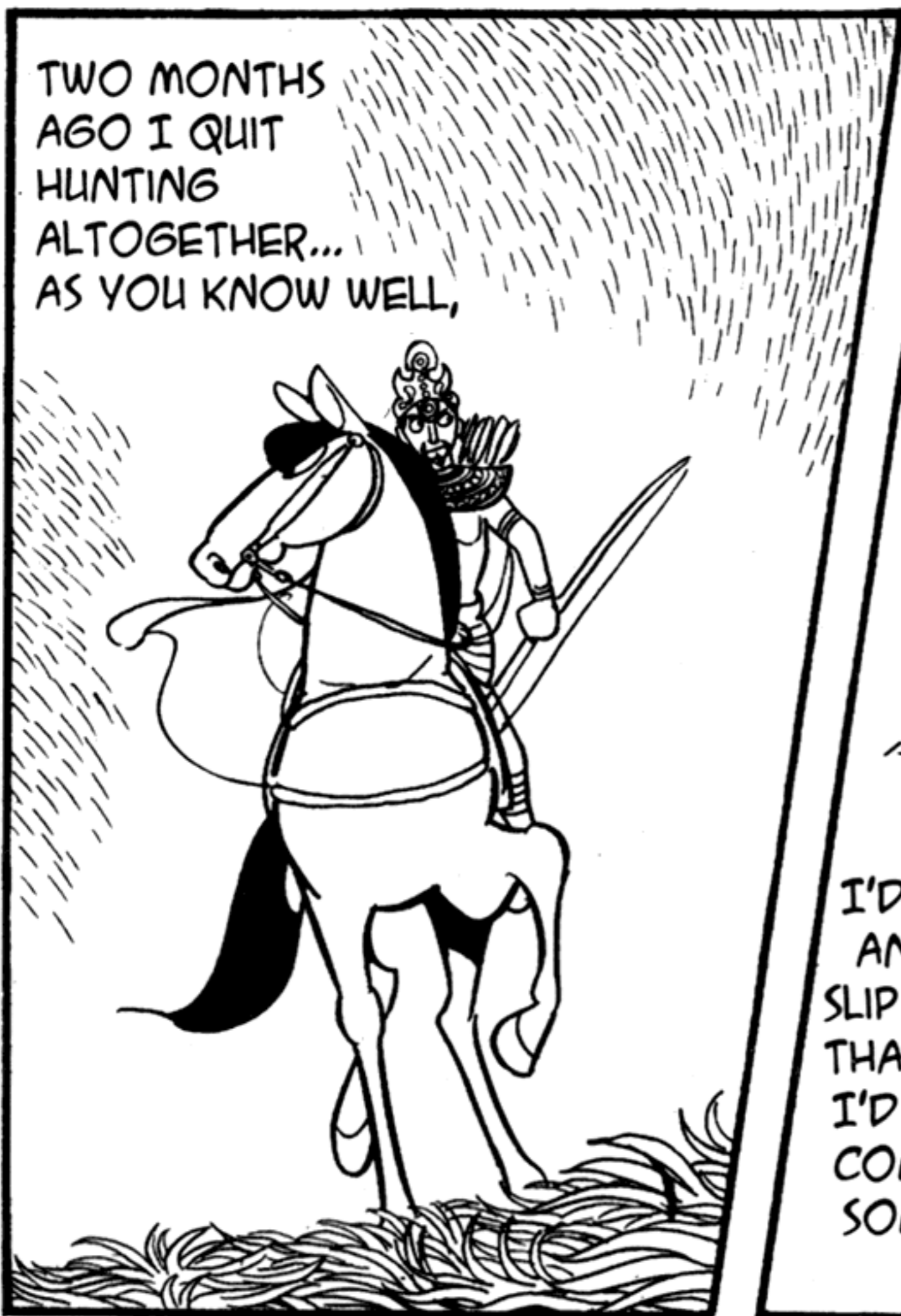
I HAD THAT DREAM AGAIN, DEAR.



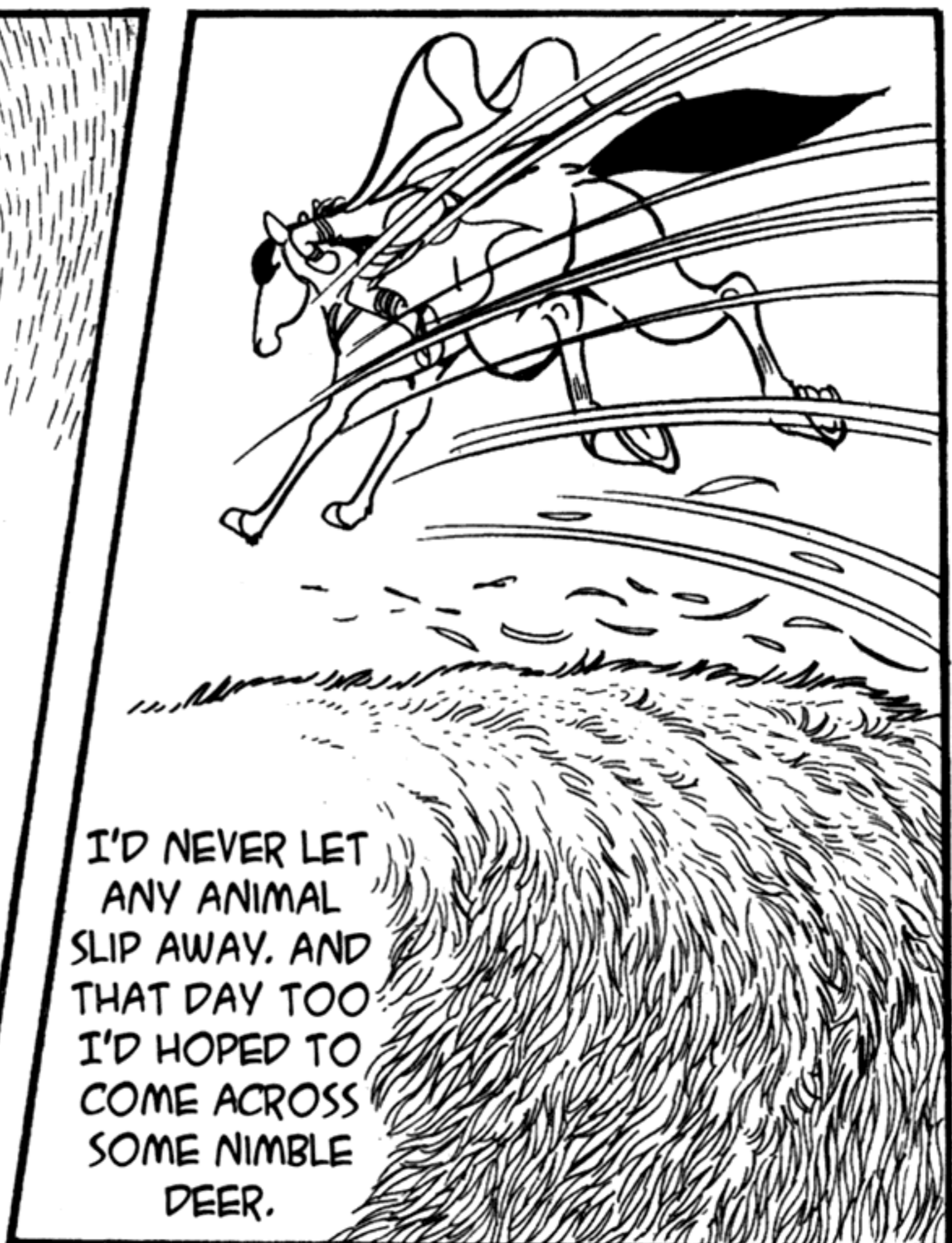
ABOUT THE WHITE ELEPHANT WITH 6 TUSKS.

FOR THE SIXTH TIME!

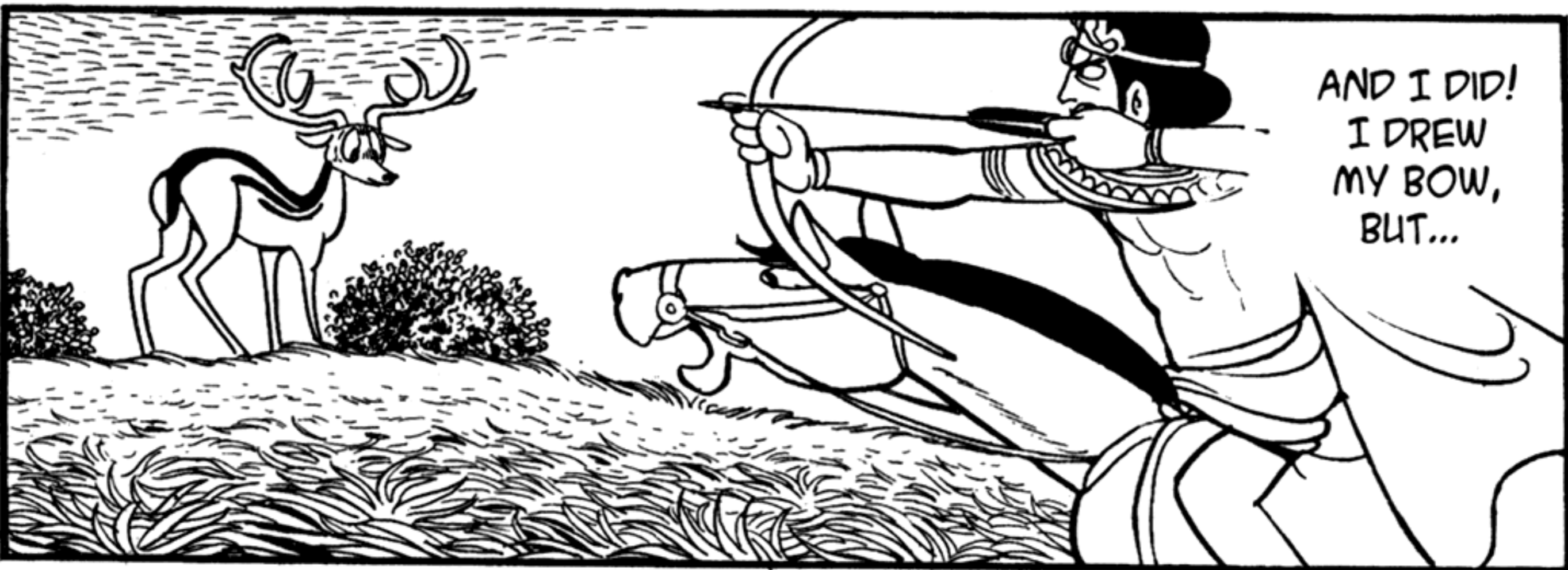




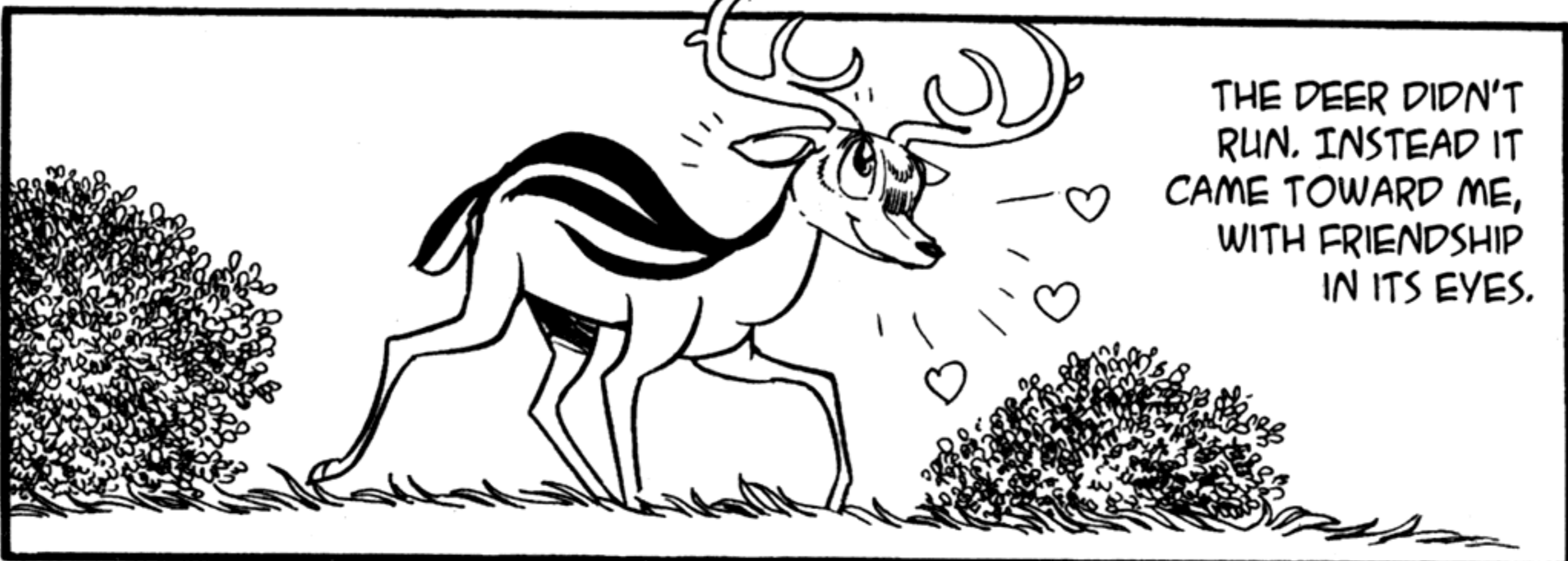
TWO MONTHS
AGO I QUIT
HUNTING
ALTOGETHER...
AS YOU KNOW WELL,



I'D NEVER LET
ANY ANIMAL
SLIP AWAY. AND
THAT DAY TOO
I'D HOPED TO
COME ACROSS
SOME NIMBLE
DEER.

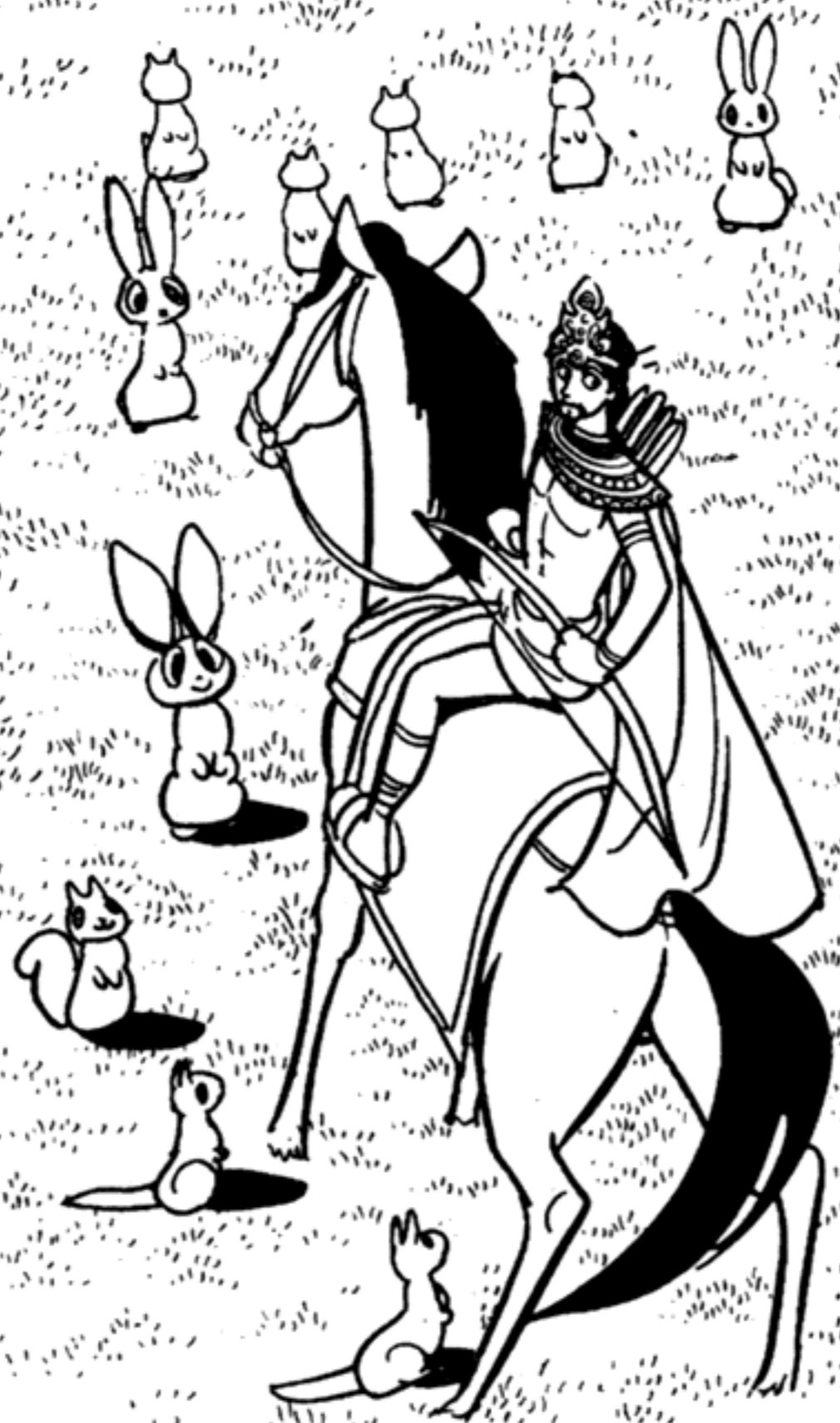


AND I DID!
I DREW
MY BOW,
BUT...



THE DEER DIDN'T
RUN. INSTEAD IT
CAME TOWARD ME,
WITH FRIENDSHIP
IN ITS EYES.

WHEN I LOOKED AROUND, IT WASN'T JUST THE DEER, SQUIRRELS, RABBITS, BIRDS, THEY WERE ALL SMILING AT ME. THEY DREW NEAR AS IF I WERE A KINDRED SPIRIT.



I TRIED TO DRAW MY BOW ONCE MORE, BUT MY HANDS SHOOK



THE THRILL OF HUNTING LIES IN THE CHASE, MAYA. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO KILL ANIMALS THAT DRAW NEAR.



AND SO I LOST MY TASTE FOR HUNTING





WHAT'S TO ACCOUNT FOR THESE STRANGE EVENTS? THE ELEPHANT DREAM, THE ANIMALS.

AND NOW THE LOCUST SWARM!



MAYA, I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK THAT ALL THESE THINGS MUST BE CONNECTED TO THE CHILD IN YOUR WOMB.



IT SEEMS THAT IT'LL BE NO ORDINARY BABY...

STOP THIS, DEAR.



THIS BABY IS MY BABY.

A HEALTHY CHILD IS ALL I HOPE FOR.



I FEEL THE CHILD WILL GROW UP TO BE A SPECIAL PERSON.

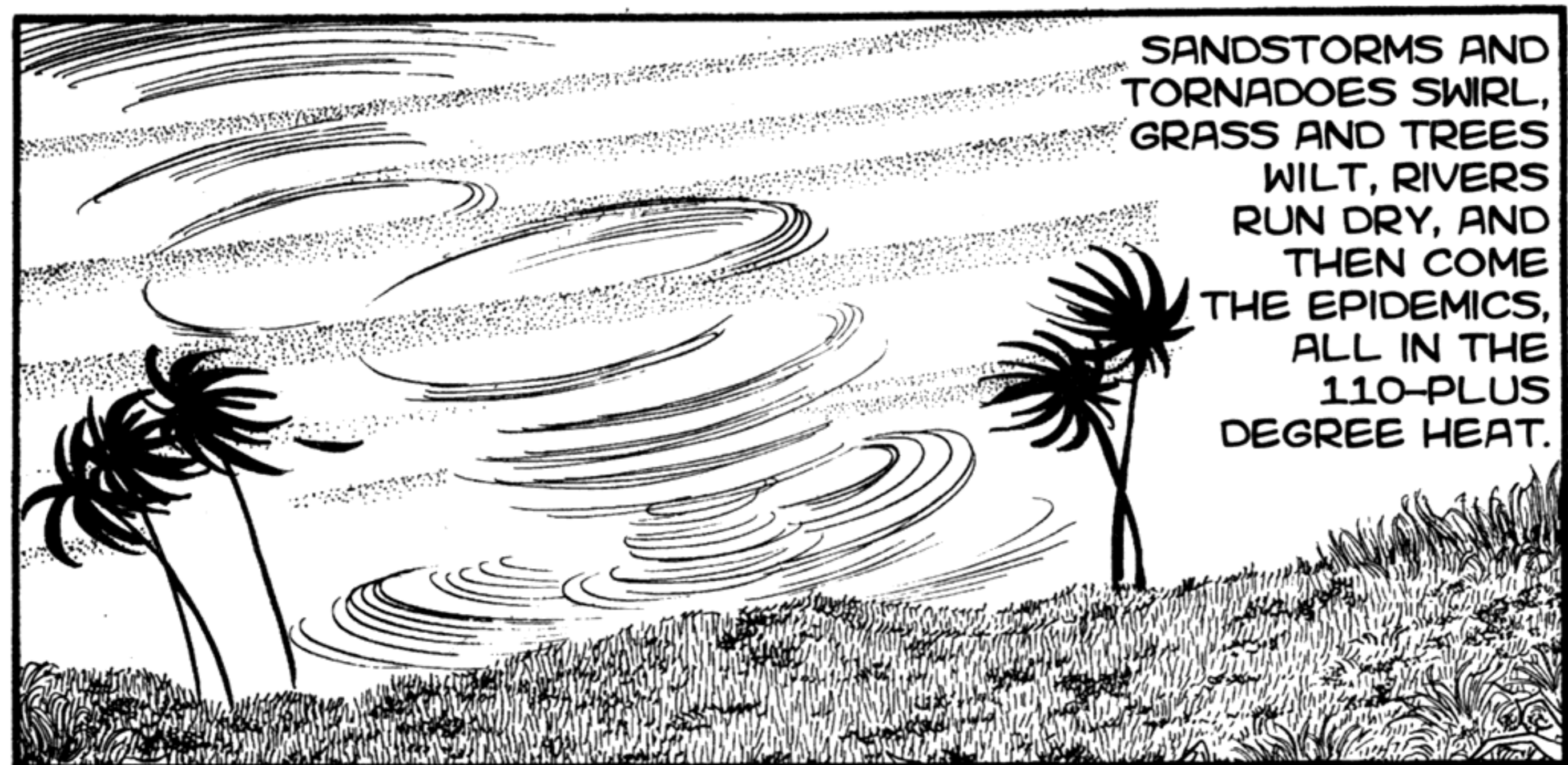
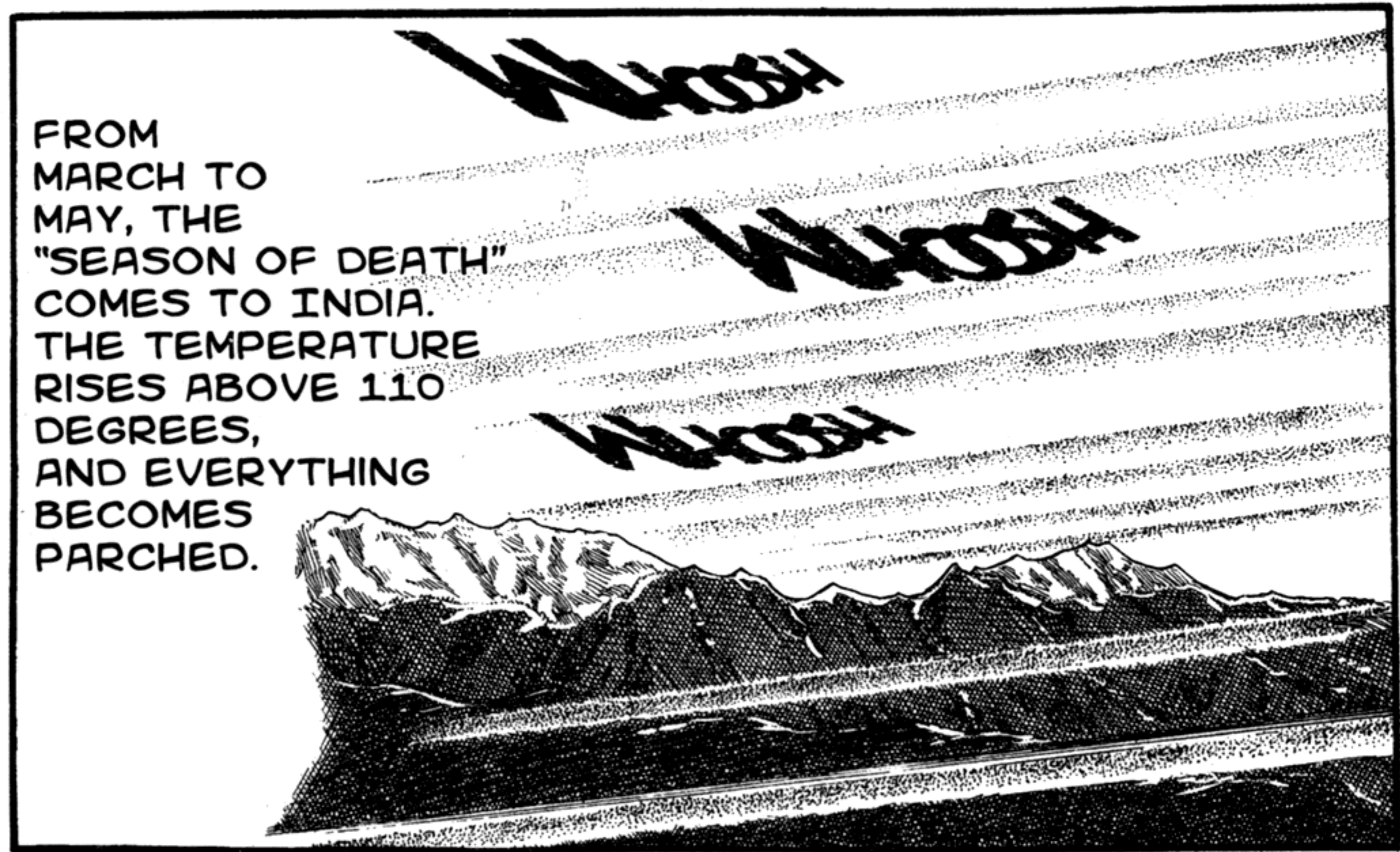


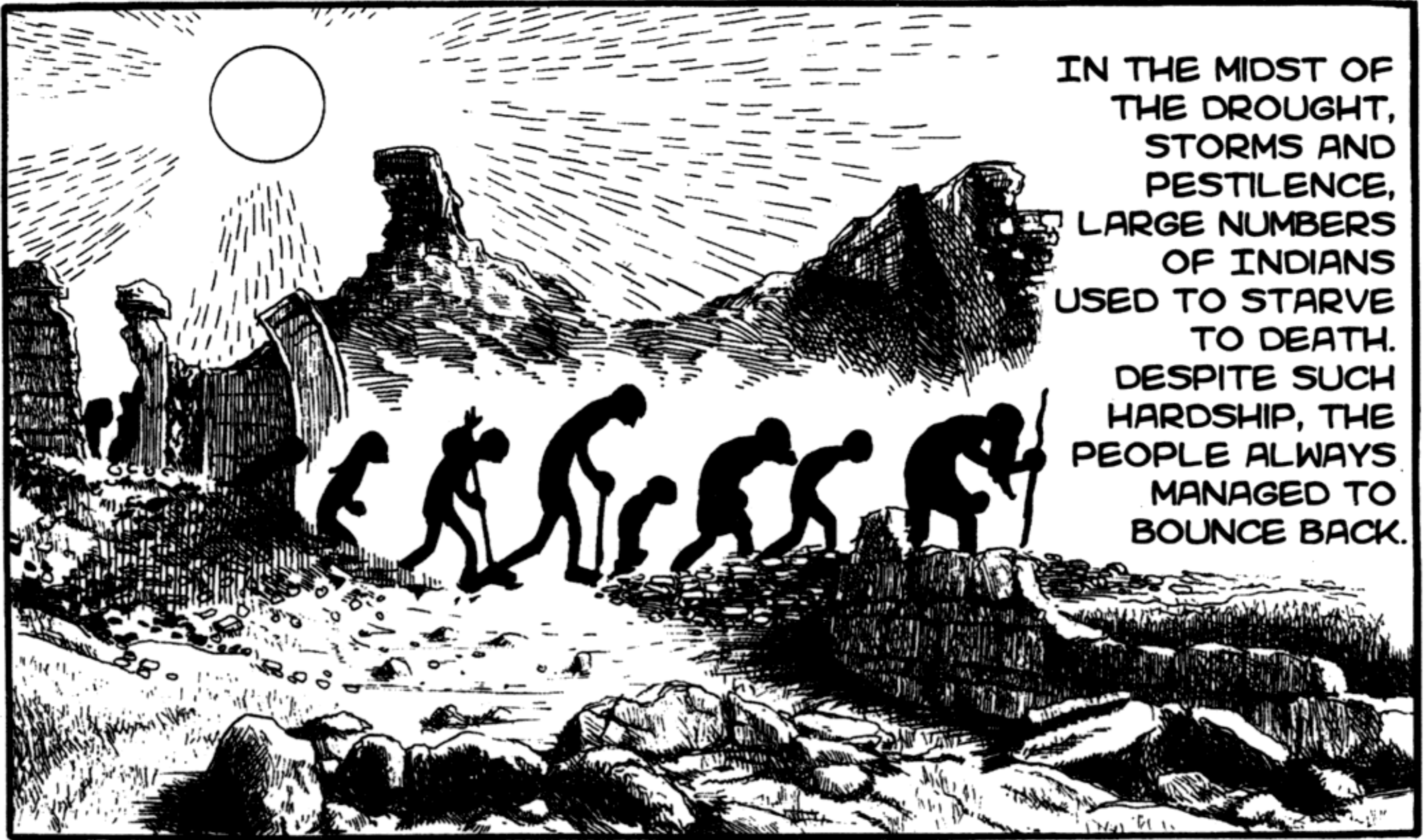
OF COURSE! HE'LL BE YOUR HEIR!



NO, I MEAN...

SOMEONE WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD, EVEN.





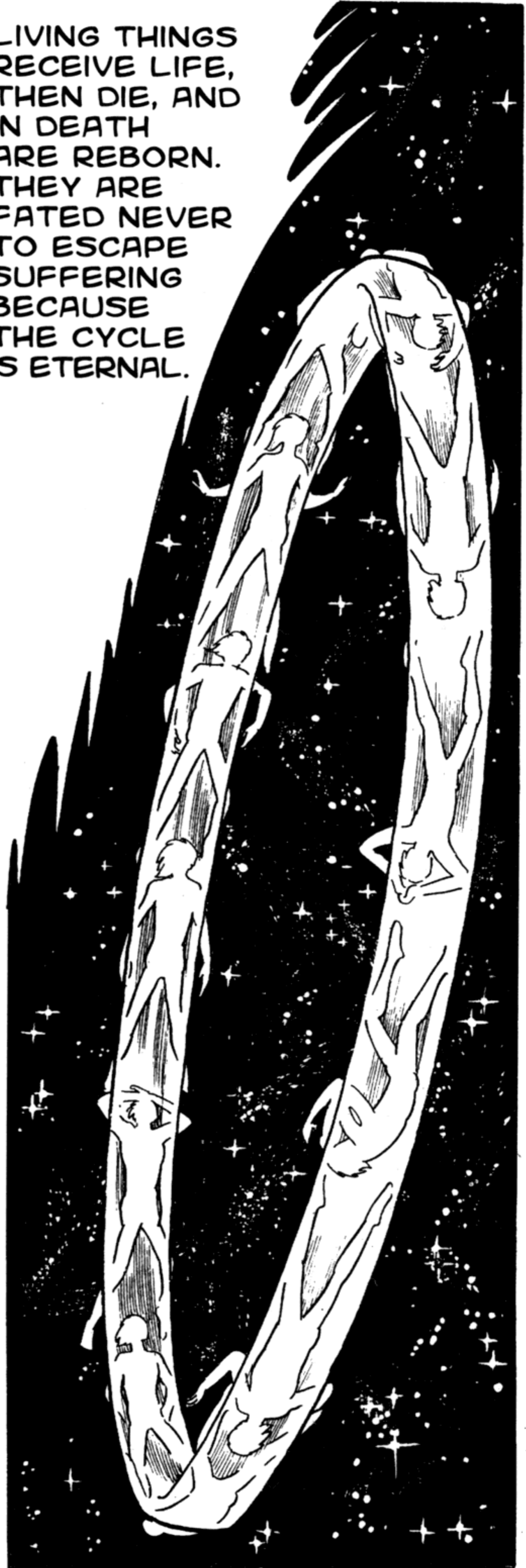
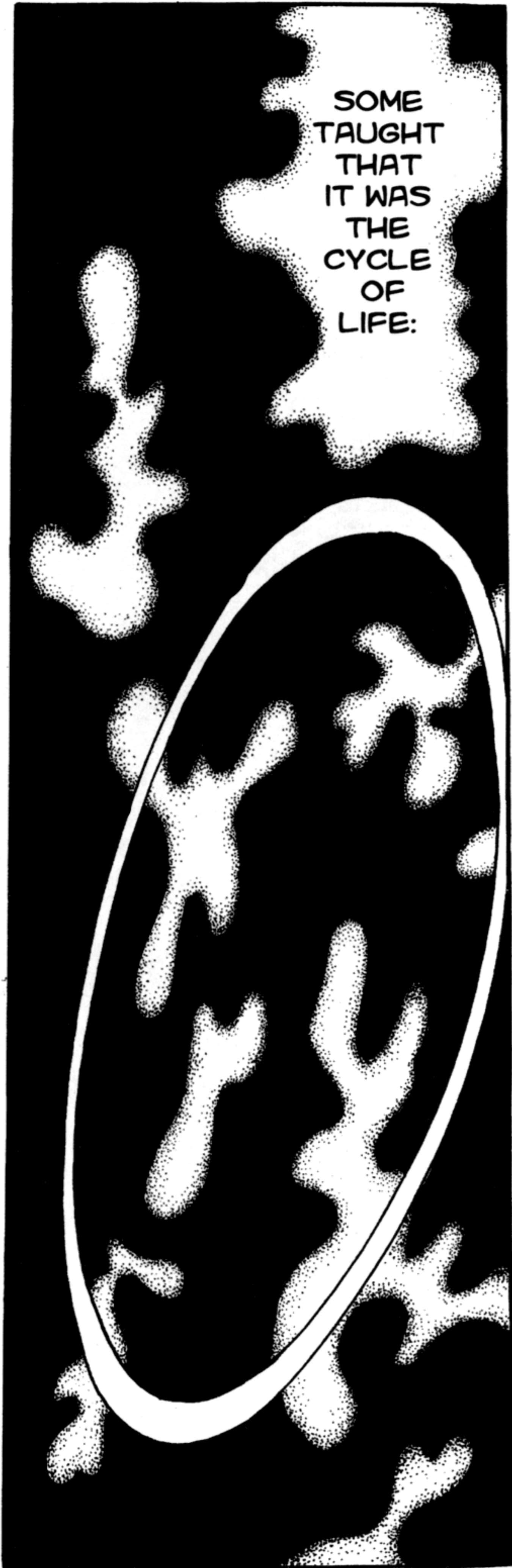
IN THE MIDST OF
THE DROUGHT,
STORMS AND
PESTILENCE,
LARGE NUMBERS
OF INDIANS
USED TO STARVE
TO DEATH.
DESPITE SUCH
HARDSHIP, THE
PEOPLE ALWAYS
MANAGED TO
BOUNCE BACK.

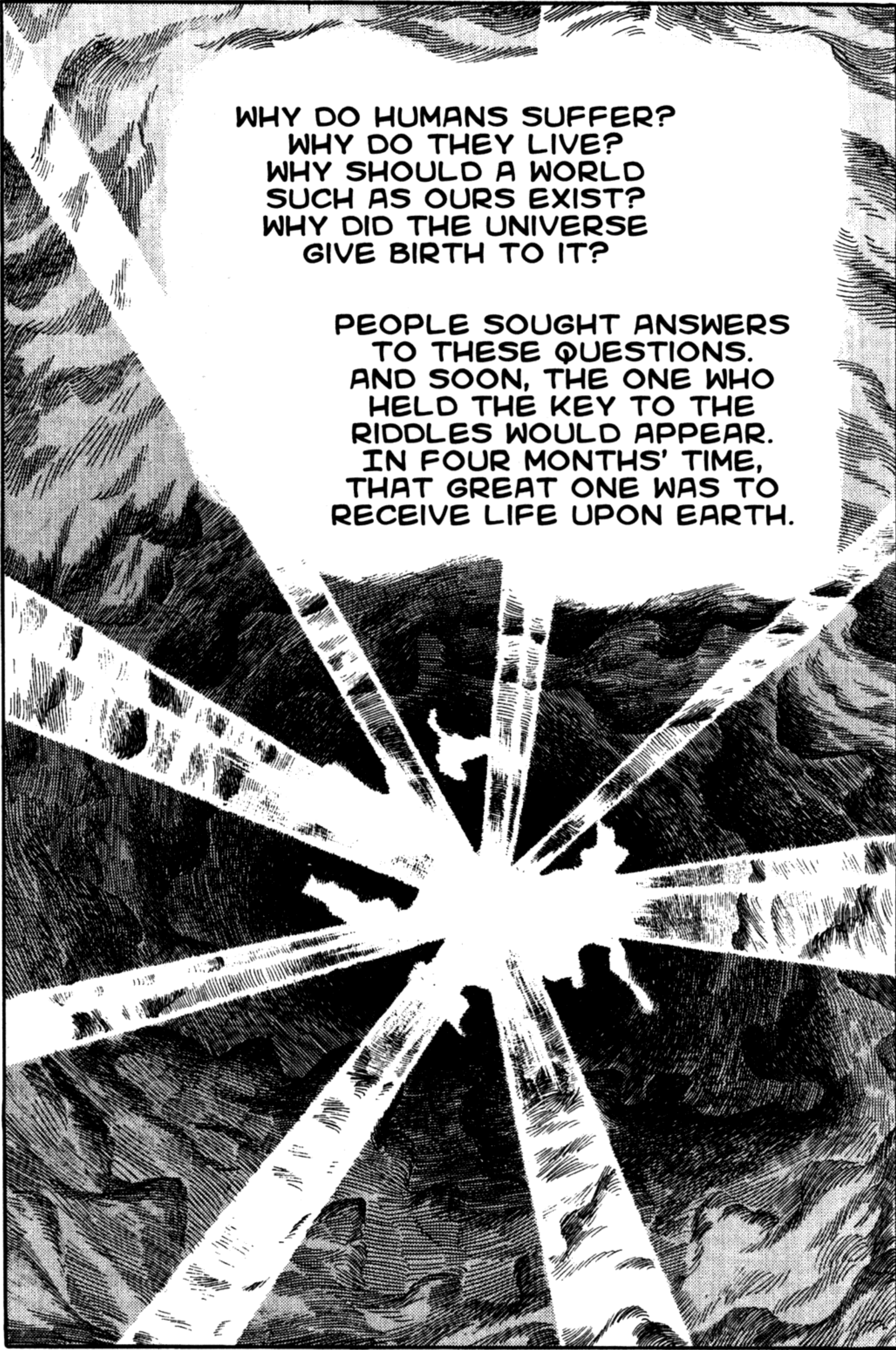


NO MATTER HOW DEVOUT
THE BRAHMIN, NO MATTER
HOW BENEVOLENT THE KING,
THE PEOPLE COULD NOT
ESCAPE THIS FATE.

SOME
TAUGHT
THAT
IT WAS
THE
CYCLE
OF
LIFE:

LIVING THINGS
RECEIVE LIFE,
THEN DIE, AND
IN DEATH
ARE REBORN.
THEY ARE
FATED NEVER
TO ESCAPE
SUFFERING
BECAUSE
THE CYCLE
IS ETERNAL.



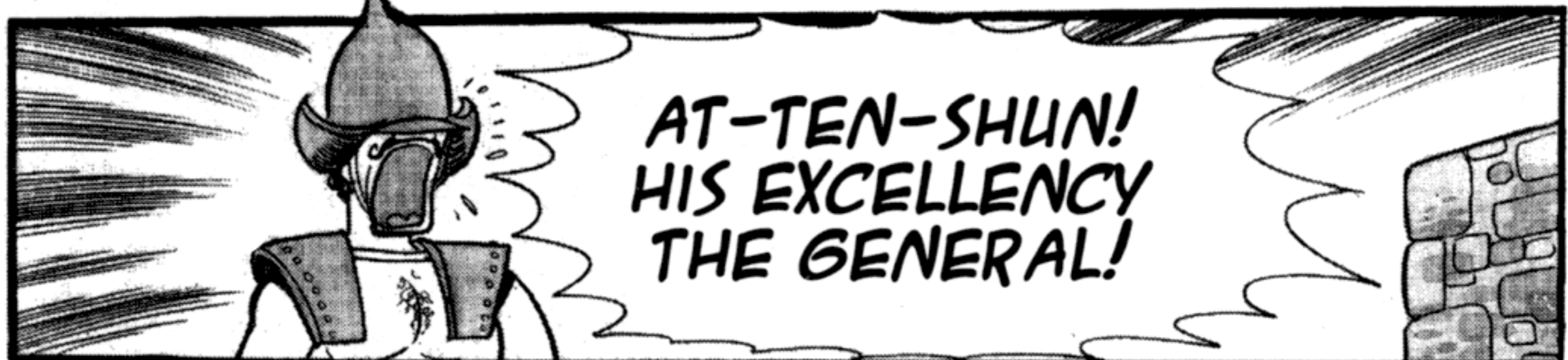


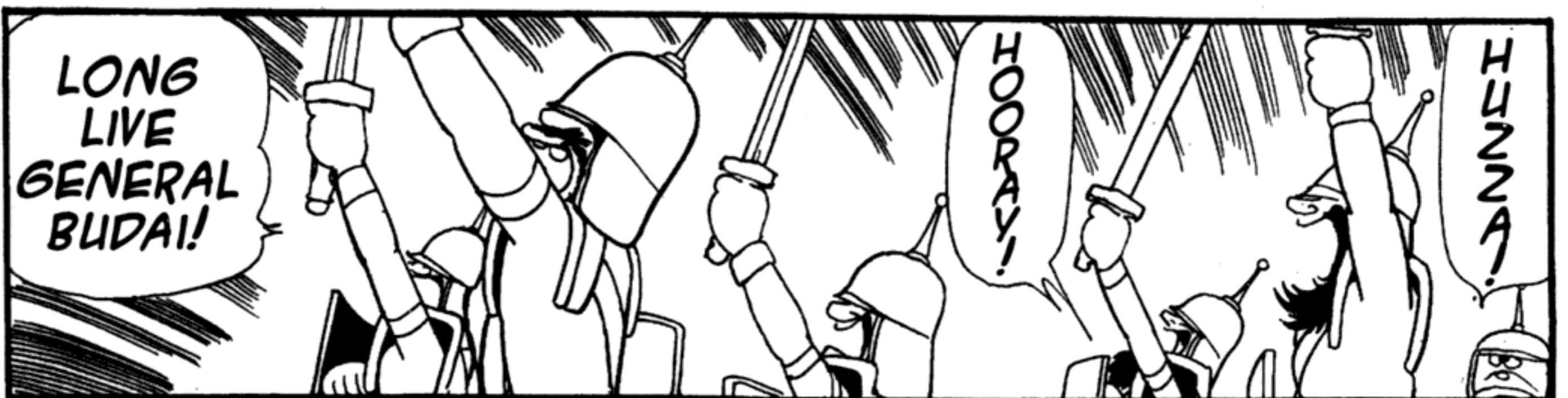
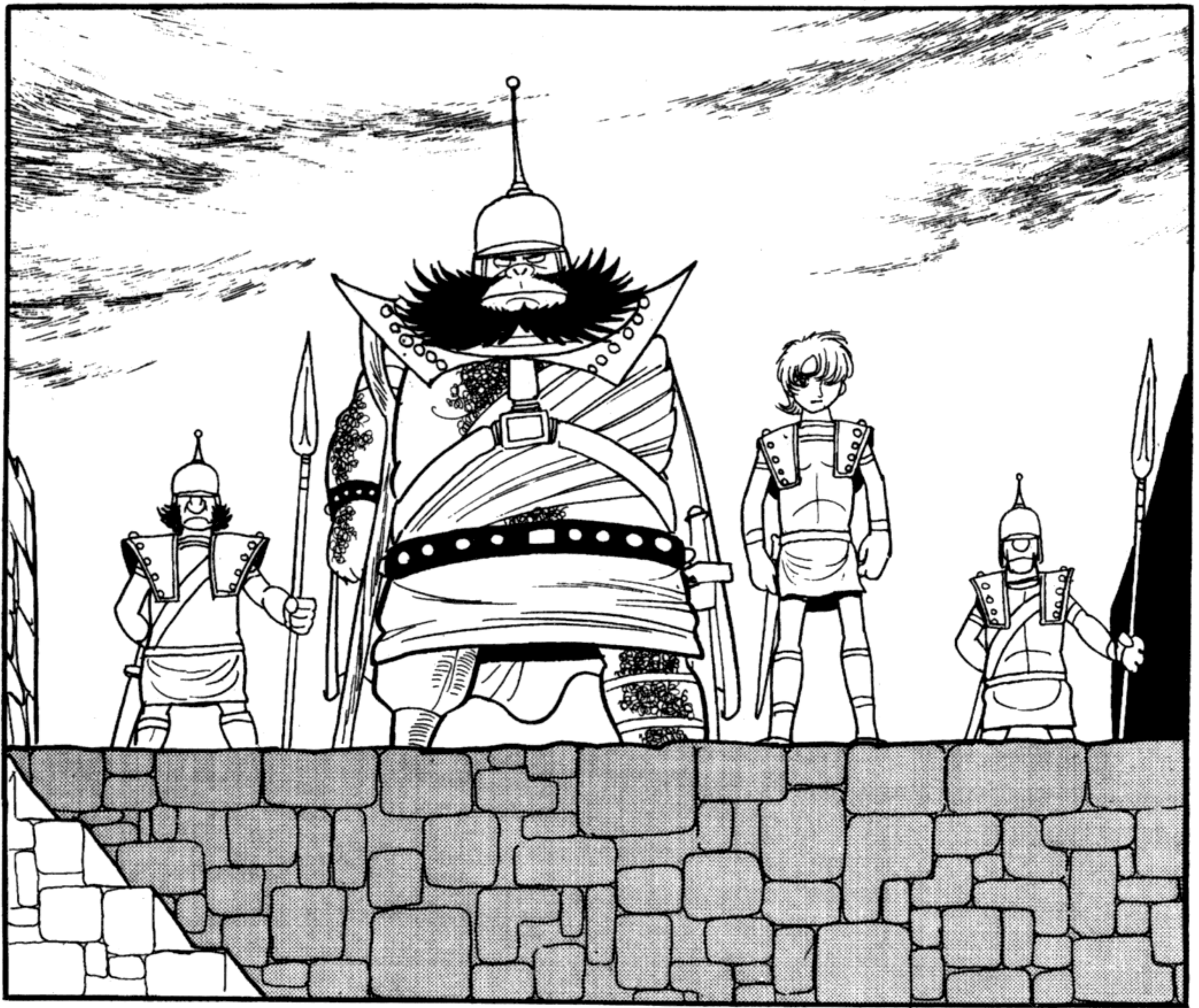
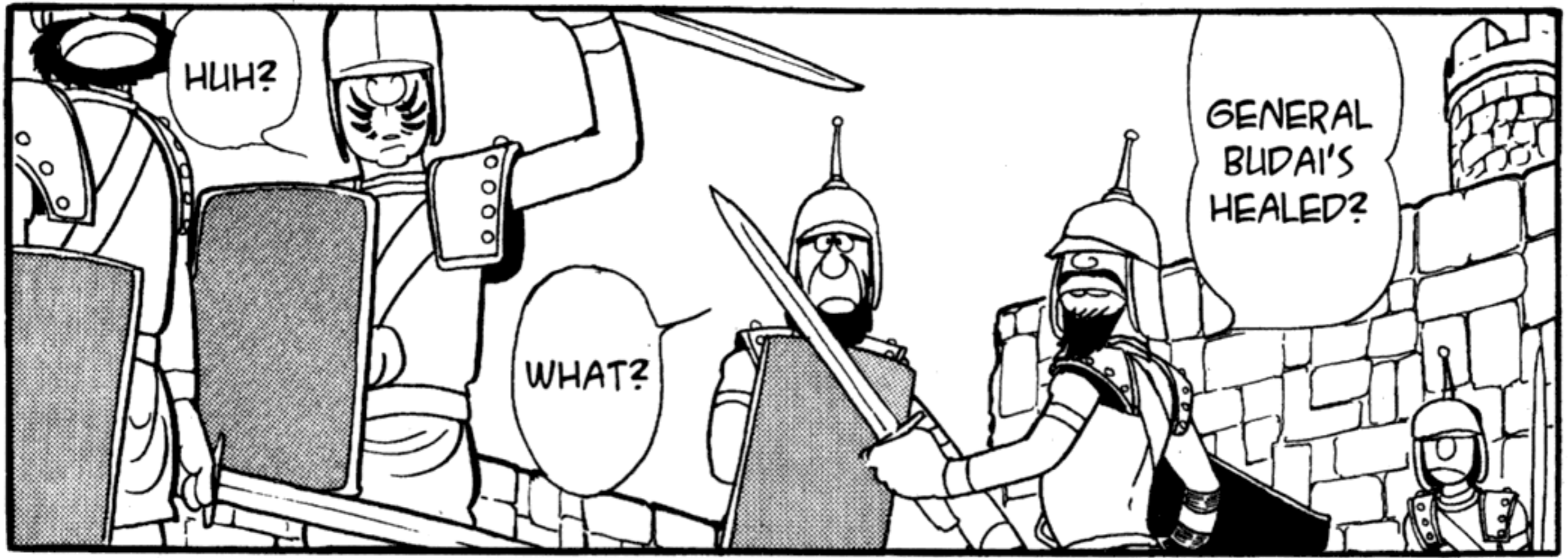
WHY DO HUMANS SUFFER?
WHY DO THEY LIVE?
WHY SHOULD A WORLD
SUCH AS OURS EXIST?
WHY DID THE UNIVERSE
GIVE BIRTH TO IT?

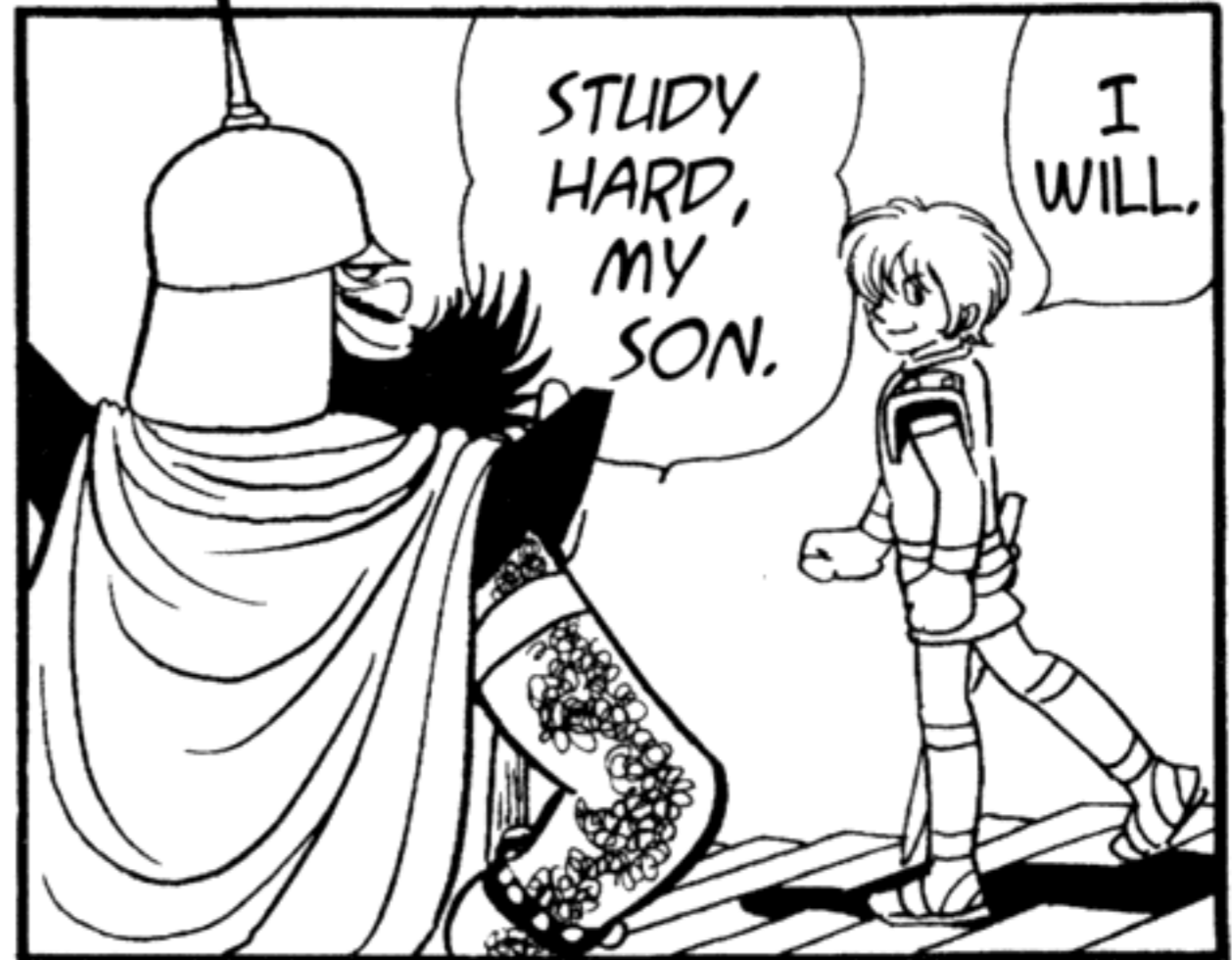
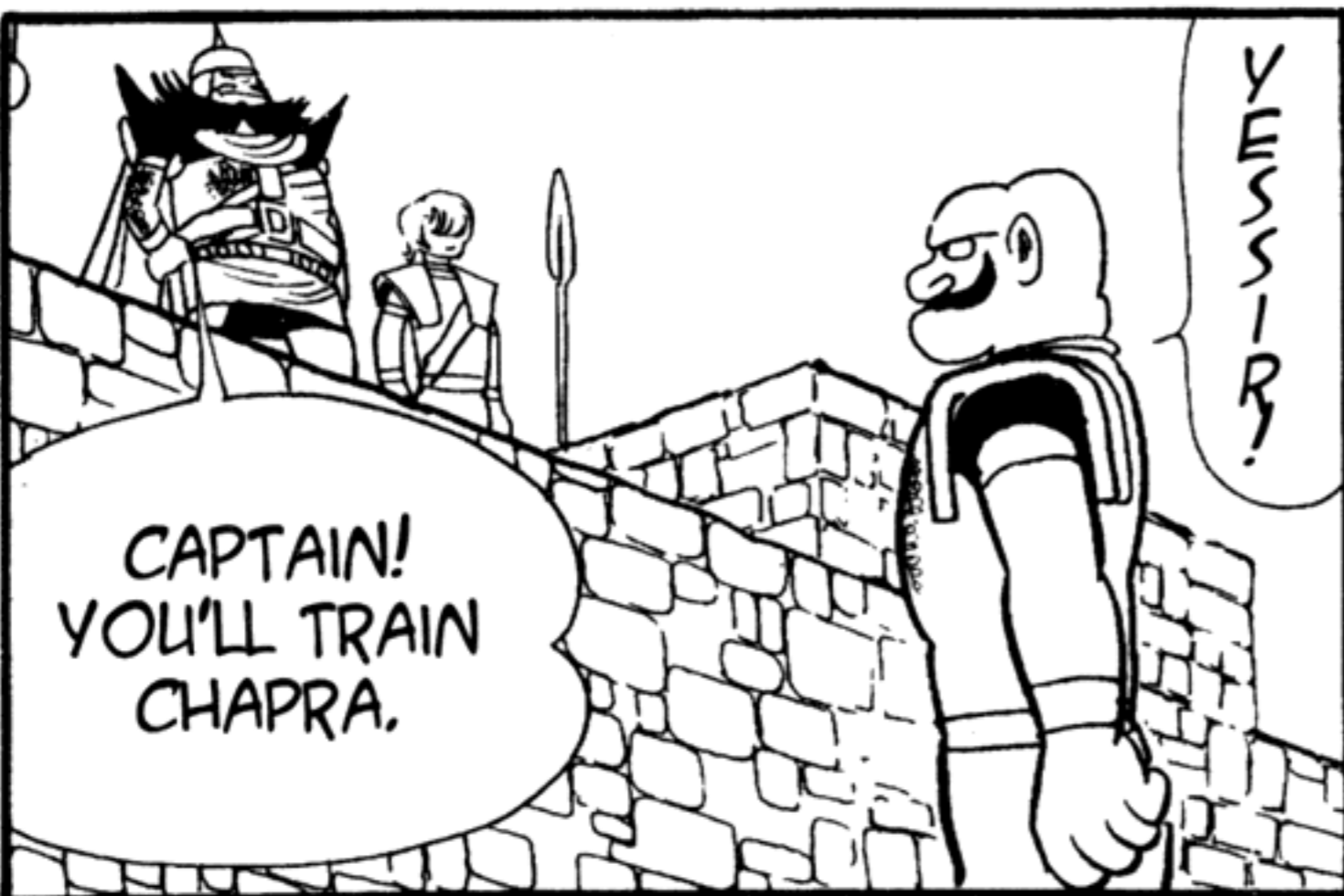
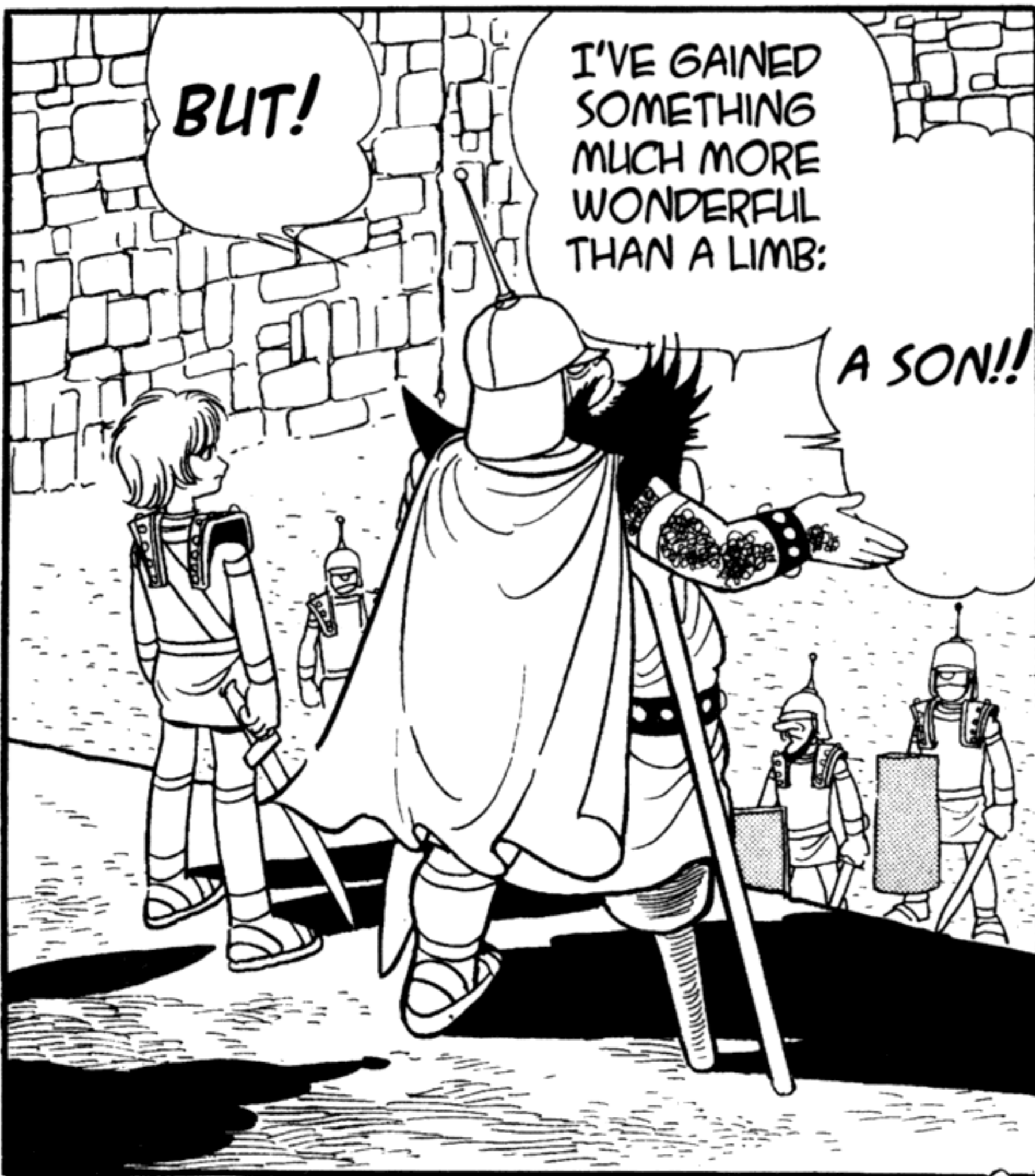
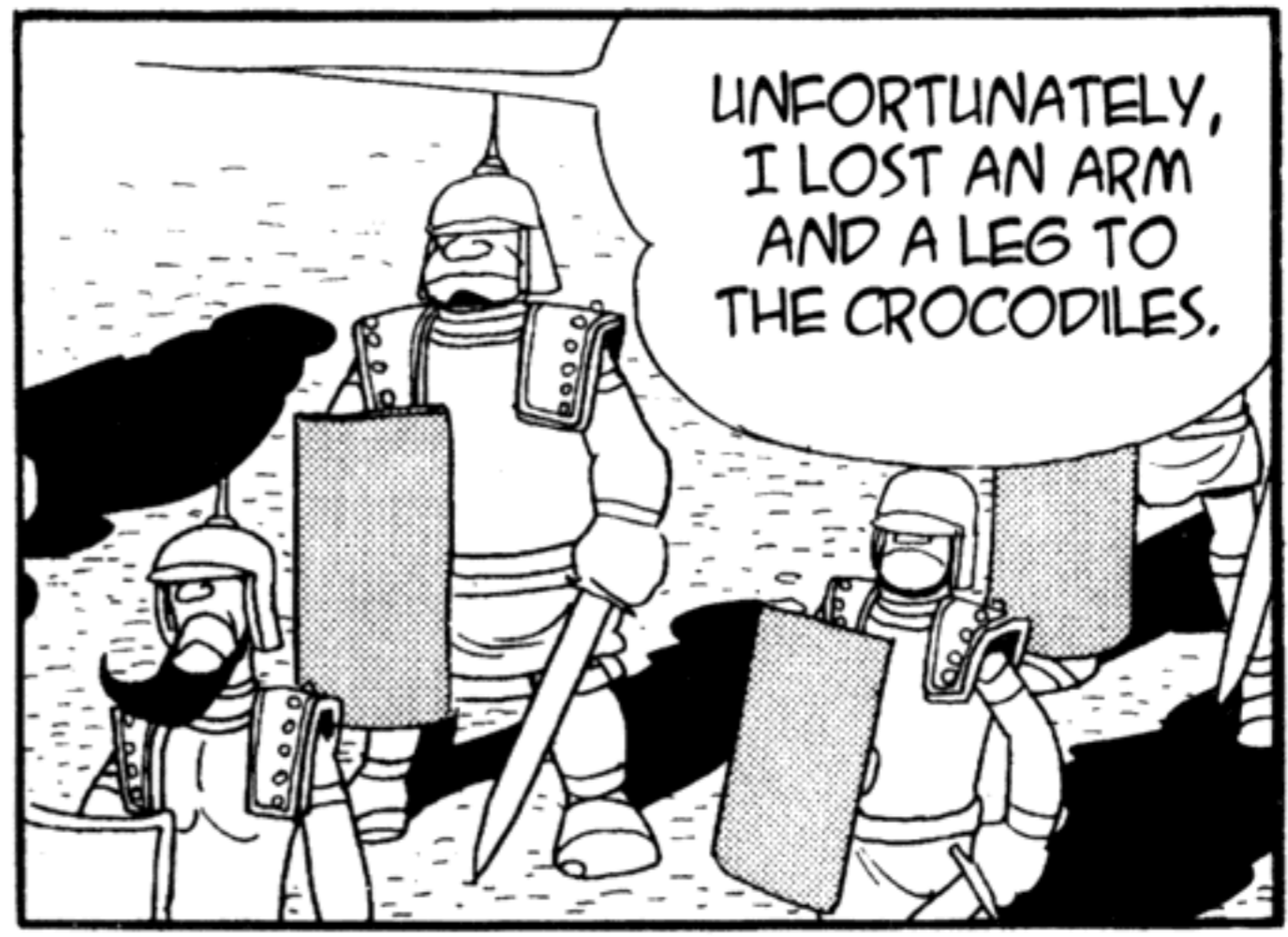
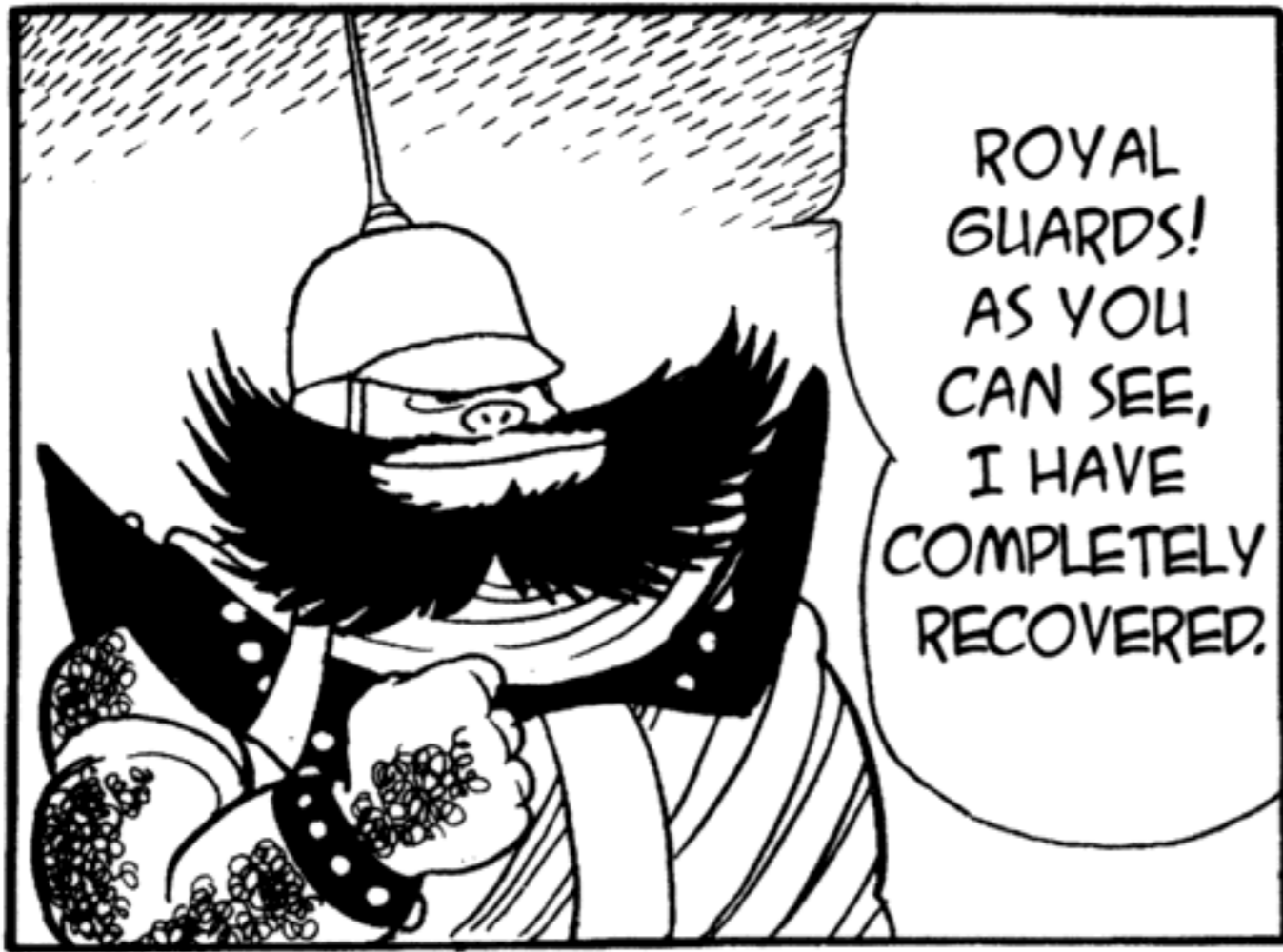
PEOPLE SOUGHT ANSWERS
TO THESE QUESTIONS.
AND SOON, THE ONE WHO
HELD THE KEY TO THE
RIDDLES WOULD APPEAR.
IN FOUR MONTHS' TIME,
THAT GREAT ONE WAS TO
RECEIVE LIFE UPON EARTH.

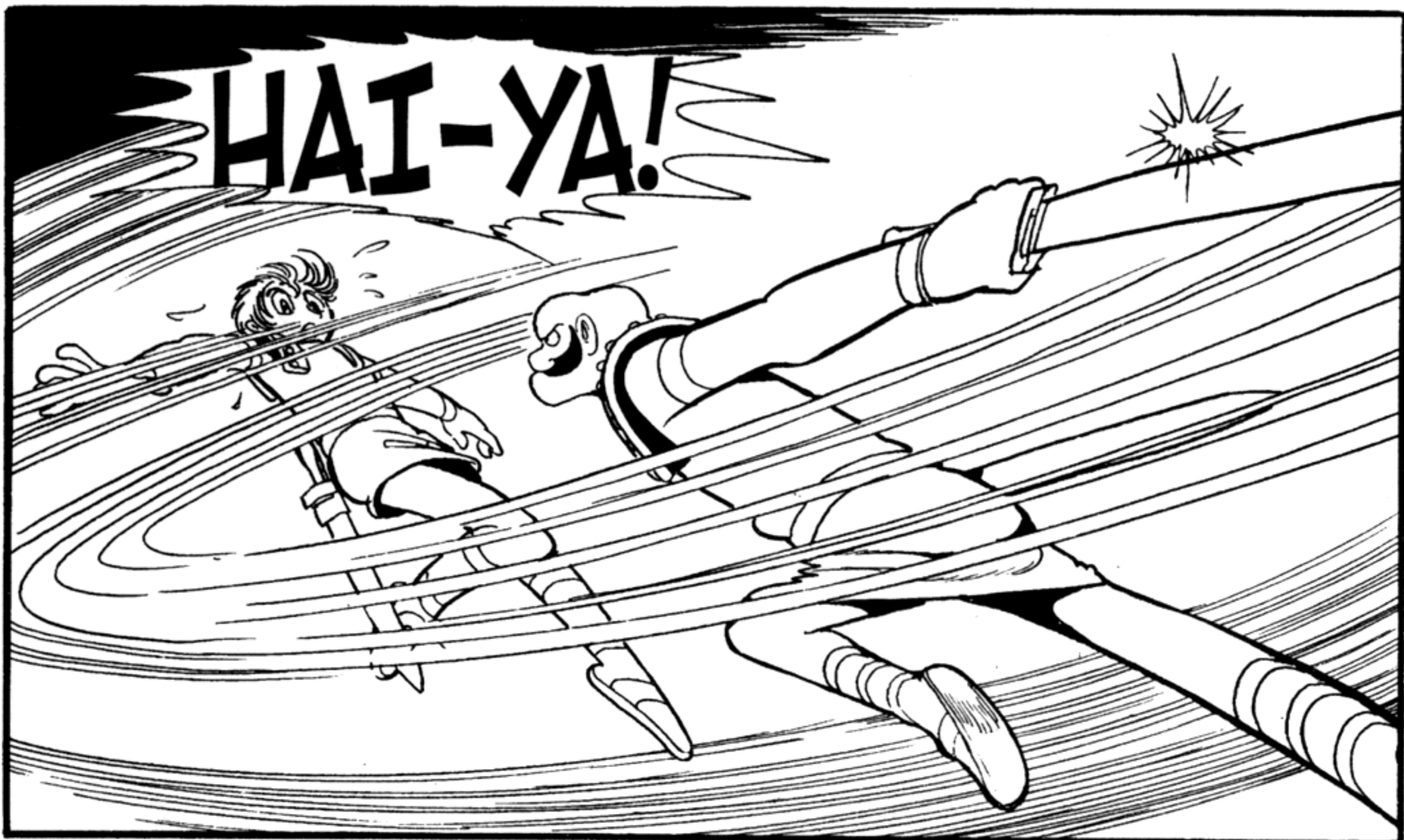
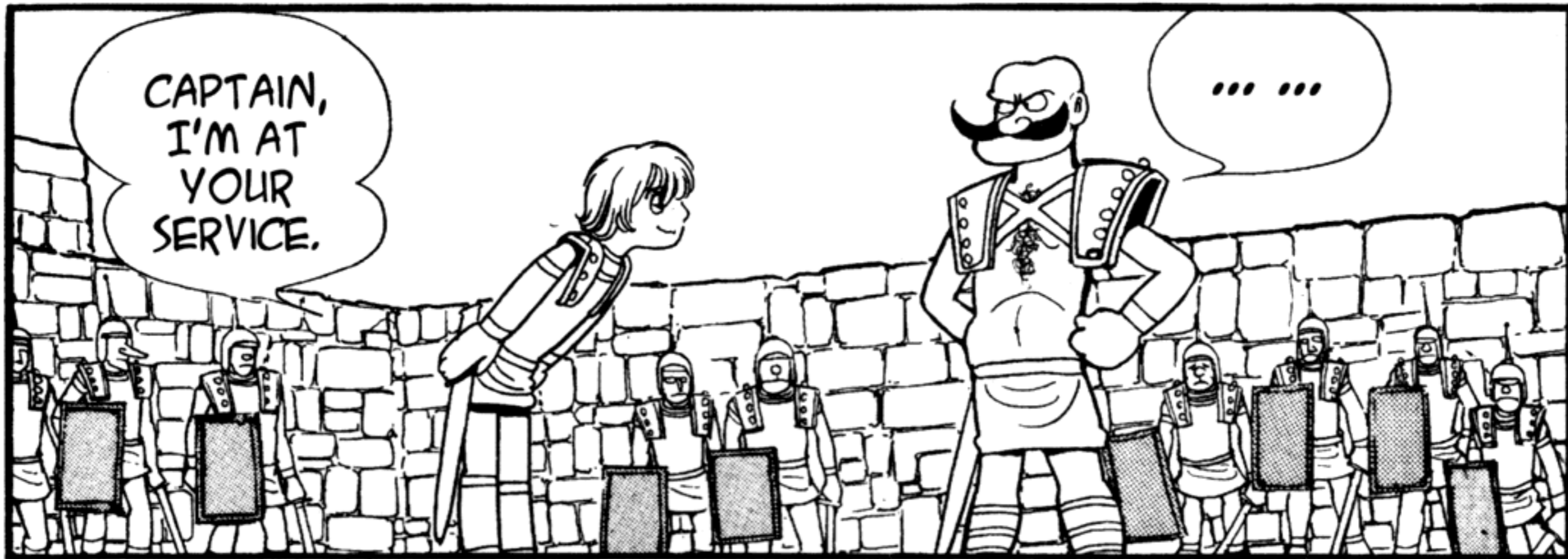
CHAPTER FIVE

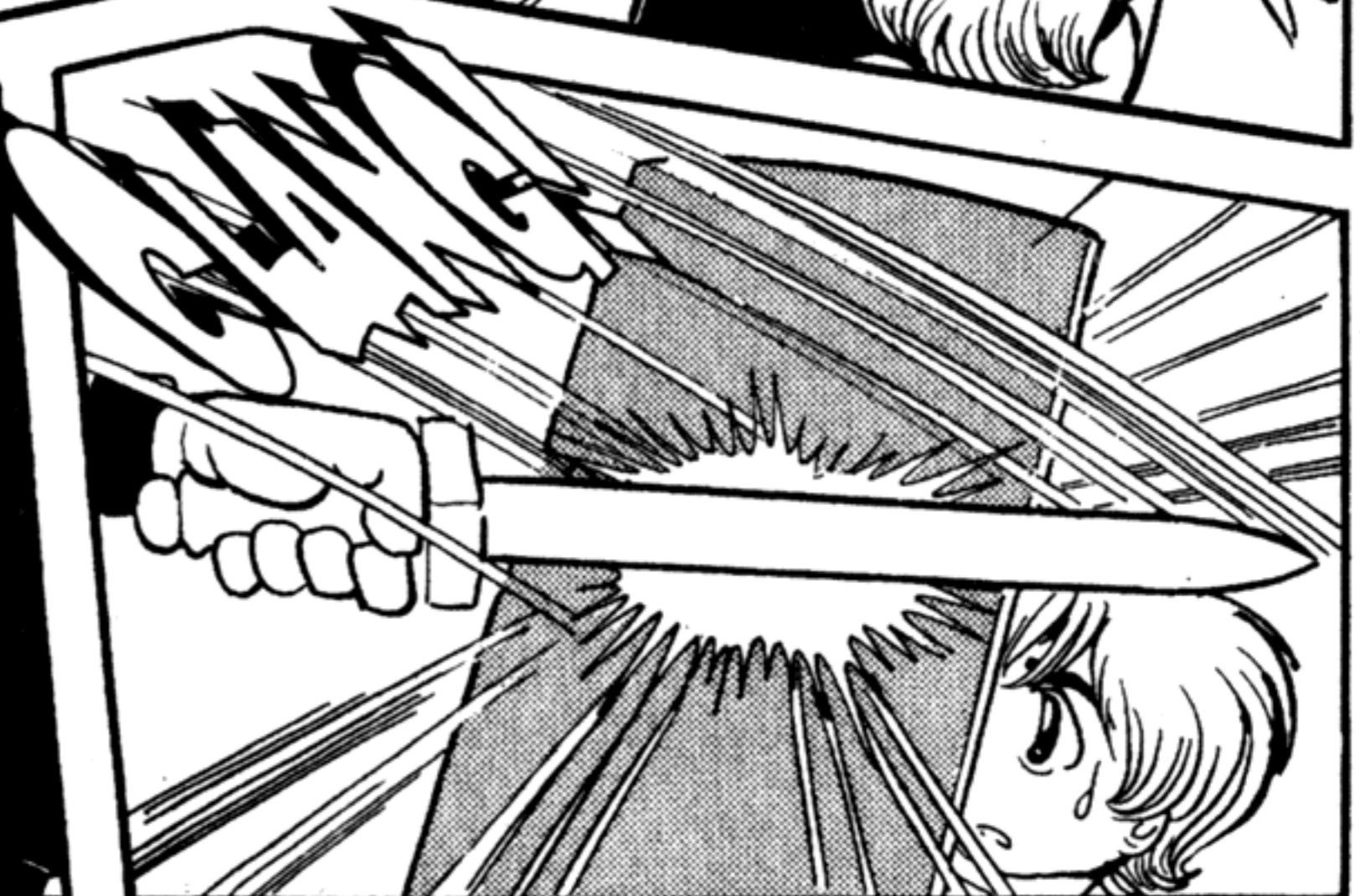
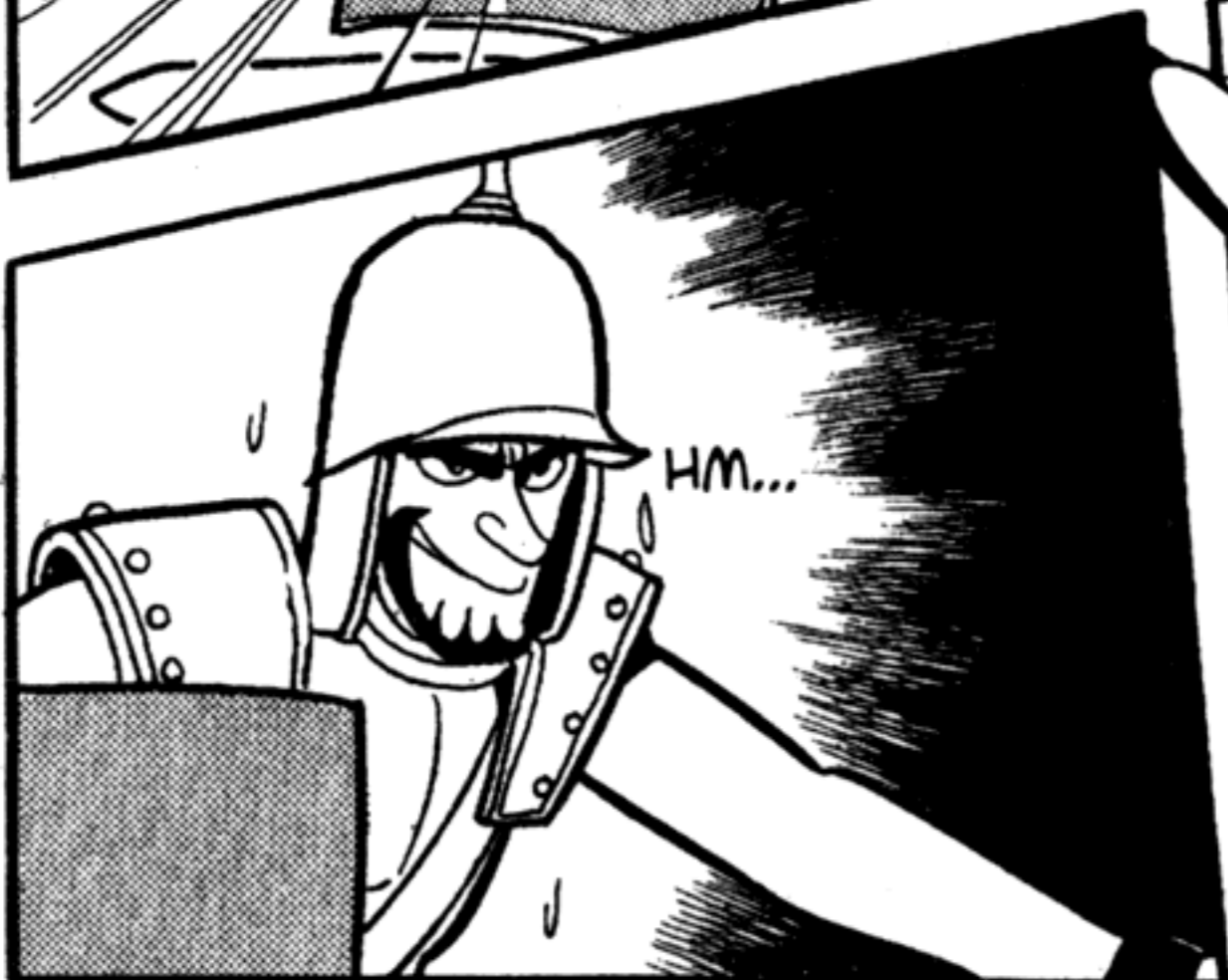
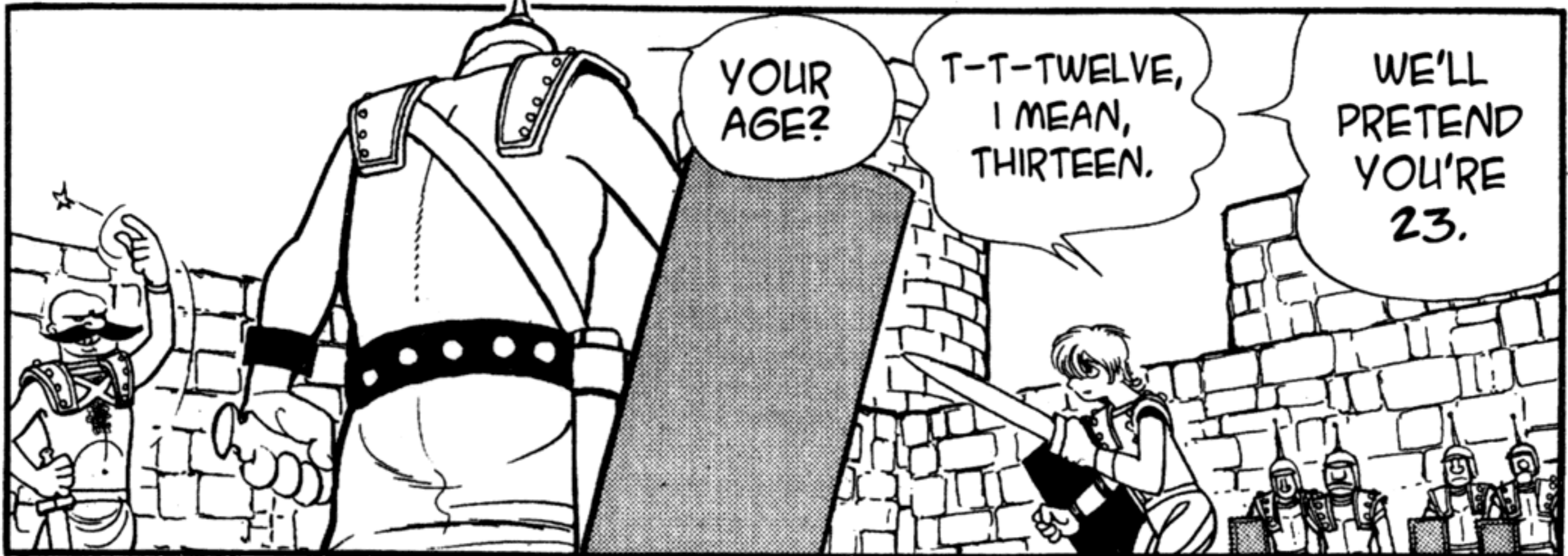
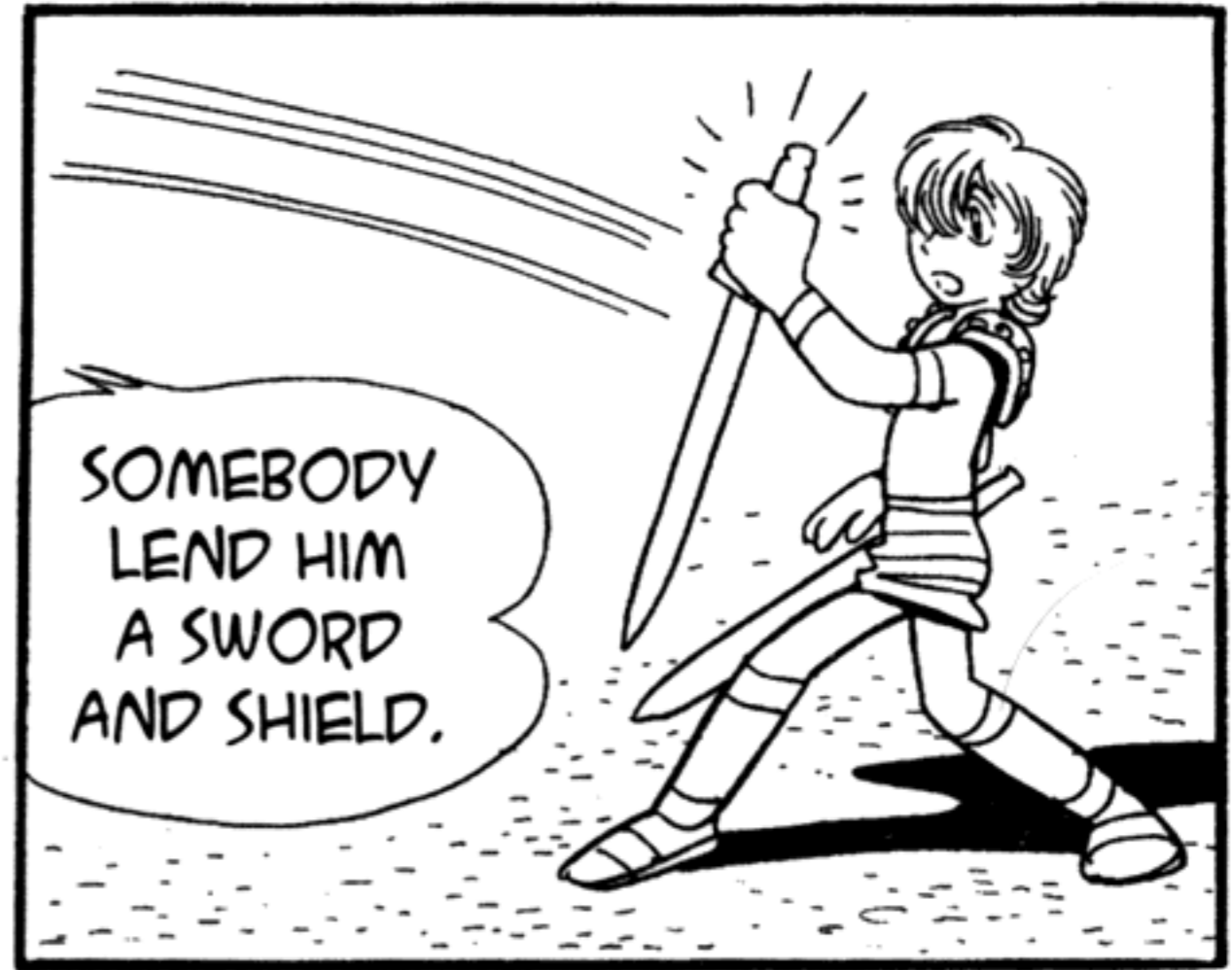
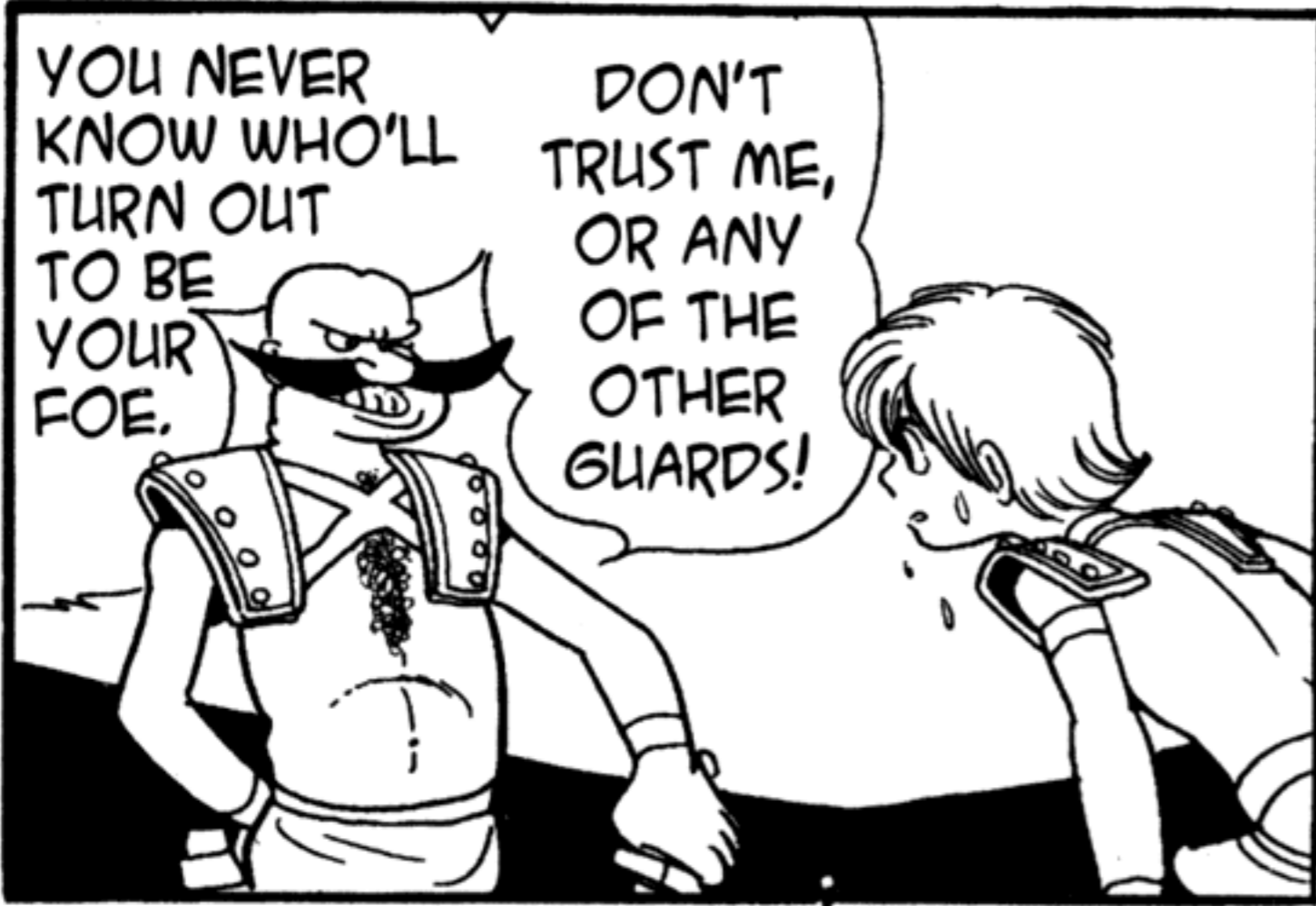
CHAPRA

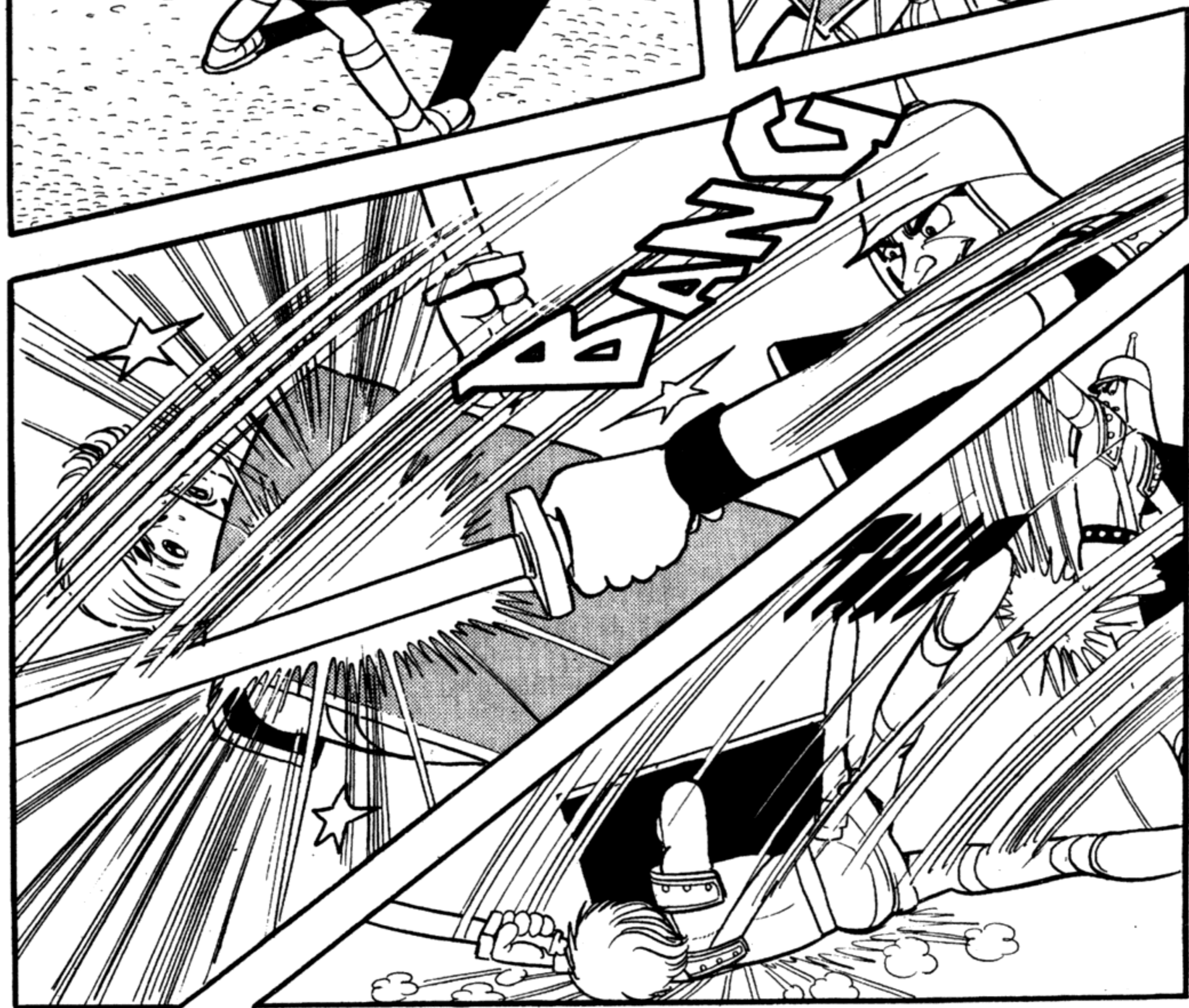
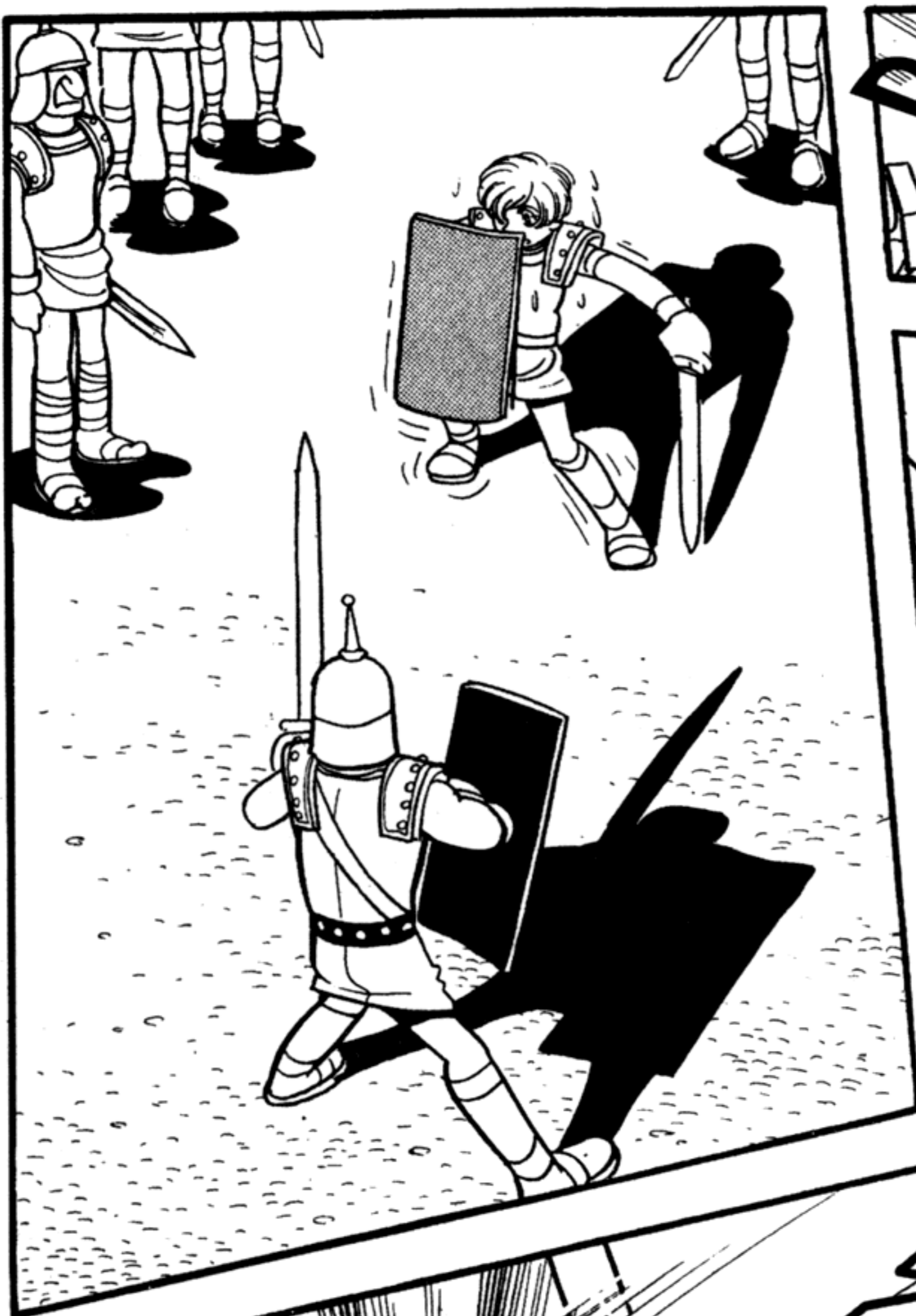


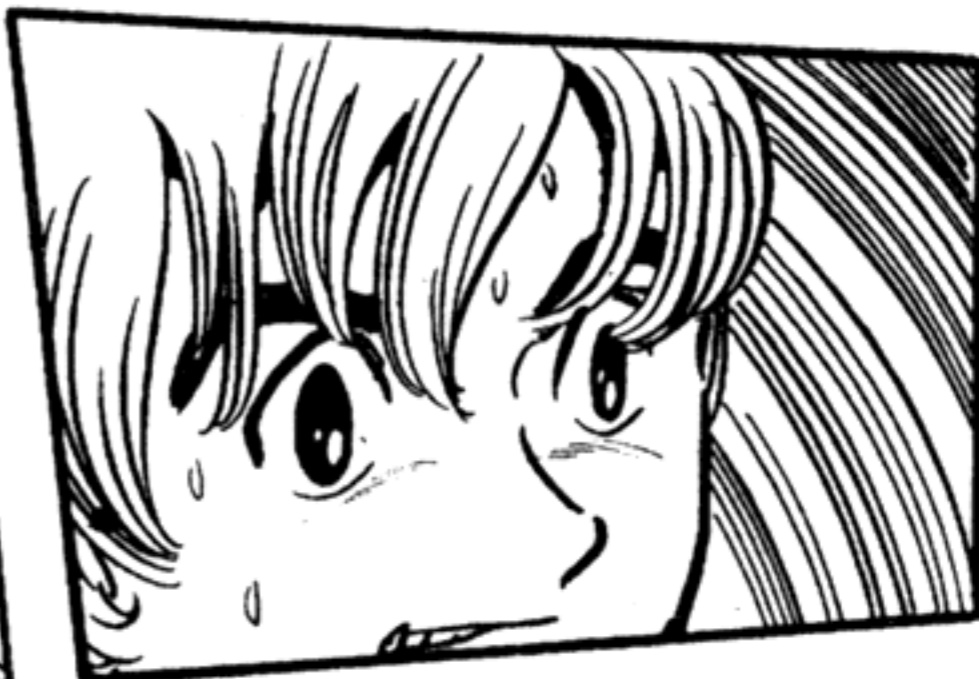
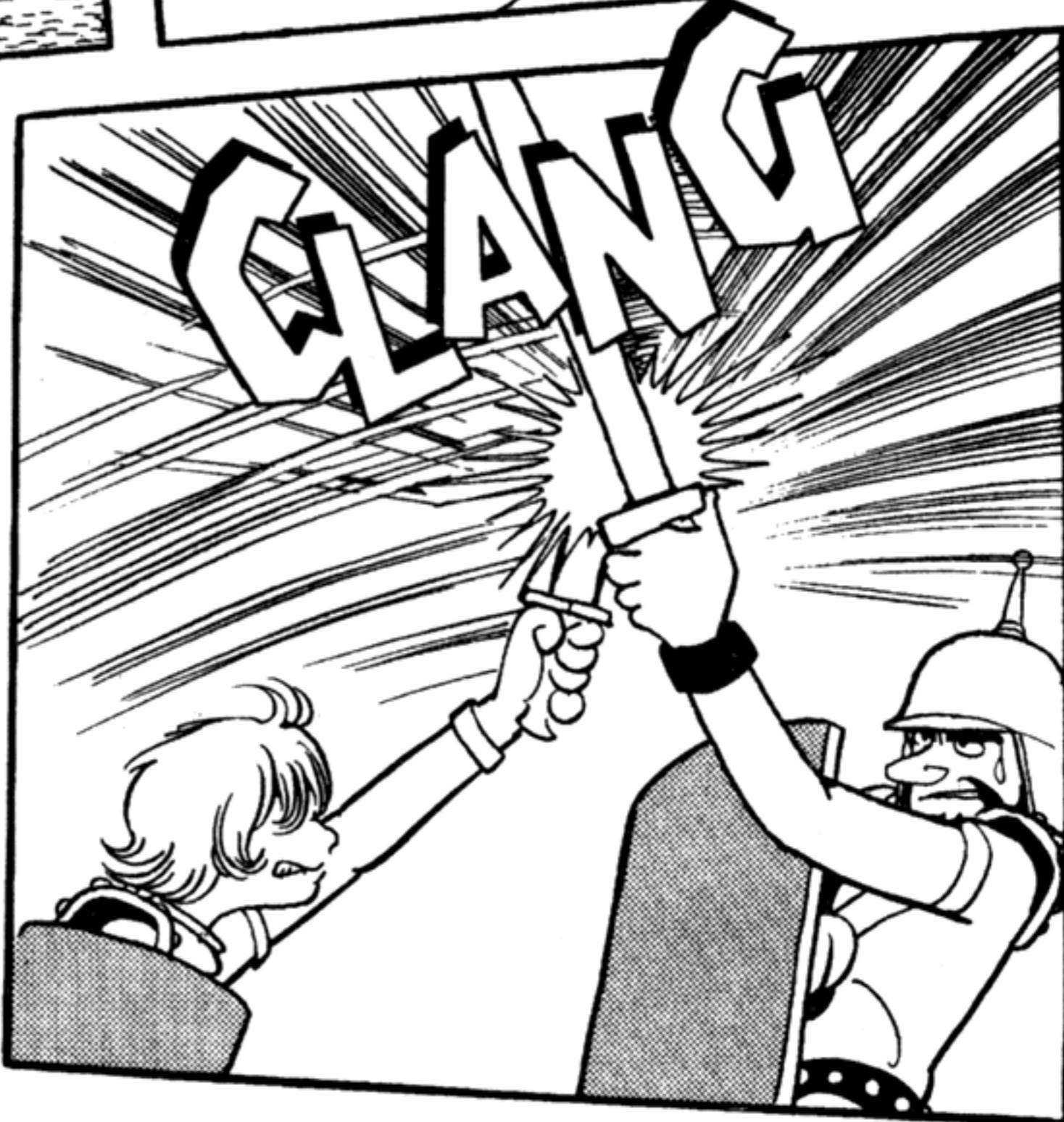


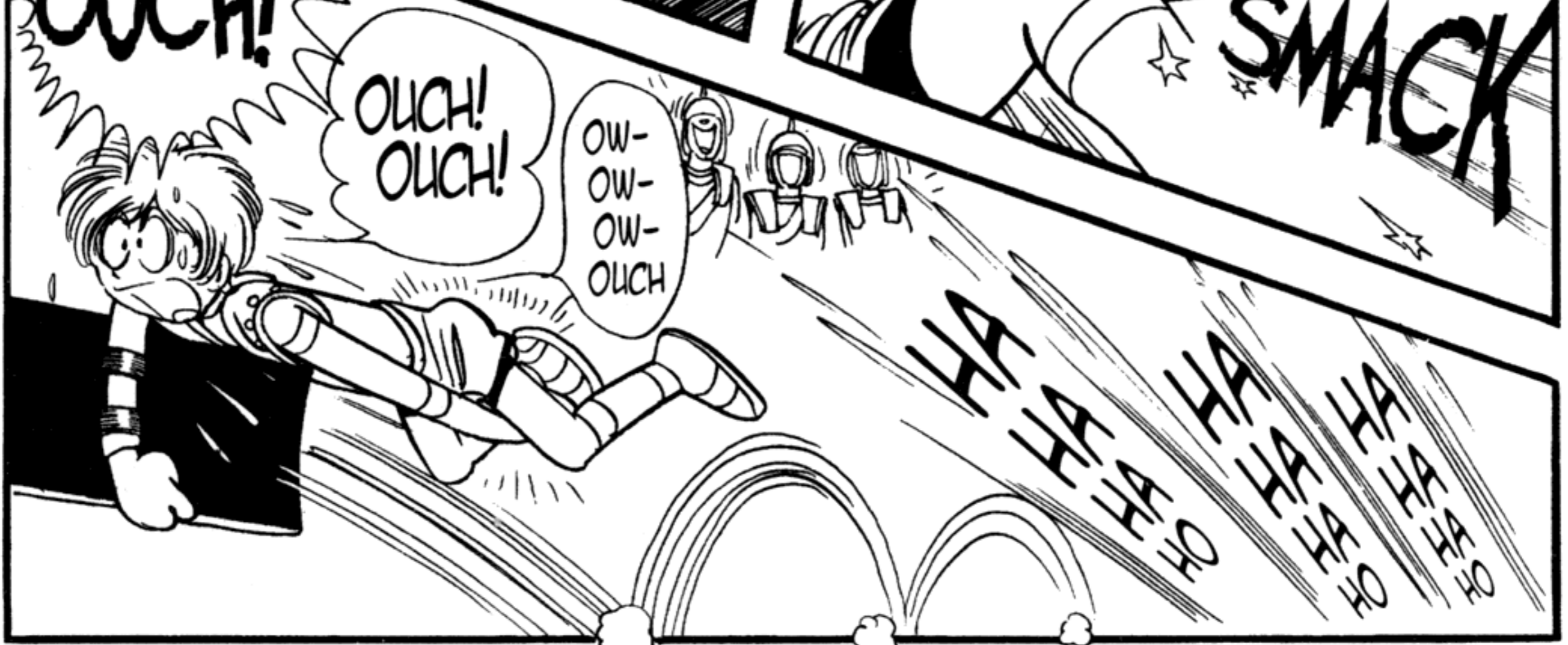
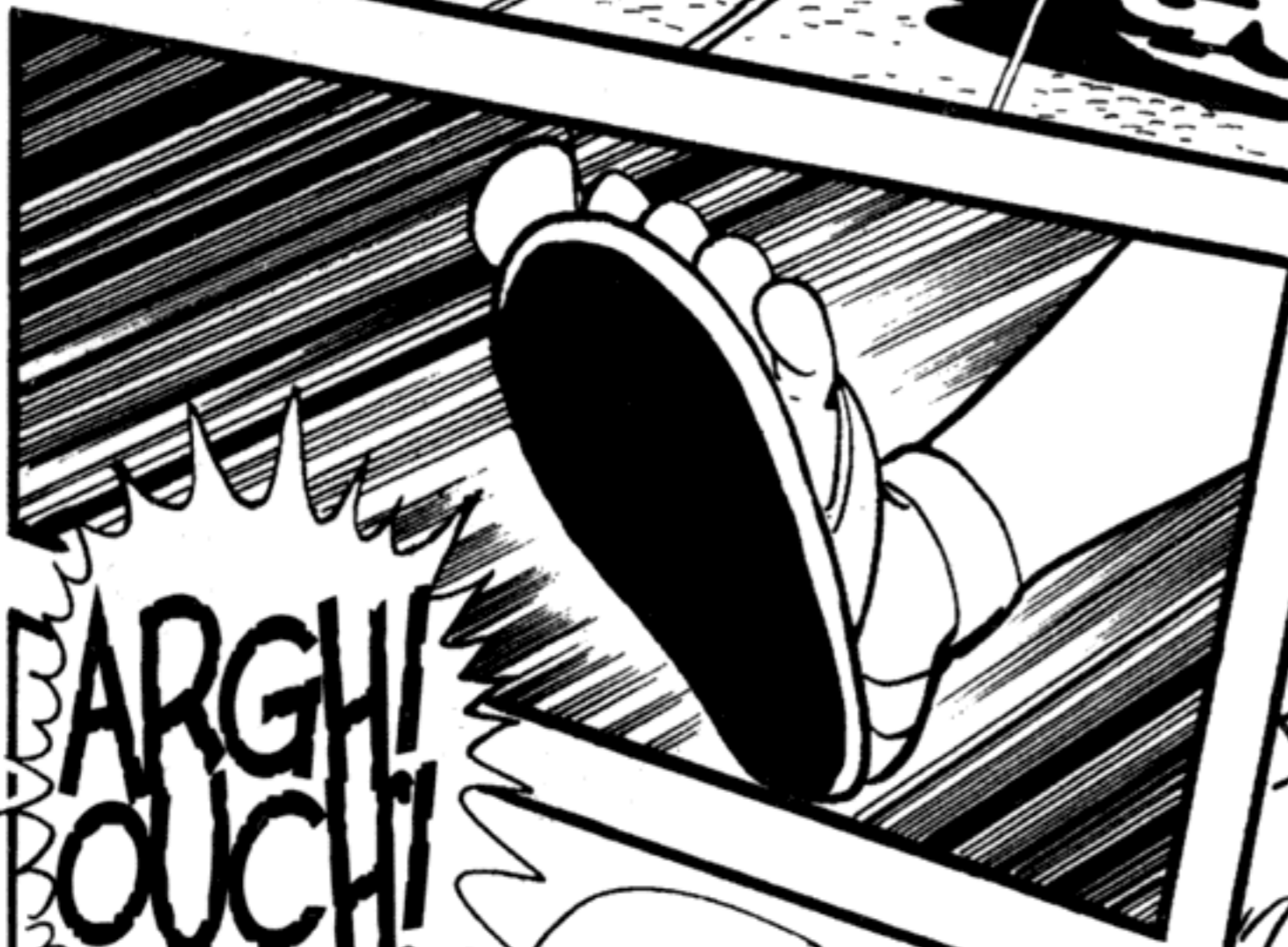
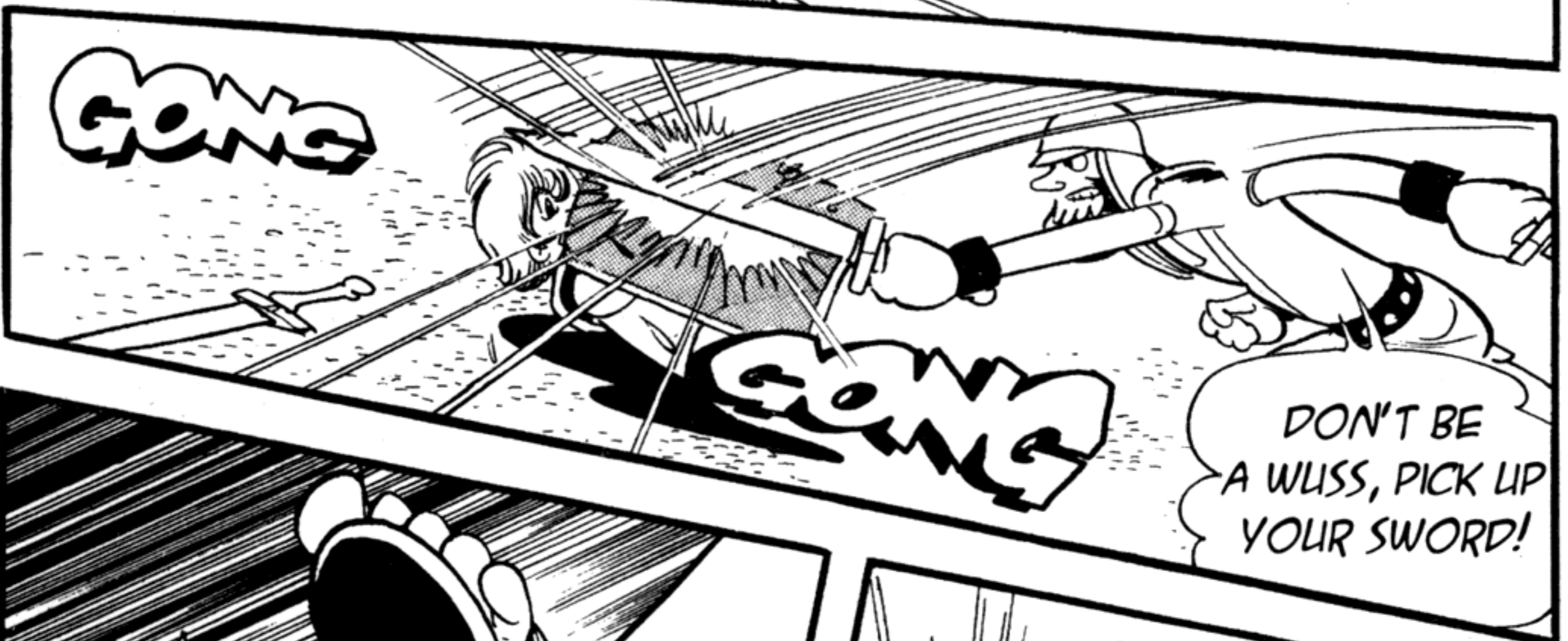
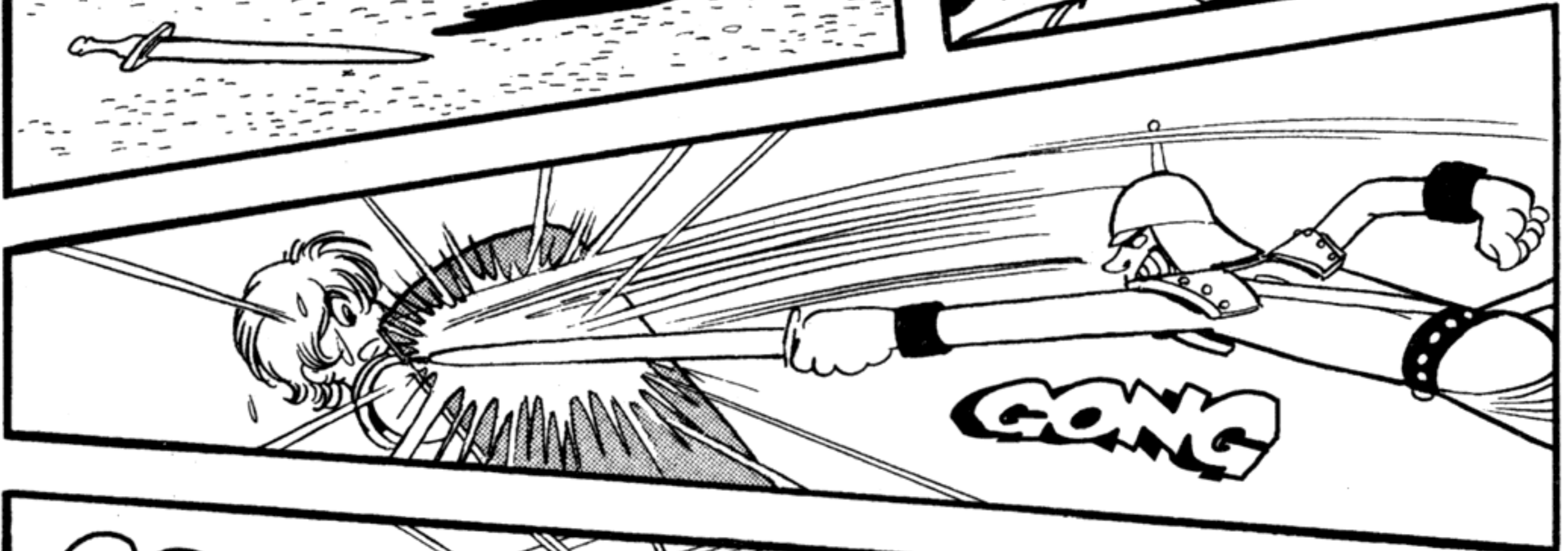
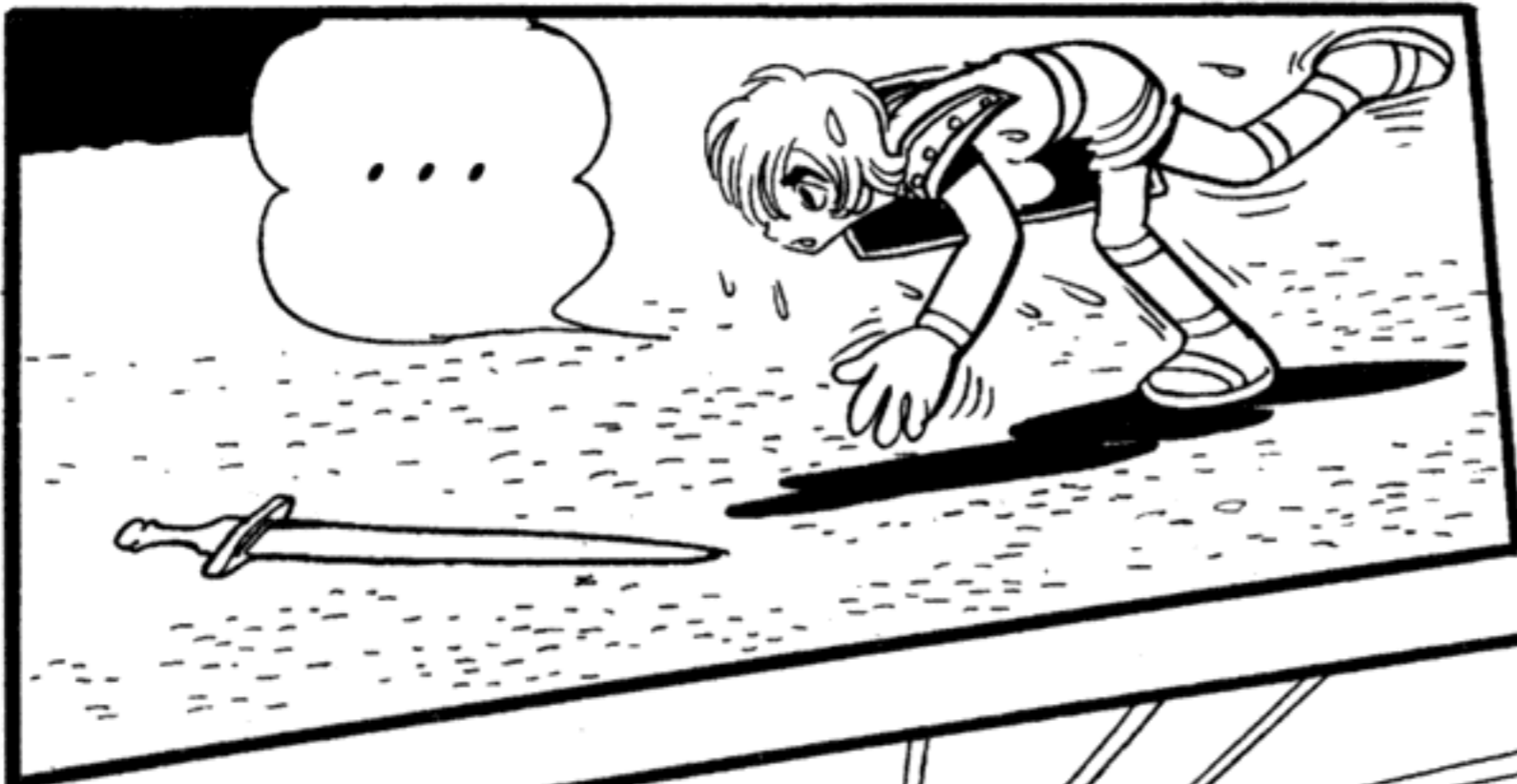














HO HO HA HA HA

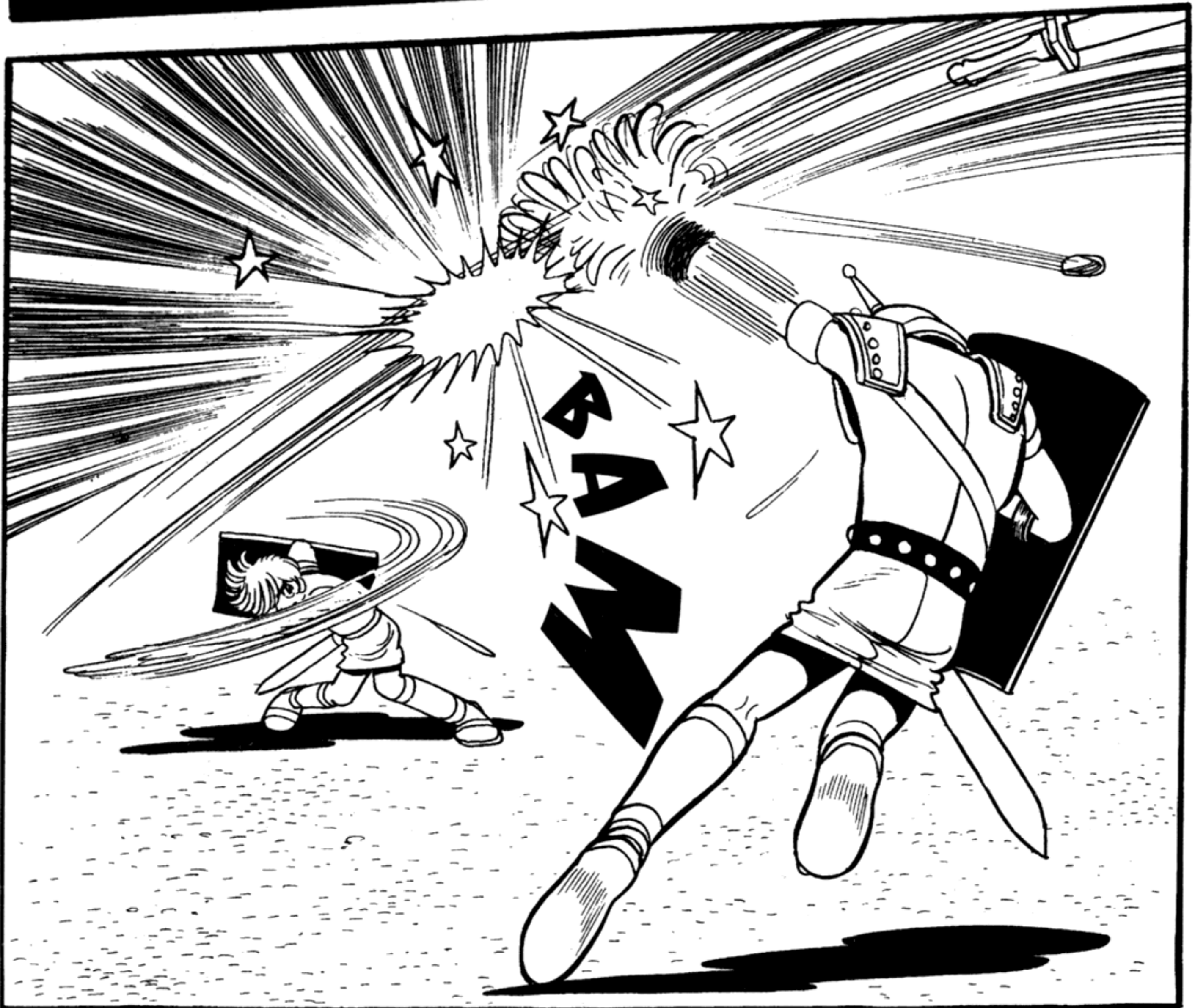
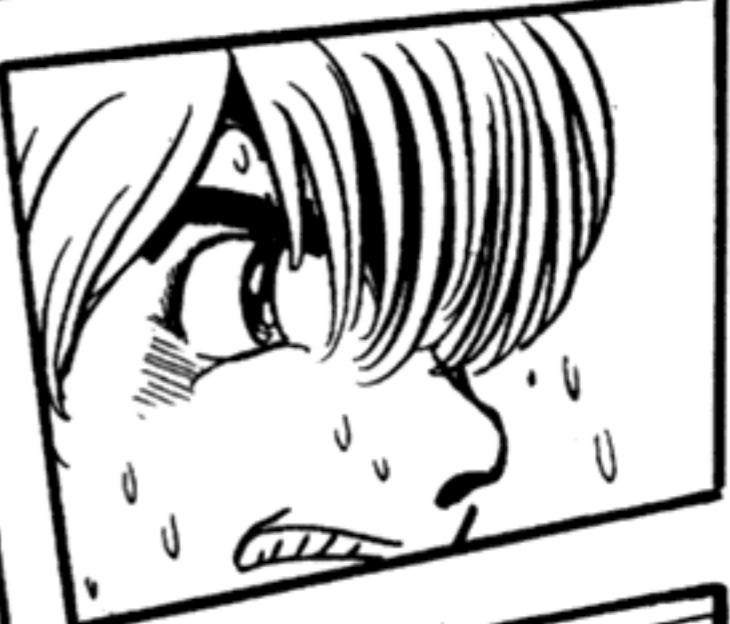
HO HO HA HA HA

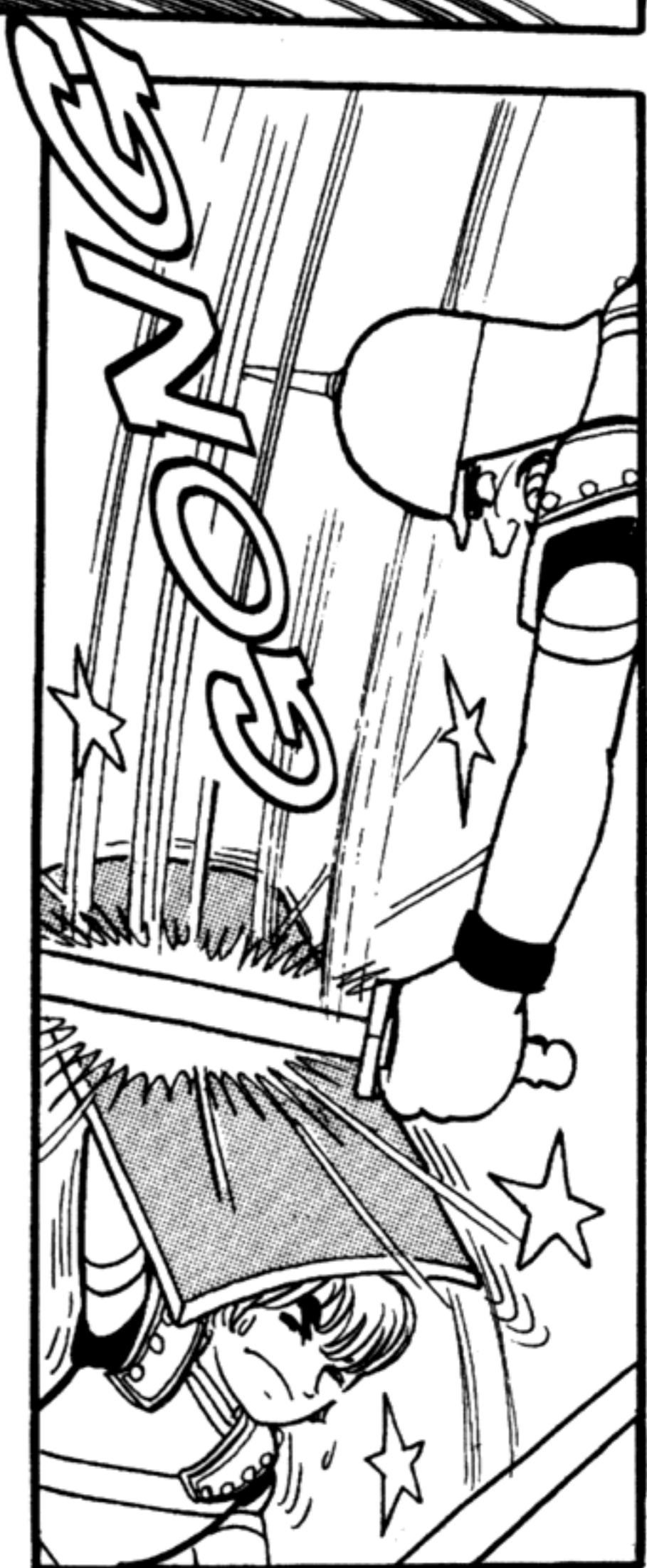
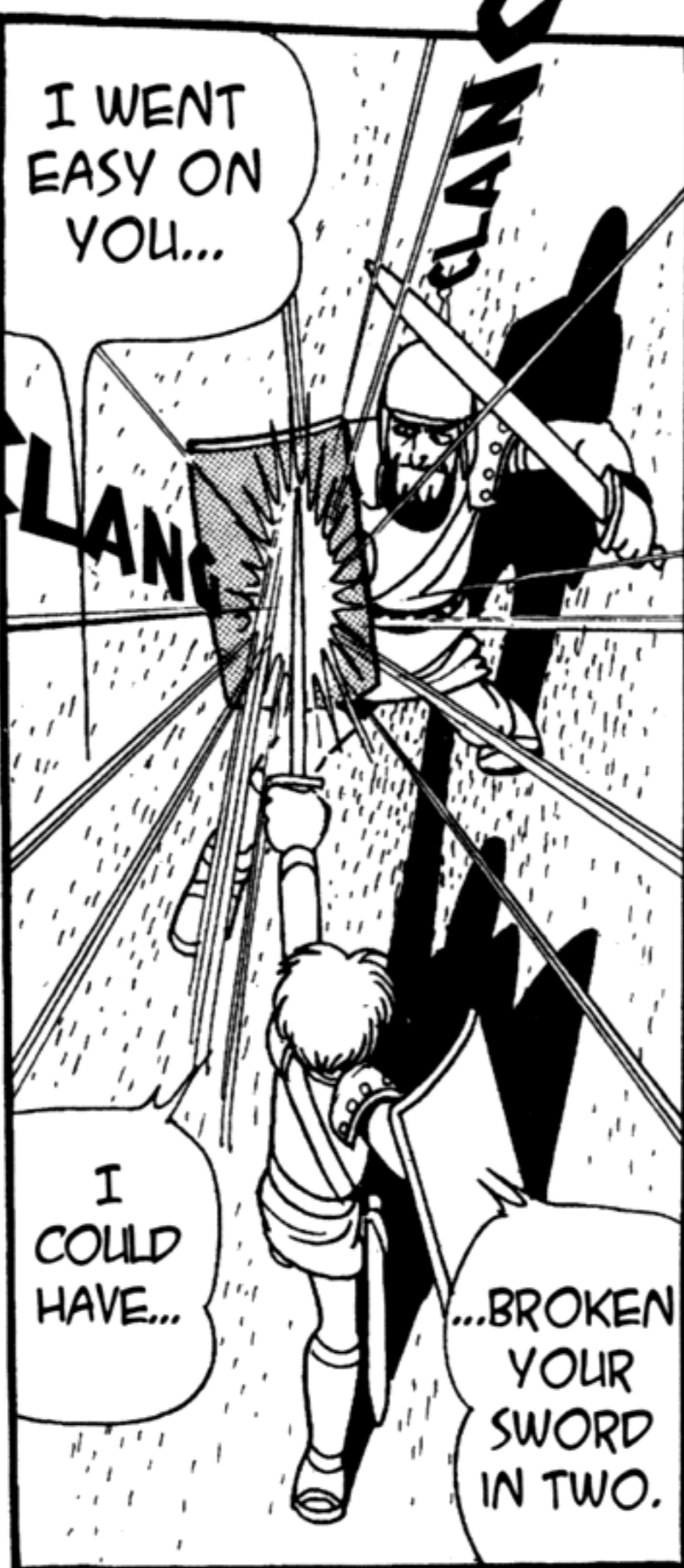
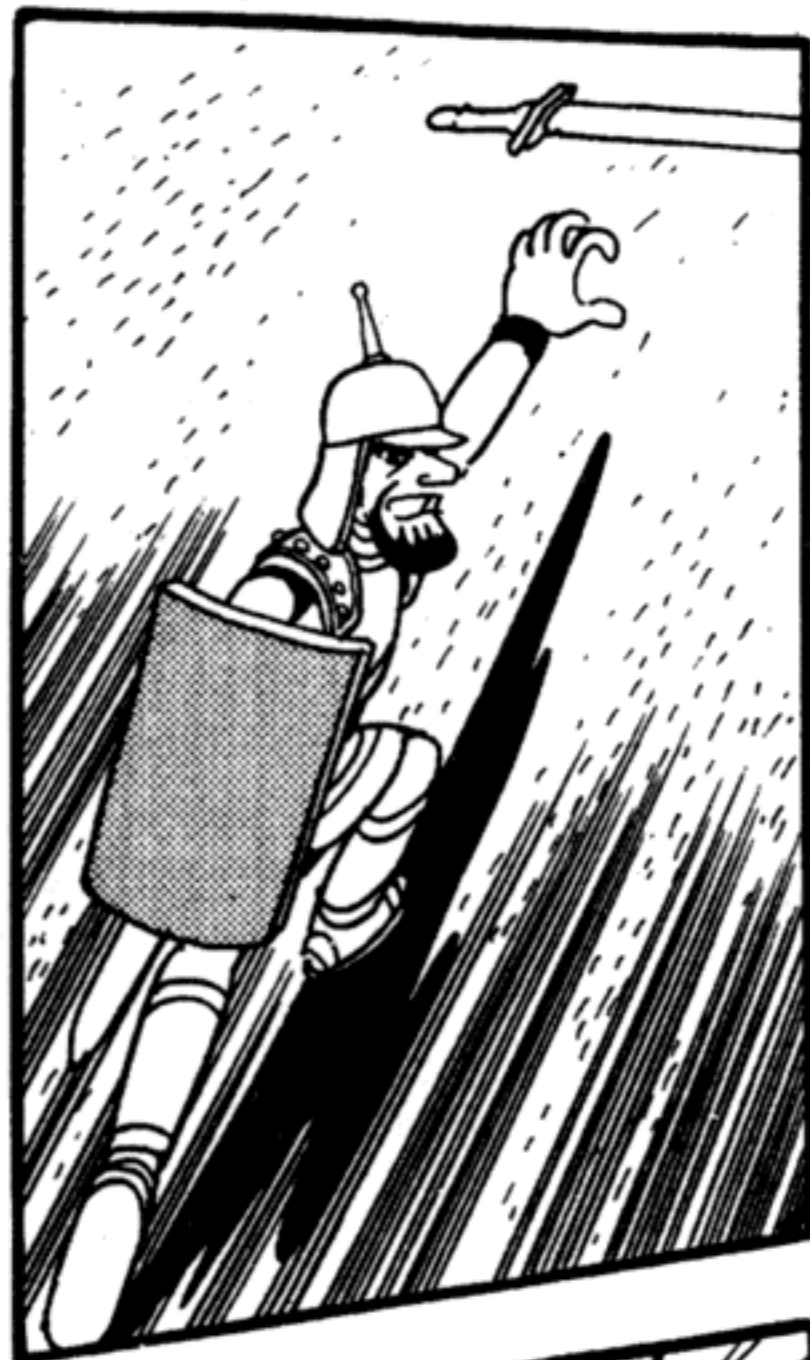
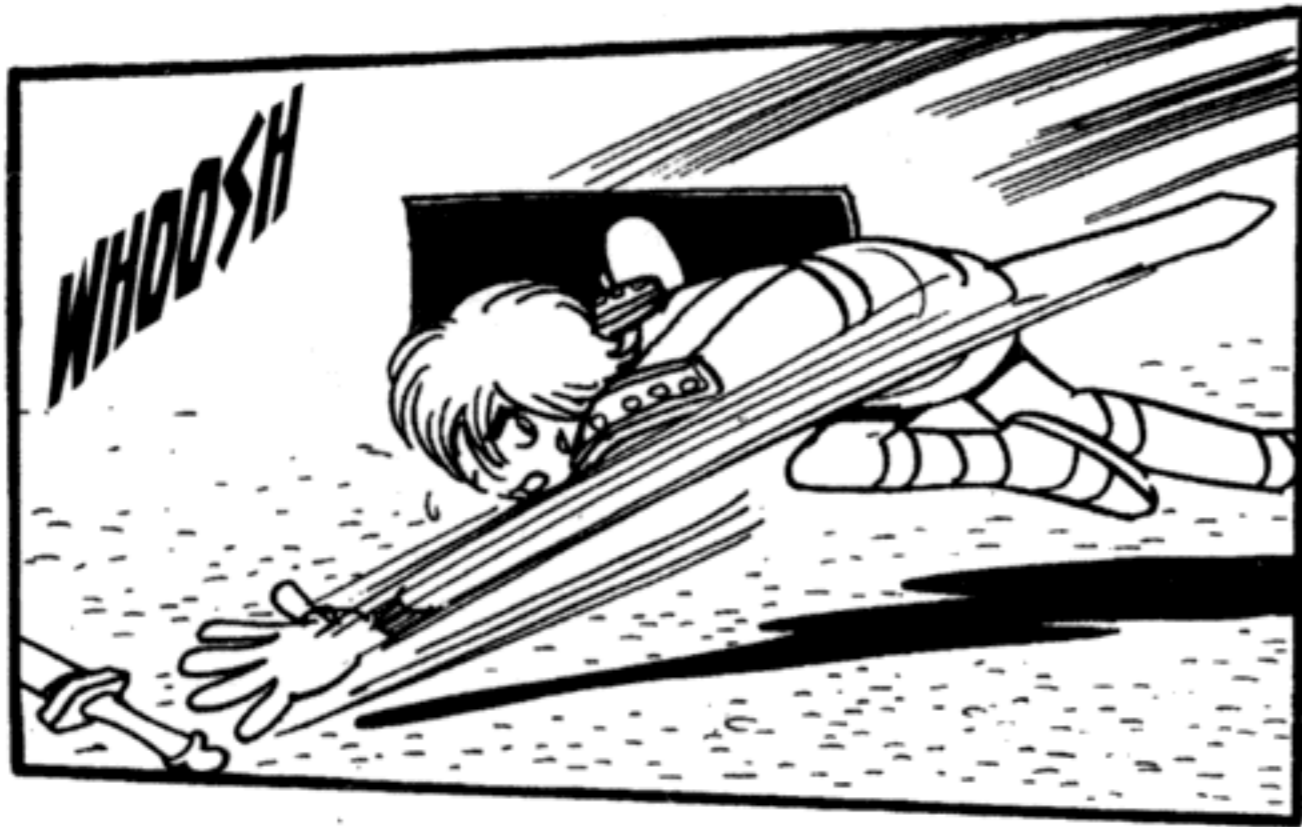
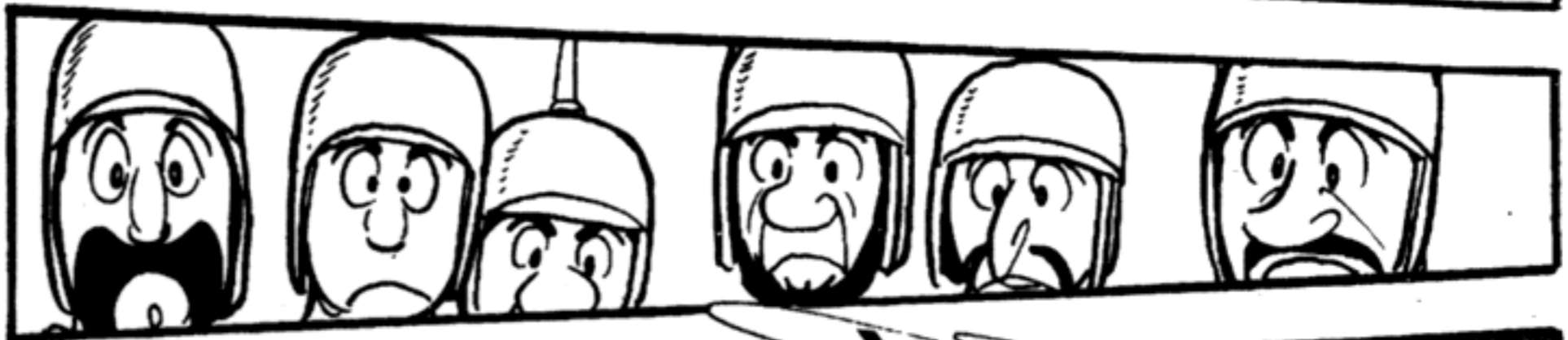


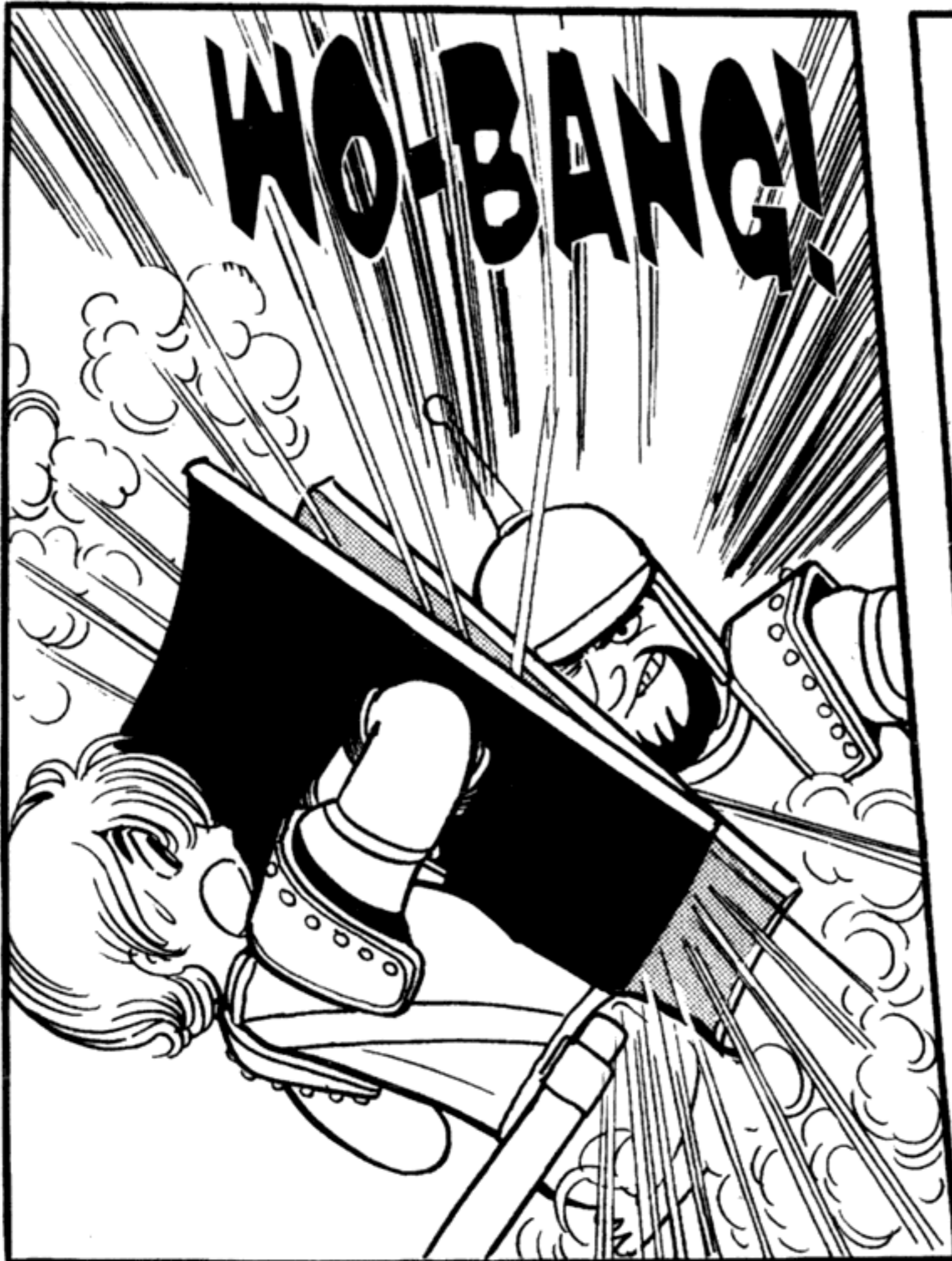
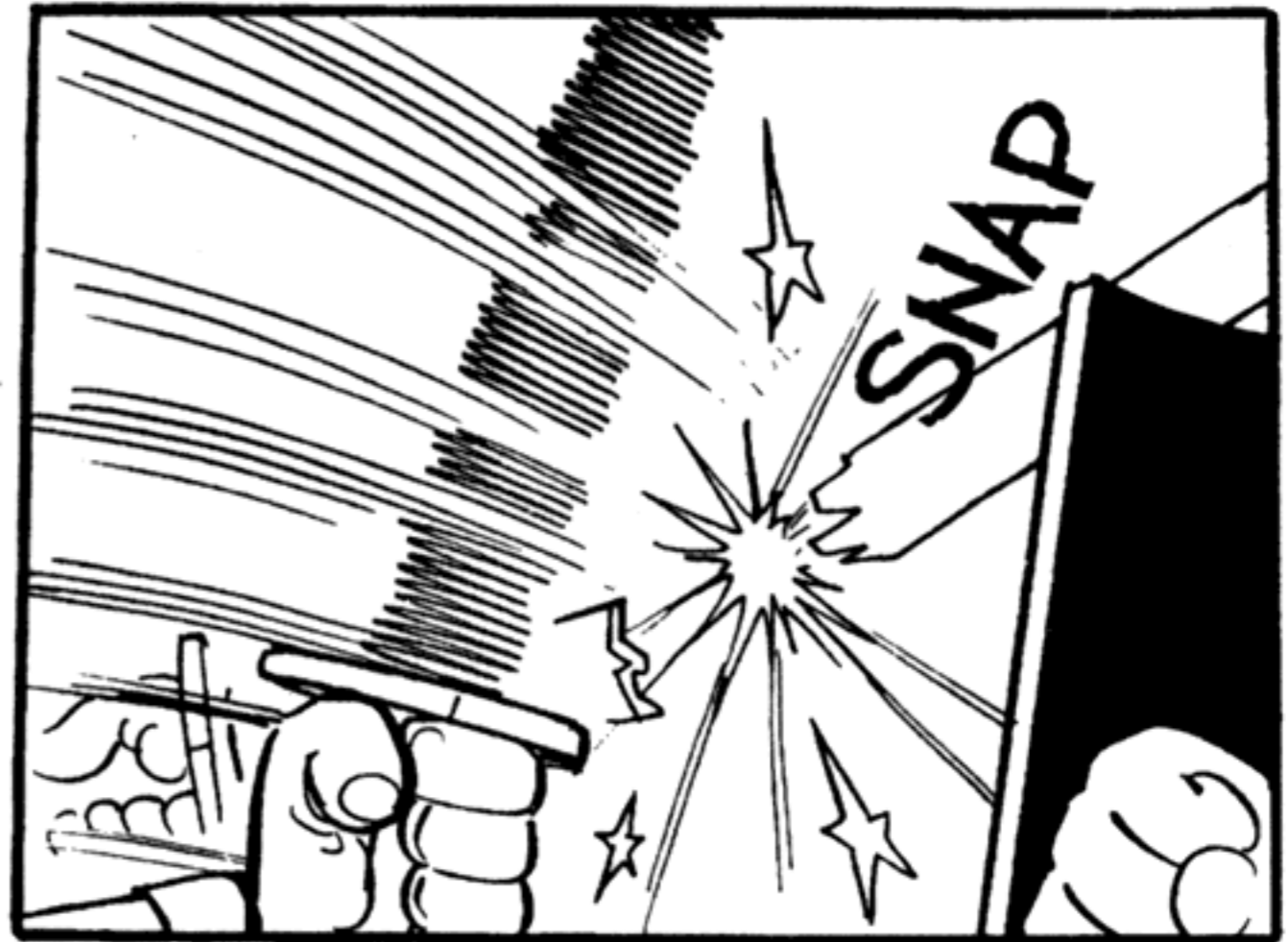
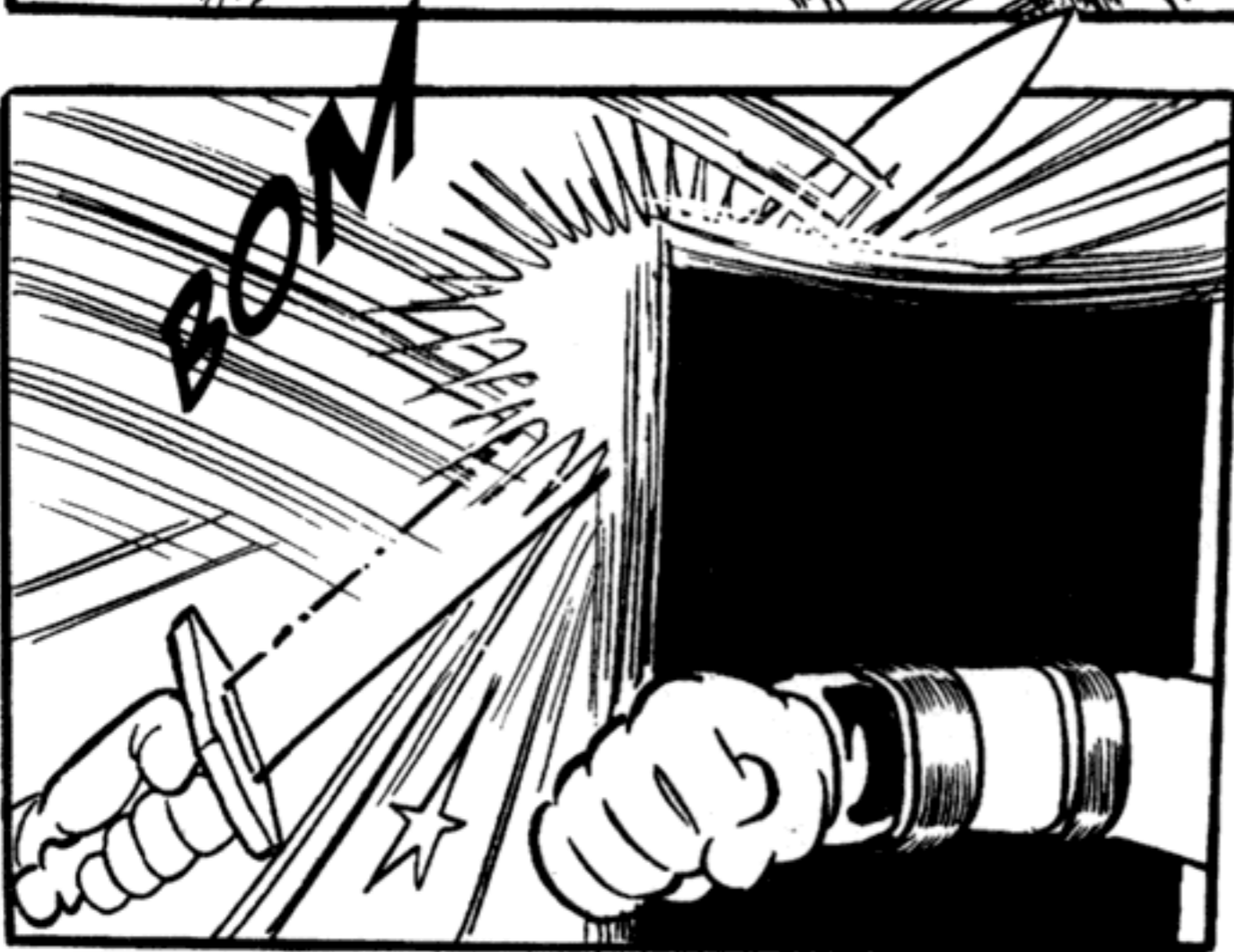
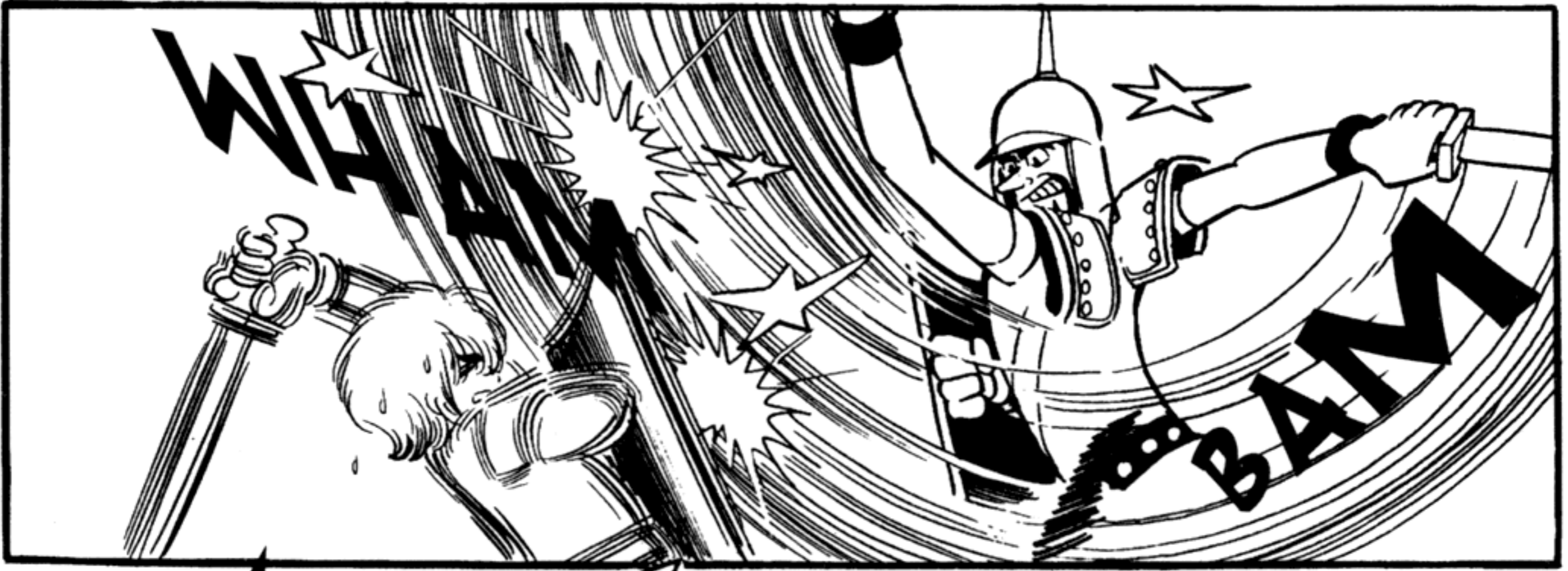
THAT WASN'T FAIR!

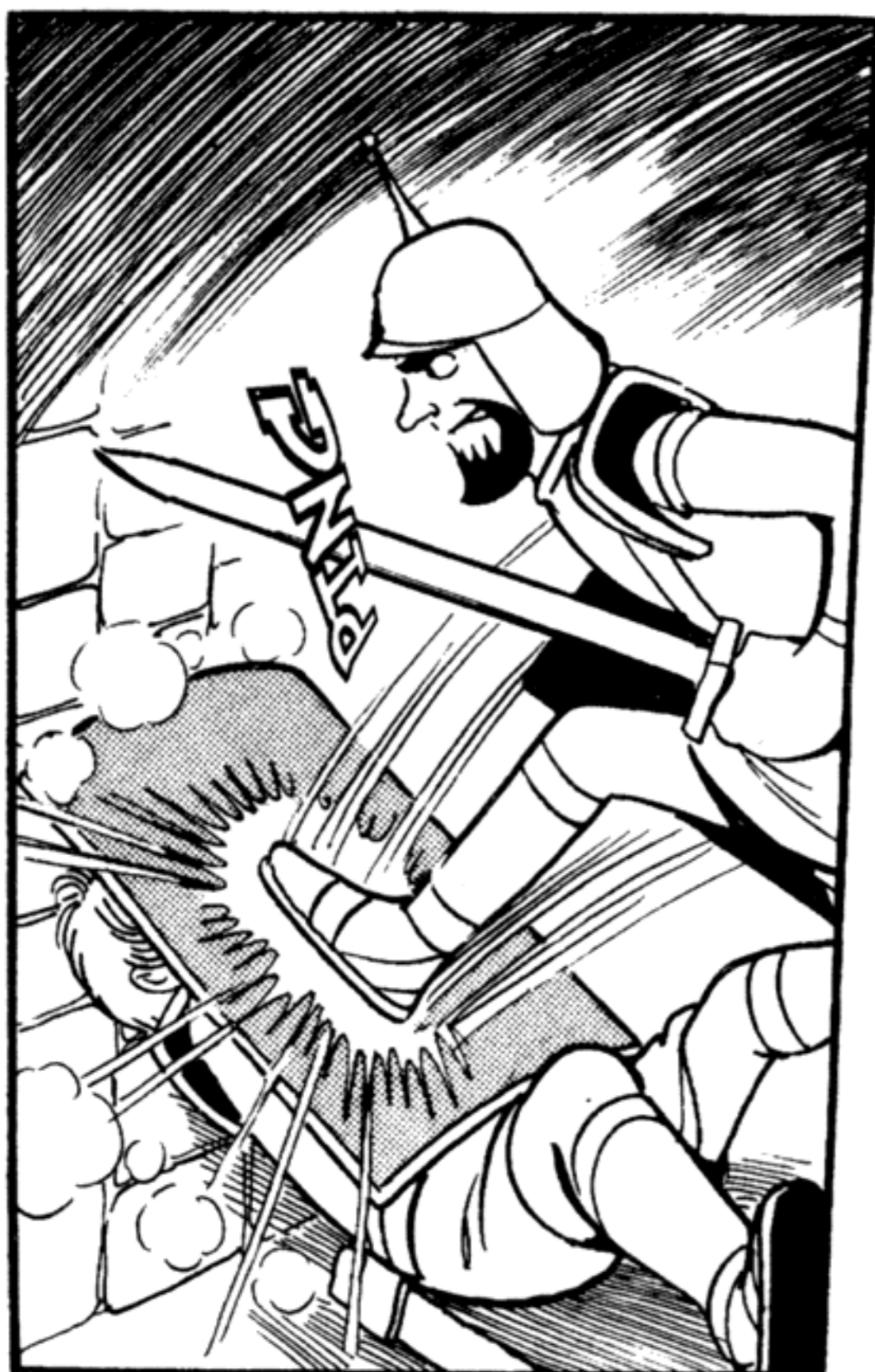
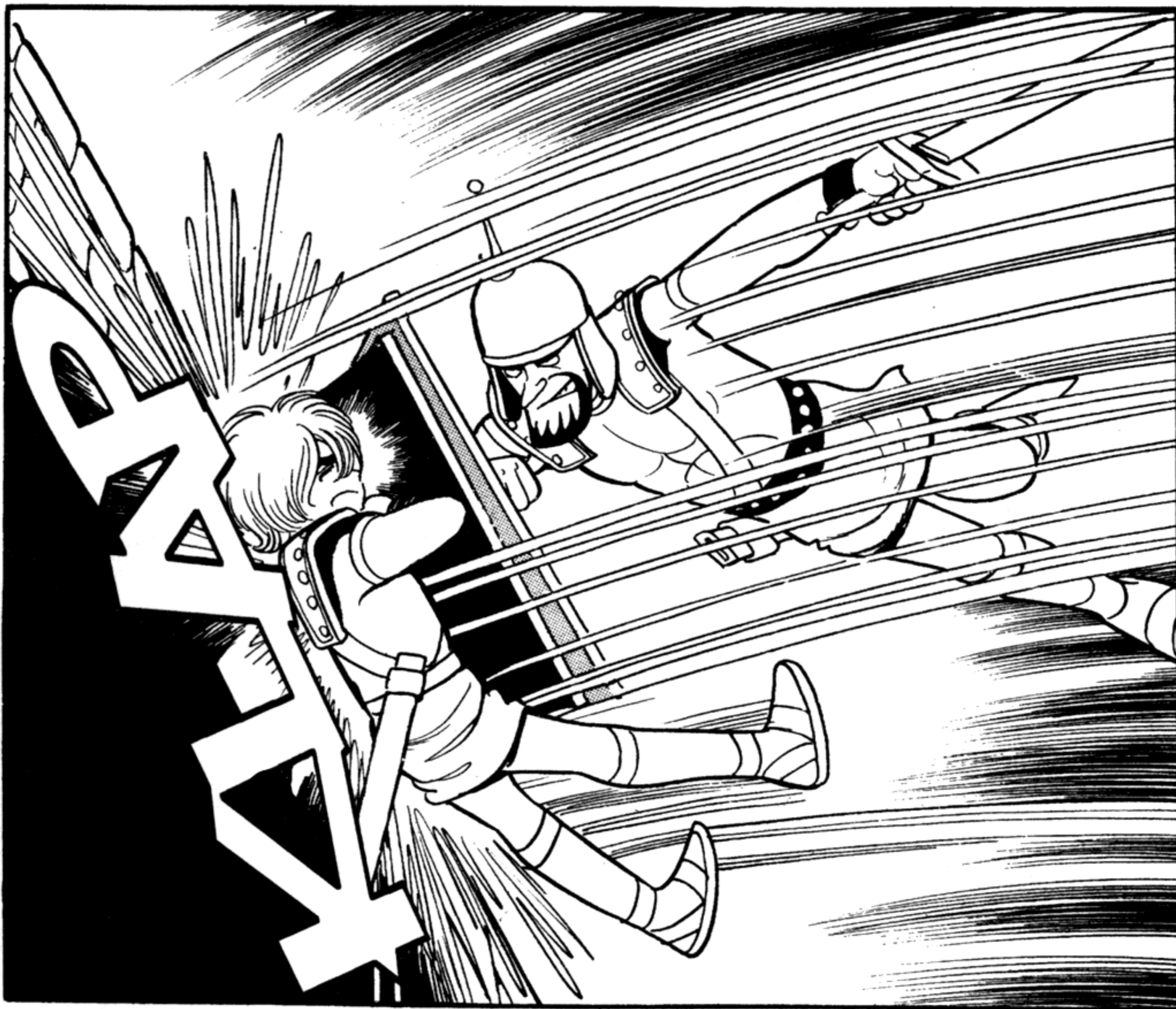


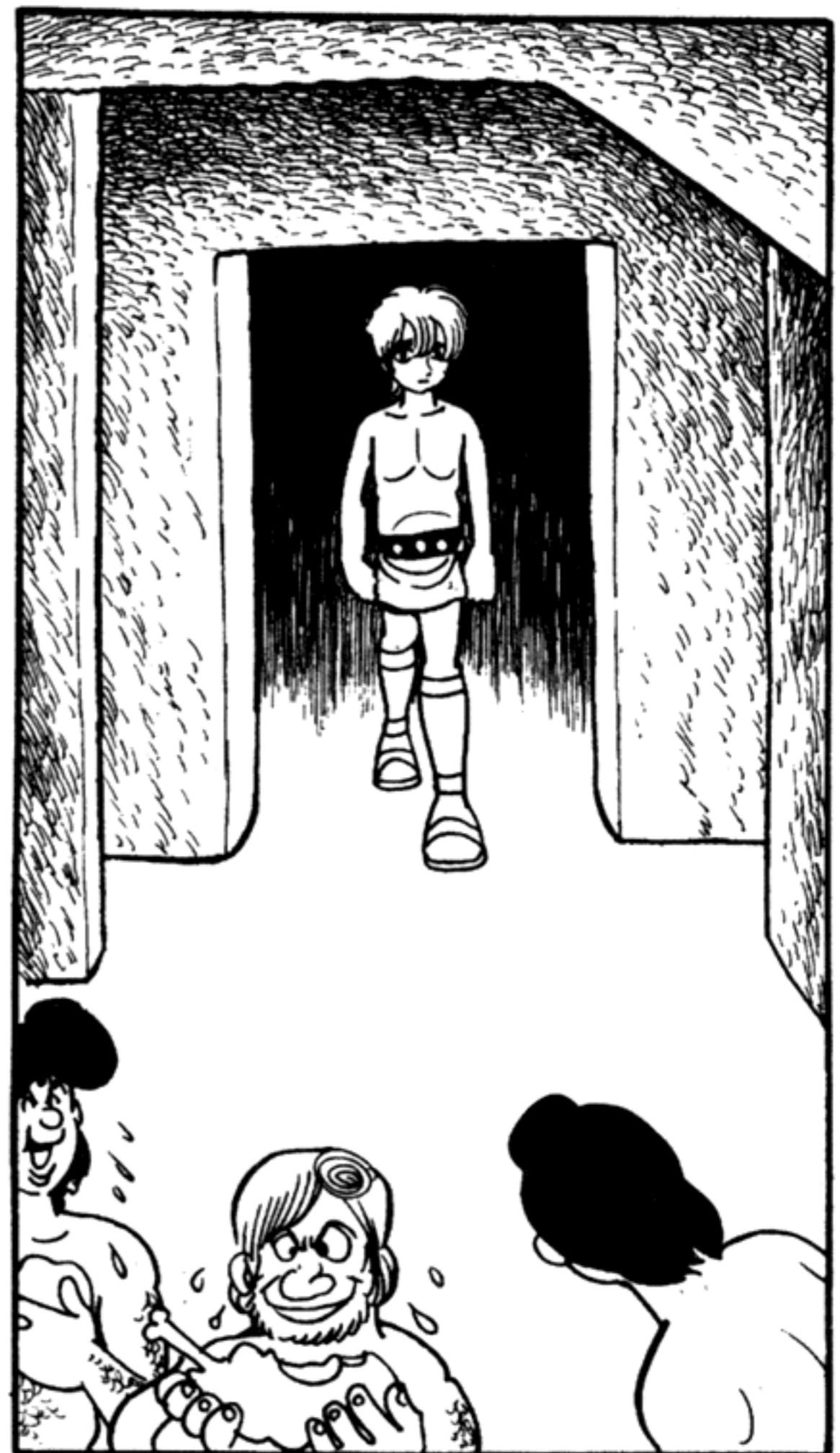
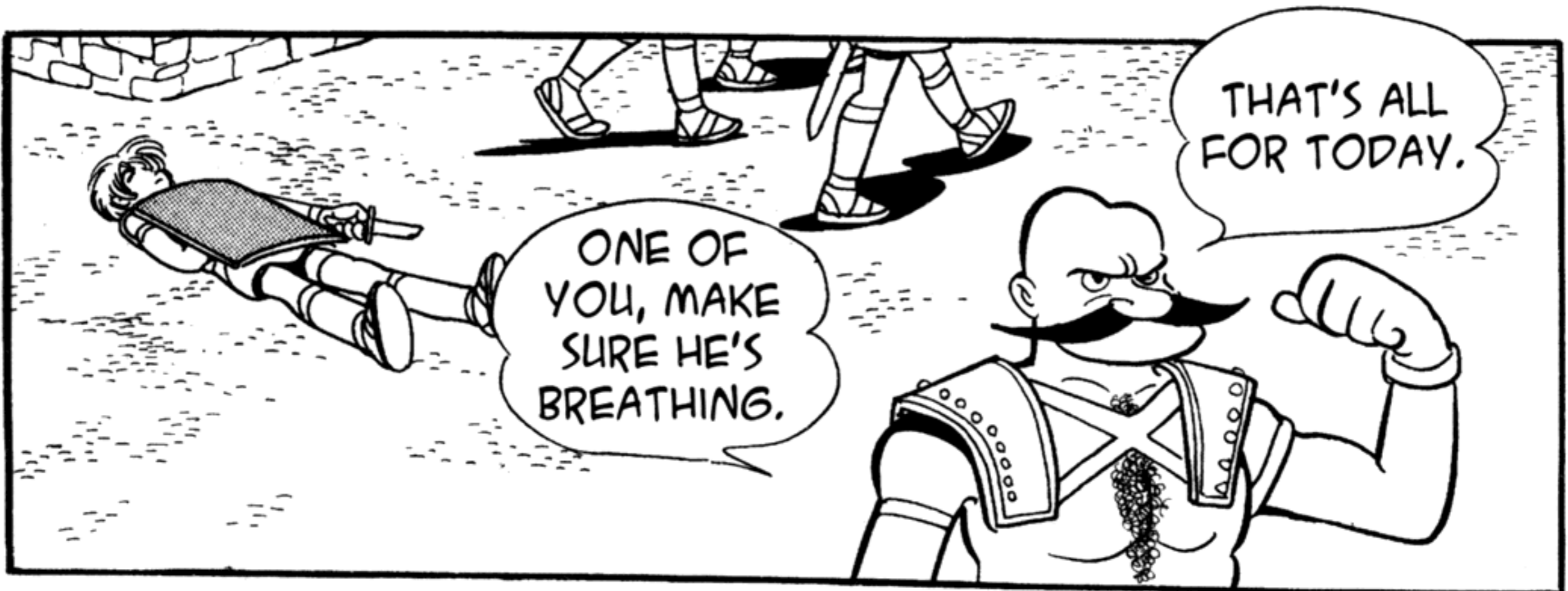
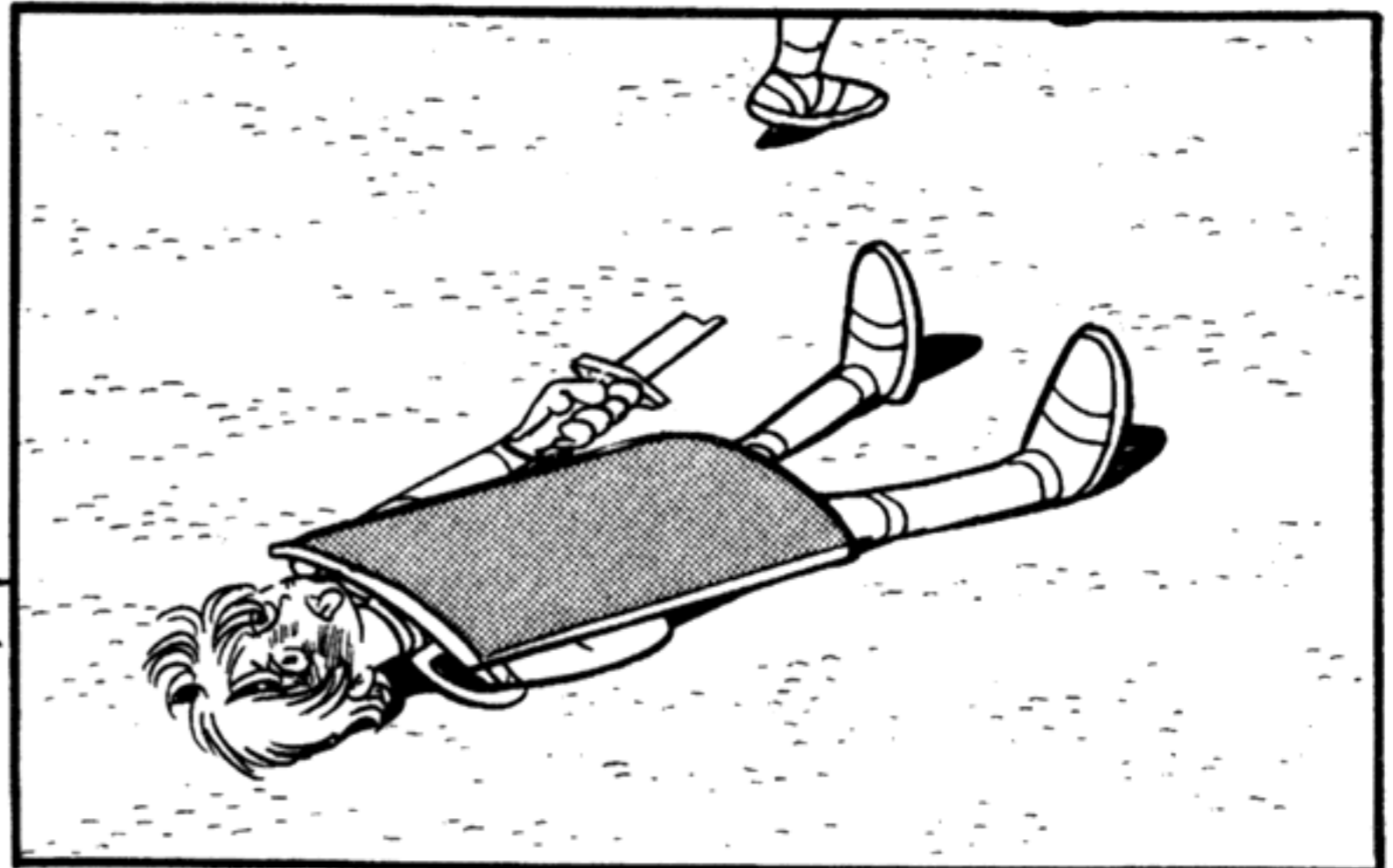
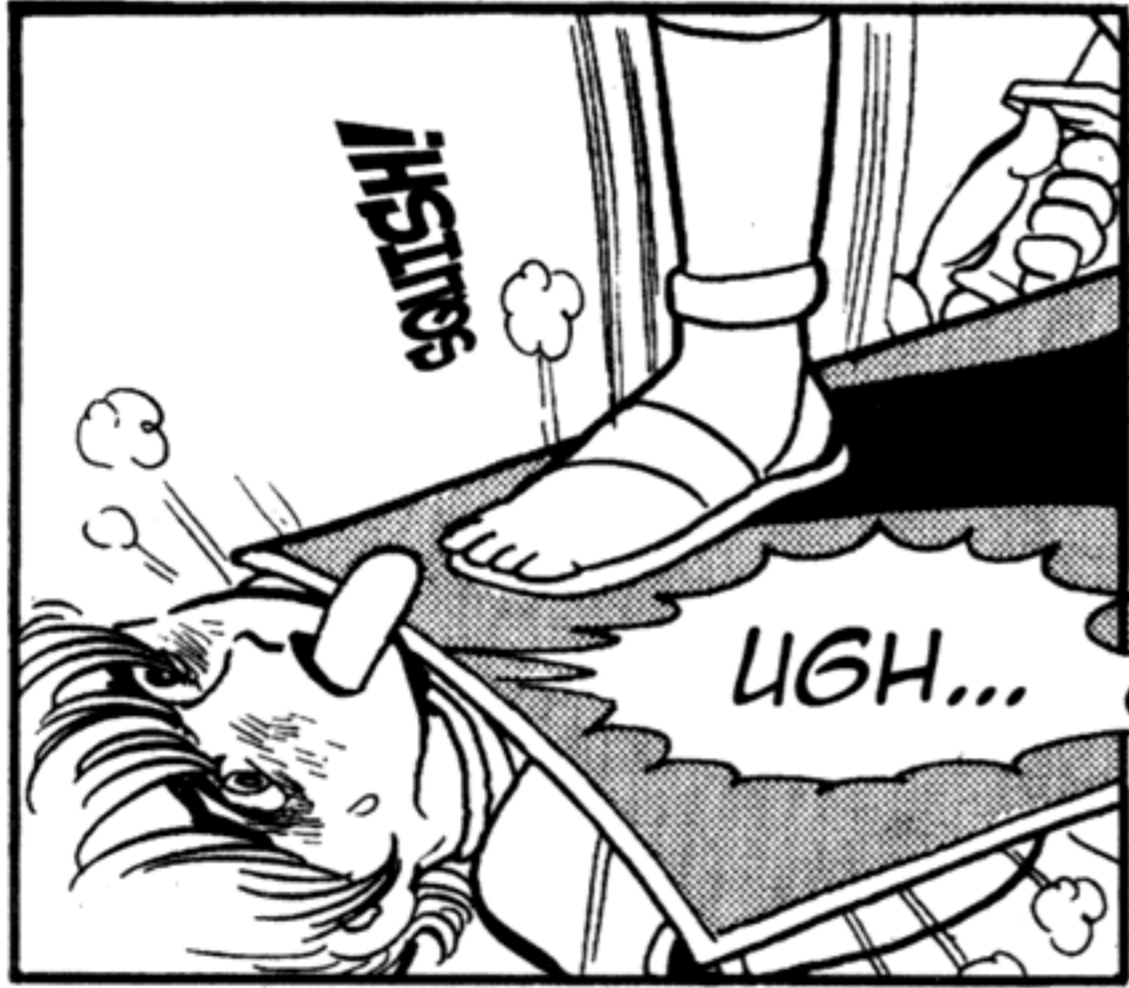
ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR. FIGHT DIRTY IF YOU LIKE, KID... COME ON.

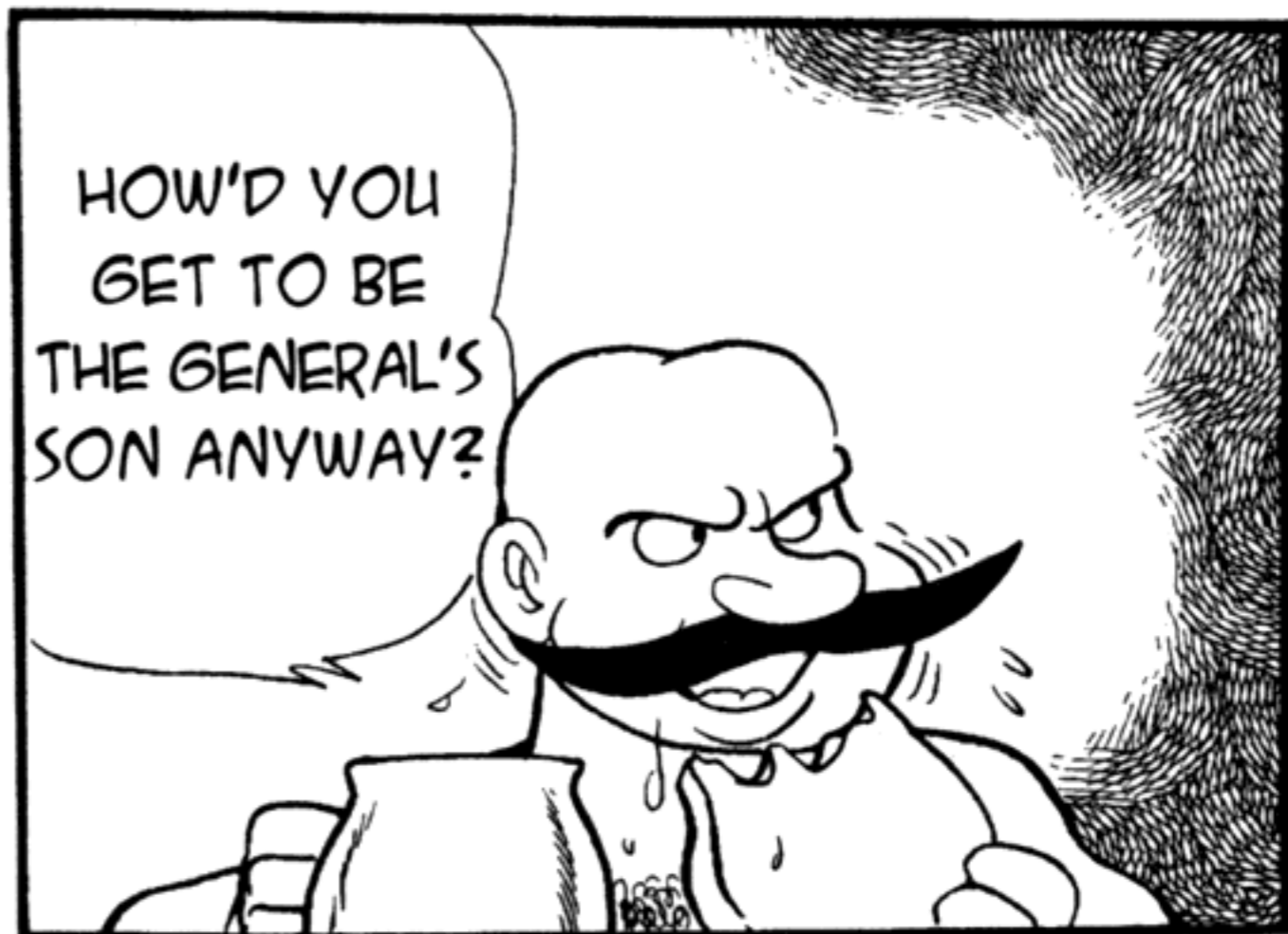
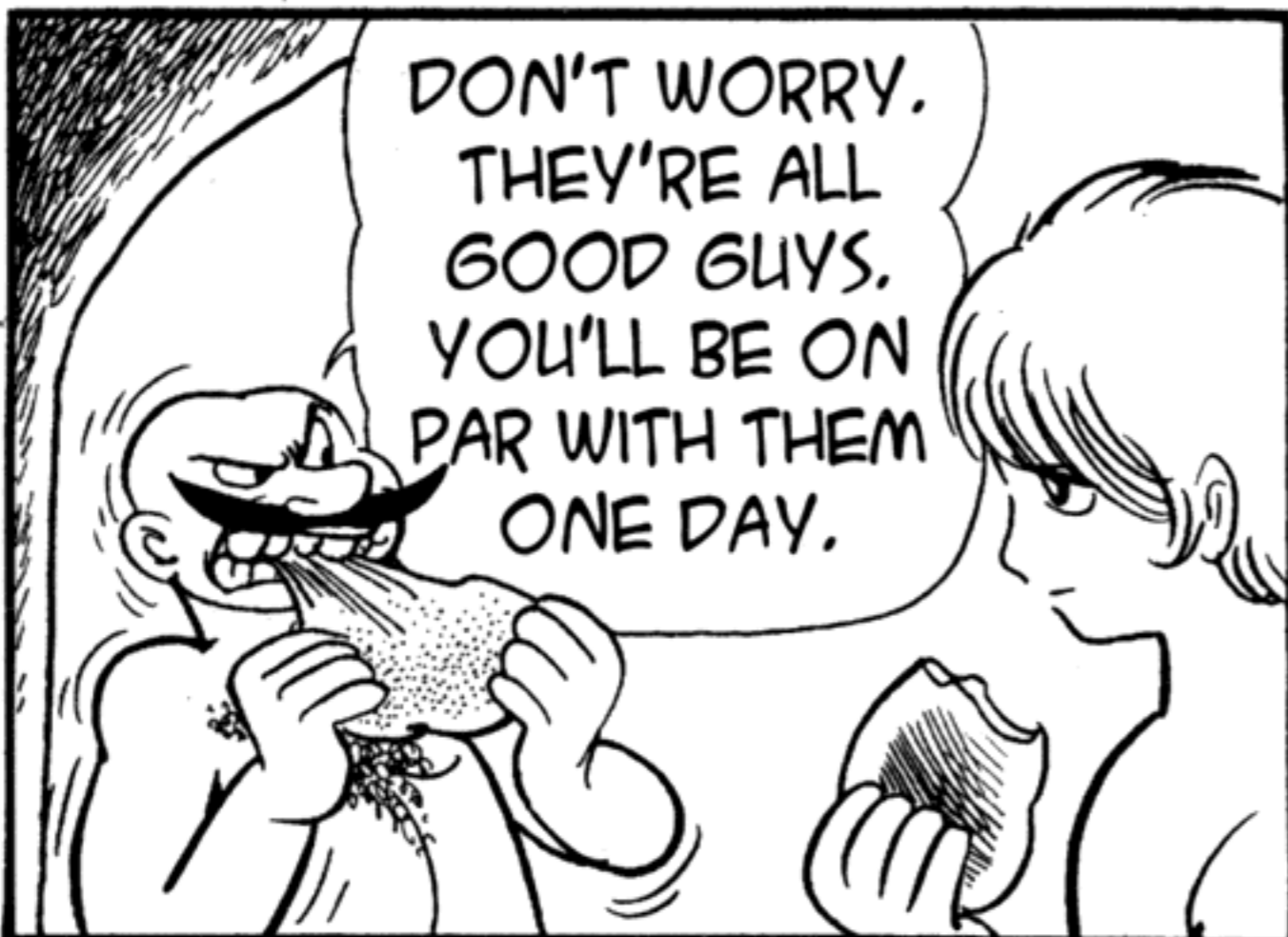
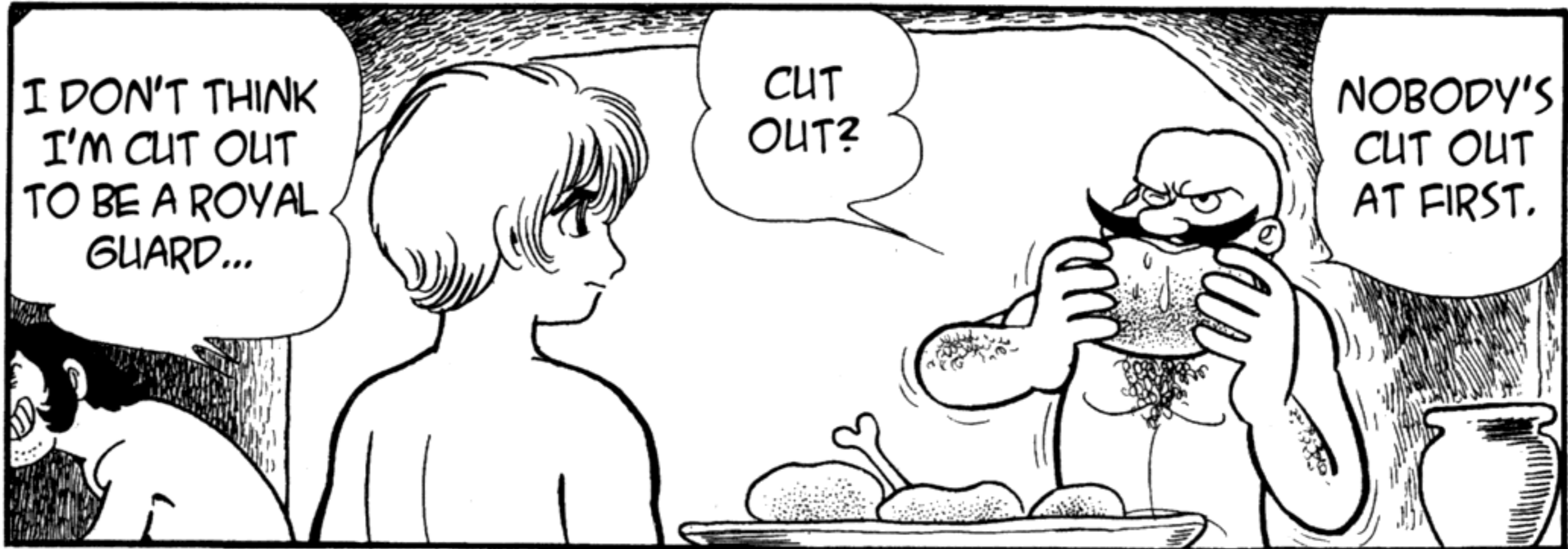
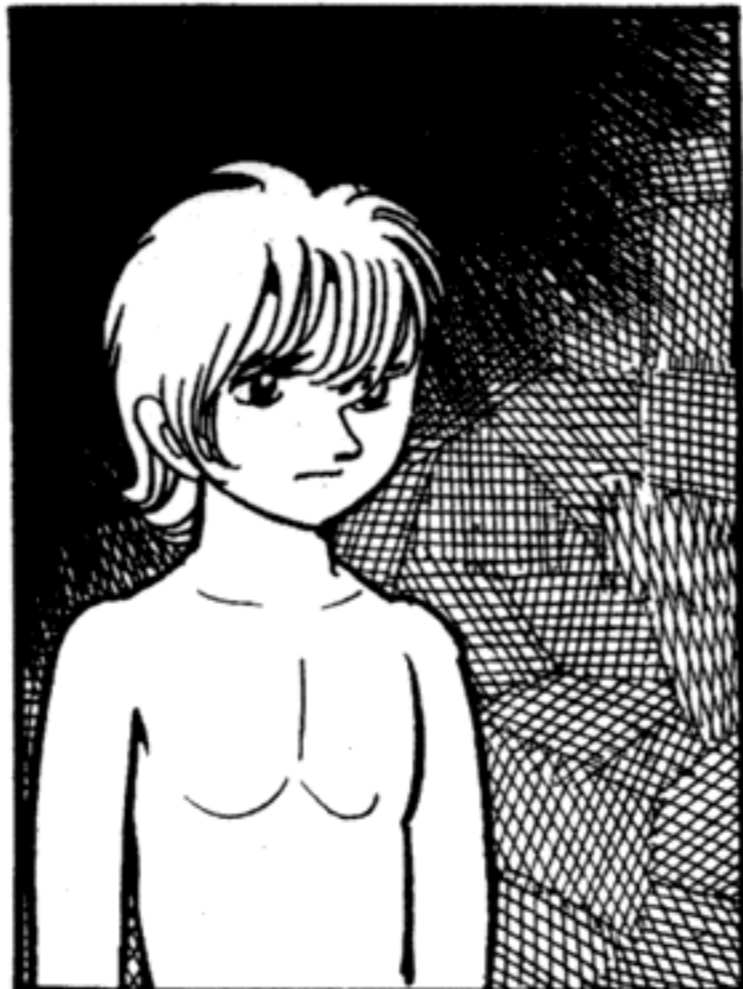
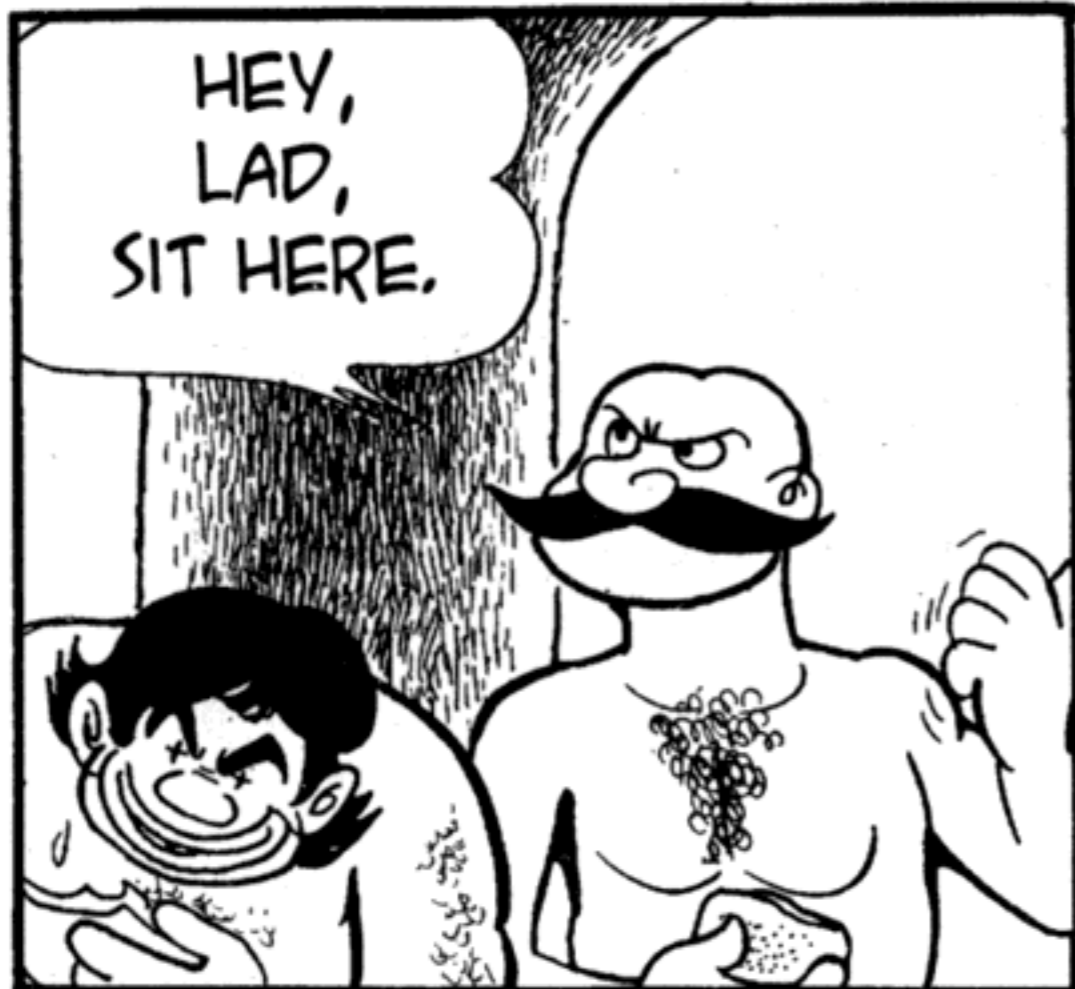


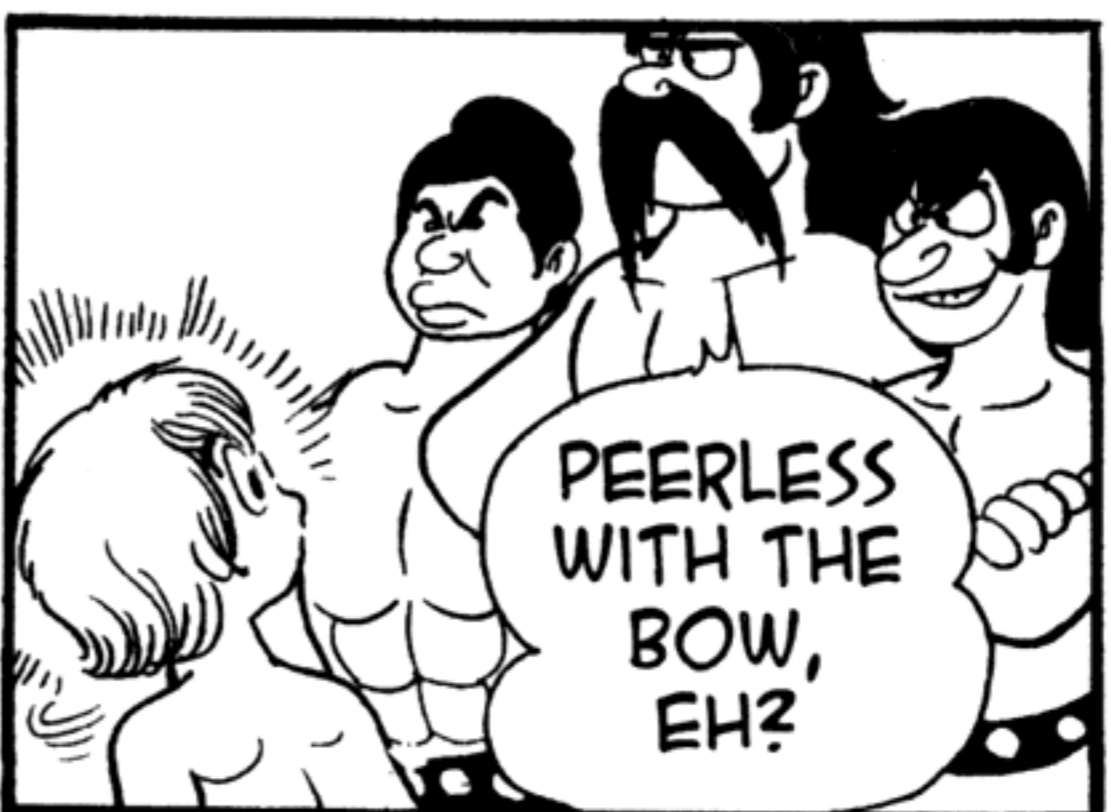
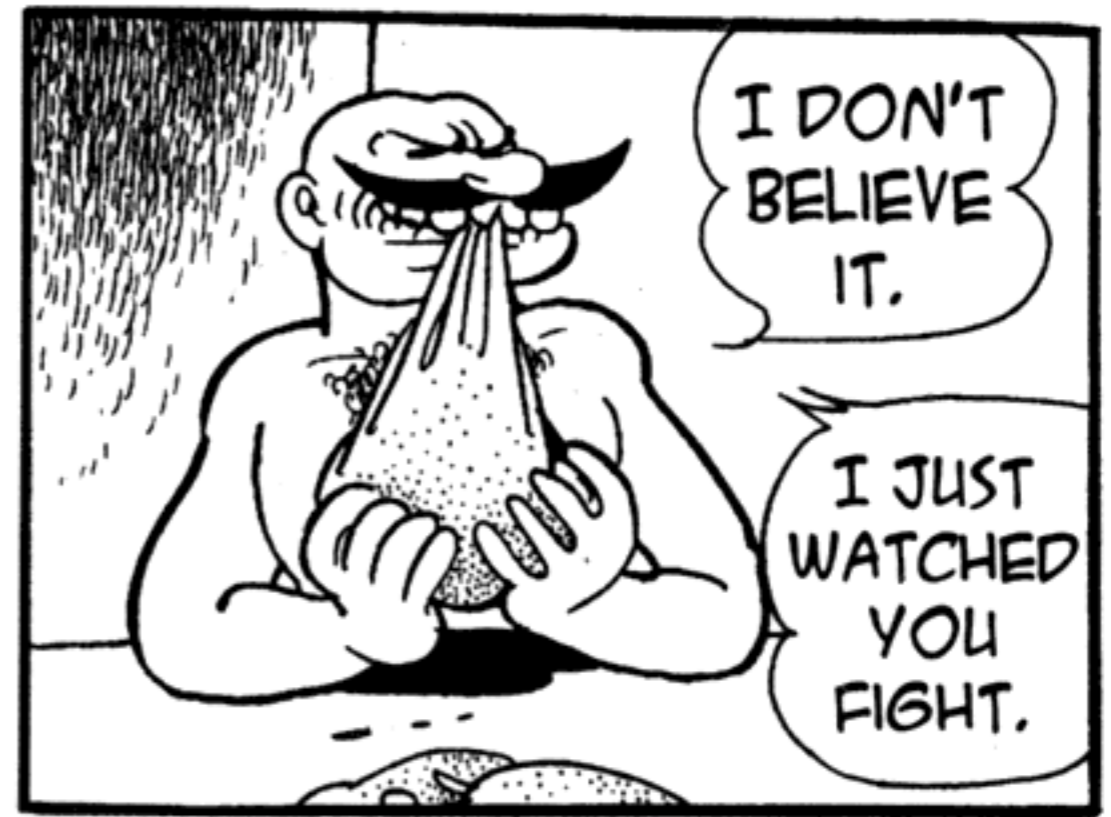


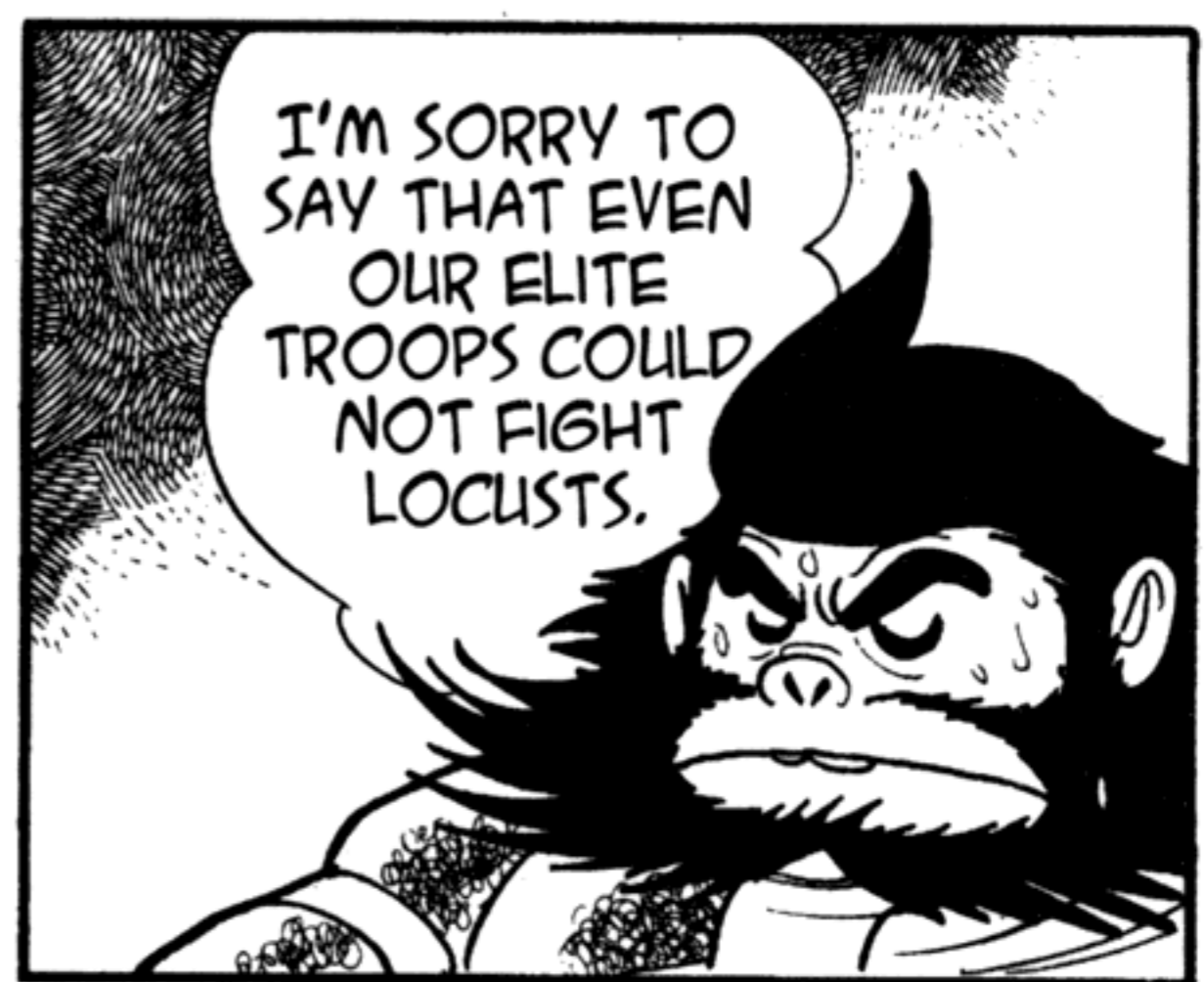
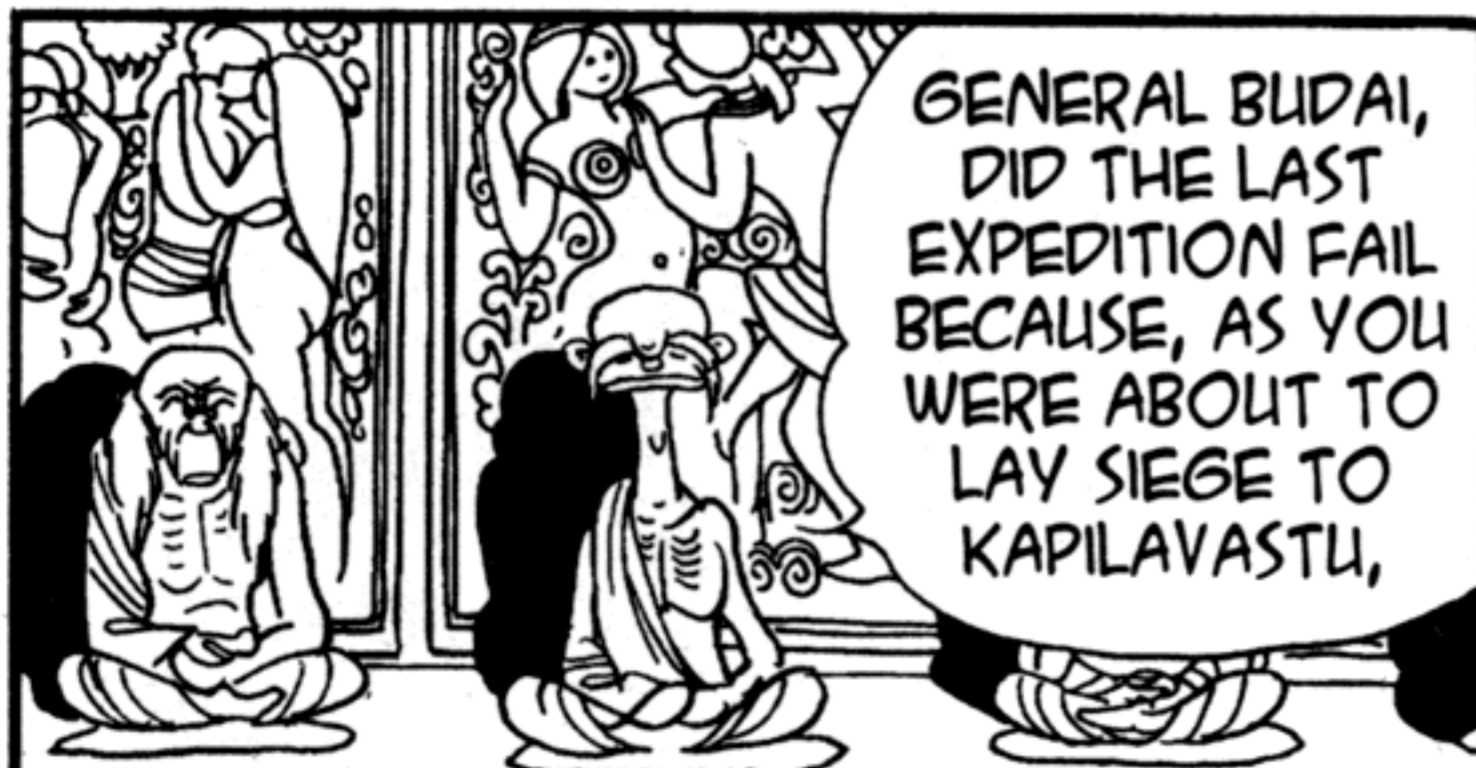
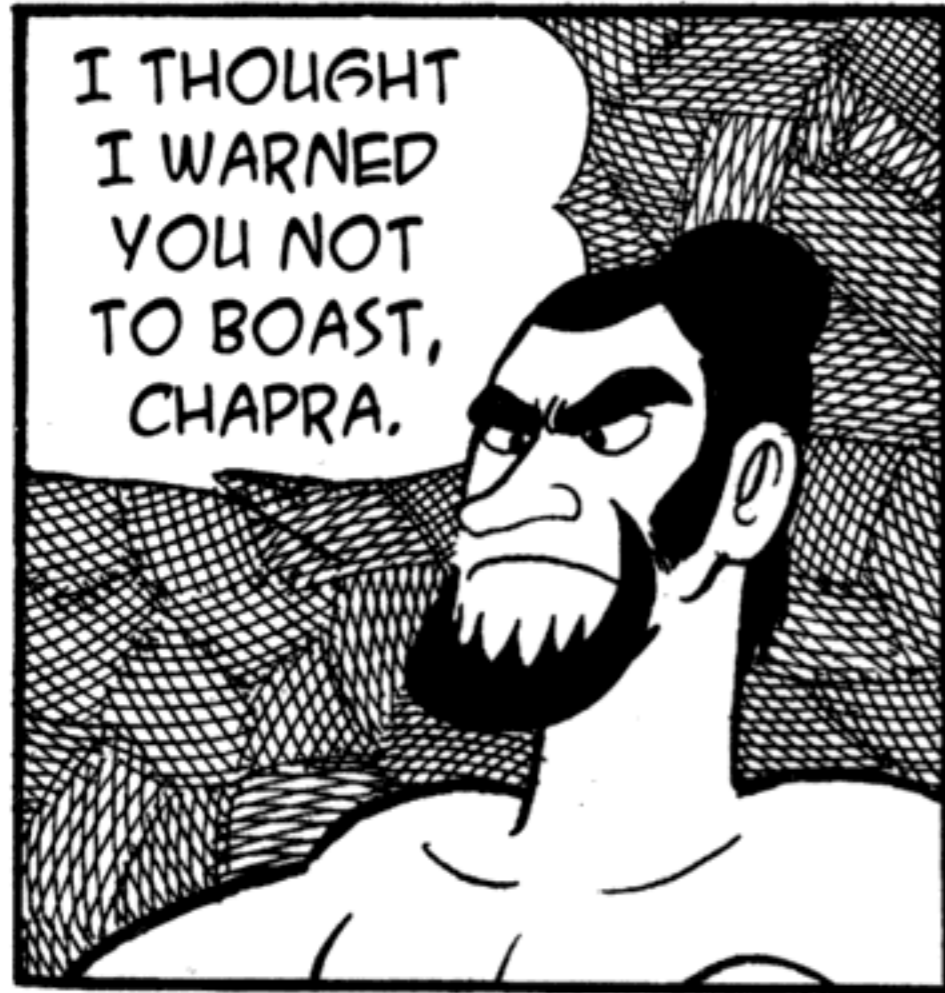


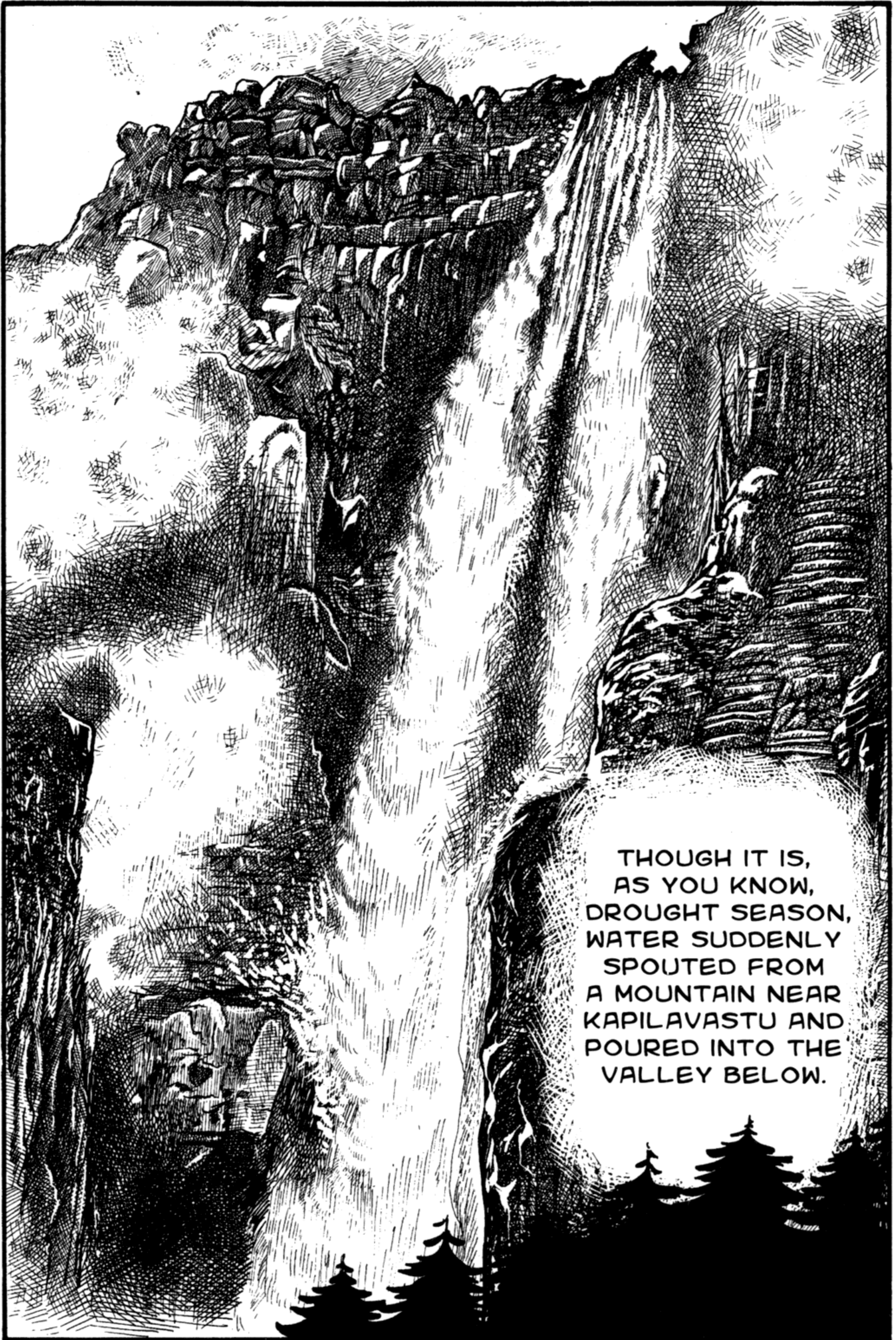








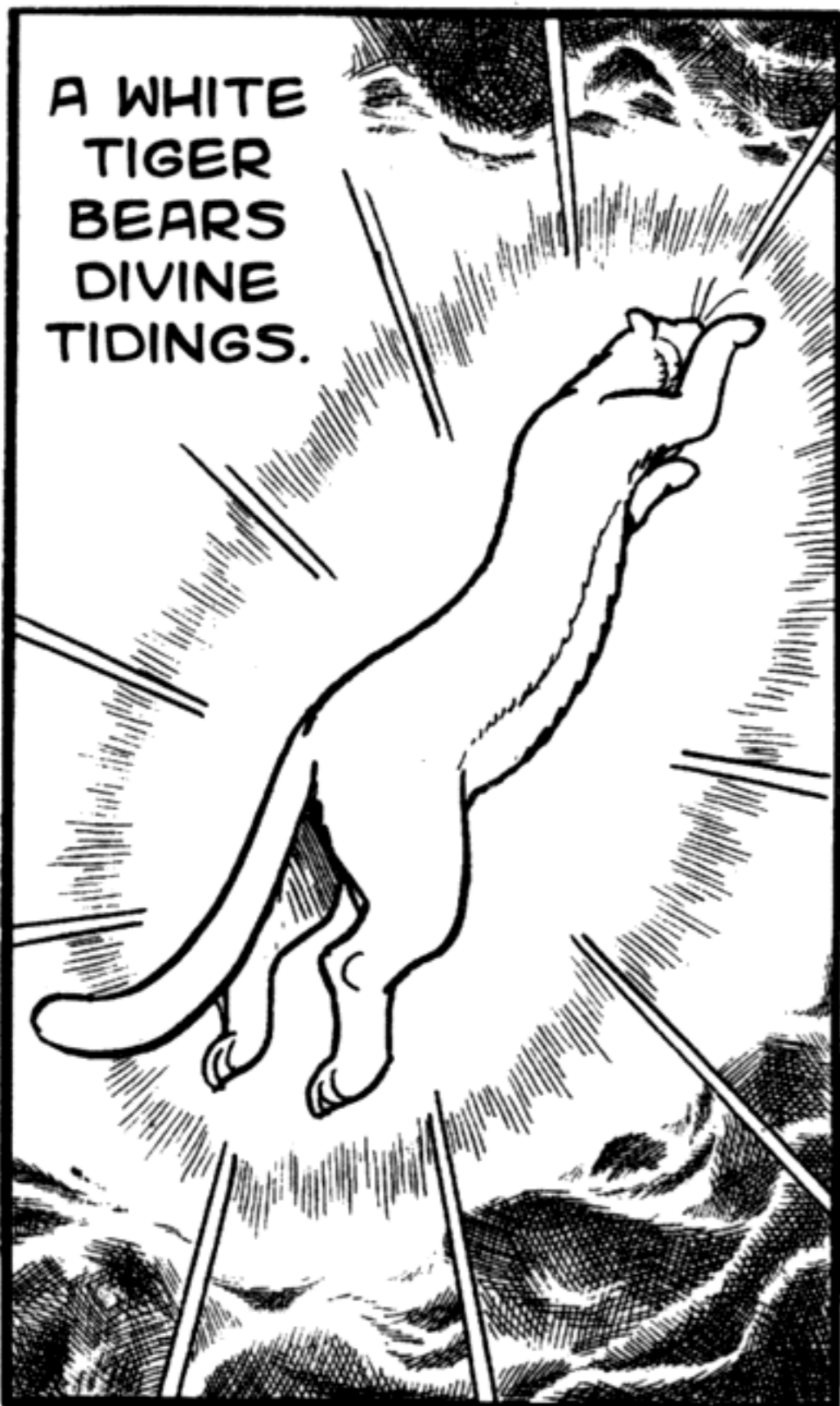




THOUGH IT IS,
AS YOU KNOW,
DROUGHT SEASON,
WATER SUDDENLY
SPOUTED FROM
A MOUNTAIN NEAR
KAPILAVASTU AND
POURED INTO THE
VALLEY BELOW.



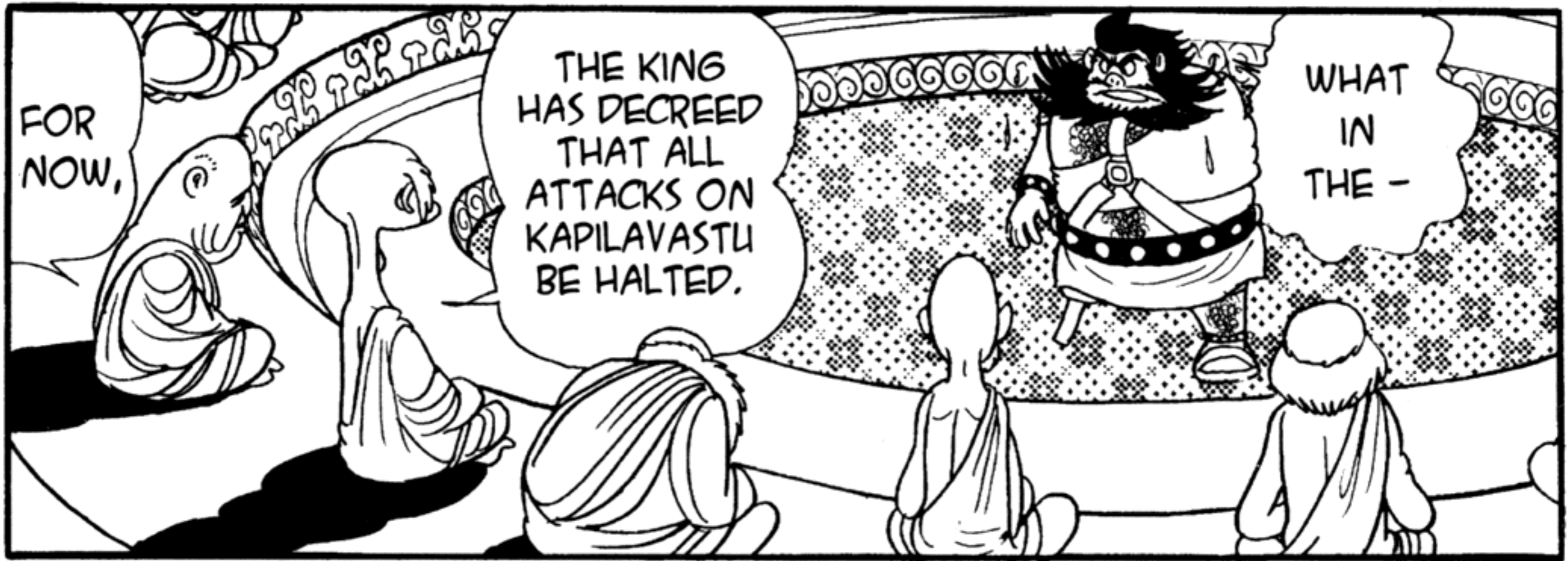
A LOCAL
REPORTED A
TIGER WHITE
AS COTTON
LOPING IN
THE JUNGLE!

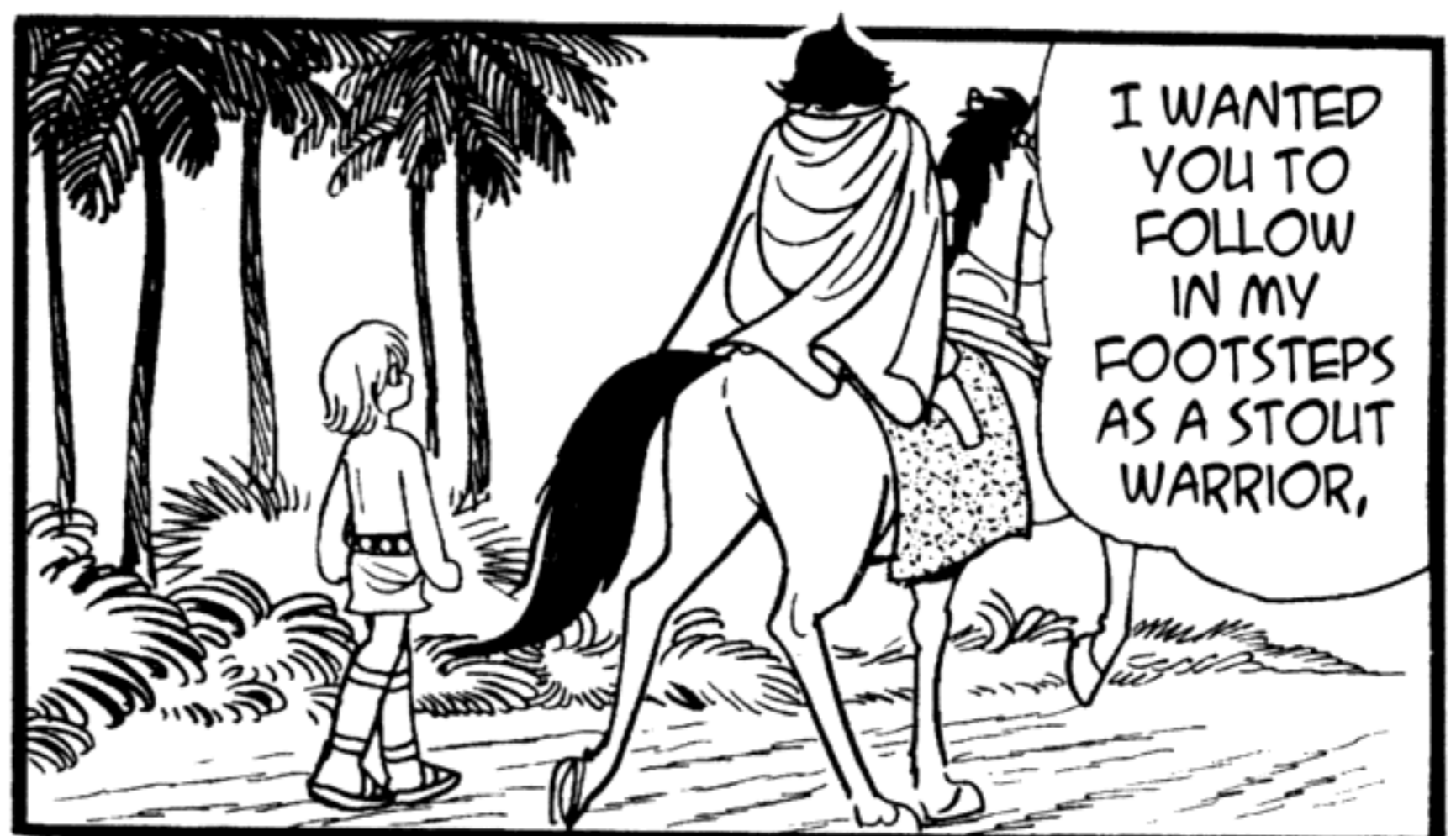
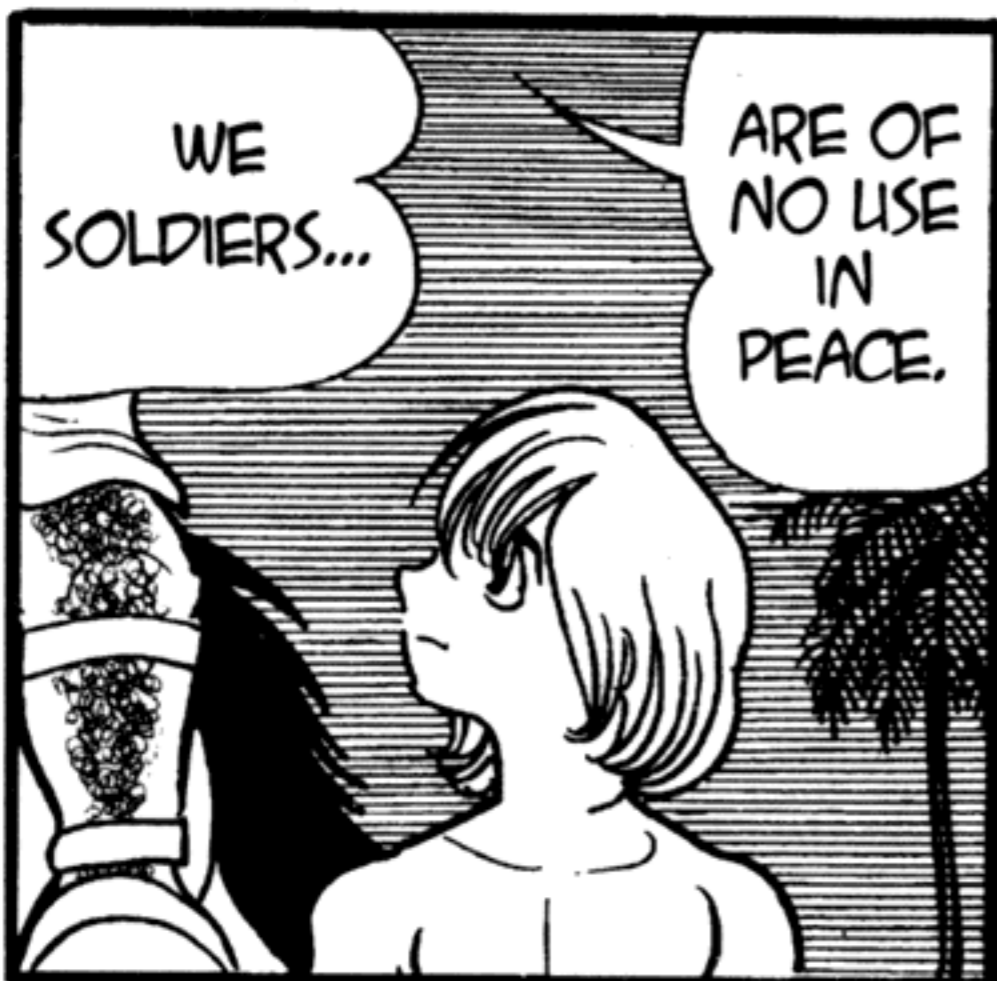
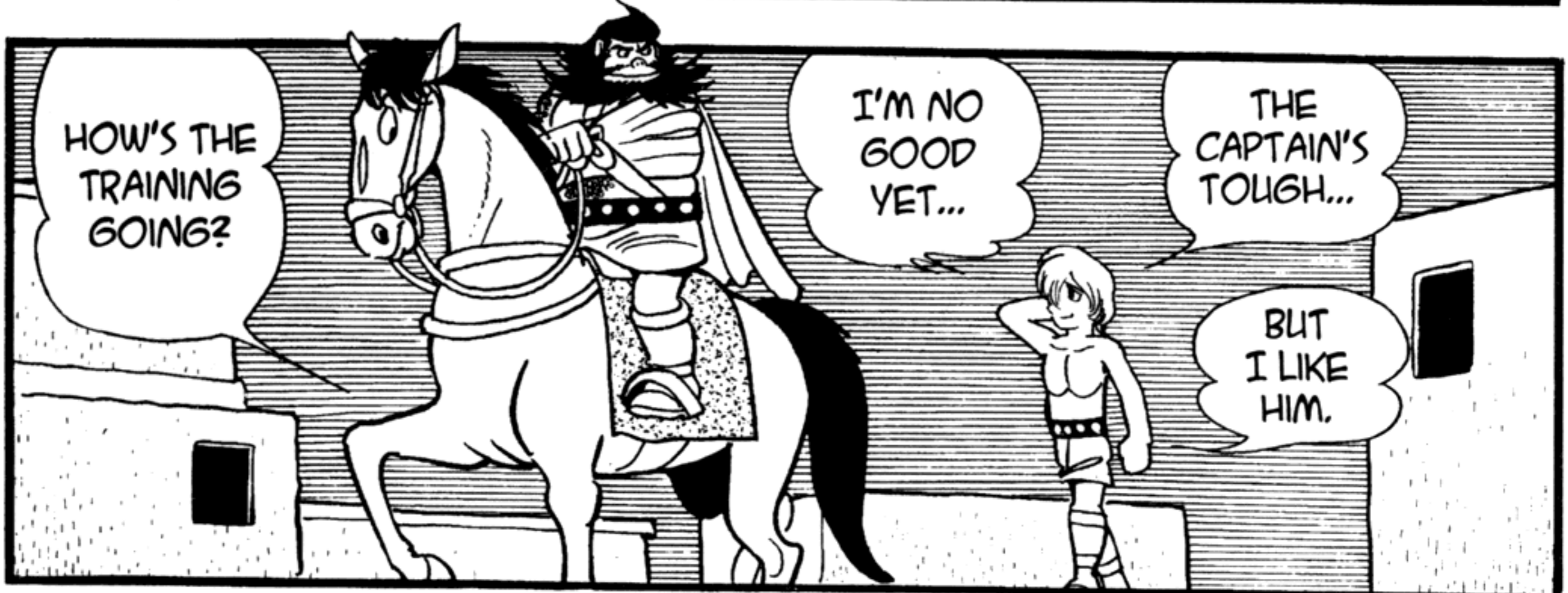
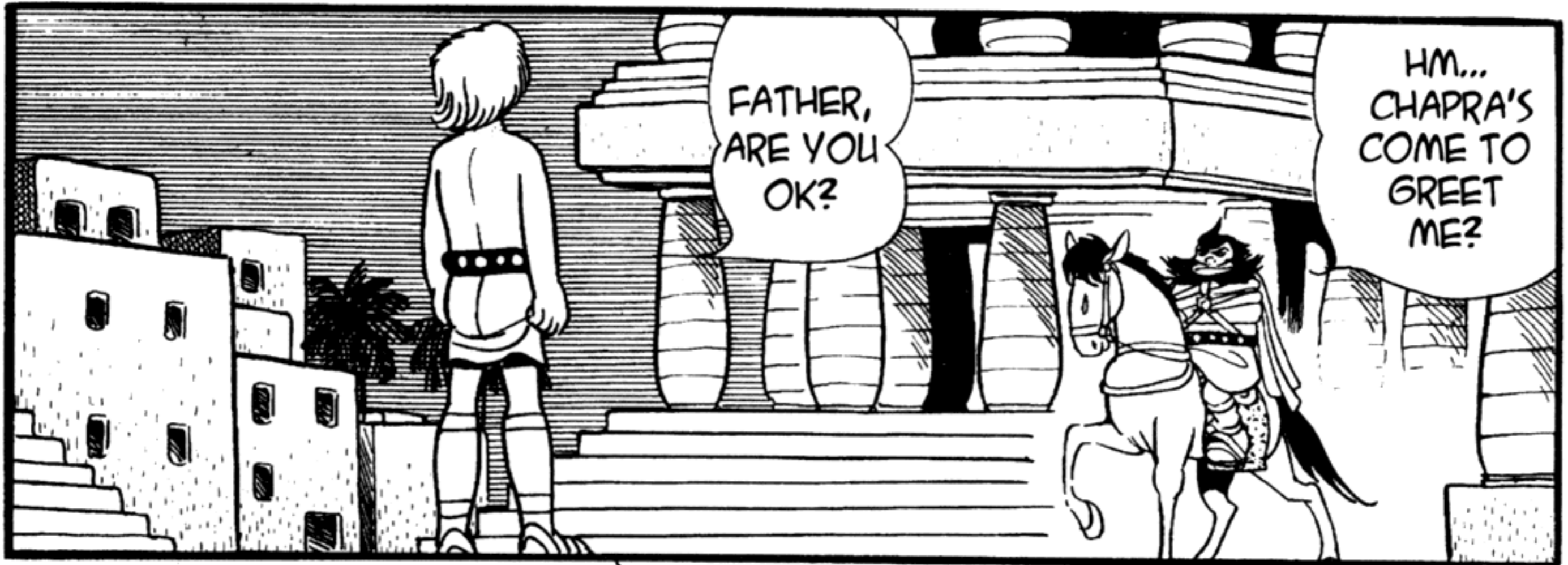


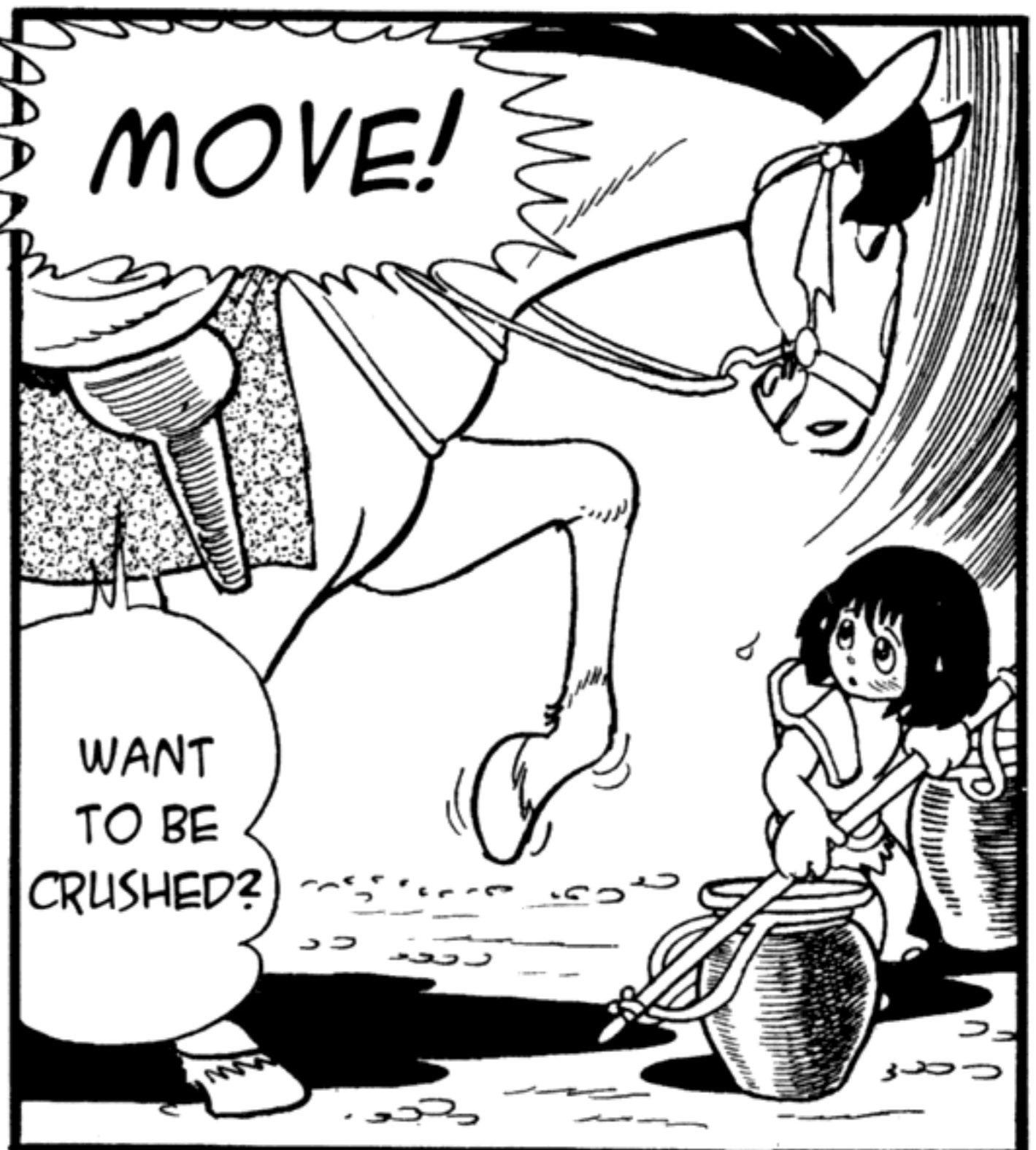
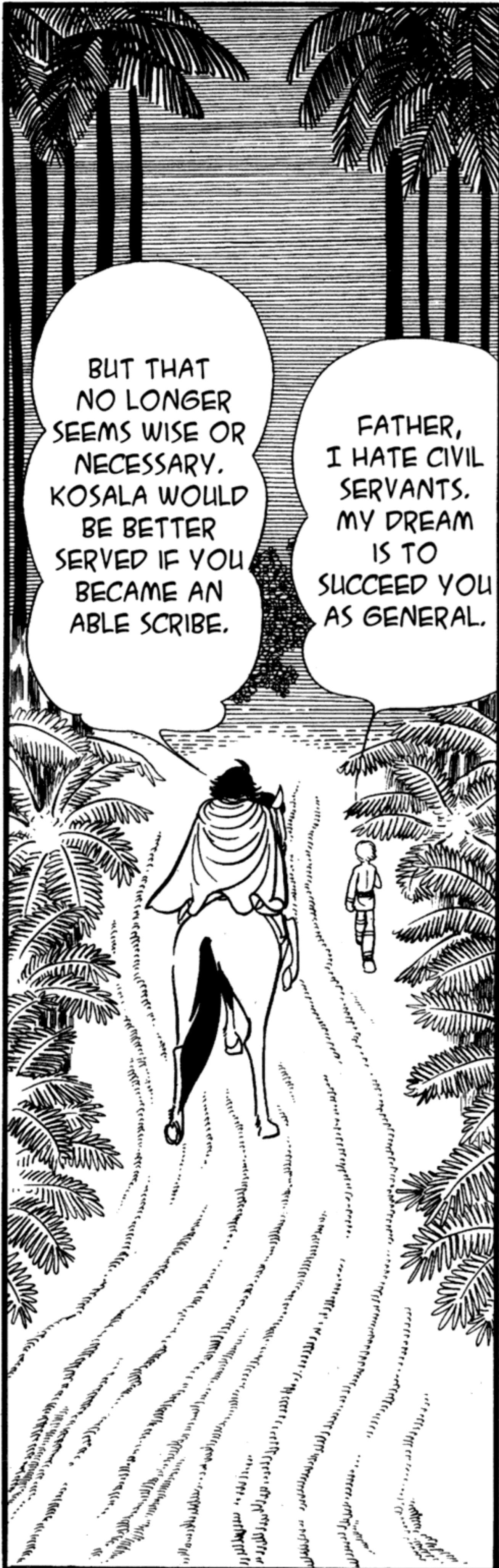
A WHITE
TIGER
BEARS
DIVINE
TIDINGS.

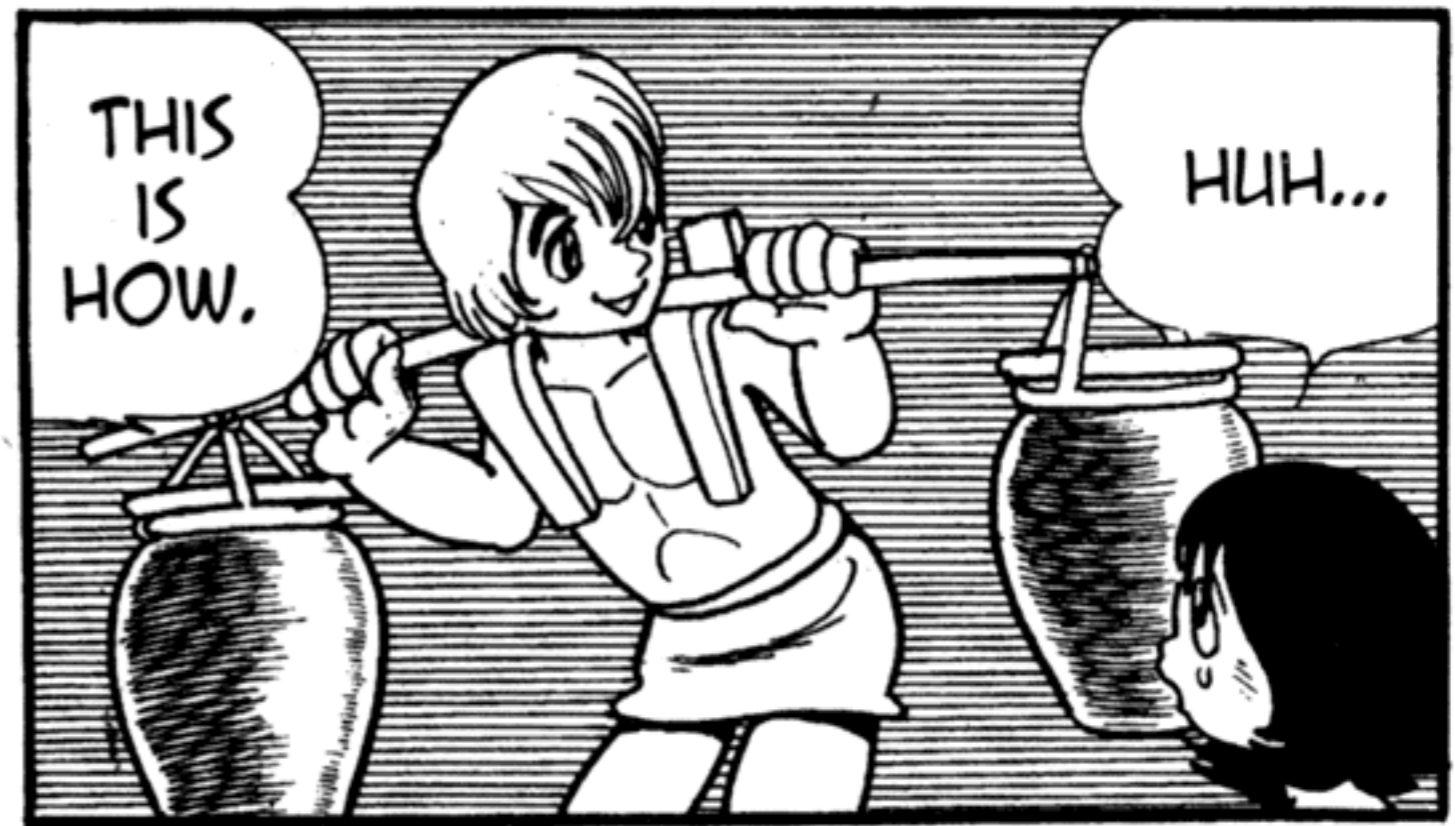
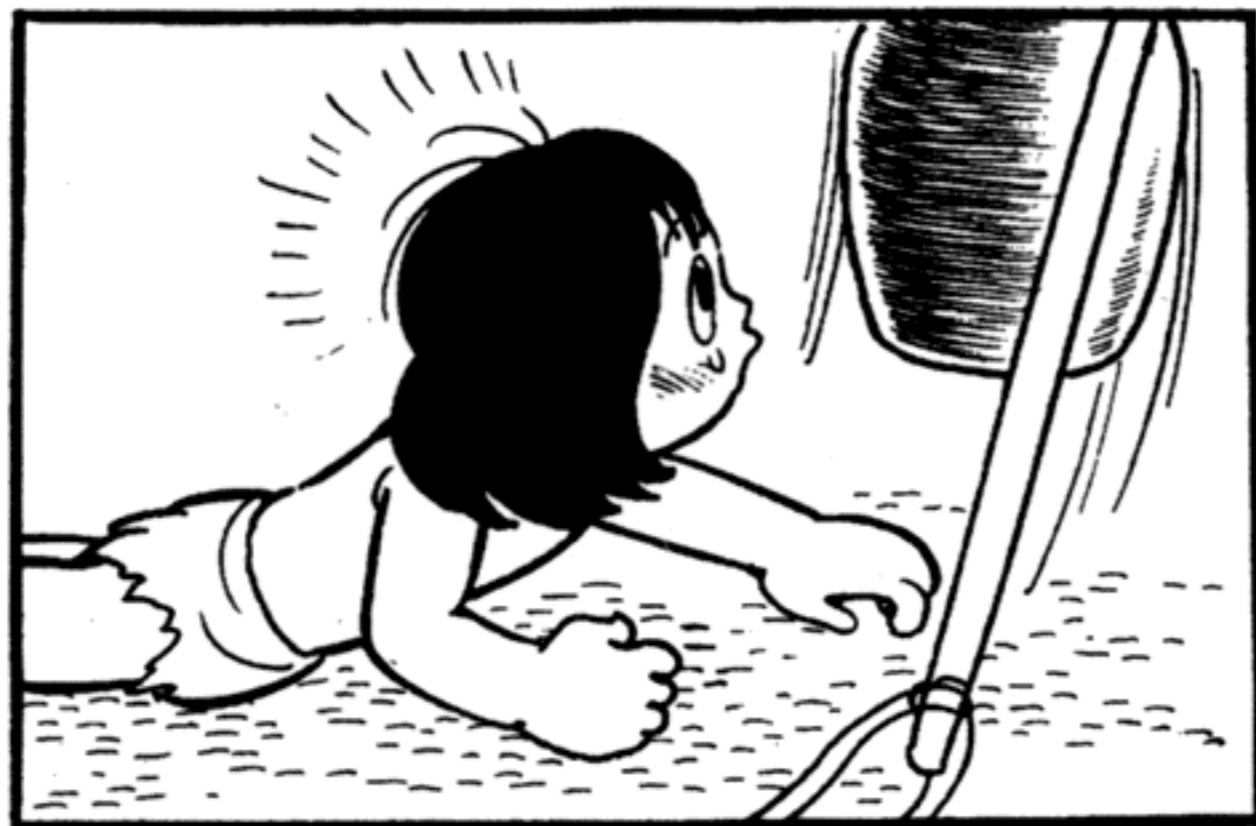
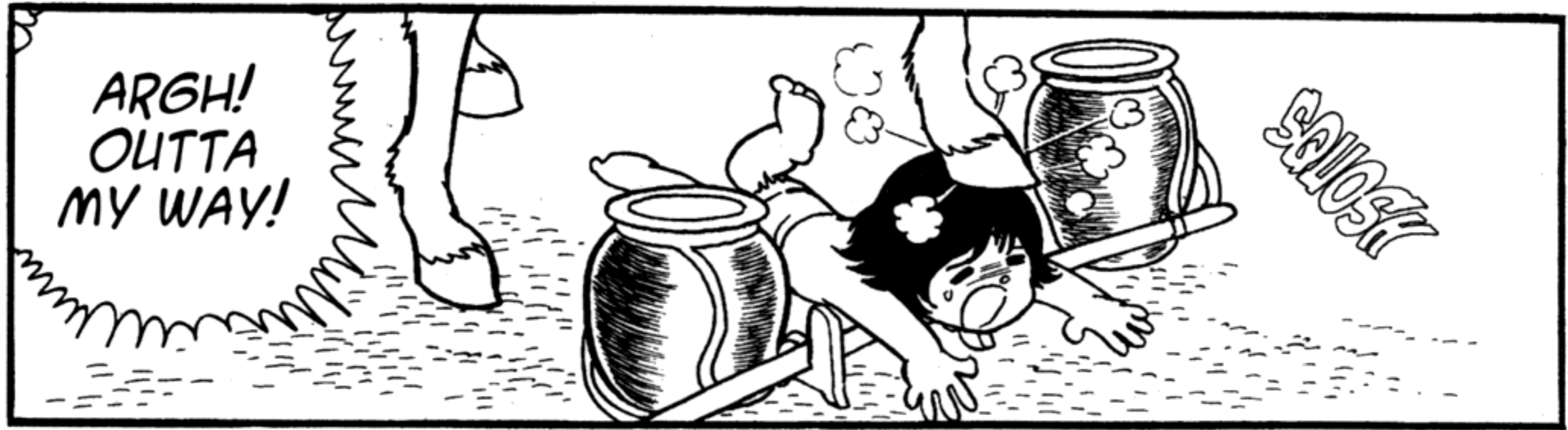


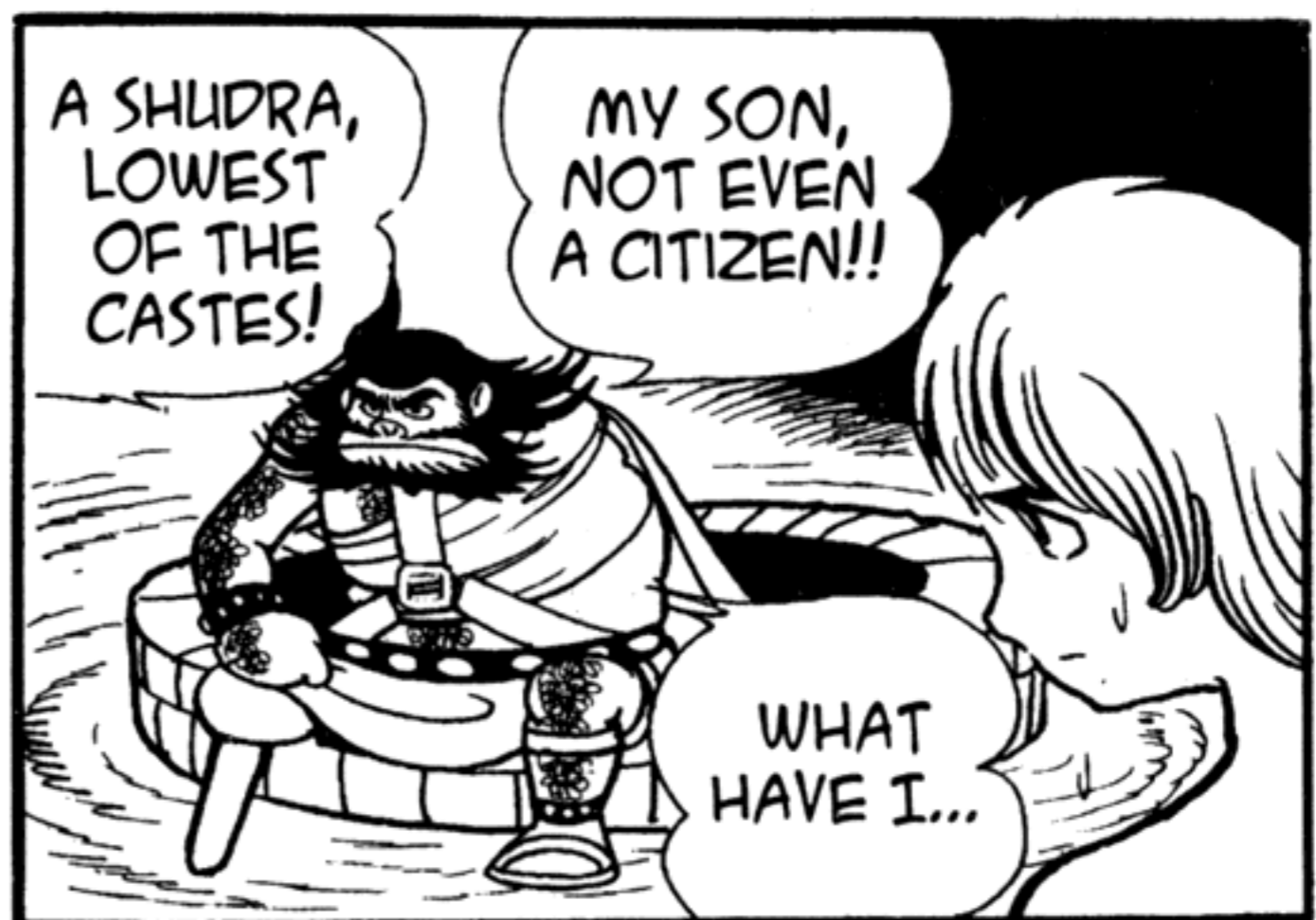
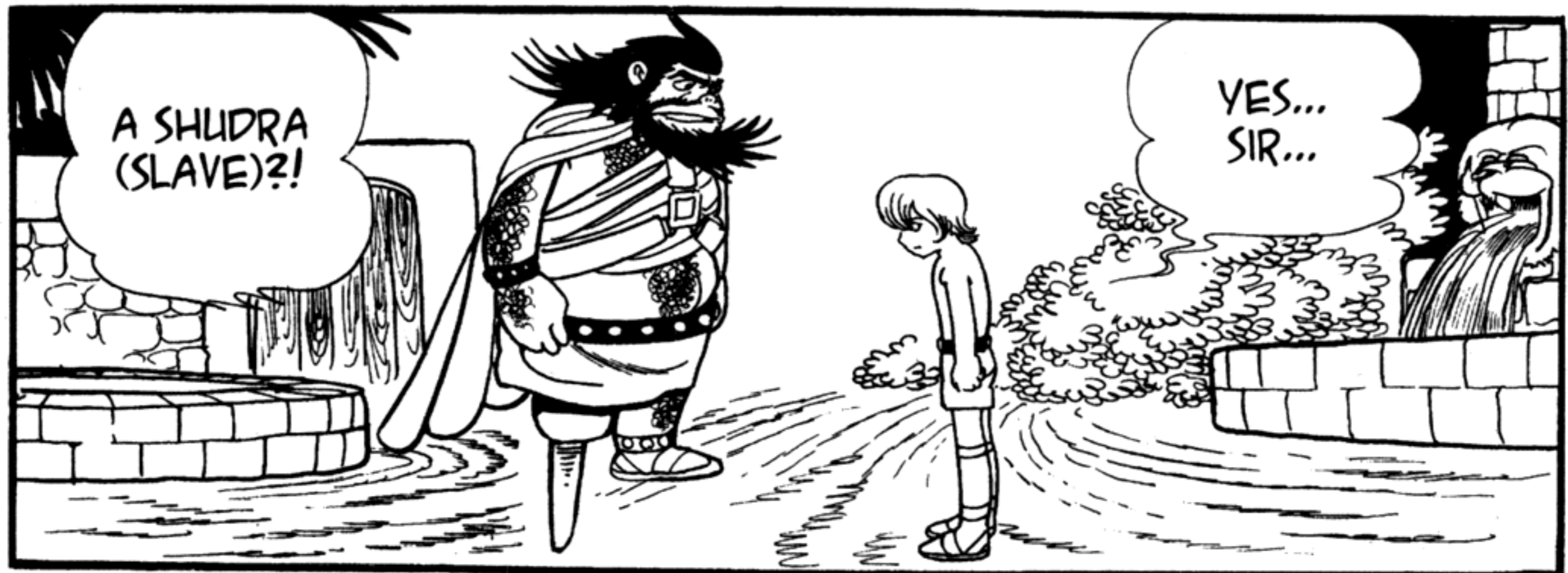
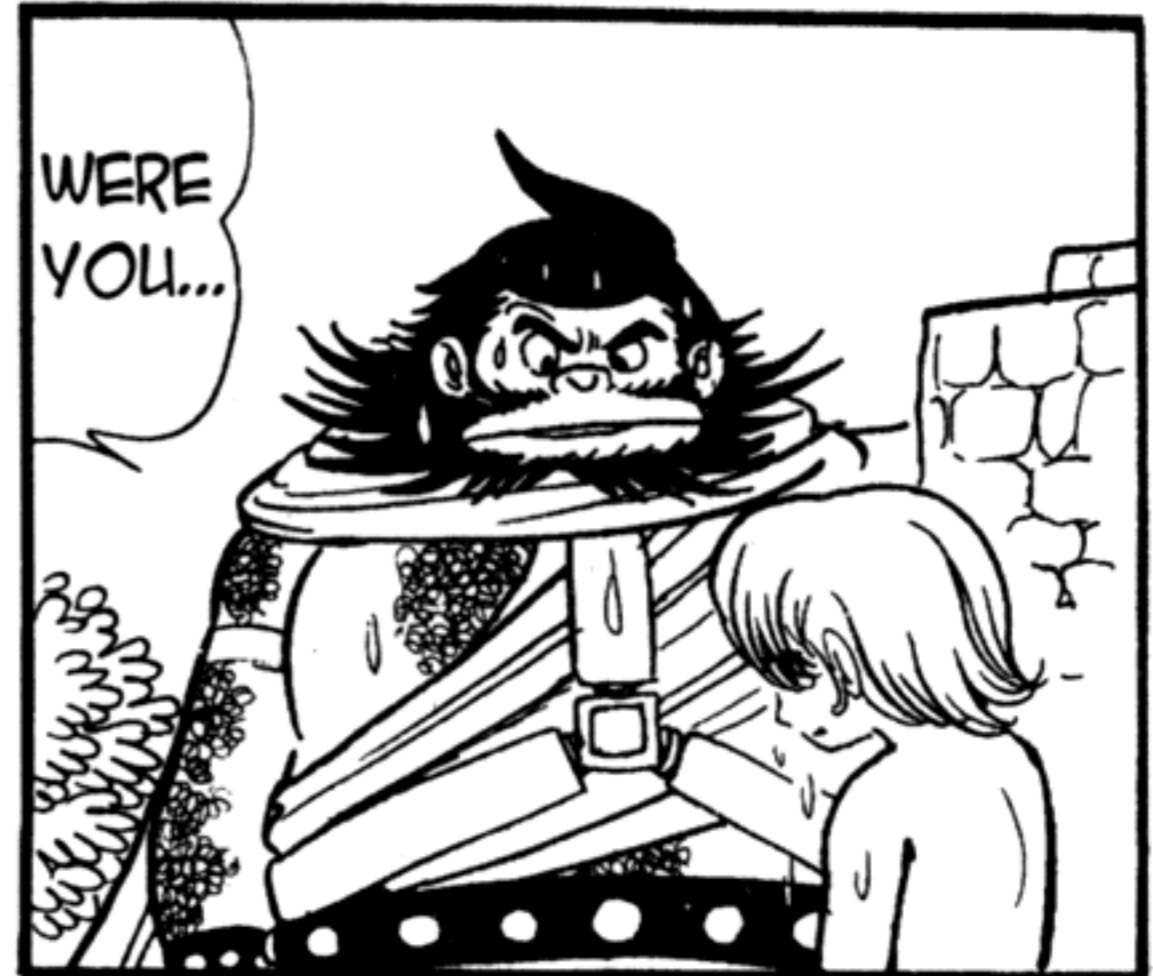
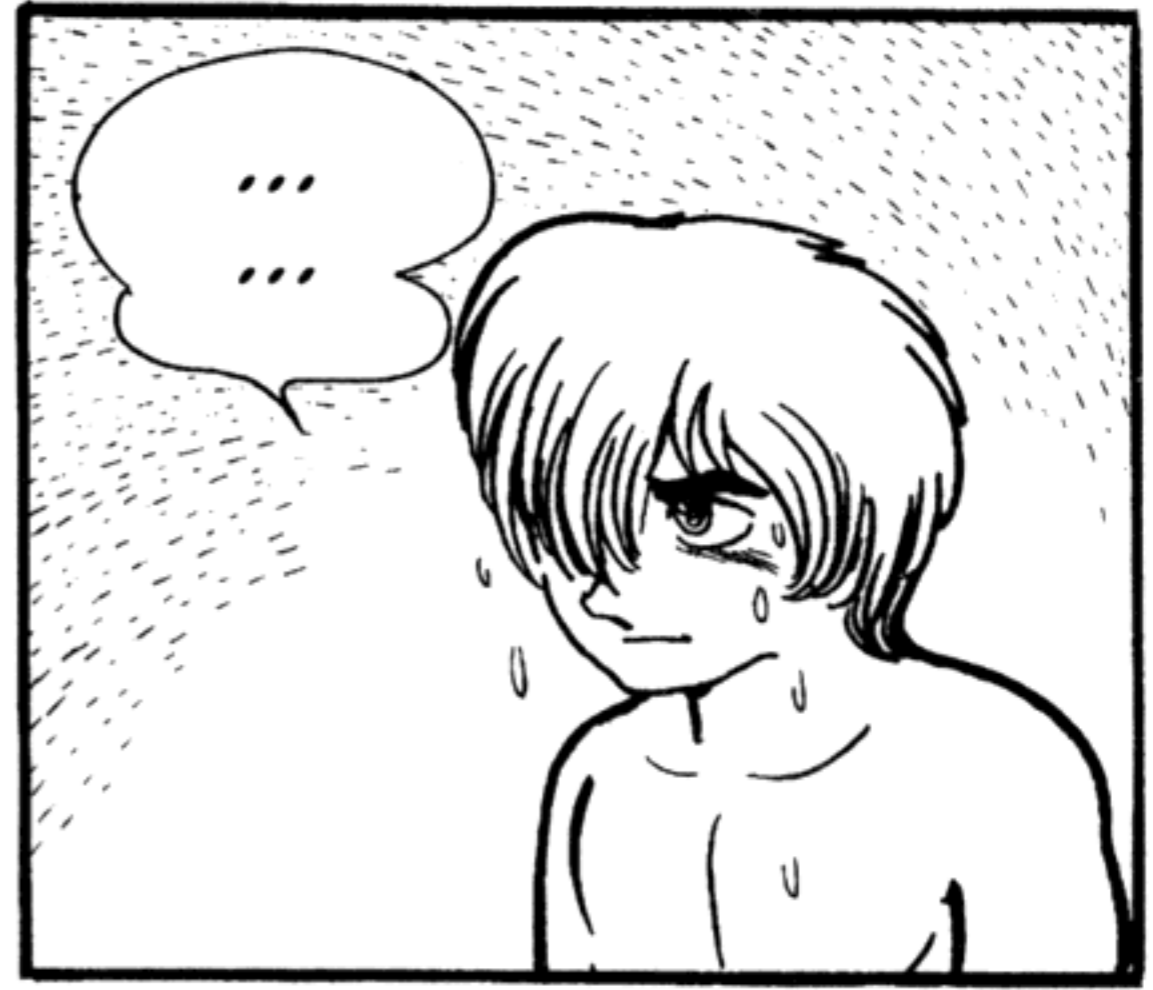
SOMETHING
MOMENTOUS IS
ABOUT TO HAPPEN AT
KAPILAVASTU - PERHAPS
AN AUSPICIOUS EVENT
FOR WHICH THE GODS
ARE PROTECTING
THE CASTLE.

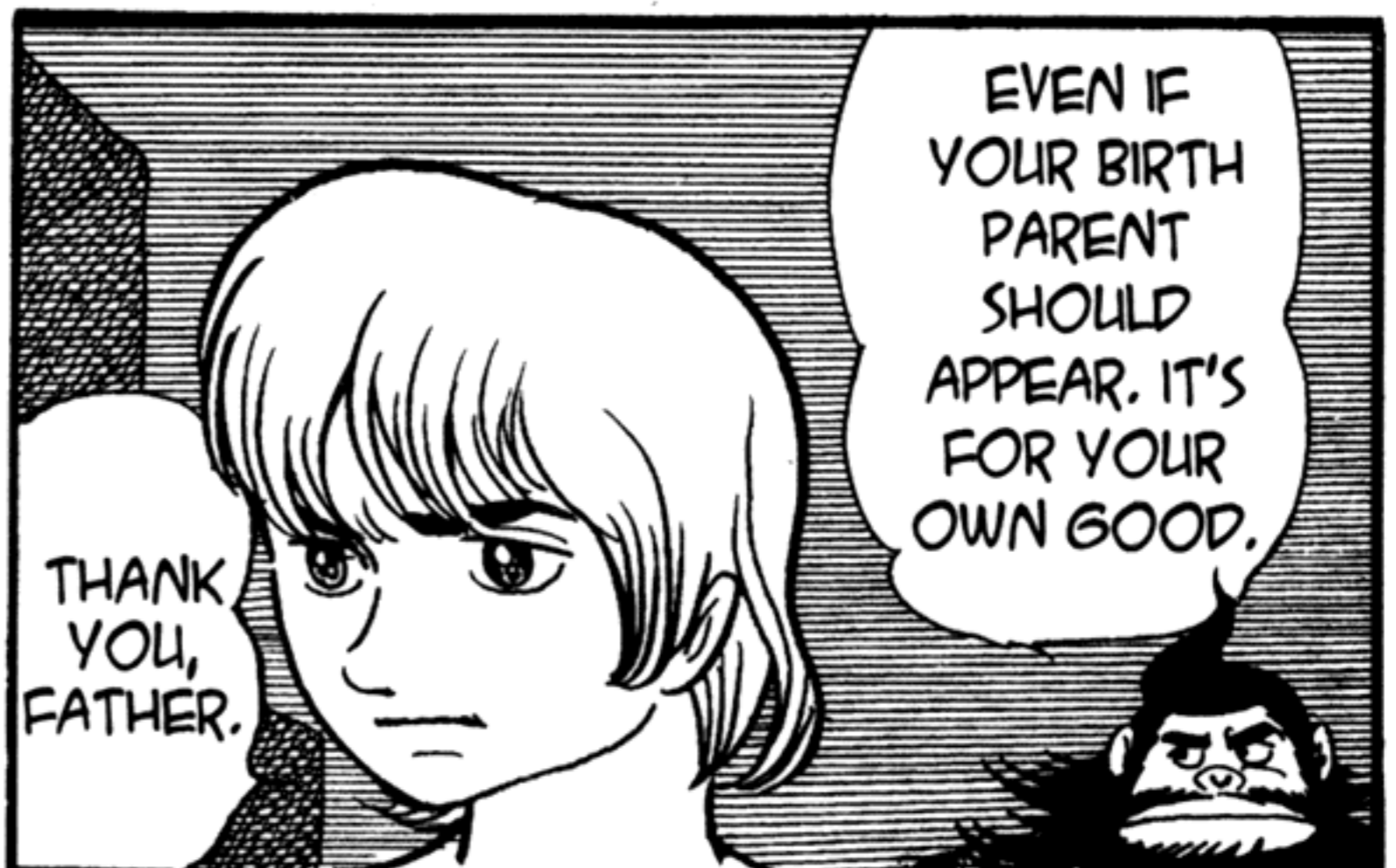




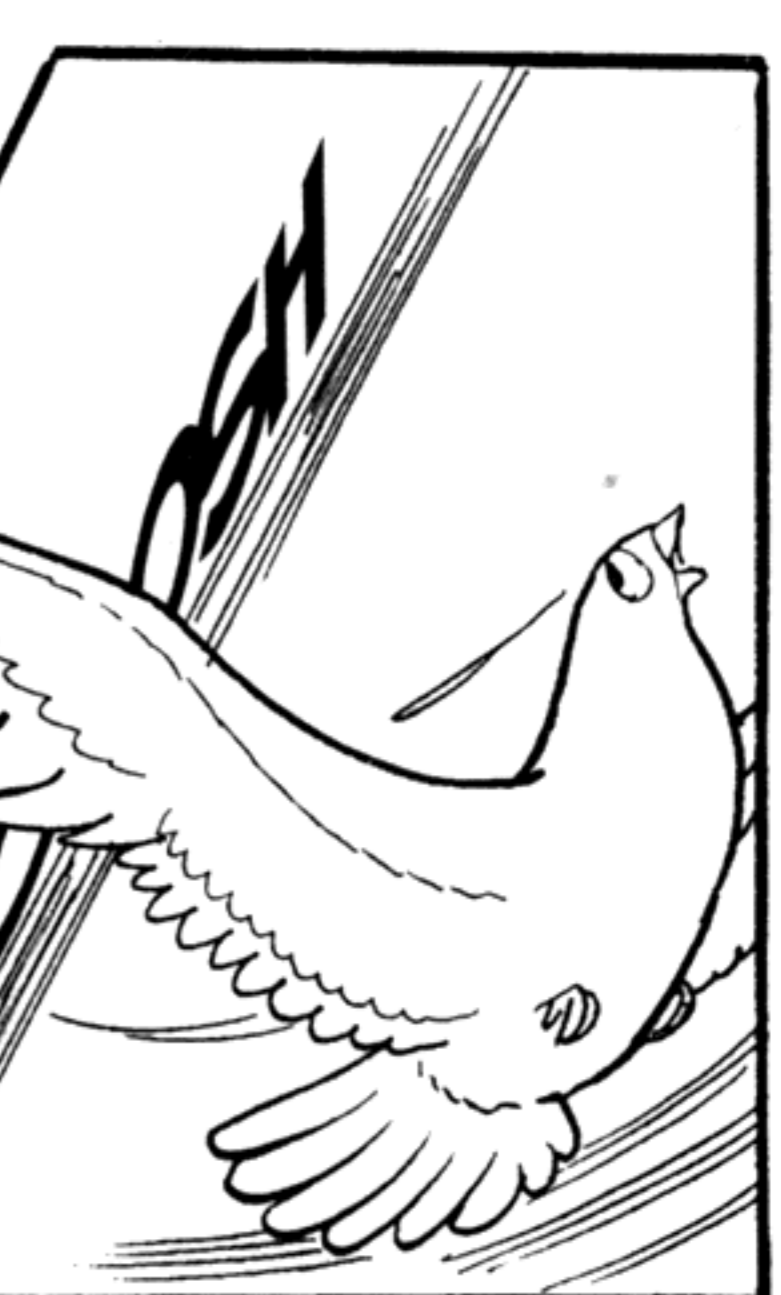
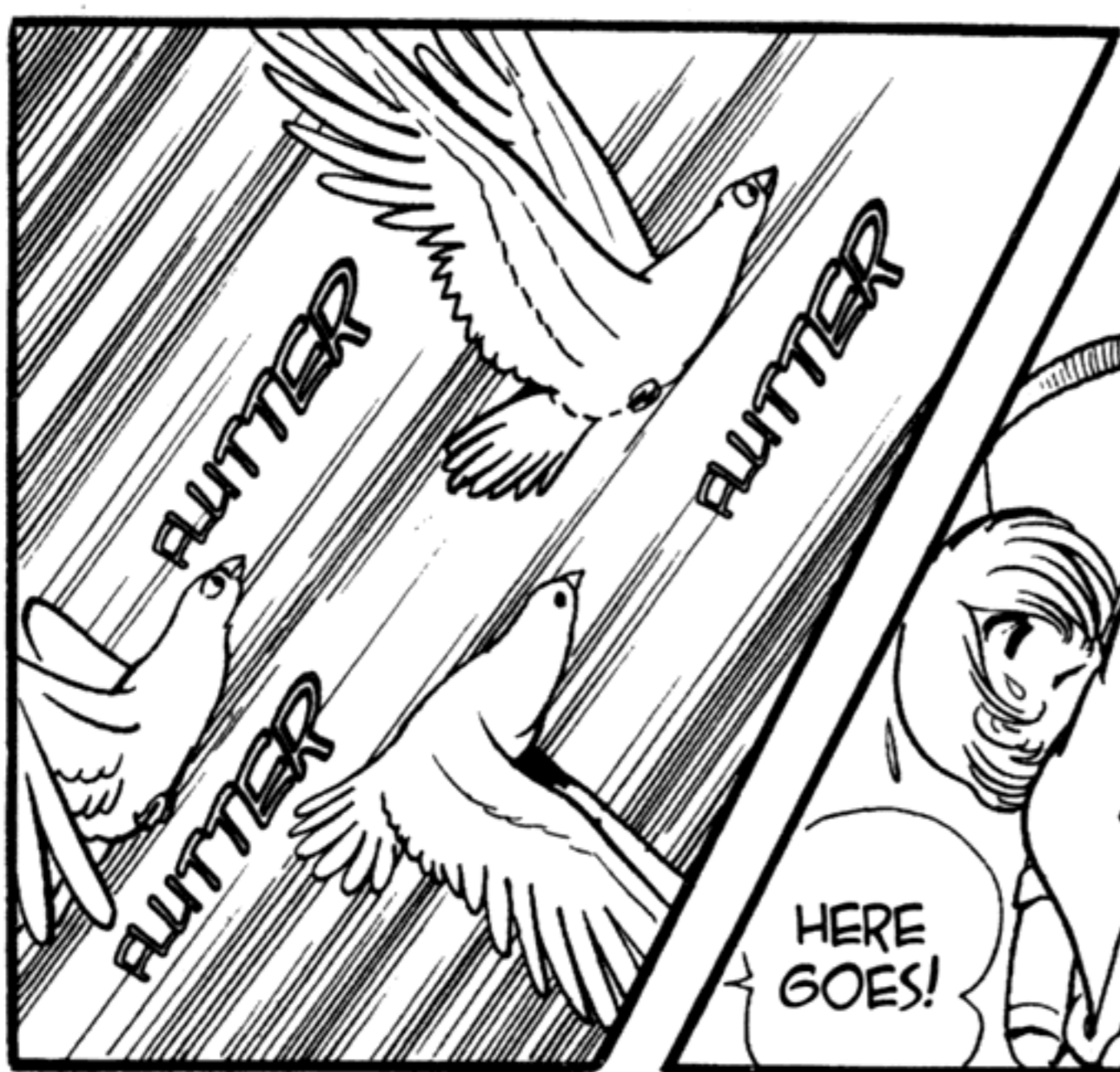
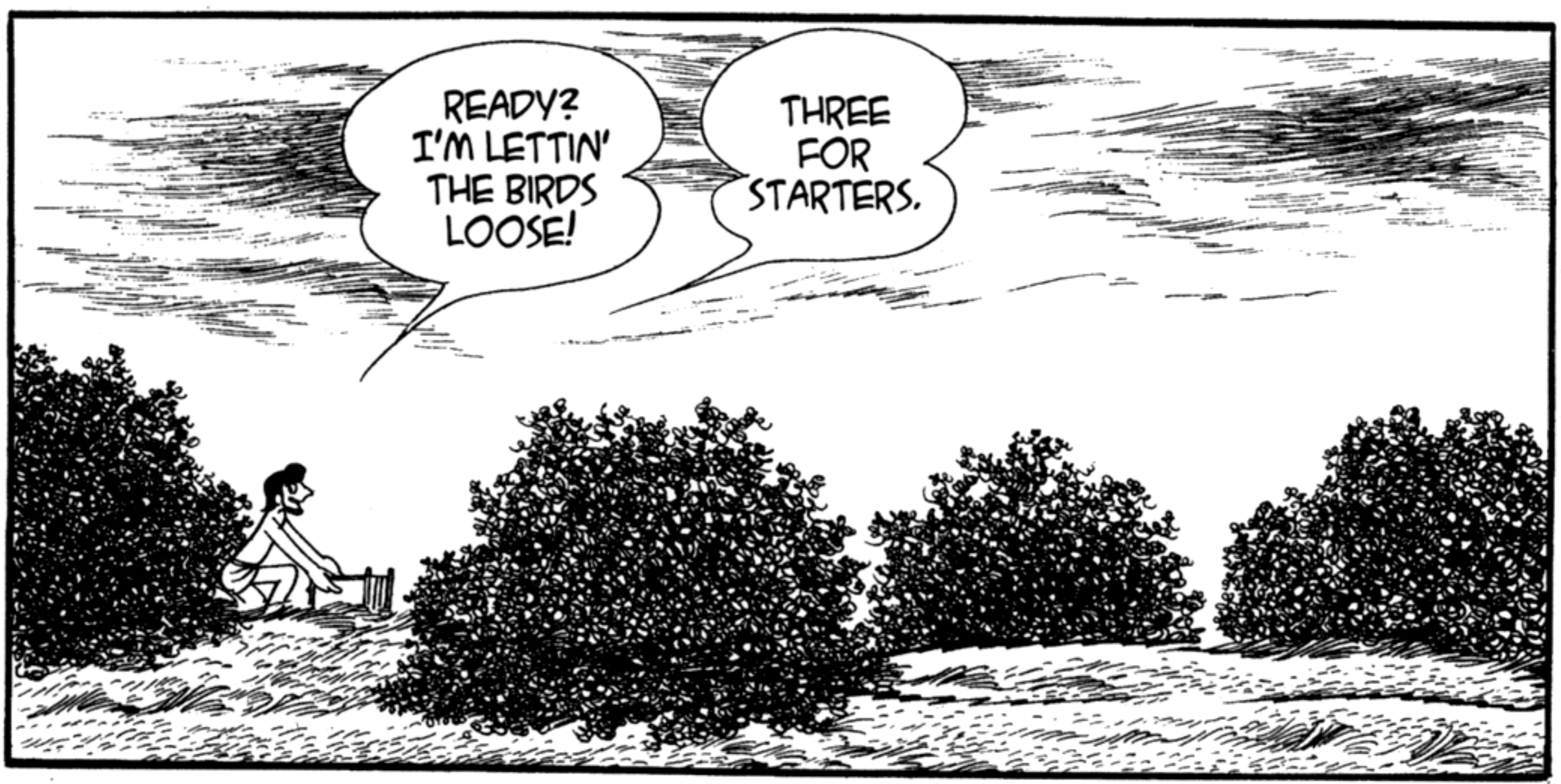
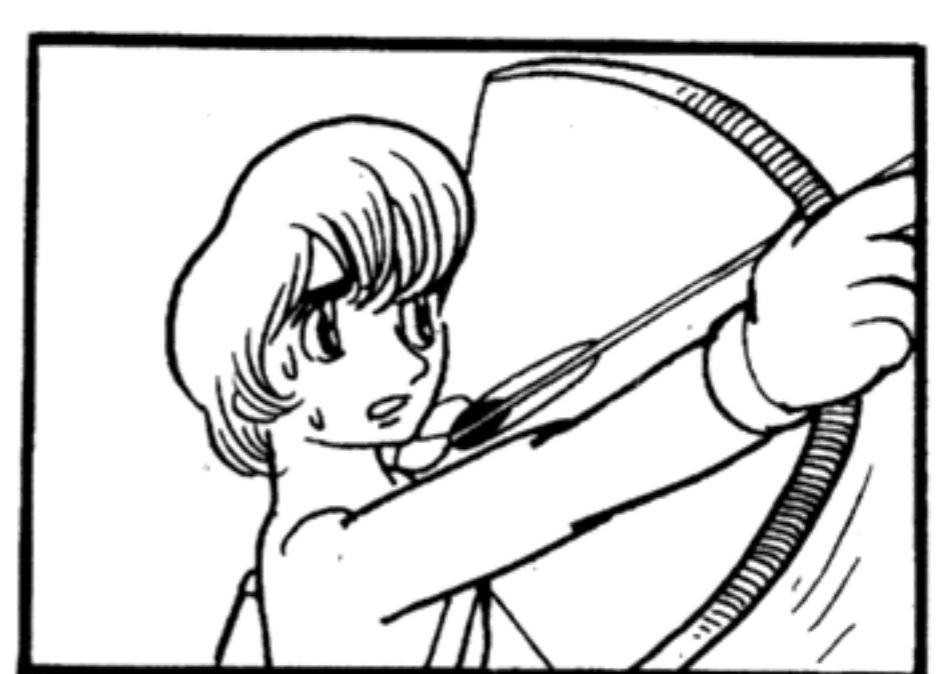
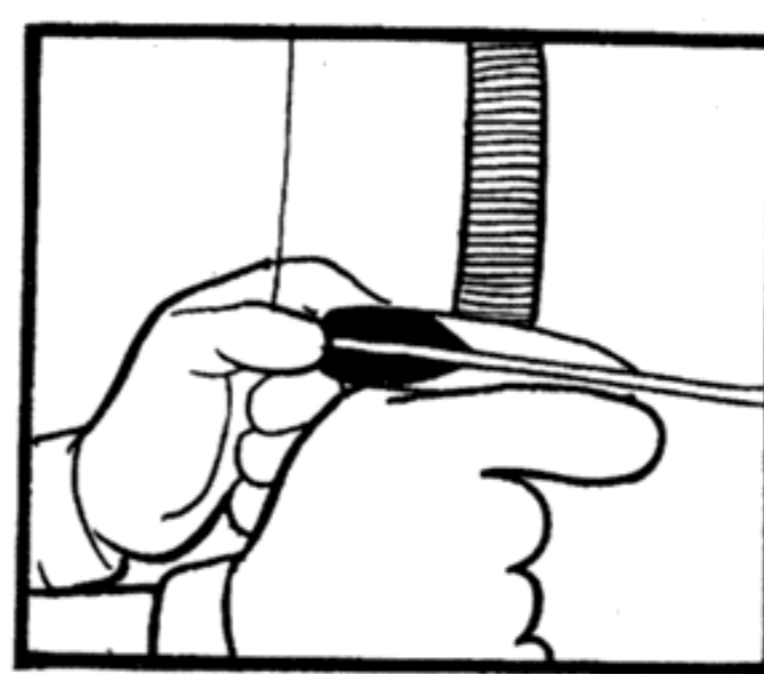
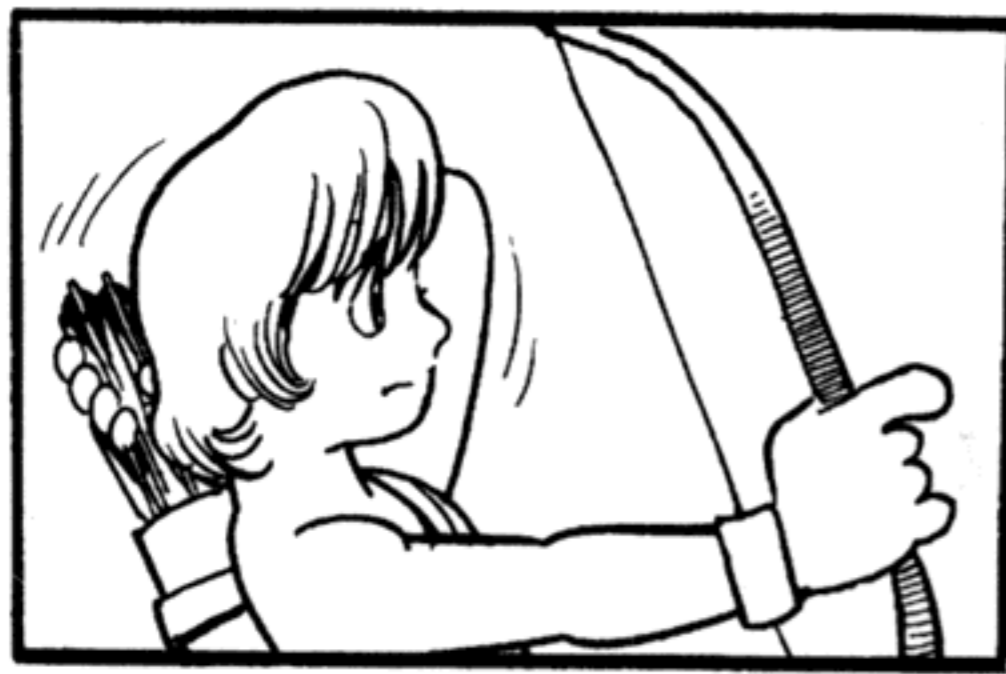


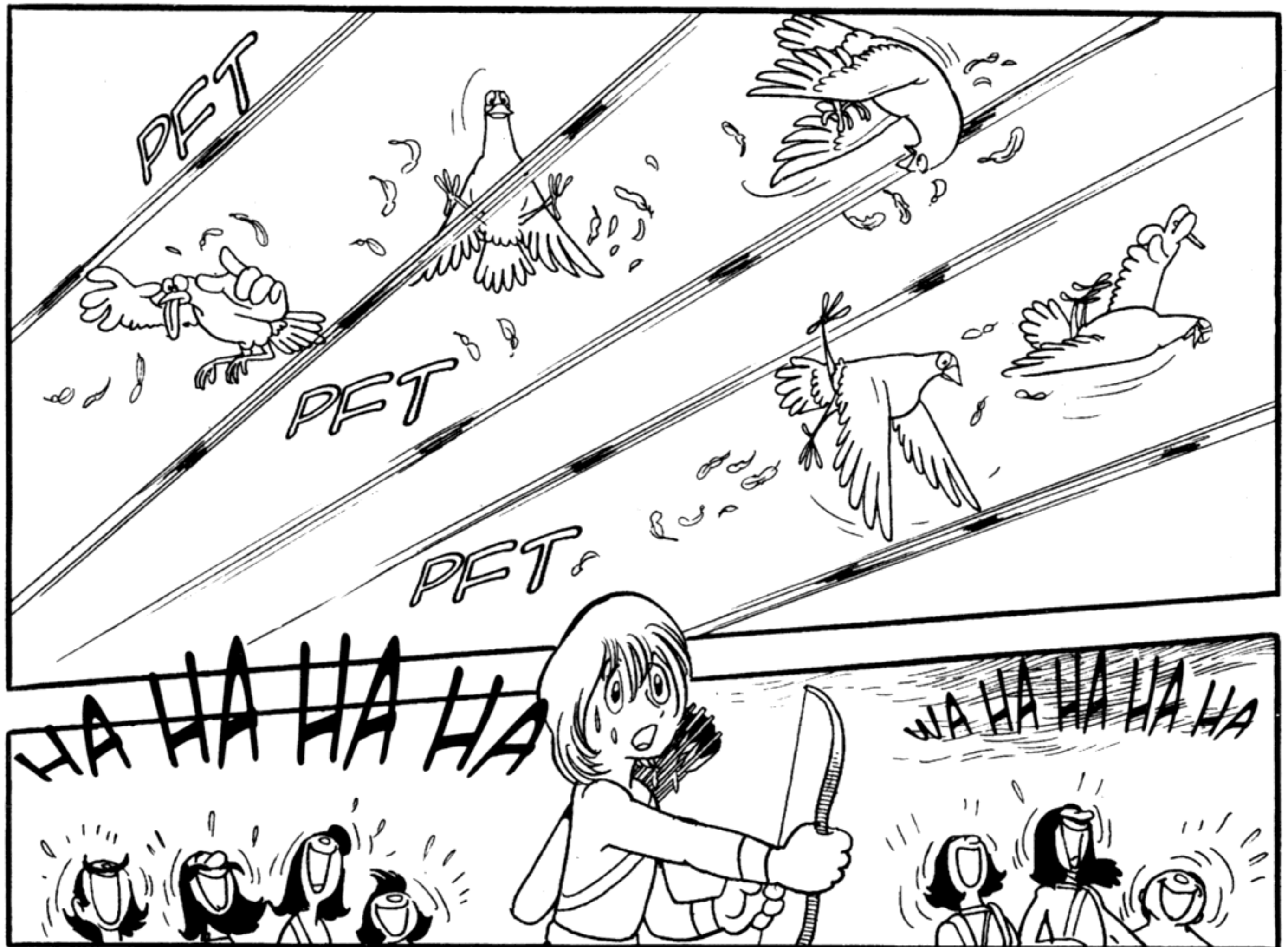


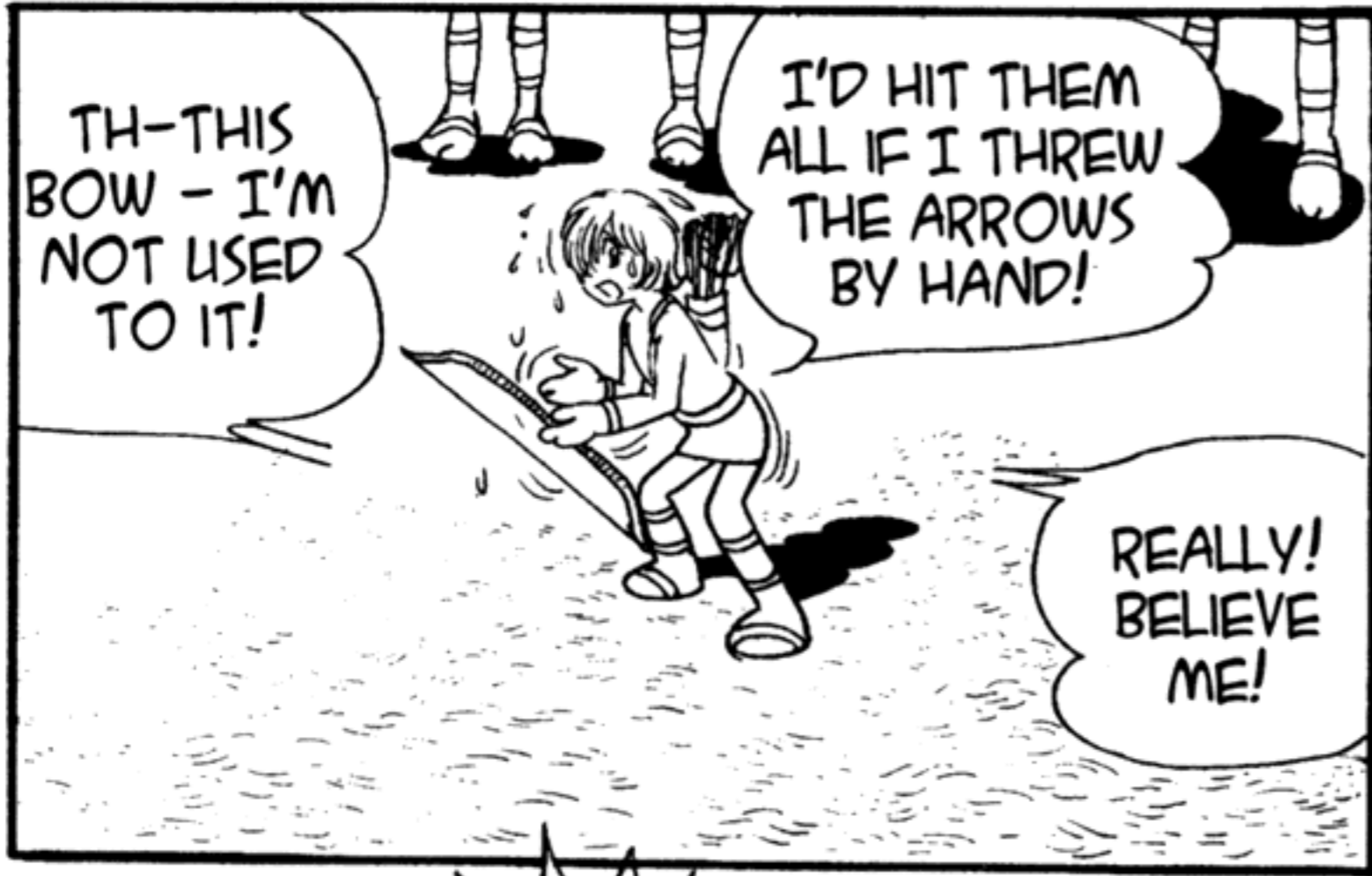












TH-THIS BOW - I'M NOT USED TO IT!

I'D HIT THEM ALL IF I THREW THE ARROWS BY HAND!

REALLY! BELIEVE ME!



REMEMBER OUR PROMISE?



HELP! NOT THAT! GIVE ME A BREAK!

GENERAL BUDAI'S SON DANGLING FROM A TREE - HA HA HA!



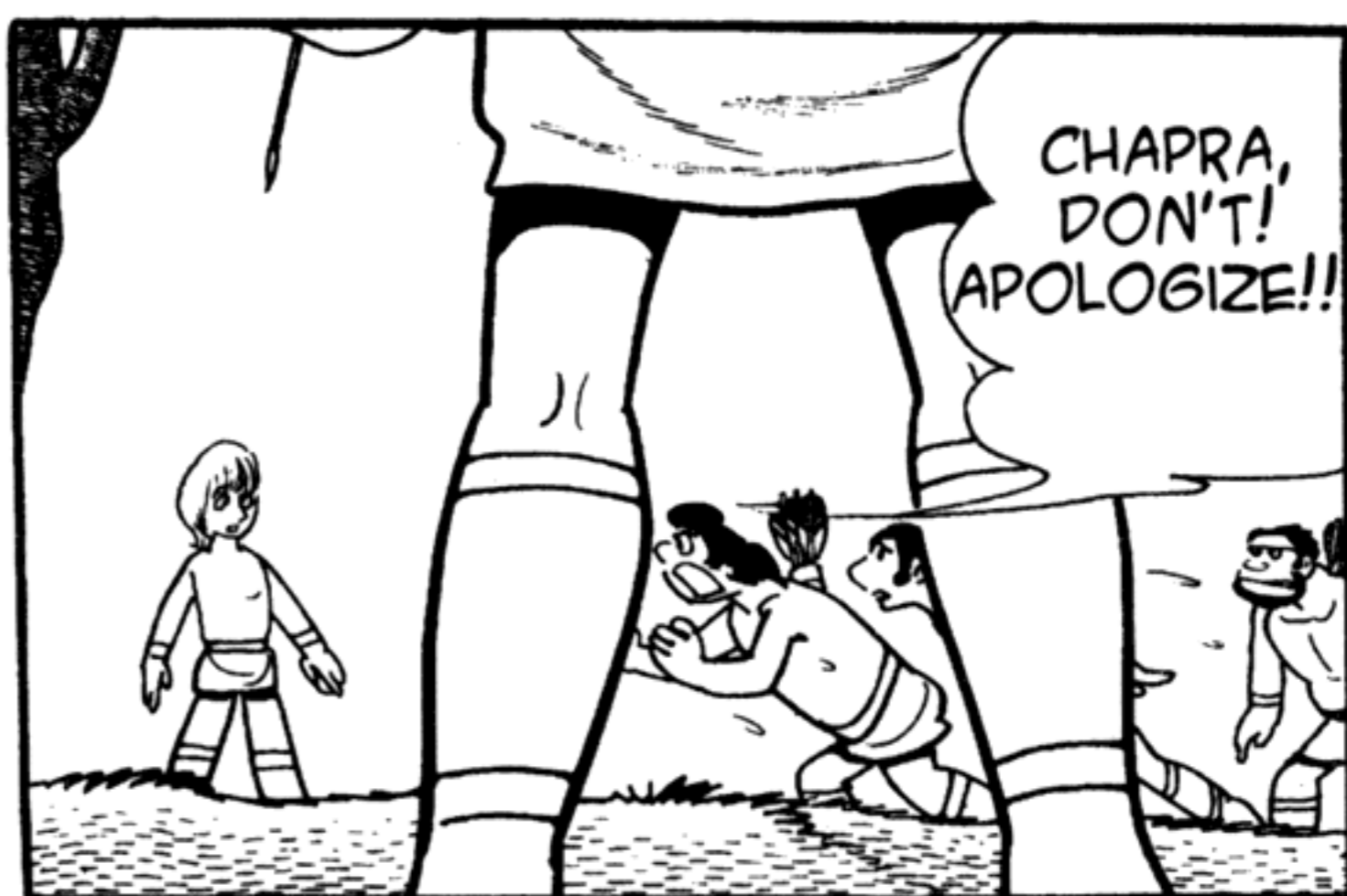
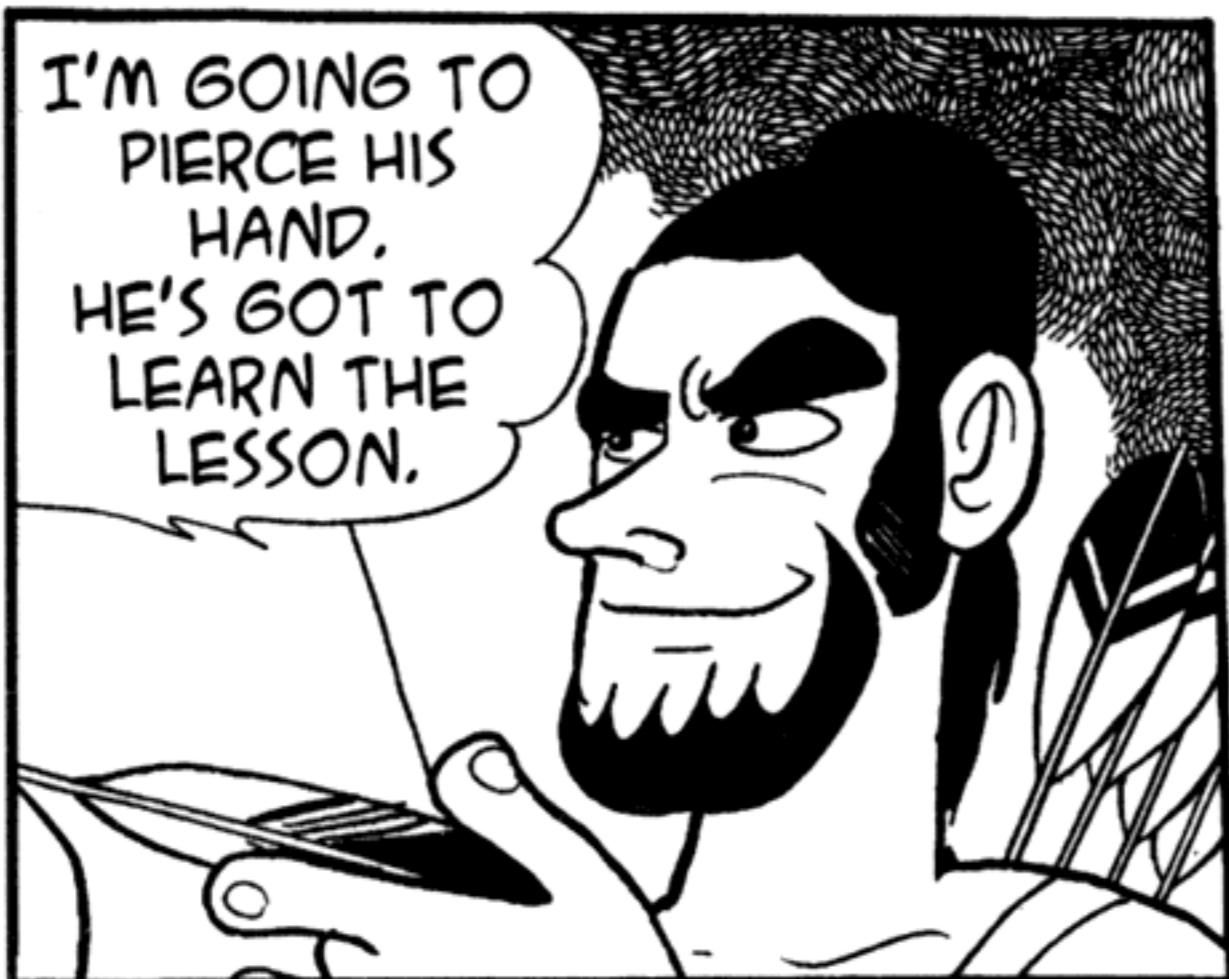
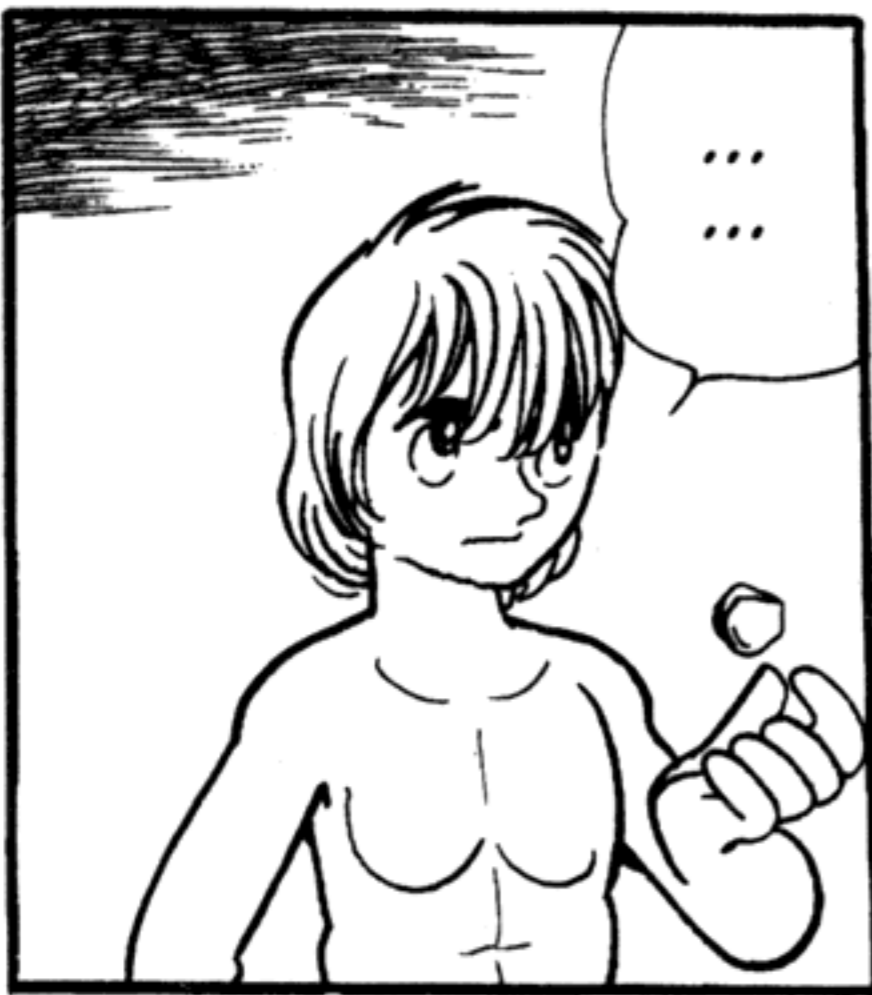
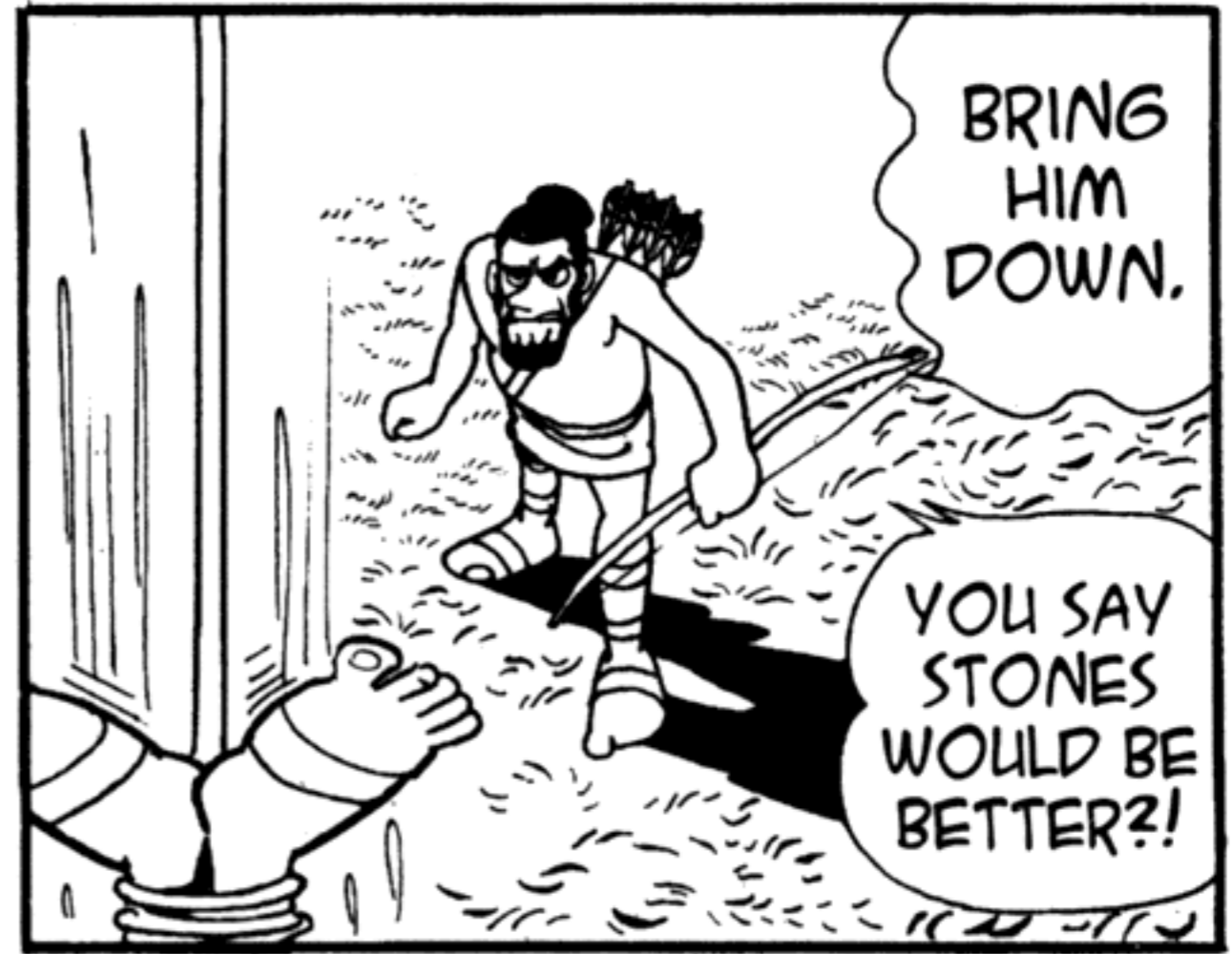
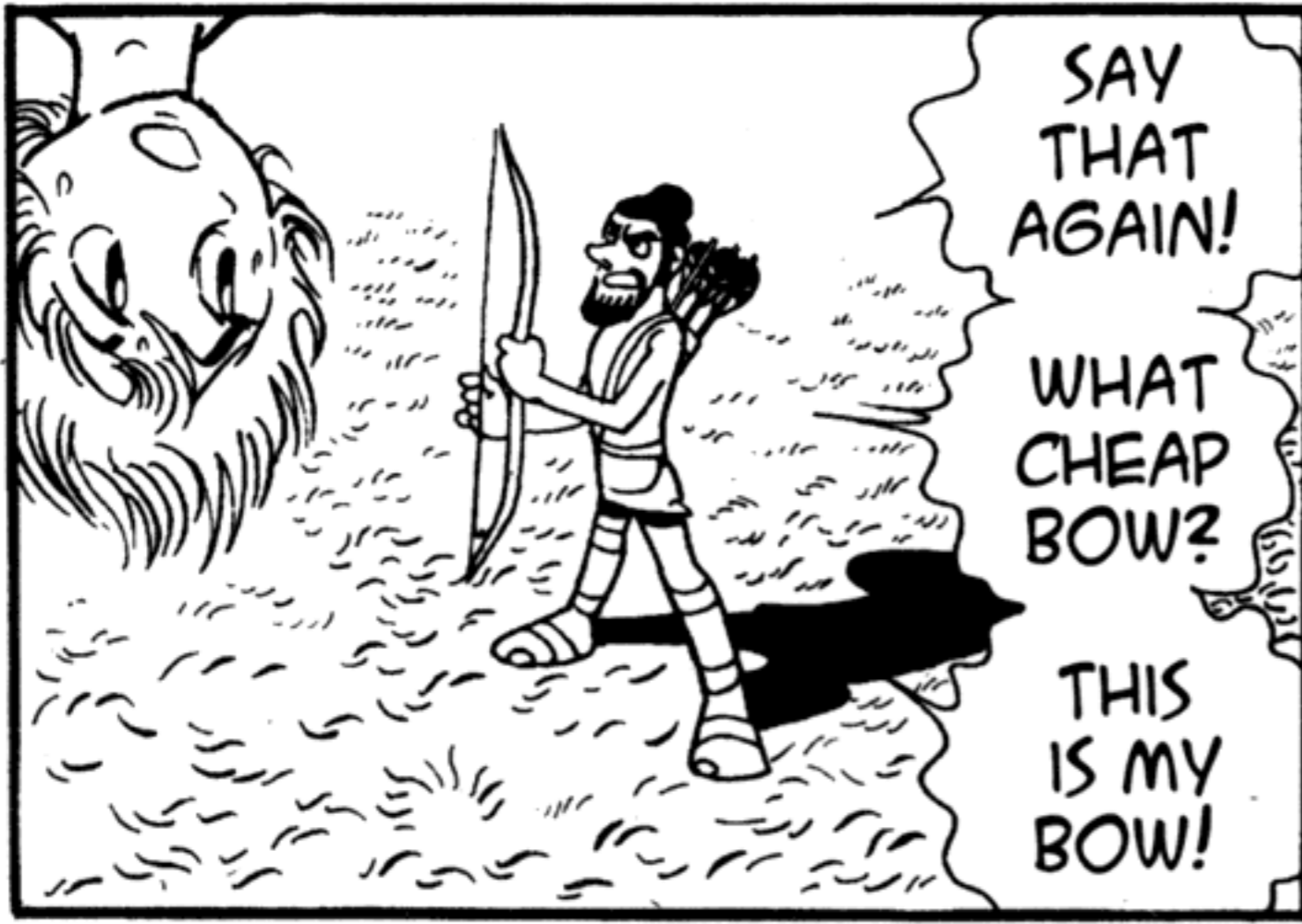
THIS'LL TEACH YOU TO STOP BRAGGING, YOUNG MASTER.

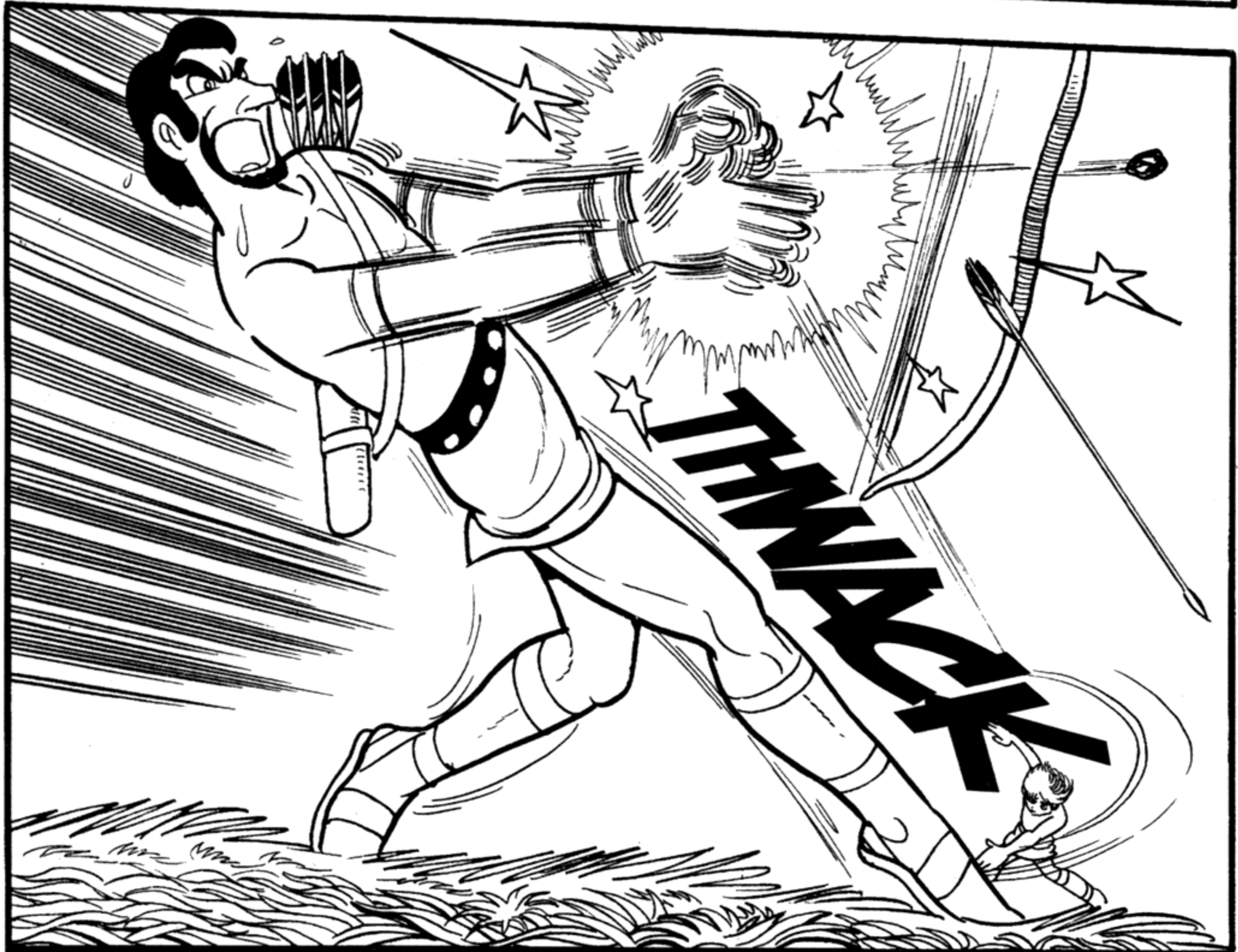
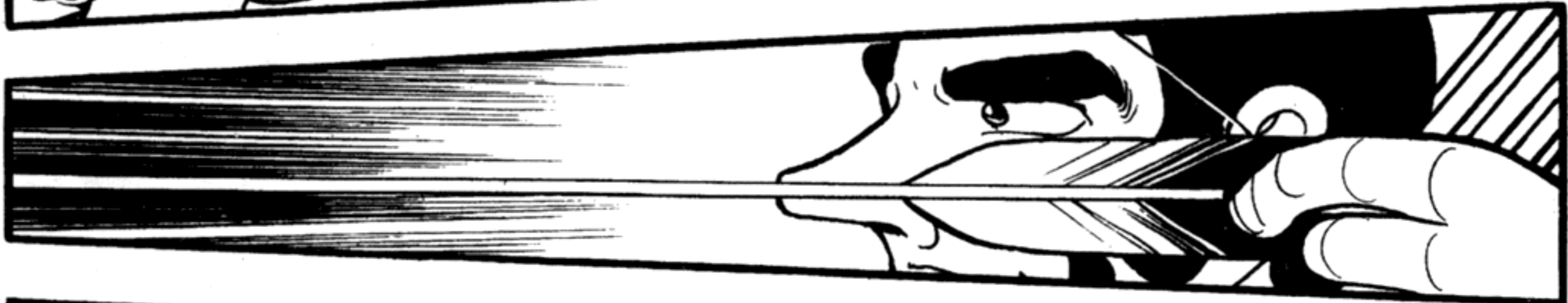
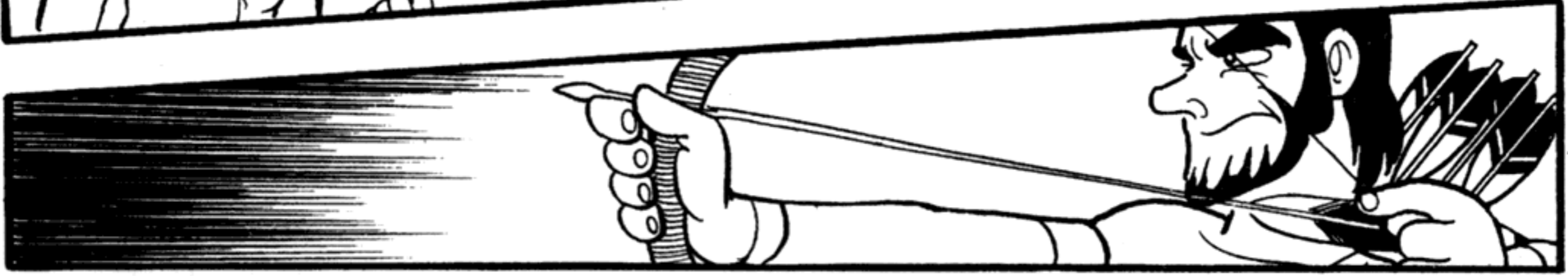


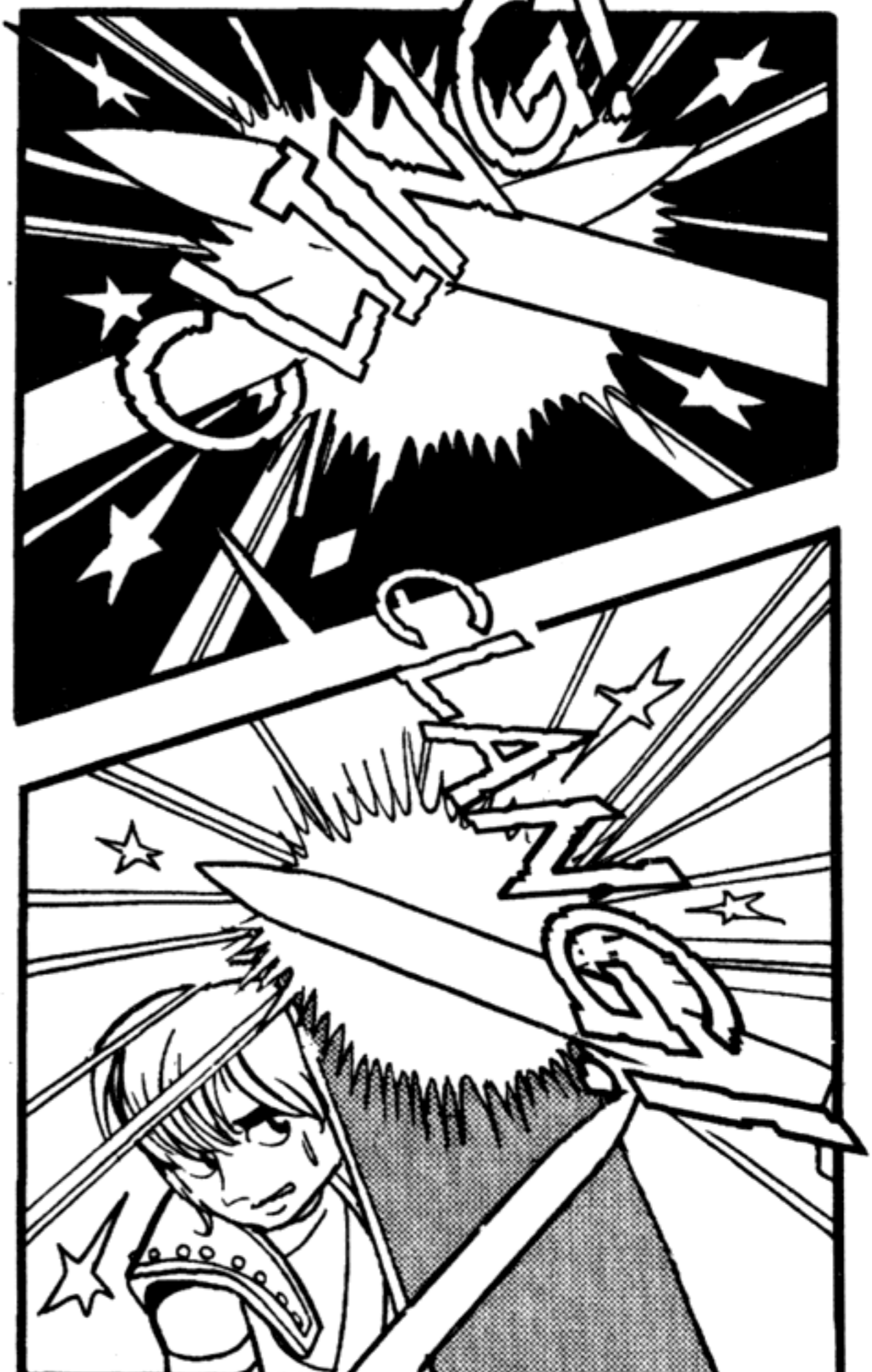
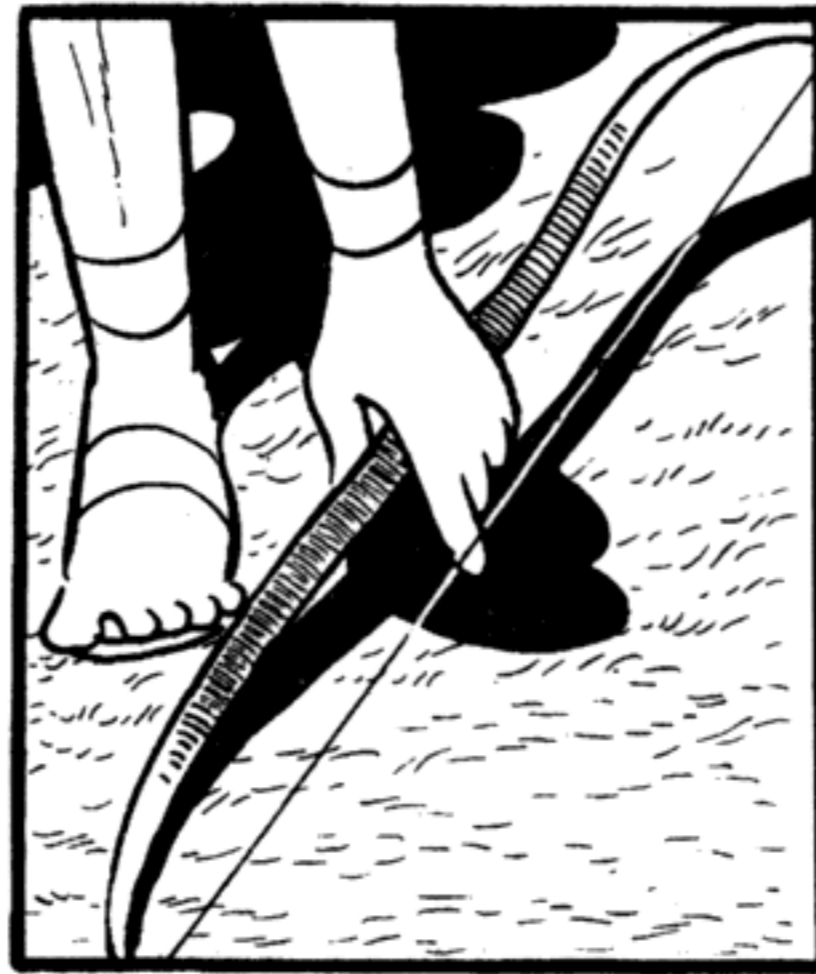
IT WAS THAT CHEAP BOW! STONES WOULD SERVE ME BETTER.

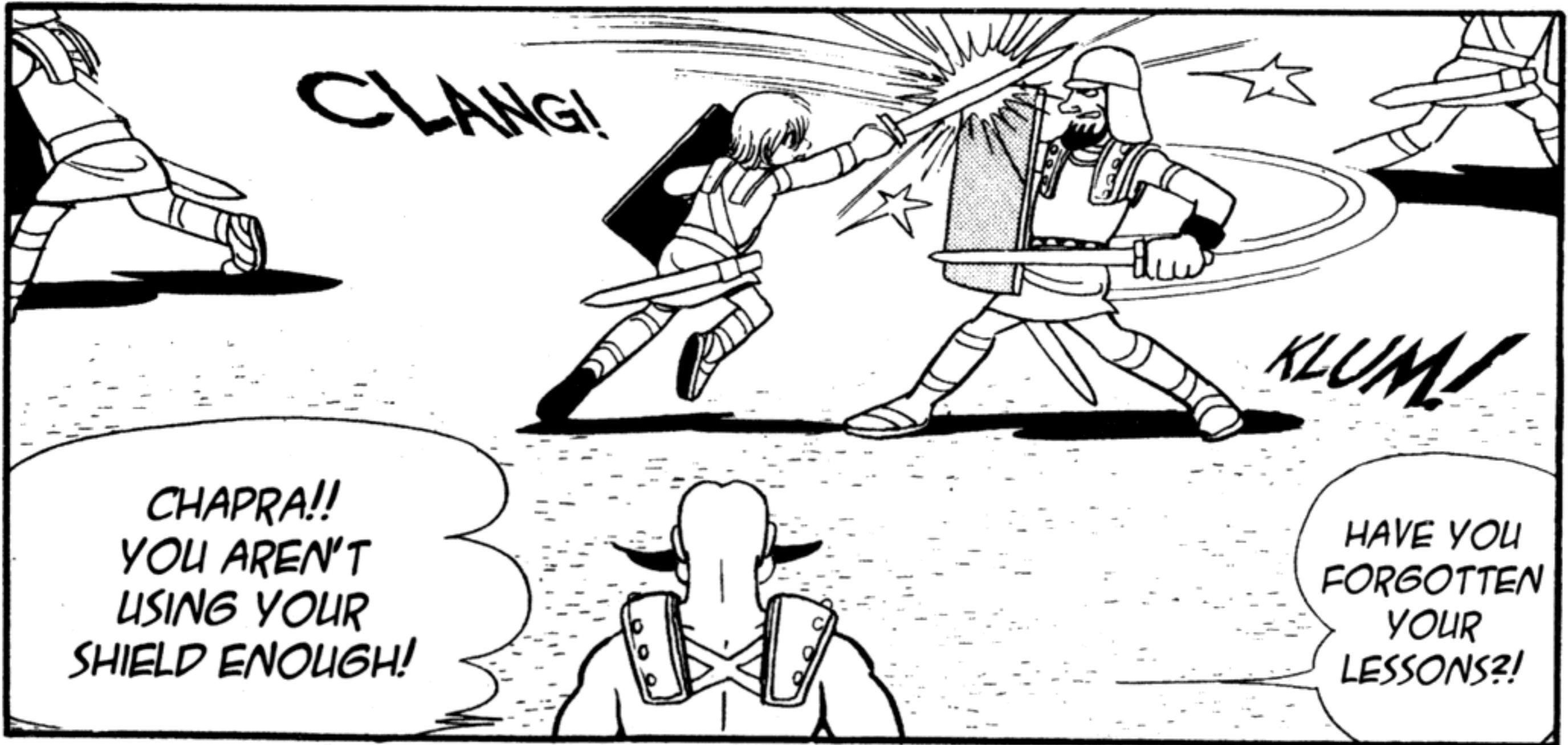


HUH?







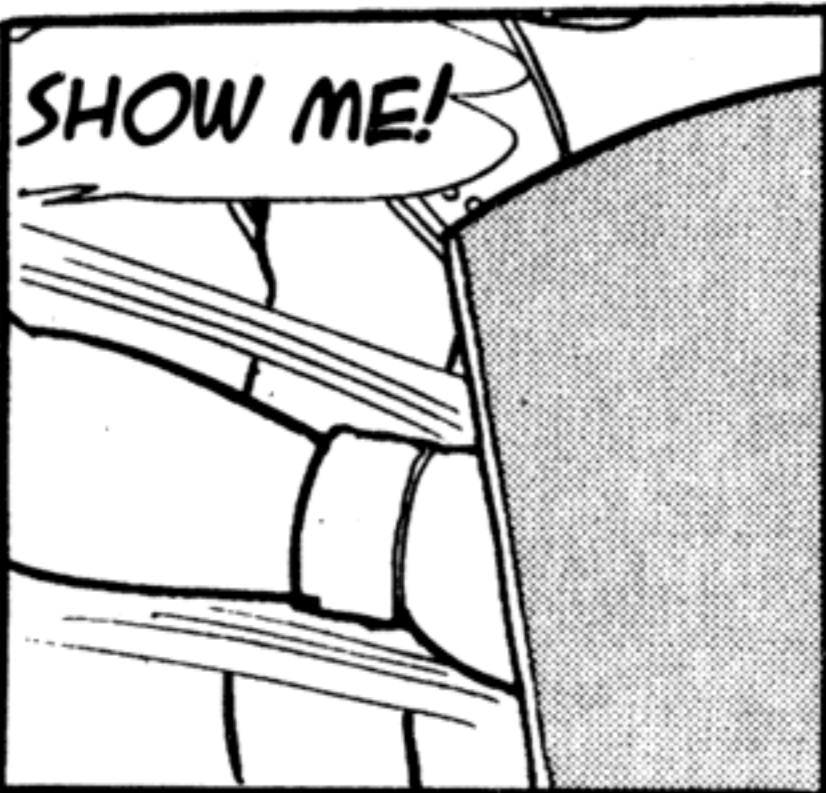


CHAPRA!!
YOU AREN'T
USING YOUR
SHIELD ENOUGH!

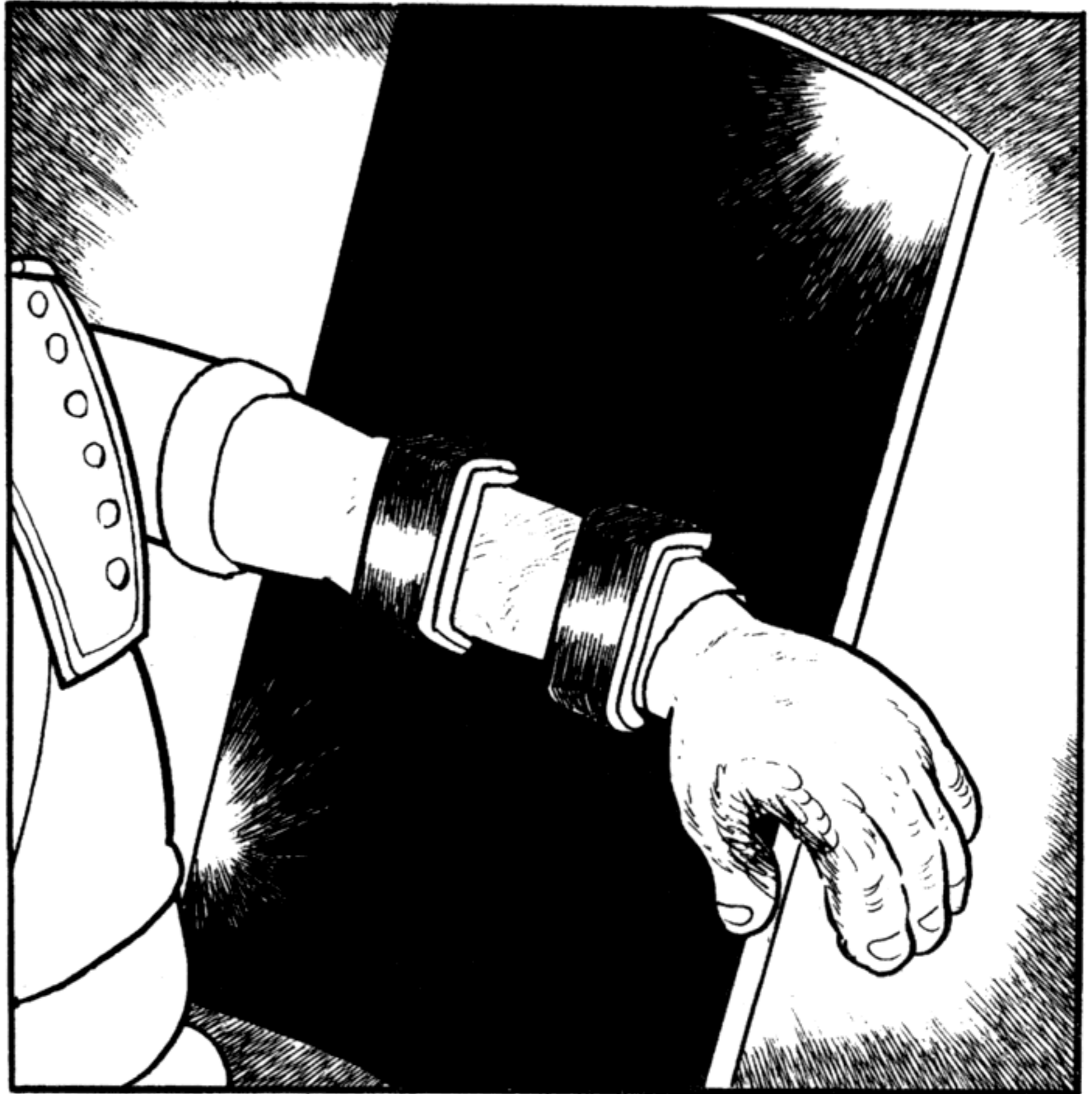
HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
YOUR
LESSONS?!



WHAT
ARE YOU
HIDING
UNDER
THAT
SHIELD?



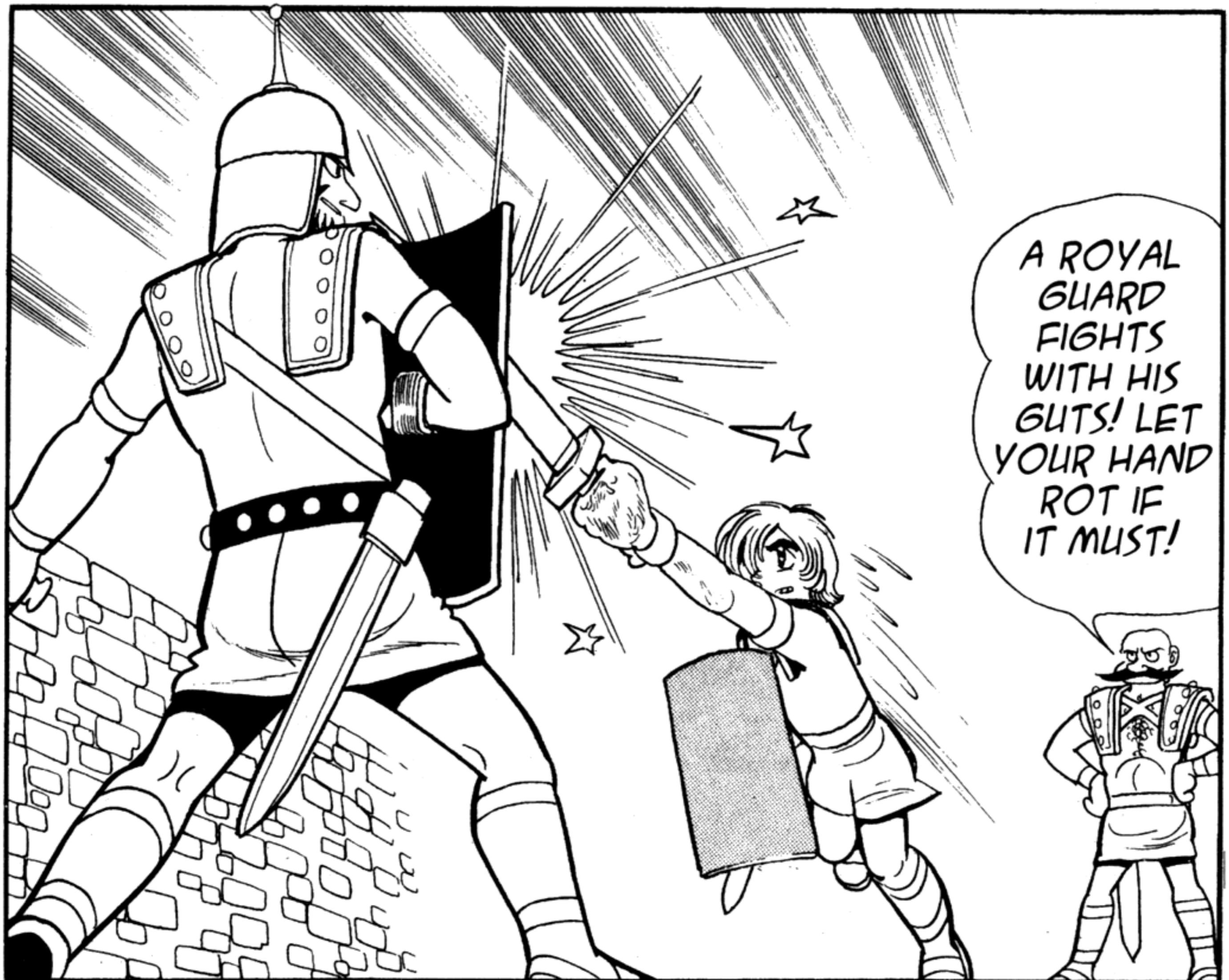
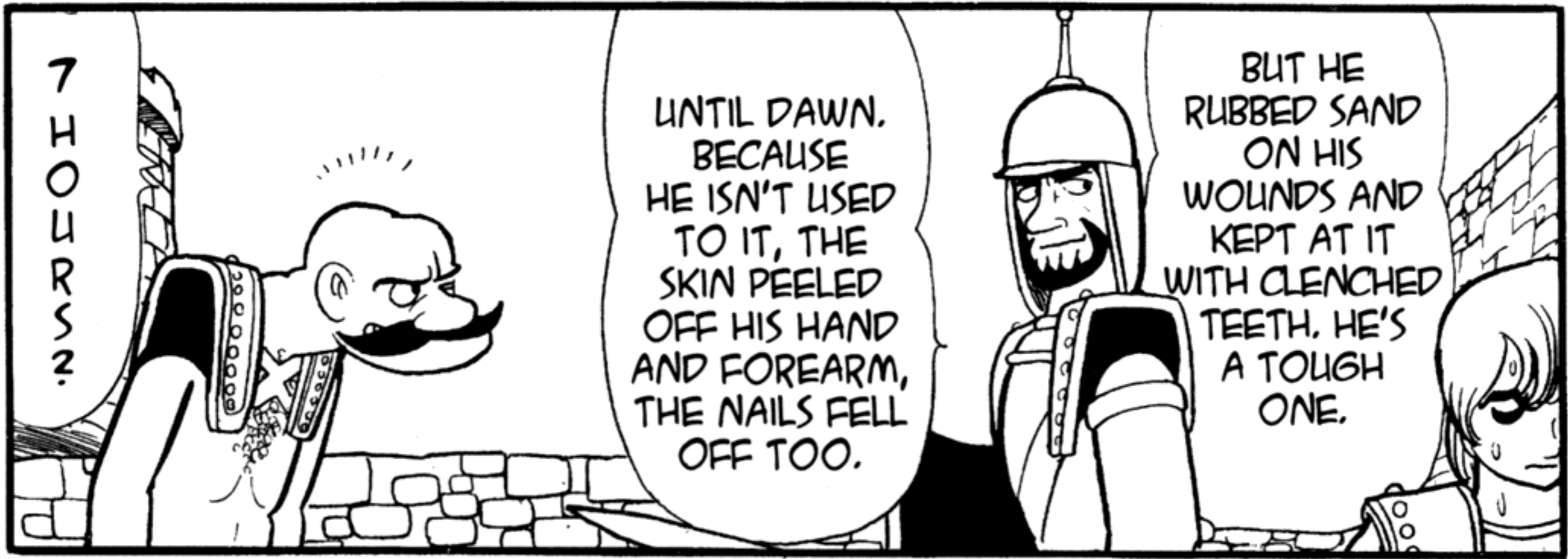
SHOW ME!

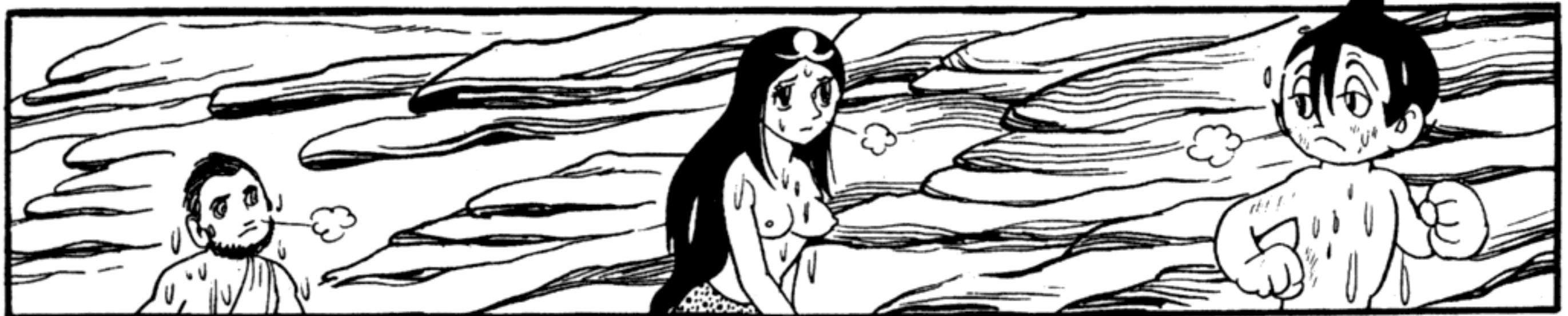
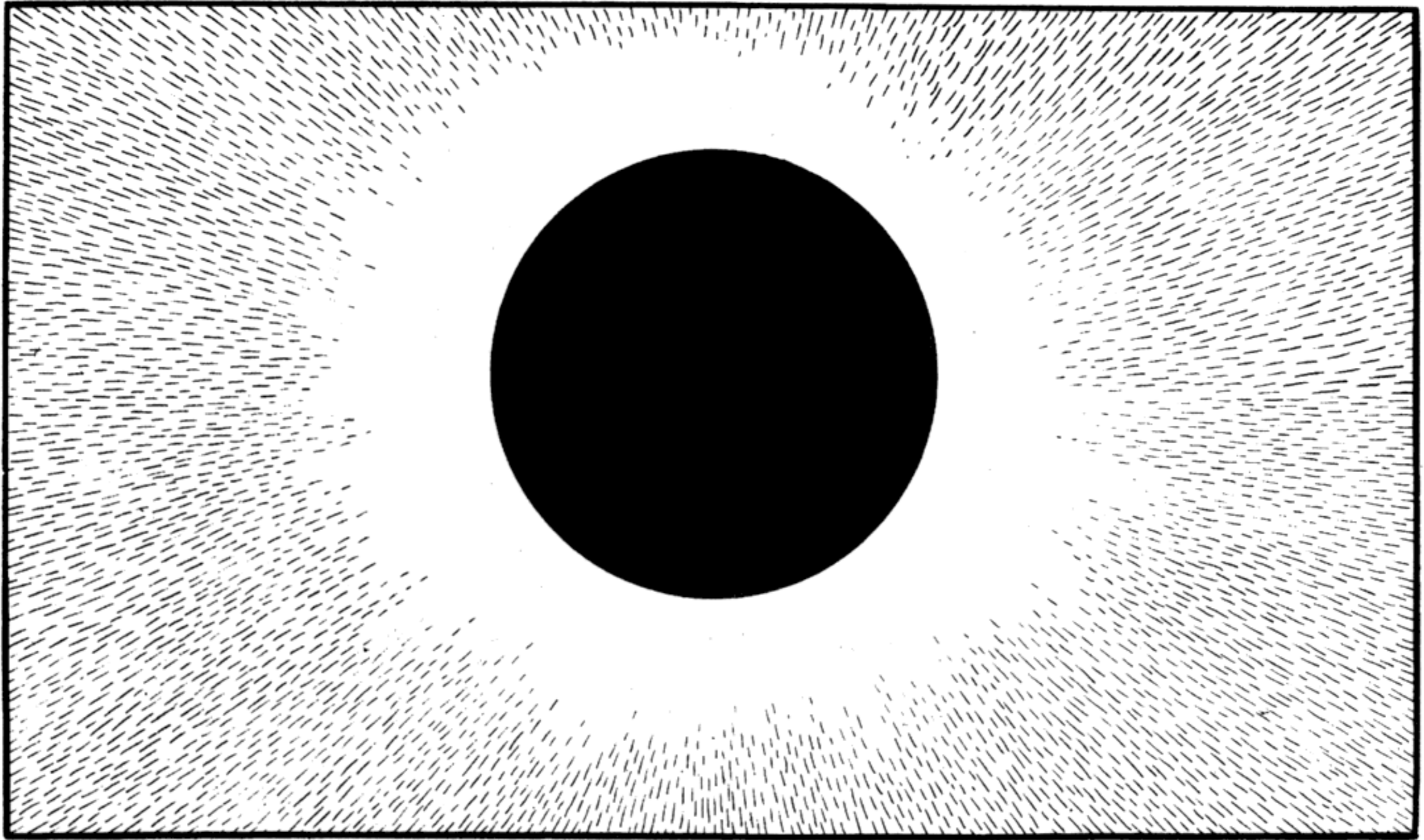


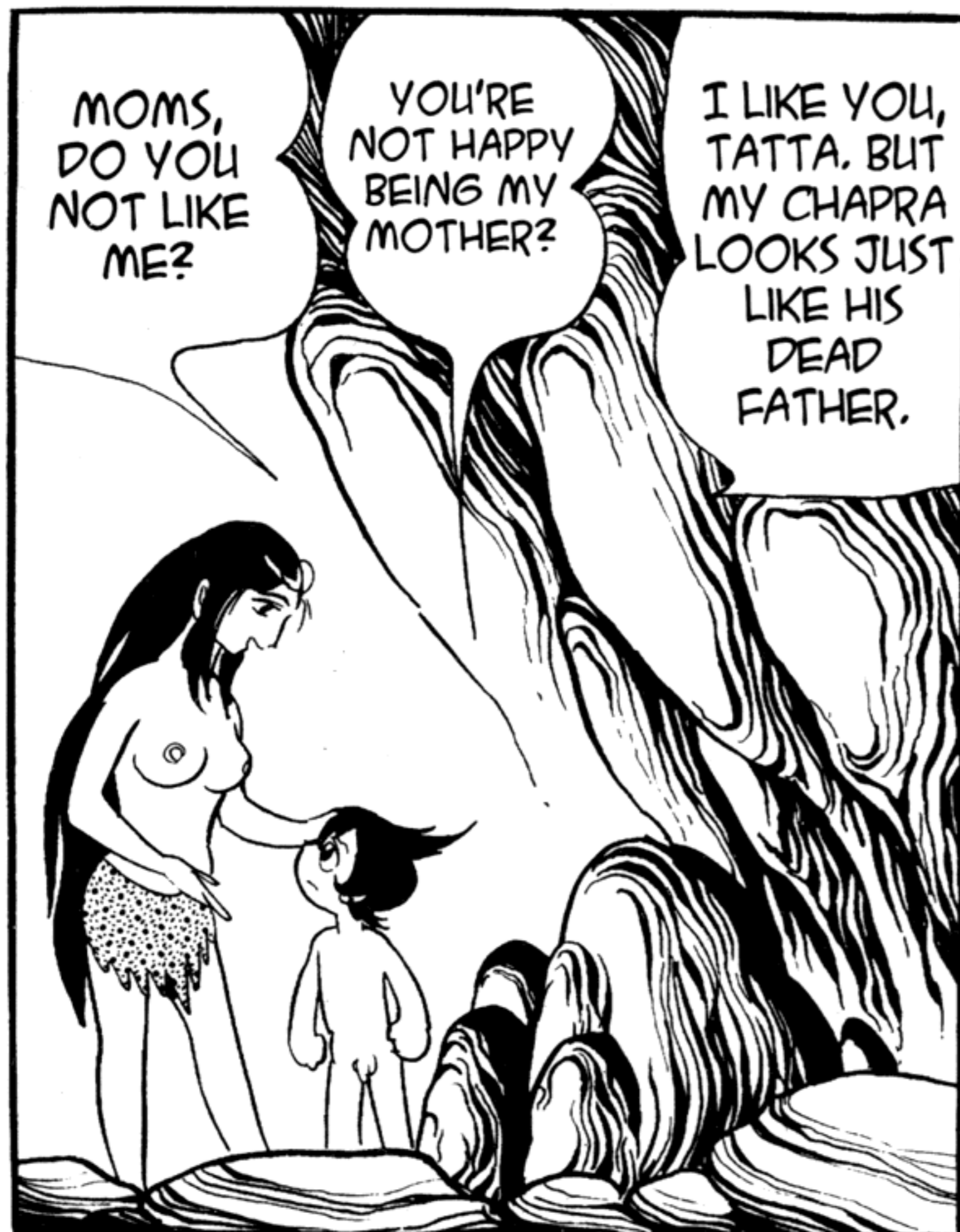
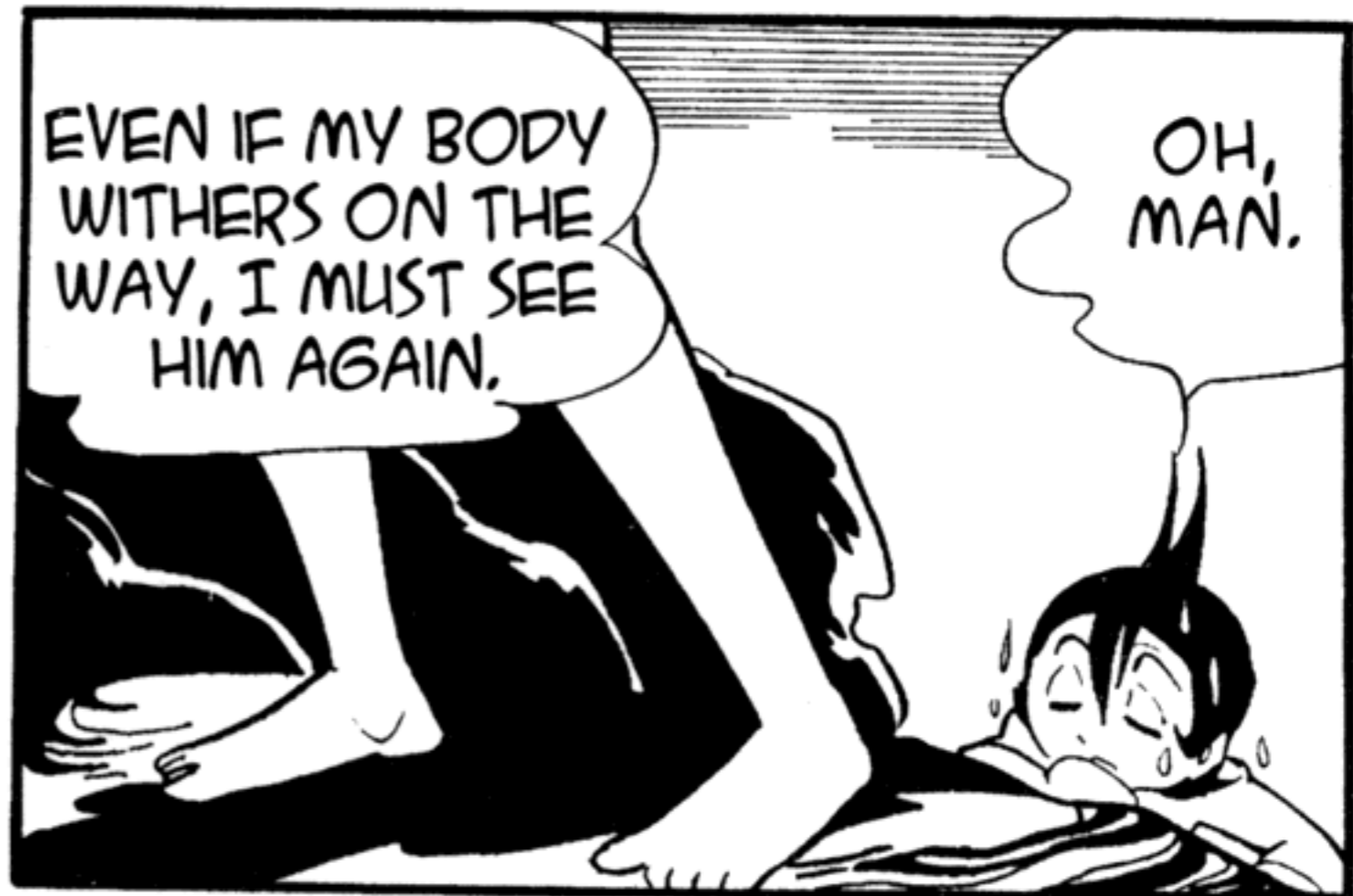
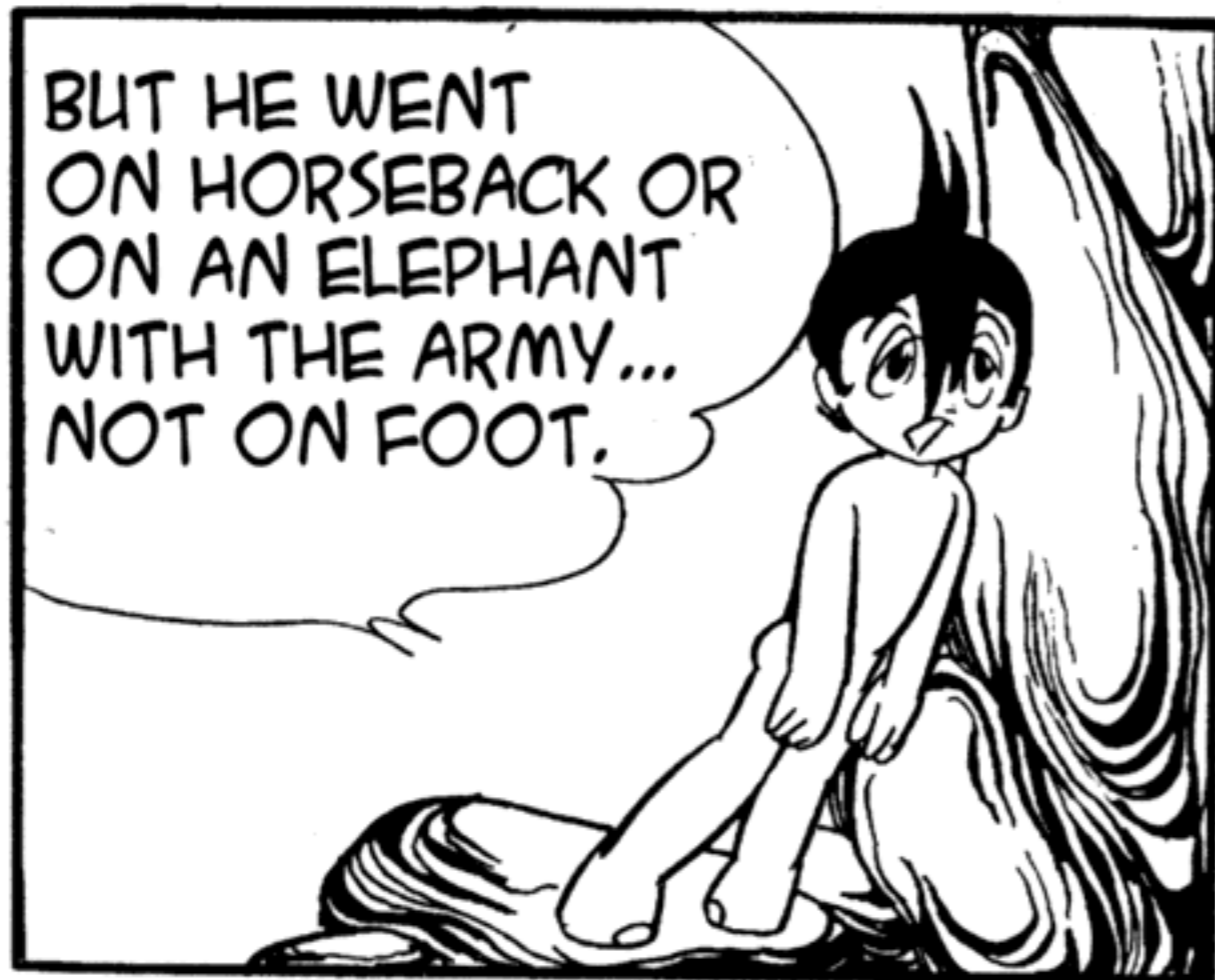
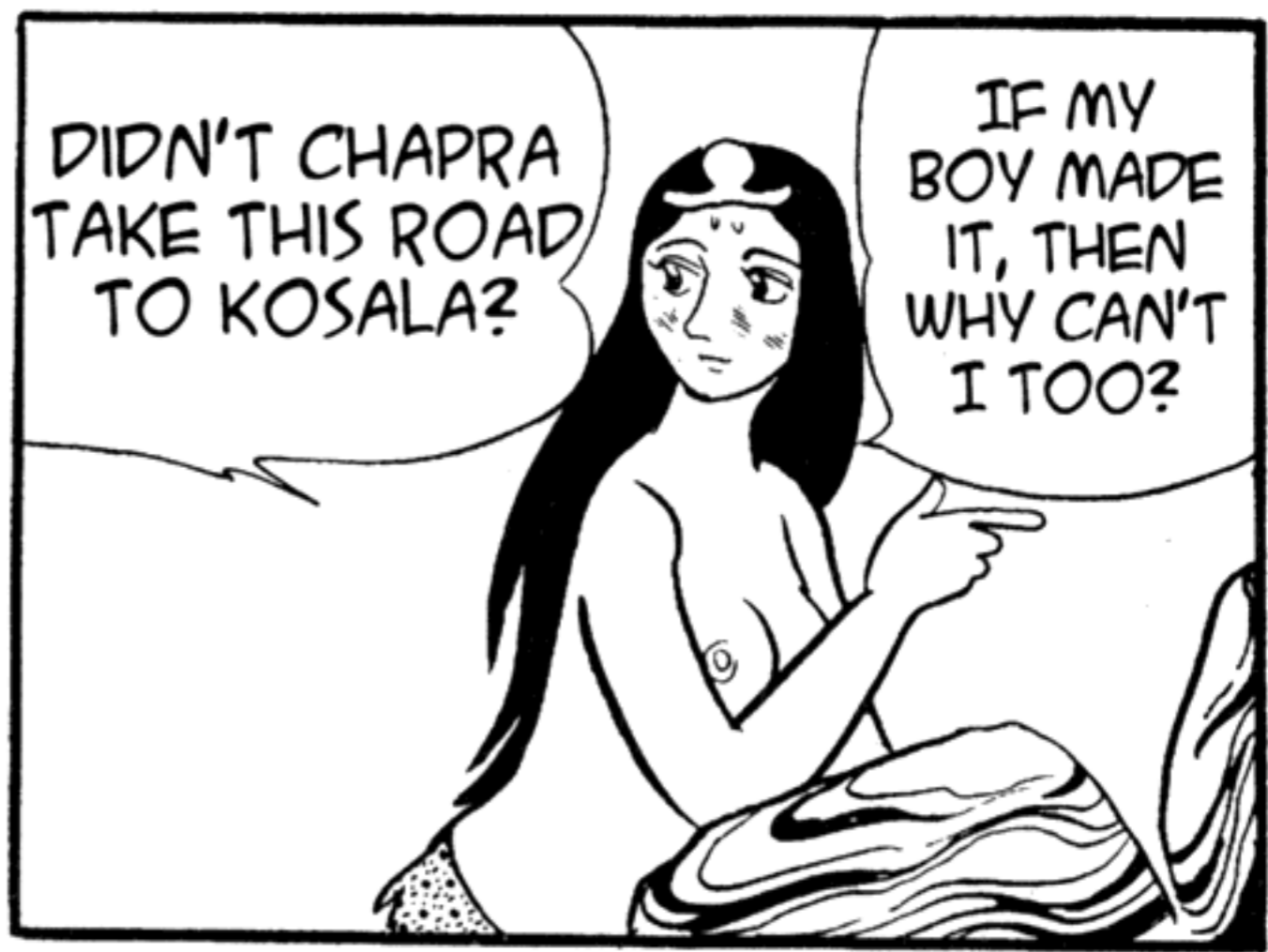
WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
YOUR
SKIN?

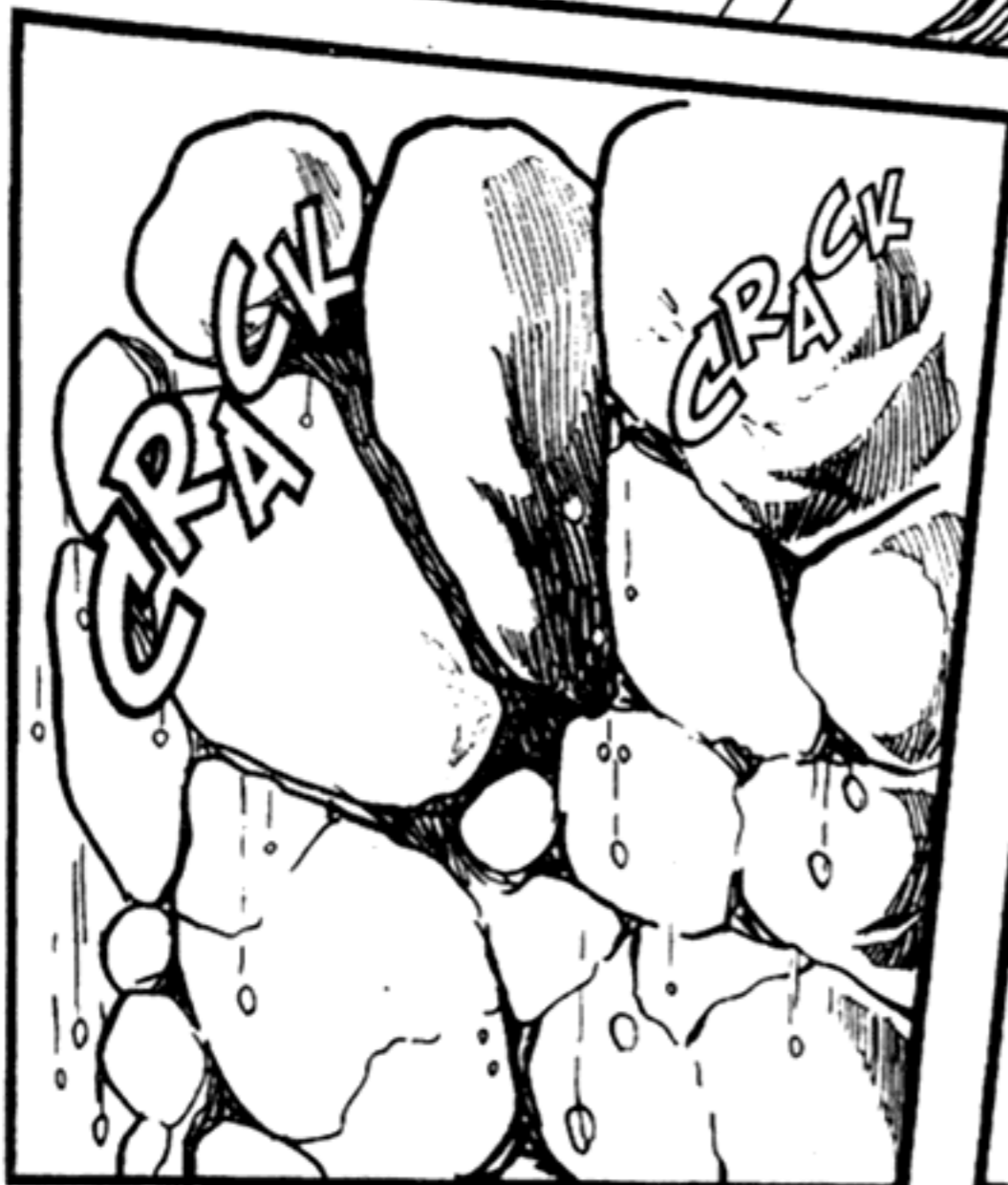
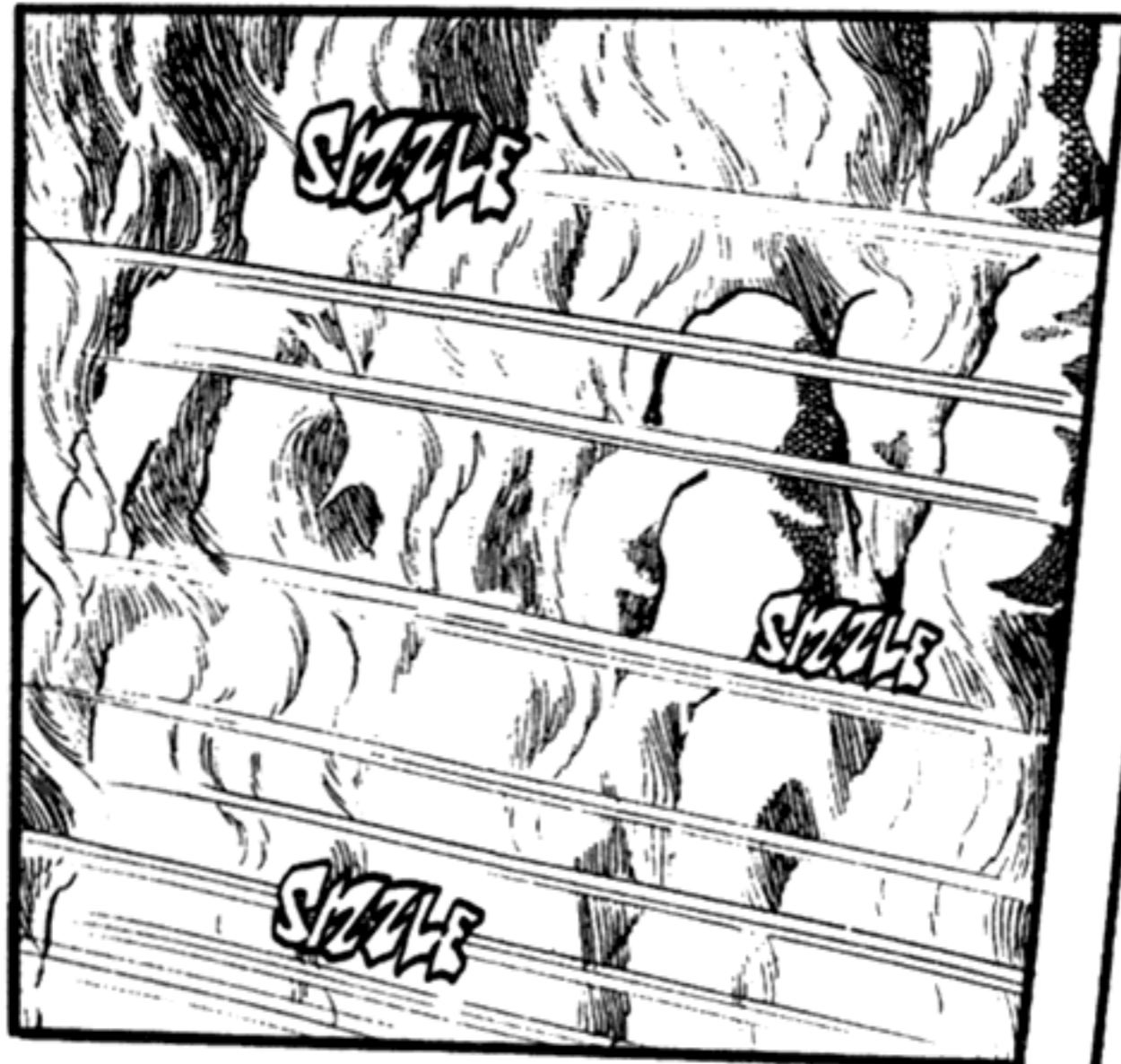
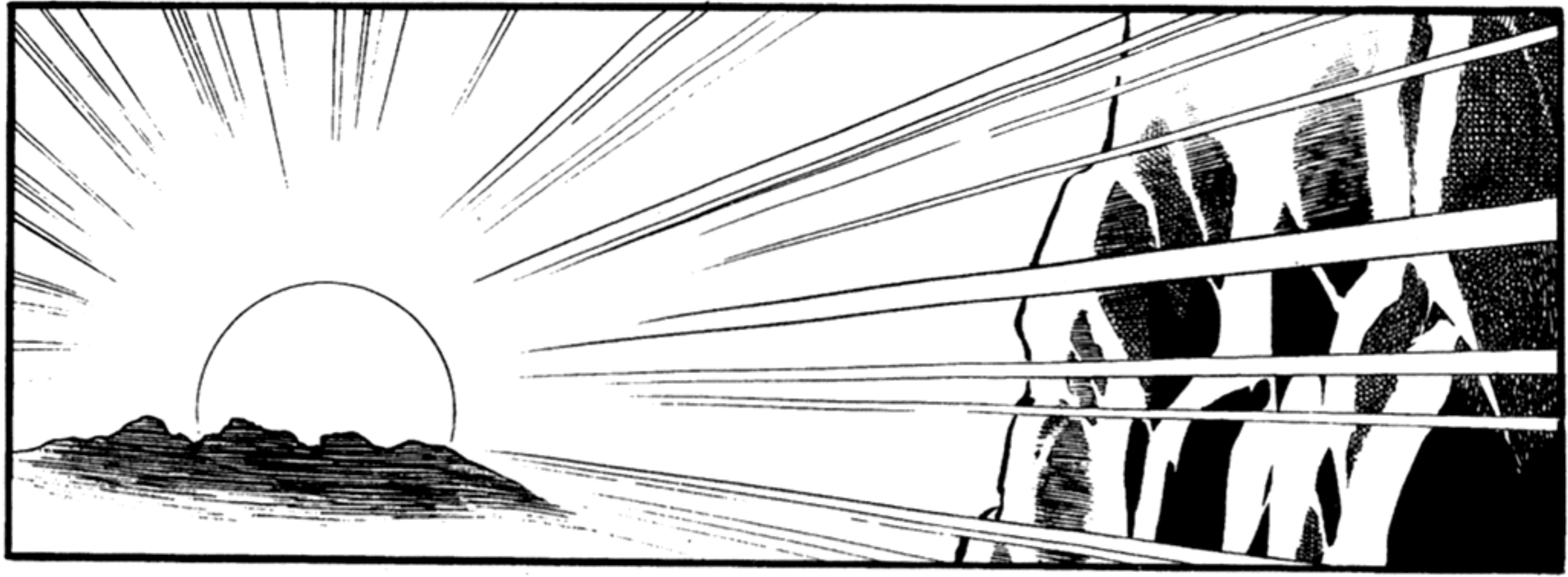


CAPTAIN,
HE'S BEEN
PRACTICING
ARCHERY
SEVEN HOURS
A NIGHT.

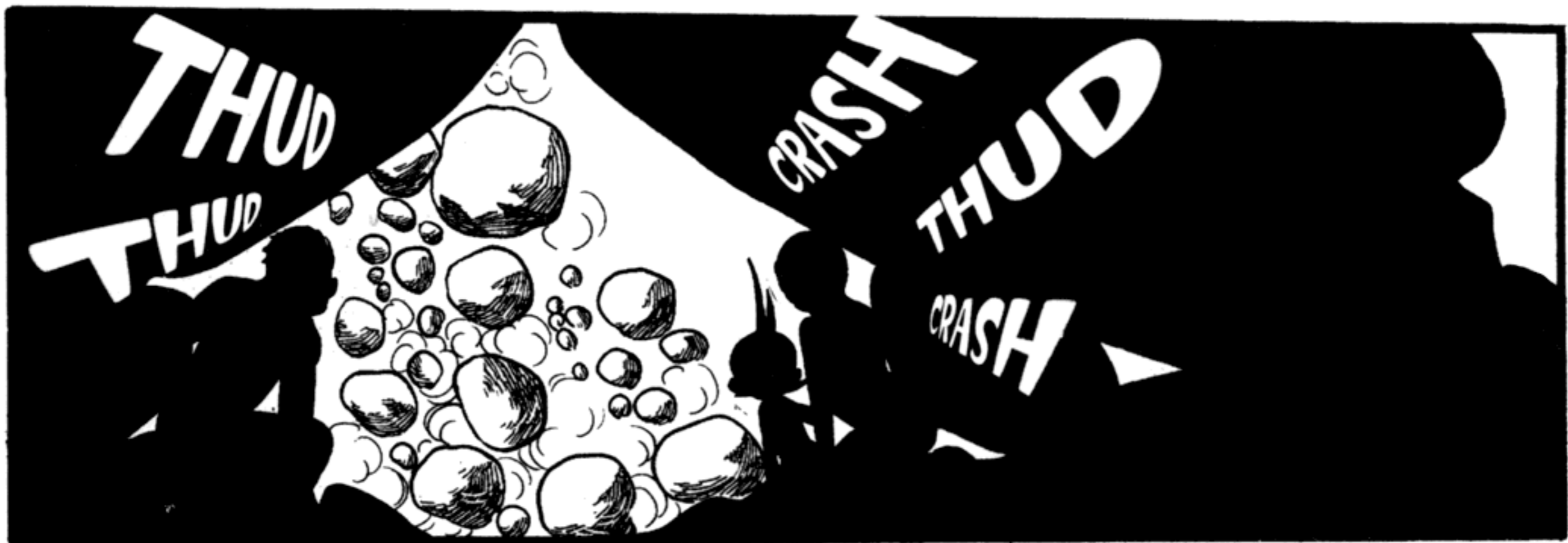
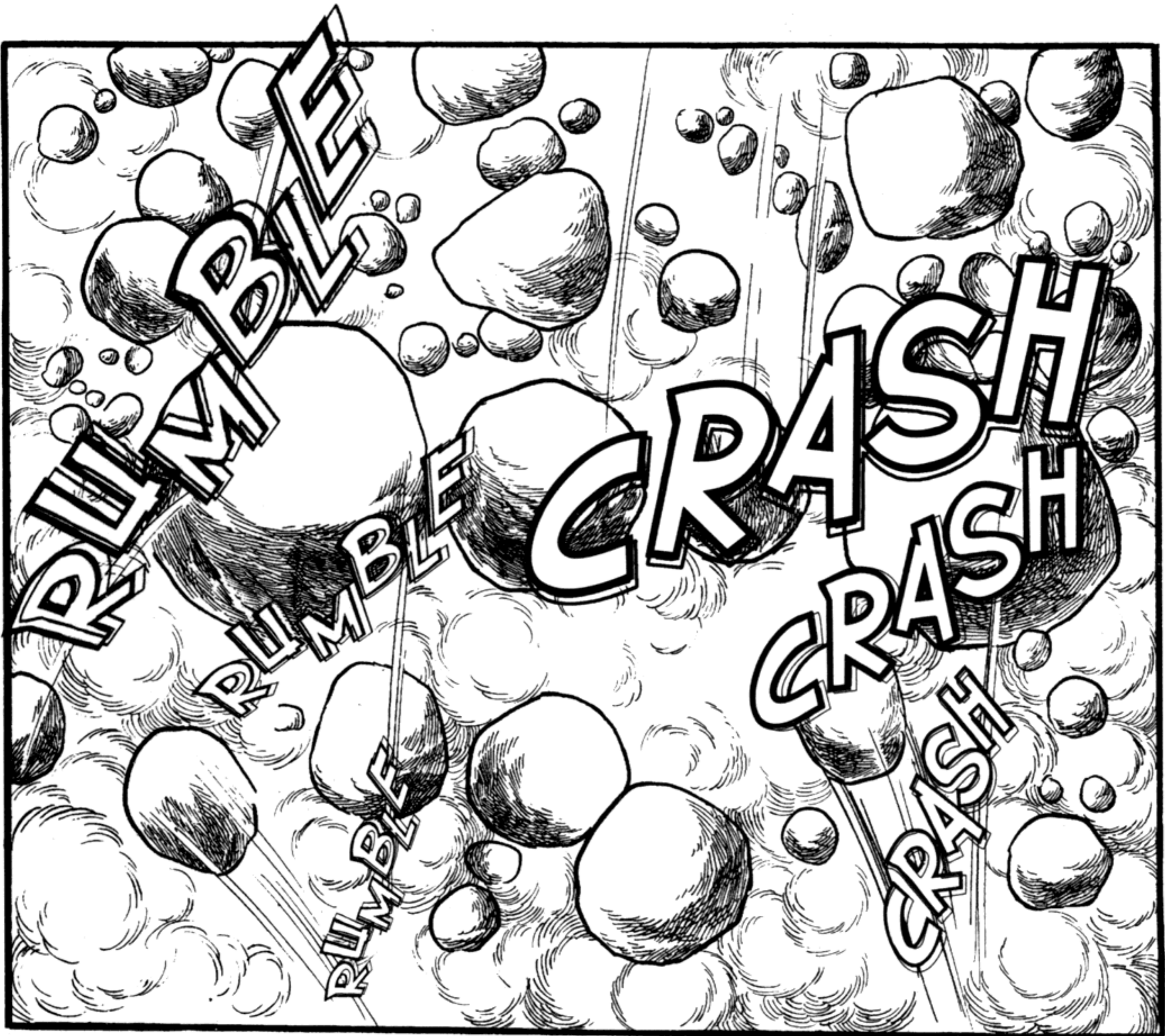






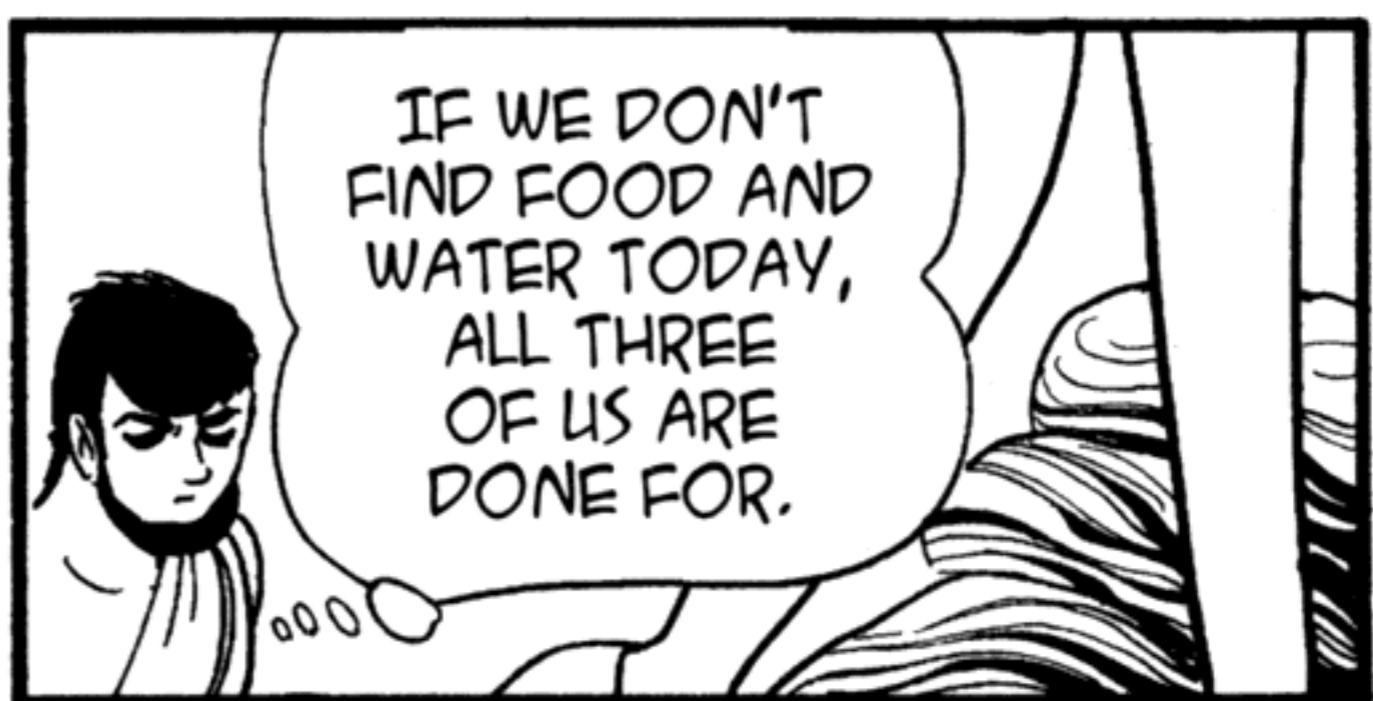




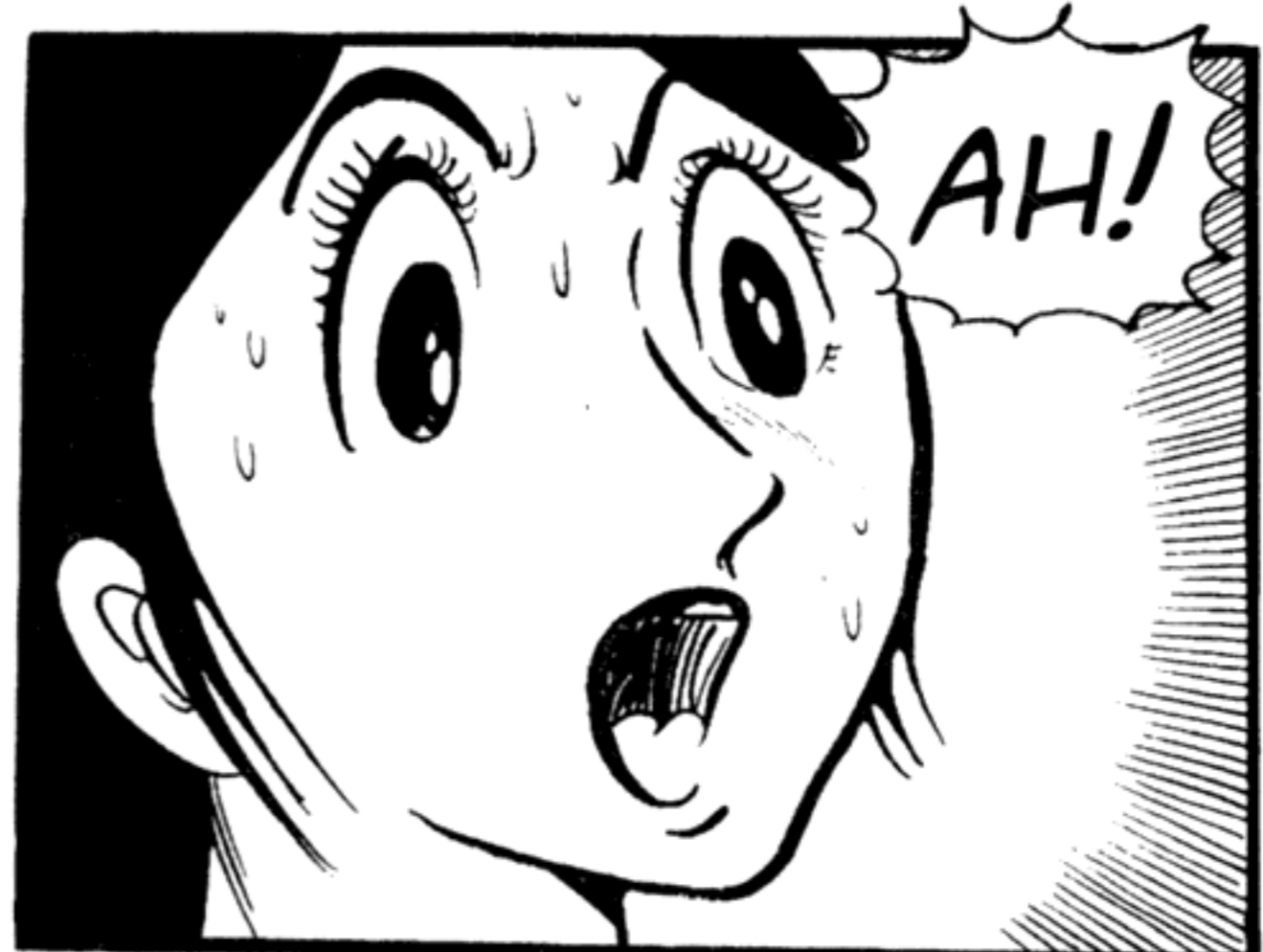
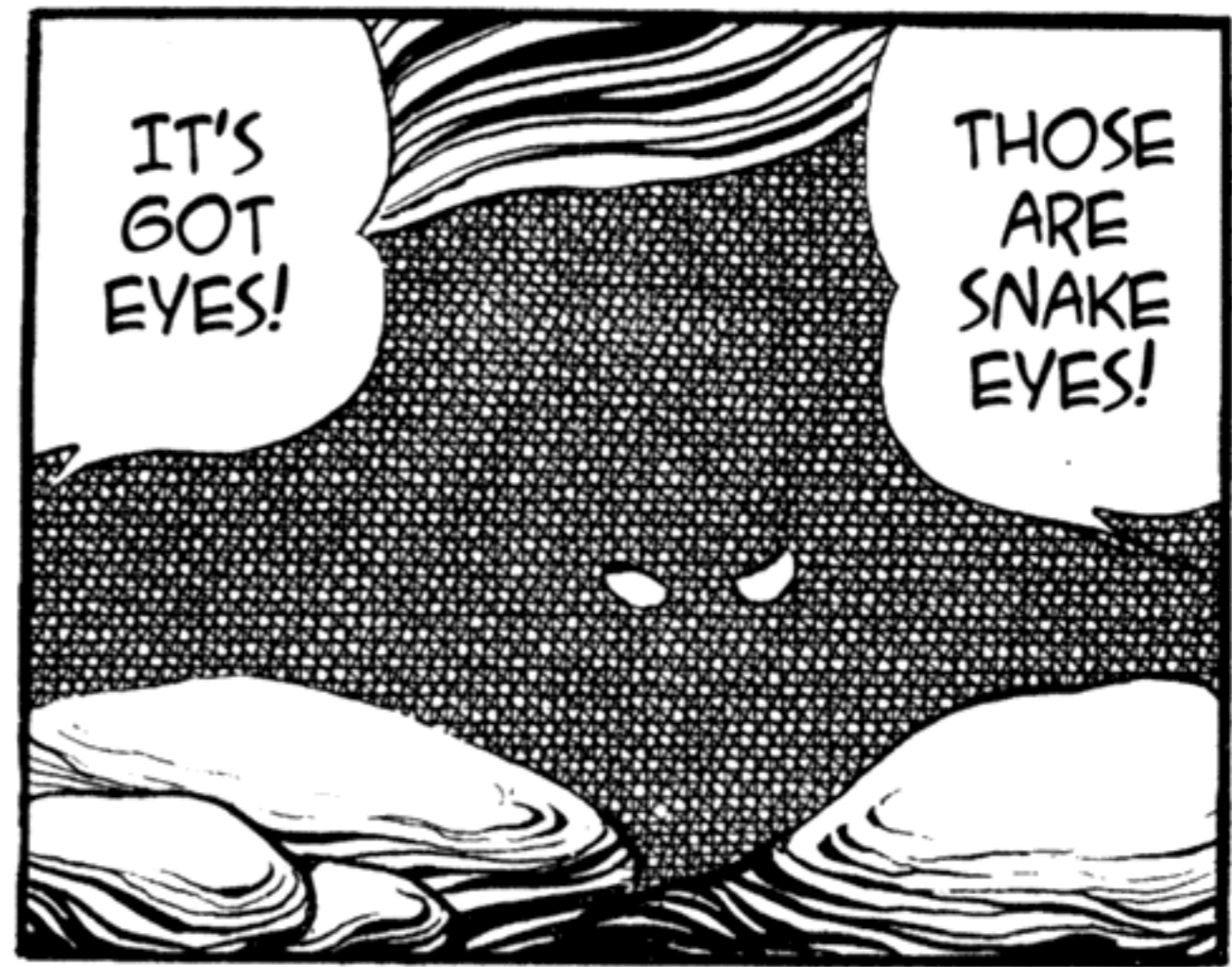
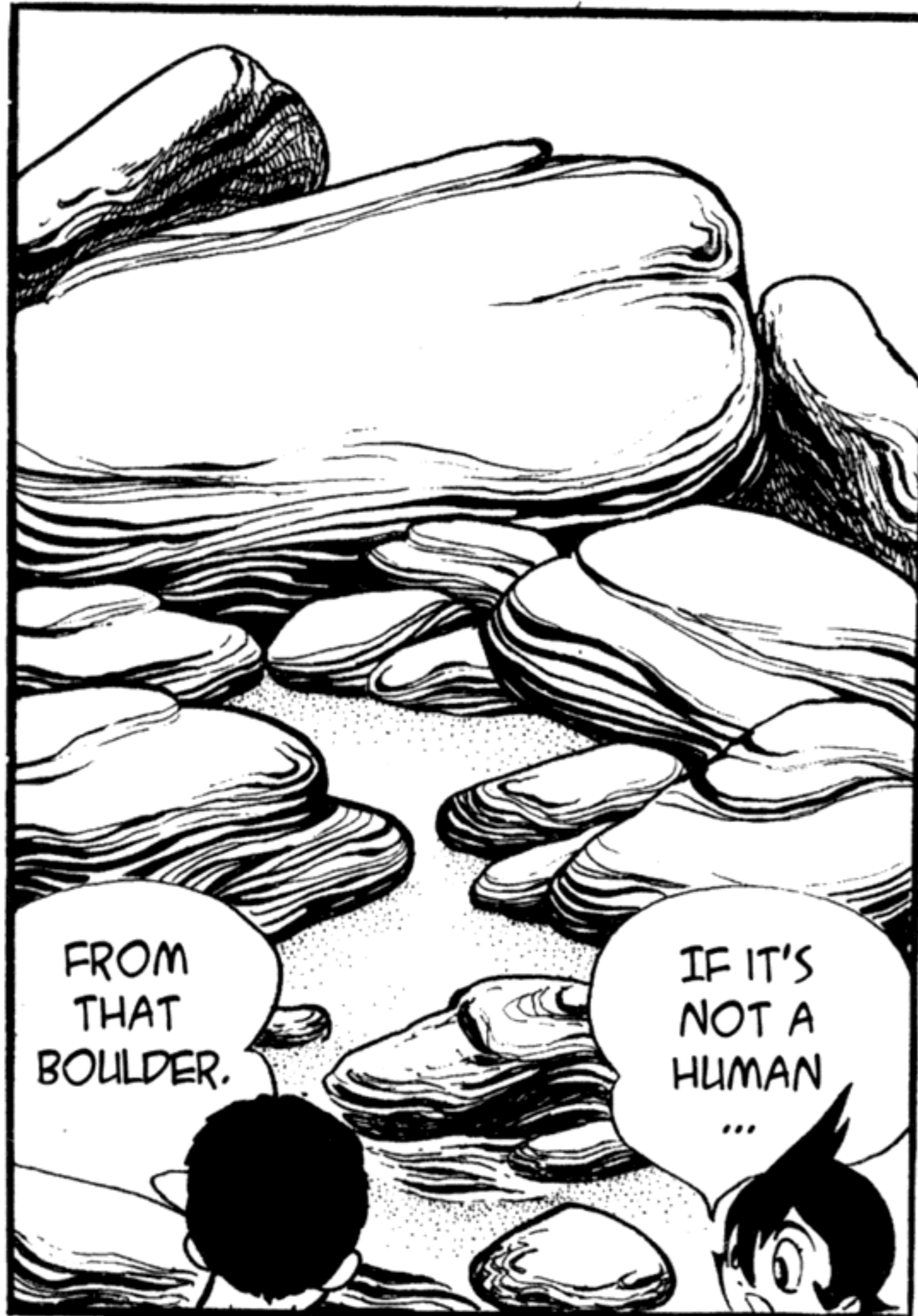
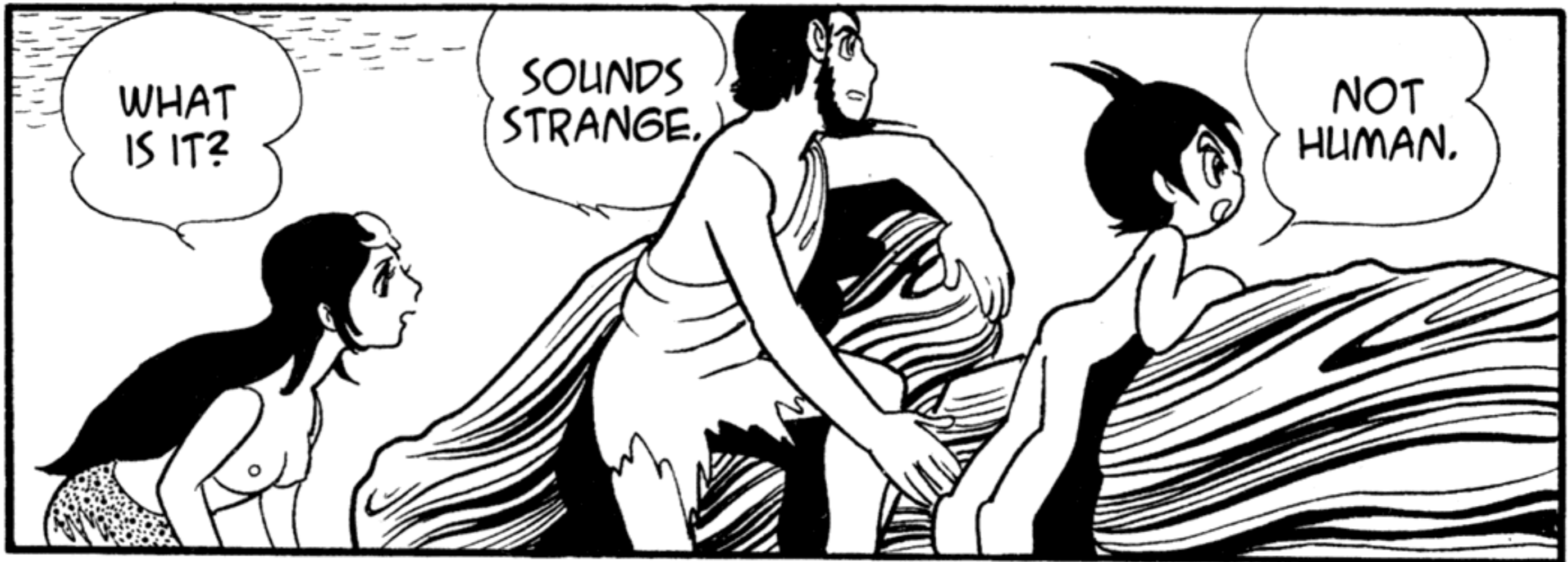
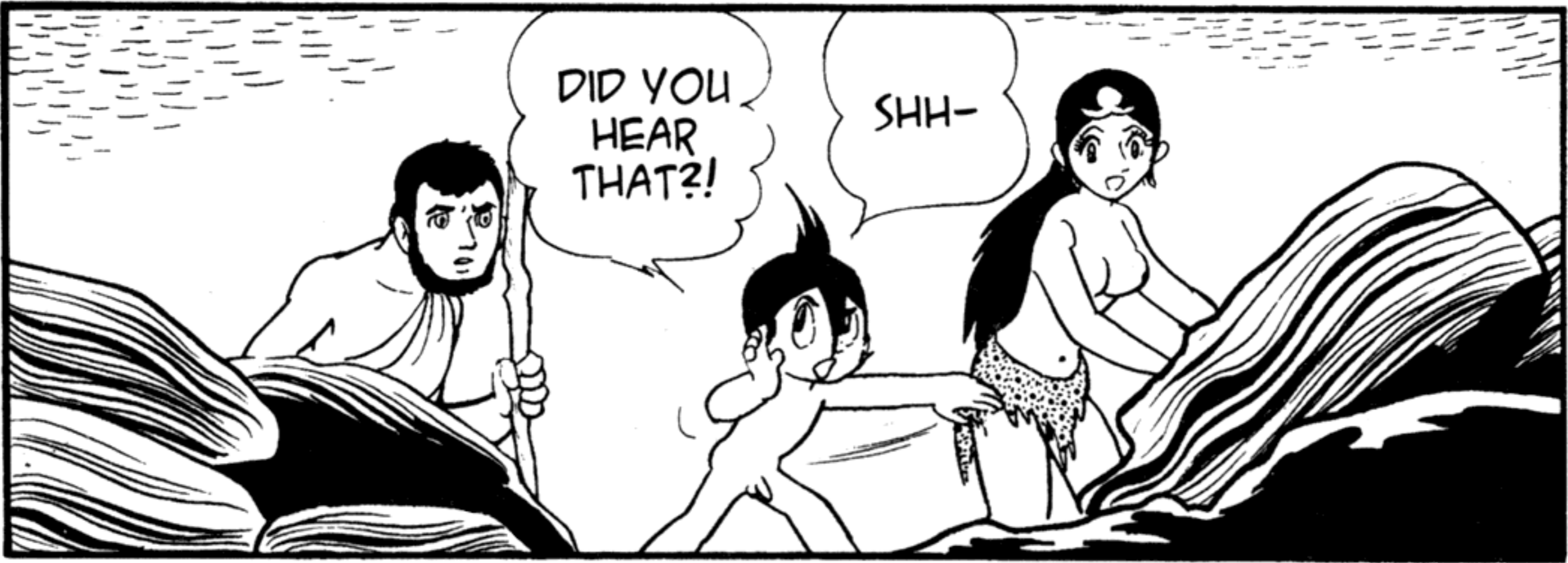


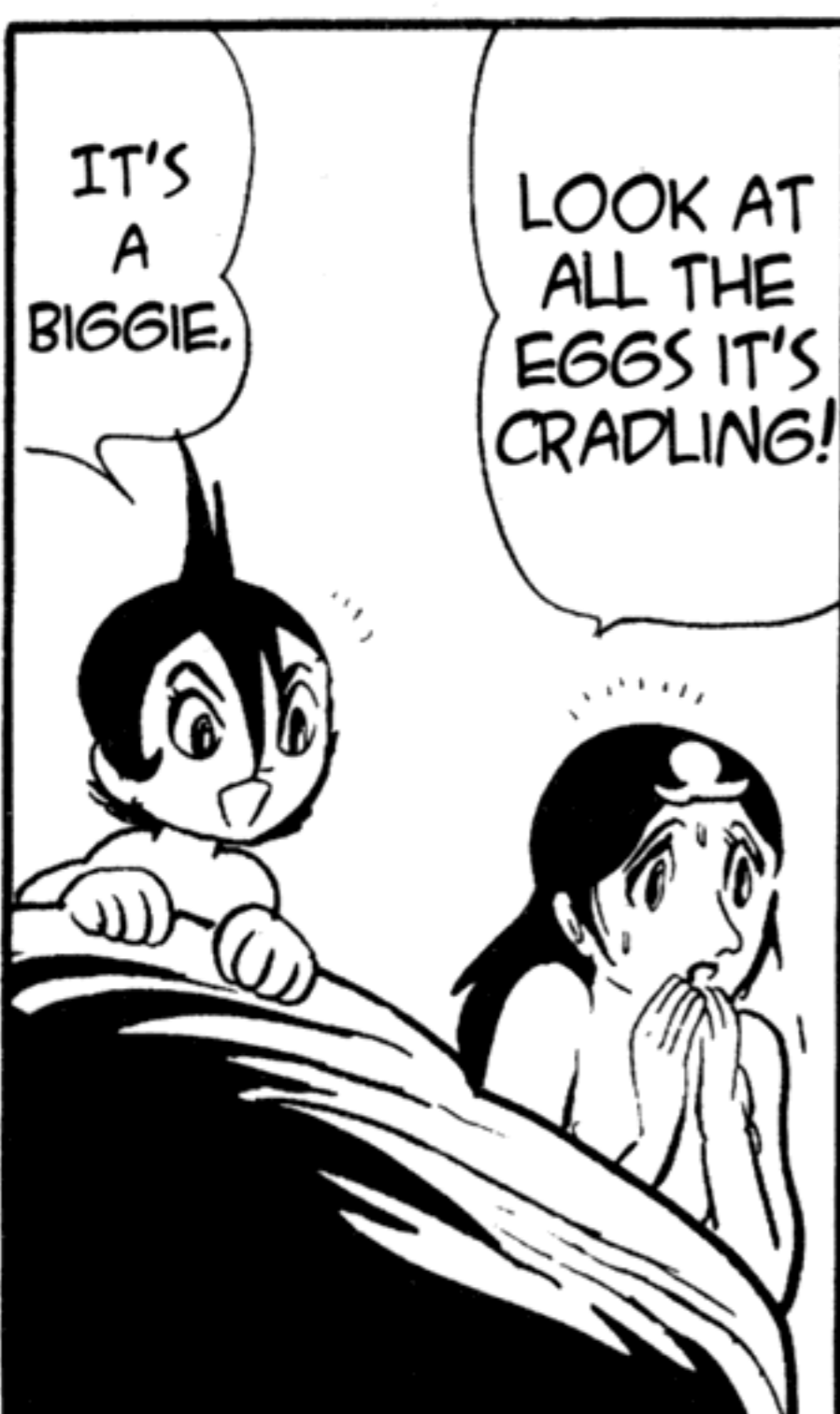
STILL WE GO?

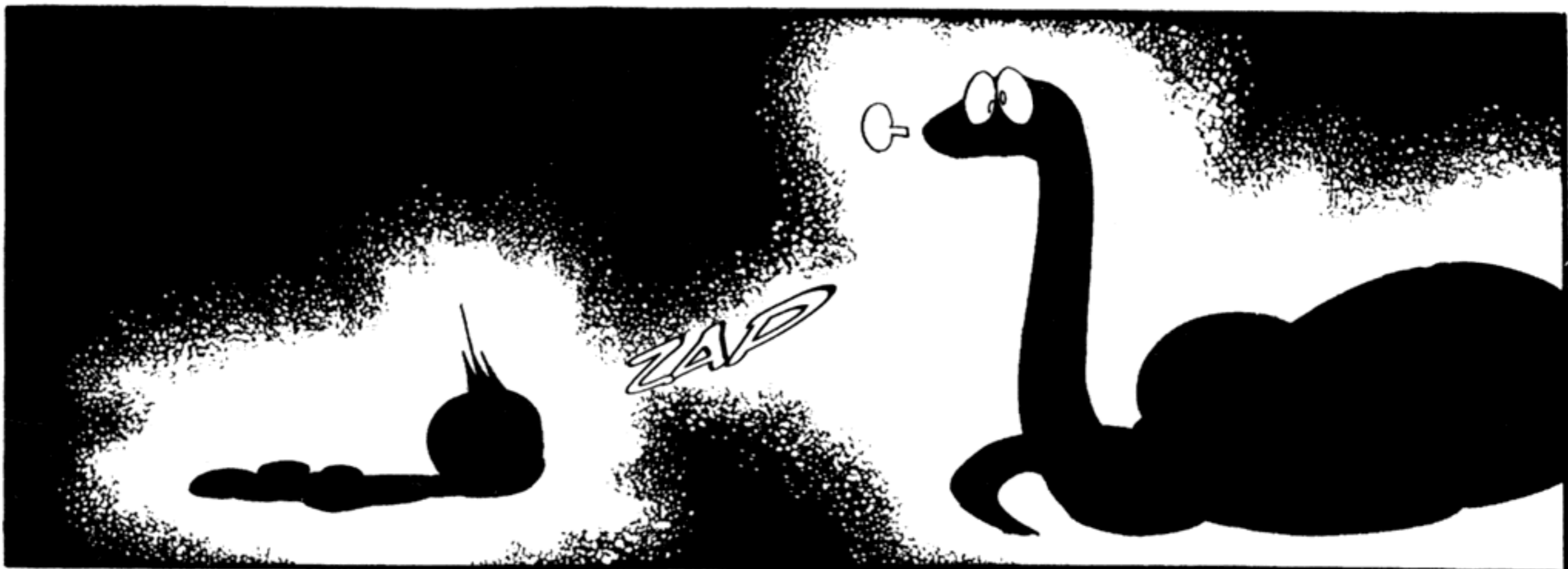
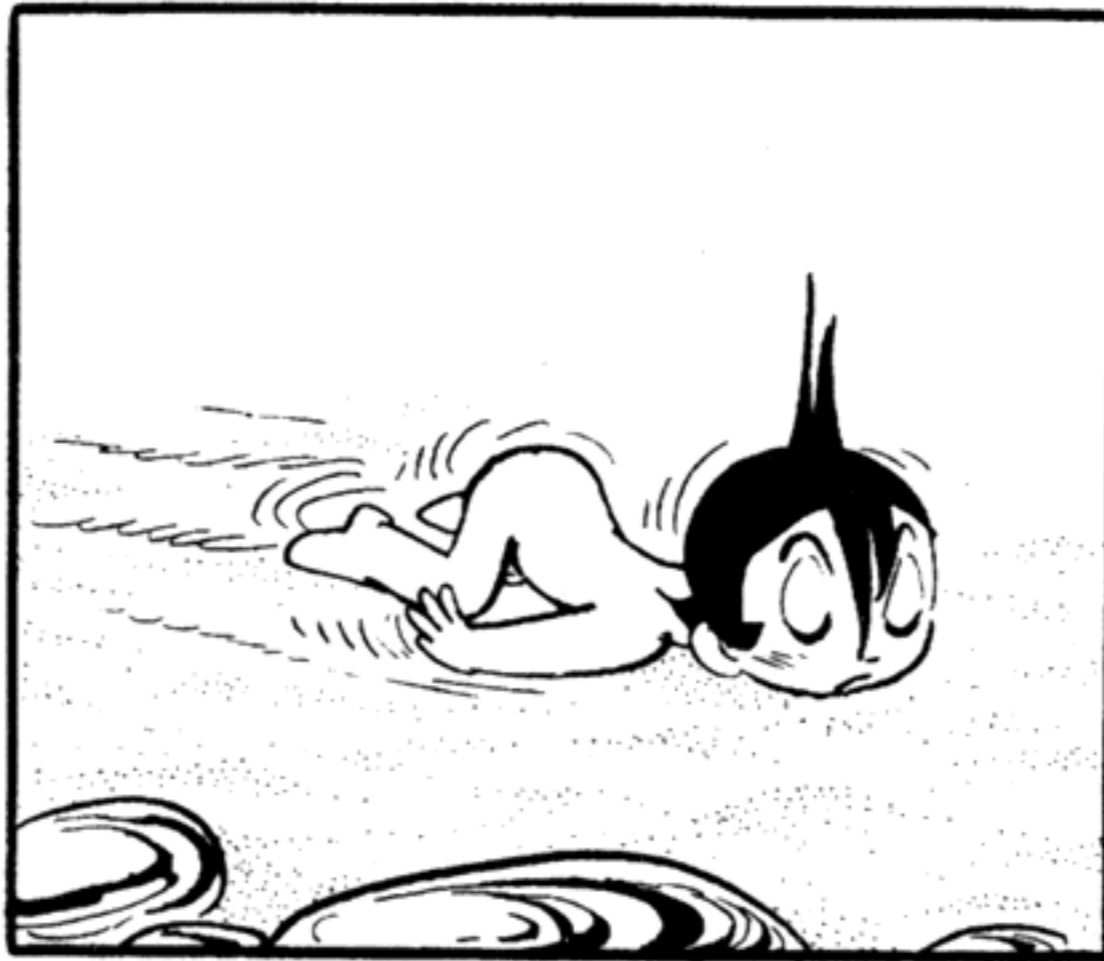
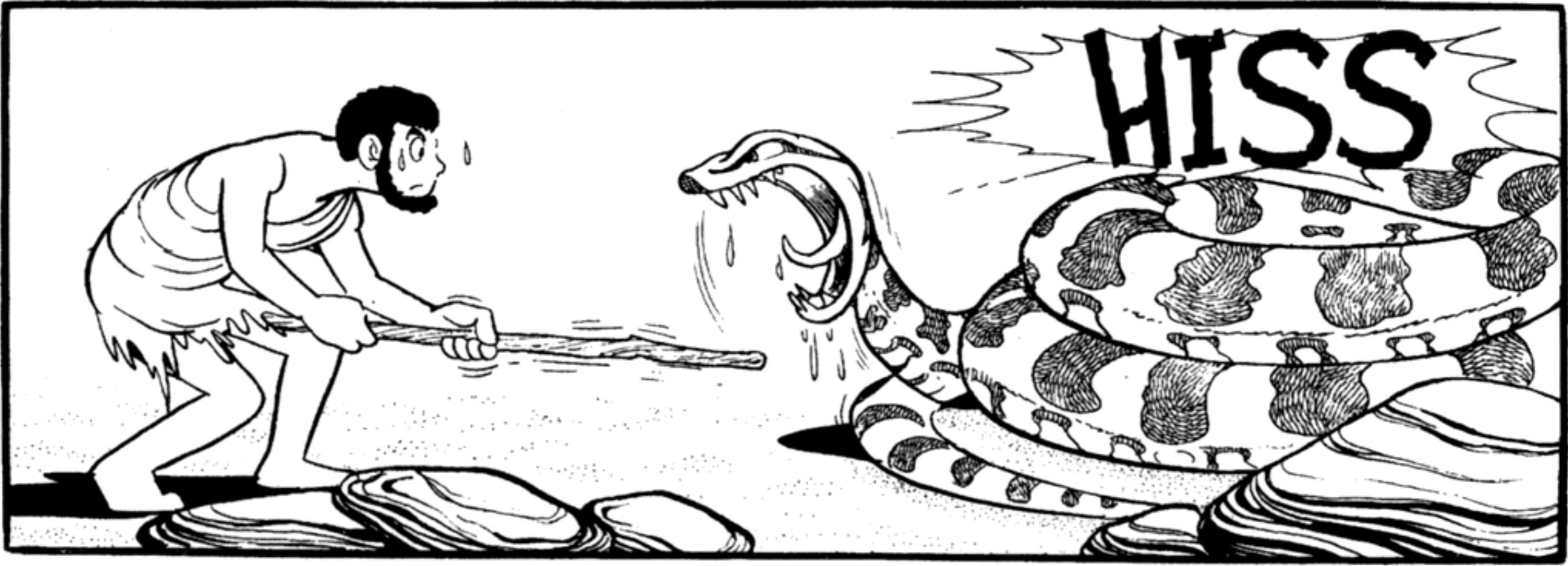
YES.

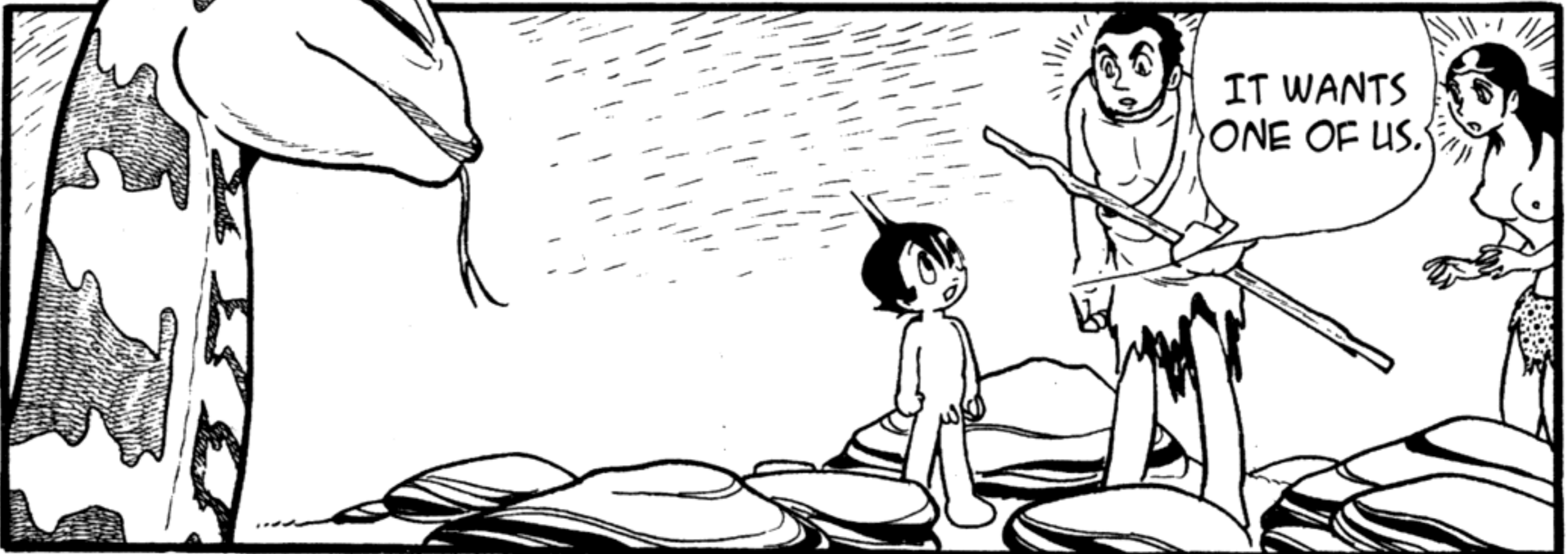
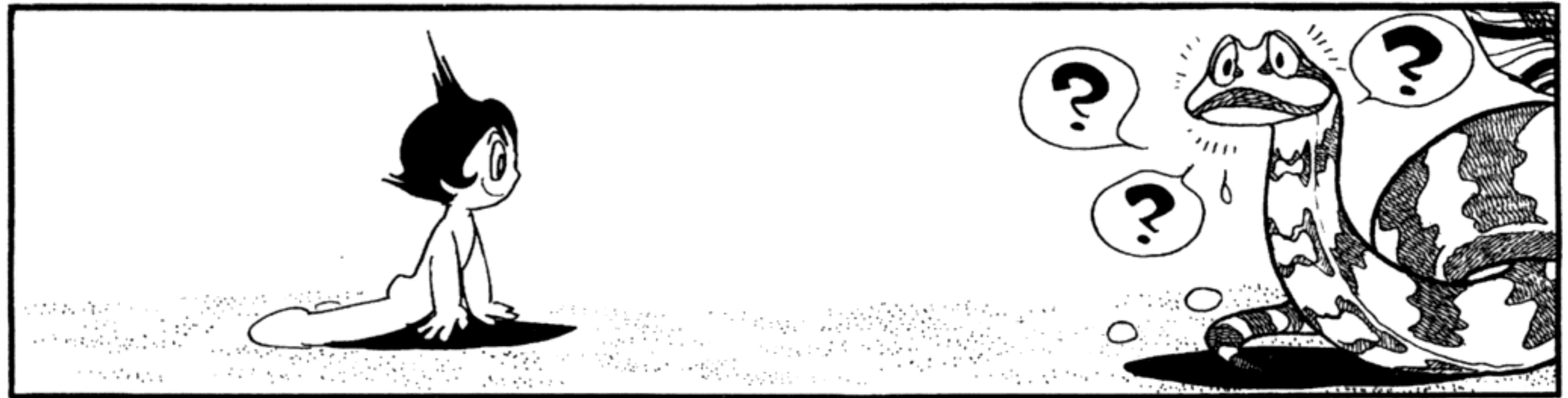
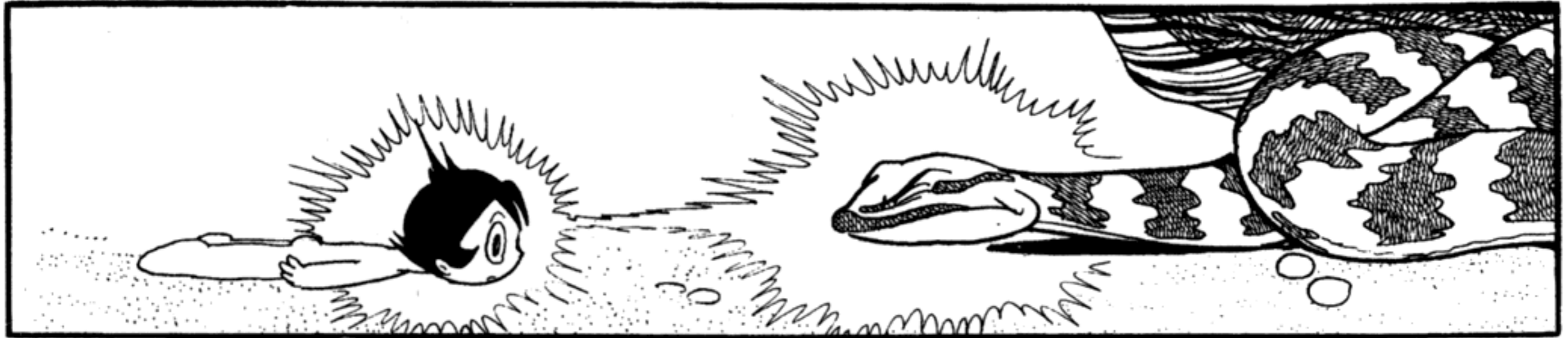
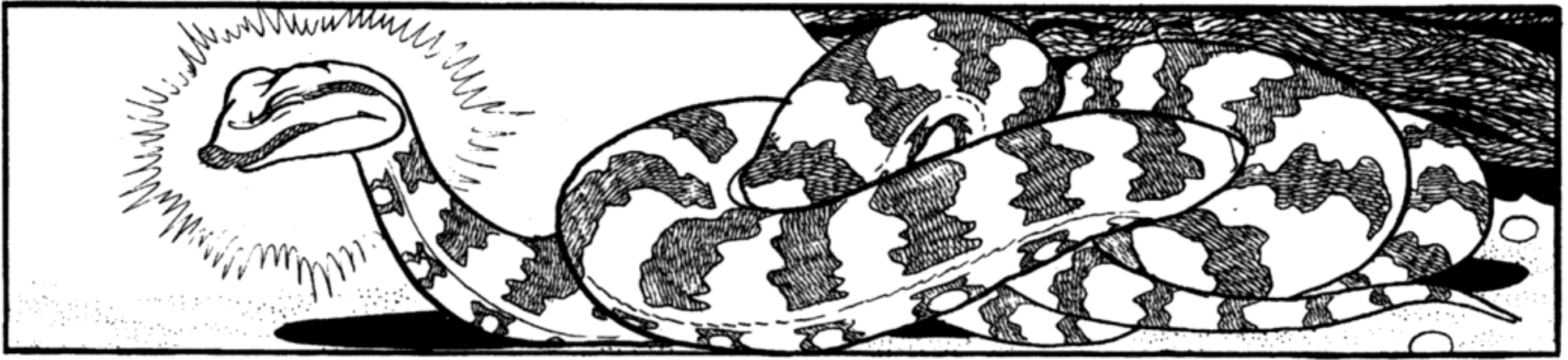


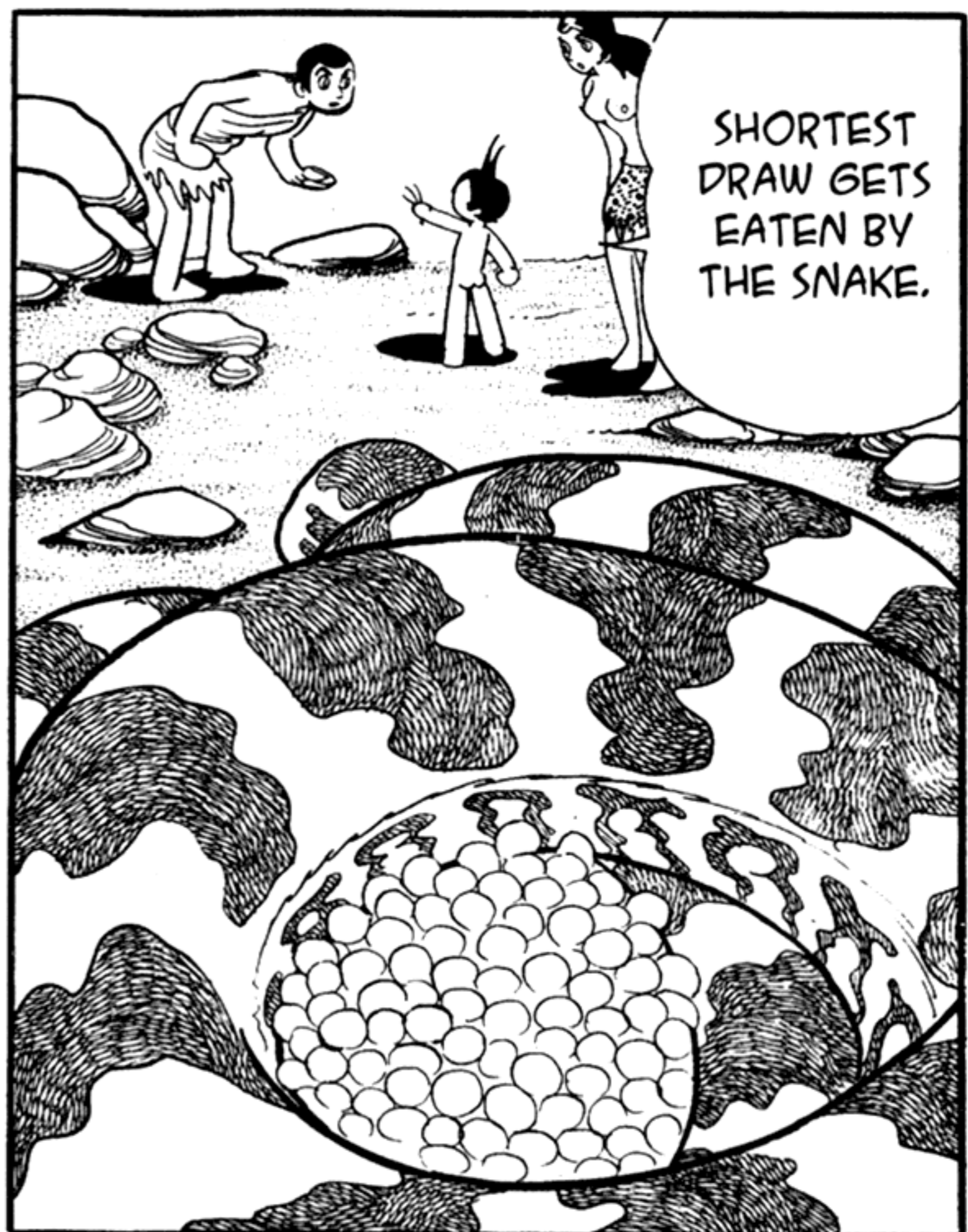
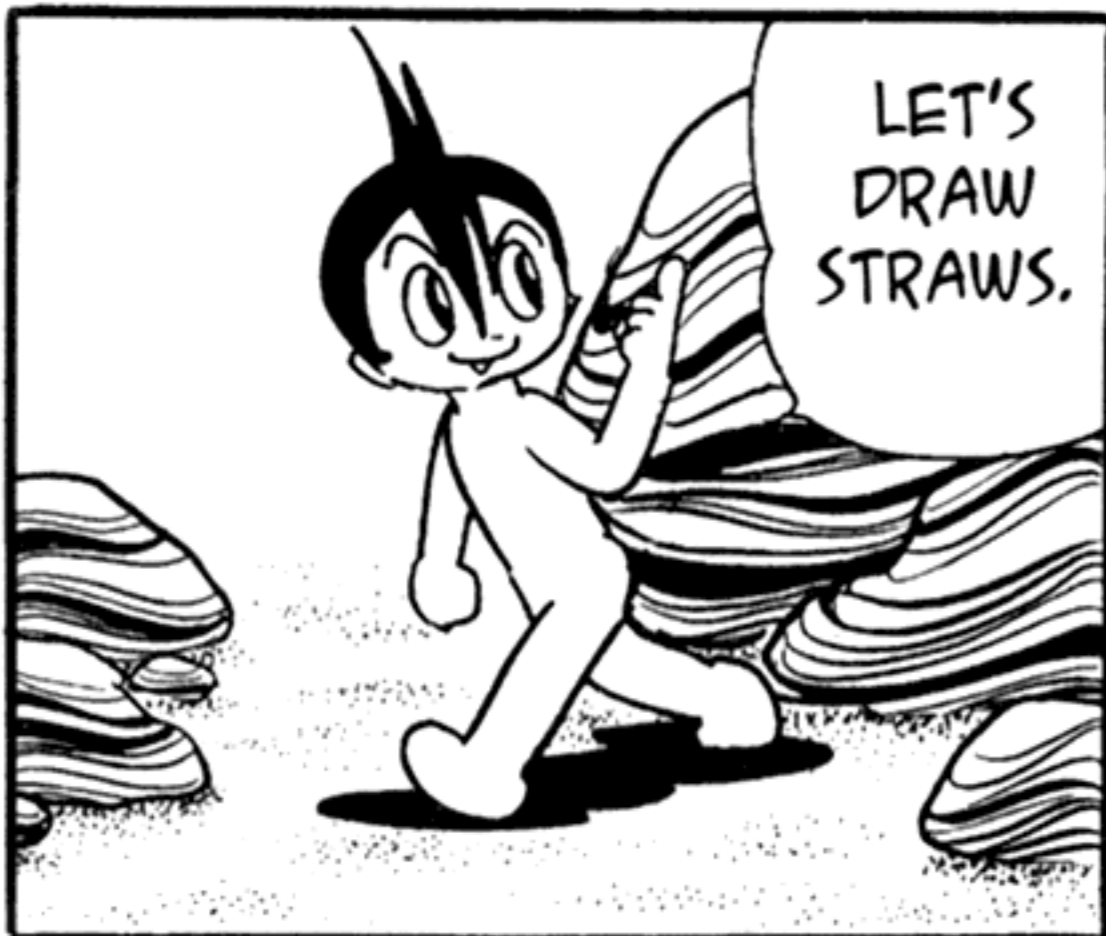
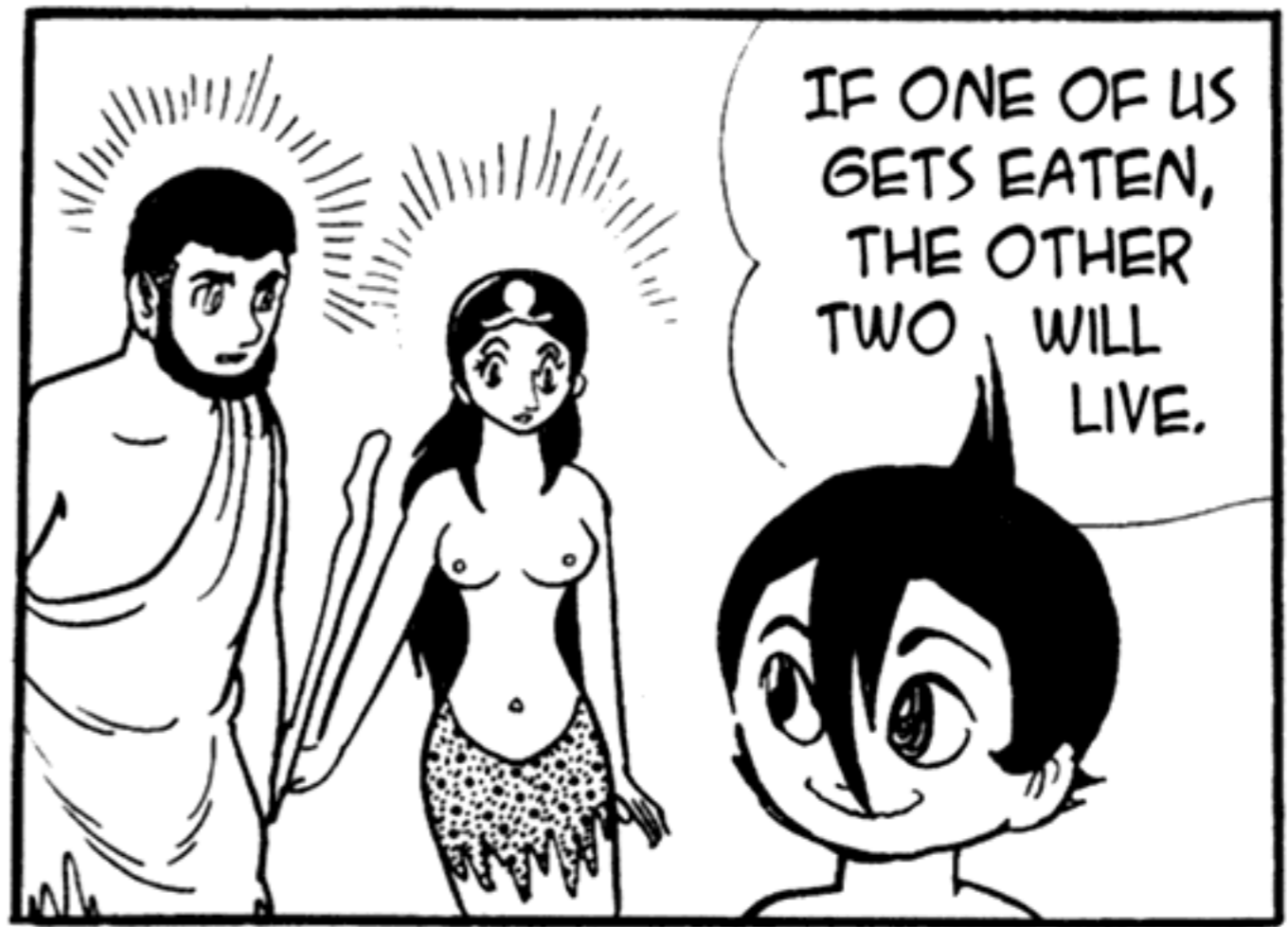
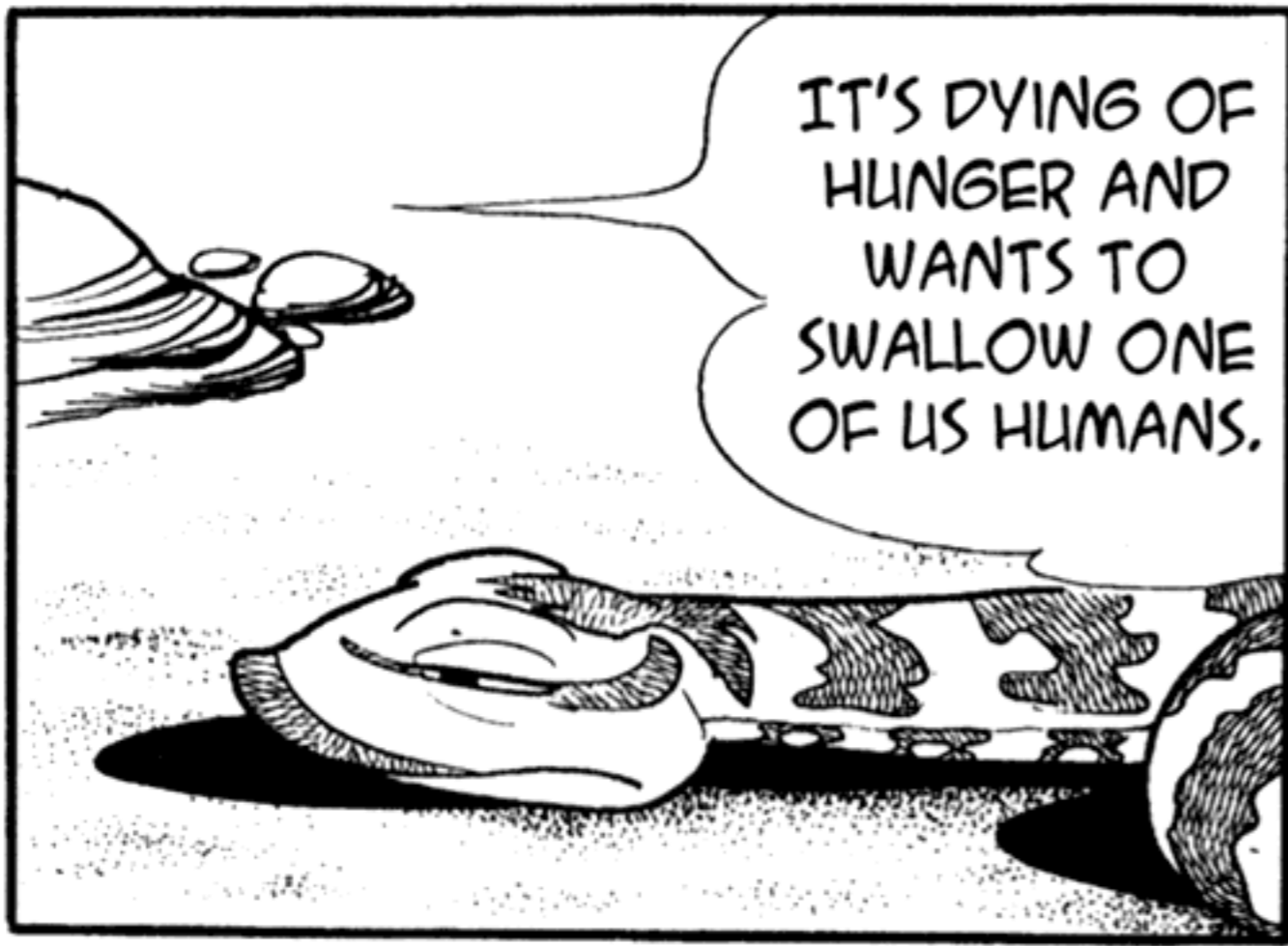
IF WE DON'T FIND FOOD AND WATER TODAY, ALL THREE OF US ARE DONE FOR.

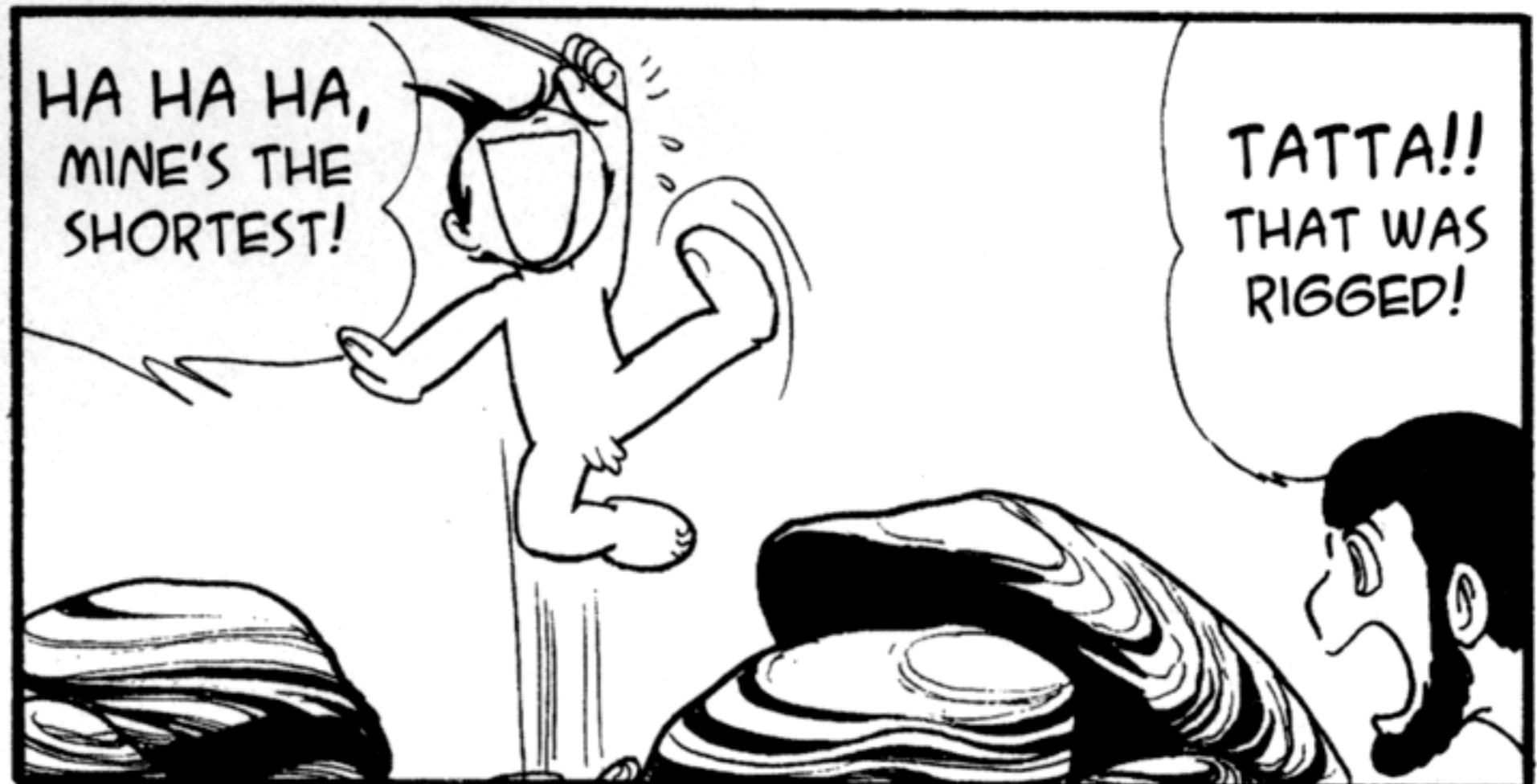
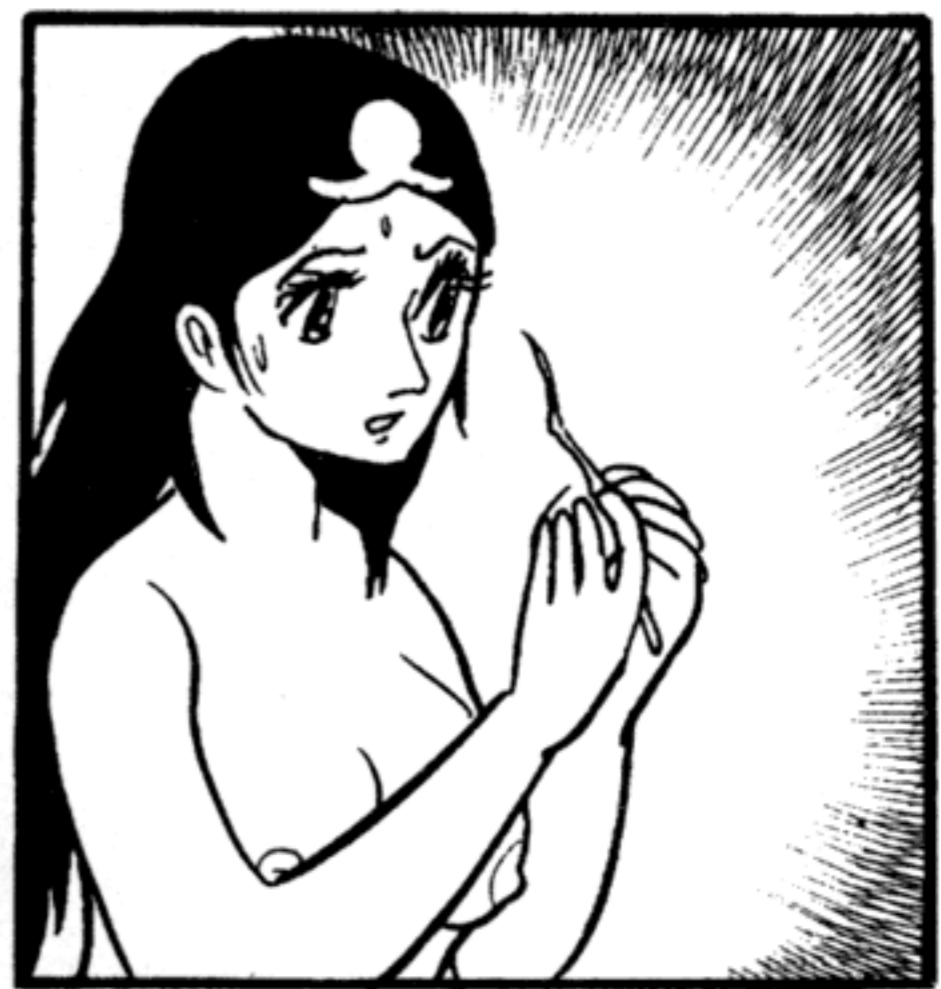
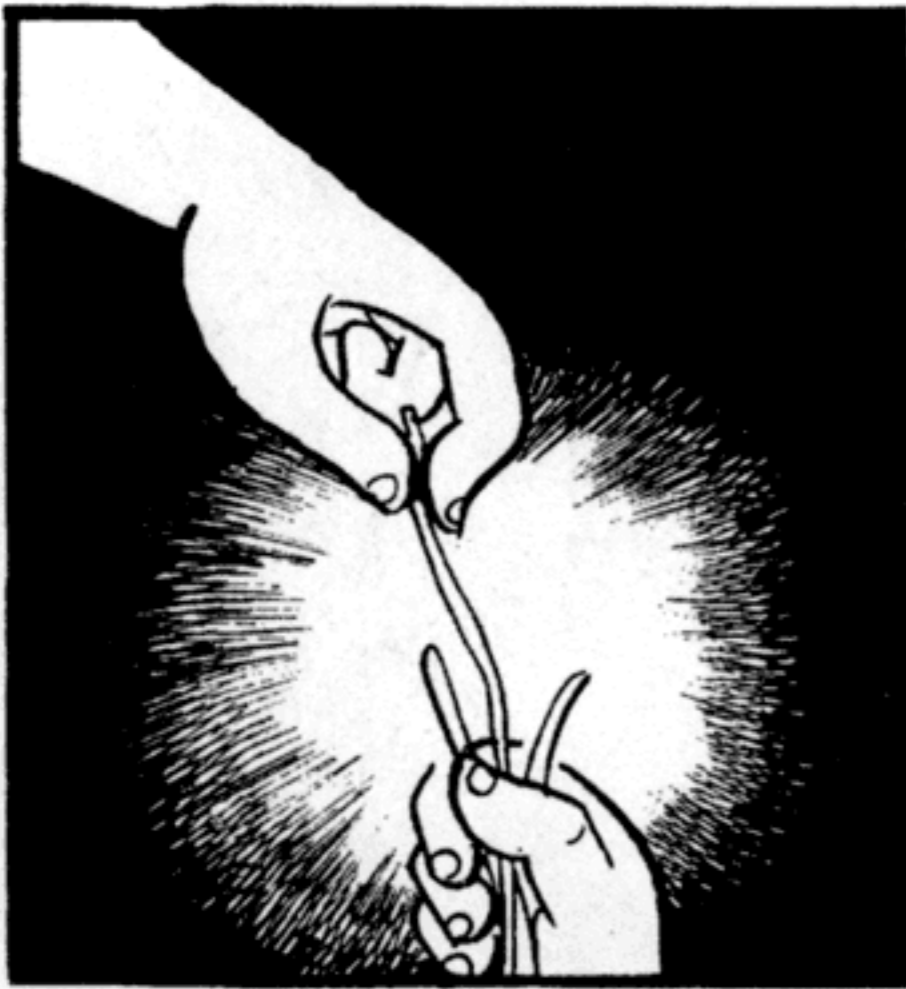


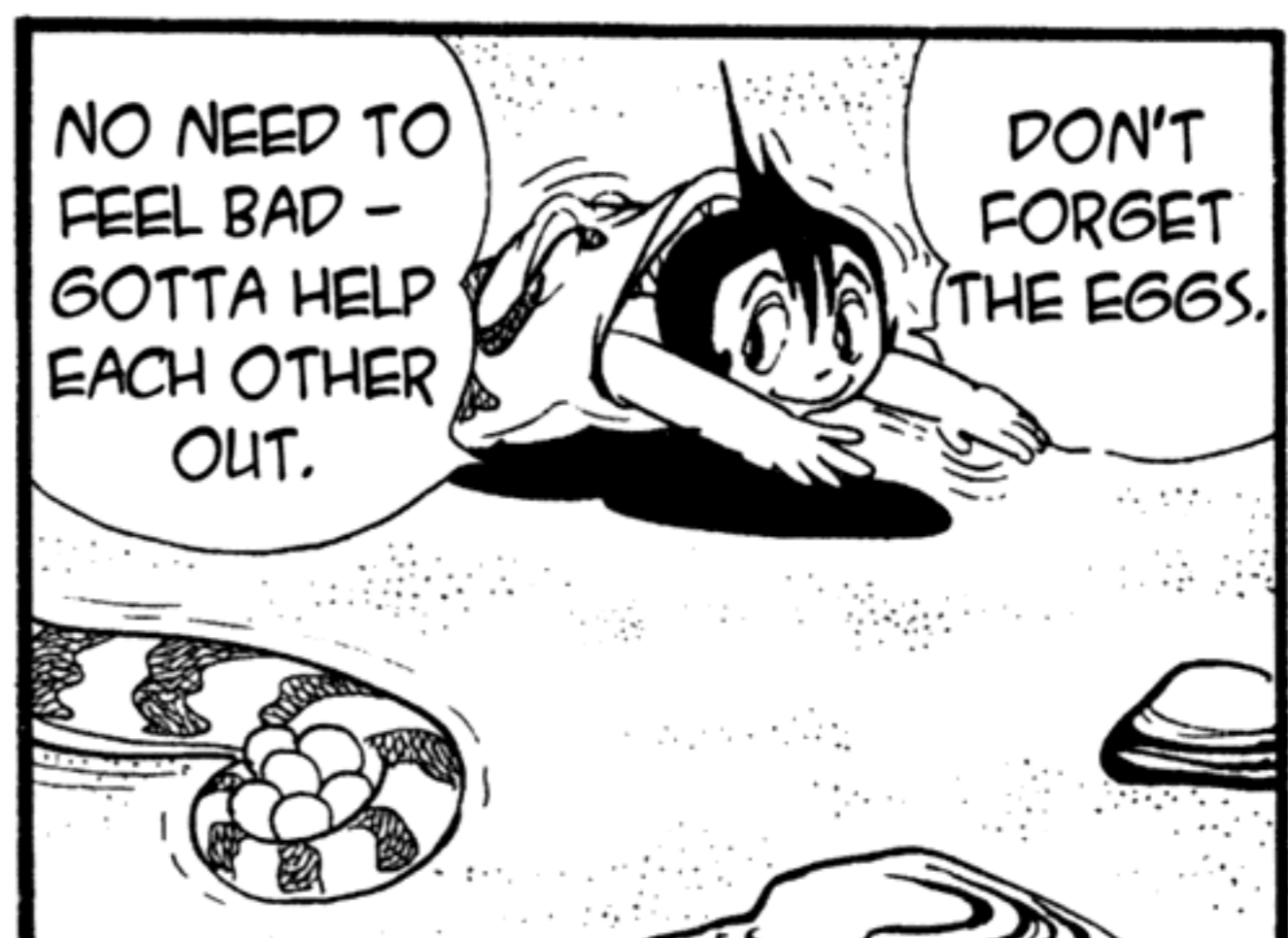
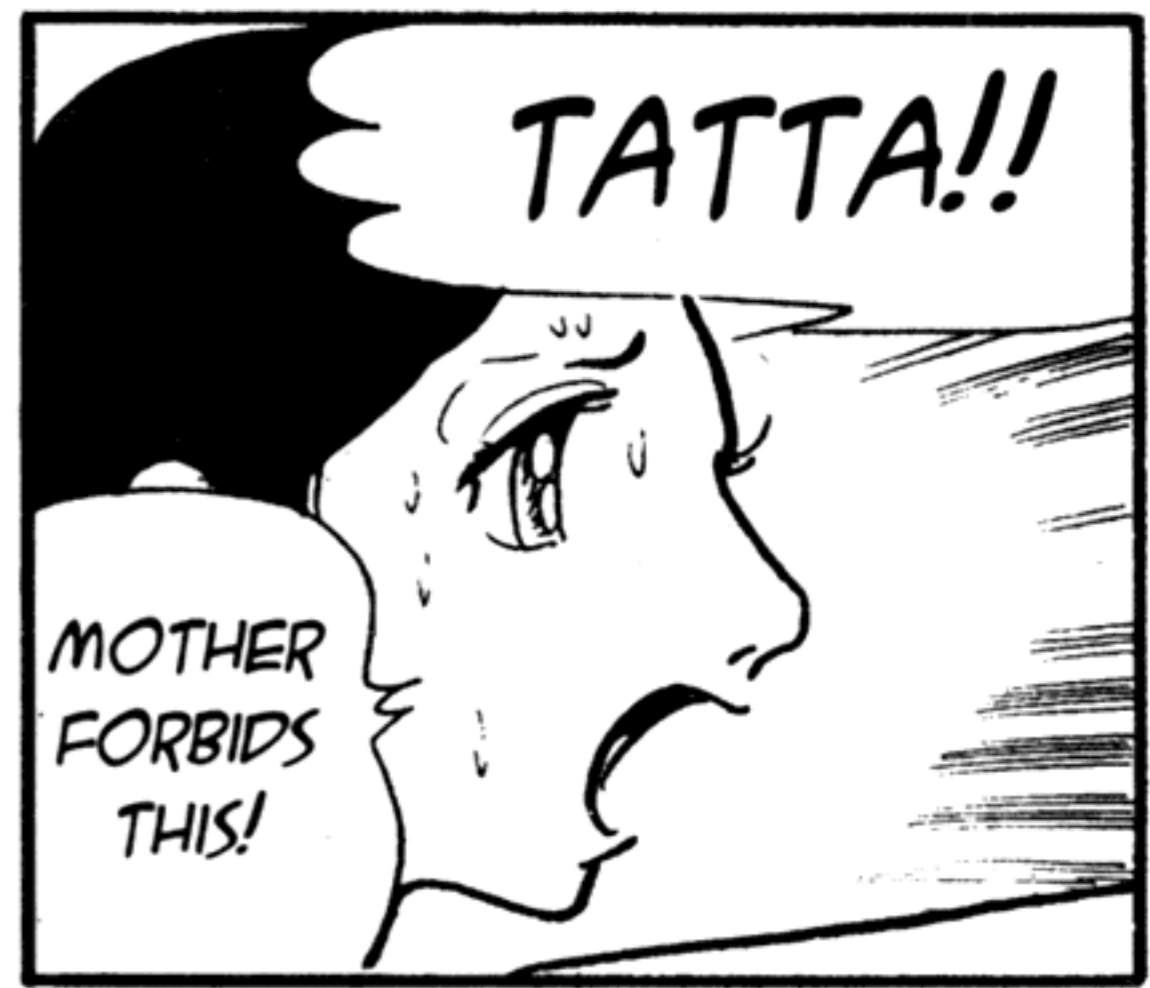
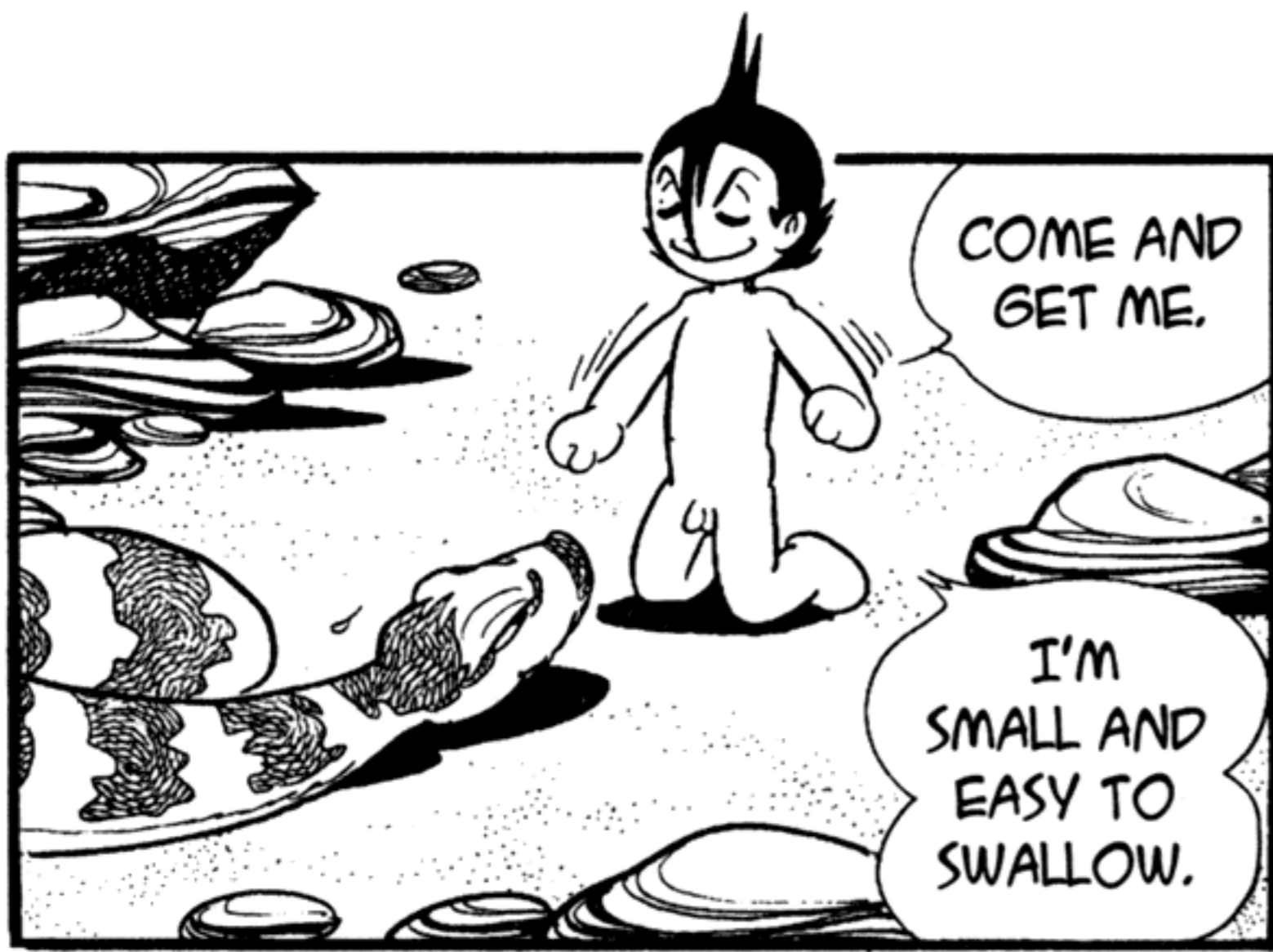


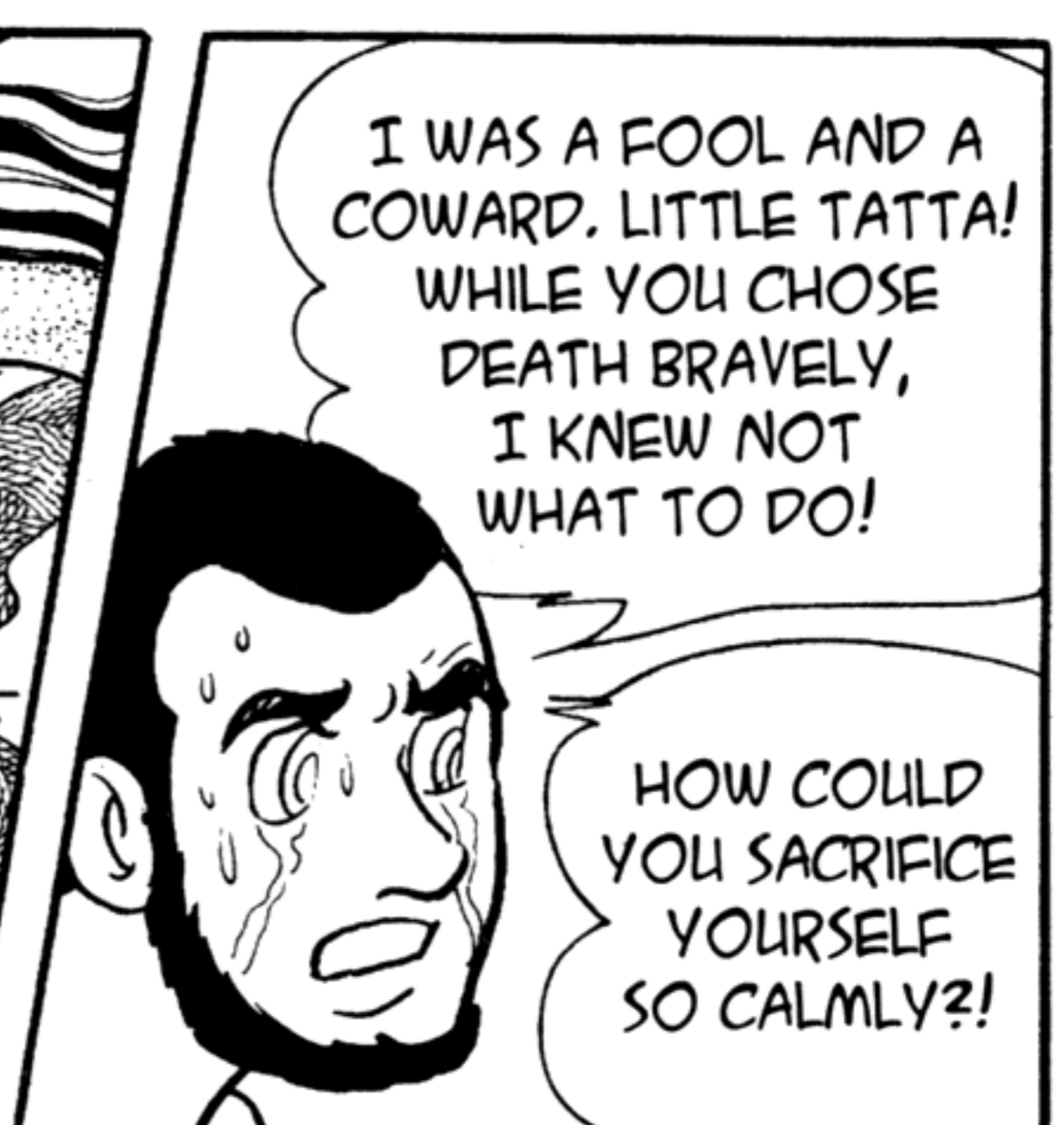
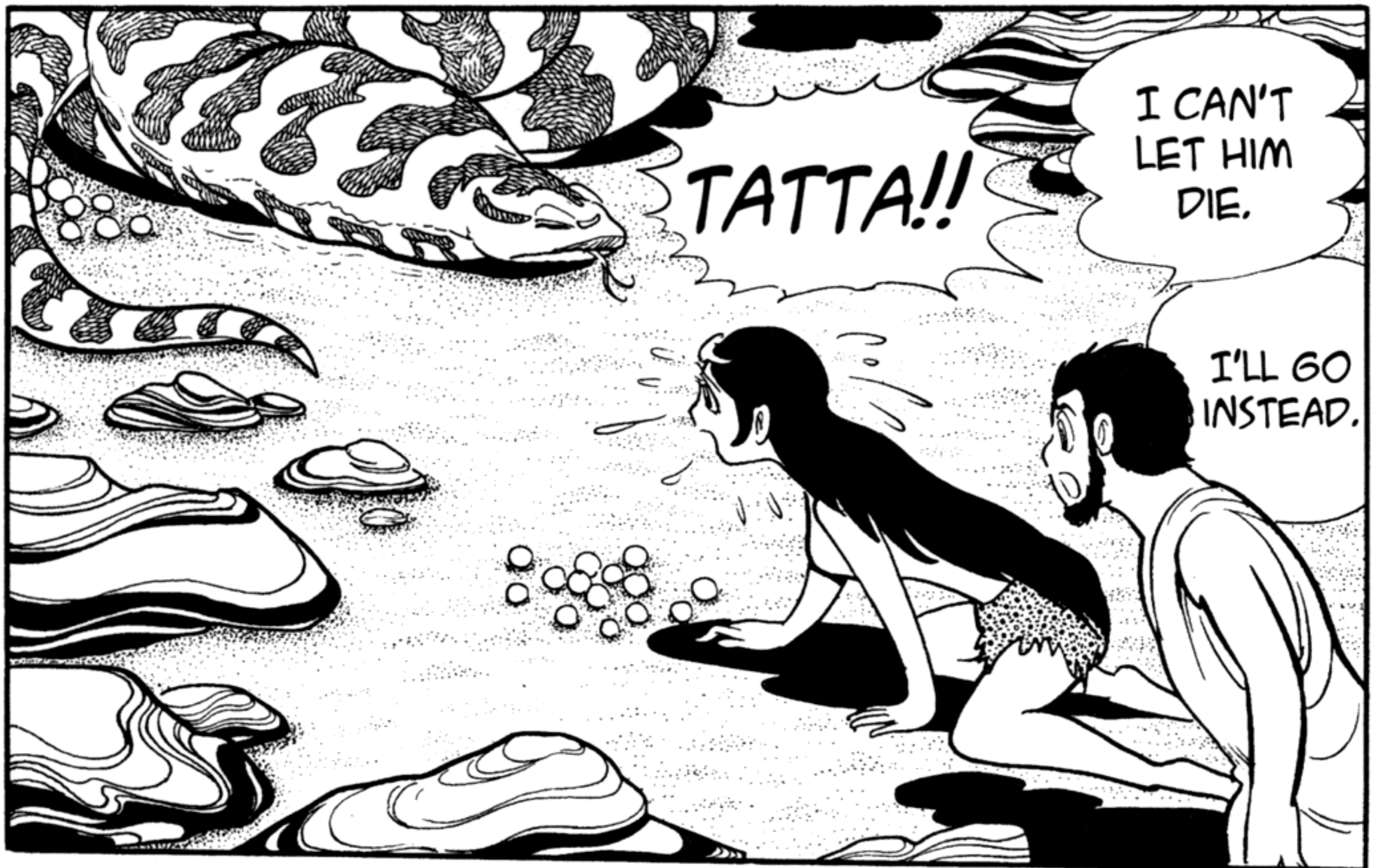


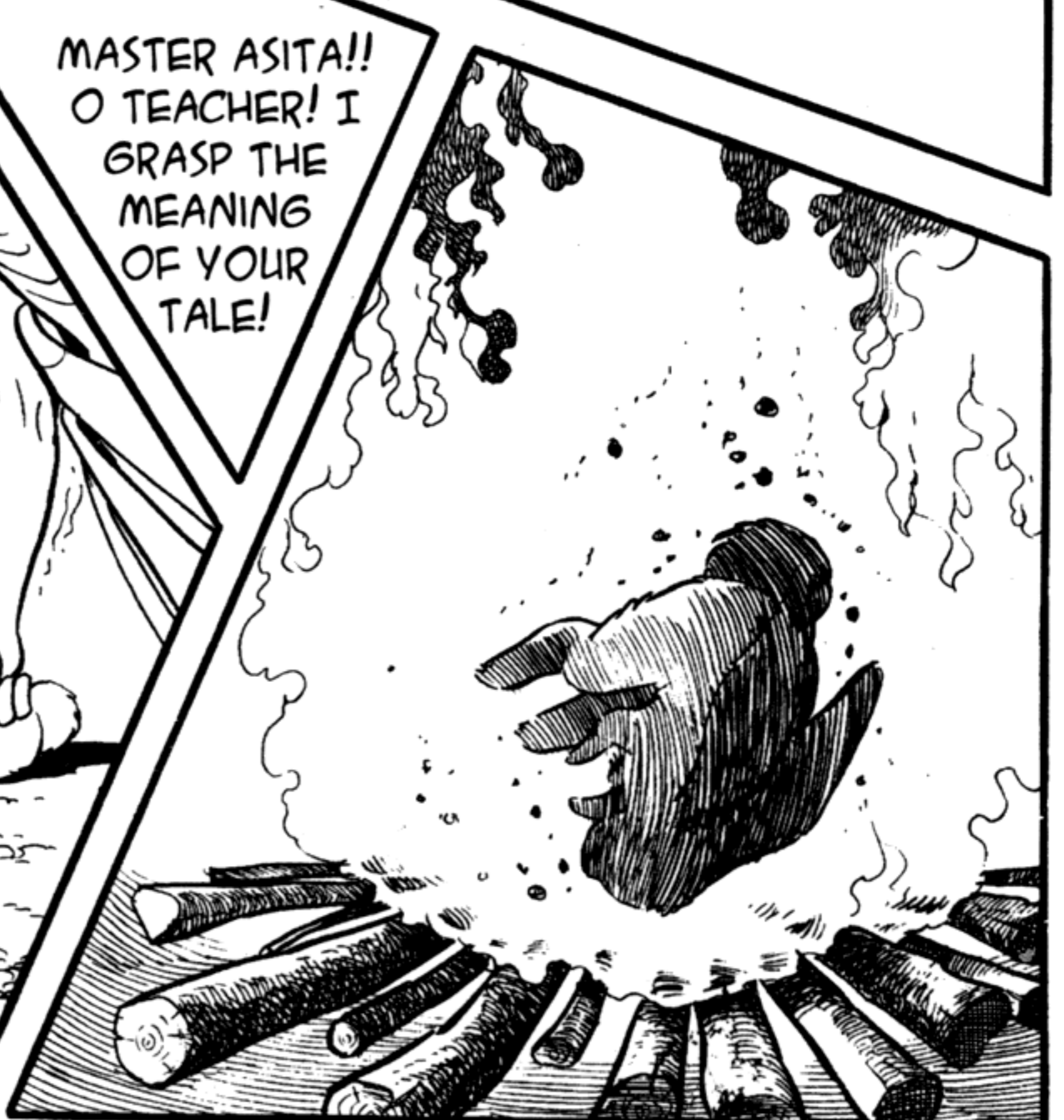
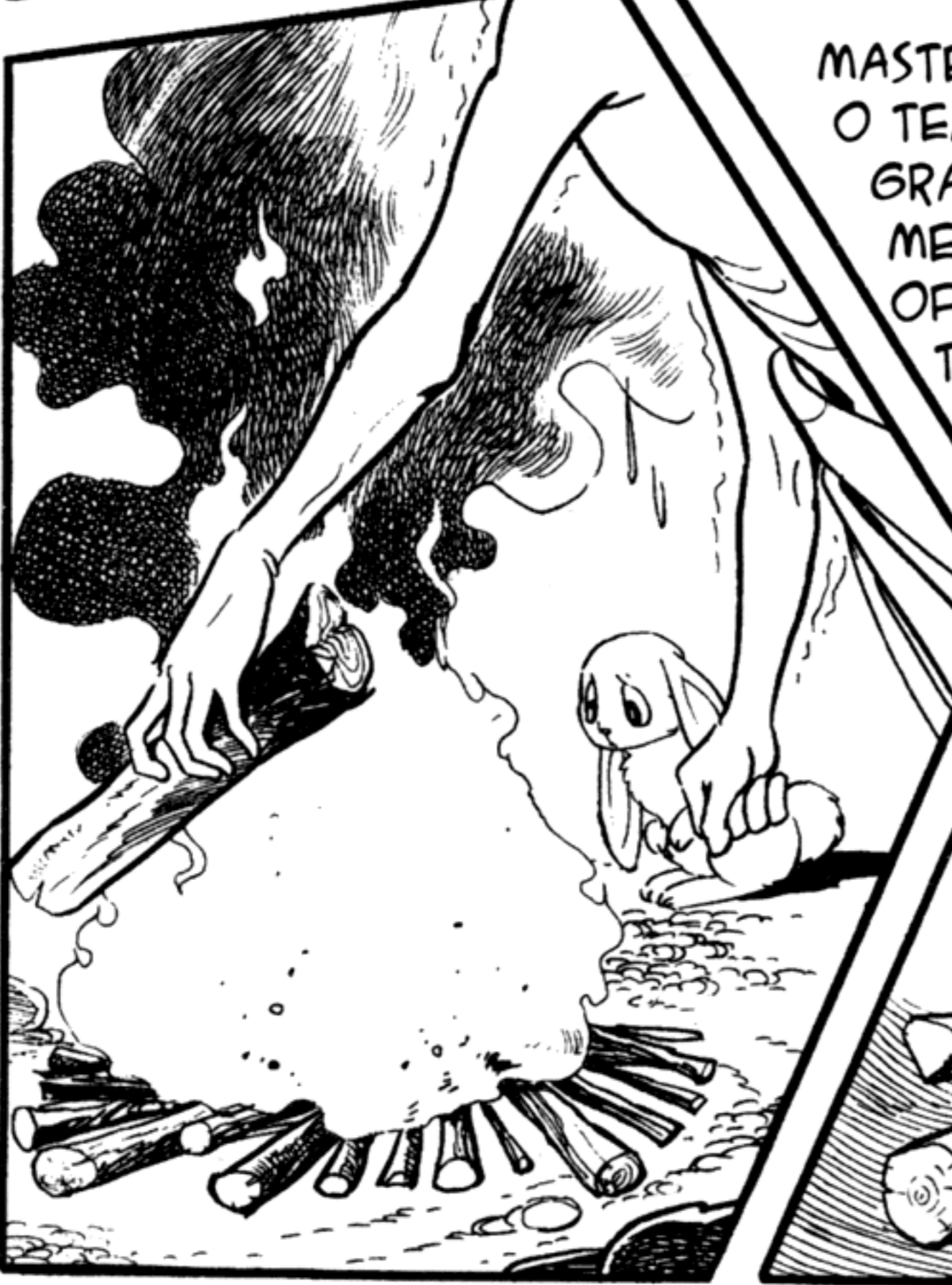
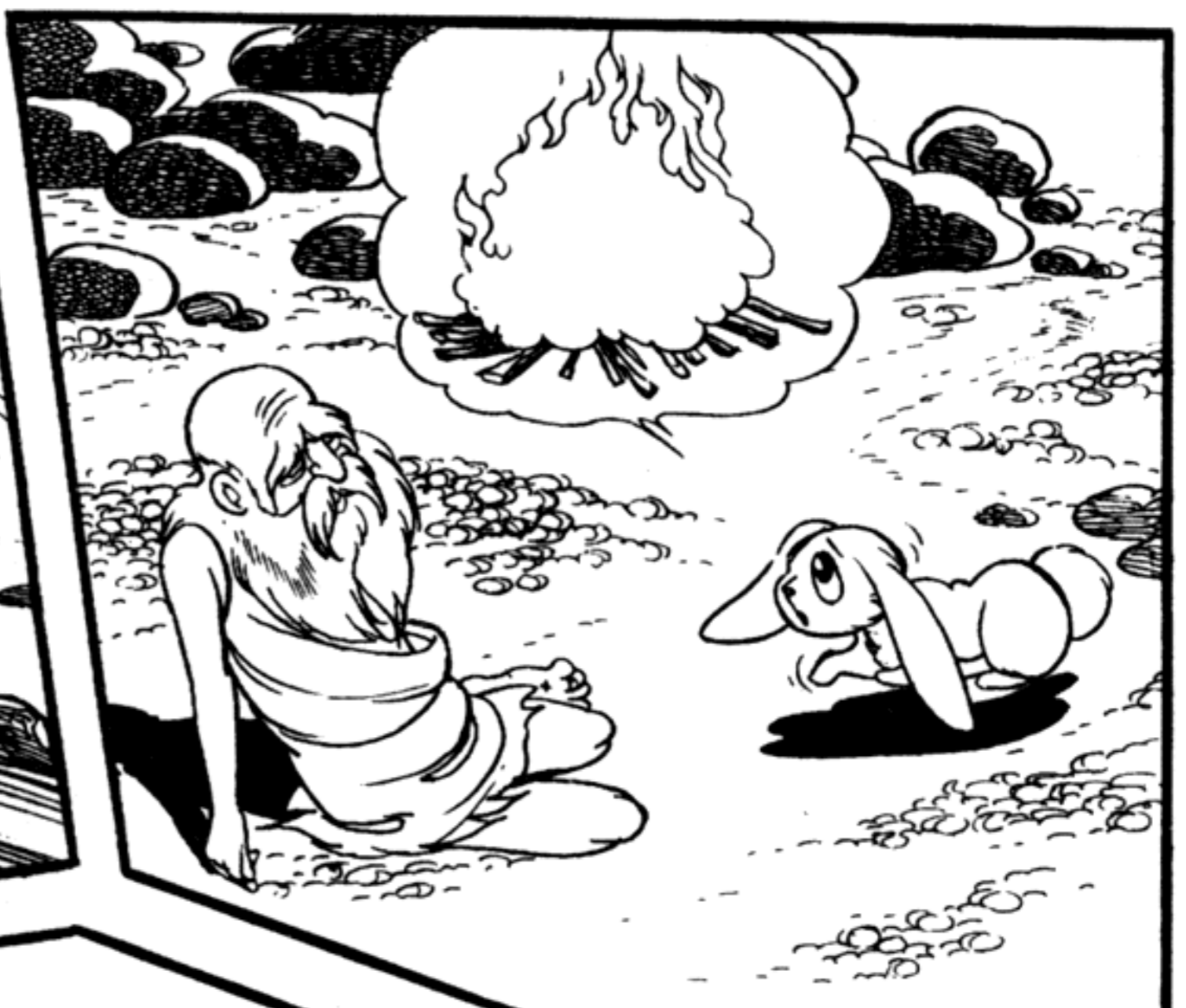
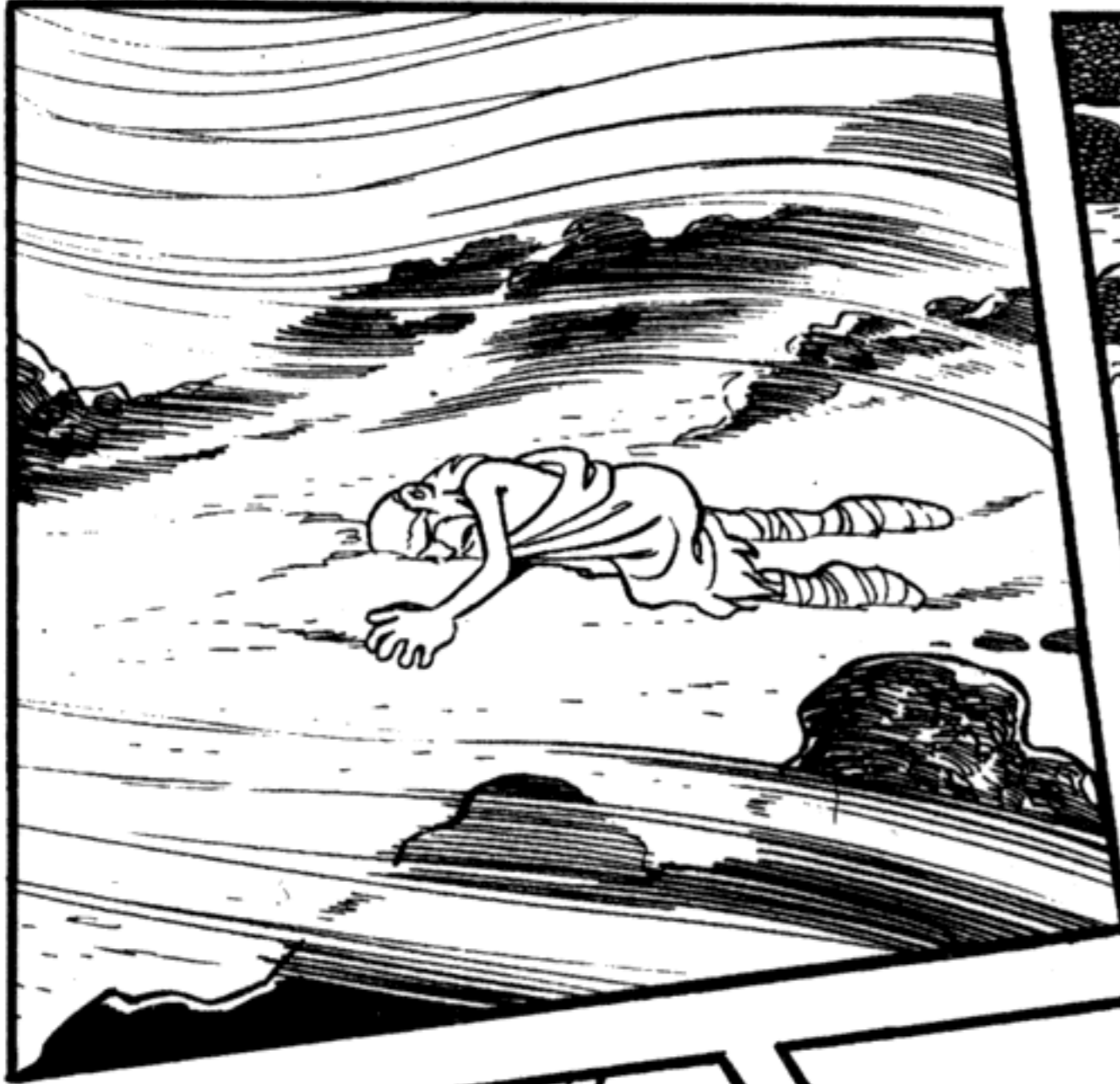












MASTER ASITA!
THIS CHILD
HAS SHOWN
ME THE
WAY!

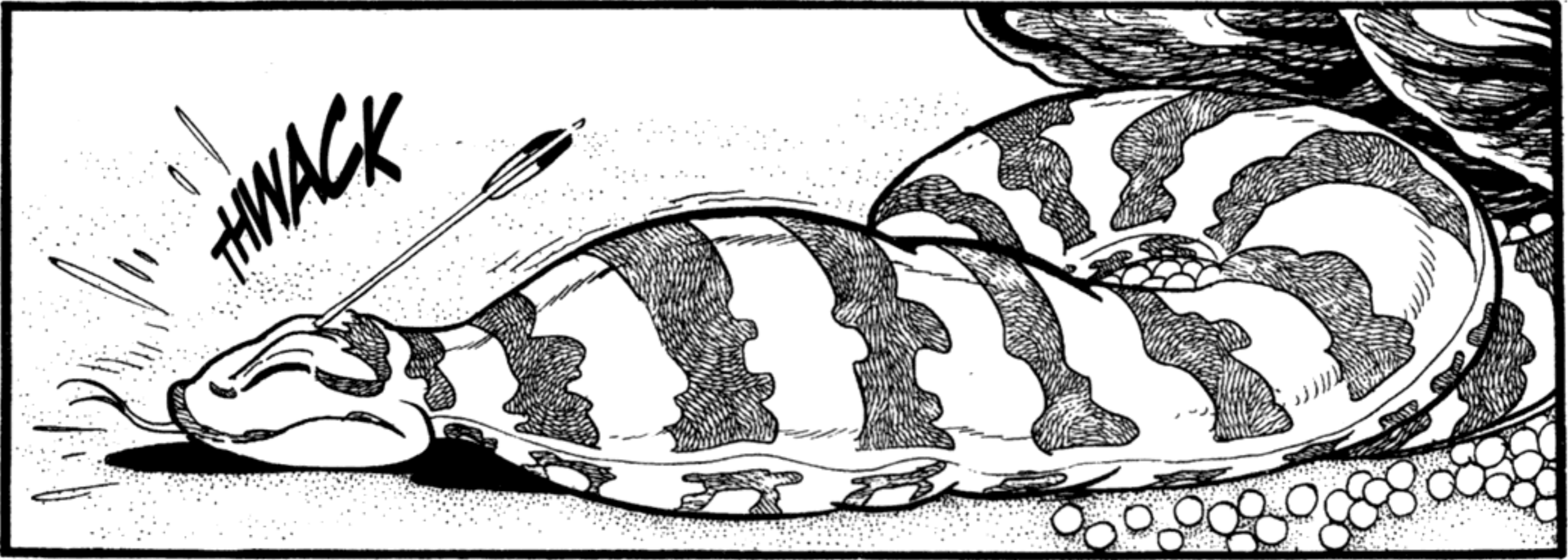
UNTIL NOW,
I'VE CONSIDERED
ONLY THE HUMAN
WORLD. THAT IS WHY
I COULD NOT
UNDERSTAND WHY A
RABBIT SACRIFICED
ITSELF TO SAVE
A HUMAN...



IN NATURE, HUMANS AND
BEASTS, EVEN SNAKES, ARE ALL KIN.

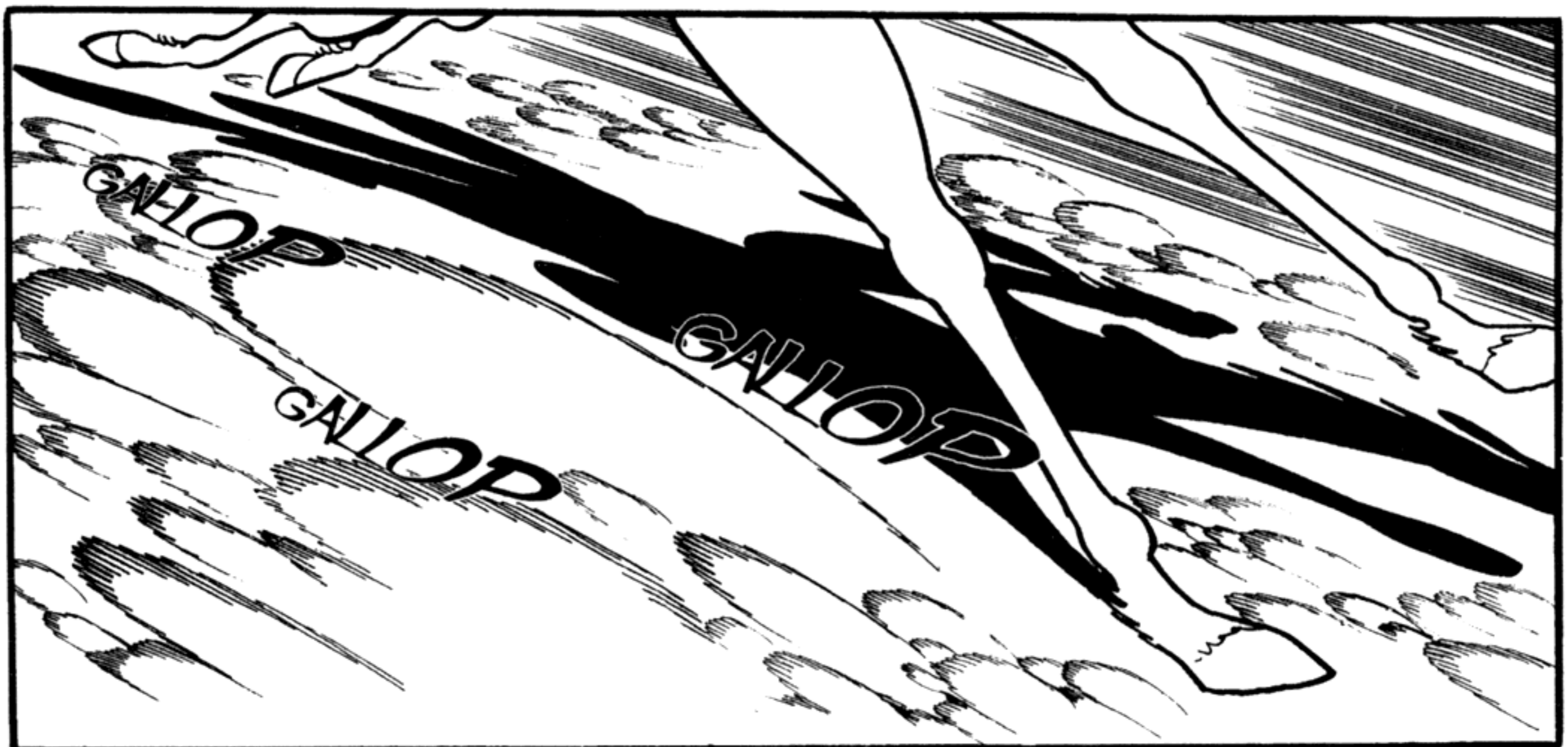
HELPING EACH OTHER IS
THE LAW OF THE LIVING.

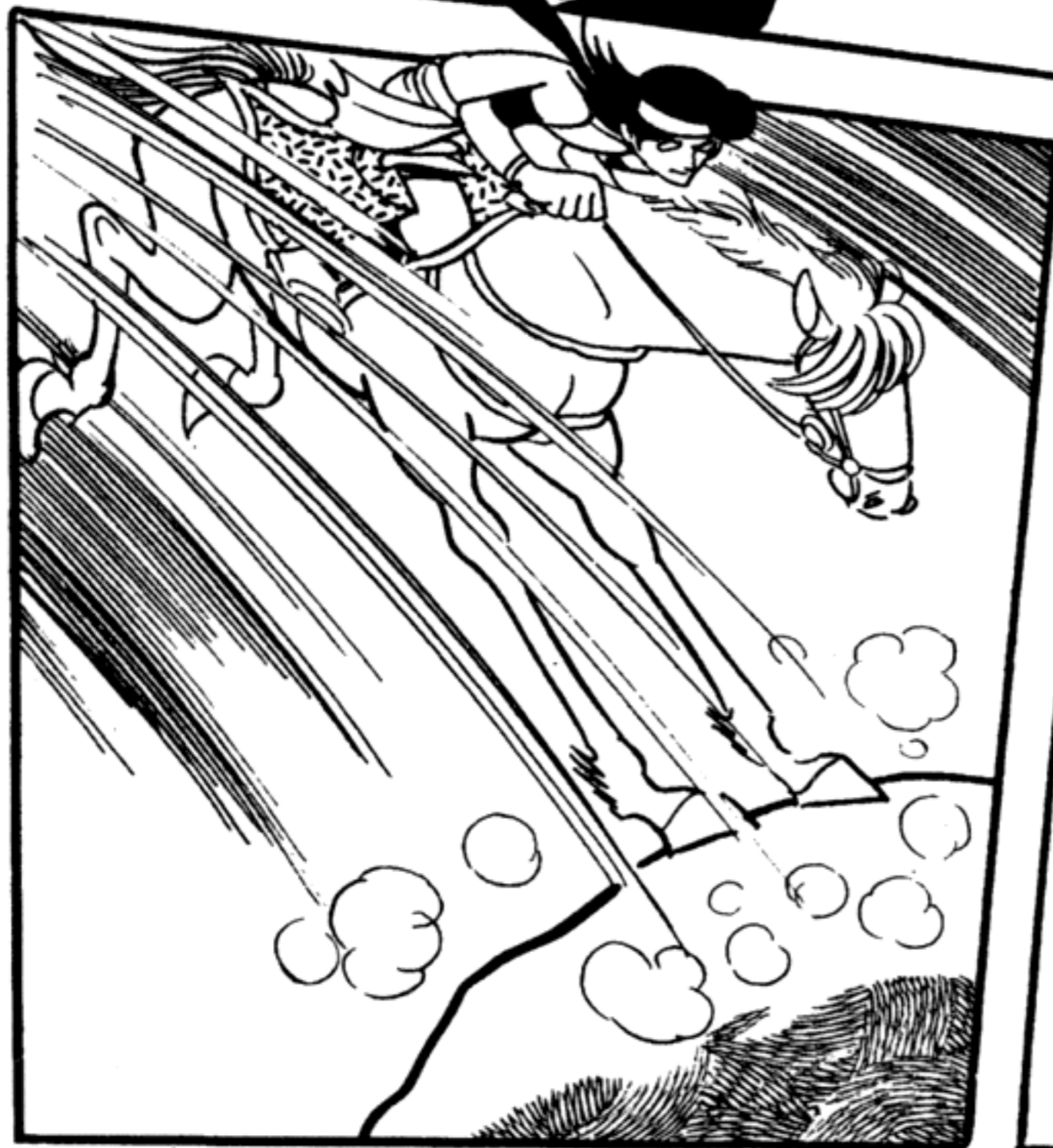
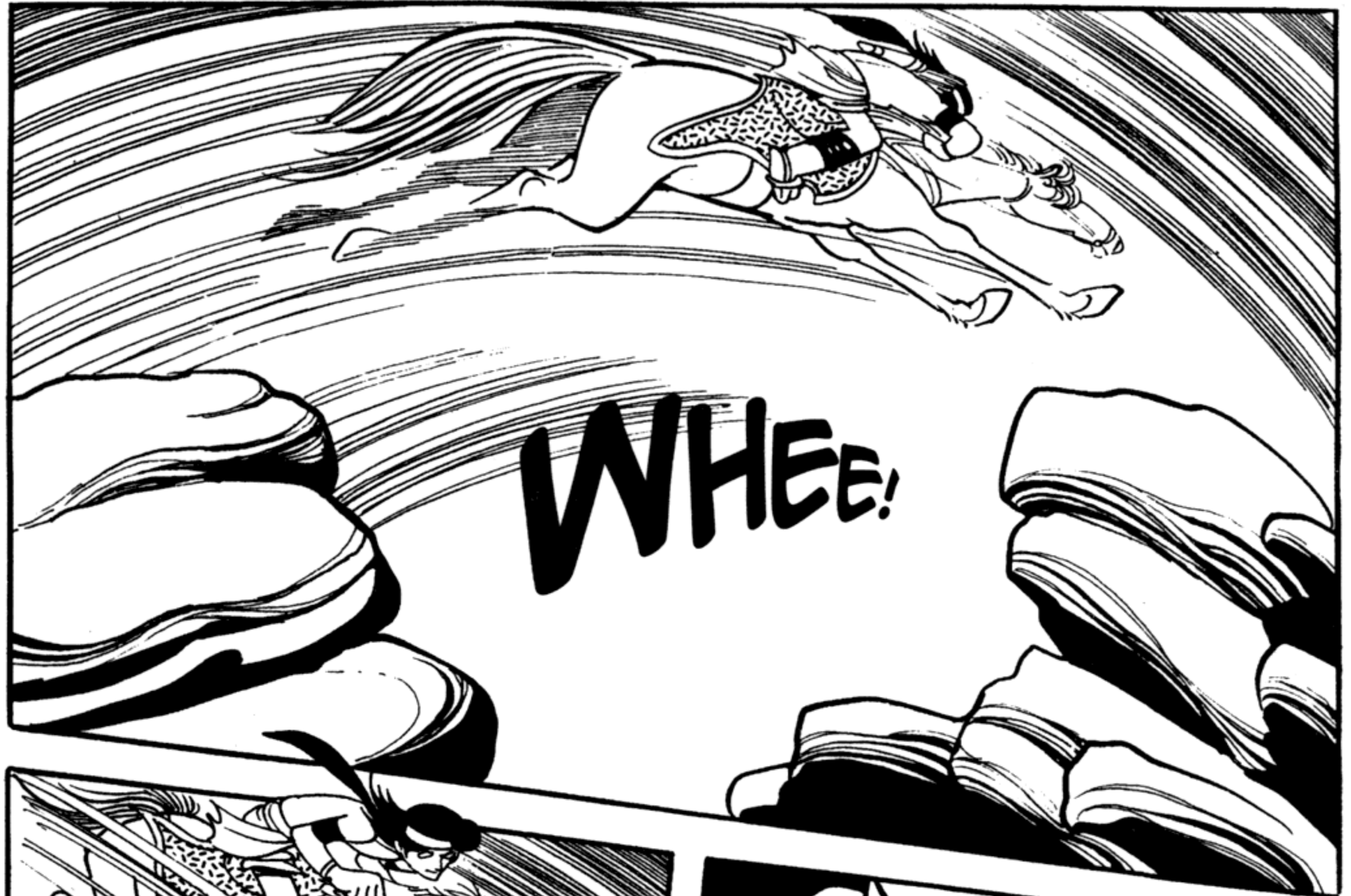
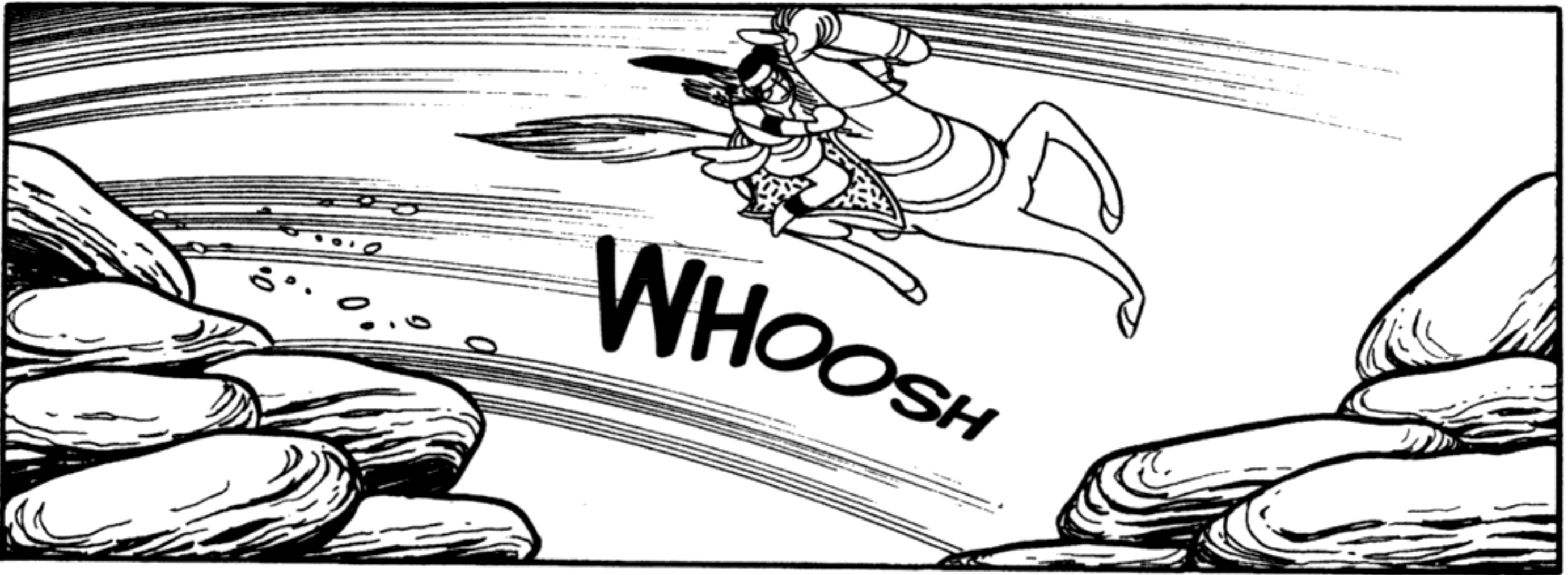
NOW I SEE THAT,
THROUGH THIS CHILD'S ACT.

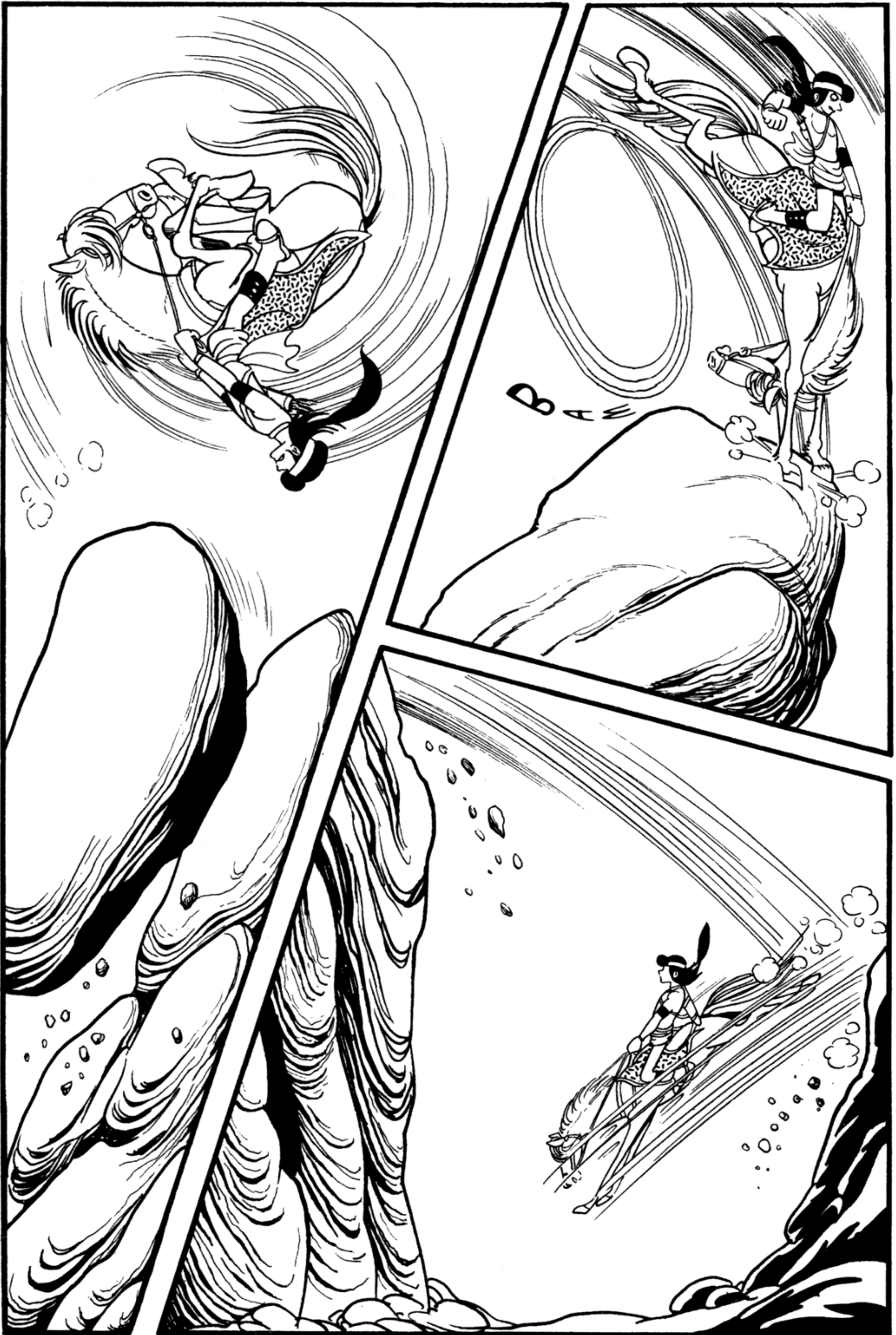


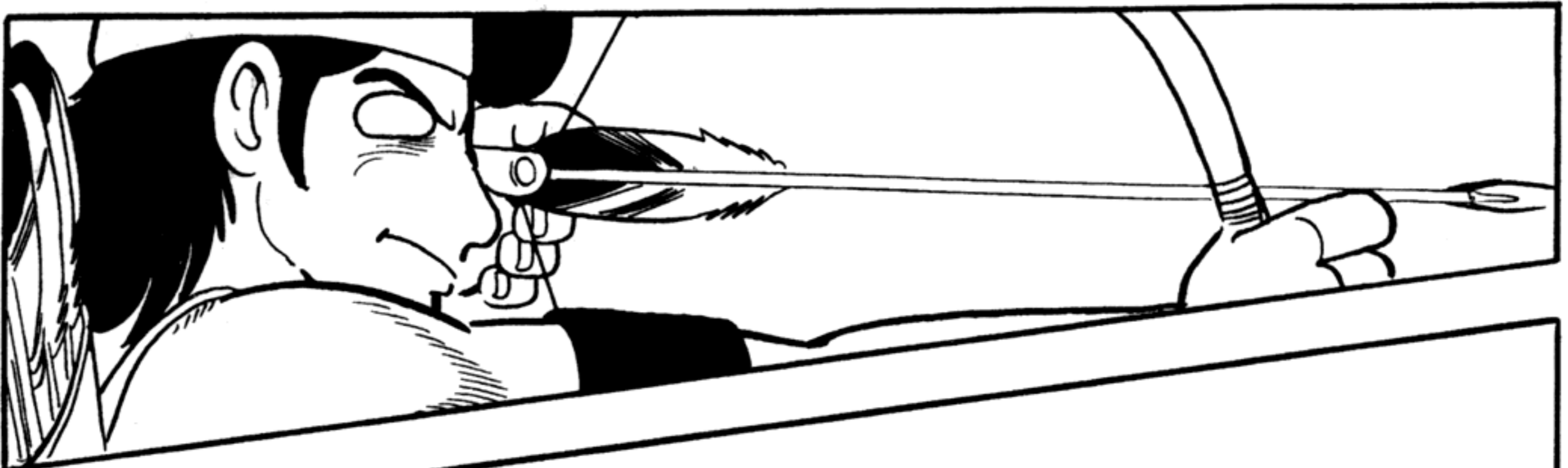
CHAPTER SIX

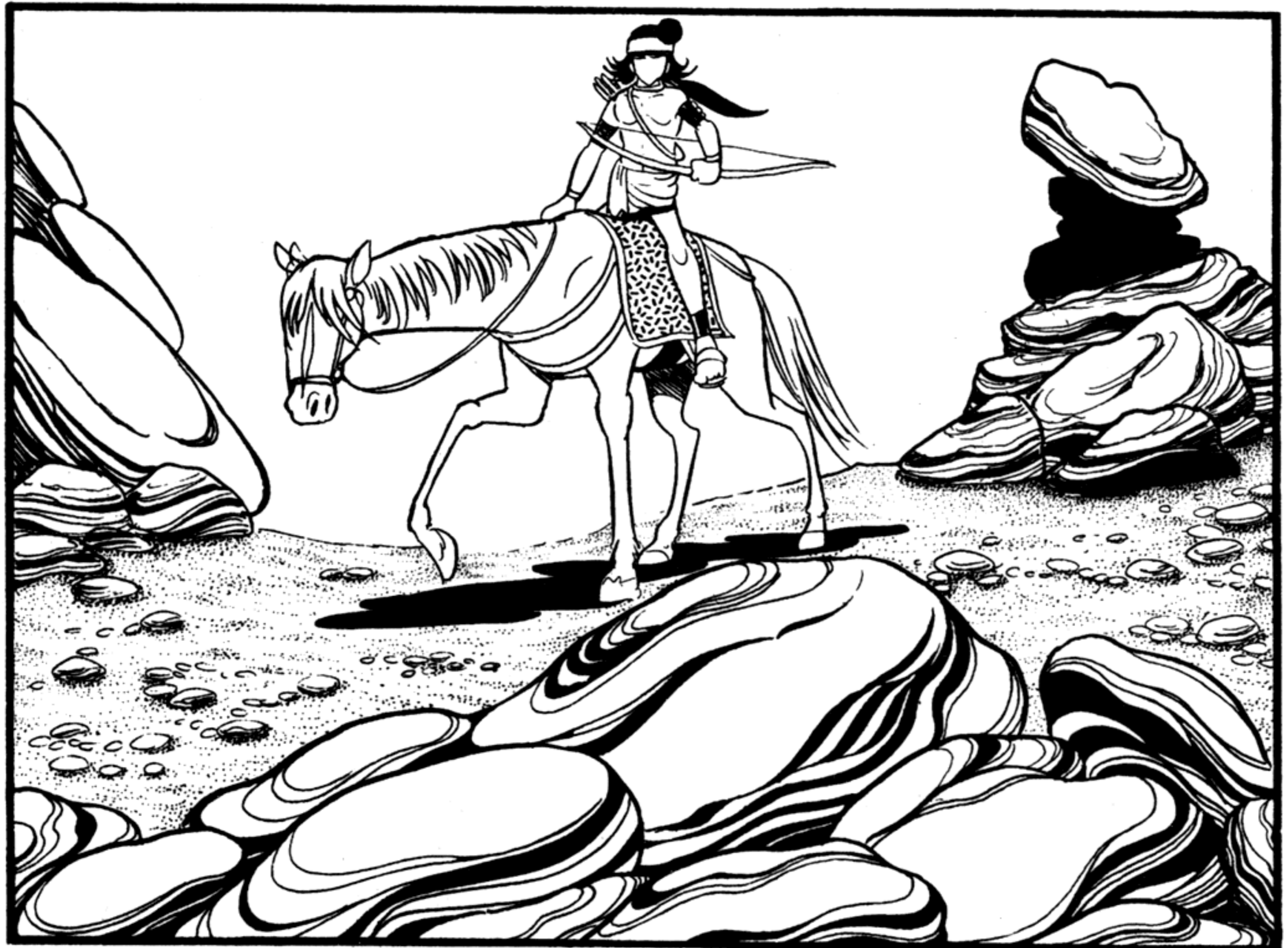
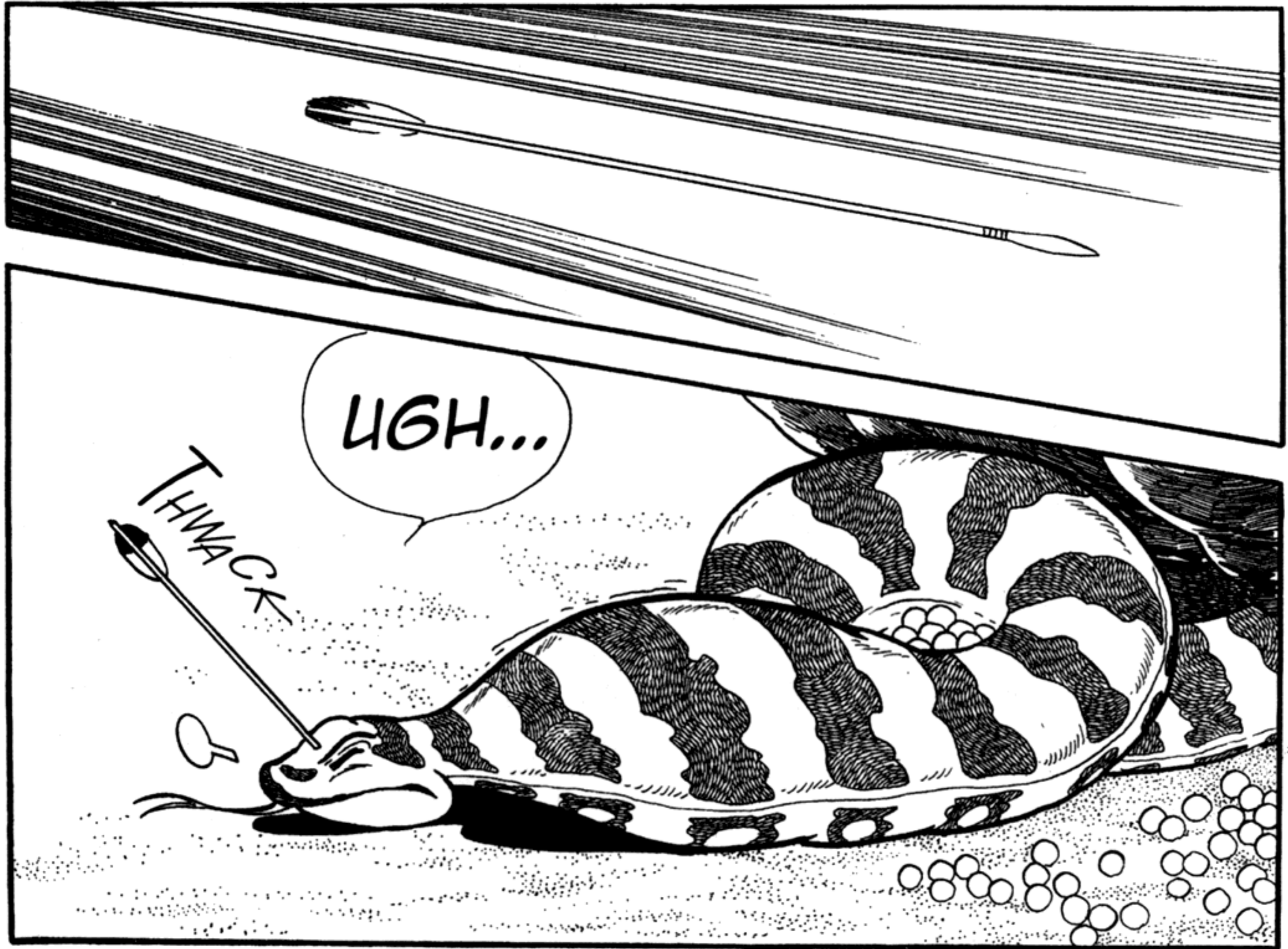
THE KING'S CUP

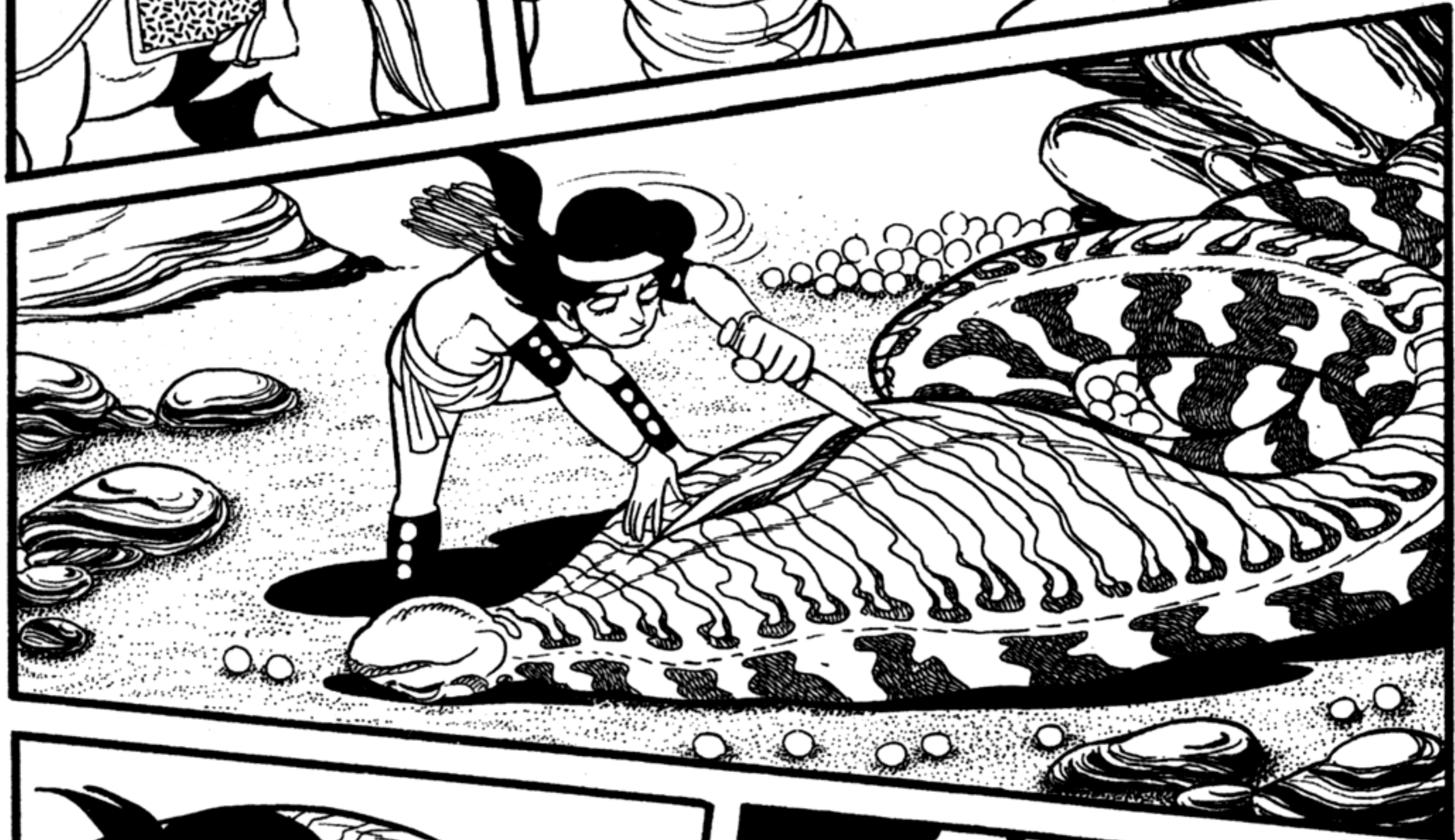
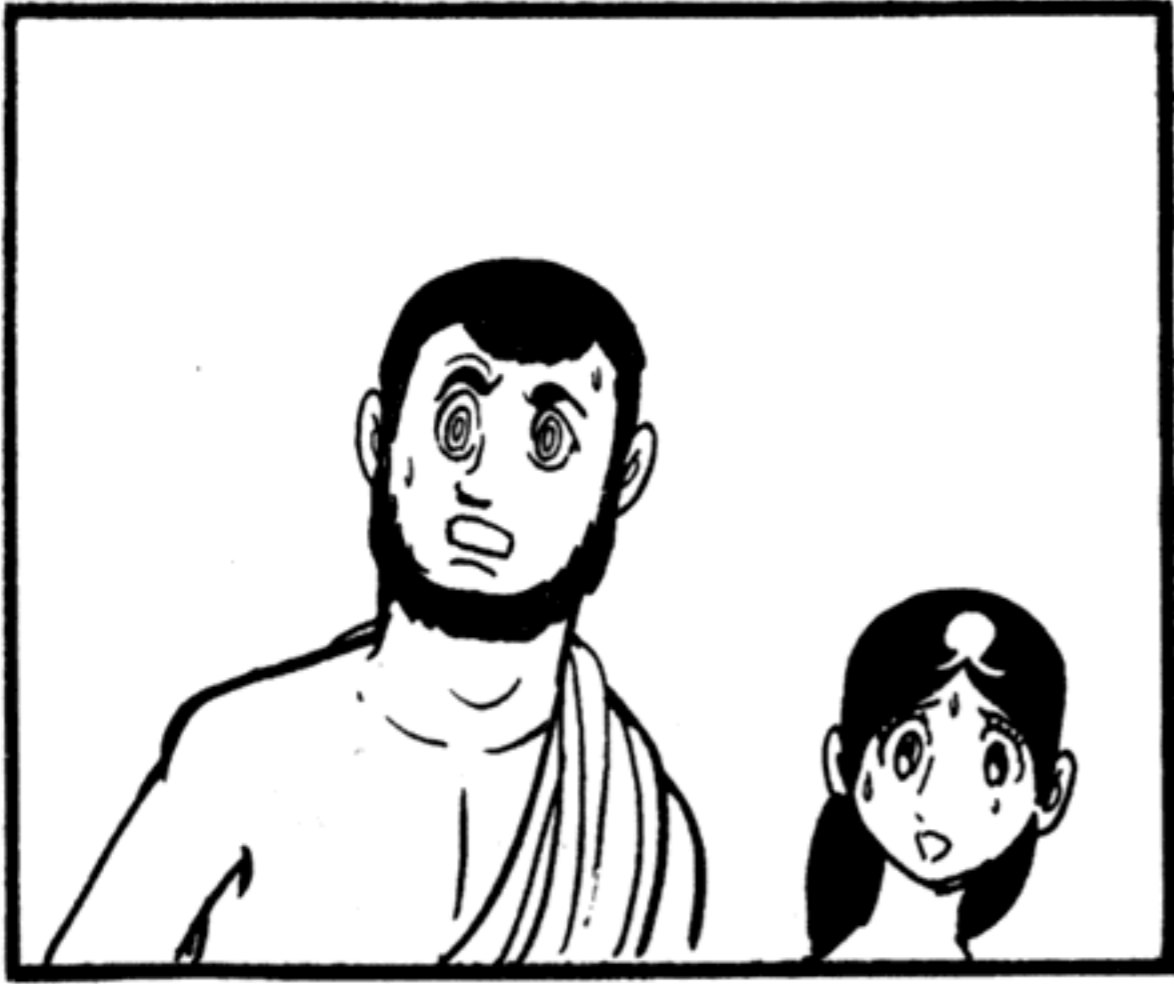






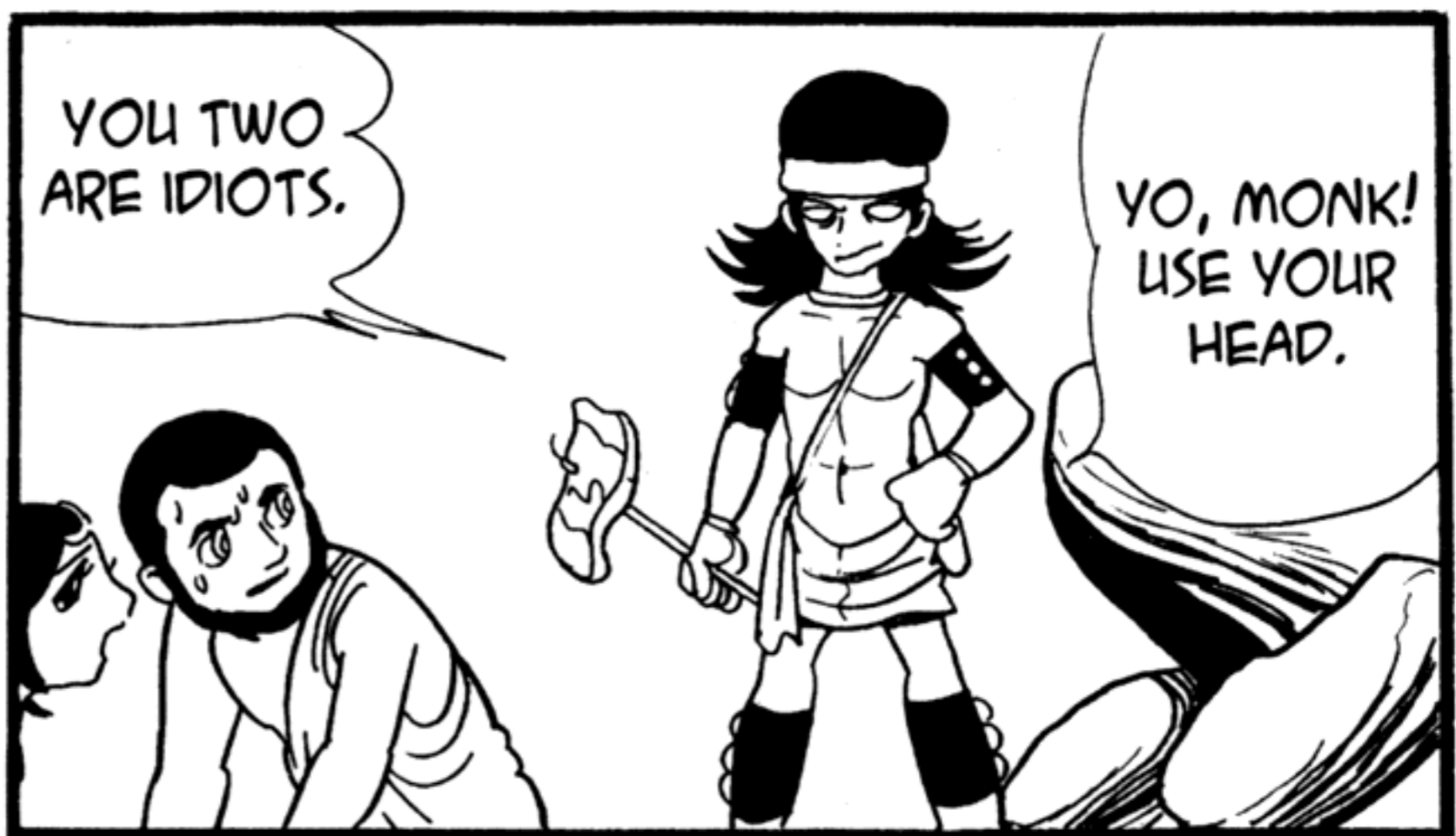








OH, TATTA...



YOU TWO ARE IDIOTS.

YO, MONK!
USE YOUR
HEAD.



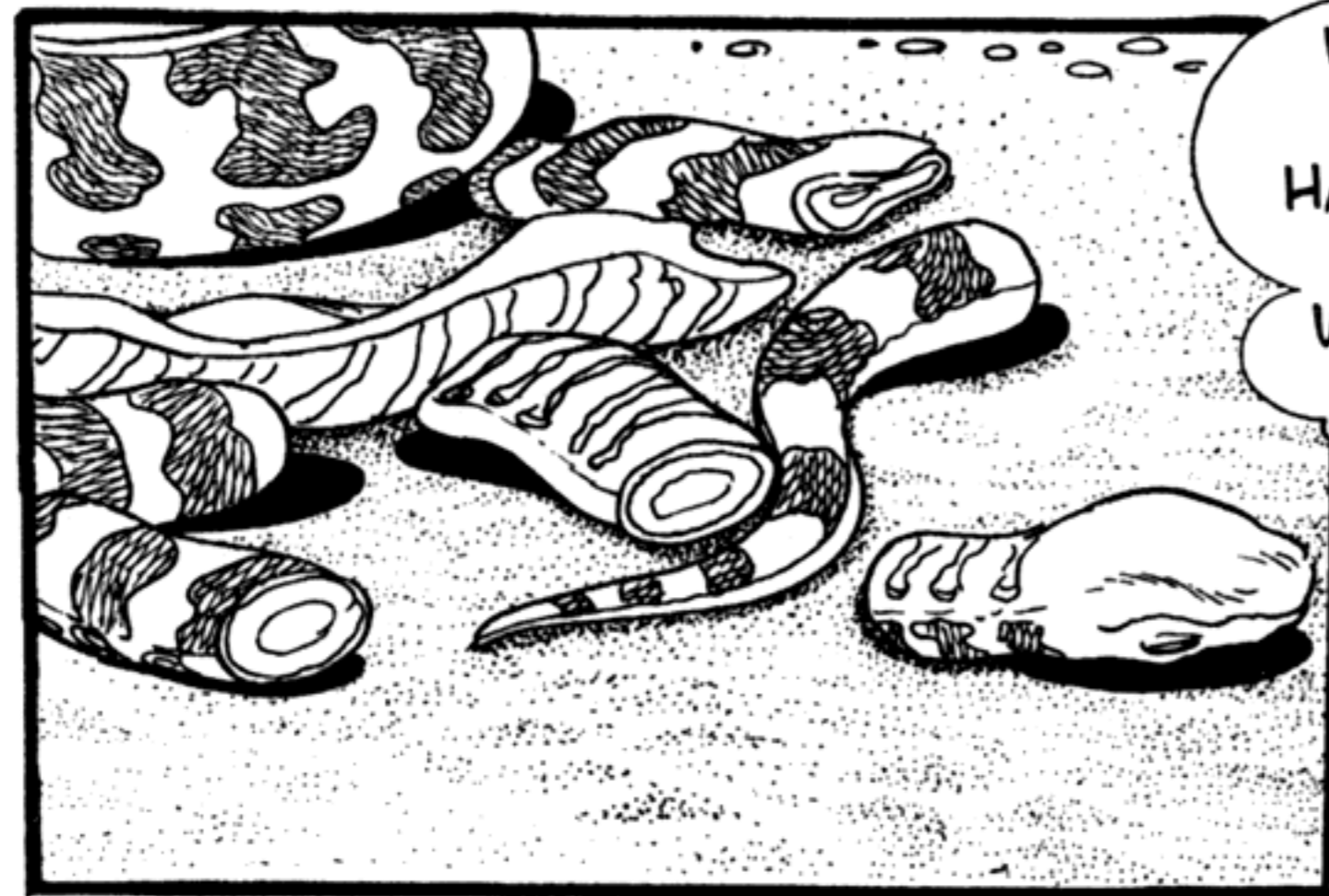
WHY WERE
YOU ALL
FUSSING OVER
SOME STUPID
TRADE?

WHY NOT
KILL THE
SNAKE
AND
EAT IT?



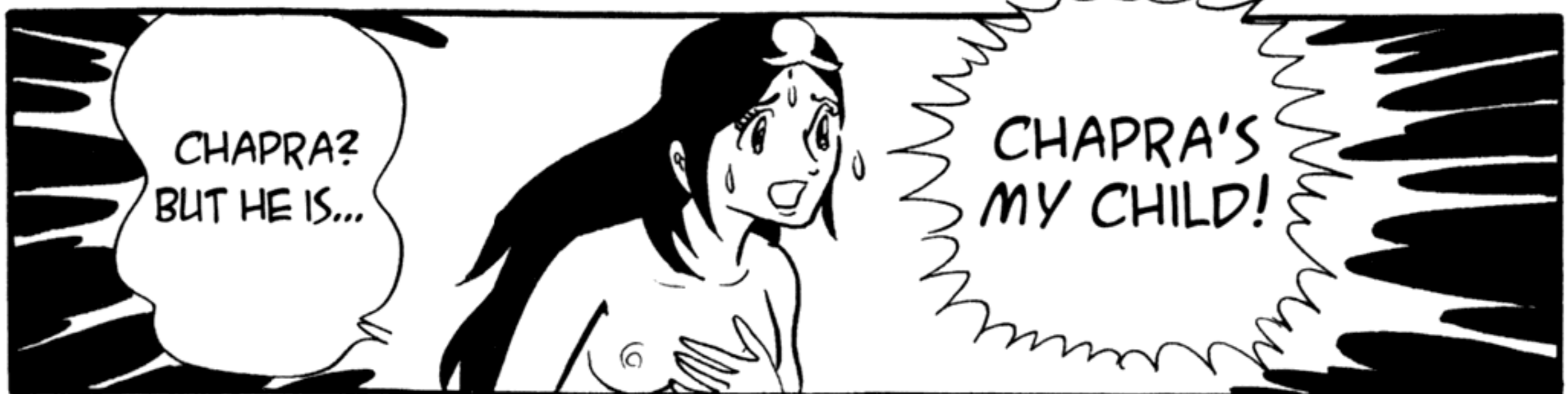
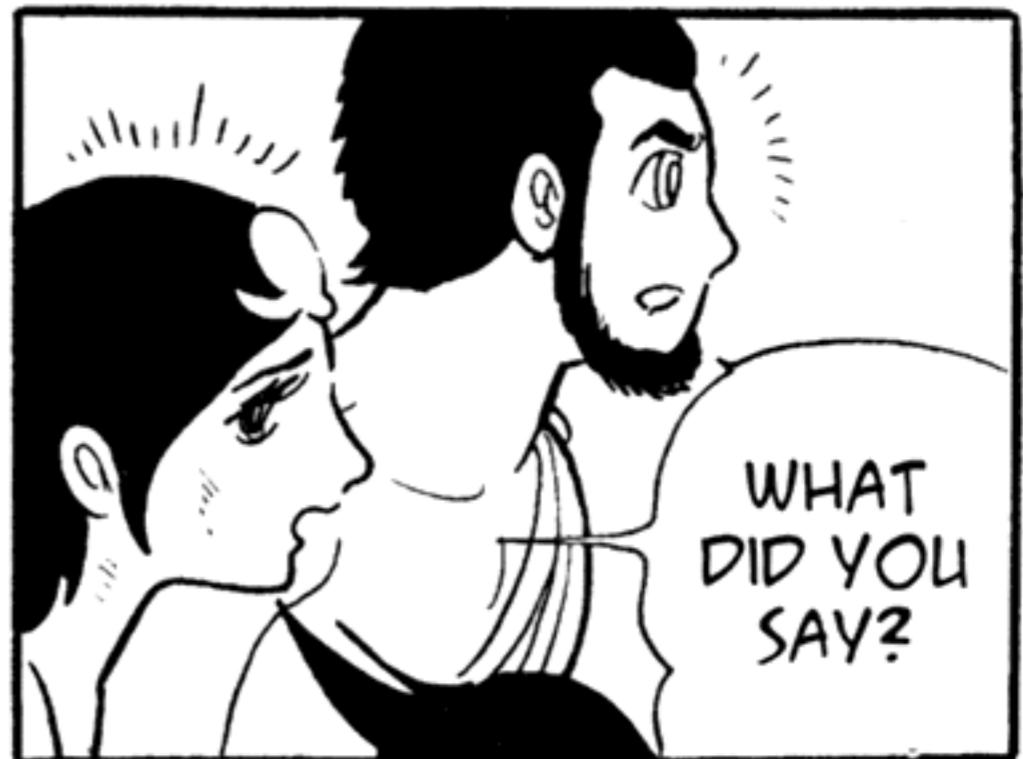
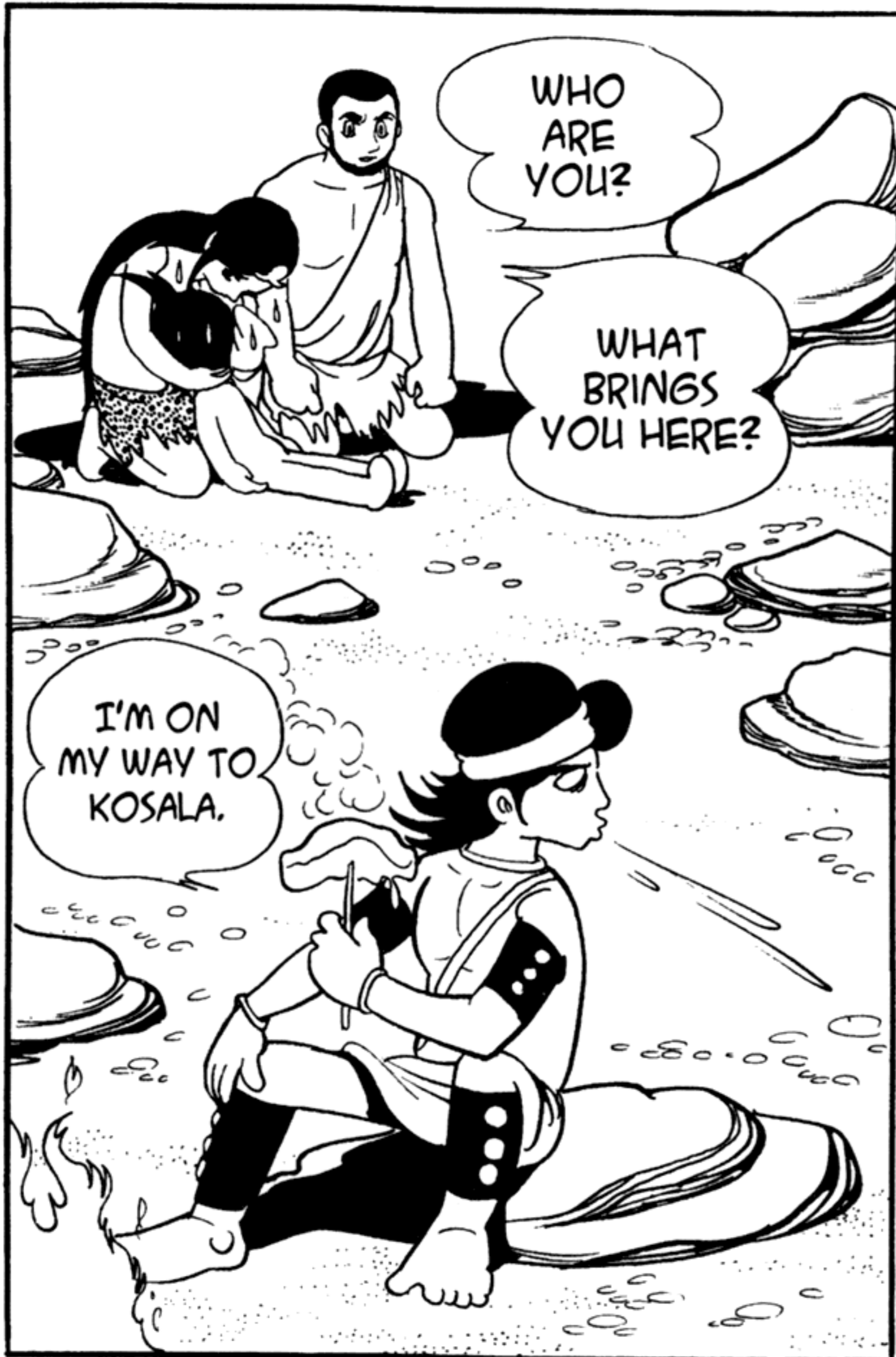
EAT

HUH,
DON'T
WANT
ANY?



WON'T GET
ANY ALMS
HANGING OUT
IN THIS
WASTELAND,
MONK.



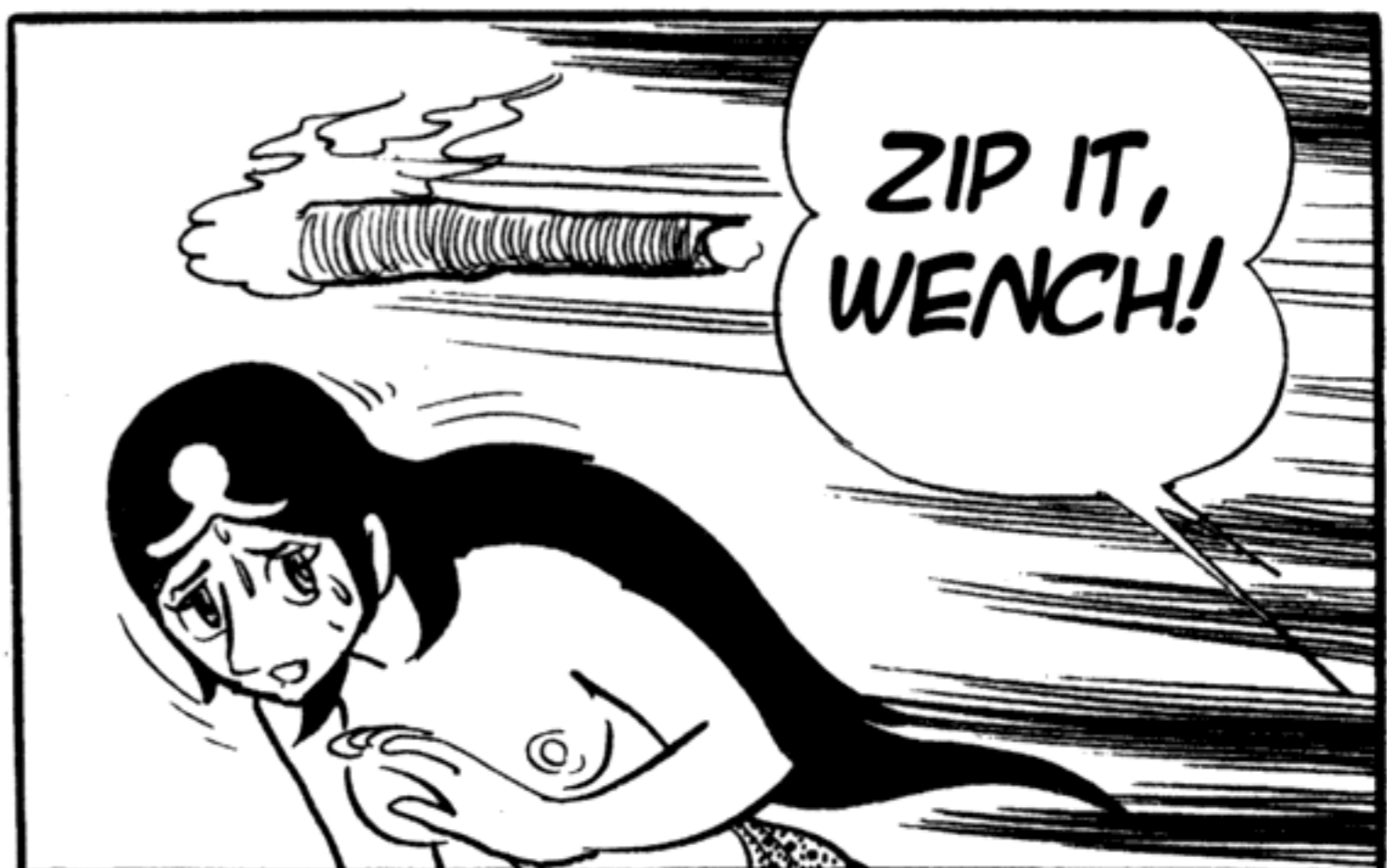




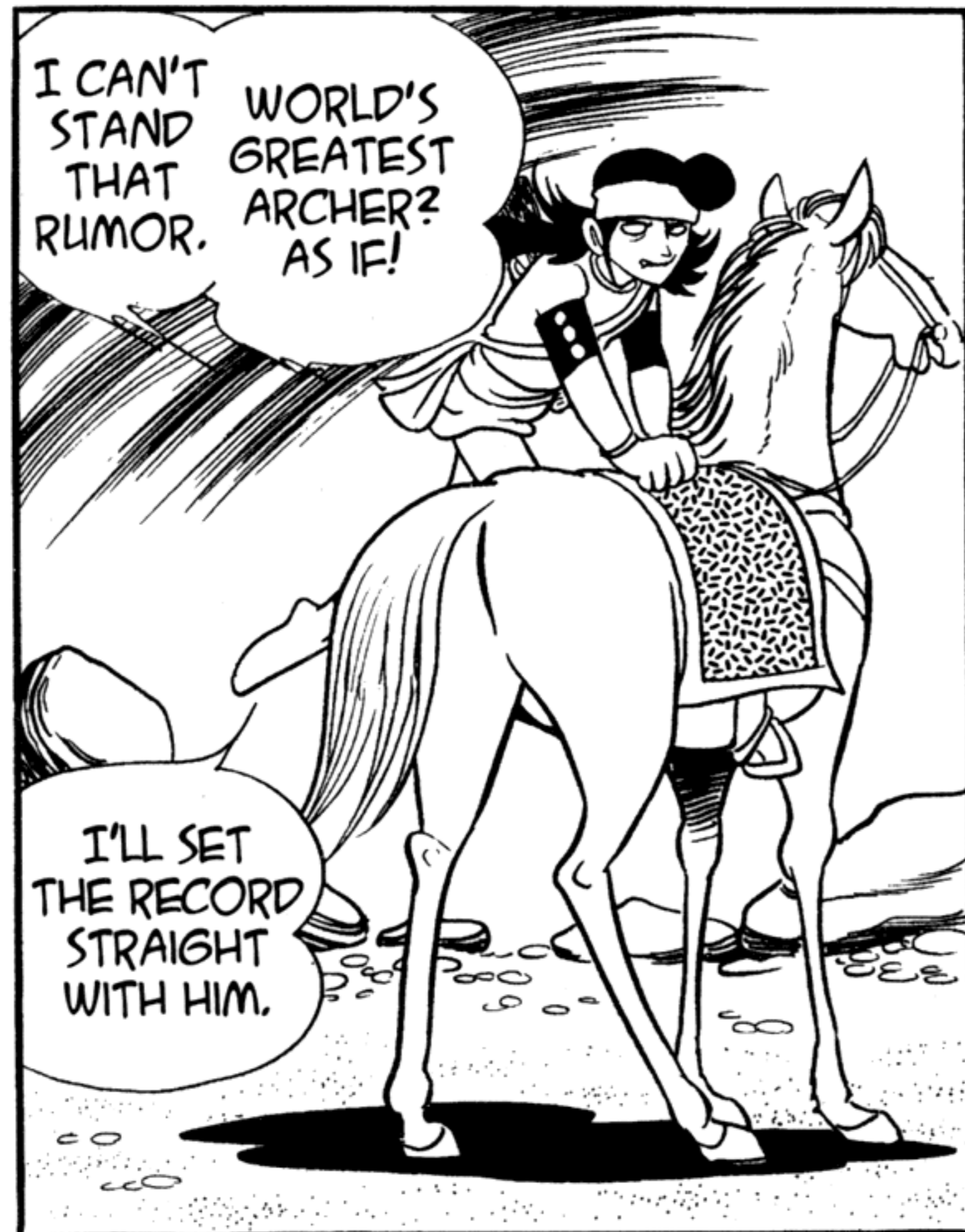
CHAPRA'S THE SON OF A GENERAL BY OFFICIAL DECREE. WHAT'S MORE, RUMOR HAS IT HE'S THE GREATEST ARCHER UNDER THE SUN.



CHAPRA IS NO ONE ELSE'S CHILD. HE'S MY...MY...



ZIP IT, WENCH!



I CAN'T STAND THAT RUMOR.

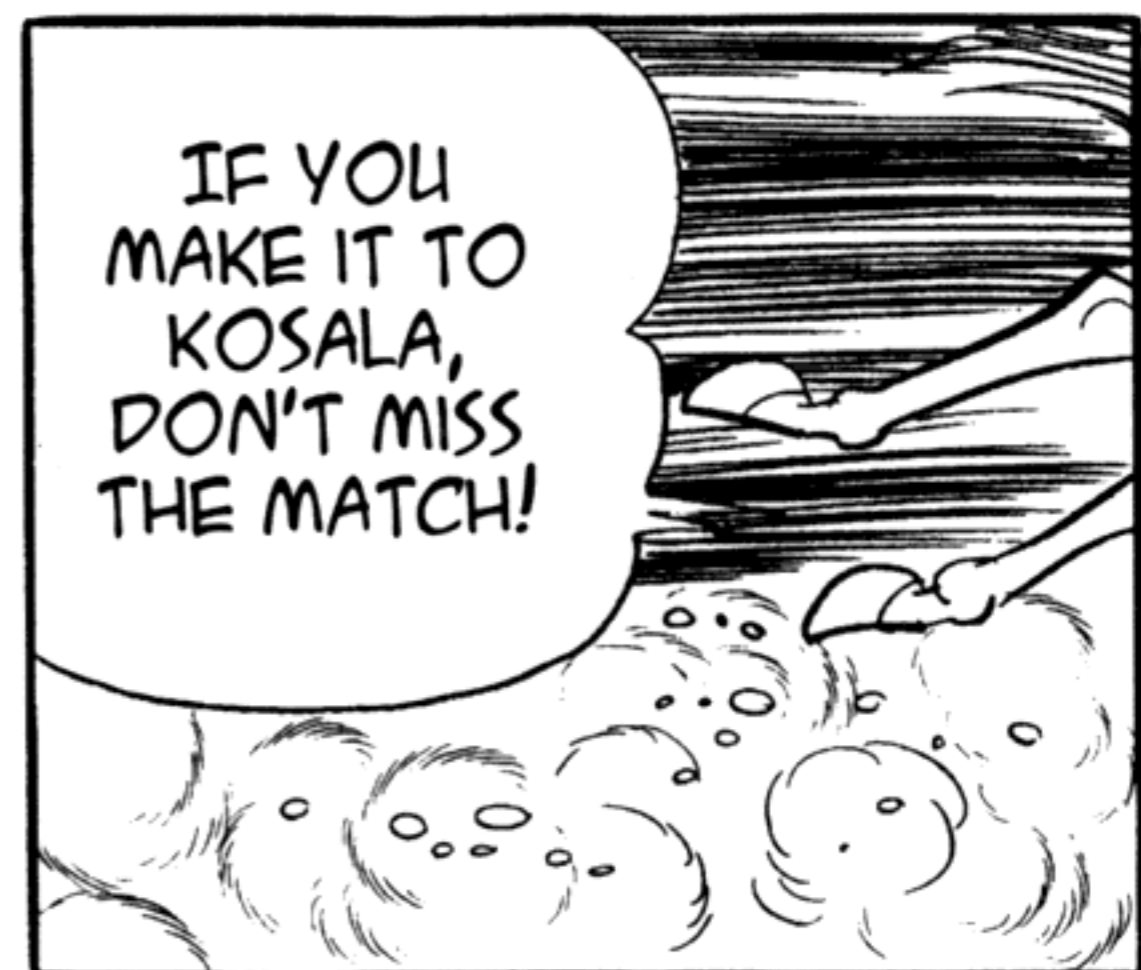
WORLD'S GREATEST ARCHER? AS IF!

I'LL SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT WITH HIM.

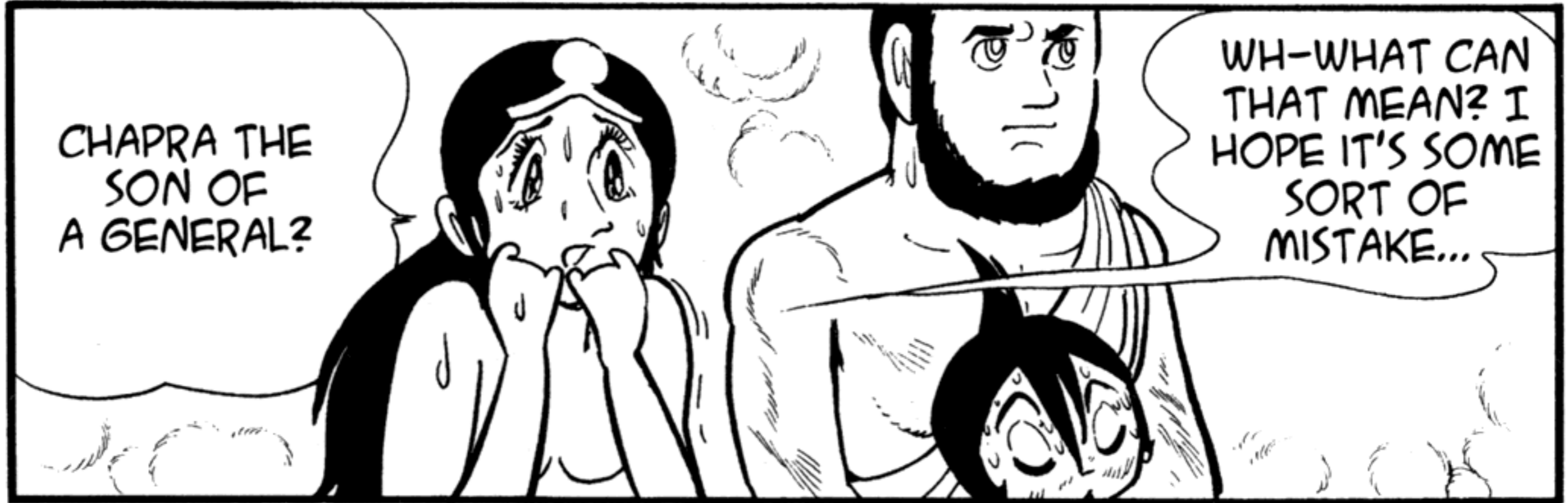


THE WORLD'S BEST ARCHER...

IS RIGHT HERE.

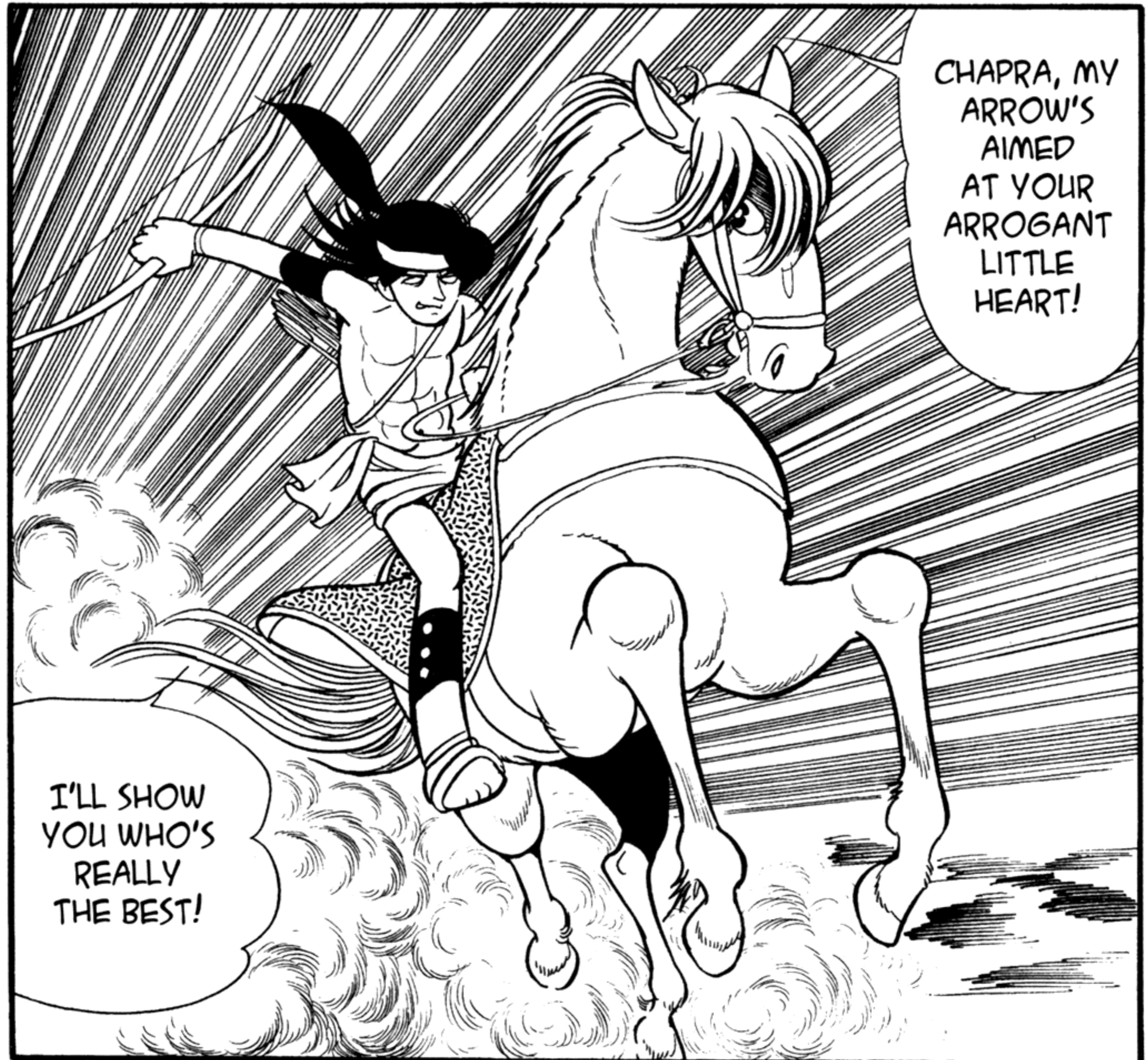


IF YOU MAKE IT TO KOSALA, DON'T MISS THE MATCH!



CHAPRA THE SON OF A GENERAL?

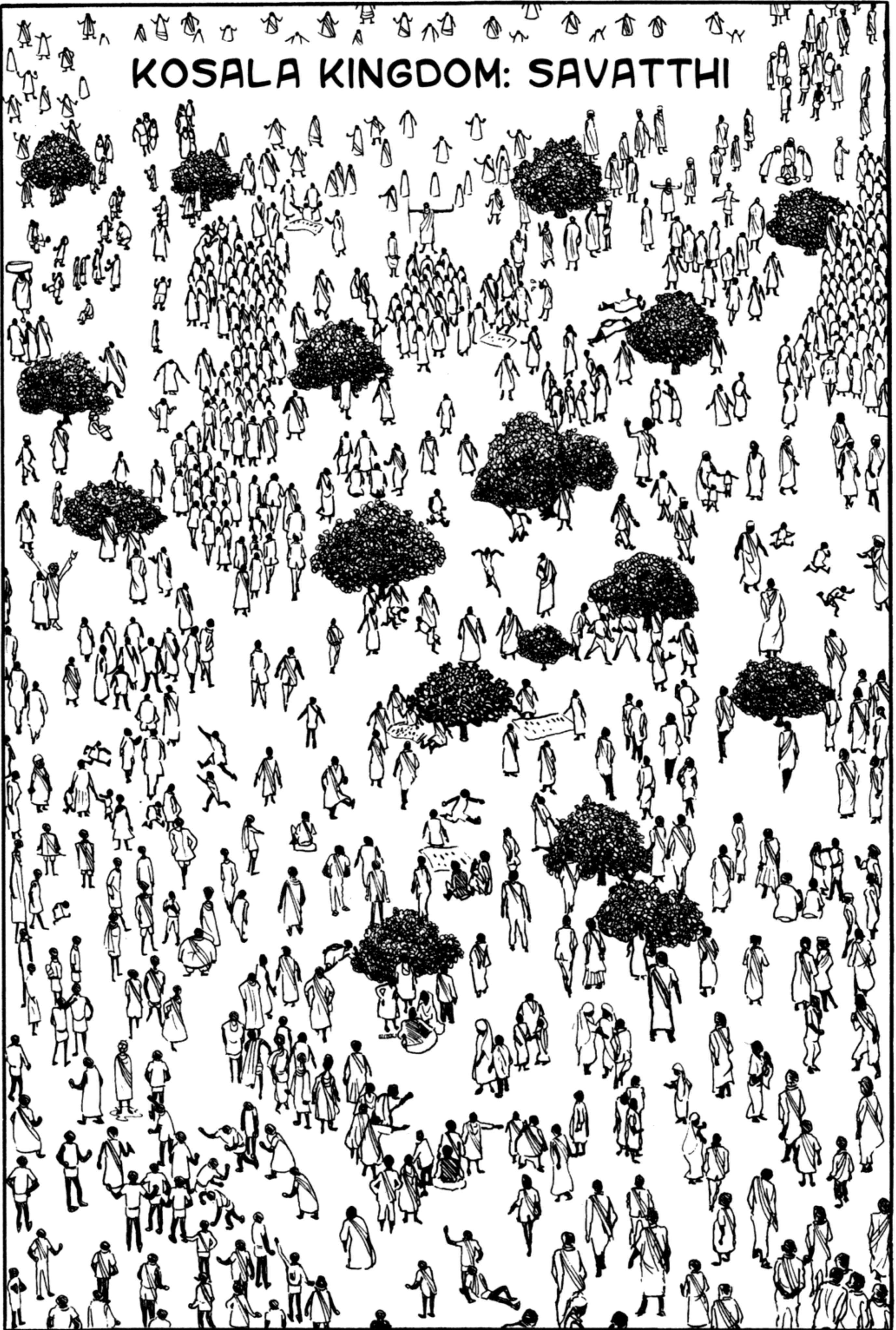
WH-WHAT CAN THAT MEAN? I HOPE IT'S SOME SORT OF MISTAKE...

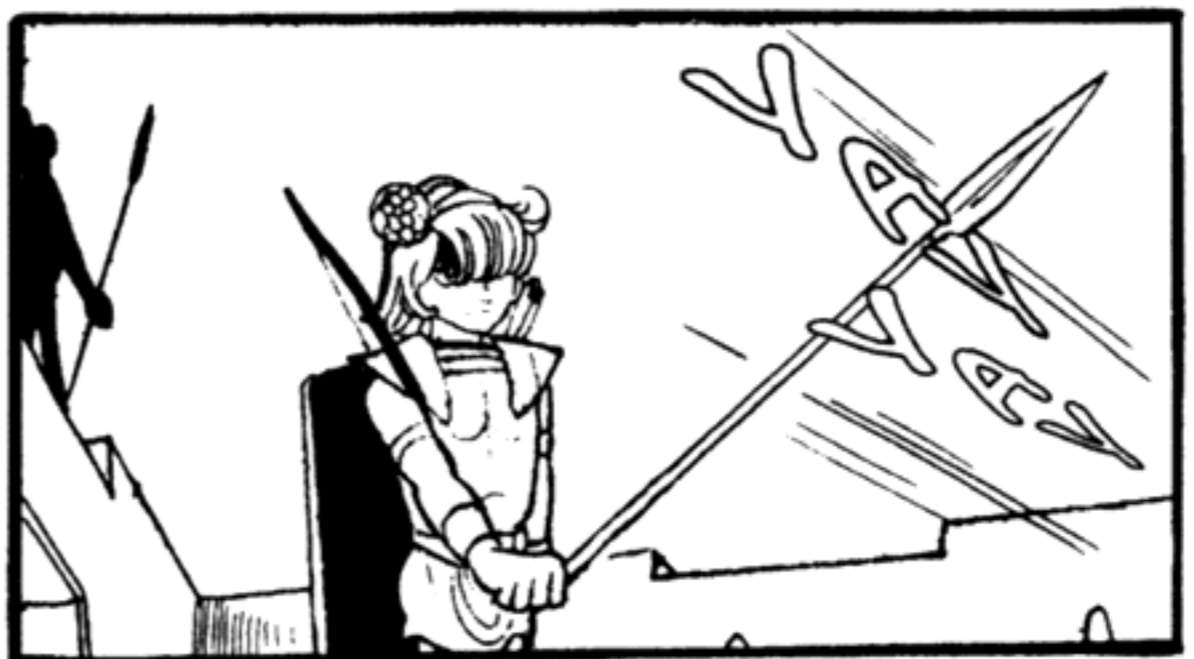
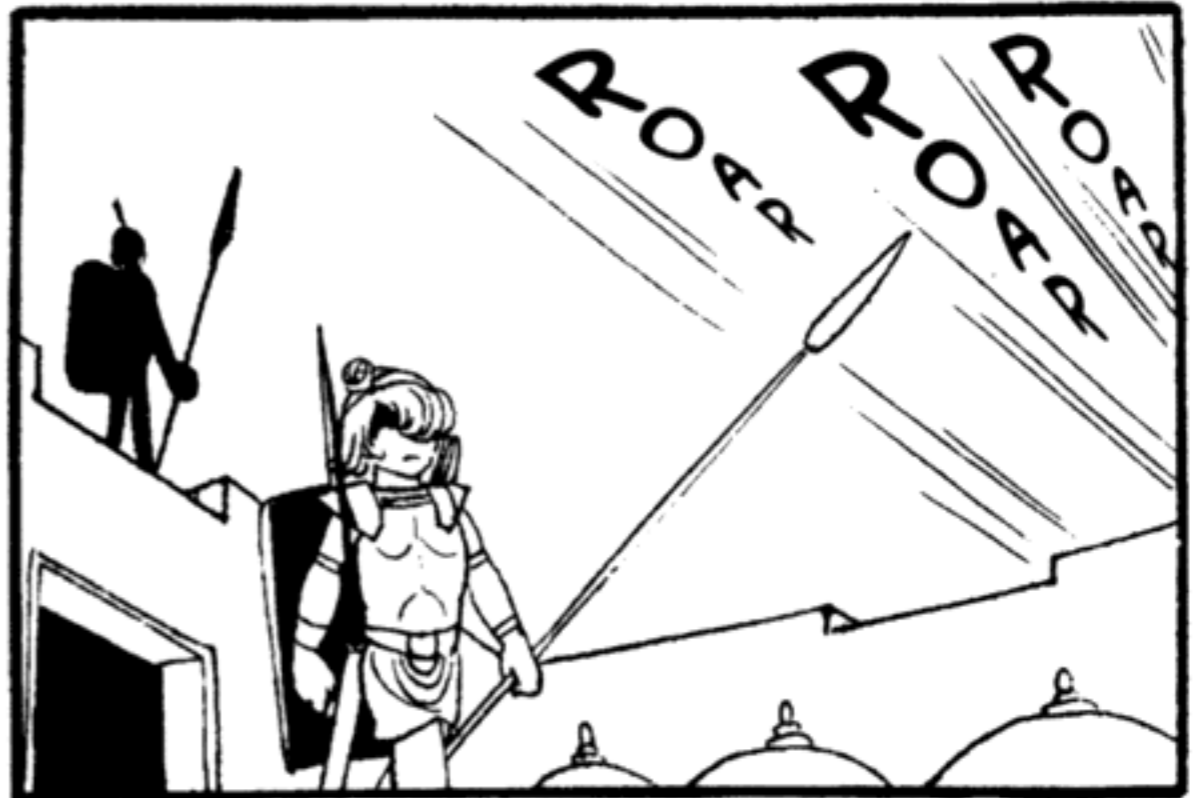
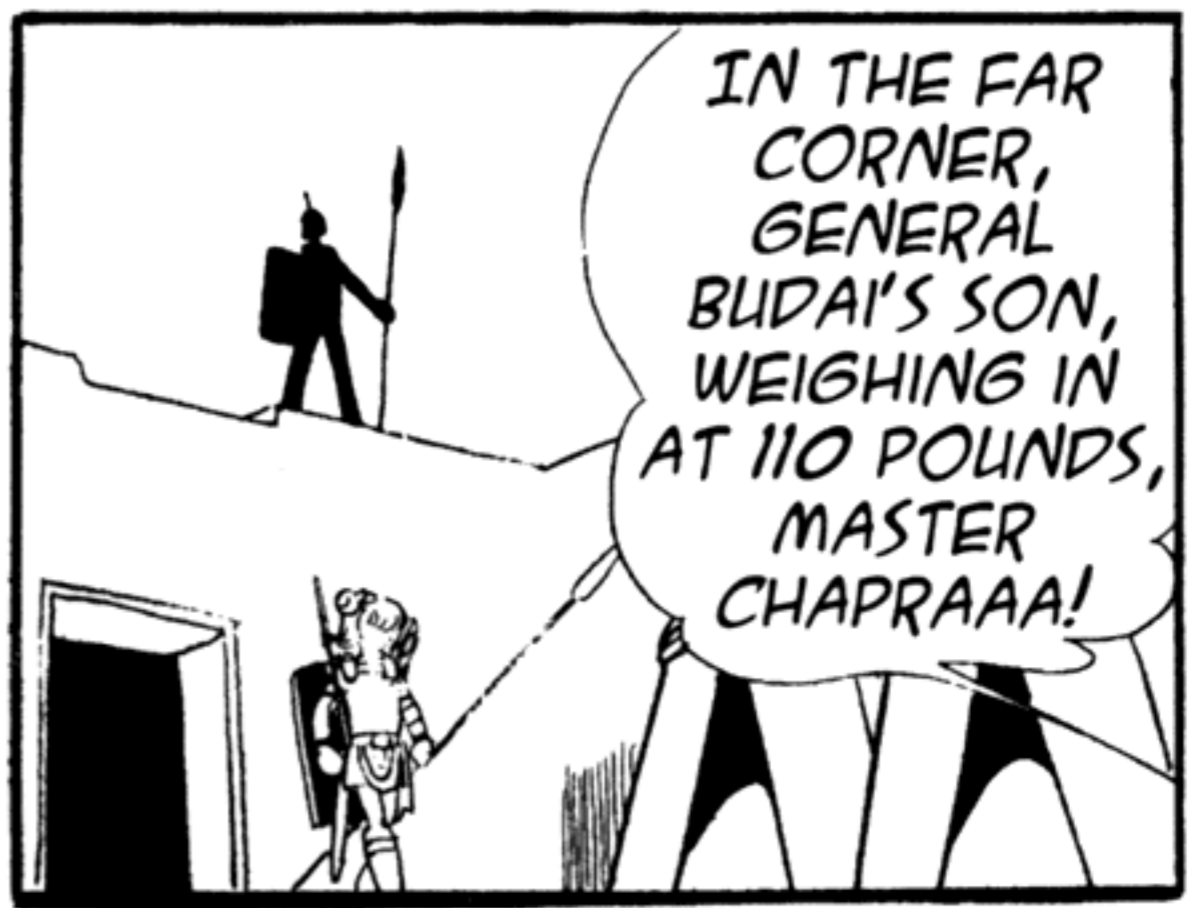


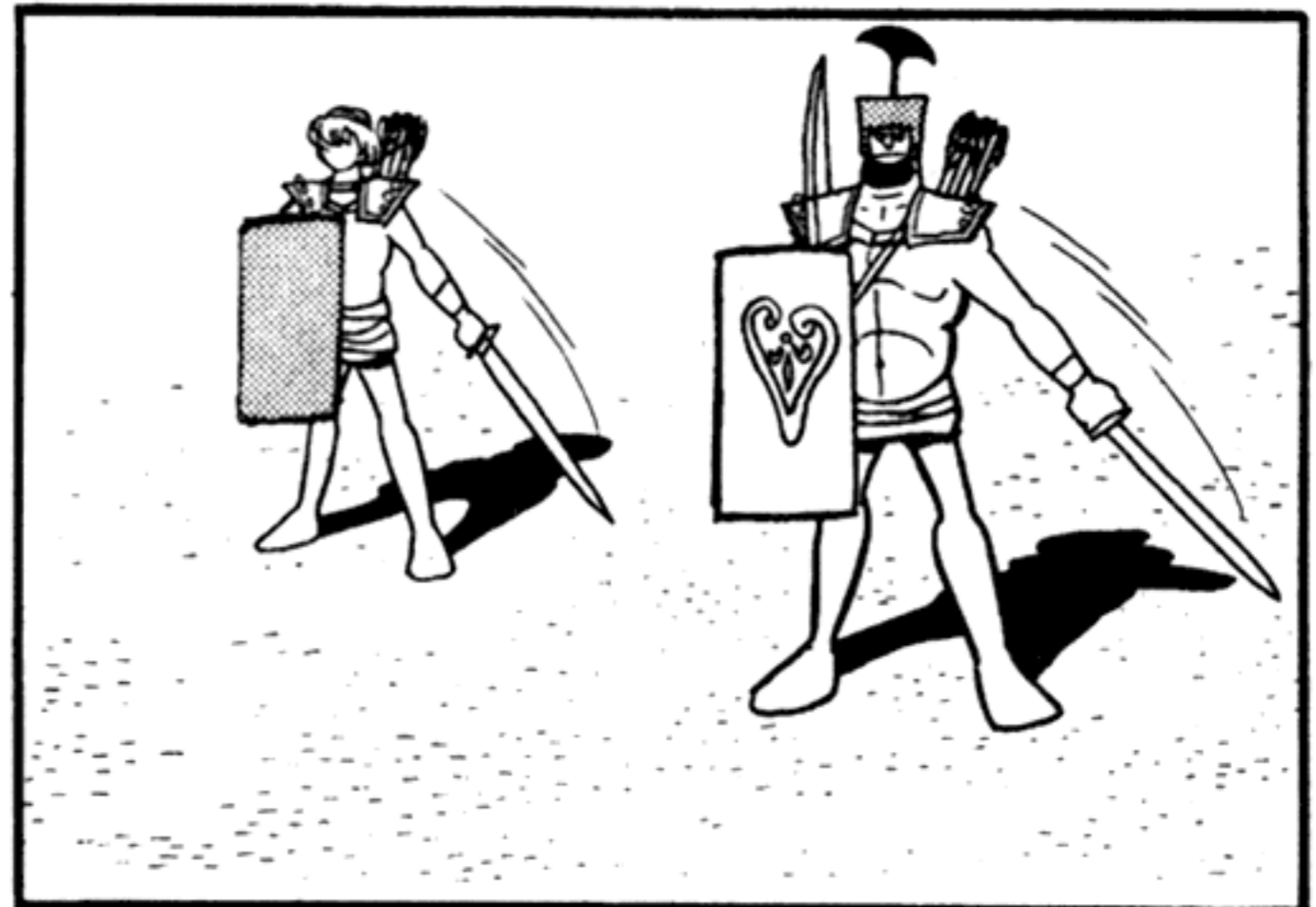
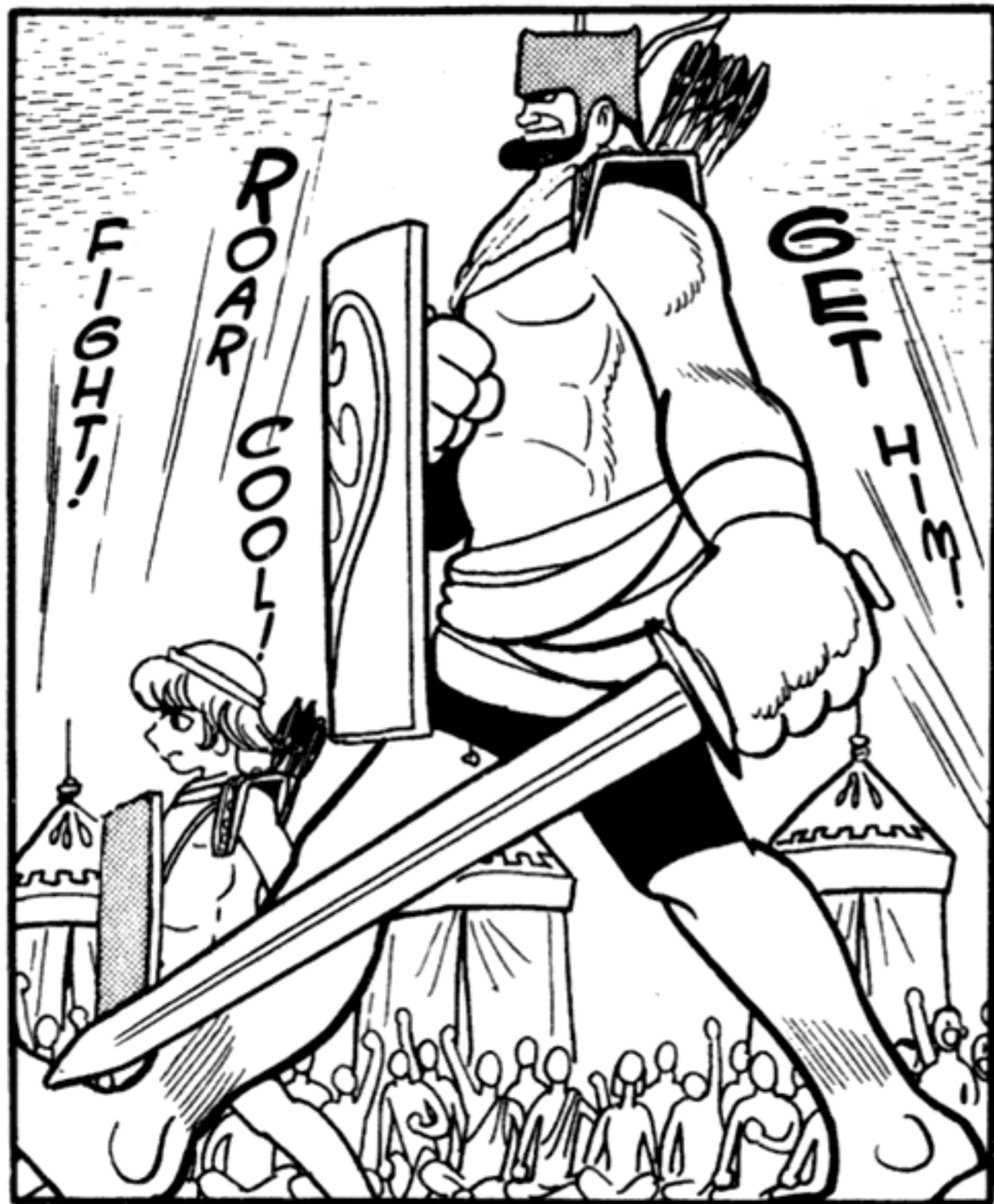
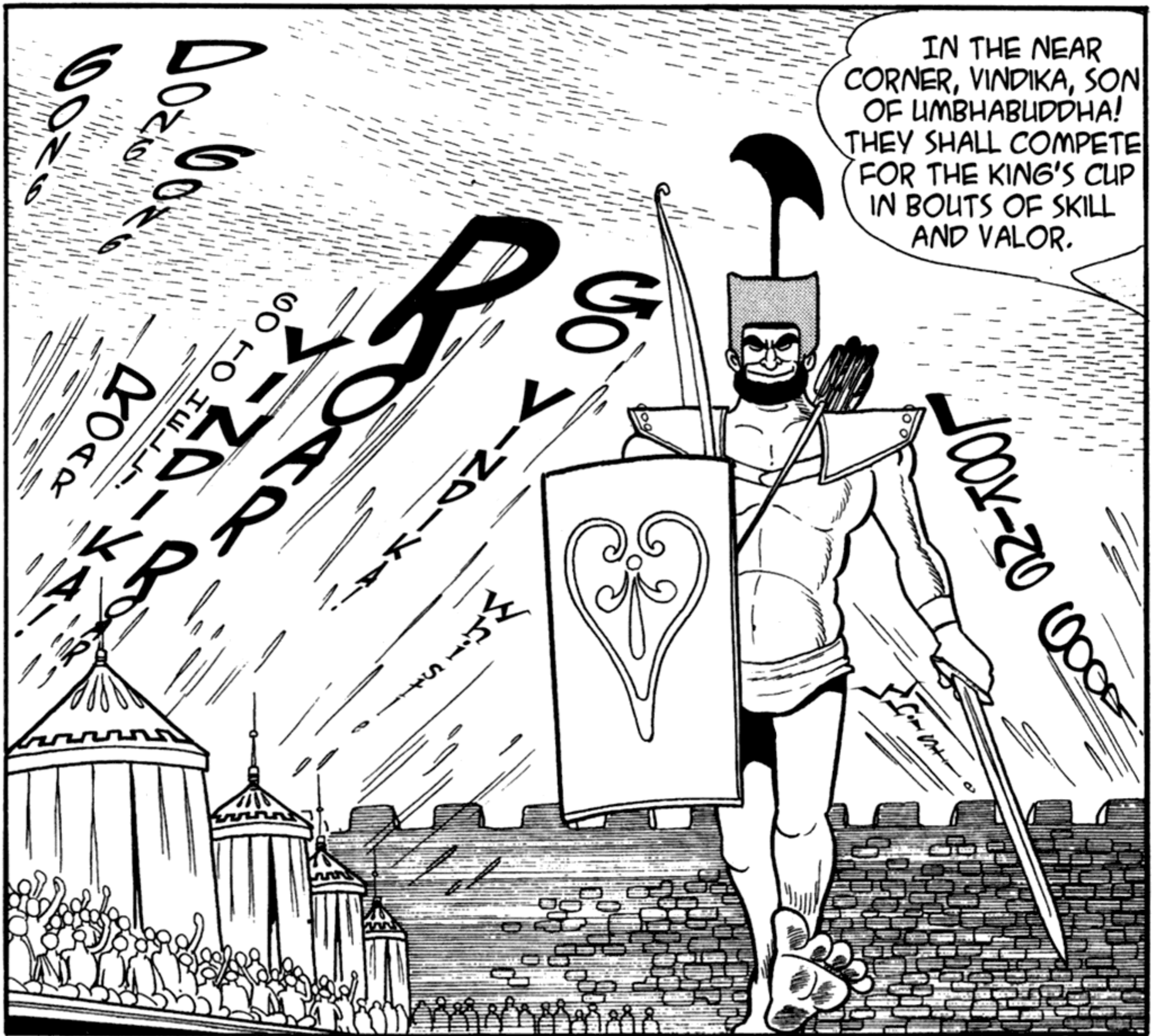
CHAPRA, MY ARROW'S AIMED AT YOUR ARROGANT LITTLE HEART!

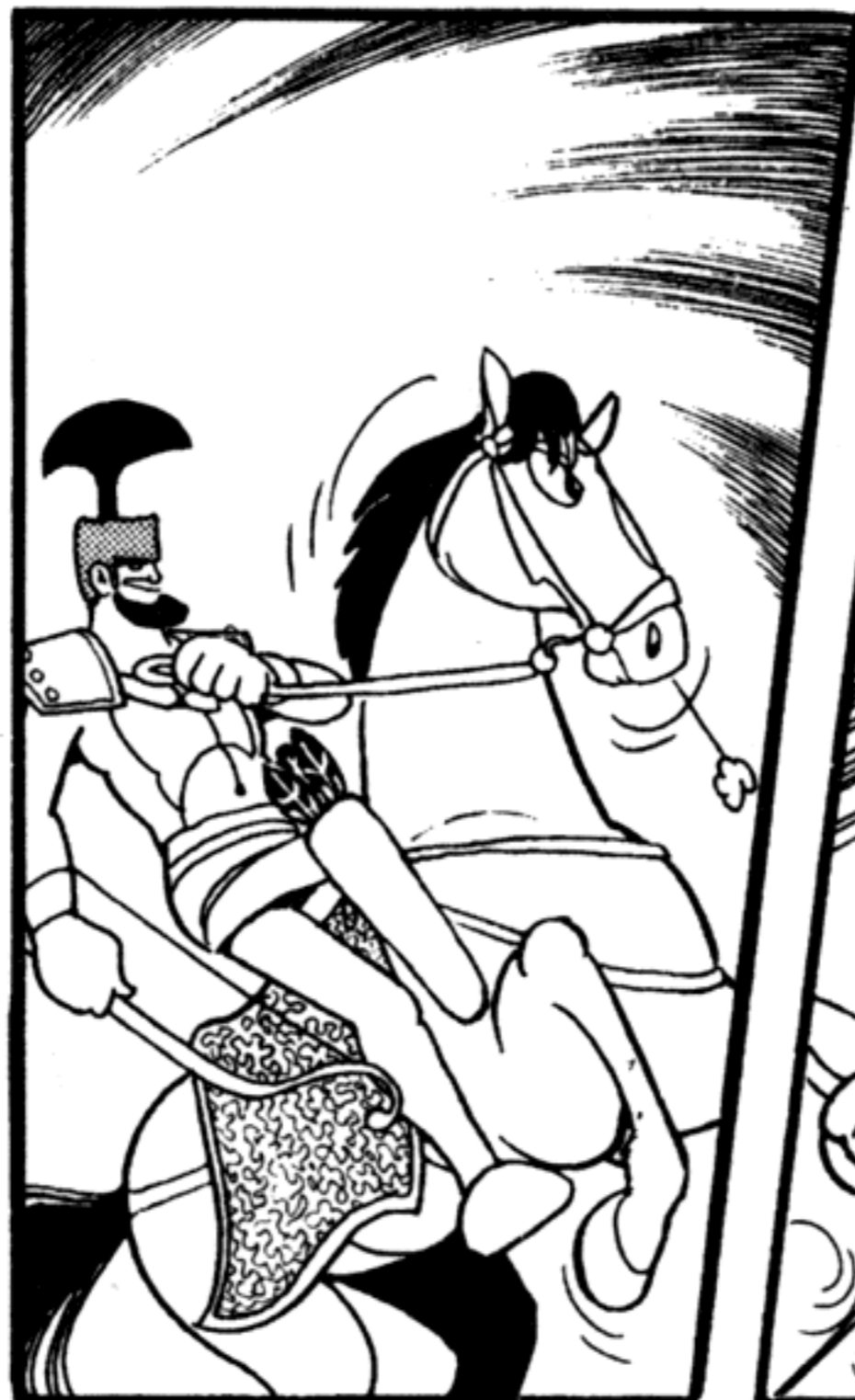
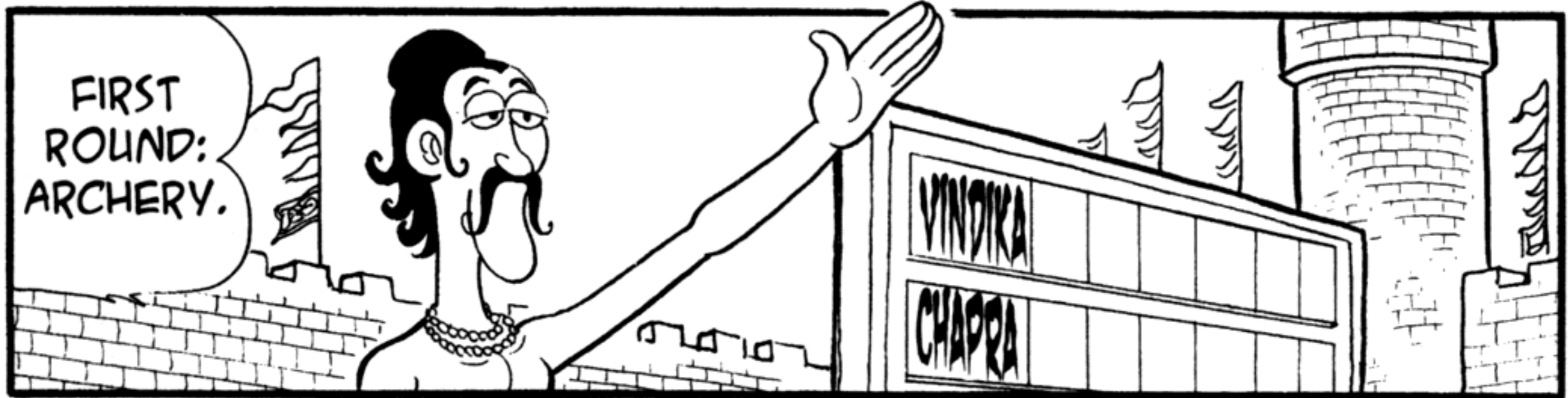
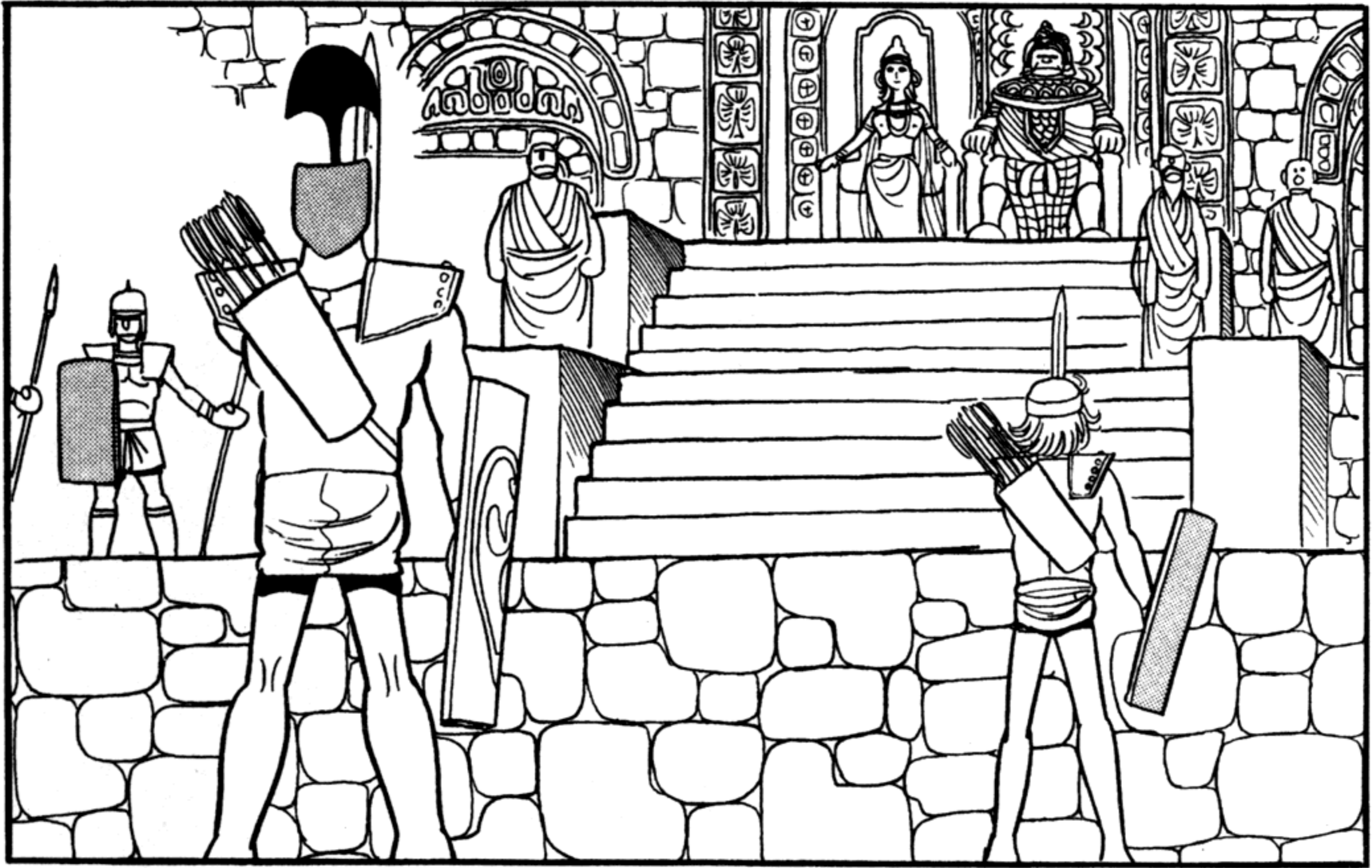
I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S REALLY THE BEST!

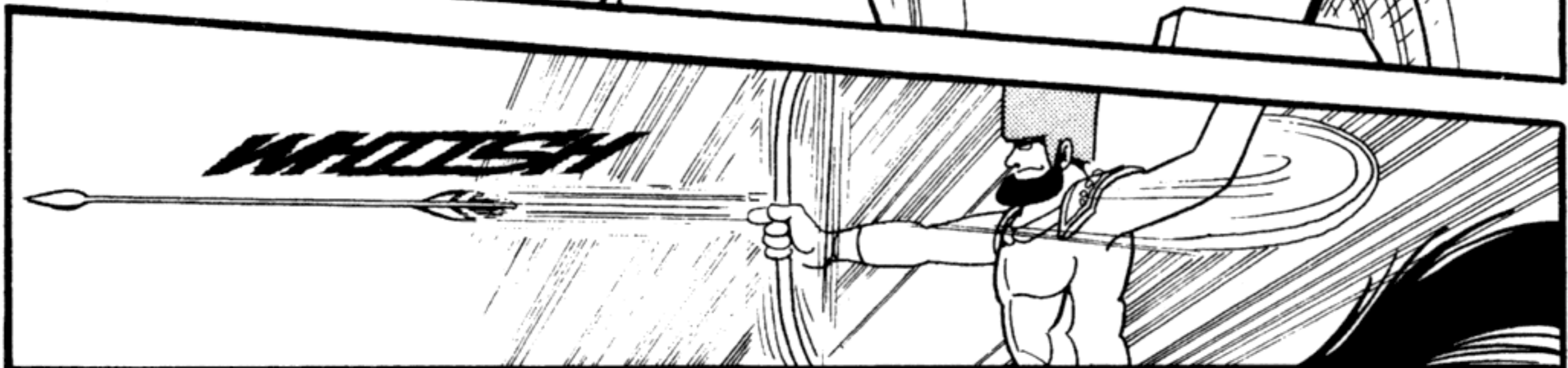
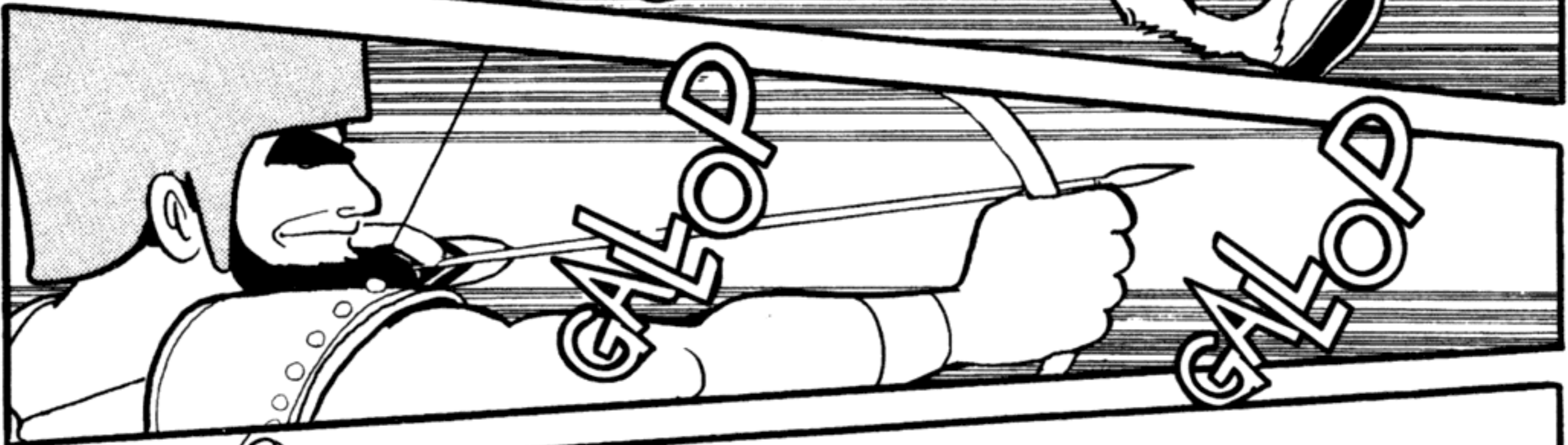
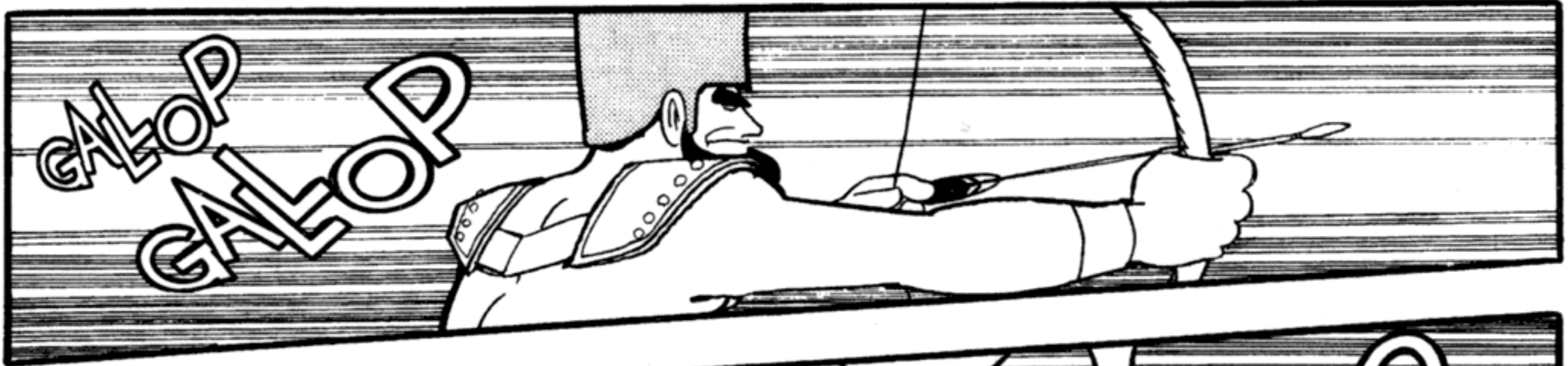
KOSALA KINGDOM: SAVATTHI

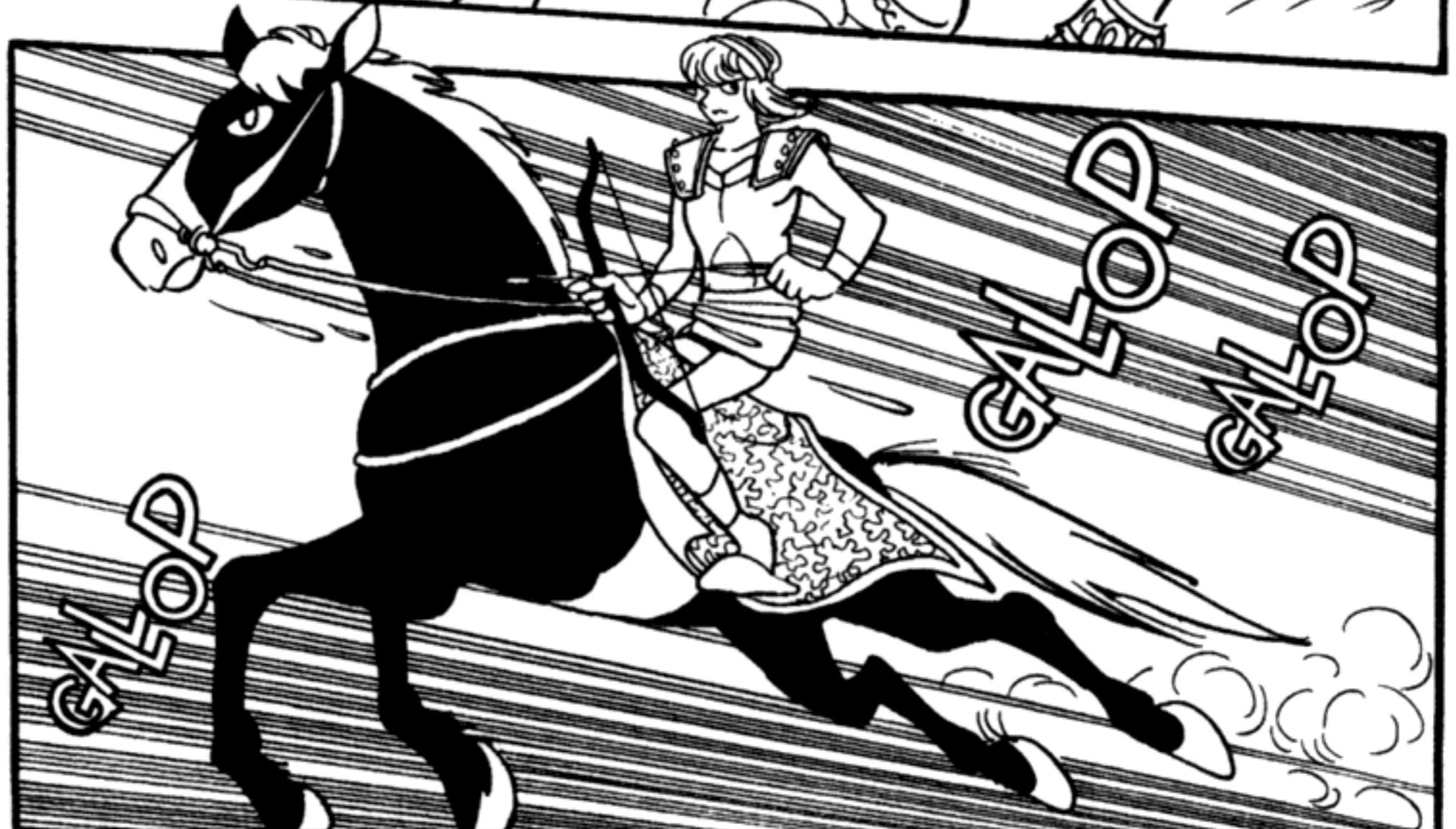
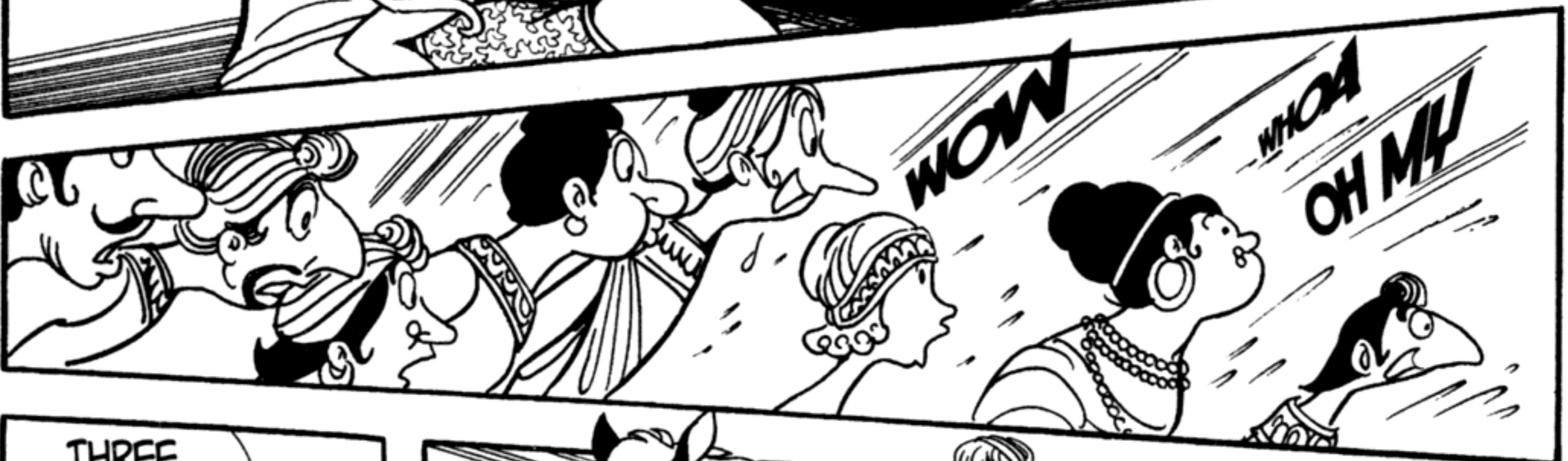
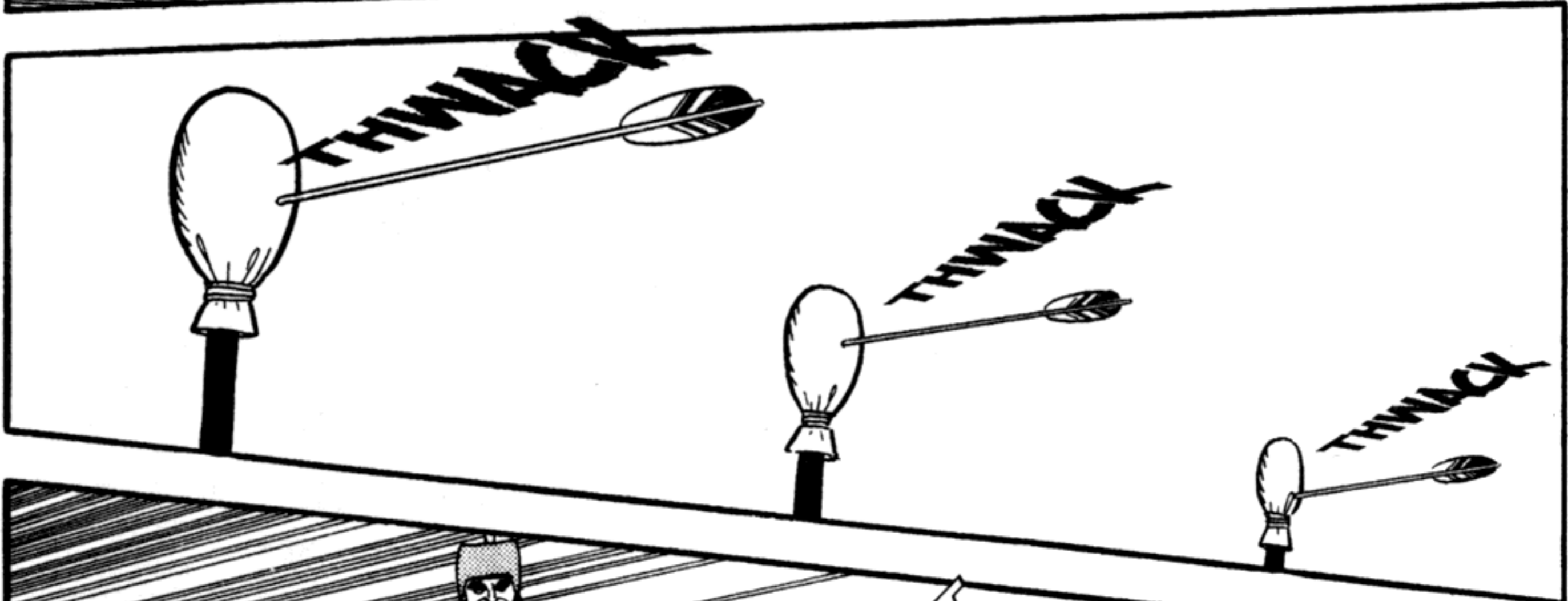
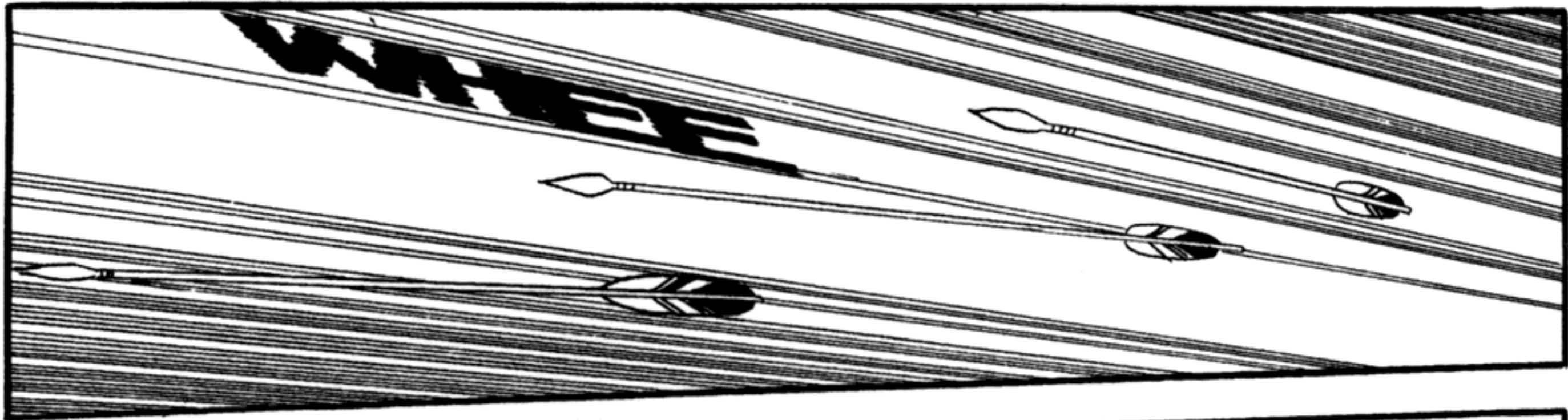


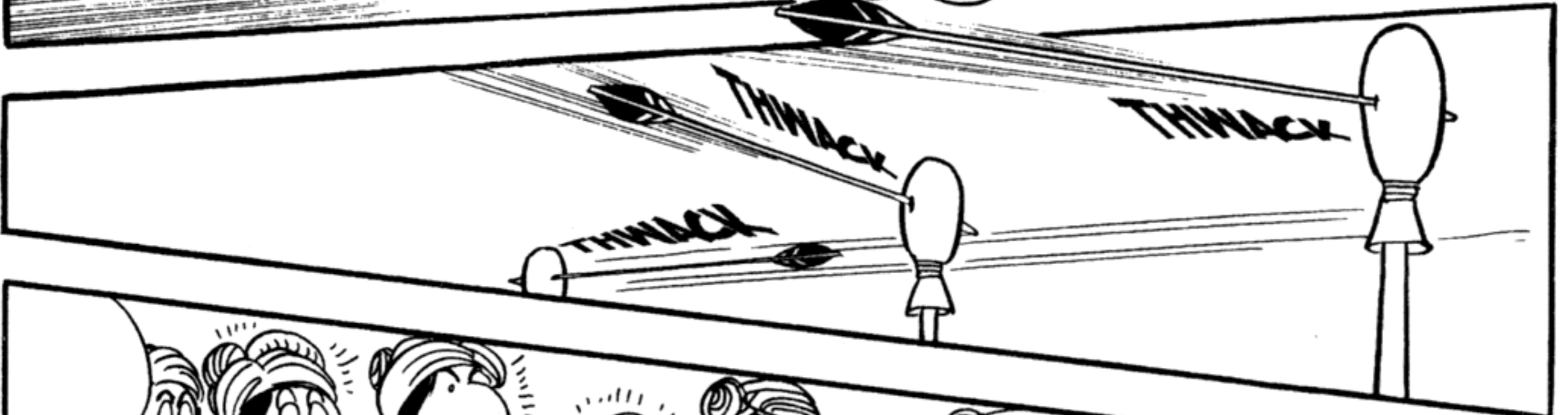
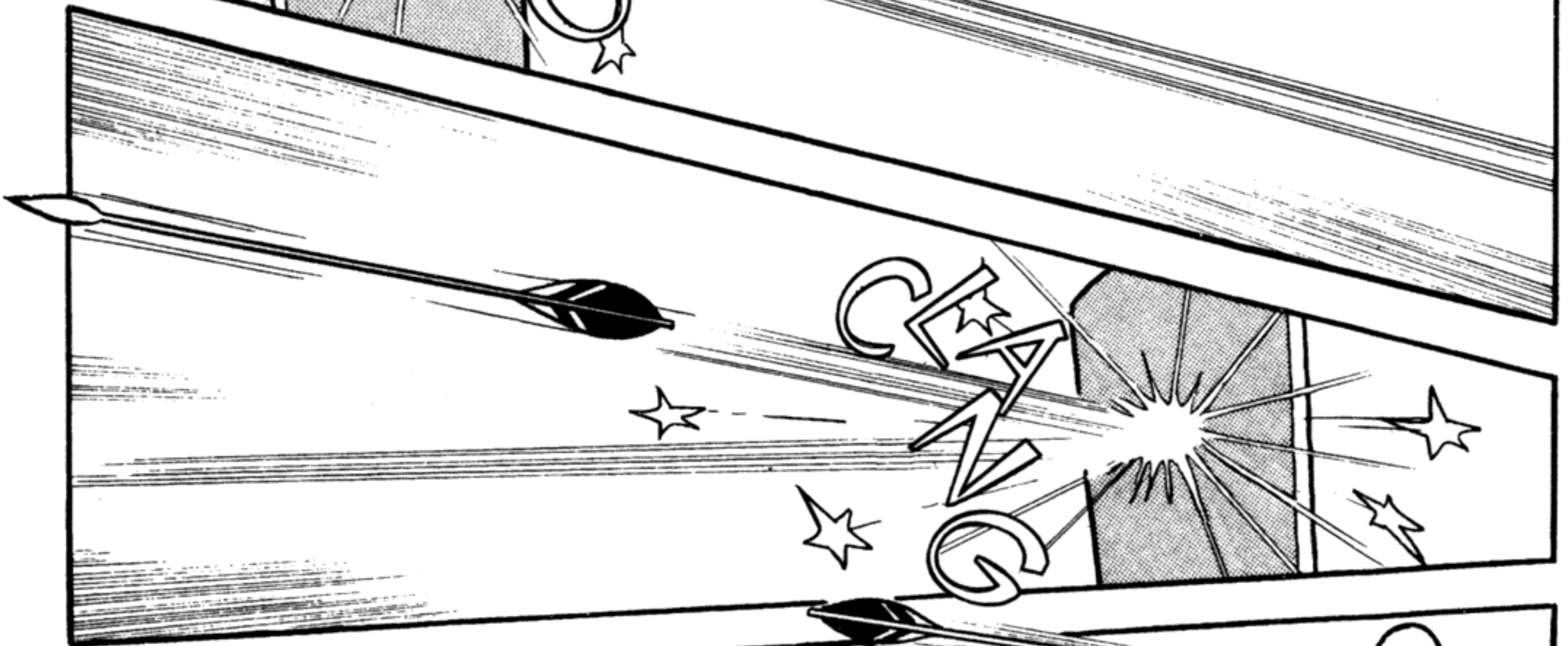
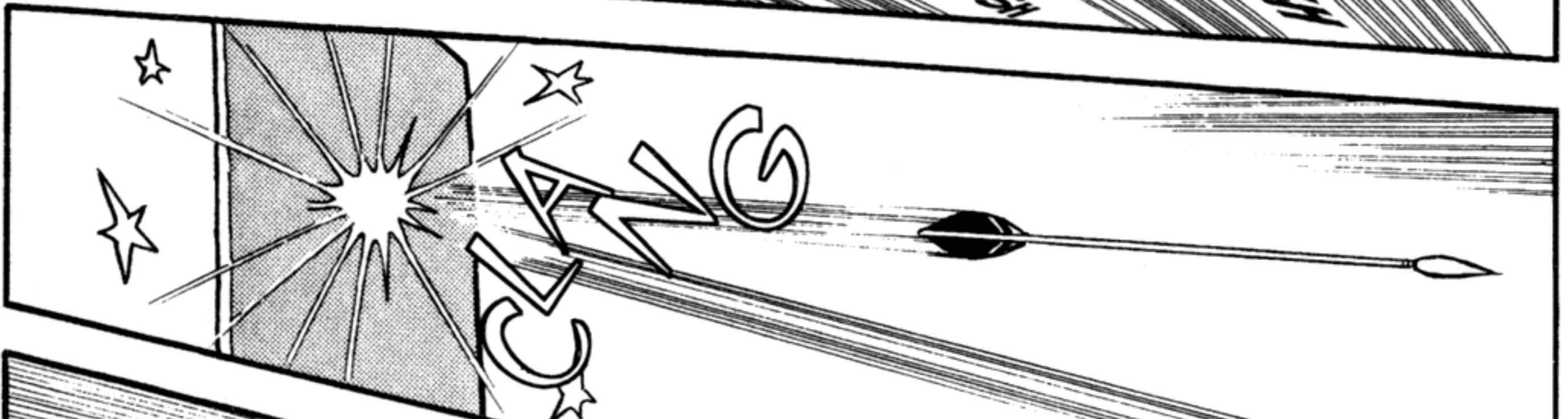
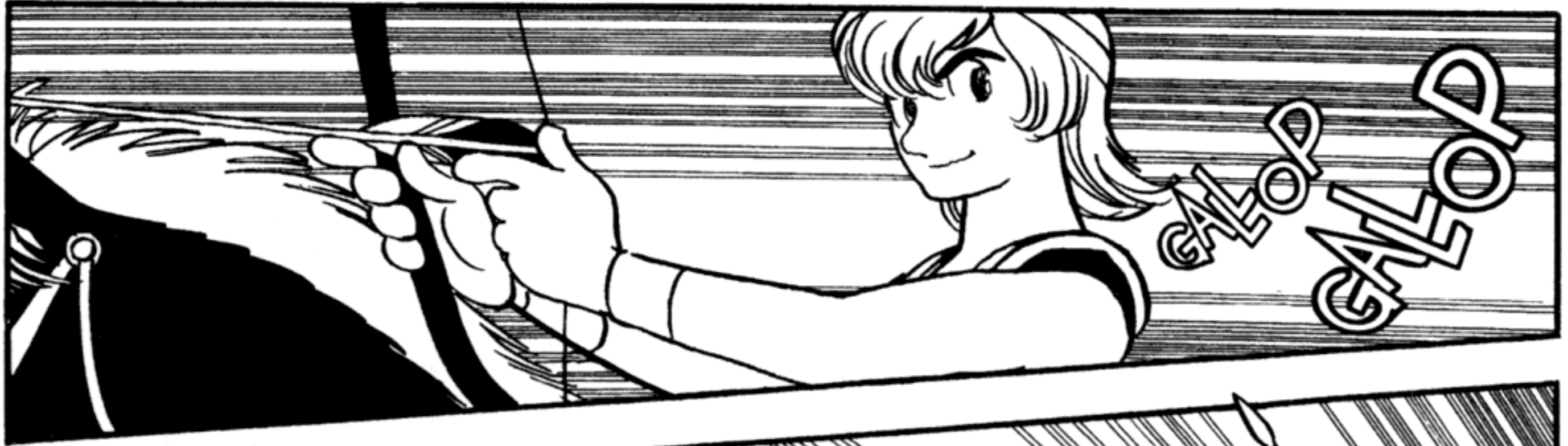


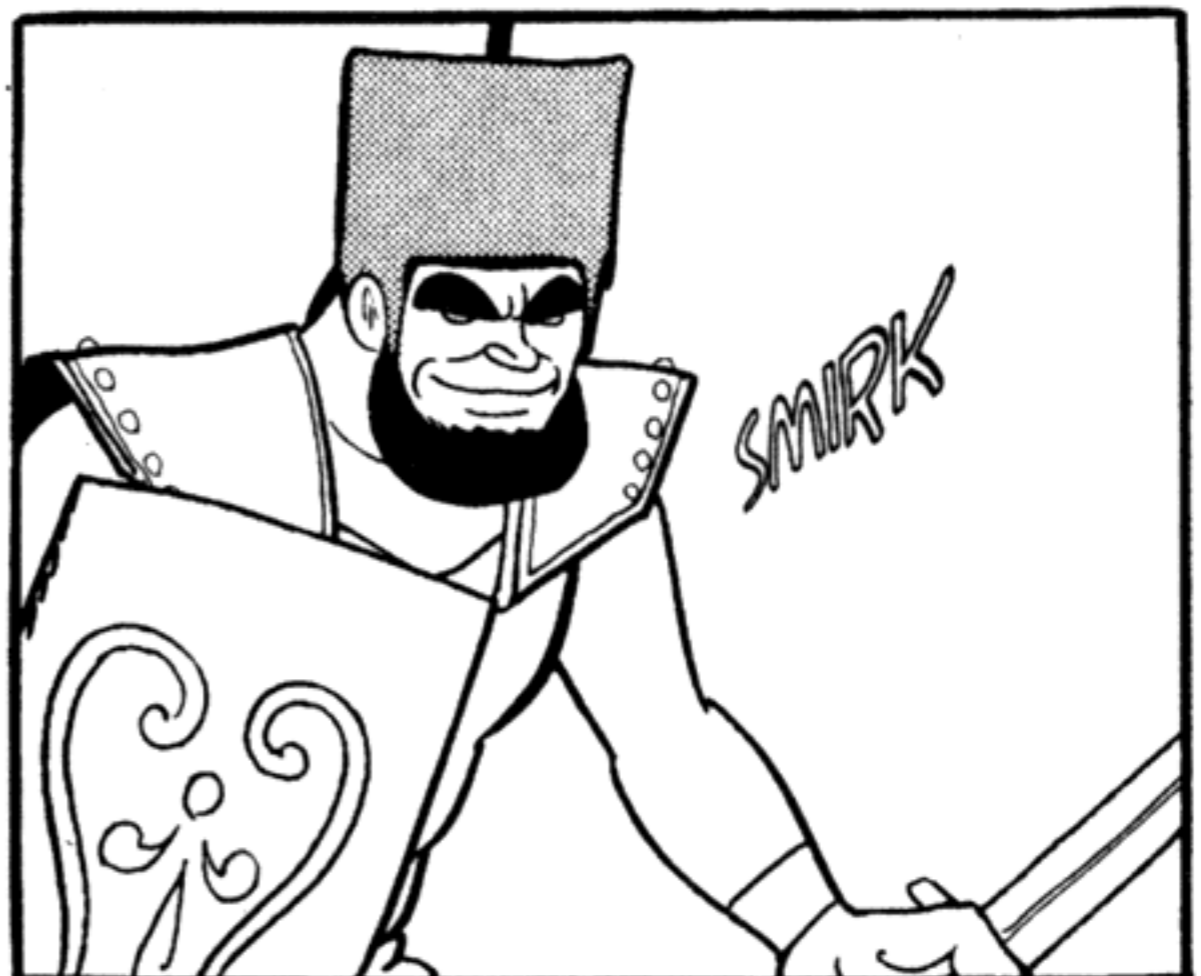
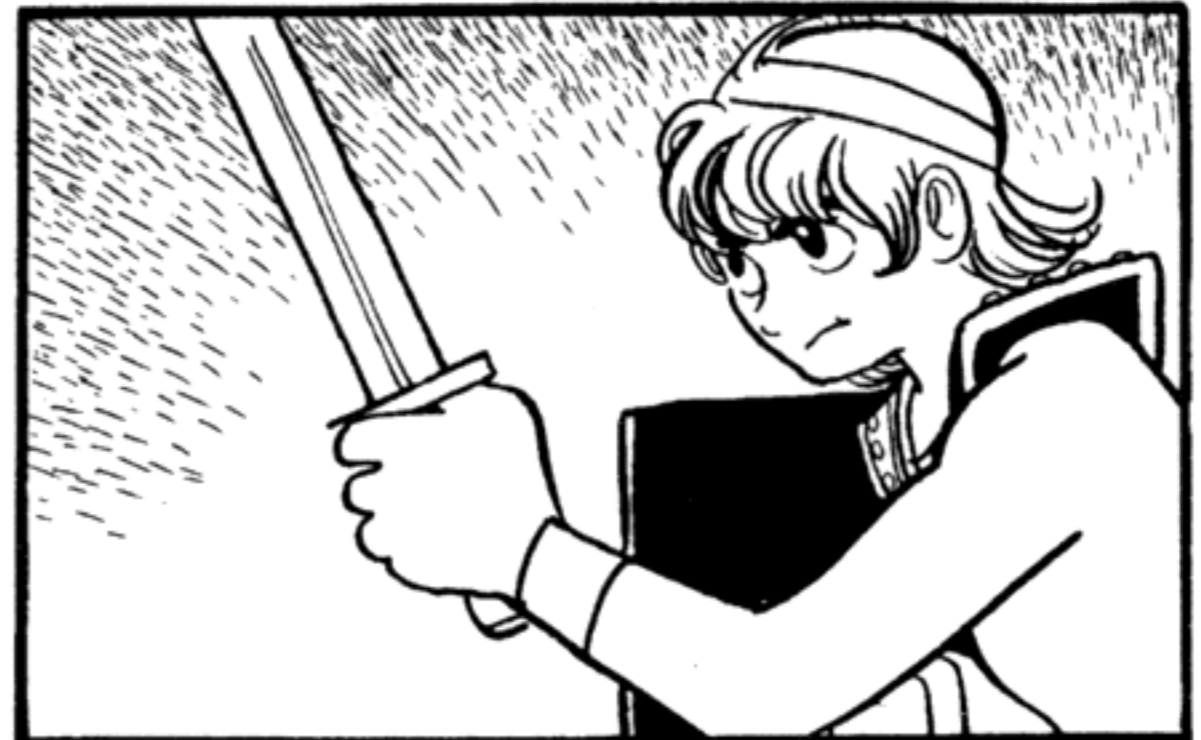
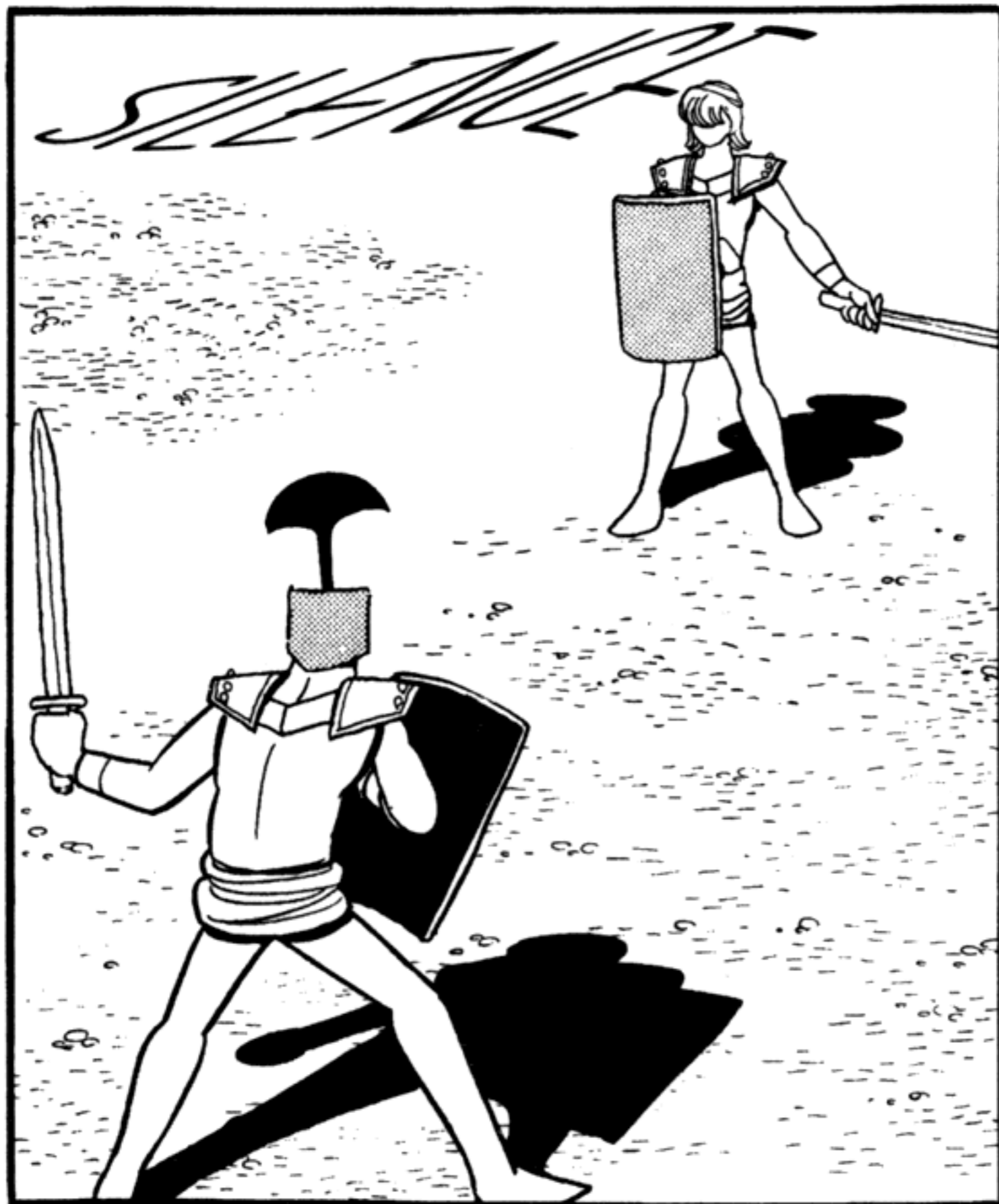
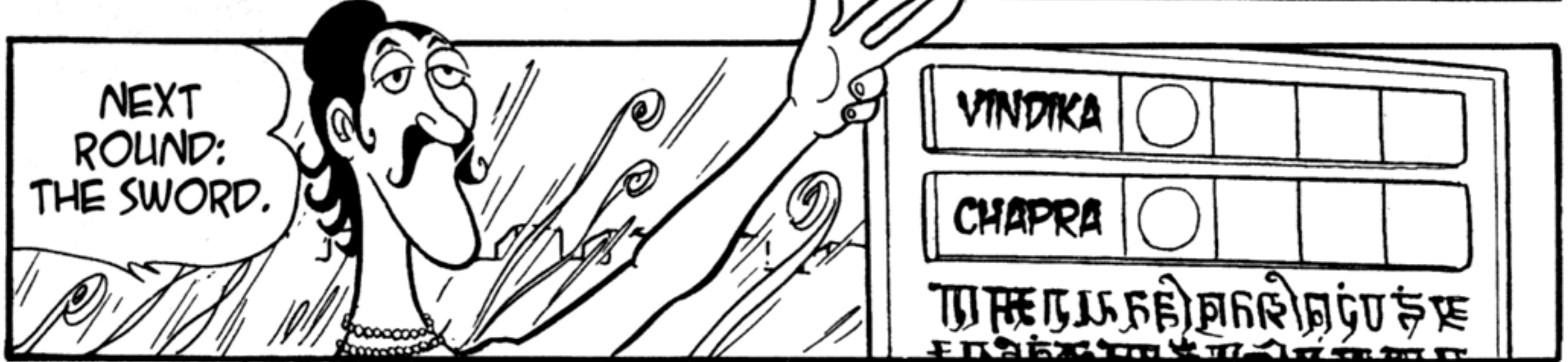
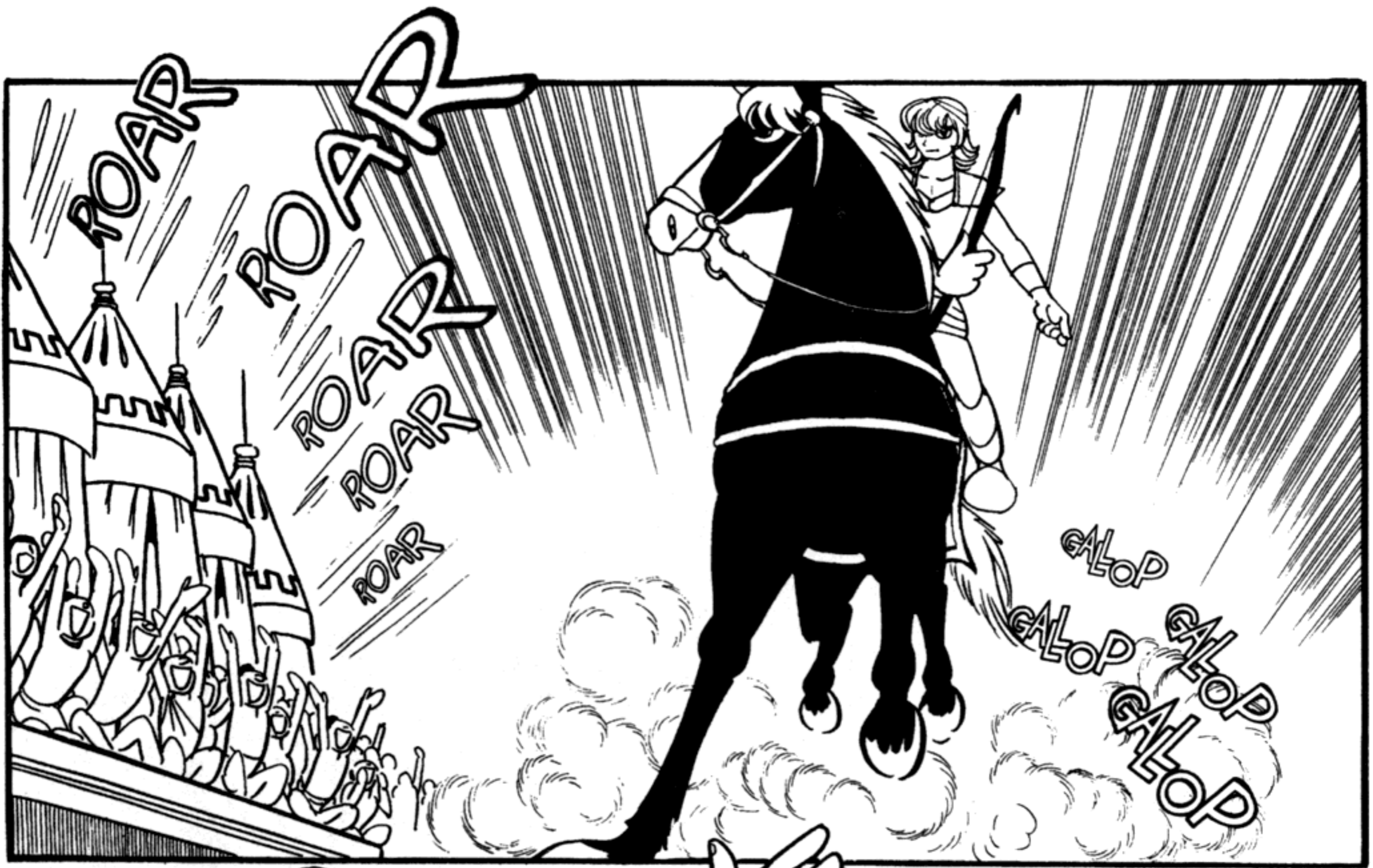


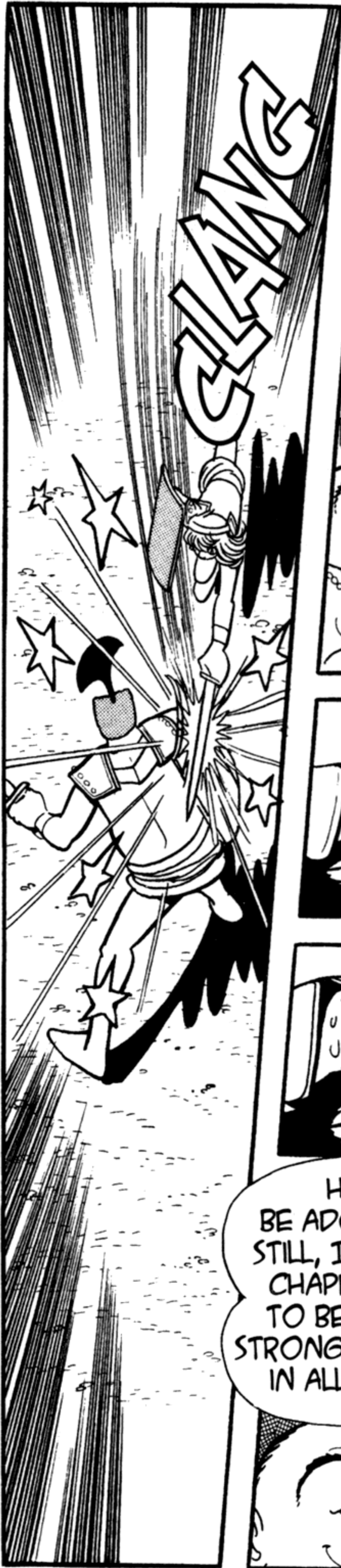












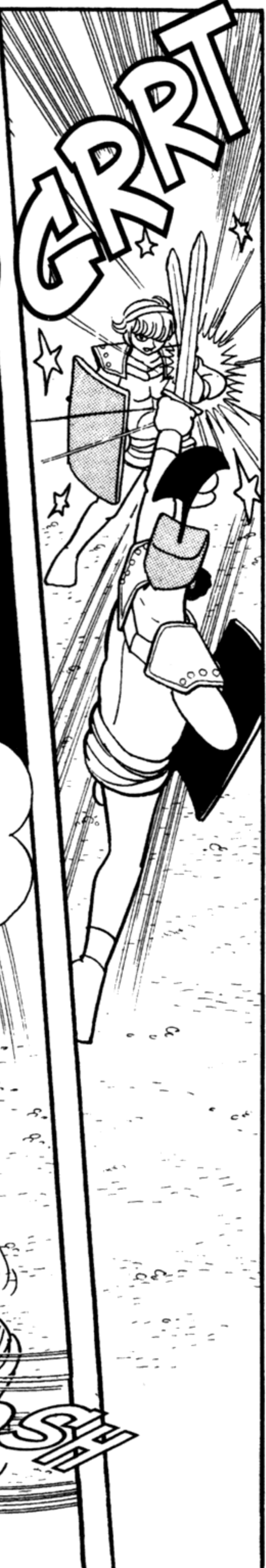
HE MAY BE ADOPTED, BUT STILL, I ENVY YOU. CHAPRA'S LIKELY TO BECOME THE STRONGEST WARRIOR IN ALL KOSALA.

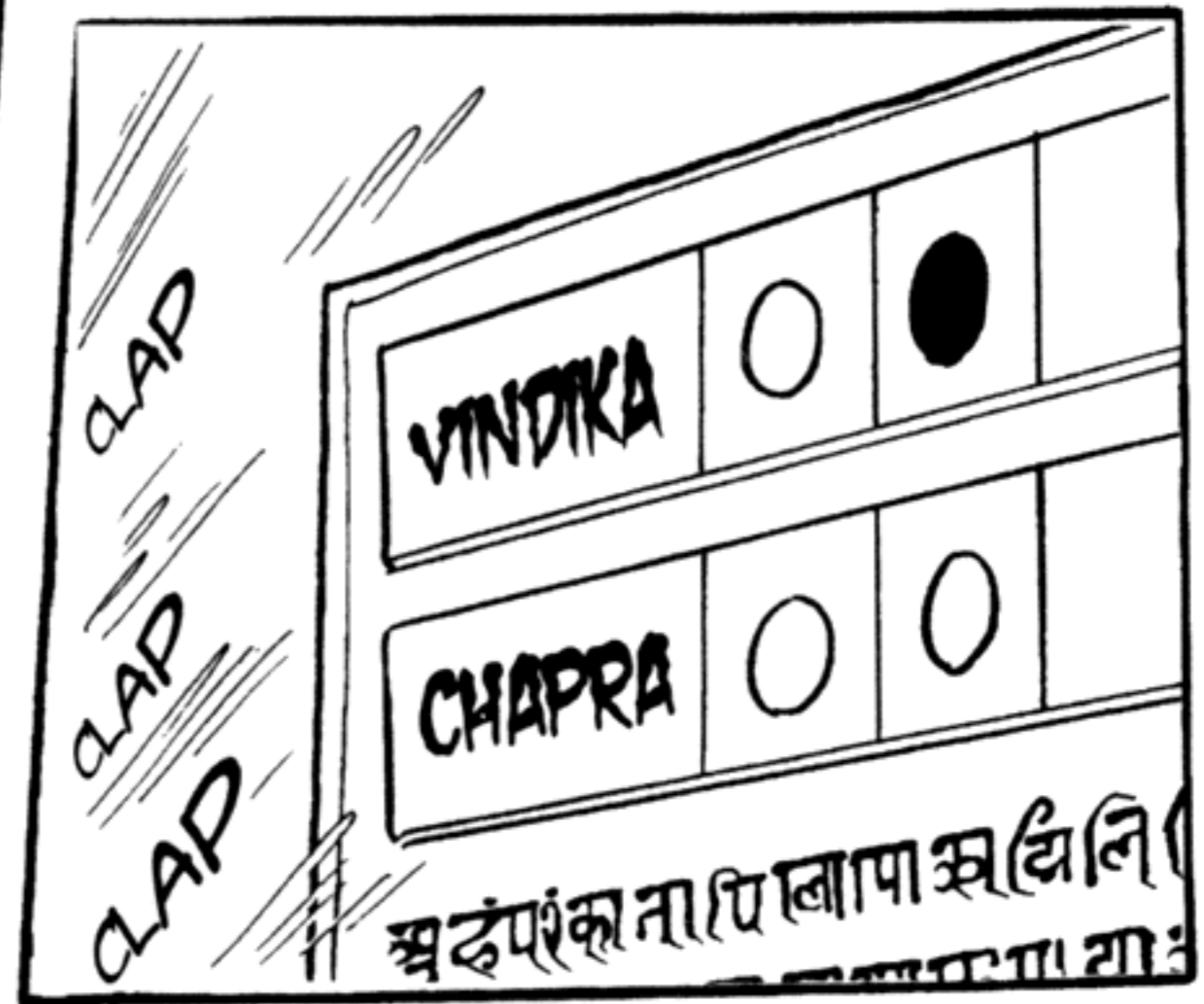


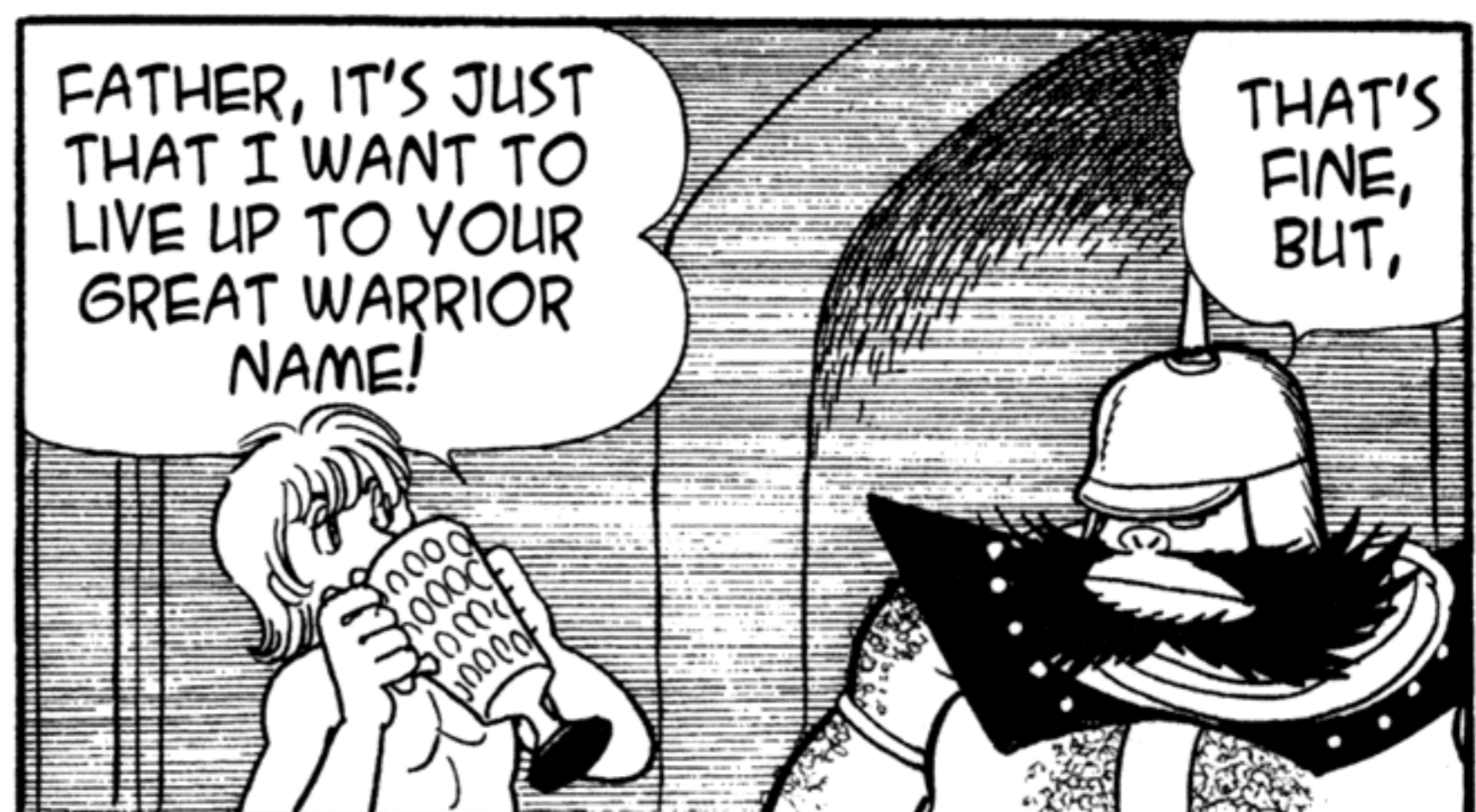
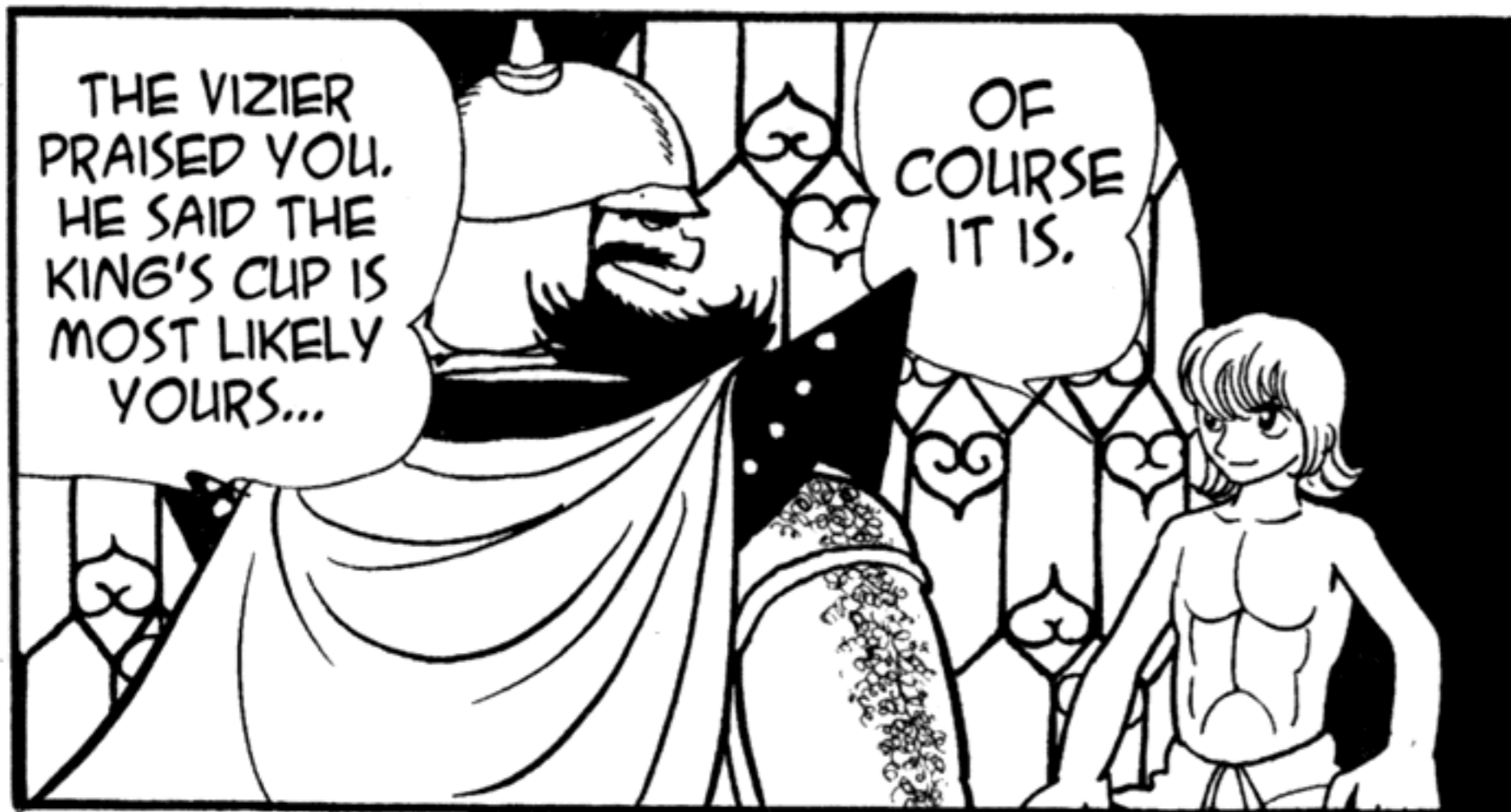
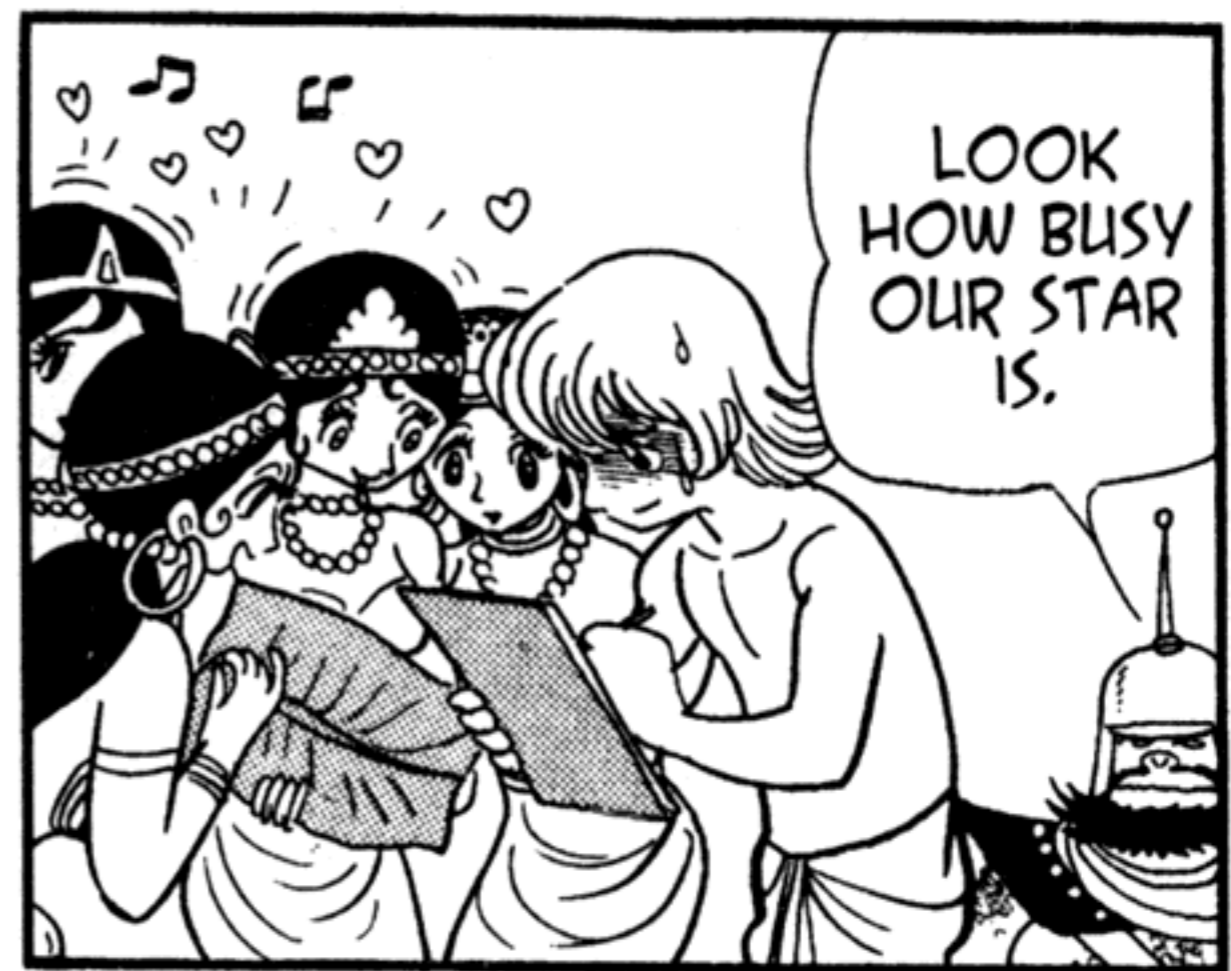
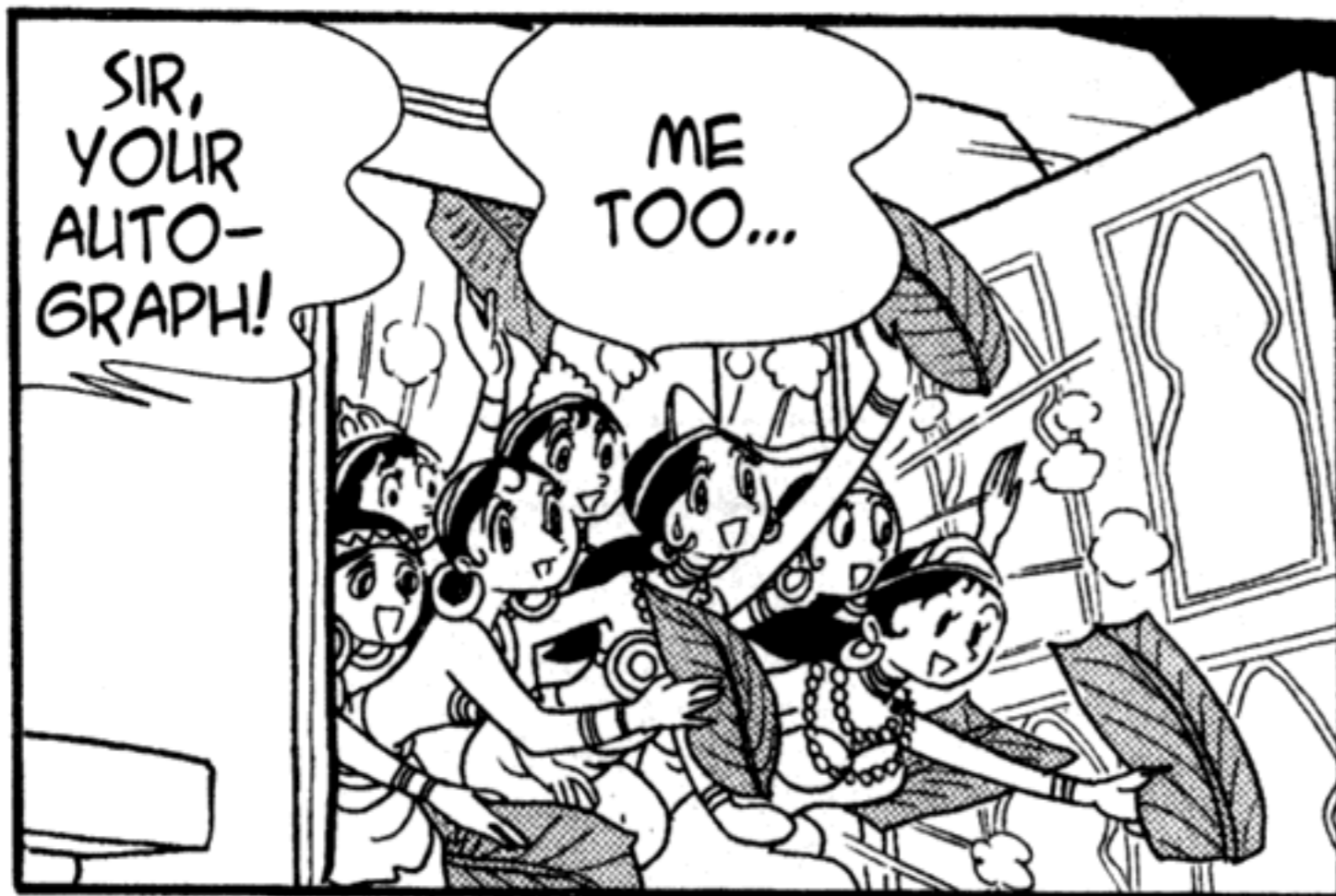
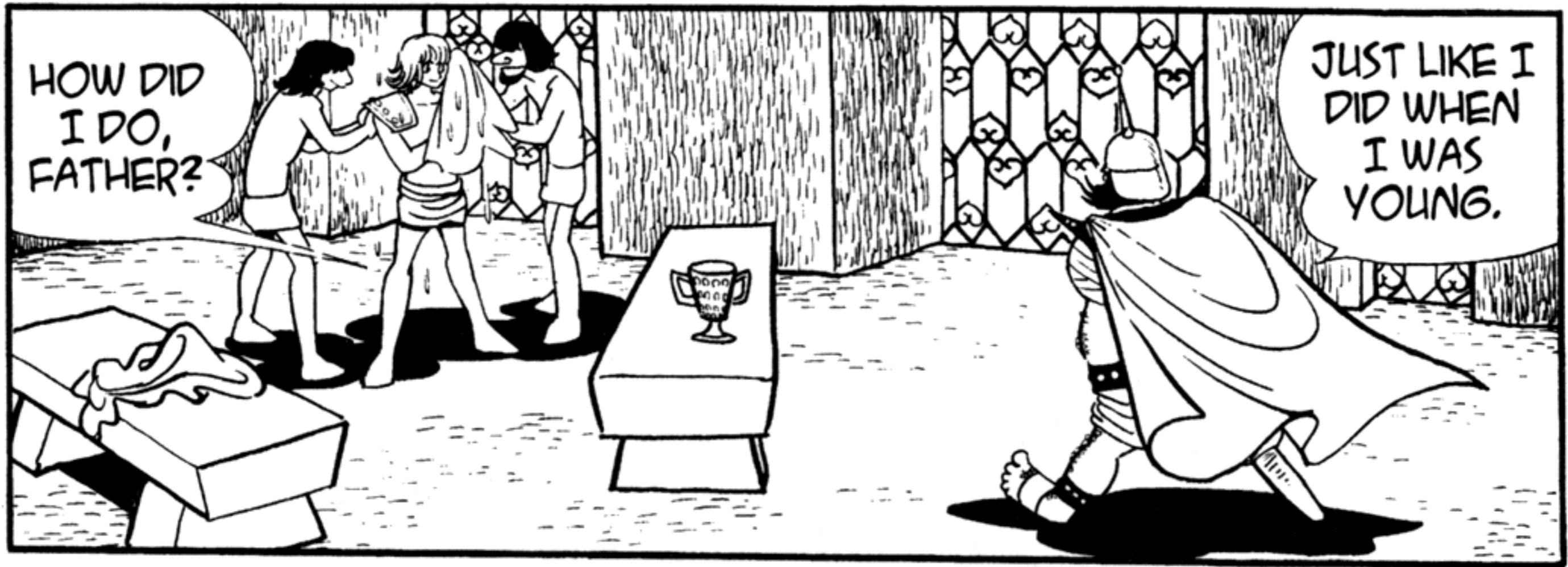
I WANTED A CIVIL CAREER FOR HIM. STRENGTH ALONE DOES NOT MAKE THE MAN.

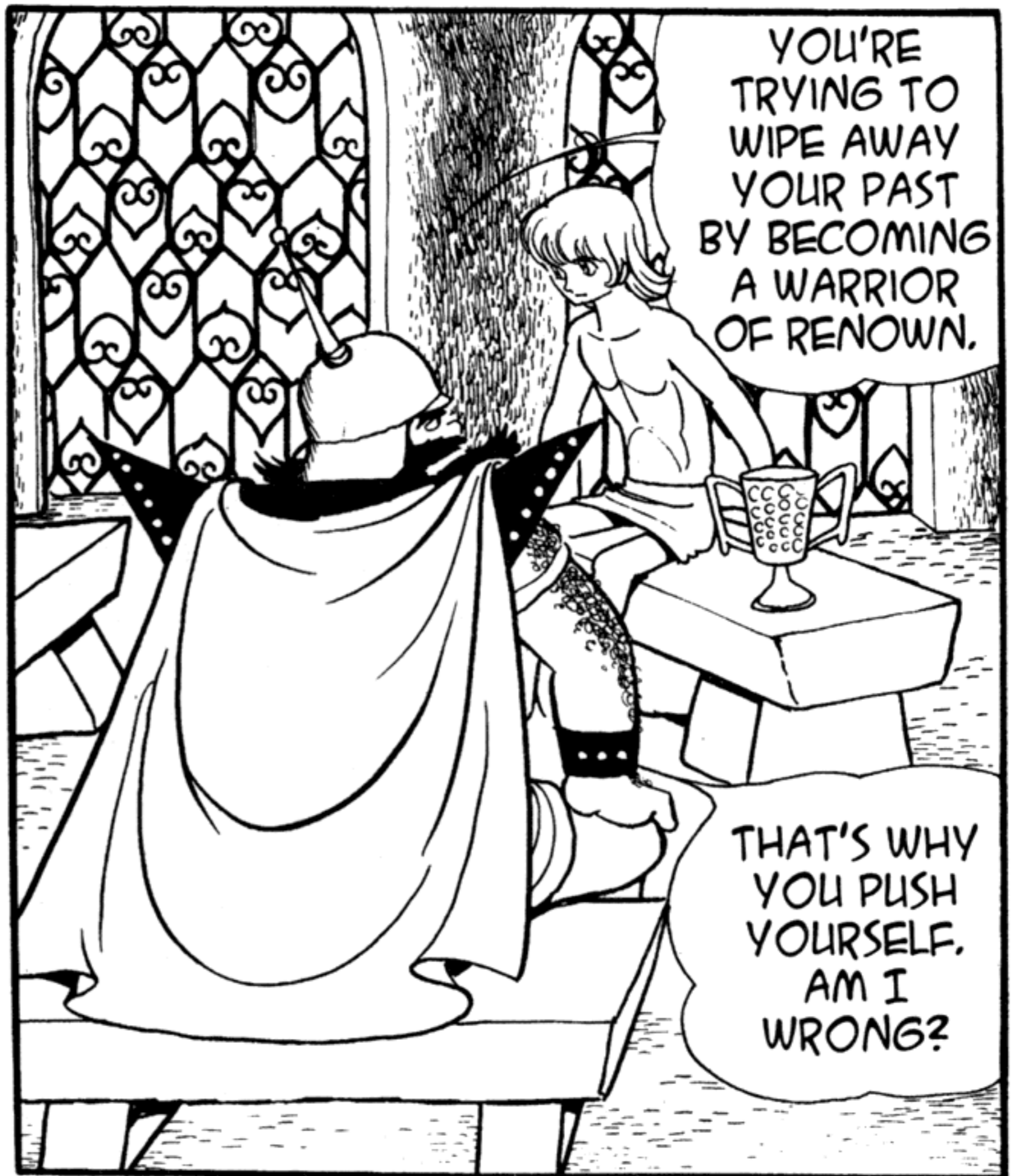
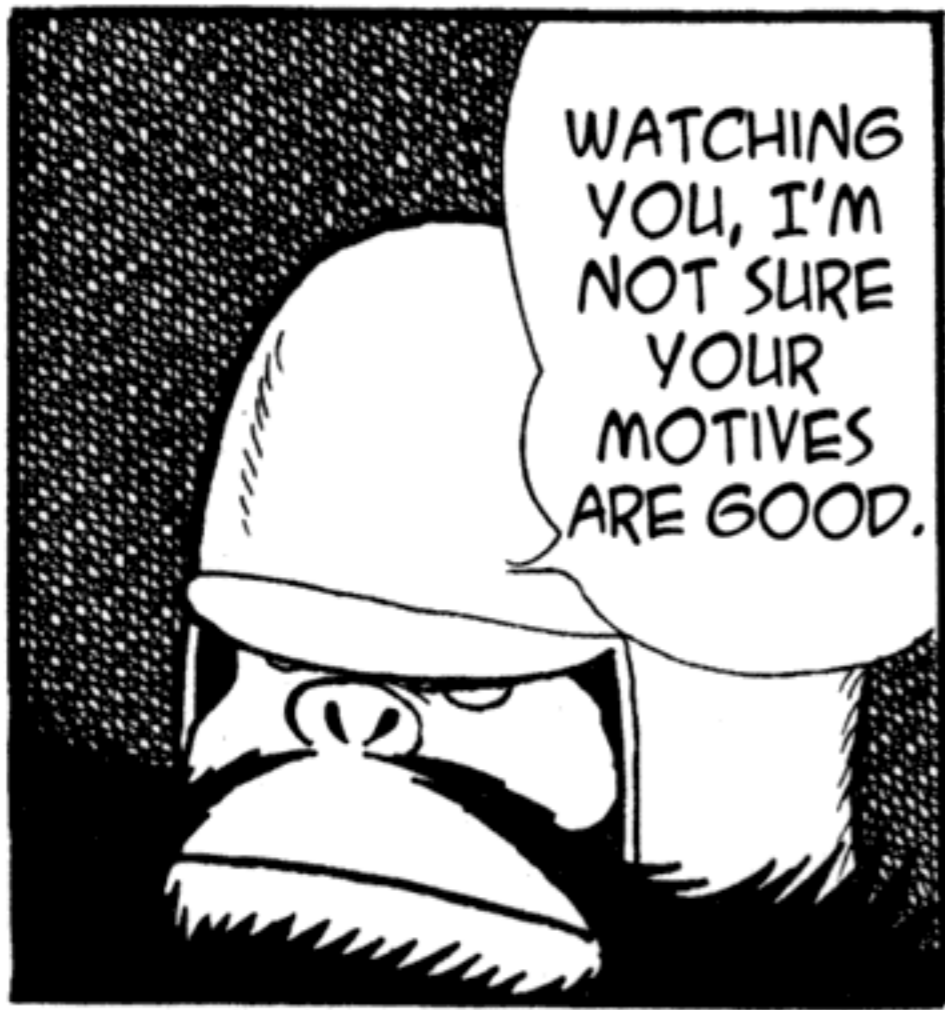
THE BRAVE MUST ONE DAY GROW WEAK...

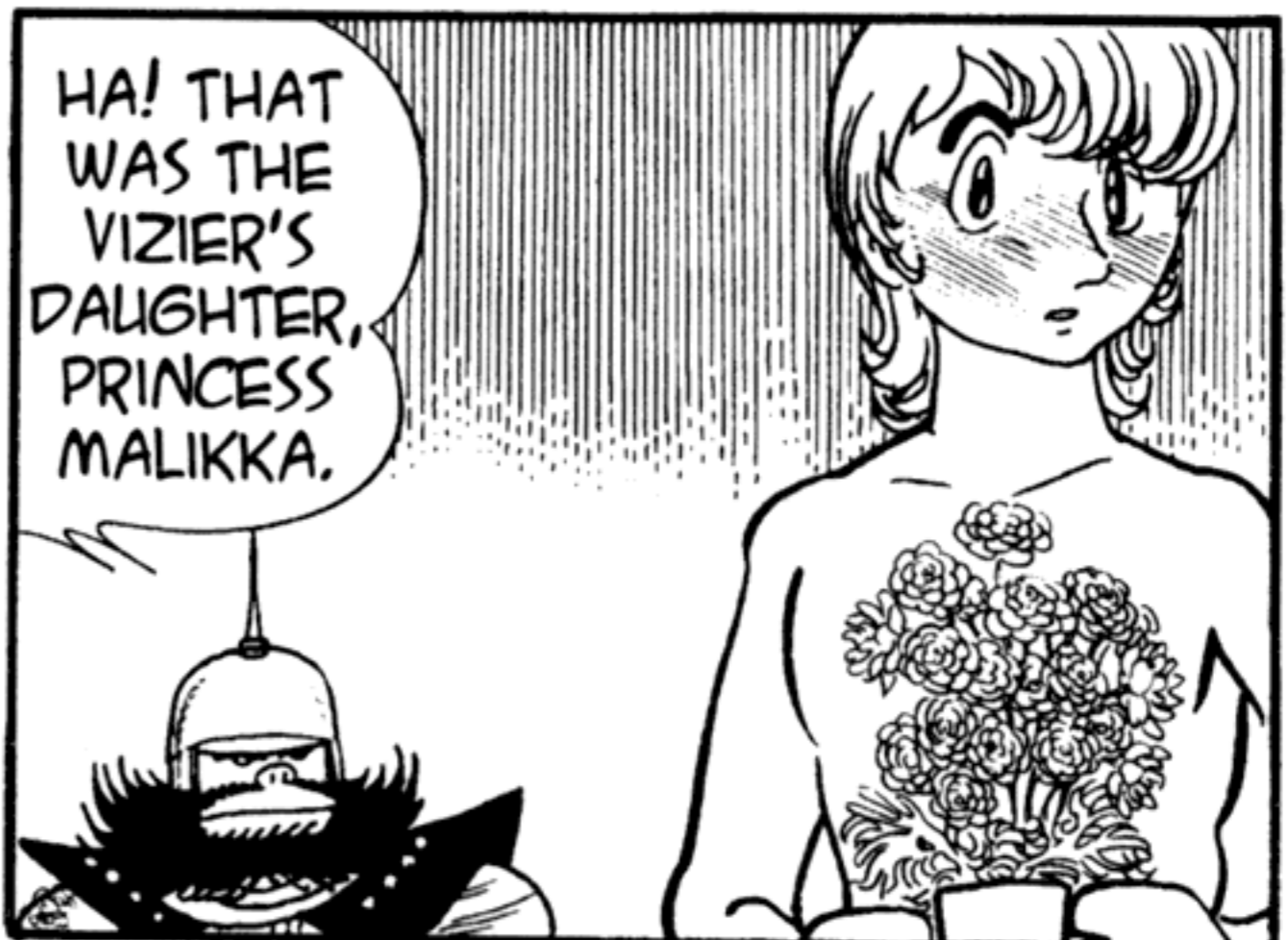
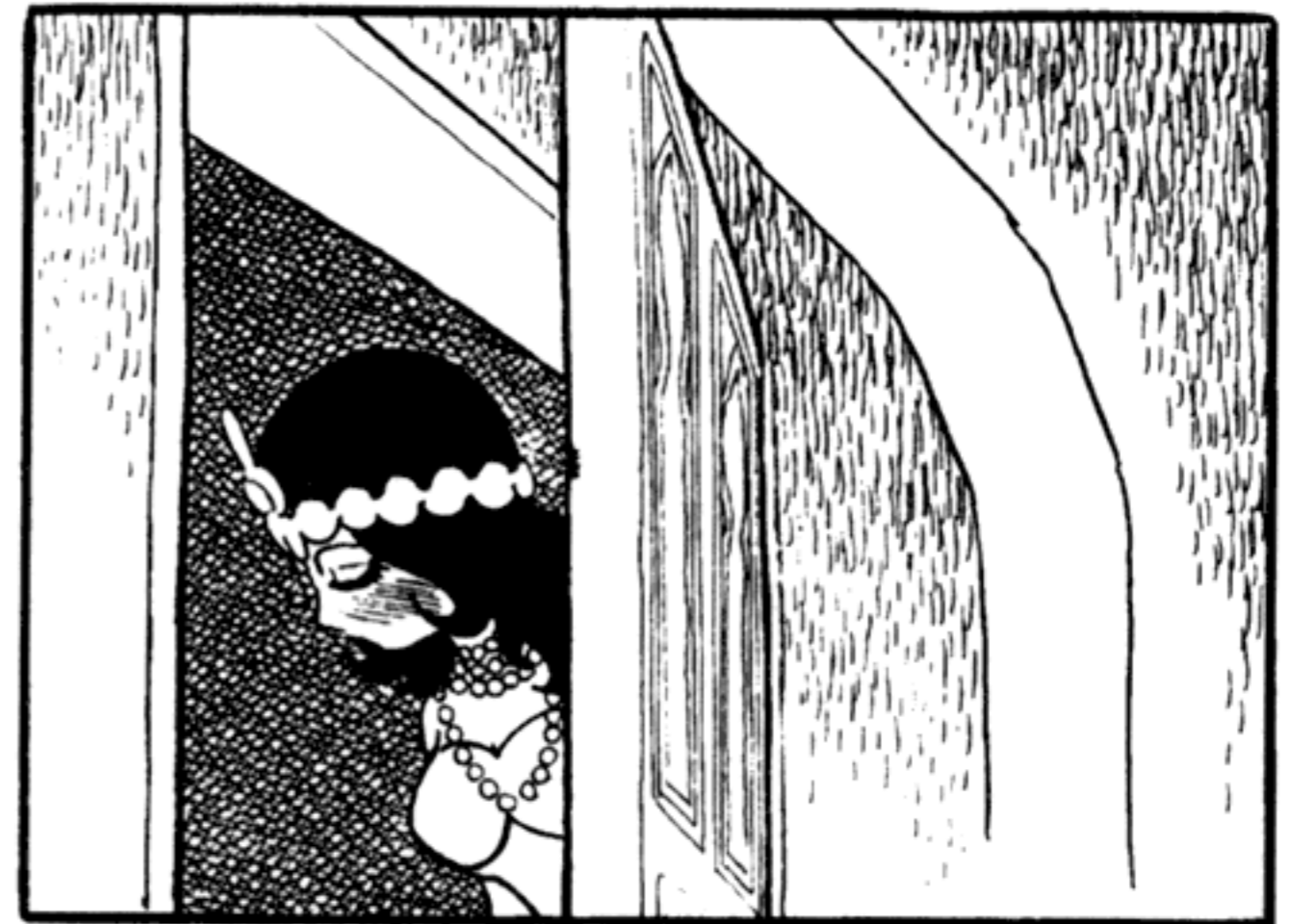
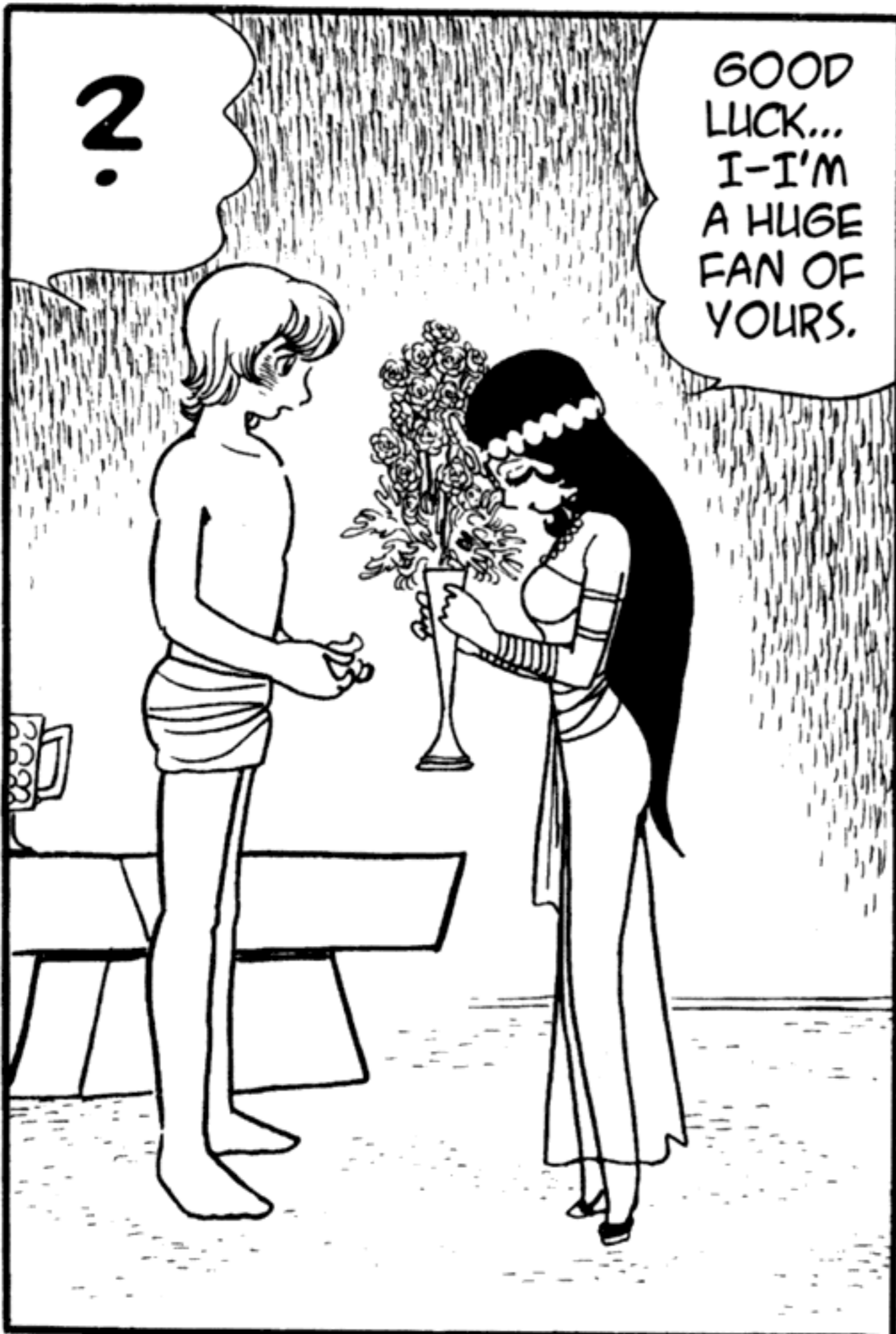
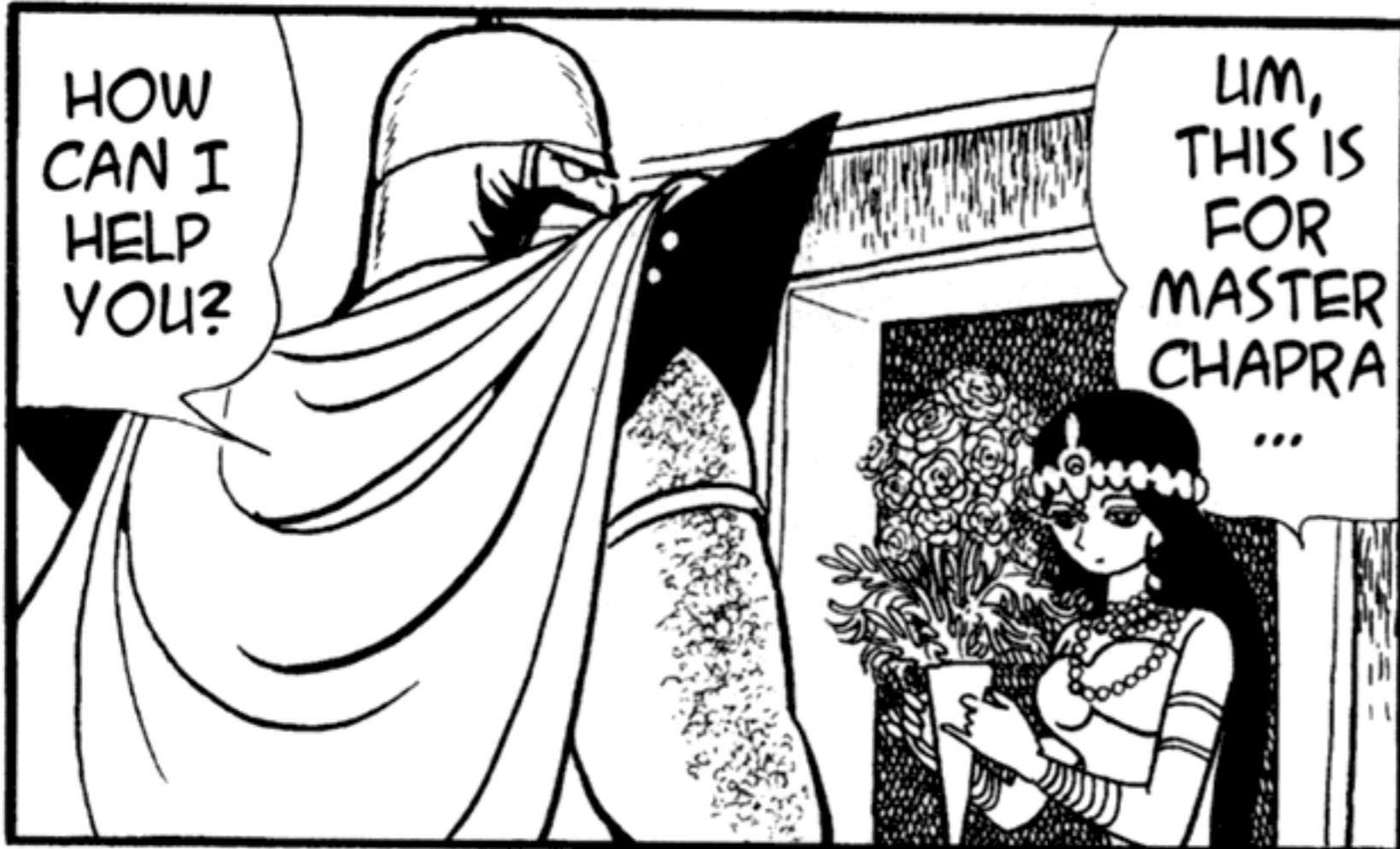
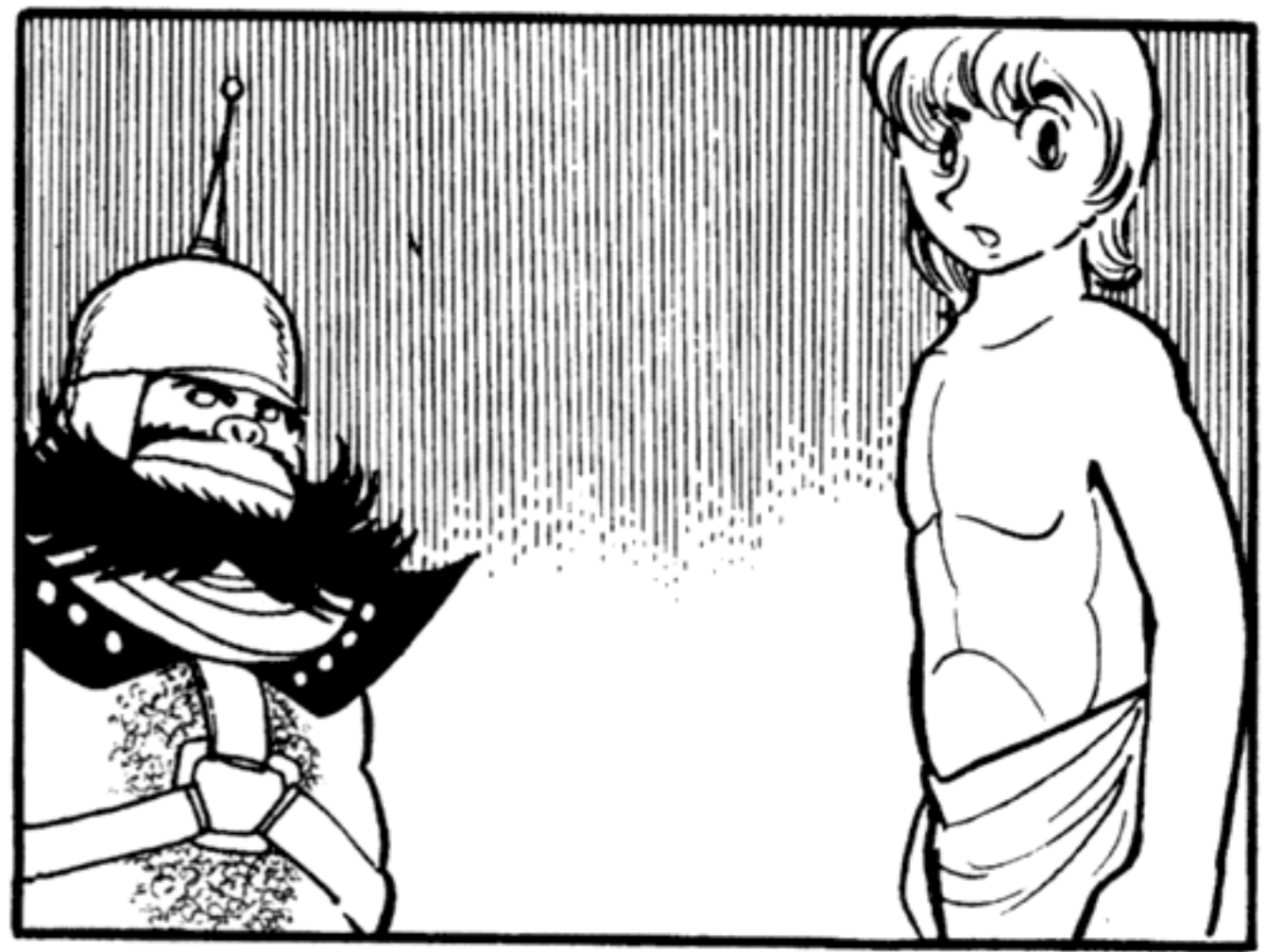
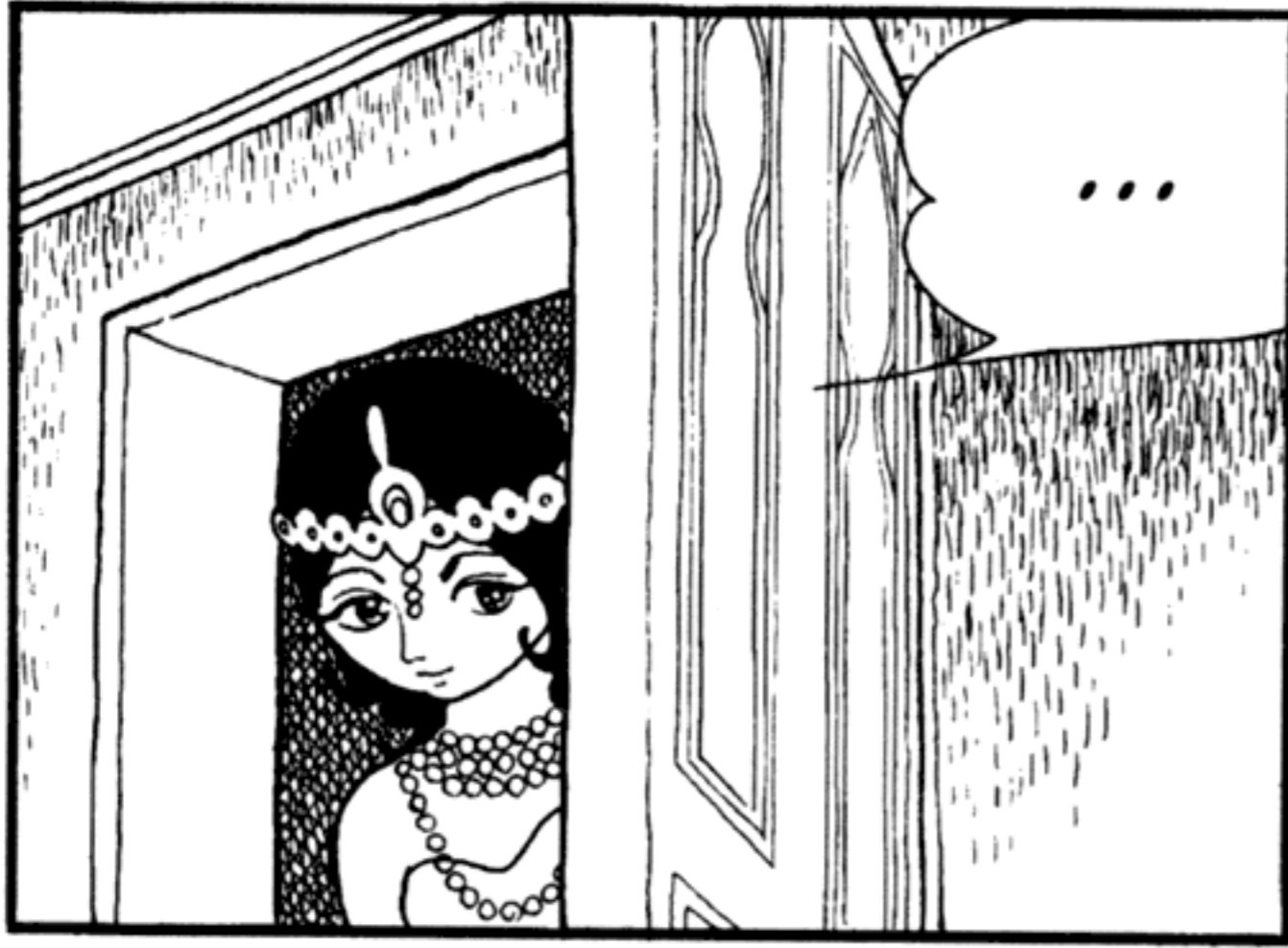
LOOK AT ME, USELESS AFTER LOSING AN ARM AND A LEG.

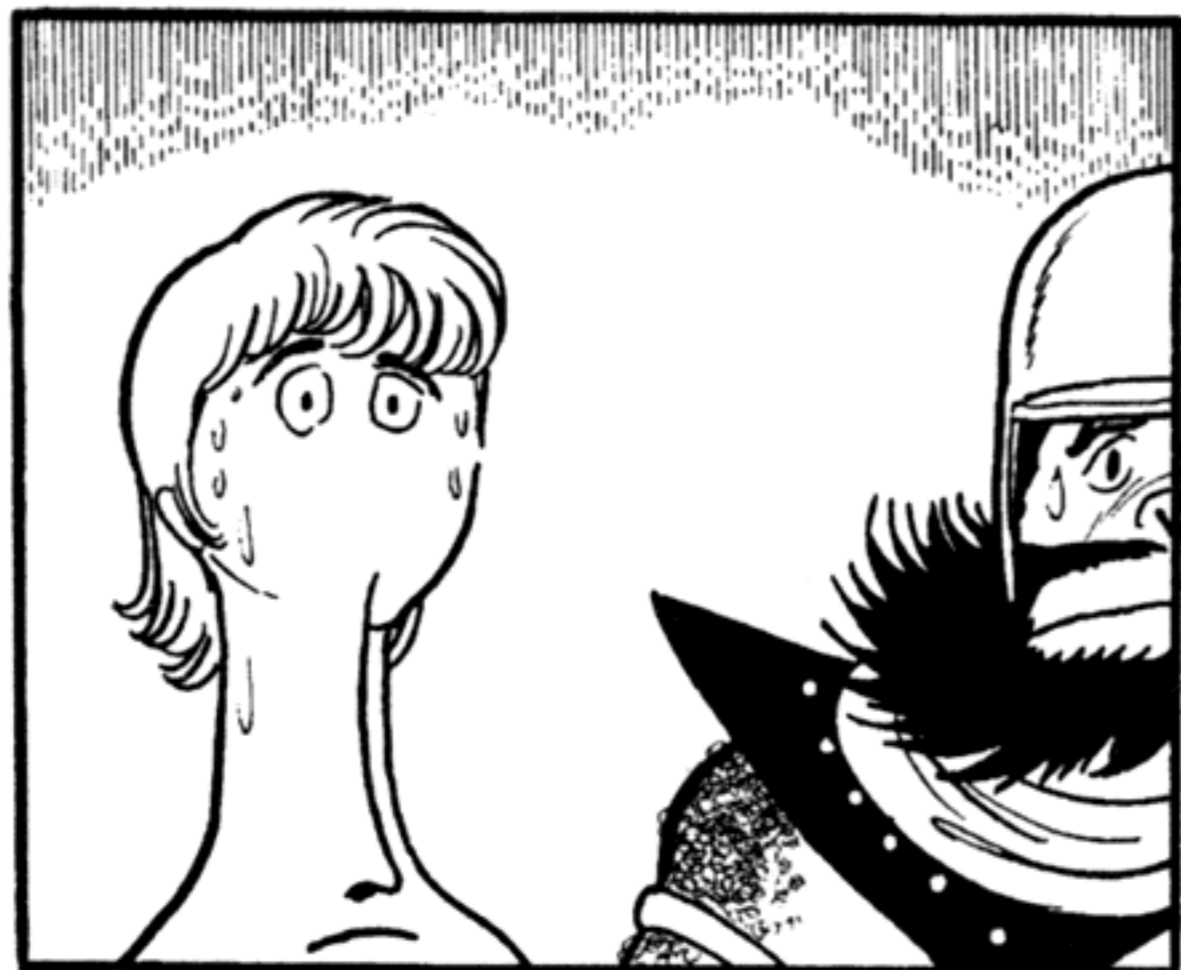
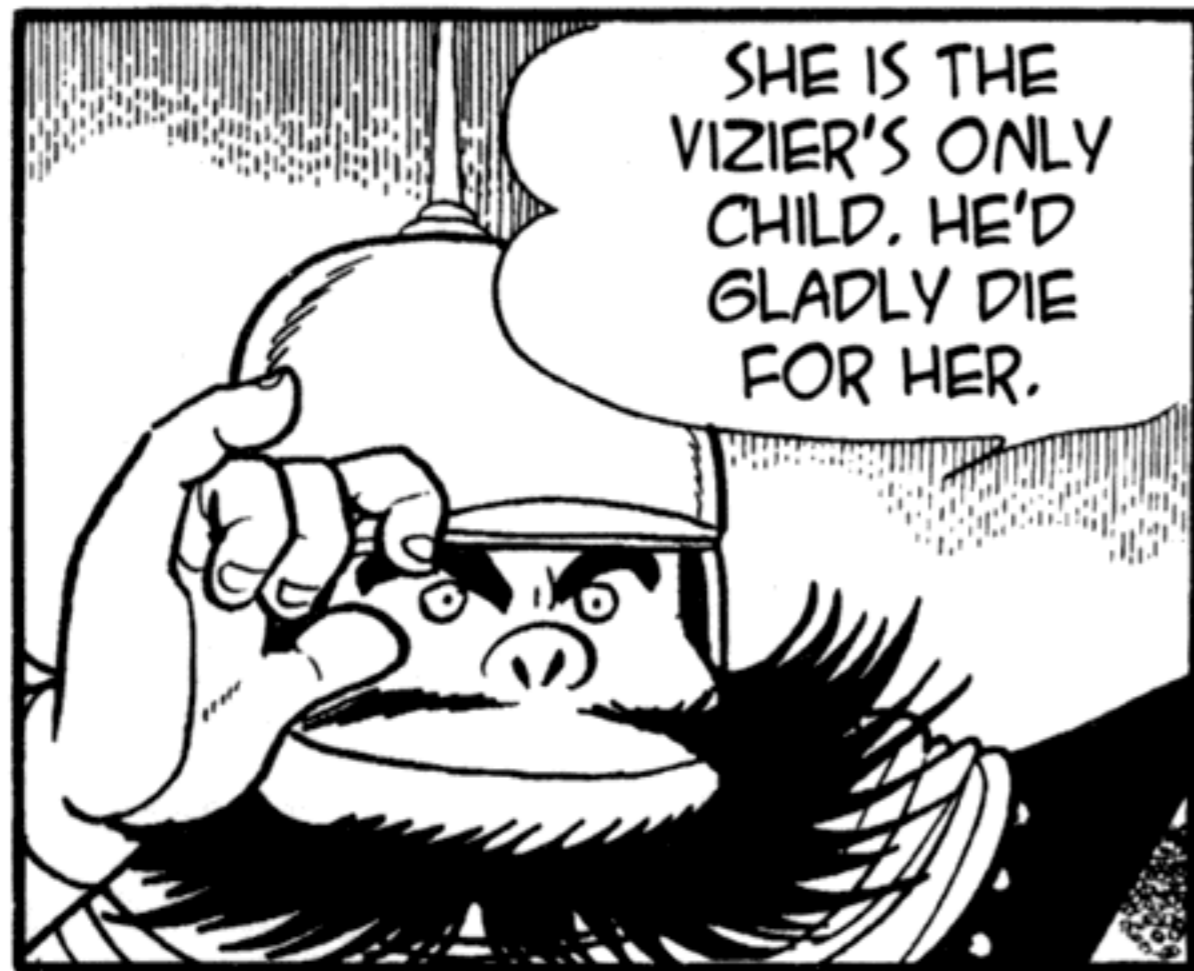
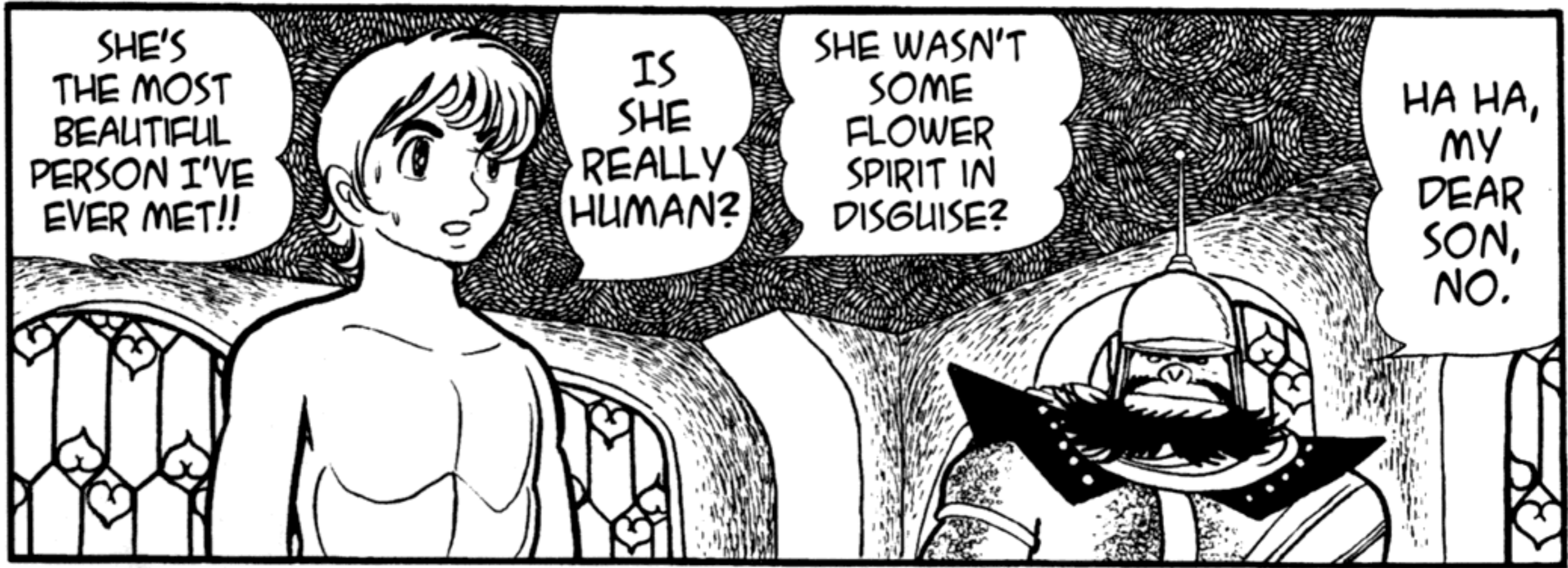


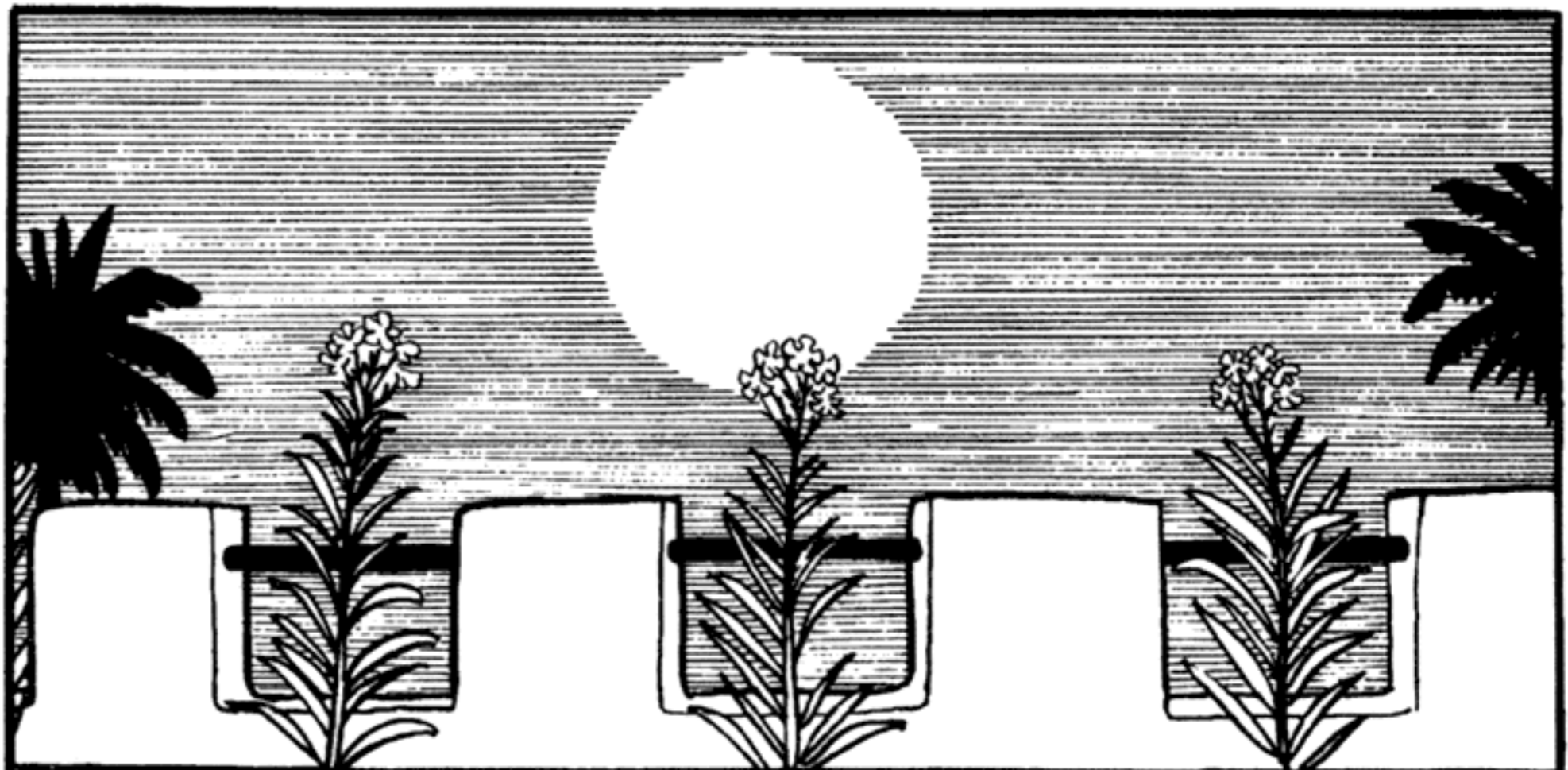
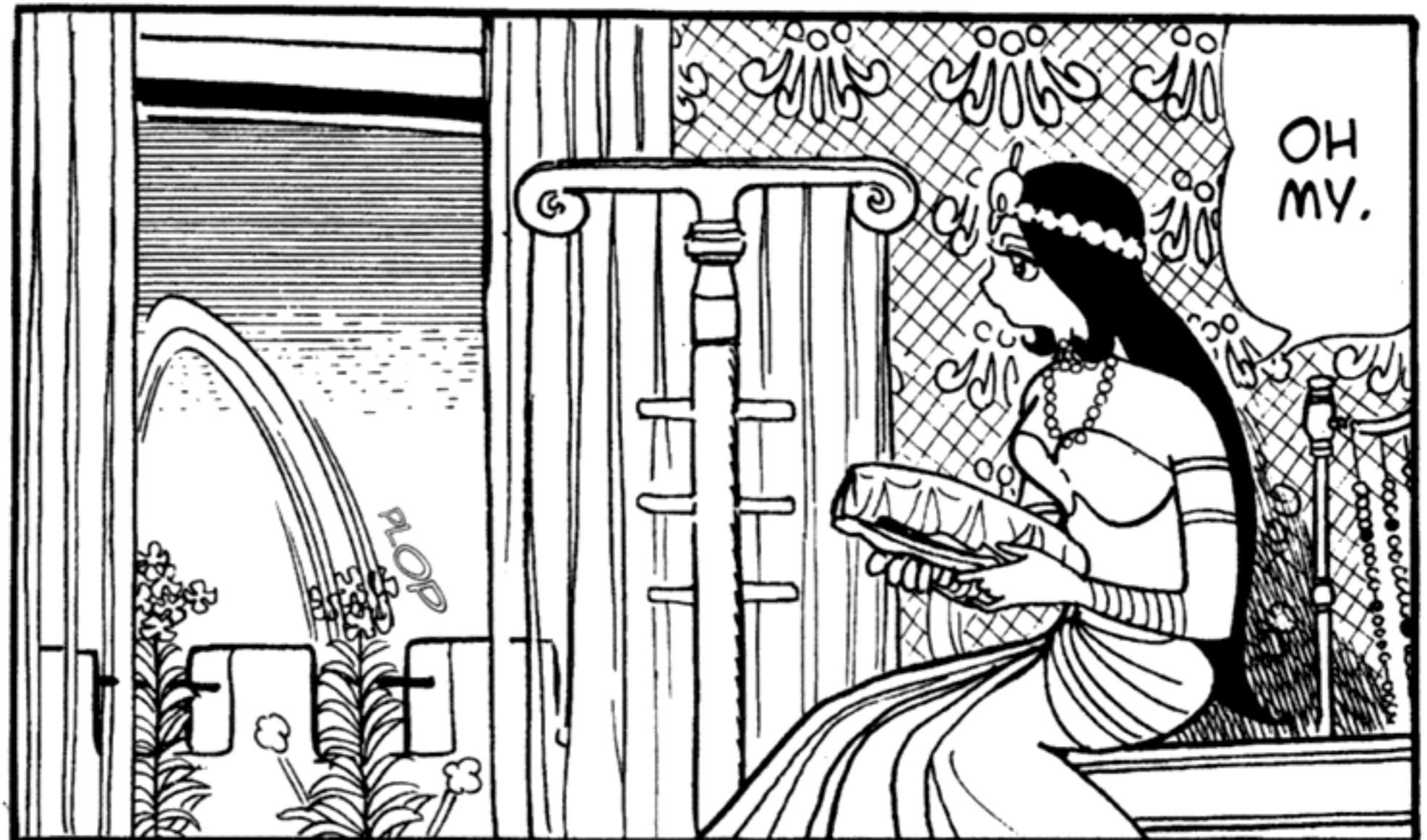
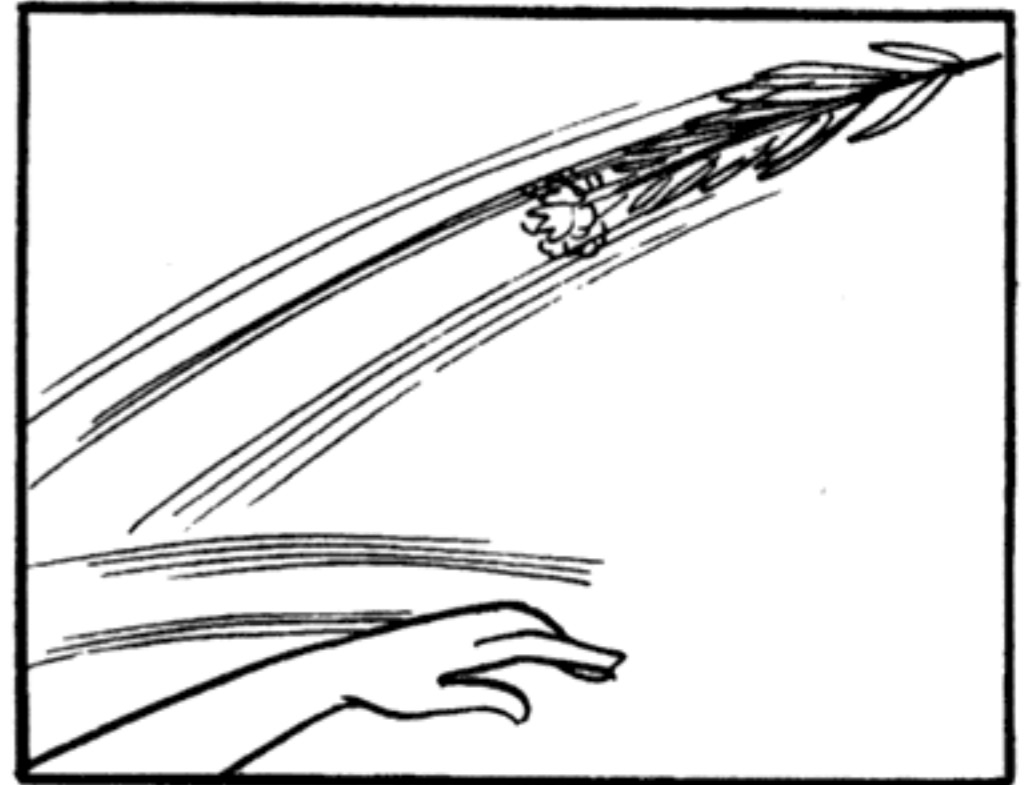
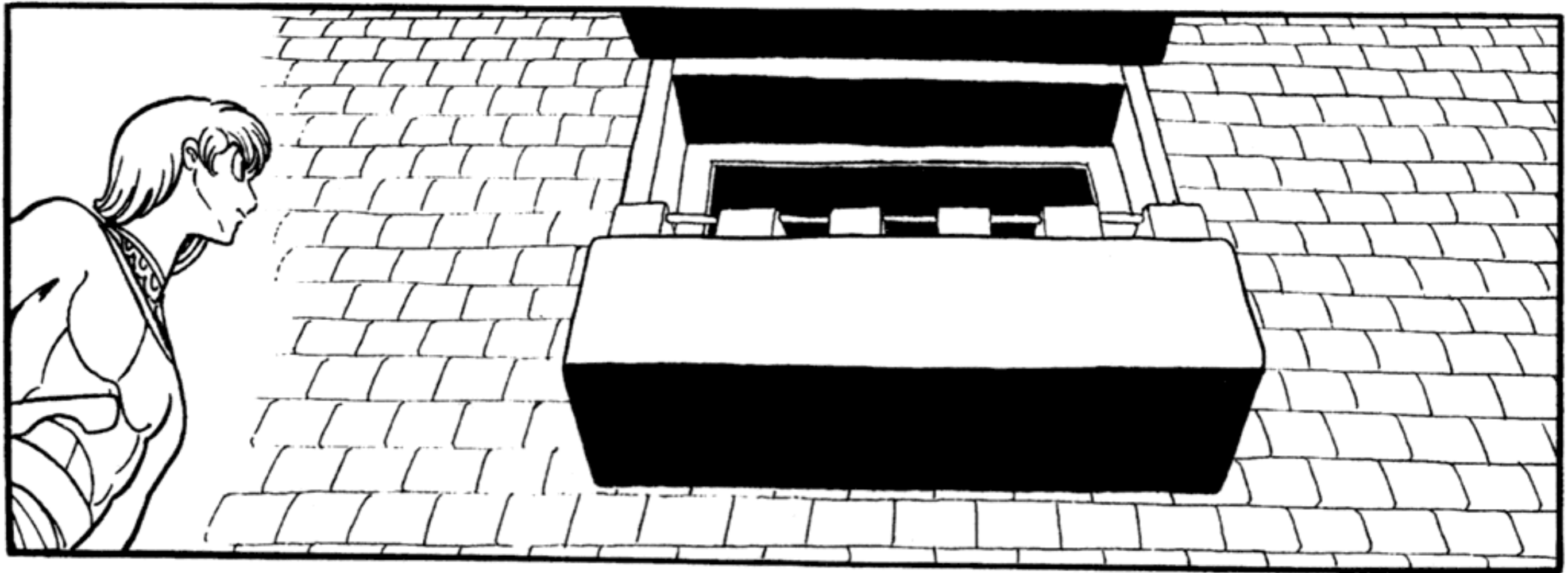


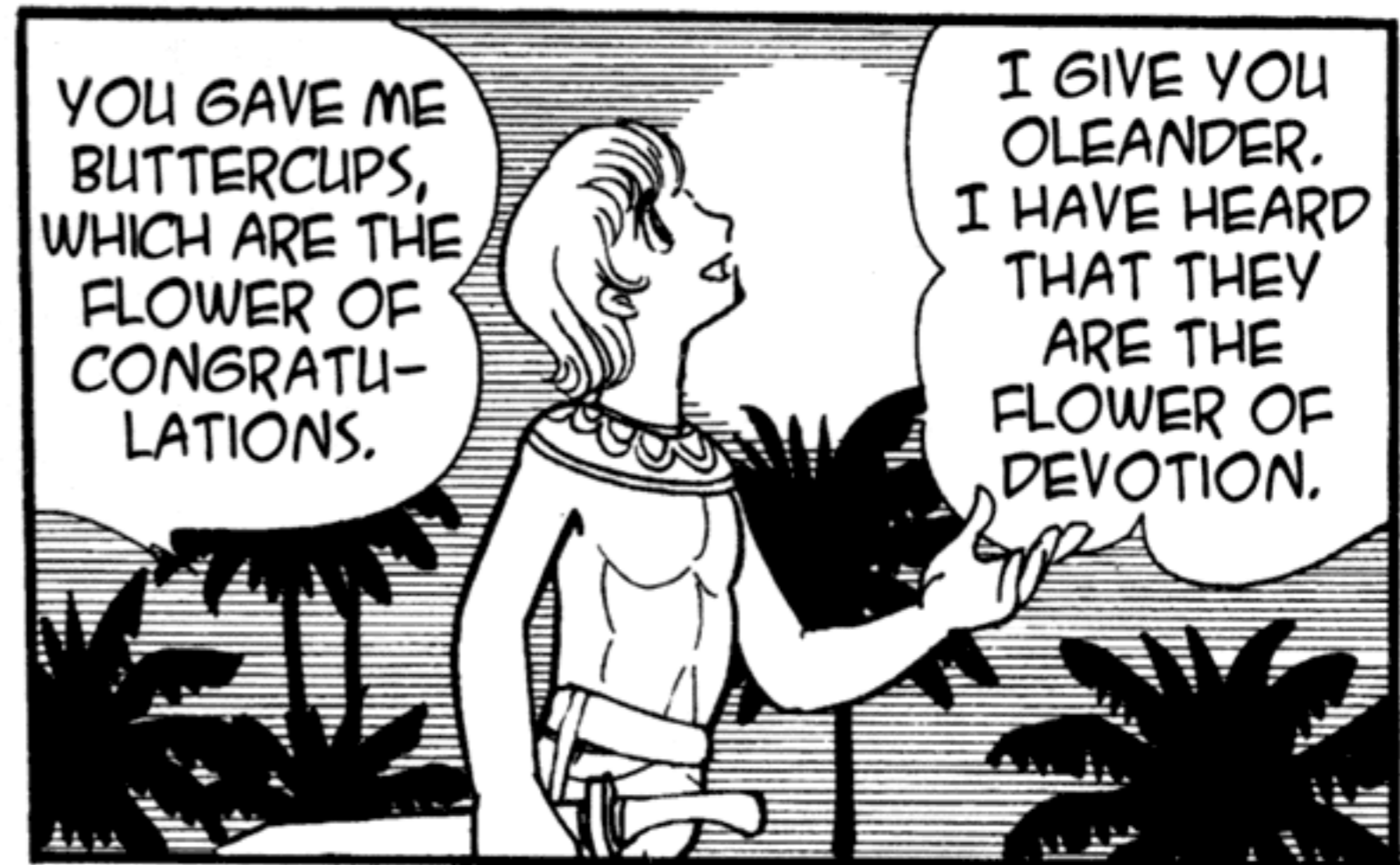


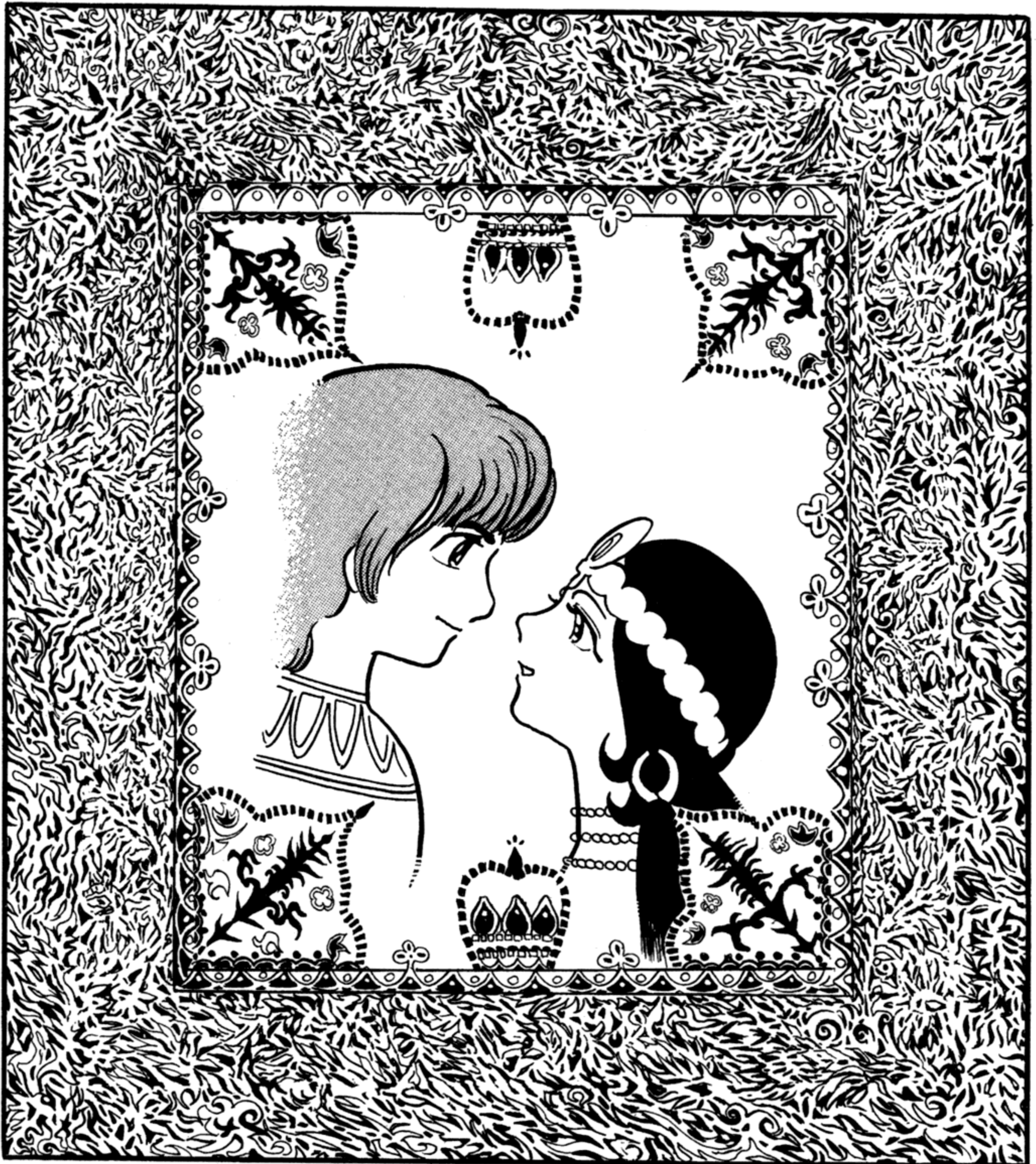
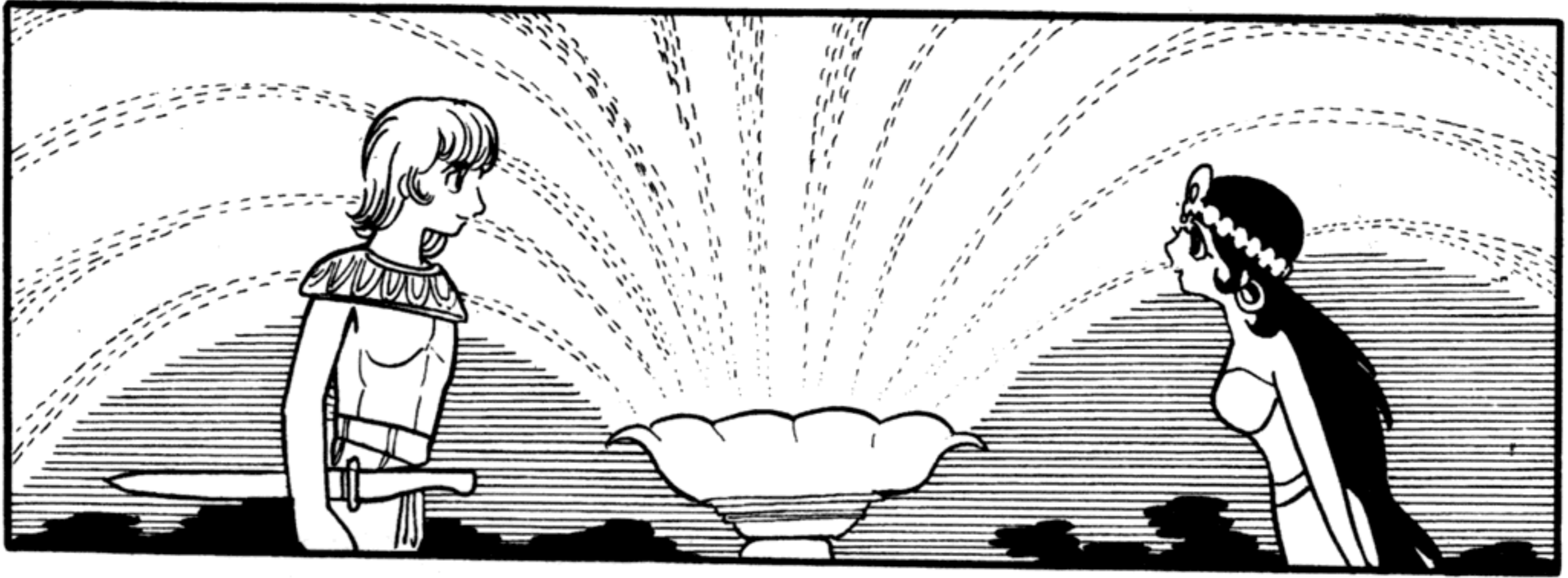


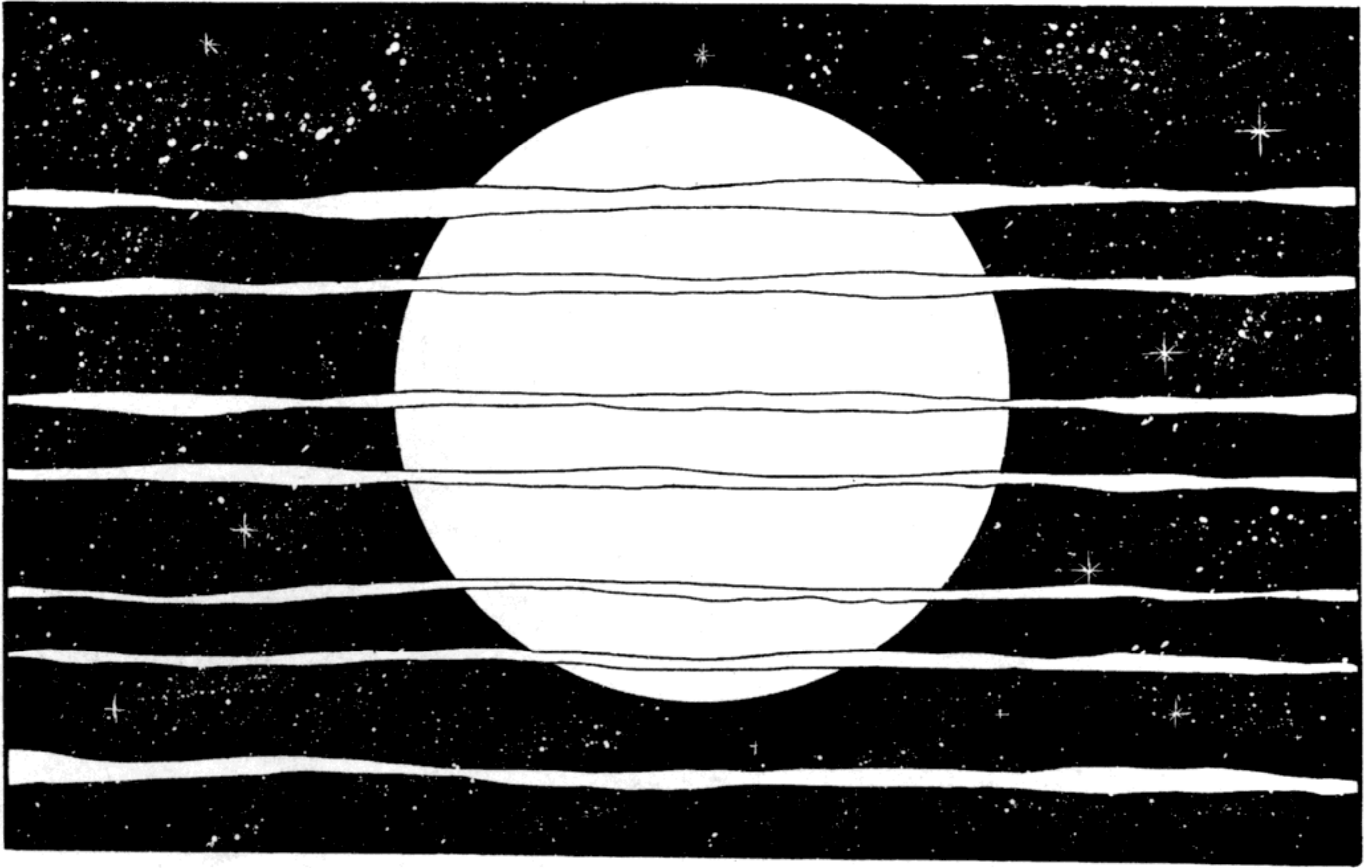


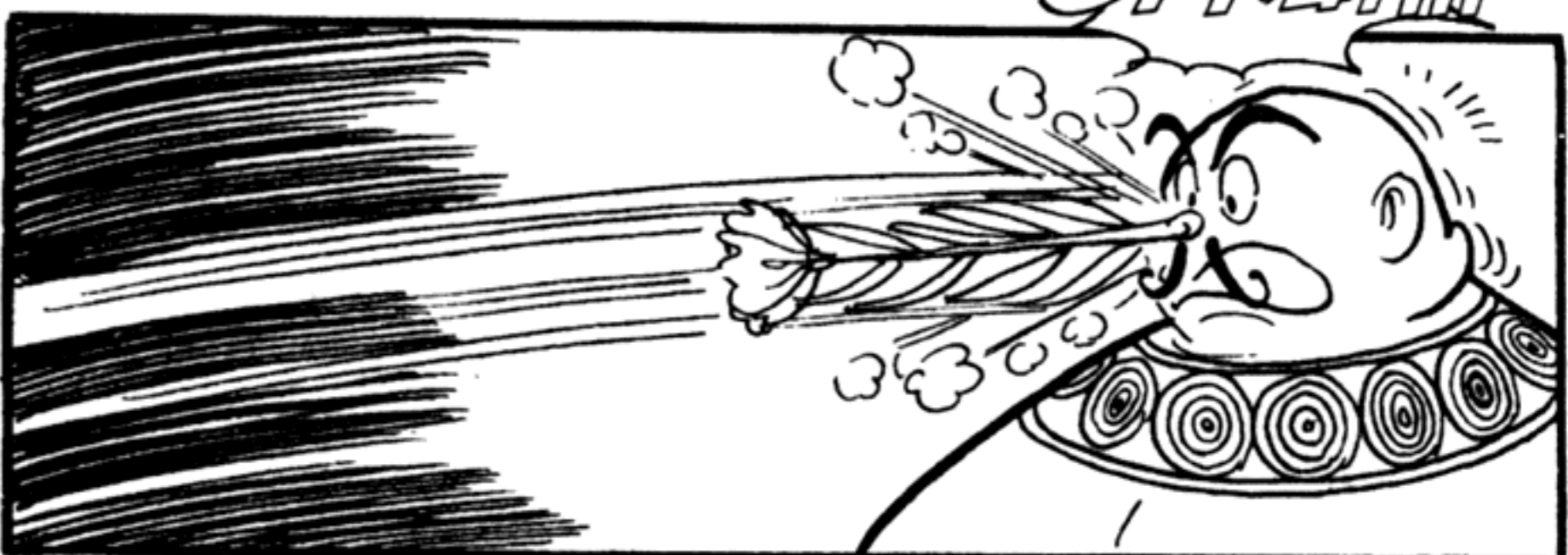
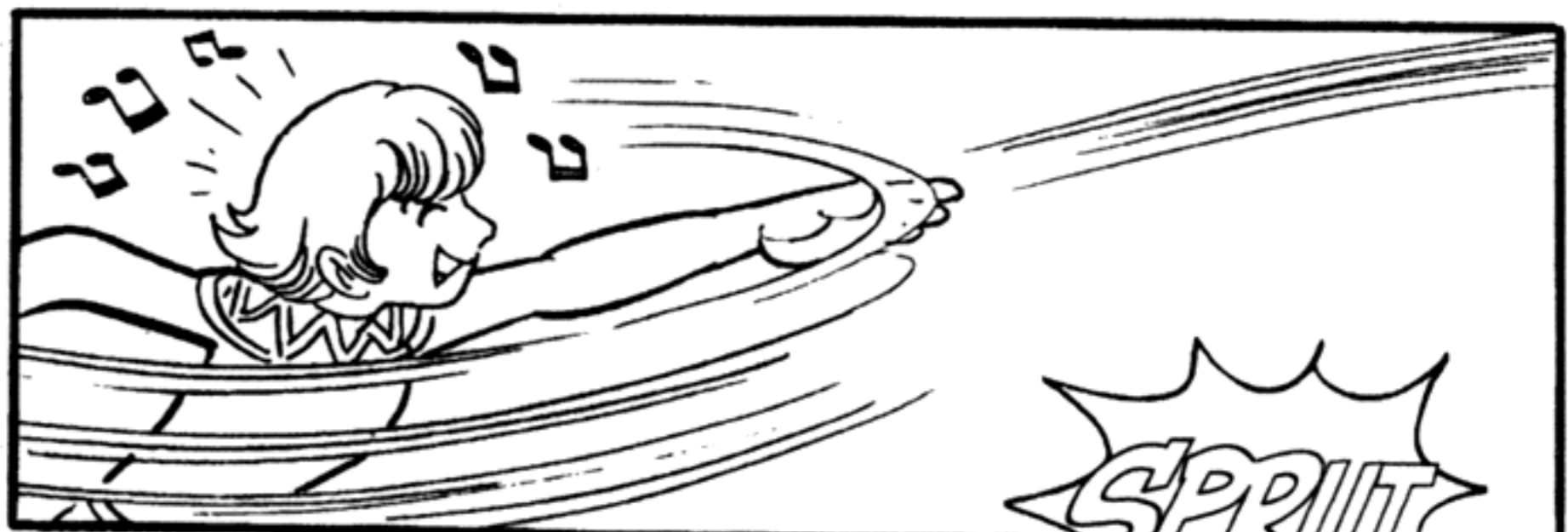
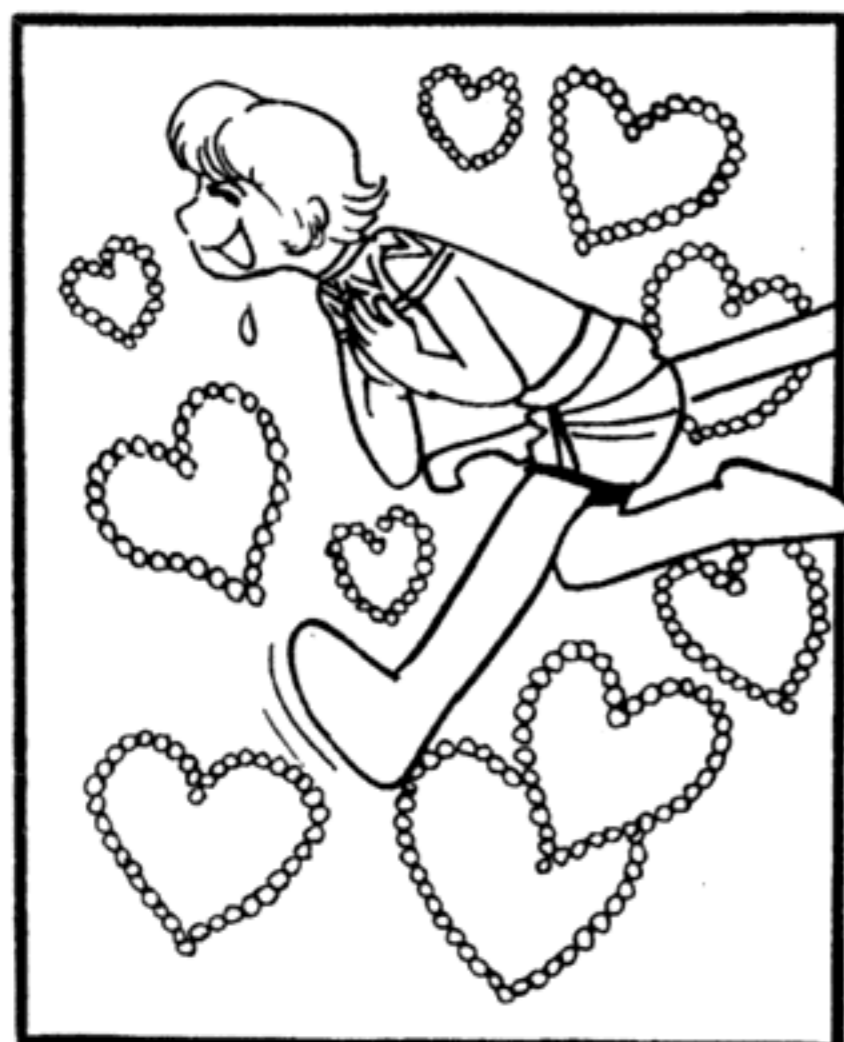
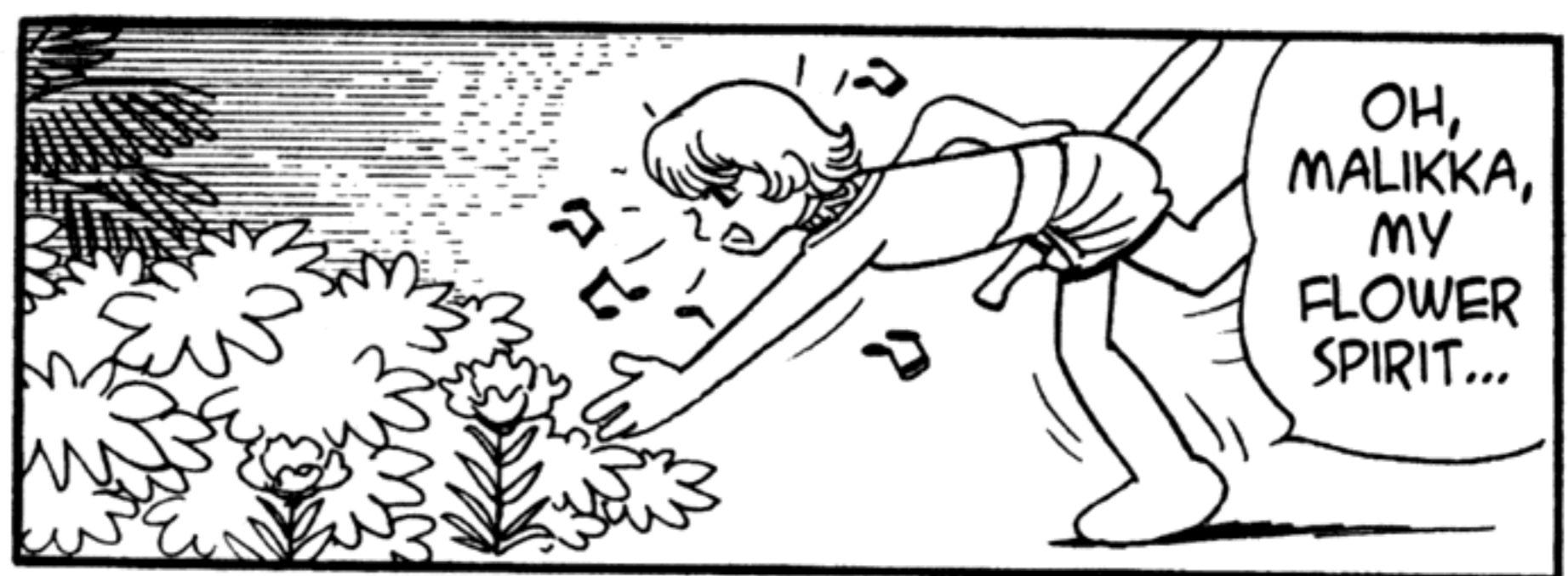
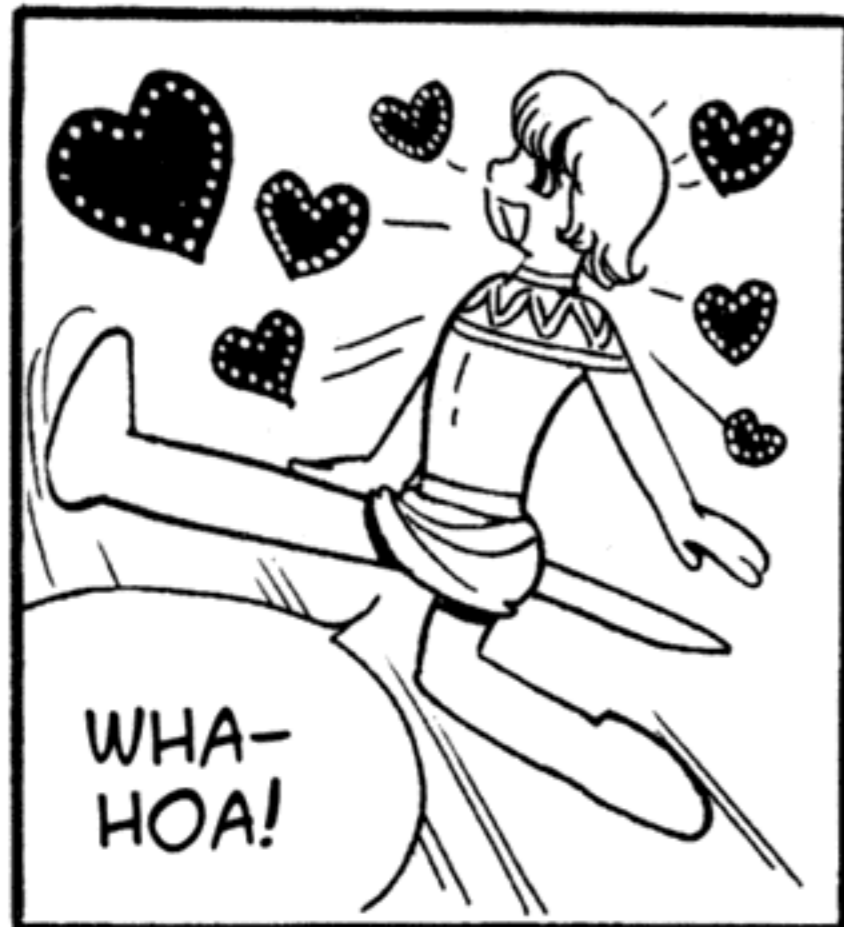
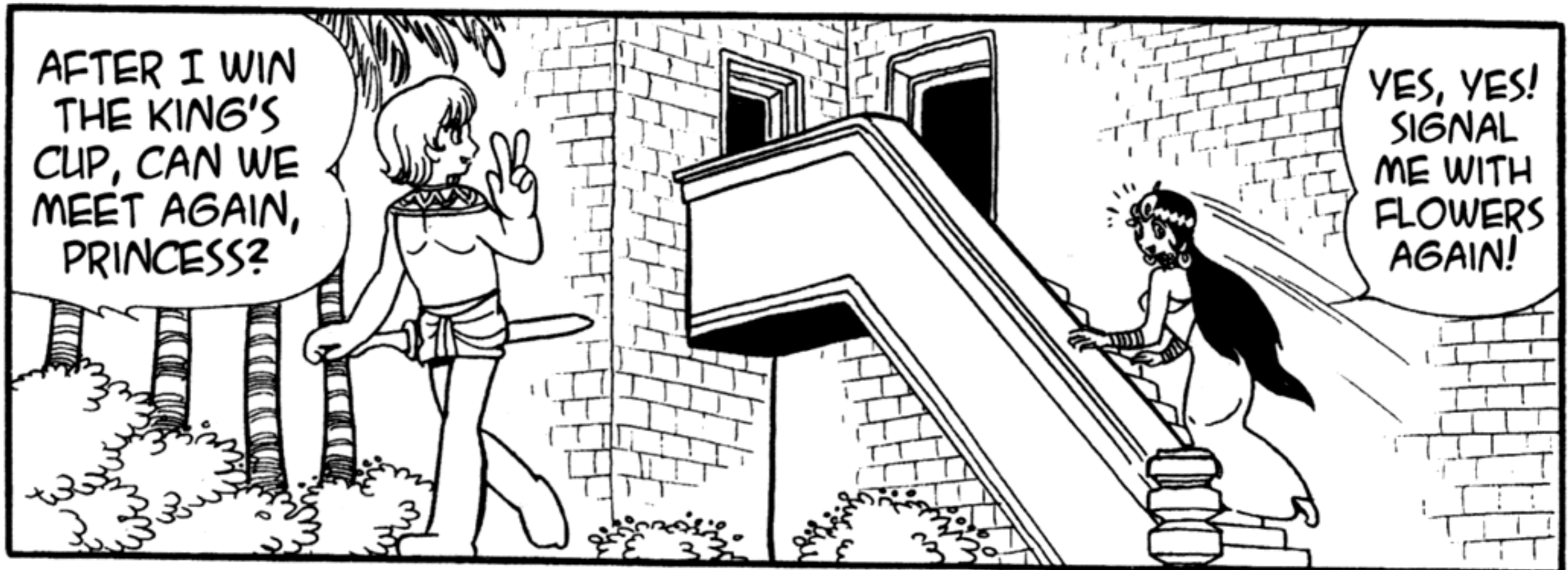
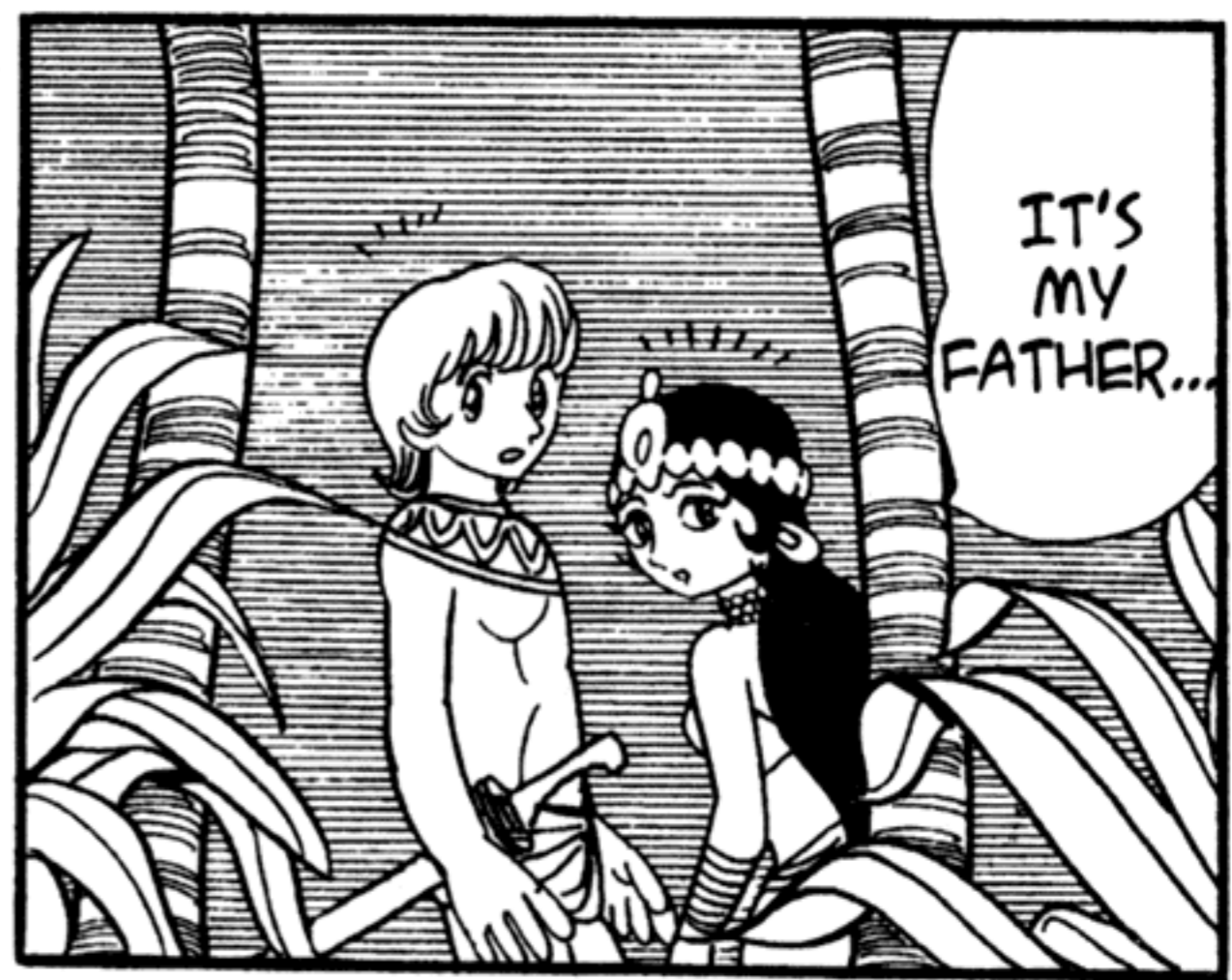
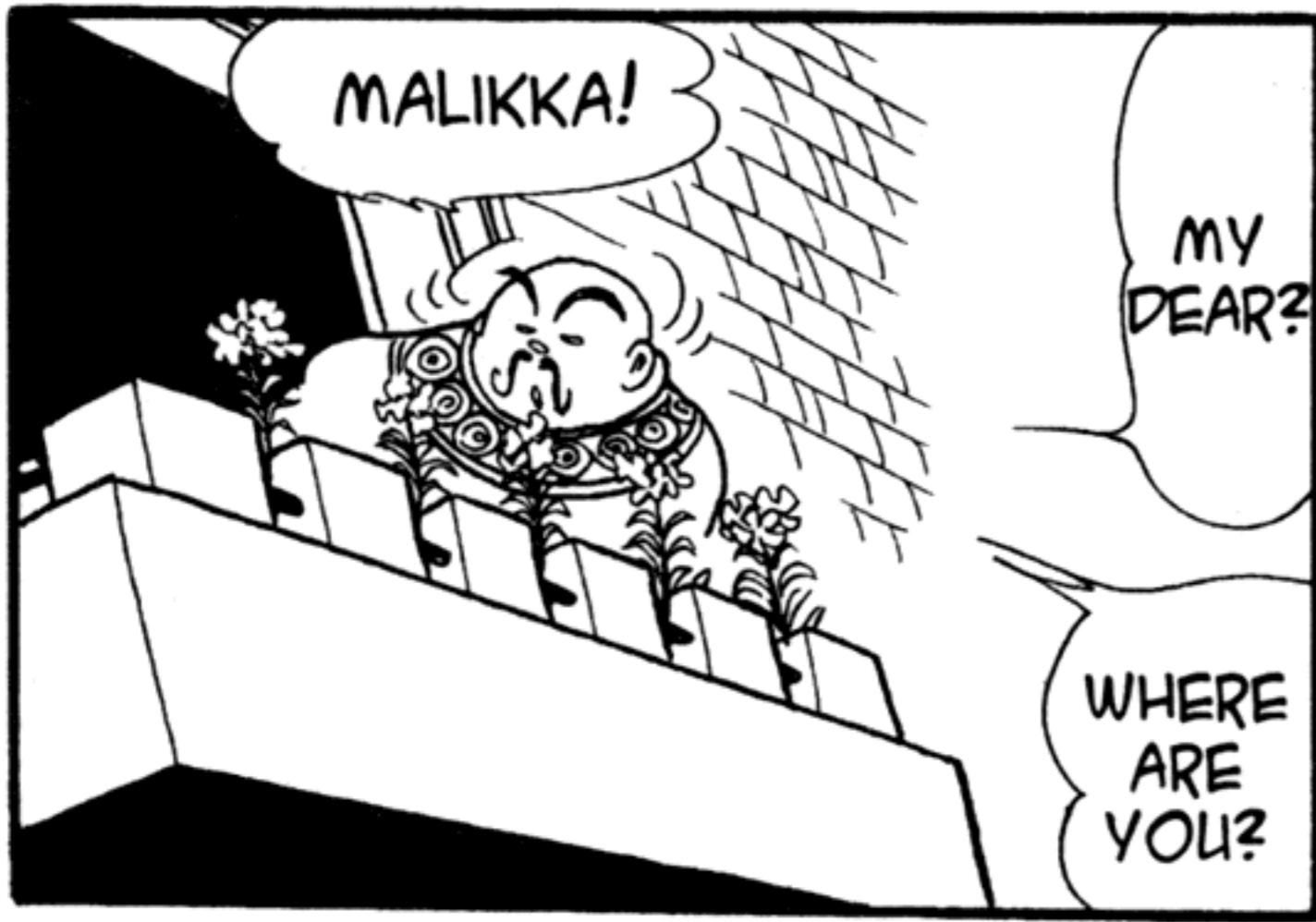


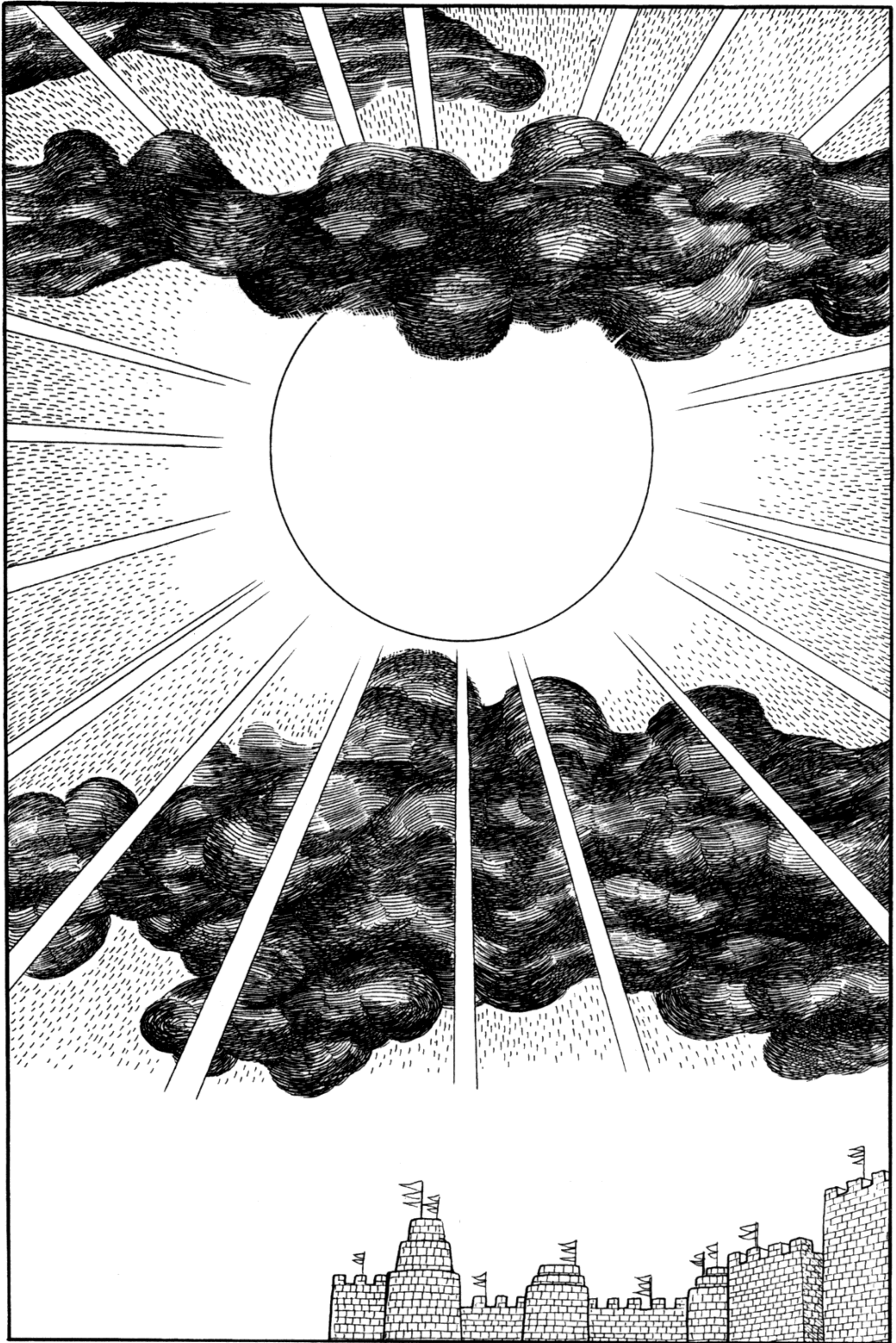


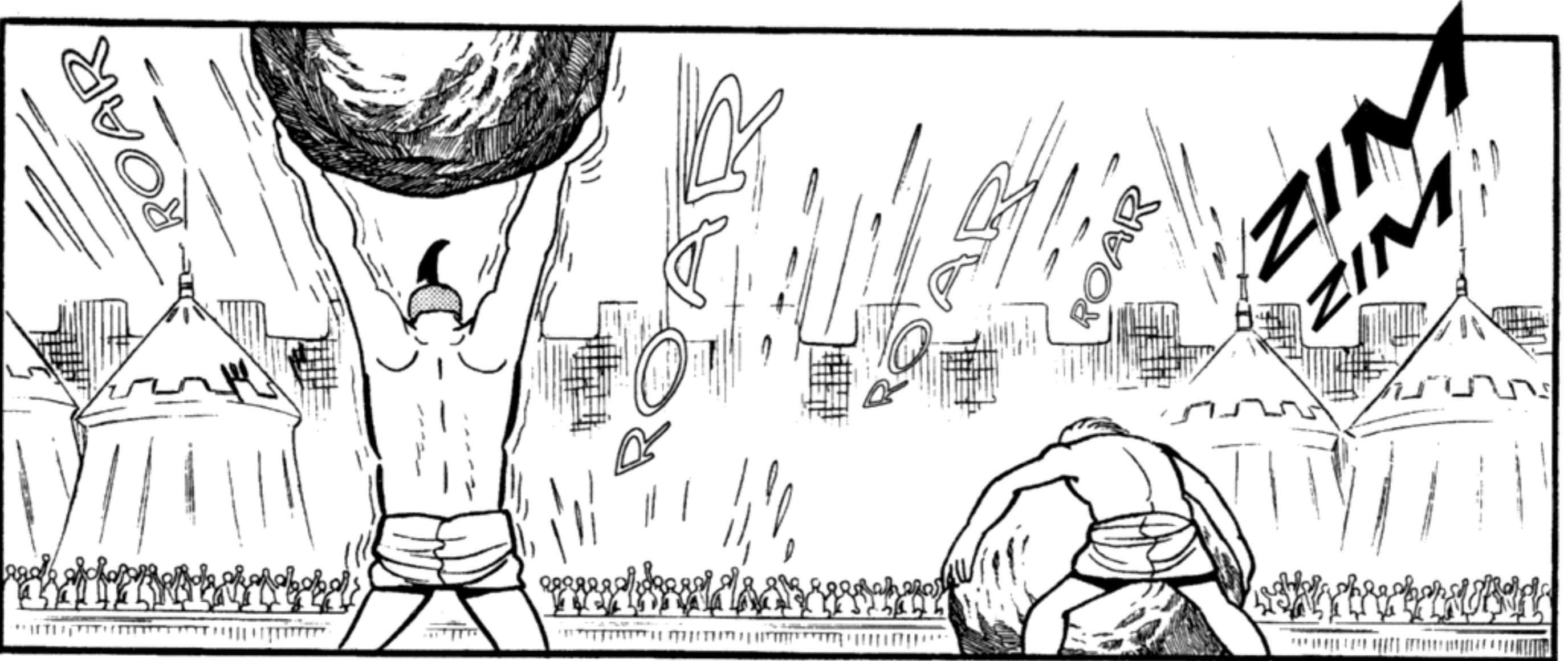
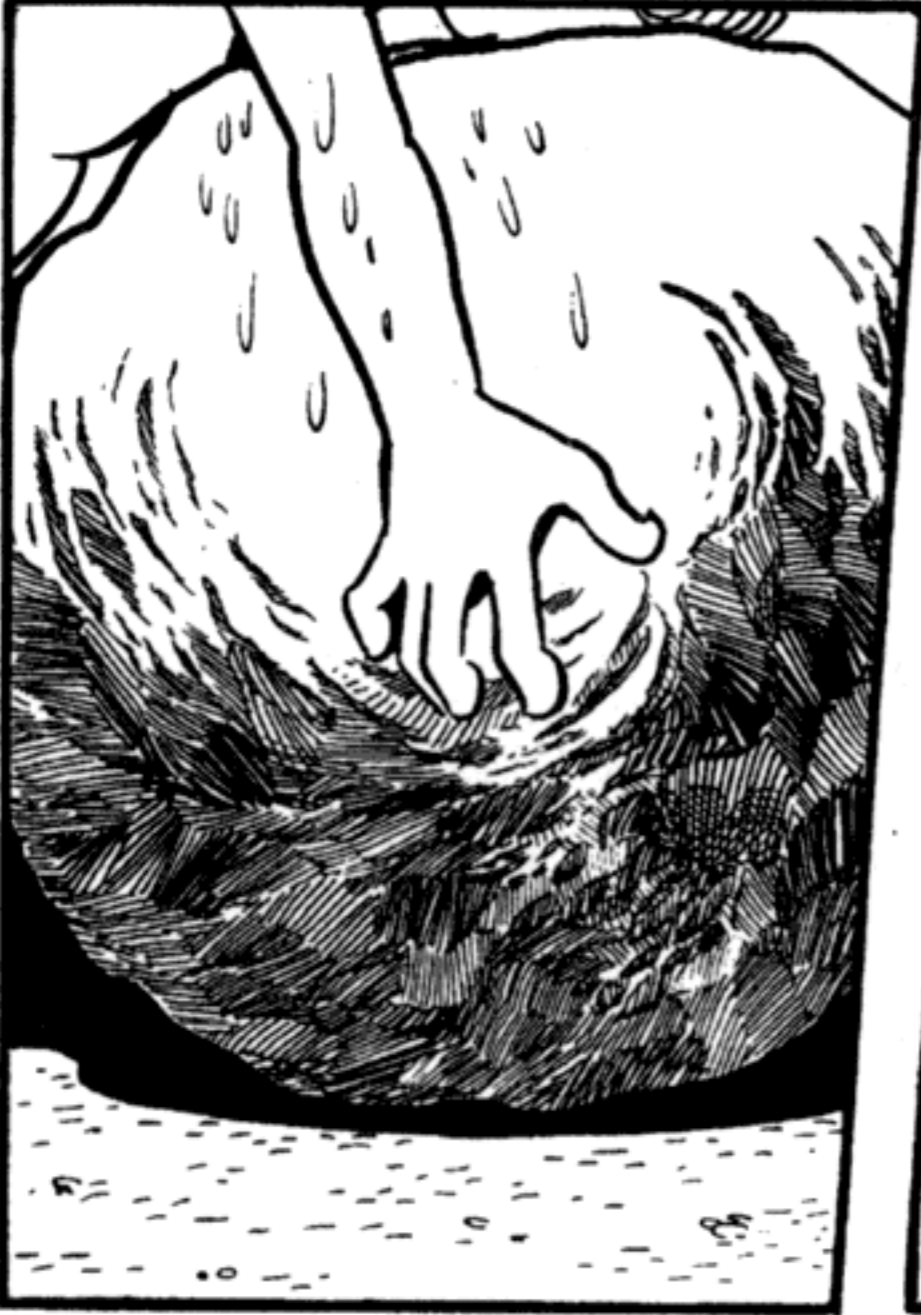
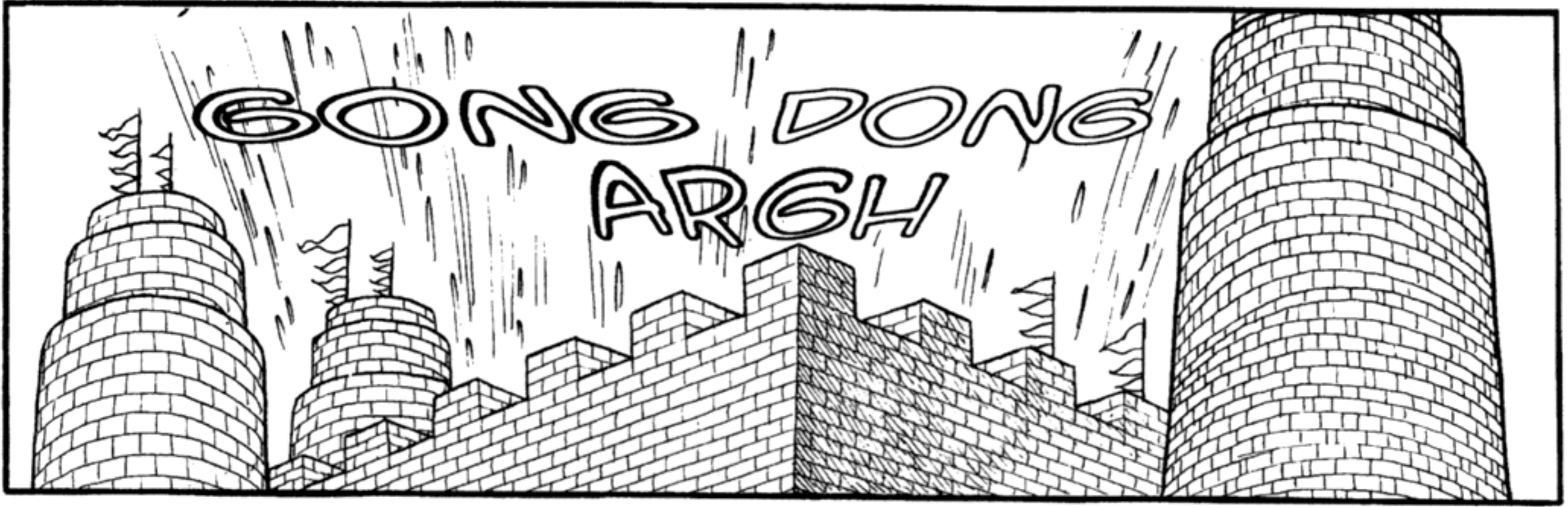


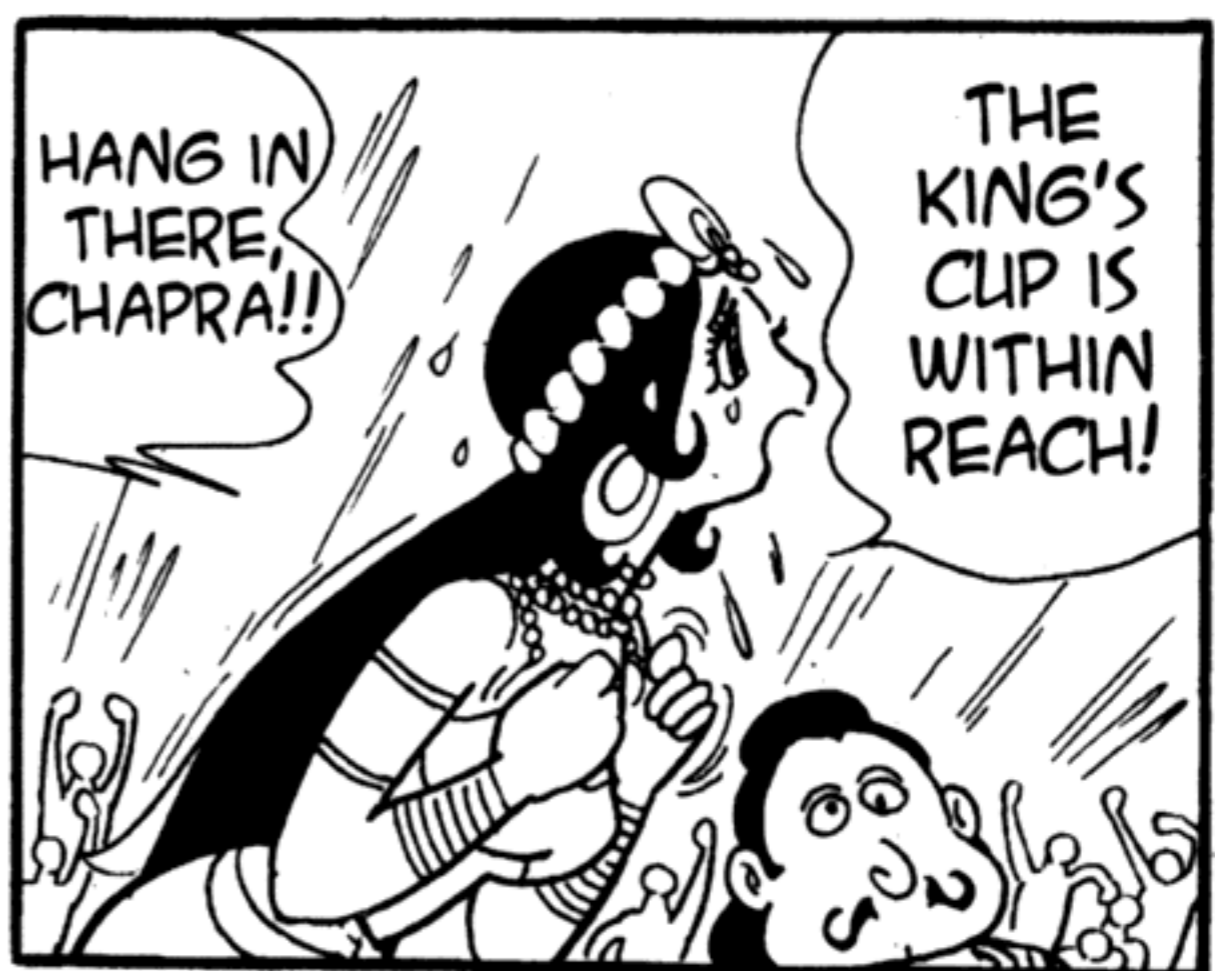
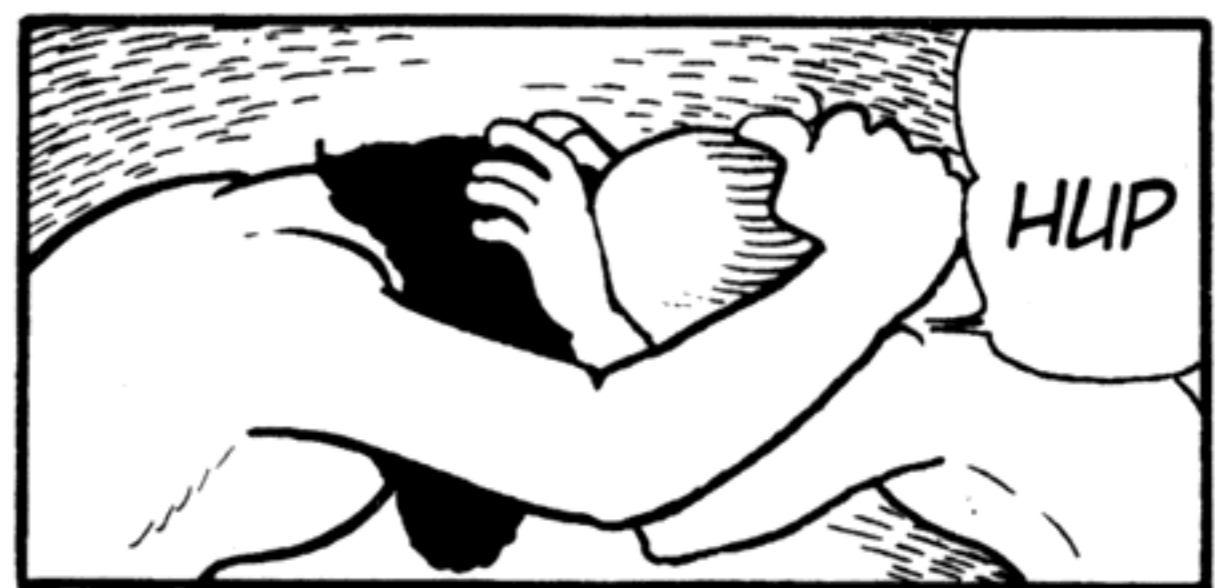
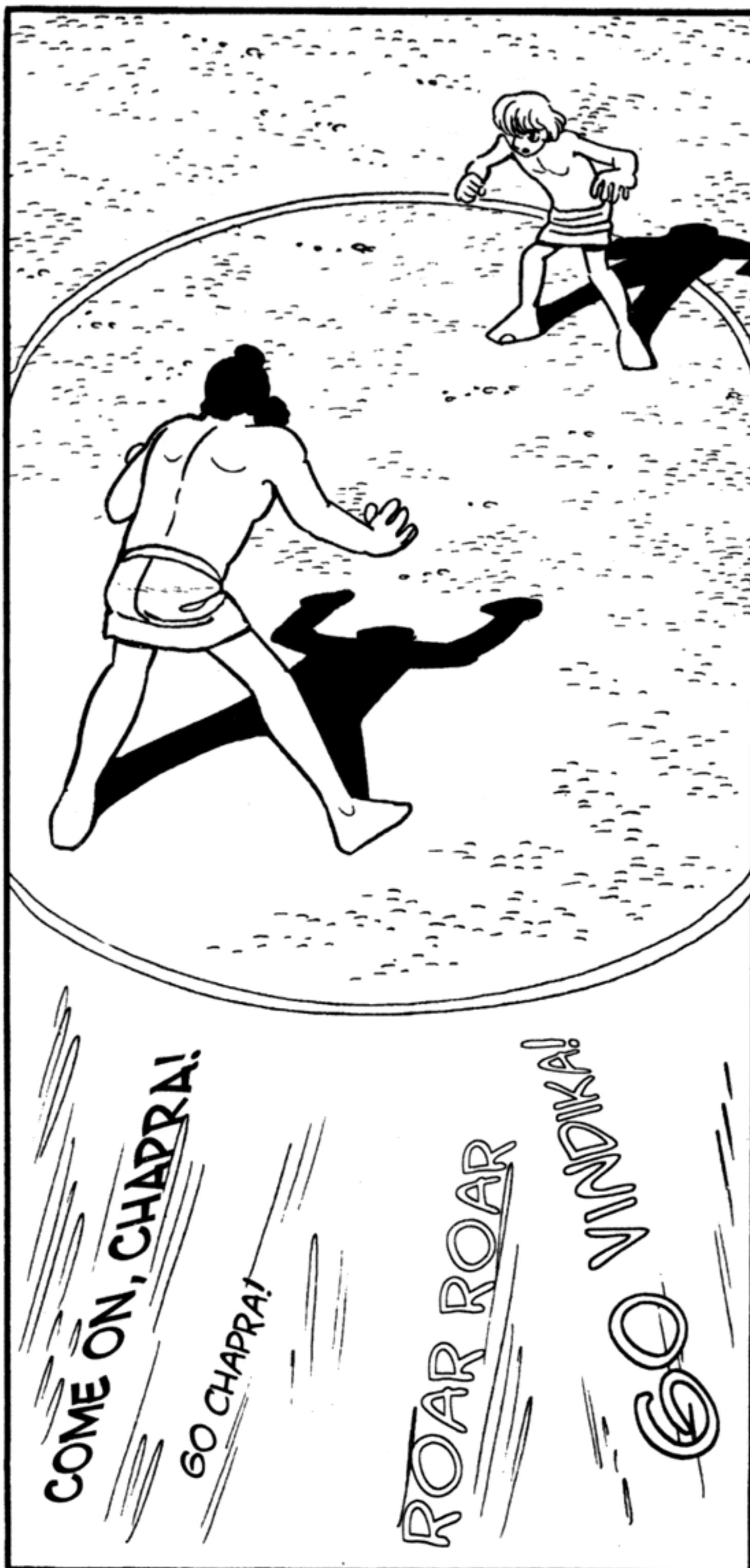


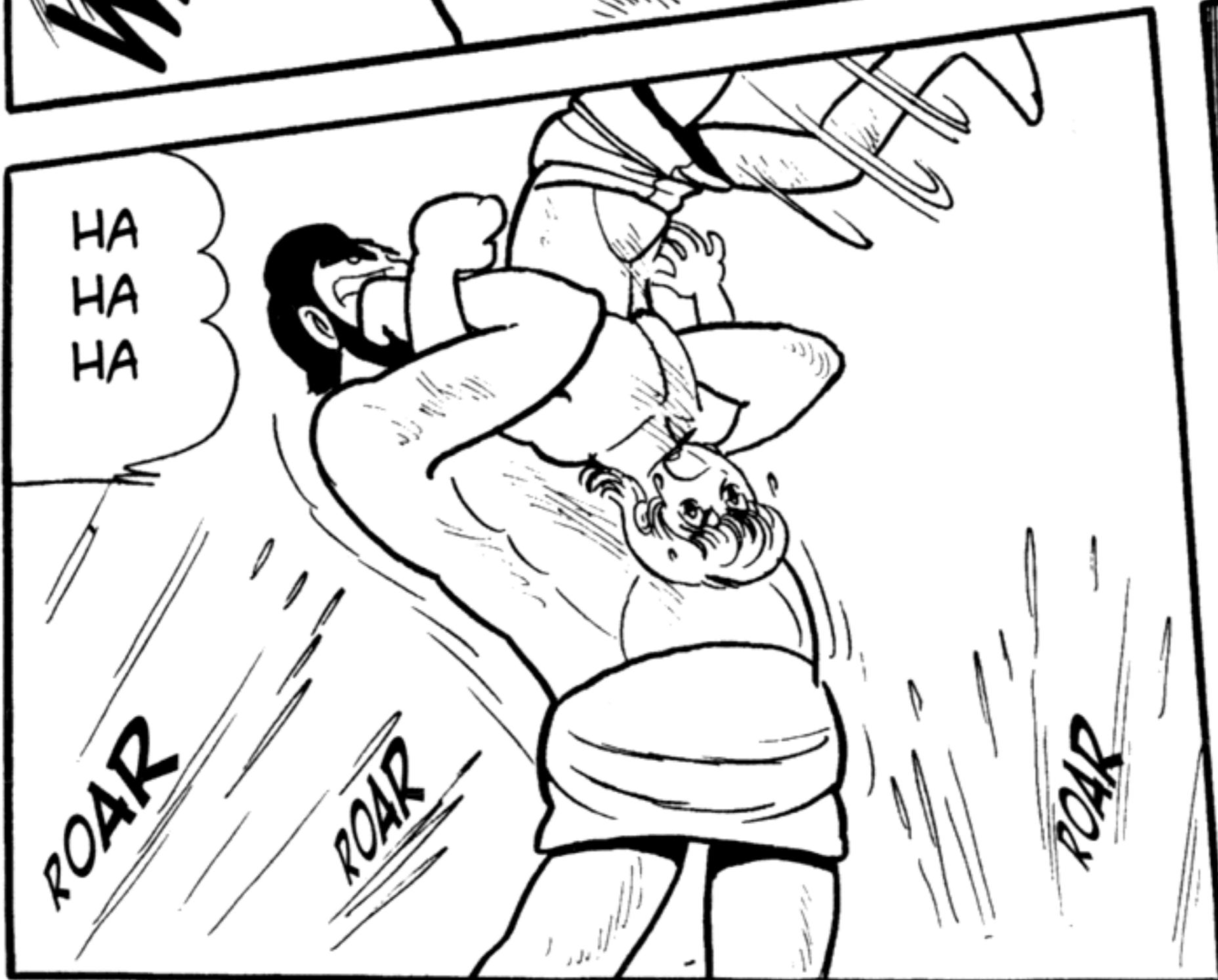
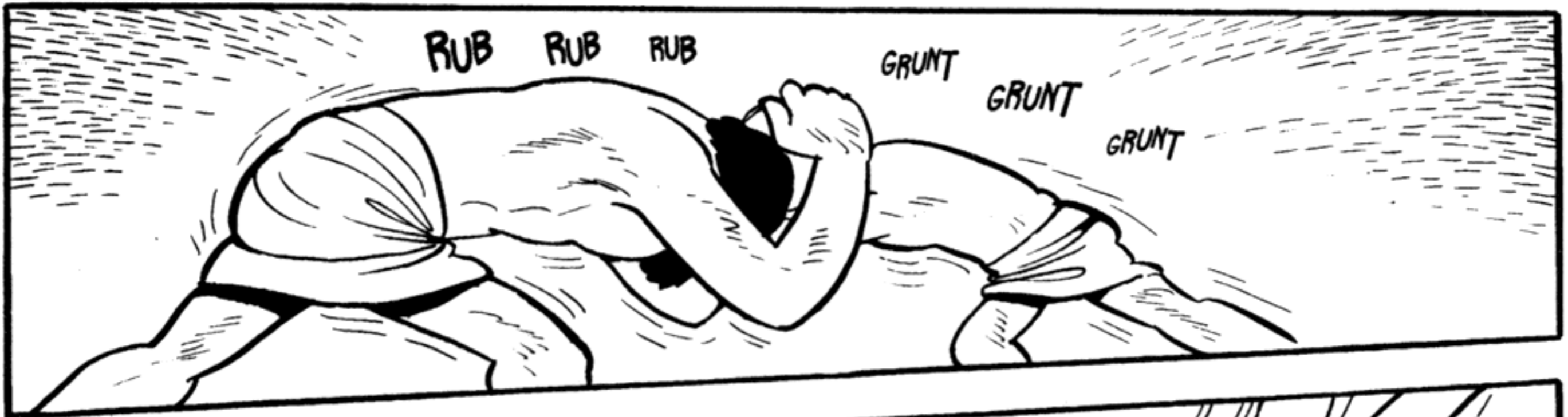


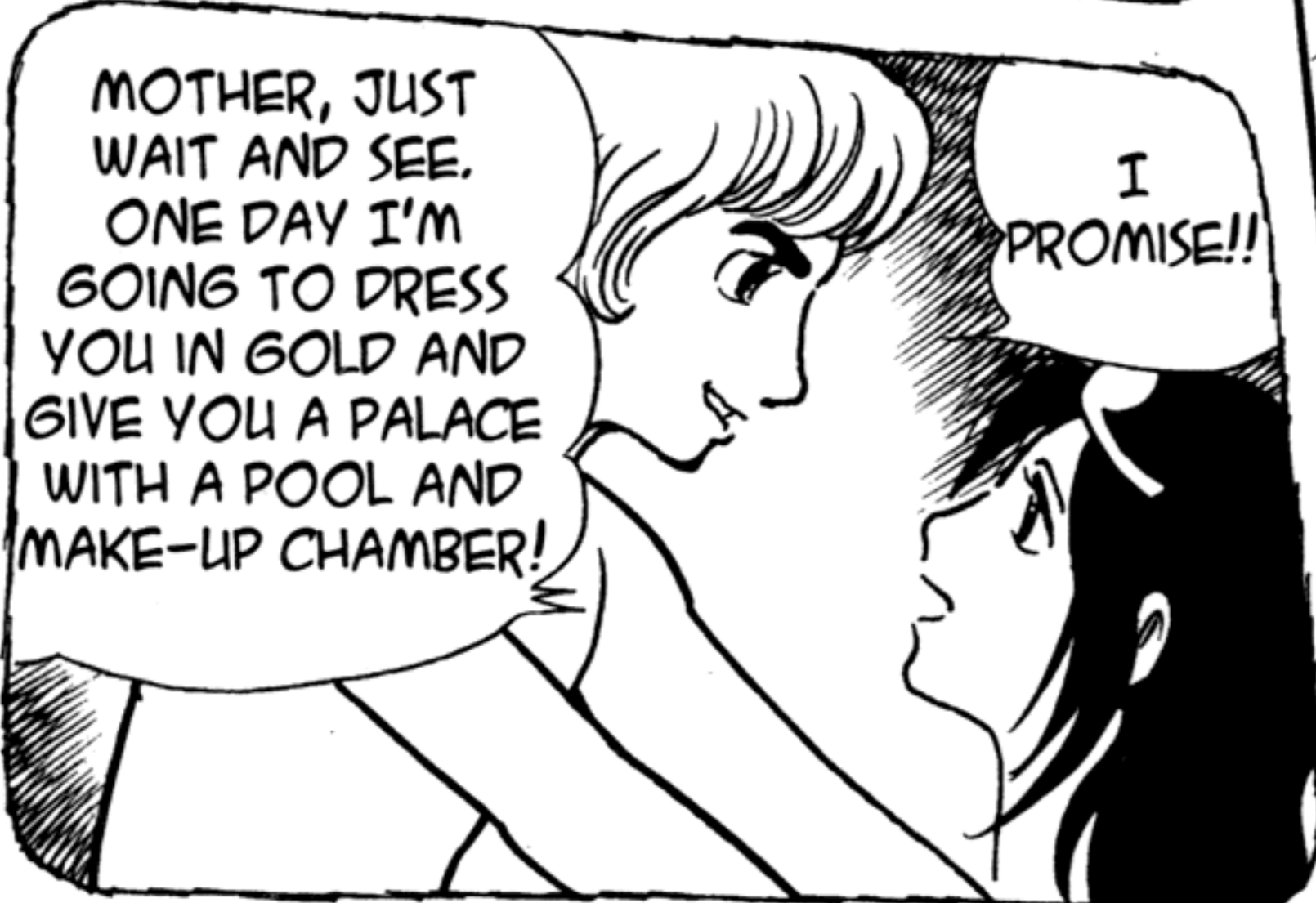


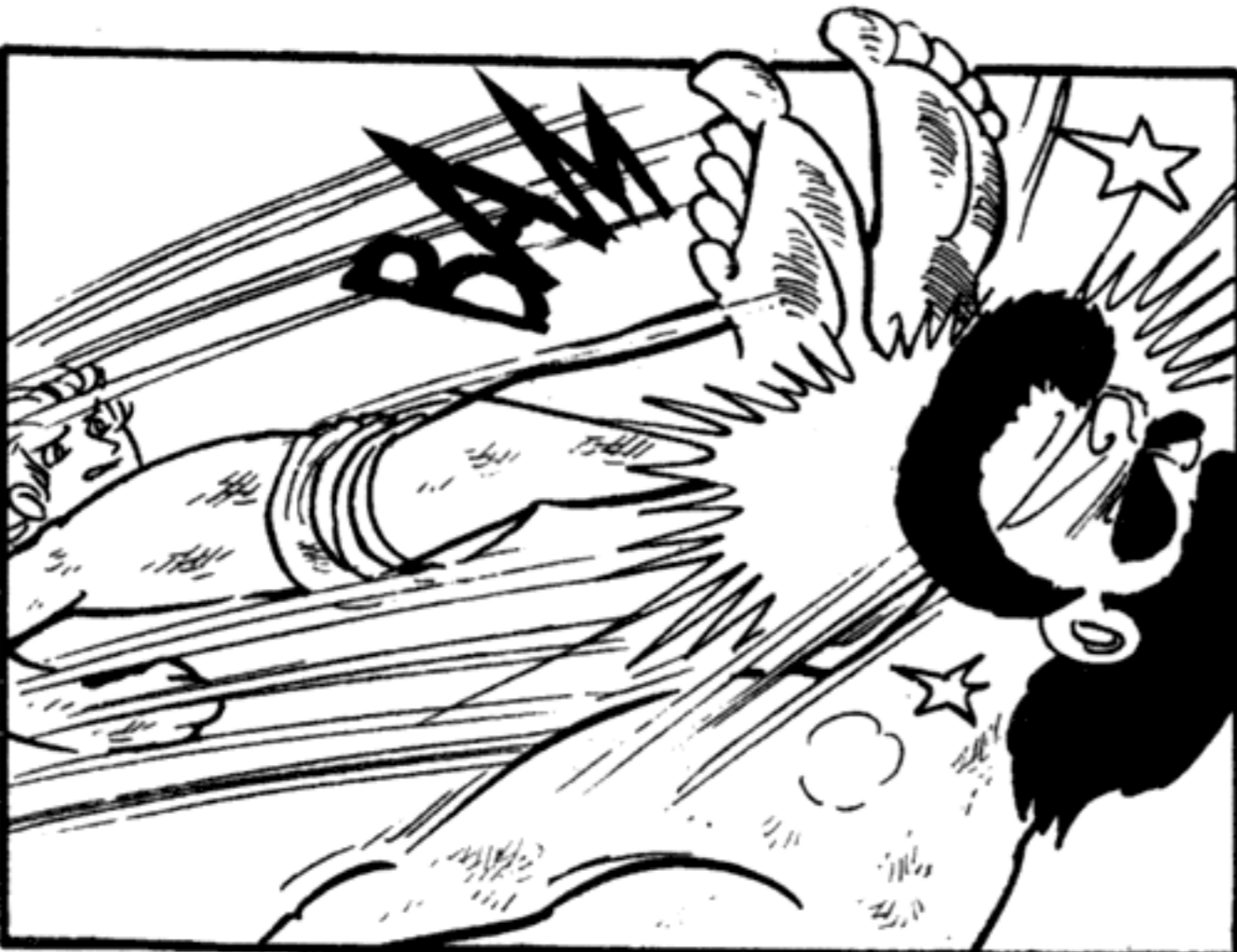
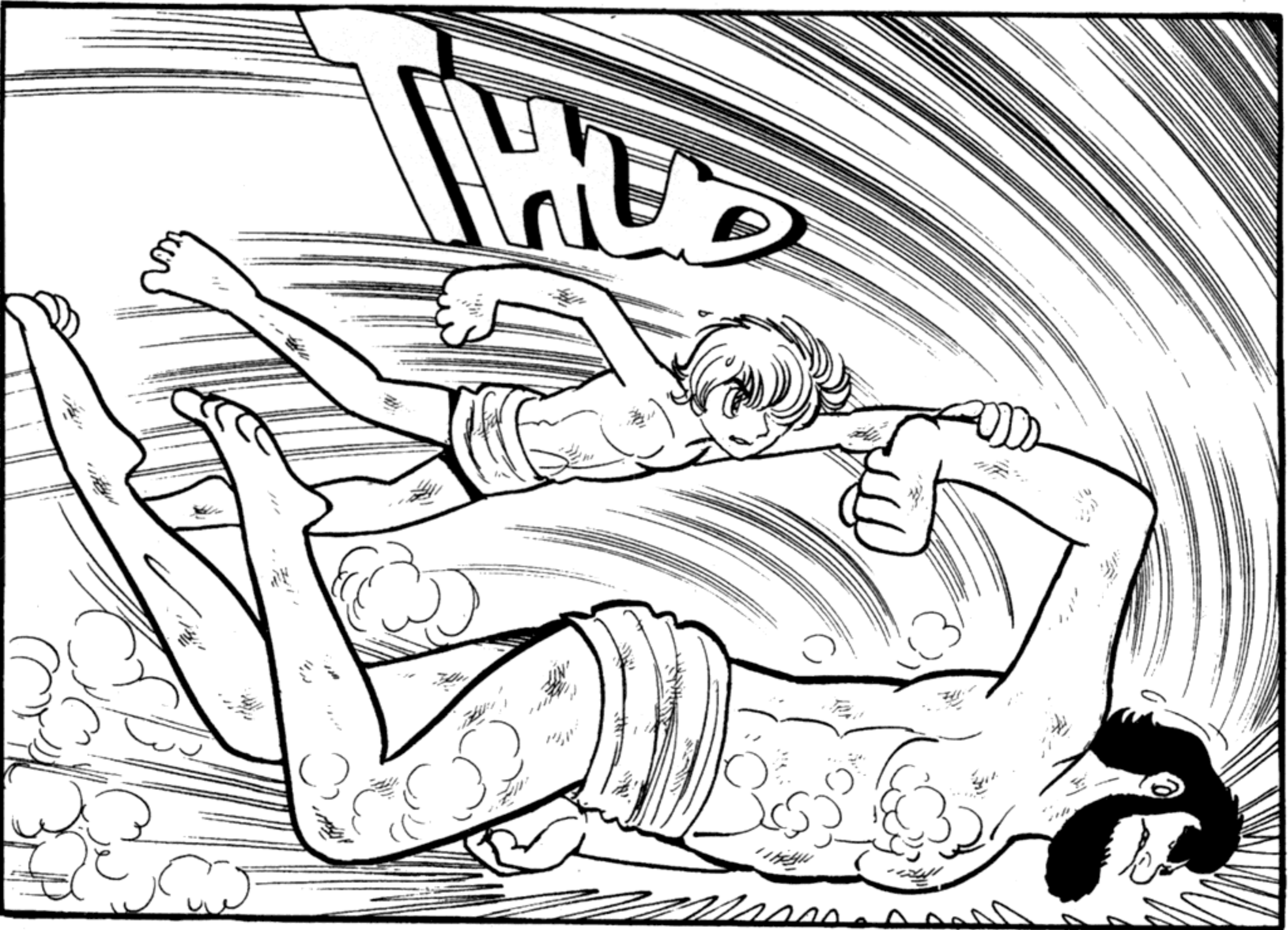
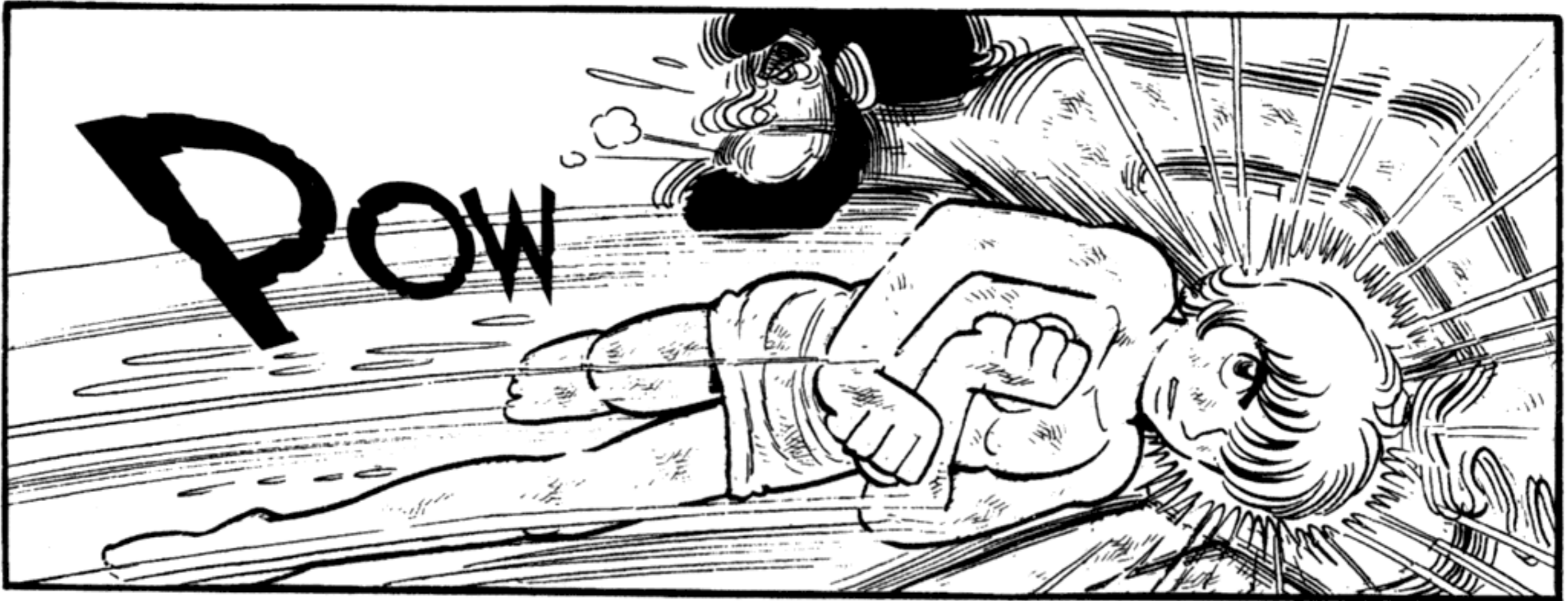


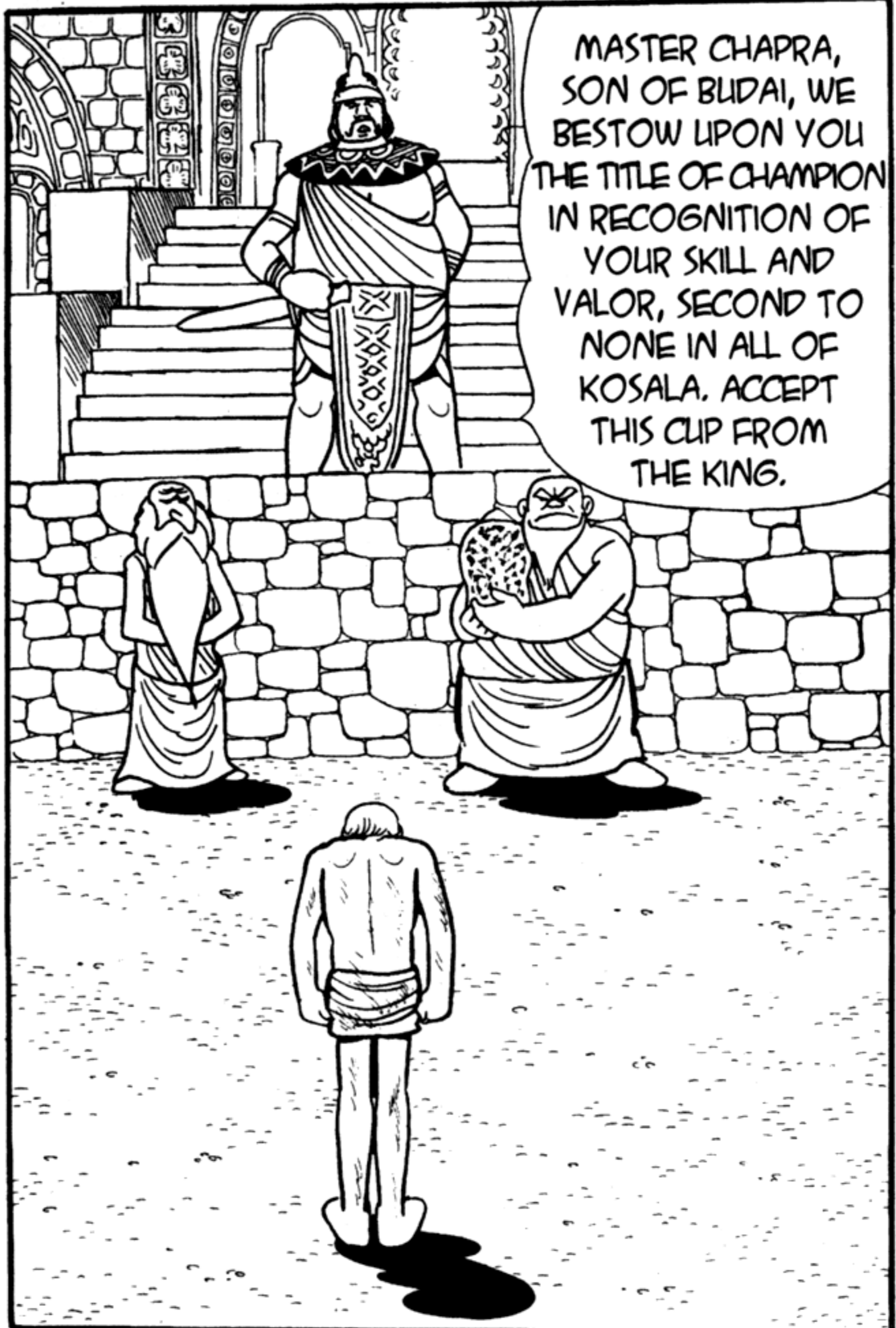
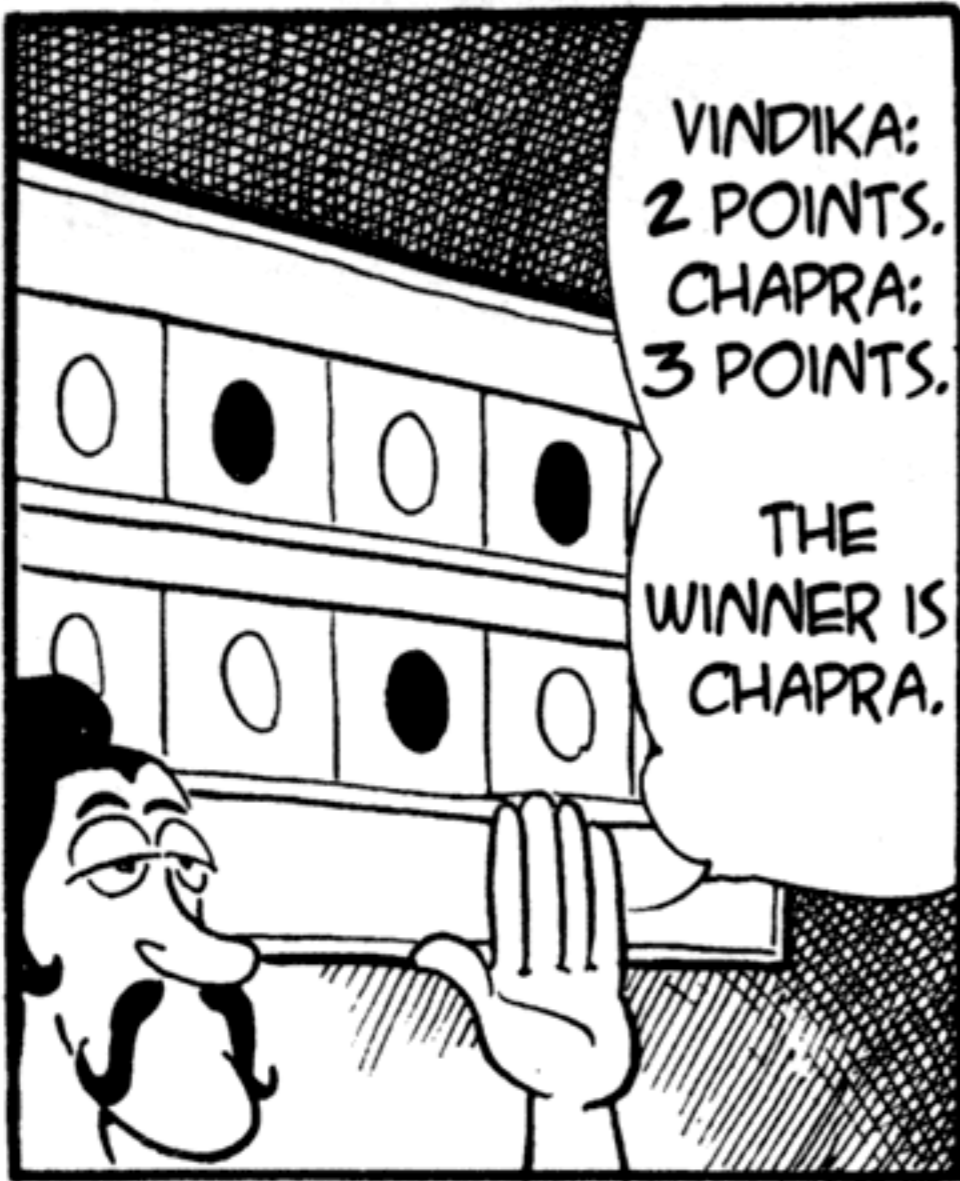
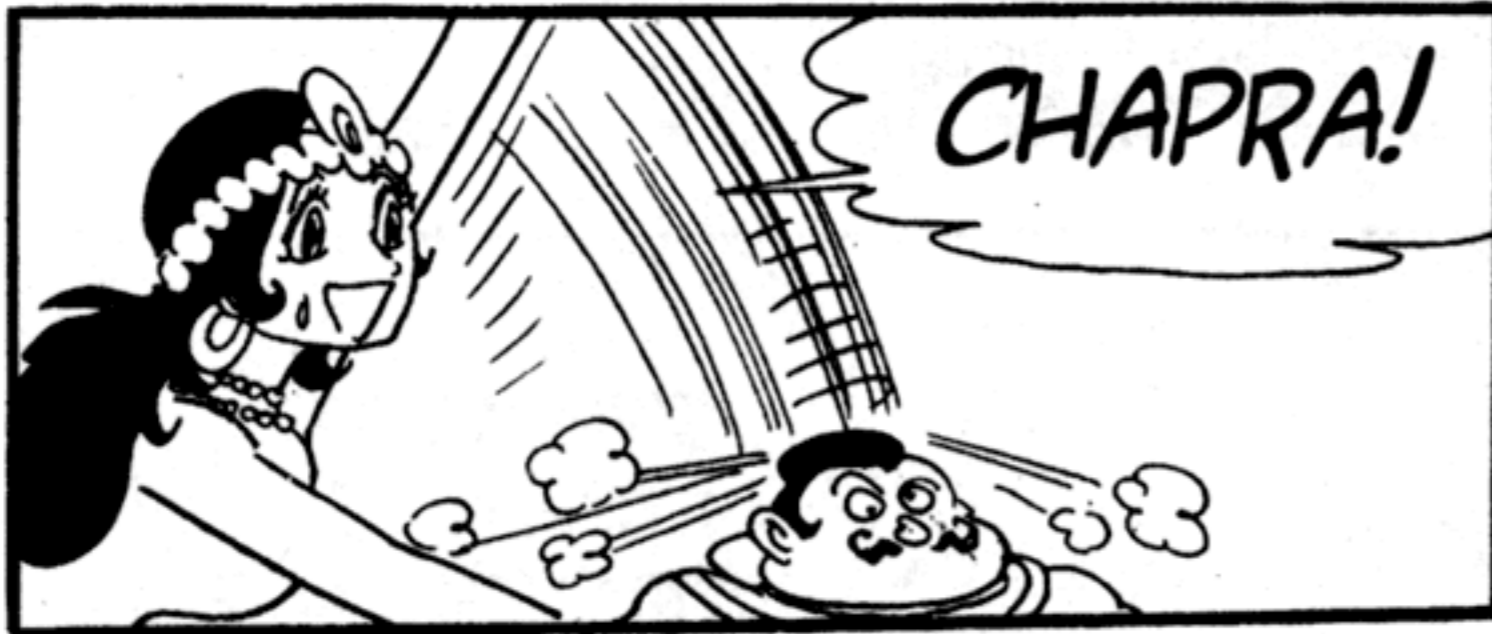


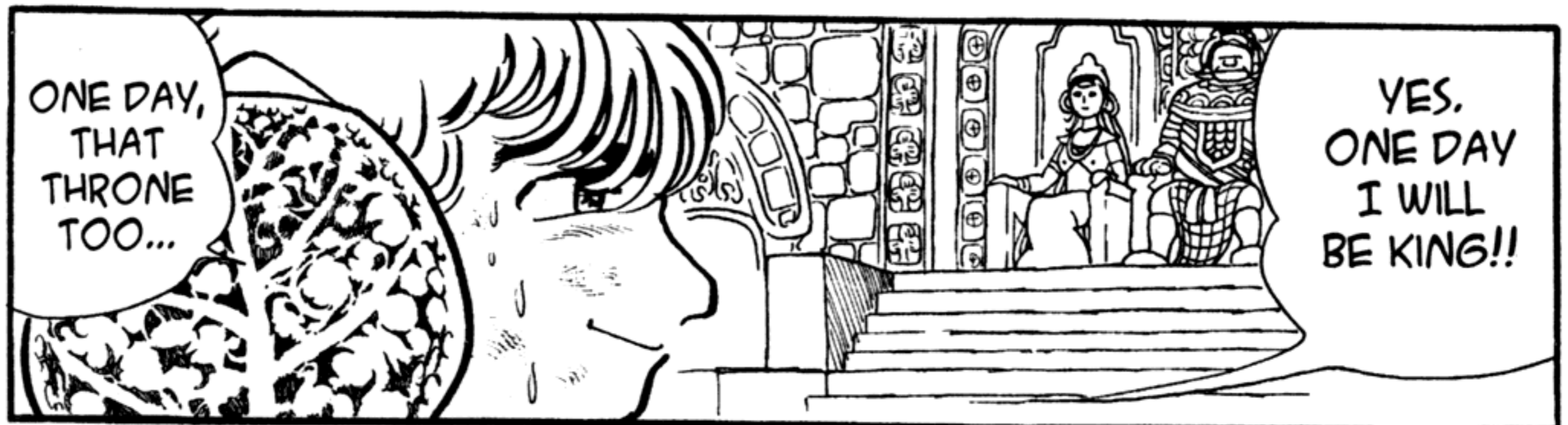
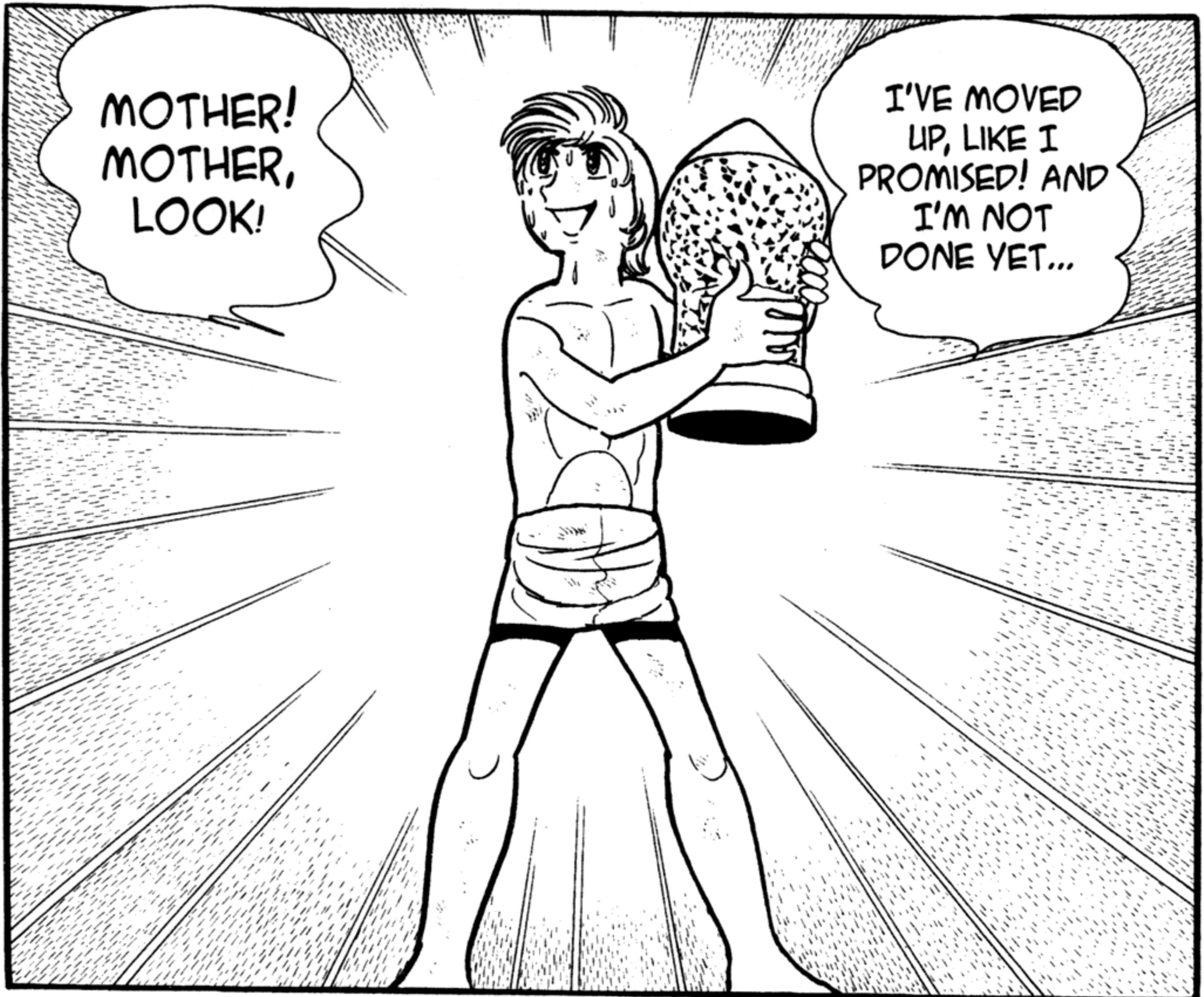
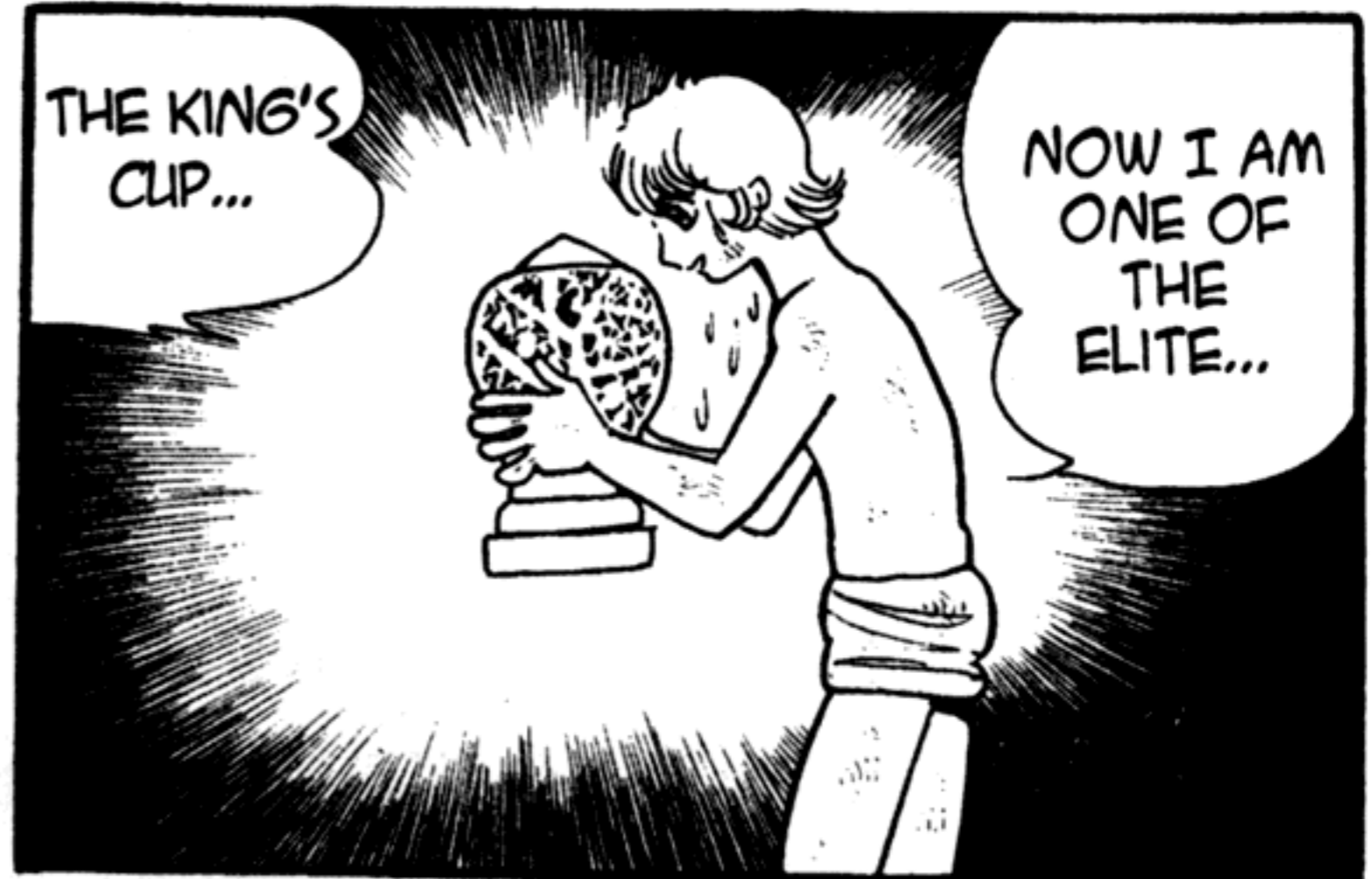
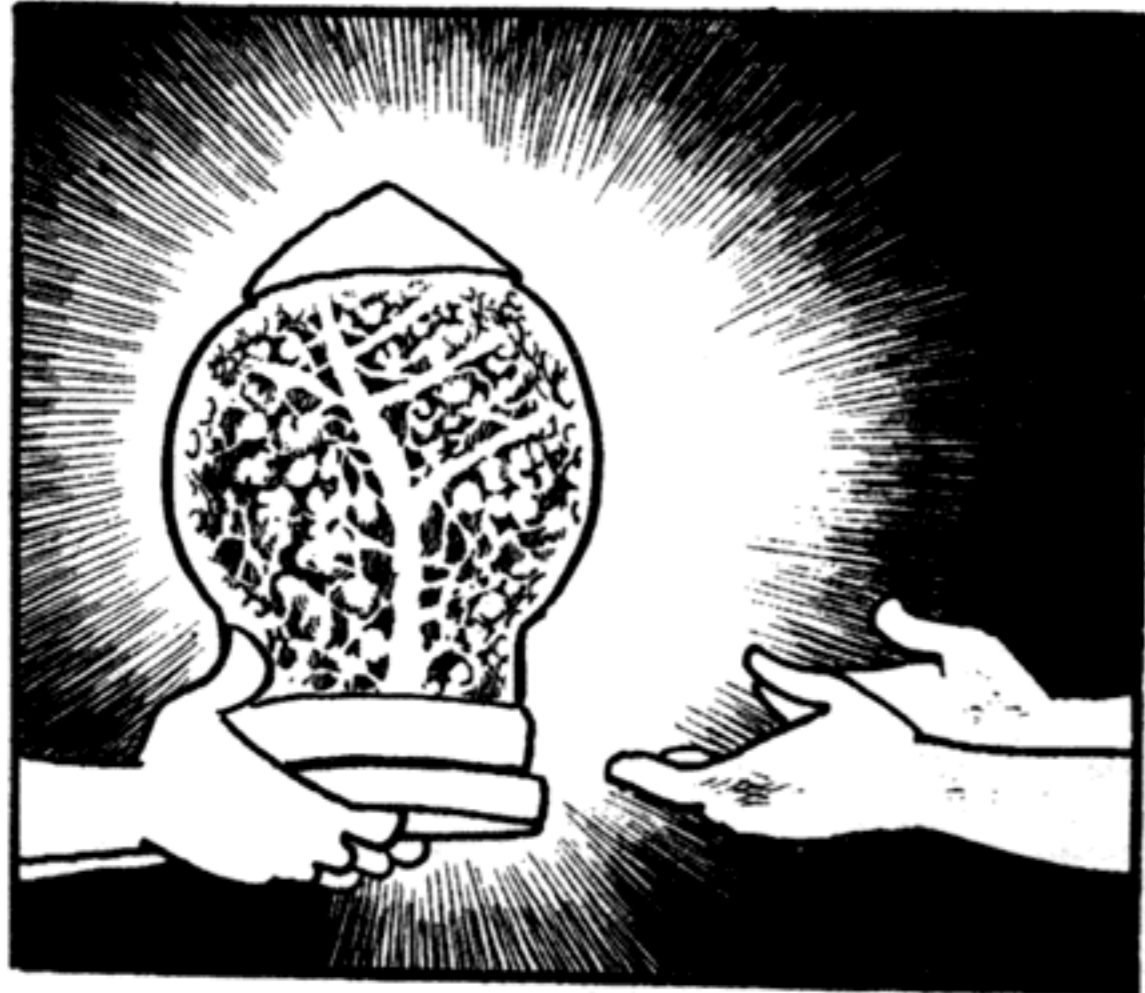






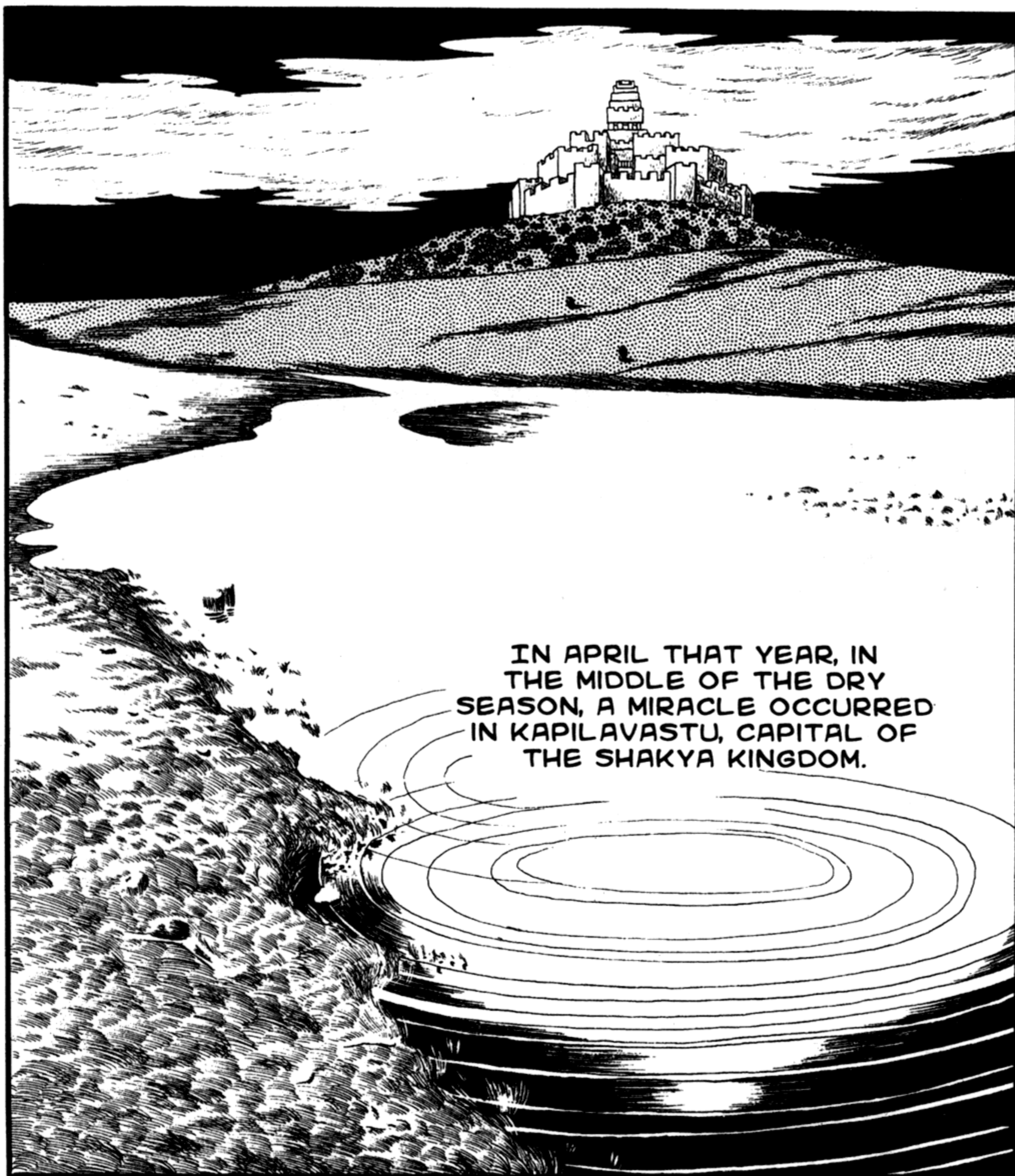






CHAPTER SEVEN

THE BIRTH



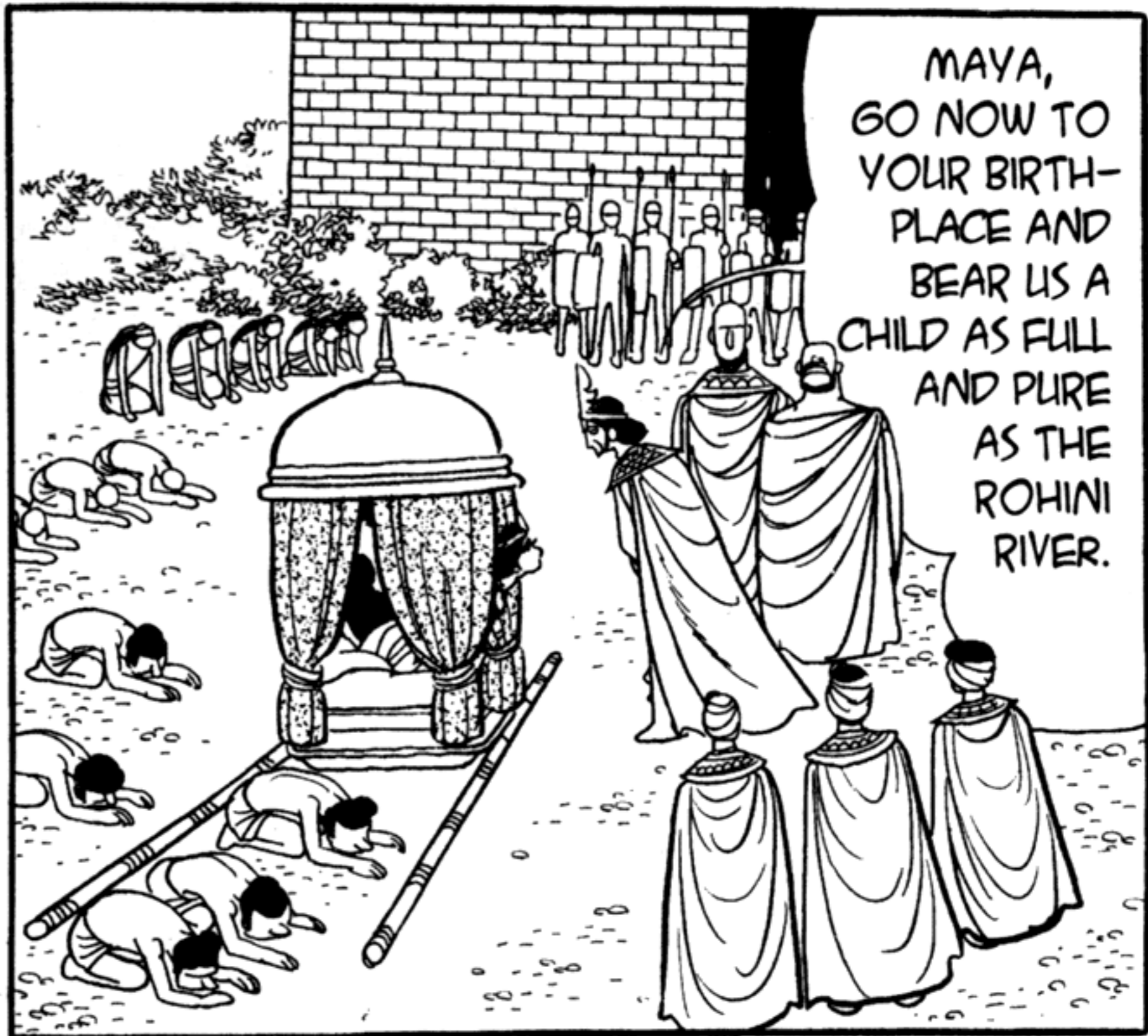
IN APRIL THAT YEAR, IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE DRY
SEASON, A MIRACLE OCCURRED
IN KAPILAVASTU, CAPITAL OF
THE SHAKYA KINGDOM.



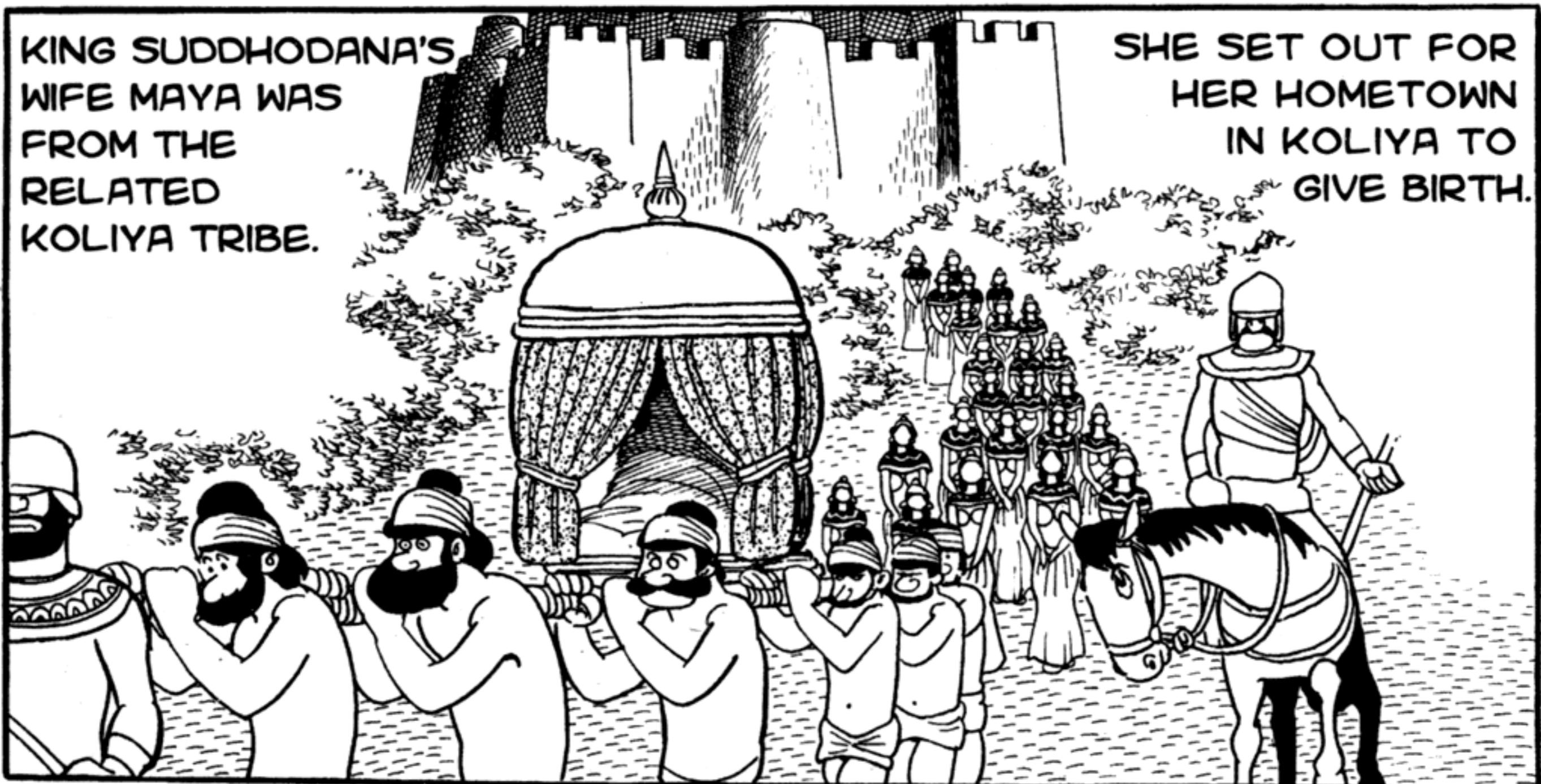
THE ROHINI RIVER,
WHICH MARKED ITS
BORDER, DID NOT
DRY UP DESPITE
THE 110-DEGREE
HEAT.



PEOPLE
WHISPERED
THAT IT HAD
TO BE
A GOOD
OMEN.



MAYA,
GO NOW TO
YOUR BIRTH-
PLACE AND
BEAR US A
CHILD AS FULL
AND PURE
AS THE
ROHINI
RIVER.



KING SUDDHODANA'S
WIFE MAYA WAS
FROM THE
RELATED
KOLIYA TRIBE.

SHE SET OUT FOR
HER HOMETOWN
IN KOLIYA TO
GIVE BIRTH.

TODAY IS THE 7TH OF APRIL...

KOLIYA IS JUST BEYOND THE RIVER. SHE SHOULD ARRIVE AT HER PARENTS' BY THE 12TH OR 13TH.



MEANWHILE, WHAT DOES ALL THIS STRANGENESS PORTEND?



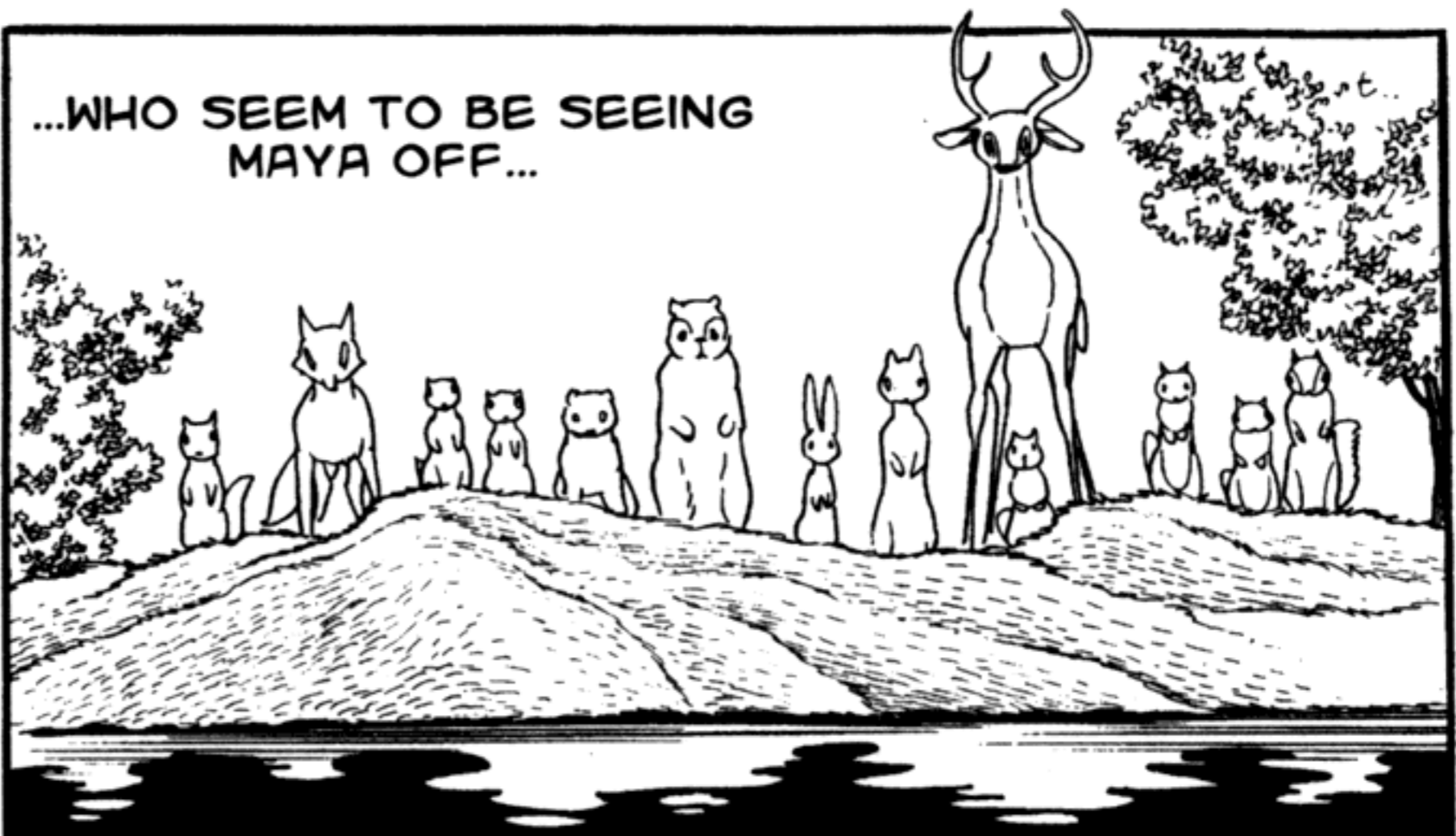
NOT ONLY IS THE RIVER FLOWING, BUT FISH AND FOWL HAVE GATHERED.



AND ON THE SHORE, BEASTS...



...WHO SEEM TO BE SEEING MAYA OFF...

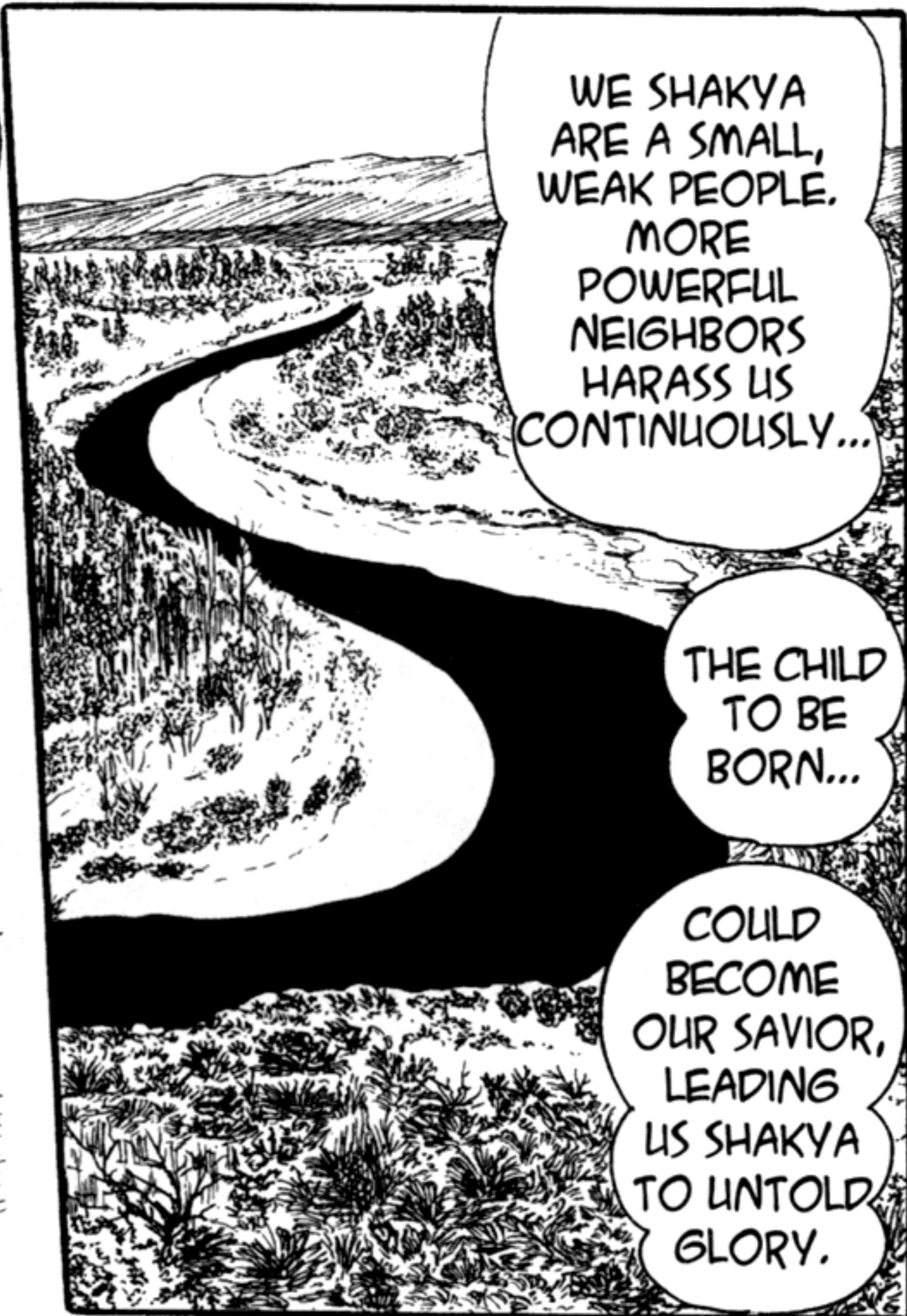




THESE
MUST BE
SIGNS OF
GREATER
THINGS TO
COME.

THE
CHILD
TO BE
BORN...

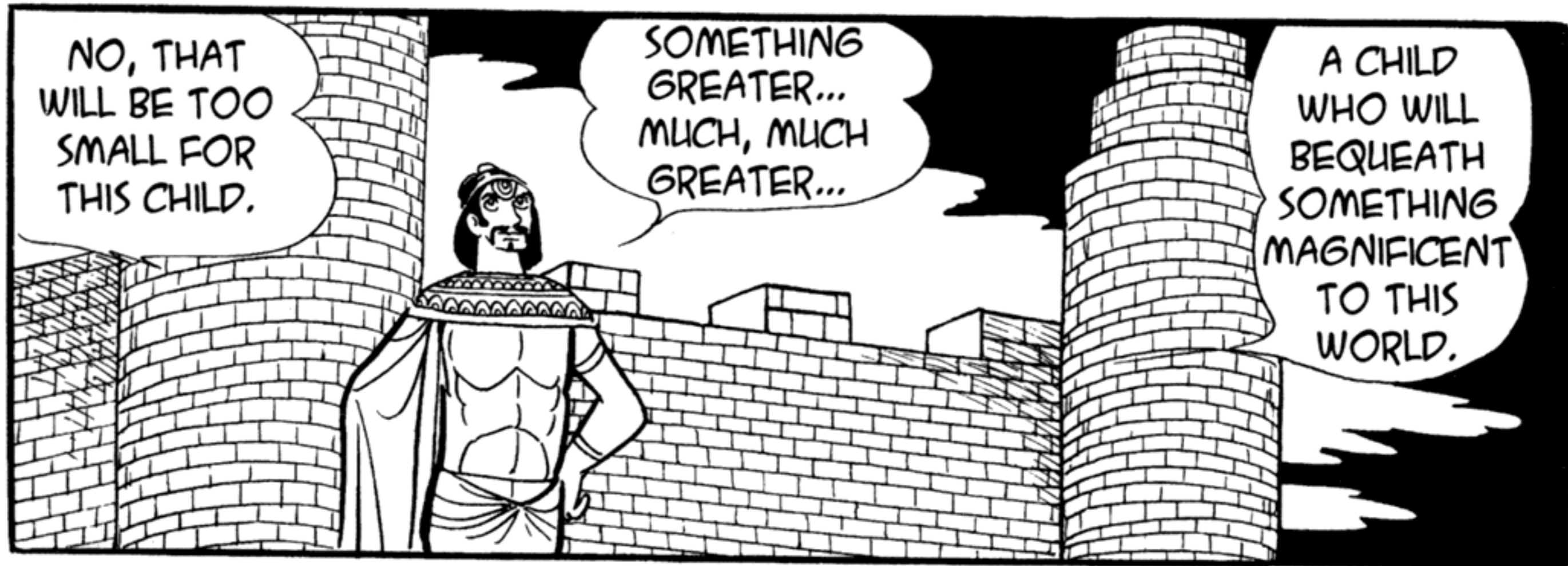
MUST BE
QUITE
EXTRAORDINARY.
I CANNOT
HELP FEELING
SO.



WE SHAKYA
ARE A SMALL,
WEAK PEOPLE.
MORE
POWERFUL
NEIGHBORS
HARASS US
CONTINUOUSLY...

THE CHILD
TO BE
BORN...

COULD
BECOME
OUR SAVIOR,
LEADING
US SHAKYA
TO UNTOLD
GLORY.



NO, THAT
WILL BE TOO
SMALL FOR
THIS CHILD.

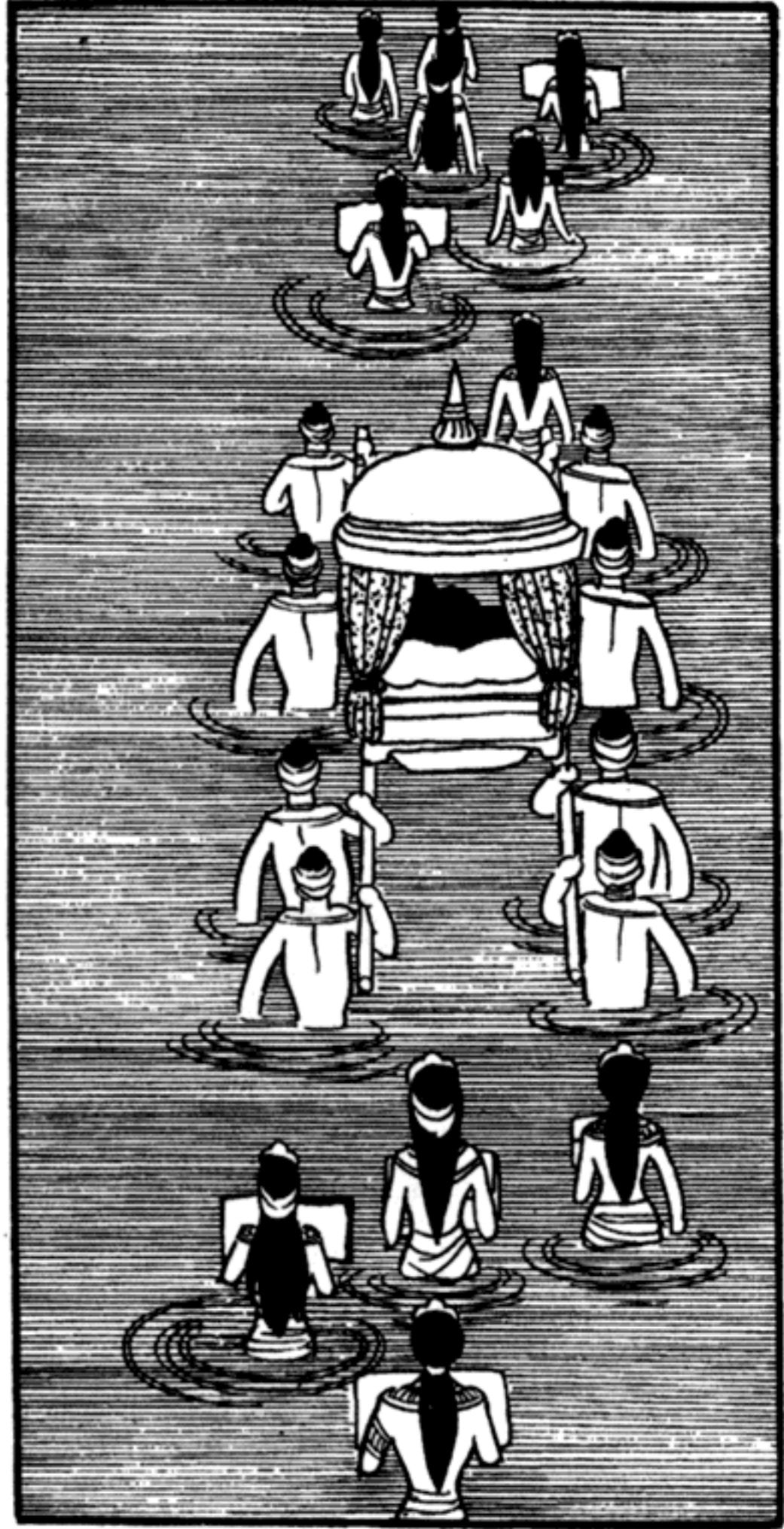
SOMETHING
GREATER...
MUCH, MUCH
GREATER...

A CHILD
WHO WILL
BEQUEATH
SOMETHING
MAGNIFICENT
TO THIS
WORLD.



A GIFT AS
LARGE AND
BOUNDLESS
AS THE
GREAT SKY!

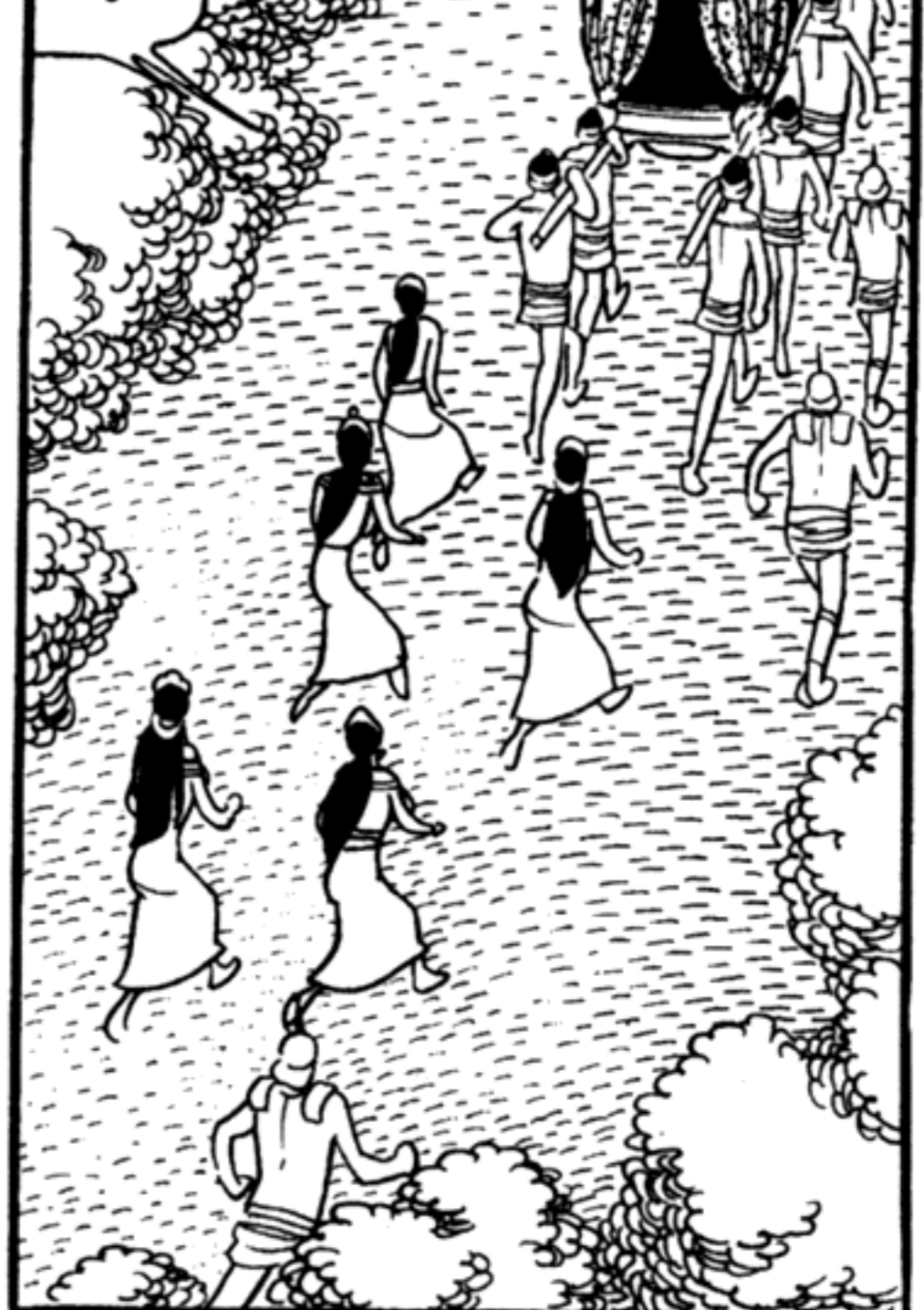
O HEAVEN -
O EARTH!
MAY YOU
BLESS THIS
CHILD TO
COME - THIS
WONDROUS
CHILD OF
MINE!



HURRY!
WE'VE GOT TO
REACH KOLIYA
AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE!



HURRY!





OH...
UH...
AHHH...



MY
LADY!



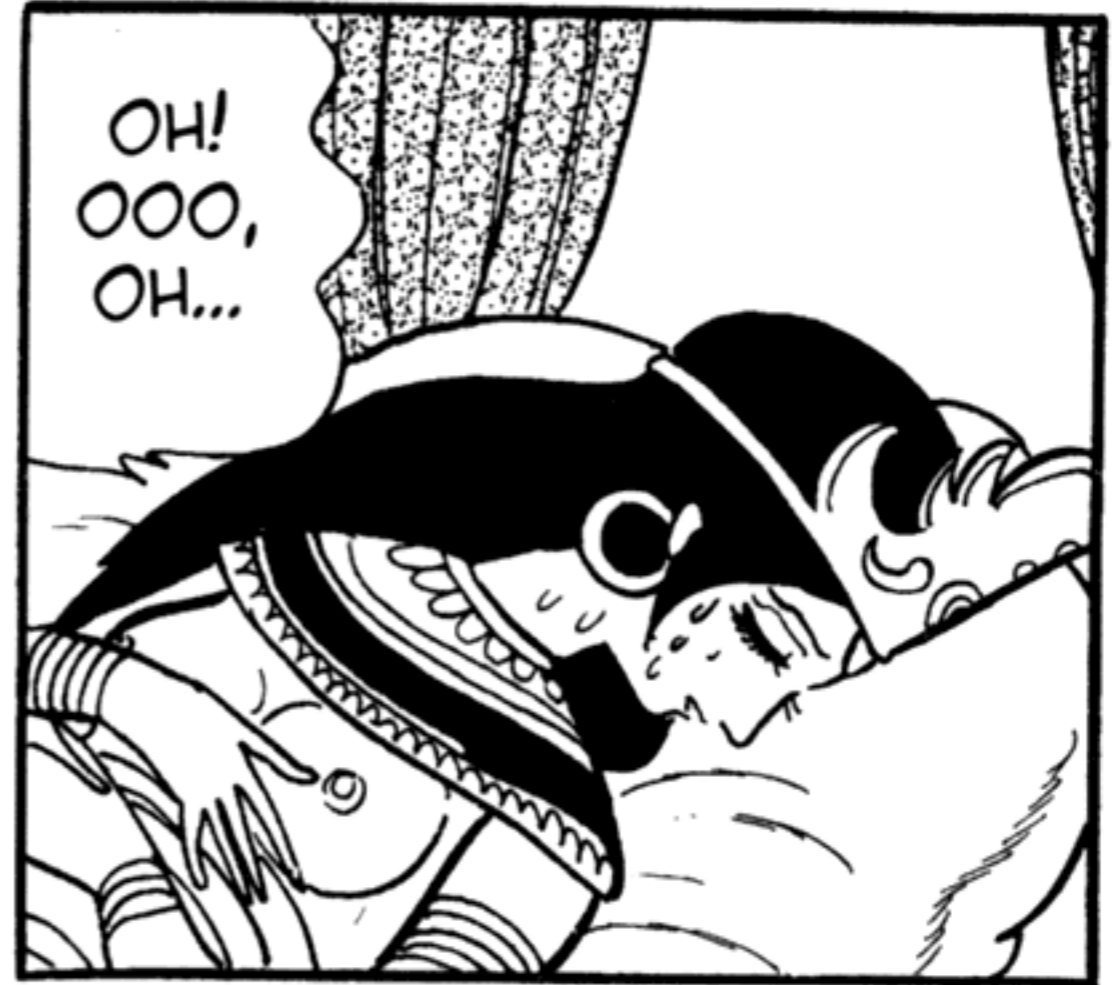
SHE IS
HAVING
CONTRACT-
IONS!

WHAT?
BUT WE'VE
ONLY JUST
CROSSED
THE RIVER!



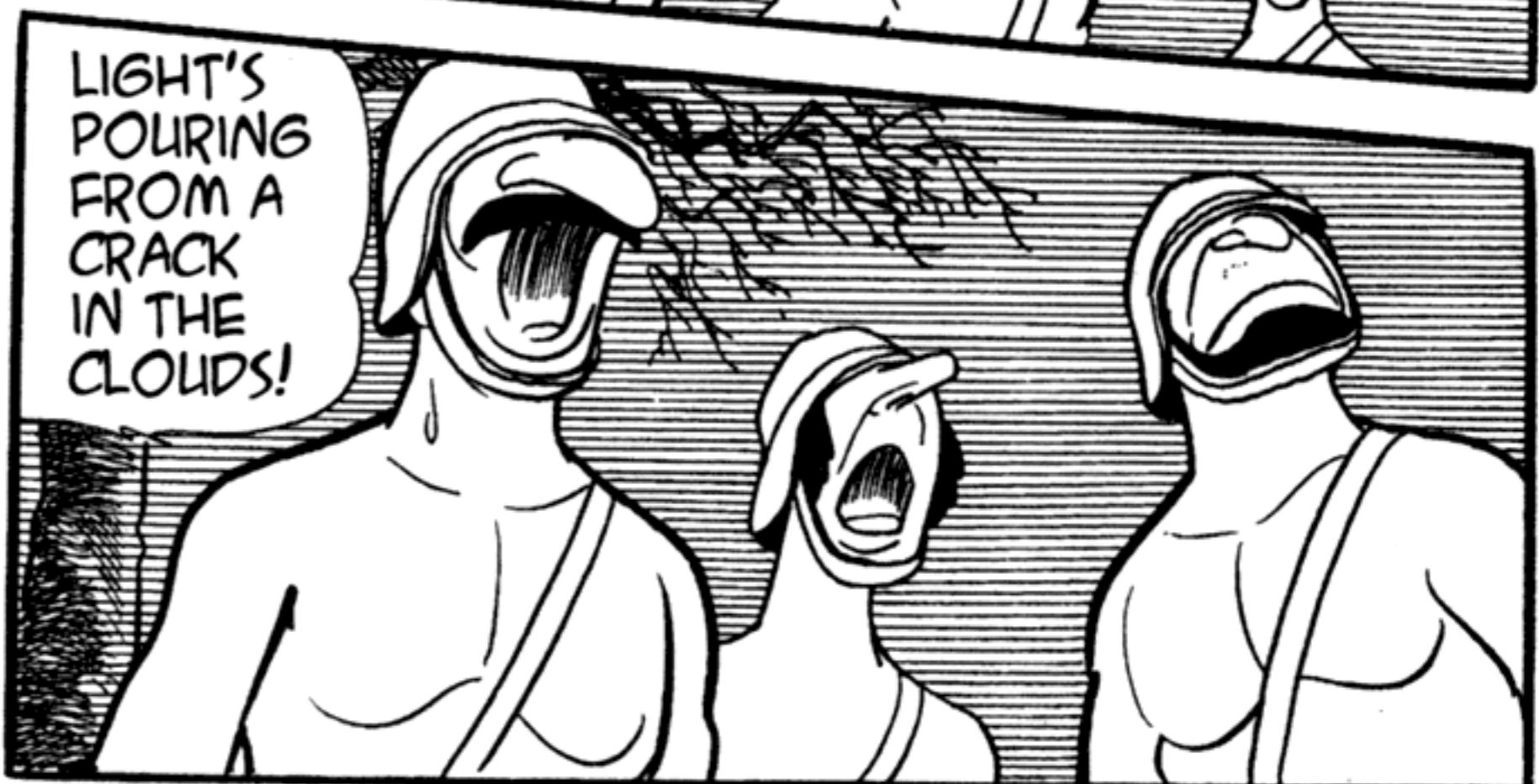
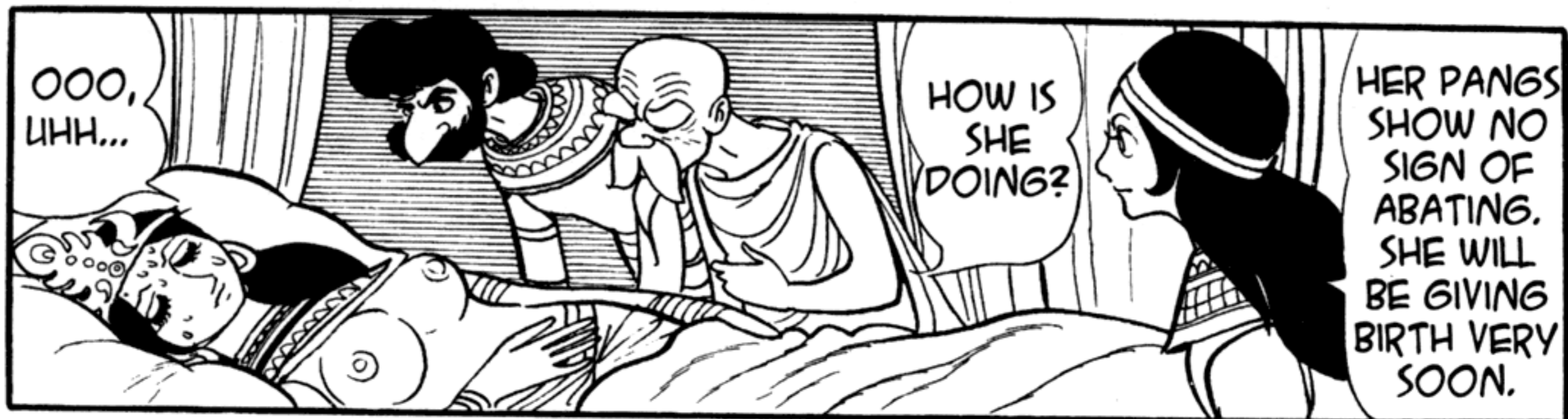
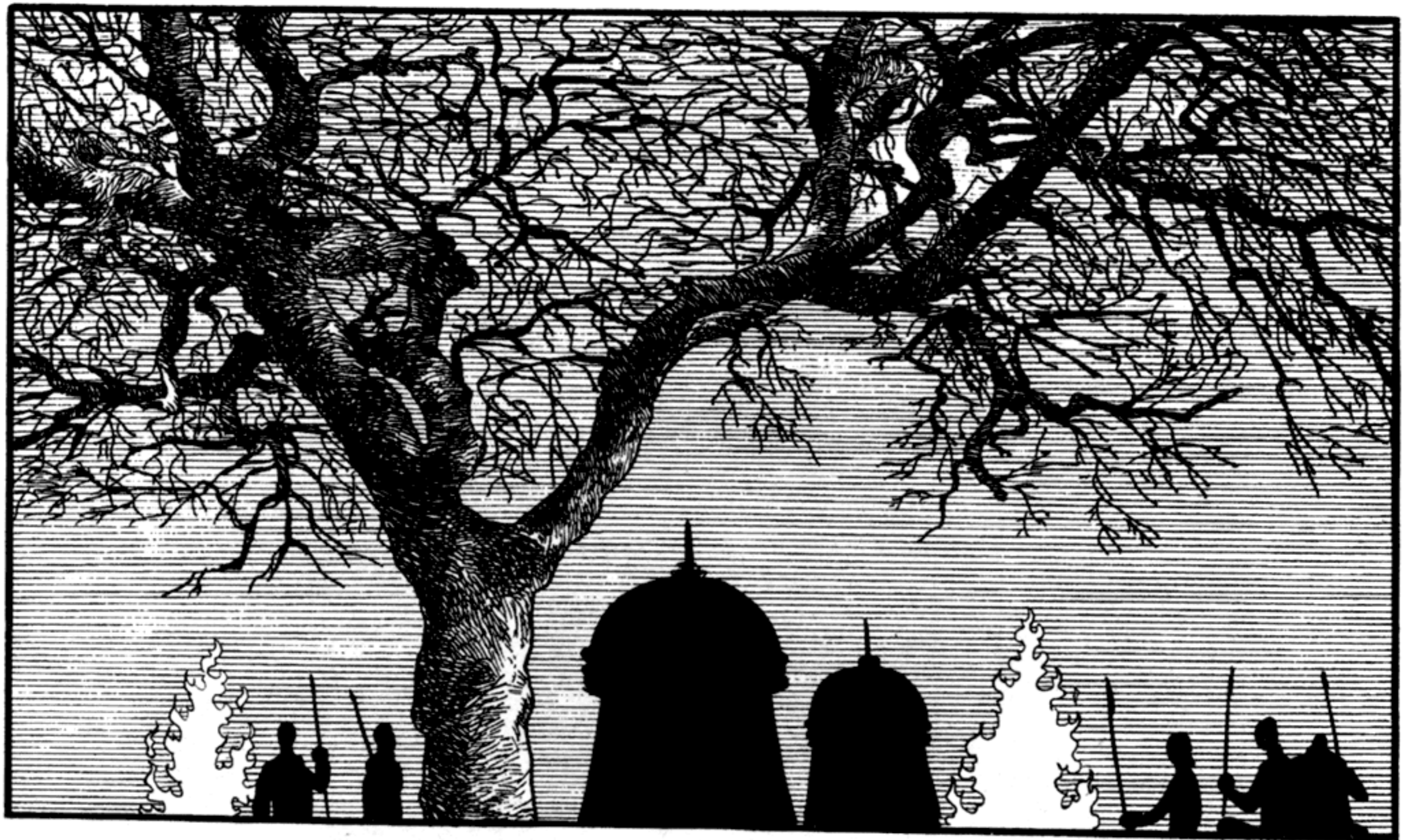
WE'RE
NOT
THERE
YET?

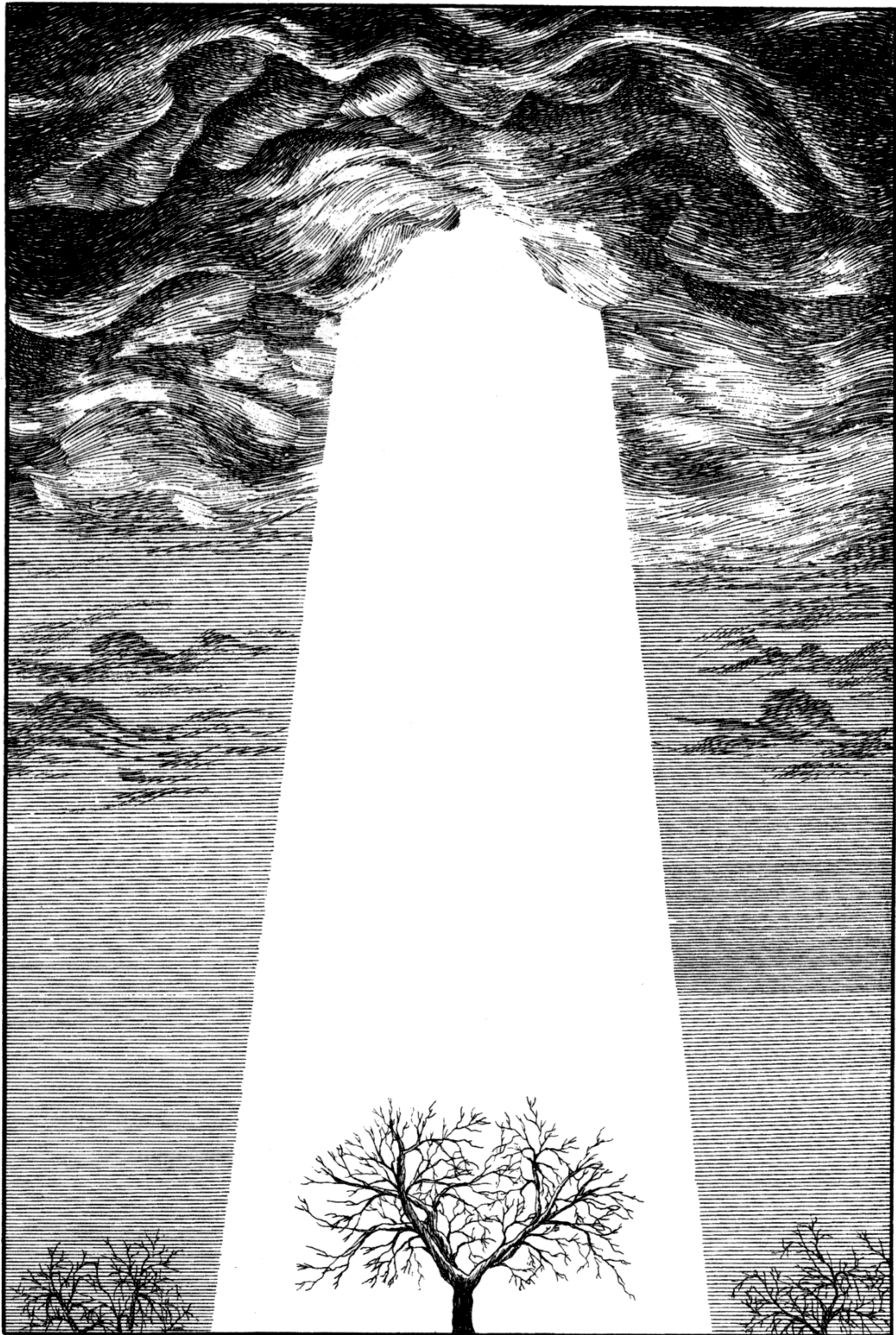
WE ARE
NOT
TOO
FAR, MY
LADY.




OH!
OOO,
OH...



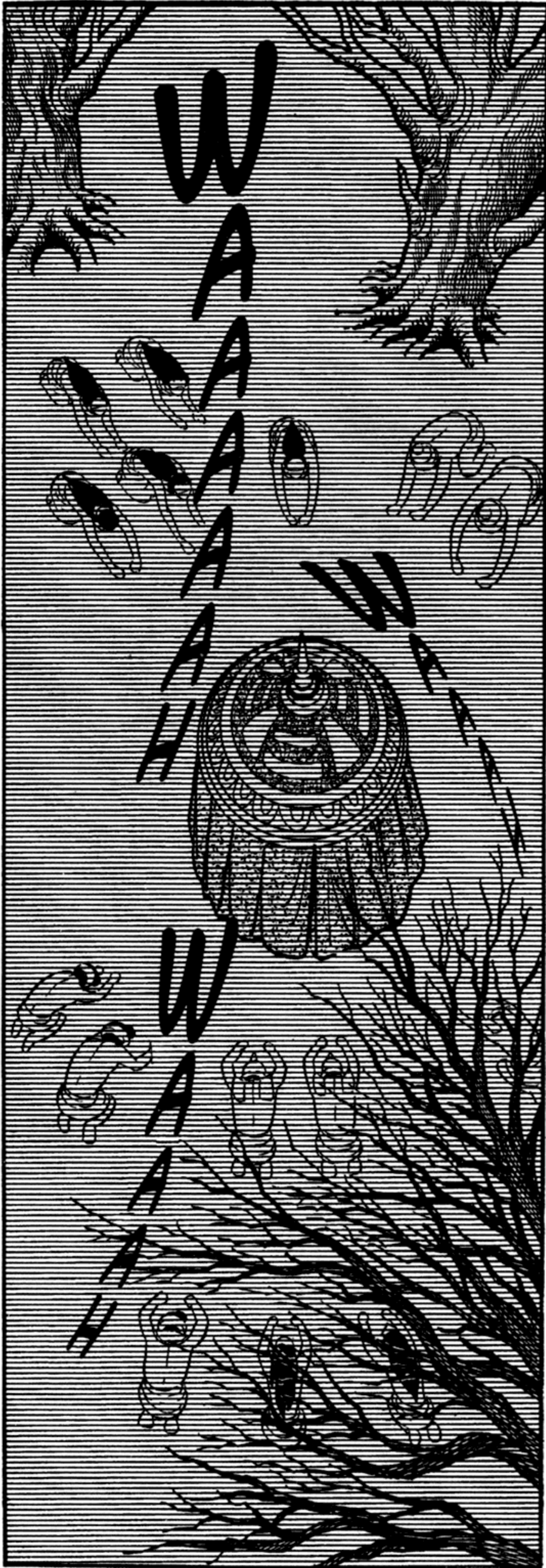


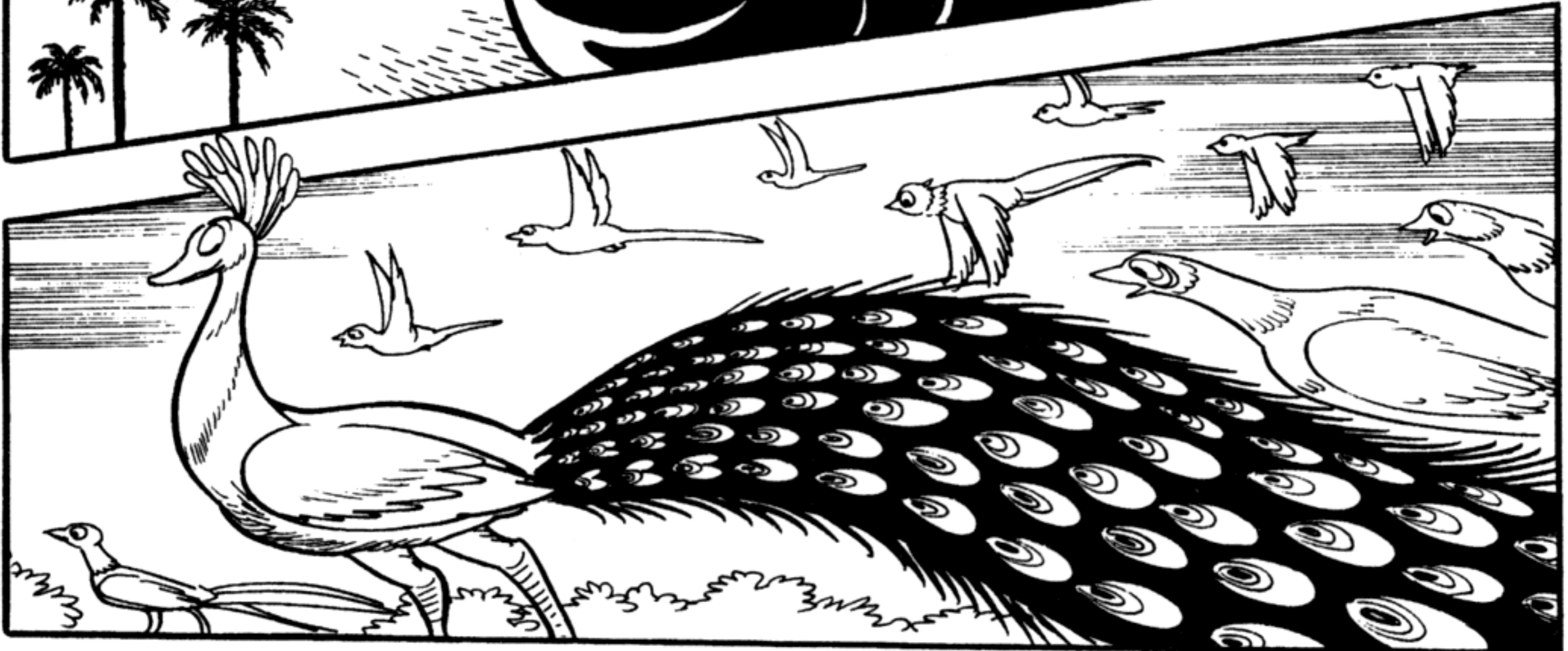
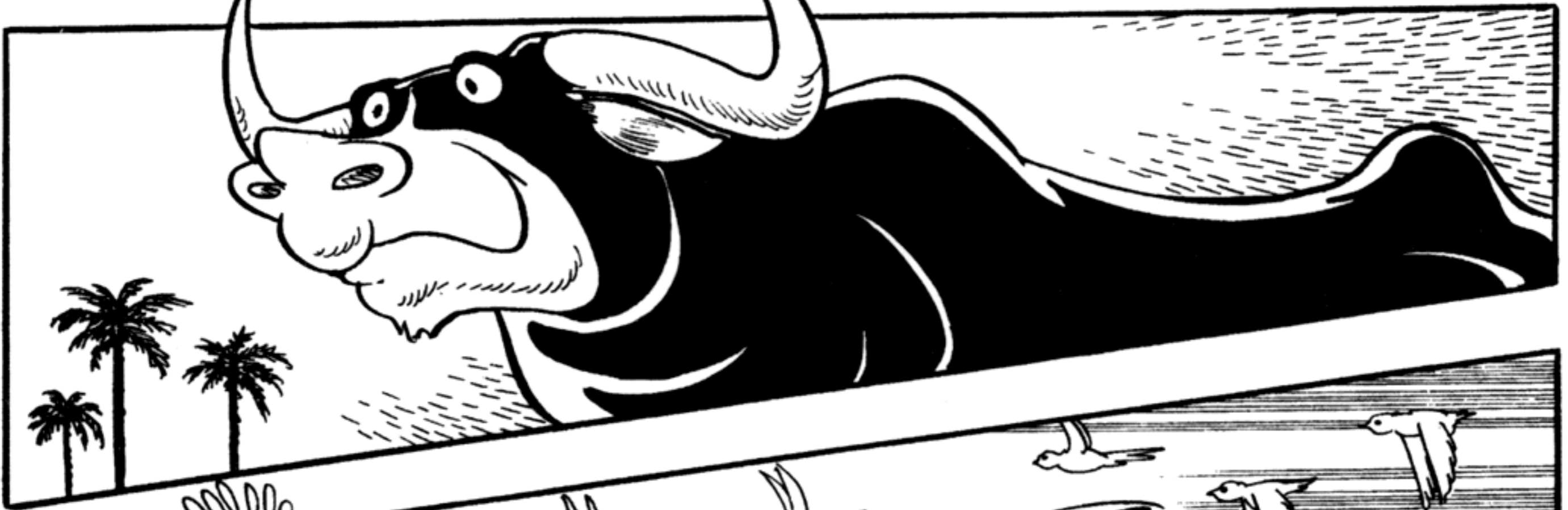
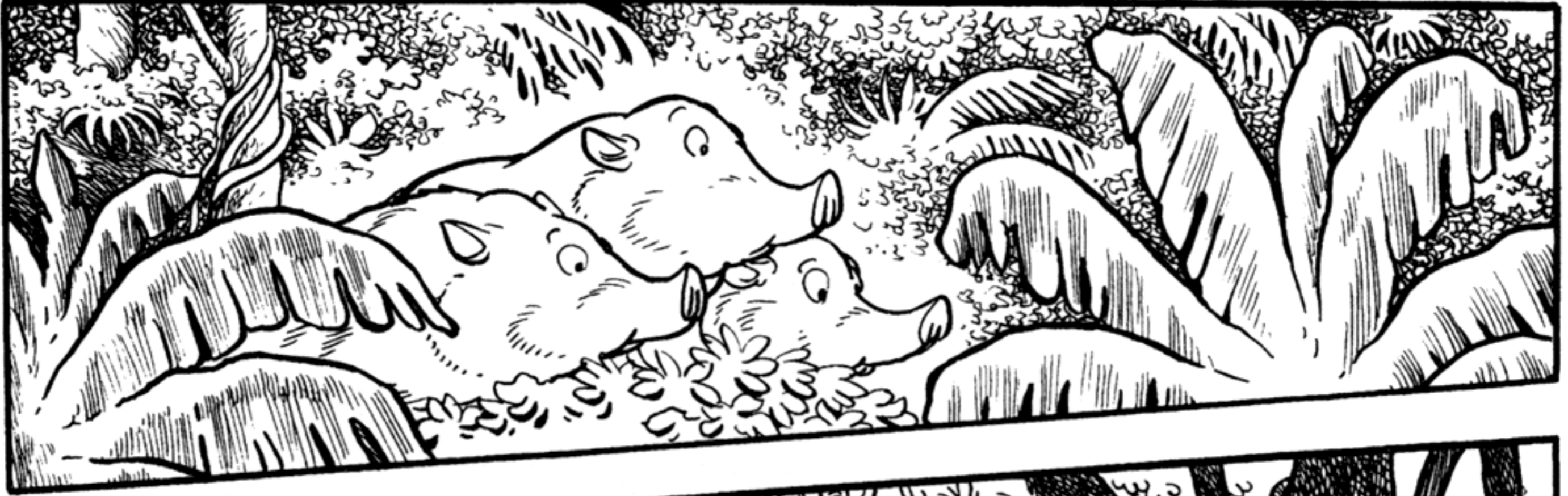


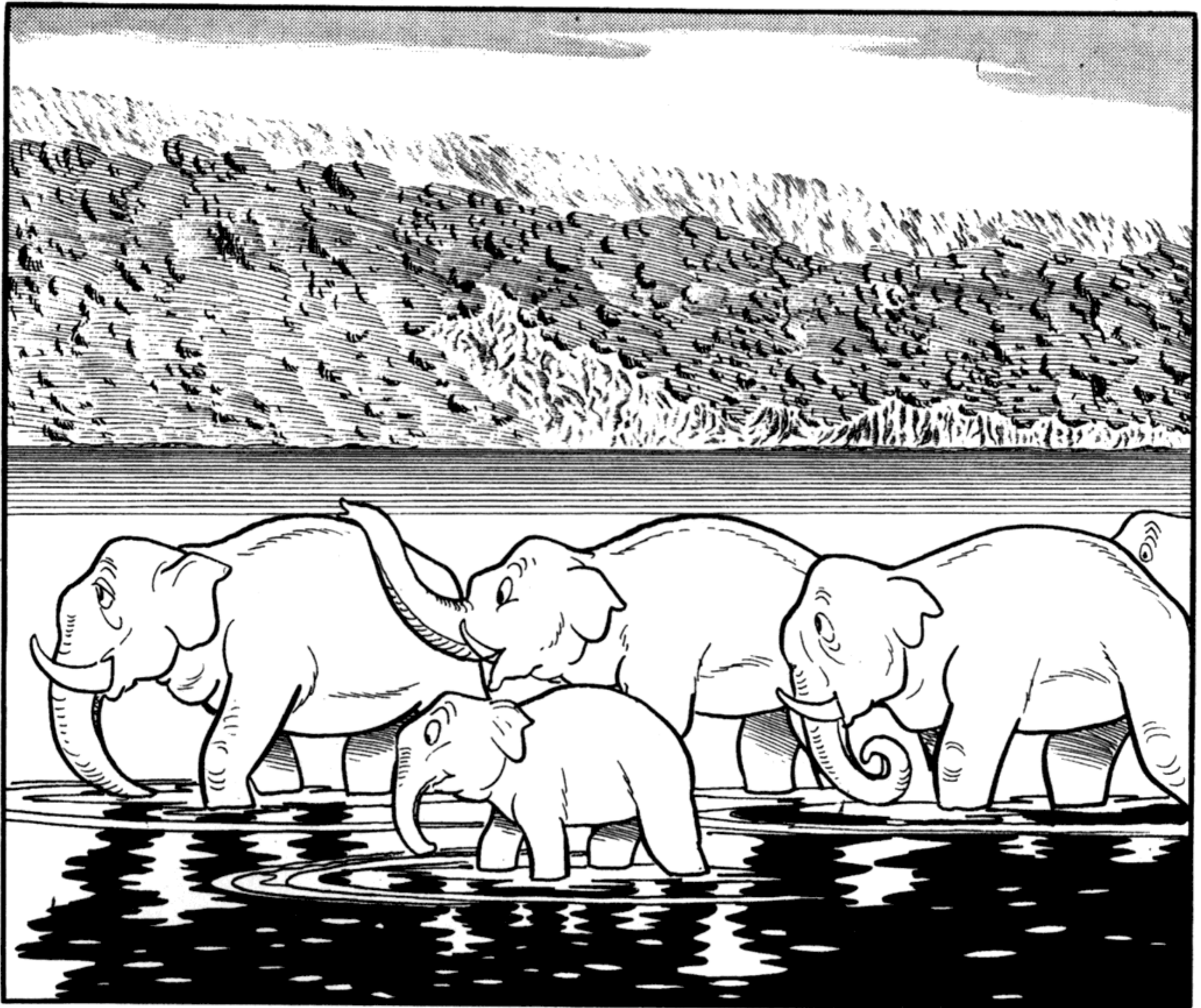
A black and white illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a dark silhouette of a tree stands on a dark ground. Behind the tree, a large, white, rectangular window or opening is visible. The sky above the window is filled with dark, swirling, textured patterns, suggesting clouds or a storm. The overall style is high-contrast and graphic.

BEFORE DAWN
ON APRIL 8TH,
A MIRACLE
FILLED HEAVEN
AND EARTH AND
ENVELOPED ALL
LIVING THINGS
WITH BLISS.

SOME HEARD
BEAUTIFUL
MELODIES
DESCENDING FROM
THE HEAVENS.
OTHERS WERE
SUDDENLY BATHED
IN A PLEASANT
AROMA.
IN EACH AND
ALL HEARTS A
VOICE ANNOUNCED,
"HARK AND BEHOLD.
HE IS BORN."

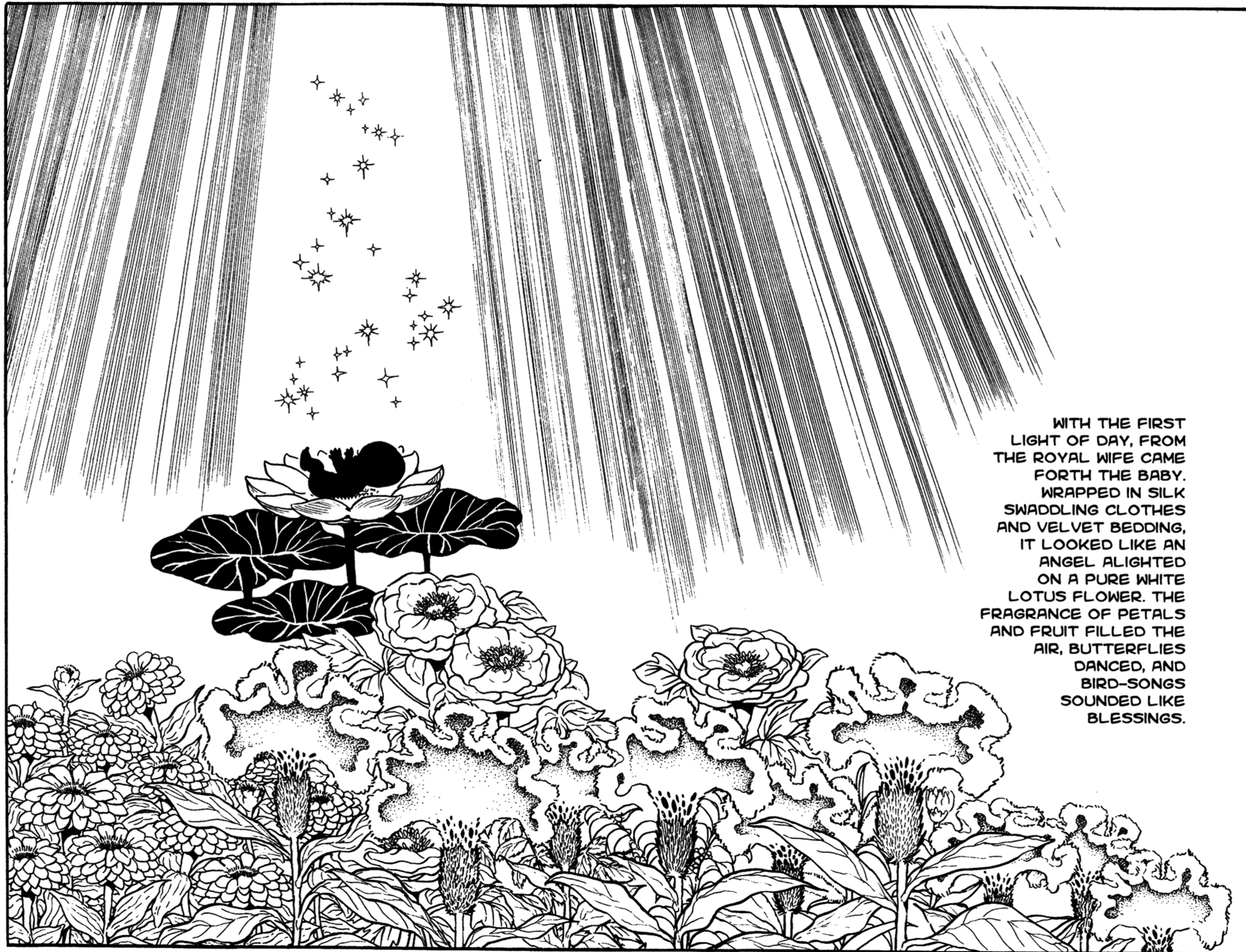




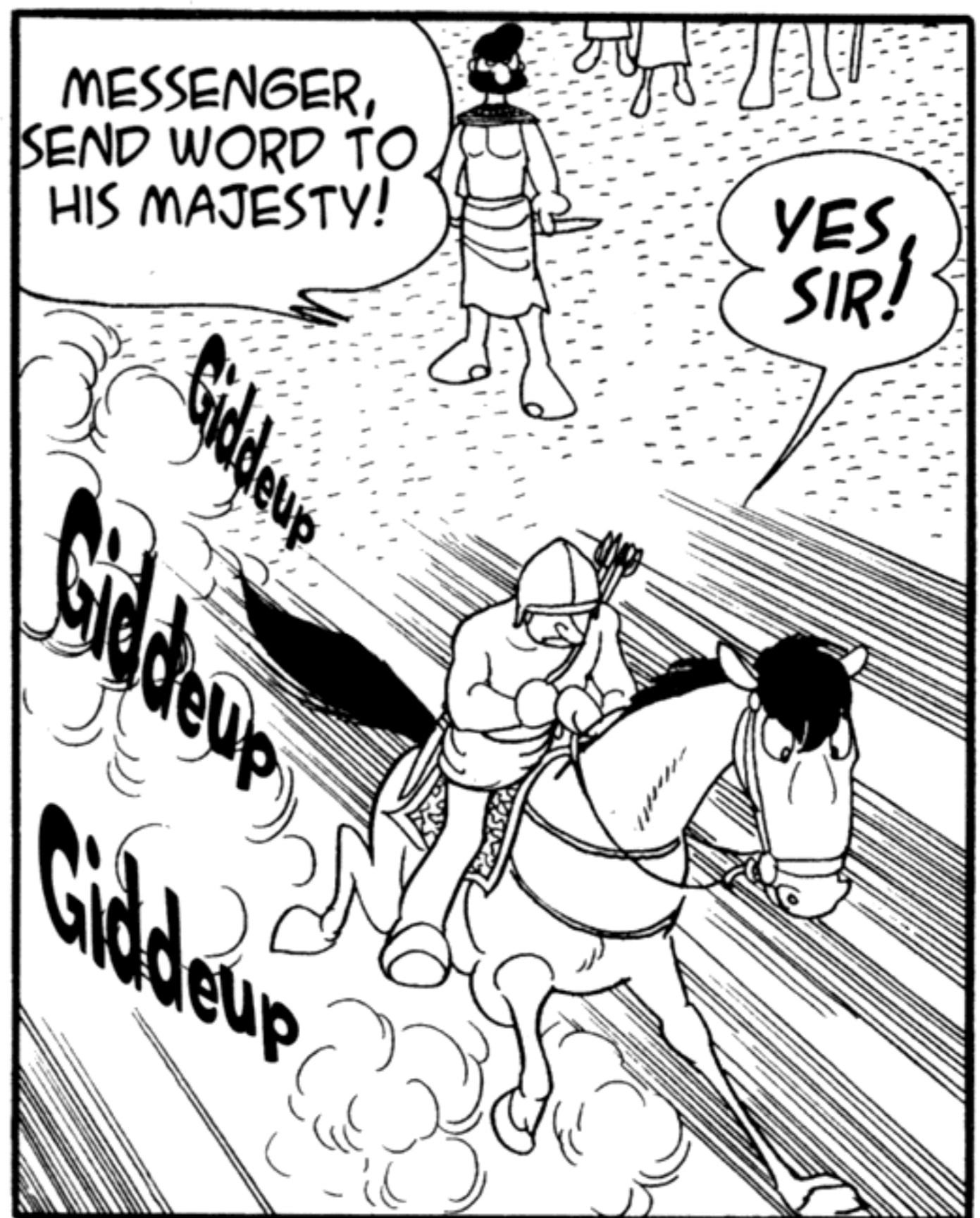


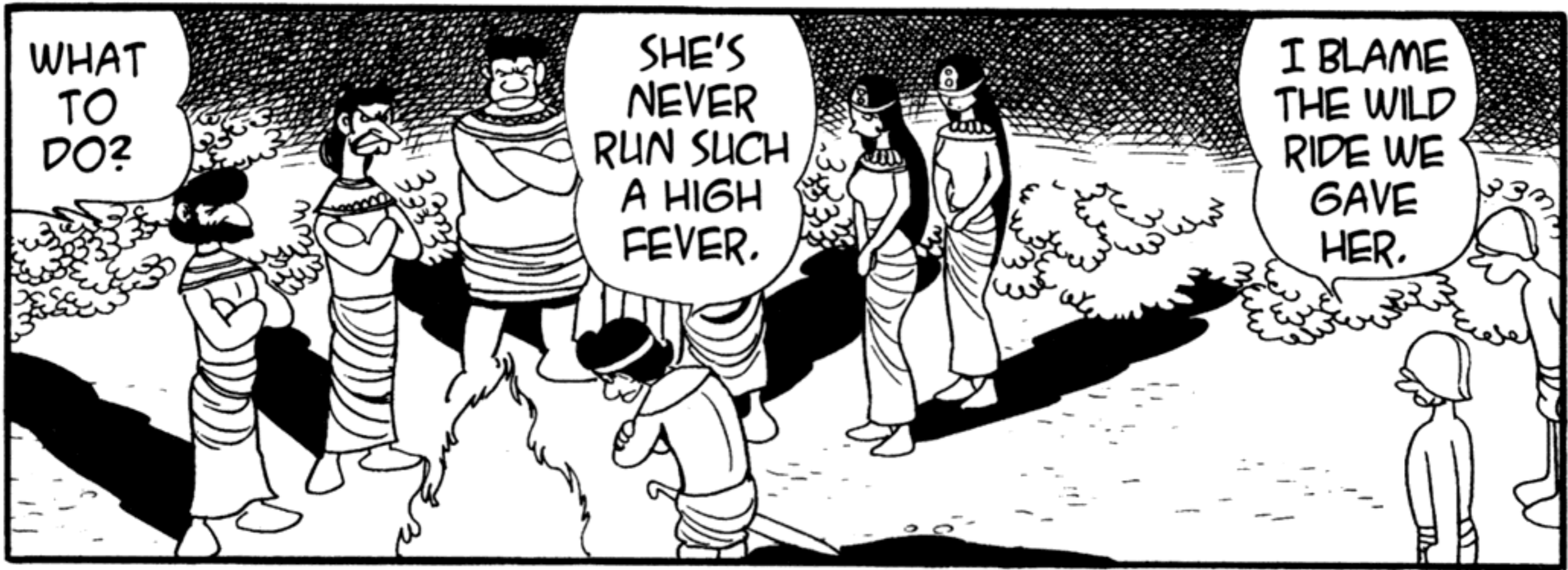


HOW STRANGE WILL THIS GET?... SINCE DAYBREAK, ALL THE ANIMALS OF THE FOREST HAVE COME TO GATHER AROUND THE NEWBORN...



WITH THE FIRST
LIGHT OF DAY, FROM
THE ROYAL WIFE CAME
FORTH THE BABY.
WRAPPED IN SILK
SWADDLING CLOTHES
AND VELVET BEDDING,
IT LOOKED LIKE AN
ANGEL ALIGHTED
ON A PURE WHITE
LOTUS FLOWER. THE
FRAGRANCE OF PETALS
AND FRUIT FILLED THE
AIR, BUTTERFLIES
DANCED, AND
BIRD-SONGS
SOUNDED LIKE
BLESSINGS.





WHAT TO DO?

SHE'S NEVER RUN SUCH A HIGH FEVER.

I BLAME THE WILD RIDE WE GAVE HER.



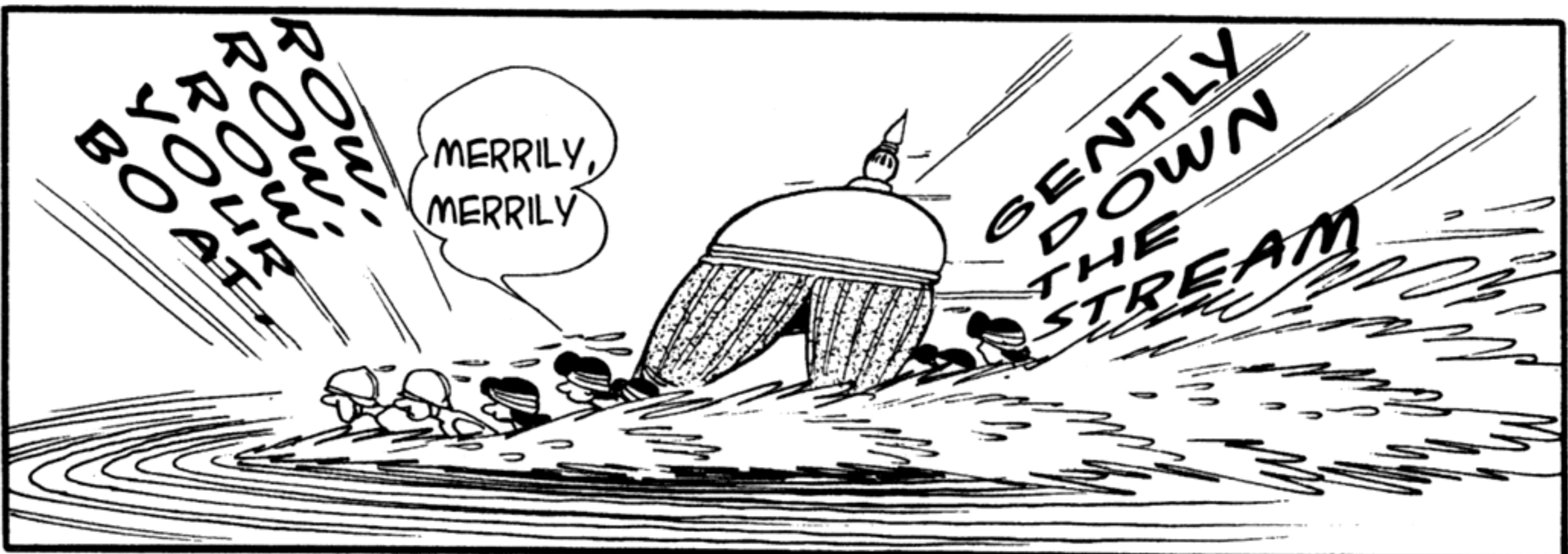
I AM WORRIED THAT SHE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT BACK.

HOW FAR ARE WE STILL?

I'D SAY FIVE HOURS AWAY.



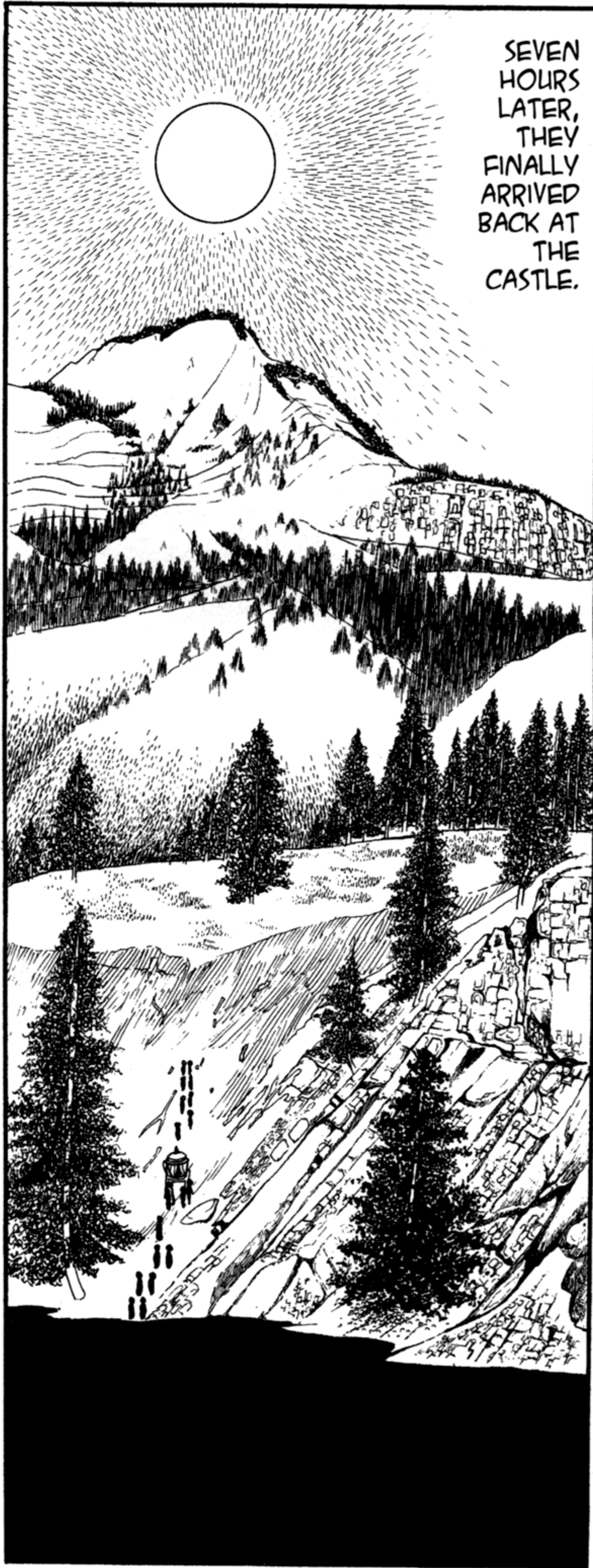
HER BLOOD GOT INFECTED. WE HAVE NO CURE FOR THAT.



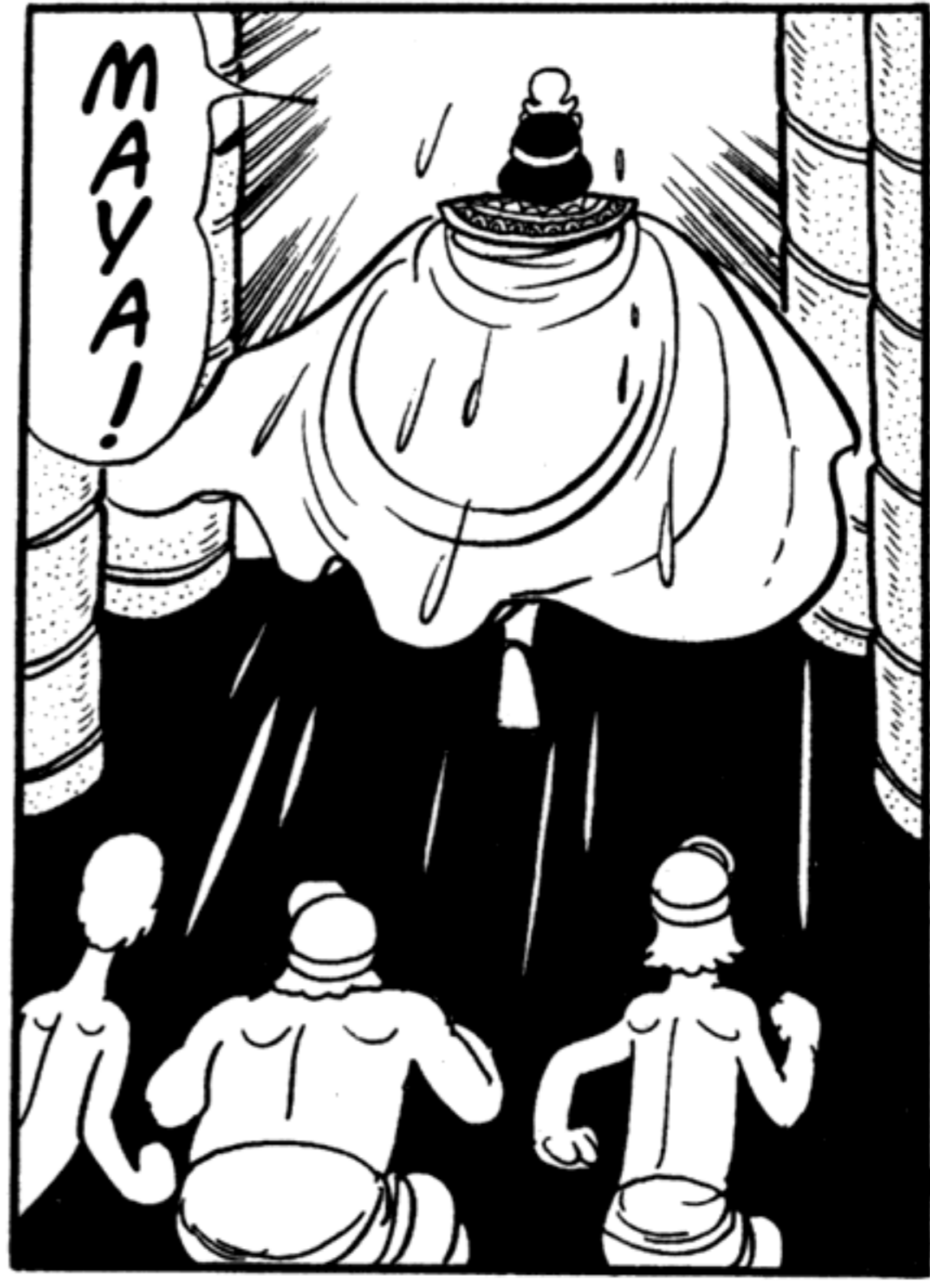
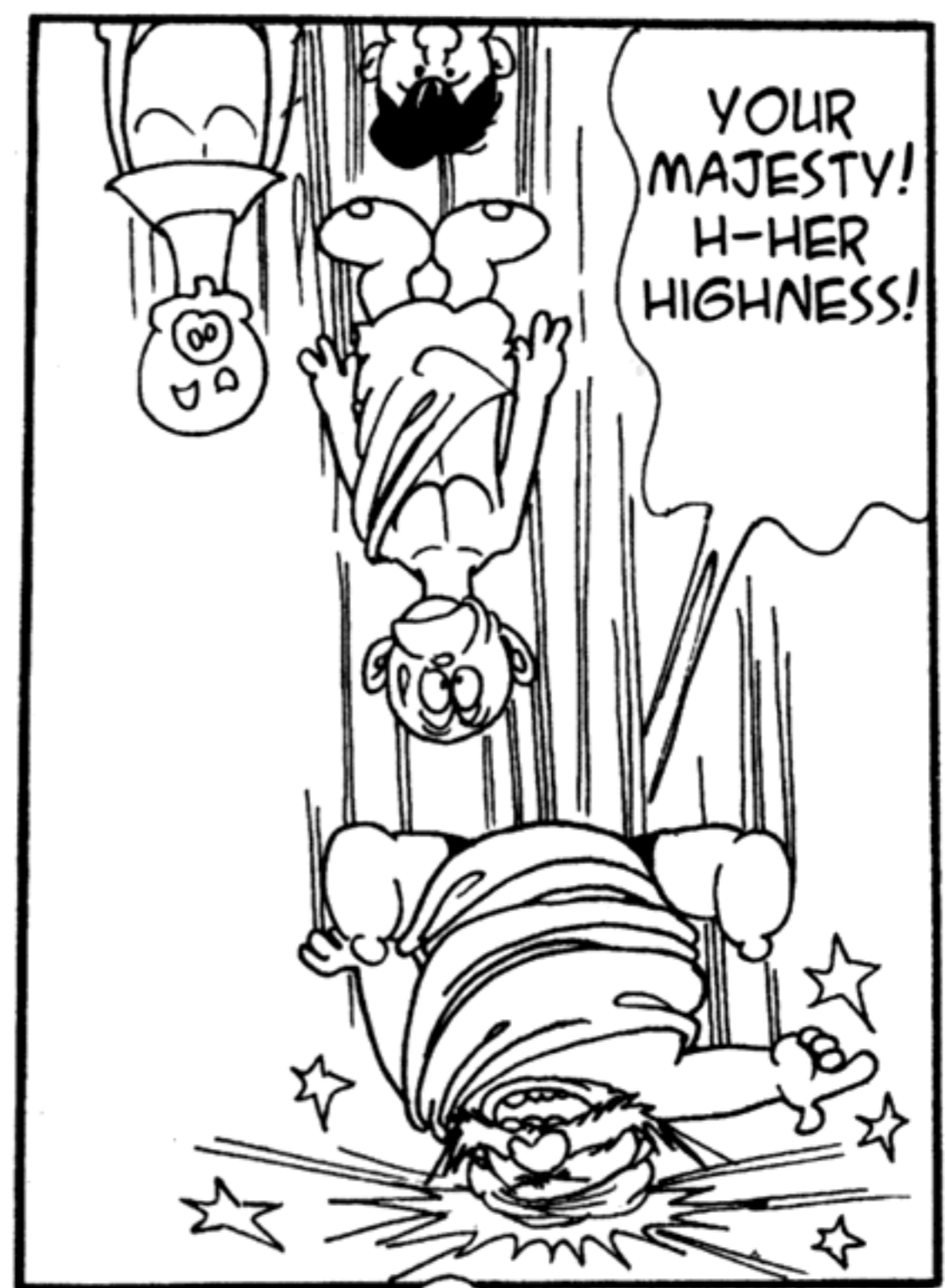
MERRILY, MERRILY

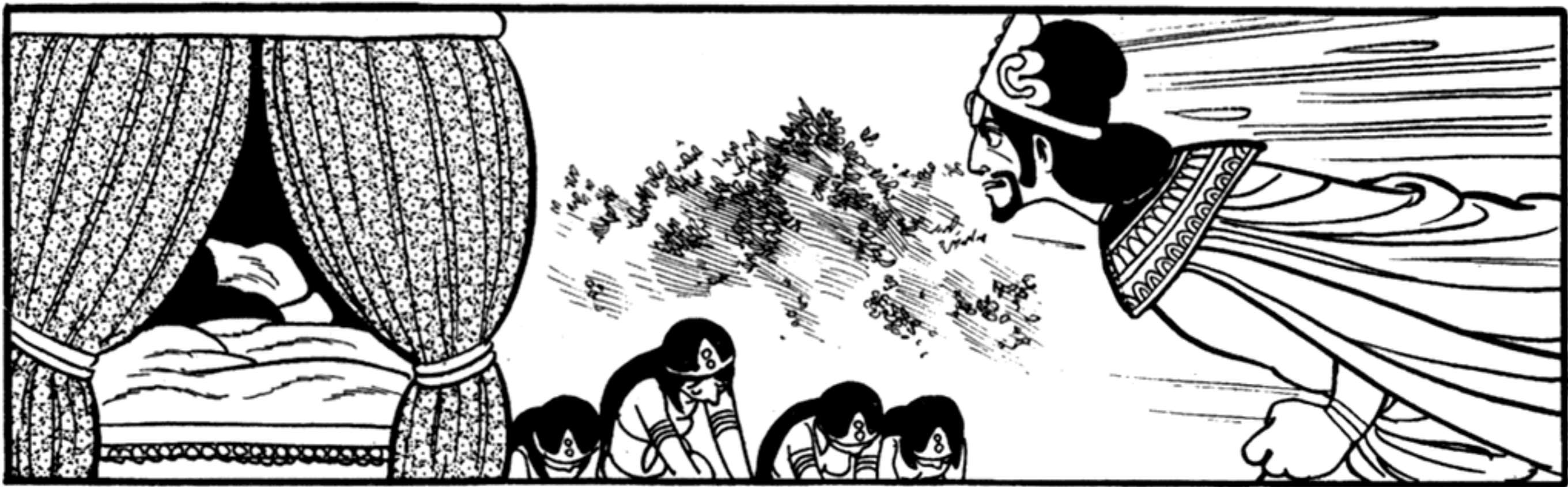
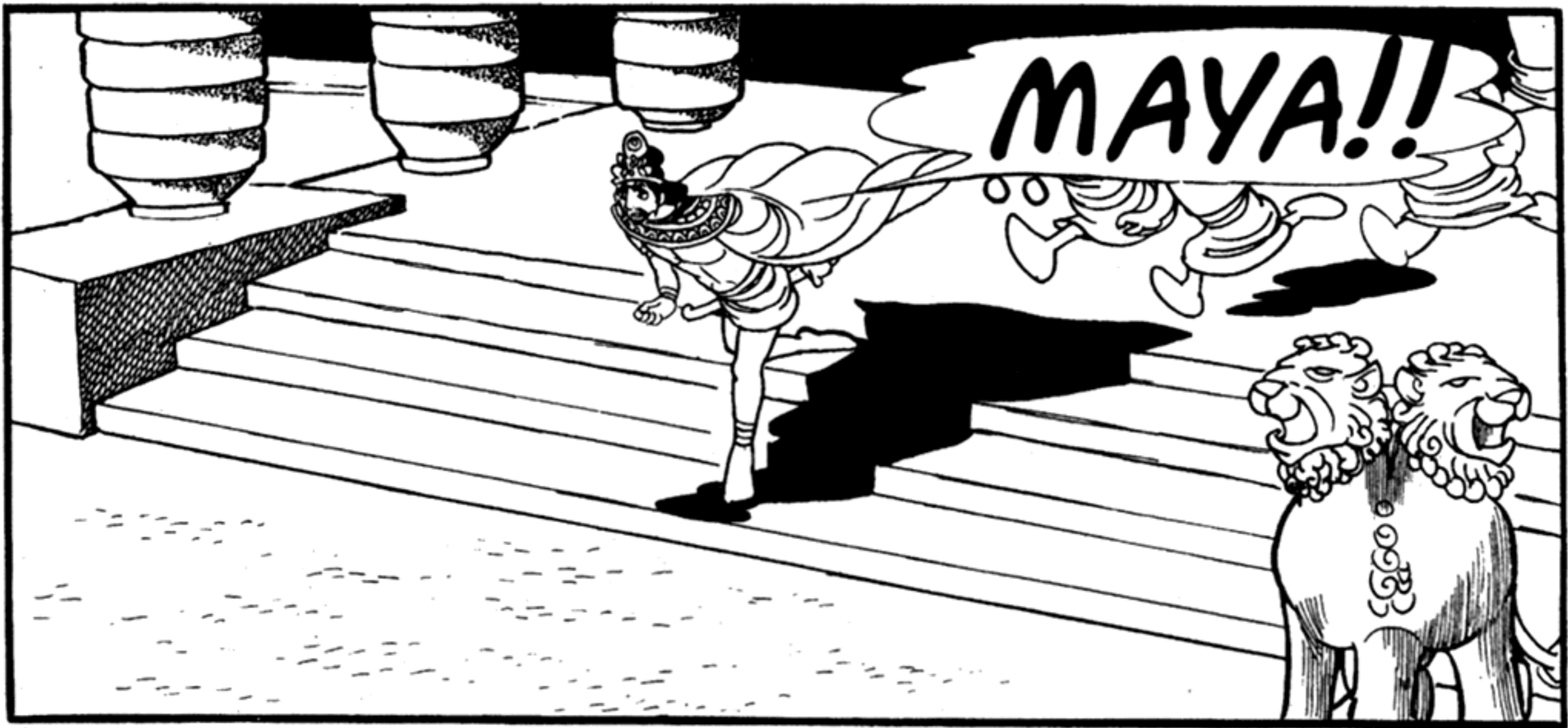
ROW!
ROW!
ROW!
RRR!
RRR!
RRR!

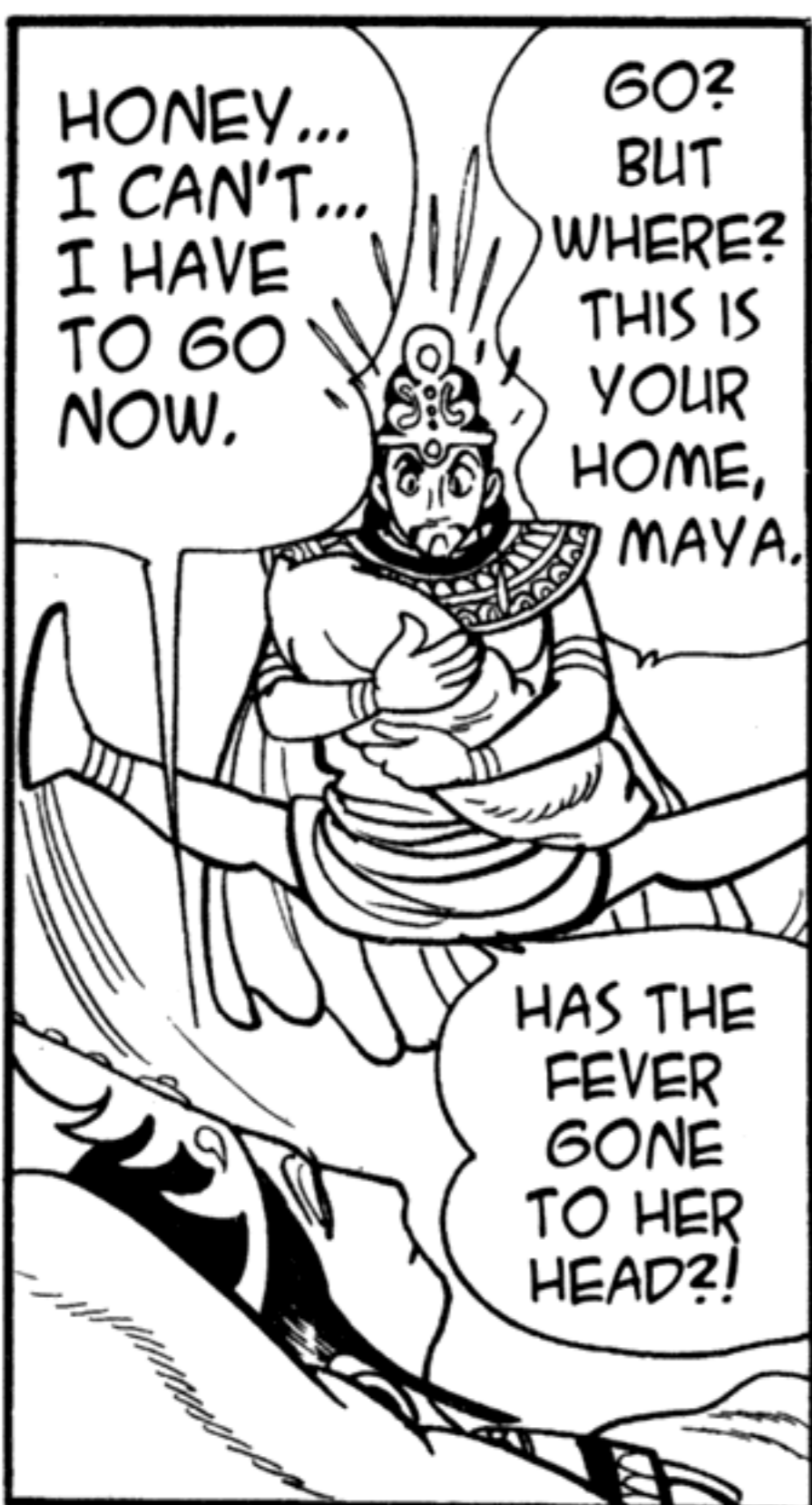
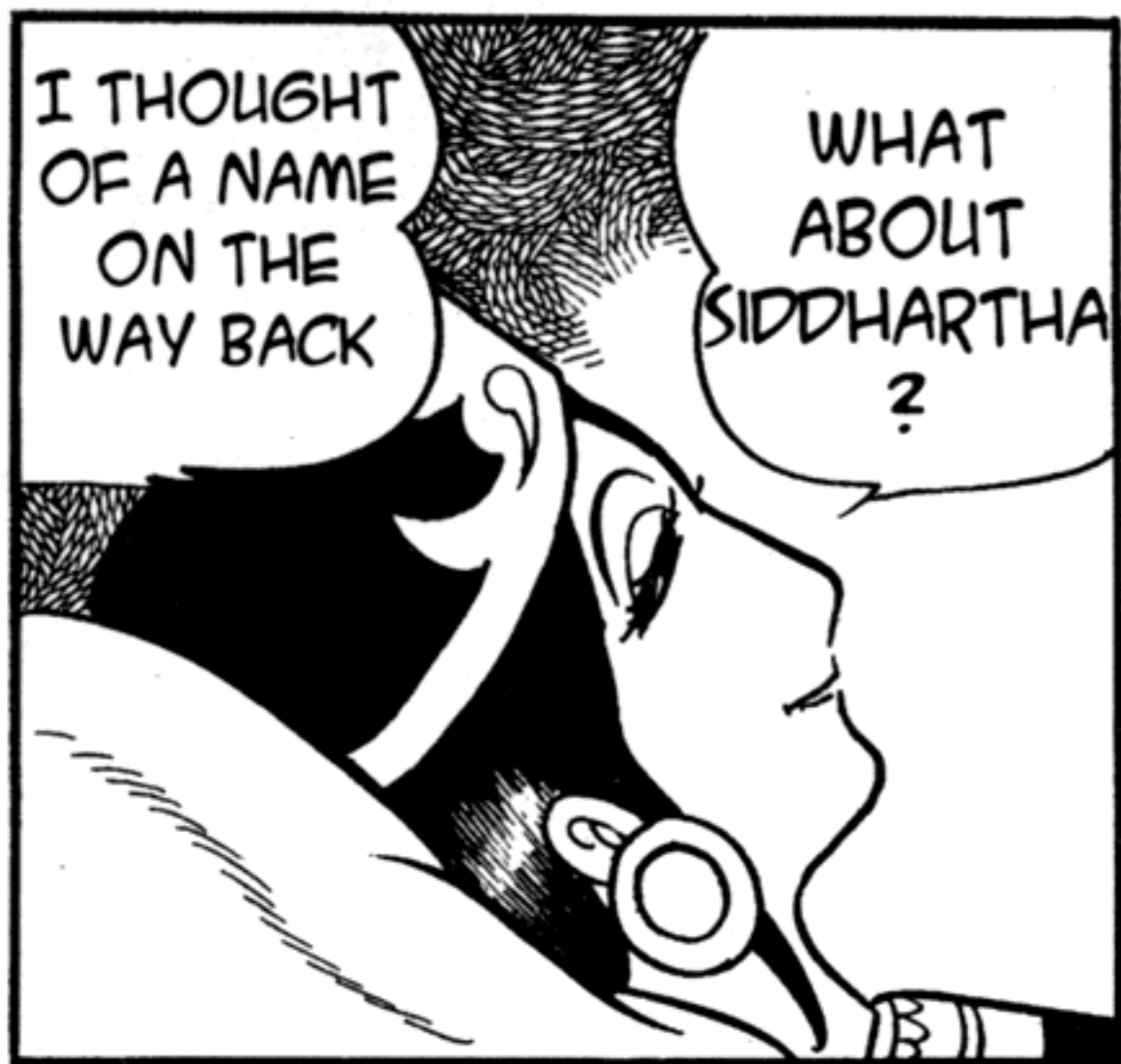
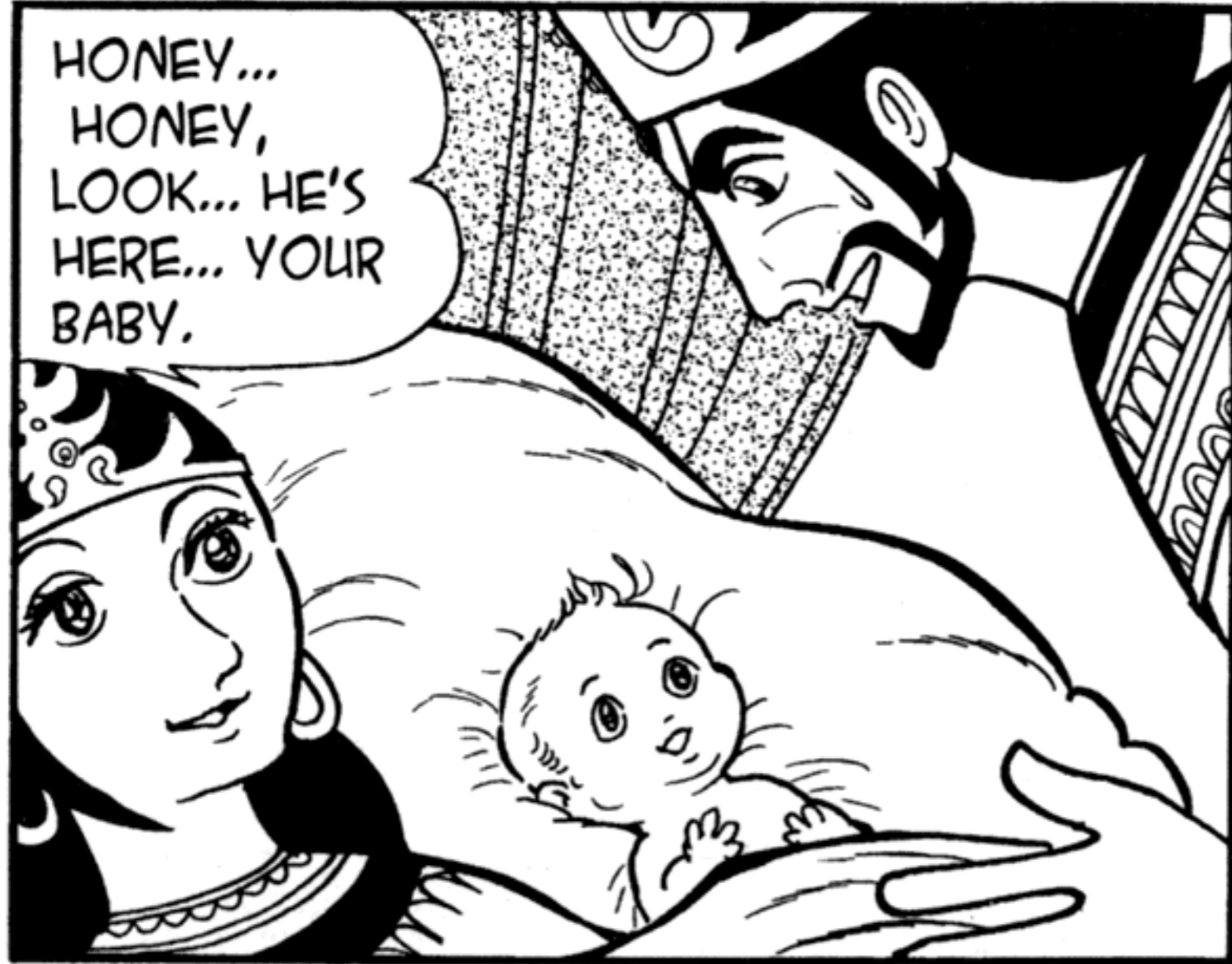
GENTLY
DOWN
THE
STREAM



SEVEN HOURS LATER, THEY FINALLY ARRIVED BACK AT THE CASTLE.

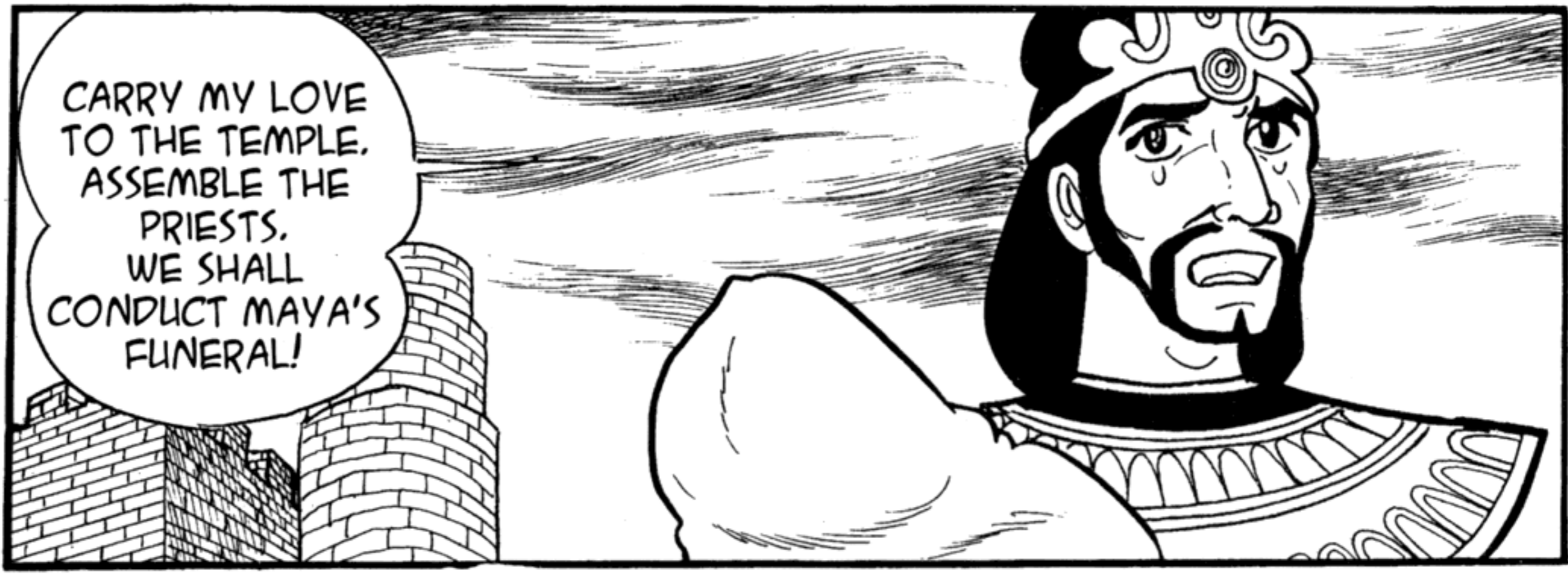






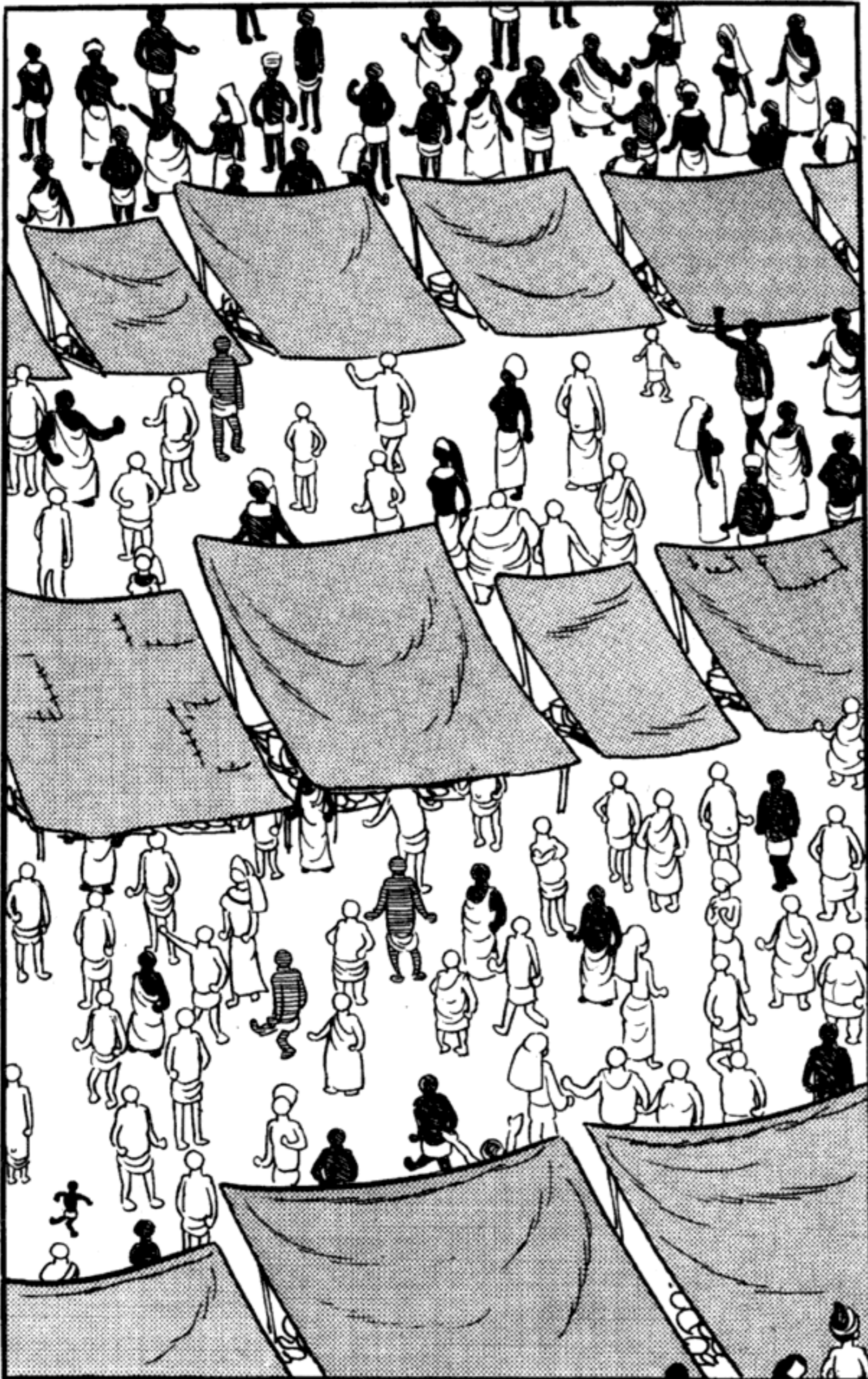
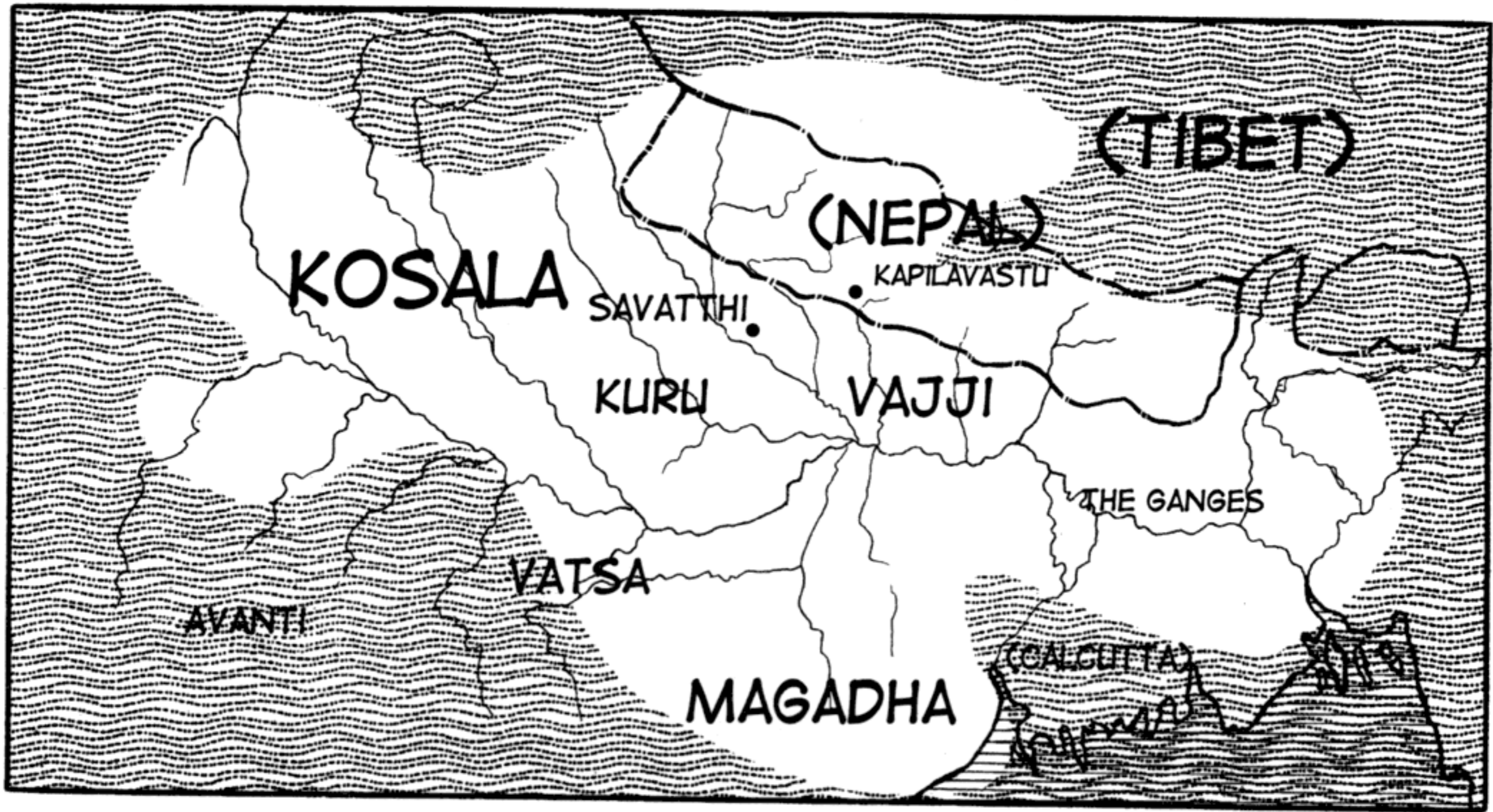


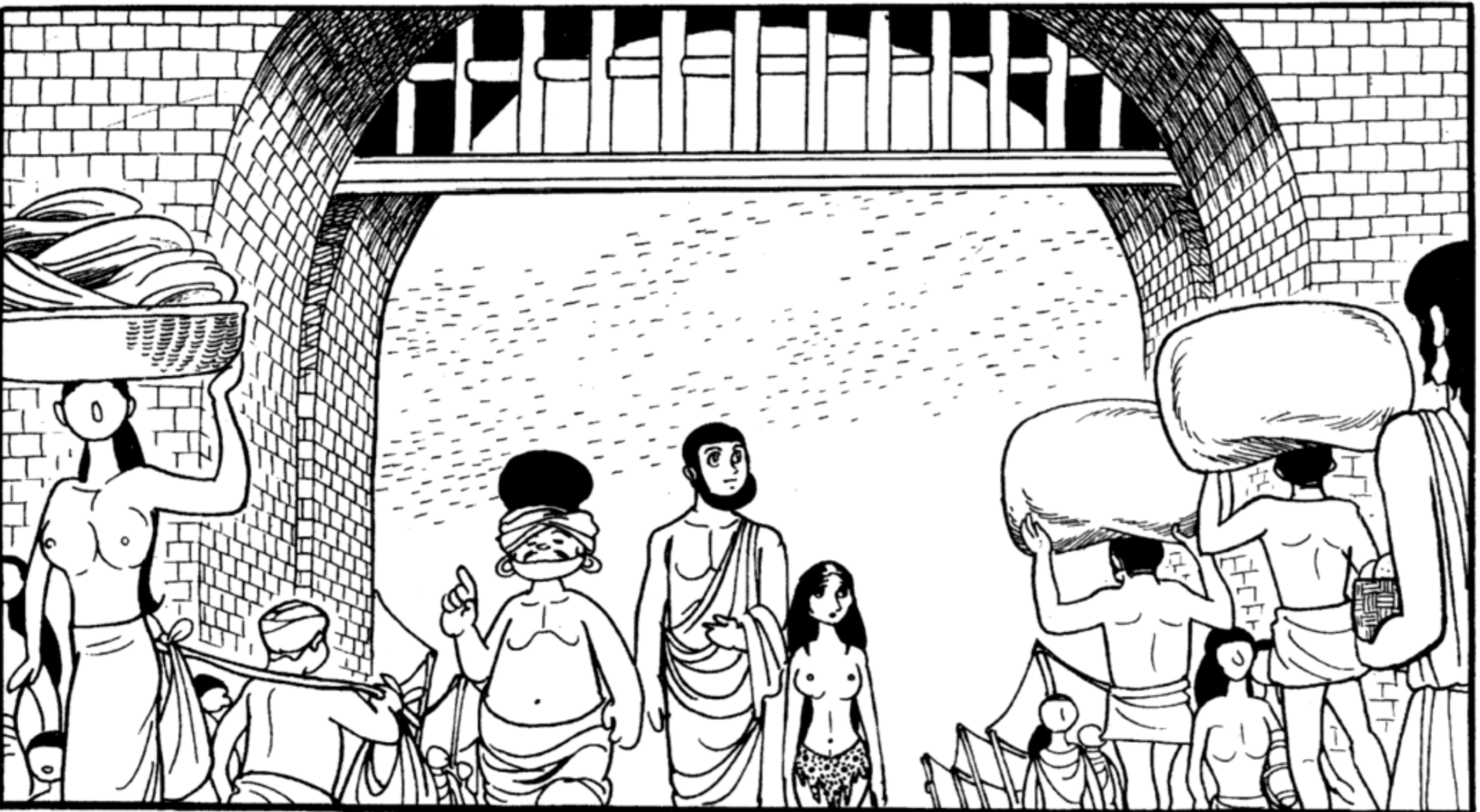
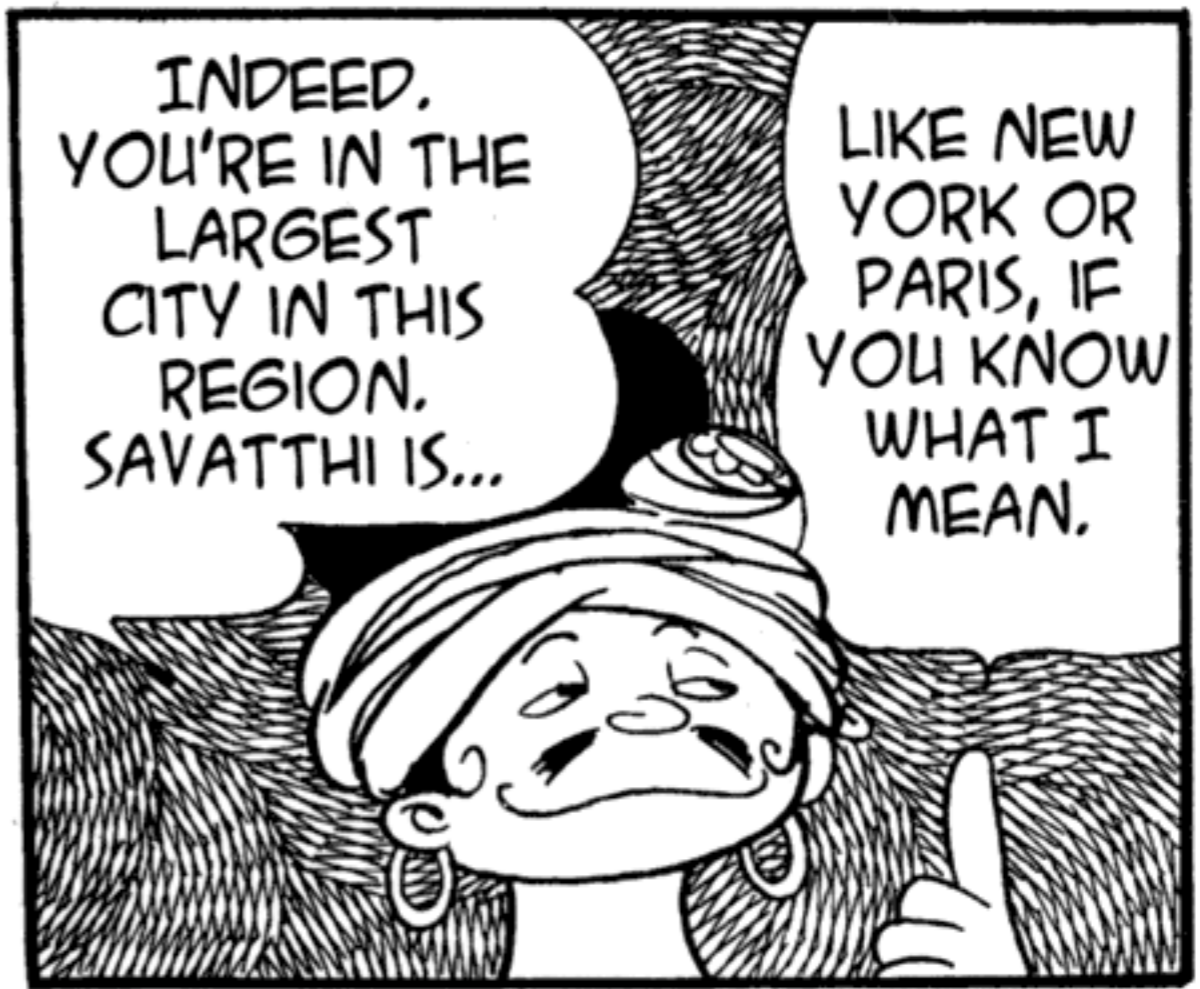




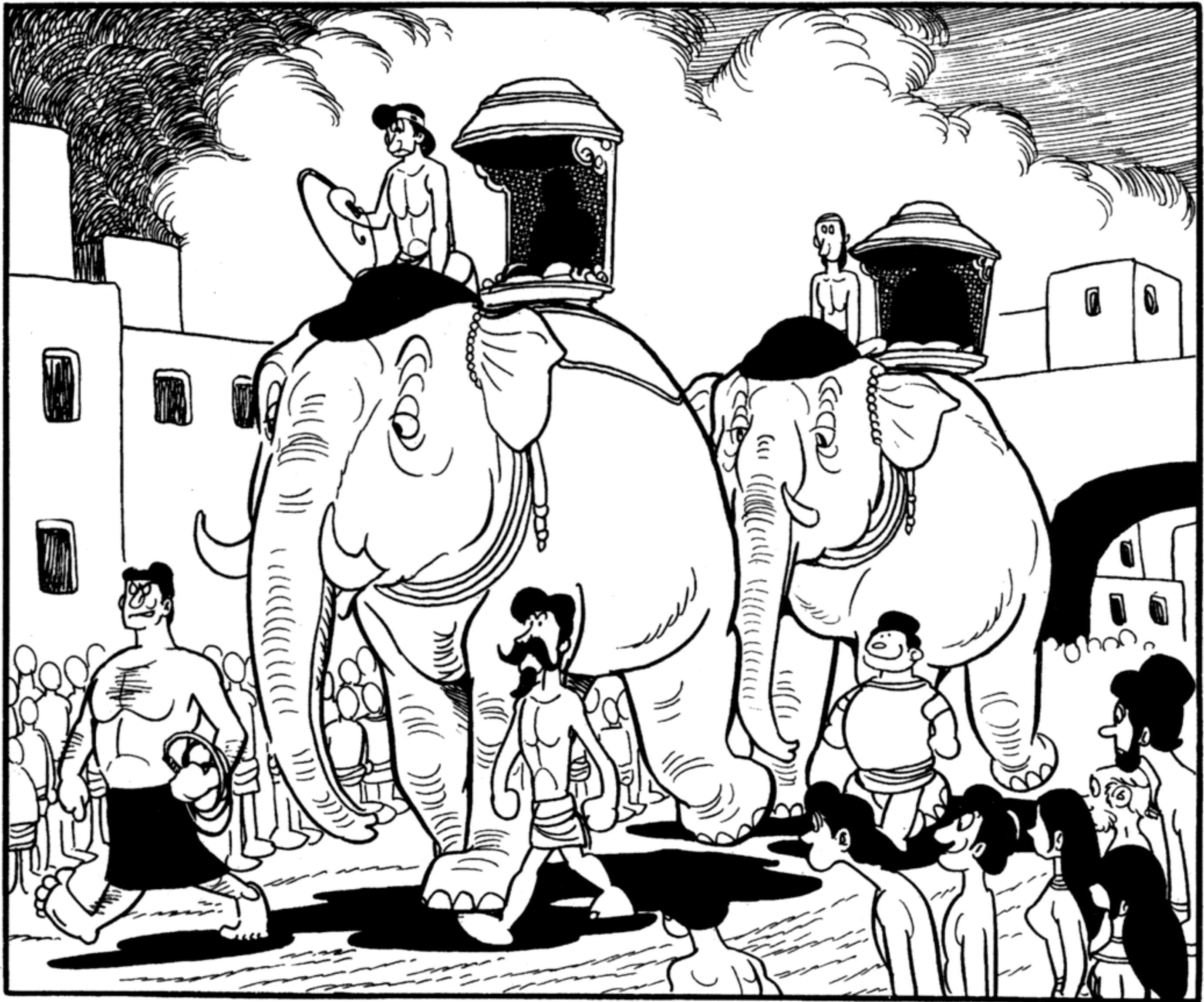
CHAPTER EIGHT

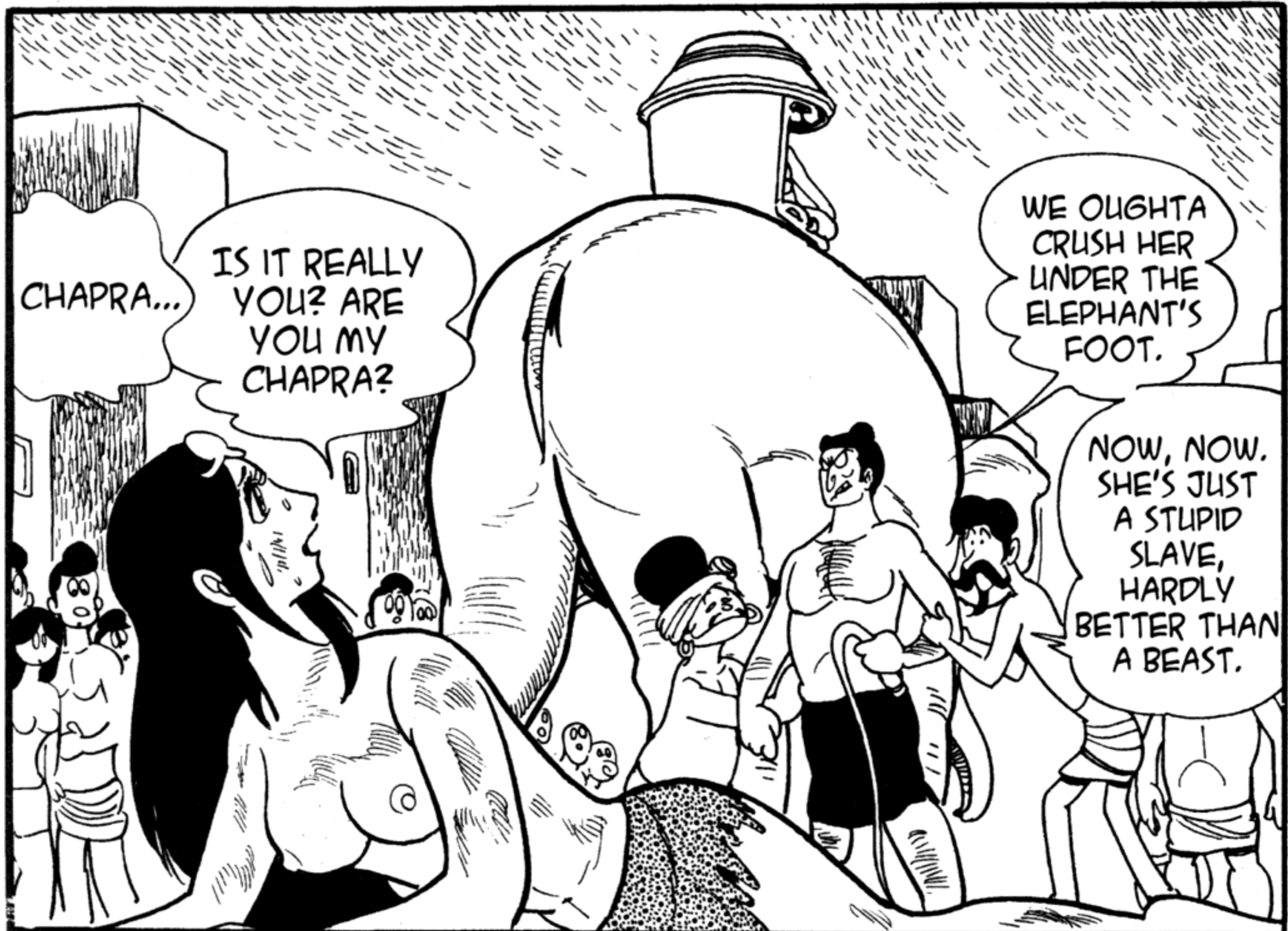
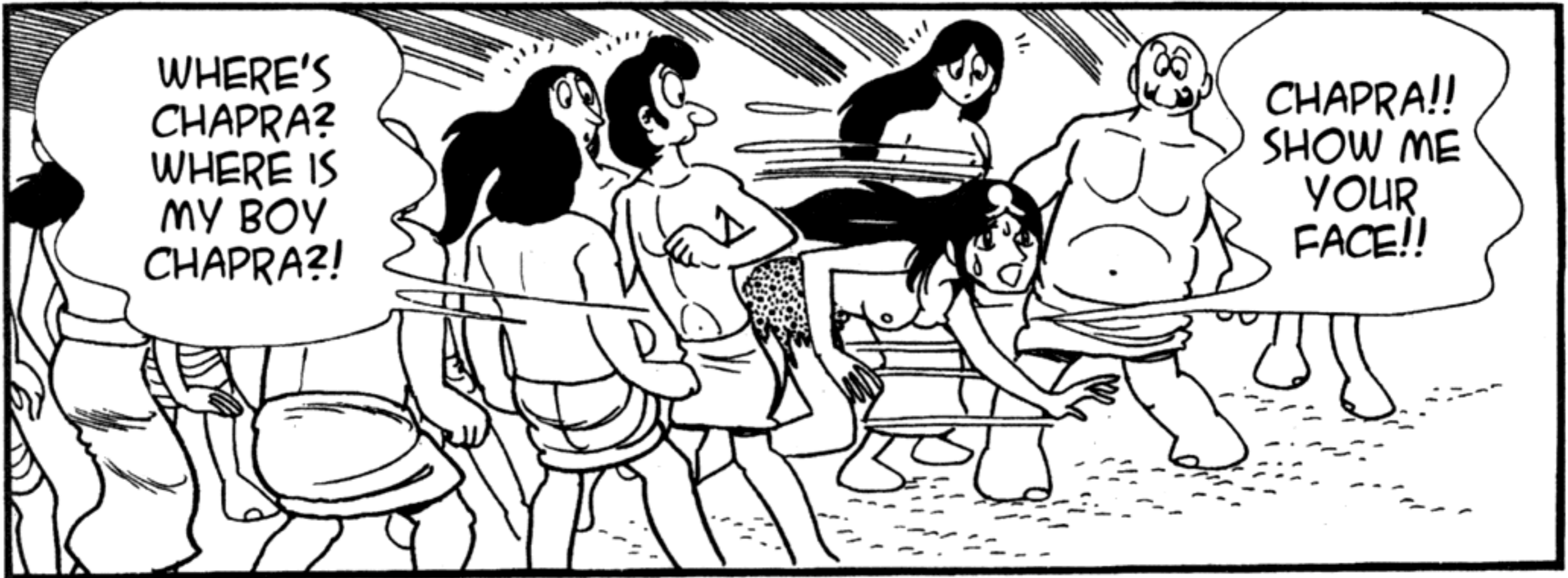
THE CONTEST

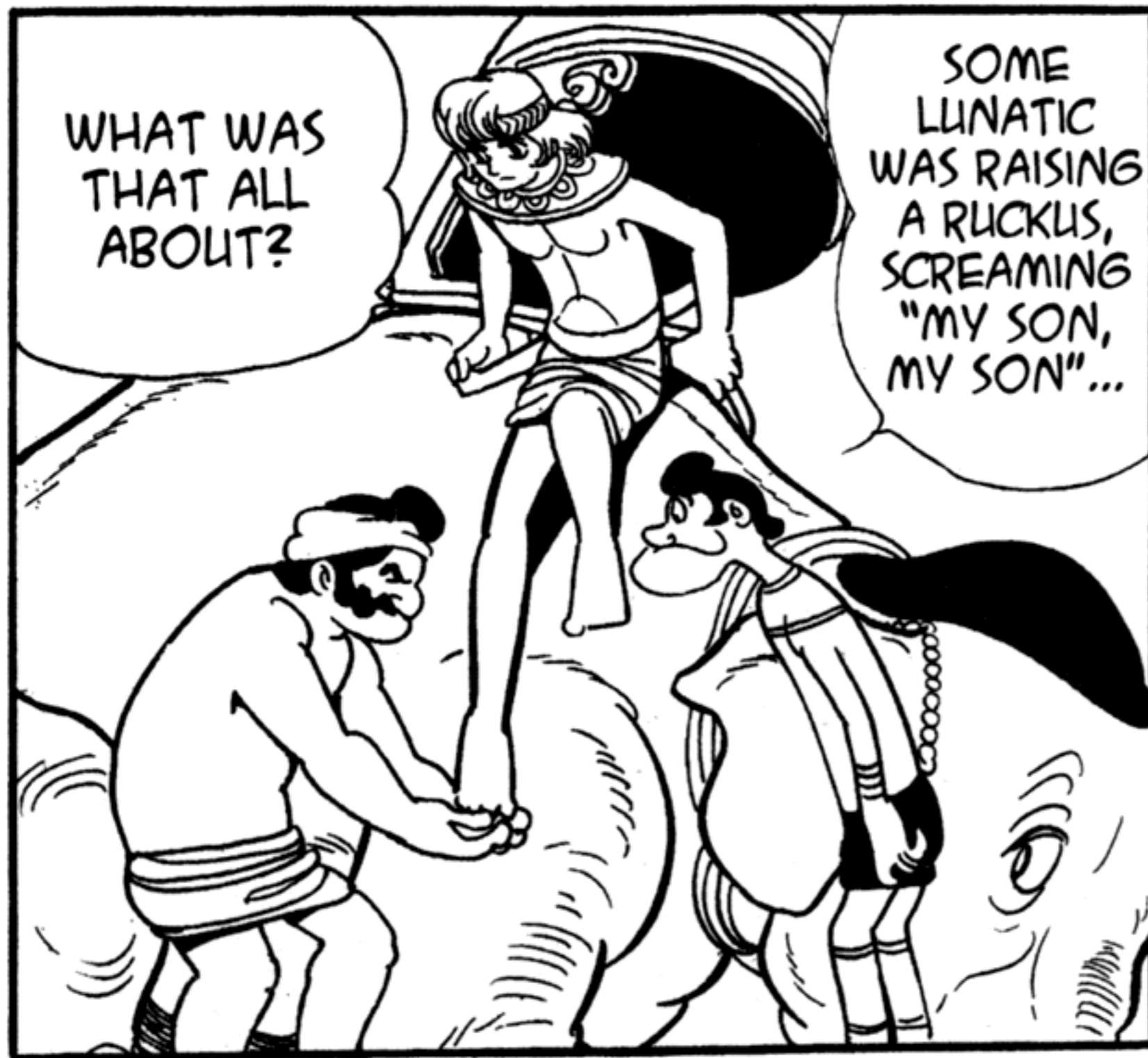






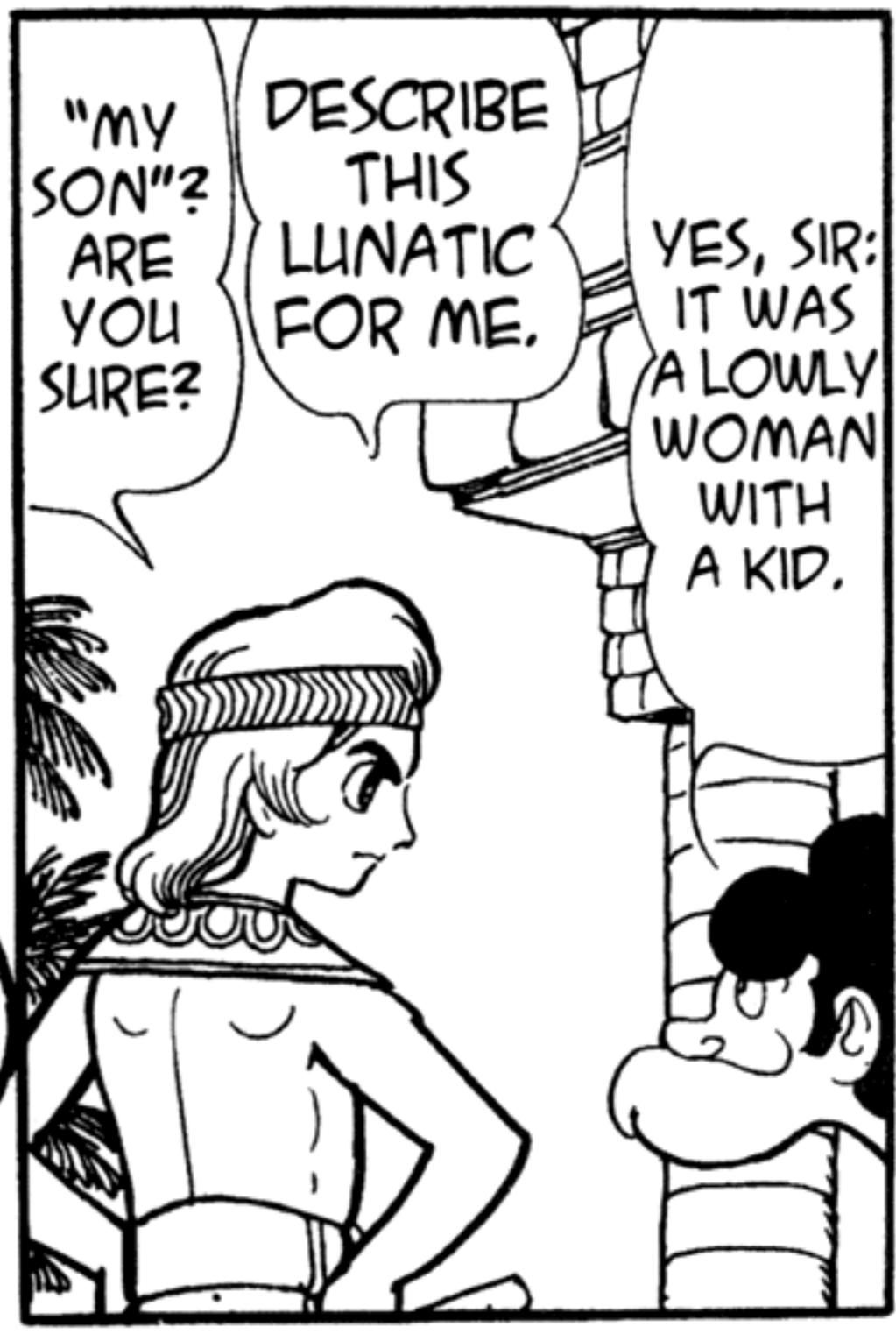






WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

SOME LUNATIC WAS RAISING A RUCKUS, SCREAMING "MY SON, MY SON"...



"MY SON"? ARE YOU SURE?

DESCRIBE THIS LUNATIC FOR ME.

YES, SIR: IT WAS A LOWLY WOMAN WITH A KID.



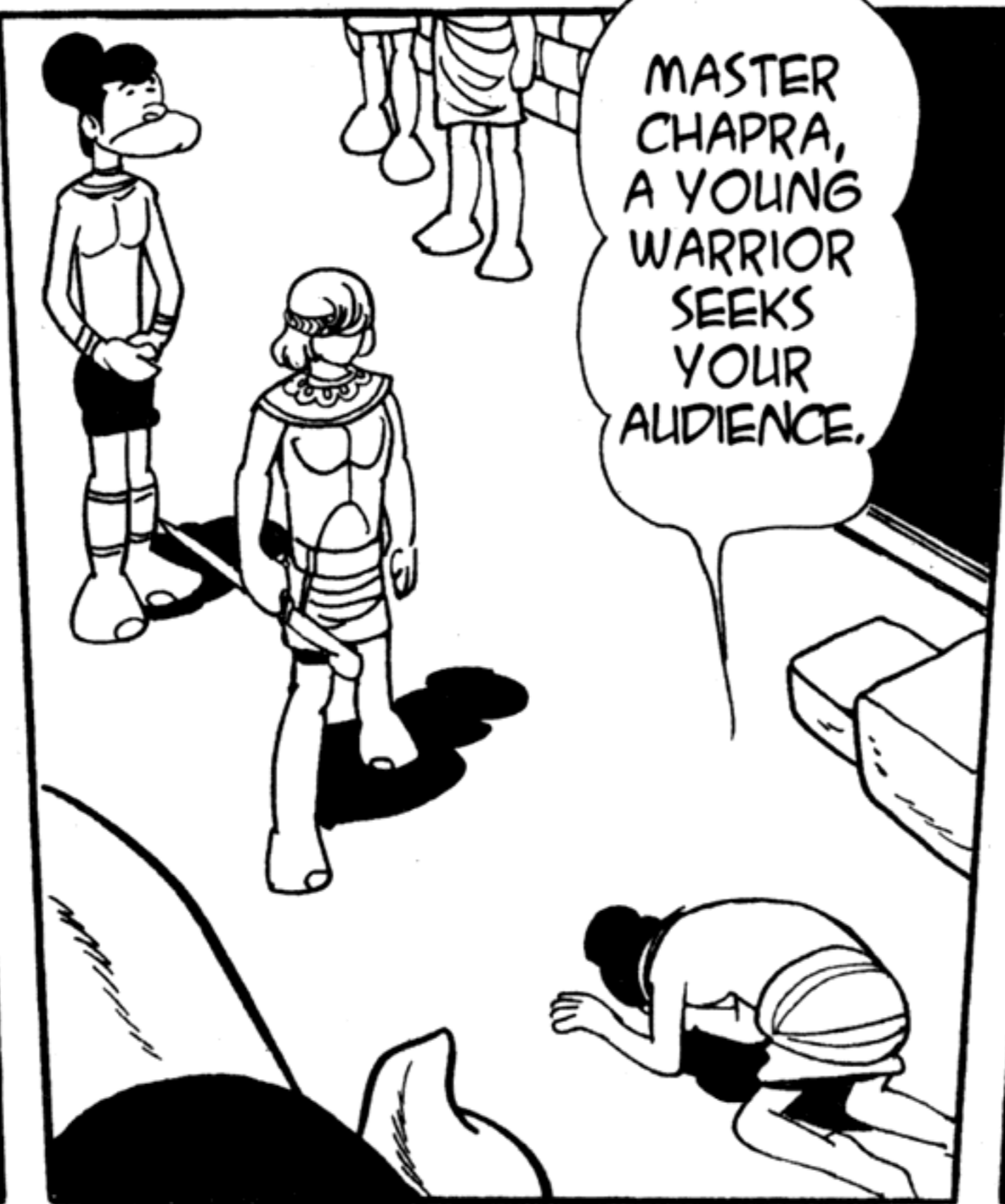
AND SHE REALLY SAID "MY SON"?

YES. IN HER DERANGEMENT SHE EVEN CALLED YOU "MY CHAPRA"!

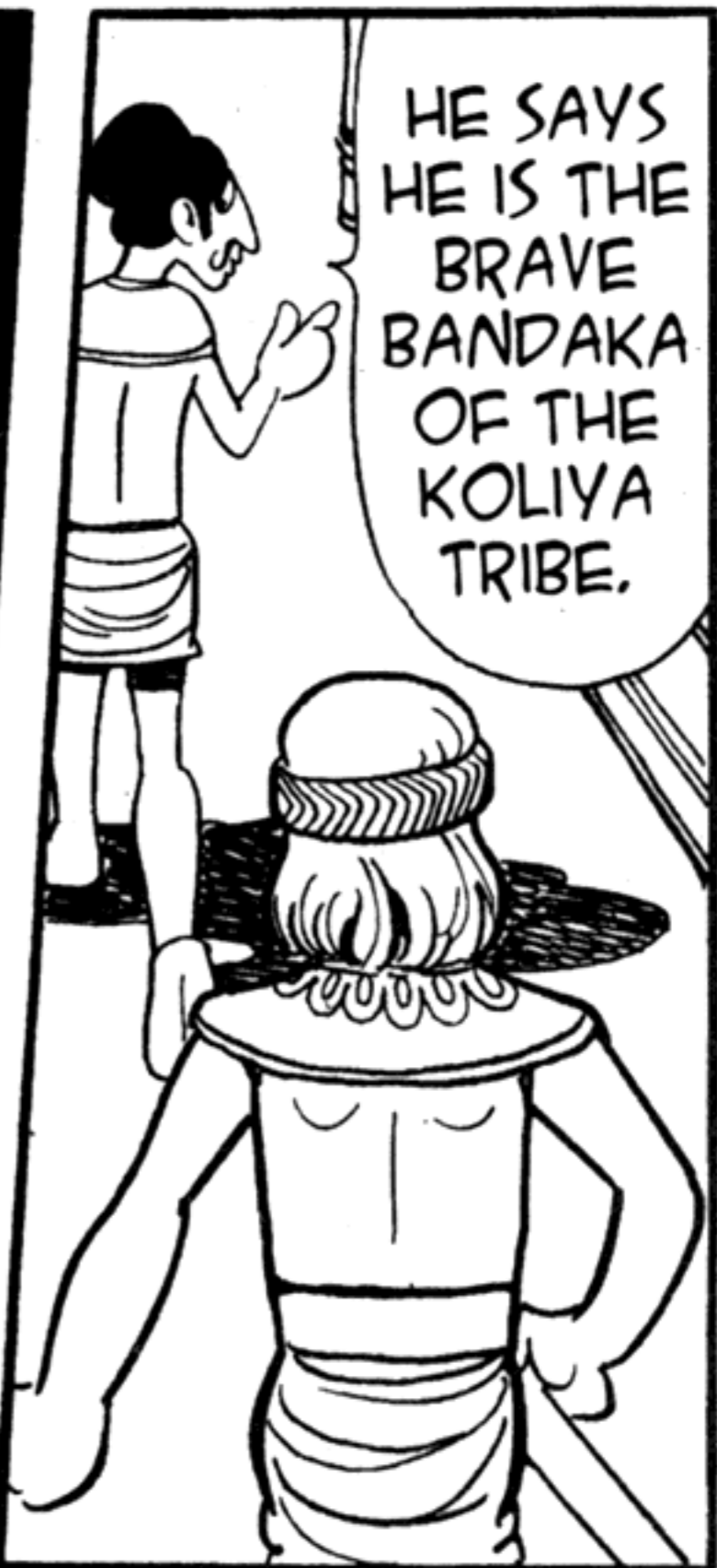
WE HIT HER AND CHASED HER AWAY.



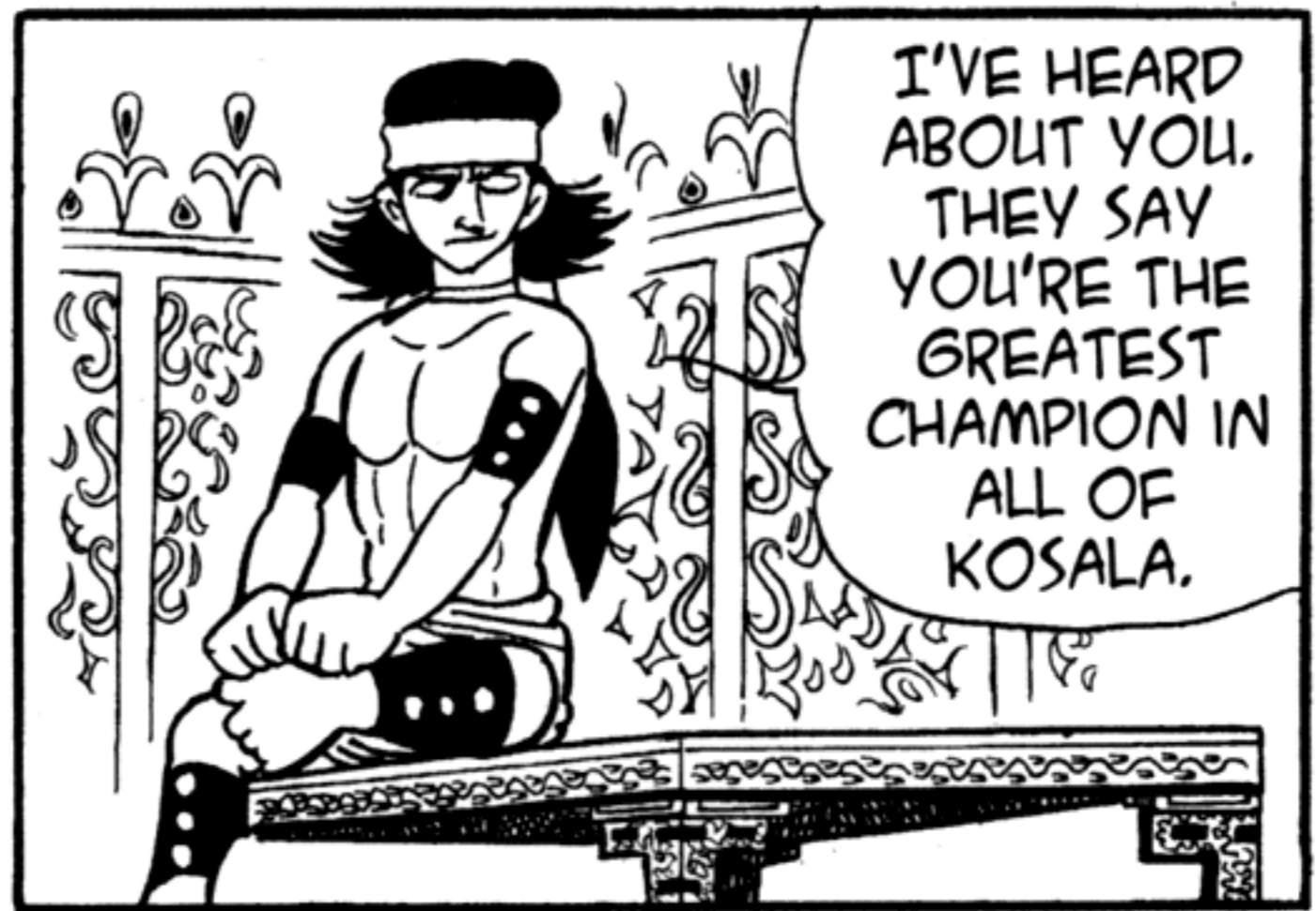
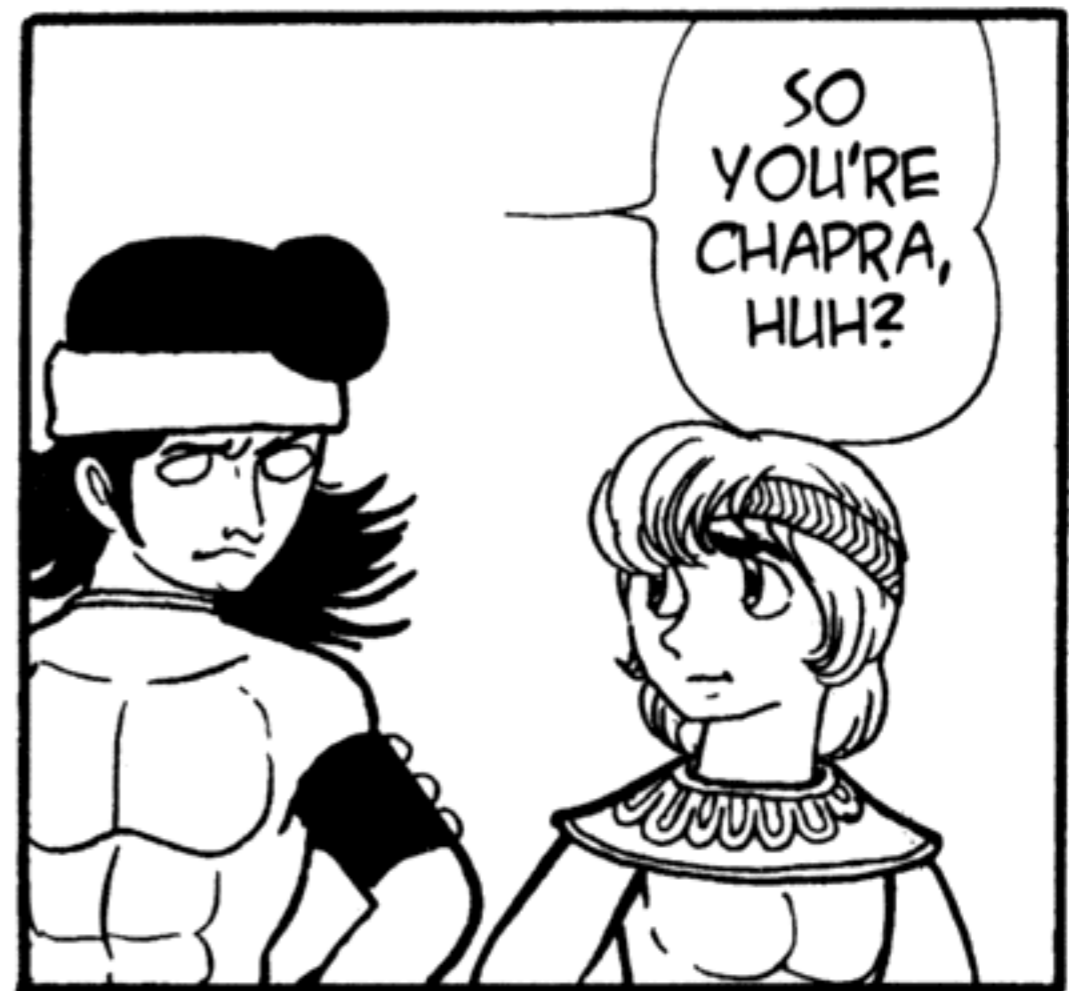
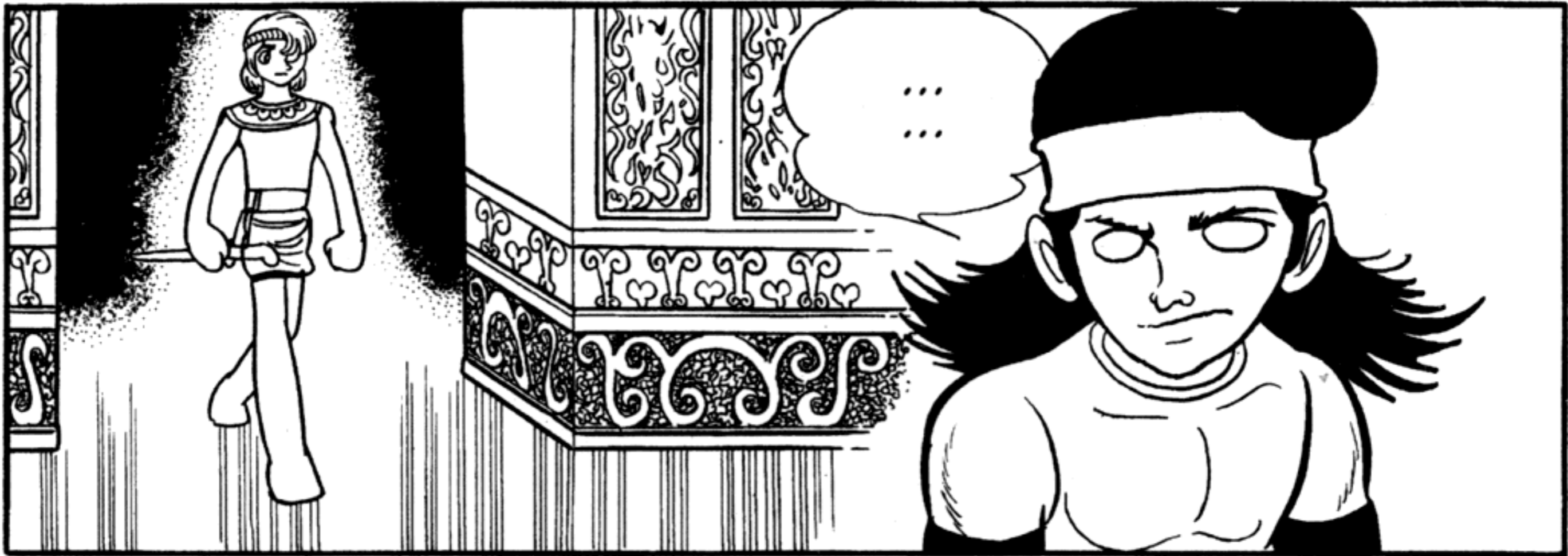
COULD IT BE?!

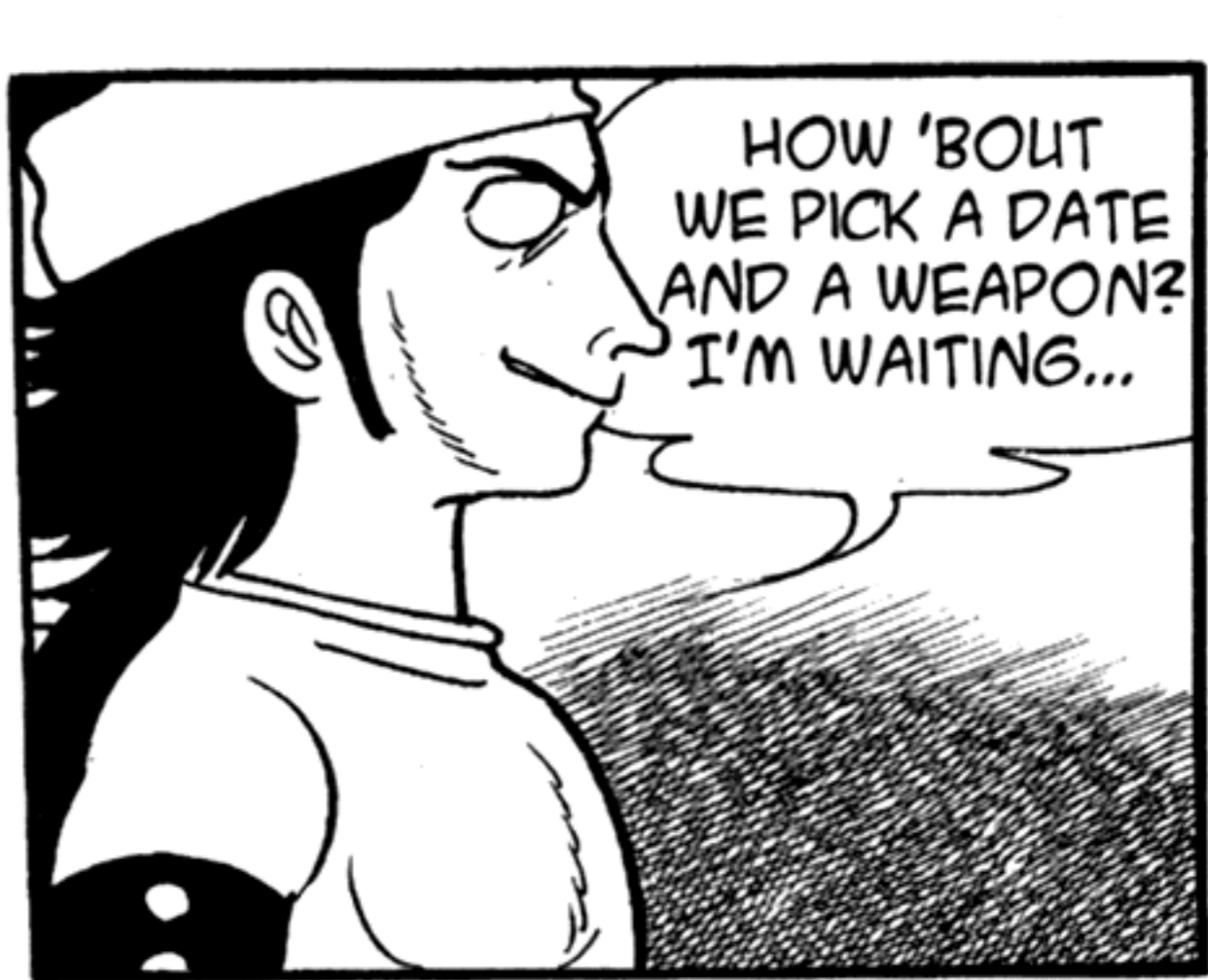
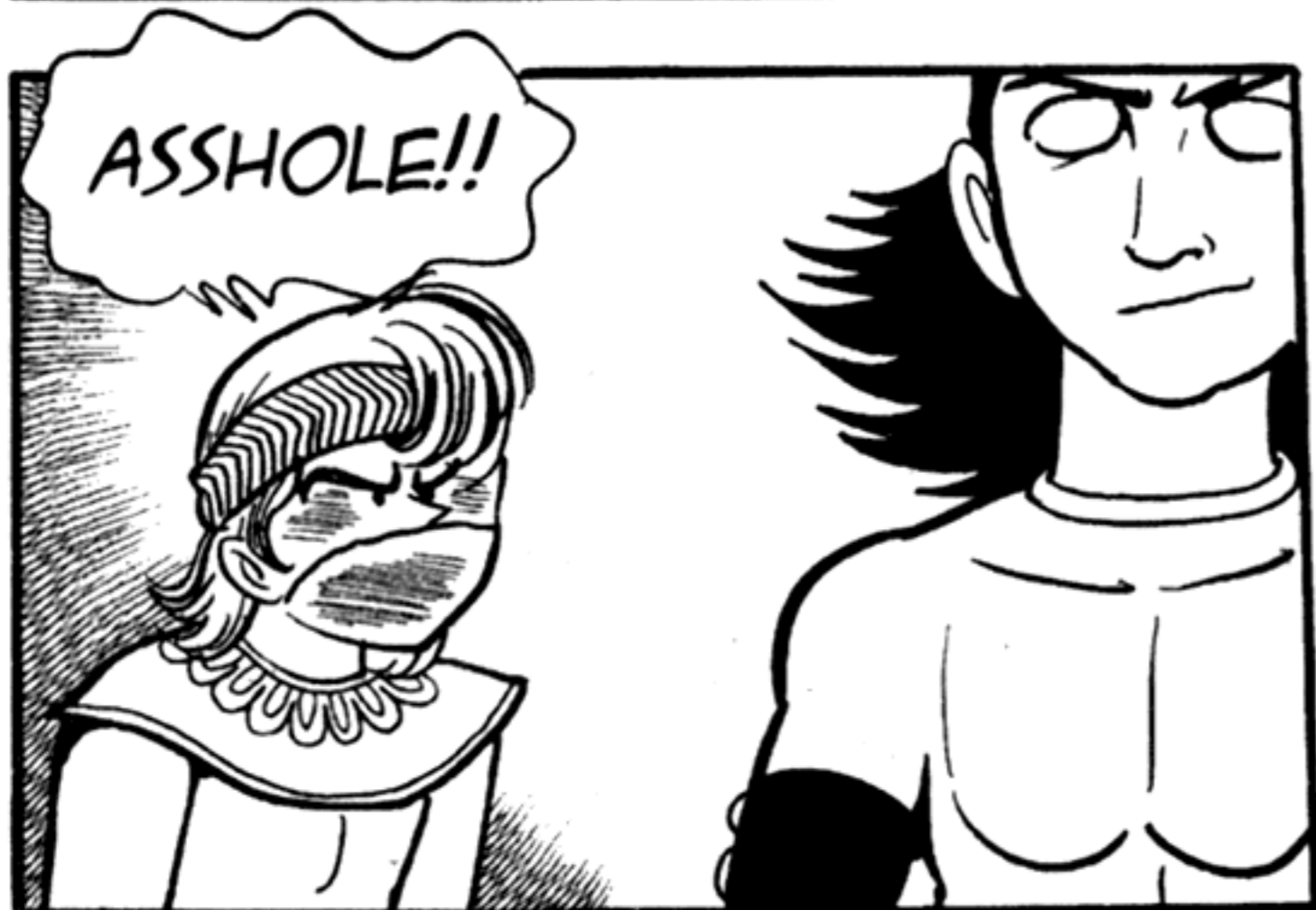
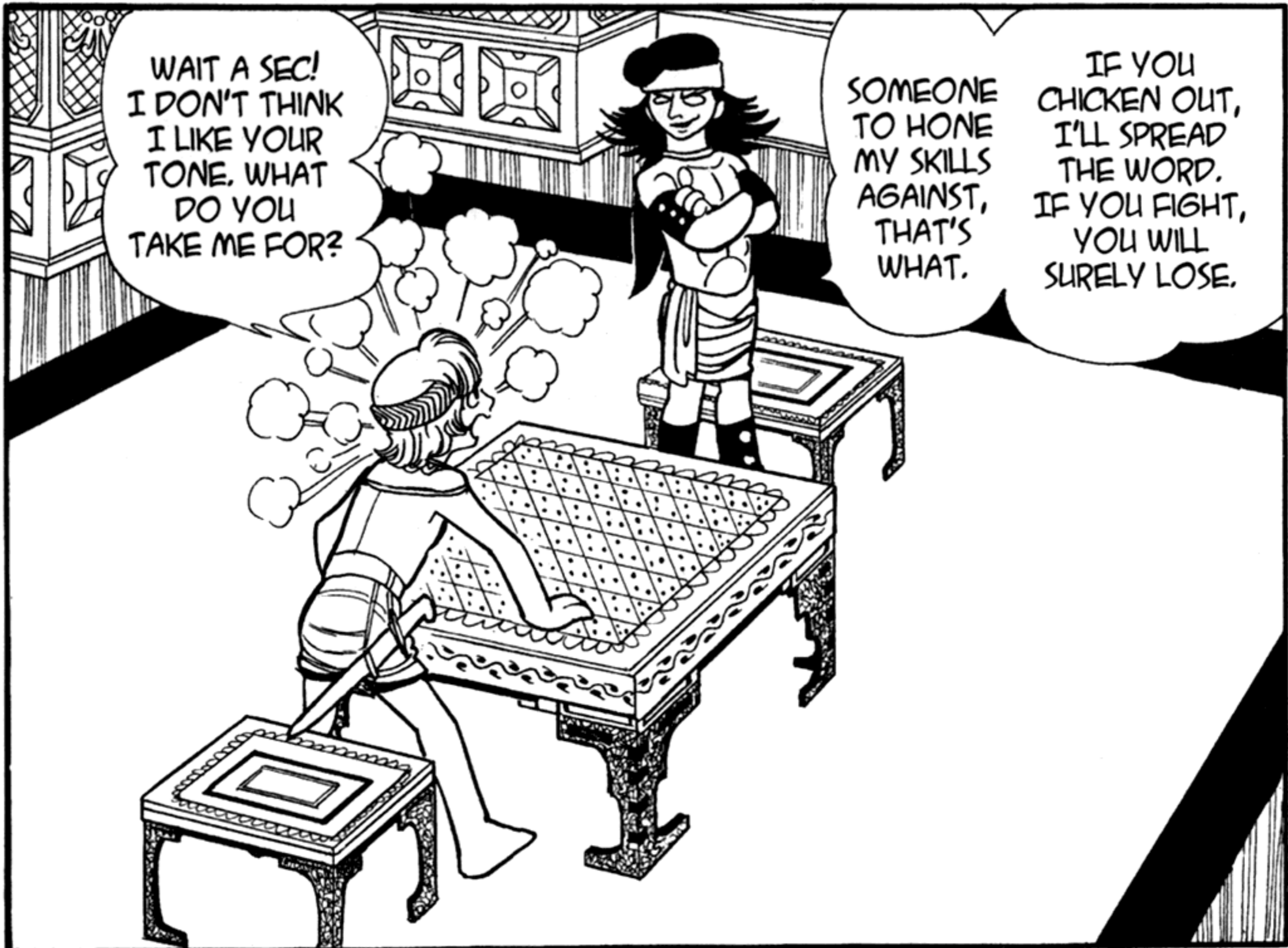
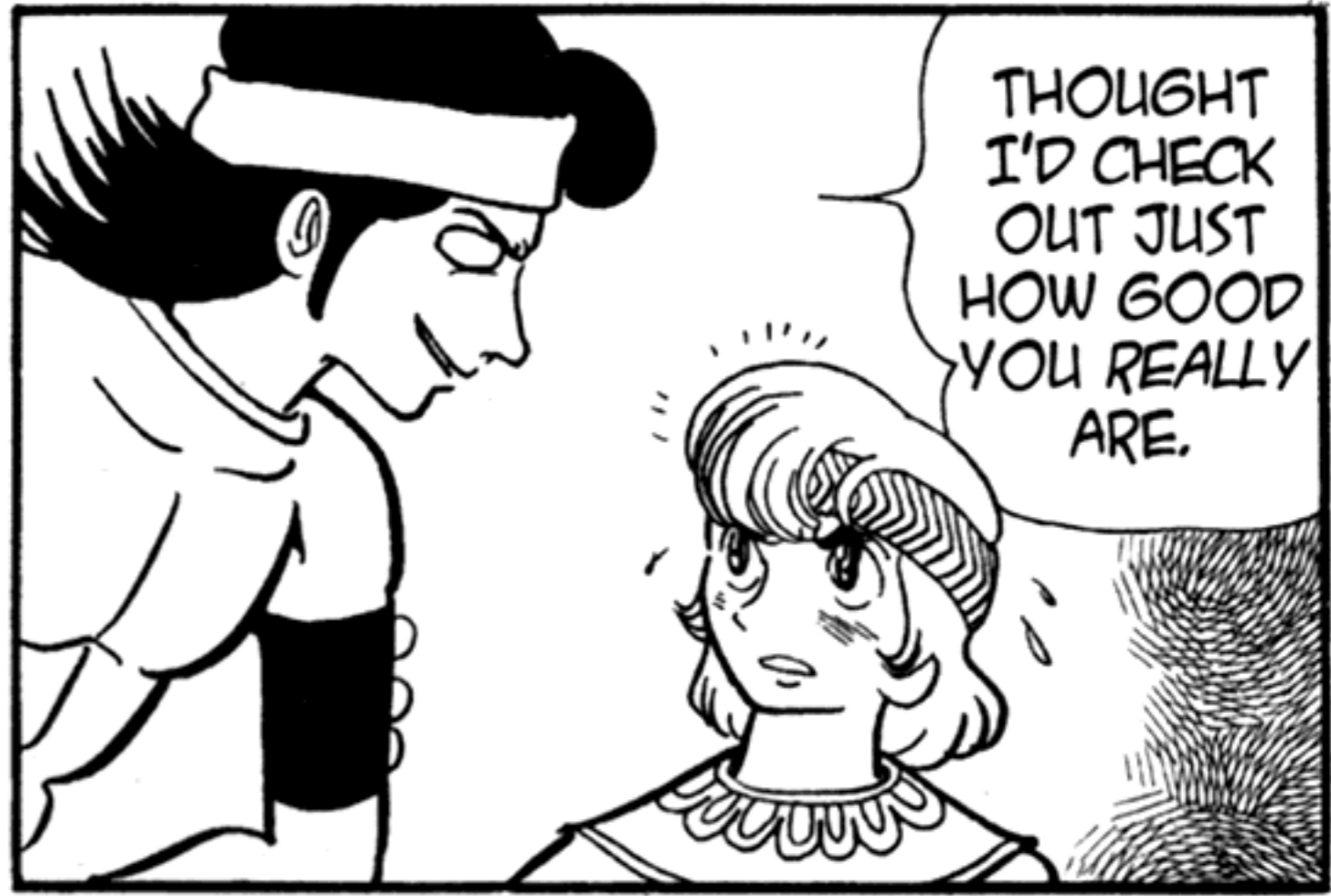


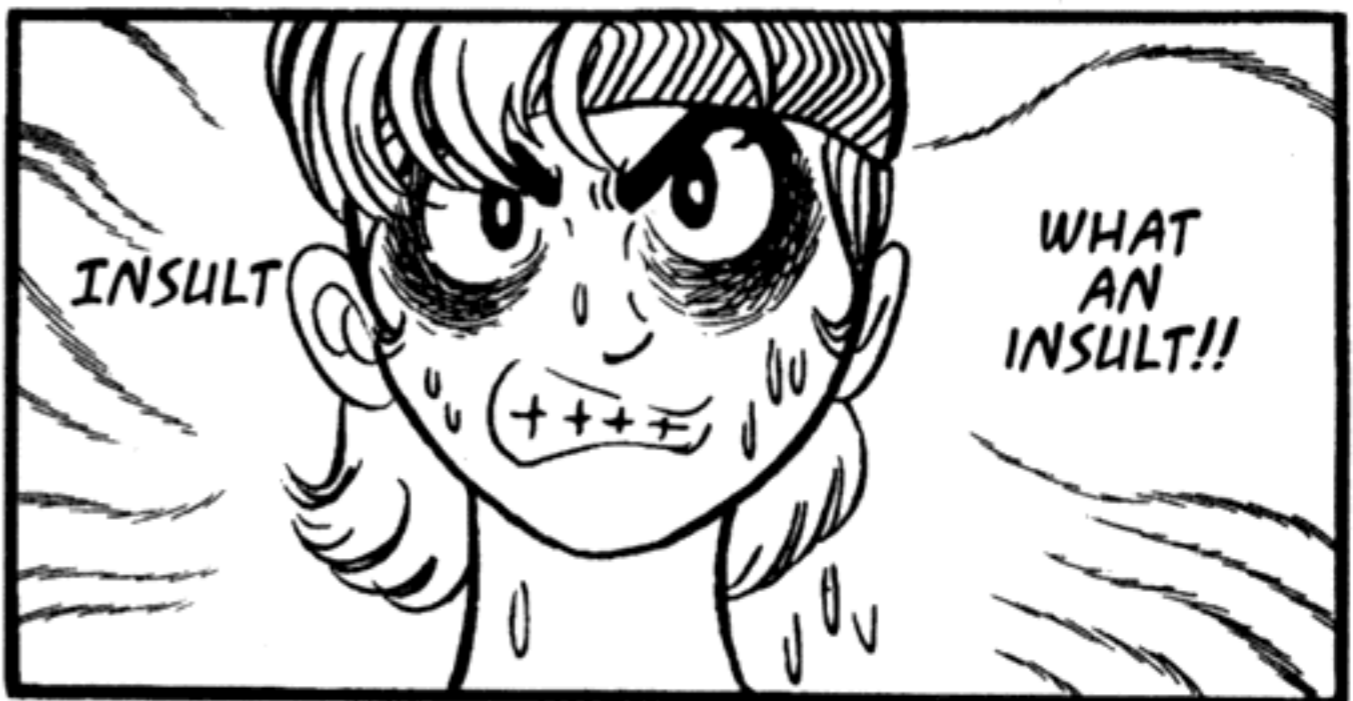
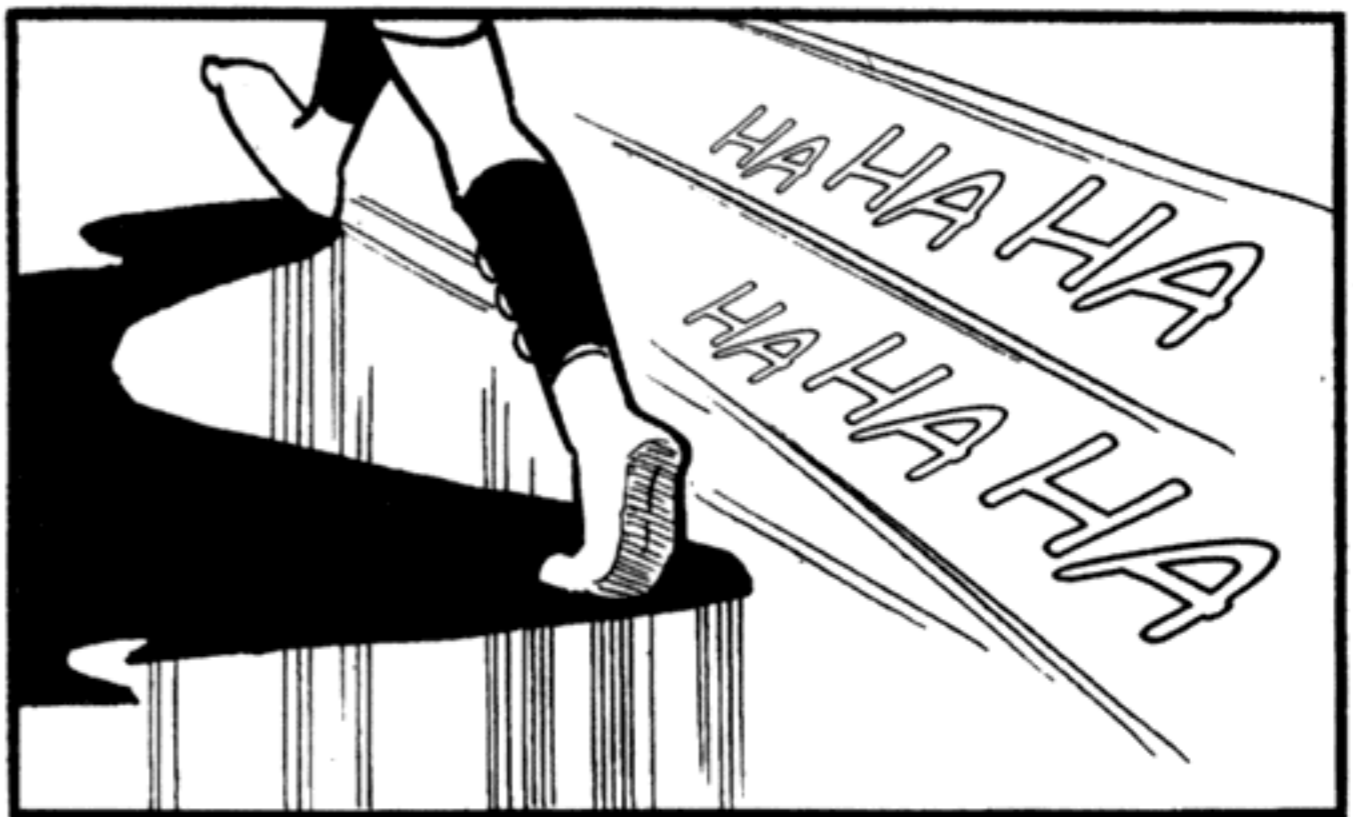
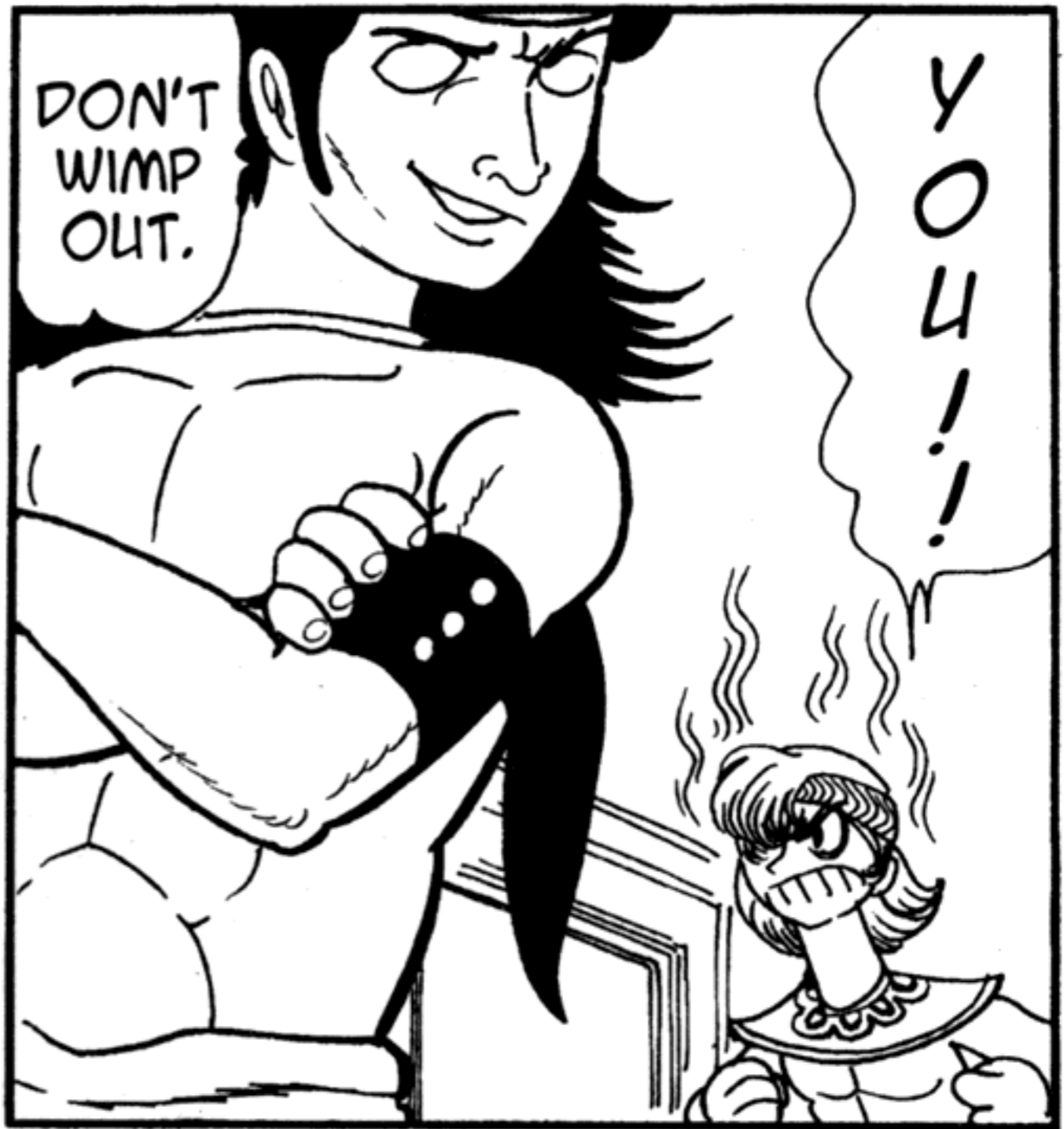
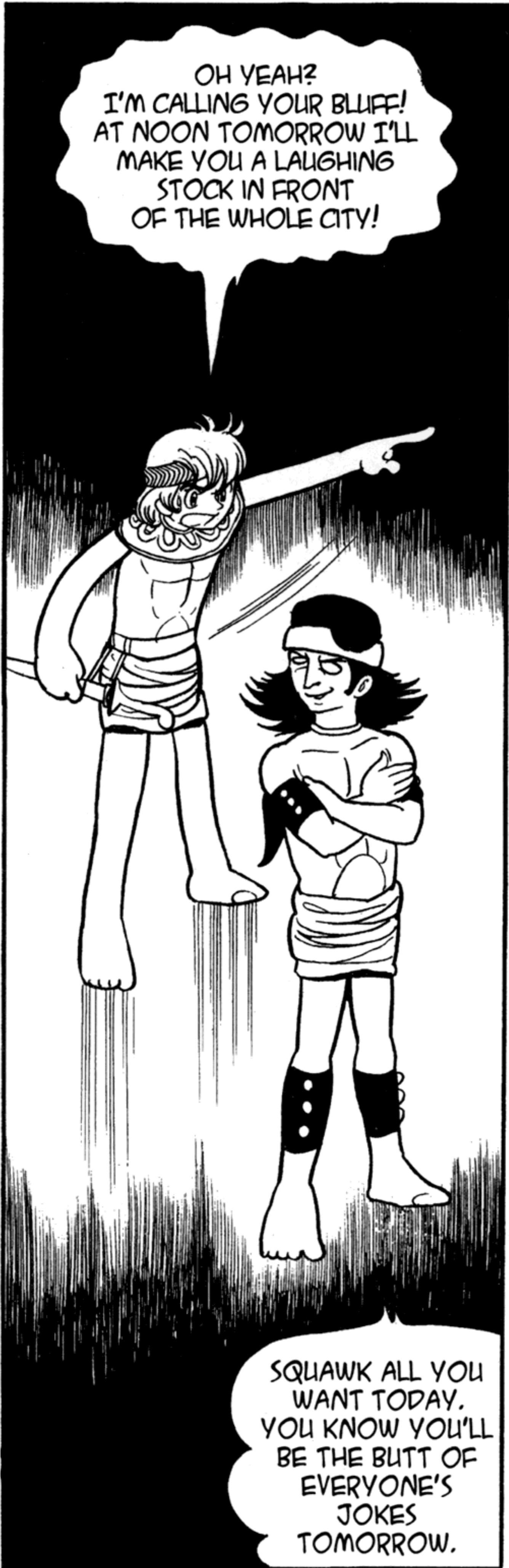
MASTER CHAPRA, A YOUNG WARRIOR SEEKS YOUR AUDIENCE.

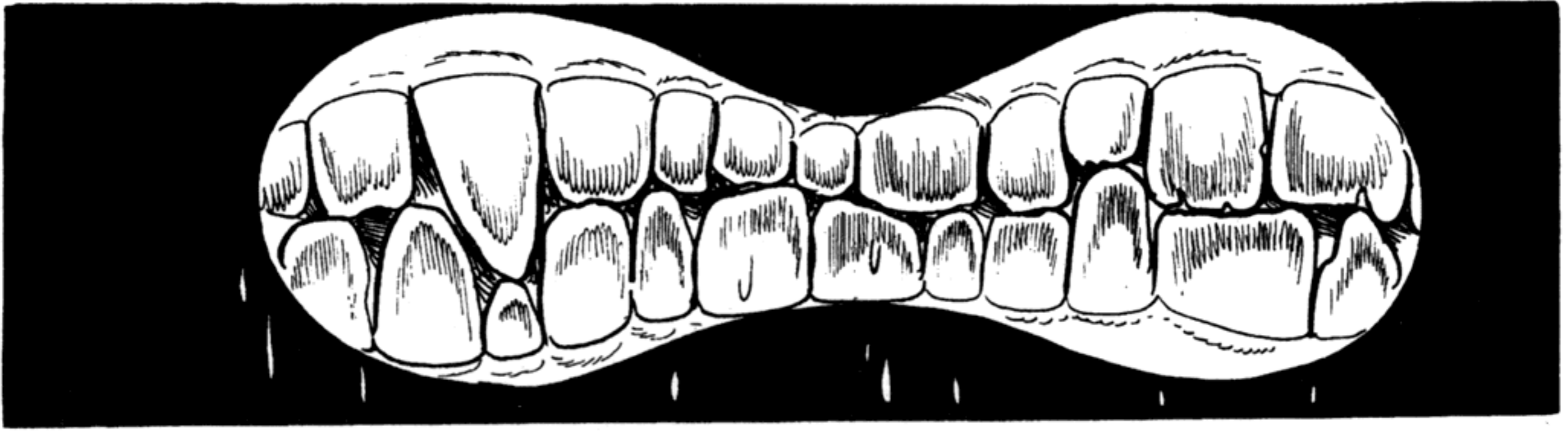


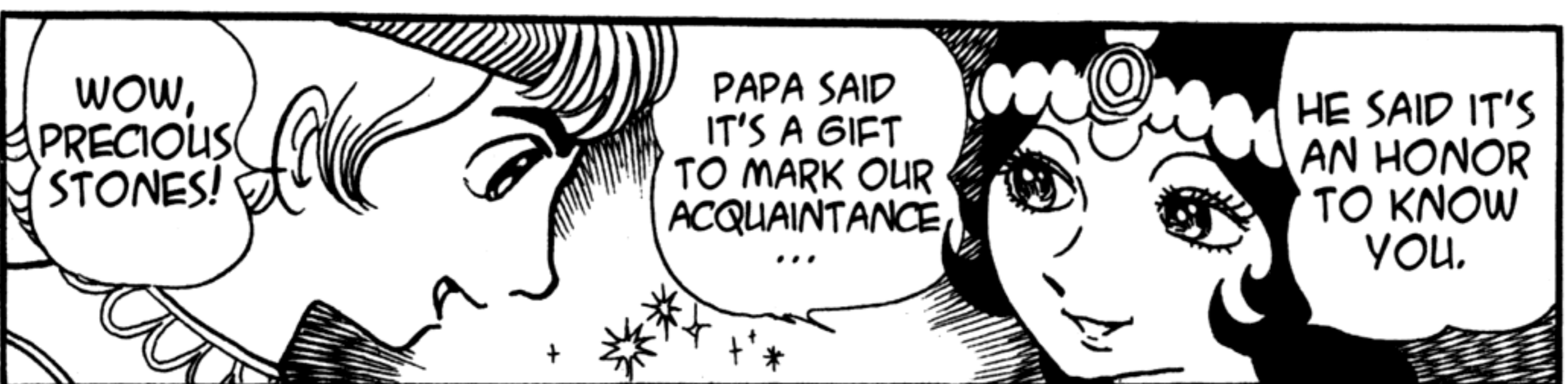
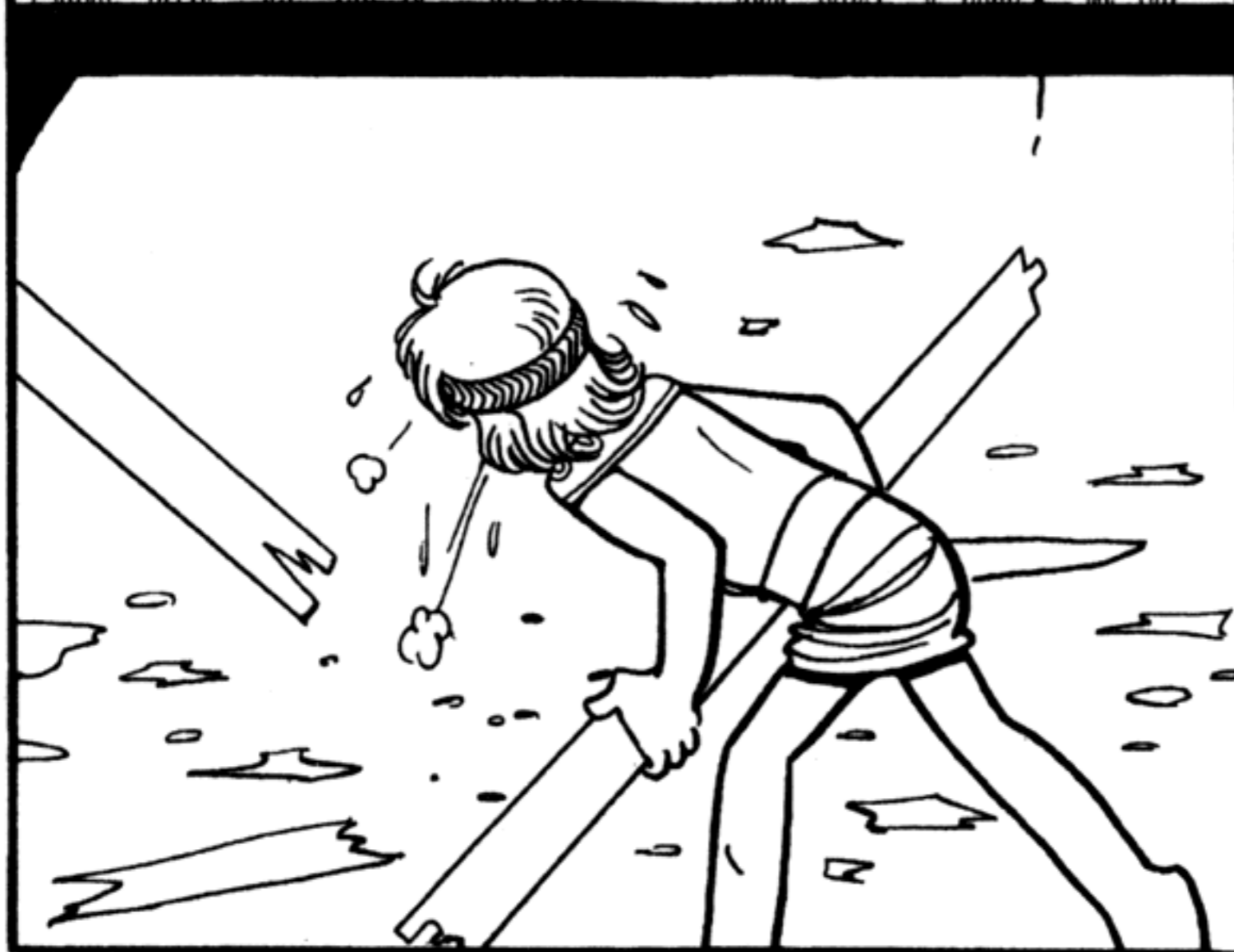
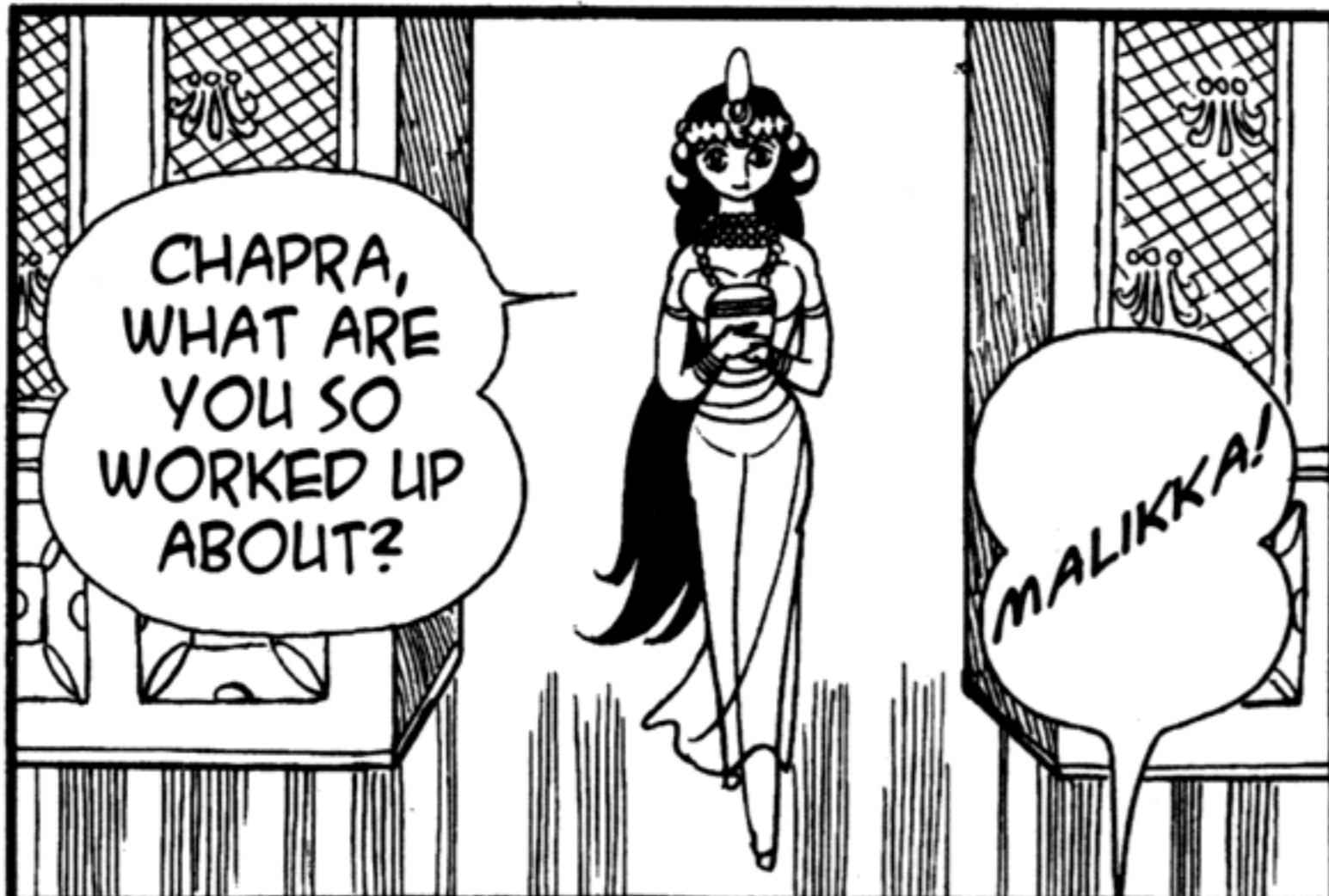
HE SAYS HE IS THE BRAVE BANDAKA OF THE KOLIYA TRIBE.

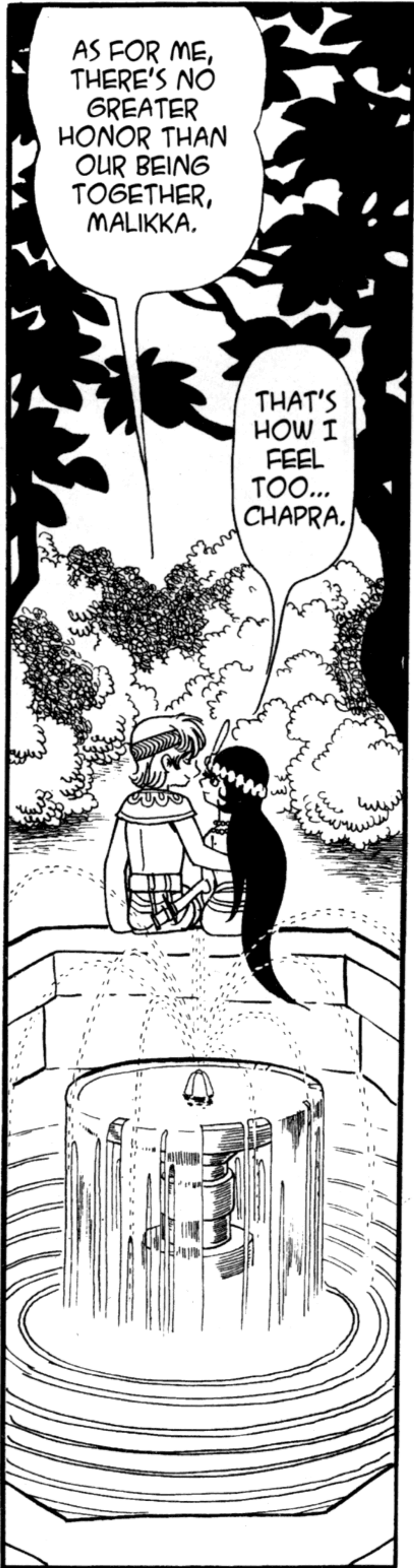


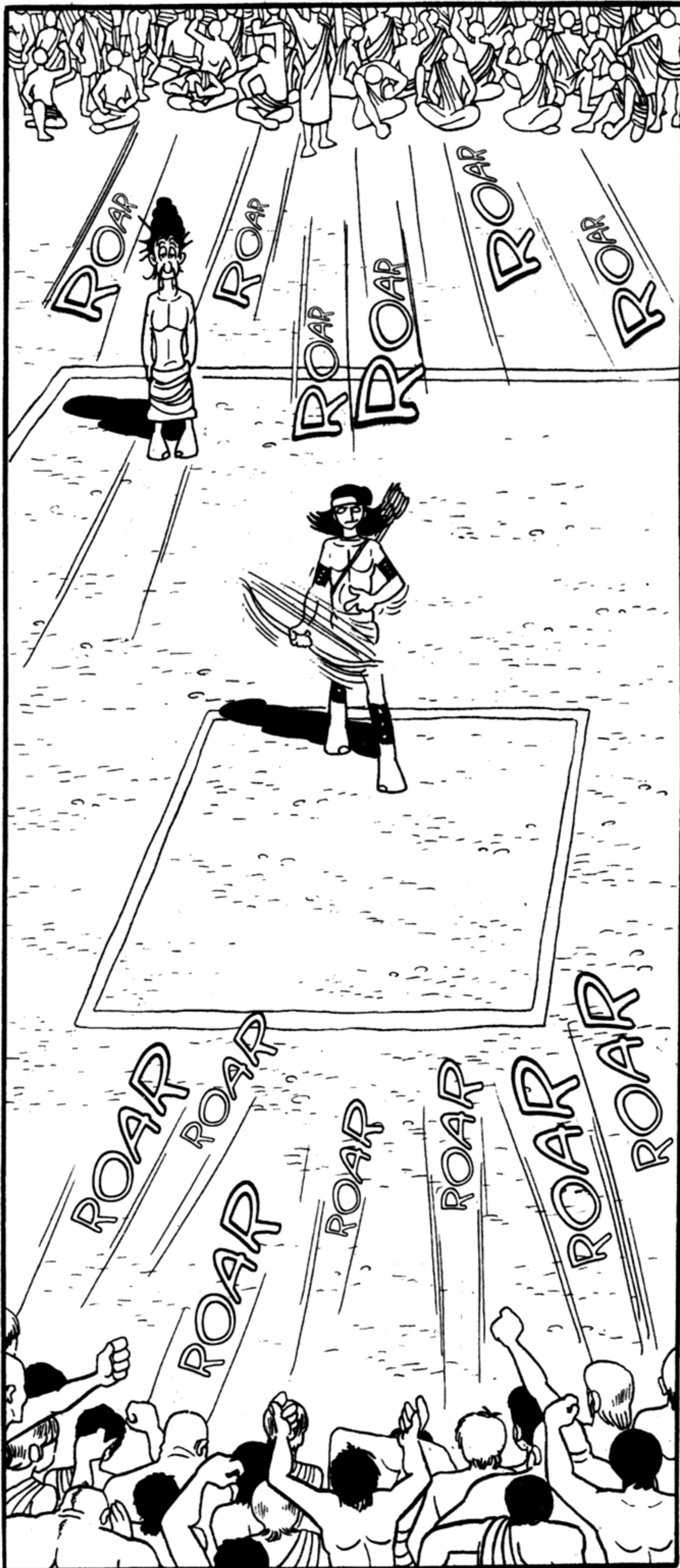








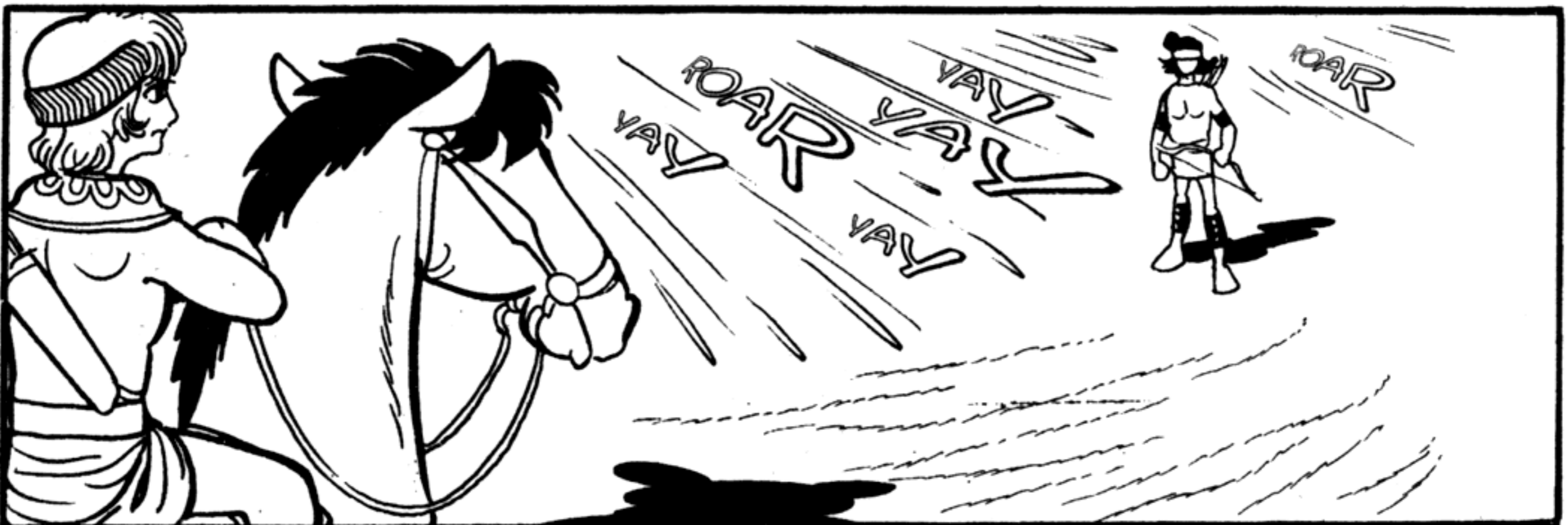




WE ARE ABOUT TO
COMMENCE AN
ARCHERY CONTEST
BETWEEN MASTER
CHAPRA AND
BANDAKA OF
KOLIYA.

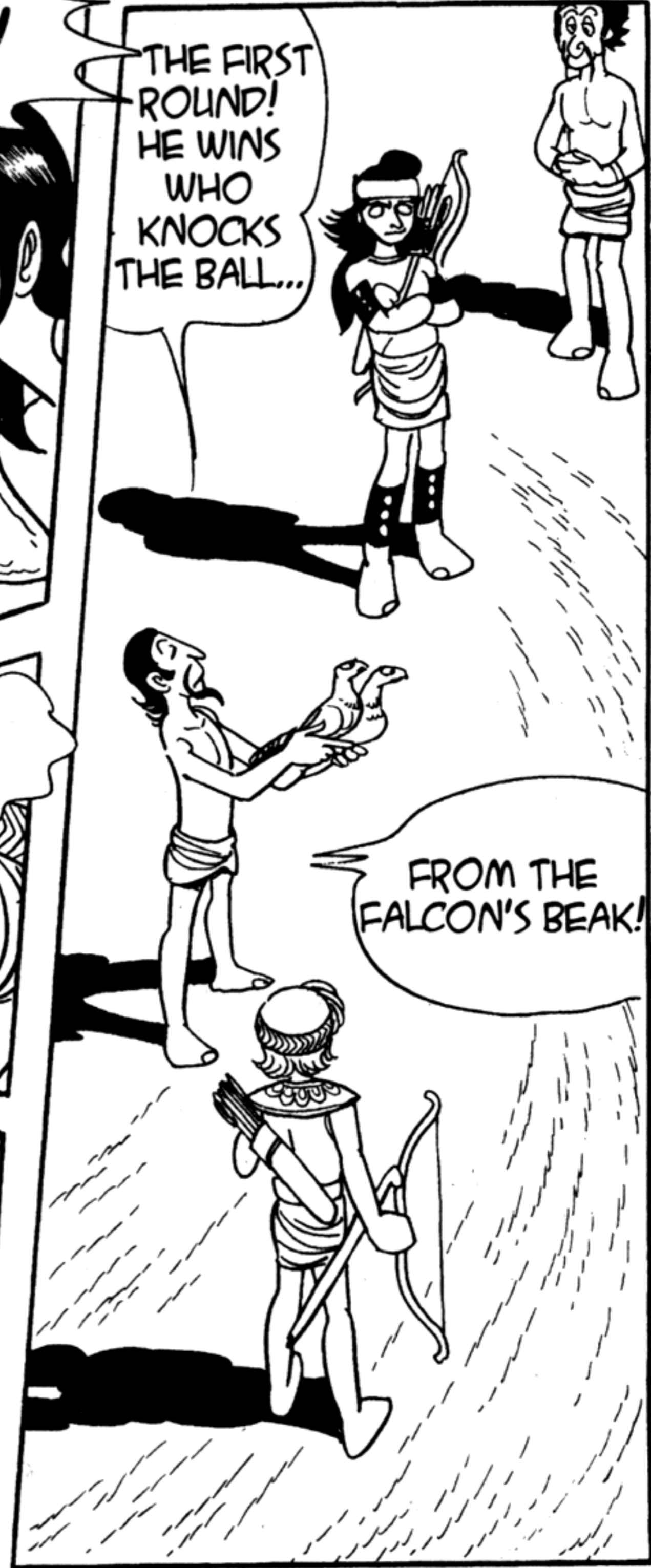
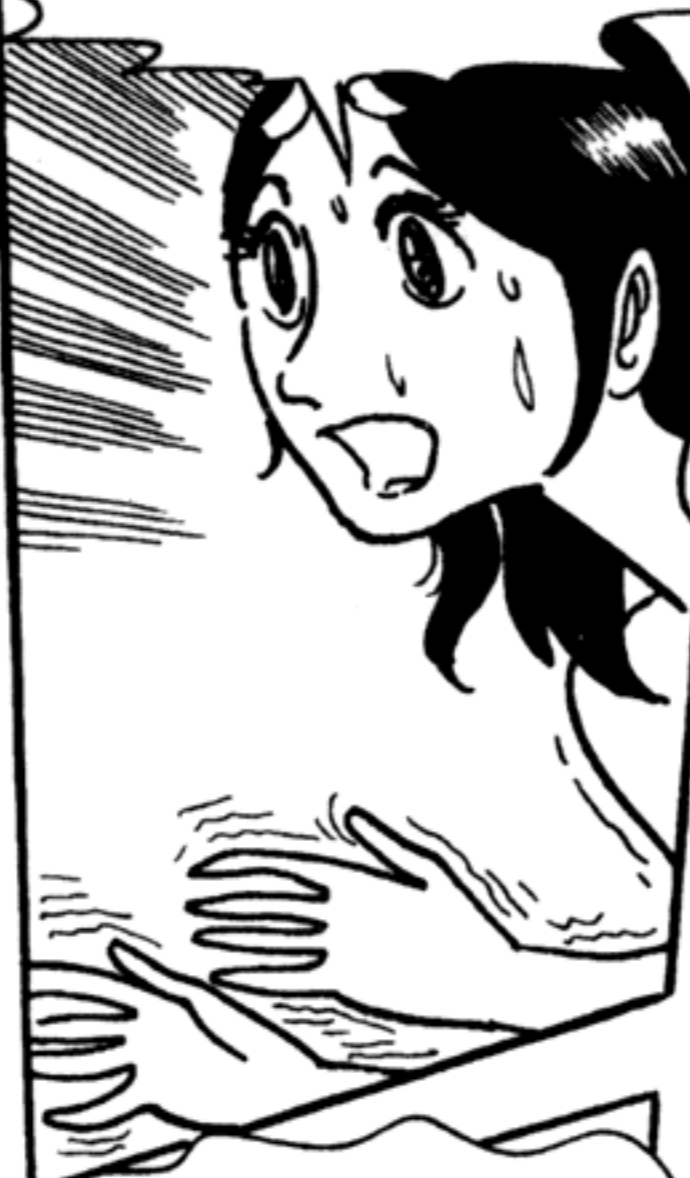
THIS IS NOT AN
OFFICIAL CONTEST.
SPECTATORS ARE
ADVISED TO MAINTAIN
A SAFE DISTANCE
AT ALL TIMES.



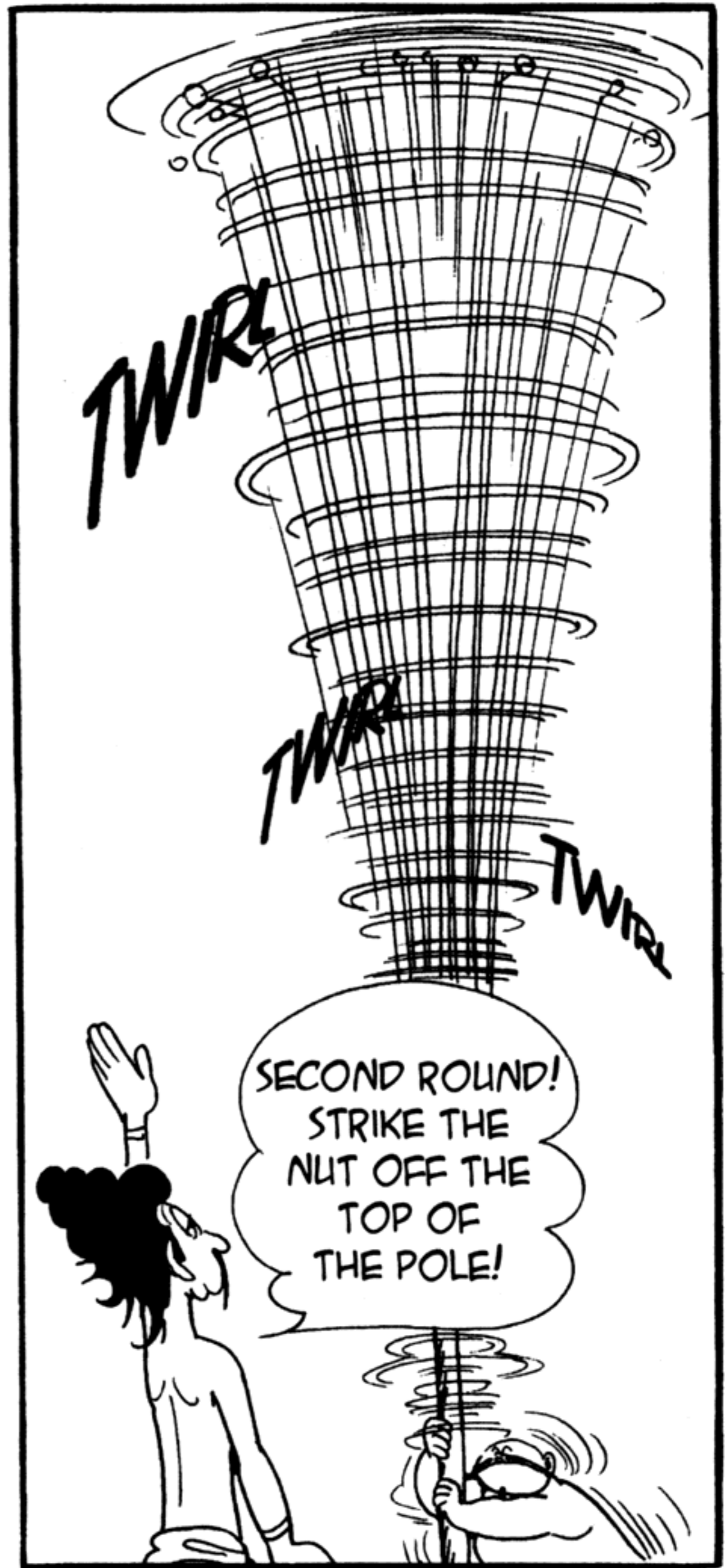


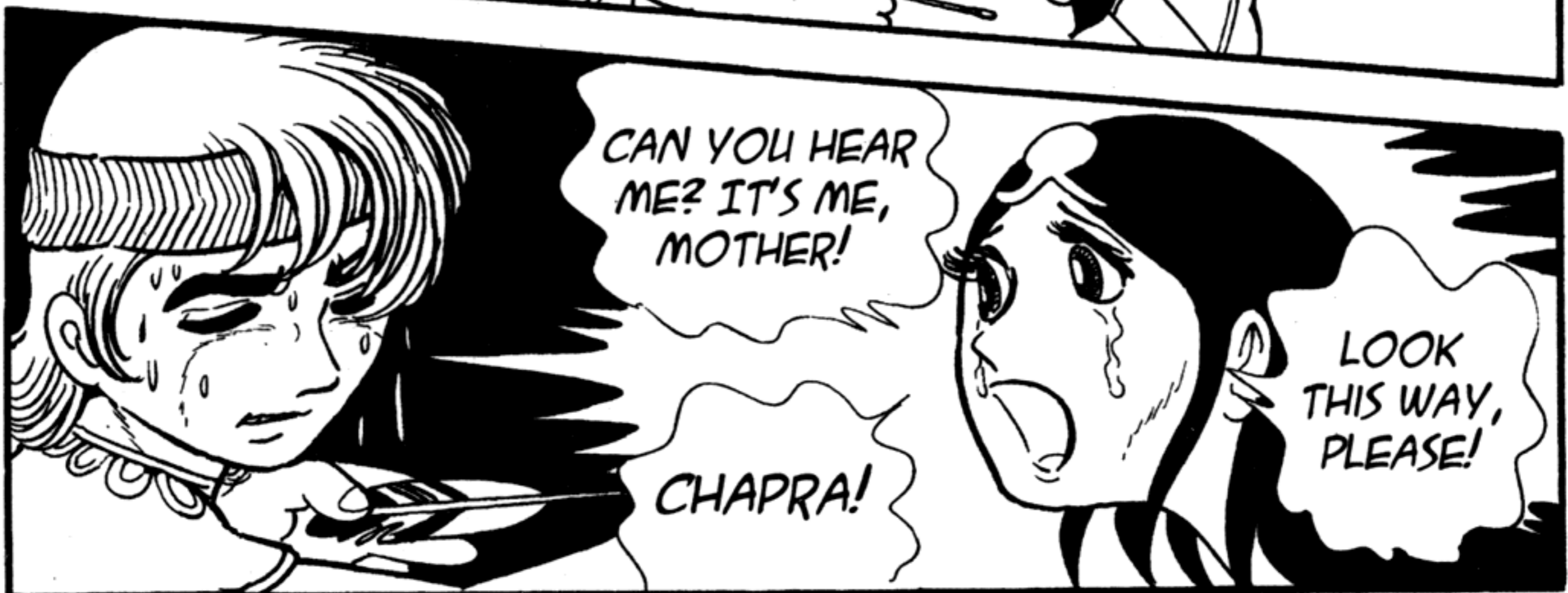
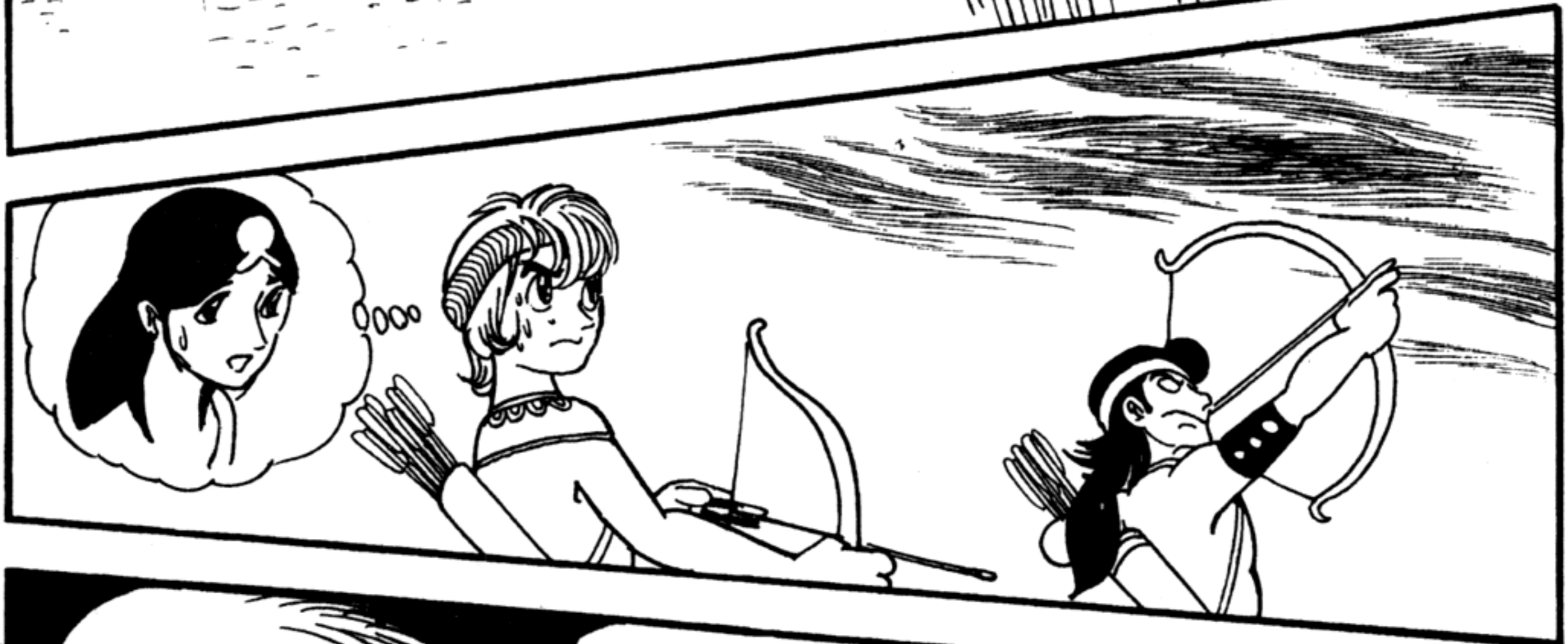
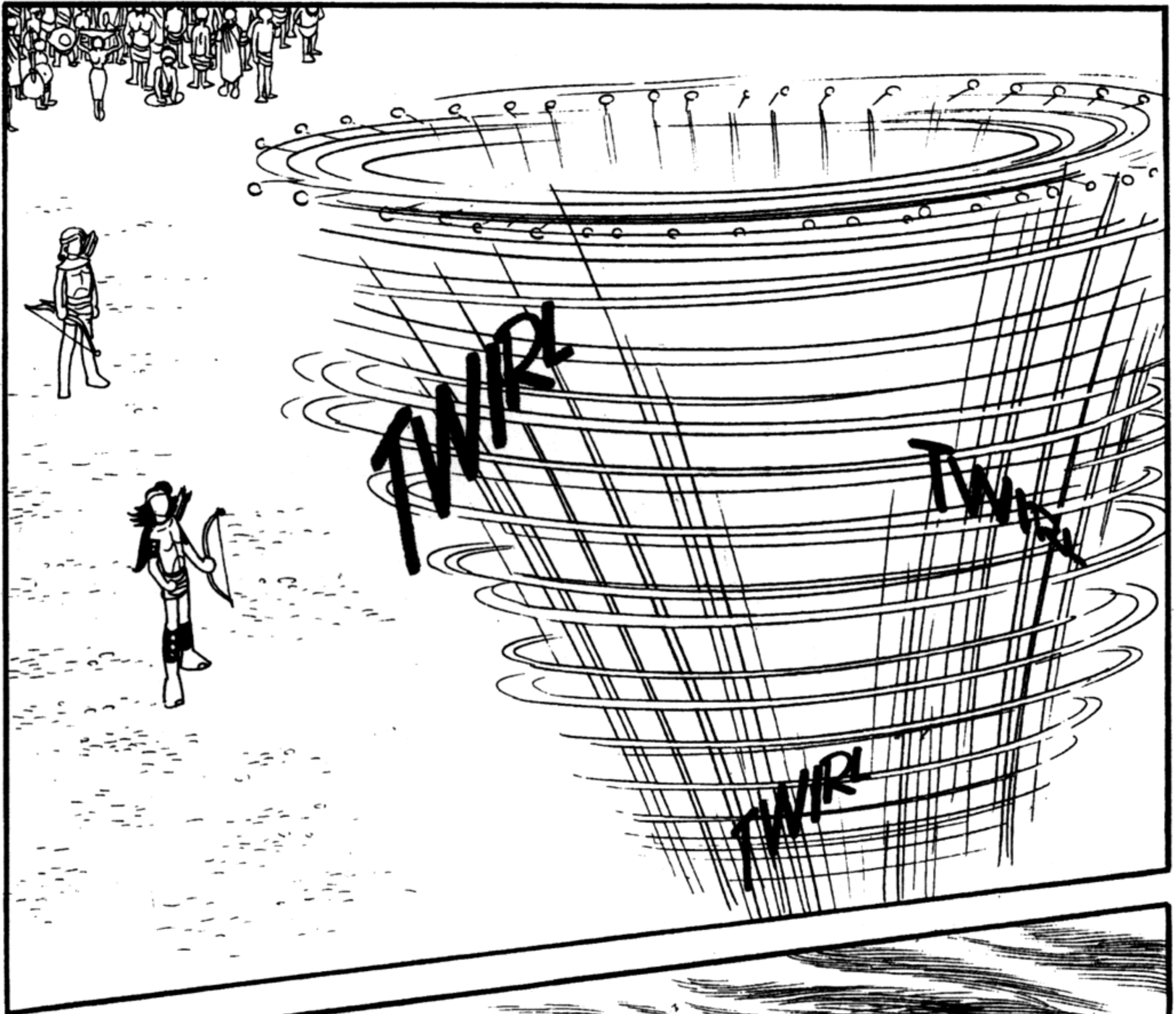


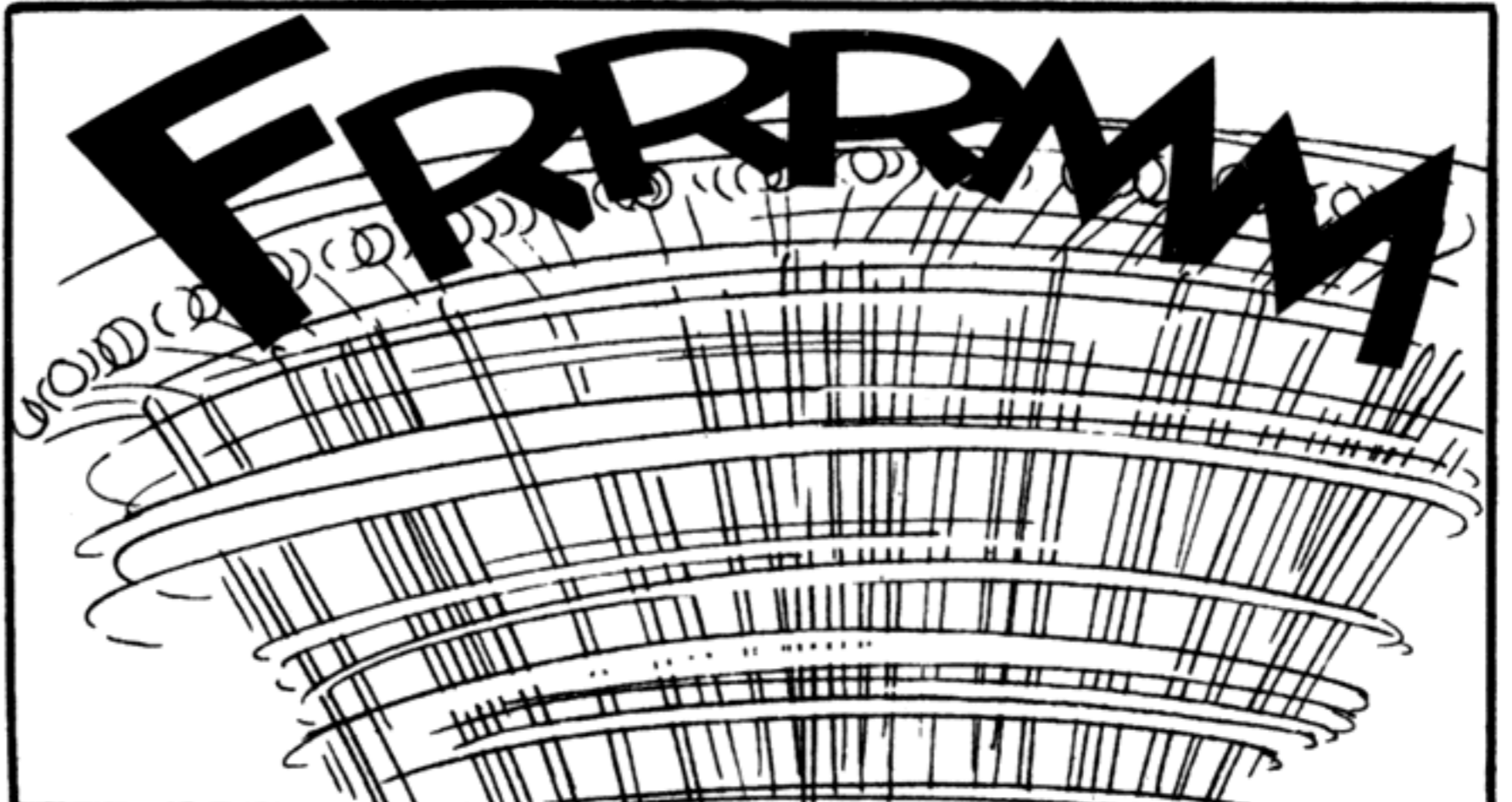
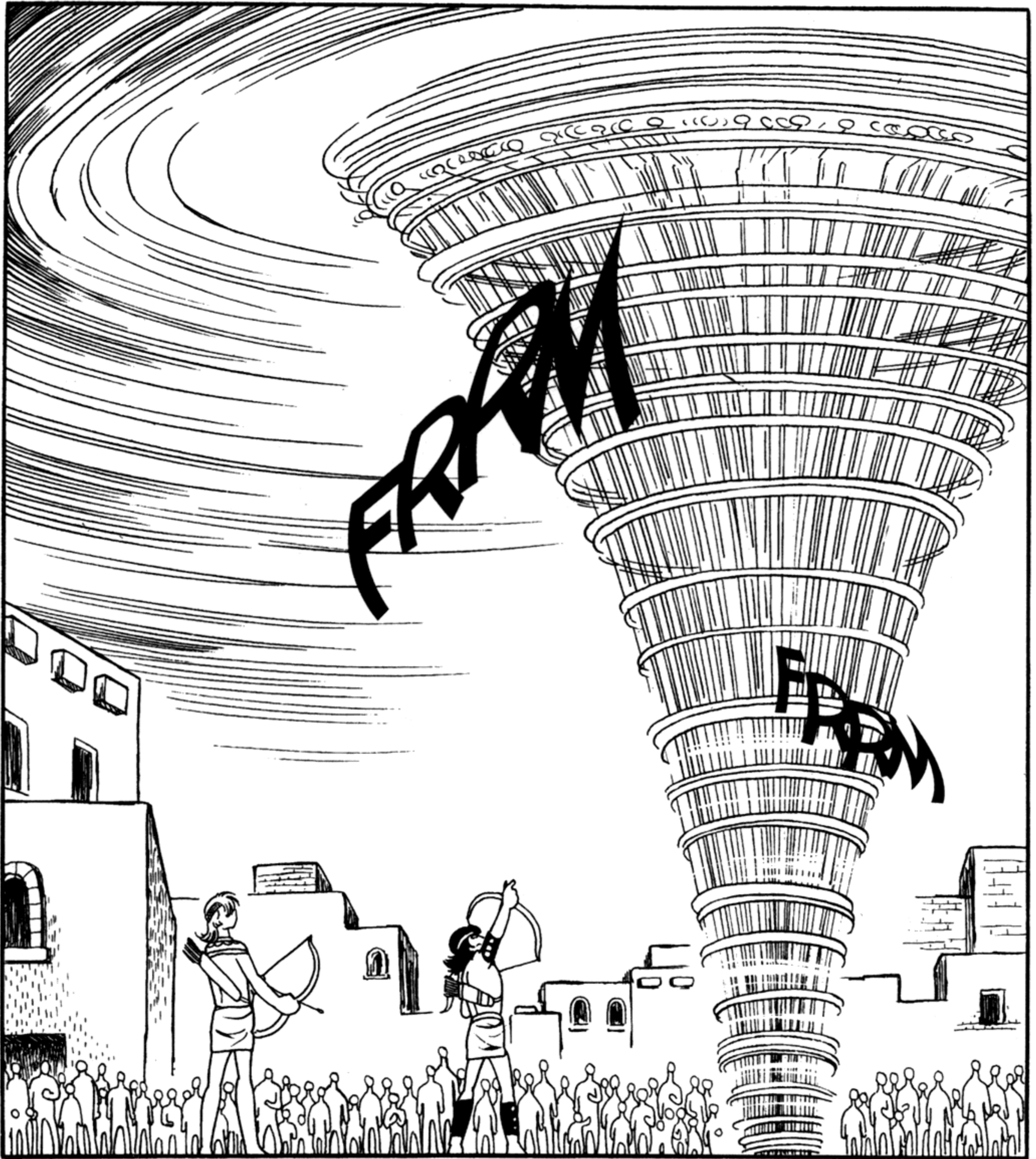
CHAPRA!!













WHOO



SNIP



BRAVO!

HE DID IT!

GOOD STUFF!

WAY TO GO!



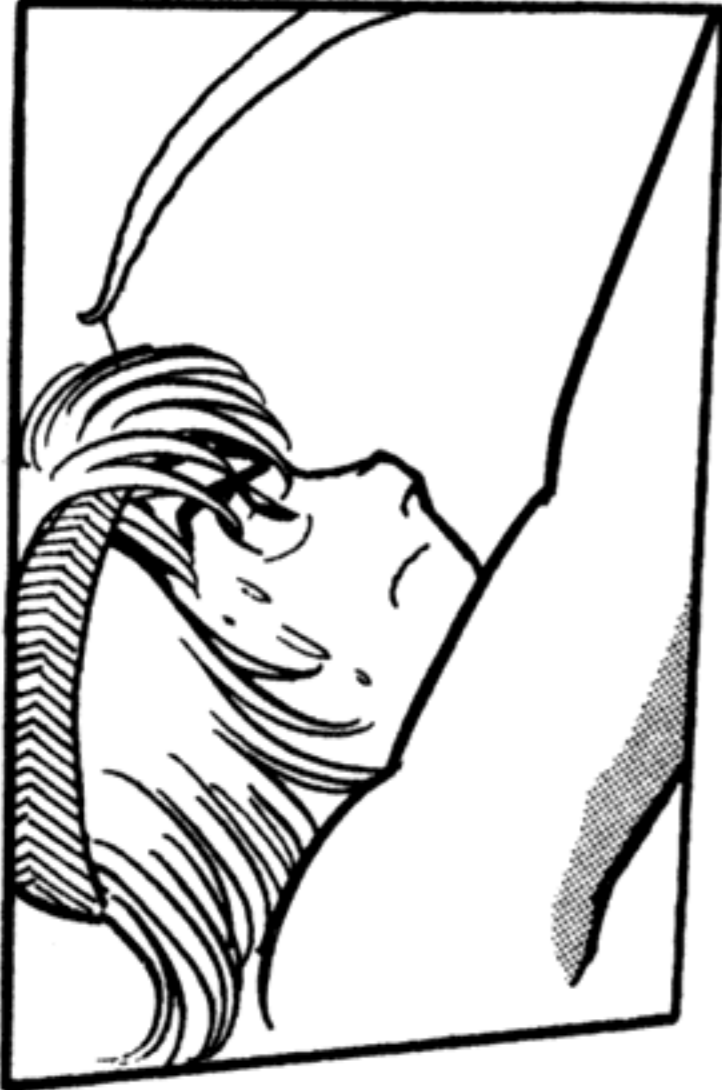
OKAY, CHAPRA, YOUR TURN NOW! SHOW 'EM, BRO!

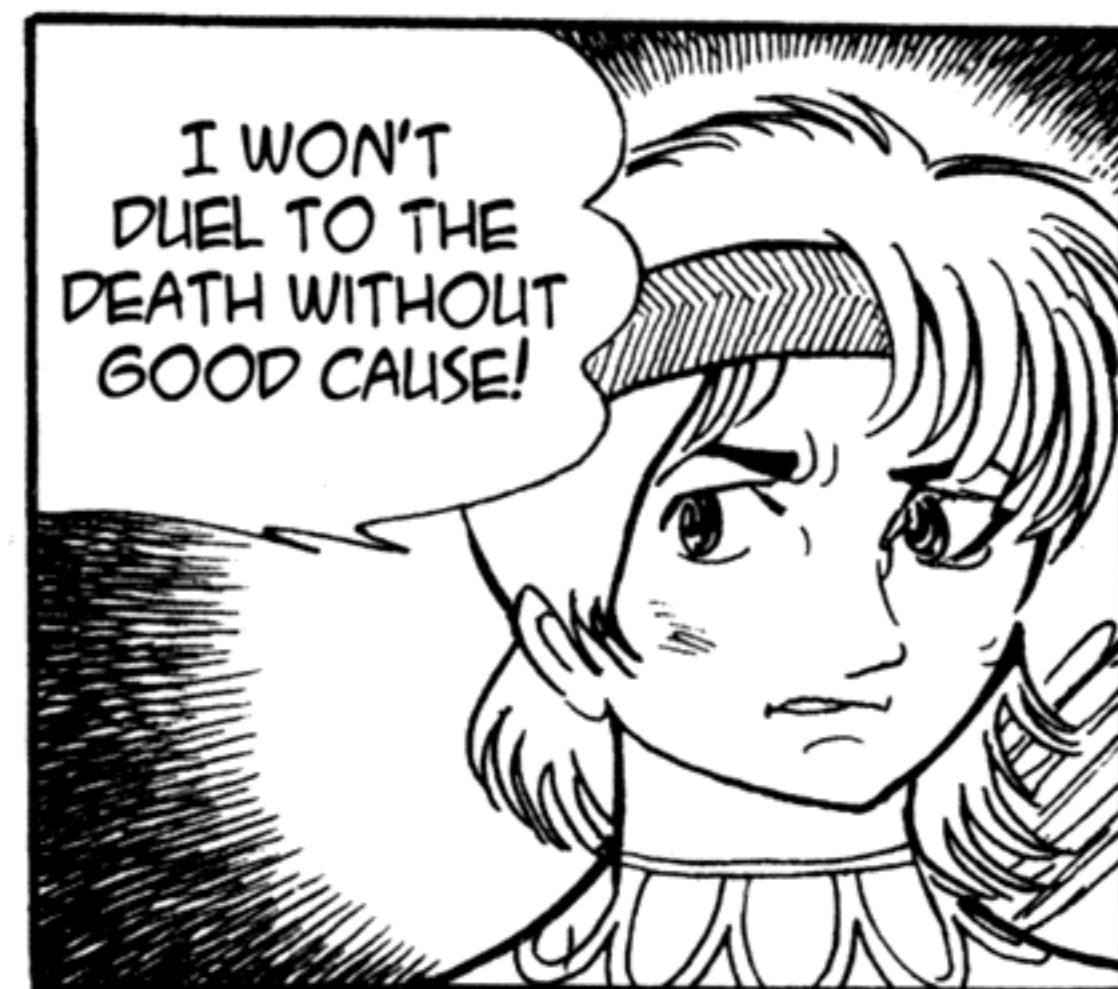
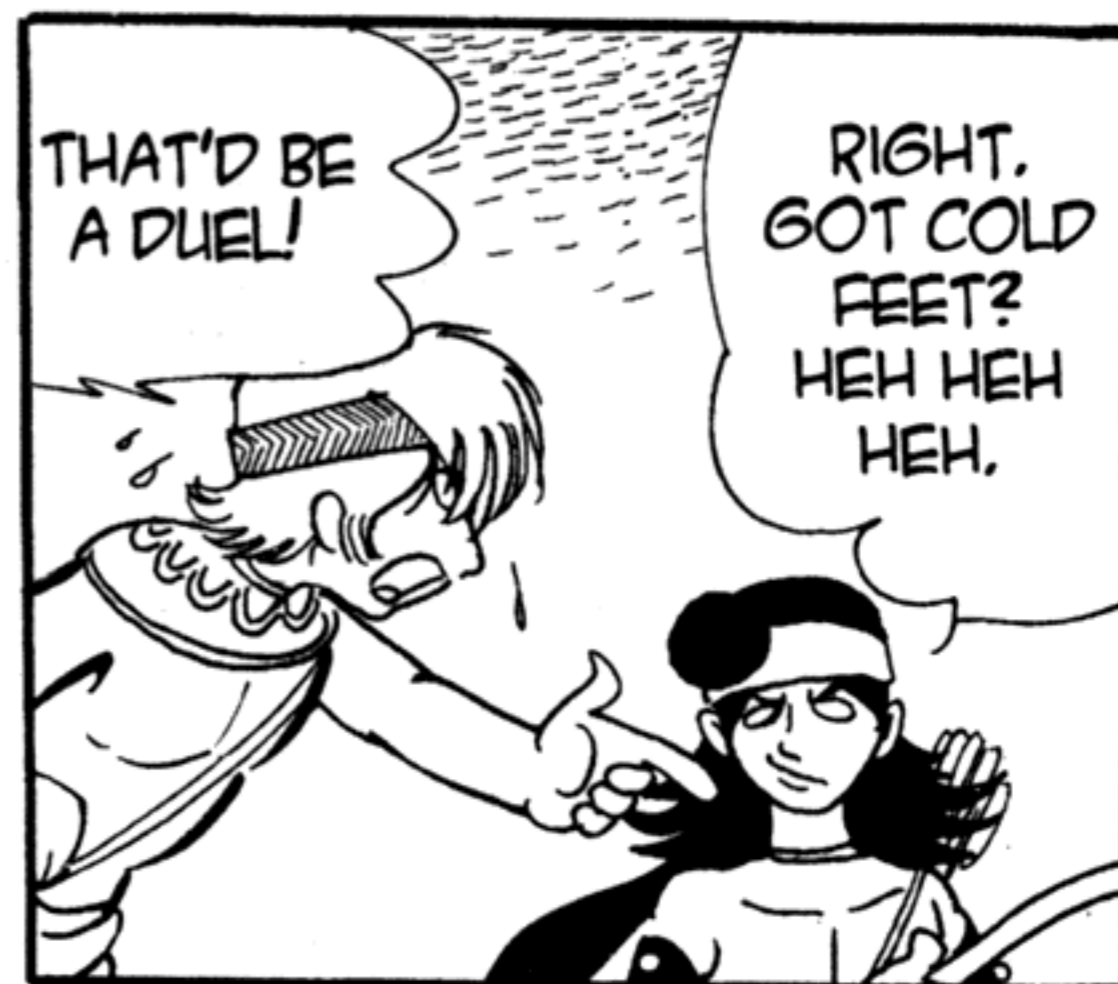
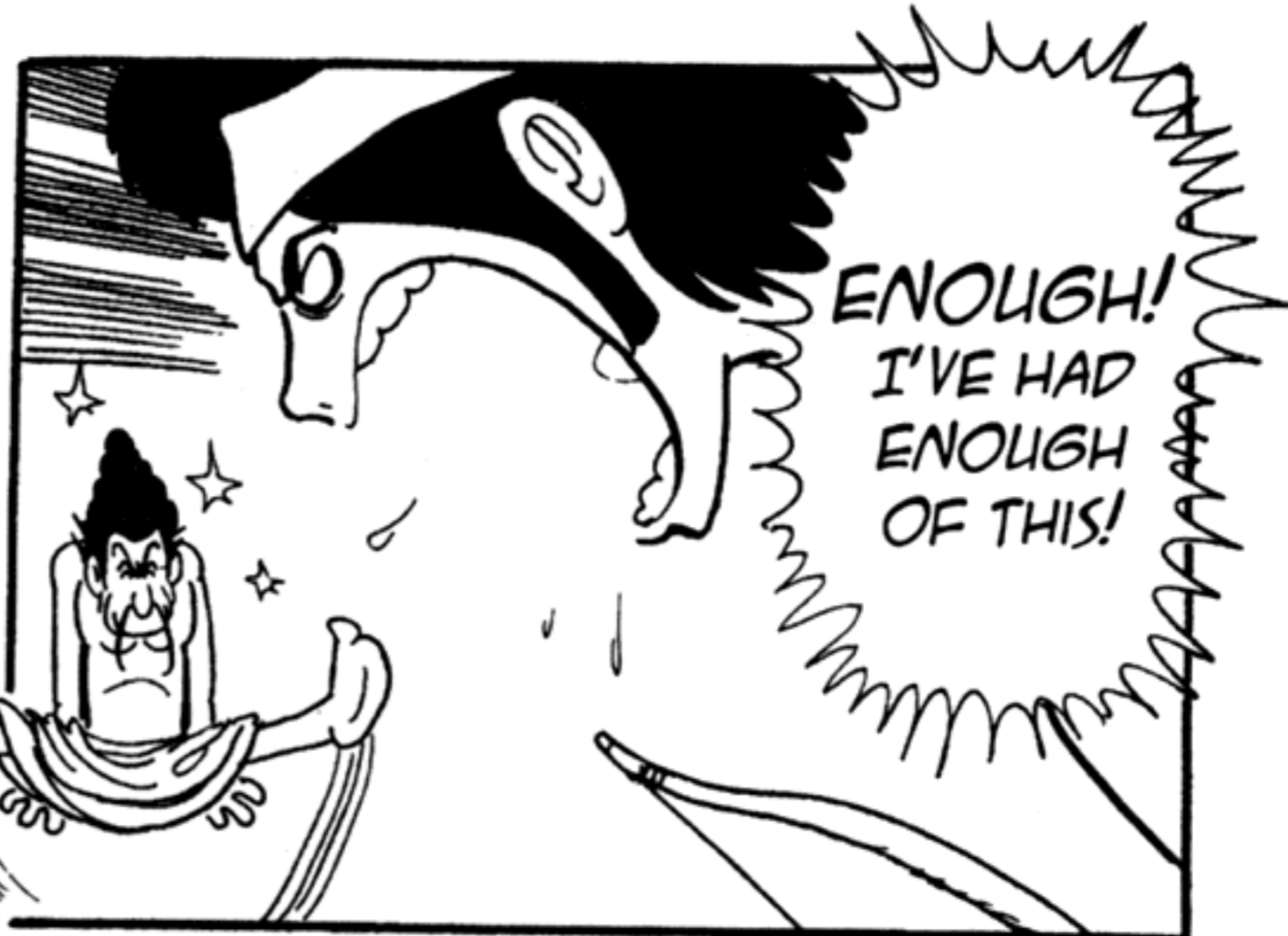
CHAPRAAAA!

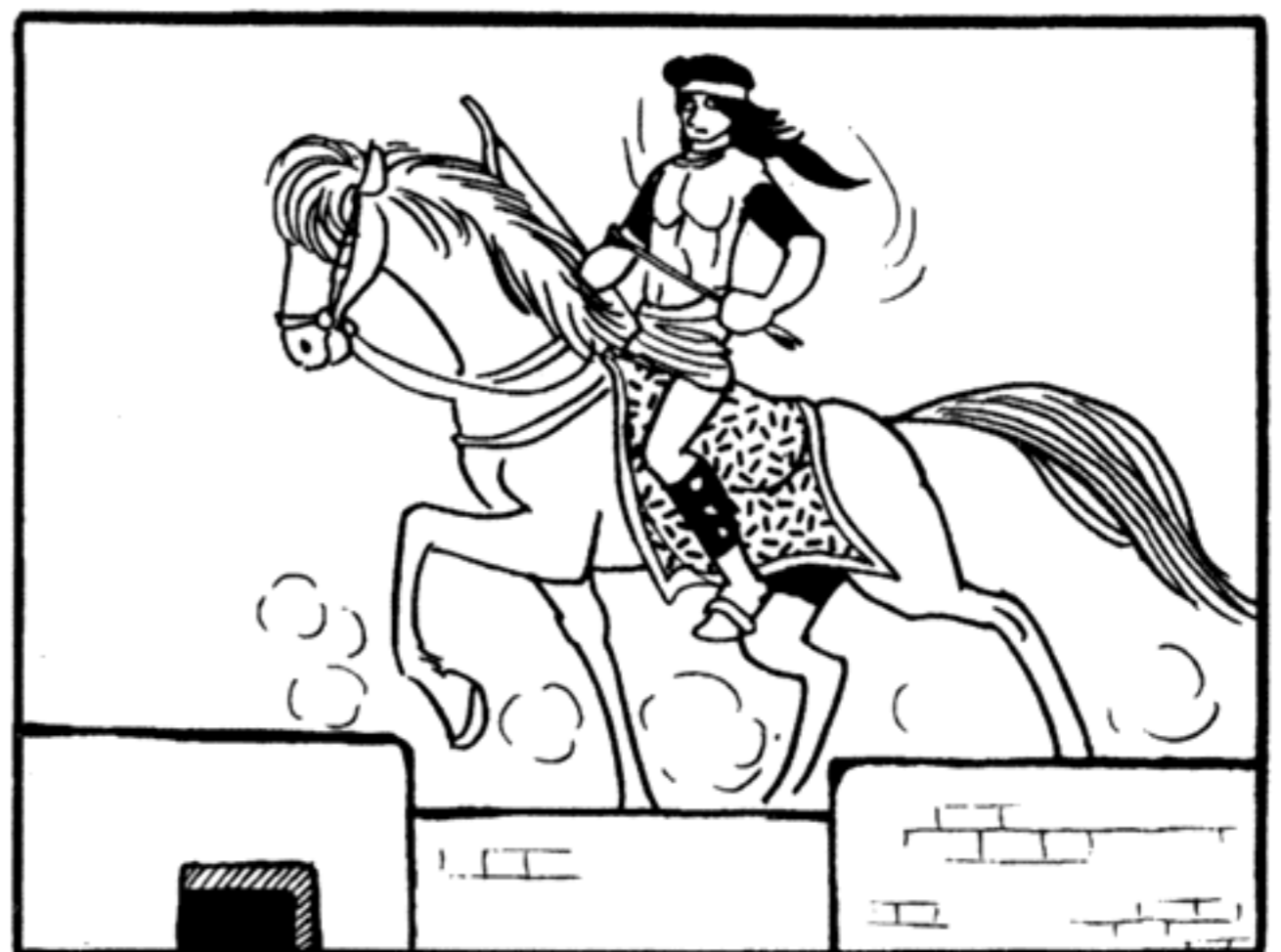
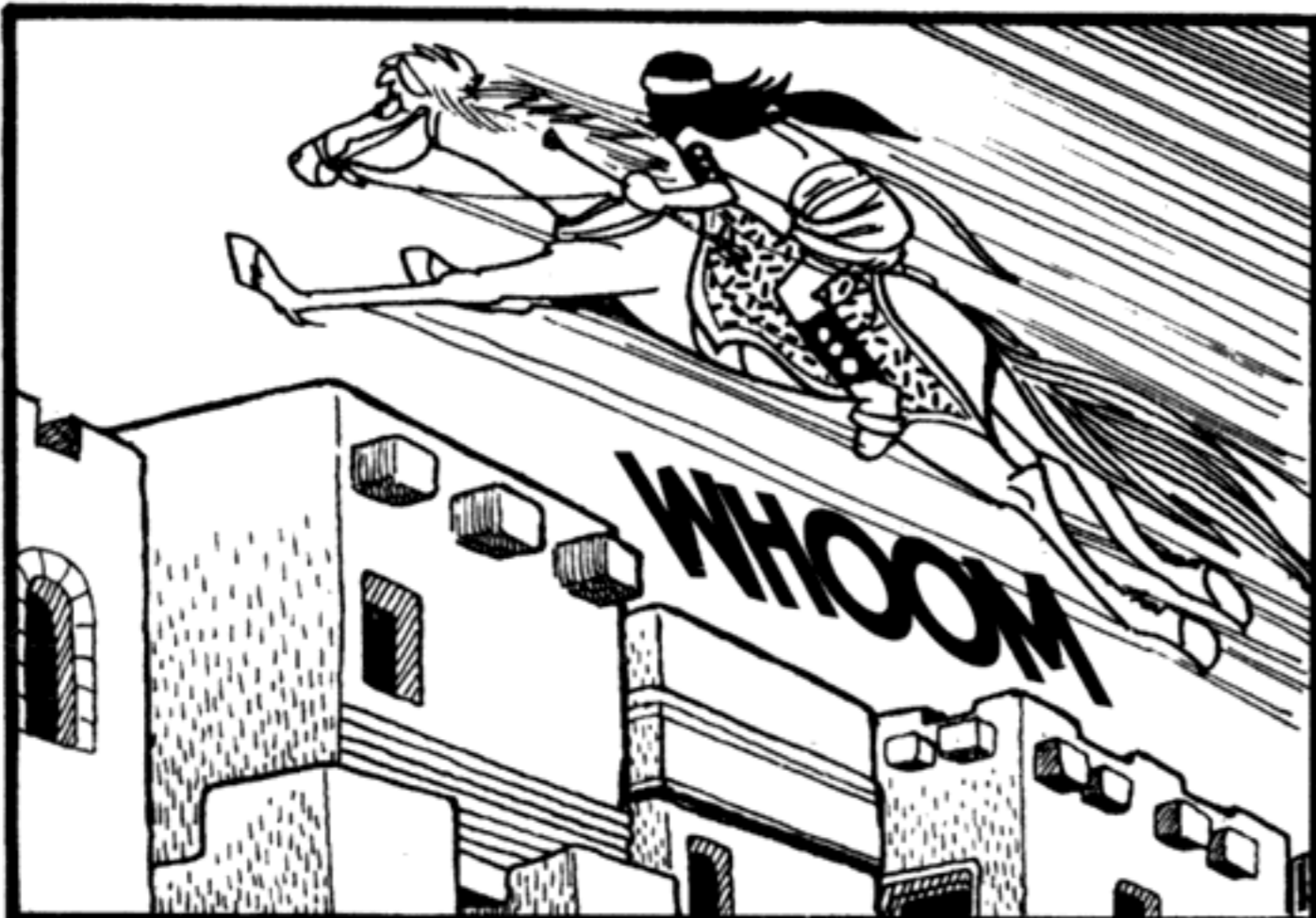
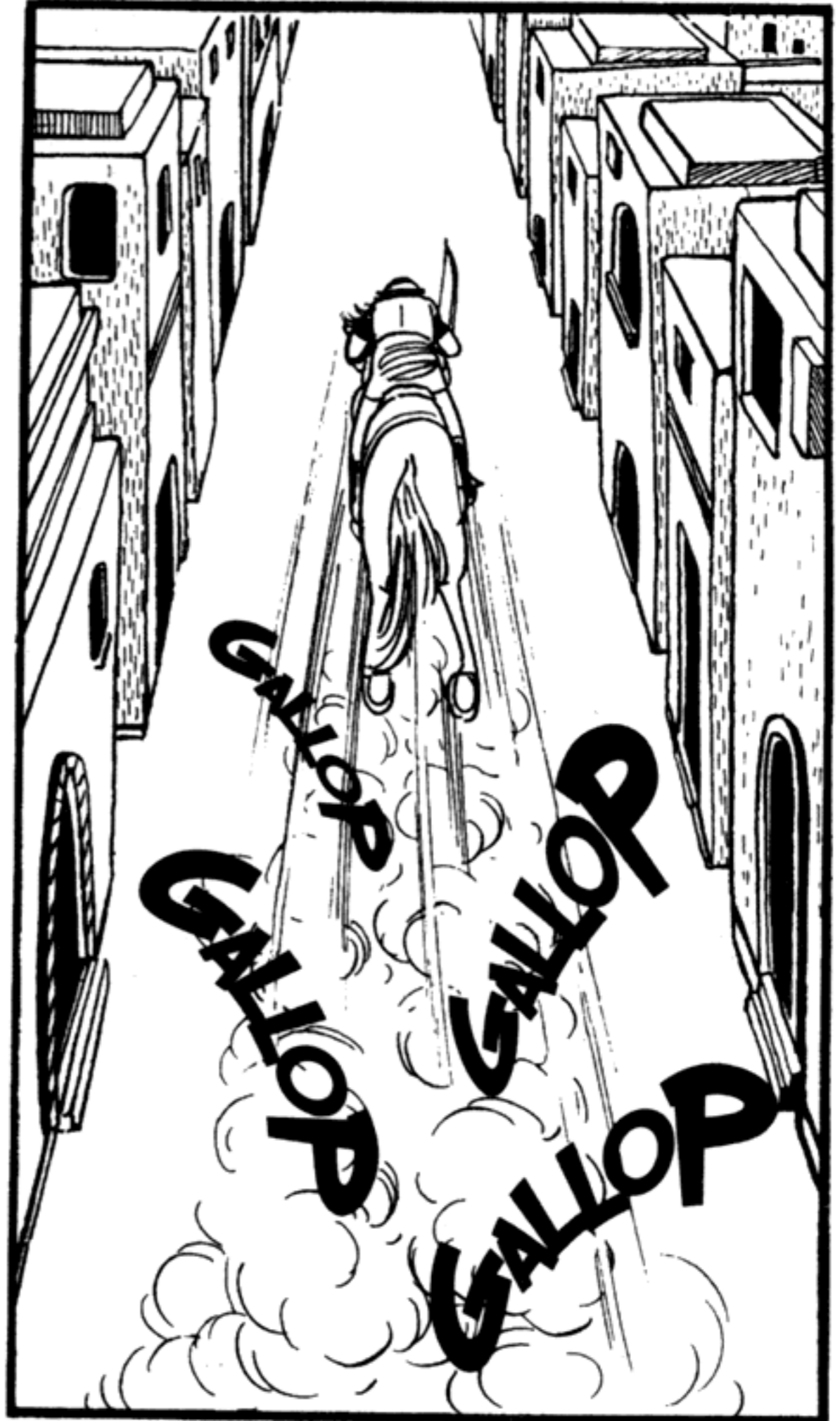
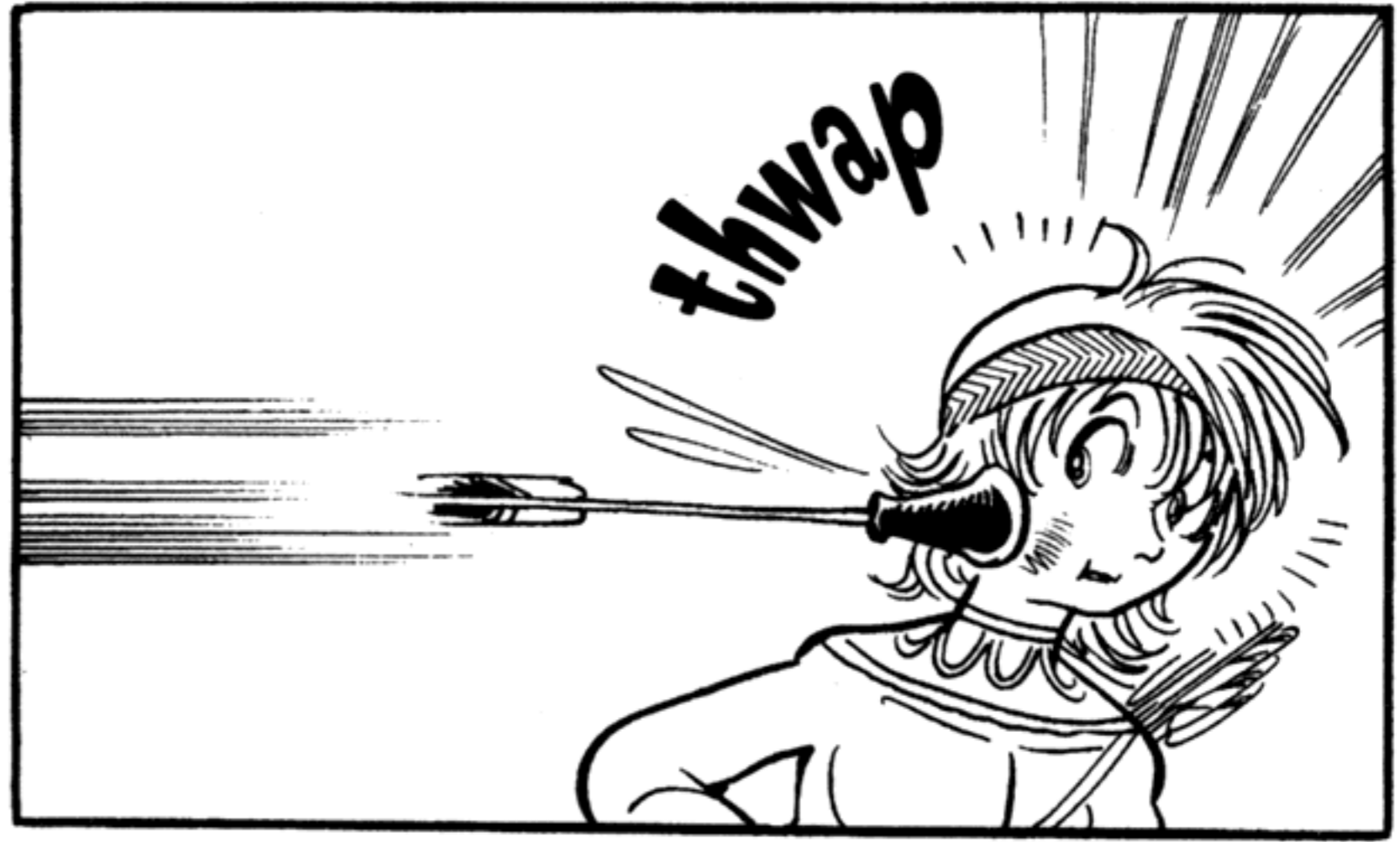


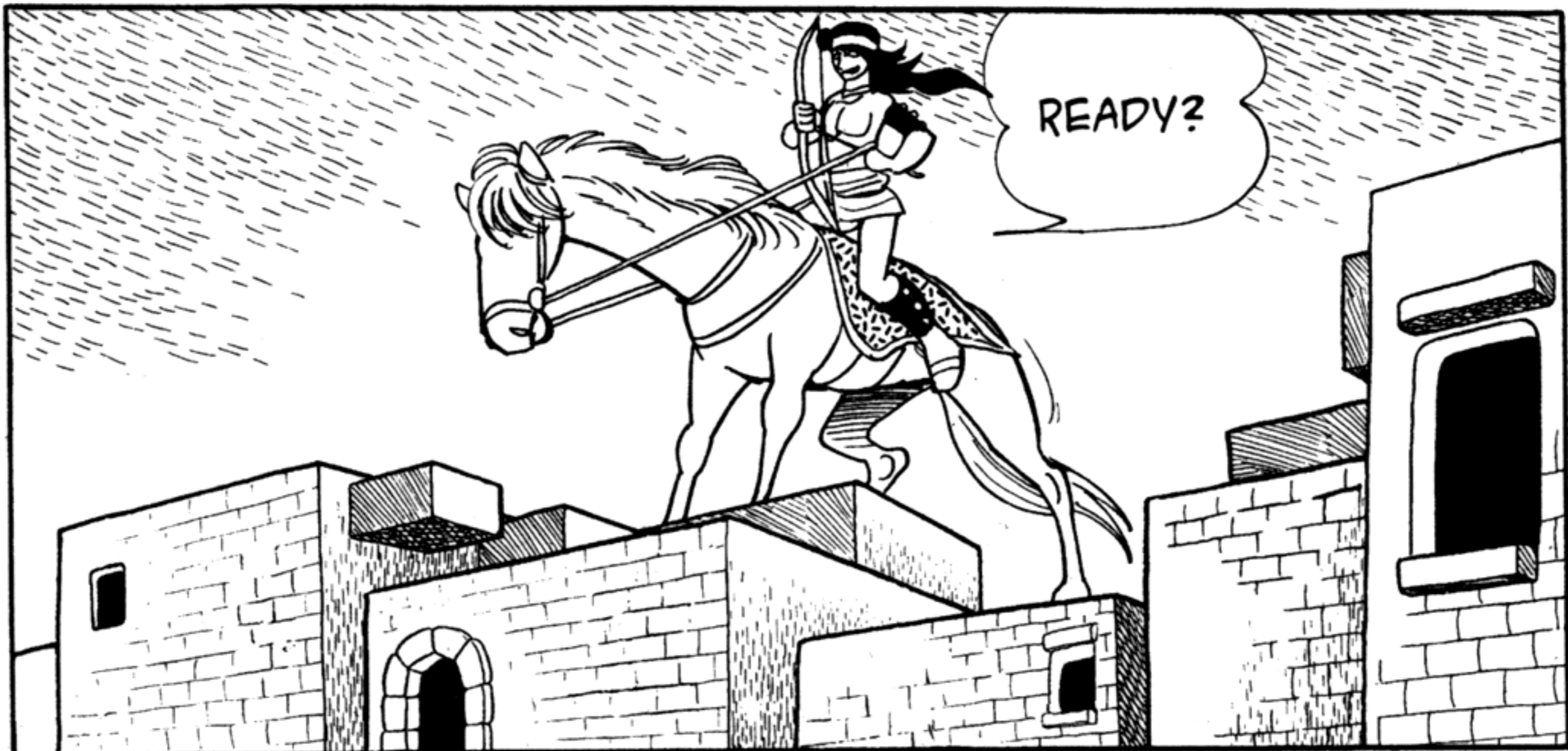
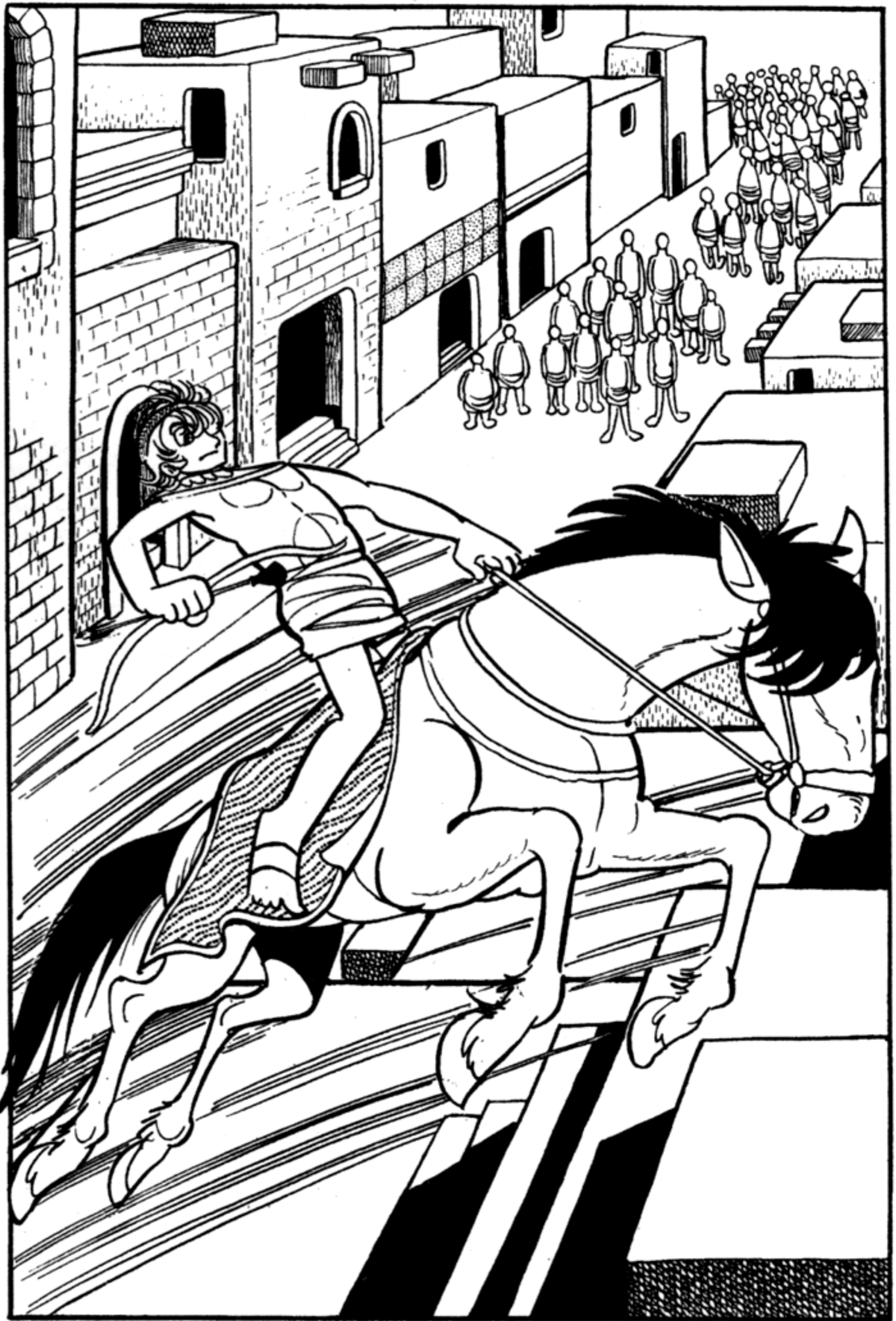
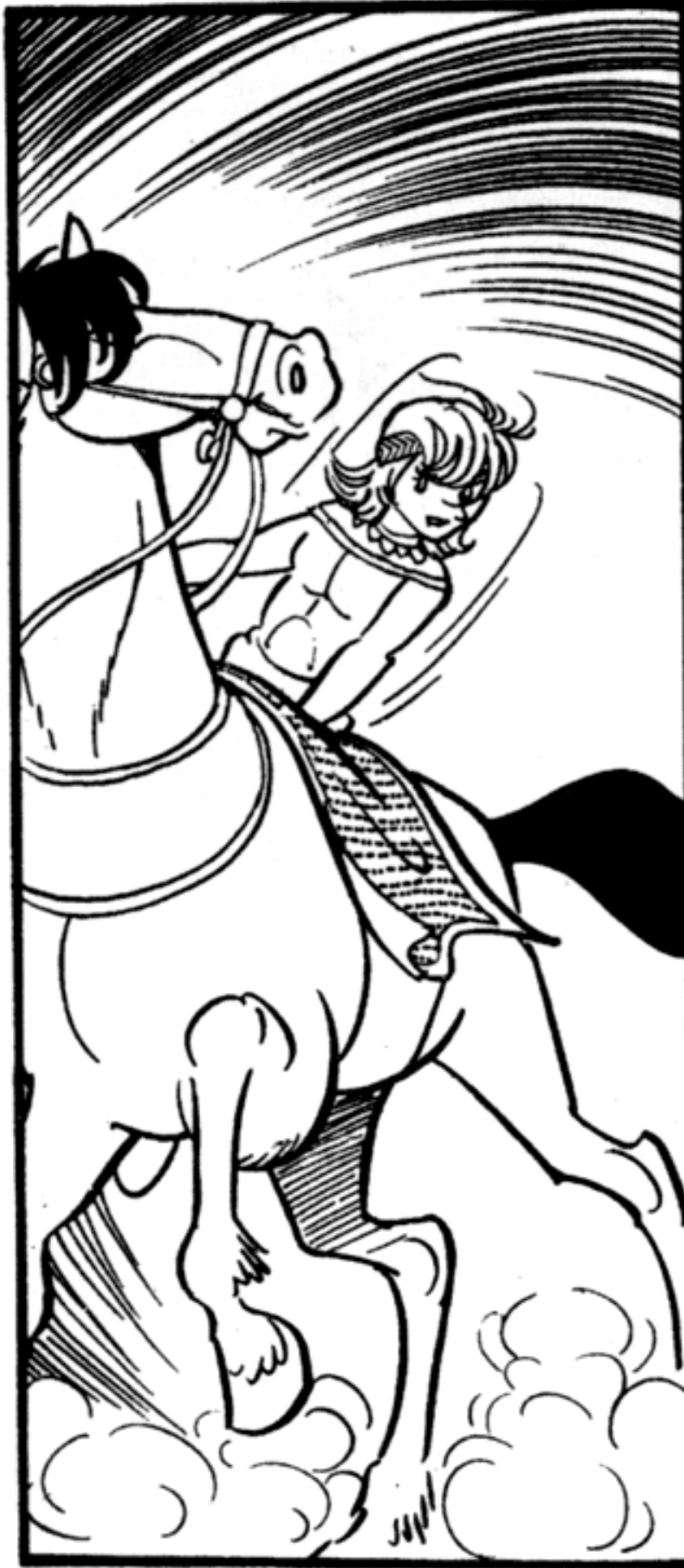
BETTER NOT CALL HIS NAME, MOMS. HE MIGHT GET DISTRACTED.

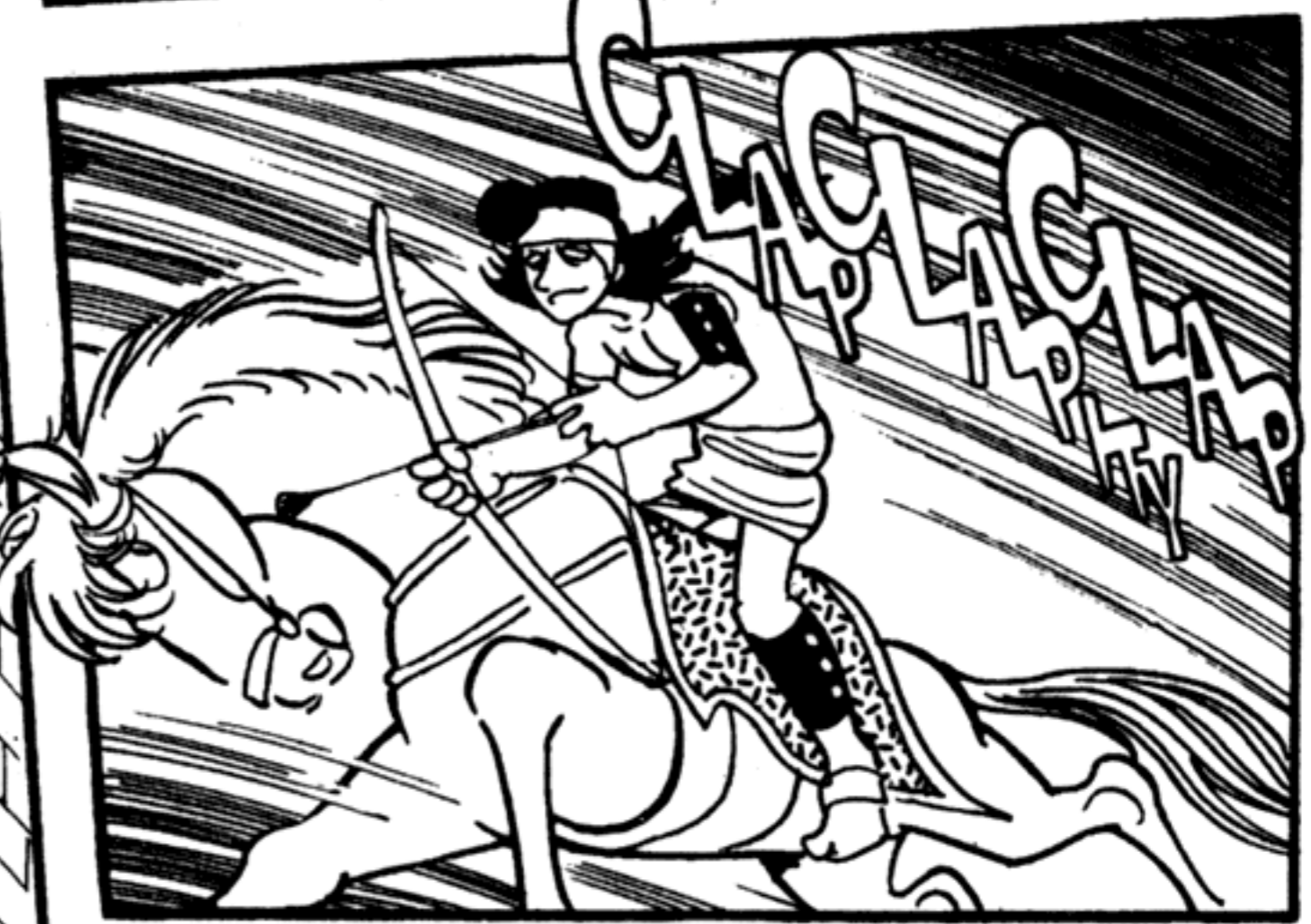
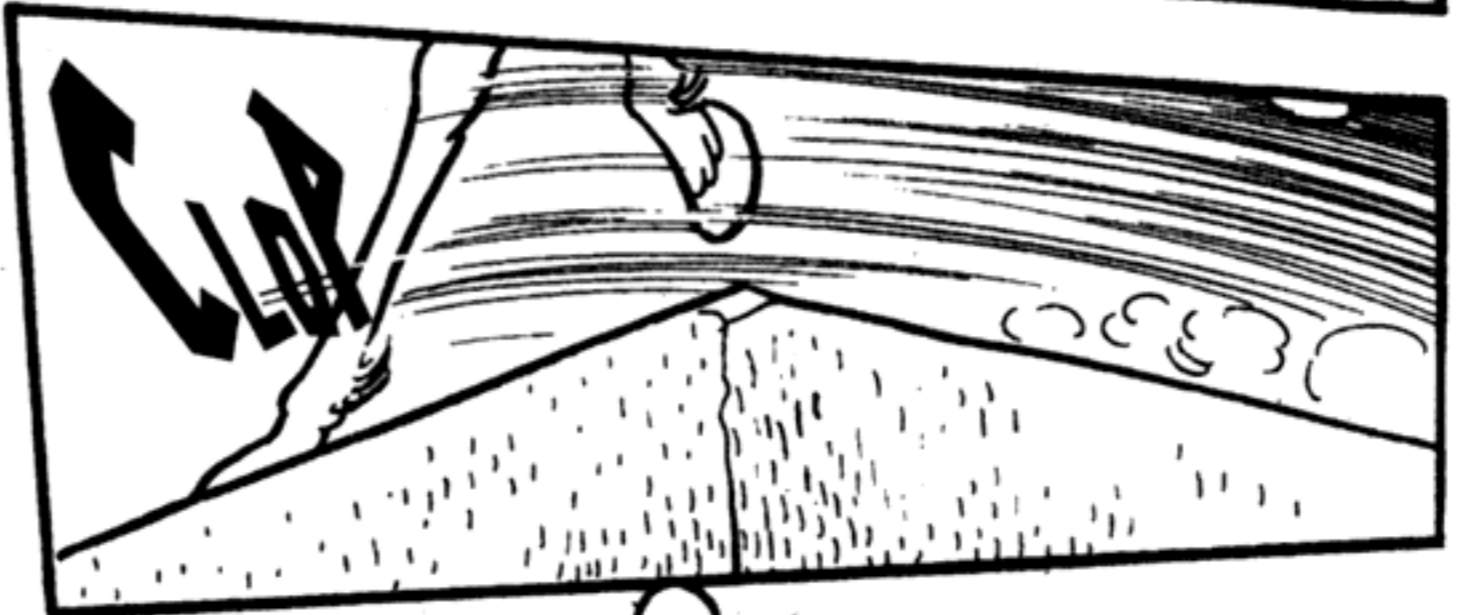
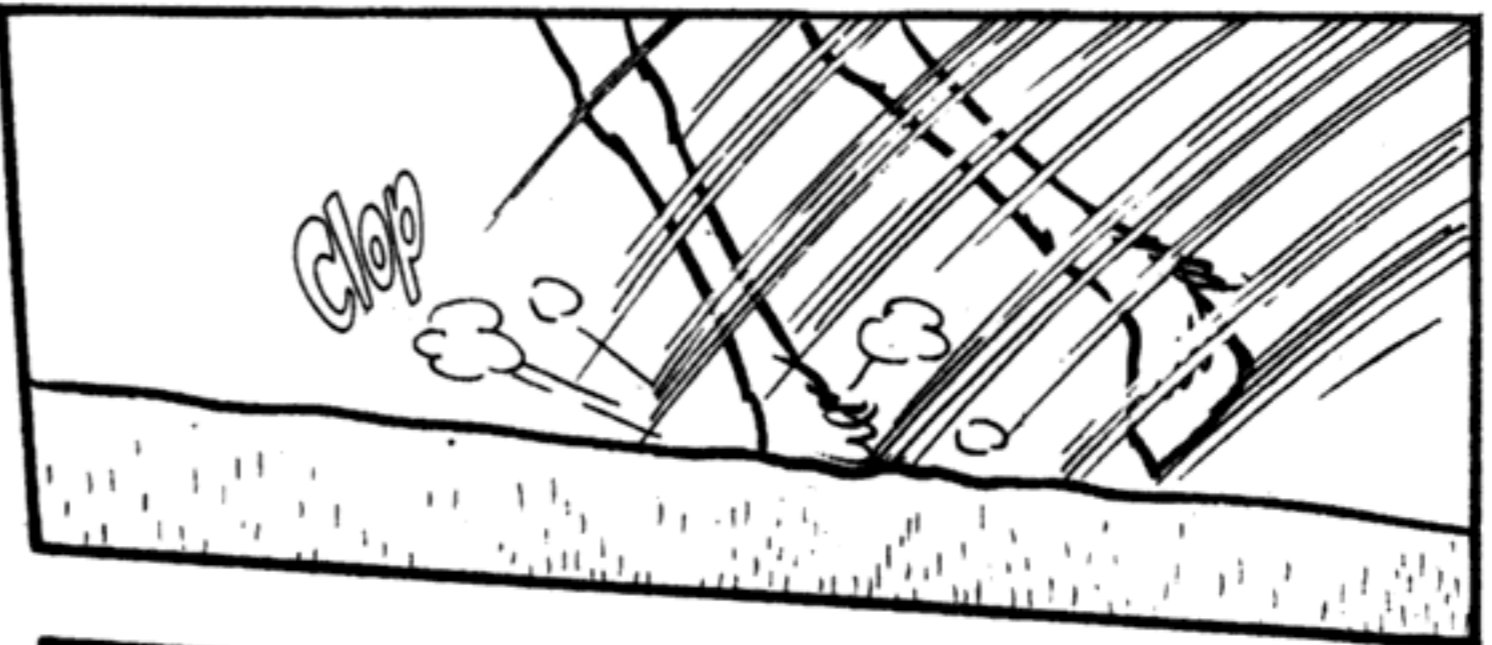
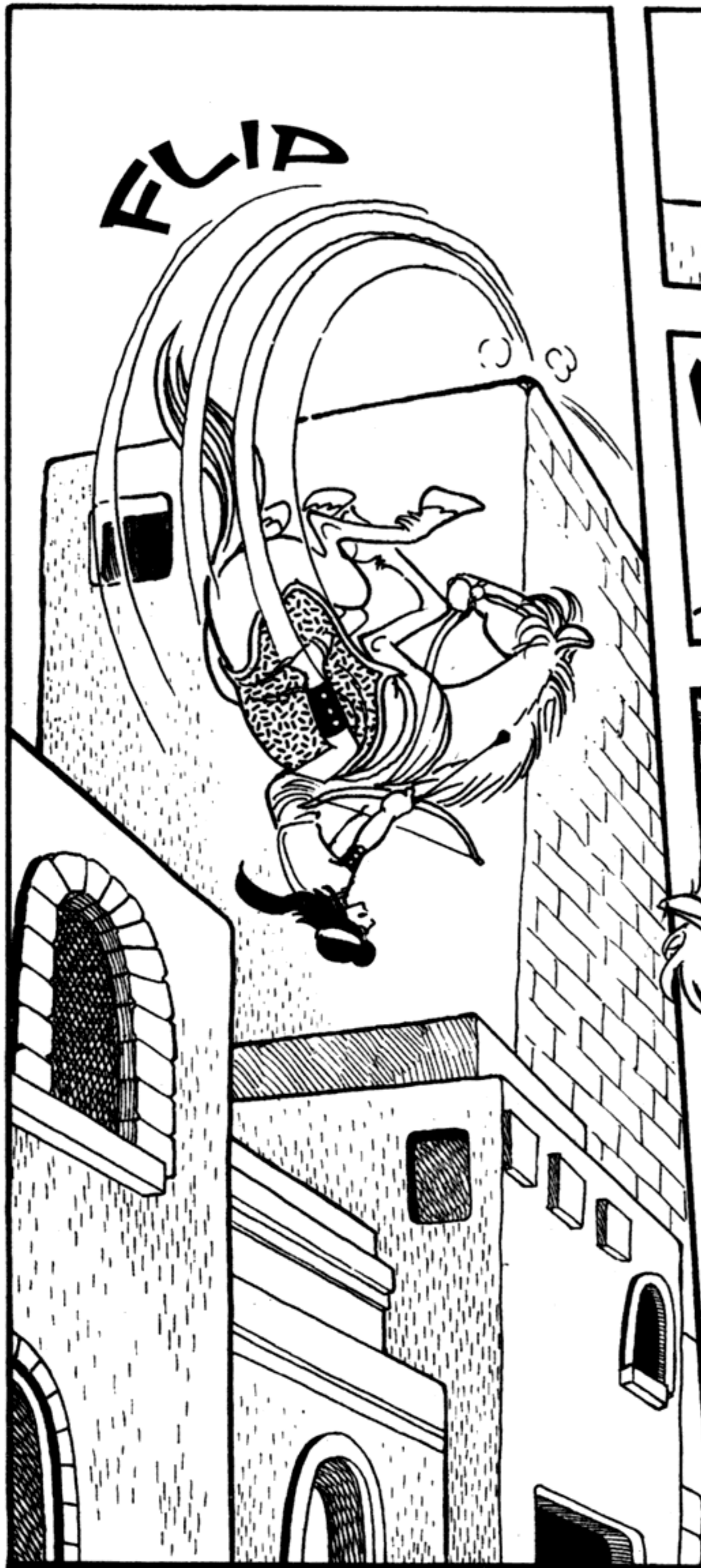
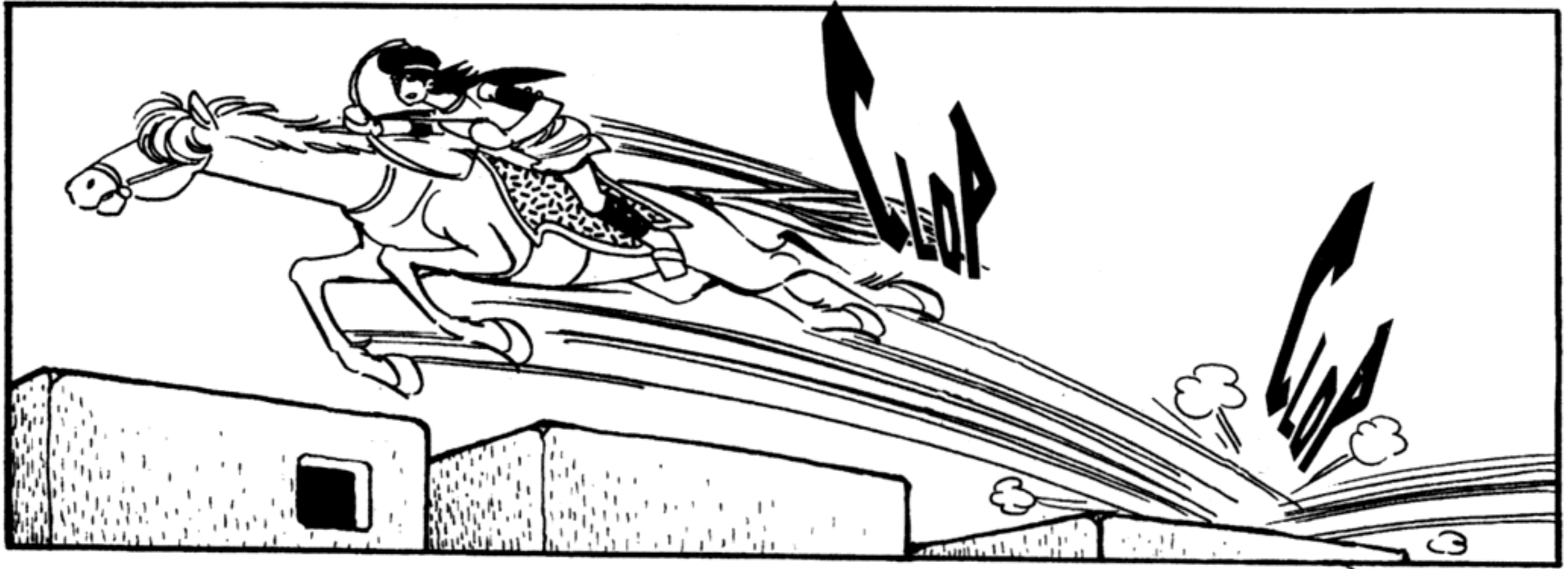


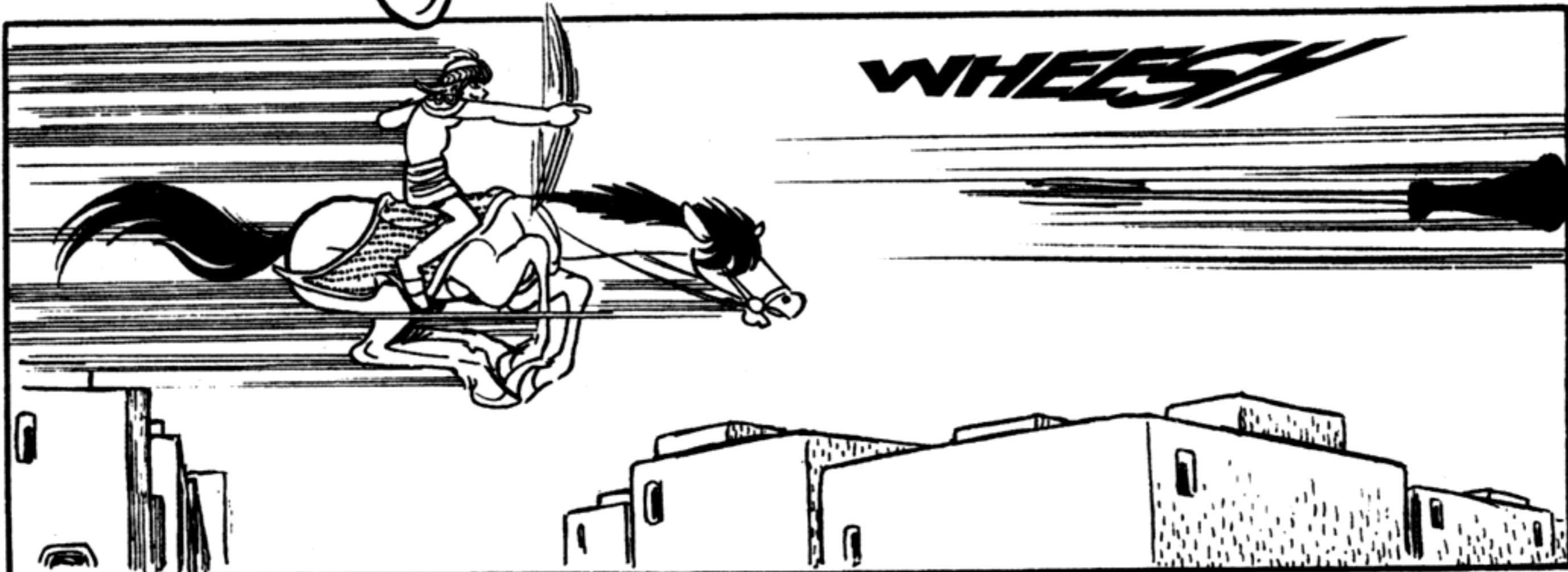
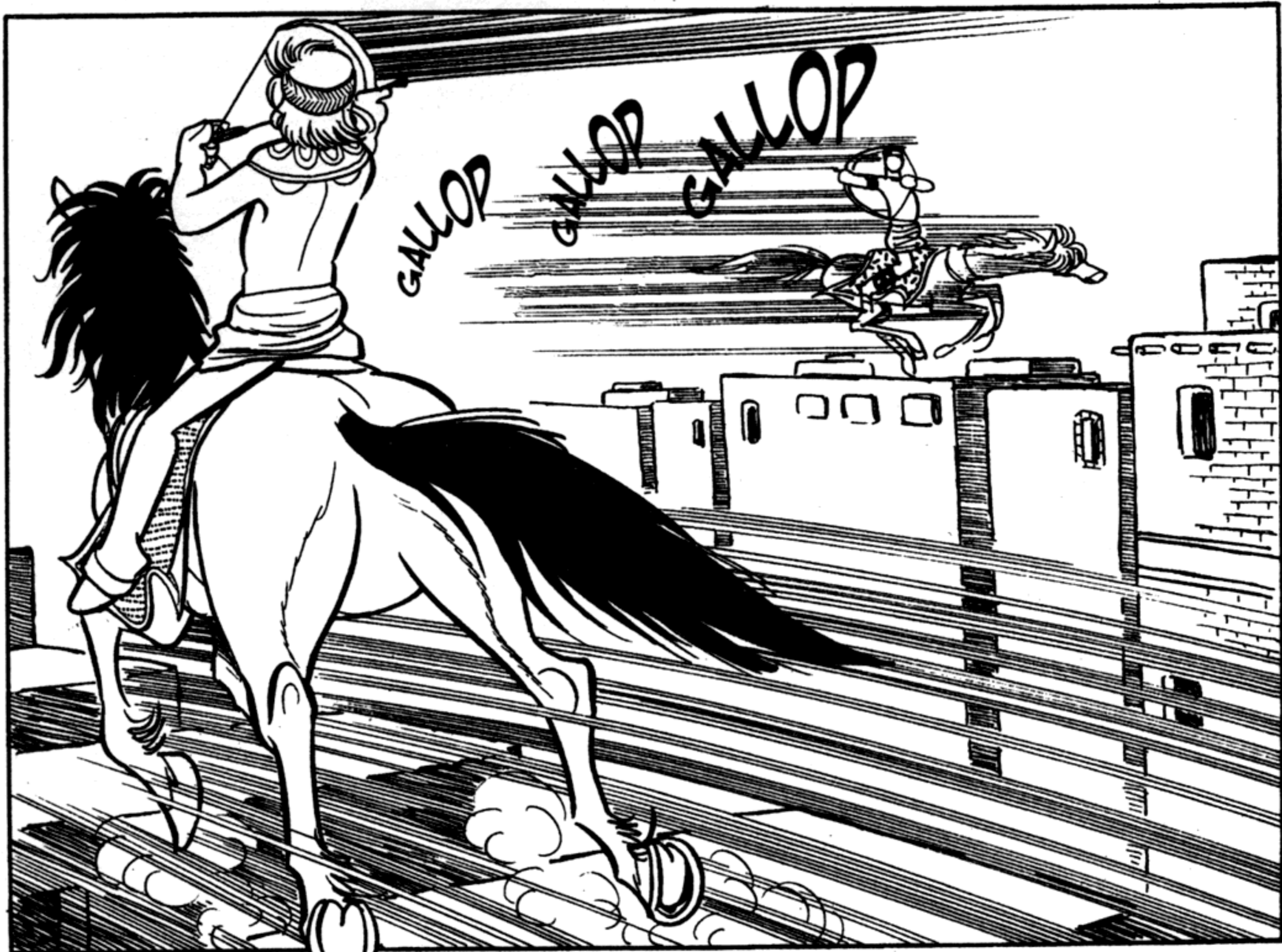




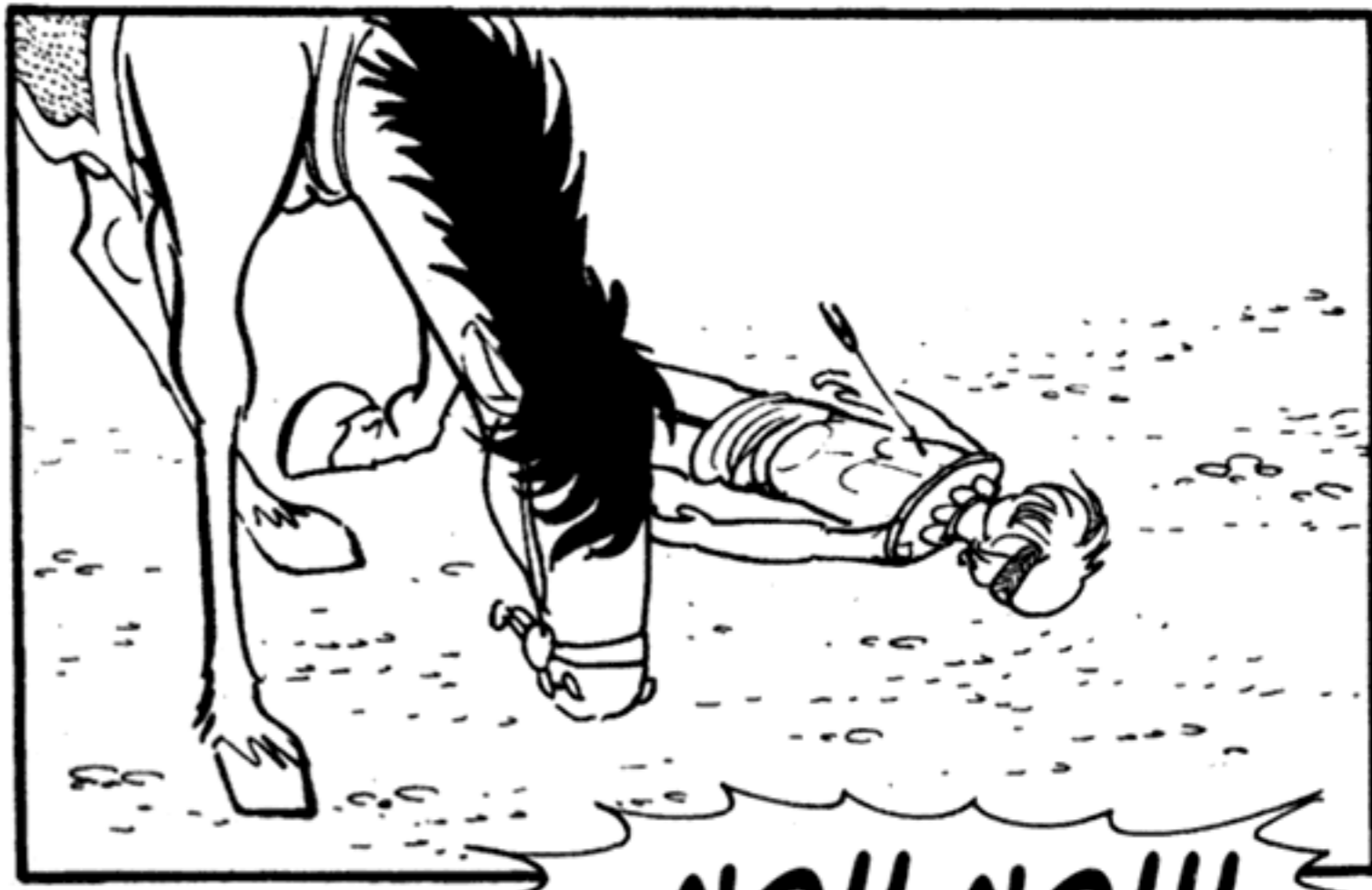








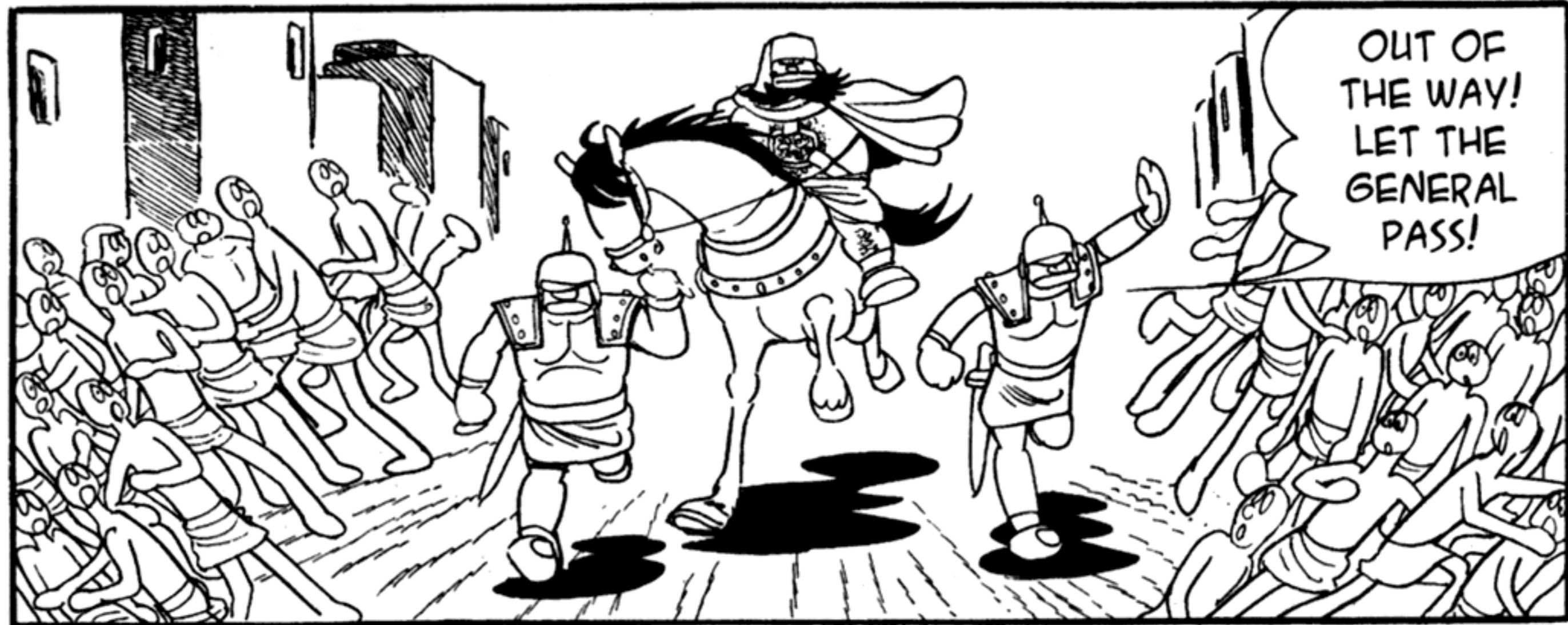




CHAPRA!



NO!! NO!!!

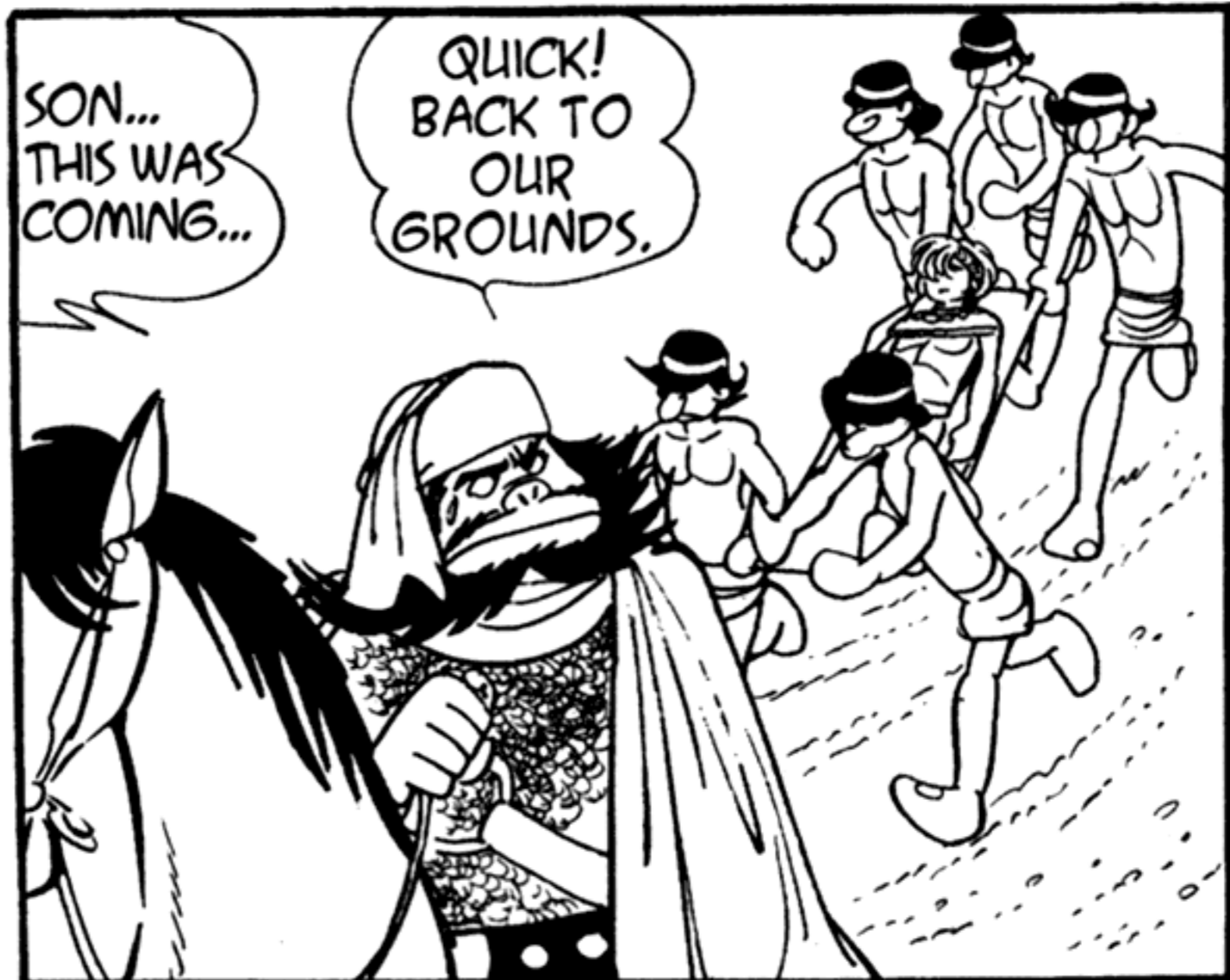


OUT OF THE WAY!
LET THE GENERAL PASS!



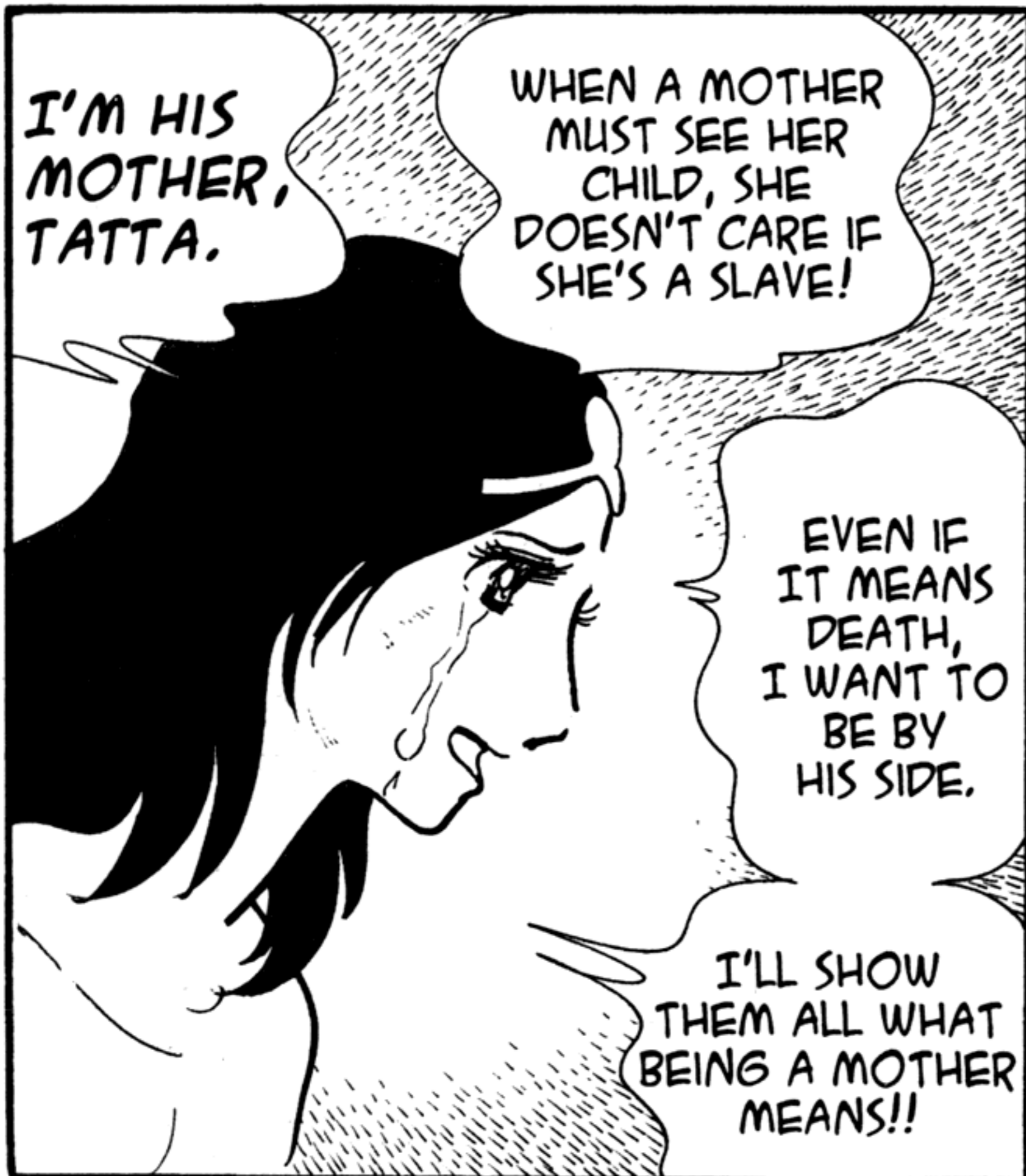
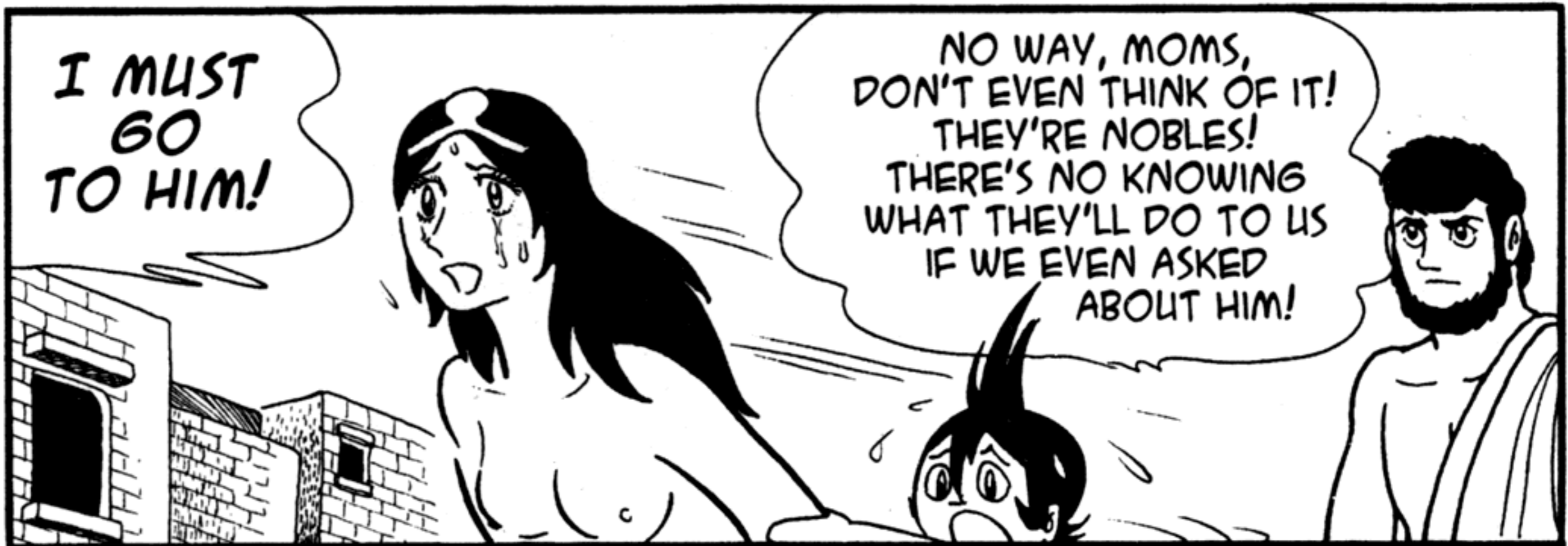
IS HE STILL ALIVE?

Y-YES, SIR, BUT BARELY.



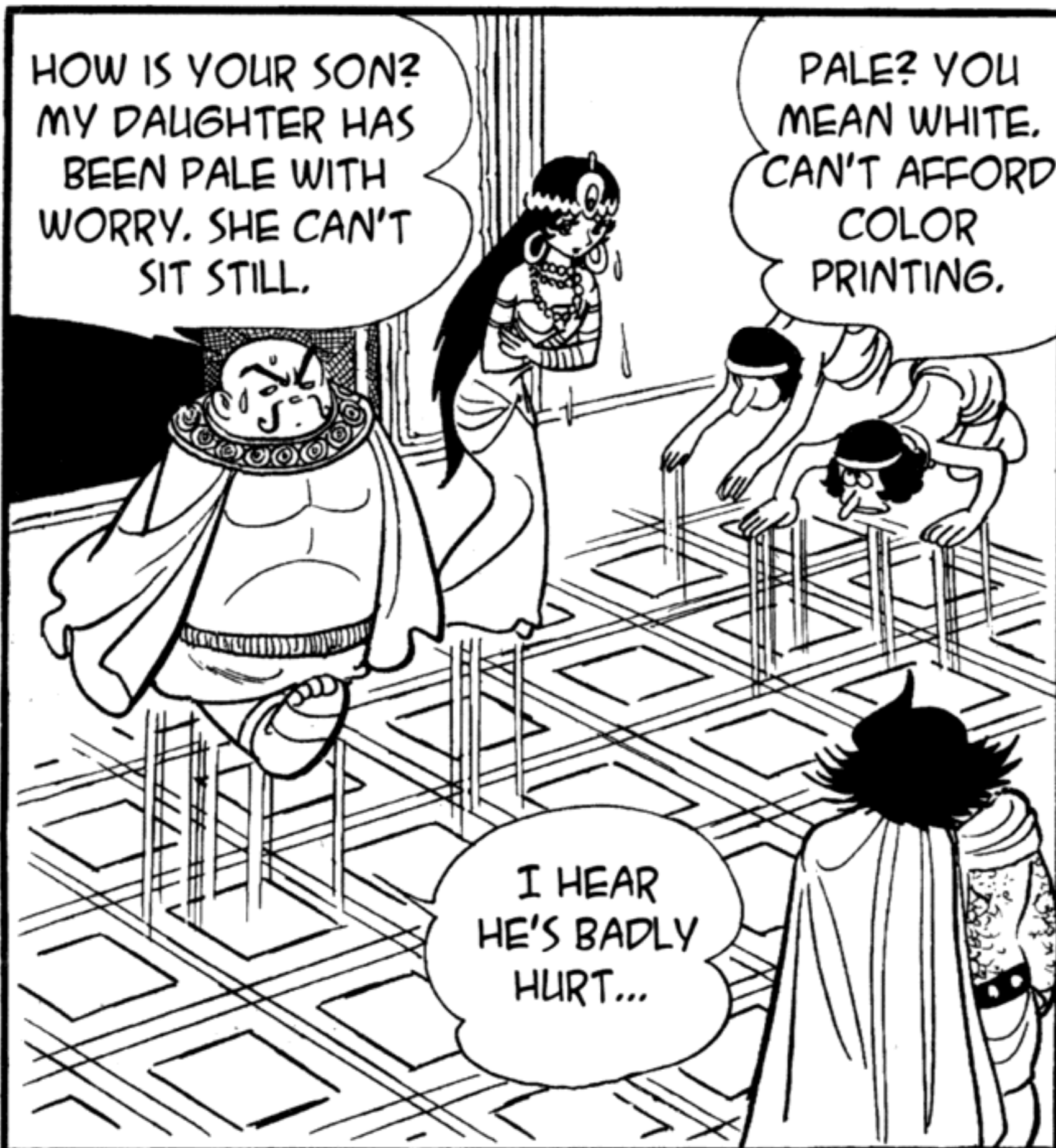
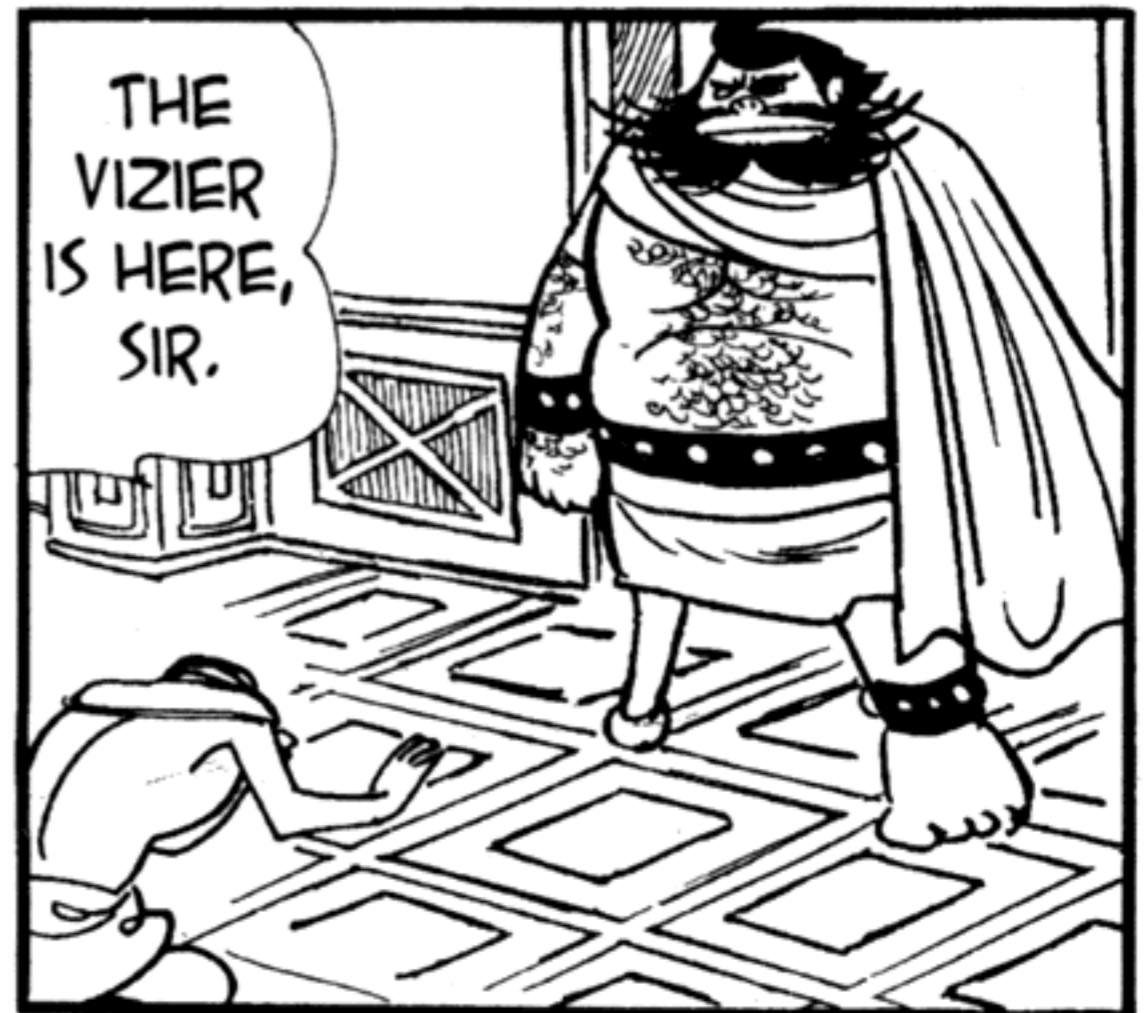
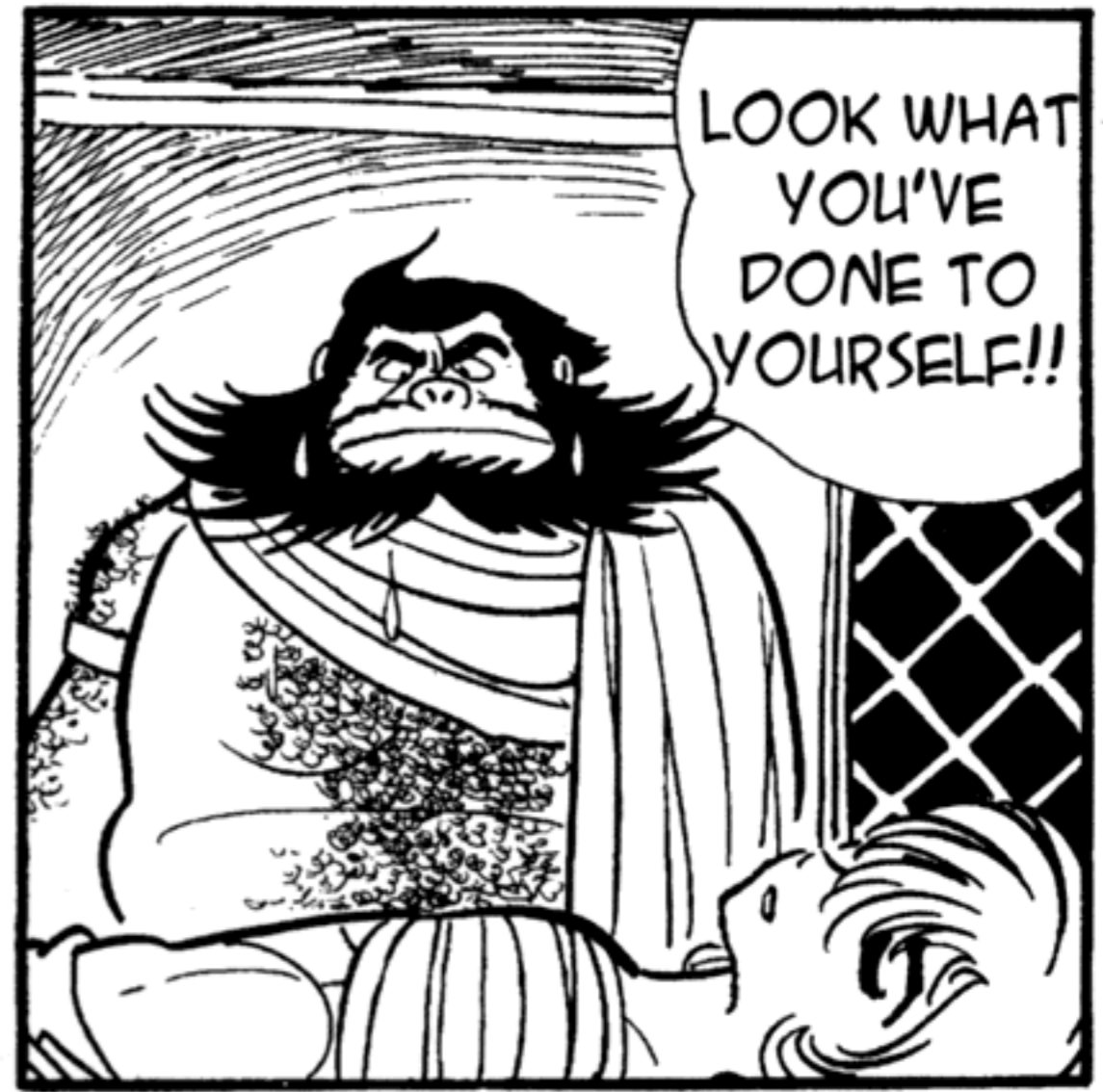
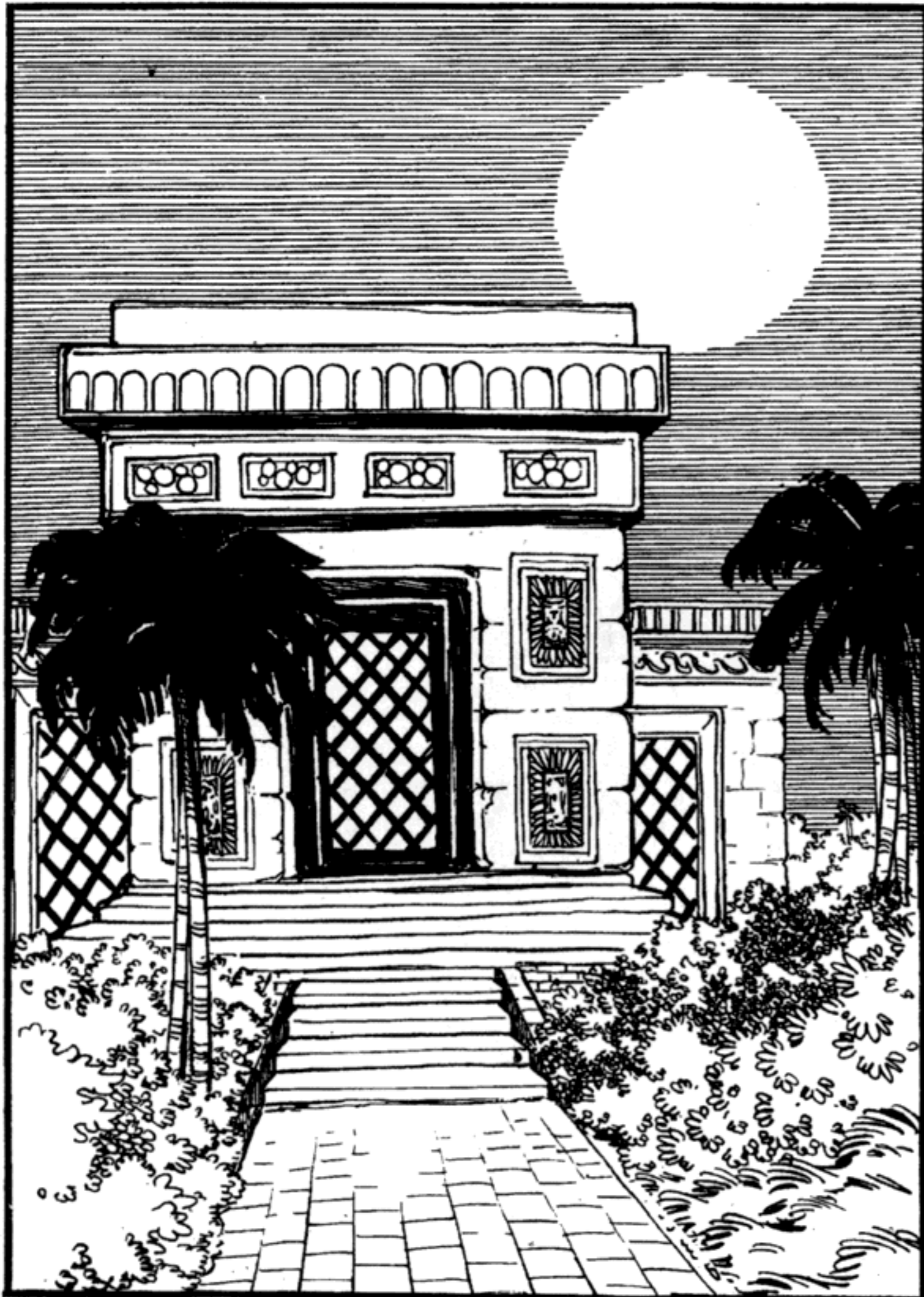
SON... THIS WAS COMING...

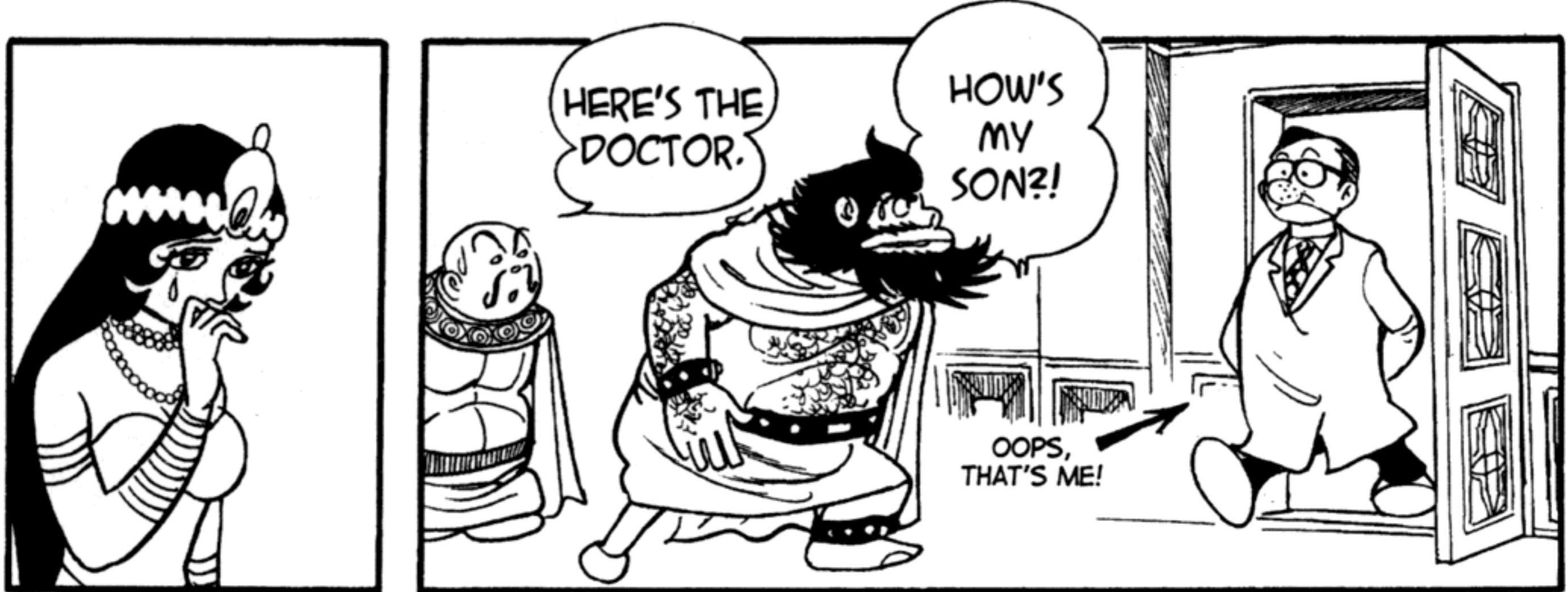
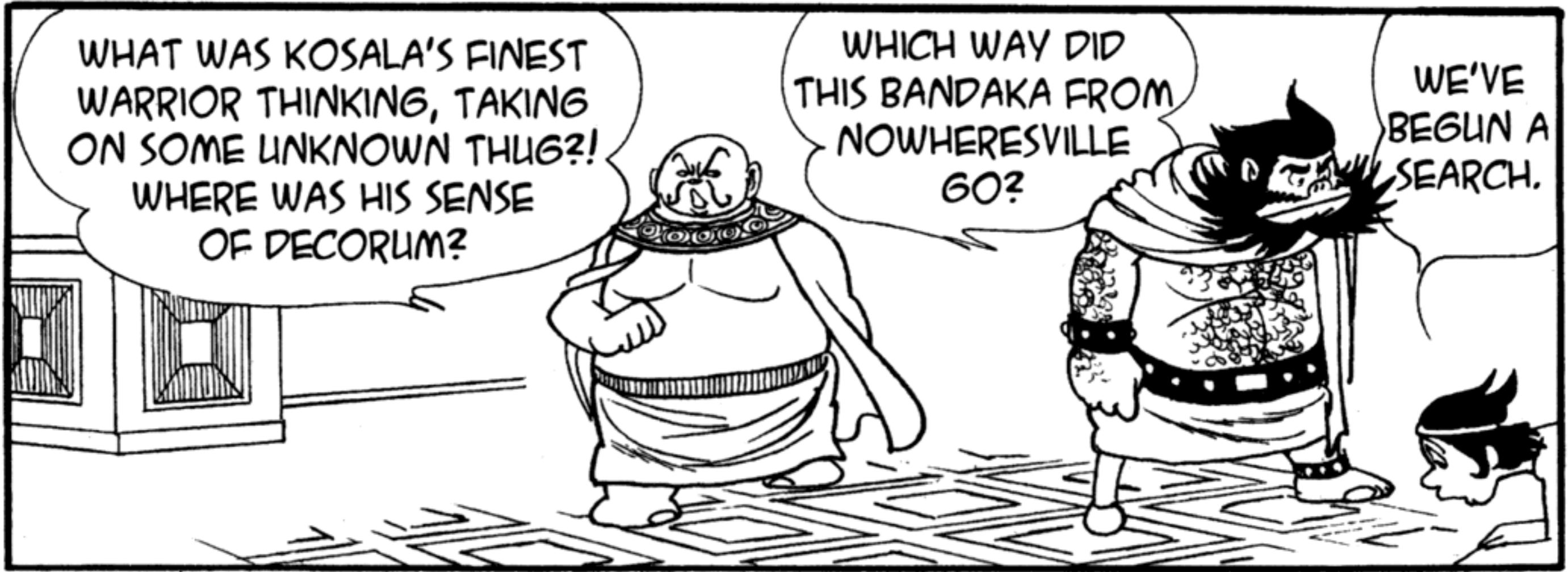
QUICK!
BACK TO OUR GROUNDS.

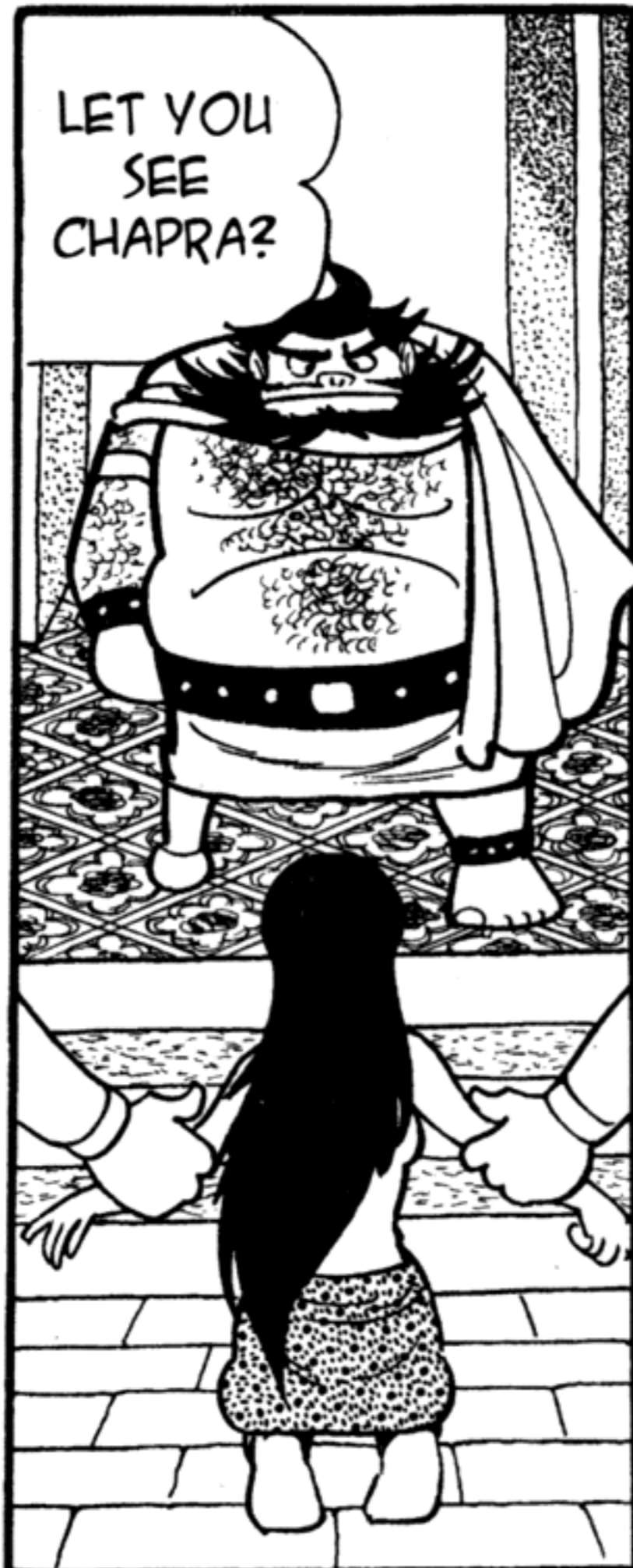
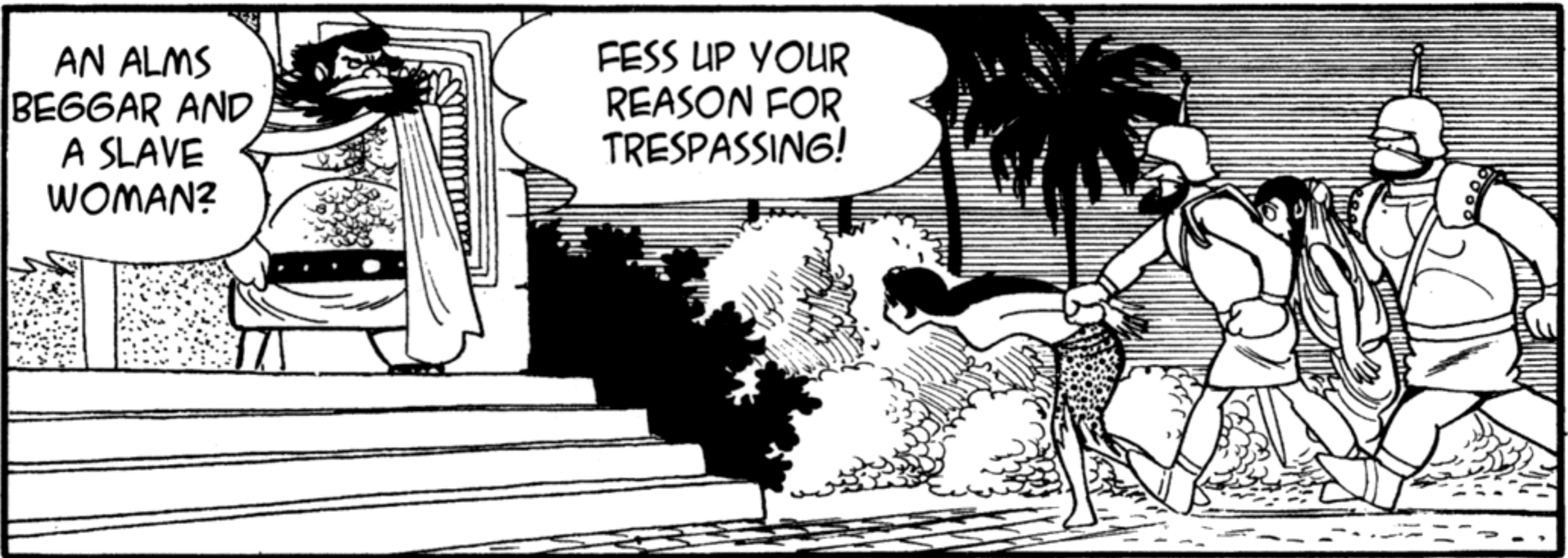
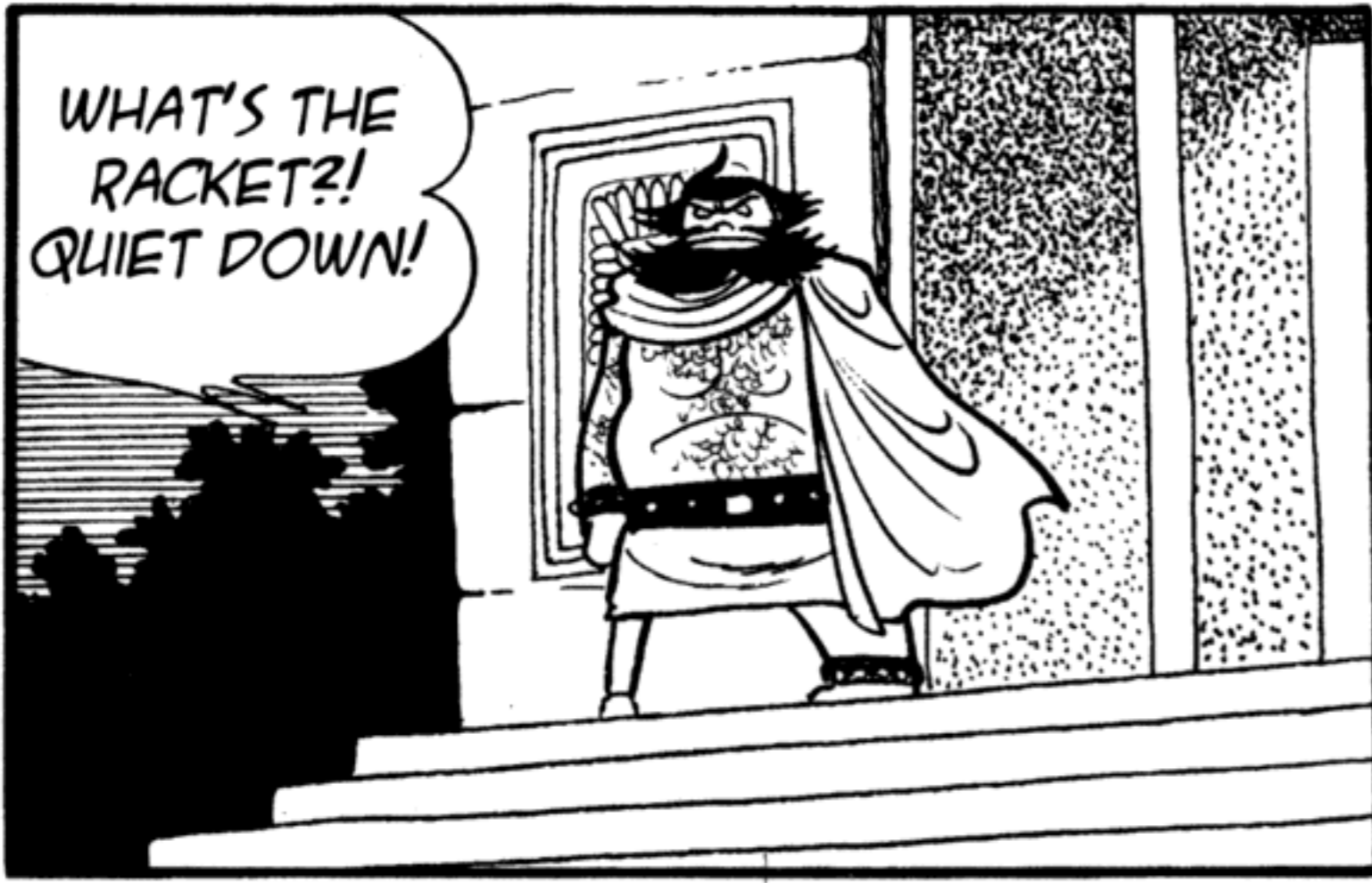


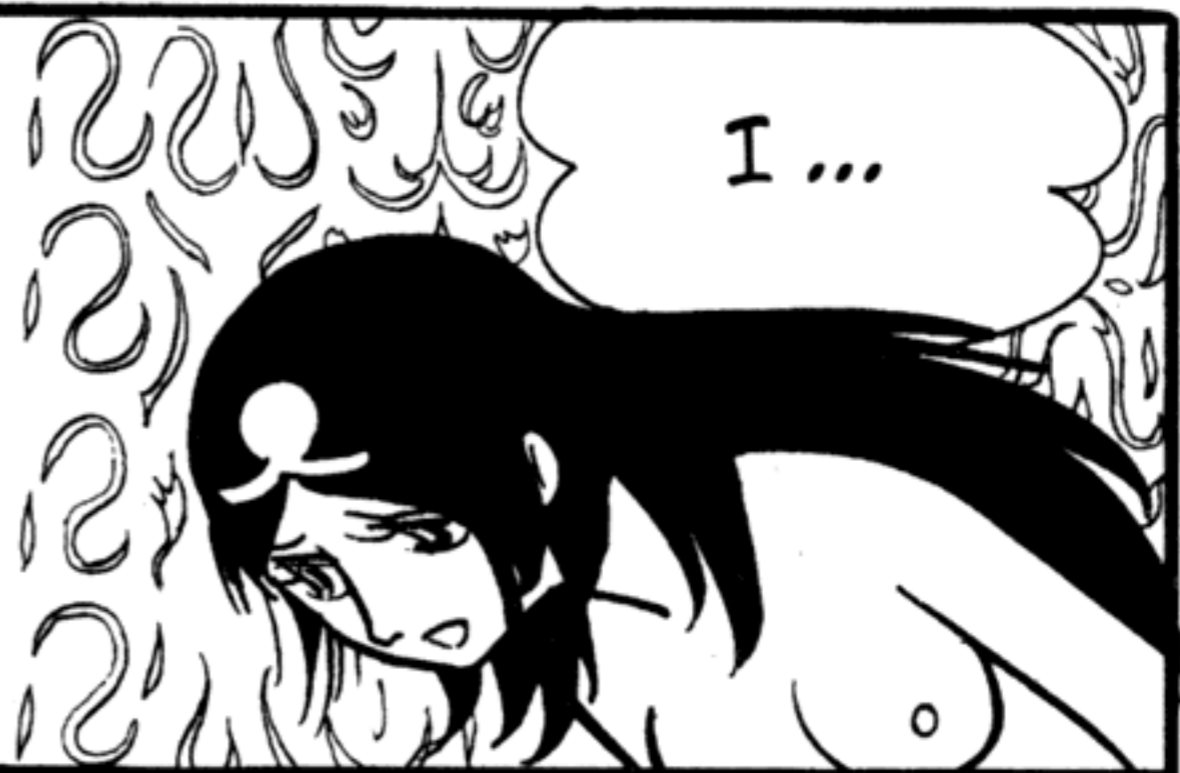
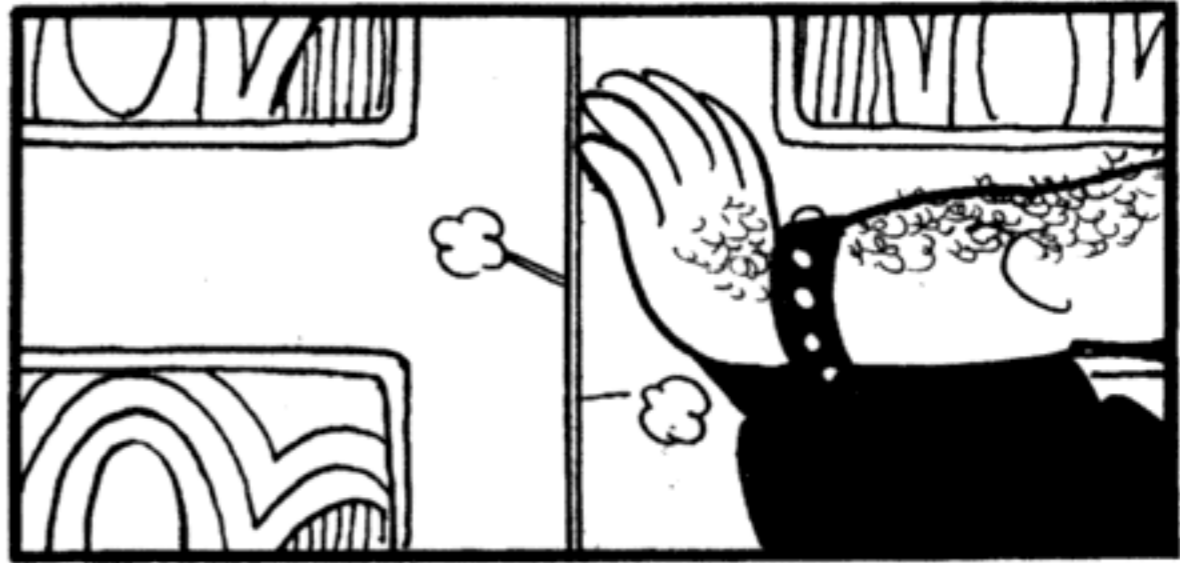
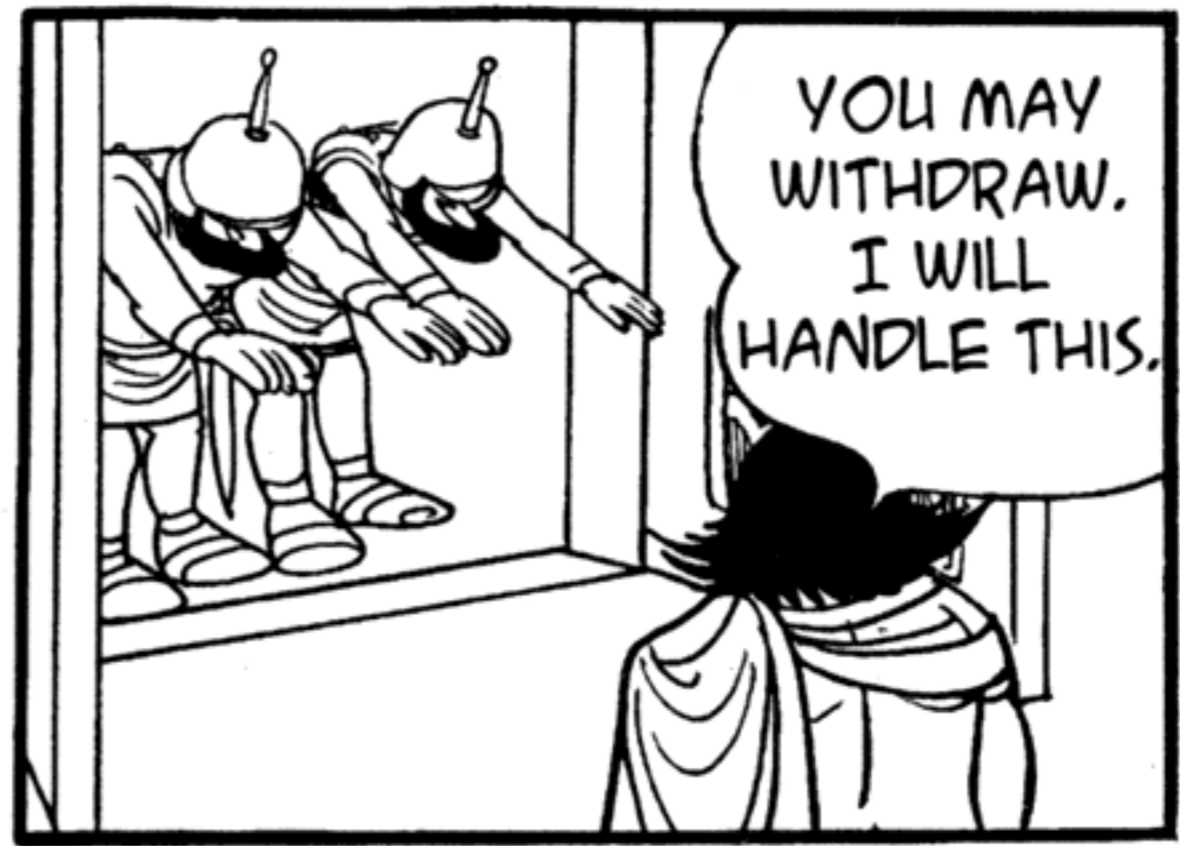
CHAPTER NINE

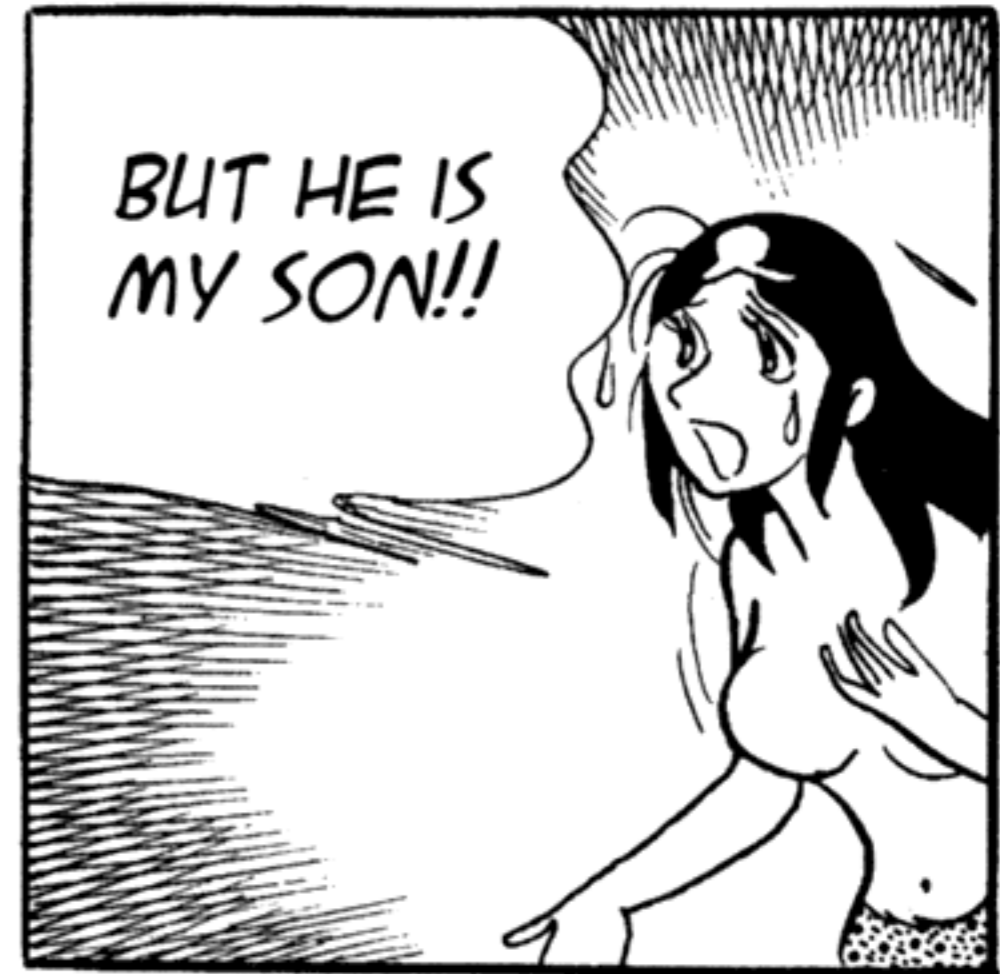
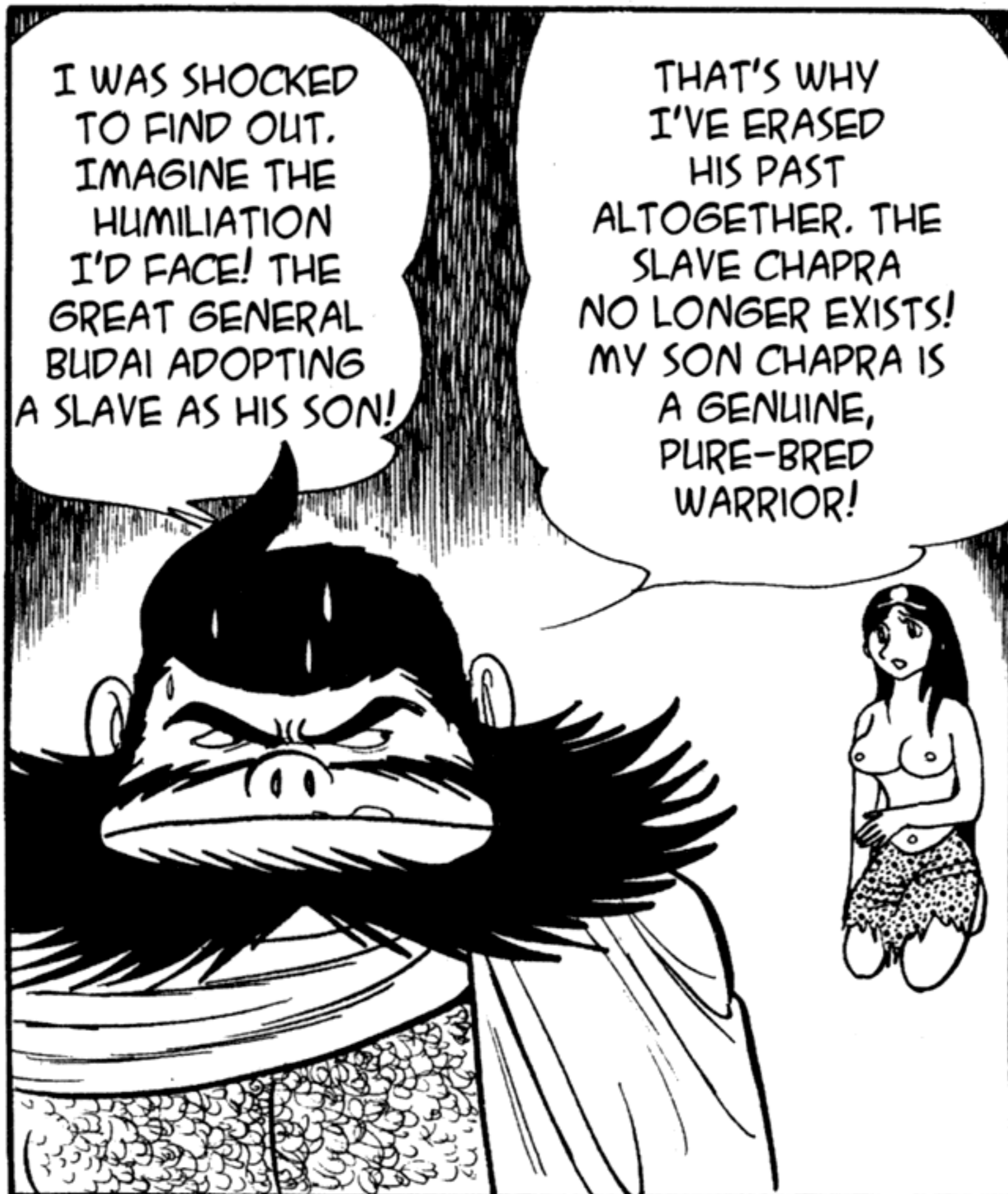
ALL FOR A CURE

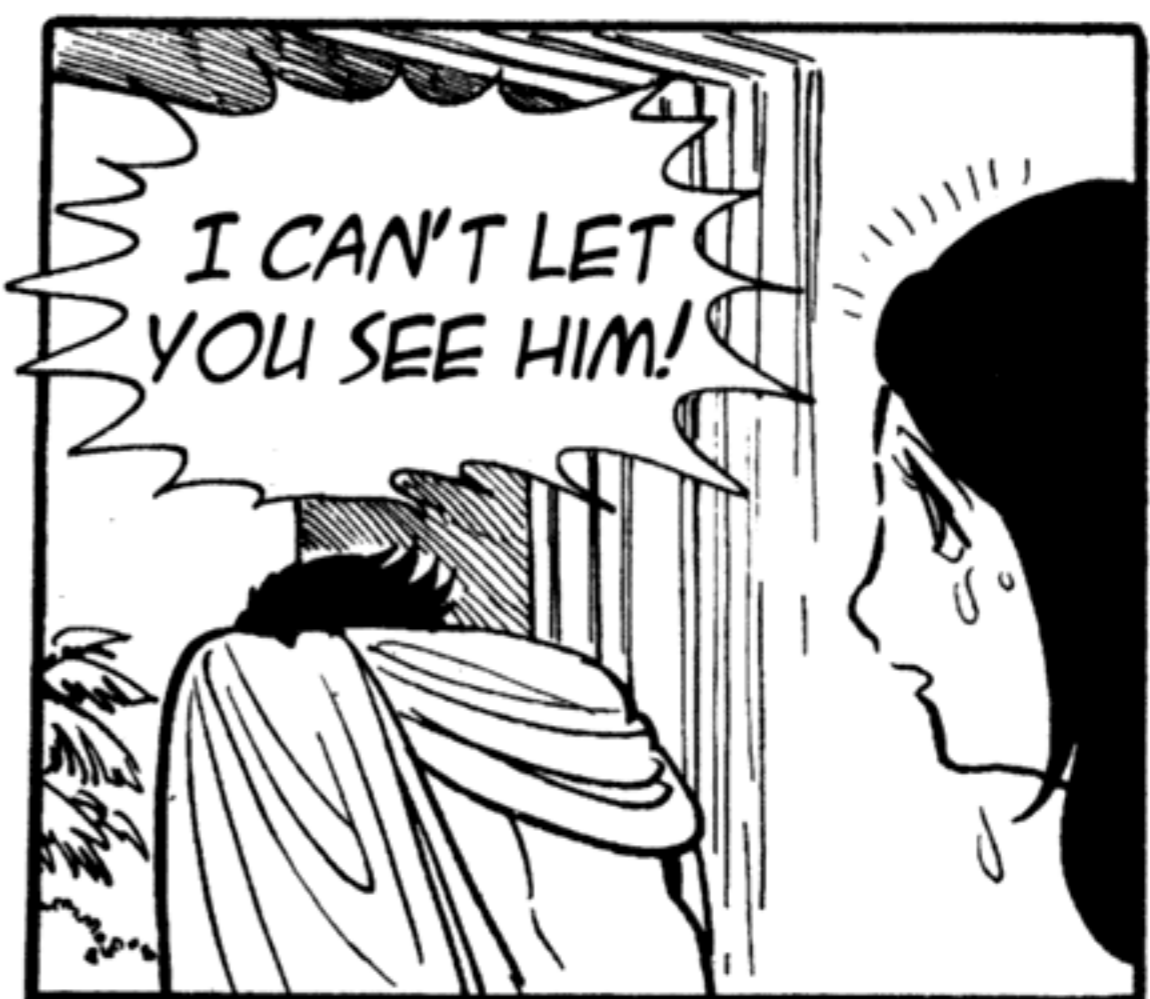
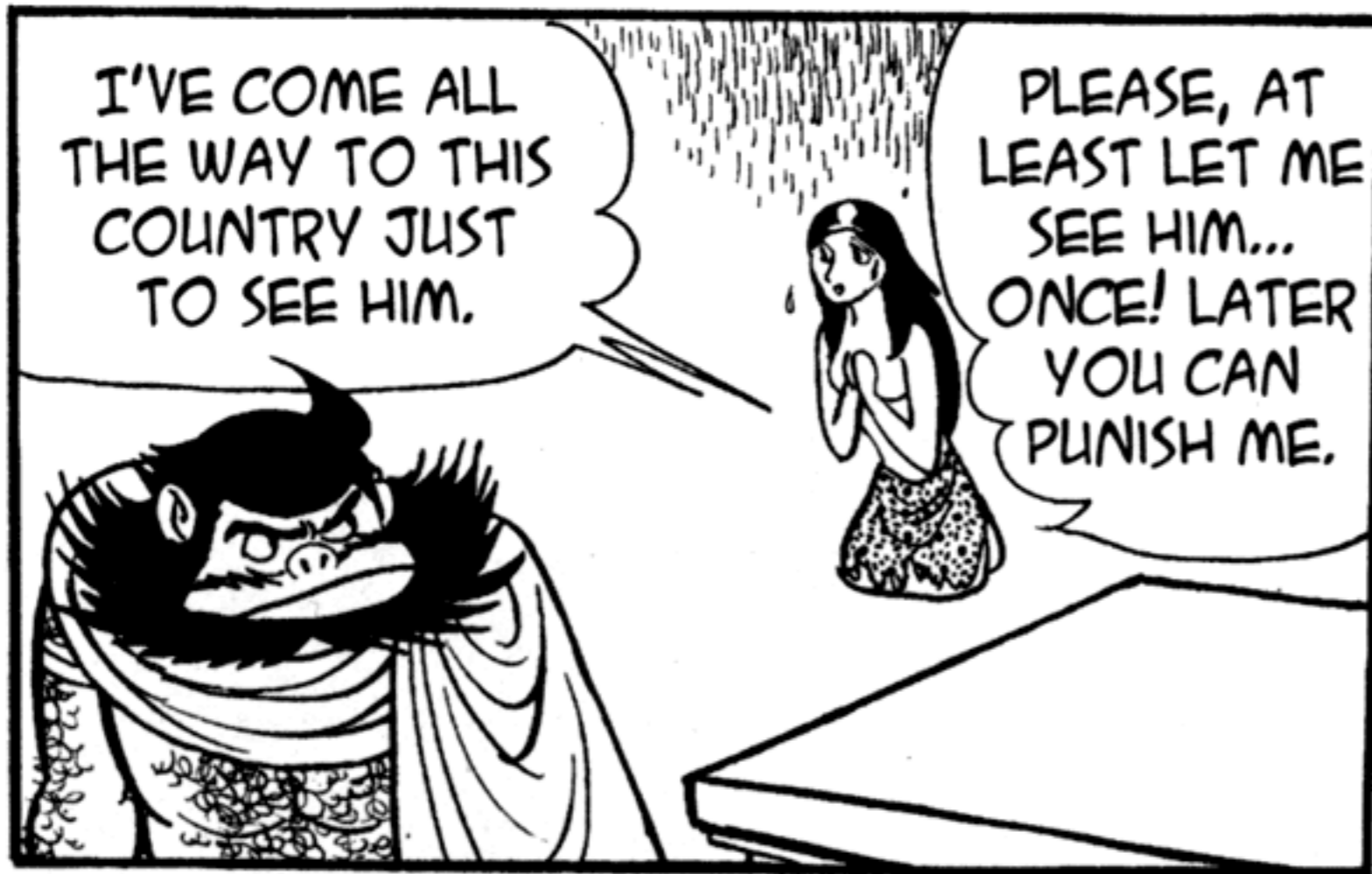


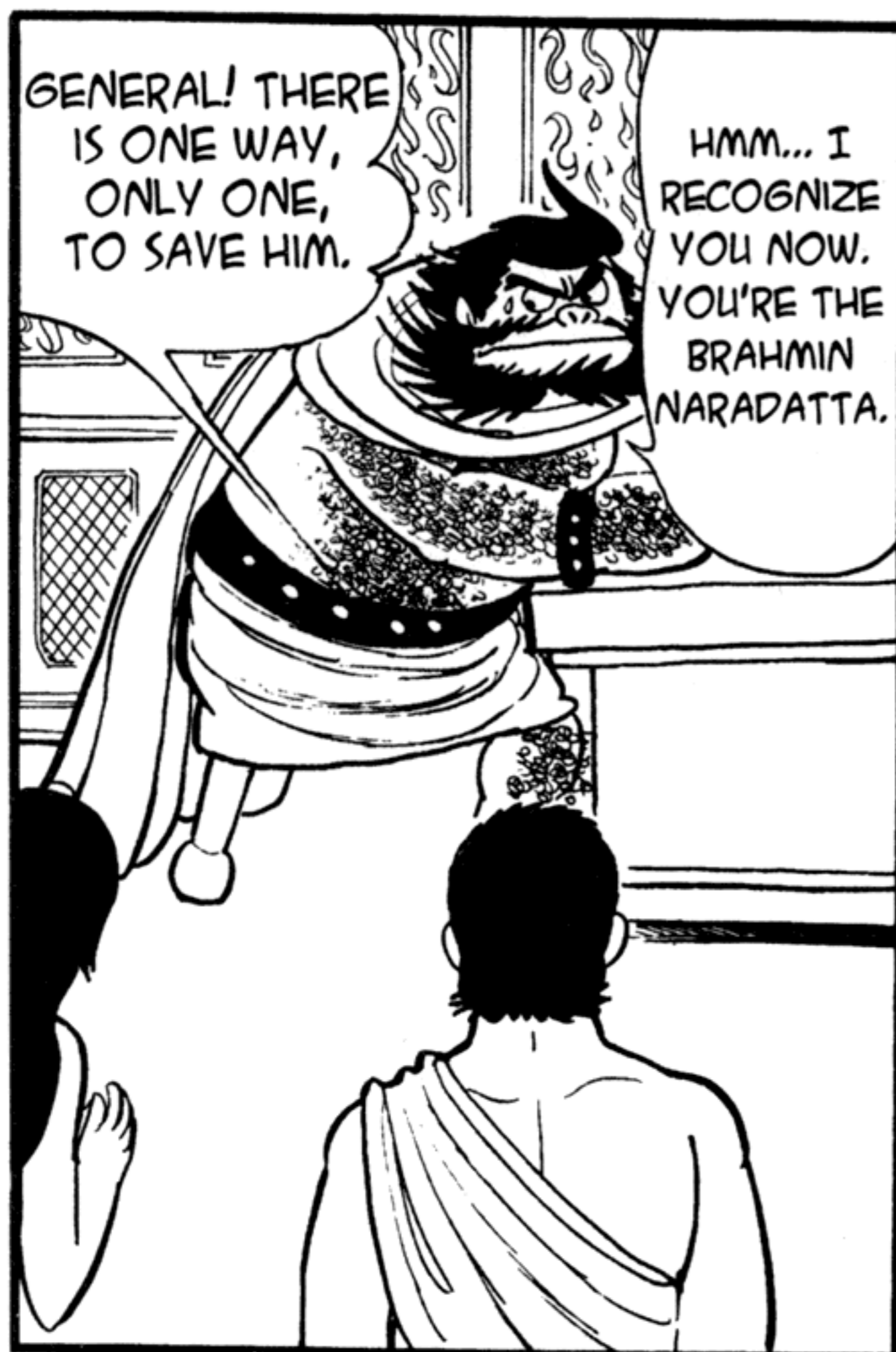


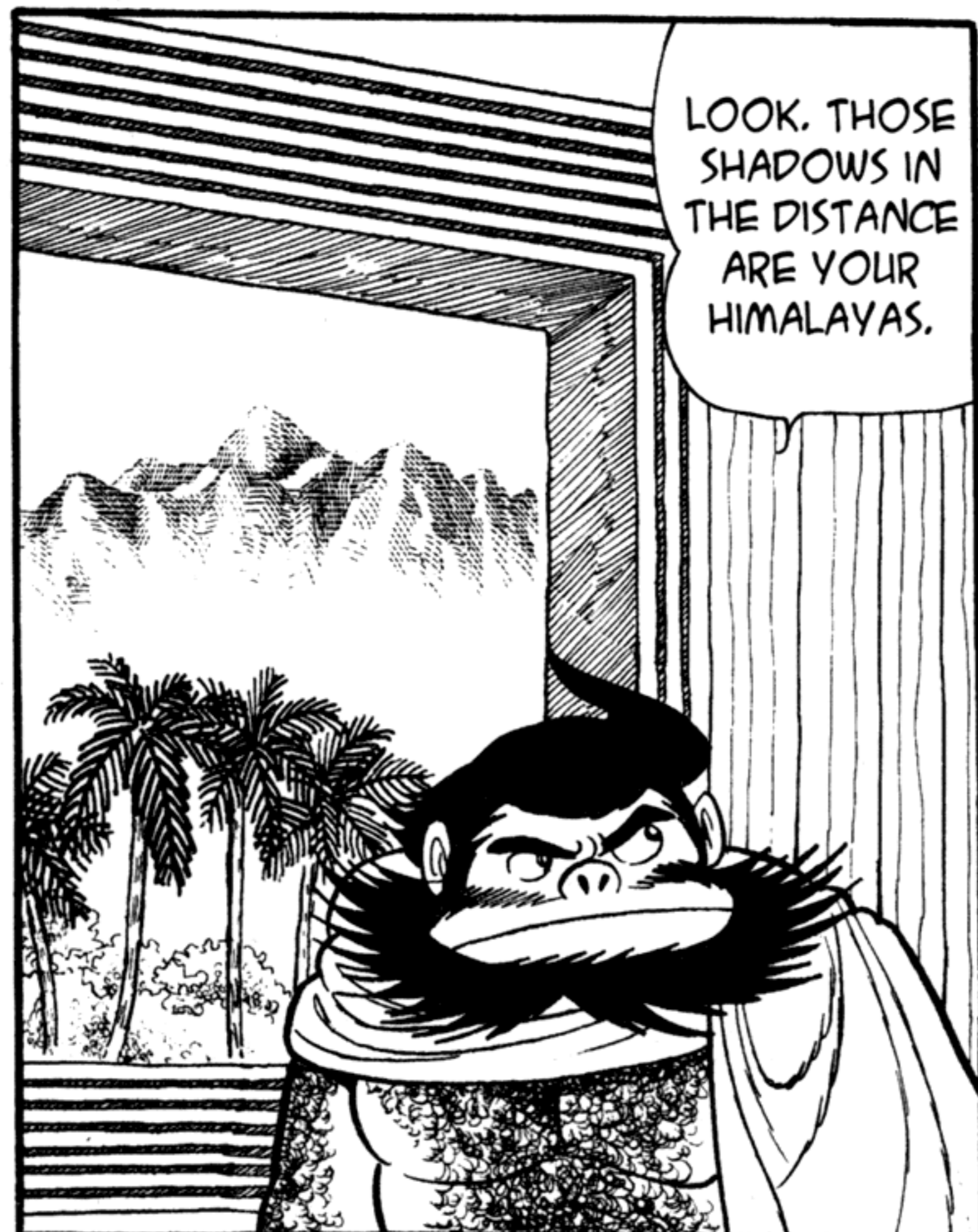
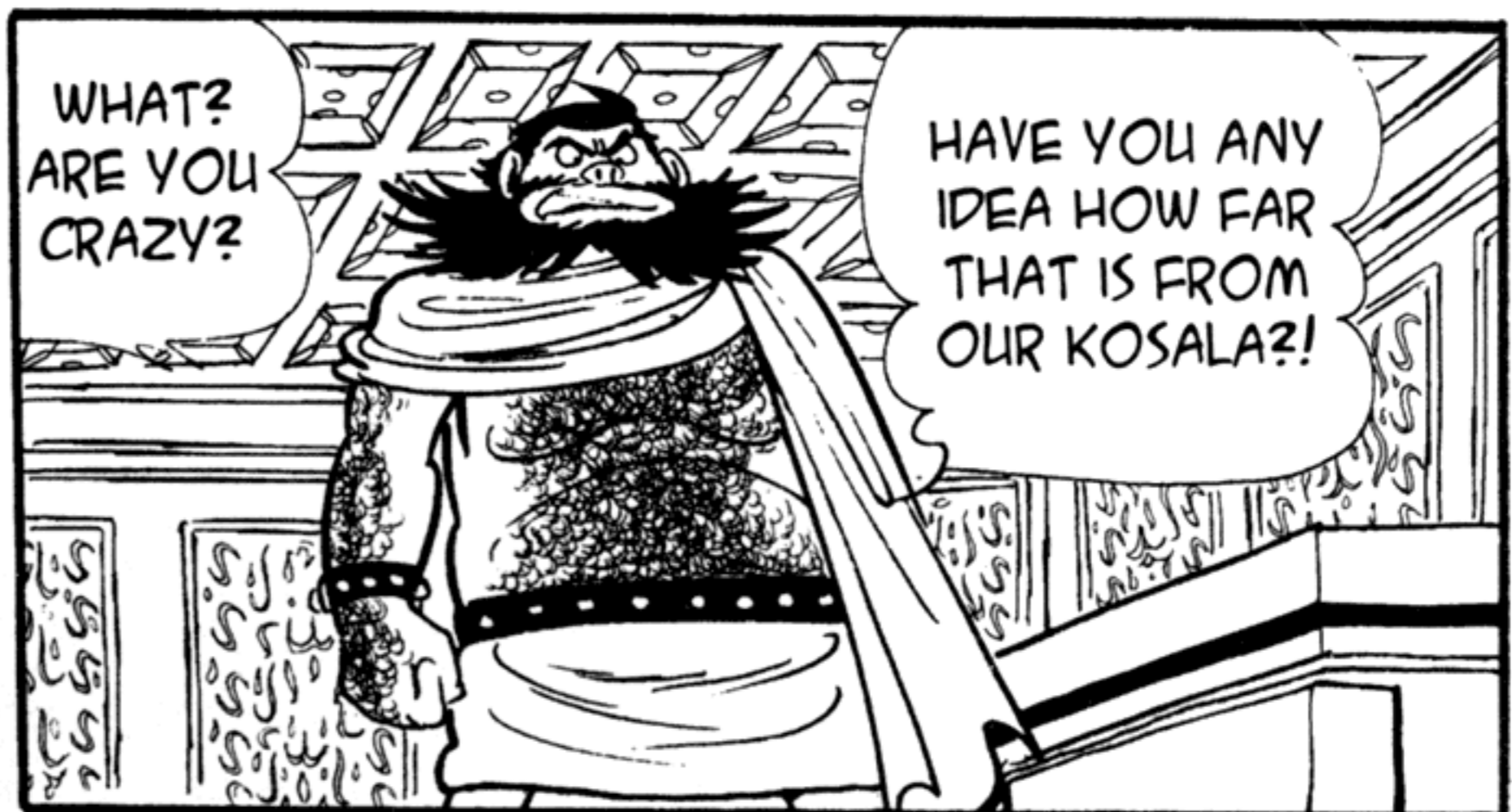
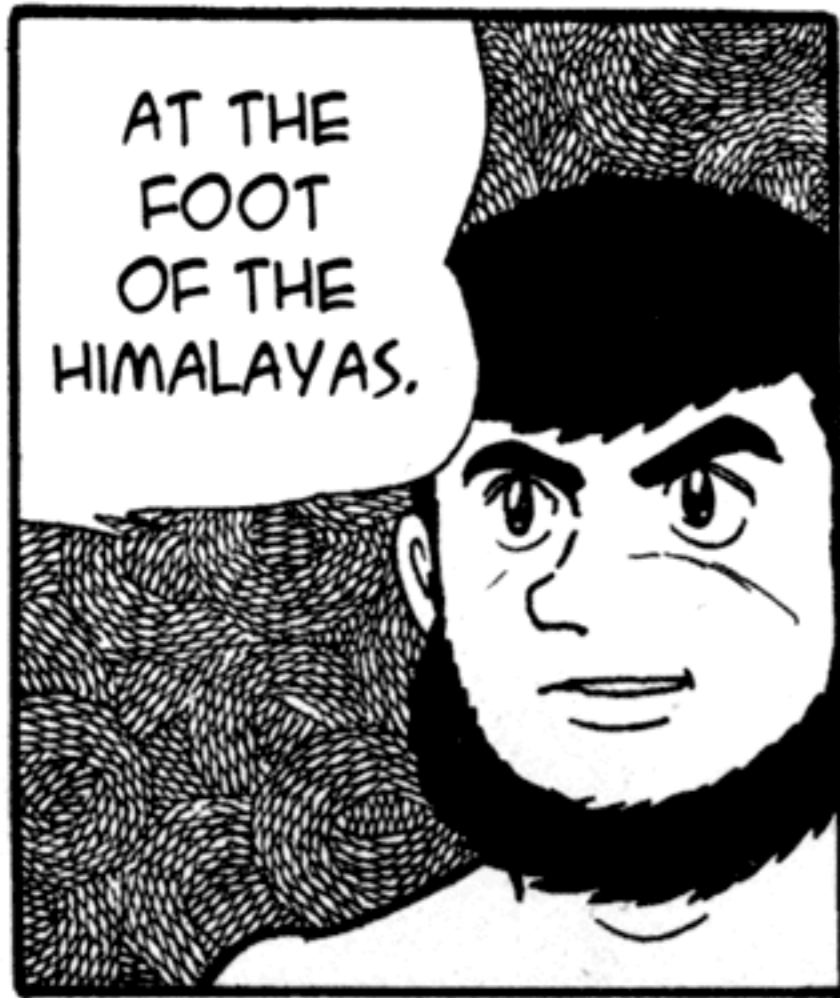


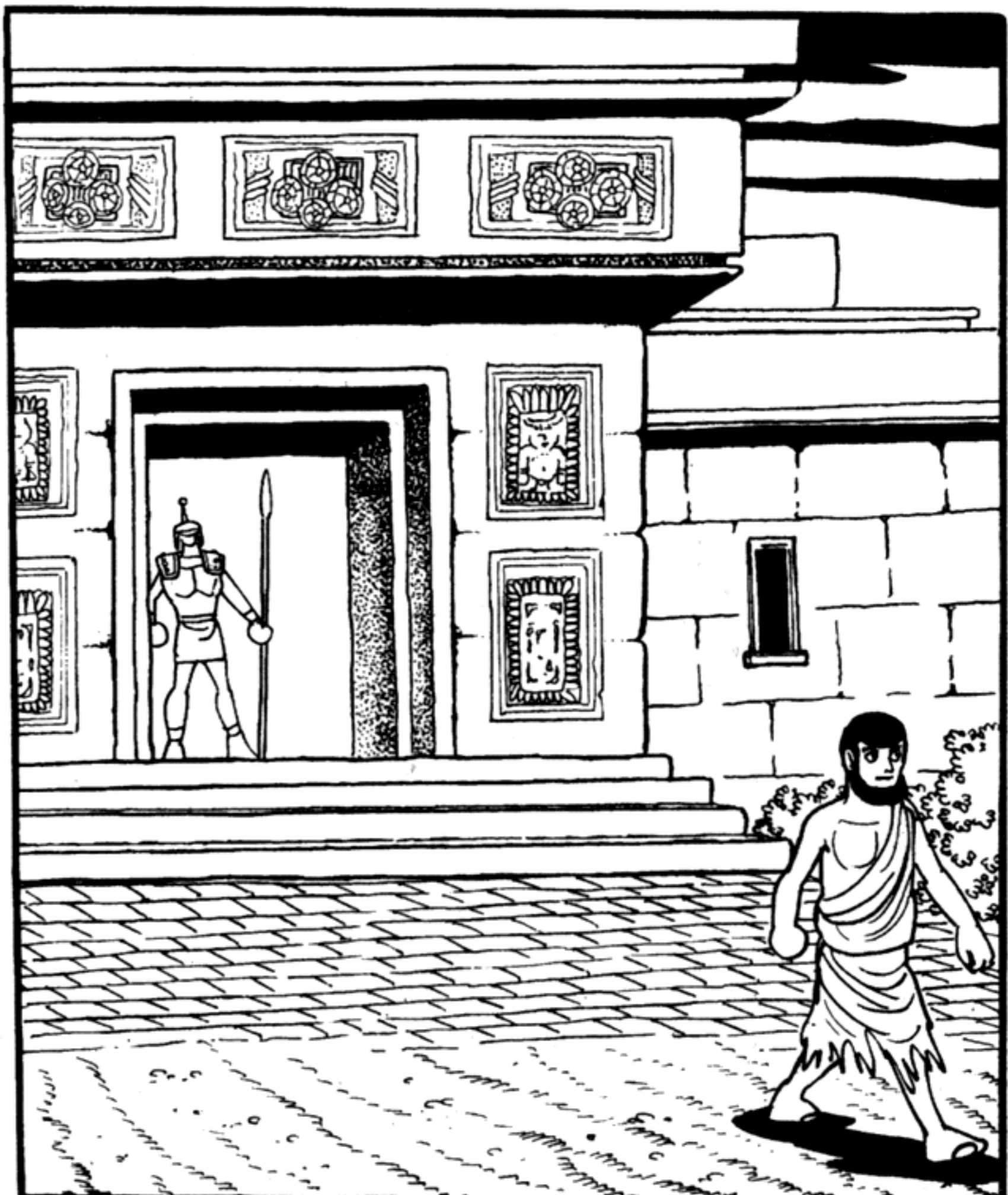
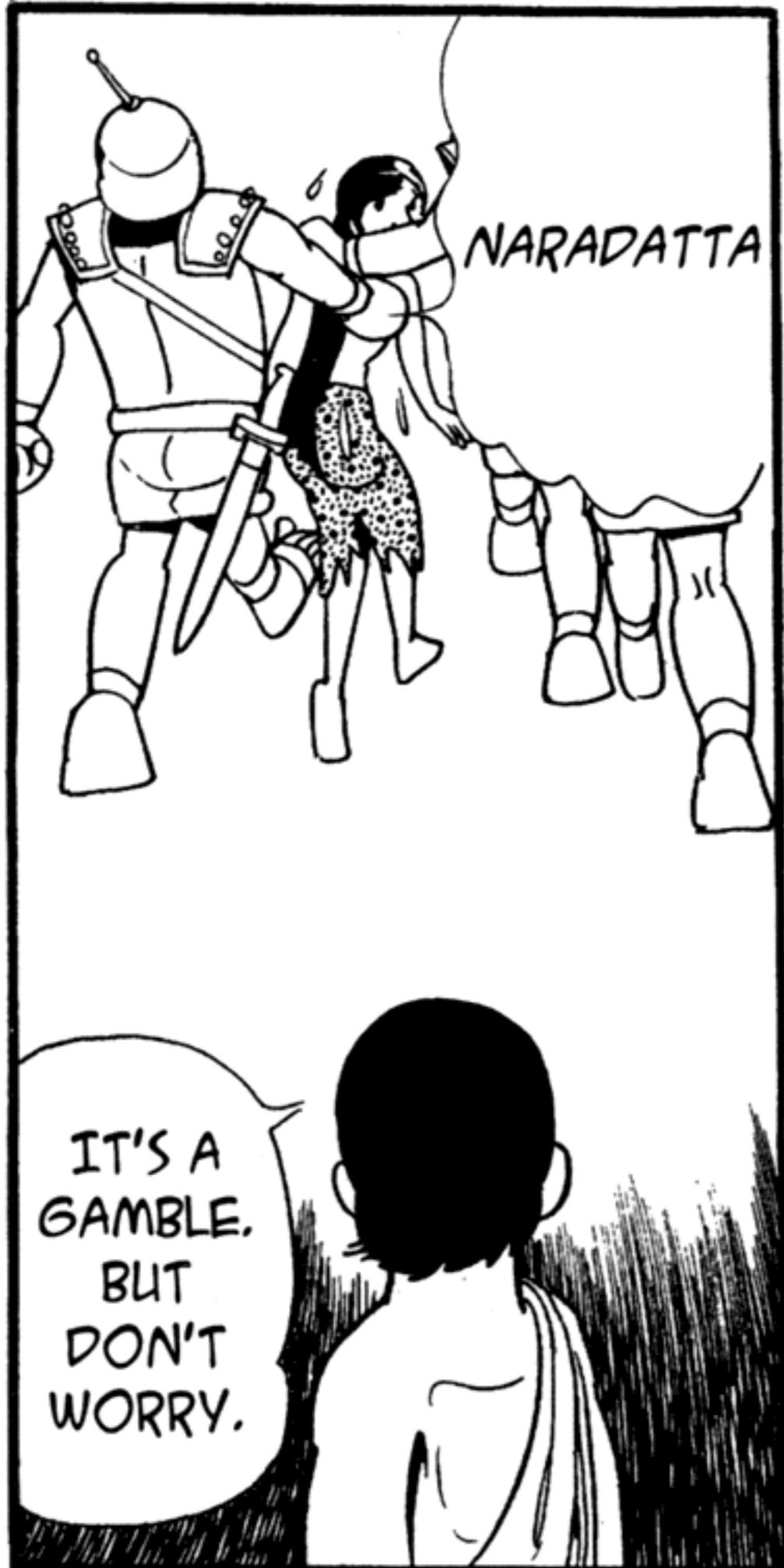
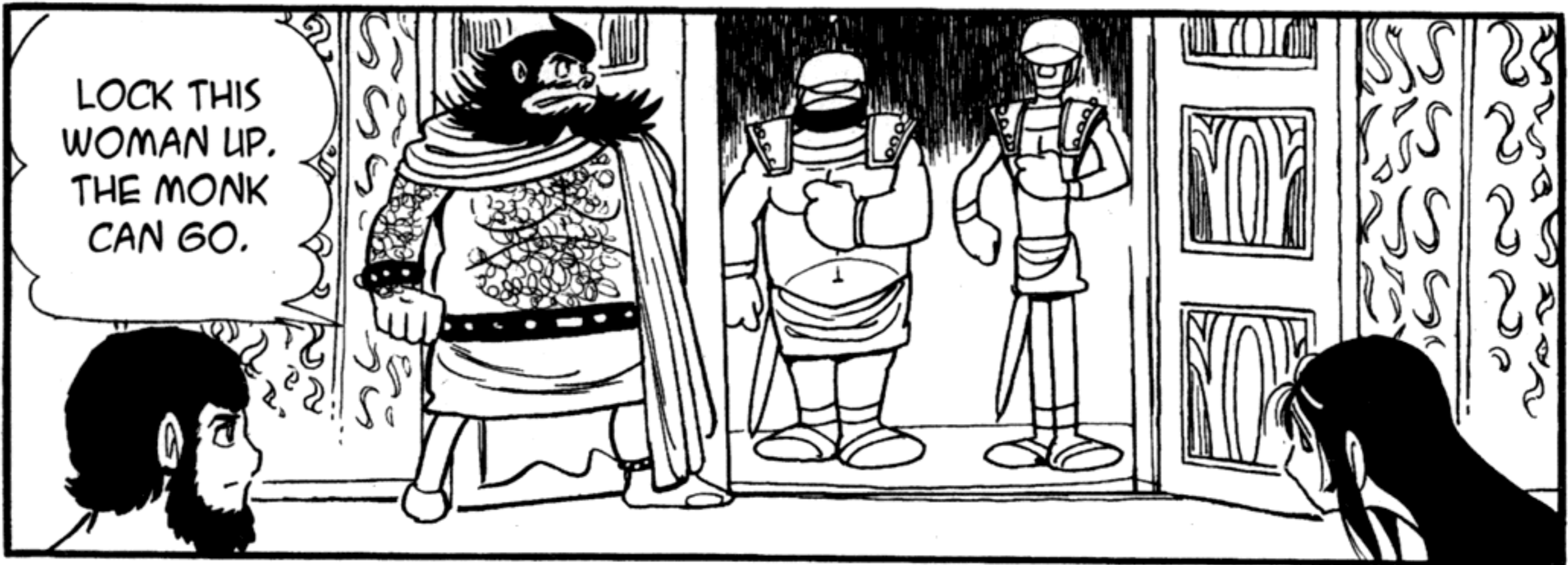














SAINT ASITA LIVES AT THE FOOT OF THE HIMALAYAS. ARE YOU WITH ME? YOU MUST POSSESS A BEAST... A HORSE...OR A BIRD...AND GET THERE RIGHT AWAY. THEN YOU MUST SEEK OUT MASTER ASITA...



AND GIVE HIM THIS LETTER. HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.



AND COME BACK BY TOMORROW NIGHT!



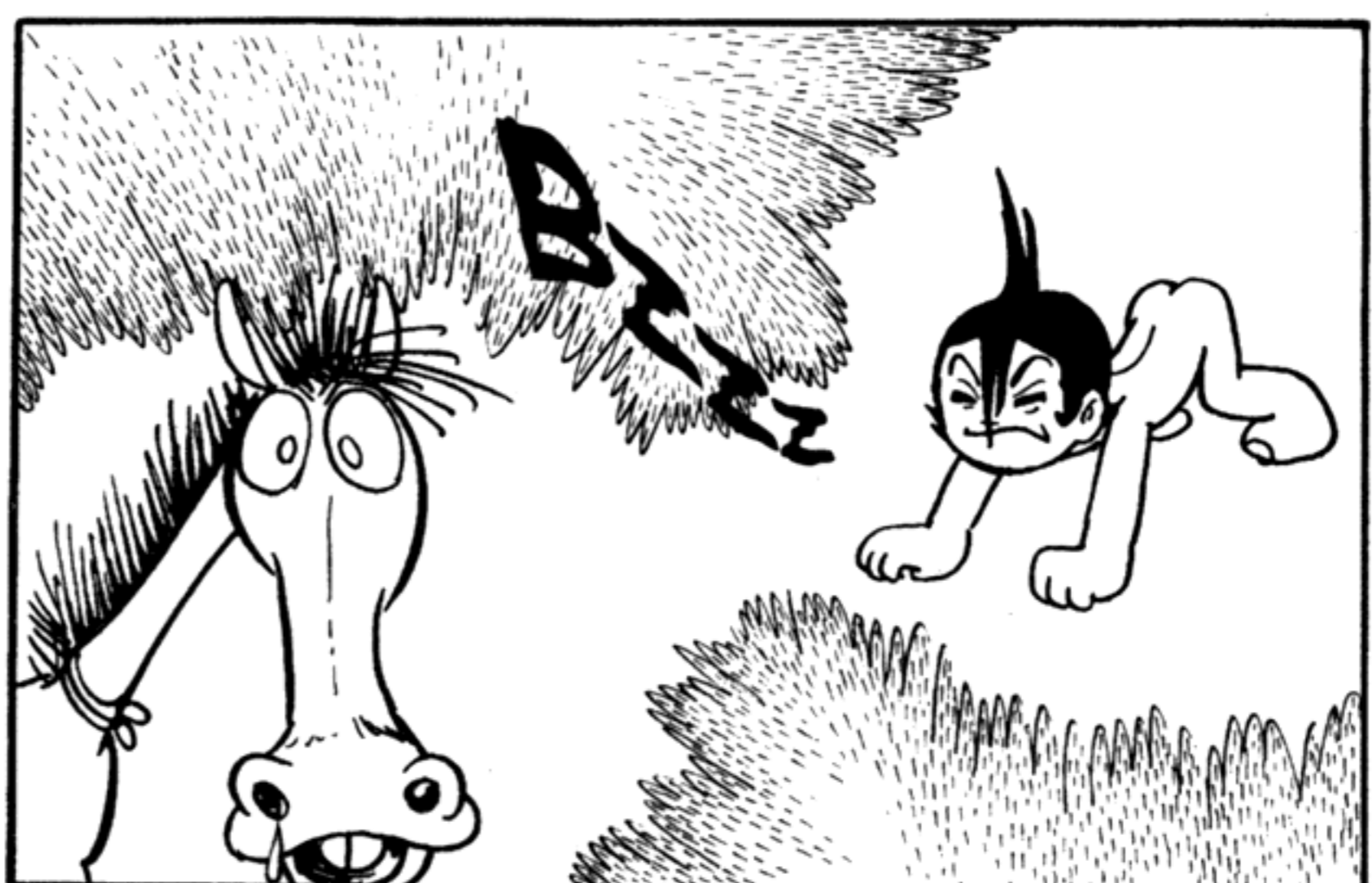
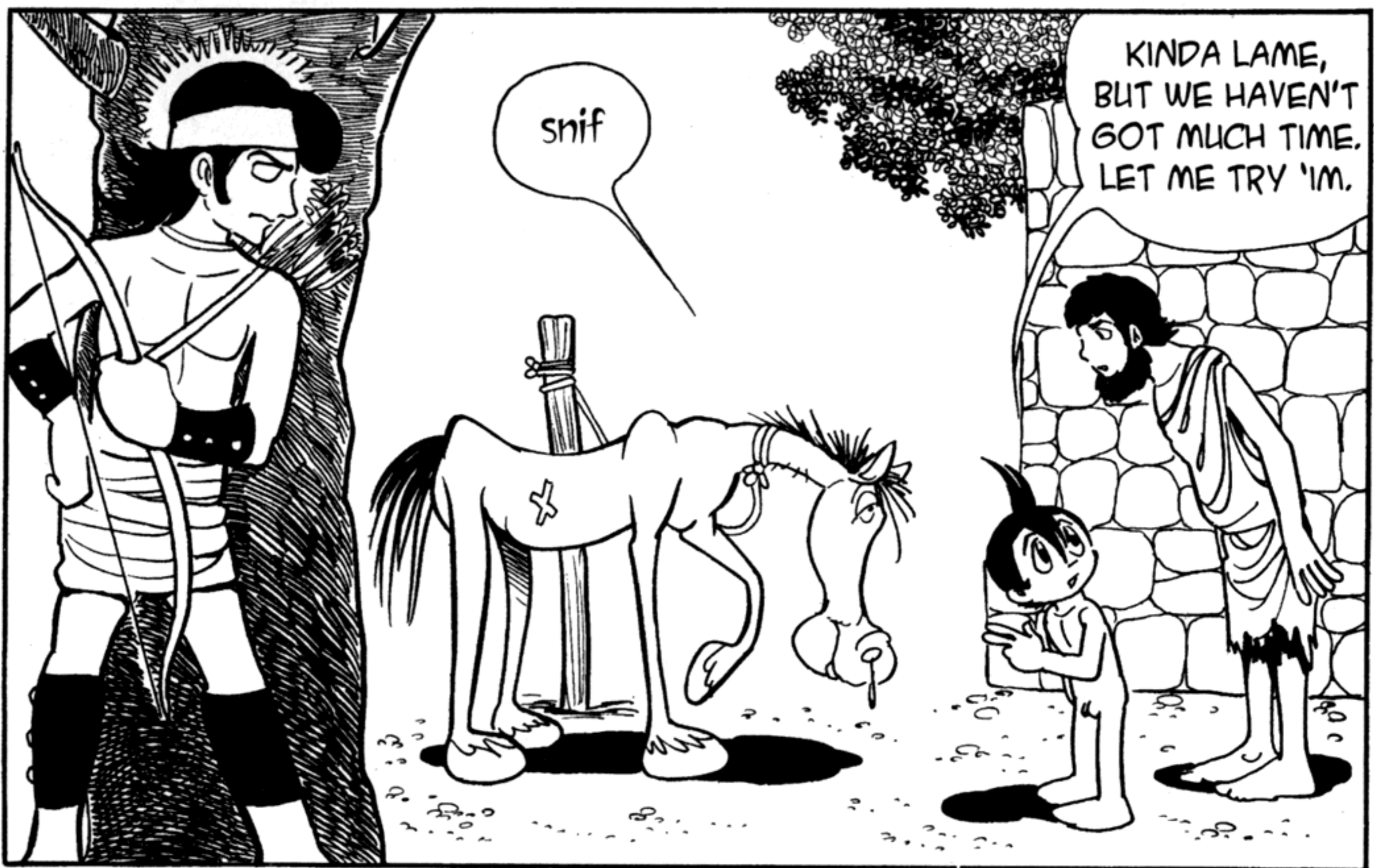
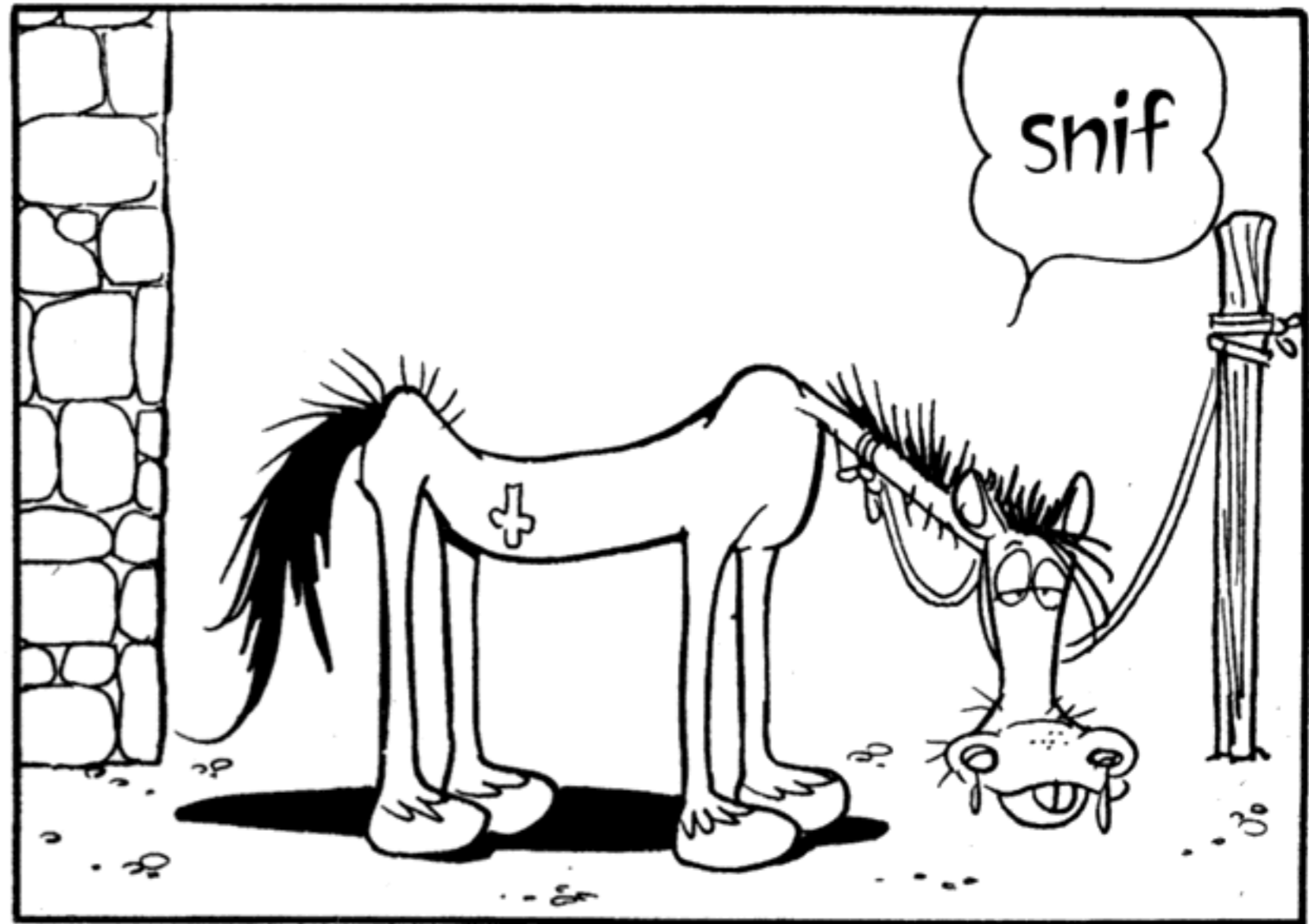
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

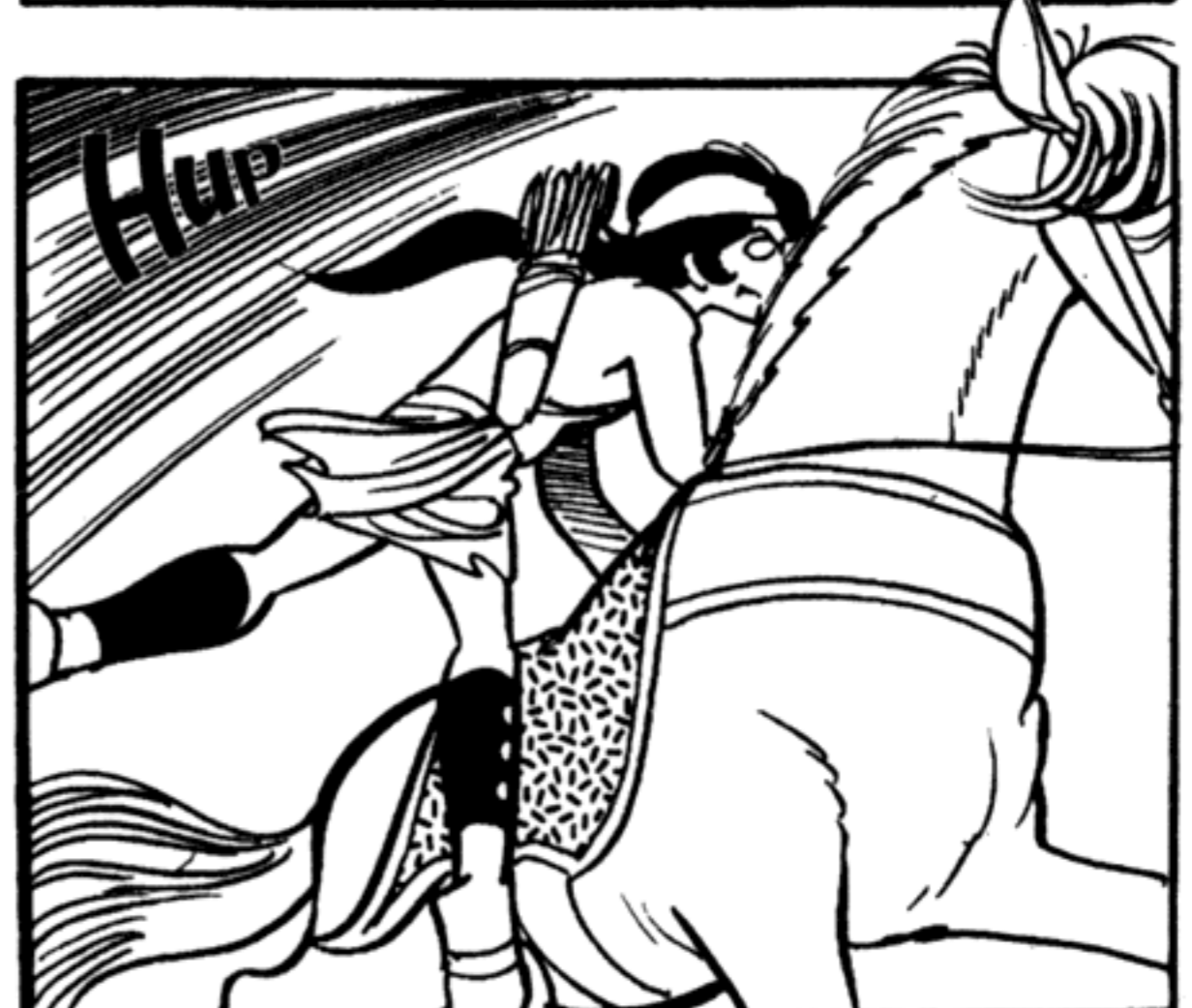
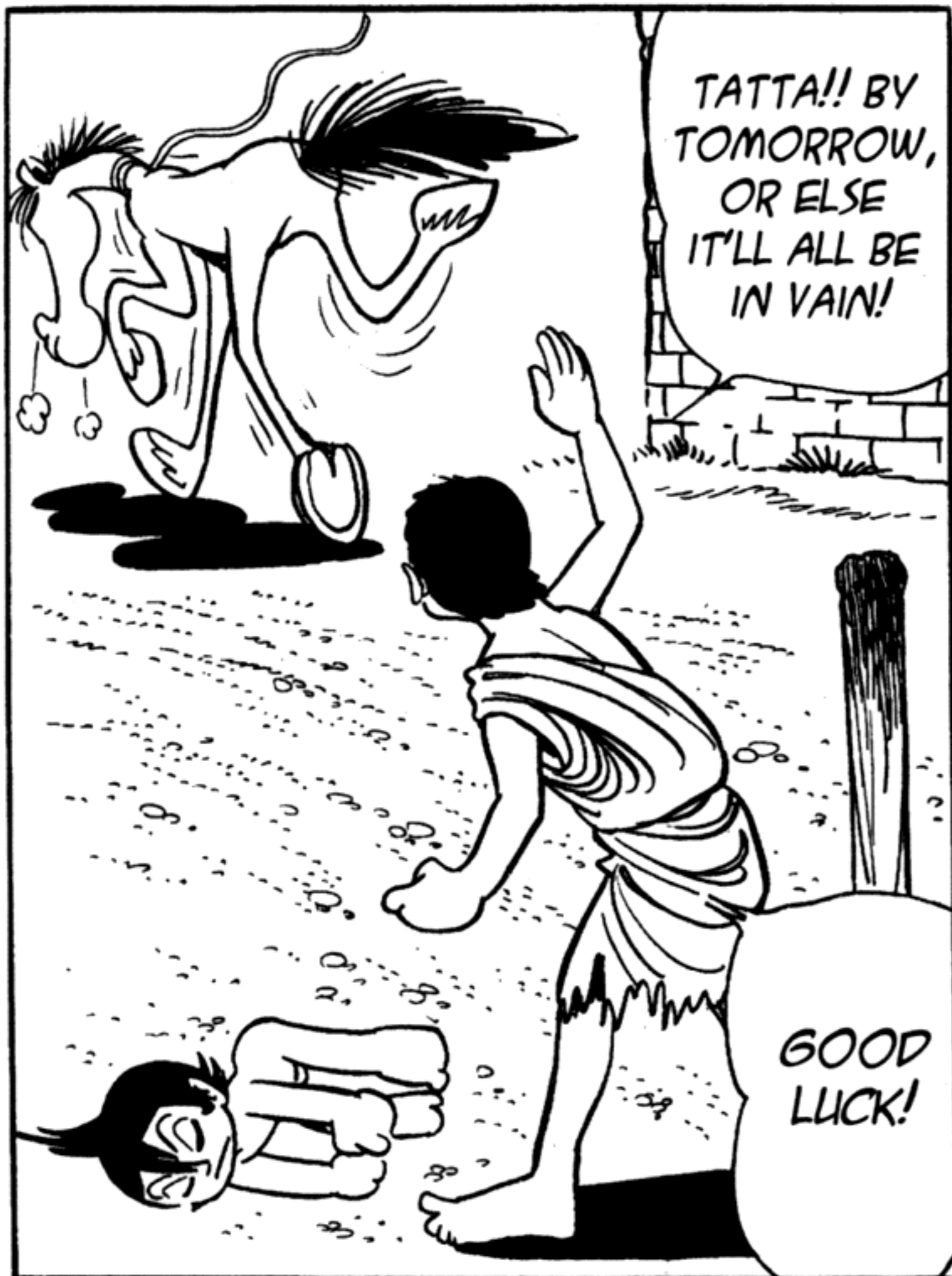
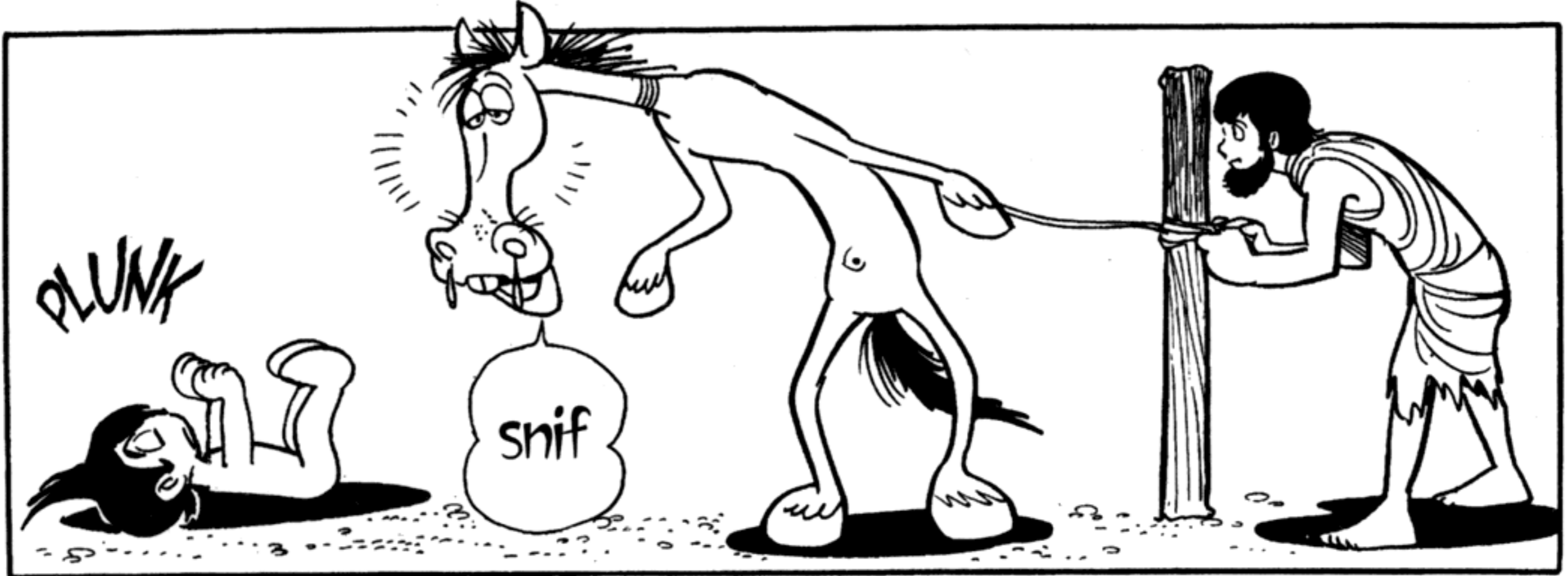
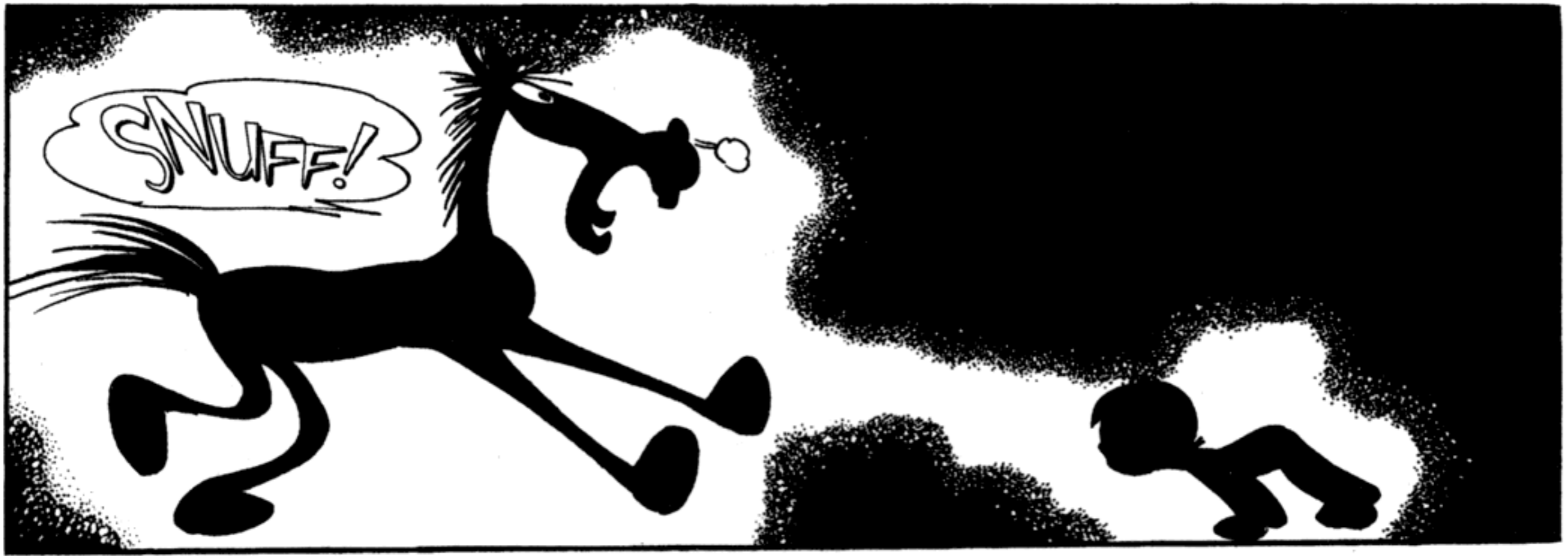


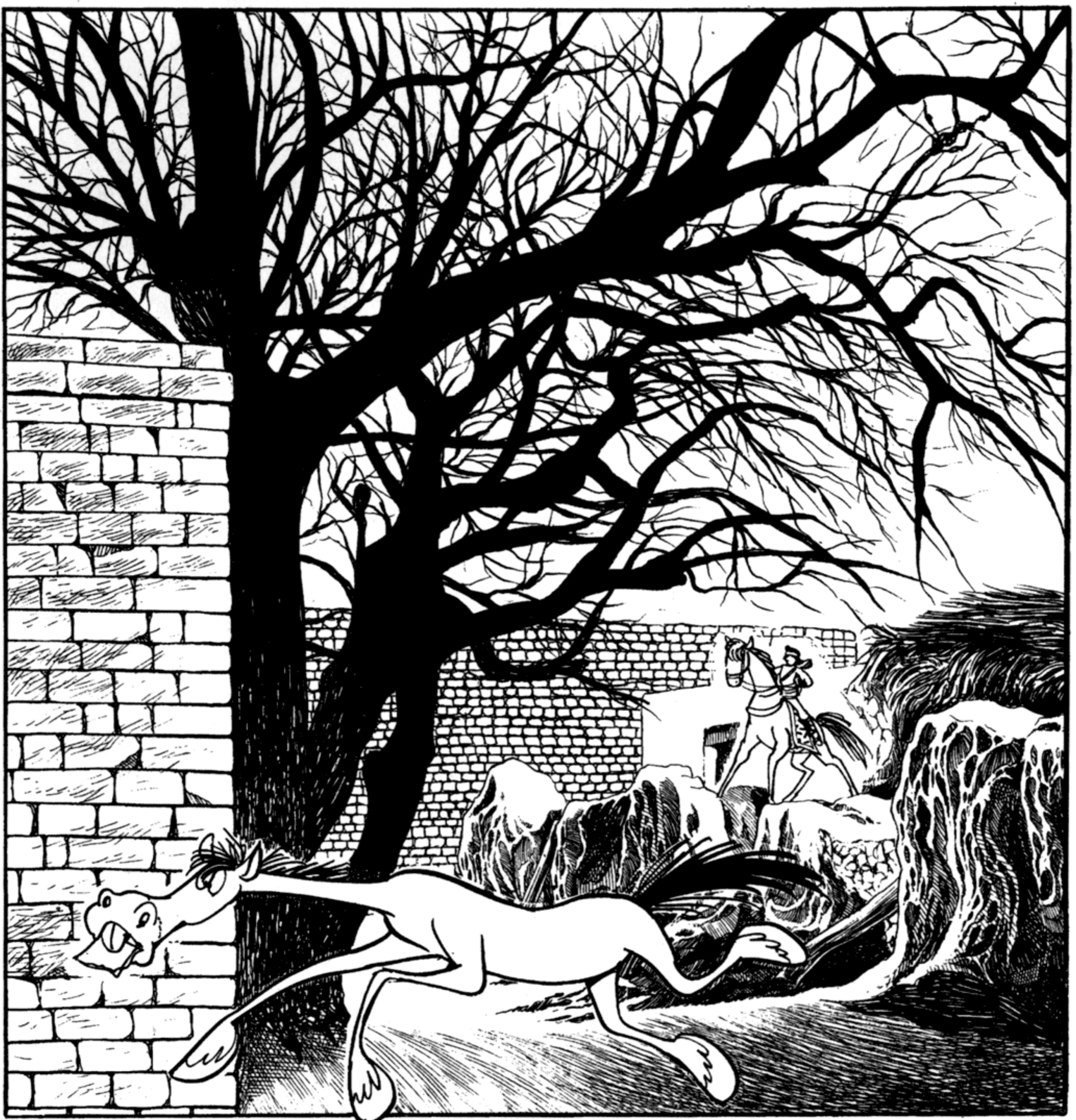
YOU WANT CHAPRA TO DIE? THEY'LL KILL MOMS TOO!

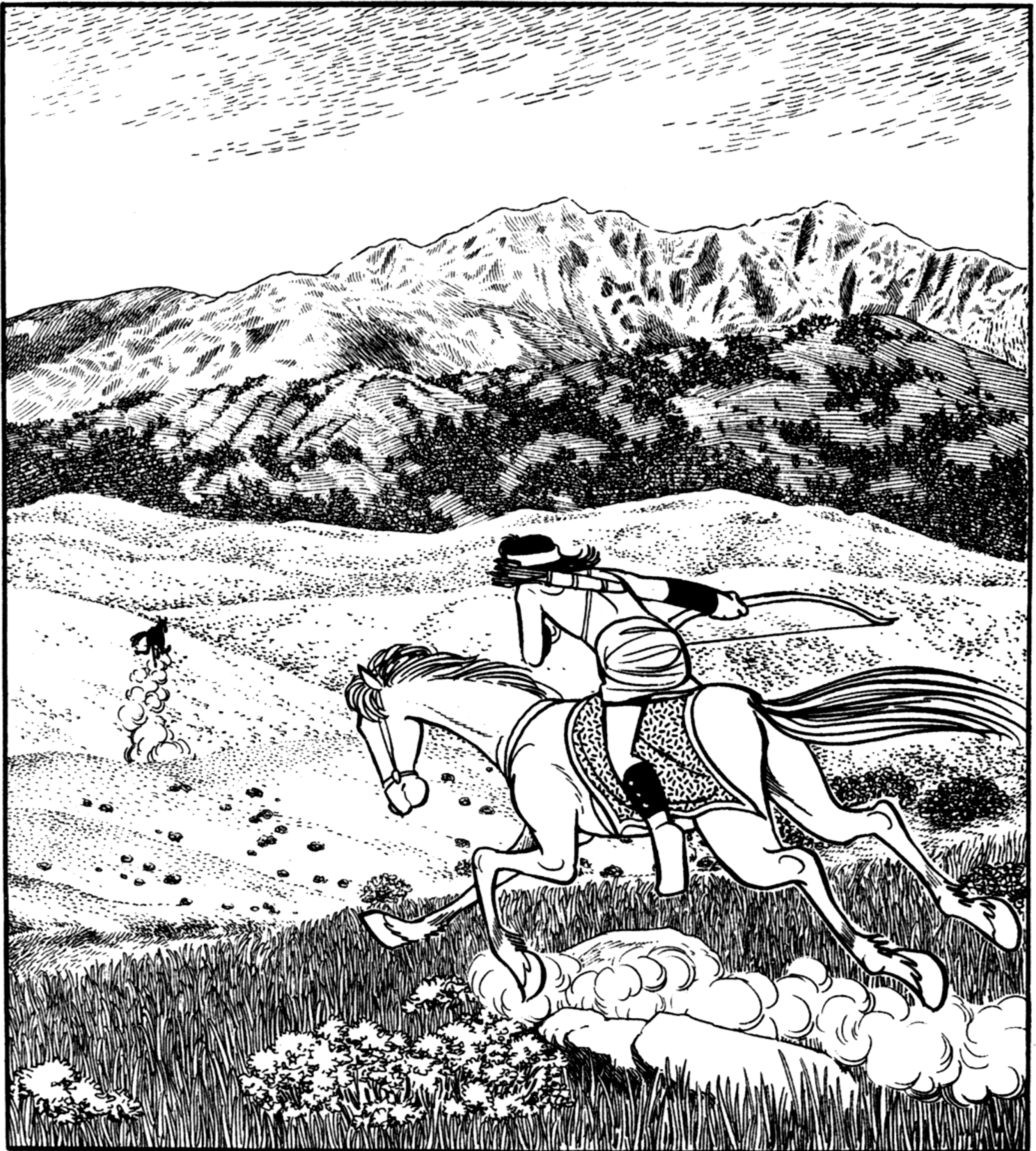
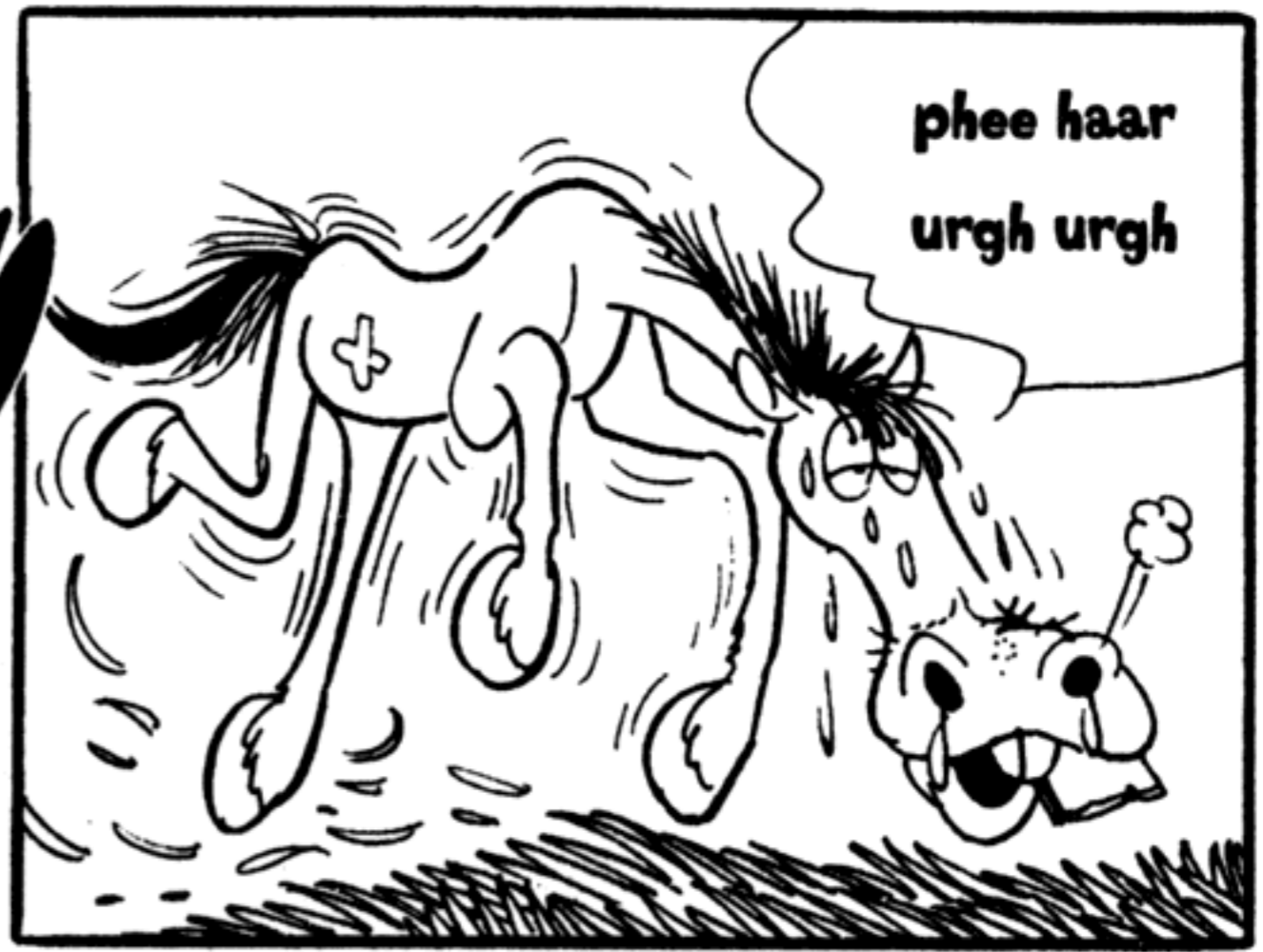
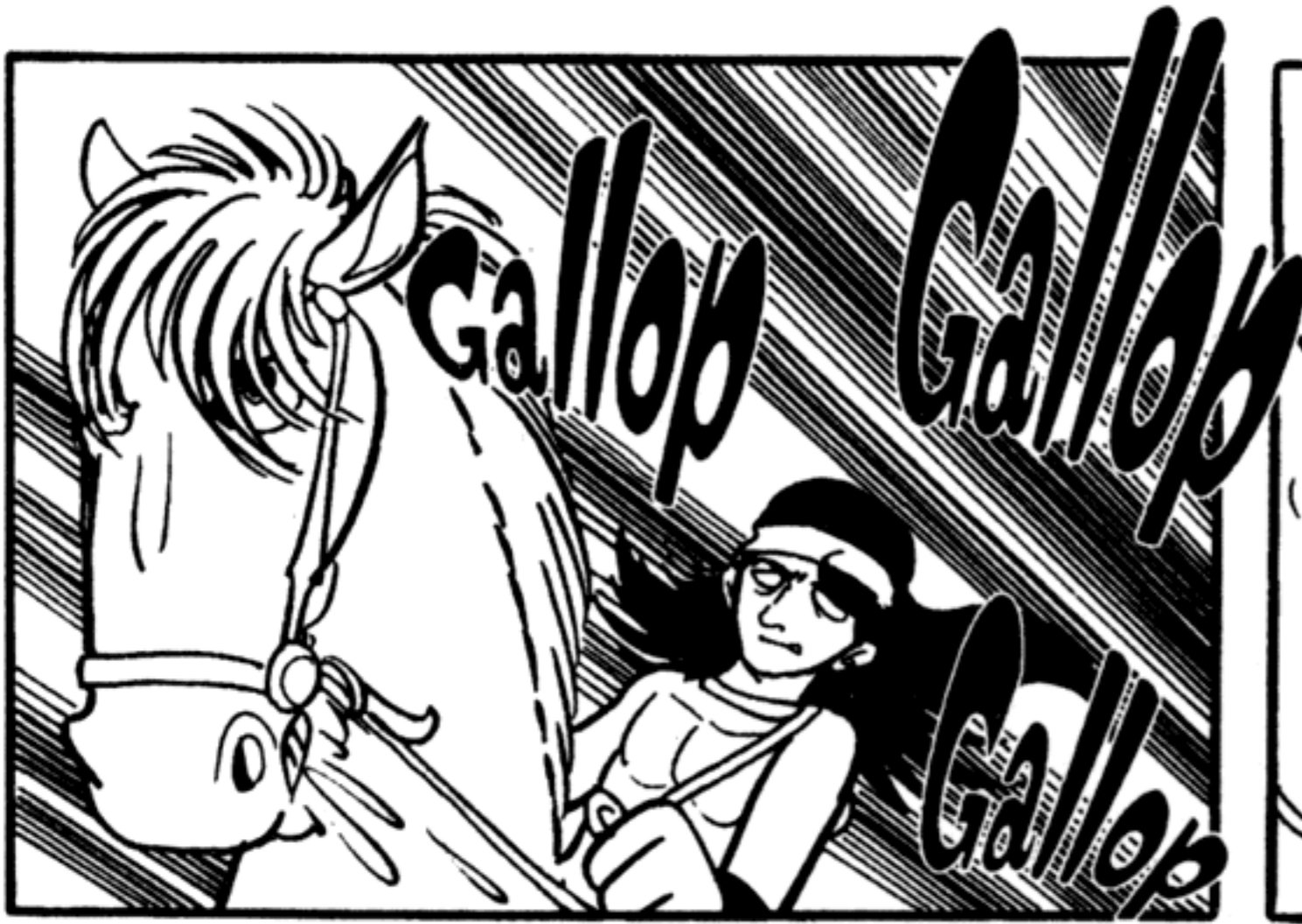


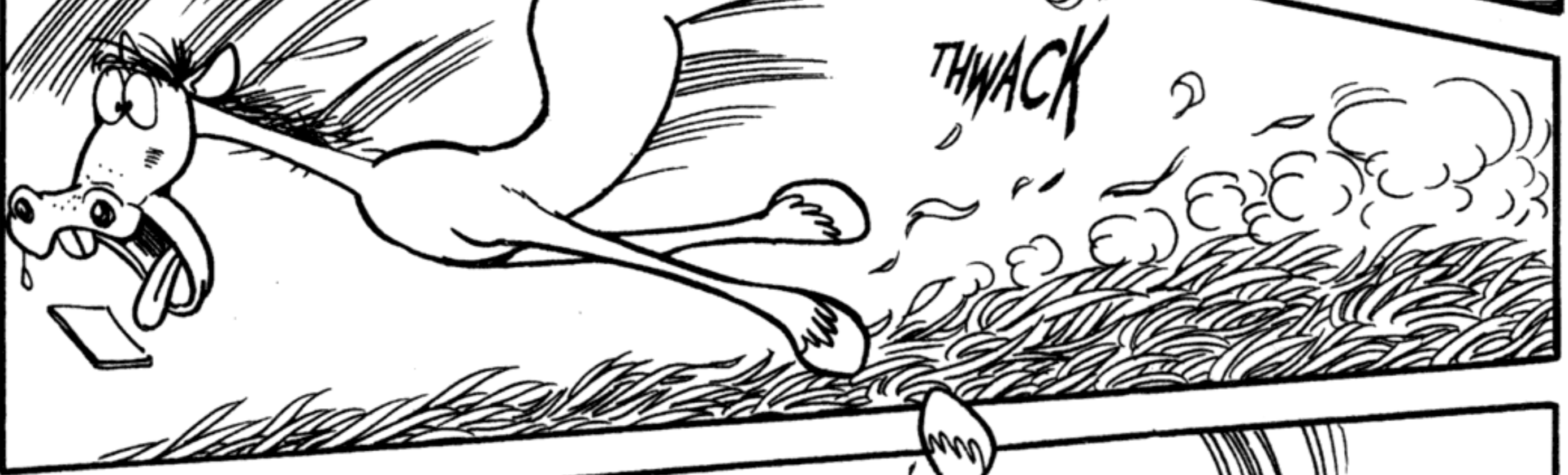
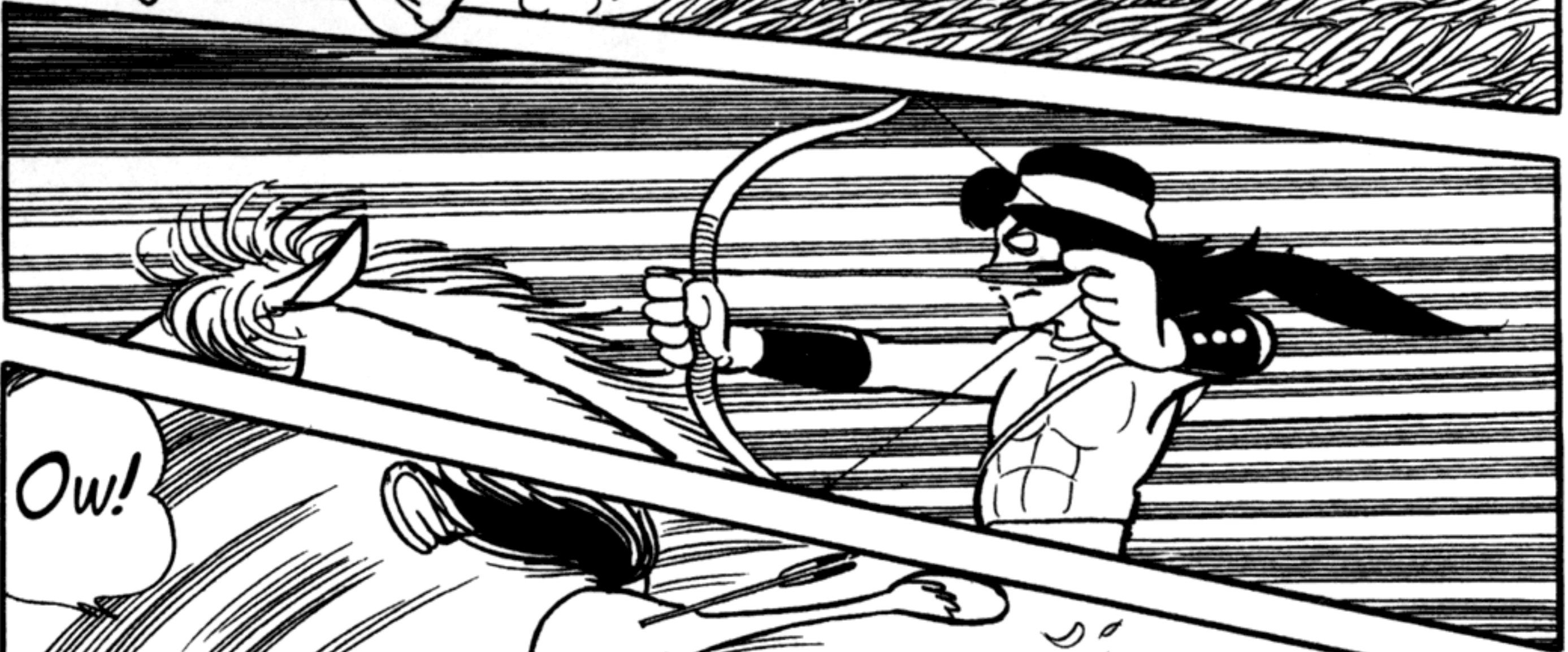
OK... I'LL TRY.

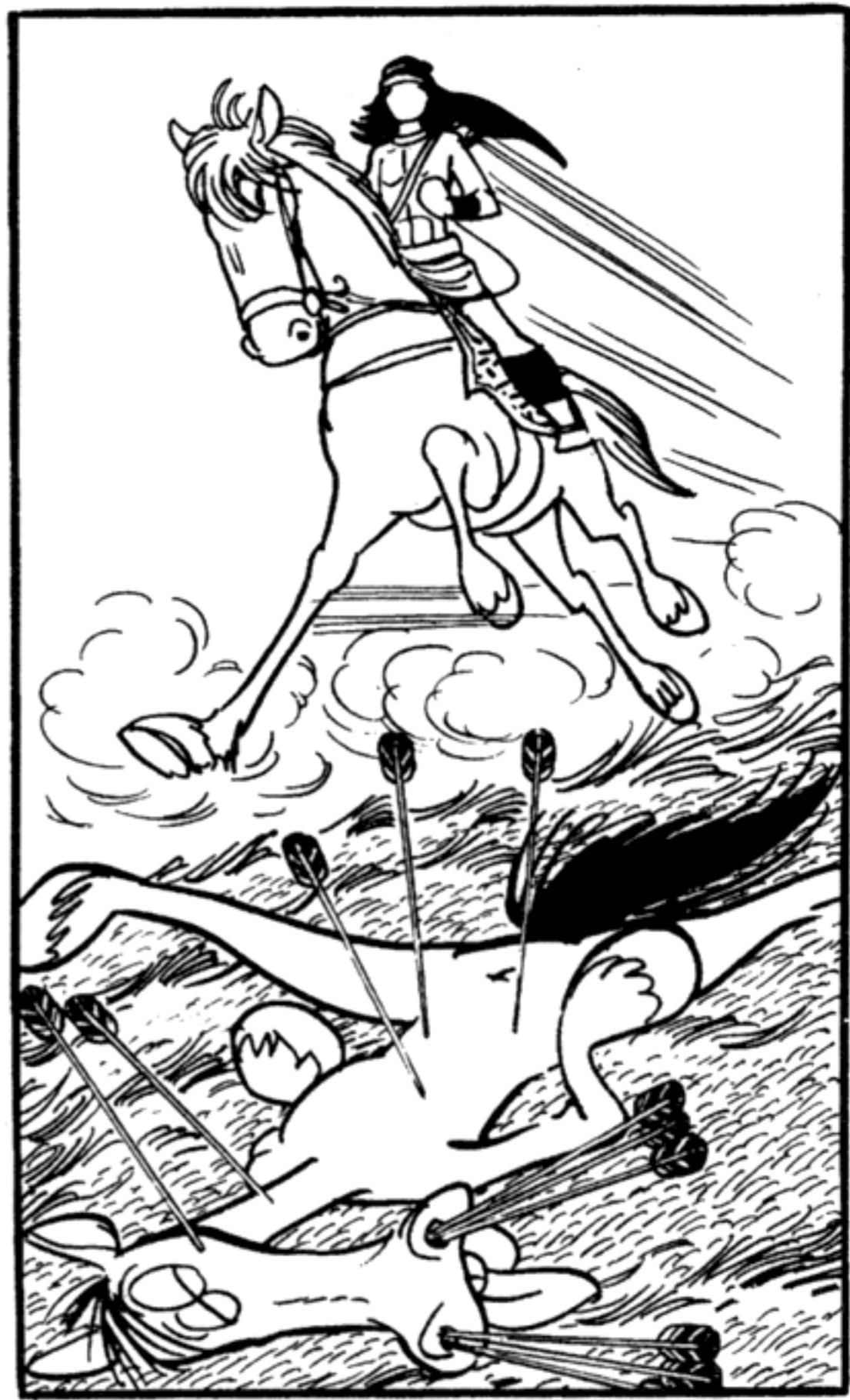
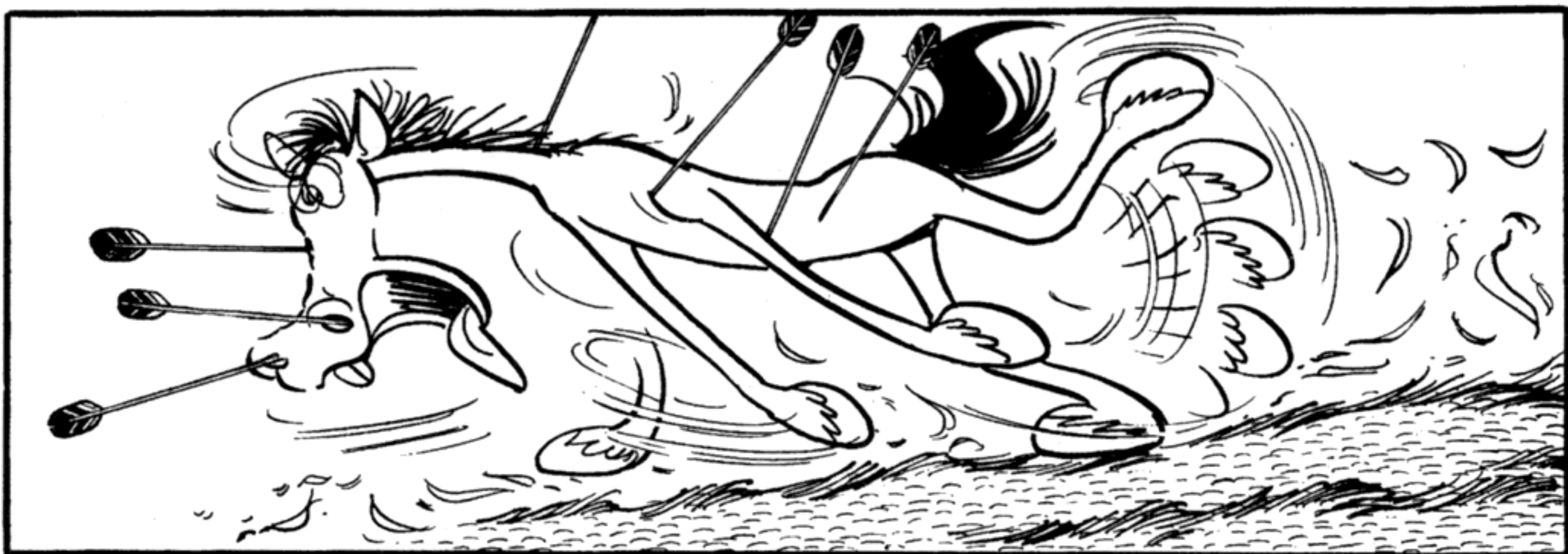
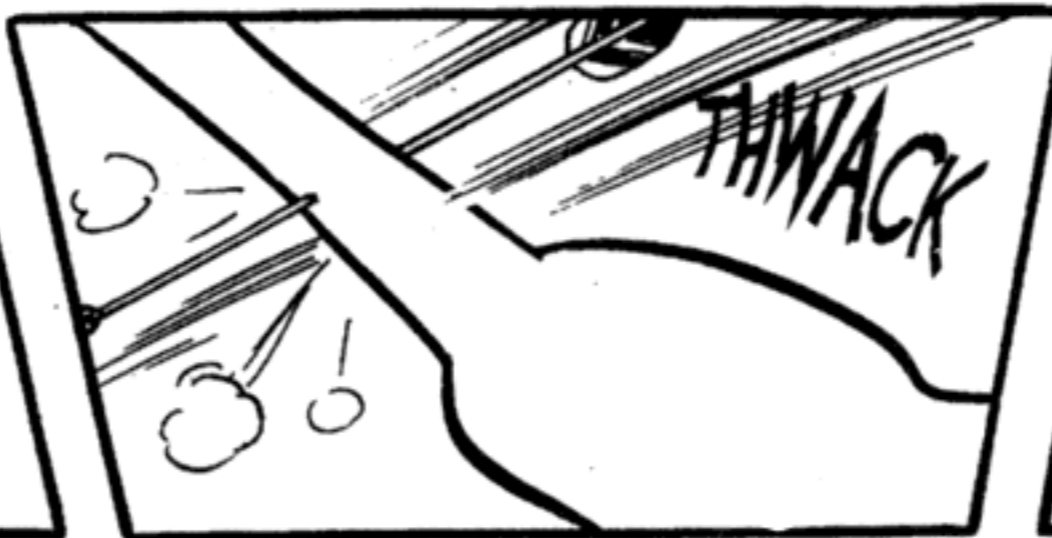
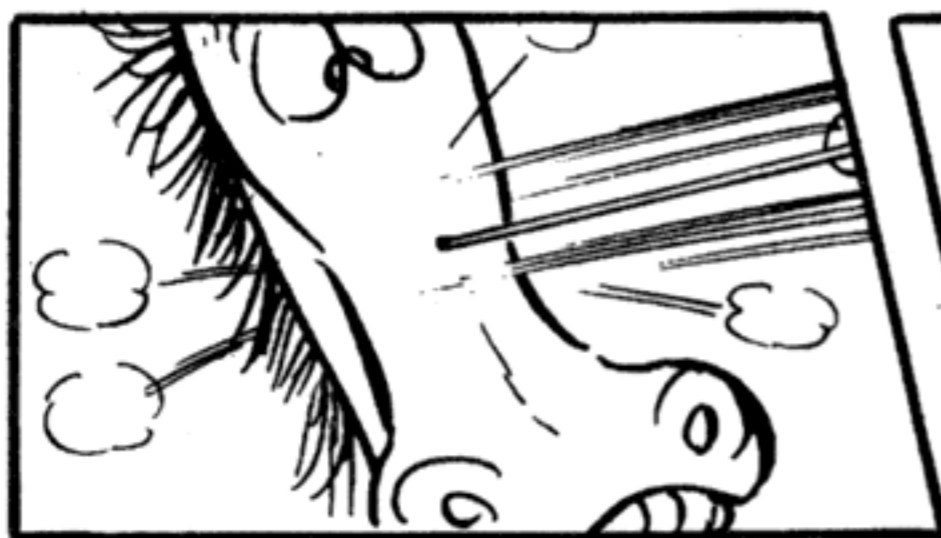
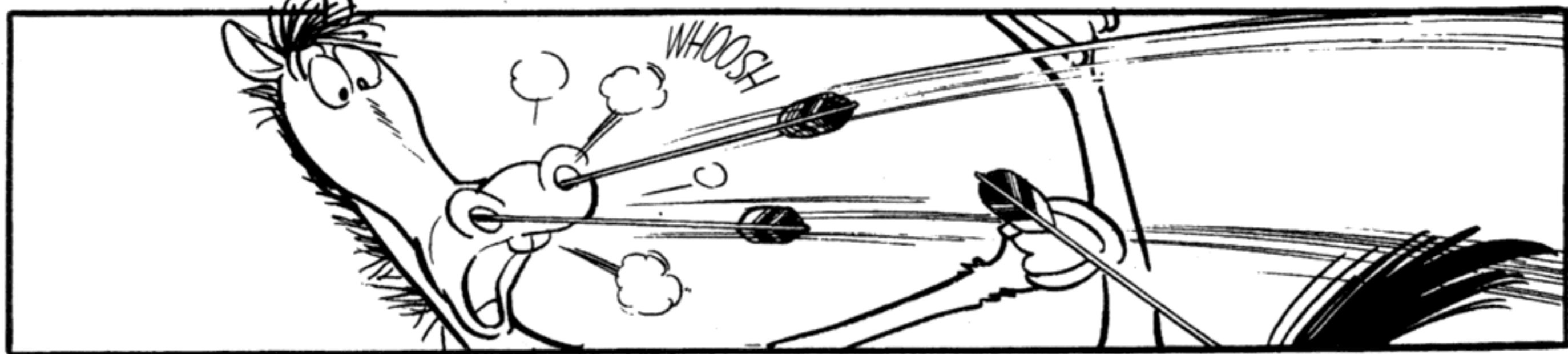


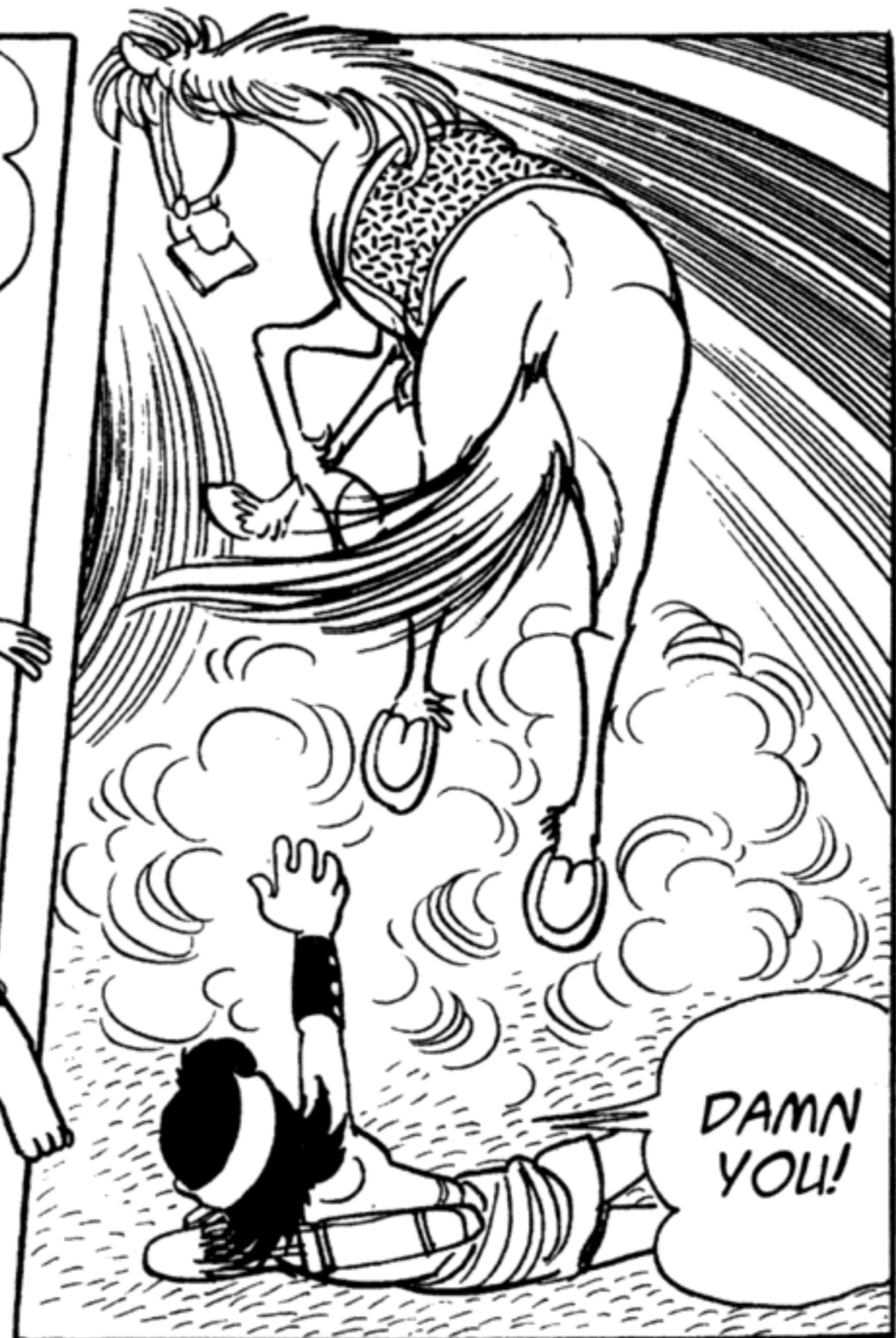
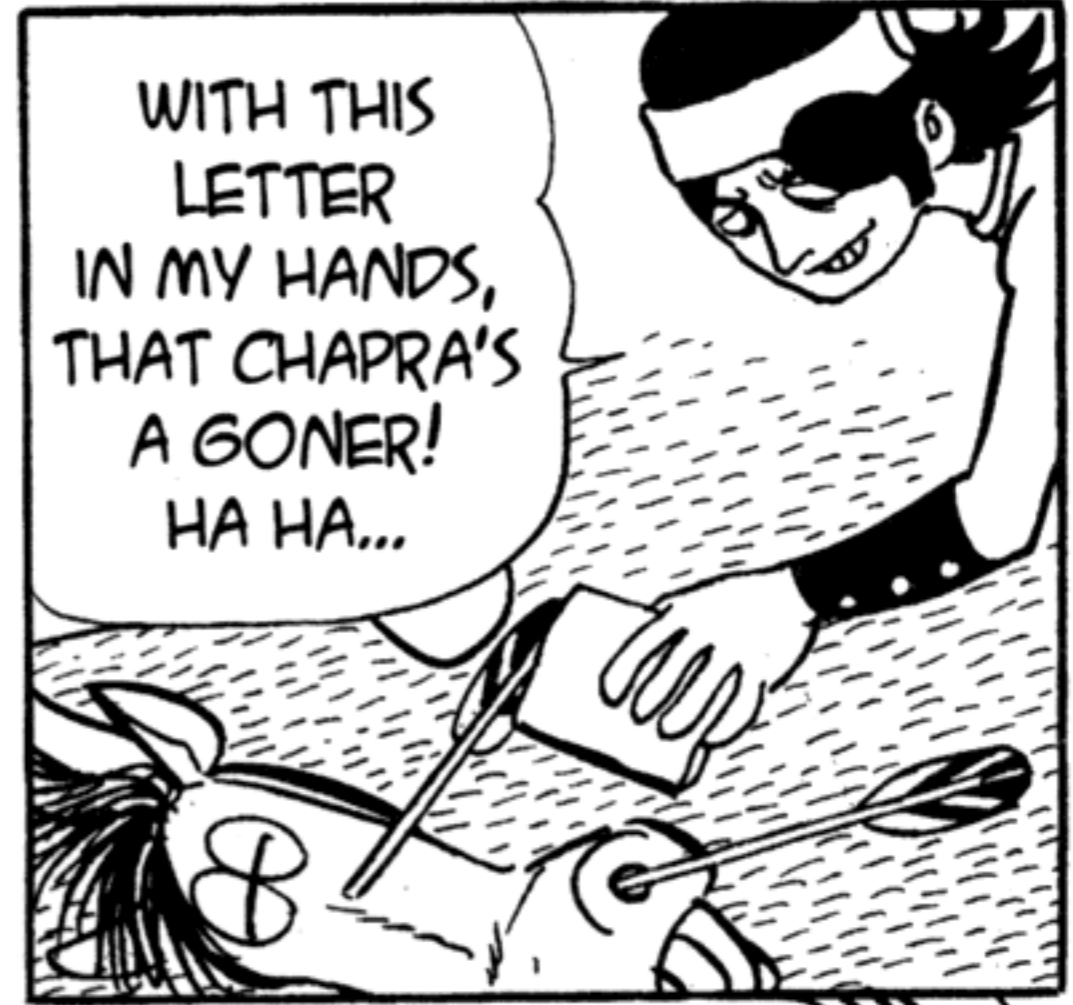


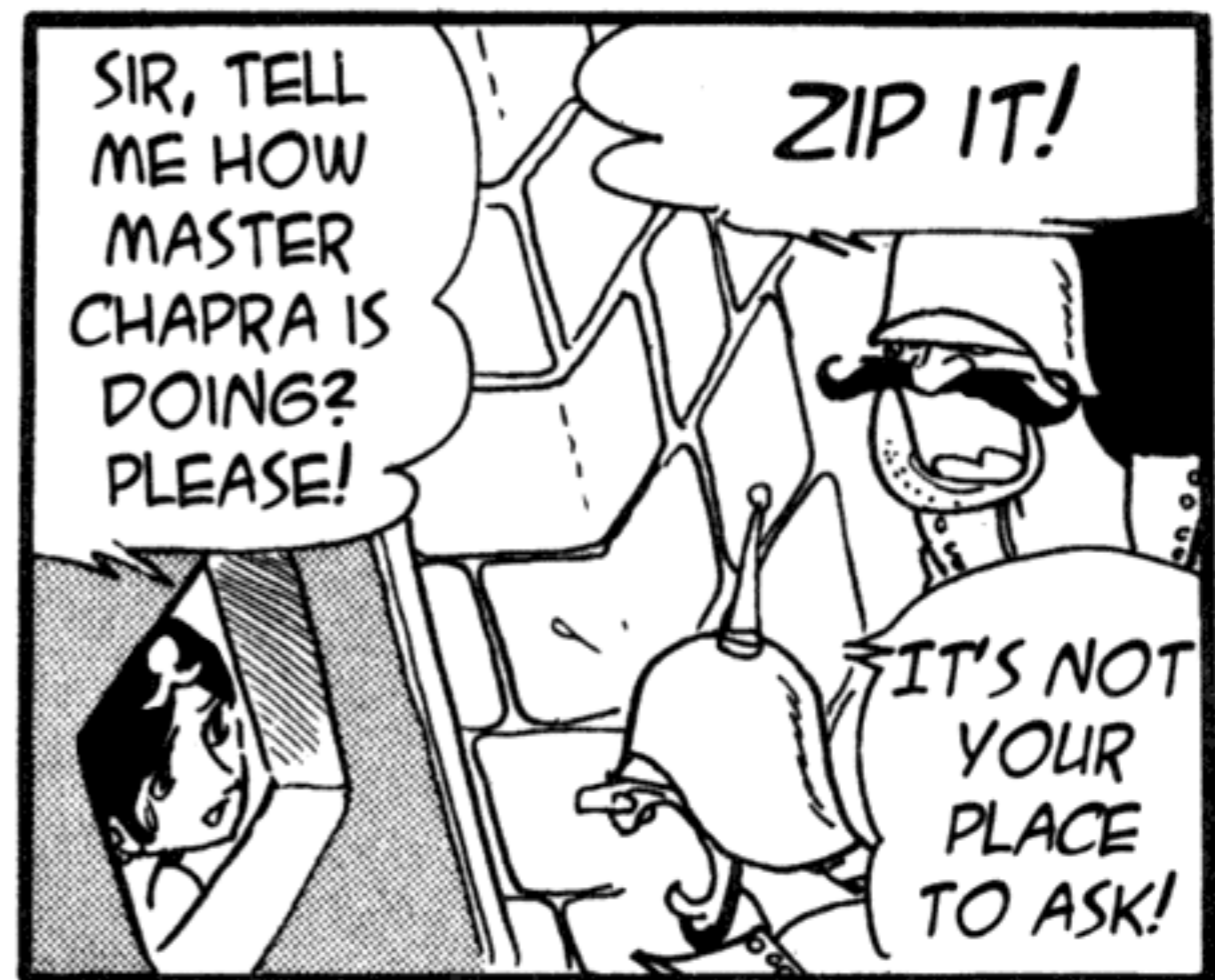
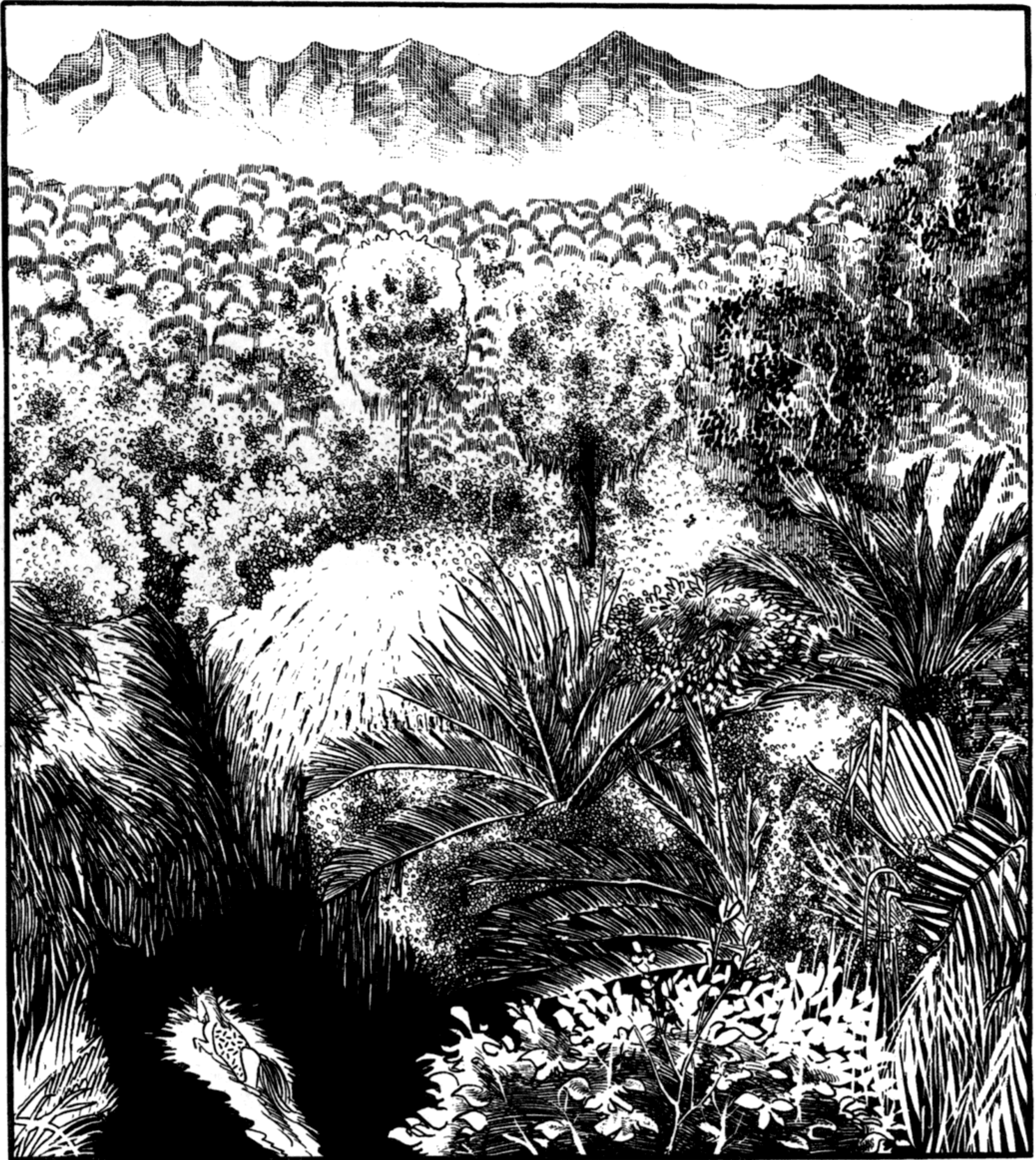


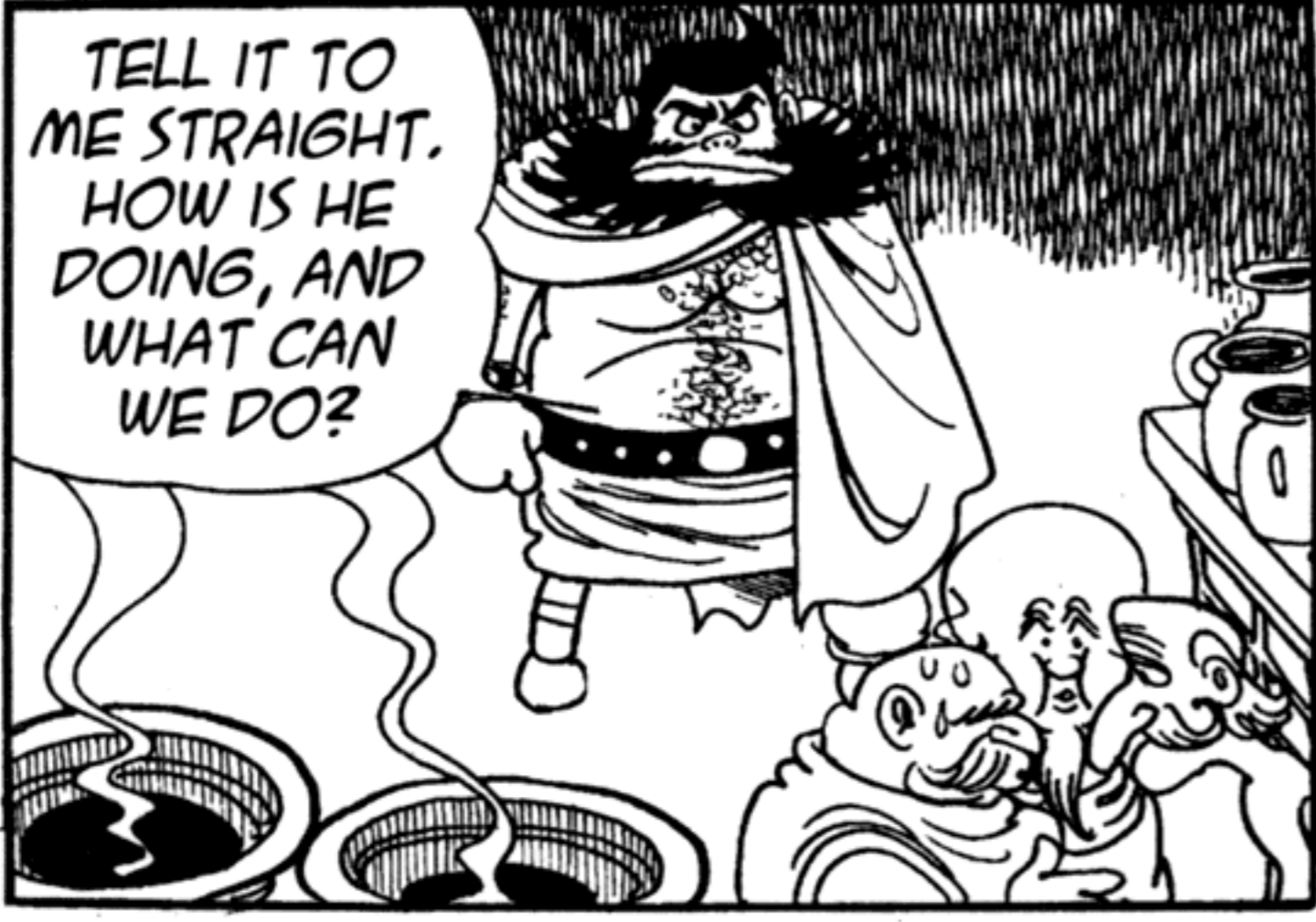












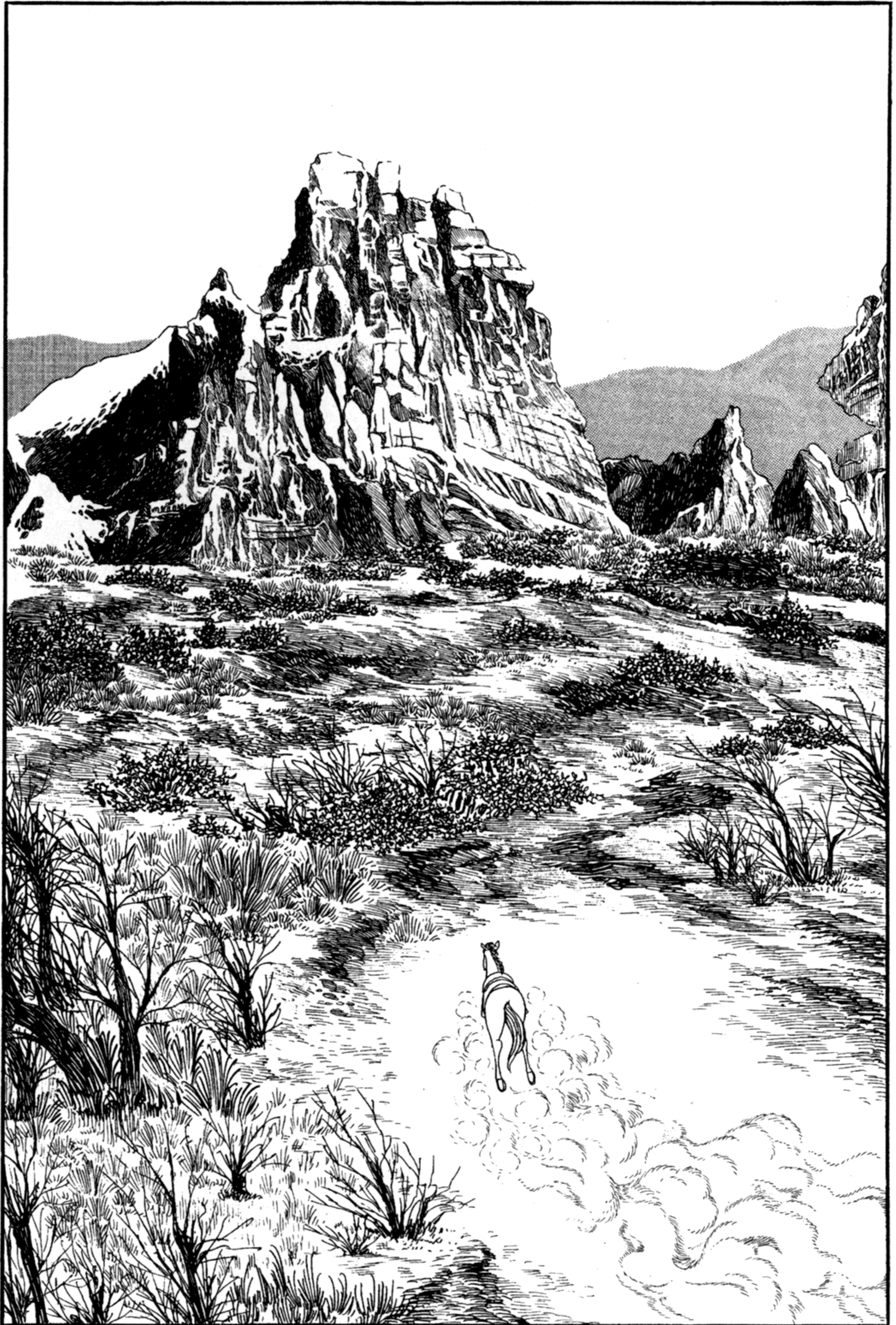
TELL IT TO ME STRAIGHT. HOW IS HE DOING, AND WHAT CAN WE DO?

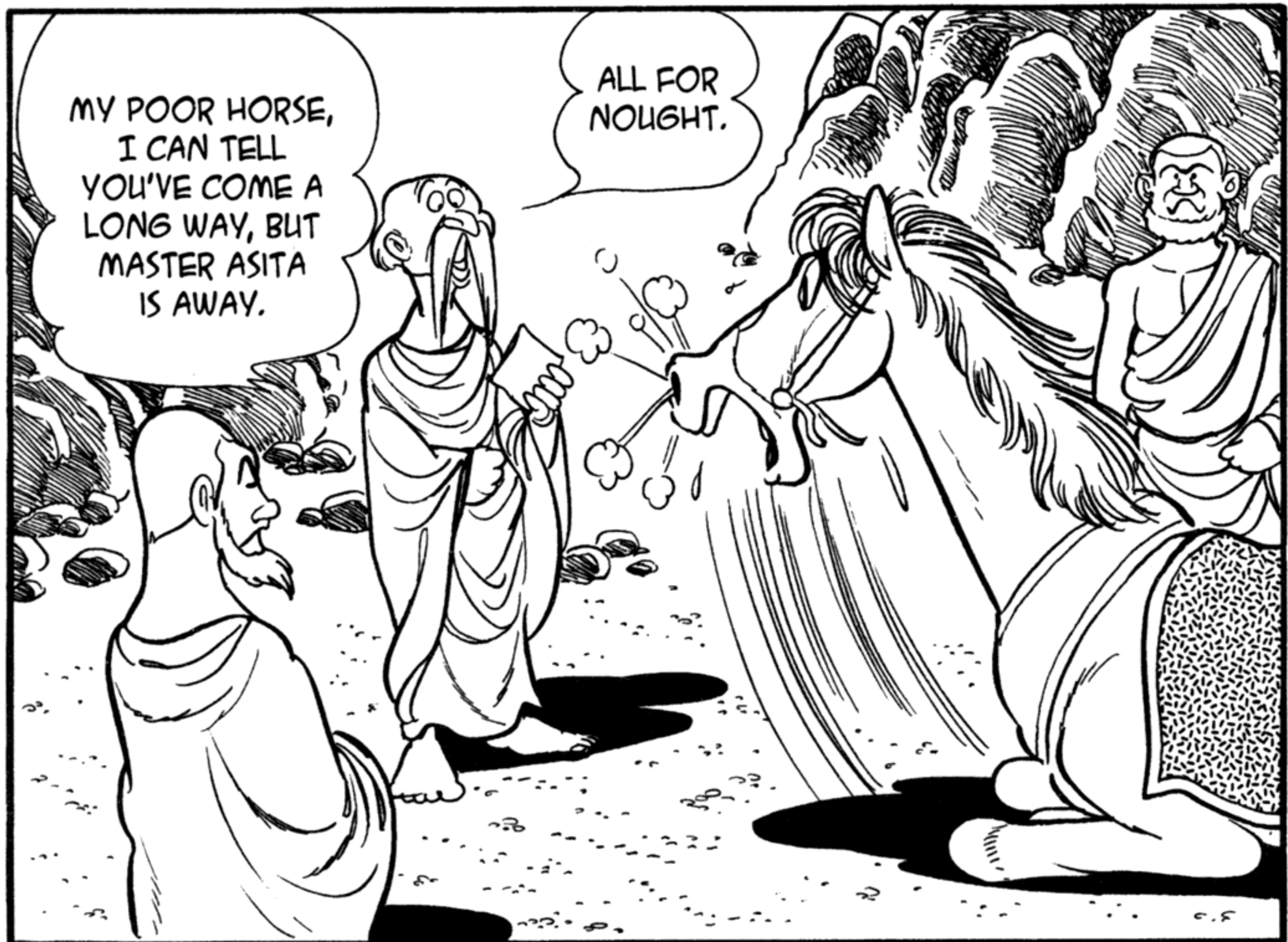
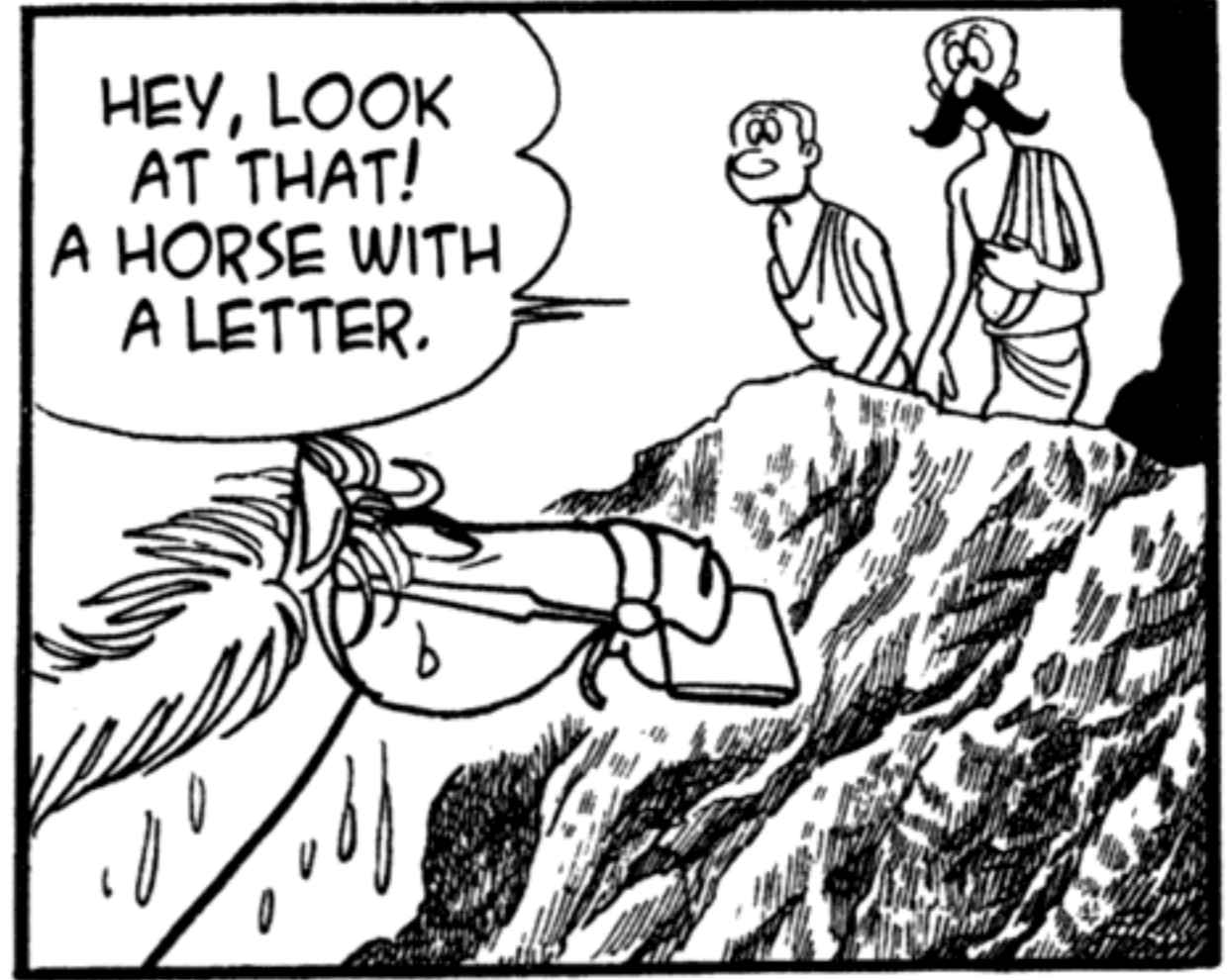
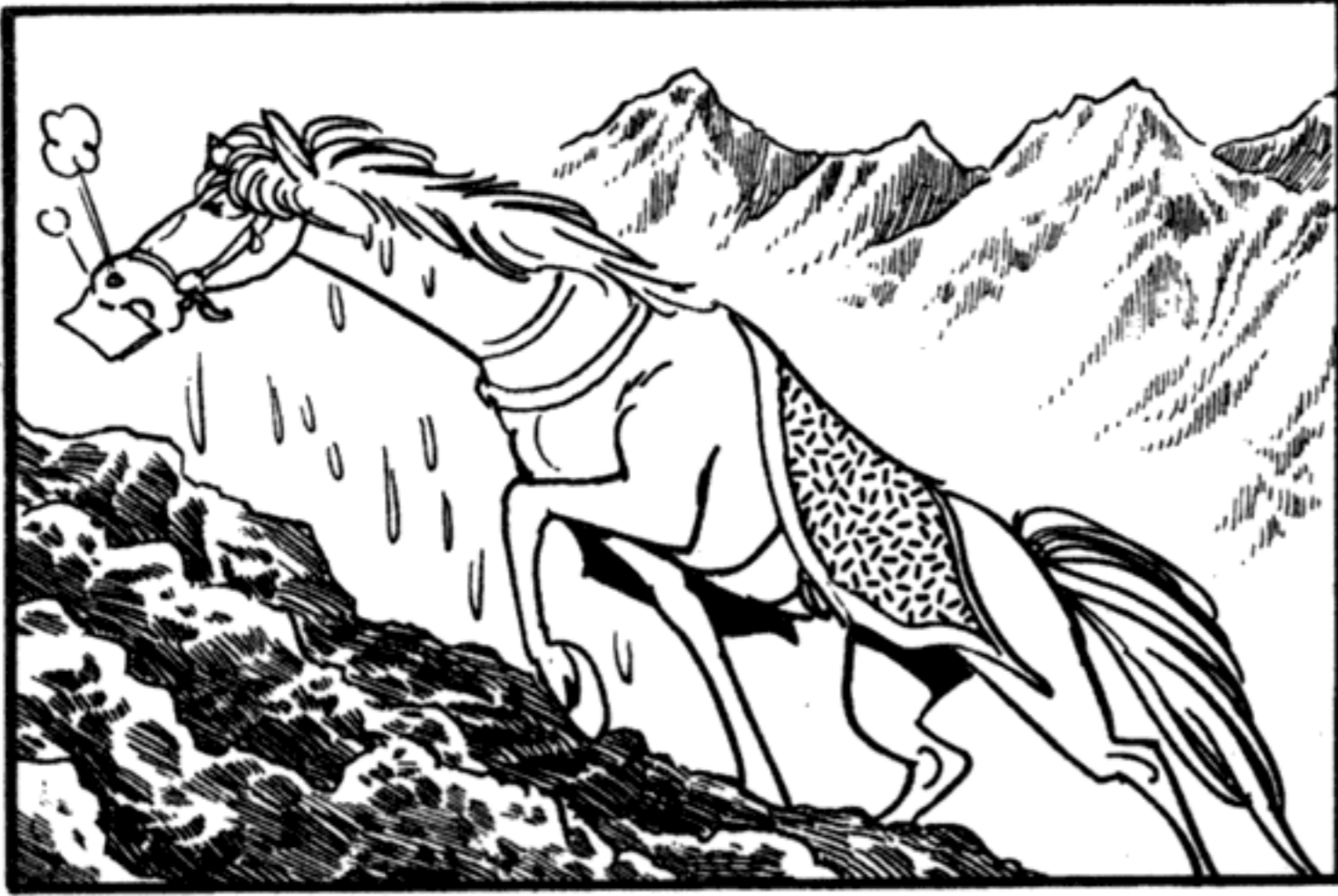


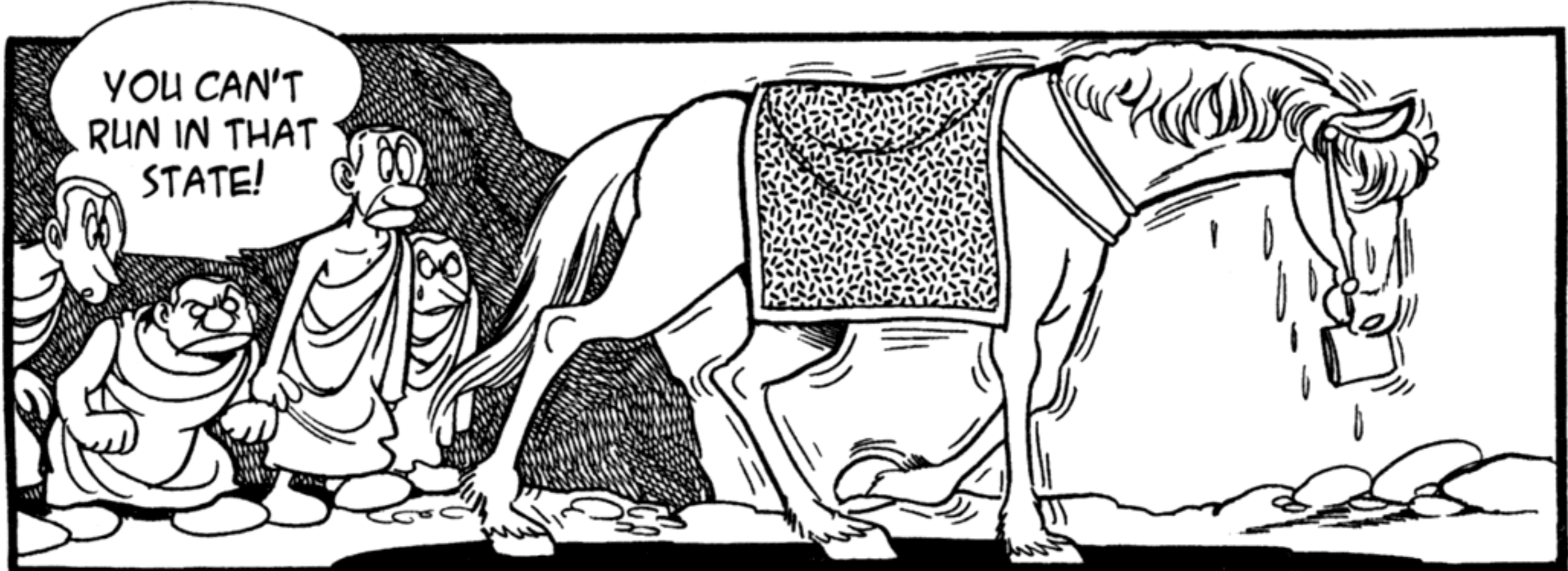
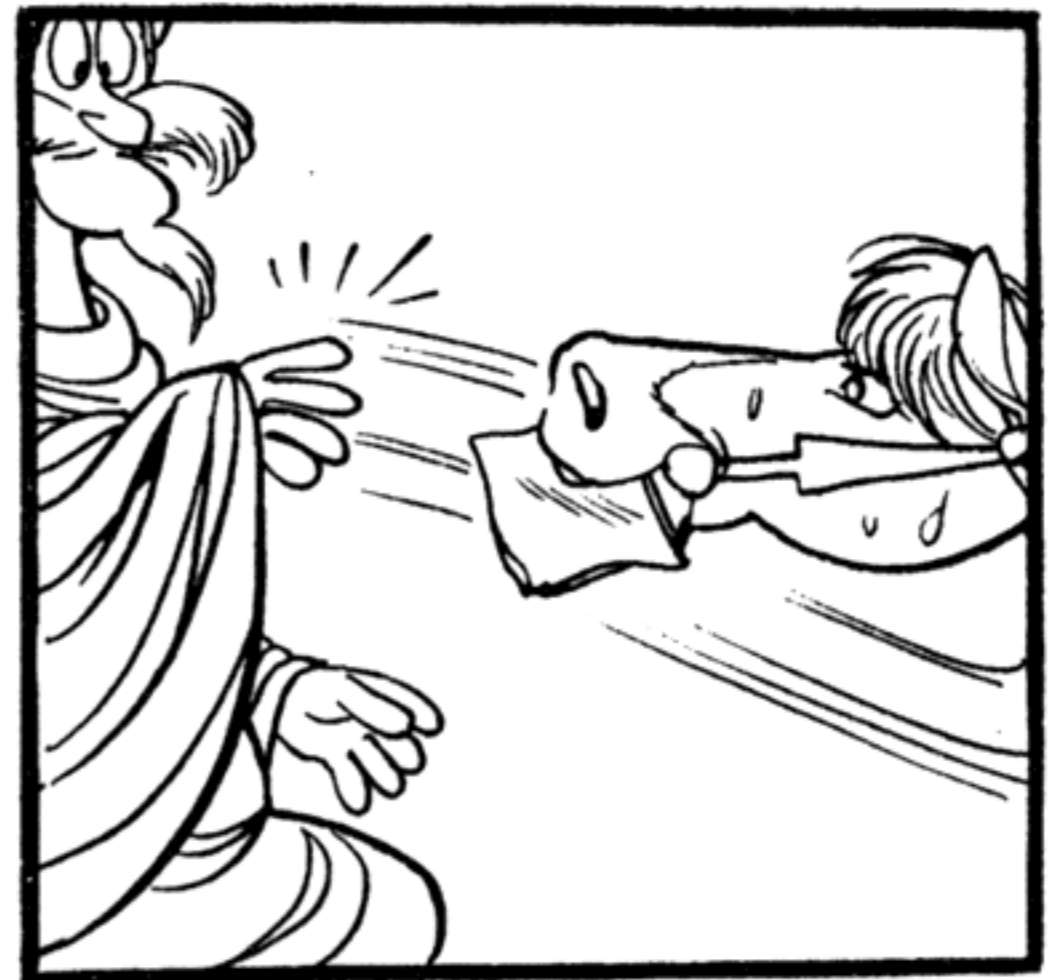
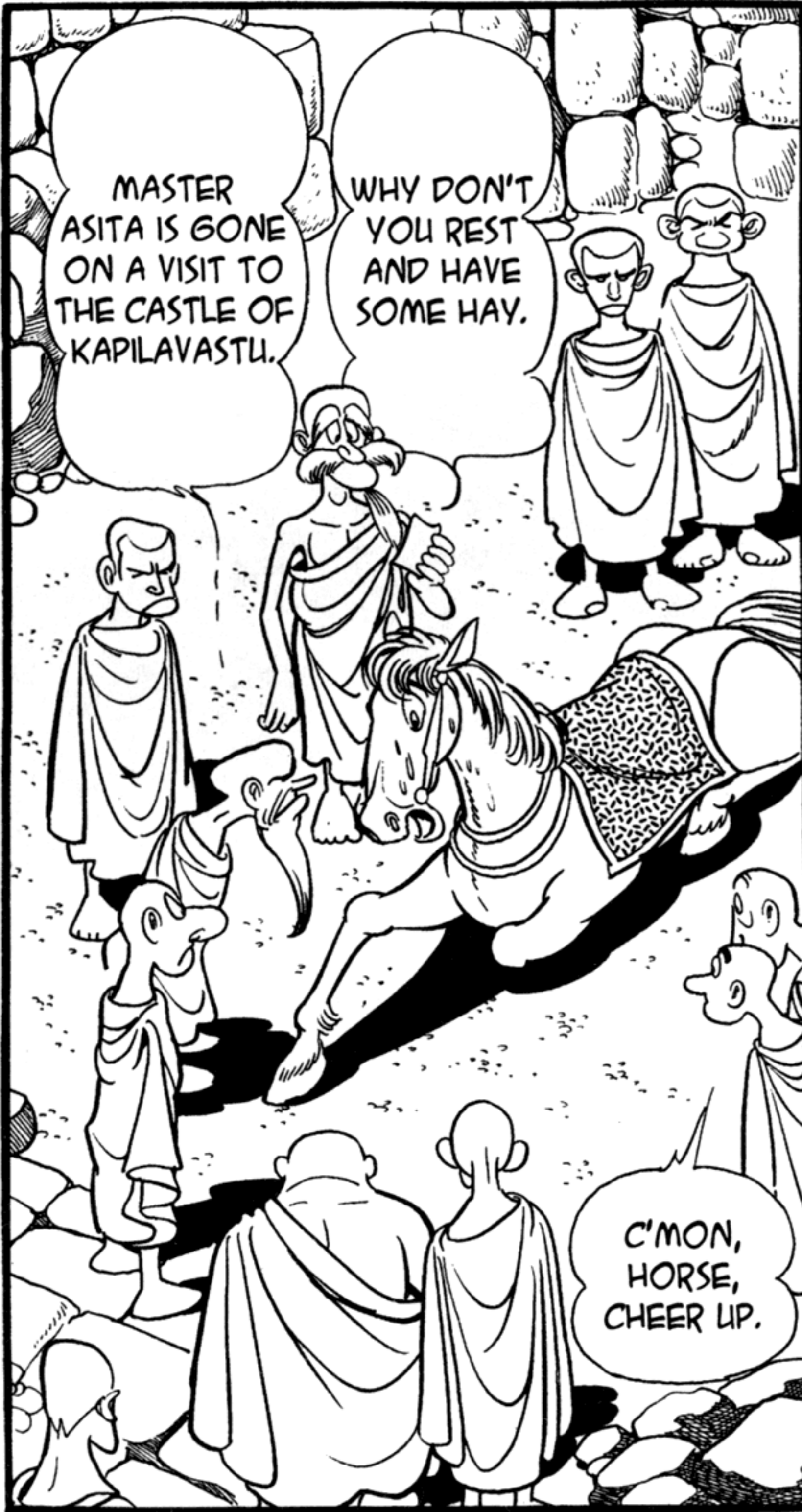
HIS HEART WEAKENS EVERY MINUTE. IF HE CAN BE SAVED, HE PROBABLY WON'T DIE. IF HE LOSES HIS LIFE, HE MAY NOT LIVE.

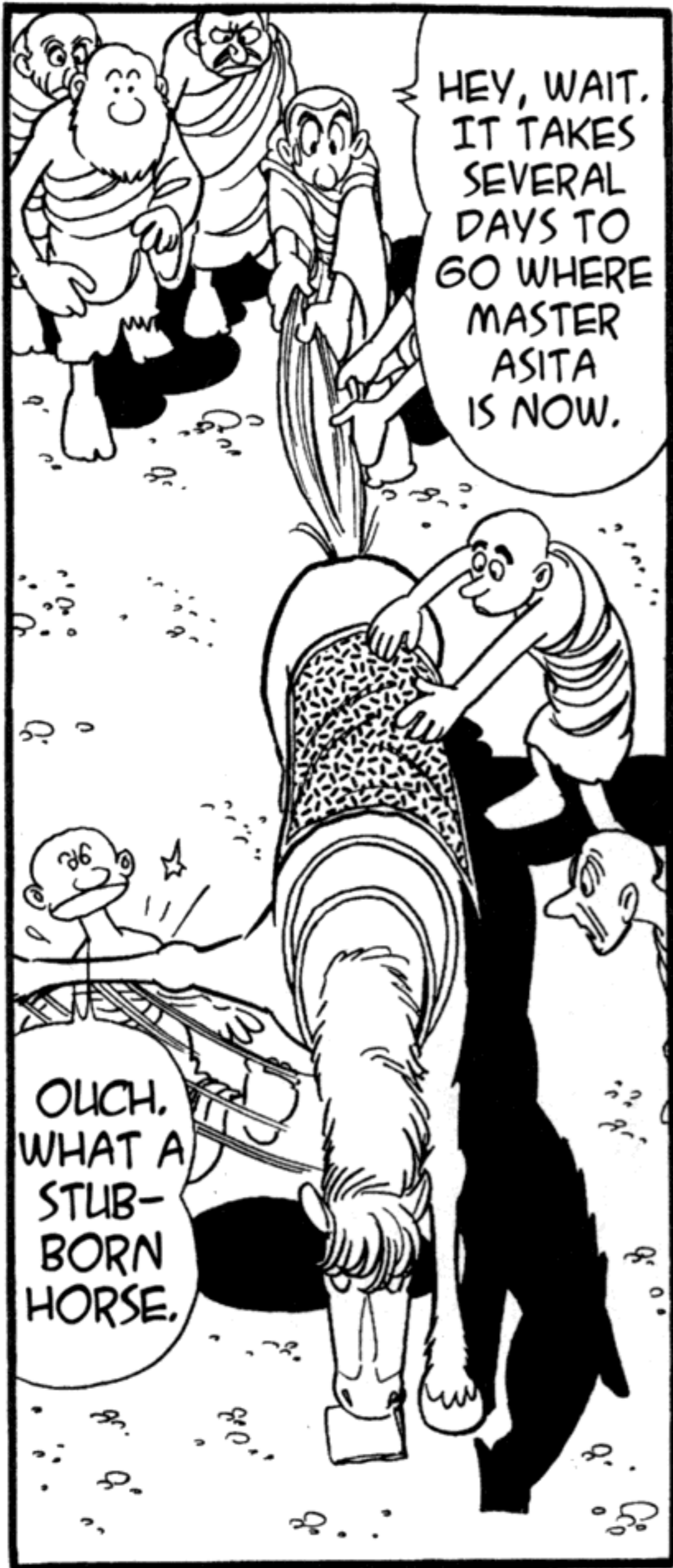
CUT YOUR MUMBO JUMBO, I TOLD YOU!

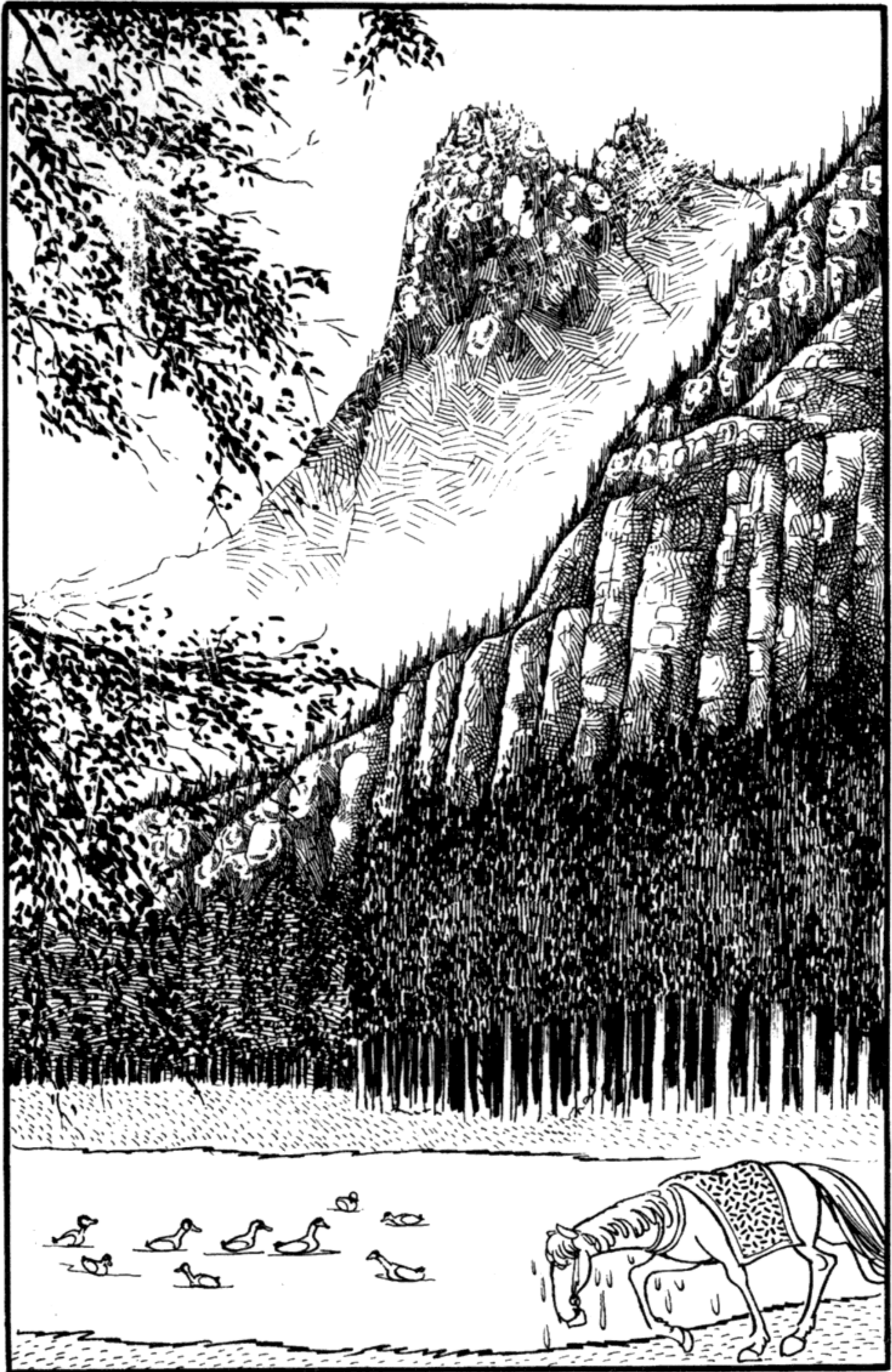


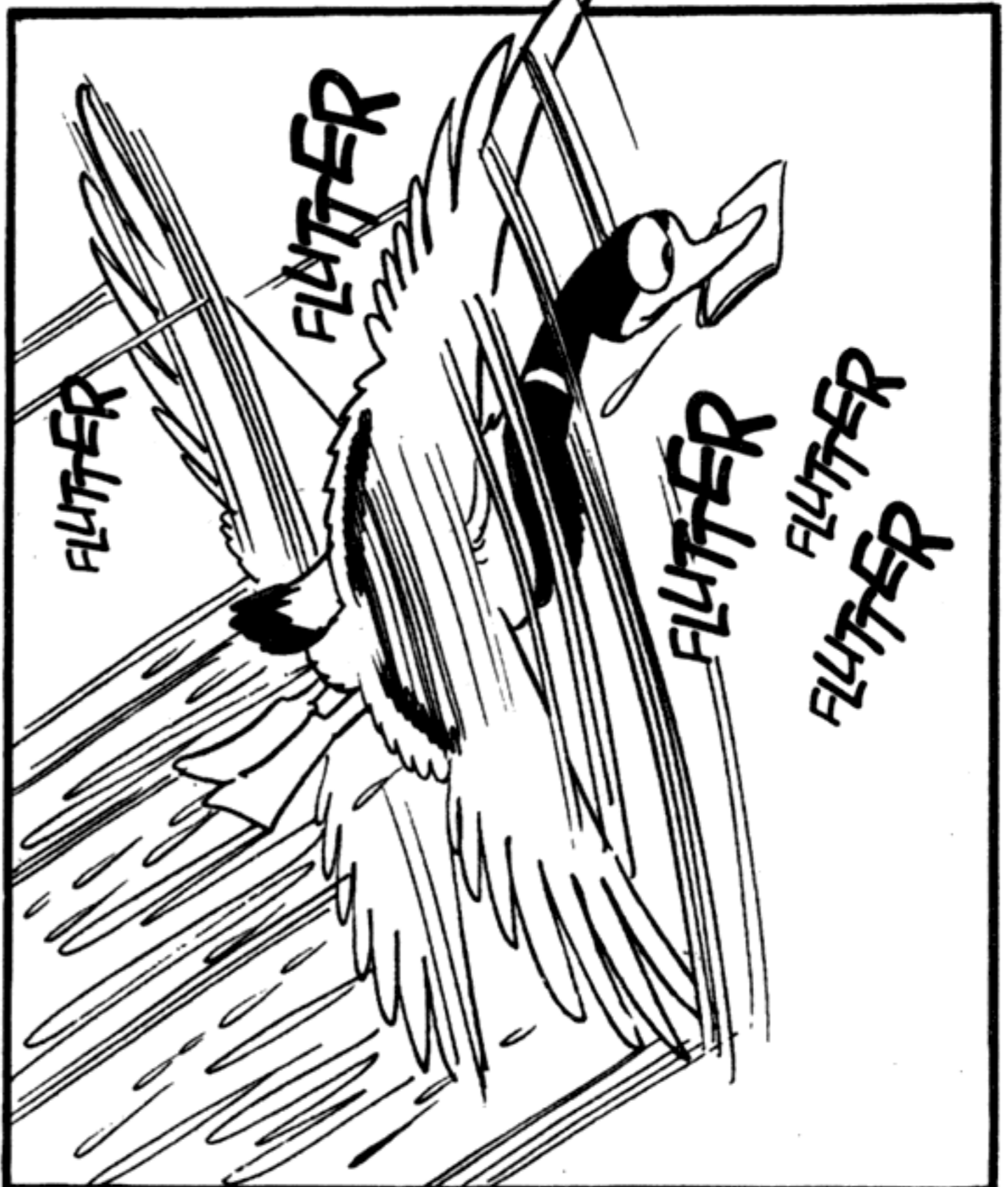
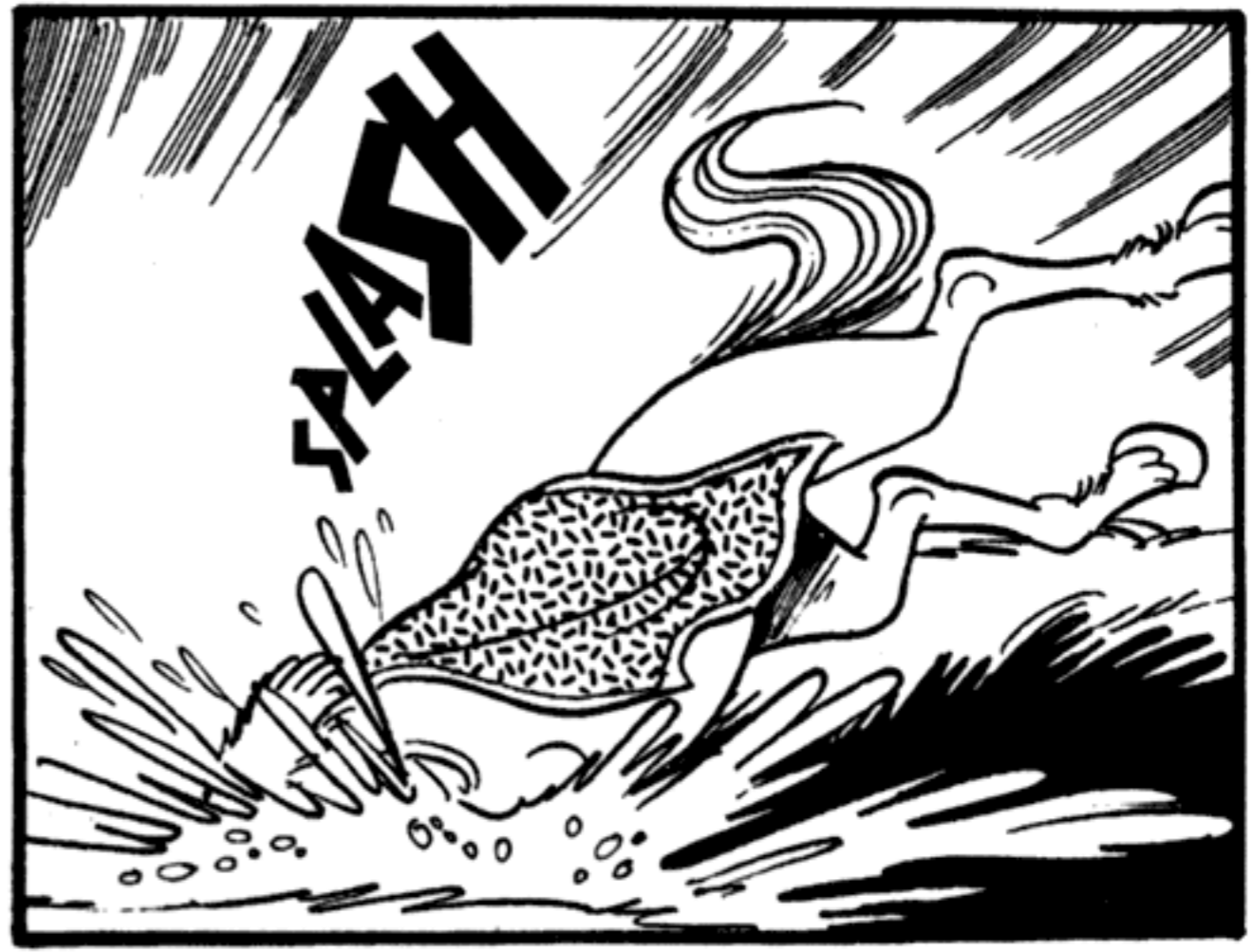
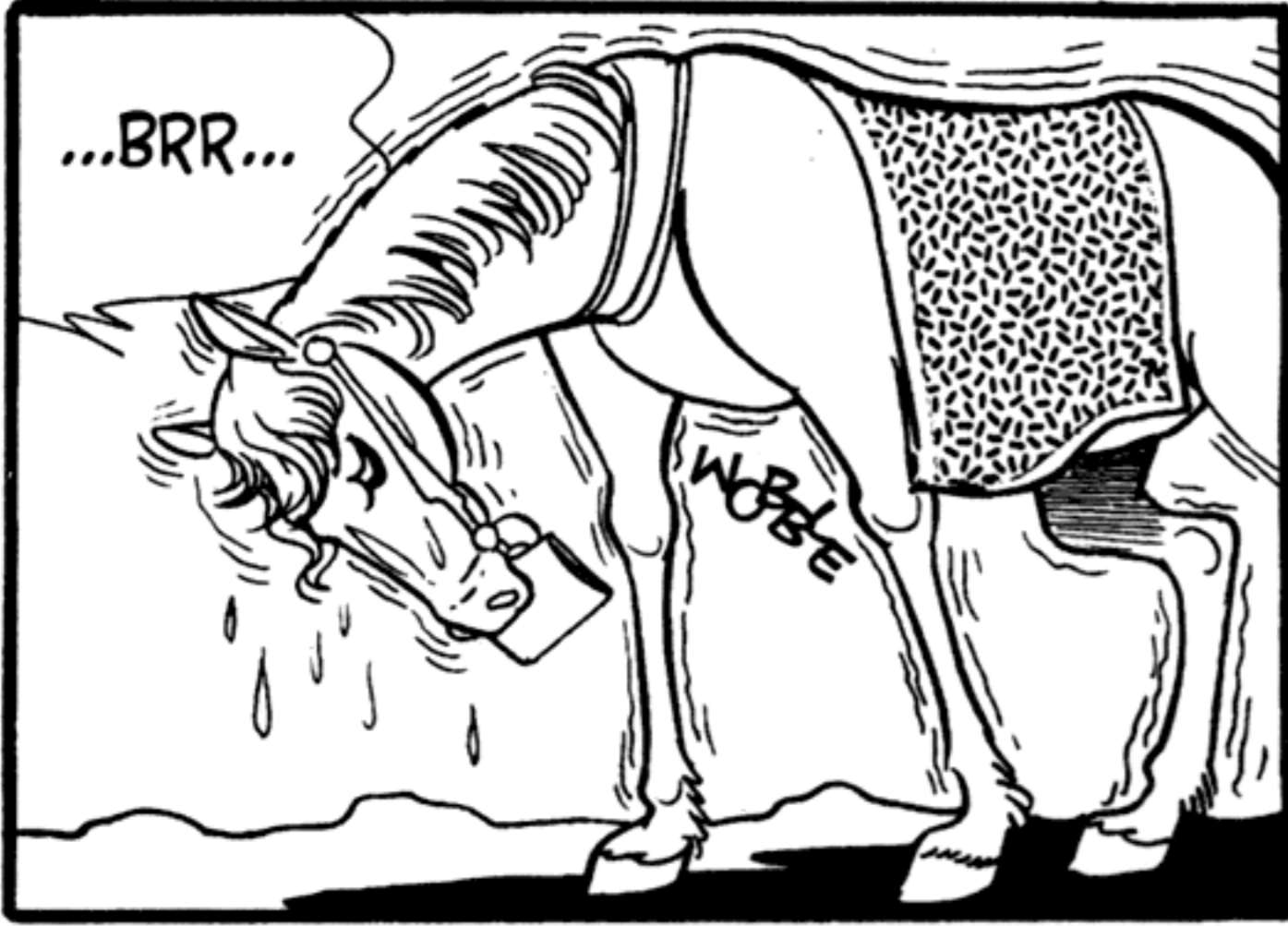


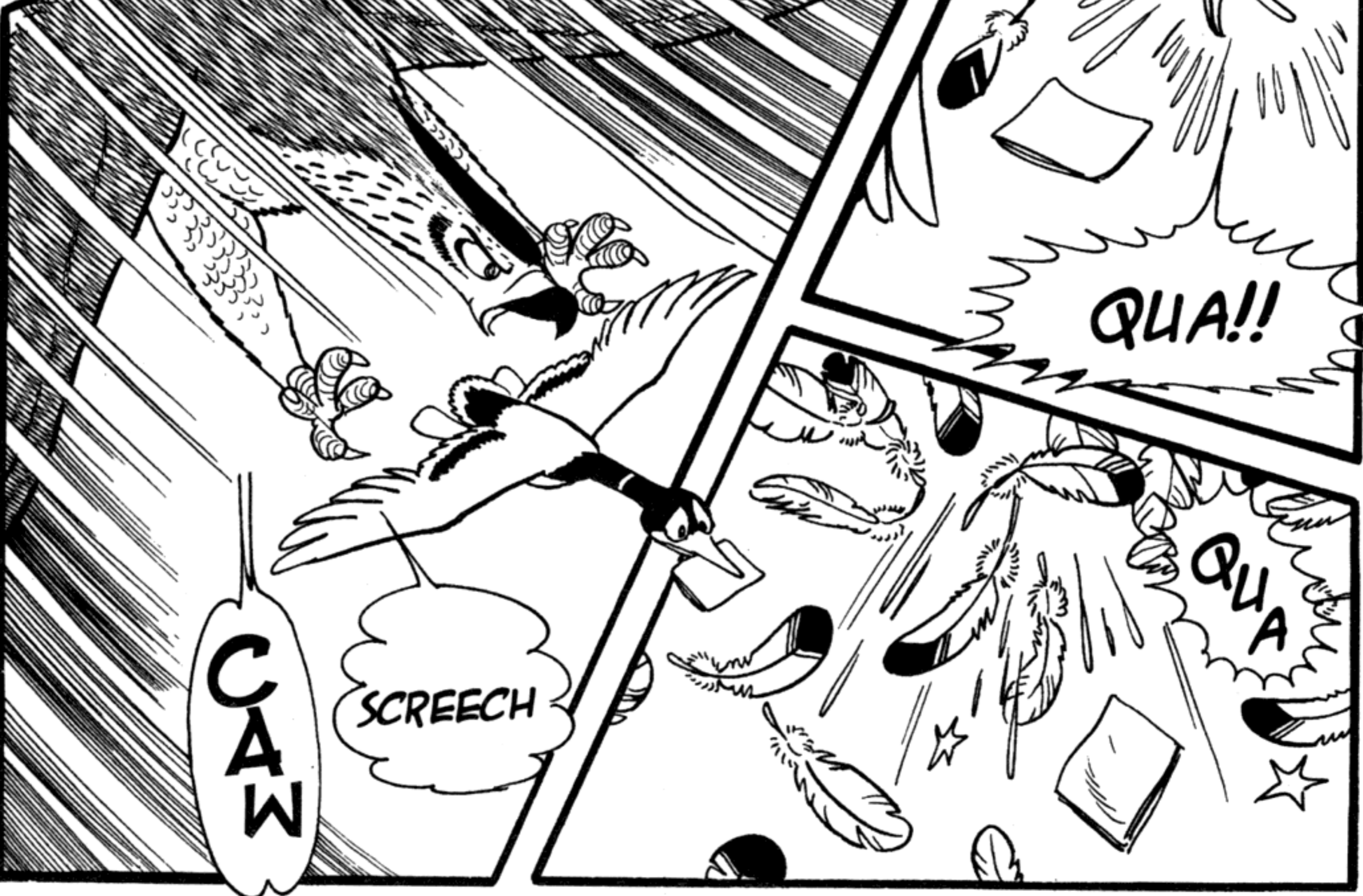
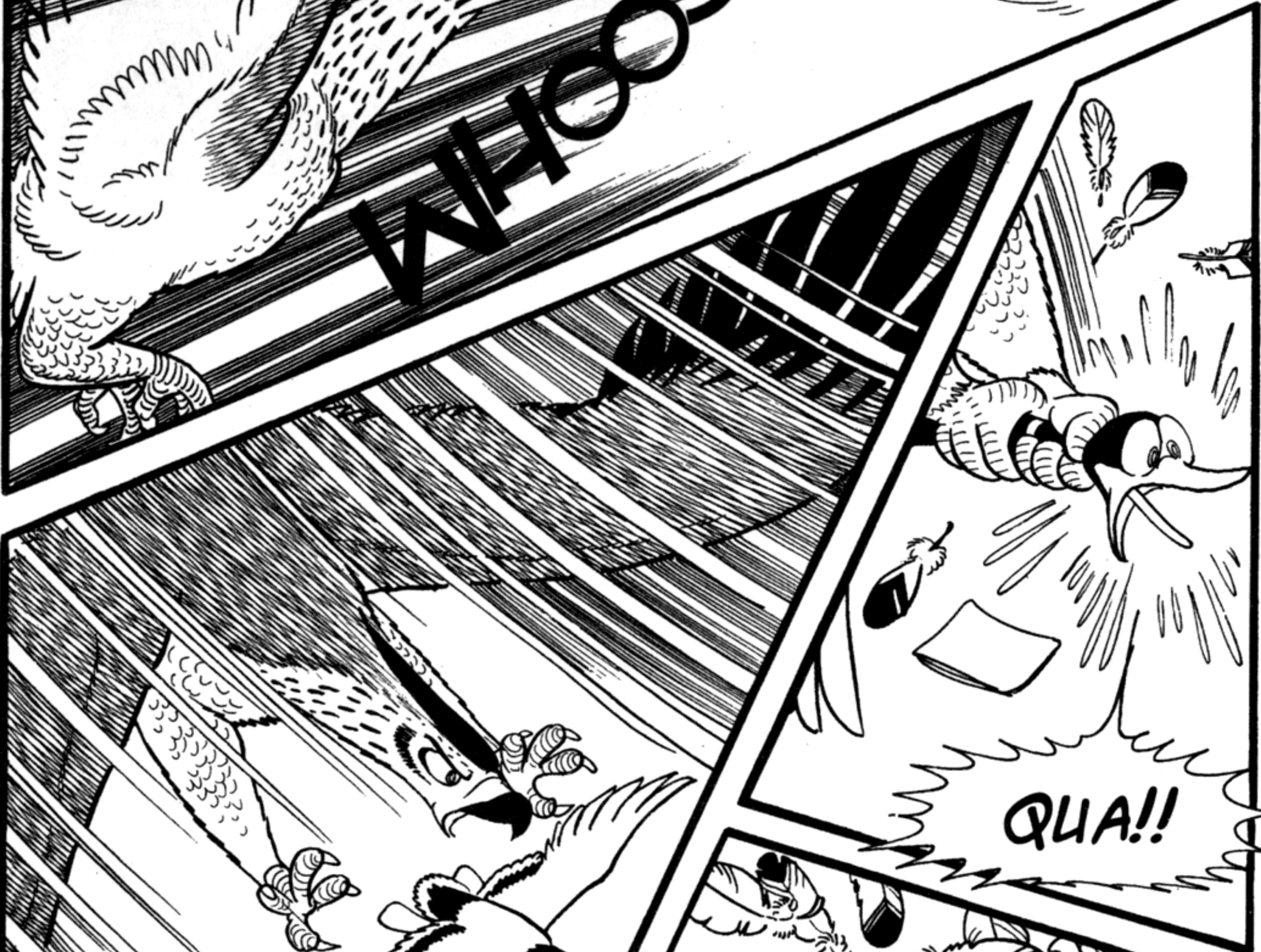
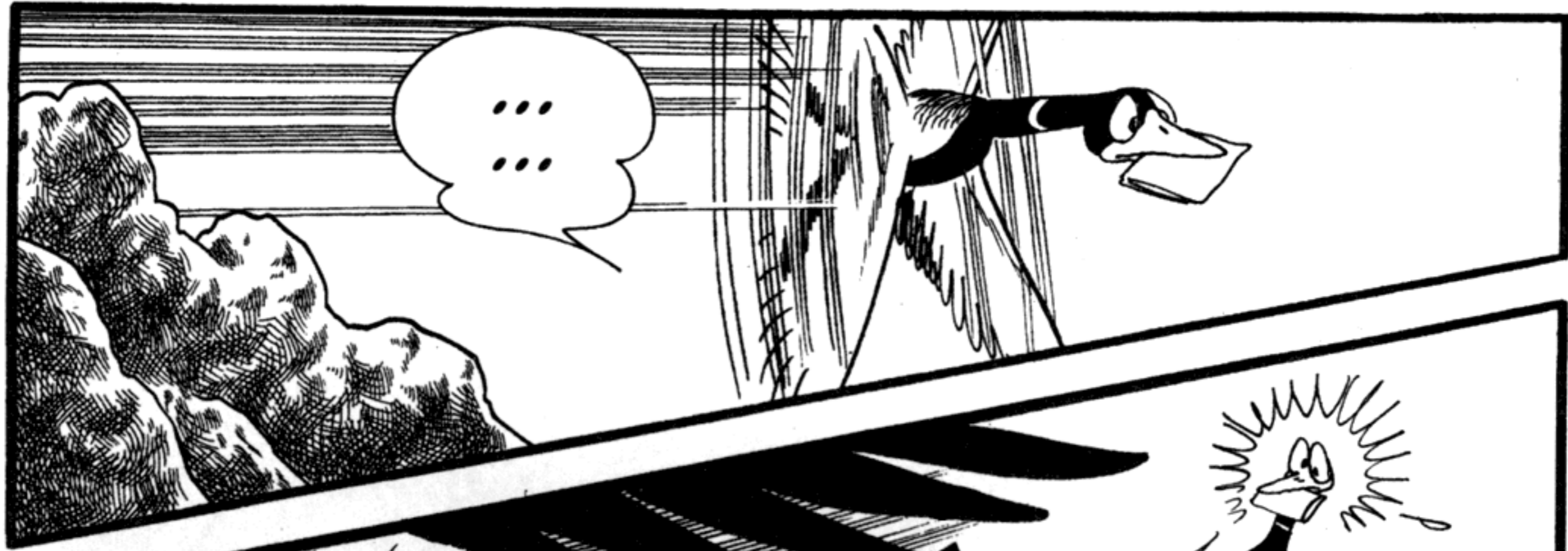










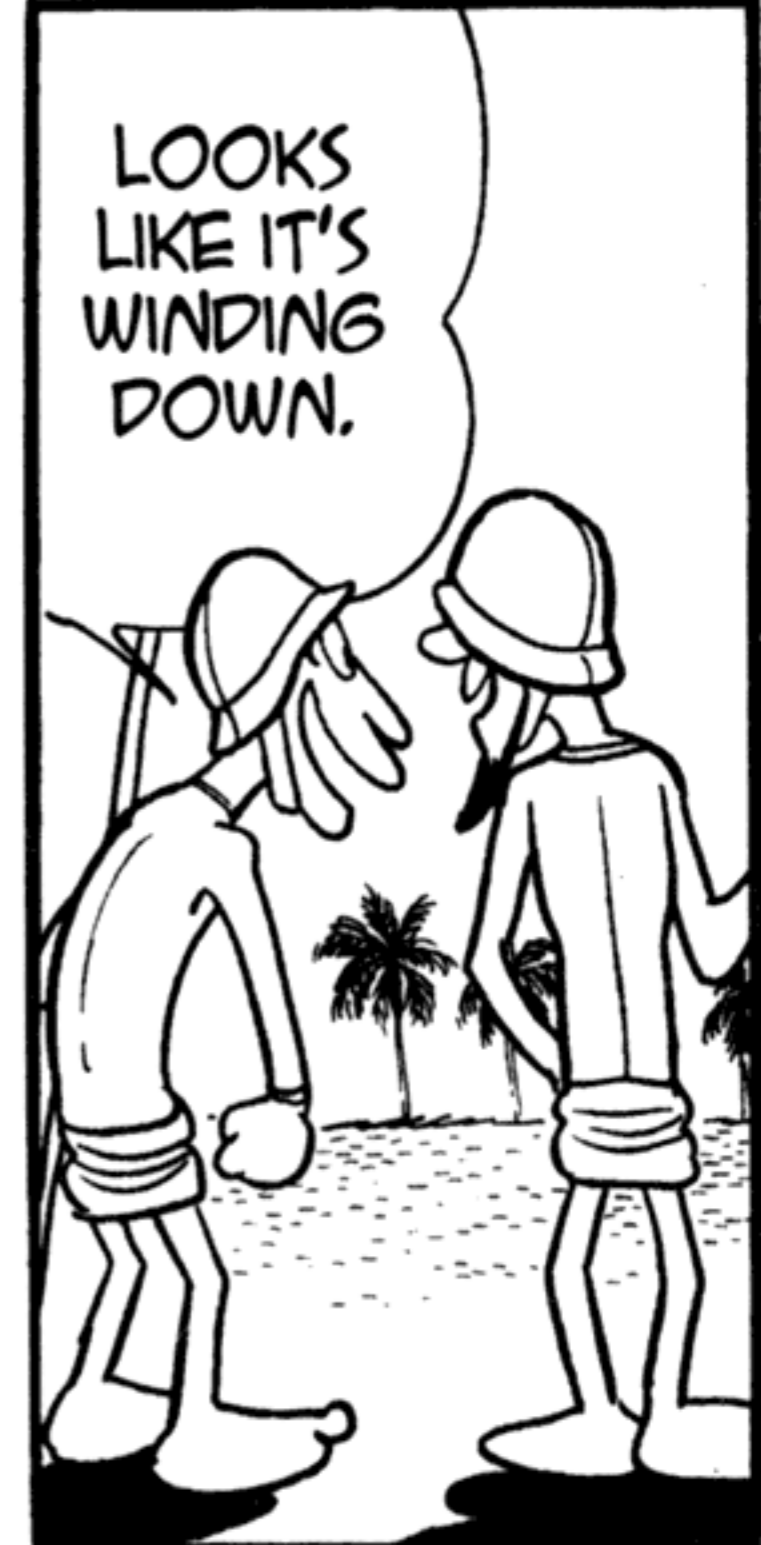
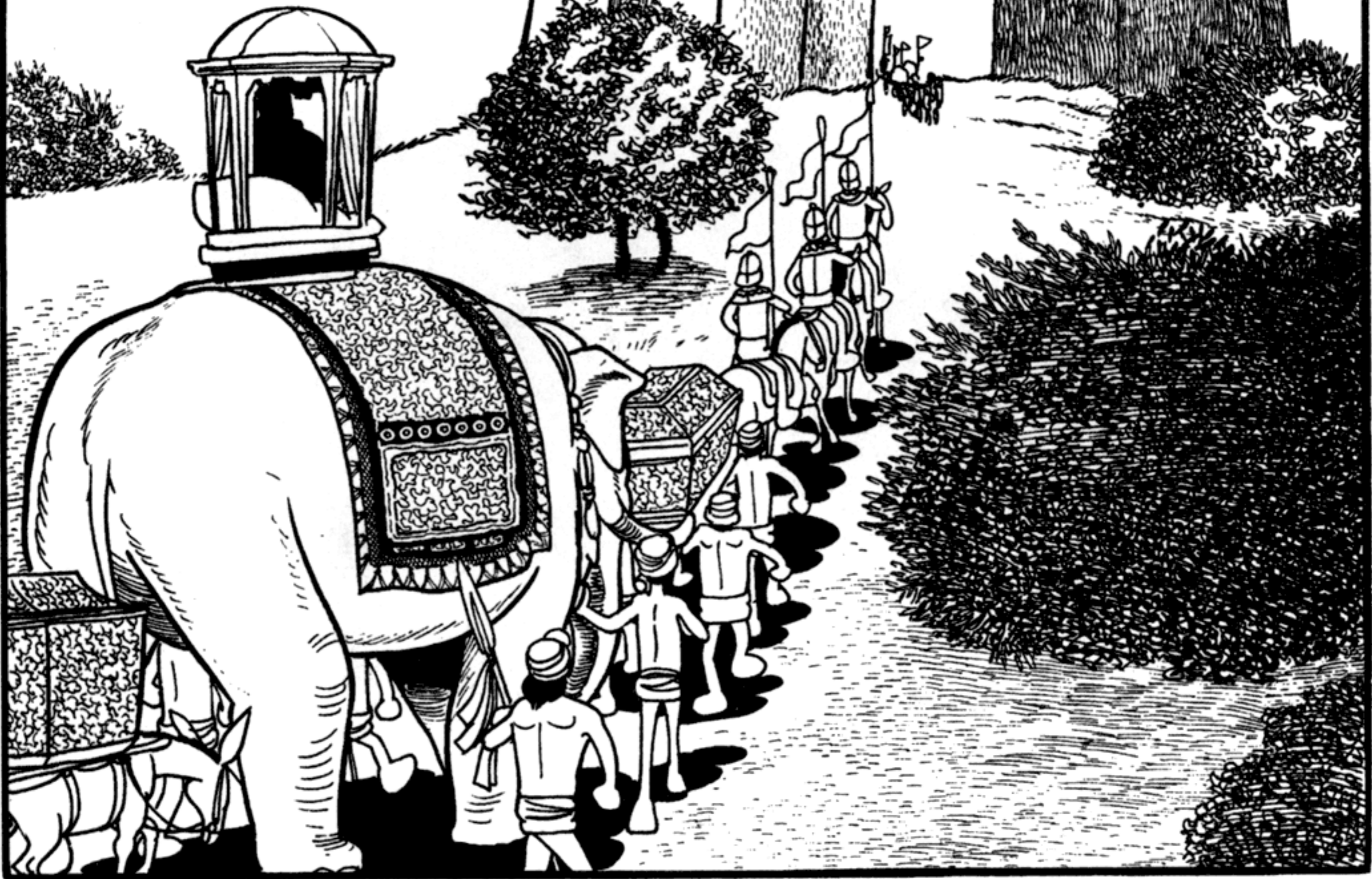


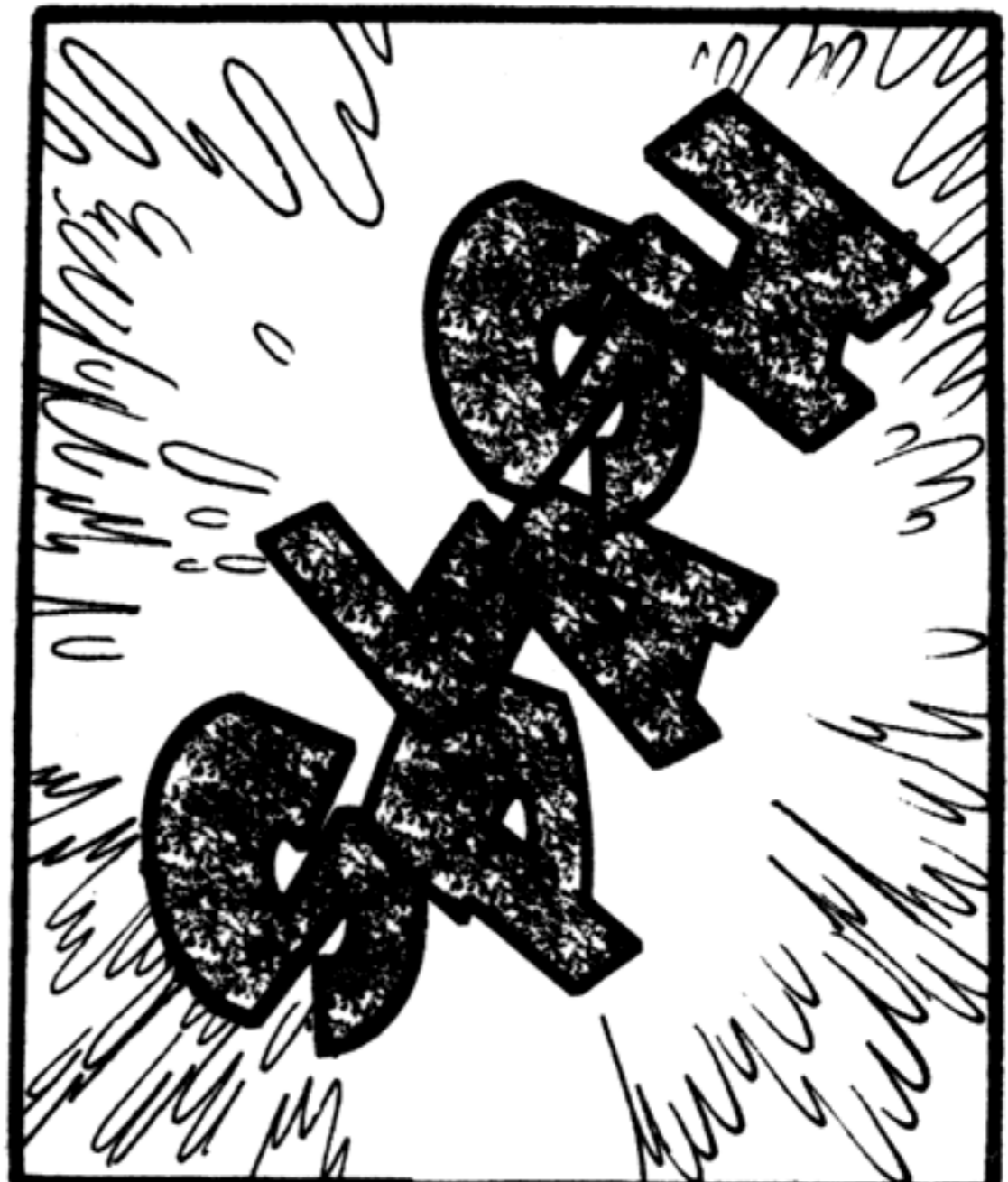
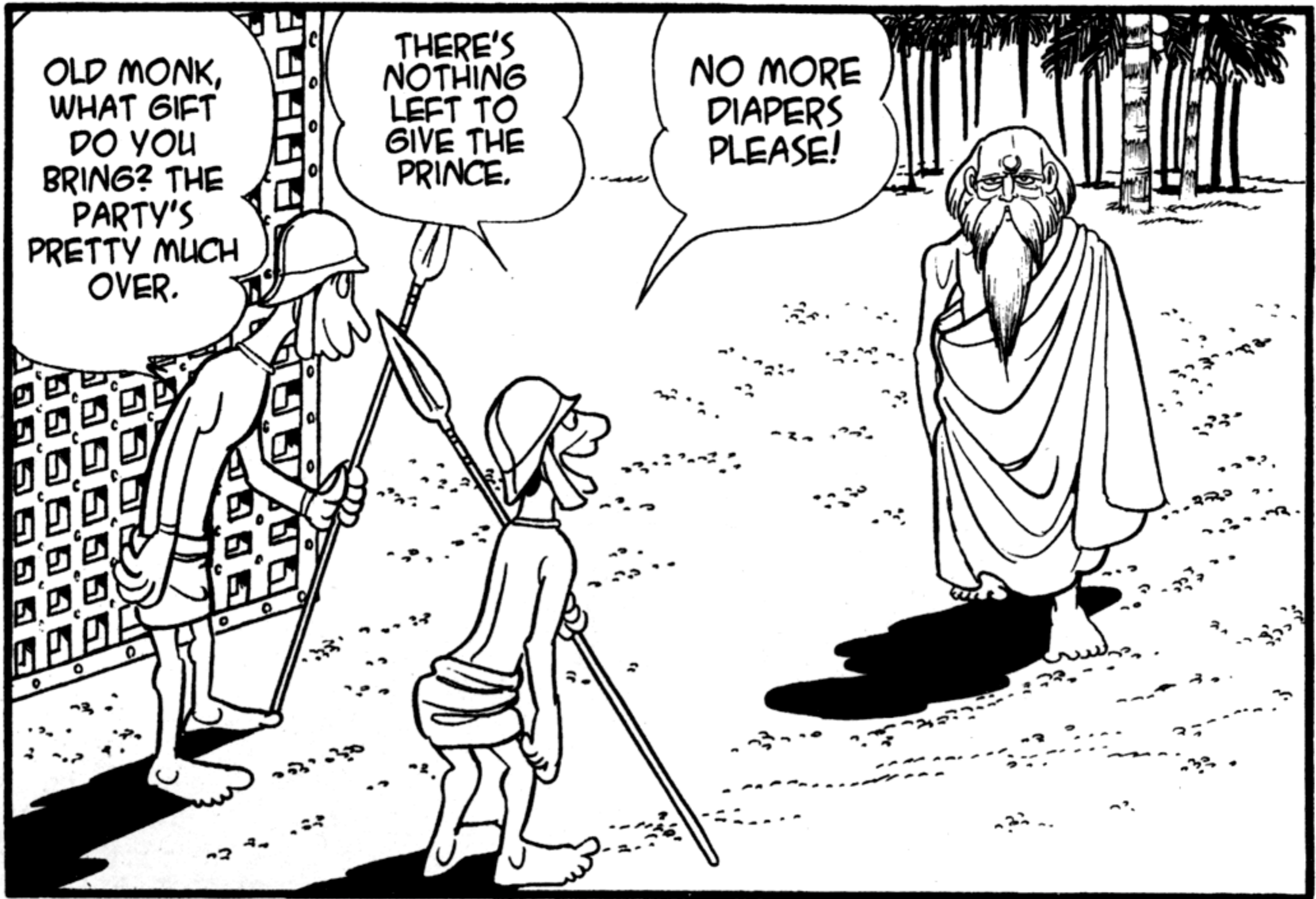


CHAPTER TEN

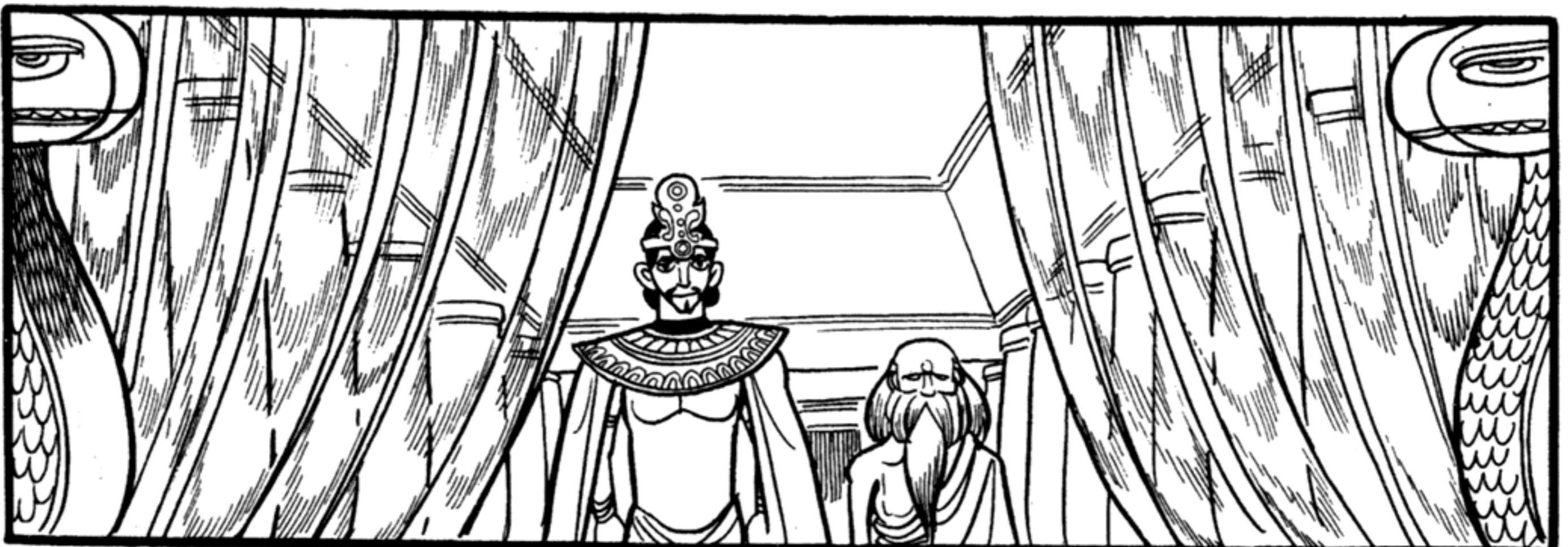
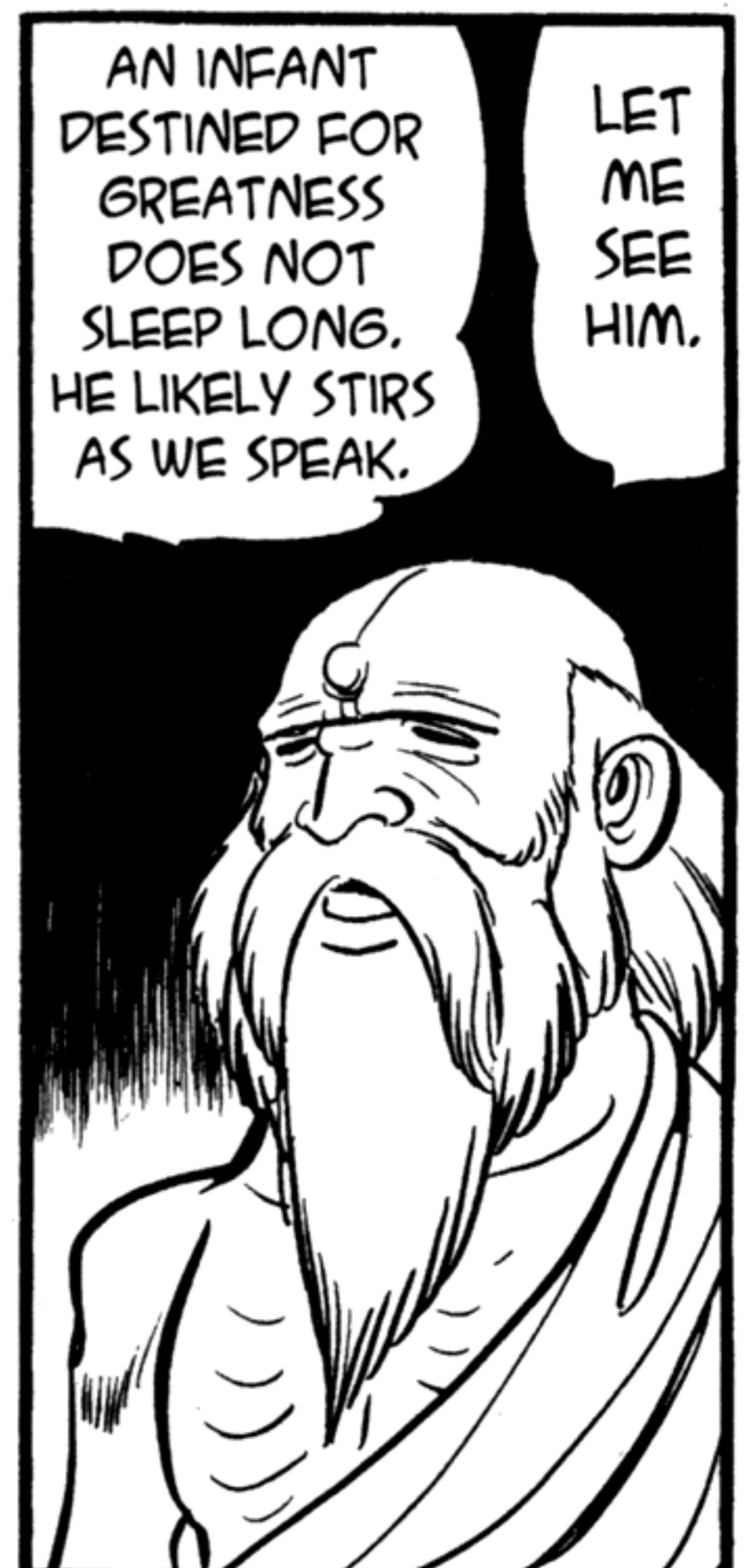
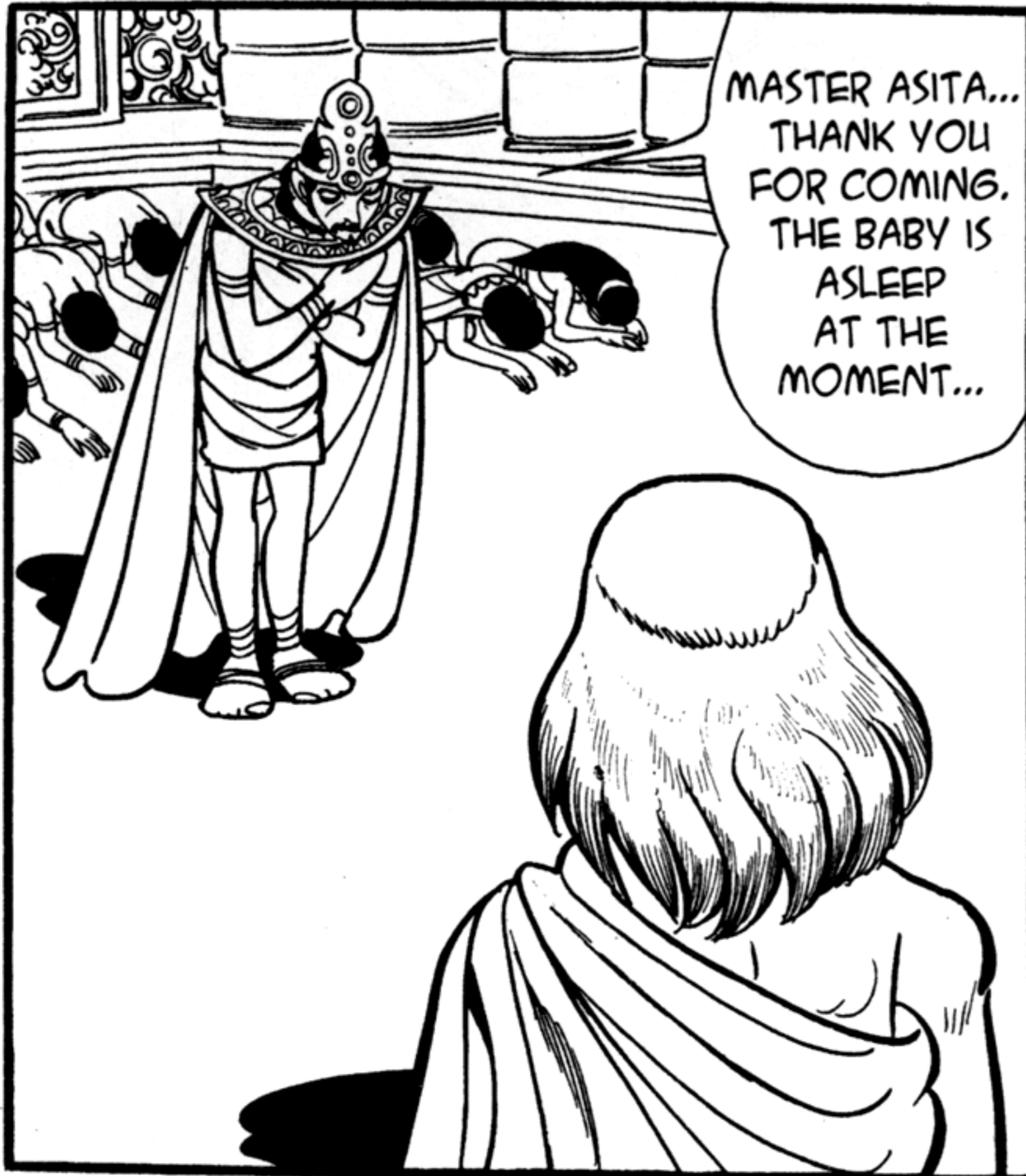
THE PROPHECY

THE BIRTH OF PRINCE
SIDDHARTHA DREW AN
ENDLESS LINE OF
WELL-WISHERS TO THE
KAPILAVASTU CASTLE.

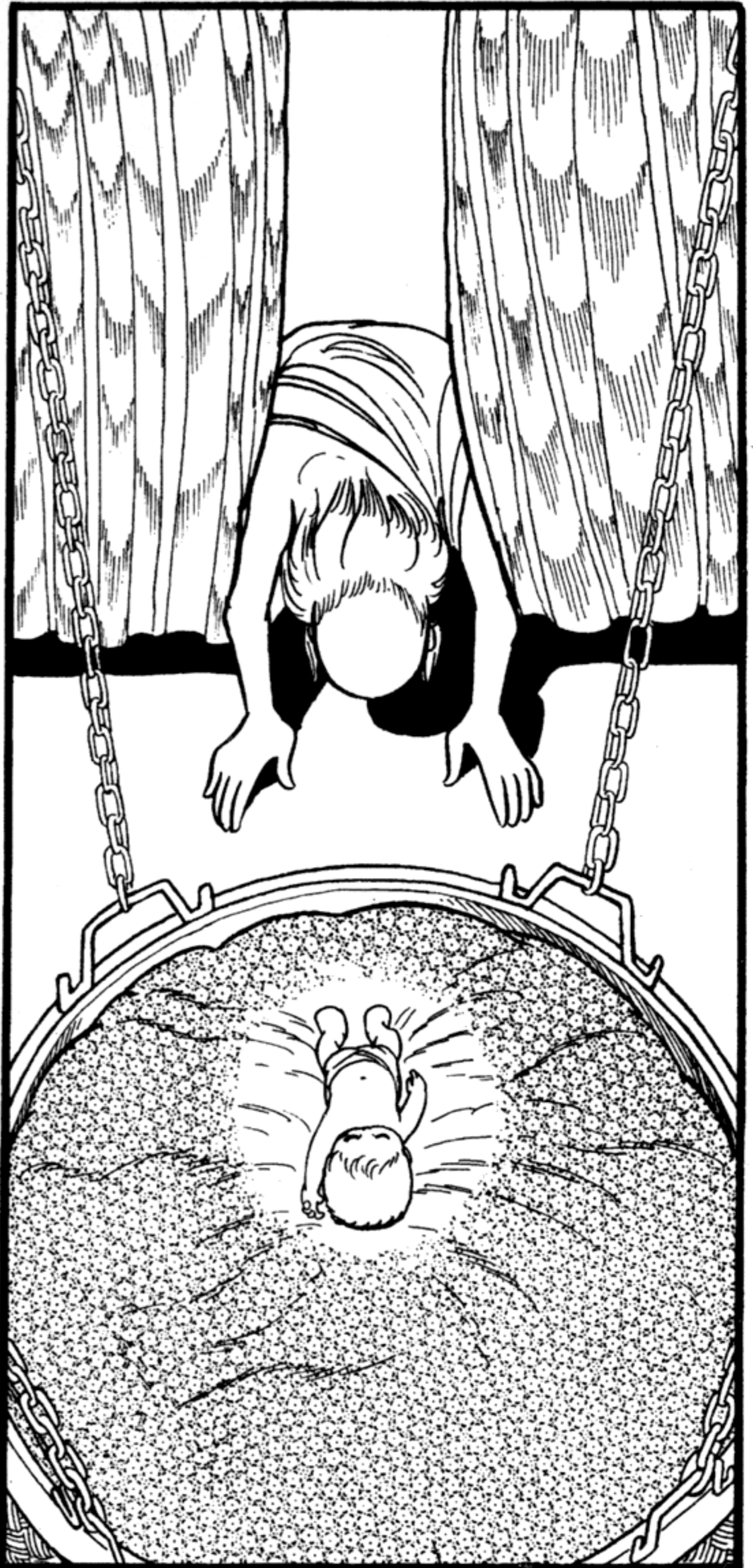
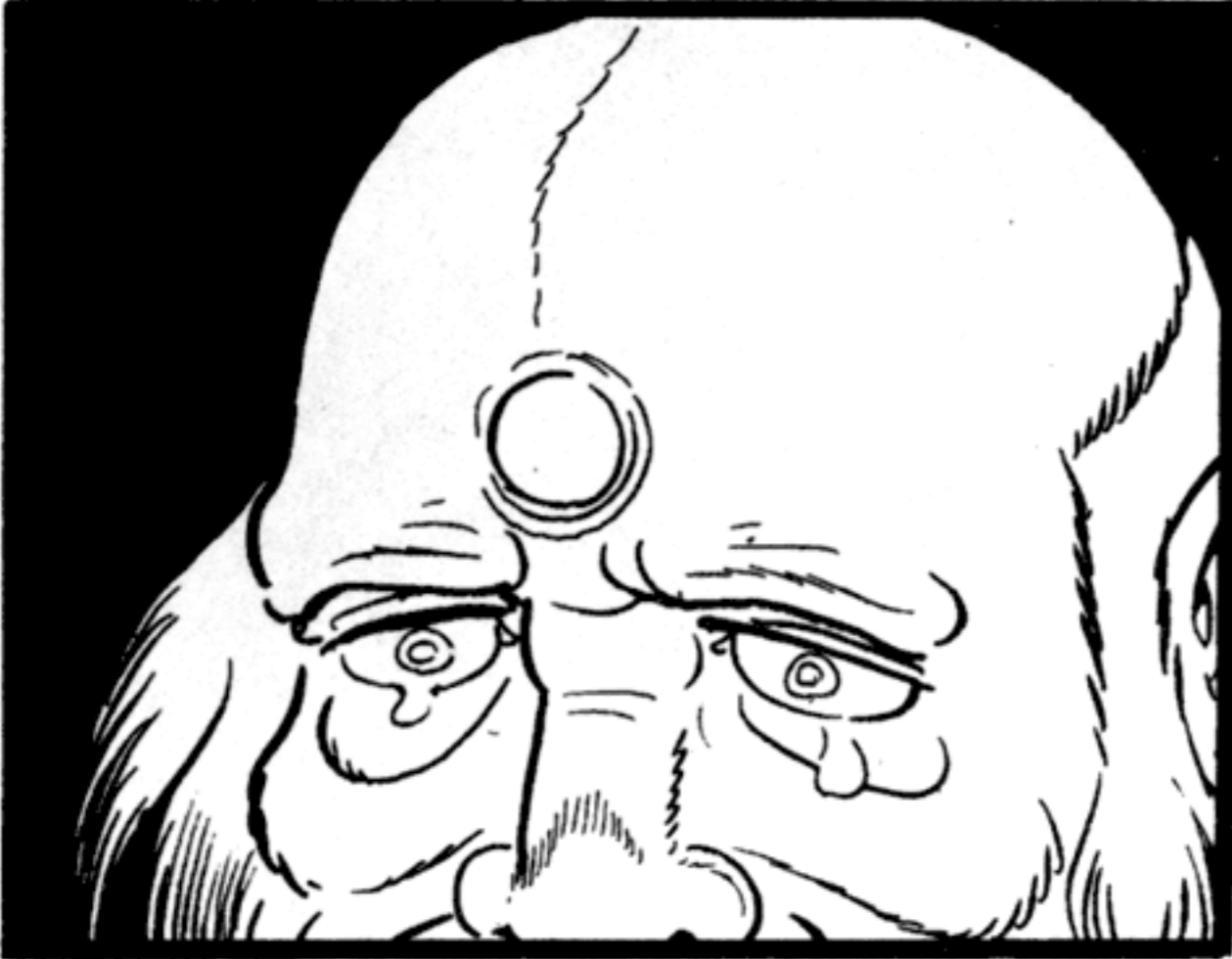


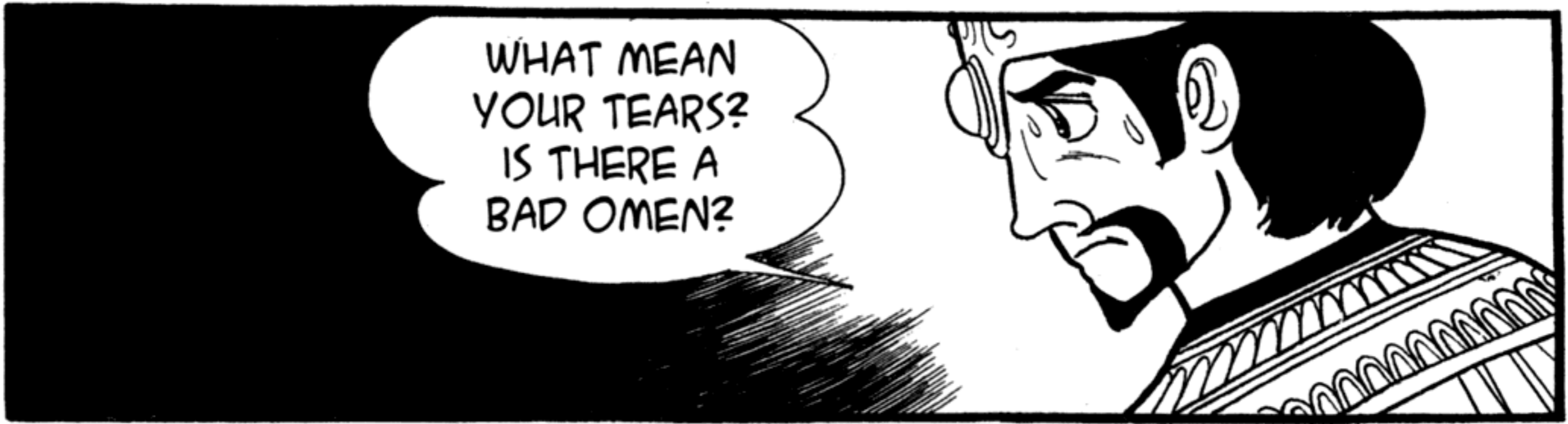












WHAT MEAN YOUR TEARS?
IS THERE A BAD OMEN?



NO...
I SHED THESE TEARS FOR MYSELF...

THAT FILLS ME WITH SORROW.

I WILL NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE THIS CHILD ATTAIN MATURITY, AND GREATNESS.



MASTER ASITA, I KNEW THIS CHILD WAS SPECIAL, BUT... YOU THINK HE WILL BE THAT GREAT A MAN?

INDEED... THIS CHILD MAY ONE DAY RULE THE WORLD. ONLY ONCE IN A HUNDRED CENTURIES IS SUCH A BLESSED ONE BORN.

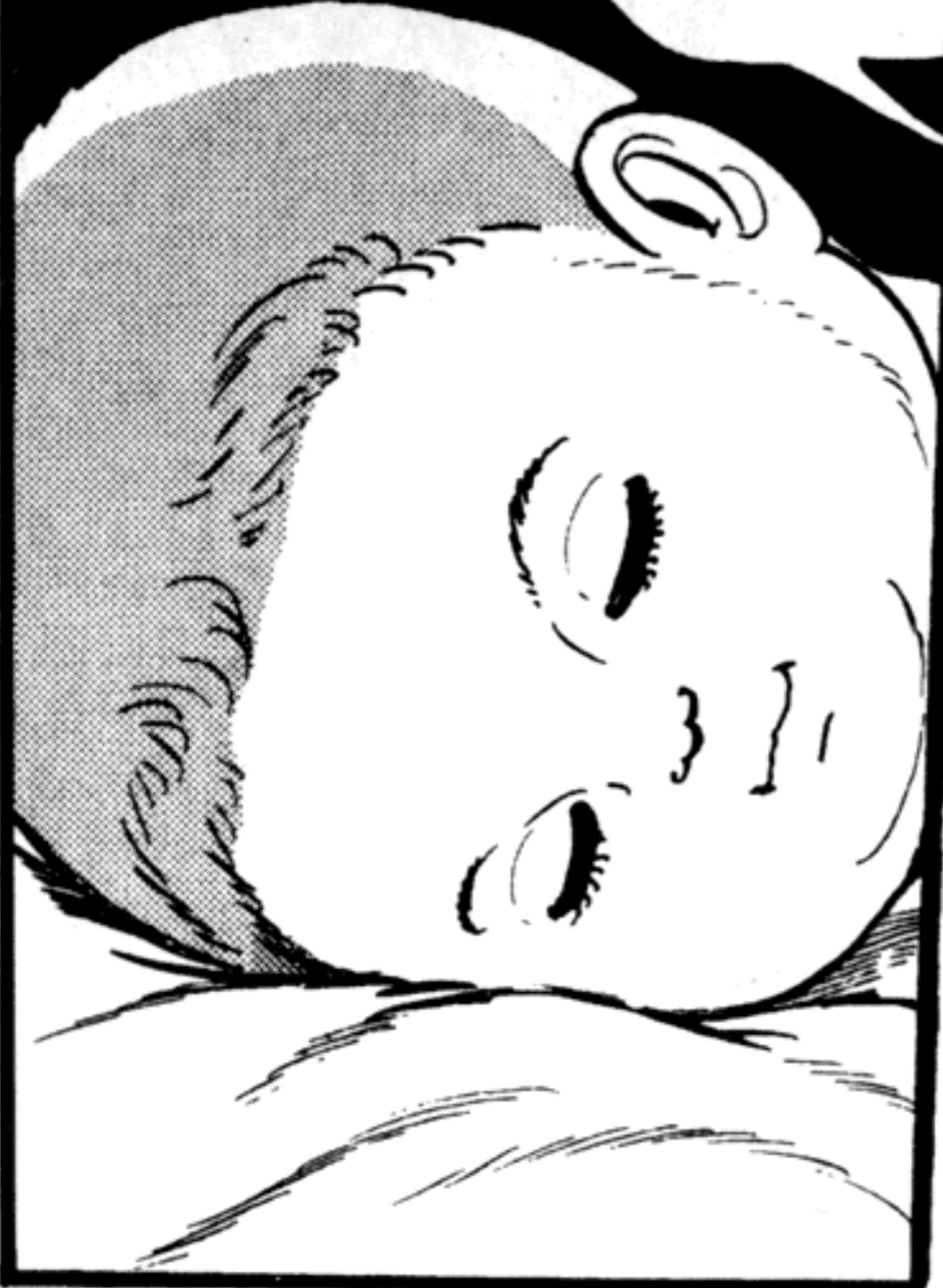


MASTER, THERE CAN BE NO GREATER SAINT THAN YOU.

AH, KING... I AM NO MATCH FOR YOUR SON.

THIS CHILD WILL DO WHAT EVEN I COULD NOT. HE WILL TEACH THE WAY OF LIFE.

HIS WISDOM WILL ECHO THROUGH THE AGES IN PEOPLE'S HEARTS.



BEHOLD HIS FOREFINGERS: ONE POINTED UPWARD, THE OTHER DOWN.



HE IS CONVEYING TO US THAT...

NONE EXISTS GREATER THAN HE, ON EARTH OR IN HEAVEN!



YOUR WORDS SCARE ME...

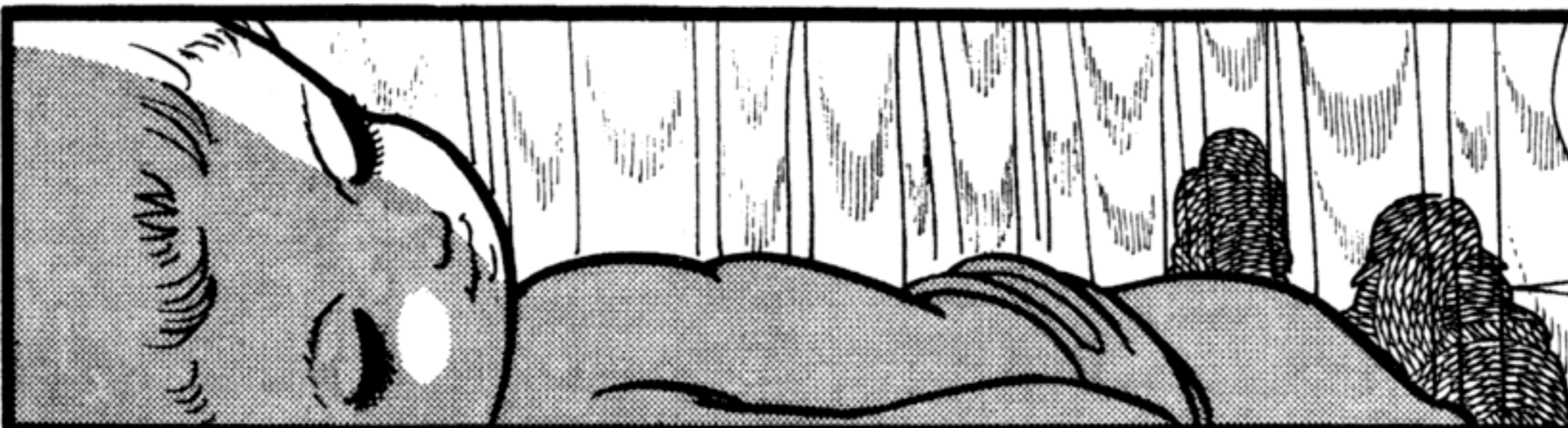


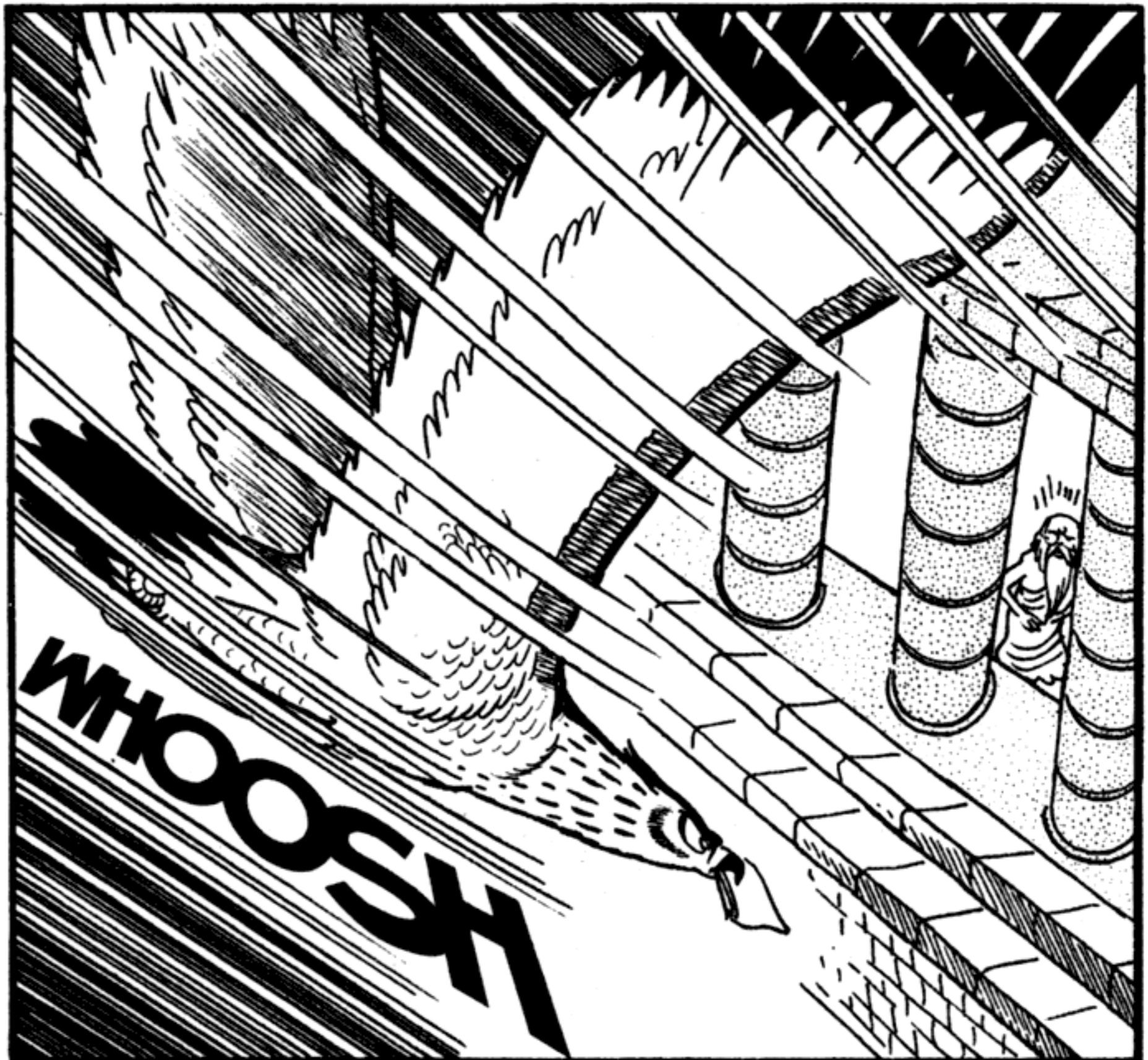
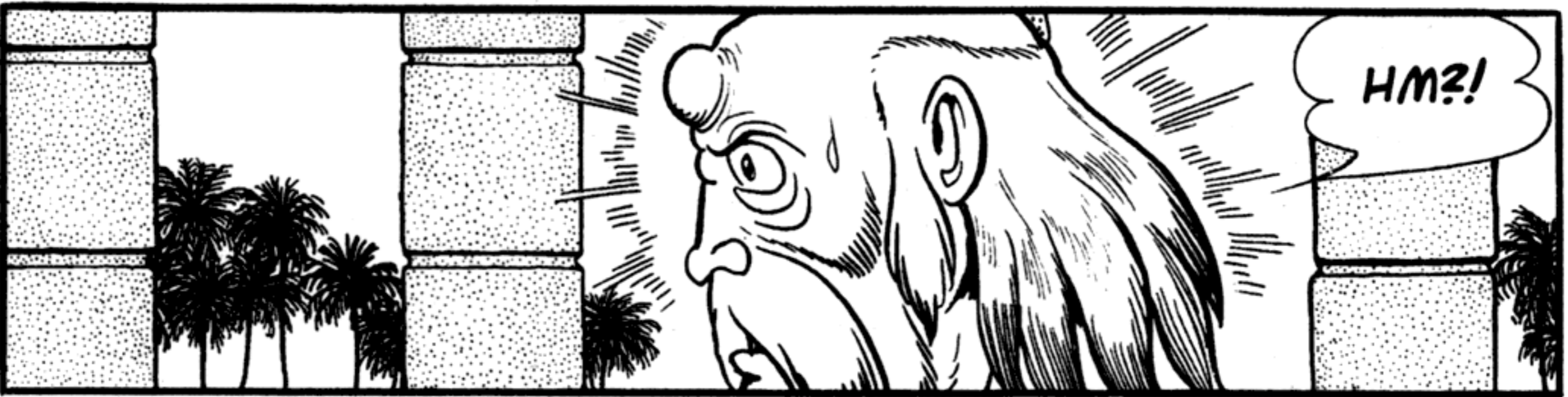
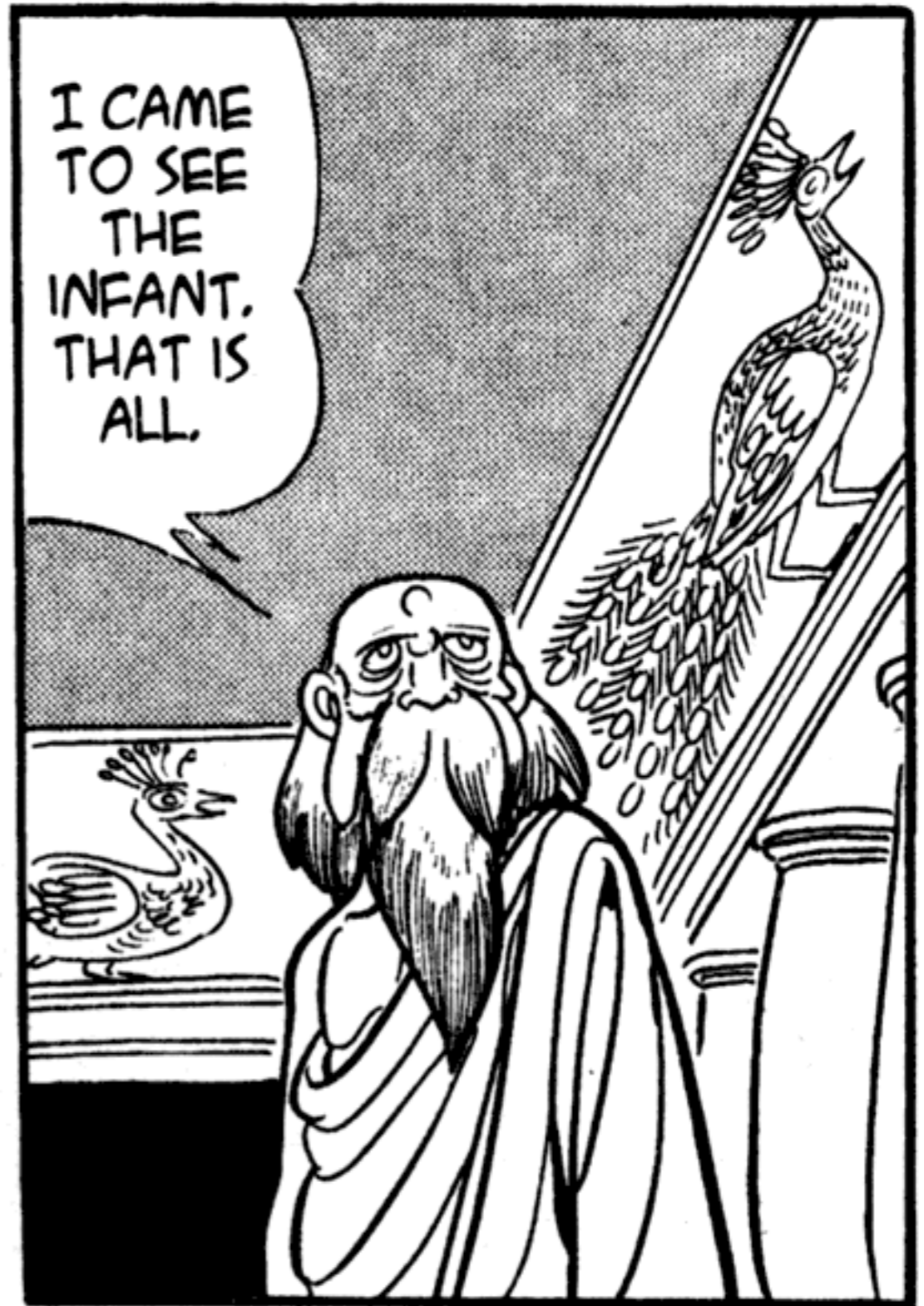
MASTER, I AM NOT FIT TO RAISE SUCH A CHILD.

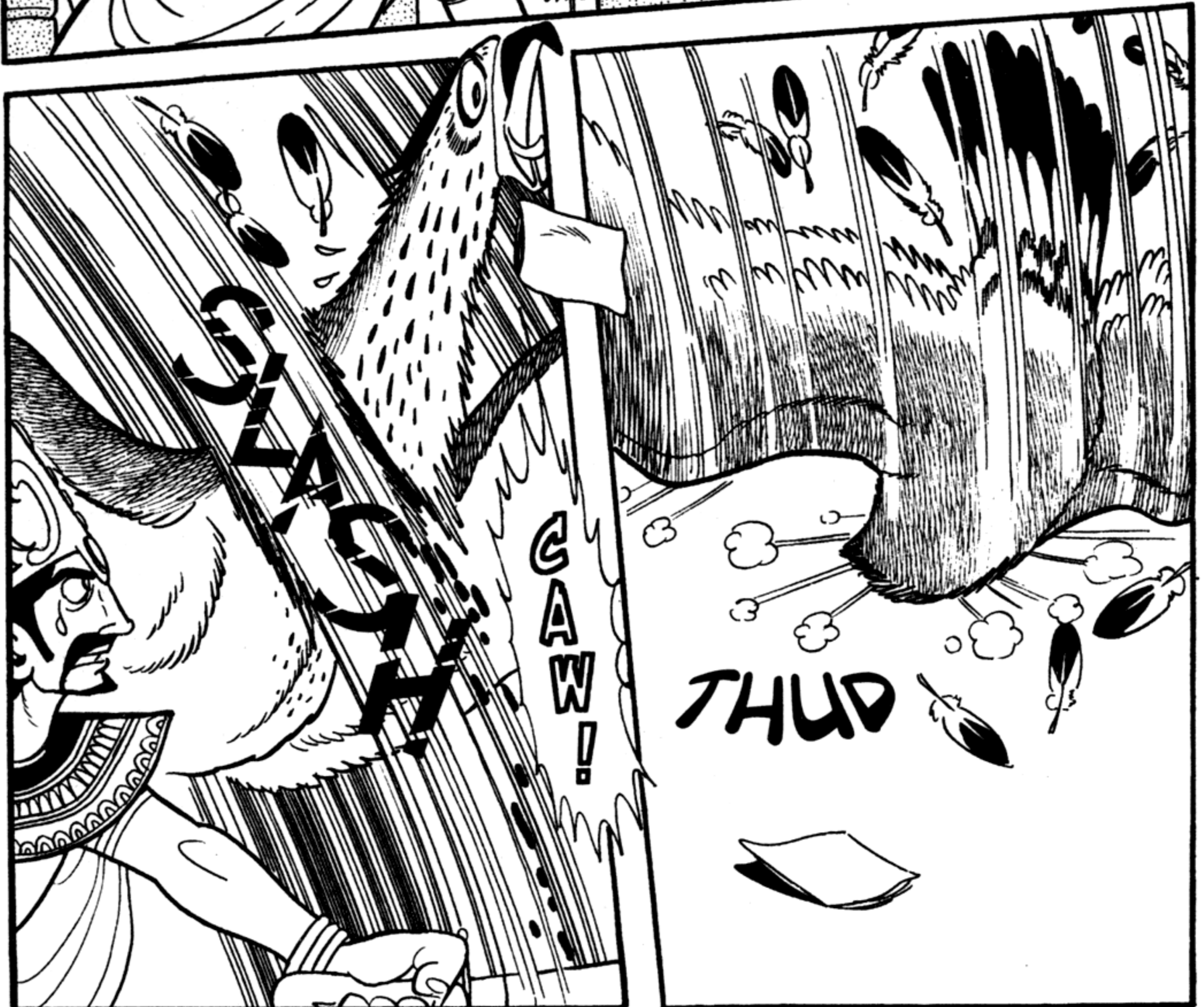
DO NOT WORRY... RAISE HIM AS YOU WOULD ANY PRINCE. YOU NEVER NEED REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU.

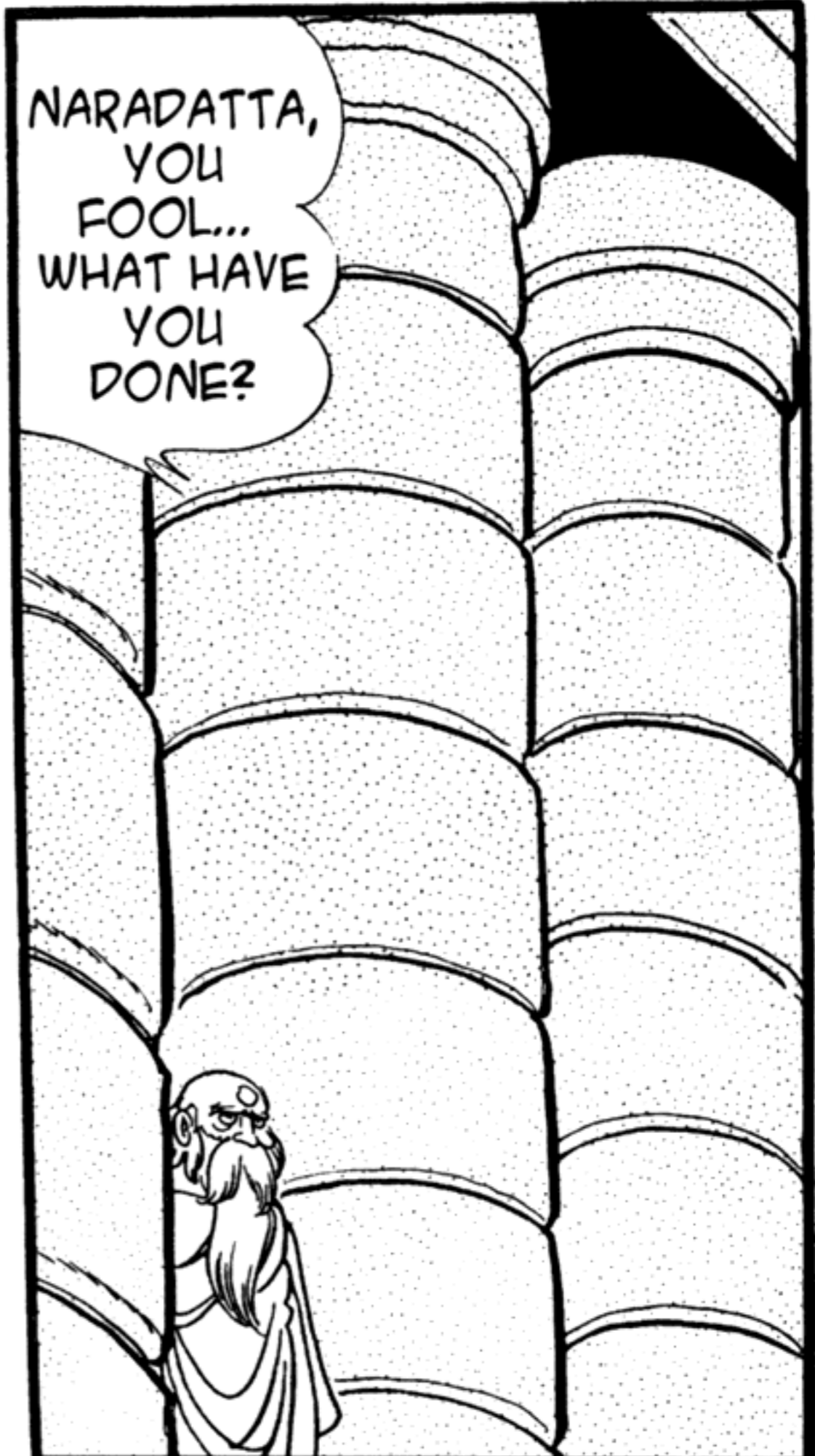
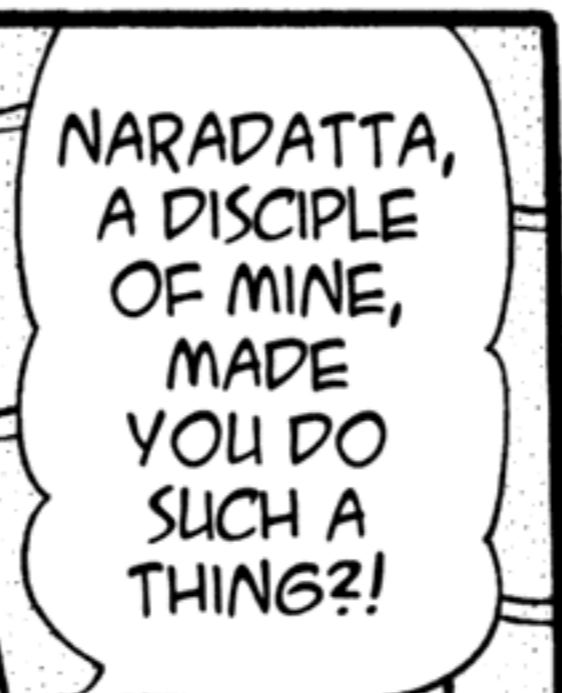
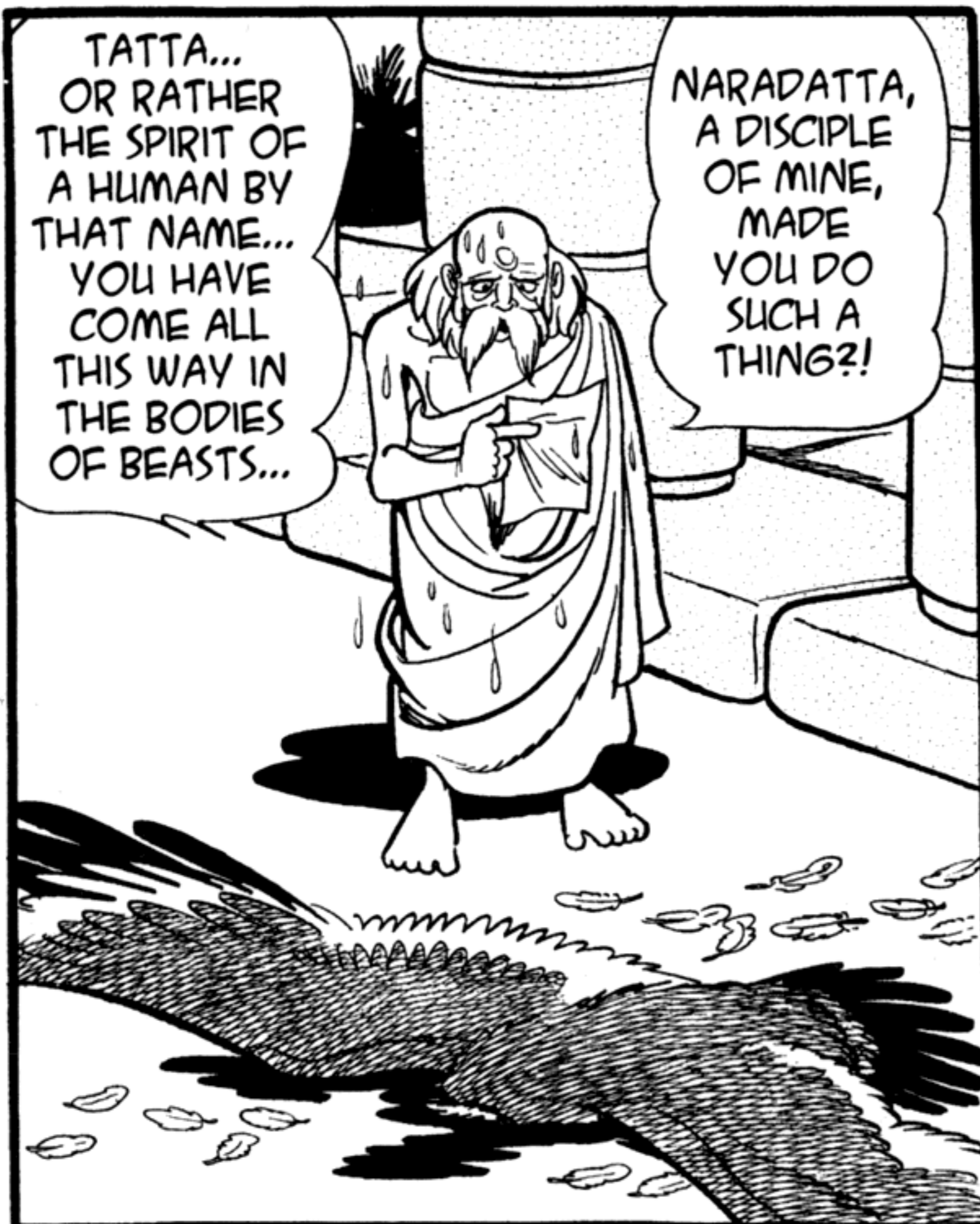
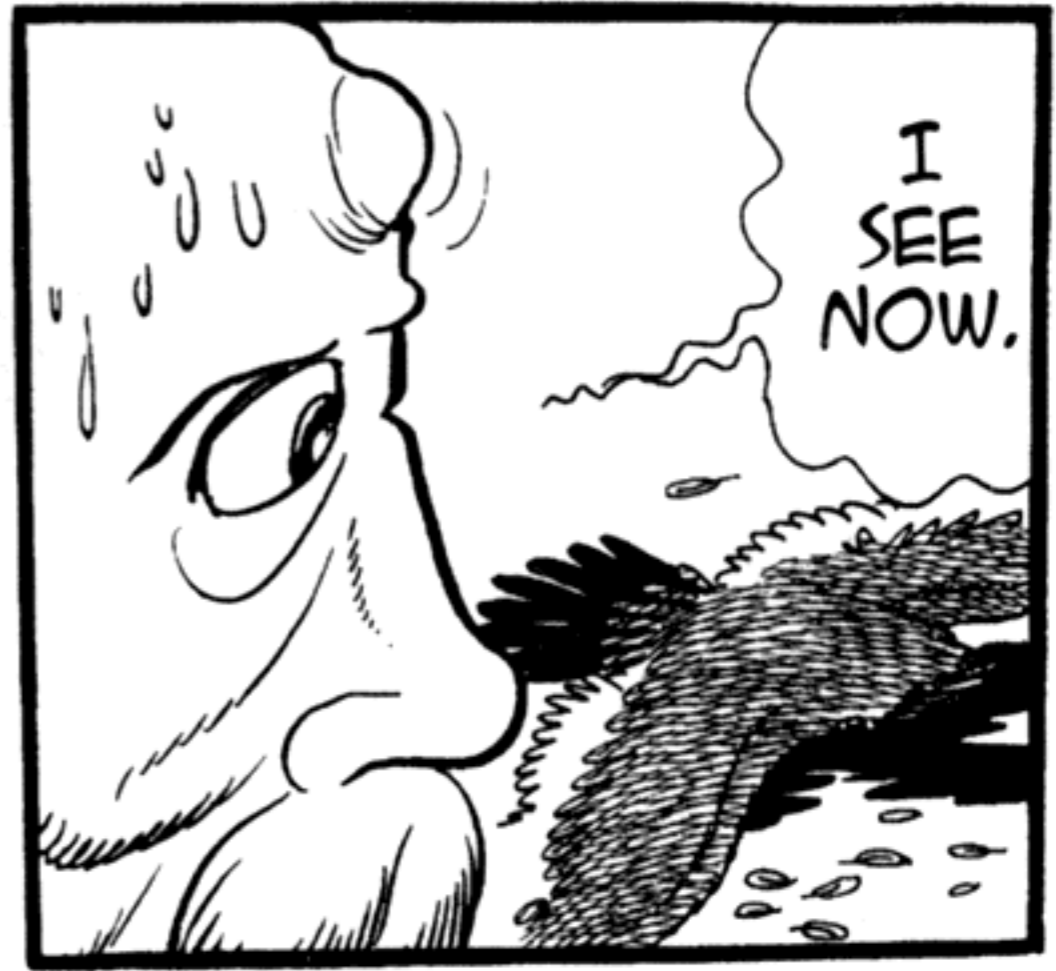


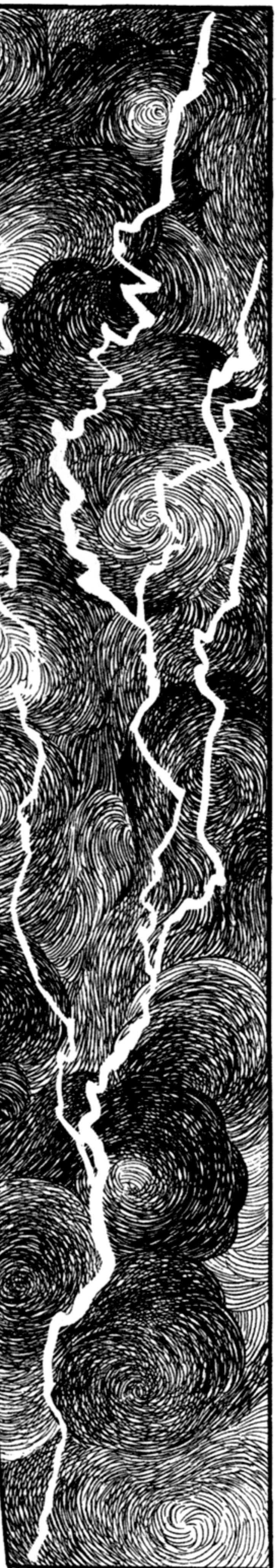
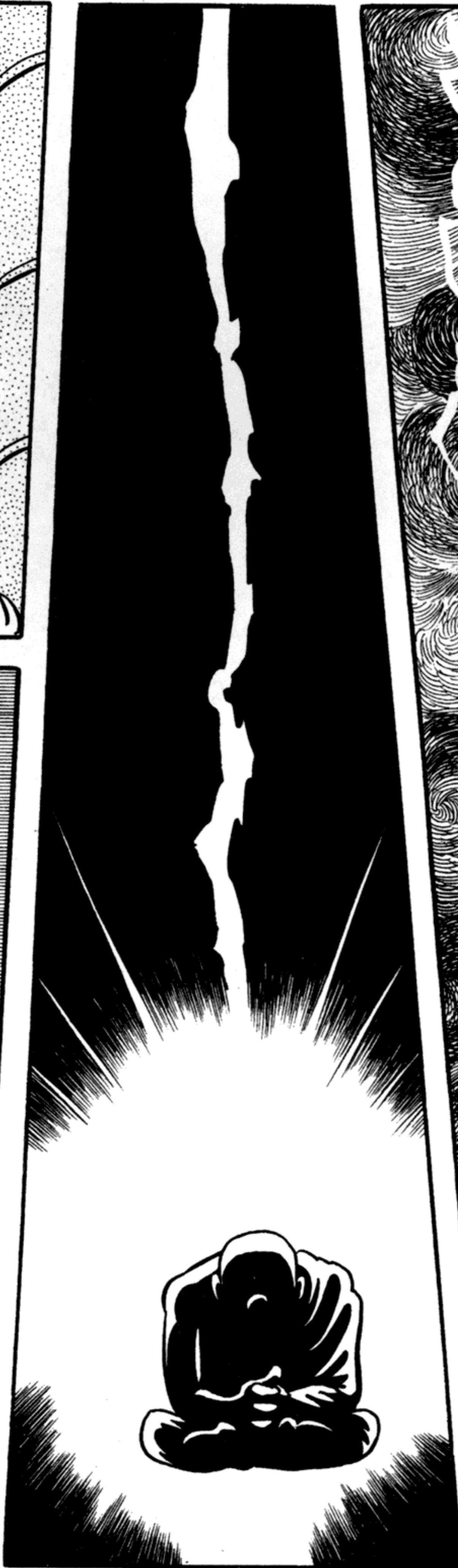
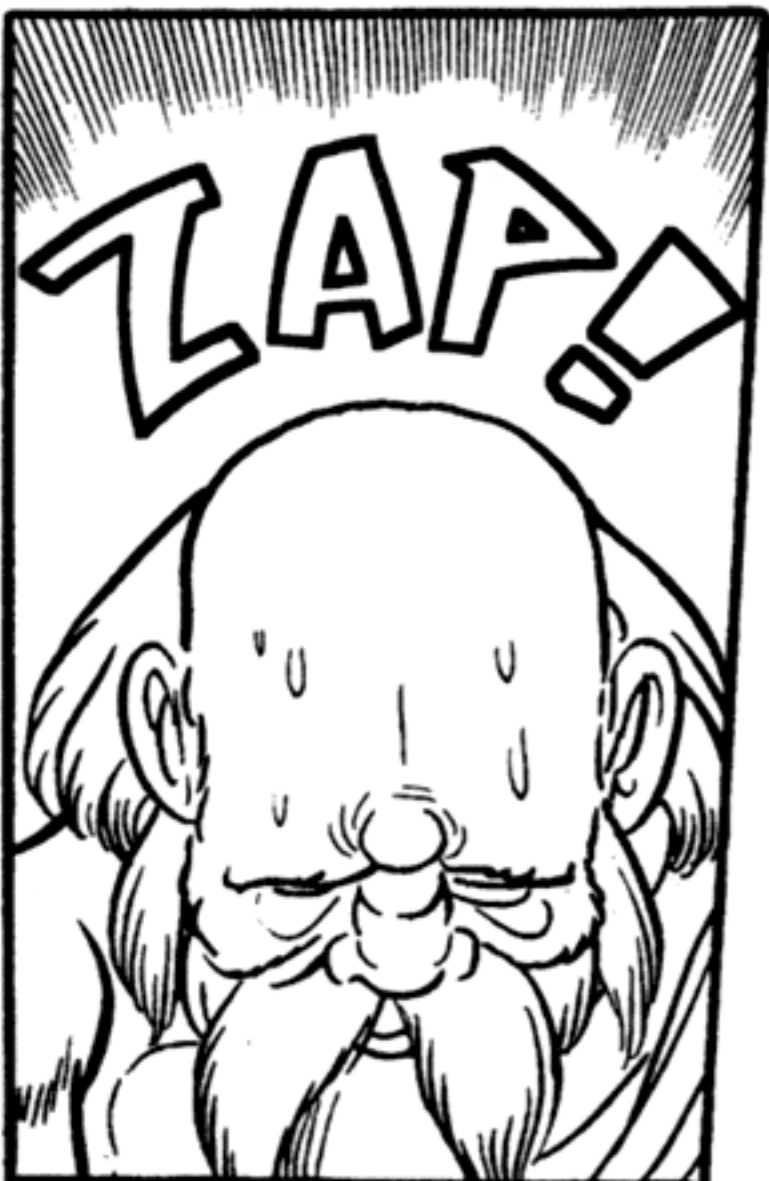
WHEN HE IS READY, HE HIMSELF WILL SET OUT ON HIS TRUE PATH.













THE SAINT ASITA'S SOUL SHOT
ACROSS THE HEAVENS LIKE A
BOLT OF ELECTRICITY,
TRAVELING HUNDREDS OF MILES.
SIMILAR TO WHAT WE CALL
TELEPATHY, THE ARCAINE
ART SENT A MESSAGE
TO SOMEONE FAR AWAY.





NARADATTA

IT IS I,
ASITA.

YOU SENT ME
A MESSENGER,
TATTA BY
NAME, HAVE
YOU NOT?



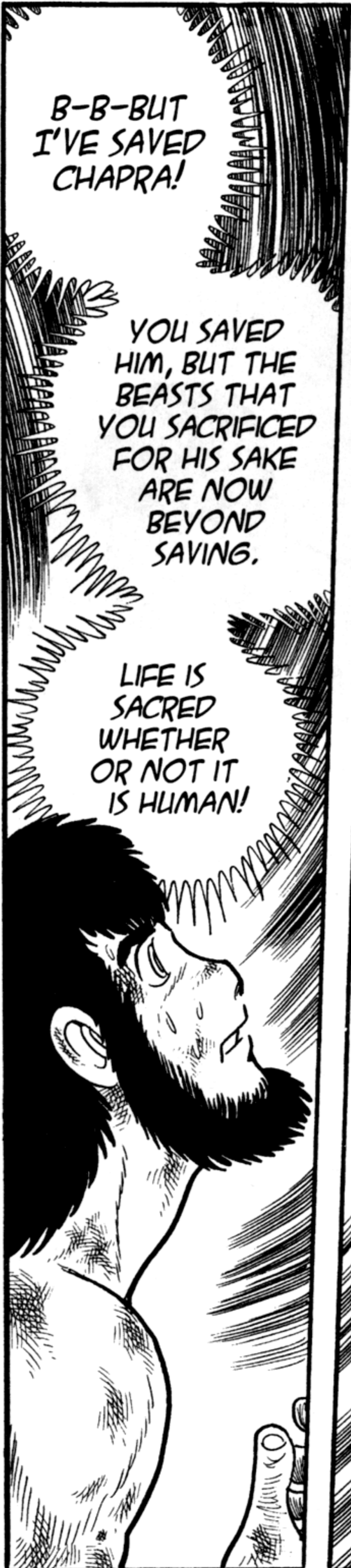
WHAT
FOLLY!
LISTEN WELL,
YOU DUNCE!

TO SAVE JUST
ONE HUMAN, YOU
MINDLESSLY HARNESSSED
NUMEROUS BEASTS
TO AN IMPOSSIBLE
TASK...

AND KILLED
THEM ONE BY
ONE! THE BEASTS
YOU BENT TO
YOUR PURPOSE ALL
SUFFERED GREATLY
AND DIED CRUELLY!



YOU BELIEVE THAT
HUMAN LIVES ARE
SACROSANCT WHILE
ANIMAL LIVES ARE
WORTHLESS?!



B-B-BUT
I'VE SAVED
CHAPRA!

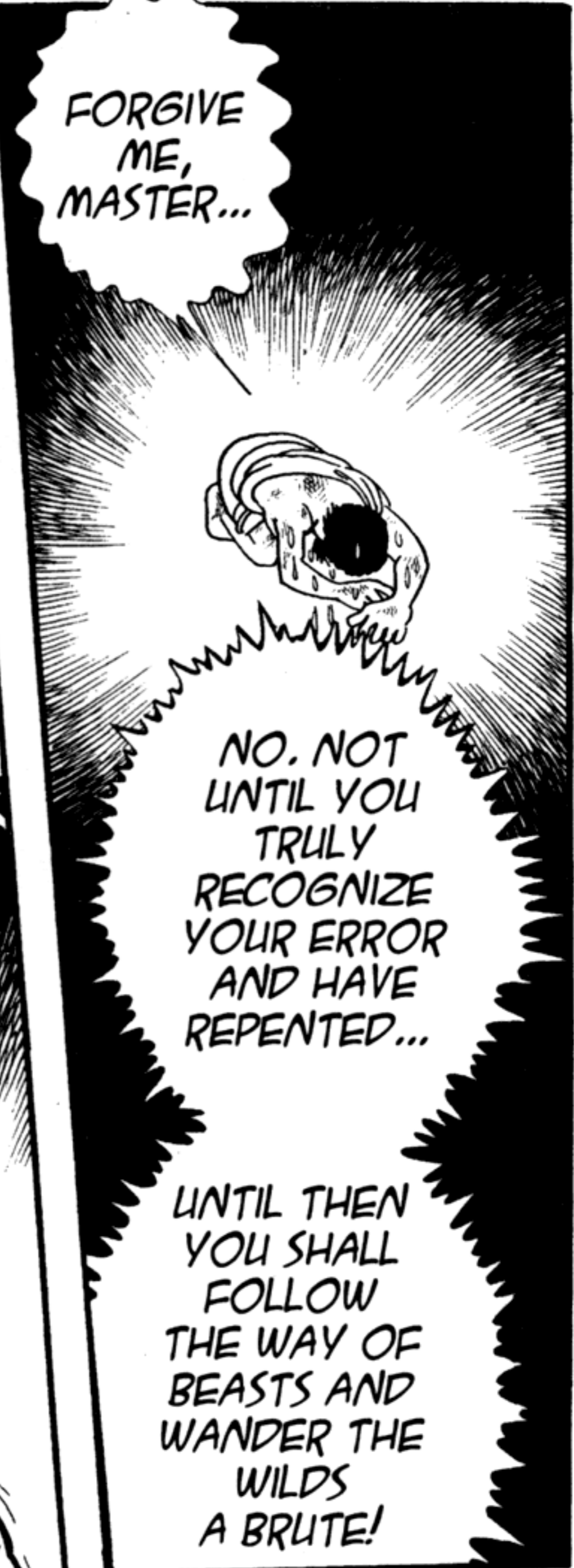
YOU SAVED
HIM, BUT THE
BEASTS THAT
YOU SACRIFICED
FOR HIS SAKE
ARE NOW
BEYOND
SAVING.

LIFE IS
SACRED
WHETHER
OR NOT IT
IS HUMAN!



MASTER
ASITA!
I HAVE
ACTED
RASHLY...

NARADATTA,
YOU MUST BE
PUNISHED
FOR THIS.

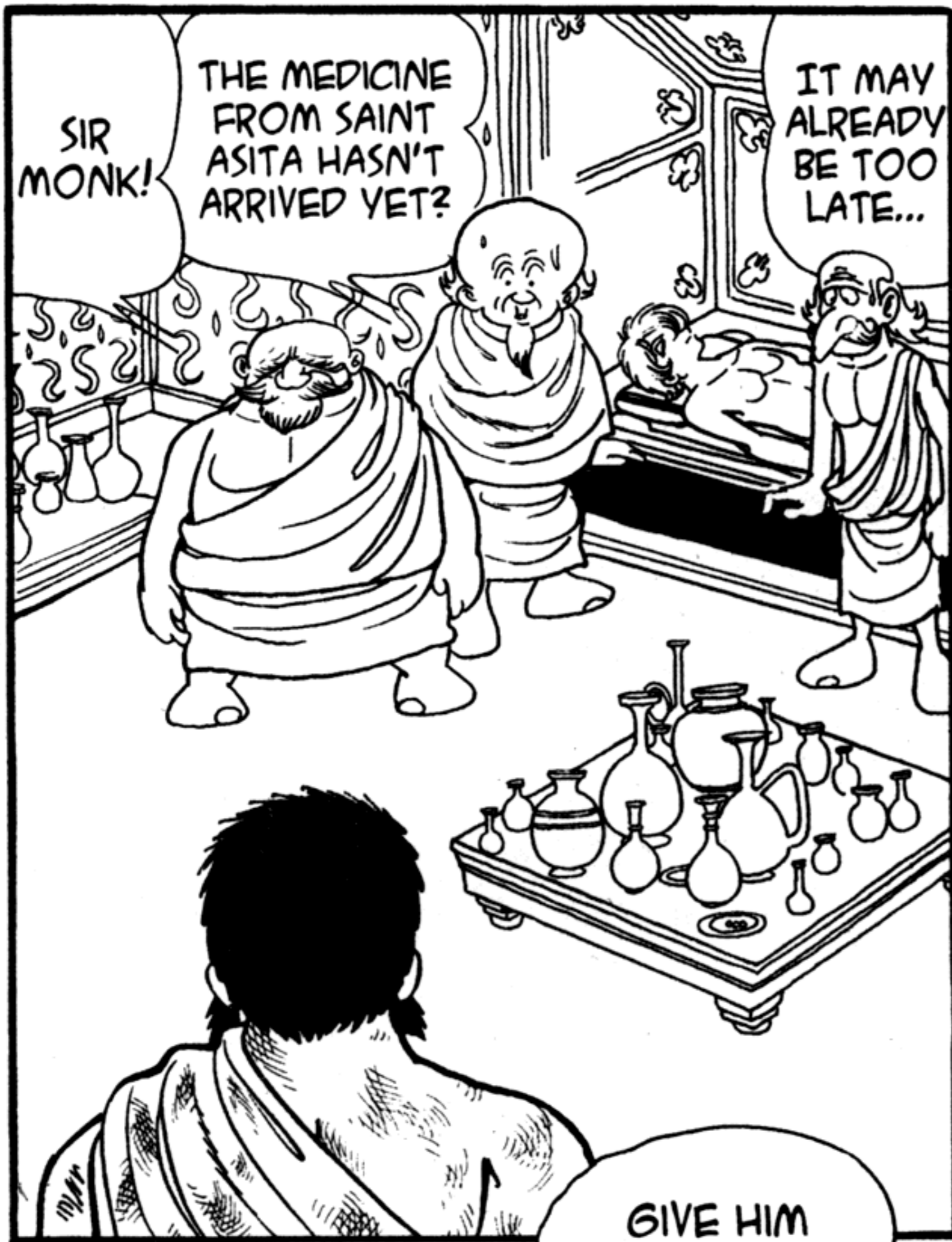


FORGIVE
ME,
MASTER...

NO. NOT
UNTIL YOU
TRULY
RECOGNIZE
YOUR ERROR
AND HAVE
REPENTED...

UNTIL THEN
YOU SHALL
FOLLOW
THE WAY OF
BEASTS AND
WANDER THE
WILDS
A BRUTE!





SIR MONK!

THE MEDICINE FROM SAINT ASITA HASN'T ARRIVED YET?

IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE...

GIVE HIM A LARGE DOSE EVERY TWO HOURS.



SPREAD SUMAC POWDER ON A PLATE, ADD A SPOONFUL OF JUICE FROM THE ANDROMEDA PLANT...

THEN MIX IT INTO GOAT'S BLOOD AND ASHES OF BURNED BONE!



SINGE HIS WOUND AND RUB WATERCRESS LEAVES ON IT.

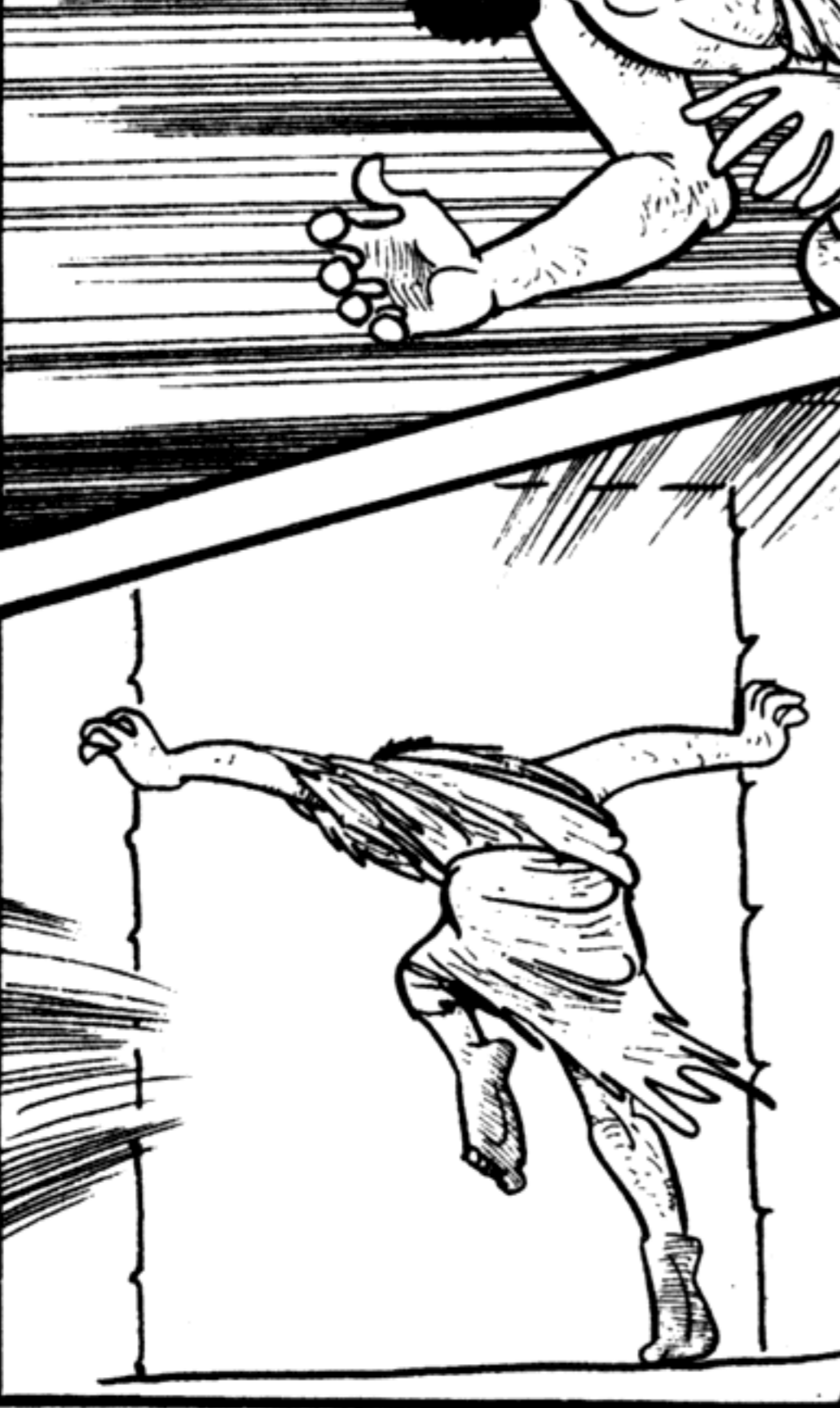
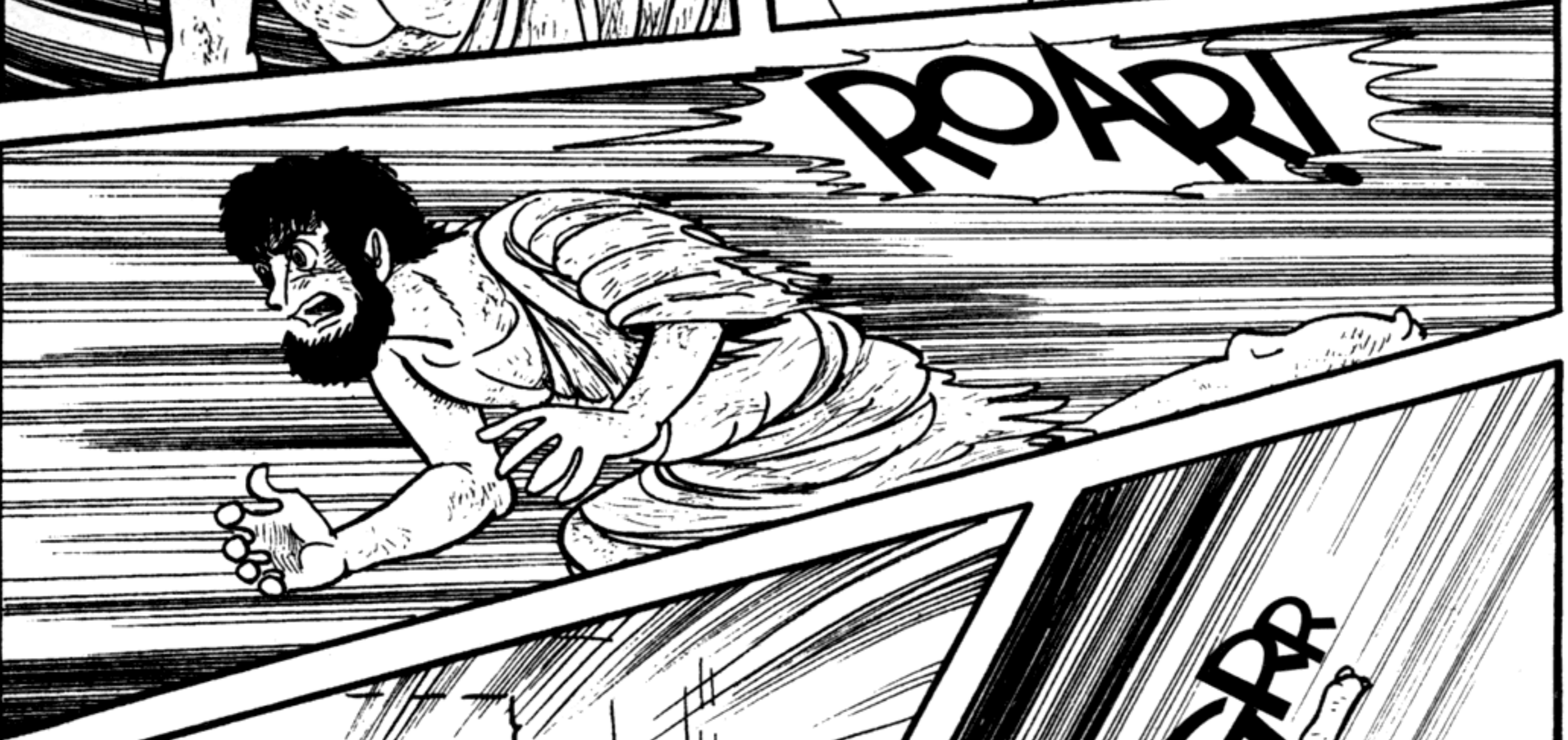


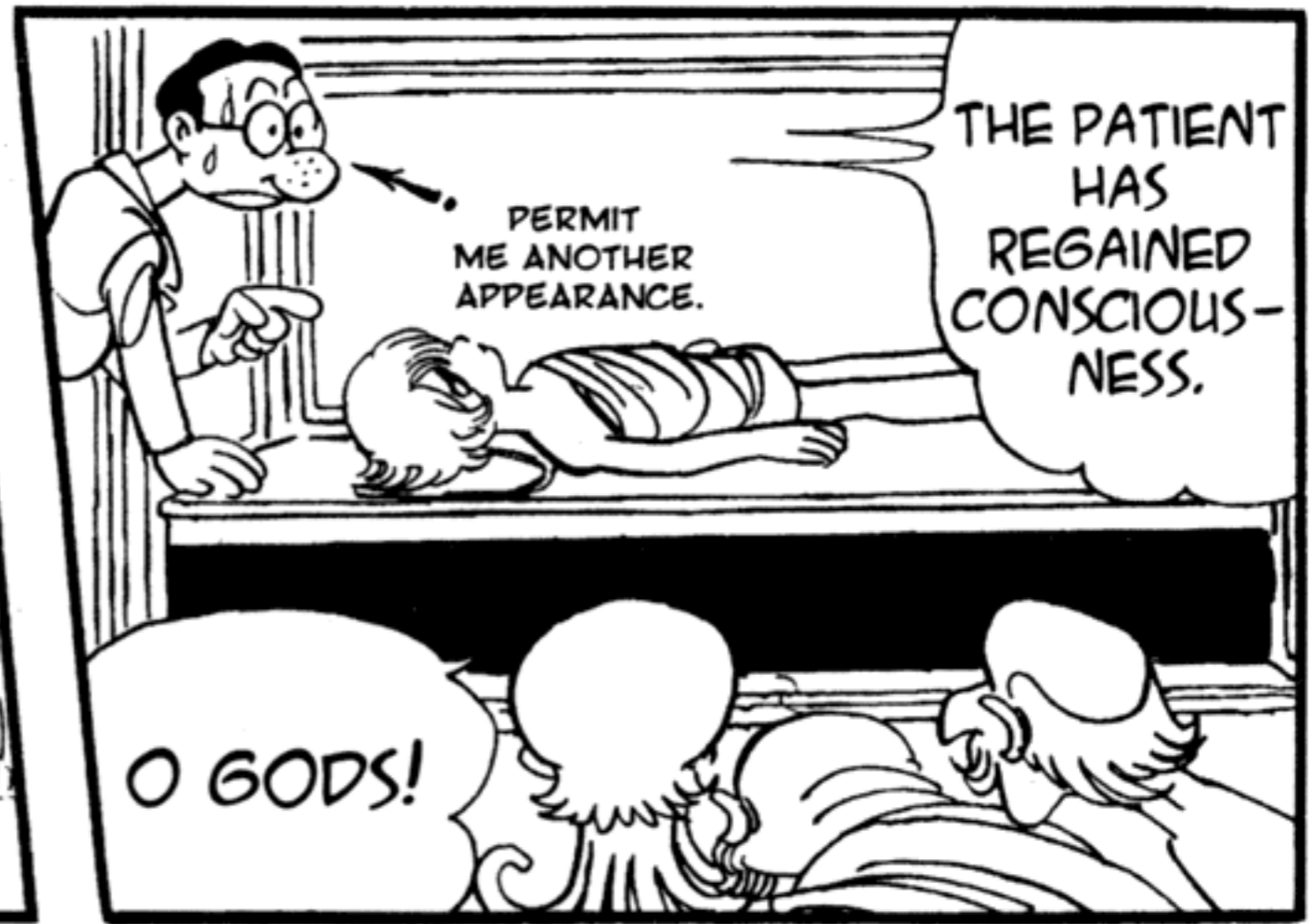
THAT WILL SAVE HIM— HE WILL LIVE.

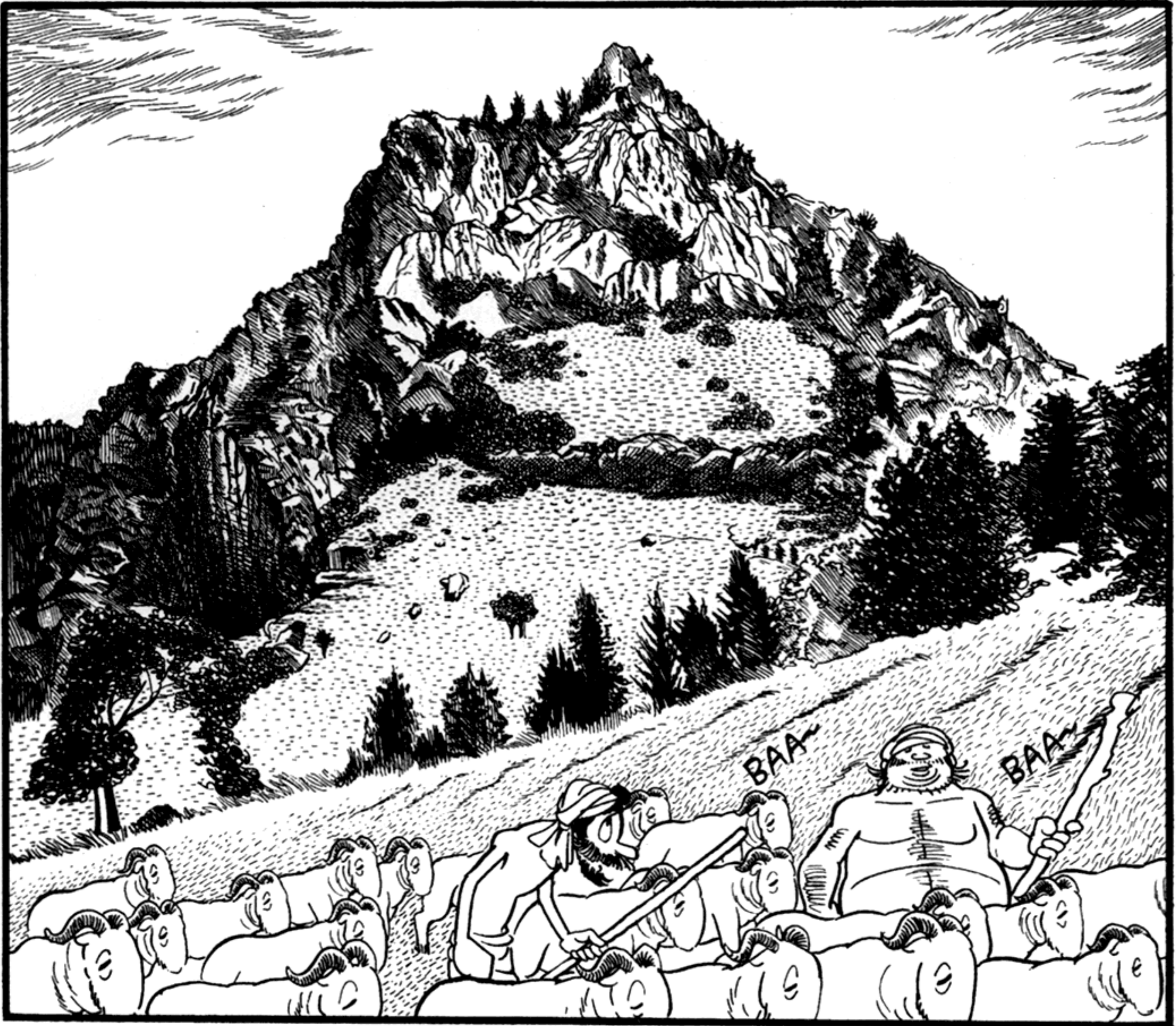


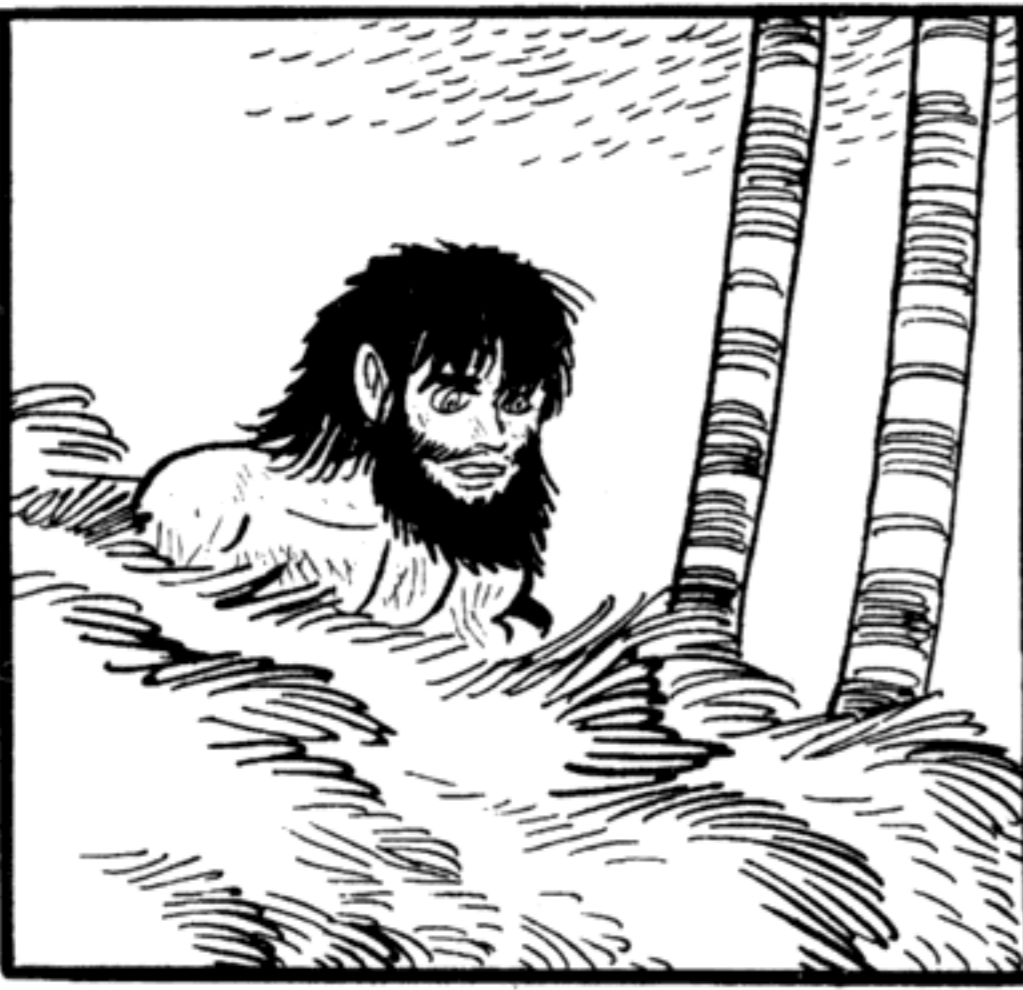
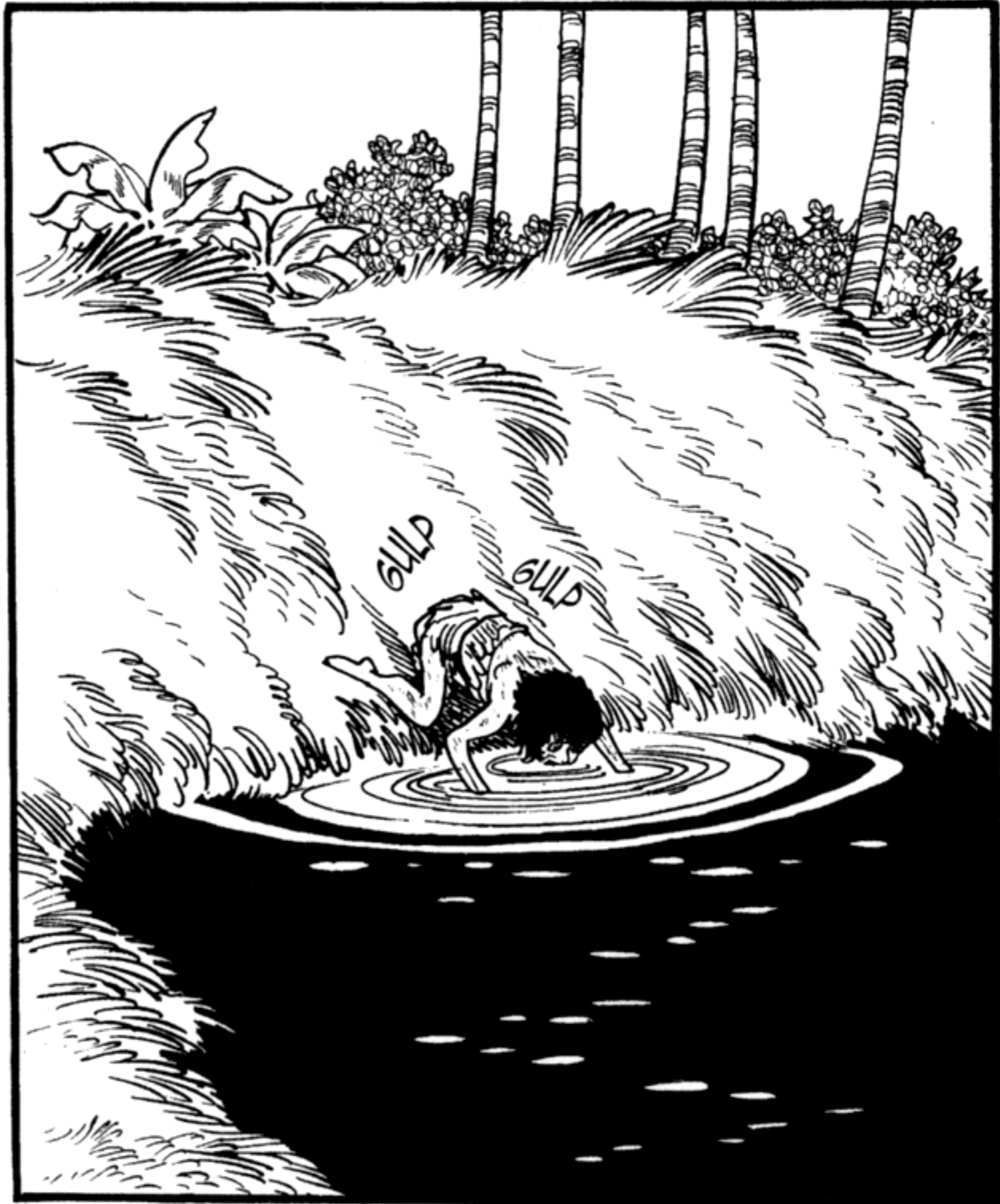
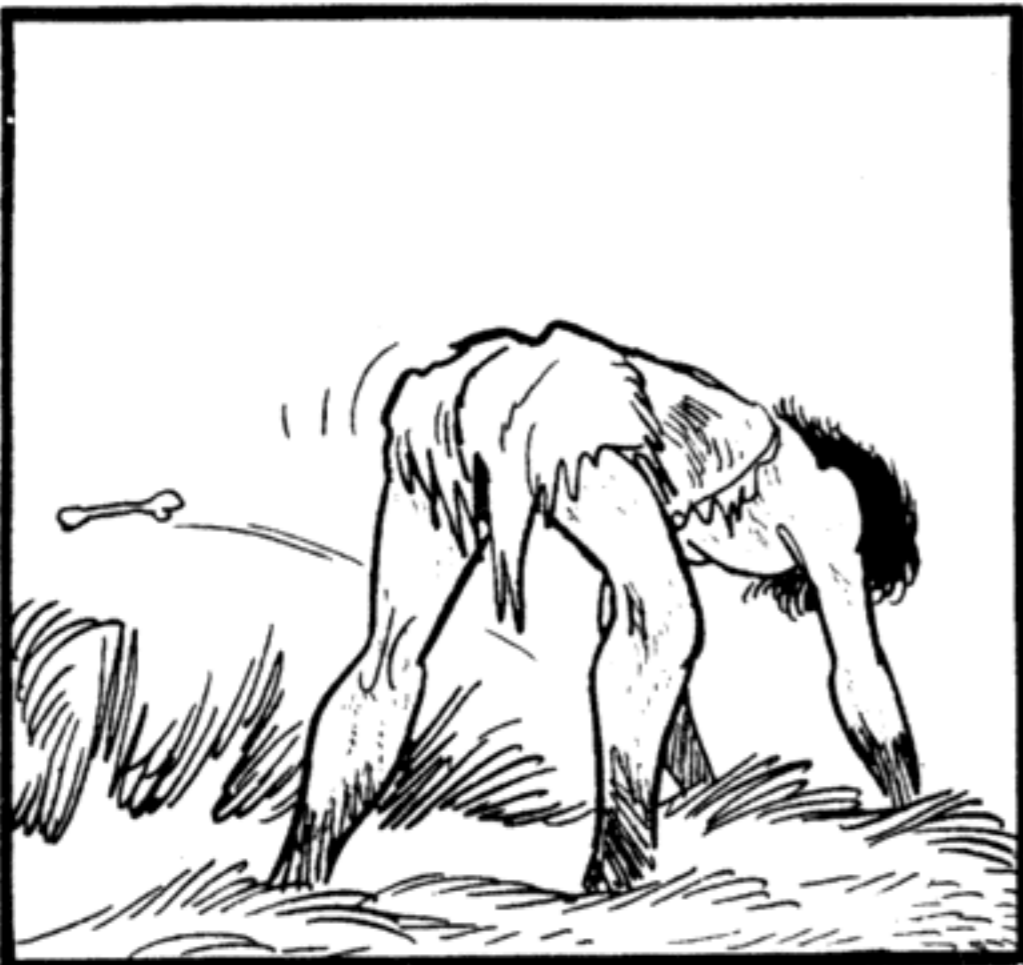
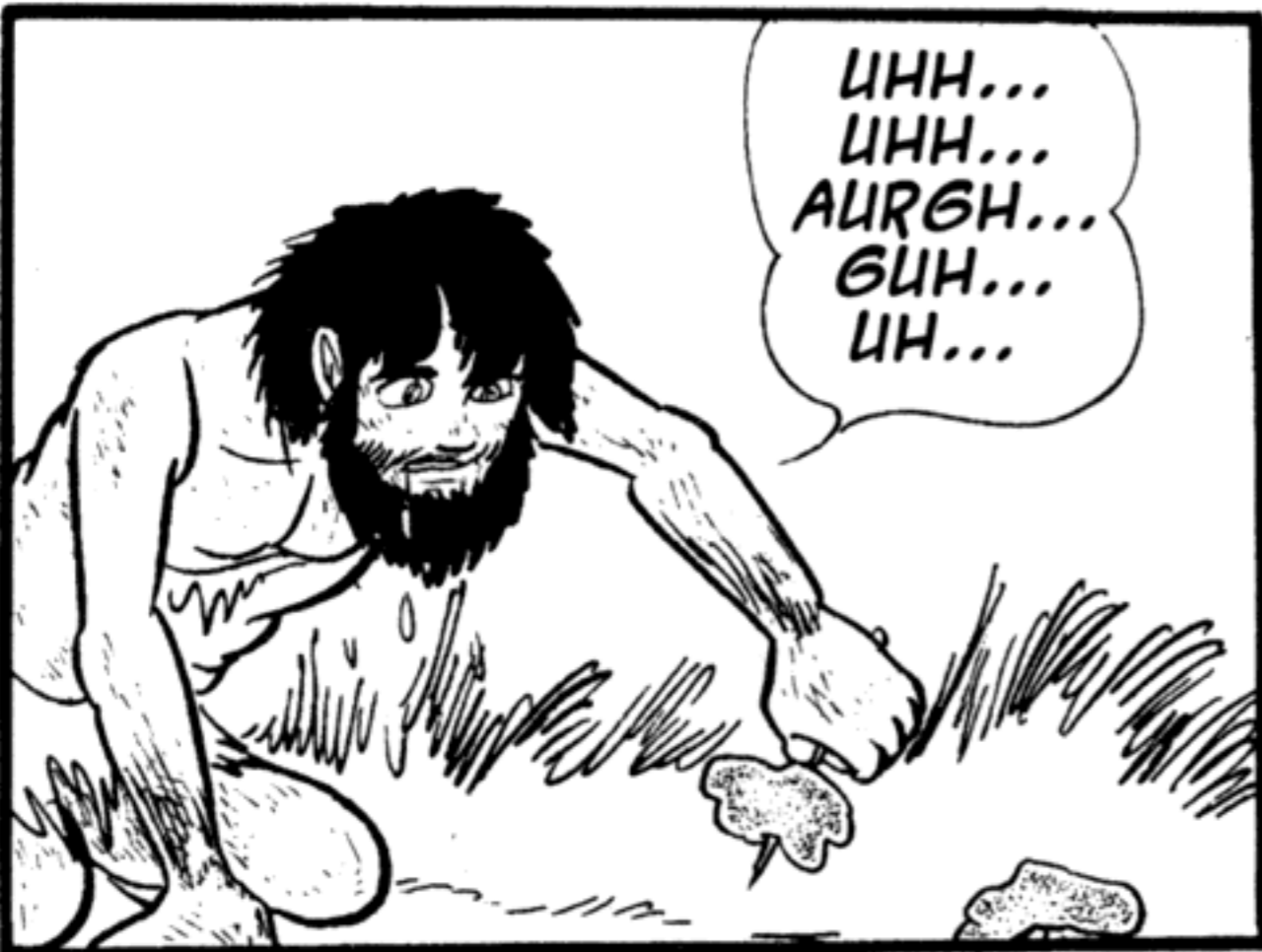
THUMP

?





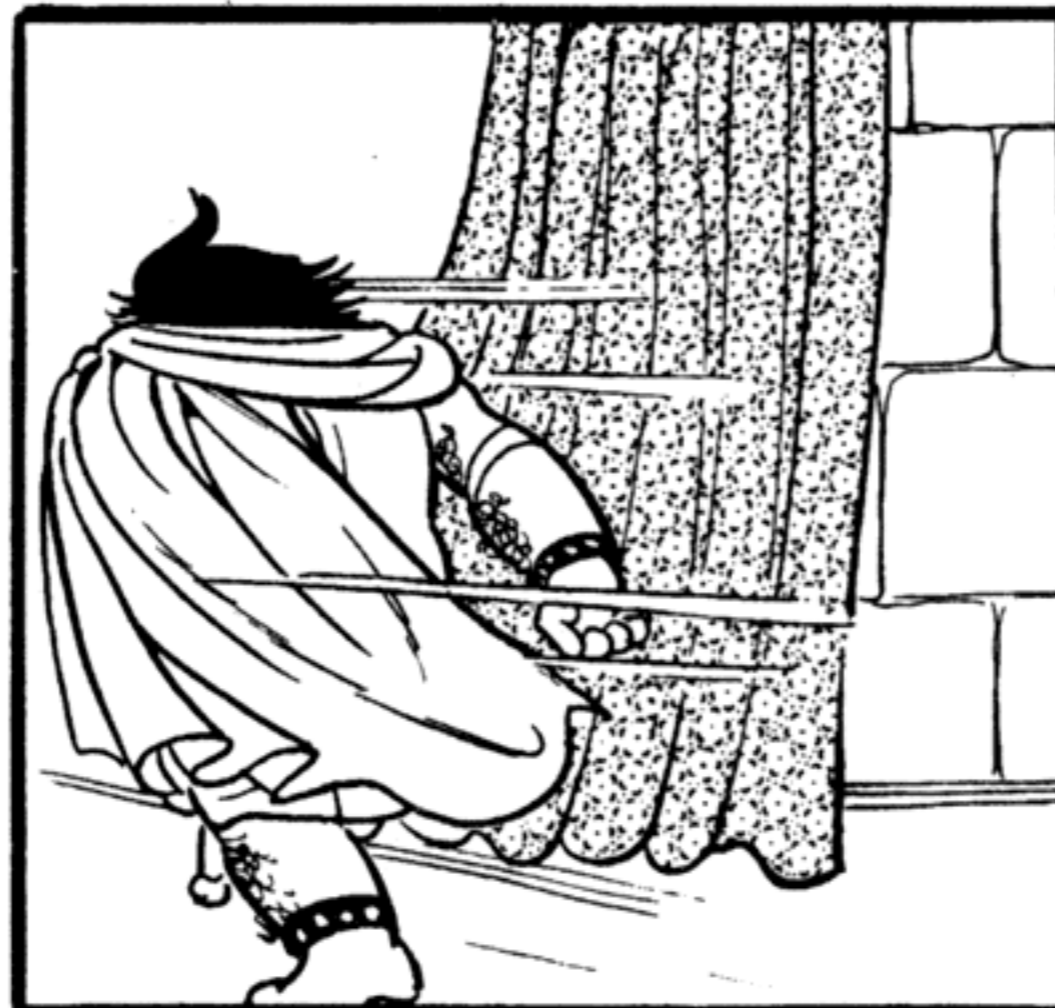
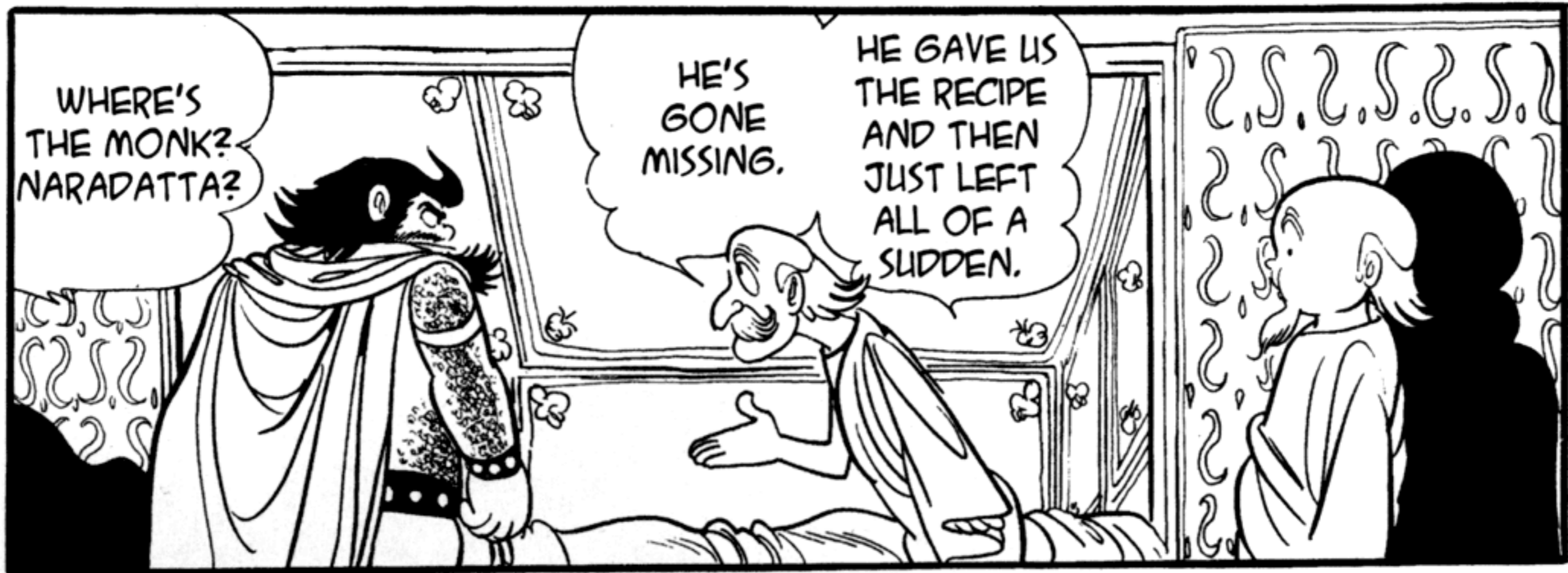


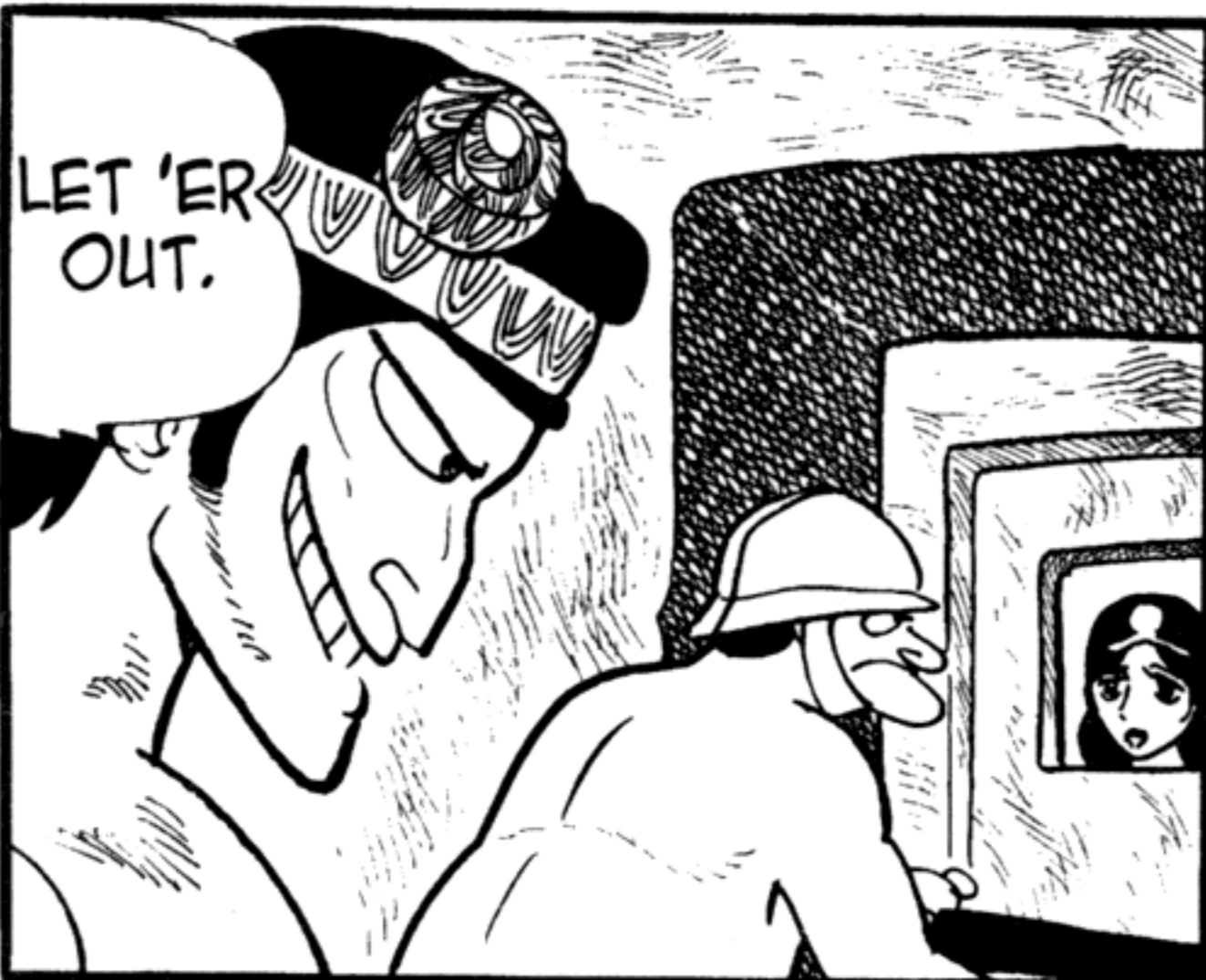
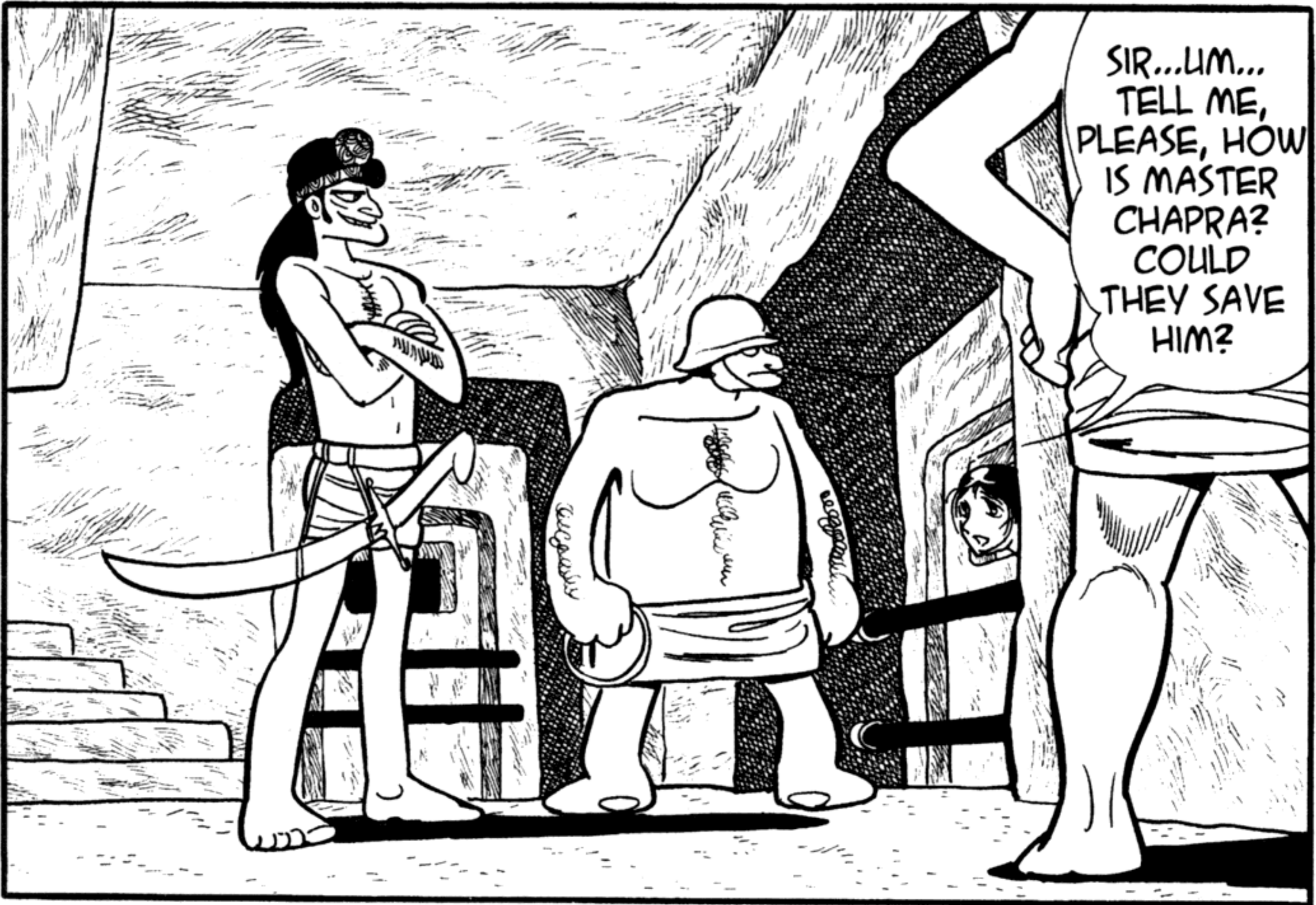
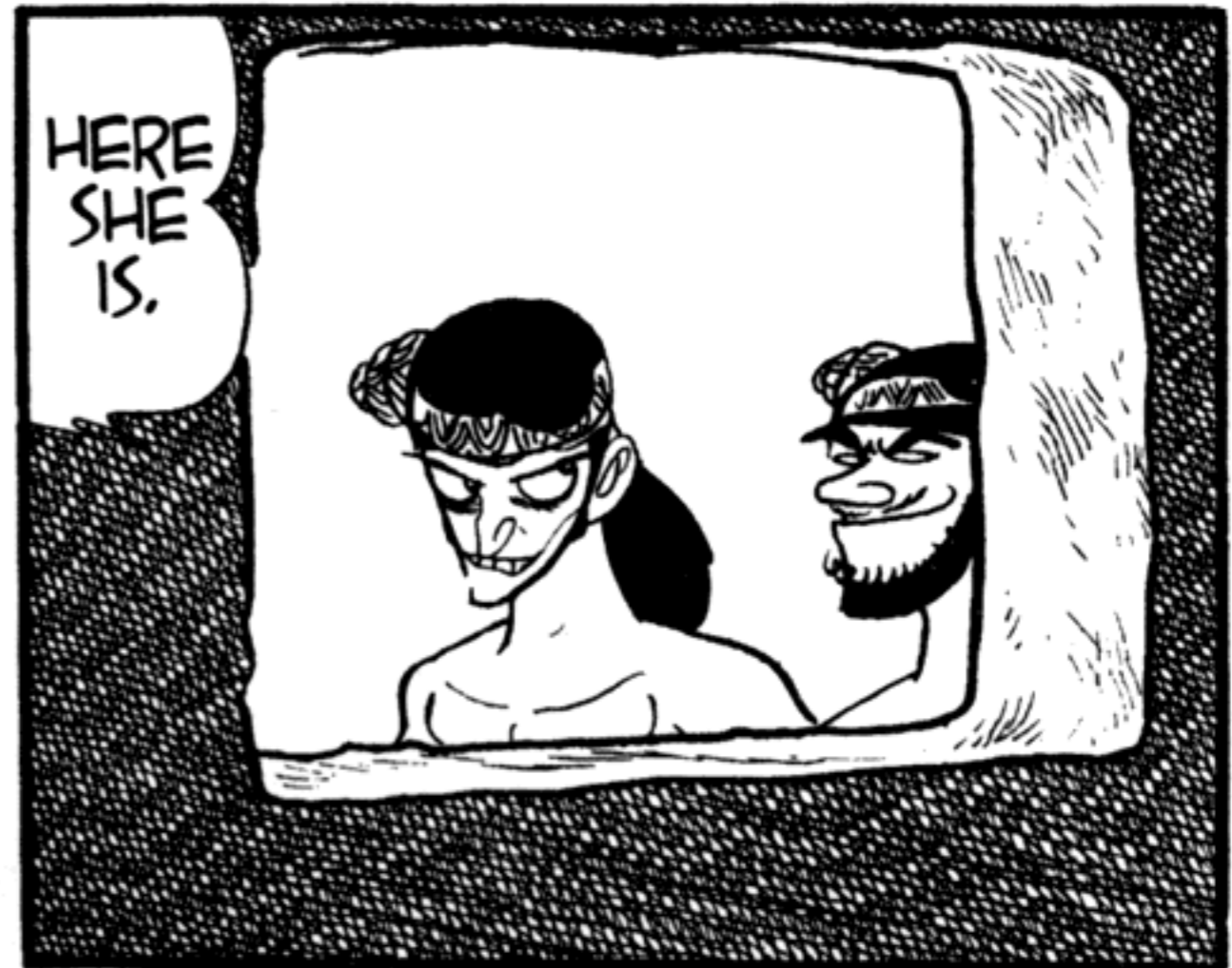
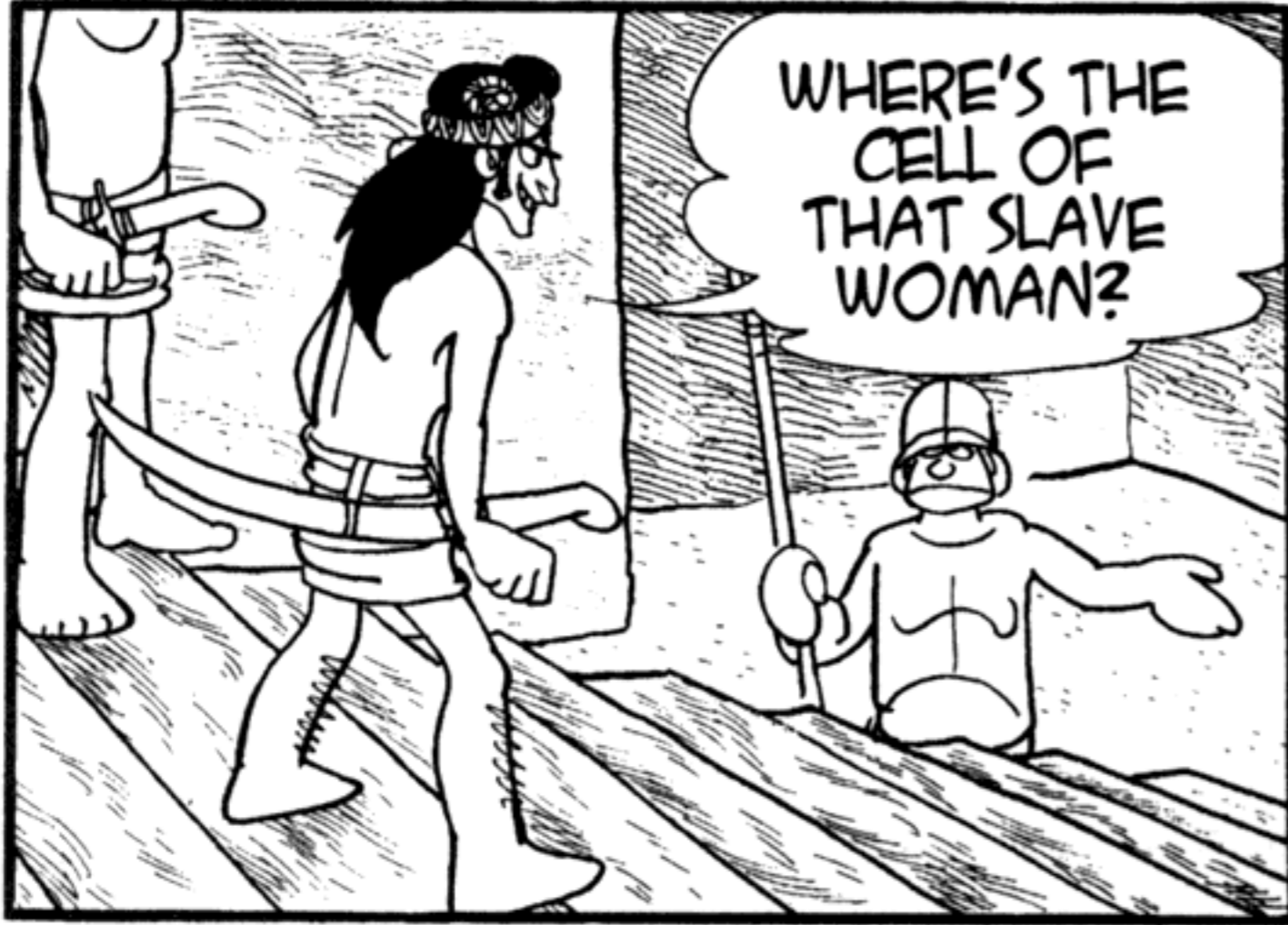


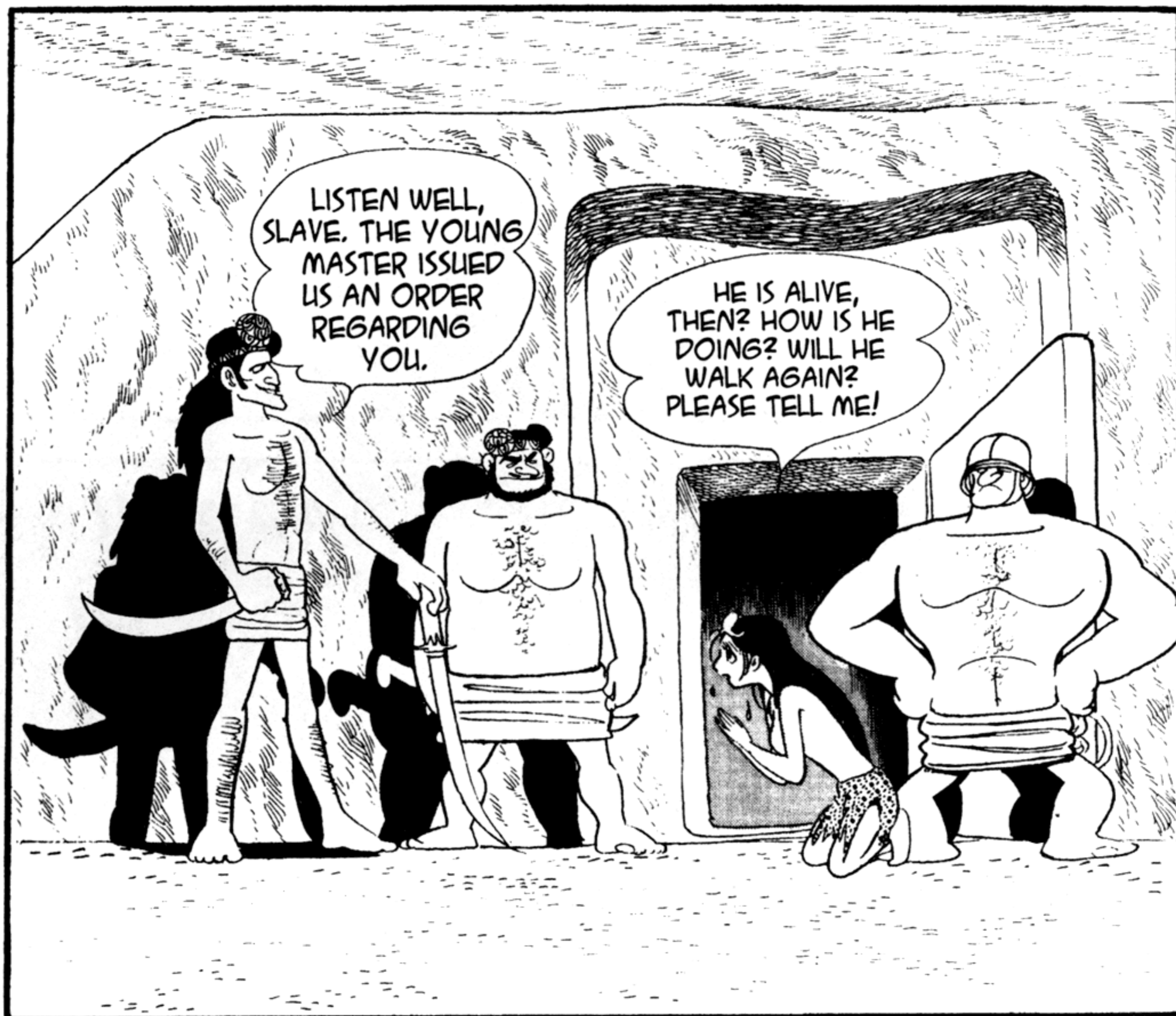
CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE JUDGMENT









LISTEN WELL, SLAVE. THE YOUNG MASTER ISSUED US AN ORDER REGARDING YOU.

HE IS ALIVE, THEN? HOW IS HE DOING? WILL HE WALK AGAIN? PLEASE TELL ME!



MORE WORRIED ABOUT HIM THAN ABOUT YOURSELF, HUH? WHAT A RIOT!

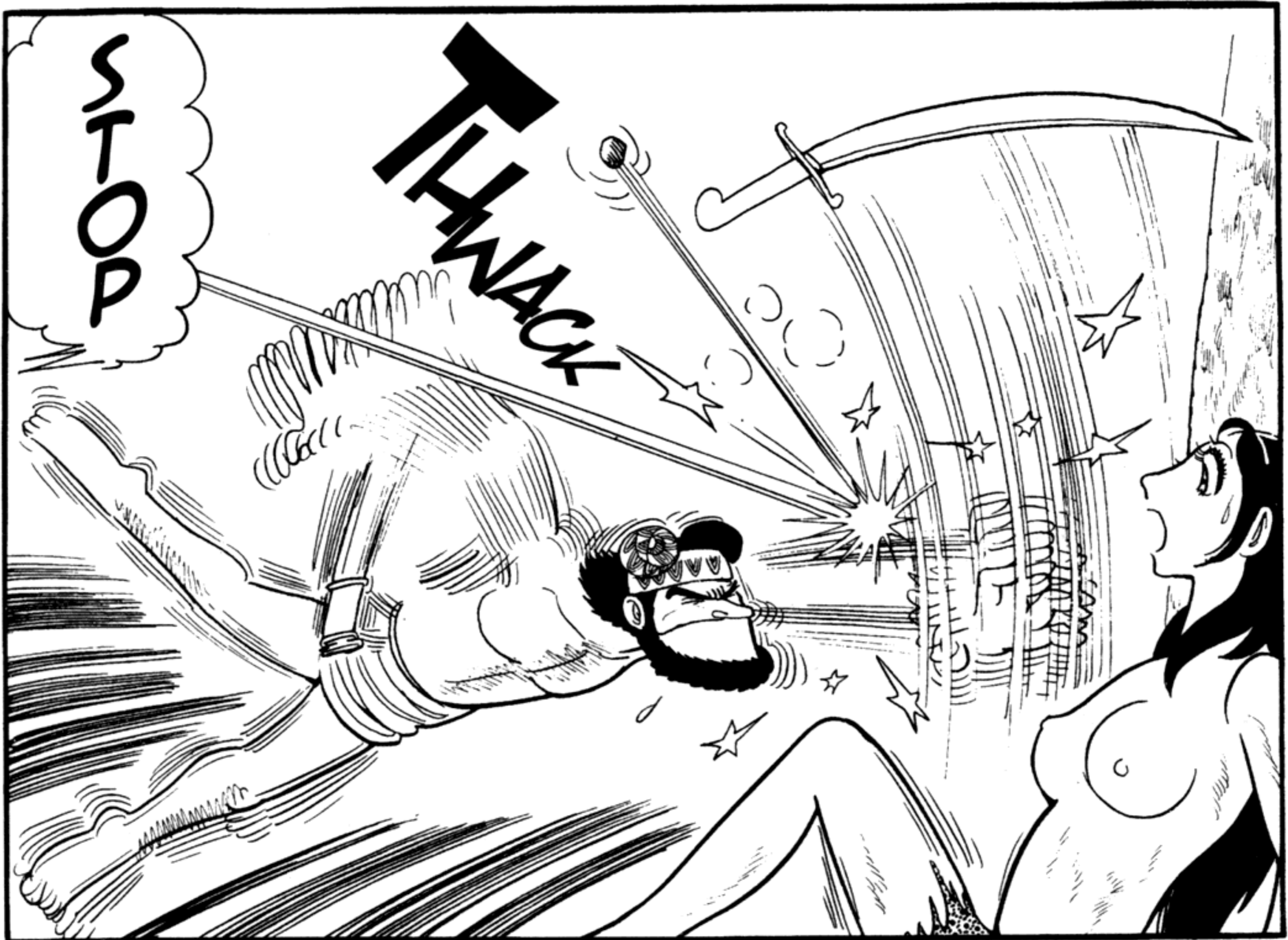
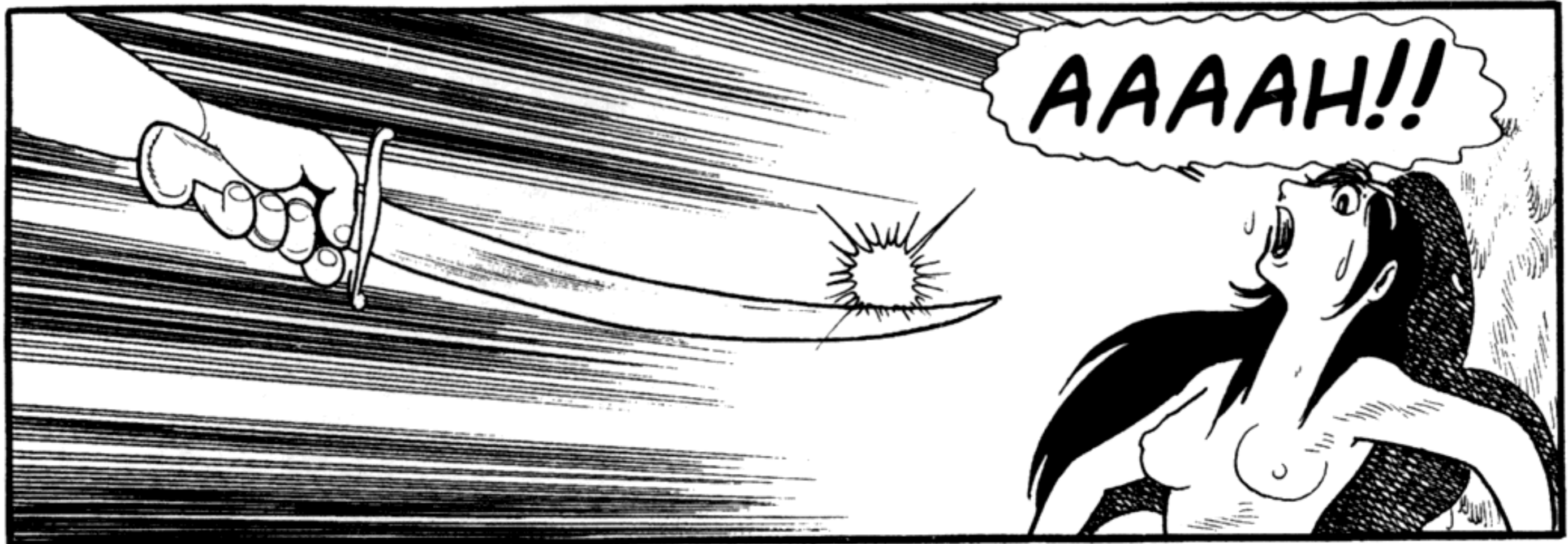
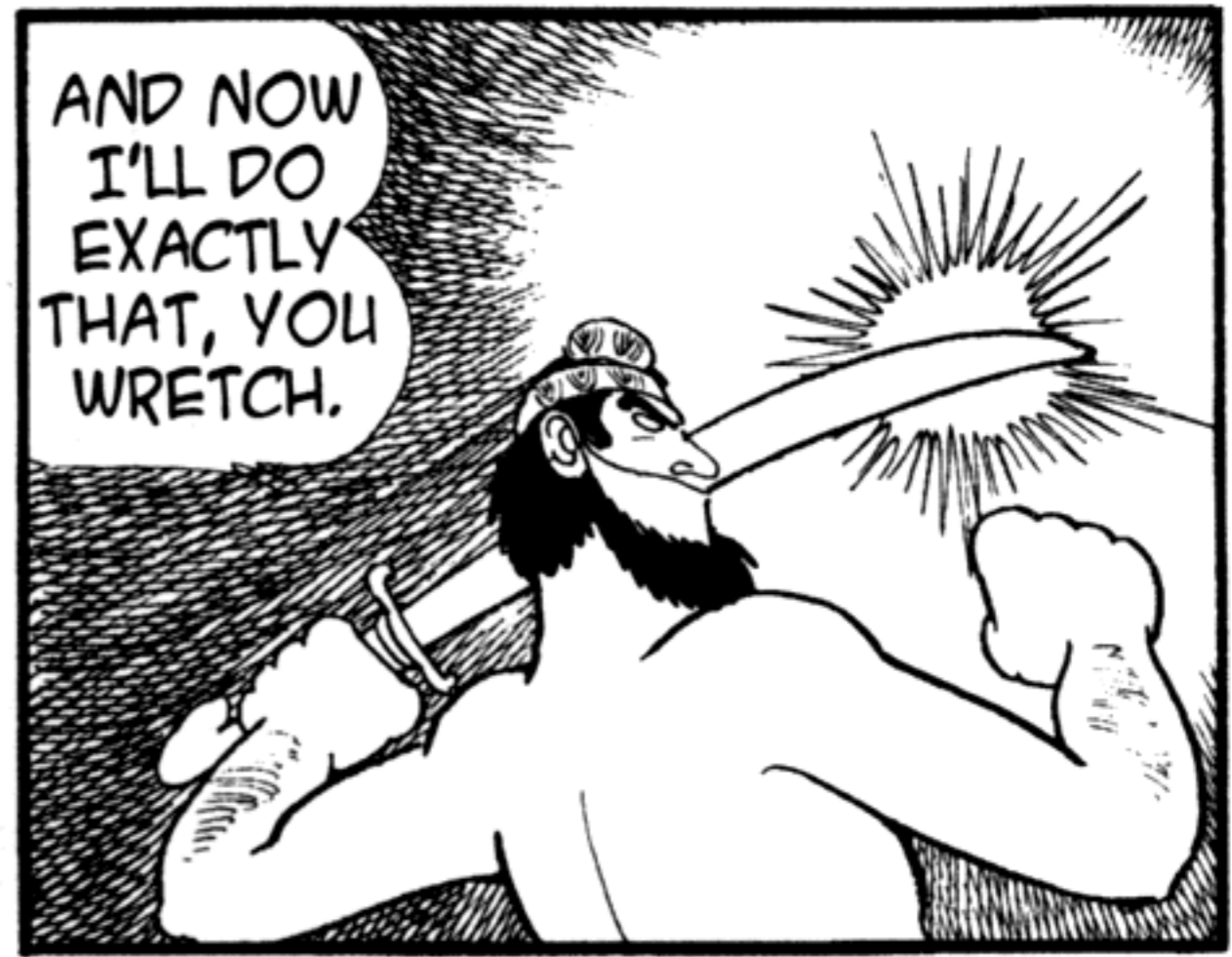


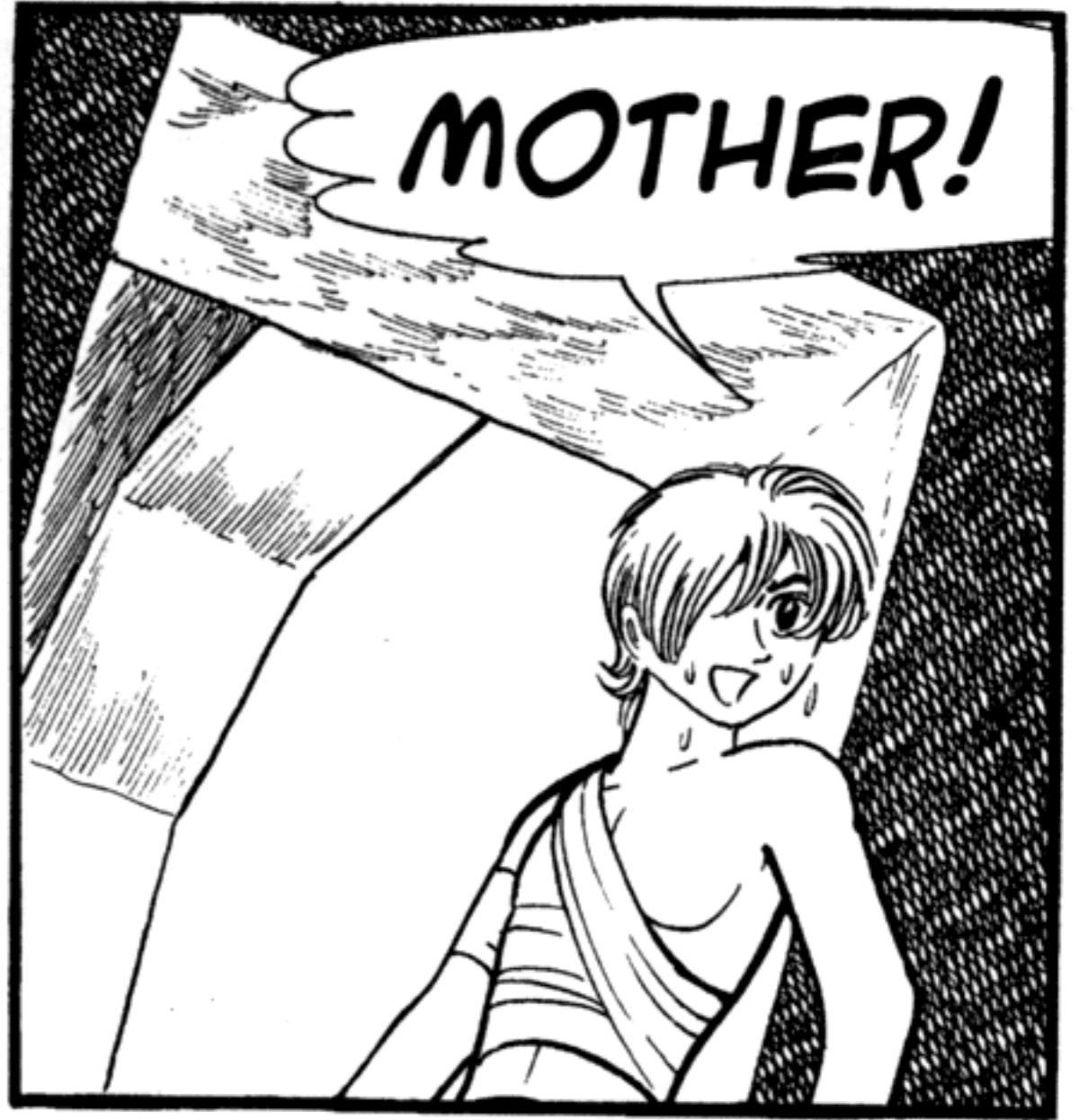
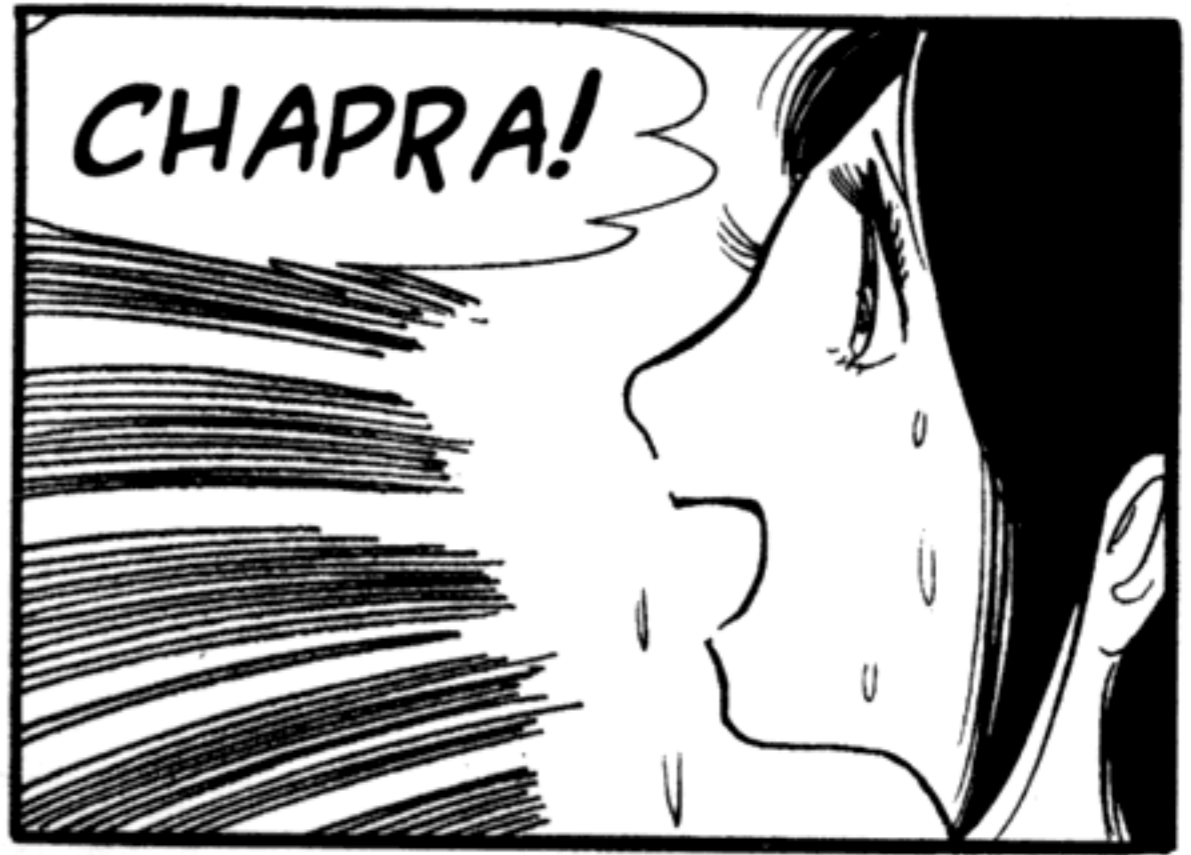
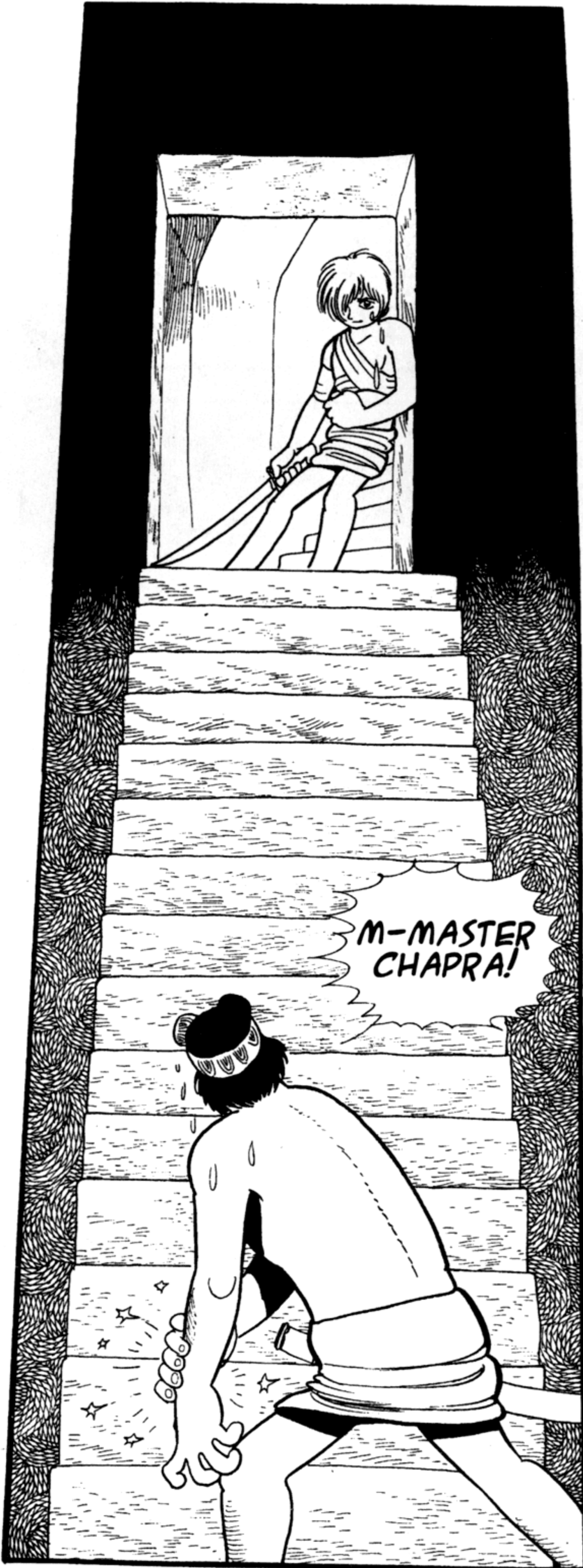
IT'S JUST THAT I, UM...

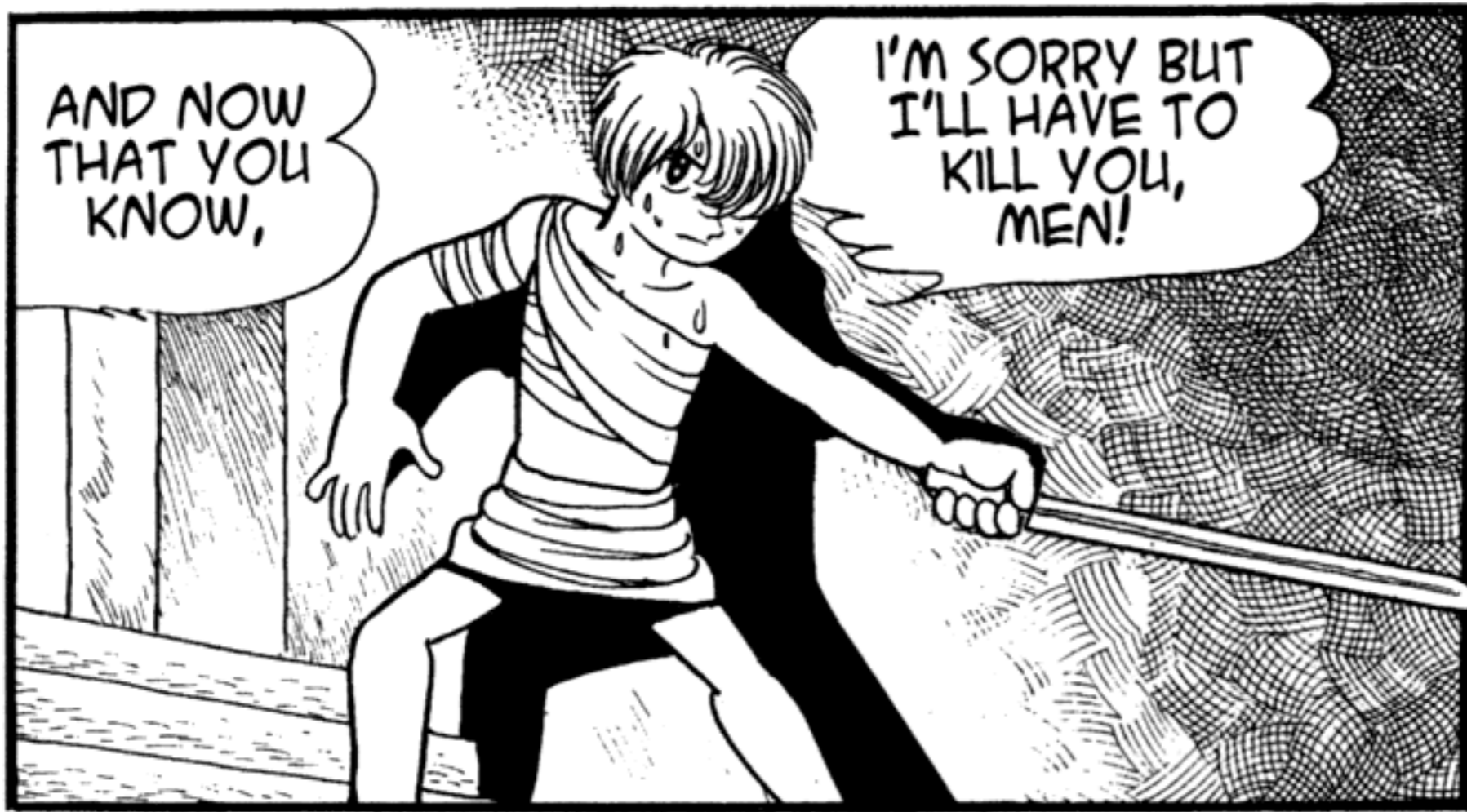


WELL, GUESS WHAT, YOUR BELOVED HERO TOLD US TO KILL YOU.

NO

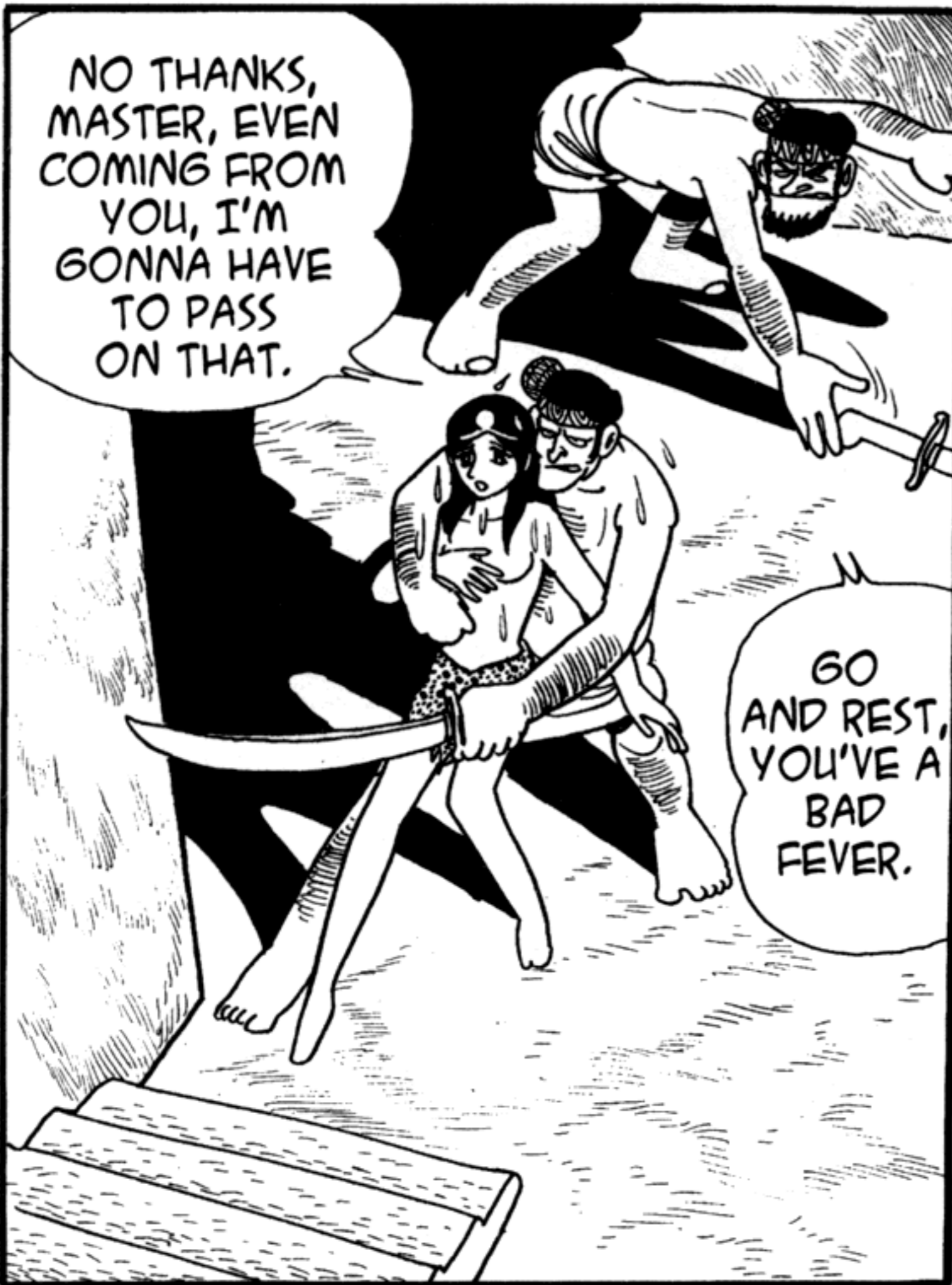






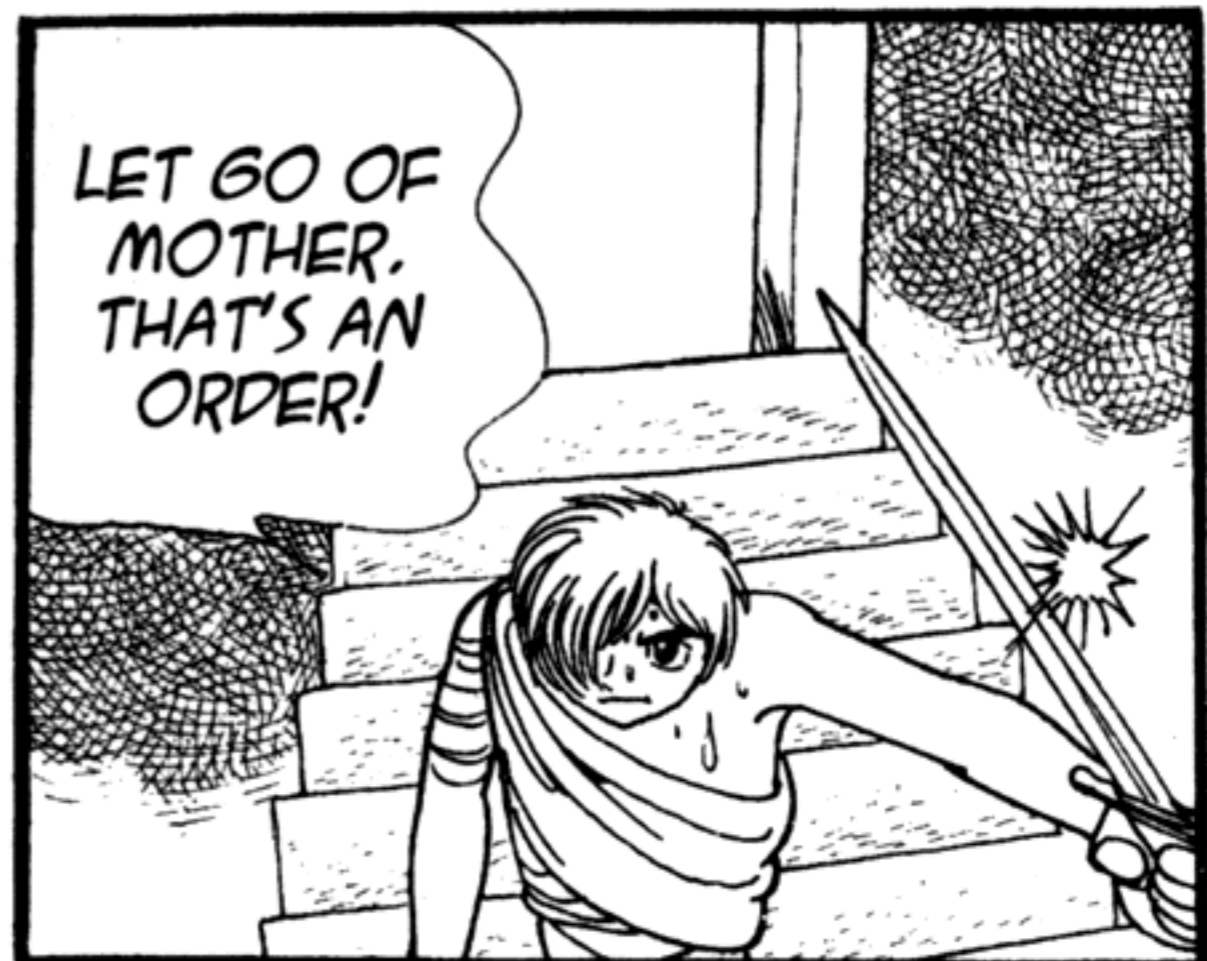
AND NOW THAT YOU KNOW,

I'M SORRY BUT I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU, MEN!

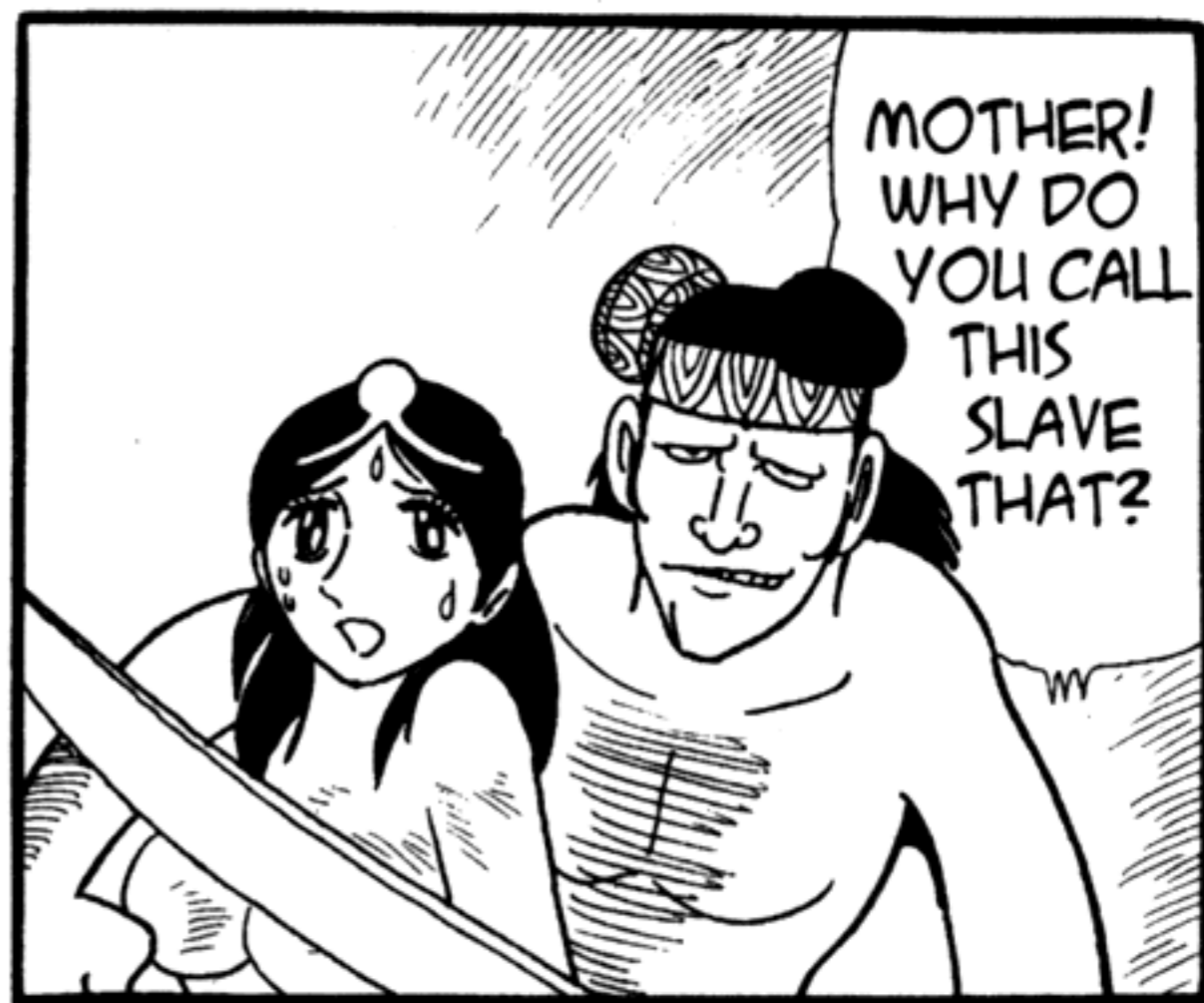


NO THANKS, MASTER, EVEN COMING FROM YOU, I'M GONNA HAVE TO PASS ON THAT.

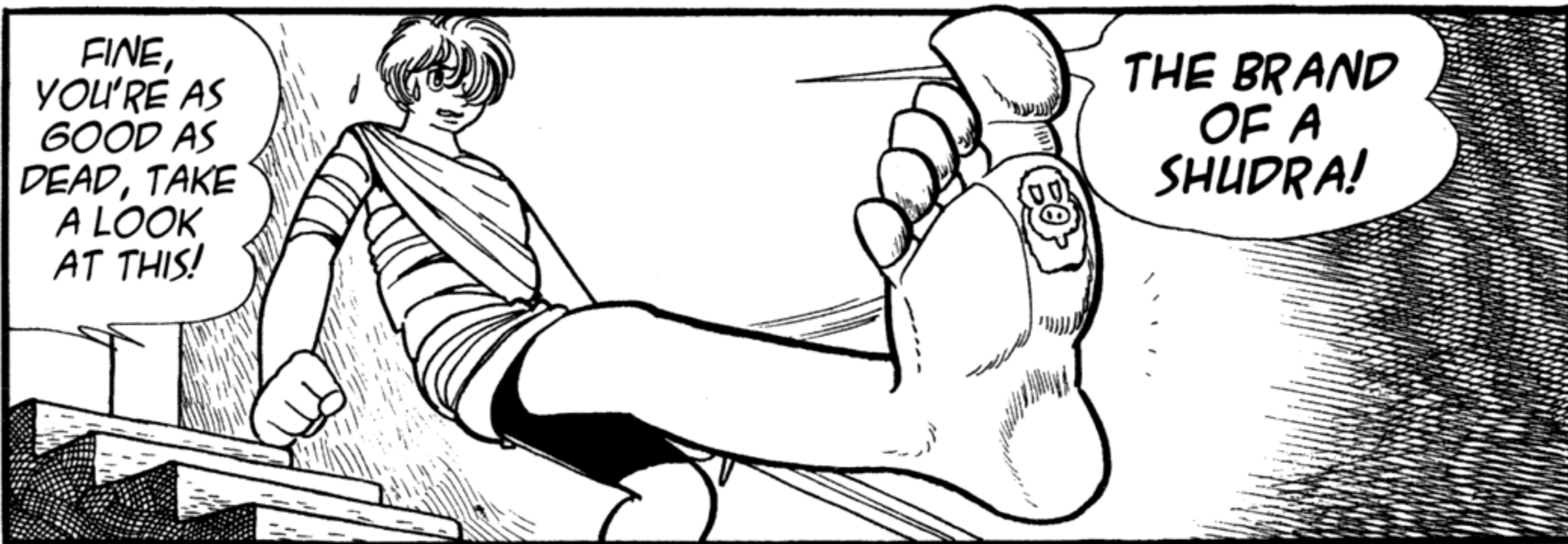
GO AND REST, YOU'VE A BAD FEVER.



LET GO OF MOTHER. THAT'S AN ORDER!

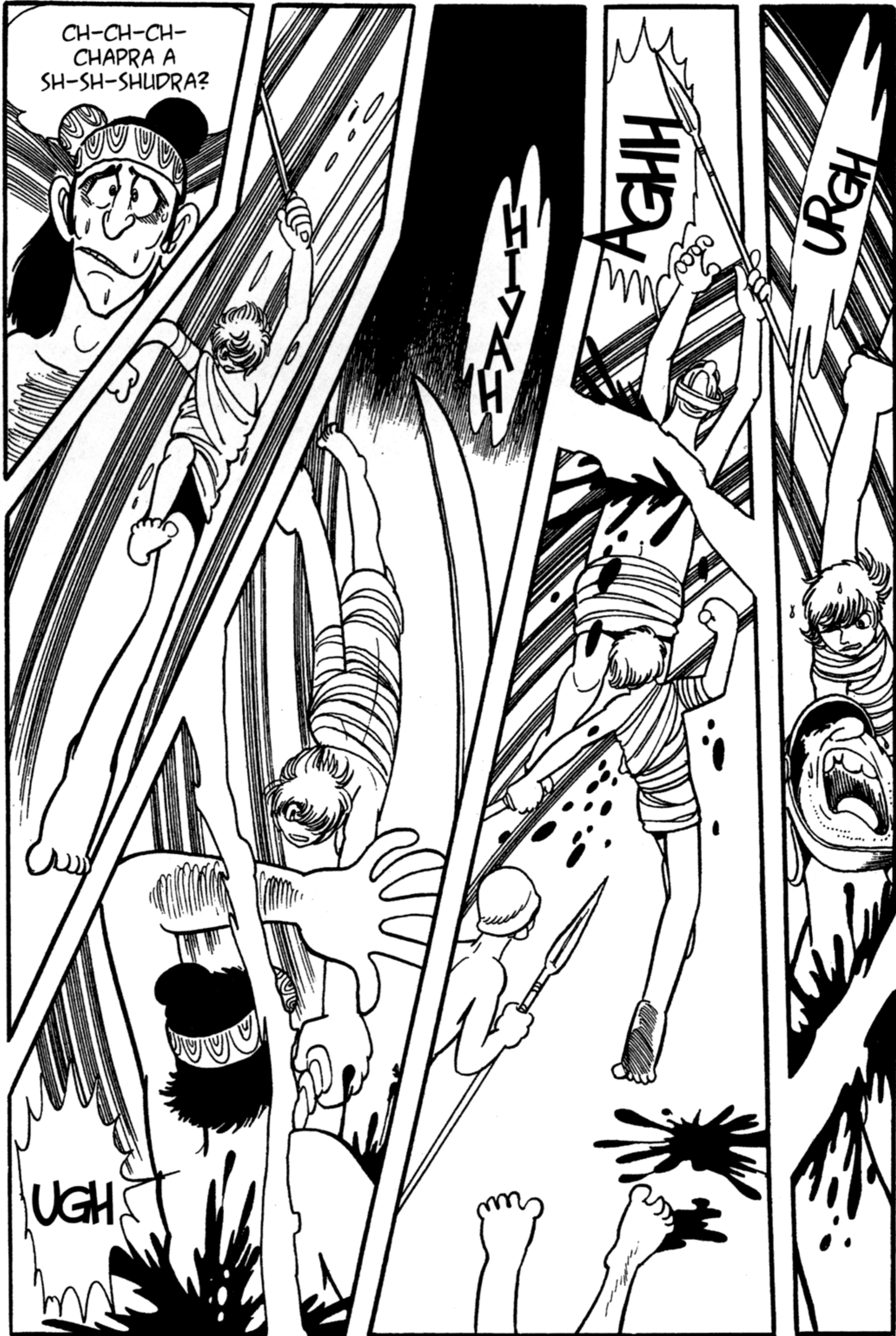


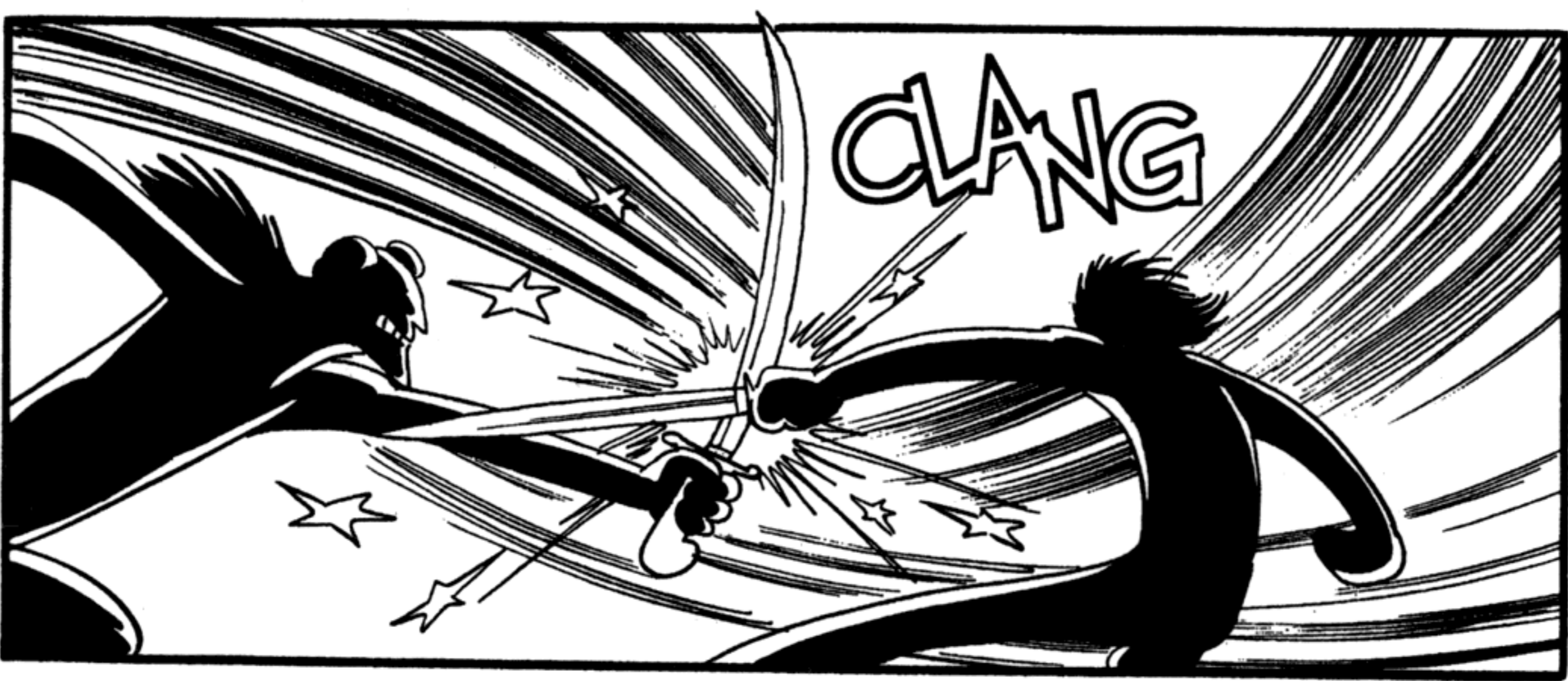
MOTHER! WHY DO YOU CALL THIS SLAVE THAT?

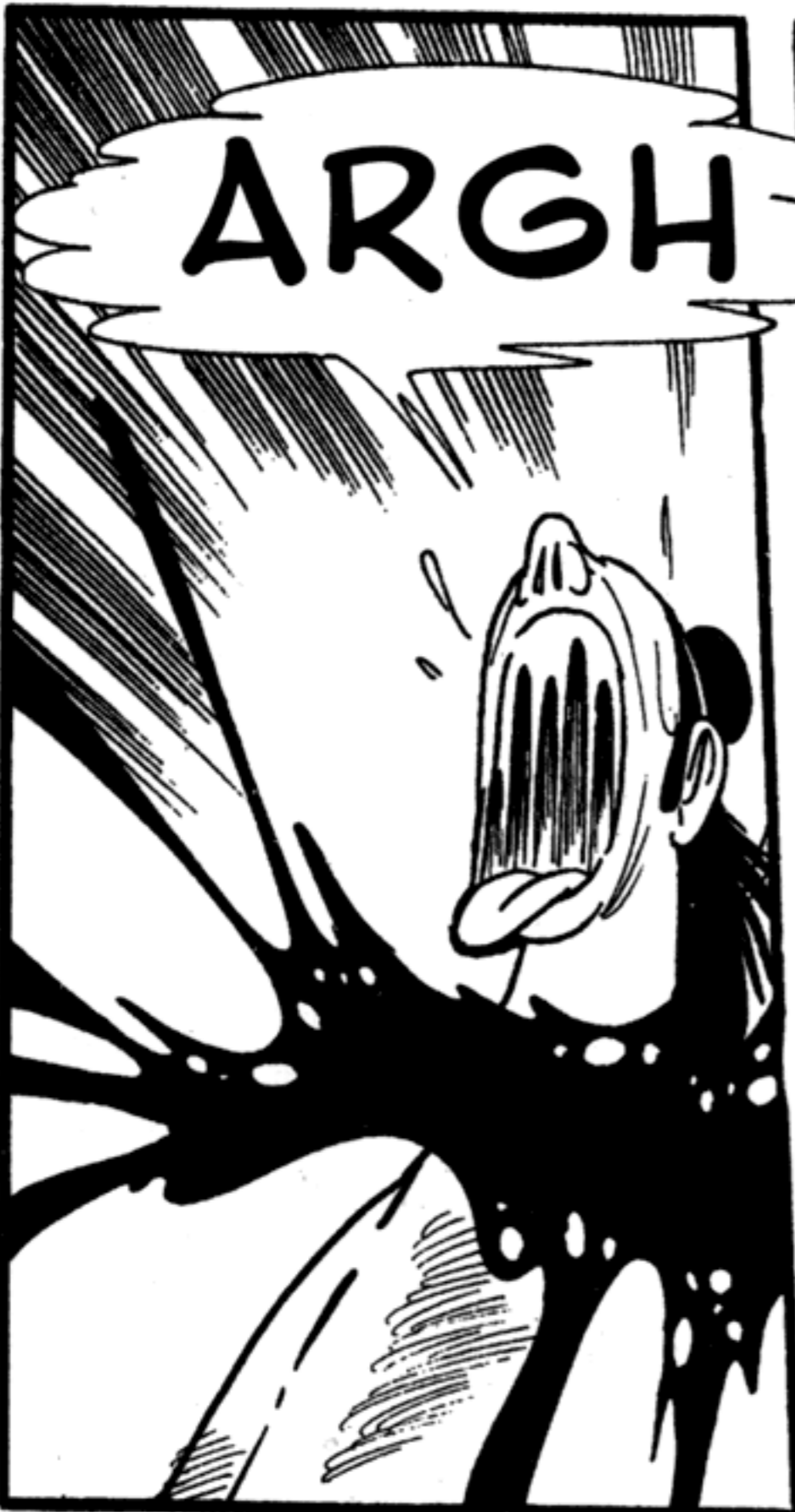
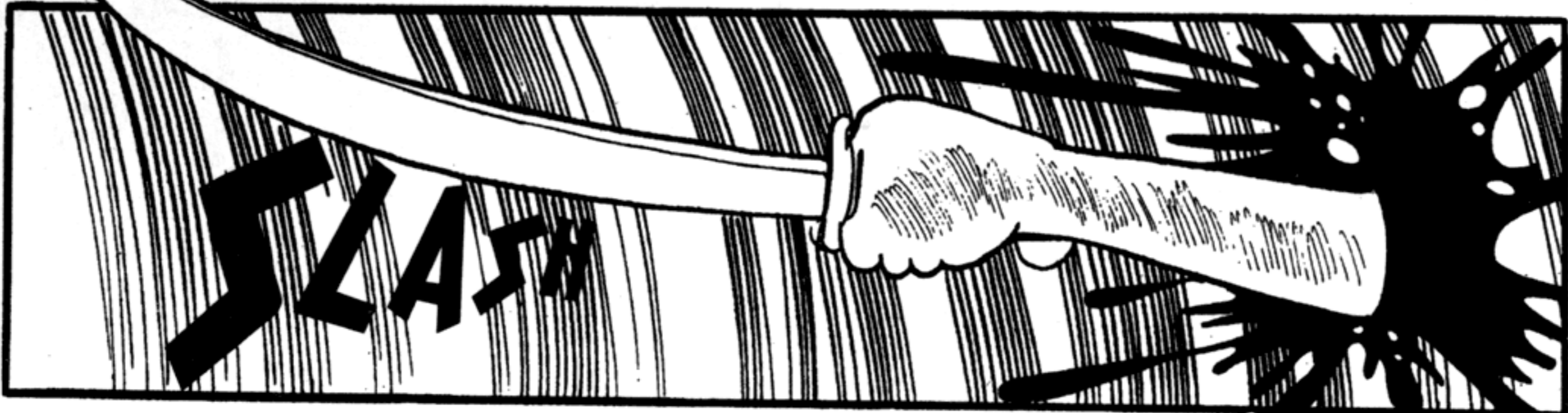


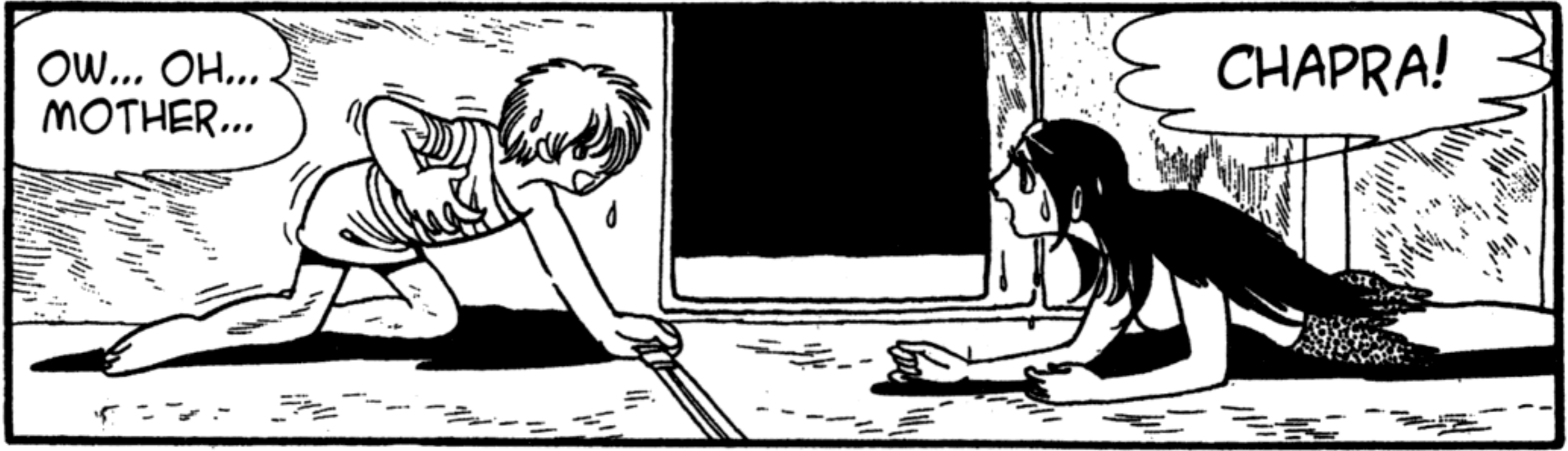
FINE, YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

THE BRAND OF A SHUDRA!



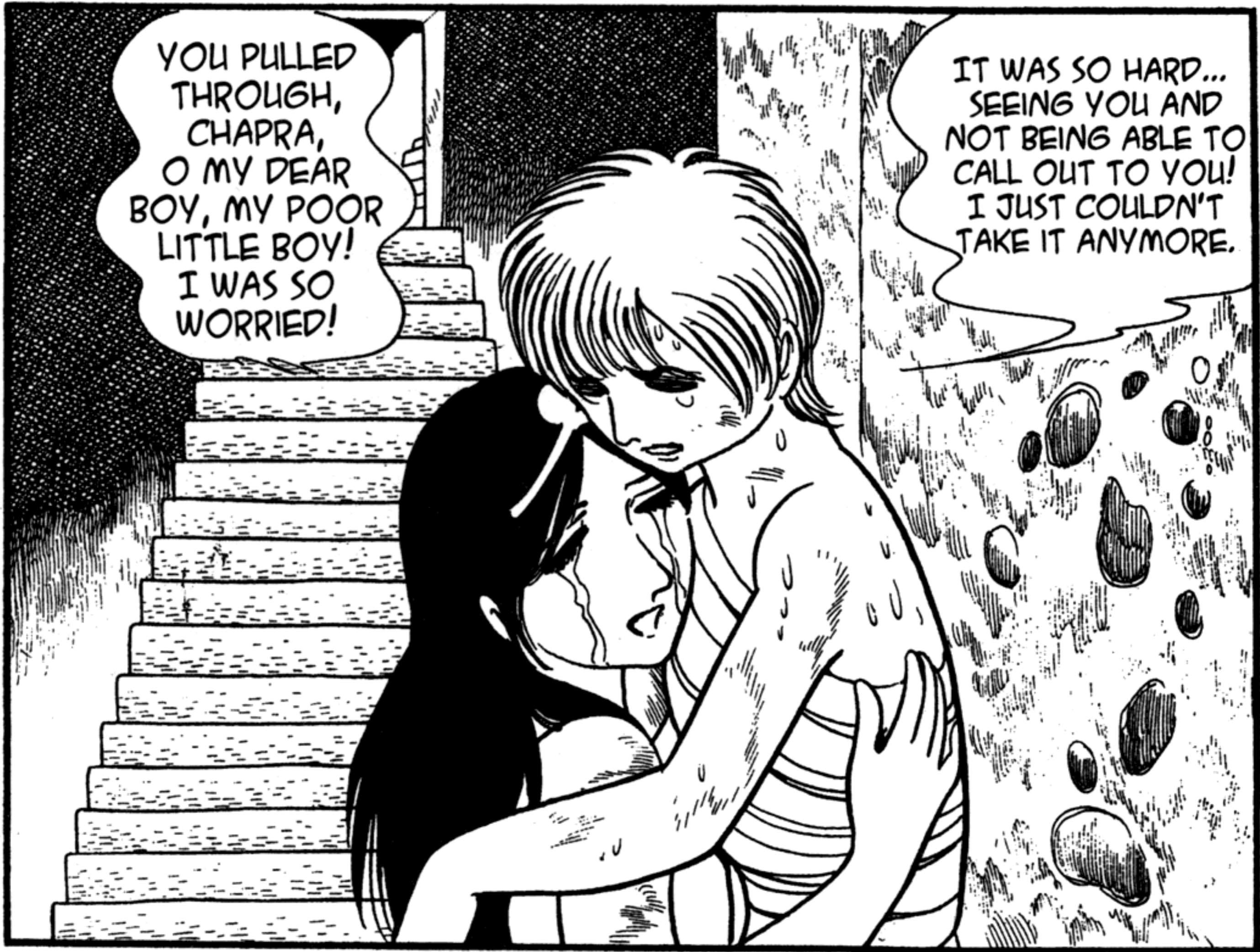






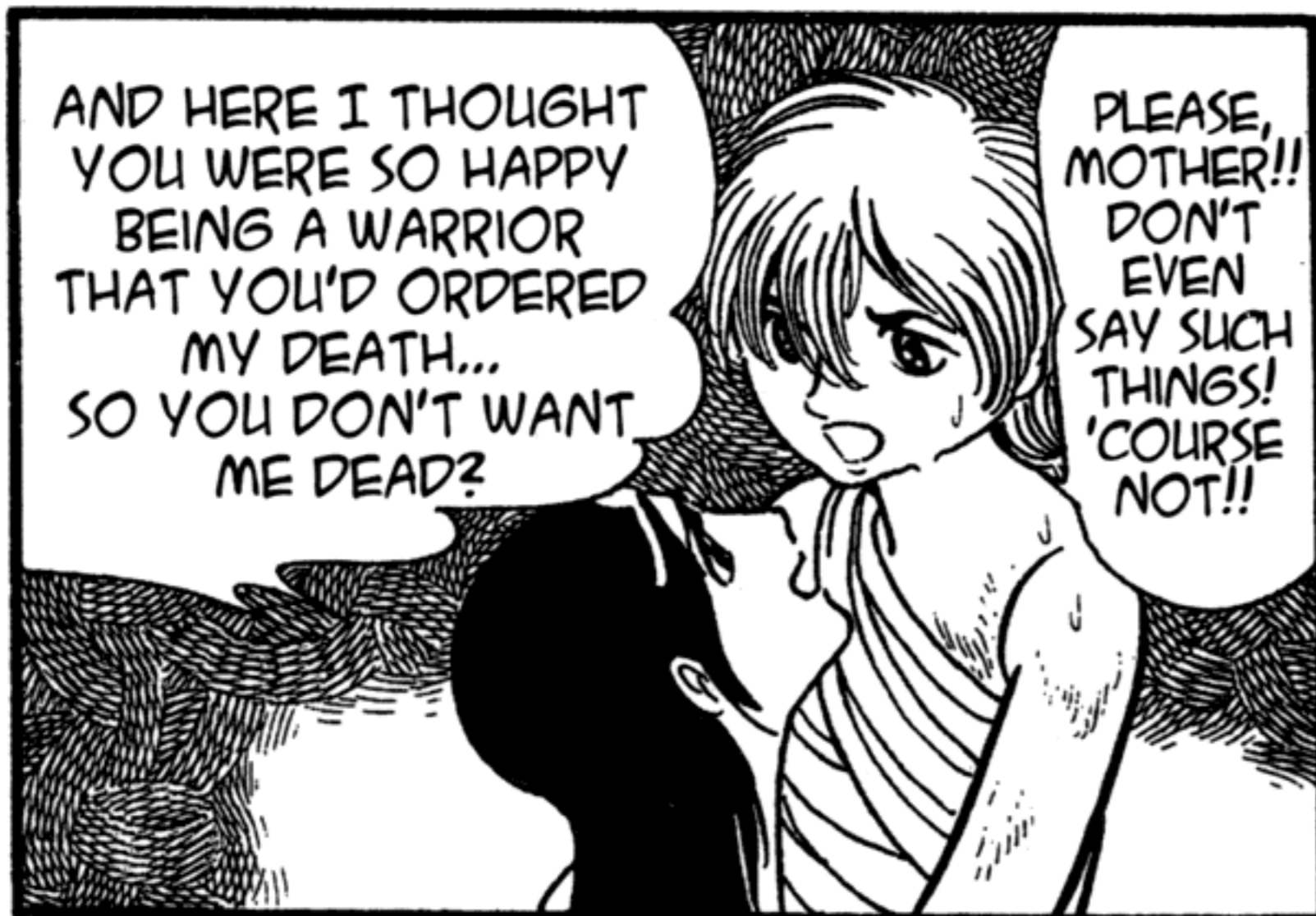
OW... OH...
MOTHER...

CHAPRA!



YOU PULLED
THROUGH,
CHAPRA,
O MY DEAR
BOY, MY POOR
LITTLE BOY!
I WAS SO
WORRIED!

IT WAS SO HARD...
SEEING YOU AND
NOT BEING ABLE TO
CALL OUT TO YOU!
I JUST COULDN'T
TAKE IT ANYMORE.

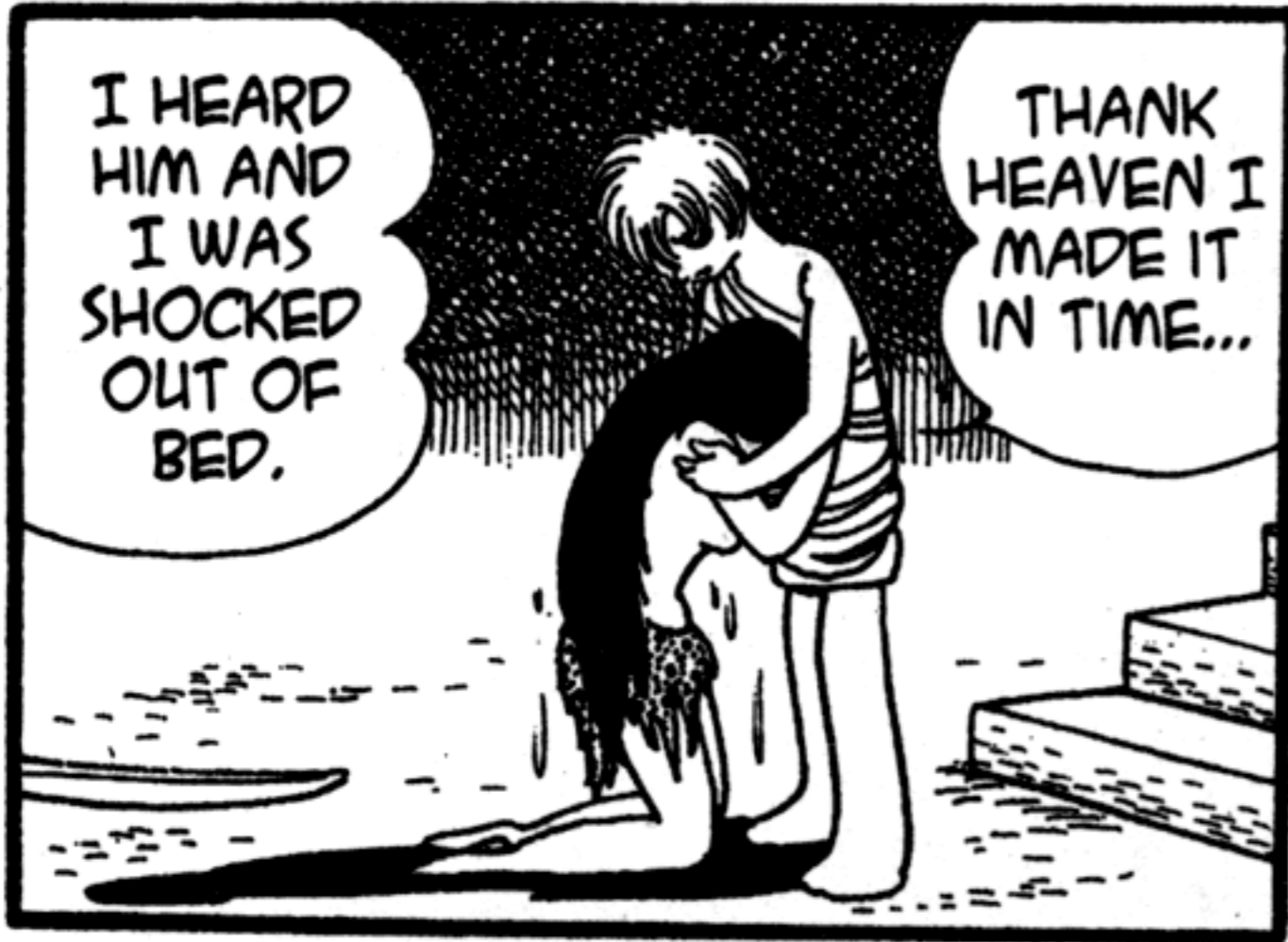


AND HERE I THOUGHT
YOU WERE SO HAPPY
BEING A WARRIOR
THAT YOU'D ORDERED
MY DEATH...
SO YOU DON'T WANT
ME DEAD?

PLEASE,
MOTHER!!
DON'T
EVEN
SAY SUCH
THINGS!
'COURSE
NOT!!



IT WAS MY
OLD MAN...
GENERAL
BUDAI...
WHO GAVE
THE ORDER
TO HAVE
YOU...

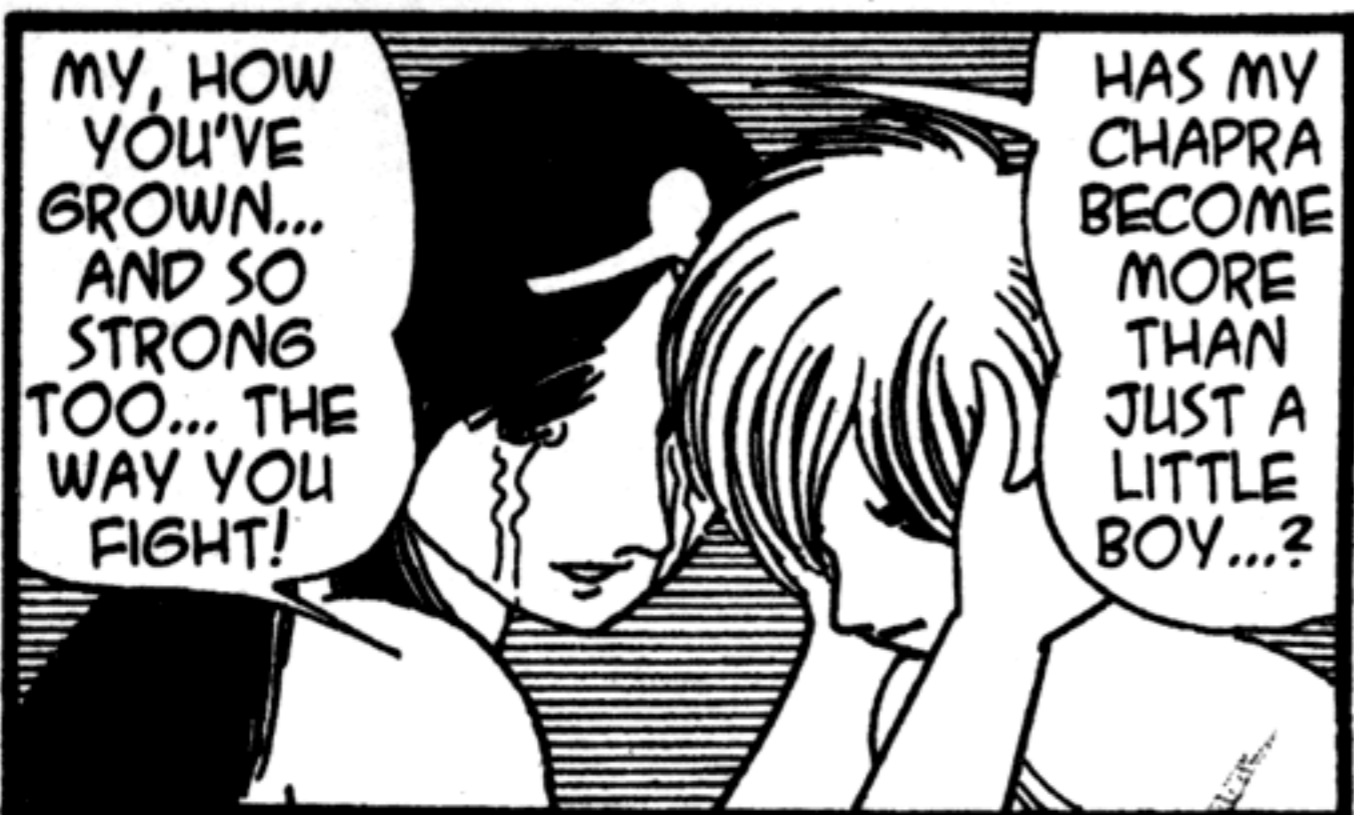


I HEARD HIM AND I WAS SHOCKED OUT OF BED.

THANK HEAVEN I MADE IT IN TIME...

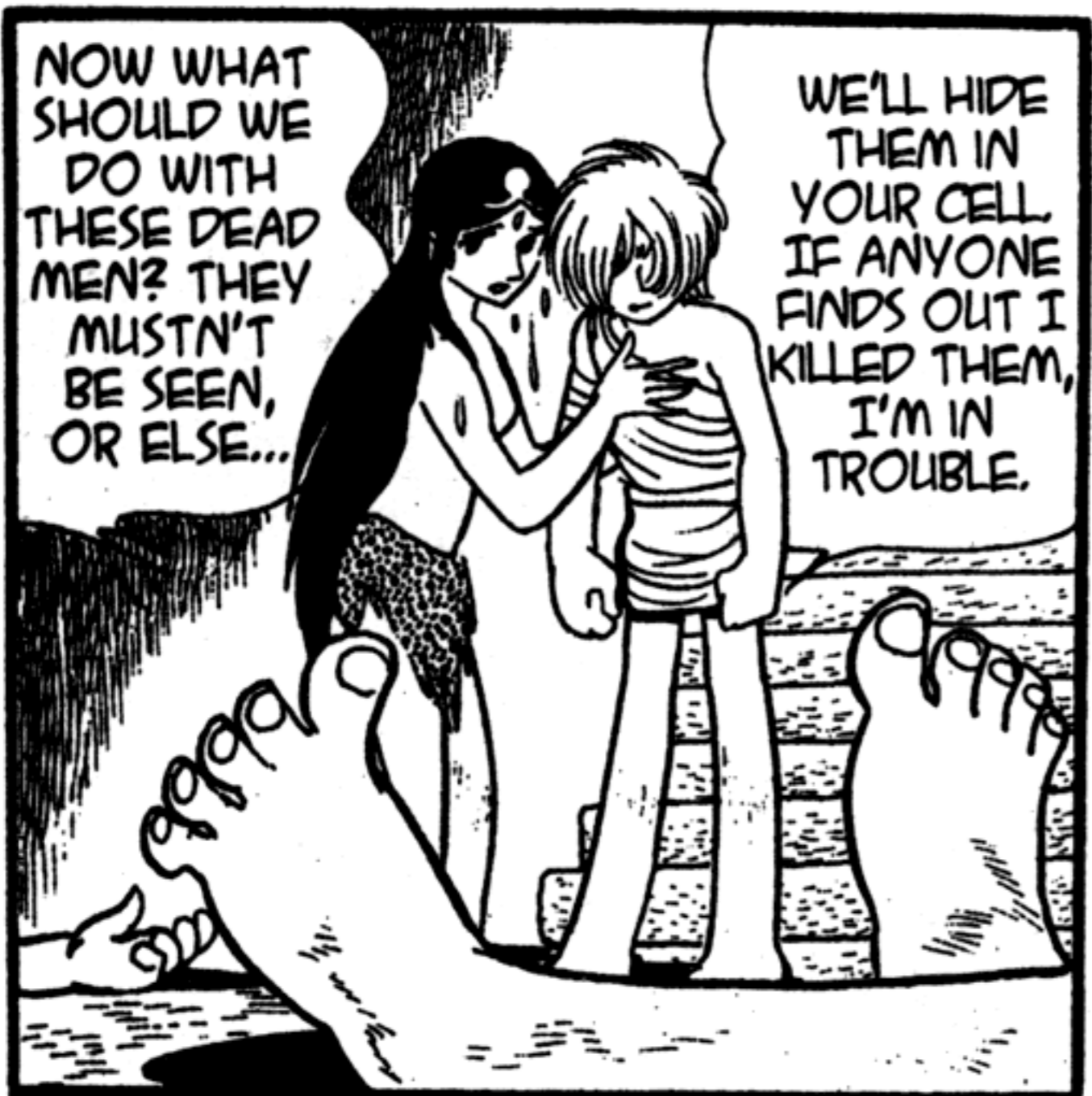


CHAPRA, LOOK AT ME...



MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN... AND SO STRONG TOO... THE WAY YOU FIGHT!

HAS MY CHAPRA BECOME MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE BOY...?

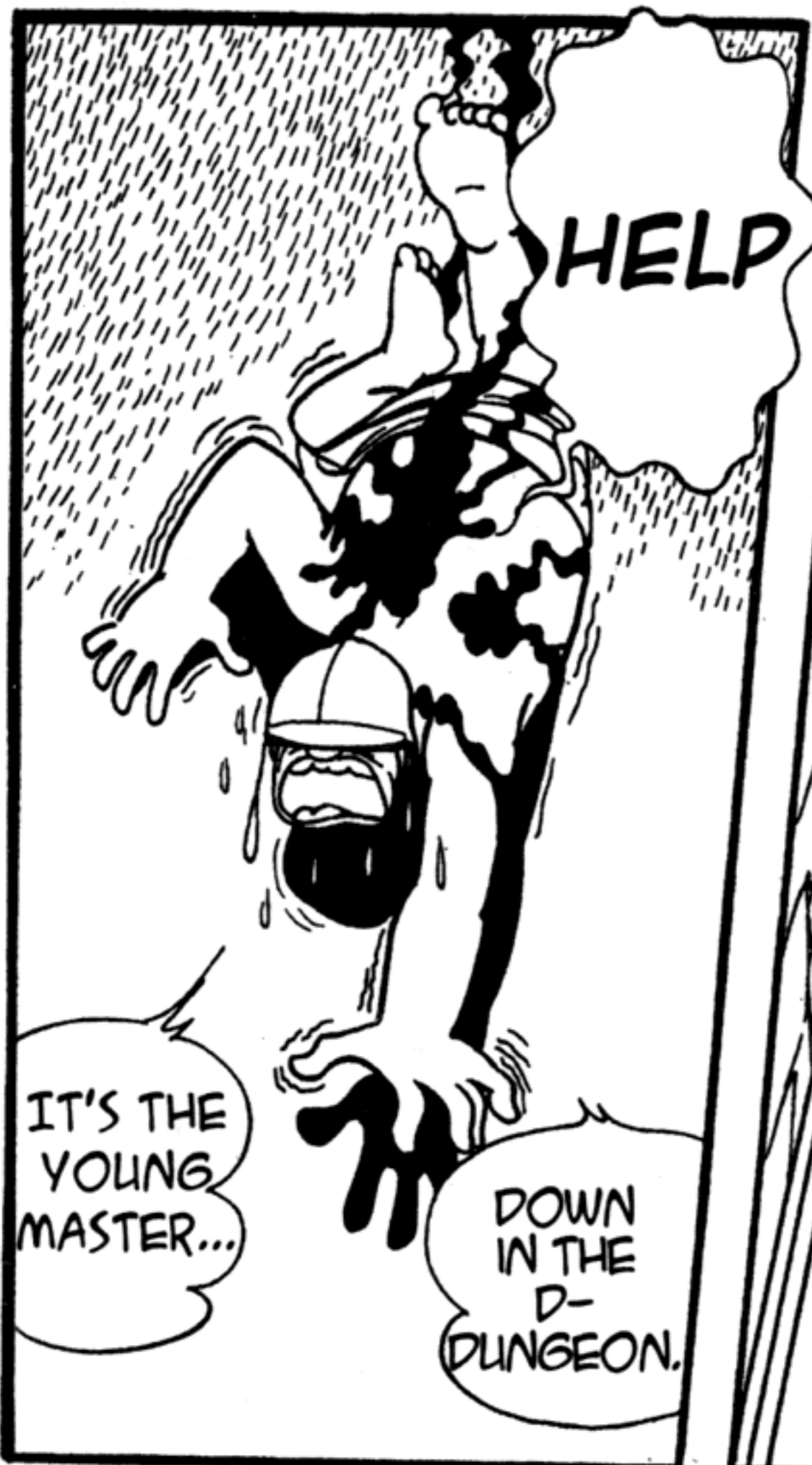
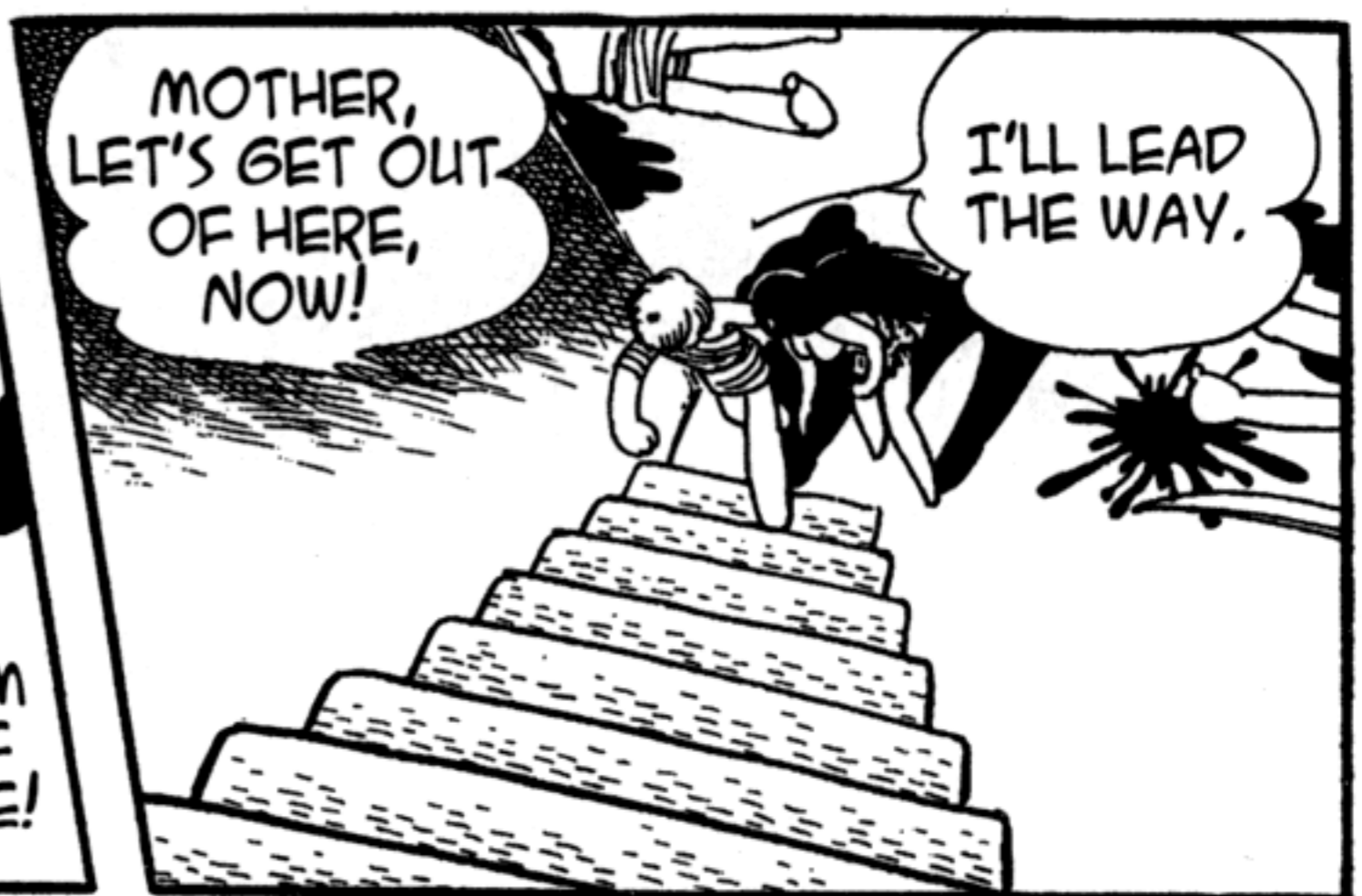
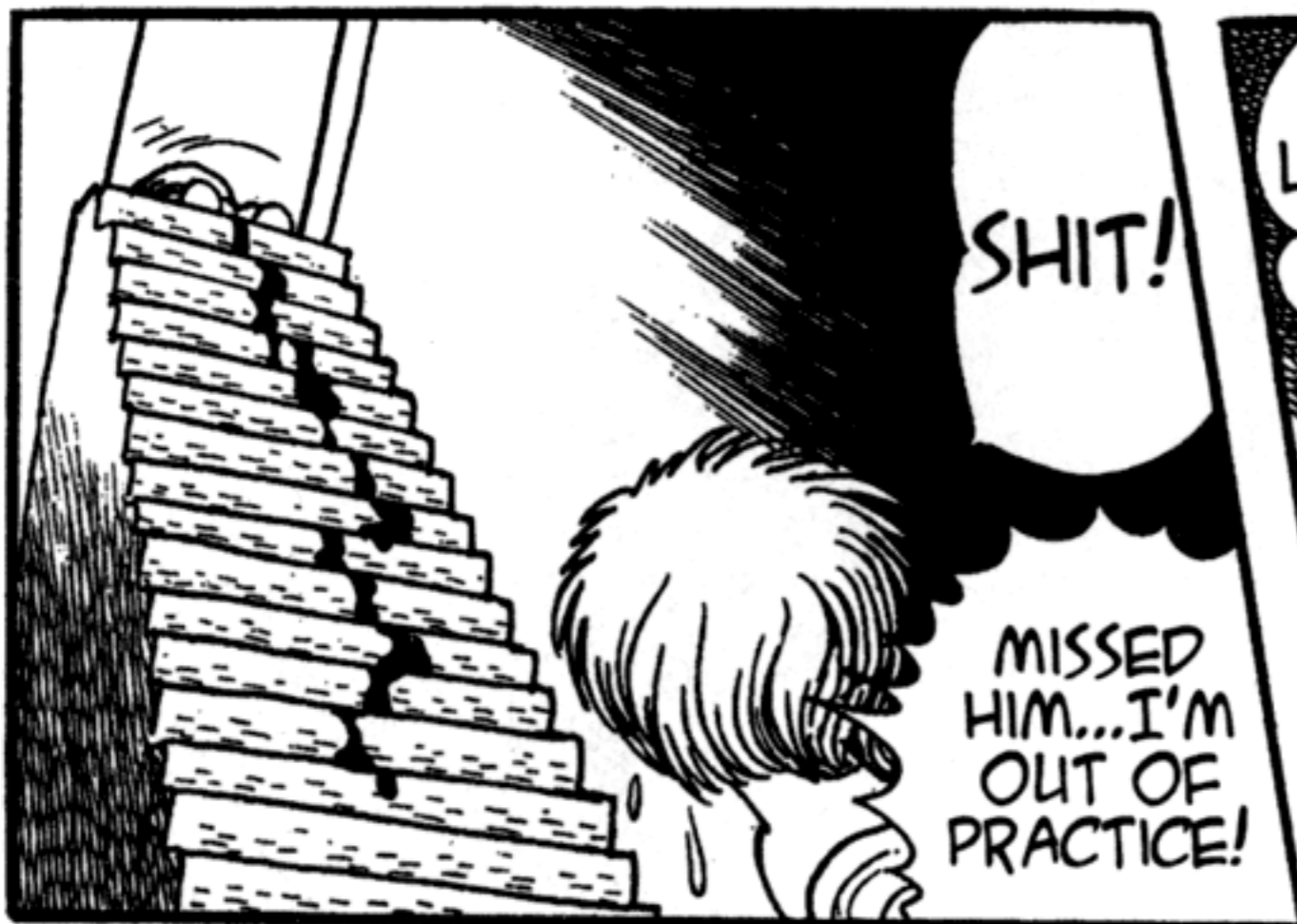
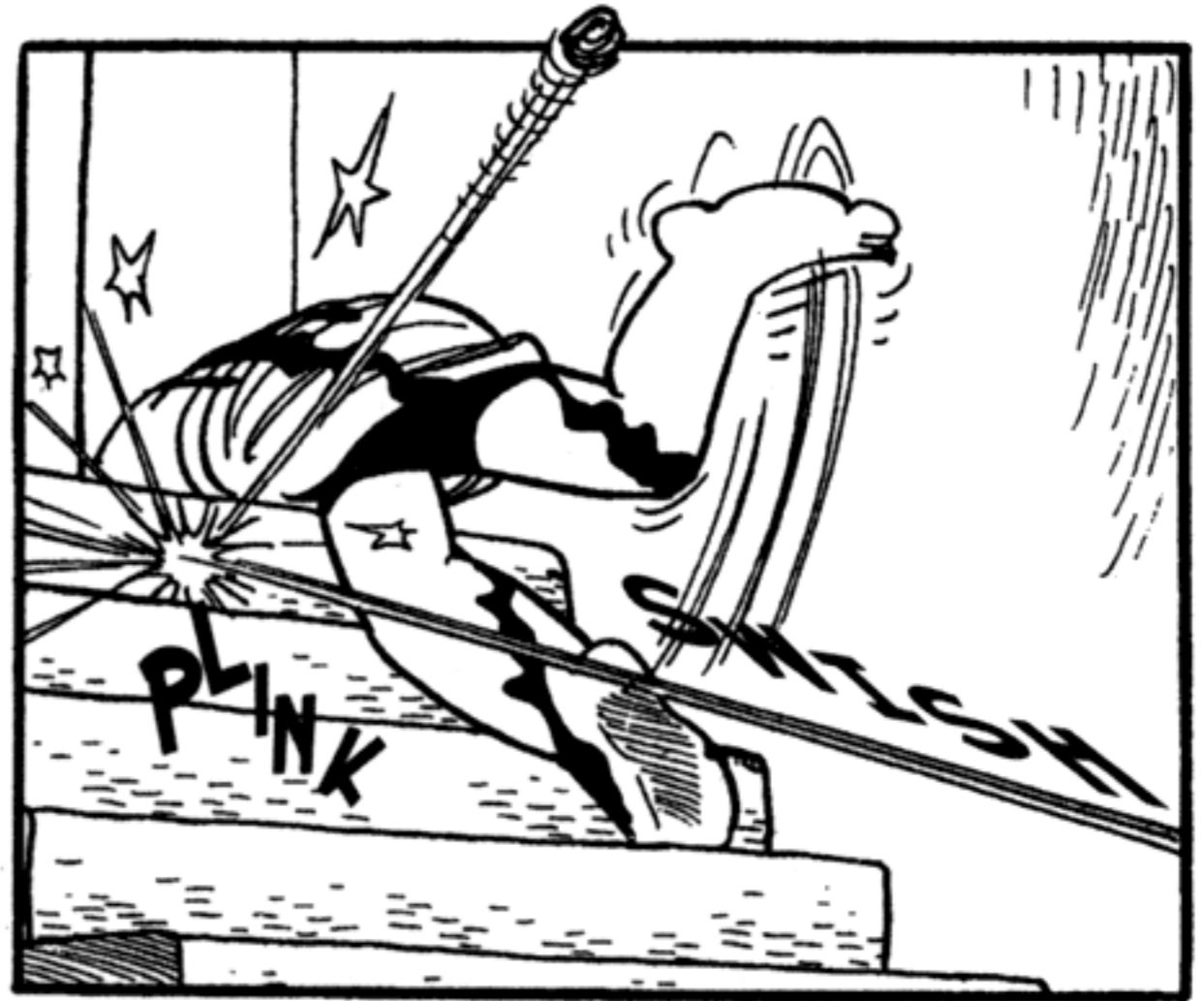


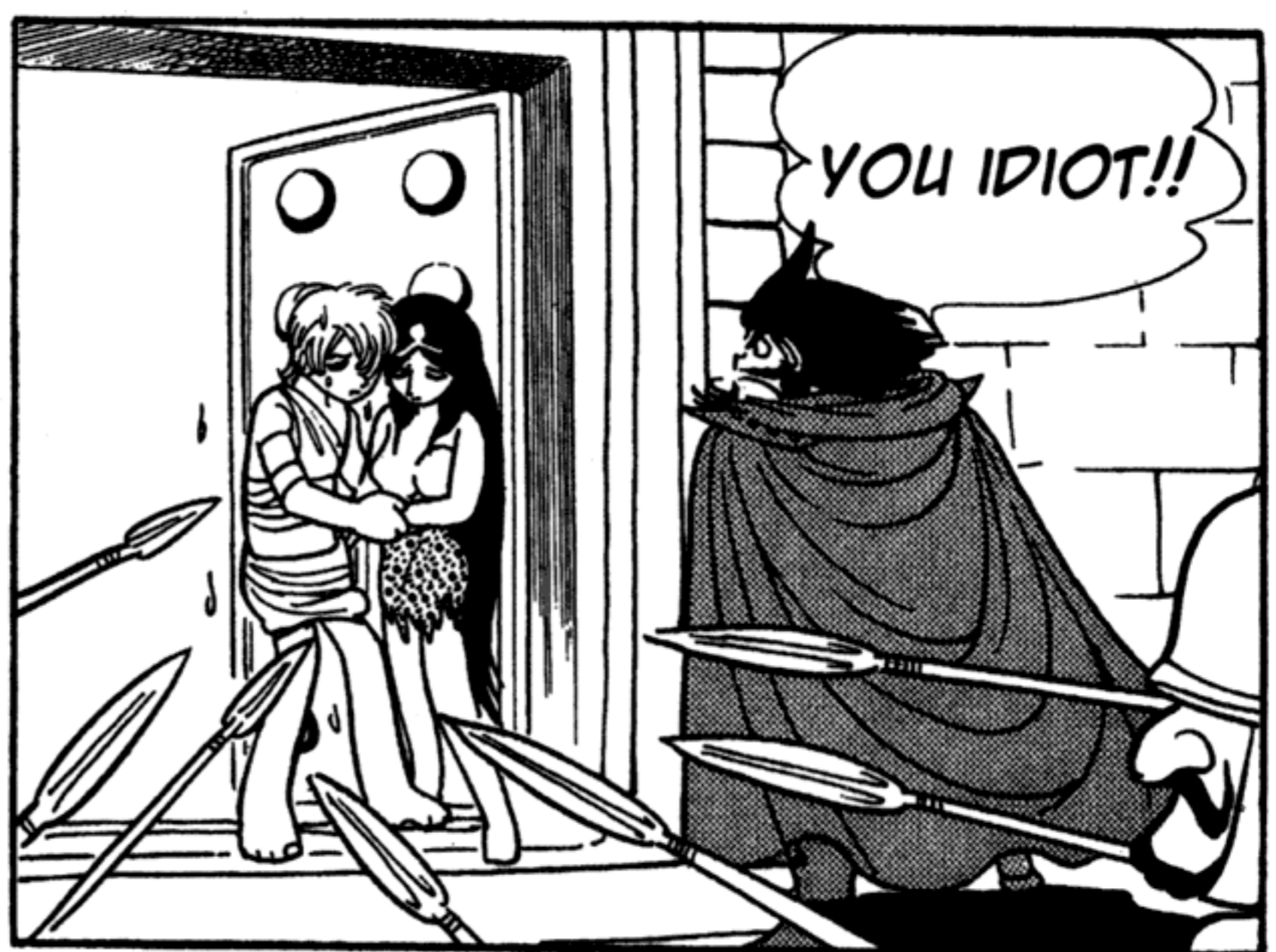
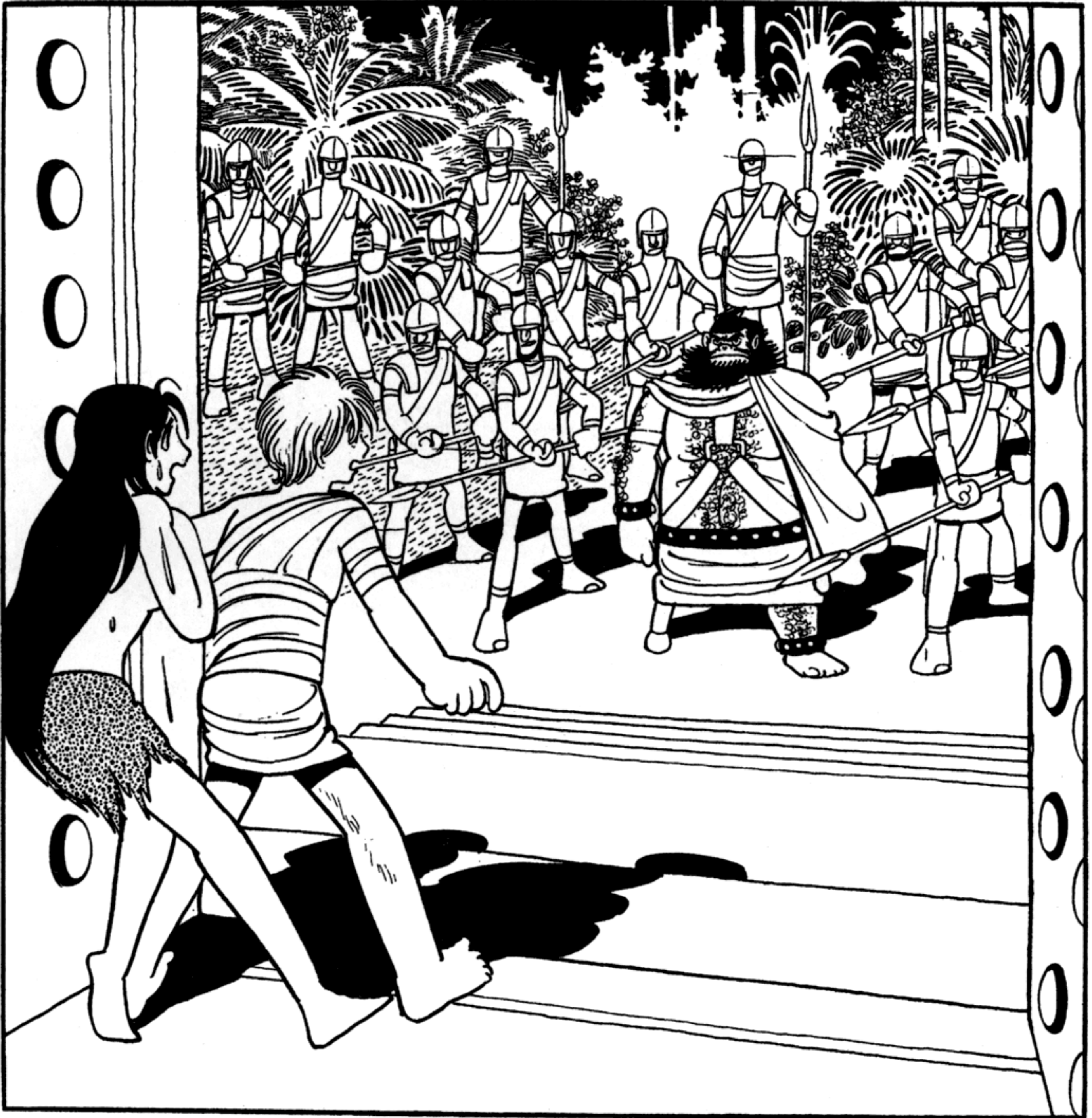
NOW WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THESE DEAD MEN? THEY MUSTN'T BE SEEN, OR ELSE...

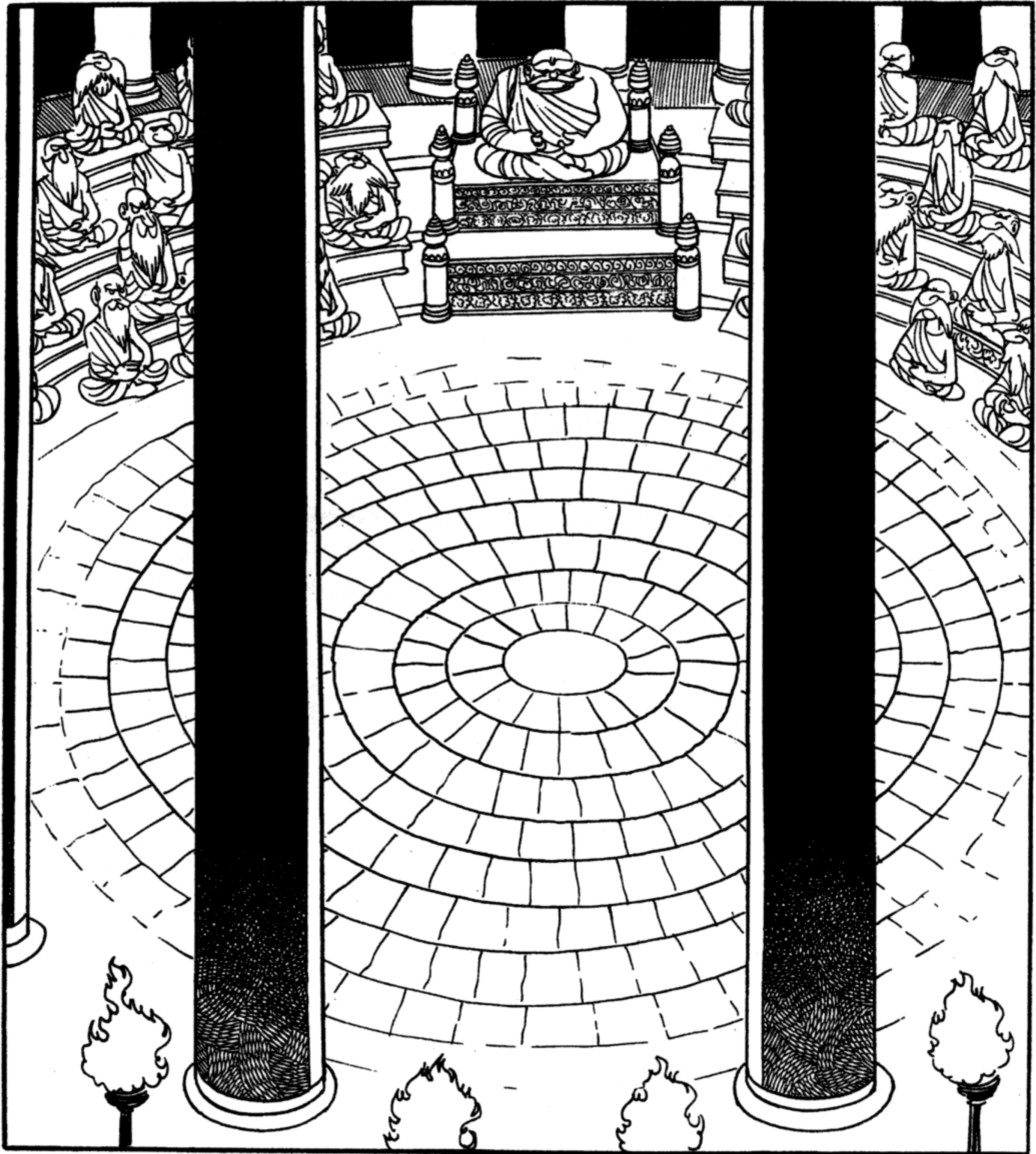
WE'LL HIDE THEM IN YOUR CELL. IF ANYONE FINDS OUT I KILLED THEM, I'M IN TROUBLE.

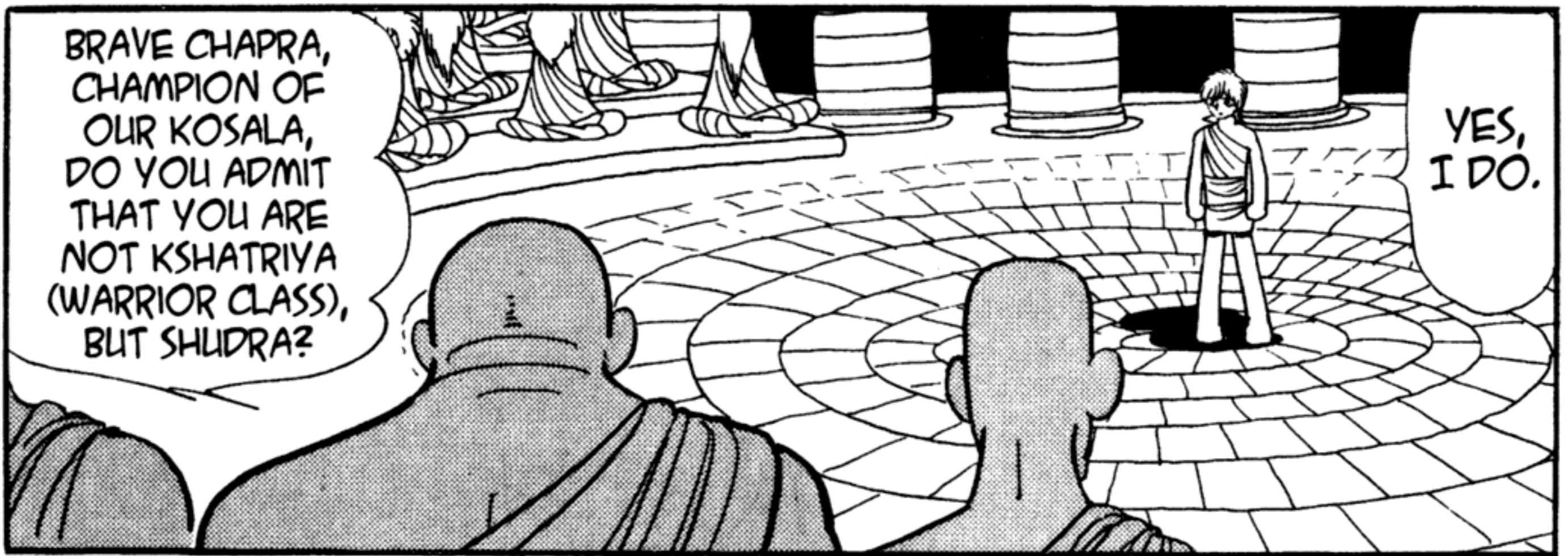
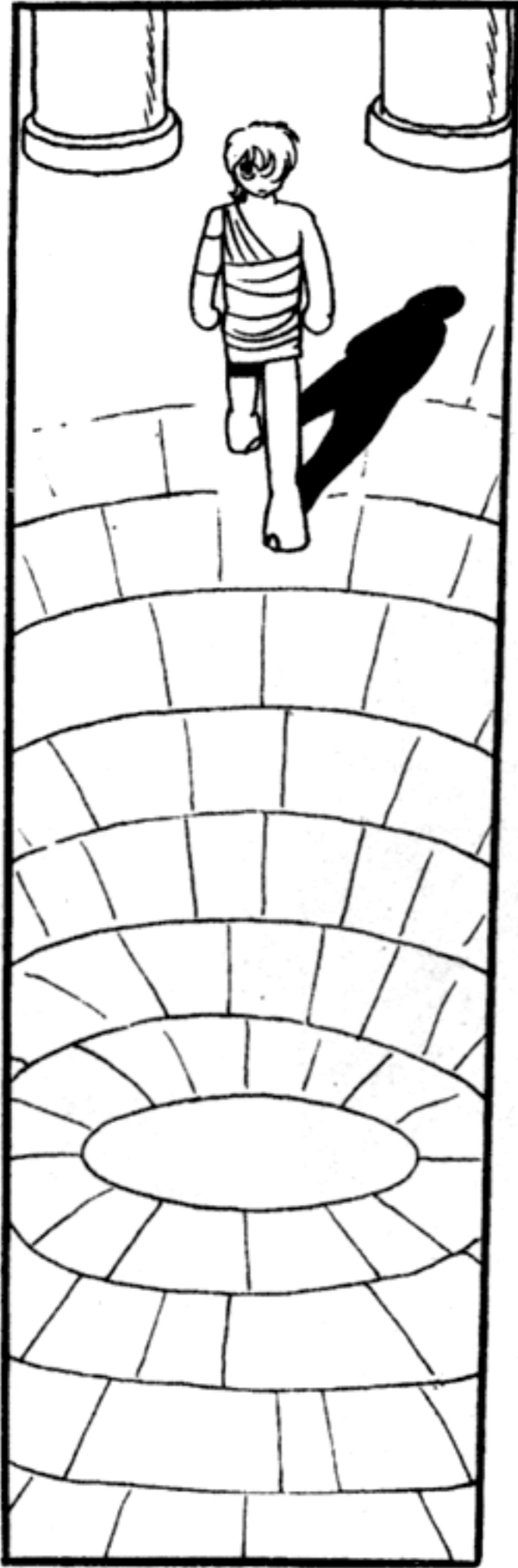


THAT ONE... DAMN!!



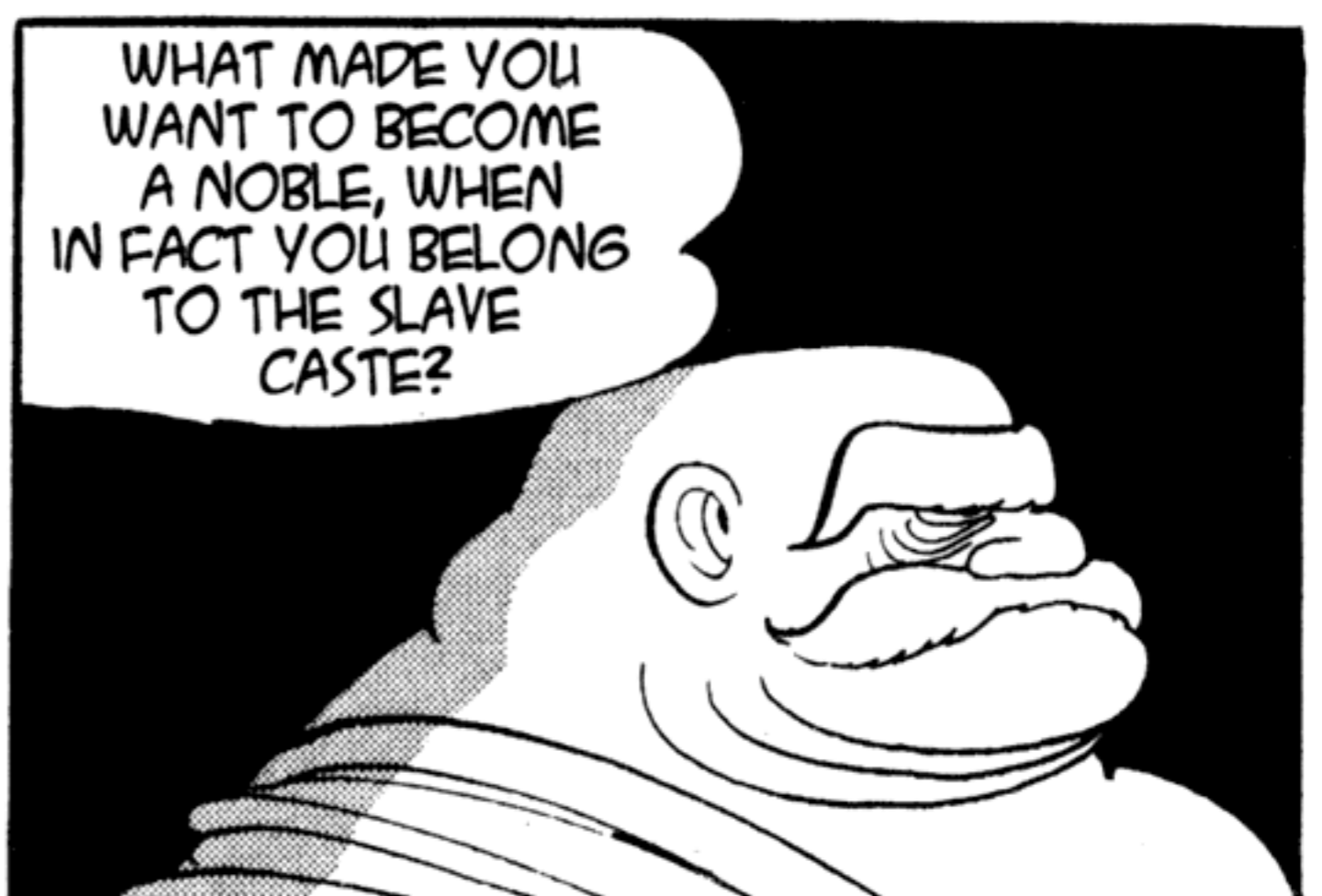






BRAVE CHAPRA,
CHAMPION OF
OUR KOSALA,
DO YOU ADMIT
THAT YOU ARE
NOT KSHATRIYA
(WARRIOR CLASS),
BUT SHUDRA?

YES,
I DO.



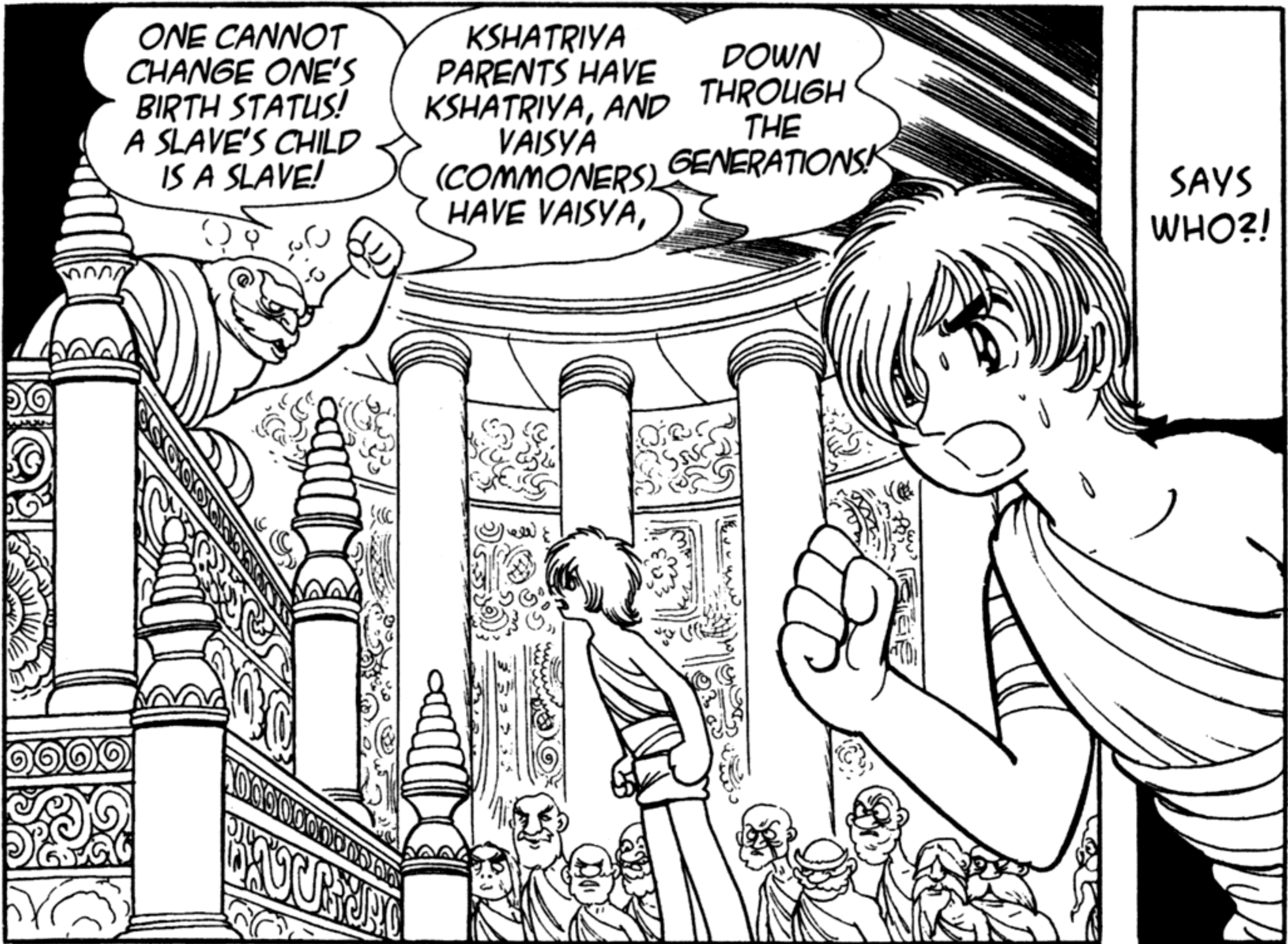
WHAT MADE YOU
WANT TO BECOME
A NOBLE, WHEN
IN FACT YOU BELONG
TO THE SLAVE
CASTE?



ARE YOU REALLY SO DIM, MY HONOR? WHAT'S WRONG WITH A SLAVE WANTING TO BECOME A NOBLE? NOTHING!



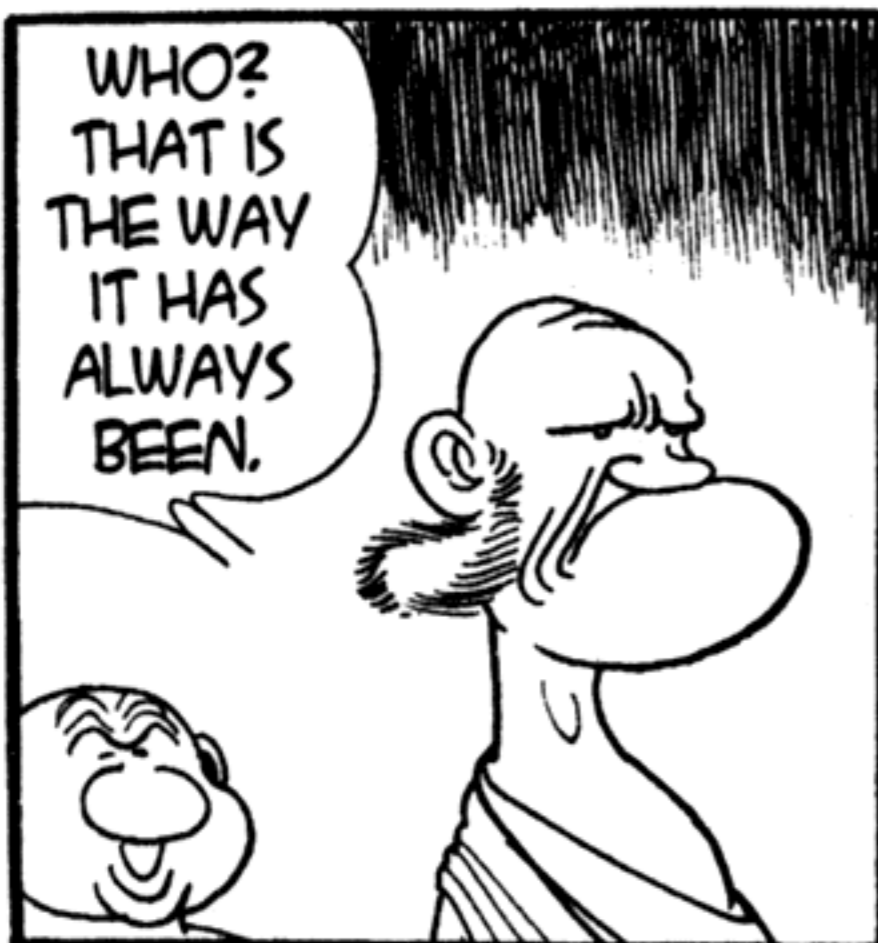
I DON'T BELIEVE I AM HEARING THIS!



ONE CANNOT CHANGE ONE'S BIRTH STATUS! A SLAVE'S CHILD IS A SLAVE!

KSHATRIYA PARENTS HAVE KSHATRIYA, AND VAISYA (COMMONERS) HAVE VAISYA, DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS!

SAYS WHO?!

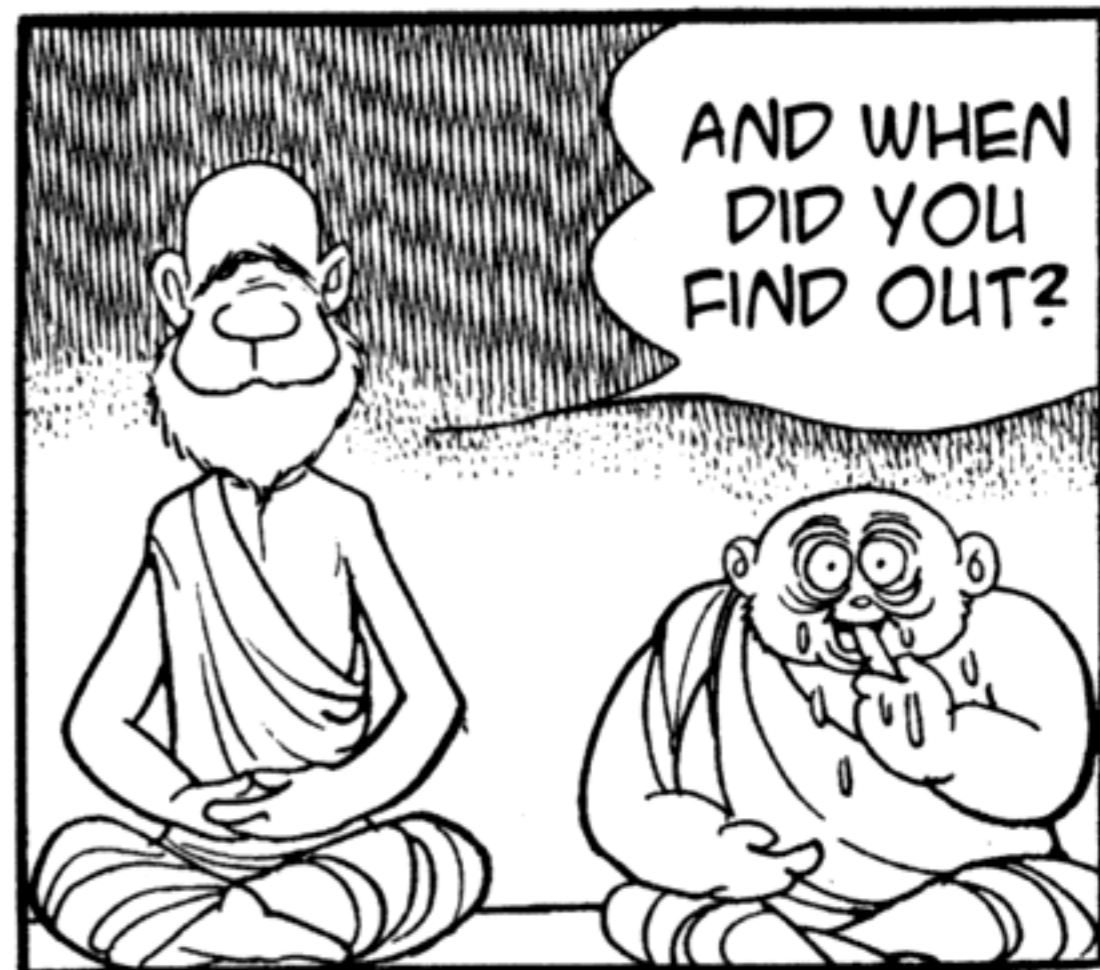
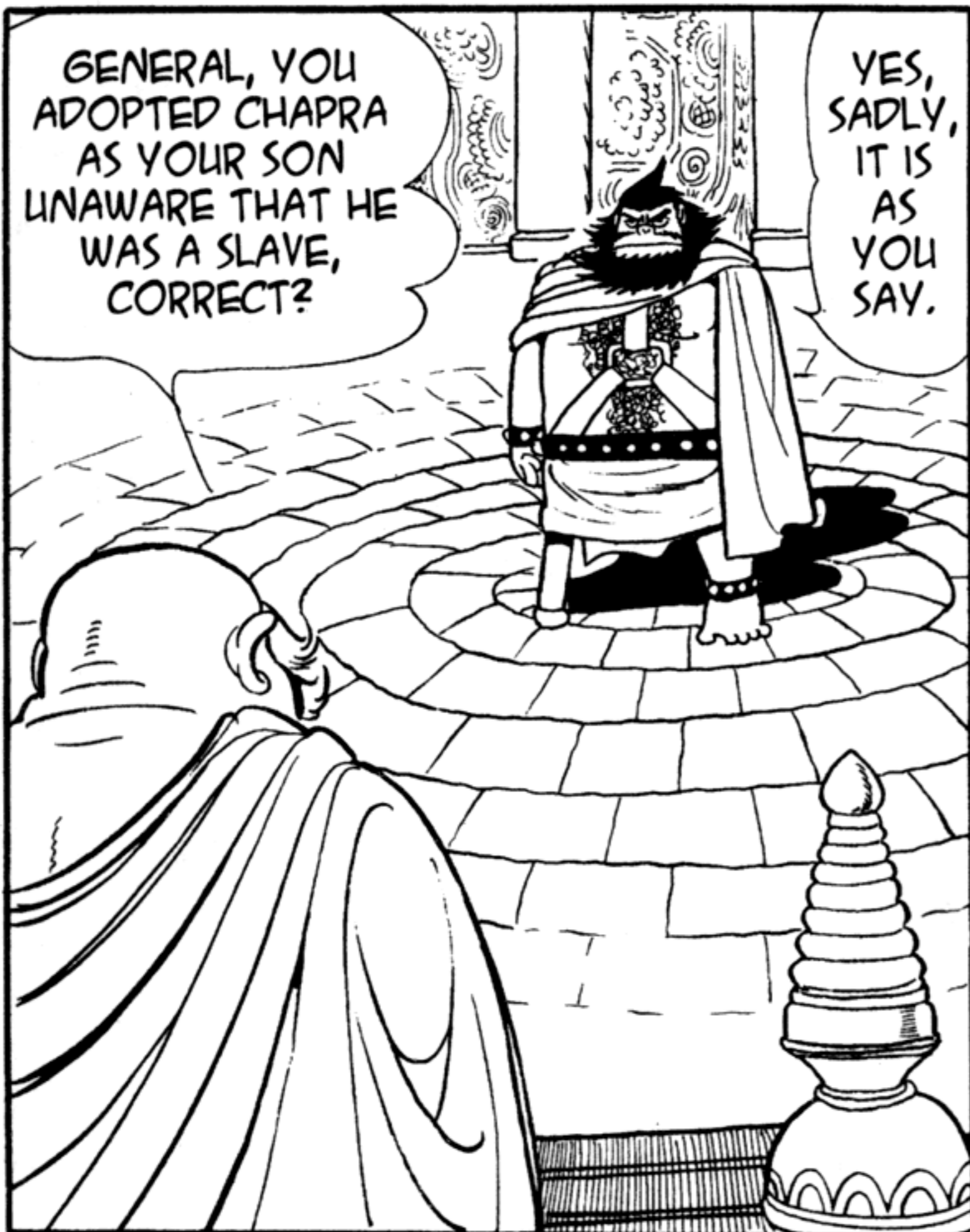
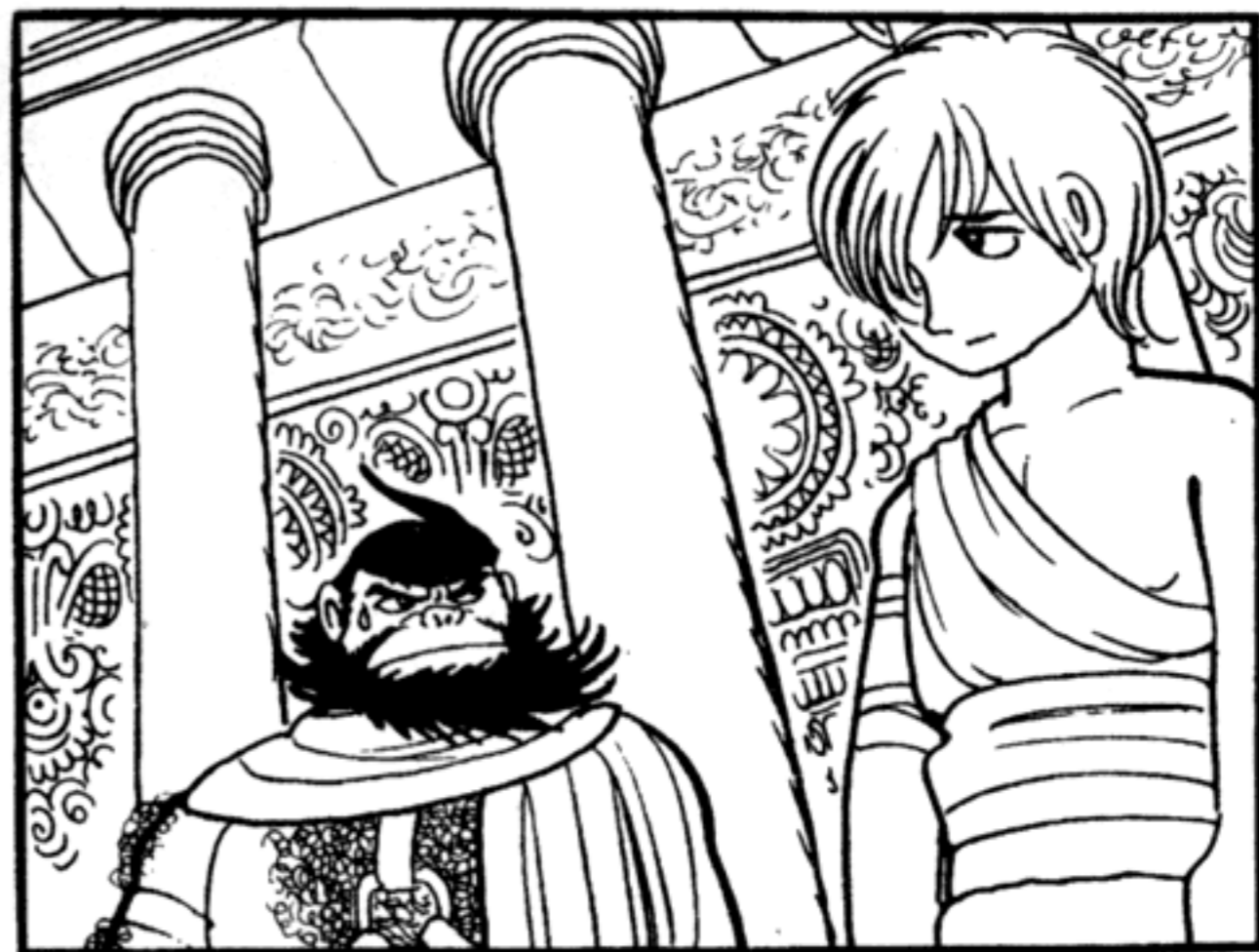
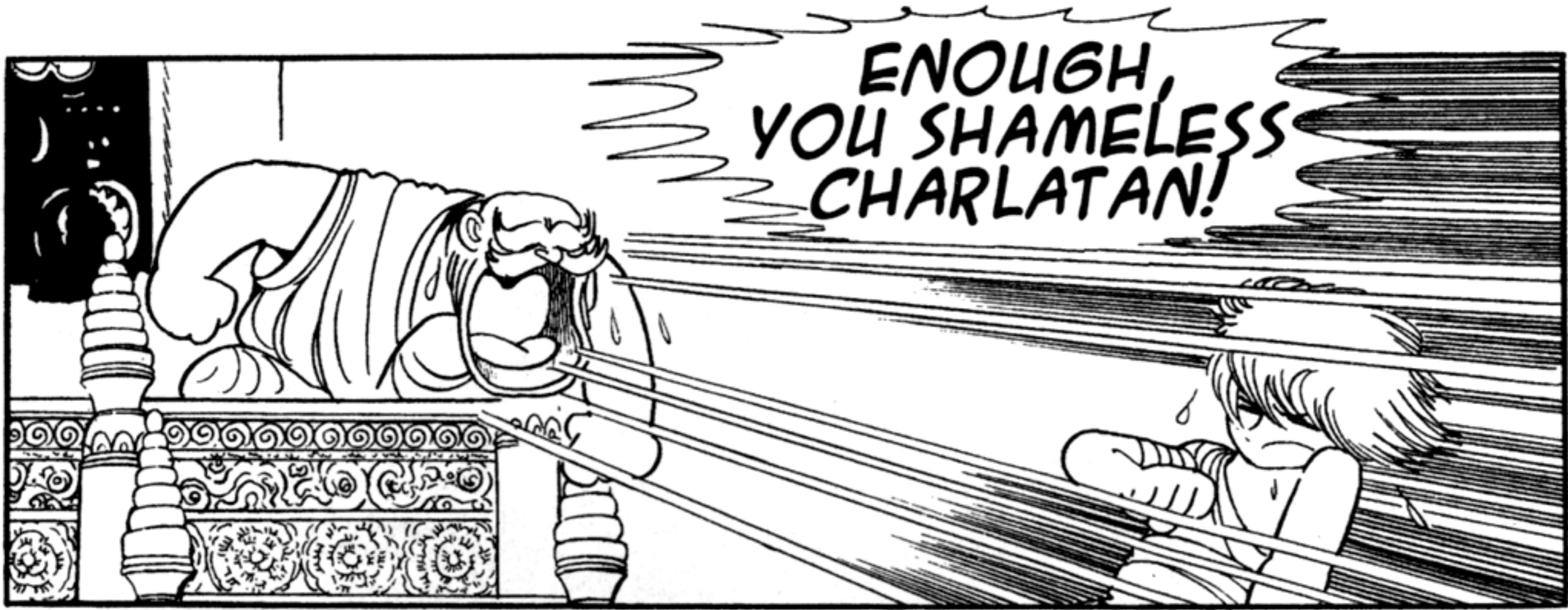


WHO? THAT IS THE WAY IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN.



AND SO WHO DECIDED IT HAD TO BE THAT WAY?

PEOPLE? OR WAS IT THE GODS?





AH, SO YOU KNEW, THEN.

WHY DIDN'T YOU CAST HIM OUT RIGHT AWAY?



CHAPRA IS A FINE SON.

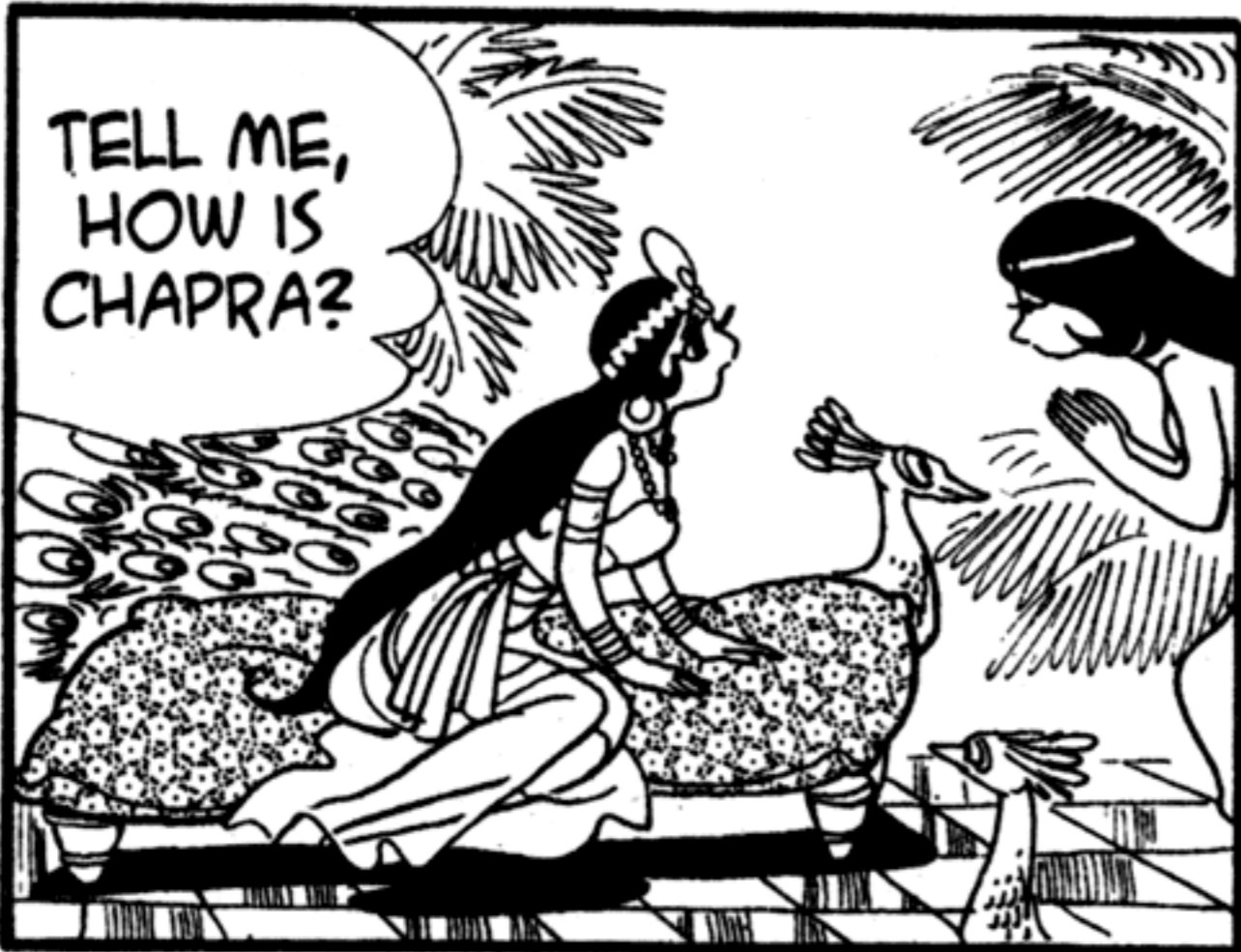
AS A SON, HE HAS ONLY MADE ME PROUD. HE BORE ME NO SHAME.



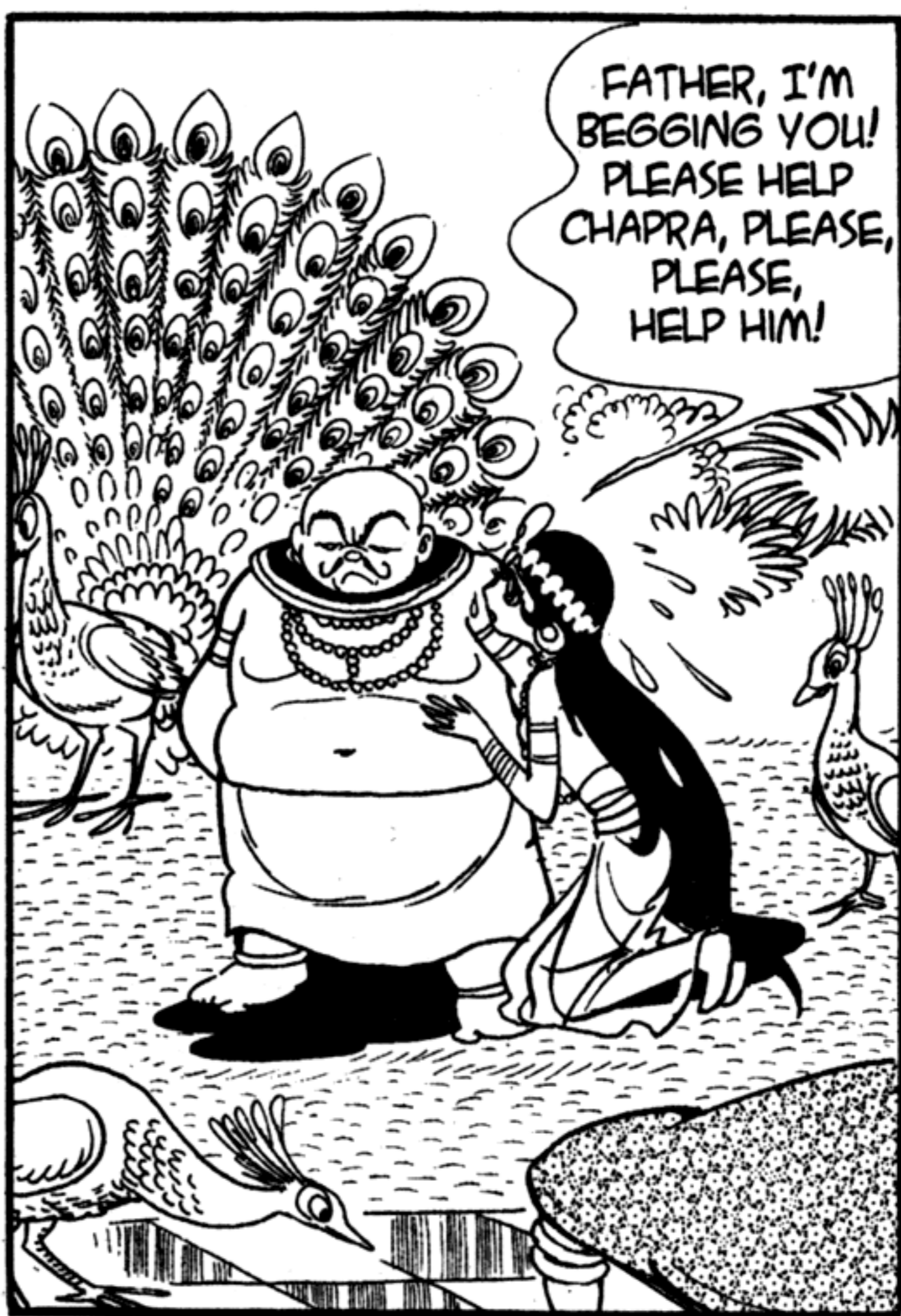
DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT, KNOWING HIS STATUS FULL WELL, YOU ALLOWED A SHUDRA TO COURT LADY MALIKKA, THE VIZIER'S DAUGHTER?

GENERAL, DID YOU IN FACT, IN A SICK WAY, LIKE WHAT WAS GOING ON?

...



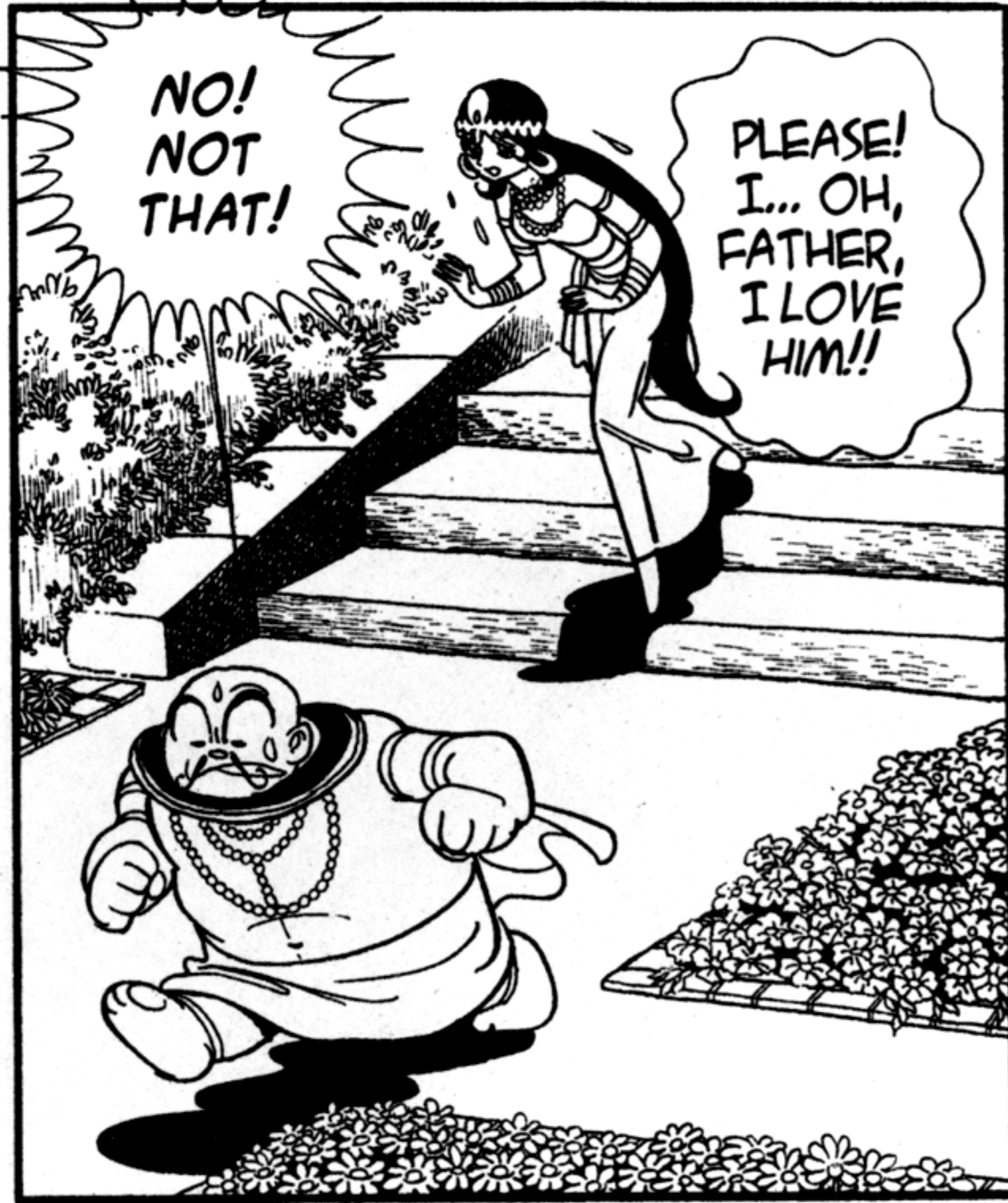
TELL ME, HOW IS CHAPRA?



FATHER, I'M BEGGING YOU! PLEASE HELP CHAPRA, PLEASE, PLEASE, HELP HIM!

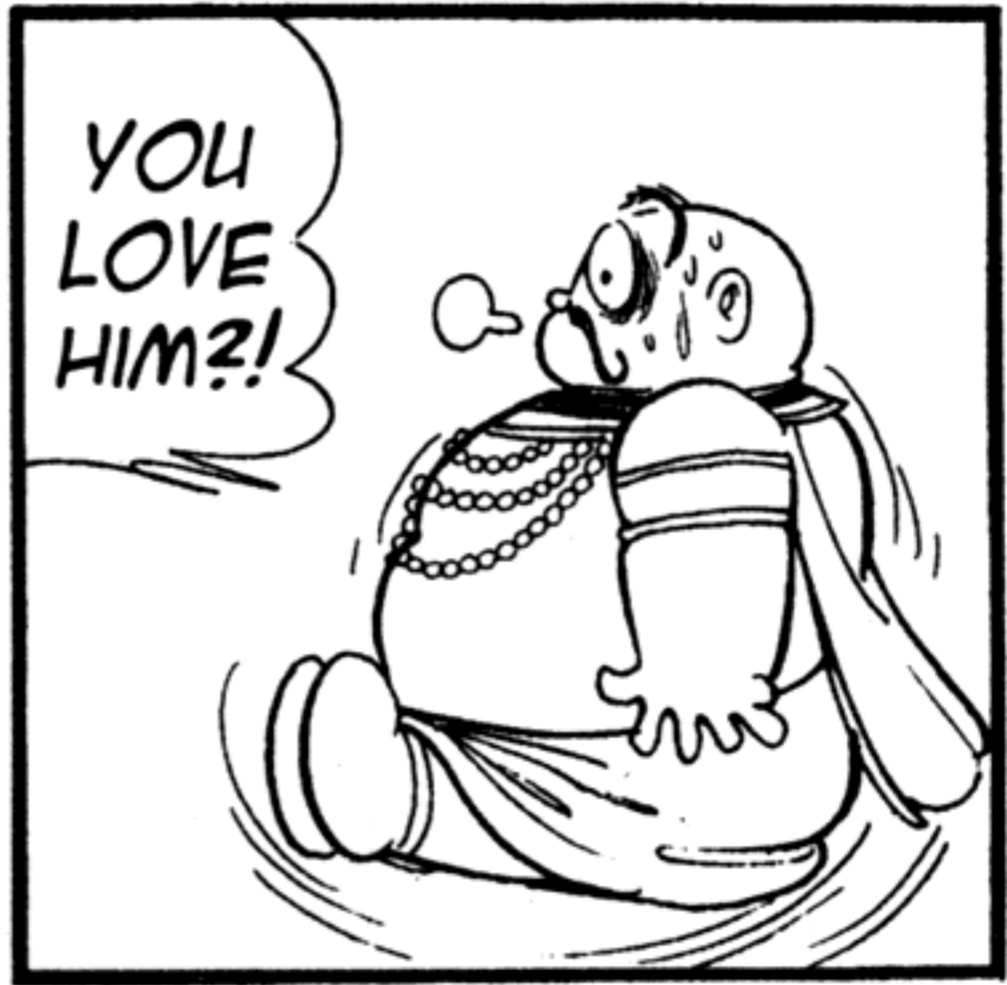


AH... OH DEAR... POOR CHAPRA! DON'T LET THEM DESTROY YOU!

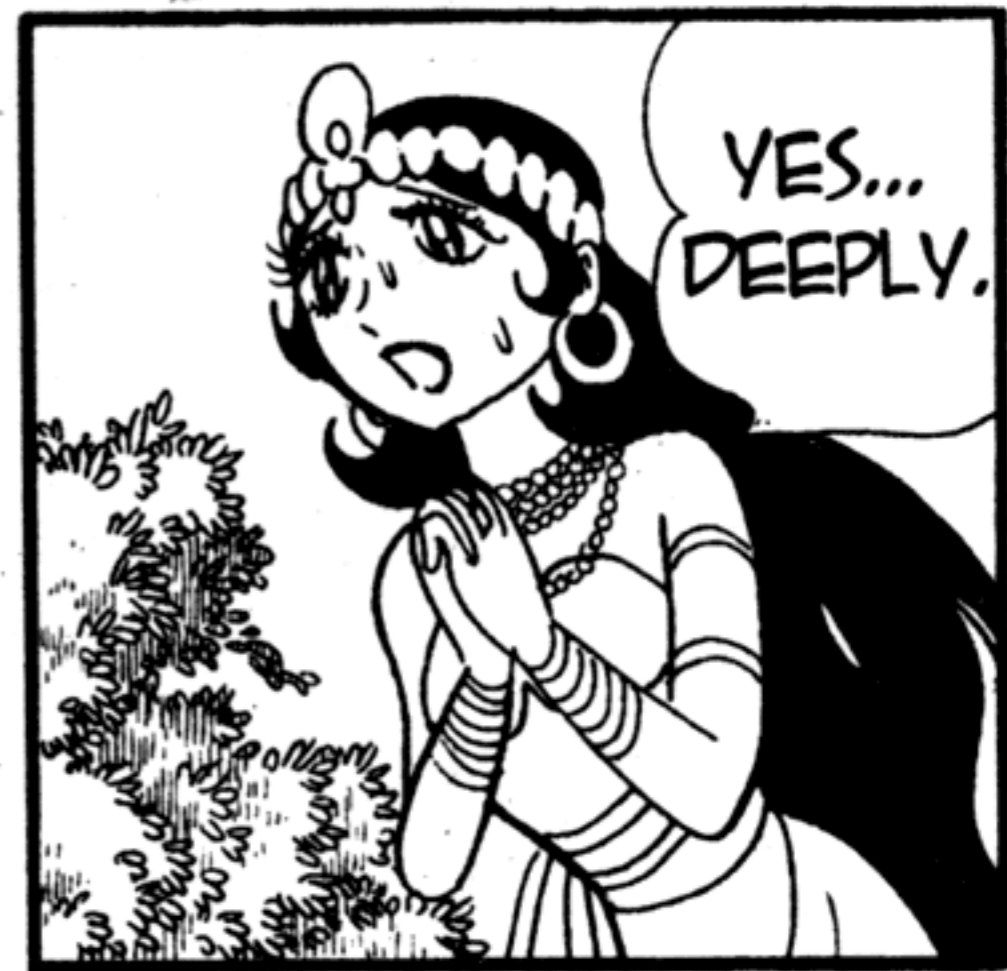


NO!
NOT
THAT!

PLEASE!
I... OH,
FATHER,
I LOVE
HIM!!



YOU
LOVE
HIM?!



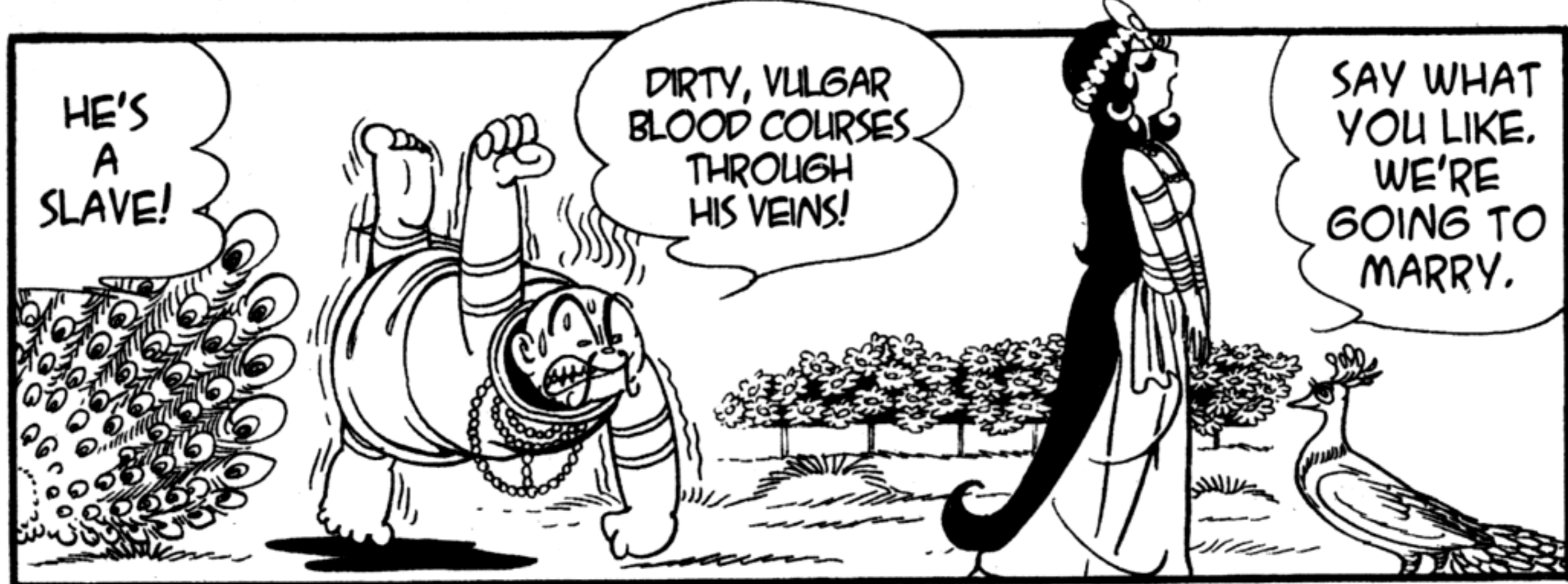
YES...
DEEPLY.



DE-
DE-
DEEPLY?!



IDIOT!!



HE'S
A
SLAVE!

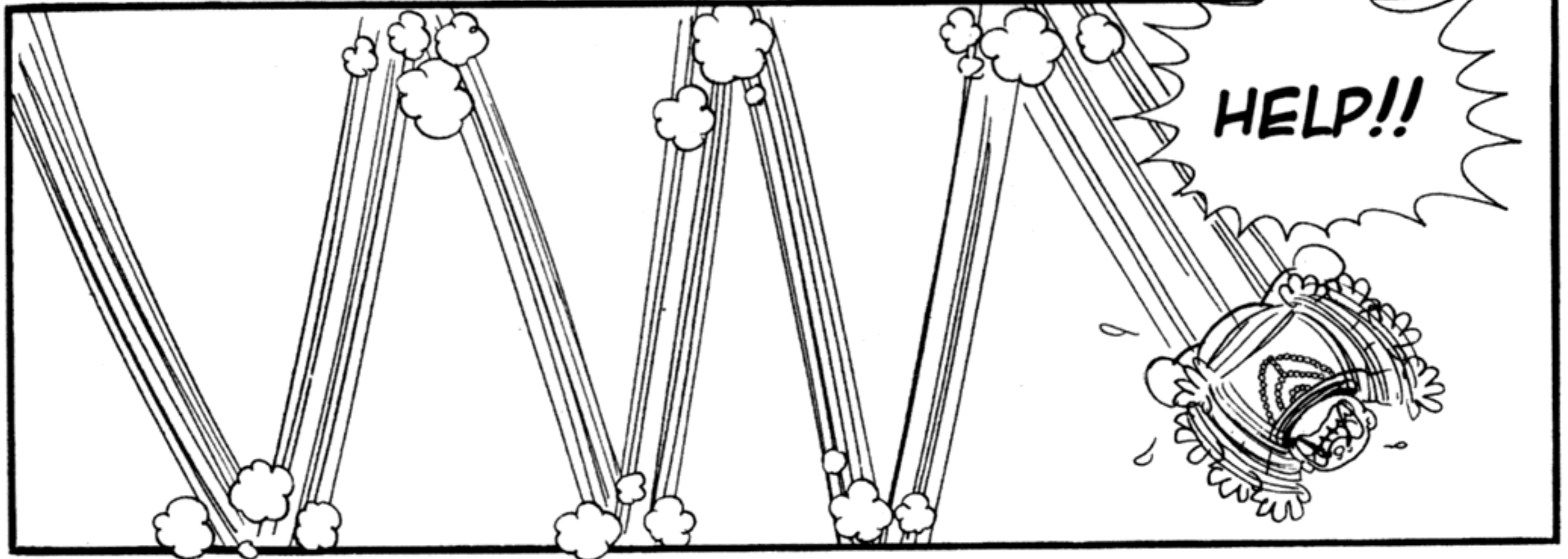
DIRTY, VULGAR
BLOOD COURSES
THROUGH
HIS VEINS!

SAY WHAT
YOU LIKE.
WE'RE
GOING TO
MARRY.



MARRY?

AS IN HE'LL BE MY SON-IN-LAW?



HELP!!



LISTEN UP. I'VE REALLY PAMPERED YOU, AND SO YOU DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA HOW THE SLAVES LIVE OR WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE POOR.

YOU SAY YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED, BUT DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR? YOU'LL HAVE TO LOWER YOURSELF TO SHUDRA FIRST!

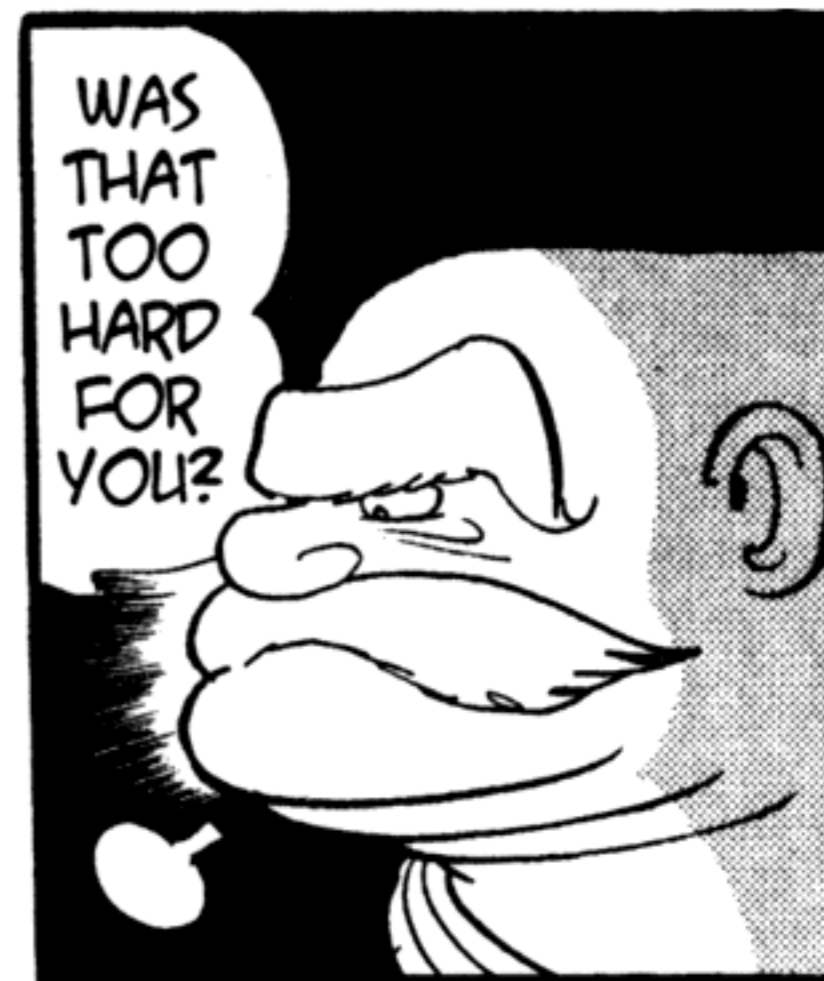
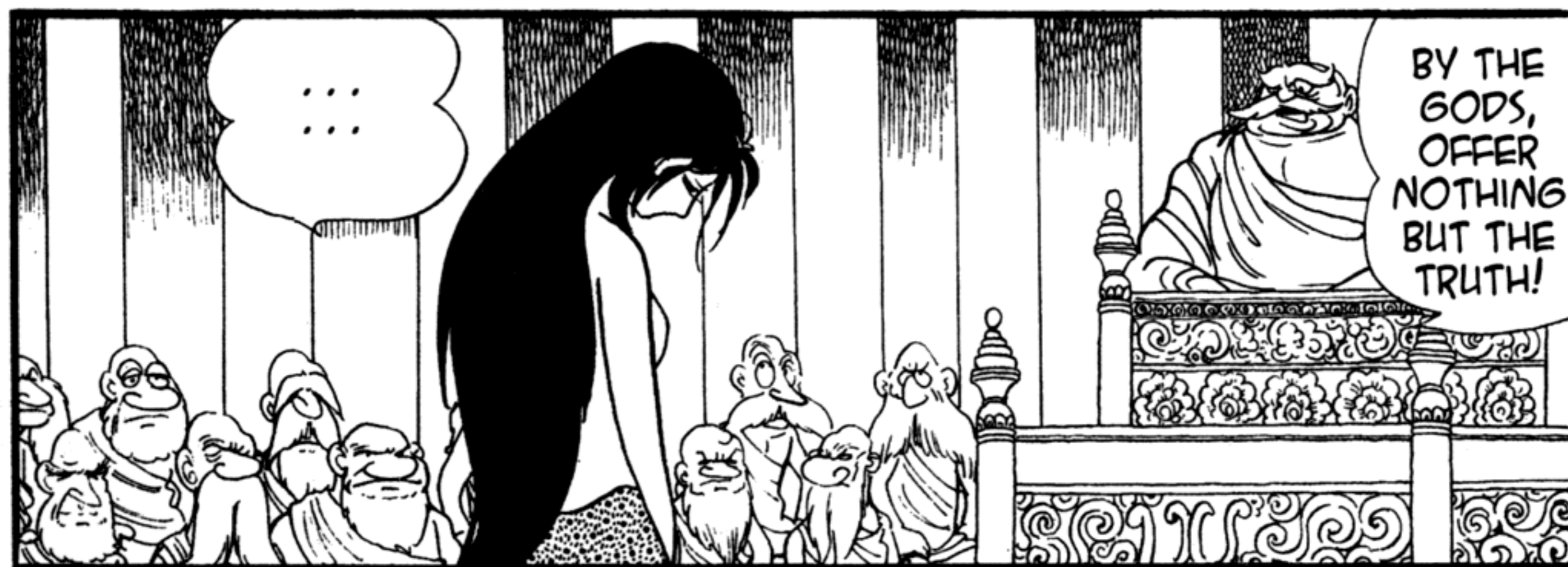
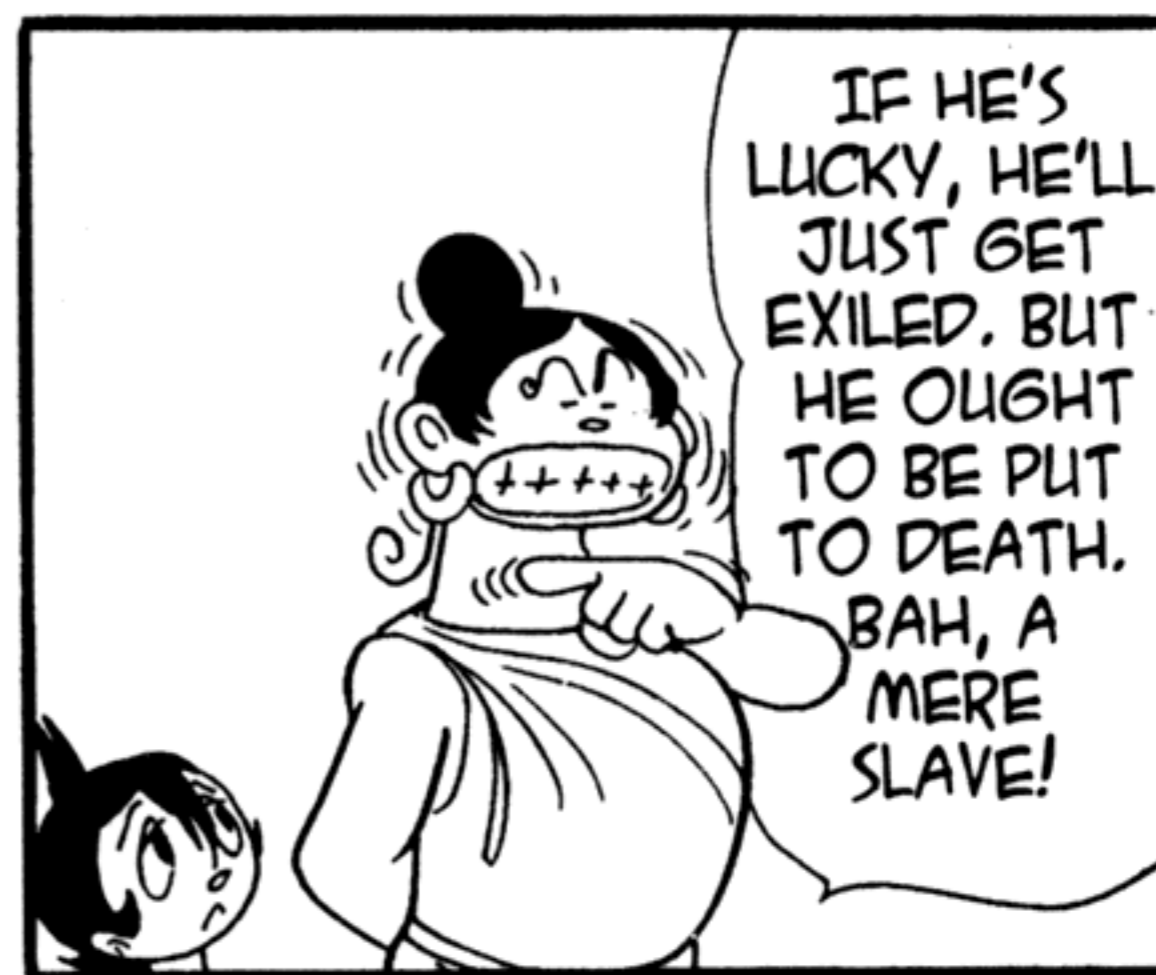
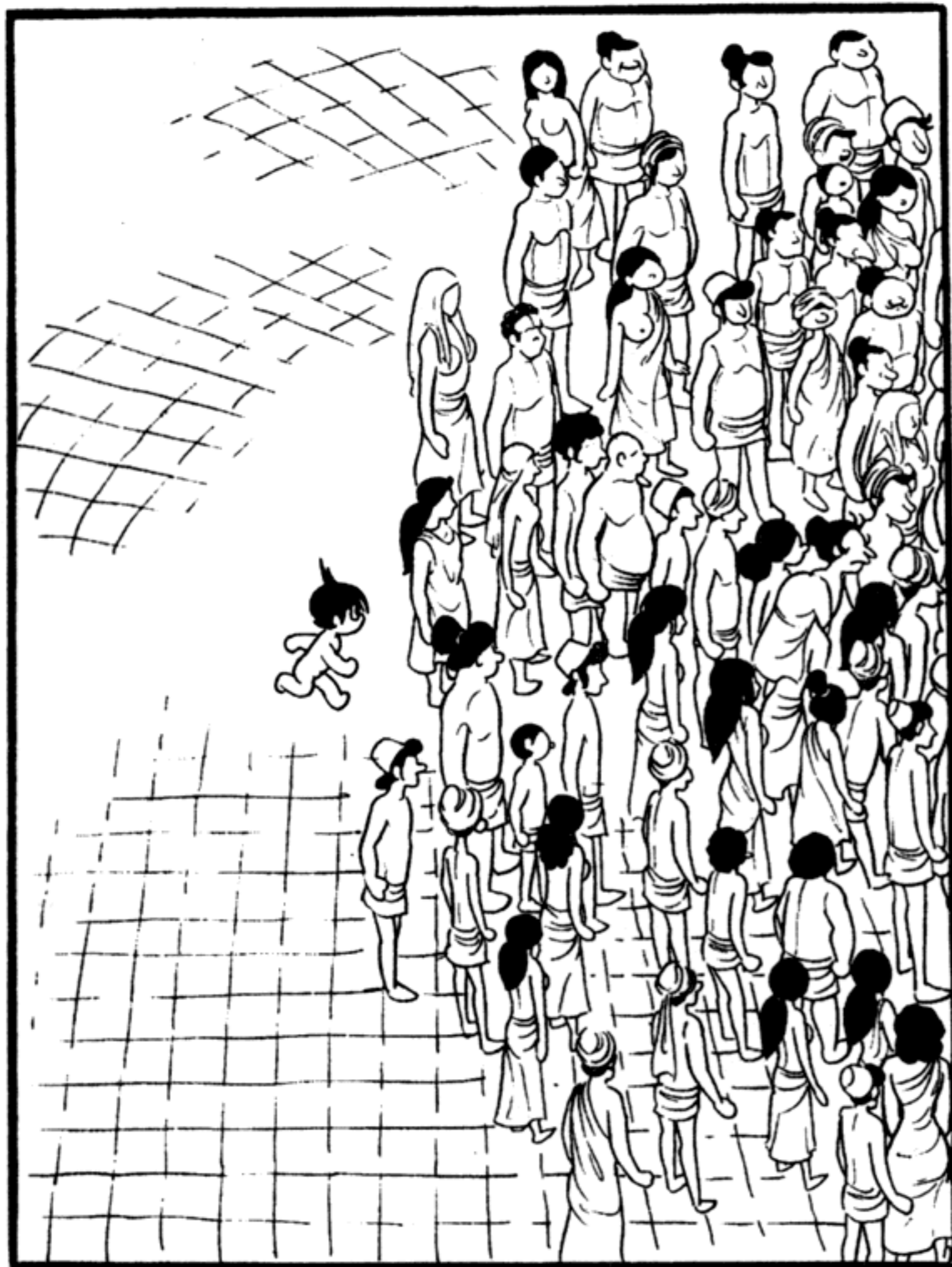


YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE IN A SLAVE HUT AND DO LAUNDRY AND RUN ERRANDS FOR YOUR OWNER EVERY DAY.

THAT CHANGE YOUR MIND?

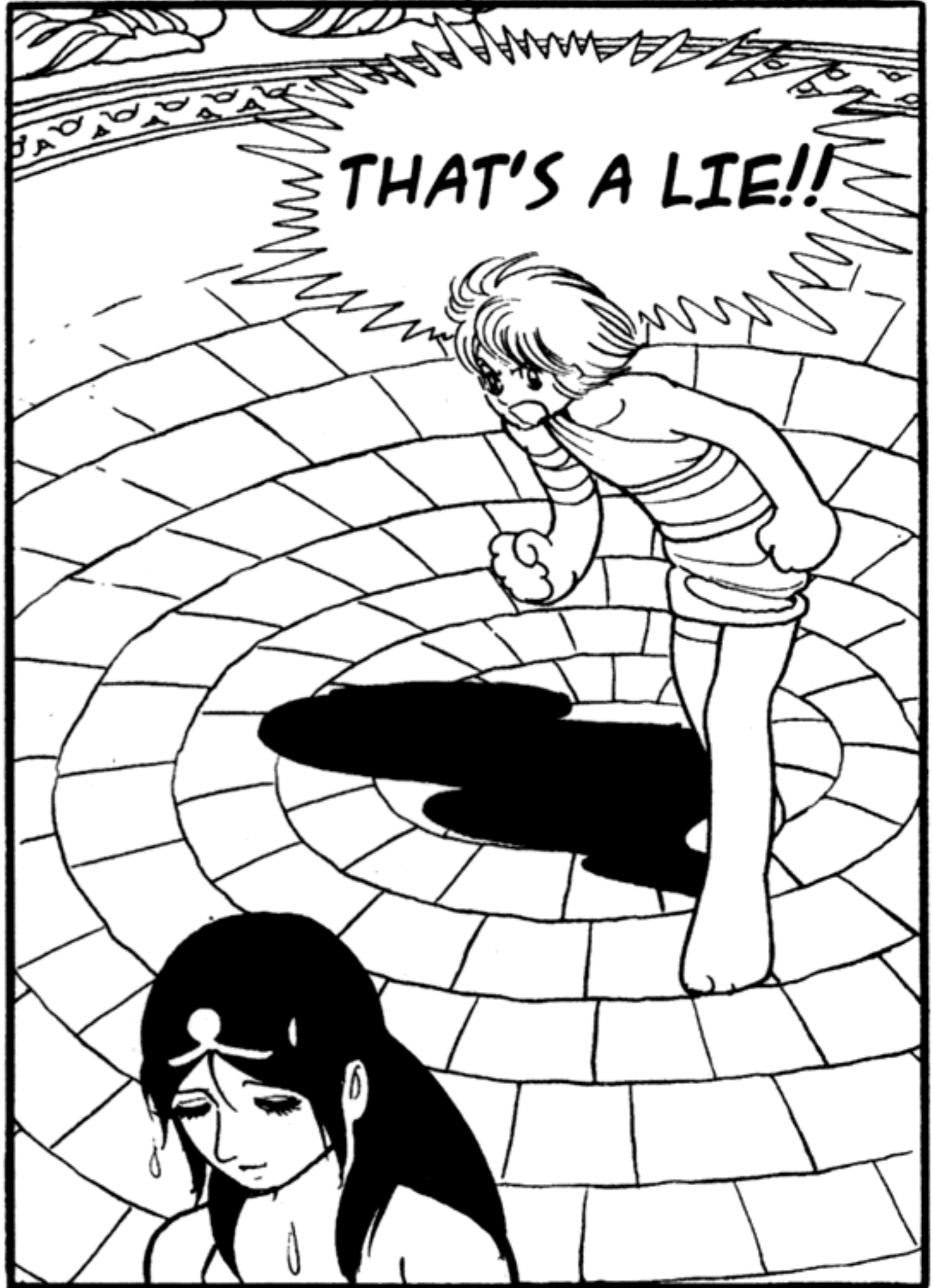


SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

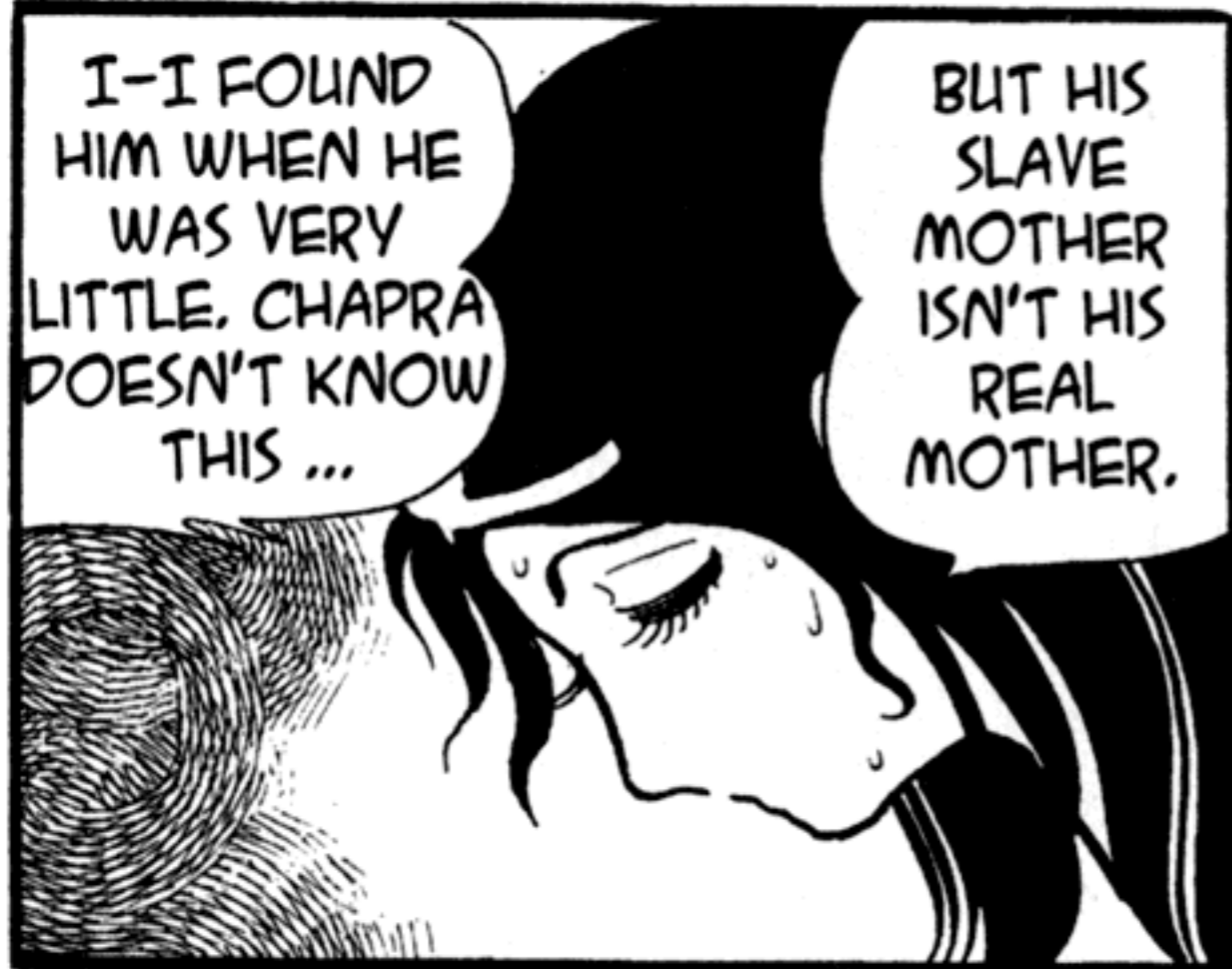




RESPOND! ARE YOU, OR ARE YOU NOT, HIS MOTHER?

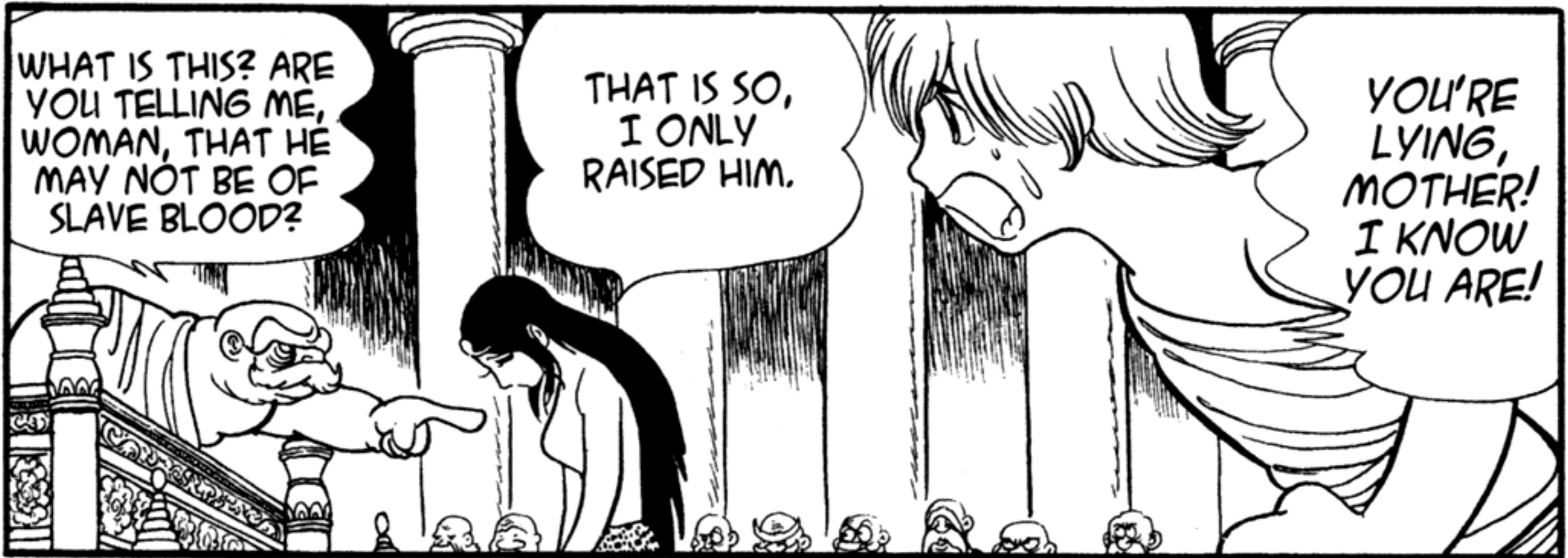


THAT'S A LIE!!



I-I FOUND HIM WHEN HE WAS VERY LITTLE. CHAPRA DOESN'T KNOW THIS ...

BUT HIS SLAVE MOTHER ISN'T HIS REAL MOTHER.



WHAT IS THIS? ARE YOU TELLING ME, WOMAN, THAT HE MAY NOT BE OF SLAVE BLOOD?

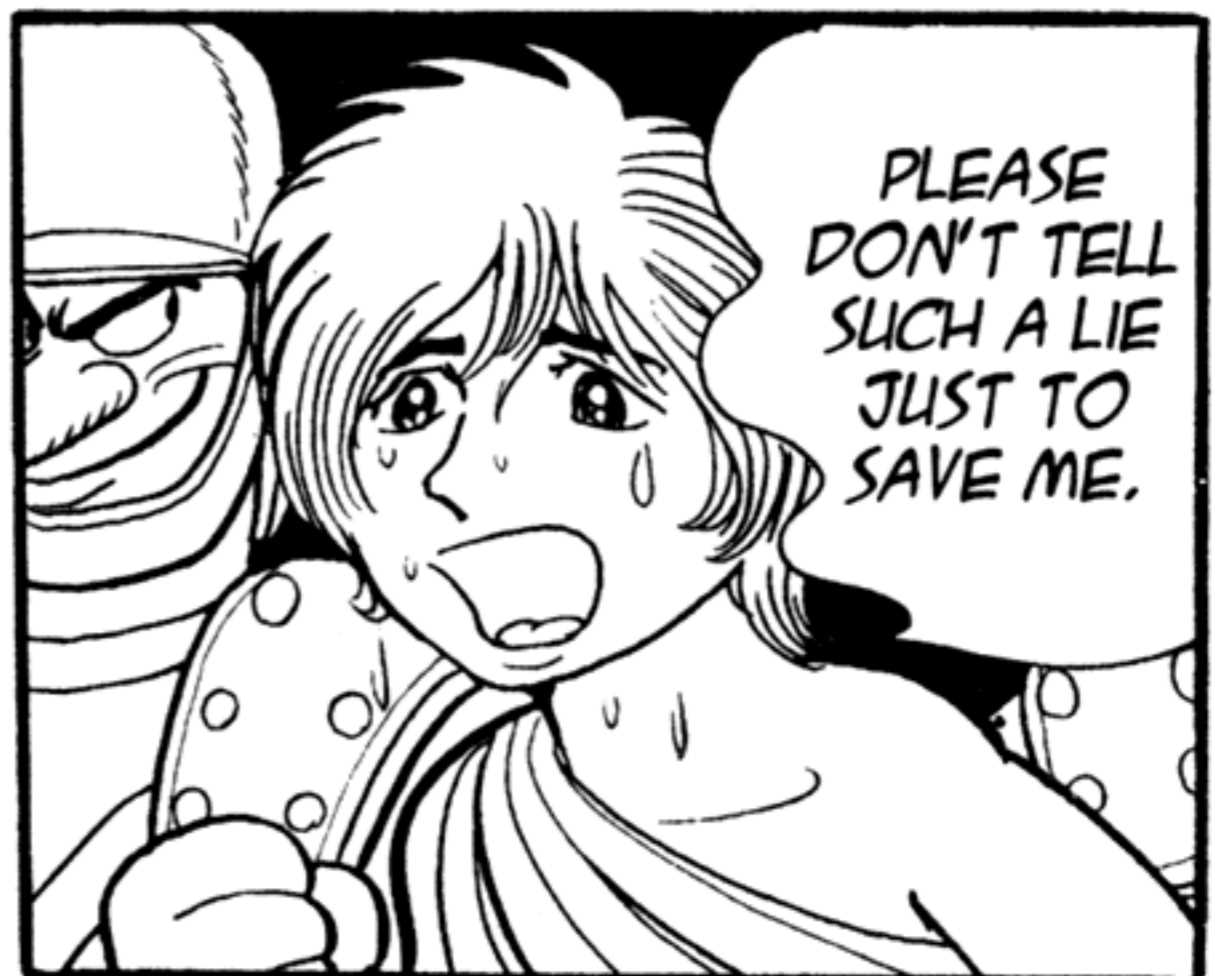
THAT IS SO, I ONLY RAISED HIM.

YOU'RE LYING, MOTHER! I KNOW YOU ARE!

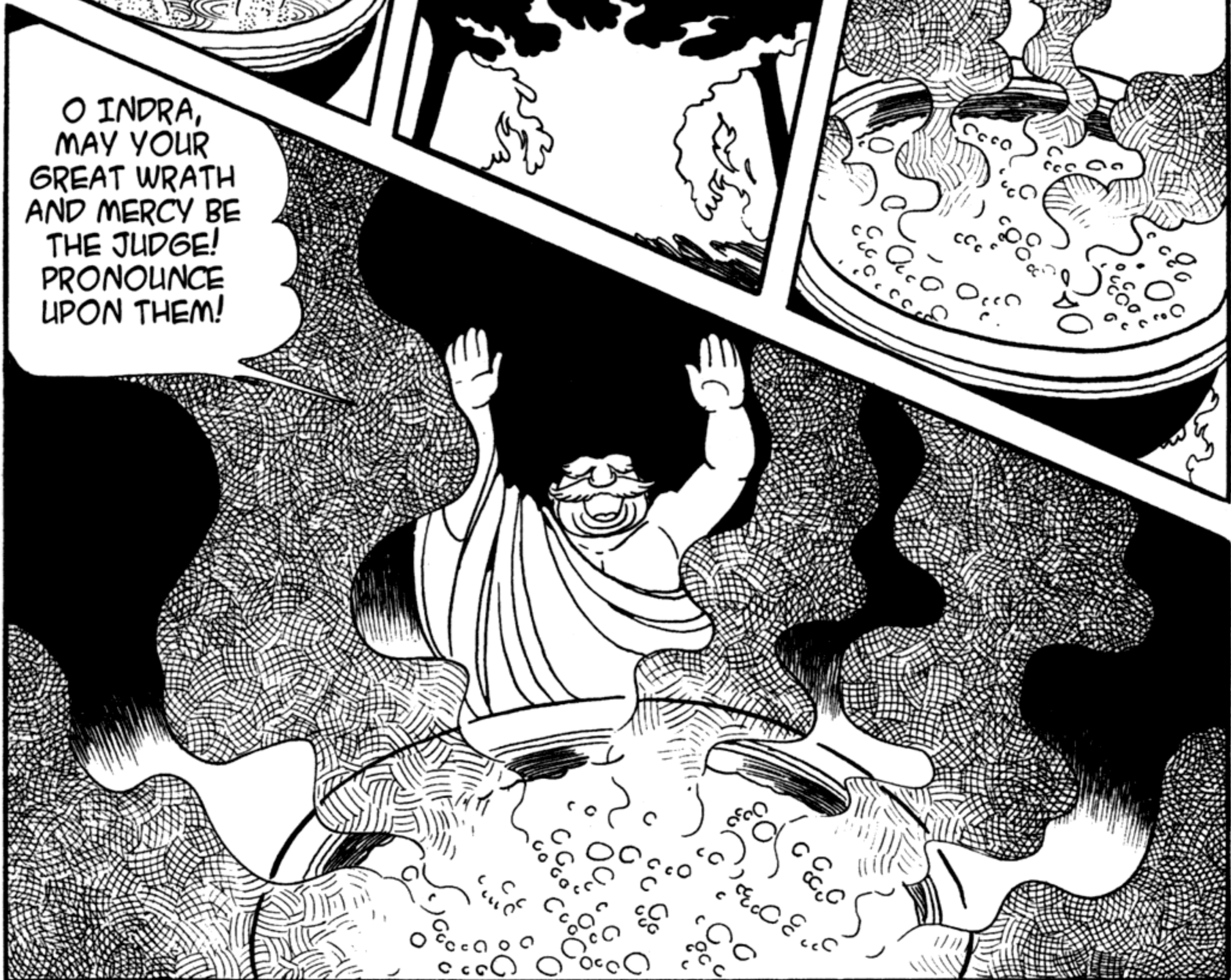


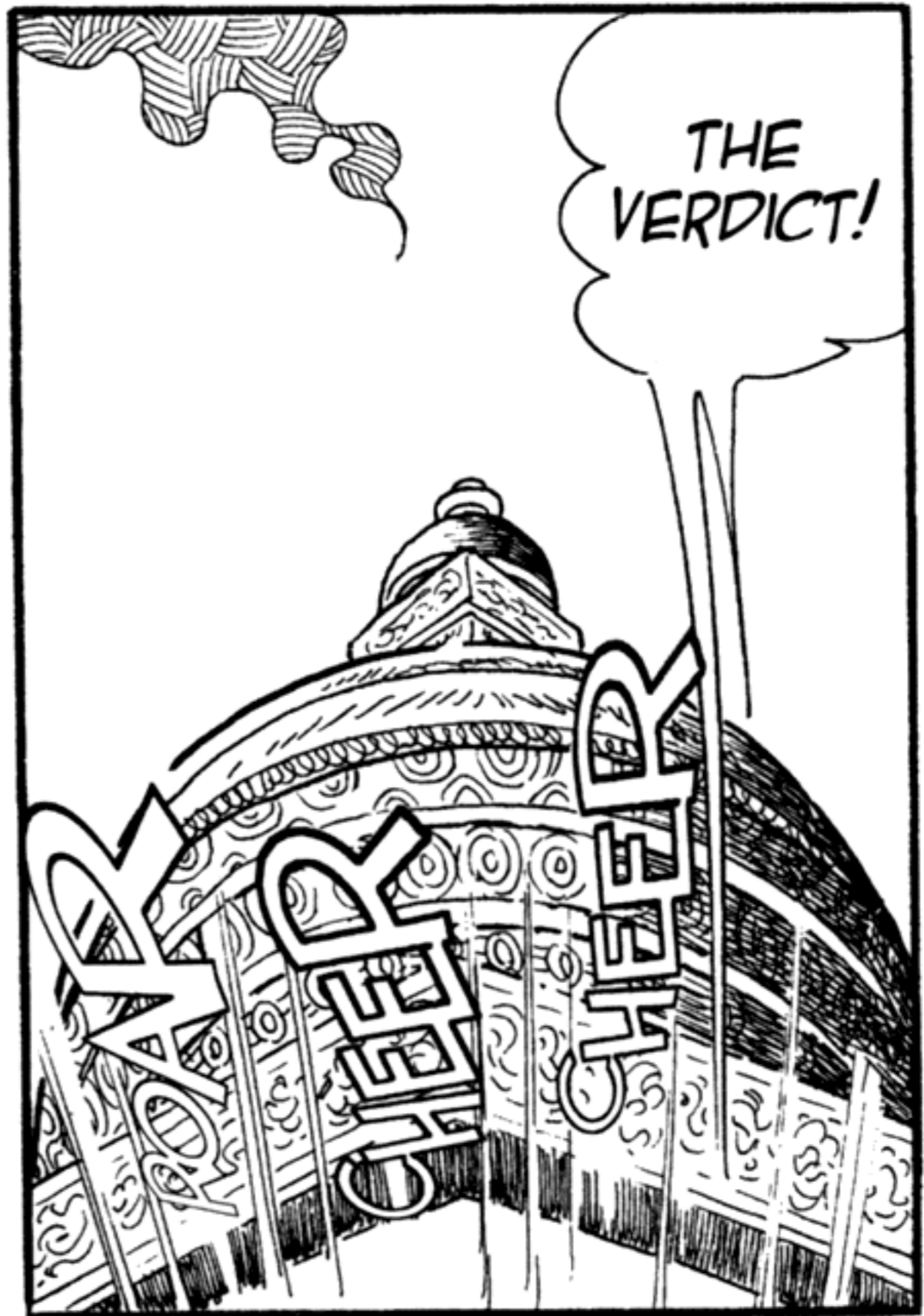
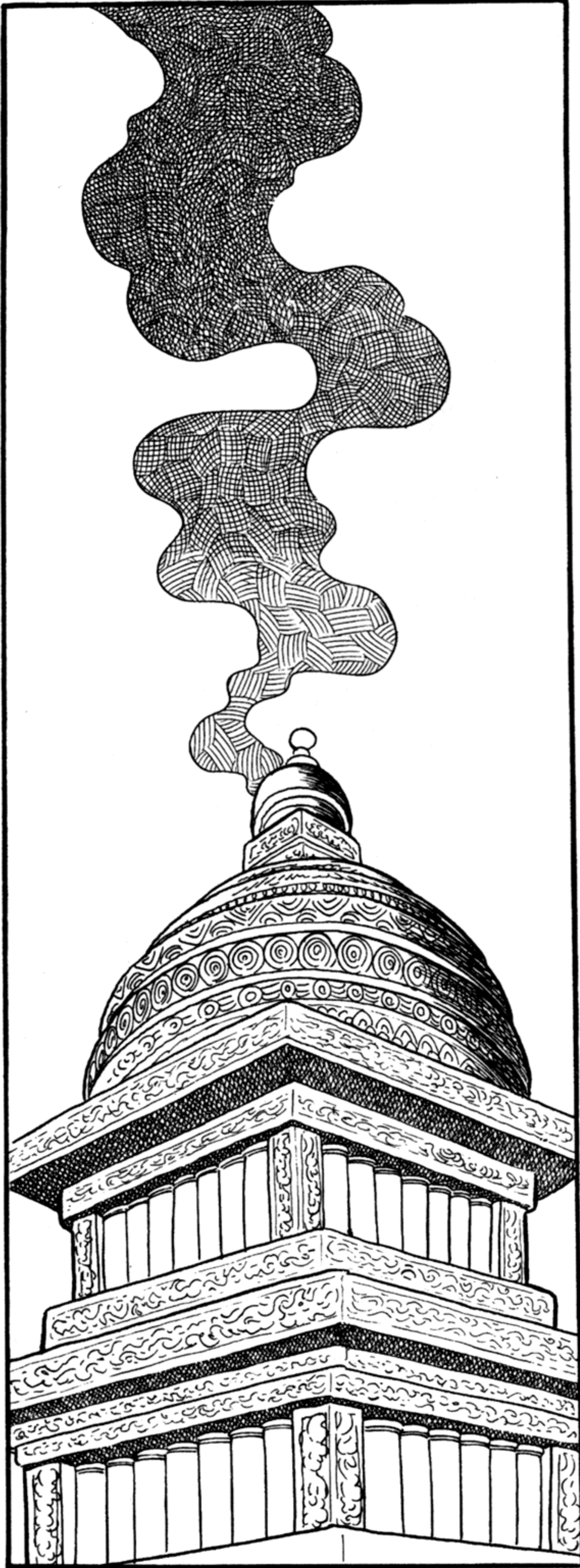
MOTHER, I REMEMBER THE MILK OF YOUR BREASTS!

ABOVE THEM ALWAYS WAS YOUR LOVING FACE, ALWAYS!



PLEASE DON'T TELL SUCH A LIE JUST TO SAVE ME.





CHAPRA! YOU ARE HEREBY STRIPPED OF YOUR TITLE OF CHAMPION AND FOREVER BANISHED FROM KOSALA!



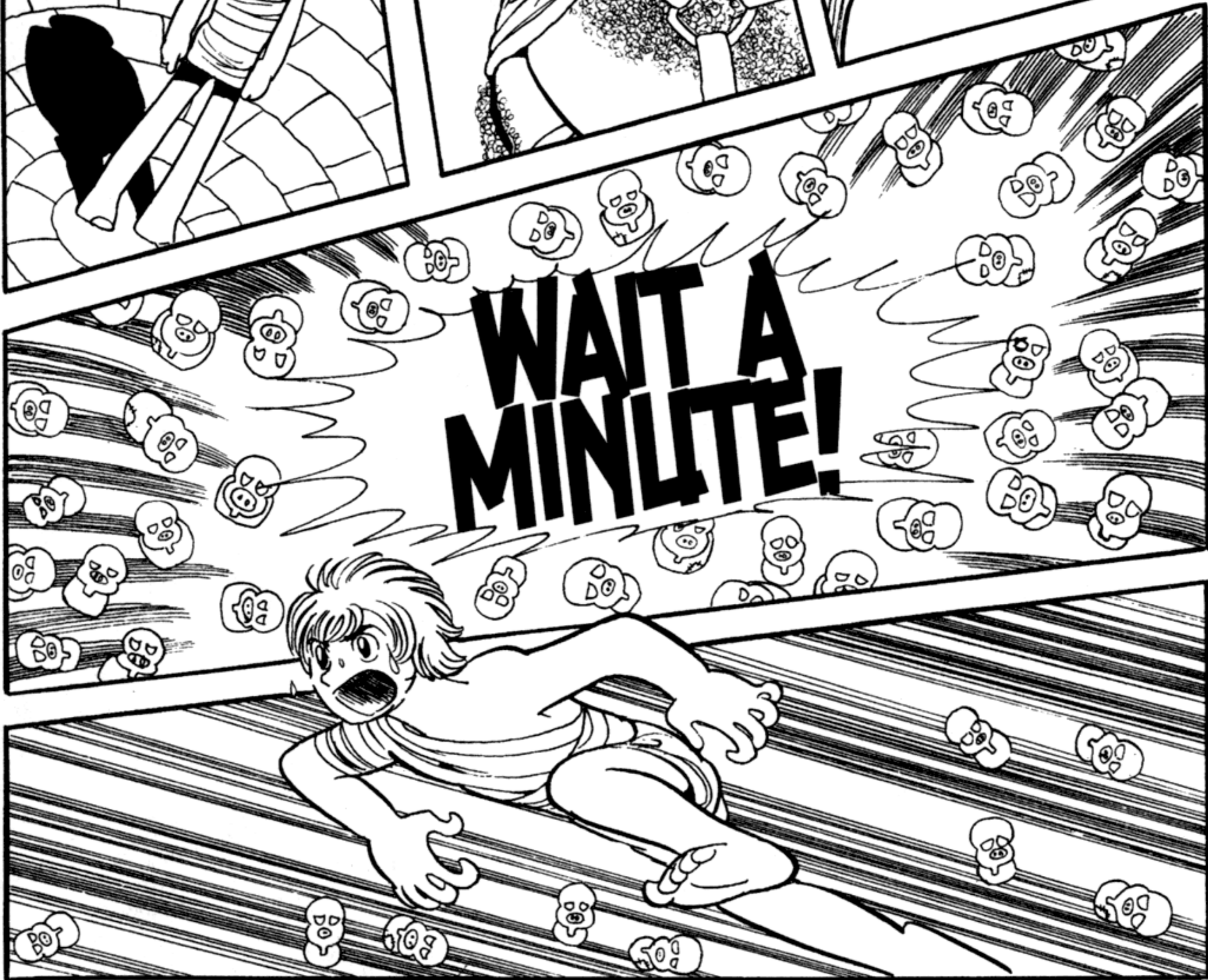
FOR HAVING CONCEALED THE CASTE OF YOUR ADOPTED SON CHAPRA, YOU ARE SUSPENDED FROM DUTY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, GENERAL BUDAI.

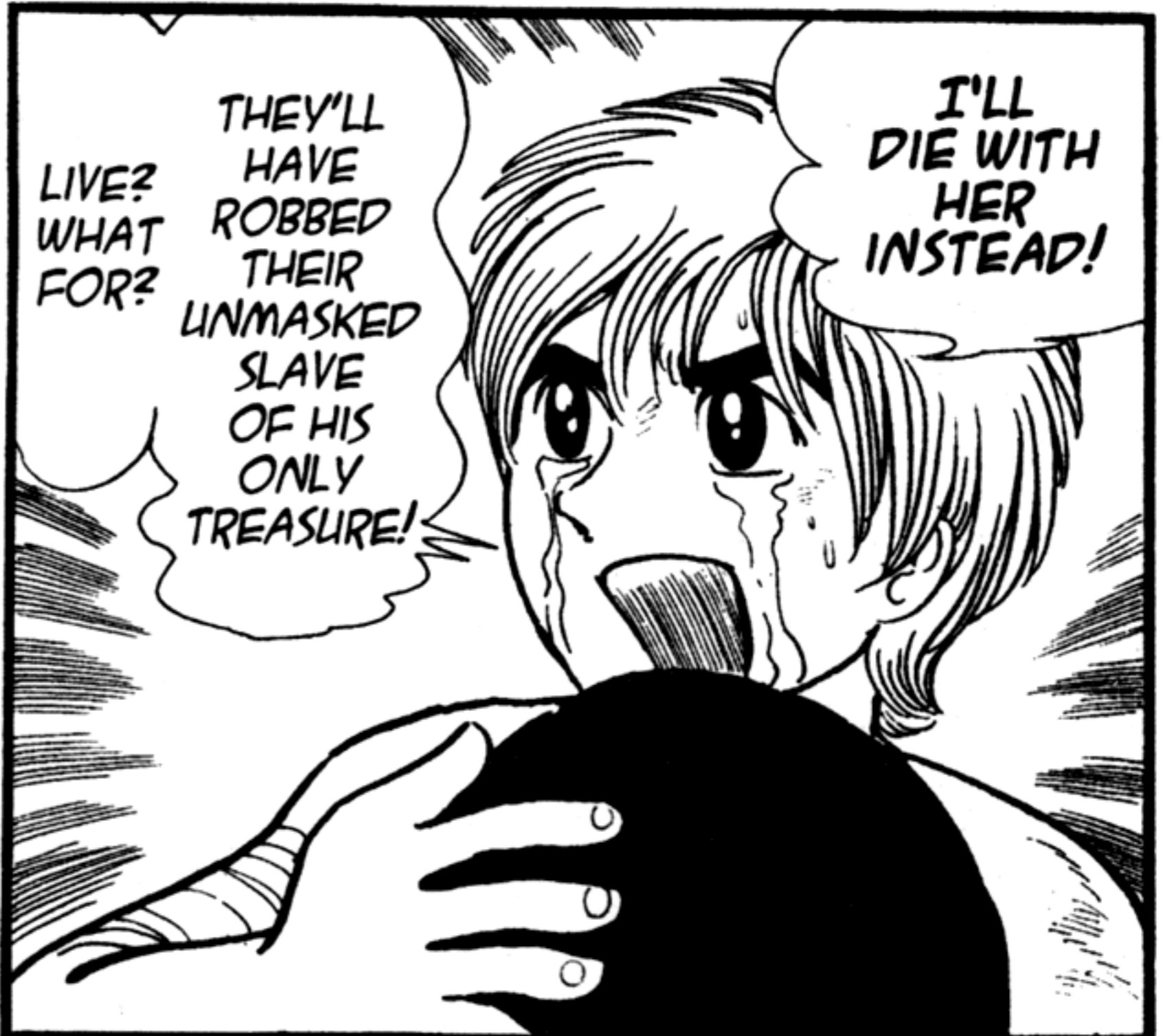
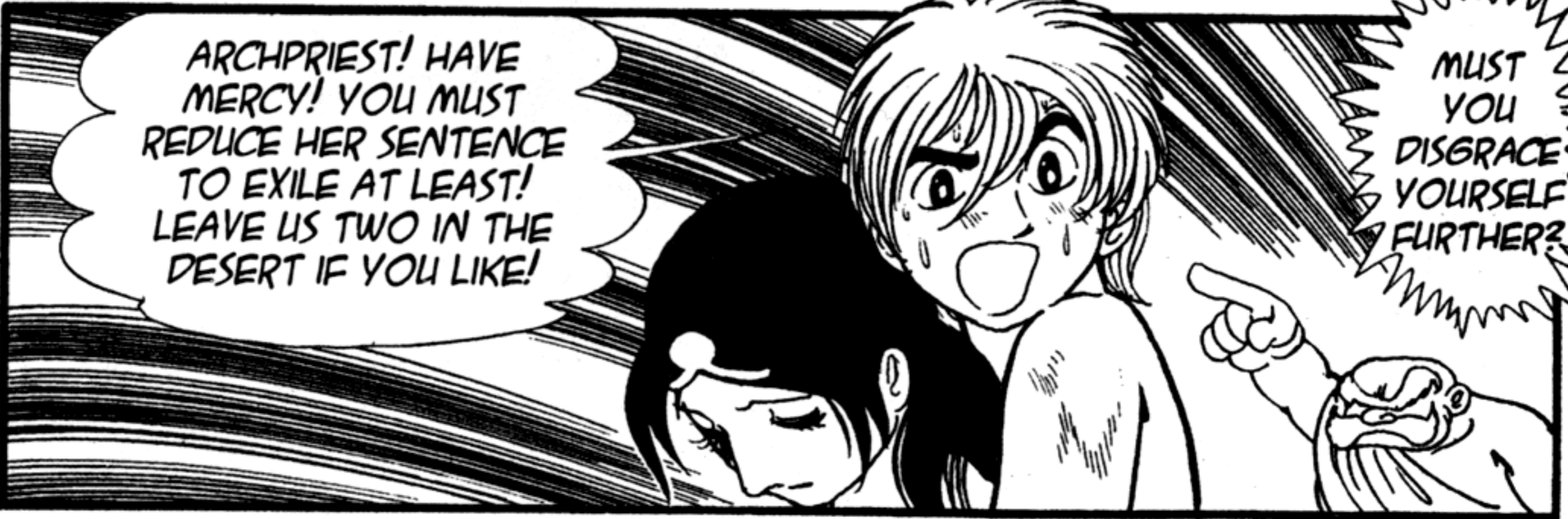
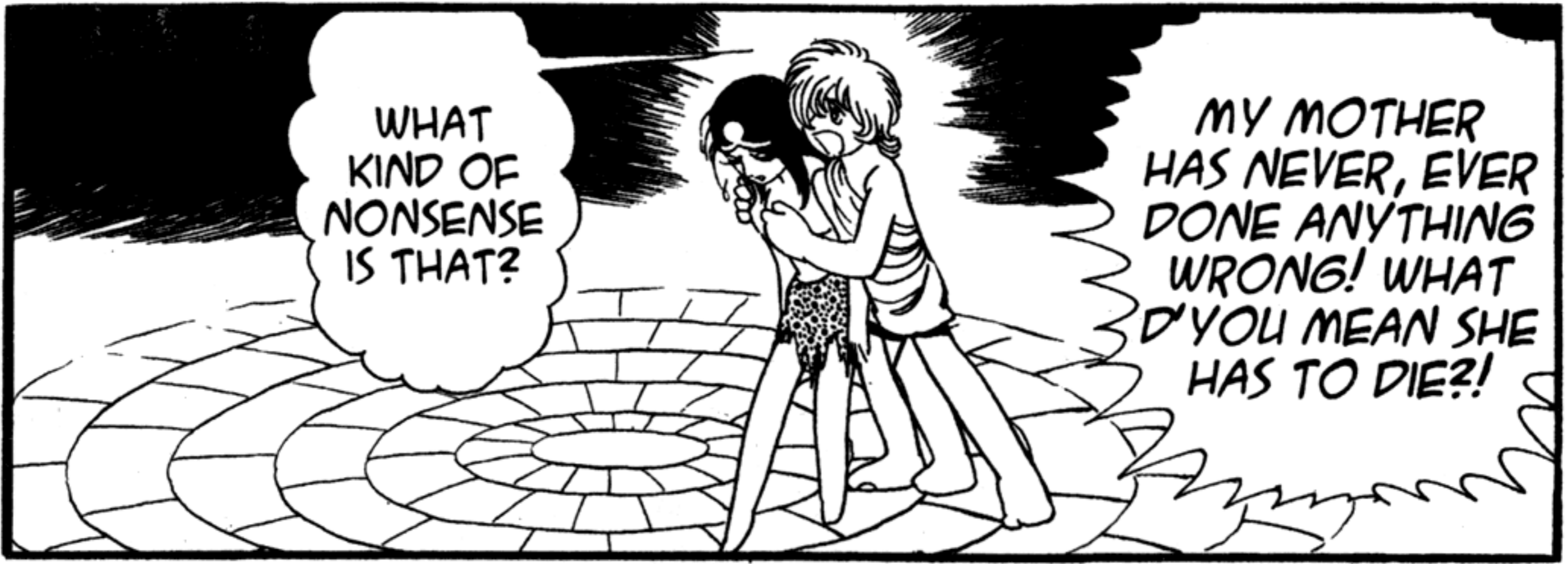


AND YOU, SLAVE WOMAN, YOU SHALL DIE! YOU'LL BE THROWN OFF A CLIFF SO THAT VULTURES MAY FEAST ON YOUR FLESH!



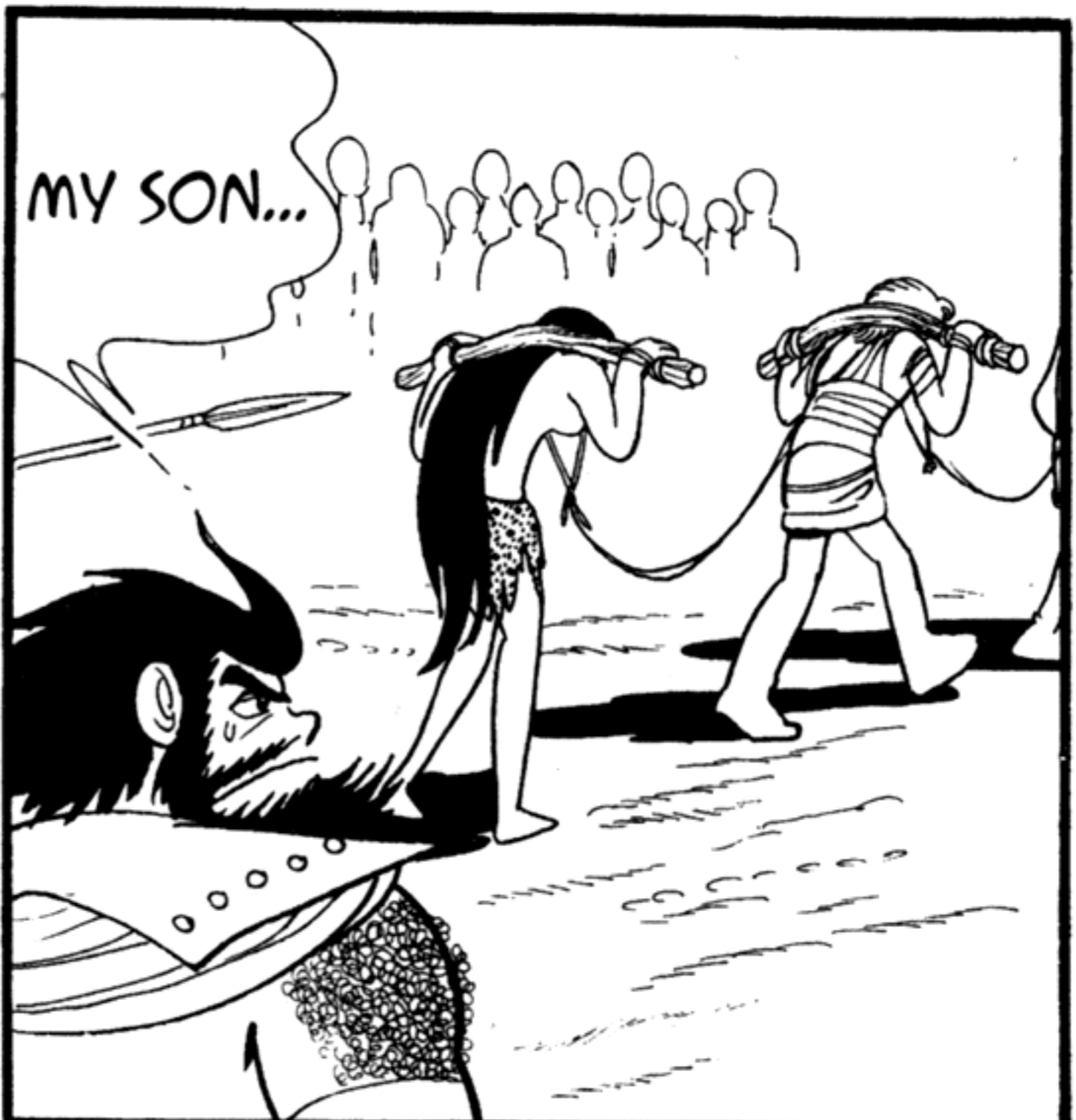
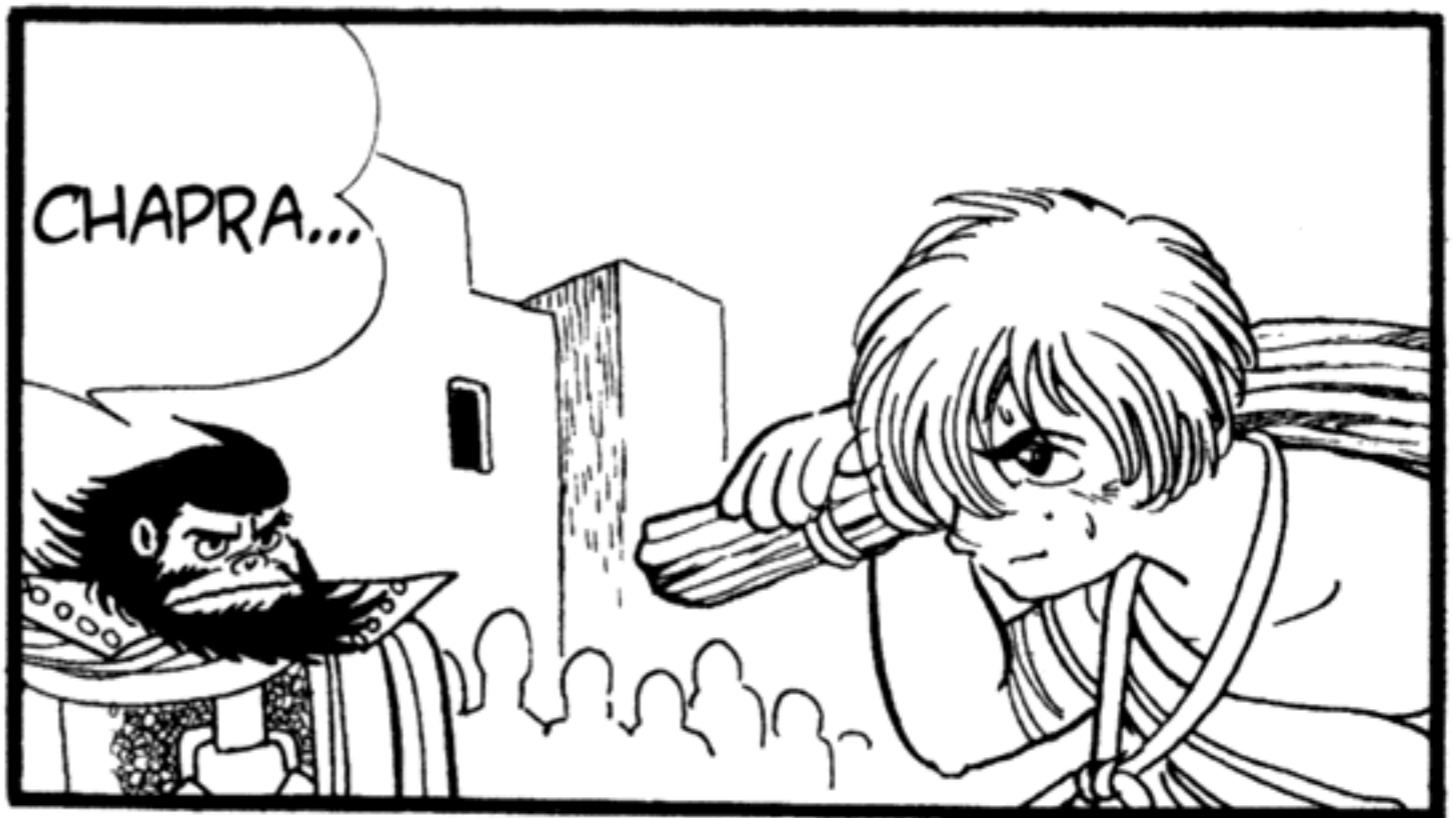
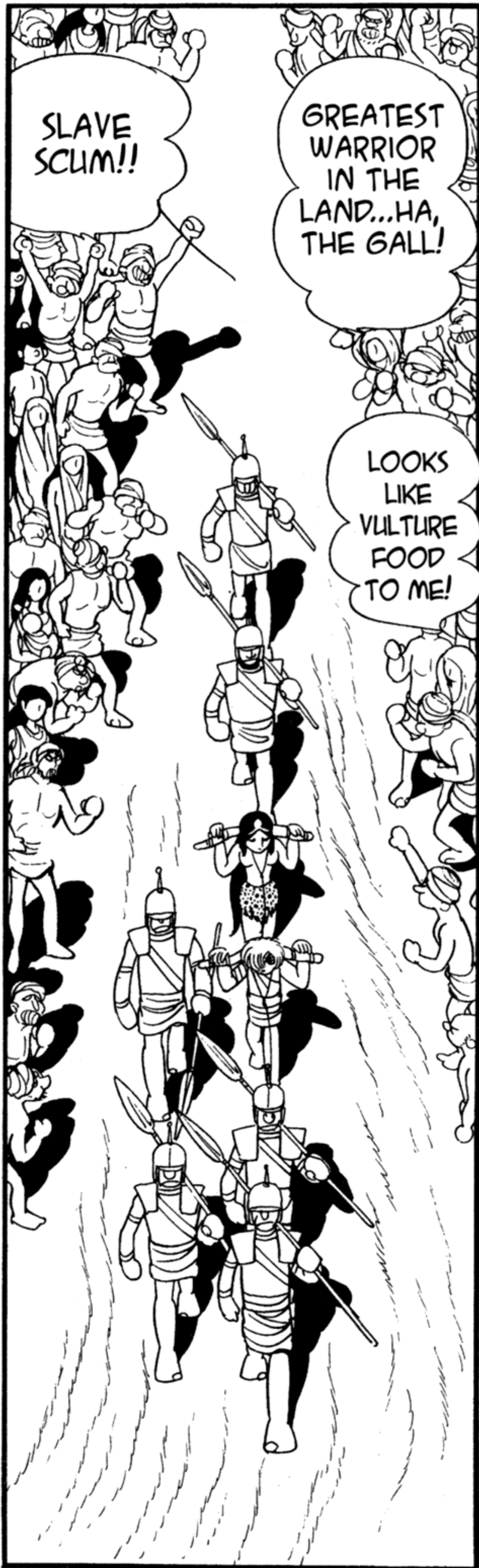
WAIT A MINUTE!

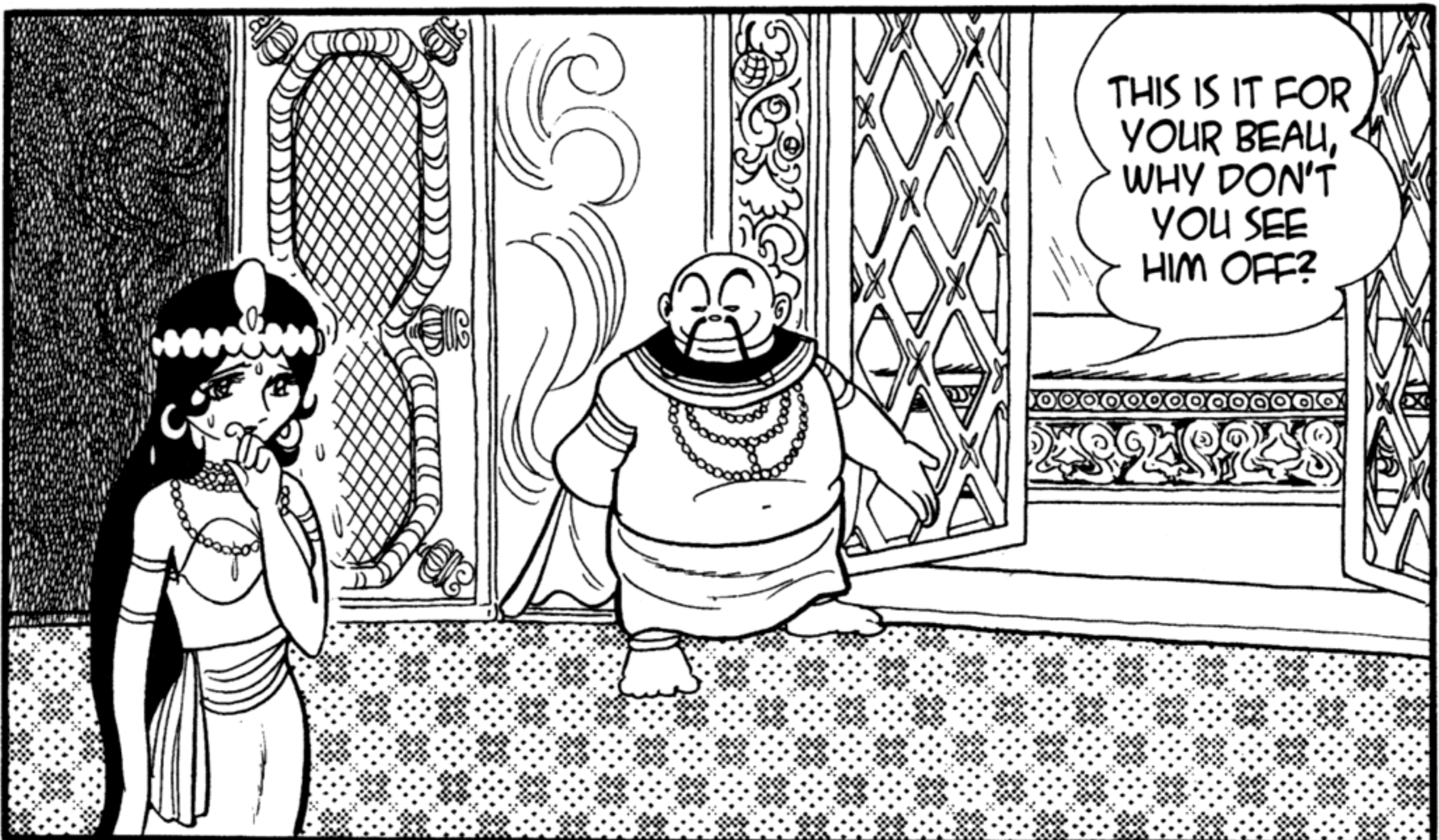
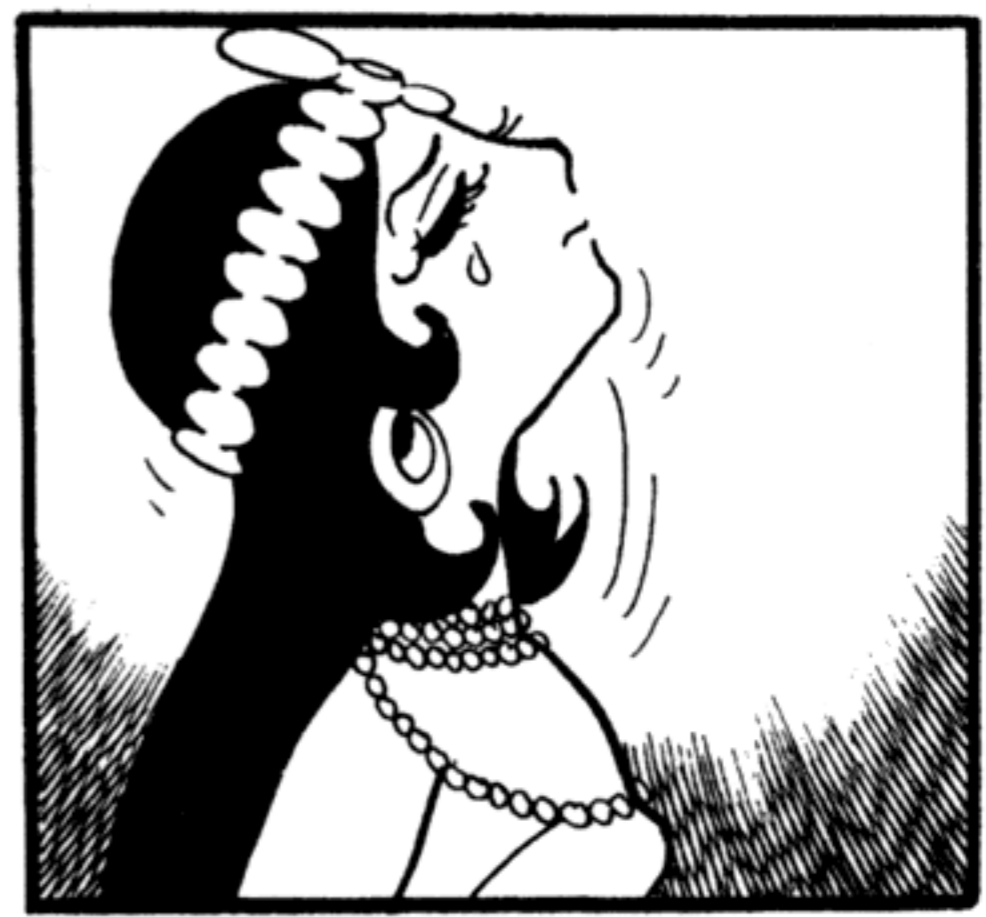
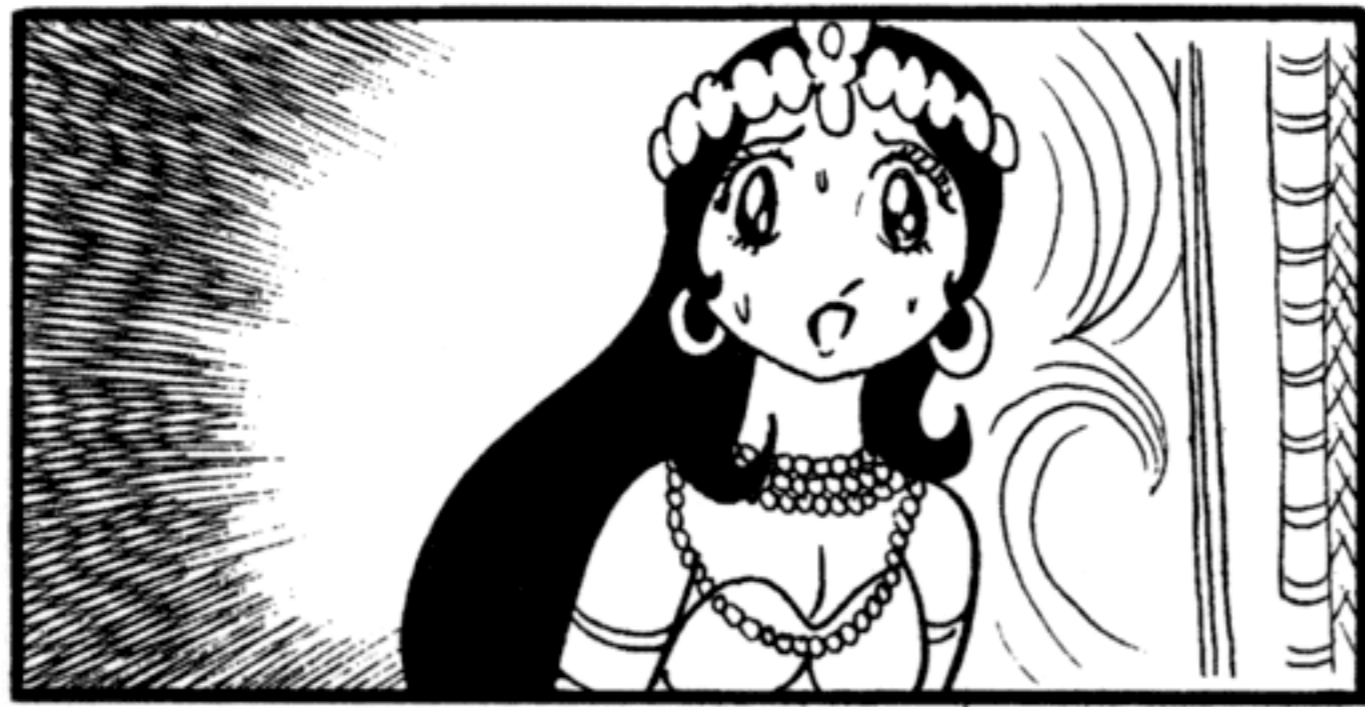


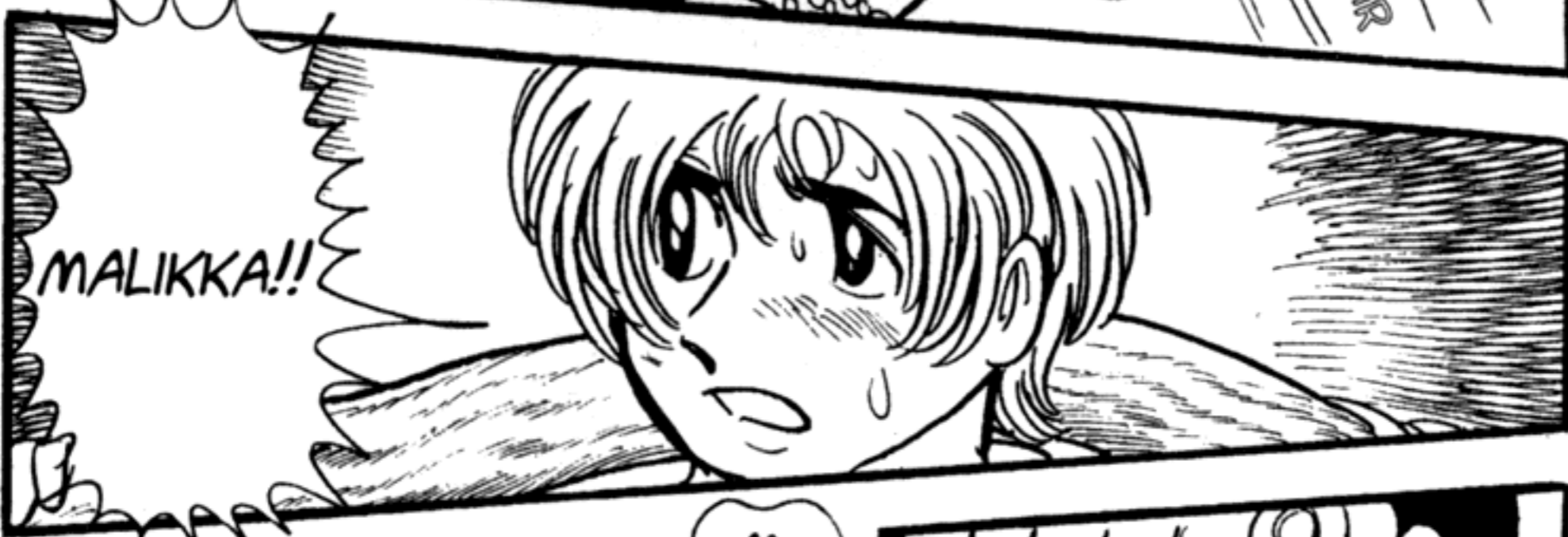


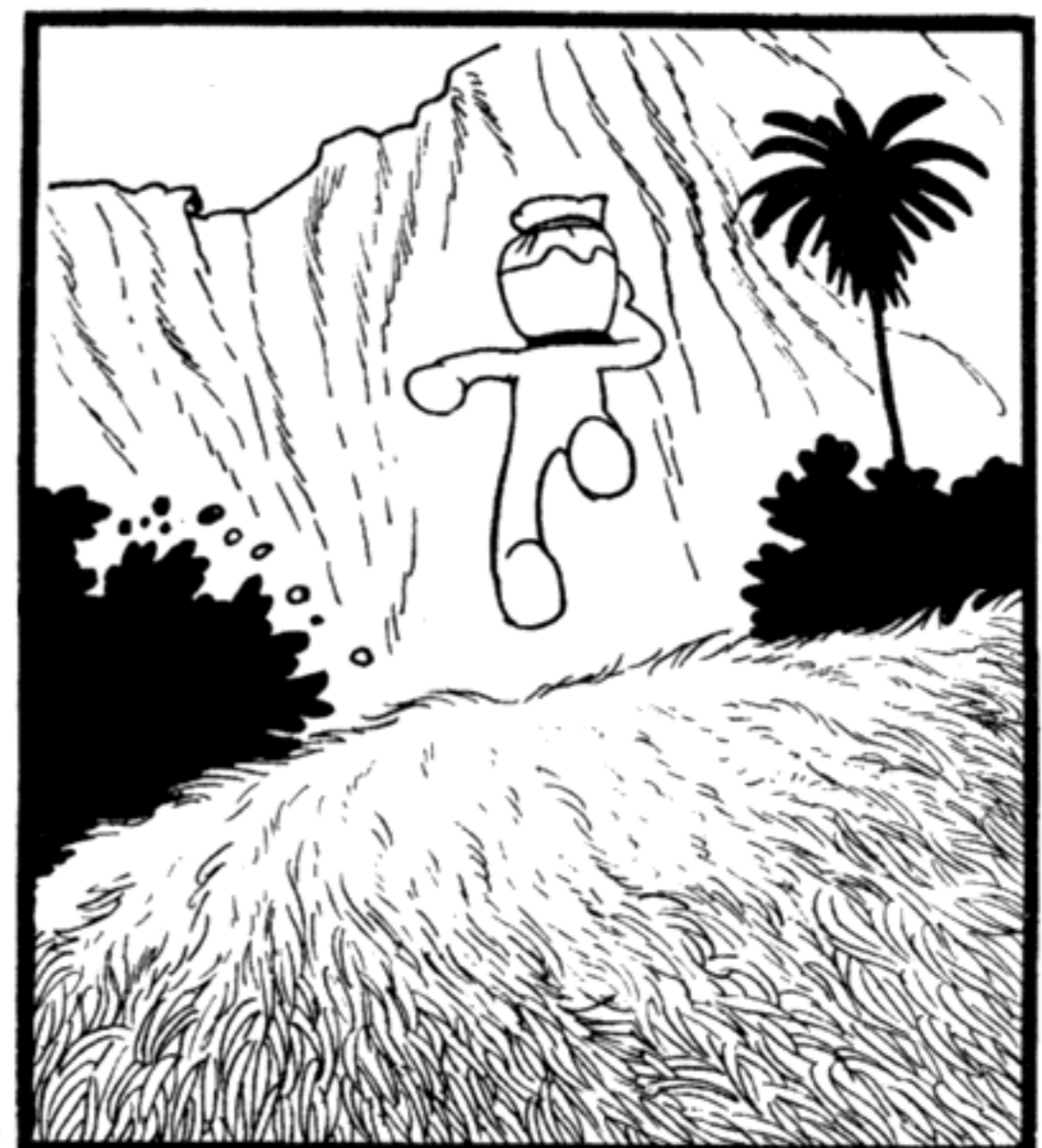
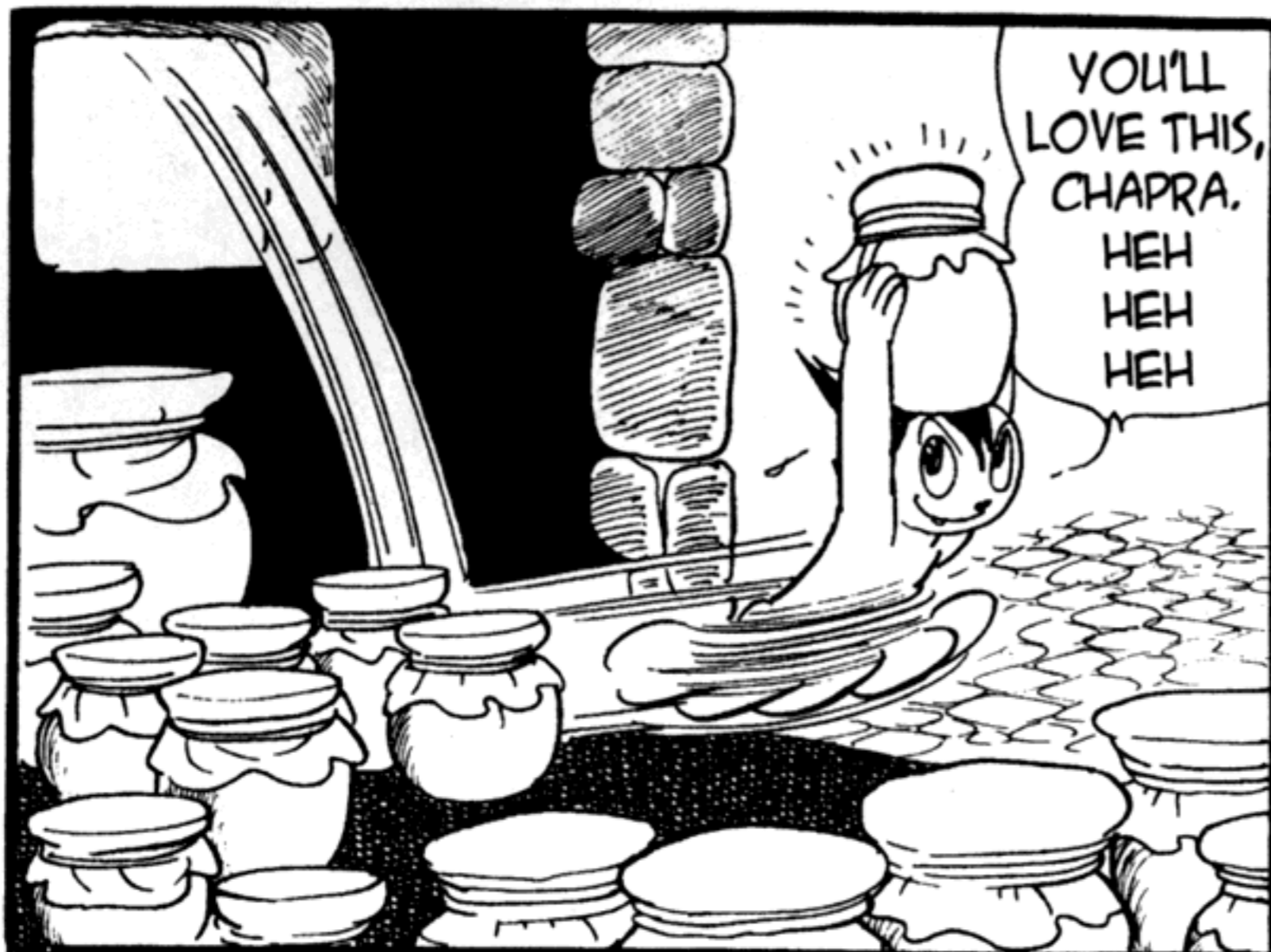
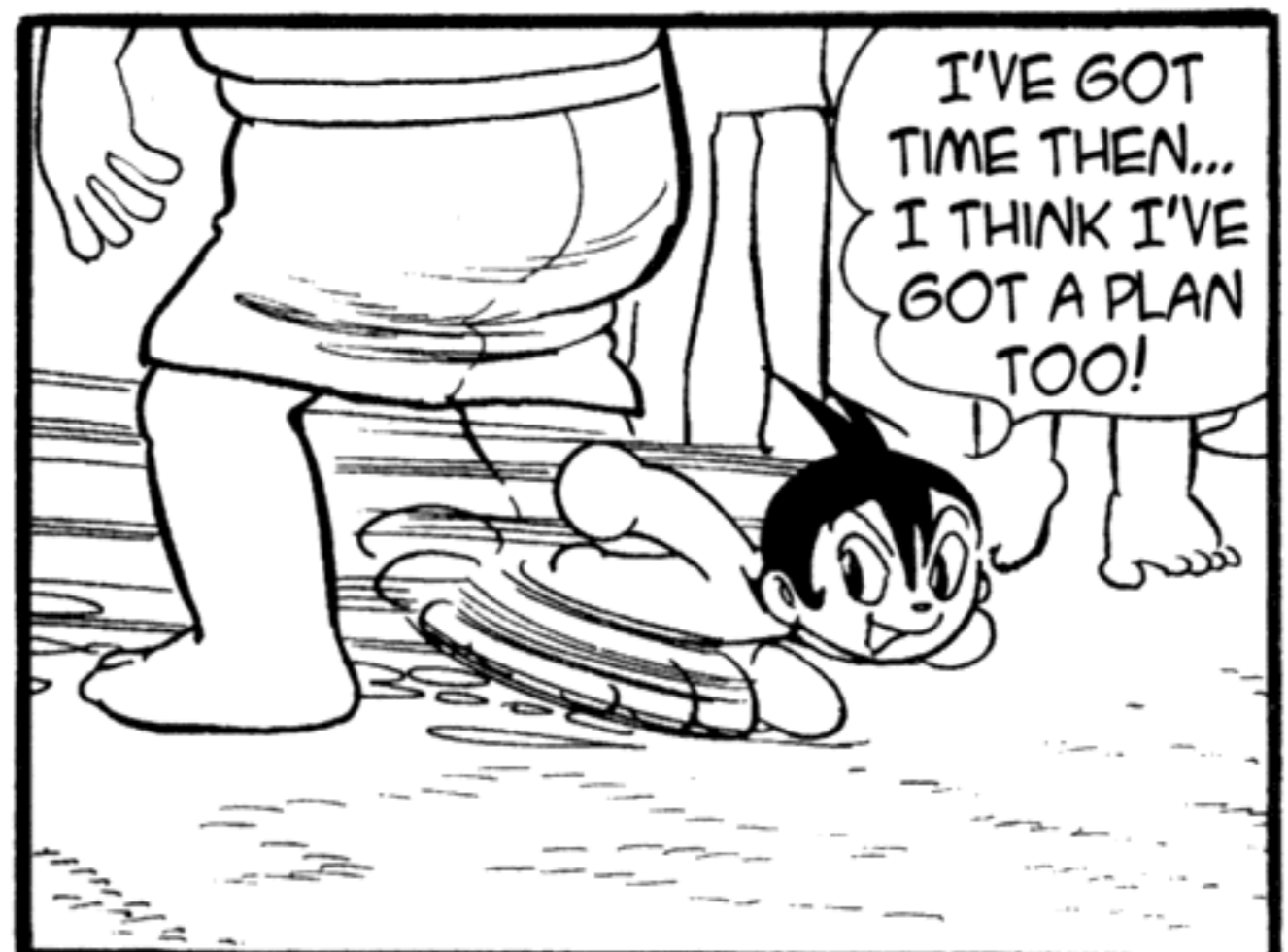
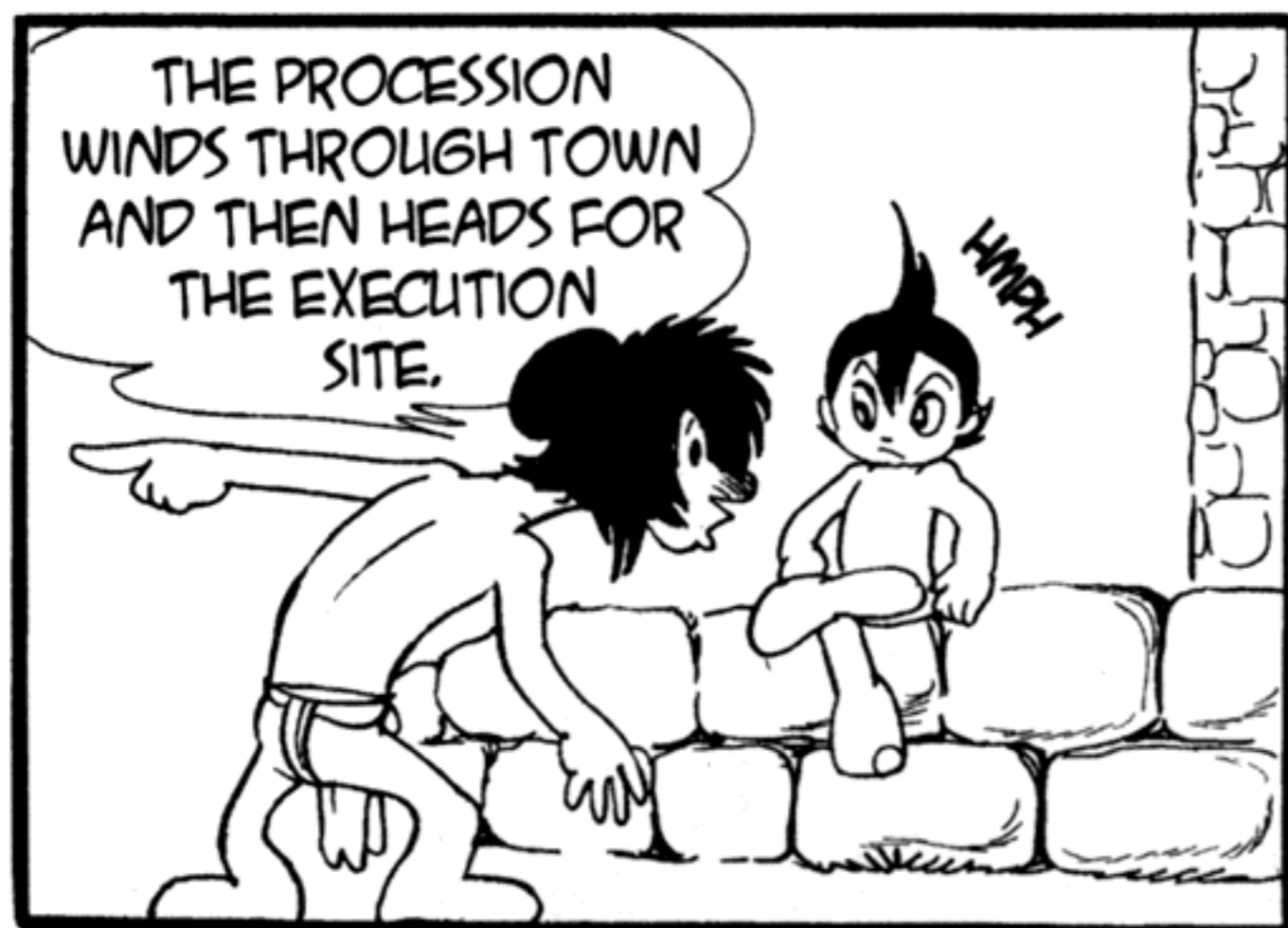
CHAPTER TWELVE

THE WALL OF DEATH

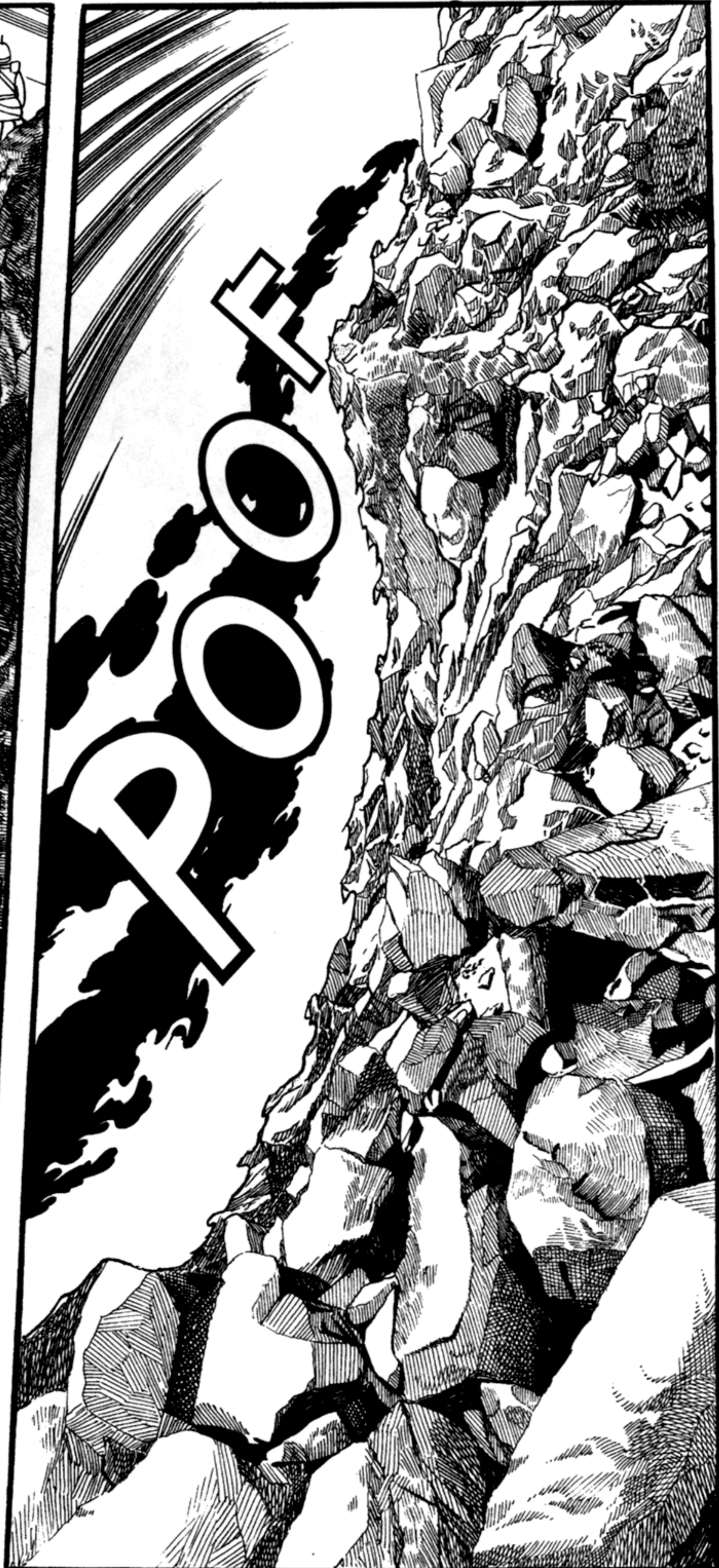


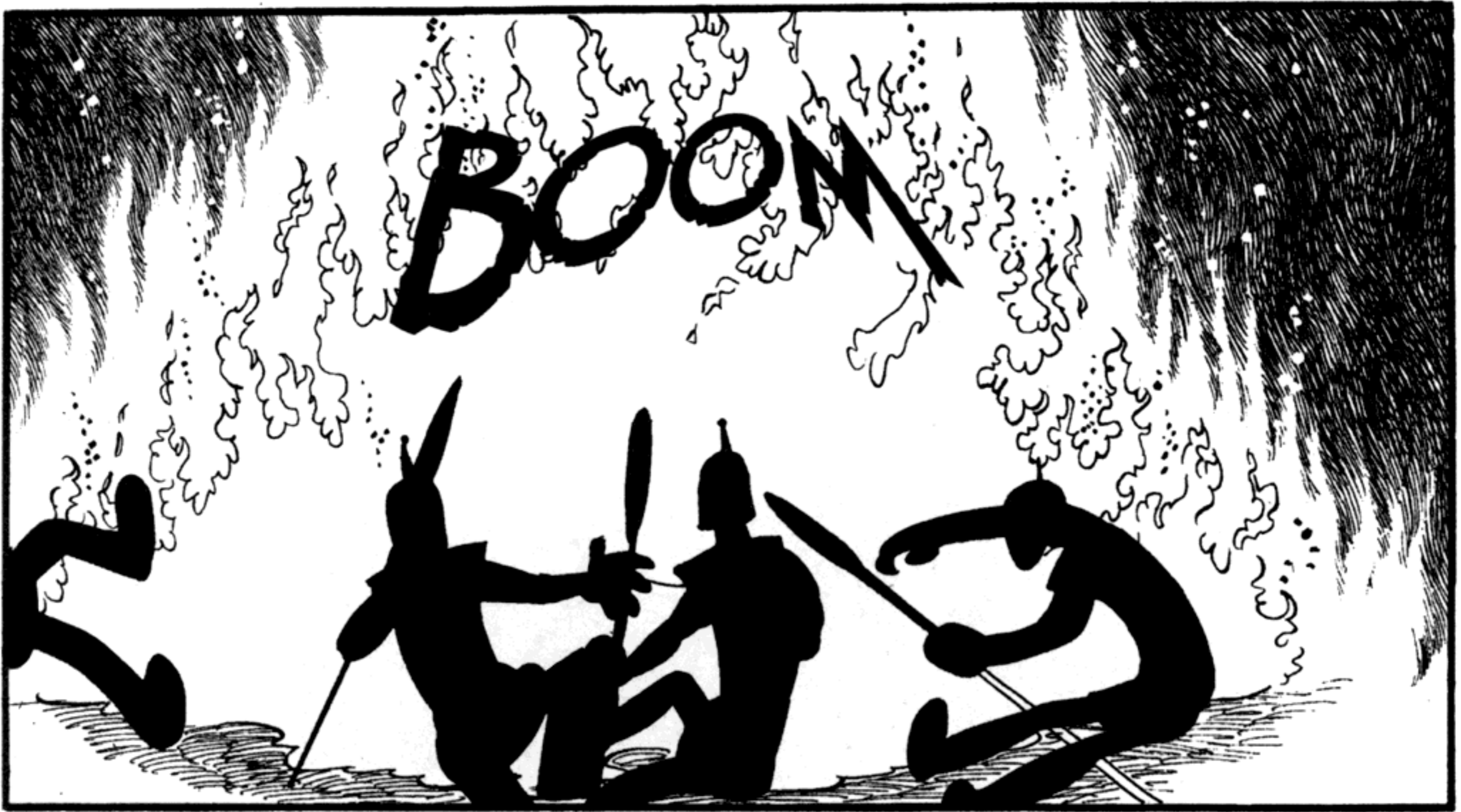


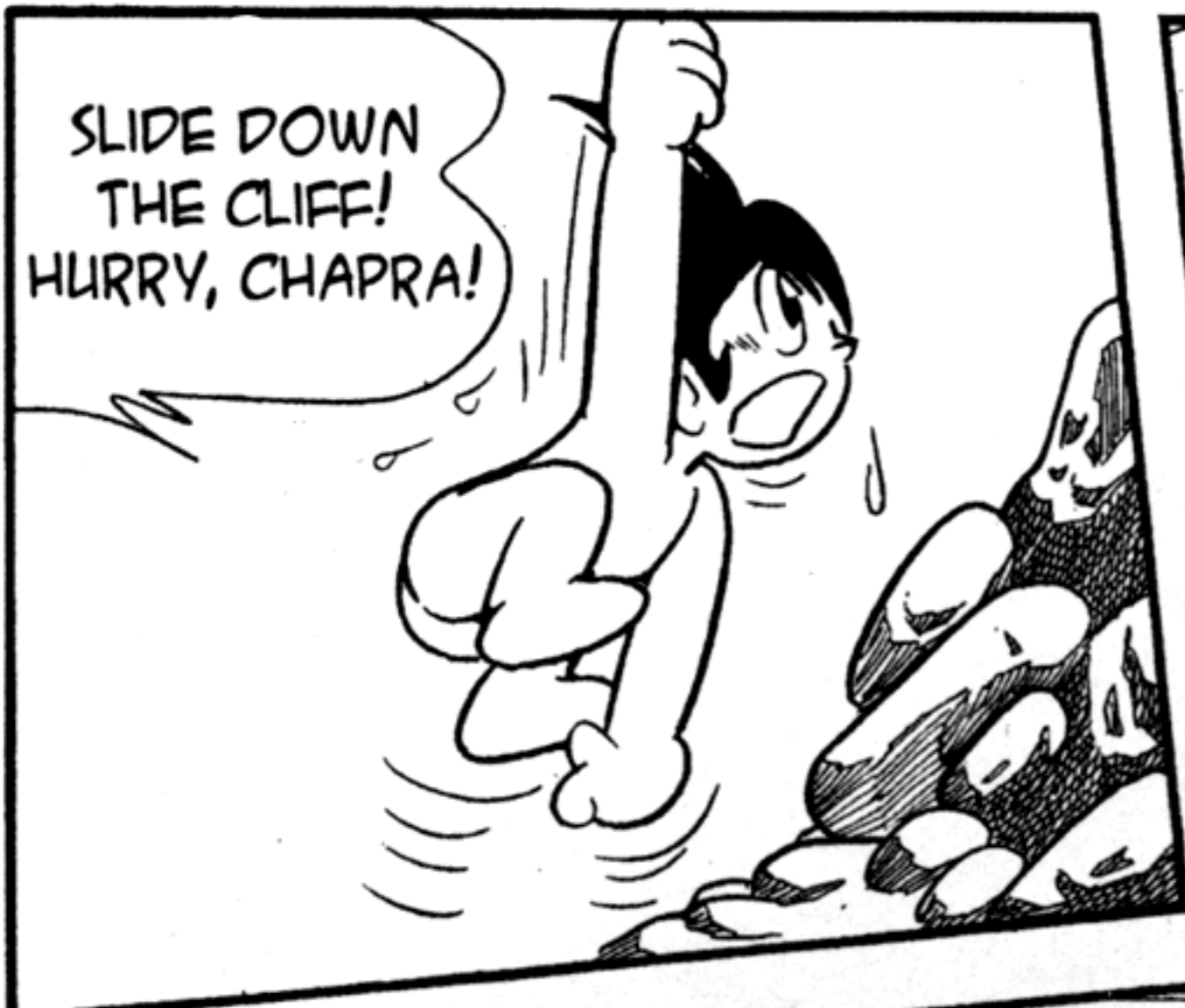








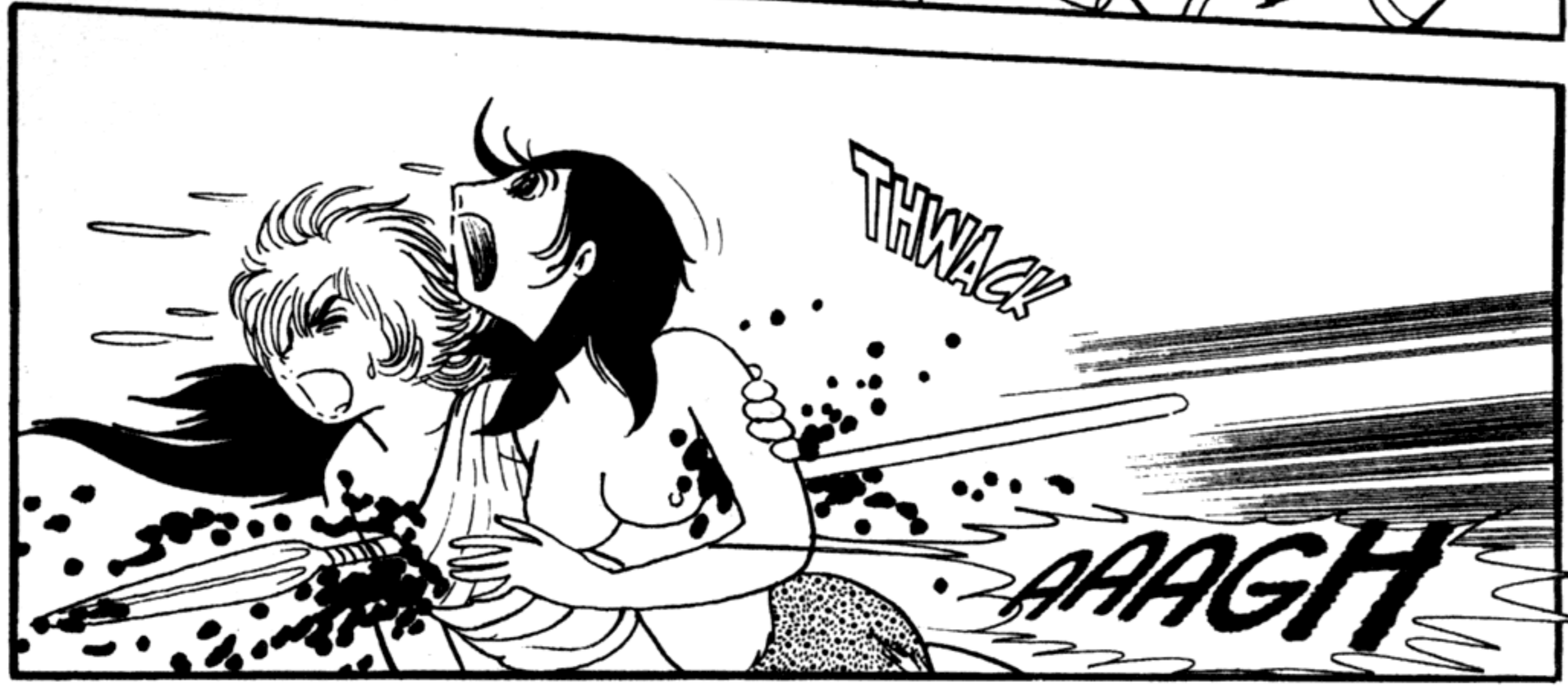




SLIDE DOWN THE CLIFF!
HURRY, CHAPRA!

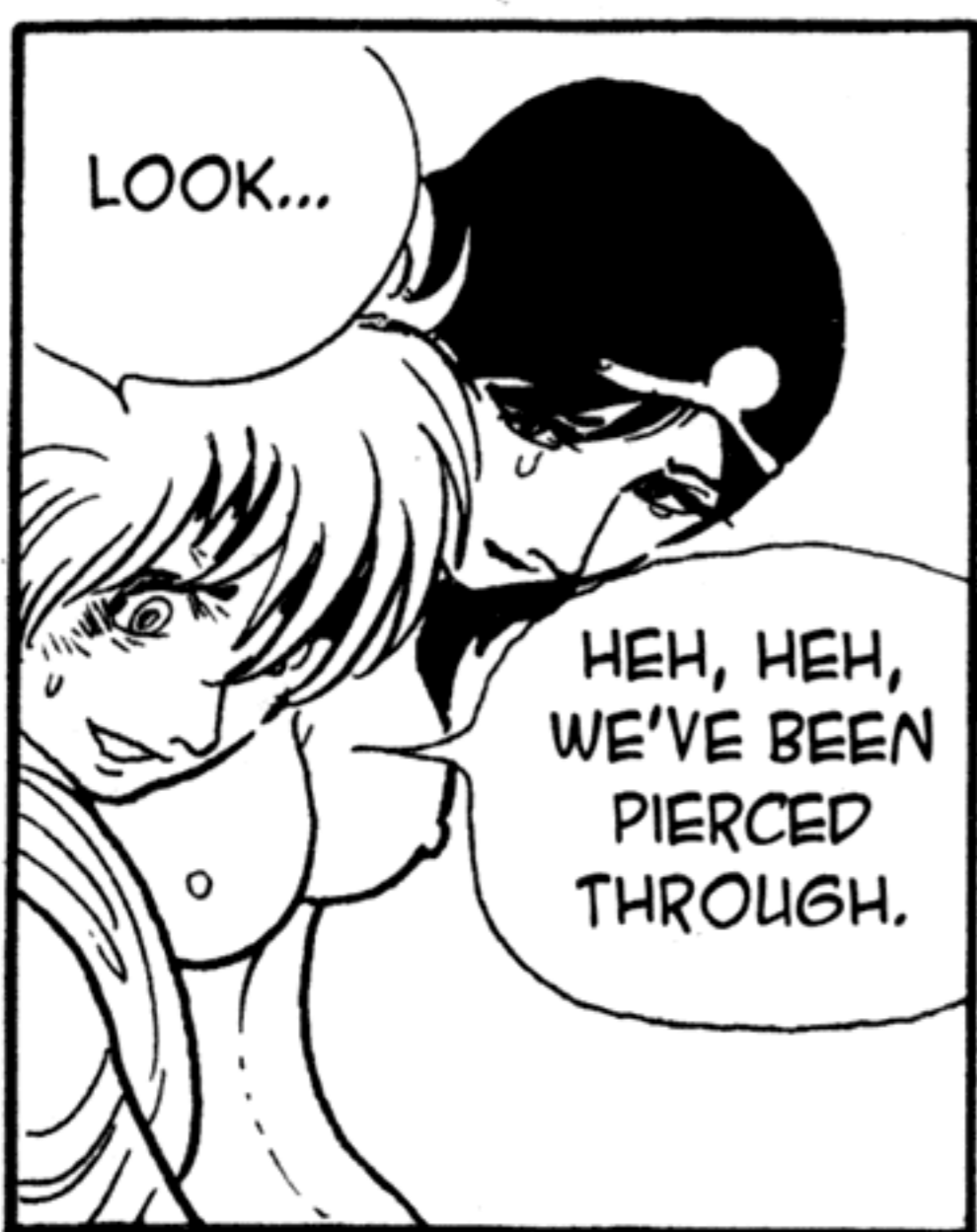


TATTA, HERE WE COME!



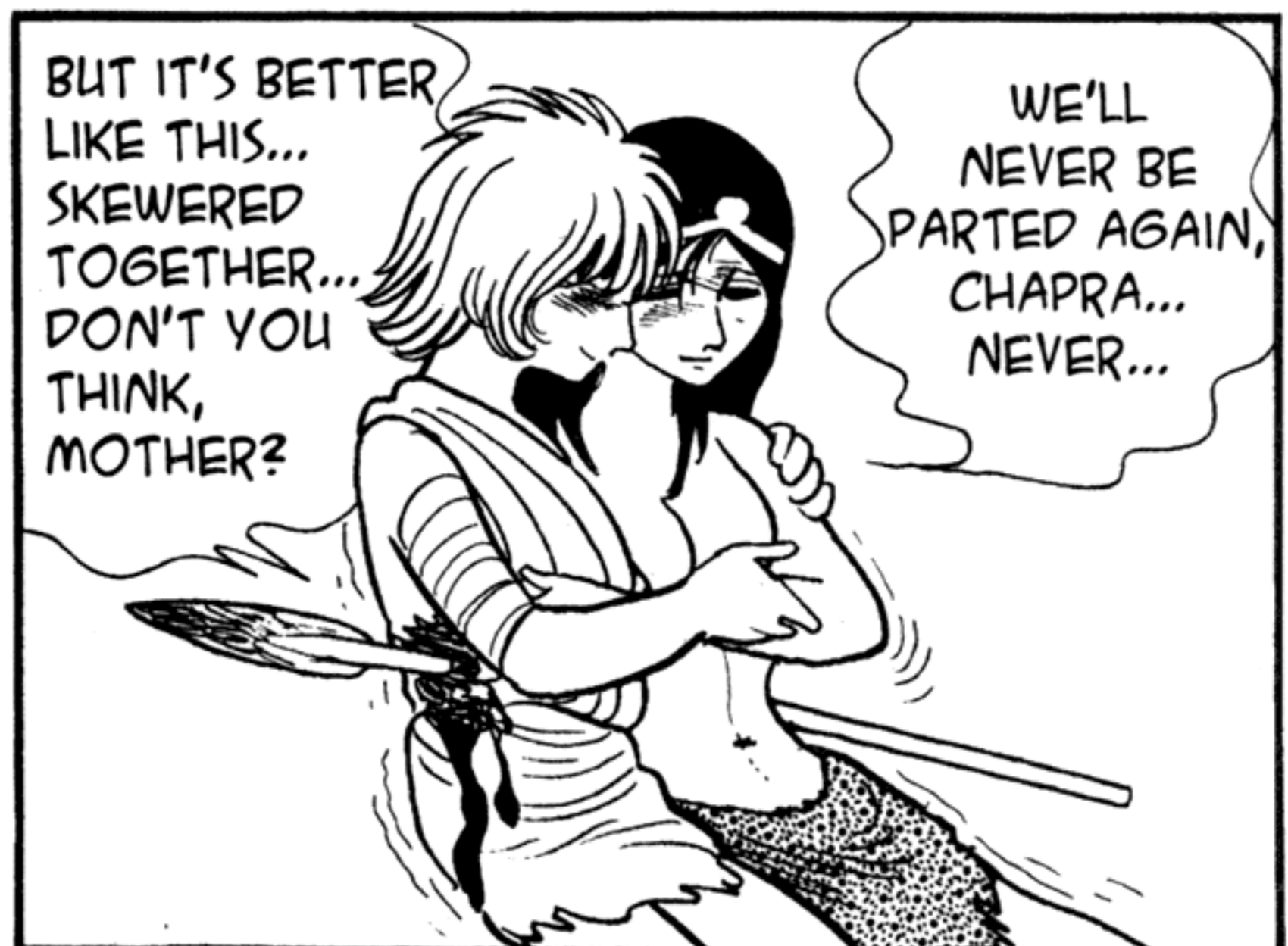
THWACK

AAAGH



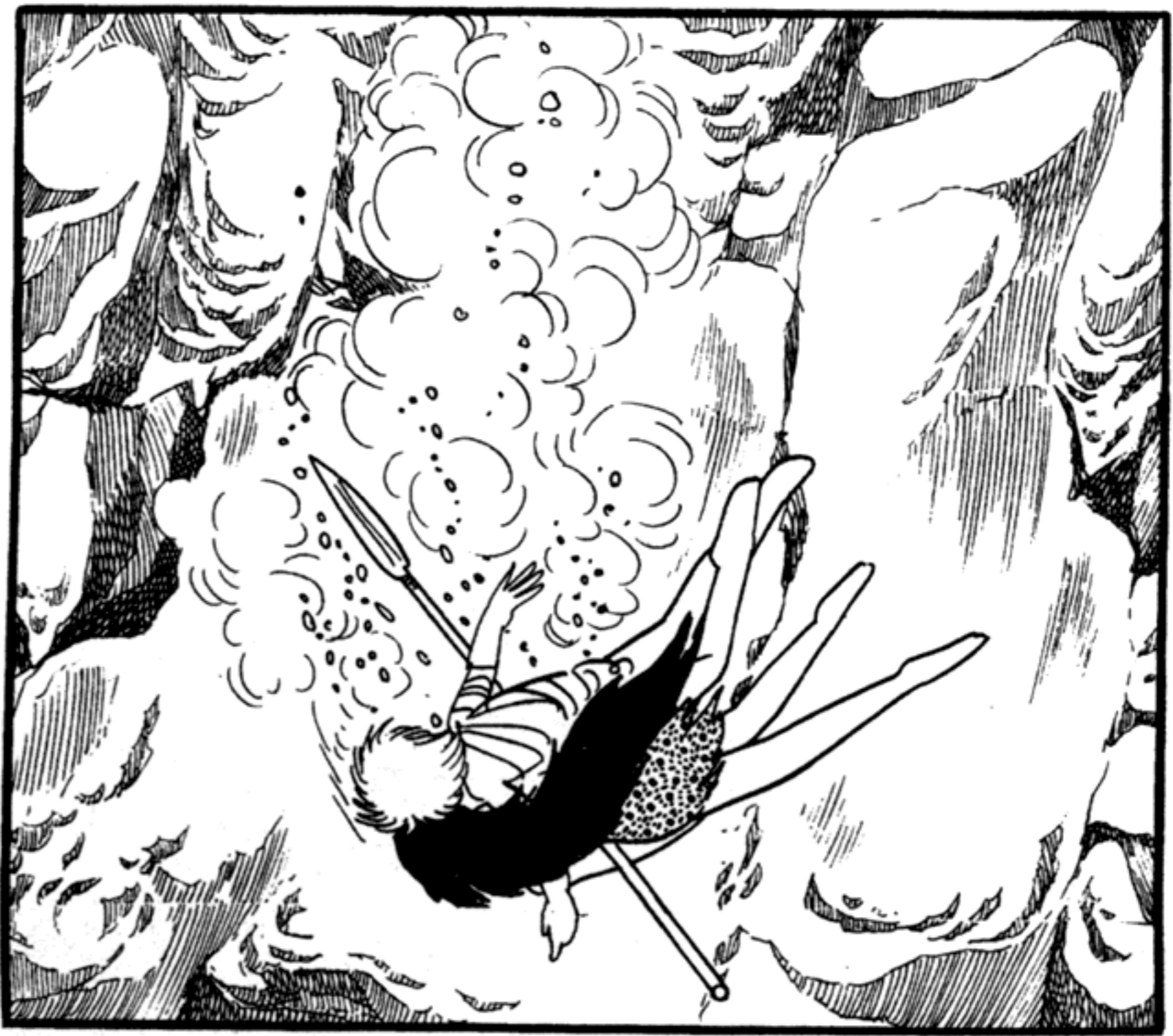
LOOK...

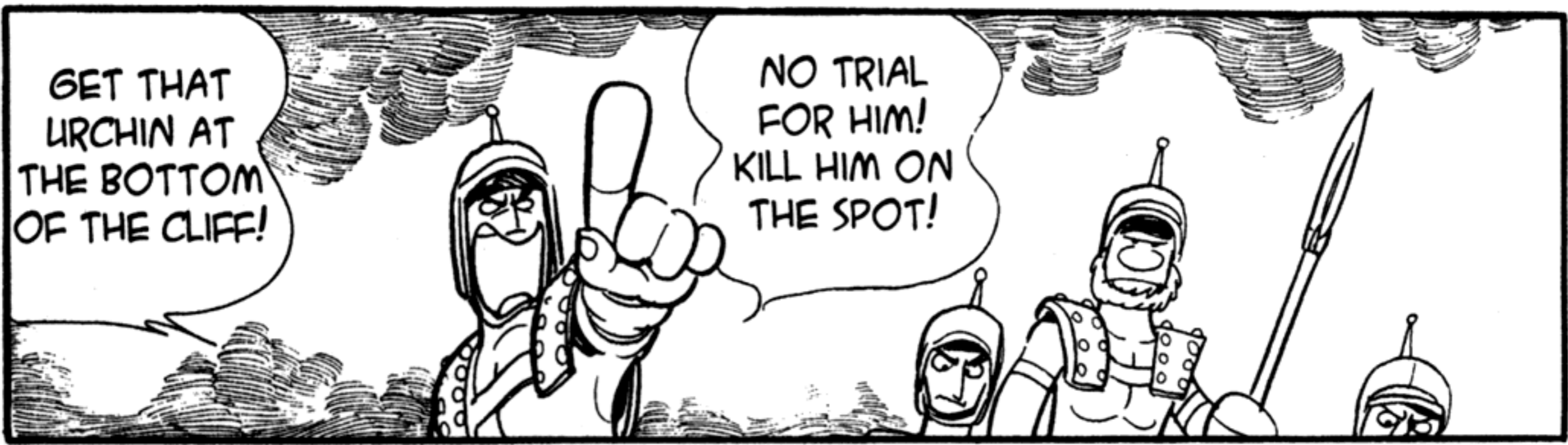
HEH, HEH,
WE'VE BEEN
PIERCED
THROUGH.

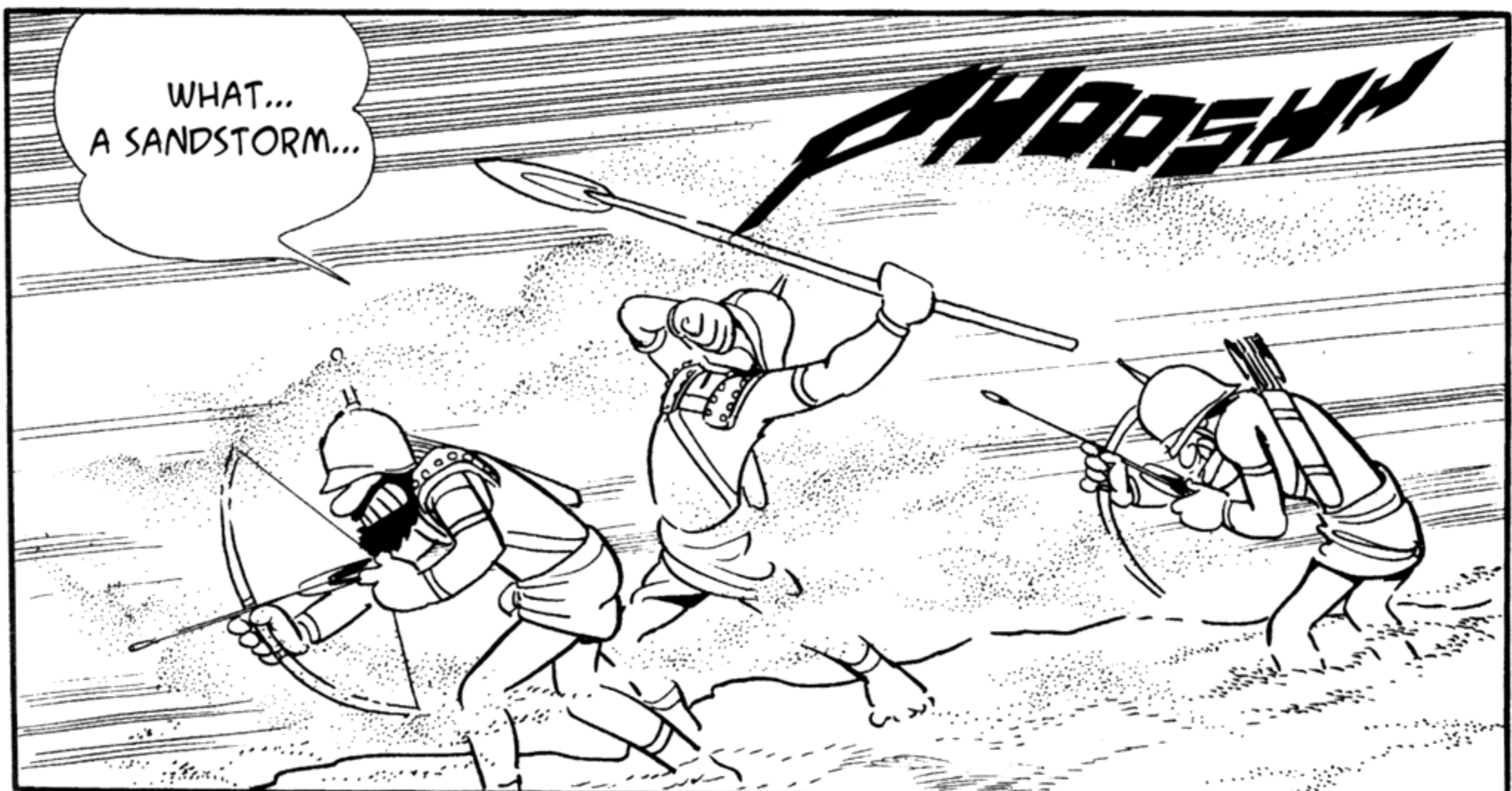
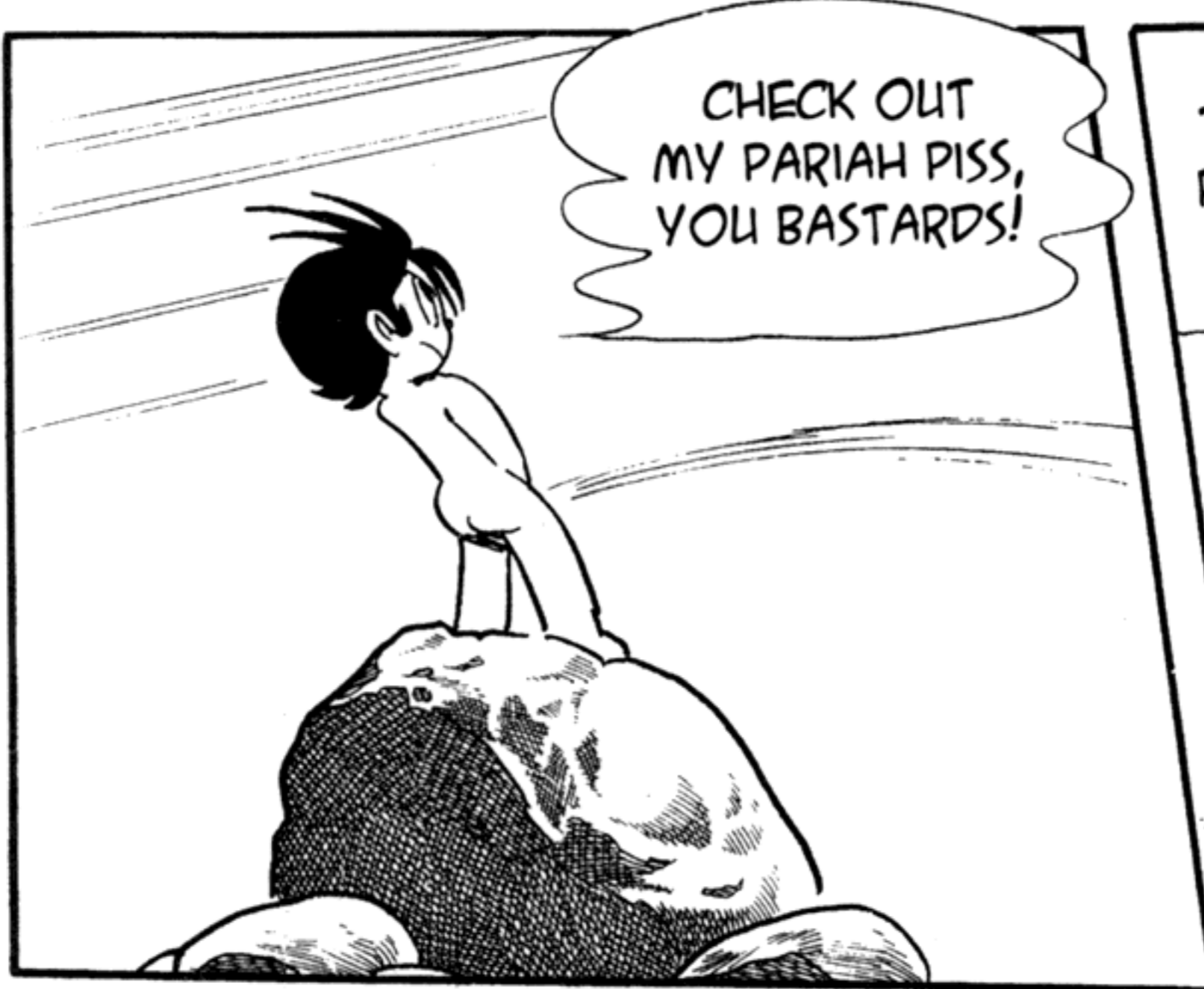
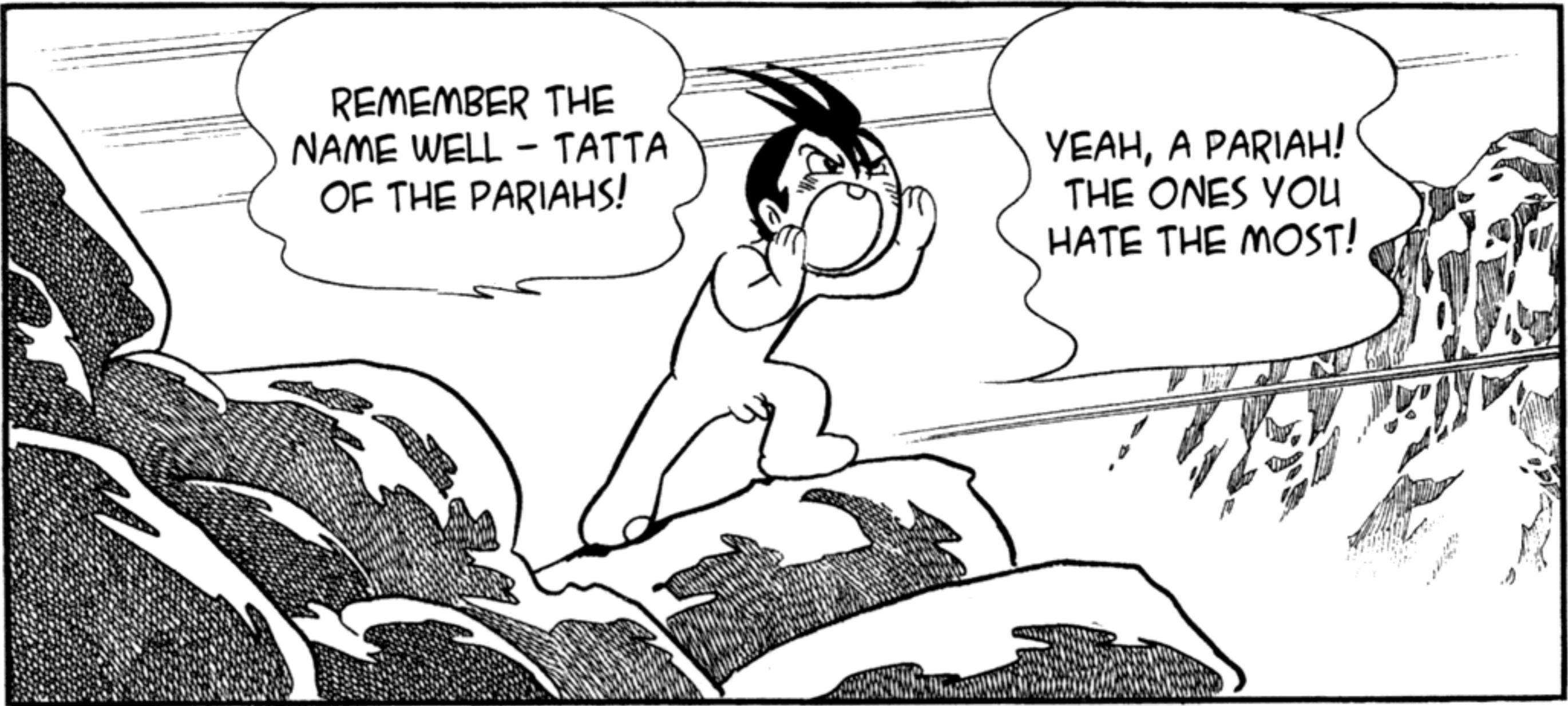


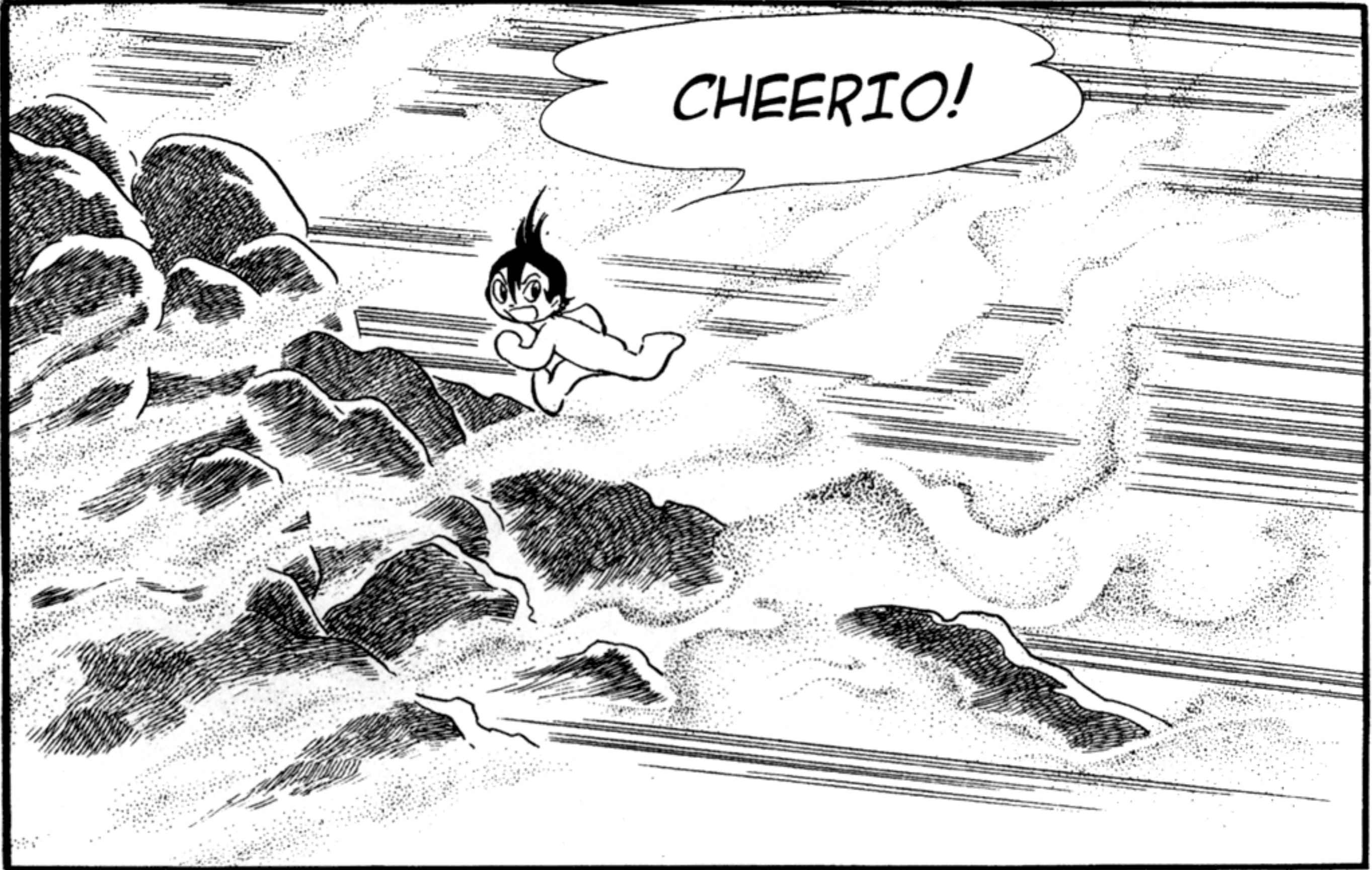
BUT IT'S BETTER
LIKE THIS...
SKEWERED
TOGETHER...
DON'T YOU
THINK,
MOTHER?

WE'LL
NEVER BE
PARTED AGAIN,
CHAPRA...
NEVER...













TATTA, VOWING REVENGE
ON KOSALA, TAKES TO THE
DISTANT MOUNTAINS...

NARADATTA, FALLEN TO THE
STATE OF A BEAST, SUFFERS IN
ATONEMENT FOR HIS SINS...

AND

THE ONE WHO
WAS BORN NEAR KAPILAVASTU...
THEIR DESTINIES UNFOLD IN
OUR NEXT VOLUMES.

