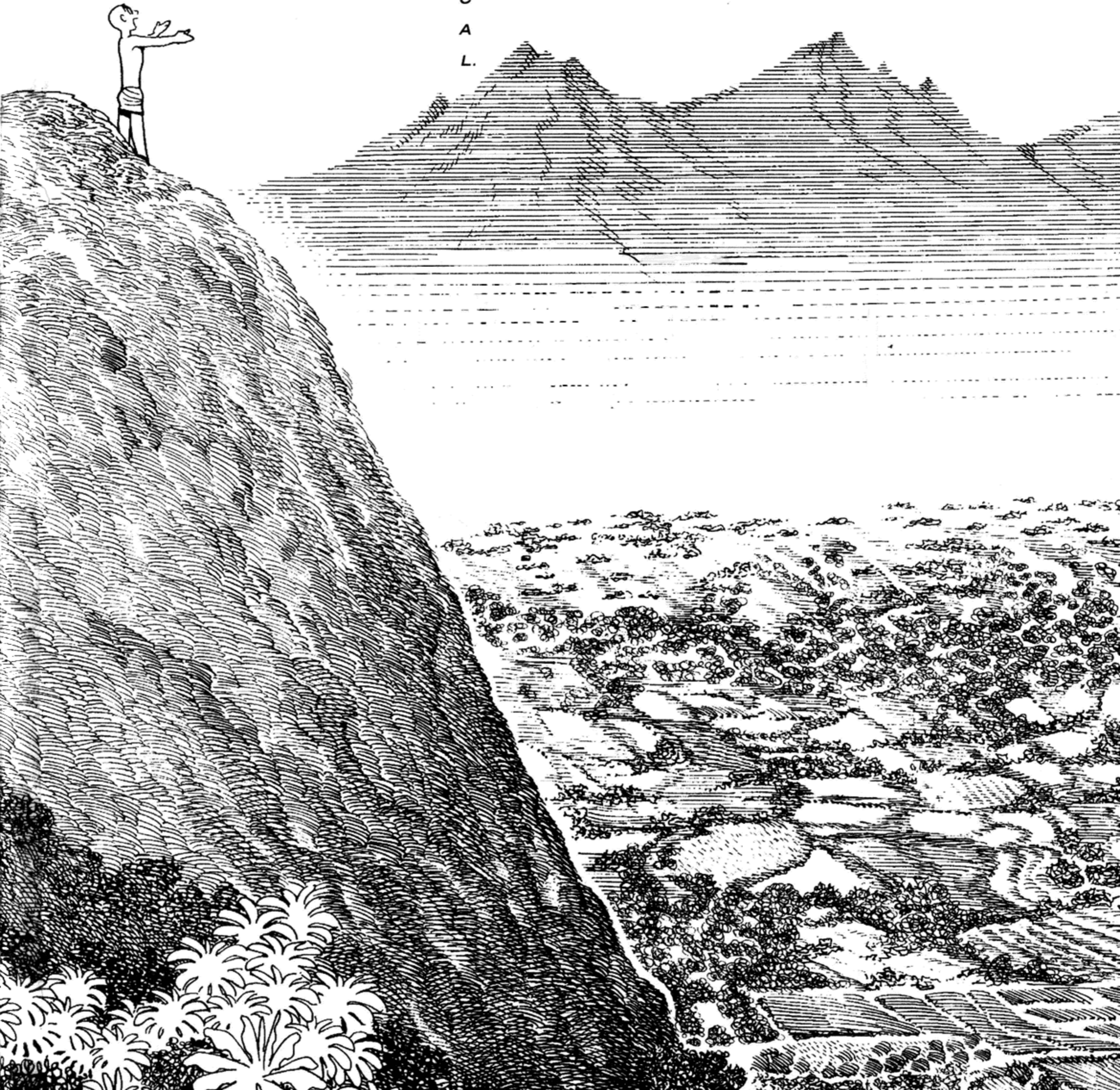


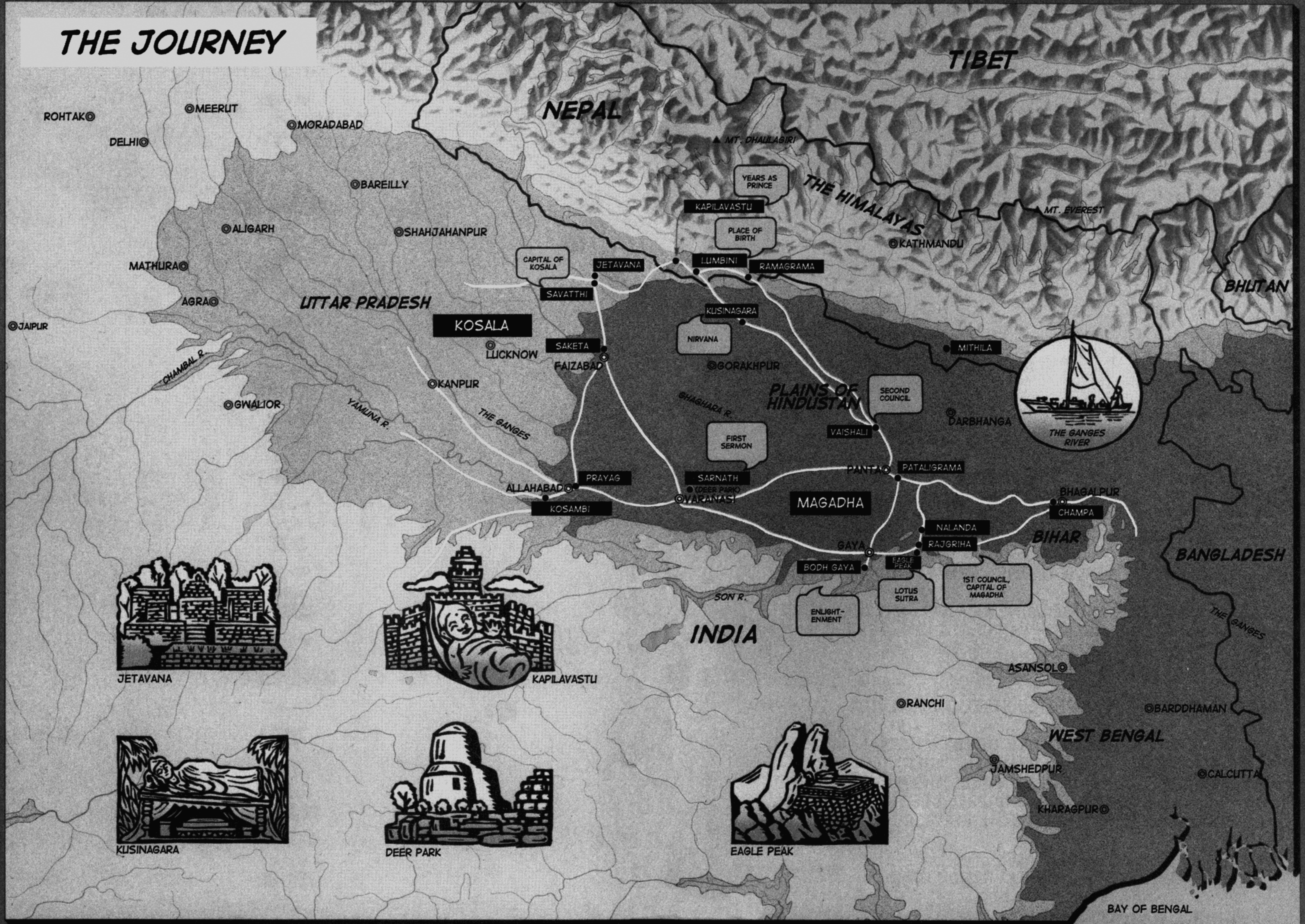
OSAMU TEZUKA

V
E
R
T
I
C
A
L.

3: *Devadatta*



THE JOURNEY



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



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PART THREE

1/ THE ORDEALS

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PART THREE

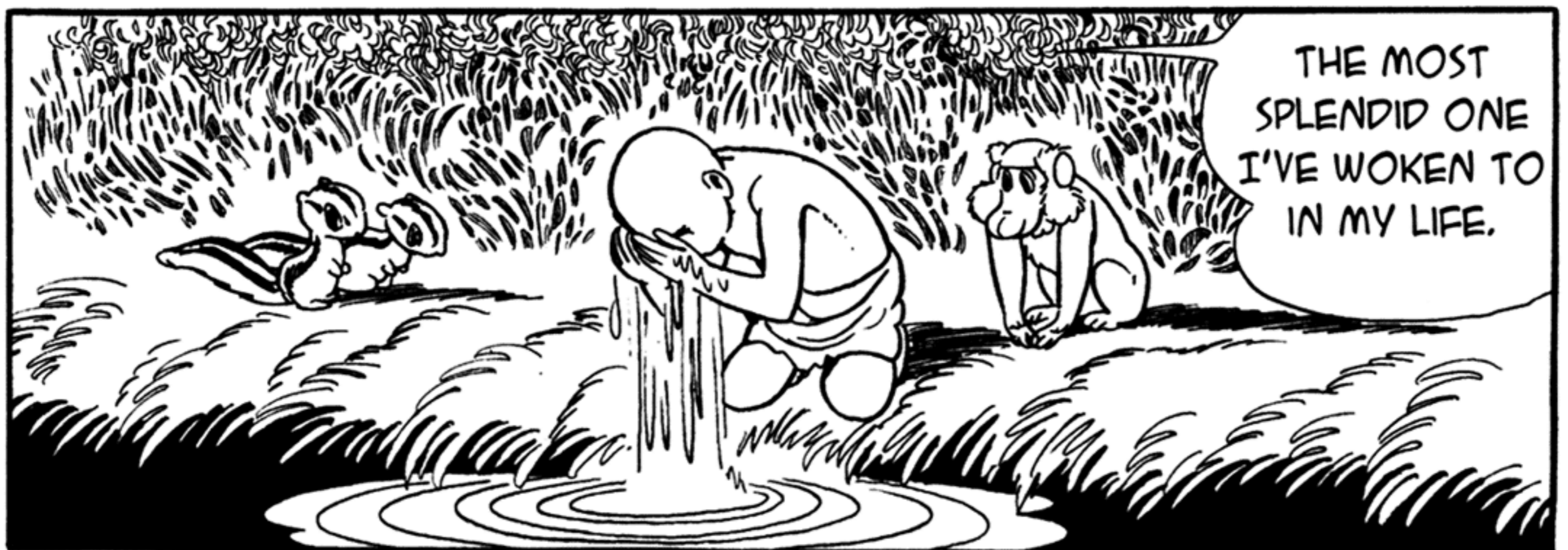
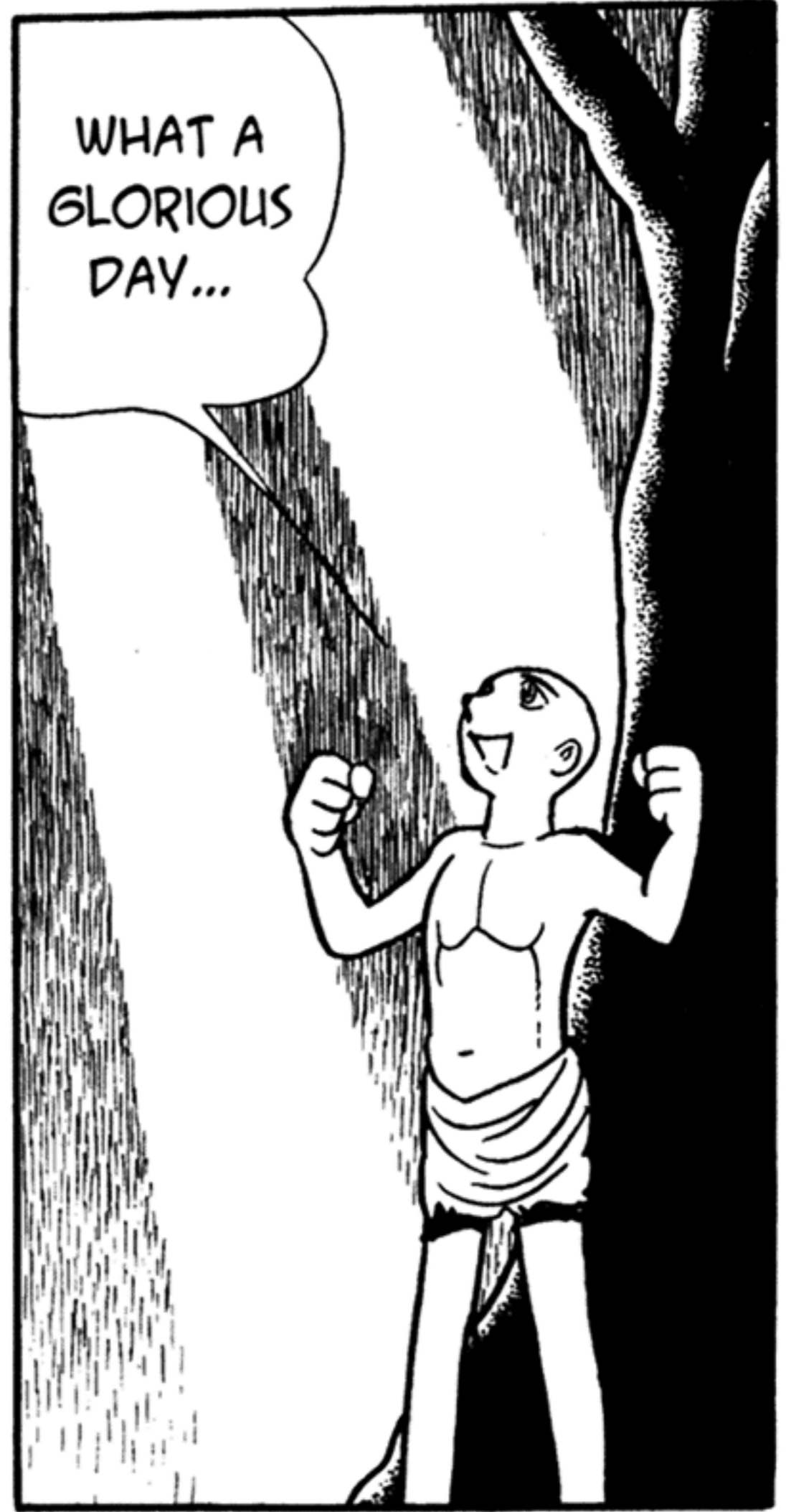
CHAPTER ONE

THE ORDEALS



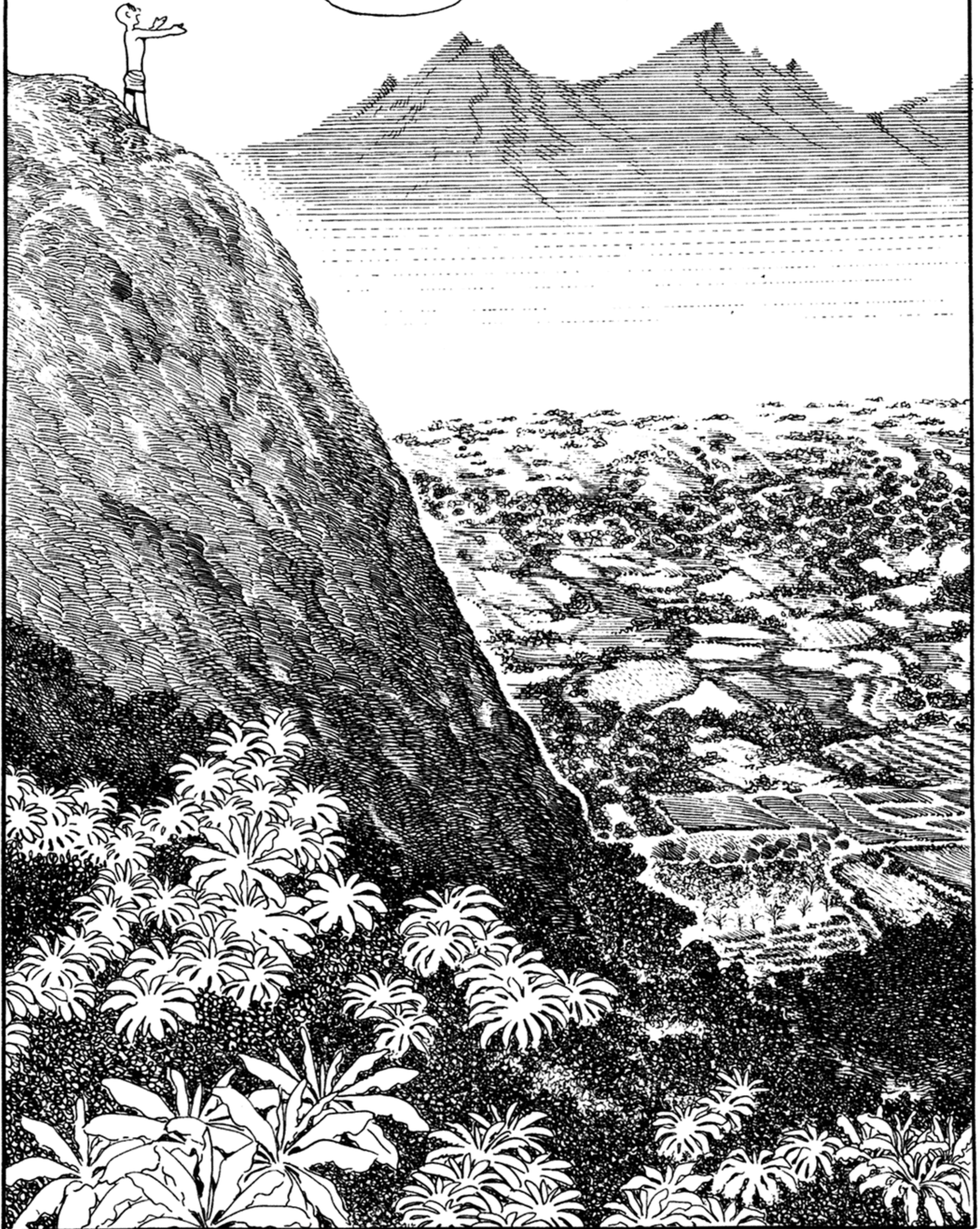








O SUN! MAY YOU ILLUMINATE MY WAY!
GREAT SKY, LEAD ME TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!
CLOUDS! WINDS! LAVISH YOUR TRIALS UPON ME!
LIFE AND ALL THAT LIVES, CONSECRATE MY JOURNEY!





FORGIVE ME, COULD YOU SPARE SOME CLOTHES?

MIGHT'VE SAID "HELLO" FIRST...



AH, NOW, DIDN'T SEE YOU'RE JUST A KID. NEWLY SHAVED, TOO.

READY FOR ORDEALS, EH ?



YES, I'M HEADED FOR MAGADHA.

WELL, I'M IMPRESSED, BUT...

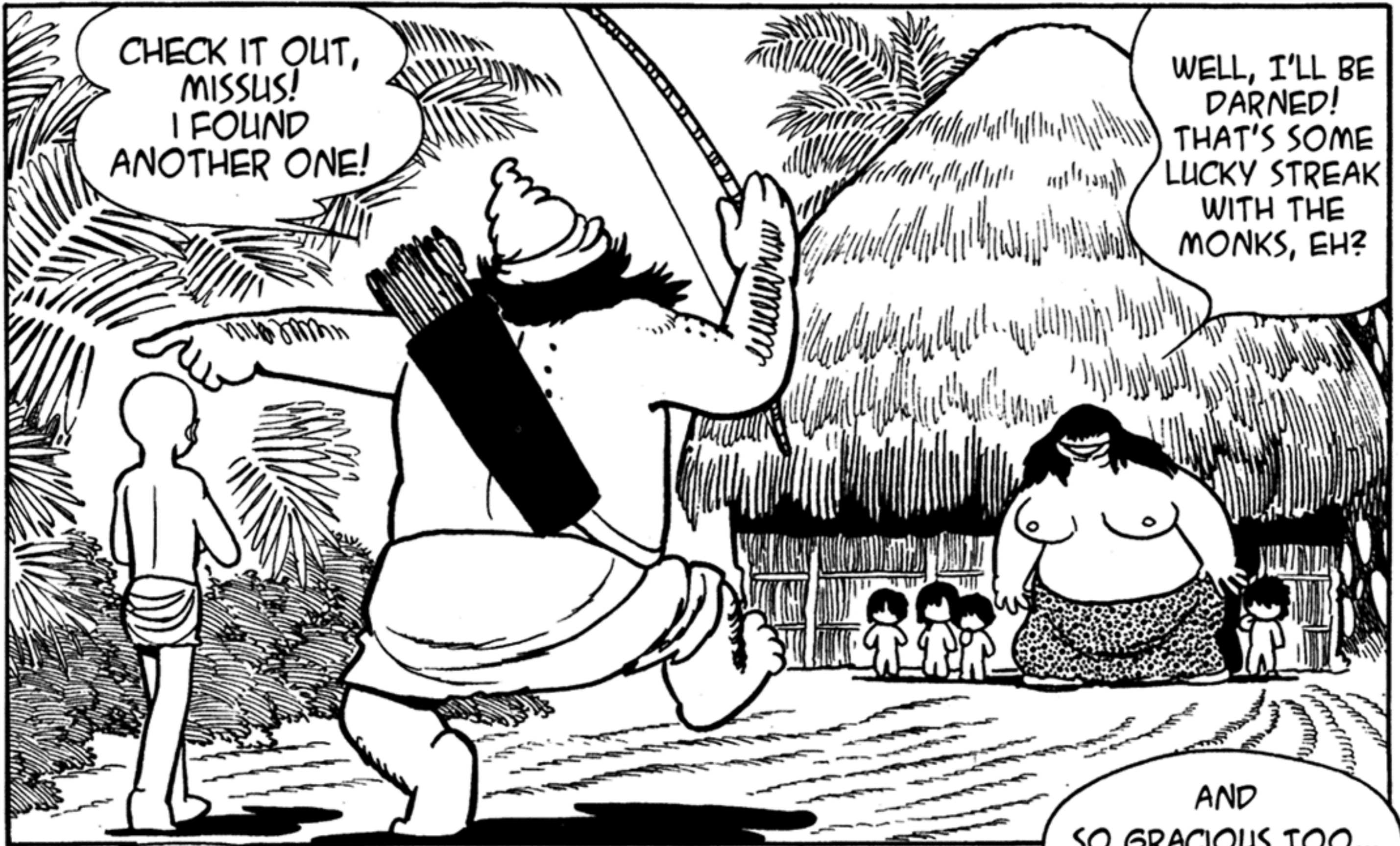


I BET THE GOING'S TOUGH FOR A YOUNG MONK LIKE YOU.

LISTEN, THIS OTHER MONK HAPPENS TO BE STAYING WITH US.

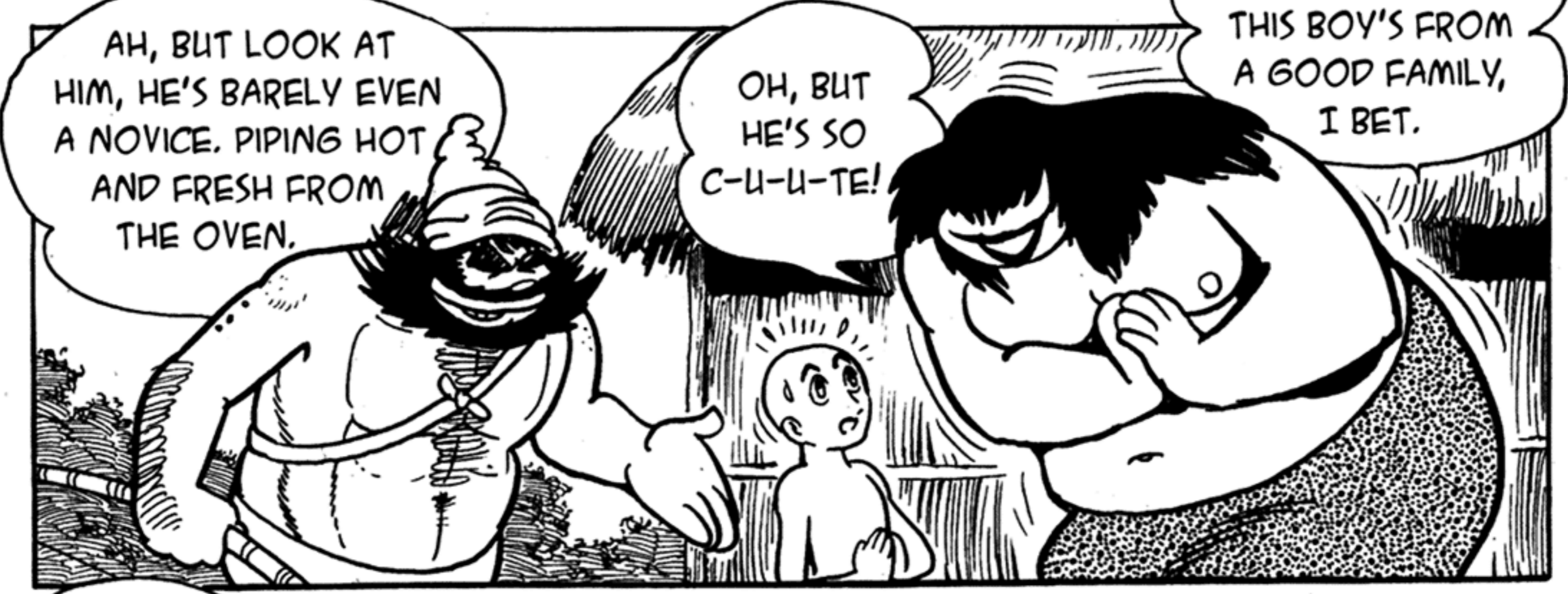
WHY NOT TRAVEL WITH HIM? HE MIGHT GIVE YOU HEART.

IT'S SETTLED! WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH, BUT YOU'LL COME SUP WITH US.



CHECK IT OUT, MISSUS! I FOUND ANOTHER ONE!

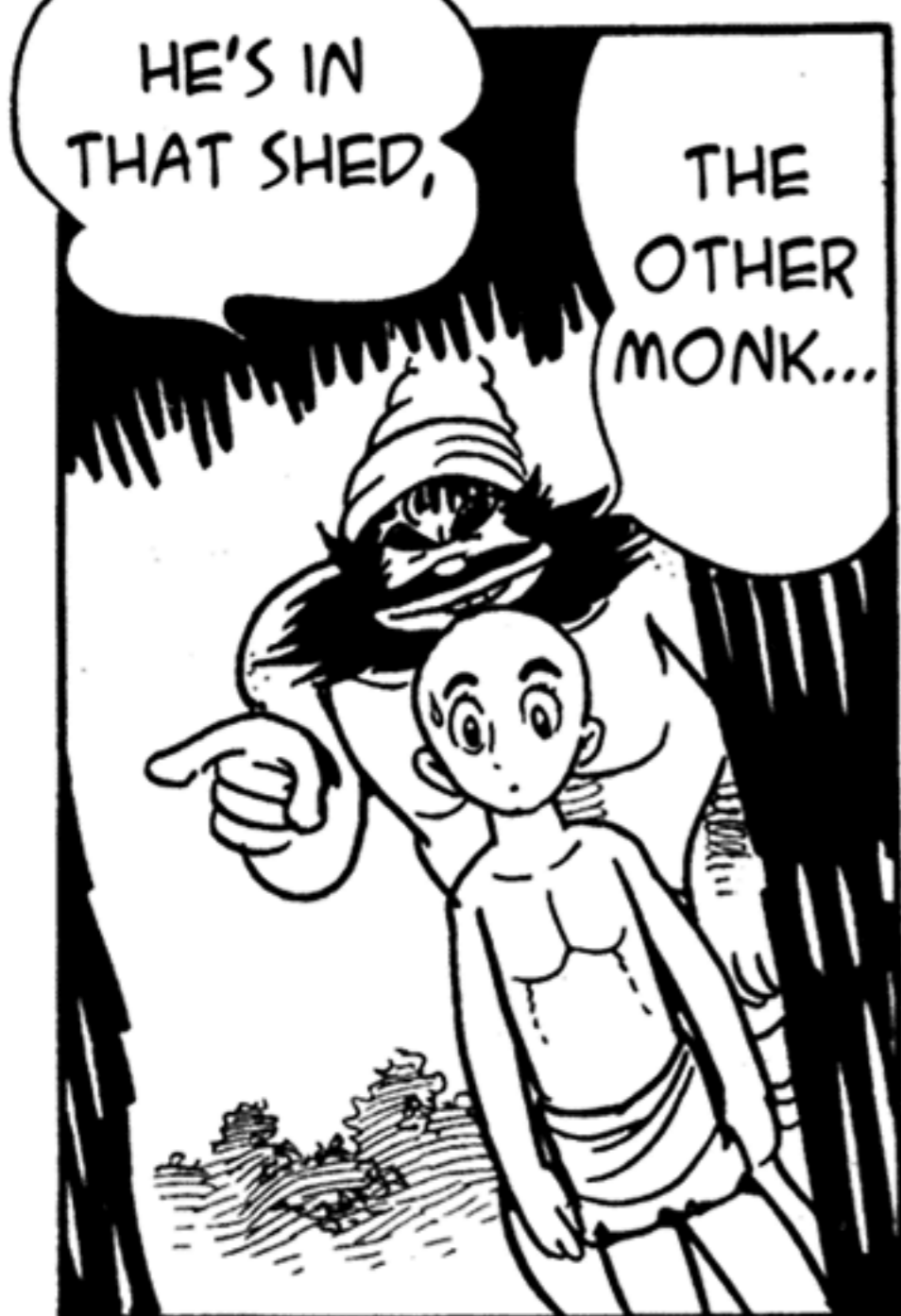
WELL, I'LL BE DARNED! THAT'S SOME LUCKY STREAK WITH THE MONKS, EH?



AH, BUT LOOK AT HIM, HE'S BARELY EVEN A NOVICE. PIPING HOT AND FRESH FROM THE OVEN.

OH, BUT HE'S SO C-U-U-TE!

AND SO GRACIOUS TOO... THIS BOY'S FROM A GOOD FAMILY, I BET.



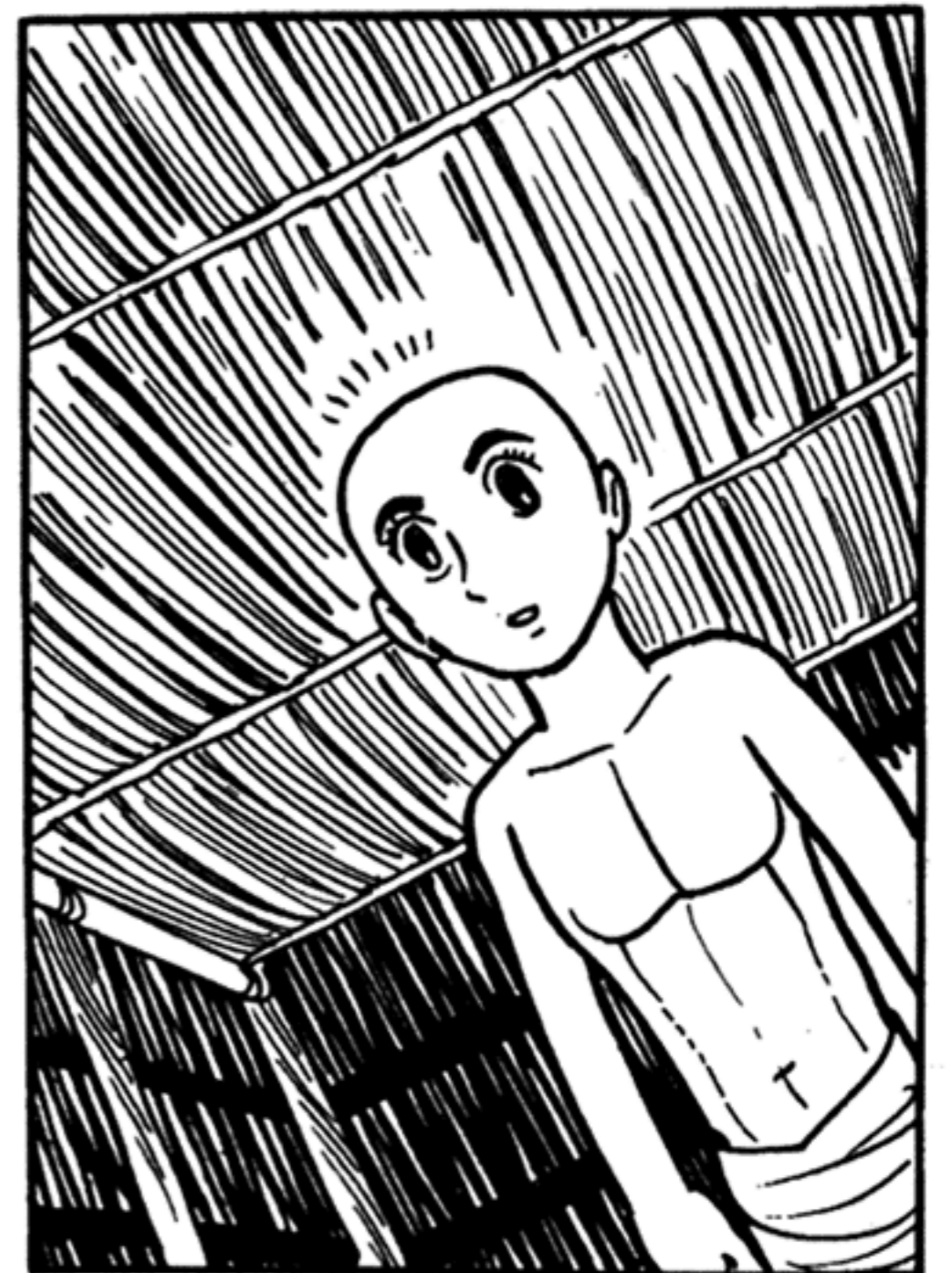
HE'S IN THAT SHED,

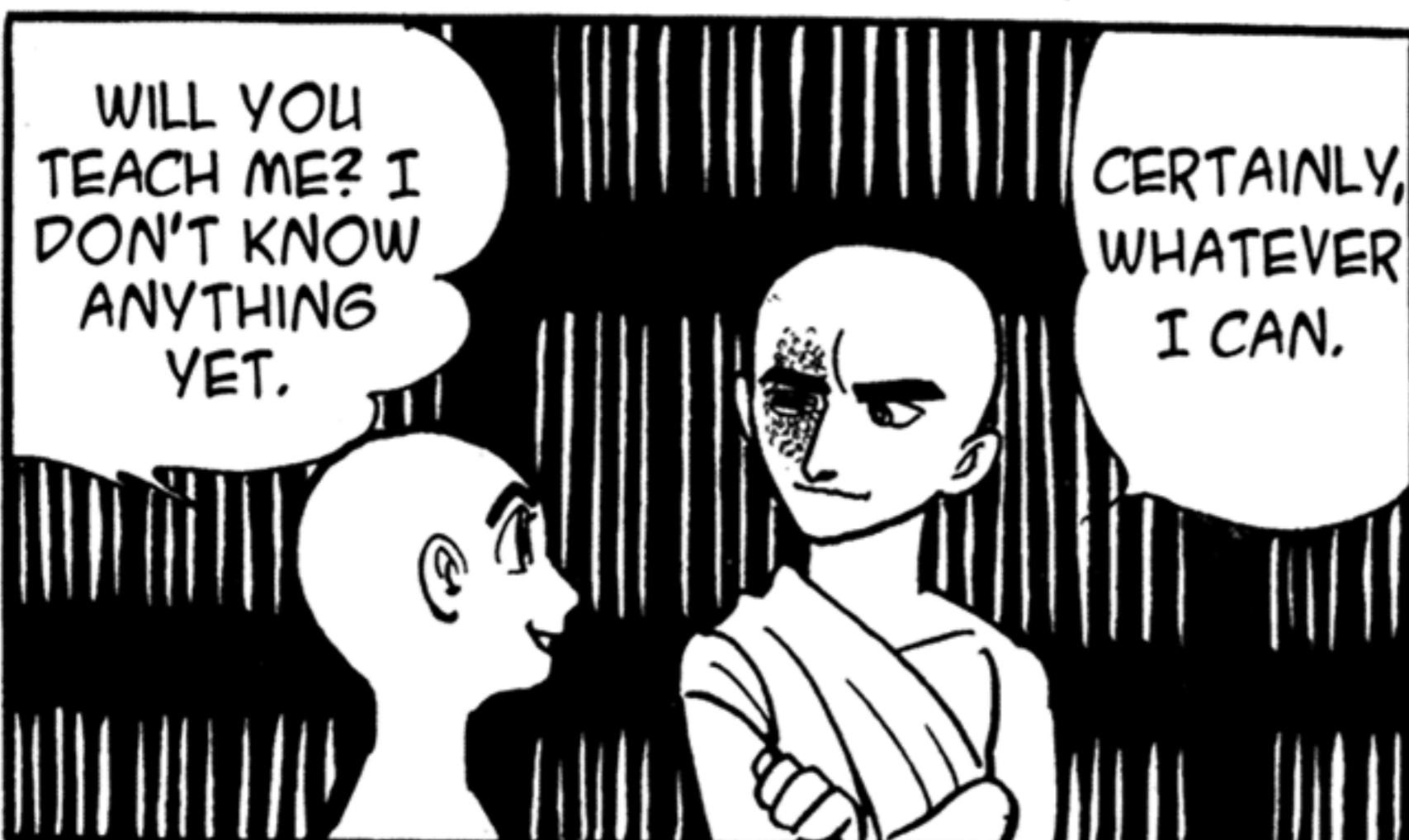
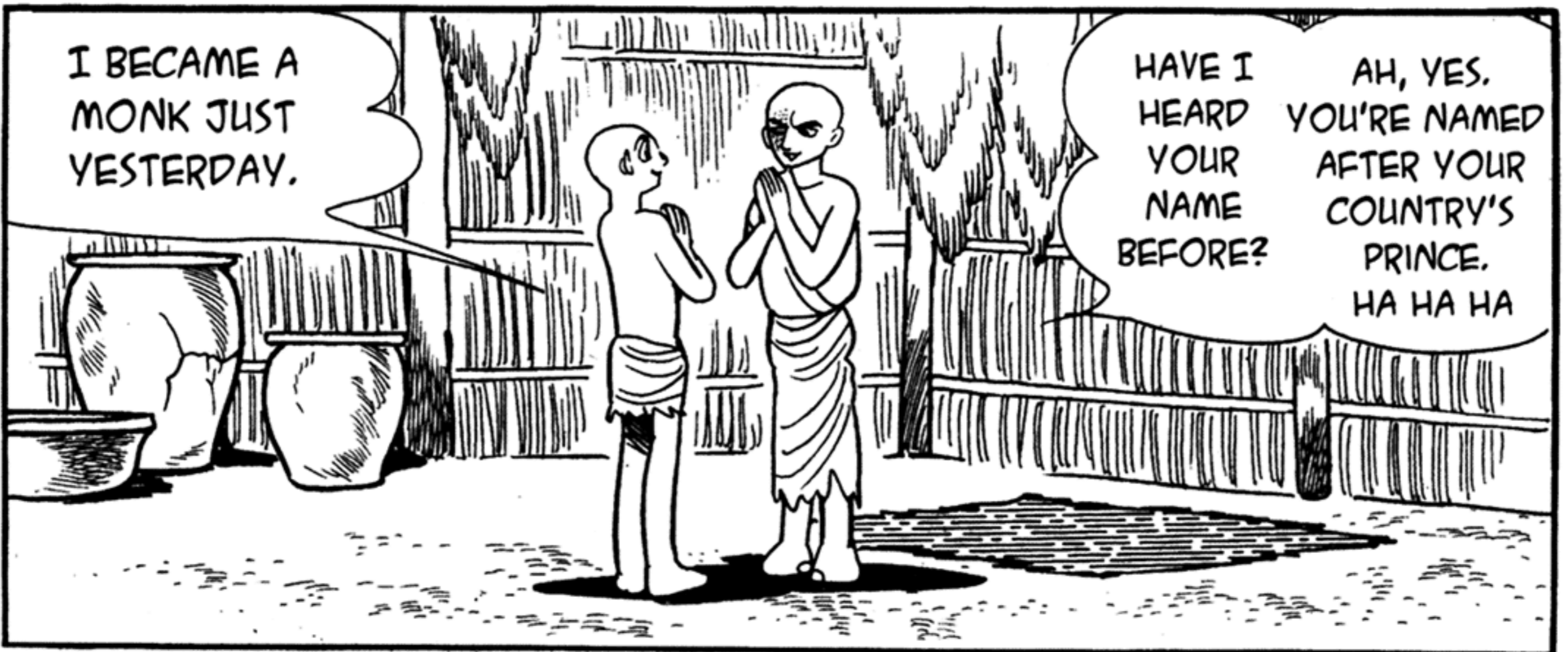
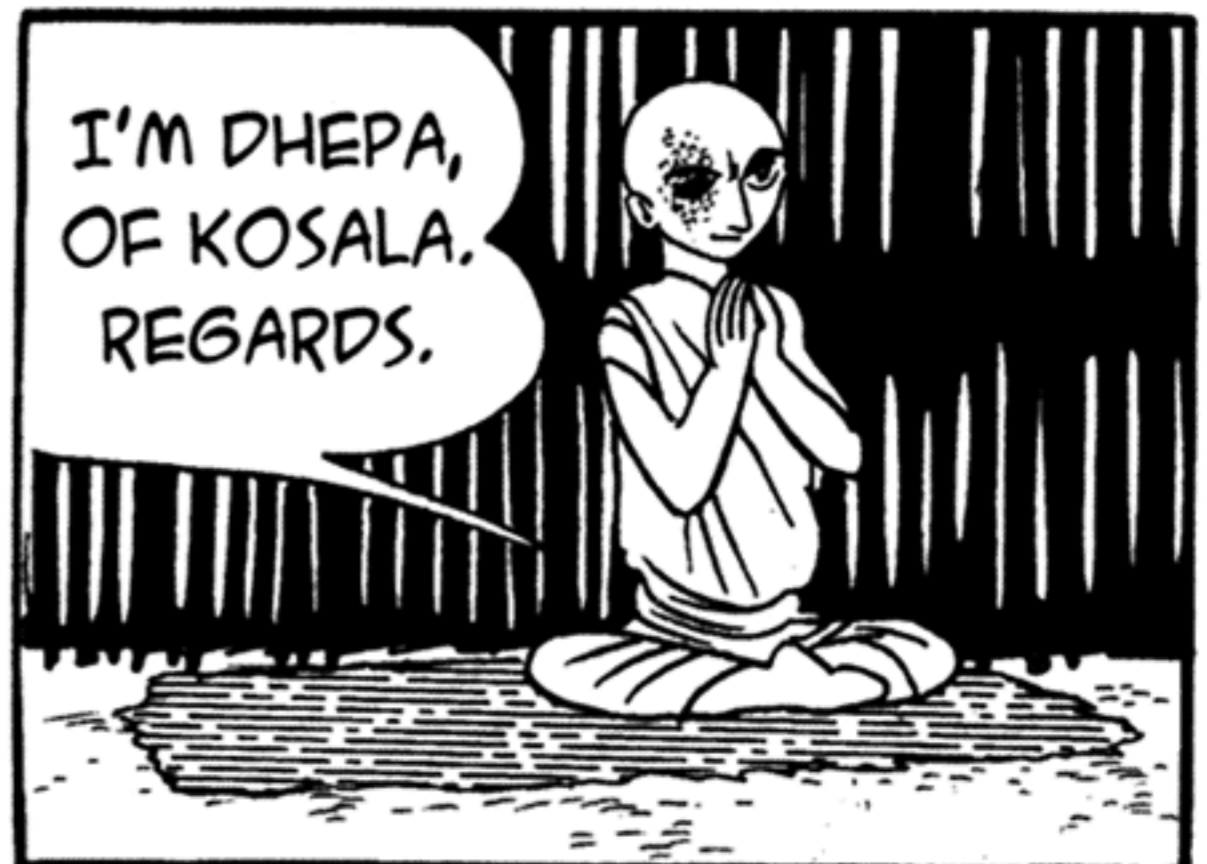
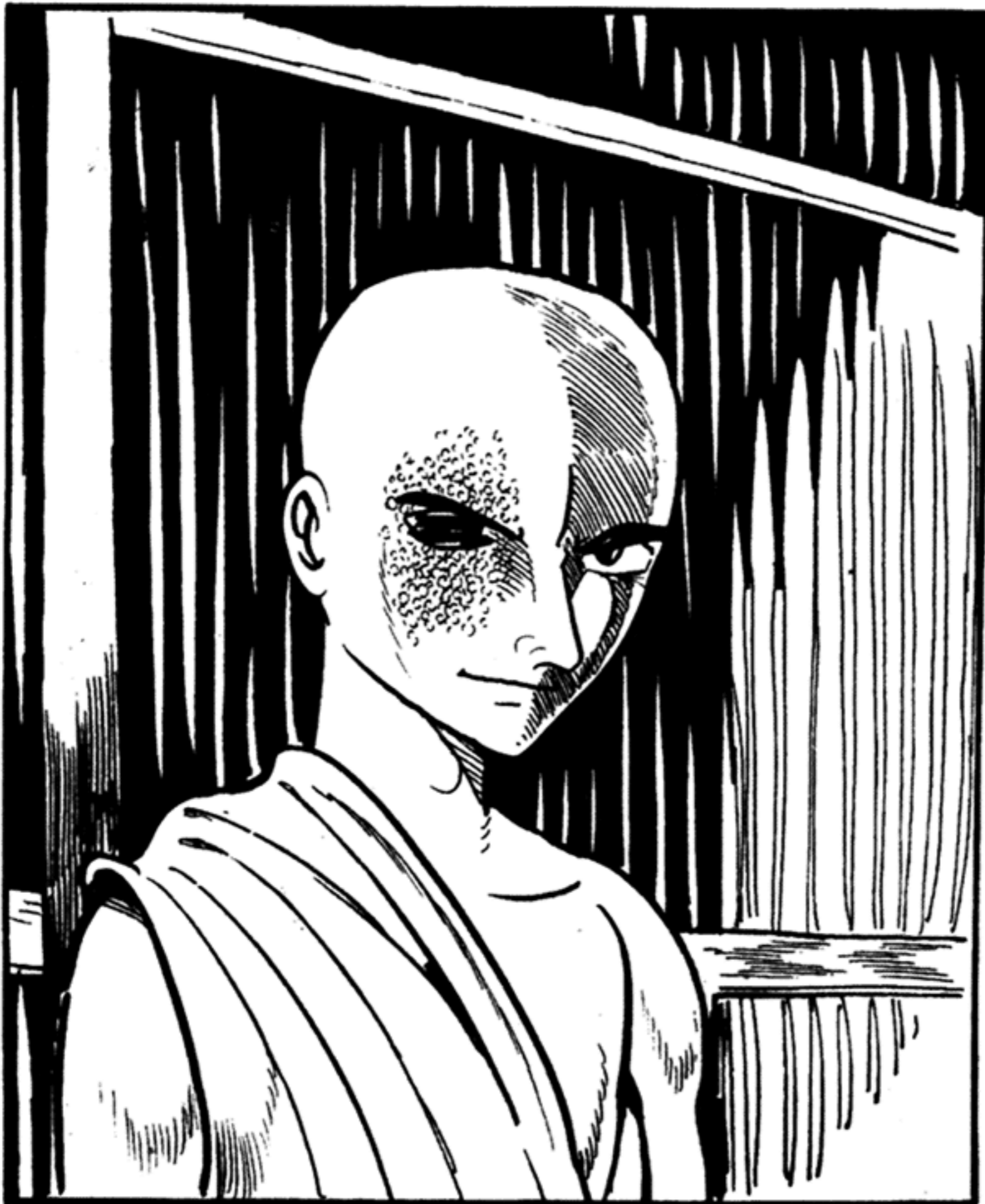
THE OTHER MONK...

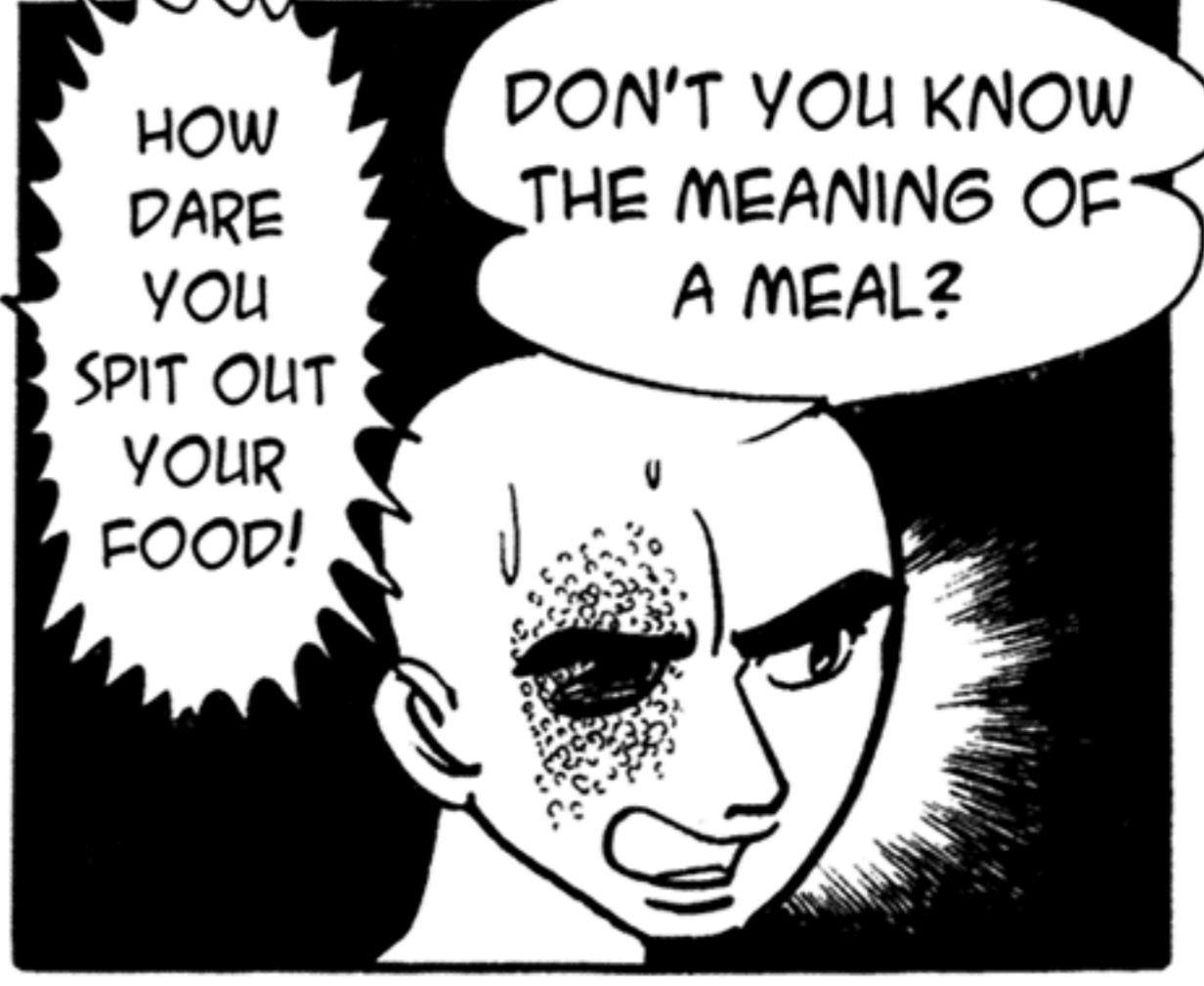
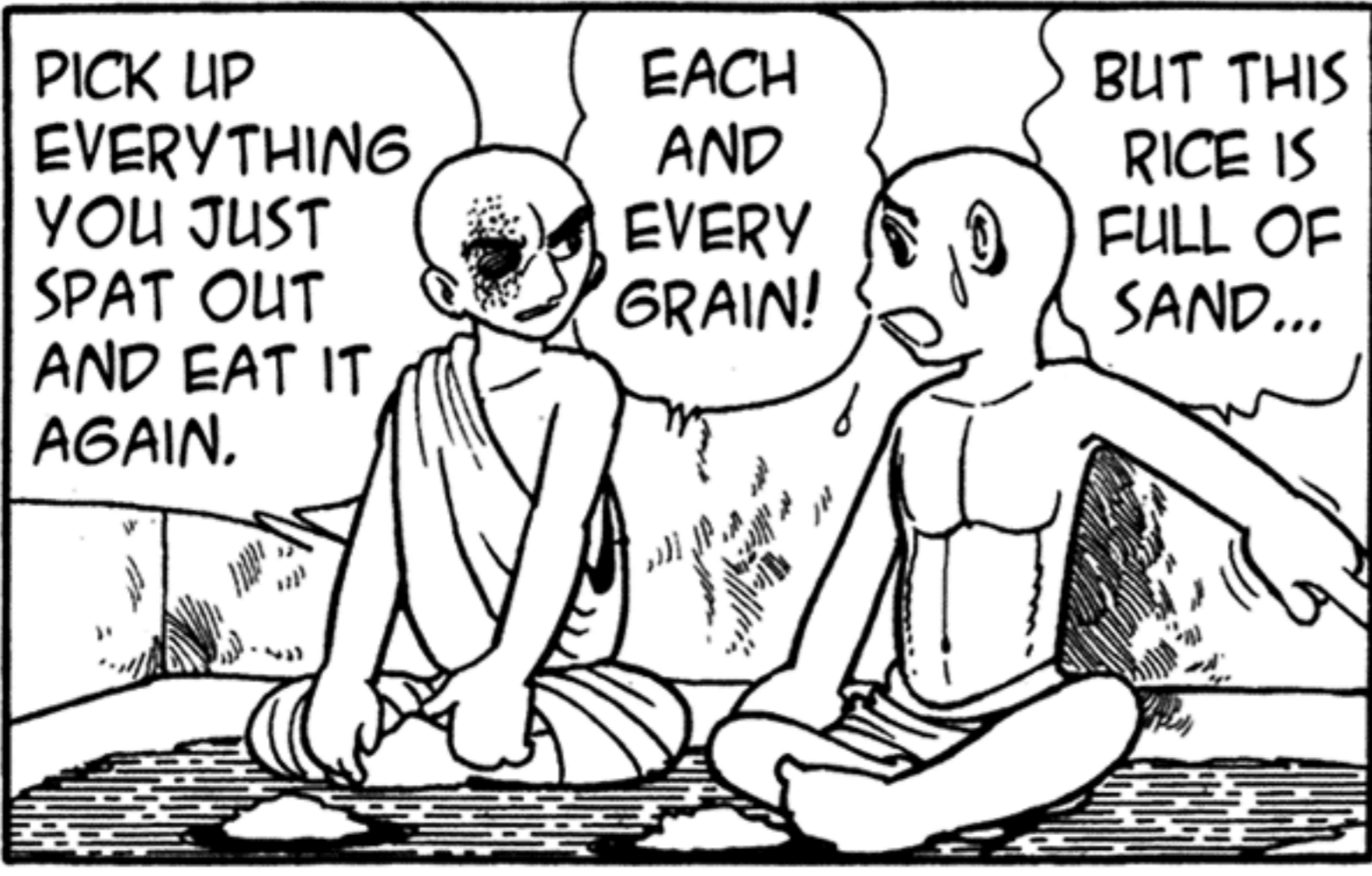
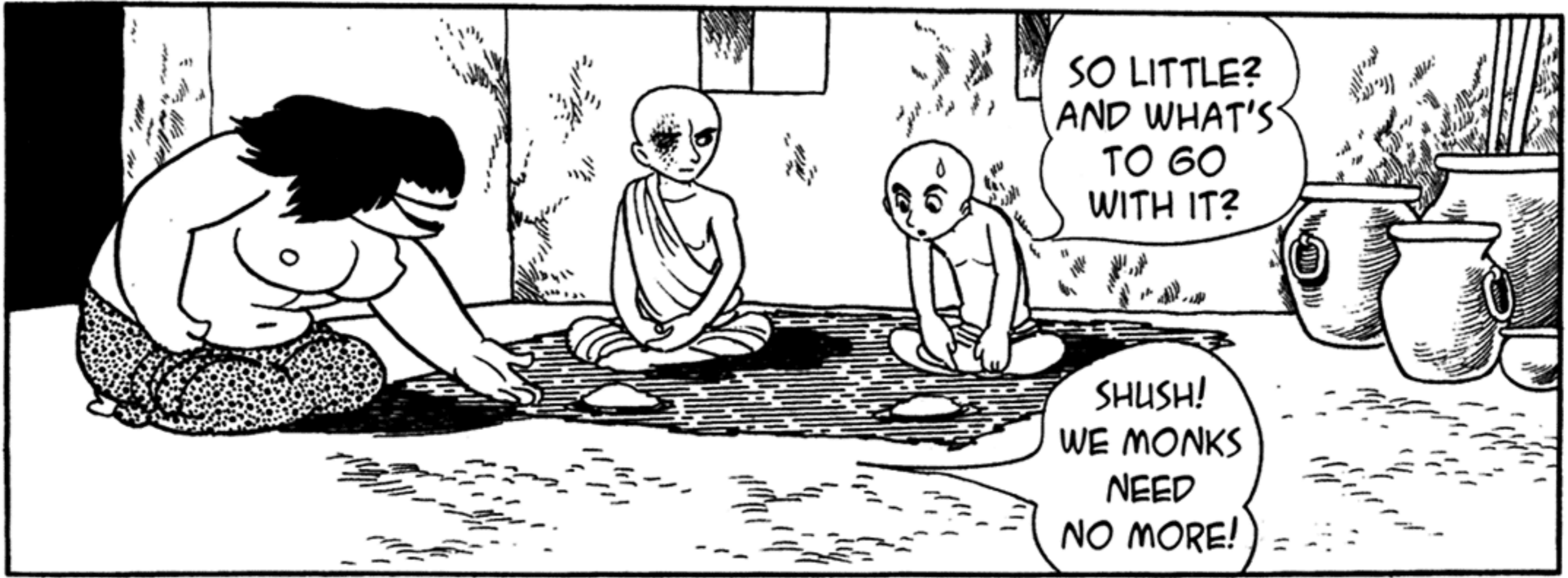


HONEY... HISS...

YUP, DON'T NEED YOU TO PROD ME.

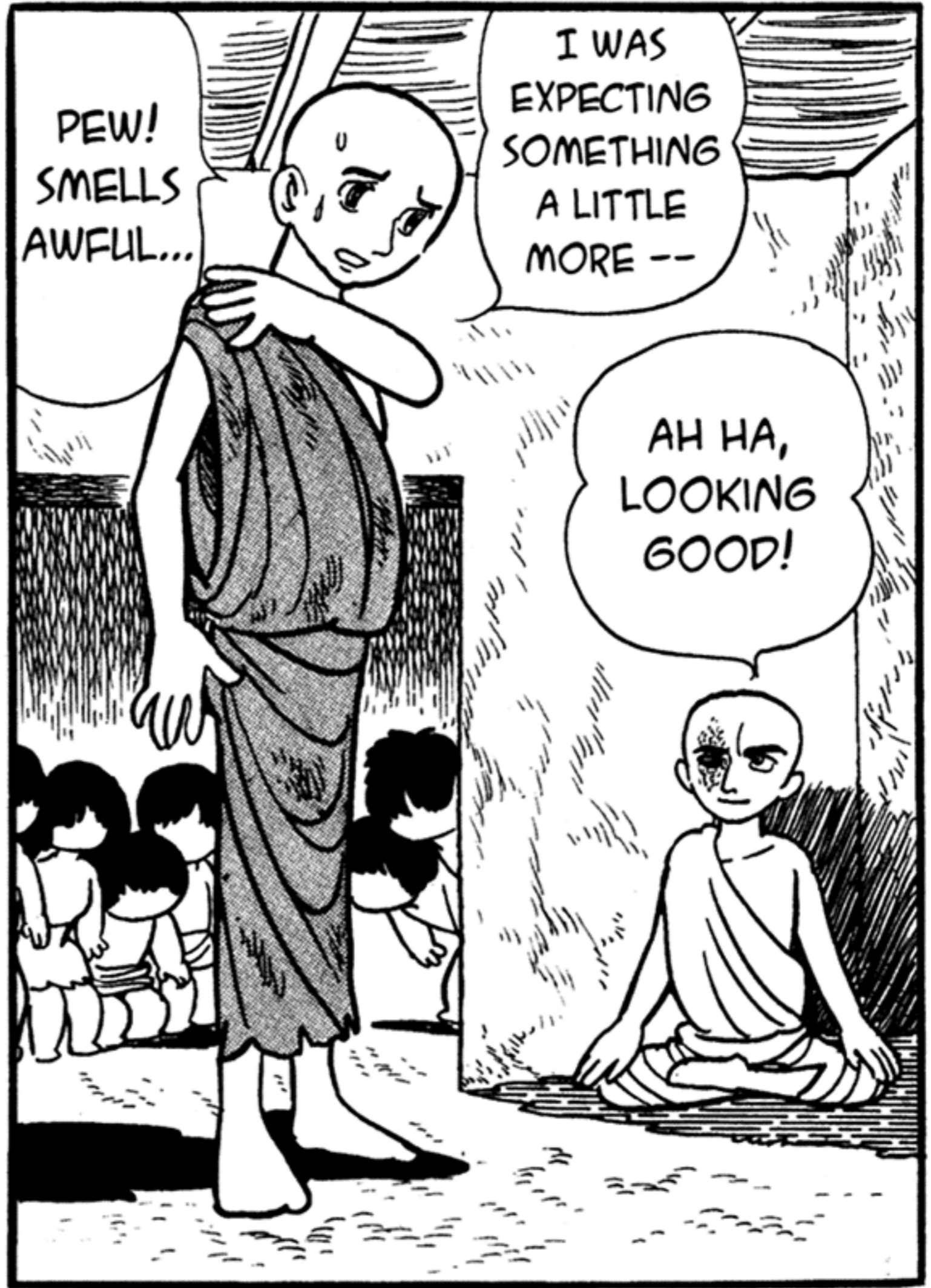








YOUNG MONK,
ALL WE GOT
ARE OLD RAGS.
WANT TO TRY
THIS ONE?



PEW!
SMELLS
AWFUL...

I WAS
EXPECTING
SOMETHING
A LITTLE
MORE --

AH HA,
LOOKING
GOOD!



UH, UM...
ACTUALLY,
I GOT A
FAVOR
TO ASK...

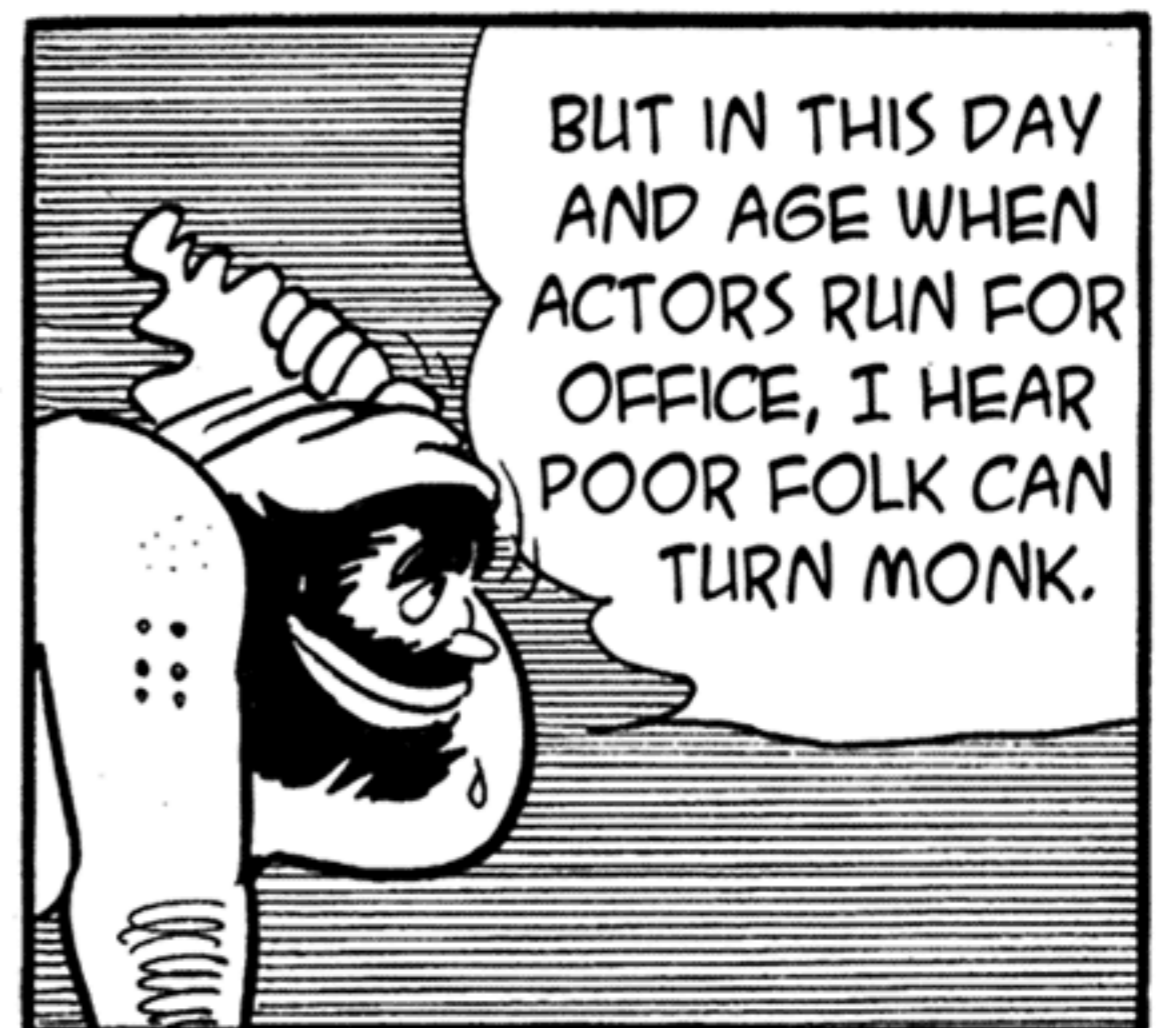


TRUTH IS, WE GOT, ER,
32 KIDS, AND THE OLDEST,
HE WANTS TO BECOME
ONE OF YOU SKINHEADS,
I MEAN, A MONK...

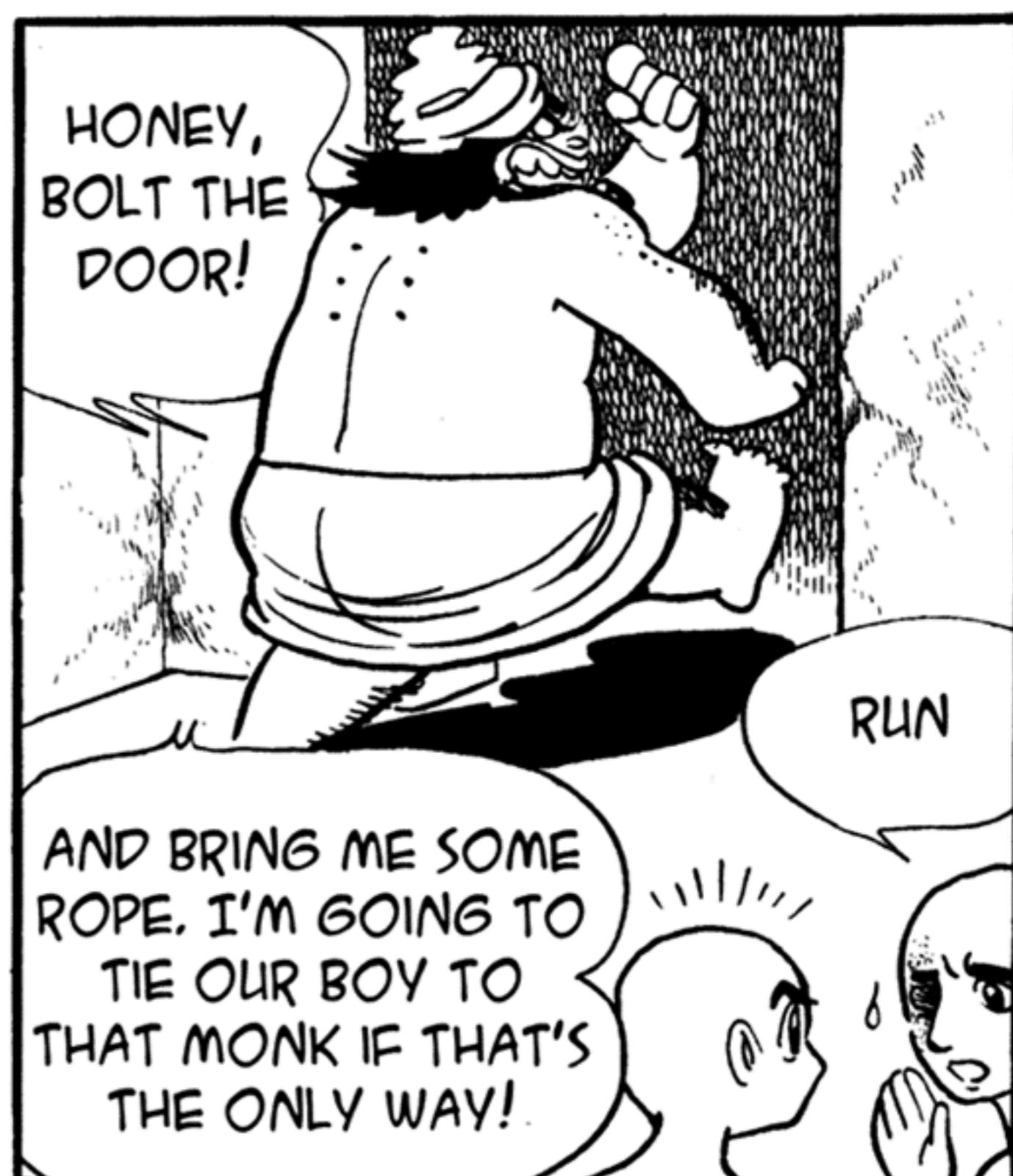
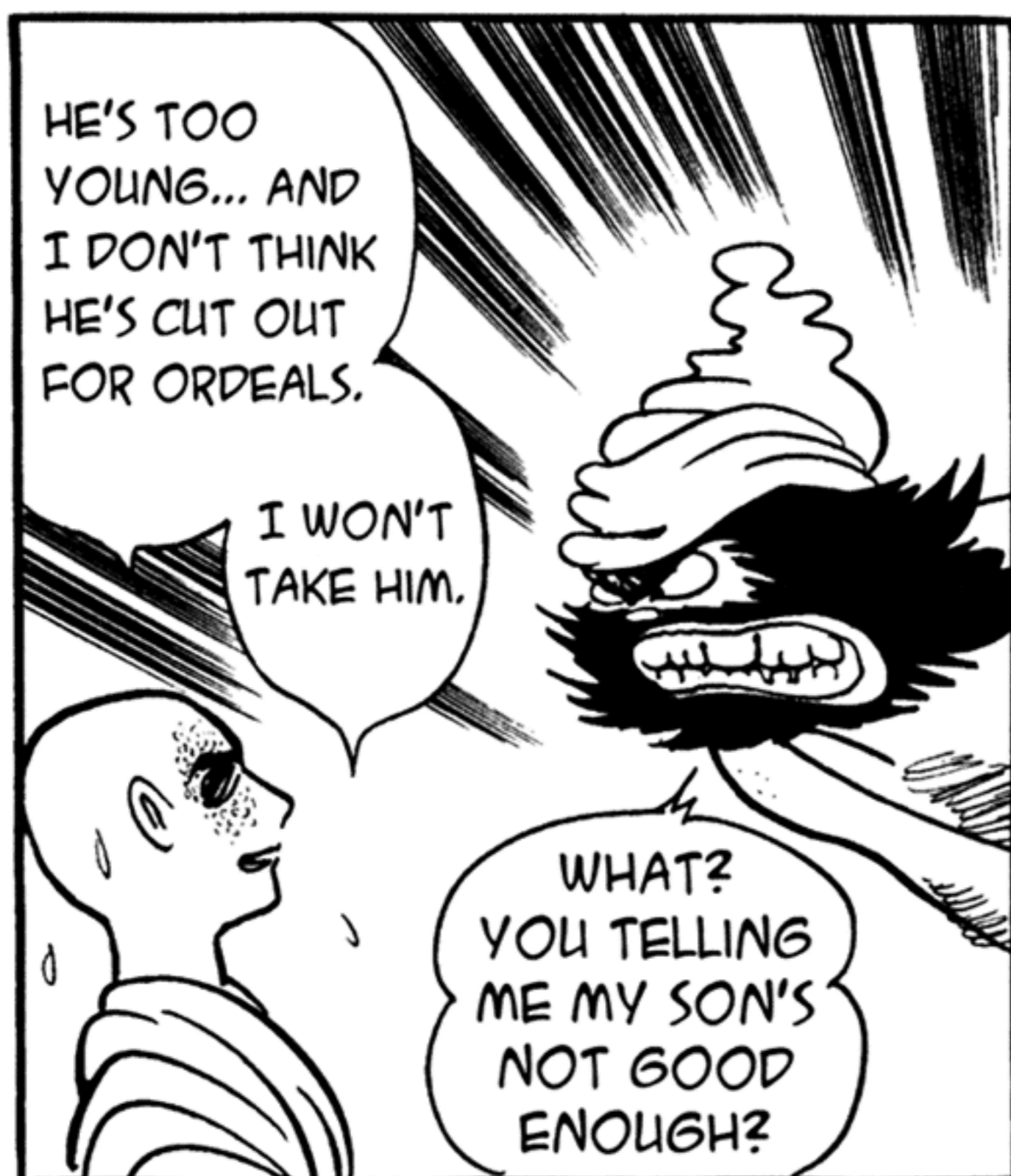
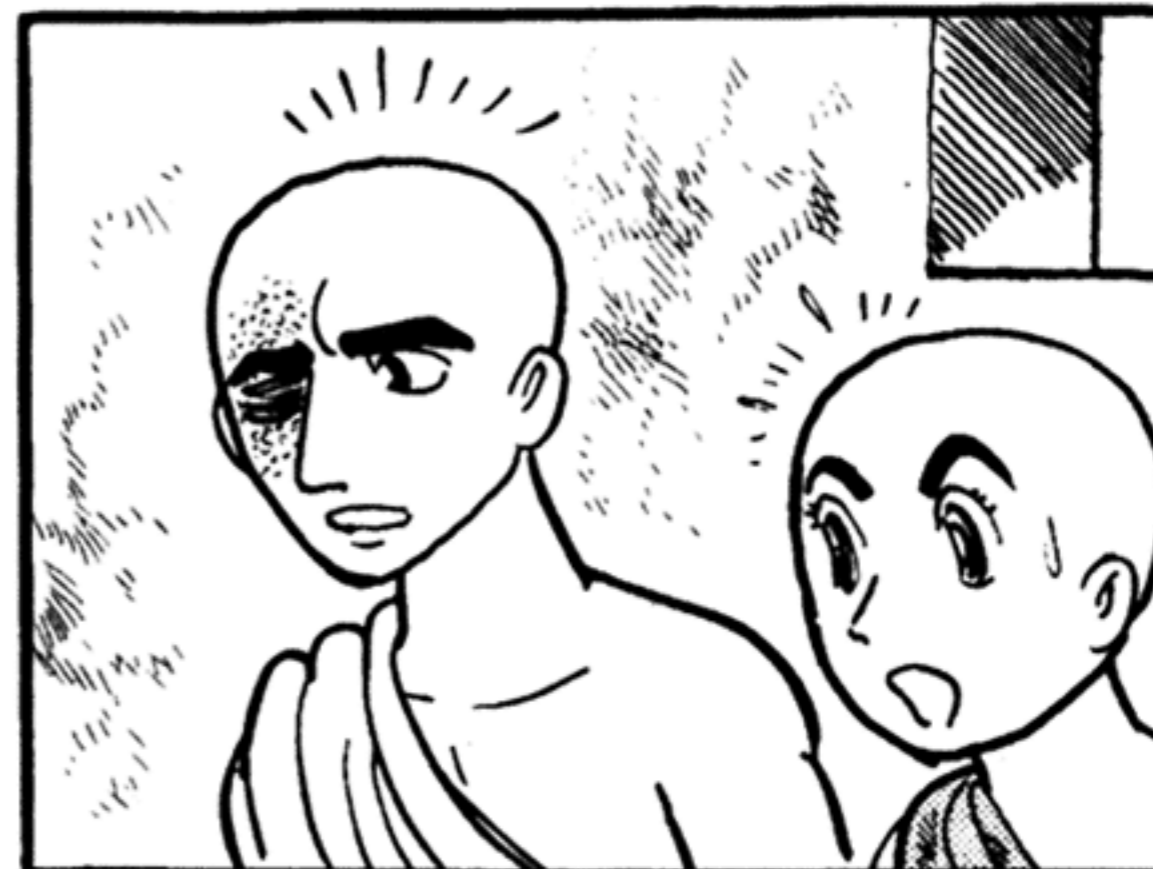


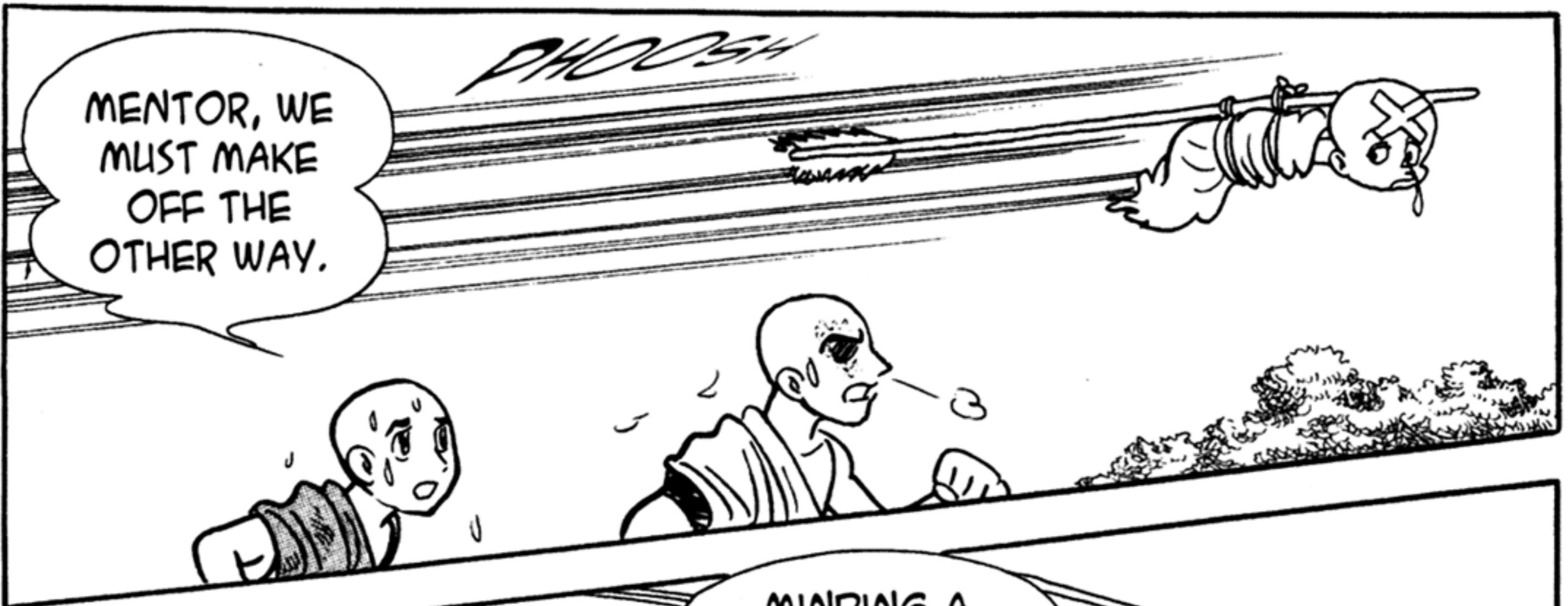
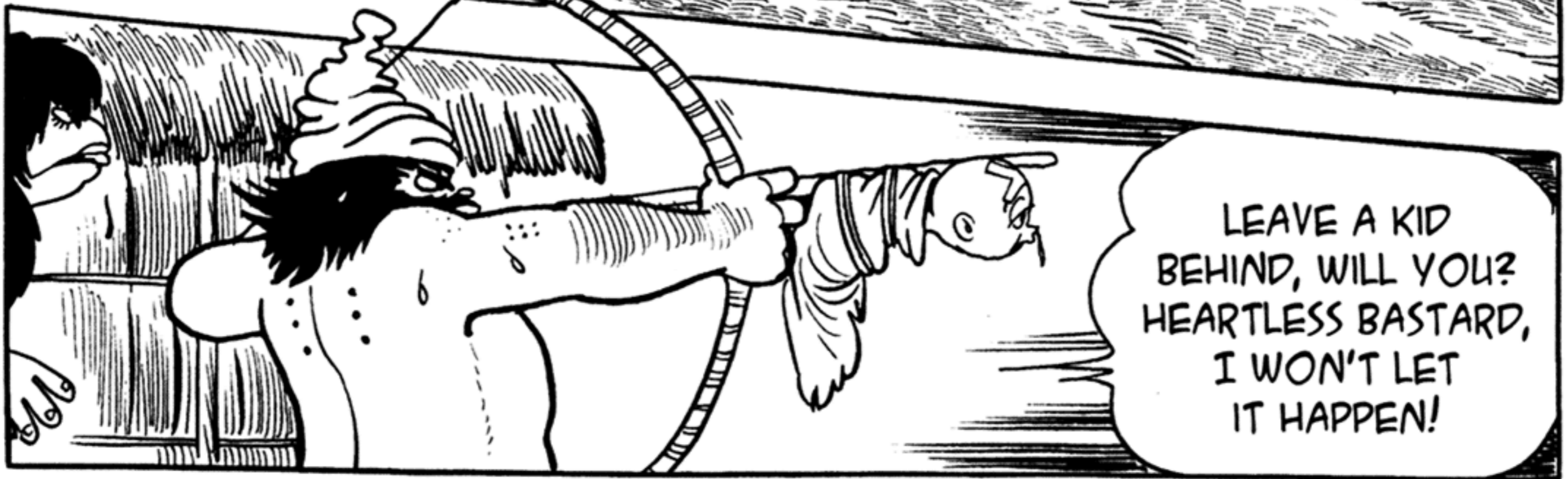
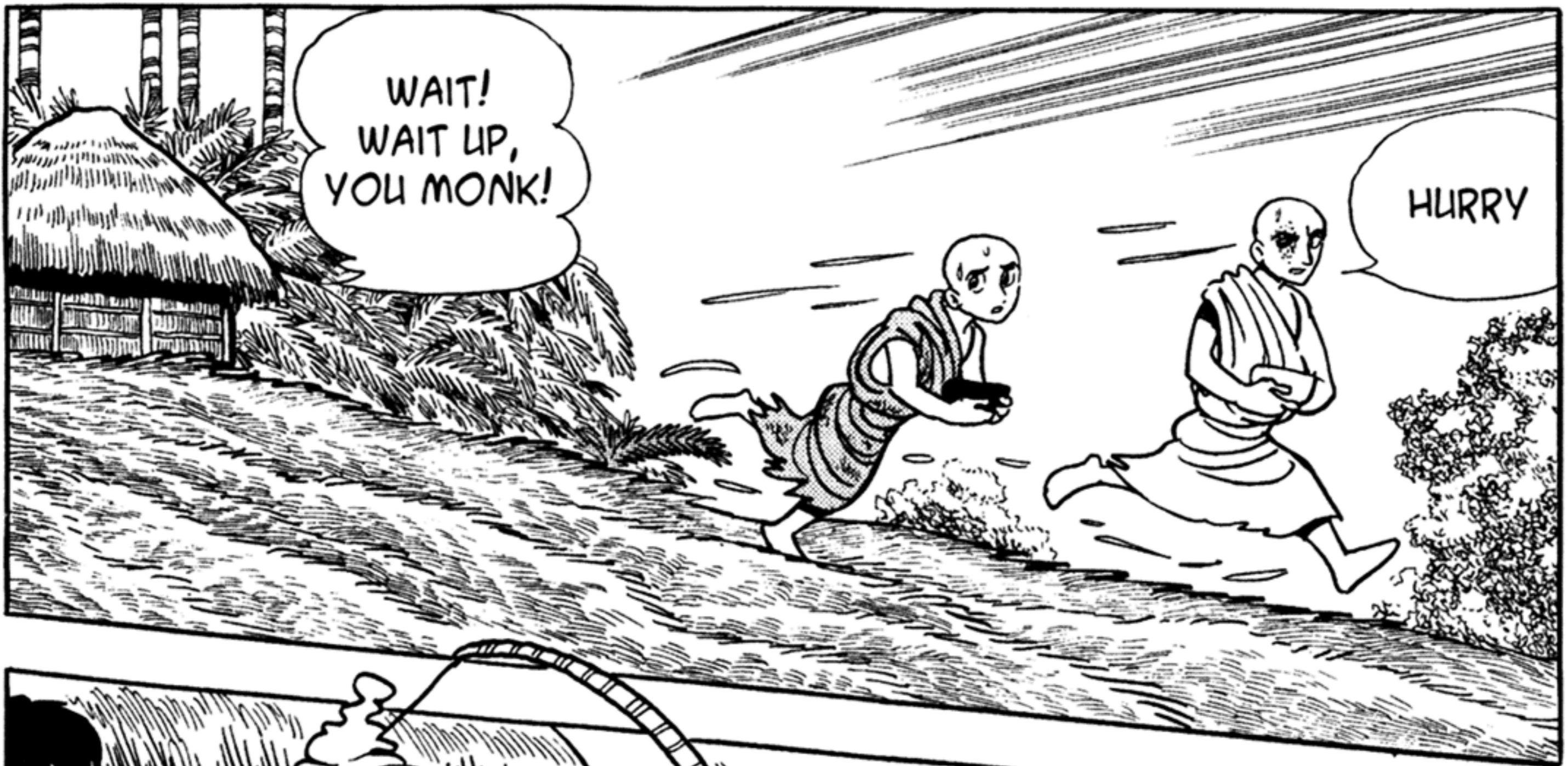
THE LITTLE SNOT
DOESN'T KNOW
HIS PLACE!

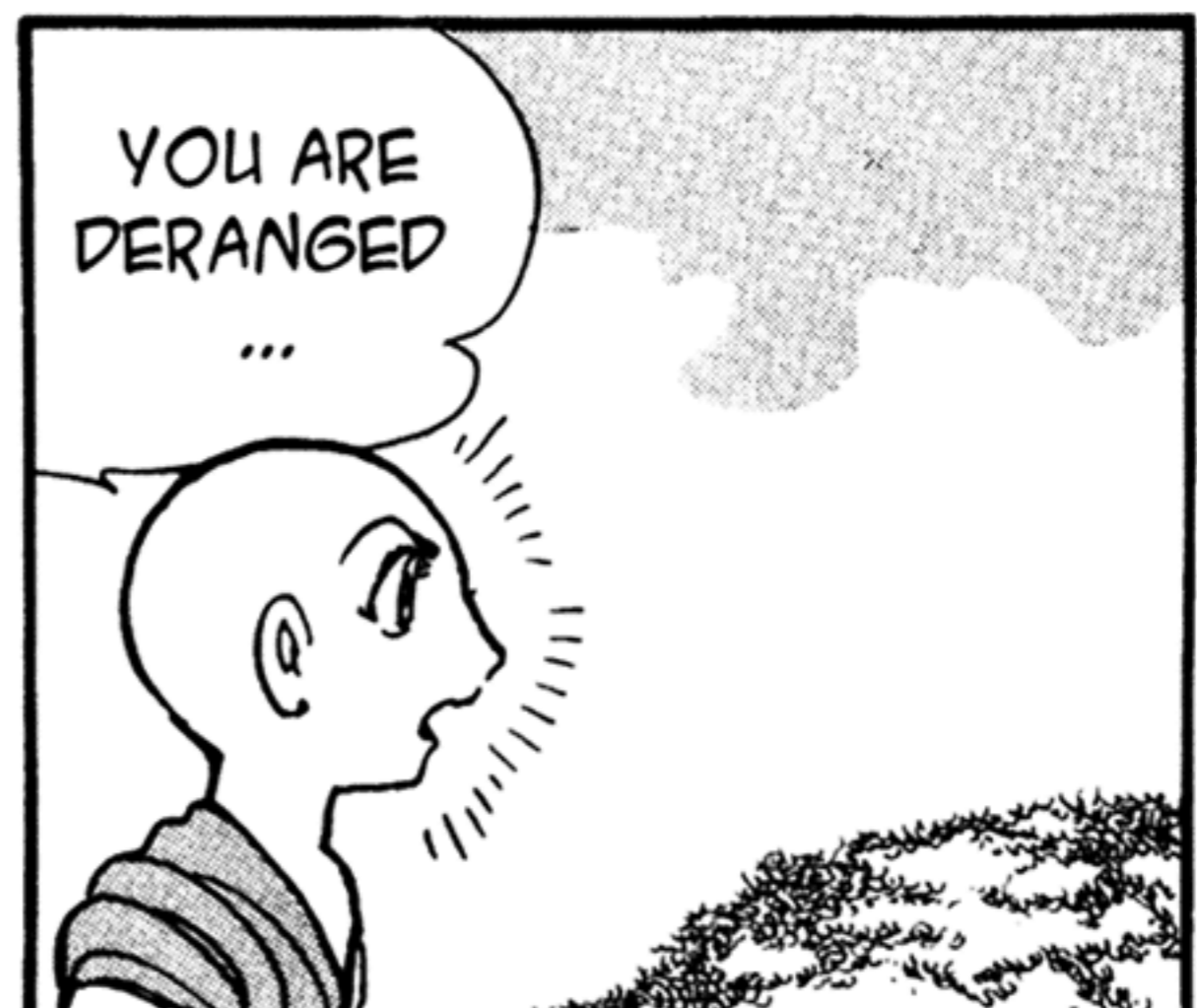
NO MONK EVER
CAME FROM POOR
HUNTER STOCK,
I TELL HIM.

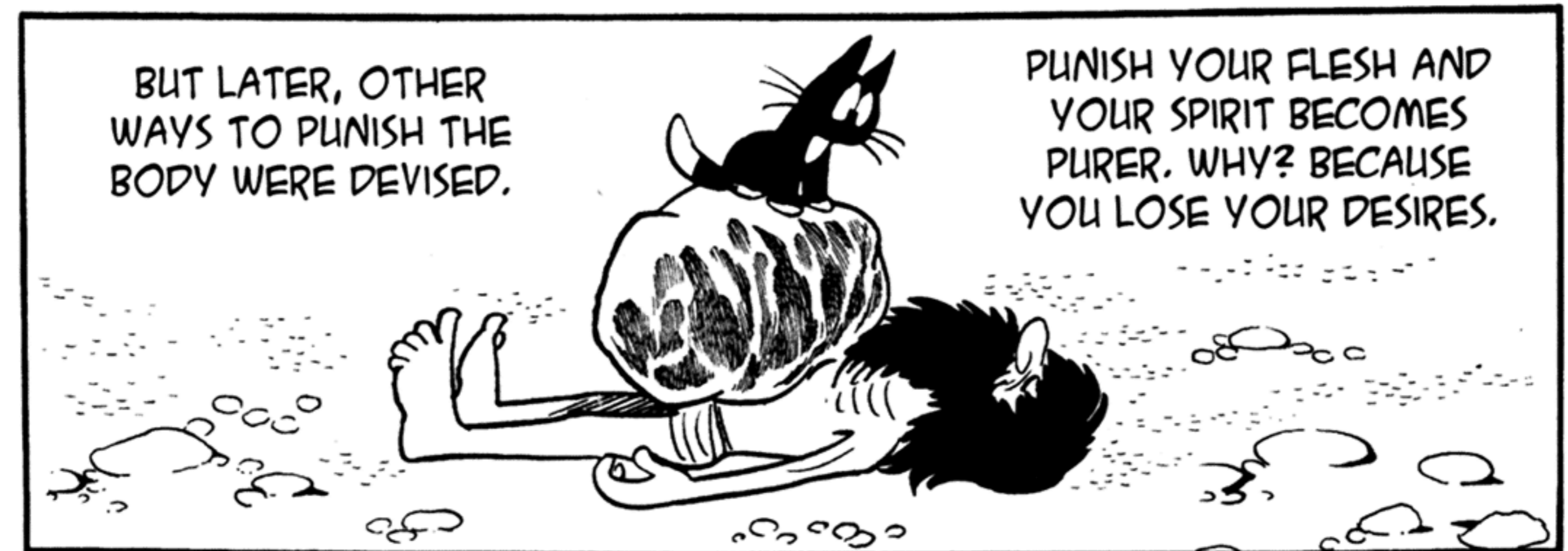
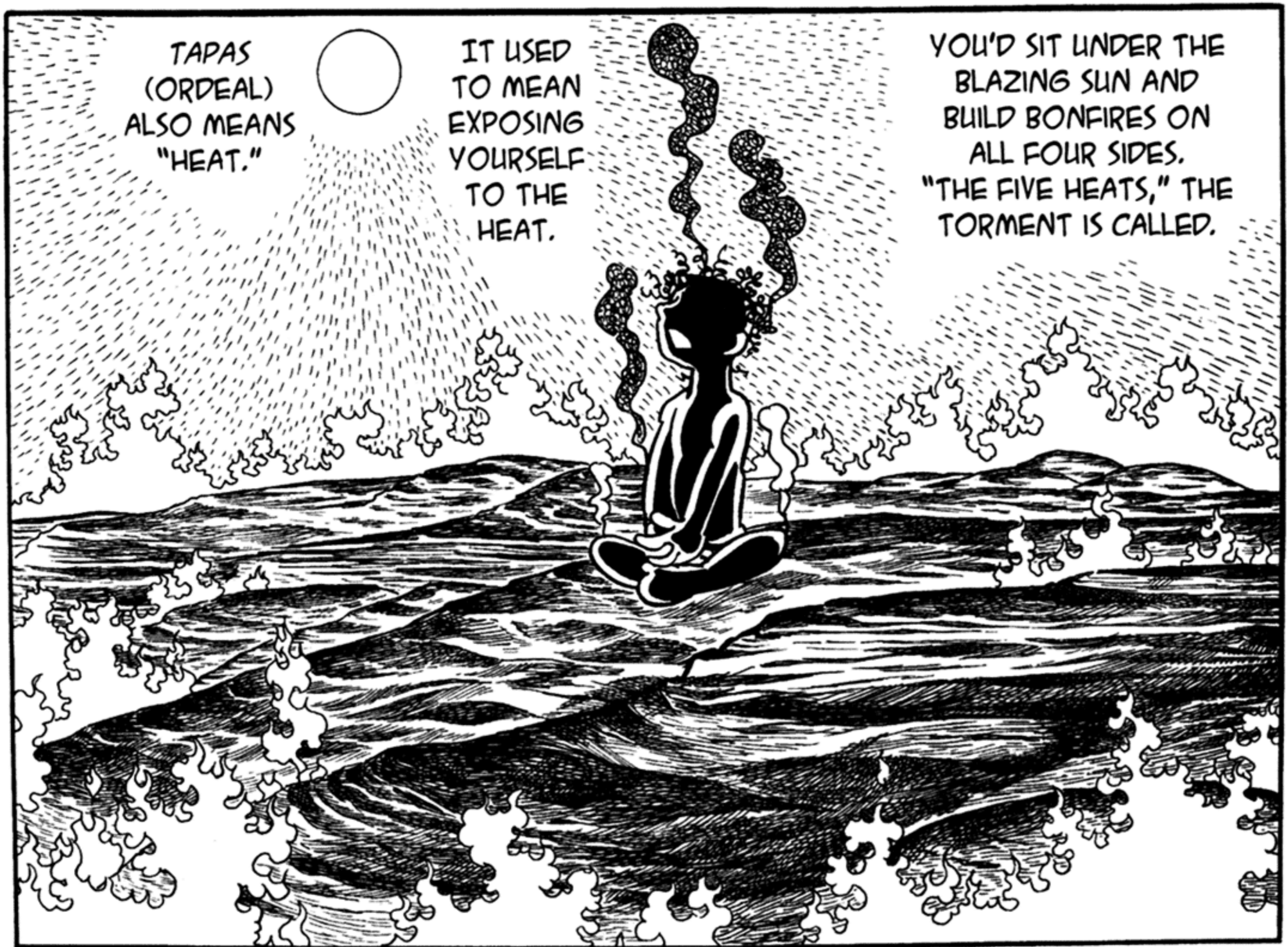
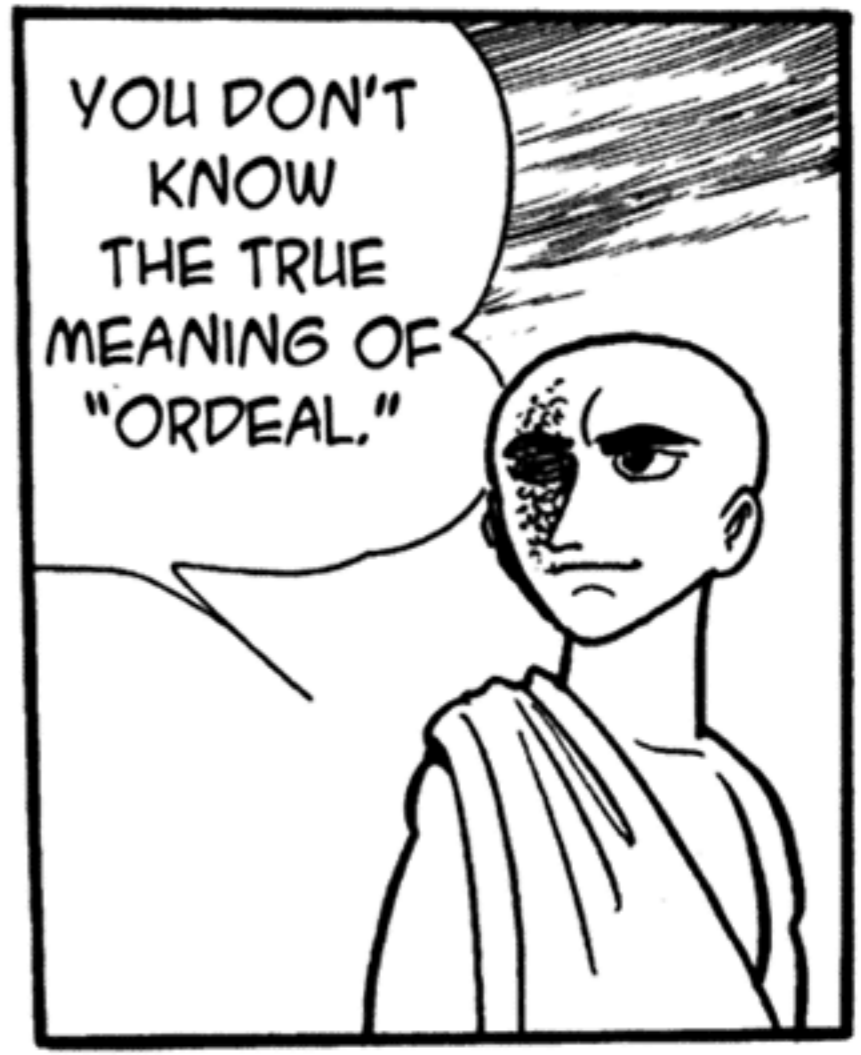
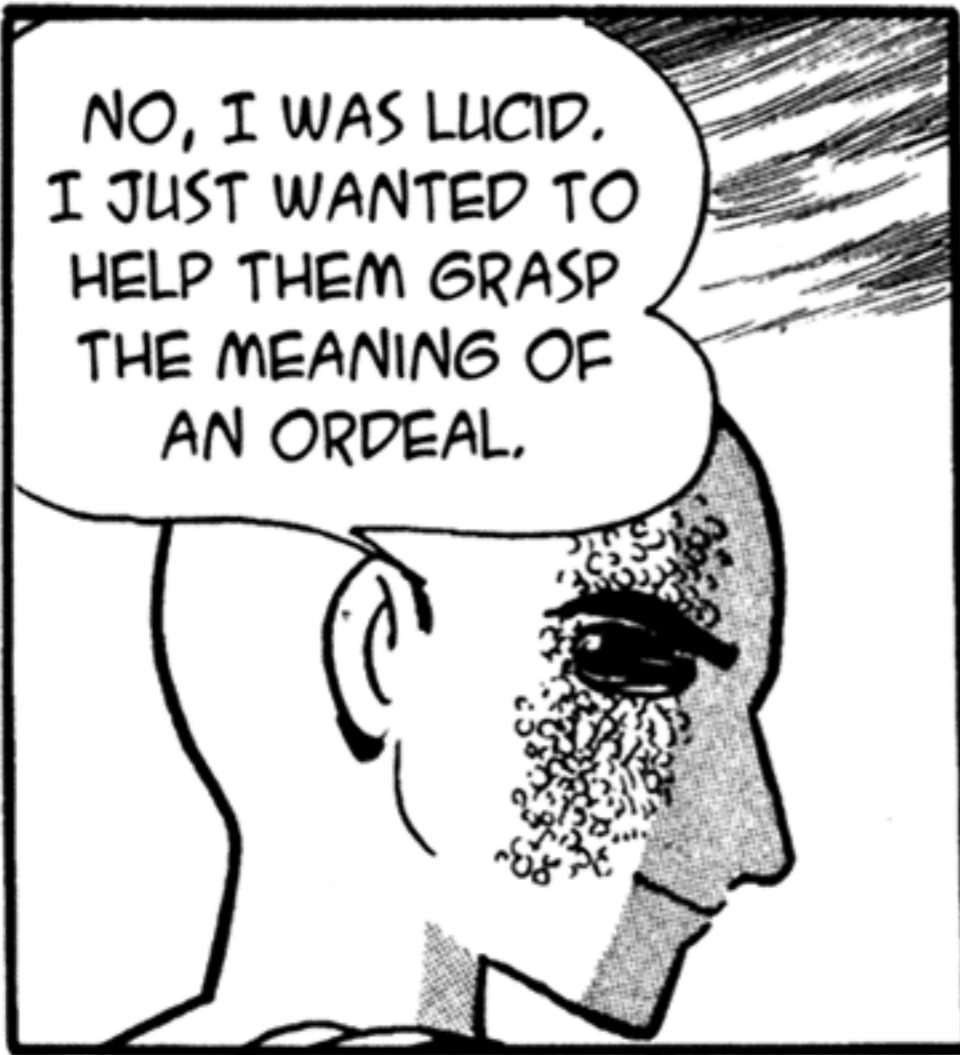


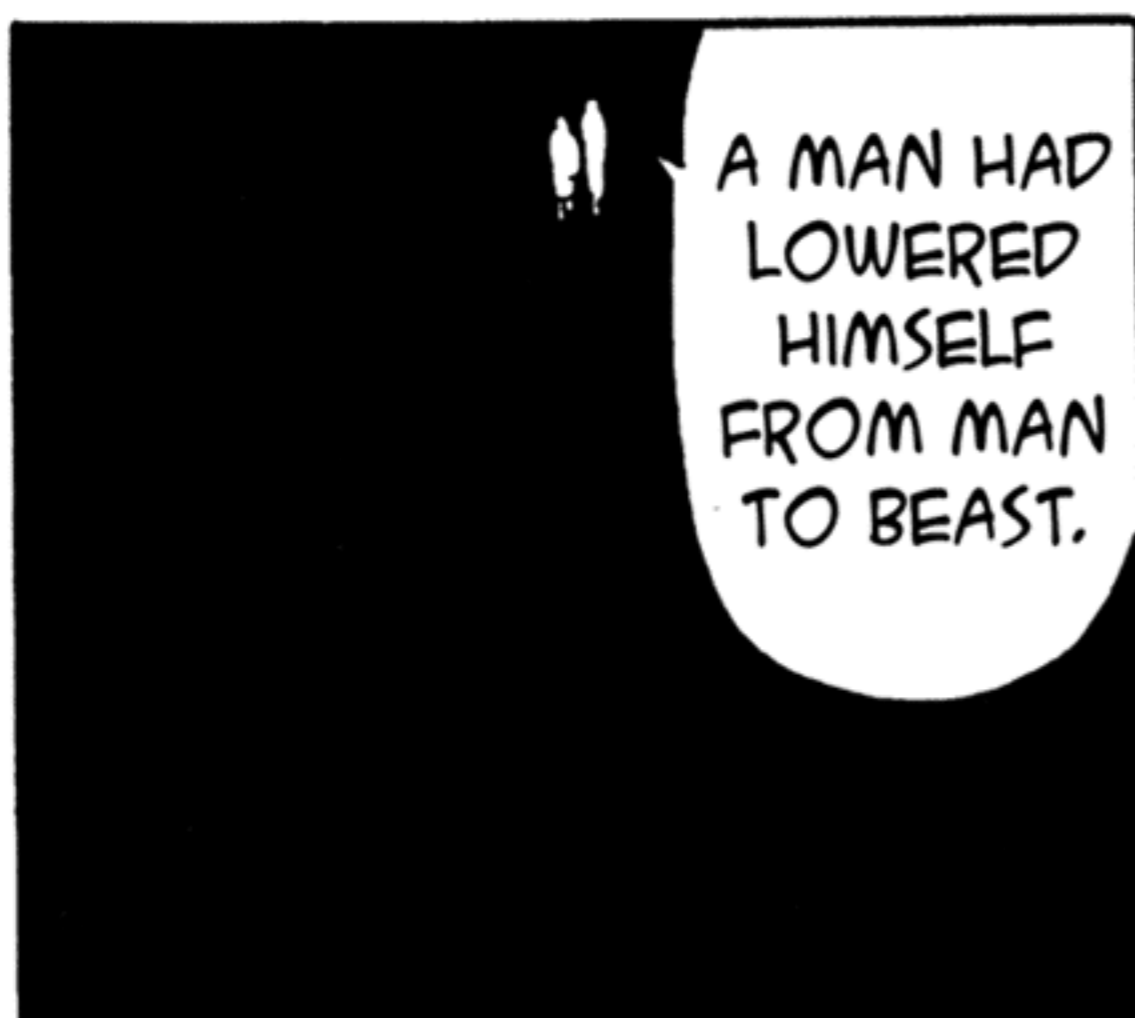
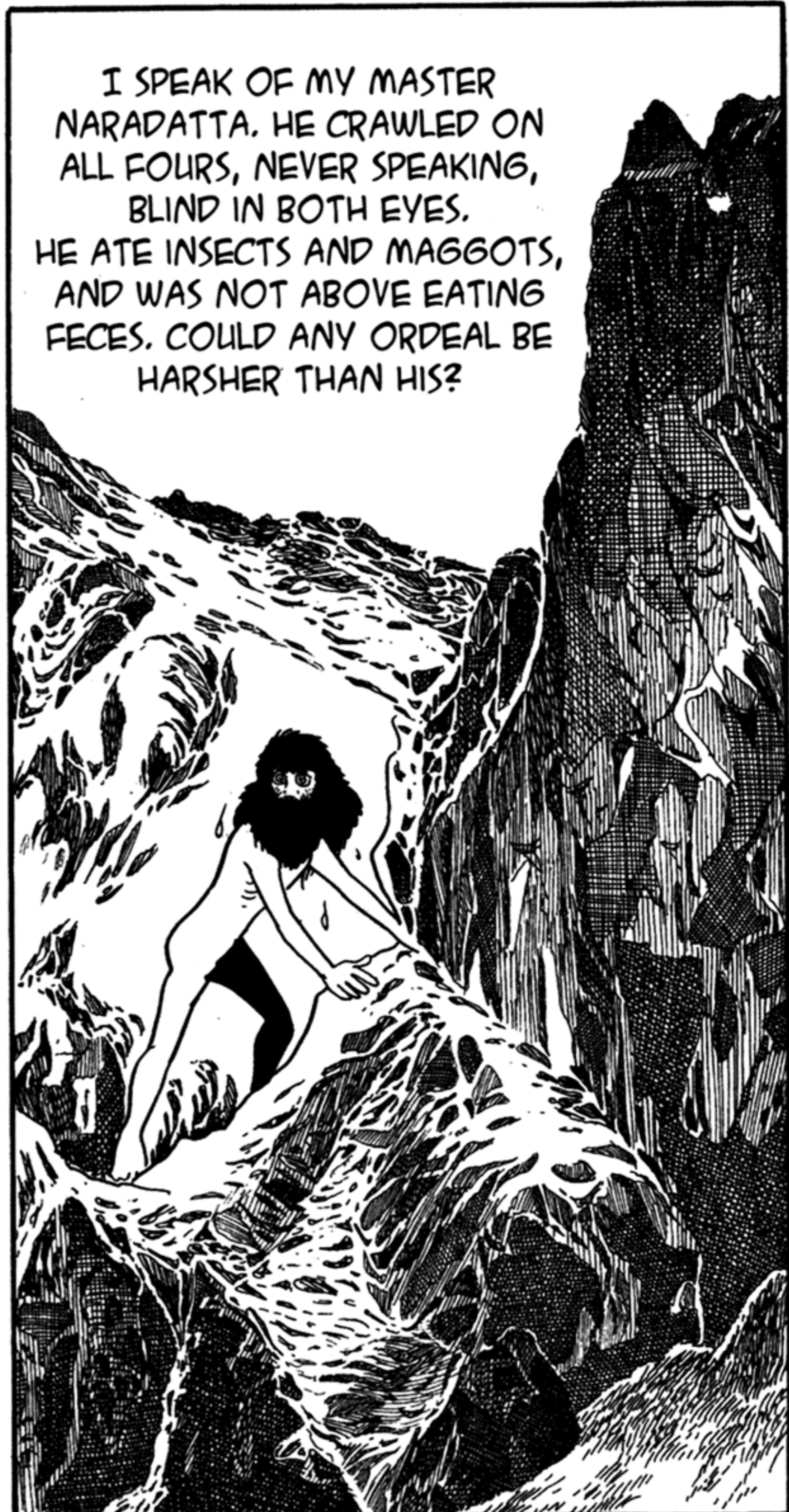
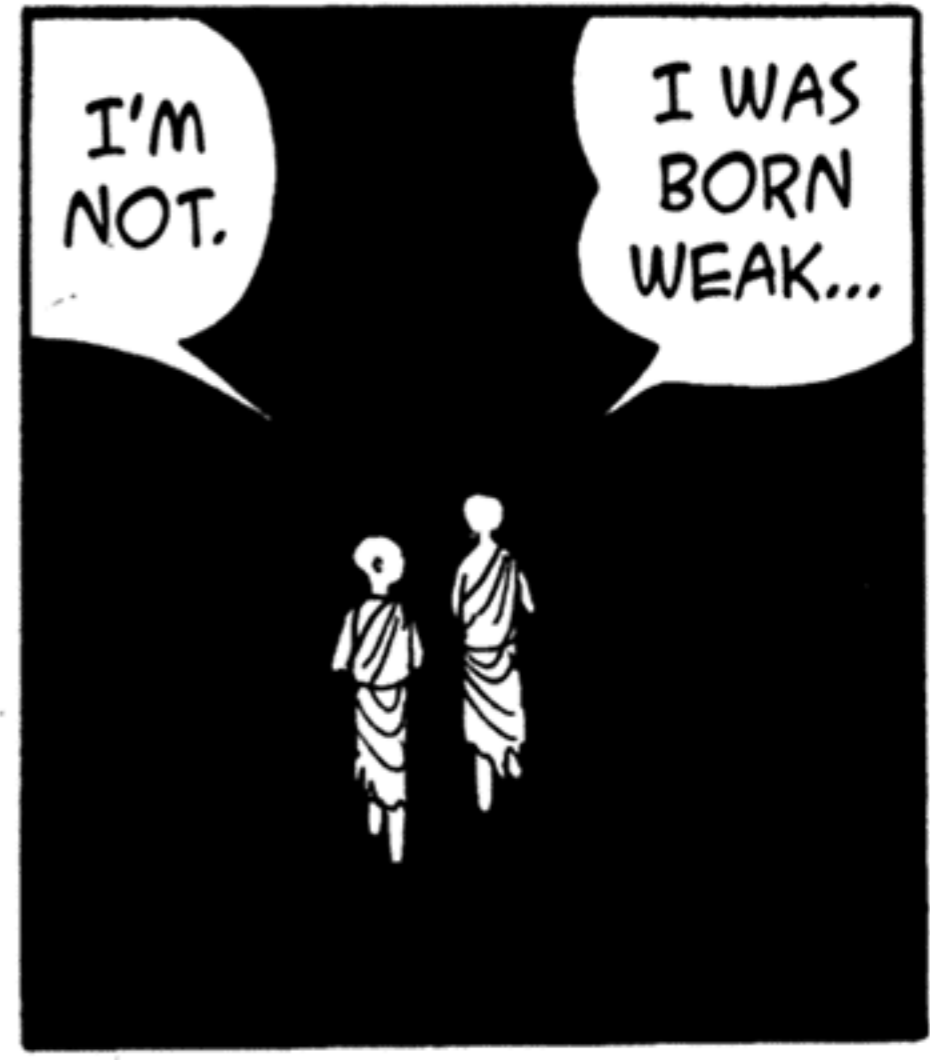
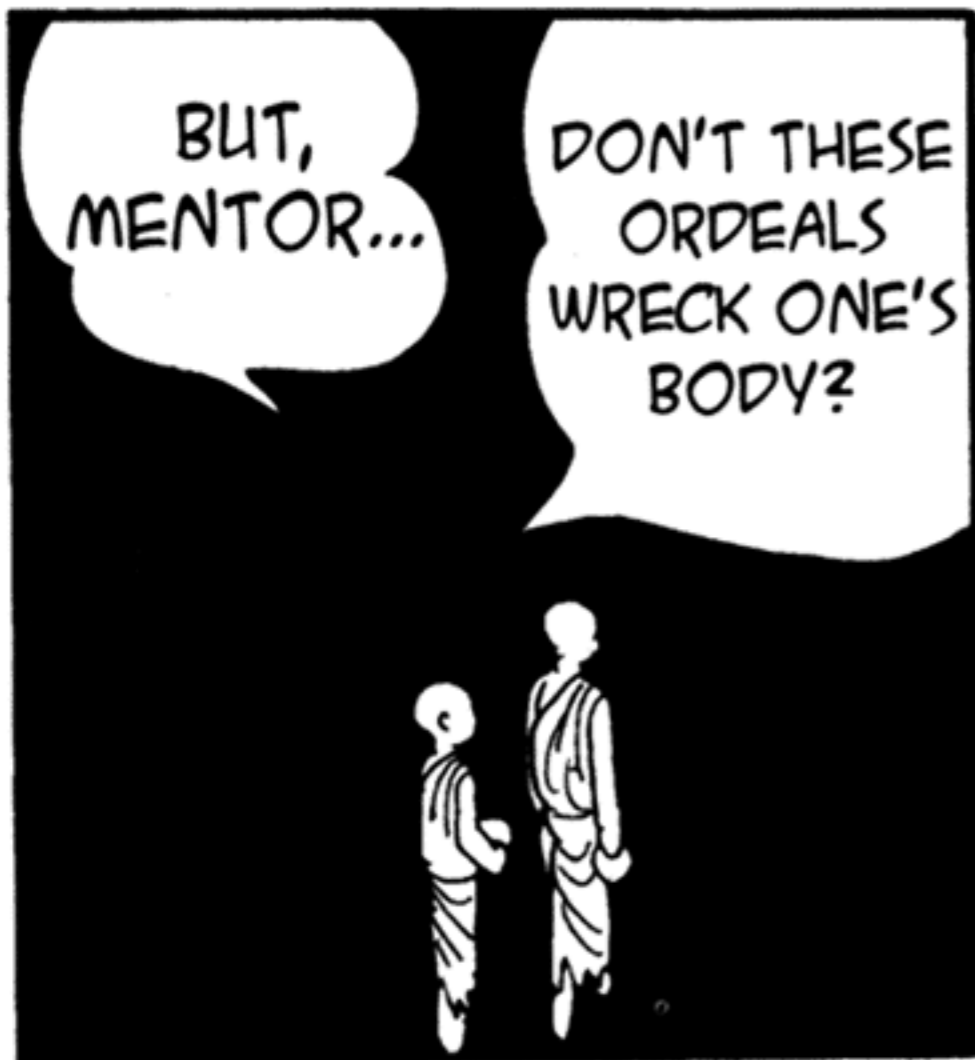
BUT IN THIS DAY
AND AGE WHEN
ACTORS RUN FOR
OFFICE, I HEAR
POOR FOLK CAN
TURN MONK.

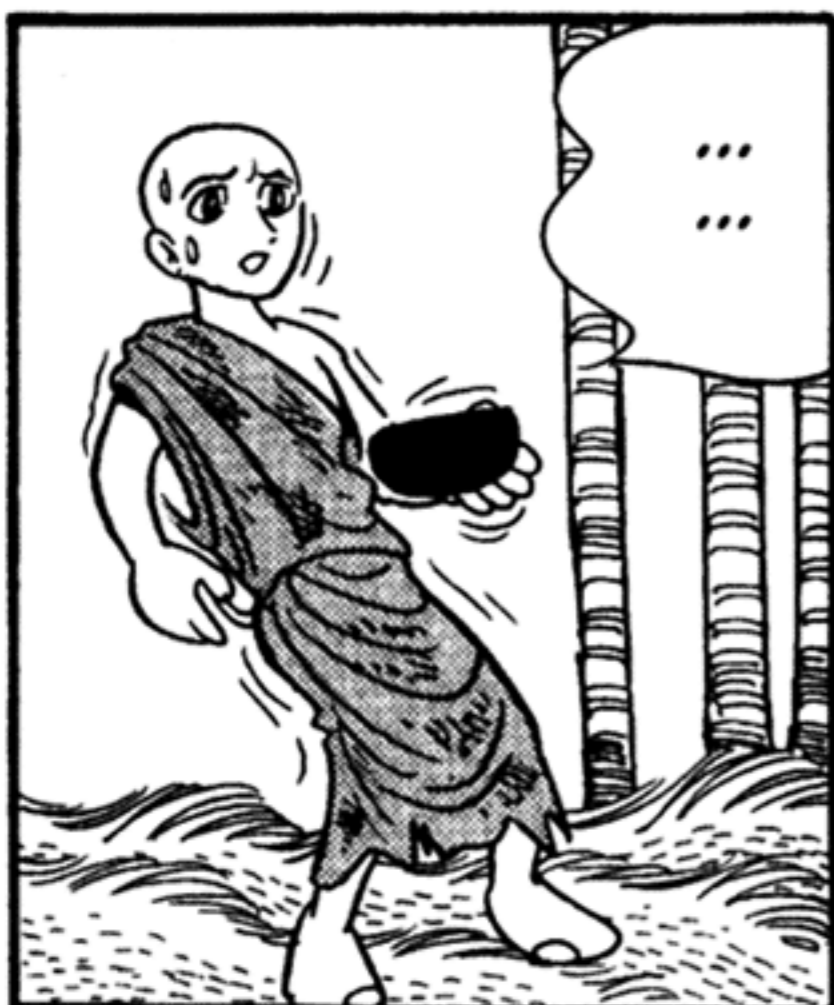
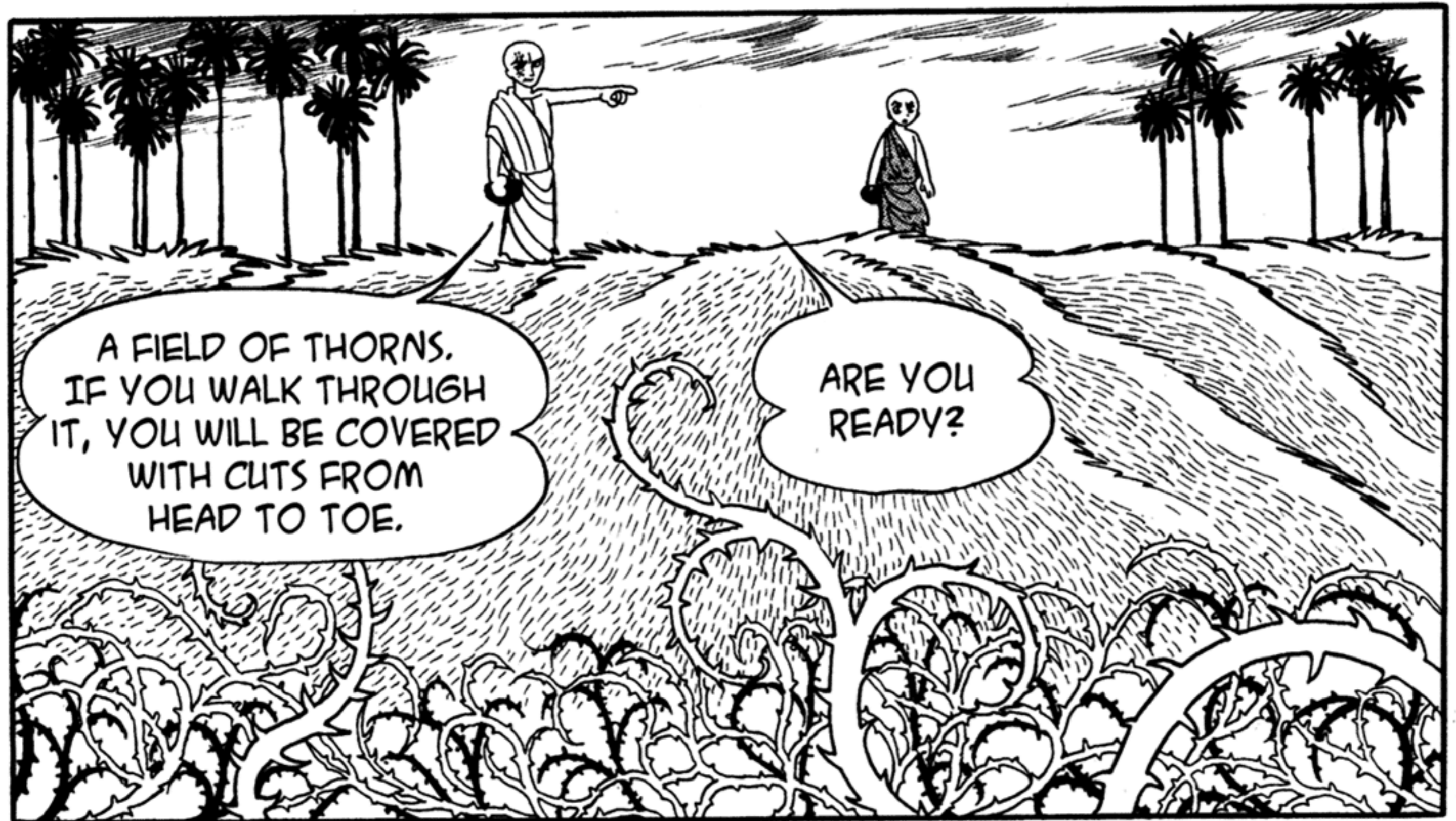
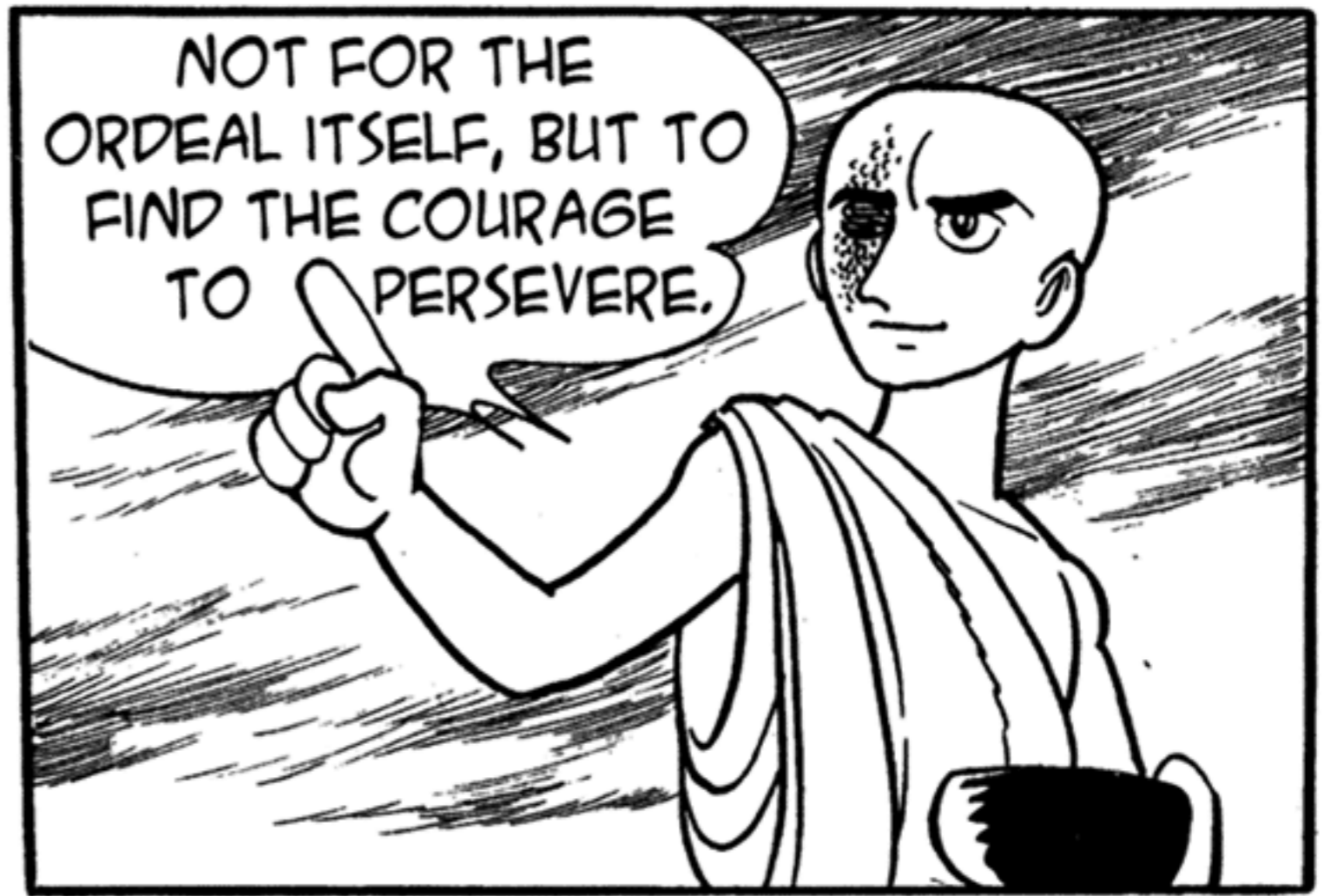


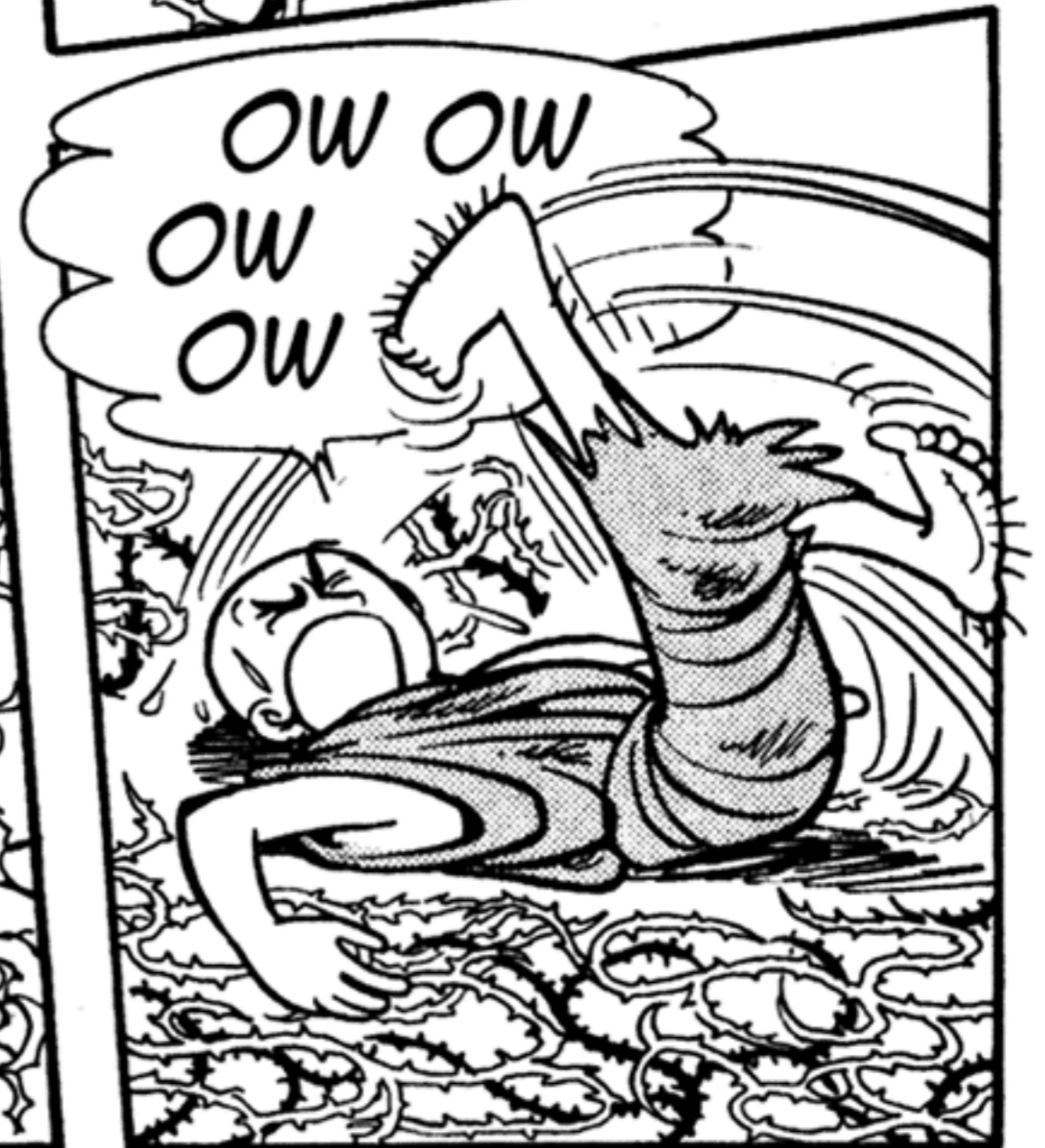
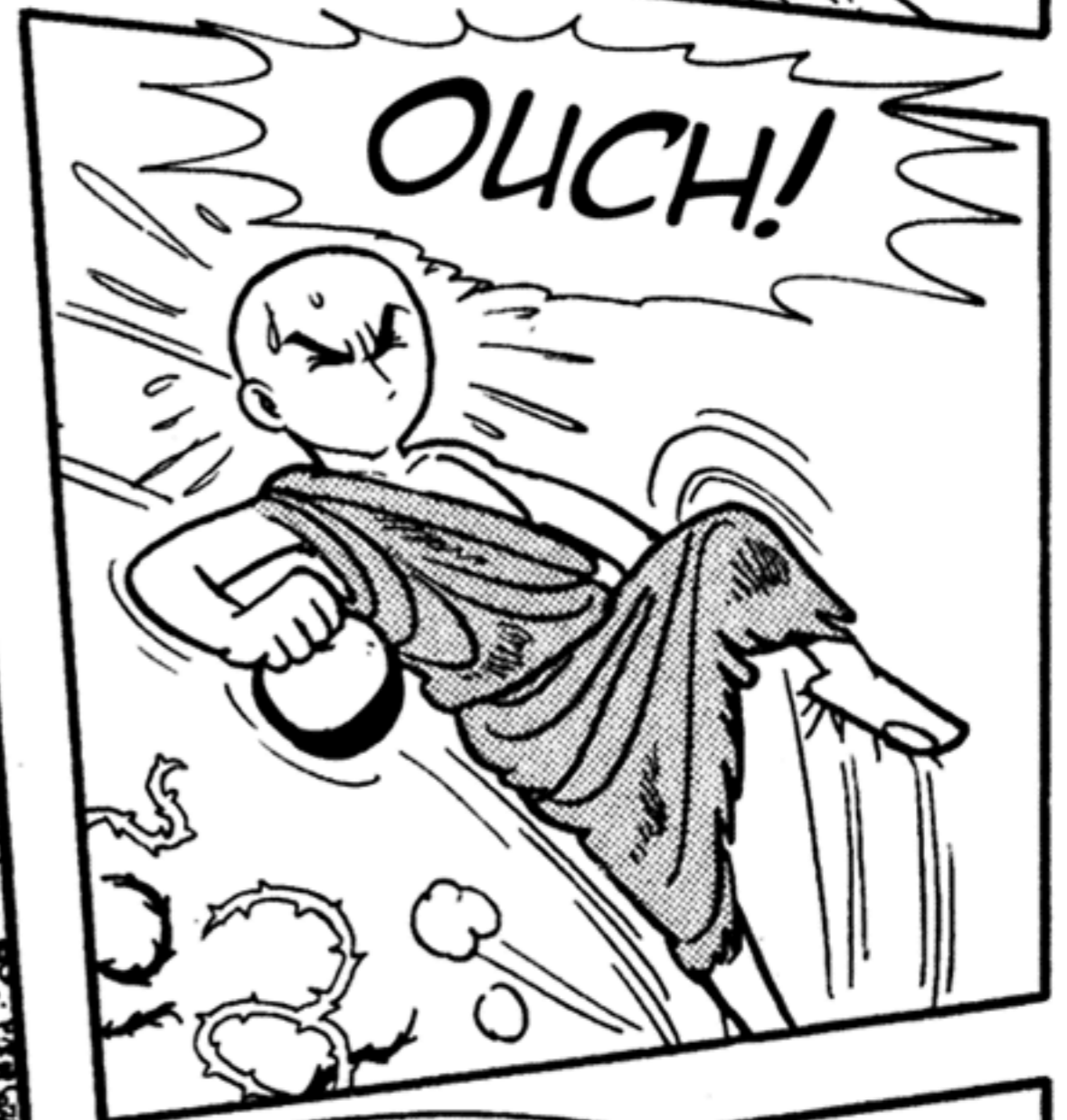














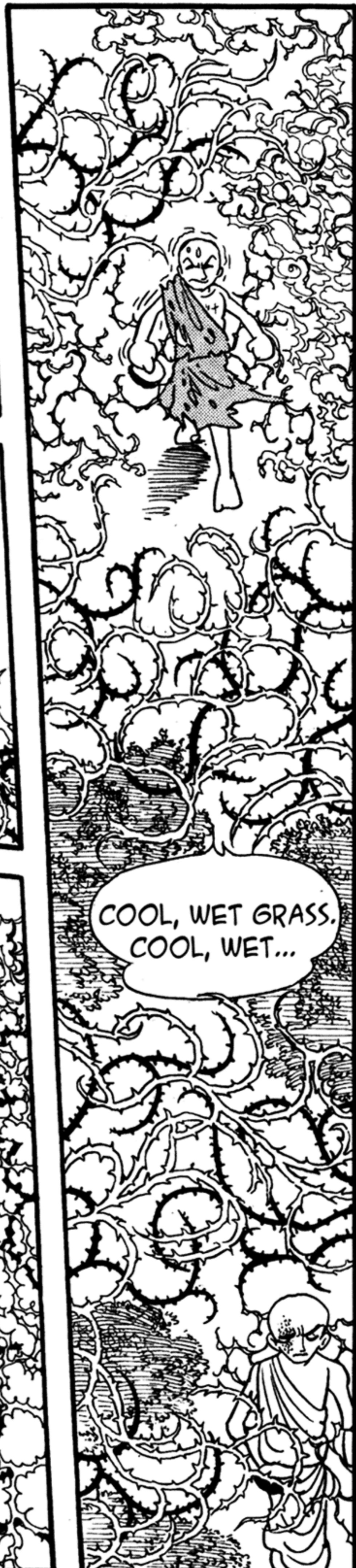
DIEPA!!



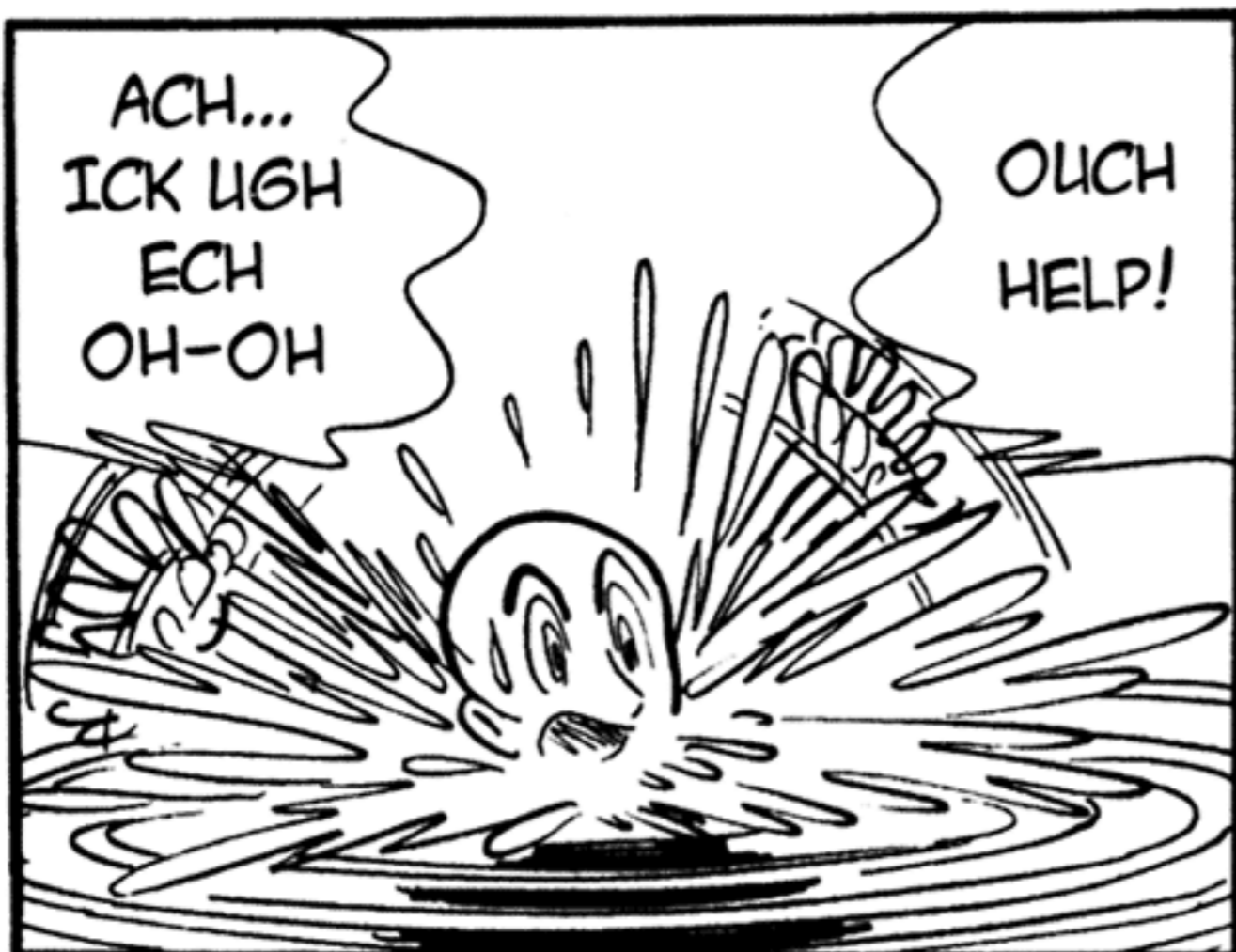
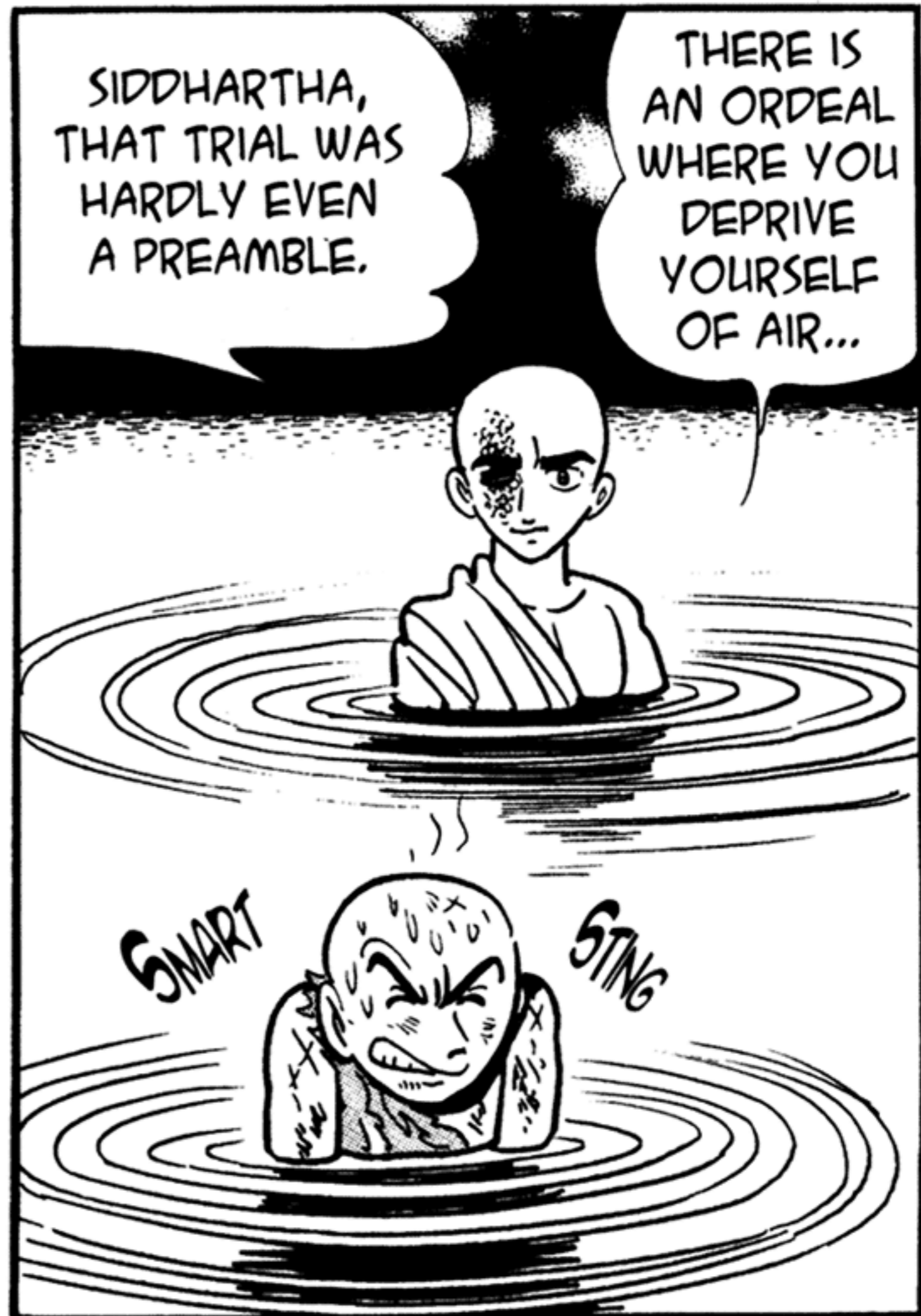
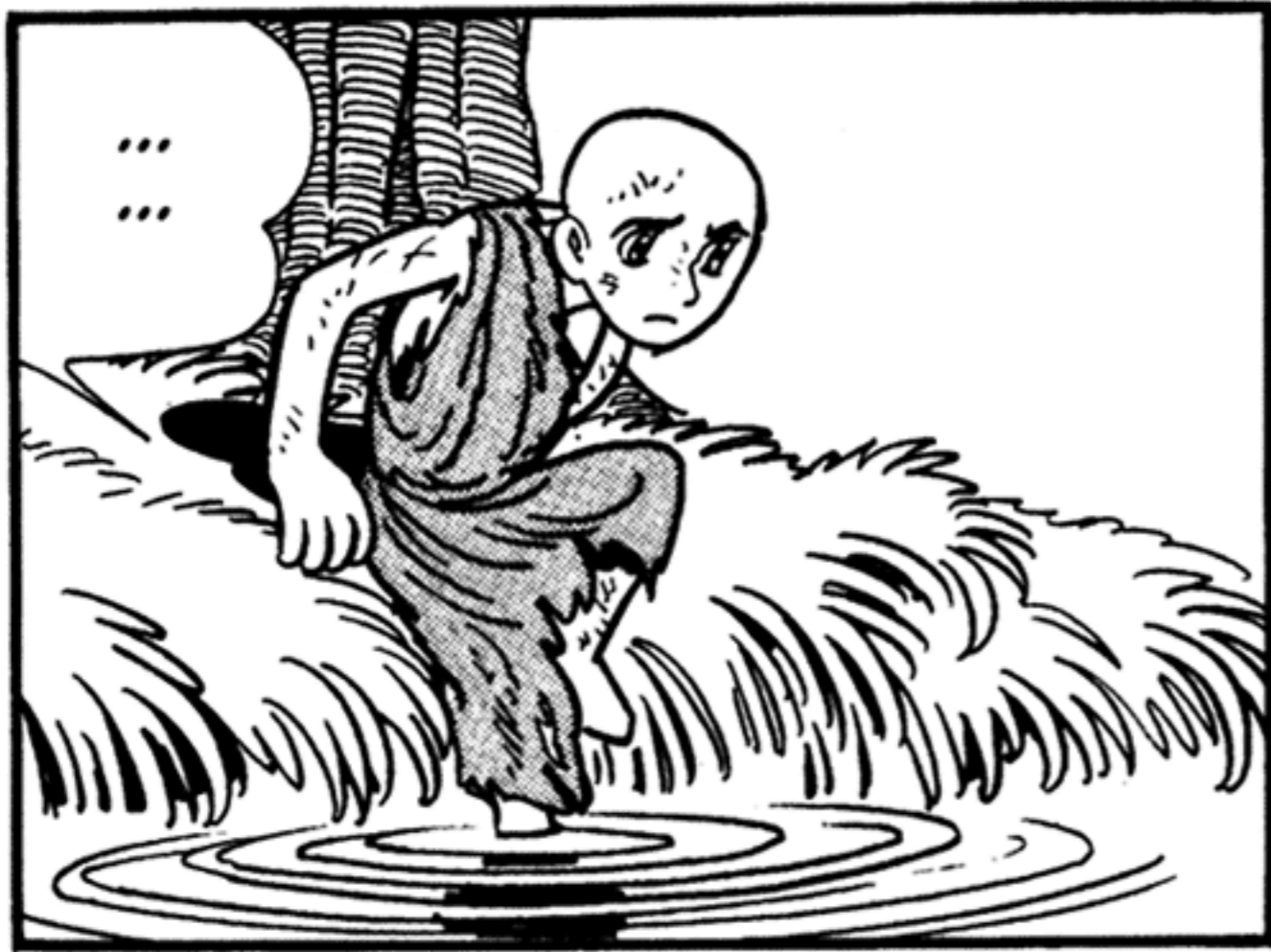
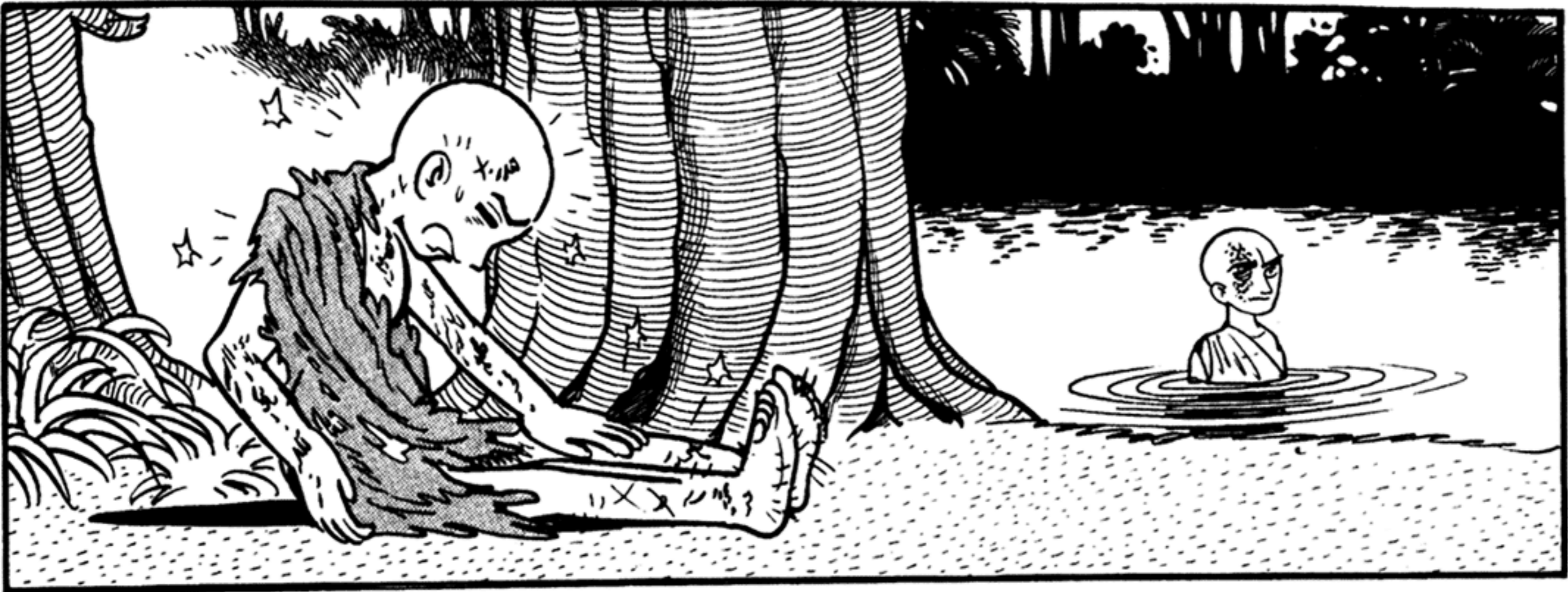
COME ON,
YOU CAN
MAKE IT.

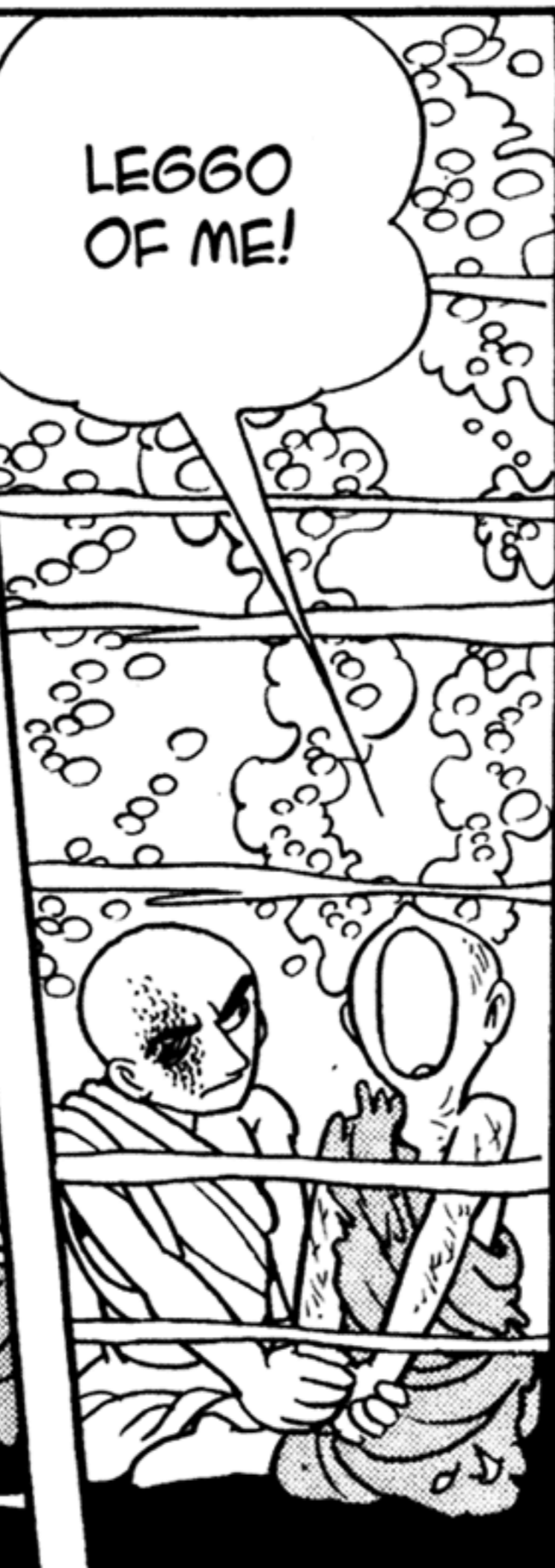
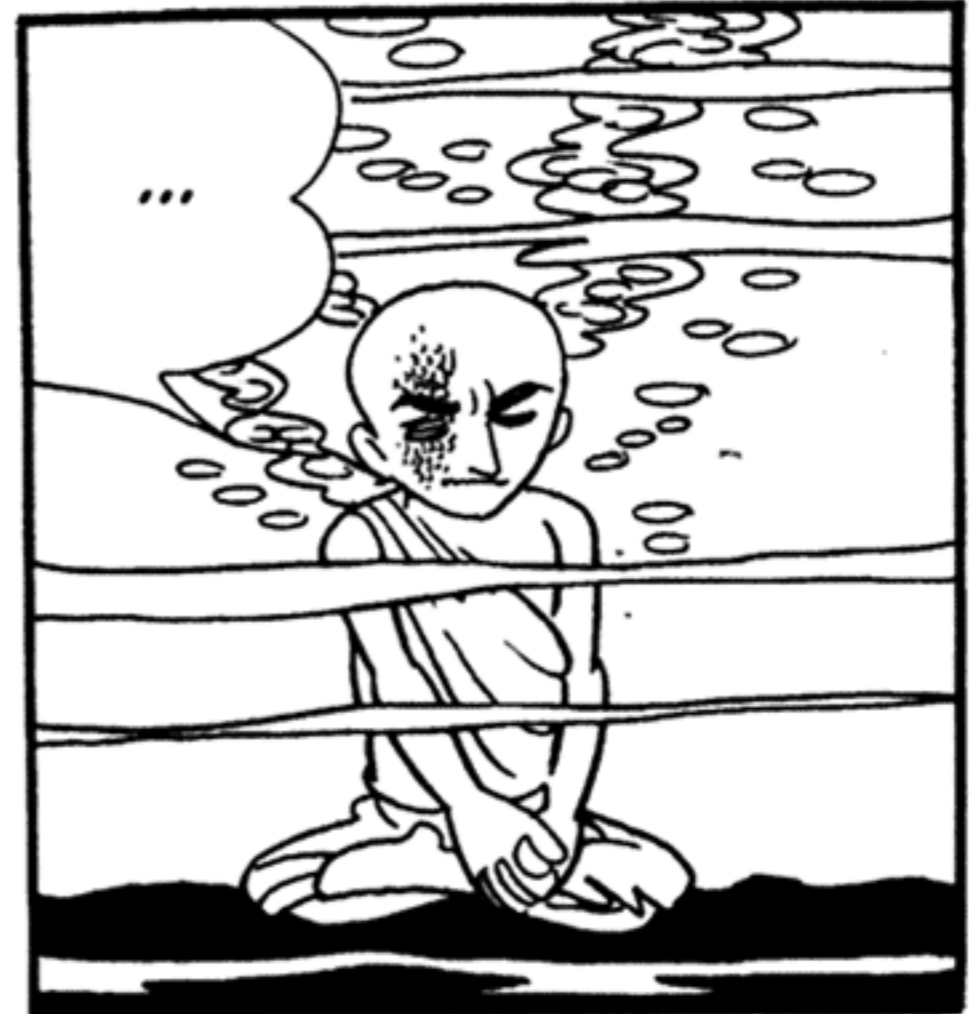
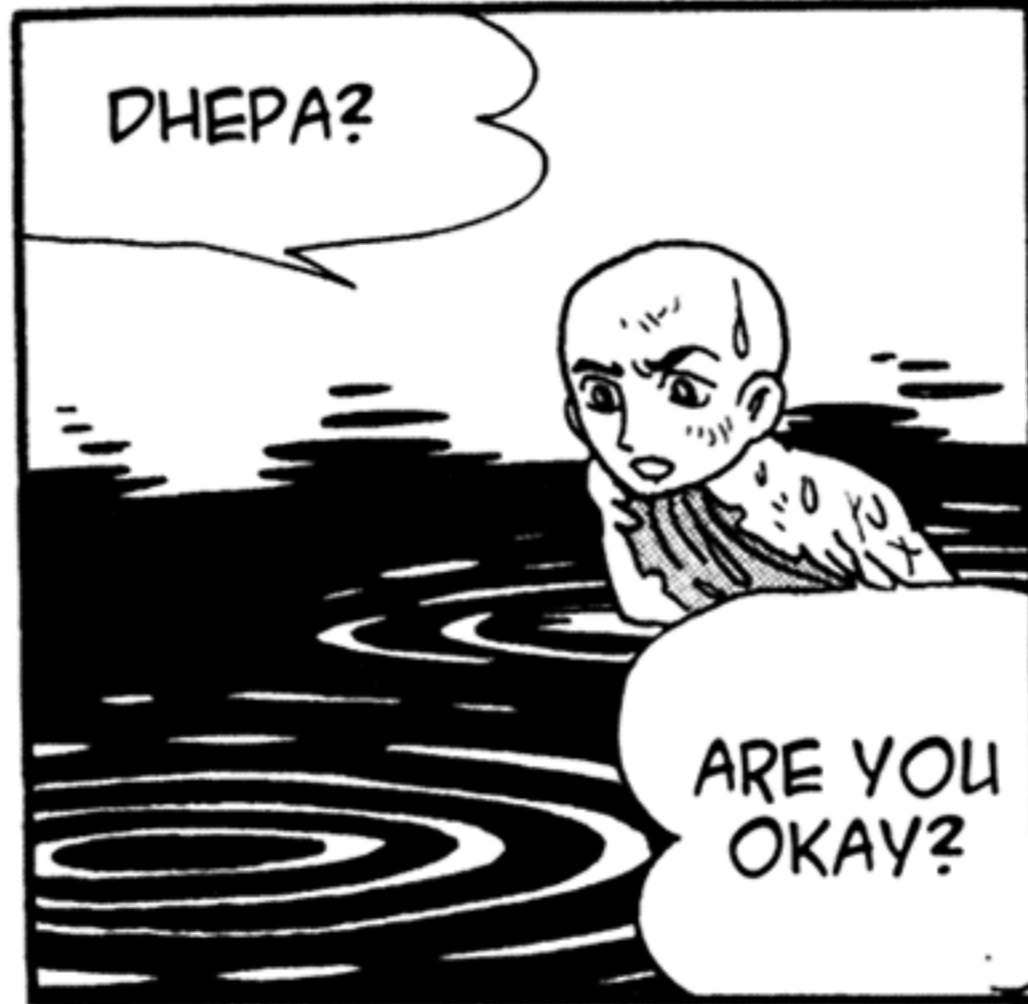
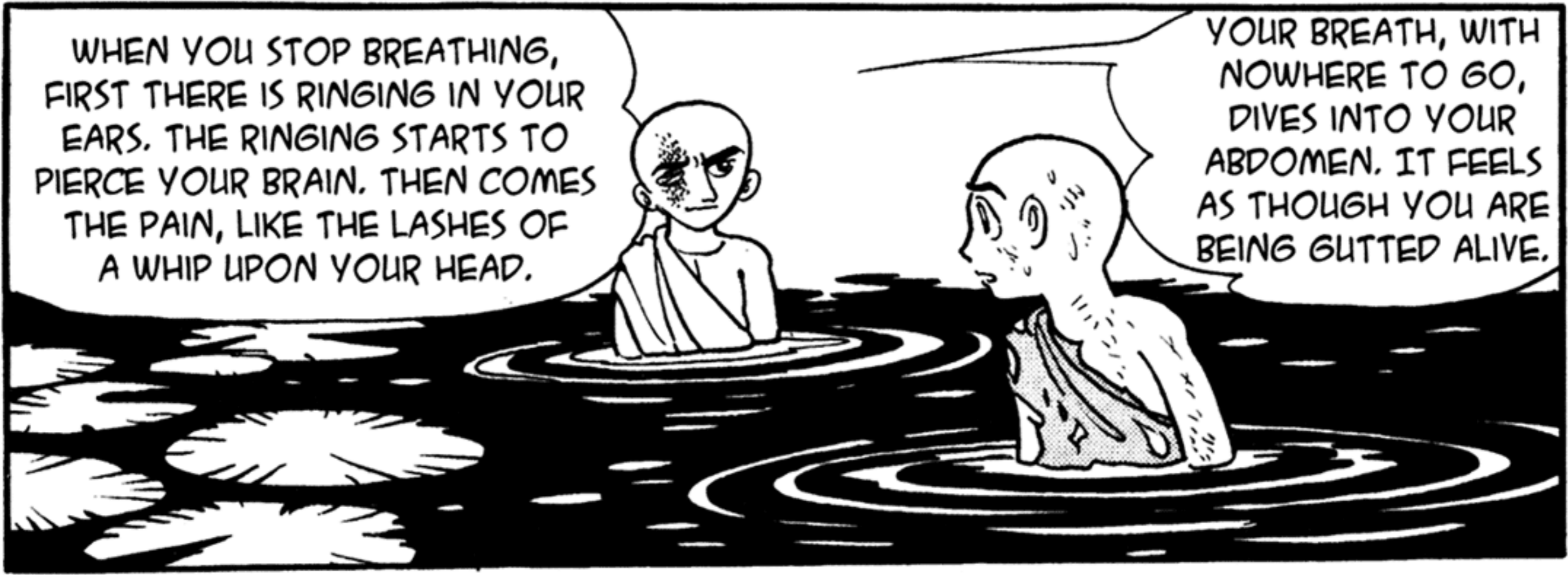


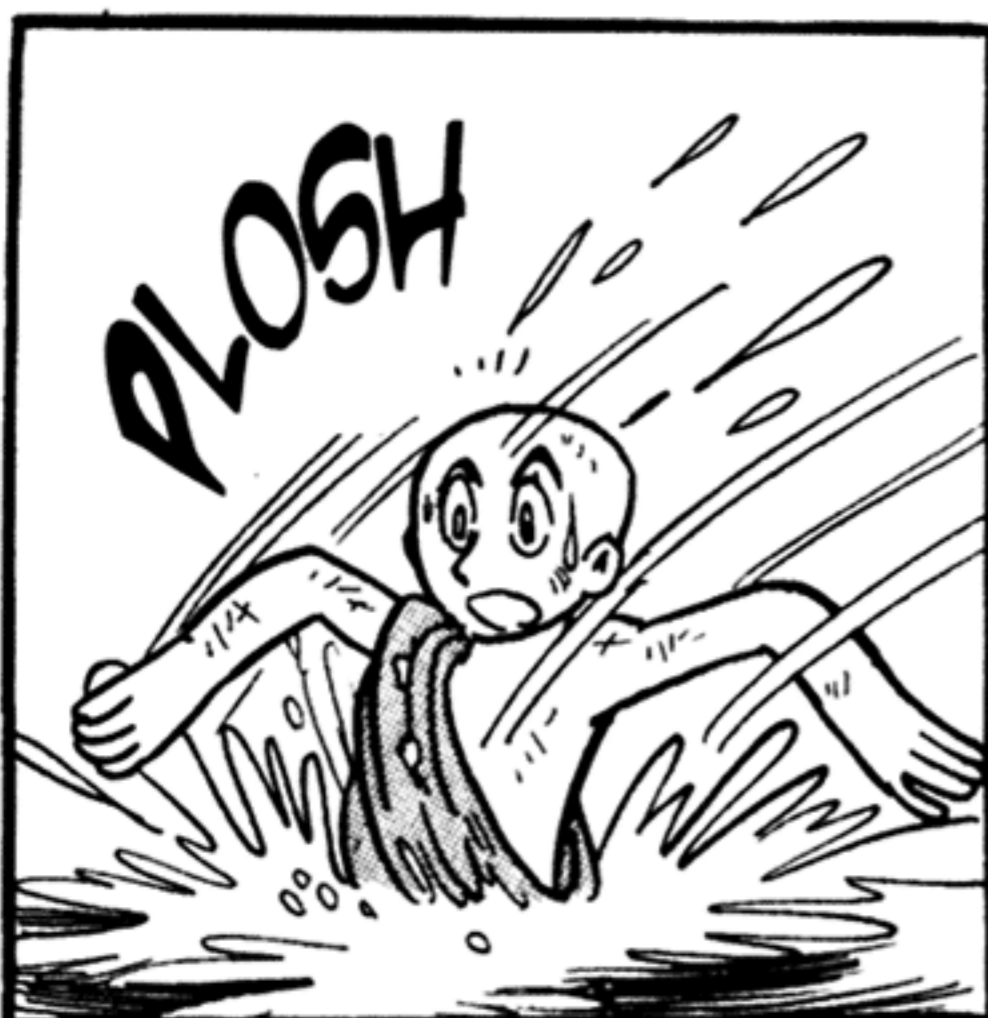
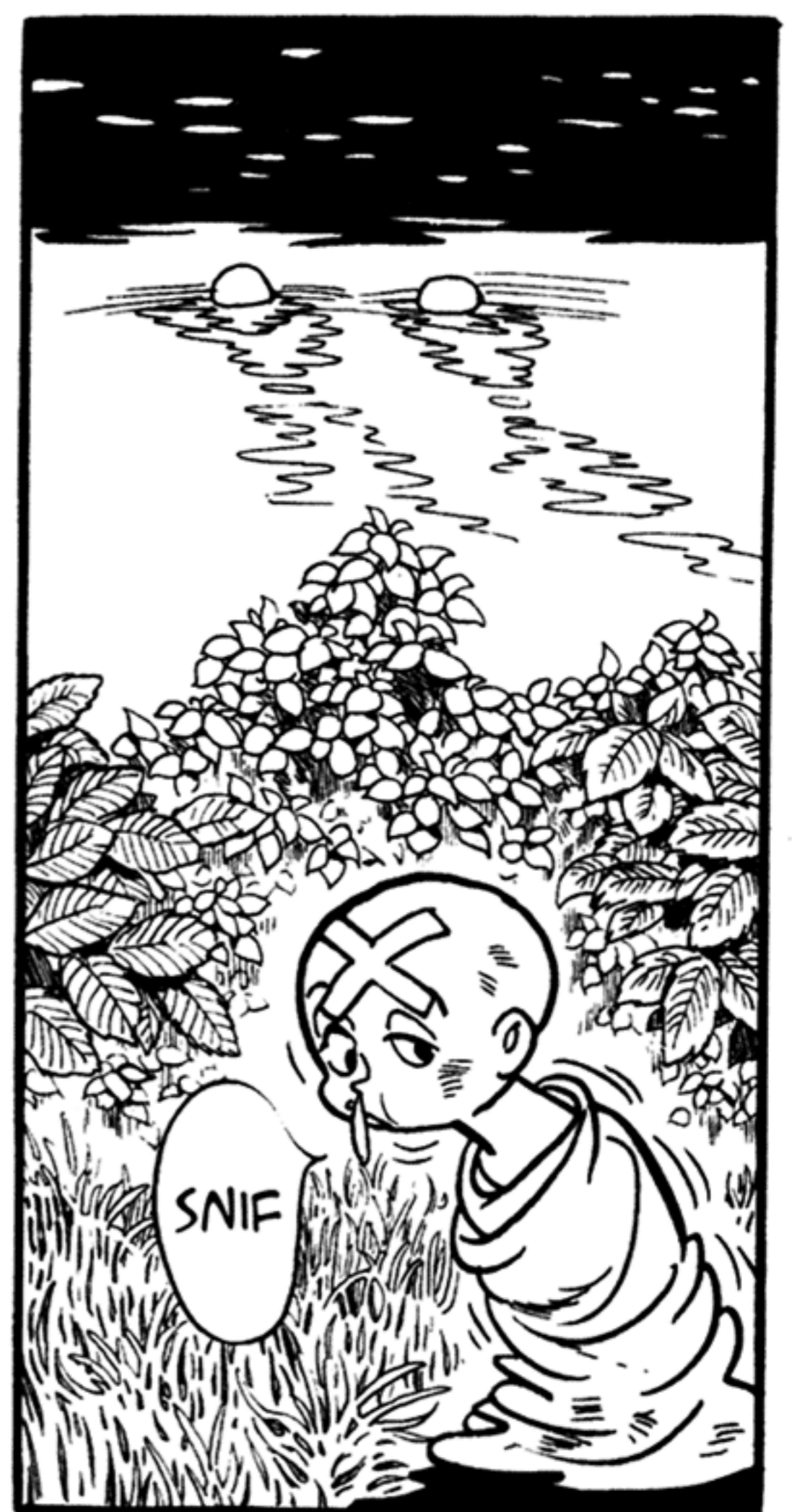
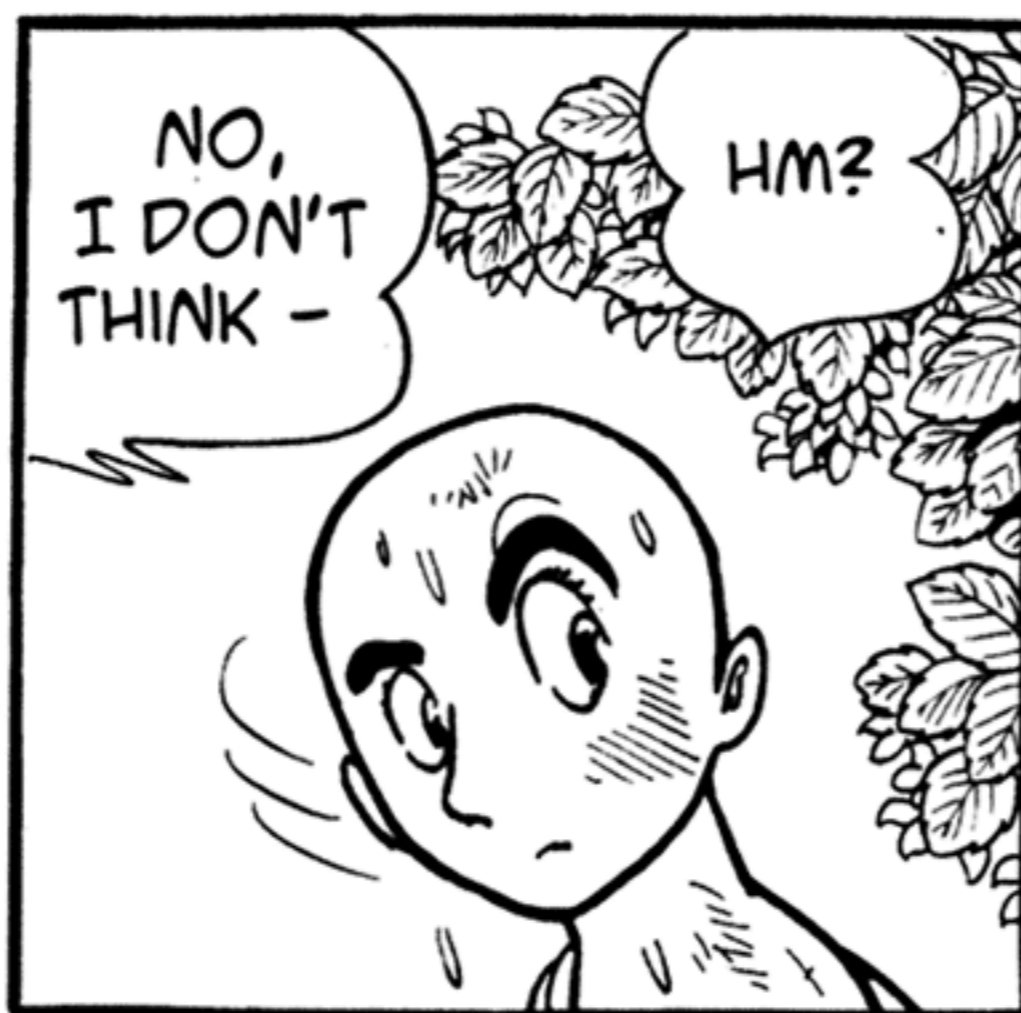
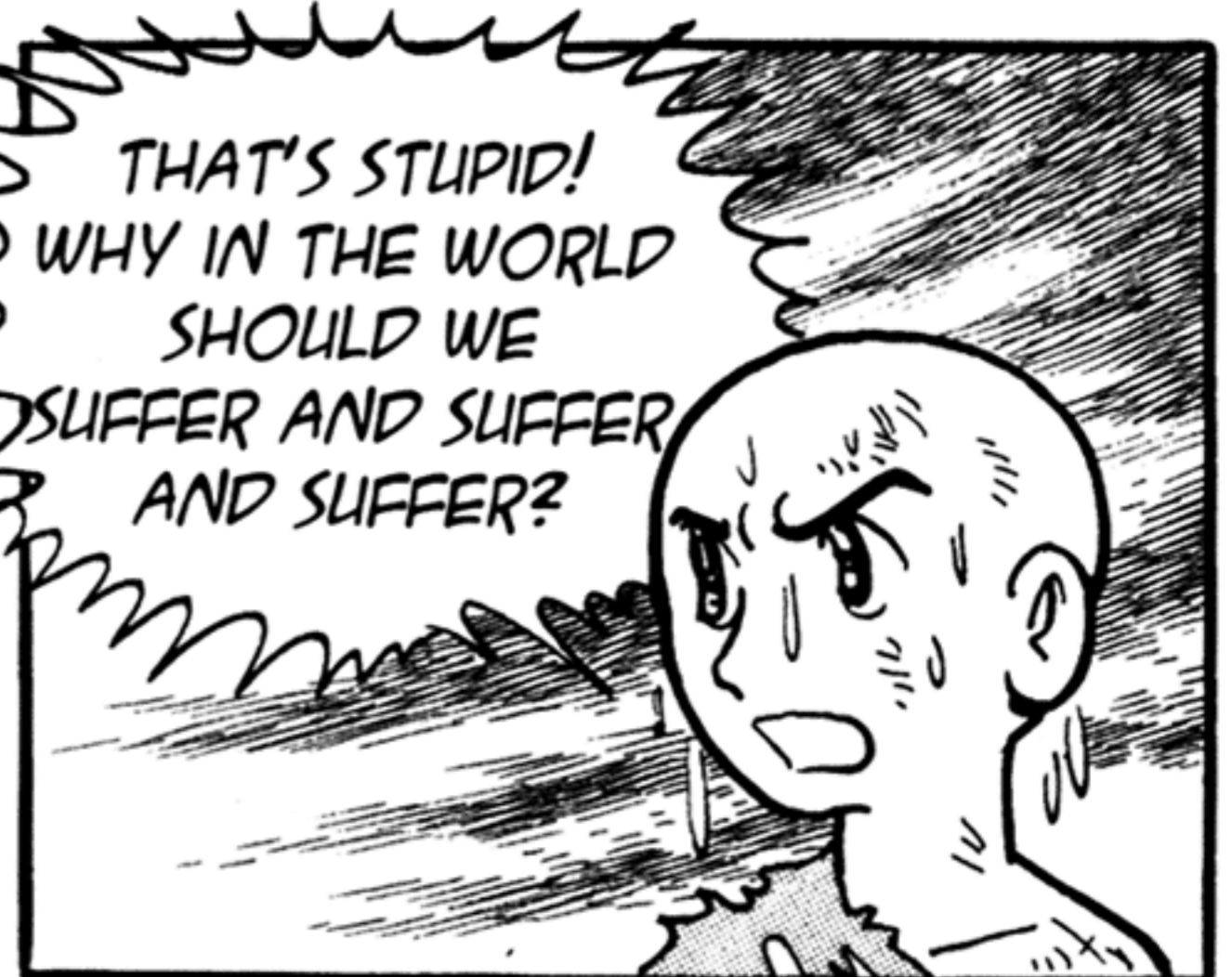
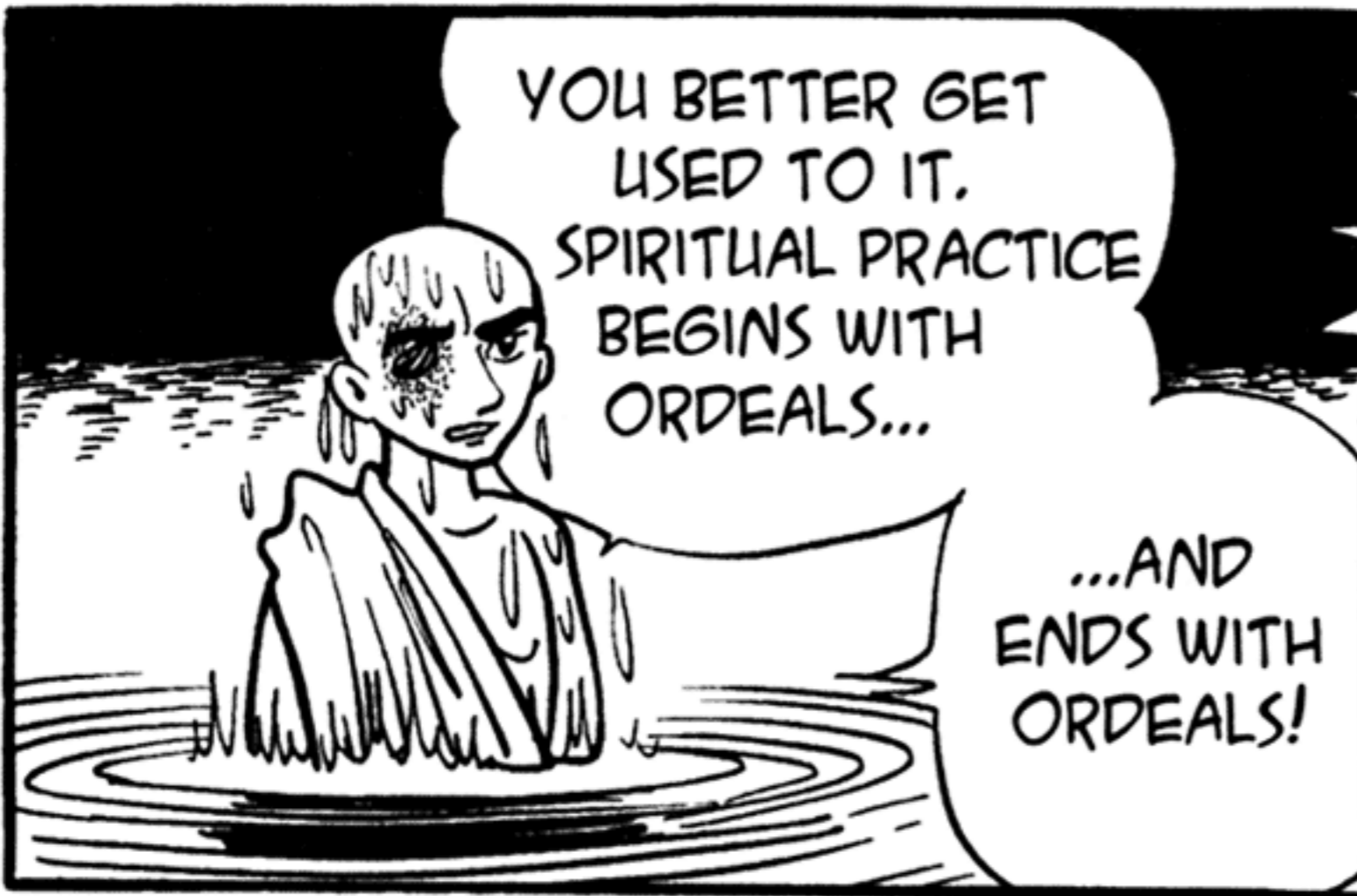
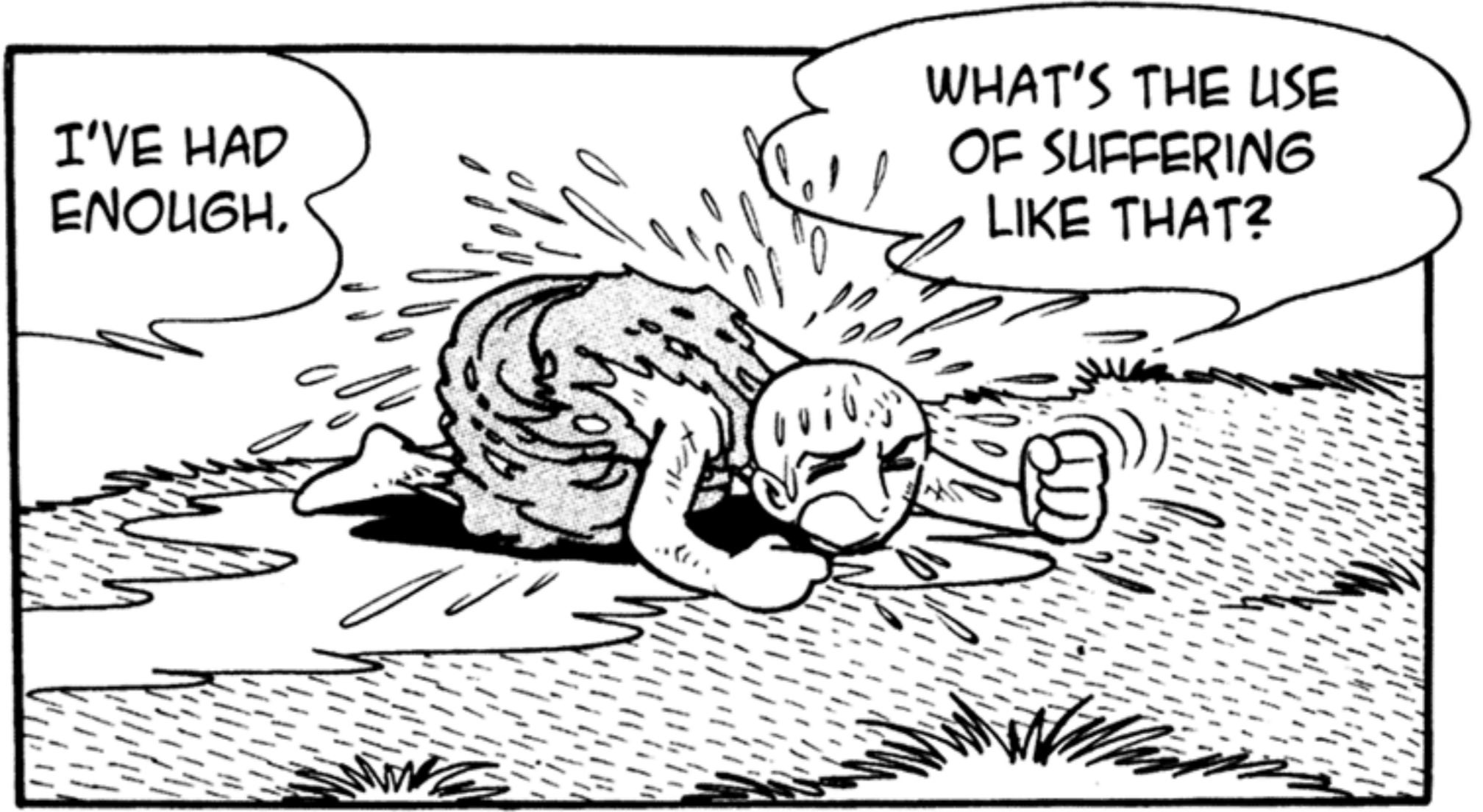
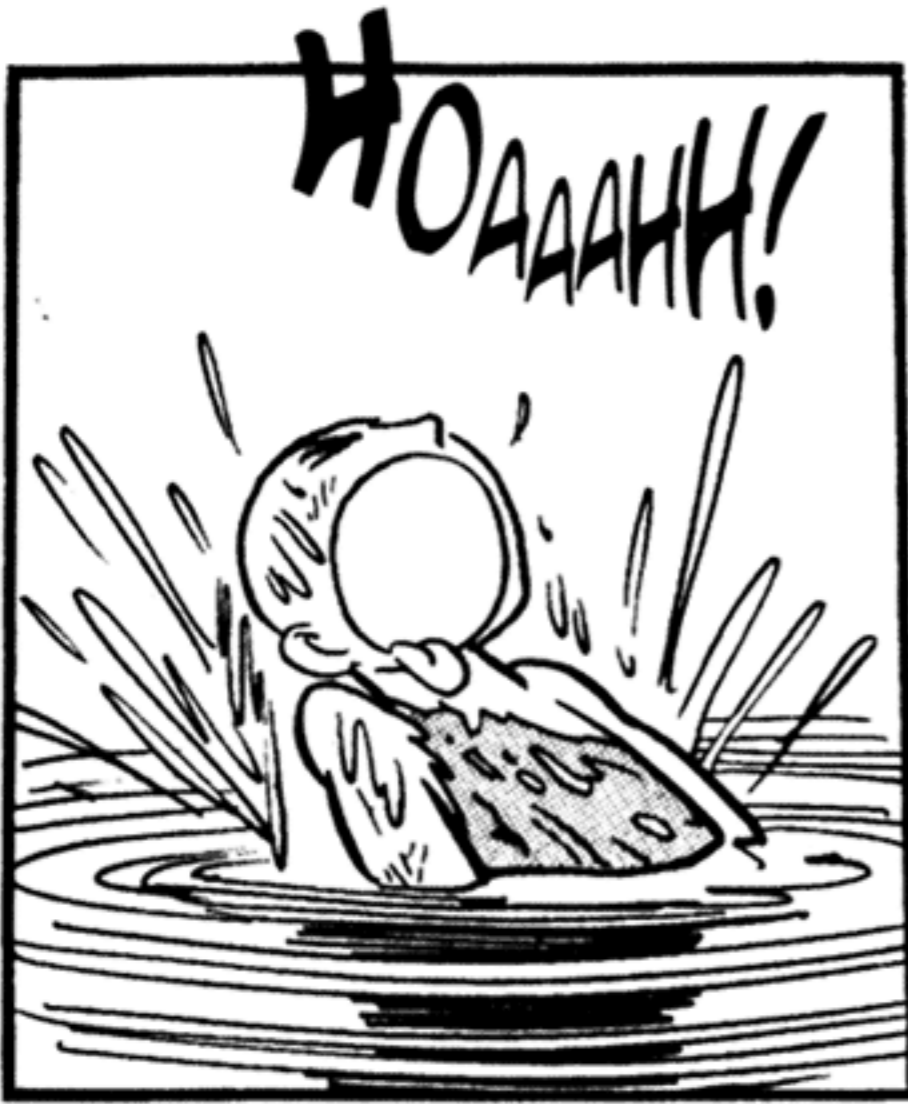
OW...
DAMN IT,
DOESN'T
HURT,
DOESN'T
HURT!



COOL, WET GRASS.
COOL, WET...



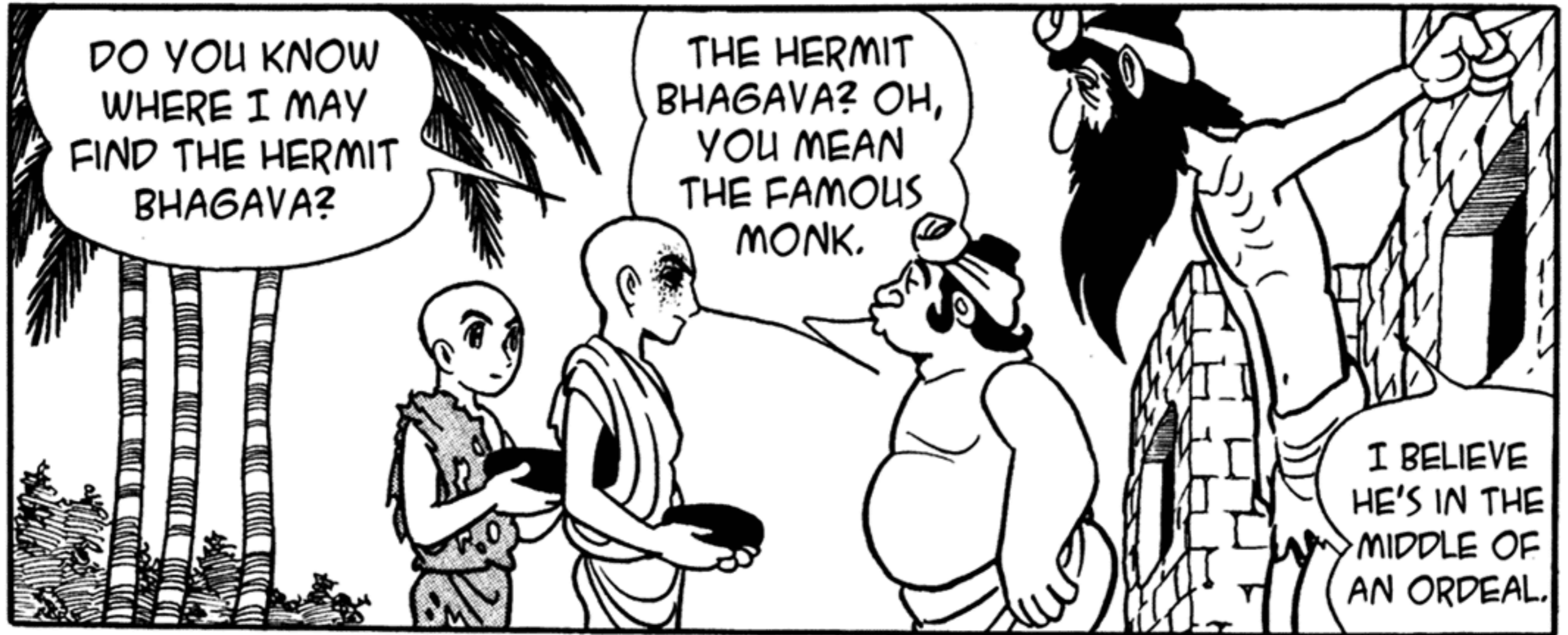






AH... LOOK!
WE'RE COMING
TO VAJJI.

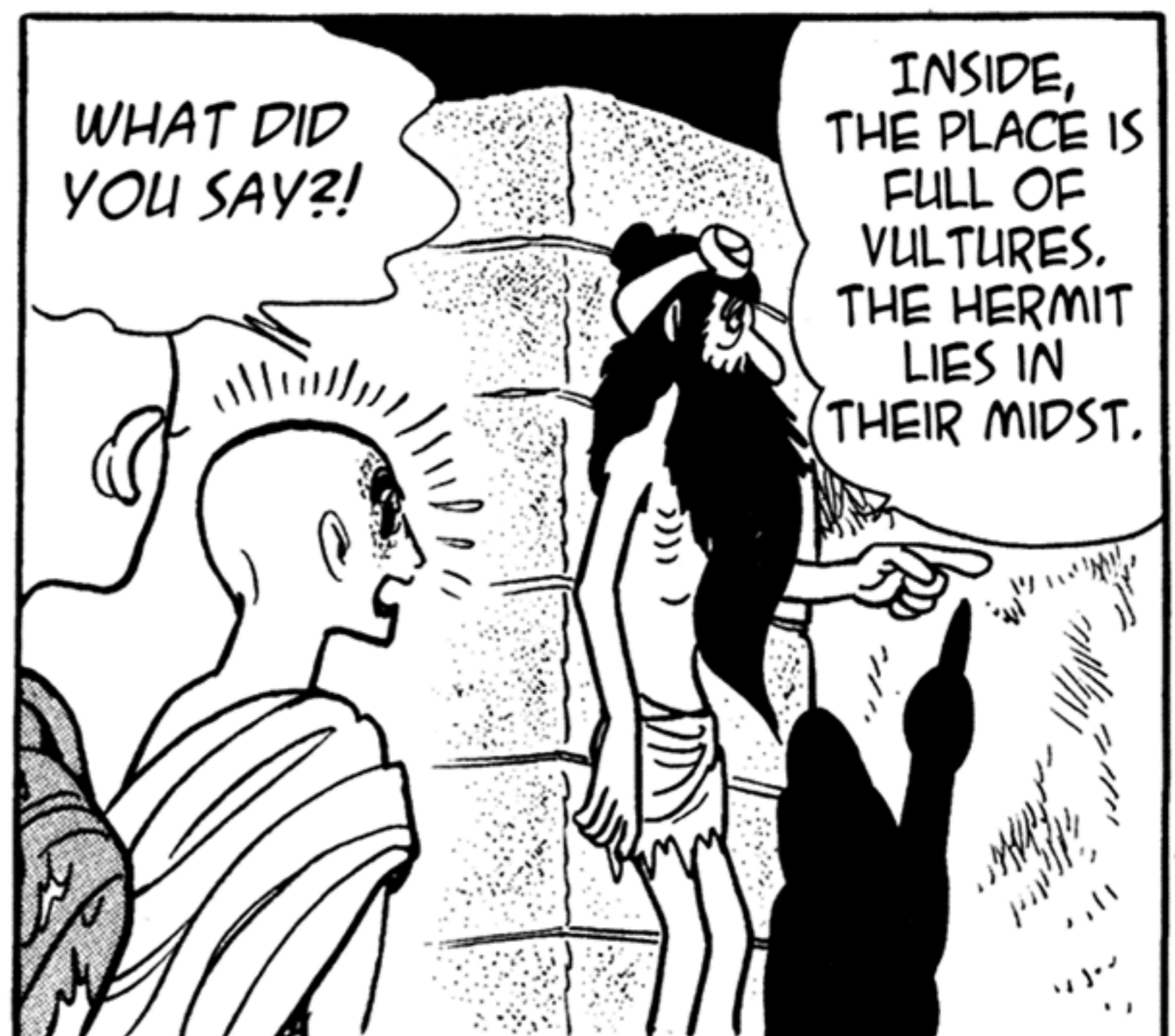
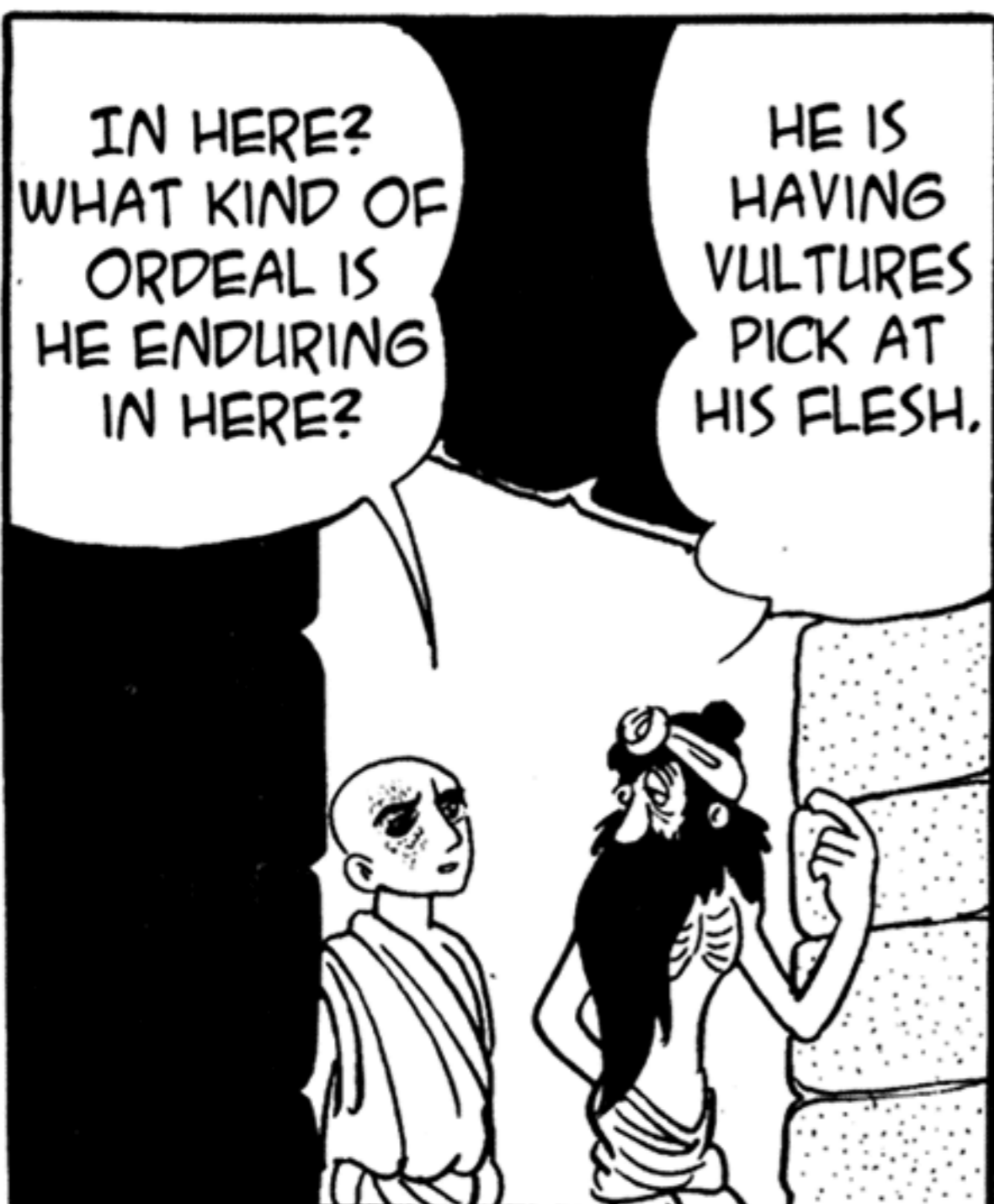
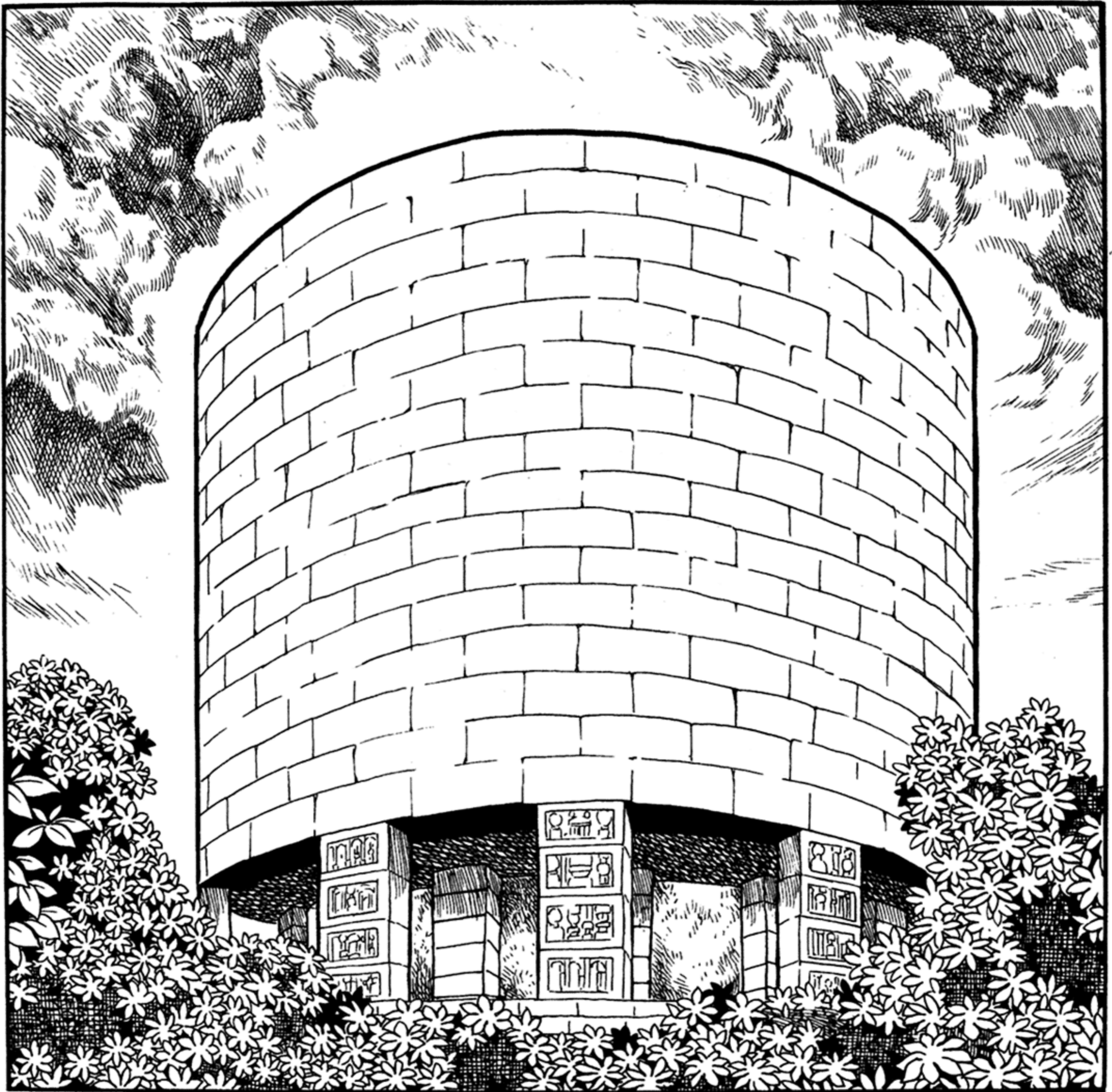
IN THAT
COUNTRY LIVES AN
ASCETIC NAMED
BHAGAVA. I'M
QUITE ANXIOUS TO
MEET HIM...

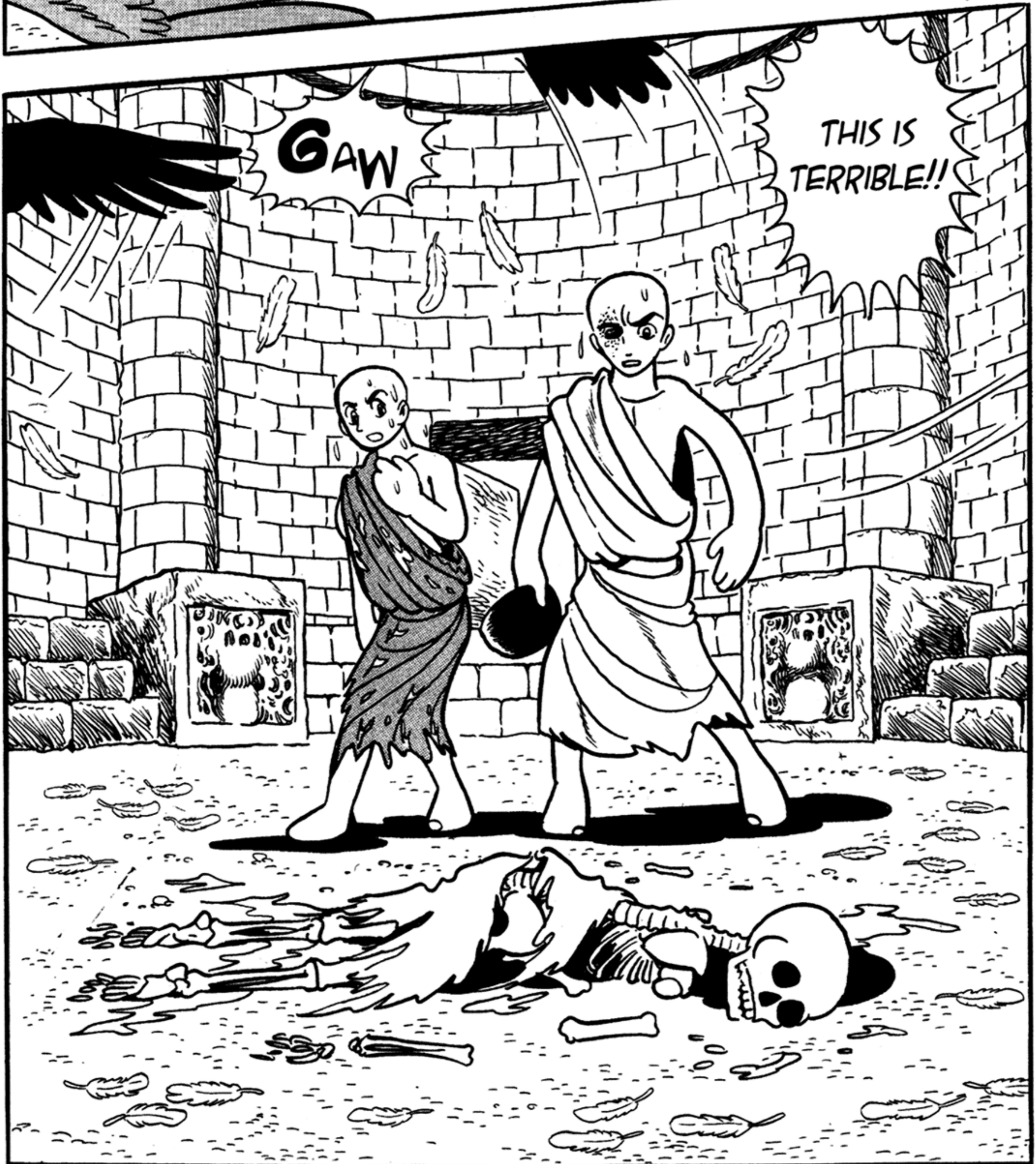
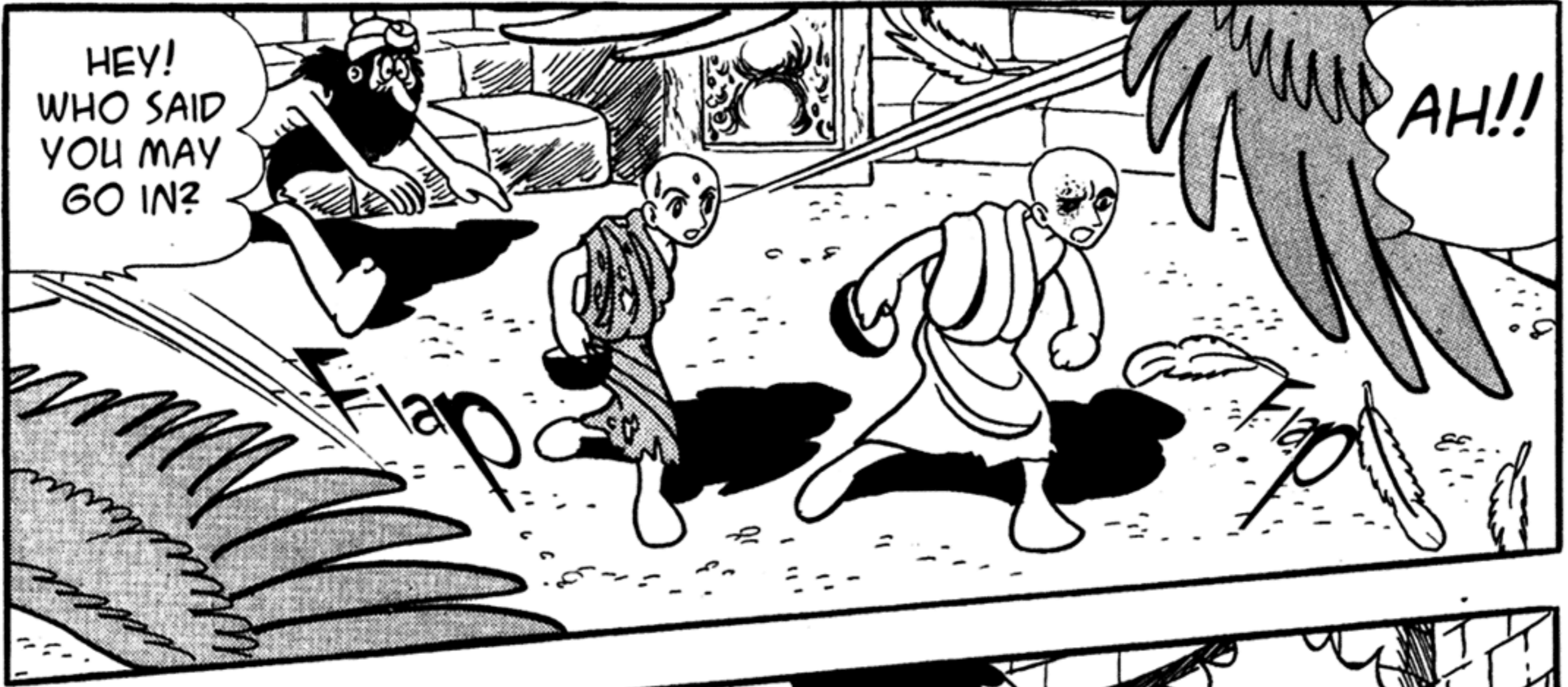


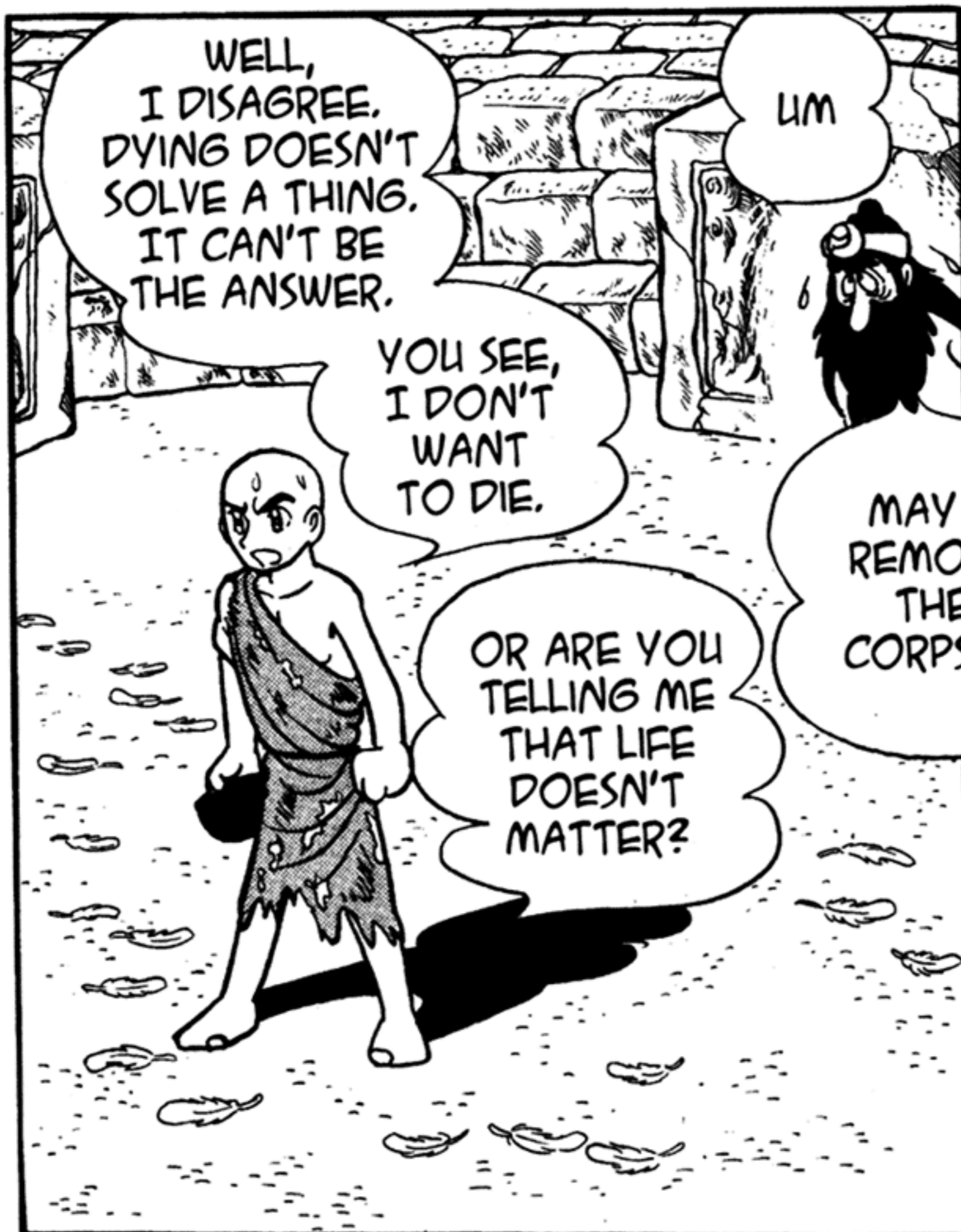
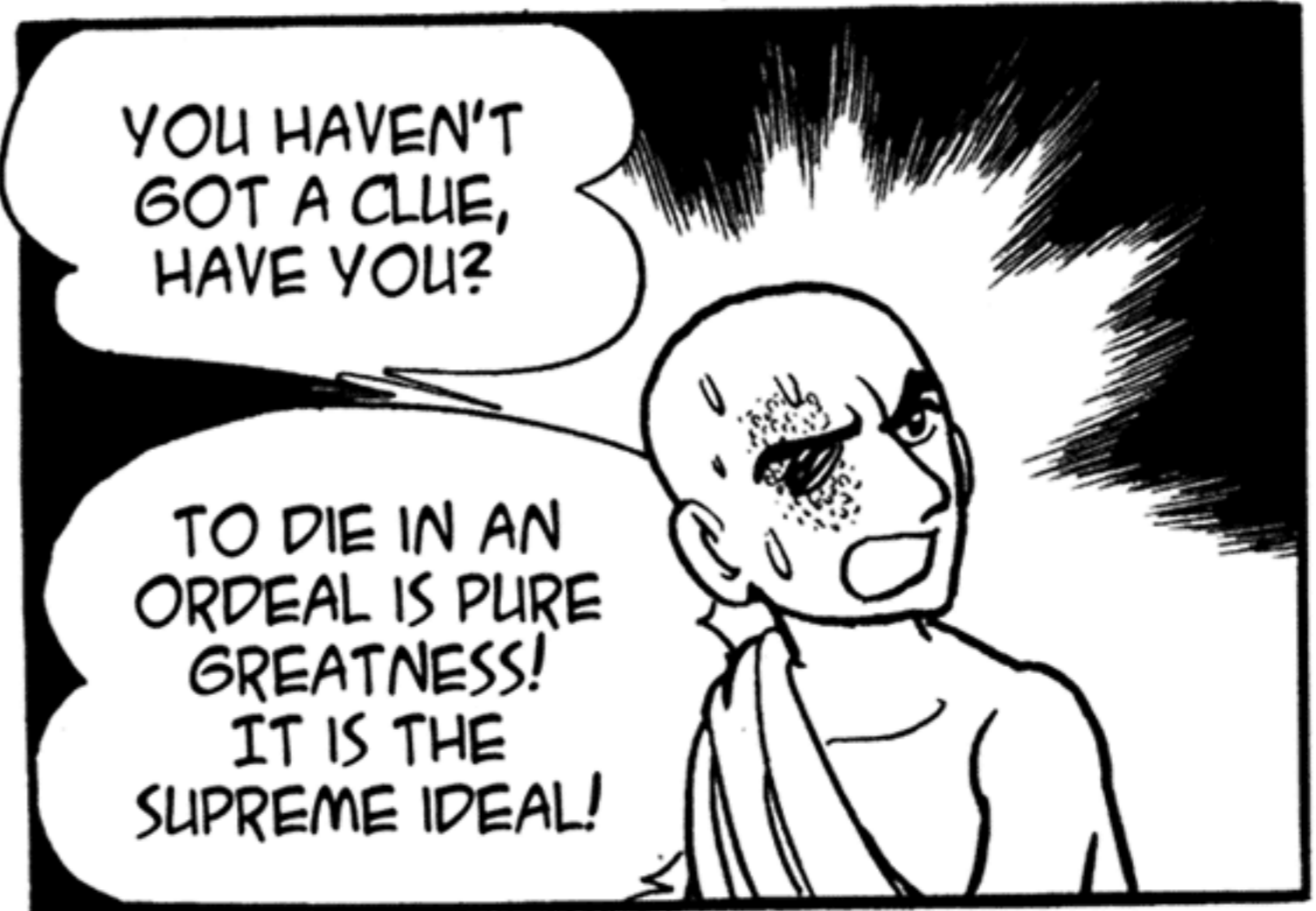
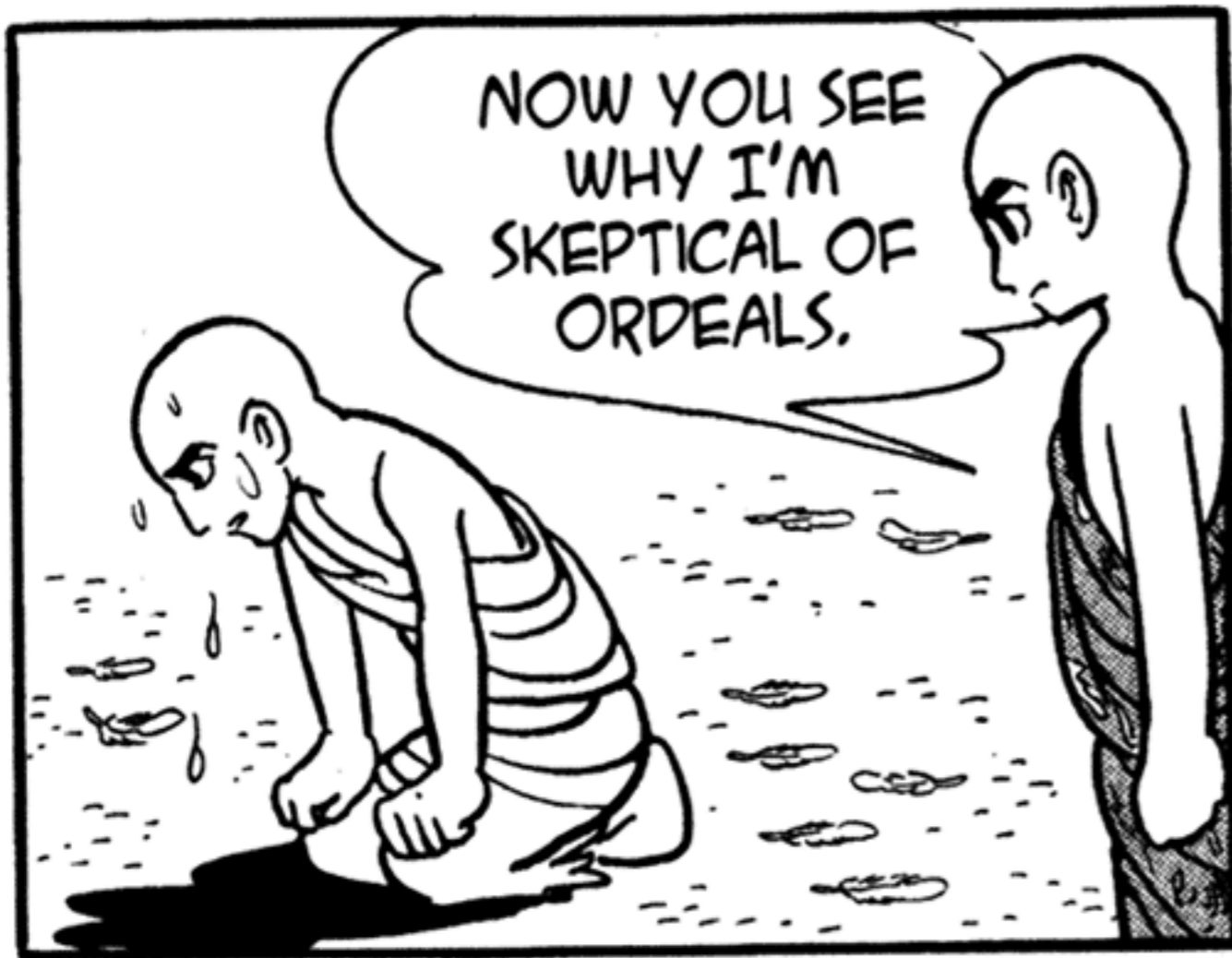
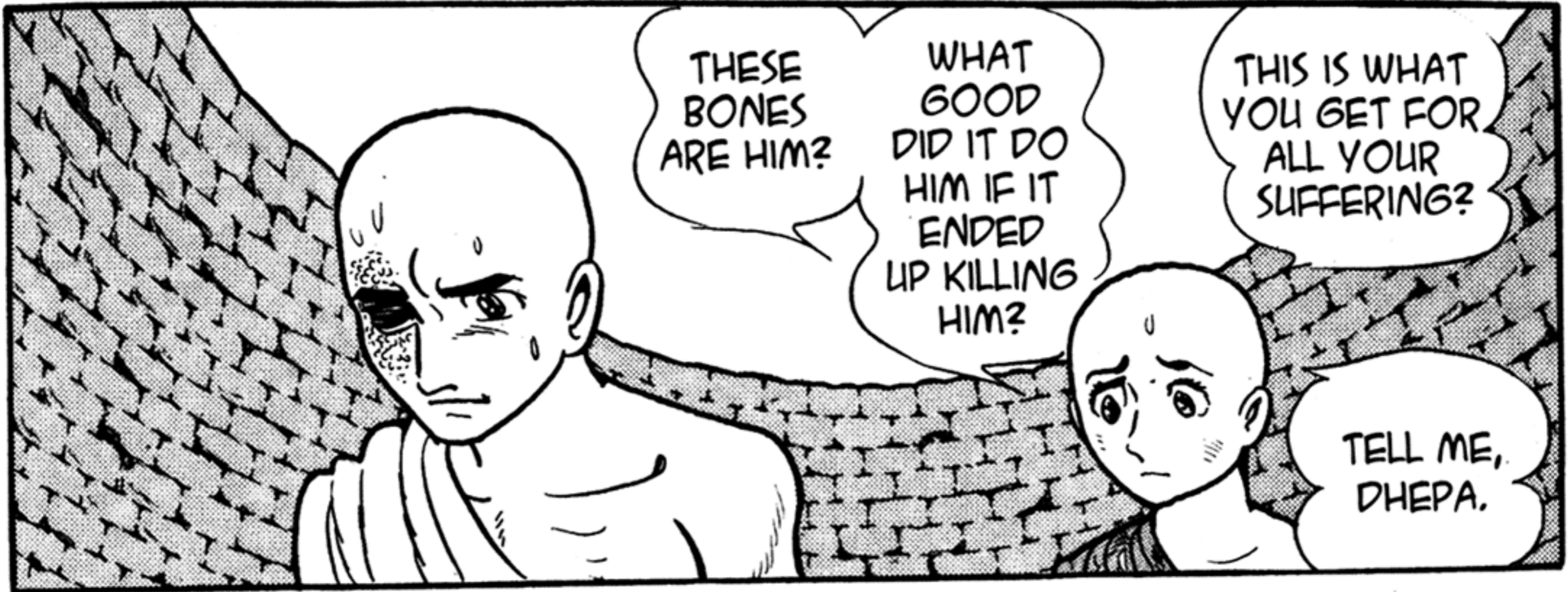
DO YOU KNOW
WHERE I MAY
FIND THE HERMIT
BHAGAVA?

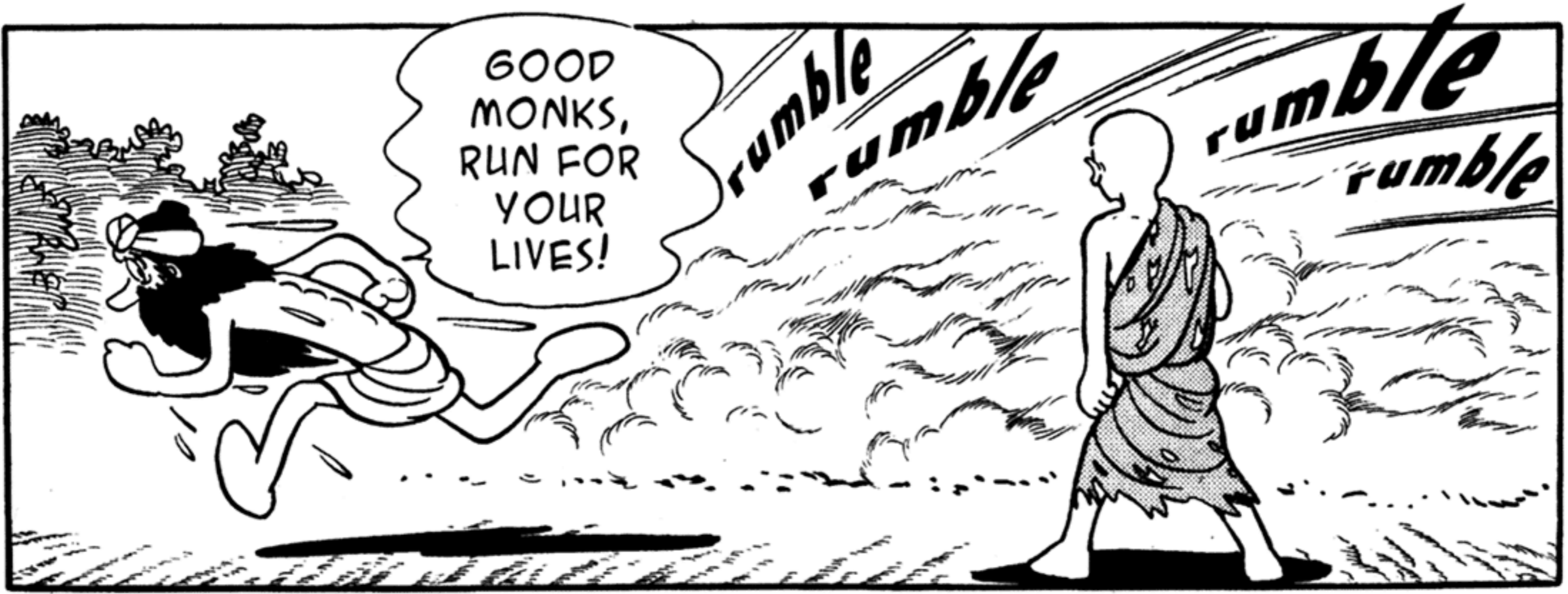
THE HERMIT
BHAGAVA? OH,
YOU MEAN
THE FAMOUS
MONK.

I BELIEVE
HE'S IN THE
MIDDLE OF
AN ORDEAL.



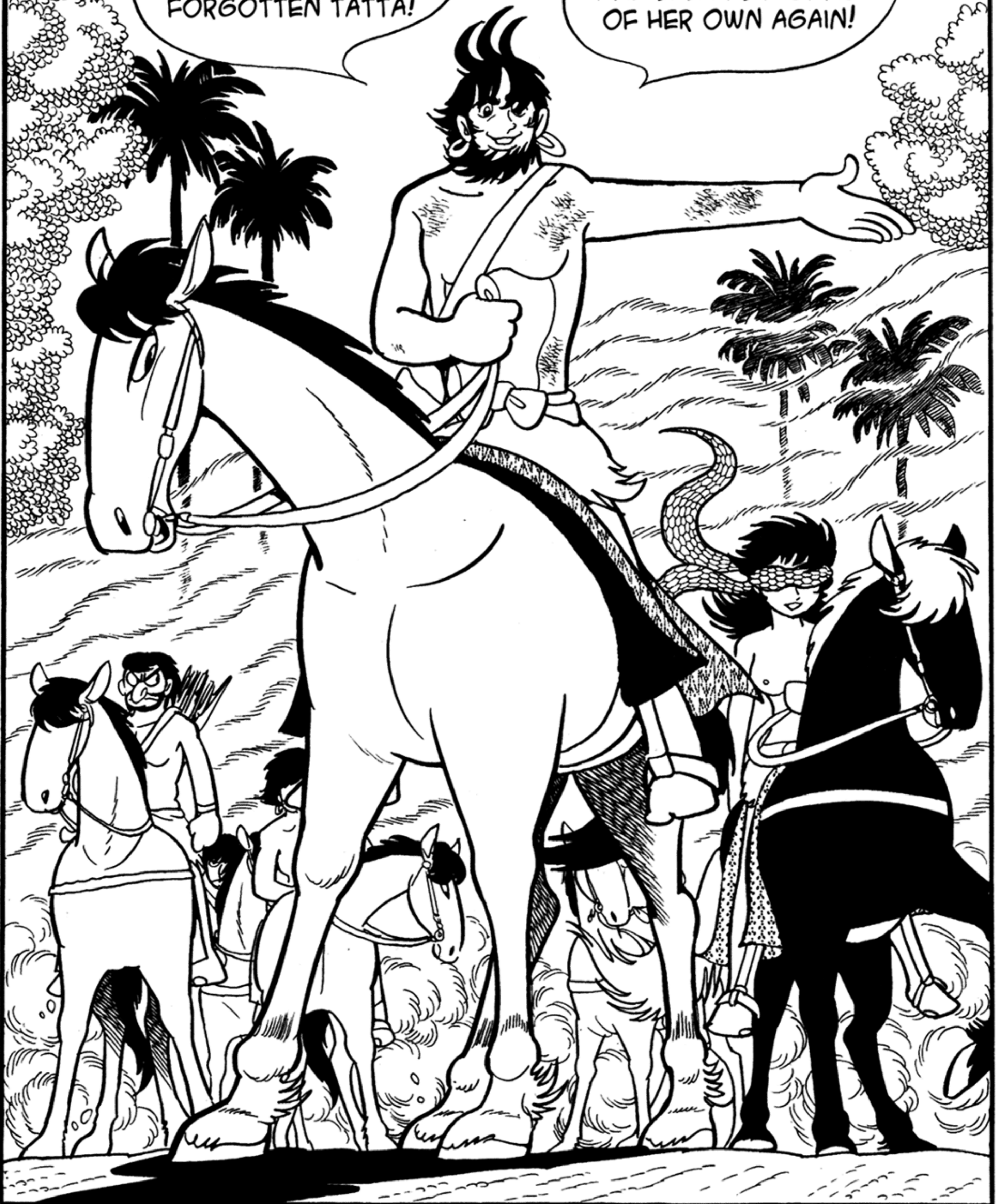


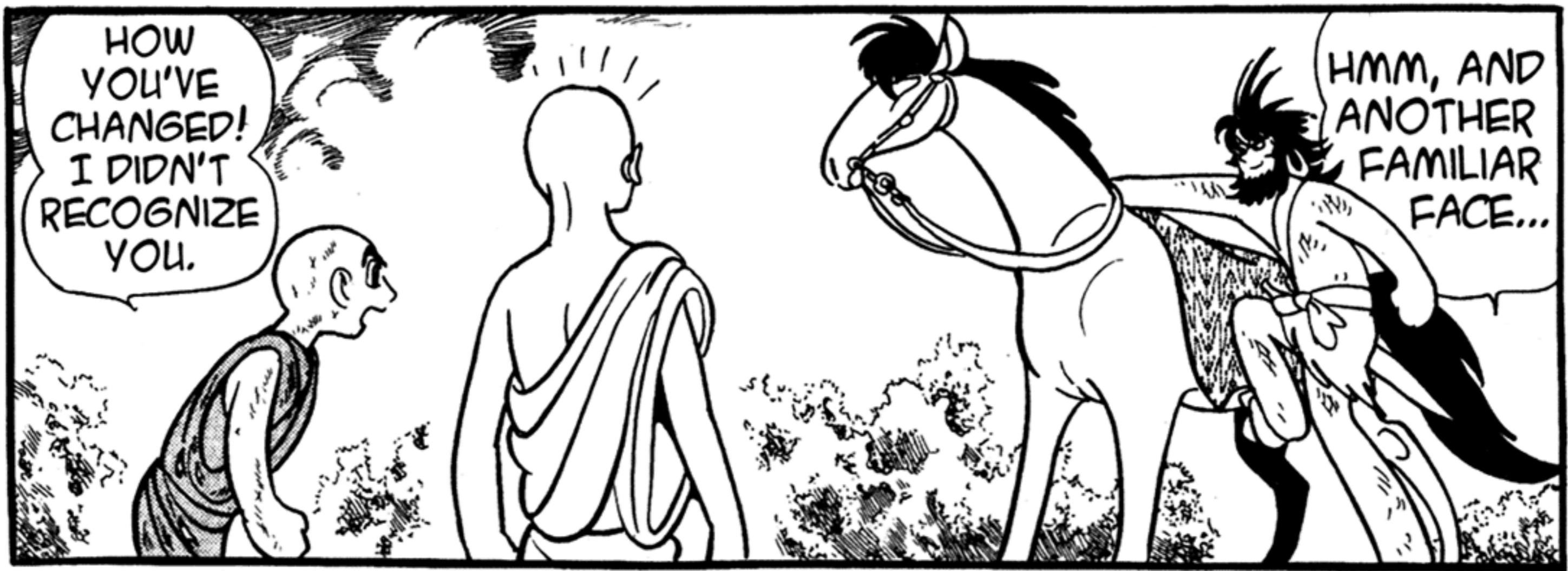




REMEMBER ME?
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO,
WE WENT A-BOATING
FROM YOUR KAPILAVASTU
ALL THE WAY TO THE
BORDER OF MAGADHA.
DON'T SAY YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN TATTA!

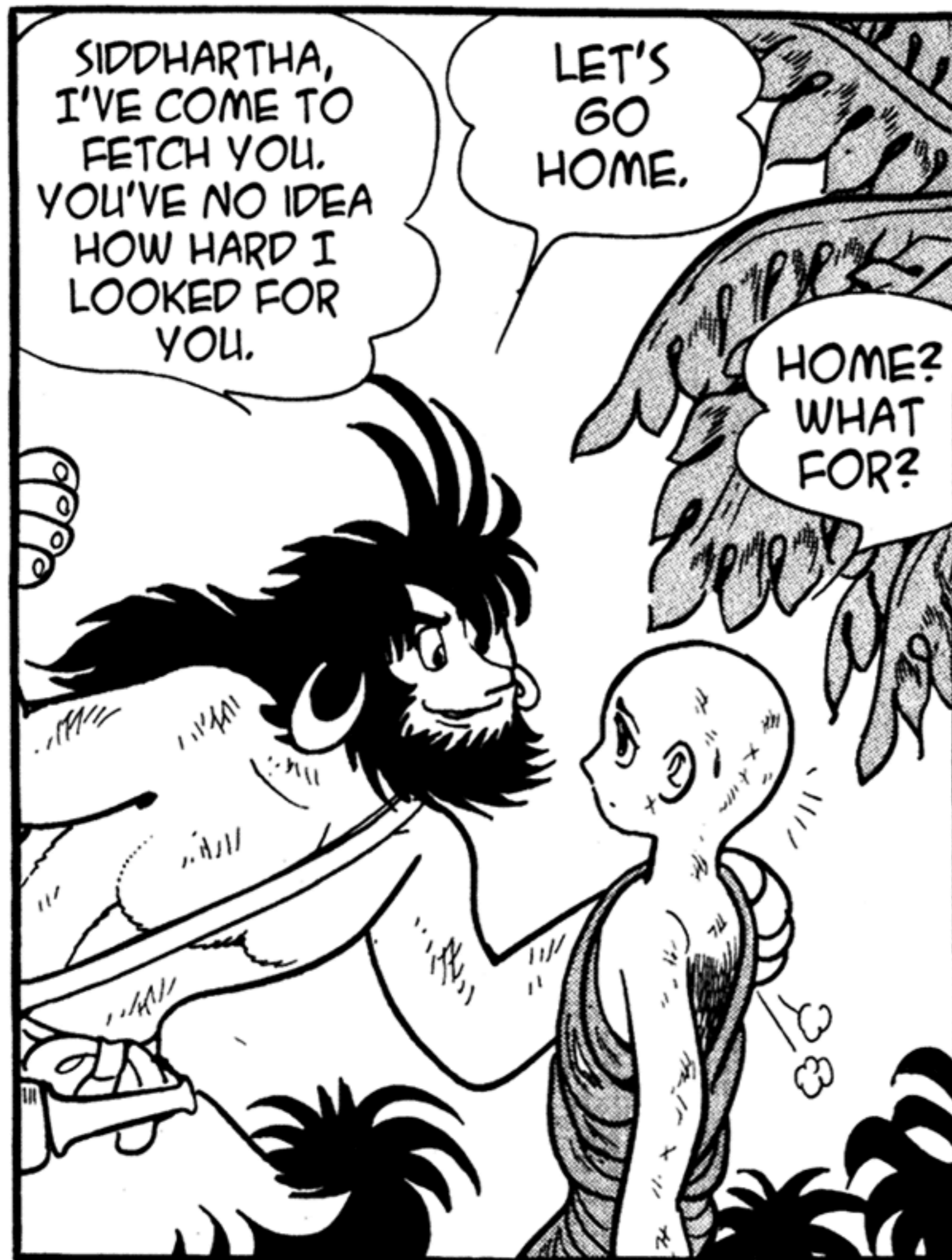
AND HERE'S THE
WENCH WHO HAD SUCH
A CRUSH ON YOU
BACK THEN. MIGAILA'S
MY WIFE NOW,
AND SHE HAS A GANG
OF HER OWN AGAIN!





HOW YOU'VE CHANGED! I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.

HMM, AND ANOTHER FAMILIAR FACE...



SIDDHARTHA, I'VE COME TO FETCH YOU. YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW HARD I LOOKED FOR YOU.

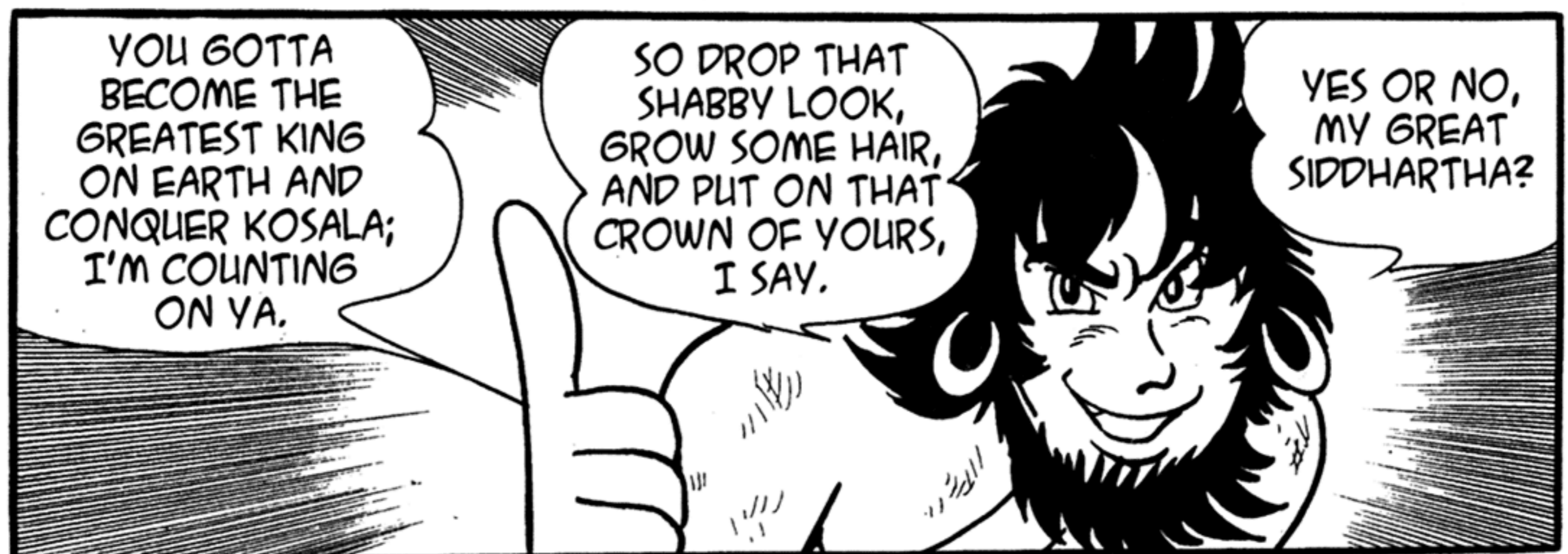
LET'S GO HOME.

HOME? WHAT FOR?



DON'T BE DIM, EH?

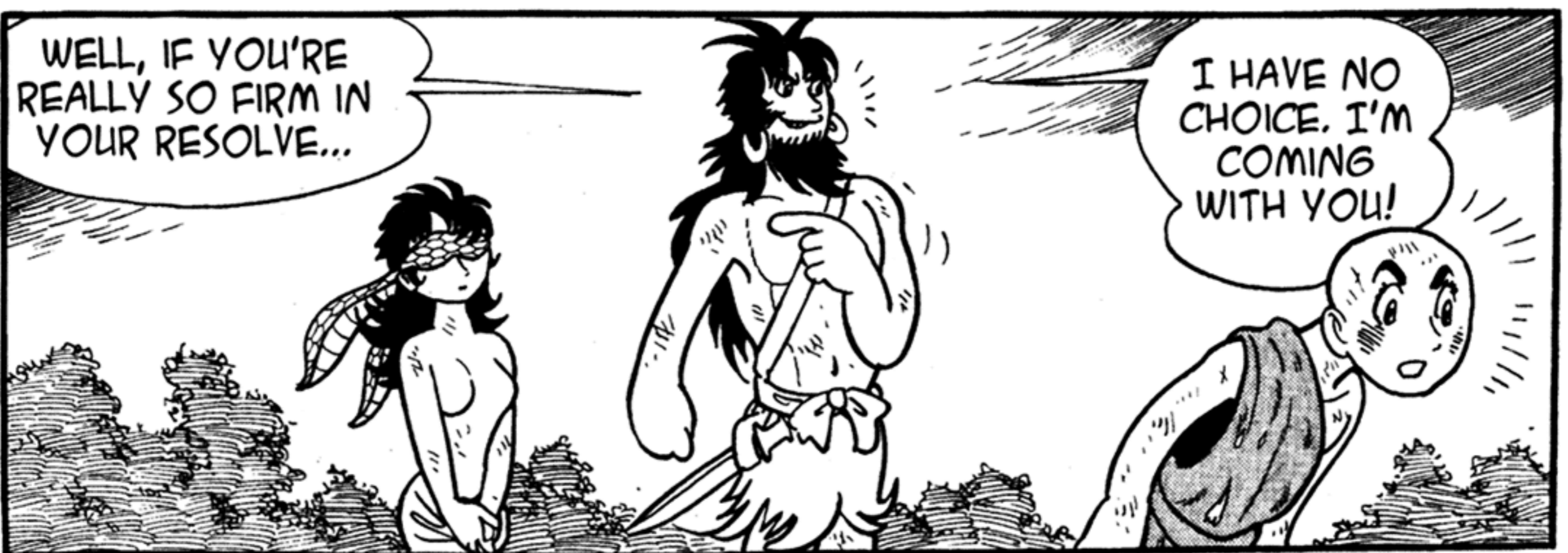
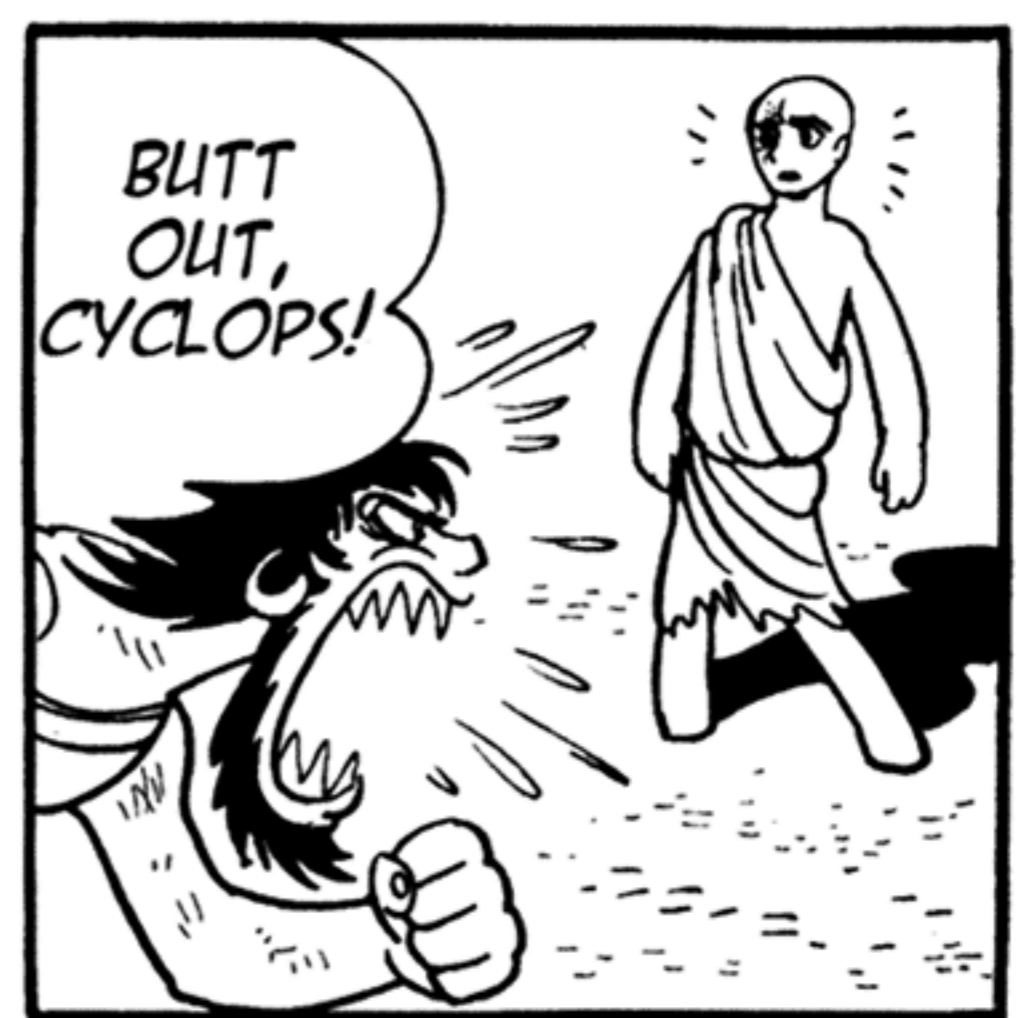
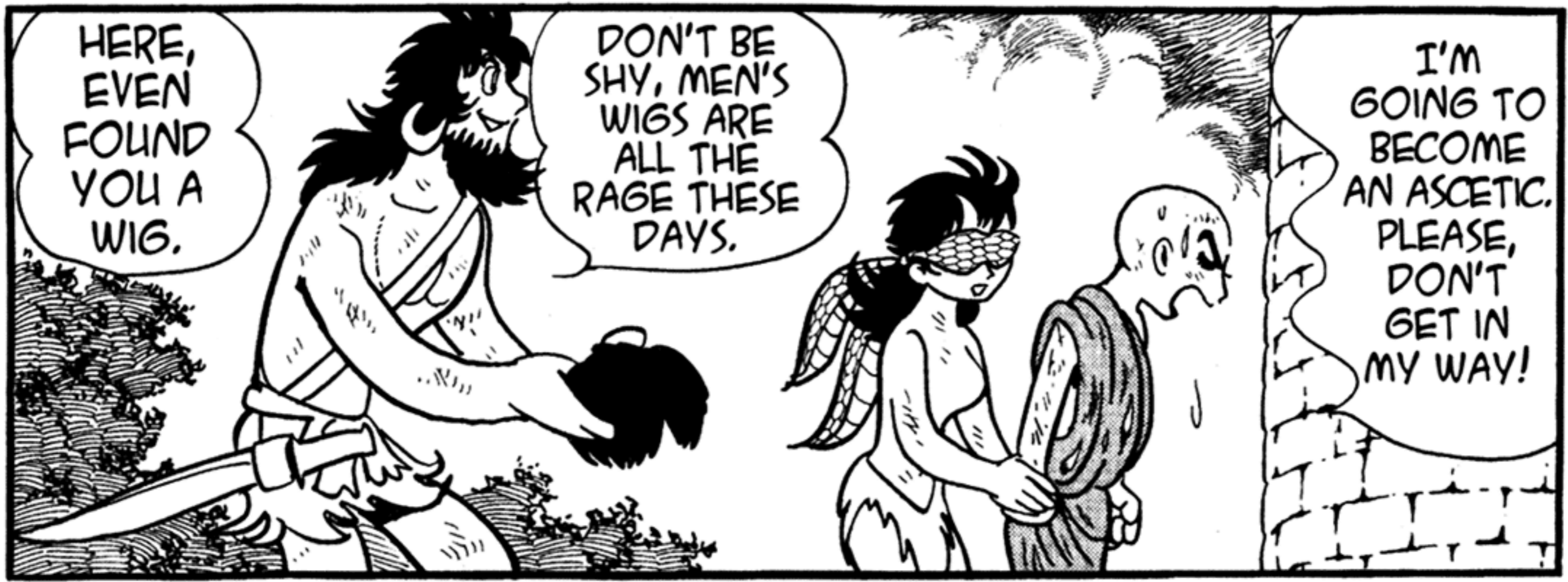
LOOK AT YOU, REALLY GONE AND TURNED MONK. THAT'S ONE SORRY-LOOKING NOGGIN.

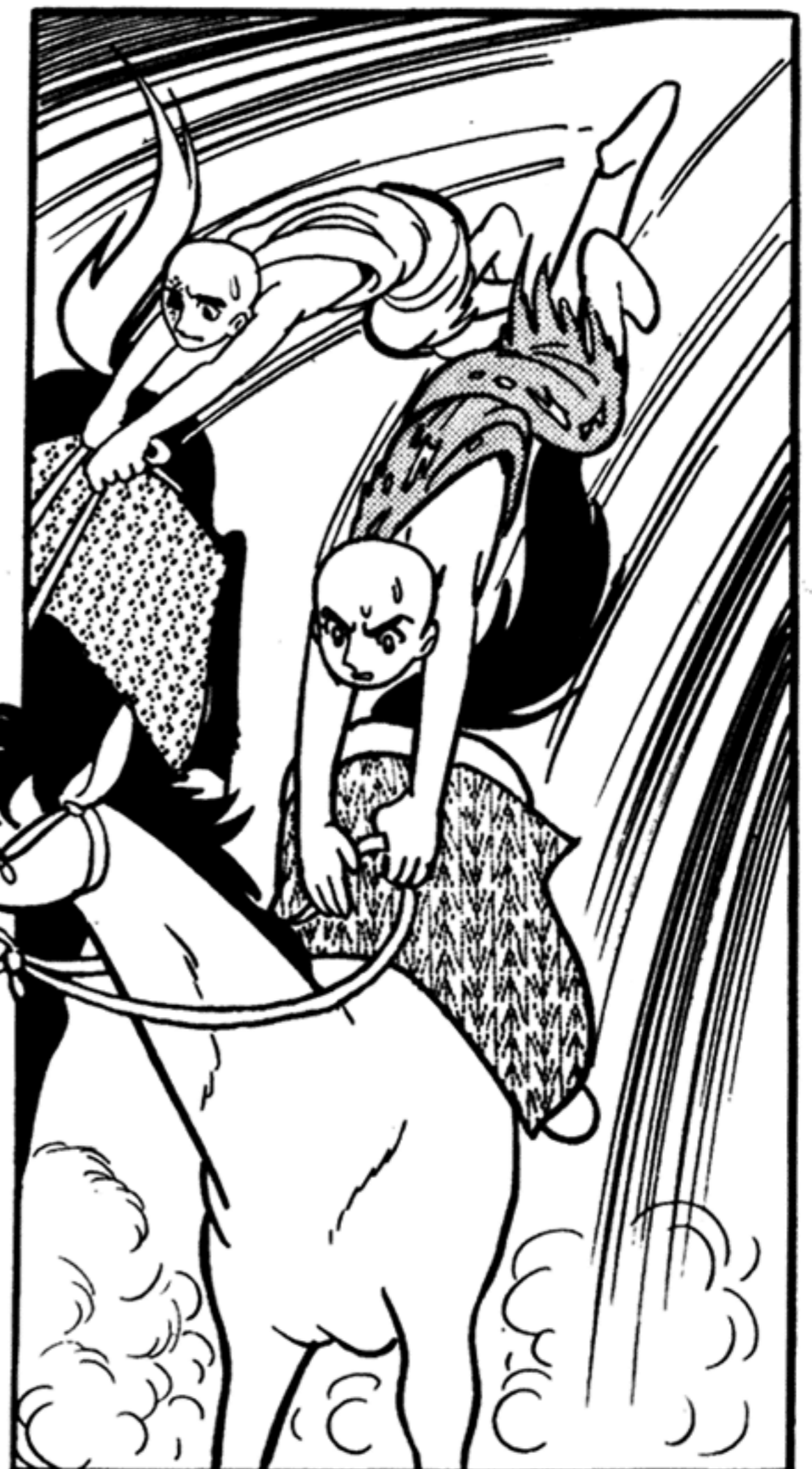
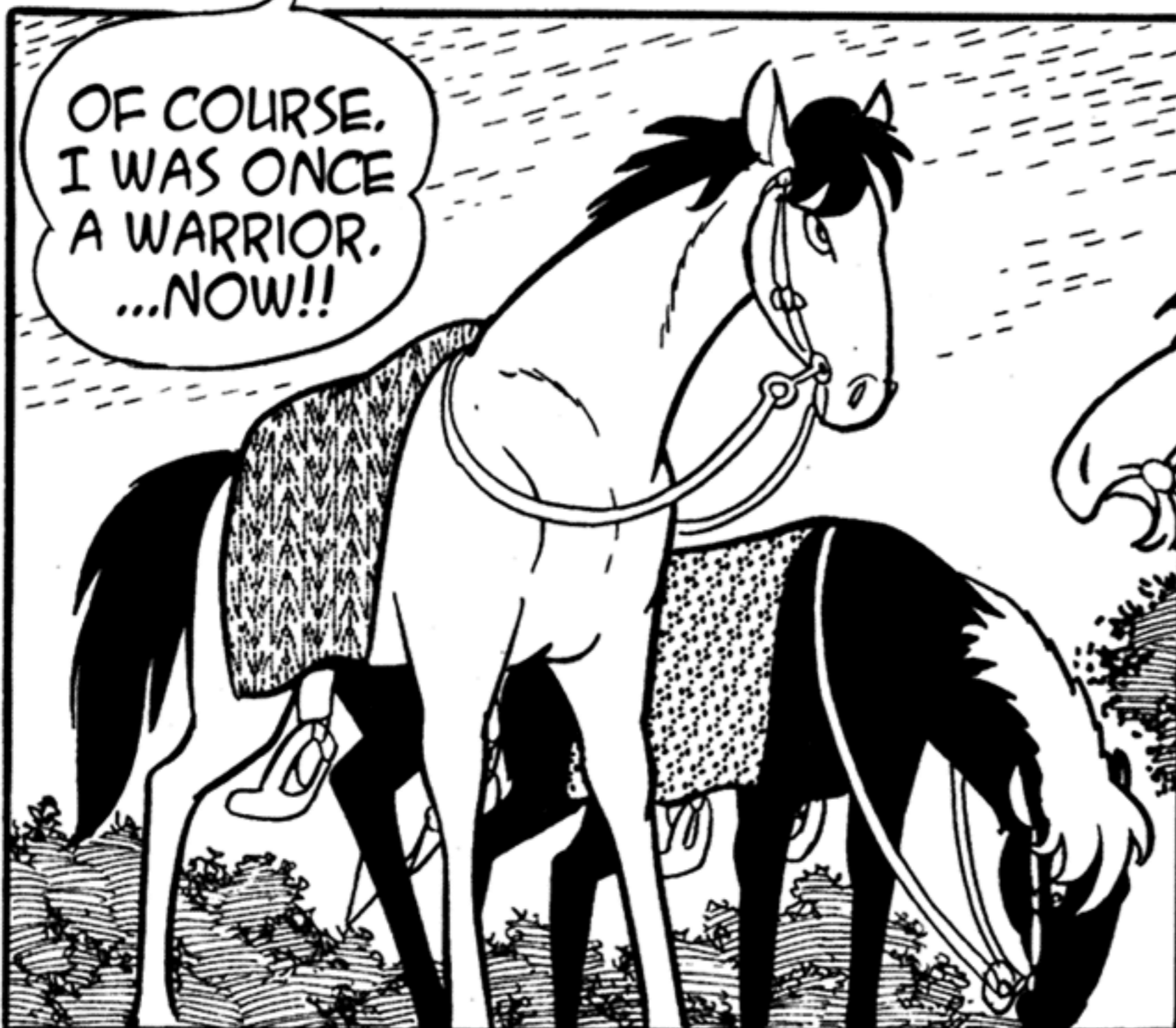
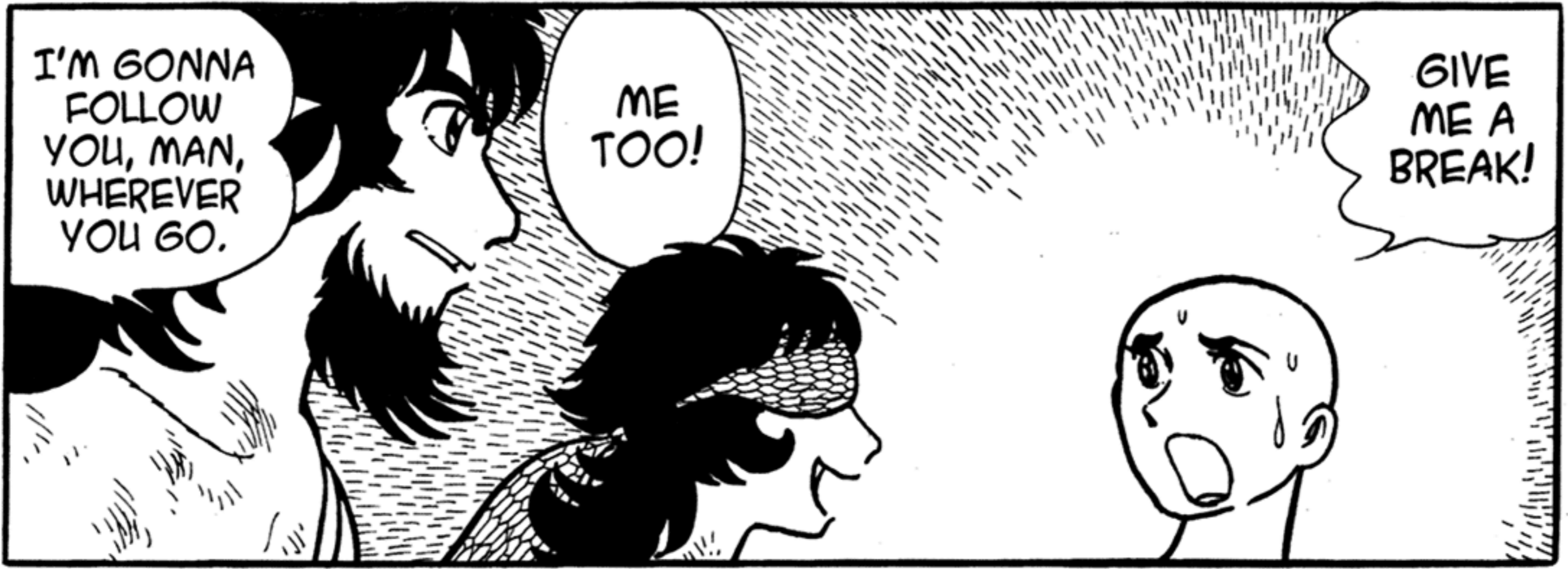


YOU GOTTA BECOME THE GREATEST KING ON EARTH AND CONQUER KOSALA; I'M COUNTING ON YA.

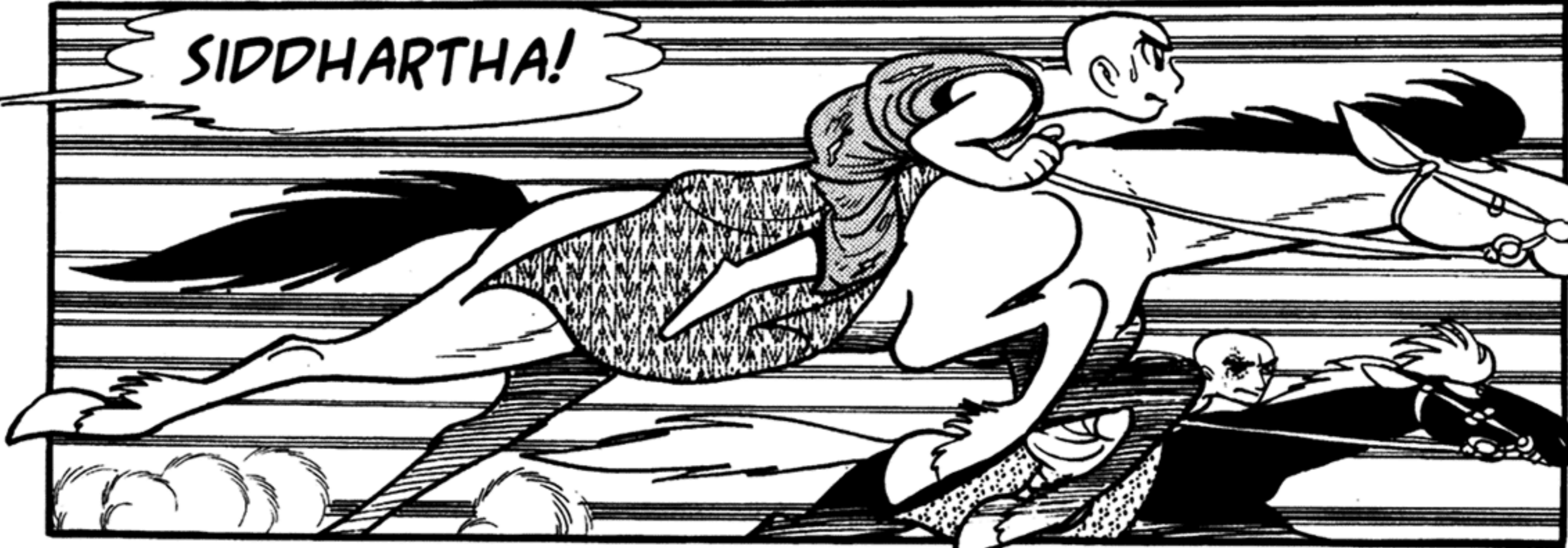
SO DROP THAT SHABBY LOOK, GROW SOME HAIR, AND PUT ON THAT CROWN OF YOURS, I SAY.

YES OR NO, MY GREAT SIDDHARTHA?

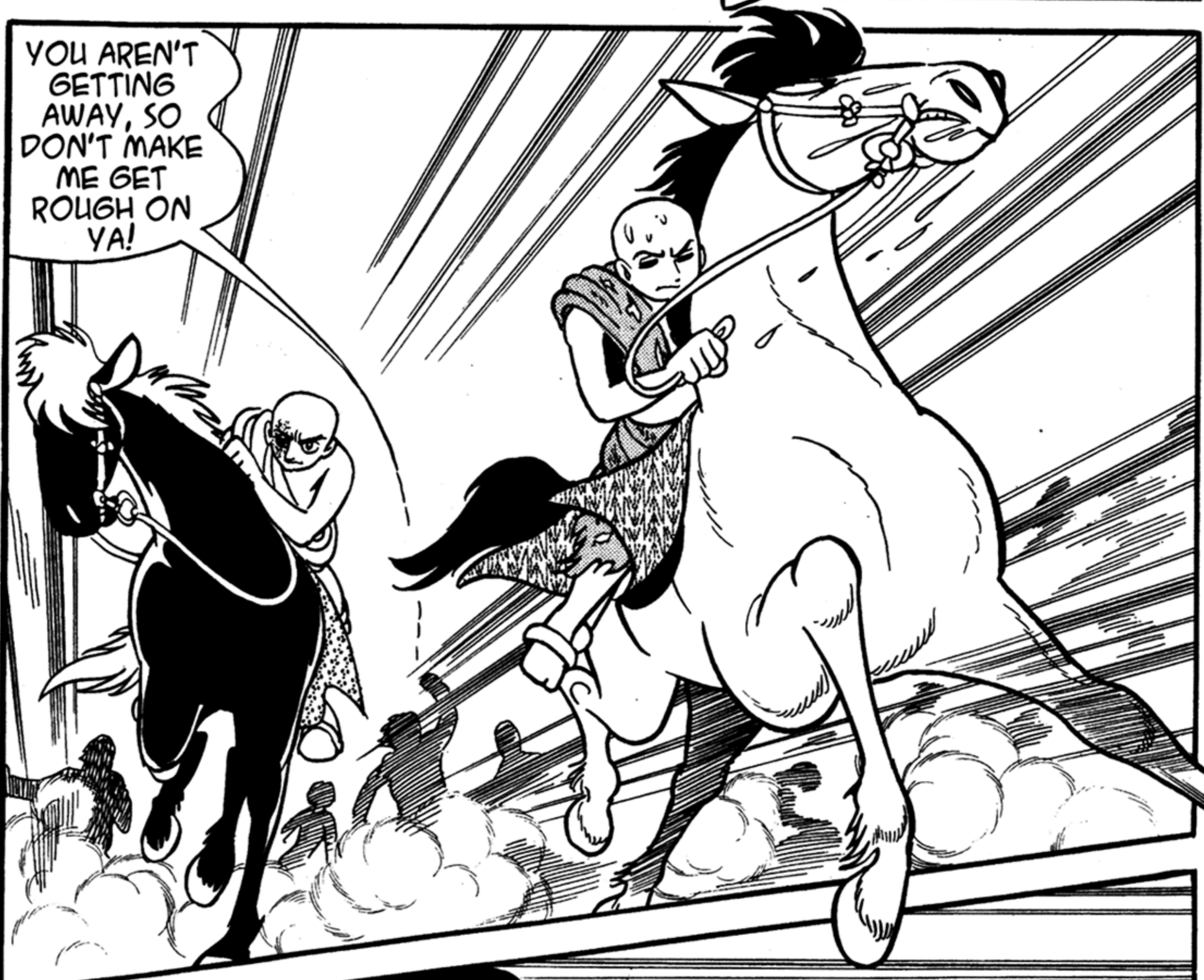




SIDDHARTHA!

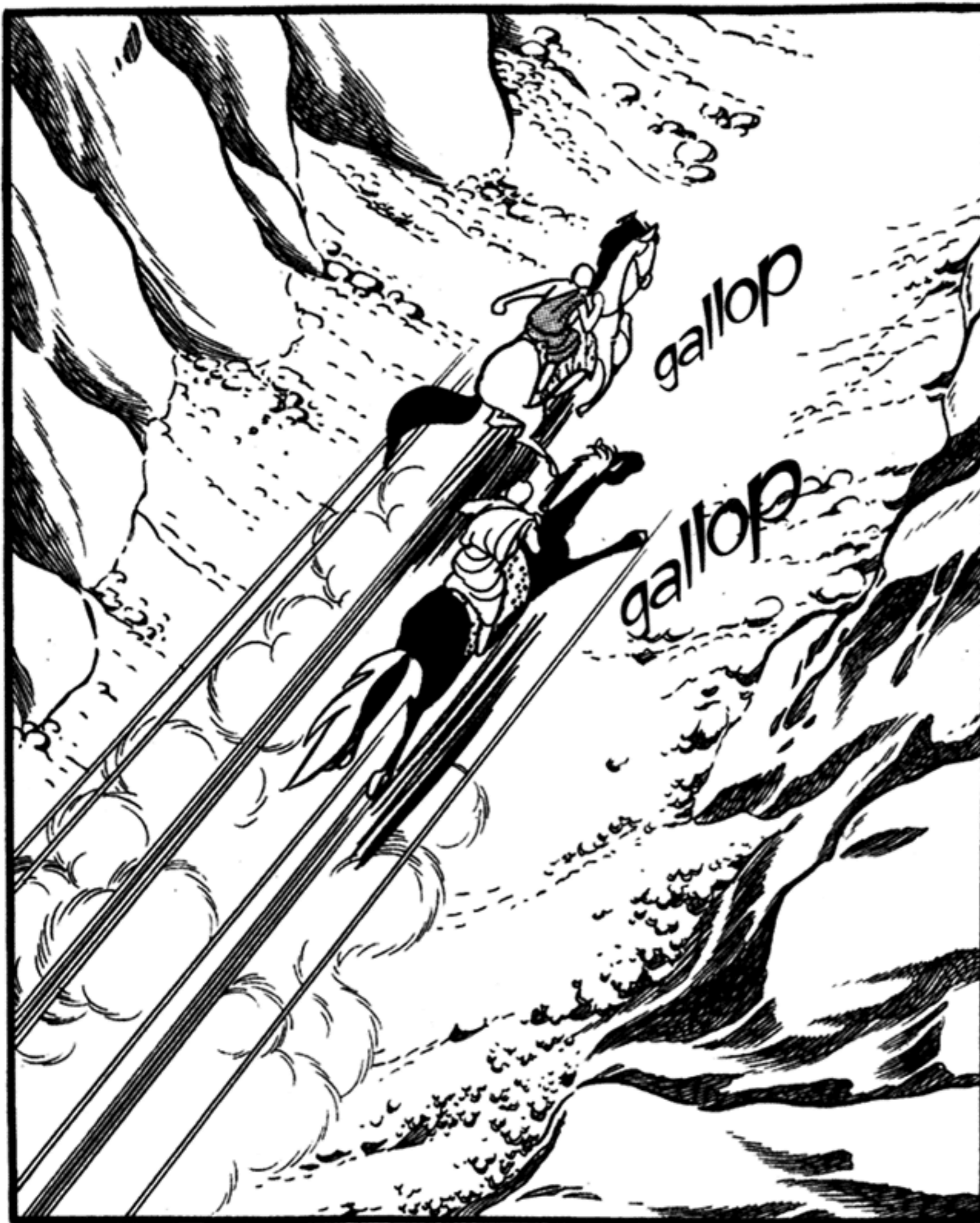
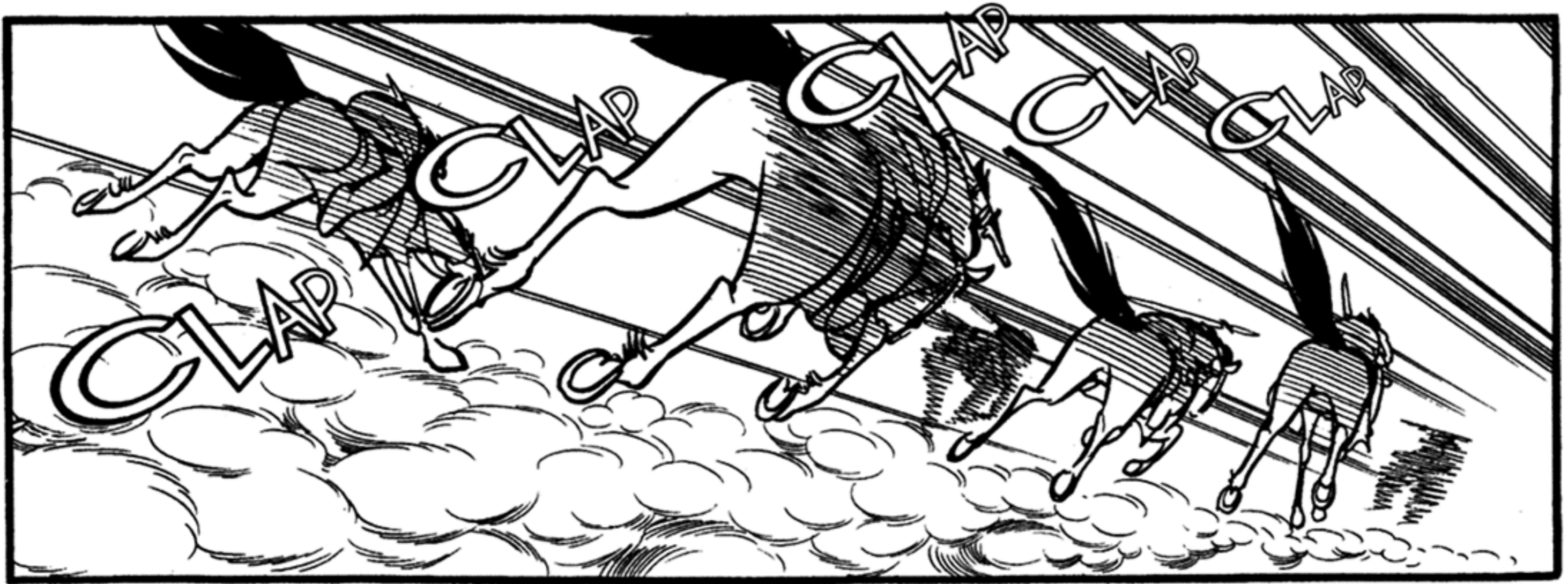


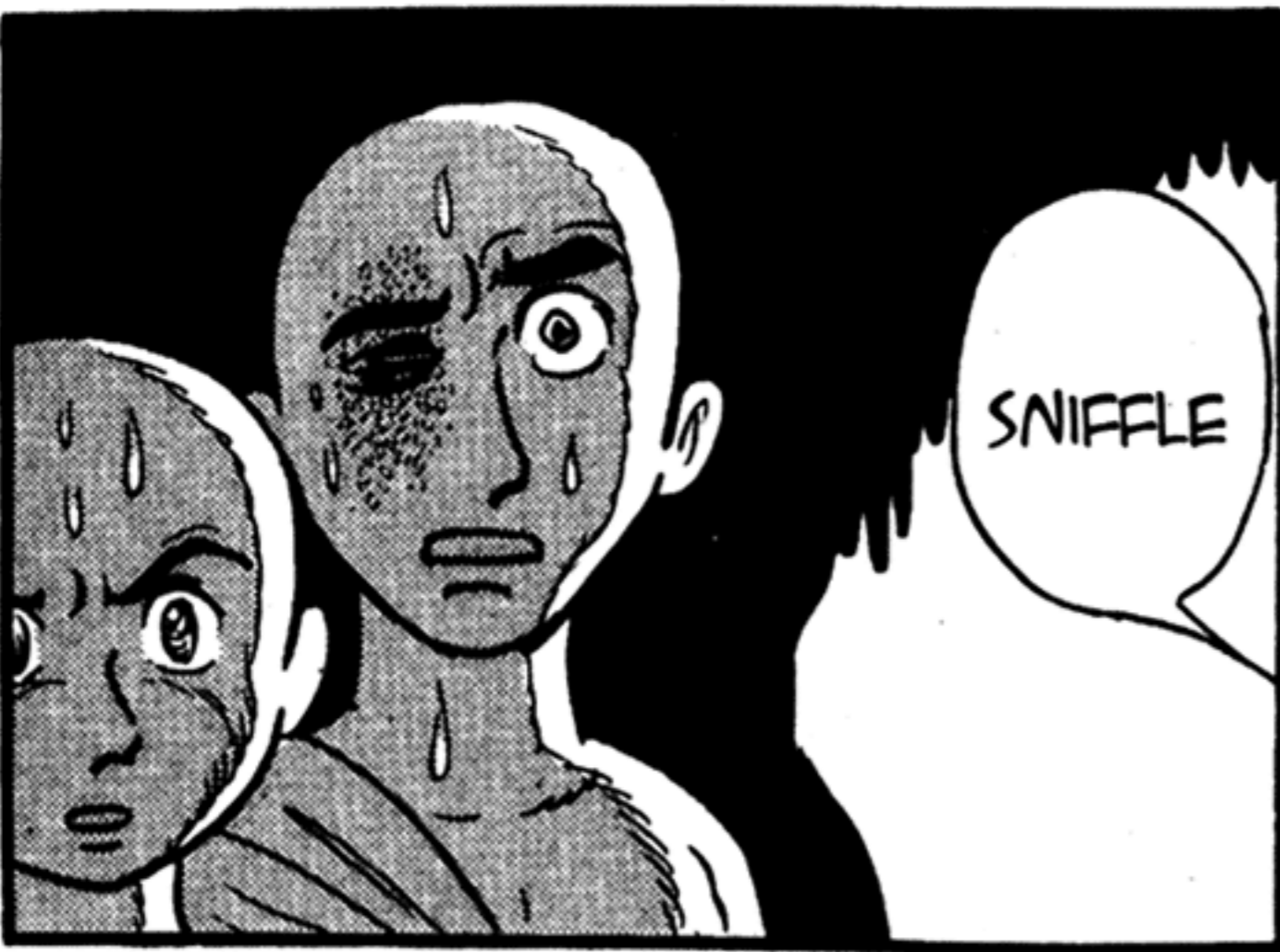
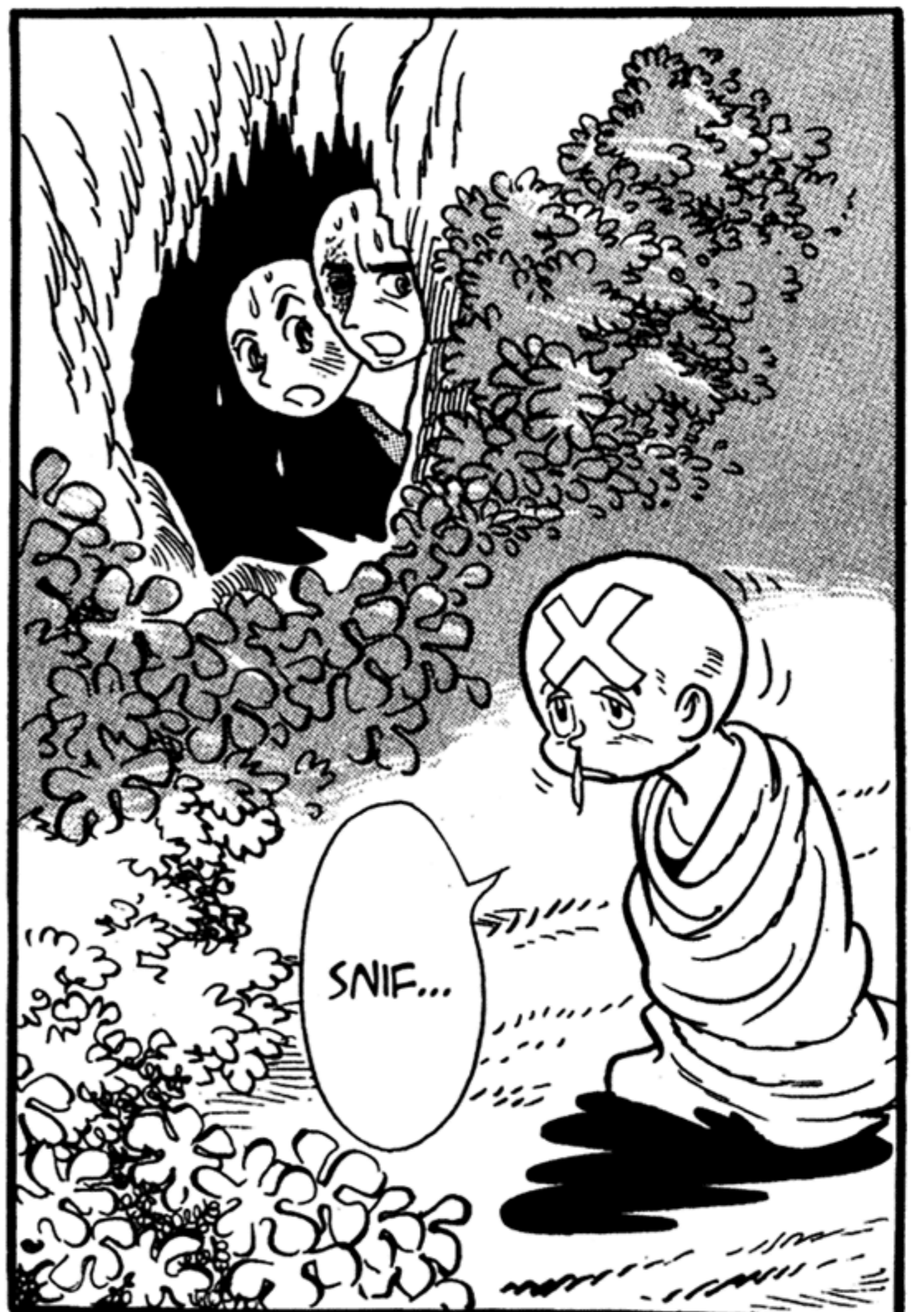
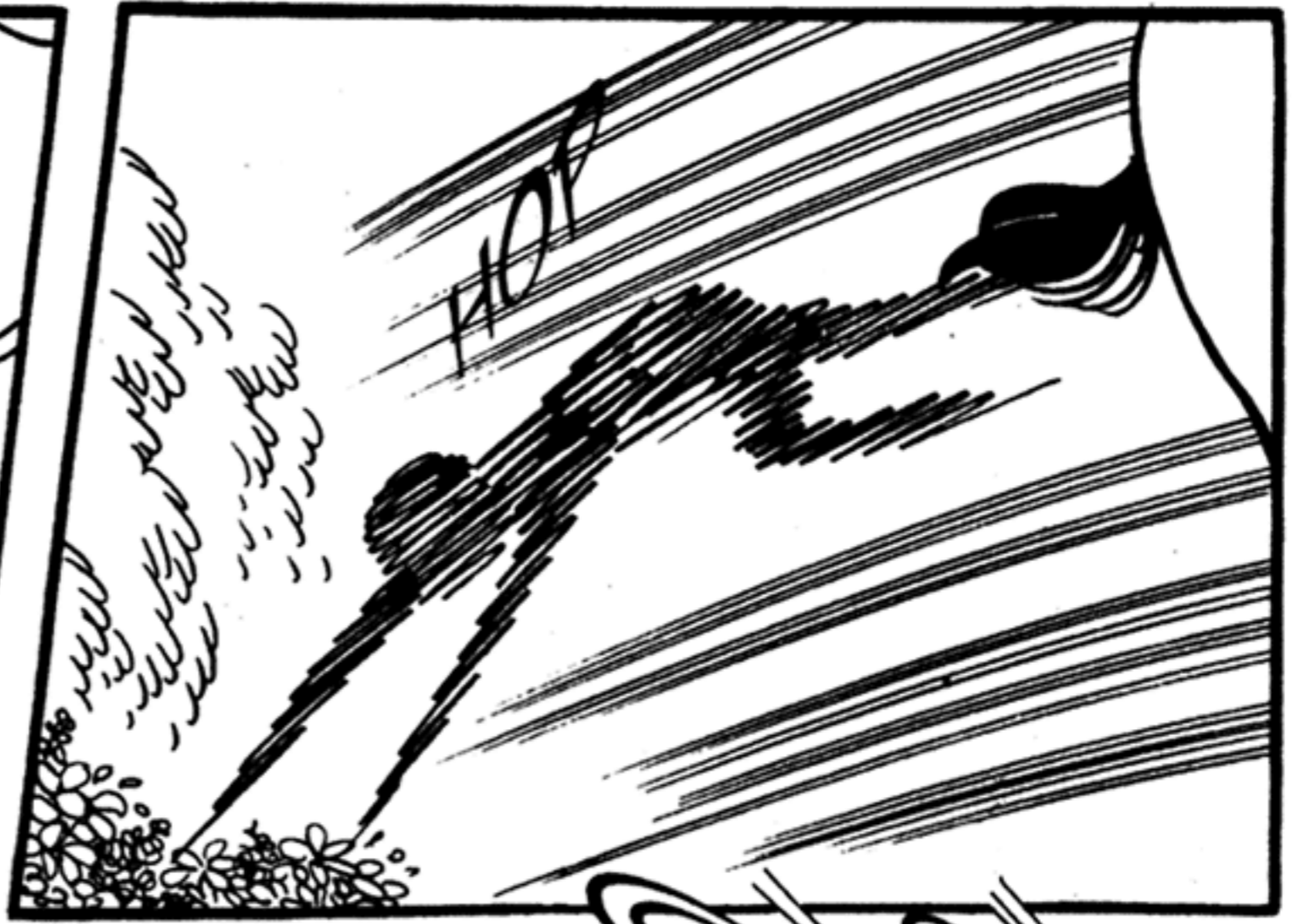
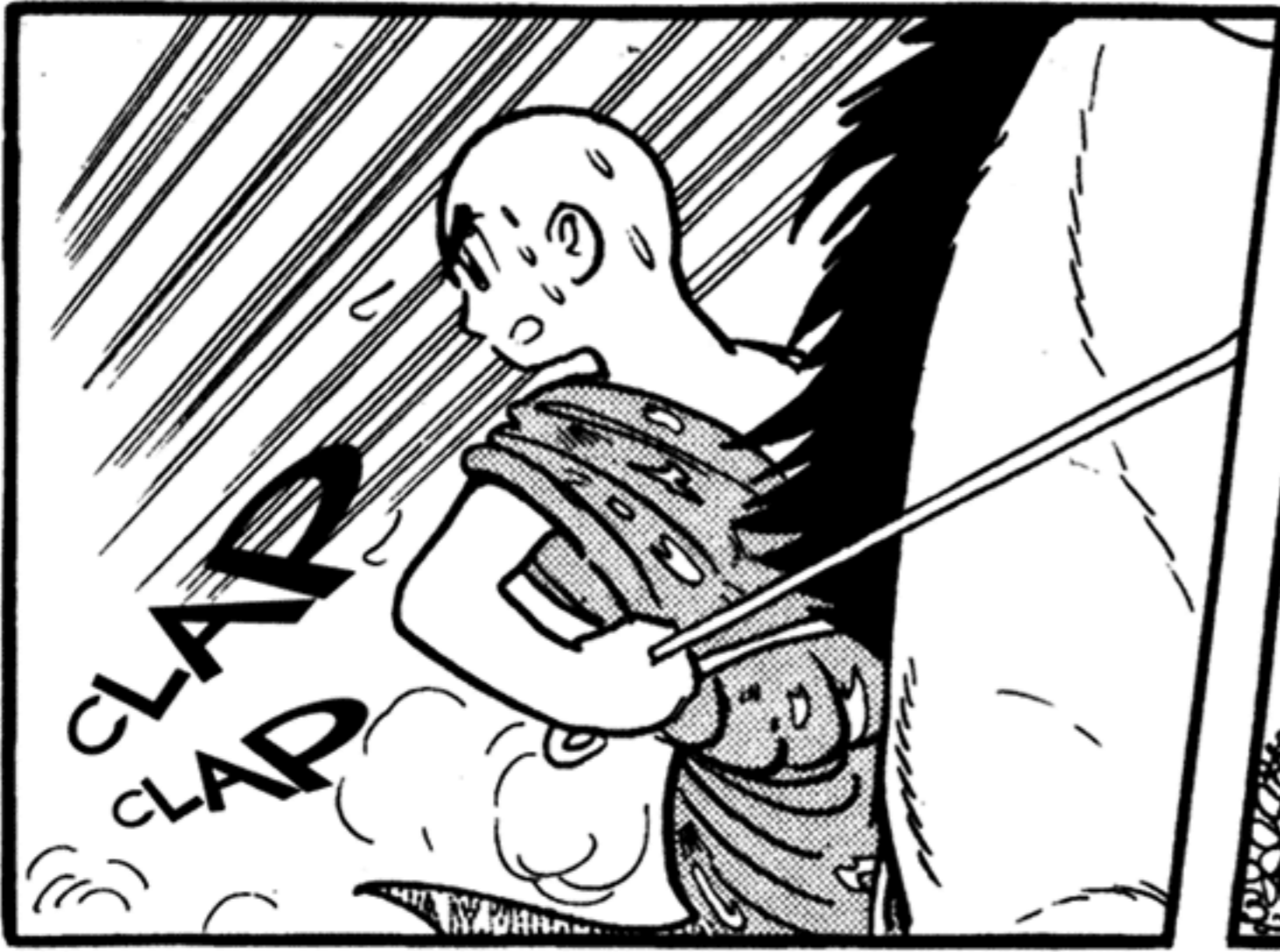
YOU AREN'T
GETTING
AWAY, SO
DON'T MAKE
ME GET
ROUGH ON
YA!



SHUCKS...
...AFTER
HIM, MEN!





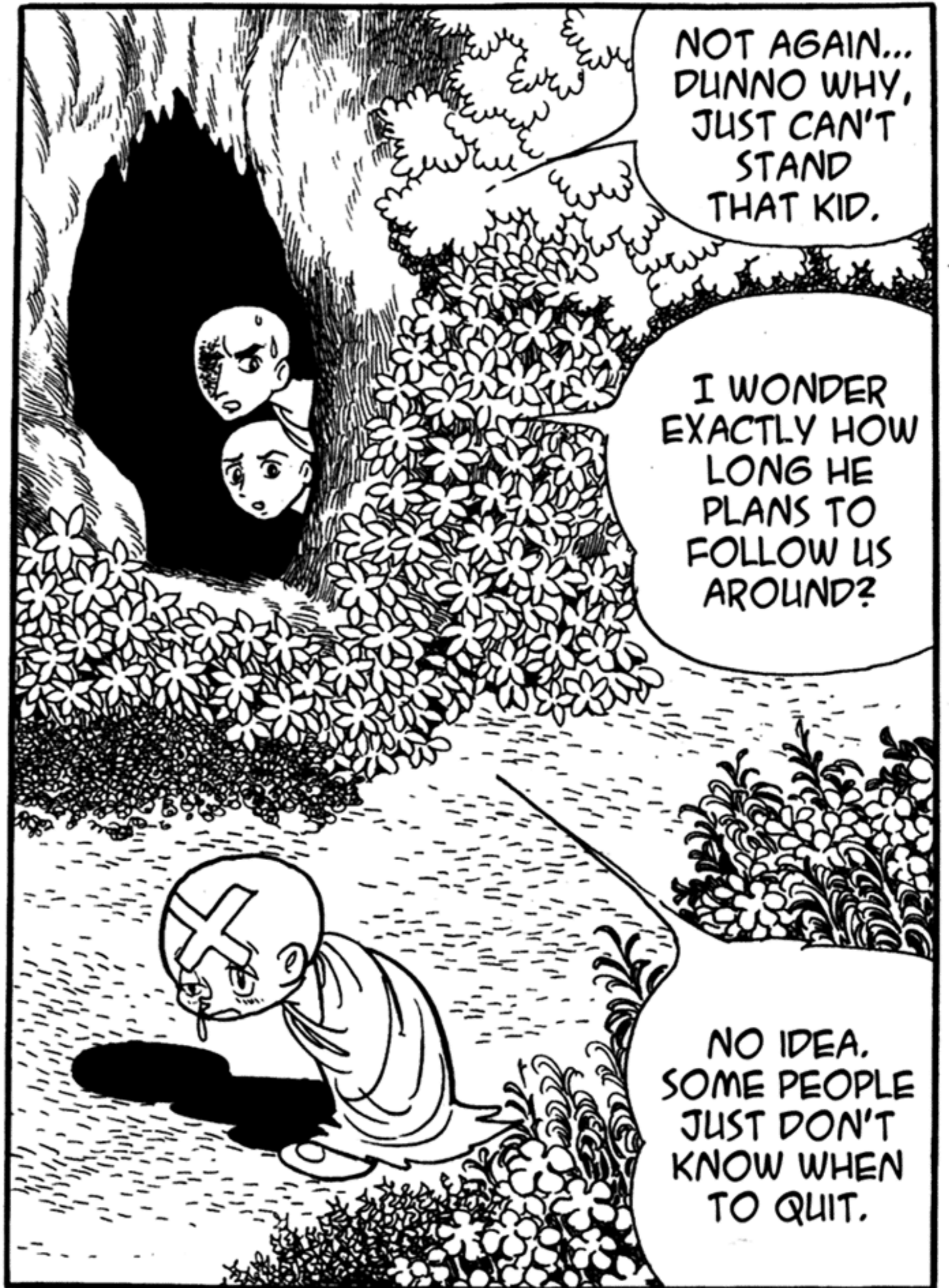




SN
SNF



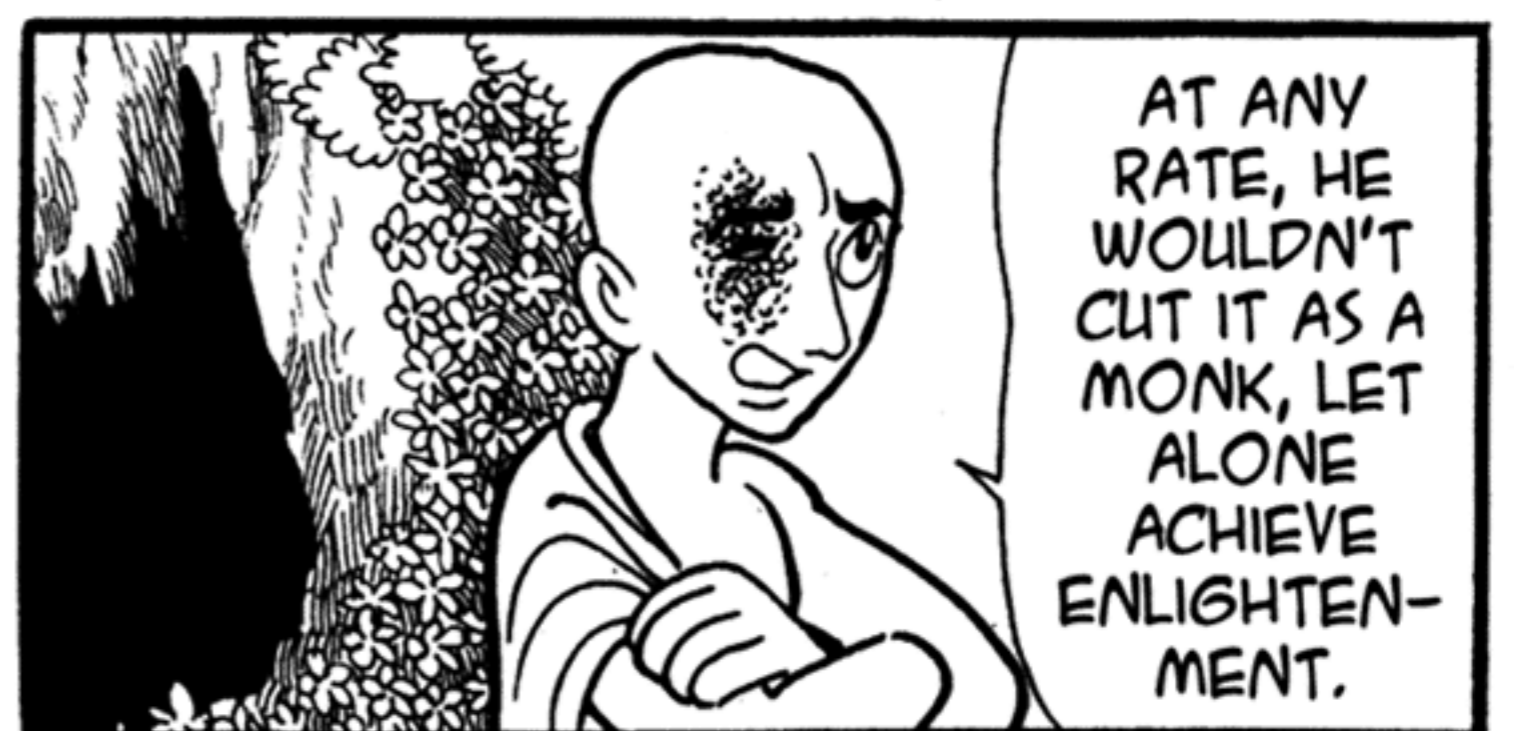
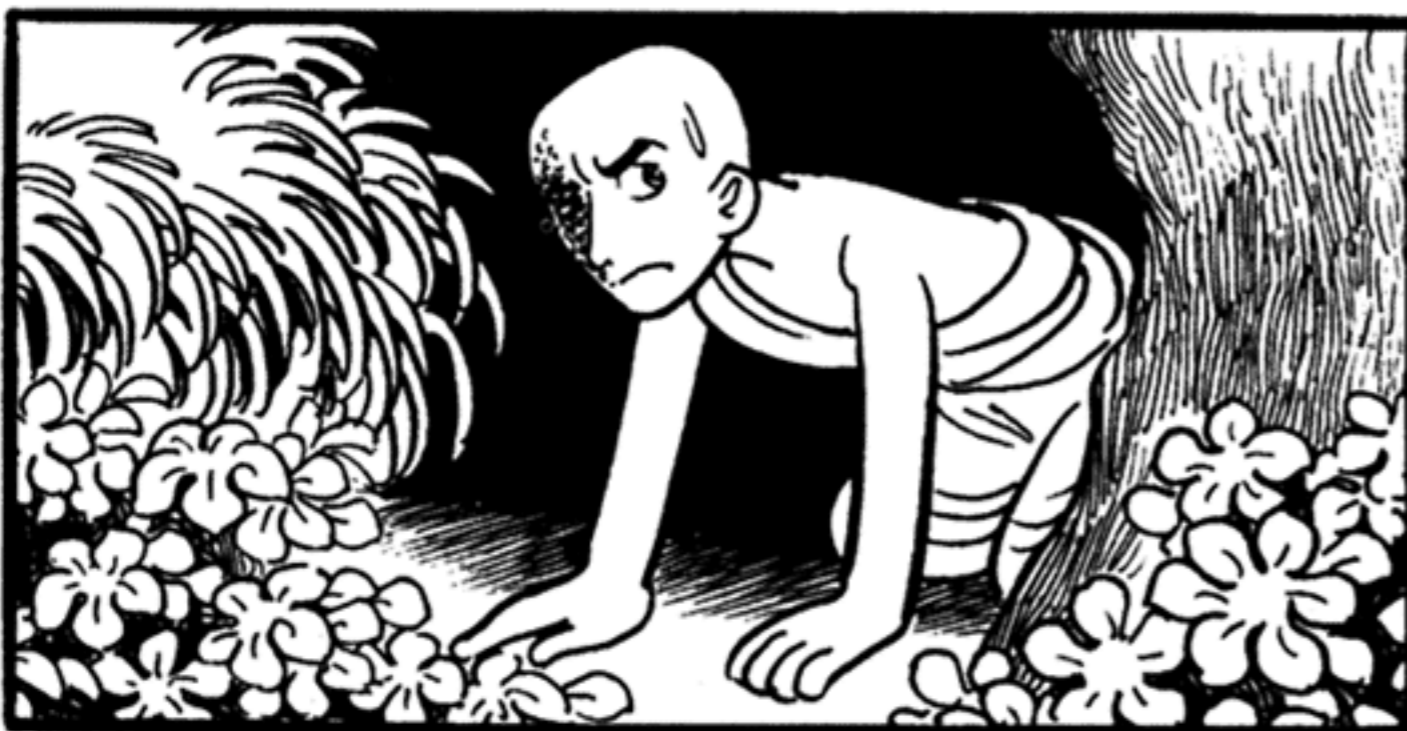
SNIF



NOT AGAIN...
DUNNO WHY,
JUST CAN'T
STAND
THAT KID.

I WONDER
EXACTLY HOW
LONG HE
PLANS TO
FOLLOW US
AROUND?

NO IDEA.
SOME PEOPLE
JUST DON'T
KNOW WHEN
TO QUIT.



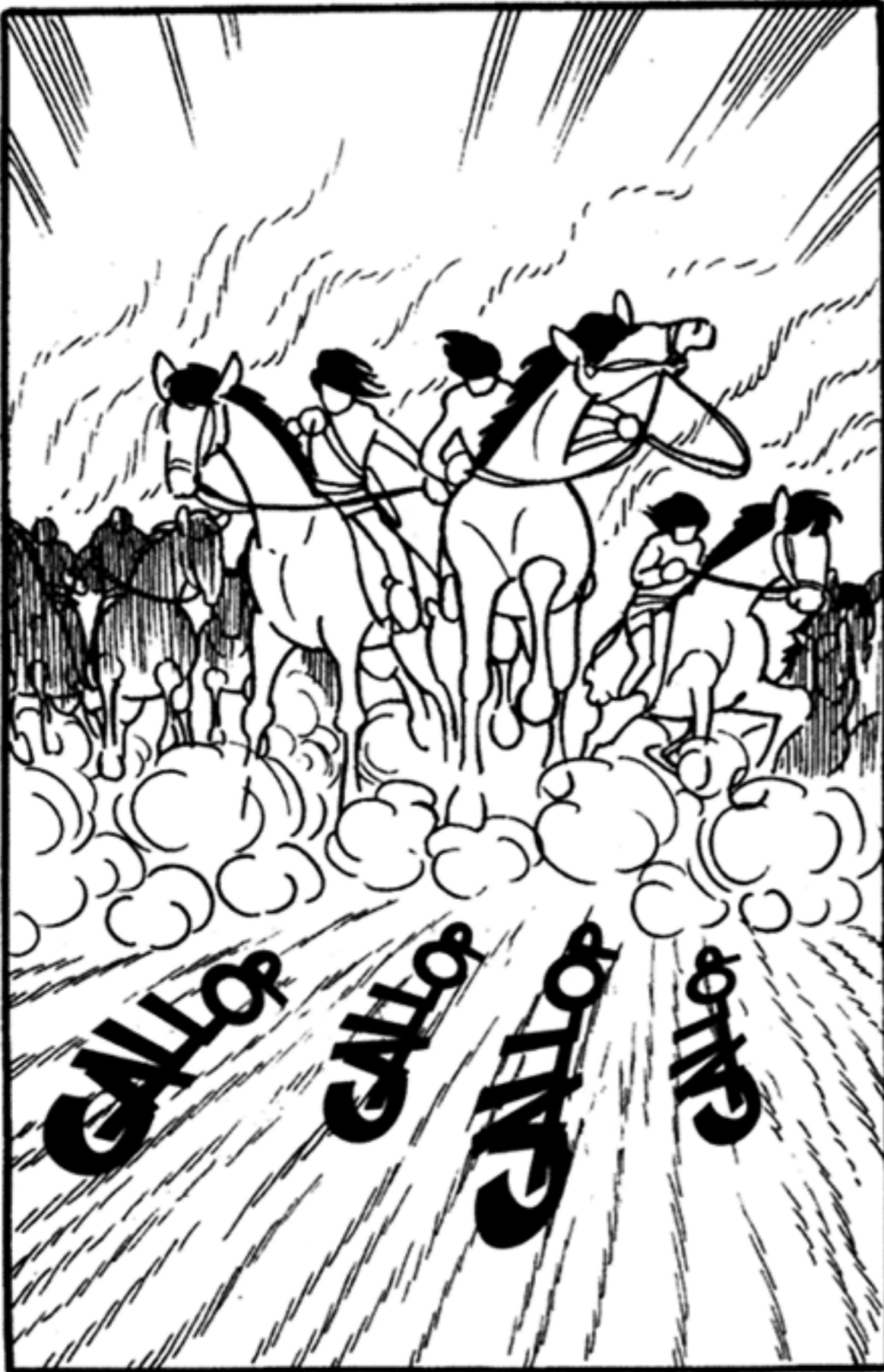
AT ANY
RATE, HE
WOULDN'T
CUT IT AS A
MONK, LET
ALONE
ACHIEVE
ENLIGHTEN-
MENT.



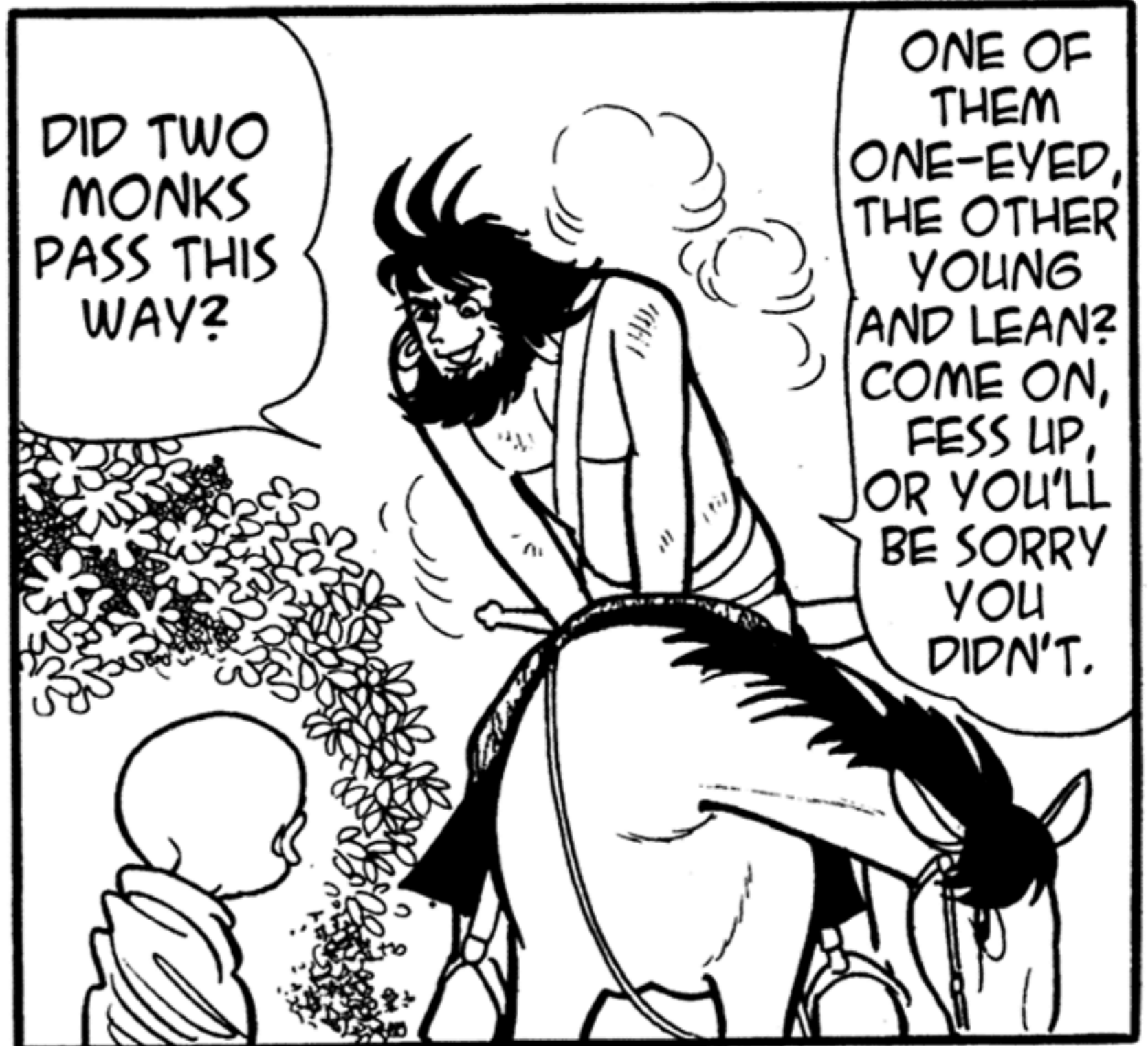
NNH,
WUS DAT?



RUN!!



HEY THERE, LAD!!



DID TWO MONKS PASS THIS WAY?

ONE OF THEM ONE-EYED, THE OTHER YOUNG AND LEAN? COME ON, FESS UP, OR YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU DIDN'T.



SIDDHARTHA, WE'RE TRAPPED! THE BRIGANDS ARE BACK!

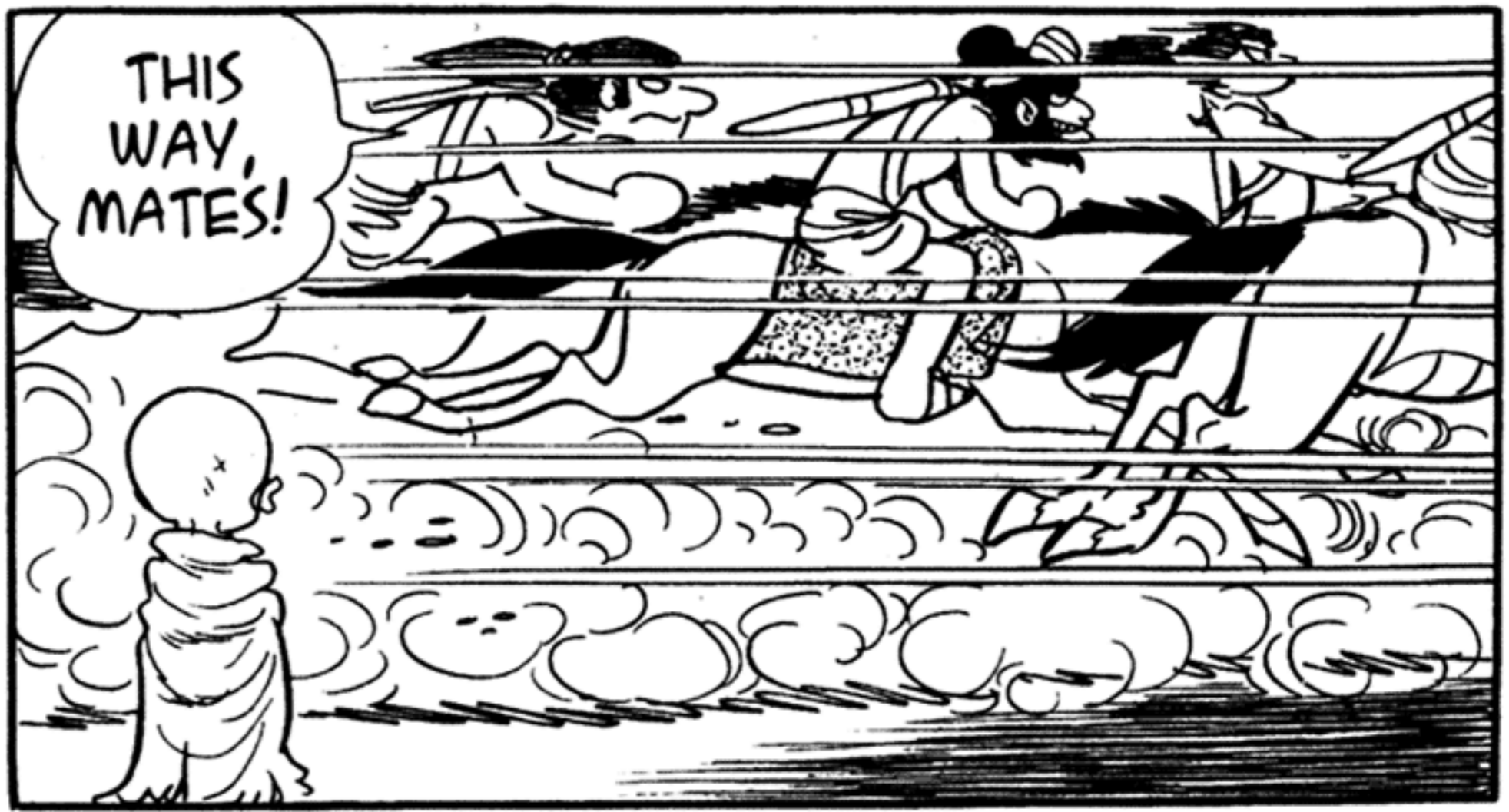


YEAH, SAW DEM. BUT WUS ID WORTH TA YA?

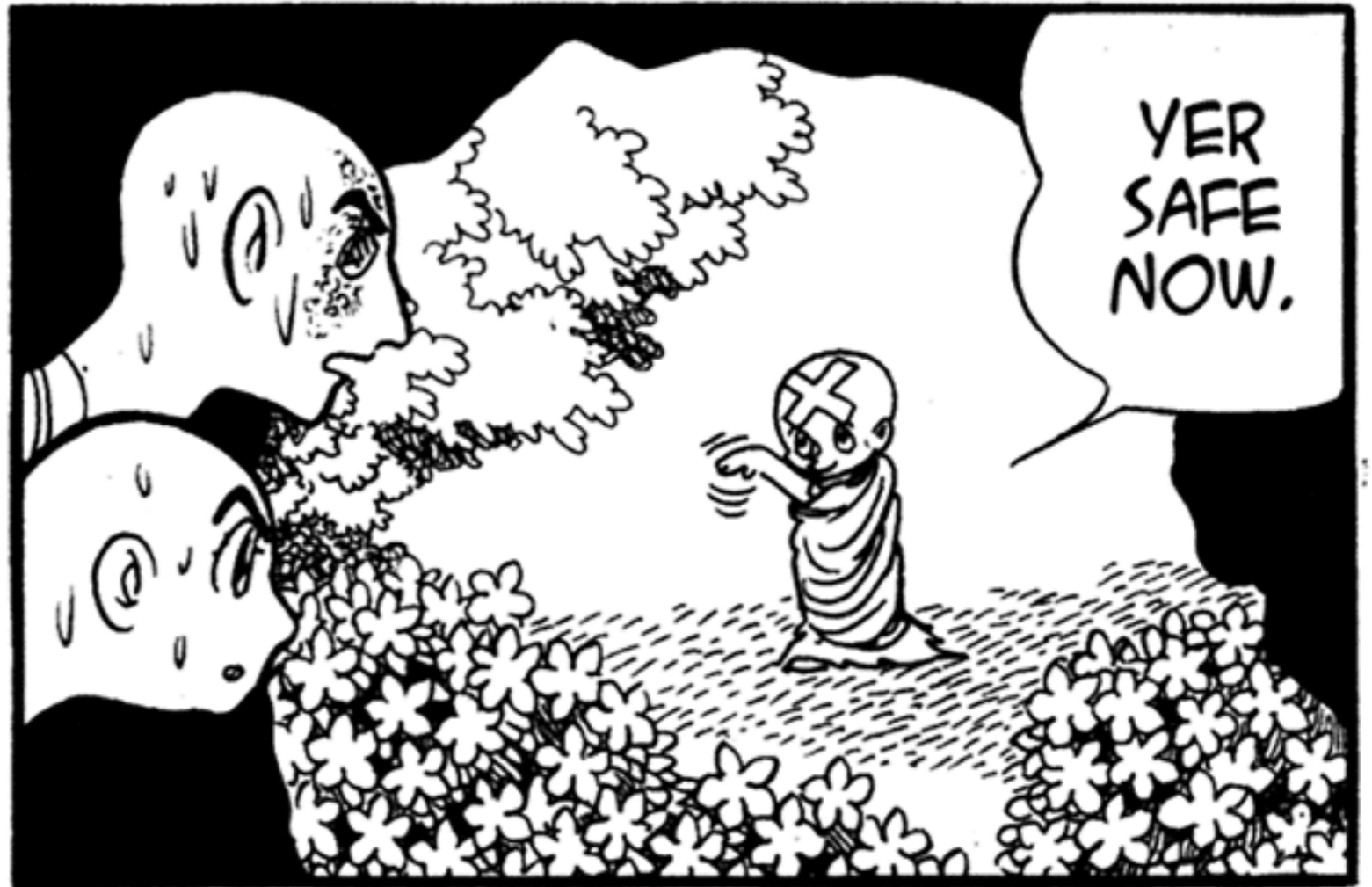
SNIF



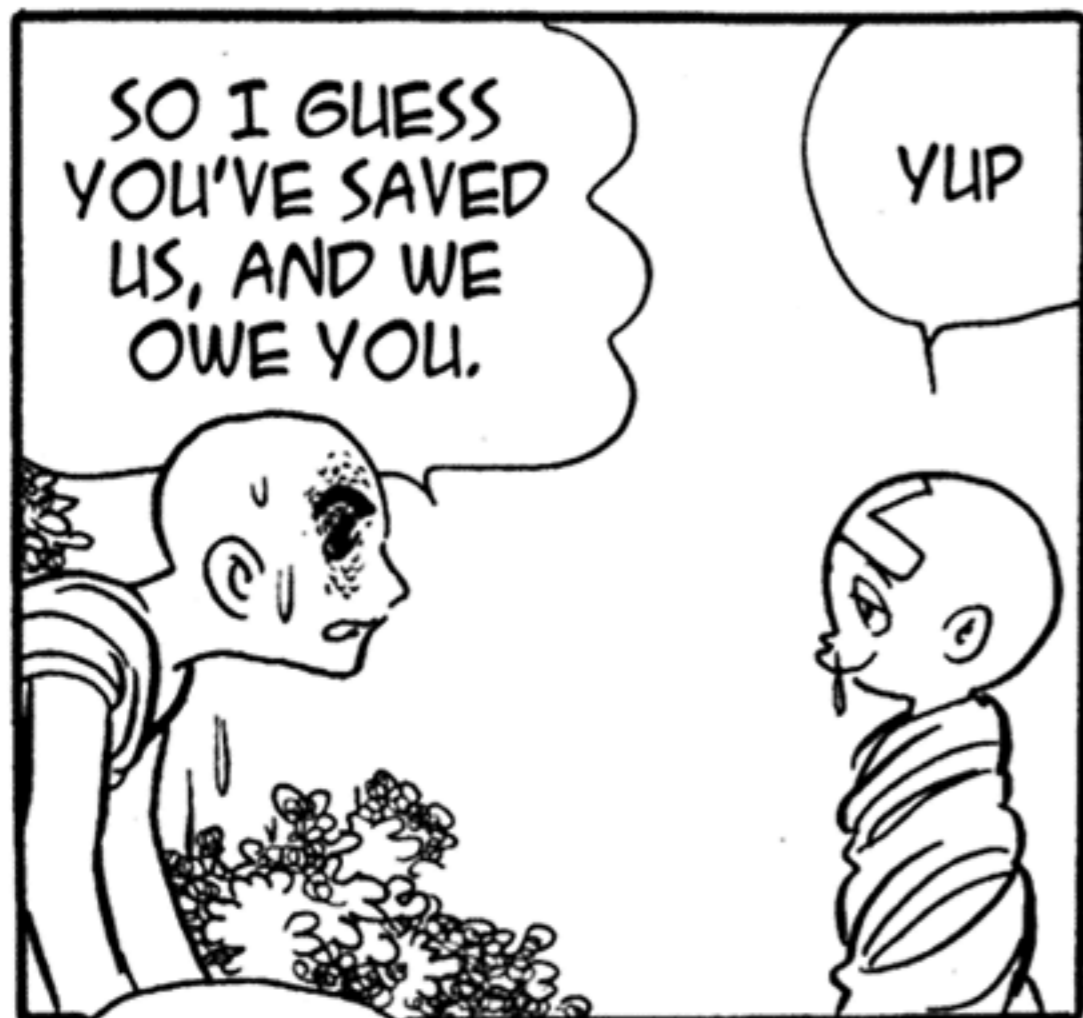
HNH



THIS WAY, MATES!



VER SAFE NOW.



SO I GUESS YOU'VE SAVED US, AND WE OWE YOU.

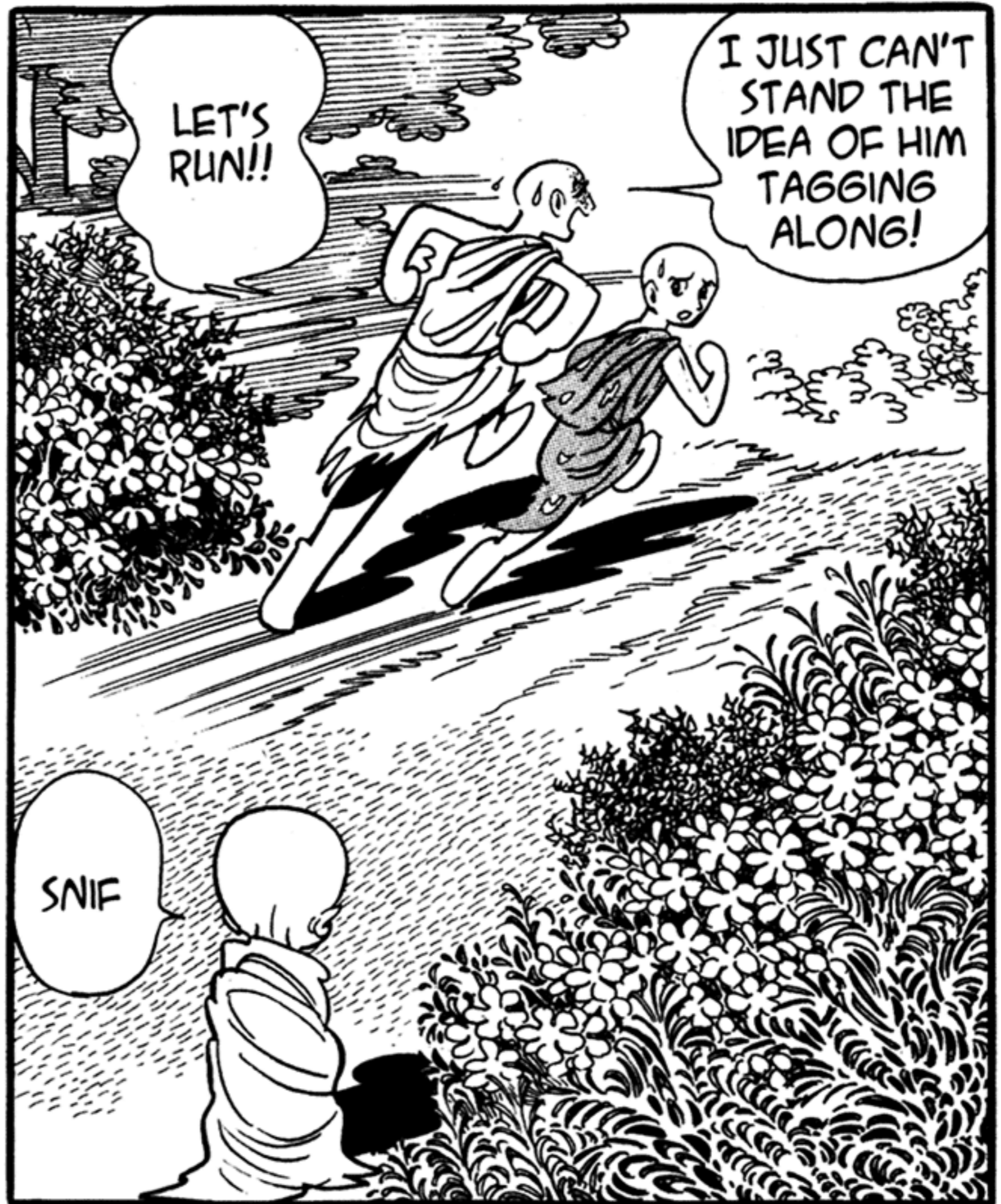
YUP



TAKE ME WIT YA?

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

HMM... I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL...



LET'S RUN!!

I JUST CAN'T STAND THE IDEA OF HIM TAGGING ALONG!

SNIF

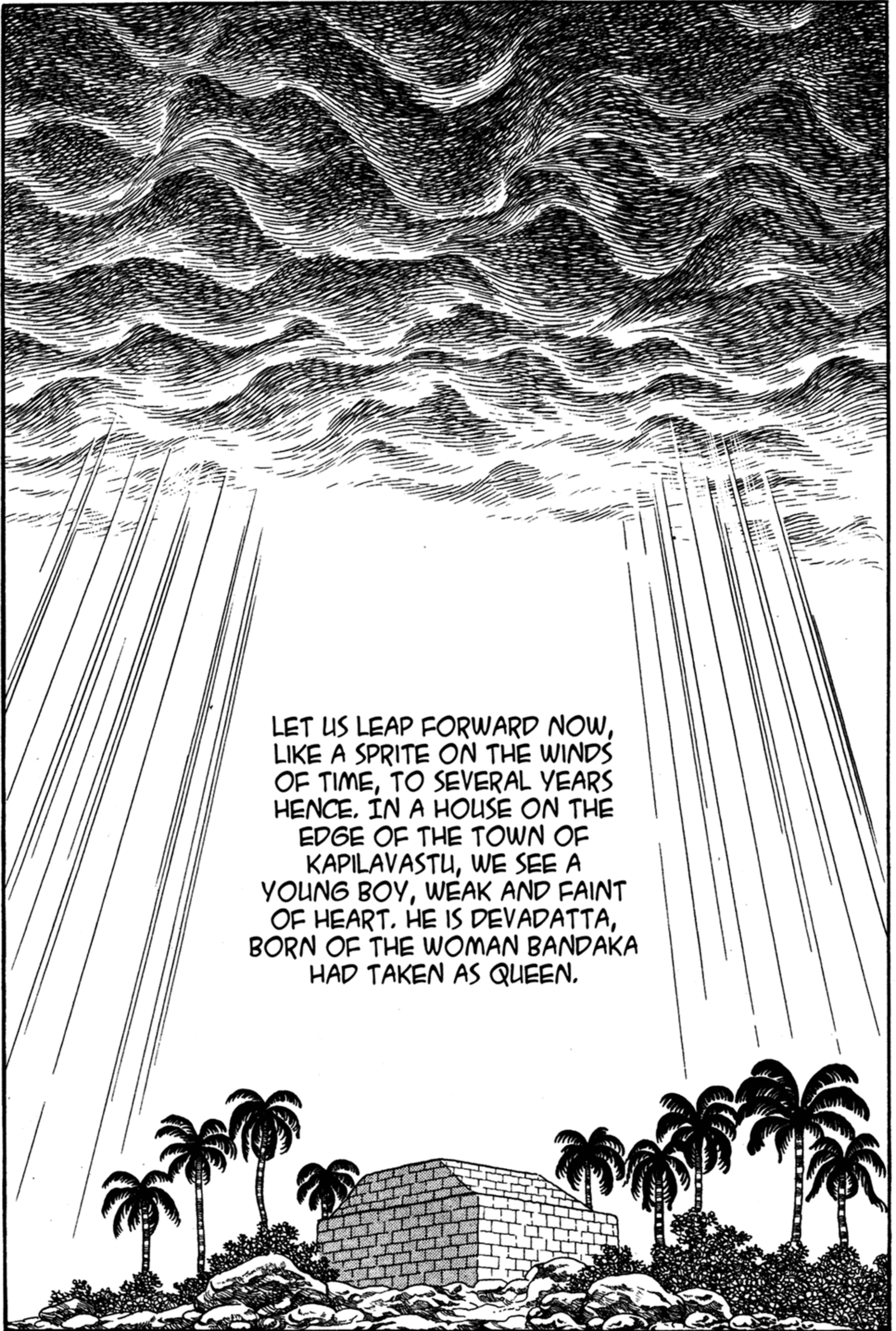


SO DID ASSAJI, THE ODD COMPANION,
FOLLOW SIDDHARTHA AND DHEPA.
THEIR ORDEAL-LADEN JOURNEY IN SEARCH
OF ENLIGHTENMENT CONTINUES.
BUT WE MUST NOW INTERRUPT OUR STORY SO
YOU MAY HEAR OF A FATEFUL CHILD.
DEVADATTA IS HIS NAME.

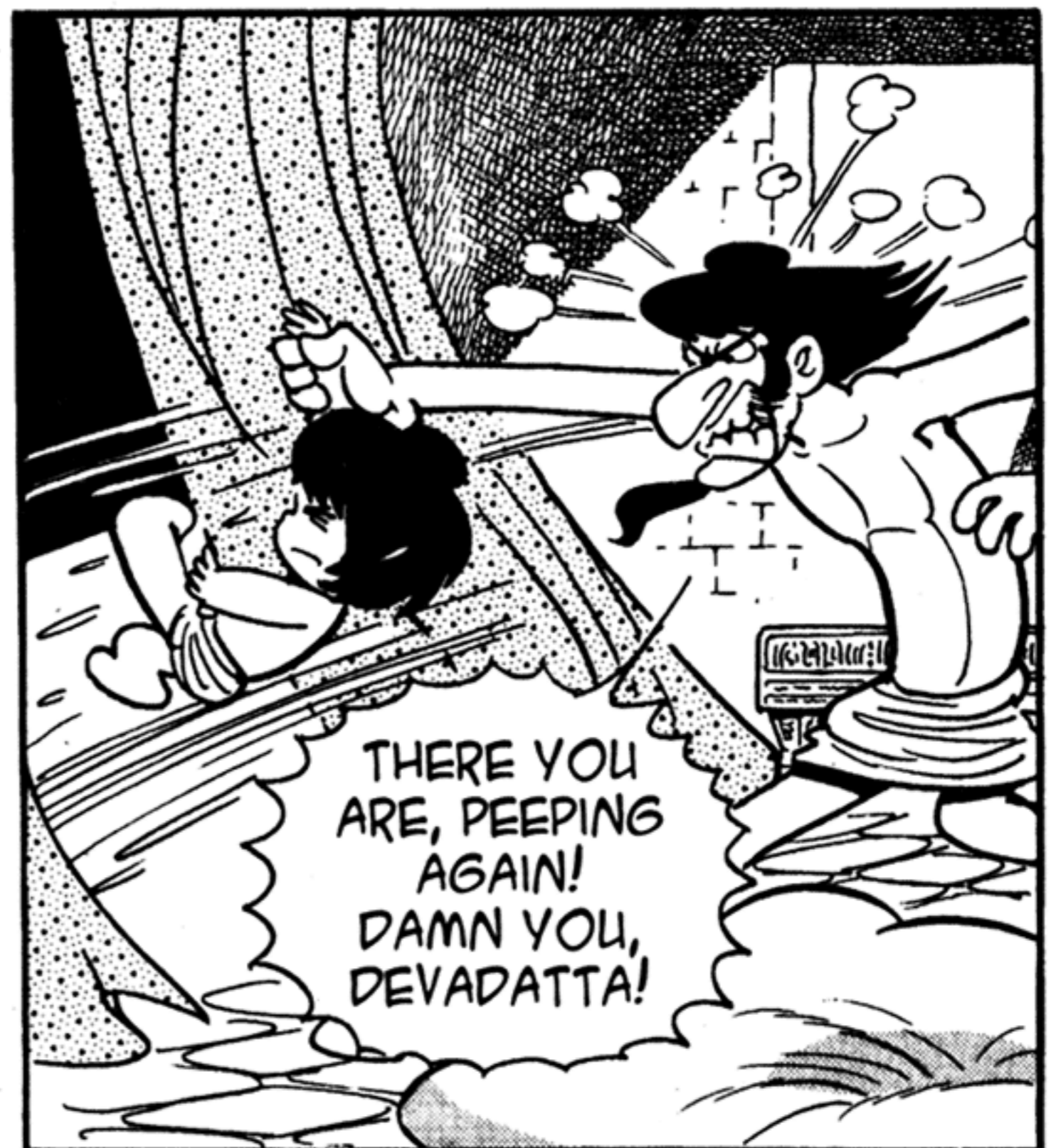


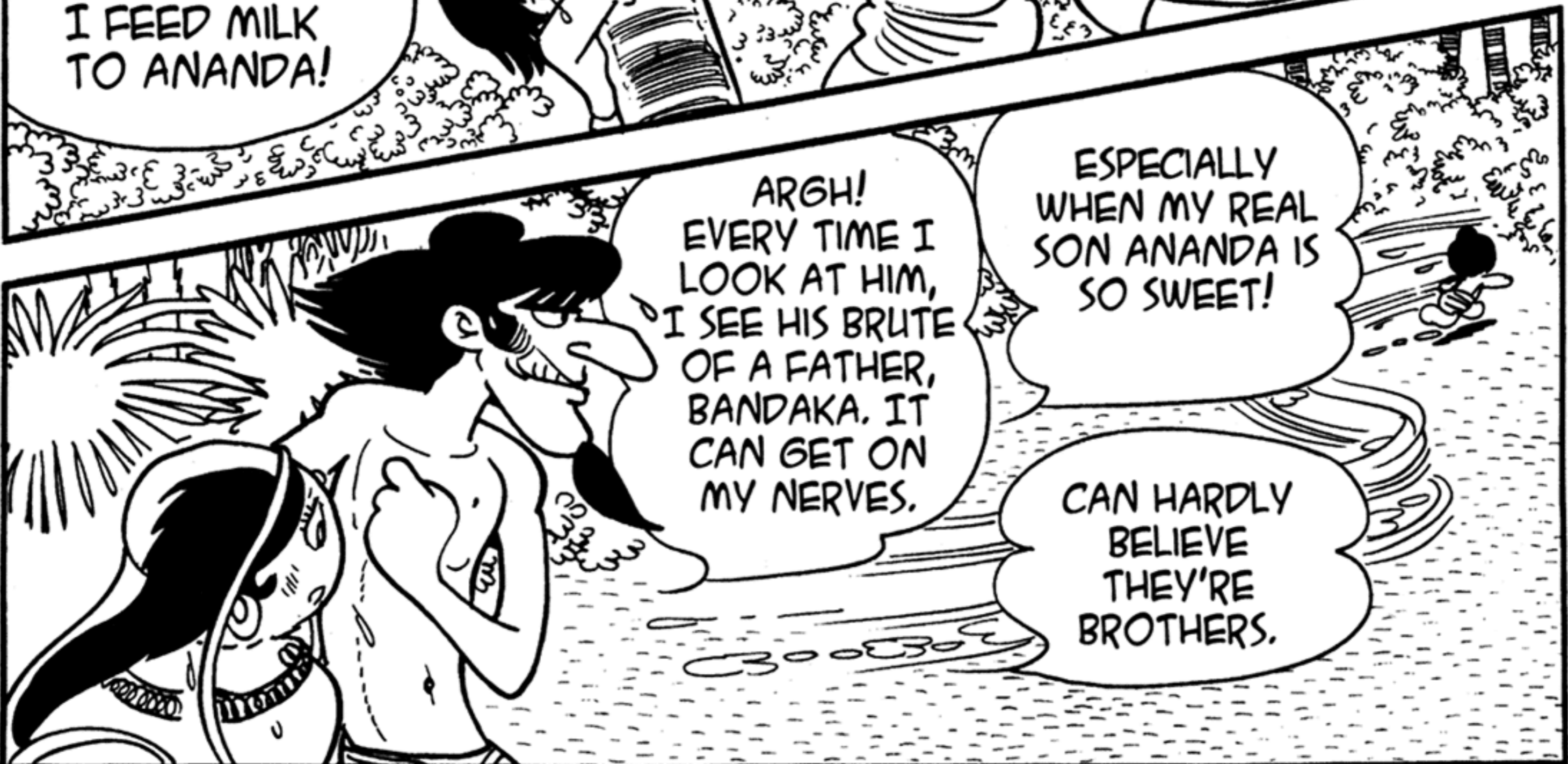
CHAPTER TWO

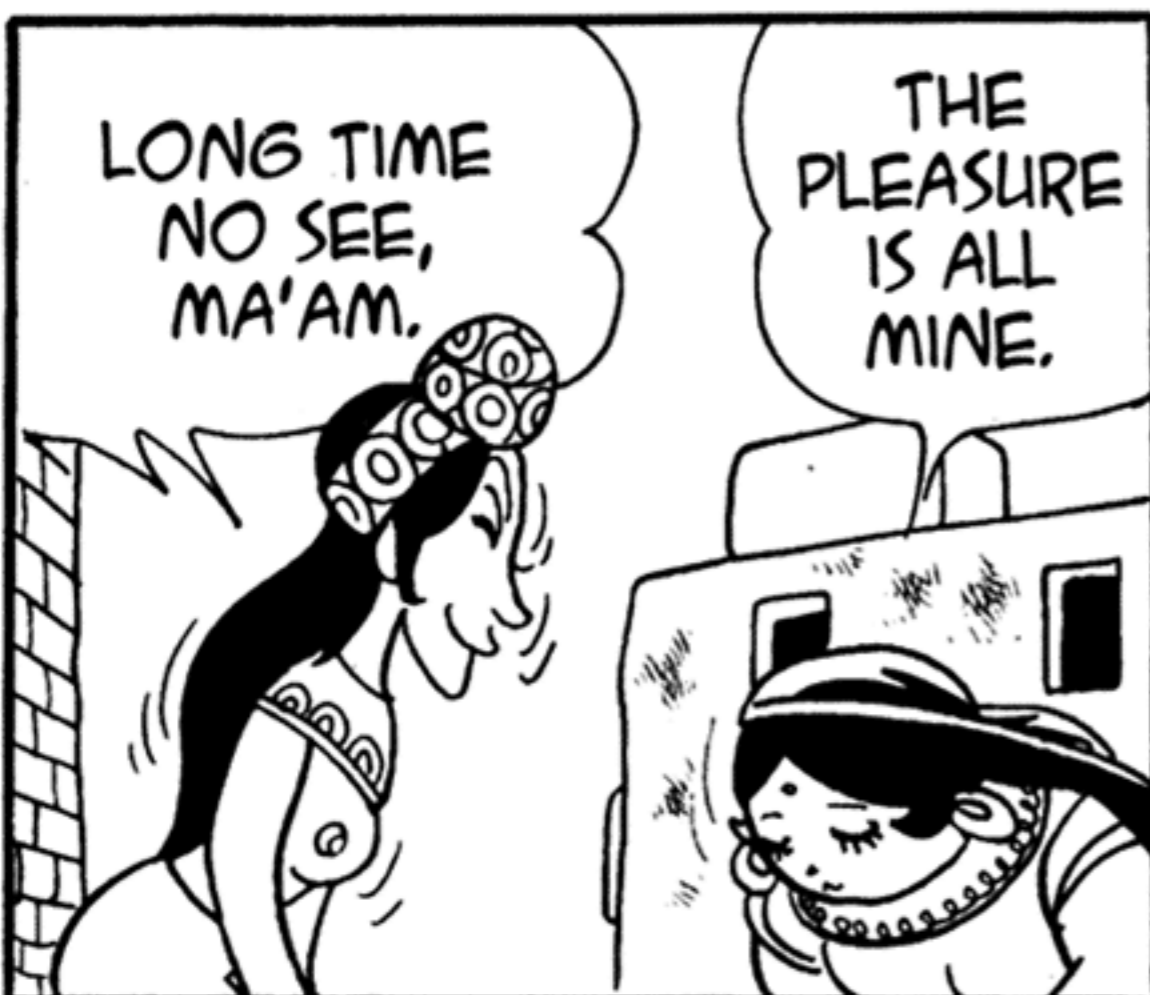
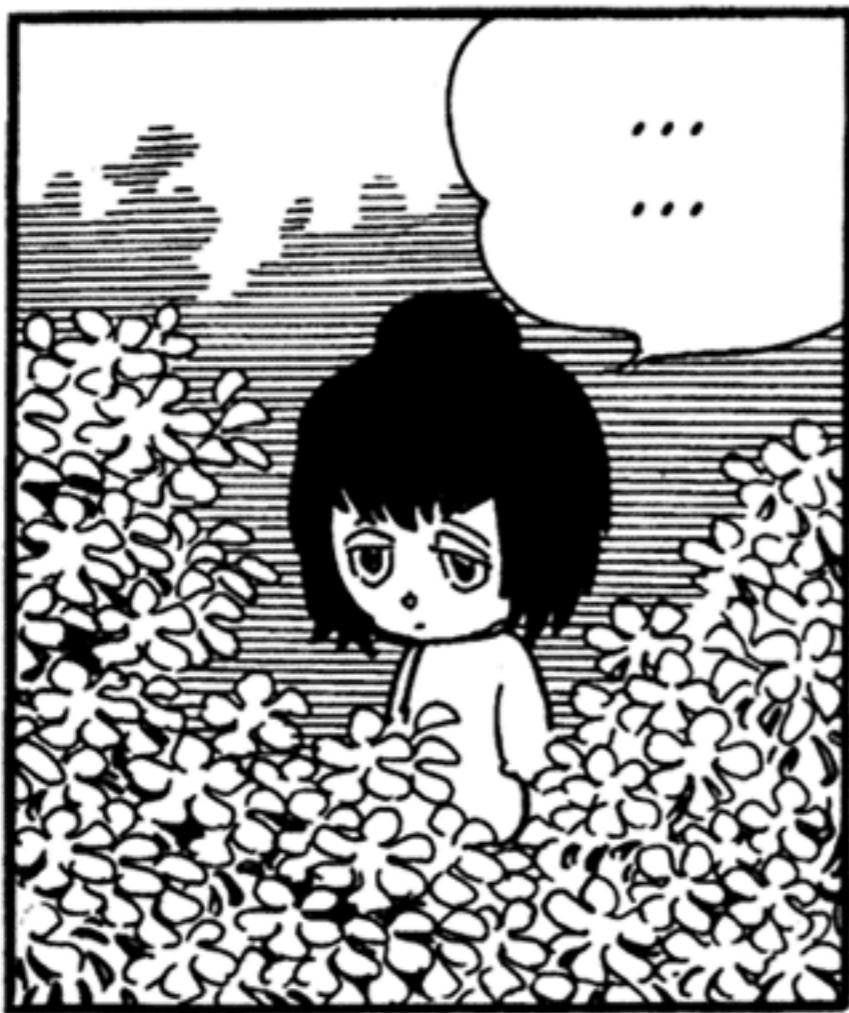
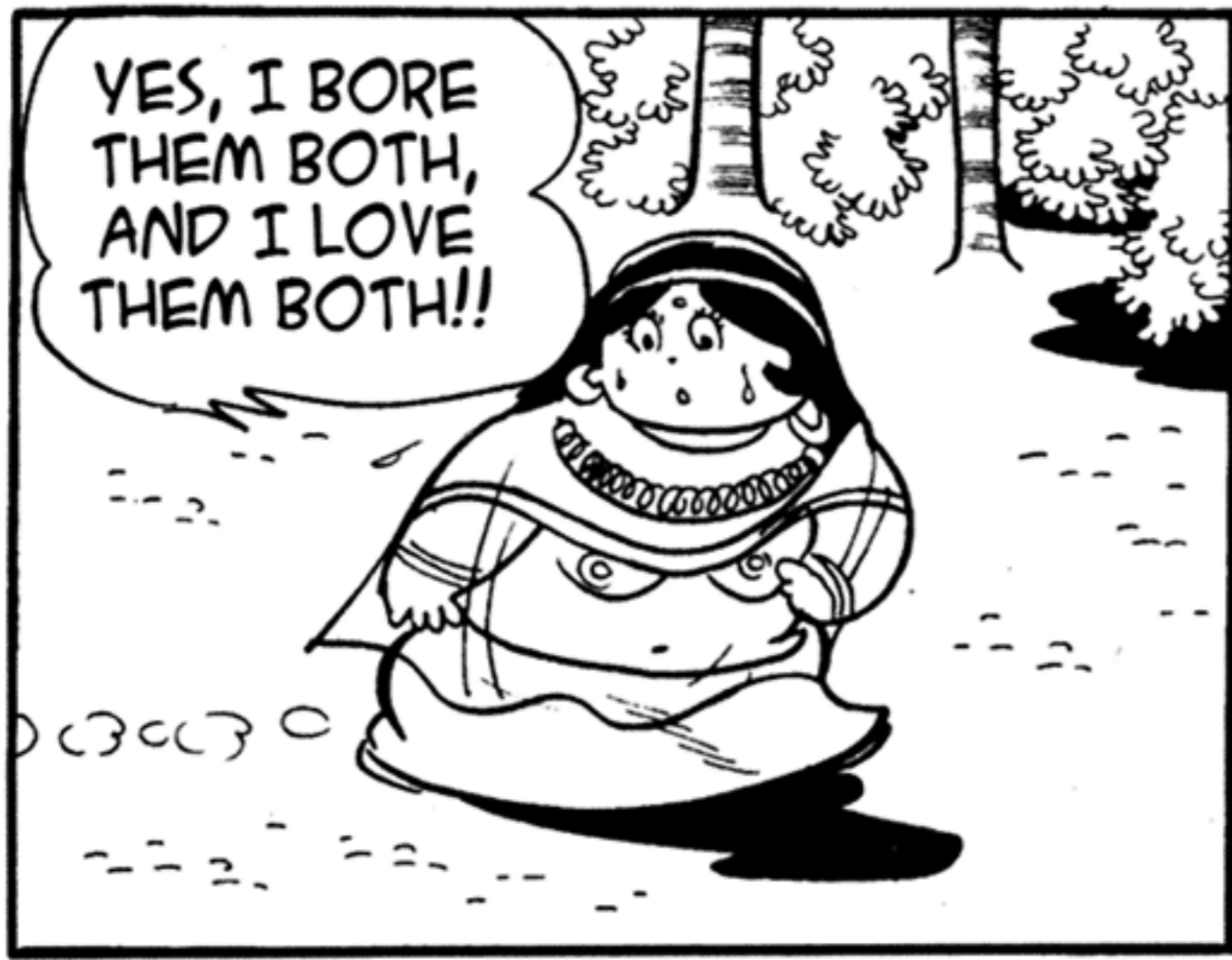
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST



LET US LEAP FORWARD NOW,
LIKE A SPRITE ON THE WINDS
OF TIME, TO SEVERAL YEARS
HENCE. IN A HOUSE ON THE
EDGE OF THE TOWN OF
KAPILAVASTU, WE SEE A
YOUNG BOY, WEAK AND FAINT
OF HEART. HE IS DEVADATTA,
BORN OF THE WOMAN BANDAKA
HAD TAKEN AS QUEEN.

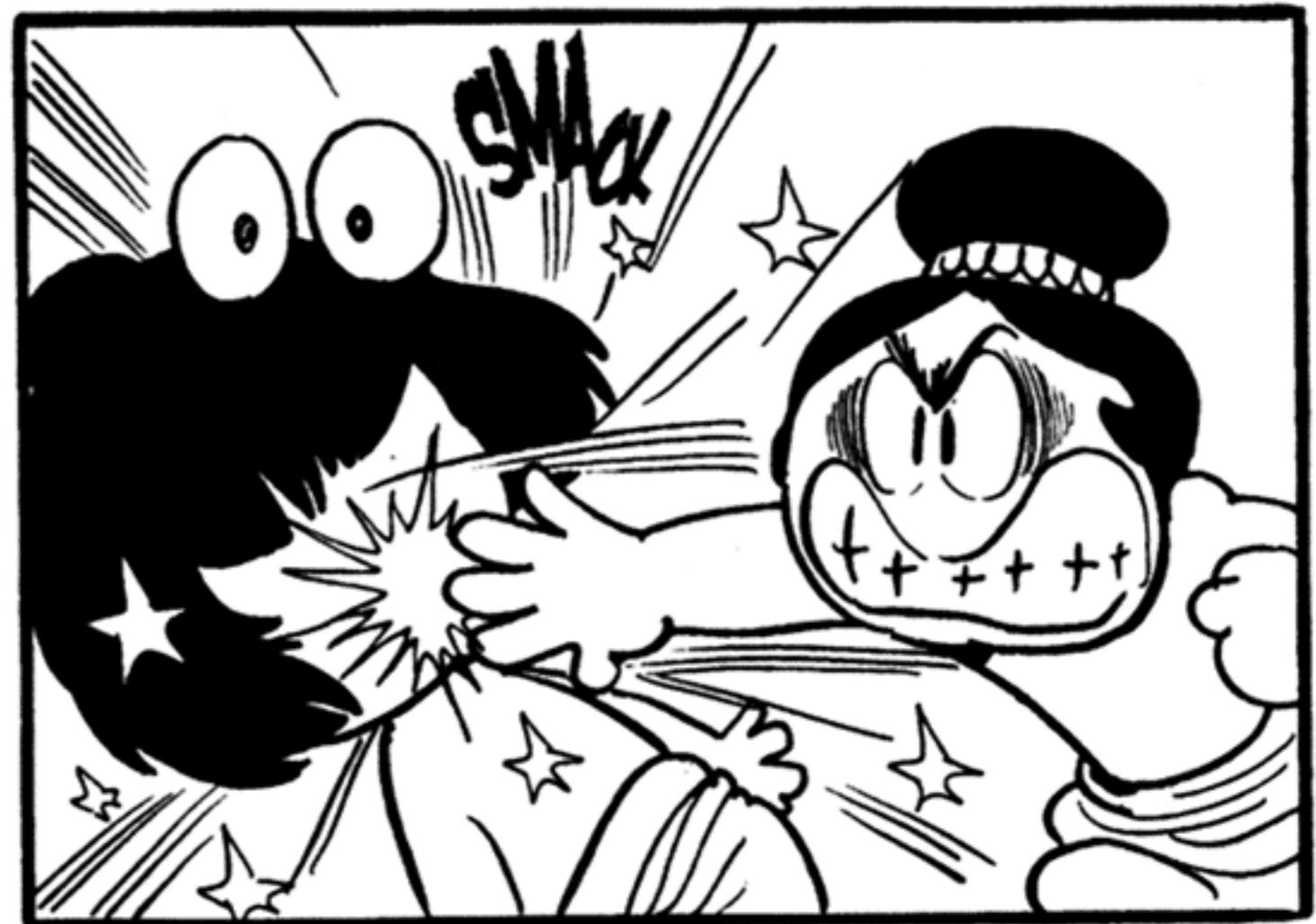


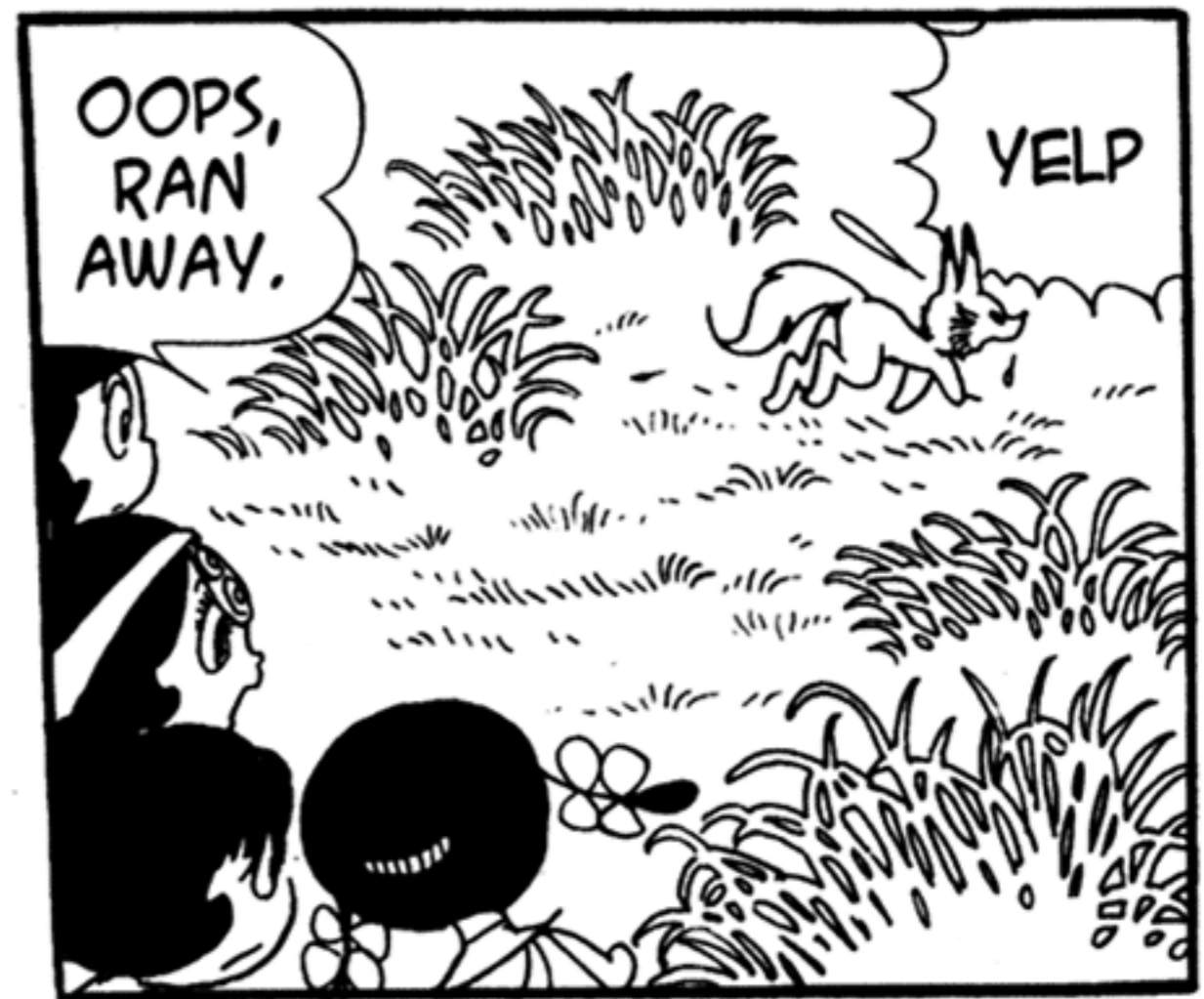
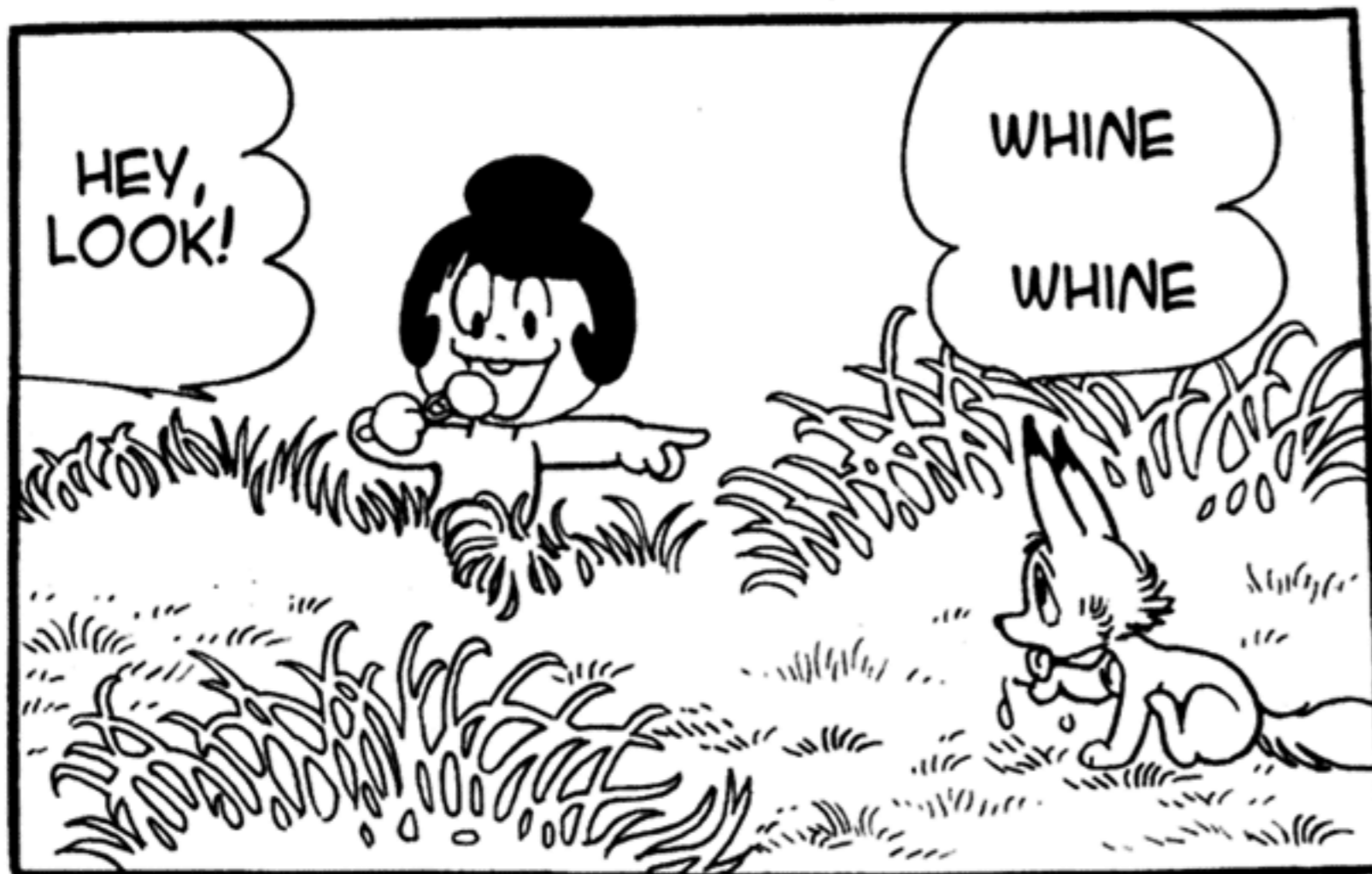
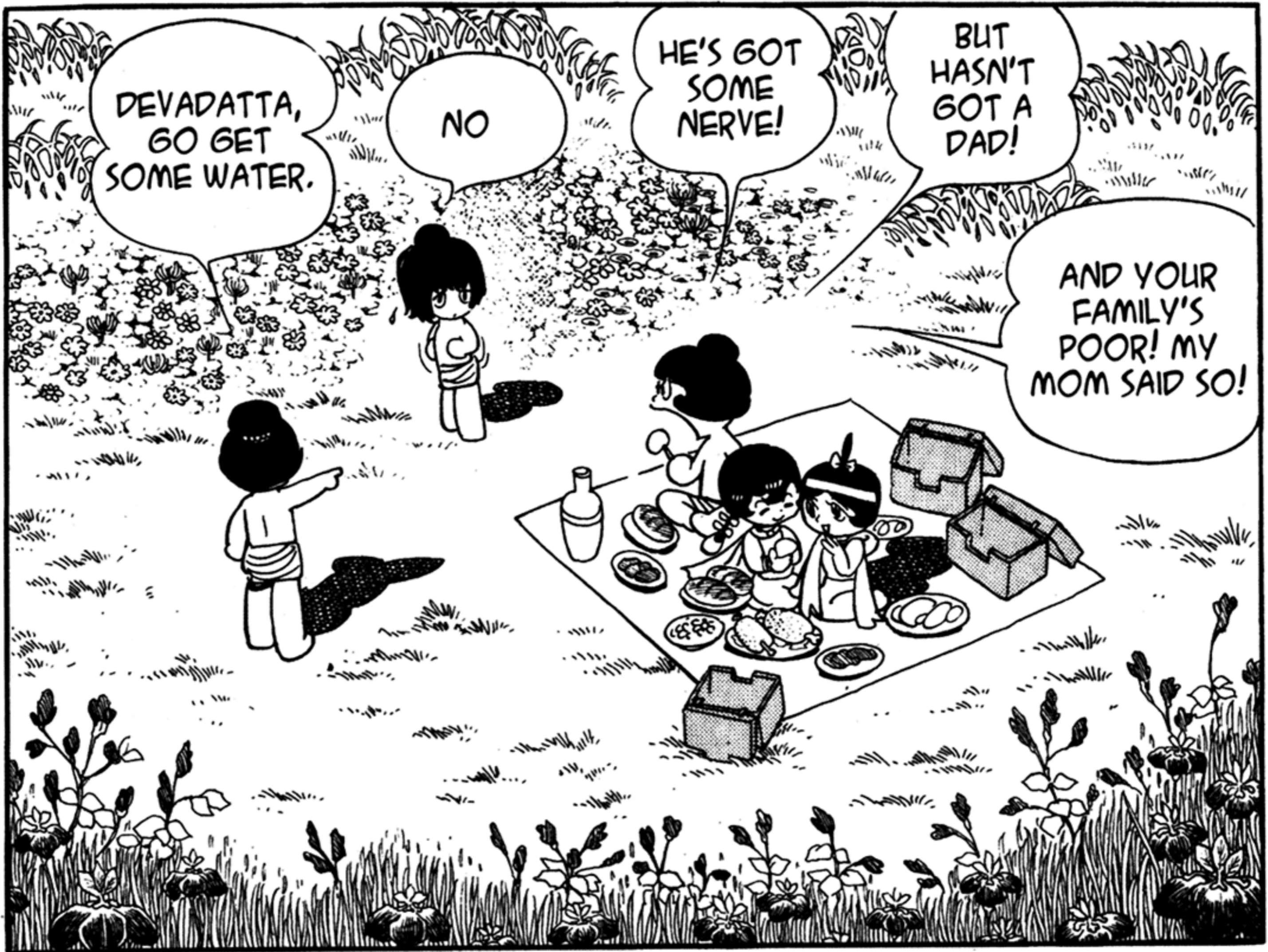














WE SAID GO!!

NO LUNCH FOR YOU UNLESS YOU BRING HIM BACK.



HE'S SUCH A CRYBABY. I LOVE HIM.



WAAH! WAH WAH WAAH!



hic



hic...

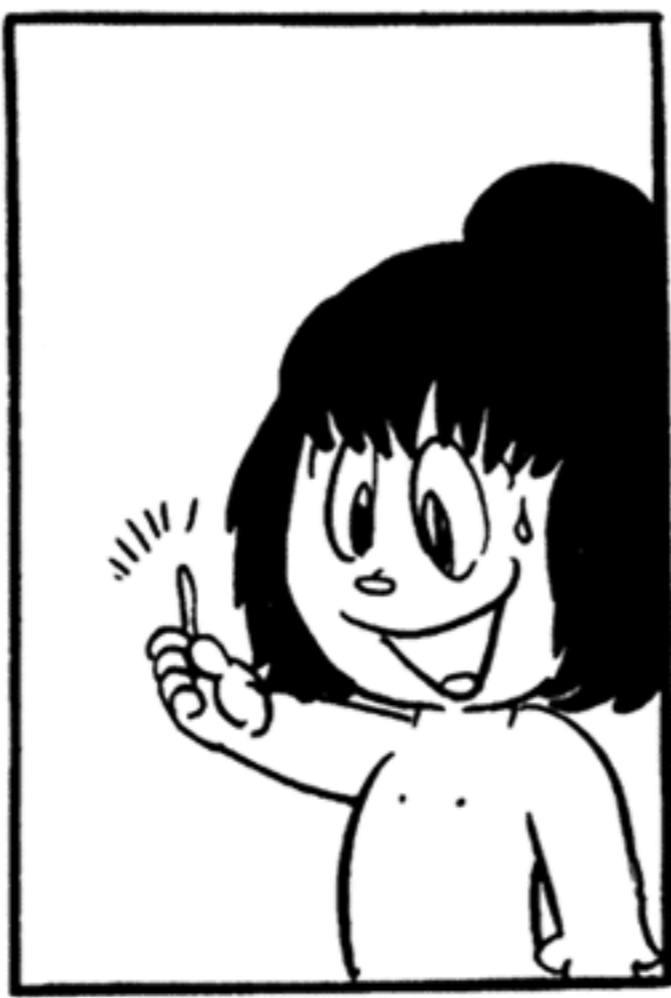
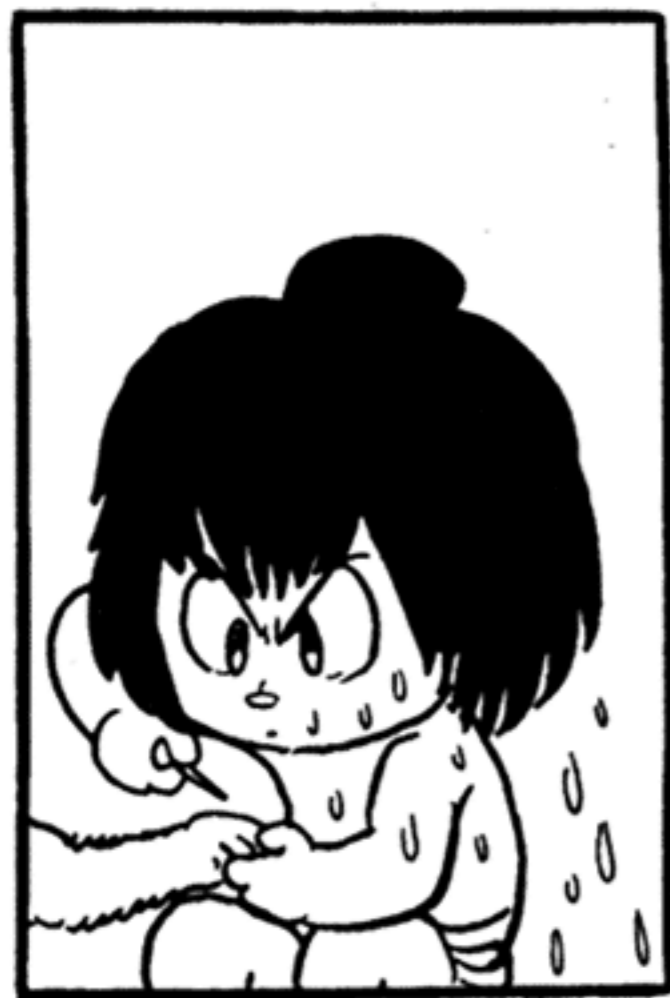
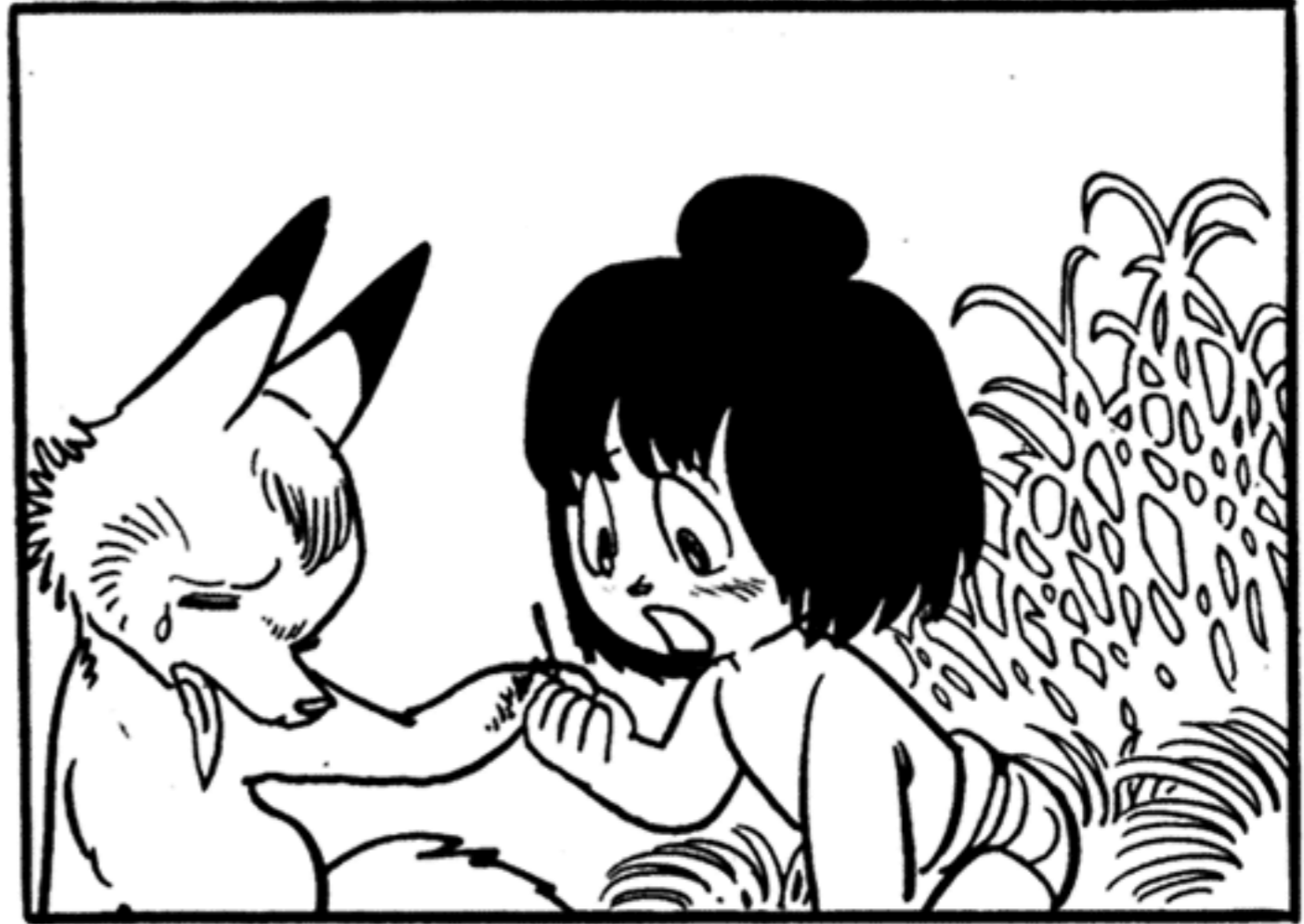
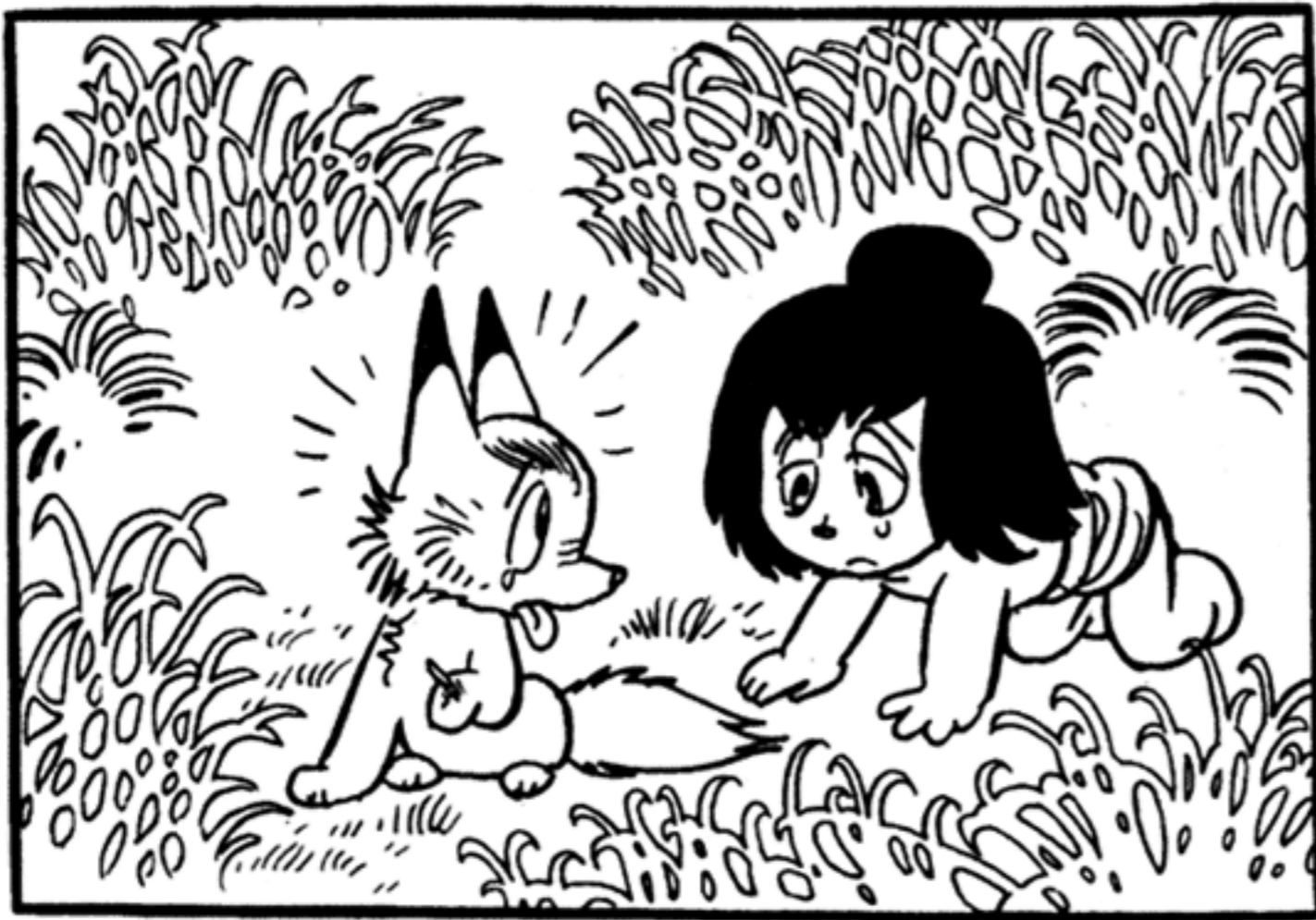
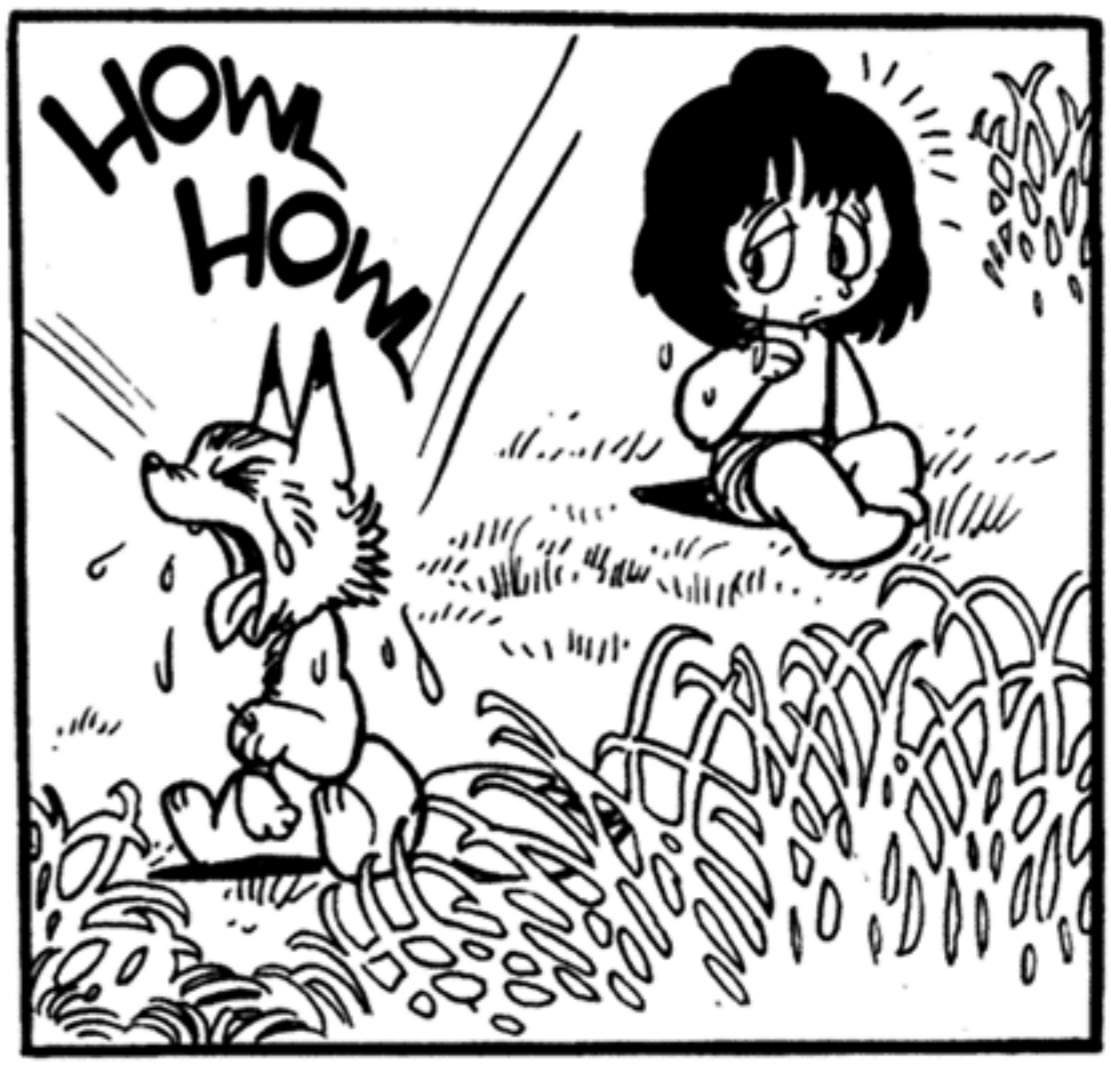


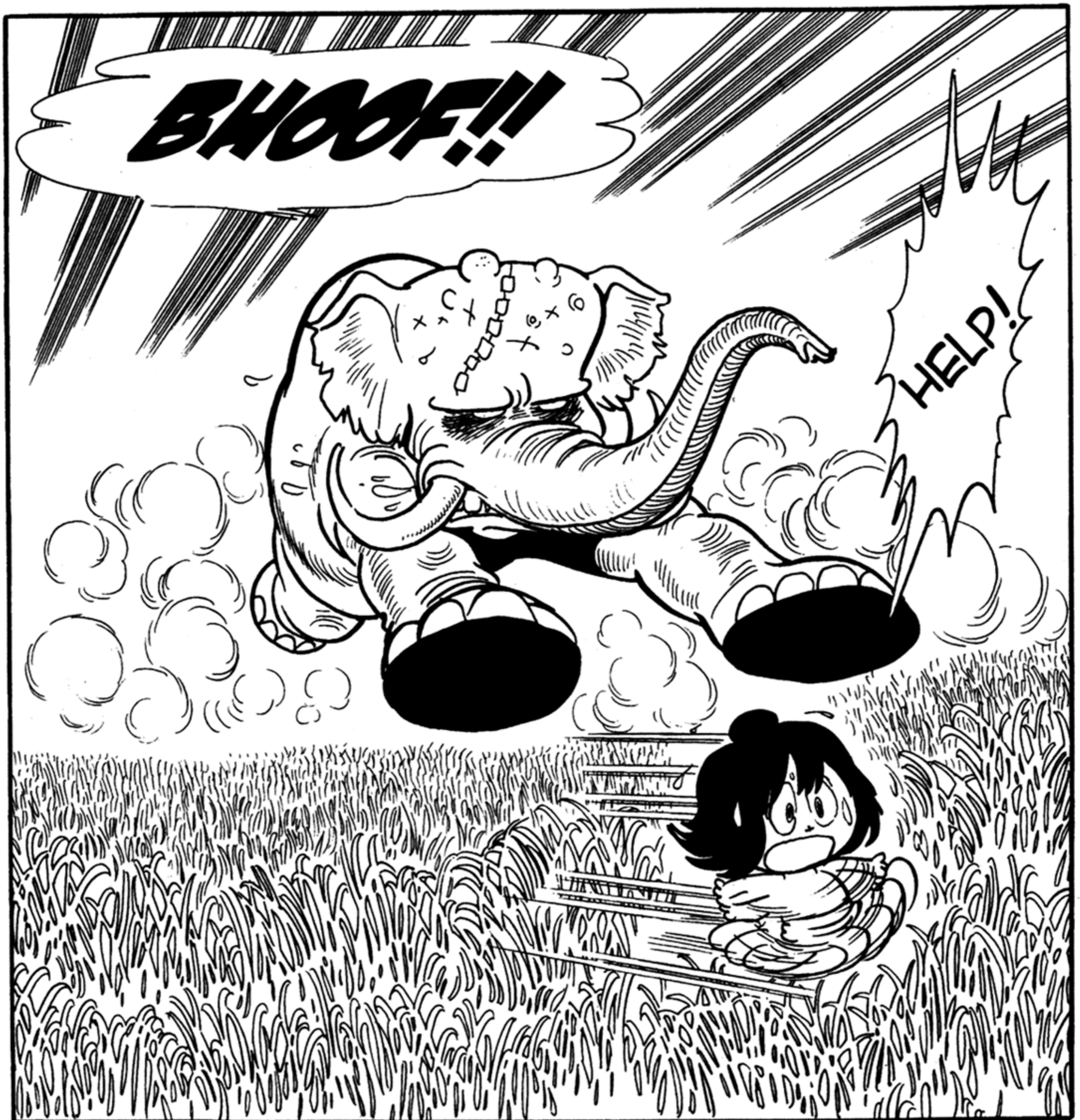
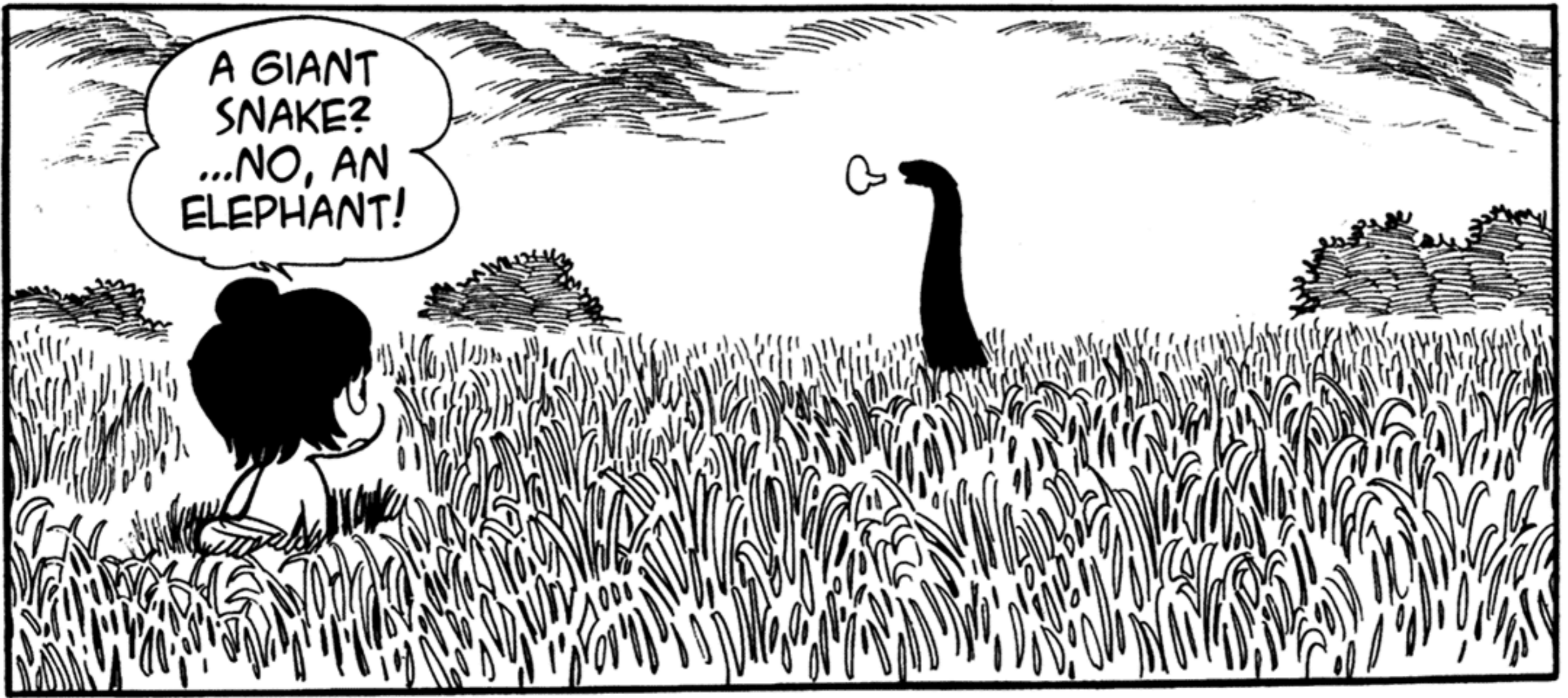
THERE YOU ARE!

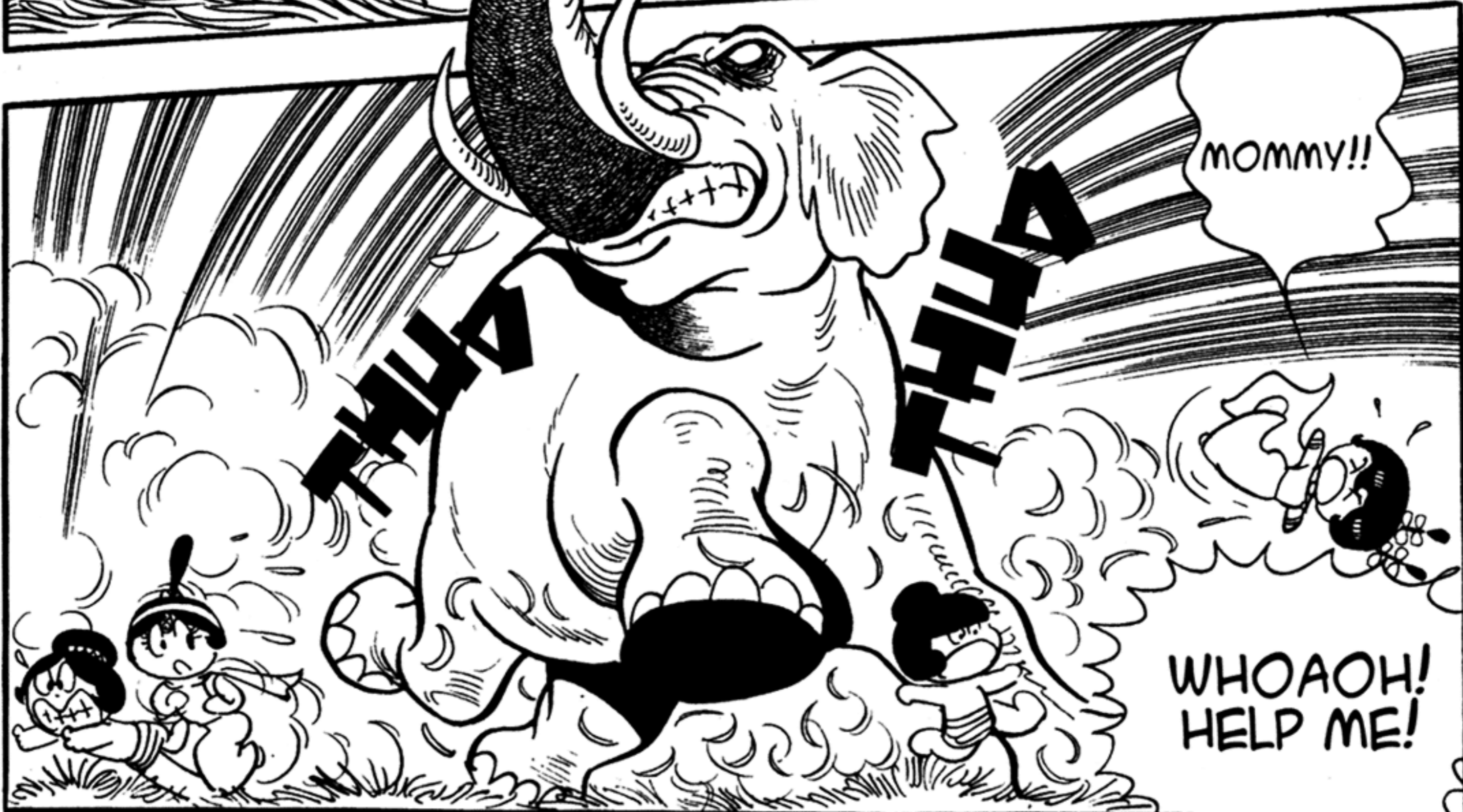
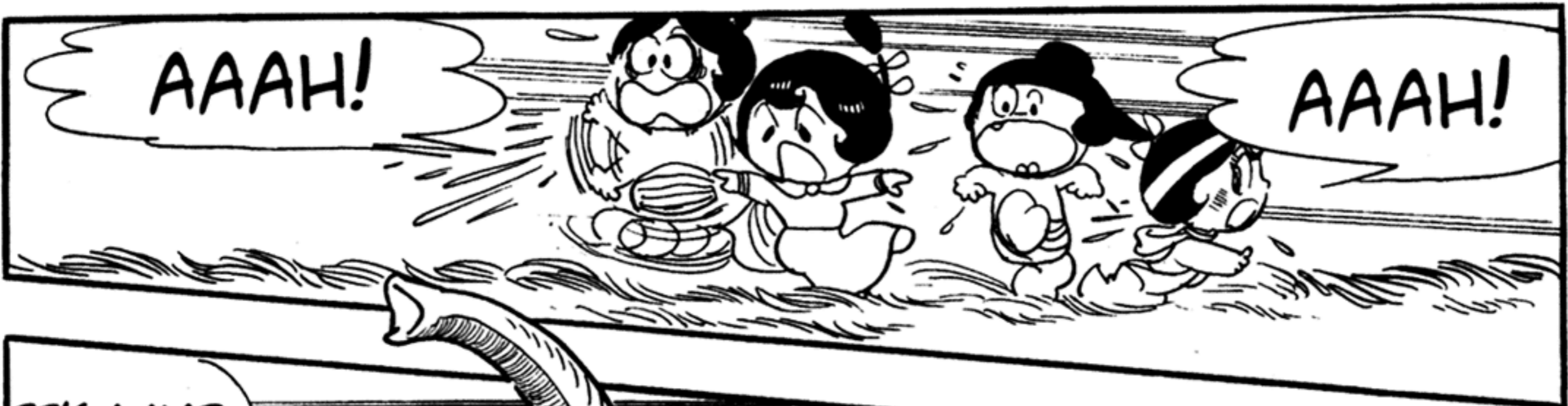
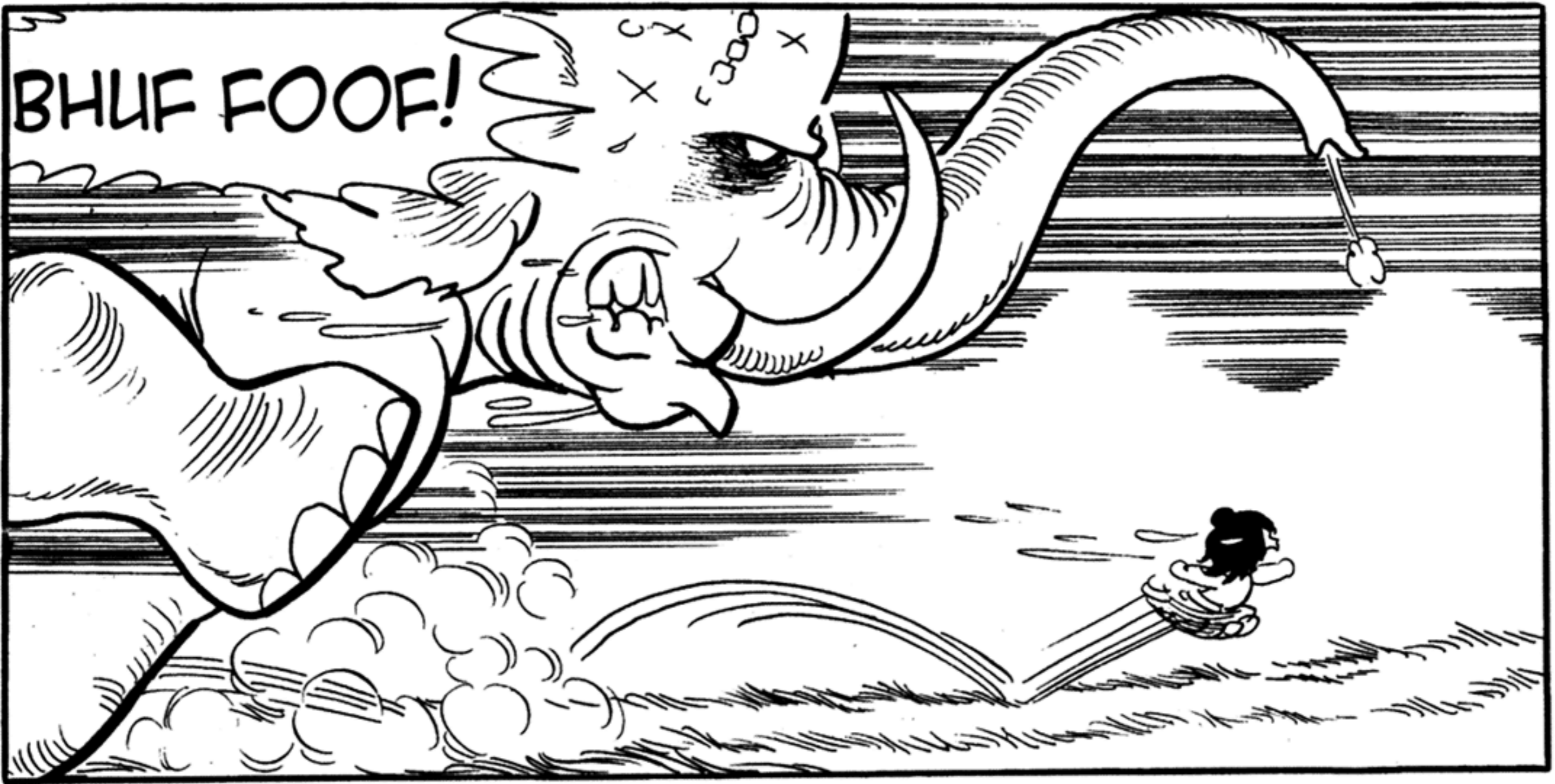


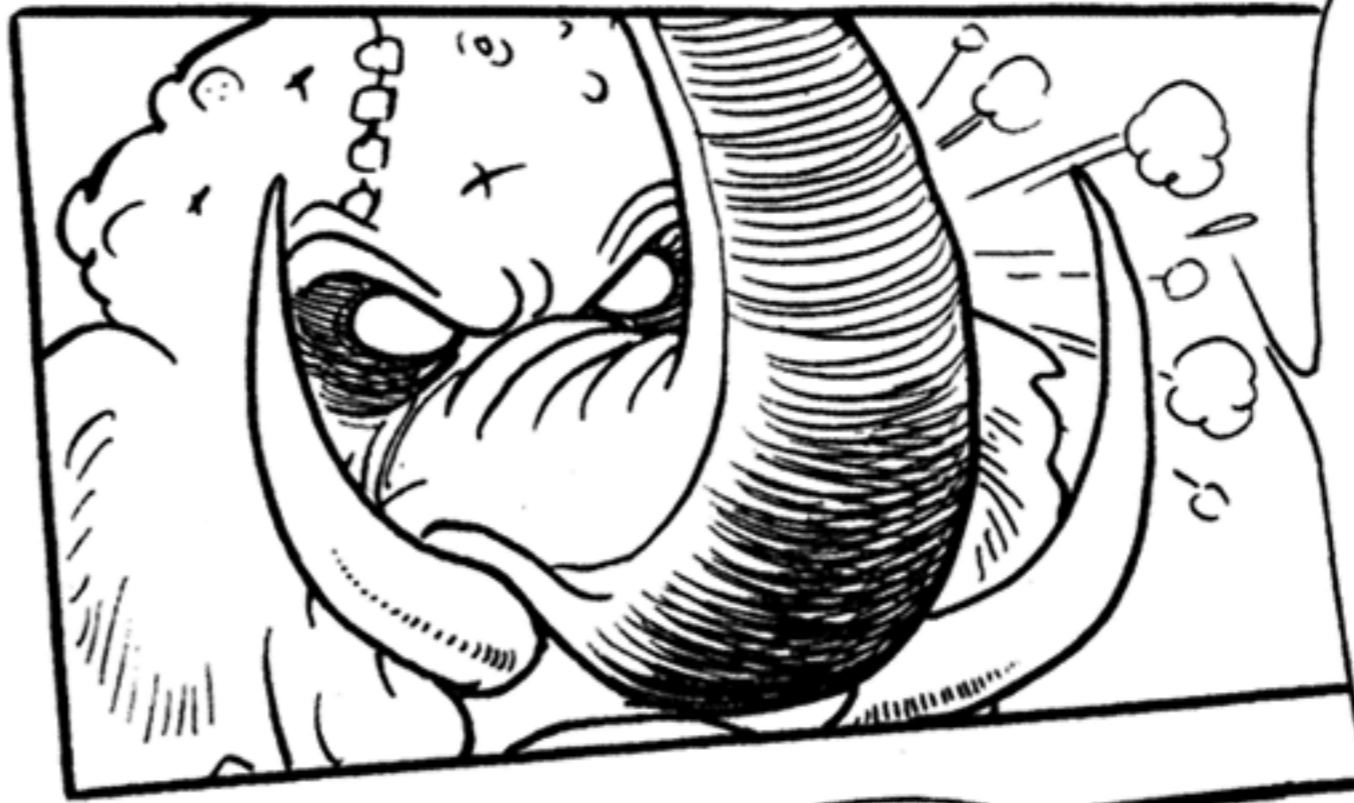
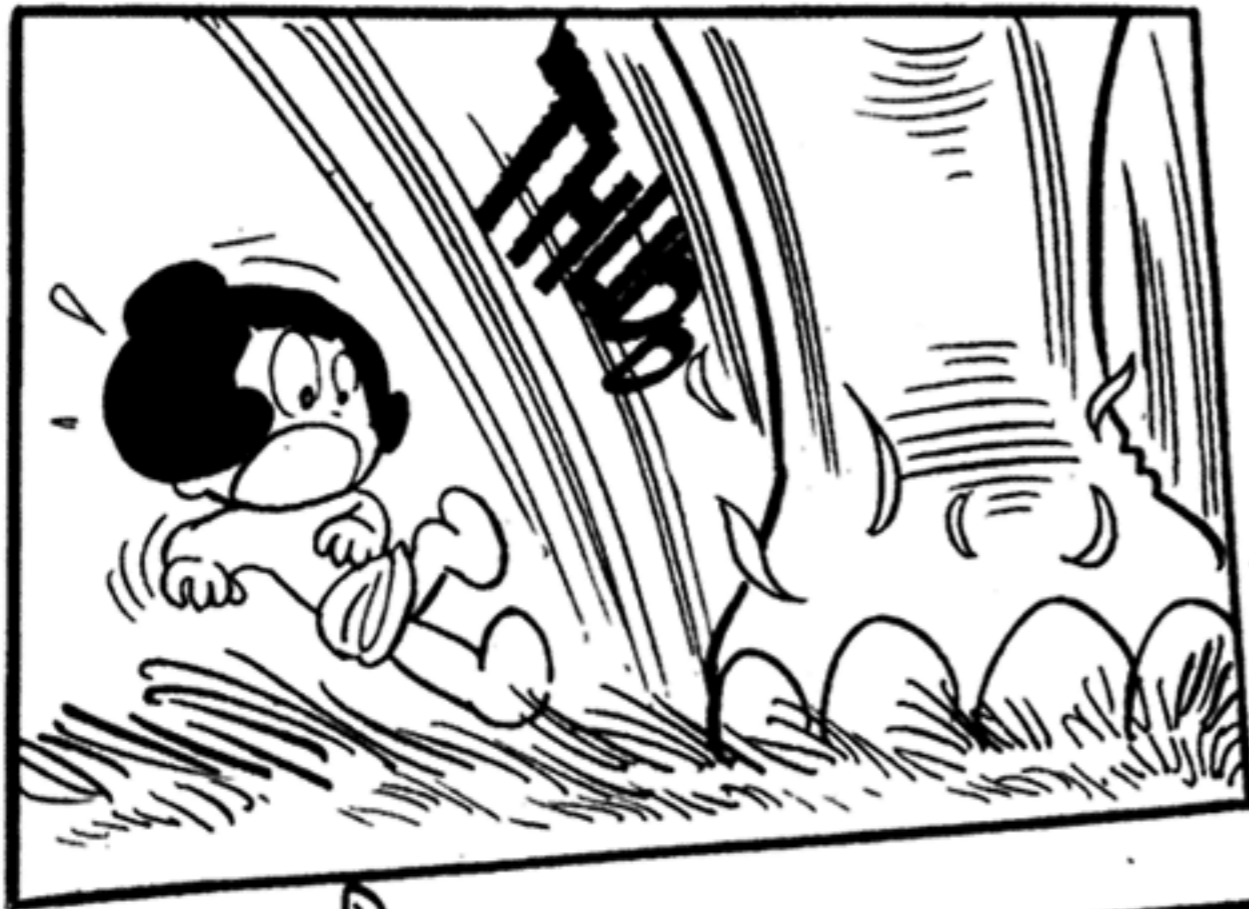
HEY, HEY, DON'T RUN AWAY!

hic

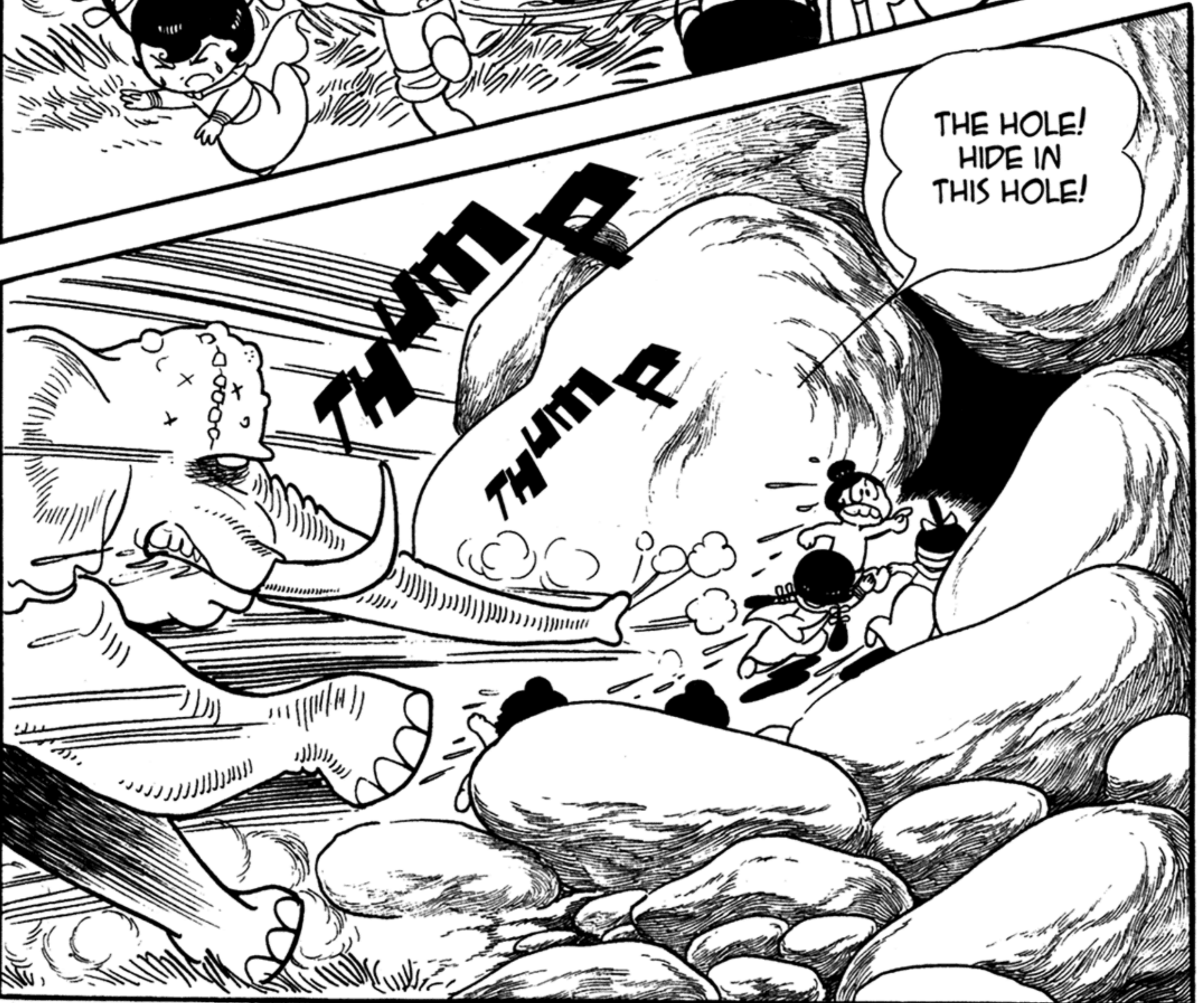
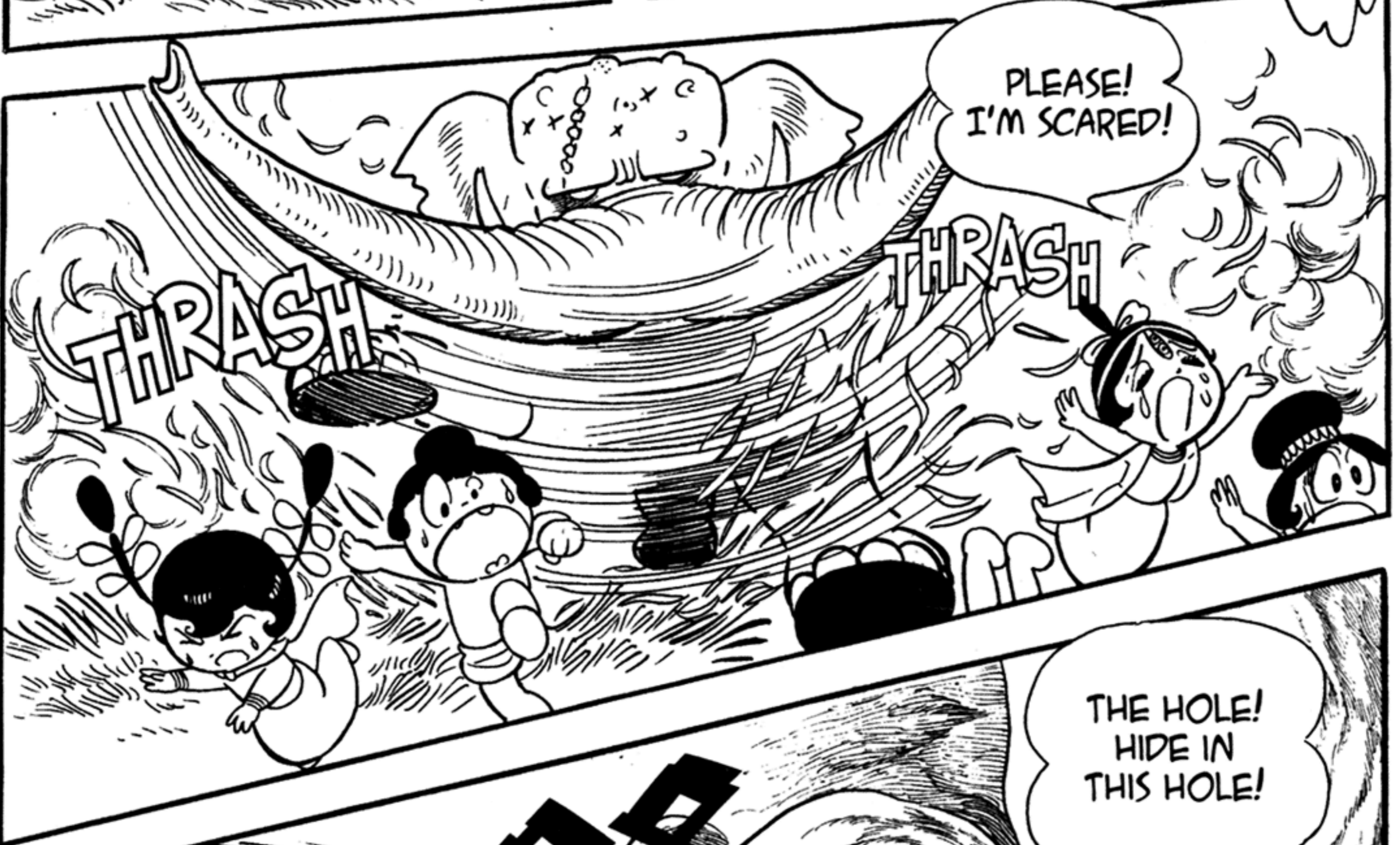


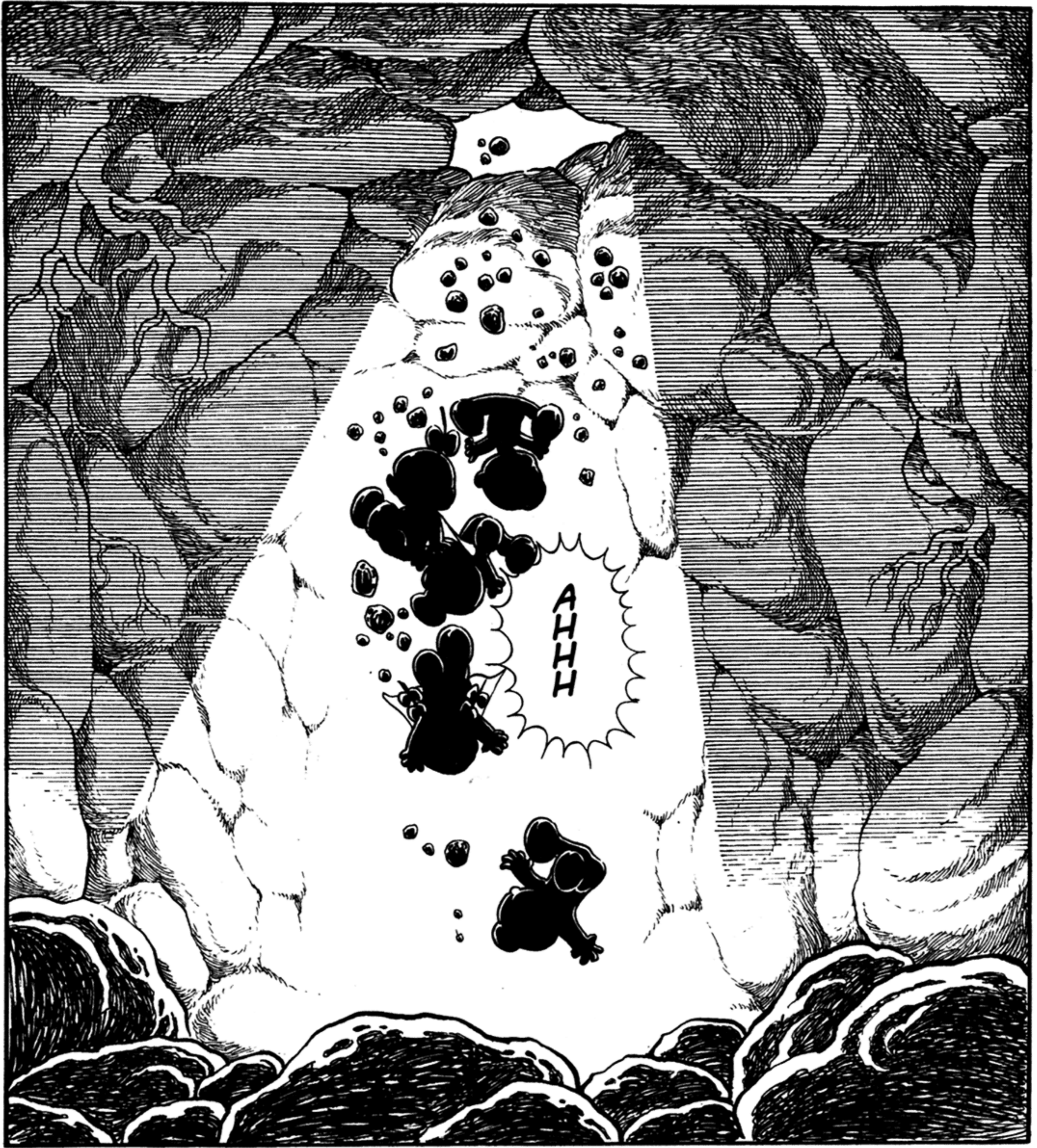


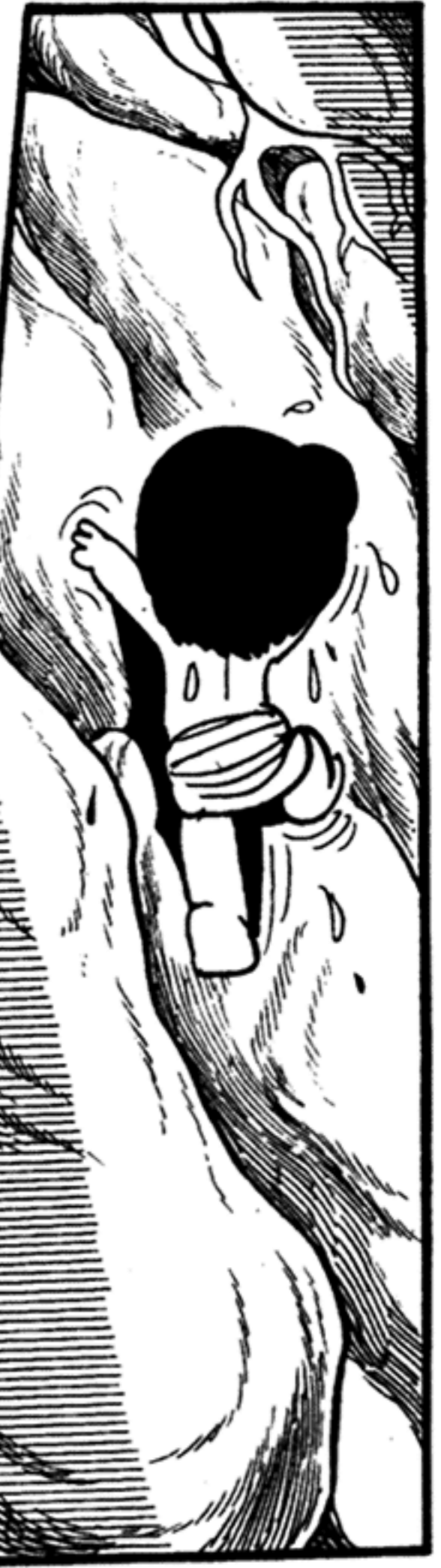
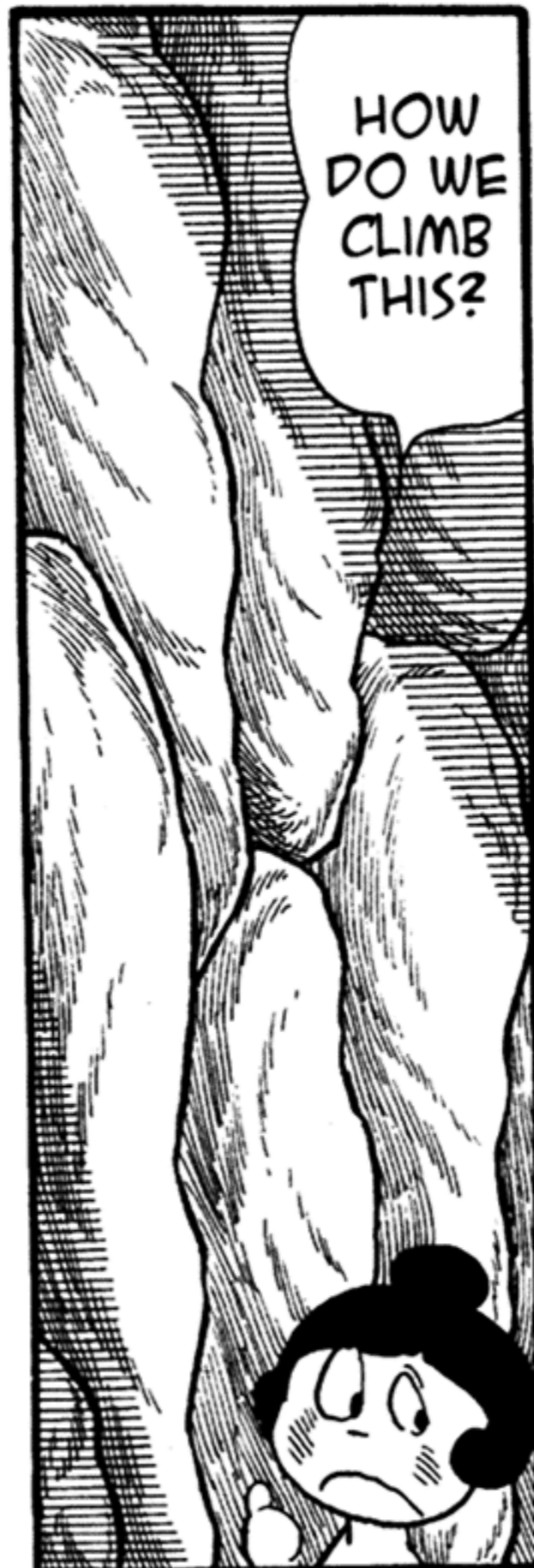
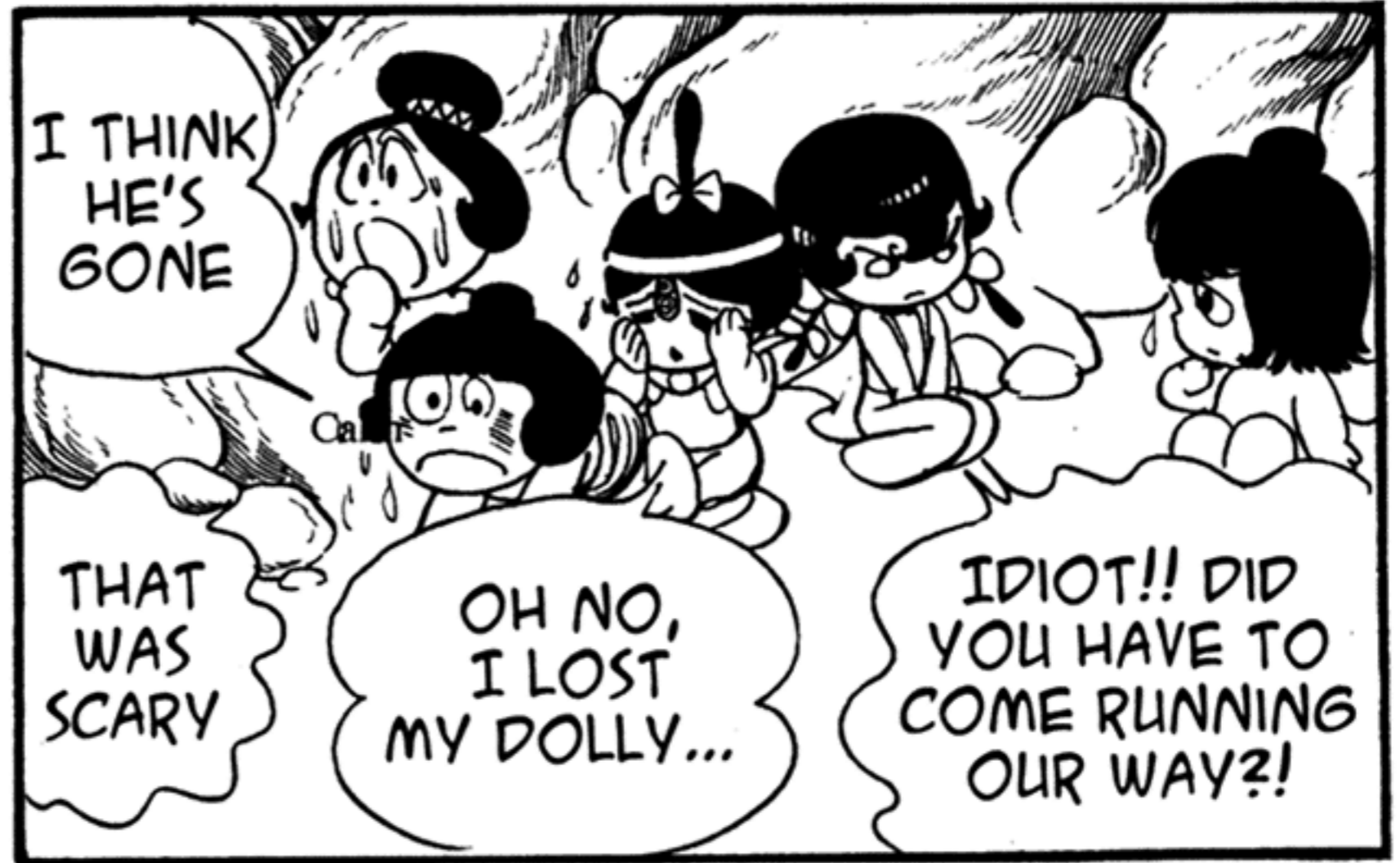
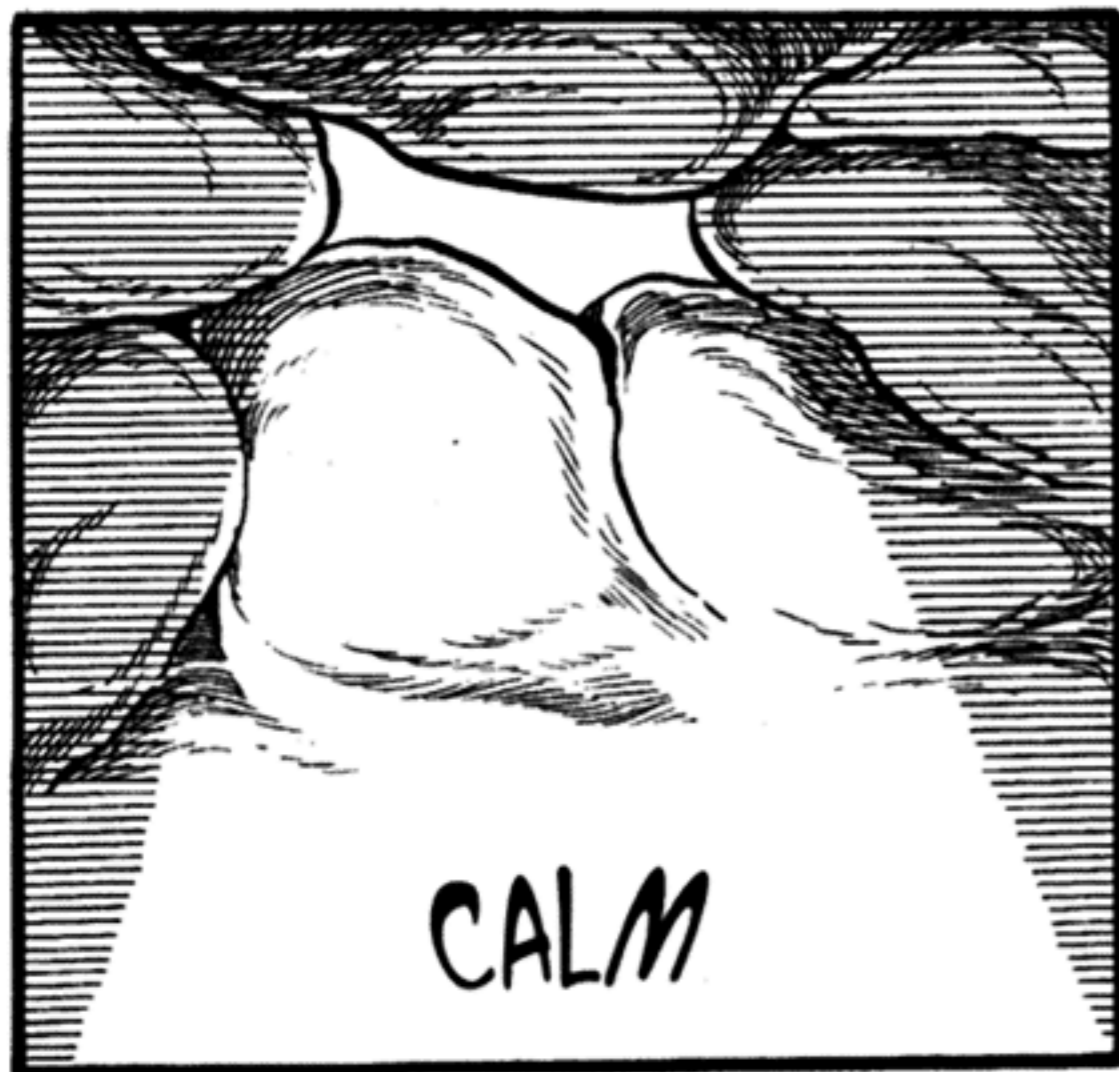
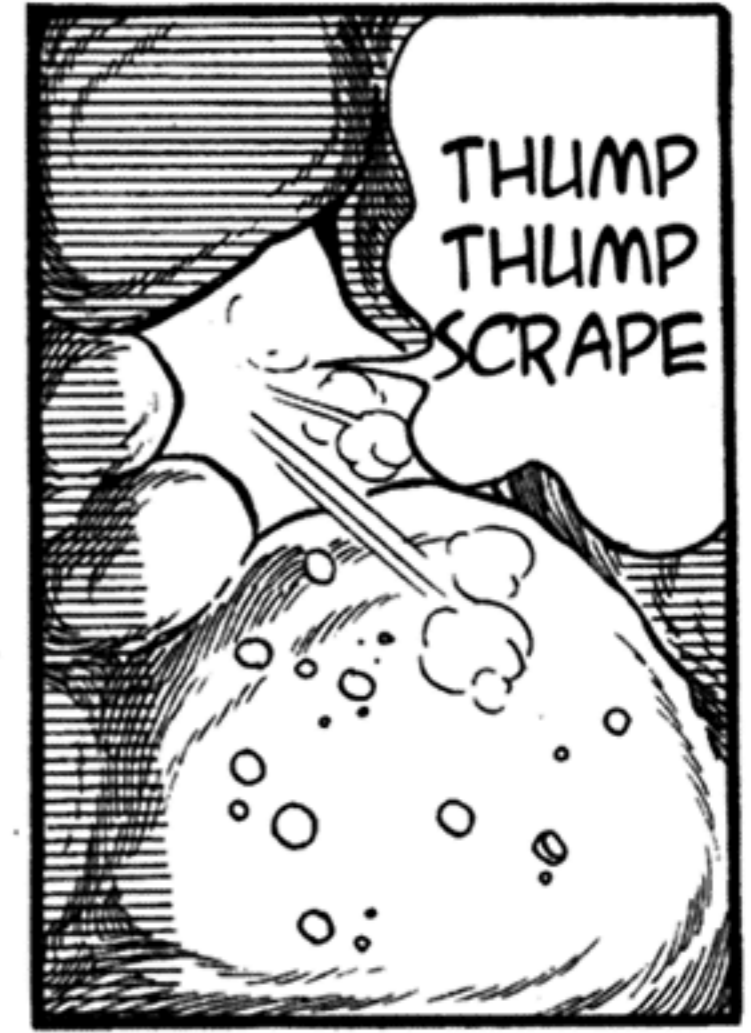
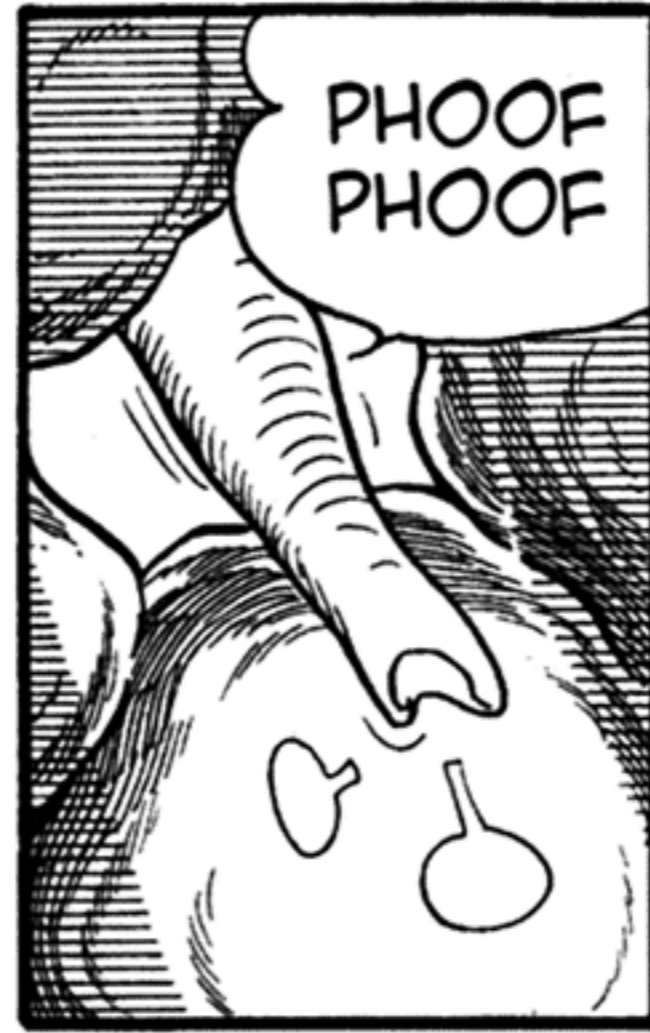
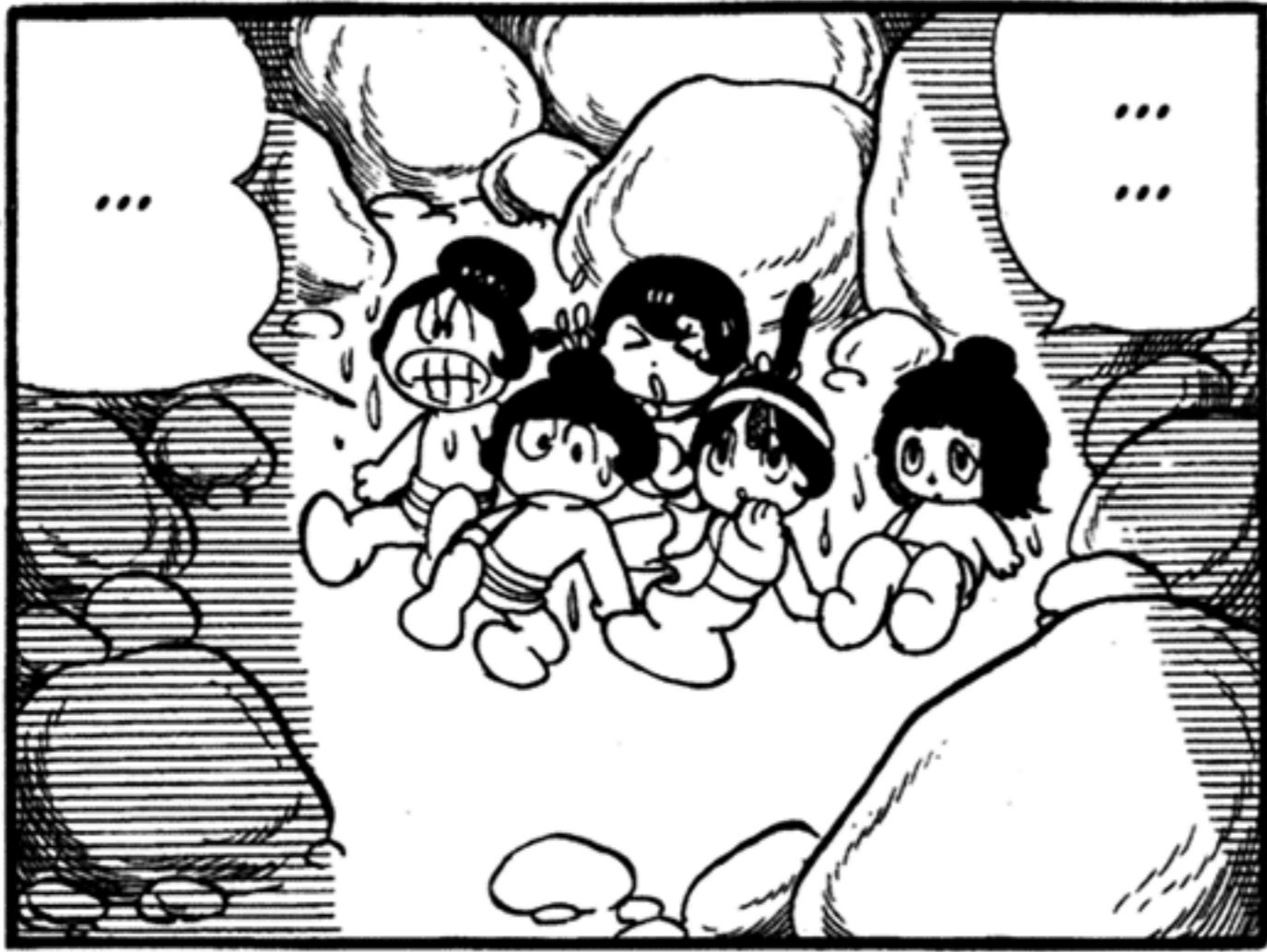


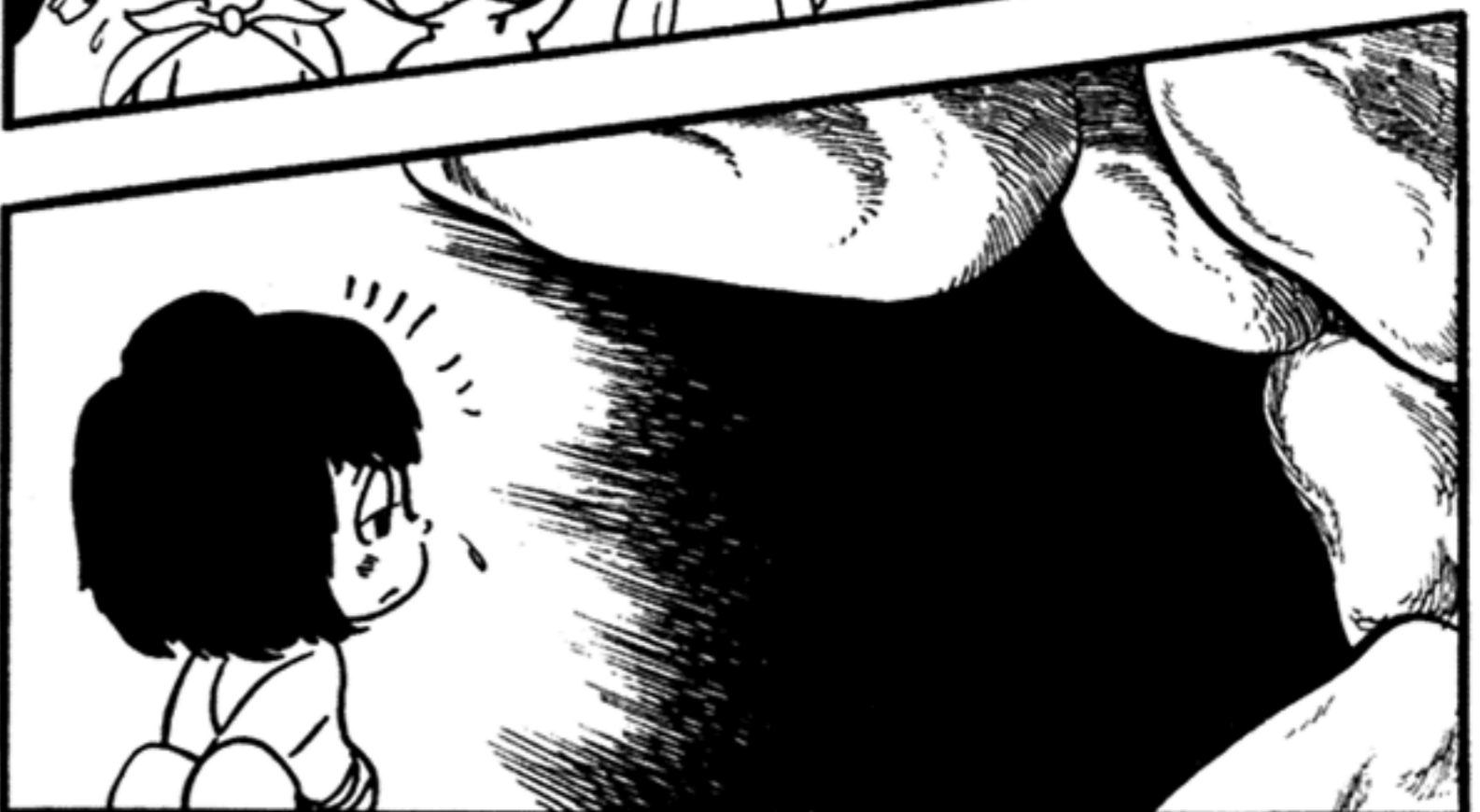
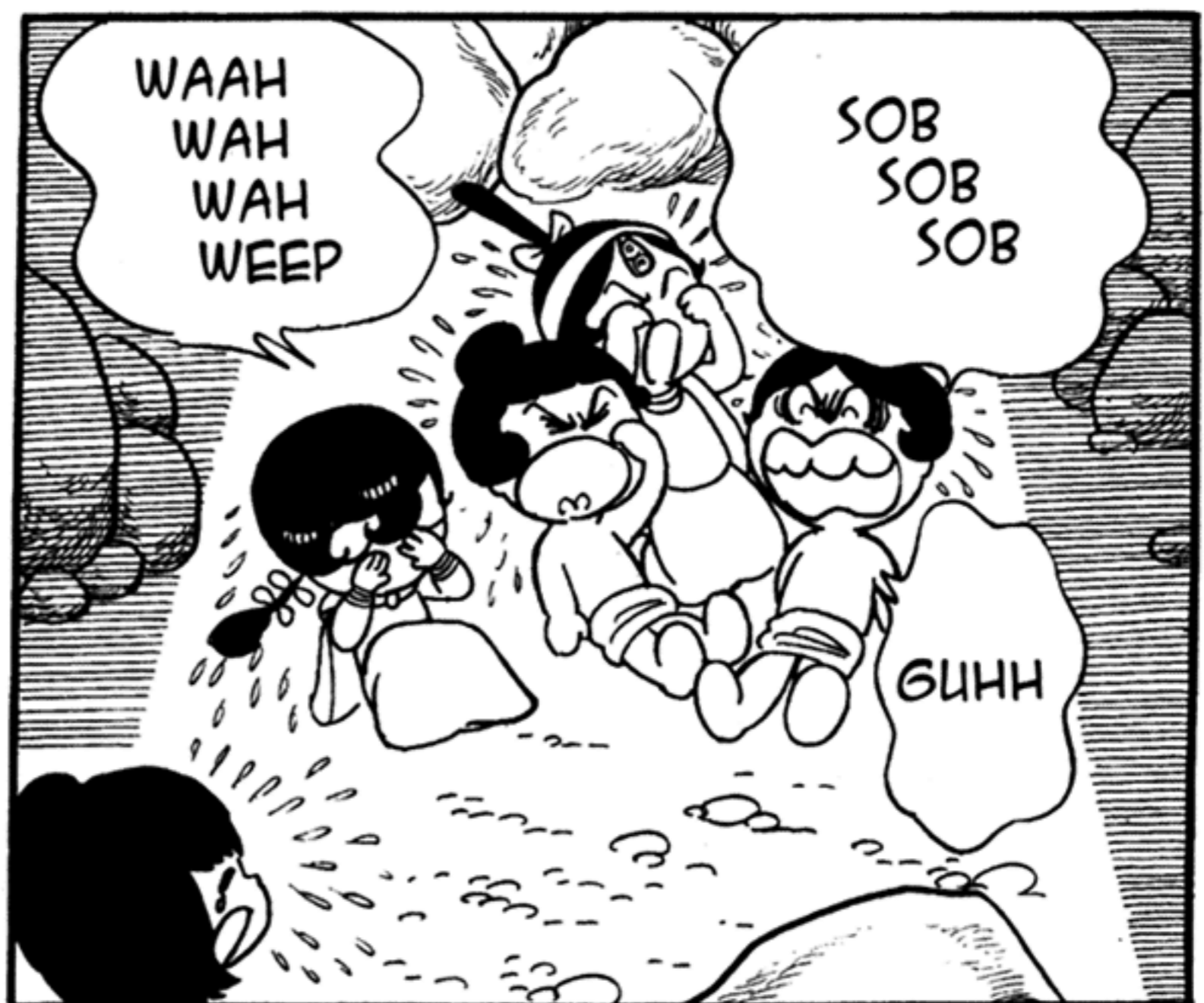
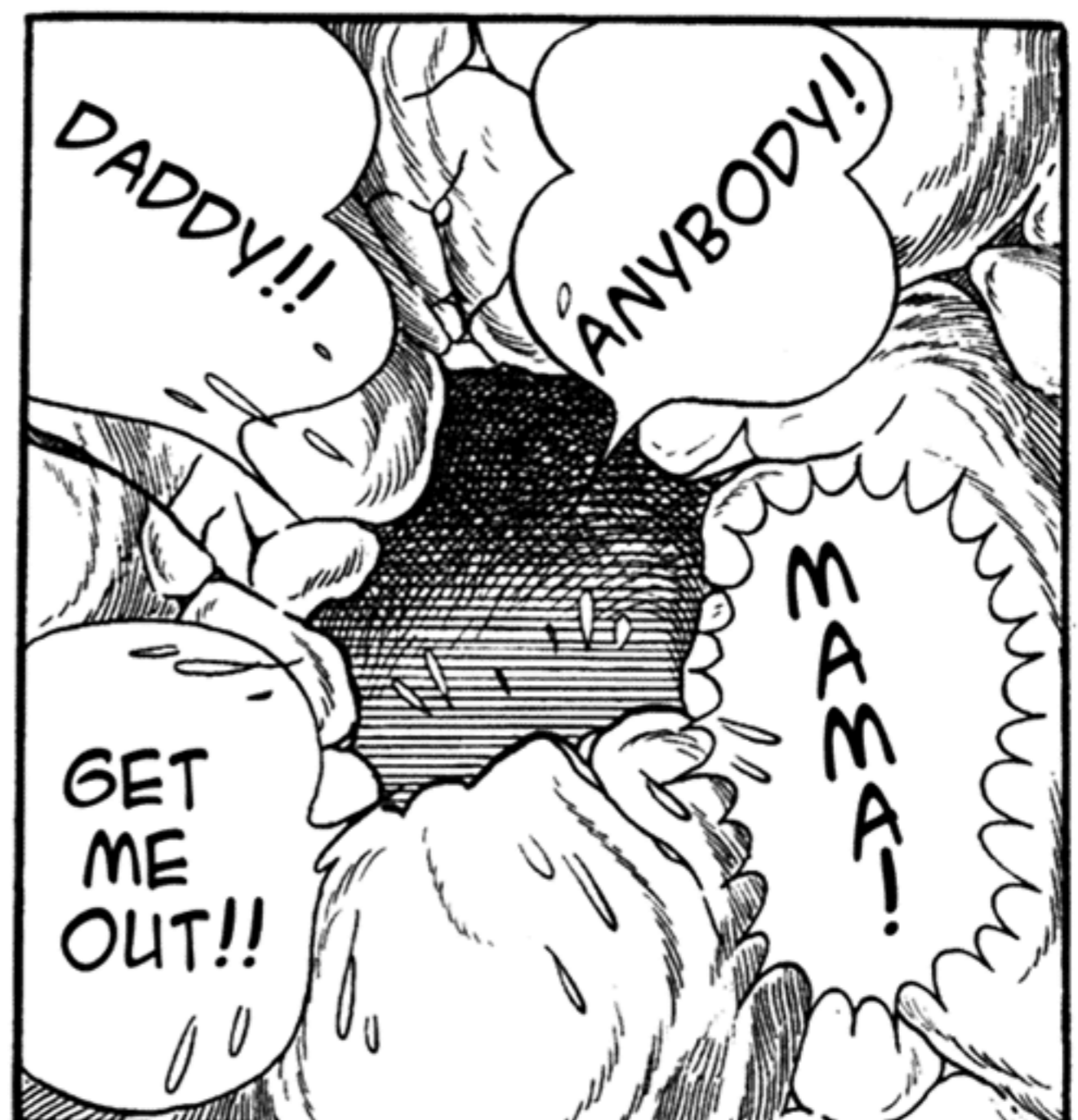
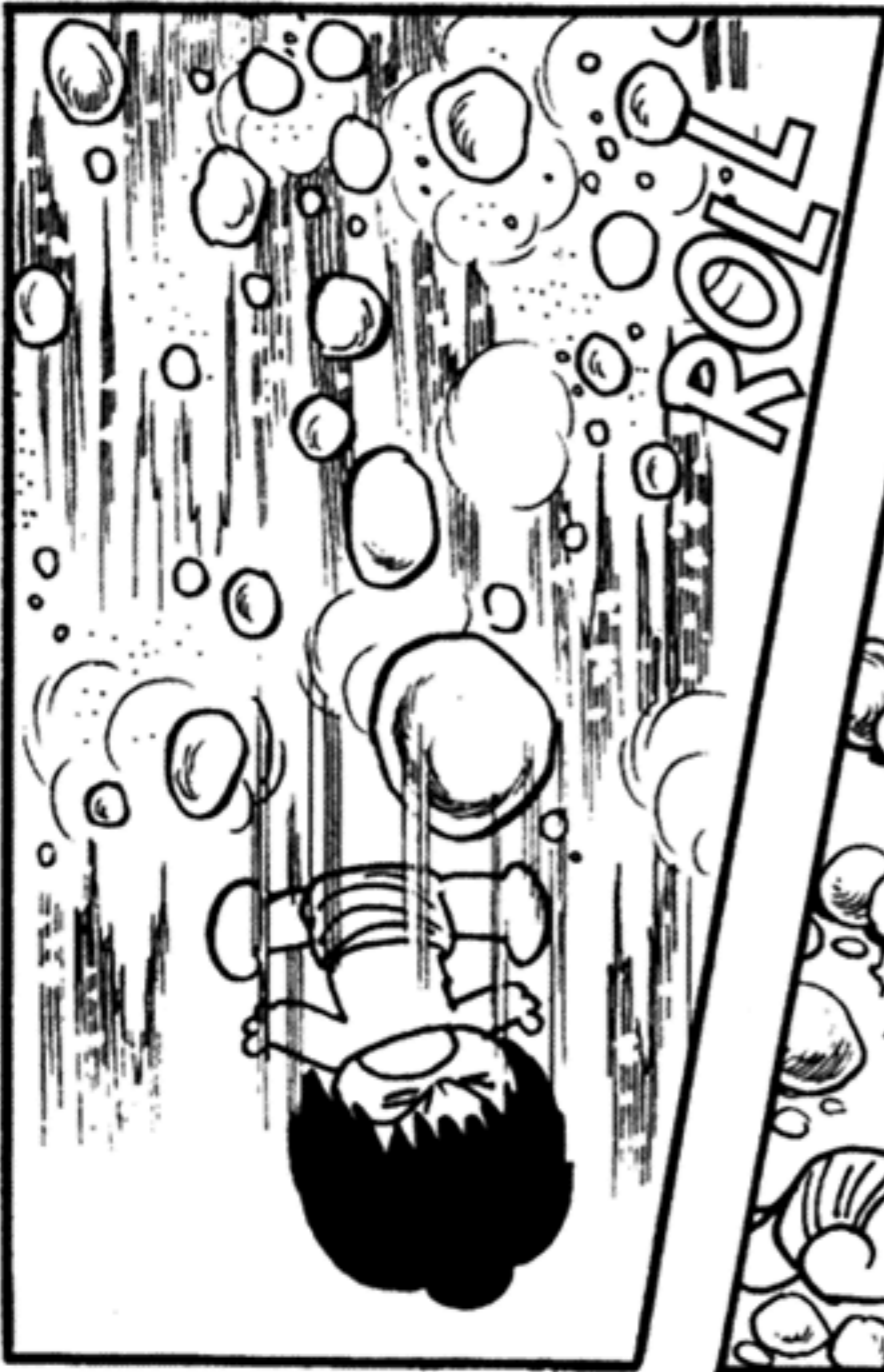


POOOO











OKAY, SO THEY UNPACKED FOR LUNCH HERE...

BUT INSTEAD OF EATING - WENT OFF SOMEWHERE.

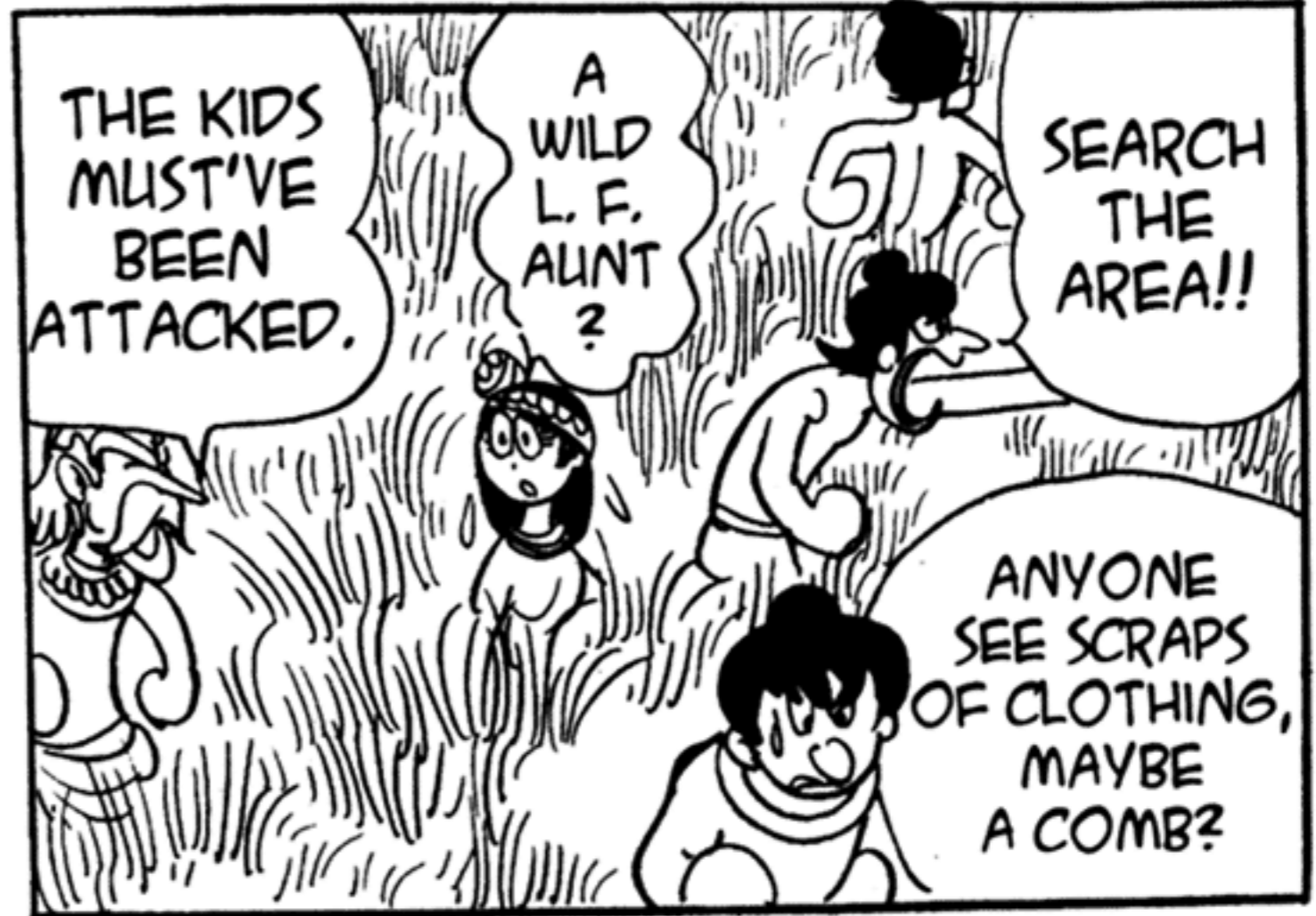
QUESTION IS, WHY?

WHO CARES WHY? HURRY AND LOOK FOR THEM!



THESE ARE ELEPHANT TRACKS.

A WILD ELEPHANT.



THE KIDS MUST'VE BEEN ATTACKED.

A WILD L.F. AUNT?

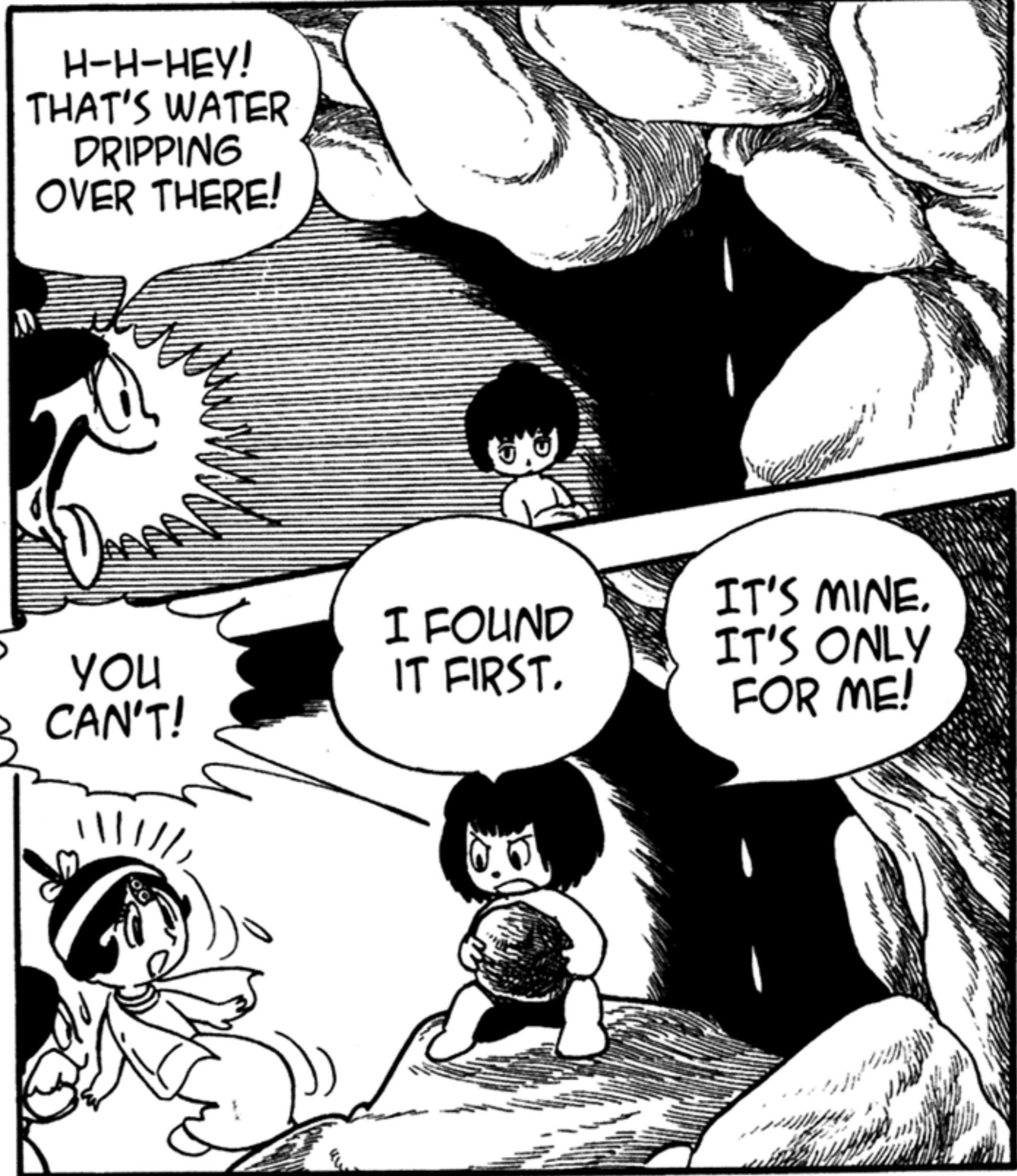
SEARCH THE AREA!!

ANYONE SEE SCRAPS OF CLOTHING, MAYBE A COMB?



I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW THIRSTY I AM.

ME TOO, I FEEL LIKE I'M DYING.

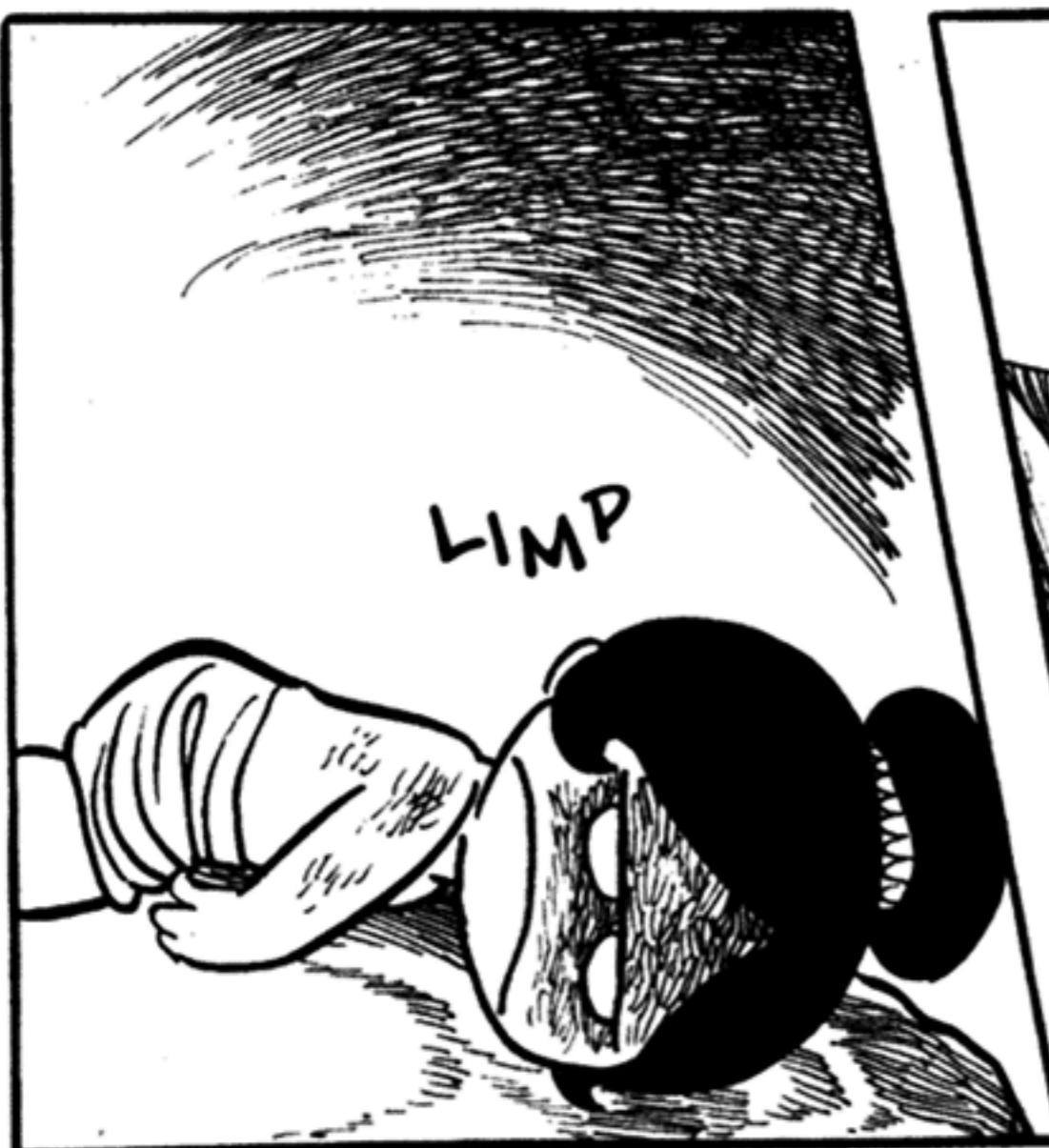
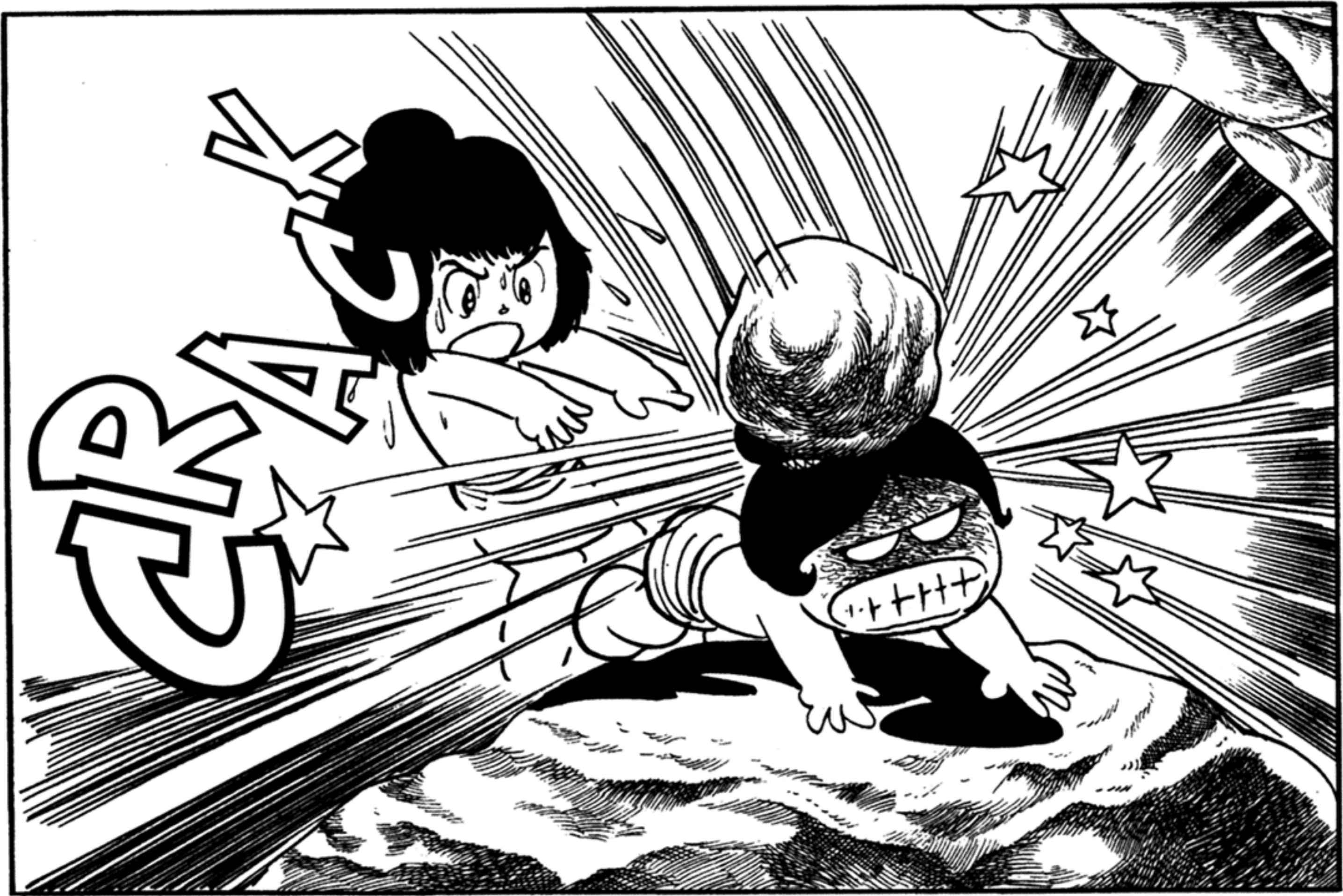
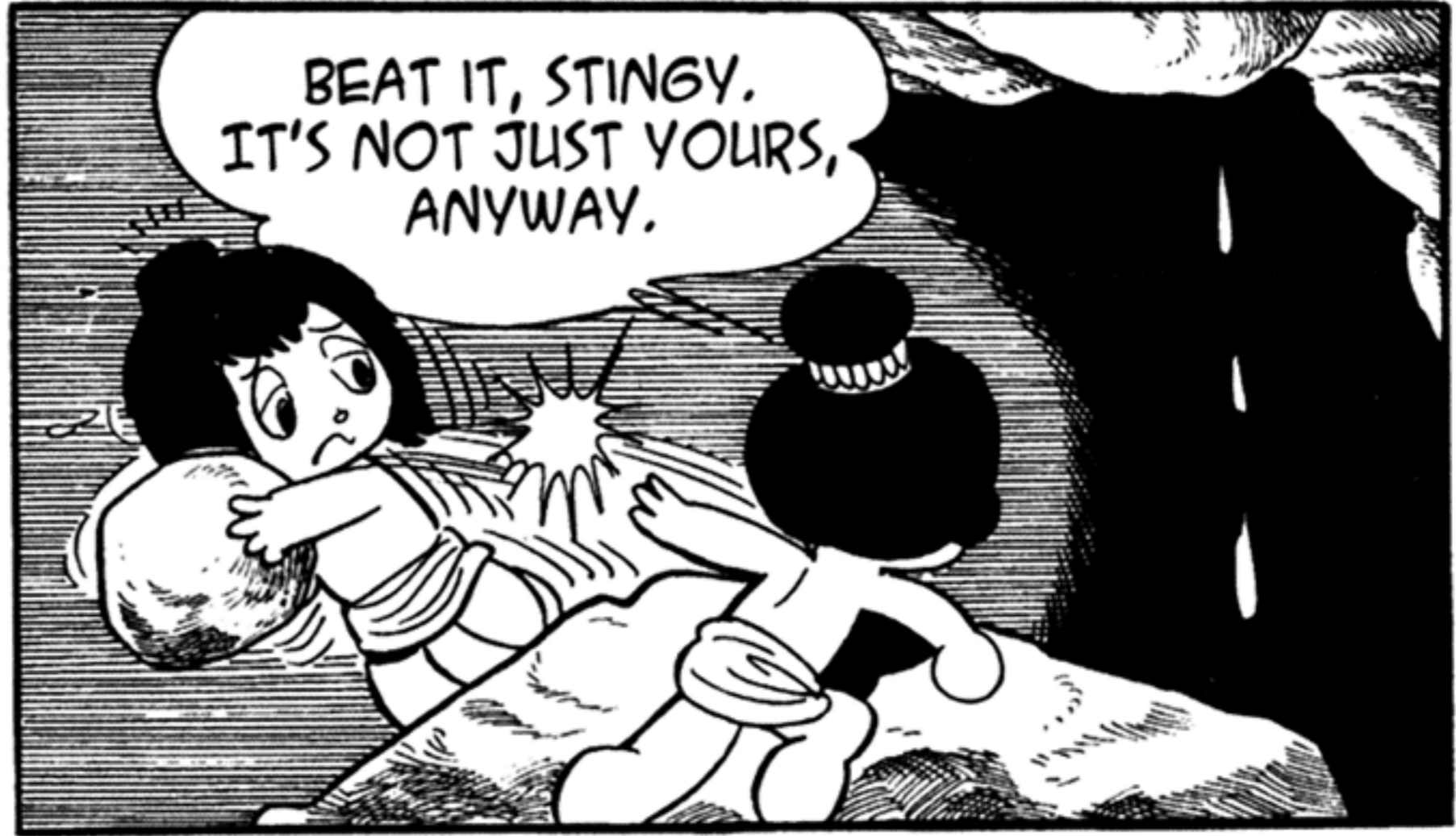


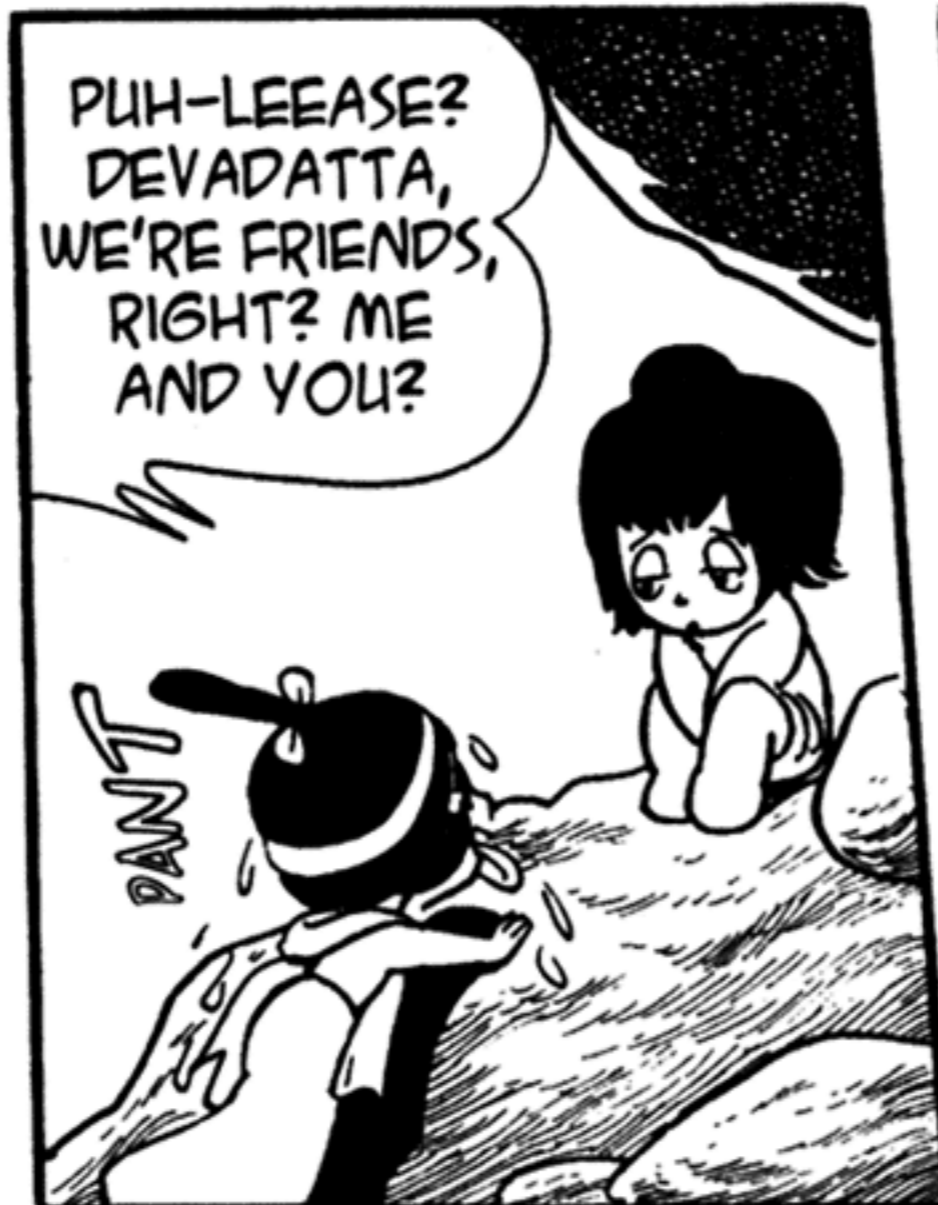
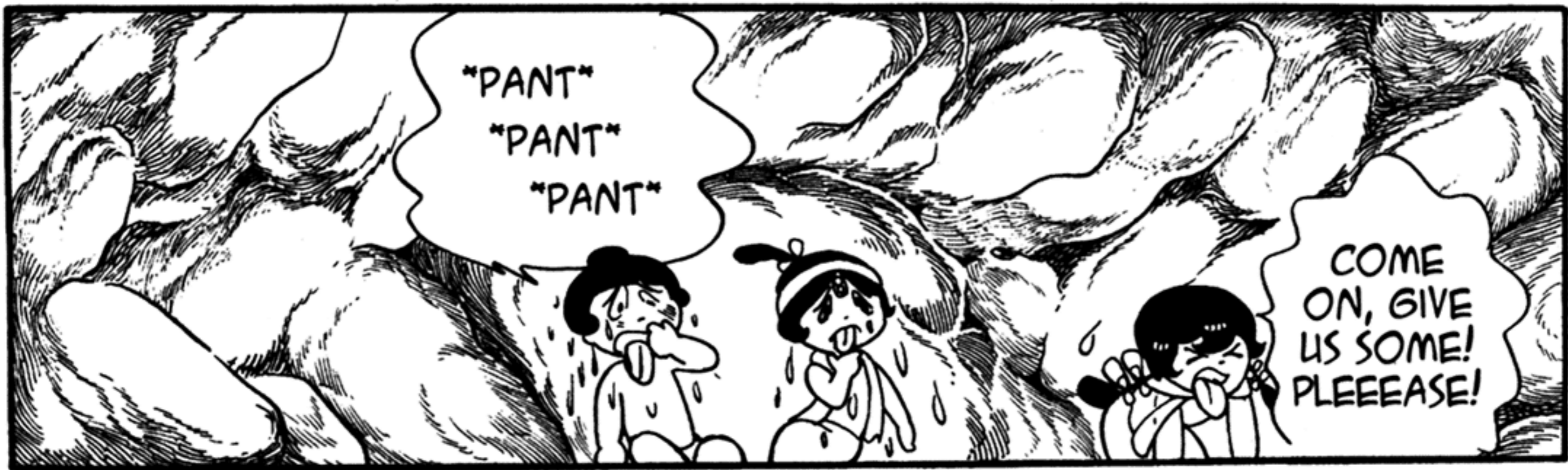
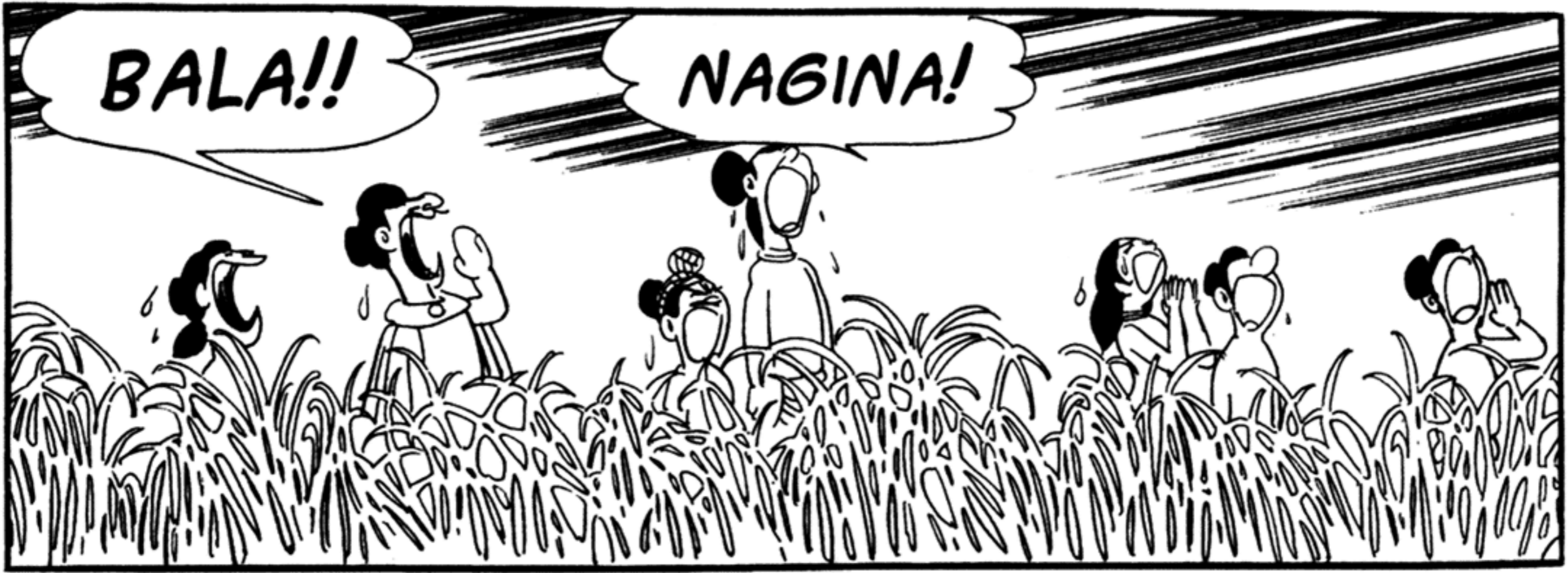
H-H-HEY! THAT'S WATER DRIPPING OVER THERE!

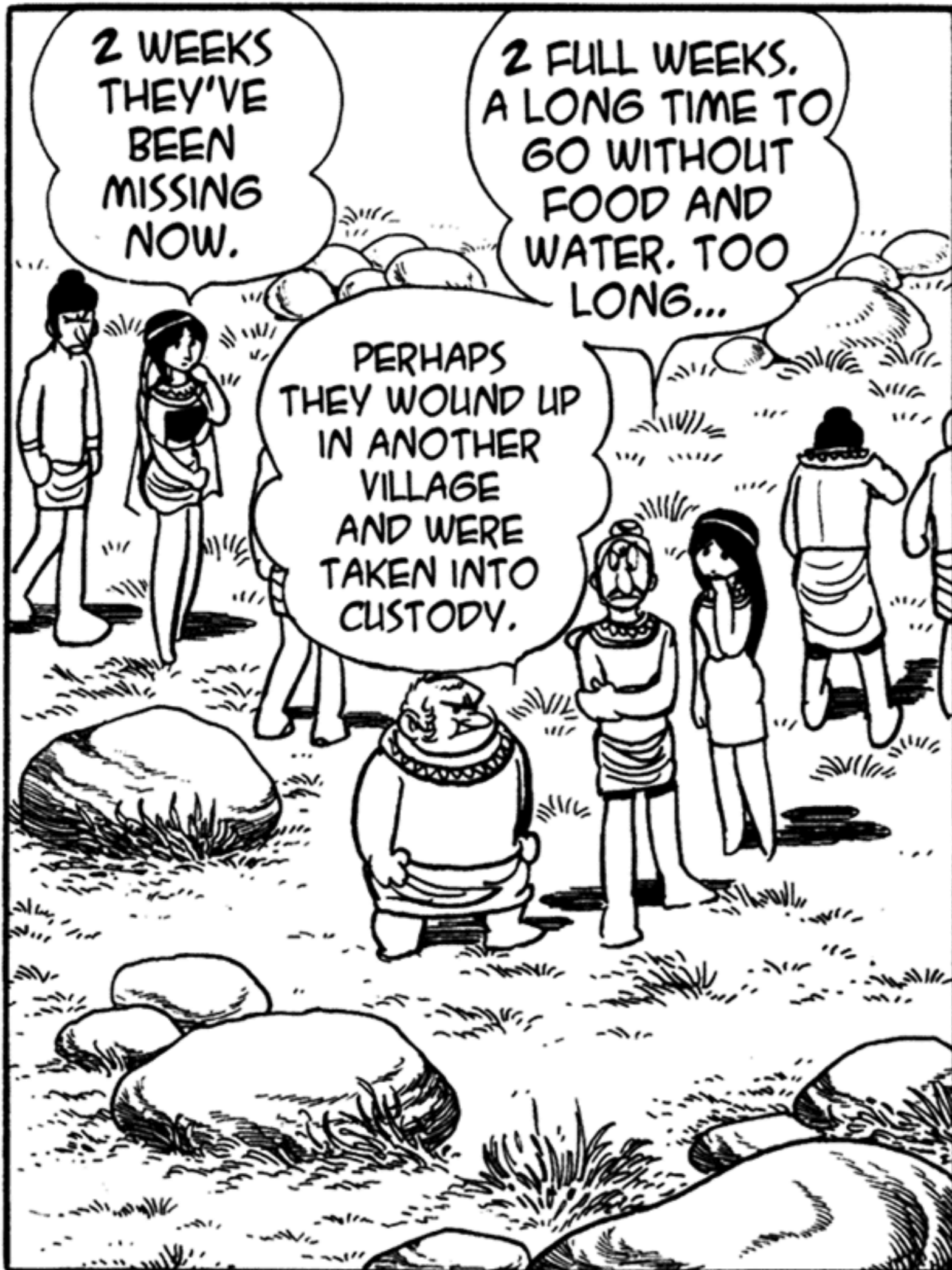
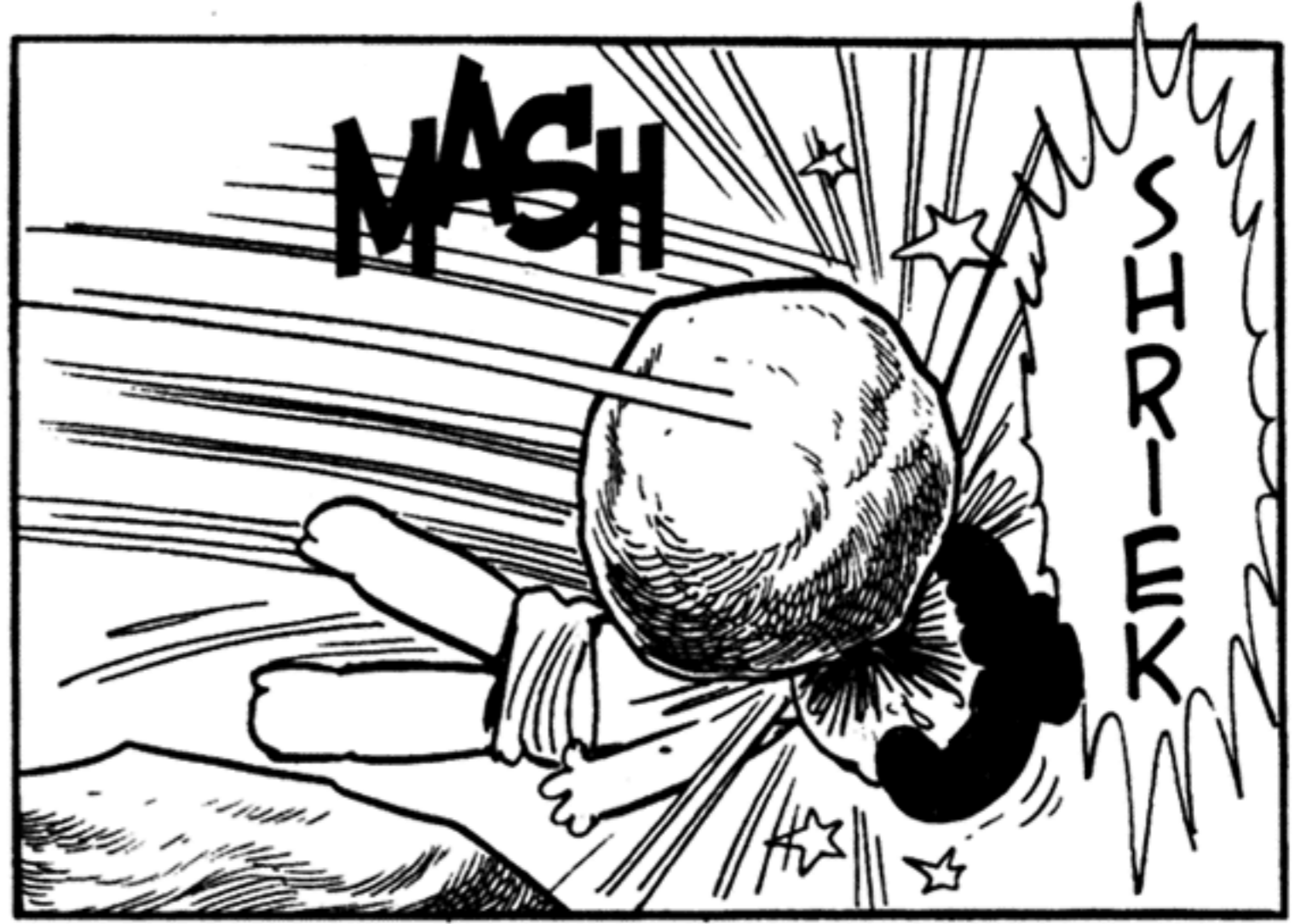
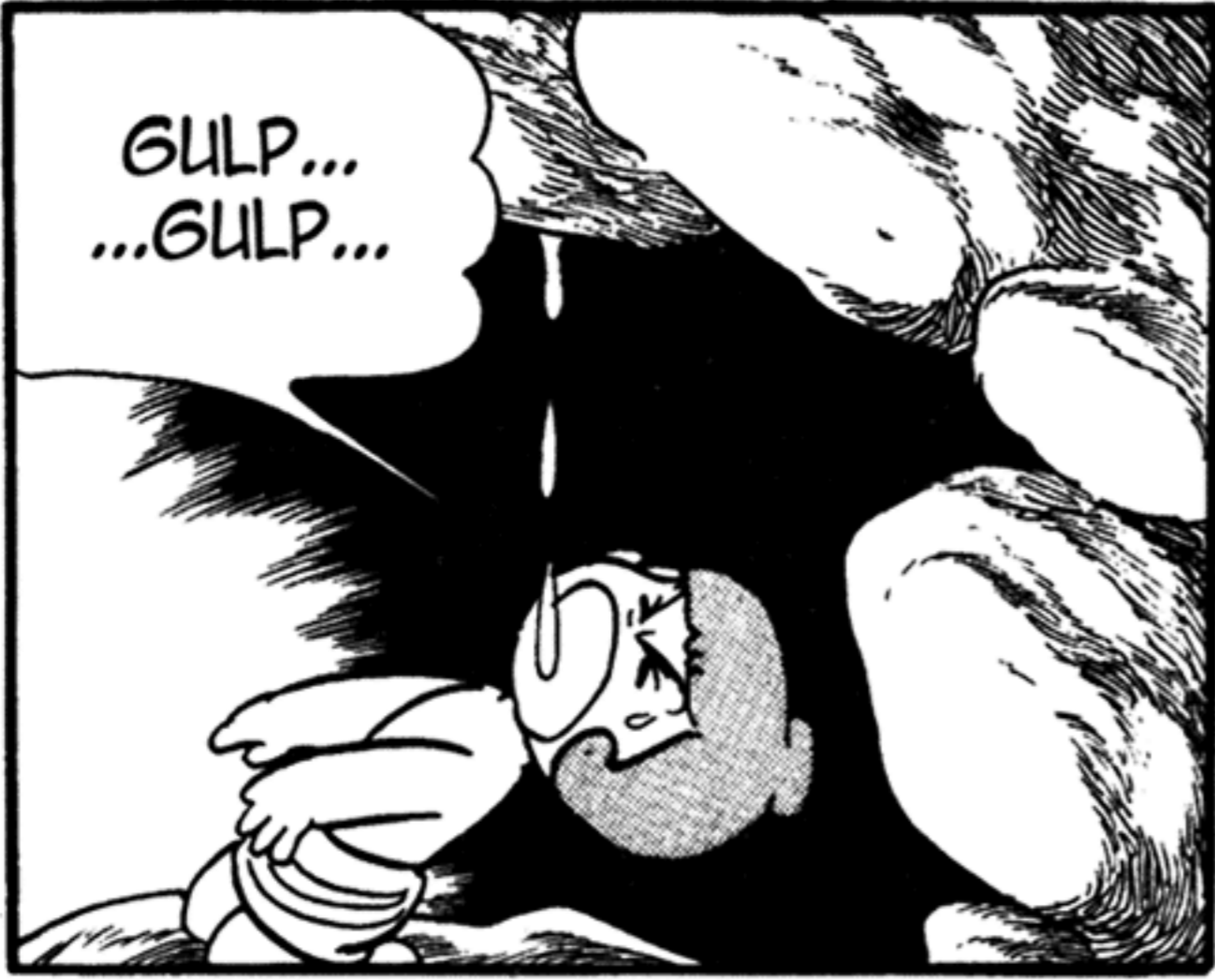
YOU CAN'T!

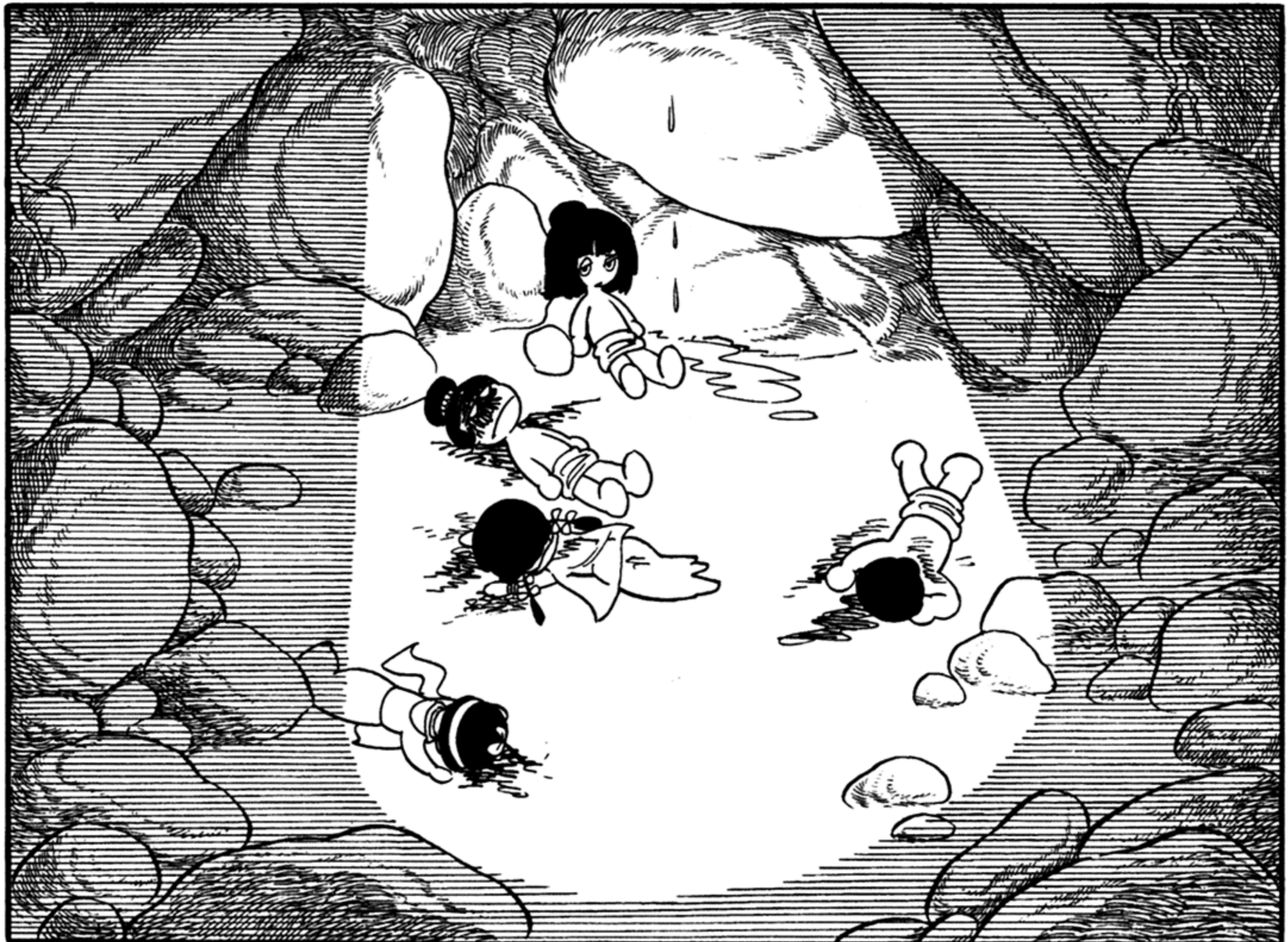
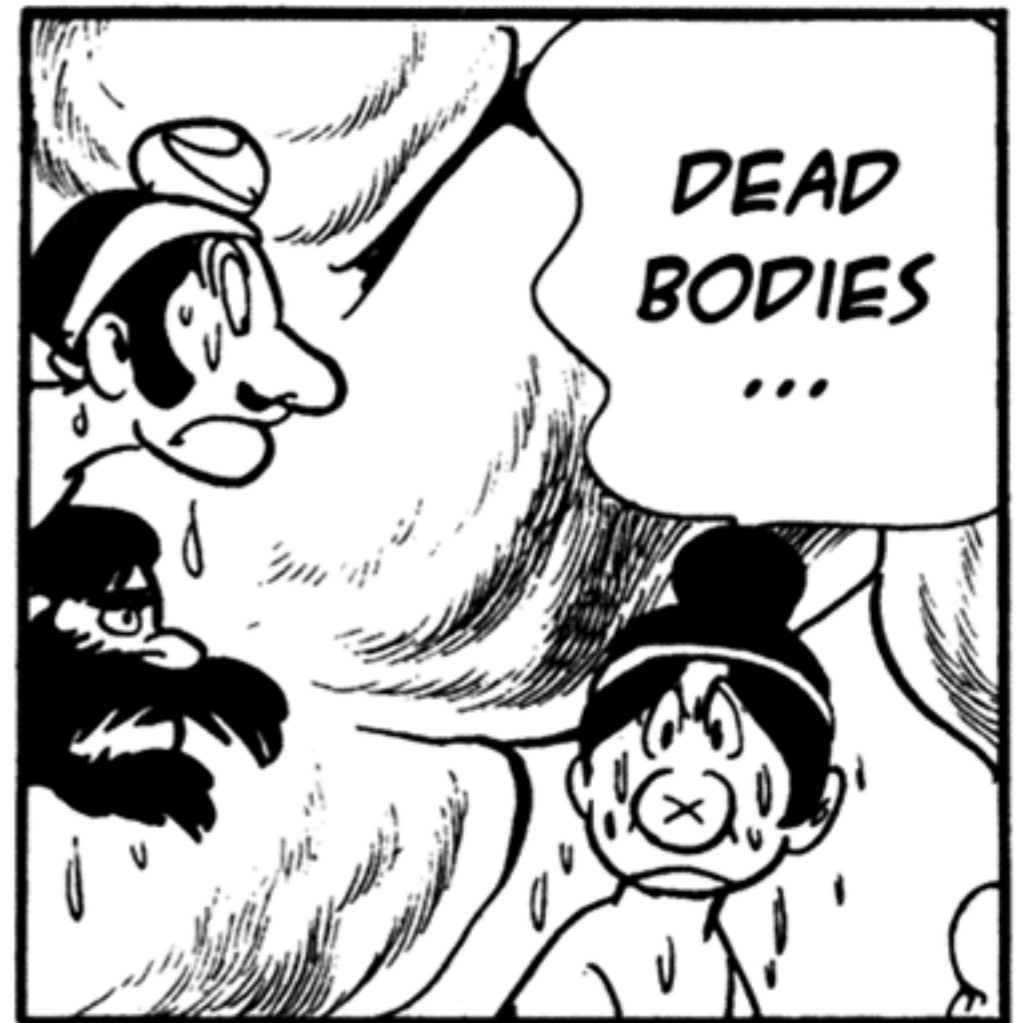
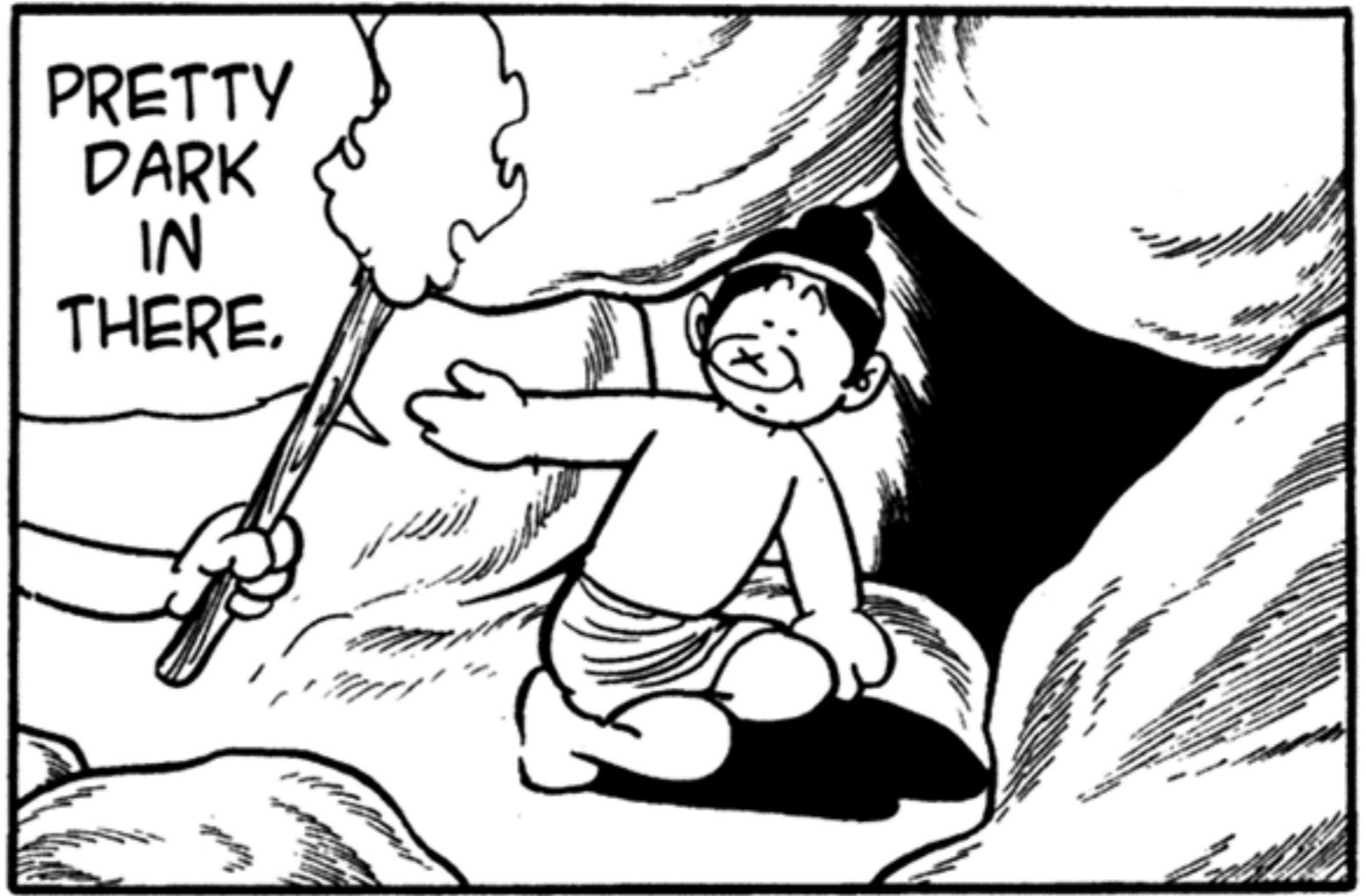
I FOUND IT FIRST.

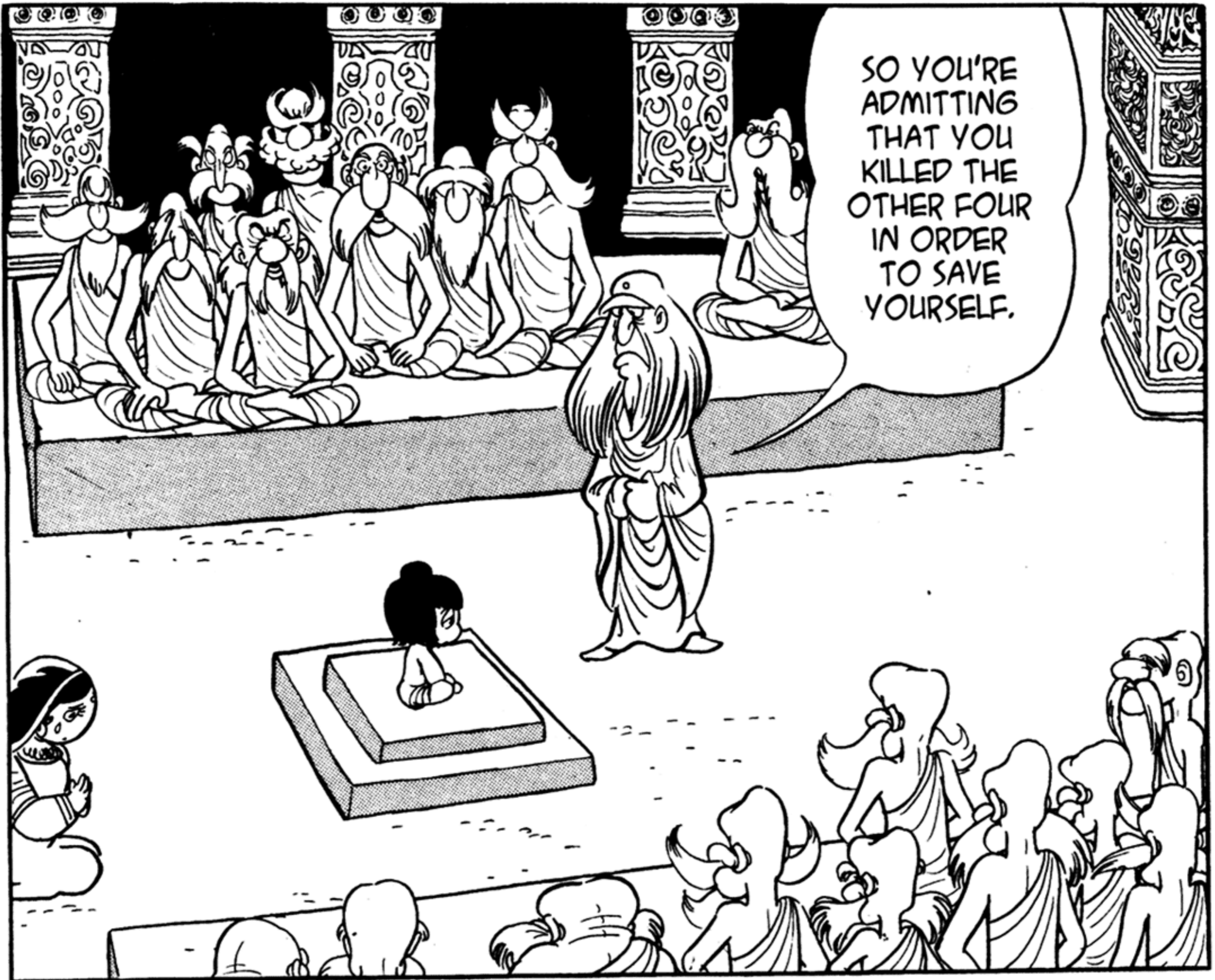
IT'S MINE. IT'S ONLY FOR ME!

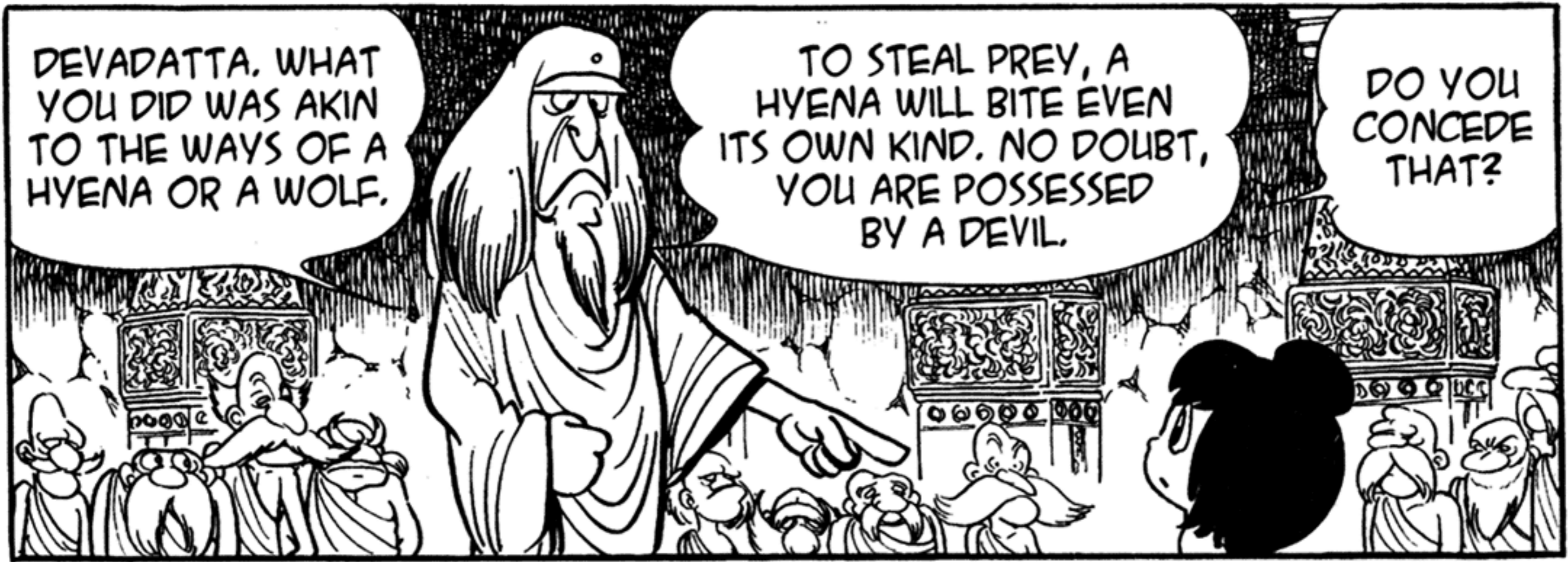












DEVADATTA, WHAT YOU DID WAS AKIN TO THE WAYS OF A HYENA OR A WOLF.

TO STEAL PREY, A HYENA WILL BITE EVEN ITS OWN KIND. NO DOUBT, YOU ARE POSSESSED BY A DEVIL.

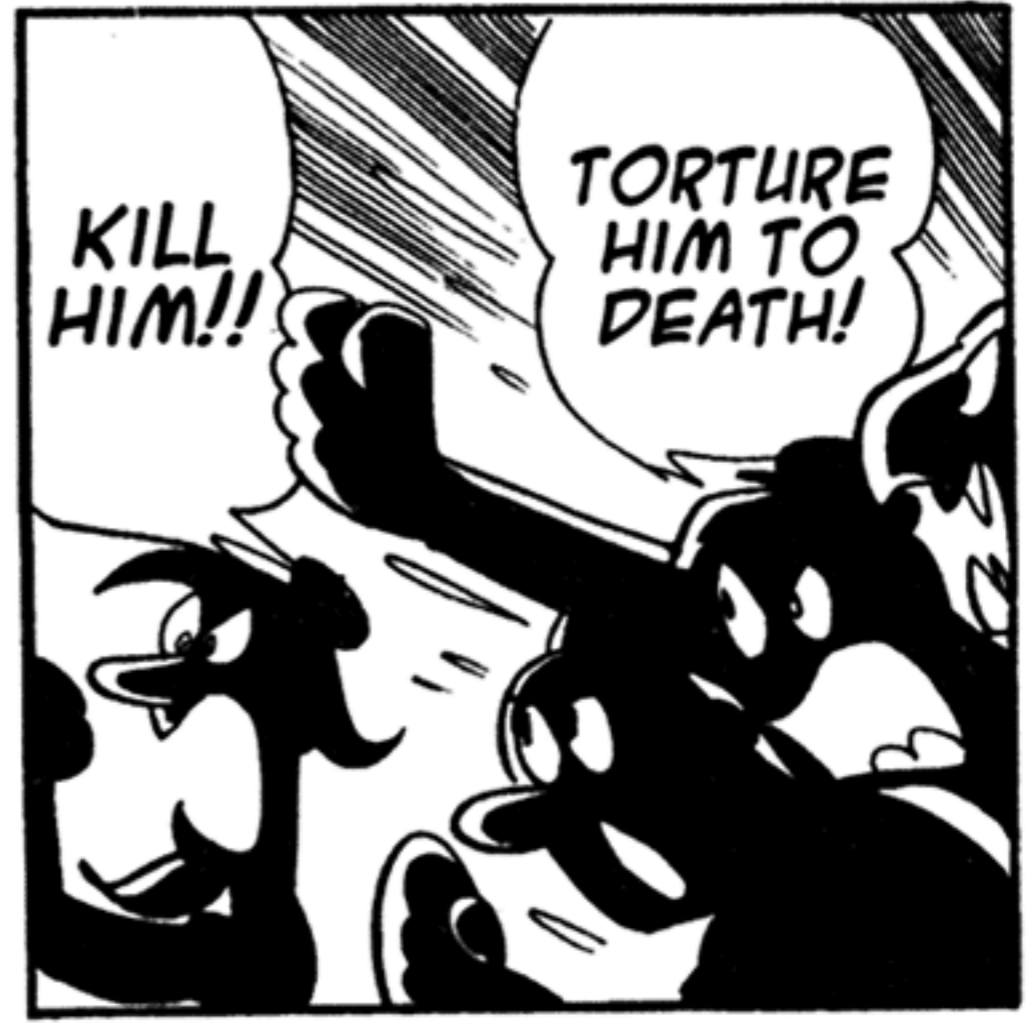
DO YOU CONCEDE THAT?



I... YOU'VE LOST ME.

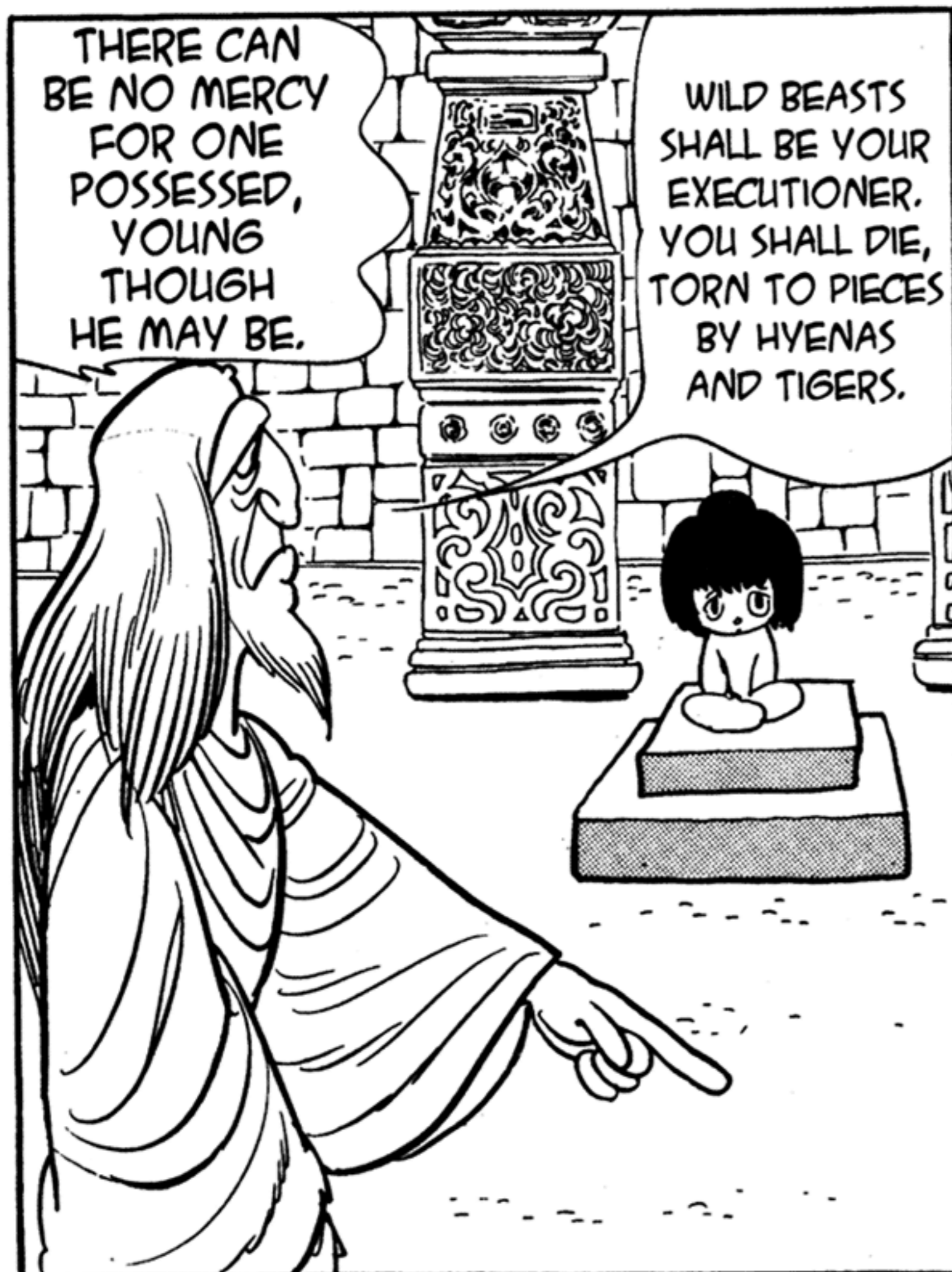


DEVADATTA, TELL HIM IT'S NOT TRUE! BEG FOR MERCY!!



KILL HIM!!

TORTURE HIM TO DEATH!



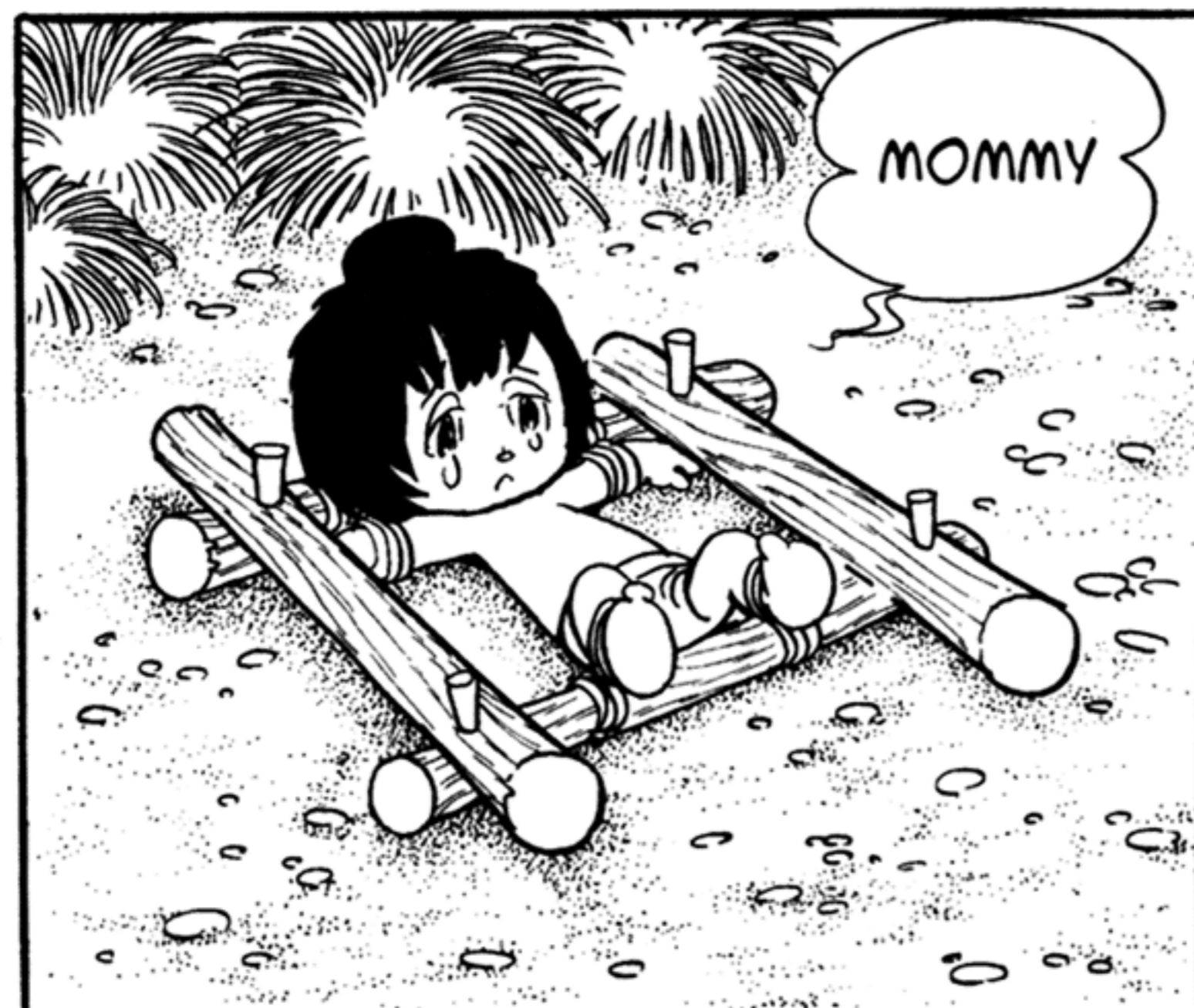
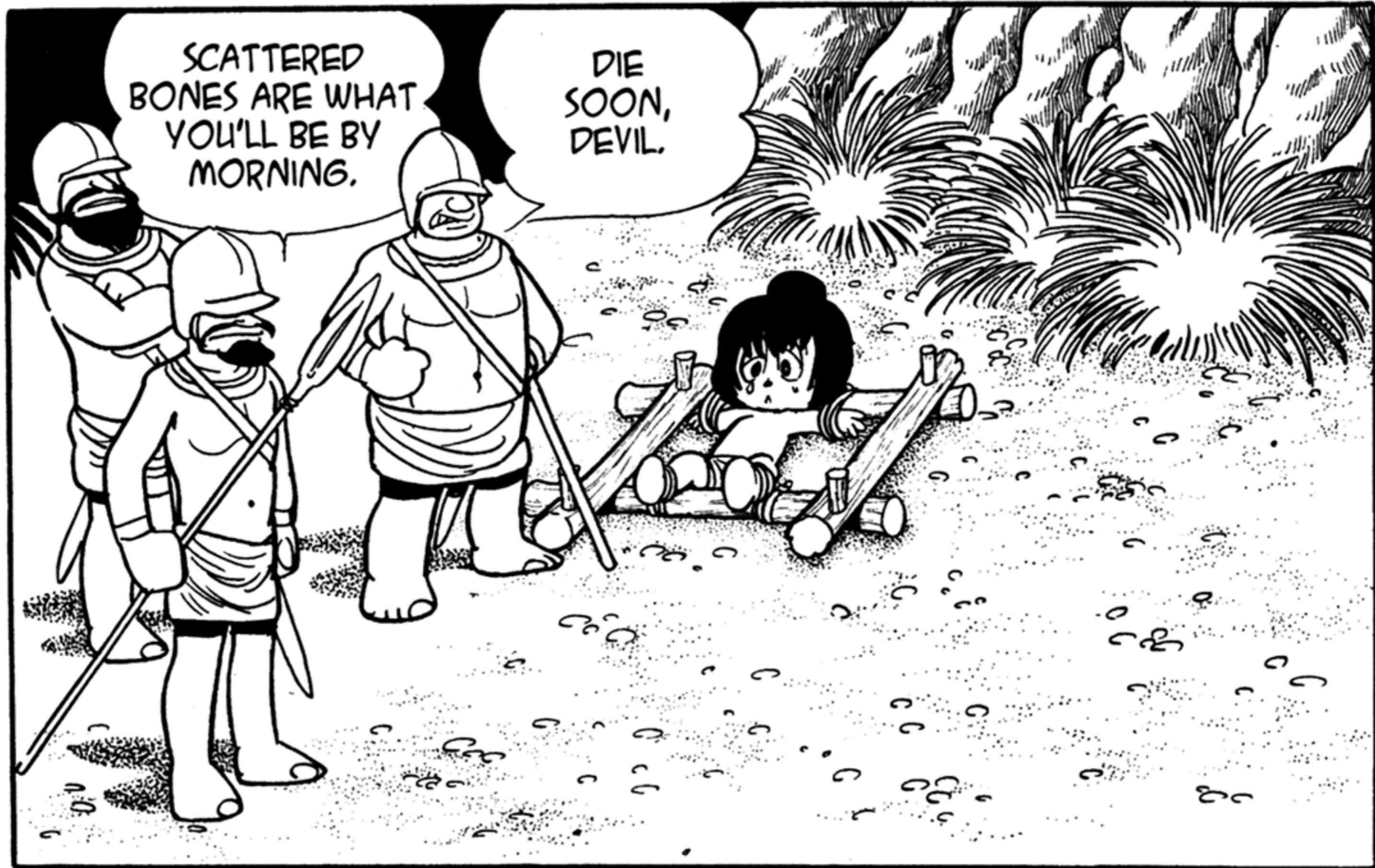
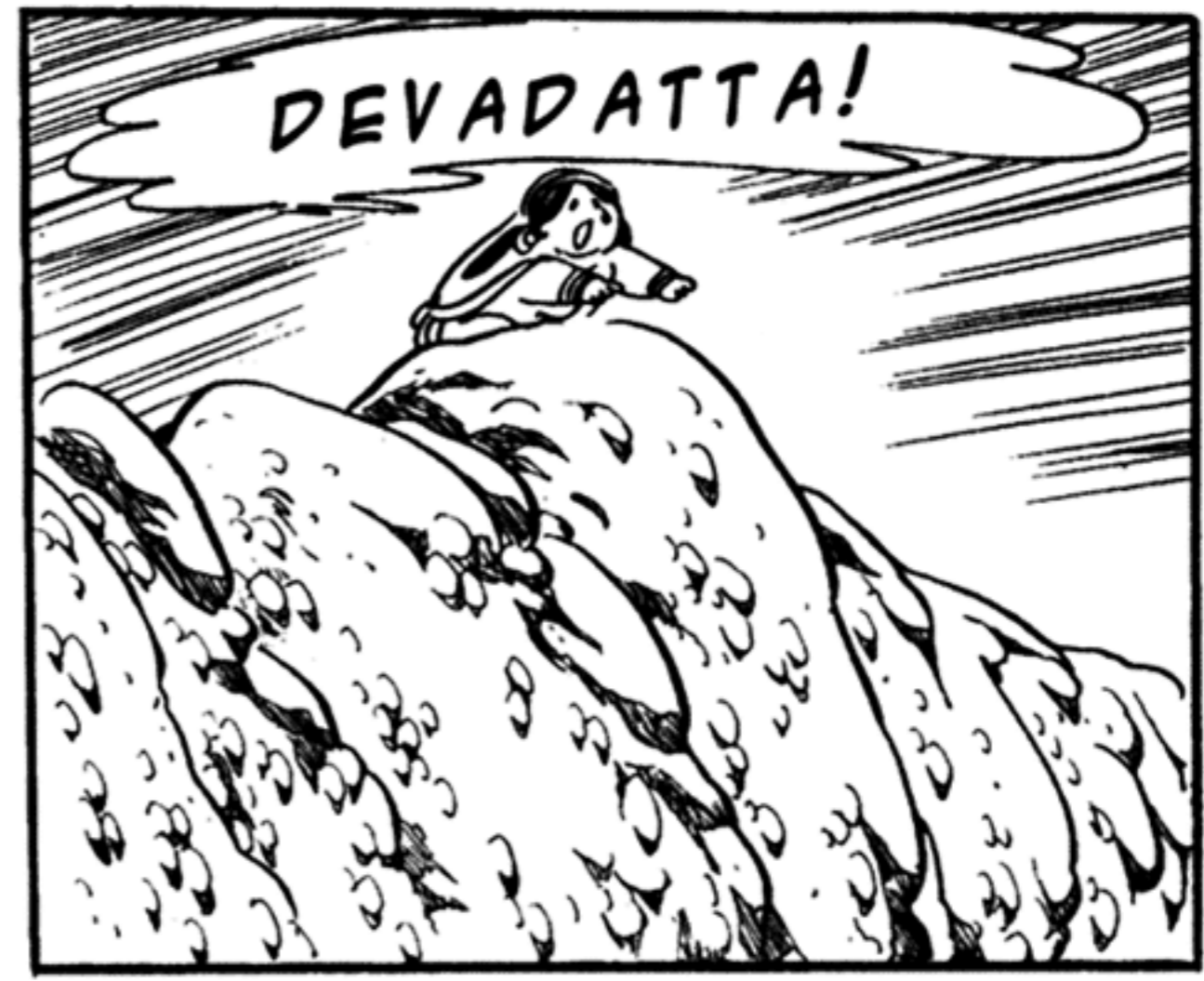
THERE CAN BE NO MERCY FOR ONE POSSESSED, YOUNG THOUGH HE MAY BE.

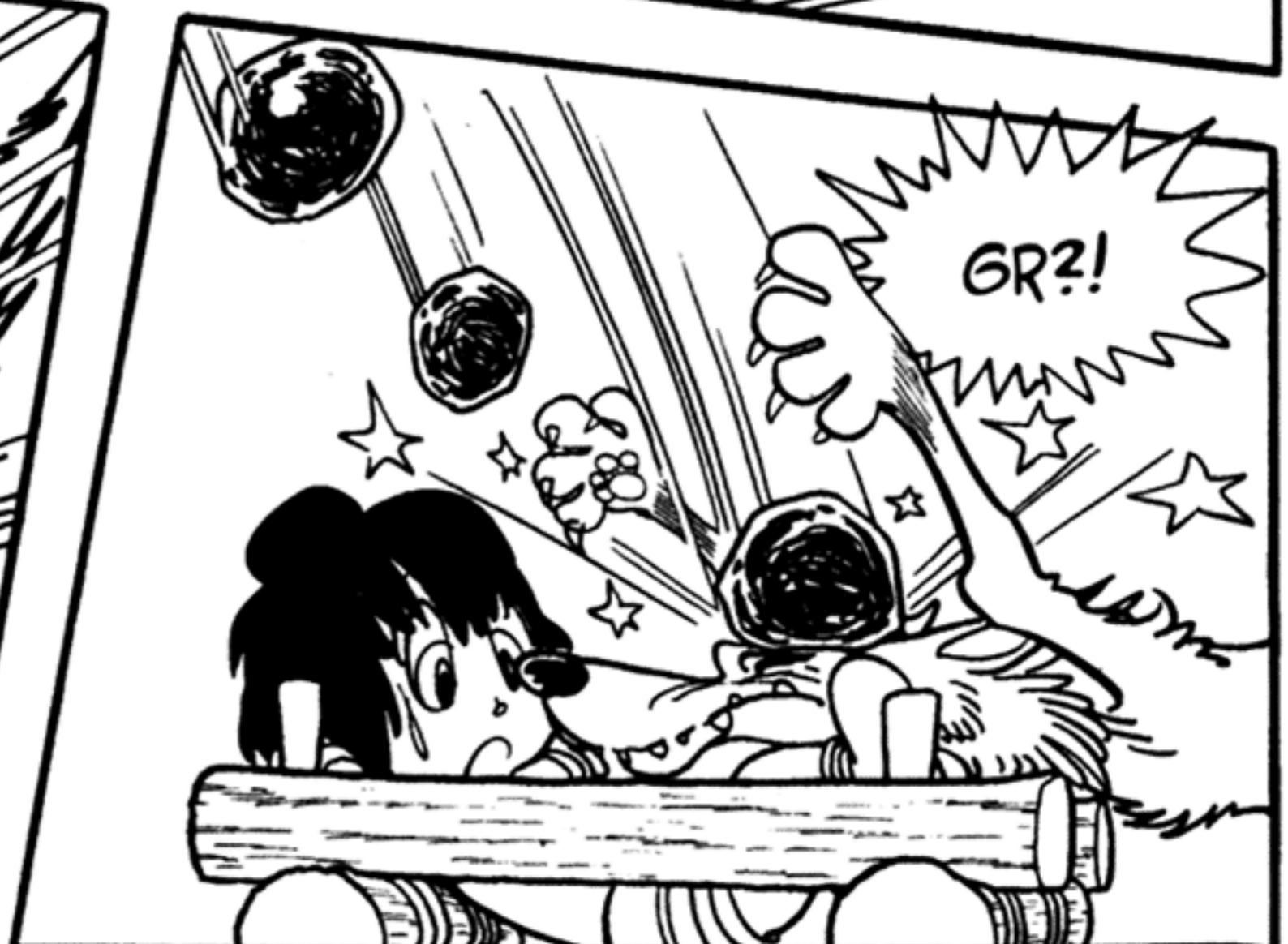
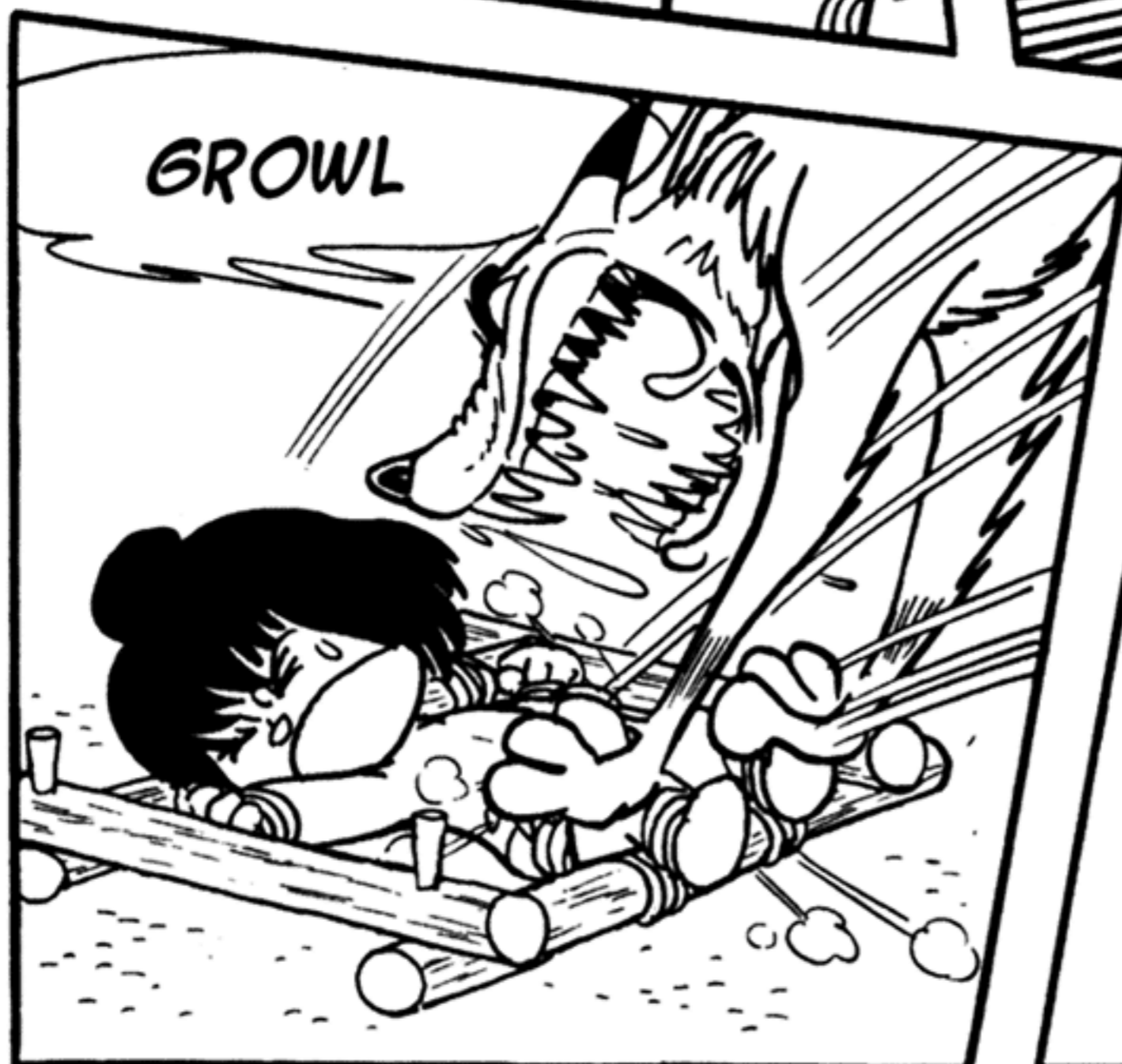
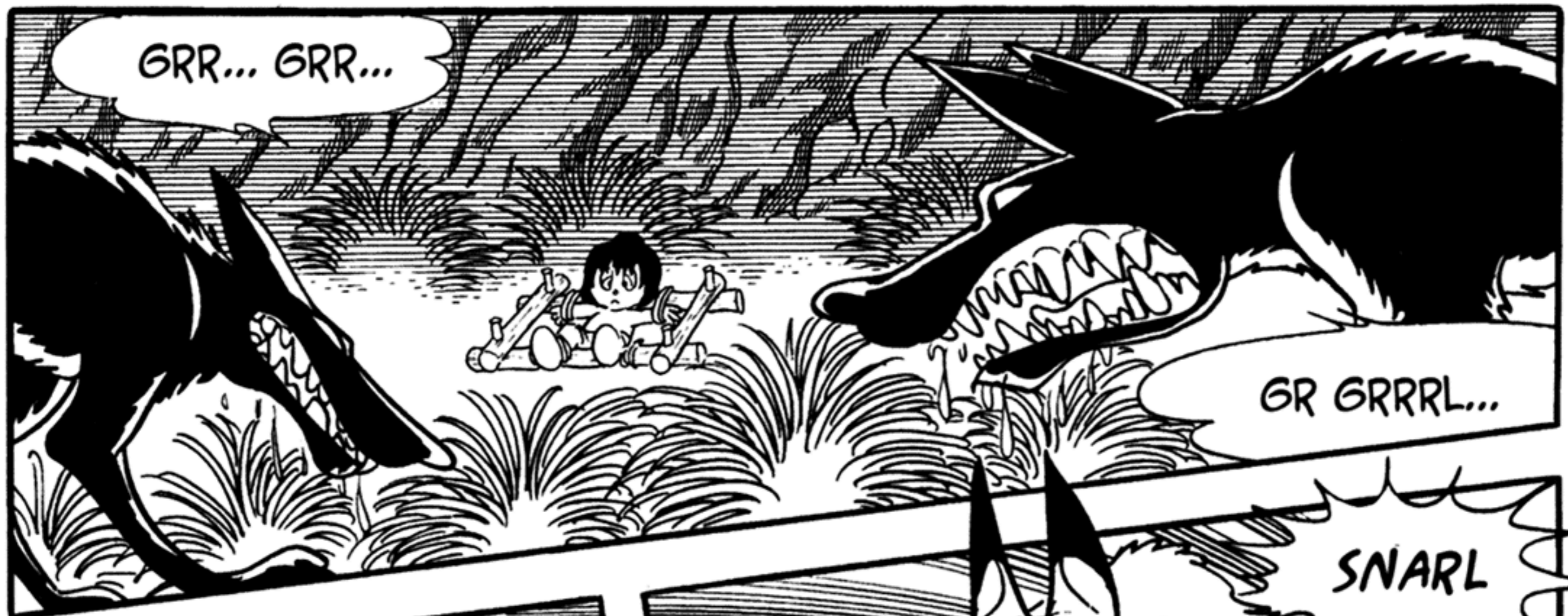
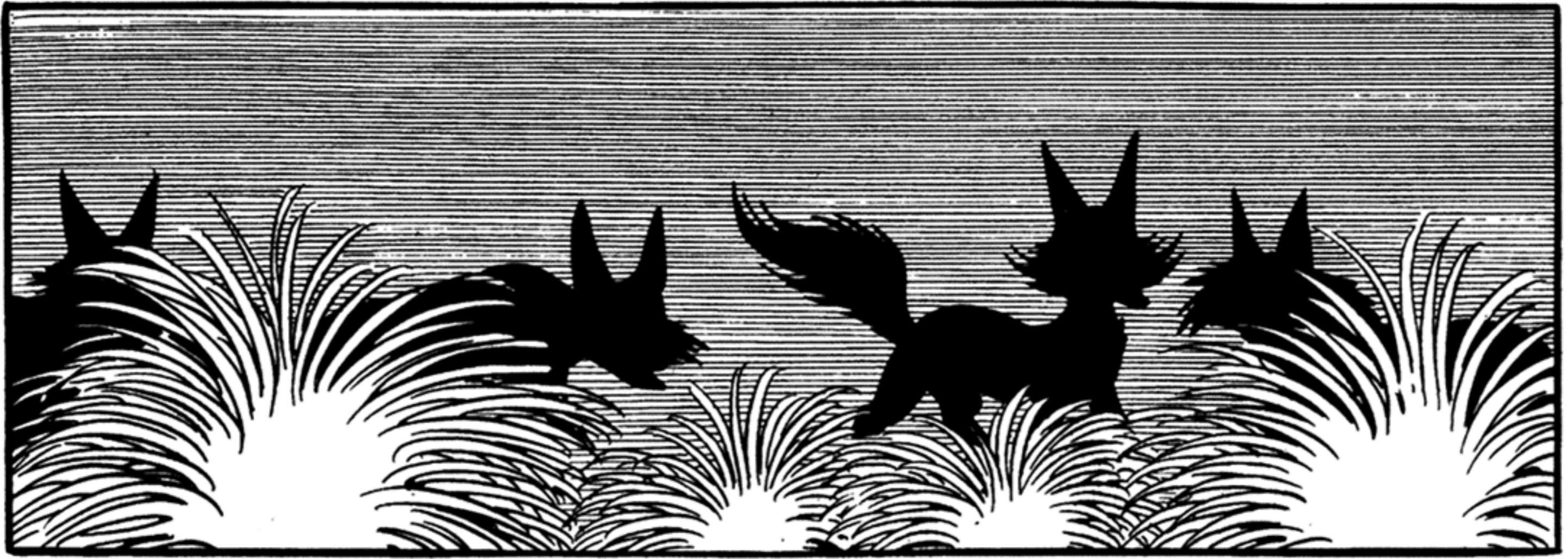
WILD BEASTS SHALL BE YOUR EXECUTIONER. YOU SHALL DIE, TORN TO PIECES BY HYENAS AND TIGERS.

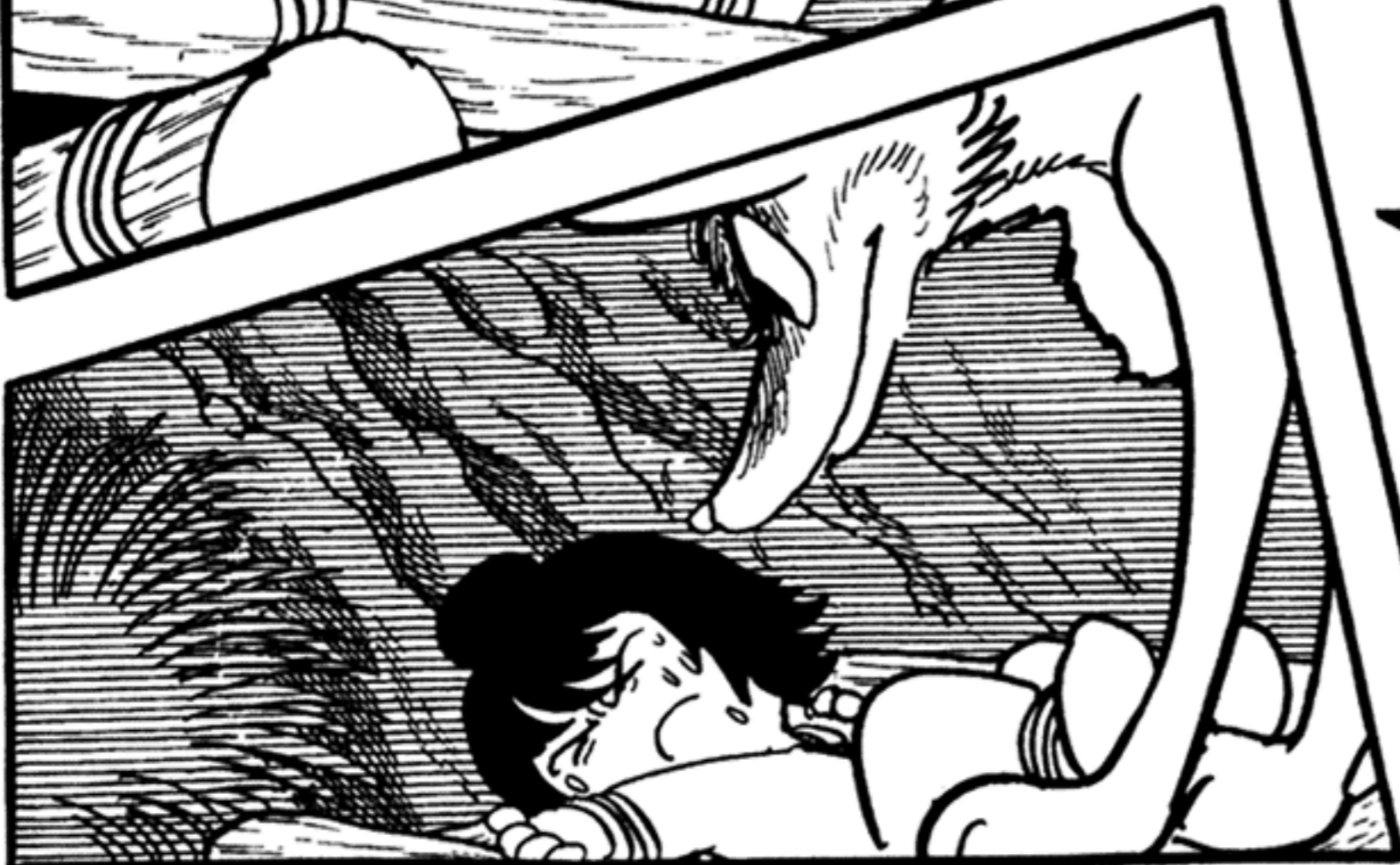
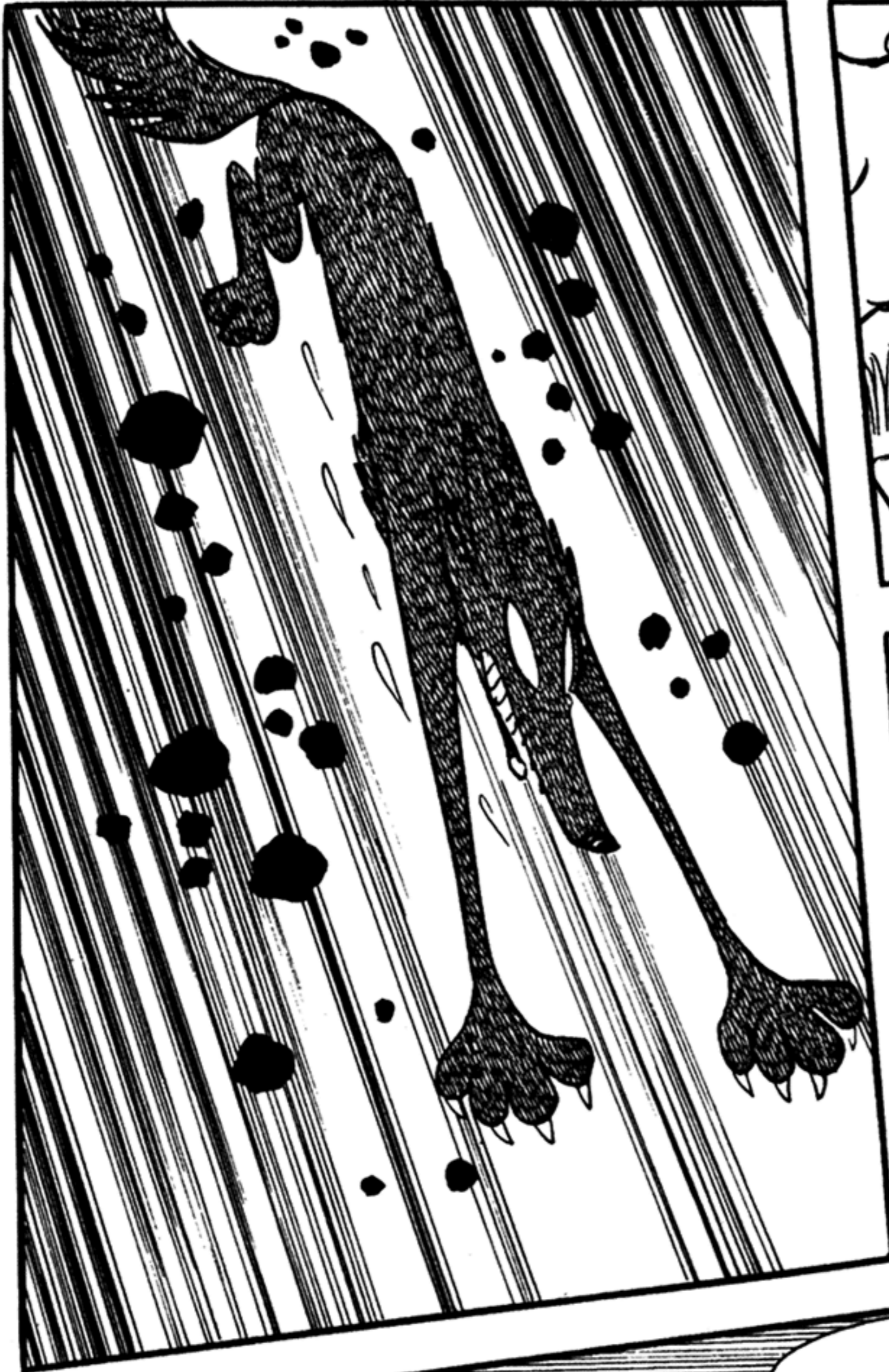


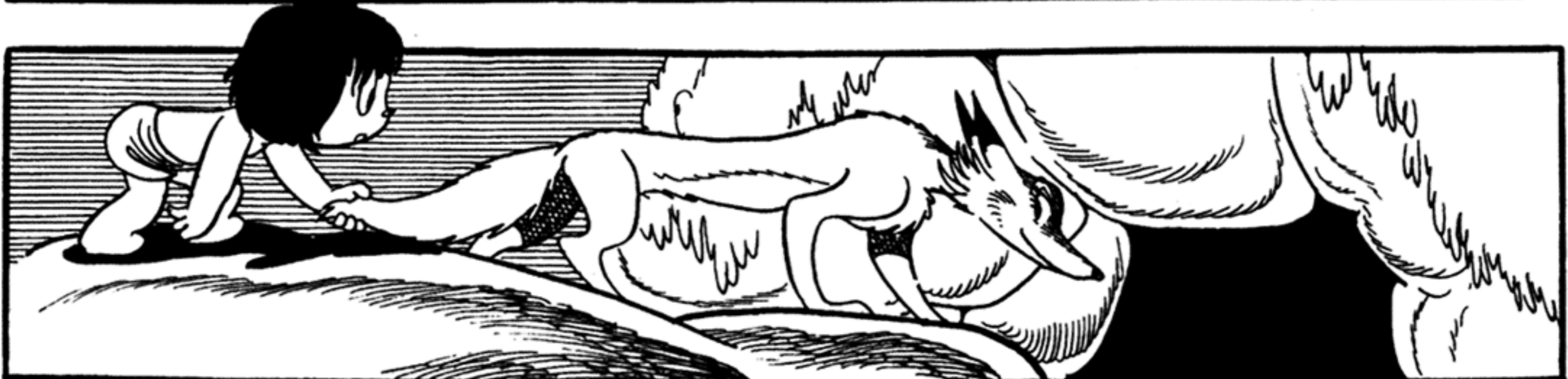
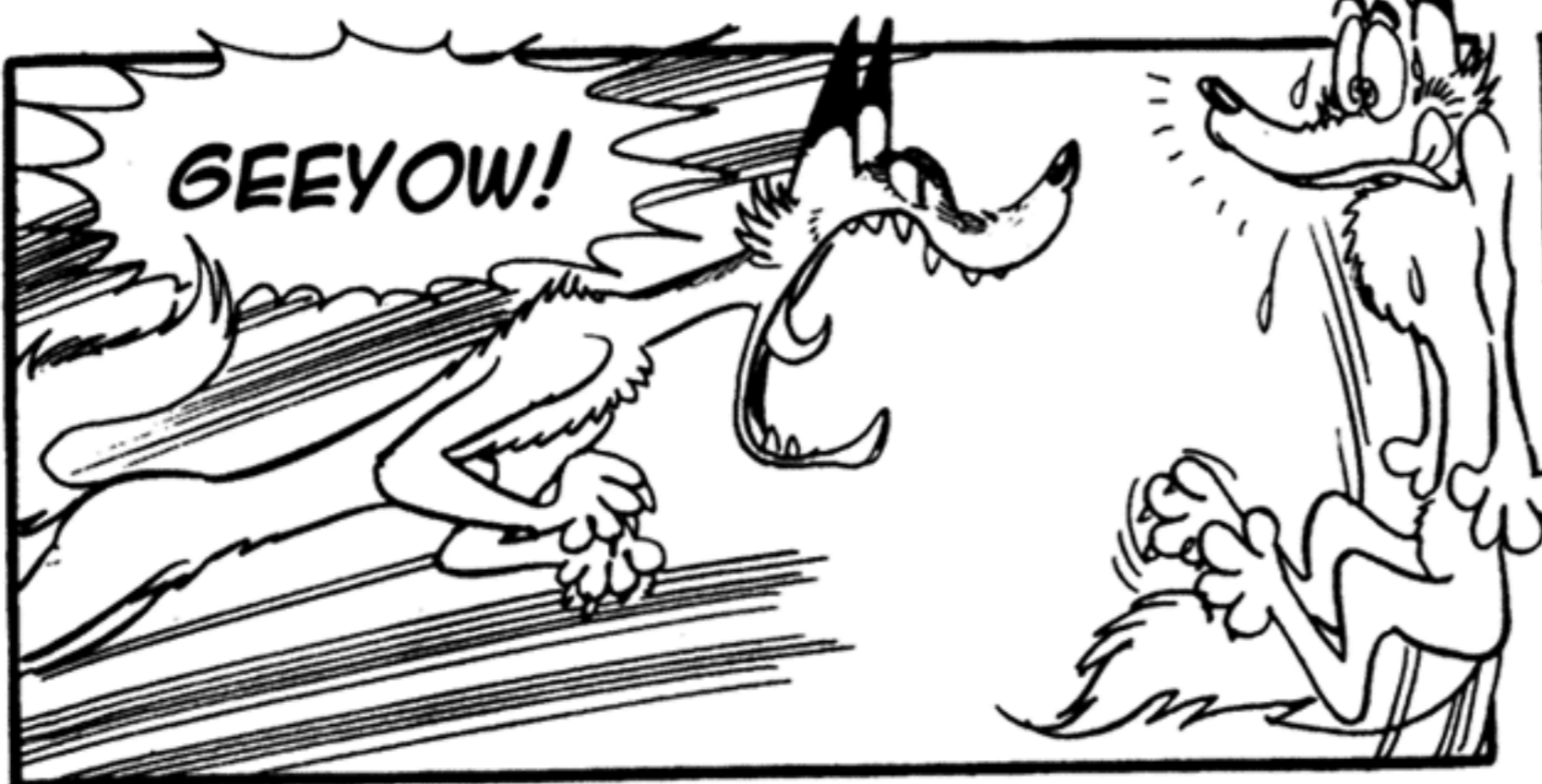
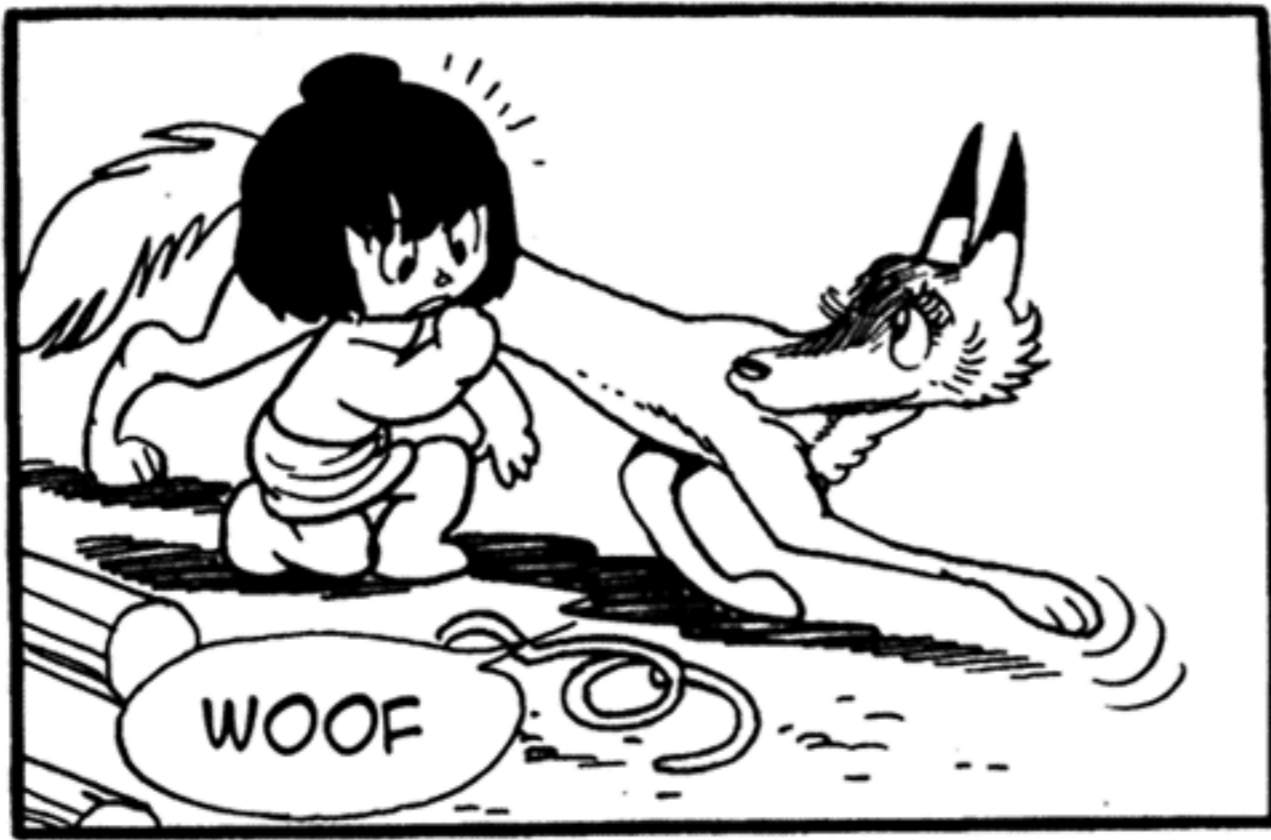
THIS WAY, PAL.

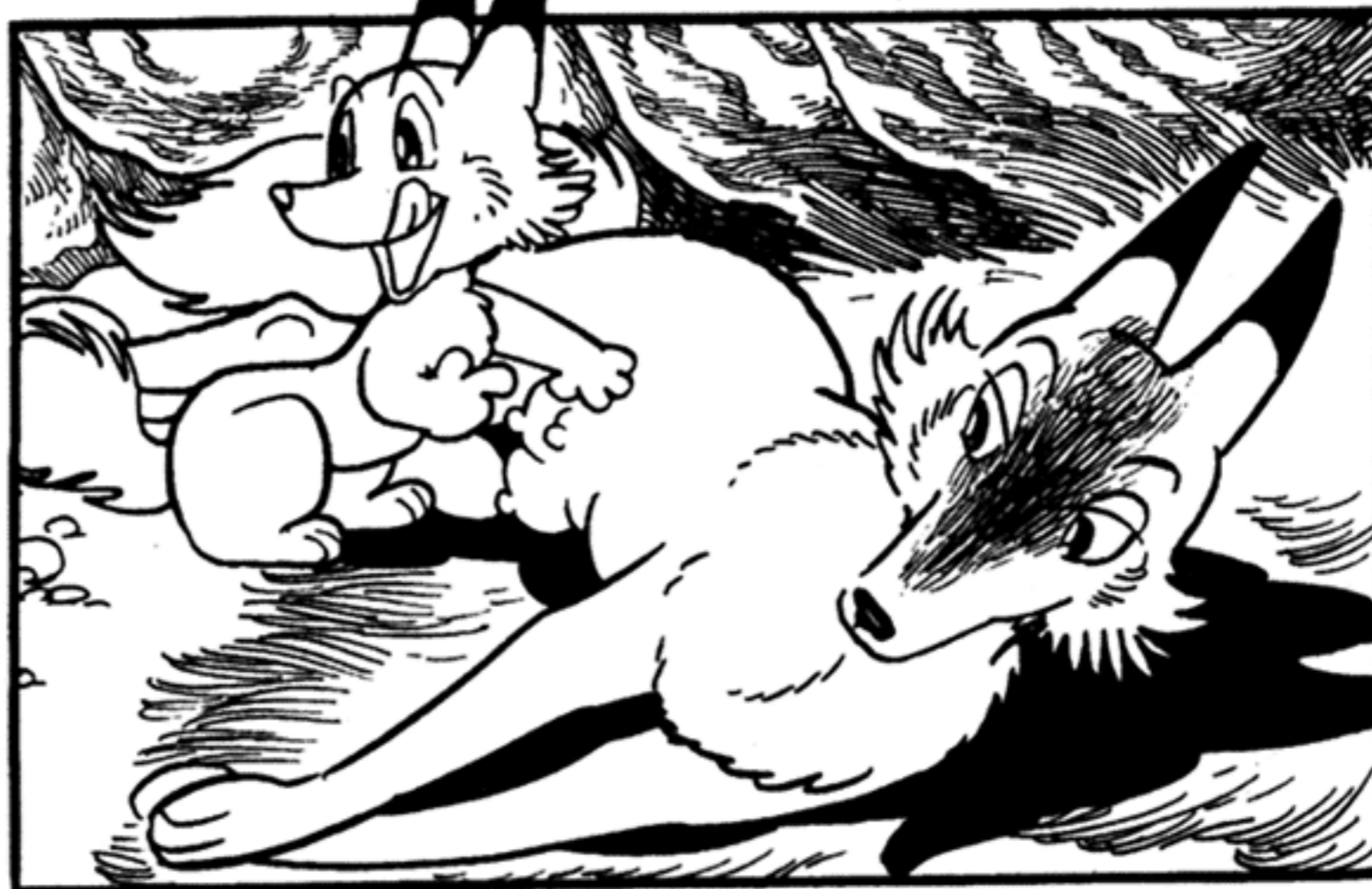
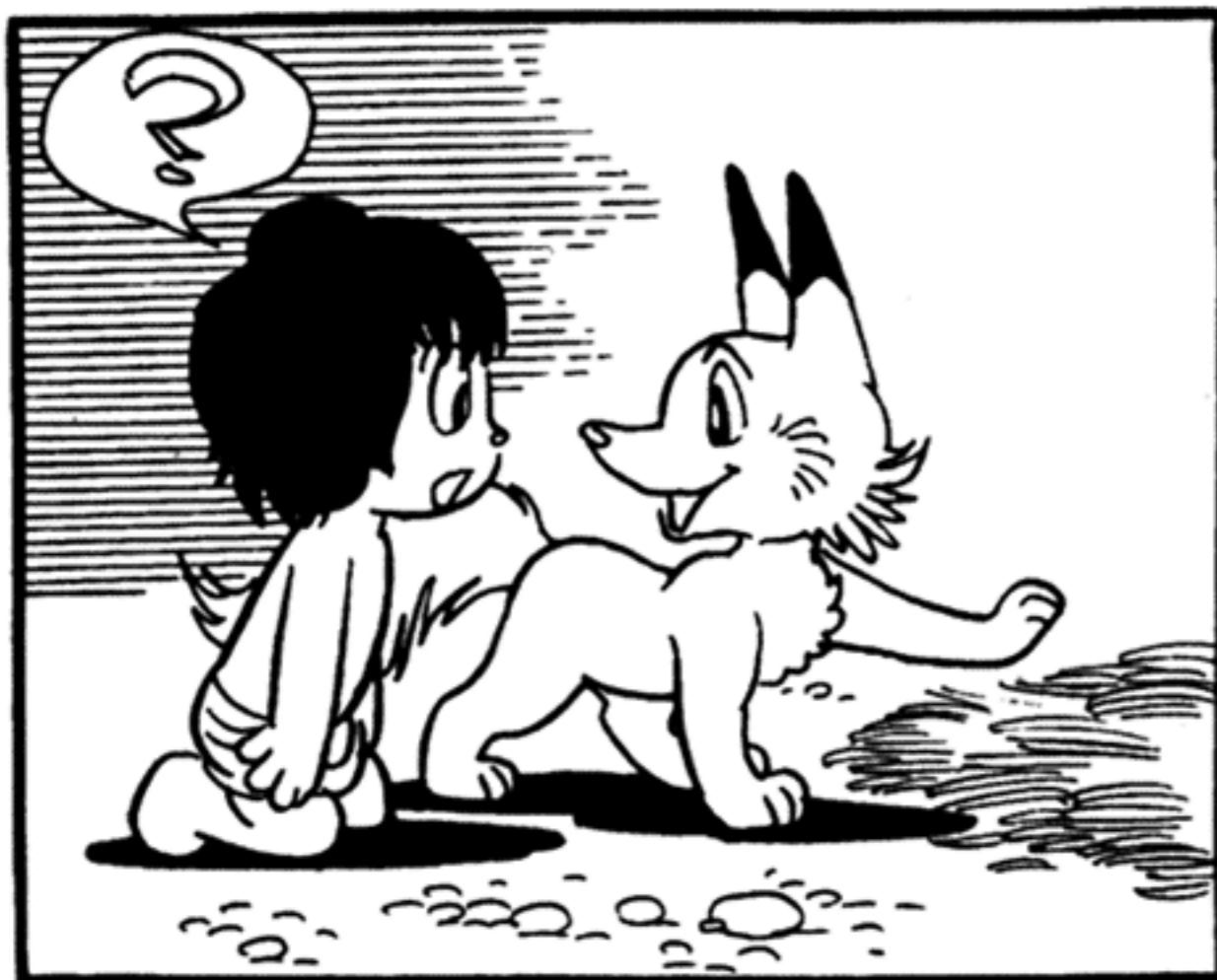
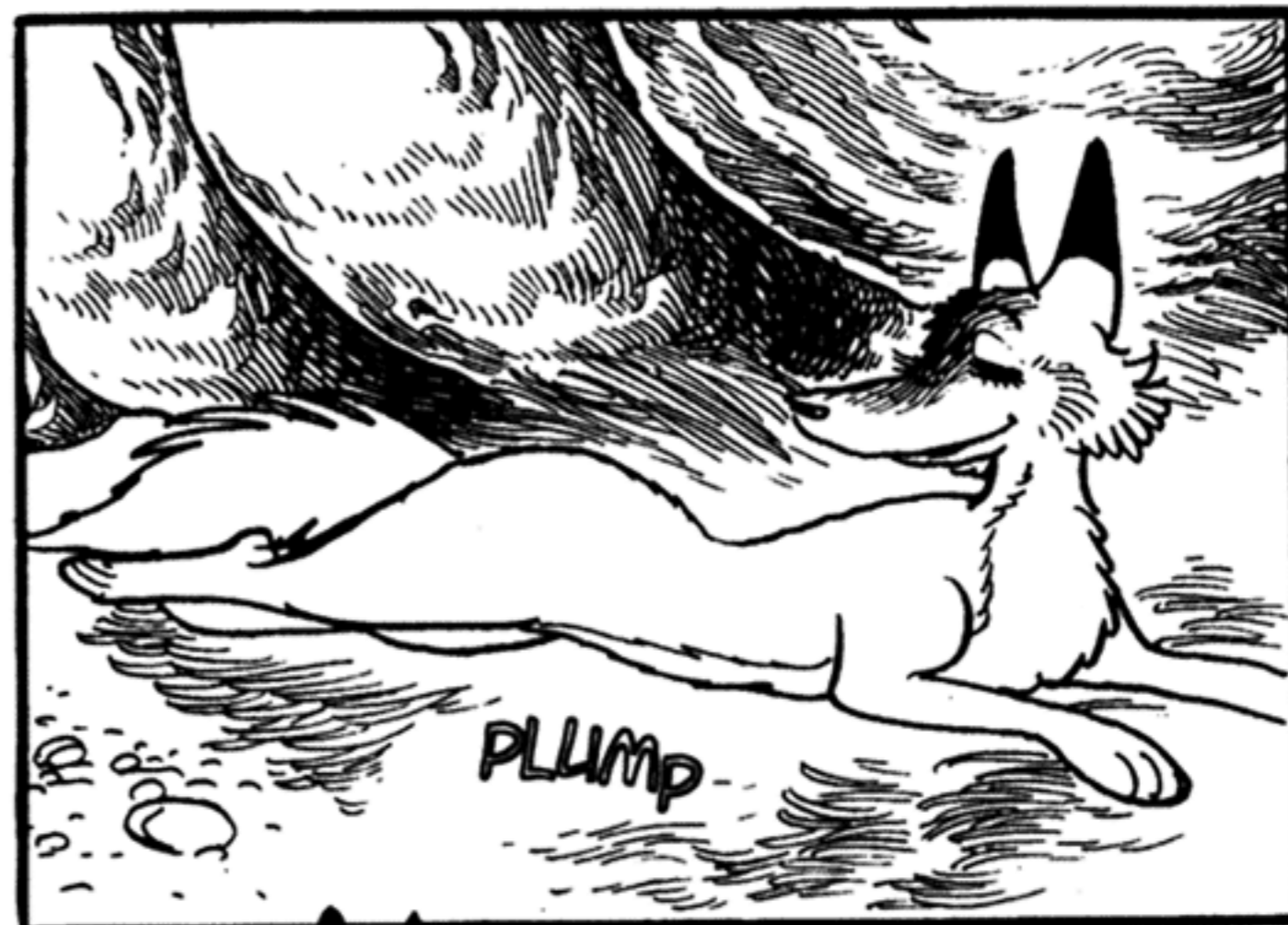
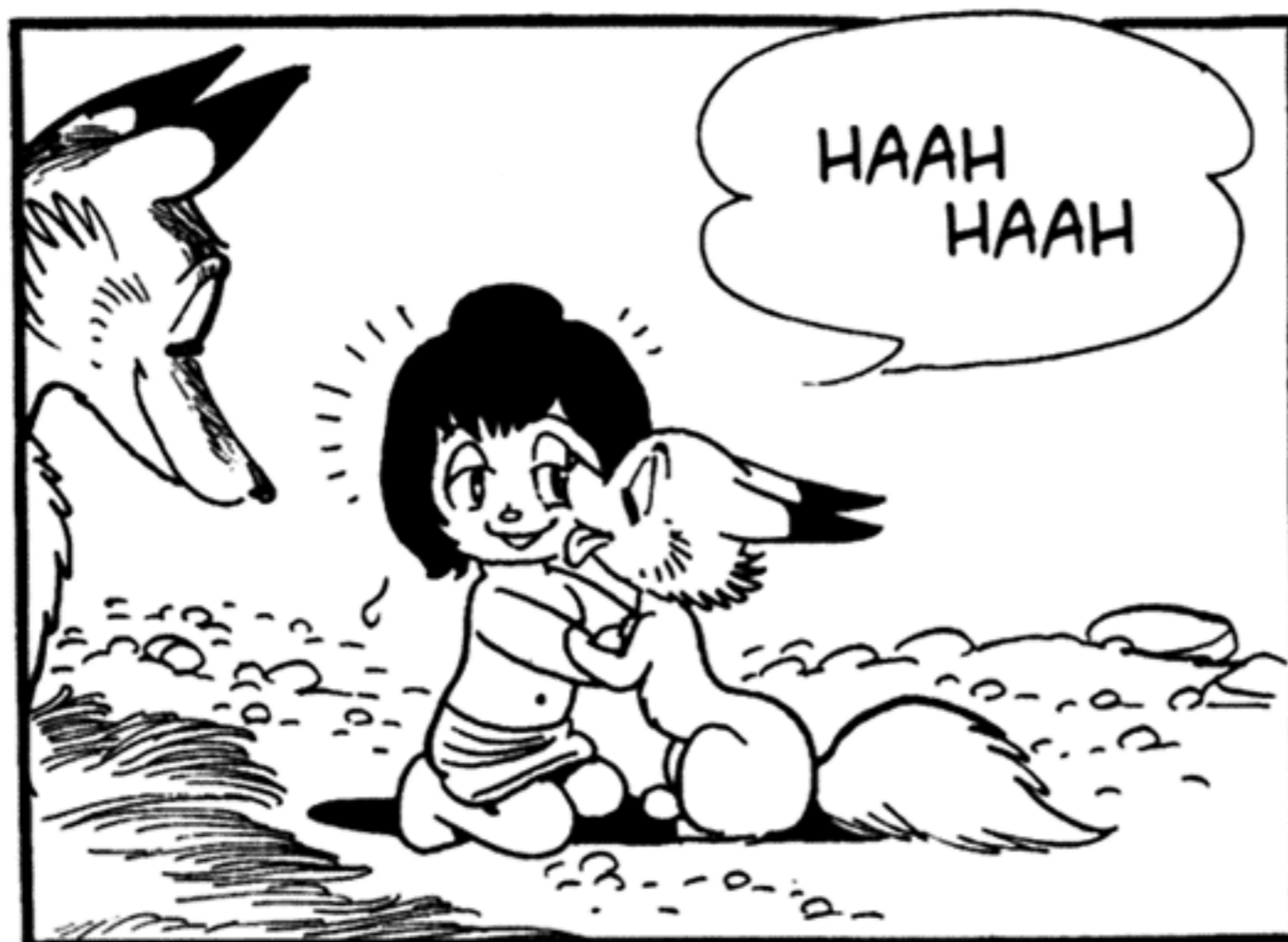
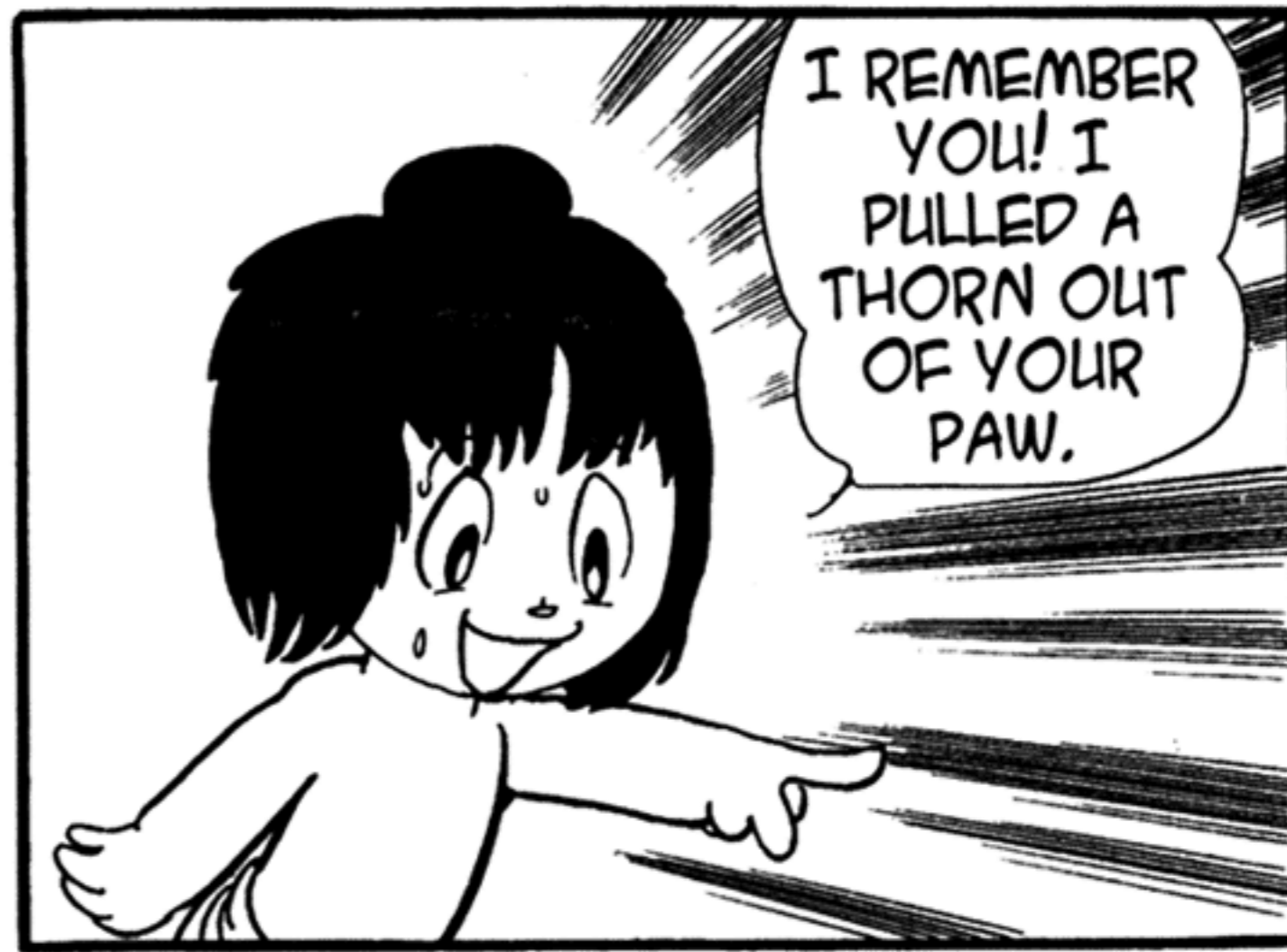
DEVADATTA! GIVE YOUR MOTHER ONE LAST HUG!

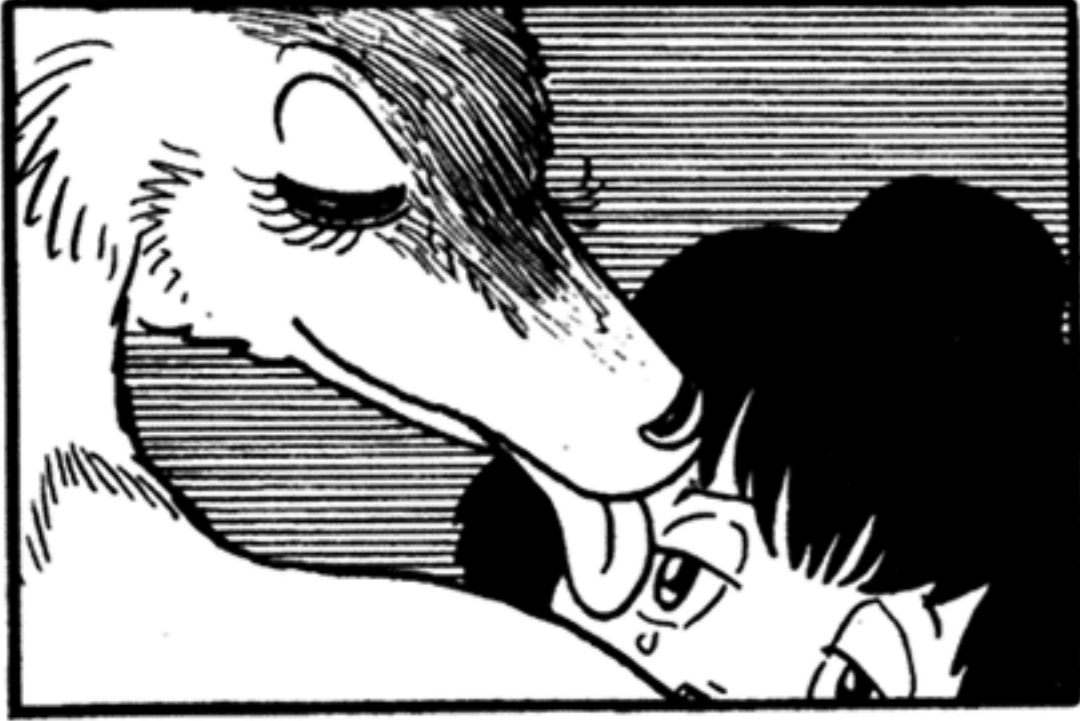


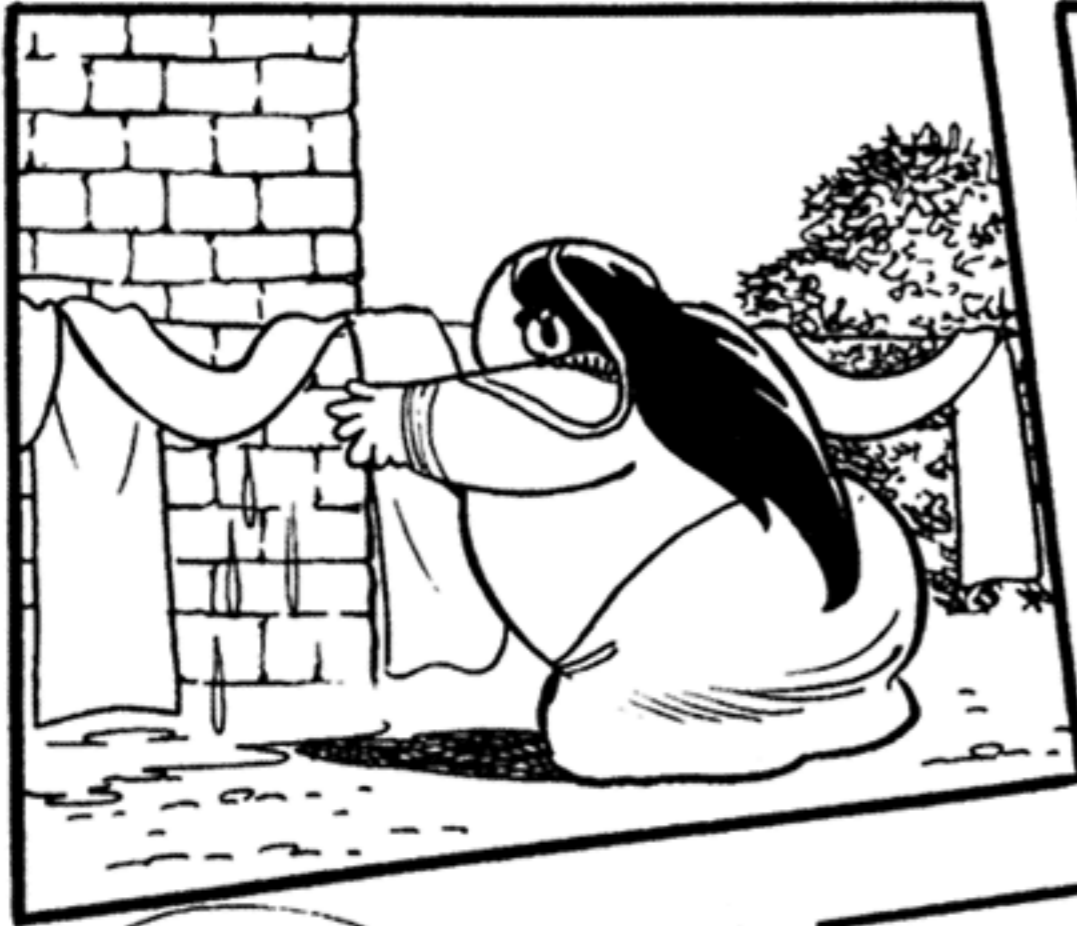






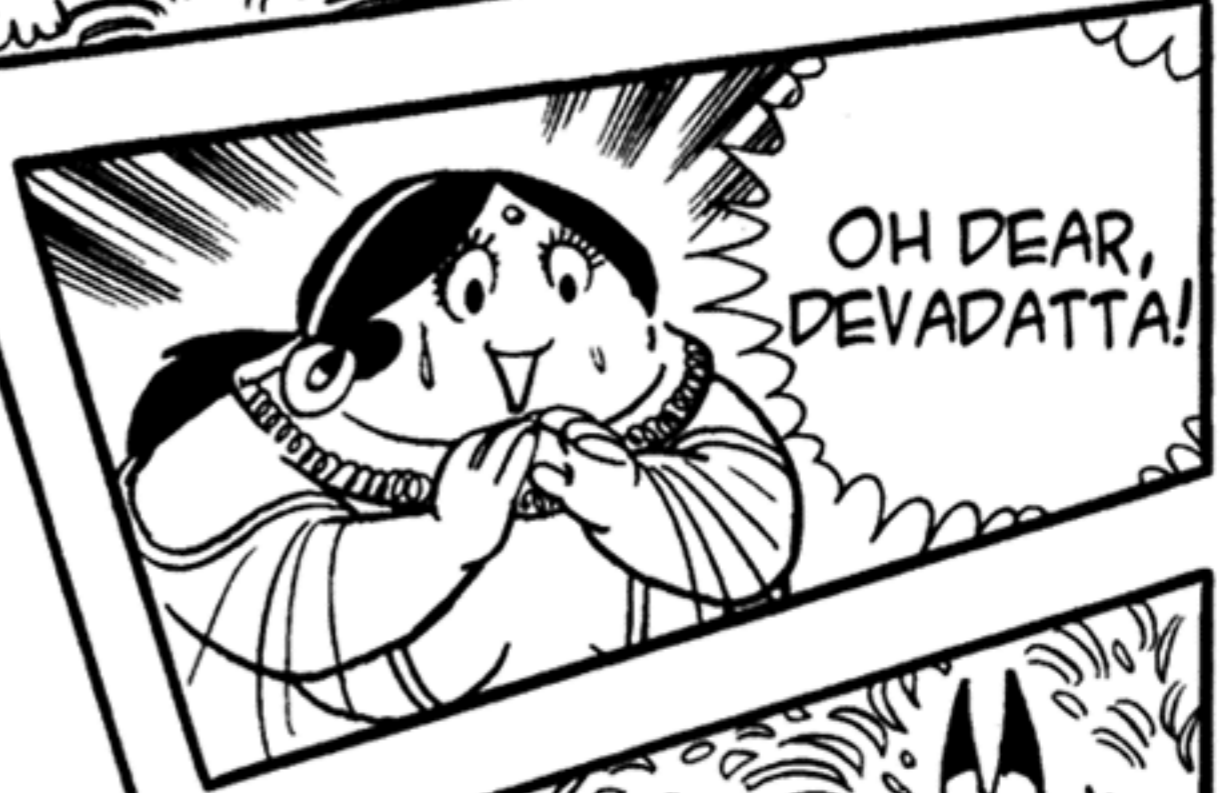
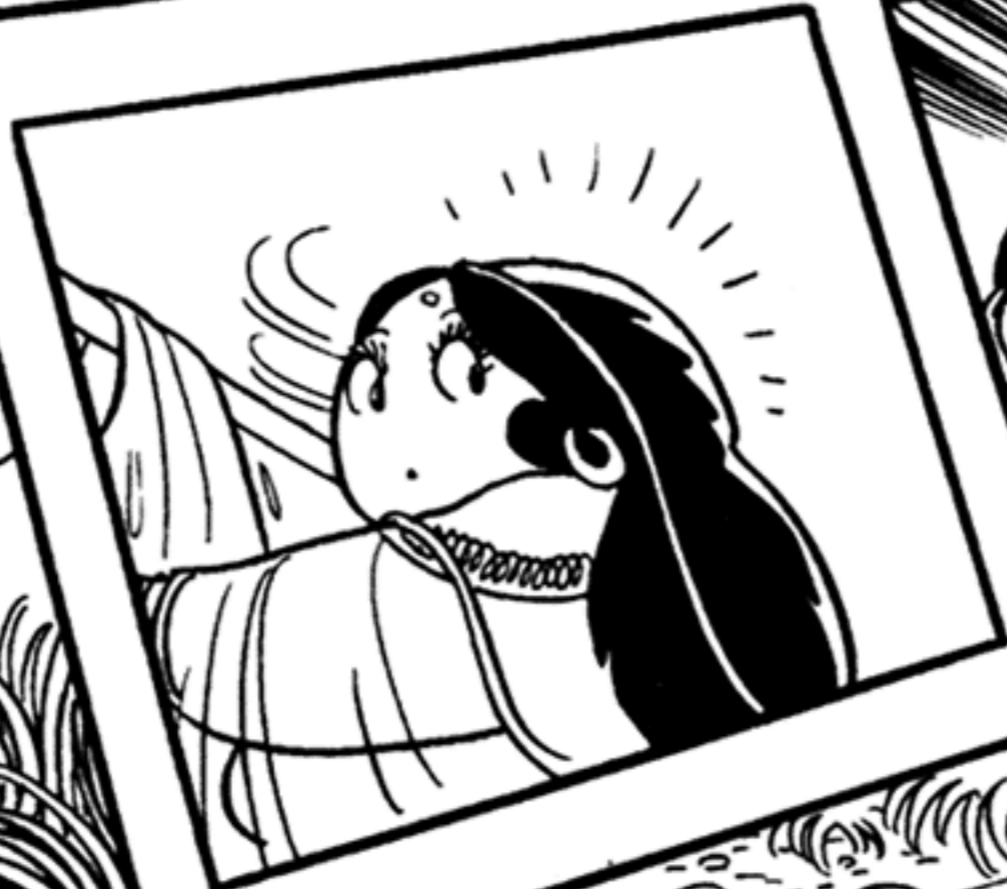






THAT'S MOMMY!

MOMMY !!



OH DEAR, DEVADATTA!



MOMMY

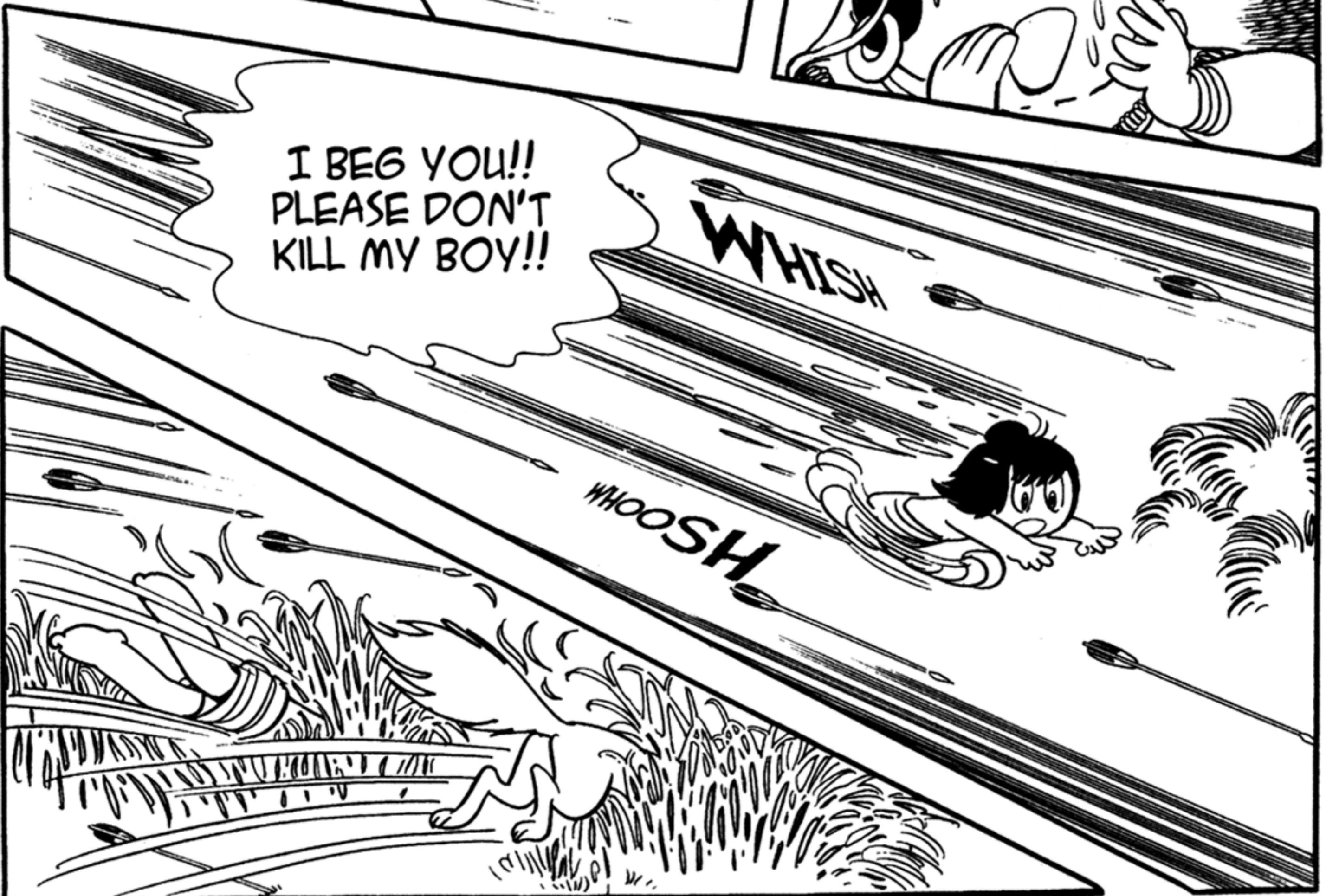
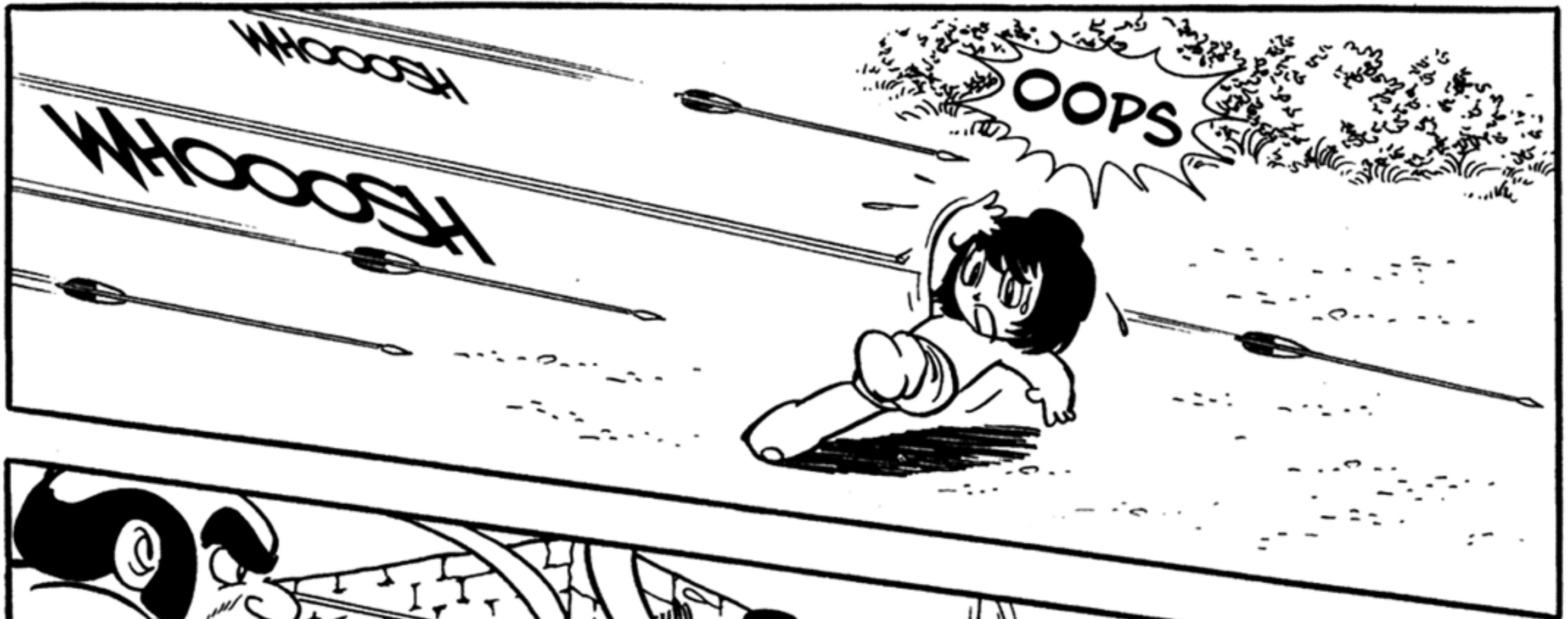


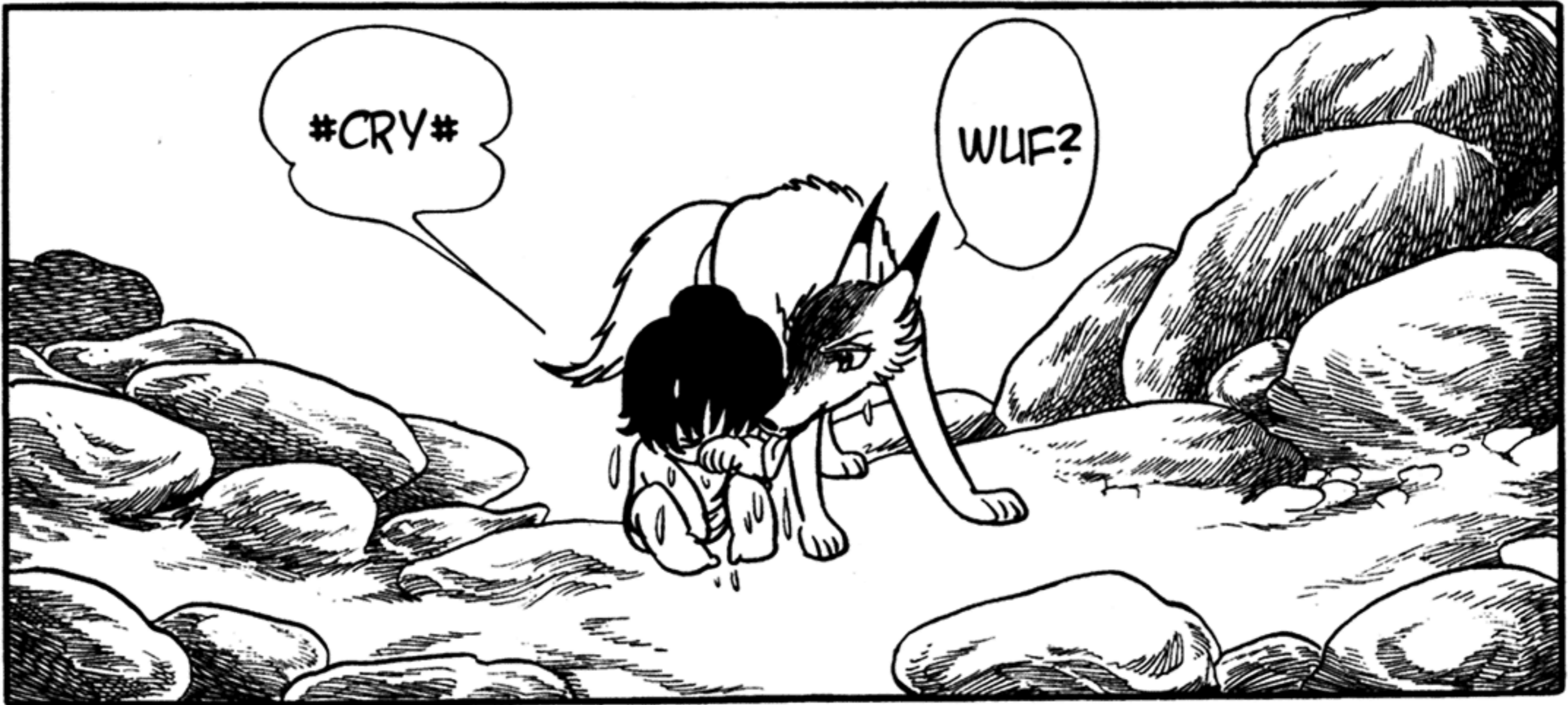
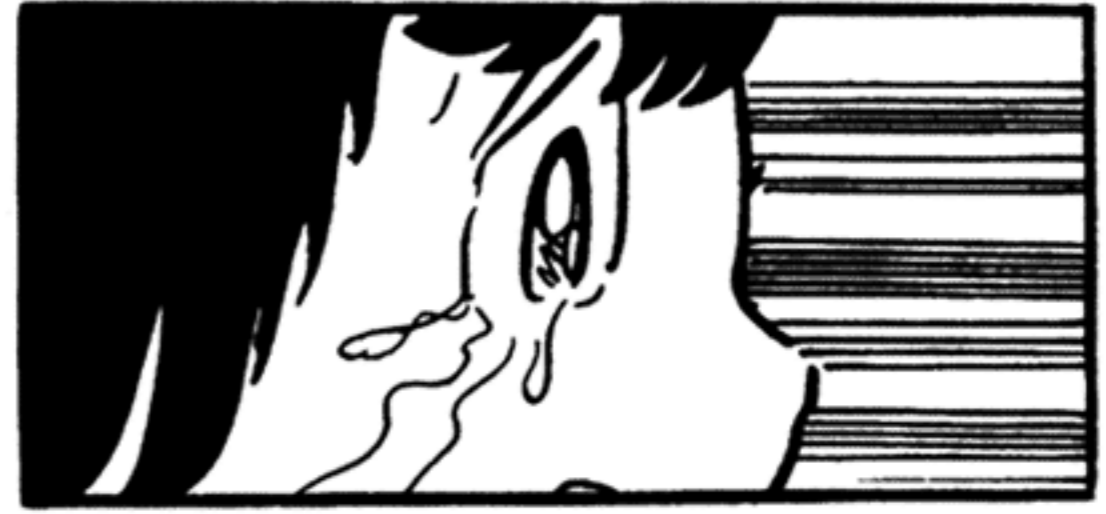
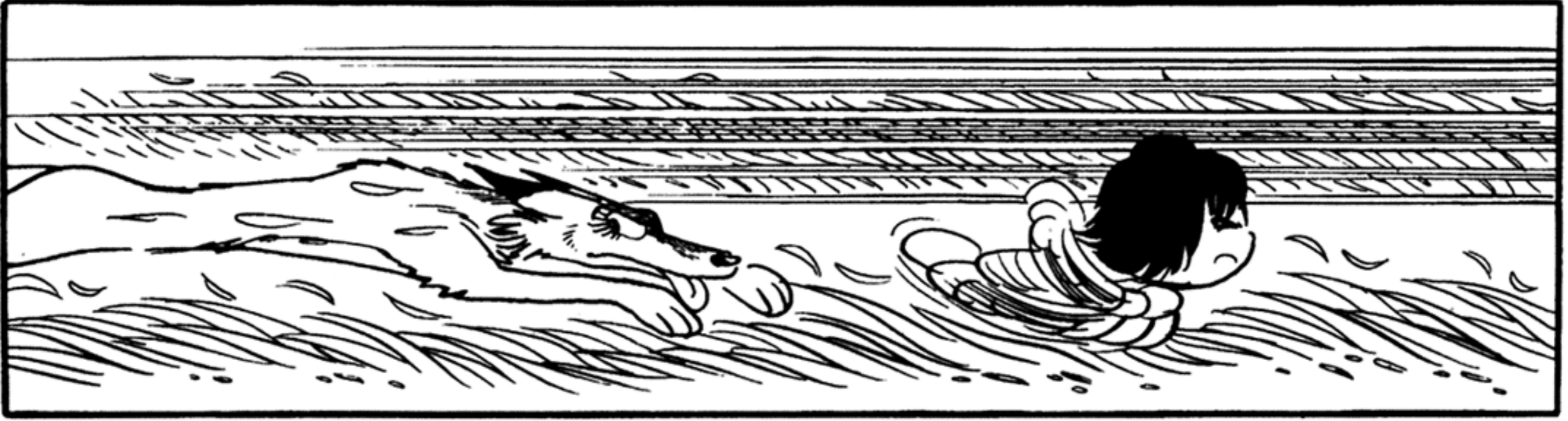
WHAT? DEVADATTA IS BACK?

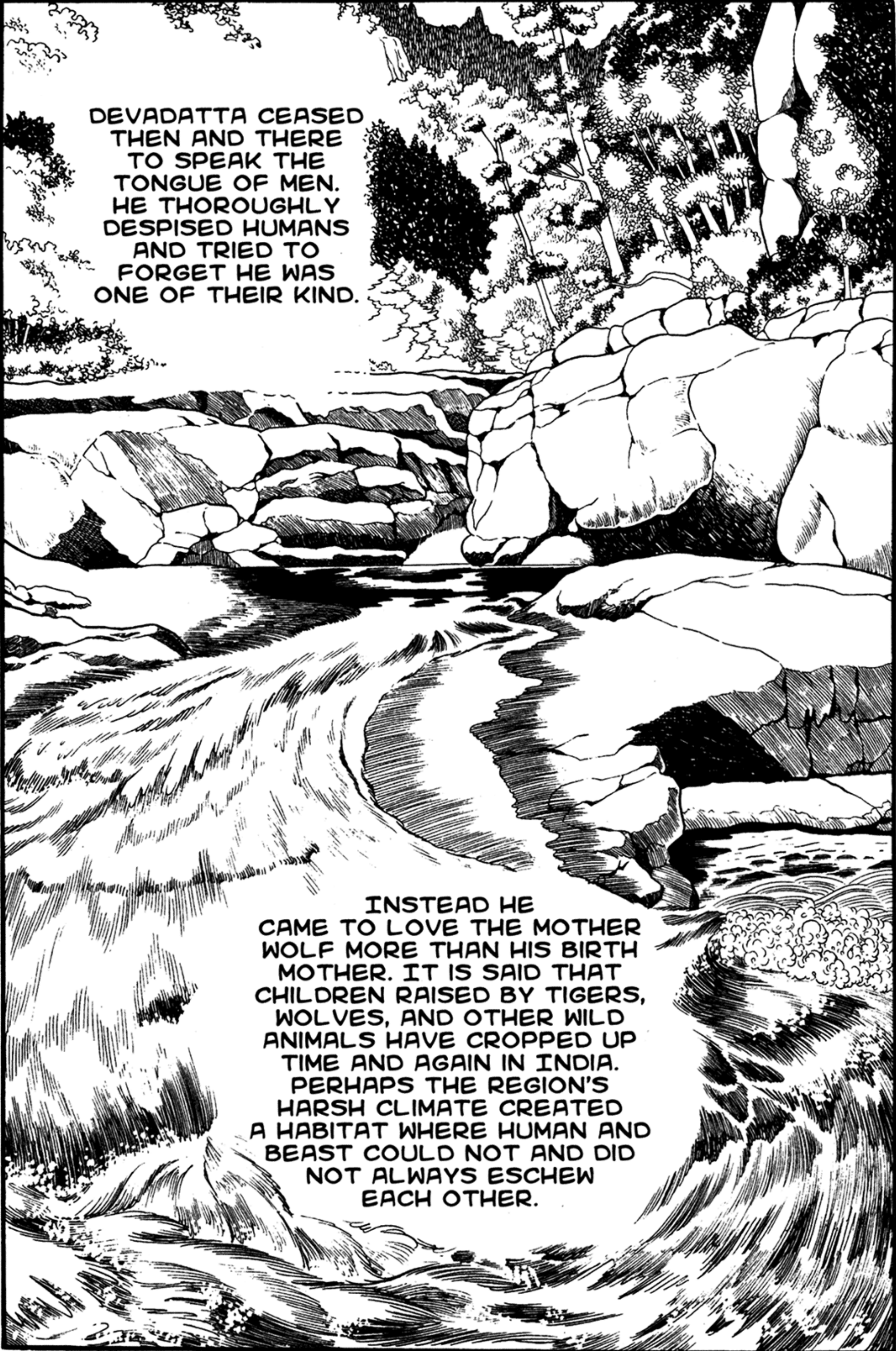
THE DEVIL! HAD THE GALL TO SURVIVE...

HEAR, THE DEVIL IS BACK!

POISON YOUR ARROWS. REGULAR ARROWS WON'T DO THE JOB.

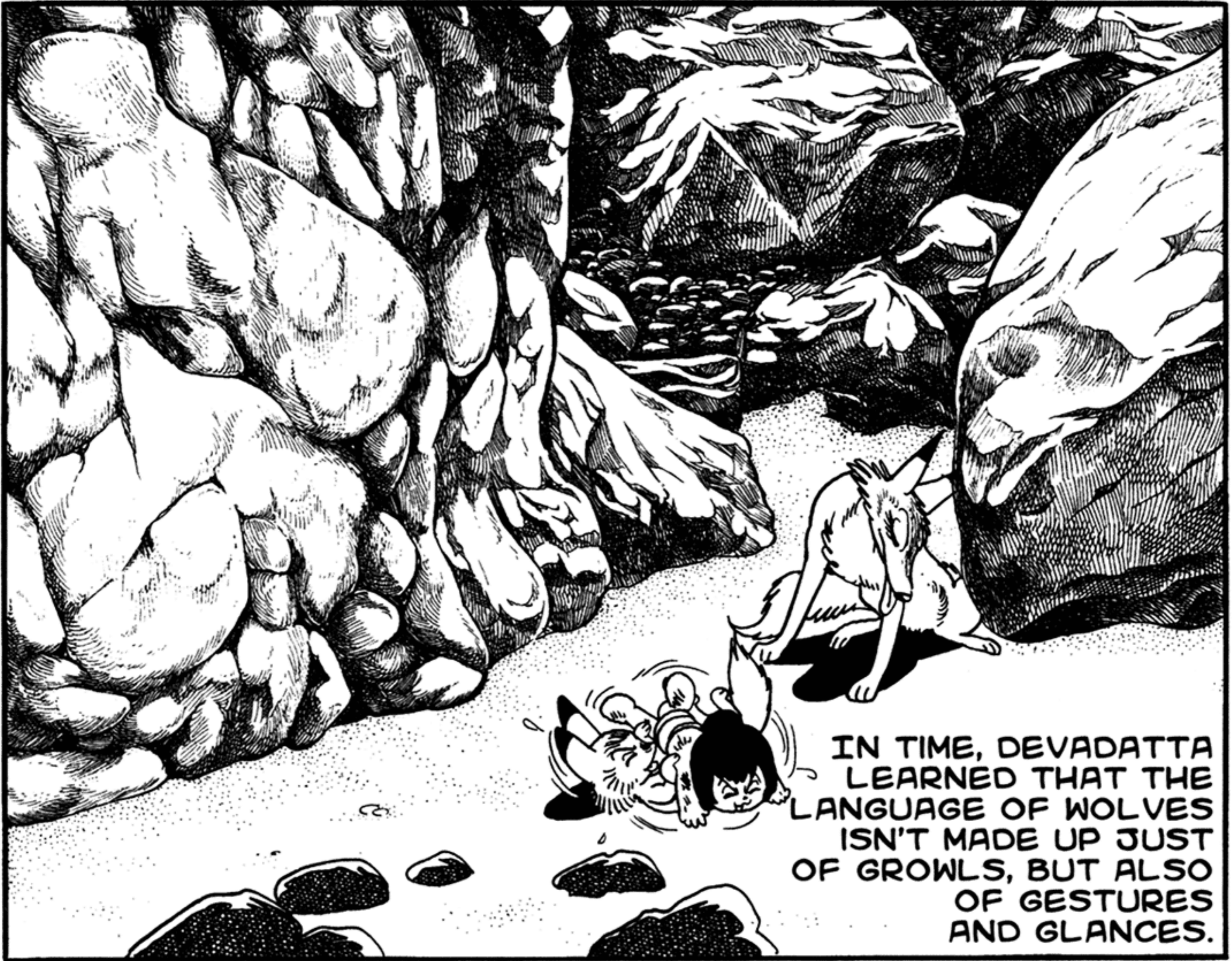




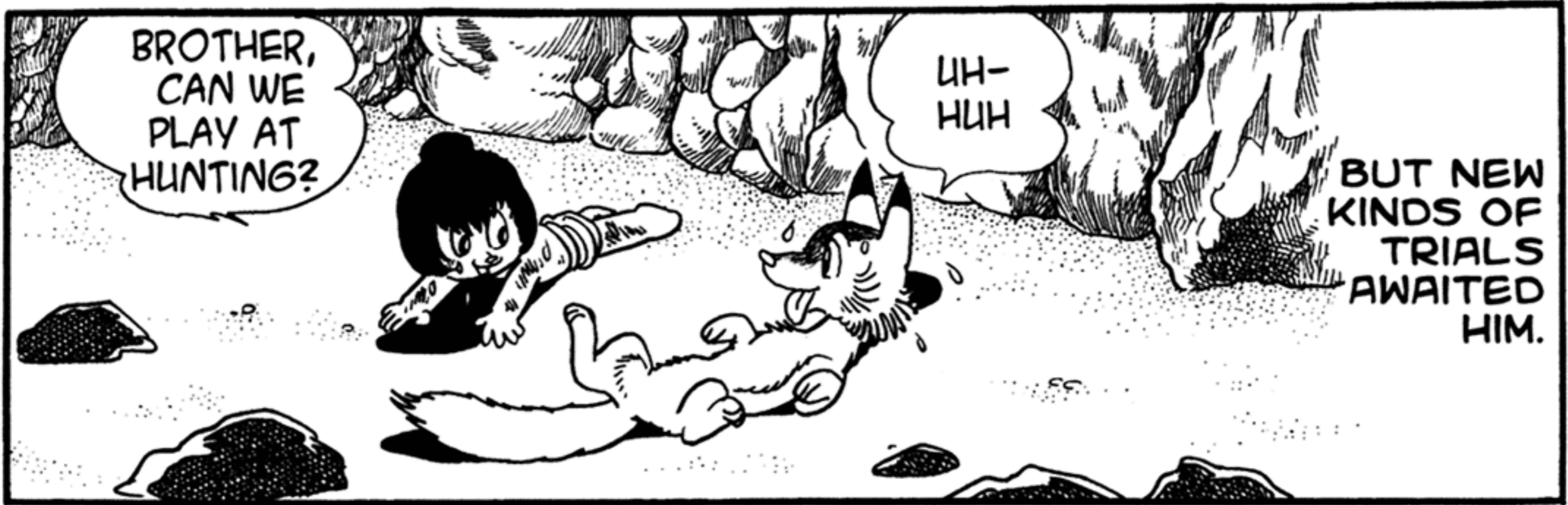


DEVADATTA CEASED
THEN AND THERE
TO SPEAK THE
TONGUE OF MEN.
HE THOROUGHLY
DESPISED HUMANS
AND TRIED TO
FORGET HE WAS
ONE OF THEIR KIND.

INSTEAD HE
CAME TO LOVE THE MOTHER
WOLF MORE THAN HIS BIRTH
MOTHER. IT IS SAID THAT
CHILDREN RAISED BY TIGERS,
WOLVES, AND OTHER WILD
ANIMALS HAVE CROPPED UP
TIME AND AGAIN IN INDIA.
PERHAPS THE REGION'S
HARSH CLIMATE CREATED
A HABITAT WHERE HUMAN AND
BEAST COULD NOT AND DID
NOT ALWAYS ESCHEW
EACH OTHER.



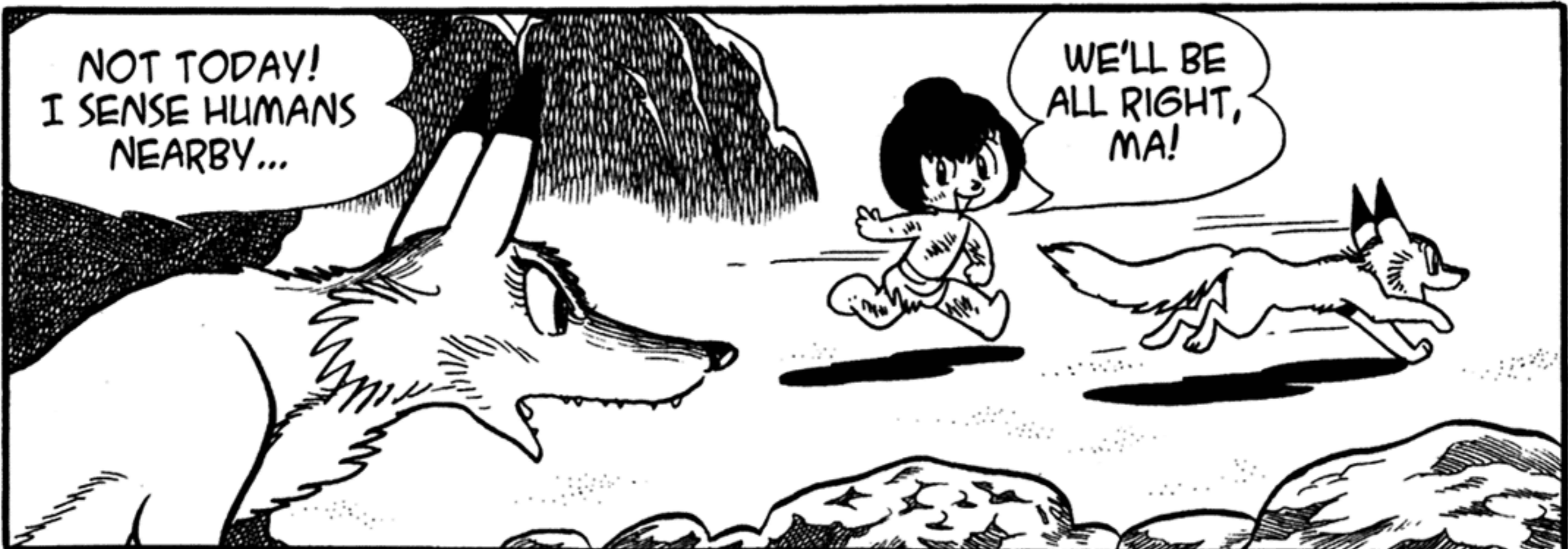
IN TIME, DEVADATTA LEARNED THAT THE LANGUAGE OF WOLVES ISN'T MADE UP JUST OF GROWLS, BUT ALSO OF GESTURES AND GLANCES.



BROTHER, CAN WE PLAY AT HUNTING?

UH-HUH

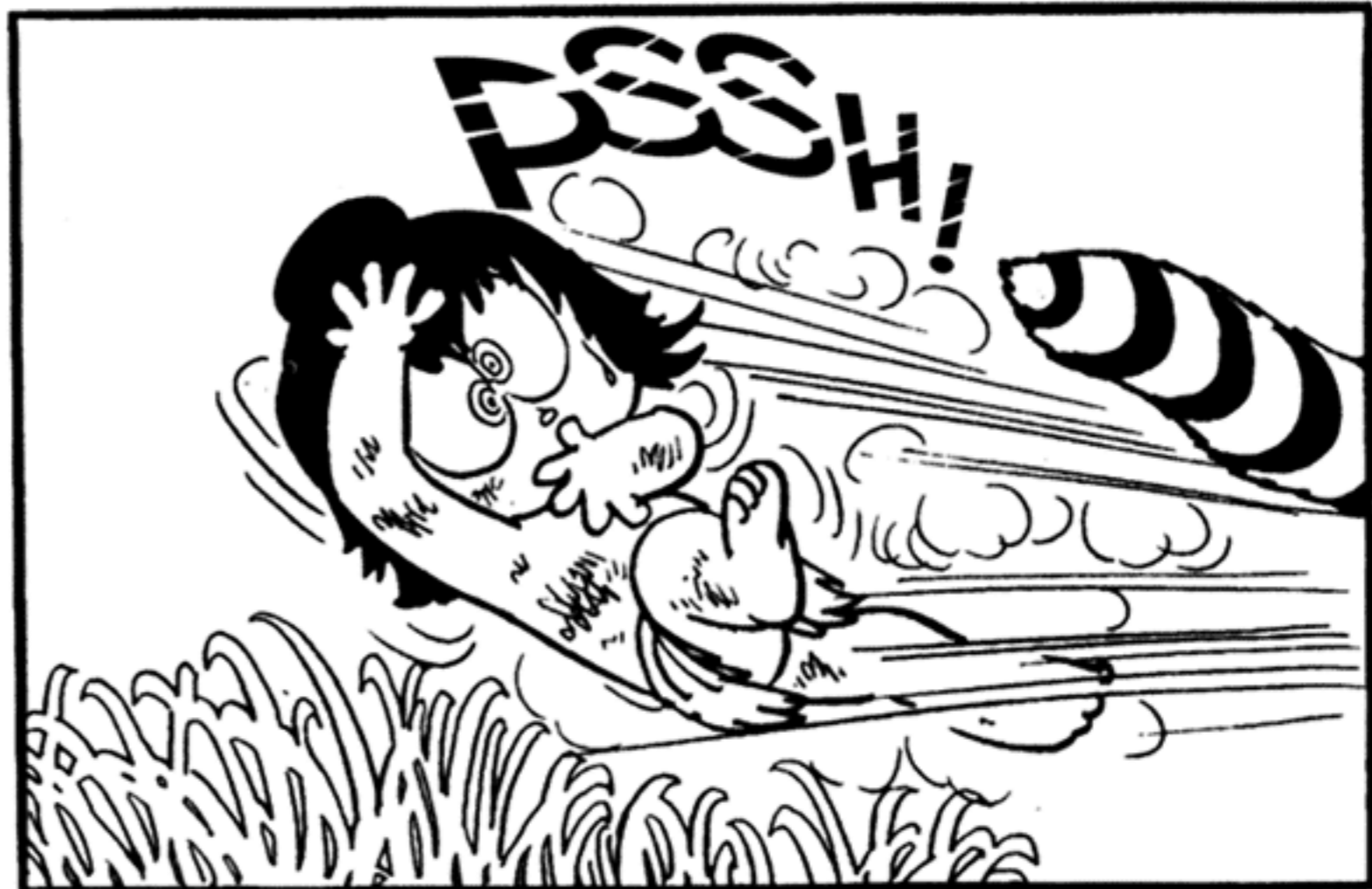
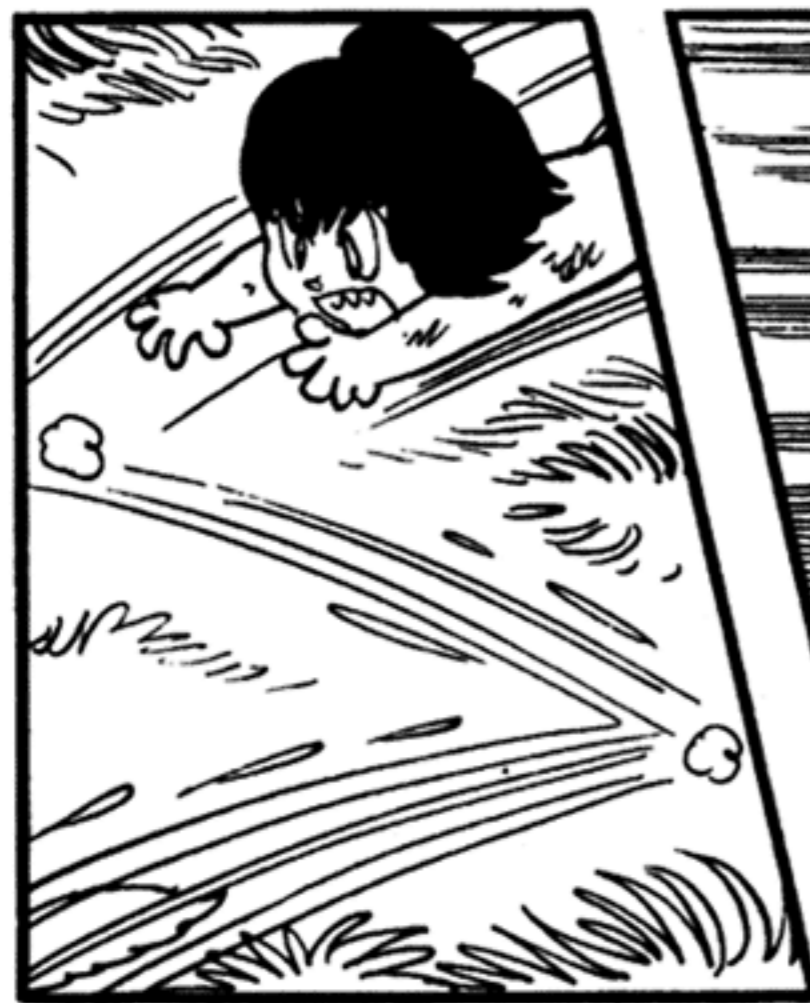
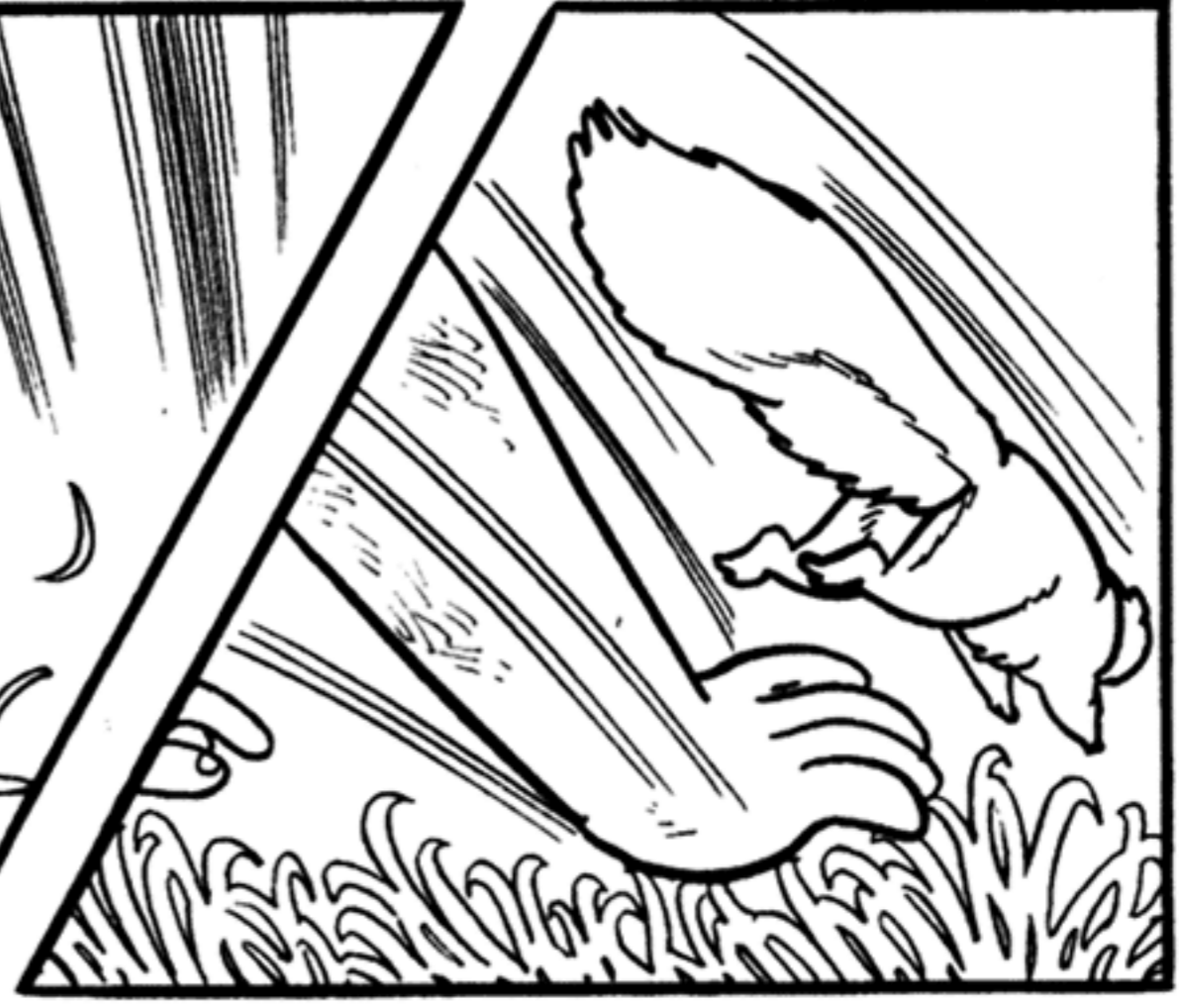
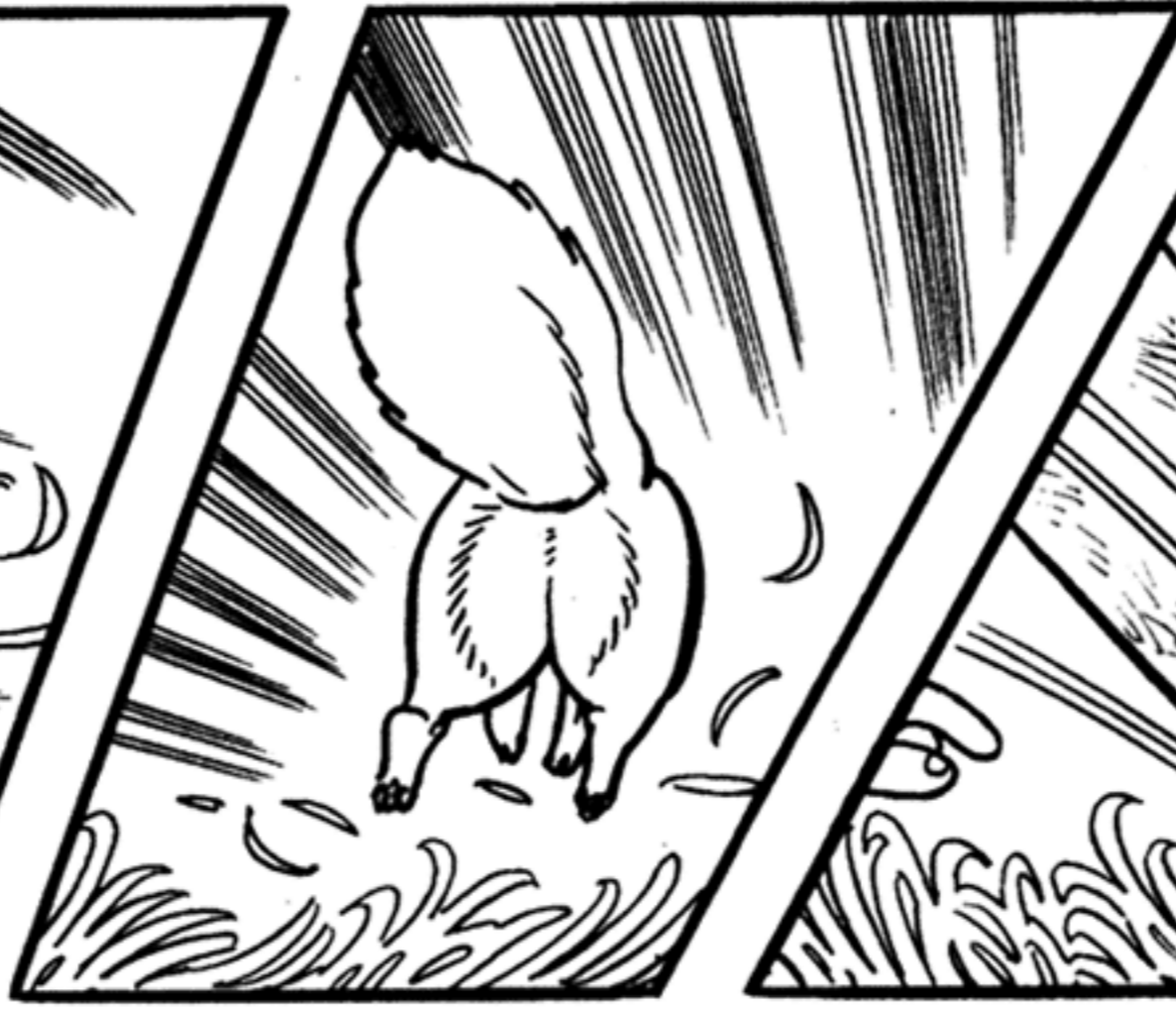
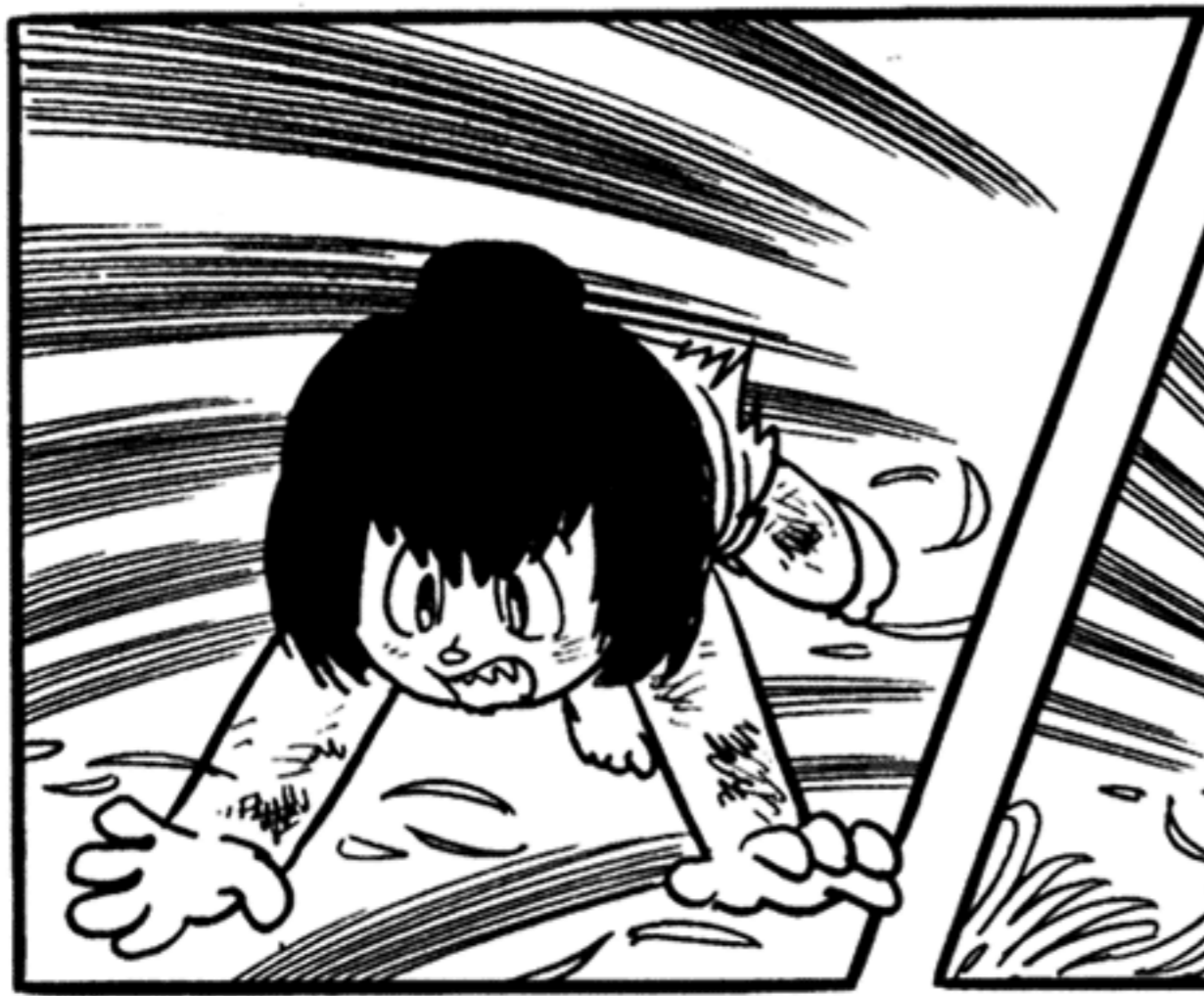
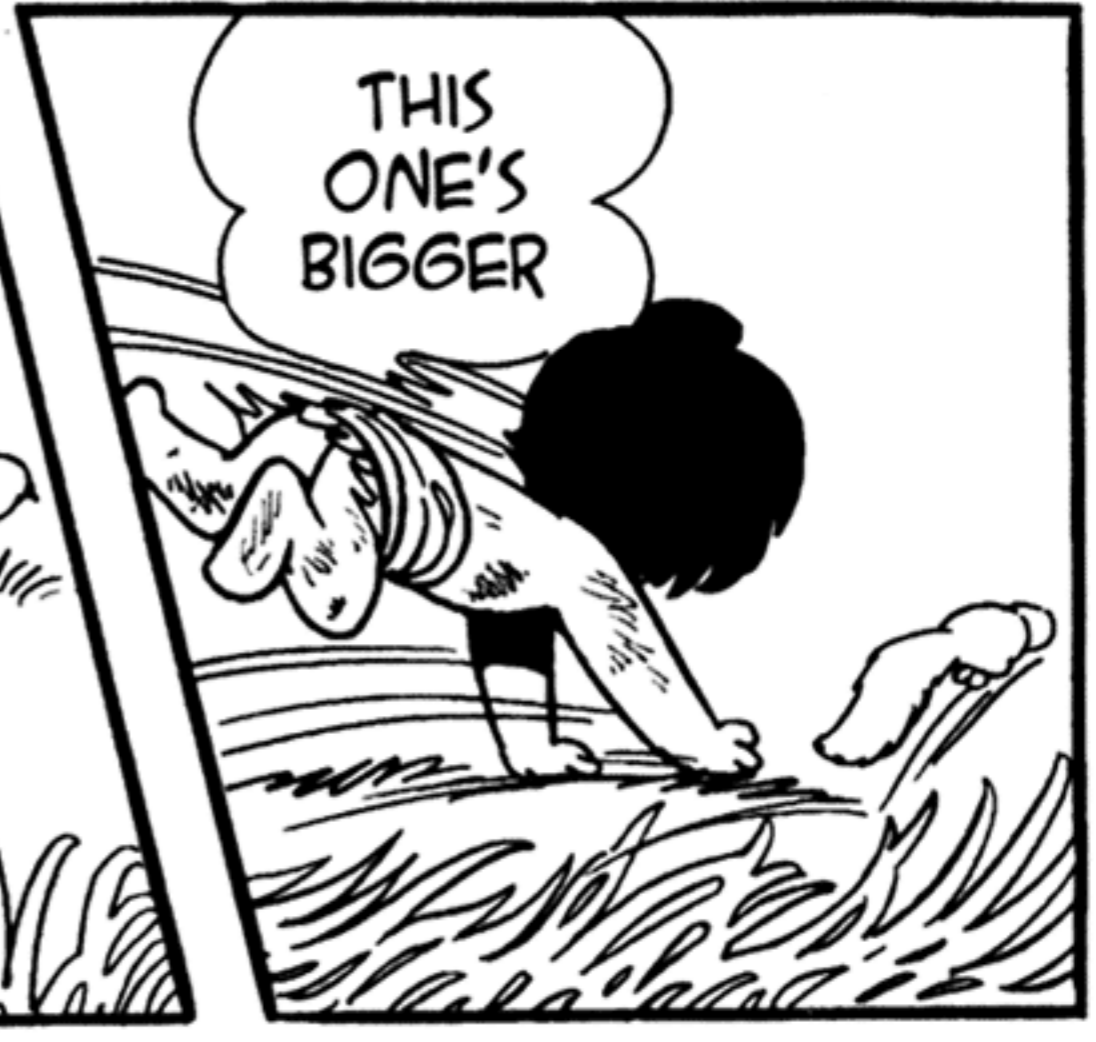
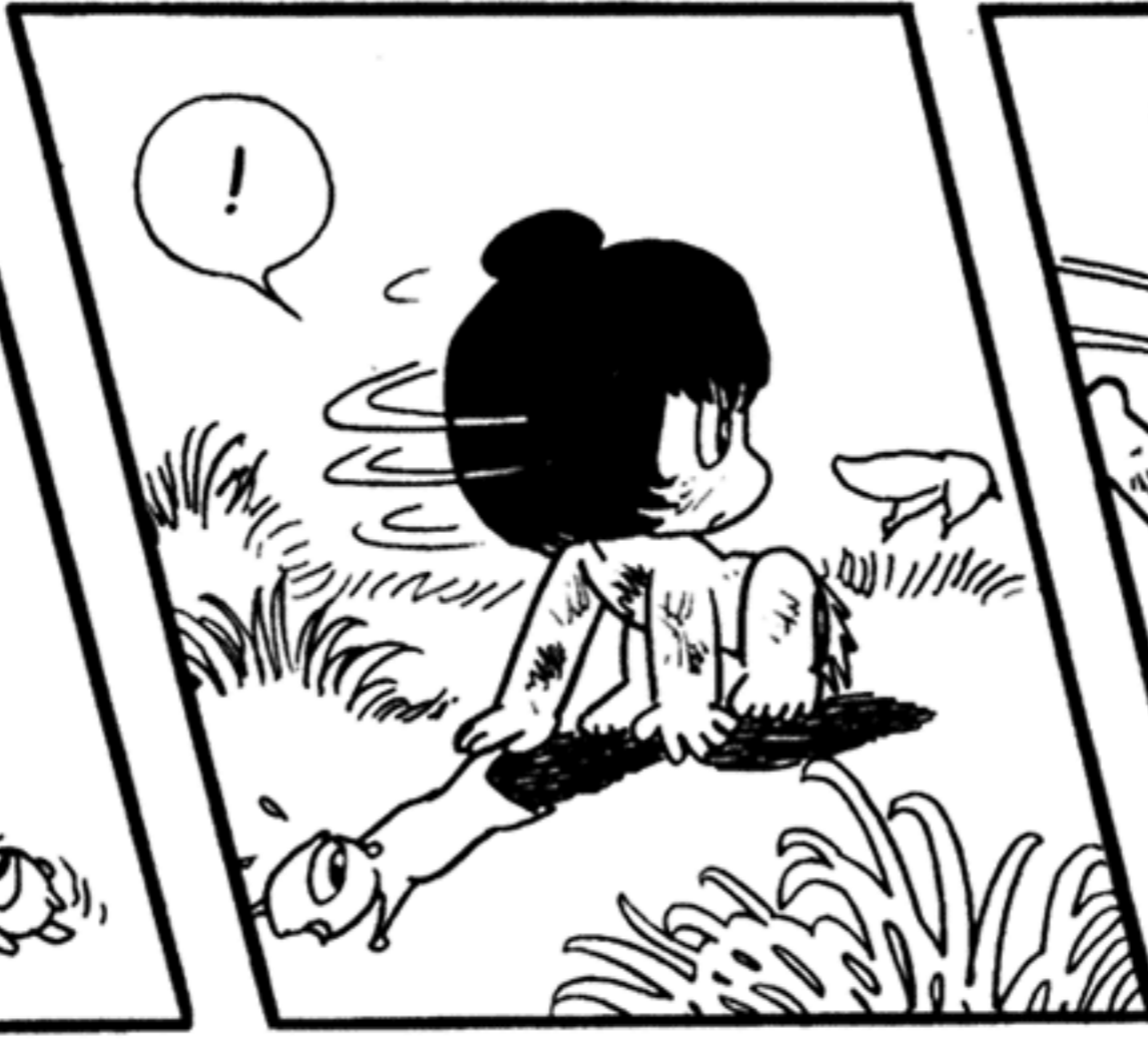
BUT NEW KINDS OF TRIALS AWAITED HIM.

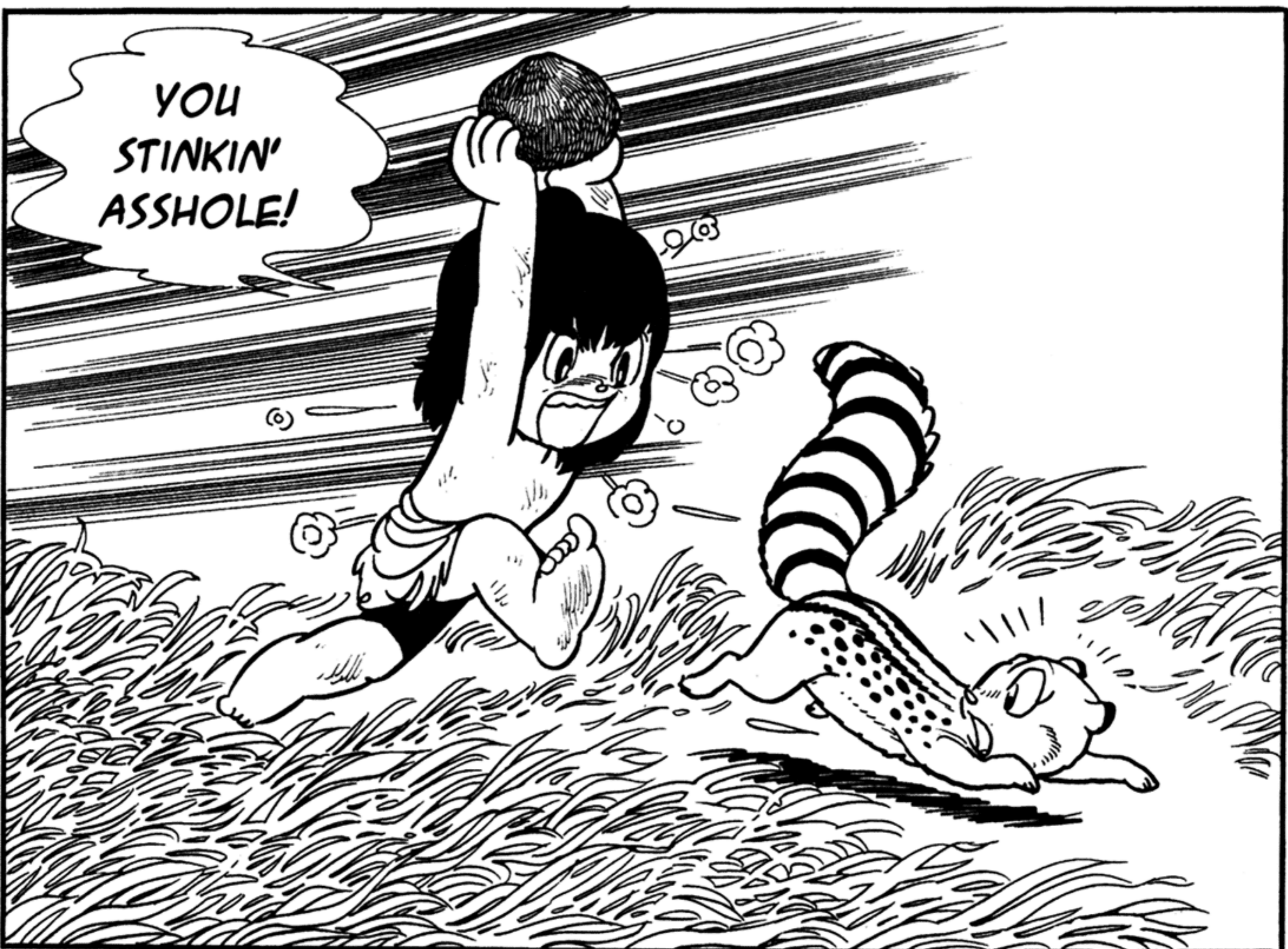


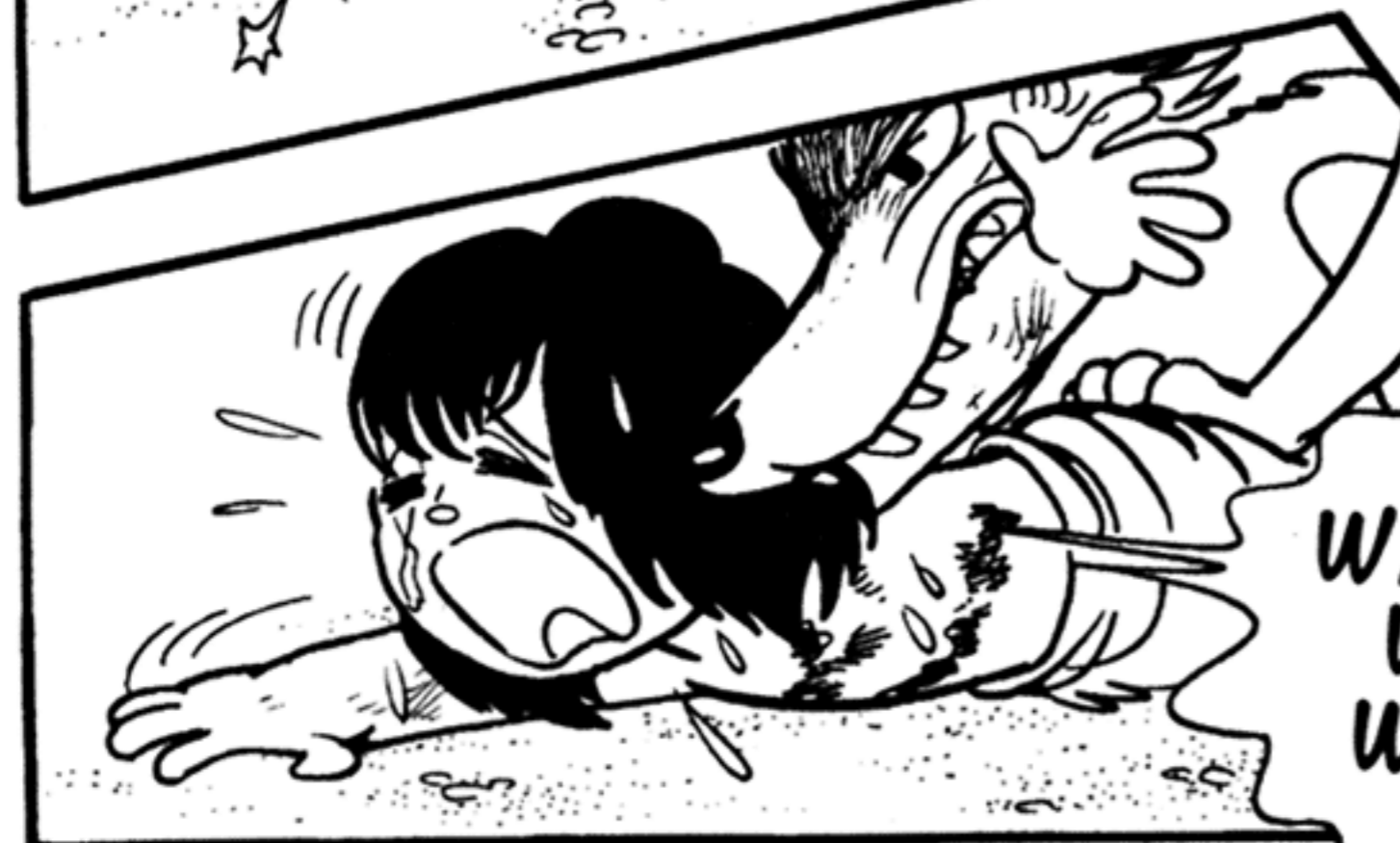
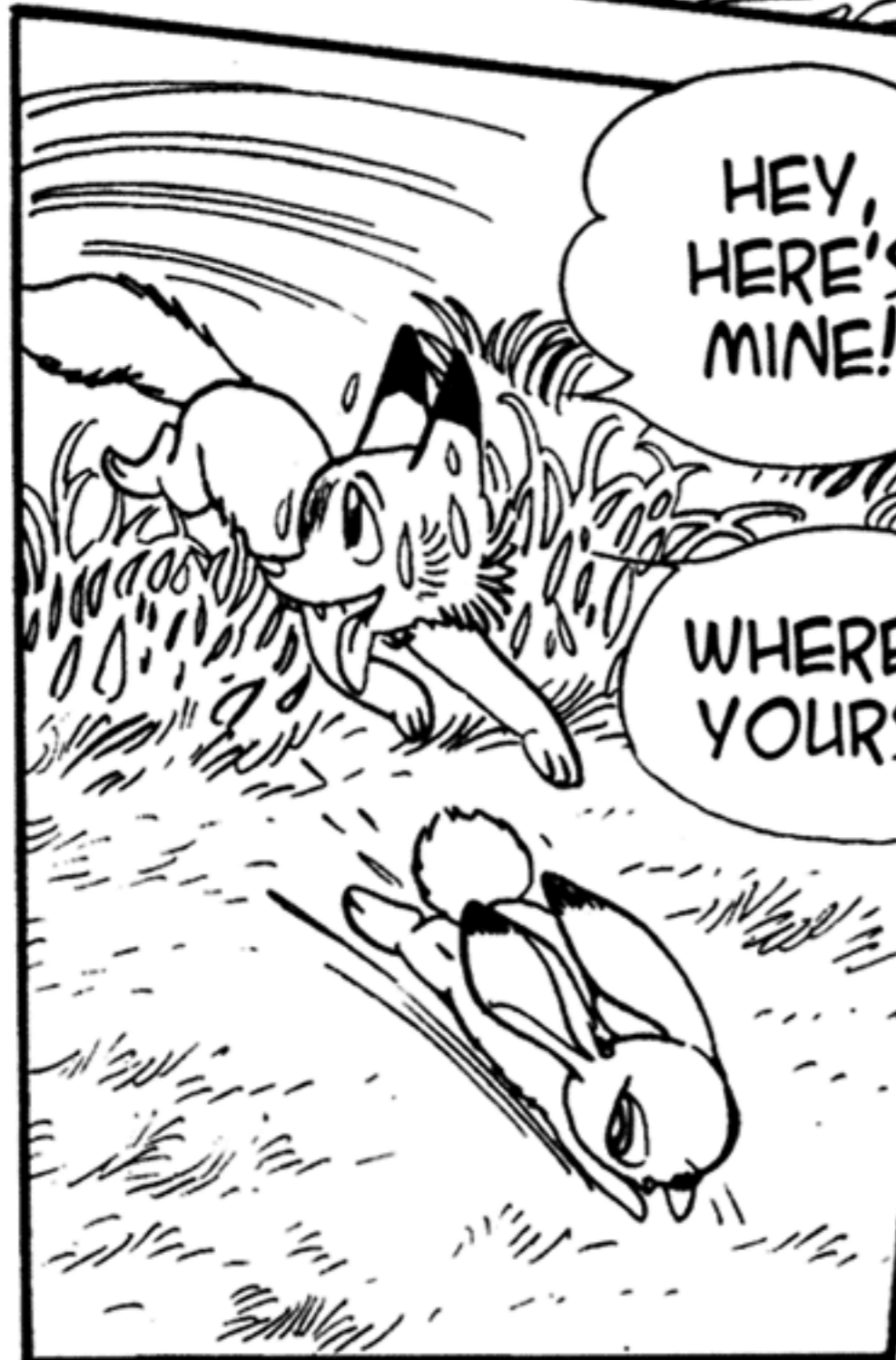
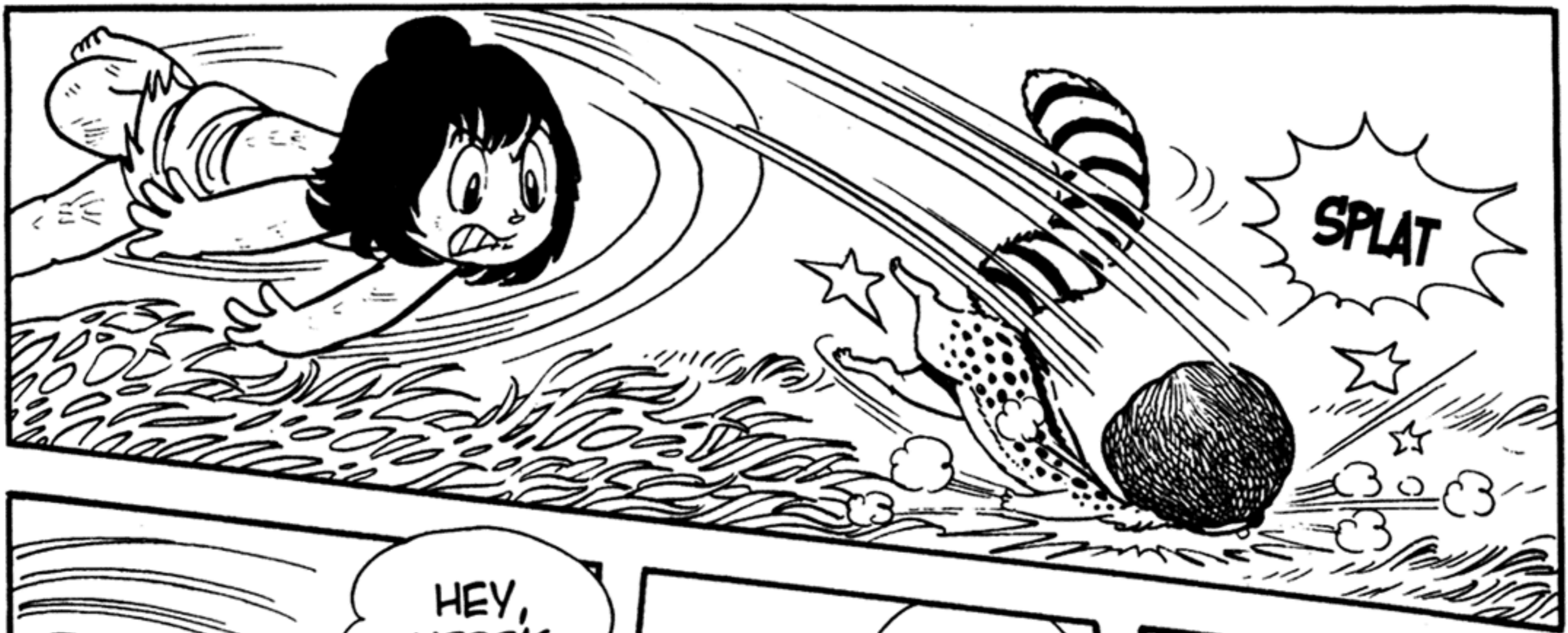
NOT TODAY! I SENSE HUMANS NEARBY...

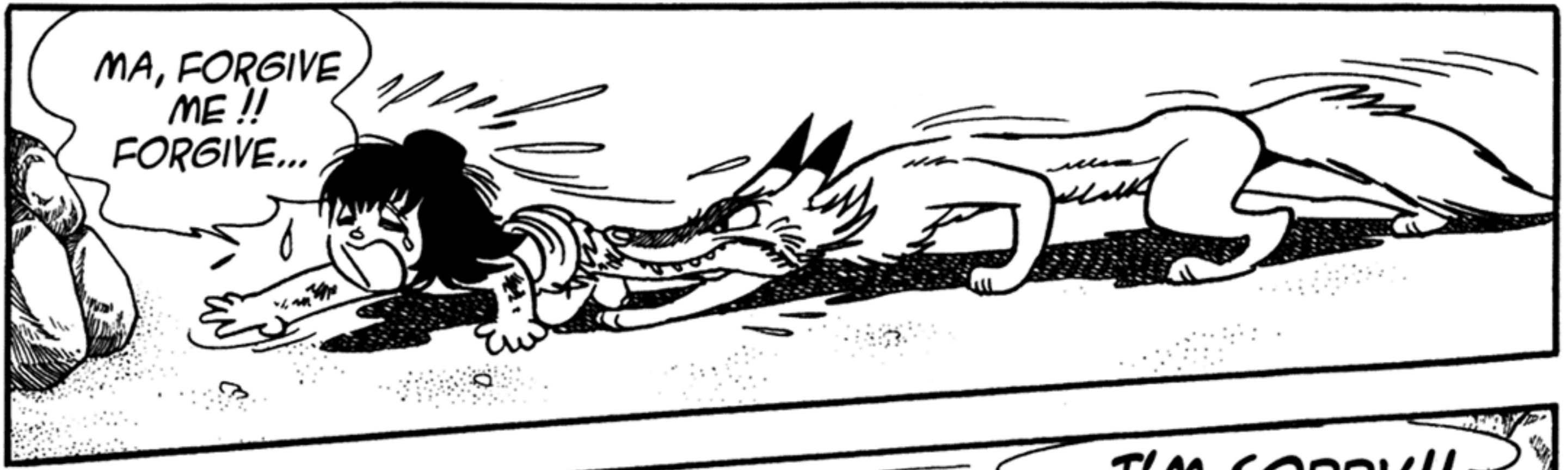
WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MA!











MA, FORGIVE ME!!
FORGIVE...



I'M SORRY!!



YOU WEREN'T GOING TO EAT IT.

SO WHY DID YOU KILL IT?



BECAUSE YOU'RE A HUMAN.

NOW GET OUT OF HERE!



YER STILL ONE OF THEM!

MA... I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

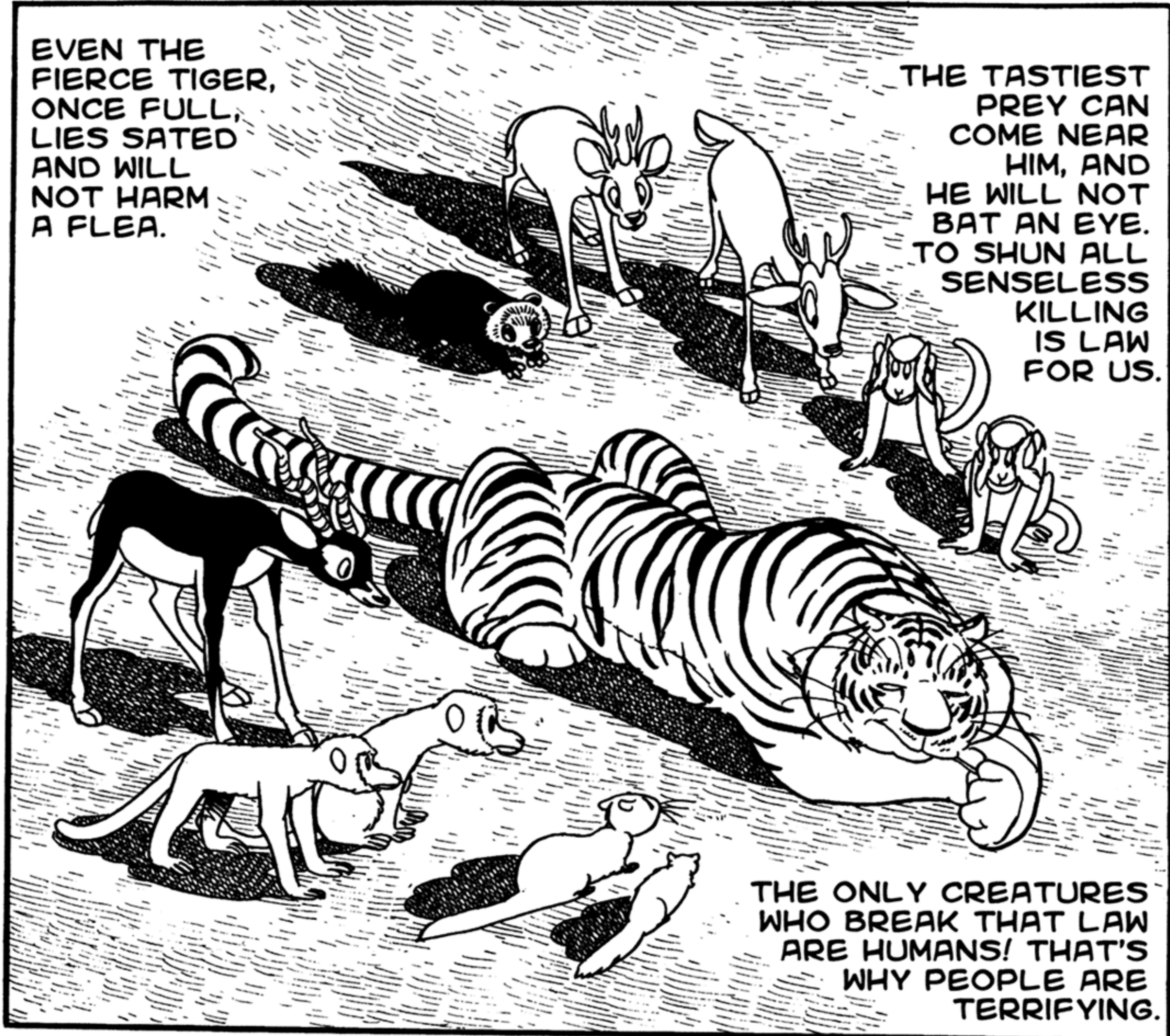
I LOST CONTROL ...

YOU CAN'T LIVE WITH US.



WE OF THE WILD KILL ONLY WHEN WE'RE HUNGRY AND WE MUST.

THAT IS OUR LAW!



EVEN THE FIERCE TIGER, ONCE FULL, LIES SATIATED AND WILL NOT HARM A FLEA.

THE TASTIEST PREY CAN COME NEAR HIM, AND HE WILL NOT BAT AN EYE. TO SHUN ALL SENSELESS KILLING IS LAW FOR US.

THE ONLY CREATURES WHO BREAK THAT LAW ARE HUMANS! THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ARE TERRIFYING.



I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN.

I'M SORRY.

LET ME STAY, MA...



NO SUPPER TONIGHT. THAT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT.

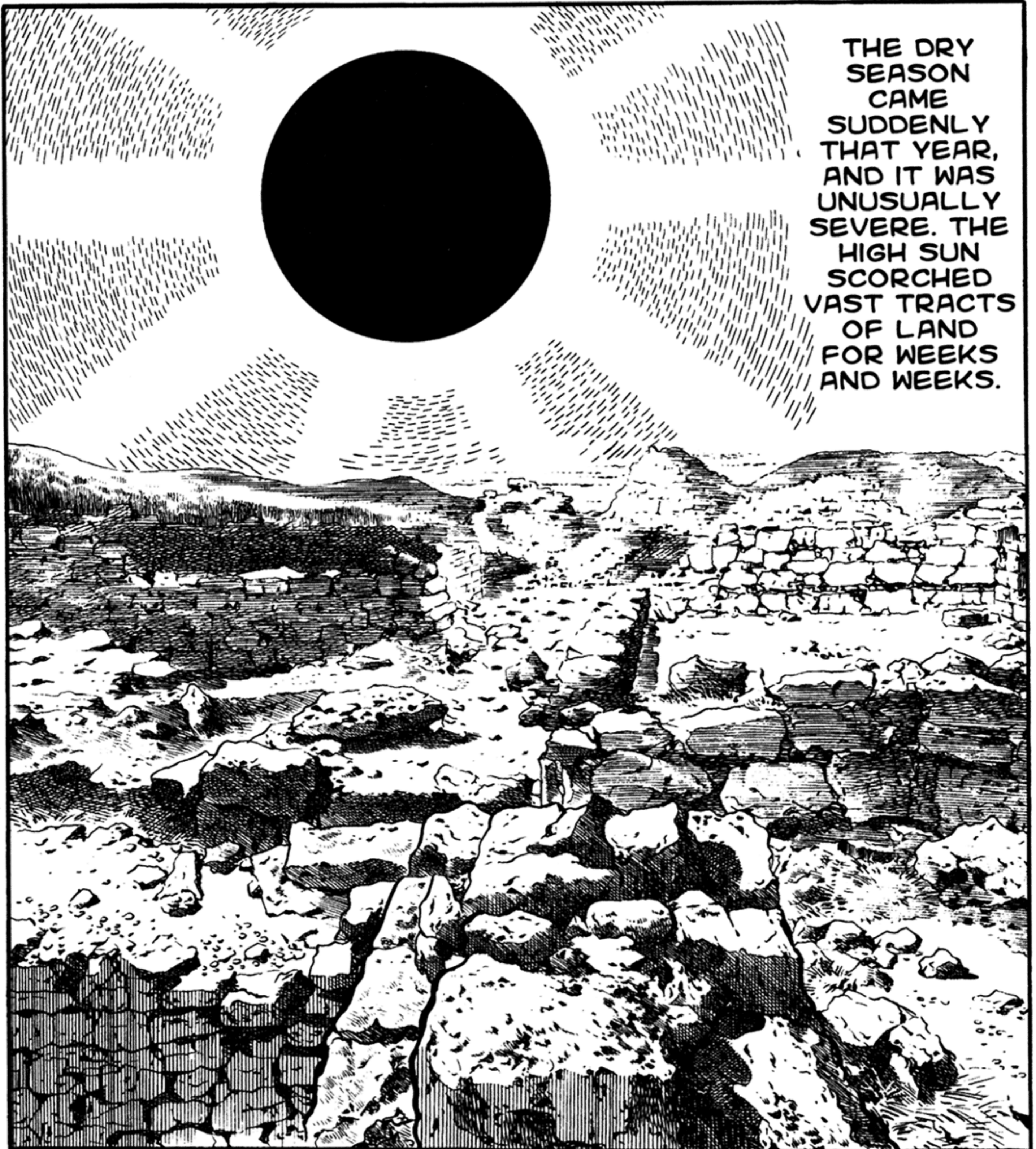
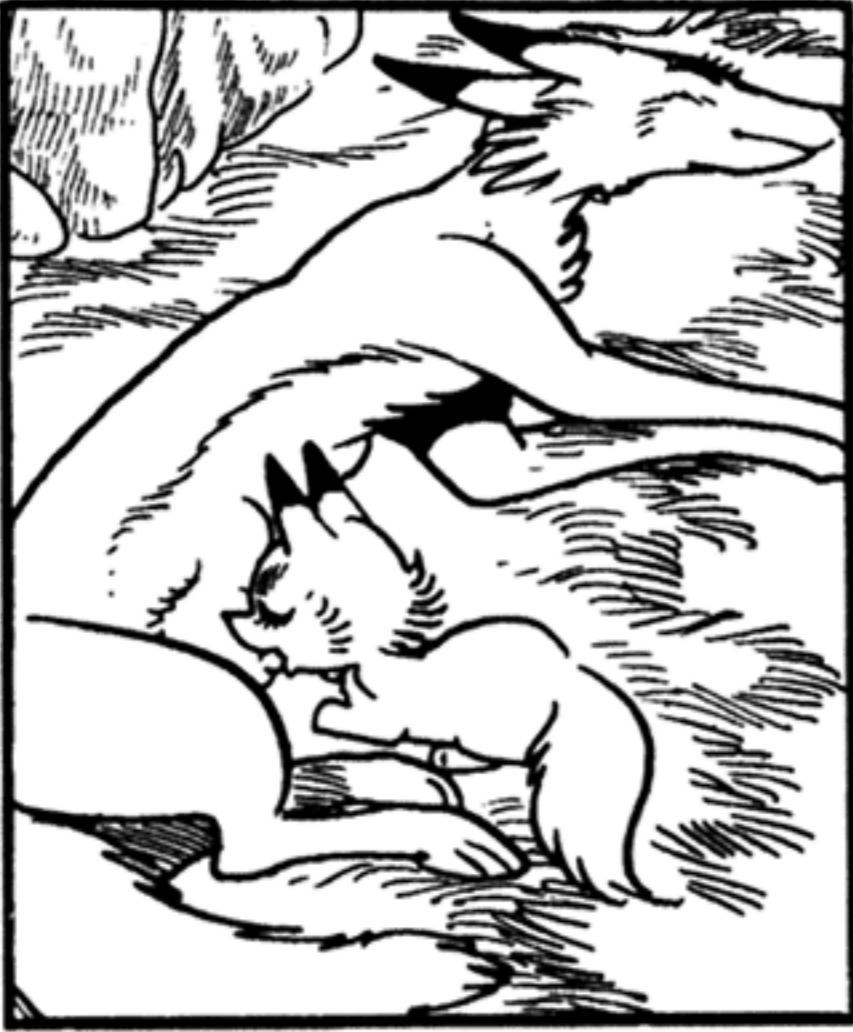
...



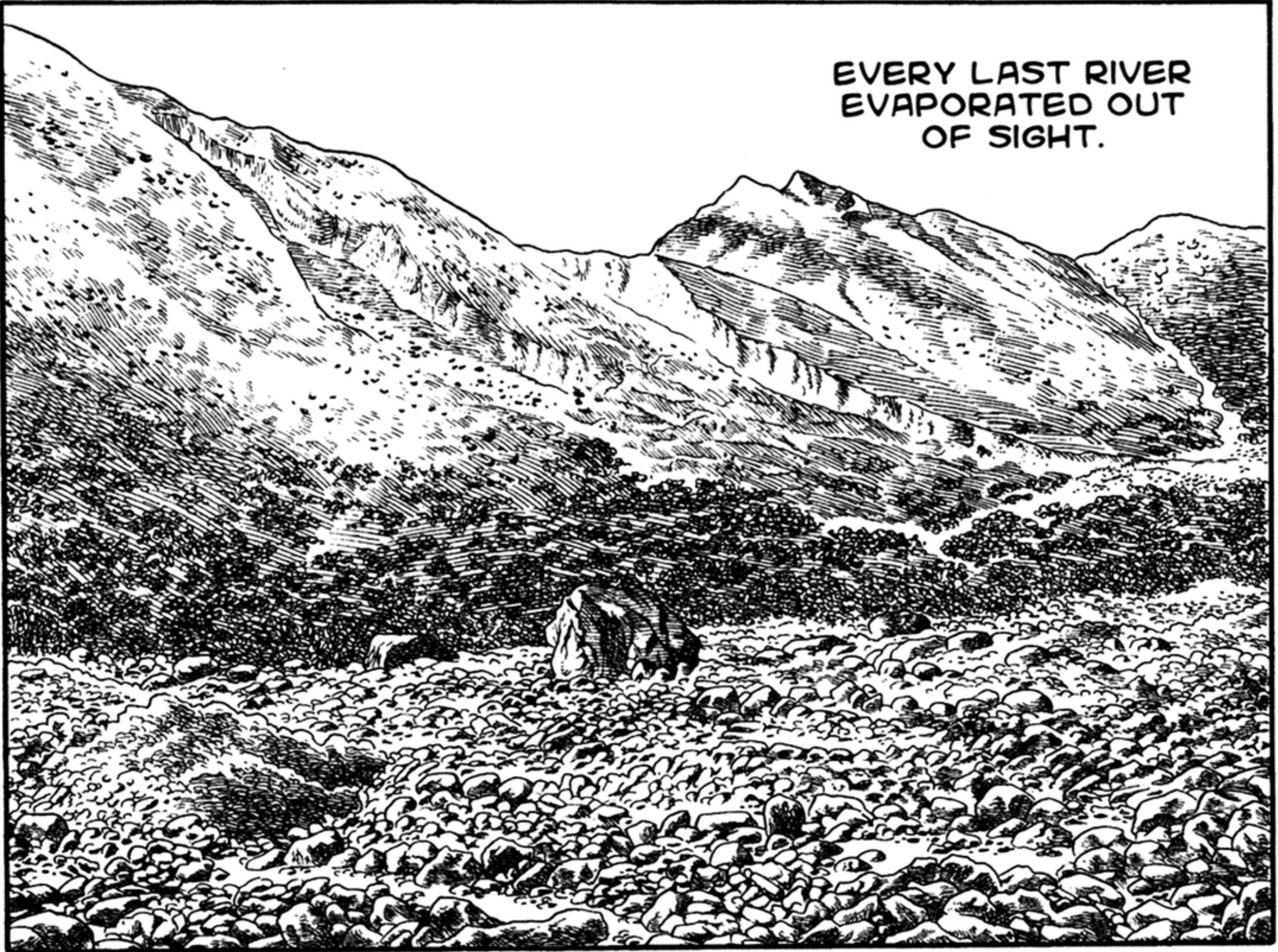
UM, MA... ? YOU AREN'T REALLY SO MAD AT HIM, ARE YOU?



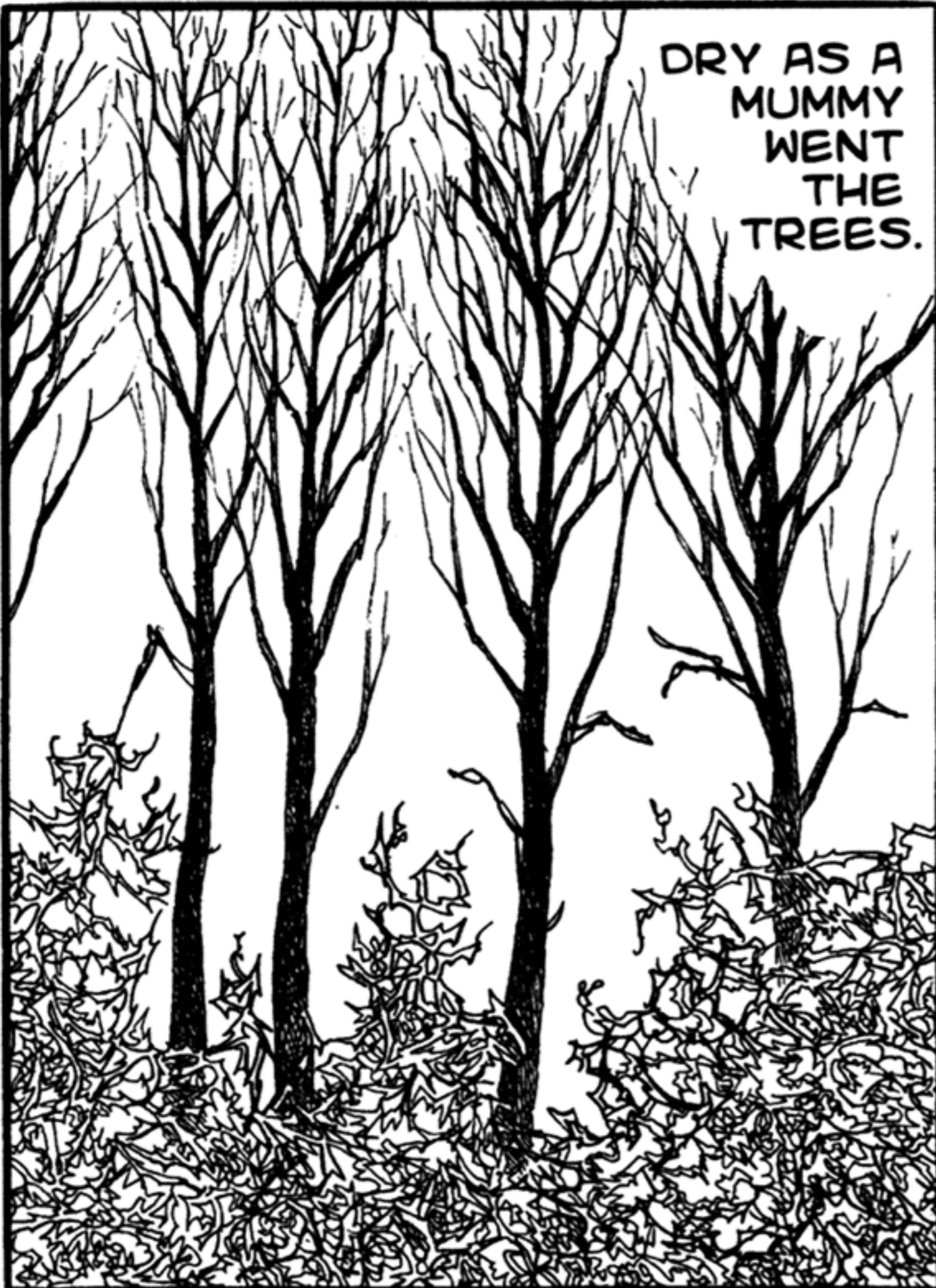
I KNOW YOU COULDA HURT HIM WORSE...



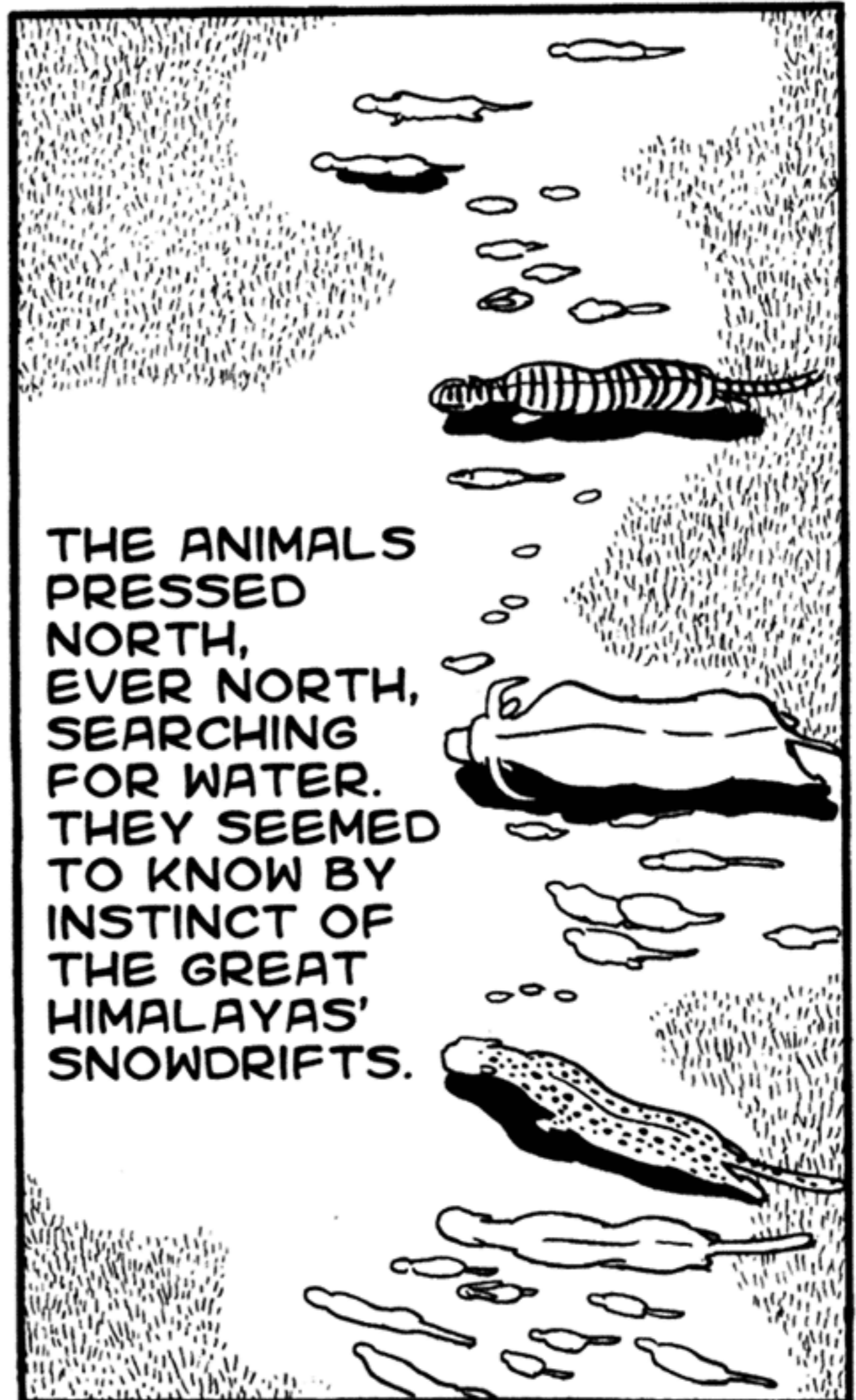
EVERY LAST RIVER
EVAPORATED OUT
OF SIGHT.

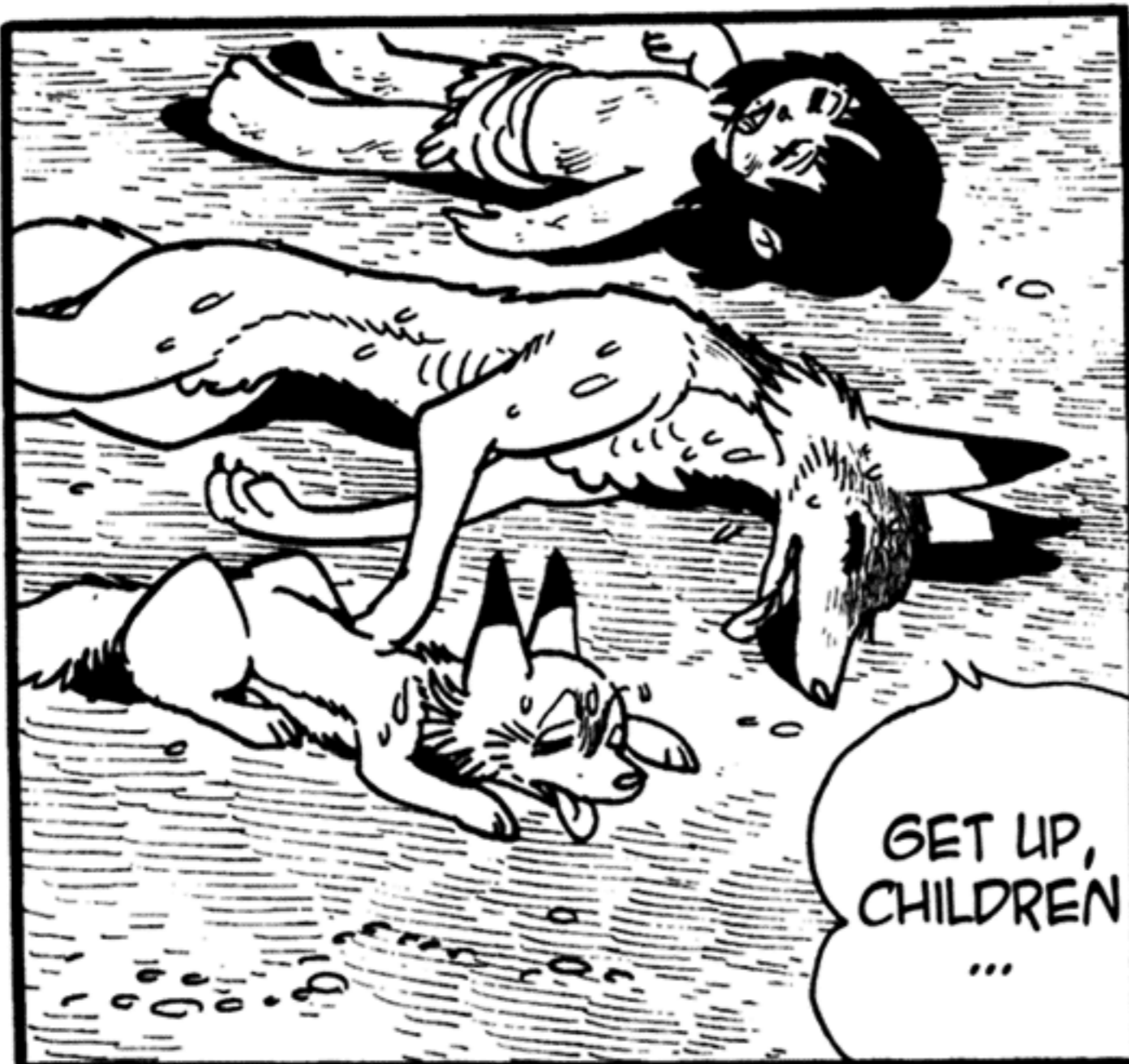
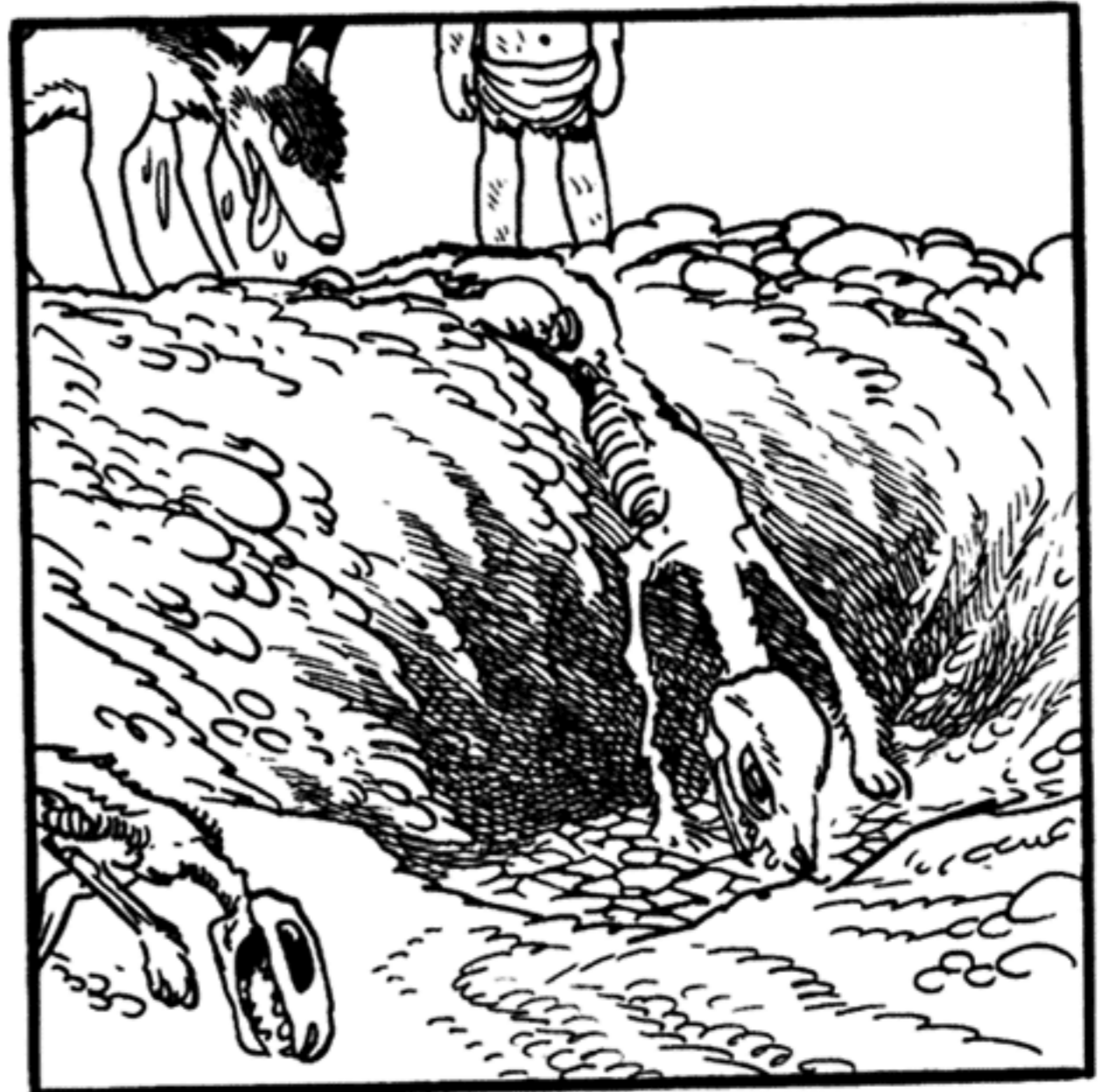
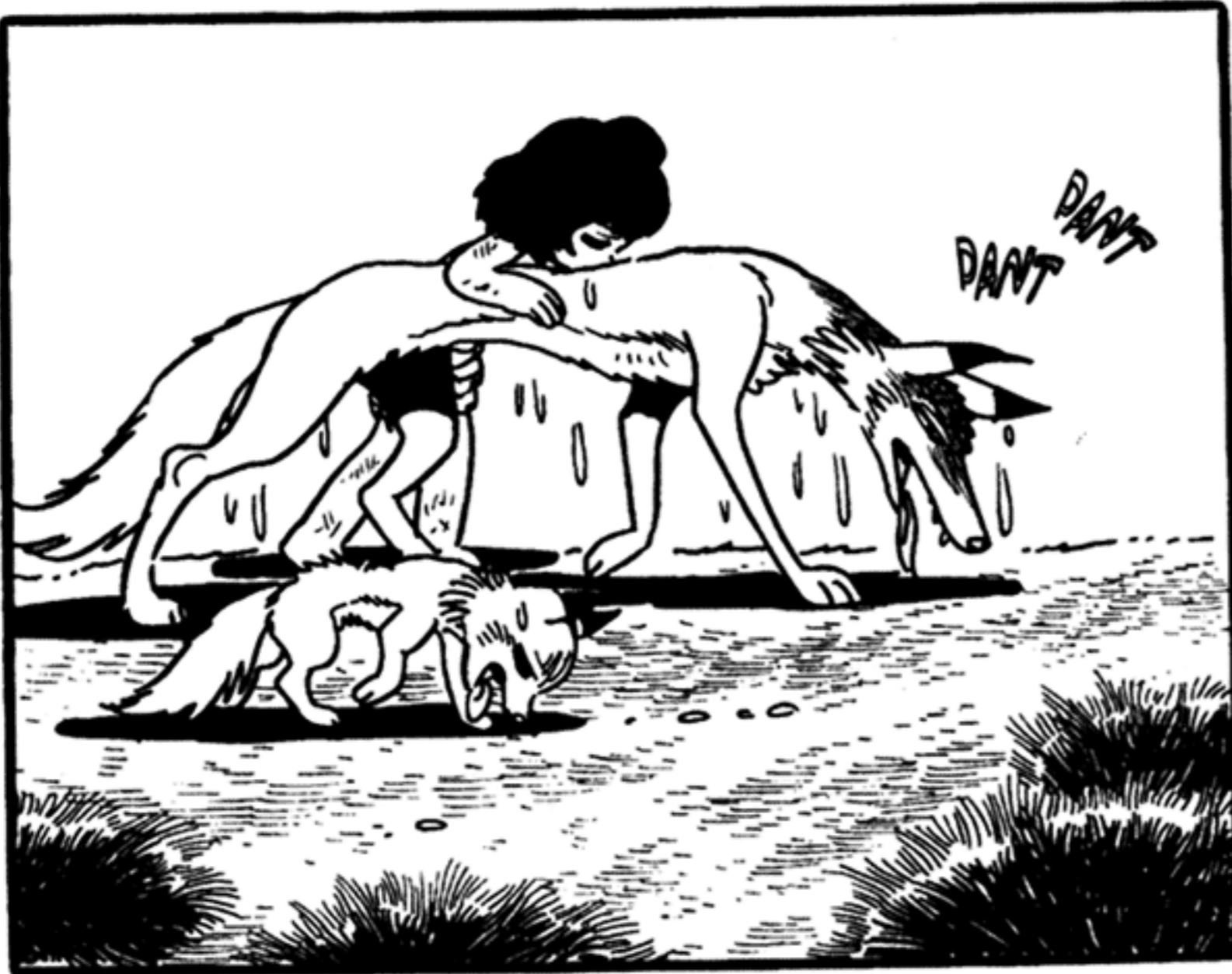
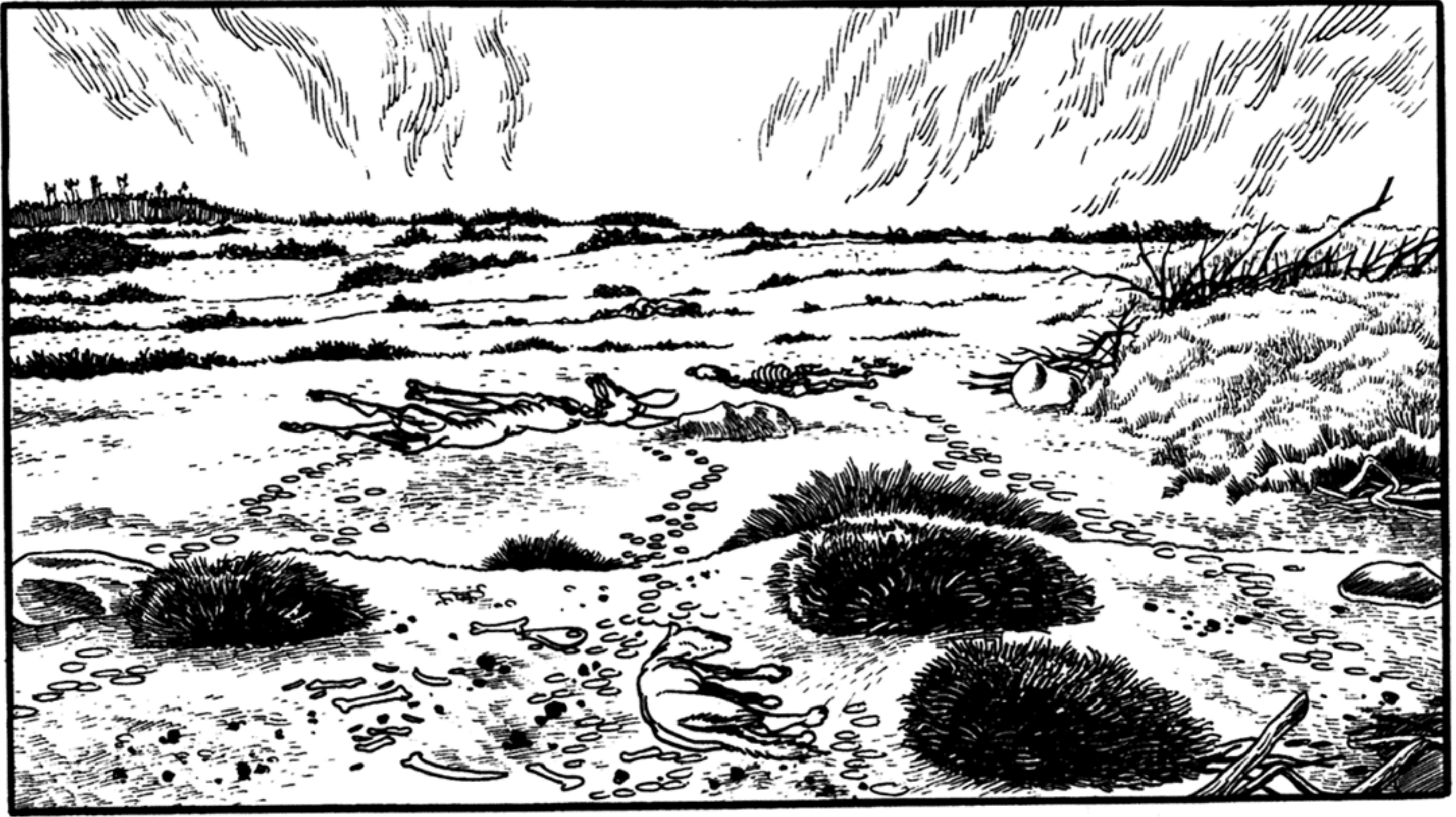


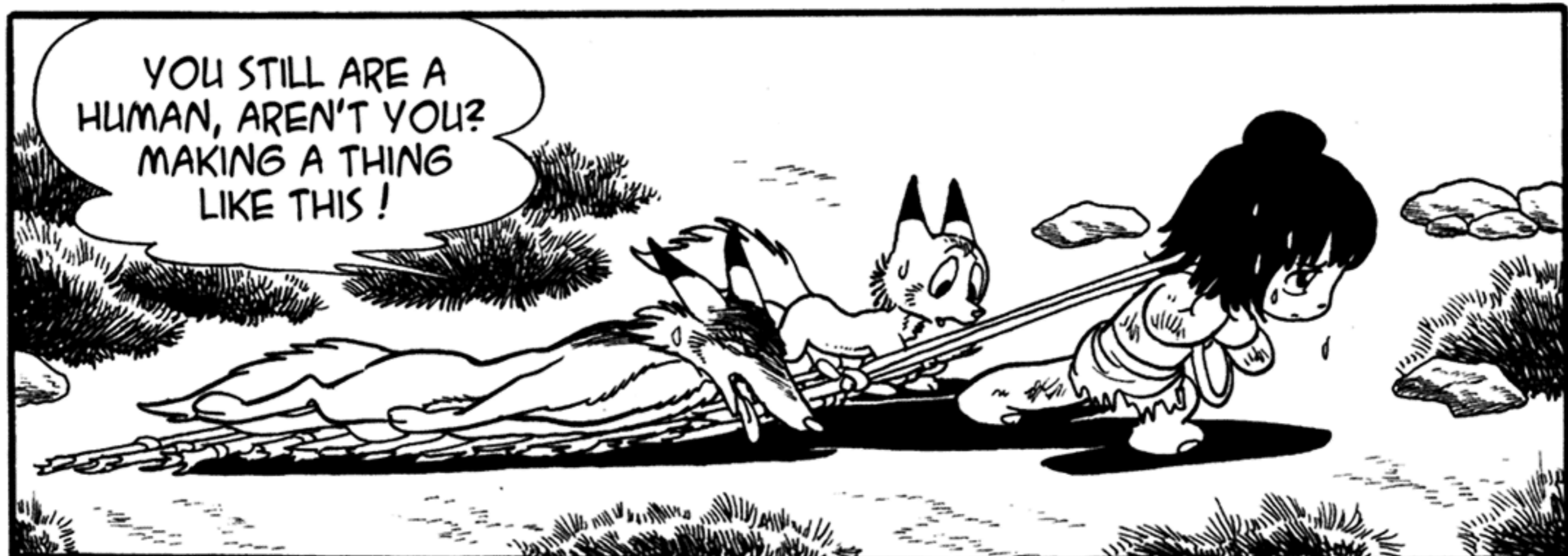
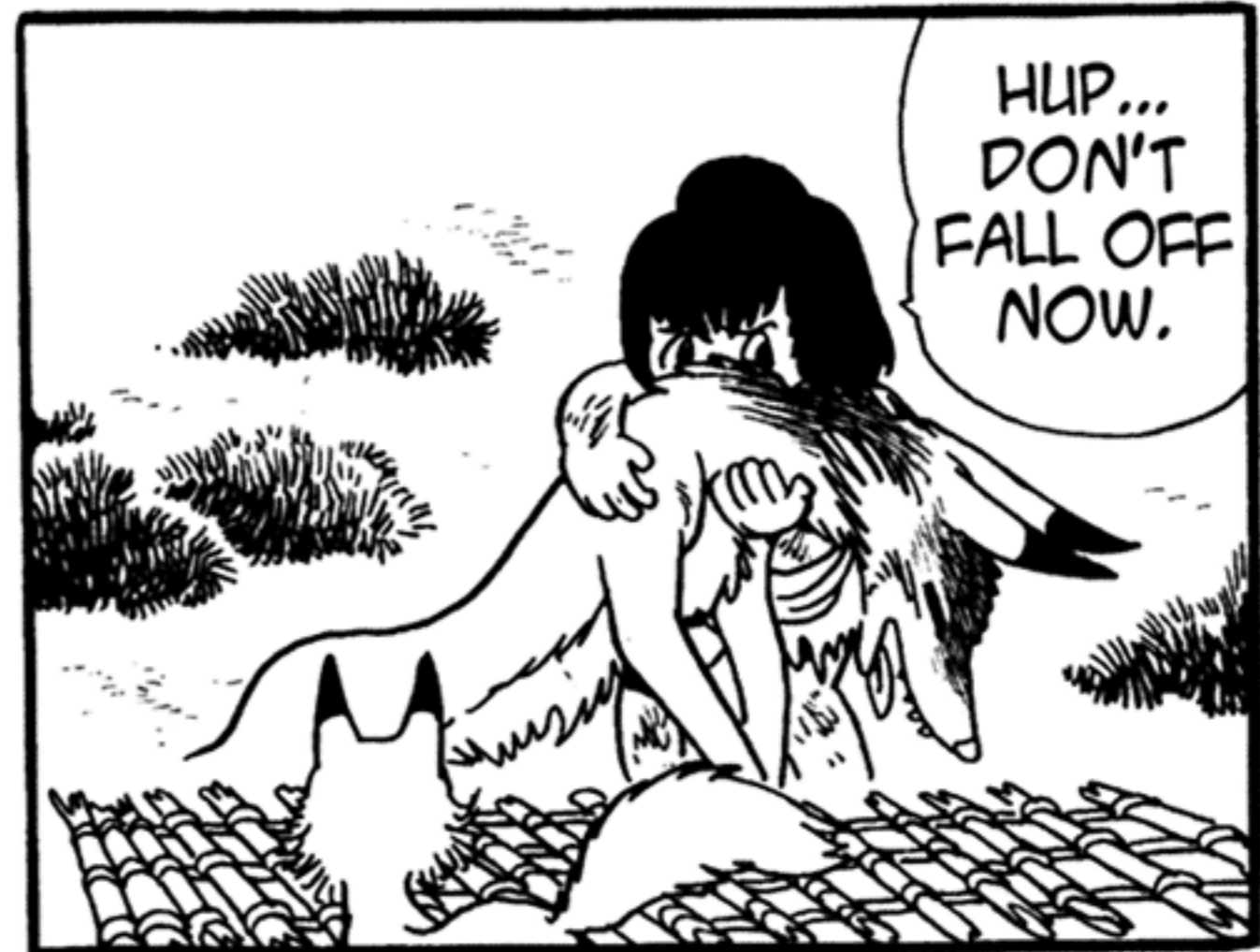
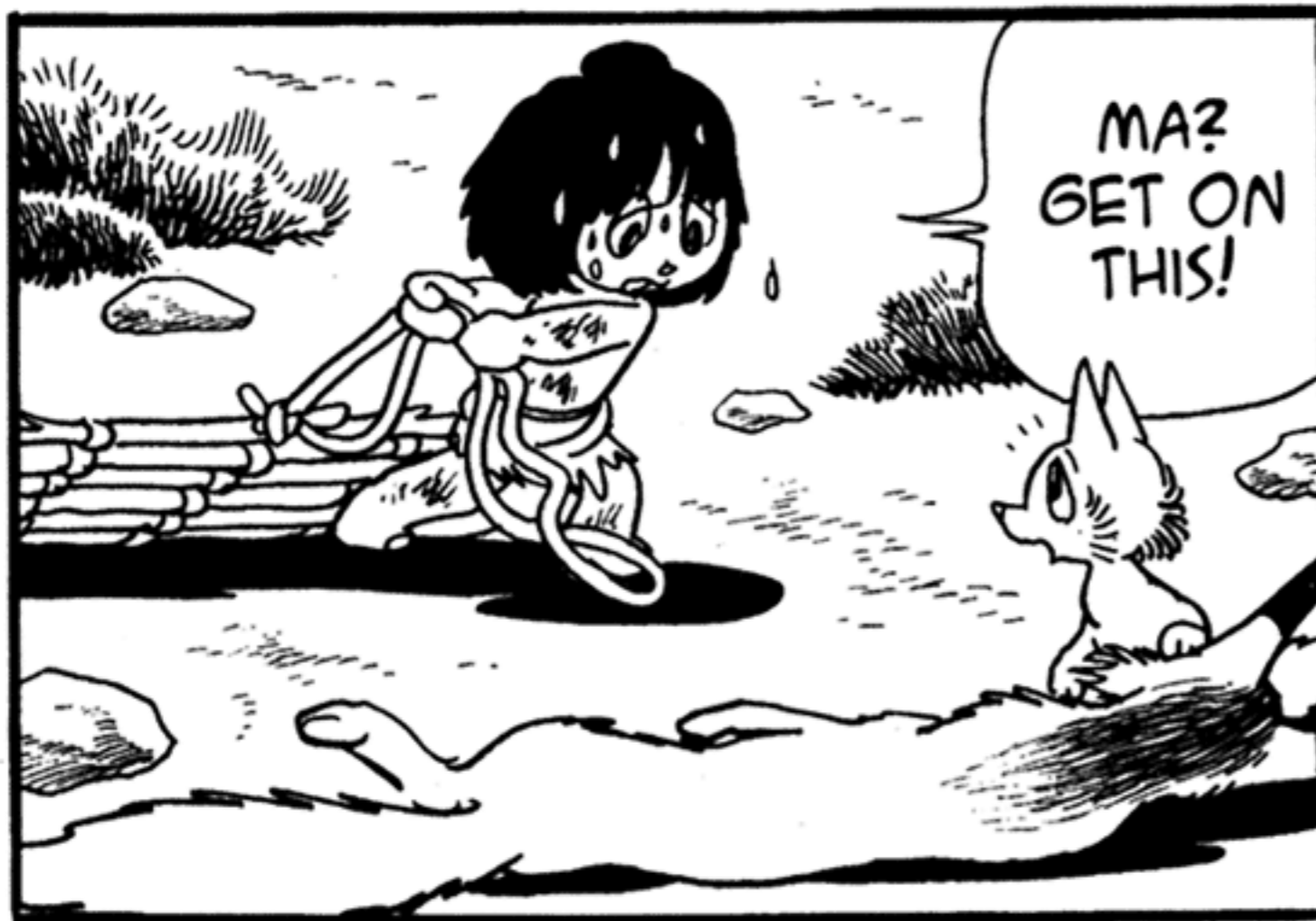
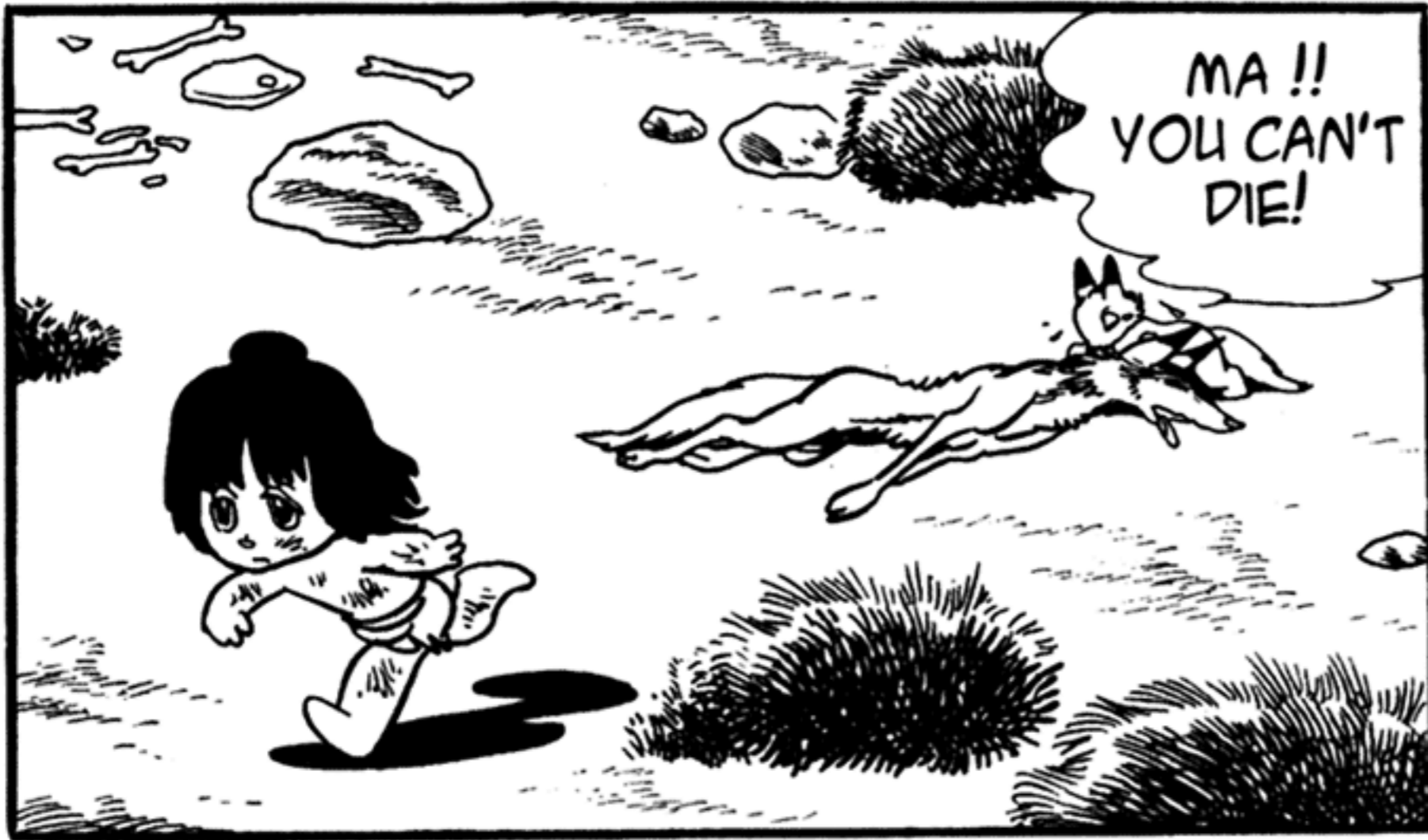
DRY AS A
MUMMY
WENT
THE
TREES.

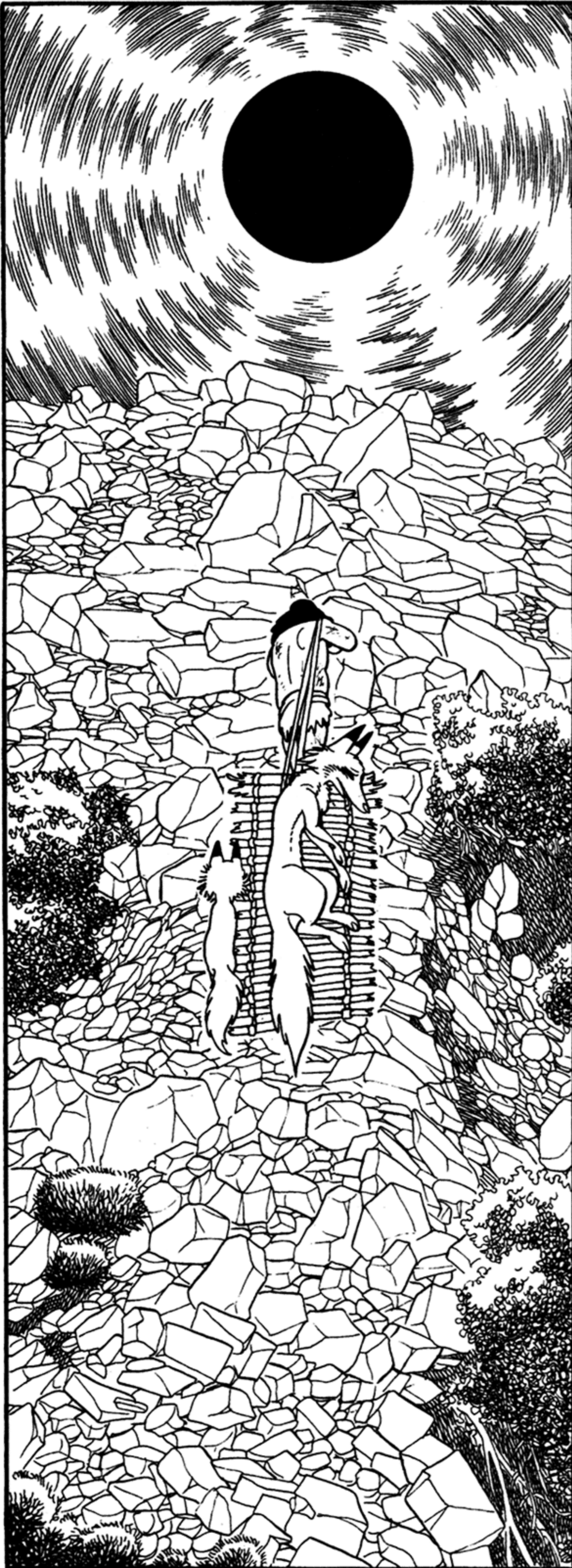


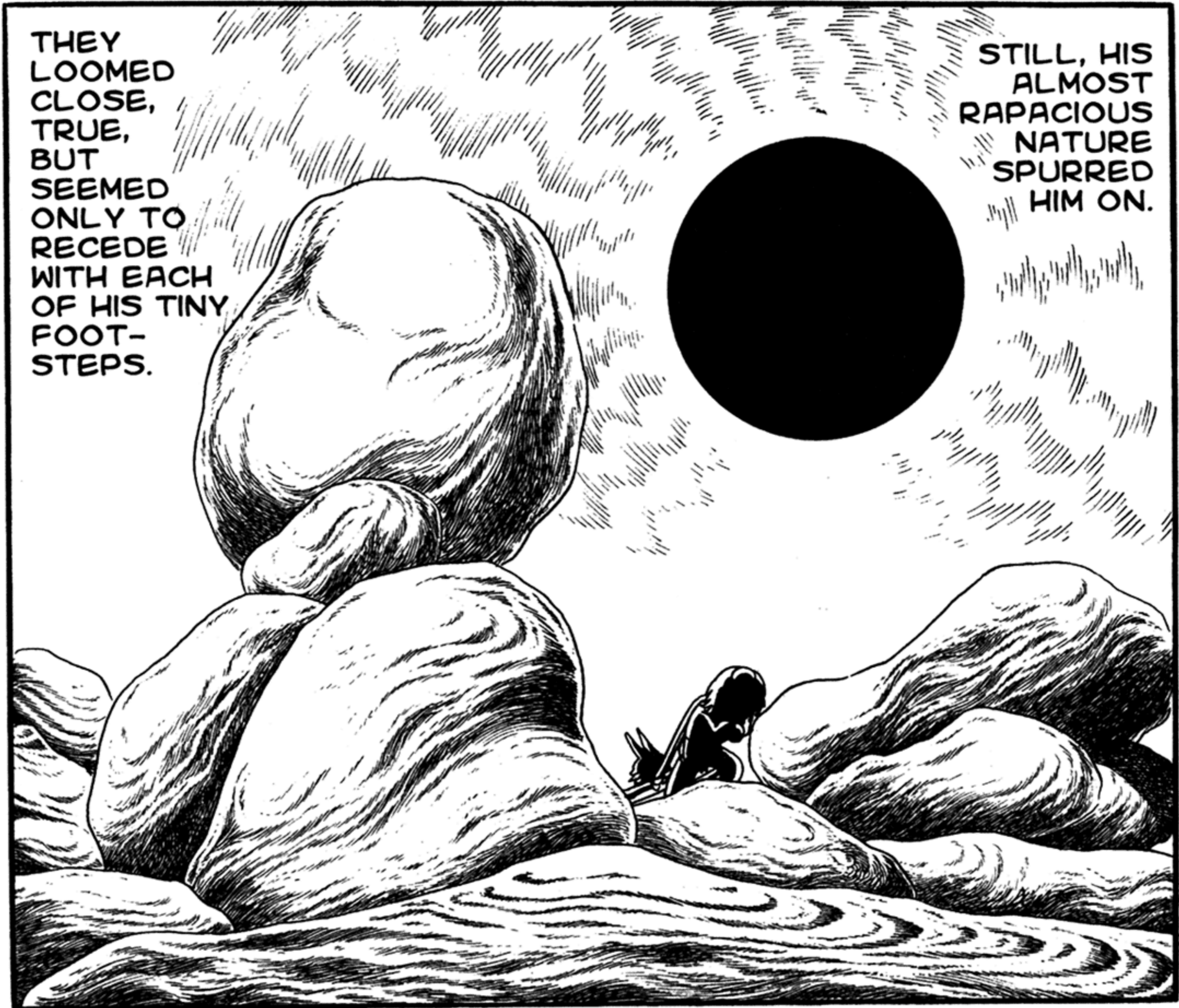
THE ANIMALS
PRESSED
NORTH,
EVER NORTH,
SEARCHING
FOR WATER.
THEY SEEMED
TO KNOW BY
INSTINCT OF
THE GREAT
HIMALAYAS'
SNOWDRIFTS.











THEY LOOMED CLOSE, TRUE, BUT SEEMED ONLY TO RECEDE WITH EACH OF HIS TINY FOOT- STEPS.

STILL, HIS ALMOST RAPACIOUS NATURE SPURRED HIM ON.



MA, HAVE YOU NOTICED? THERE'S NOT ONE CARCASS AROUND HERE. WHATEVER MADE IT THIS FAR MUST HAVE LIVED.

HANG IN THERE, MA, I THINK WE'VE MADE IT.

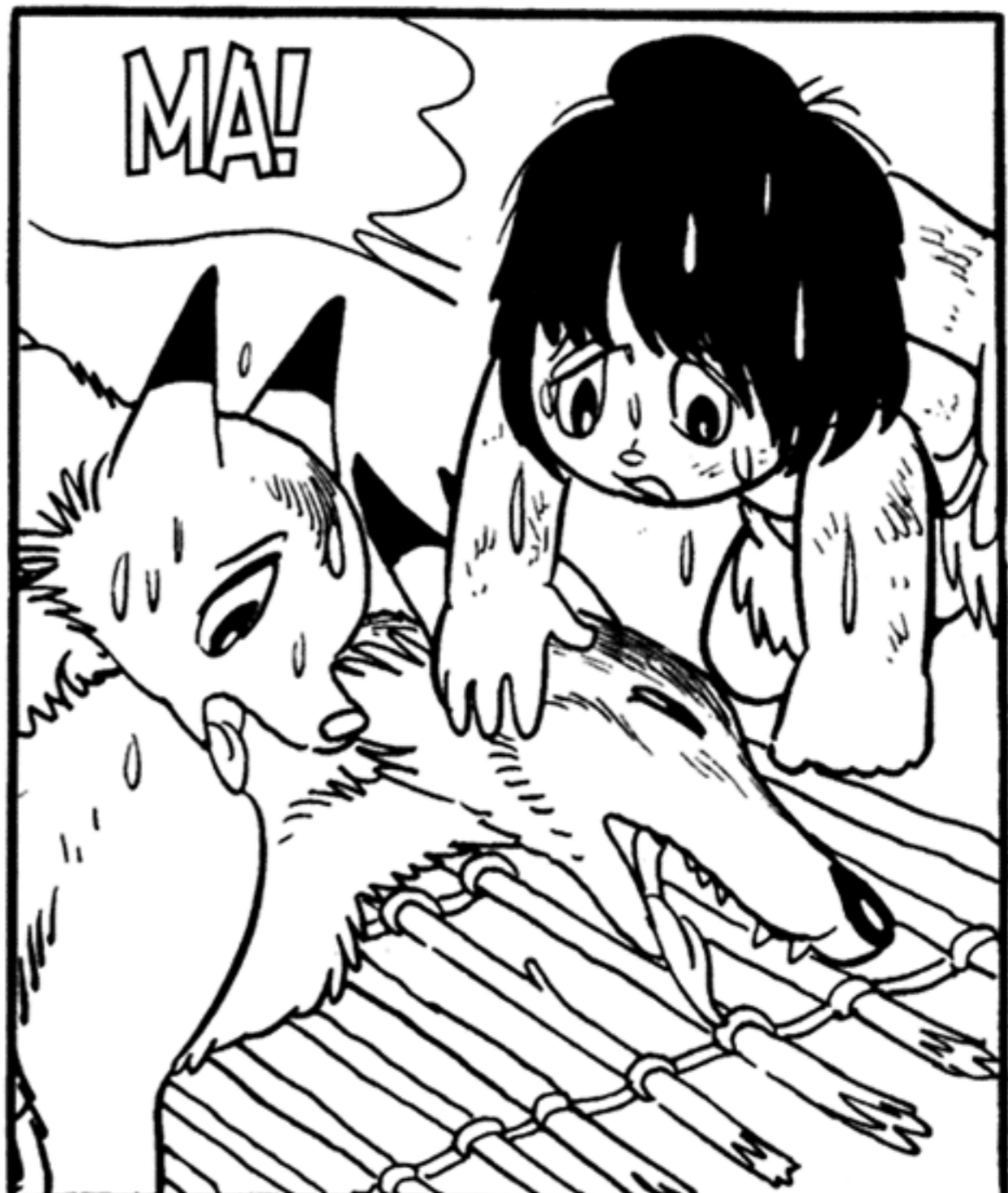
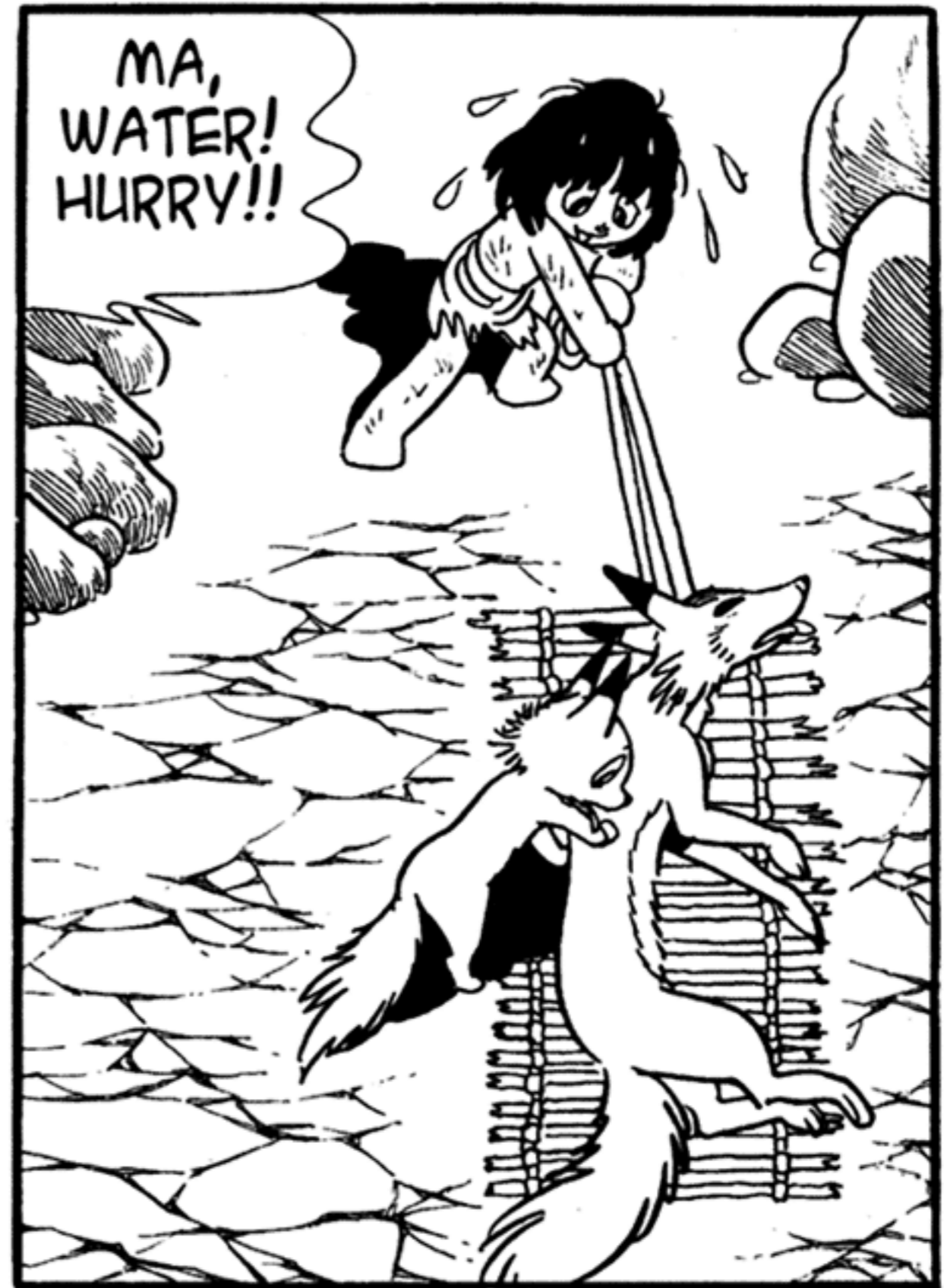
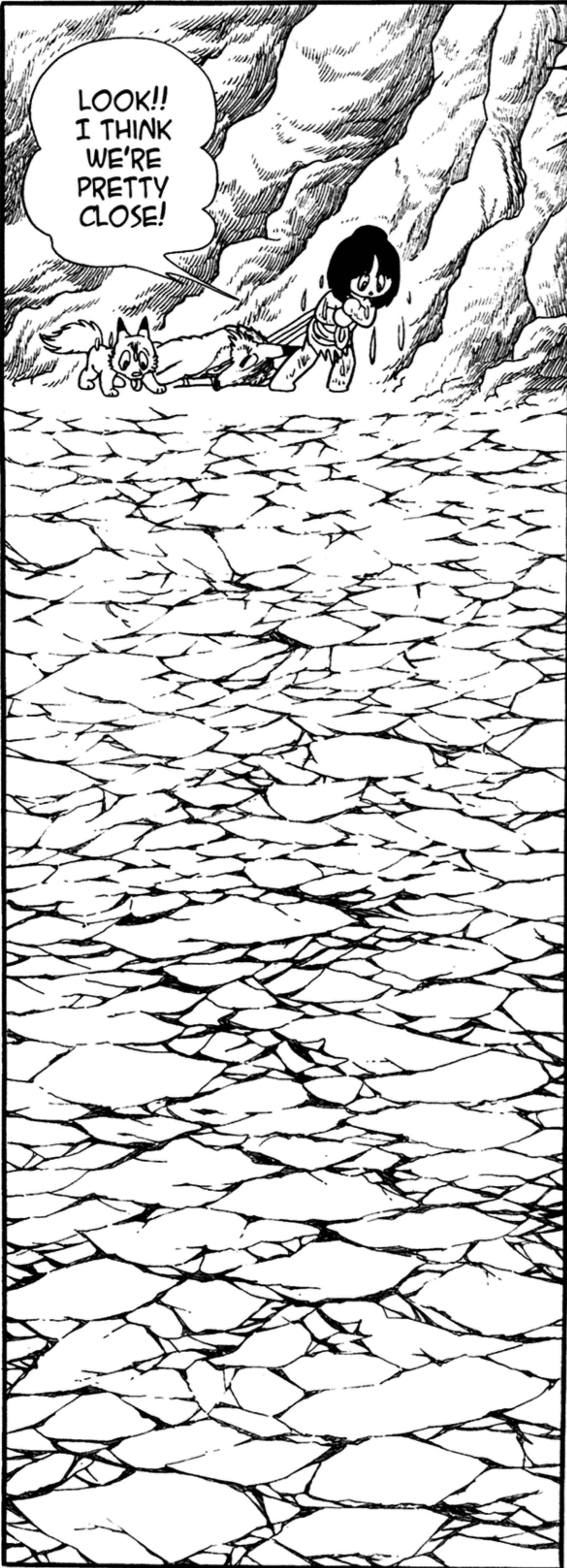


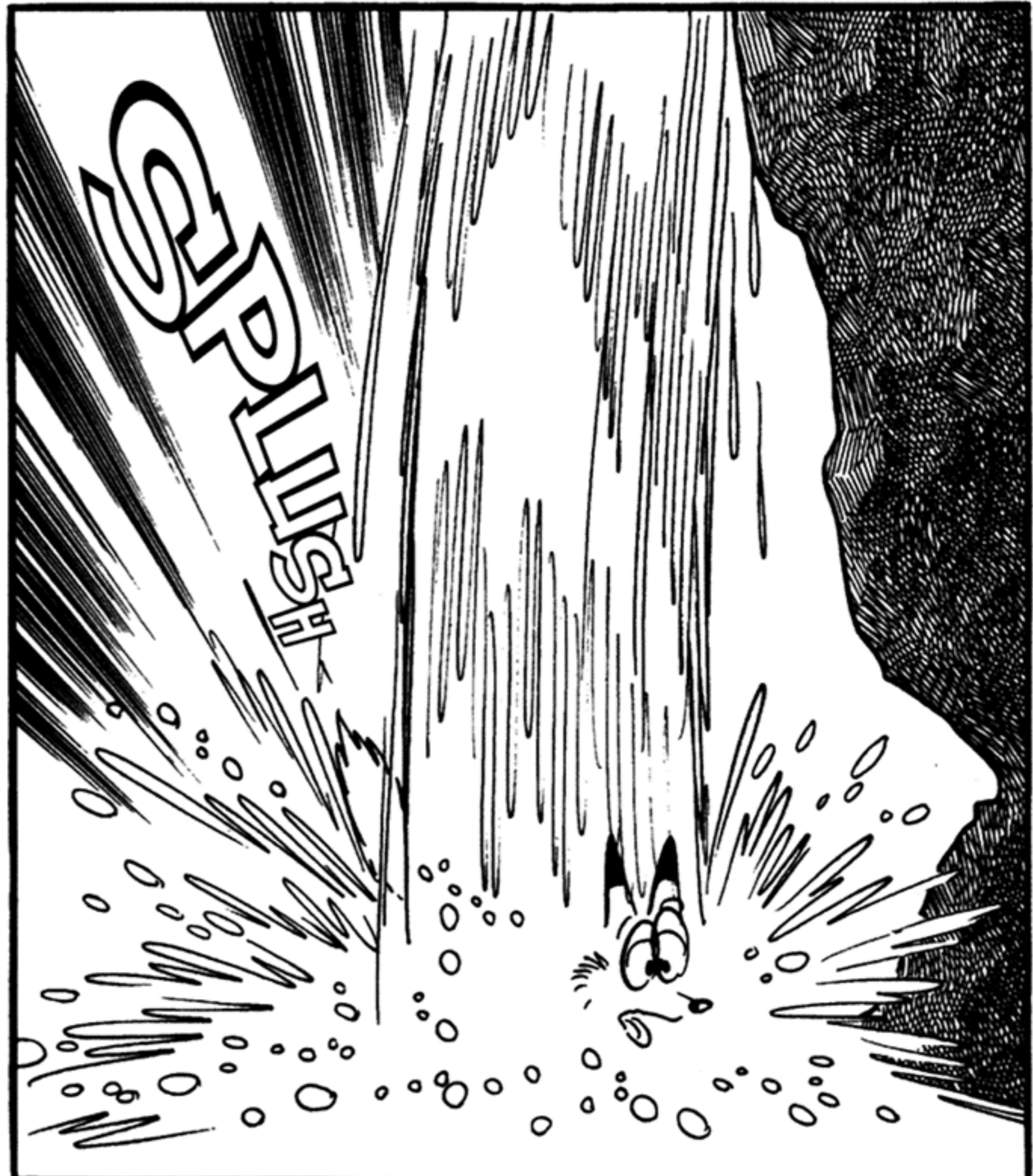
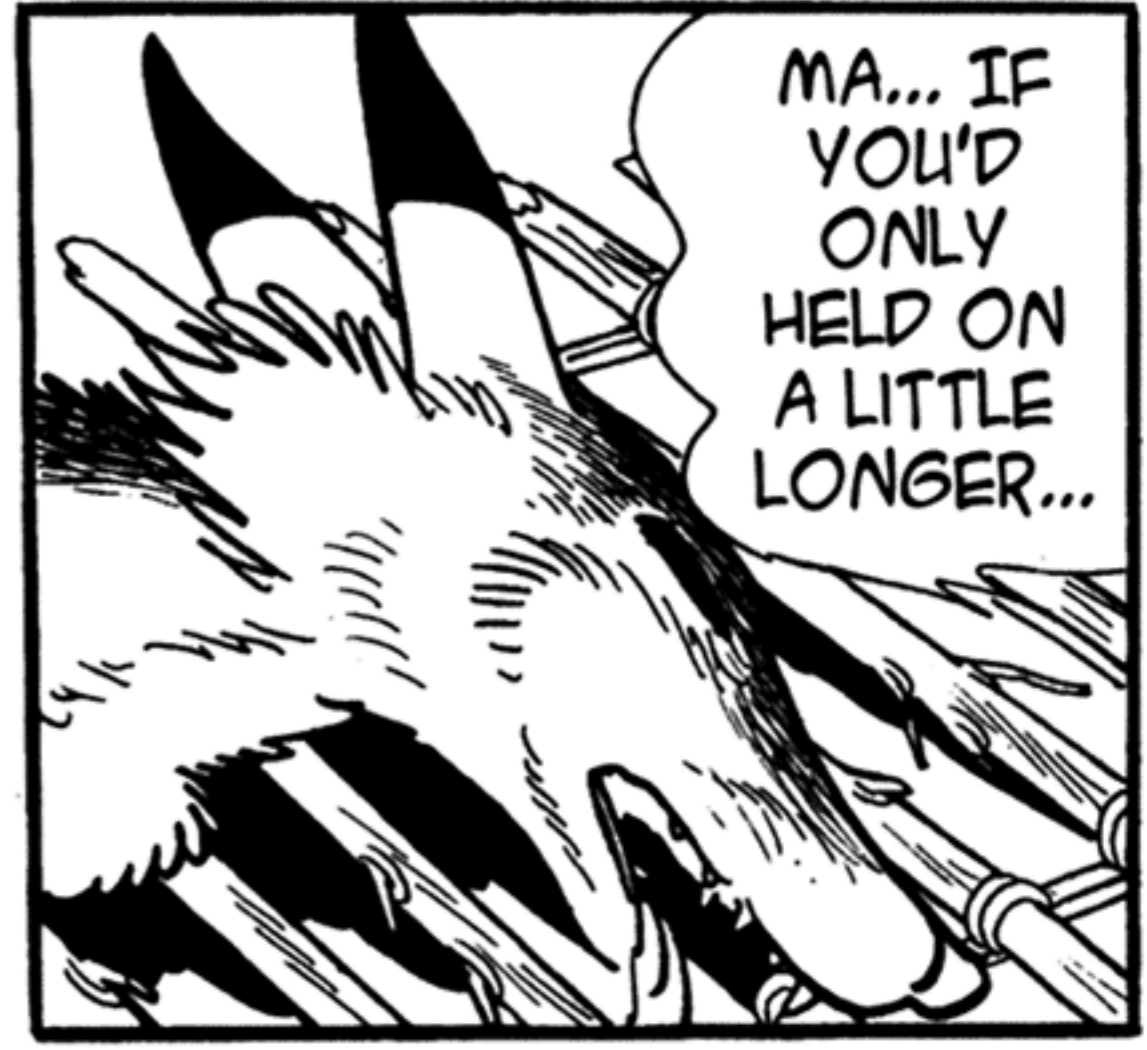
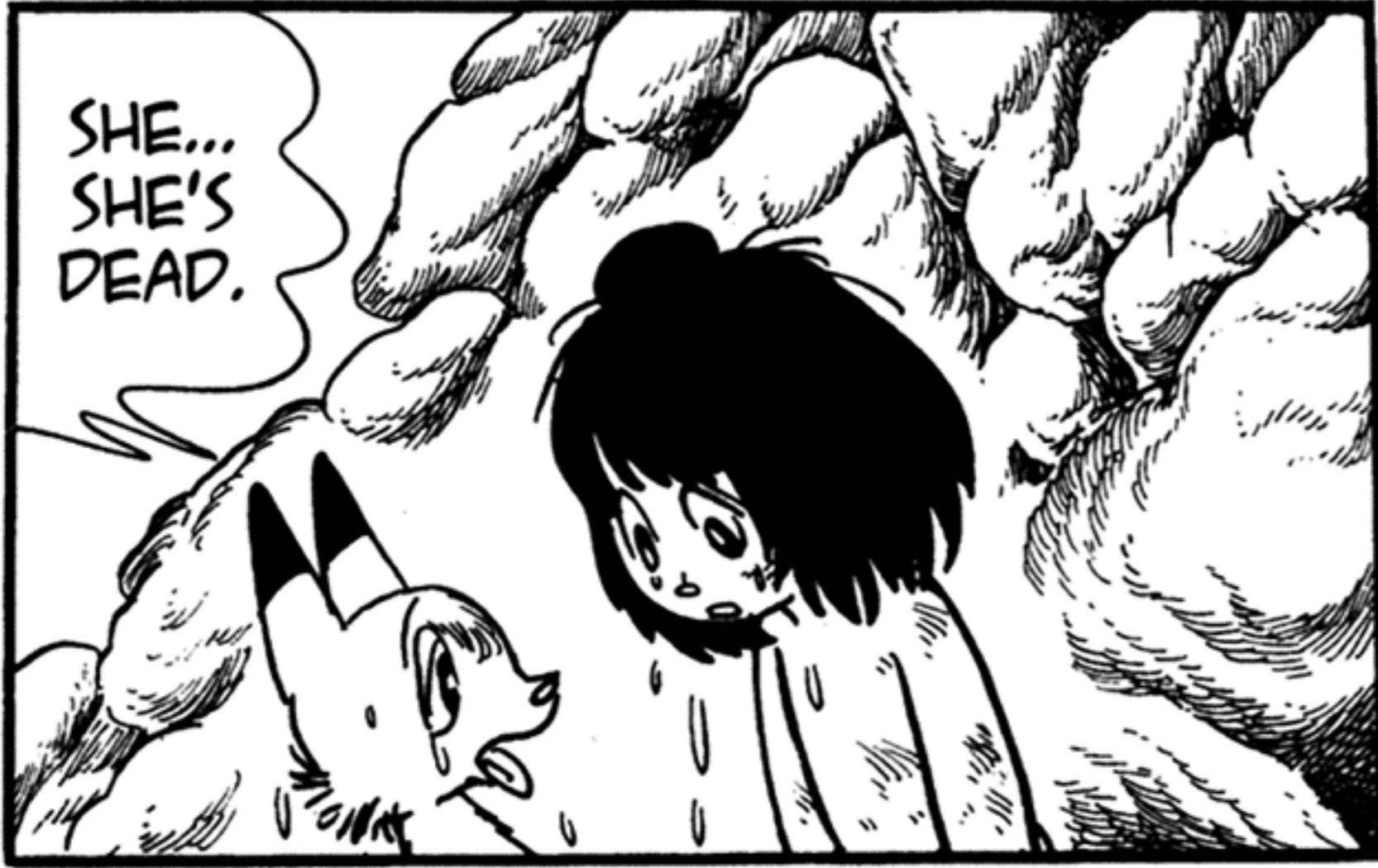
I SENSE WATER, OVER THAT WAY!

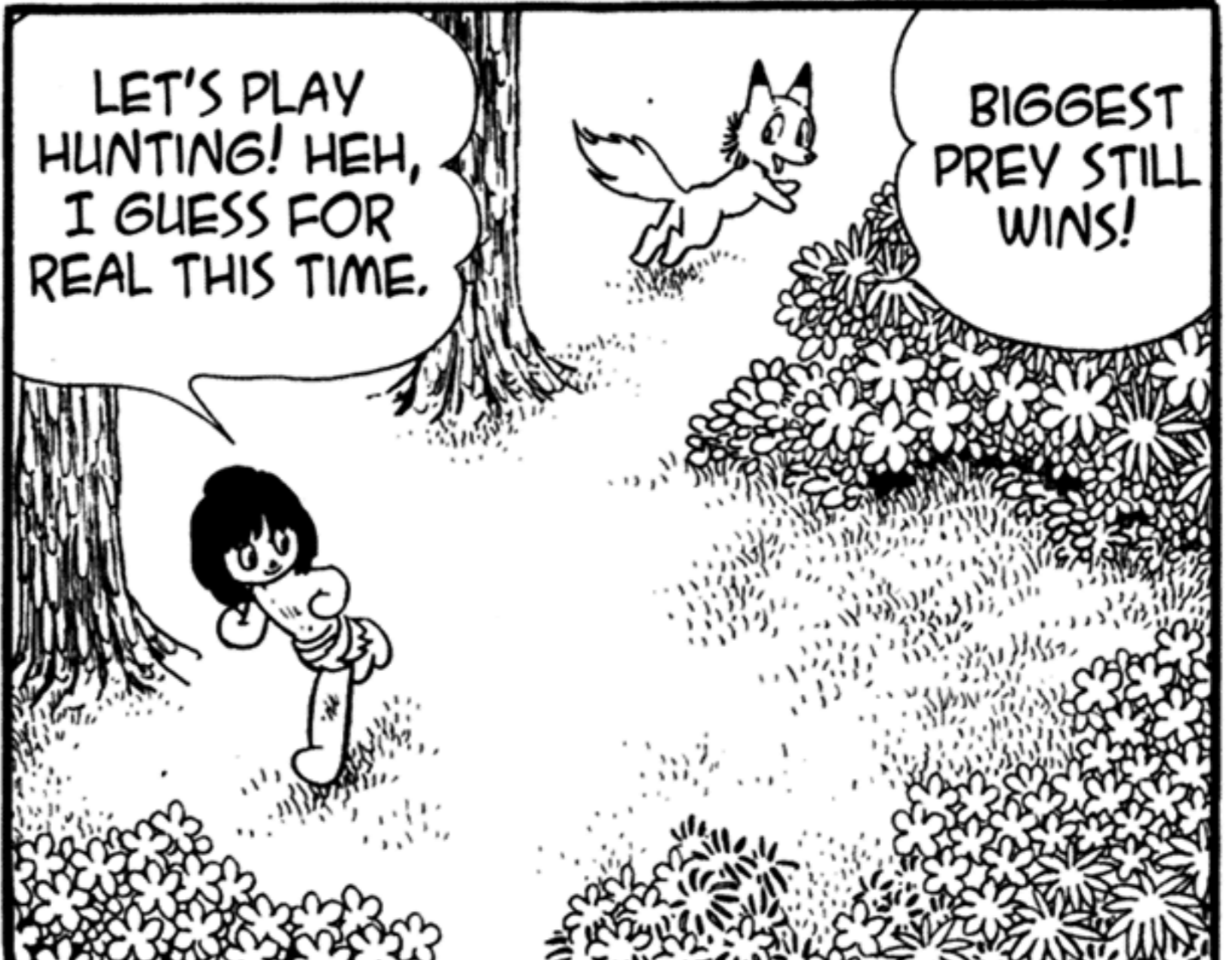


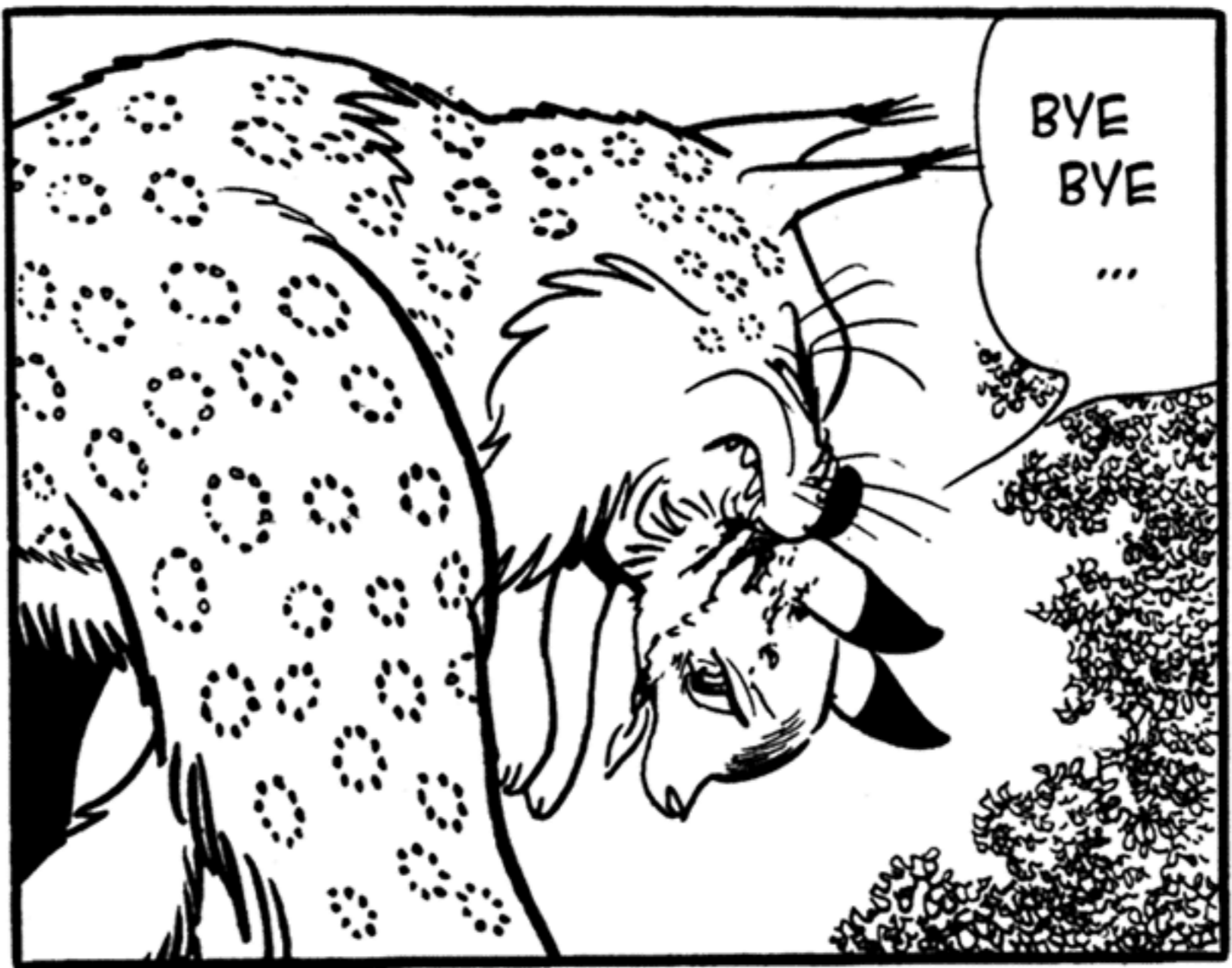
IN THAT VALLEY. LET'S GO!

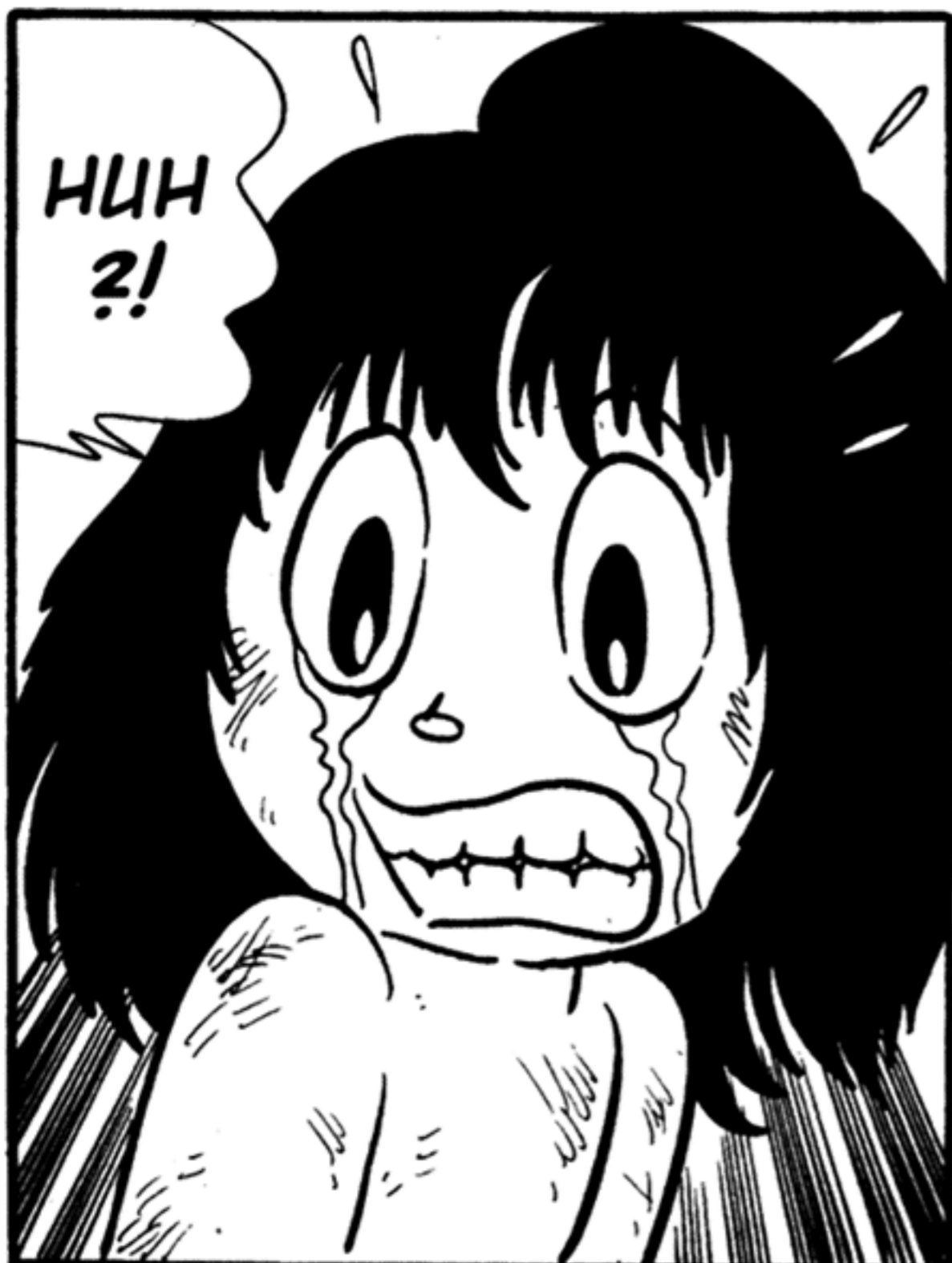
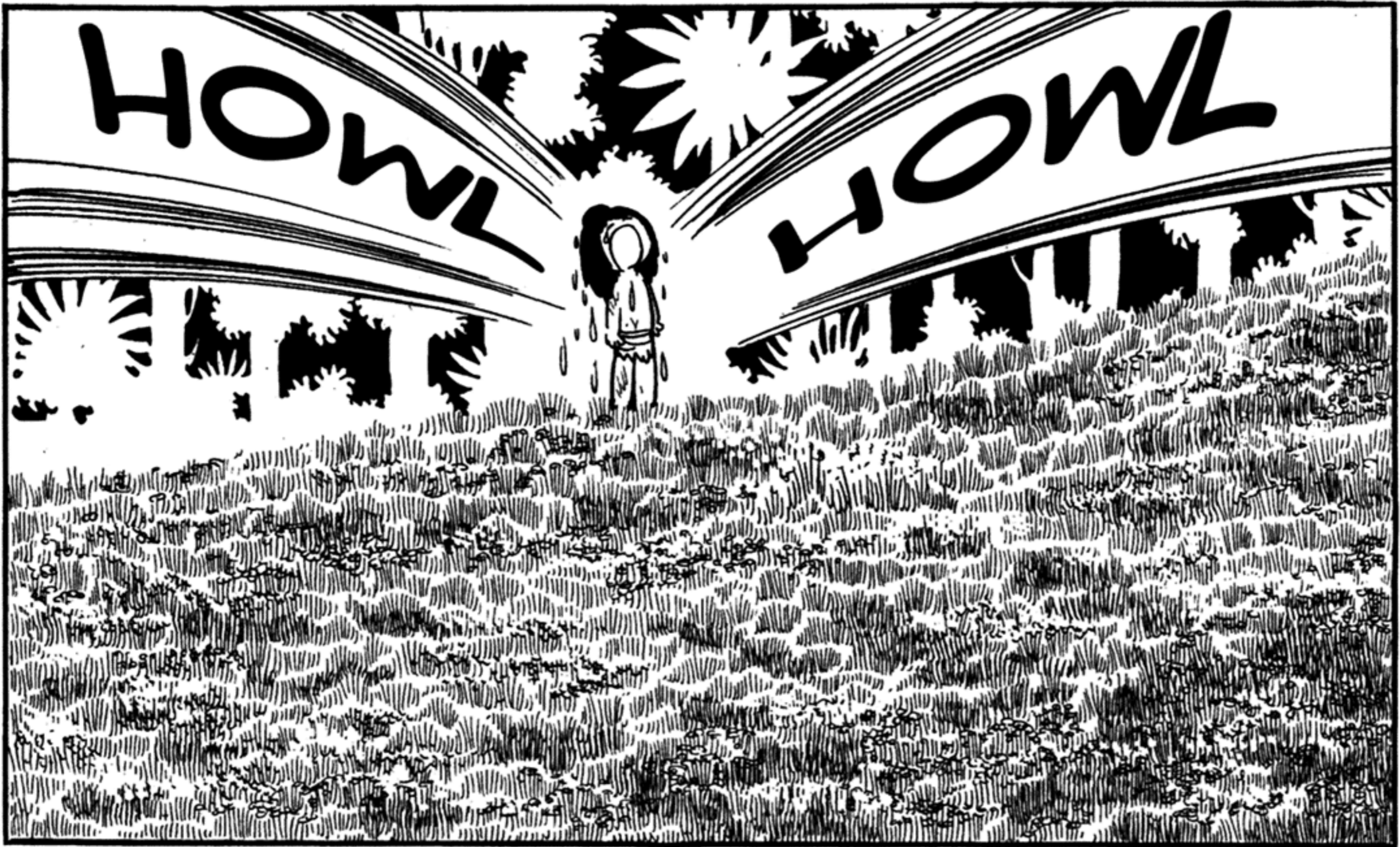
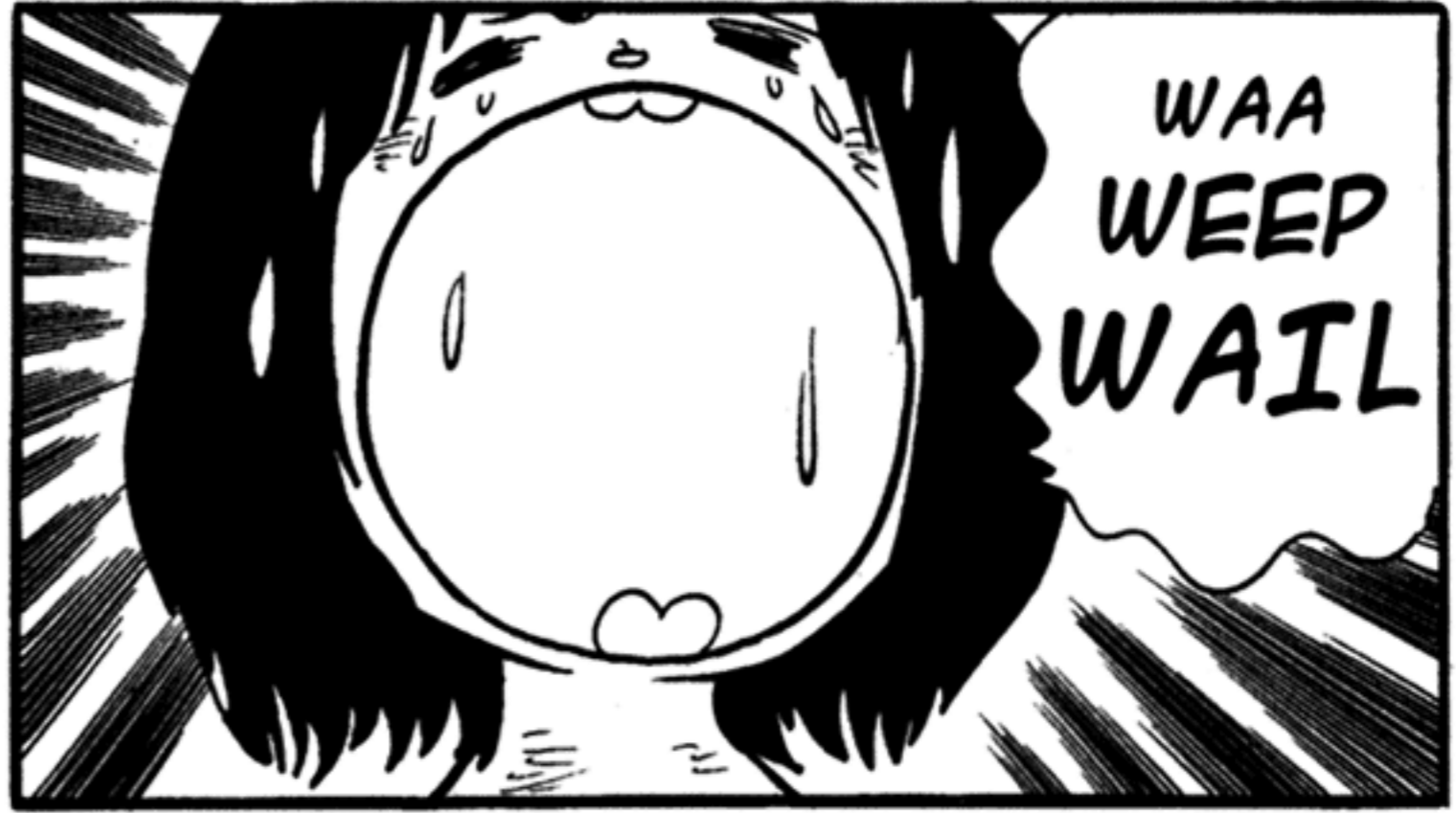
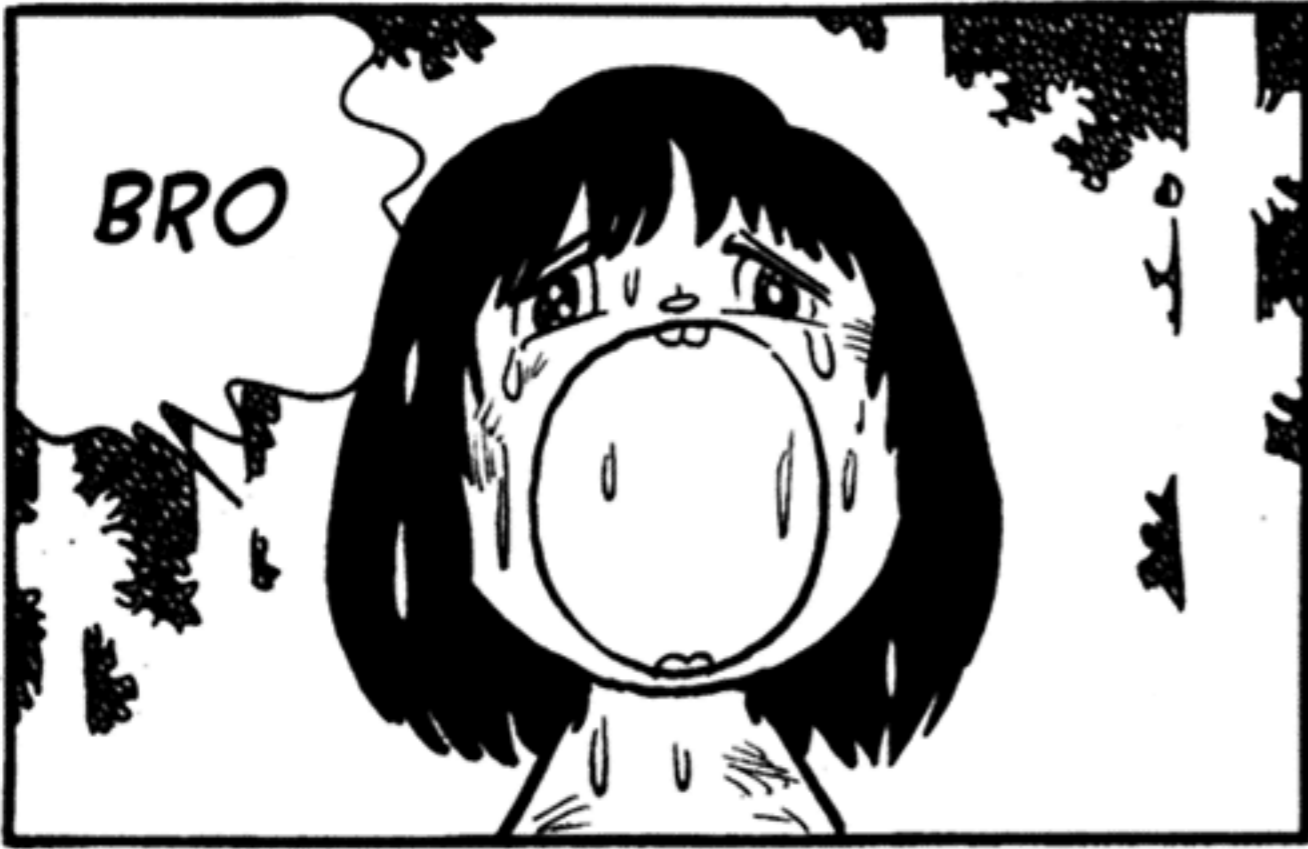












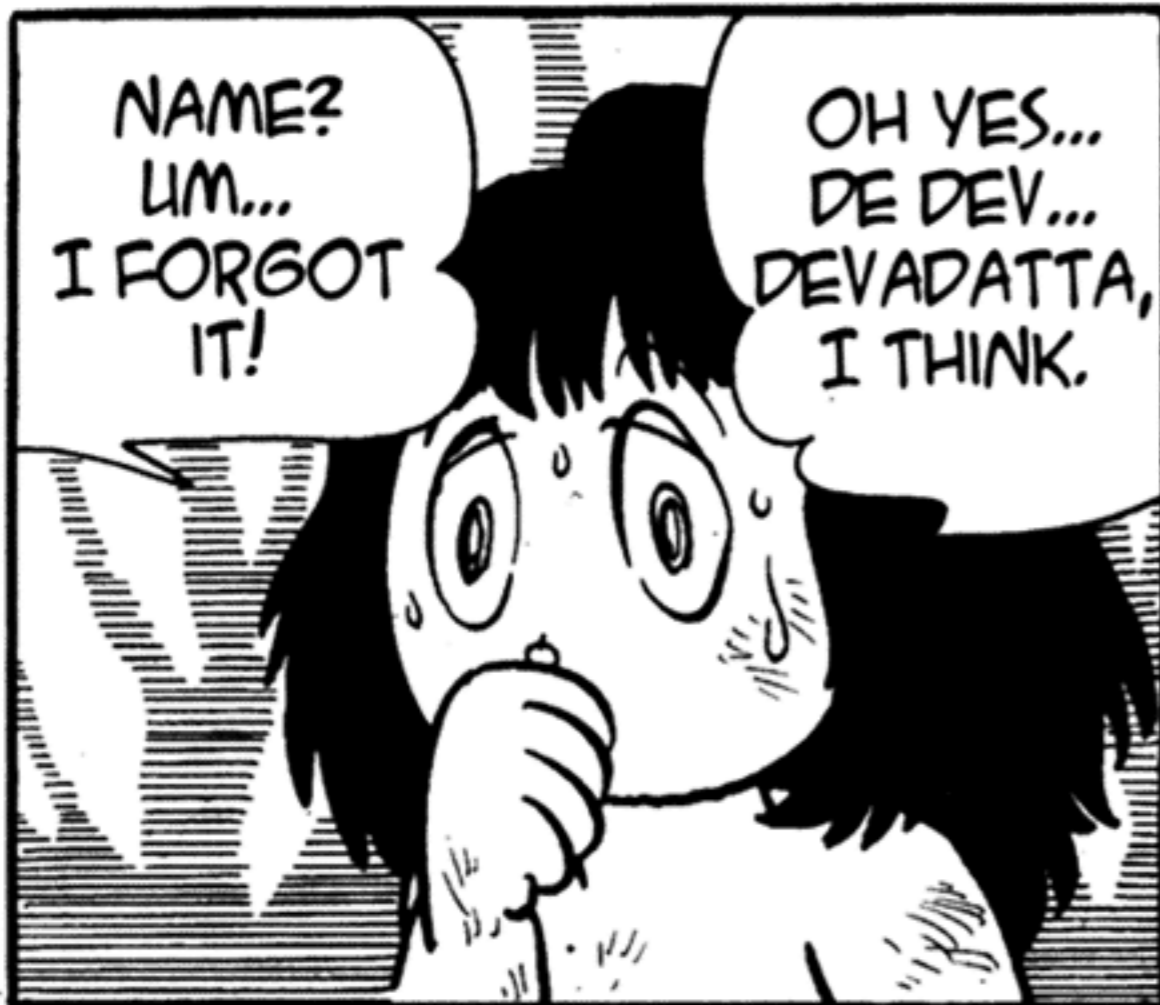


Y-YOU...
YOU
SPEAK
THE WOLF
LANGUAGE!



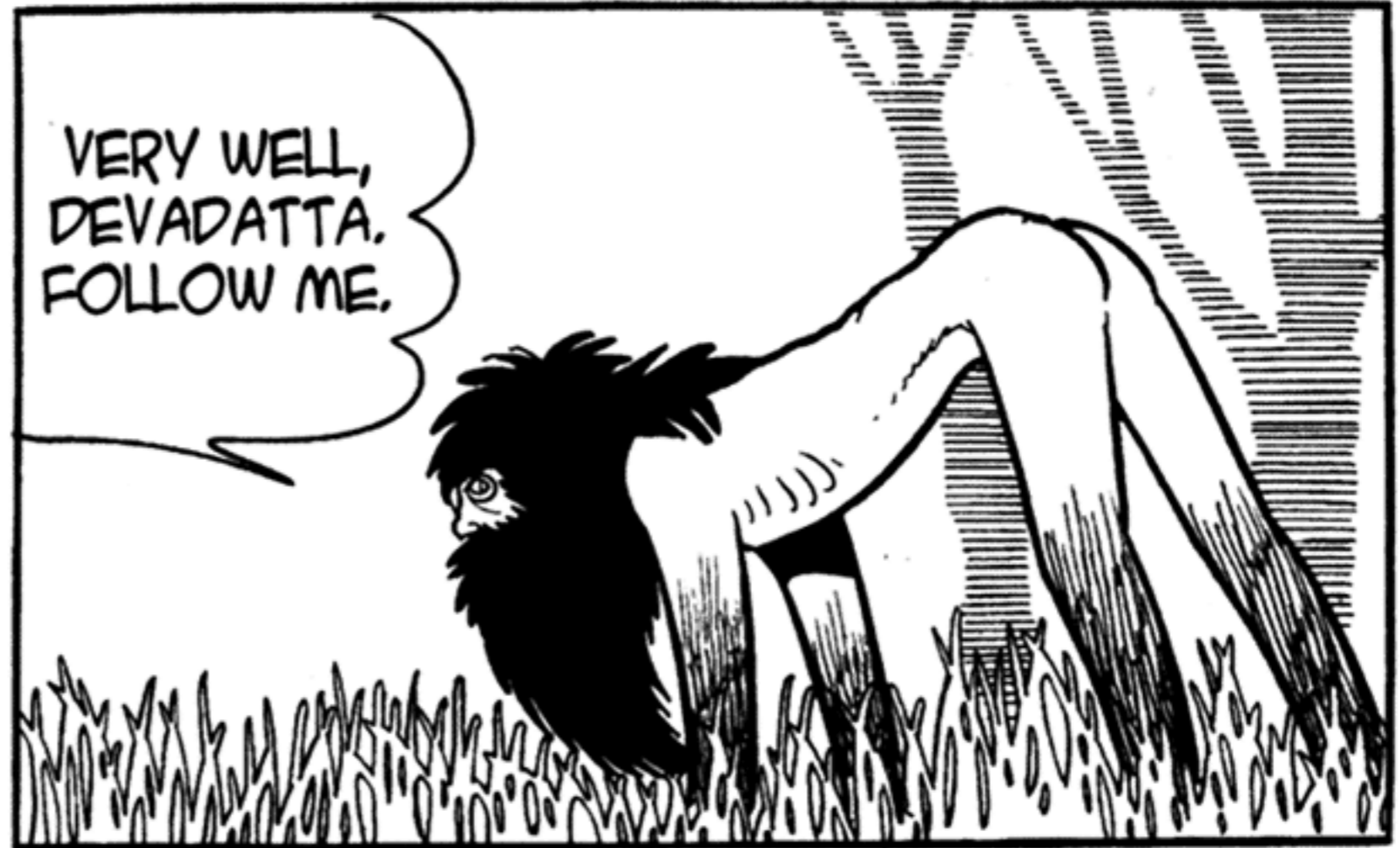
I SPEAK
WOLF AND
MONKEY, TIGER
AND SQUIRREL.

BUT TELL
ME, WHAT
IS YOUR
NAME?



NAME?
UM...
I FORGOT
IT!

OH YES...
DE DEV...
DEVADATTA,
I THINK.

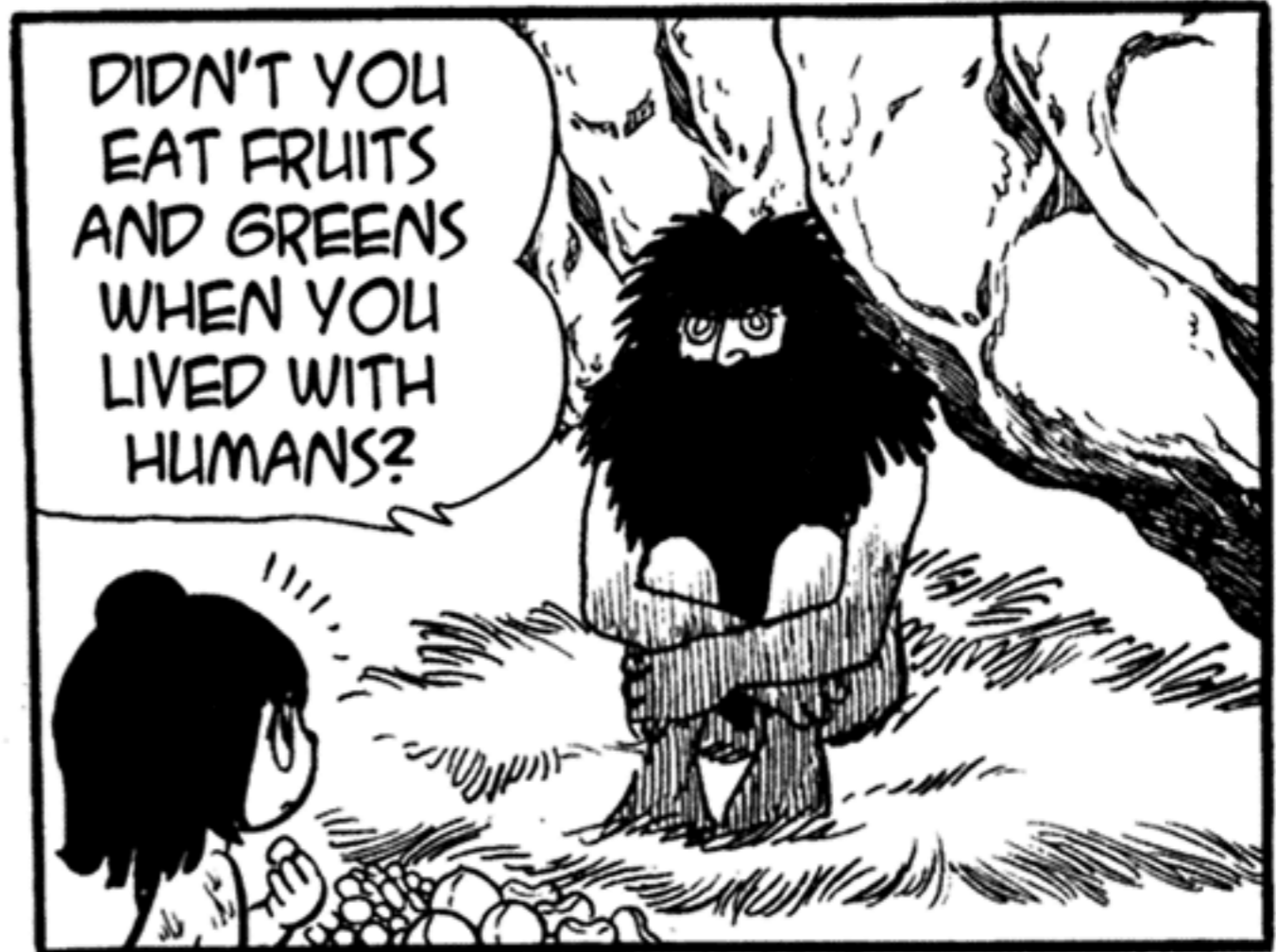
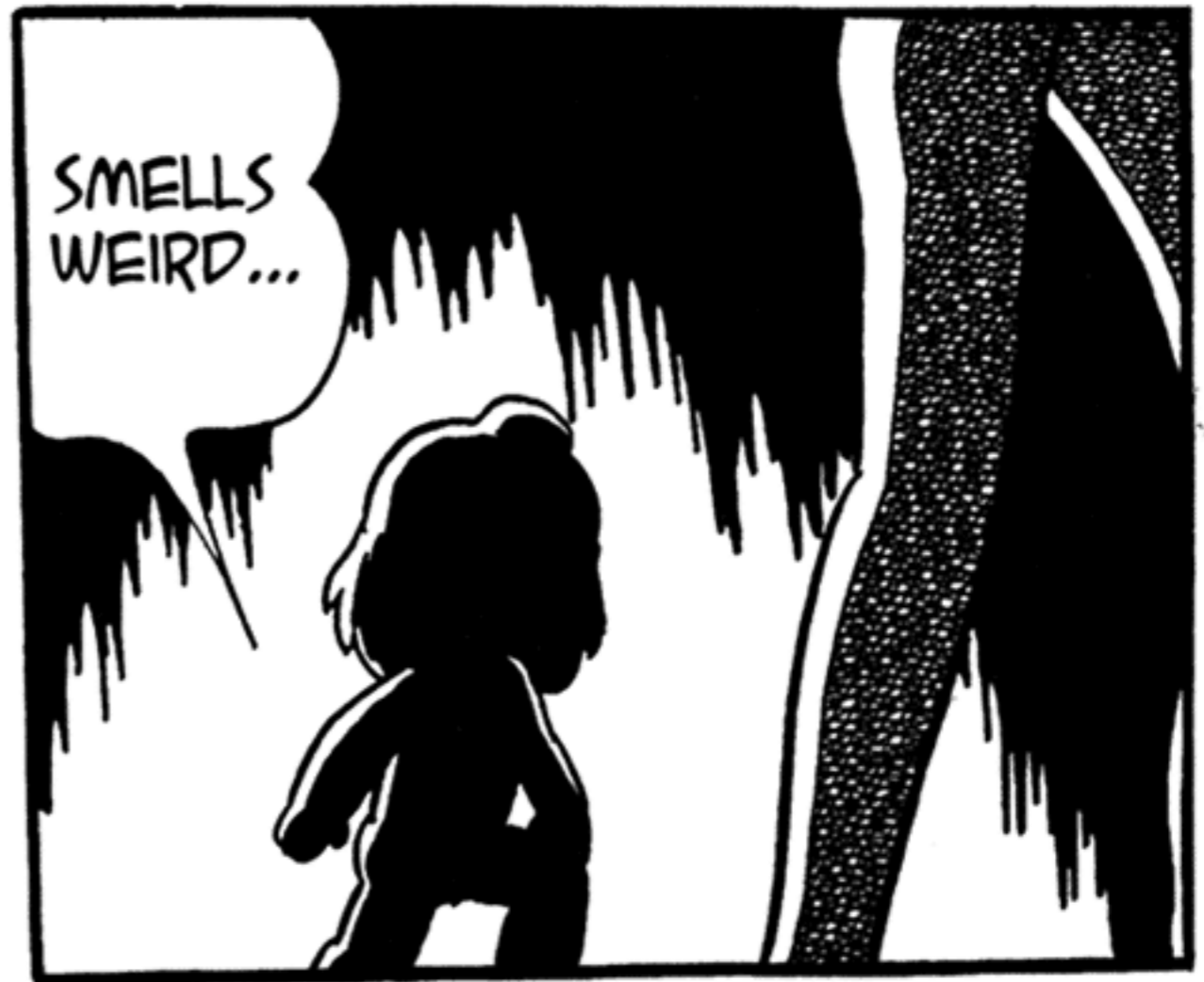


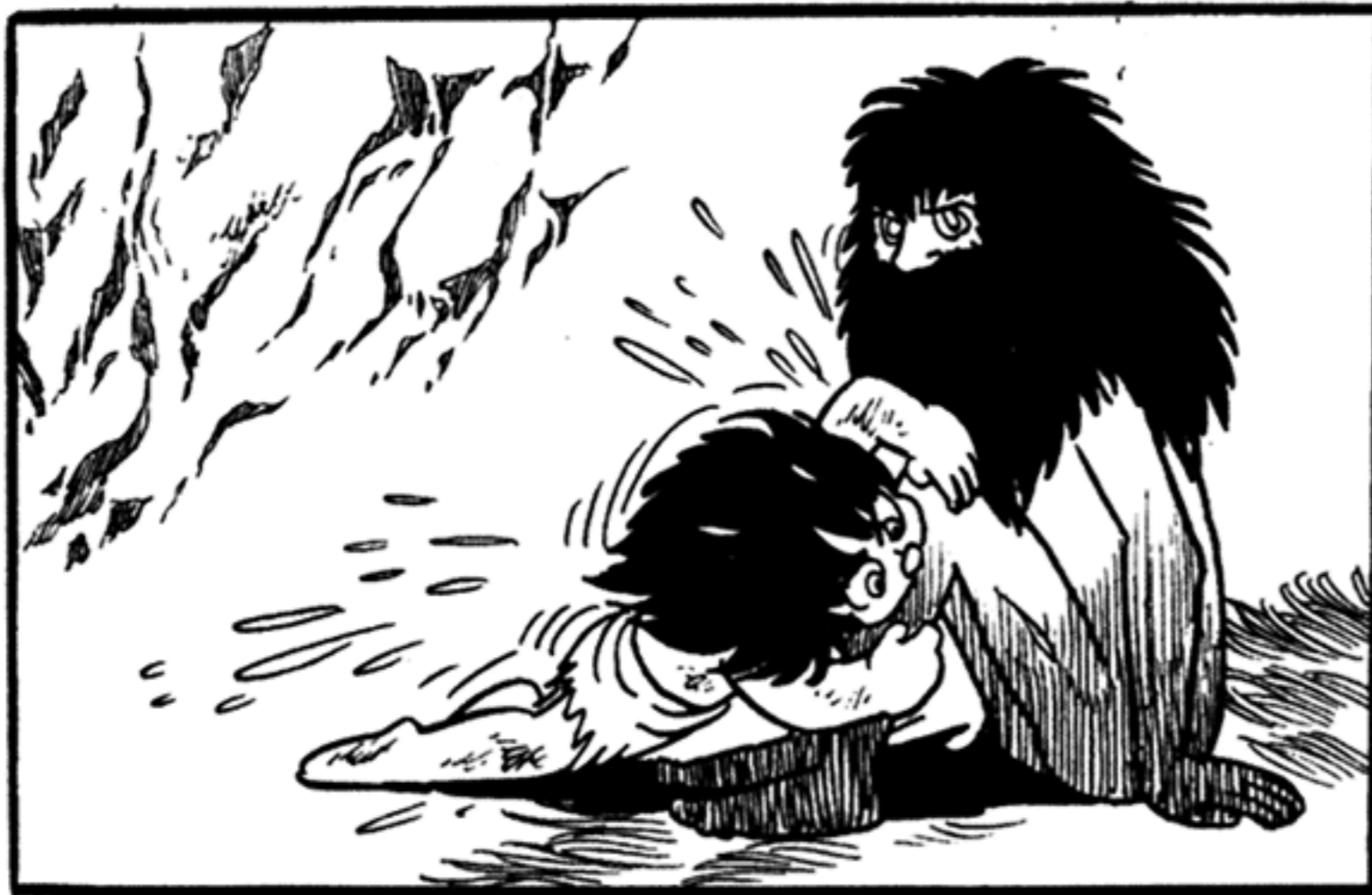
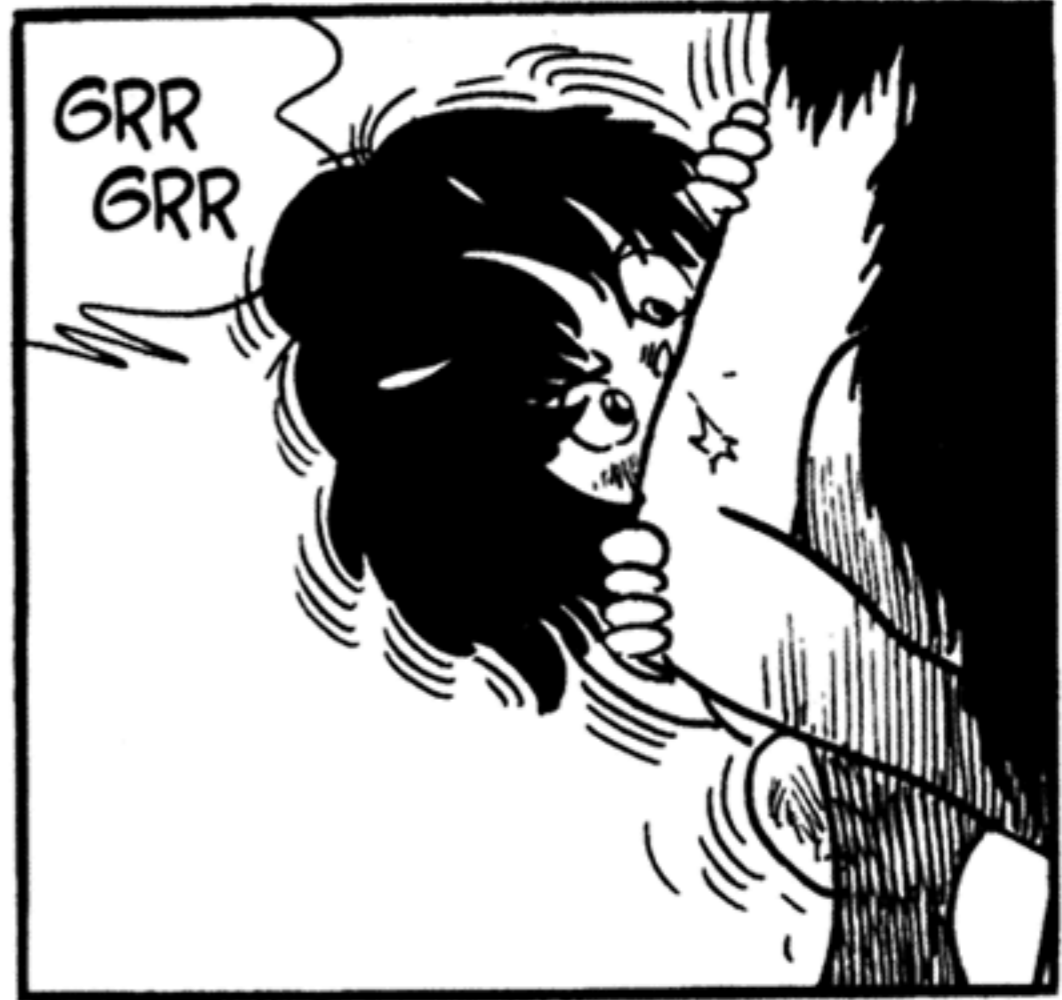
VERY WELL,
DEVADATTA.
FOLLOW ME.



WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU LOOK HUMAN,
BUT YOU SURE
DON'T SMELL
LIKE ONE.

INDEED NOT.
A HUMAN IS
WHAT I ONCE
WAS BUT HAVE
CEASED TO BE.







ICK... IT'S ALL WATER!

HASN'T GOT A TASTE.



WOULD YOU RATHER STARVE TO DEATH? IT'LL FILL YOUR STOMACH, AT LEAST.

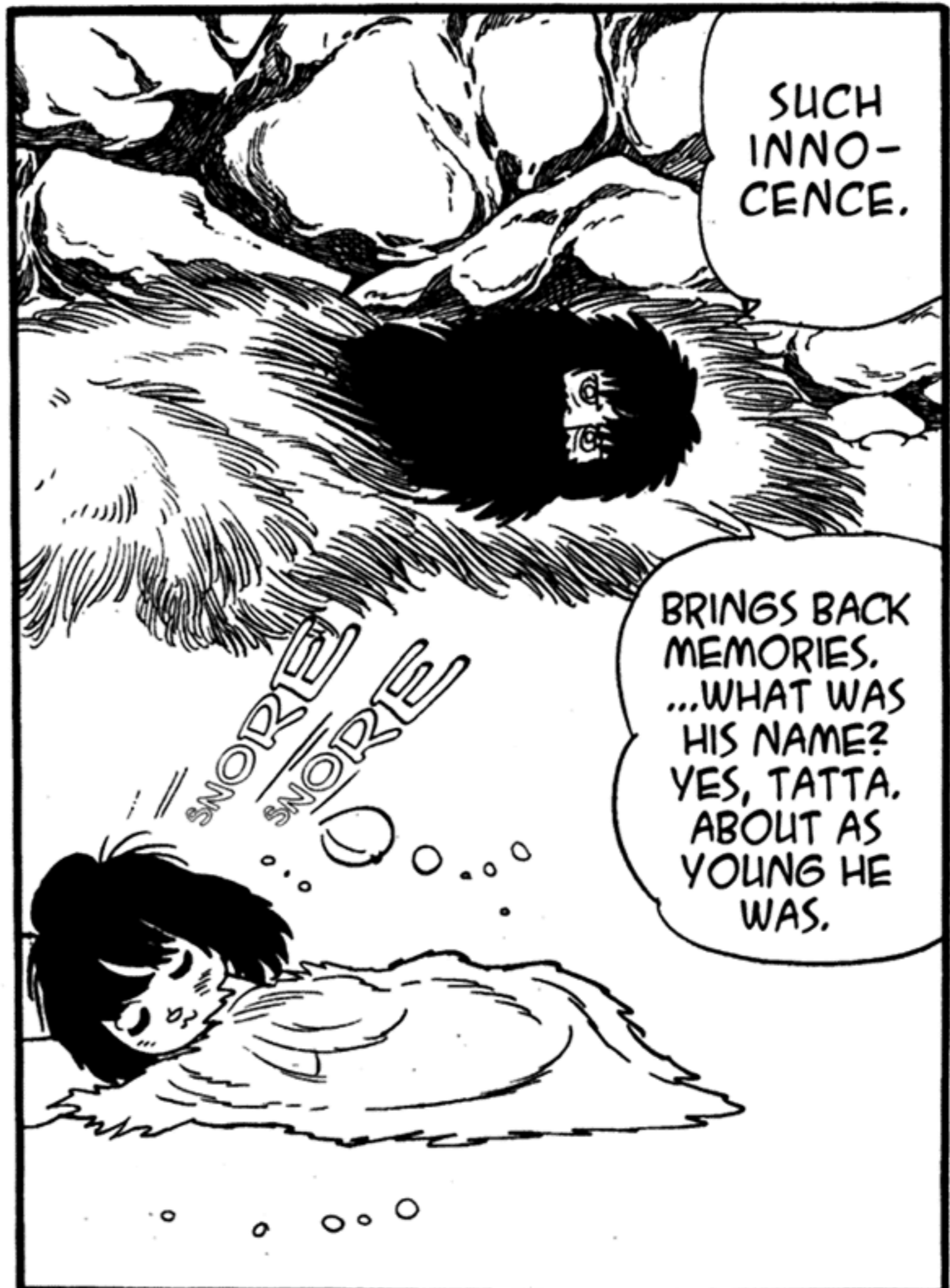
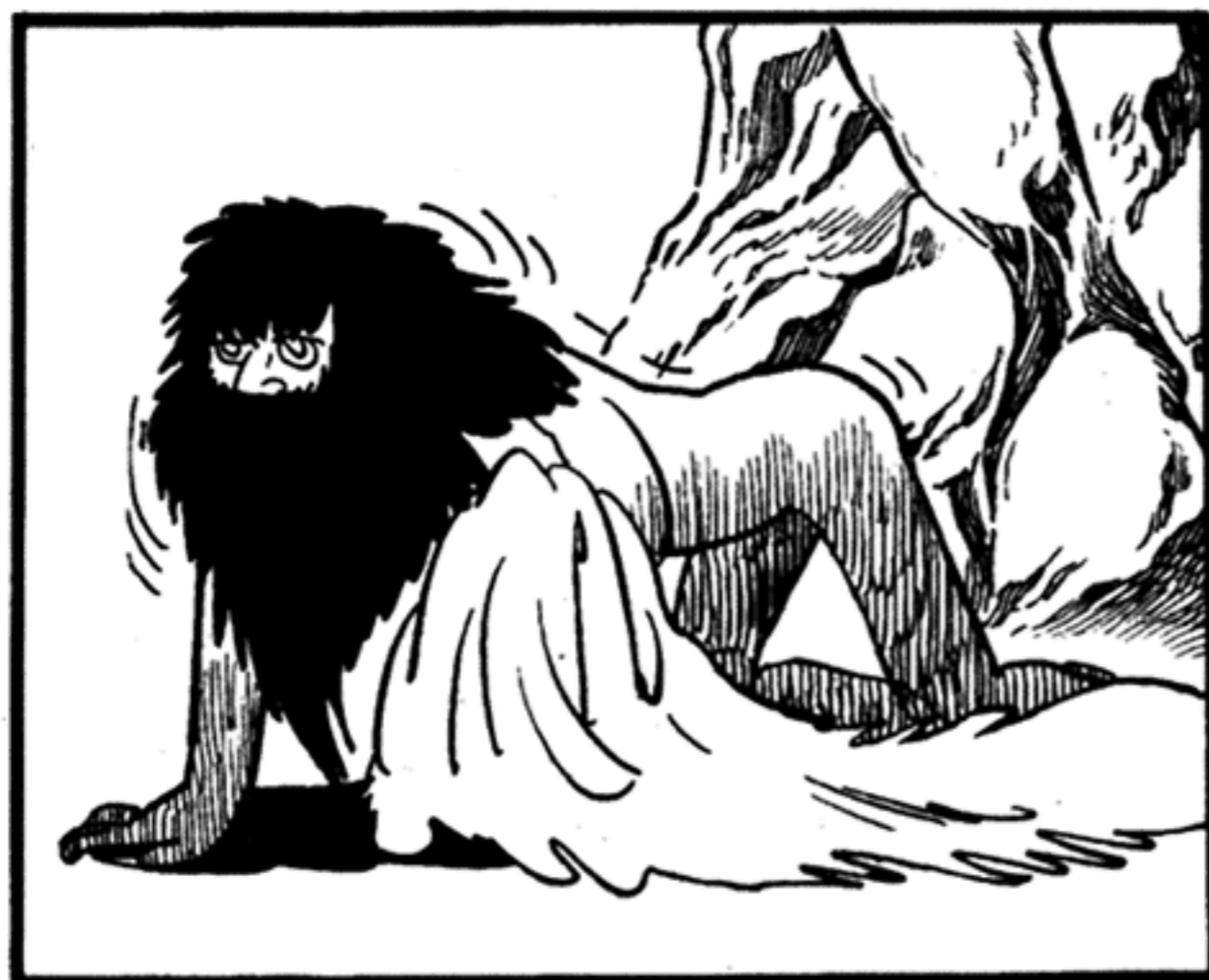


chew
chew



YOU'RE BLIND, AREN'T YOU.

MY NAME IS NARADATTA. I WON'T ASK HOW YOU CAME TO BE RAISED BY WOLVES. IF YOU WISH TO RETURN TO A PLACE WITH HUMANS, I WILL BE YOUR GUIDE. IF YOU WISH TO STAY HERE AND LIVE WITH ME, YOU MAY.



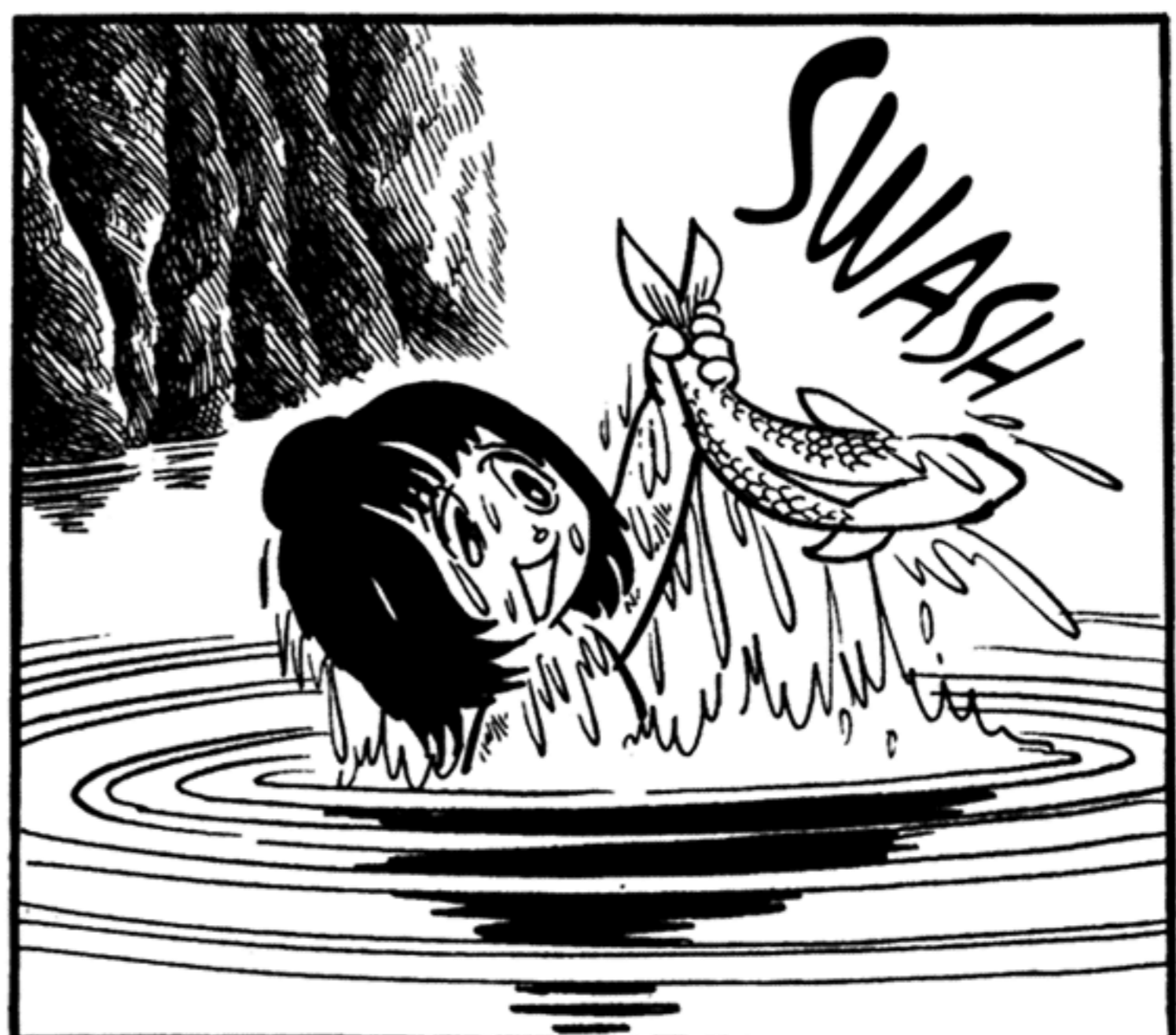
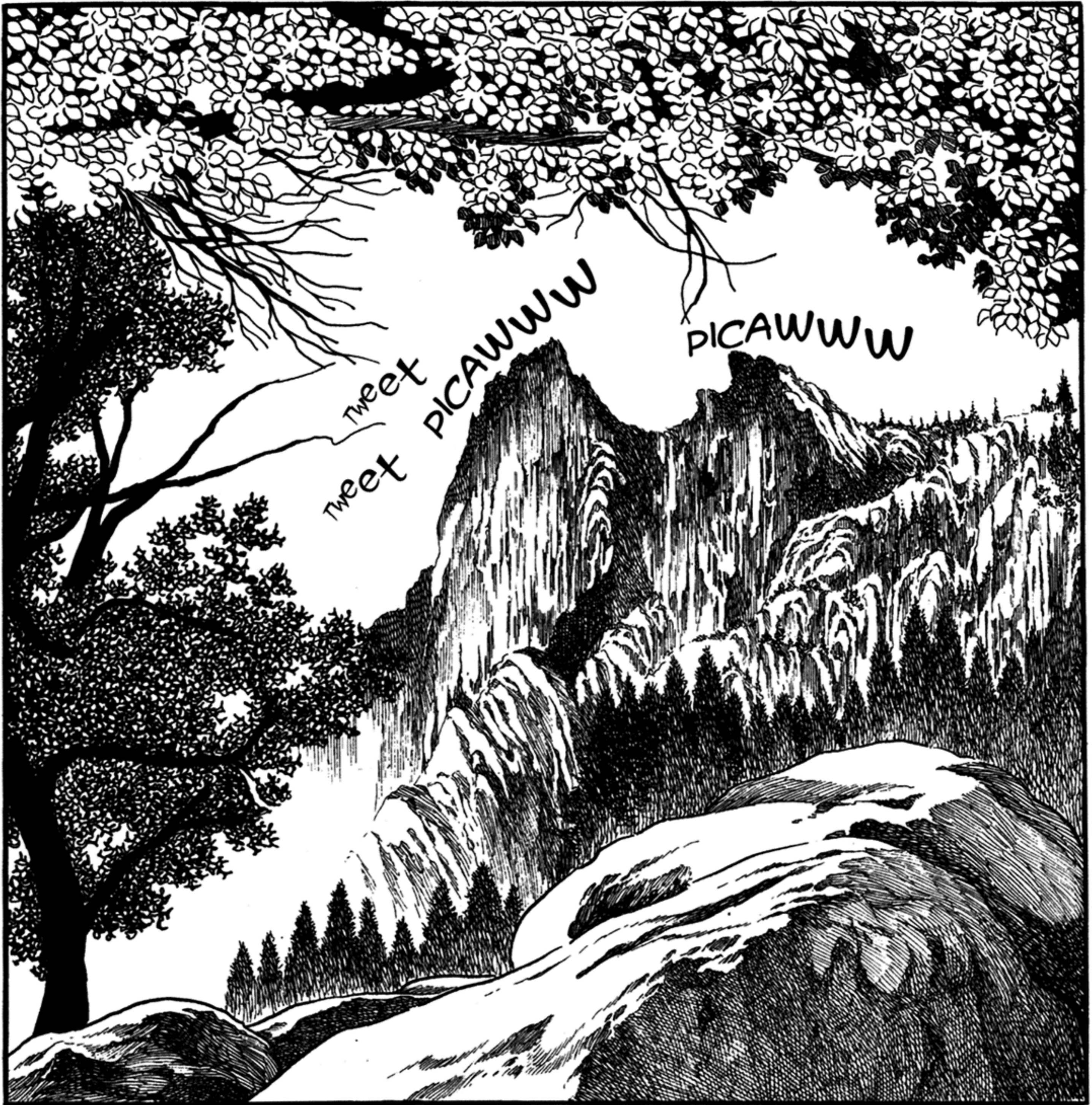
SUCH INNOCENCE.

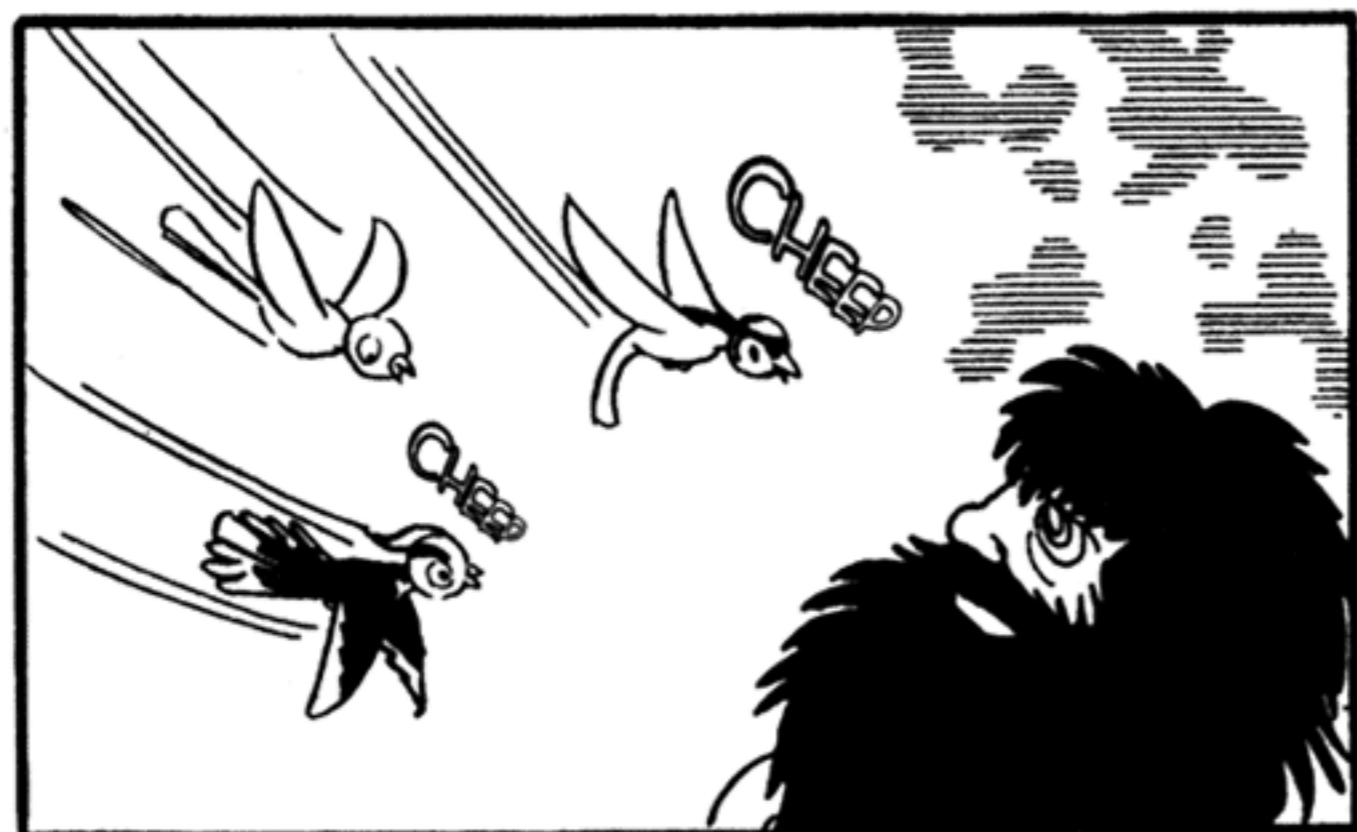
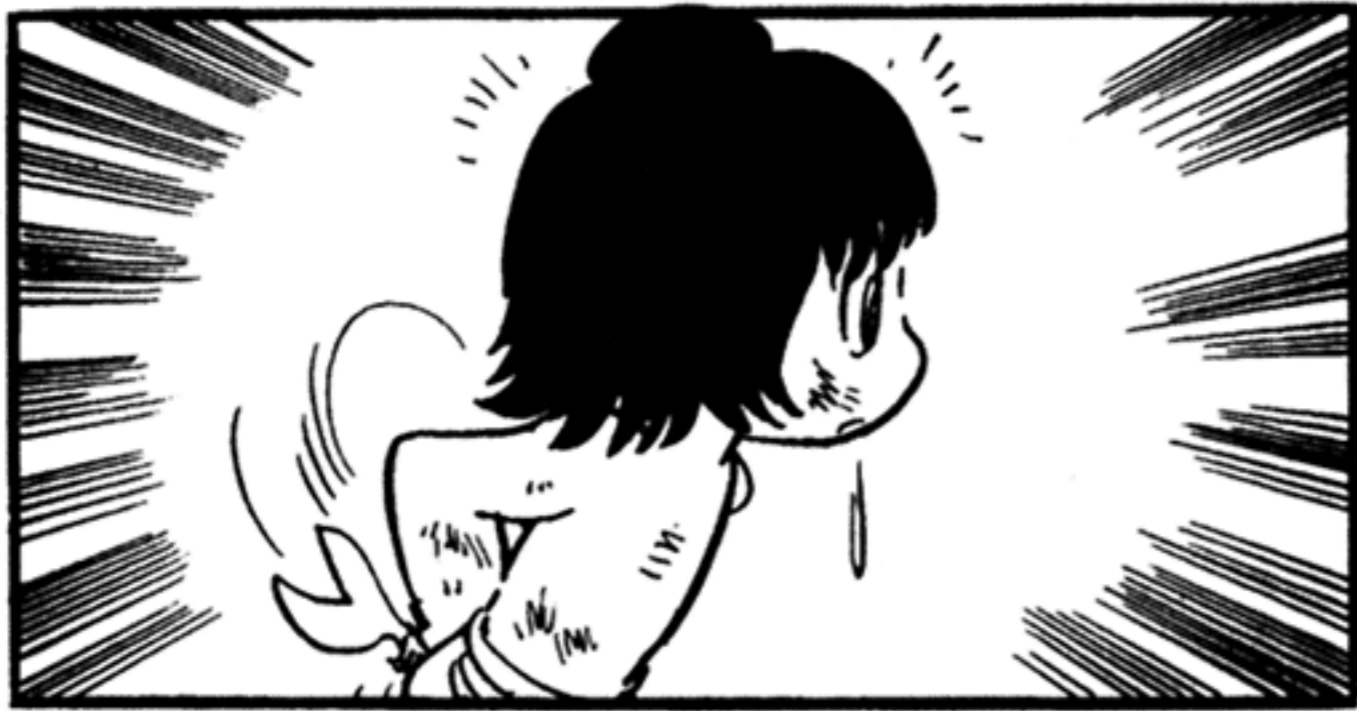
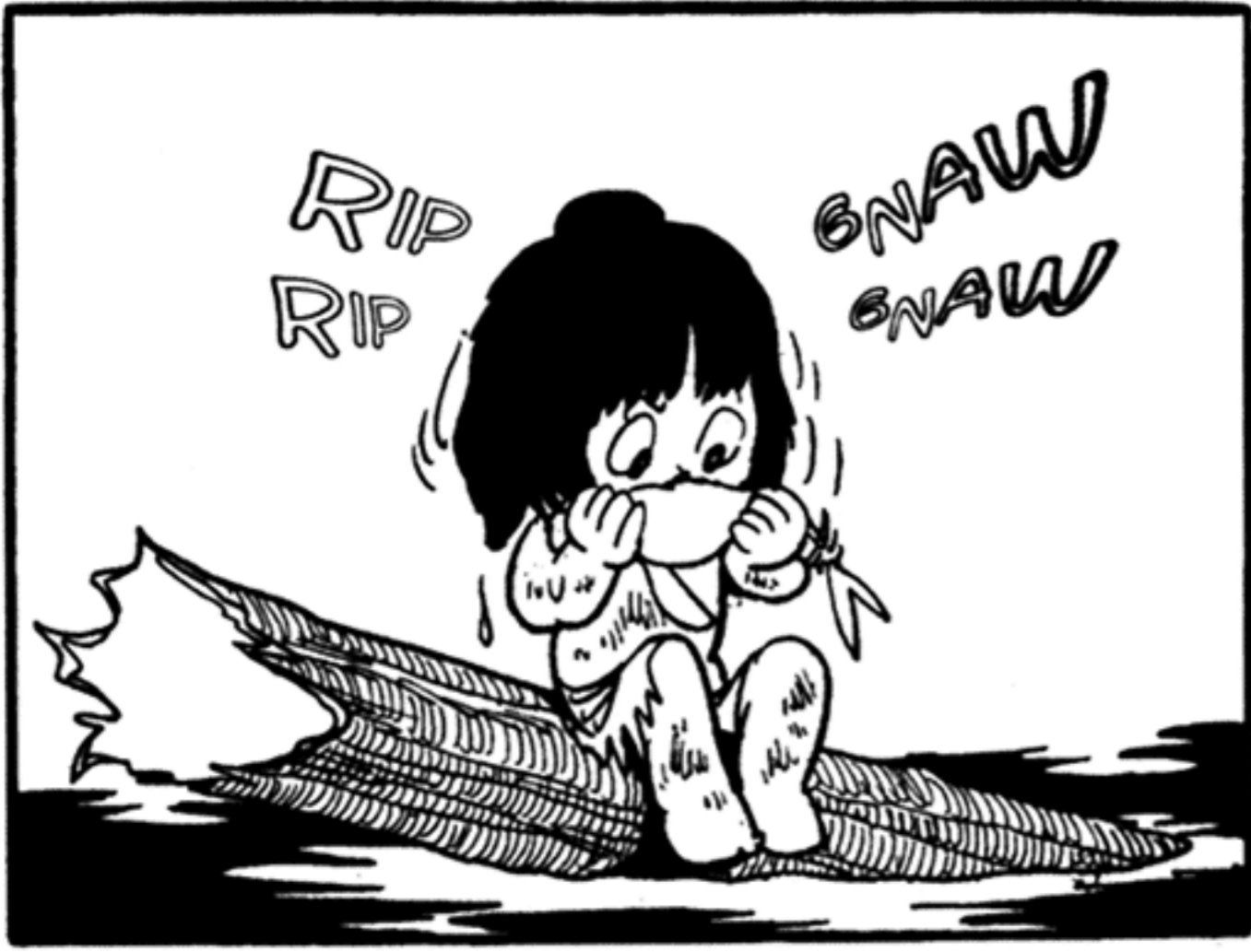
BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. ...WHAT WAS HIS NAME? YES, TATTA. ABOUT AS YOUNG HE WAS.

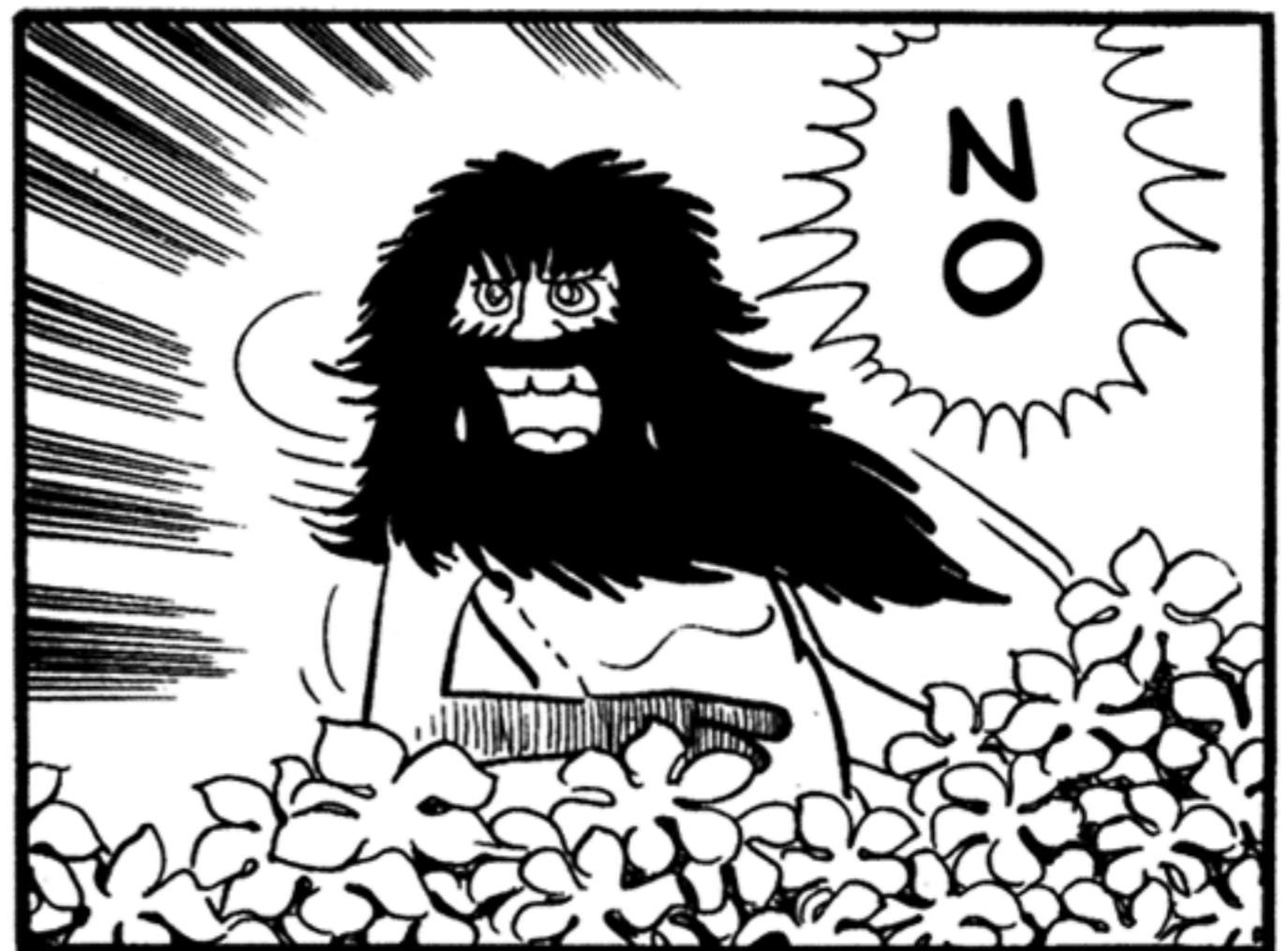
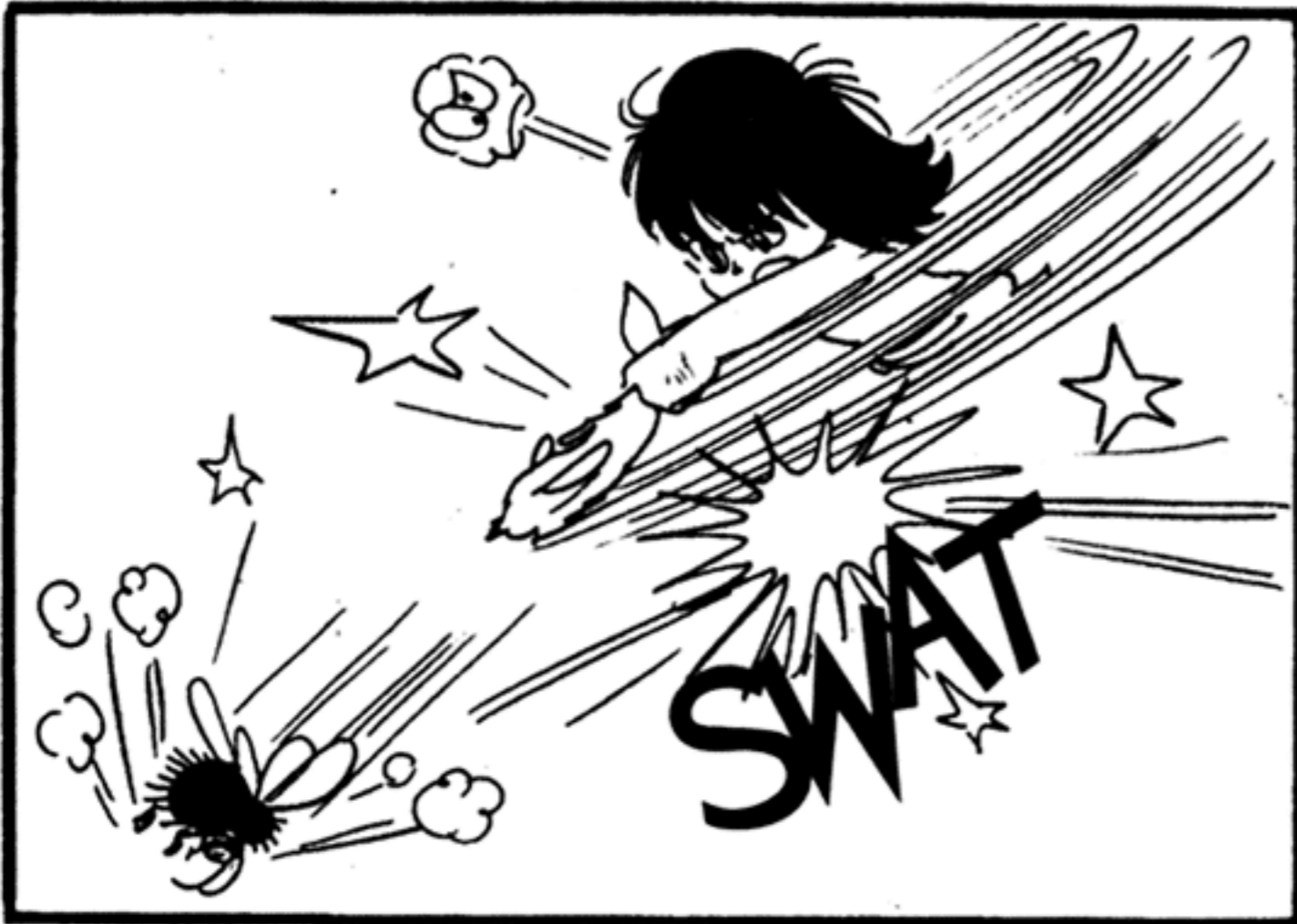
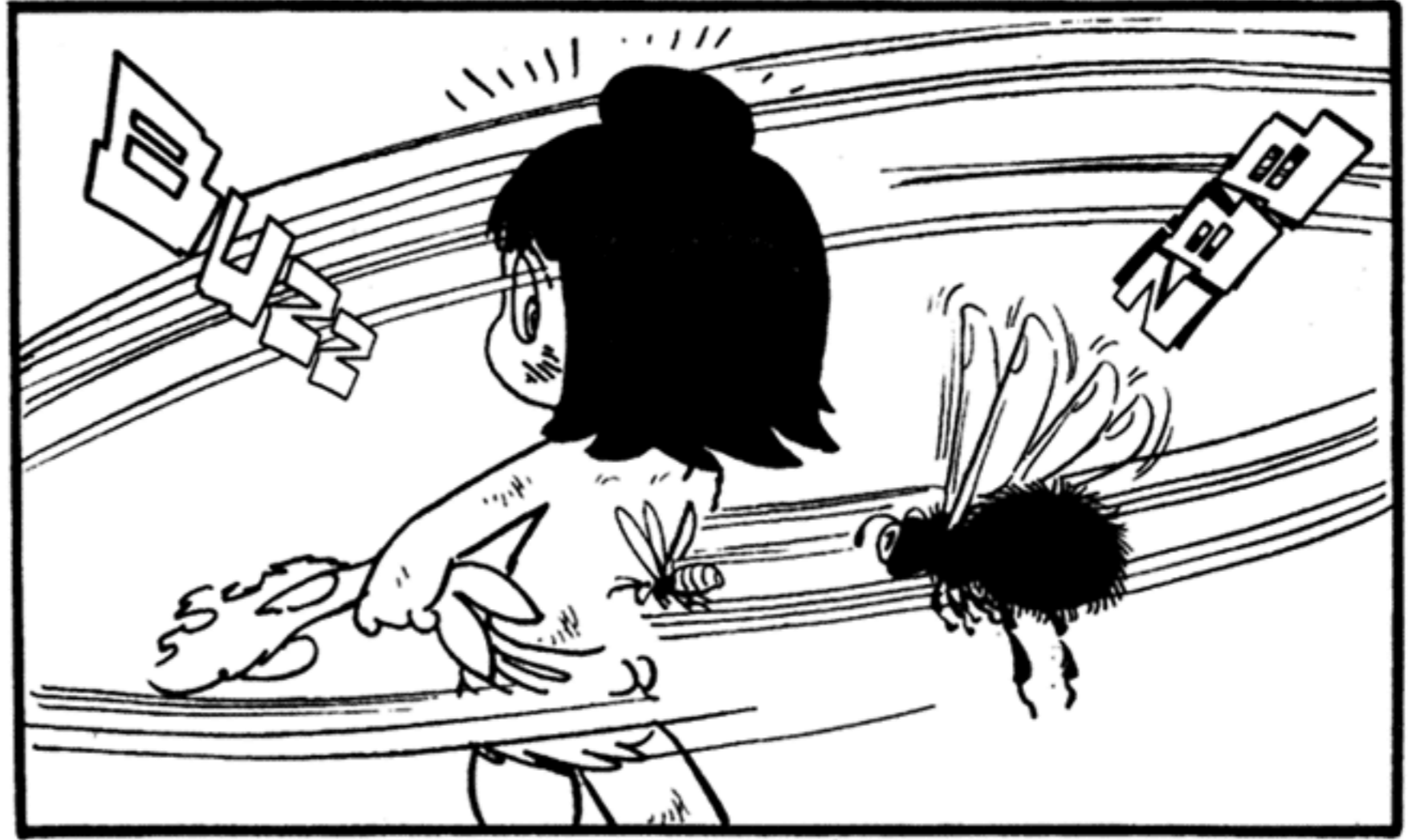
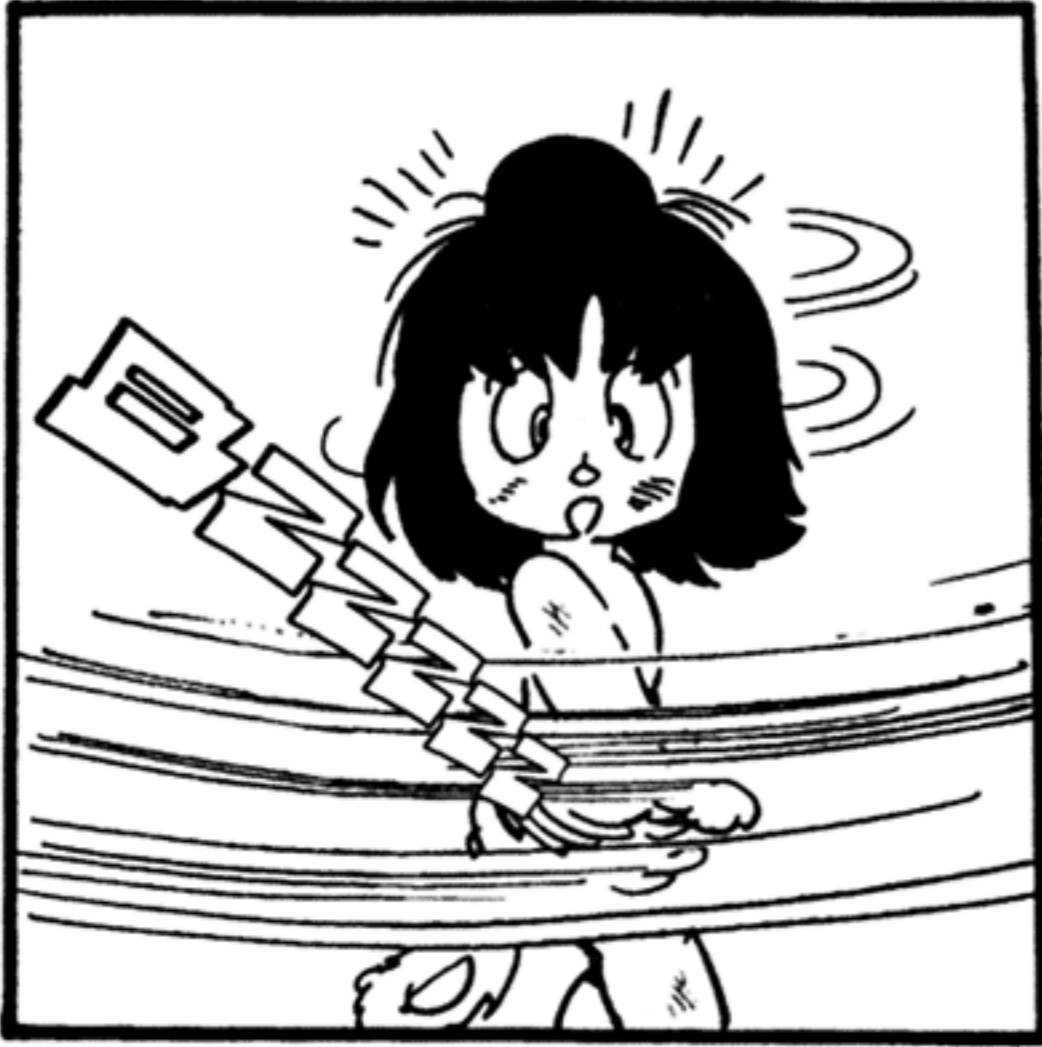
SNORE
SNORE



zzz







BUT HE WAS TRYING TO STING ME!

DO NOT MOVE. BE AS A TREE AND KEEP STILL, OR ELSE YOU WILL BE STUNG TO DEATH.



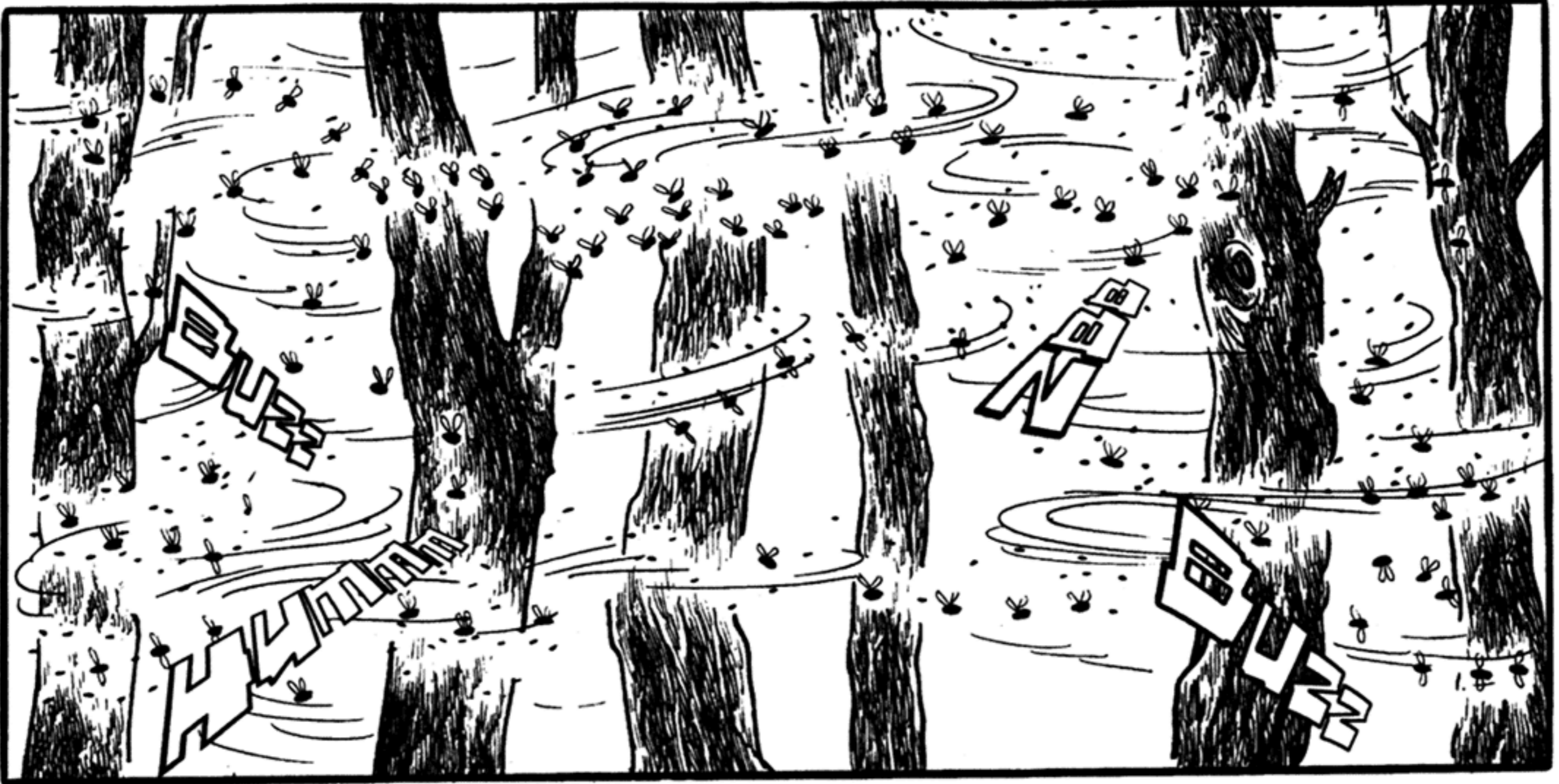
WHA ?

A TERRIBLE THING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. WATCH NOW...



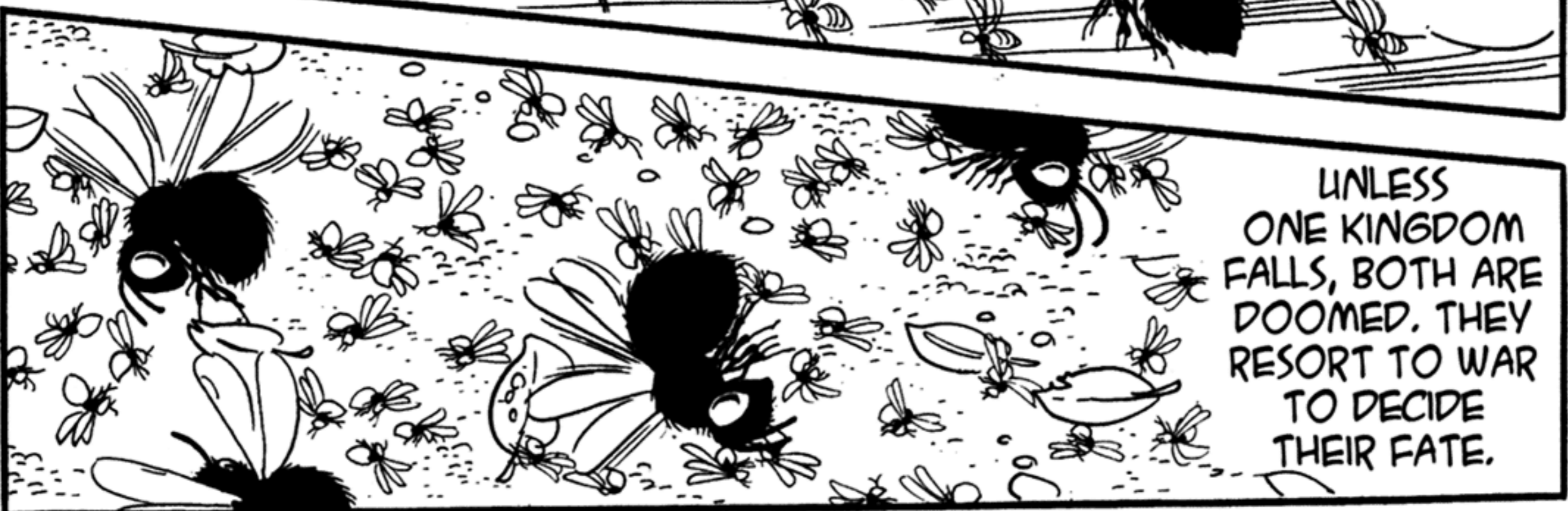
HUMMM

AN ENTIRE KINGDOM IS ABOUT TO PERISH. WITNESS A TOTAL MASSACRE.

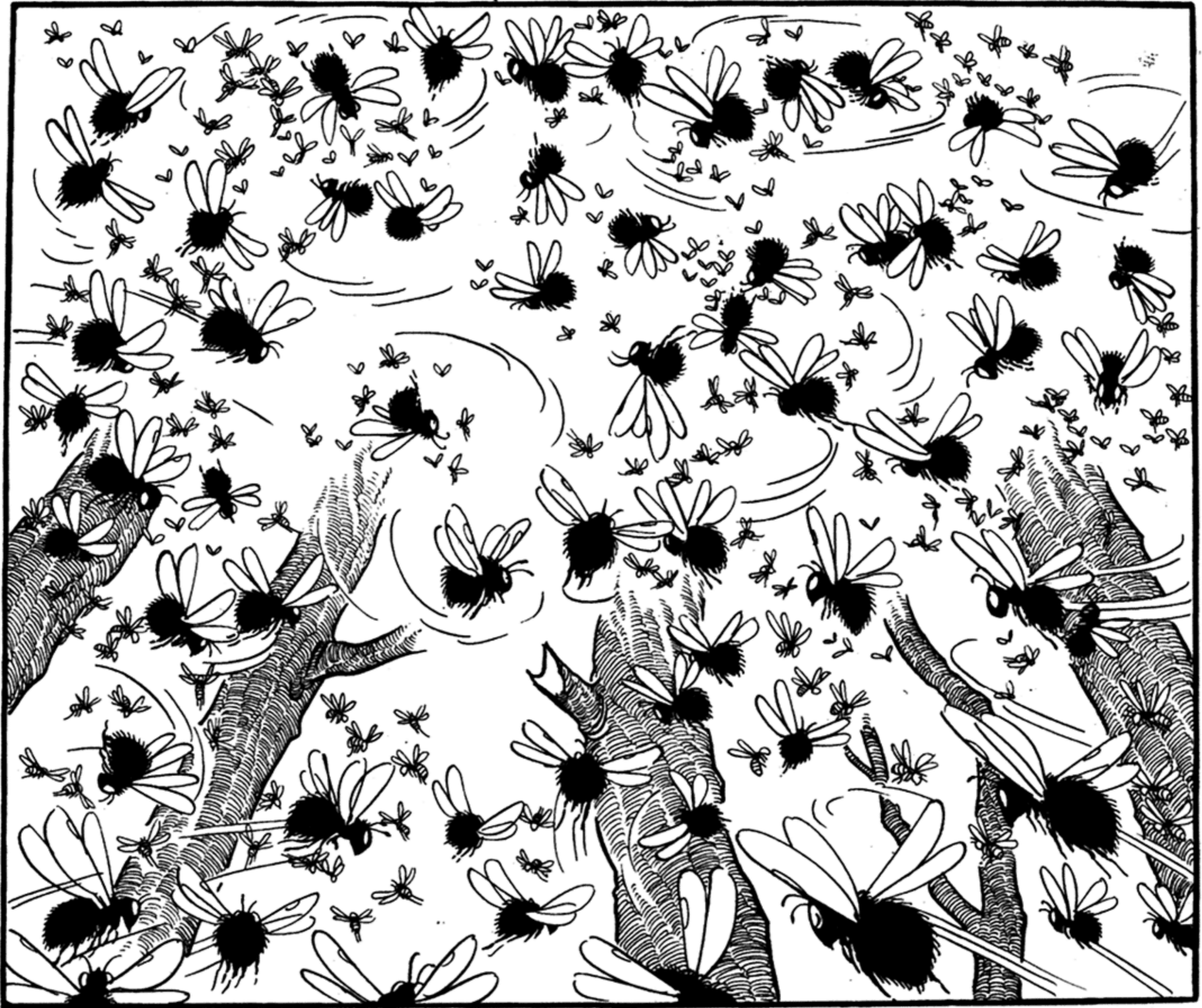


SMALLER
BEES ARE
FIGHTING
BIGGER
BEES!

TWO
TRIBES
BUILT
COLONIES
NEXT TO
EACH
OTHER.
THERE
WASN'T
ENOUGH
FOOD TO
SUPPORT
BOTH.



UNLESS
ONE KINGDOM
FALLS, BOTH ARE
DOOMED. THEY
RESORT TO WAR
TO DECIDE
THEIR FATE.

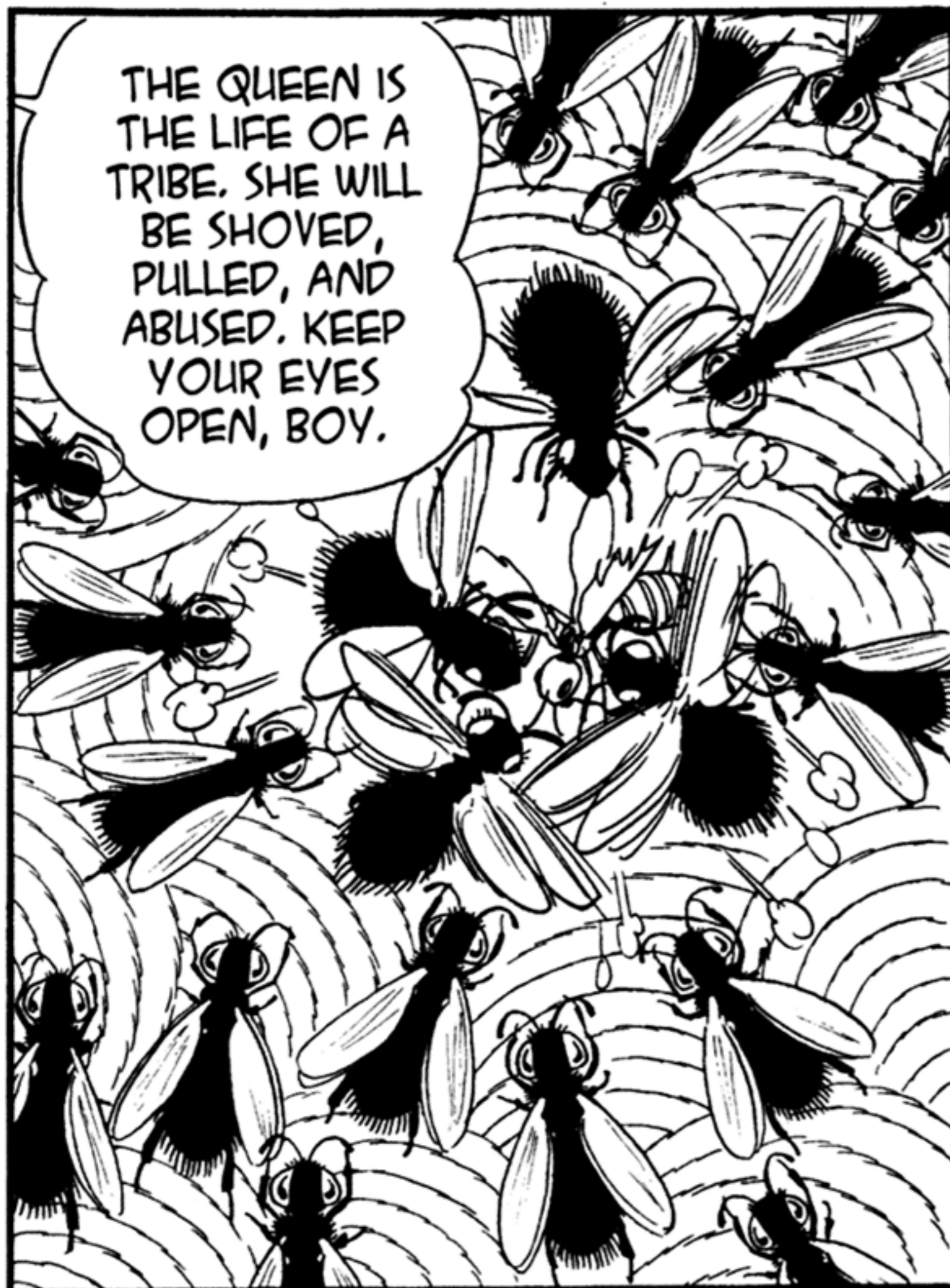
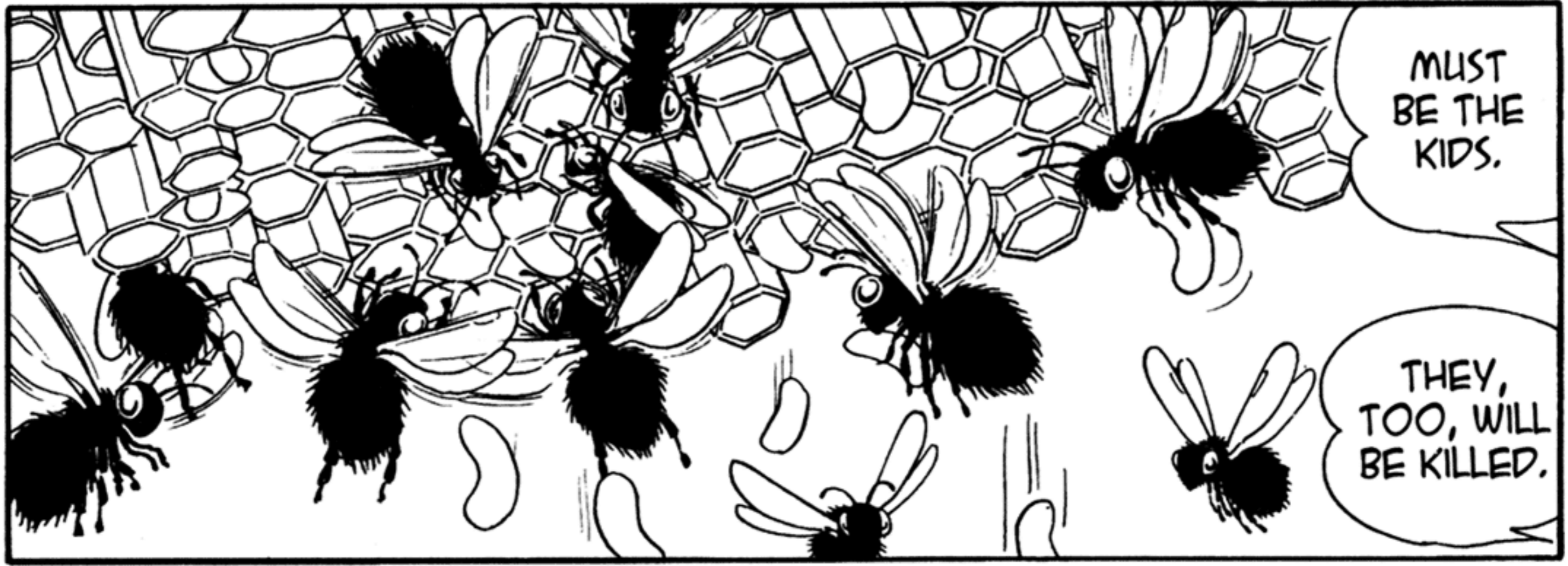


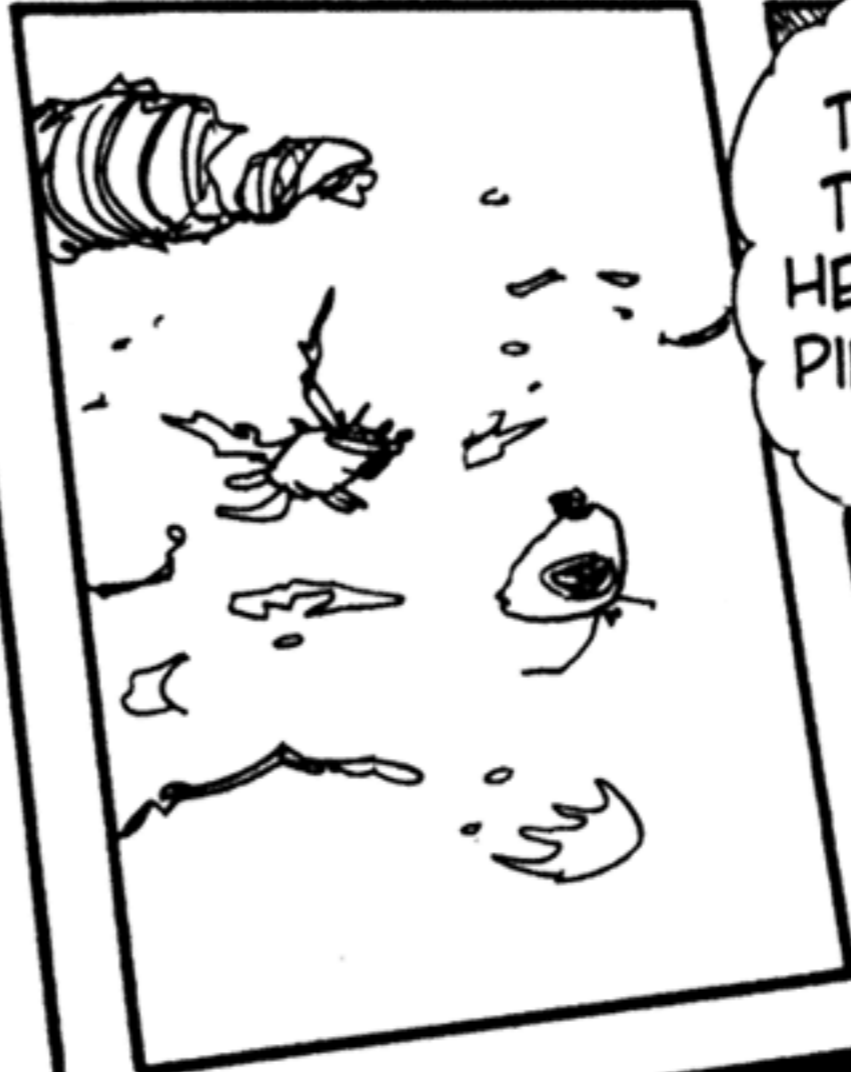
THEY ARE DESPERATE! TENS OF THOUSANDS WILL DIE FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR TRIBE.

WHICHEVER SURVIVES WILL PROSPER, BE IT A SINGLE BEE...

Hummmmm

NARADATTA, THE SMALLER ONES ARE ALL DEAD! AN' THE BIGGER ONES ARE DRAGGING SOMETHING FROM THE OTHERS' HIVE.

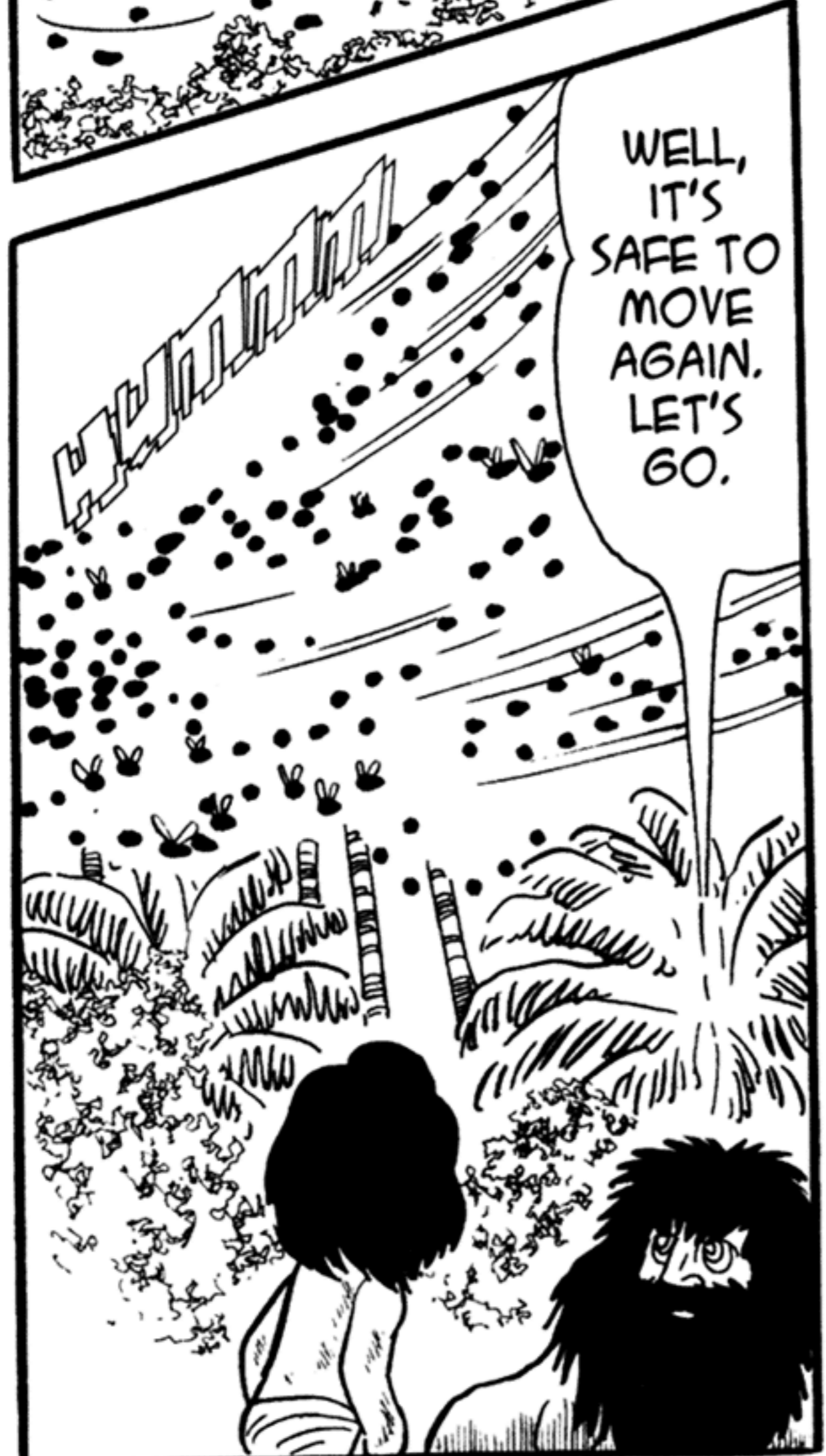




NOW PEACE WILL REIGN. THE WEAK PERISH, THE STRONG SURVIVE. HEAR THEIR WINGS HUM LOUD WITH TRIUMPH!



WHAT YOU SAW IS CUSTOM FOR ALL LIFE. NO, HUMANS AREN'T EXEMPT. YOU'LL DO WELL TO REMEMBER.

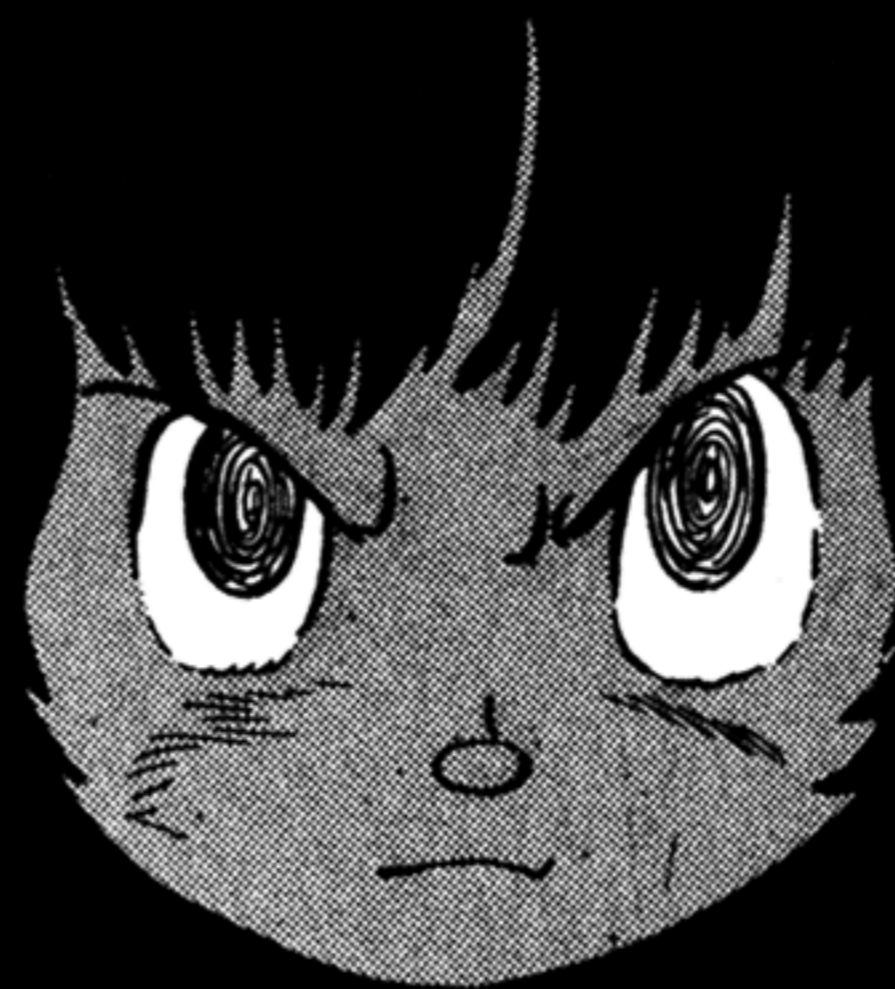


WELL, IT'S SAFE TO MOVE AGAIN. LET'S GO.





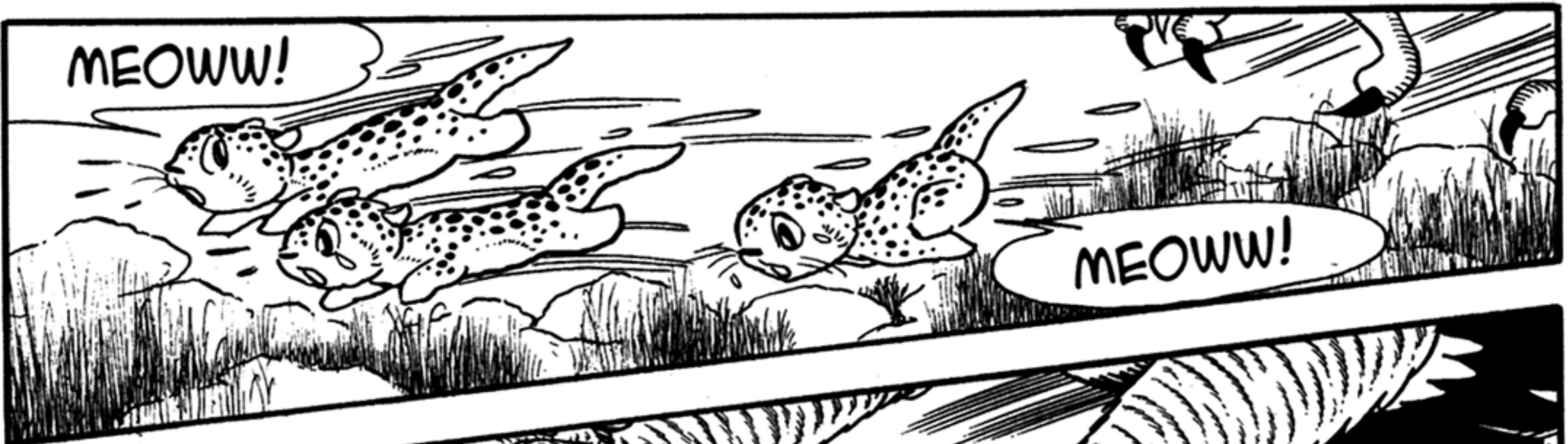
THE WEAK
PERISH, THE
STRONG
SURVIVE.

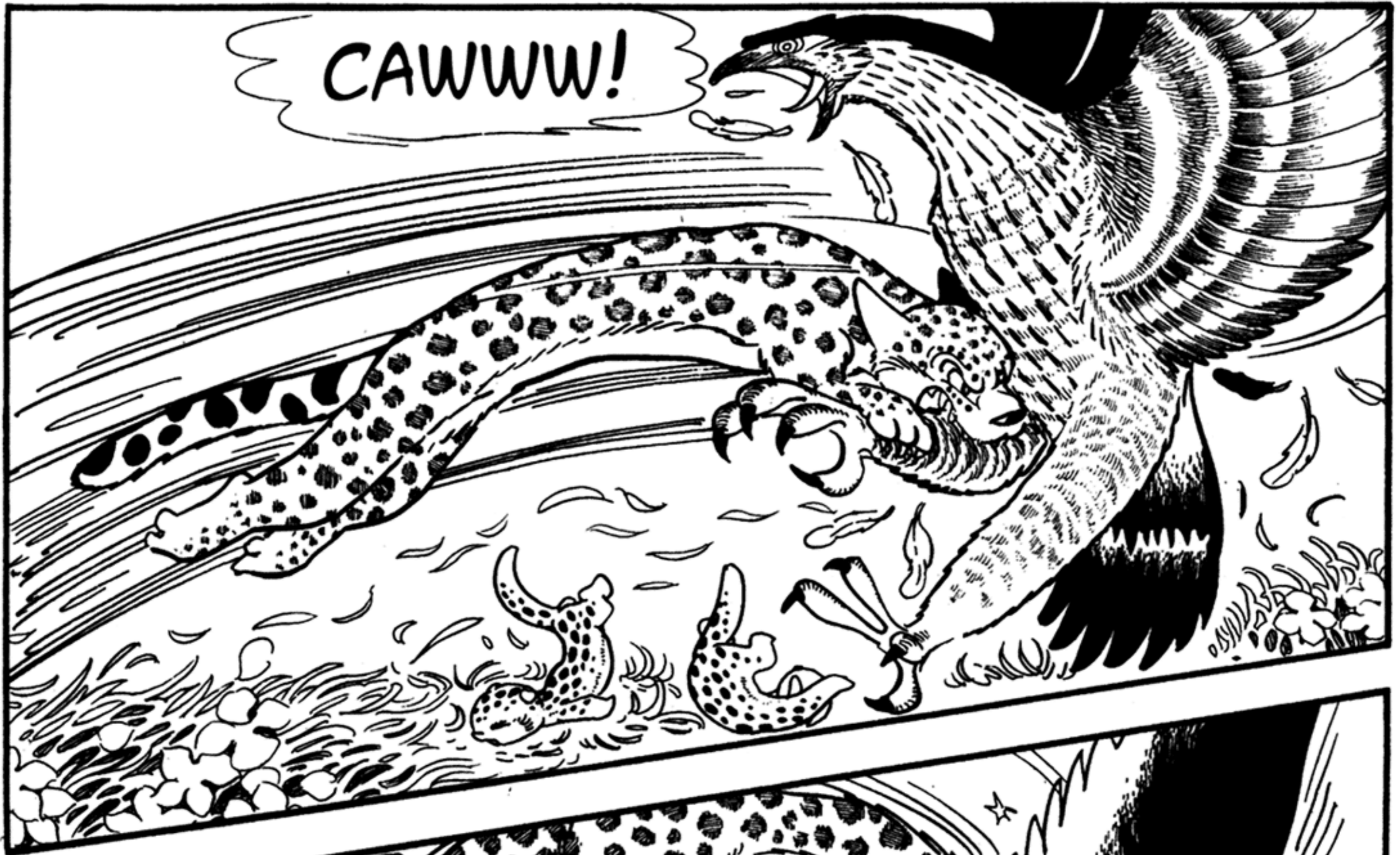


CHAPTER THREE

THE HAG AND THE WAIF







CAWWW!



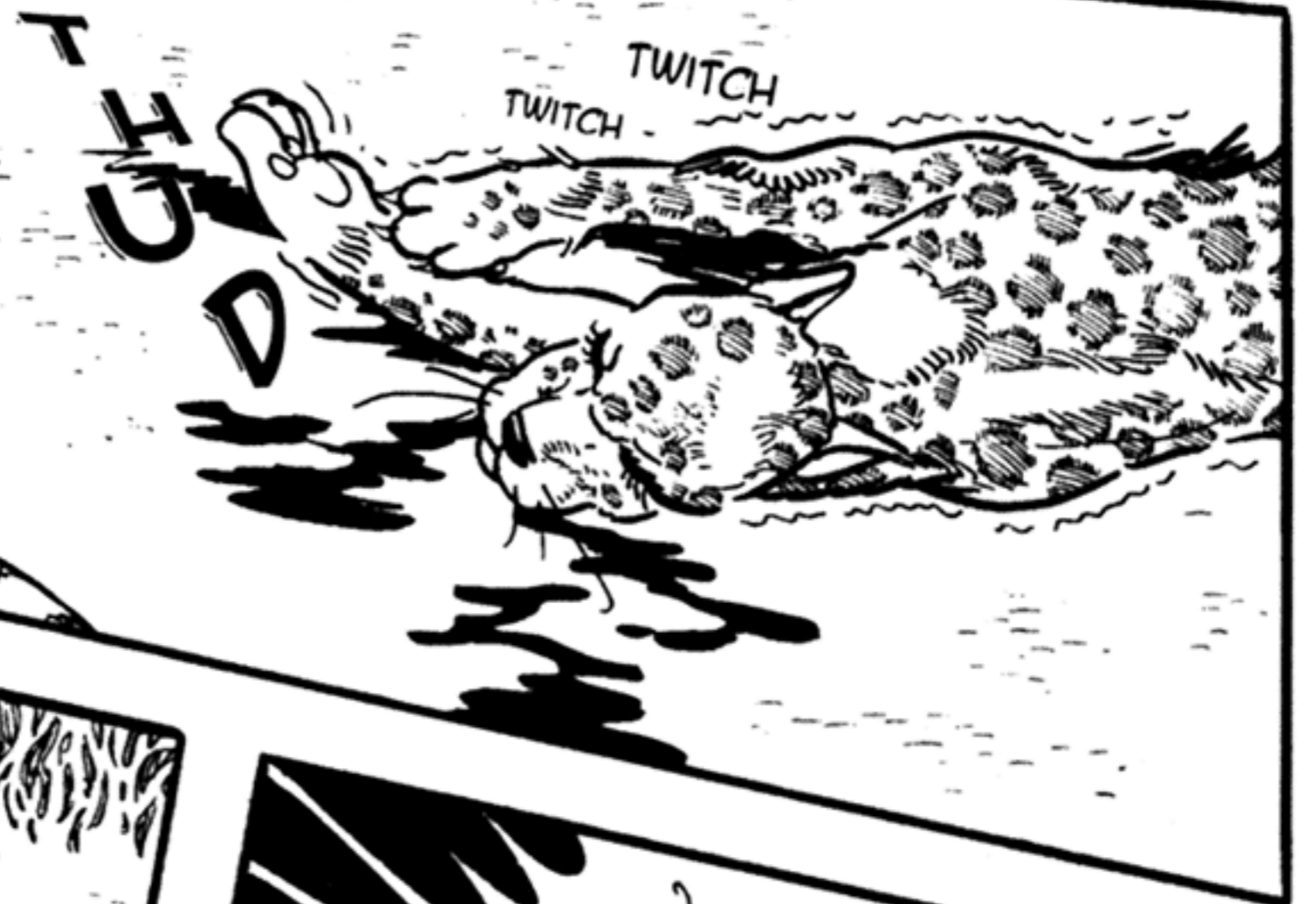
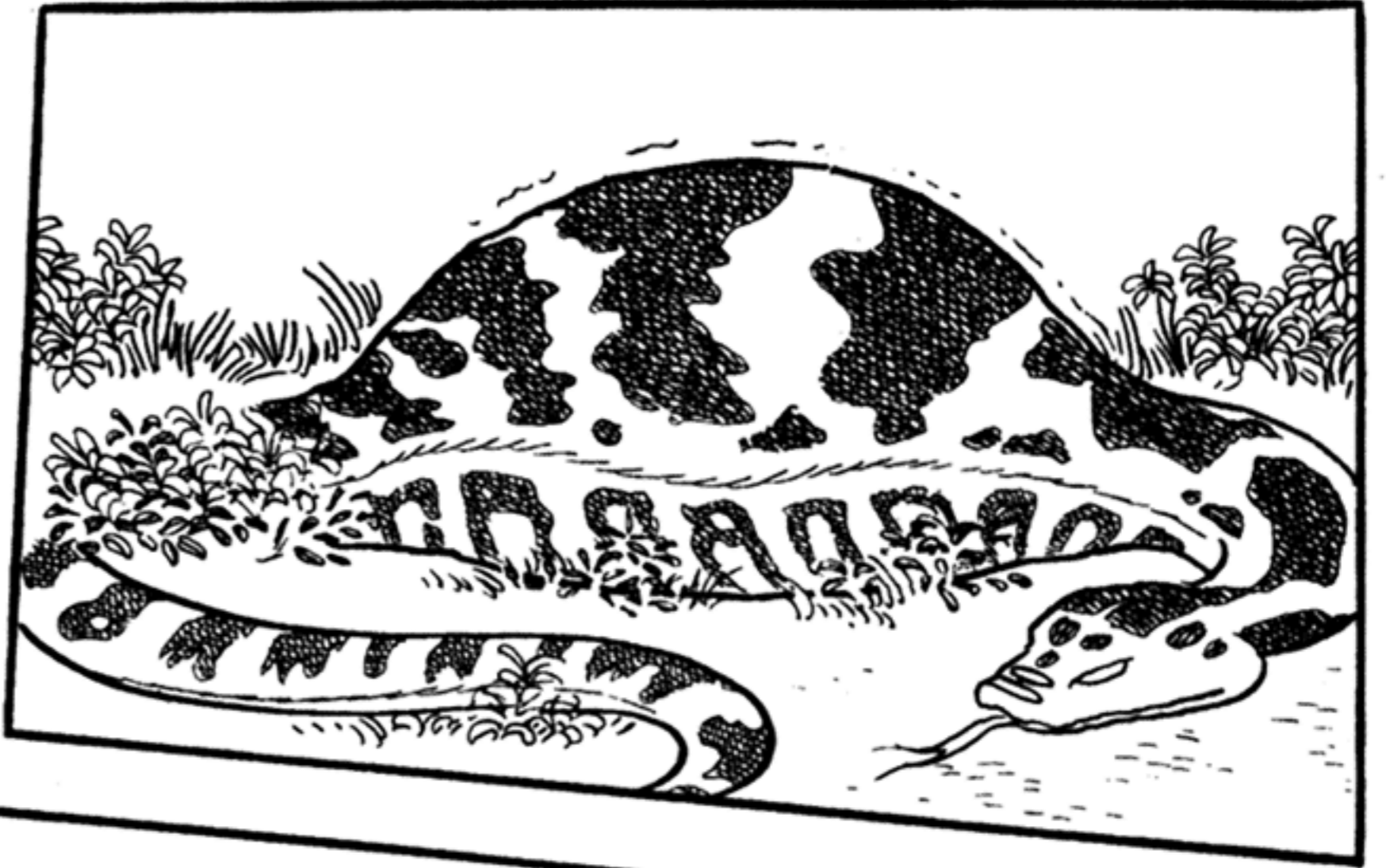
GAW
GAW

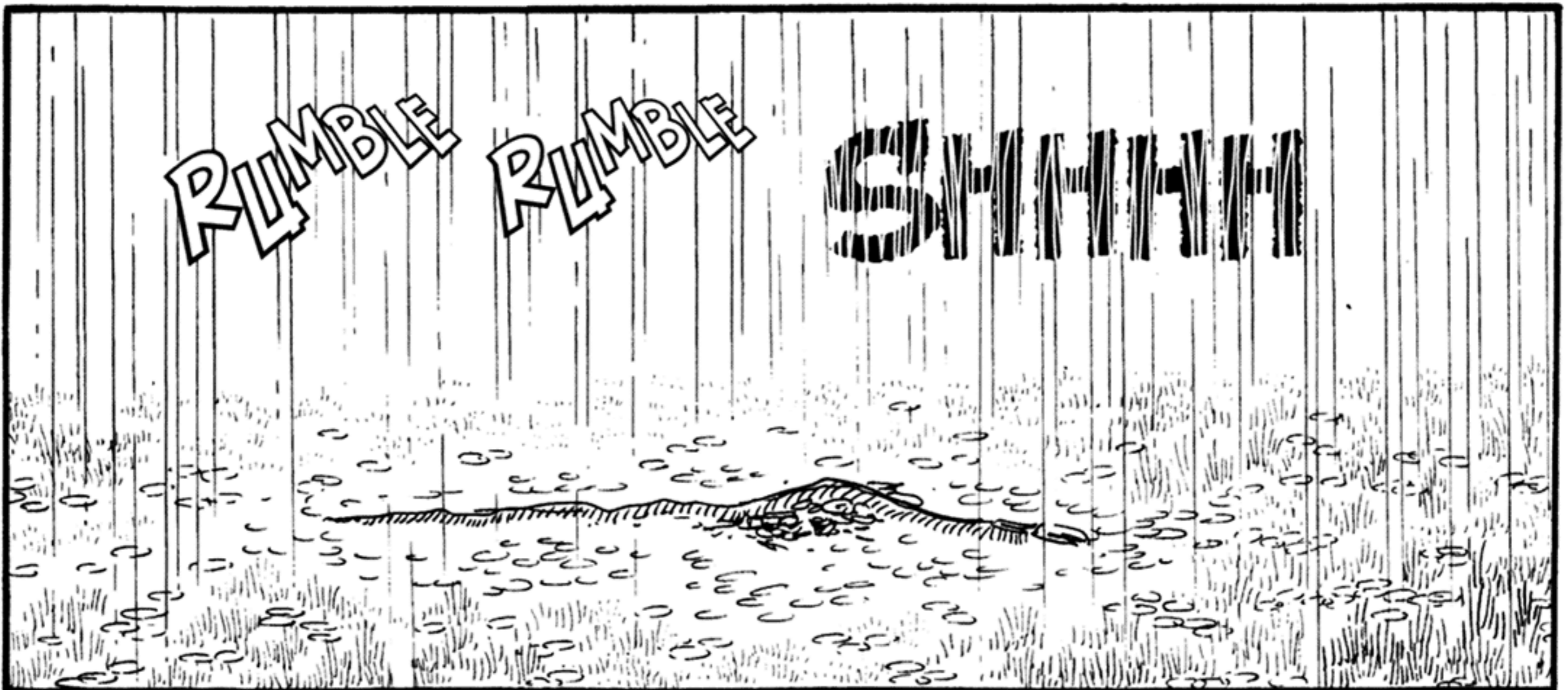
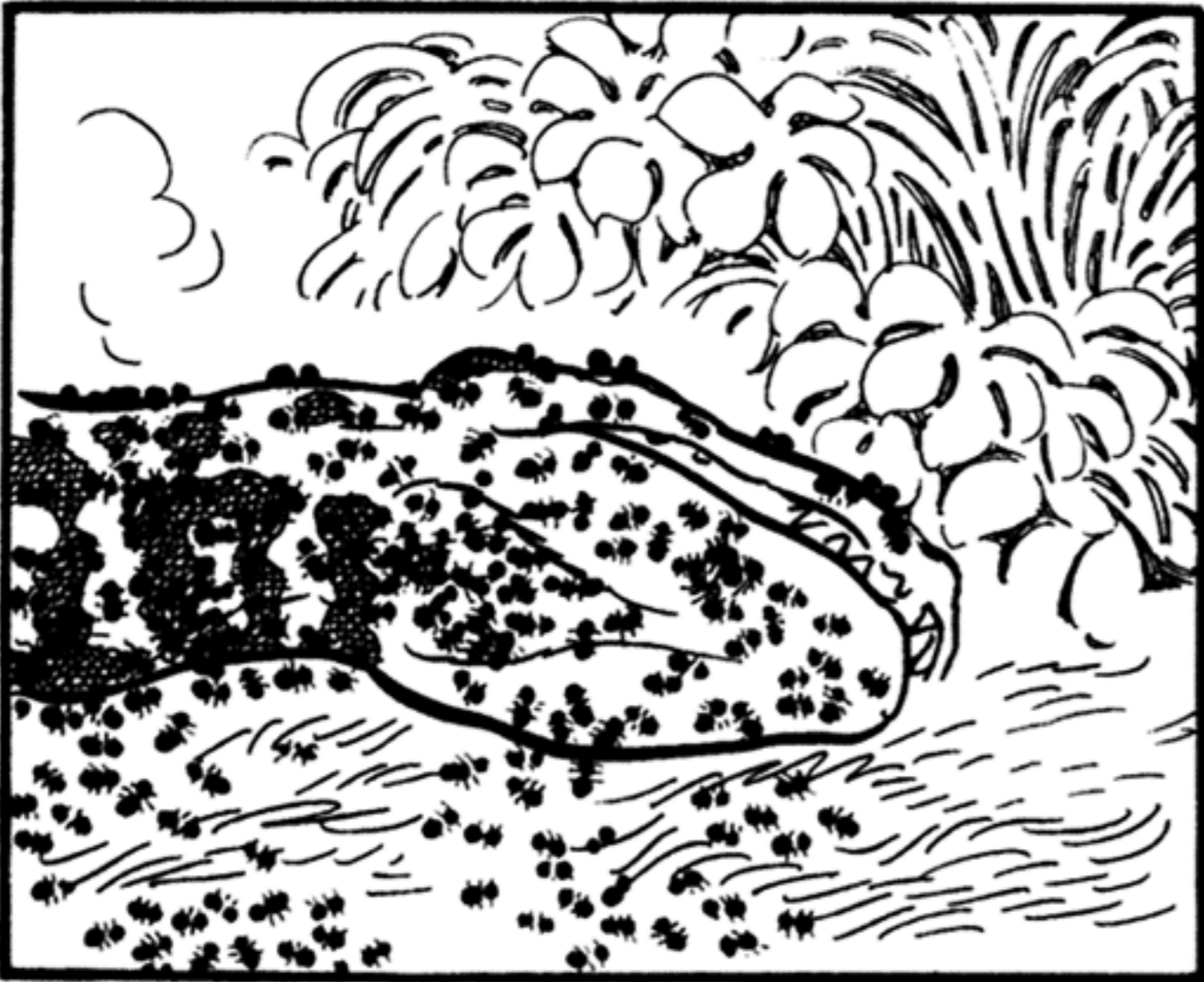
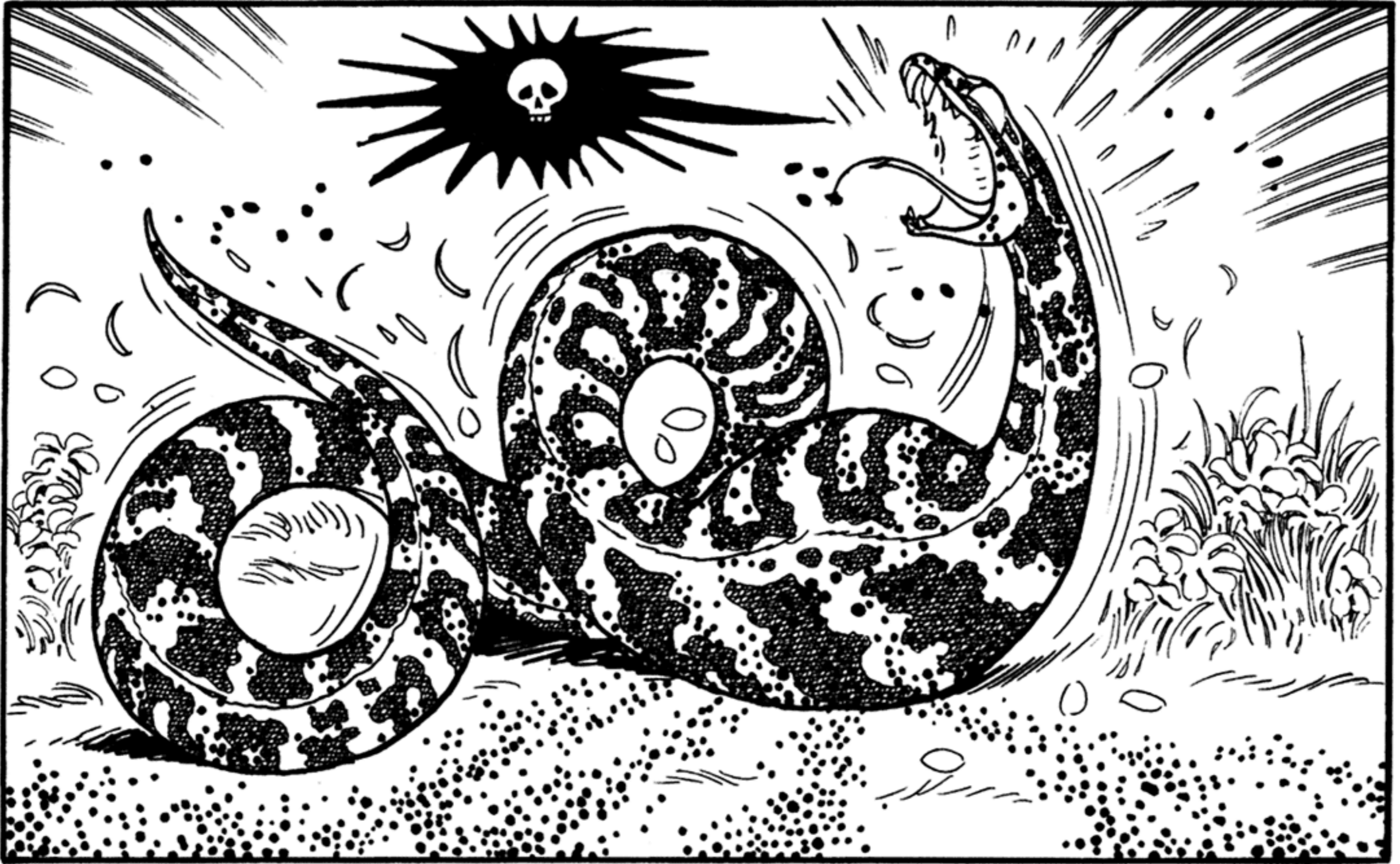


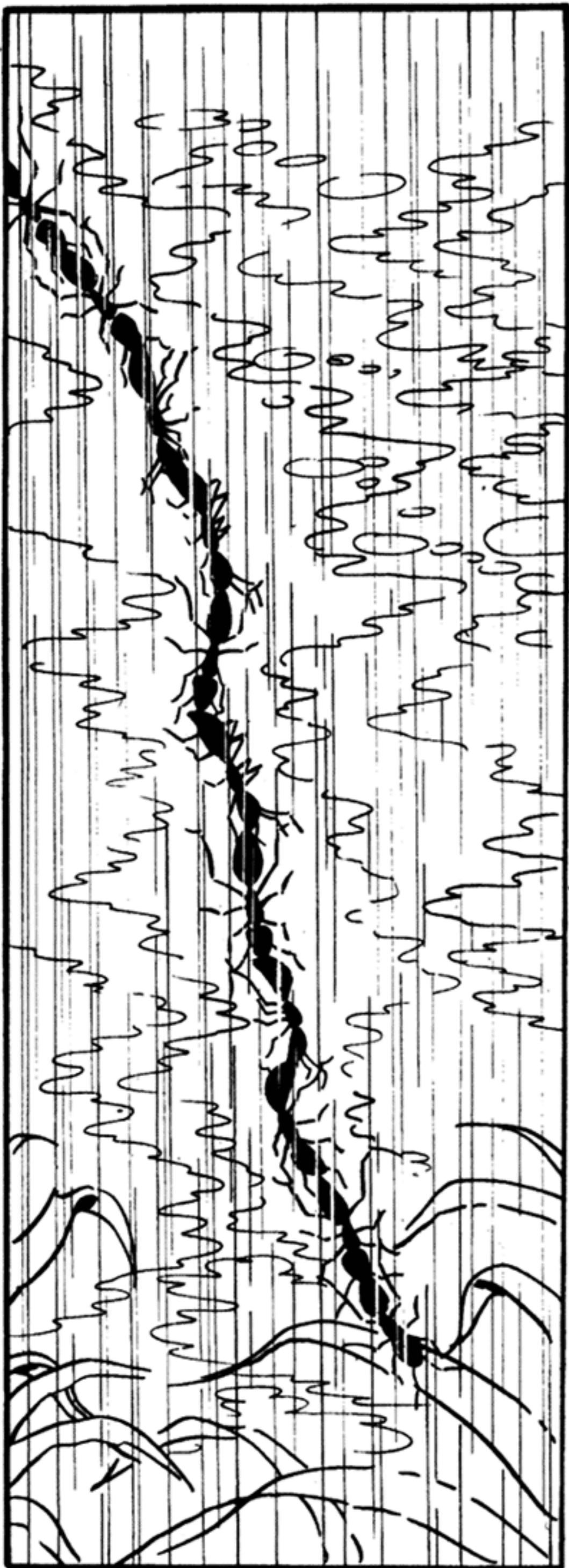
GAWK!
GHAW!

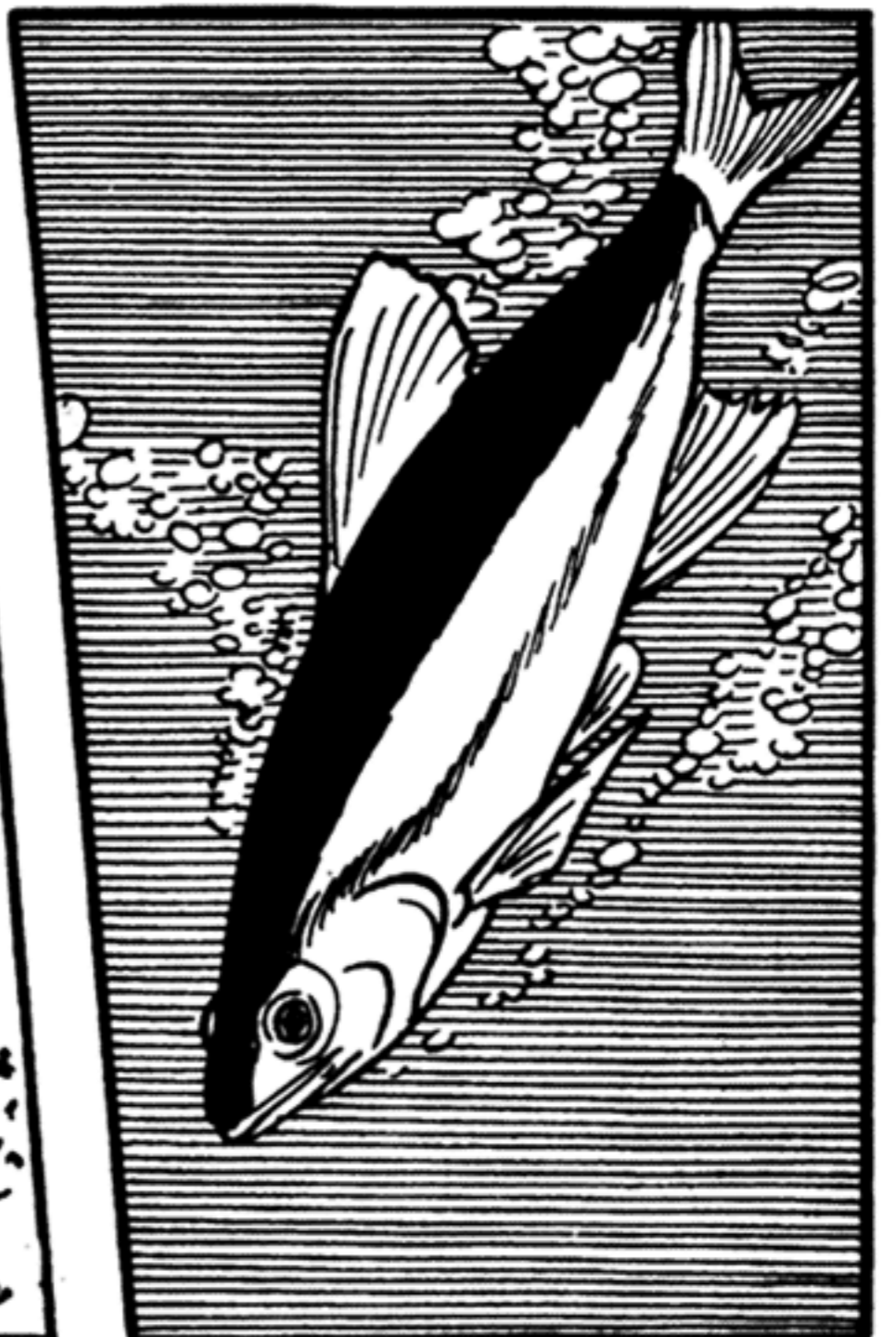
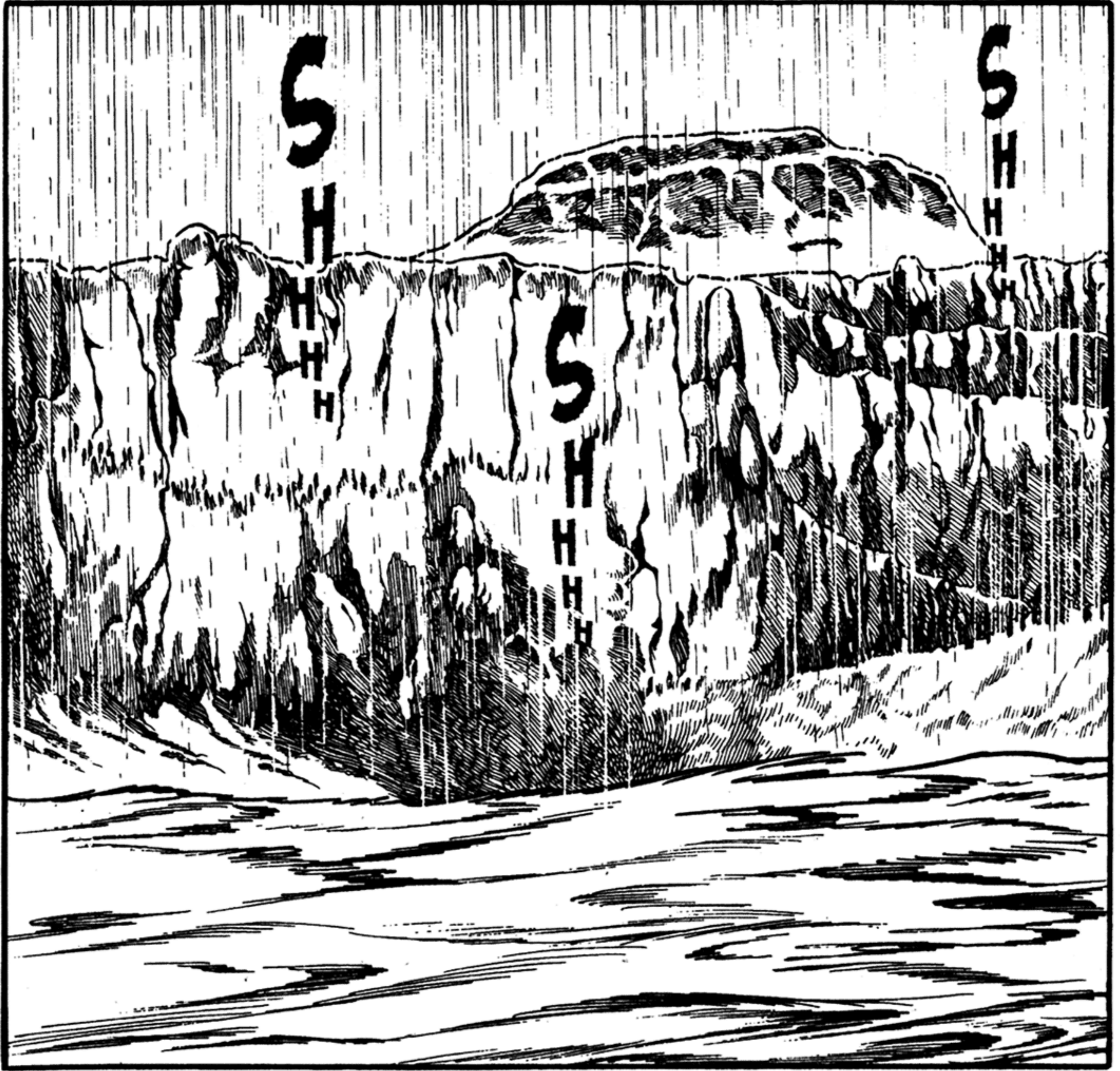


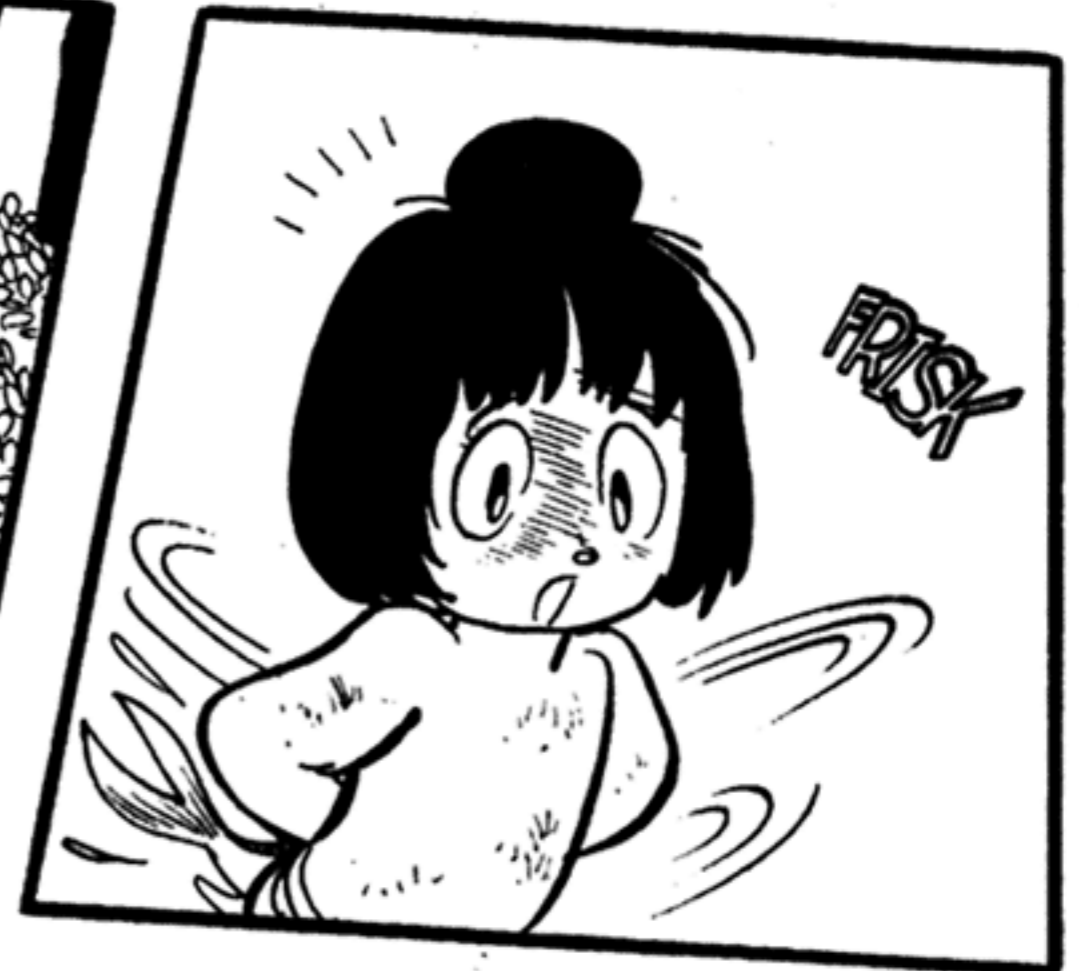
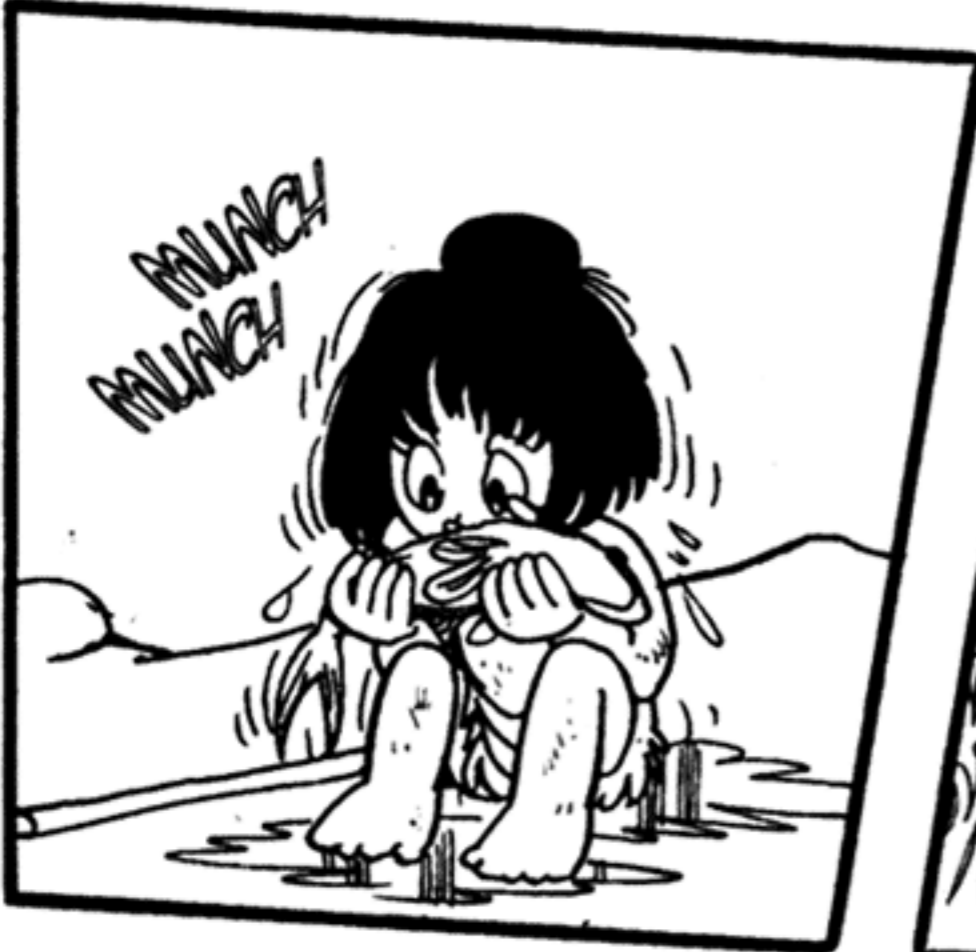
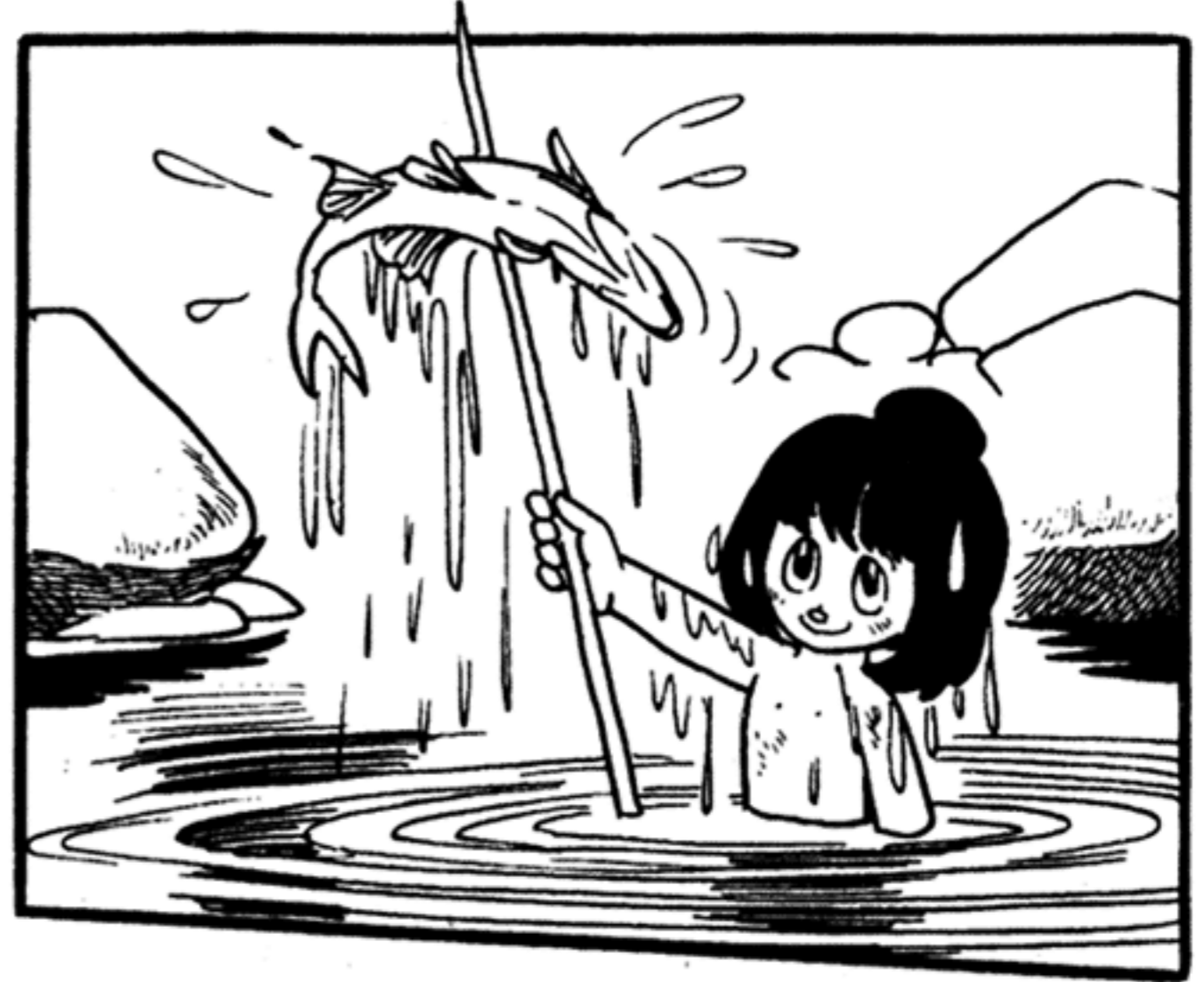


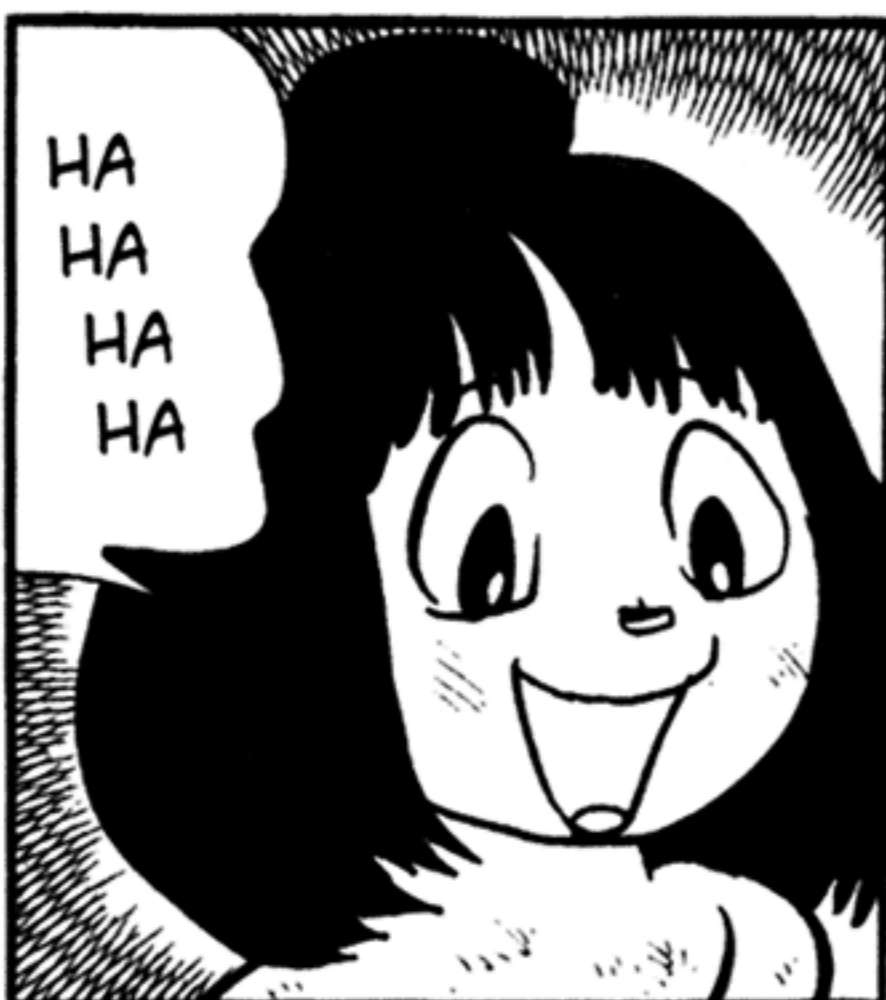
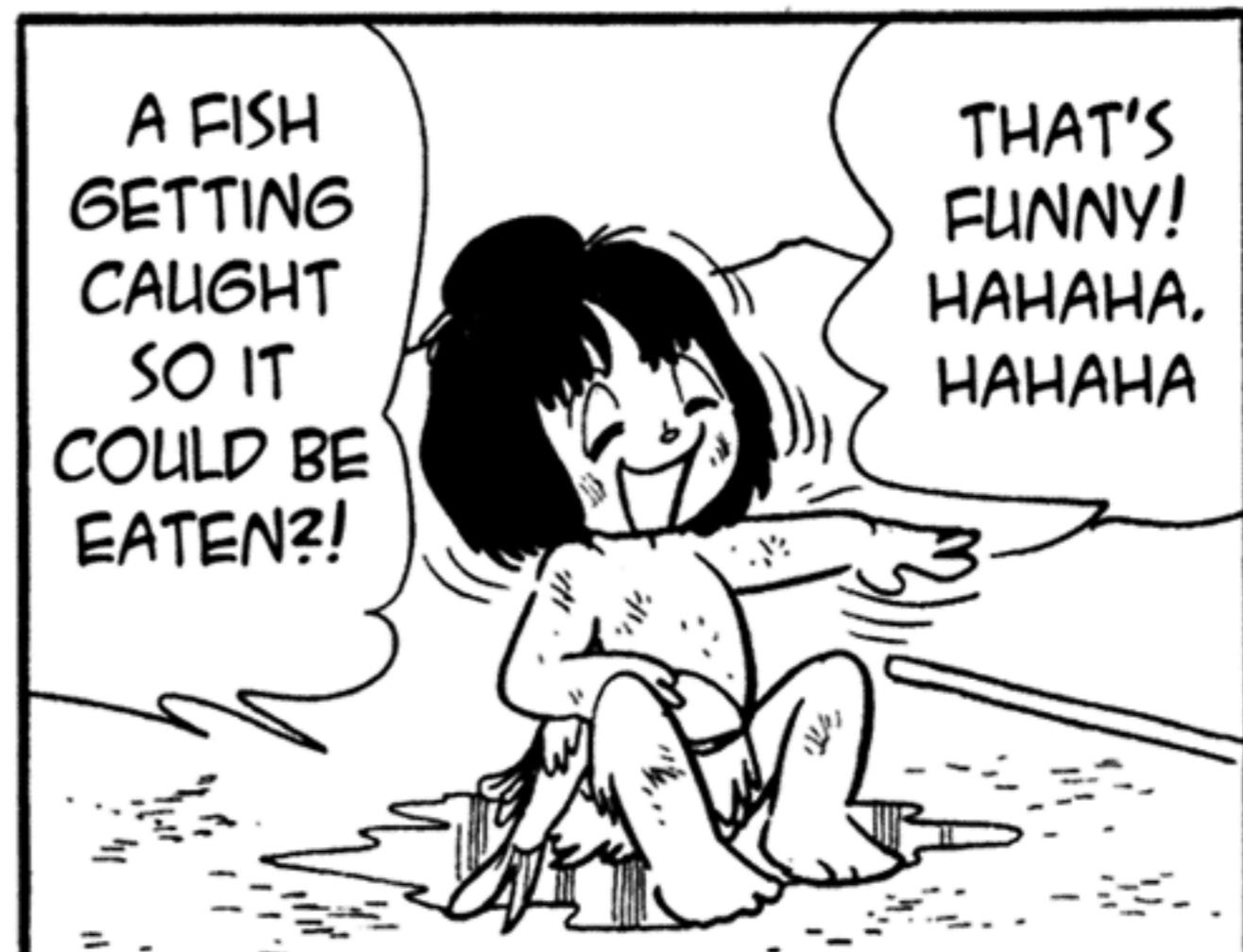
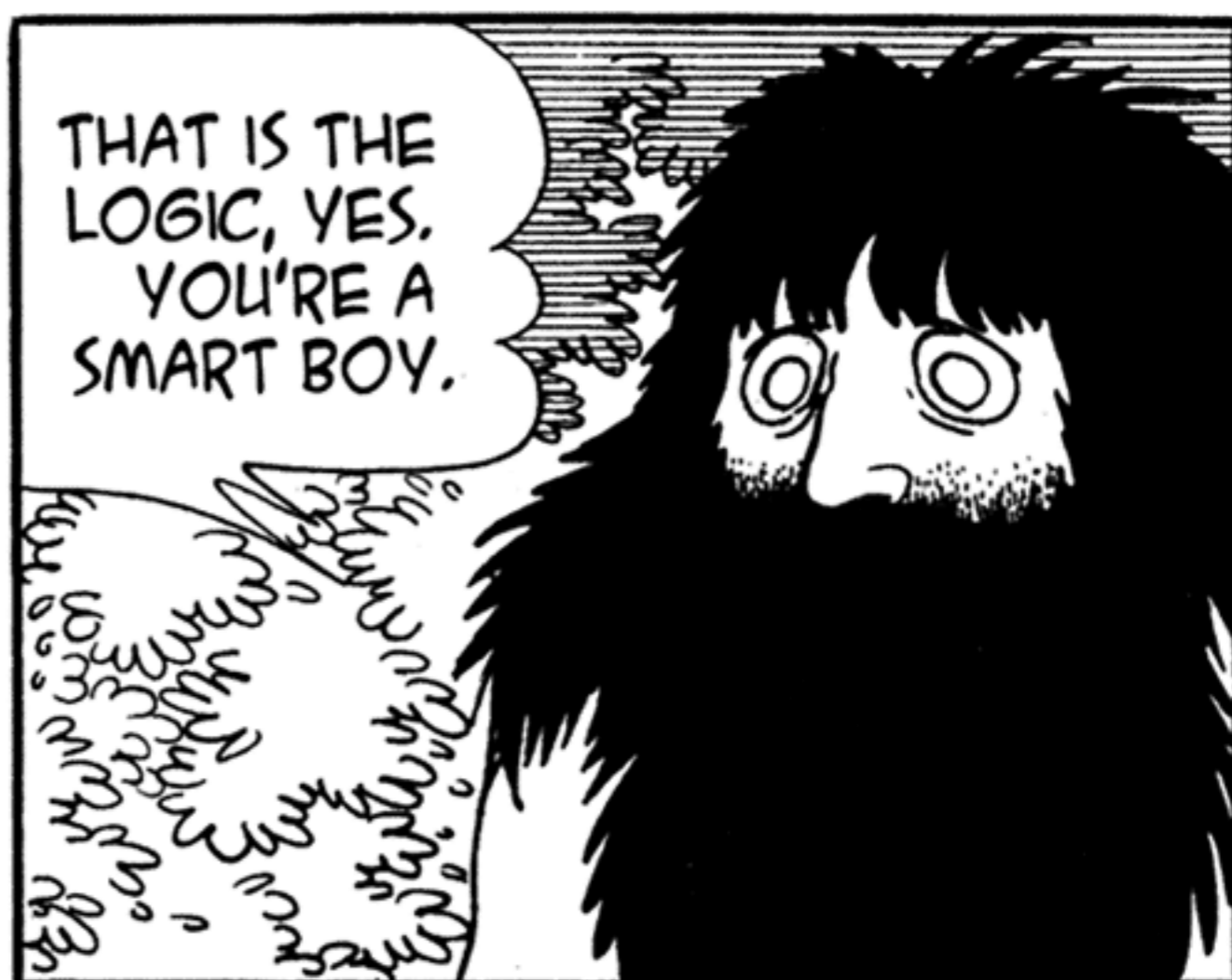
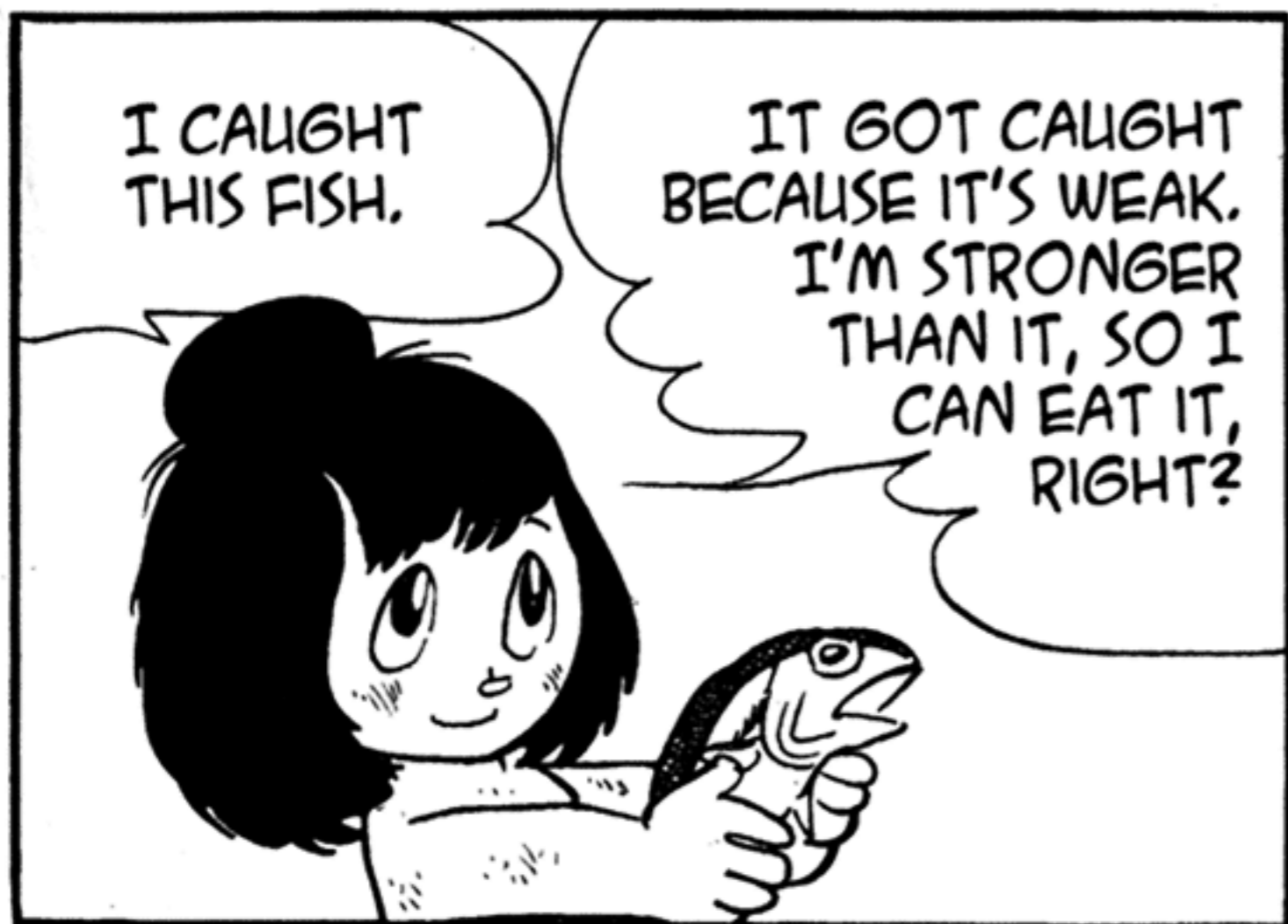












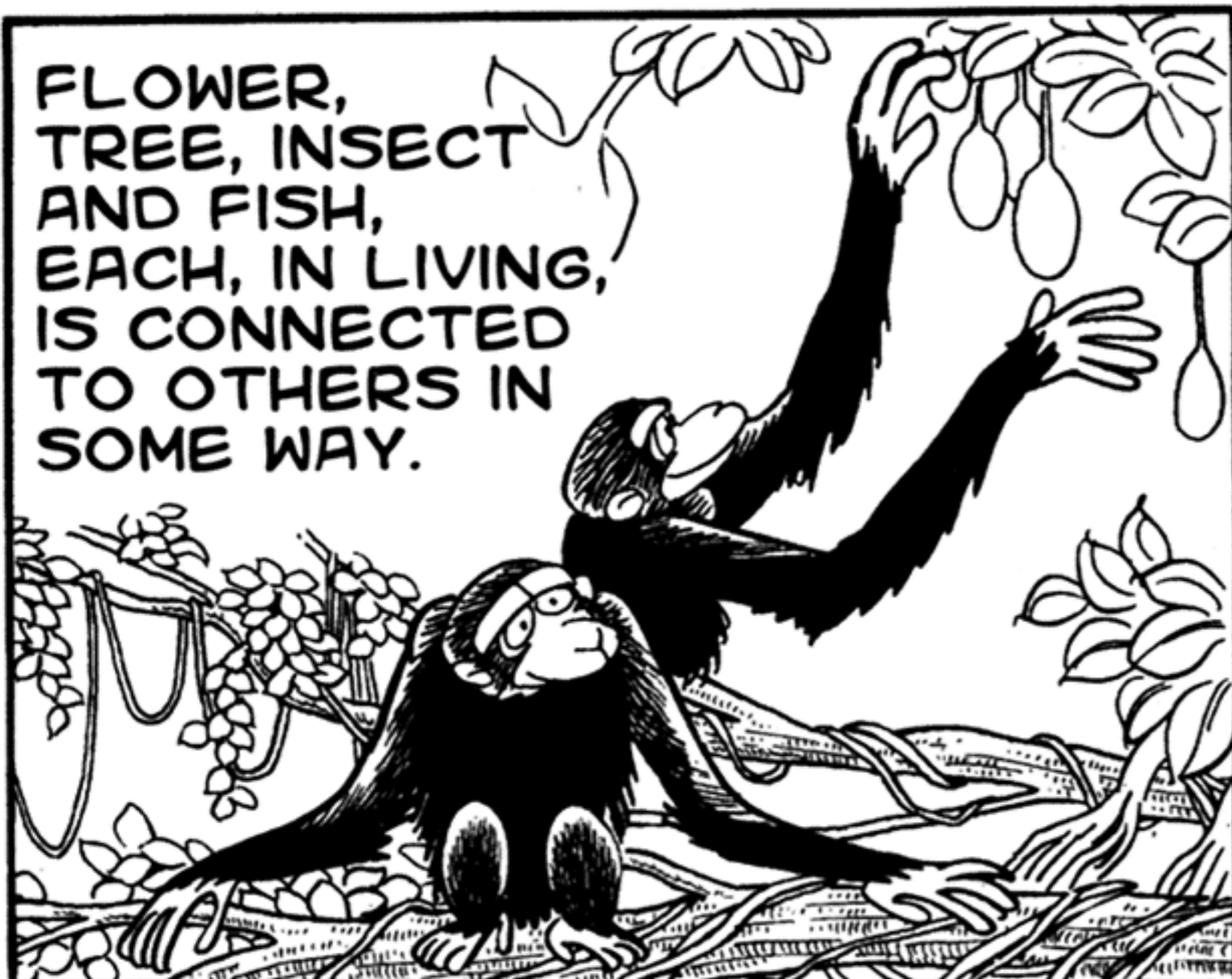


NO LIVING
THING LIVES
IN A
WORLD...

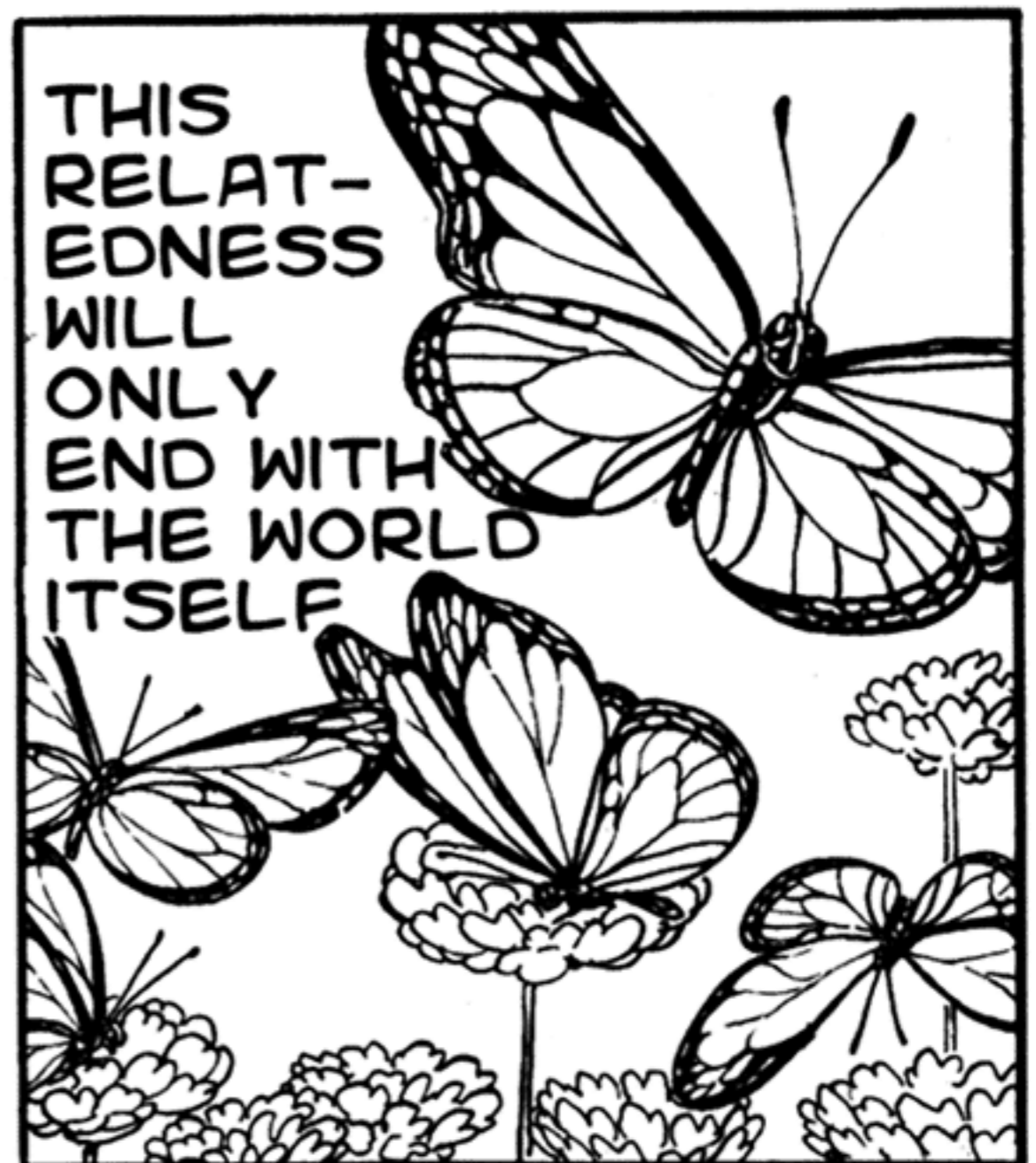
...ALL ITS OWN.
FROM THE TIME
IT IS BORN, AND
UNTIL IT DIES,



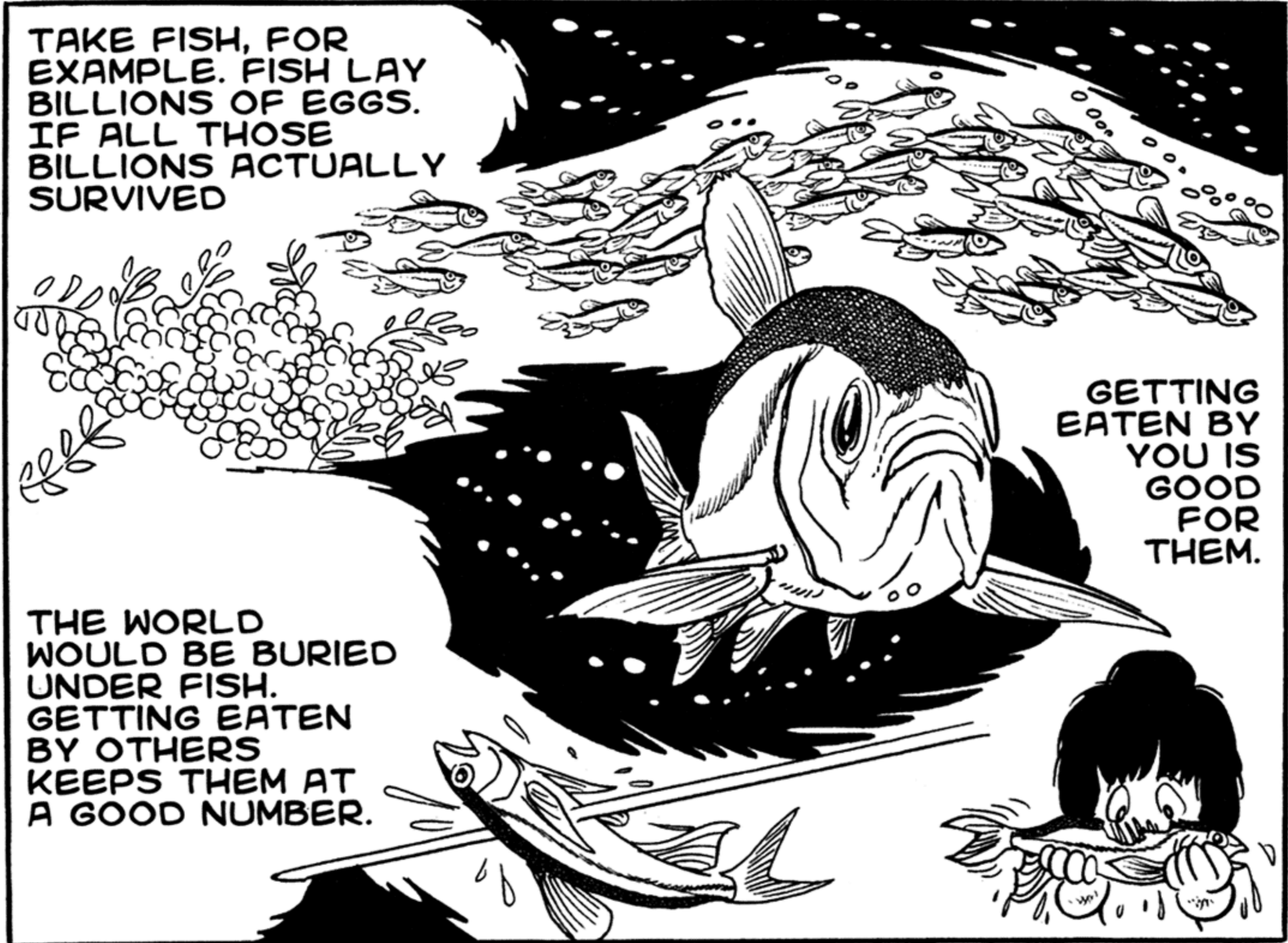
IT
CANNOT
BUT INTERACT
WITH OTHER
LIVING THINGS.
FROM BIRTH
TO DEATH,
EVERY
MOMENT.



FLOWER,
TREE, INSECT
AND FISH,
EACH, IN LIVING,
IS CONNECTED
TO OTHERS IN
SOME WAY.



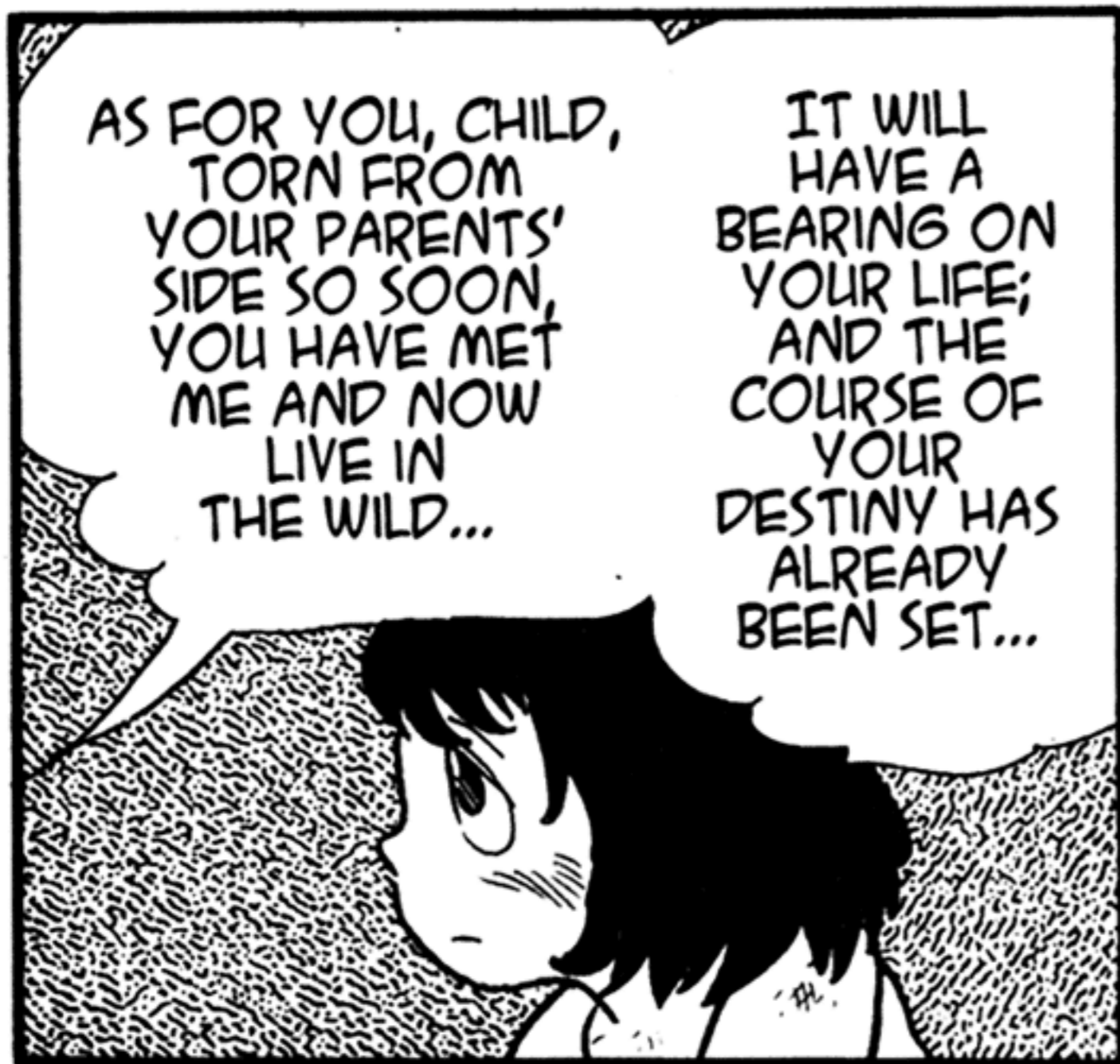
THIS
RELAT-
EDNESS
WILL
ONLY
END WITH
THE WORLD
ITSELF



TAKE FISH, FOR
EXAMPLE. FISH LAY
BILLIONS OF EGGS.
IF ALL THOSE
BILLIONS ACTUALLY
SURVIVED

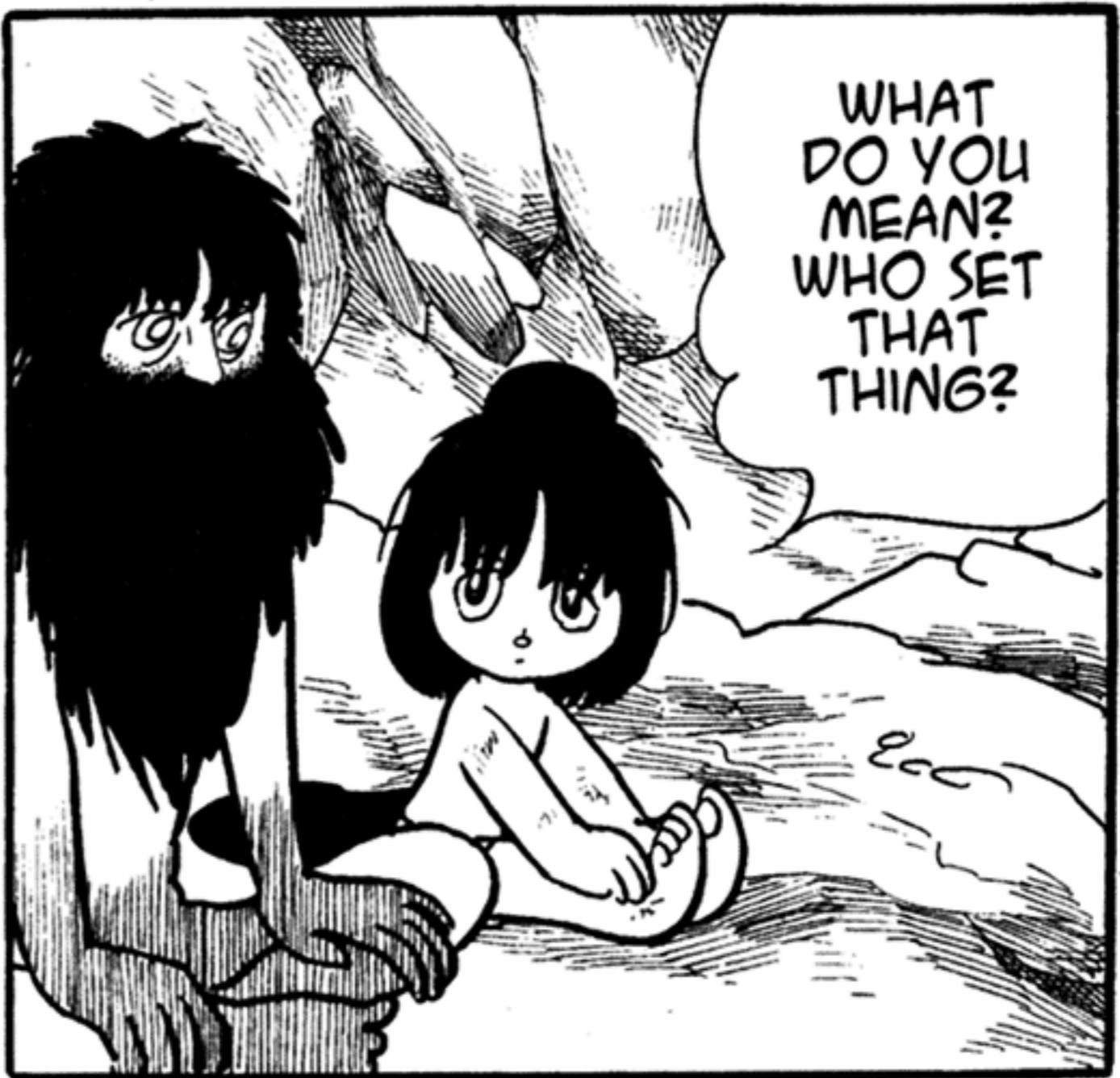
GETTING
EATEN BY
YOU IS
GOOD
FOR
THEM.

THE WORLD
WOULD BE BURIED
UNDER FISH.
GETTING EATEN
BY OTHERS
KEEPS THEM AT
A GOOD NUMBER.

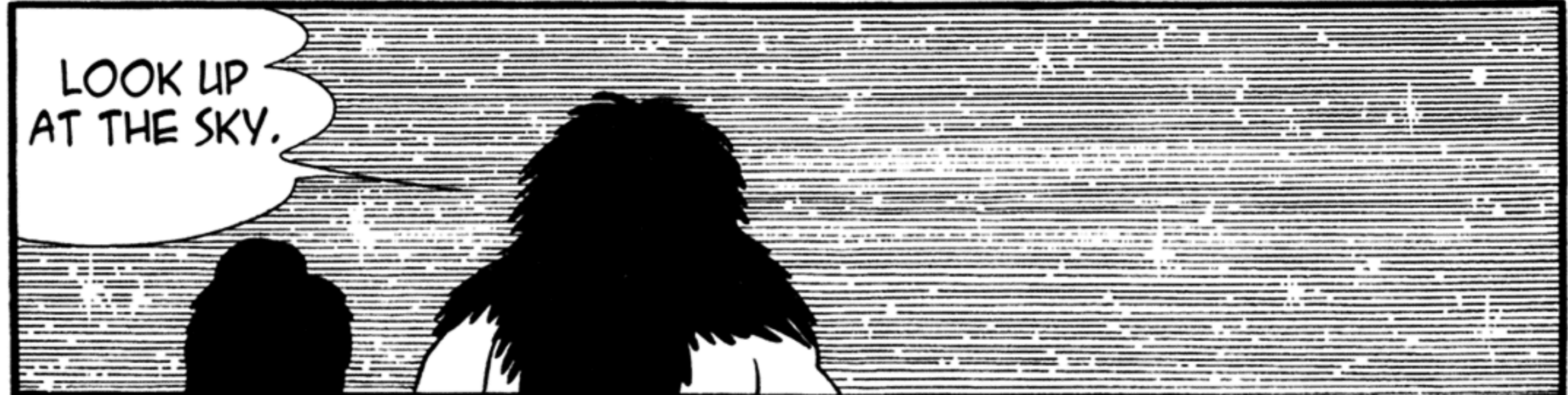


AS FOR YOU, CHILD,
TORN FROM
YOUR PARENTS'
SIDE SO SOON,
YOU HAVE MET
ME AND NOW
LIVE IN
THE WILD...

IT WILL
HAVE A
BEARING ON
YOUR LIFE;
AND THE
COURSE OF
YOUR
DESTINY HAS
ALREADY
BEEN SET...

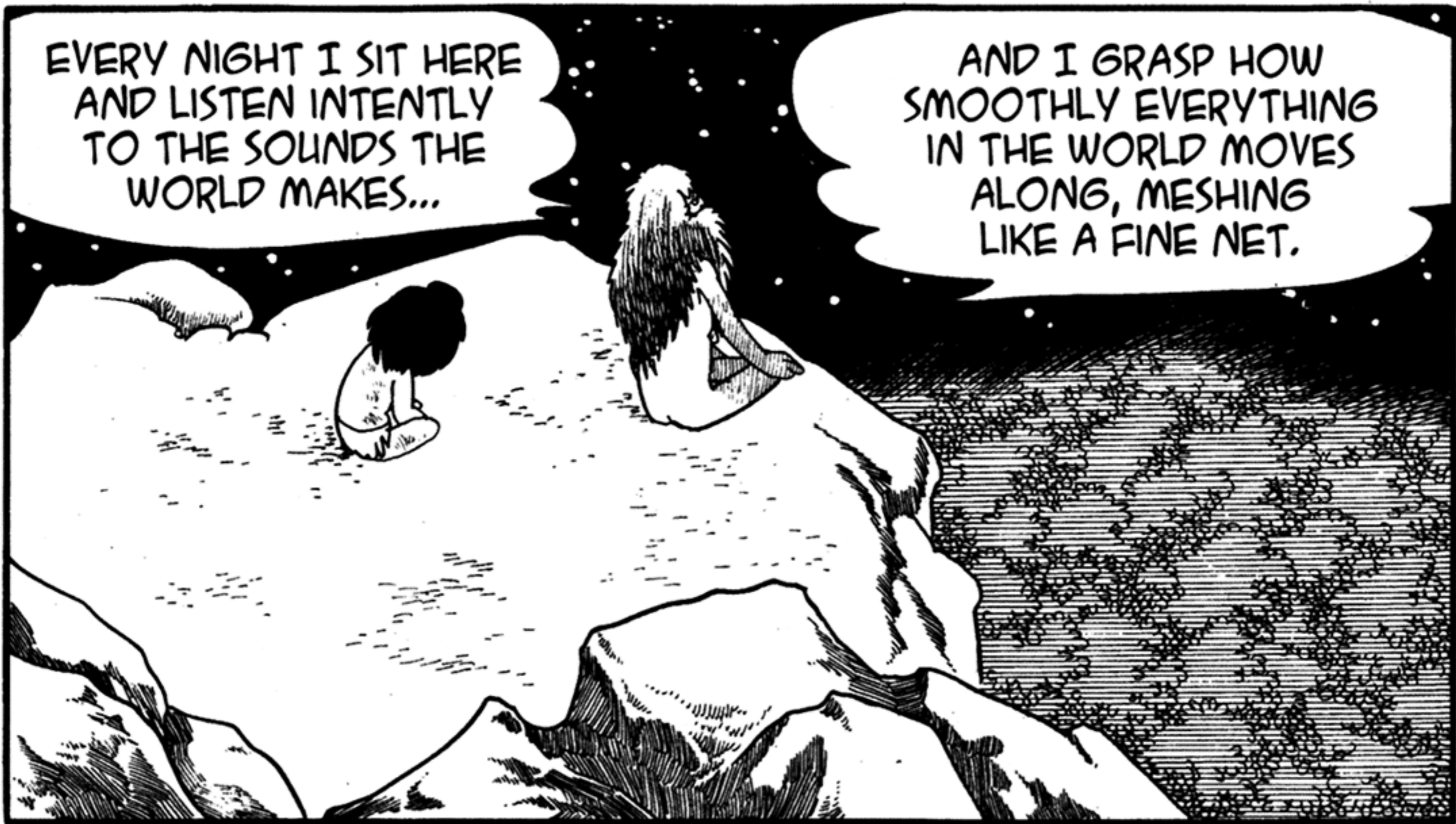


WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?
WHO SET
THAT
THING?



LOOK UP
AT THE SKY.





EVERY NIGHT I SIT HERE AND LISTEN INTENTLY TO THE SOUNDS THE WORLD MAKES...

AND I GRASP HOW SMOOTHLY EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD MOVES ALONG, MESHING LIKE A FINE NET.



NOT JUST LIVING THINGS BUT FIRE AND WATER, ROCKS, BOULDERS, AND MOUNTAINS, CLOUDS, MIST, THE SUN, THE MOON, THE STARS, ALL RELATED.

BUT HOW STRANGE THAT IT SHOULD BE SO! THE WORLD'S MAKER...

IS TRULY A GREAT BEING!



TO HAVE CONNECTED EACH AND EVERY THING...



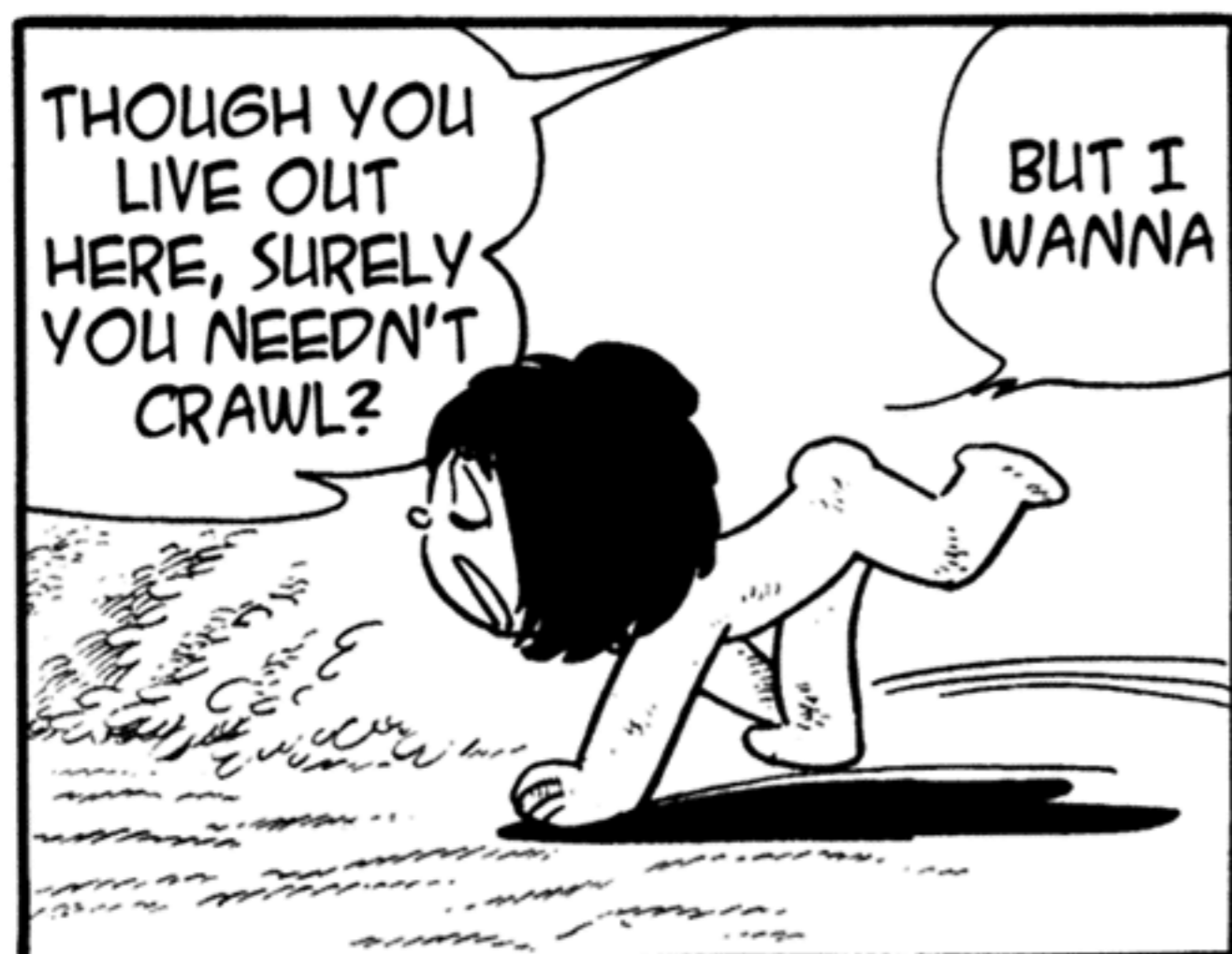
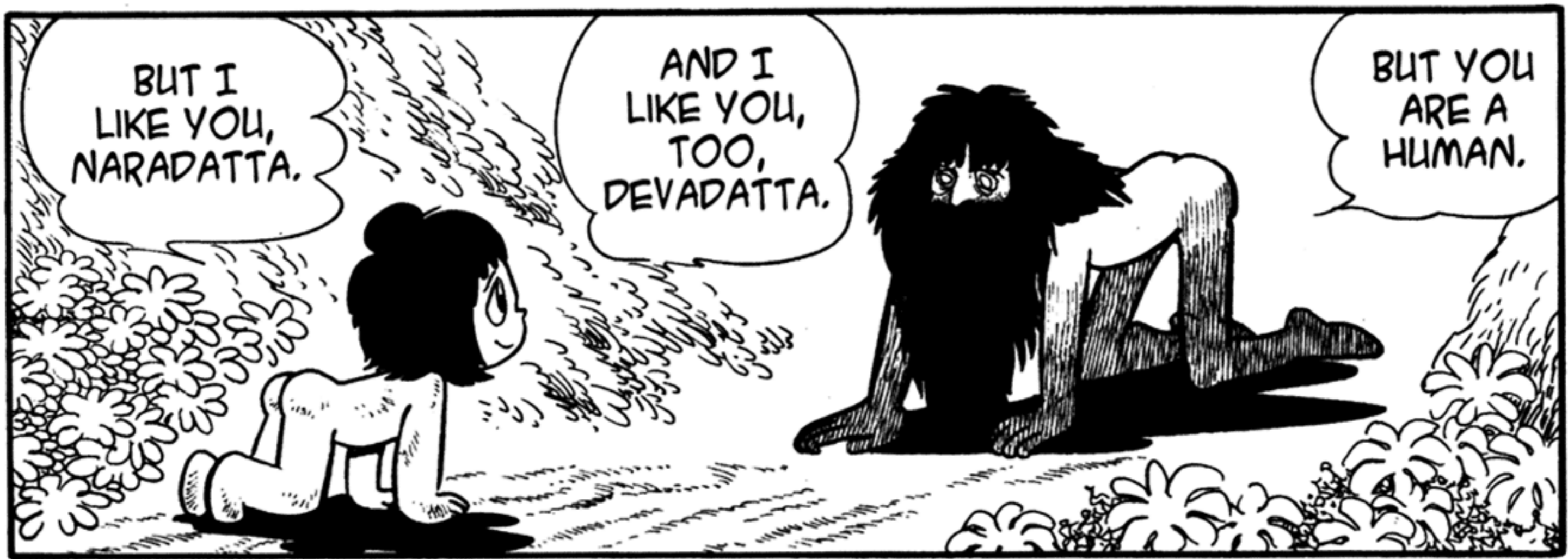
HA HA, I'VE PUT YOU TO SLEEP, HAVEN'T I?

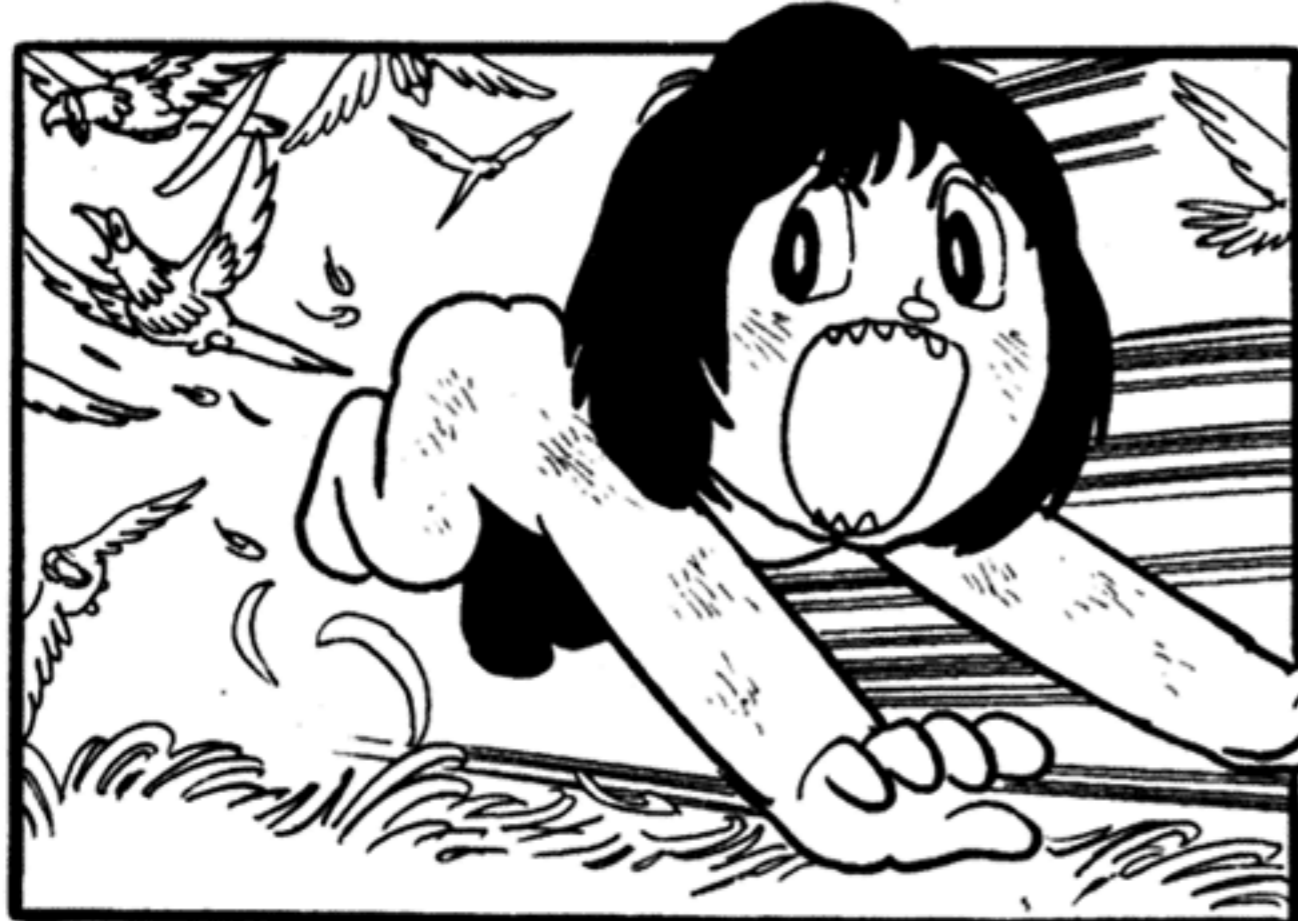
TOO HARD, HMM?

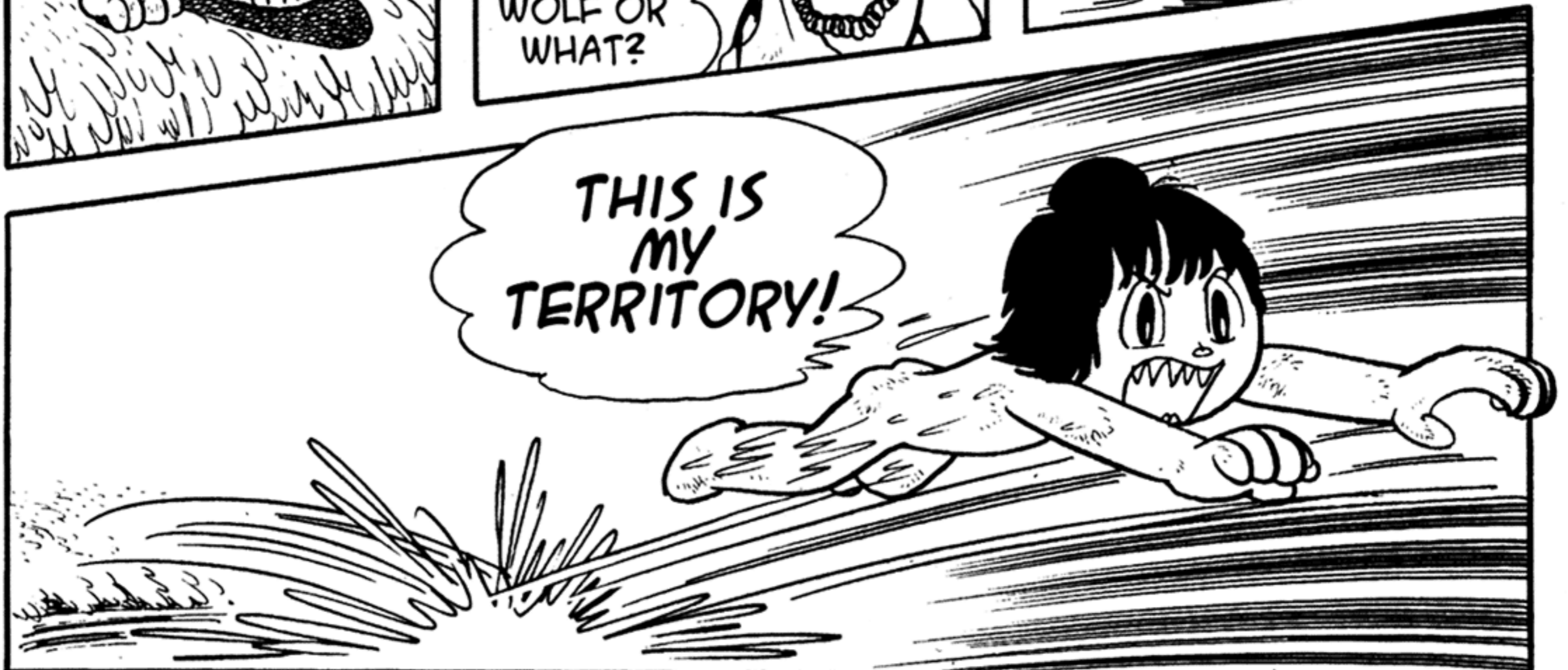
WELL, THAT IS THAT. SOME DAY, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.

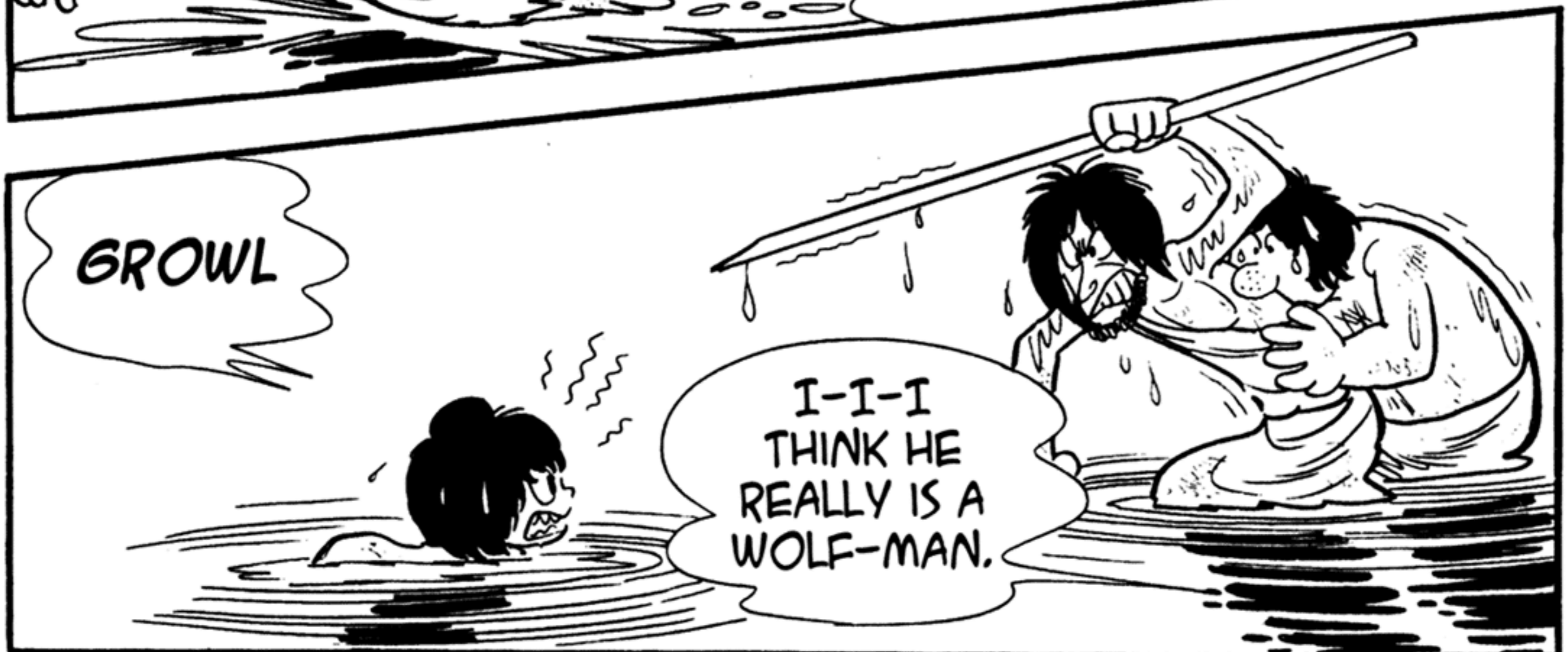
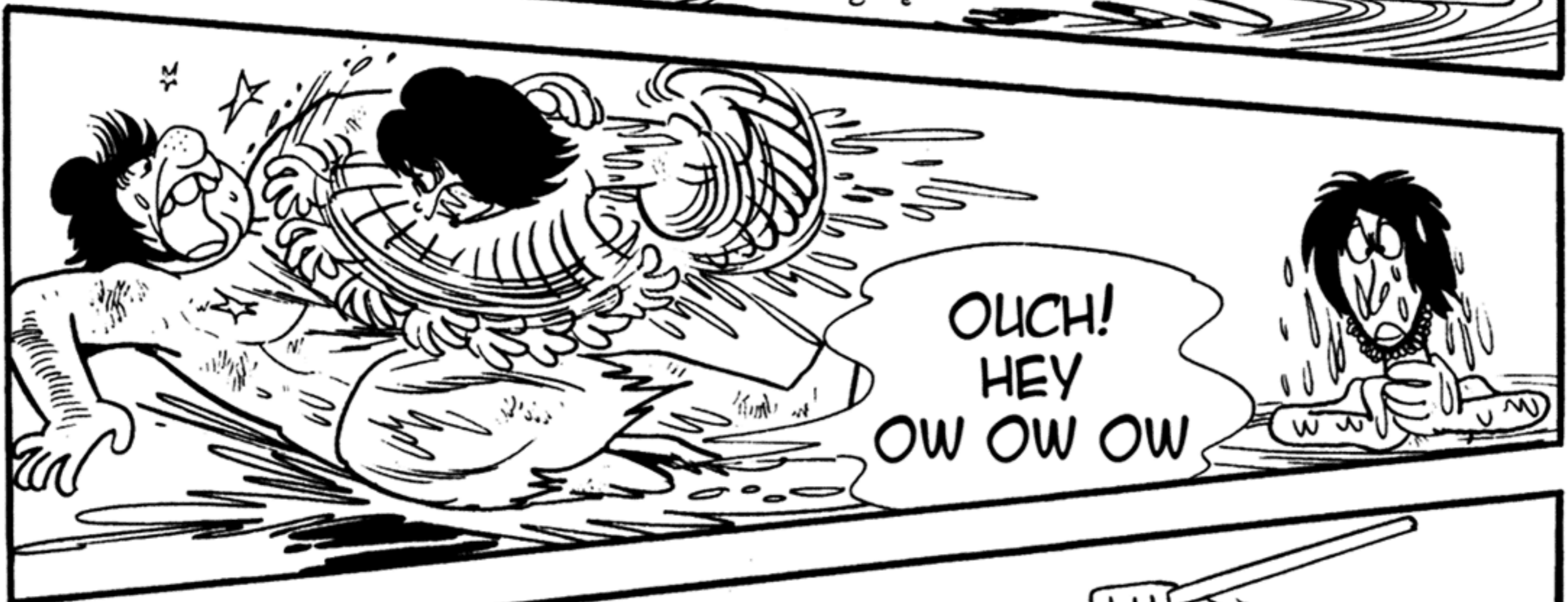
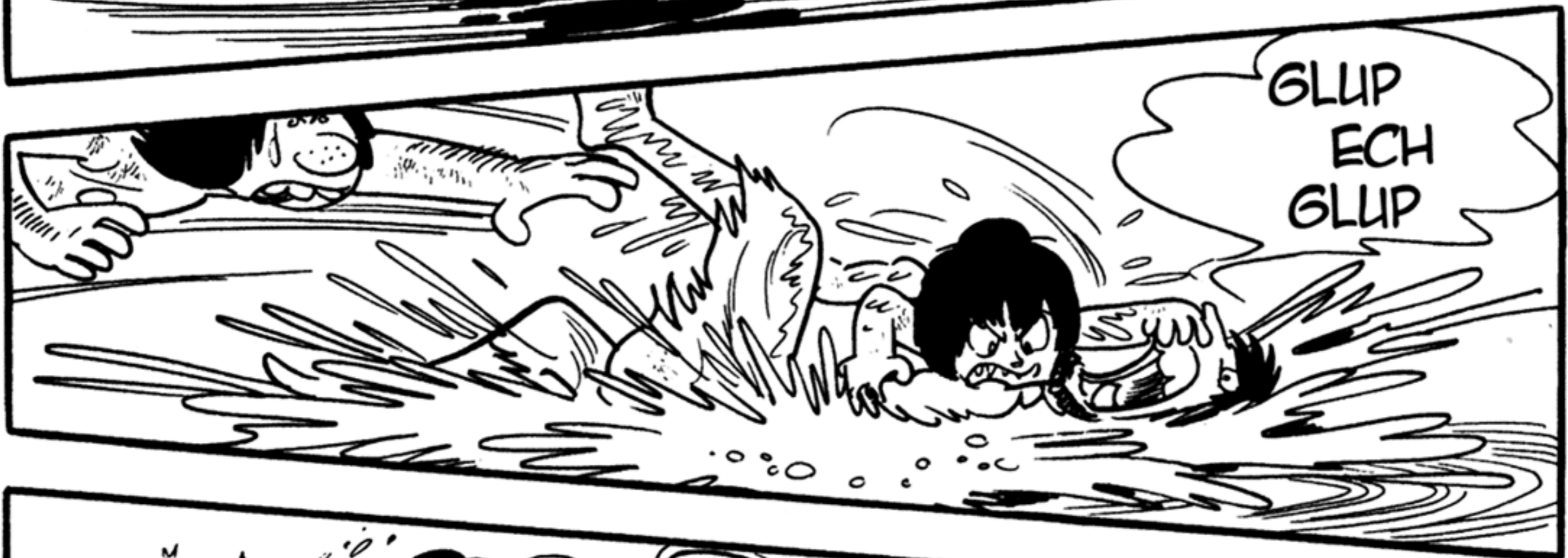
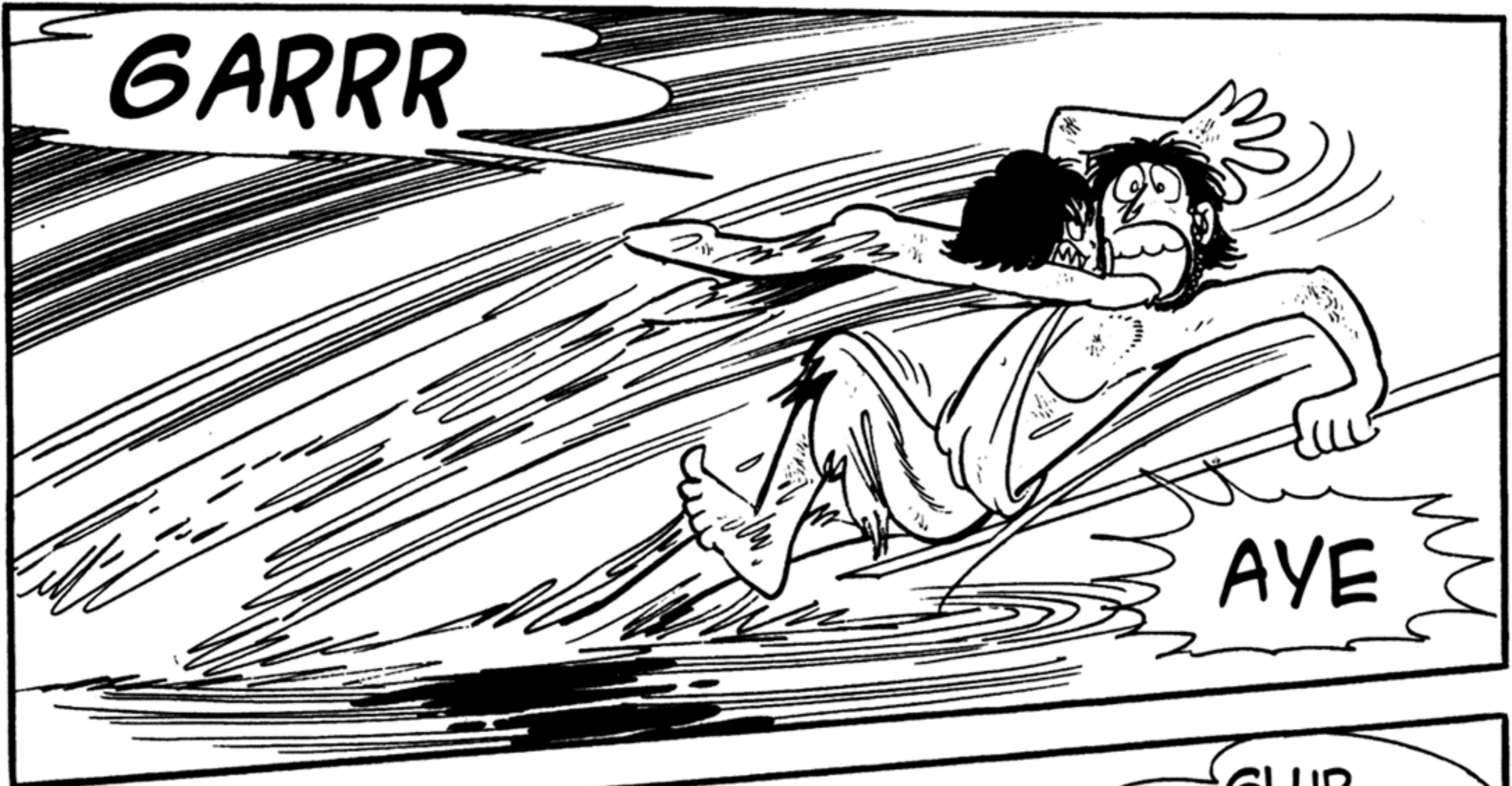


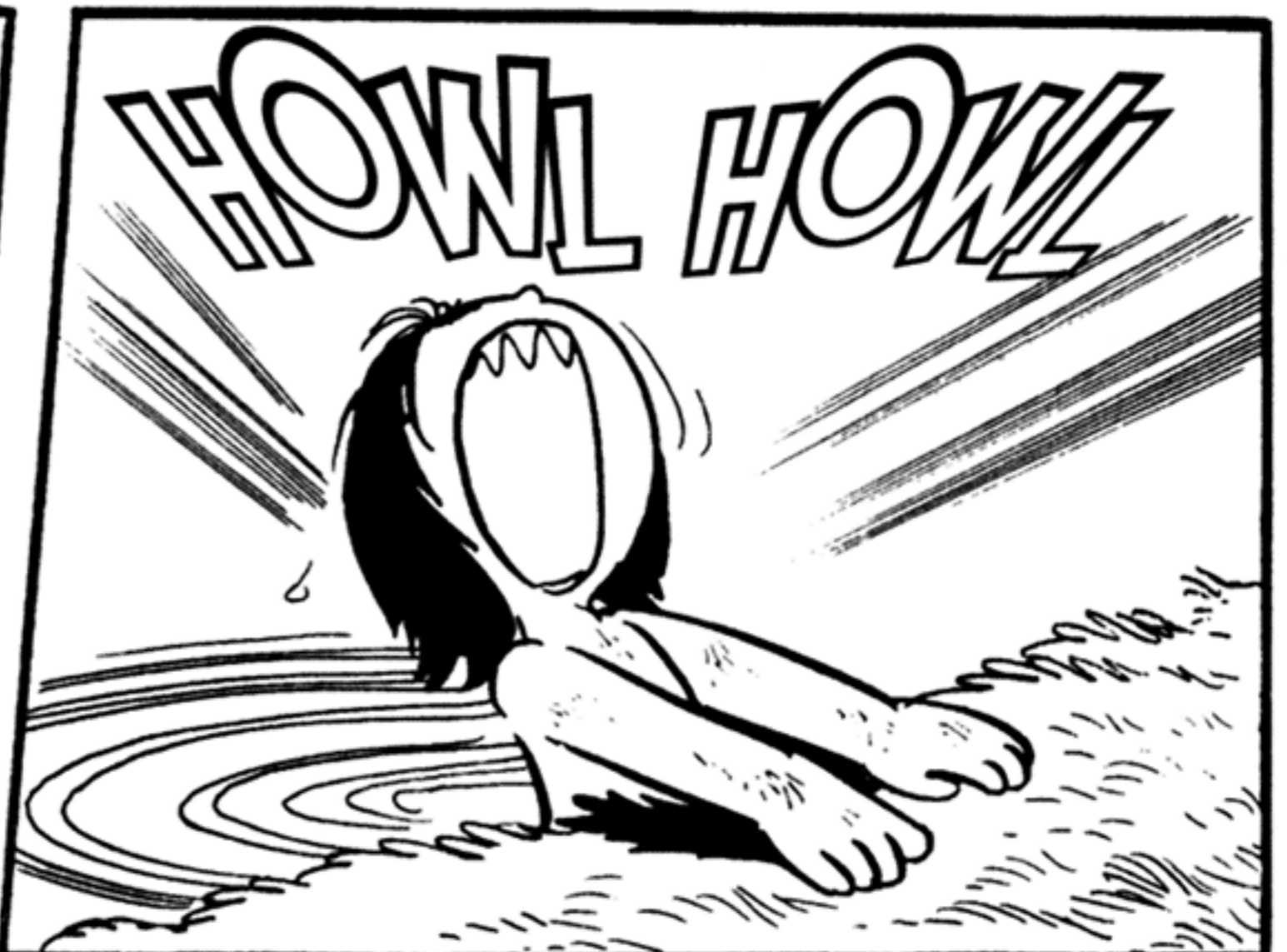
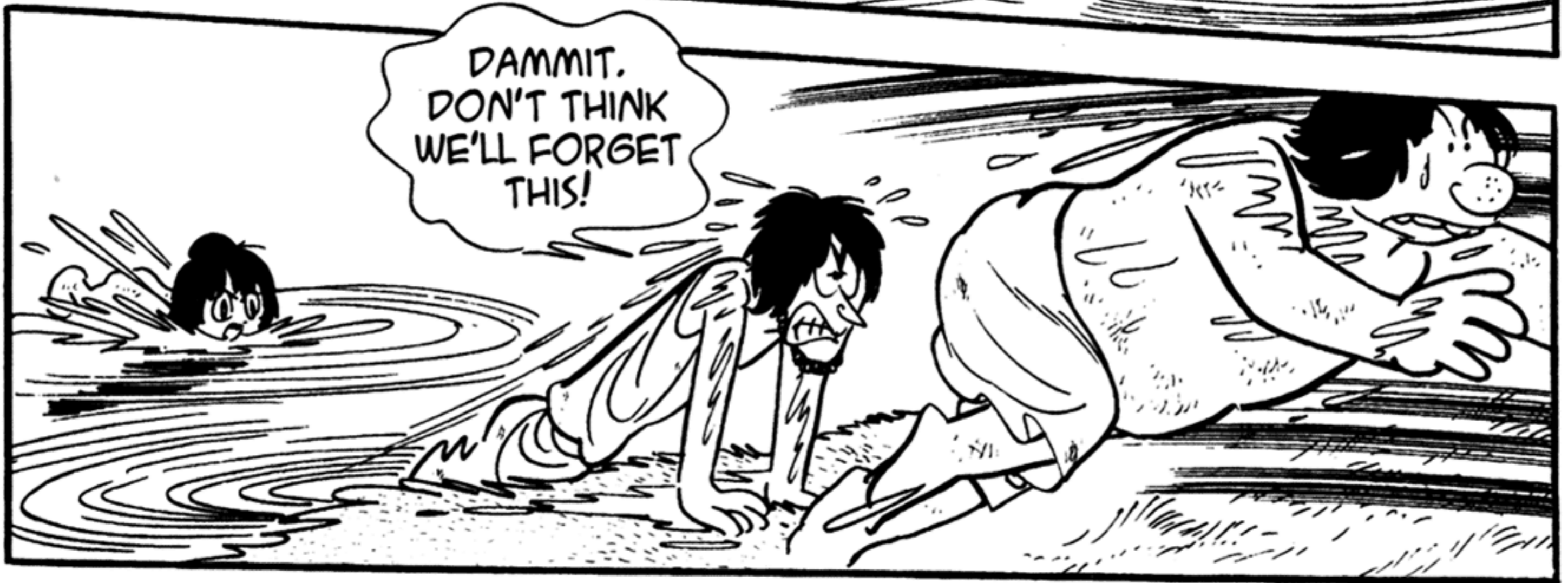
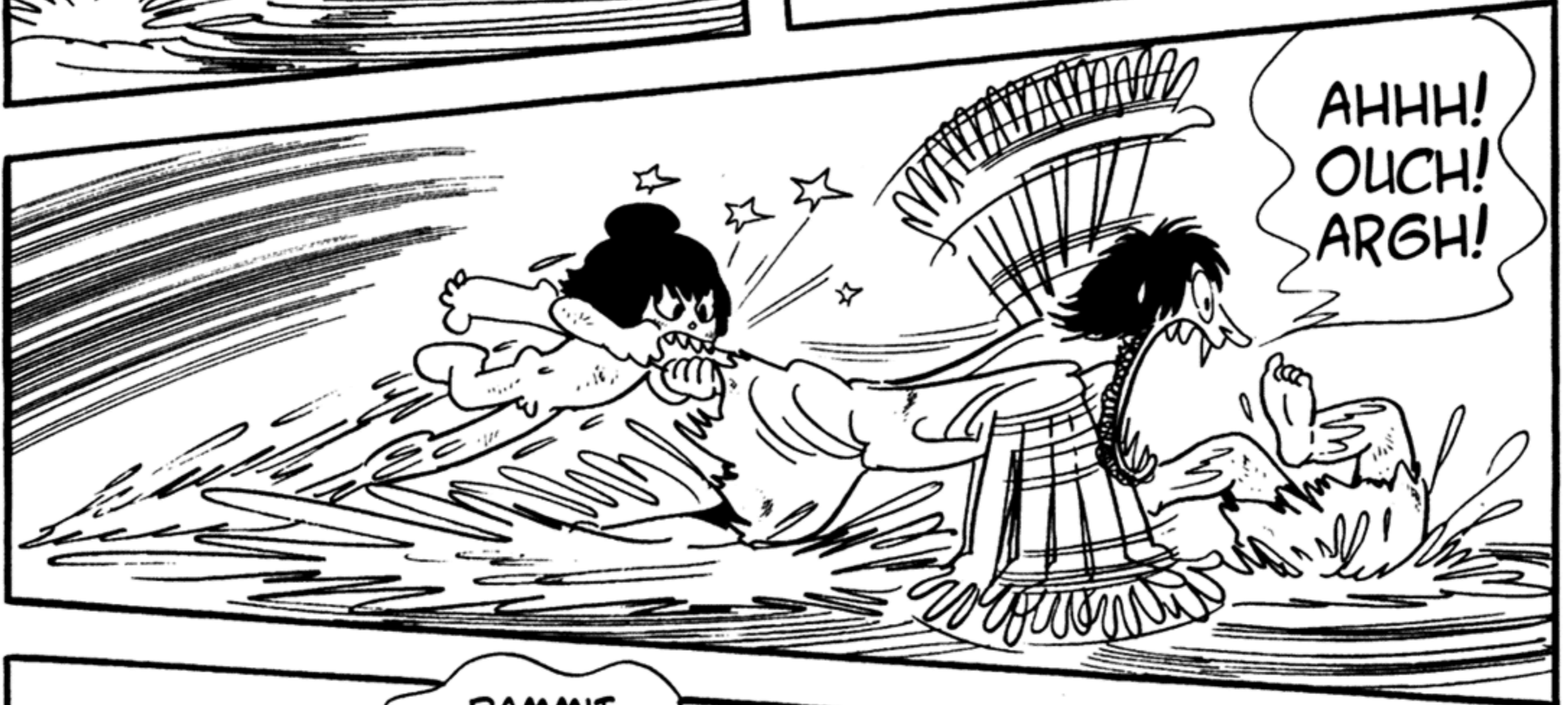
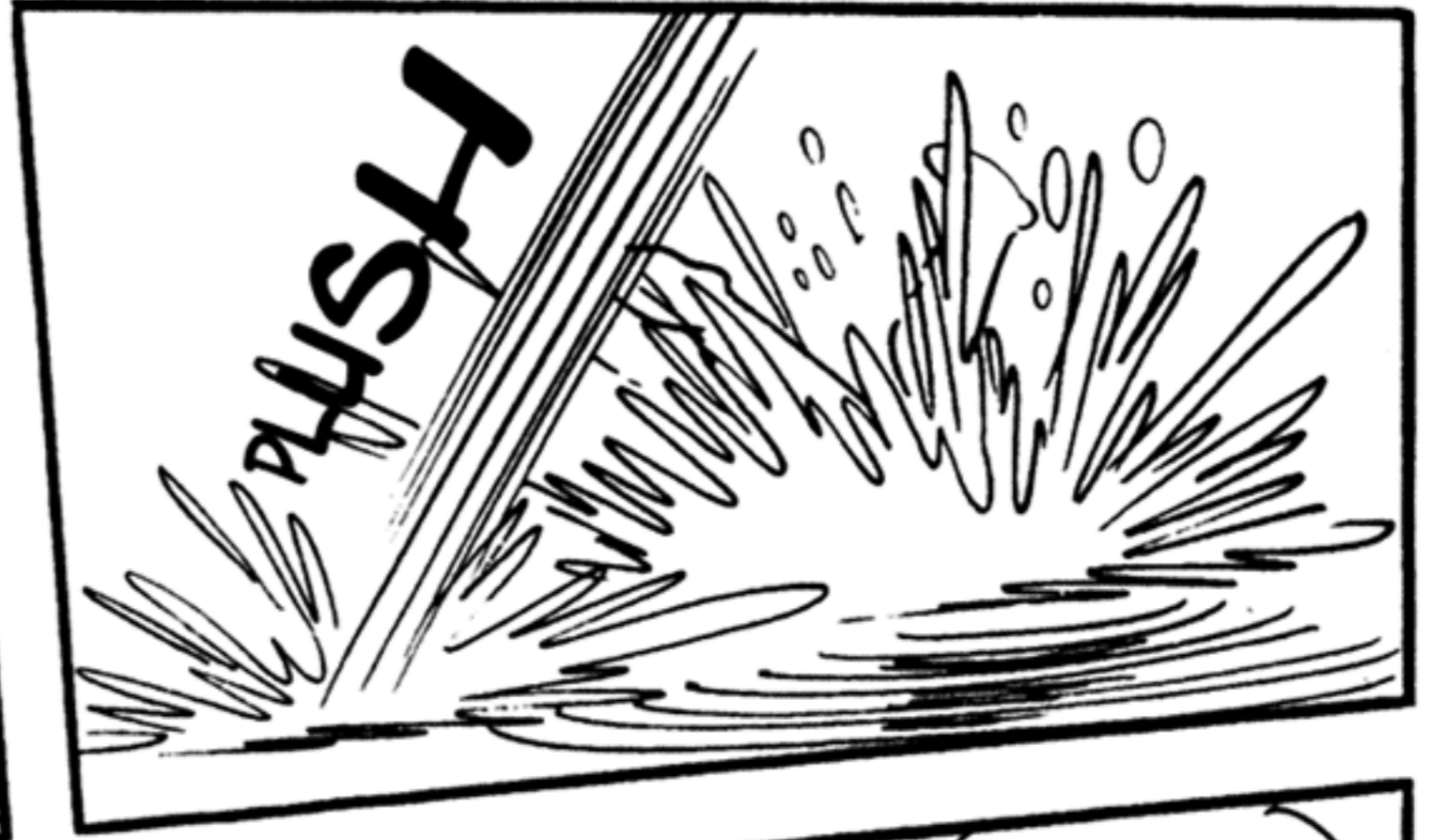
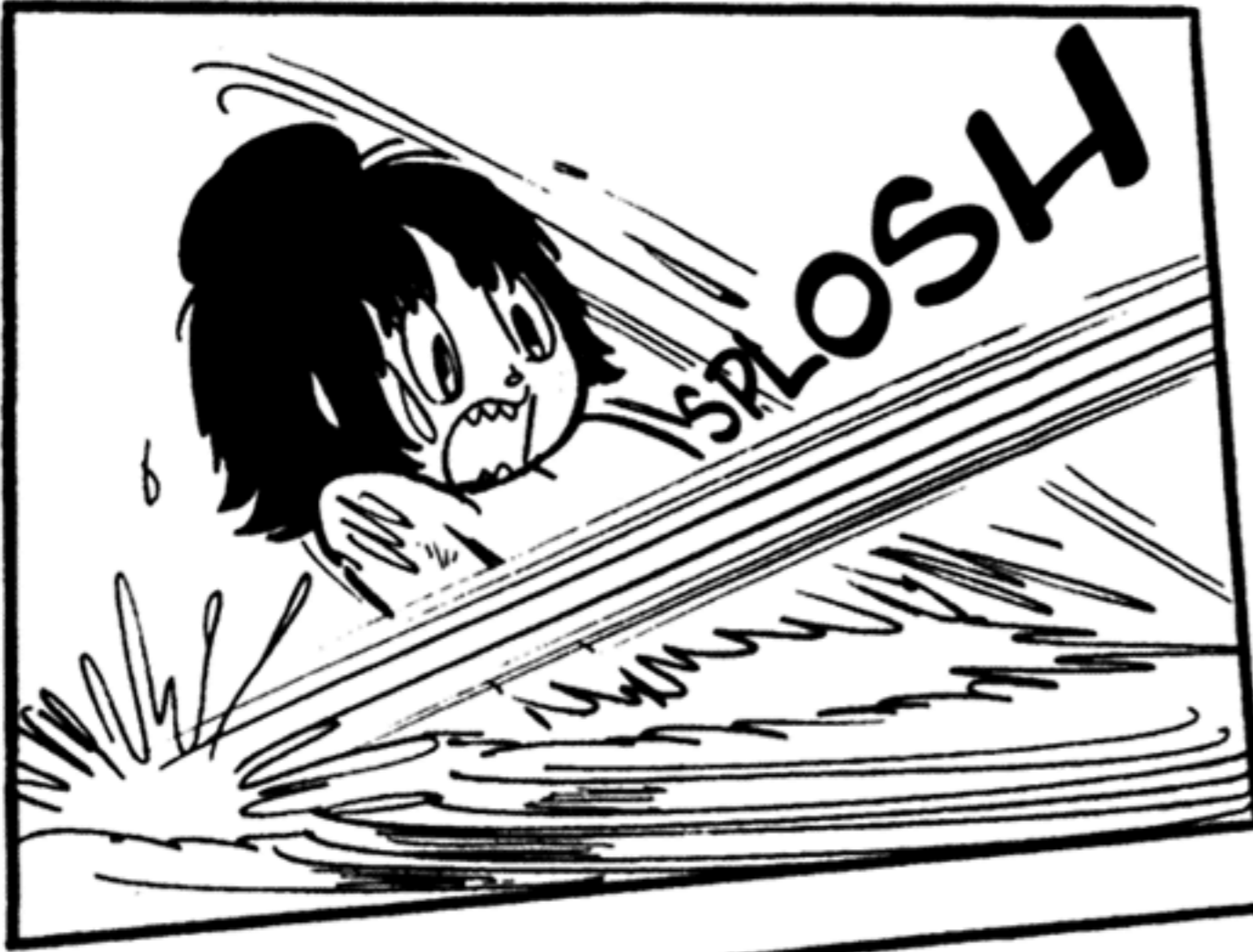
zzz

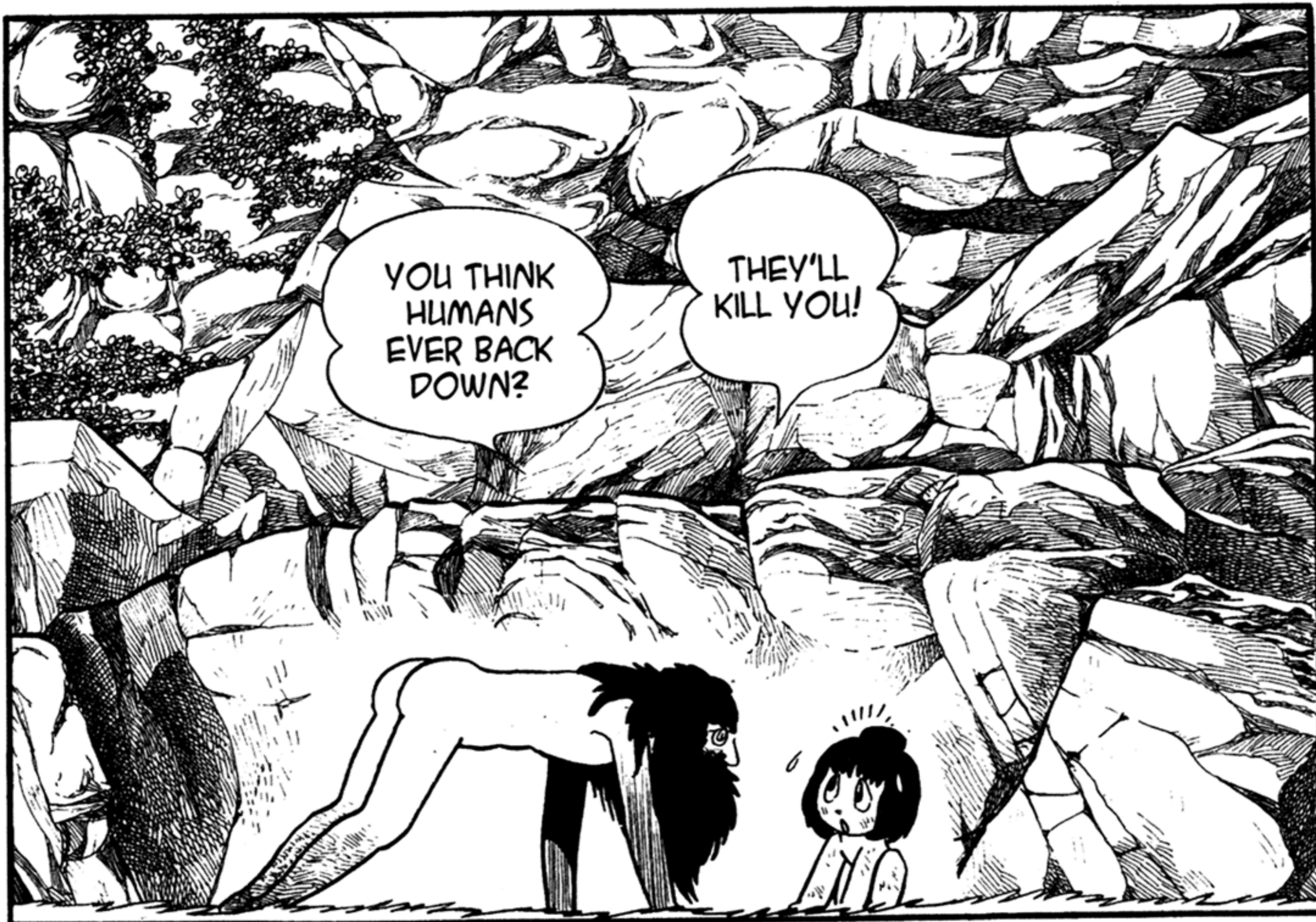














DEVADATTA,
YOU MUST
RETURN TO
THE HUMAN
WORLD.

IN THE LONG
RUN, THAT'LL
SERVE YOU
BETTER.

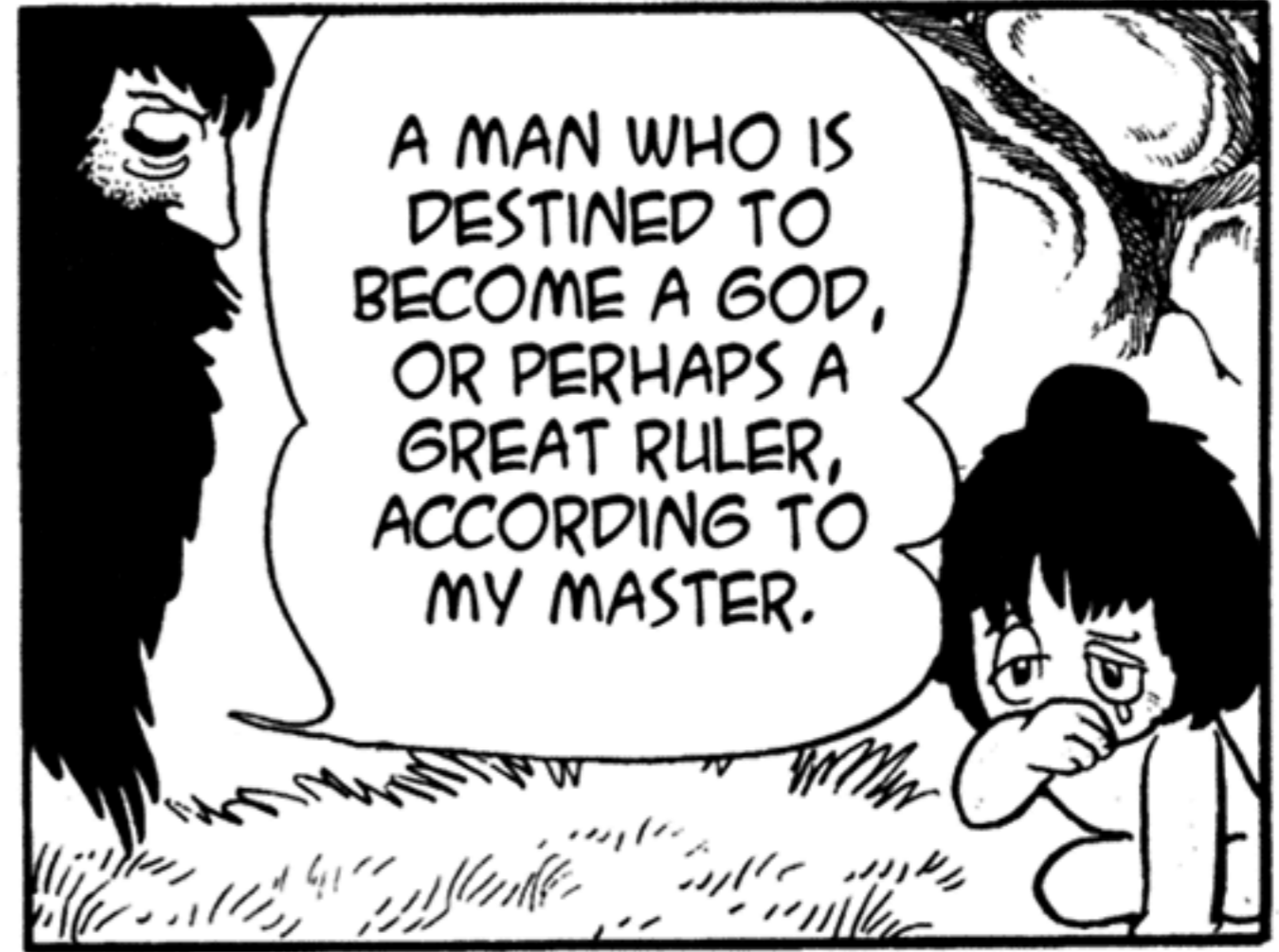
NO

LET US
PART
HERE.

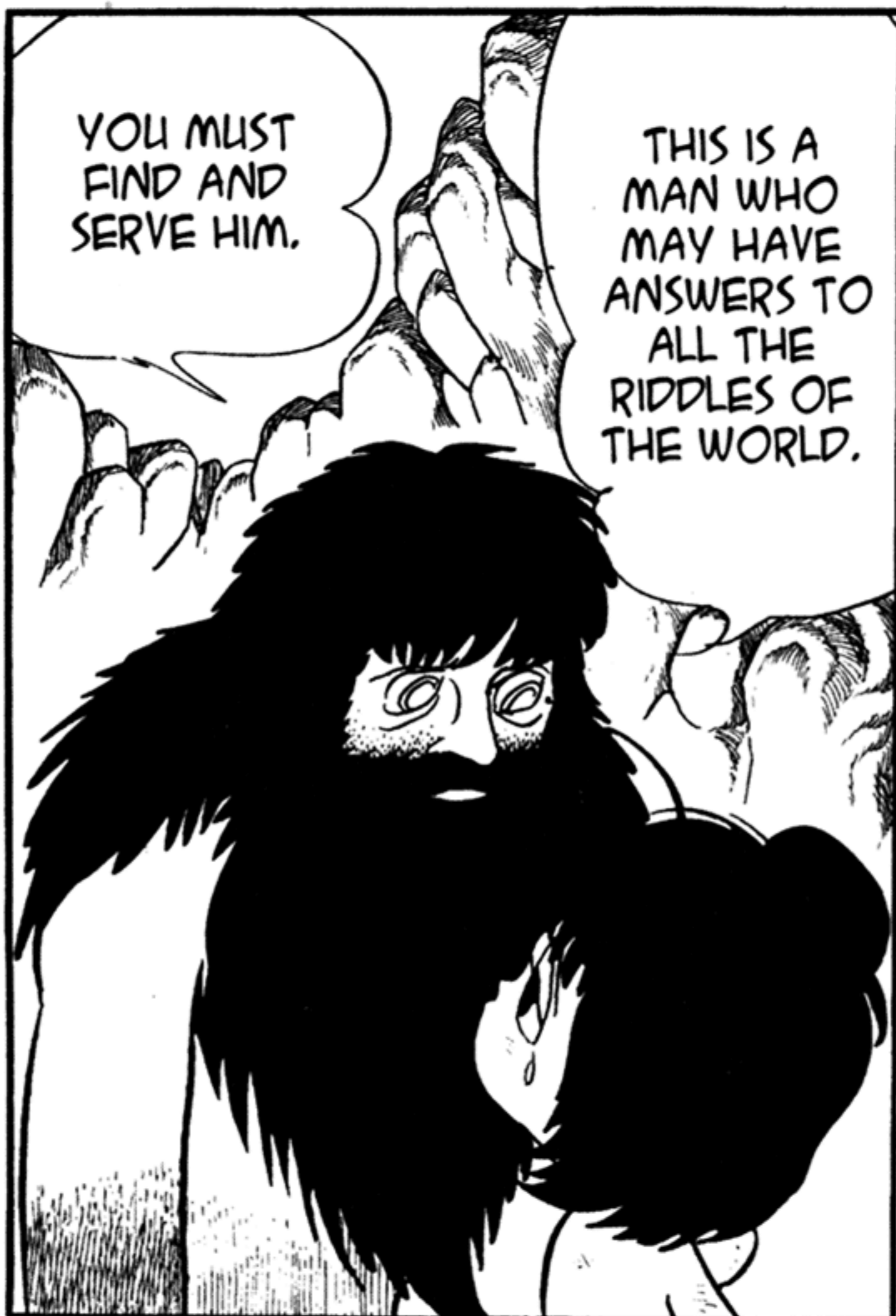
NO!!



LISTEN TO ME.
WHEN I WAS
STILL HUMAN,
I LONG
SOUGHT
A MAN WHOM,
ALAS, I NEVER
FOUND --



A MAN WHO IS
DESTINED TO
BECOME A GOD,
OR PERHAPS A
GREAT RULER,
ACCORDING TO
MY MASTER.



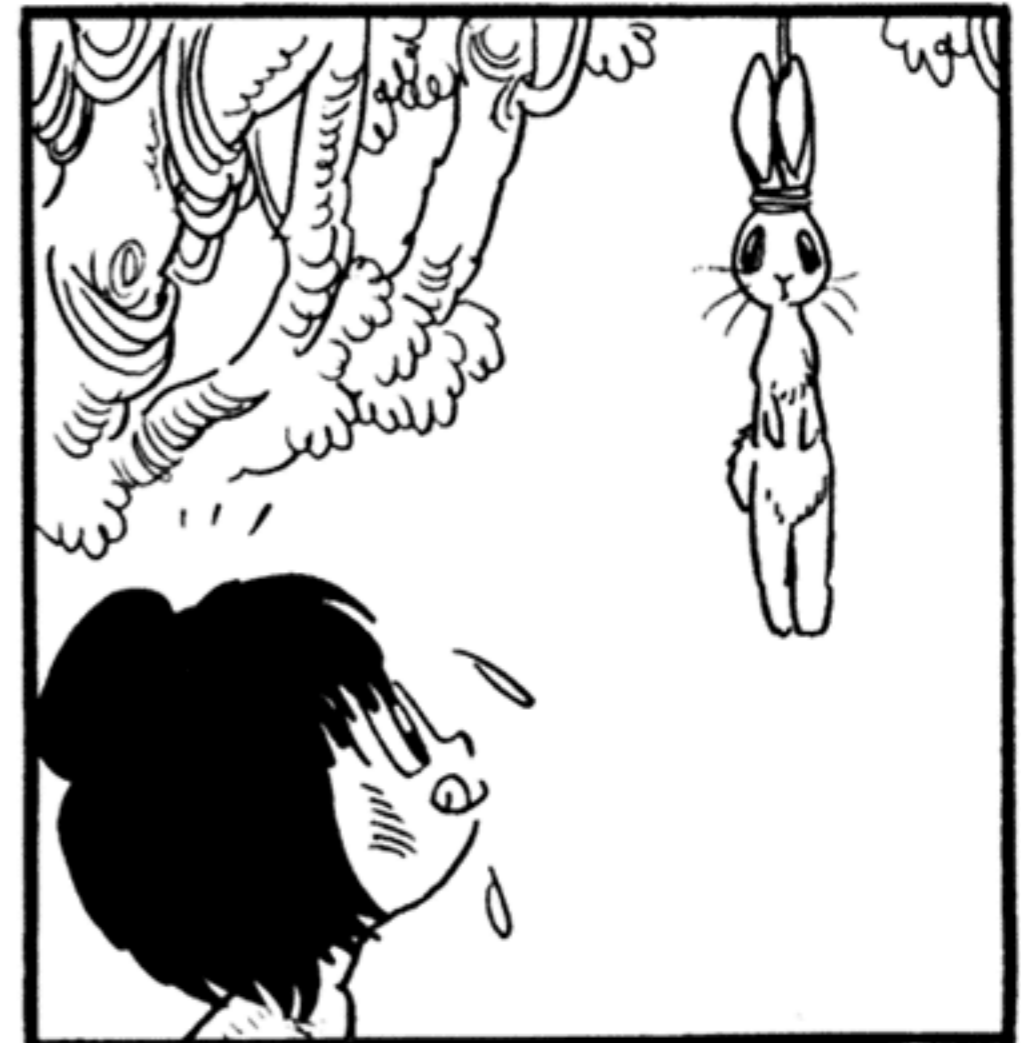
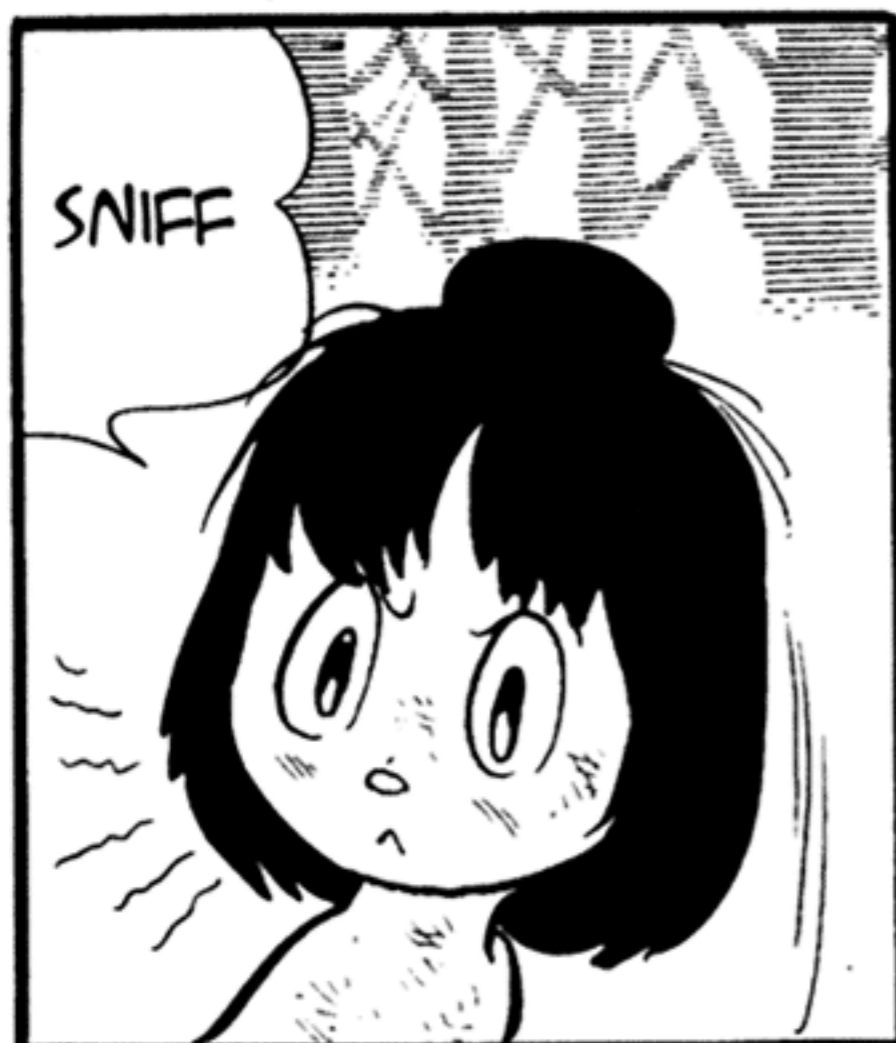
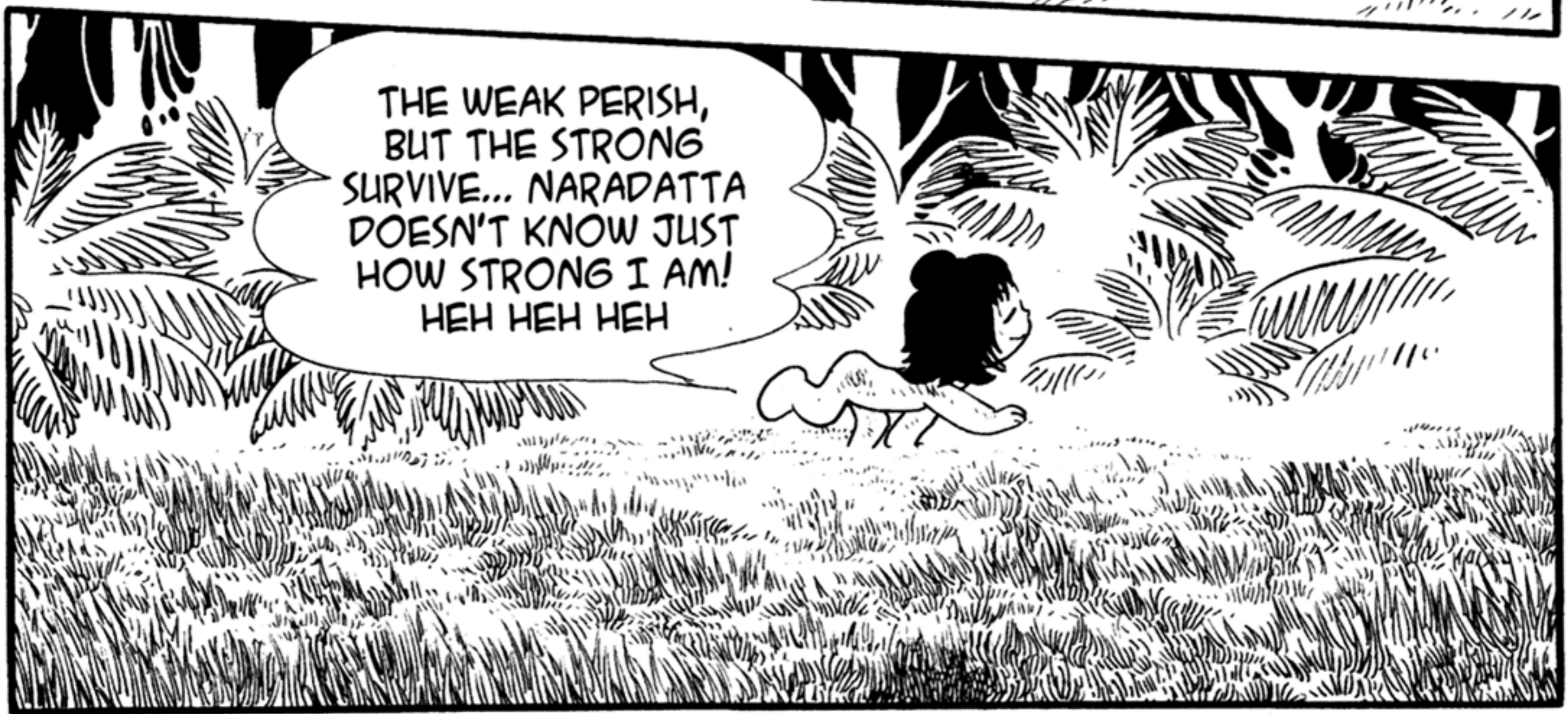
YOU MUST
FIND AND
SERVE HIM.

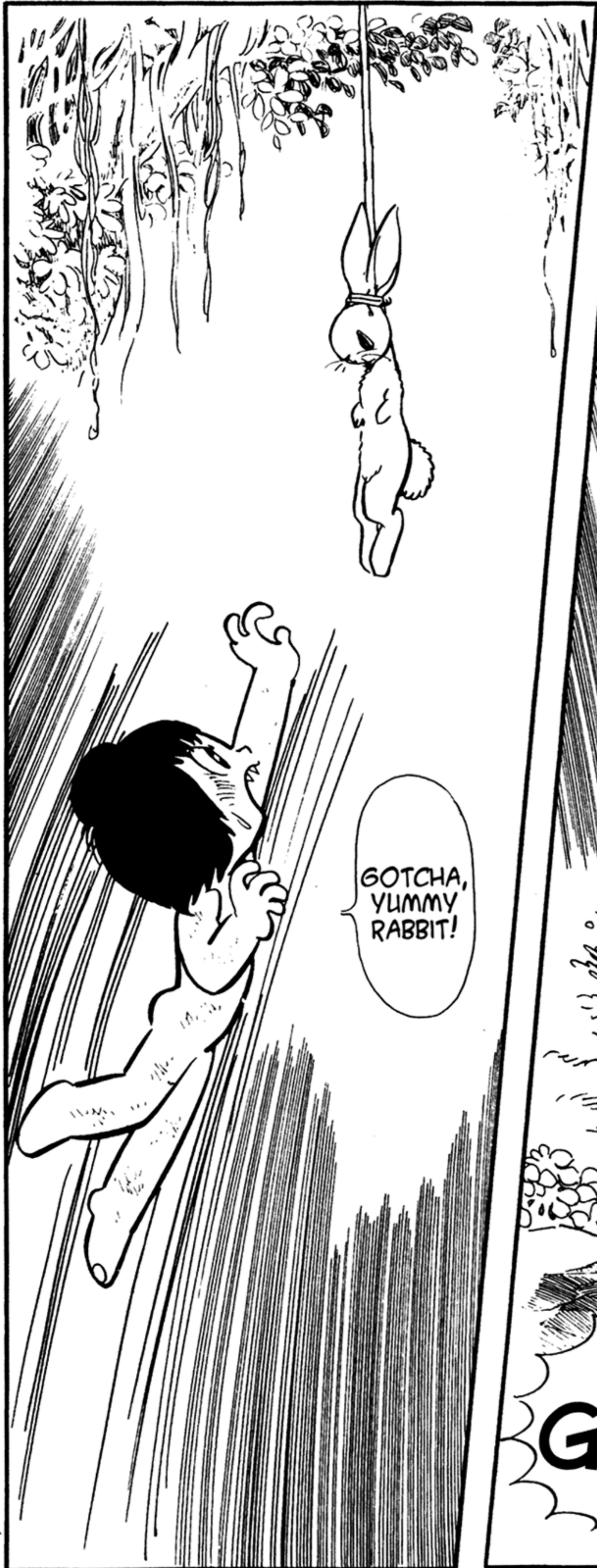
THIS IS A
MAN WHO
MAY HAVE
ANSWERS TO
ALL THE
RIDDLES OF
THE WORLD.



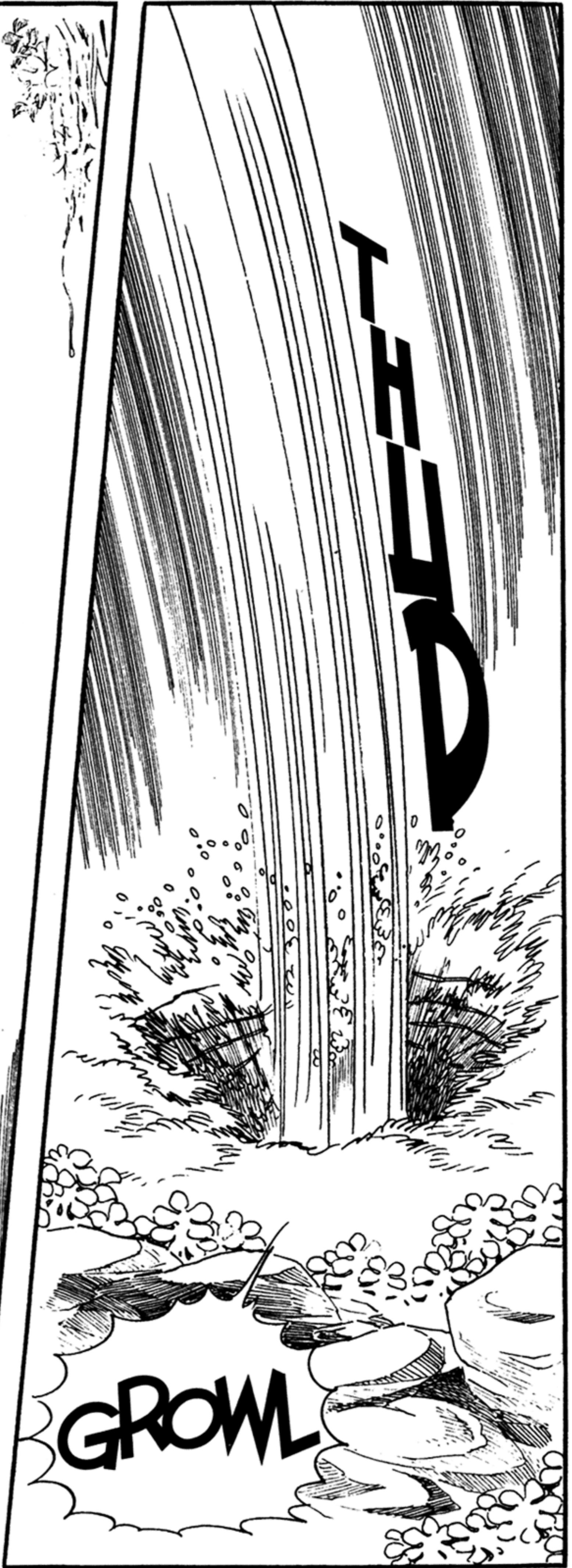
I'M NOT GOING
ANYWHERE! I'LL
DO ANYTHING,
NARADATTA!
SO PLEASE LET
ME STAY!!

DON'T
BE A
FOOL.





GOTCHA,
YUMMY
RABBIT!

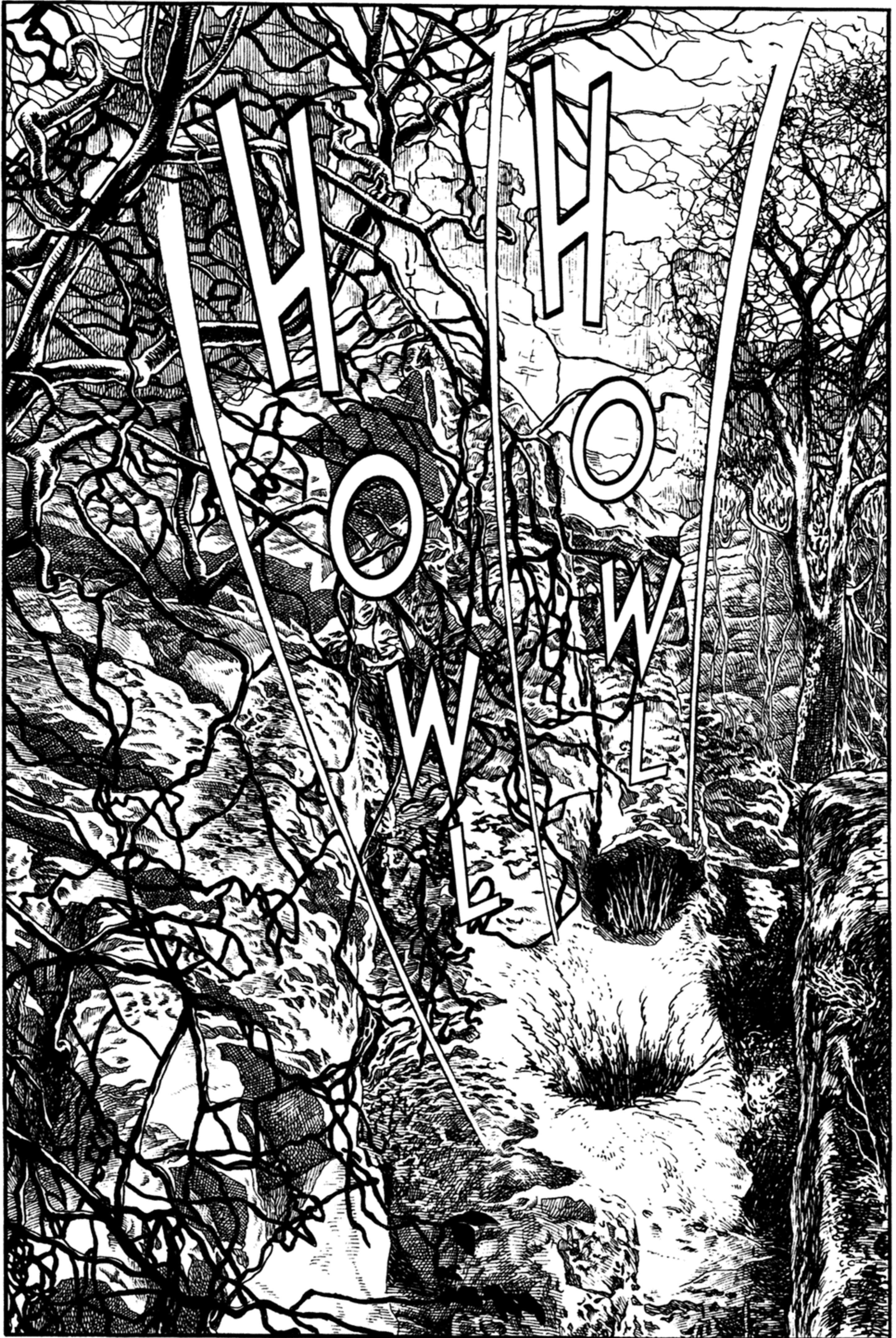


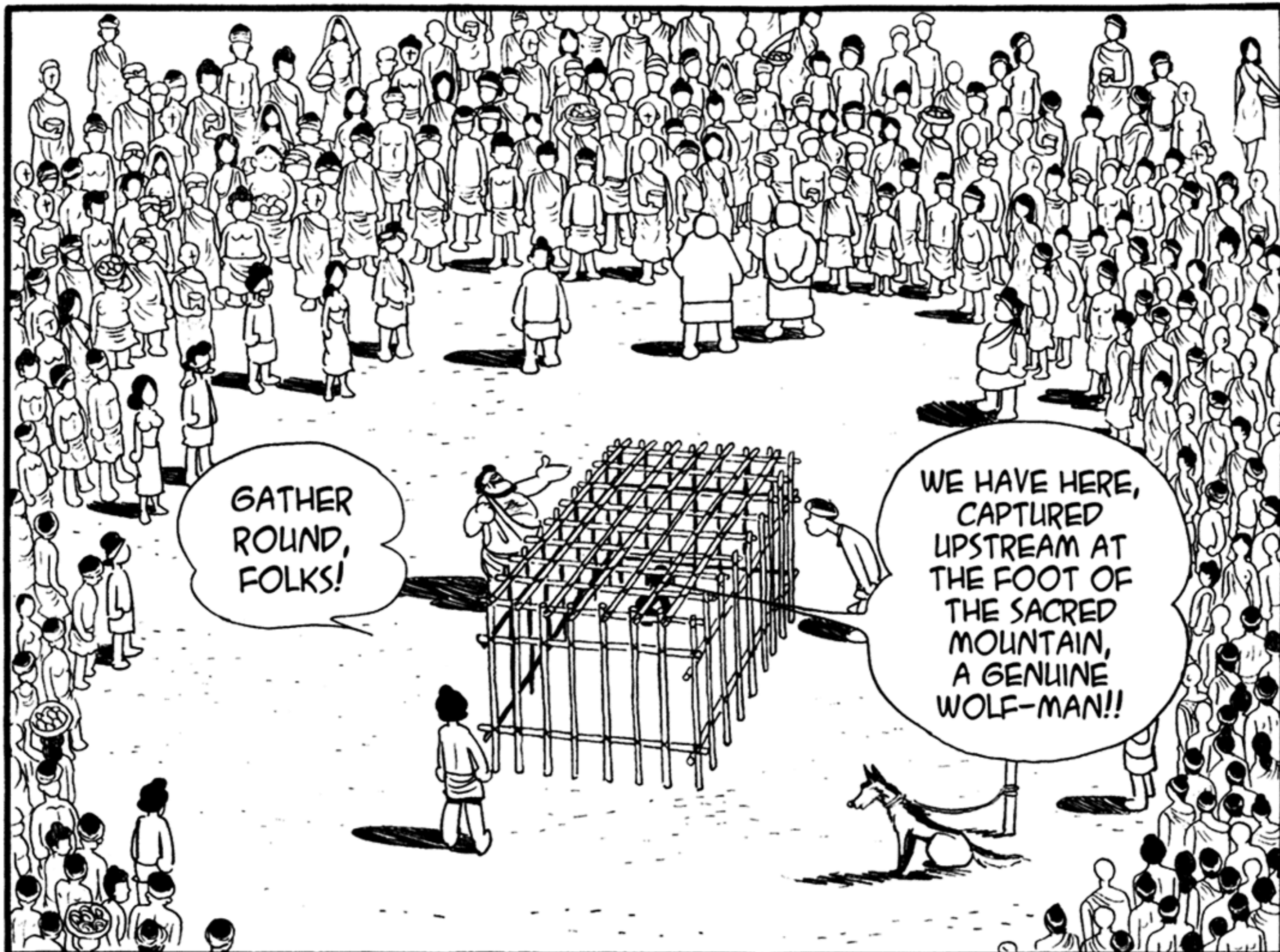
D

GROW



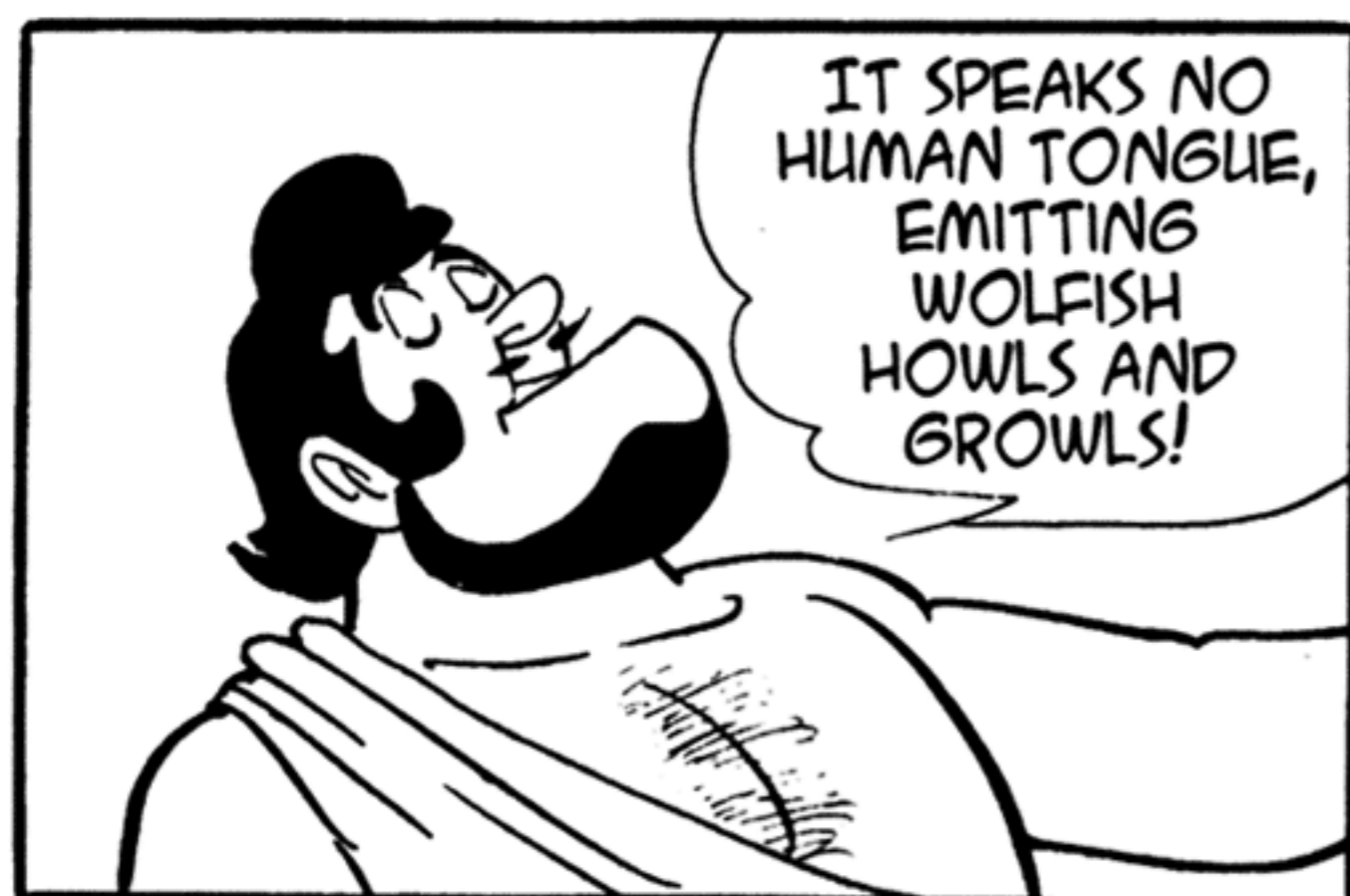






GATHER ROUND, FOLKS!

WE HAVE HERE, CAPTURED UPSTREAM AT THE FOOT OF THE SACRED MOUNTAIN, A GENUINE WOLF-MAN!!



IT SPEAKS NO HUMAN TONGUE, EMITTING WOLFISH HOWLS AND GROWLS!



WHY, IT'S JUST A LITTLE KID!

AH, BUT THE EYES! AND THOSE FANGS!

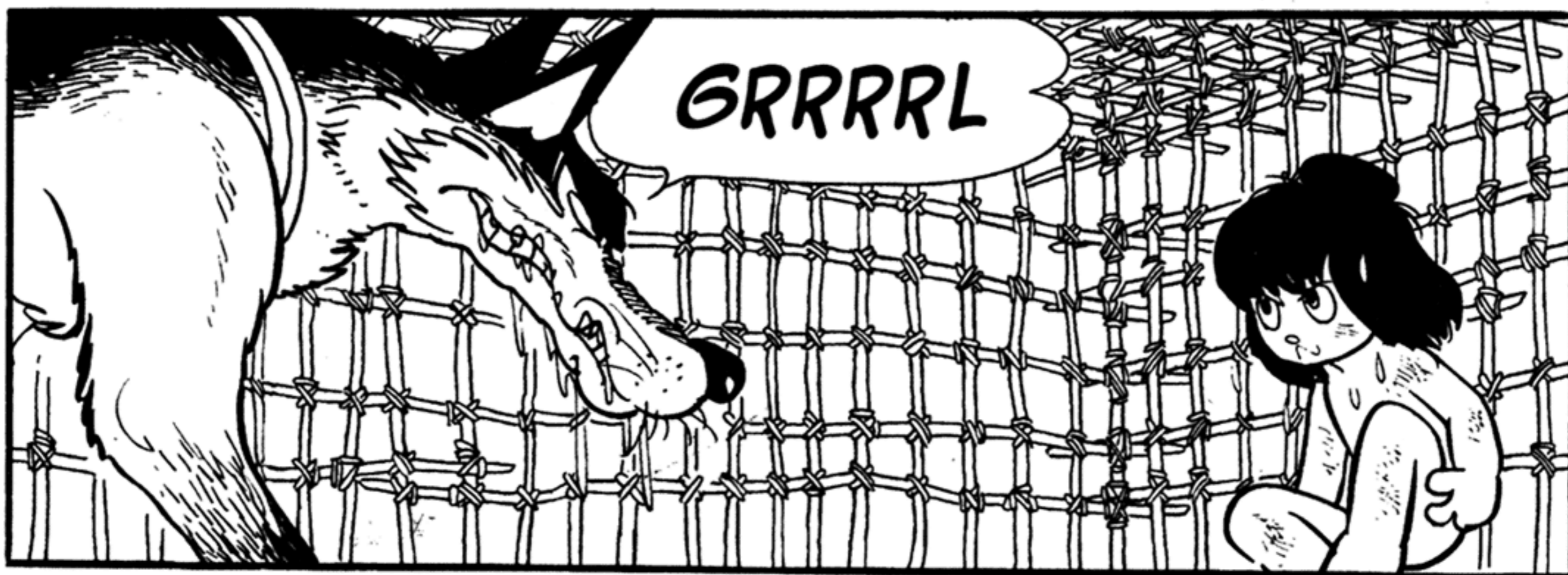
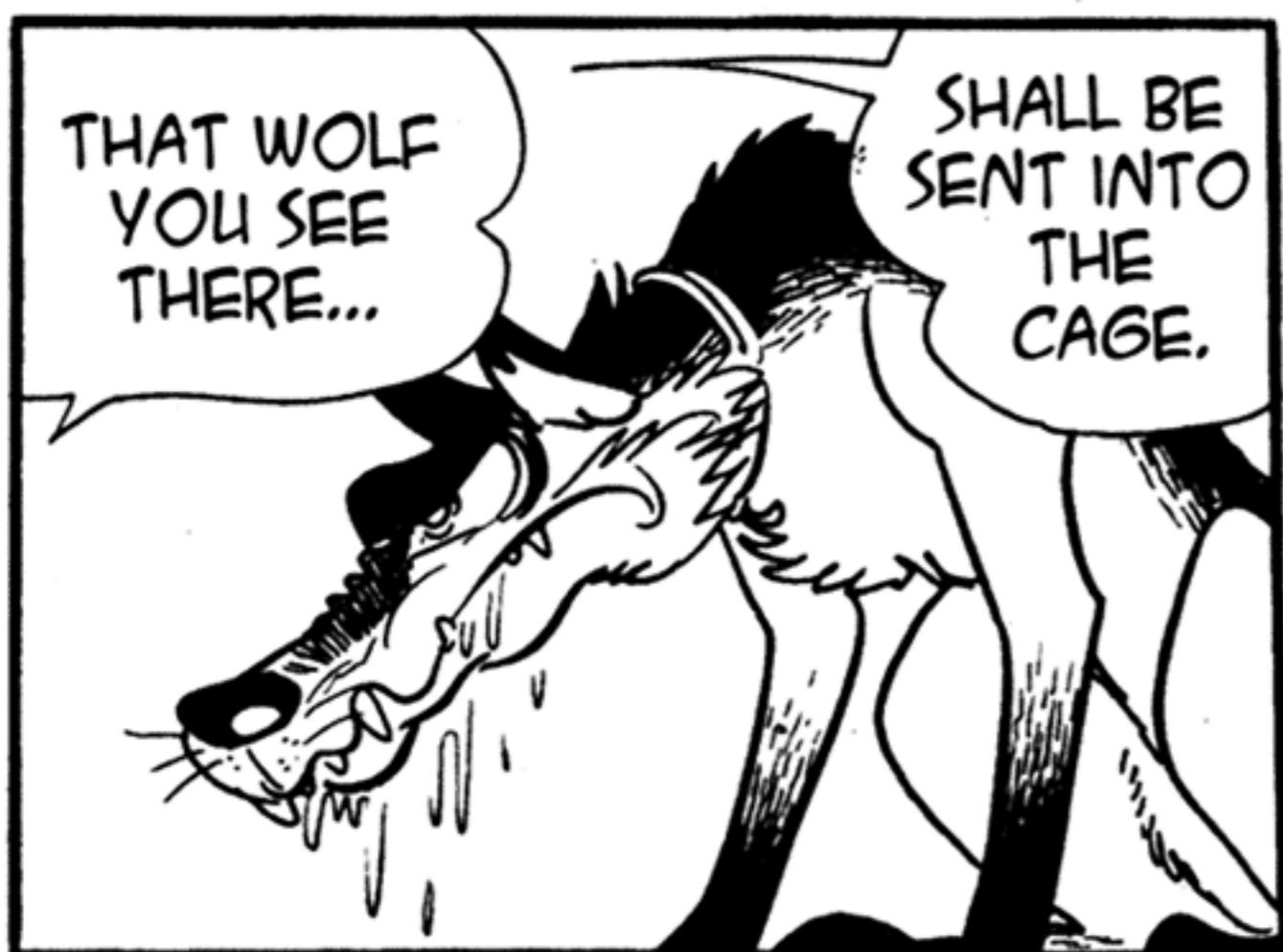
IT CAN'T BE HUMAN.

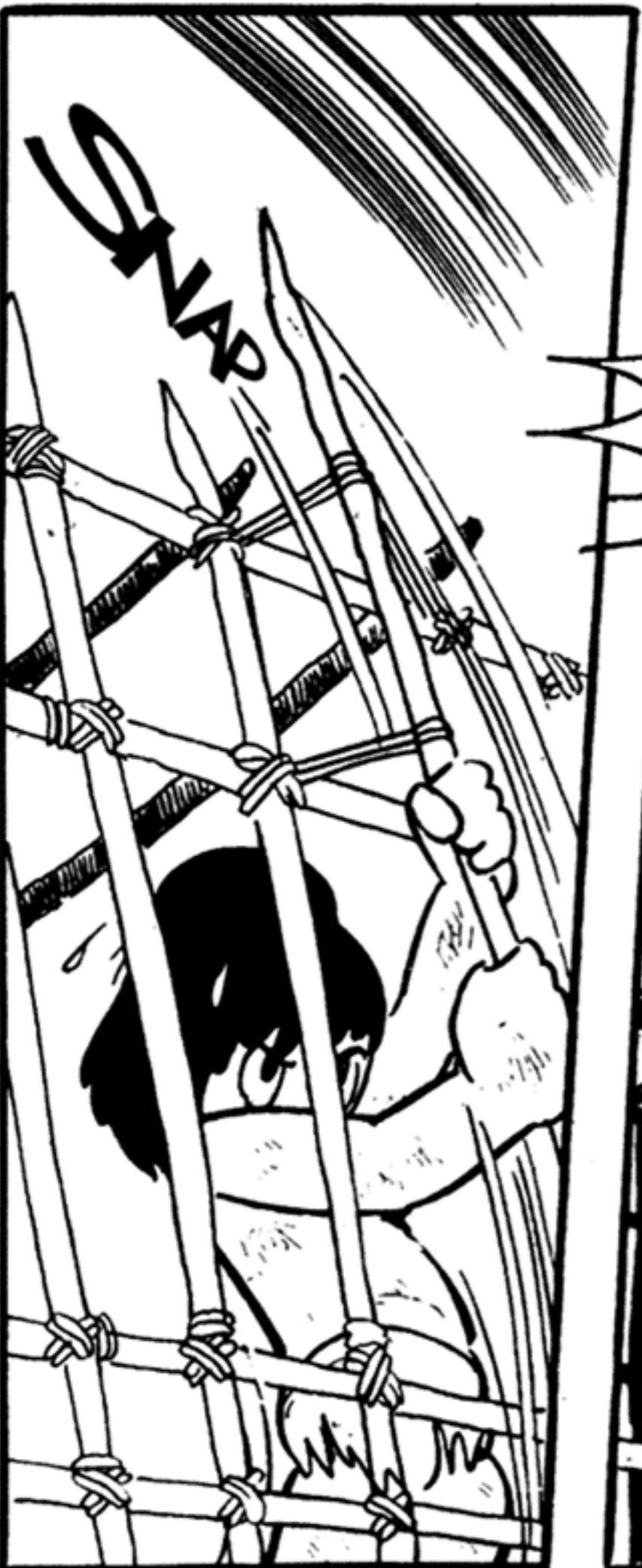
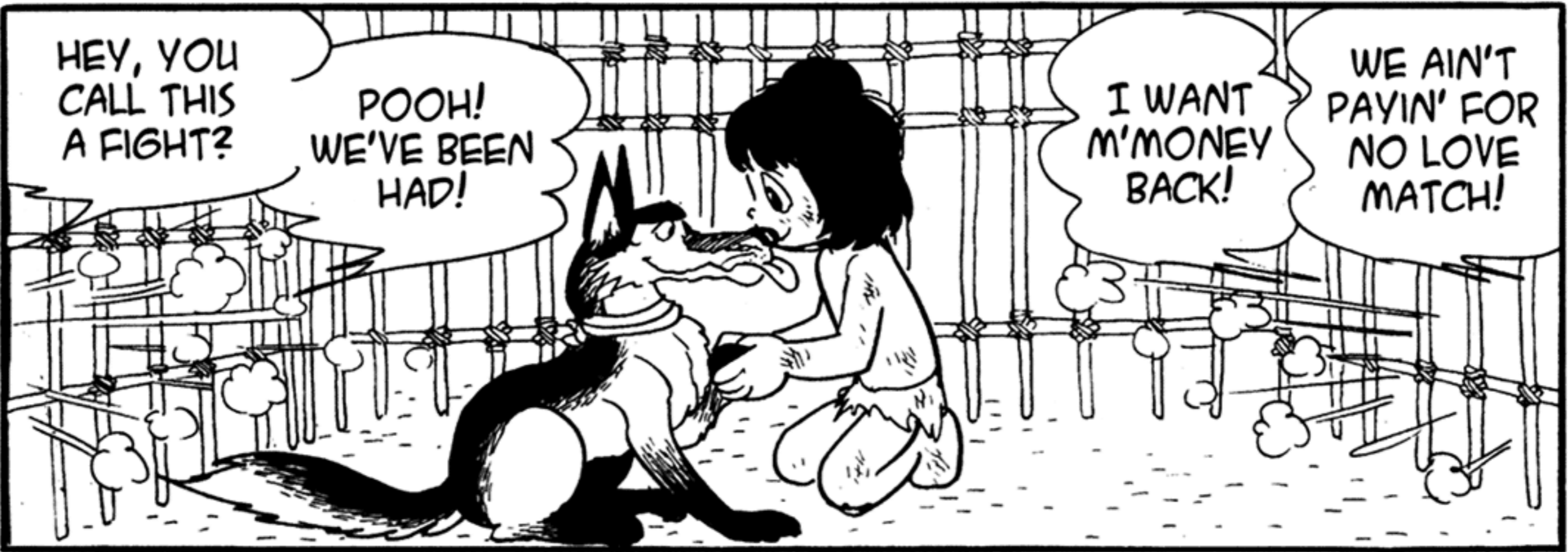
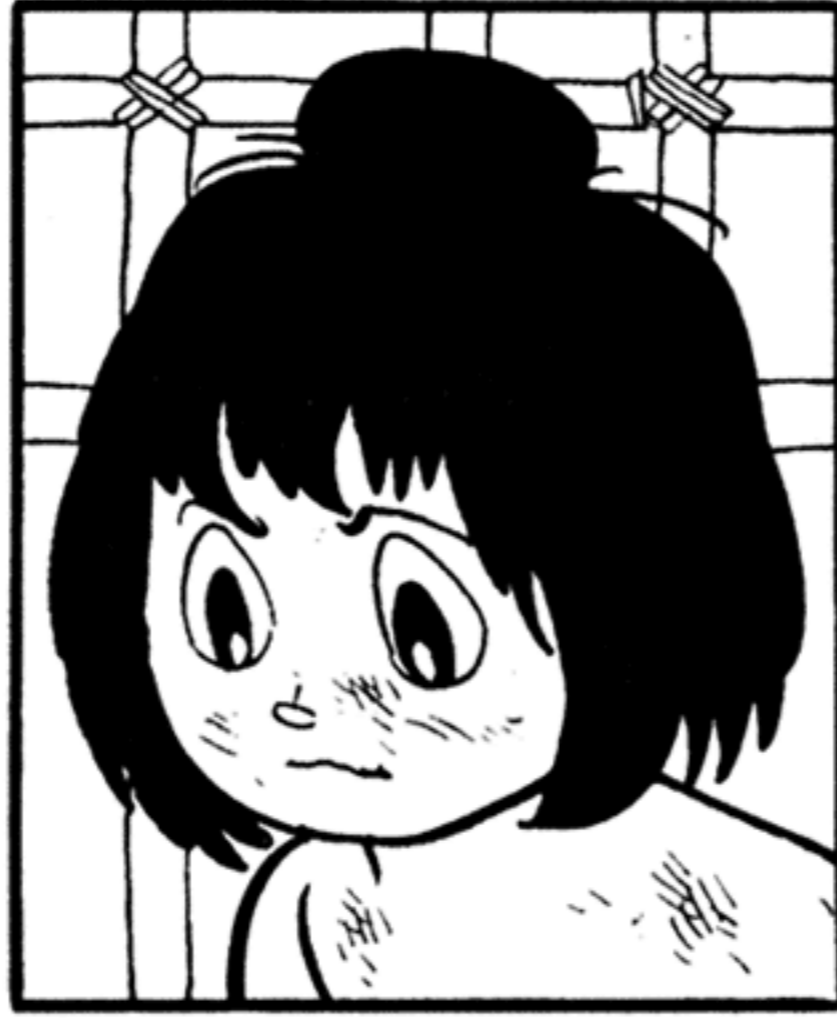


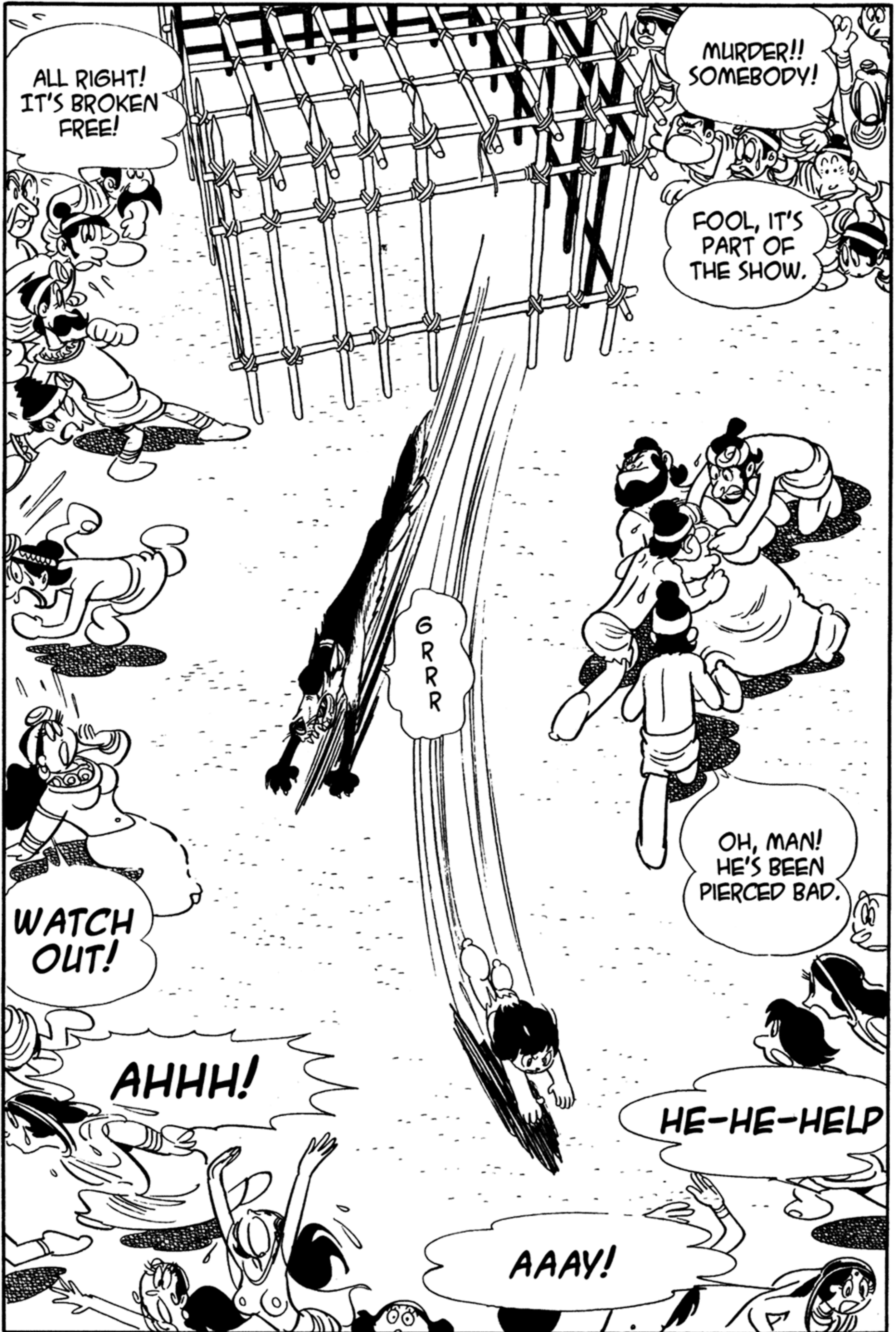
WHAT WOLF-MAN IS THIS? IT'S NOT AT ALL LIKE THE MOVIES, YOU KNOW, LIKE, WEREWOLVES?

GRRR ...
GRRR

DAMN THEM, THEY'VE JUST KIDNAPPED SOME POOR KID AND ARE MAKING HIM FAKE IT.







ALL RIGHT!
IT'S BROKEN
FREE!

MURDER!!
SOMEBODY!

FOOL, IT'S
PART OF
THE SHOW.

GRRR

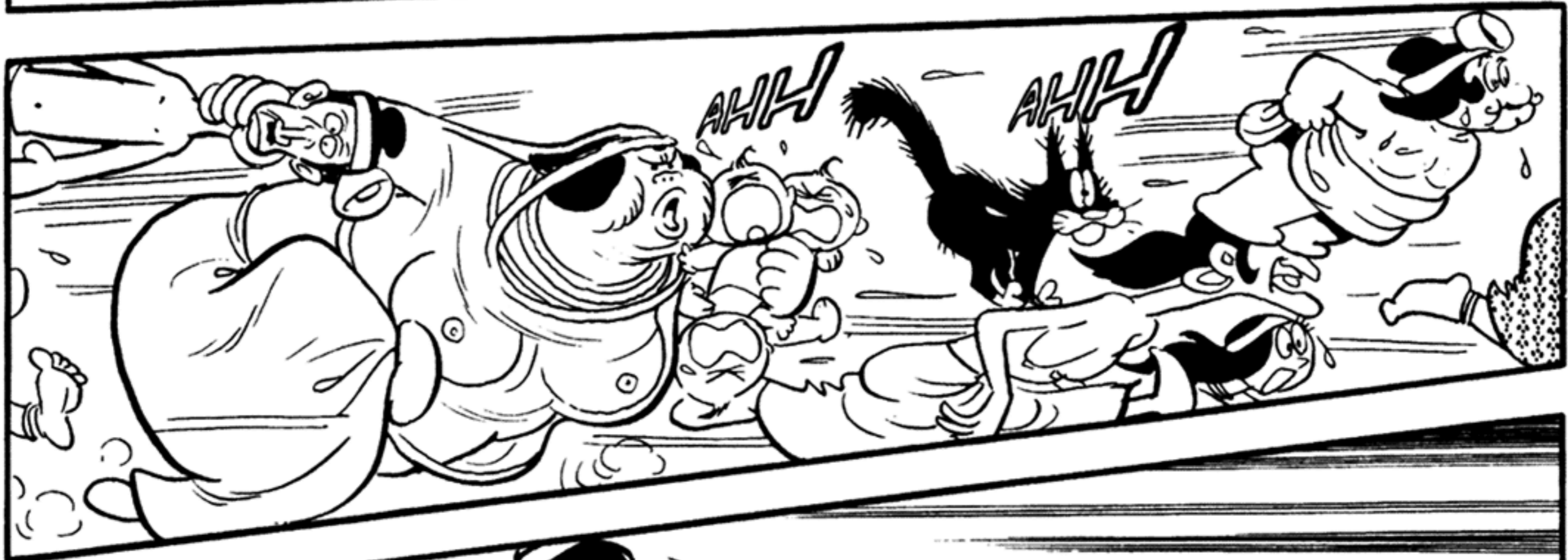
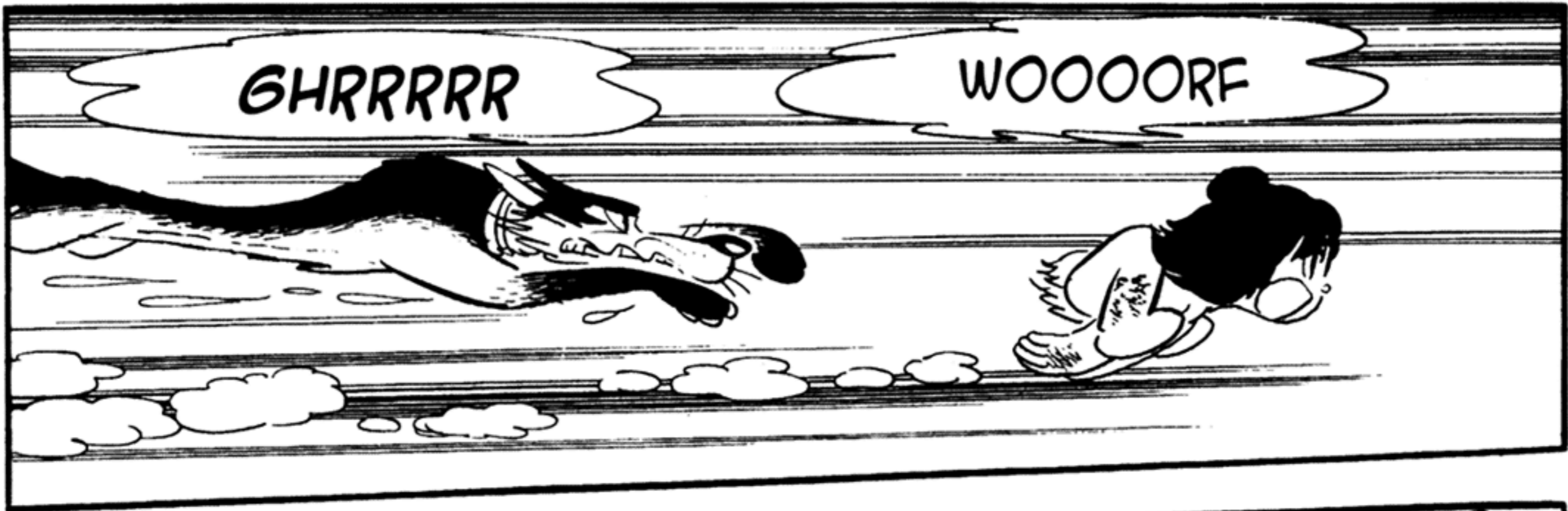
WATCH
OUT!

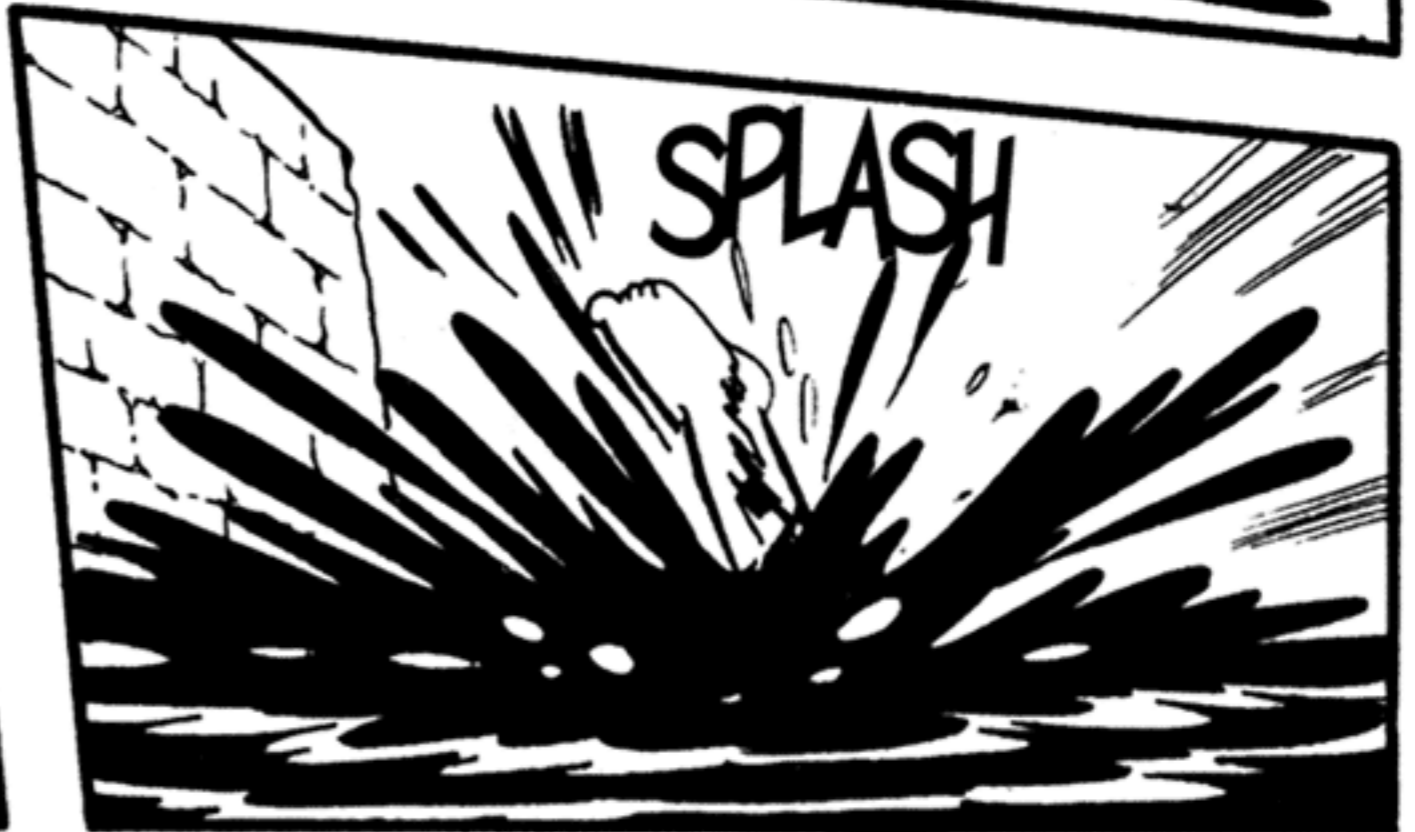
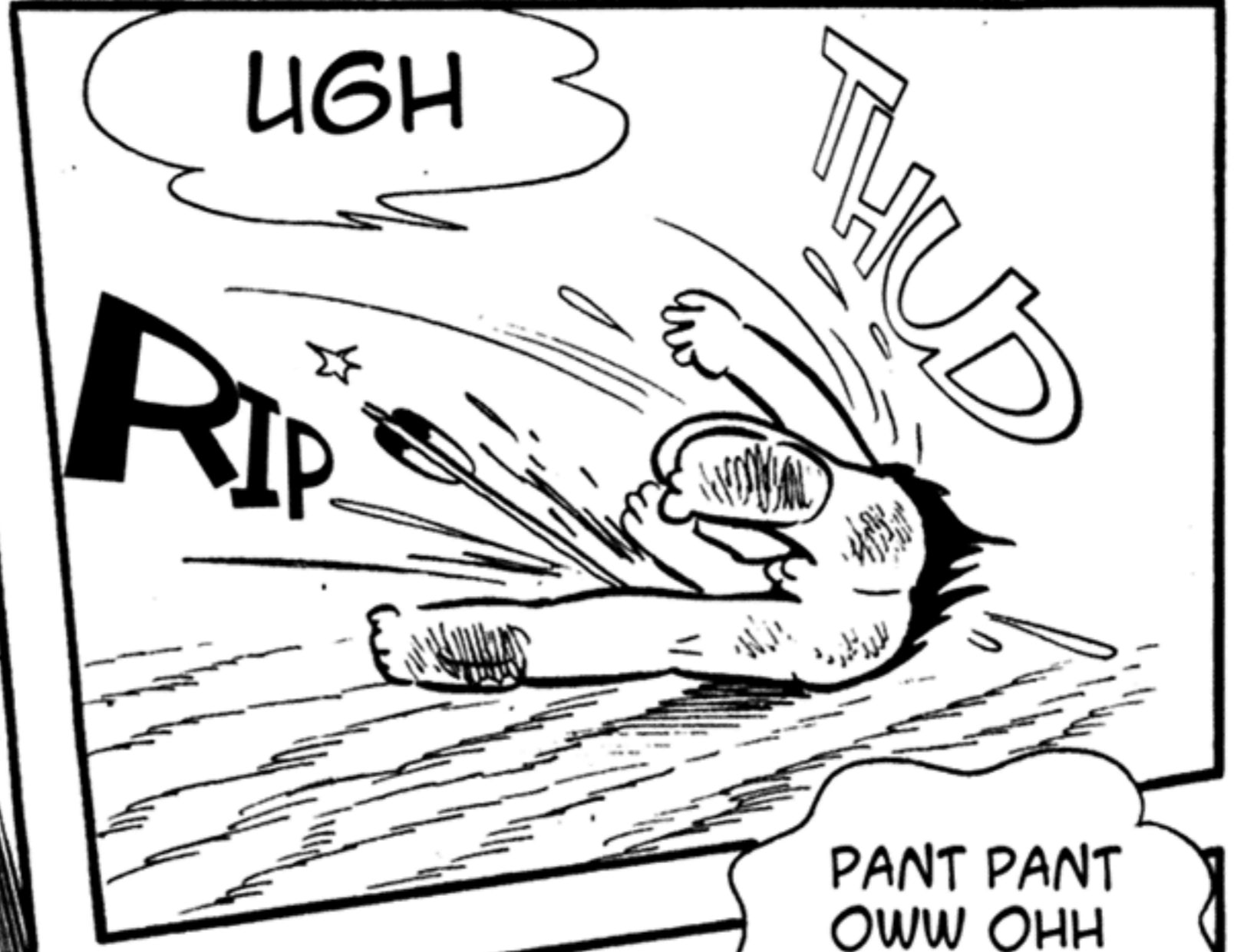
OH, MAN!
HE'S BEEN
PIERCED BAD.

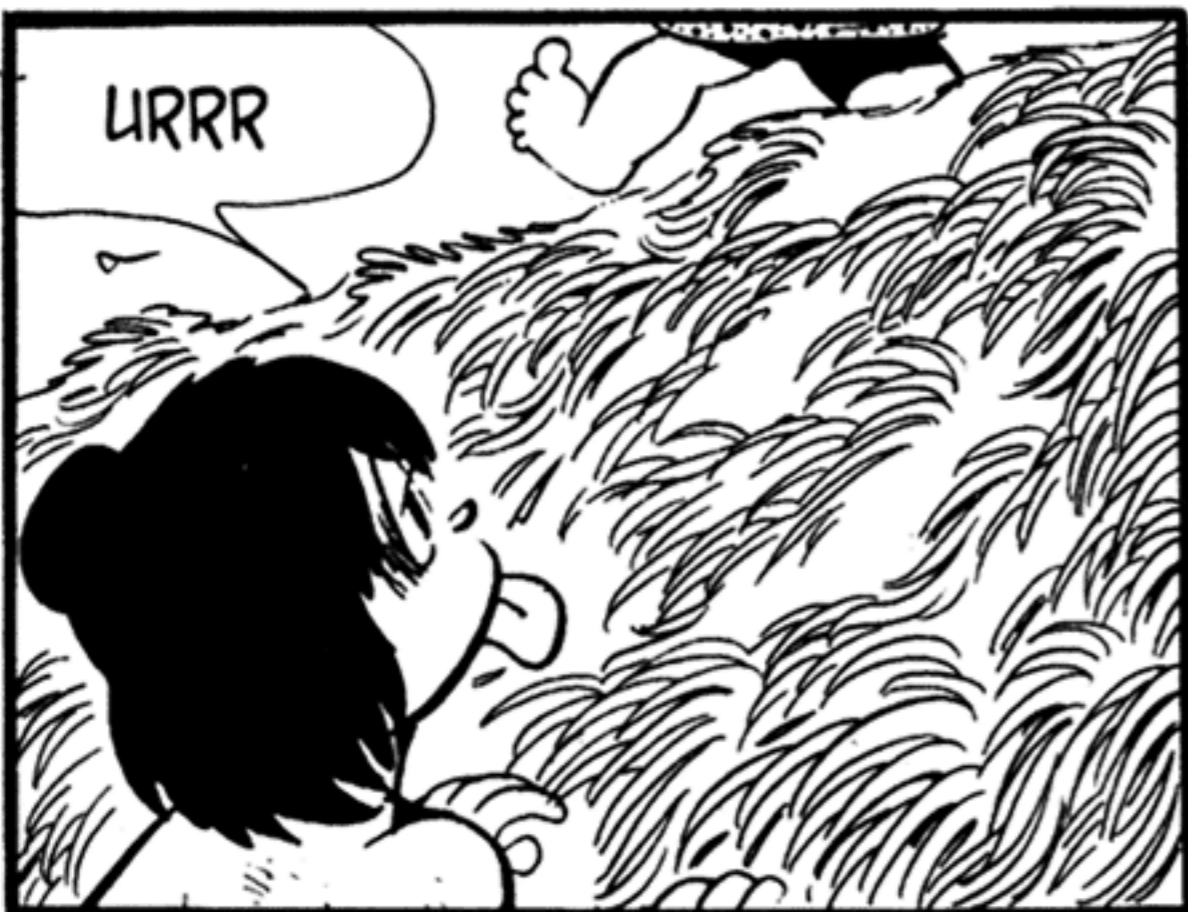
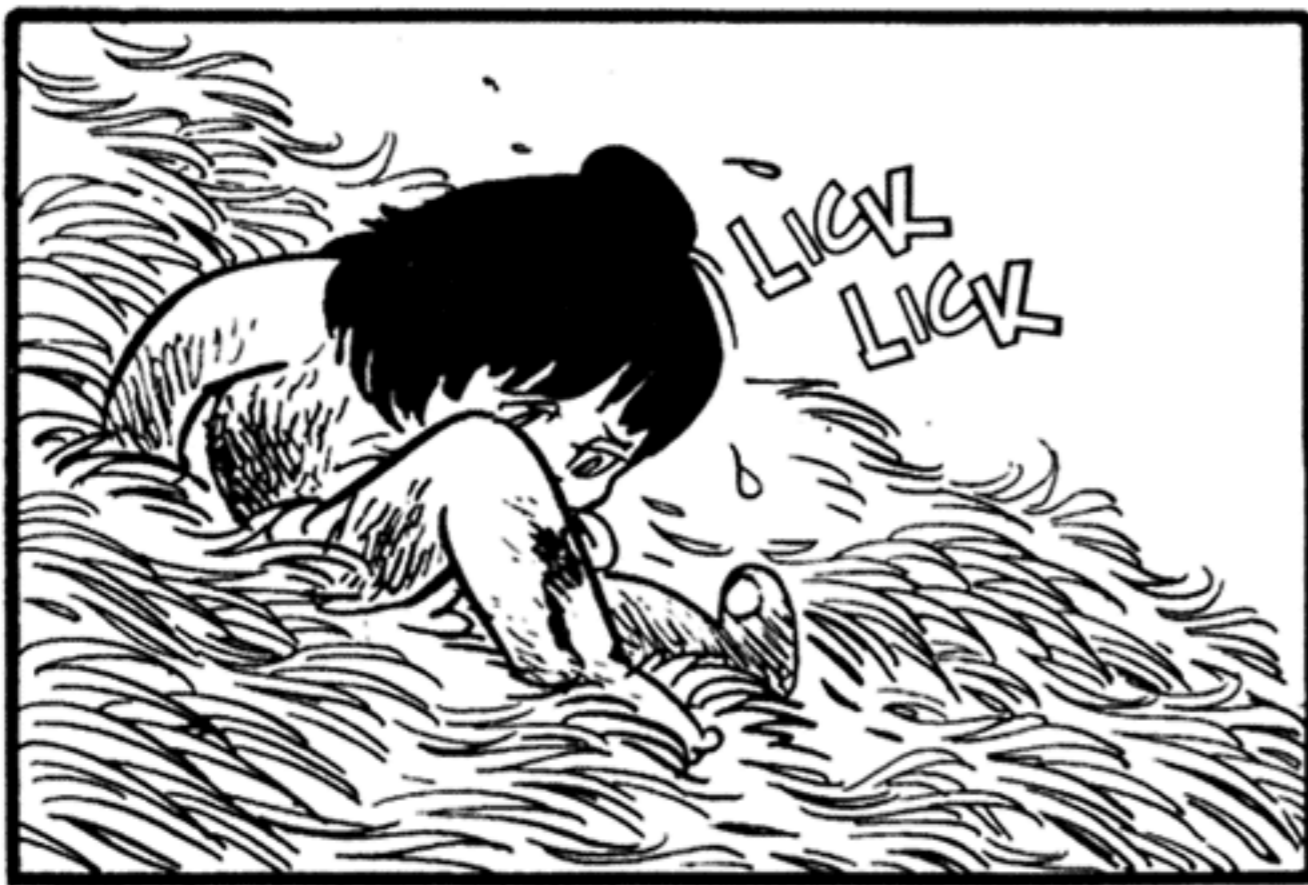
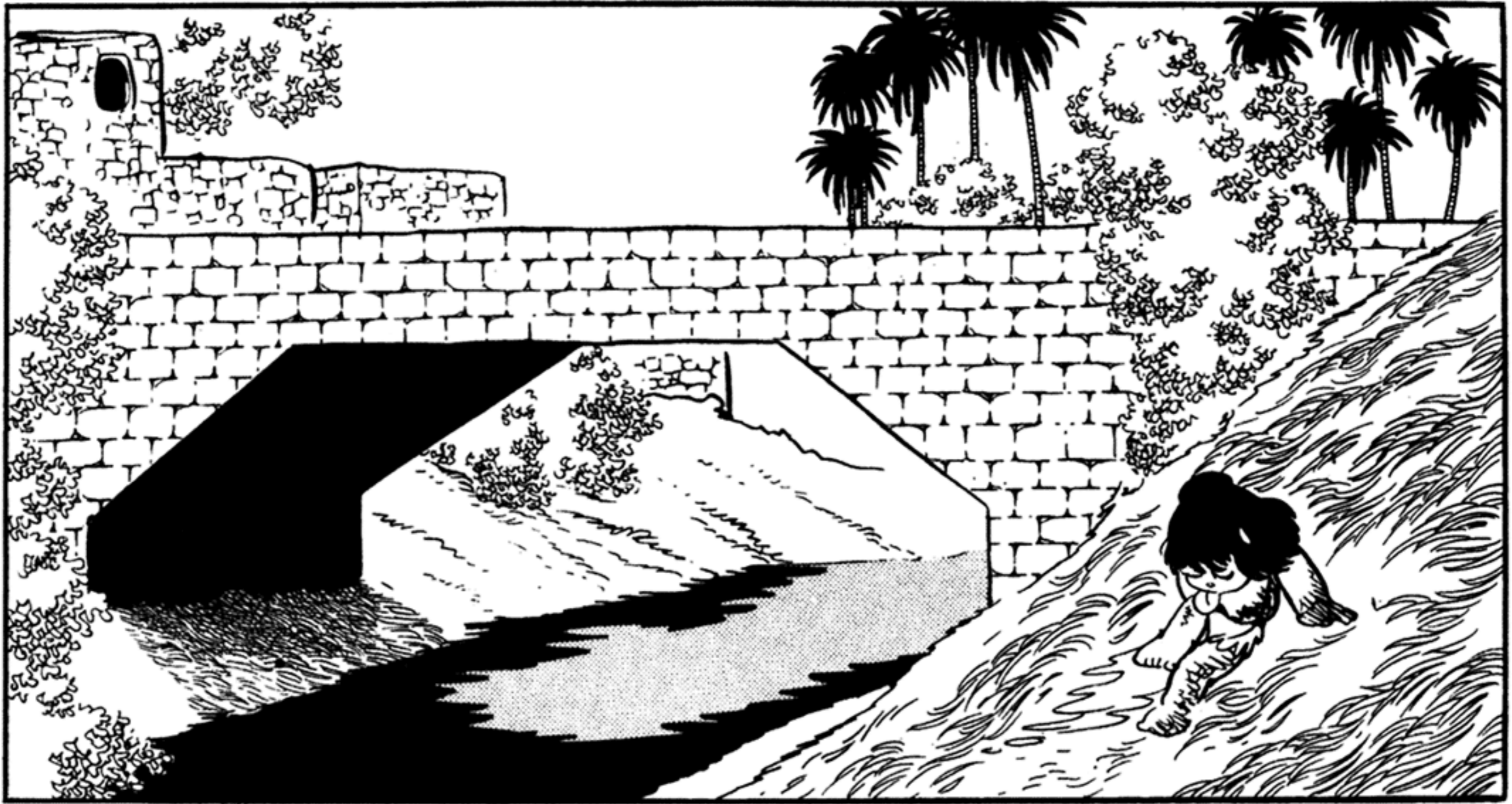
AHHH!

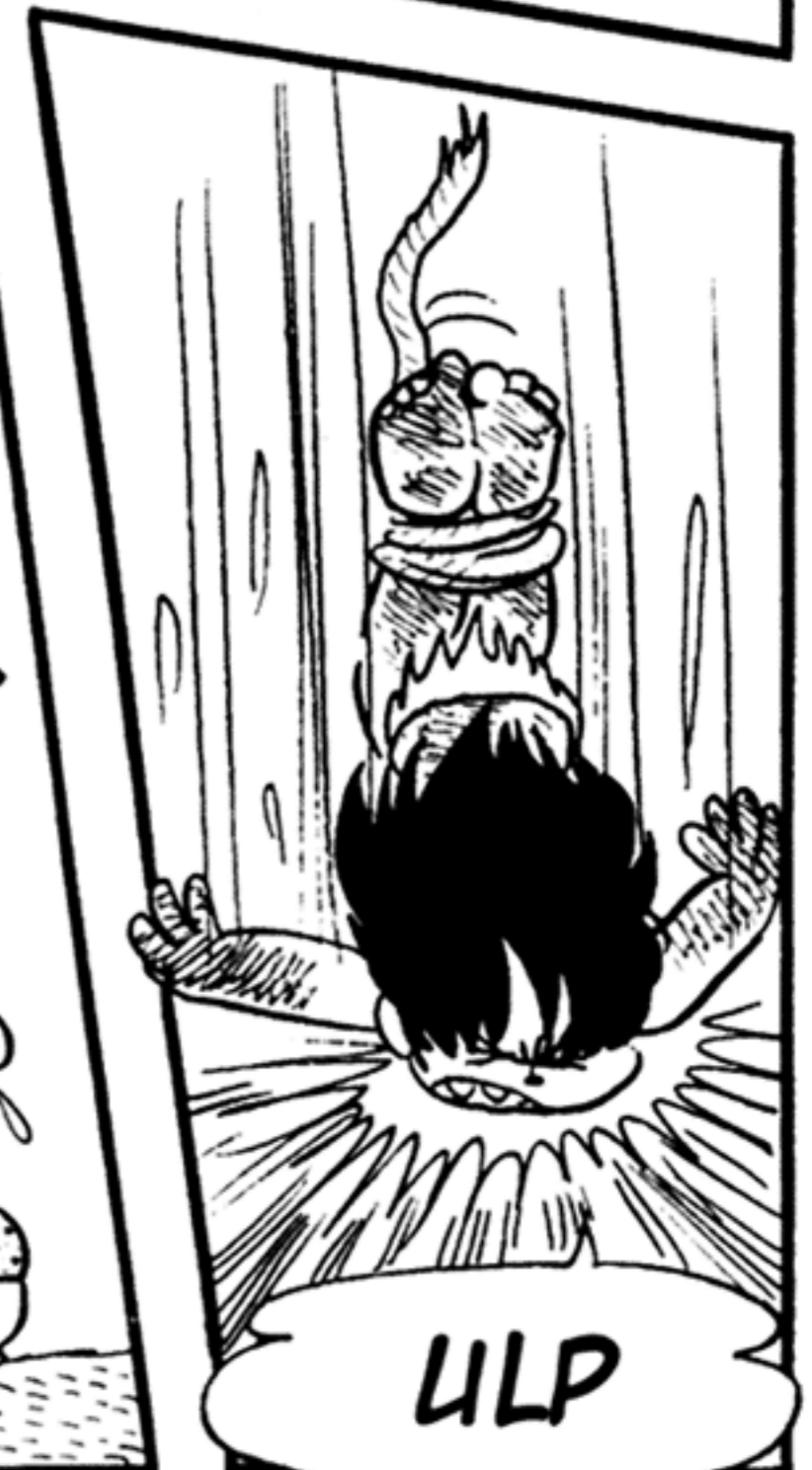
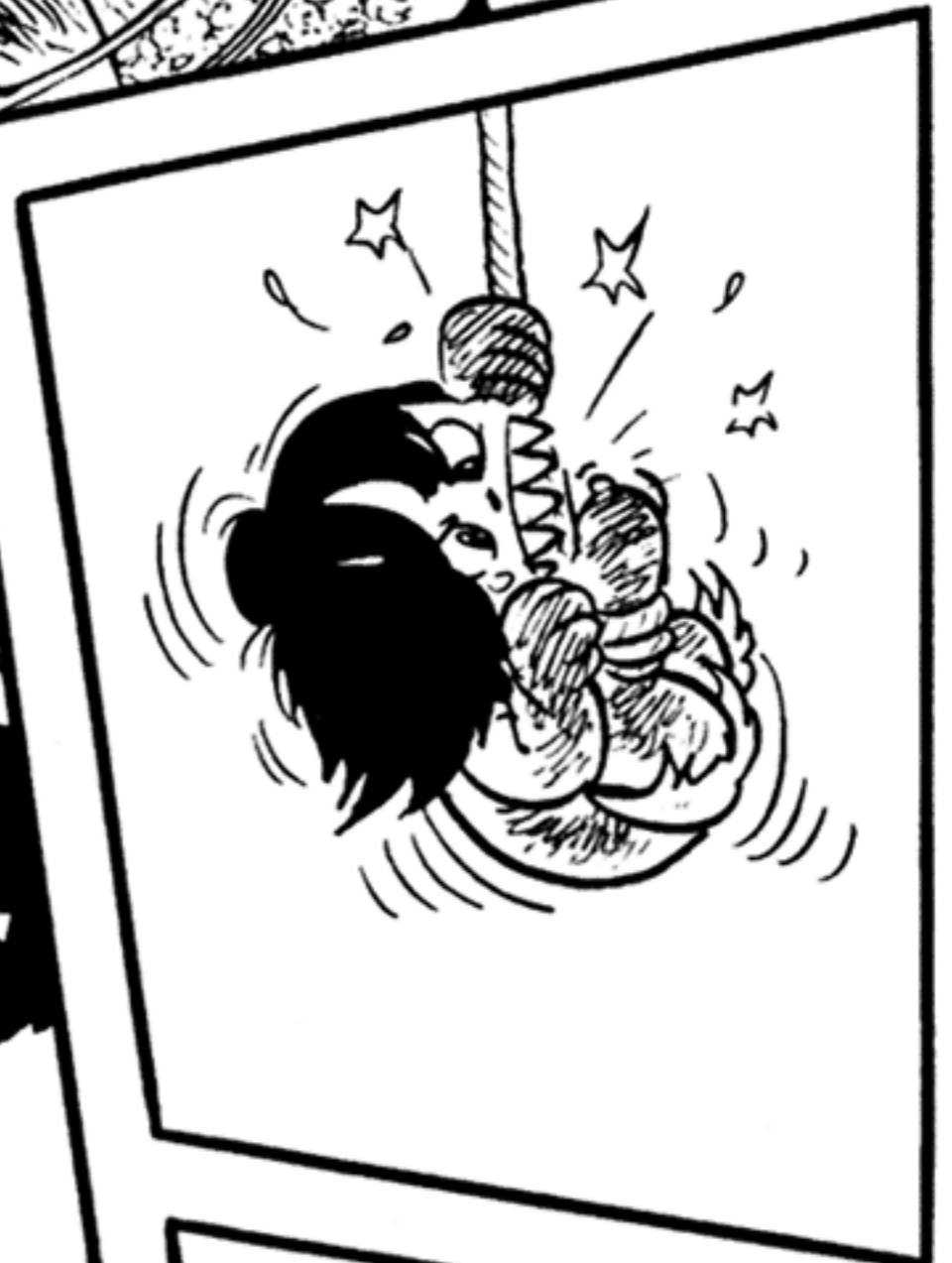
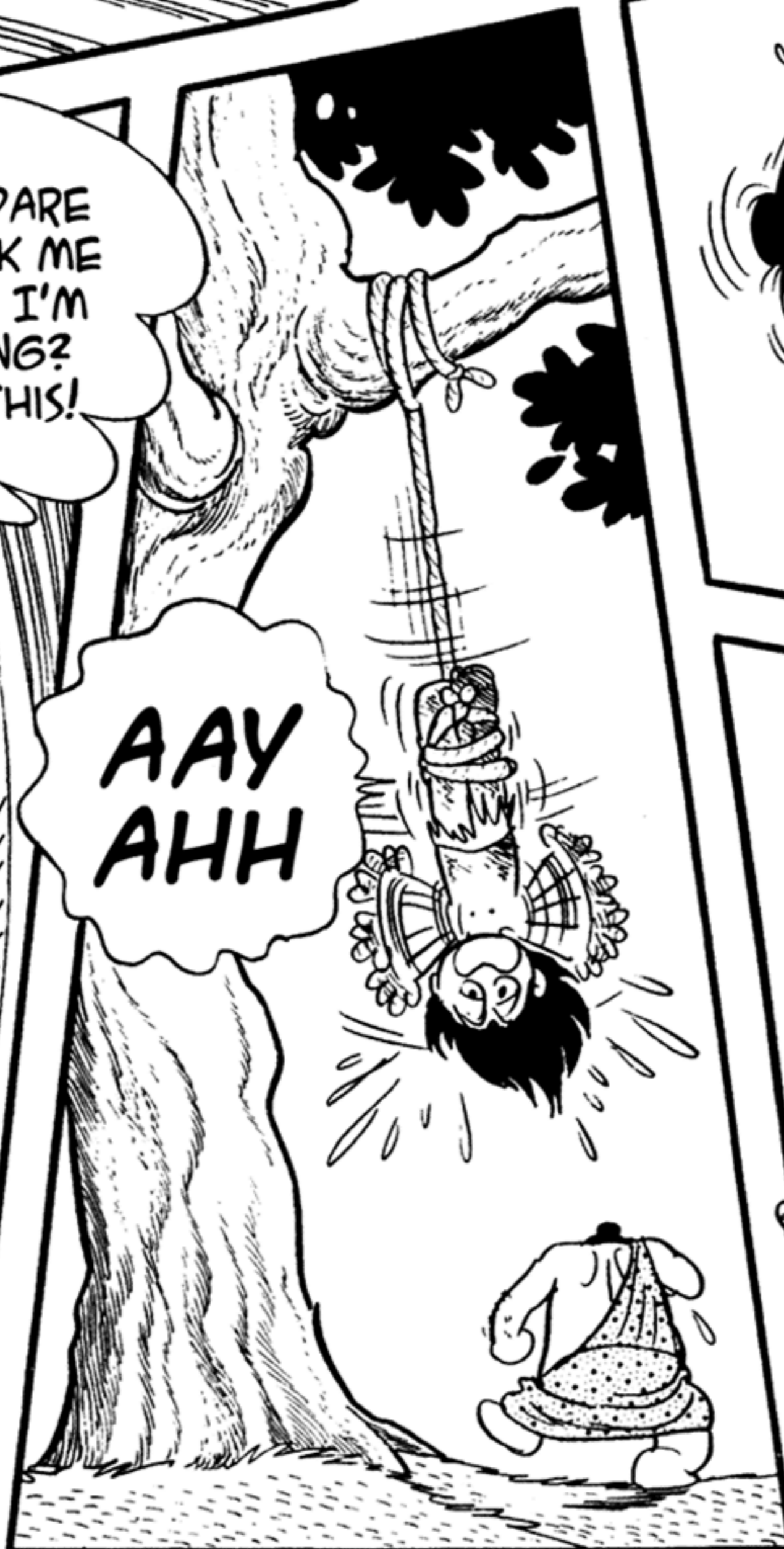
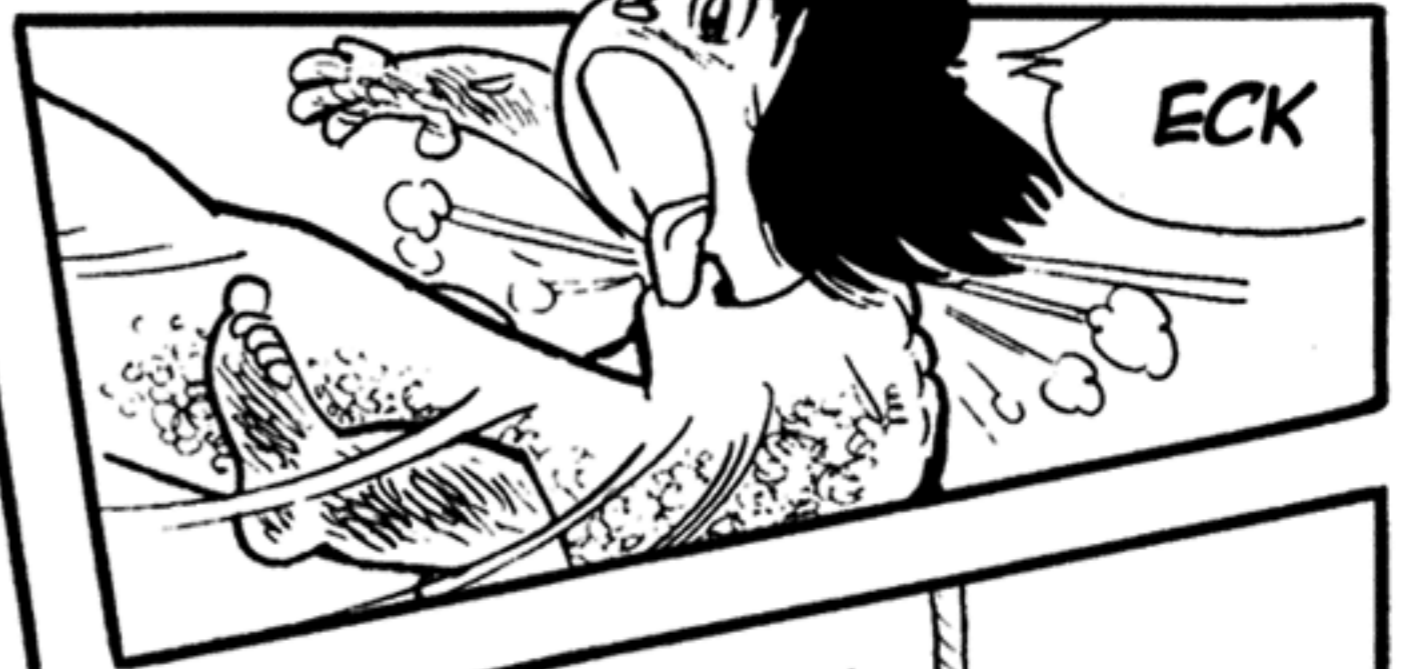
HE-HE-HELP

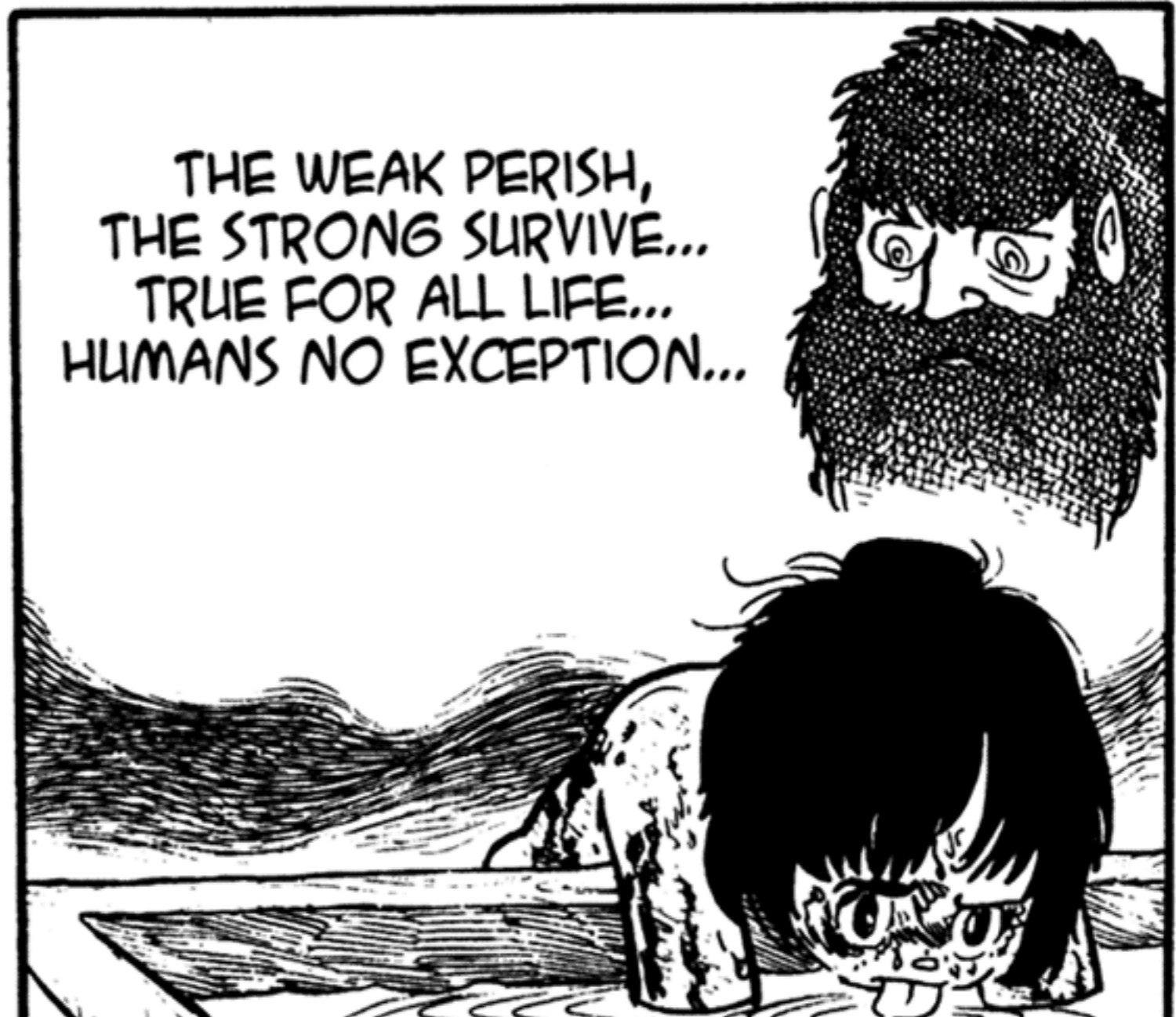
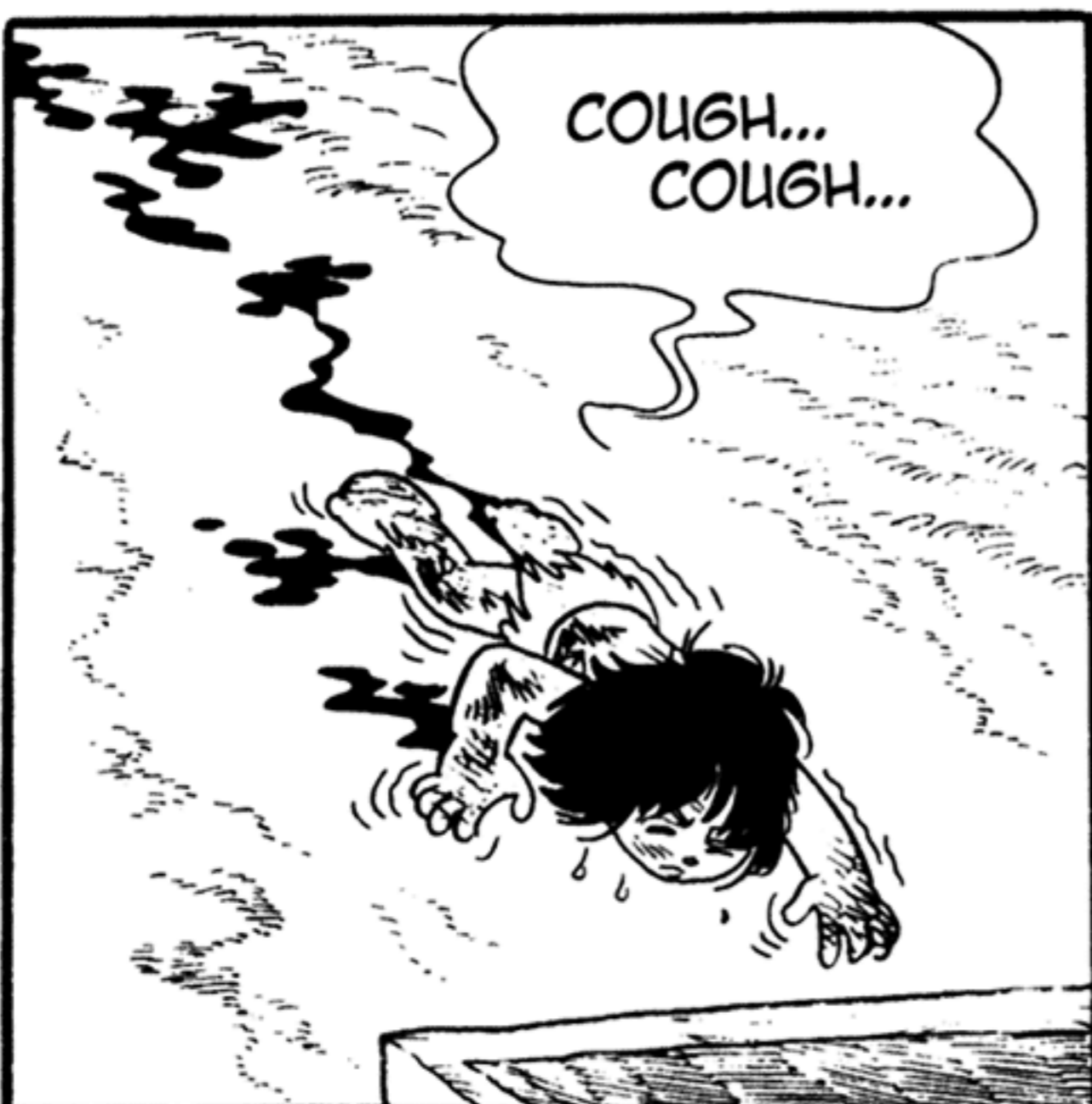
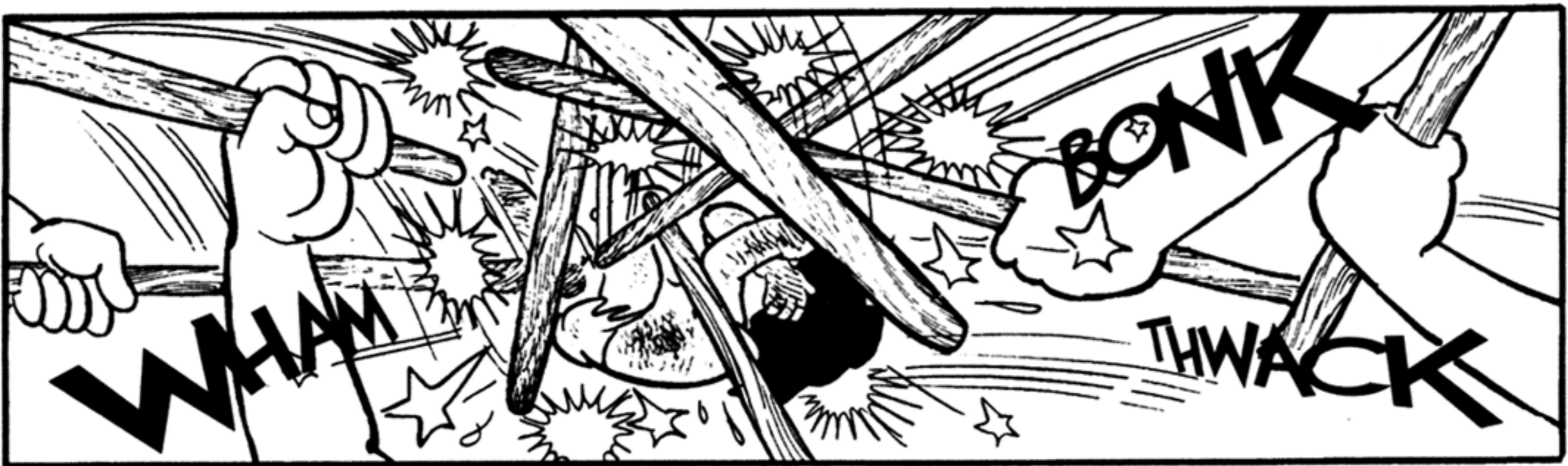
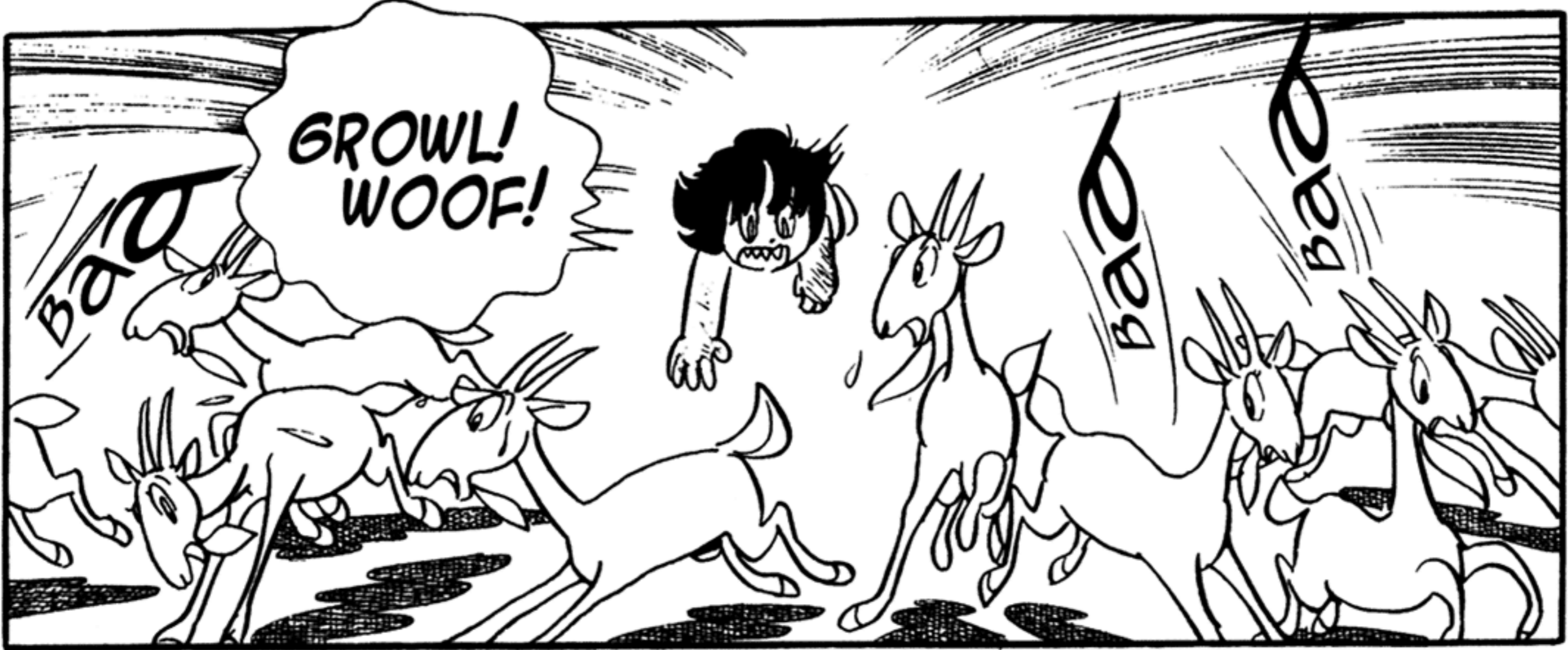
AAAY!

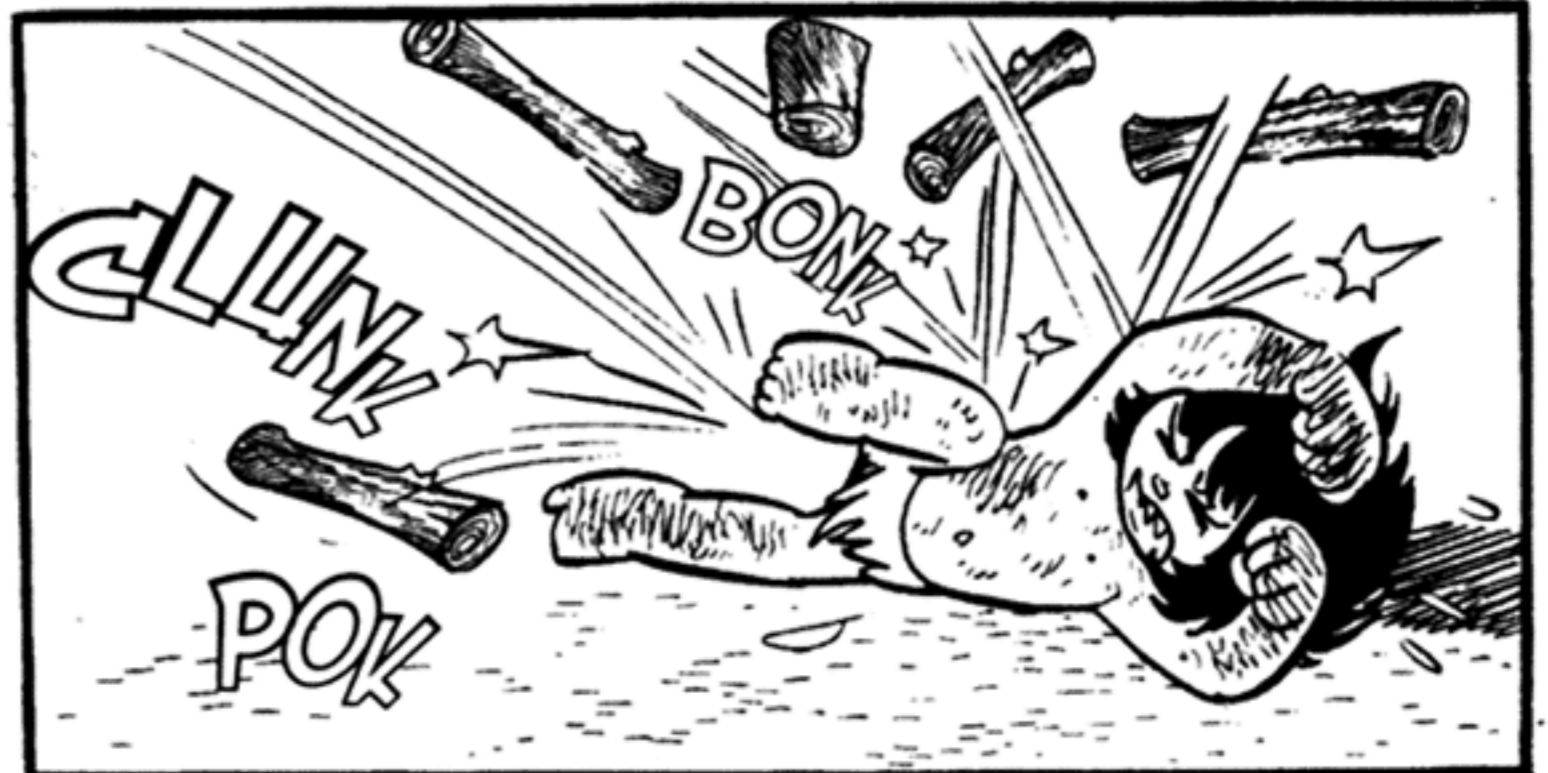
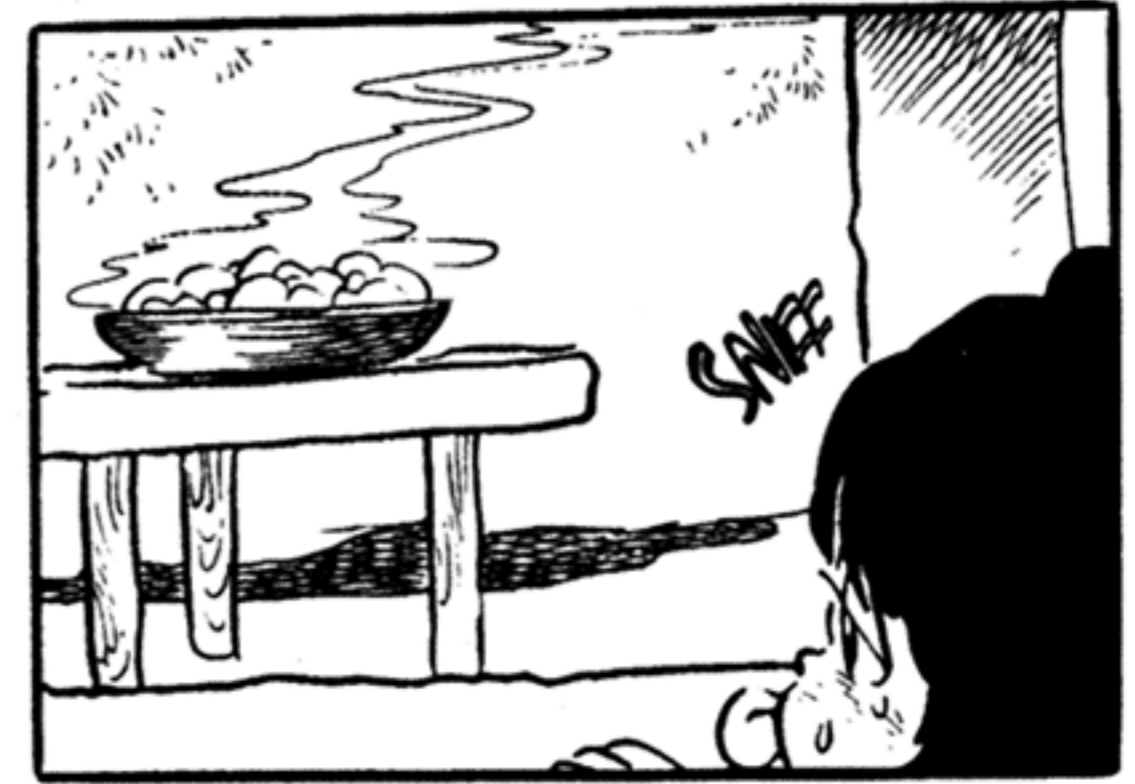
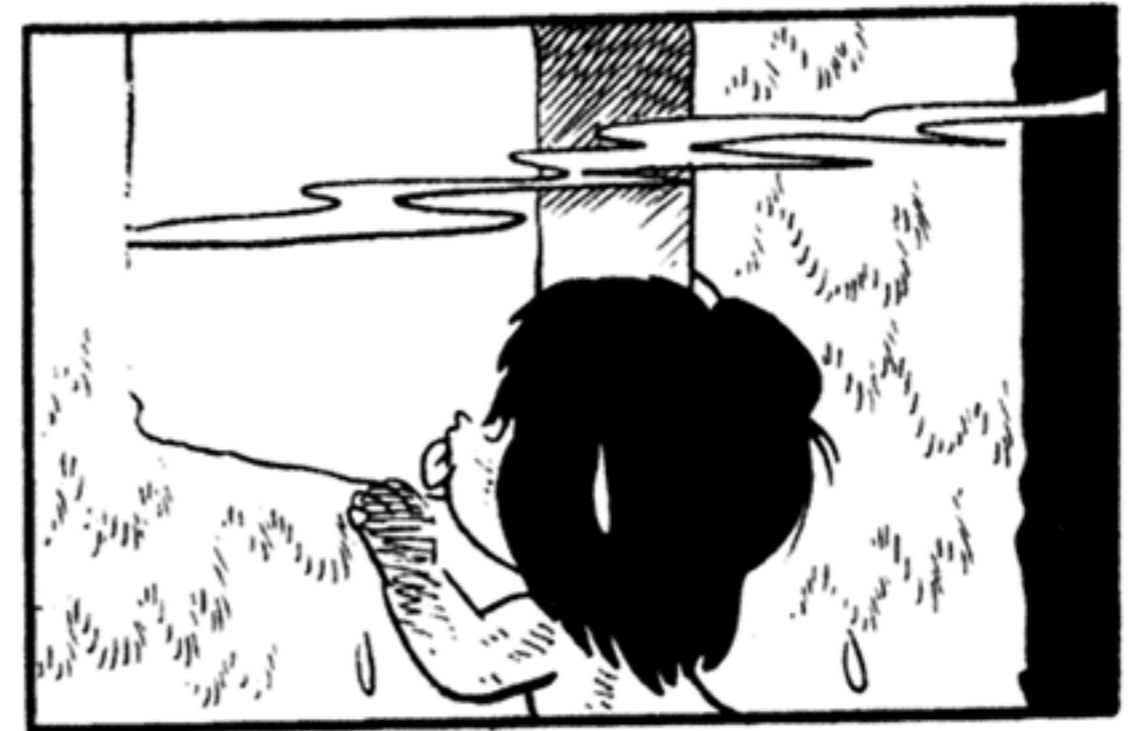
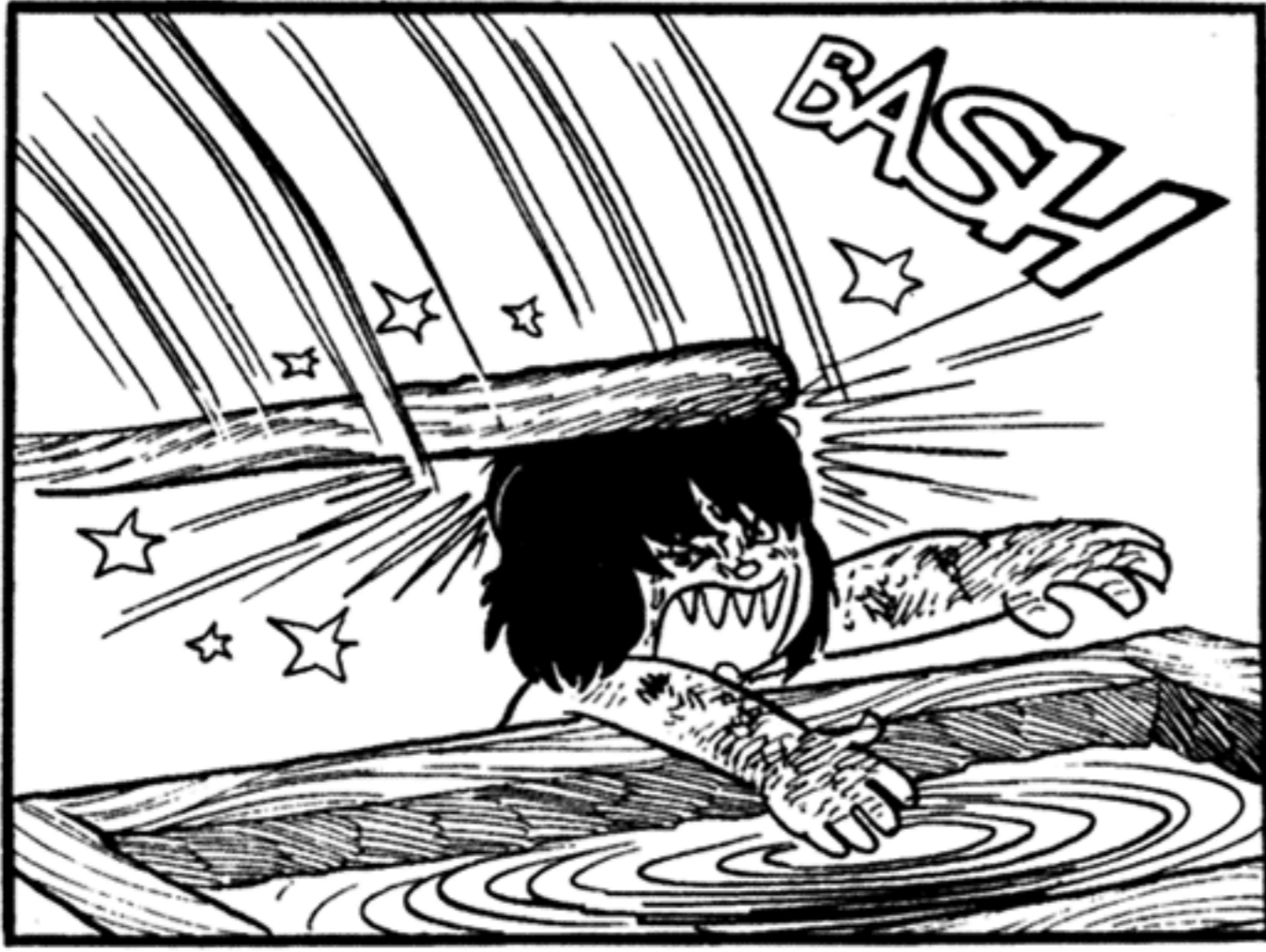


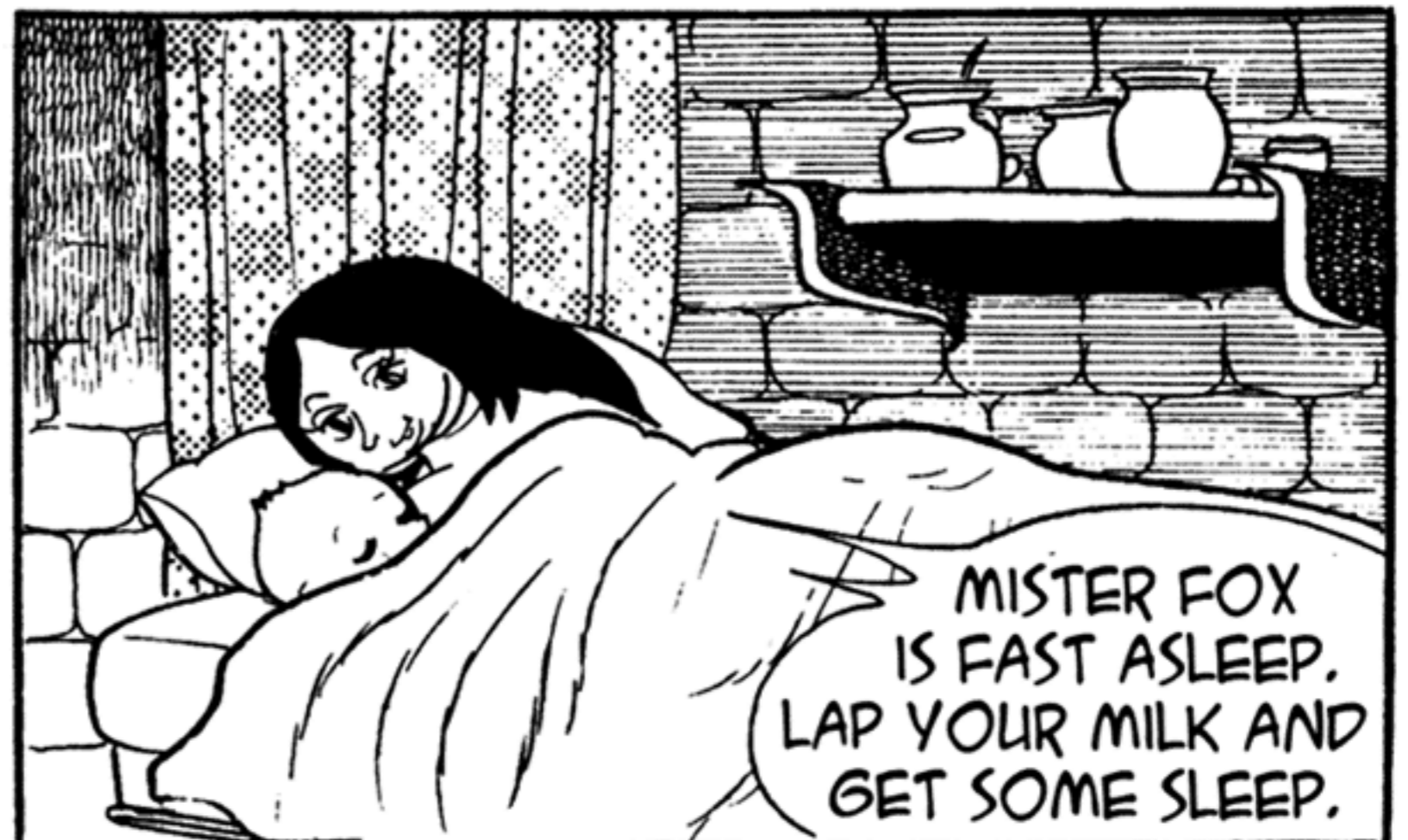
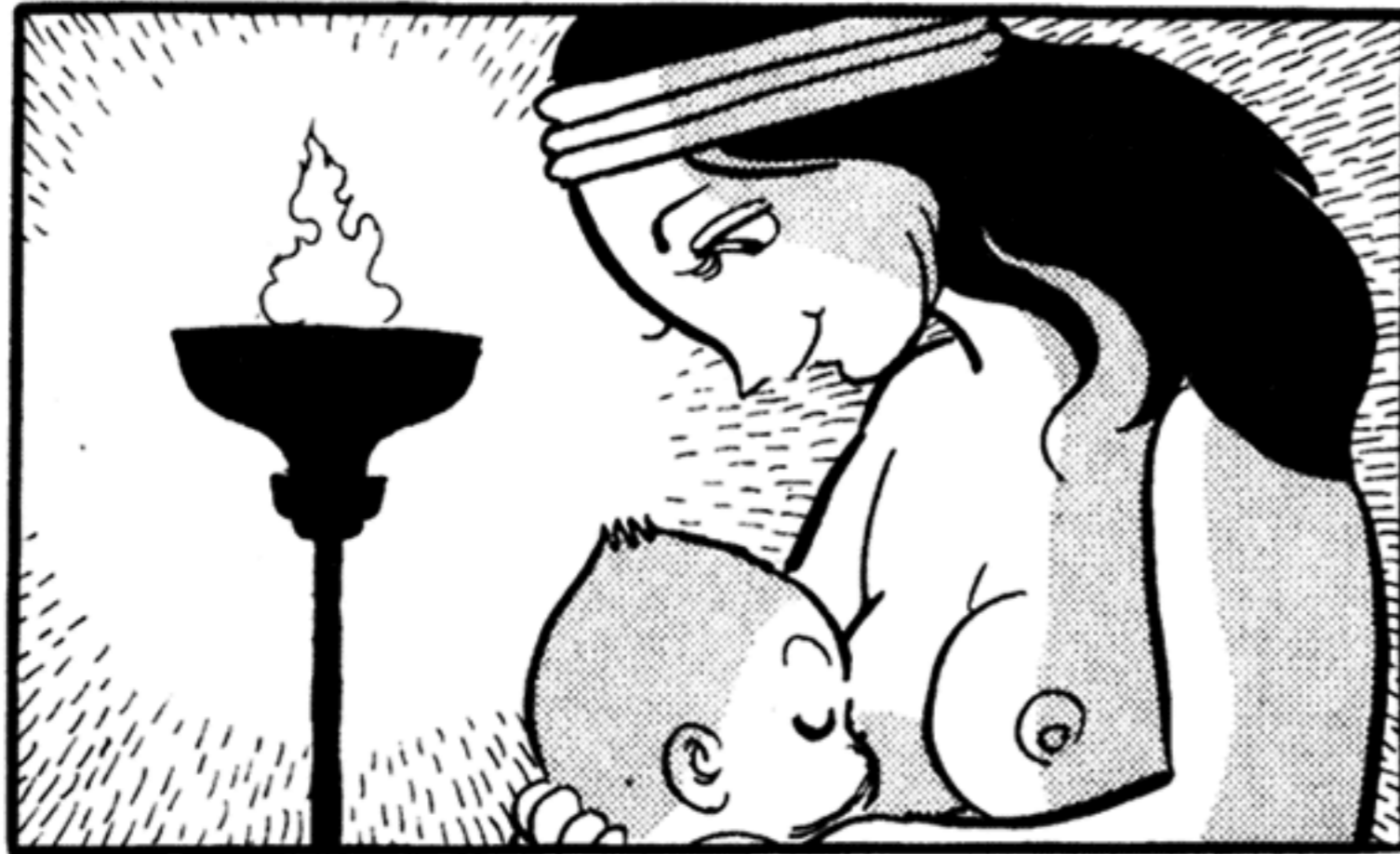
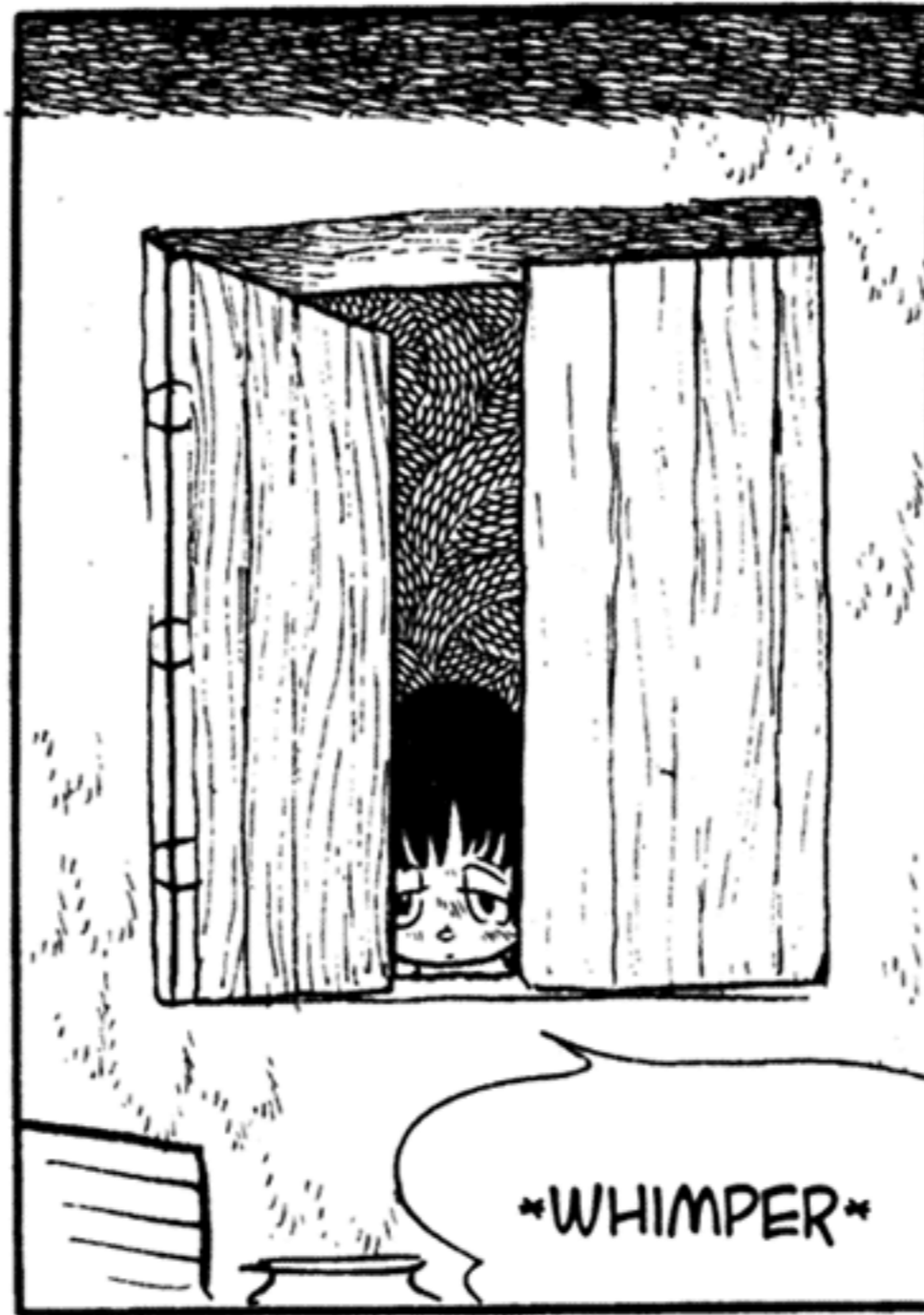


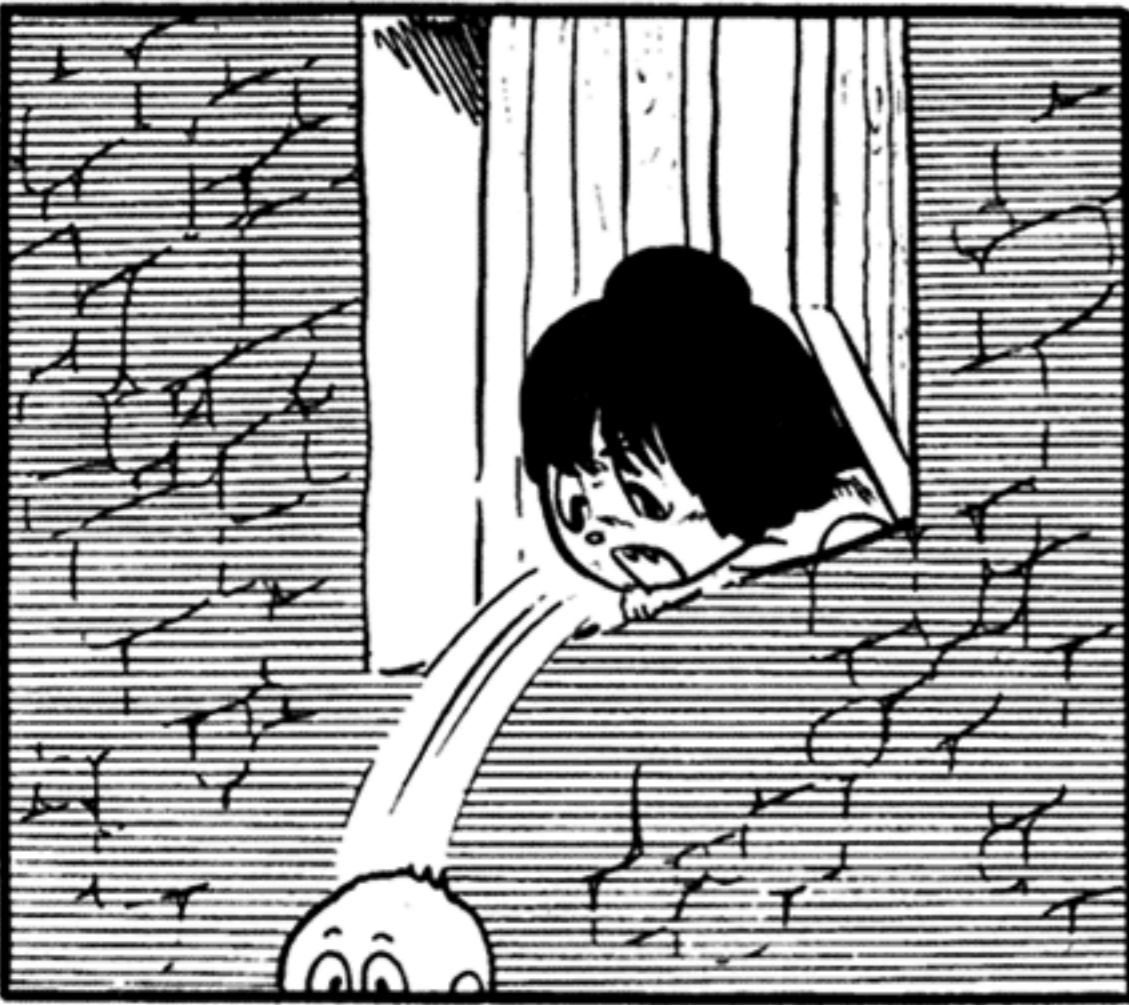
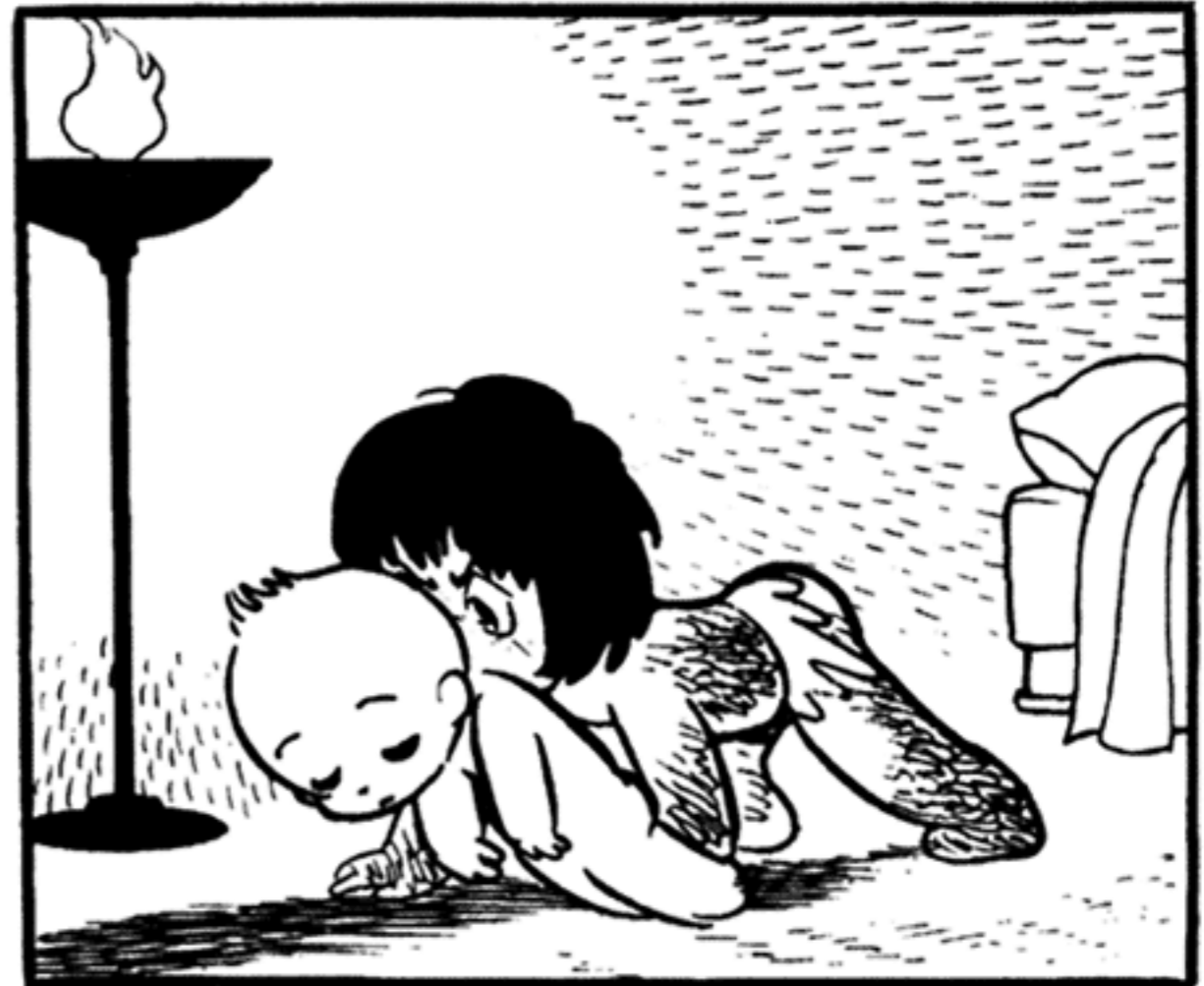
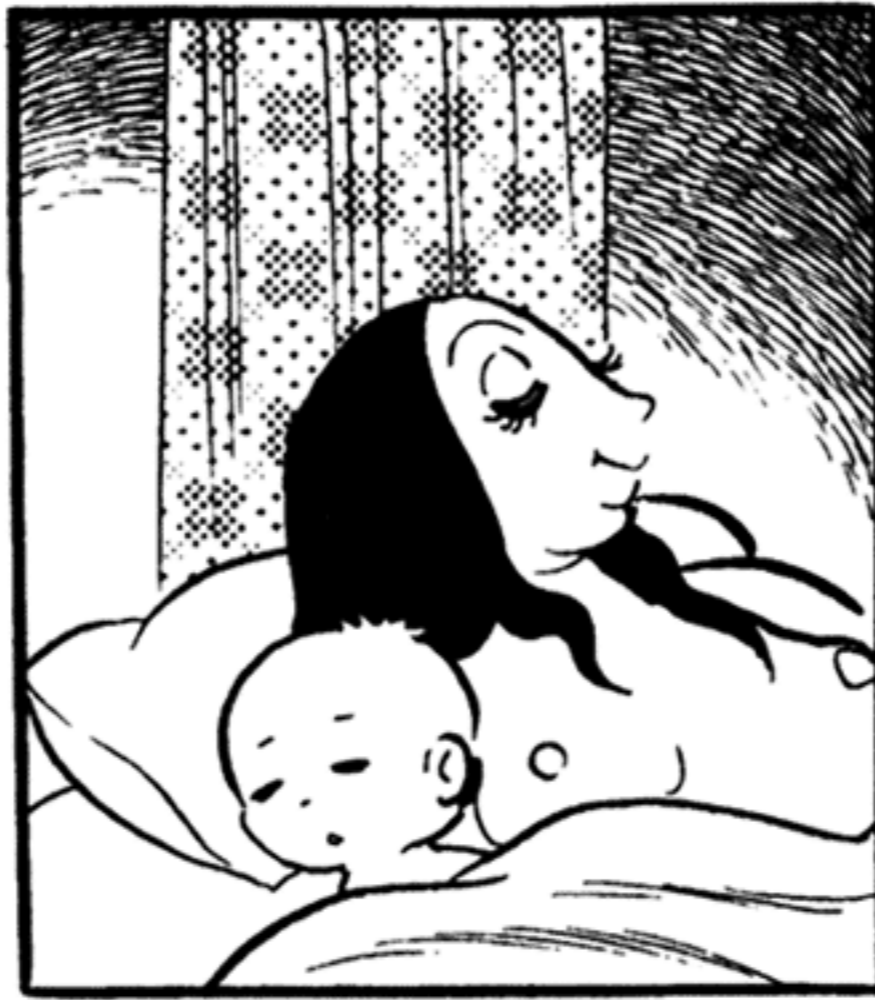


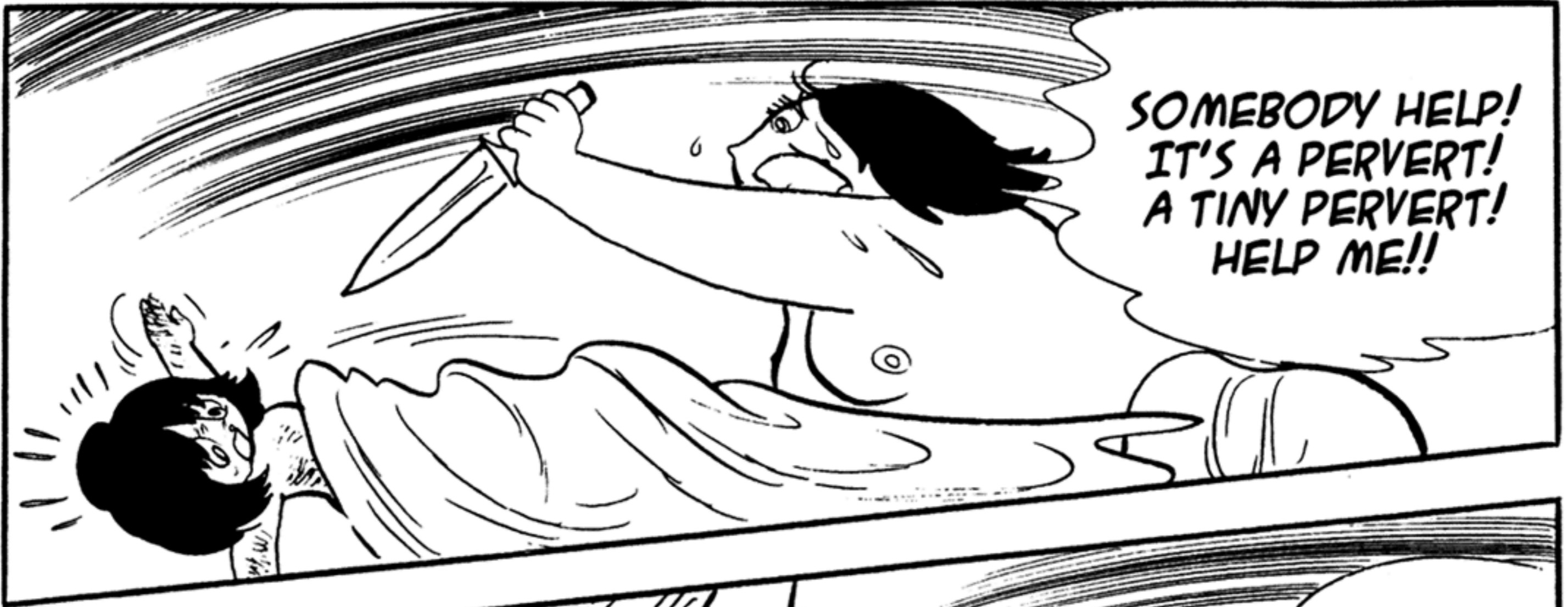




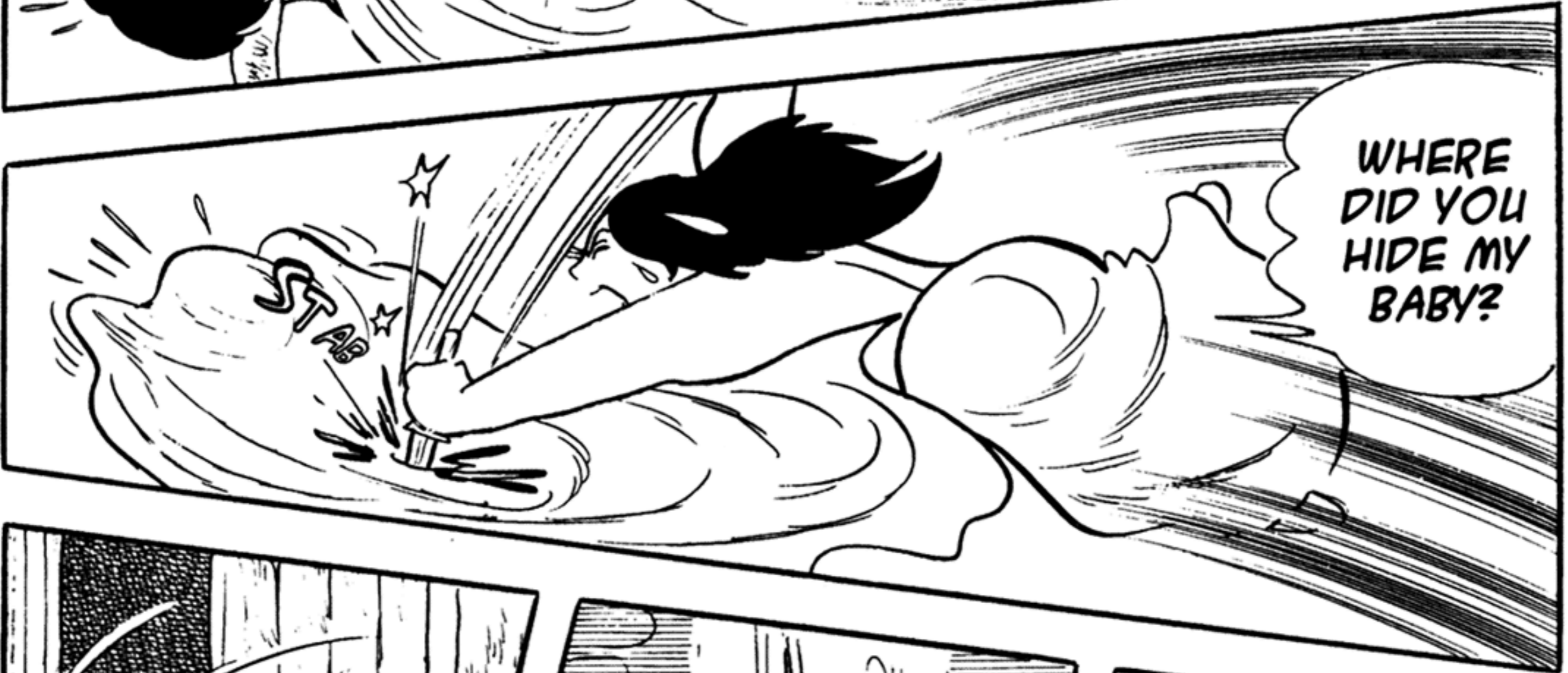








SOMEBODY HELP!
IT'S A PERVERT!
A TINY PERVERT!
HELP ME!!



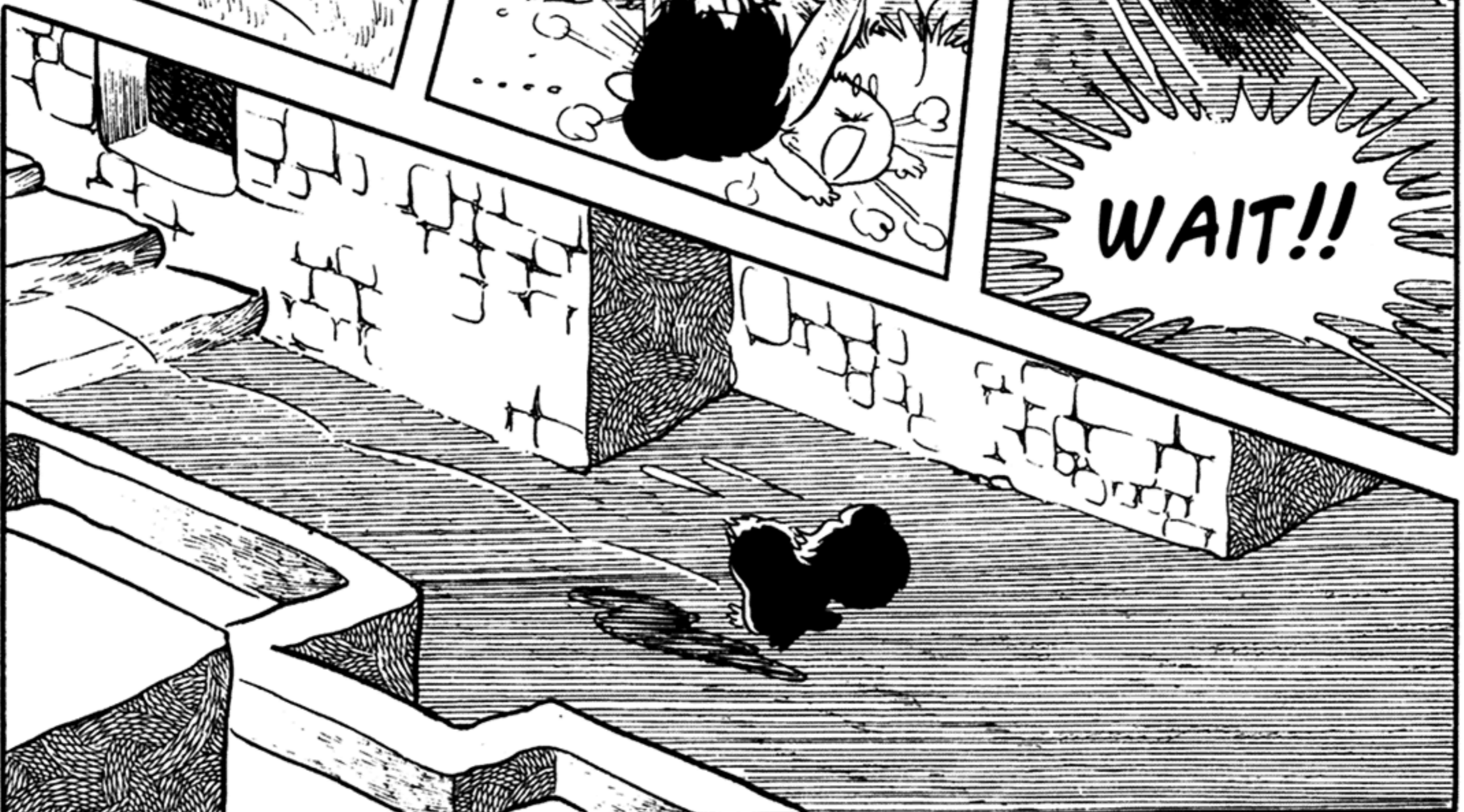
WHERE
DID YOU
HIDE MY
BABY?

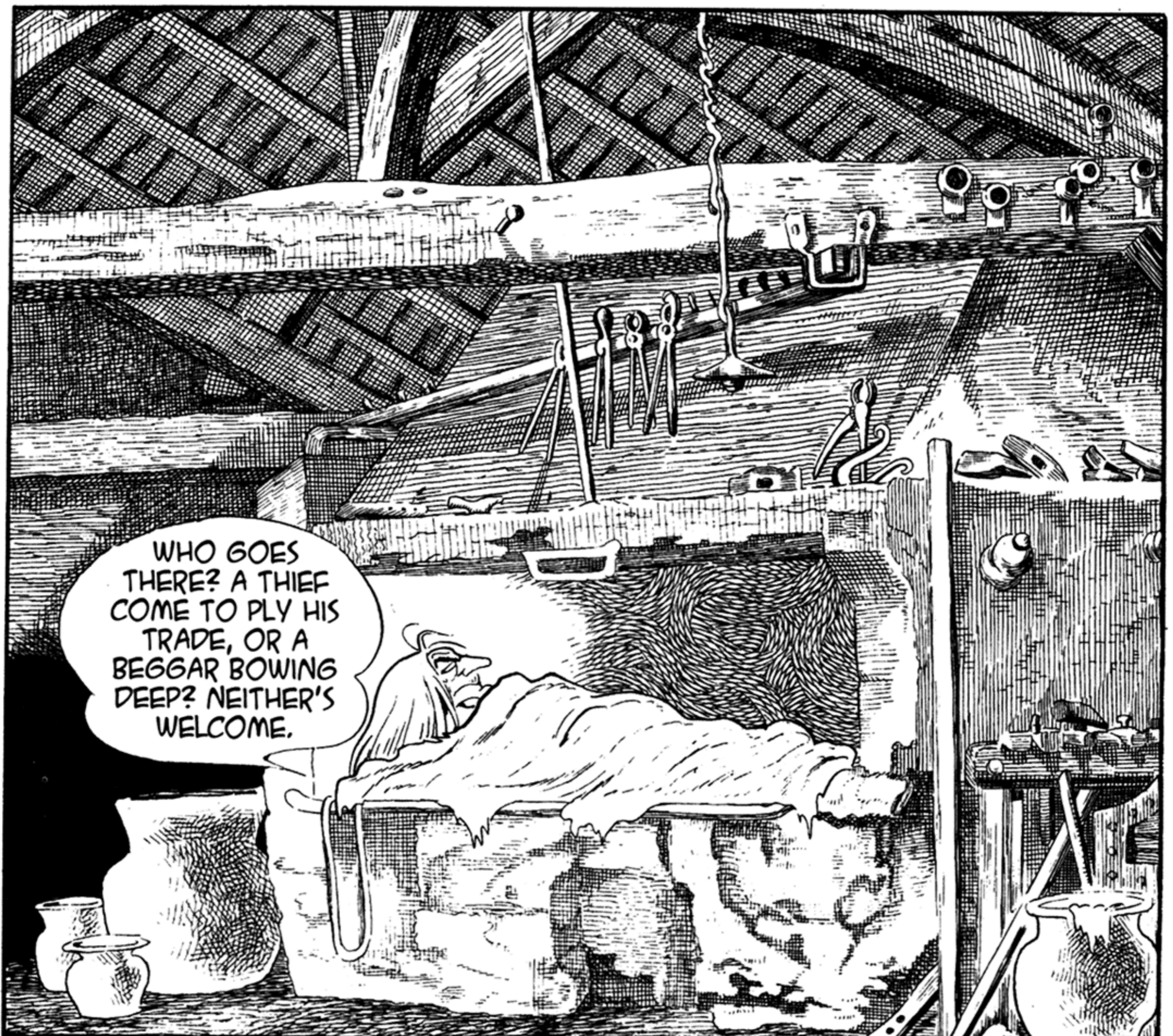
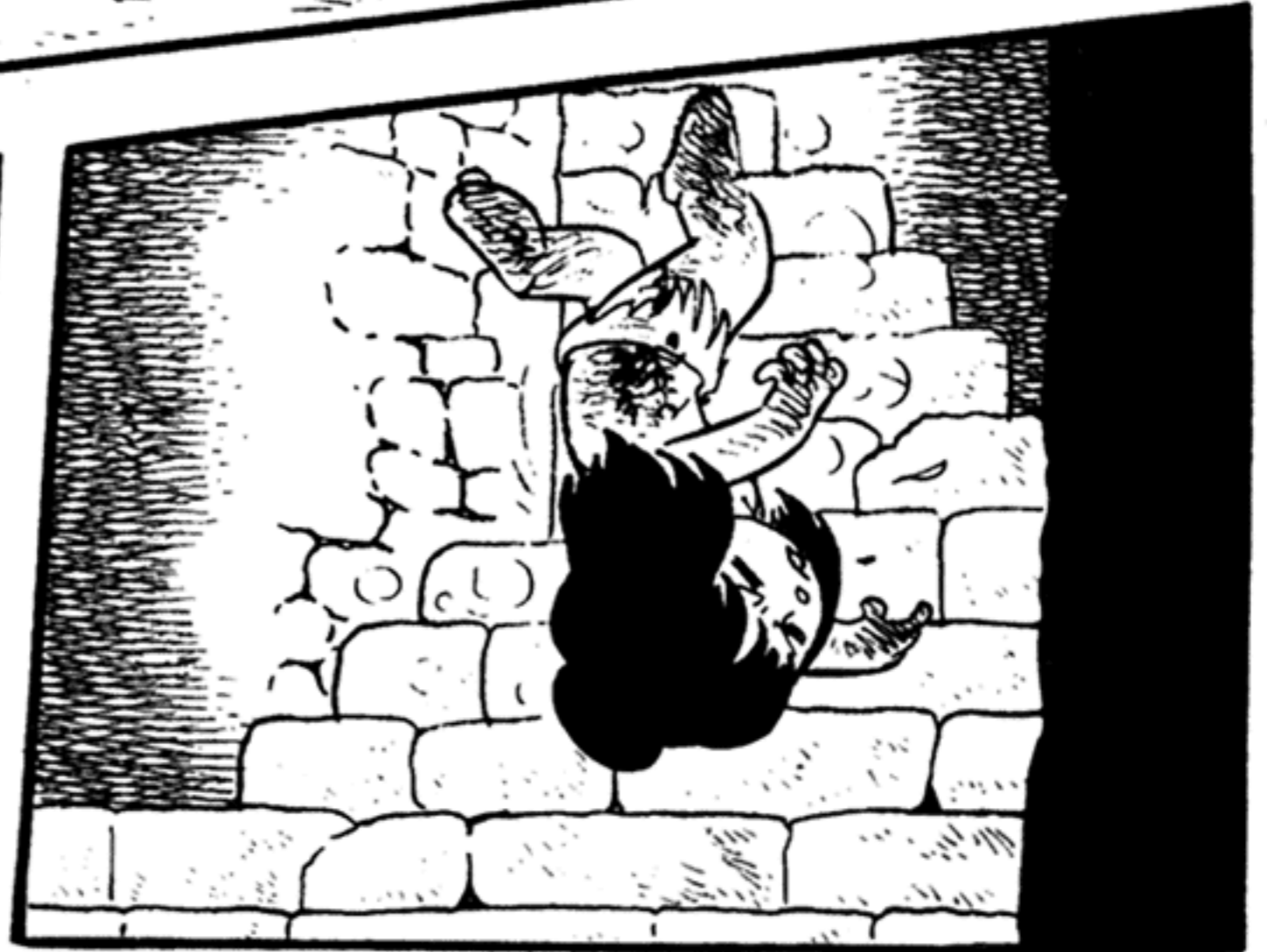
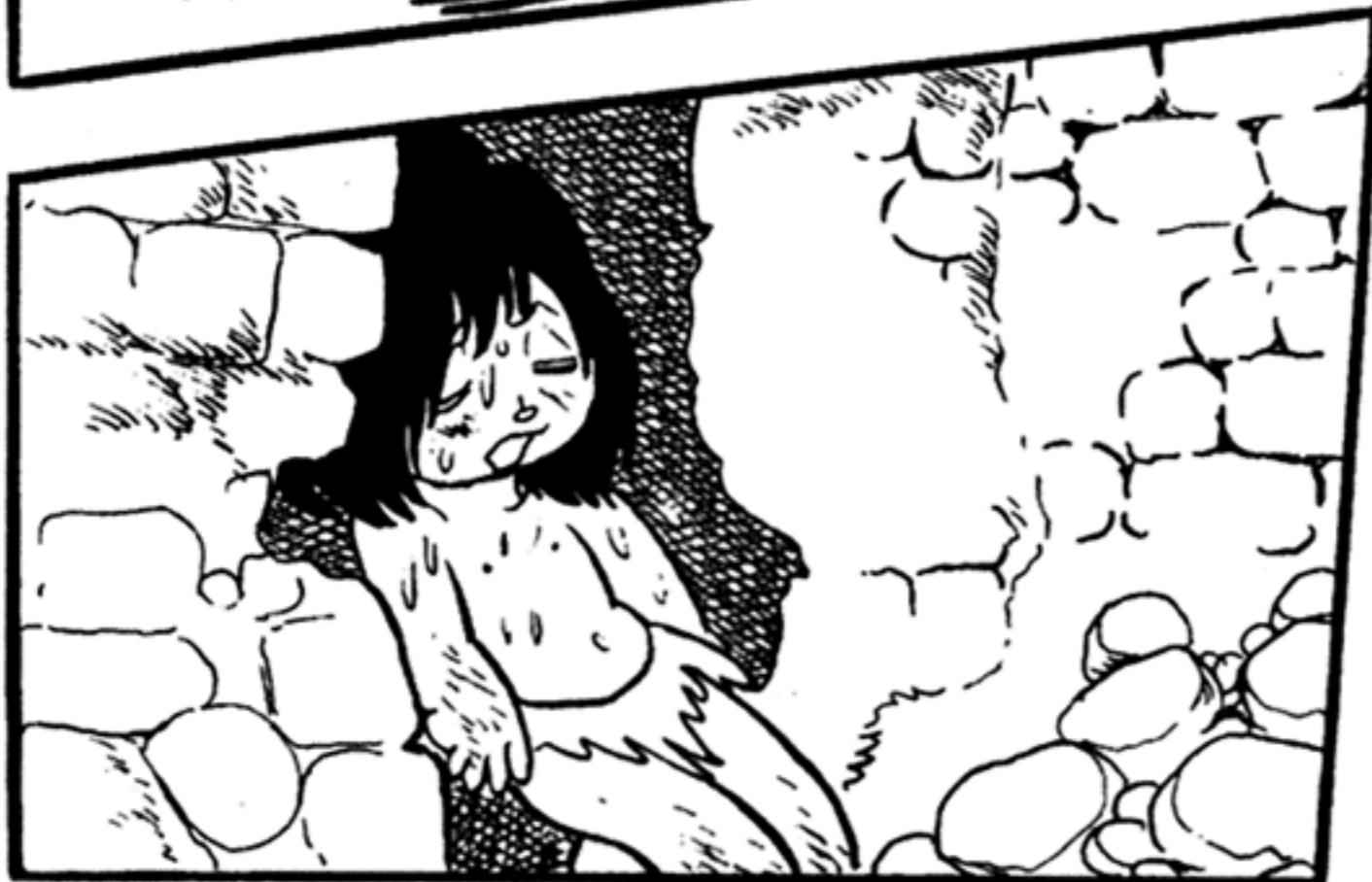


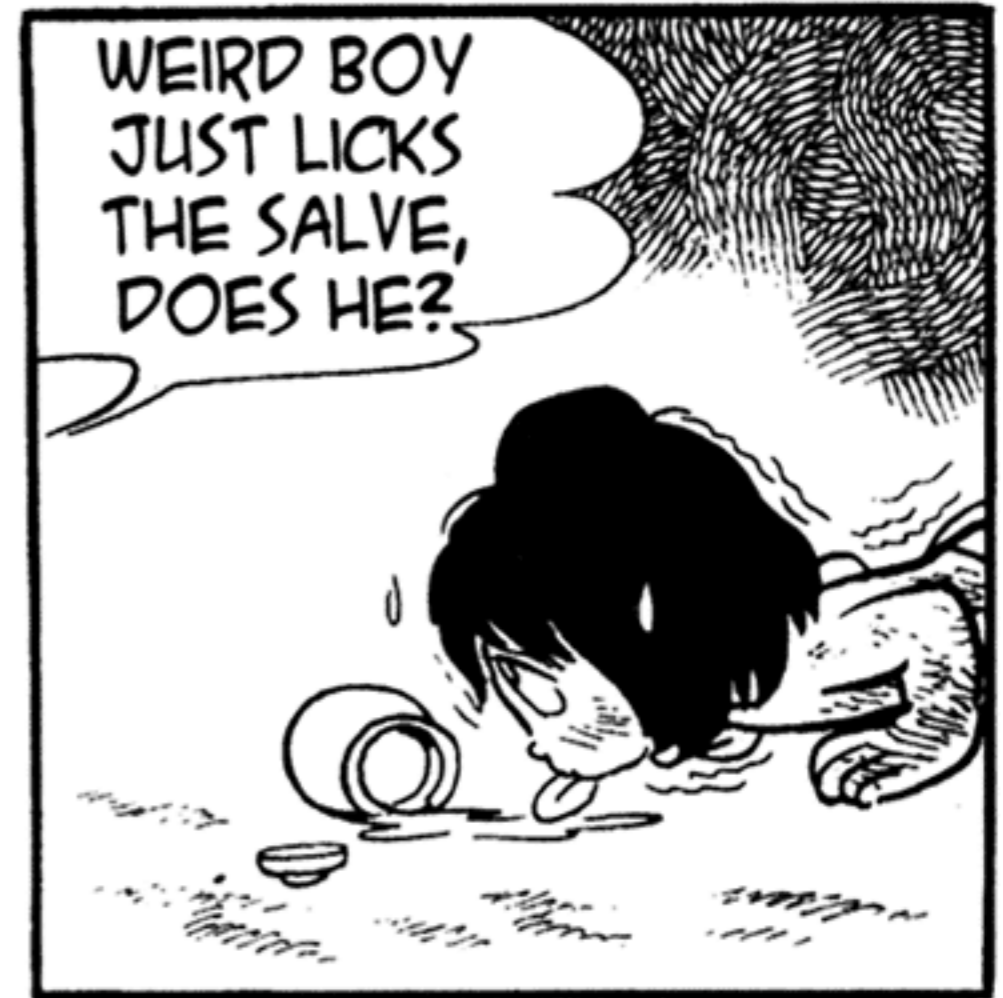
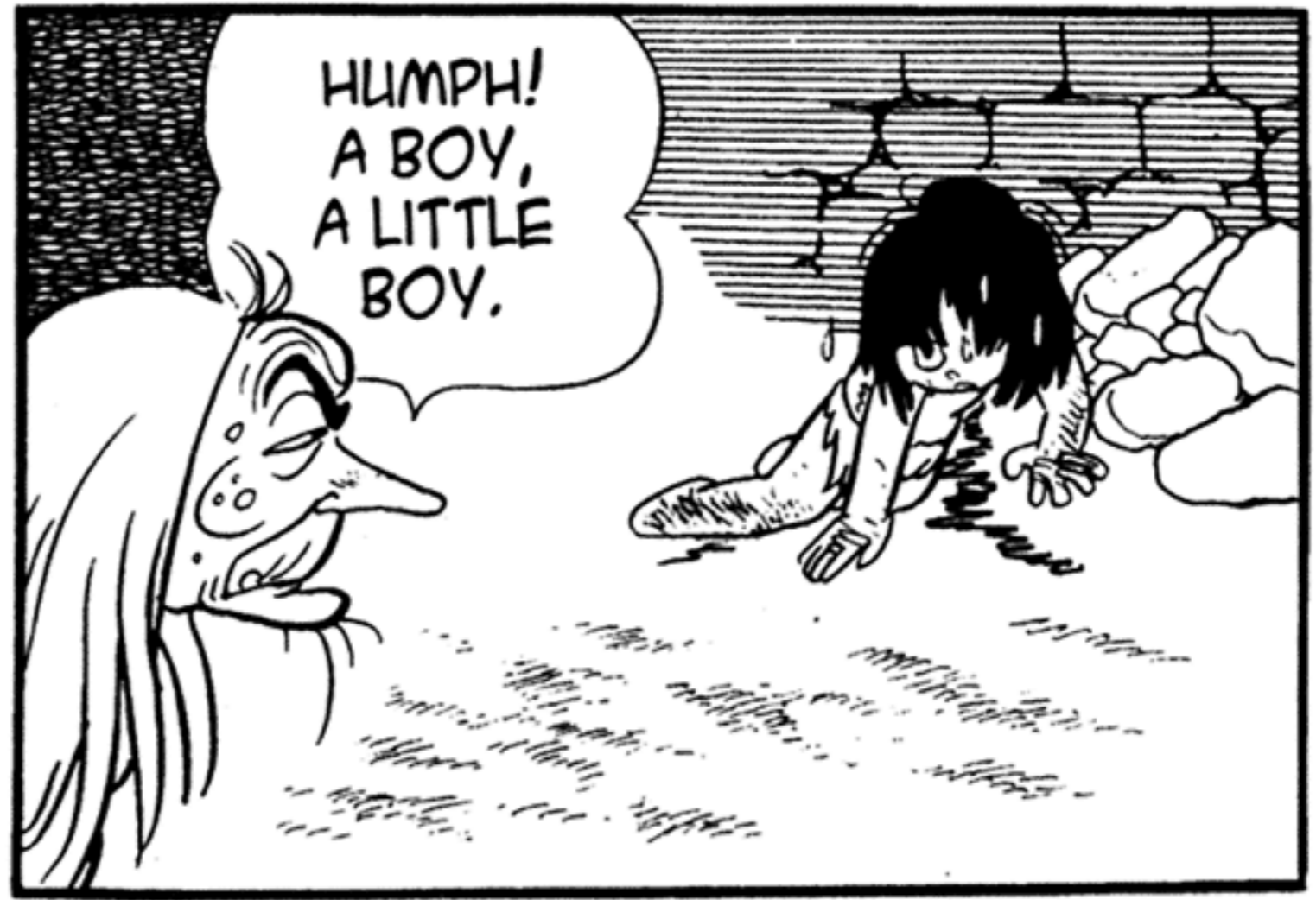
WAAH

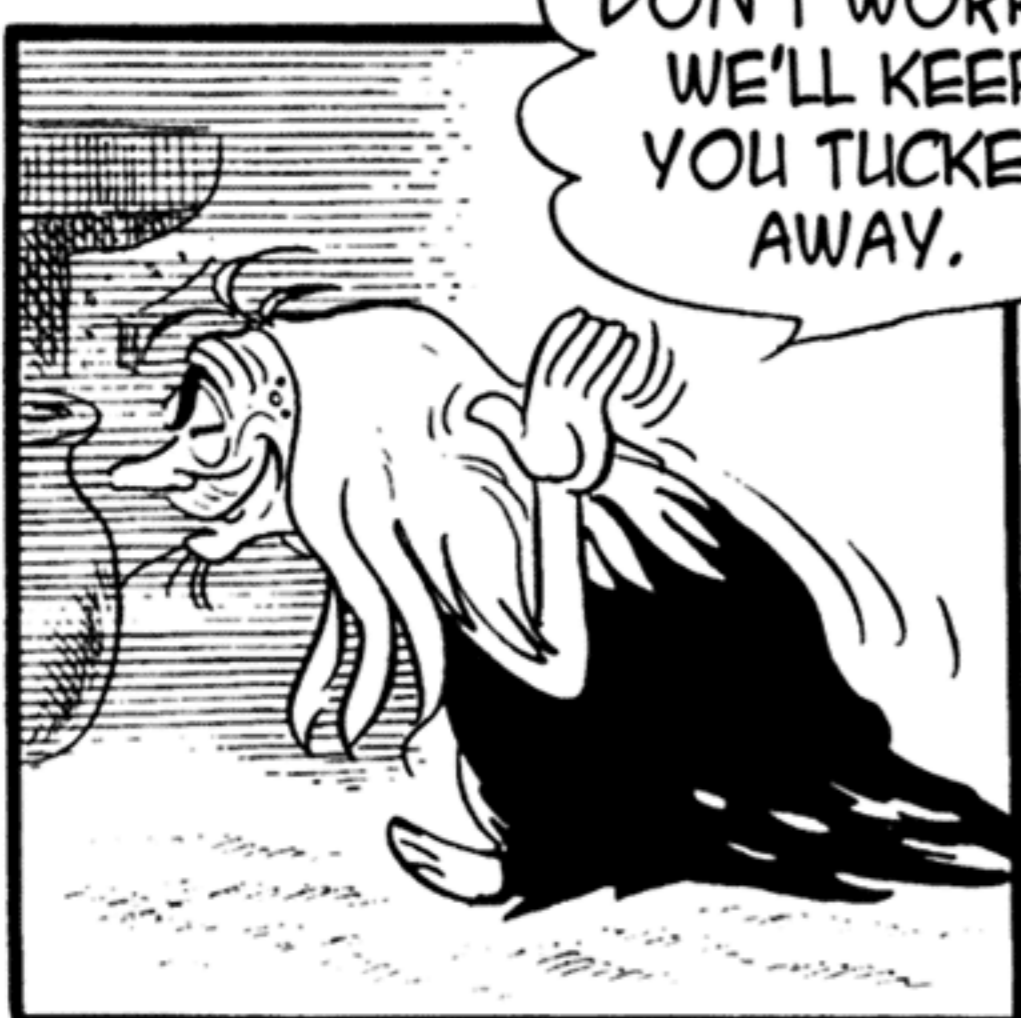
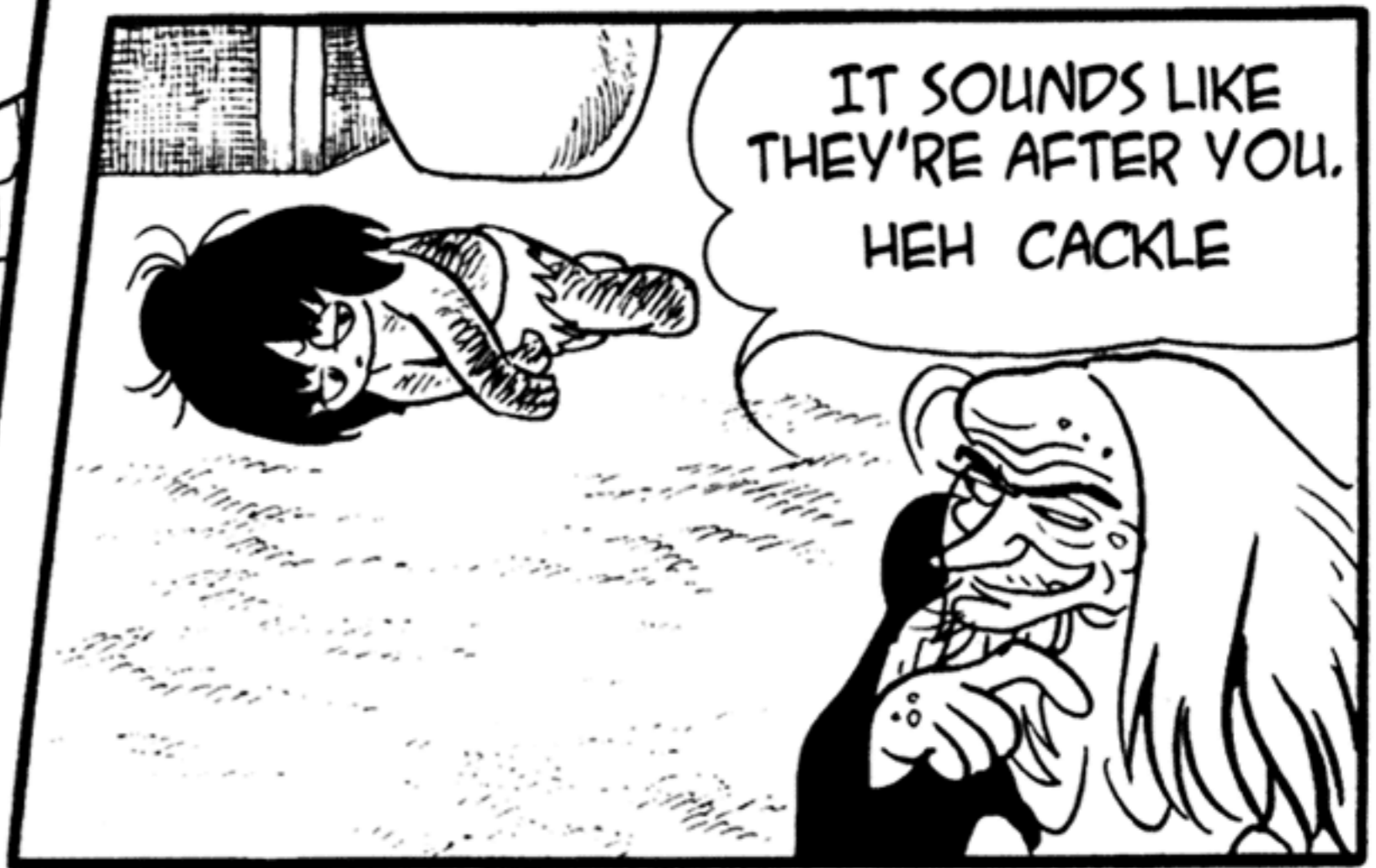
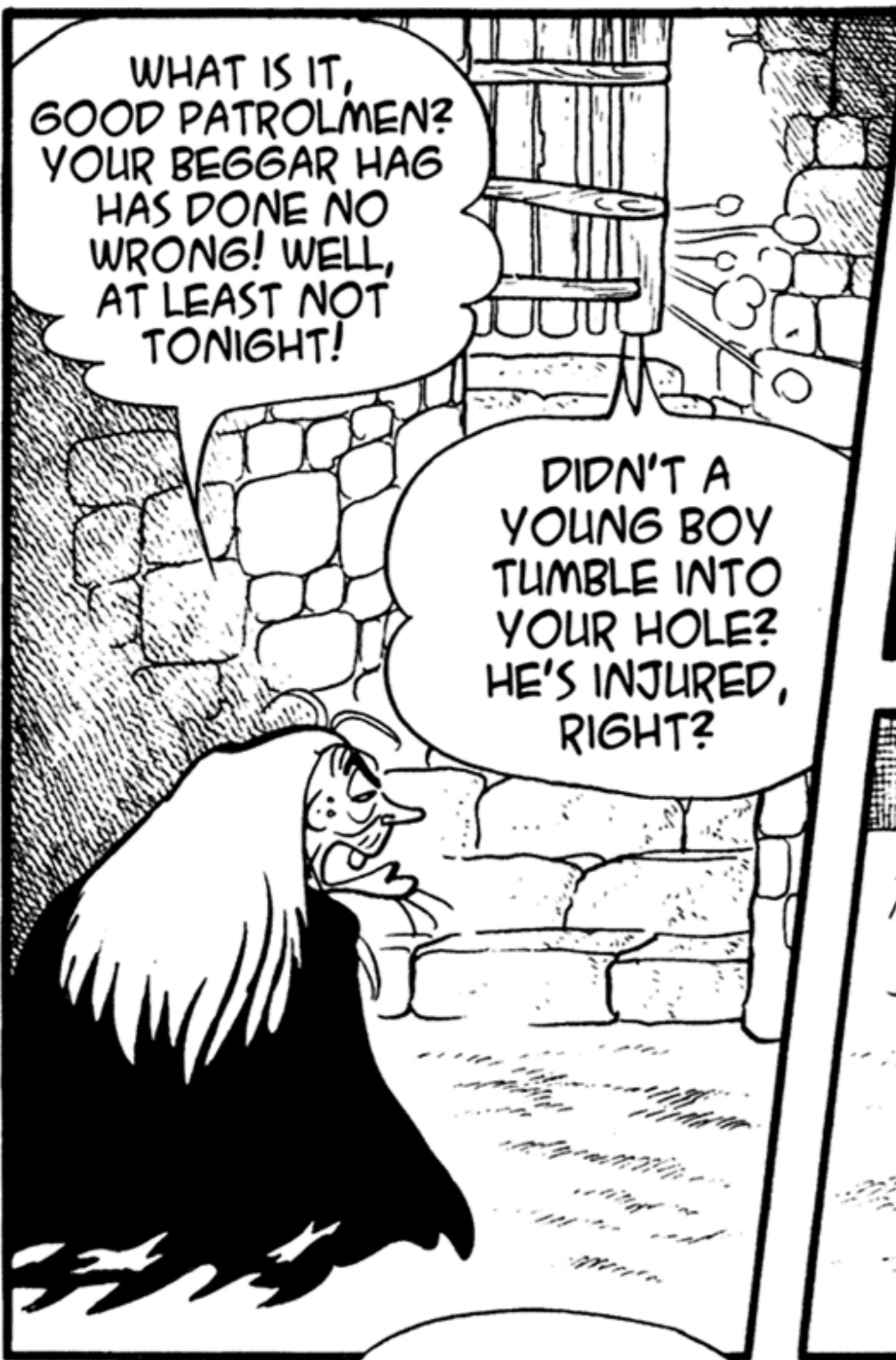
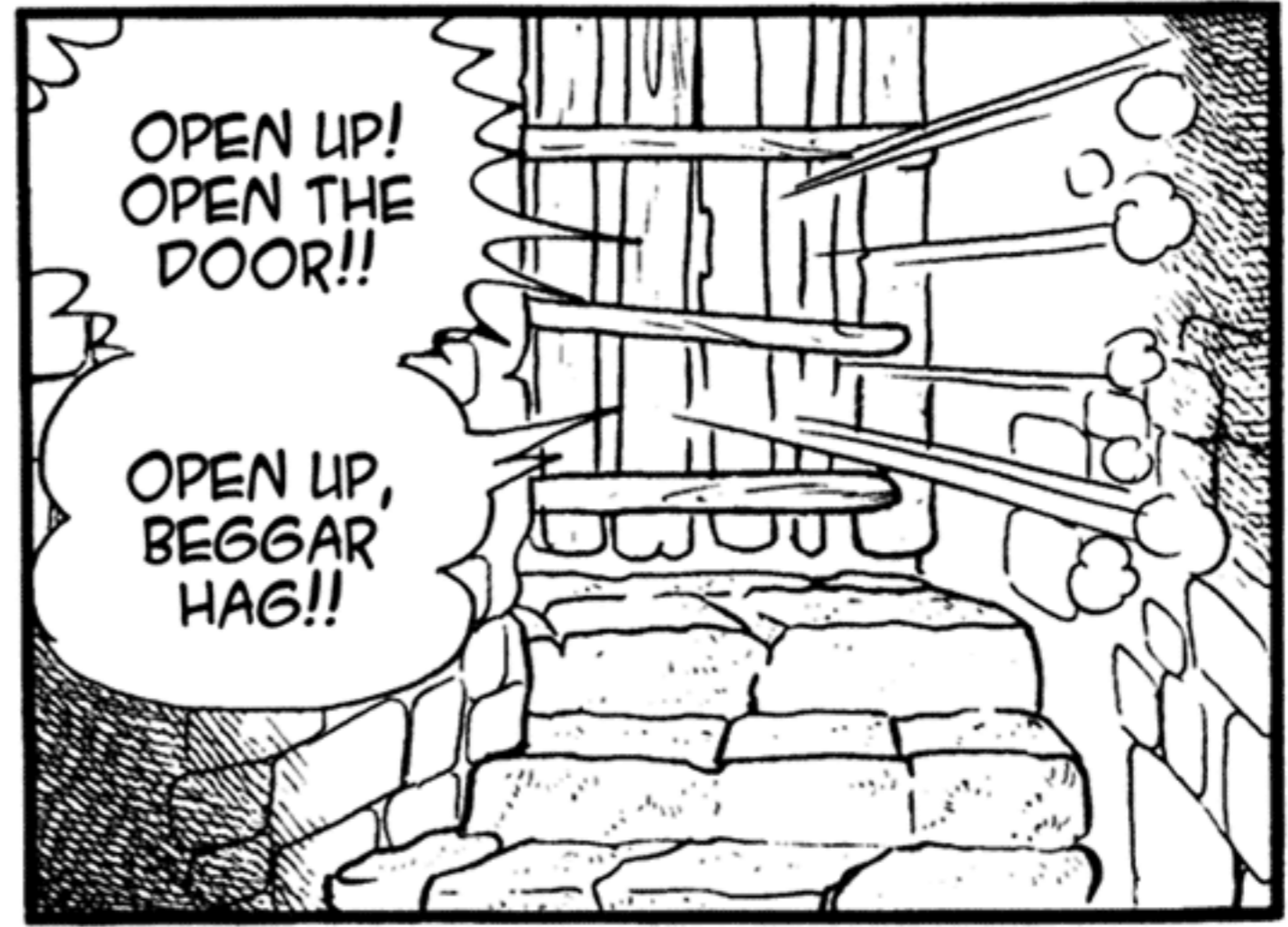


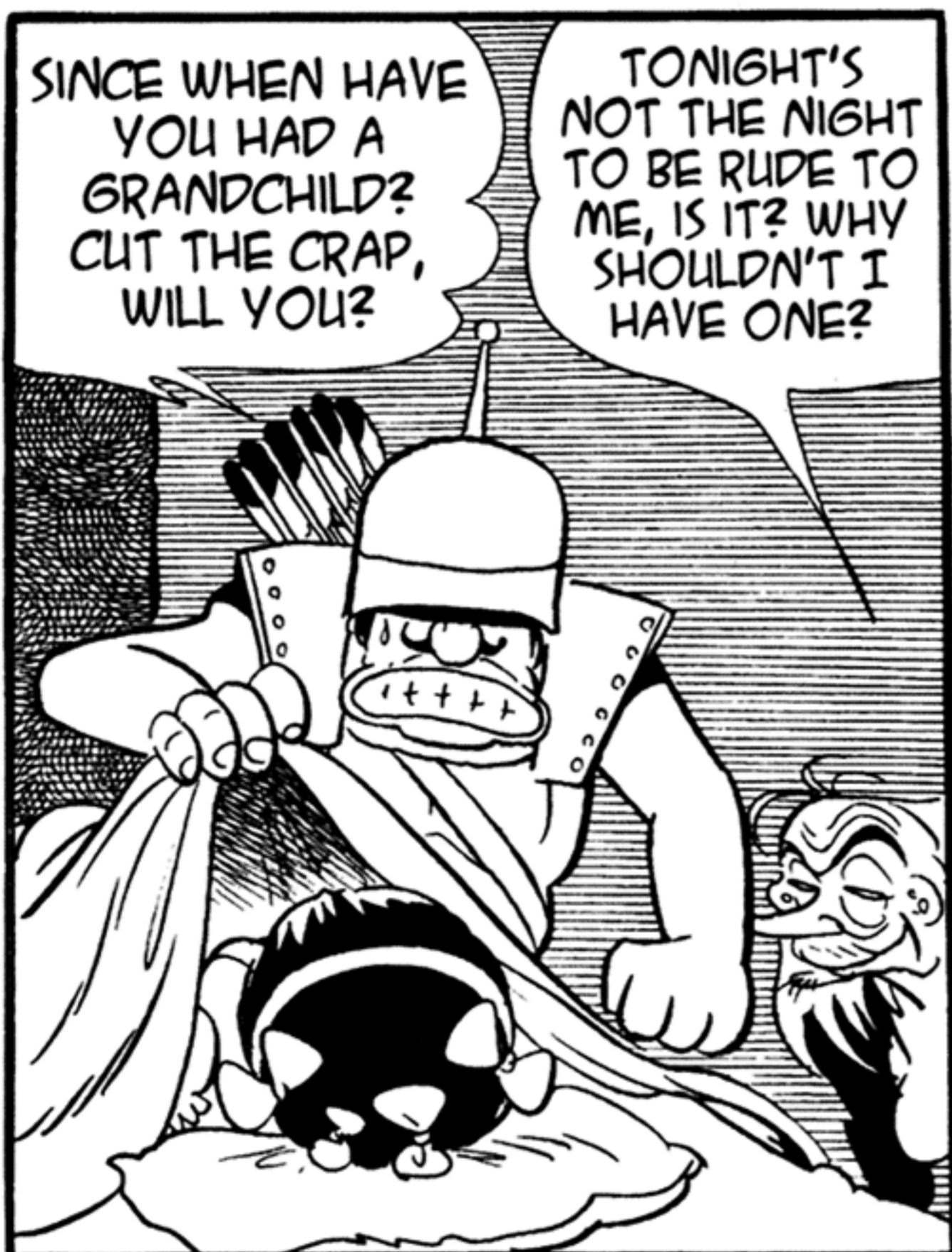
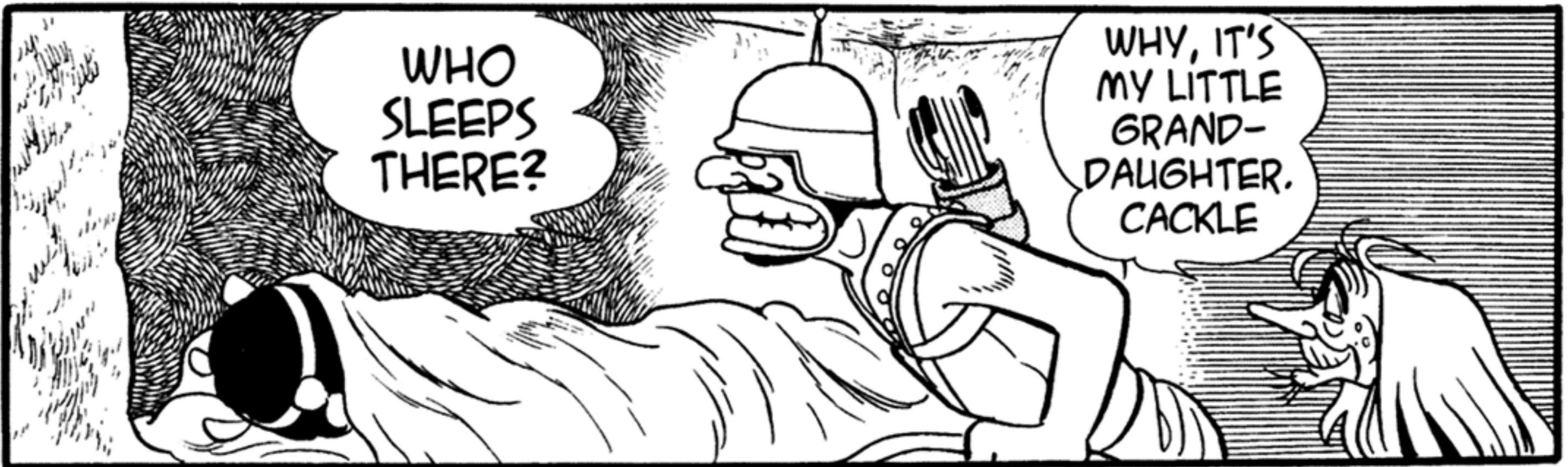
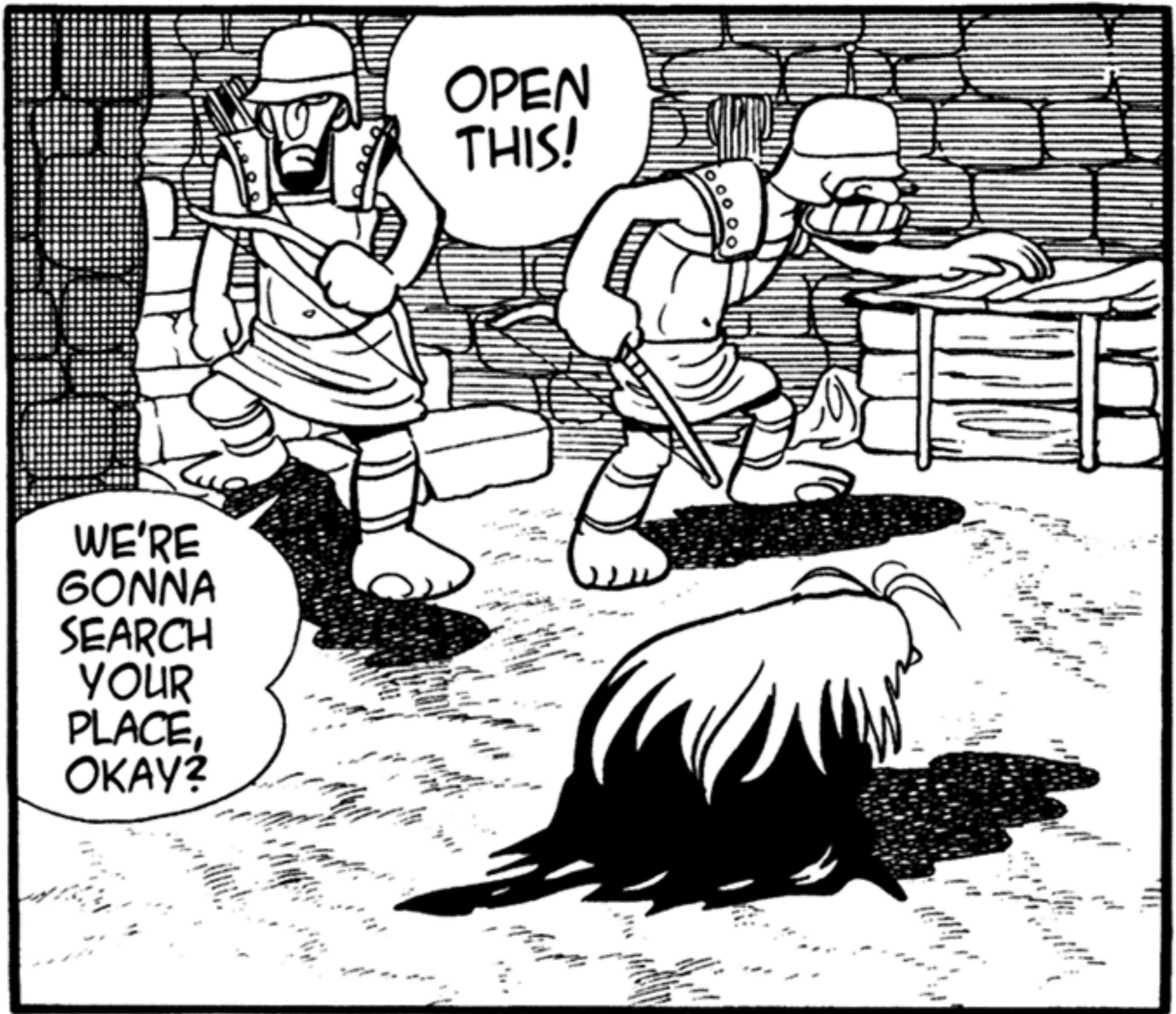
WAIT!!







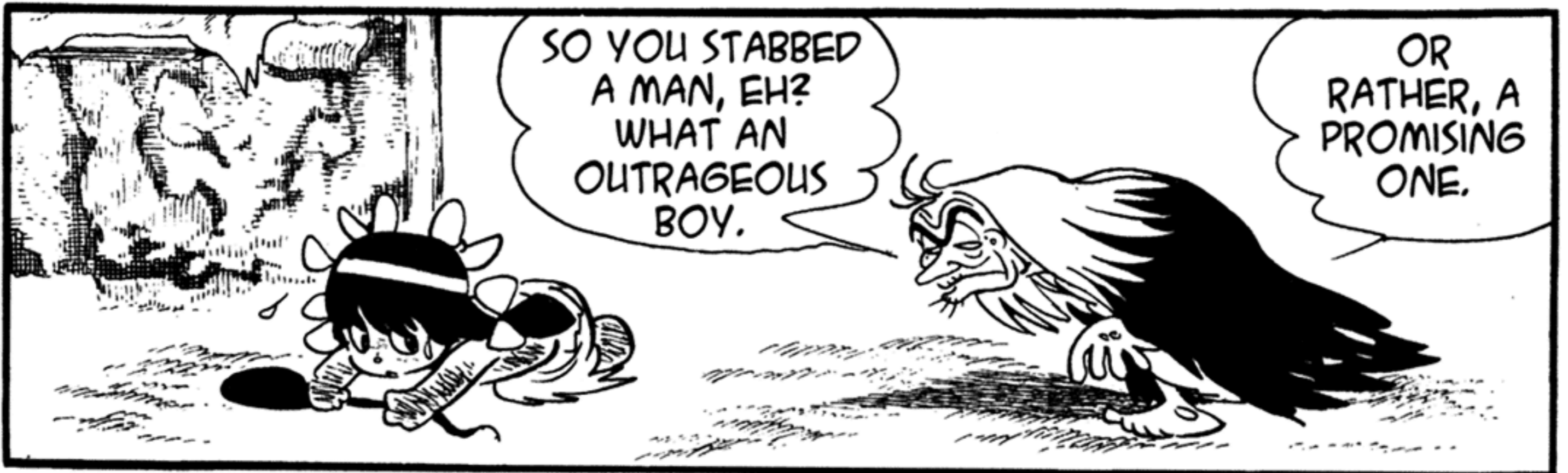






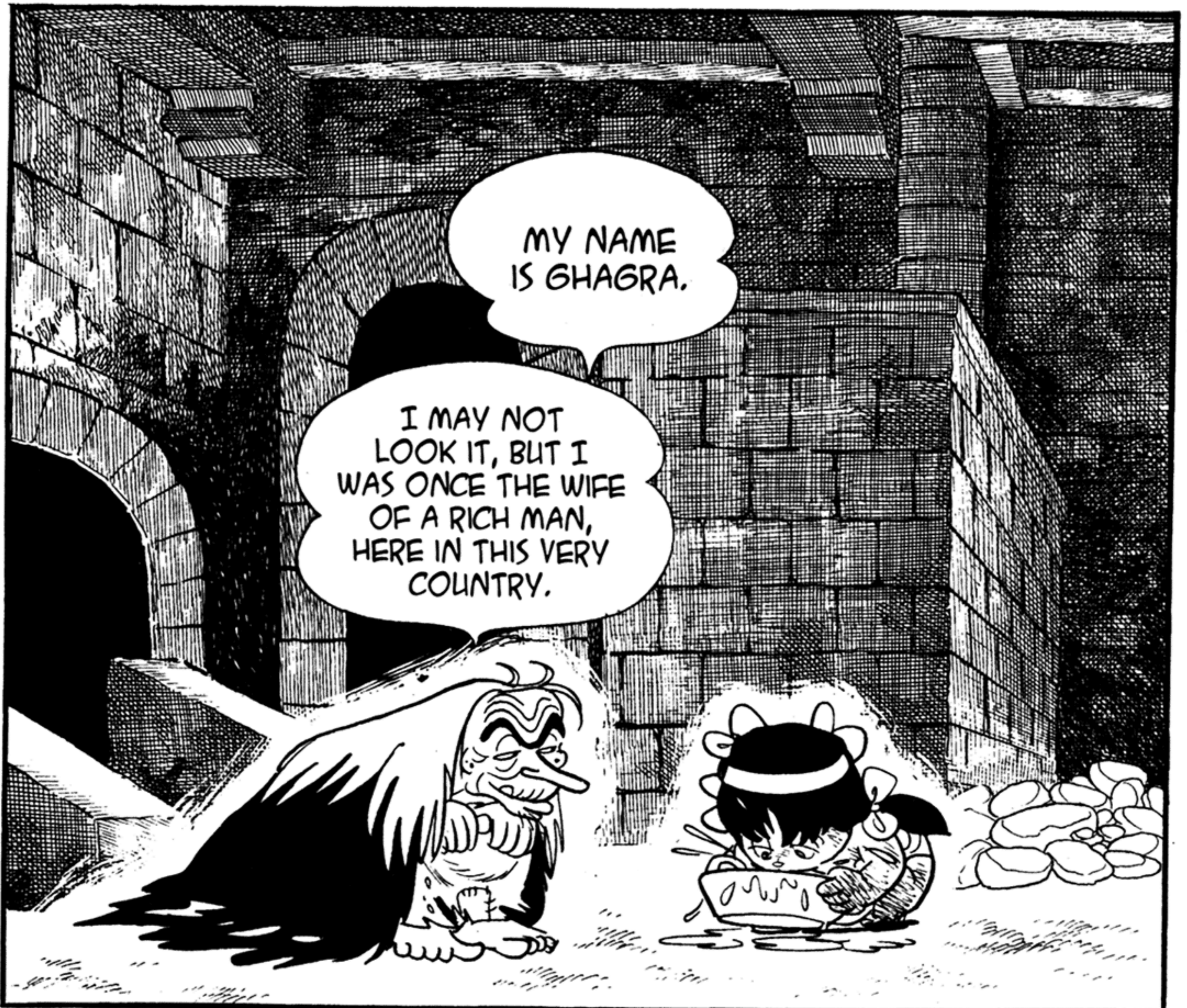
LET'S
LOOK
ELSE-
WHERE.

CACKLE...
THE RUSE
WORKED.



SO YOU STABBED
A MAN, EH?
WHAT AN
OUTRAGEOUS
BOY.

OR
RATHER, A
PROMISING
ONE.



MY NAME
IS GHAGRA.

I MAY NOT
LOOK IT, BUT I
WAS ONCE THE WIFE
OF A RICH MAN,
HERE IN THIS VERY
COUNTRY.



MY MAN
CAST
ME ASIDE,
LIKE A
PIECE
OF TRASH,
TO BETTER
HIS LOT.

HE
NEEDED
TO MARRY
A GIRL
RELATED
TO THE
ROYAL
CLAN,
AND SO
HE DID!

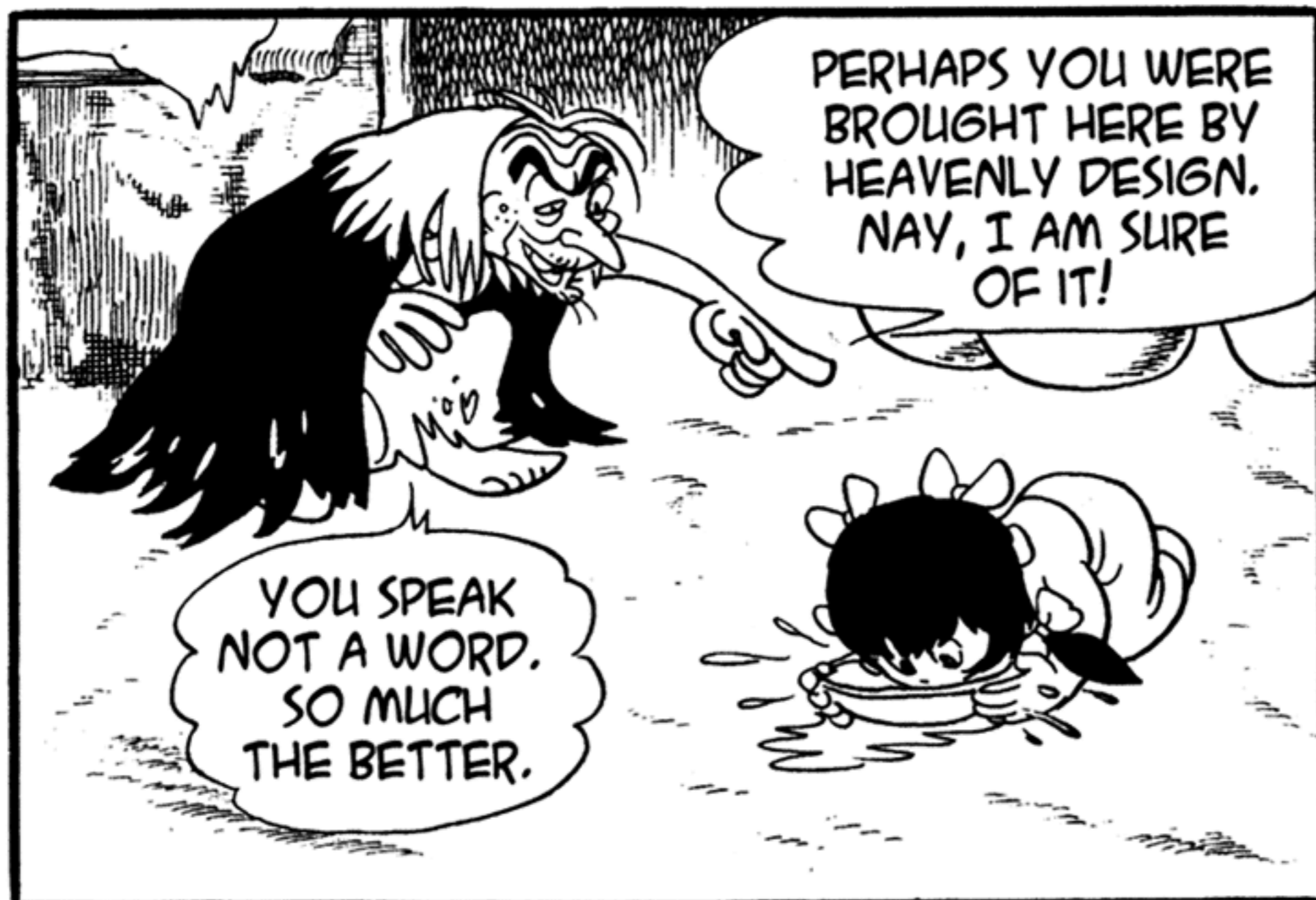


I CURSED HIM! I CURSED
THE WOMAN, TOO!
I SWORE I WOULD ROB
THEM OF ALL THEY HAD,
AND THEREBY AVENGE
MYSELF, EVEN IF IT
TOOK ME A
LIFETIME.



BUT LOOK
AT ME
NOW,

DECREPIT.
I CAN NO
LONGER
PULL IT OFF
BY MYSELF.



PERHAPS YOU WERE
BROUGHT HERE BY
HEAVENLY DESIGN.
NAY, I AM SURE
OF IT!

YOU SPEAK
NOT A WORD.
SO MUCH
THE BETTER.

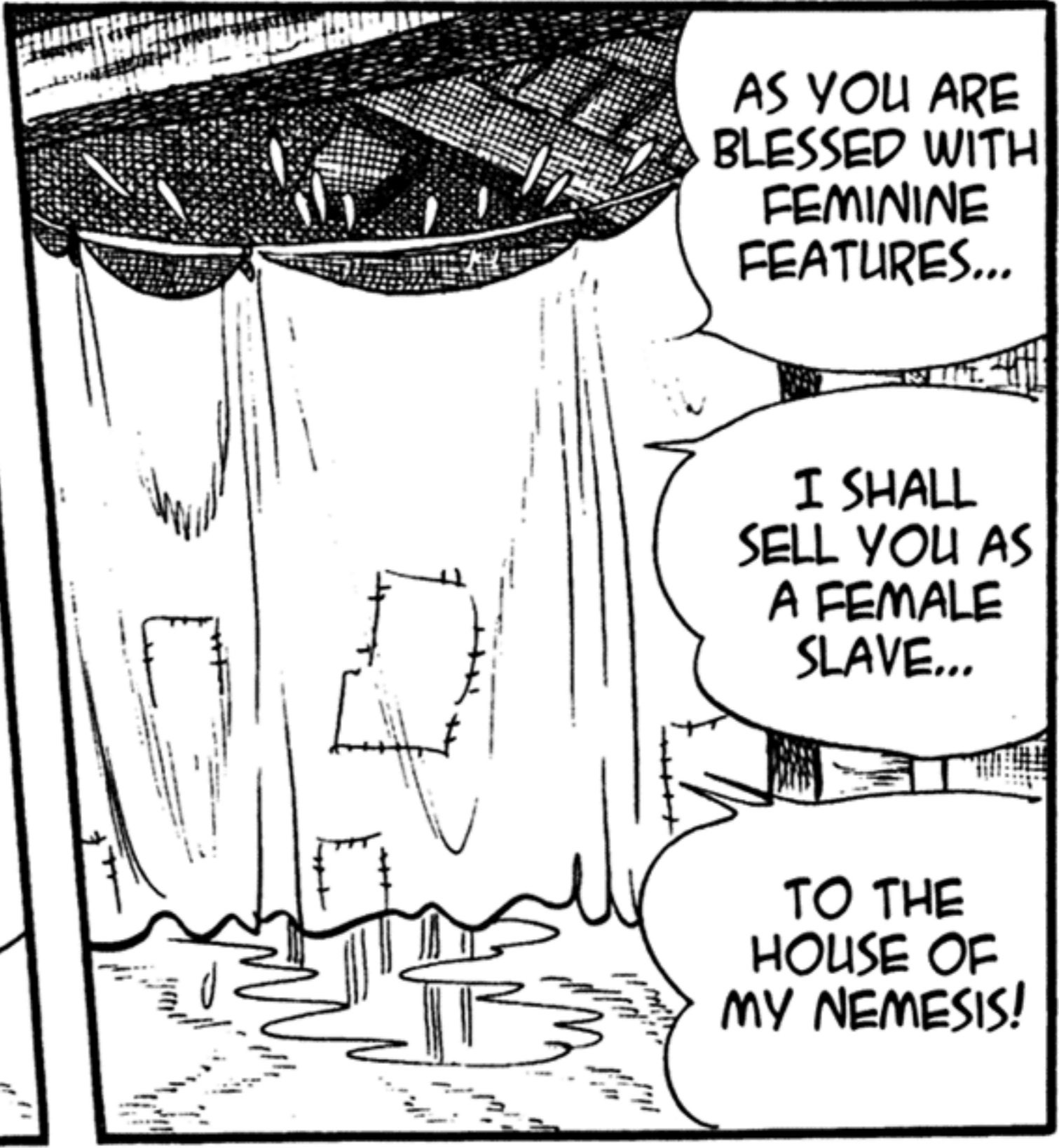


THIS IS
POISON,
OF MY
OWN
BREWING.



I MADE IT FROM WOLF-BANE ROOT!

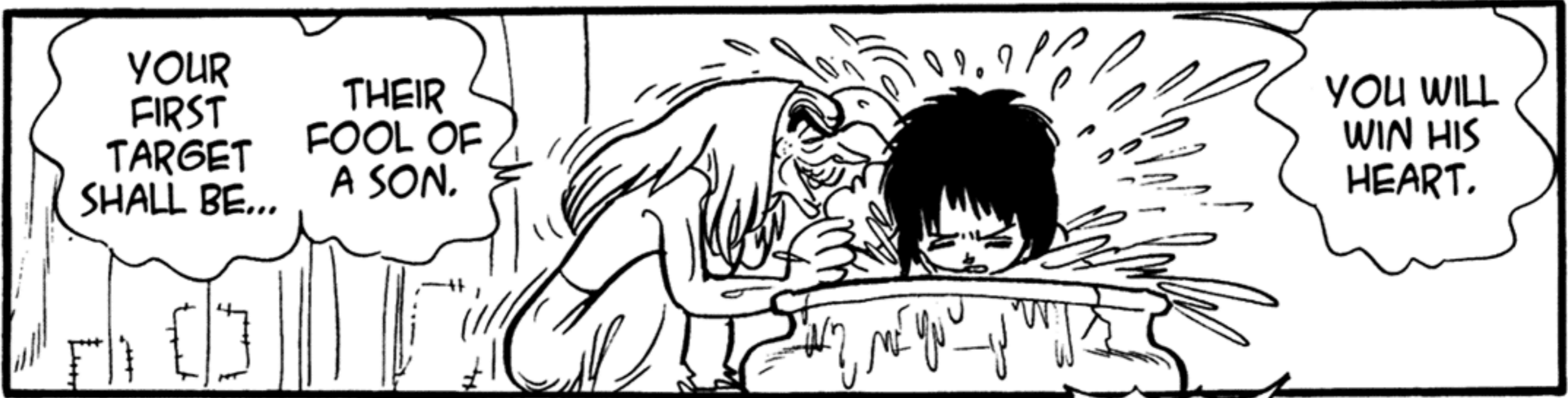
WHOEVER DRINKS IT SLEEPS THE SLEEP OF THE DEAD.



AS YOU ARE BLESSED WITH FEMININE FEATURES...

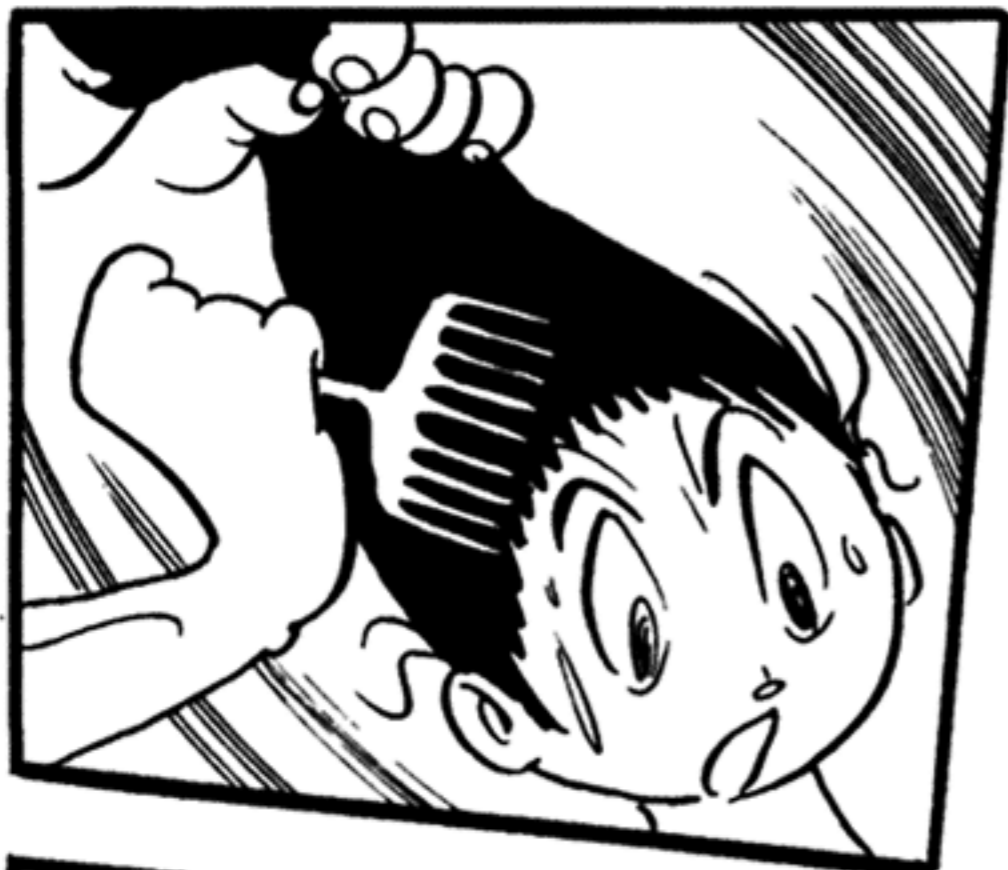
I SHALL SELL YOU AS A FEMALE SLAVE...

TO THE HOUSE OF MY NEMESIS!



YOUR FIRST TARGET SHALL BE... THEIR FOOL OF A SON.

YOU WILL WIN HIS HEART.



CHARM HIM FIRST, THEN GO FOR THE

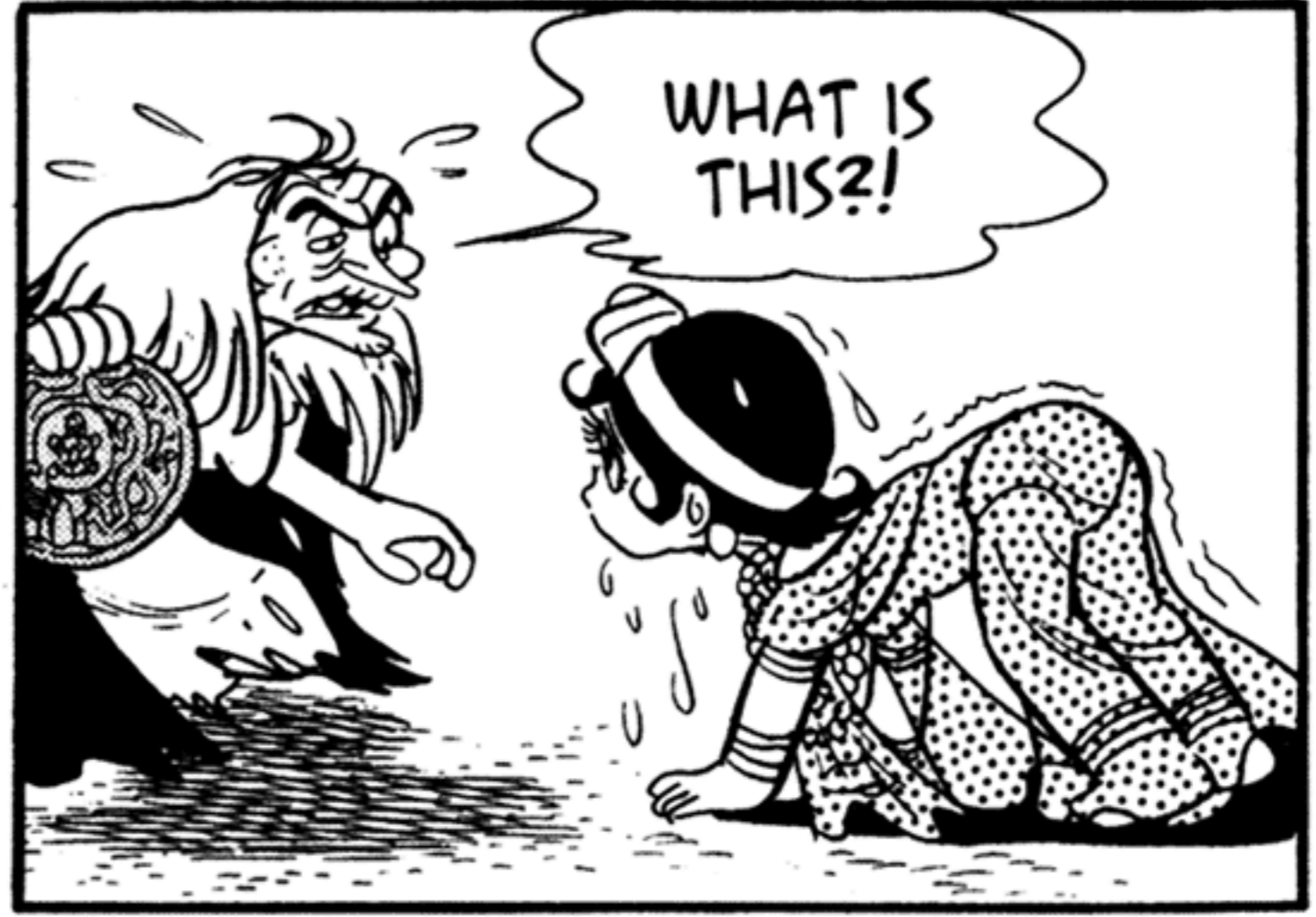


KILL!

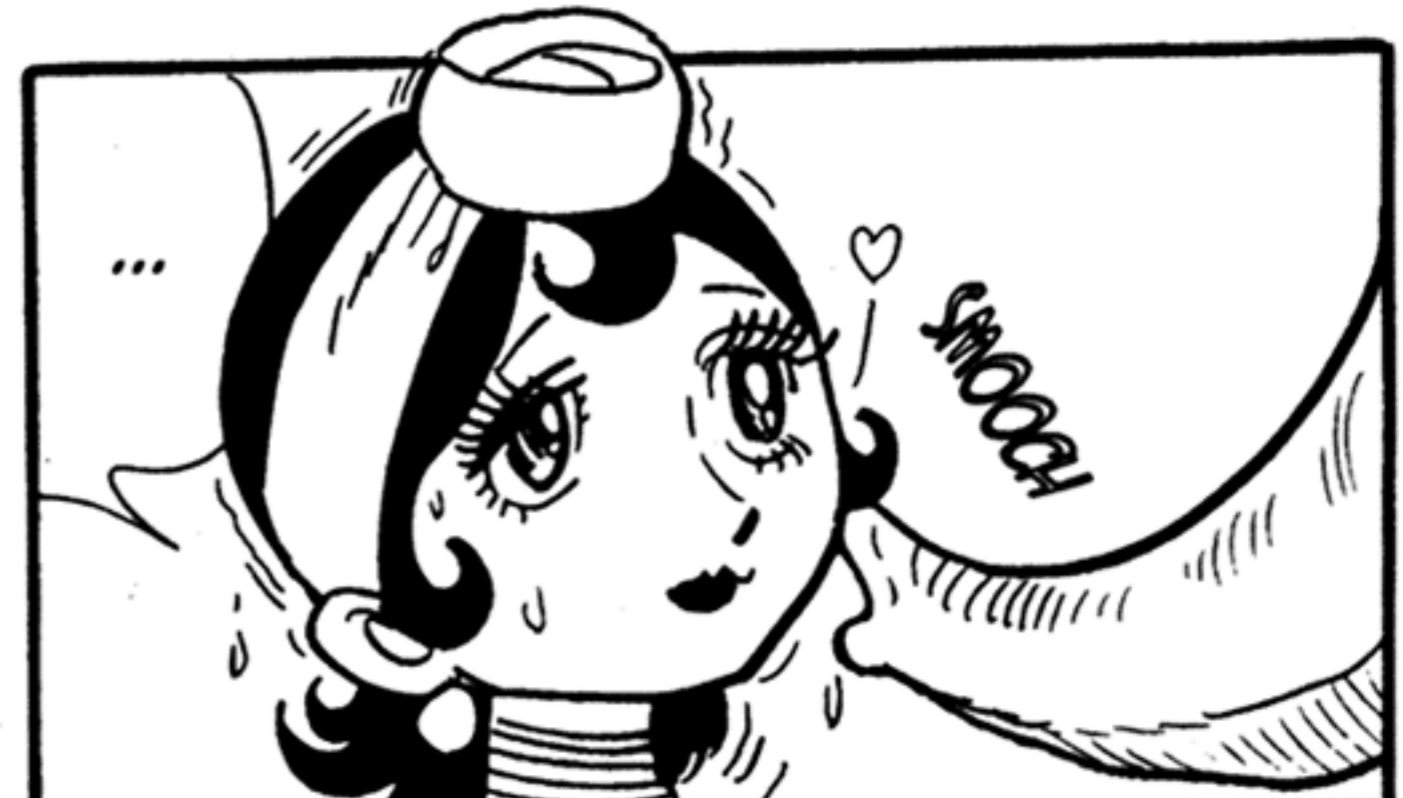
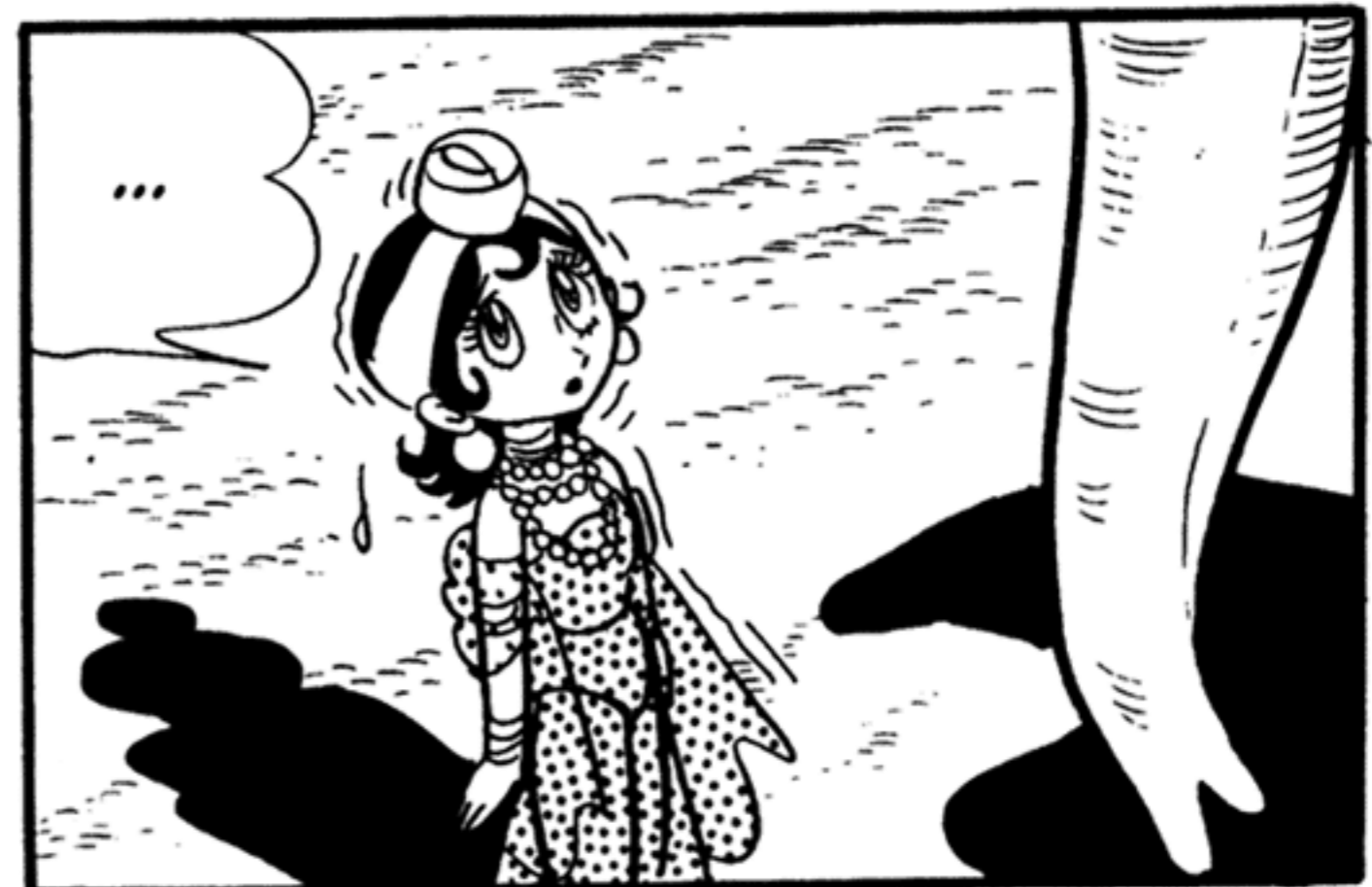
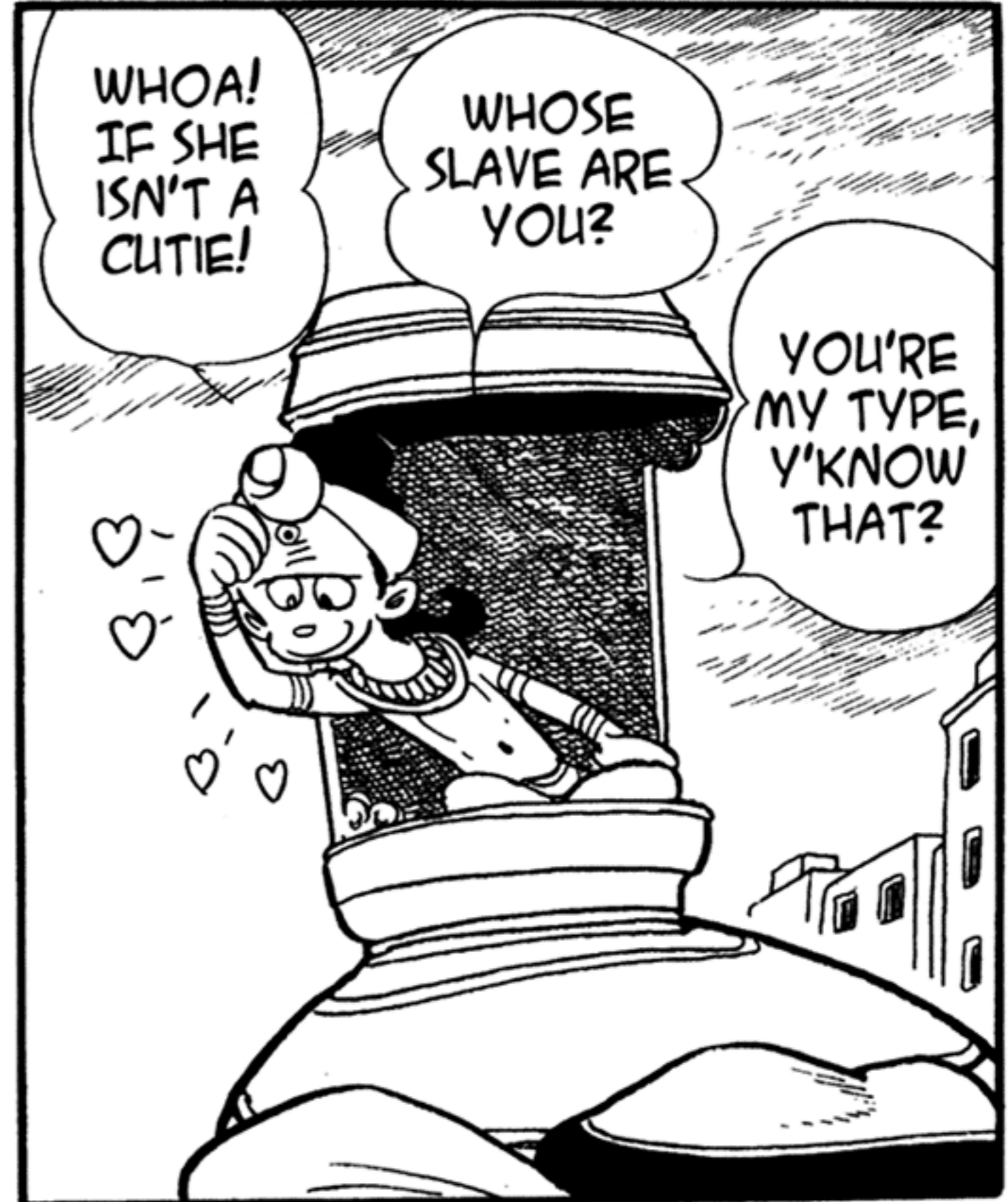
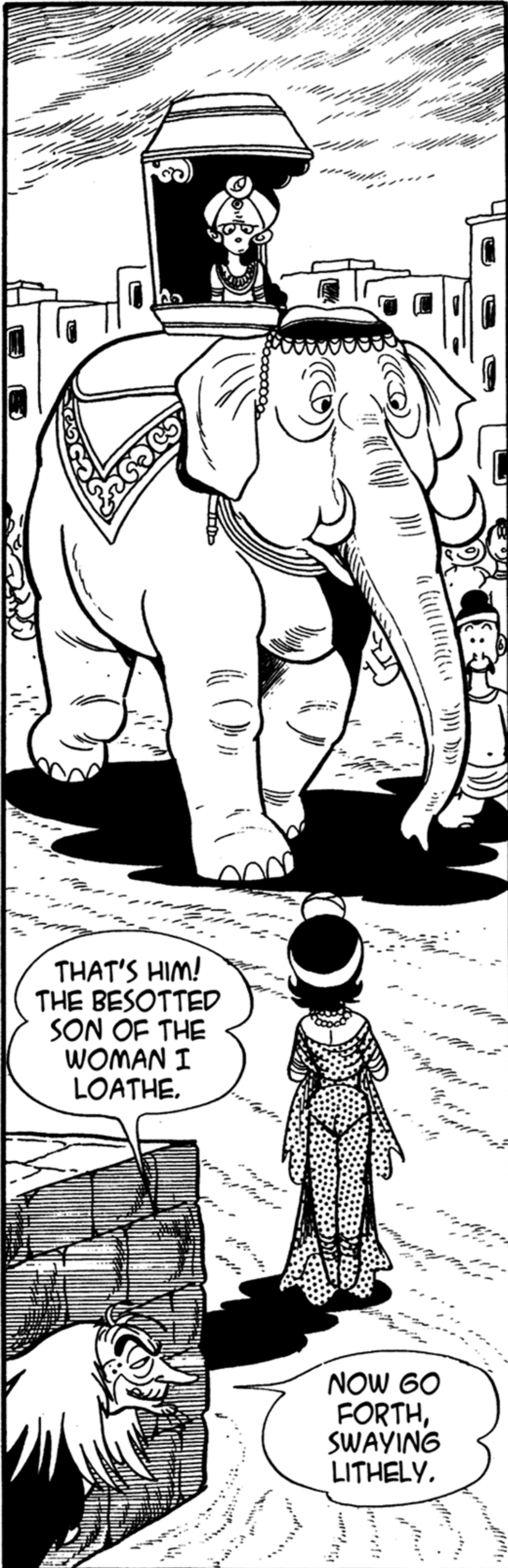


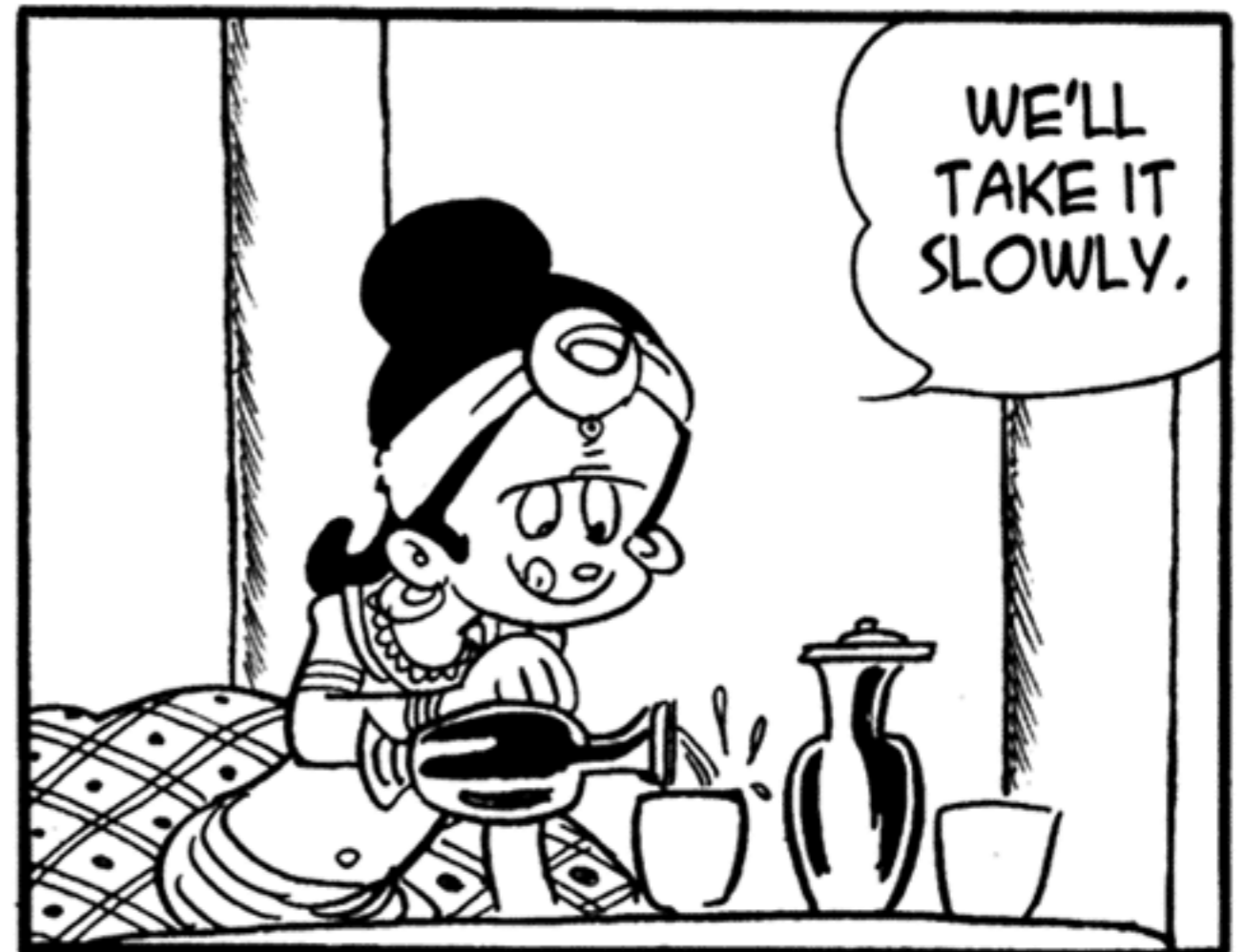
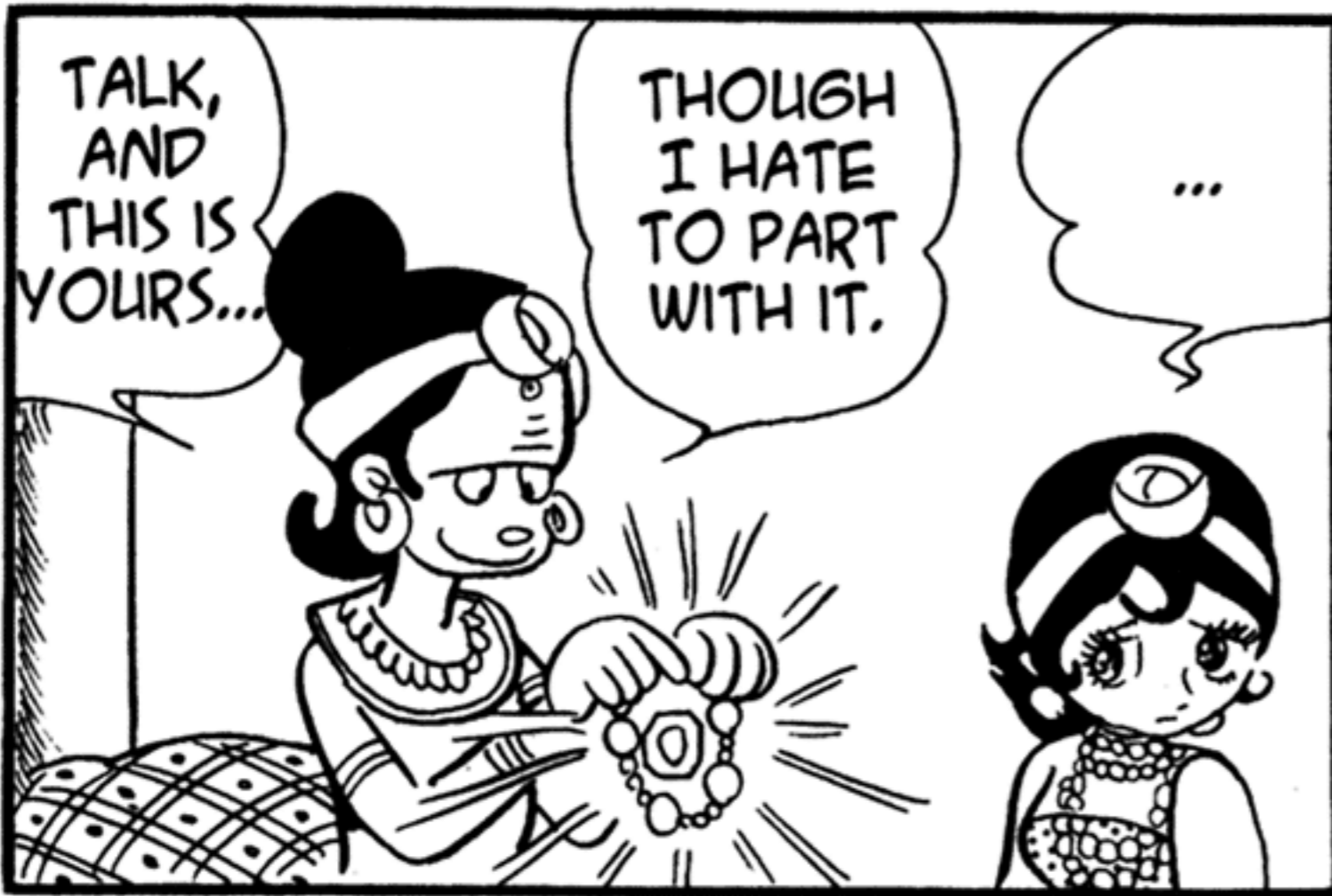
WHAT? SCARED? YOU WILL NOT DO MY BIDDING?!

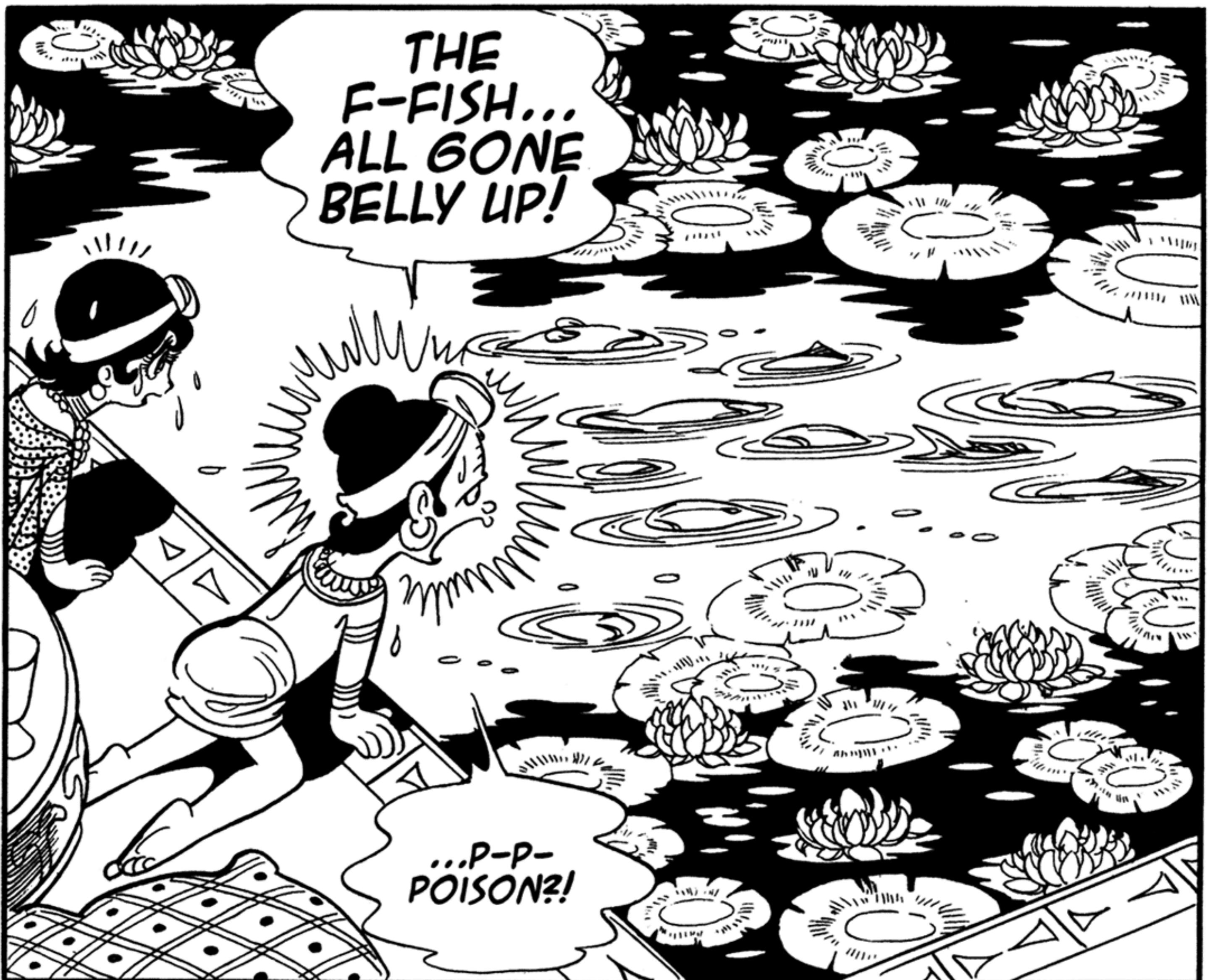


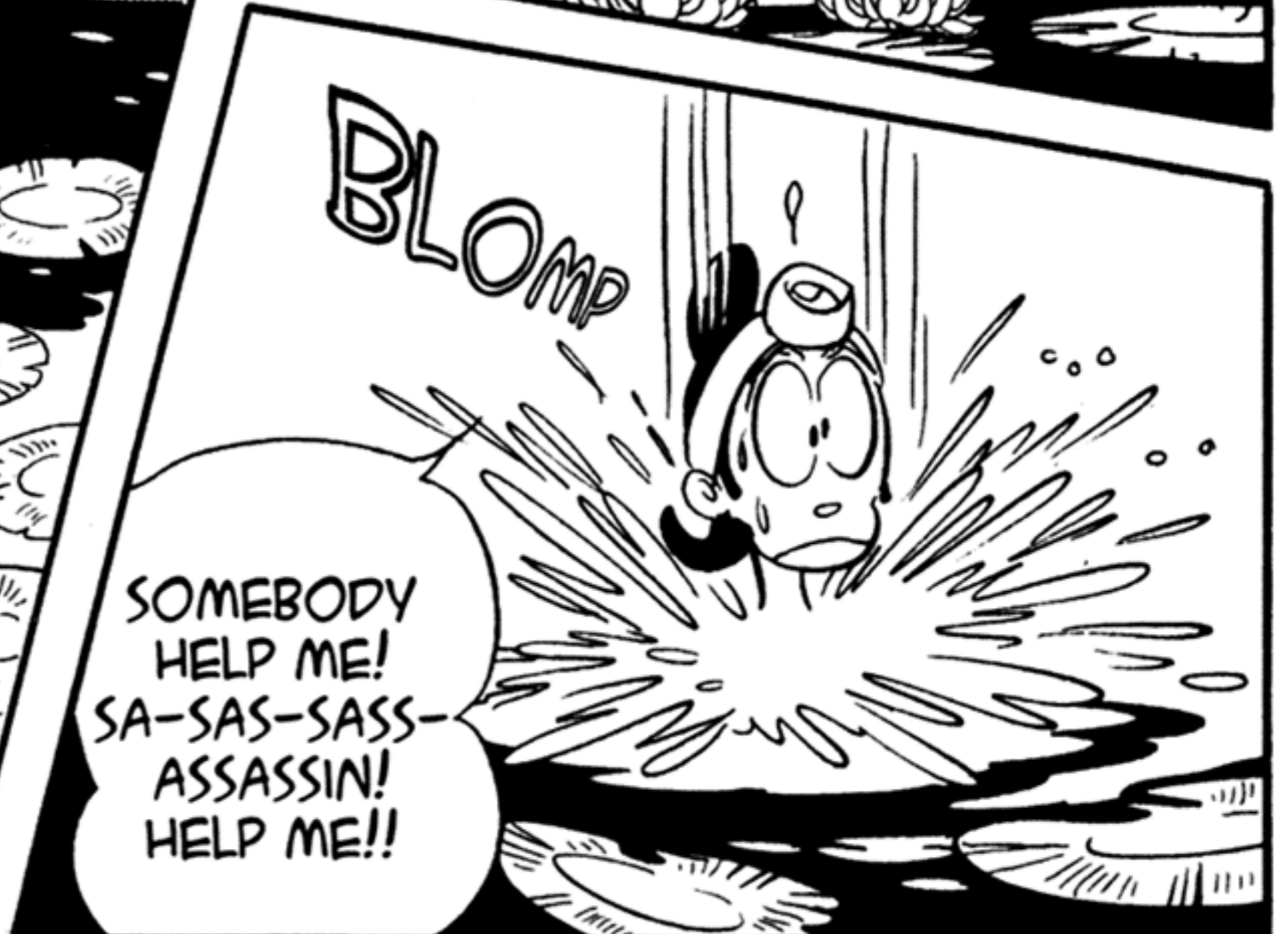
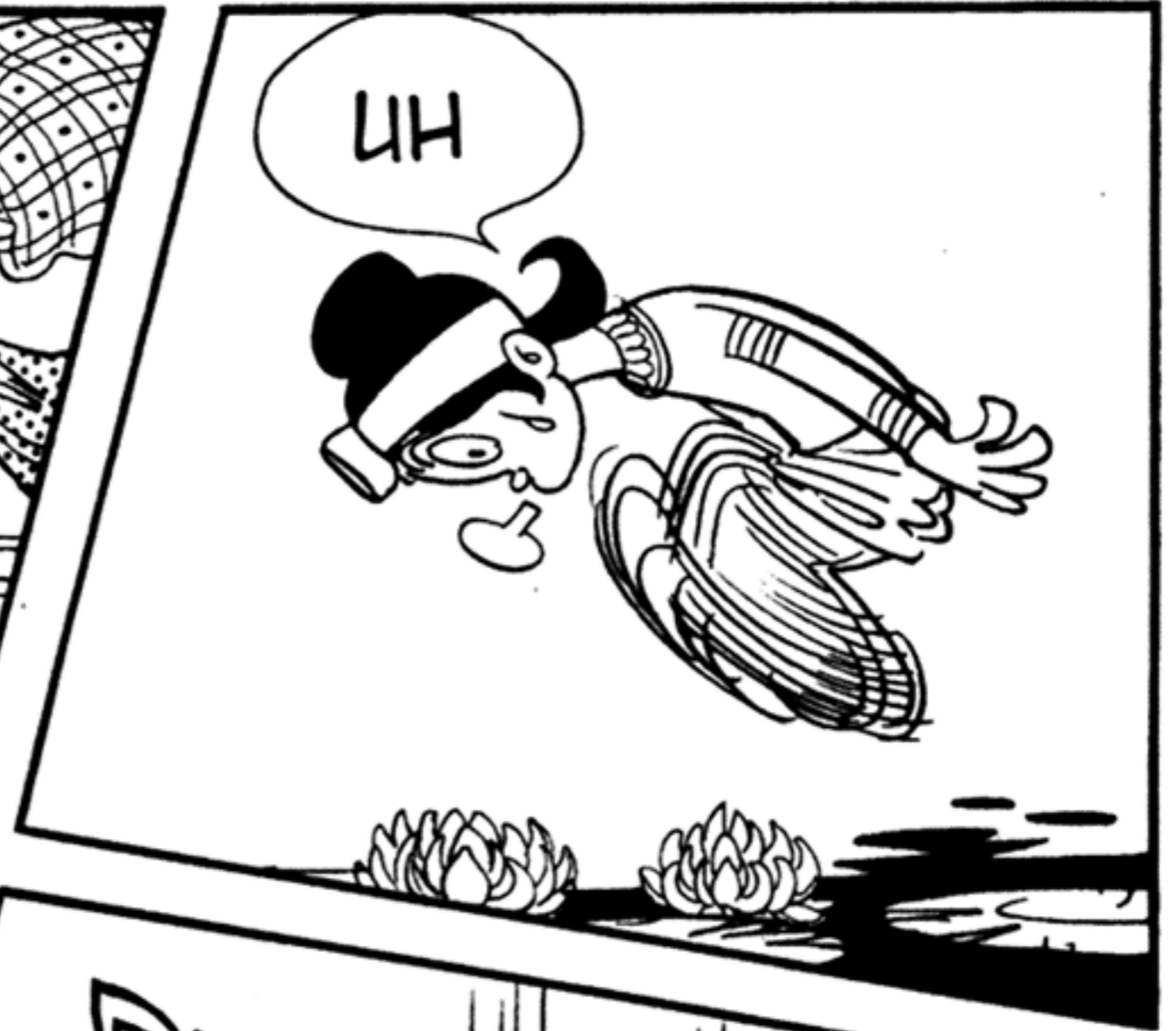
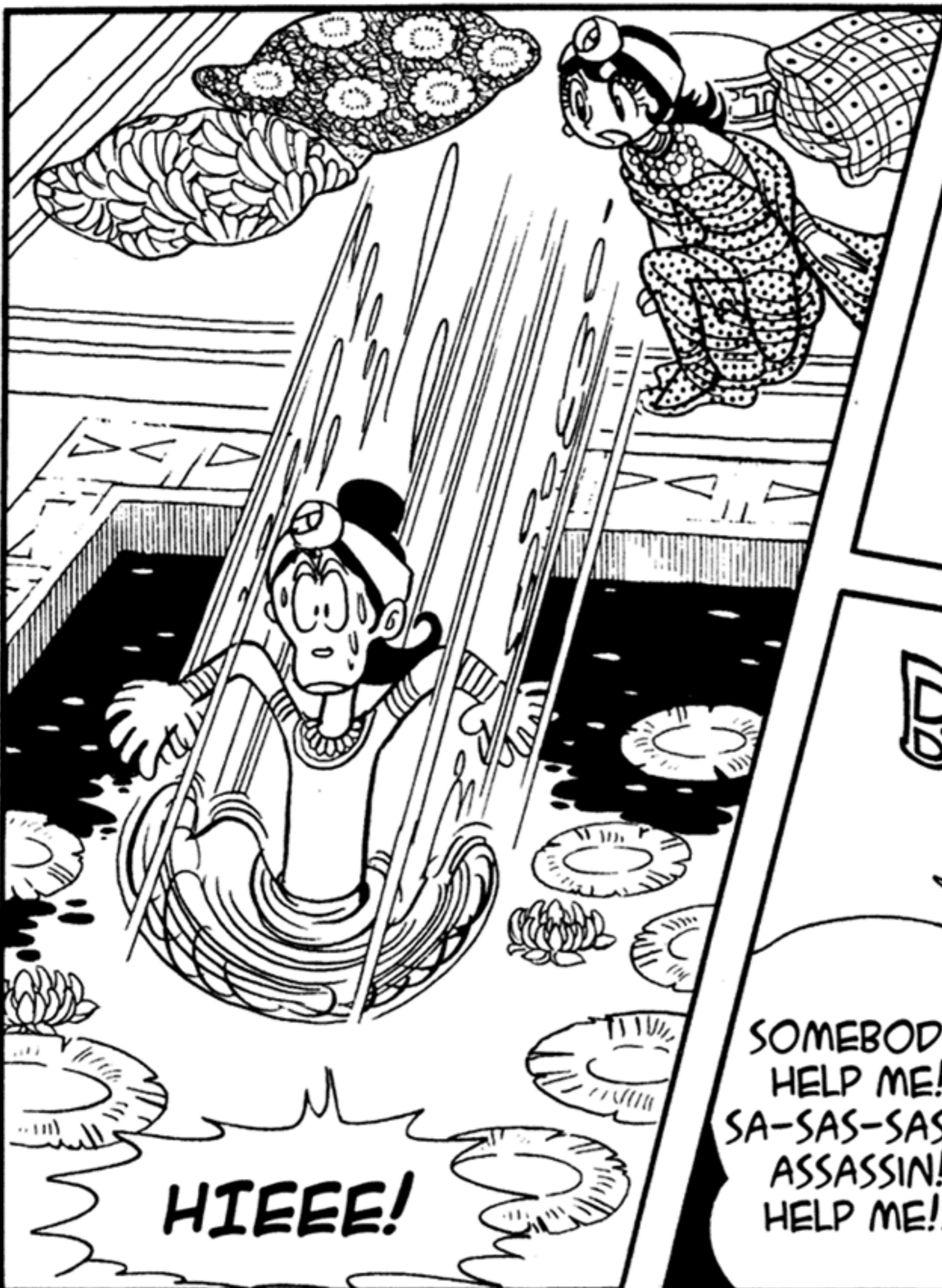
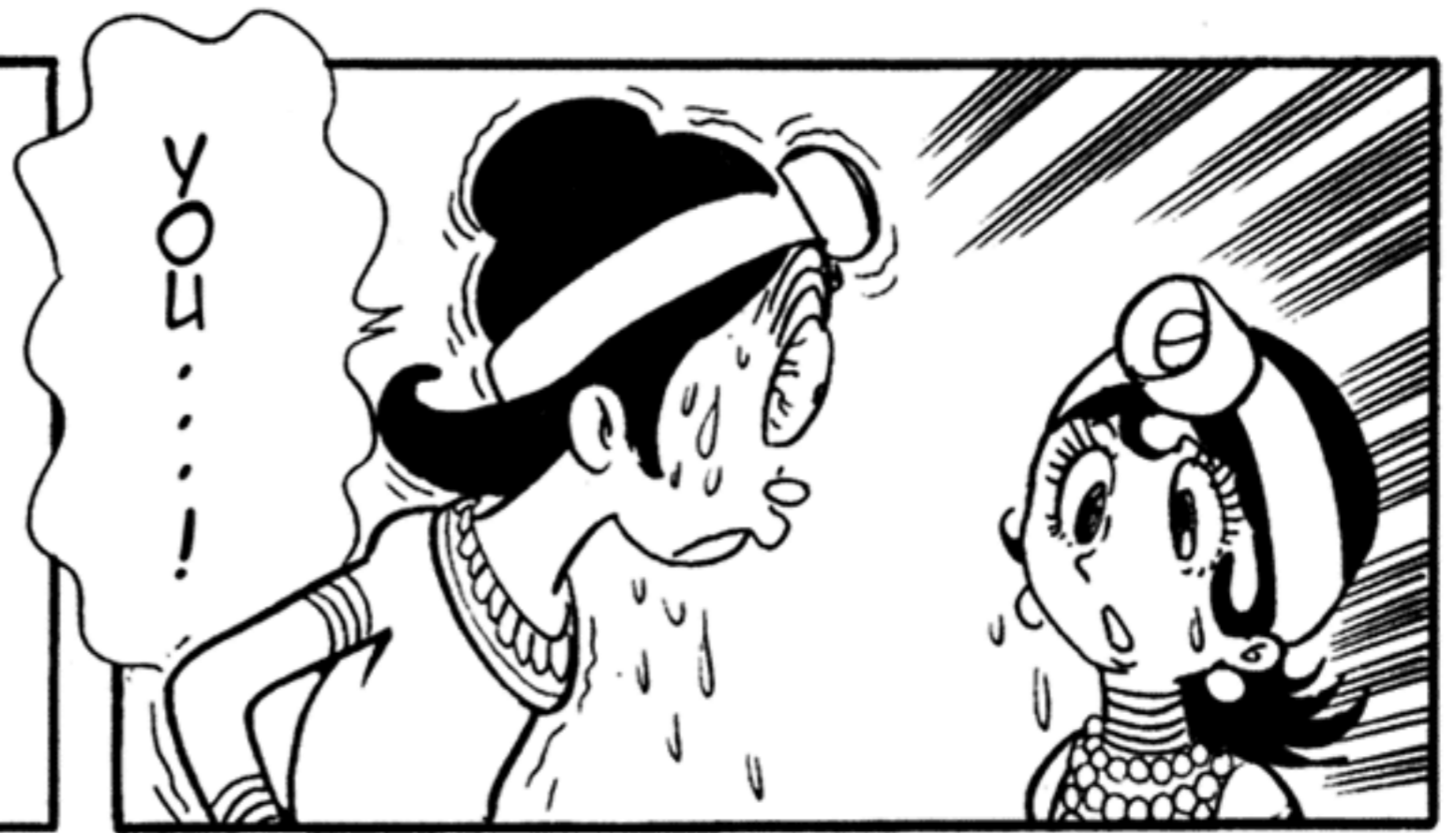
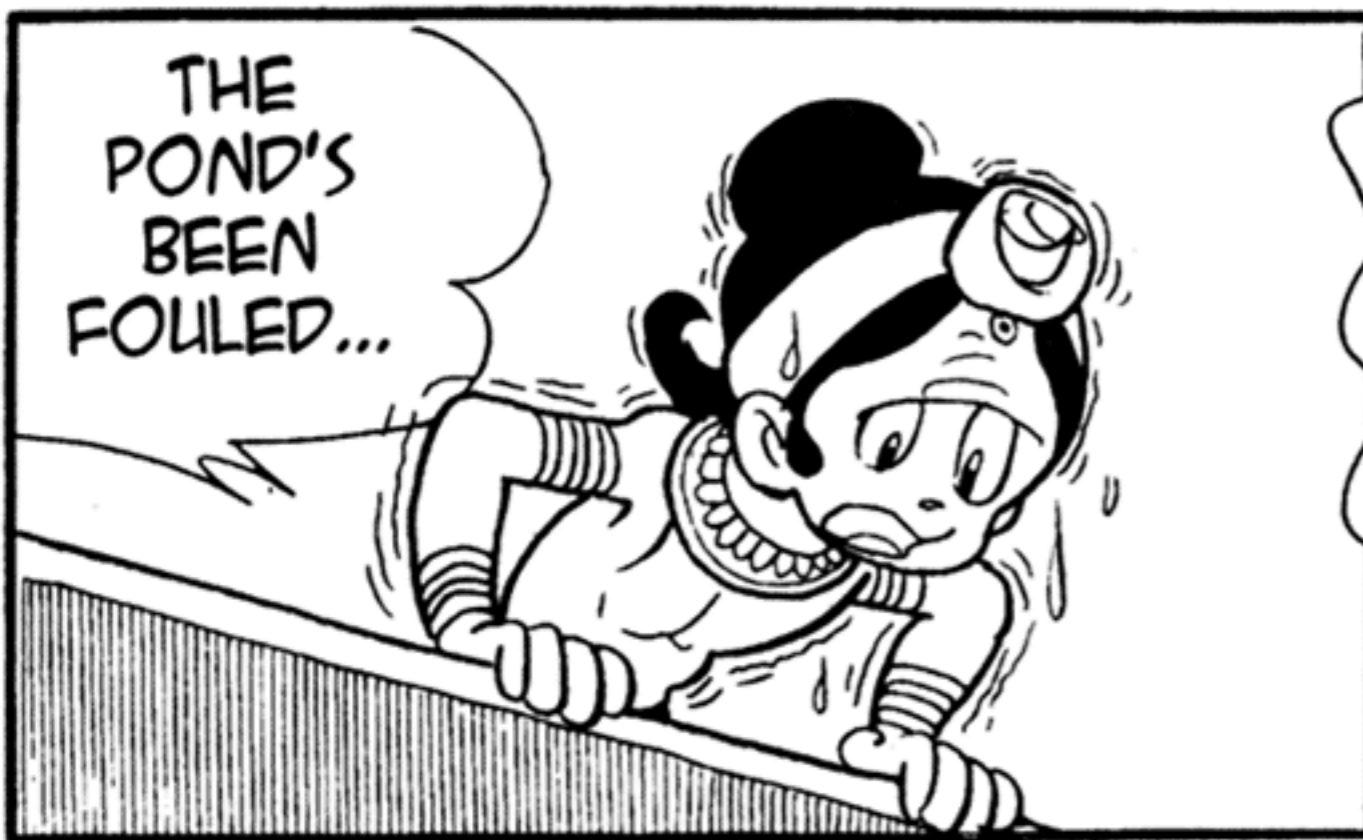
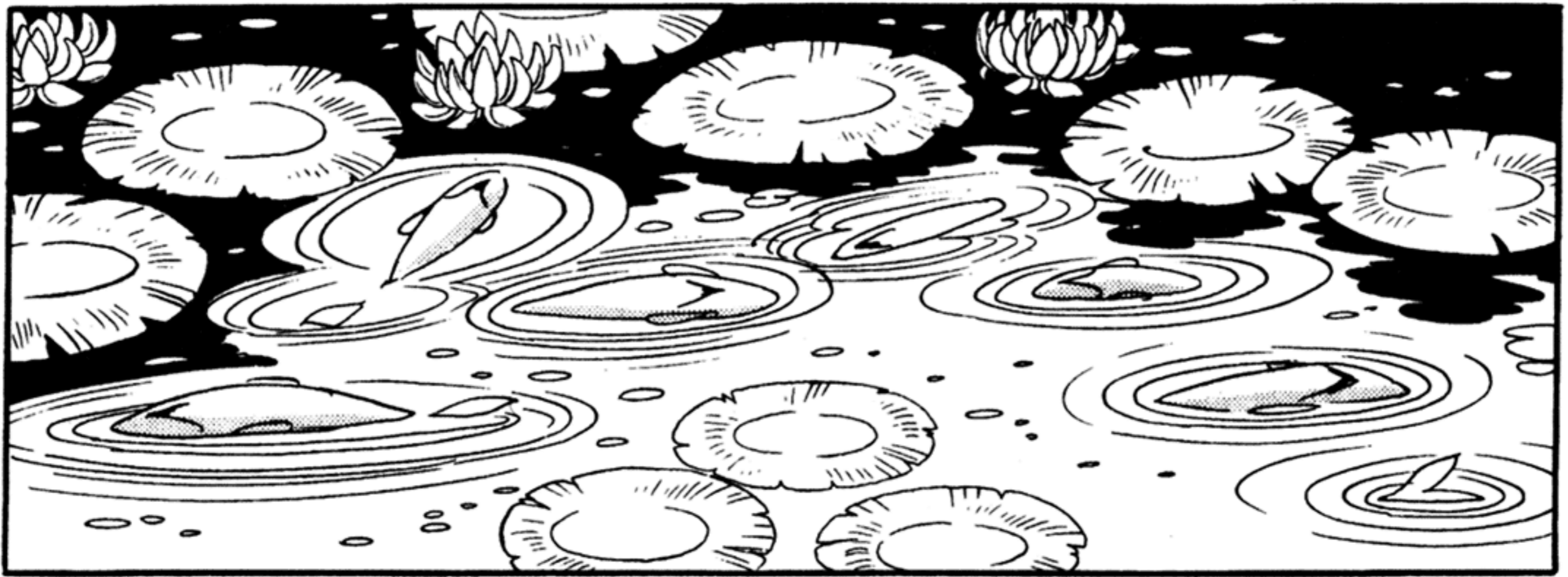


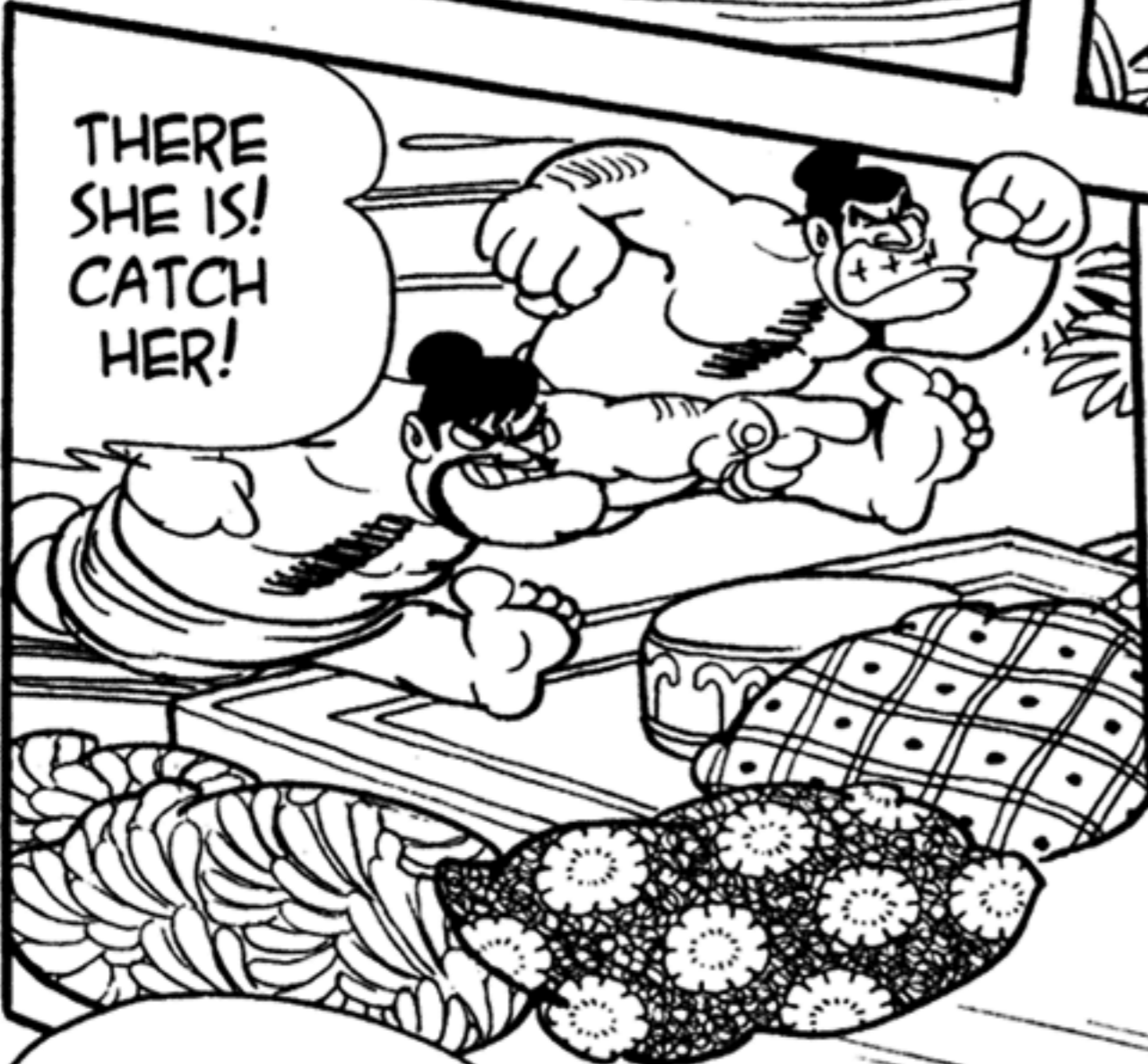
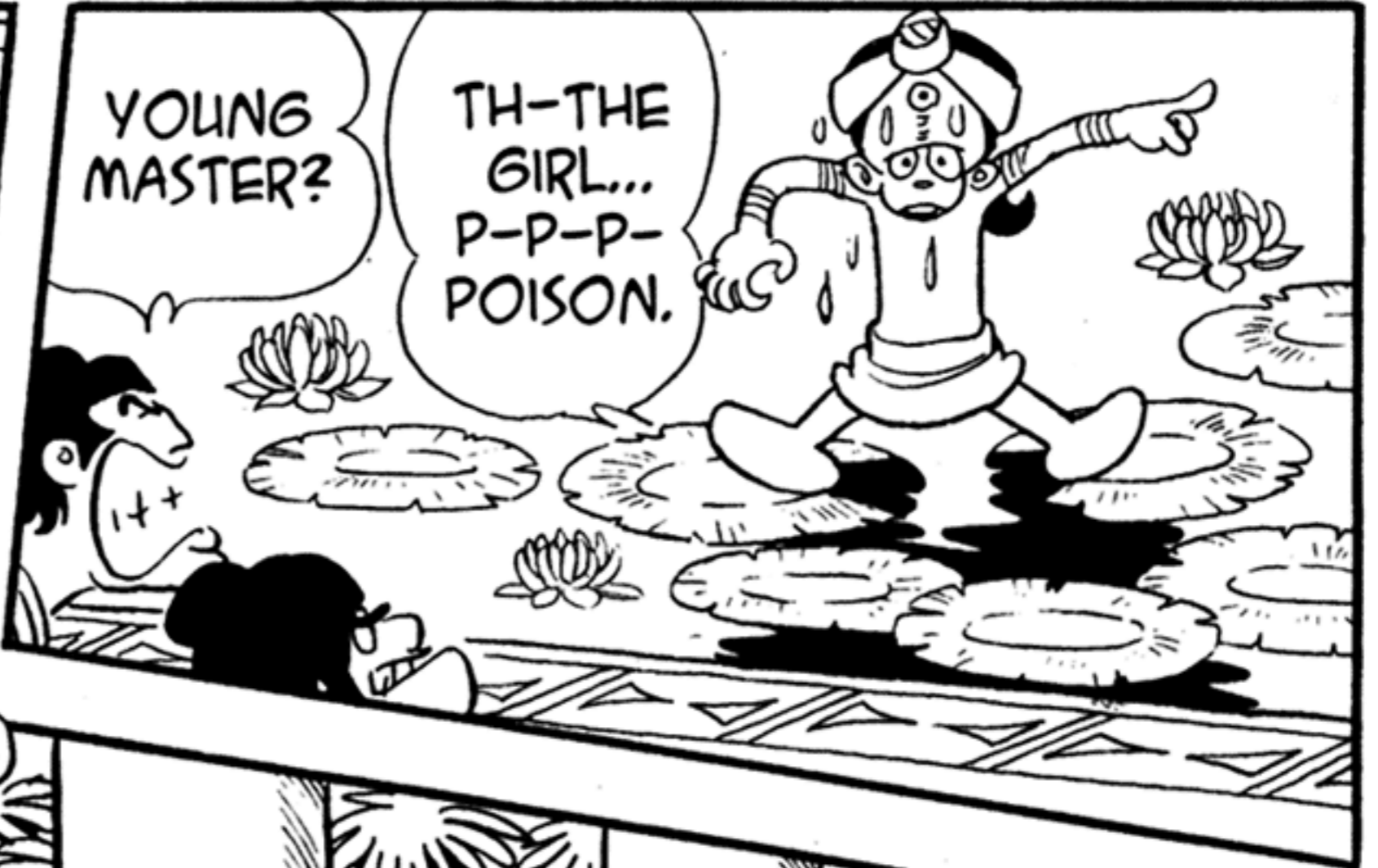
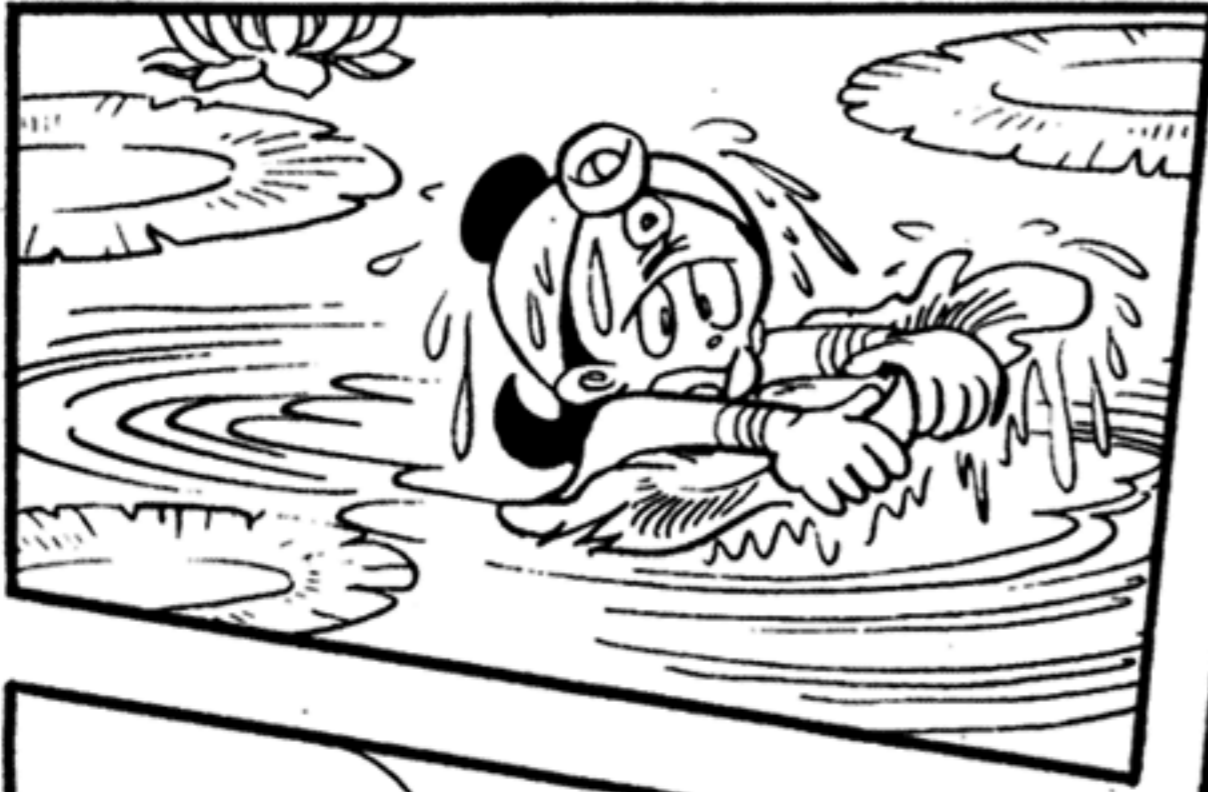










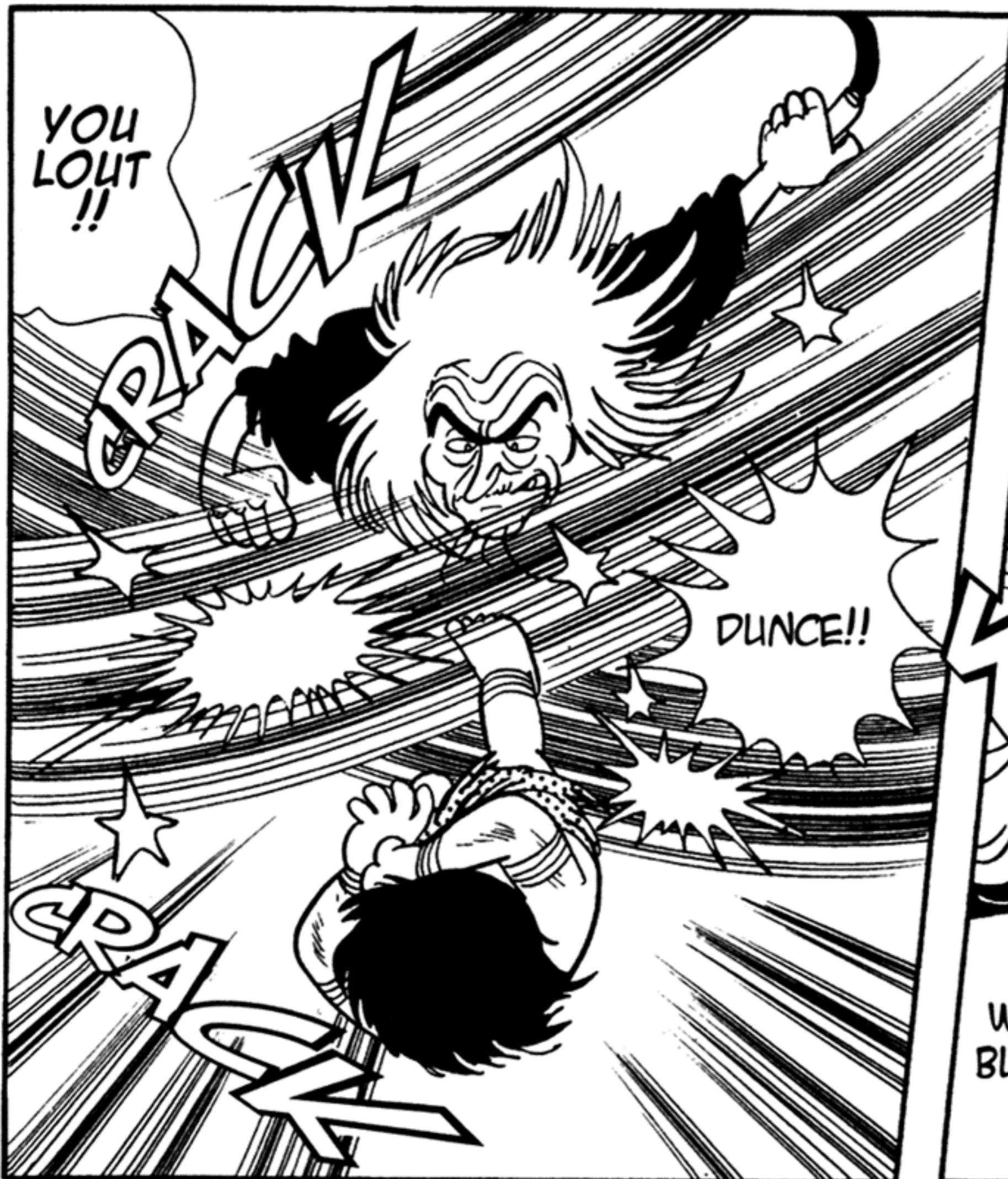
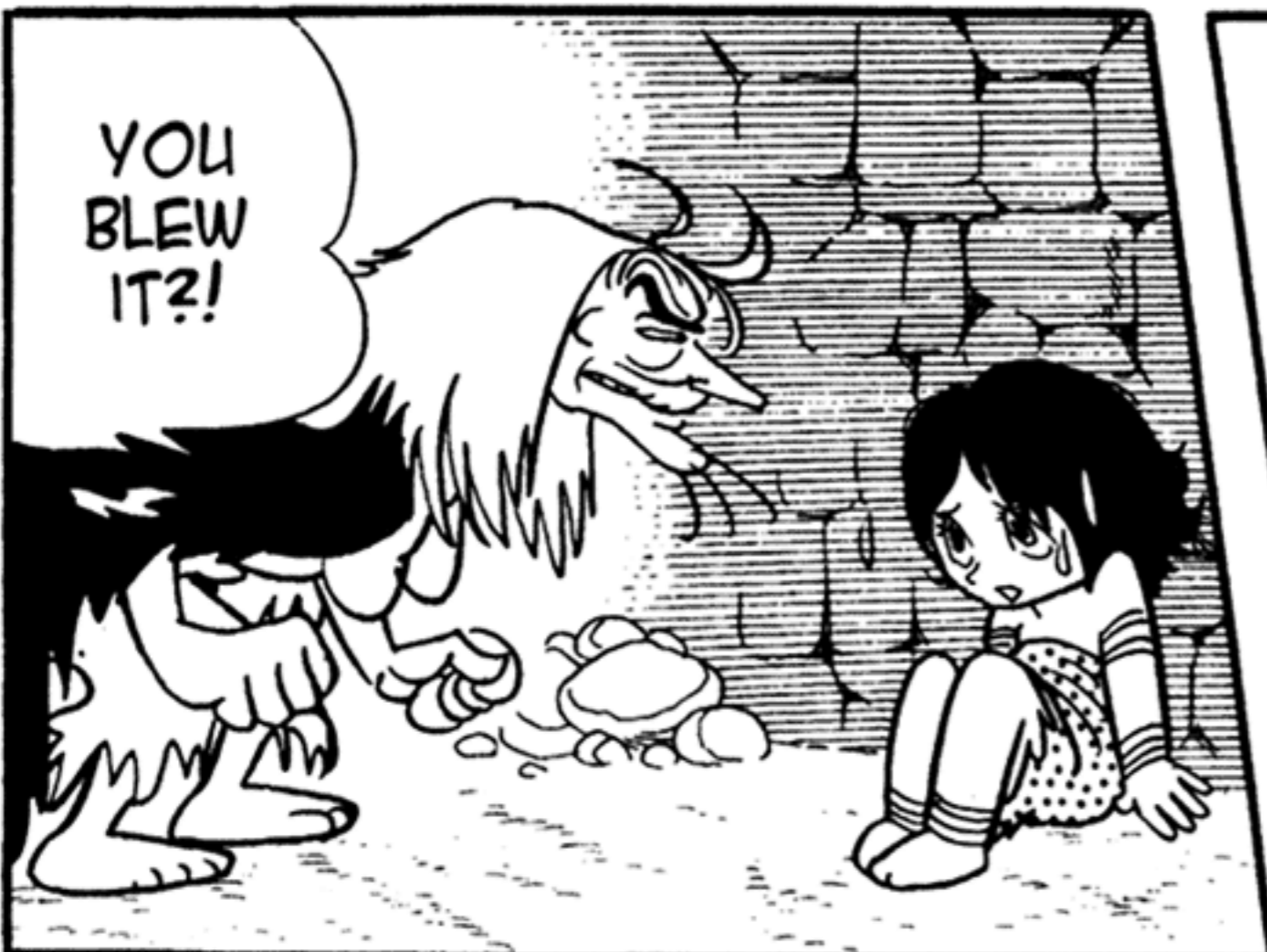
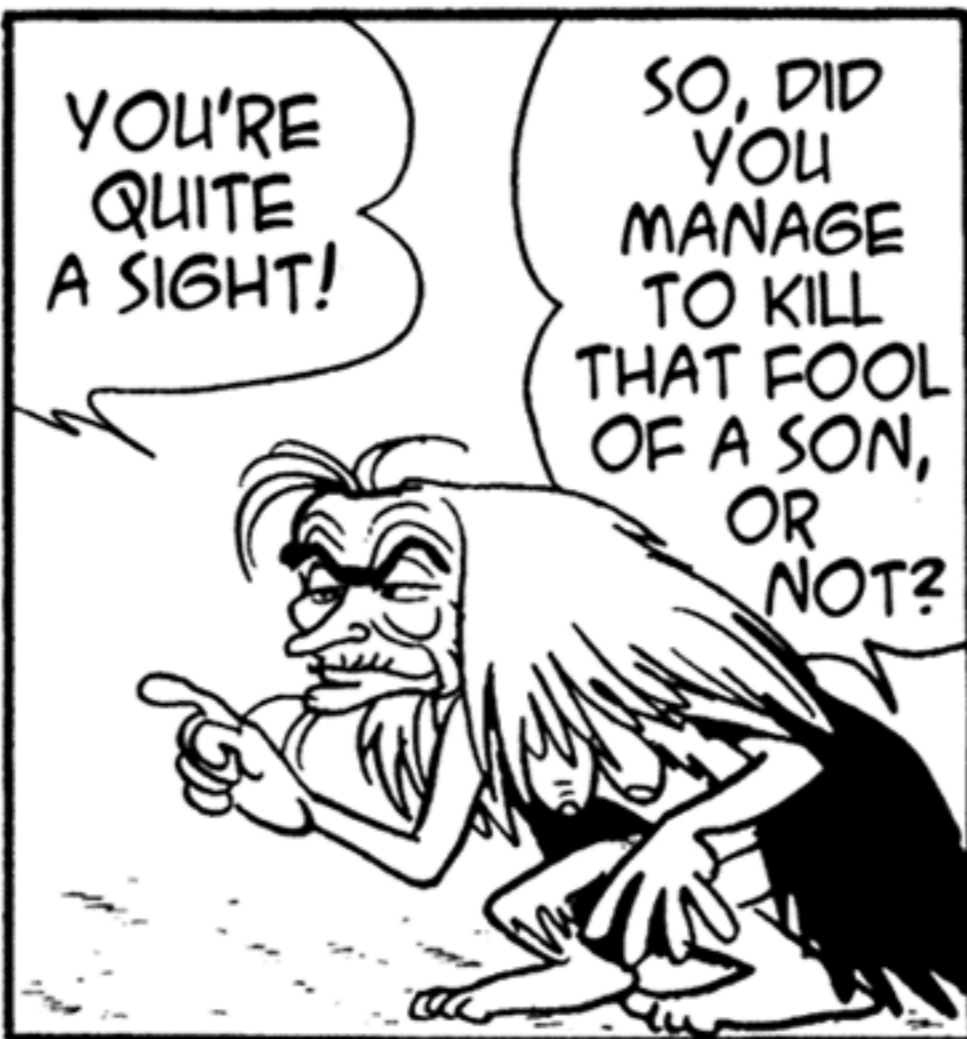


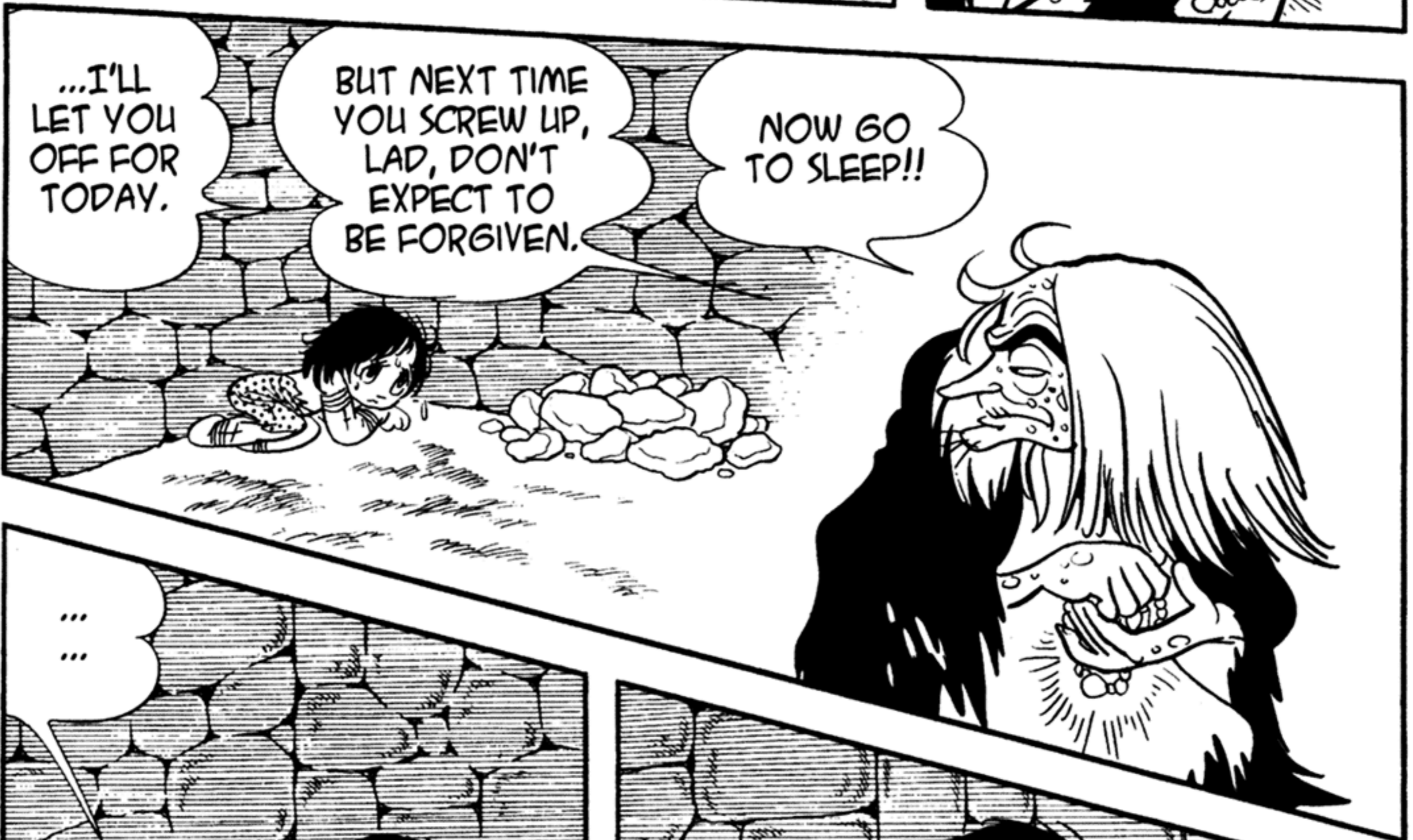
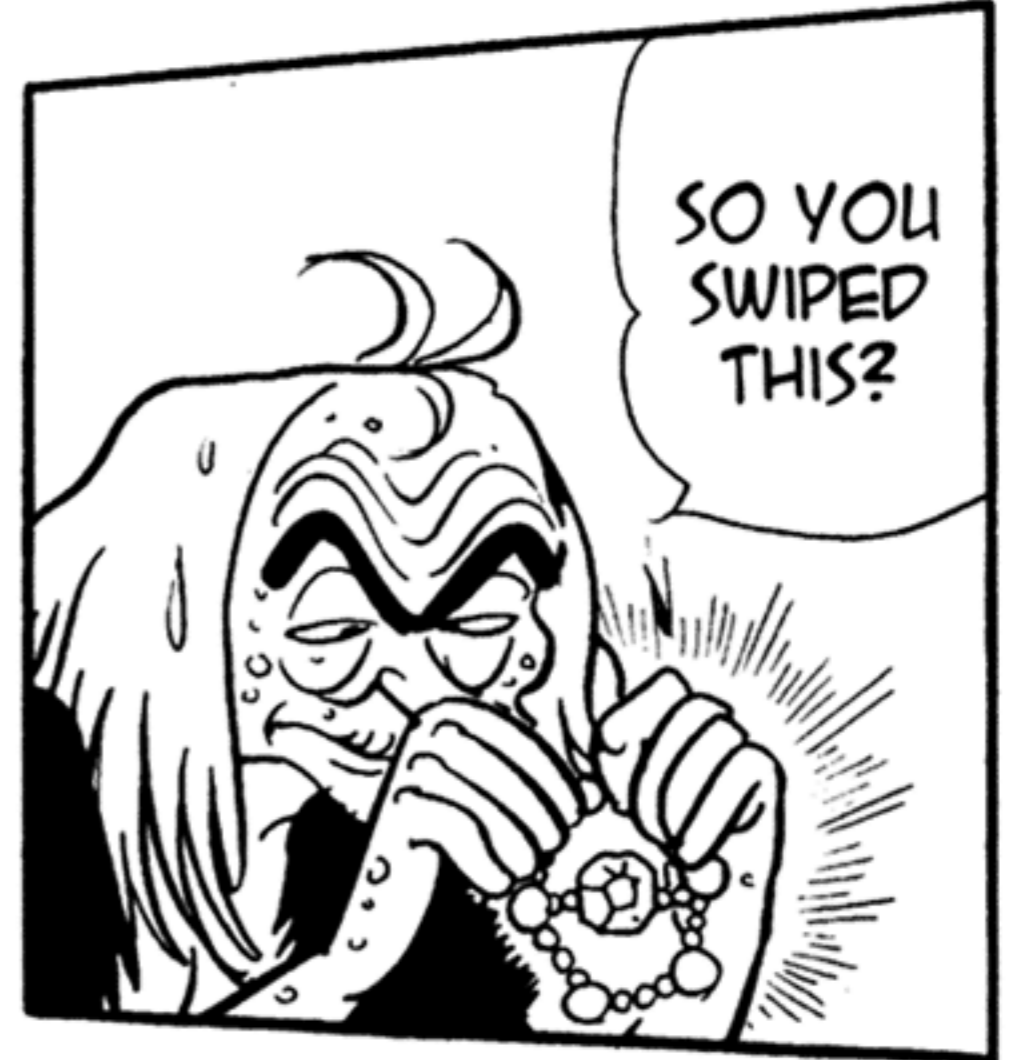
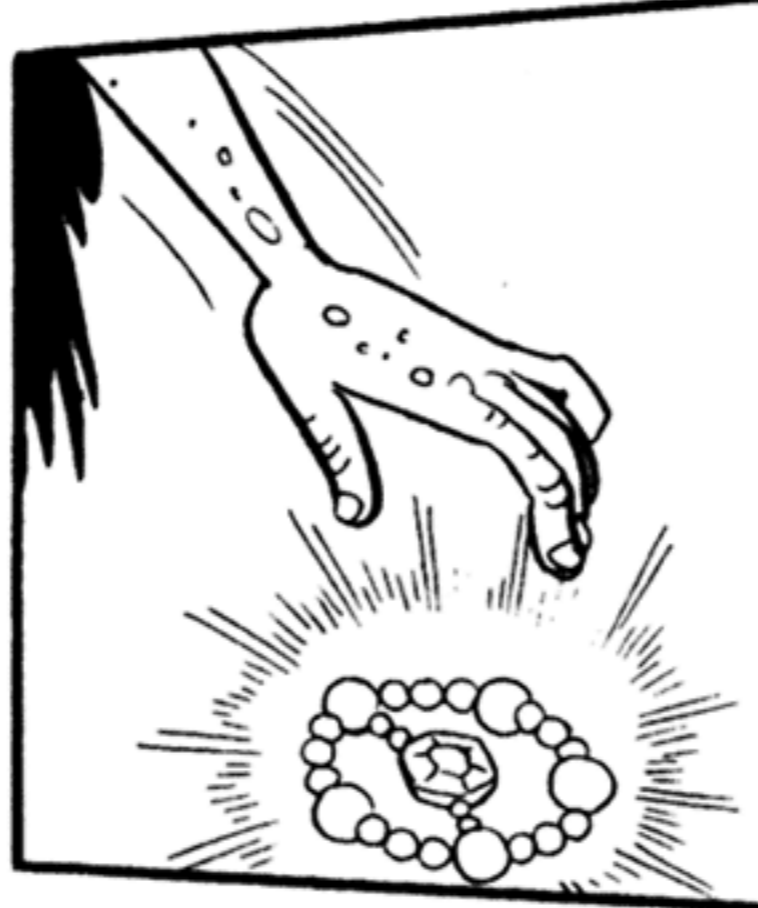
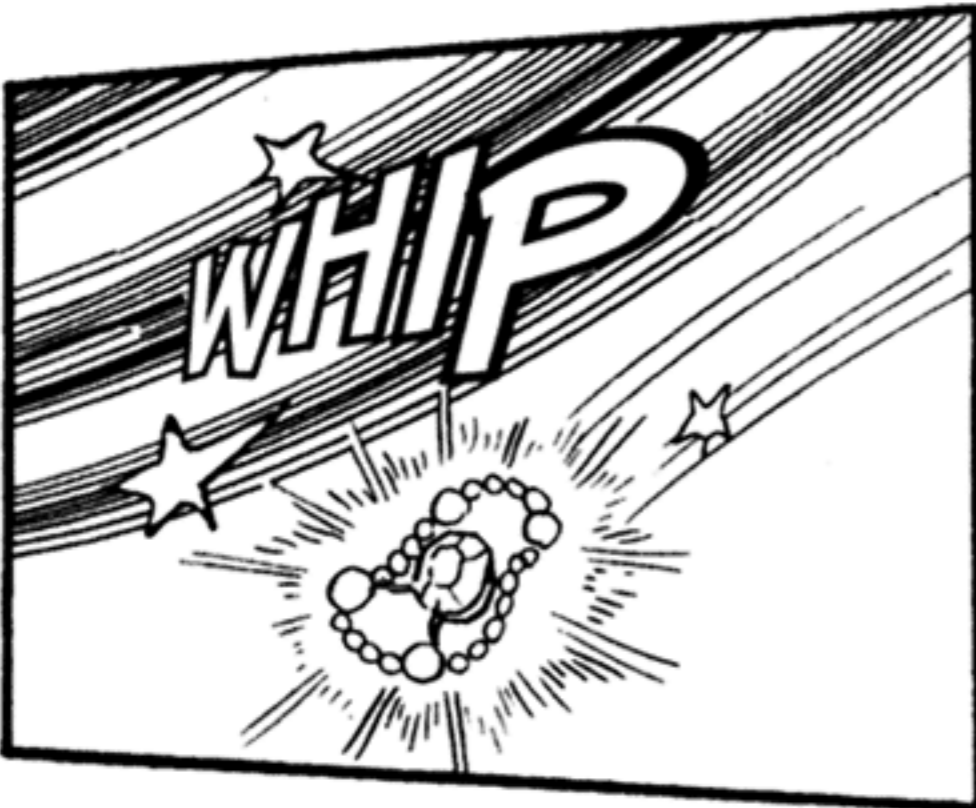
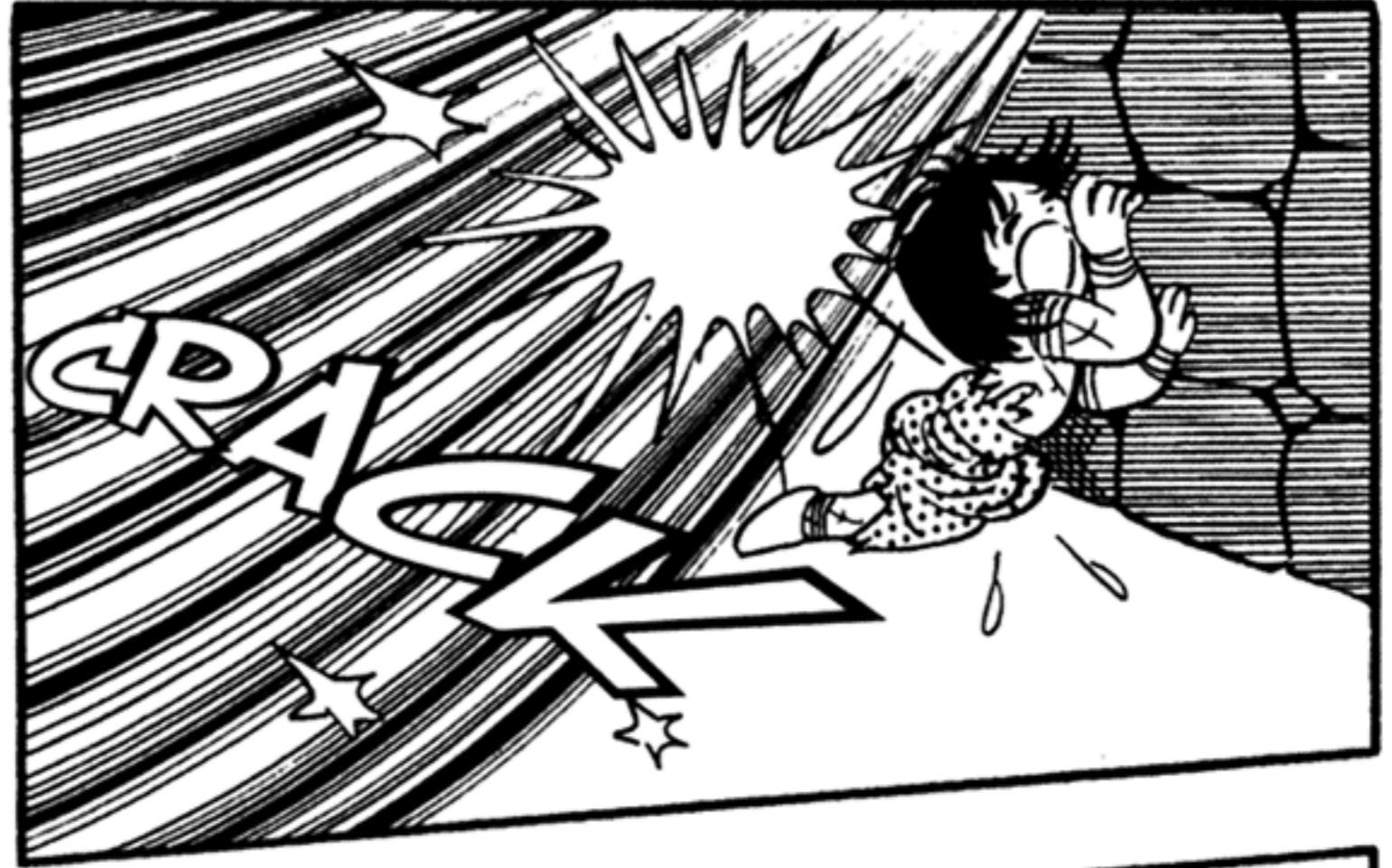
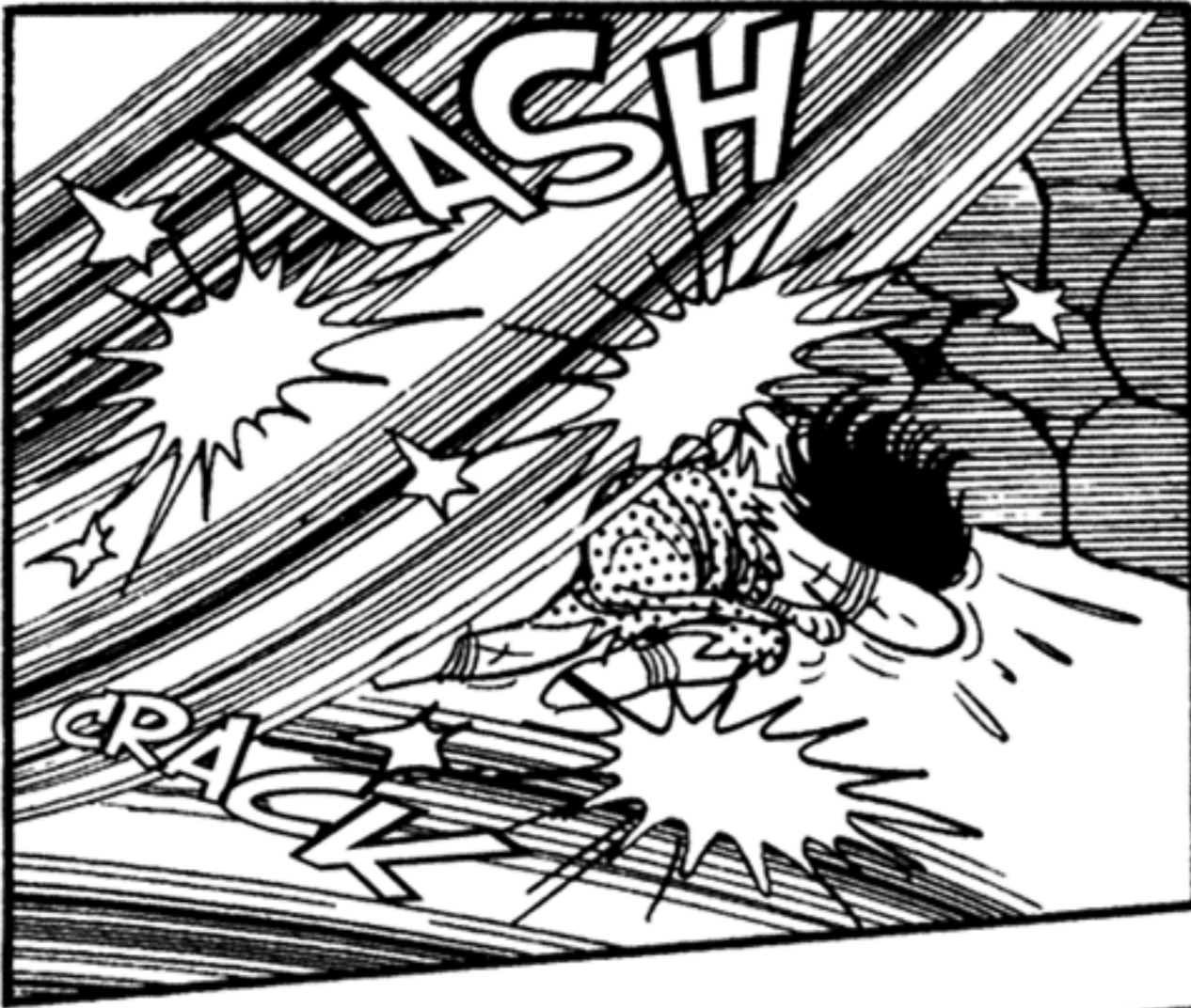
SOME VILLAIN
POSING AS A
SLAVE GIRL TRIED
TO DO ME IN!
SOMEBODY
HELP ME
OUTTA HERE!

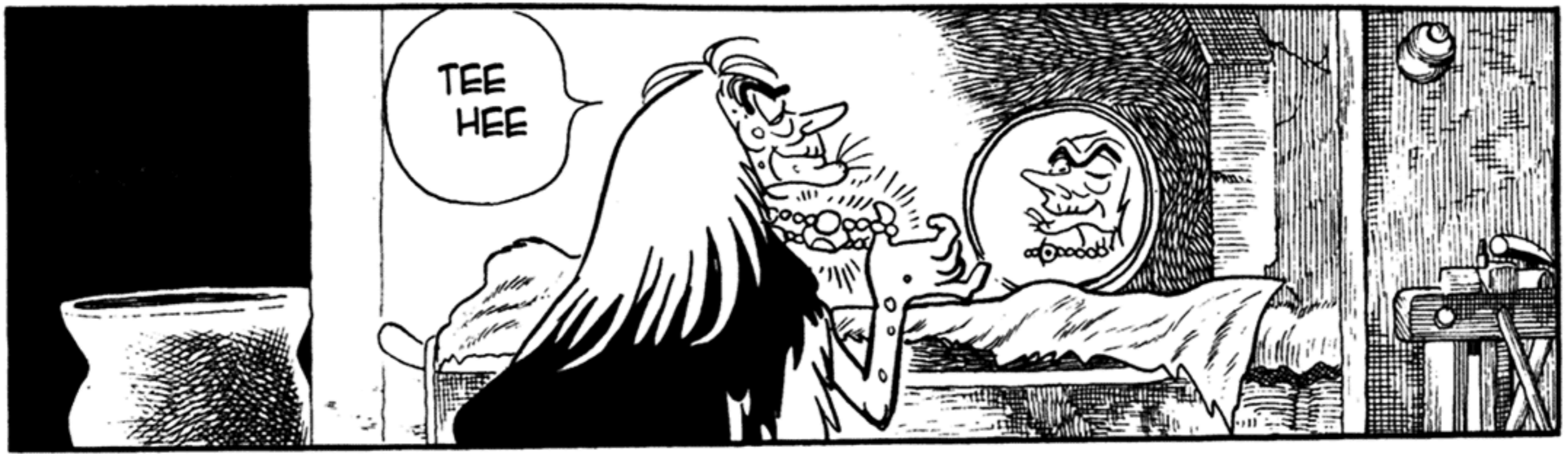


WHAT
THE - ?
SHE'S
RUNNING
ON ALL
FOURS!

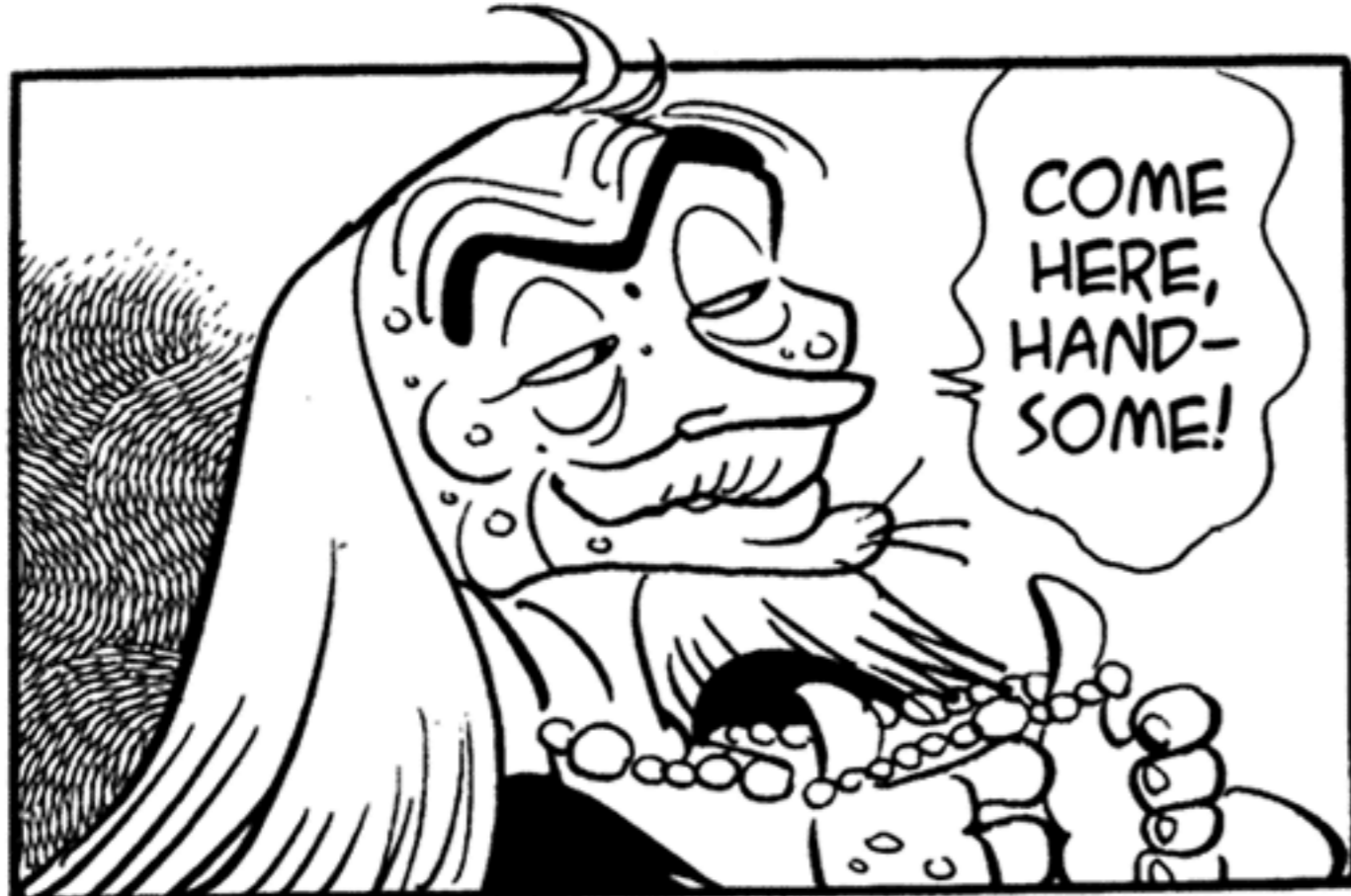








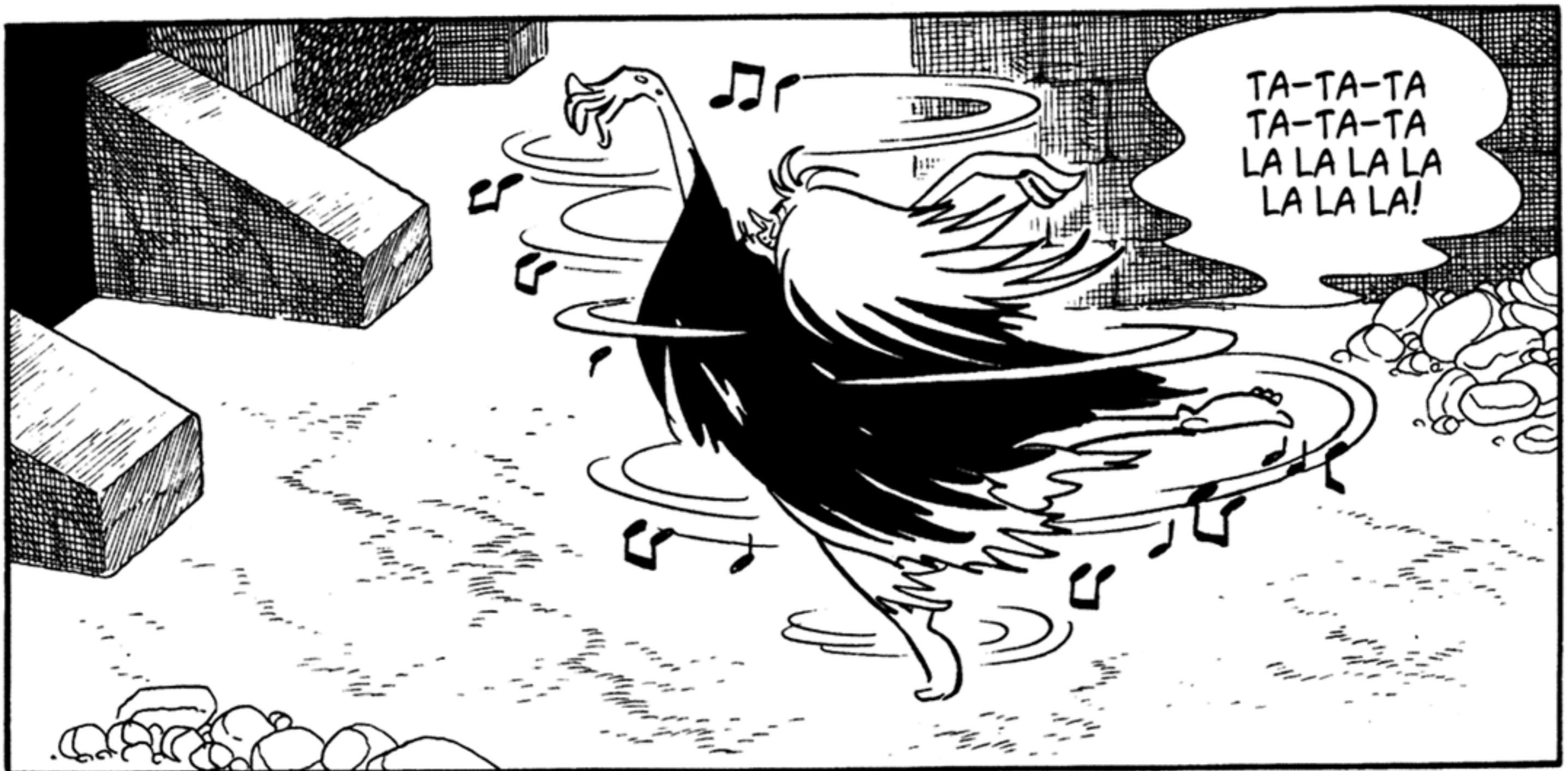
TEE
HEE



COME
HERE,
HAND-
SOME!



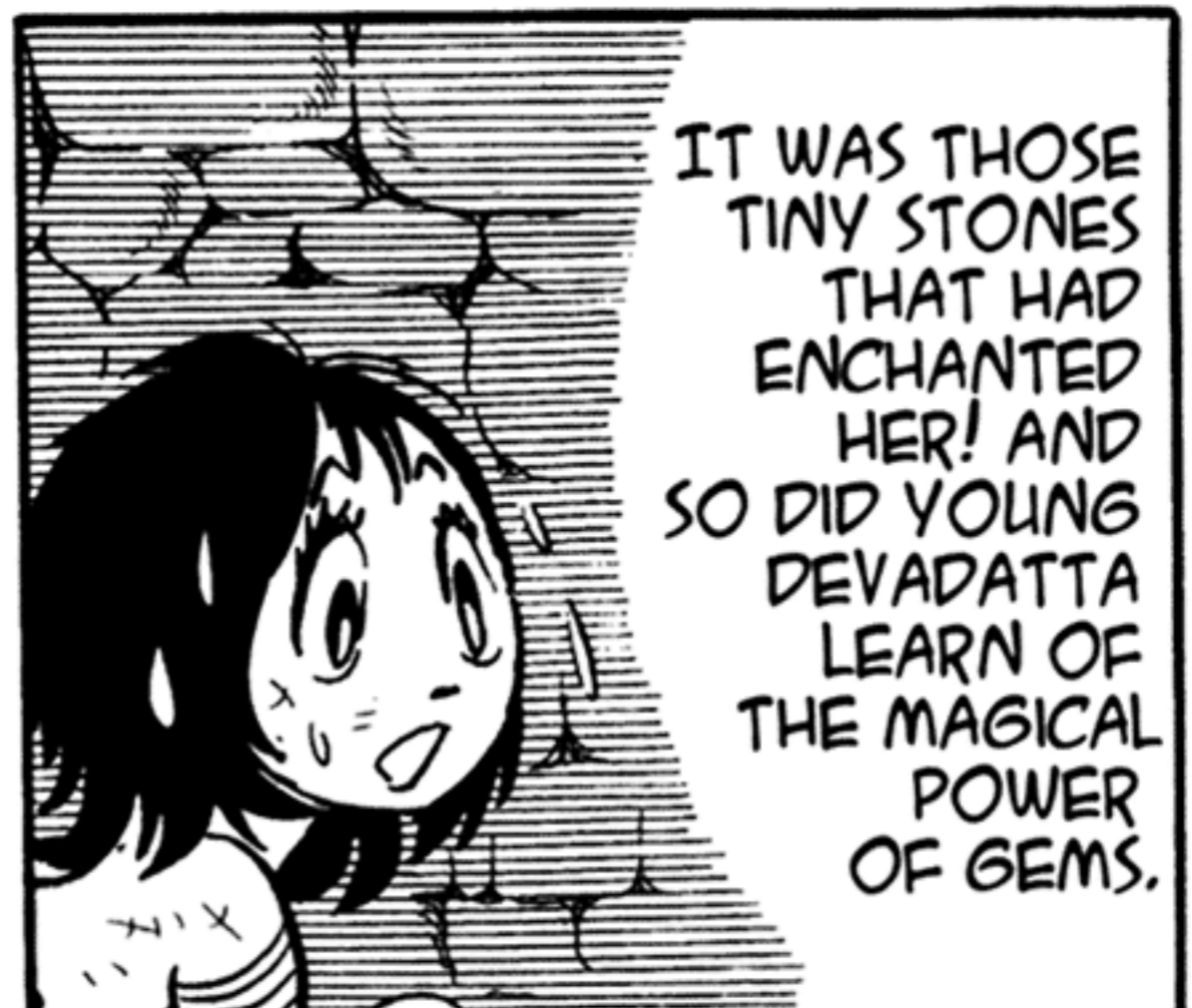
BOOGIE
WOOGIE!
SWING
IT!



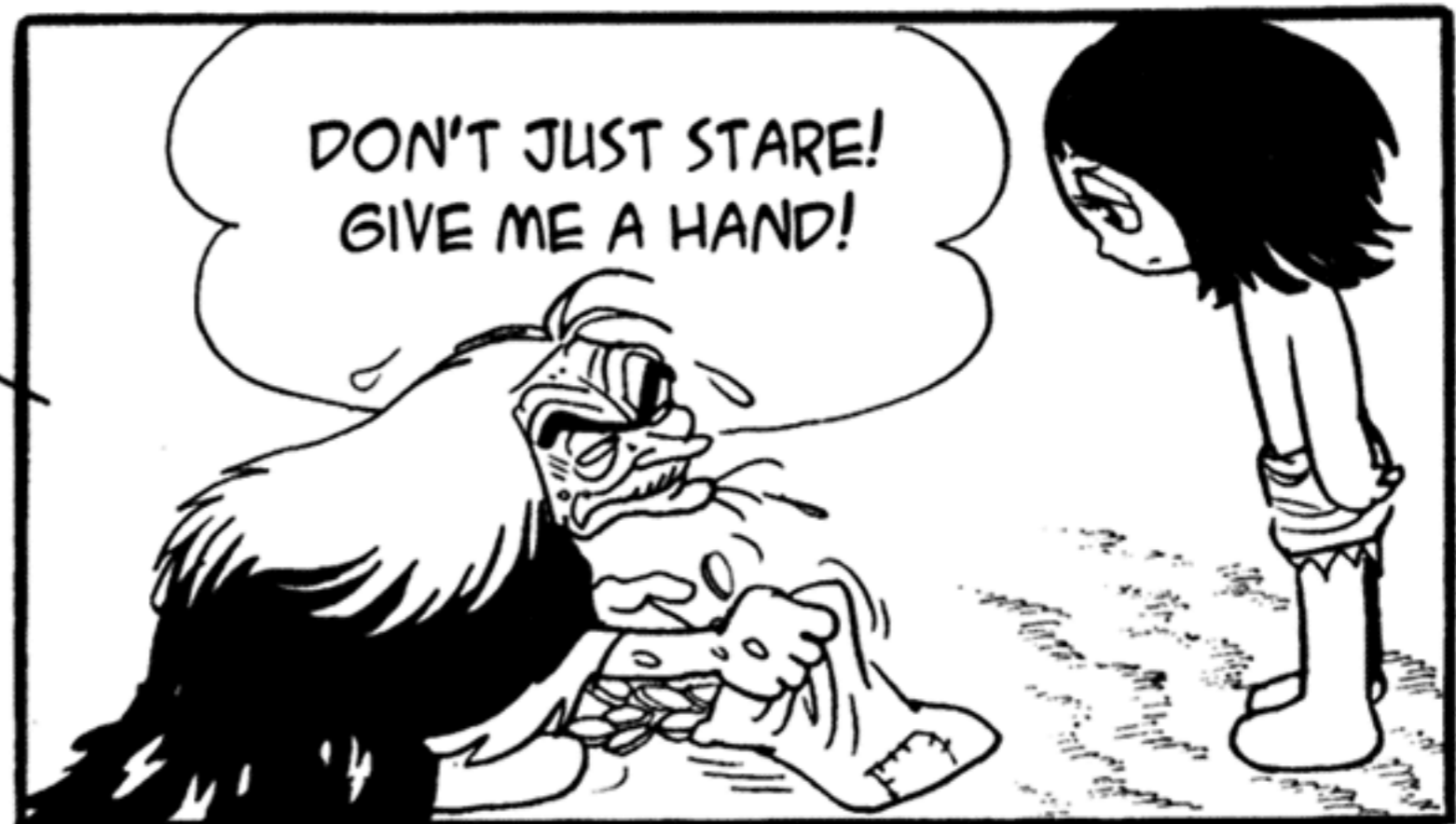
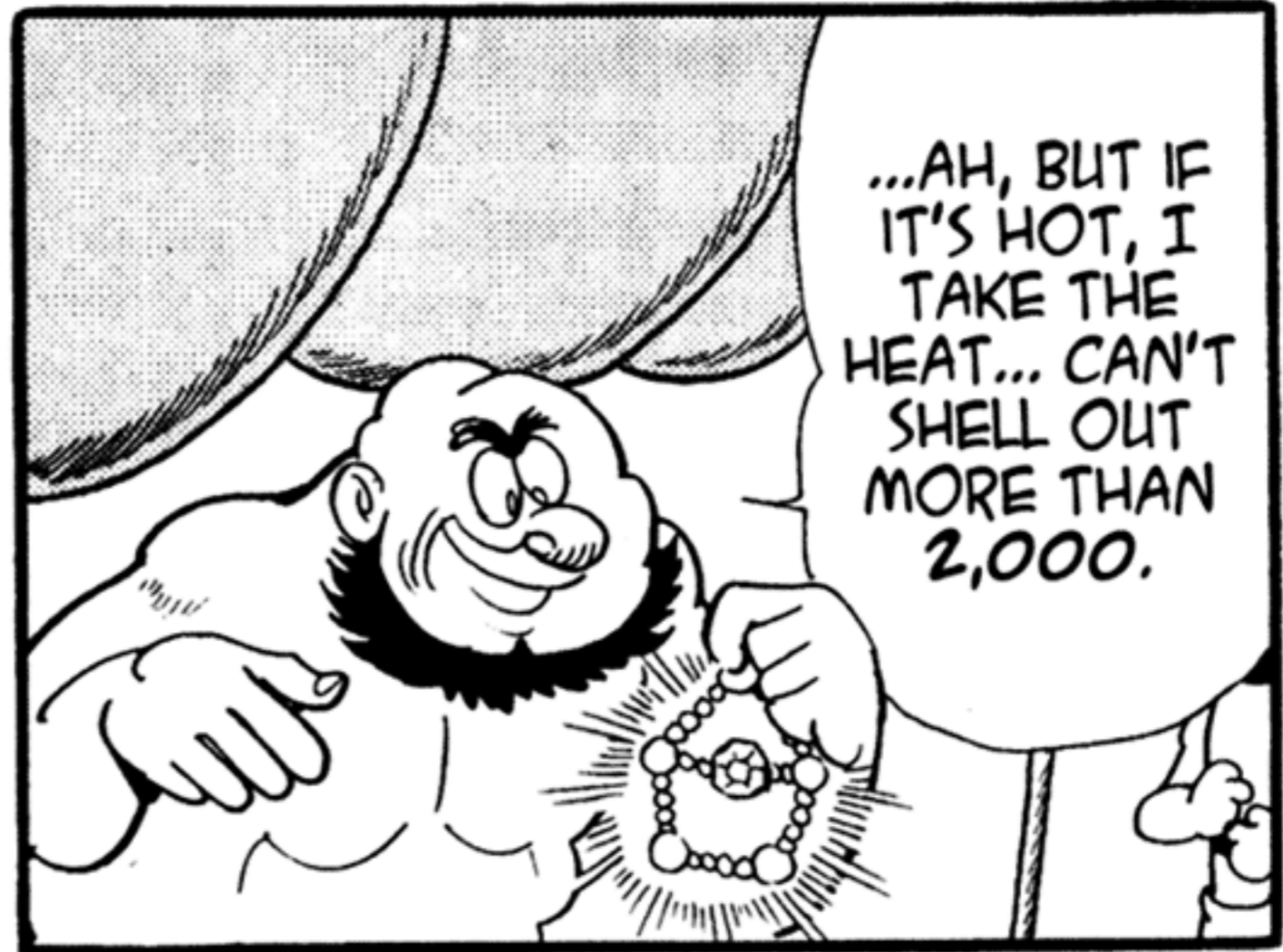
TA-TA-TA
TA-TA-TA
LA LA LA LA
LA LA LA!

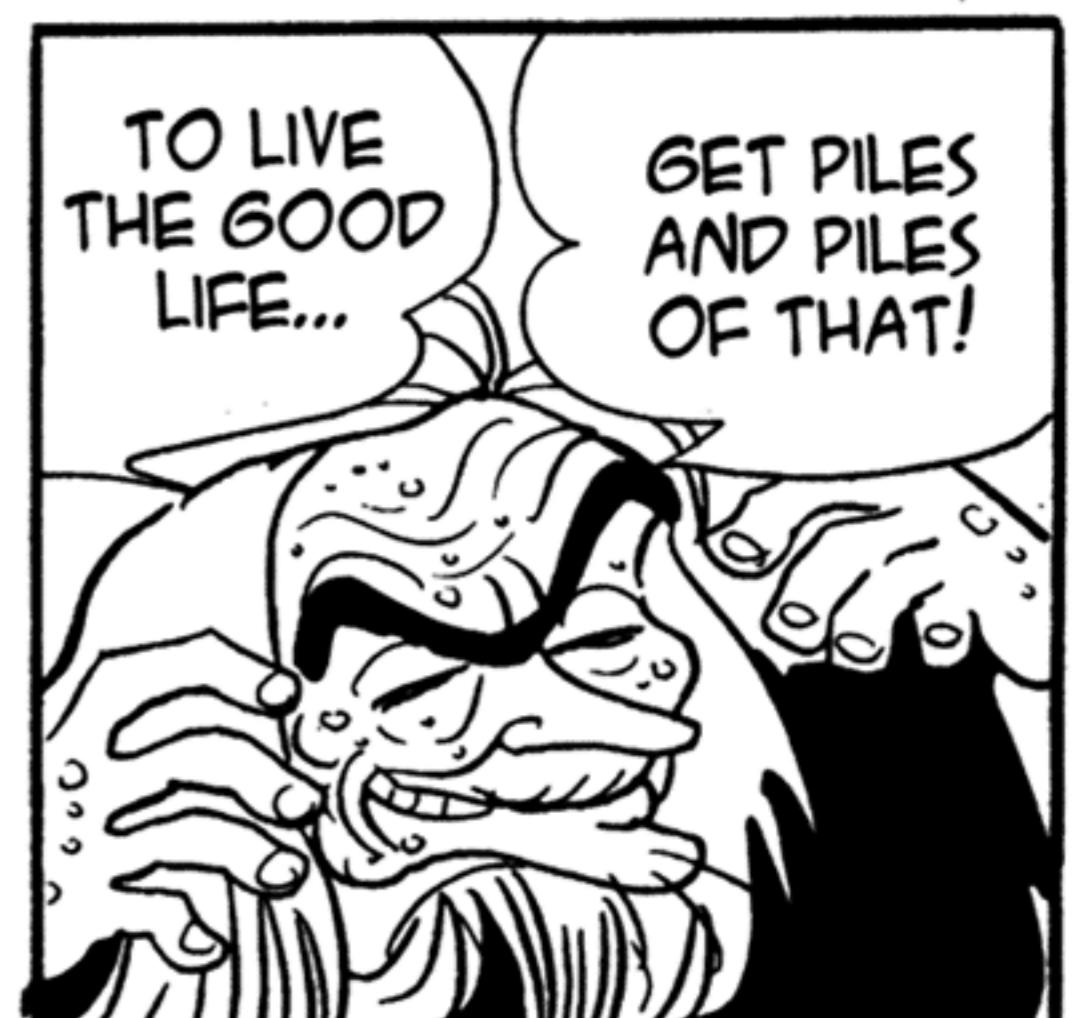
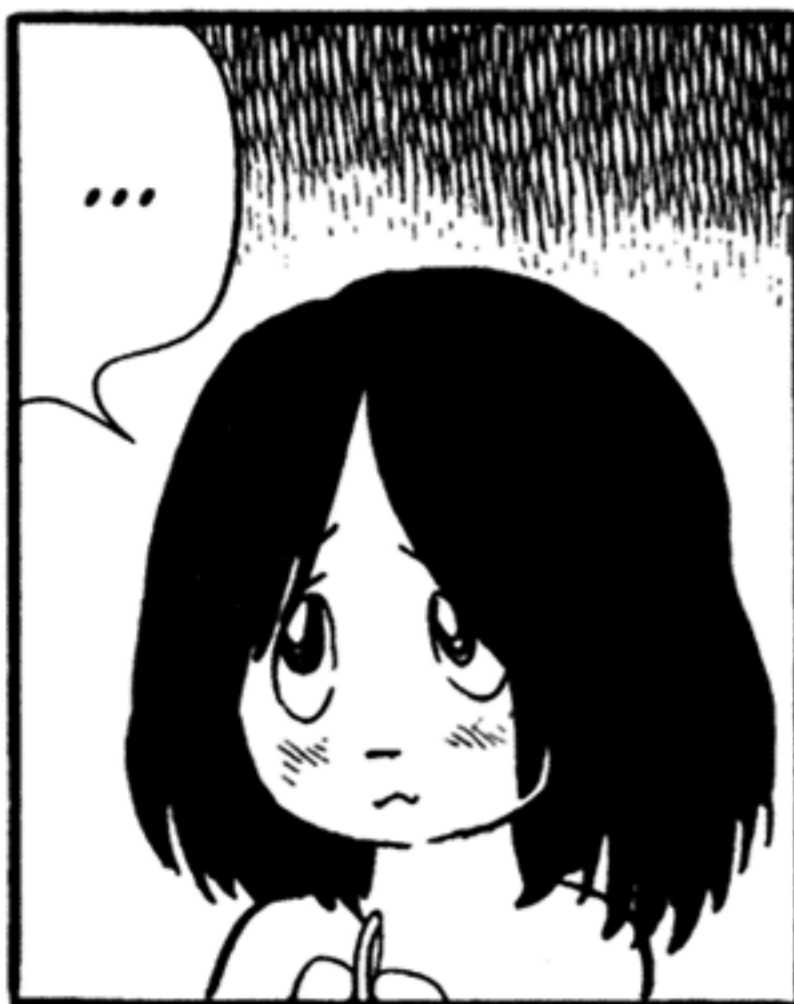
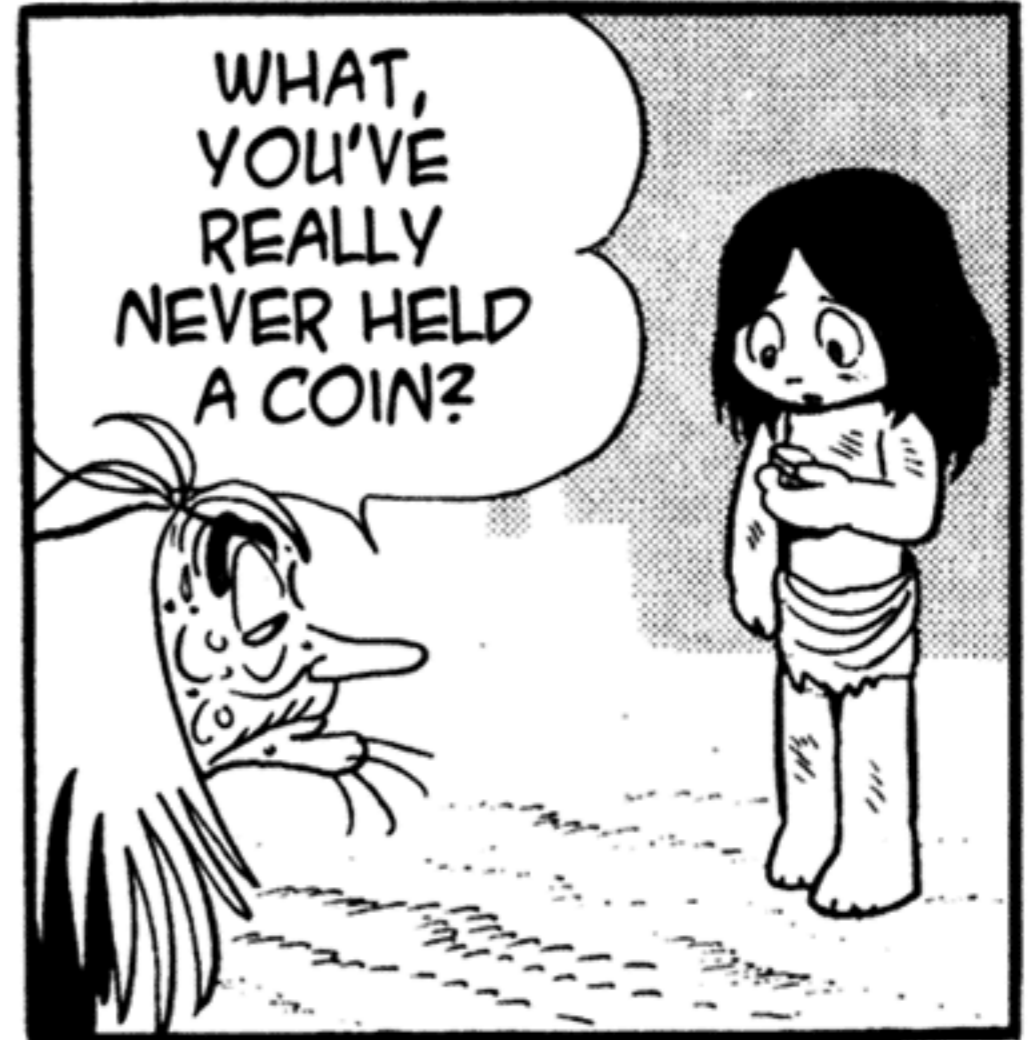
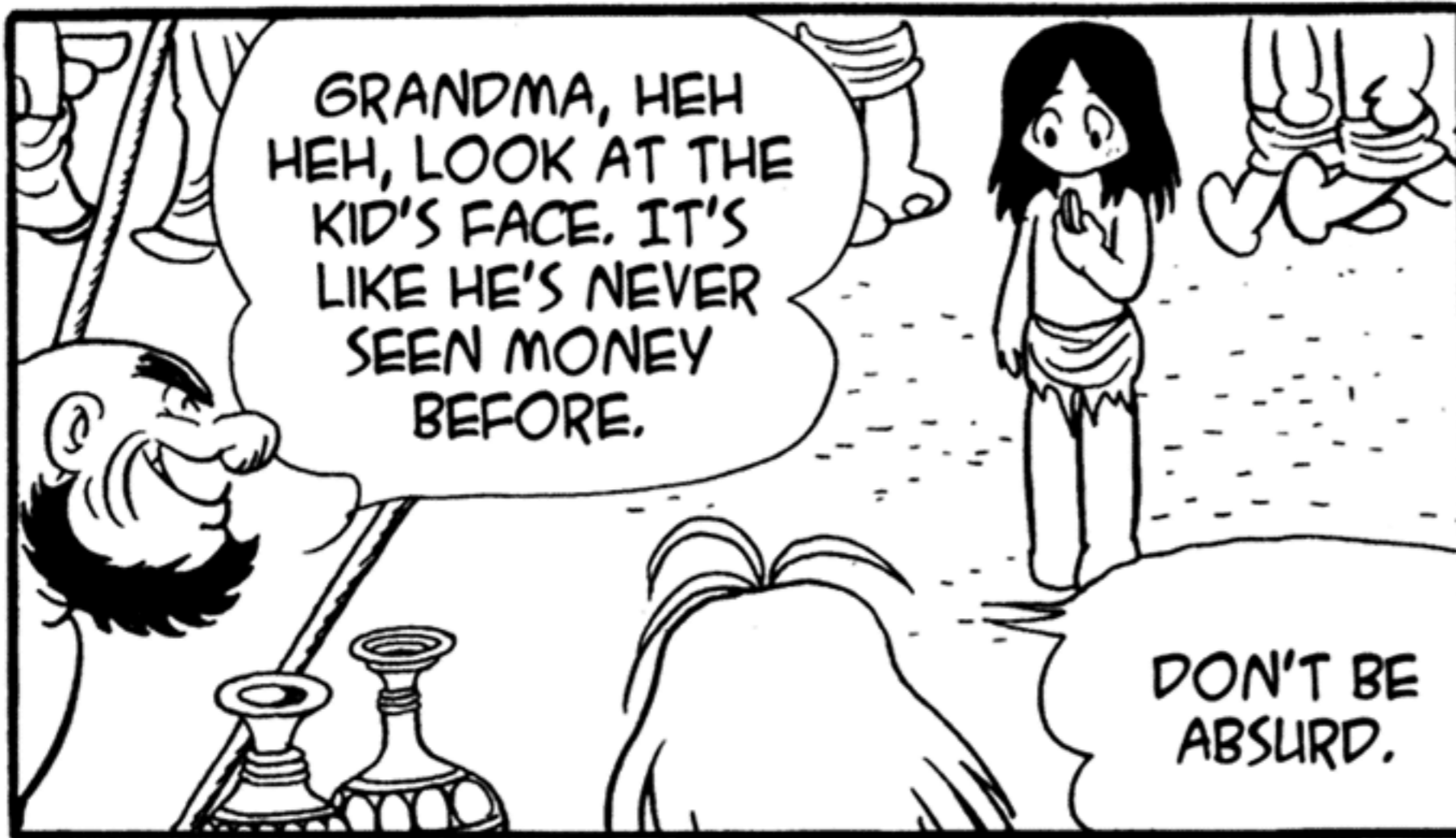


DEVADATTA'S
EYES OPENED
WIDE WITH
ASTONISHMENT;
EAGER FOR A
CLUE, HE STARED
AND STARED AT
THE OLD HAG.
JUST WHAT HAD
MADE HER SO
DELIRIOUSLY
HAPPY?



IT WAS THOSE
TINY STONES
THAT HAD
ENCHANTED
HER! AND
SO DID YOUNG
DEVADATTA
LEARN OF
THE MAGICAL
POWER
OF GEMS.

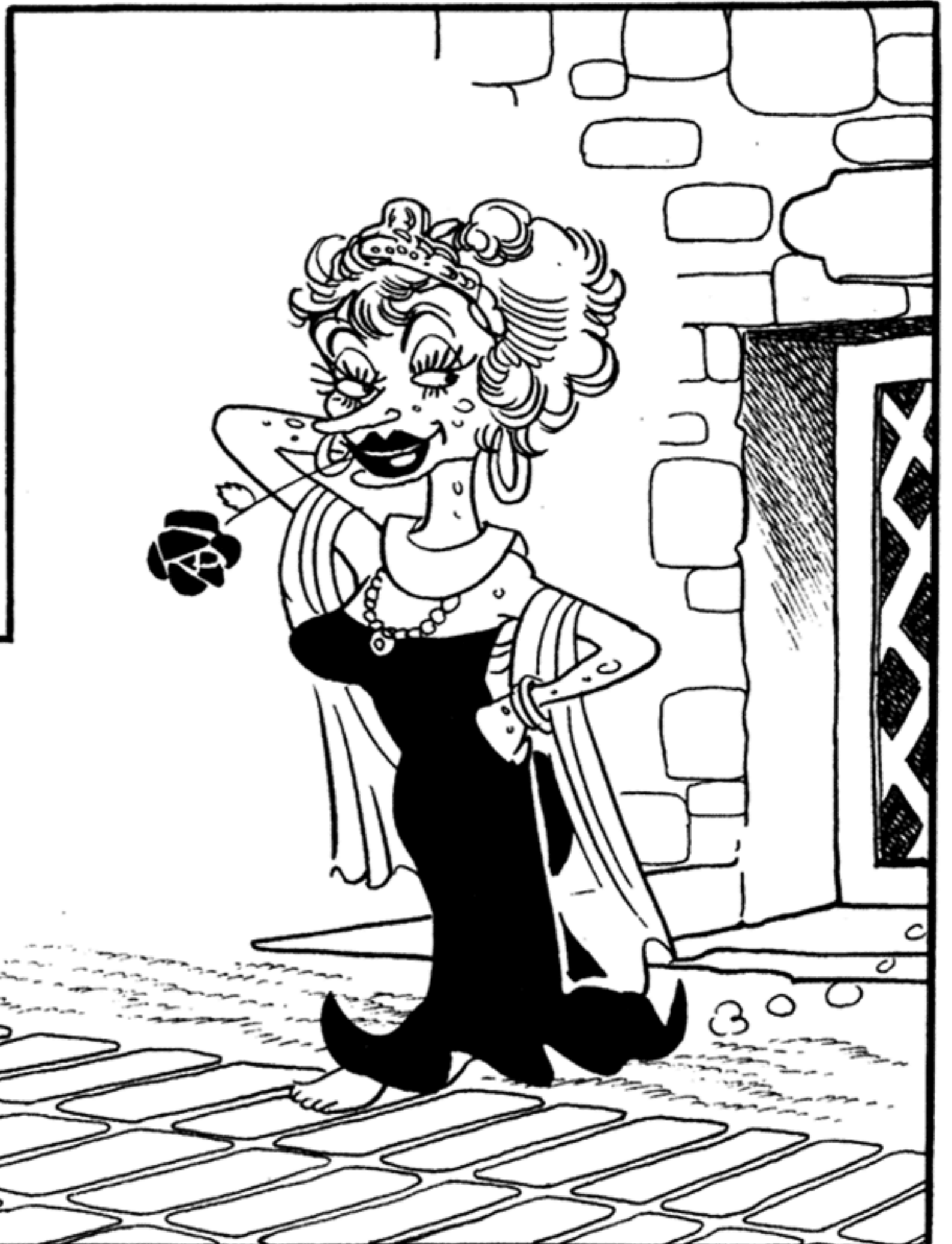
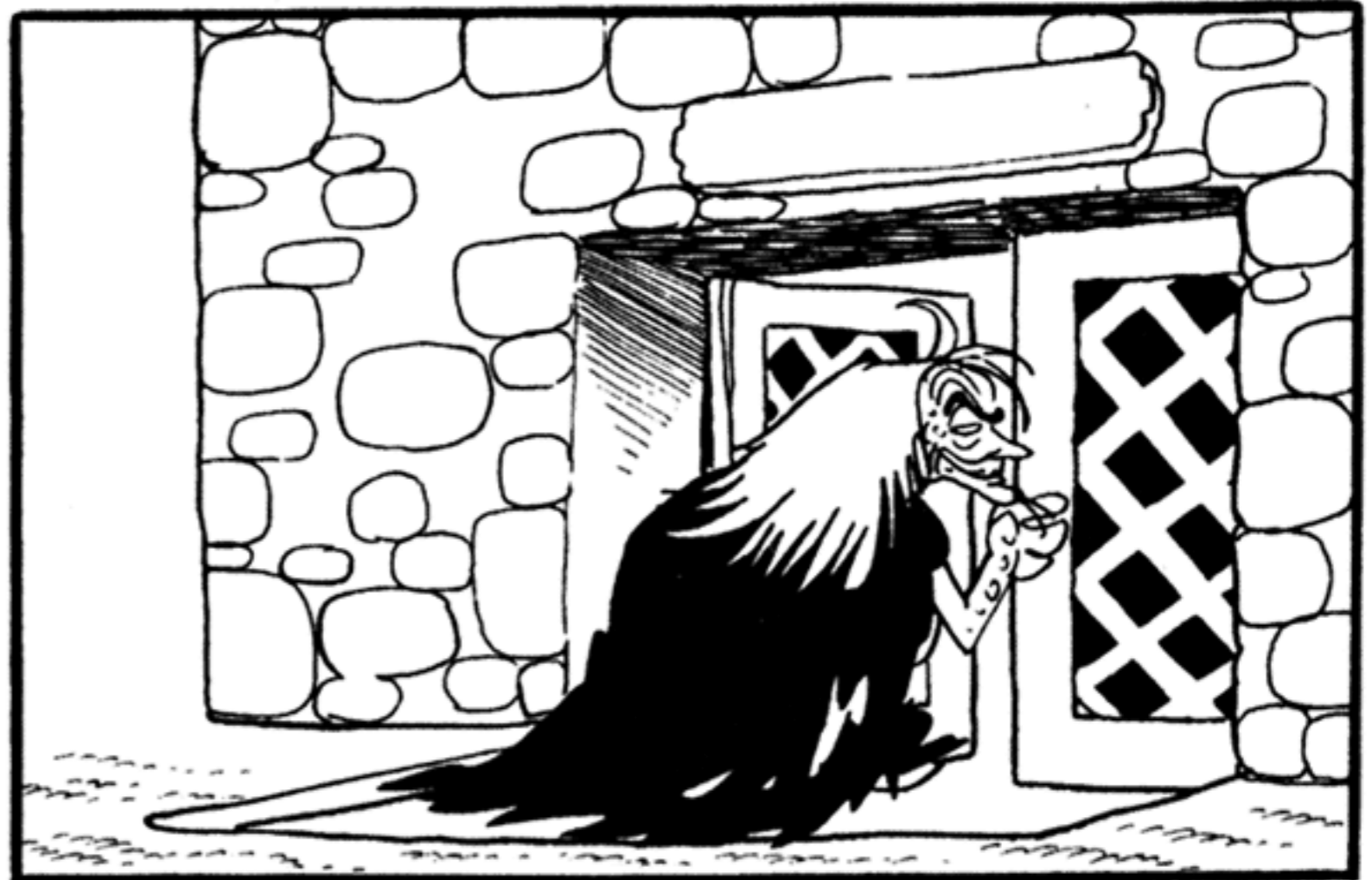


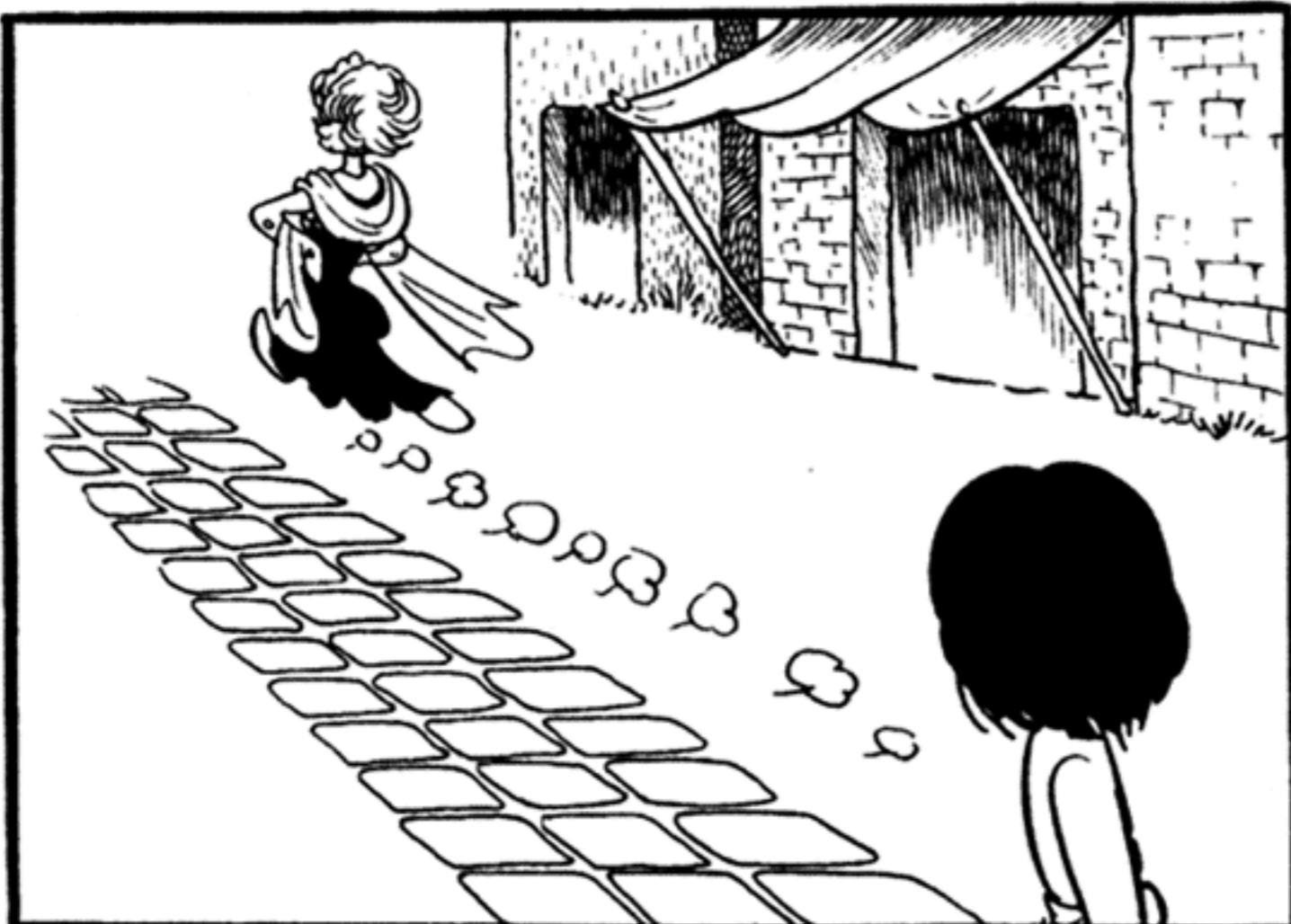


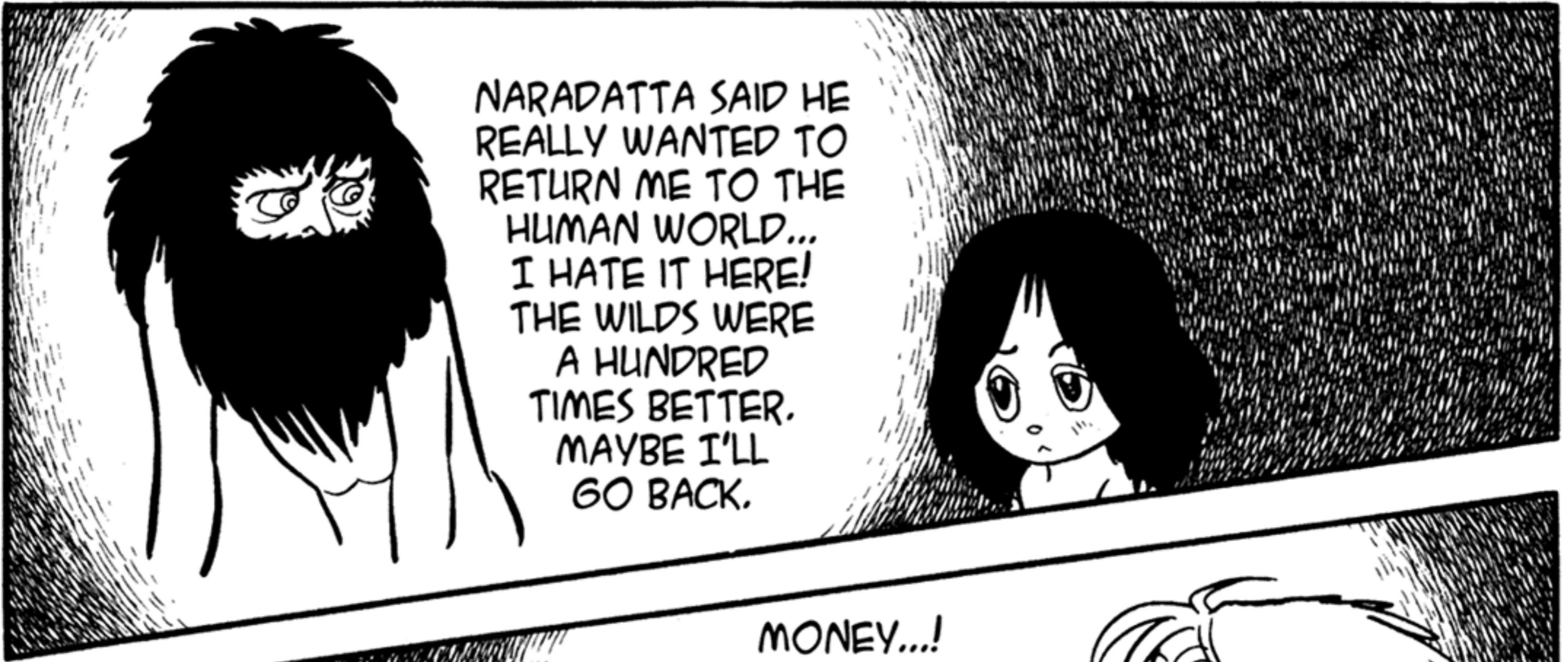
YESTERDAY:
TINY STONES...
TODAY:
THIS SHINY DISC!
OWNING MANY OF
THESE "COINS"
MADE YOU A
HAPPY PERSON...
BUT
WHY?



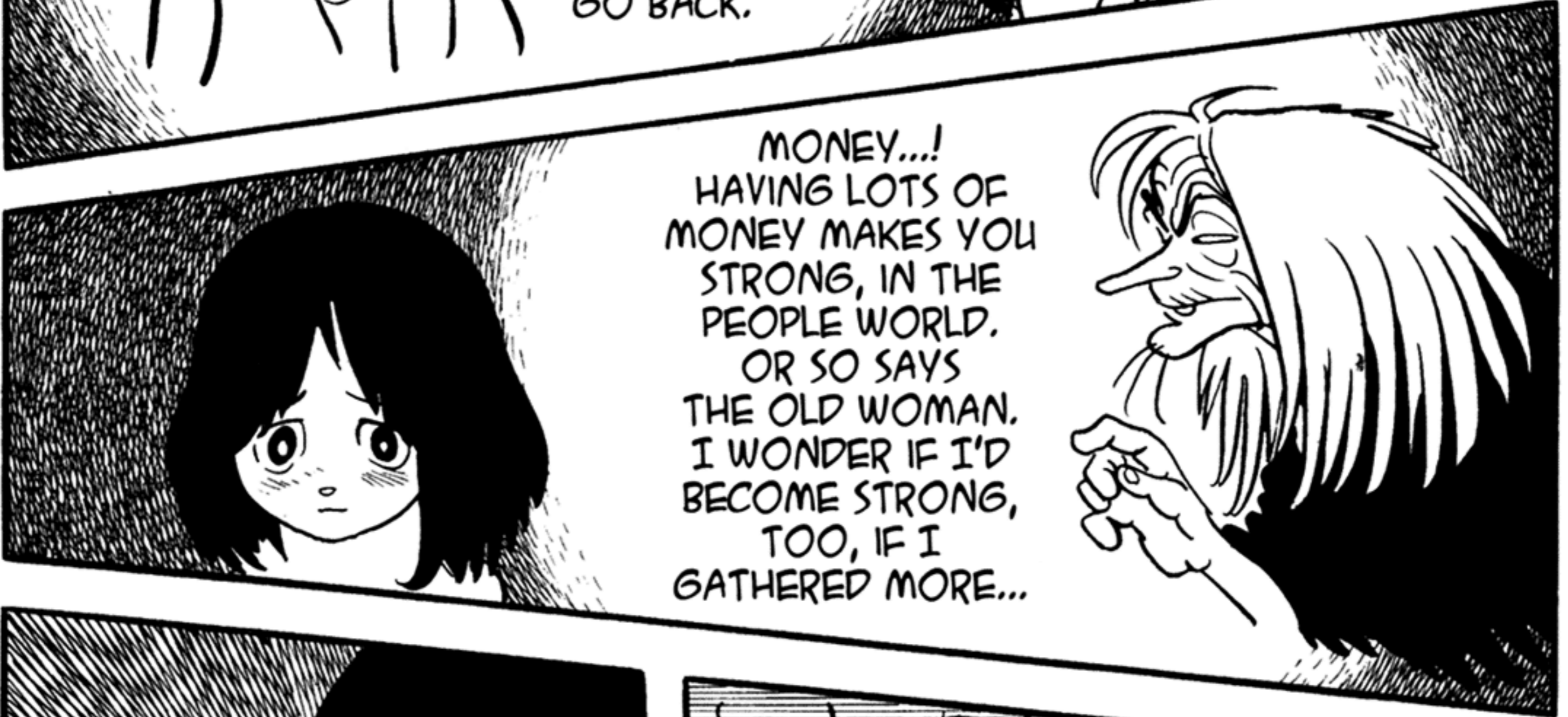
COULD THE DISC
IN HIS HANDS
REALLY HOLD
SO MUCH
POWER?
THAT SEEMED
UNLIKELY...THE
HUMAN WORLD
WAS BIZARRE!
IT WAS...
INSANE.



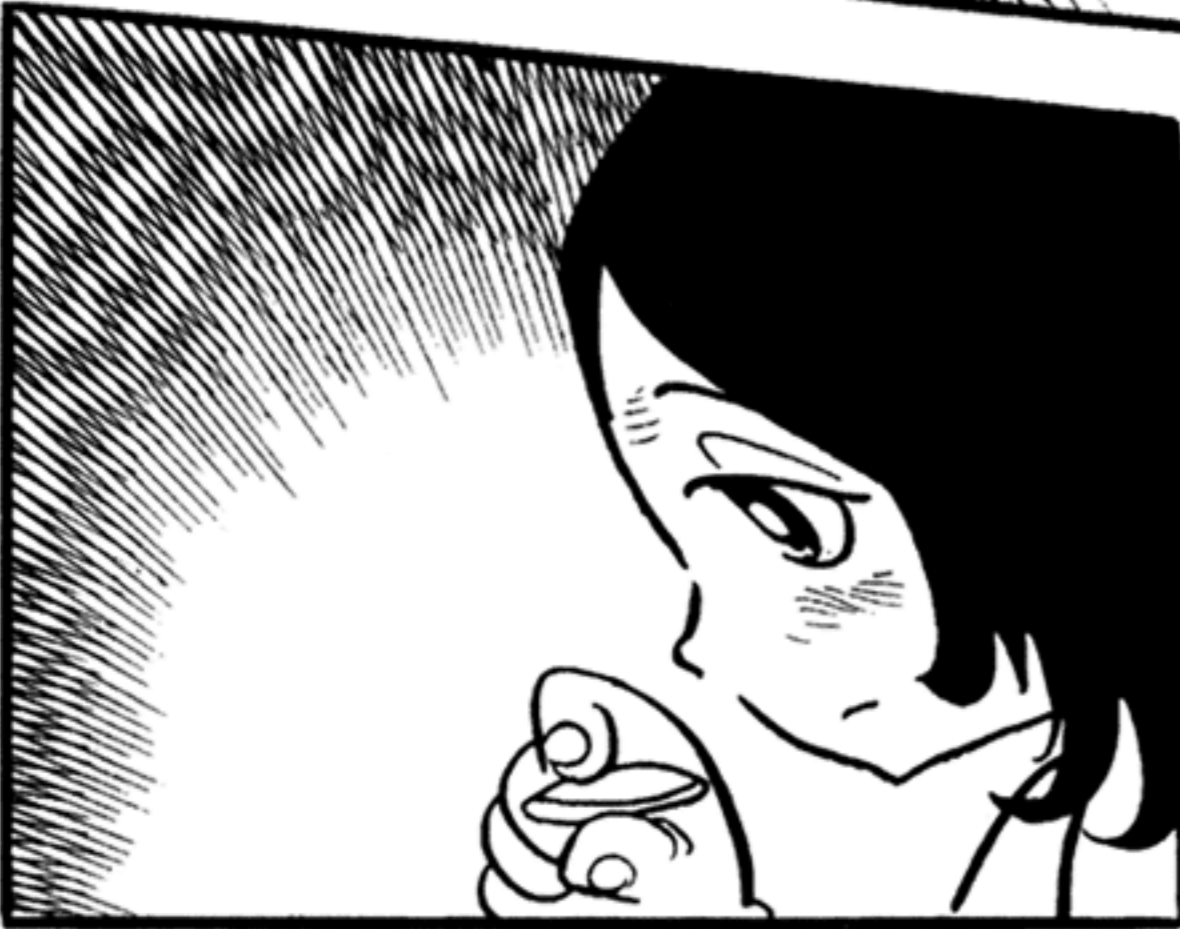


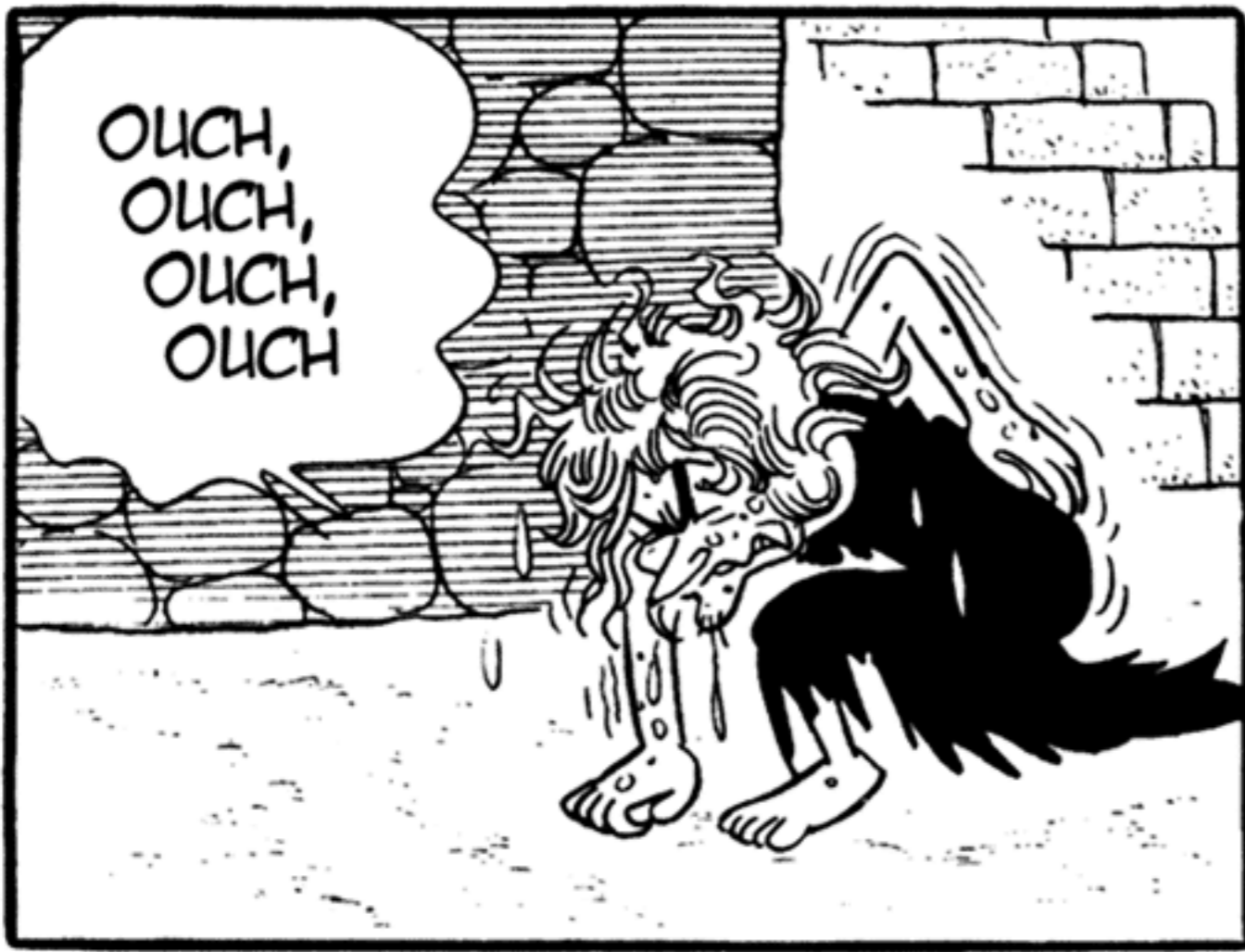


NARADATTA SAID HE REALLY WANTED TO RETURN ME TO THE HUMAN WORLD... I HATE IT HERE! THE WILDS WERE A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER. MAYBE I'LL GO BACK.



MONEY...! HAVING LOTS OF MONEY MAKES YOU STRONG, IN THE PEOPLE WORLD. OR SO SAYS THE OLD WOMAN. I WONDER IF I'D BECOME STRONG, TOO, IF I GATHERED MORE...



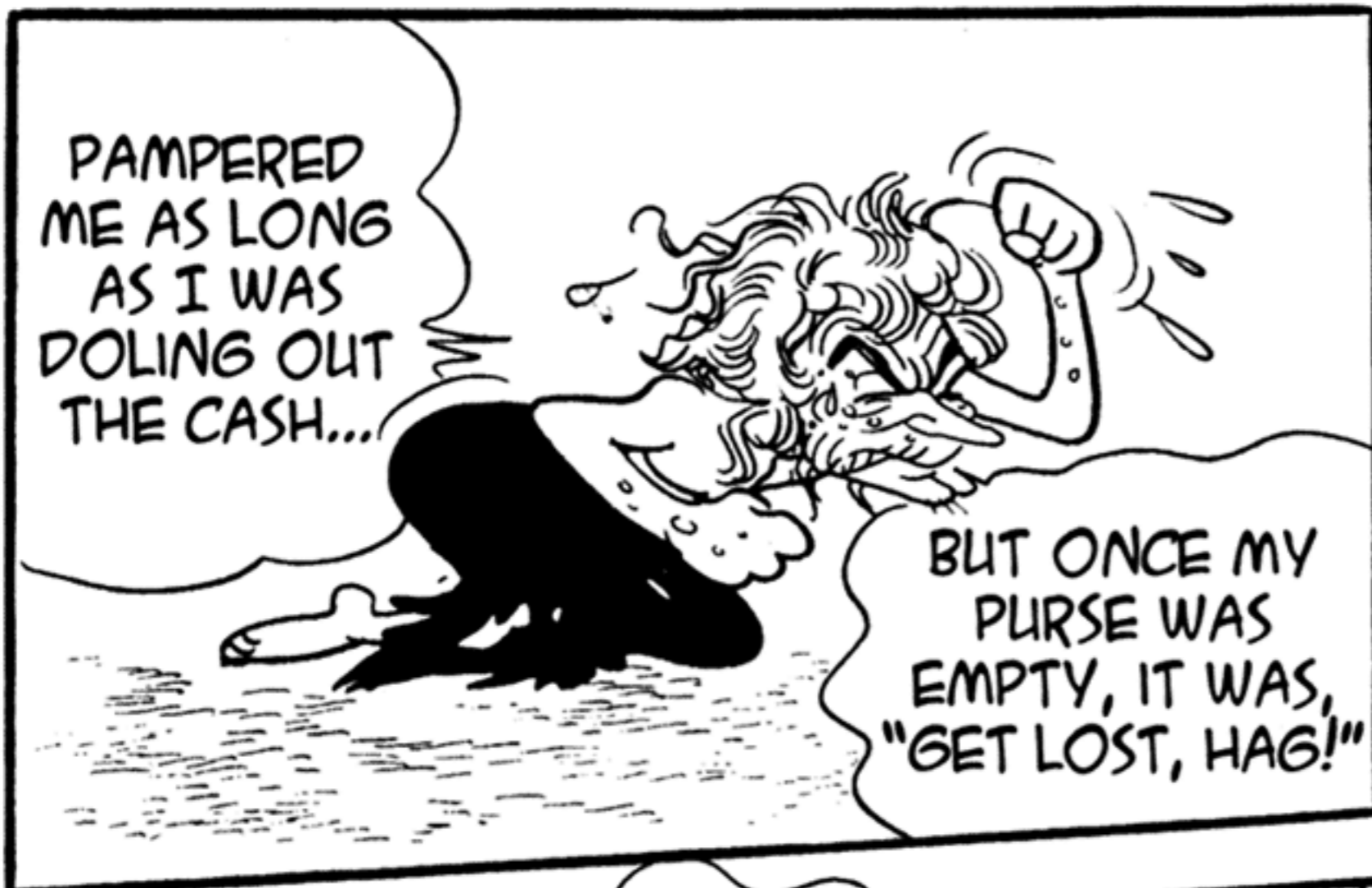


OUCH,
OUCH,
OUCH,
OUCH



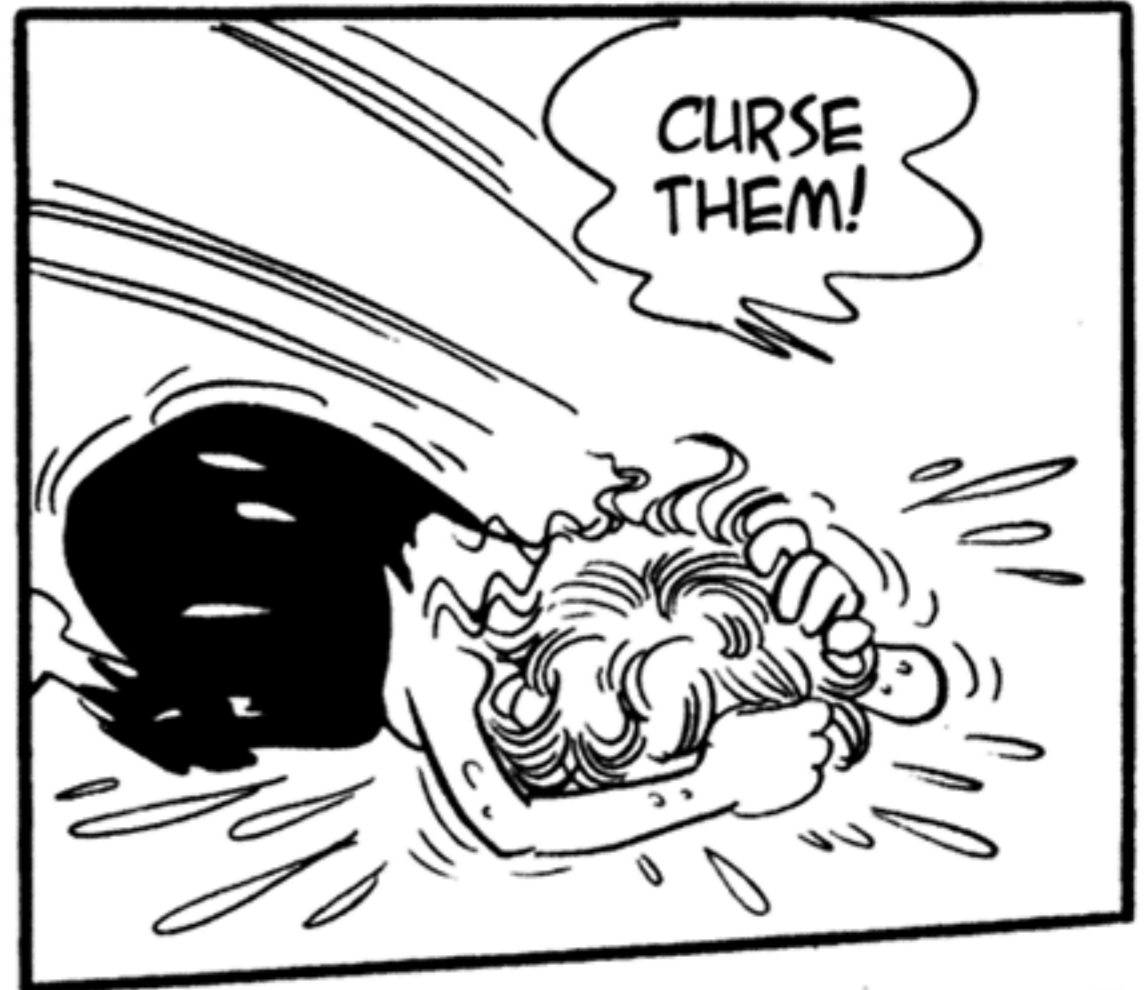
WOE IS
ME...

THEY THREW ME
OUT THE MINUTE
I WAS BROKE.

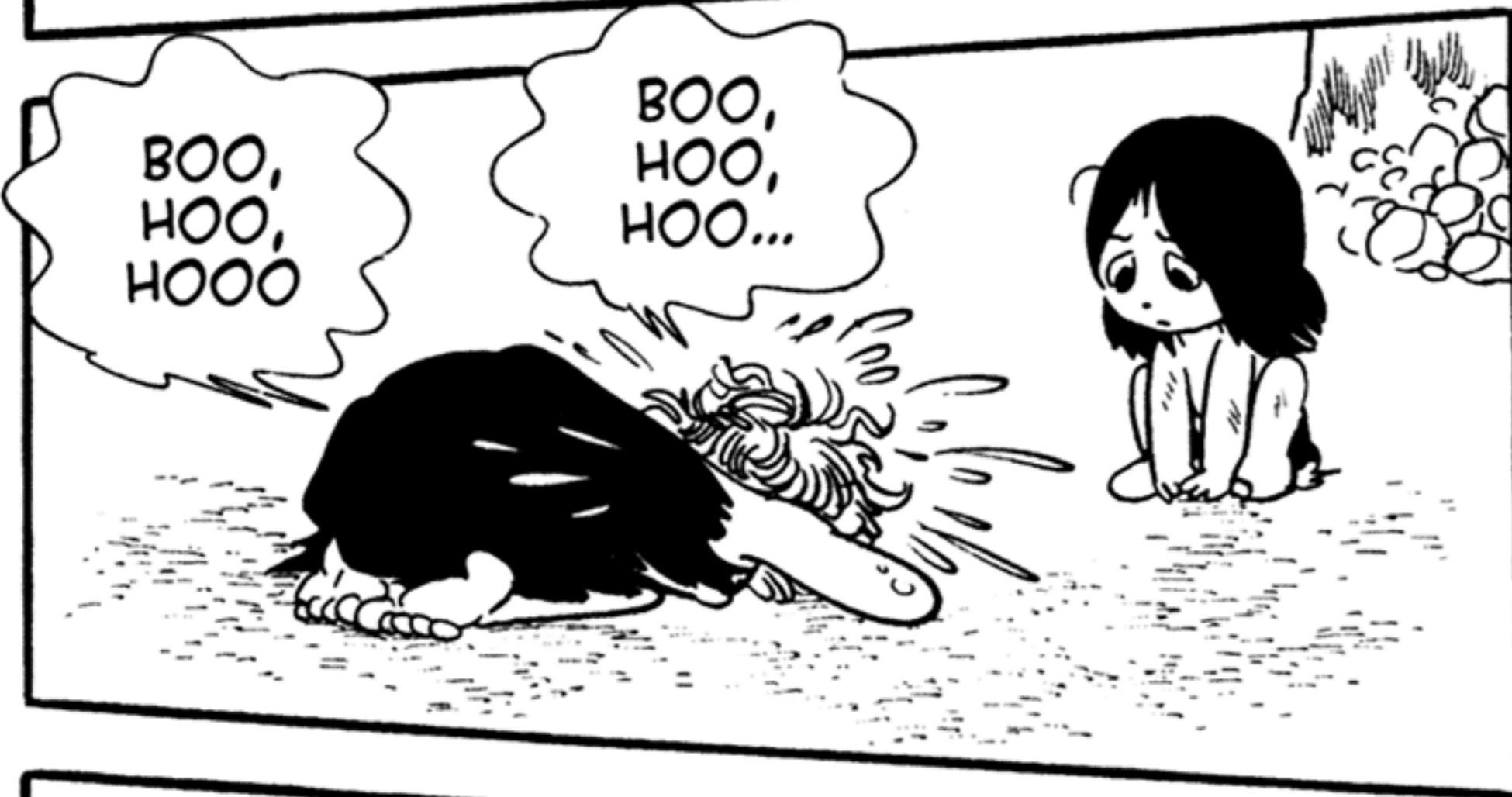


PAMPERED
ME AS LONG
AS I WAS
DOLING OUT
THE CASH...

BUT ONCE MY
PURSE WAS
EMPTY, IT WAS,
"GET LOST, HAG!"

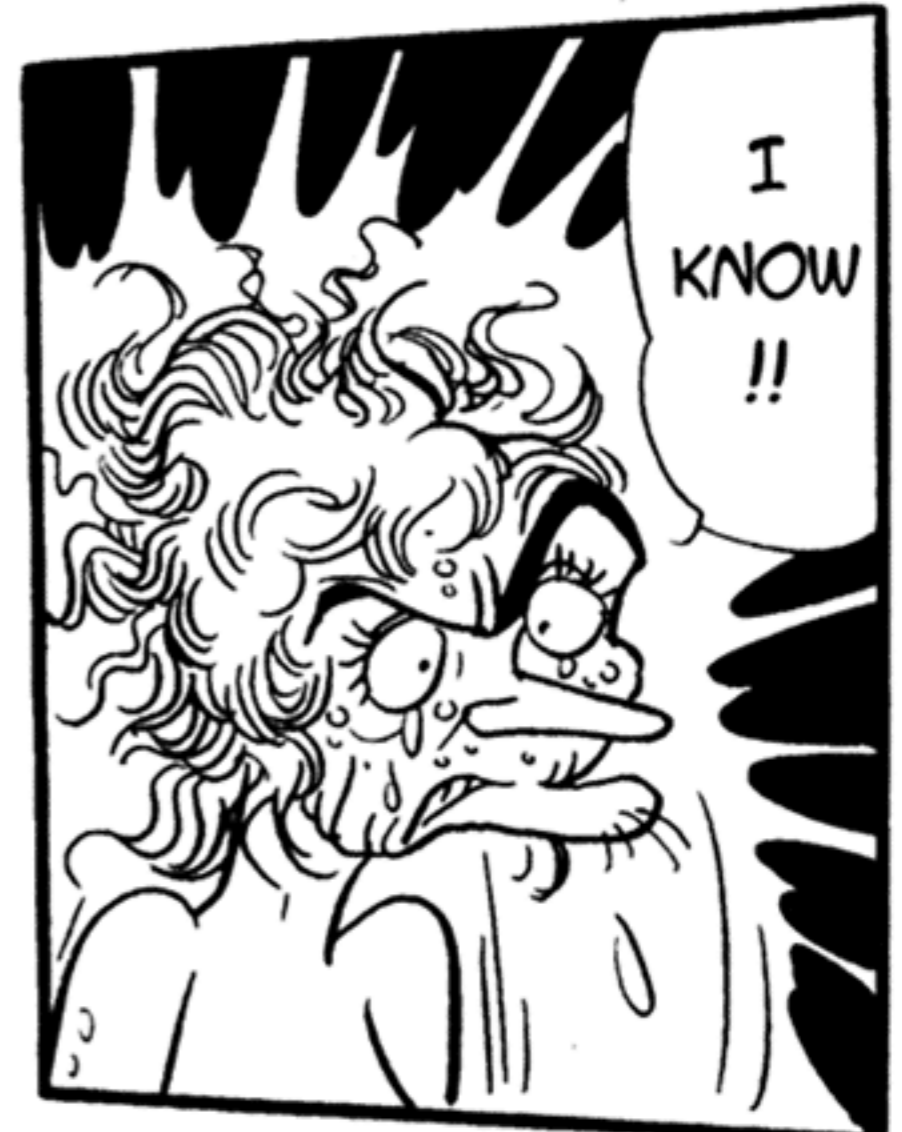


CURSE
THEM!

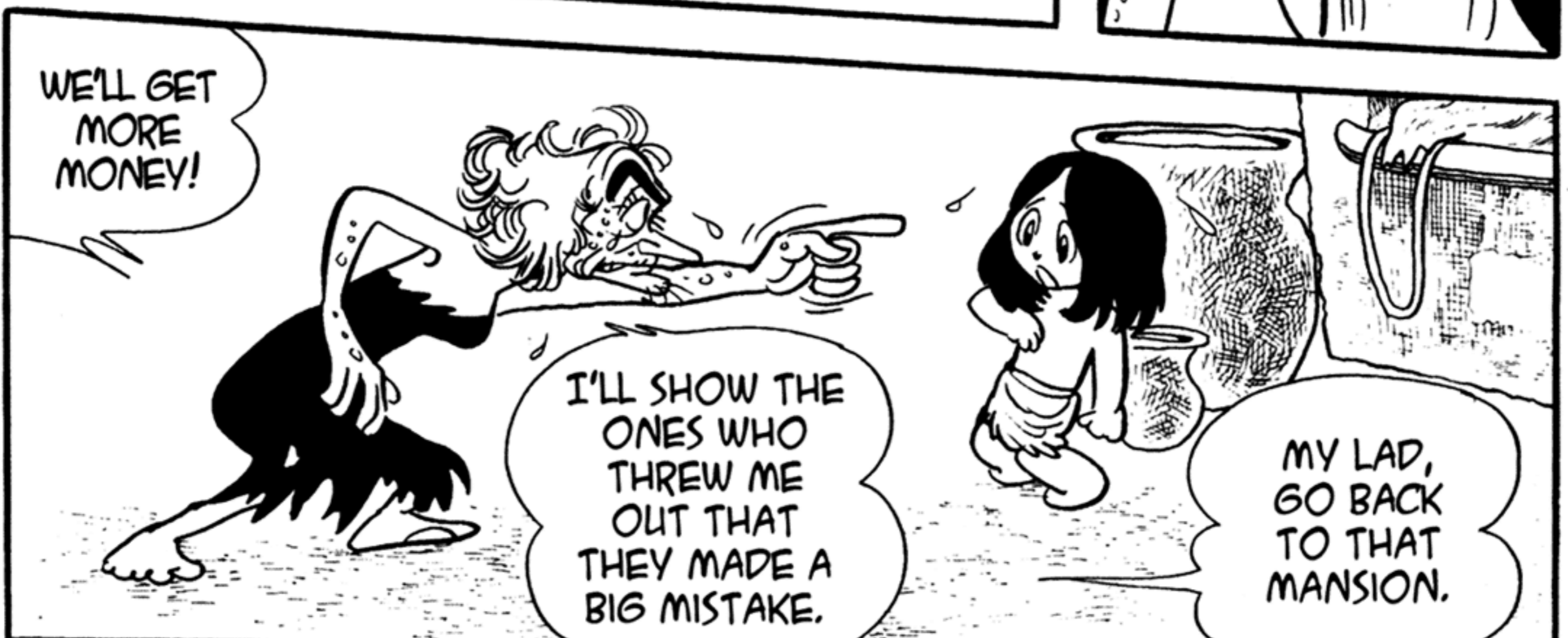


BOO,
HOO,
HOOO

BOO,
HOO,
HOO...



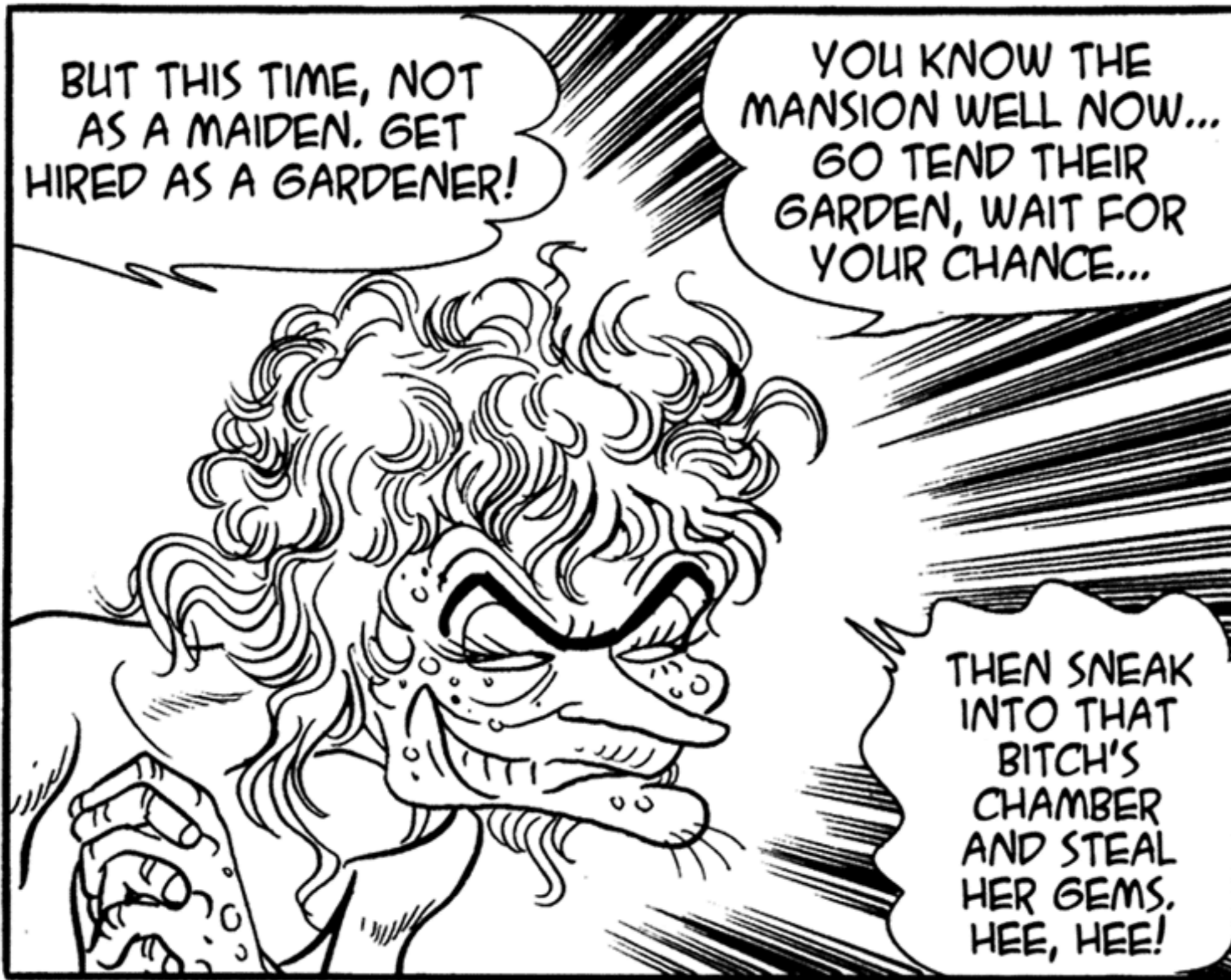
I
KNOW
!!



WE'LL GET
MORE
MONEY!

I'LL SHOW THE
ONES WHO
THREW ME
OUT THAT
THEY MADE A
BIG MISTAKE.

MY LAD,
GO BACK
TO THAT
MANSION.



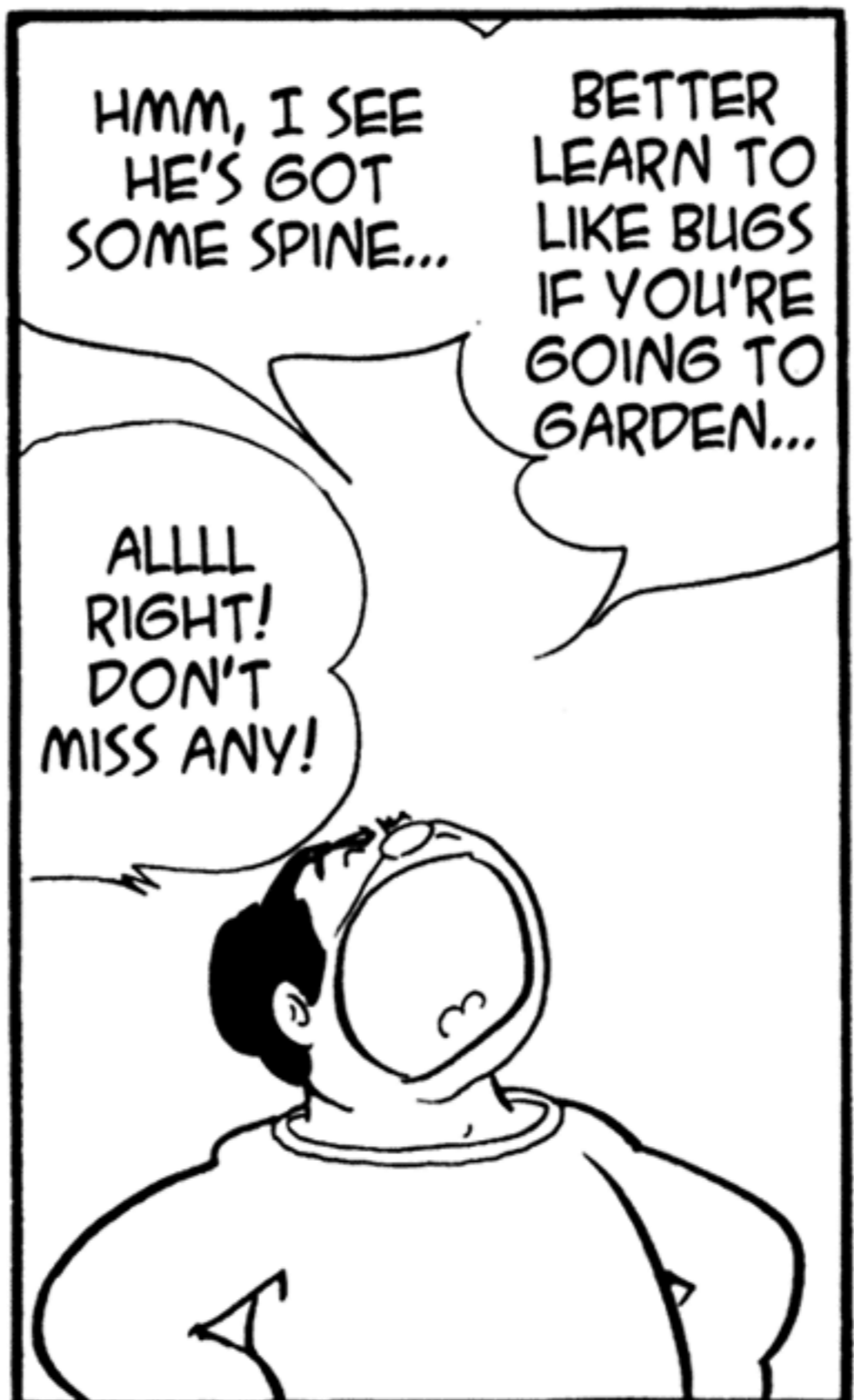
BUT THIS TIME, NOT AS A MAIDEN. GET HIRED AS A GARDENER!

YOU KNOW THE MANSION WELL NOW... GO TEND THEIR GARDEN, WAIT FOR YOUR CHANCE...

THEN SNEAK INTO THAT BITCH'S CHAMBER AND STEAL HER GEMS. HEE, HEE!



AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, MIX SOME POISON IN HER FOOD.



HMM, I SEE HE'S GOT SOME SPINE...

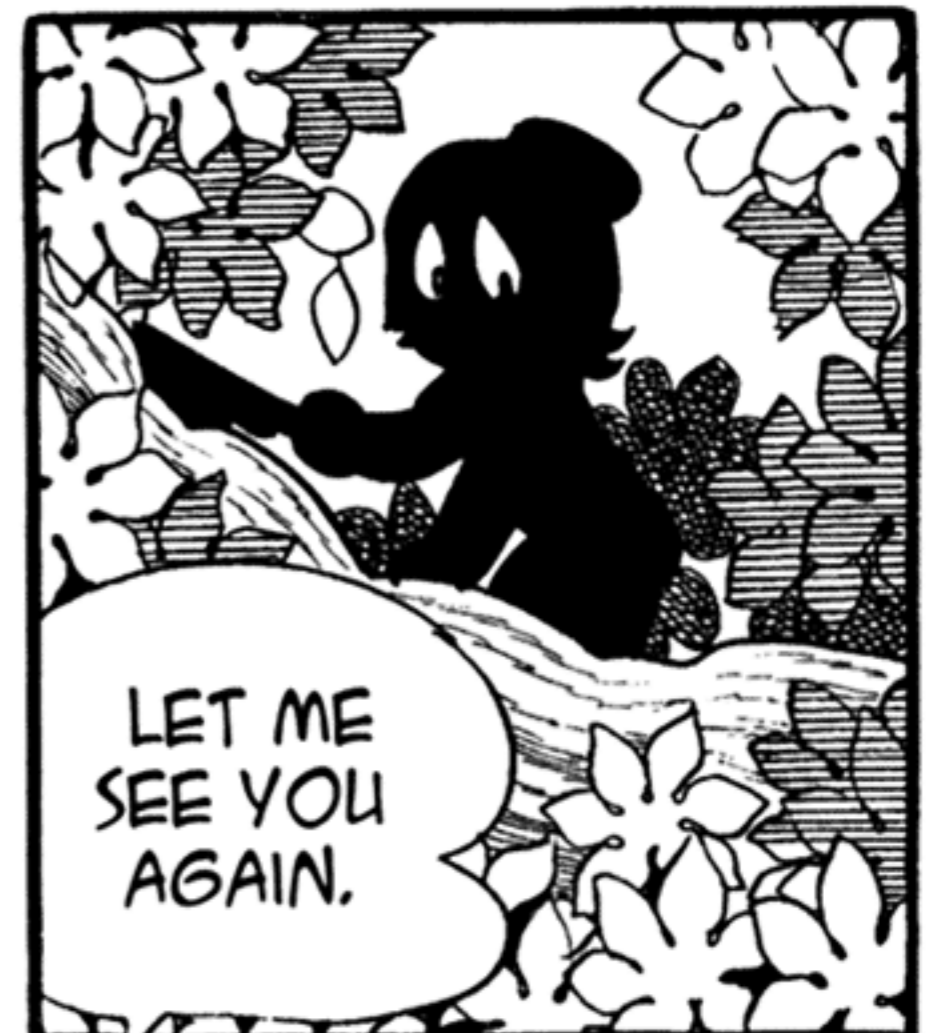
BETTER LEARN TO LIKE BUGS IF YOU'RE GOING TO GARDEN...

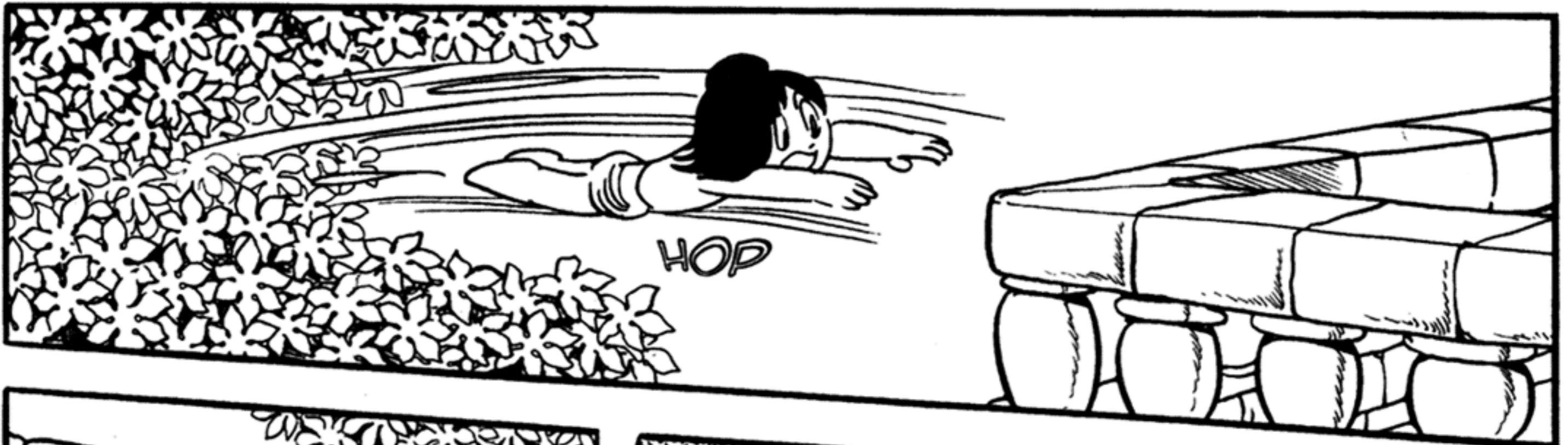
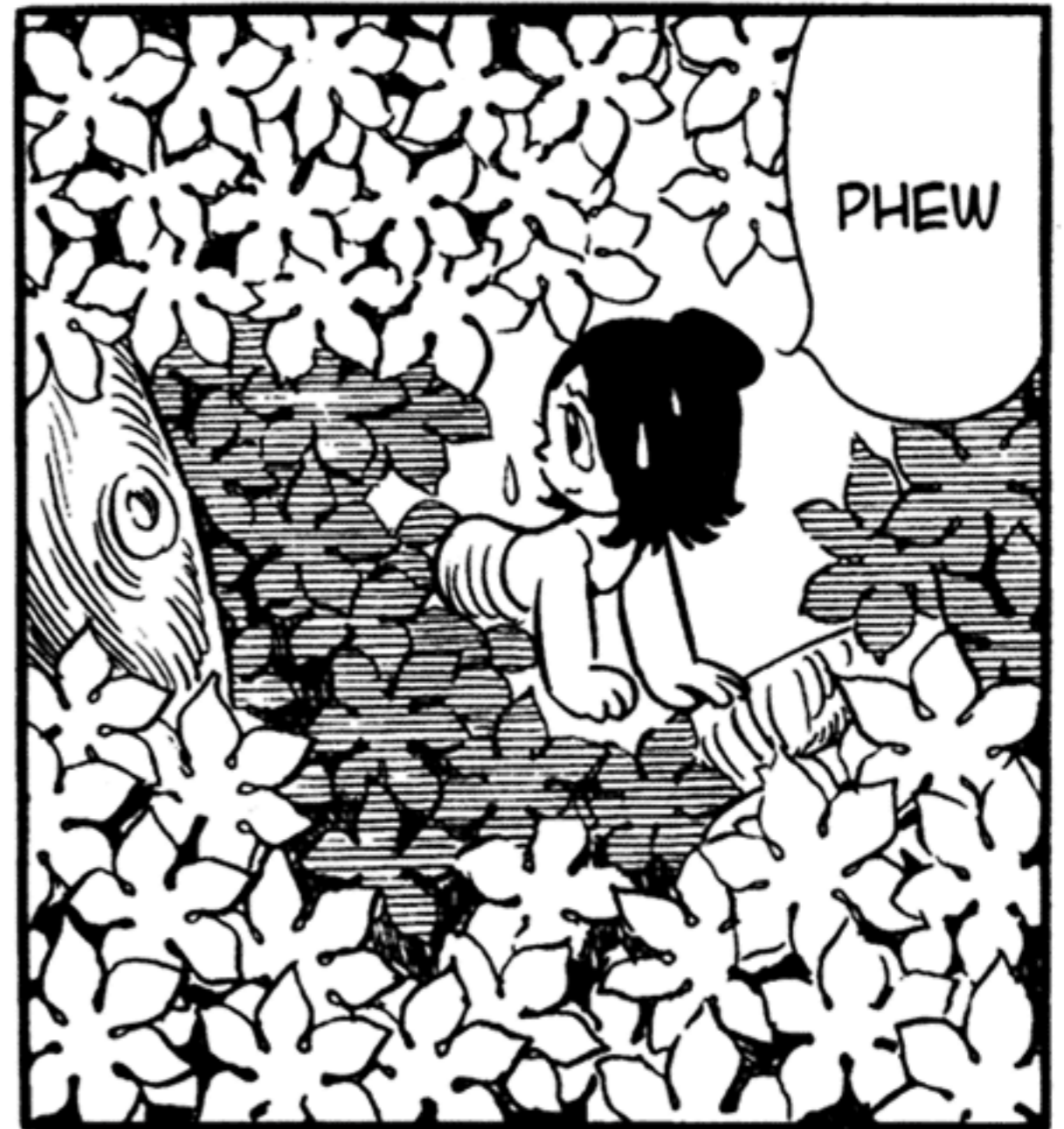
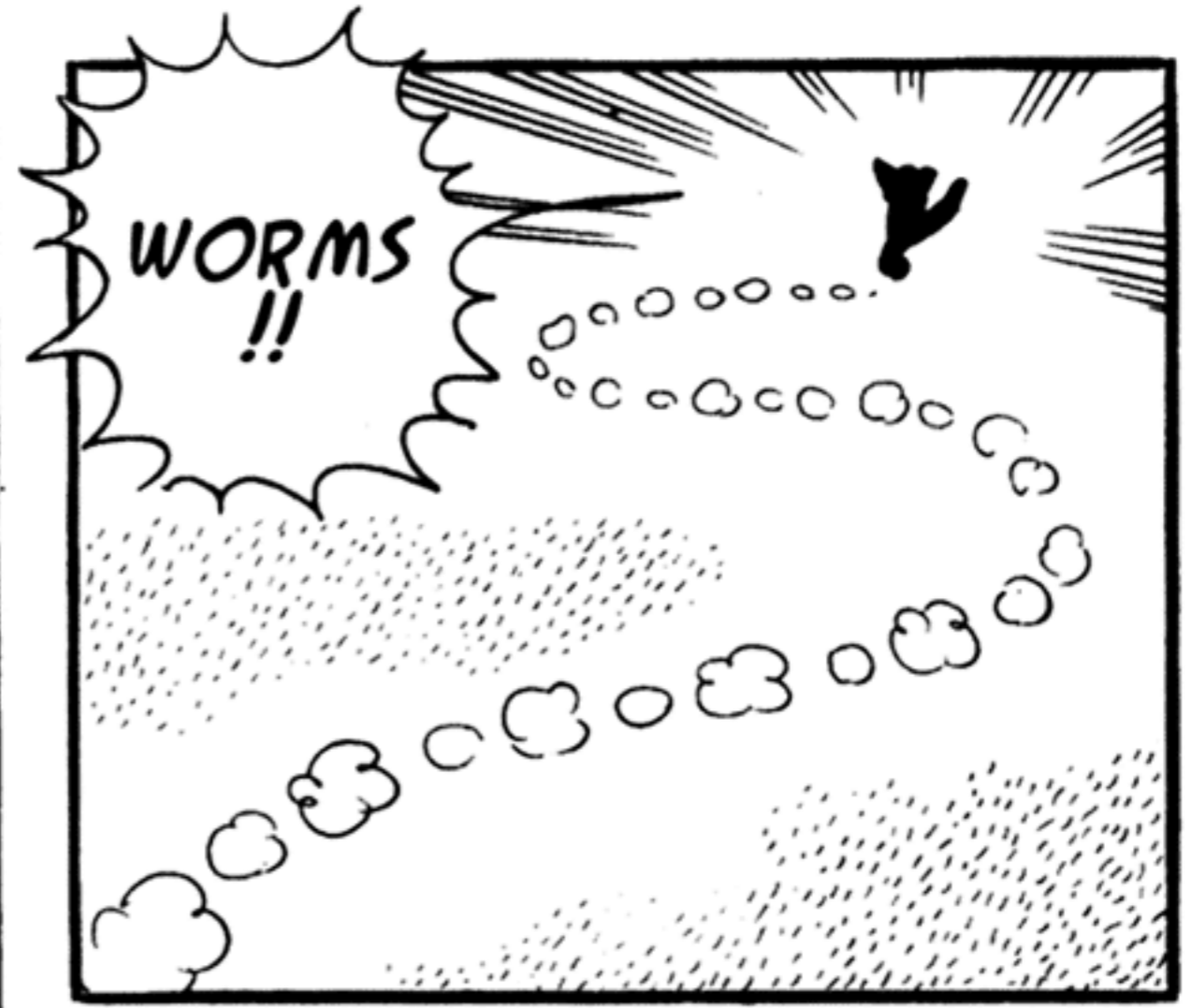
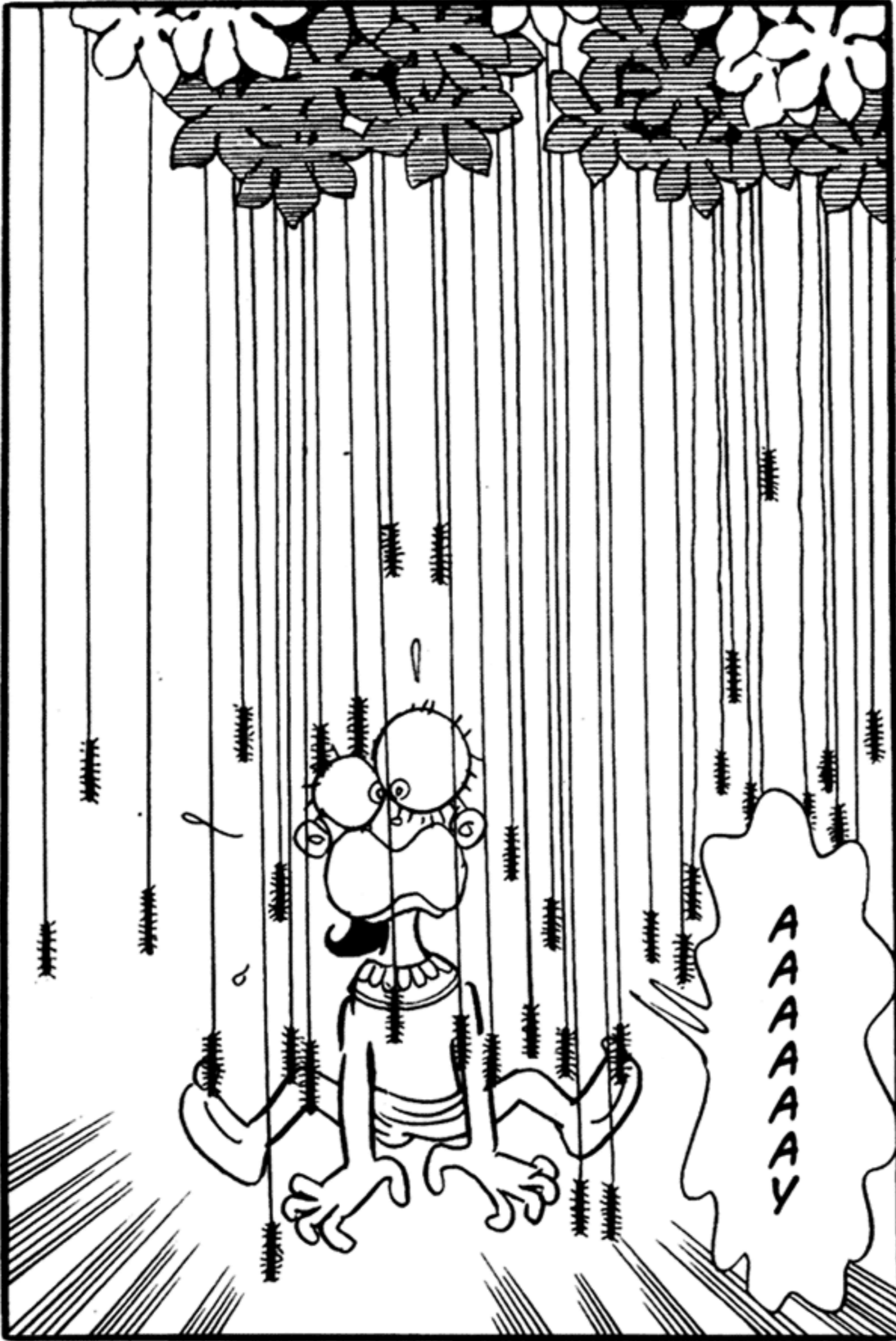
ALLL RIGHT! DON'T MISS ANY!

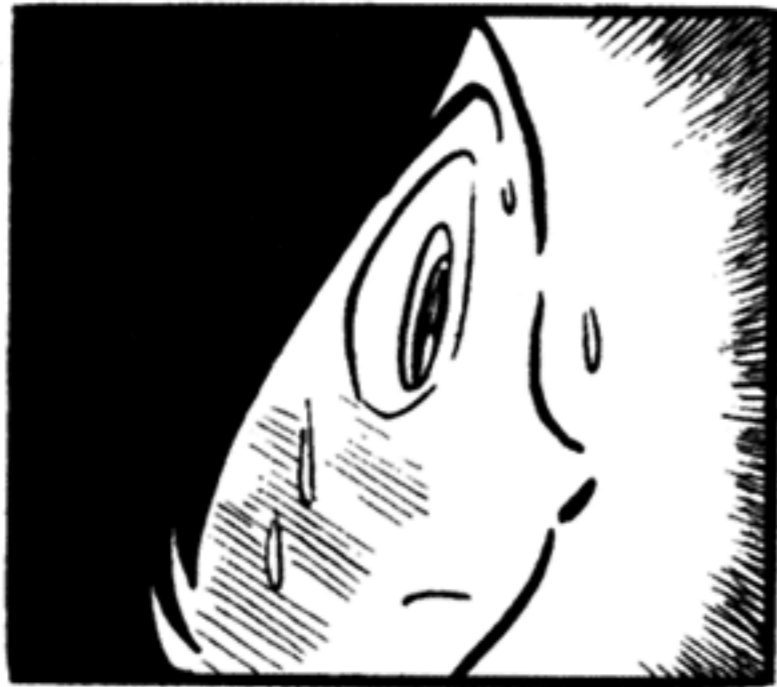
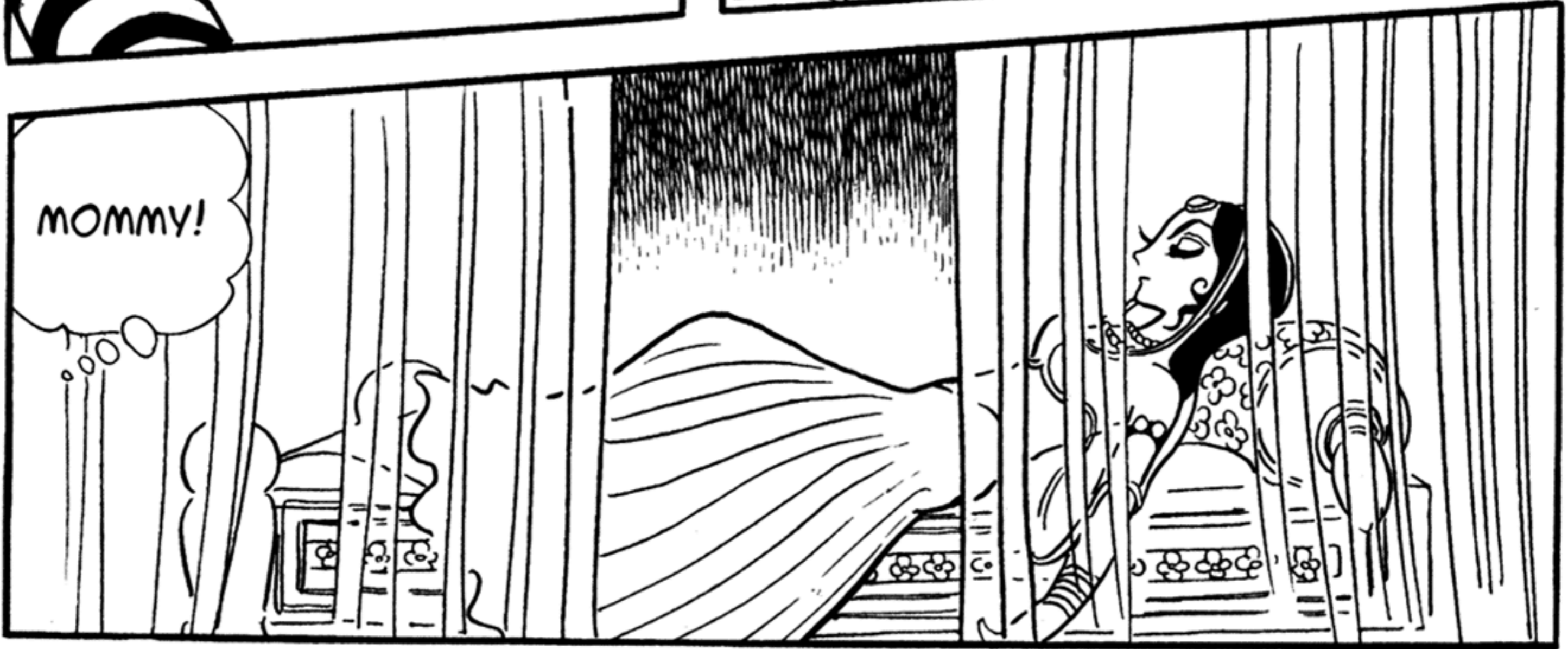
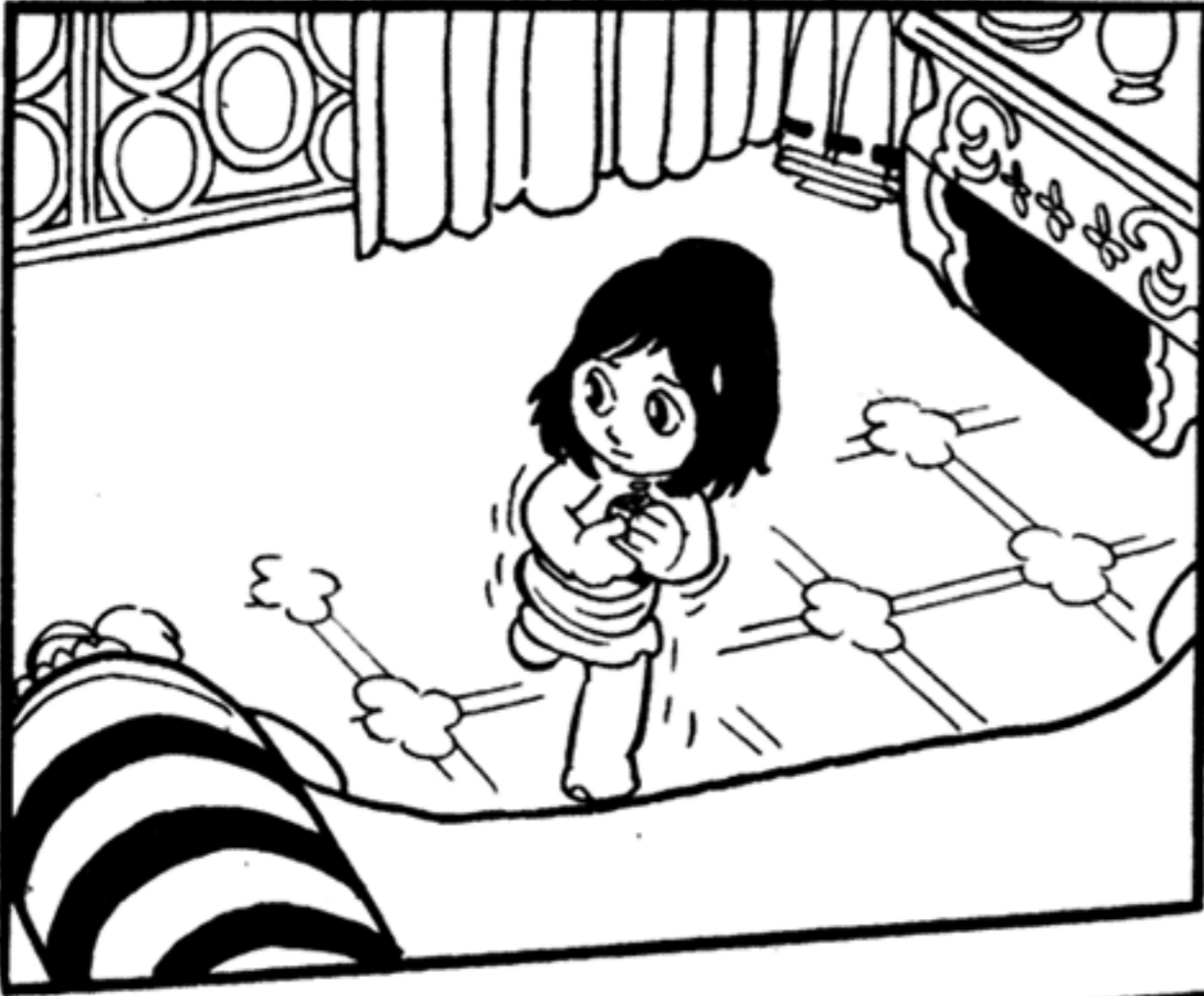


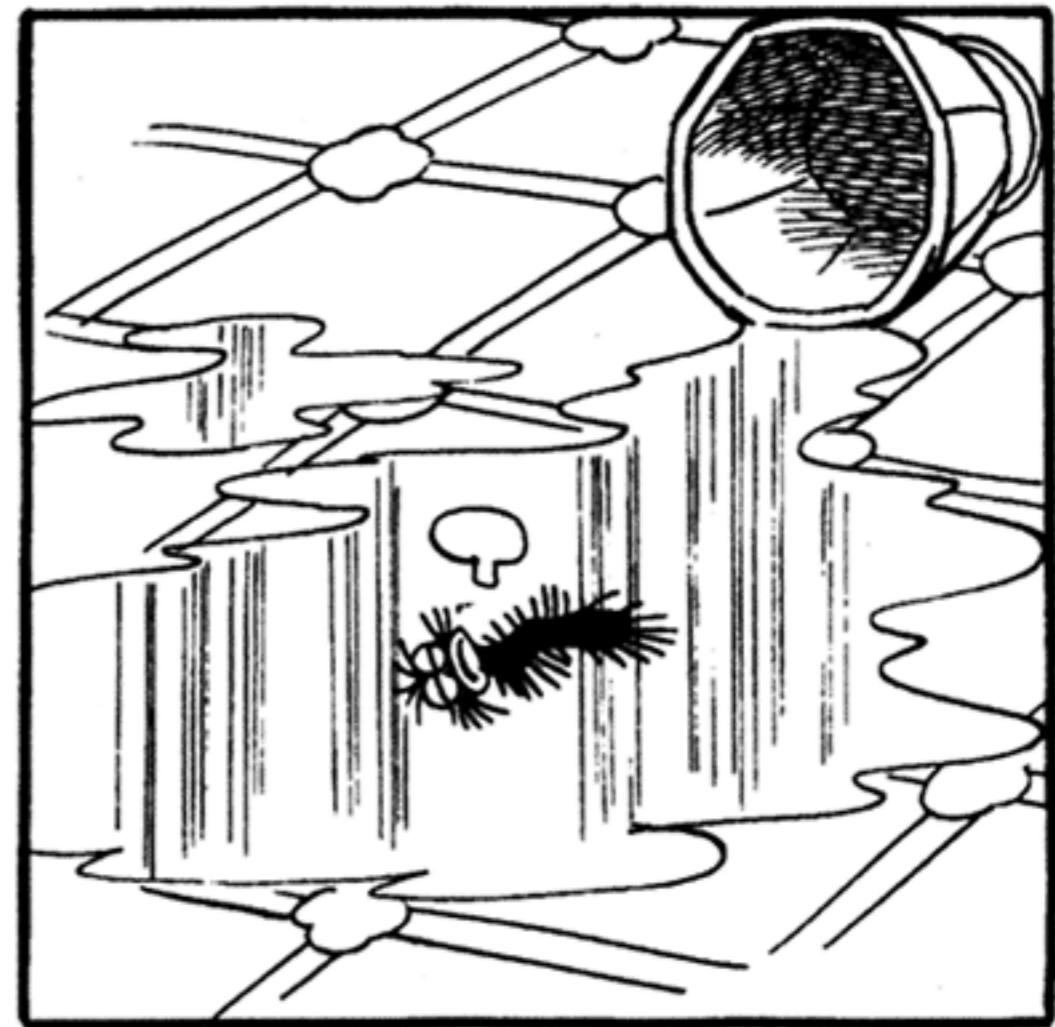
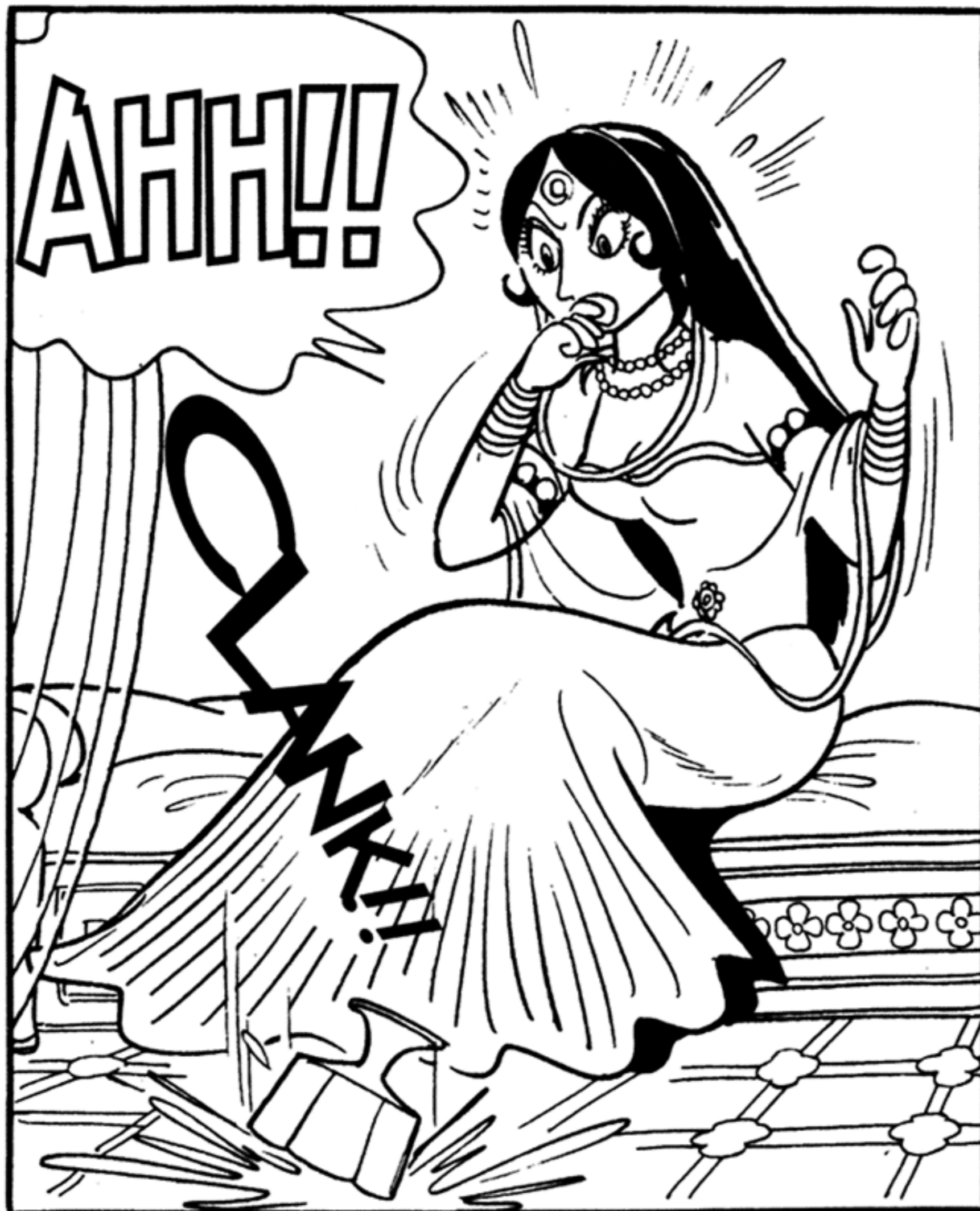
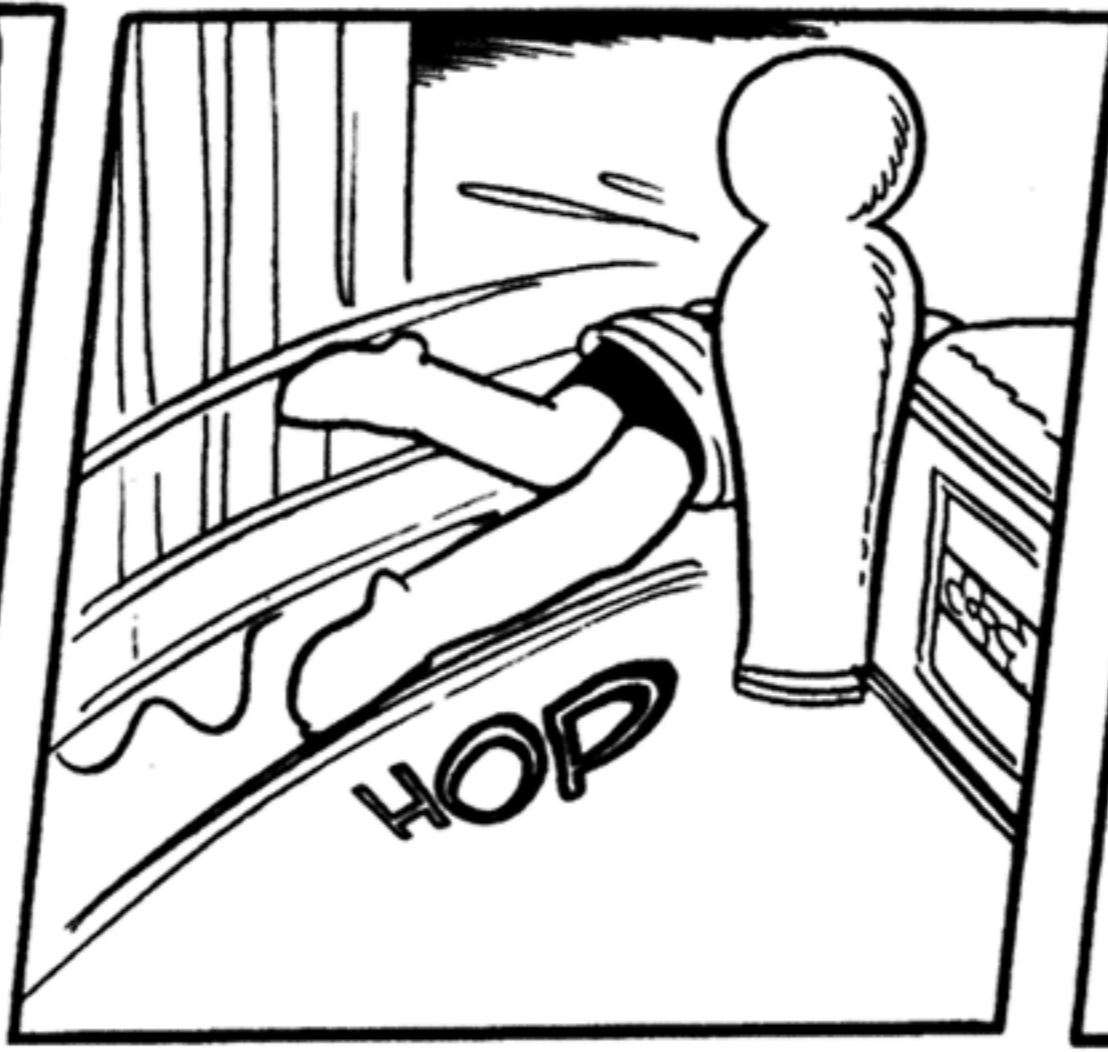
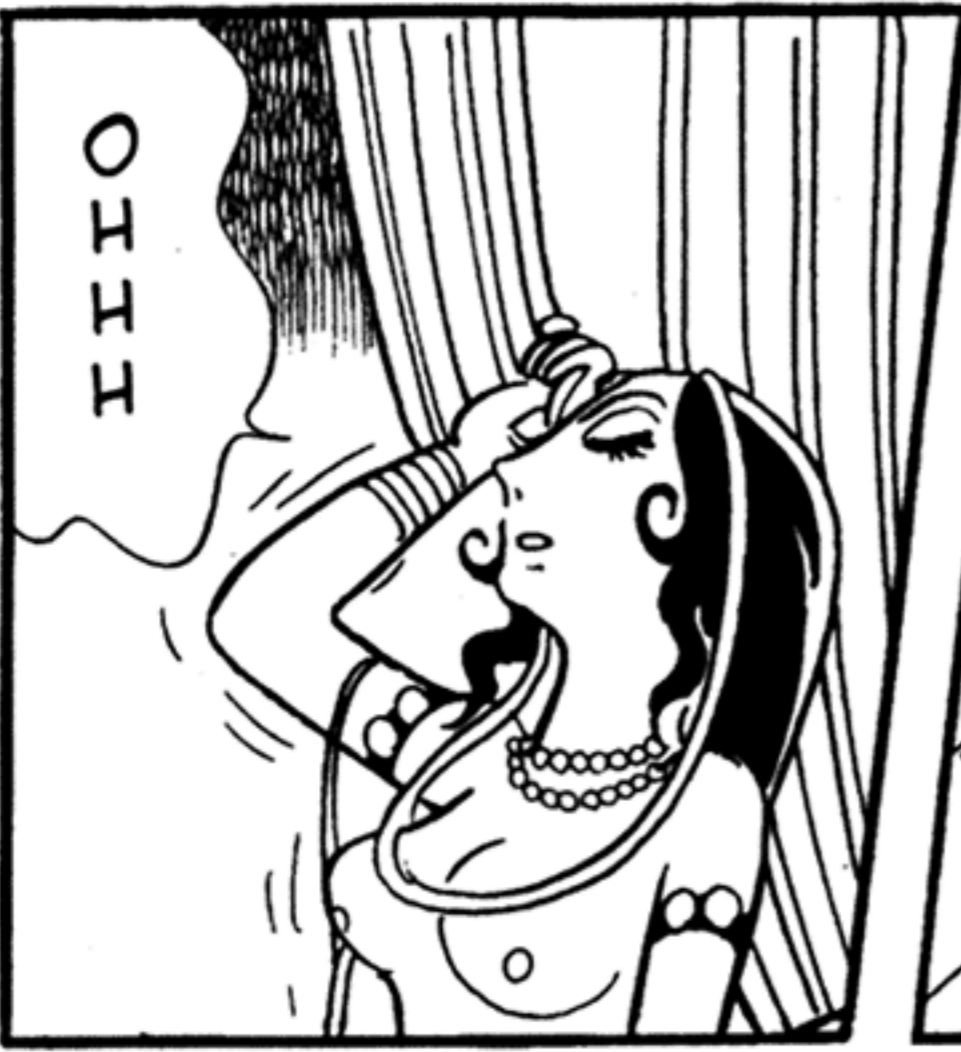
BAG THEM ALL AND WE'LL BURN...









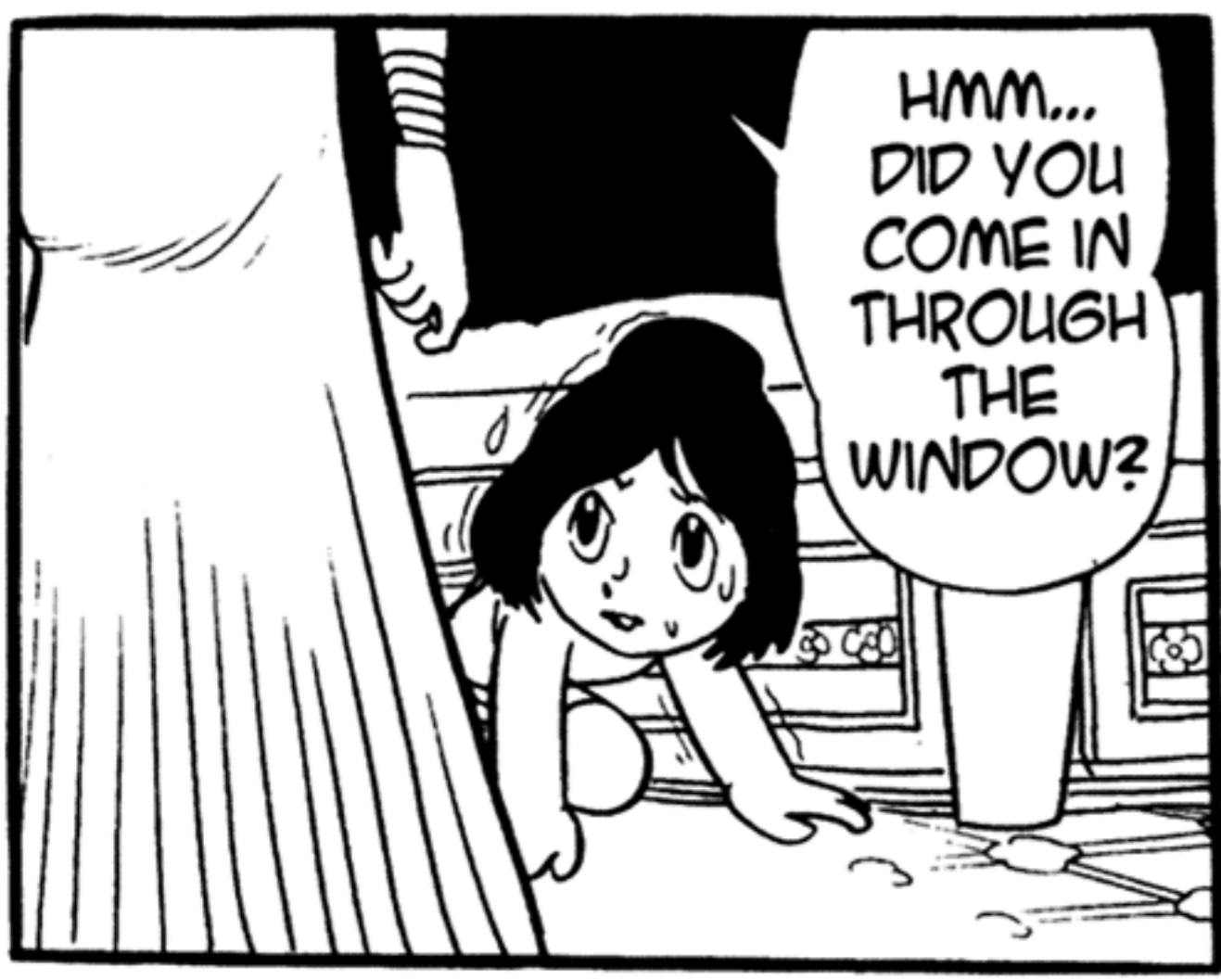




COME OUT, I WON'T BITE YOU. DON'T BE AFRAID.



YOU WORK IN OUR GARDEN, RIGHT?



HMM... DID YOU COME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW?



HA HA, YOU'RE KIND OF CUTE! WHY, YOU LOOK PRETTY CLEVER, TOO.

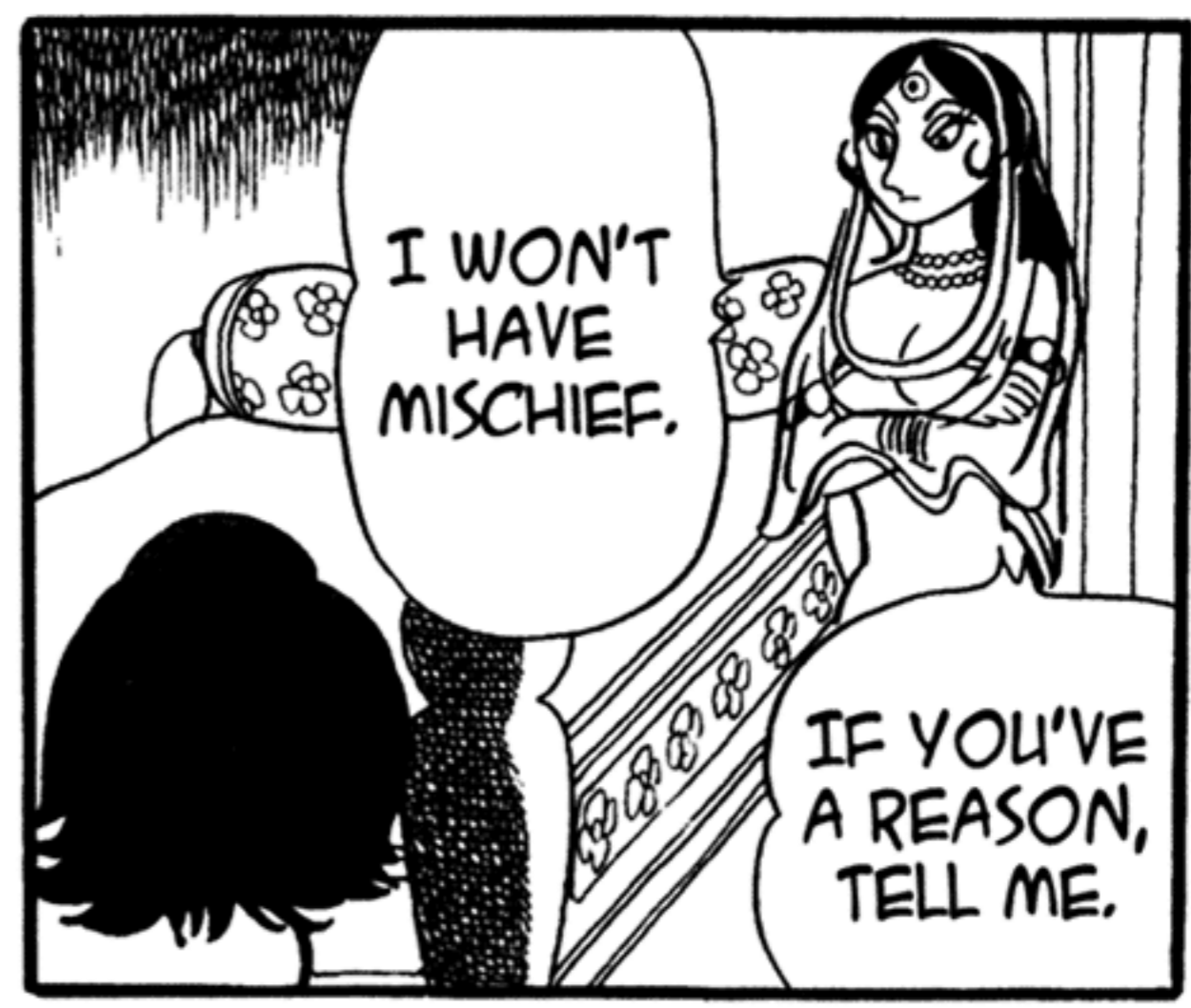
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE A BAD BOY.



BUT TELL ME: WHY DID YOU PUT THAT CATERPILLAR IN MY GOBLET? SPEAK UP!!

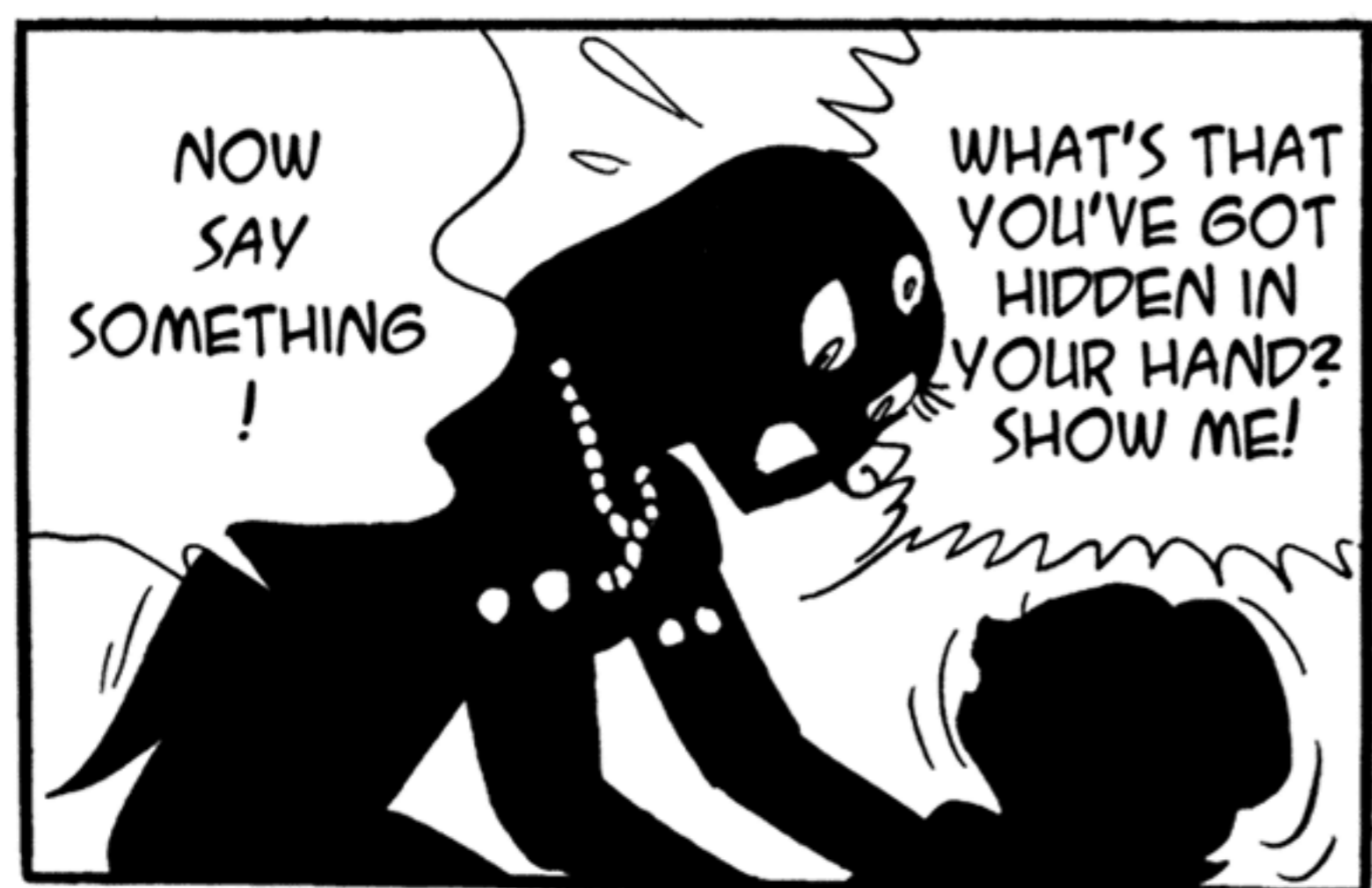


...



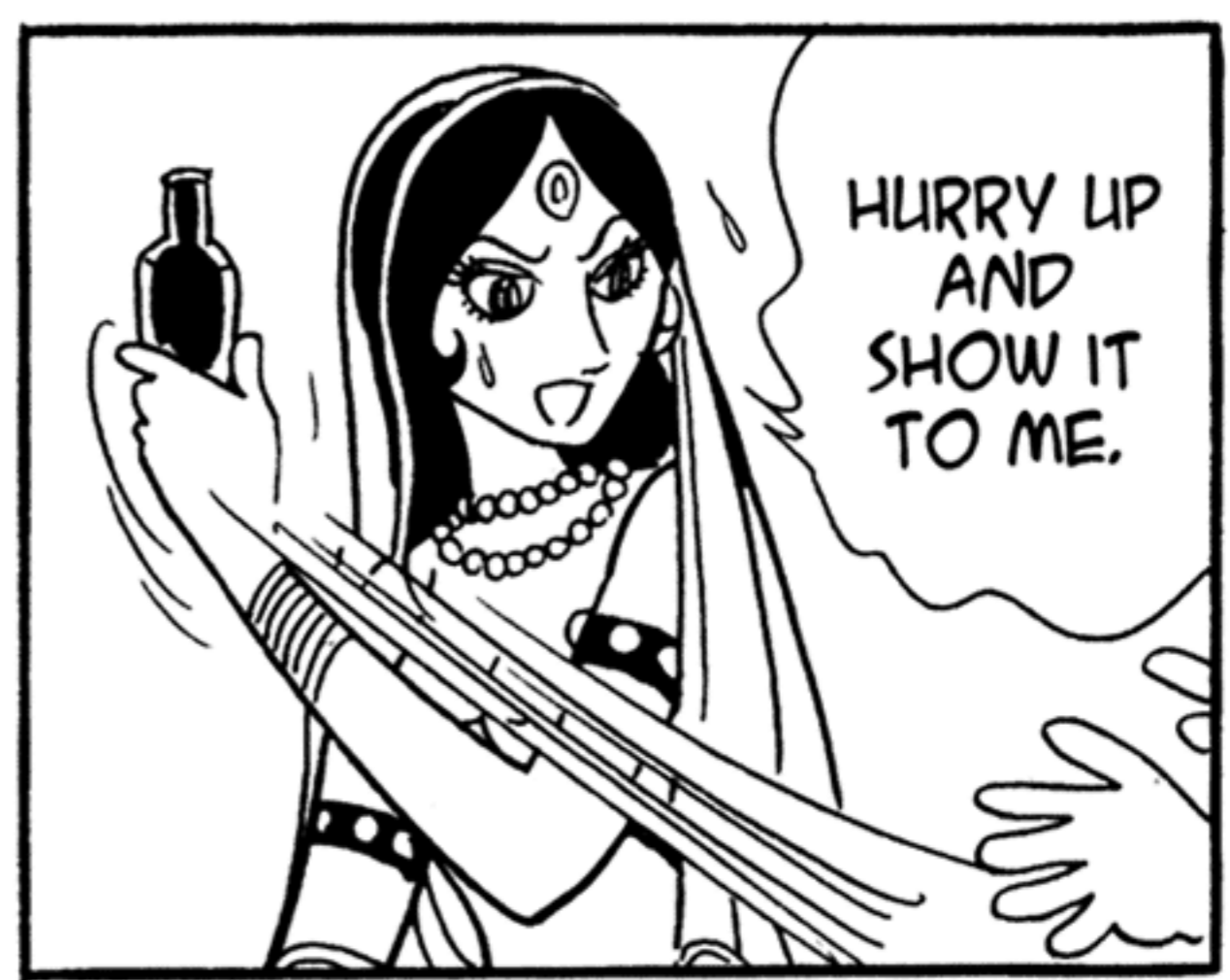
I WON'T HAVE MISCHIEF.

IF YOU'VE A REASON, TELL ME.

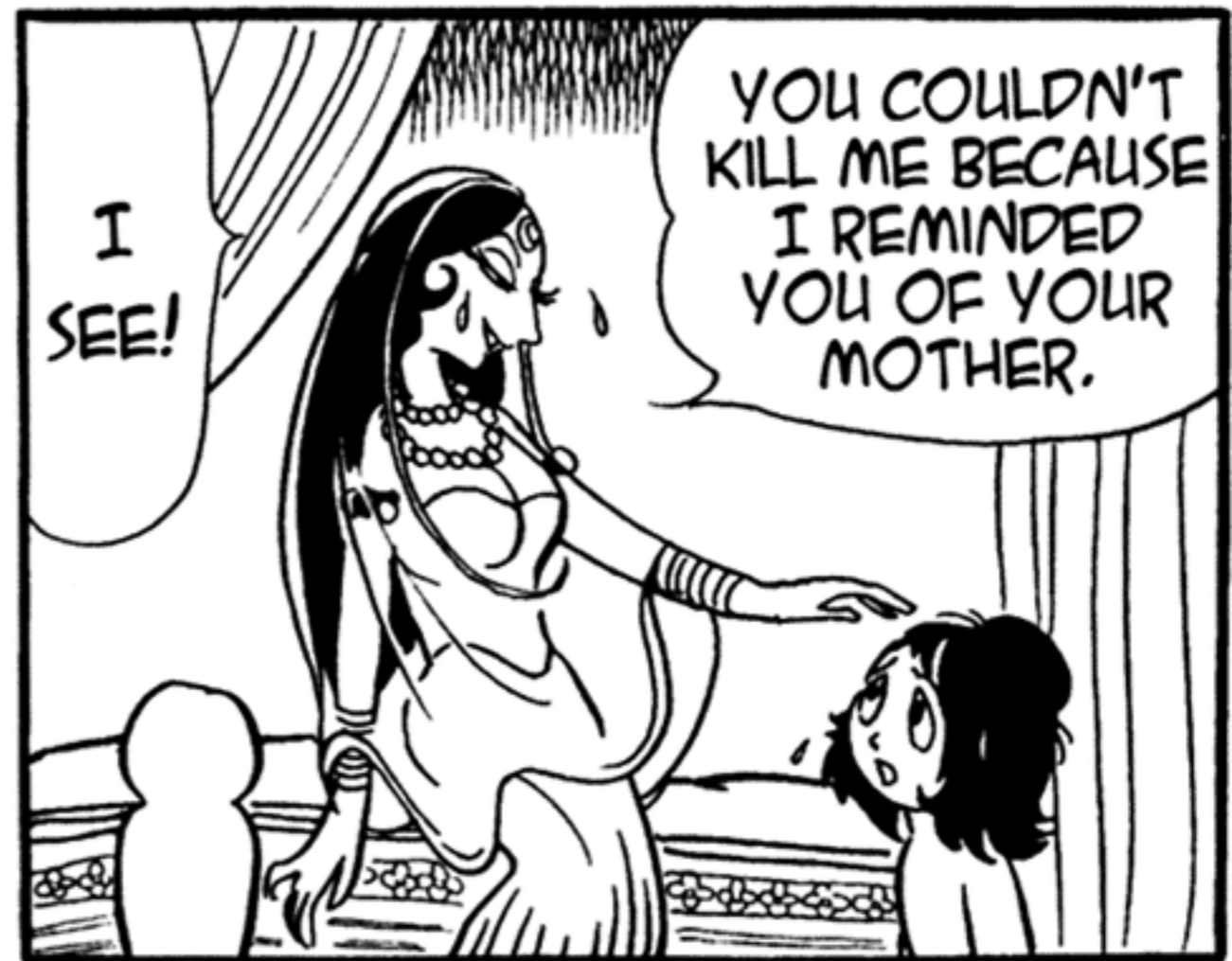
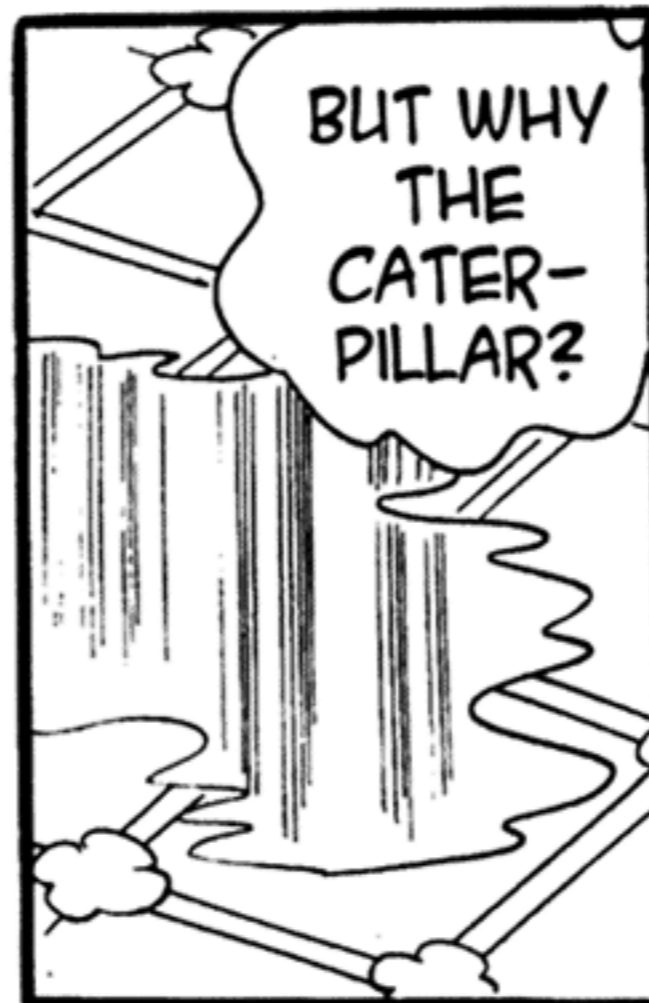
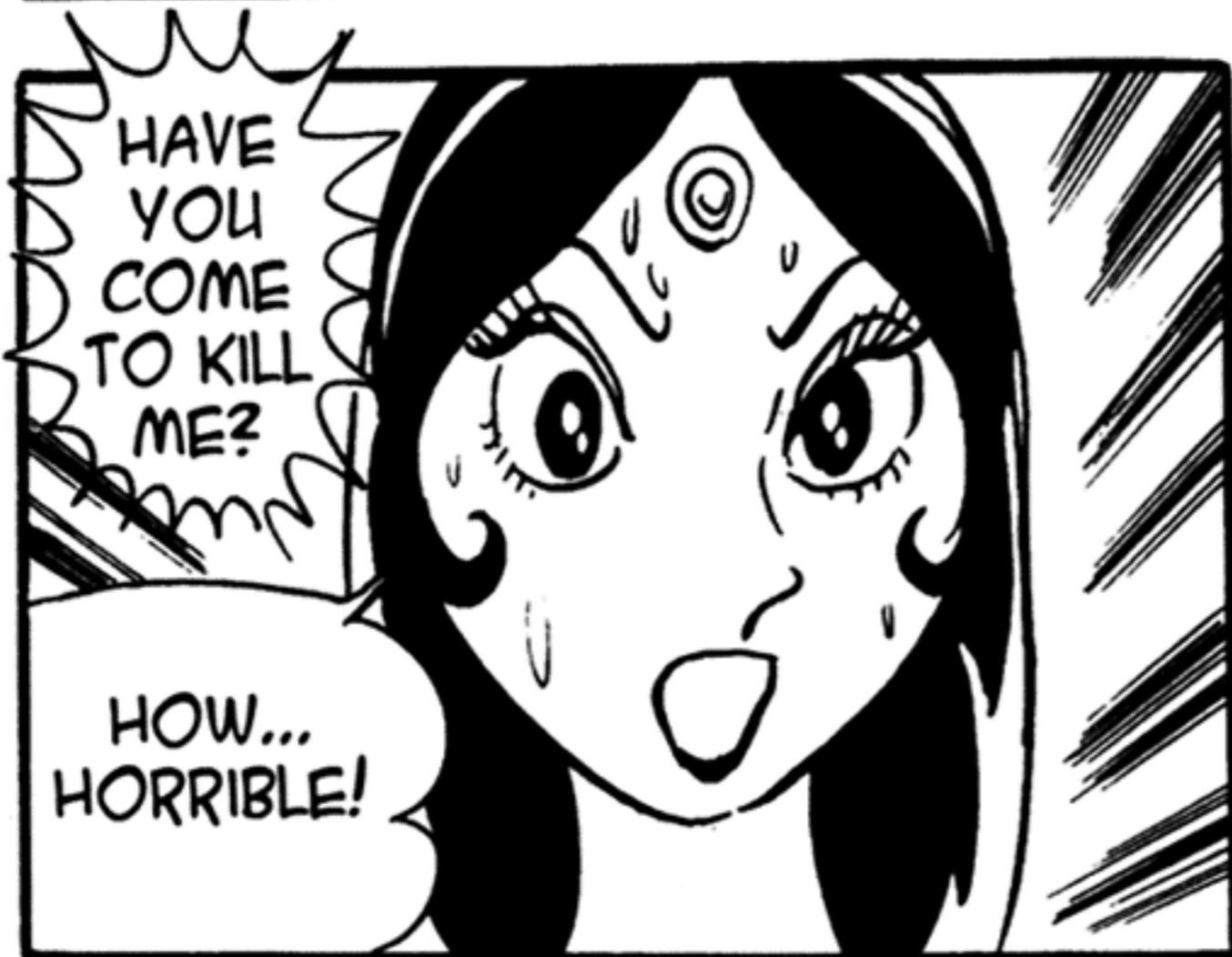
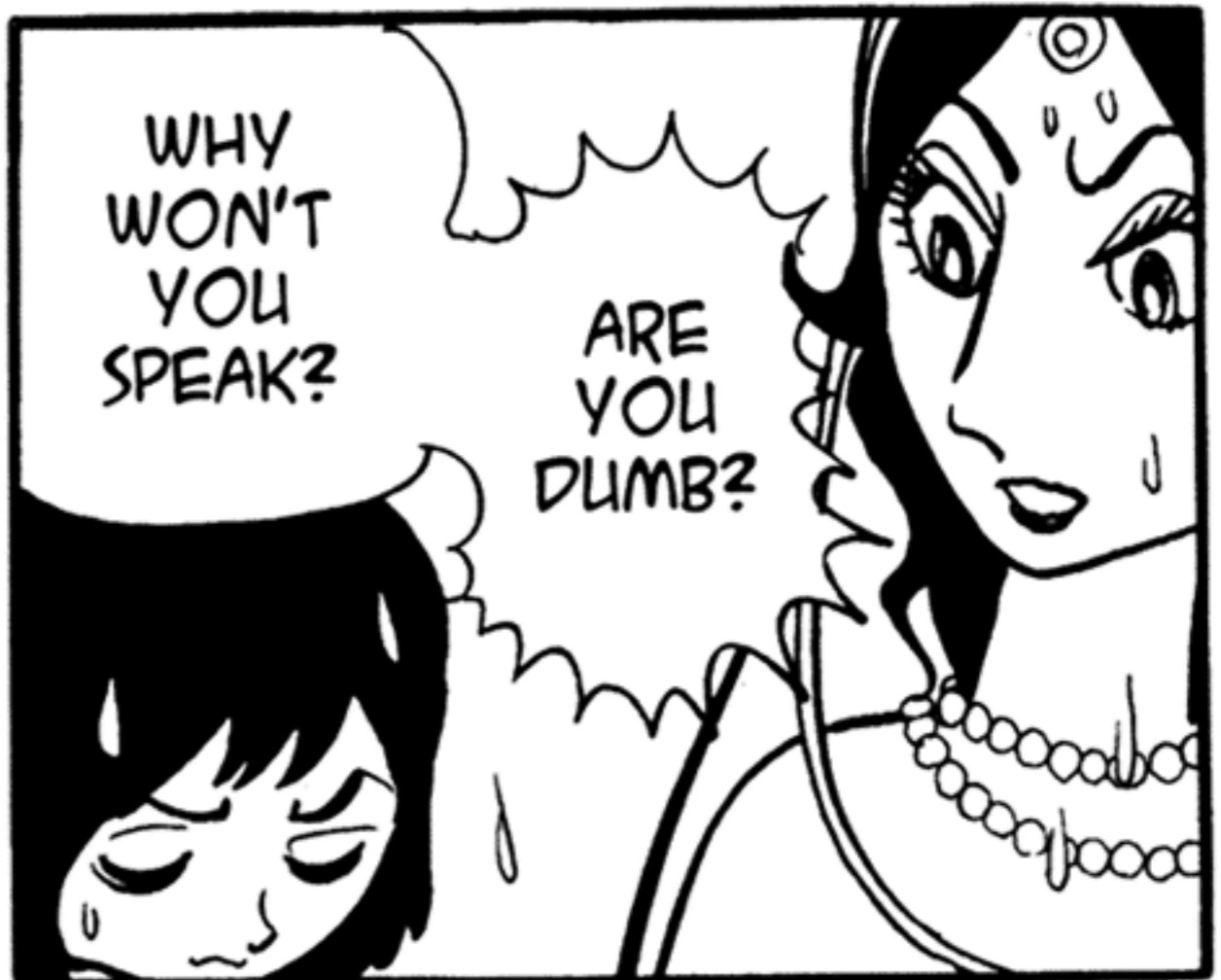
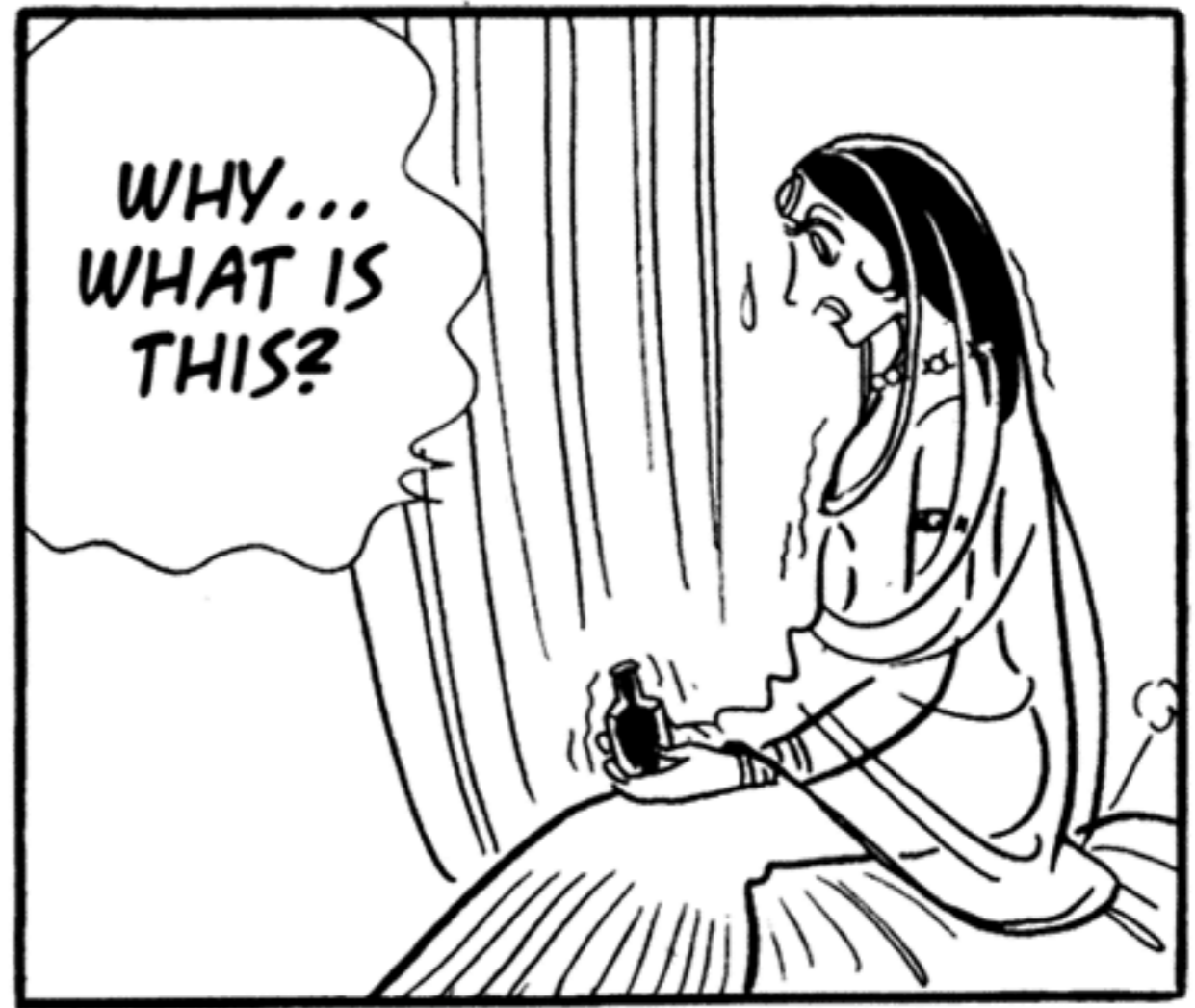
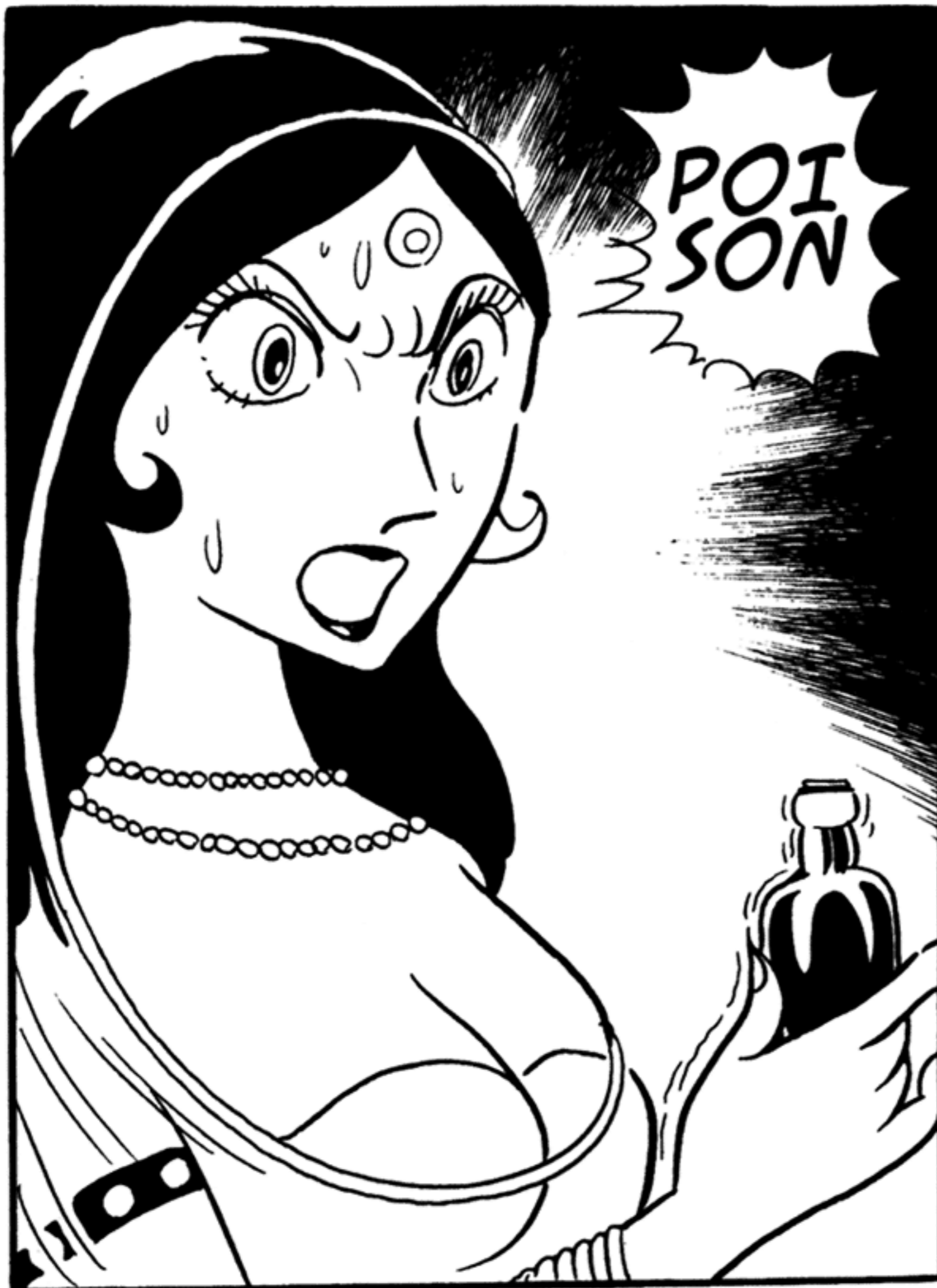


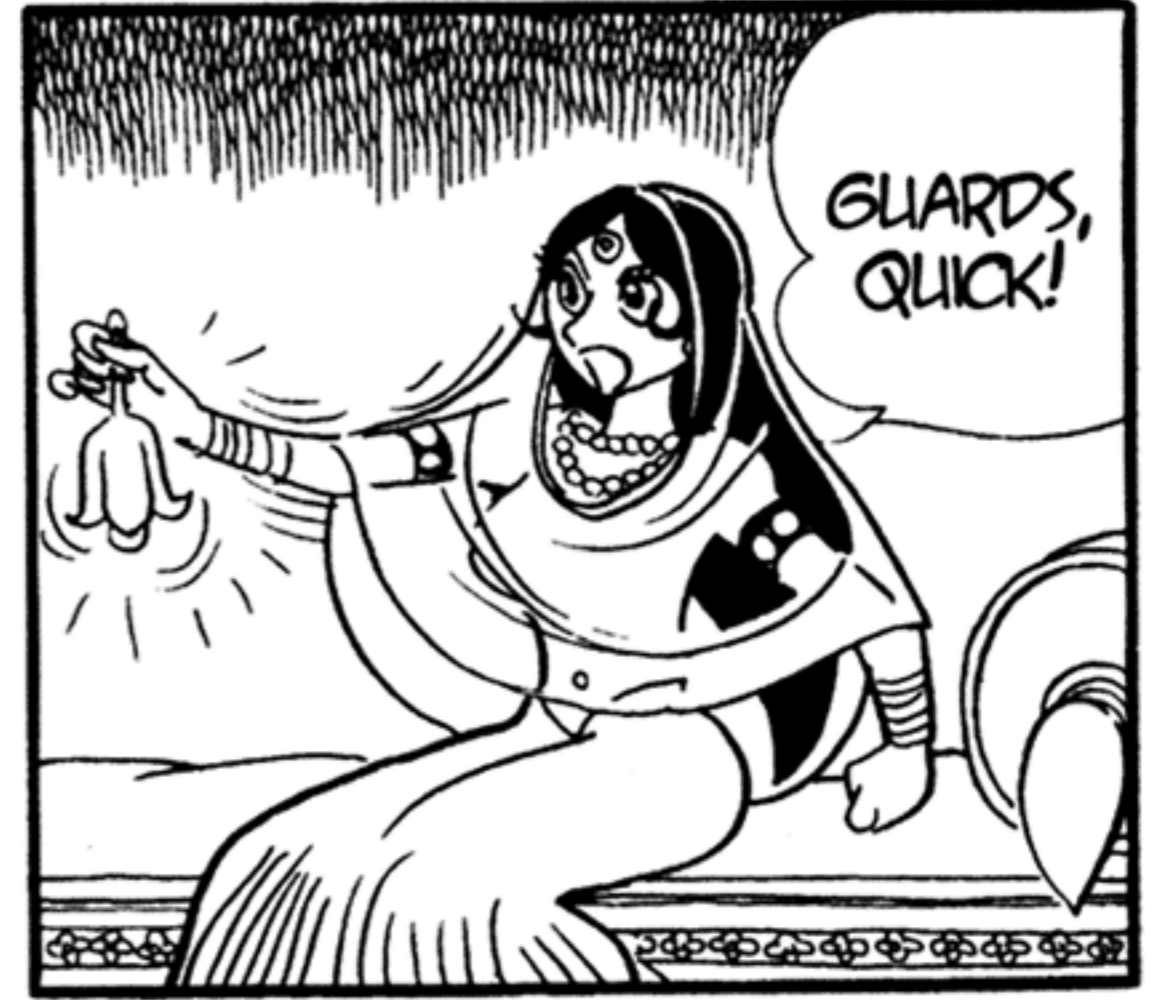
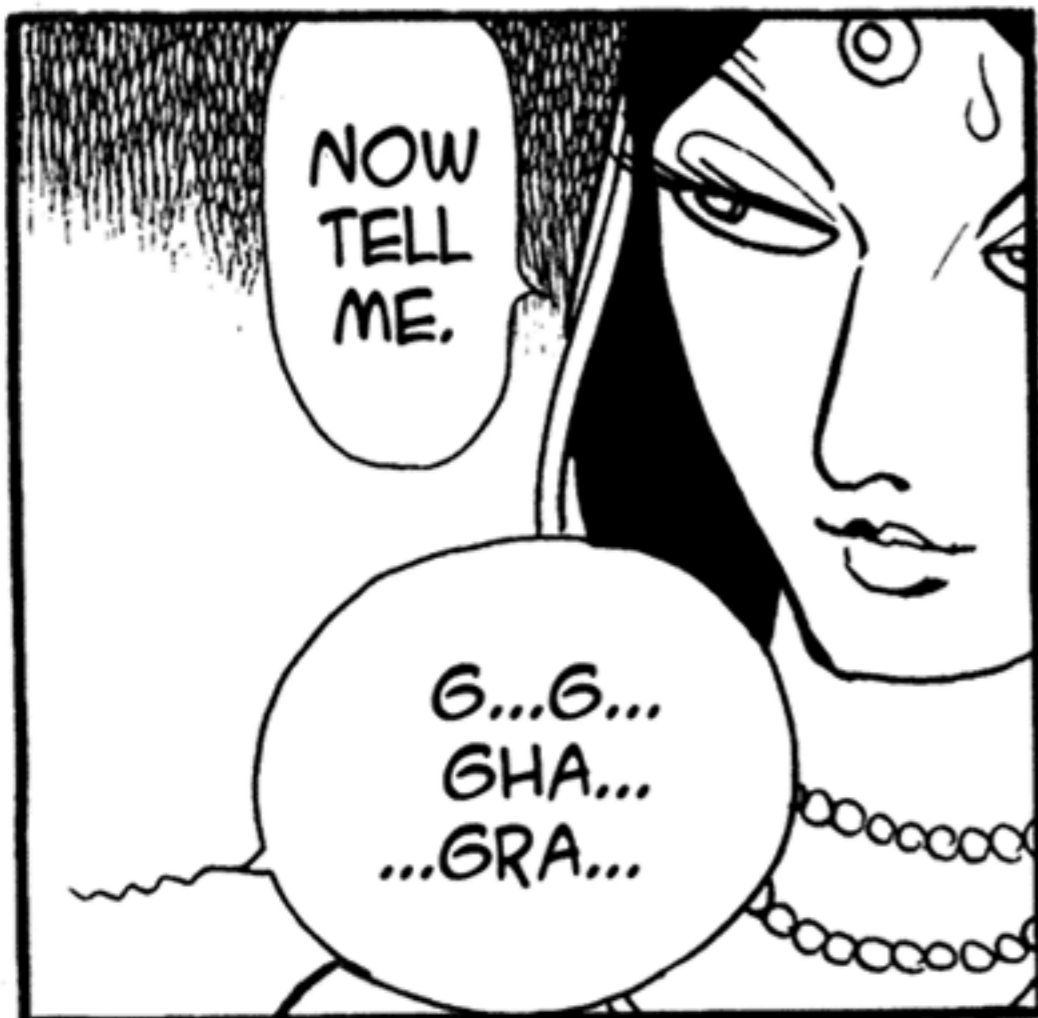
NOW SAY SOMETHING !

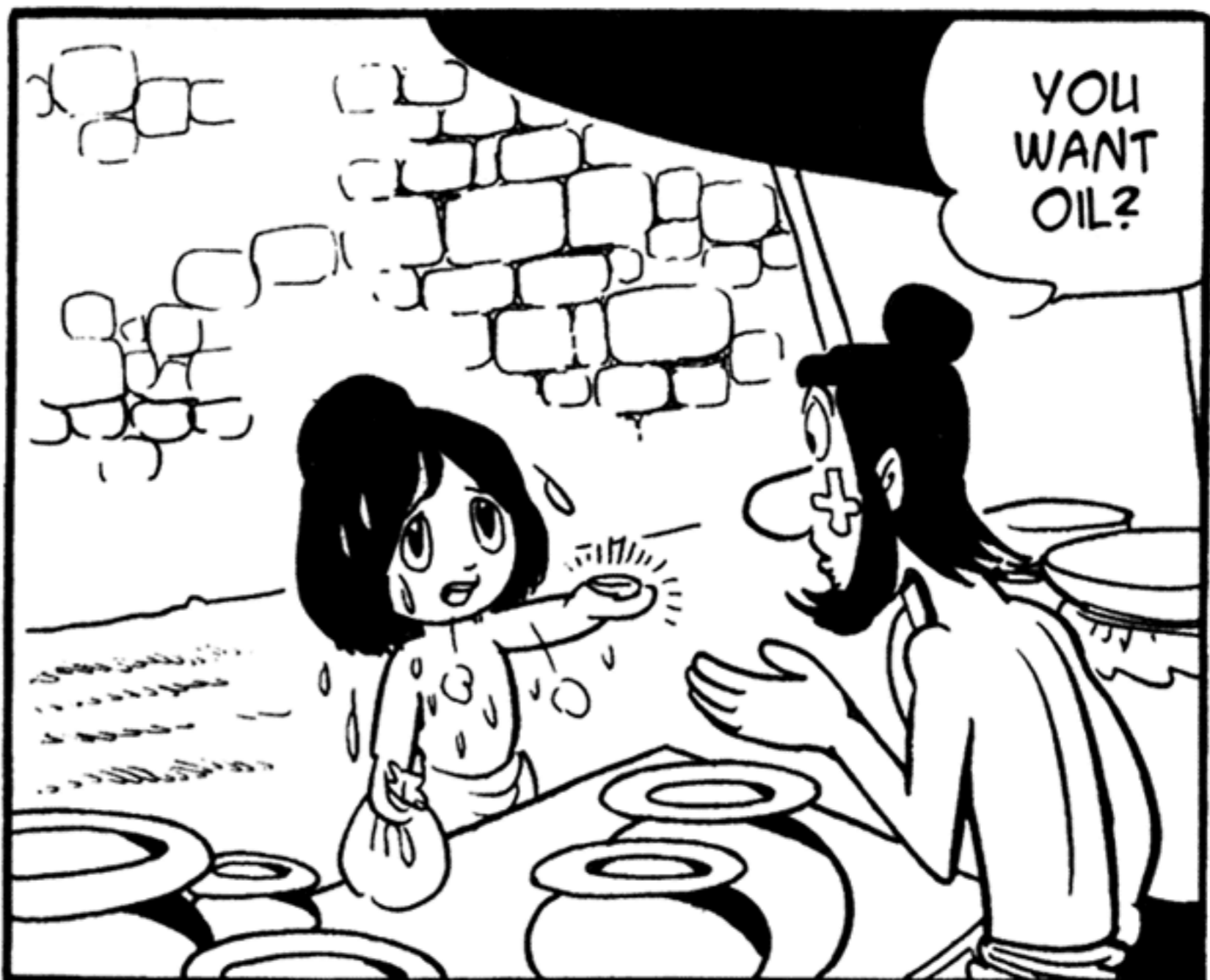
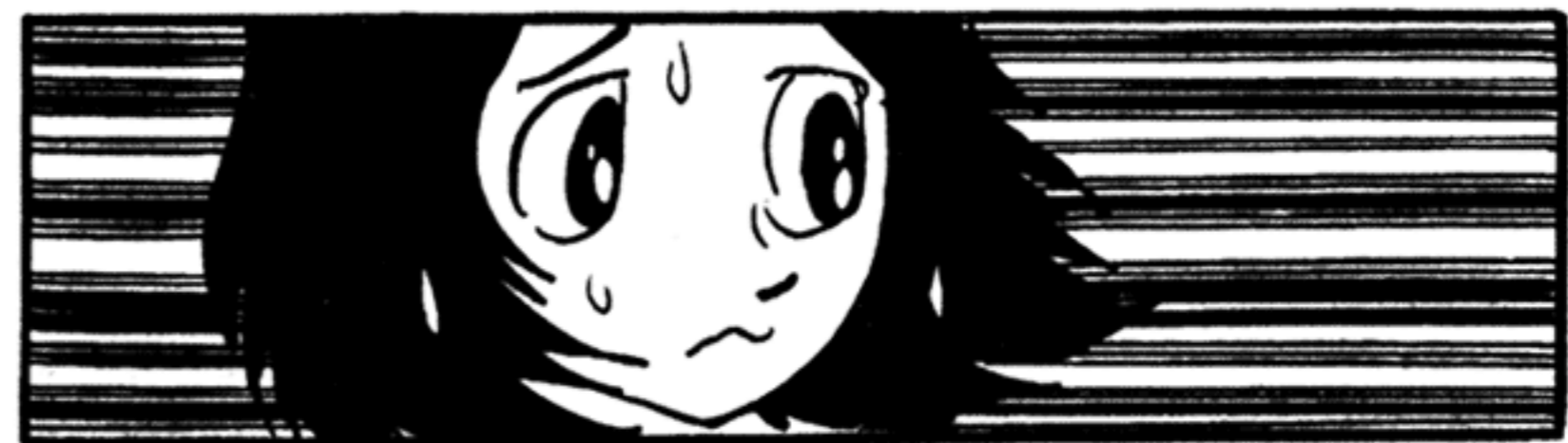
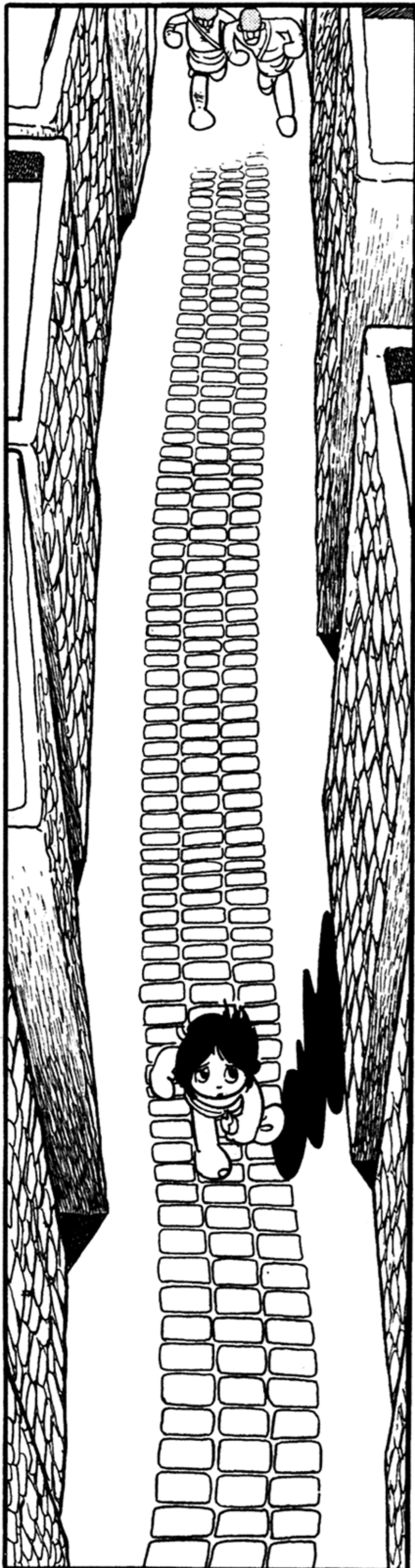
WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE GOT HIDDEN IN YOUR HAND? SHOW ME!

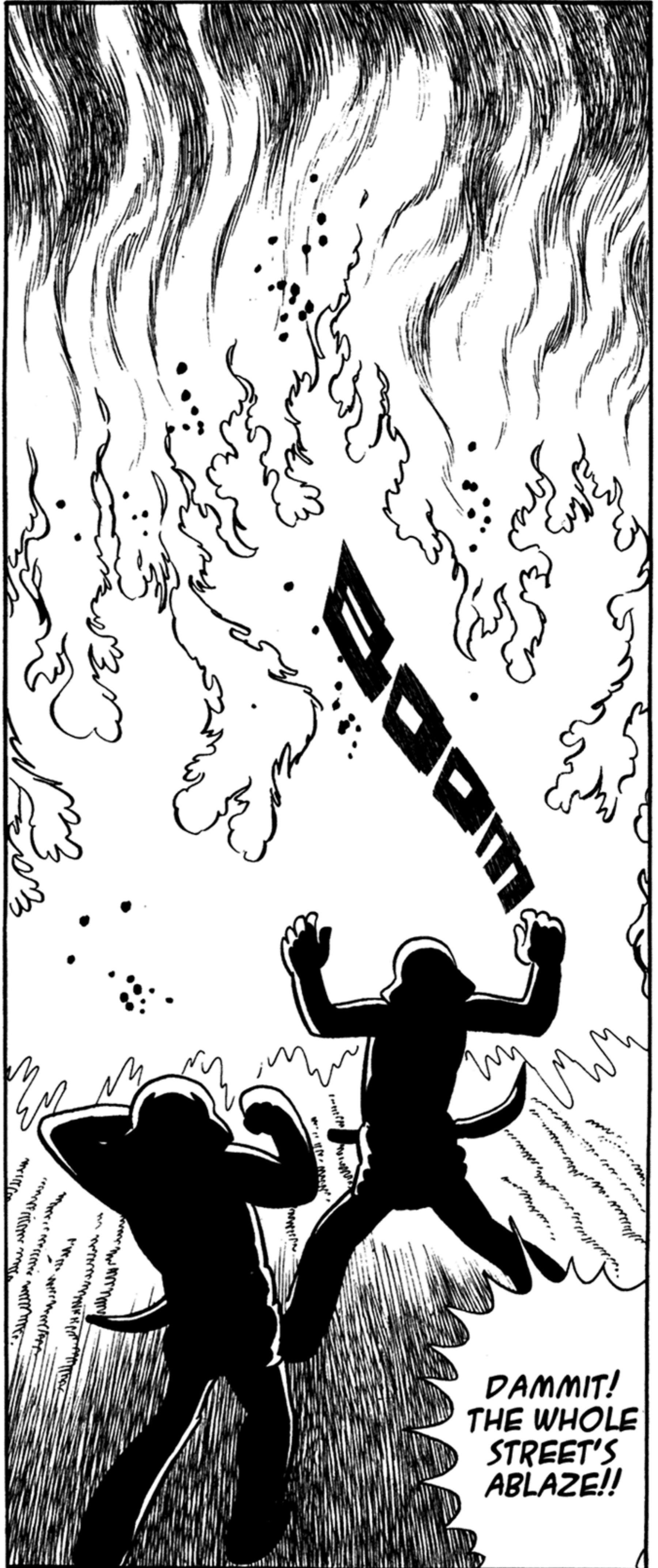
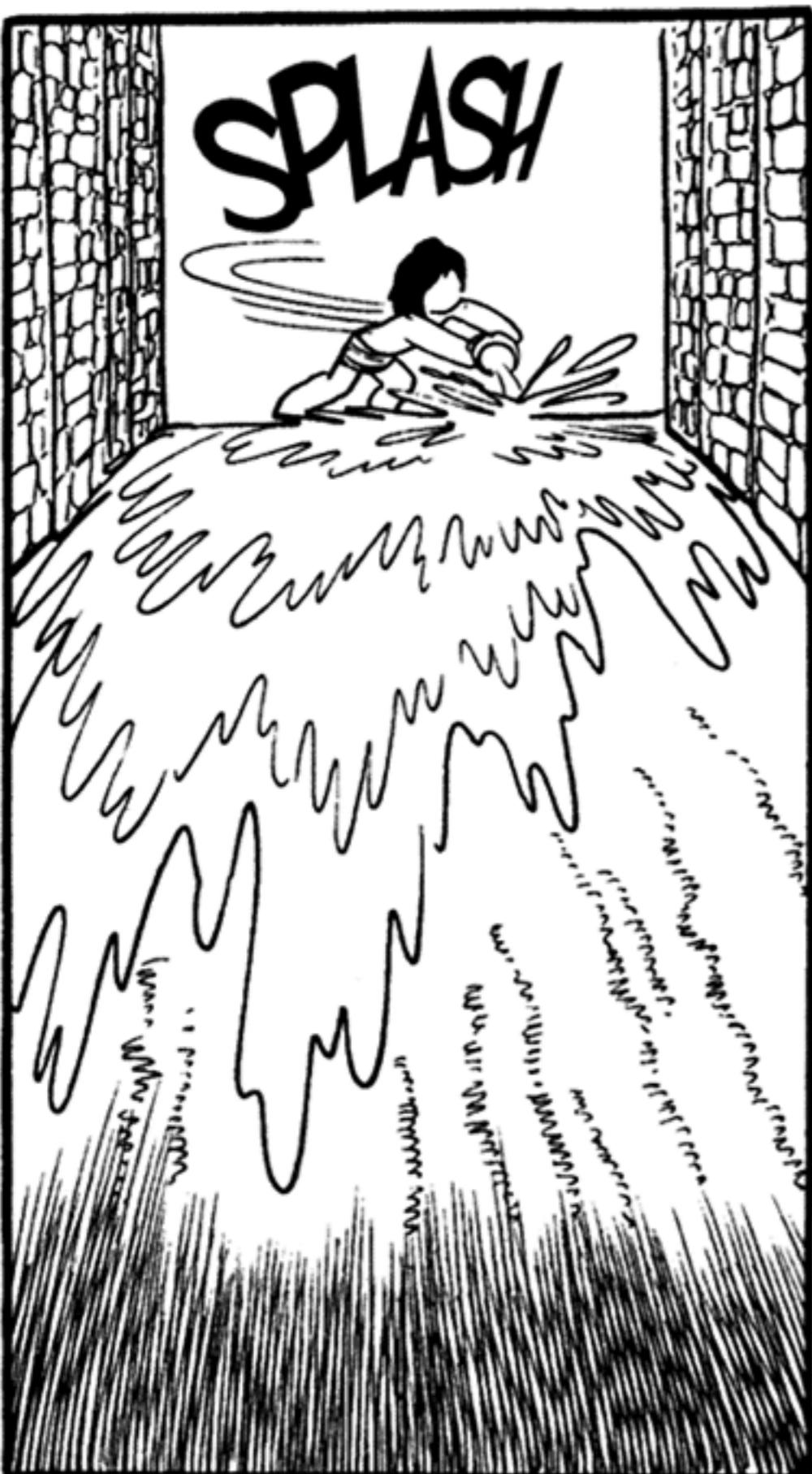


HURRY UP AND SHOW IT TO ME.



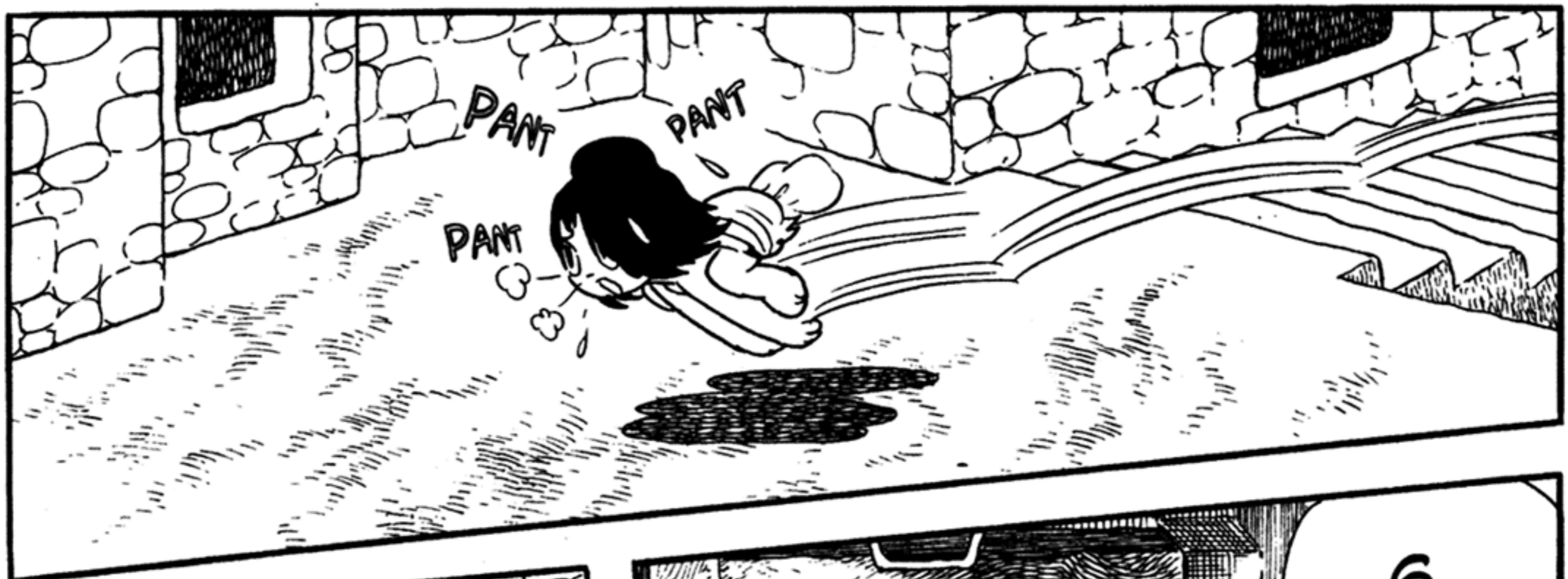








SHIT, PAL...
WE'VE
BEEN
HAD.



PANT
PANT
PANT



G...
GHA...
GRA



WUF WUF
GRR GRR
GR-WUF
OOF

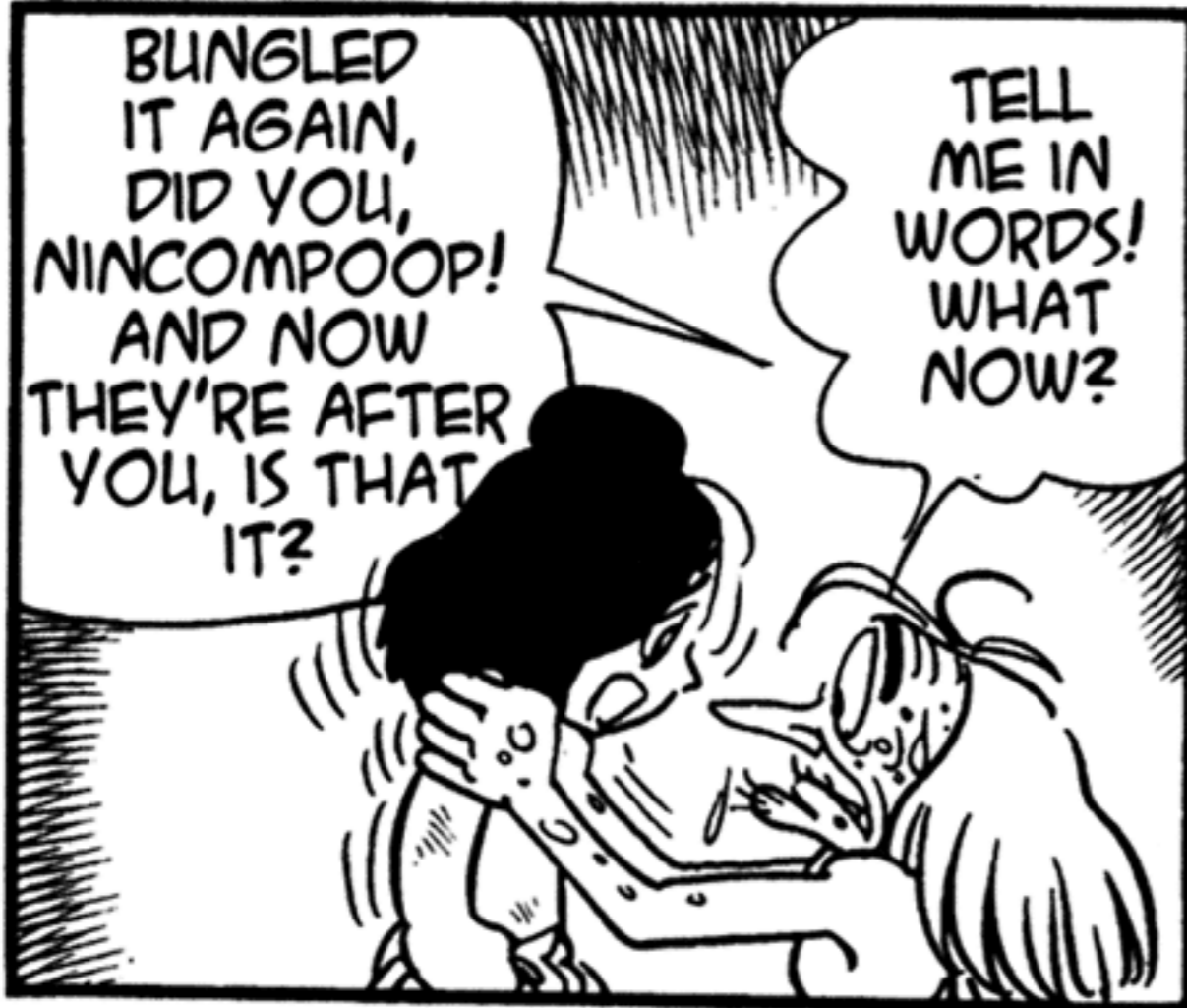


HUH?



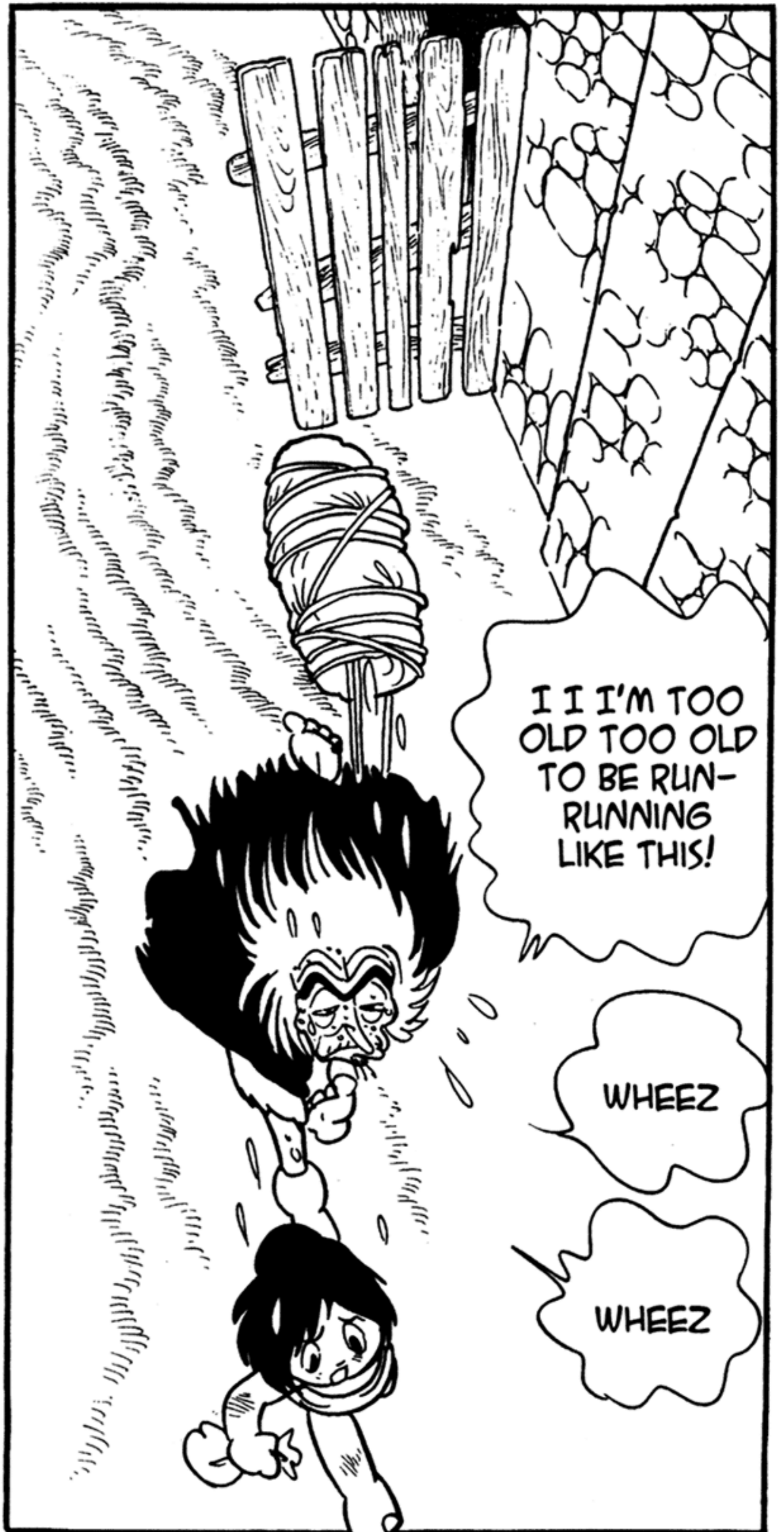
GHA...GRA...K-KILL COMING!...NOW!!

WHAAAAT?



BUNGLED IT AGAIN, DID YOU, NINCOMPOOP! AND NOW THEY'RE AFTER YOU, IS THAT IT?

TELL ME IN WORDS! WHAT NOW?



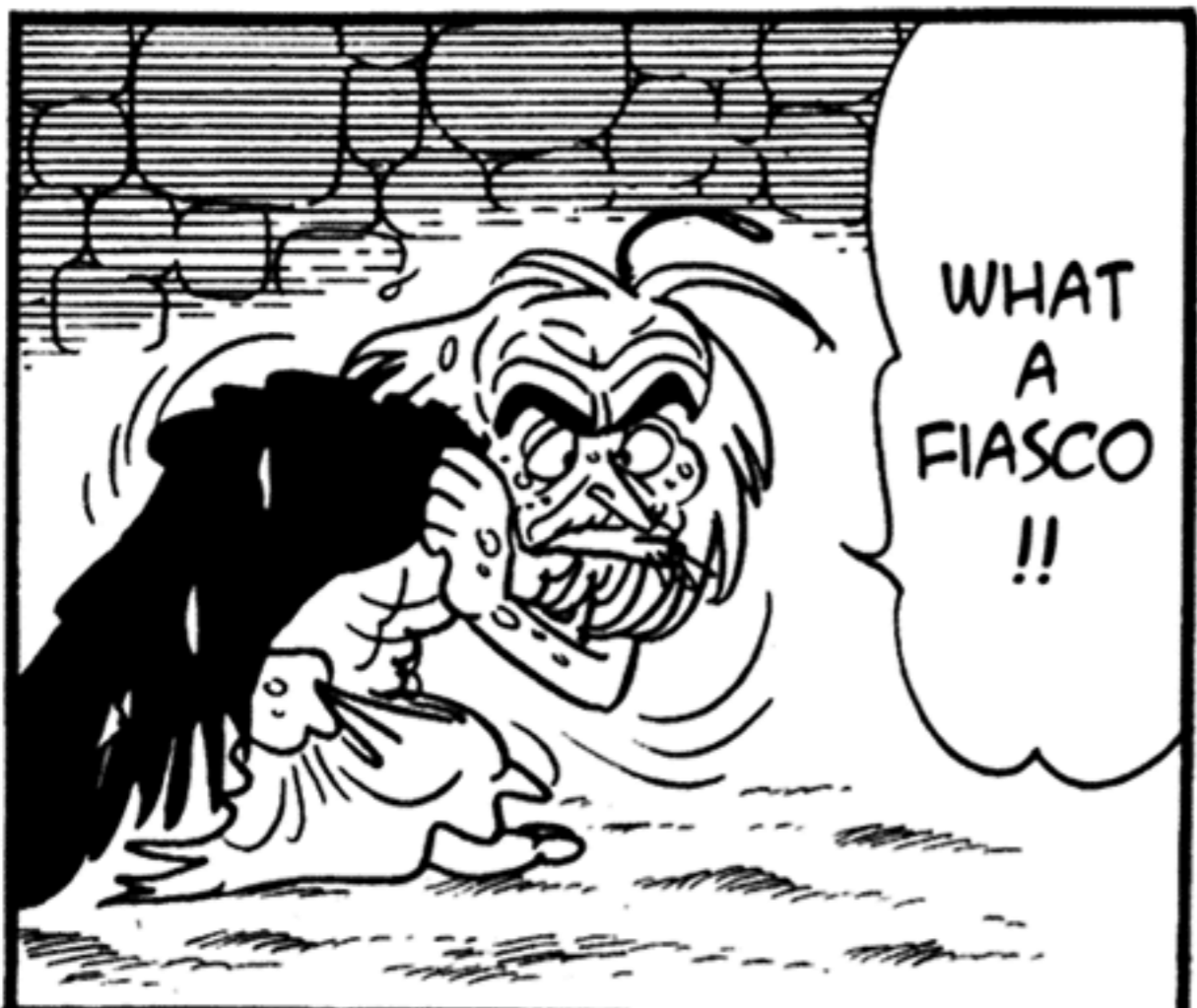
I I I'M TOO OLD TOO OLD TO BE RUN-RUNNING LIKE THIS!

WHEEZ

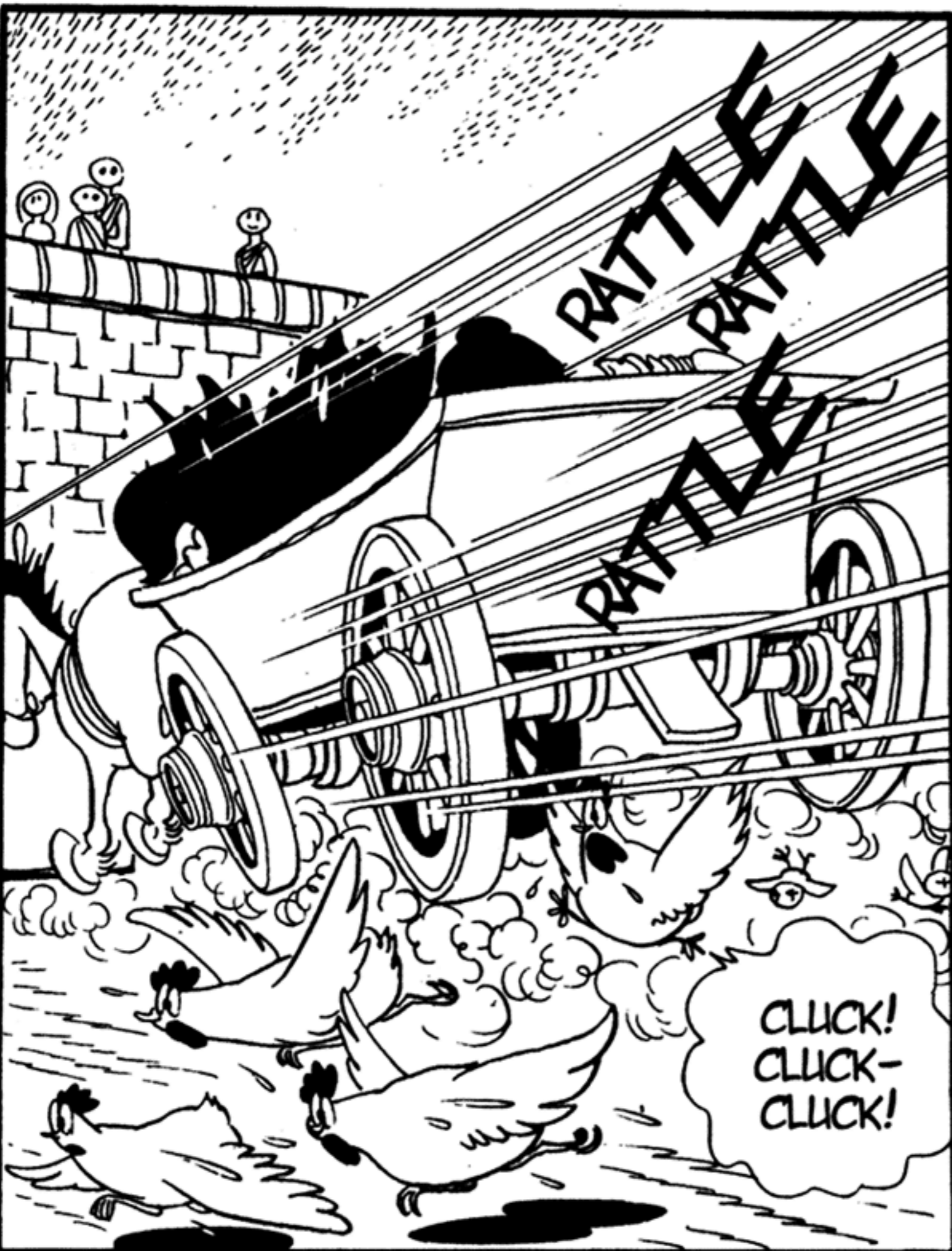
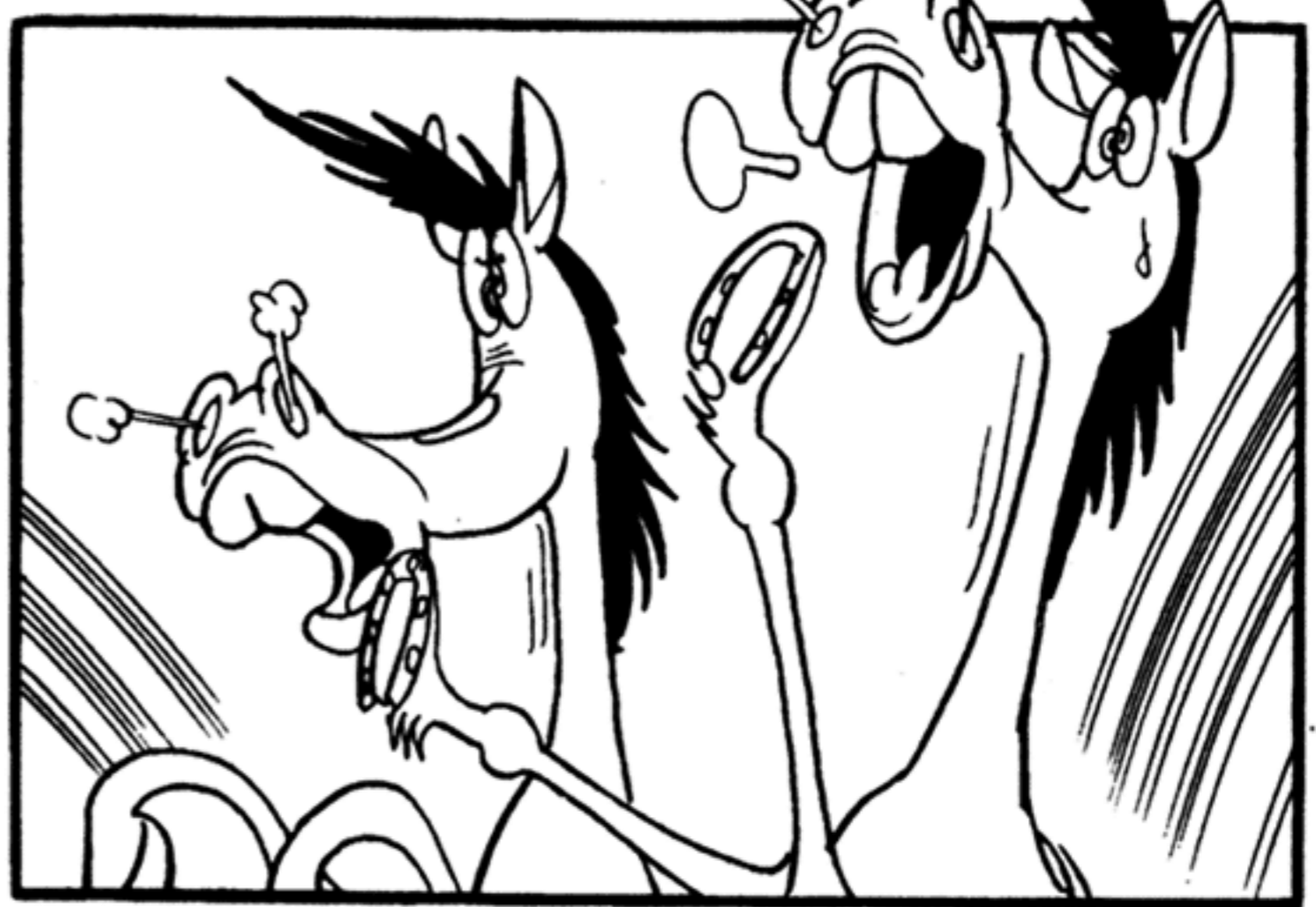
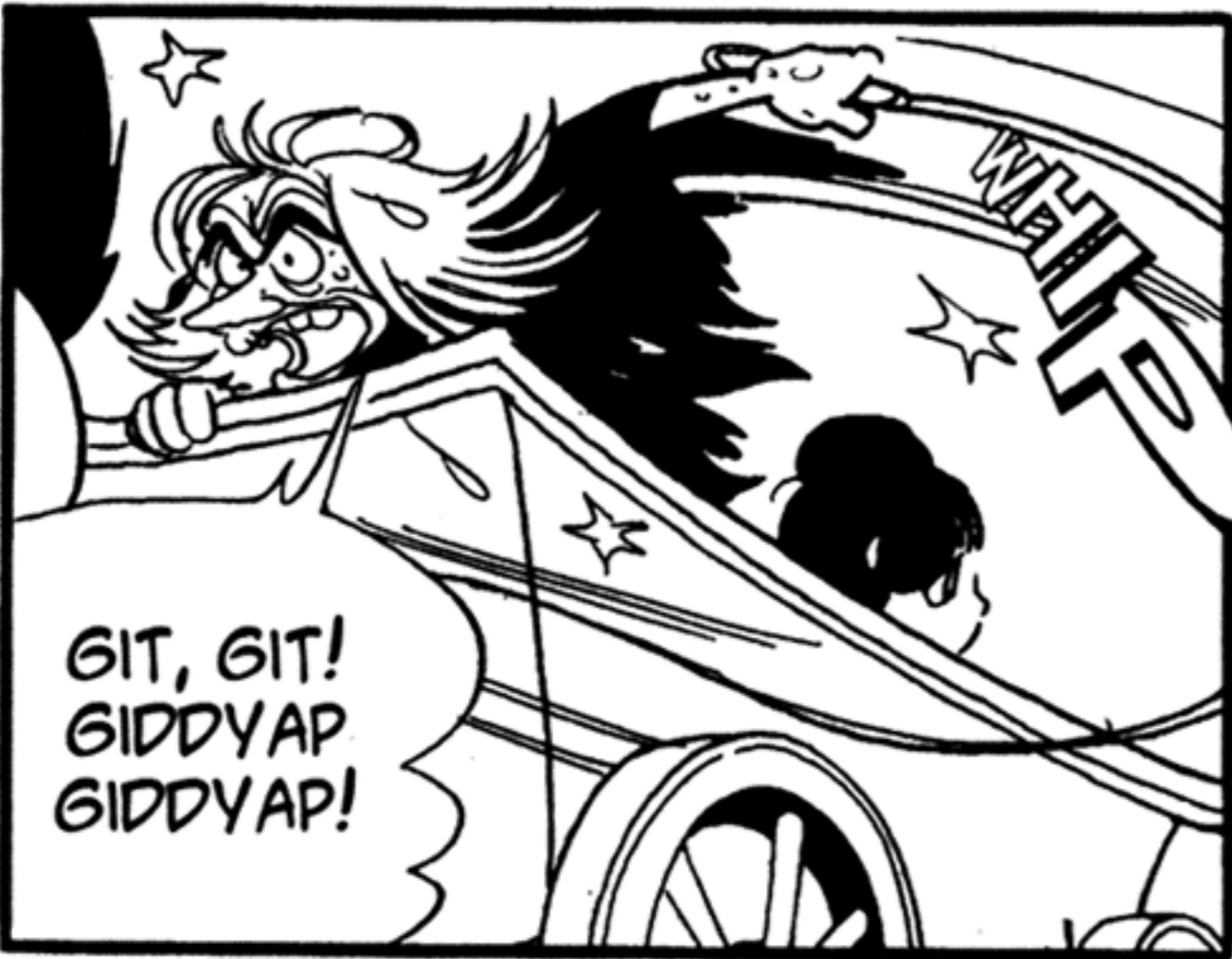
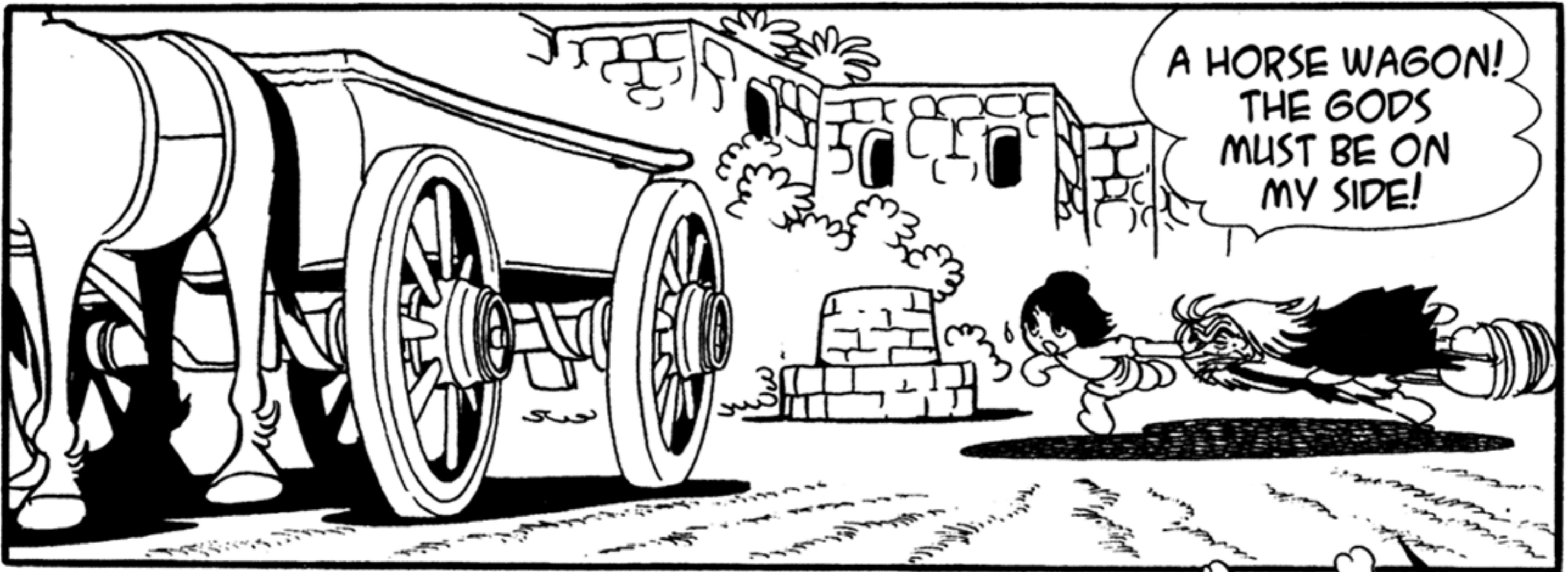
WHEEZ

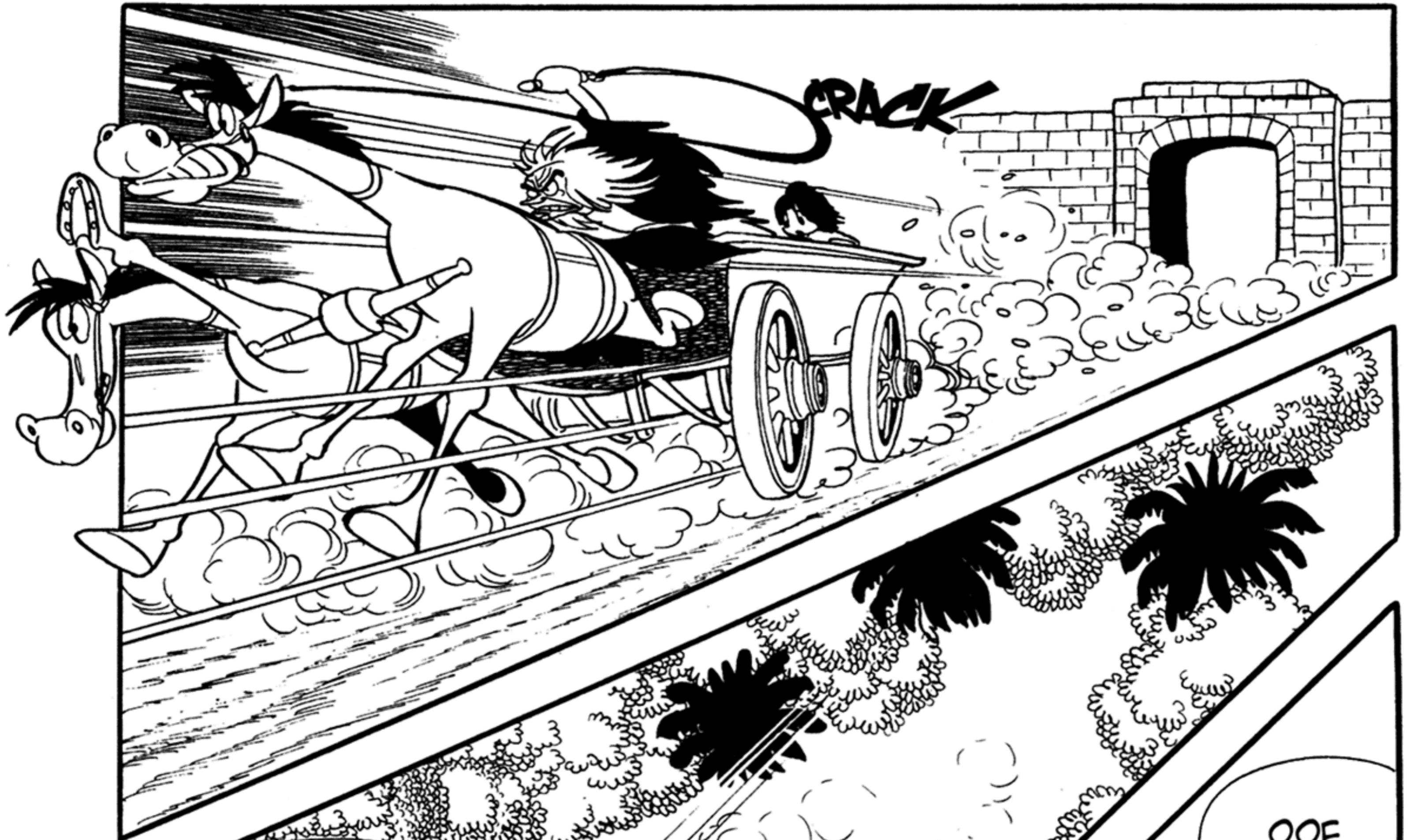


RUN NOW... FAST



WHAT A FIASCO !!



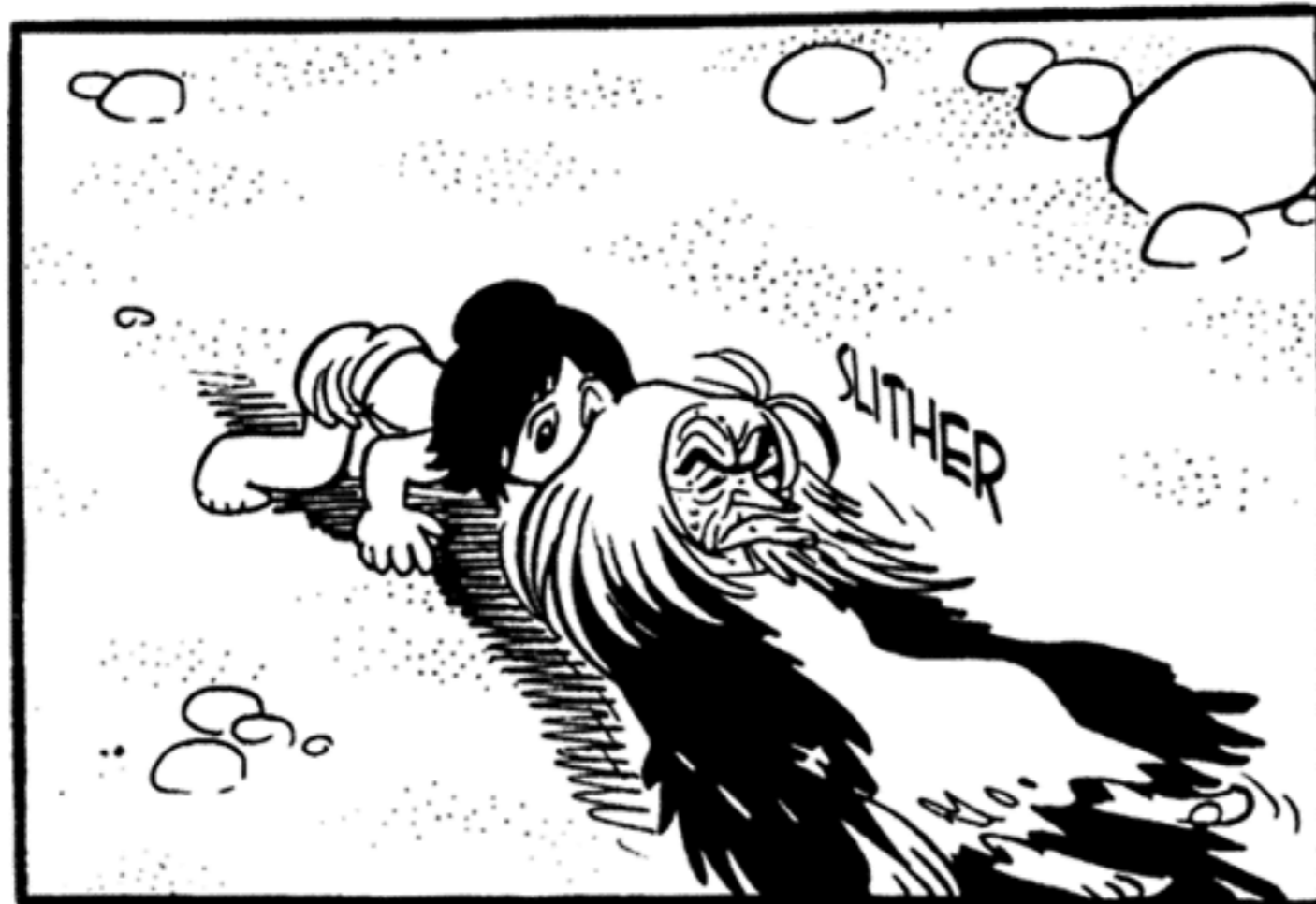
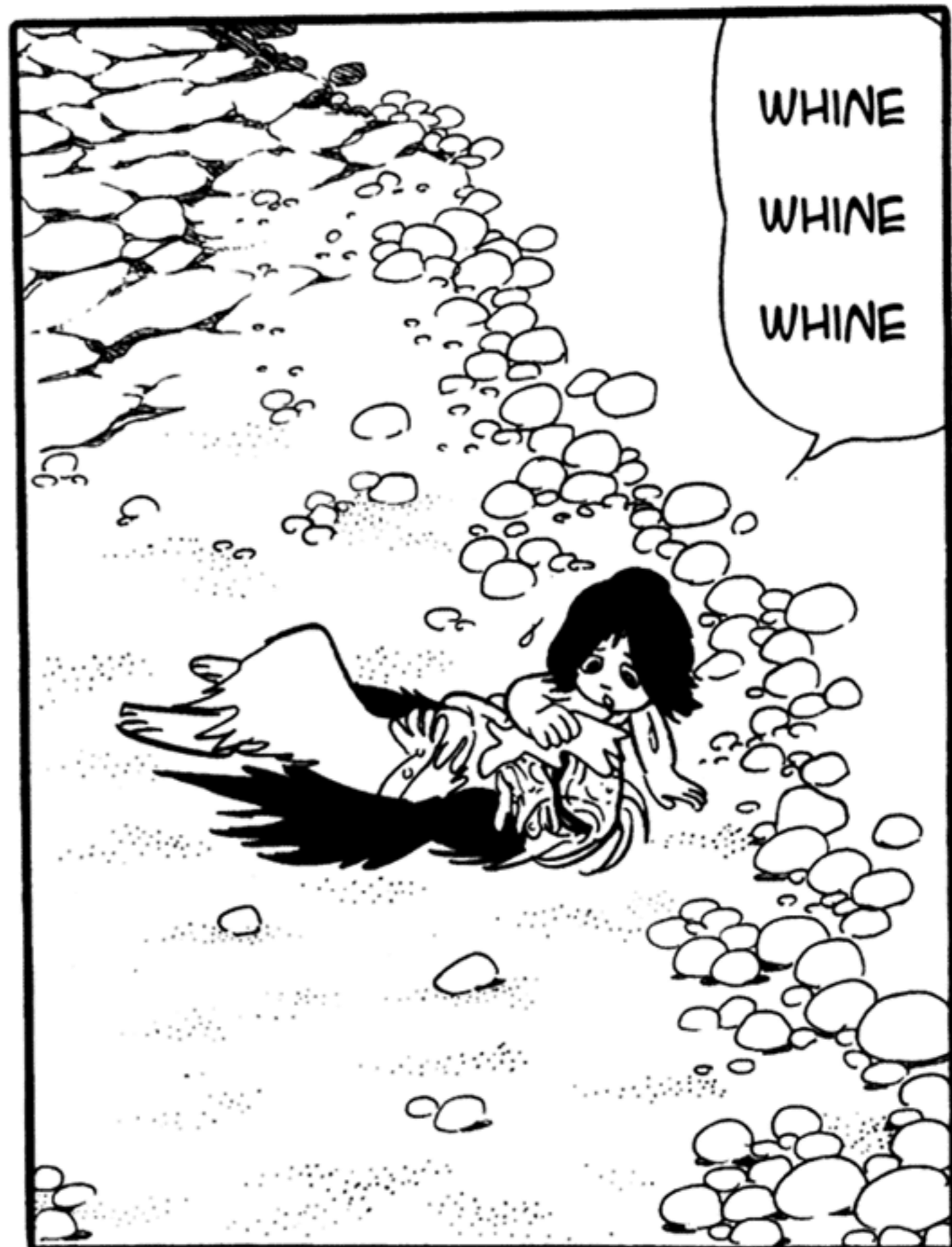
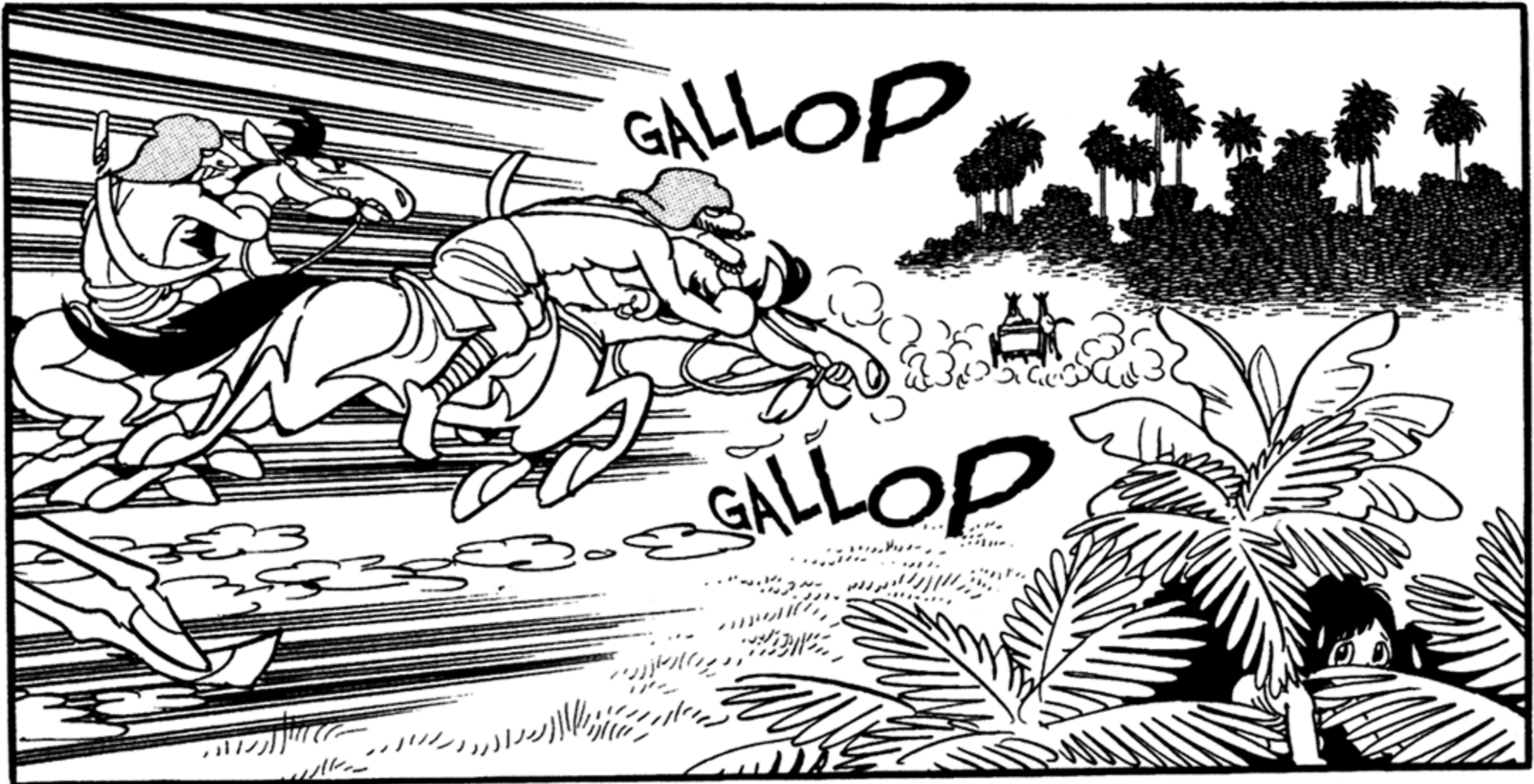


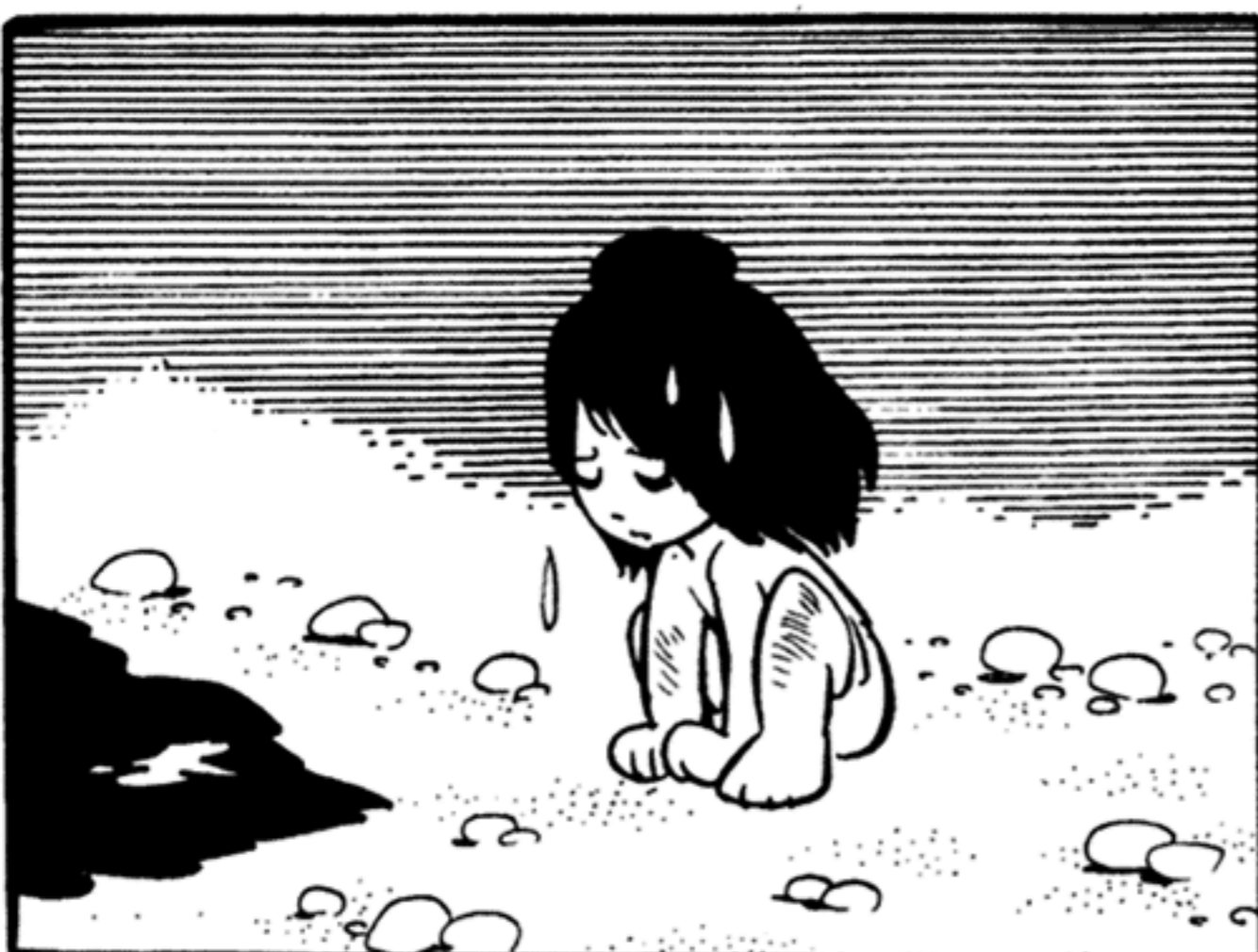
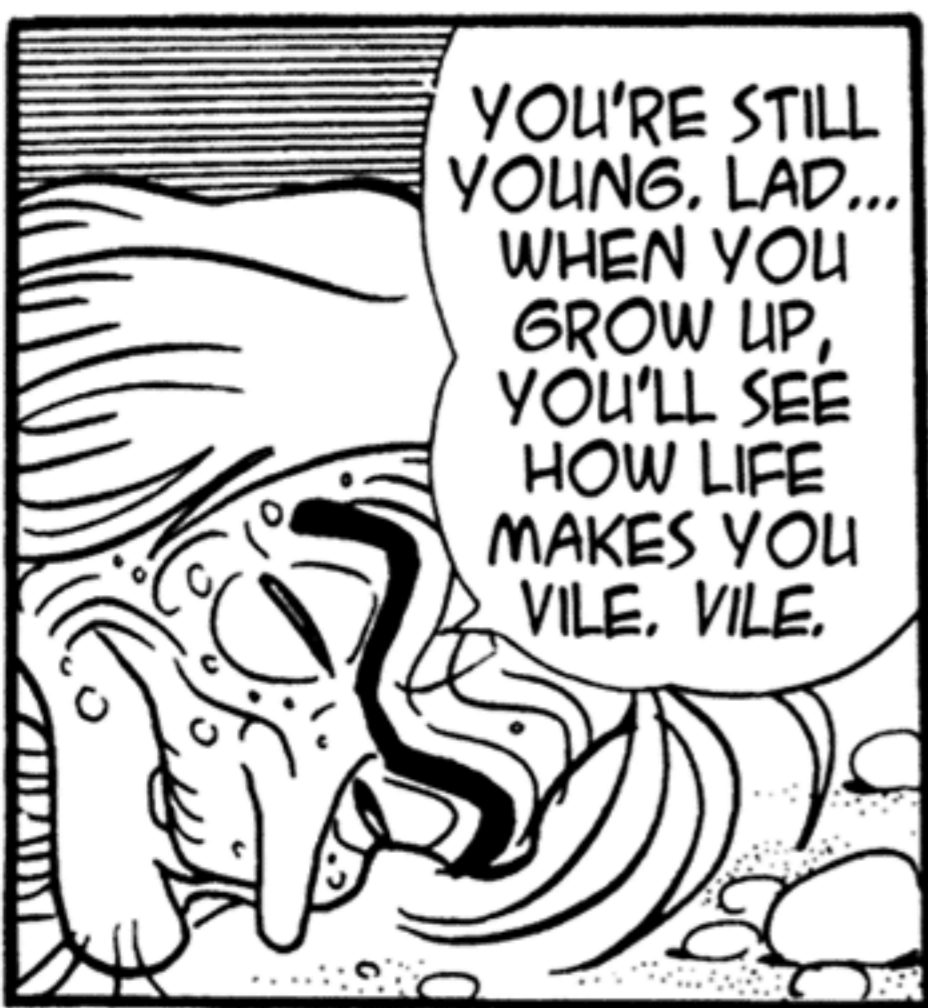
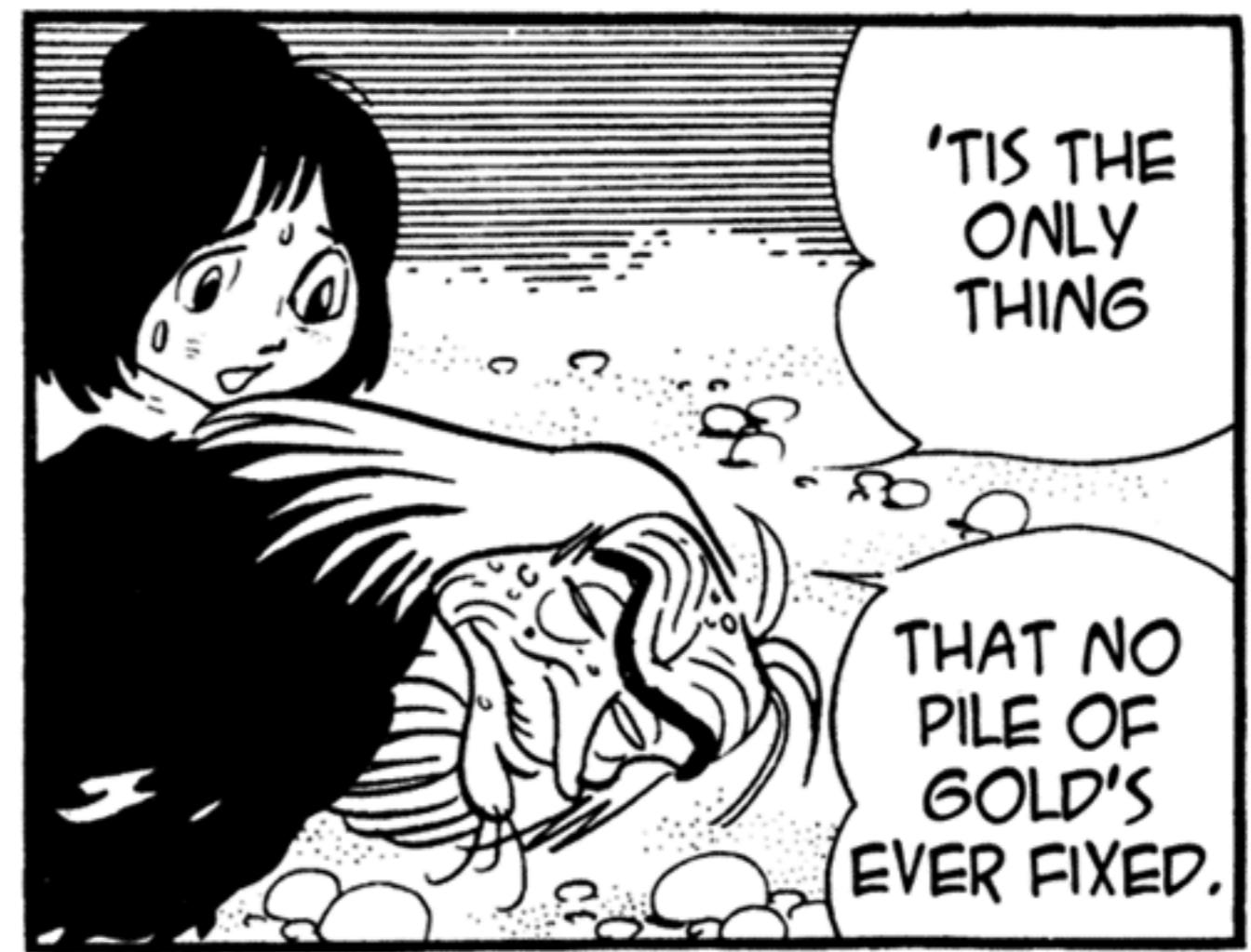
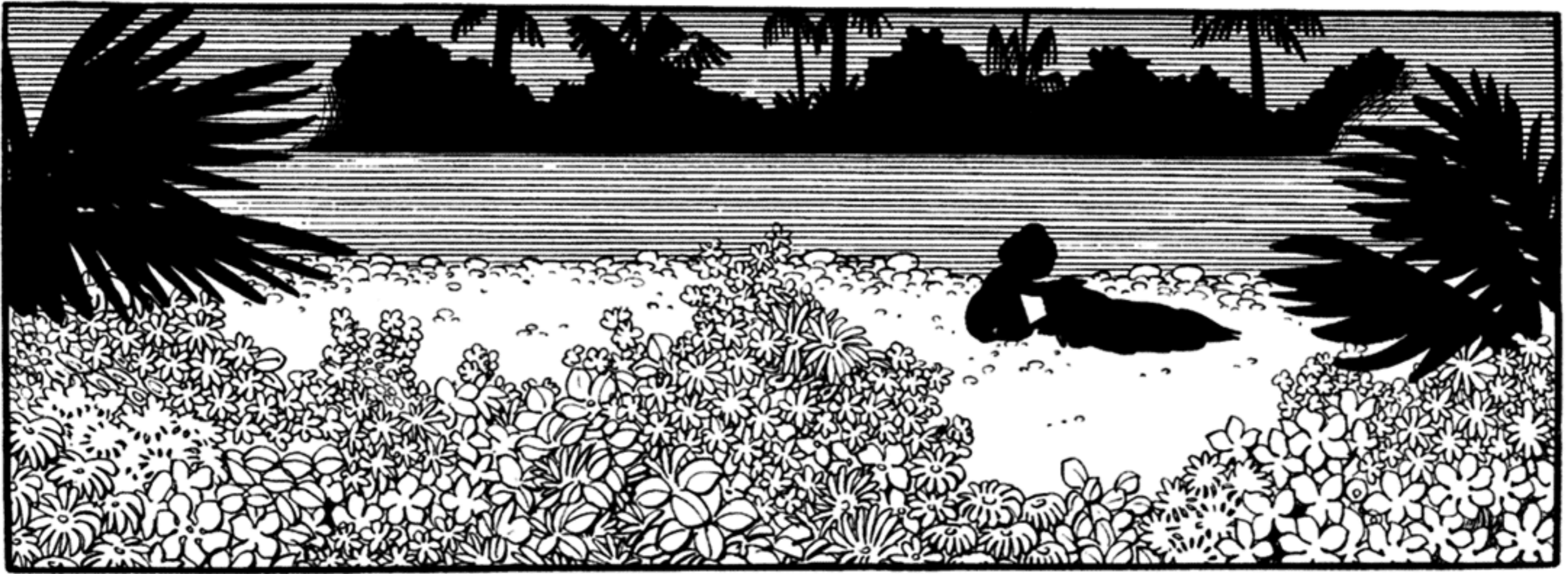
LAD! RUB MY SHOULDERS! THEY'RE GETTING STIFF.

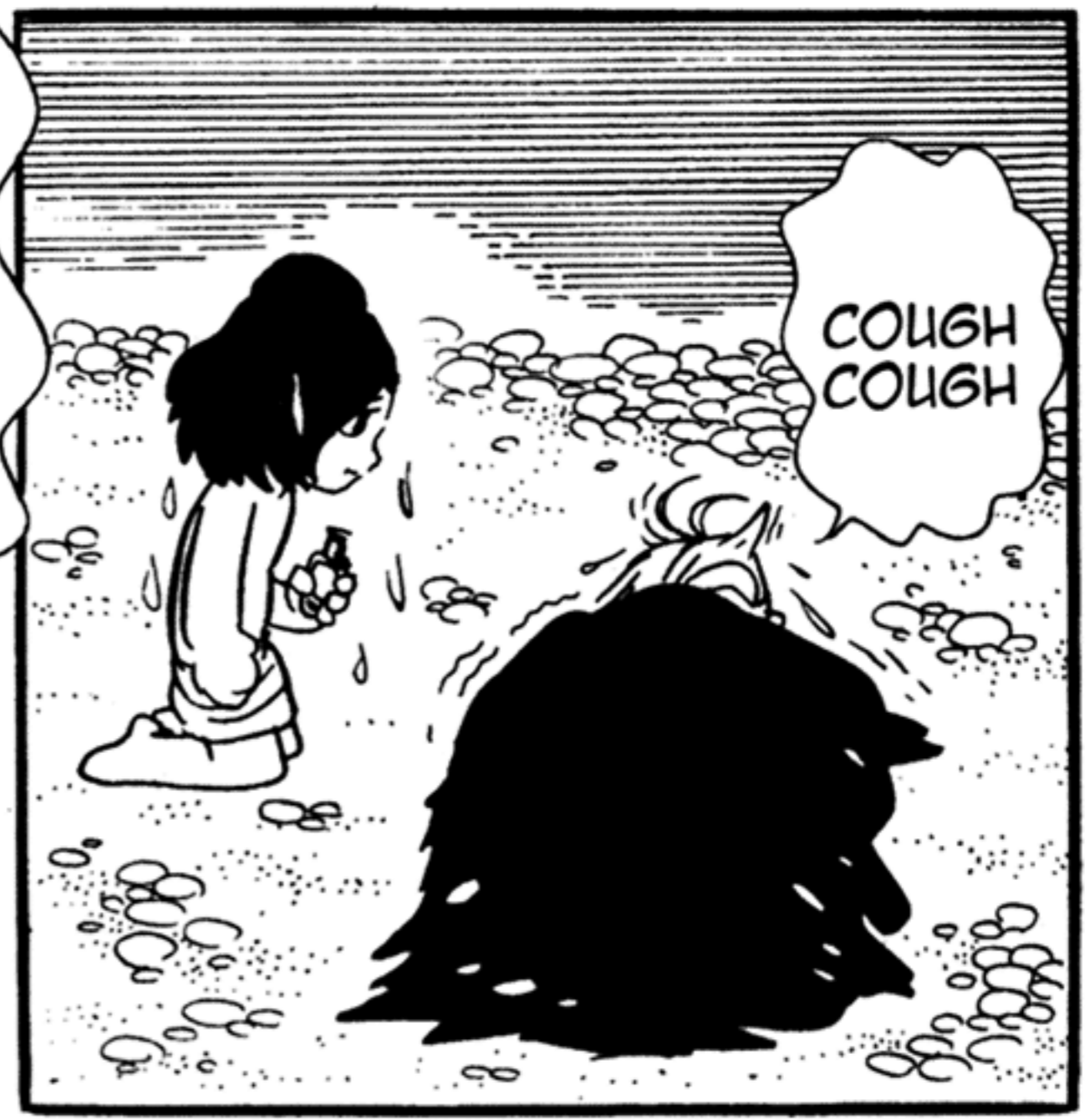
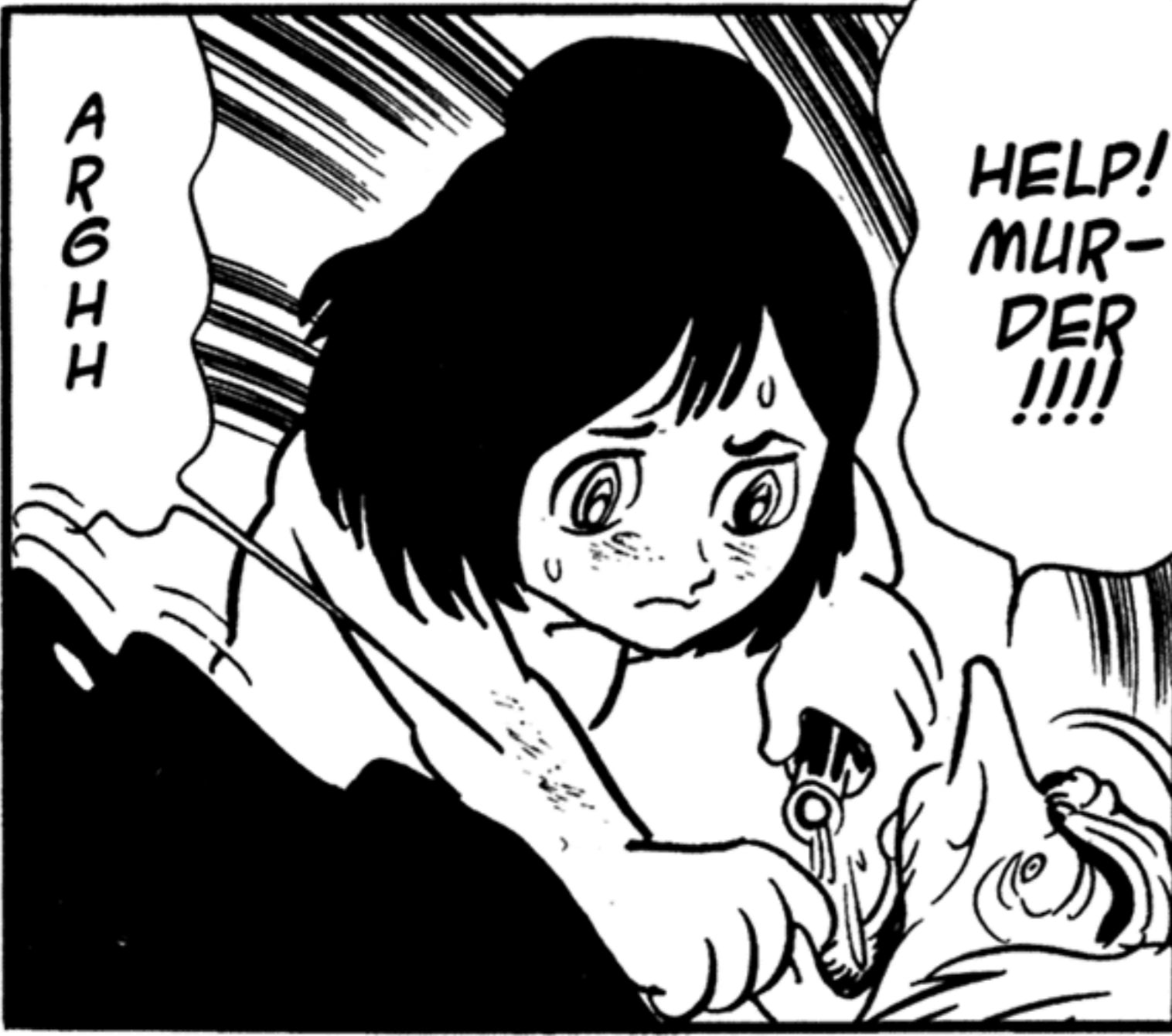
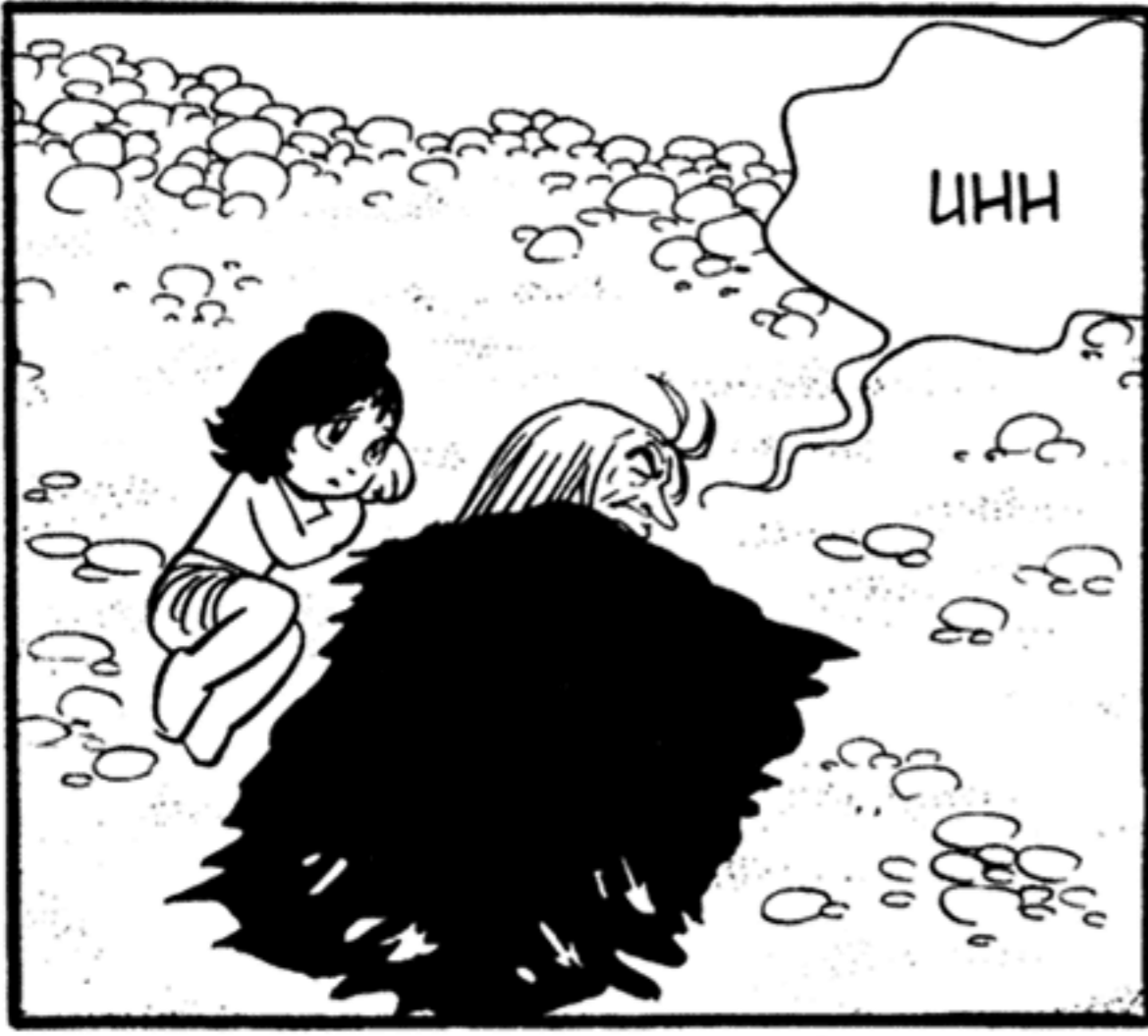
OOF WLF

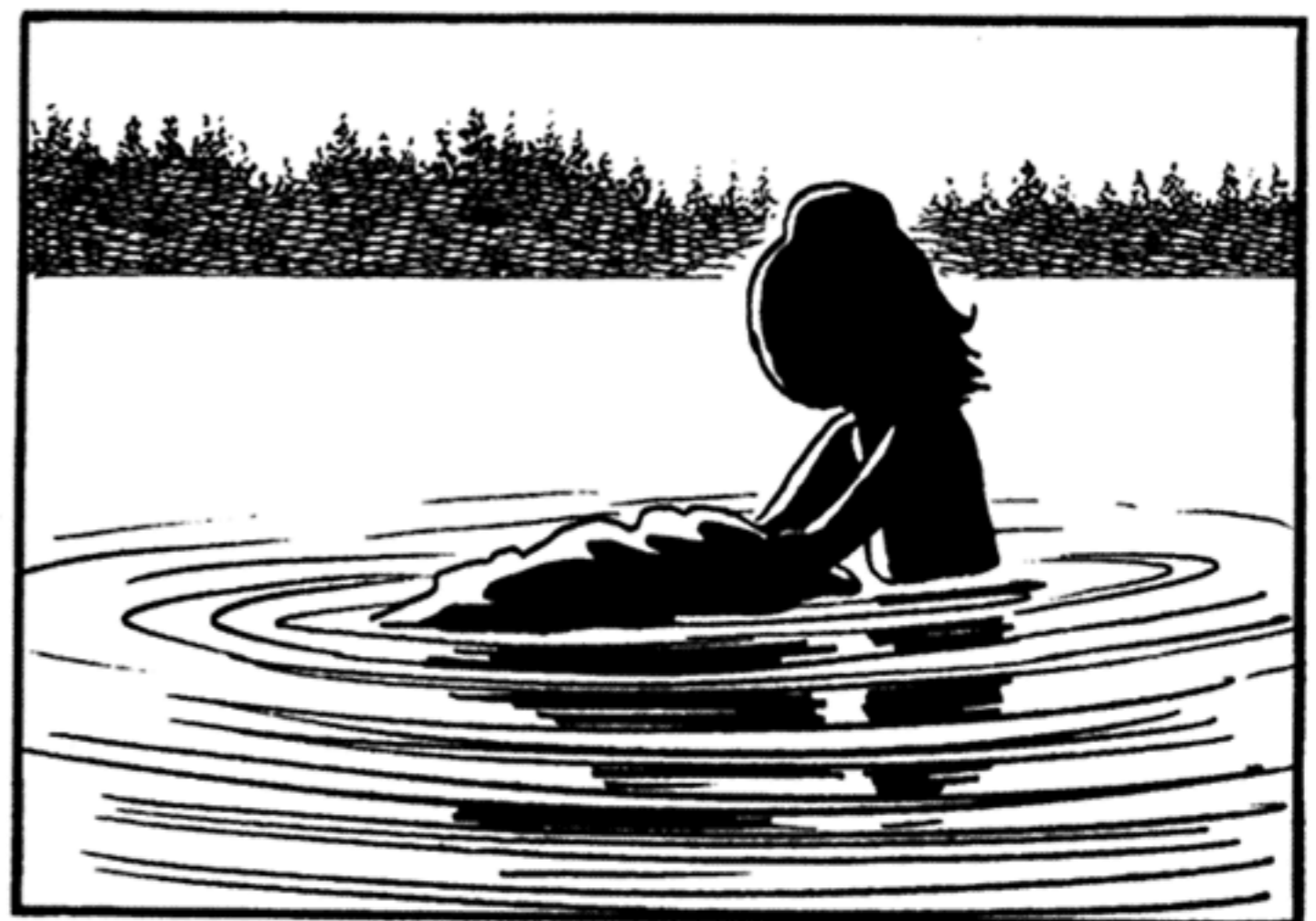
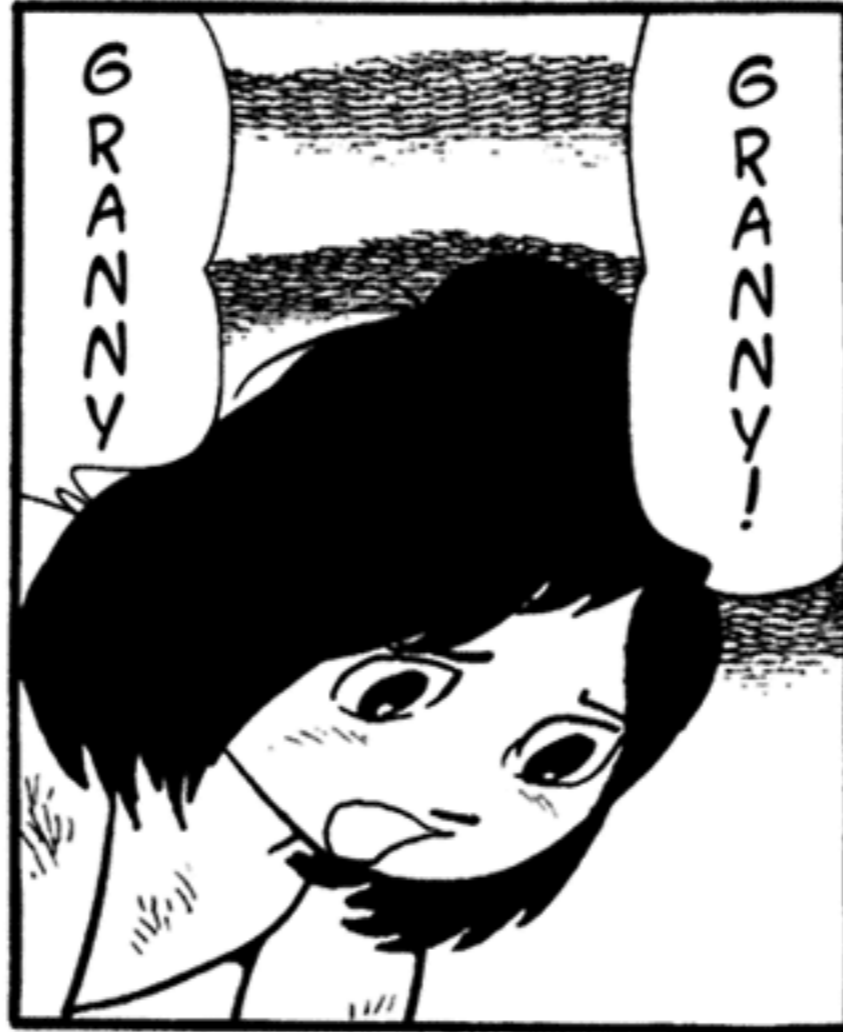
DAMMIT... I WON'T LET THEM SLAUGHTER ME. THEY WILL NEVER CATCH GHAGRA!

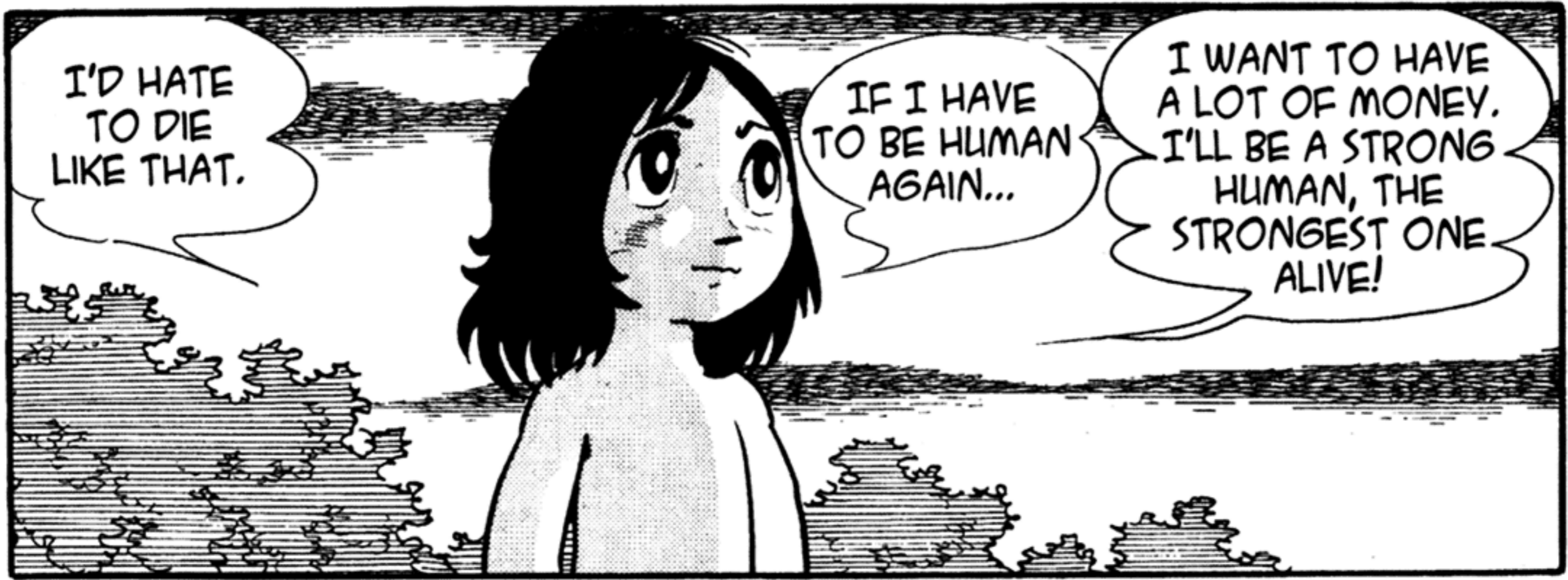


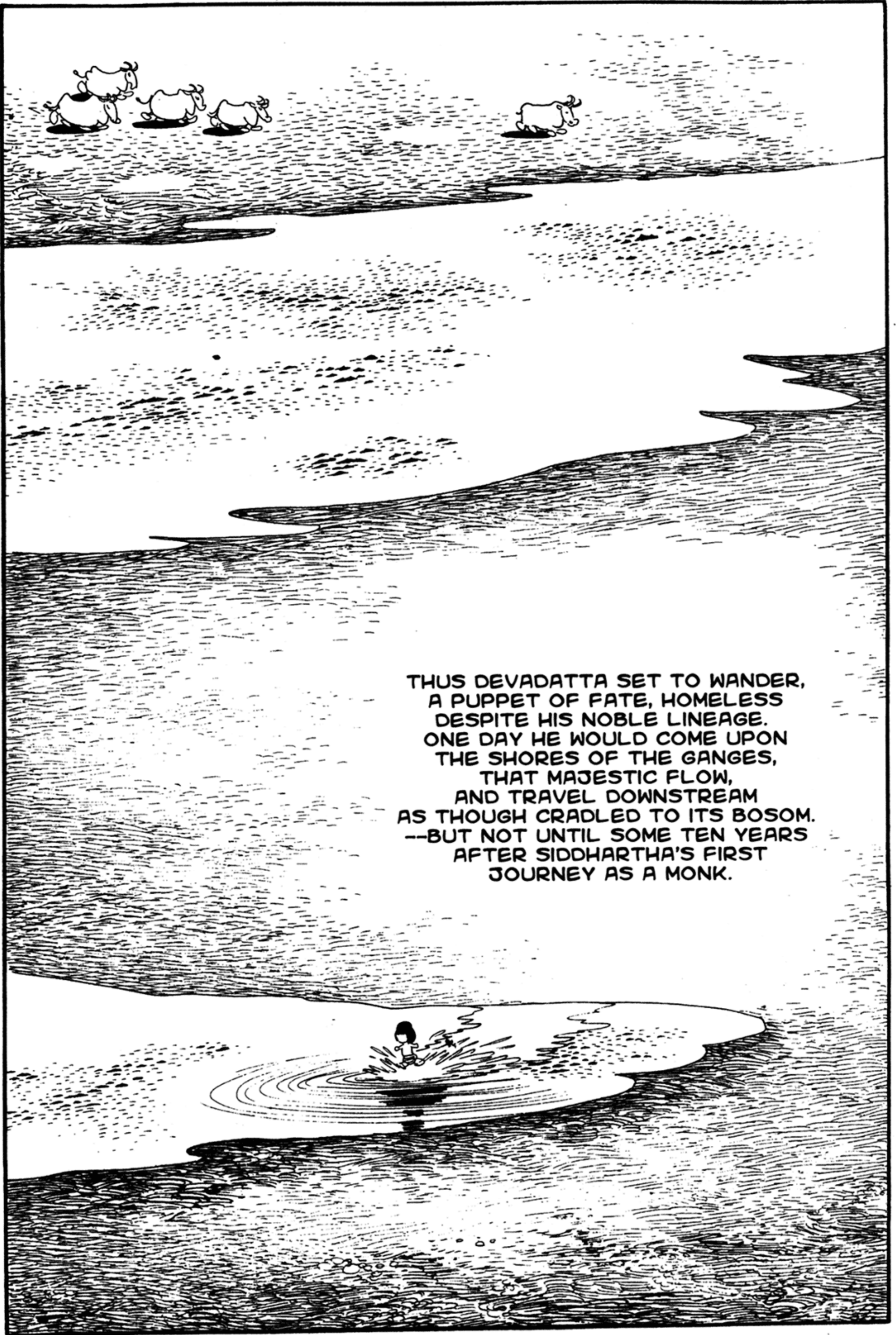








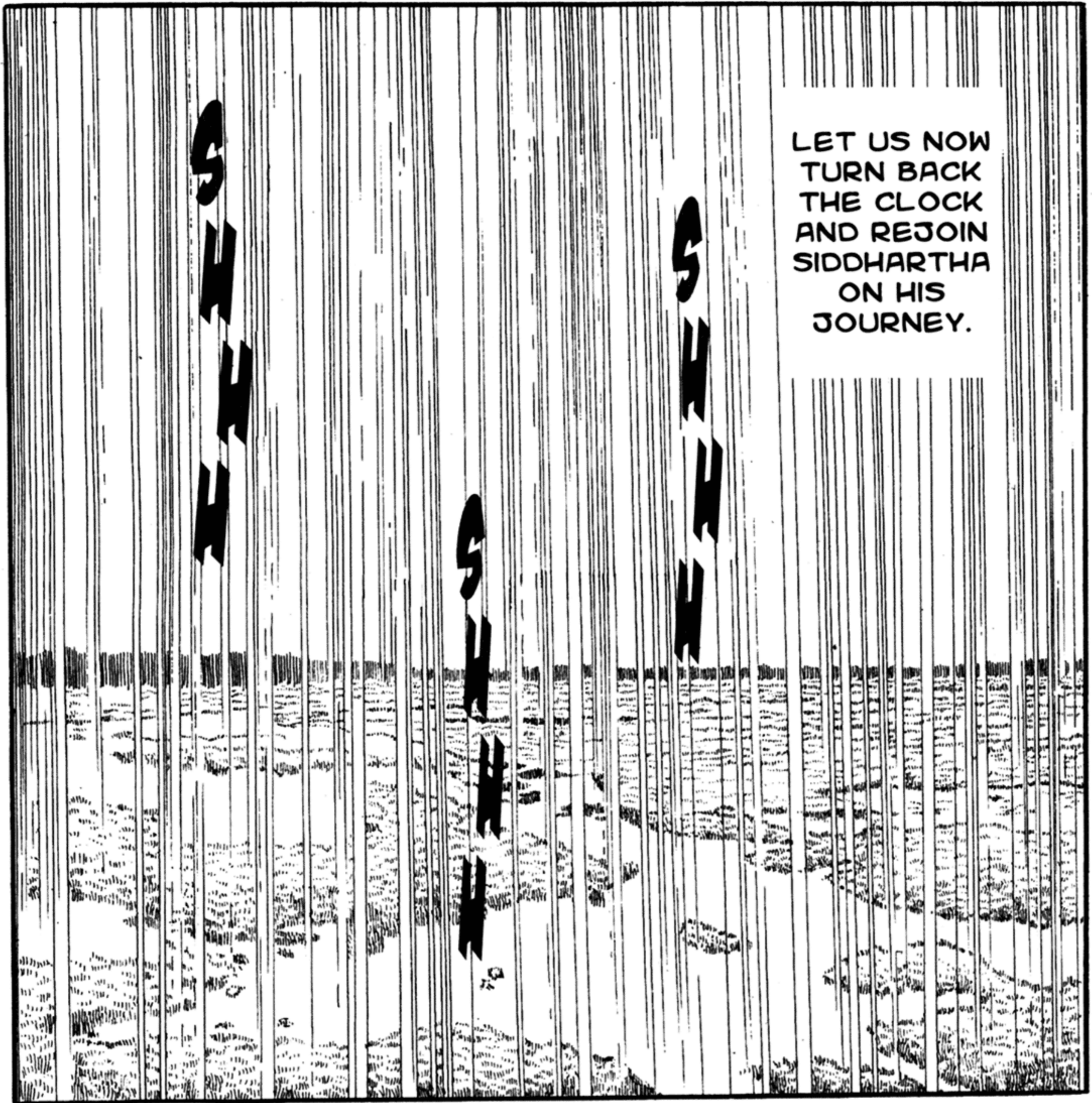




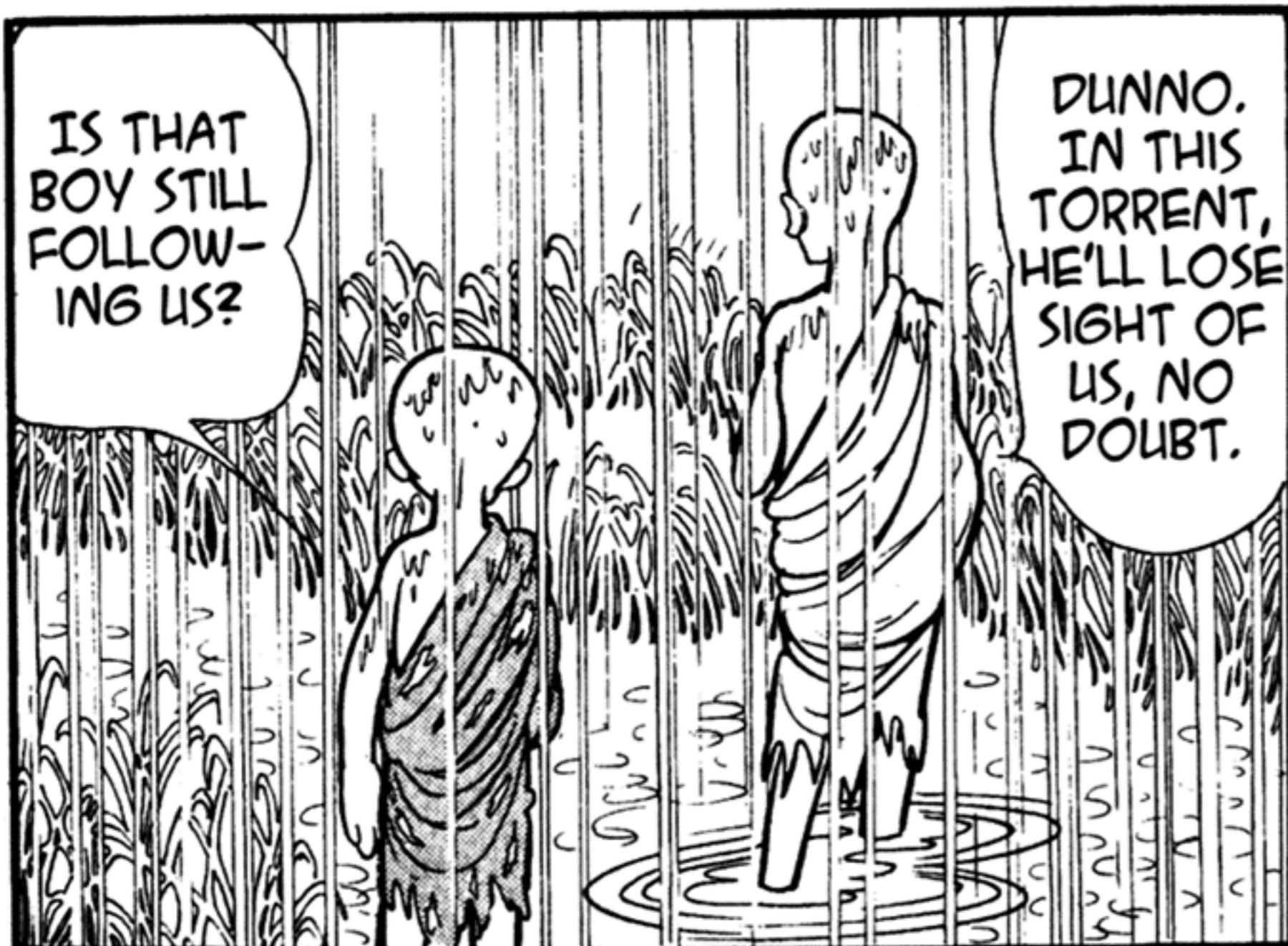
THUS DEVADATTA SET TO WANDER,
A PUPPET OF FATE, HOMELESS
DESPITE HIS NOBLE LINEAGE.
ONE DAY HE WOULD COME UPON
THE SHORES OF THE GANGES,
THAT MAJESTIC FLOW,
AND TRAVEL DOWNSTREAM
AS THOUGH CRADLED TO ITS BOSOM.
--BUT NOT UNTIL SOME TEN YEARS
AFTER SIDDHARTHA'S FIRST
JOURNEY AS A MONK.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUKANDA THE KNIGHT



LET US NOW
TURN BACK
THE CLOCK
AND REJOIN
SIDDHARTHA
ON HIS
JOURNEY.



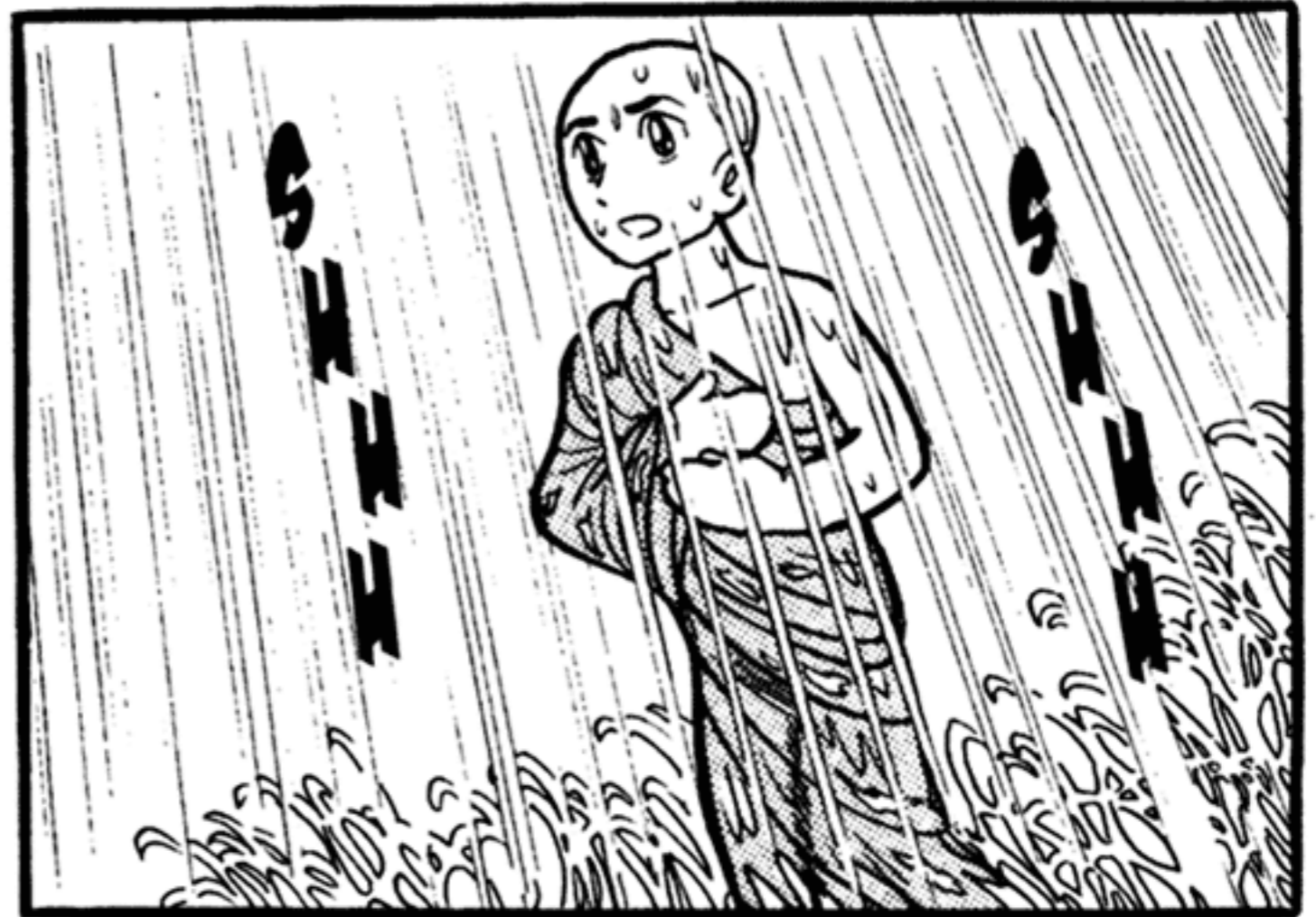
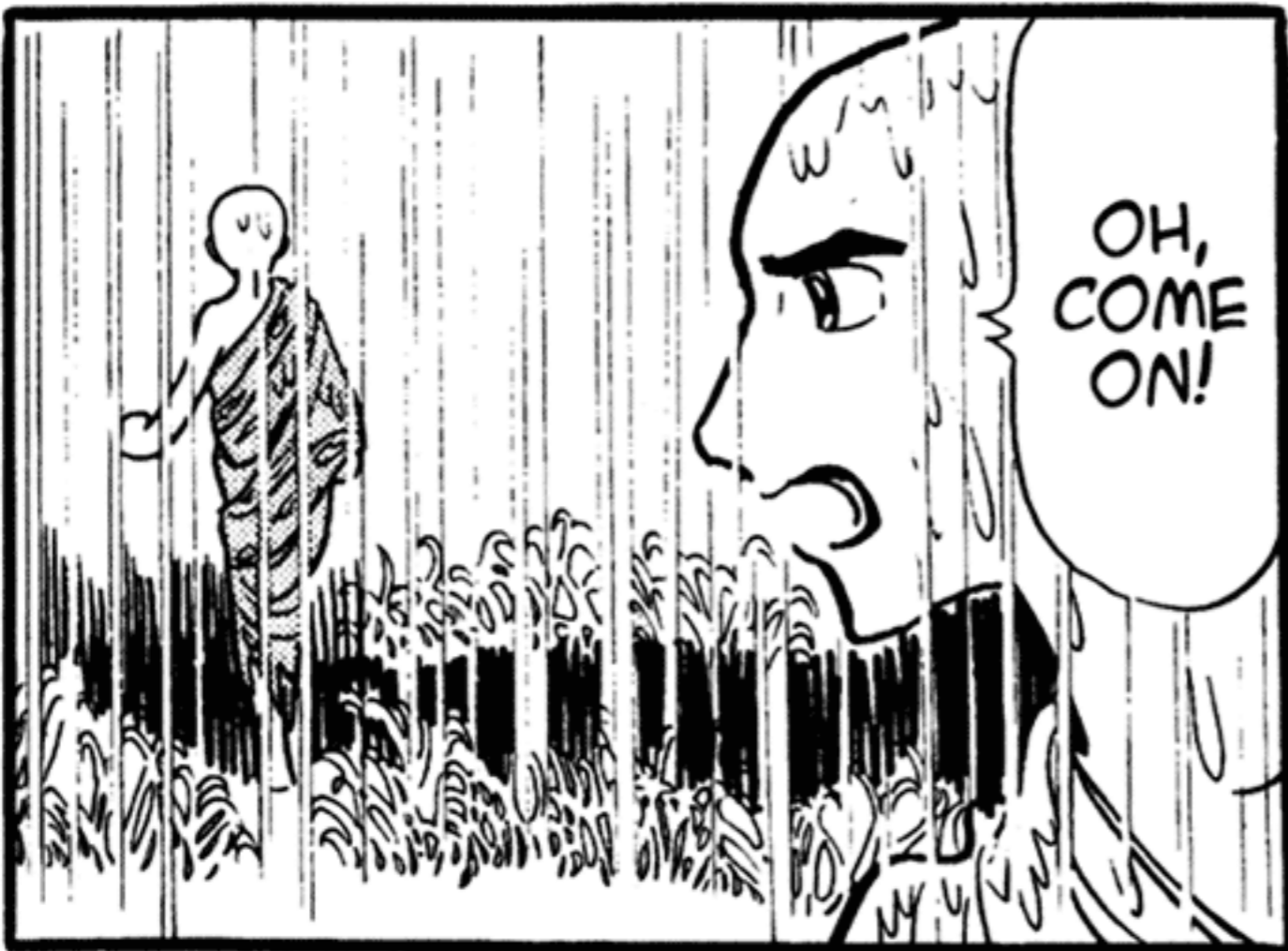
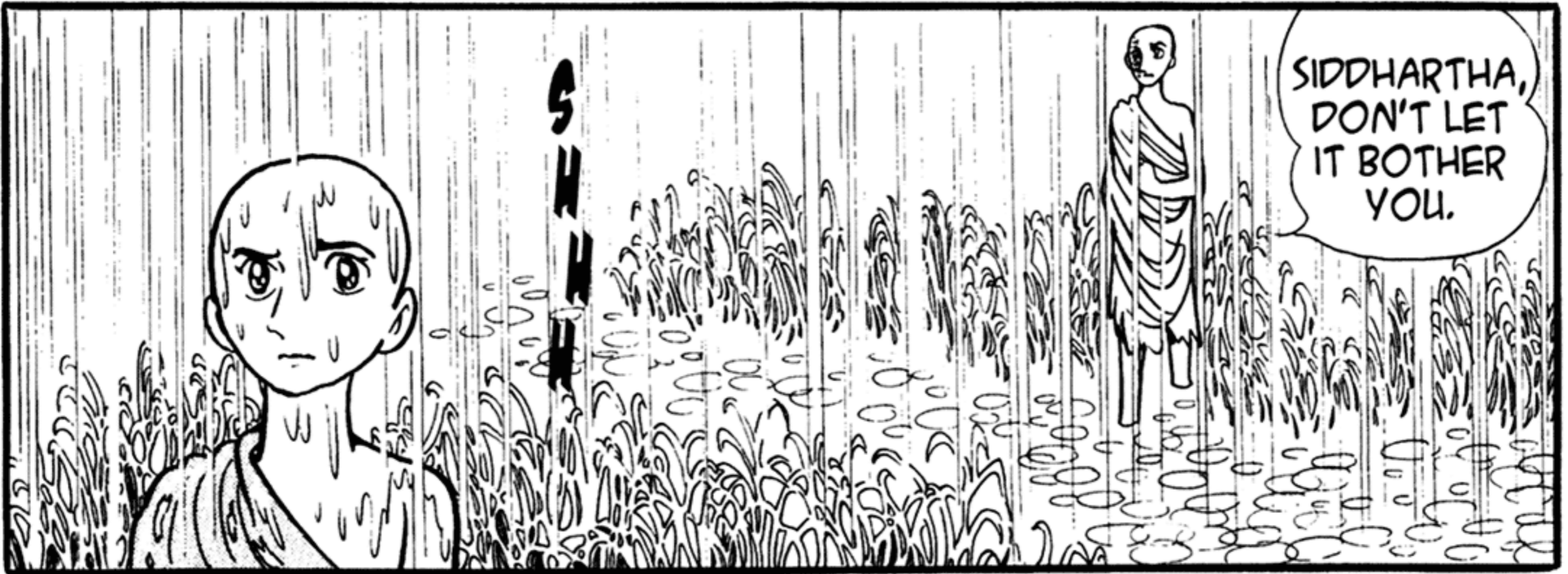
IS THAT
BOY STILL
FOLLOW-
ING US?

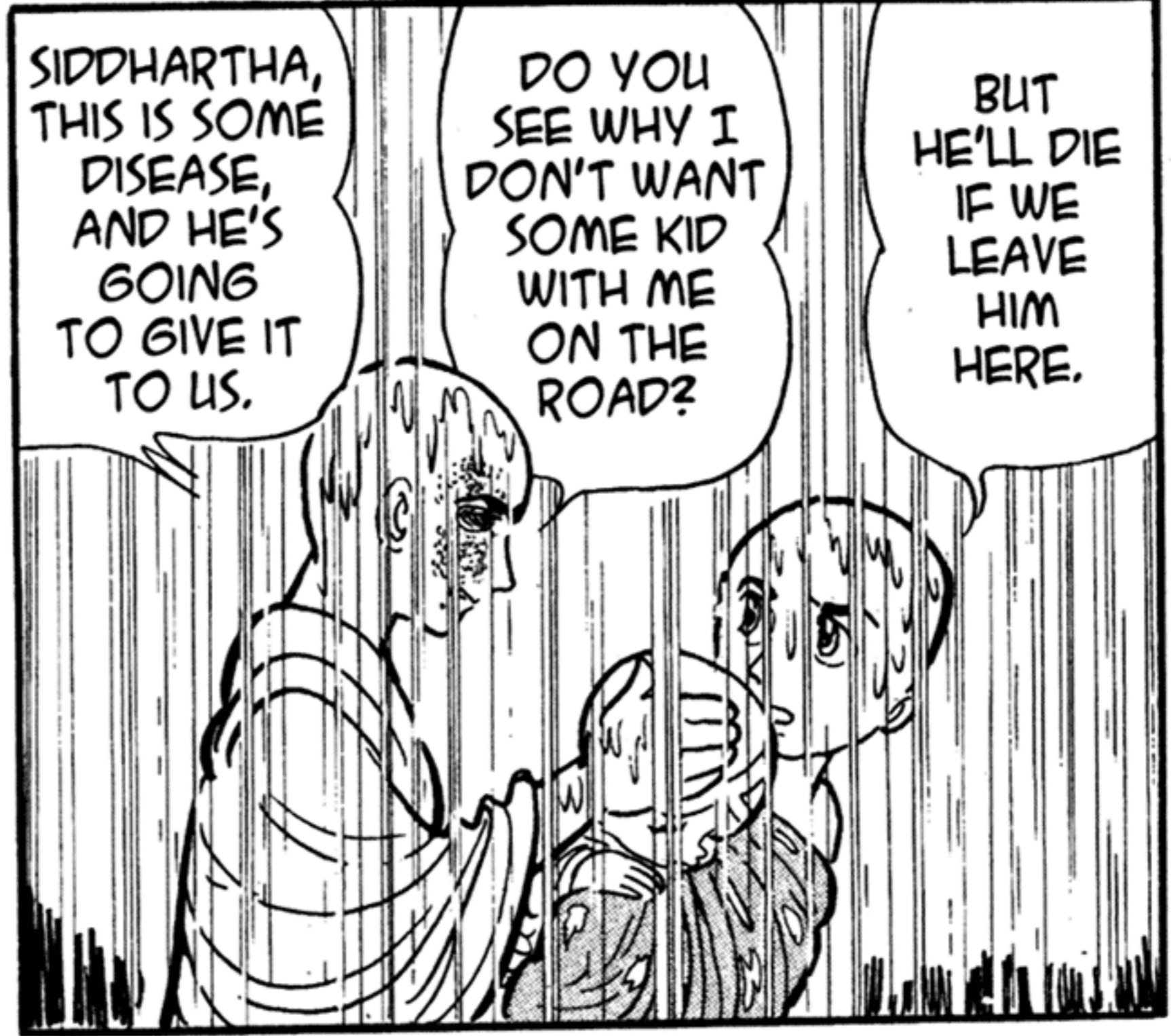
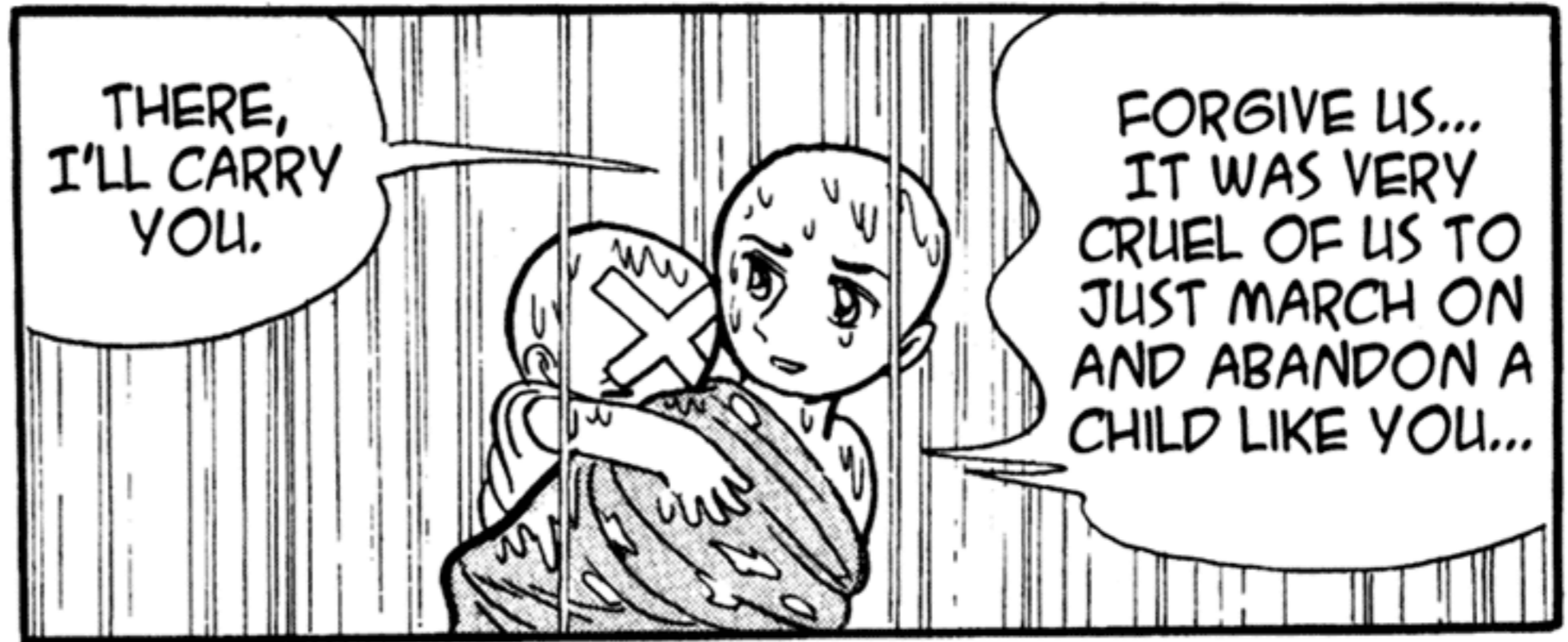
DUNNO.
IN THIS
TORRENT,
HE'LL LOSE
SIGHT OF
US, NO
DOUBT.

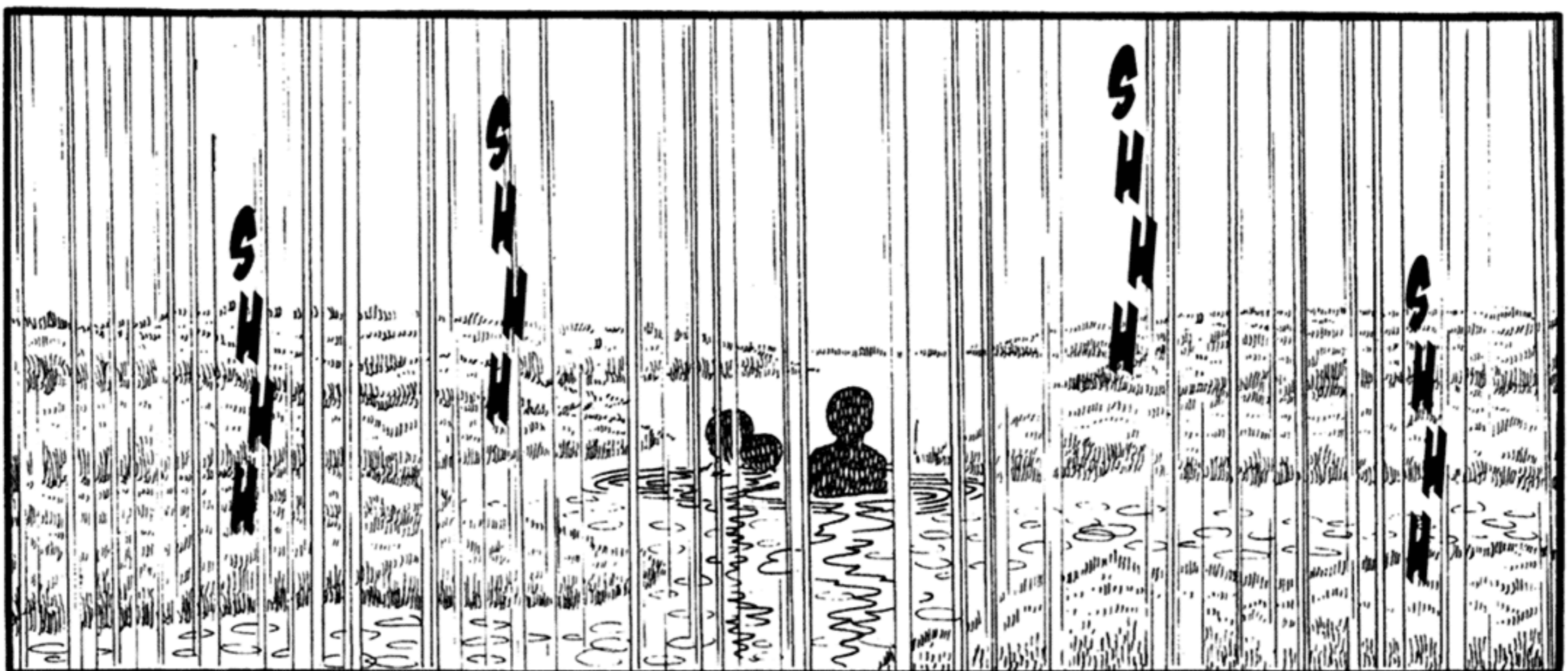
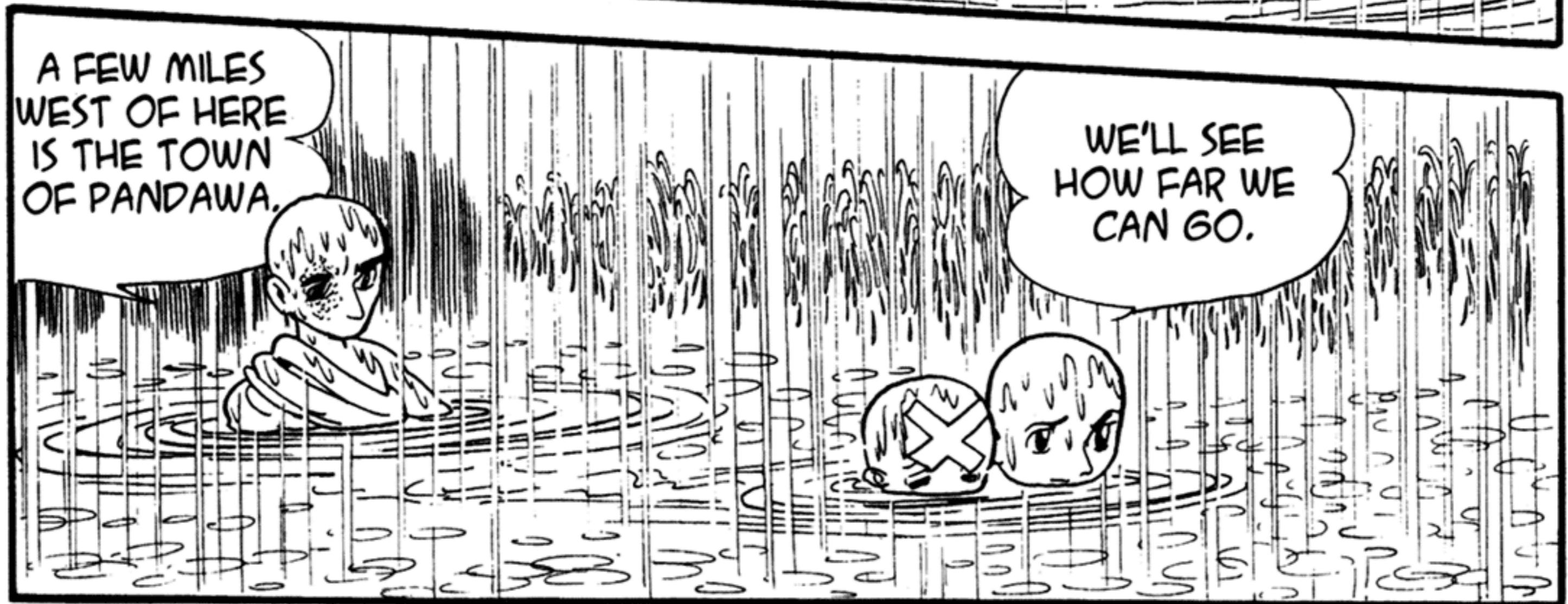
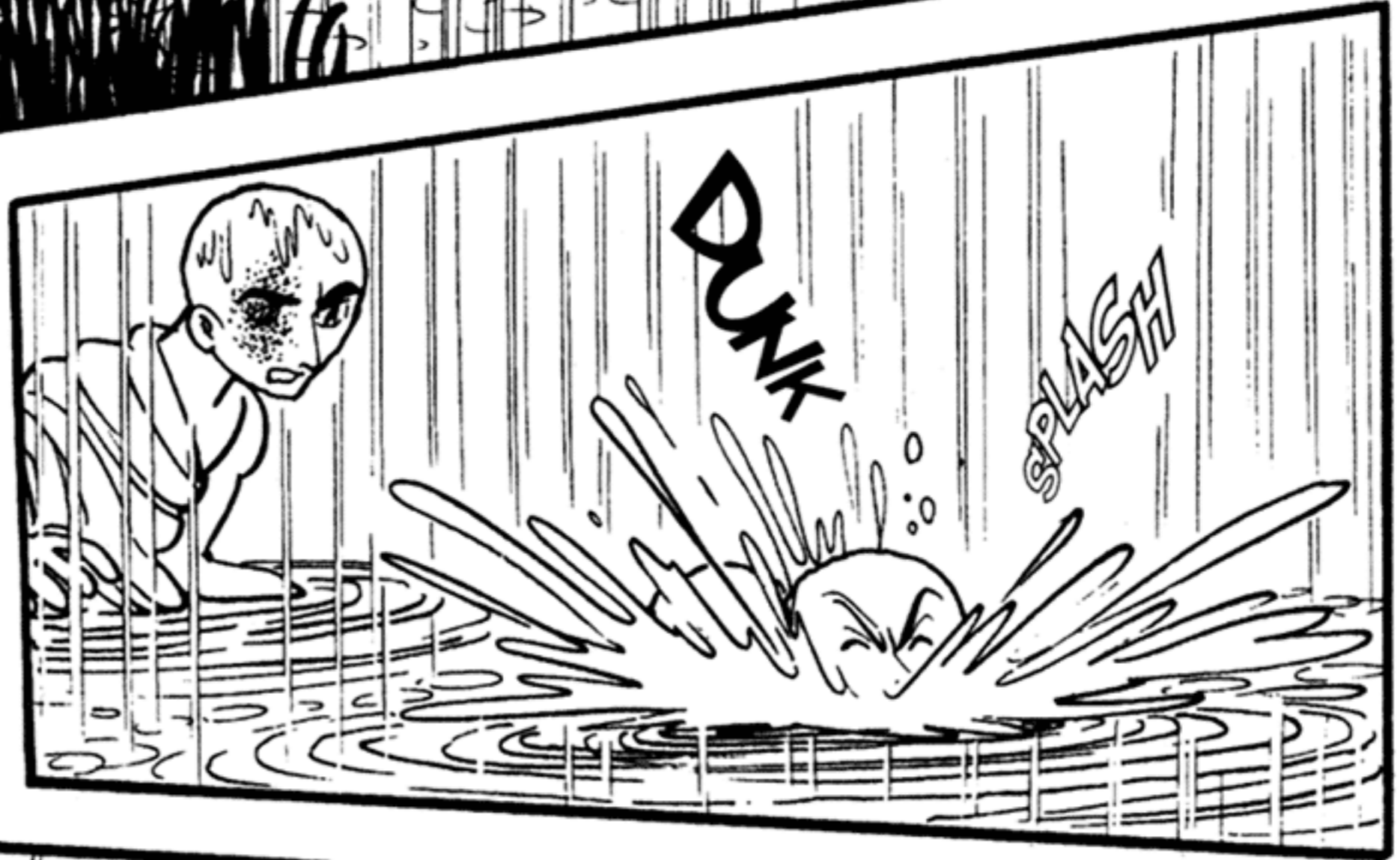
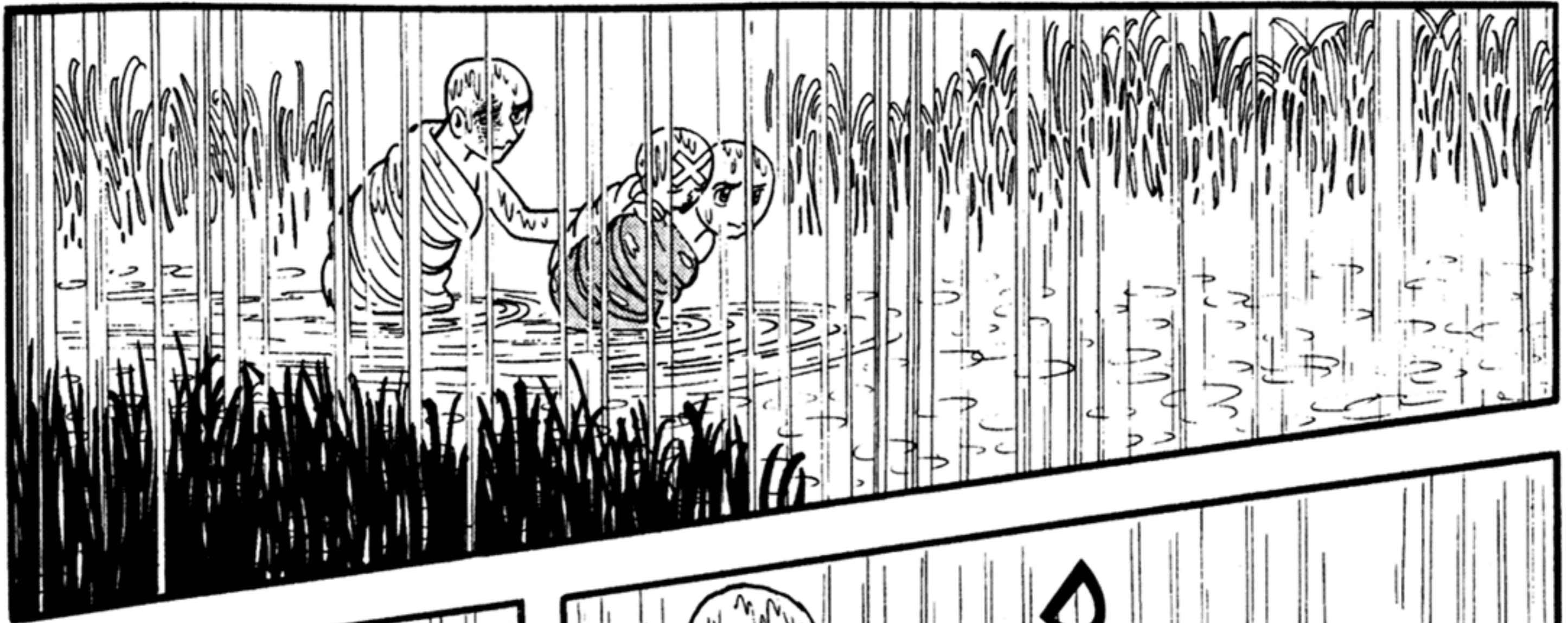


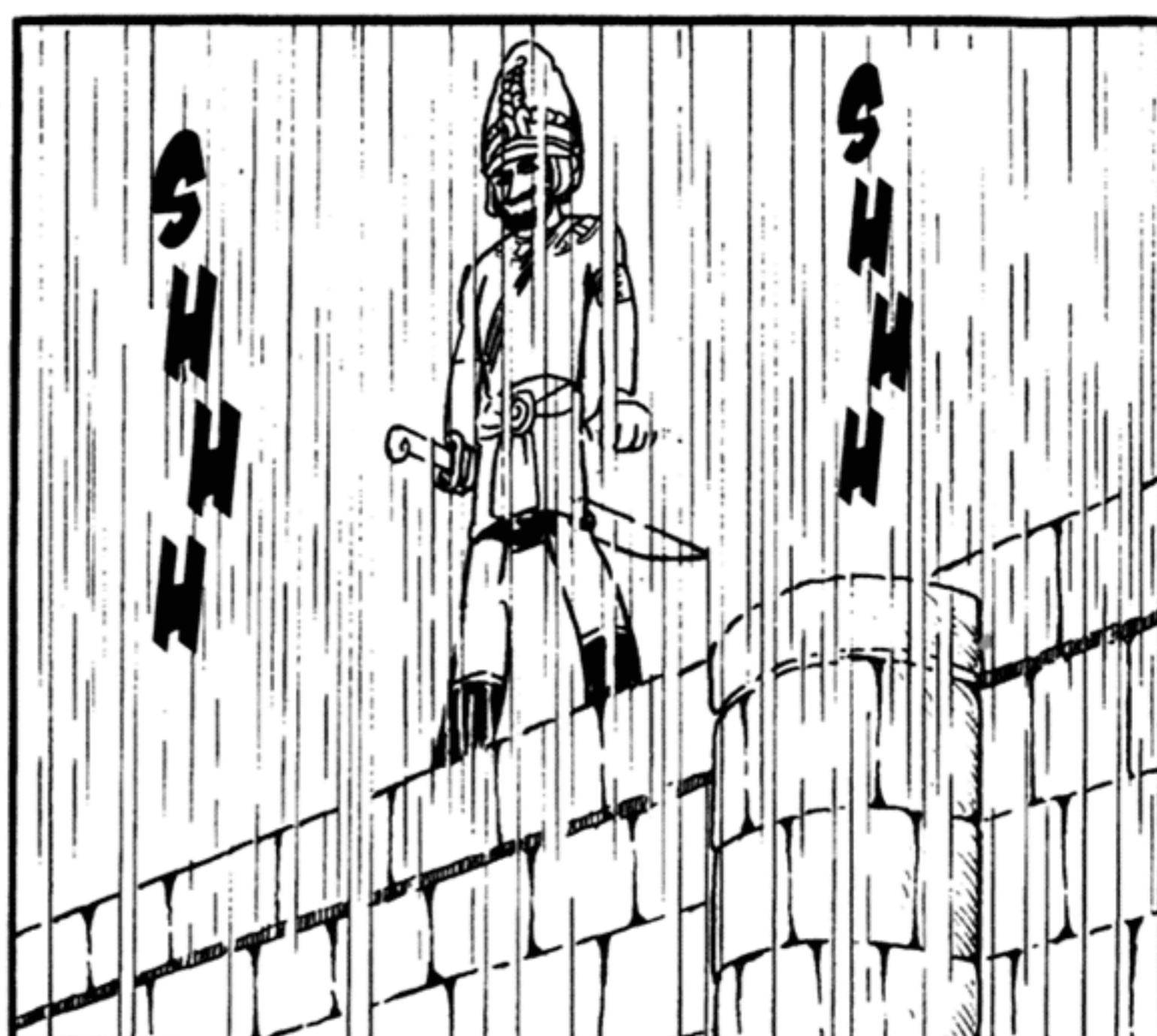
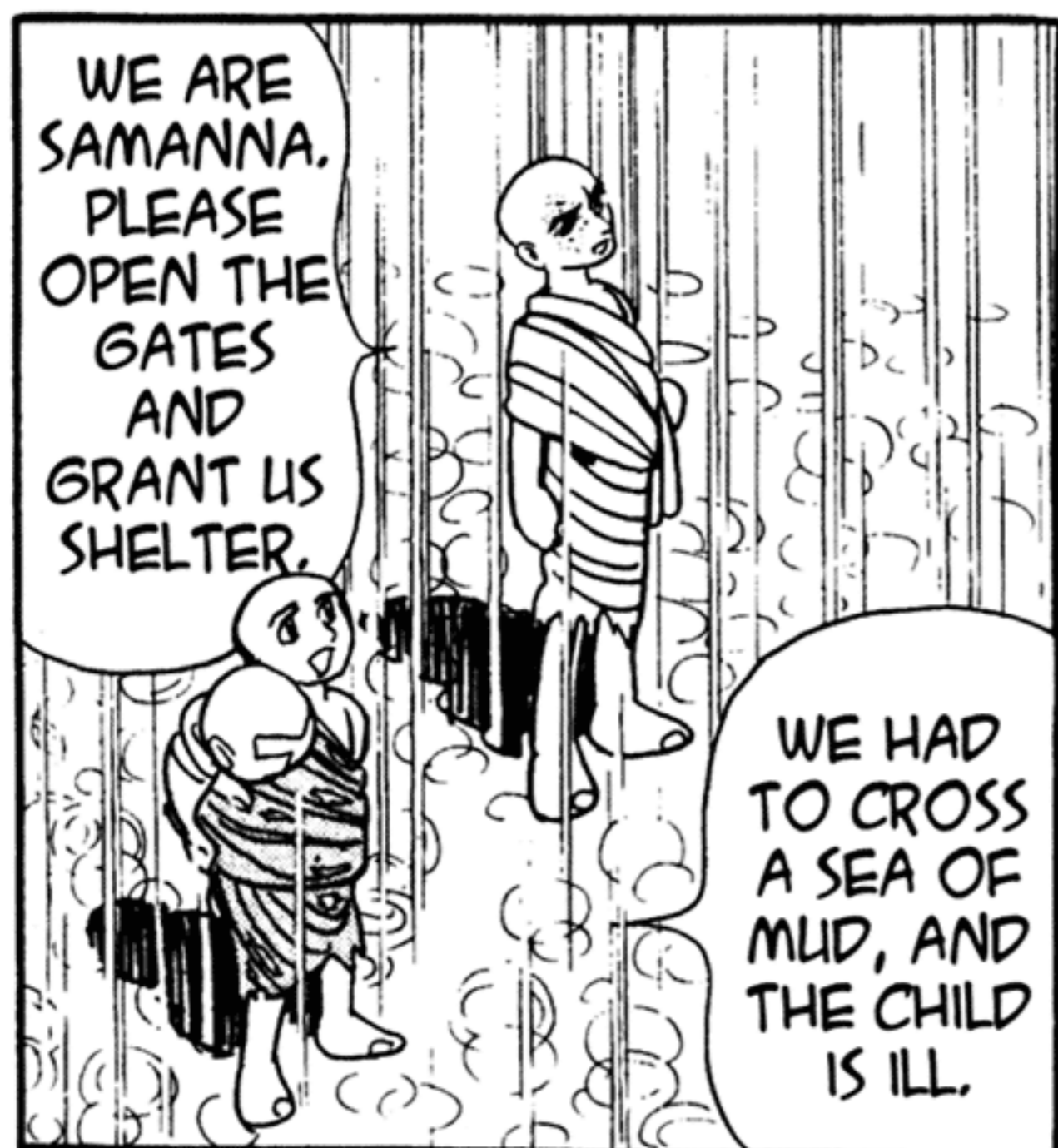
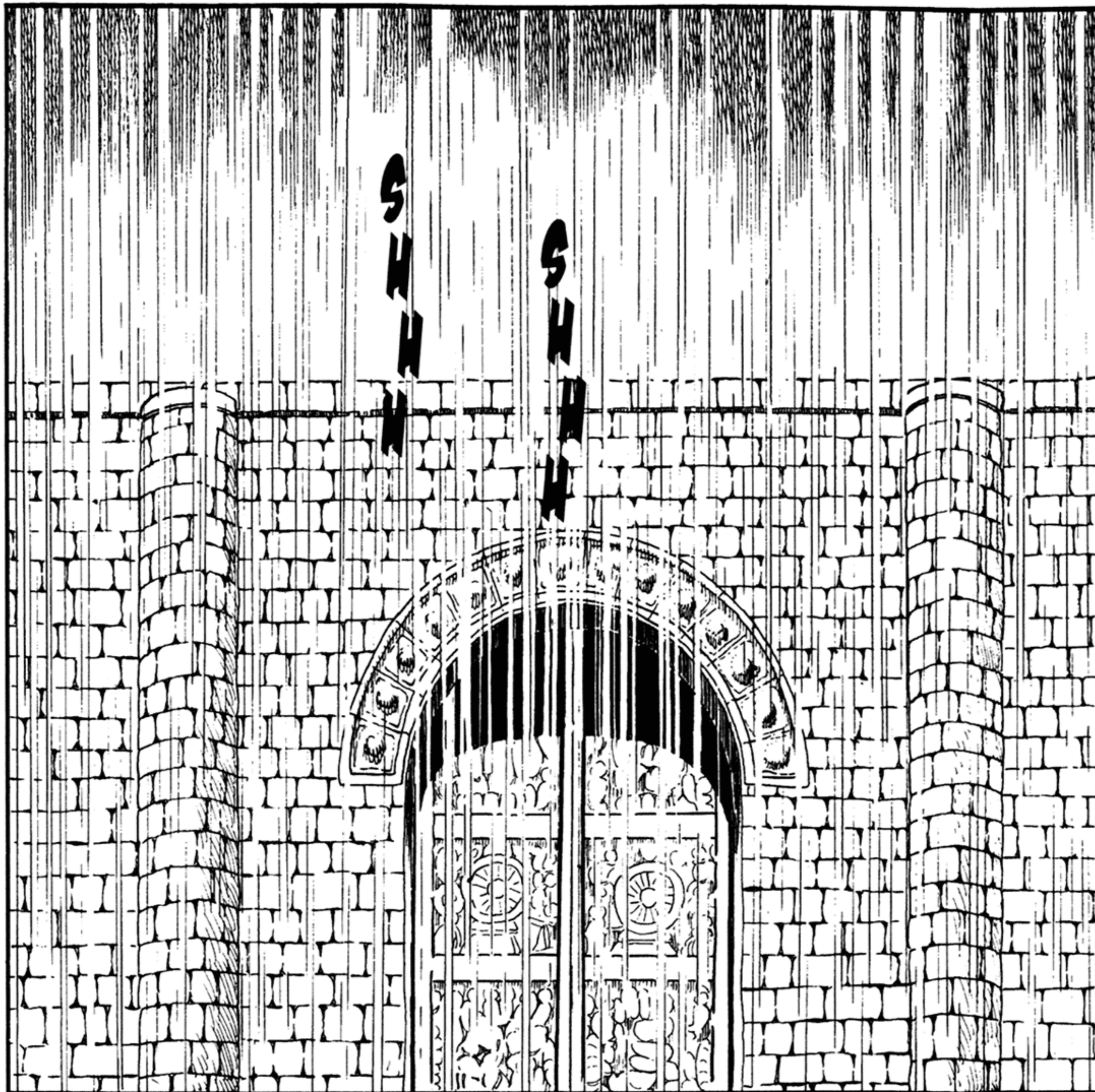
I HOPE
HE'S
OKAY.

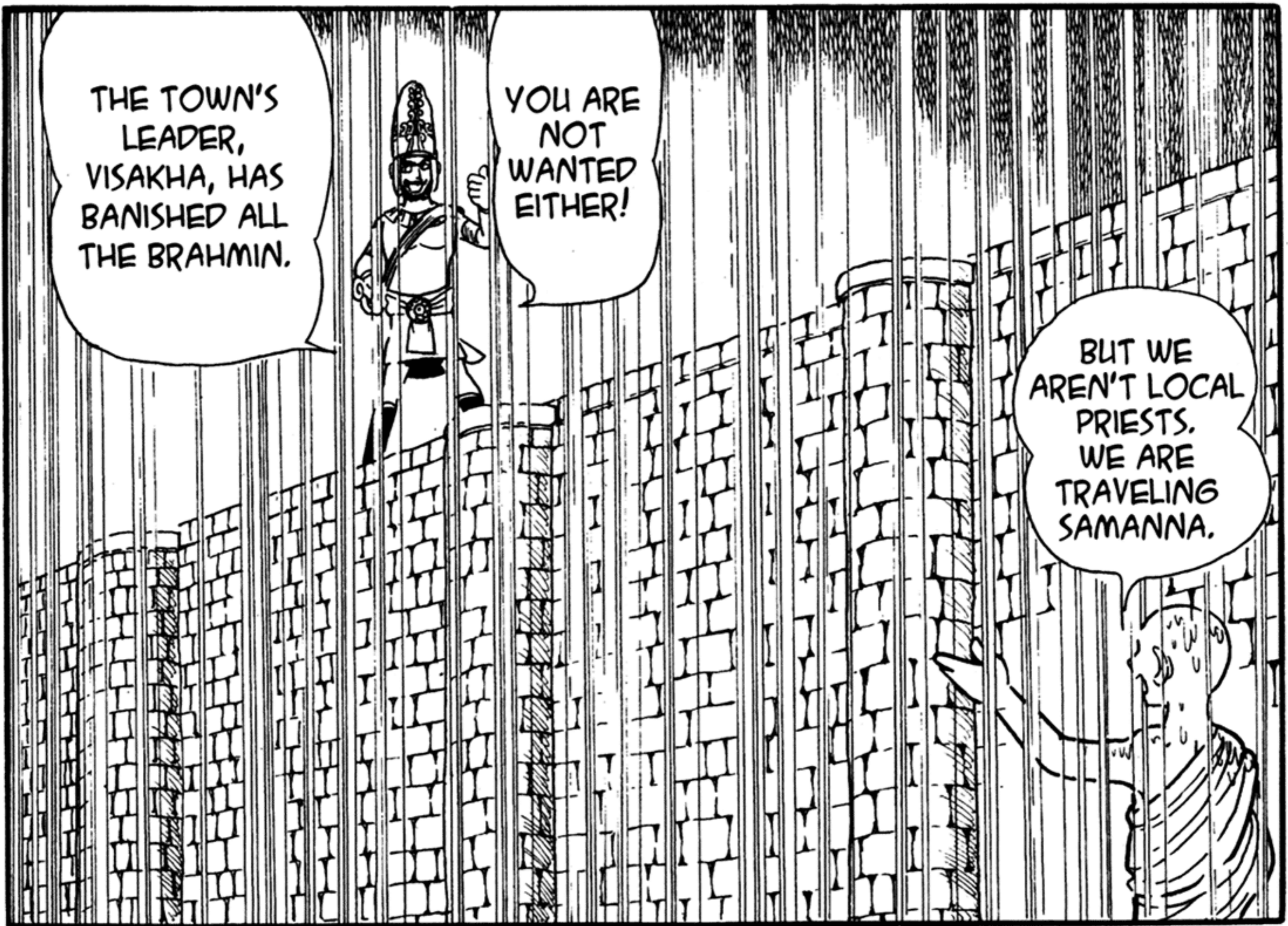
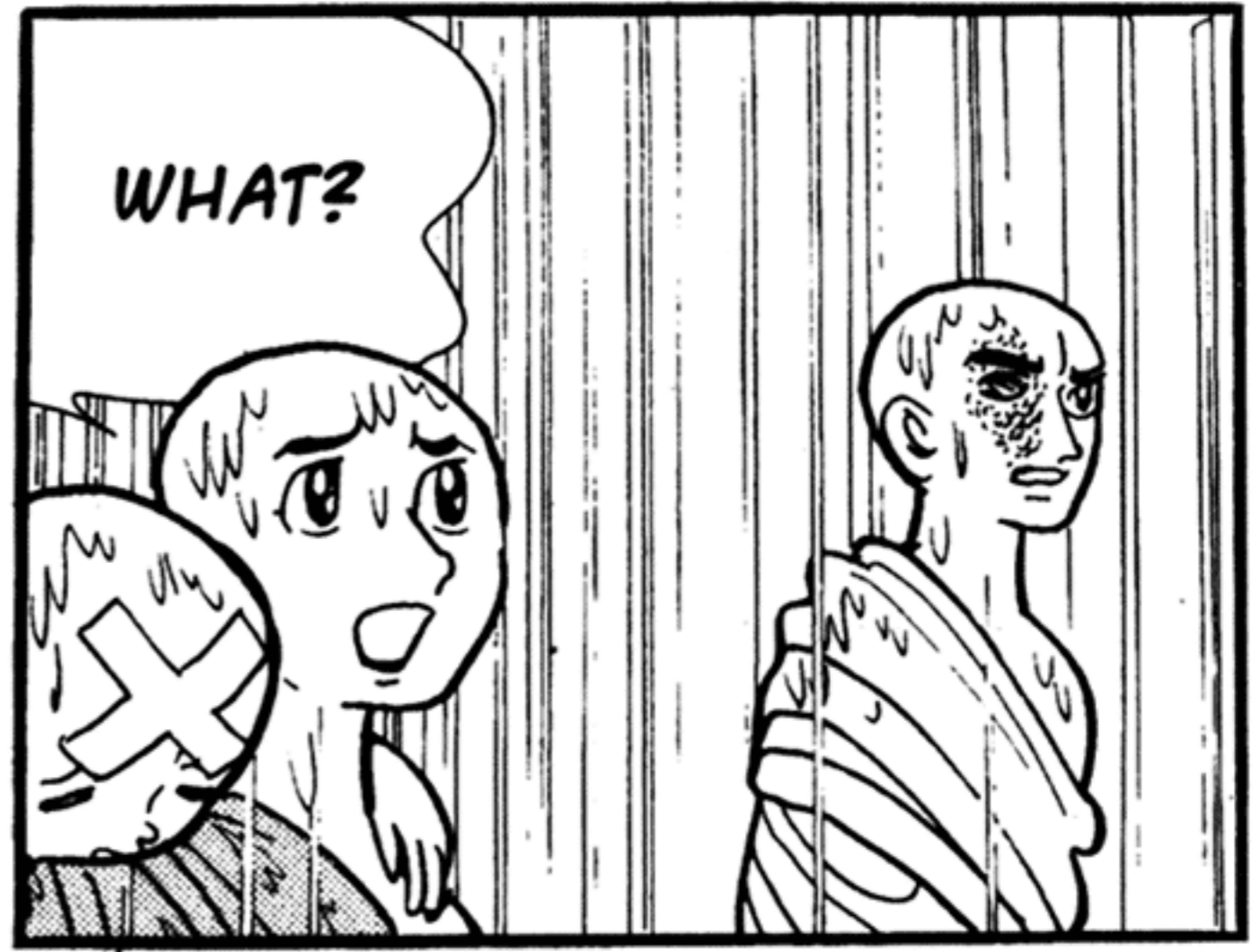
SO WHAT
IF HE
ISN'T?
LET'S GO.

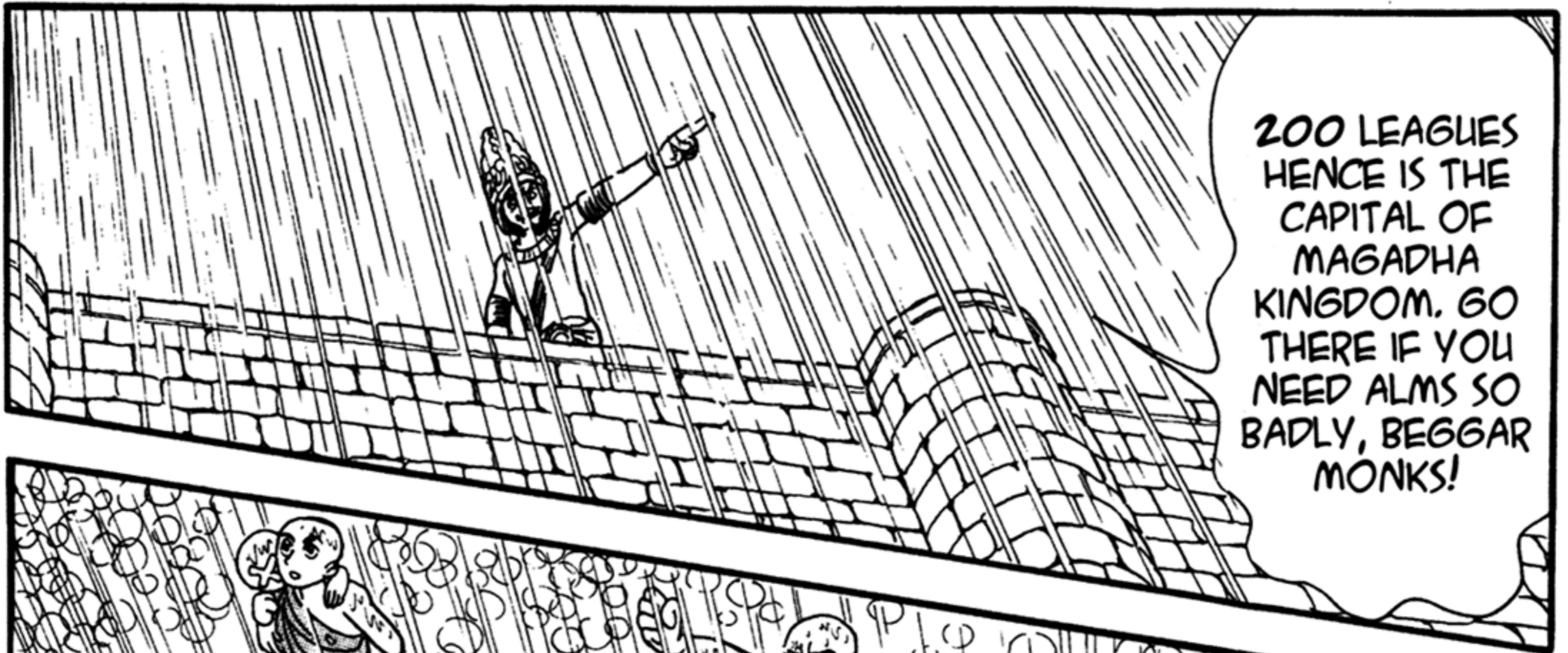








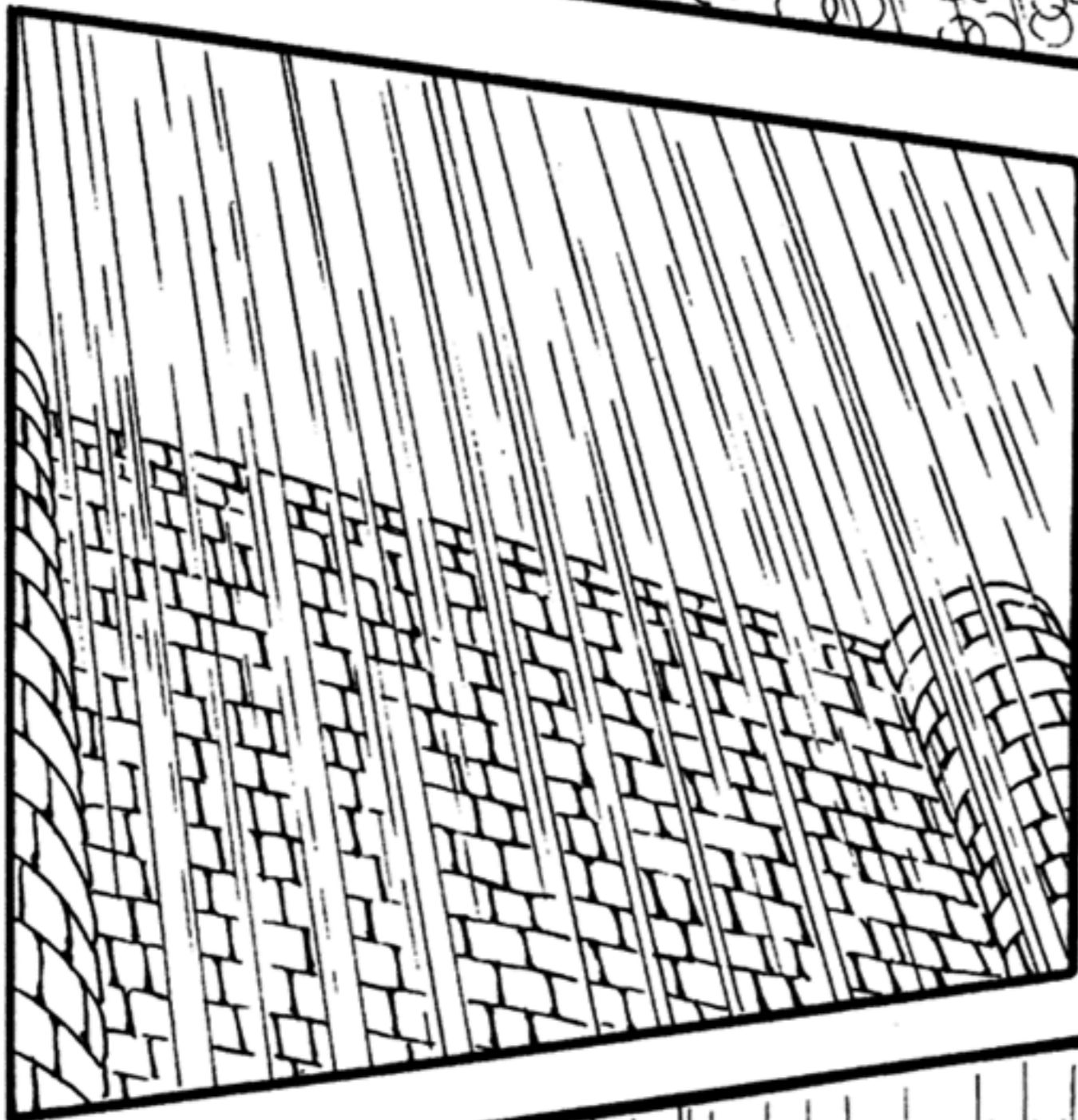




200 LEAGUES
HENCE IS THE
CAPITAL OF
MAGADHA
KINGDOM. GO
THERE IF YOU
NEED ALMS SO
BADLY, BEGGAR
MONKS!



WE'LL NEVER
MAKE IT IN THIS
RAIN WITH A
SICK CHILD!



HAS
HE NO
HEART?
AH, BUT
EVEN SO,
I SHAN'T
RESENT
A MAN.

DHEPA,
THOSE
STONES!

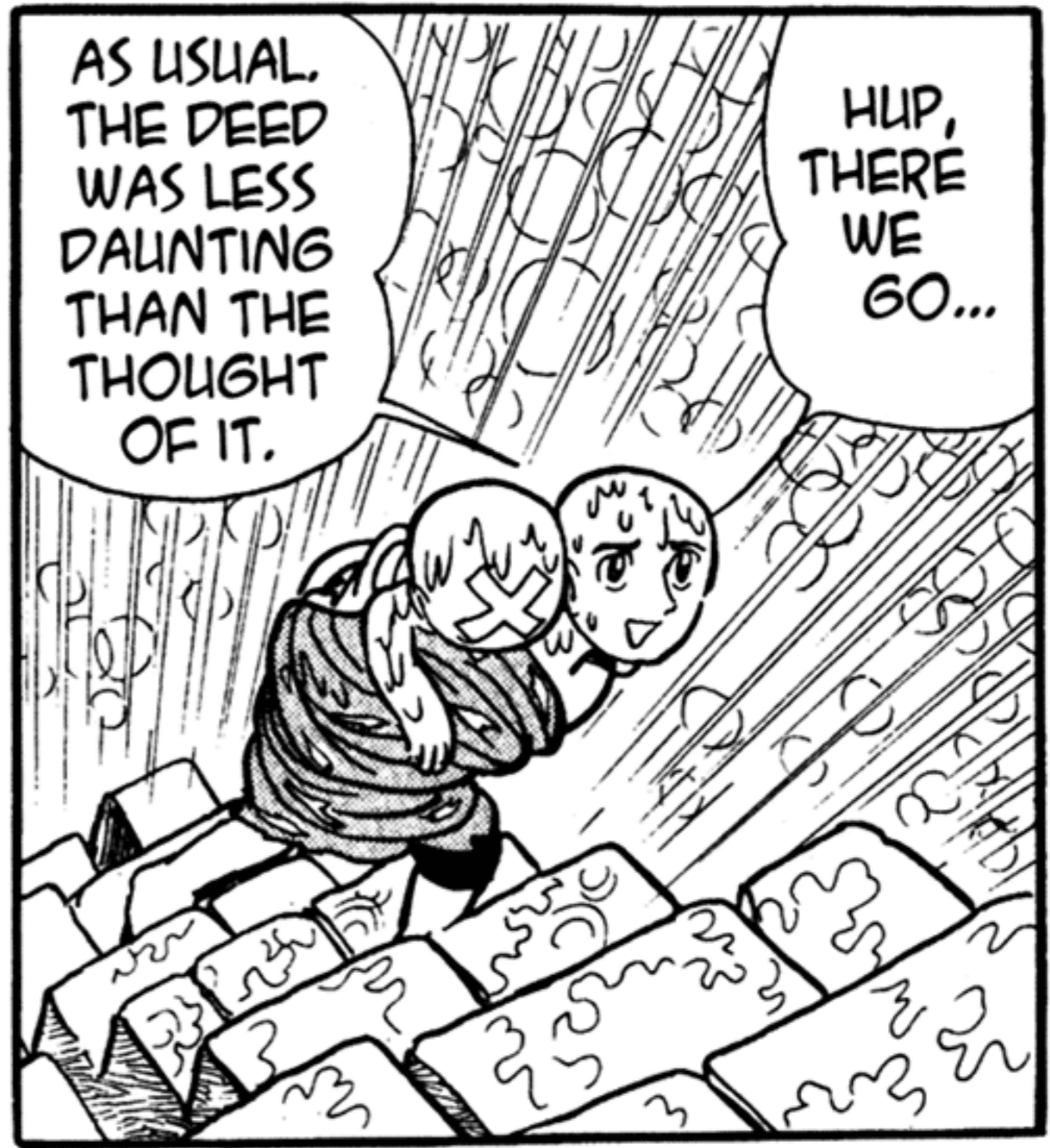


LET'S STACK
THEM UP
AGAINST THE
WALL AND
CLIMB TO
THE TOP.

EASIER SAID
THAN DONE...
BUT IT BEATS
TREKKING TO
OUR DEATHS
IN THIS
DOWNPOUR.

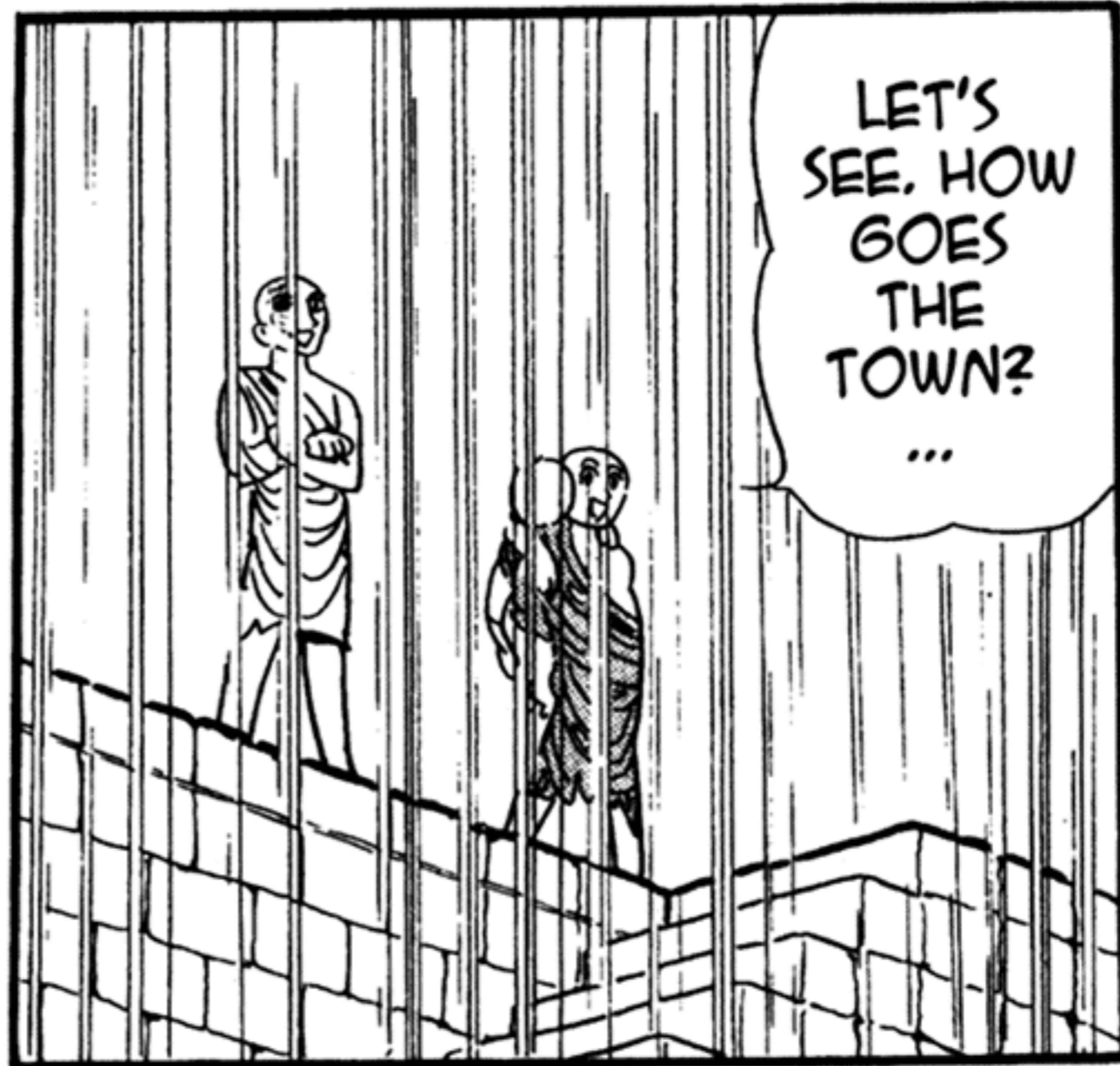


WE DID IT!

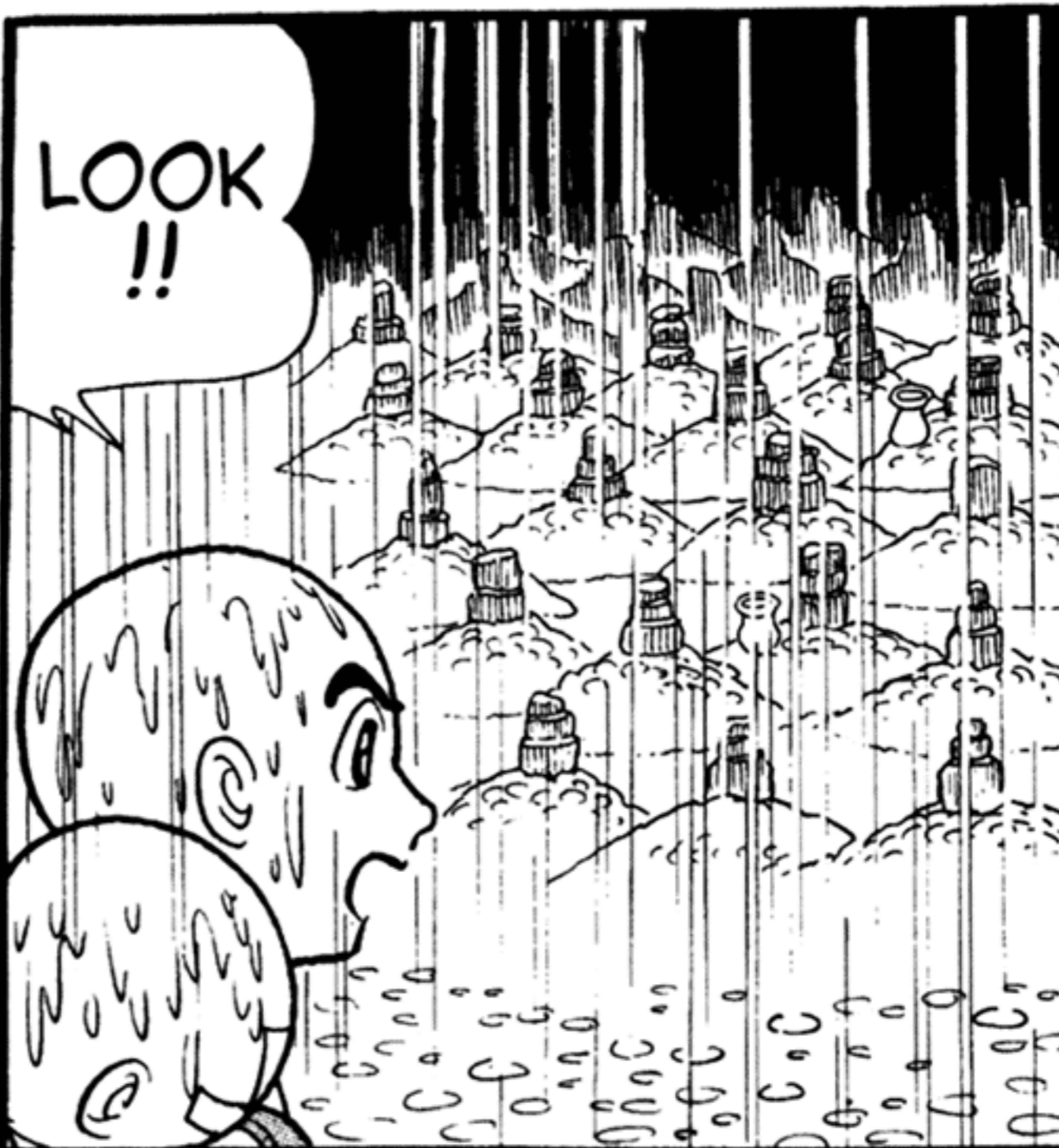


AS USUAL, THE DEED WAS LESS DAUNTING THAN THE THOUGHT OF IT.

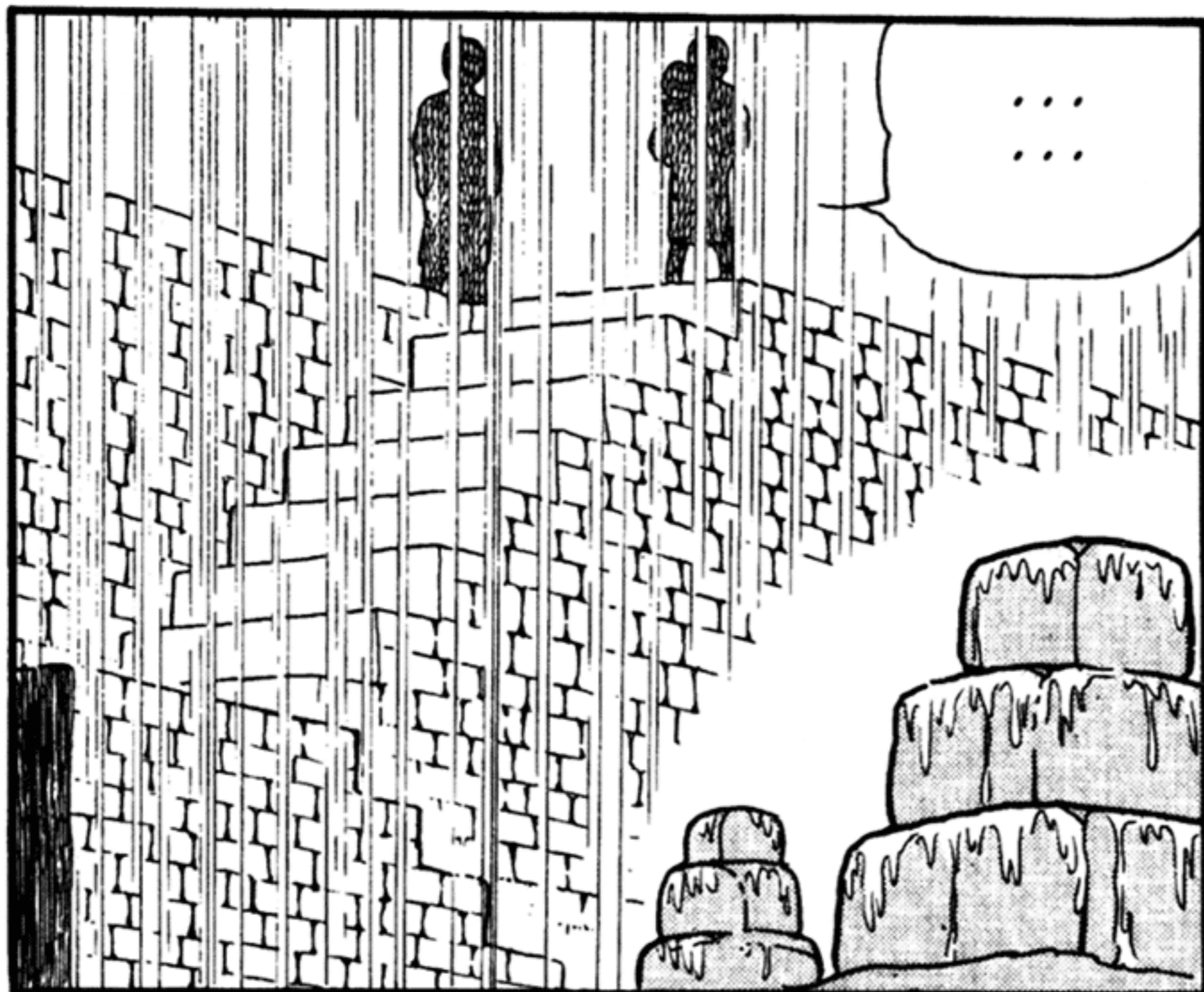
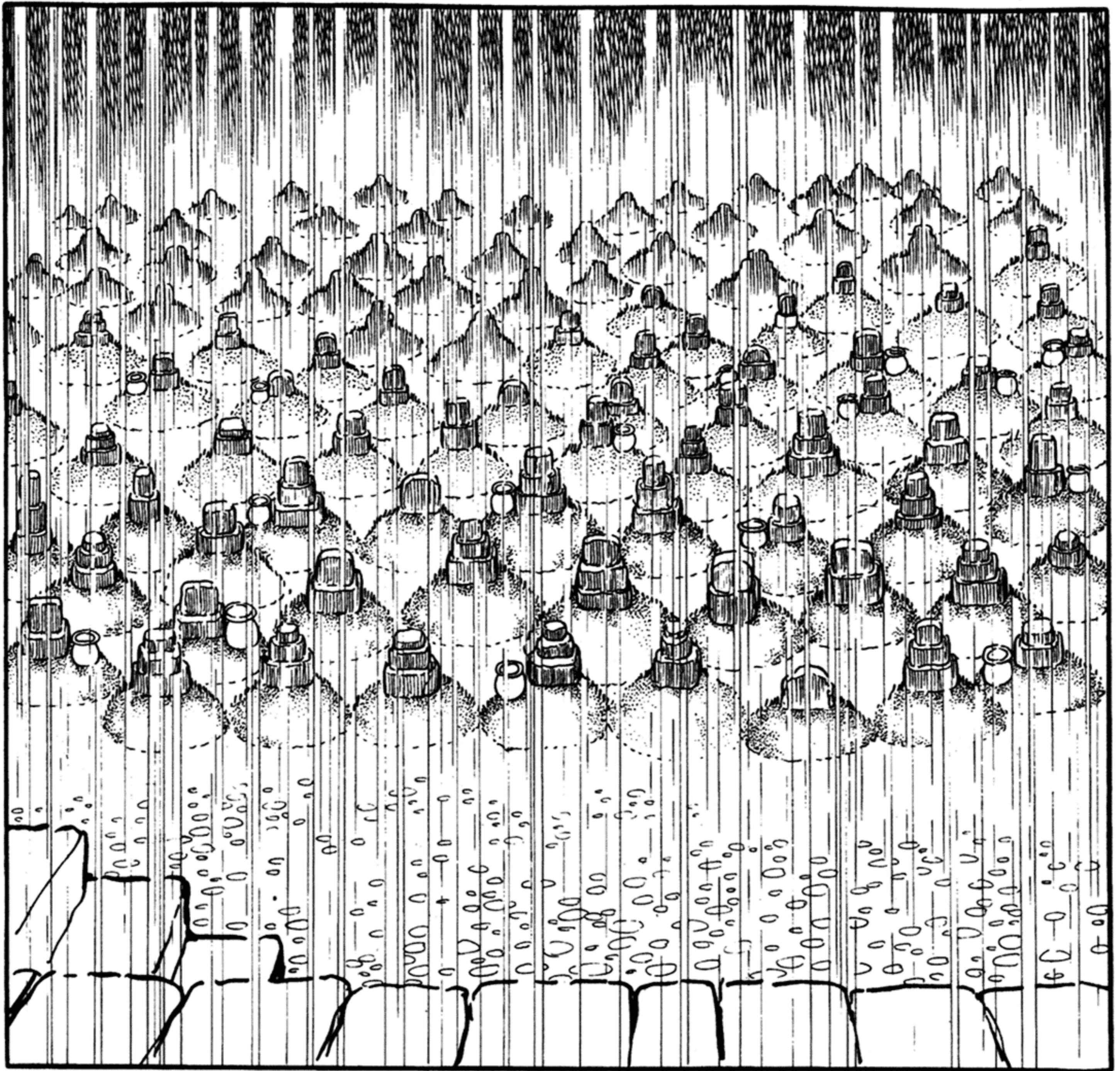
HUP, THERE WE GO...

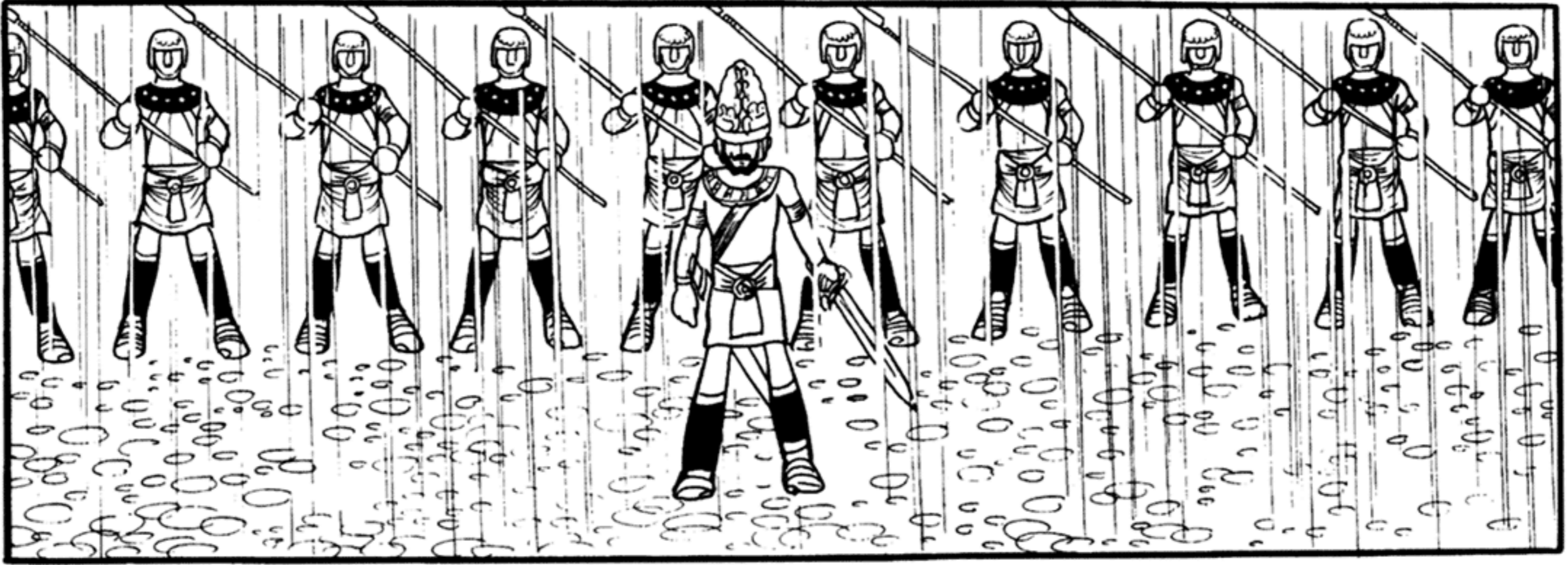


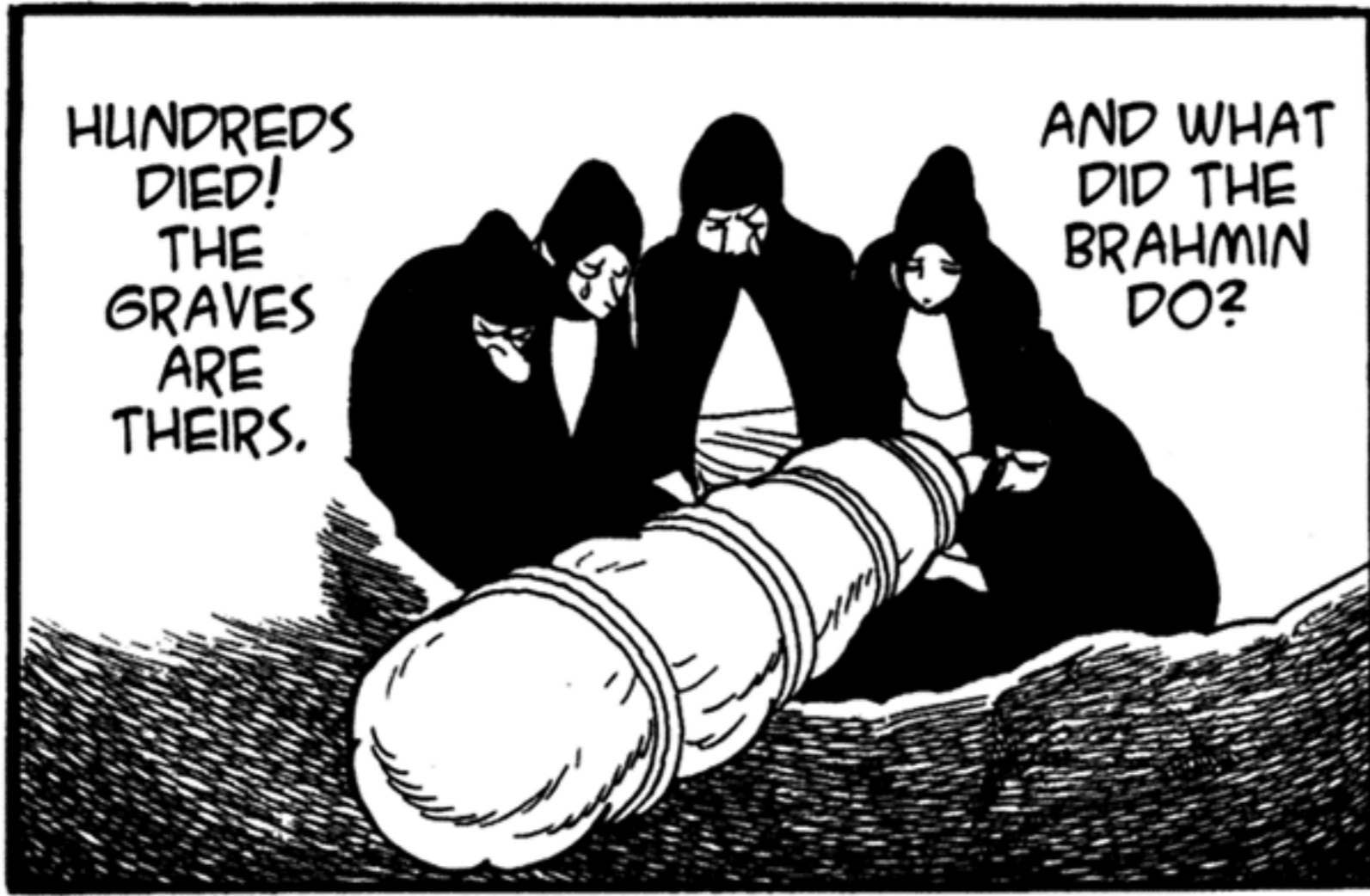
LET'S SEE, HOW GOES THE TOWN?
...



LOOK !!

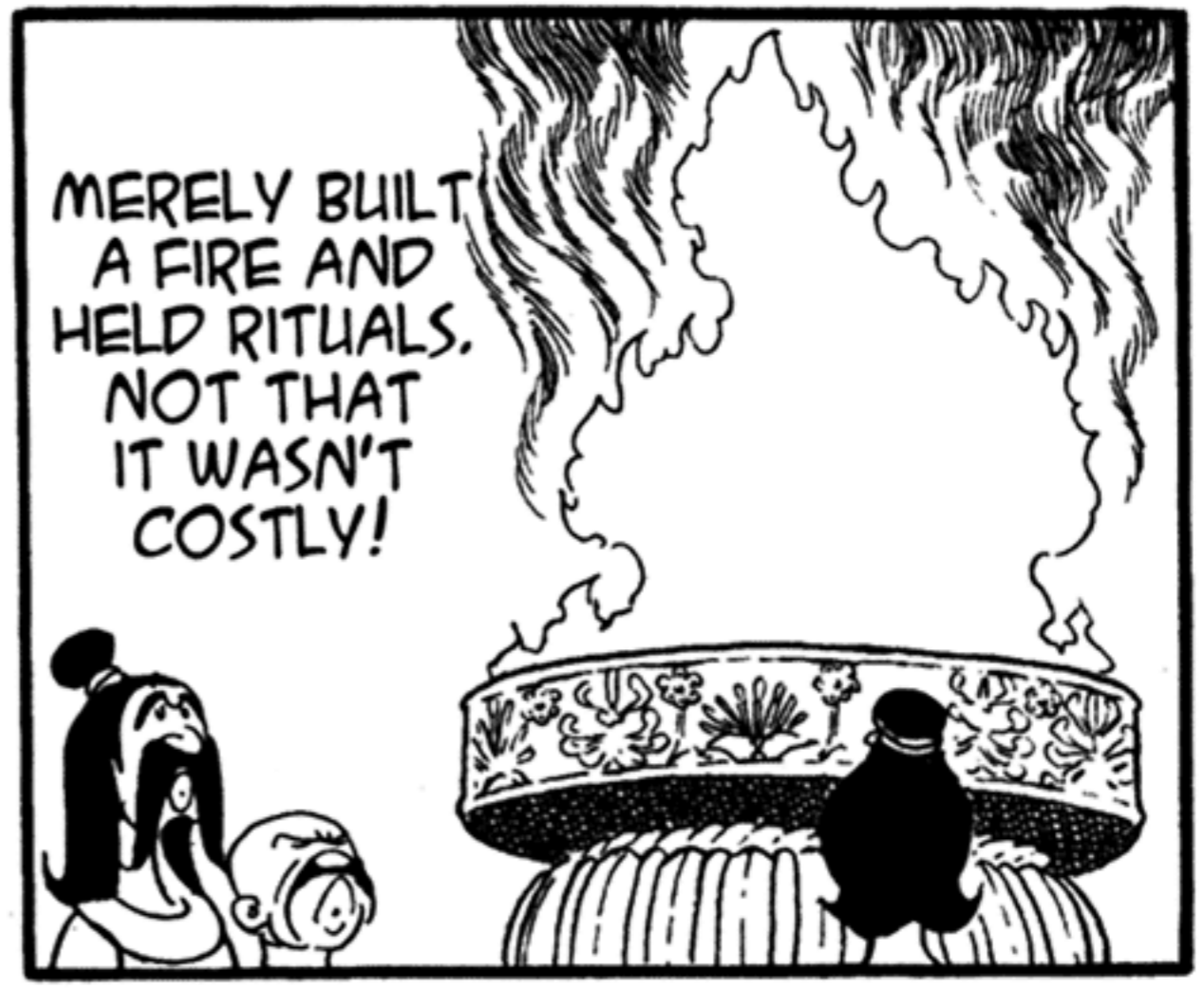




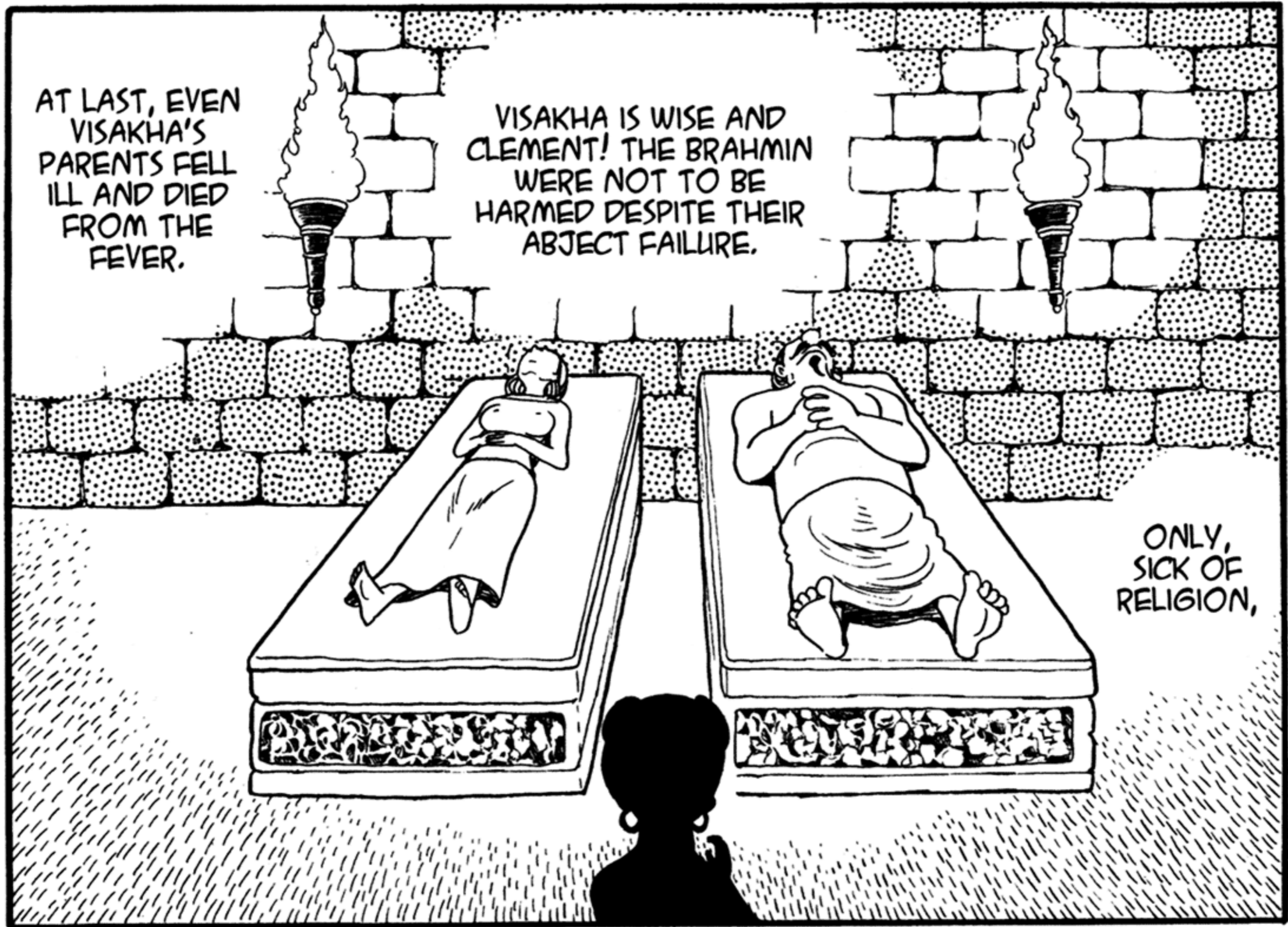


HUNDREDS
DIED!
THE
GRAVES
ARE
THEIRS.

AND WHAT
DID THE
BRAHMIN
DO?



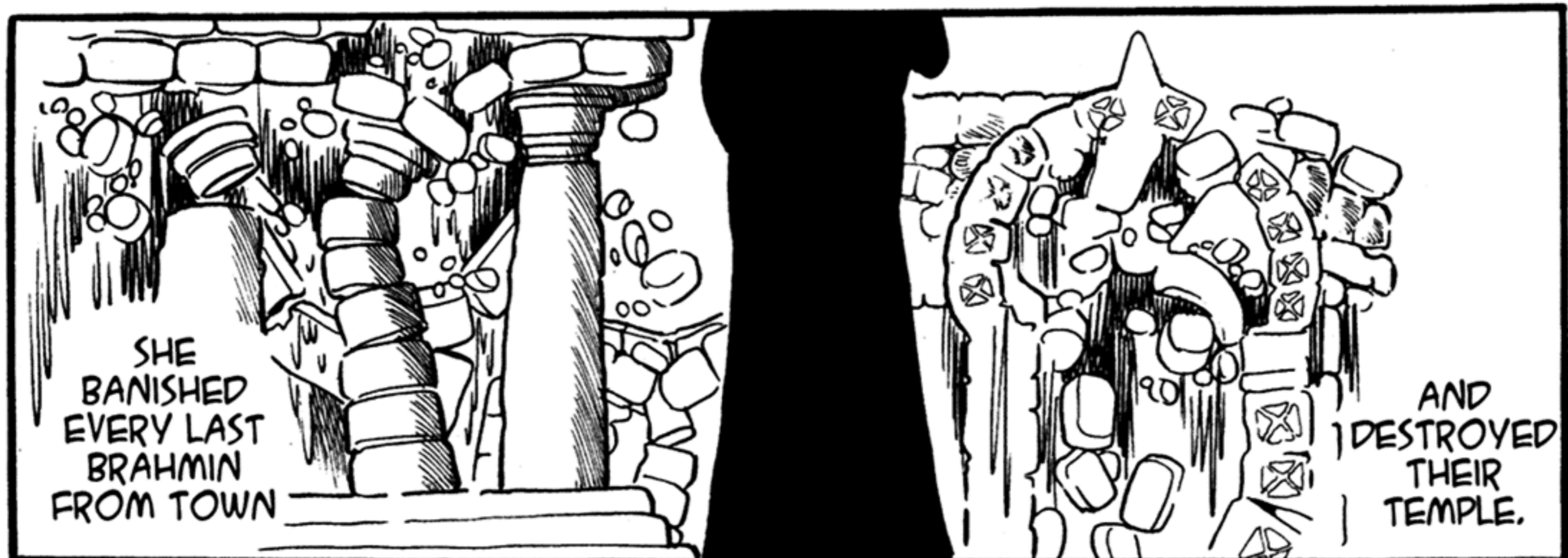
MERELY BUILT
A FIRE AND
HELD RITUALS,
NOT THAT
IT WASN'T
COSTLY!



AT LAST, EVEN
VISAKHA'S
PARENTS FELL
ILL AND DIED
FROM THE
FEVER.

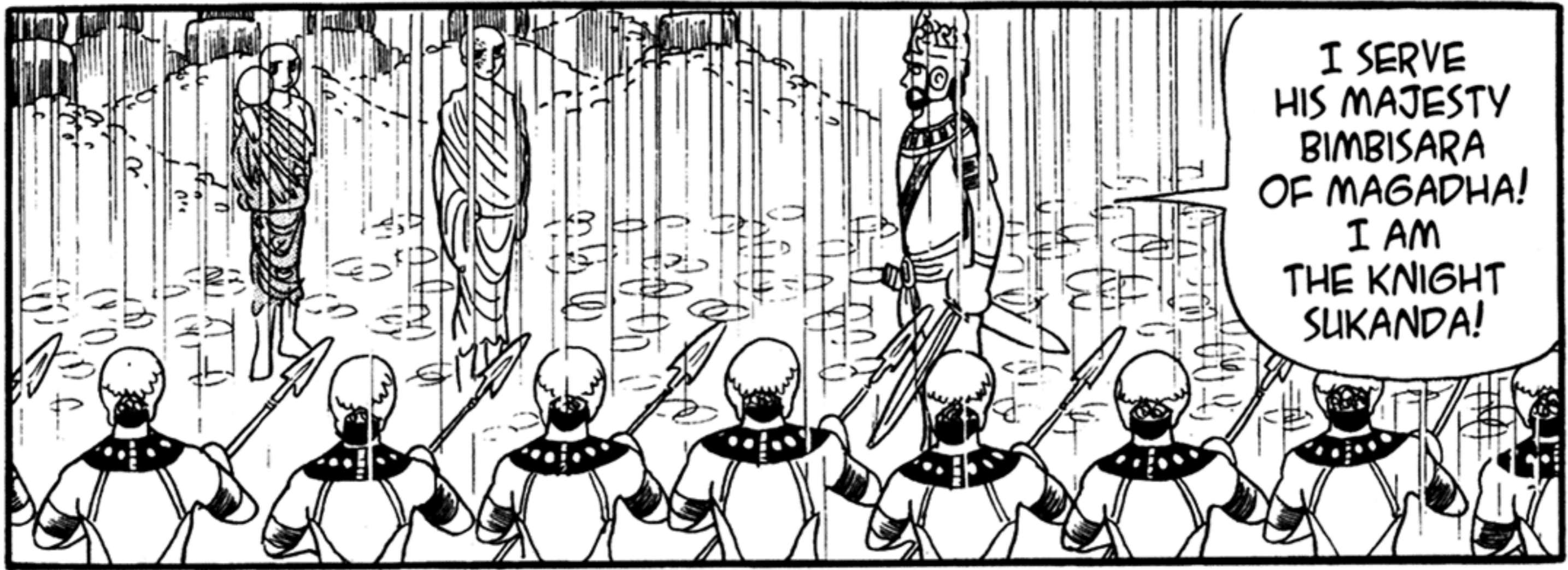
VISAKHA IS WISE AND
CLEMENT! THE BRAHMIN
WERE NOT TO BE
HARMED DESPITE THEIR
ABJECT FAILURE.

ONLY,
SICK OF
RELIGION,

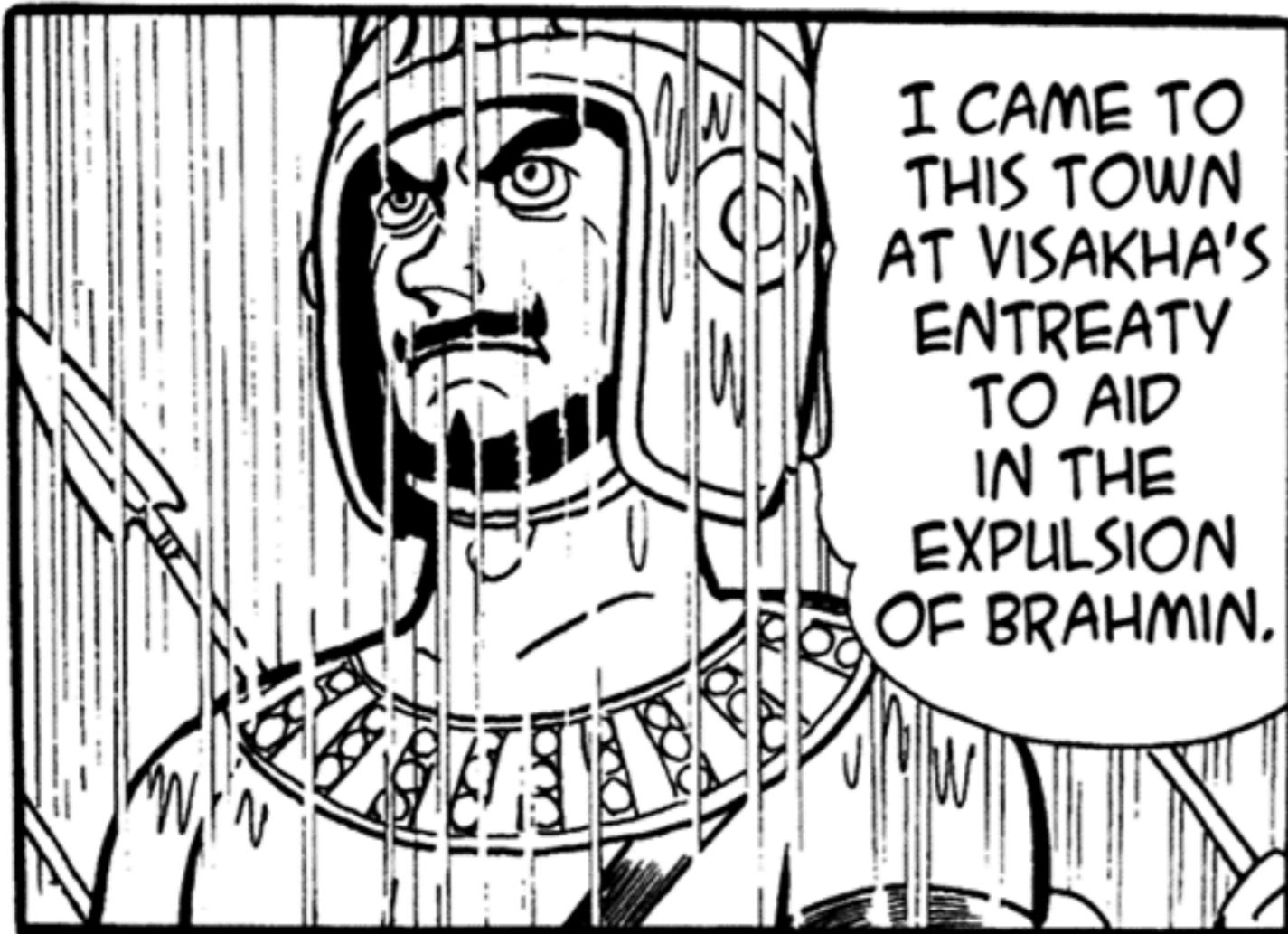


SHE
BANISHED
EVERY LAST
BRAHMIN
FROM TOWN

AND
DESTROYED
THEIR
TEMPLE.



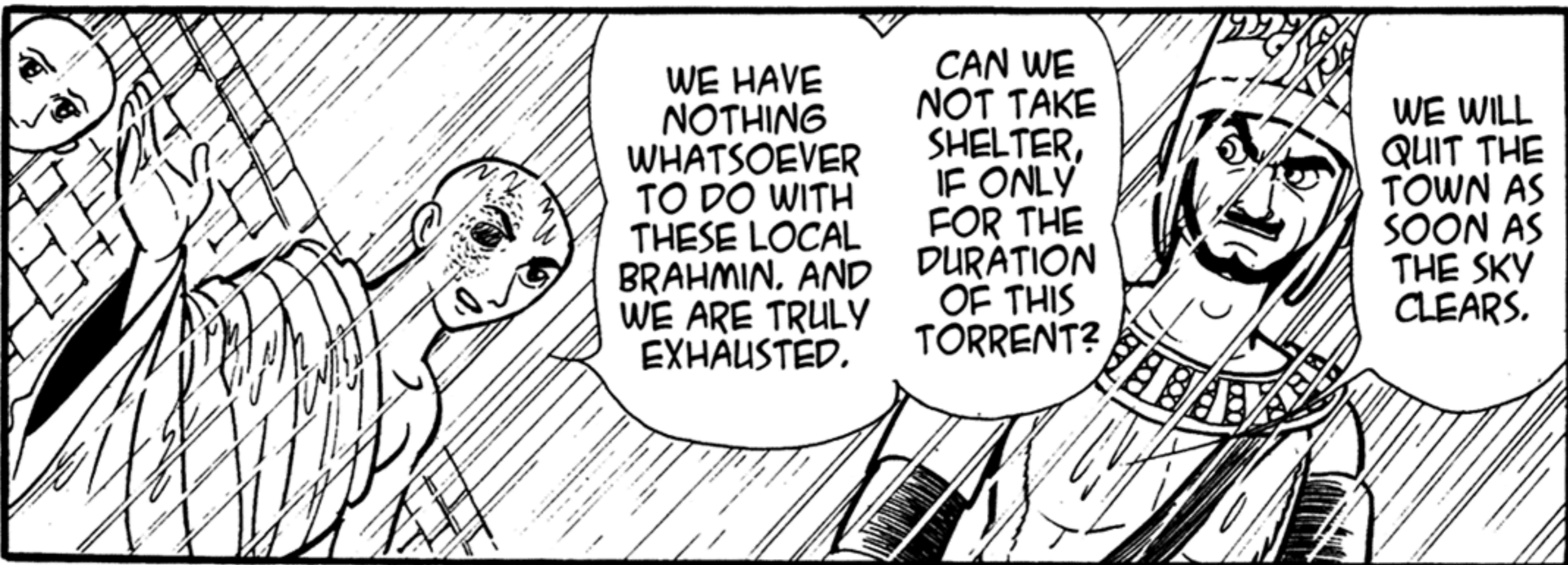
I SERVE HIS MAJESTY BIMBISARA OF MAGADHA! I AM THE KNIGHT SUKANDA!



I CAME TO THIS TOWN AT VISAKHA'S ENTREATY TO AID IN THE EXPULSION OF BRAHMIN.



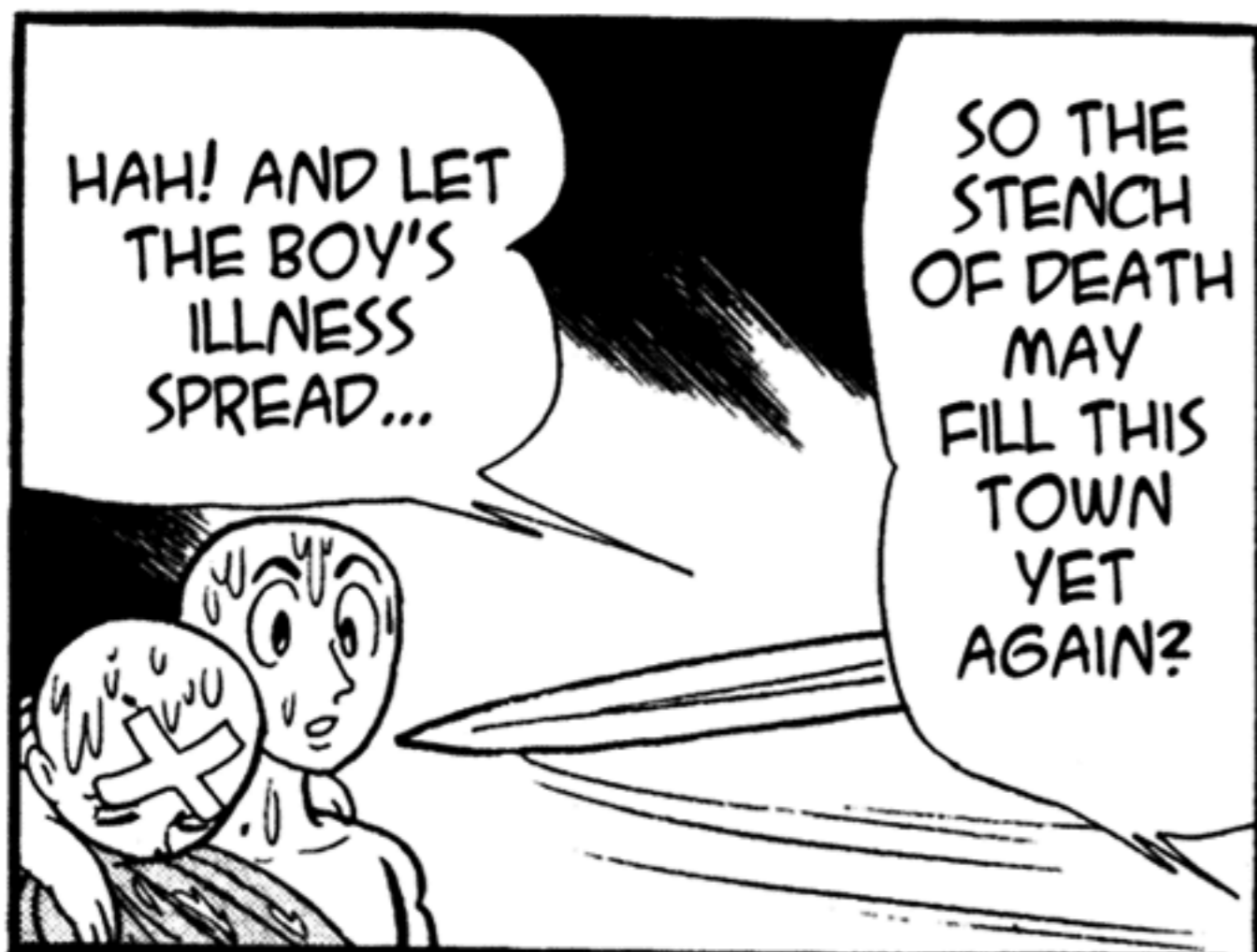
I UNDERSTAND. I AM DHEPA, MY FRIEND IS SIDDHARTHA.



WE HAVE NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THESE LOCAL BRAHMIN. AND WE ARE TRULY EXHAUSTED.

CAN WE NOT TAKE SHELTER, IF ONLY FOR THE DURATION OF THIS TORRENT?

WE WILL QUIT THE TOWN AS SOON AS THE SKY CLEARS.

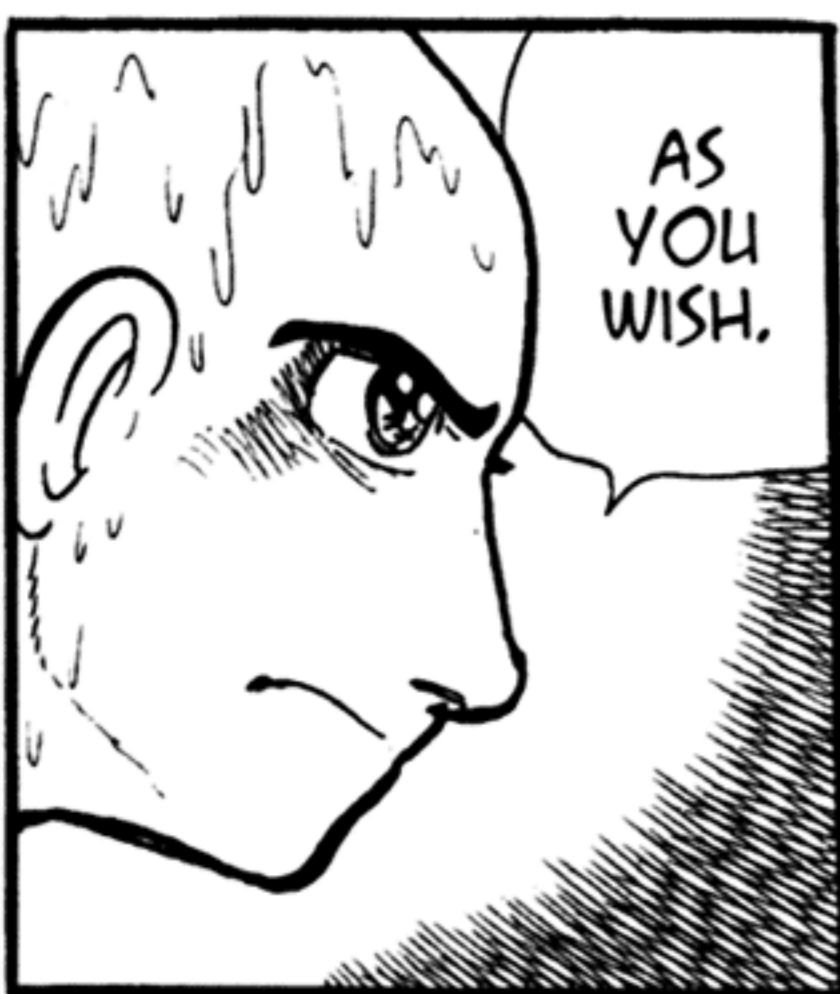
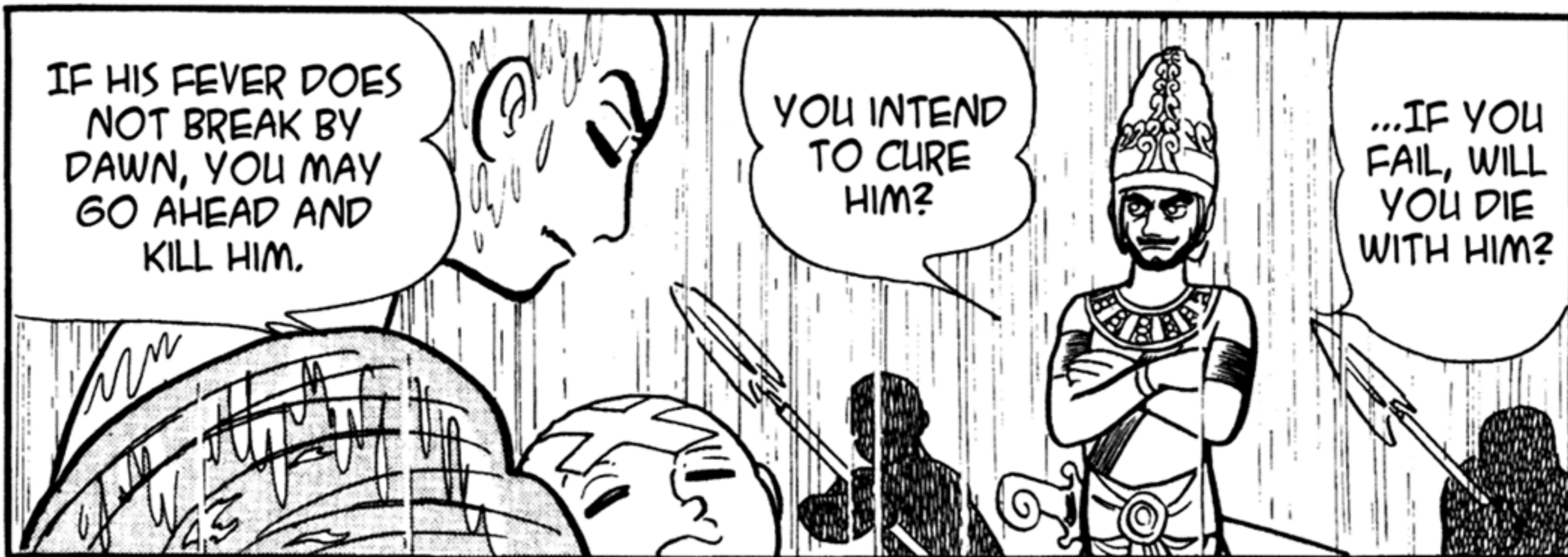
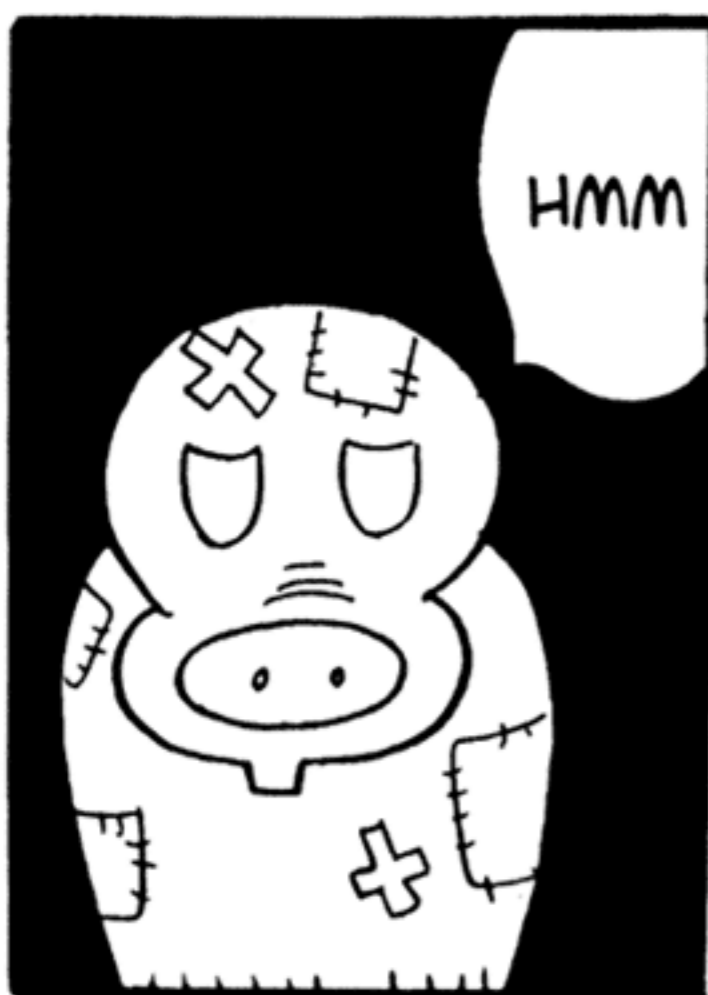
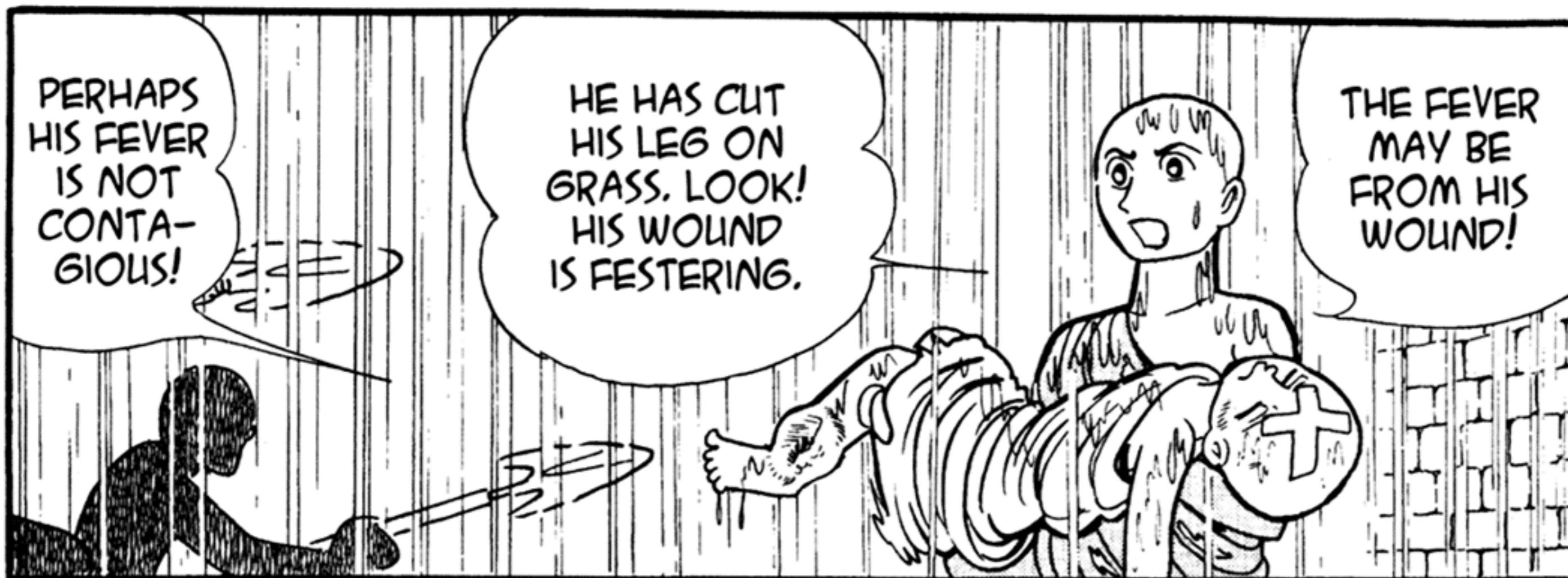


HAH! AND LET THE BOY'S ILLNESS SPREAD...

SO THE STENCH OF DEATH MAY FILL THIS TOWN YET AGAIN?

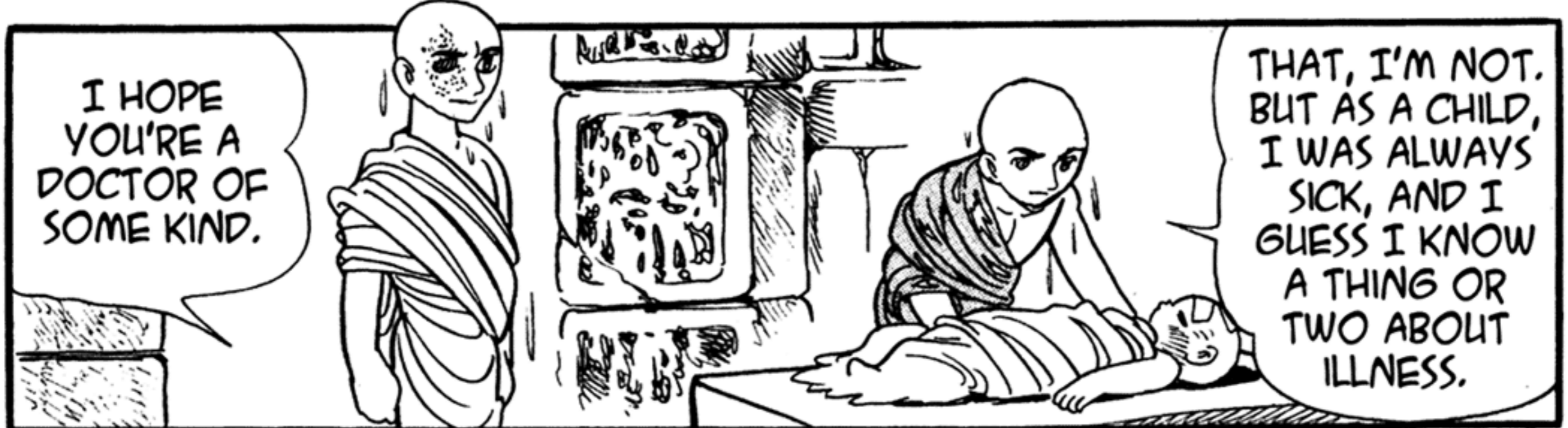


SEIZE THE CHILD AND KILL HIM!



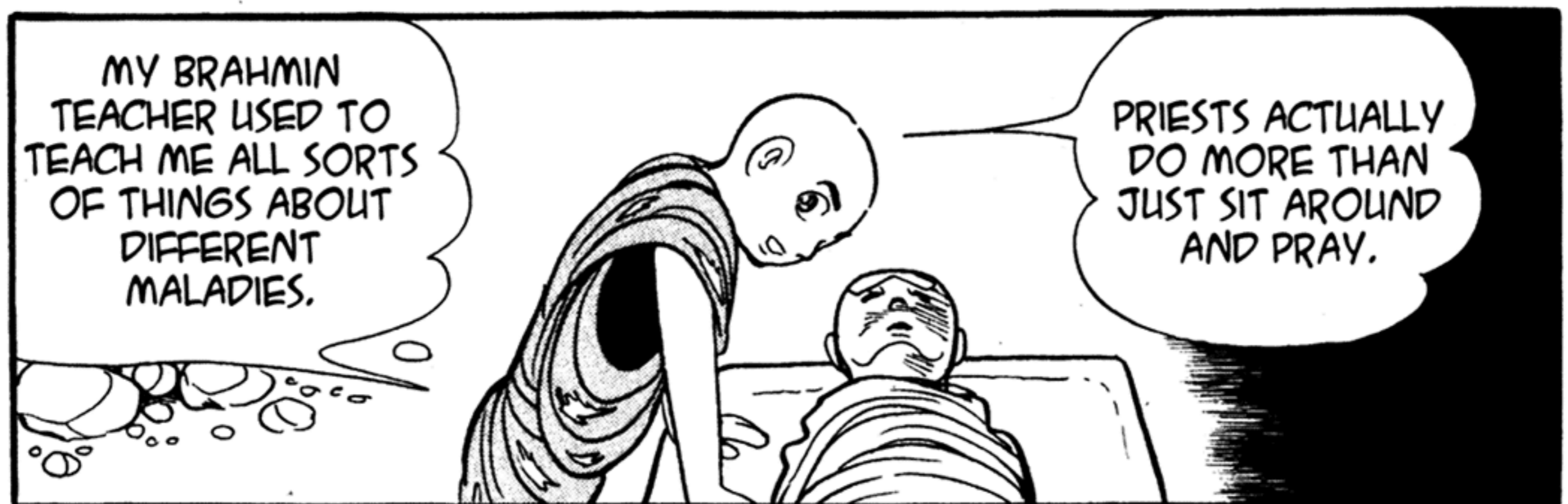


CAN'T WAIT TO
SEE PRAYERS
DISPEL A FEVER!
HAHAHAHA



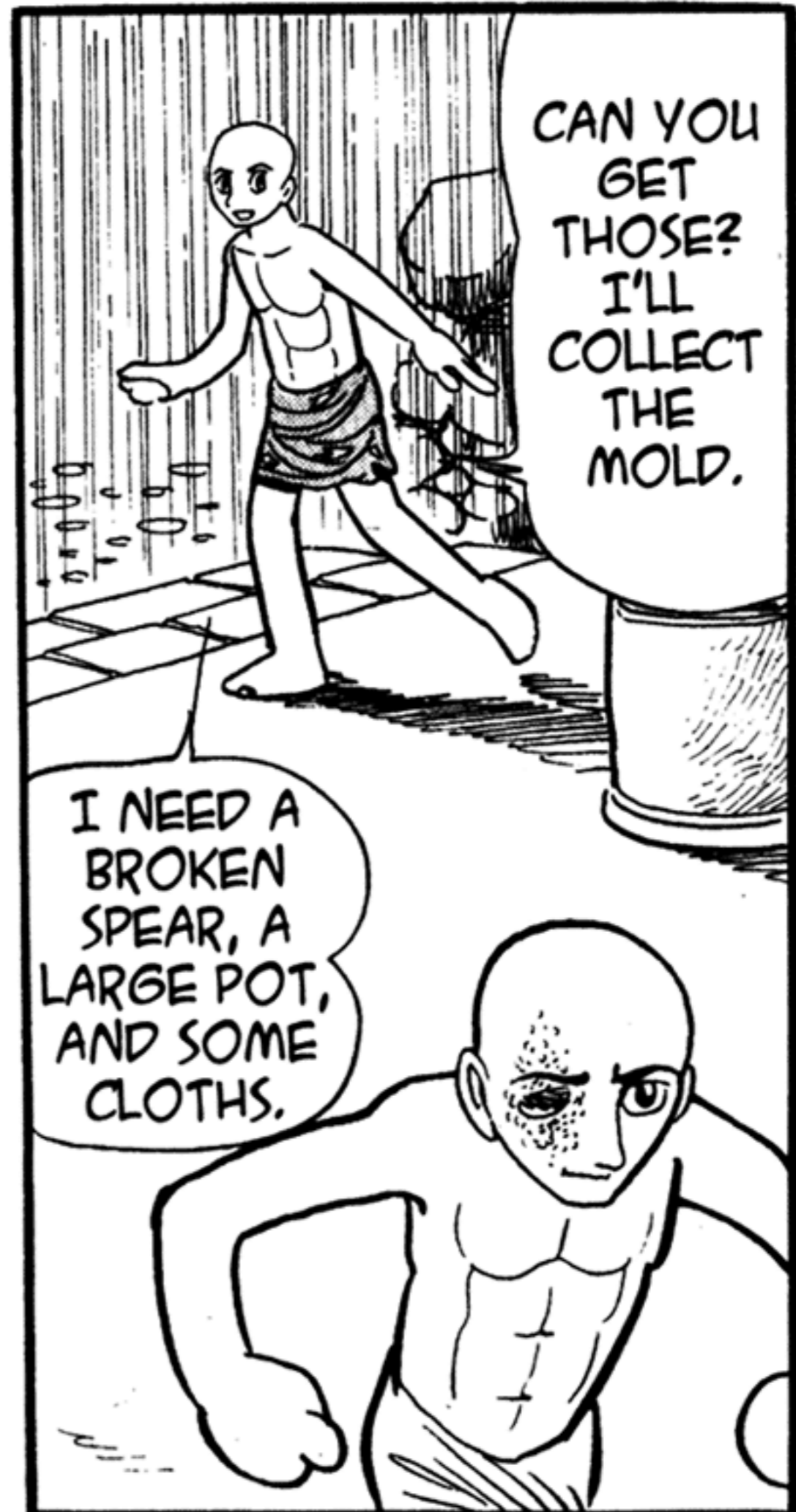
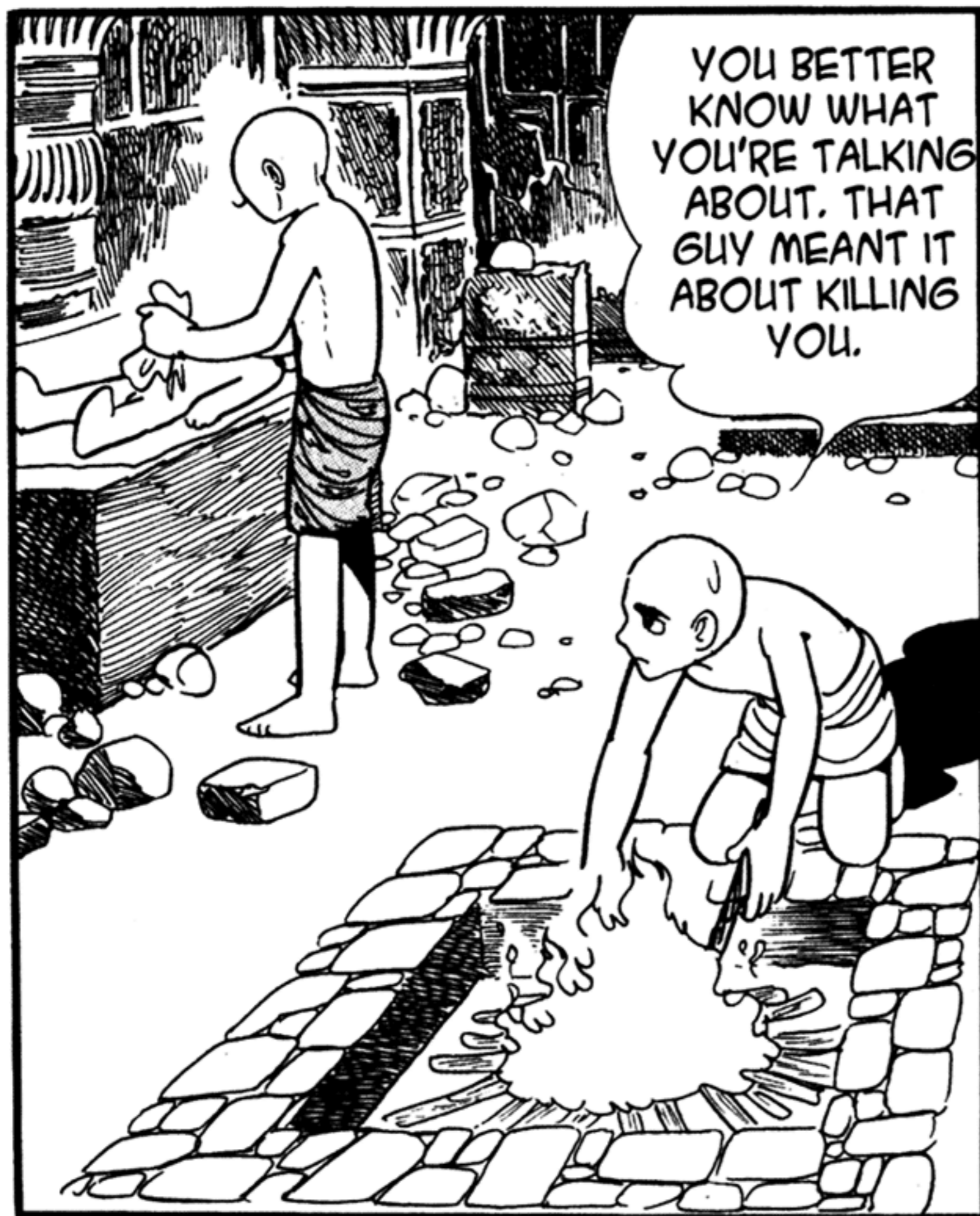
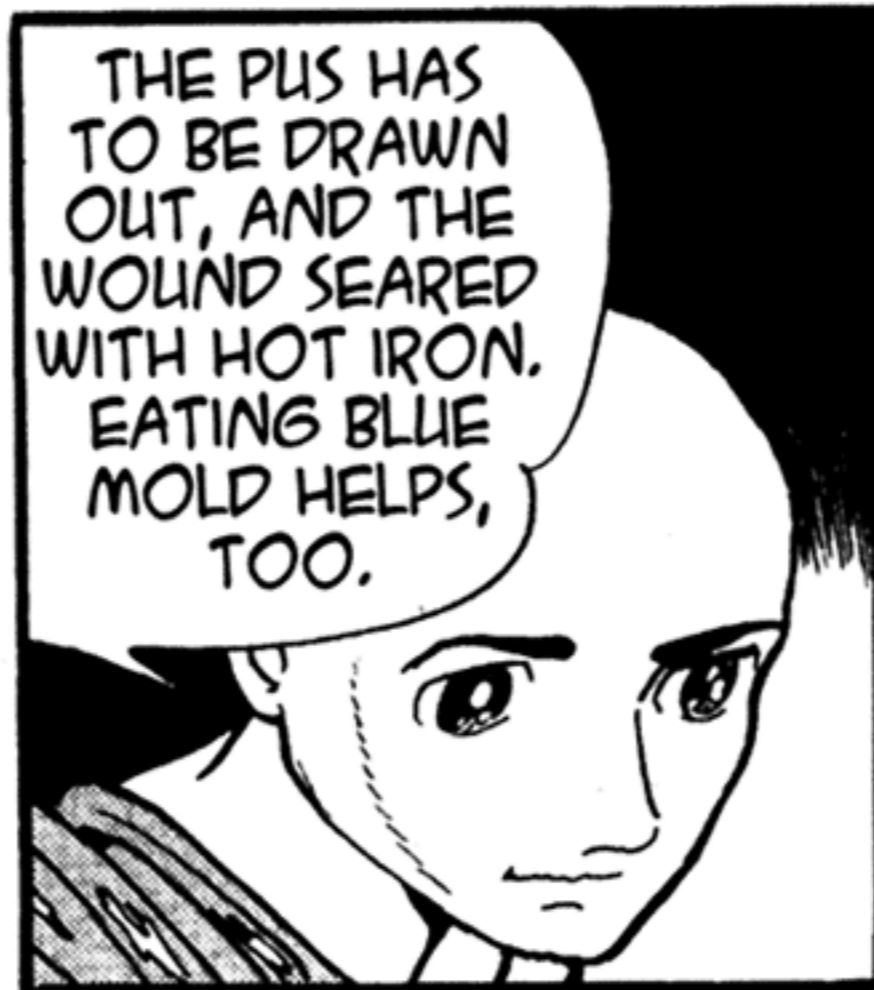
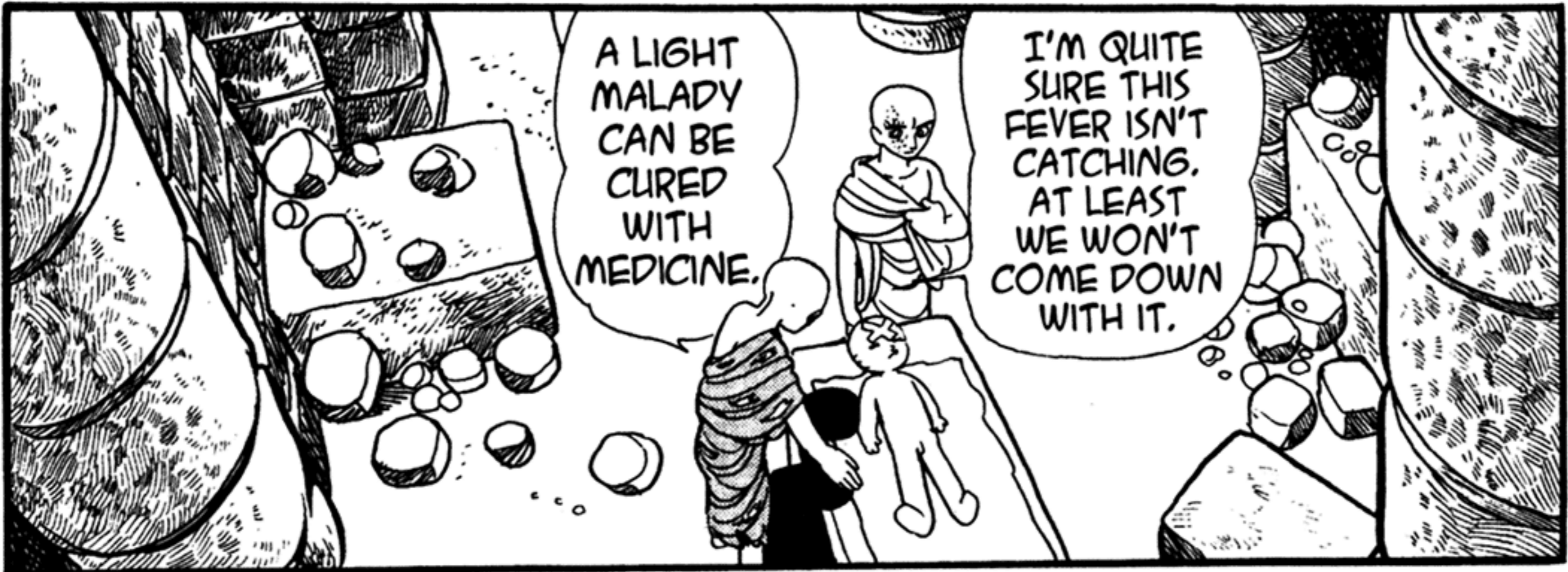
I HOPE
YOU'RE A
DOCTOR OF
SOME KIND.

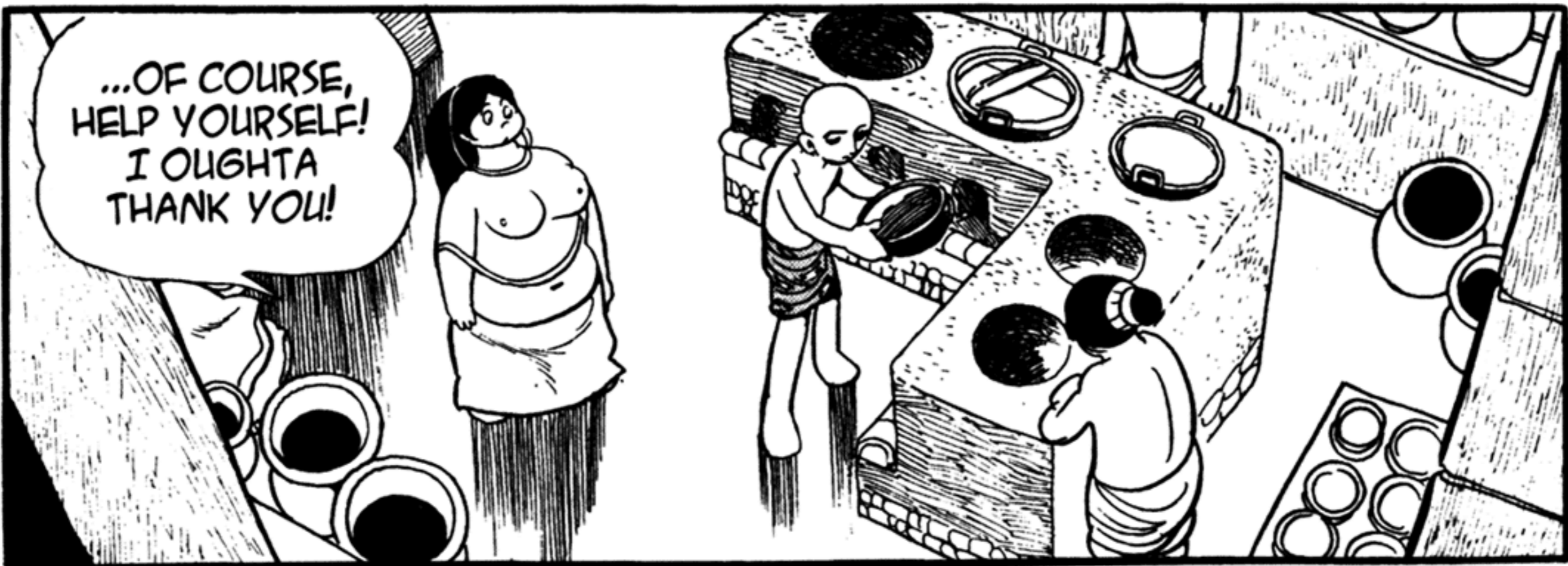
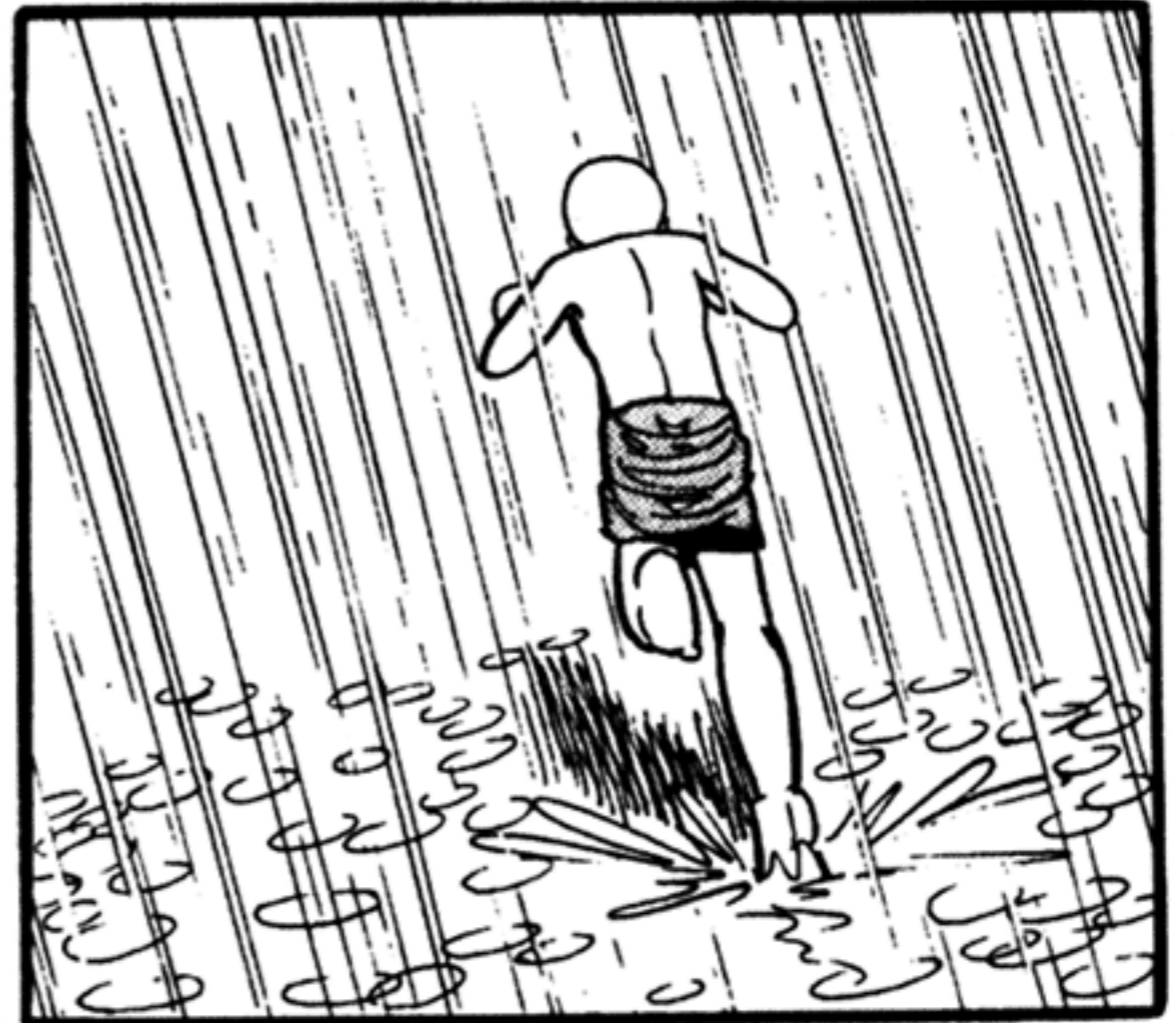
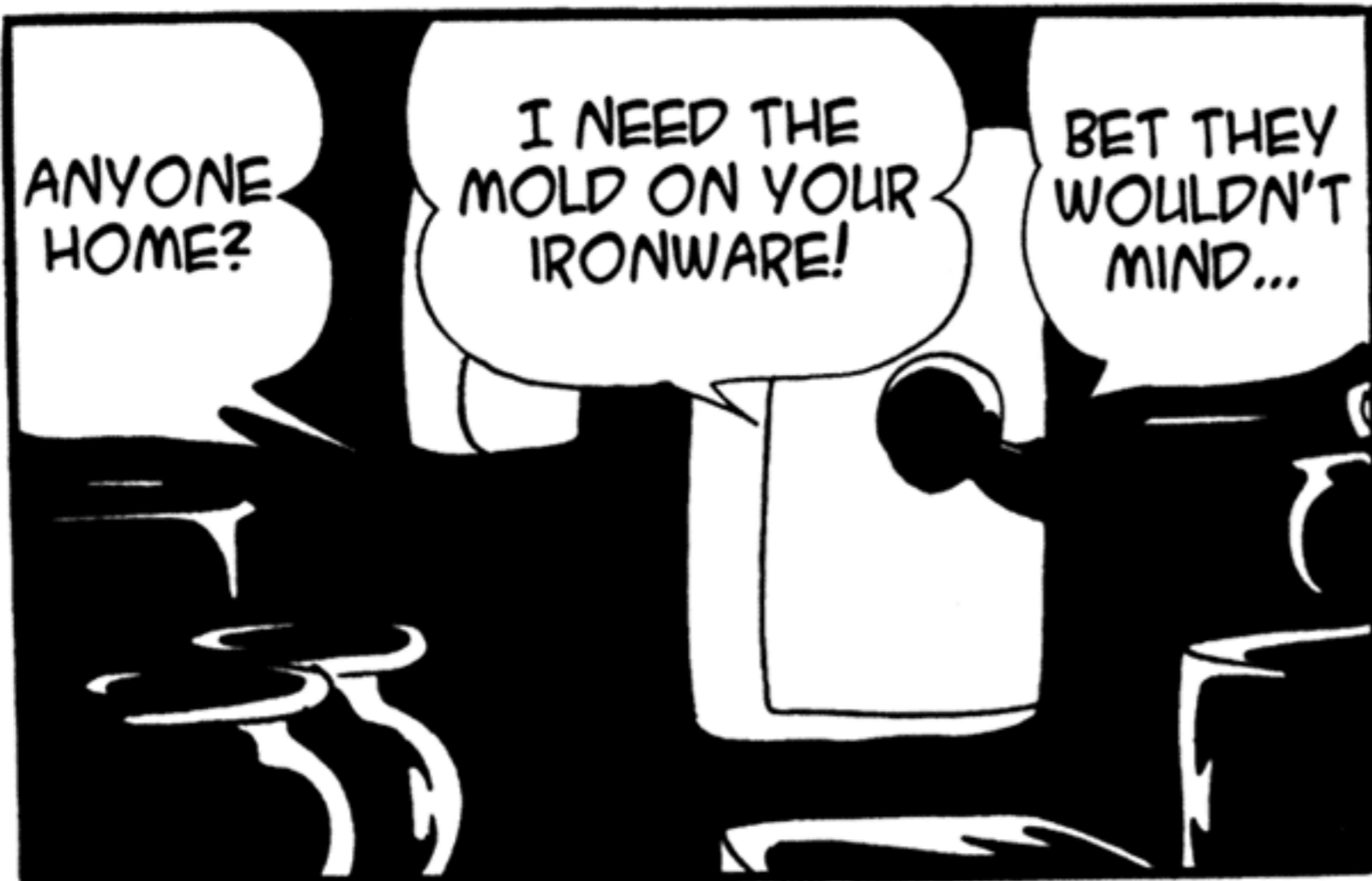
THAT, I'M NOT.
BUT AS A CHILD,
I WAS ALWAYS
SICK, AND I
GUESS I KNOW
A THING OR
TWO ABOUT
ILLNESS.



MY BRAHMIN
TEACHER USED TO
TEACH ME ALL SORTS
OF THINGS ABOUT
DIFFERENT
MALADIES.

PRIESTS ACTUALLY
DO MORE THAN
JUST SIT AROUND
AND PRAY.

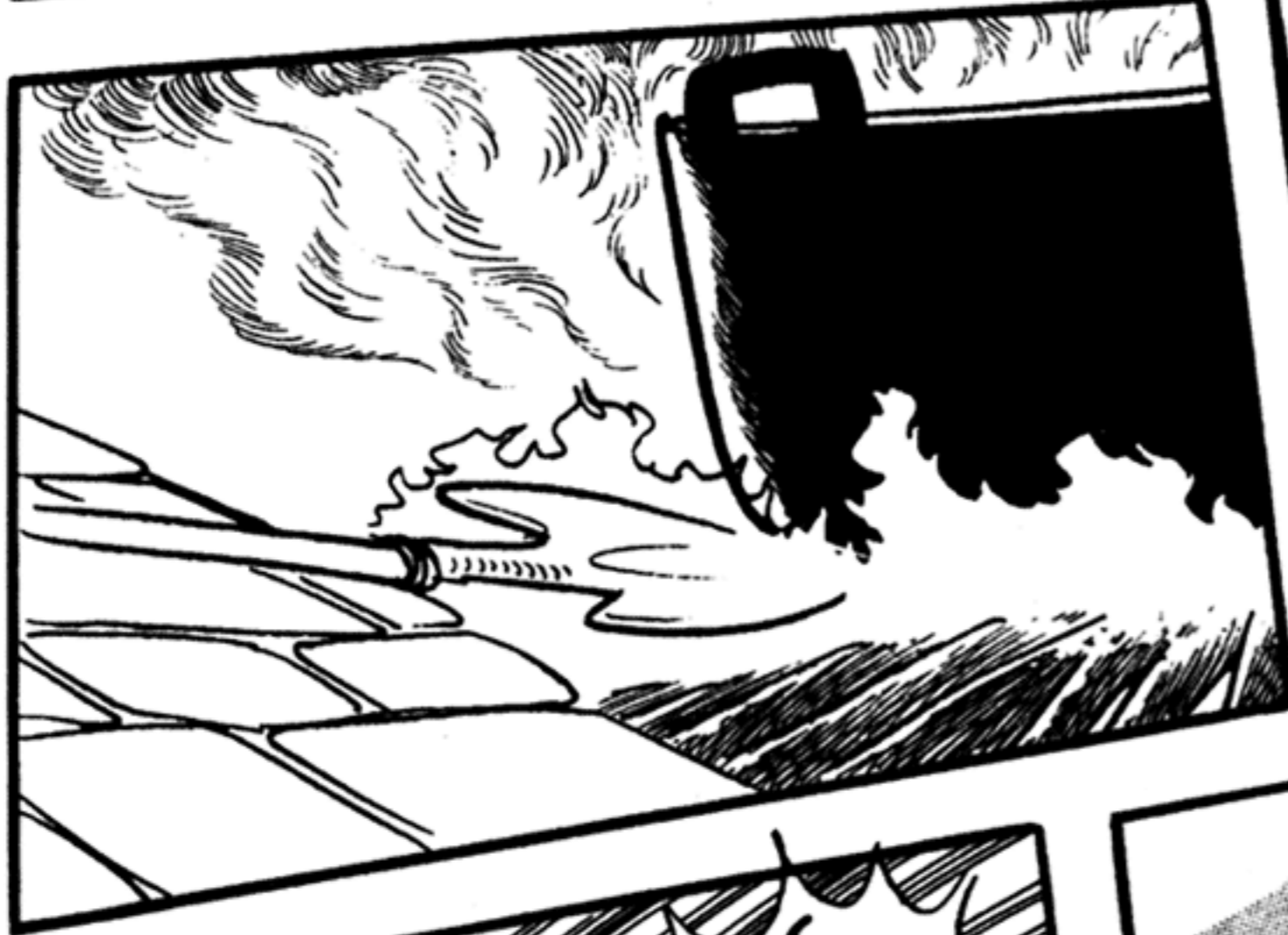




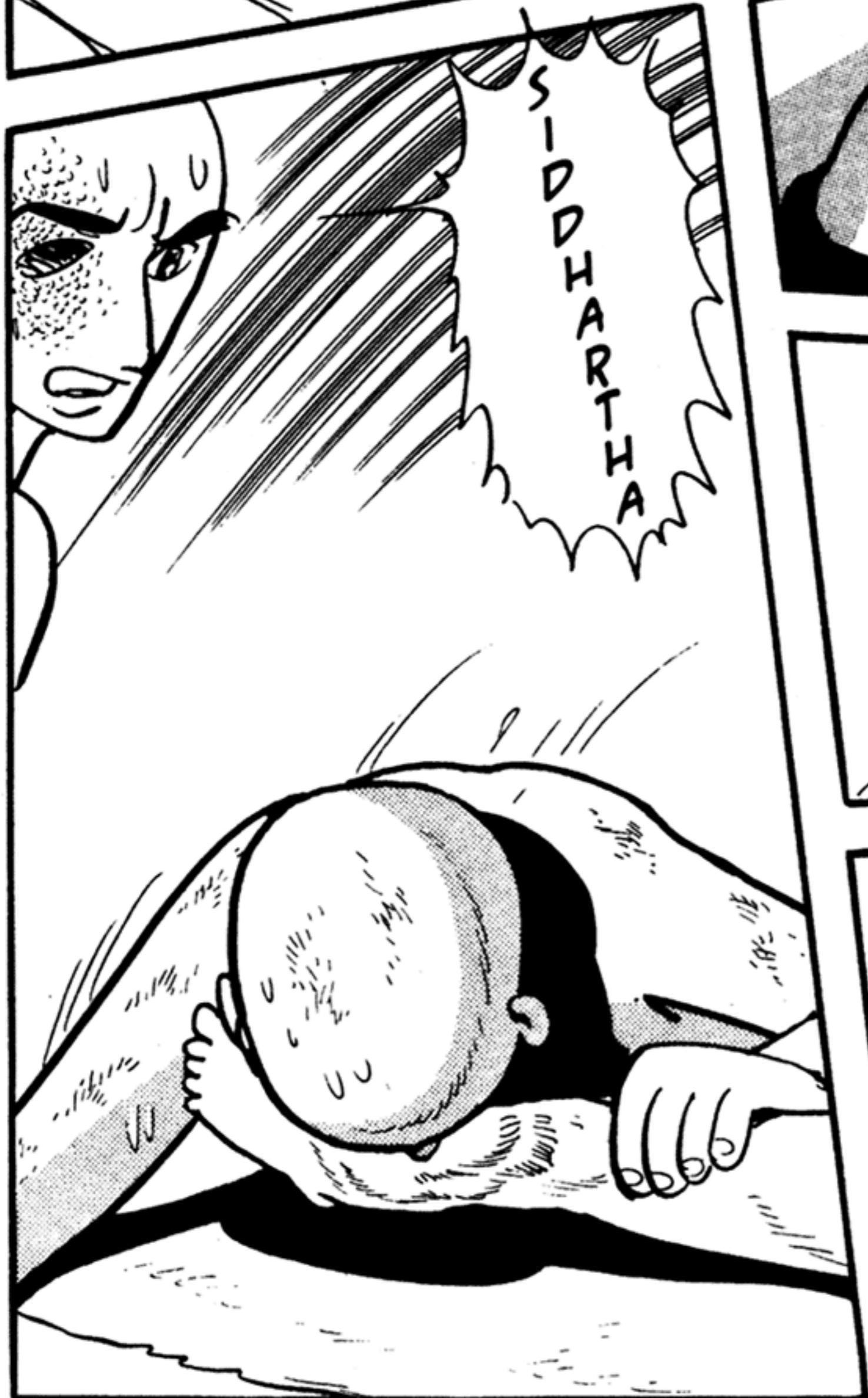
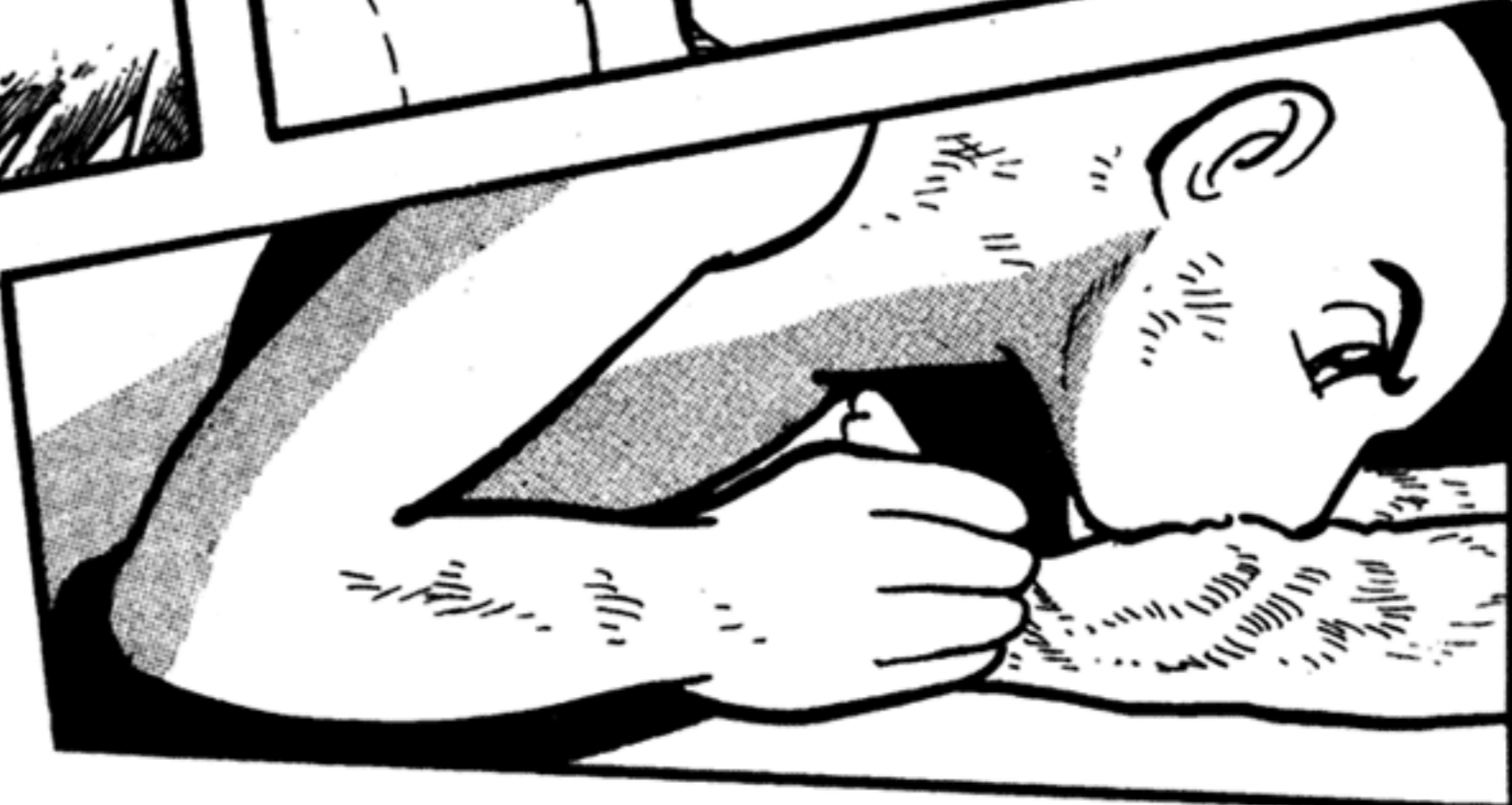


PLEASE SET THE WATER TO BOIL, AND THROW IN THE CLOTH.

AND HEAT THE SPEAR UNTIL IT GLOWS RED.



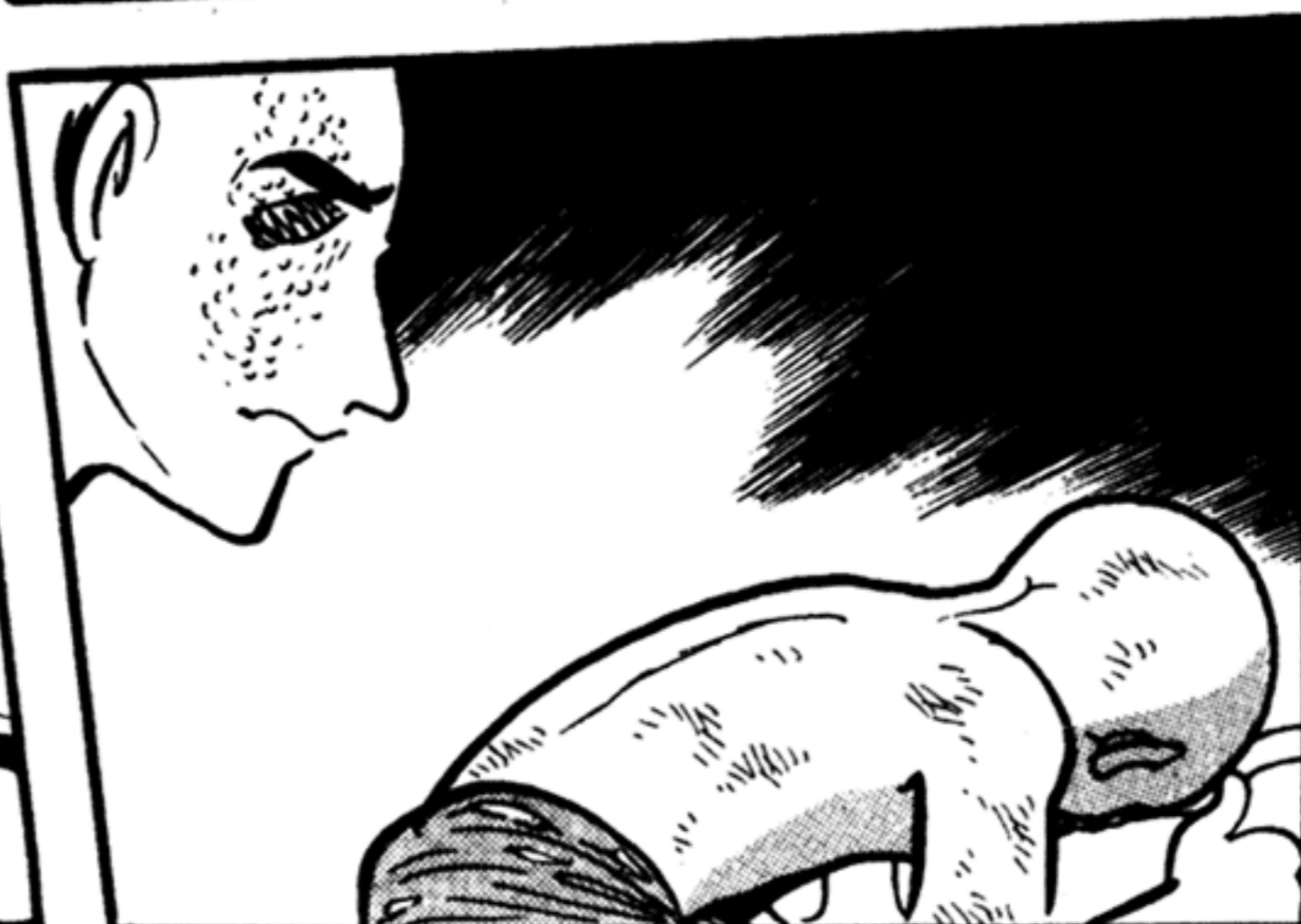
SIDDHARTHA, HOW ARE WE GOING TO DRAW OUT THE PUS? DON'T TELL ME...

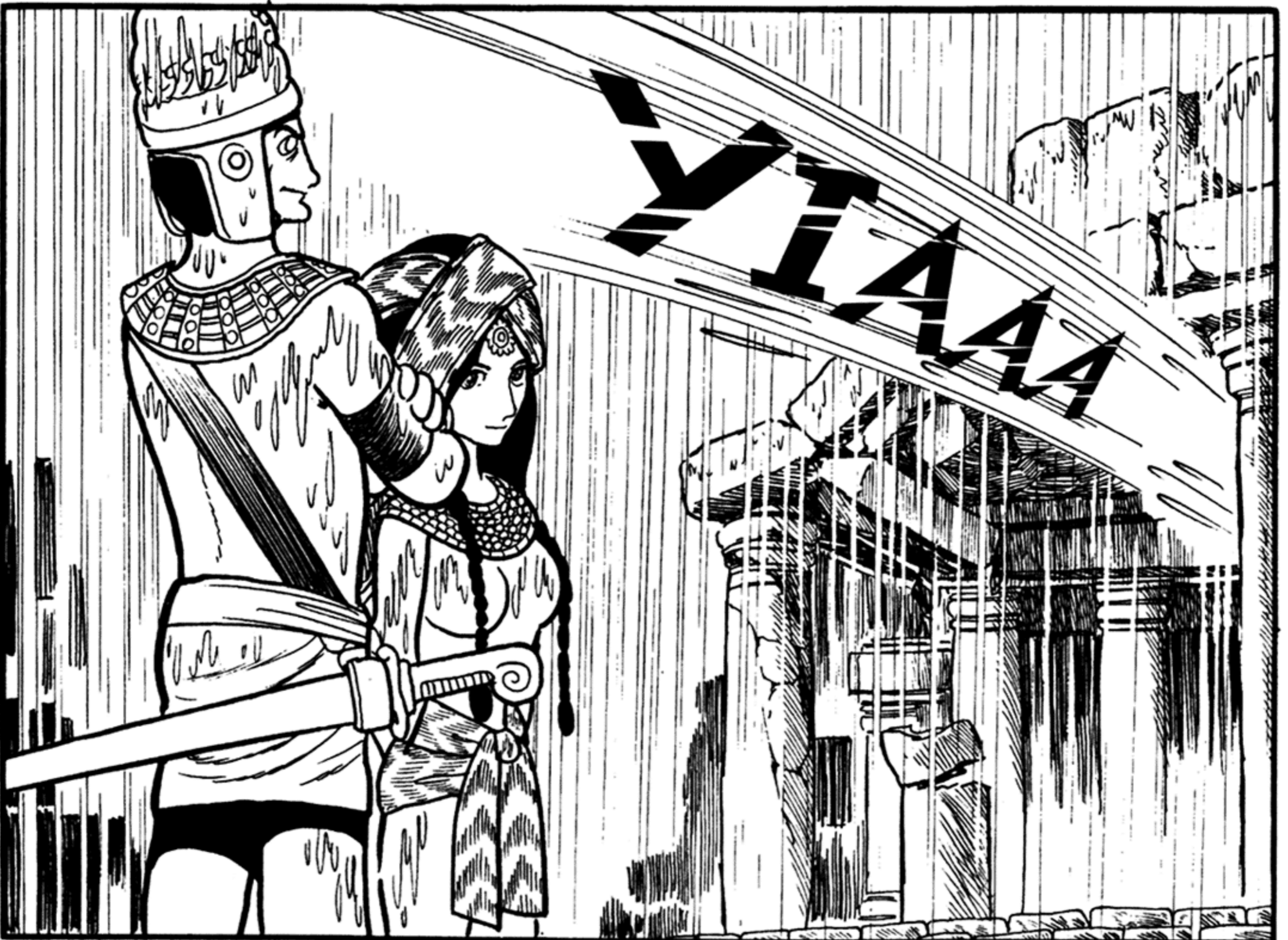
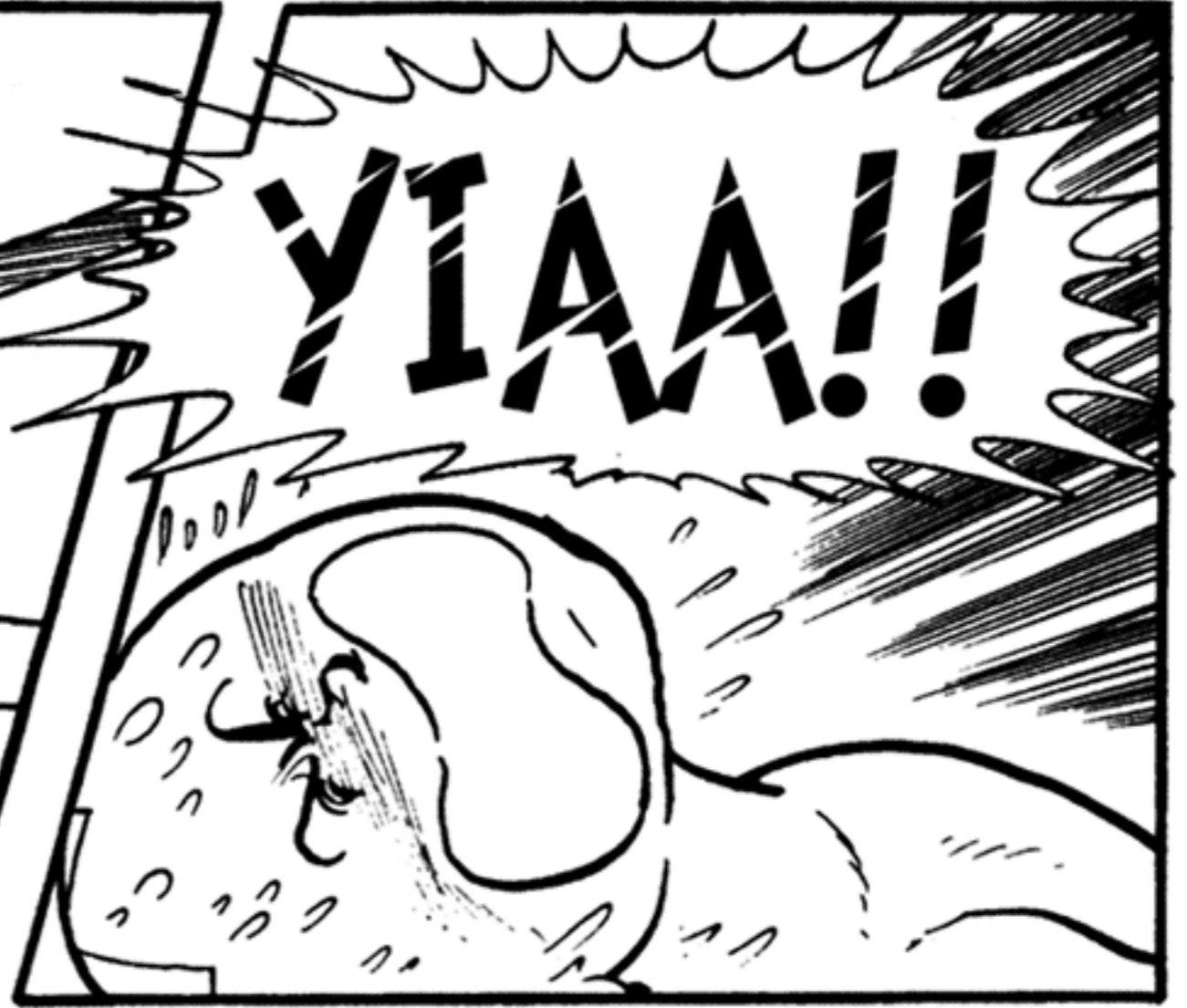
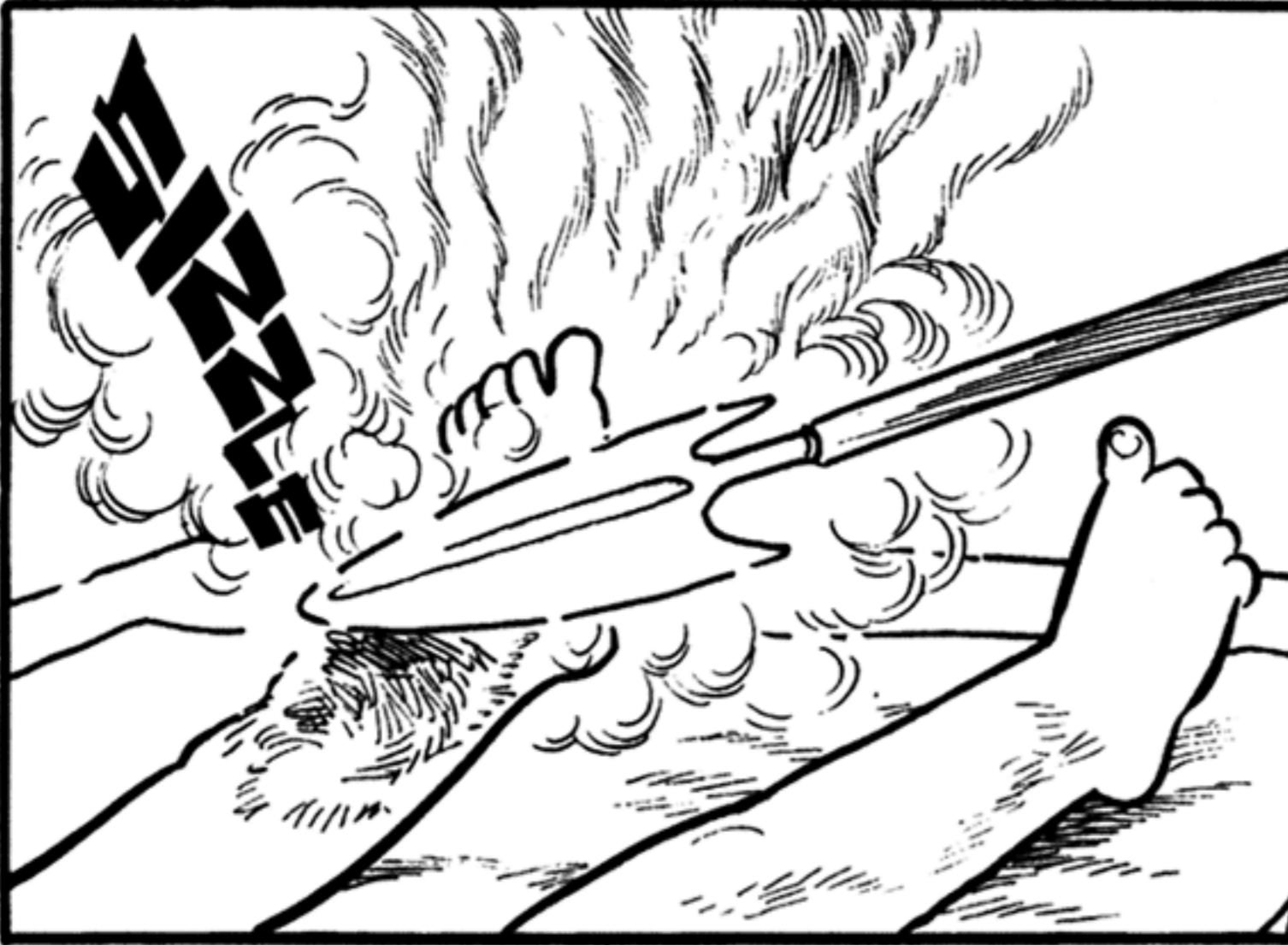
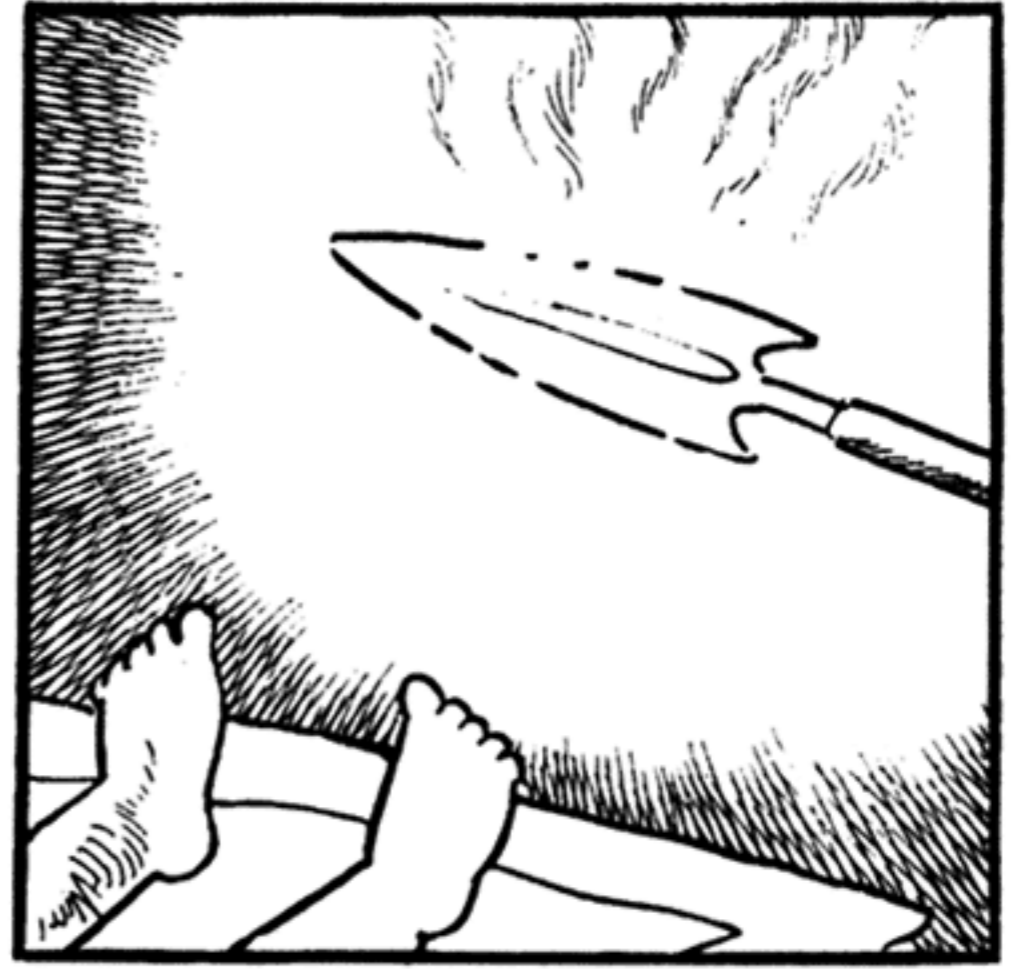
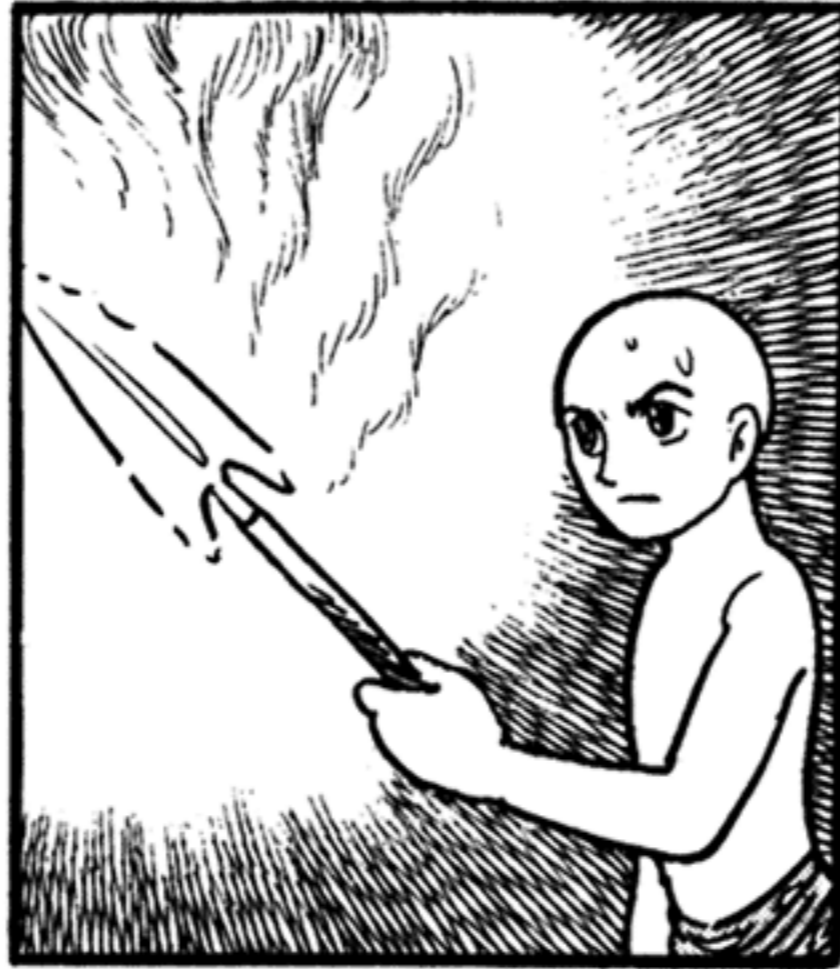
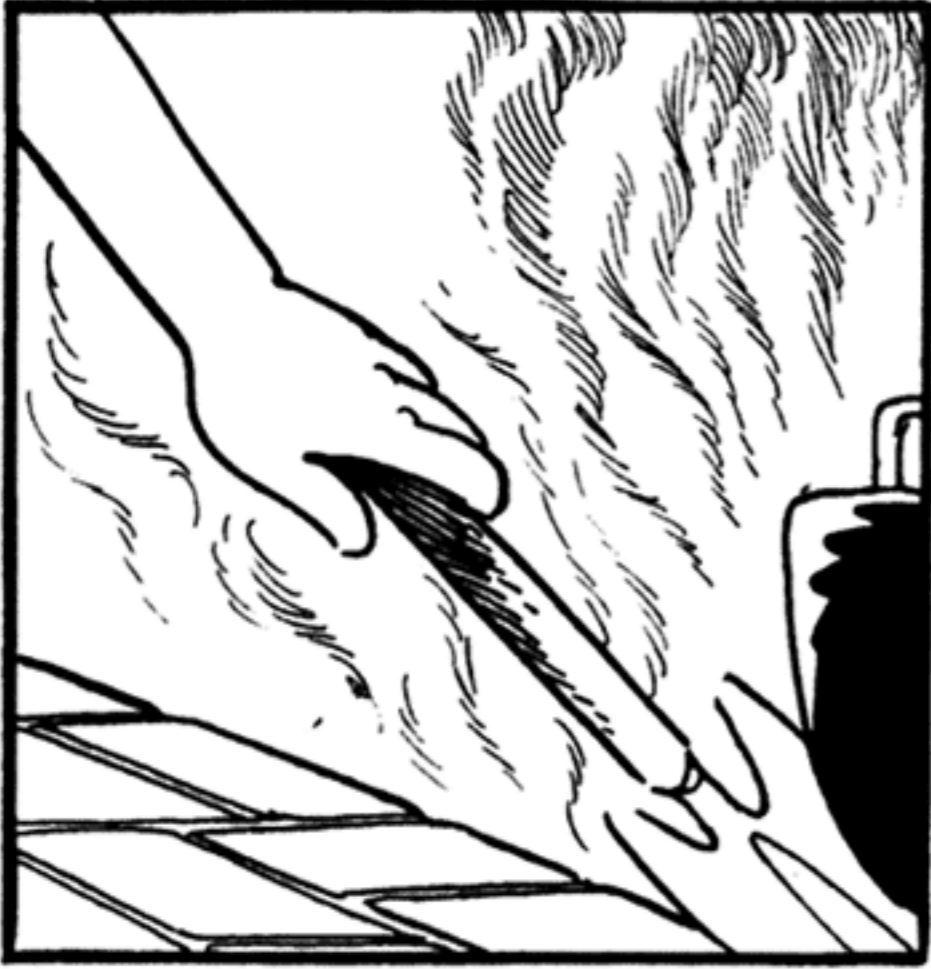


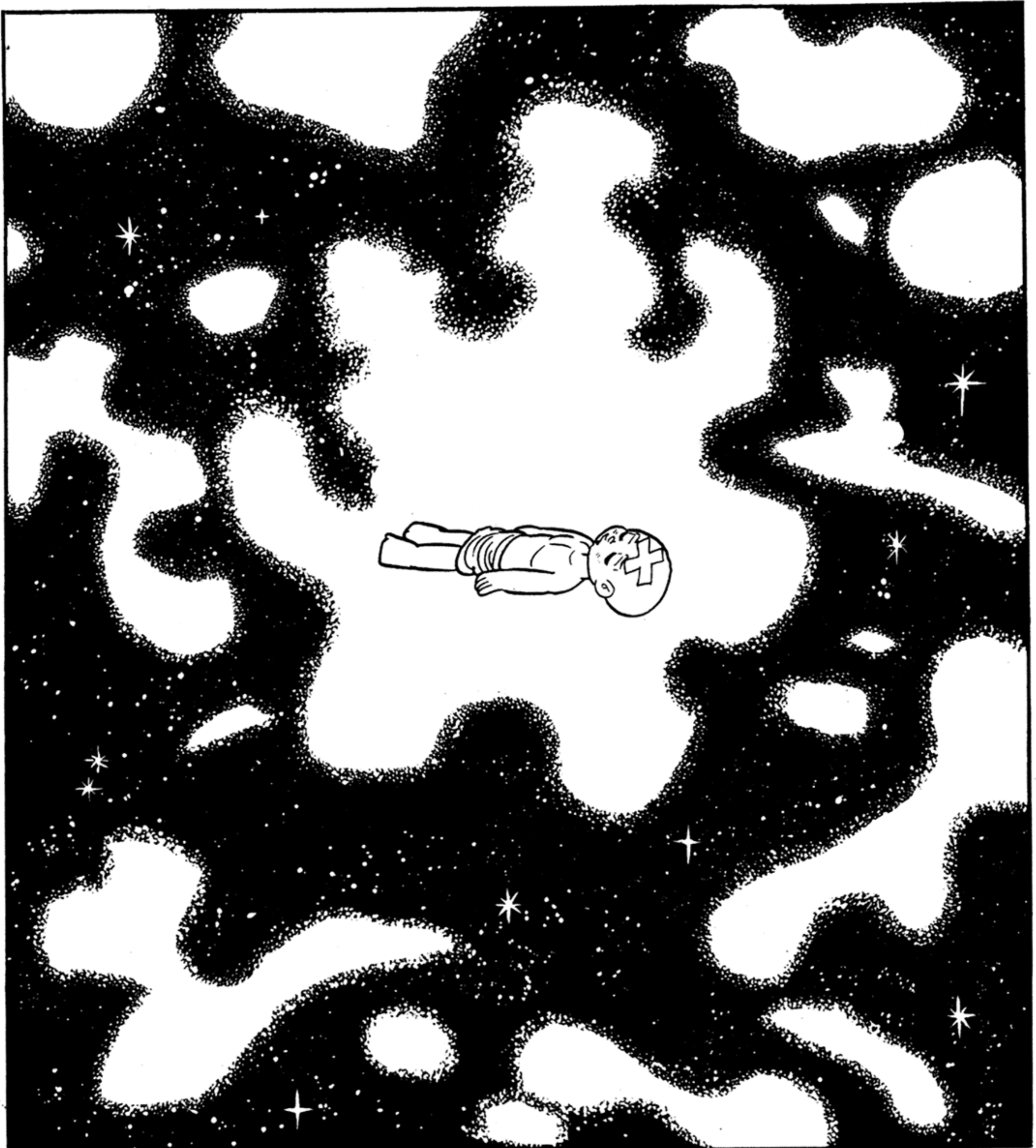
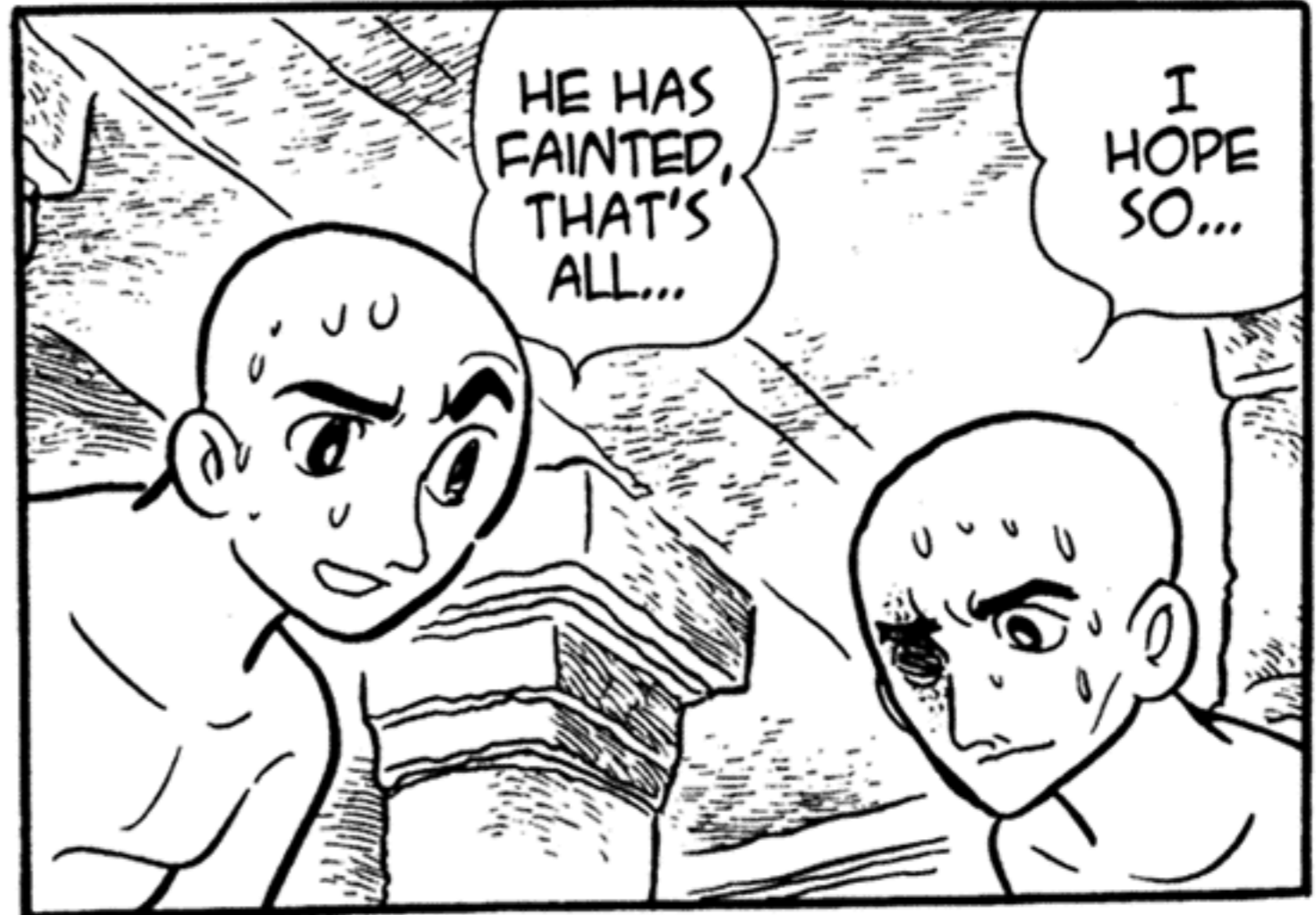
SIDDHARTHA

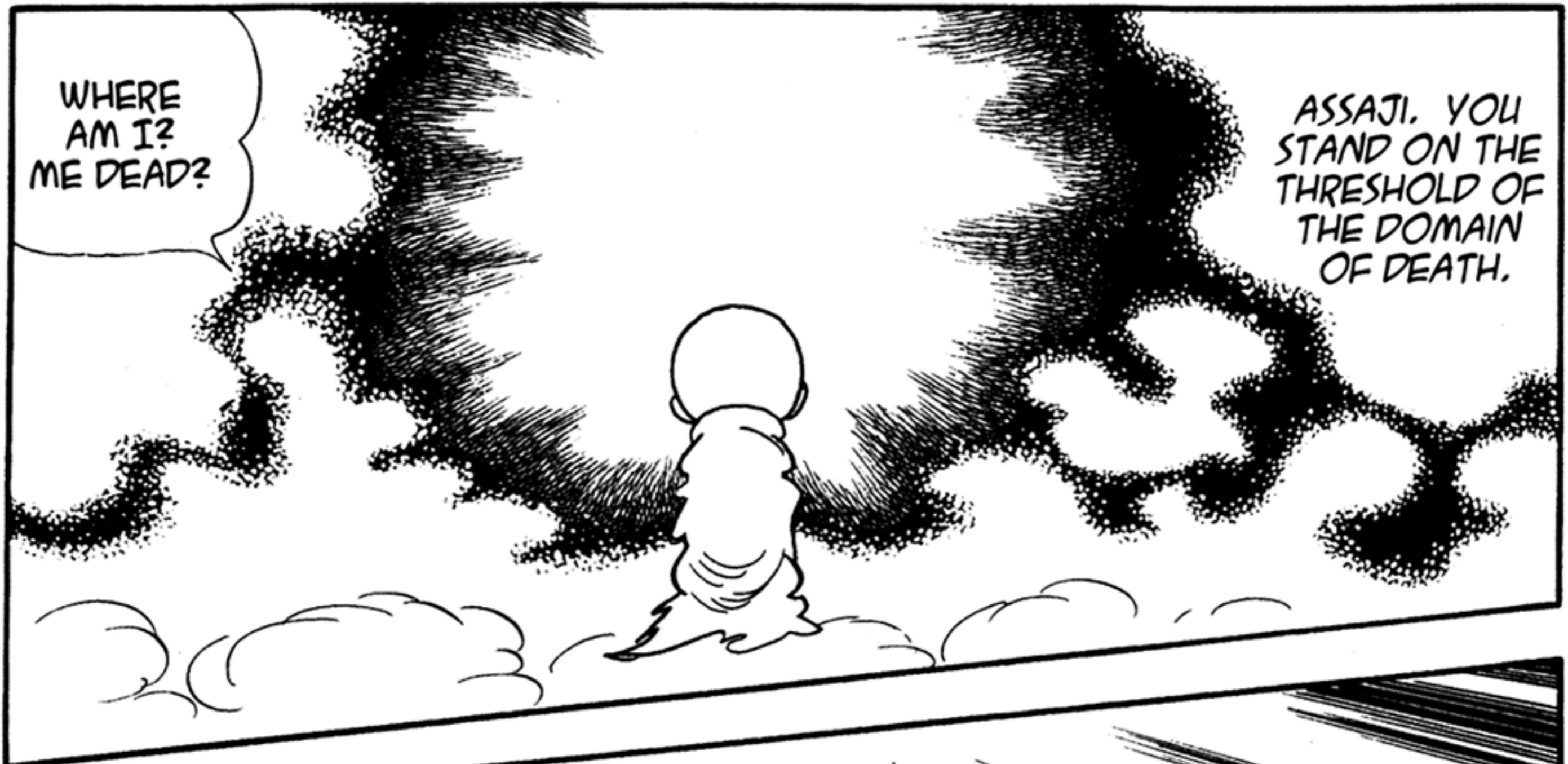


SPIT







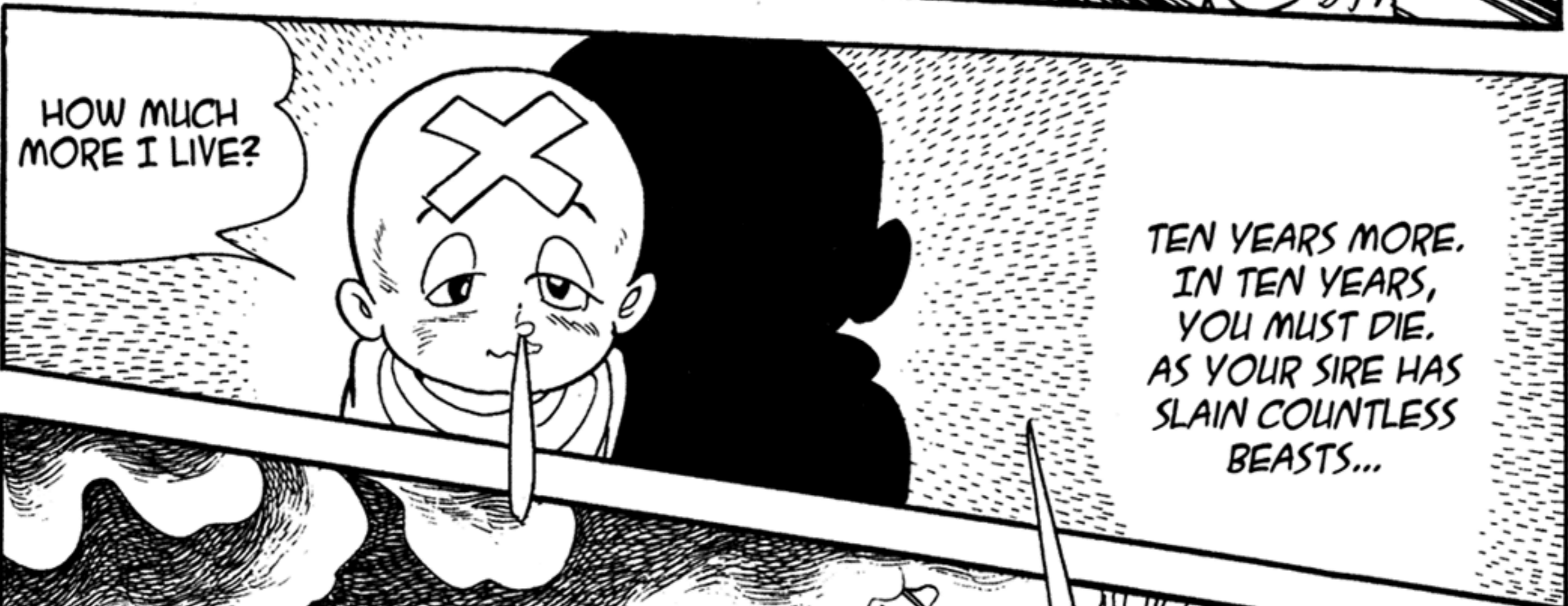


WHERE AM I?
AM I?
ME DEAD?

ASSAJI, YOU
STAND ON THE
THRESHOLD OF
THE DOMAIN
OF DEATH.

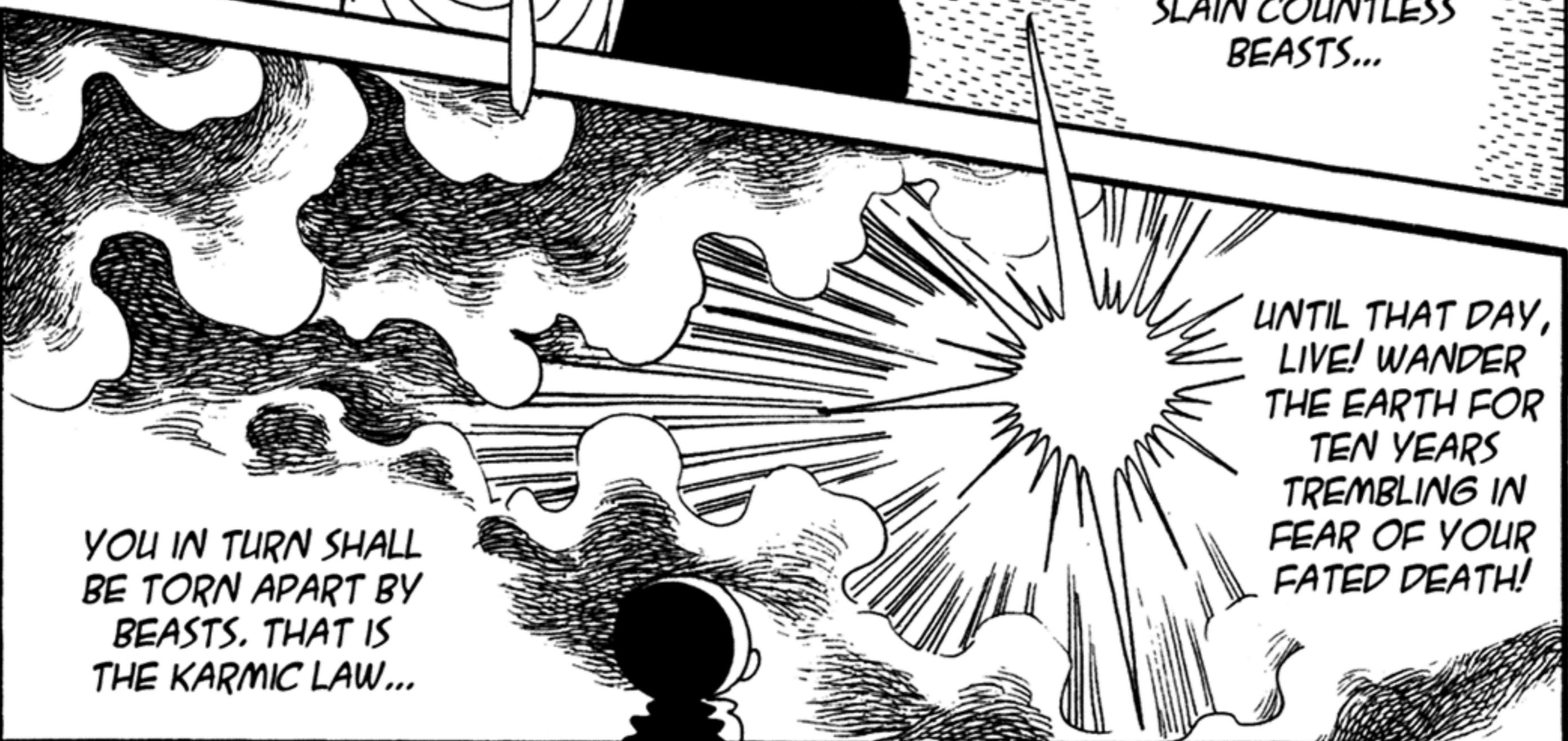


BUT YOU HAVEN'T
COMPLETED THE LIFE
BESTOWED UPON YOU.
YOU MUST THEREFORE
RETURN TO THE
DOMAIN OF LIFE...



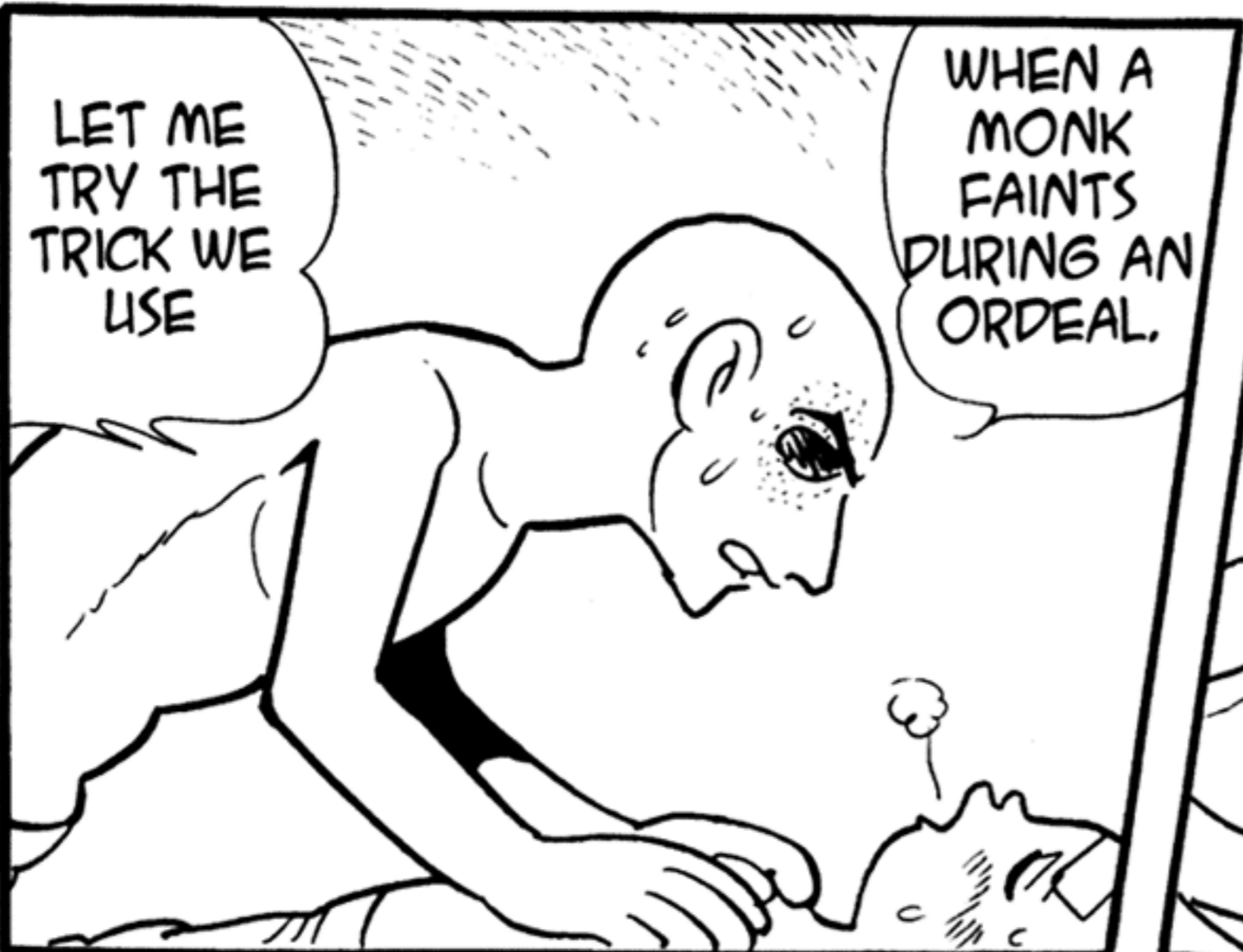
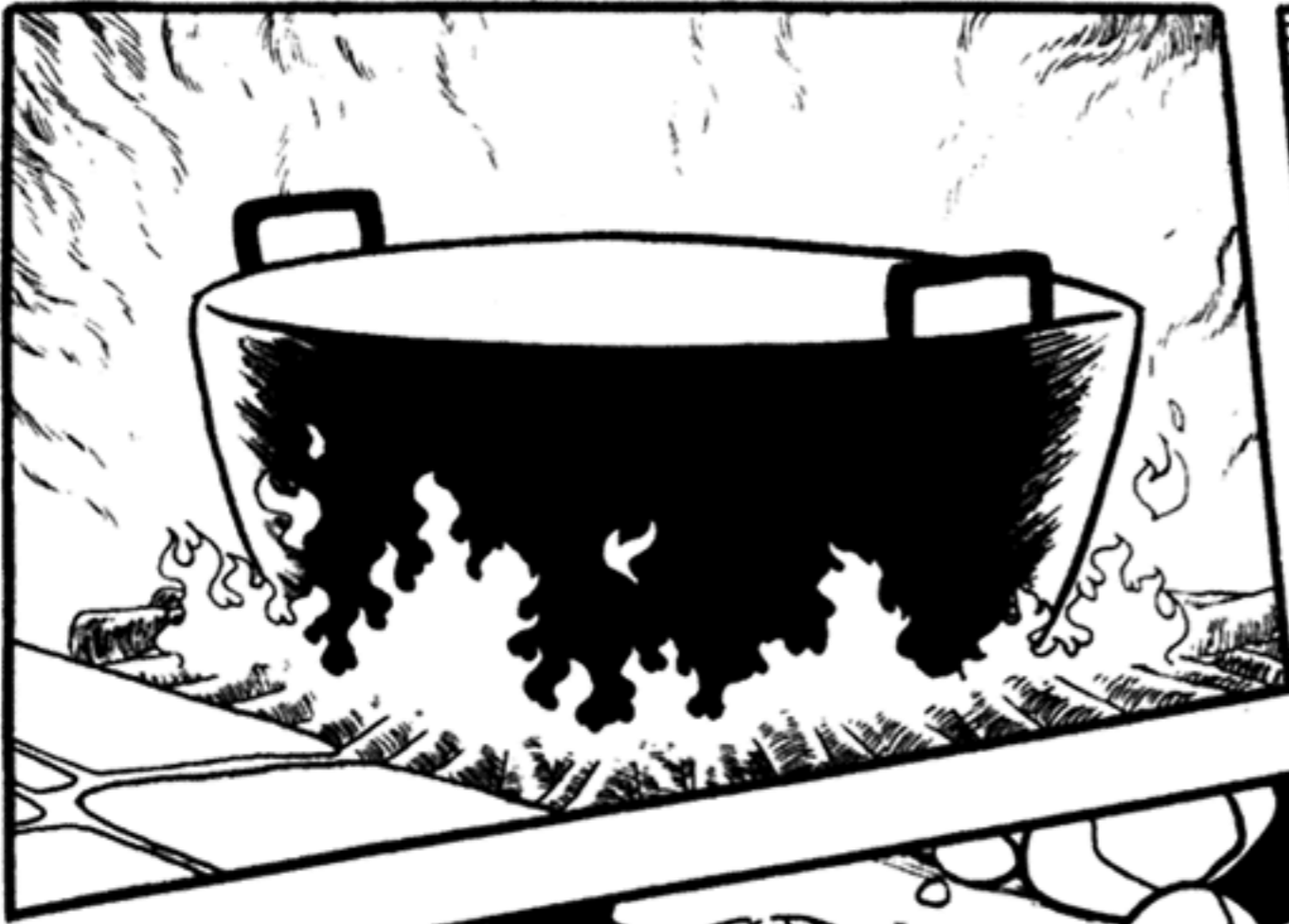
HOW MUCH
MORE I LIVE?

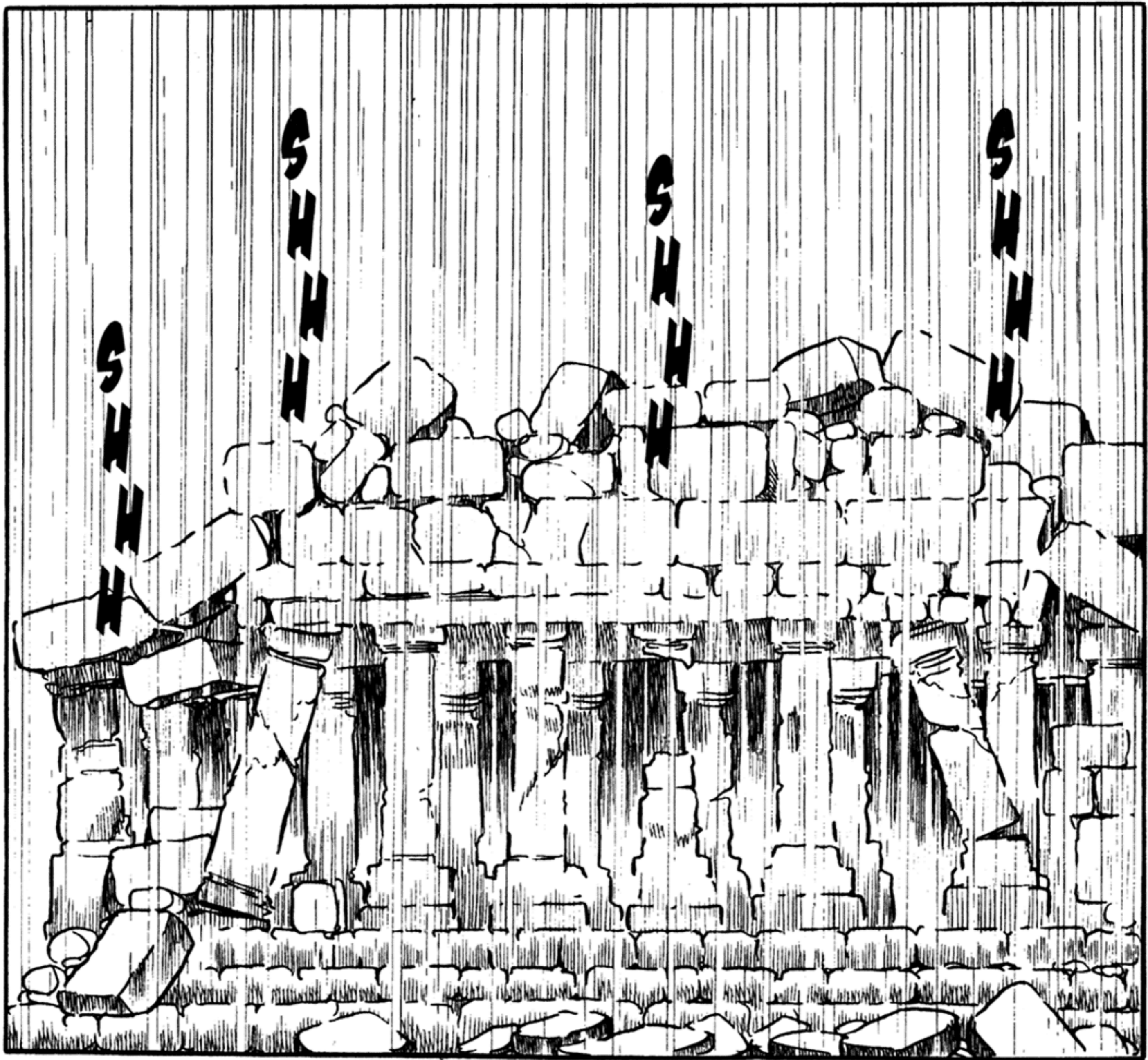
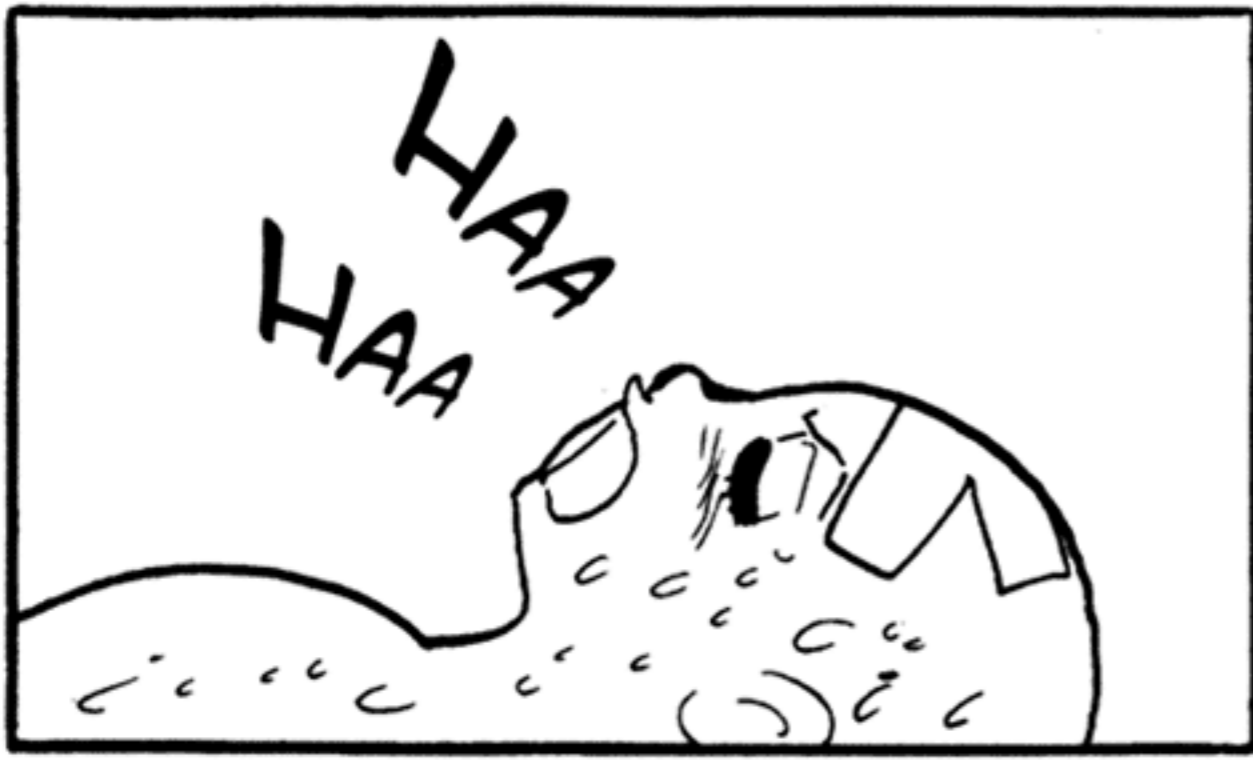
TEN YEARS MORE.
IN TEN YEARS,
YOU MUST DIE.
AS YOUR SIRE HAS
SLAIN COUNTLESS
BEASTS...

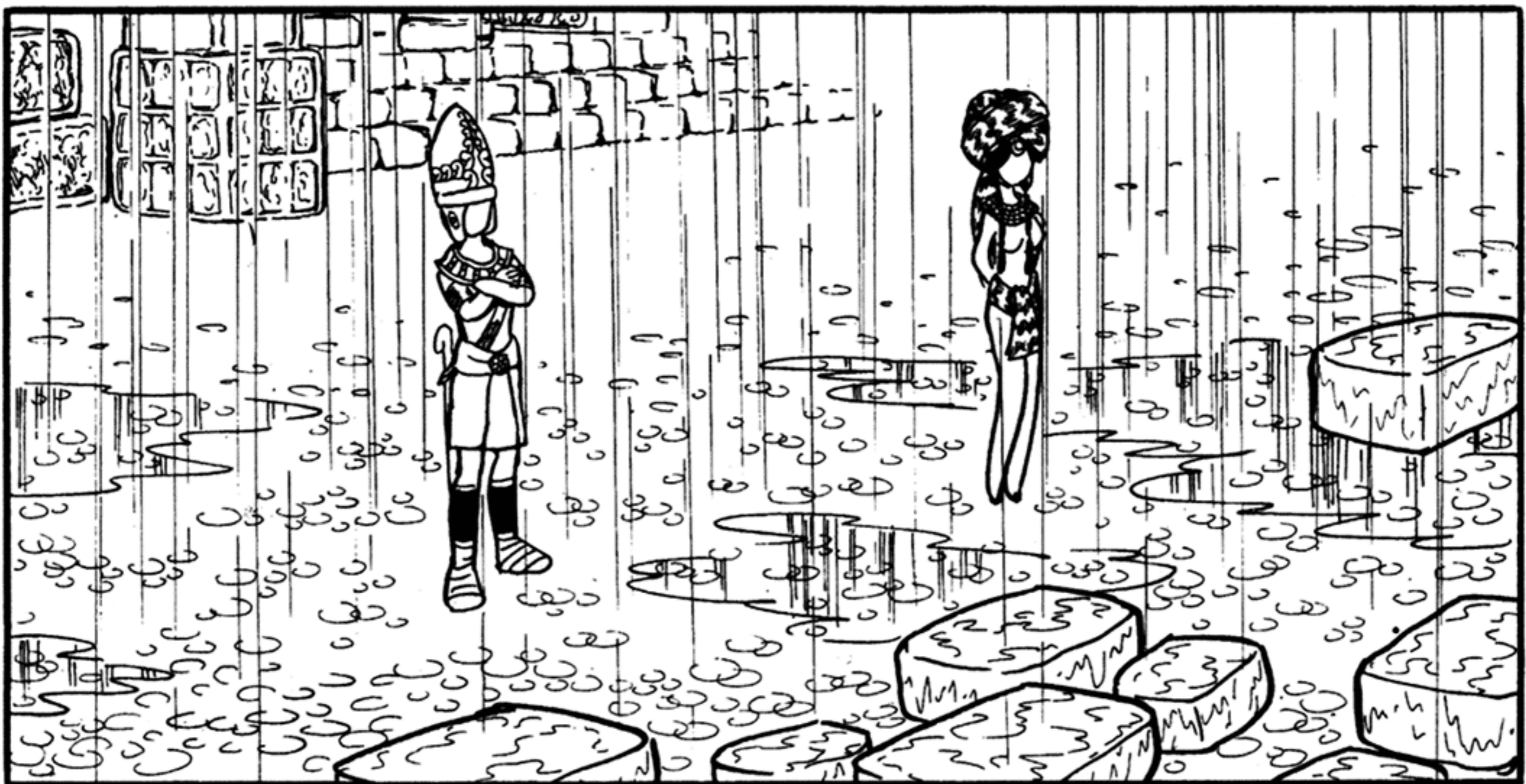
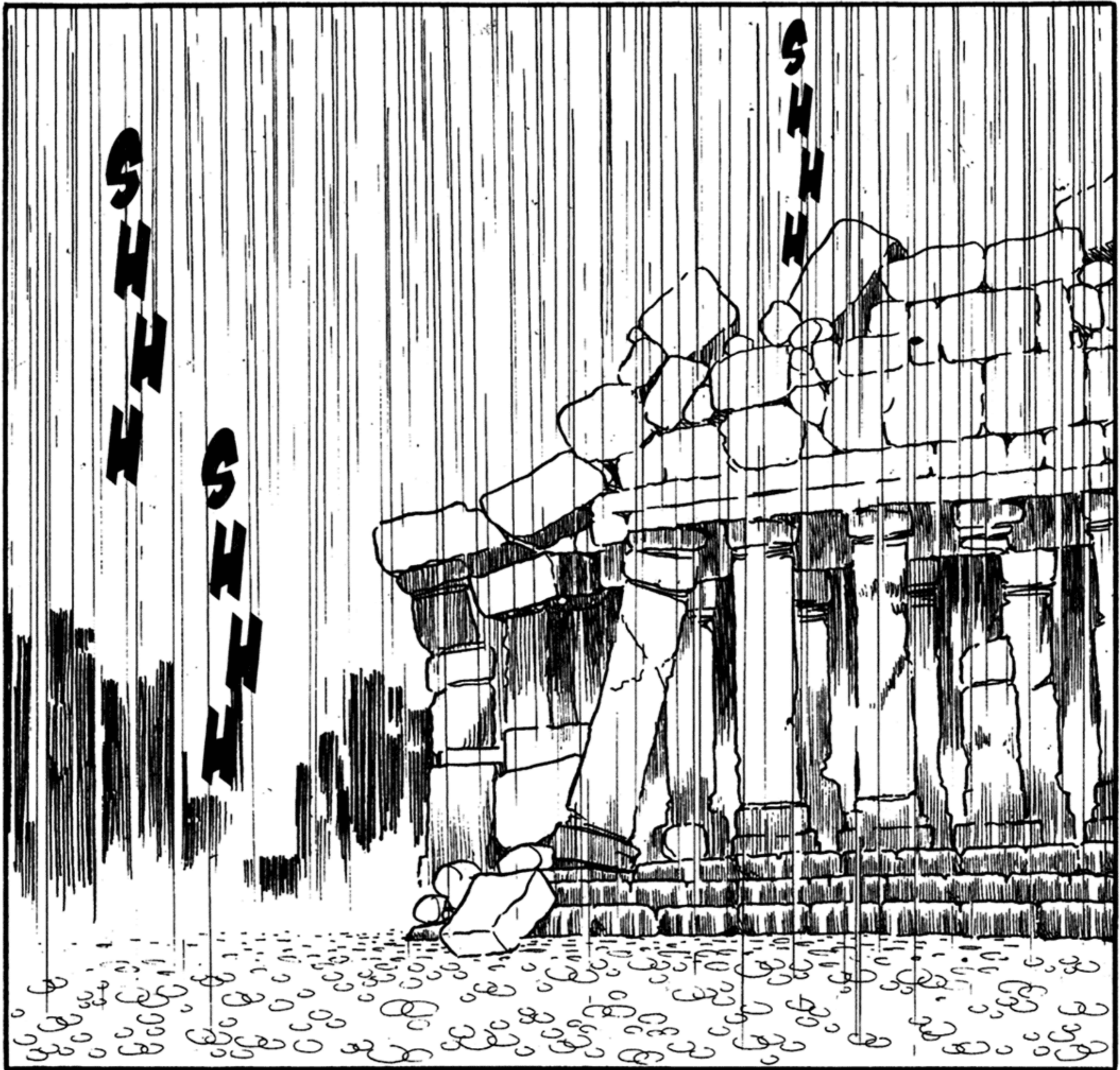


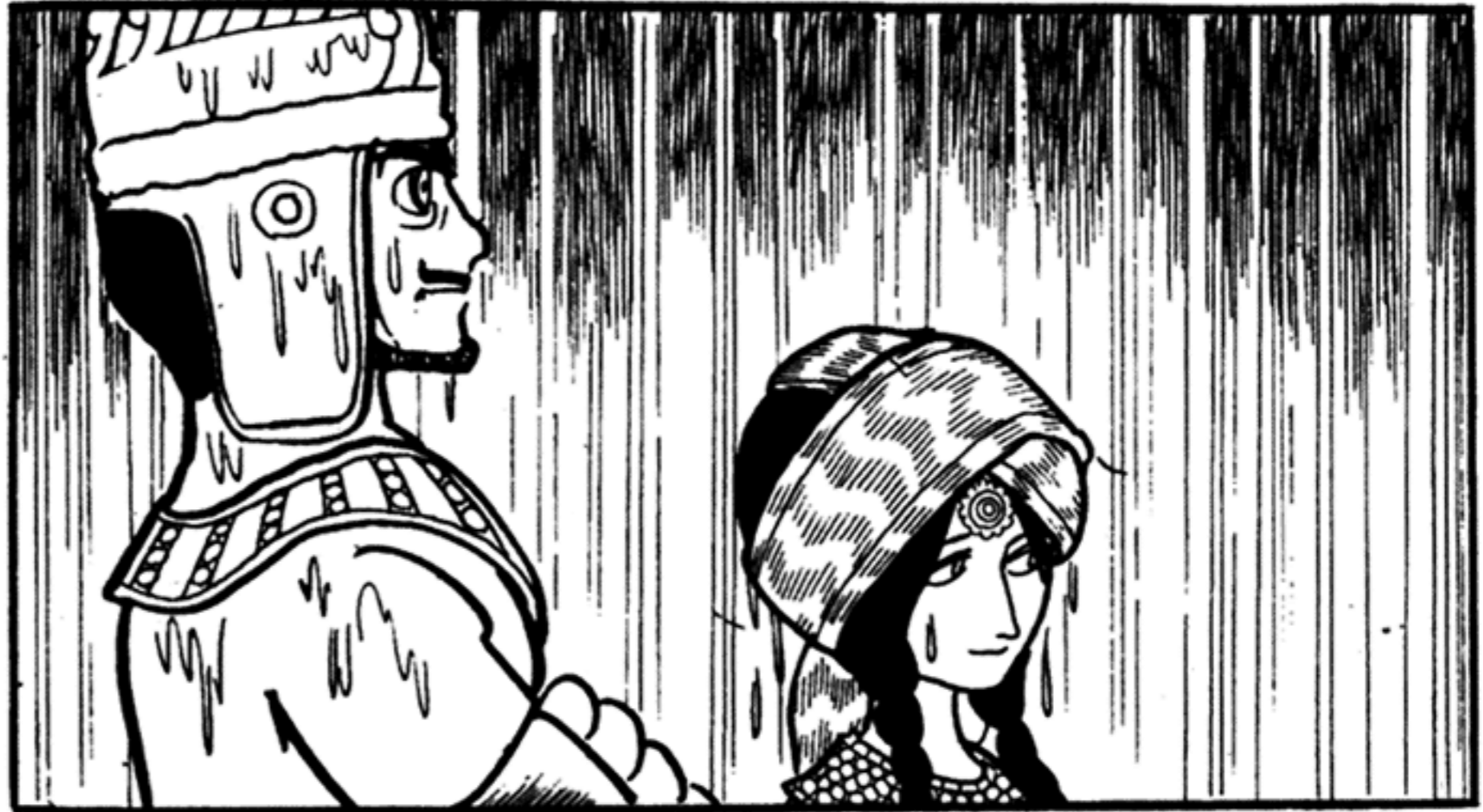
YOU IN TURN SHALL
BE TORN APART BY
BEASTS. THAT IS
THE KARMIC LAW...

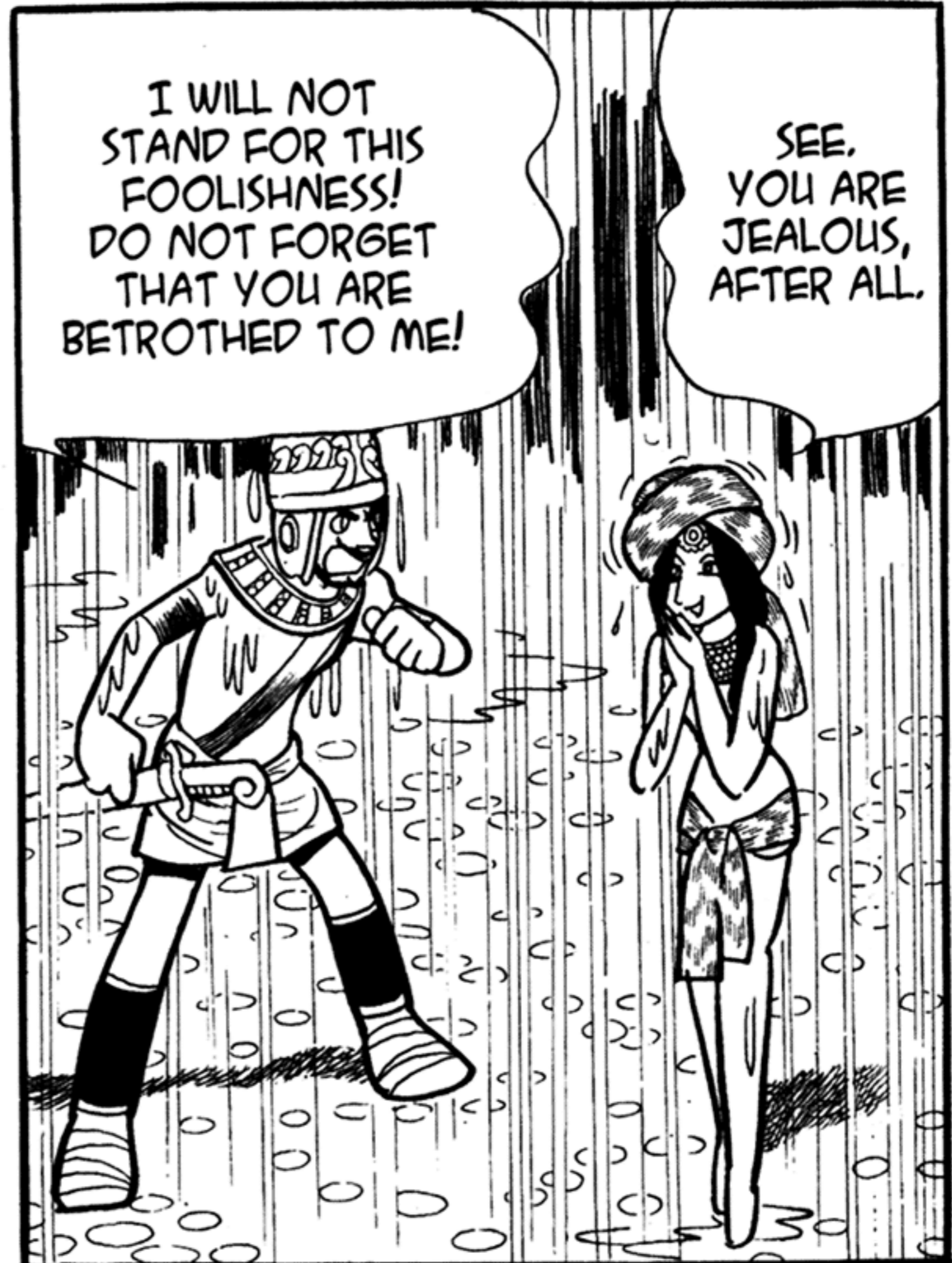
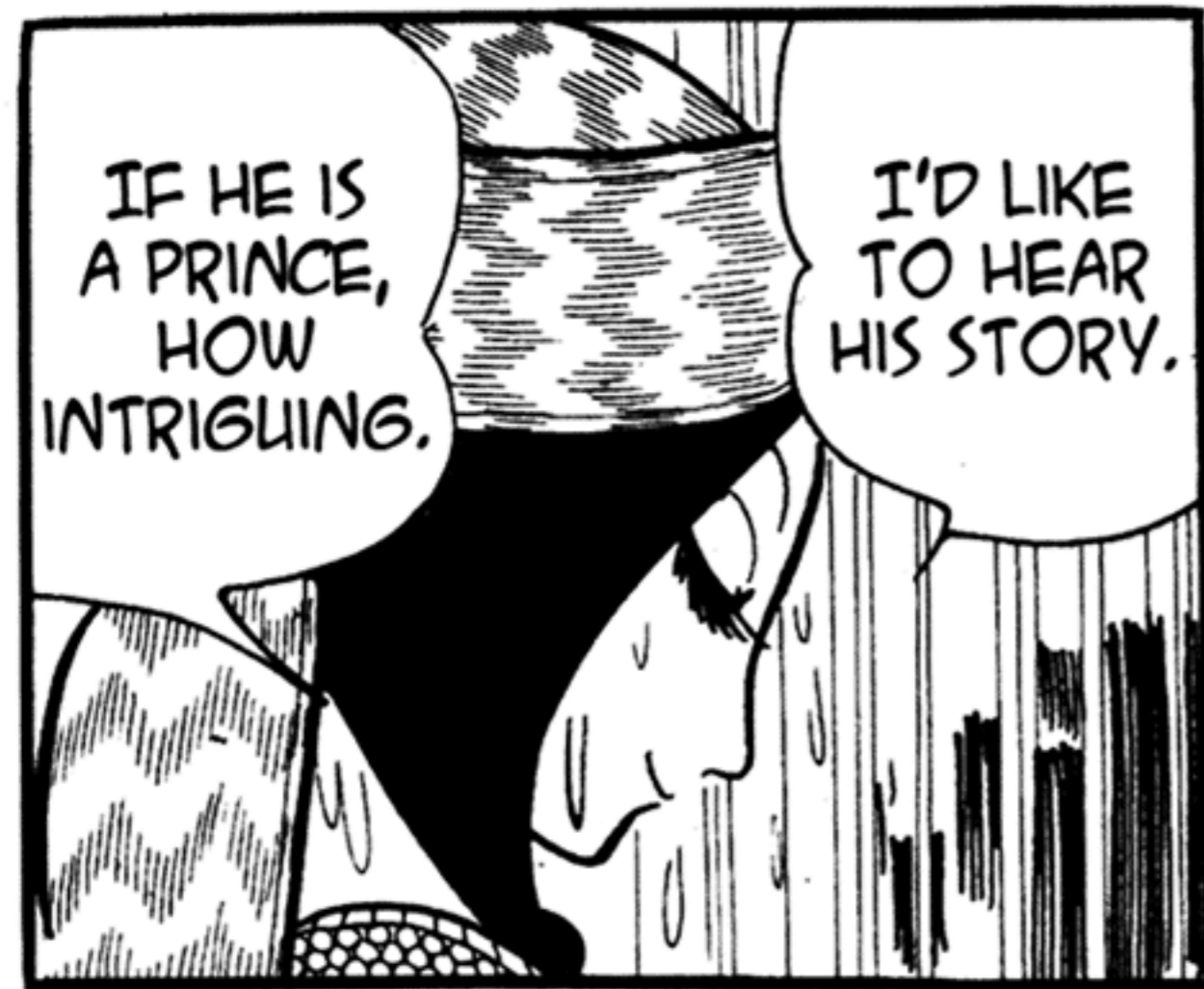
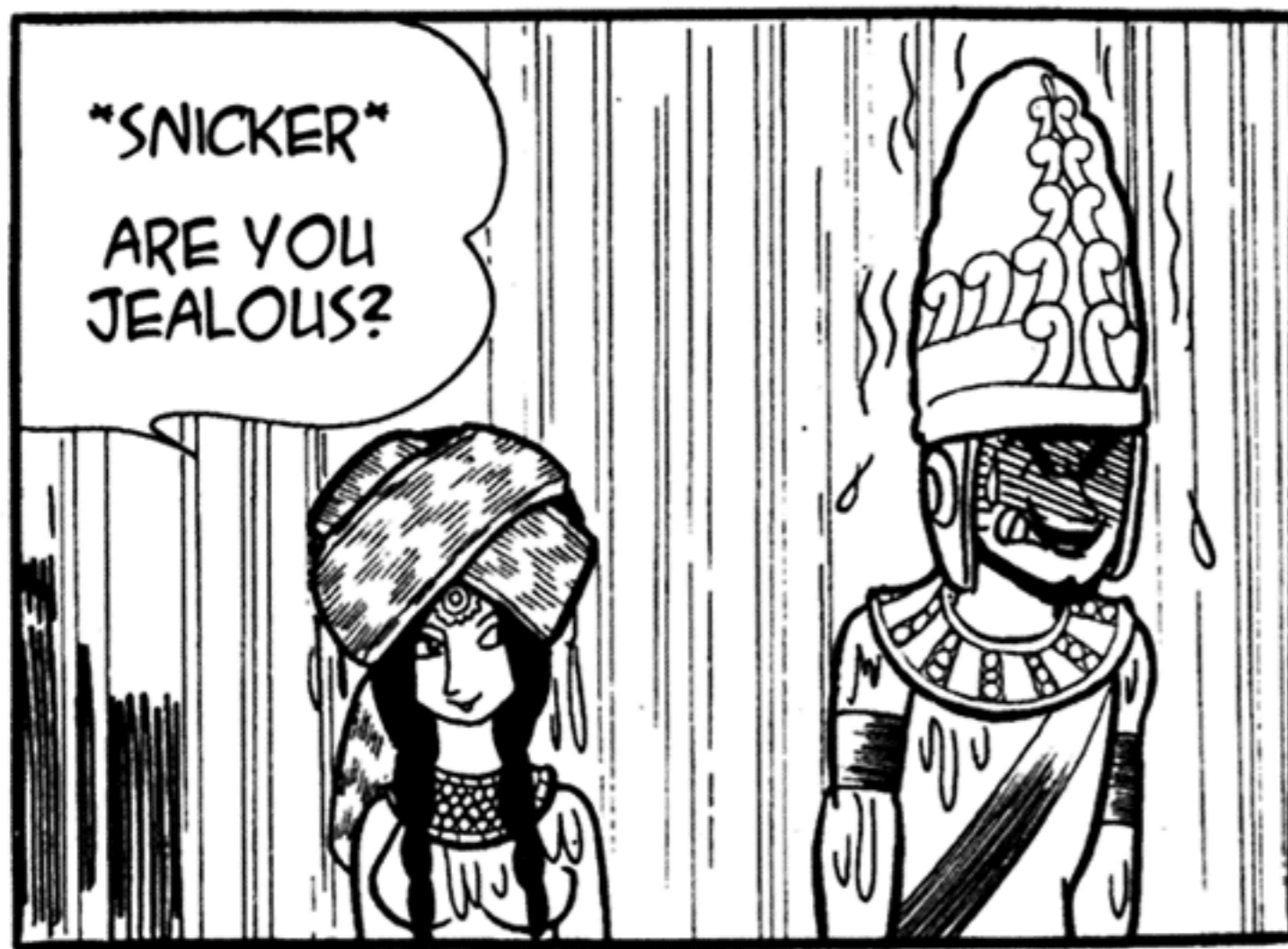
UNTIL THAT DAY,
LIVE! WANDER
THE EARTH FOR
TEN YEARS
TREMBLING IN
FEAR OF YOUR
FATED DEATH!

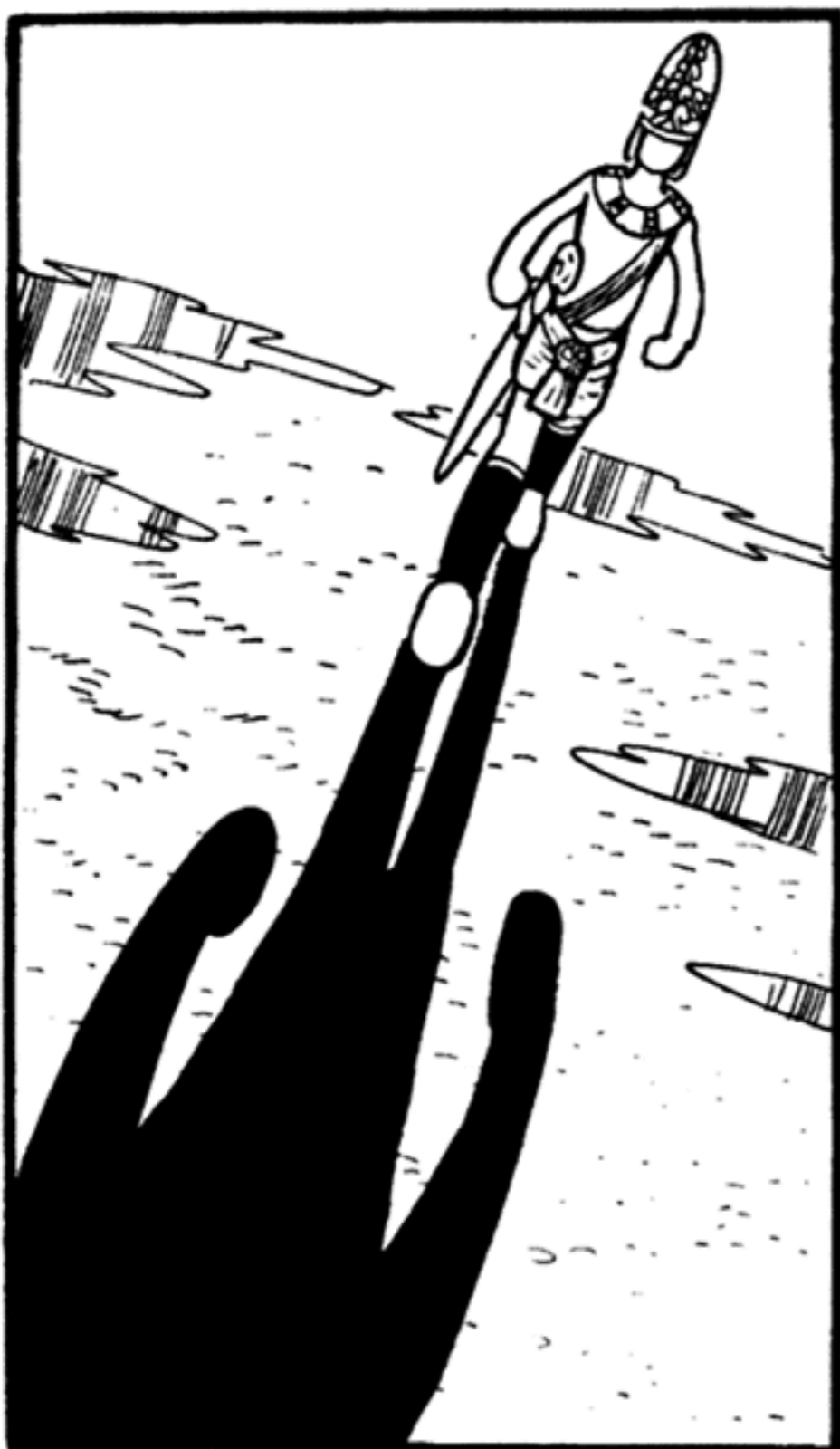






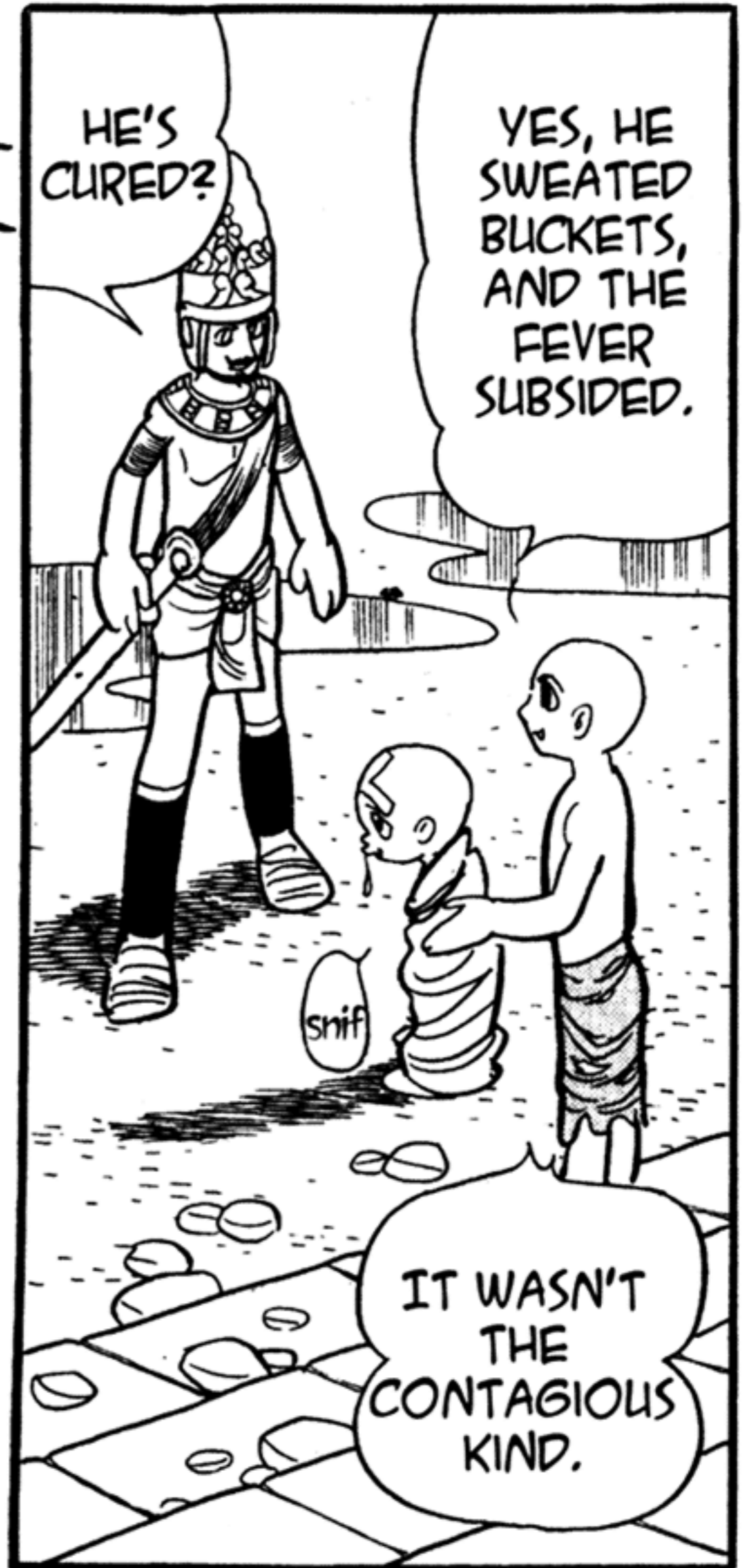








THE BOY!

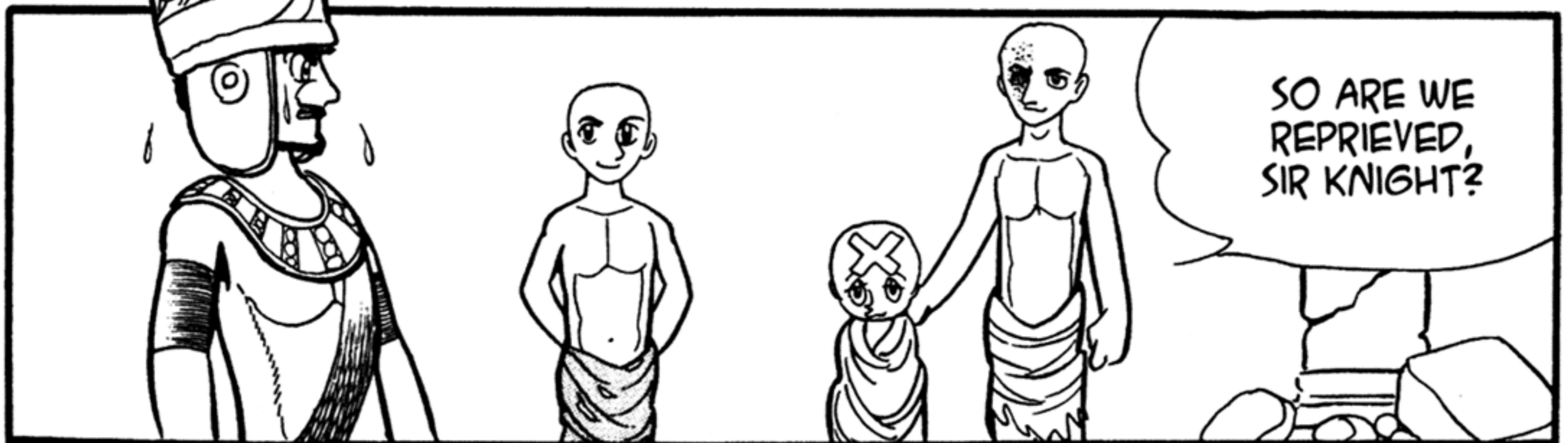


HE'S CURED?

YES, HE SWEATED BUCKETS, AND THE FEVER SUBSIDED.

sniff

IT WASN'T THE CONTAGIOUS KIND.



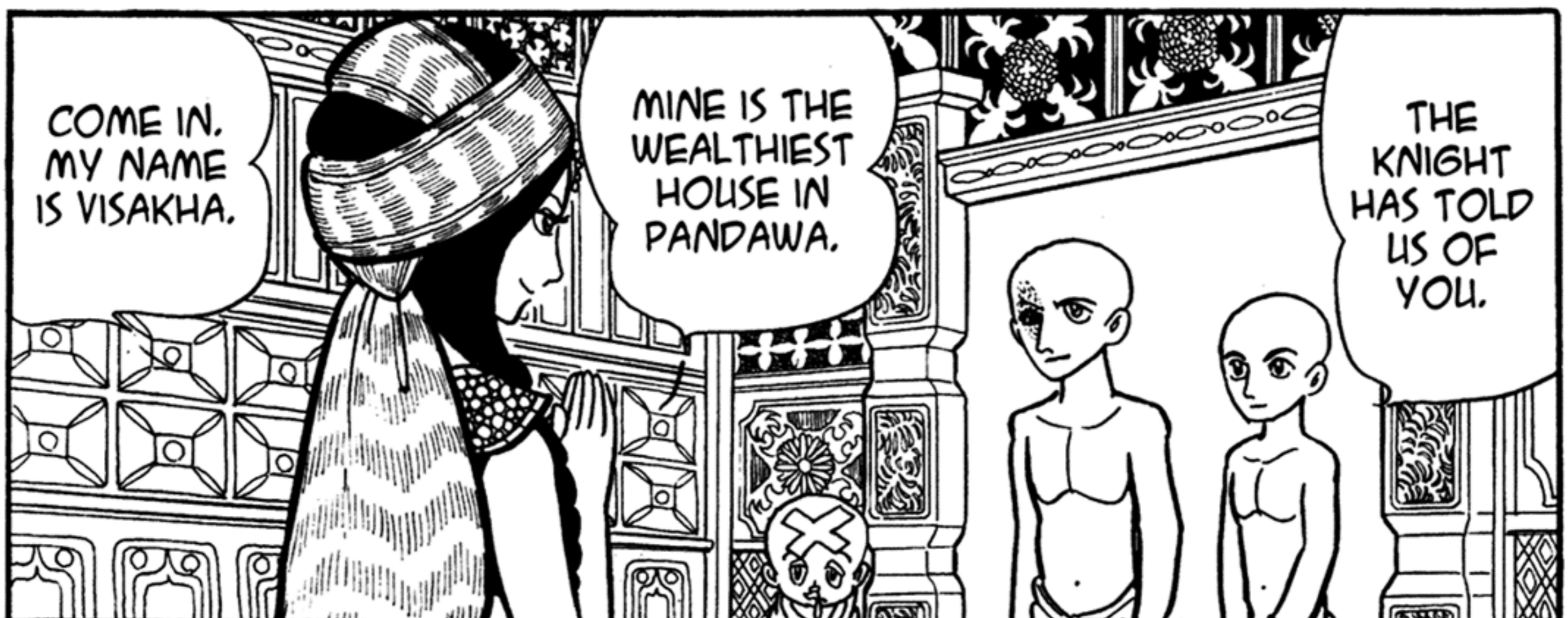
SO ARE WE REPRIEVED, SIR KNIGHT?

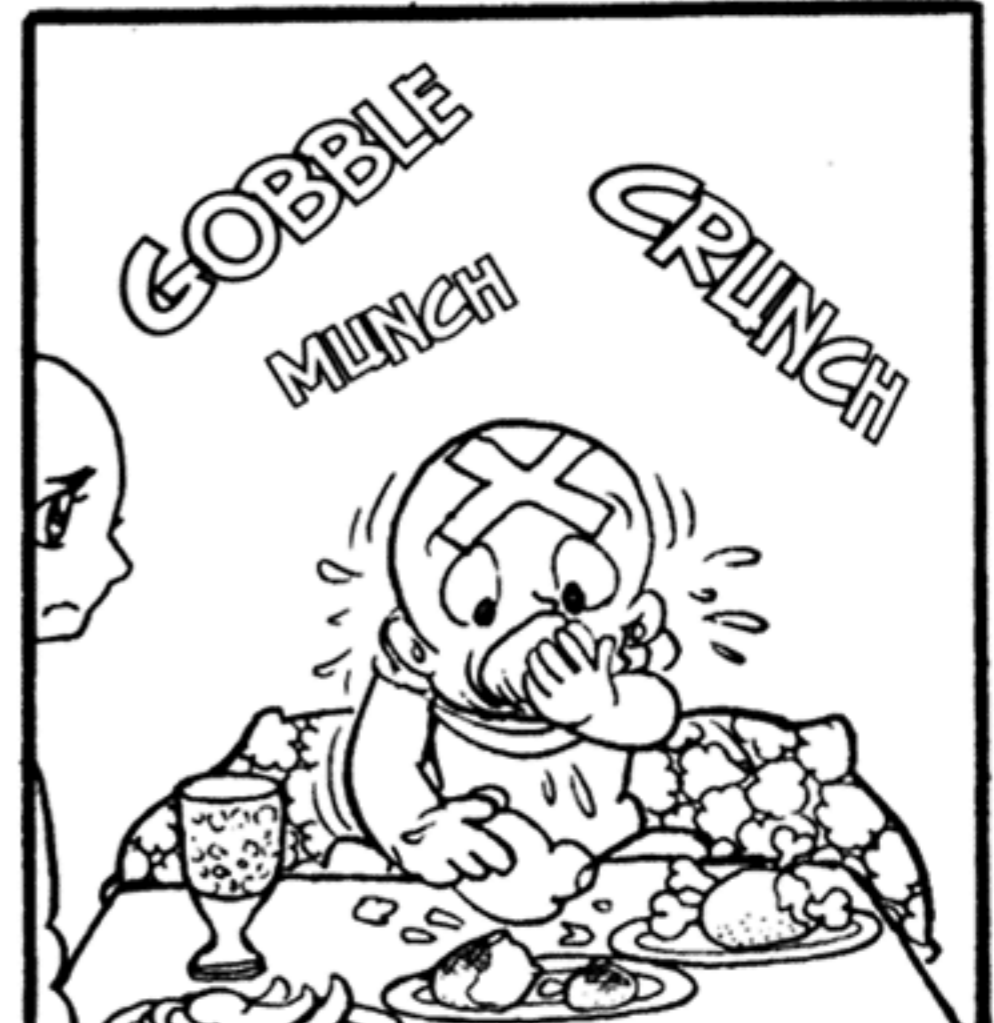
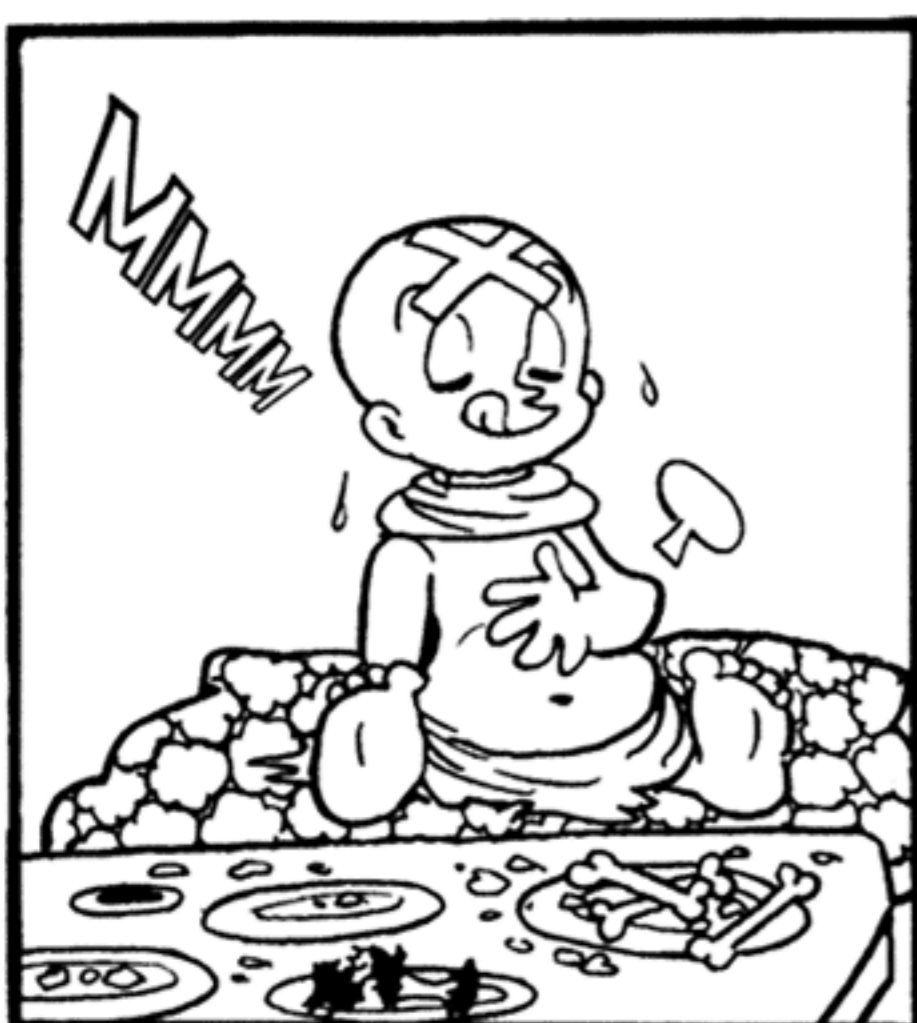
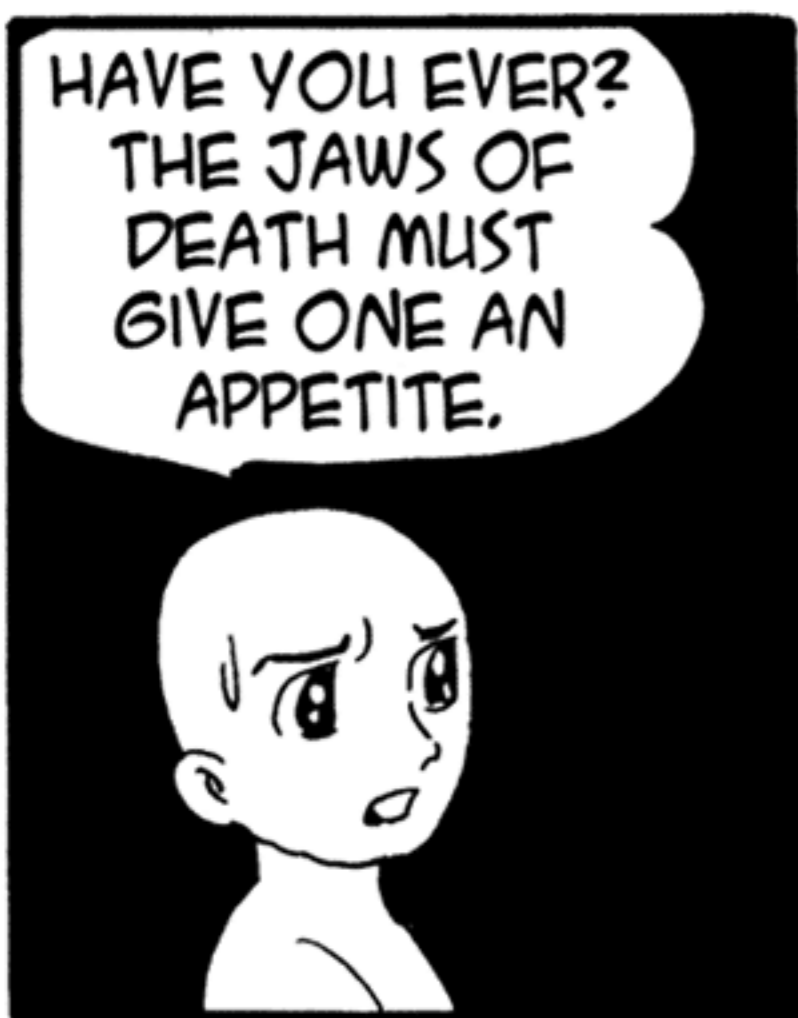


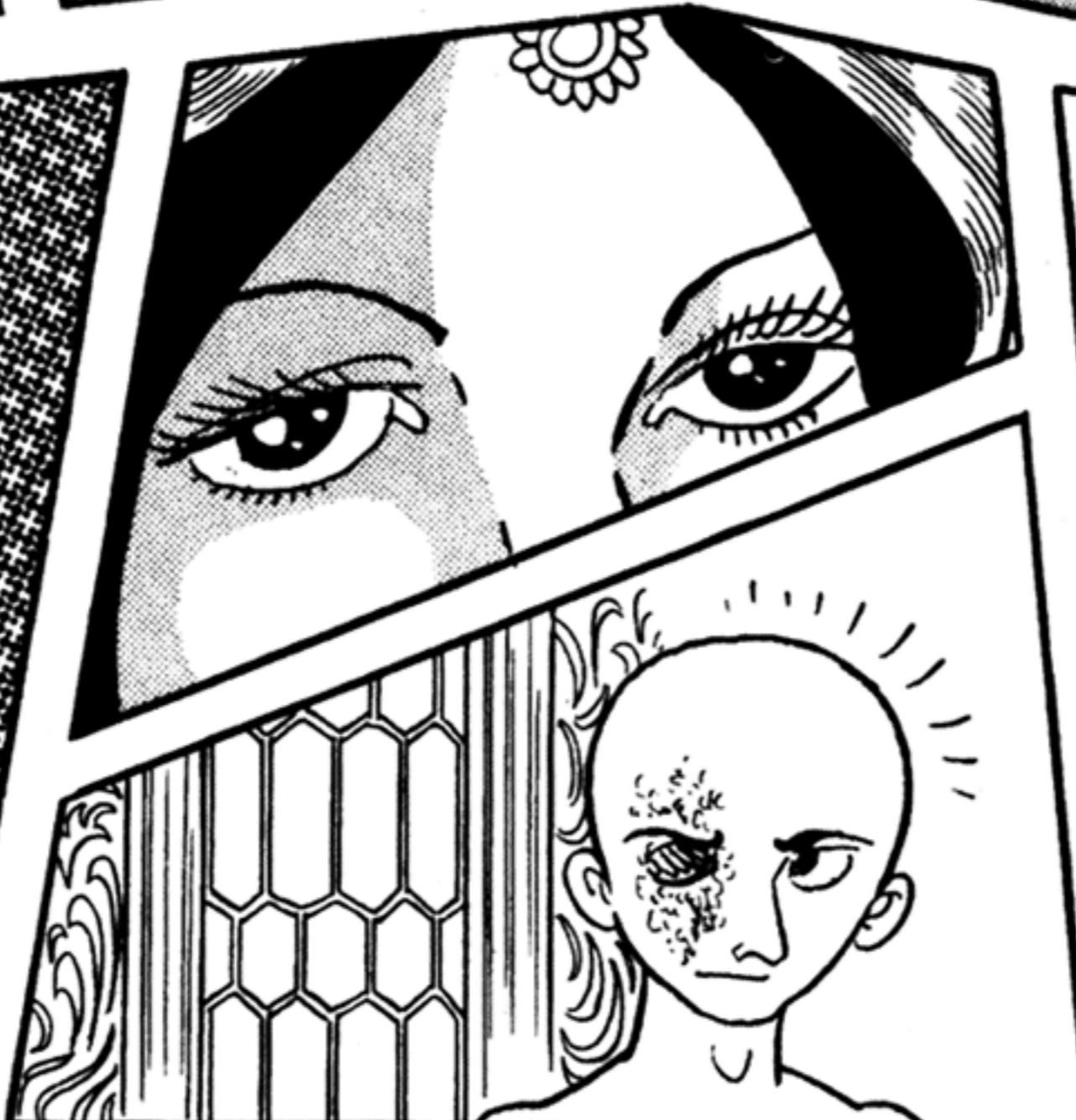
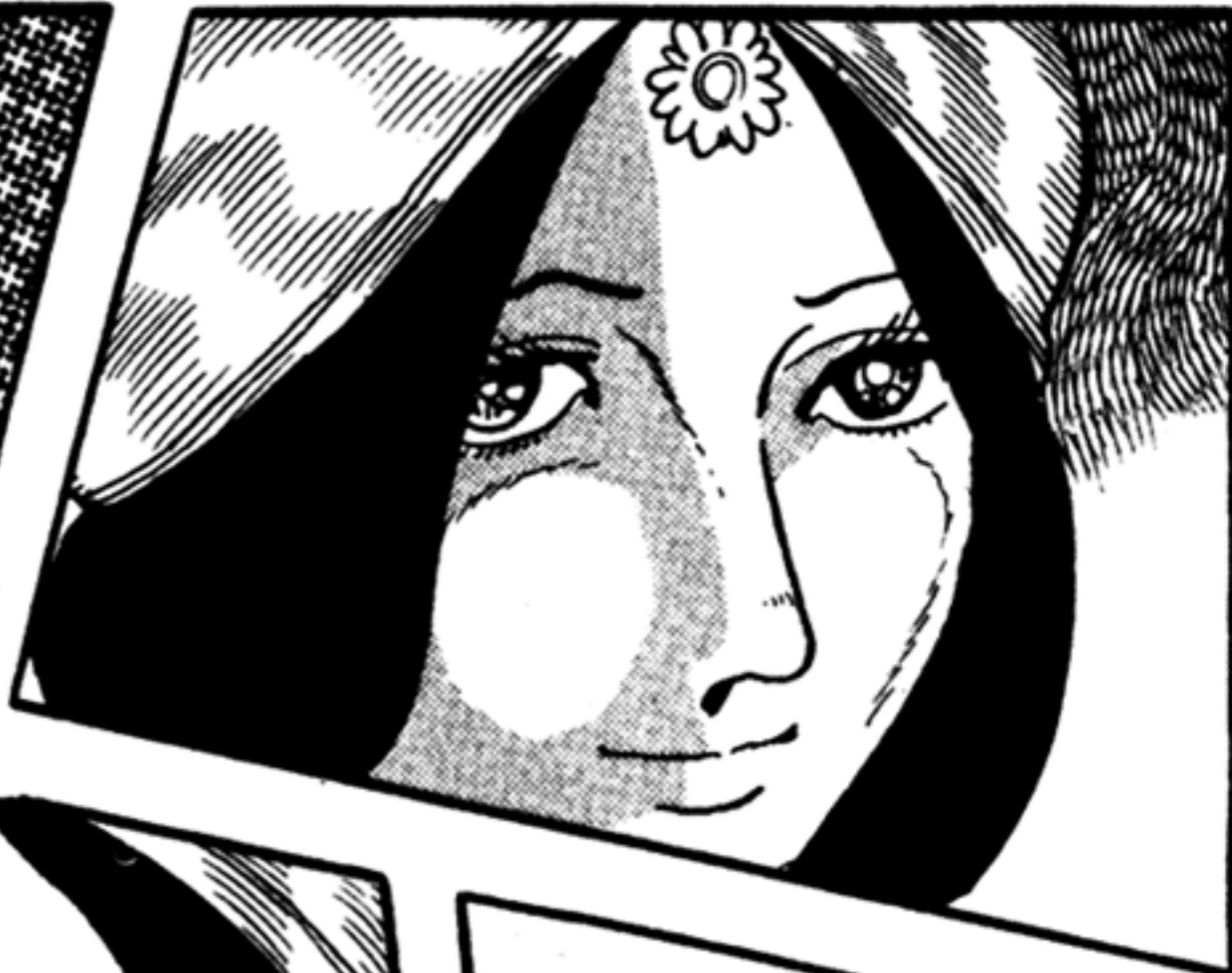
YOU WON'T BE EXECUTED... BUT I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO STAY IN THIS TOWN.



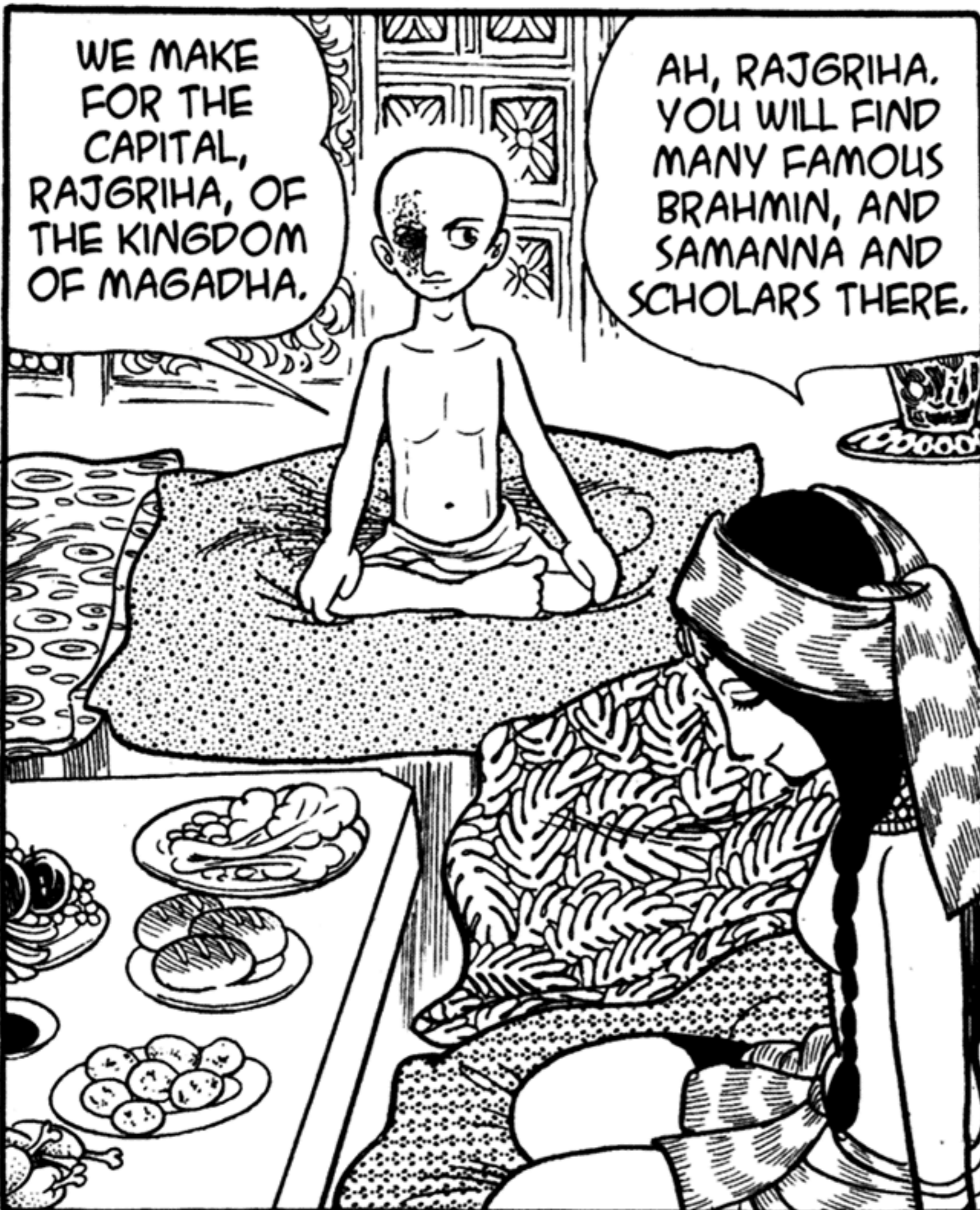
YOU PROMISED TO QUIT TOWN WHEN THE SKY CLEARED. THE SKY IS CLEAR! NOW TAKE YOUR LEAVE.







WHERE ARE YOU BOUND?



WE MAKE FOR THE CAPITAL, RAJGRIHA, OF THE KINGDOM OF MAGADHA.

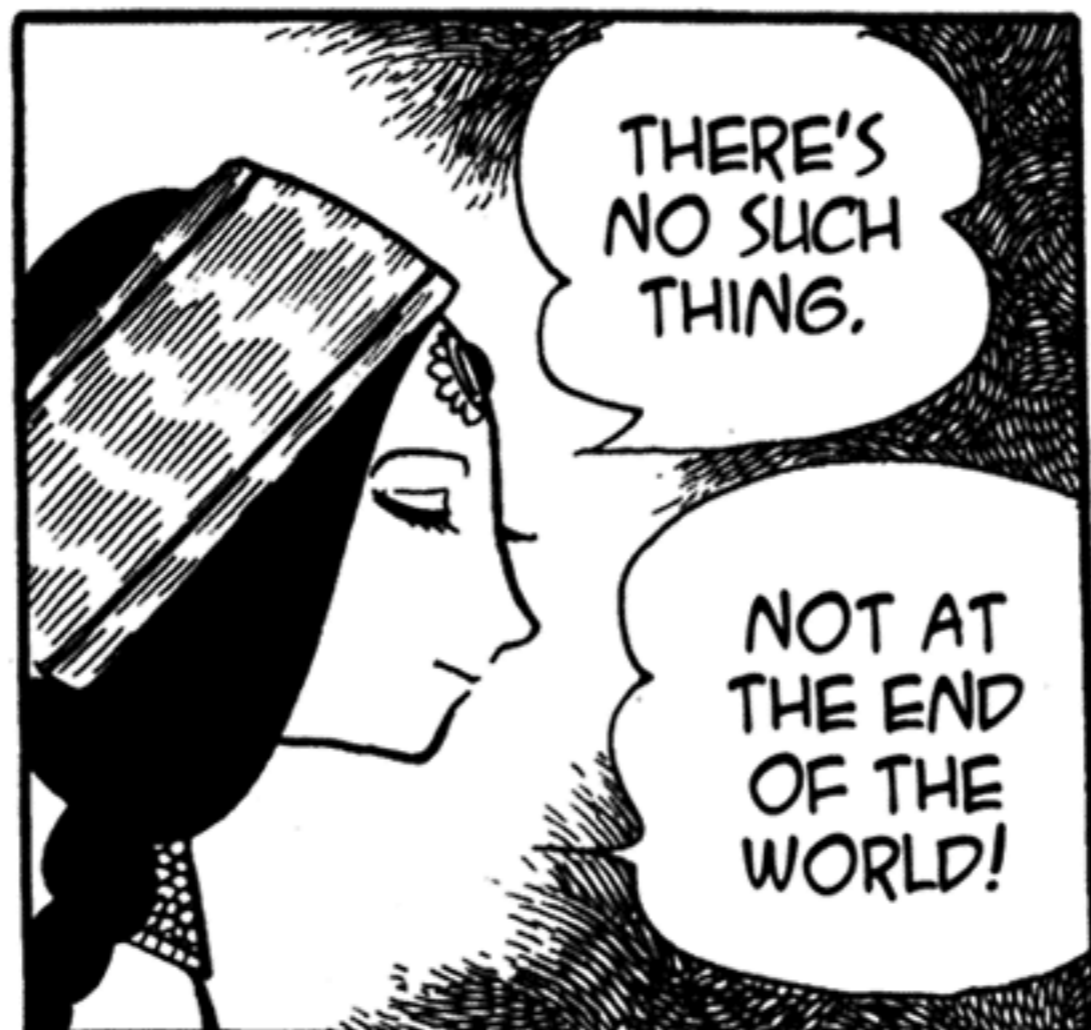
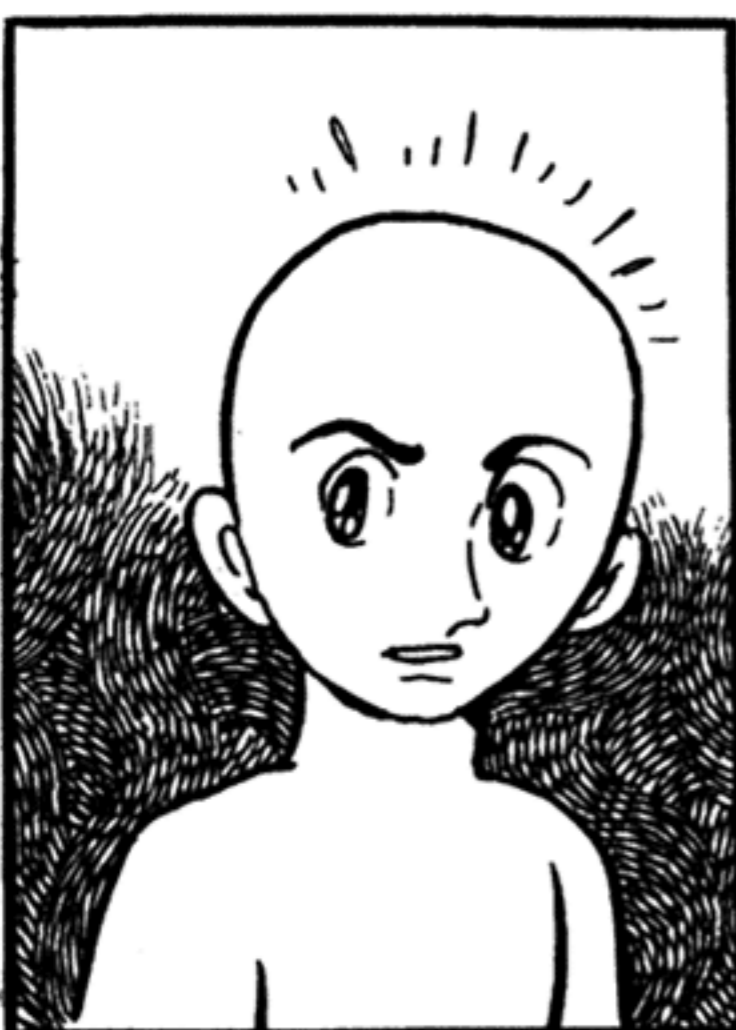
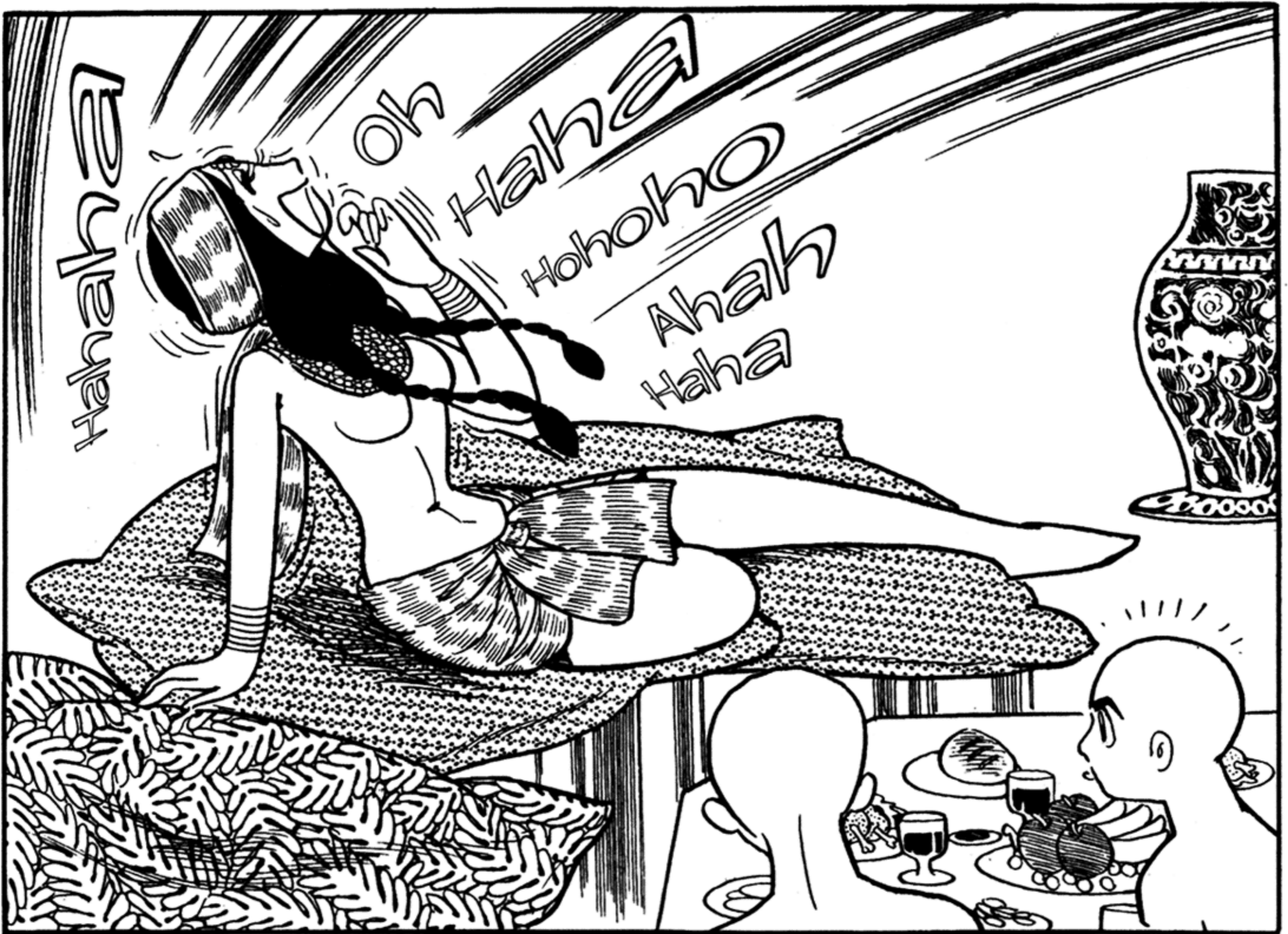
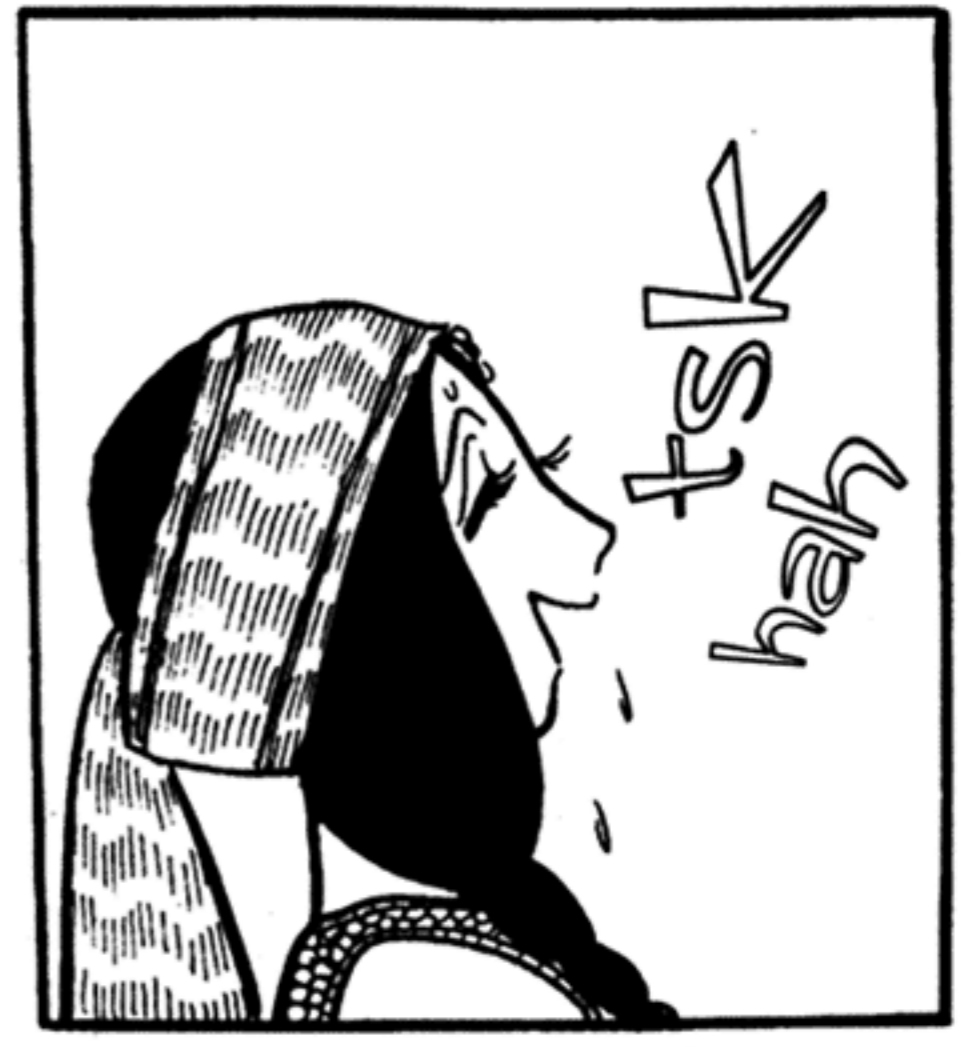
AH, RAJGRIHA. YOU WILL FIND MANY FAMOUS BRAHMIN, AND SAMANNA AND SCHOLARS THERE.

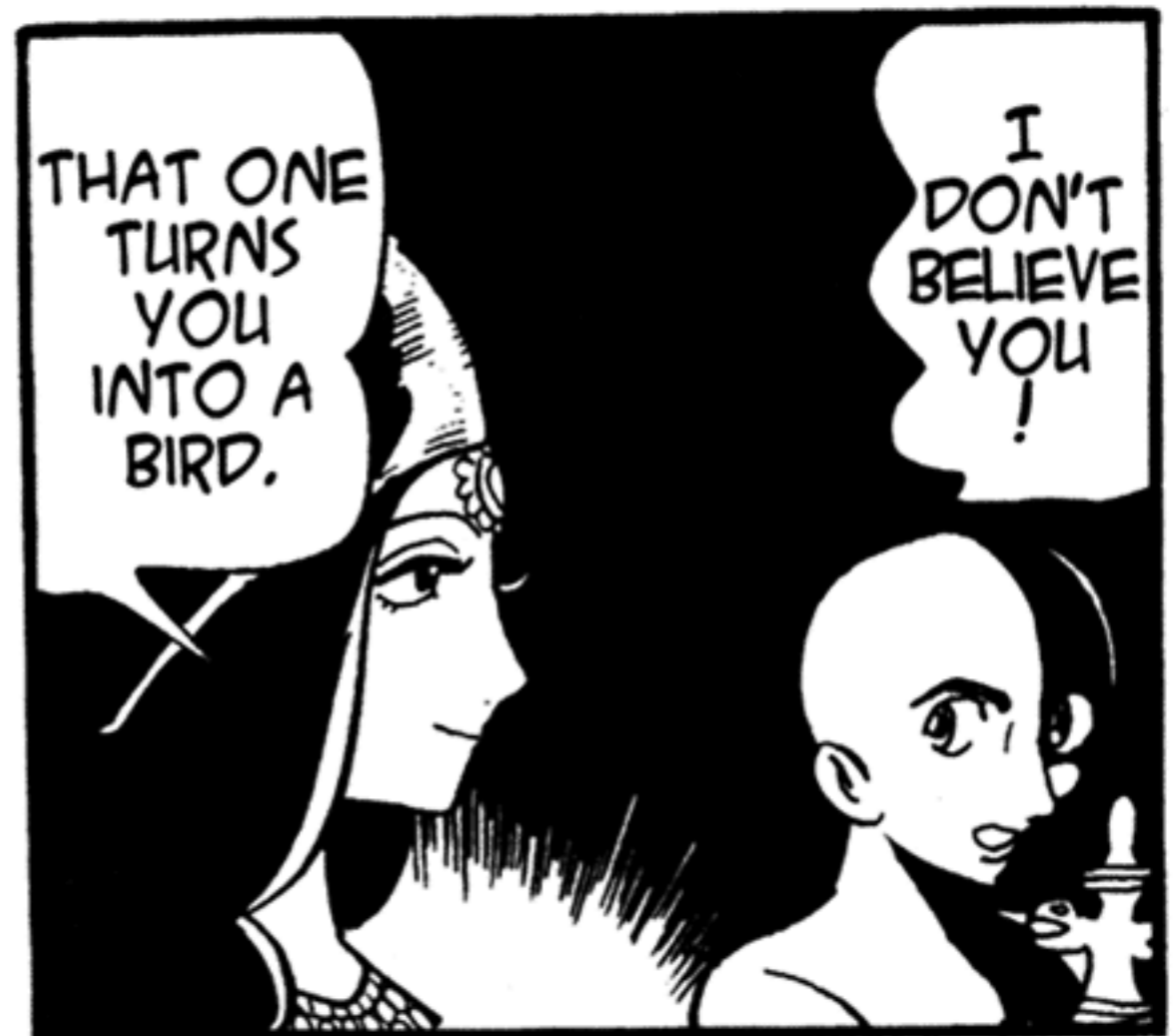
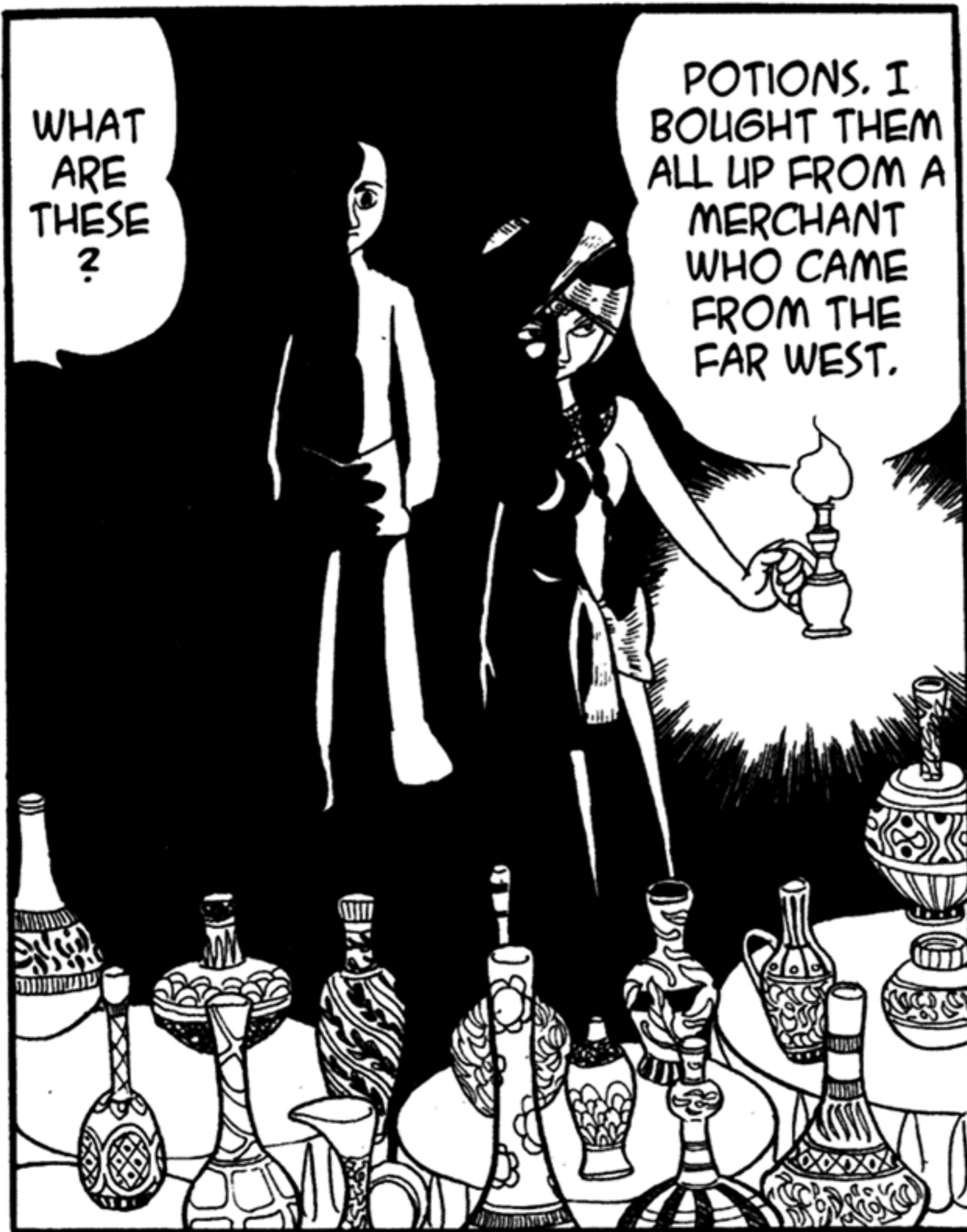
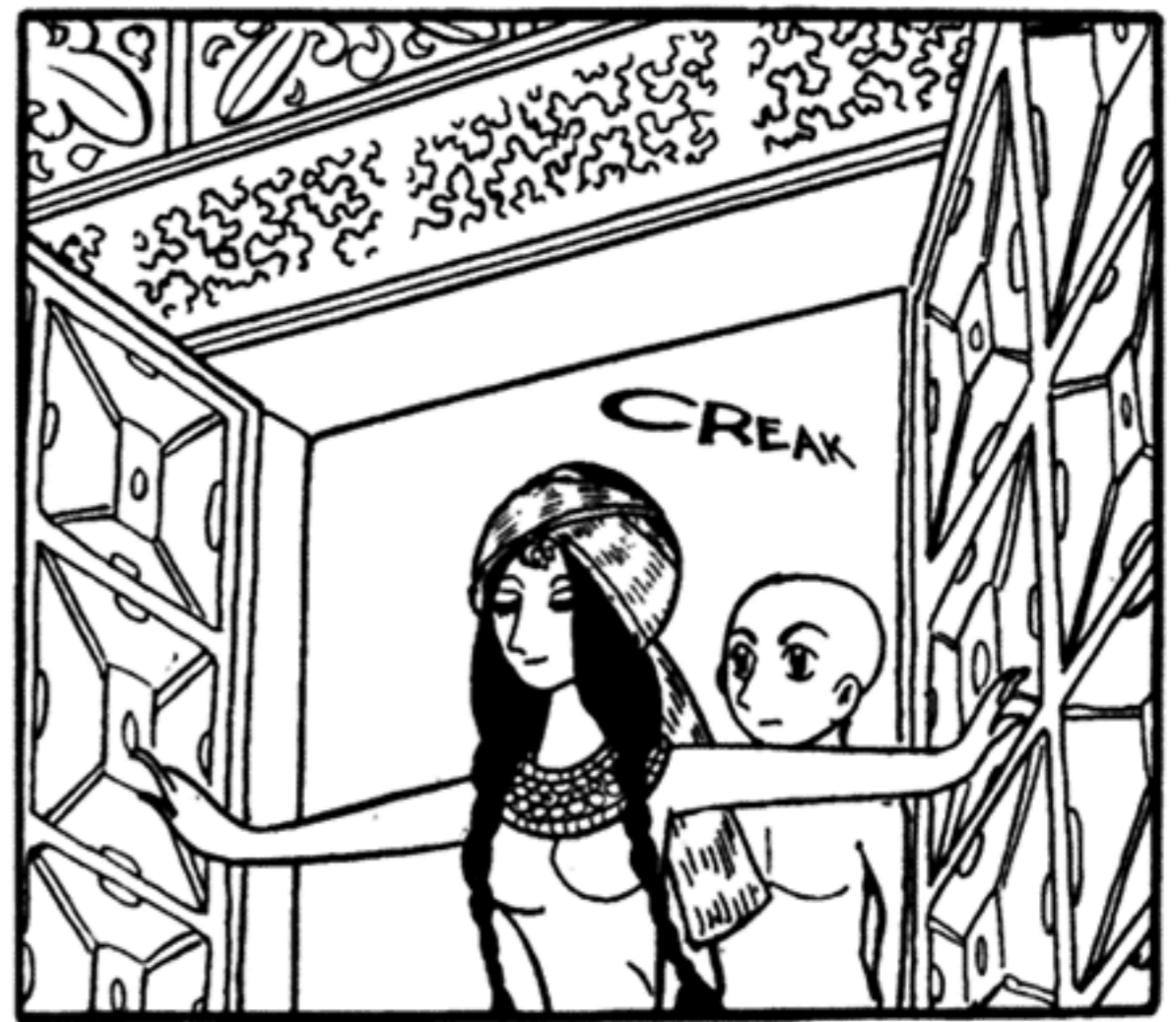
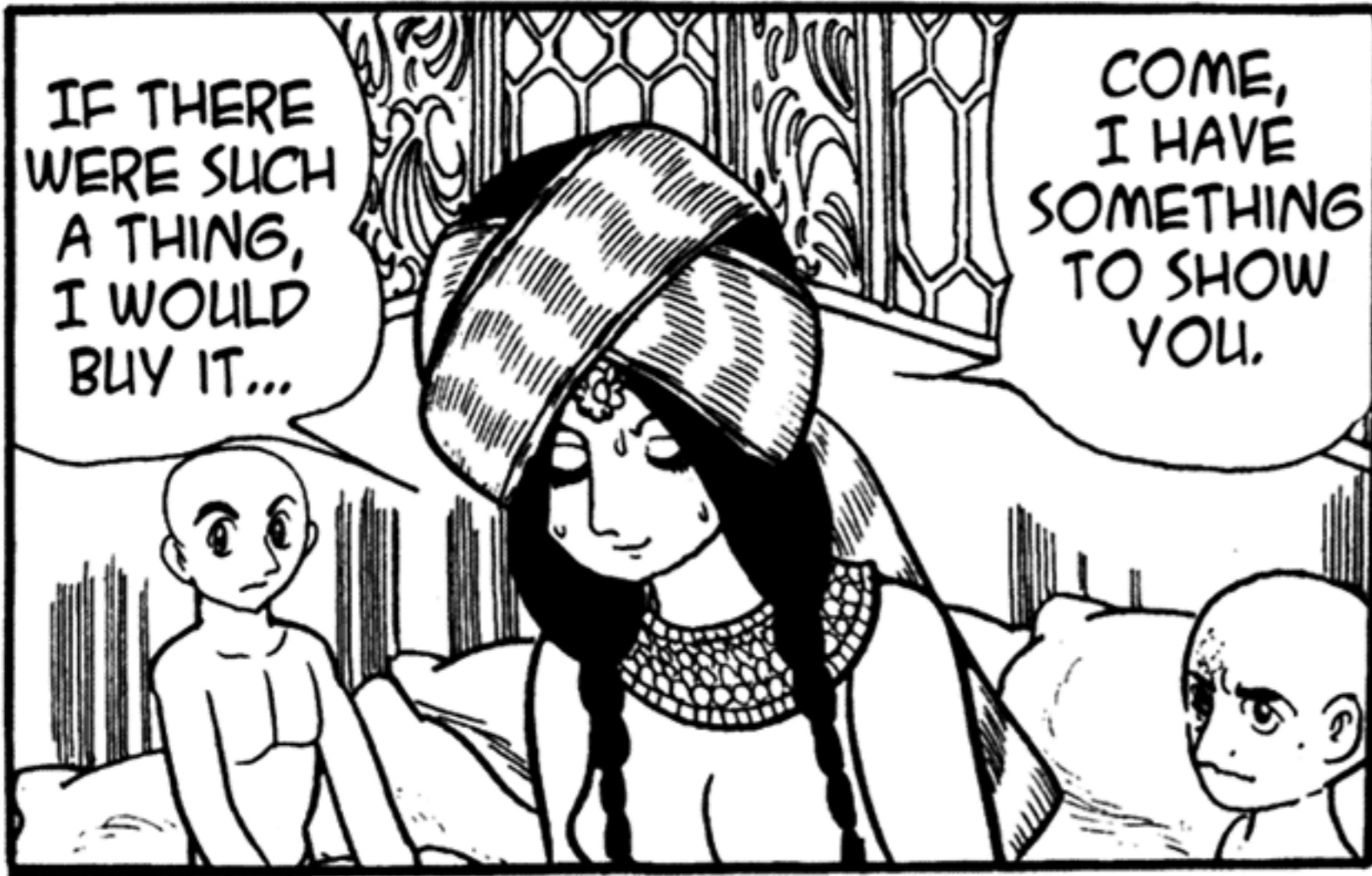


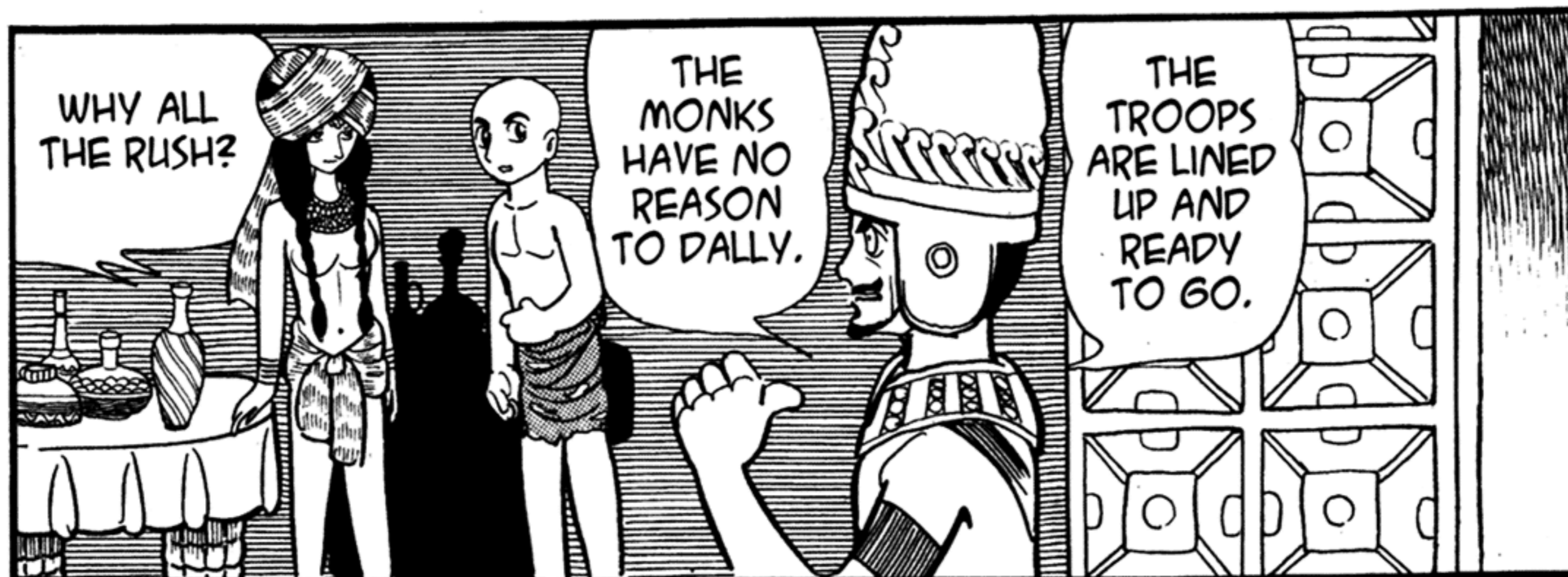
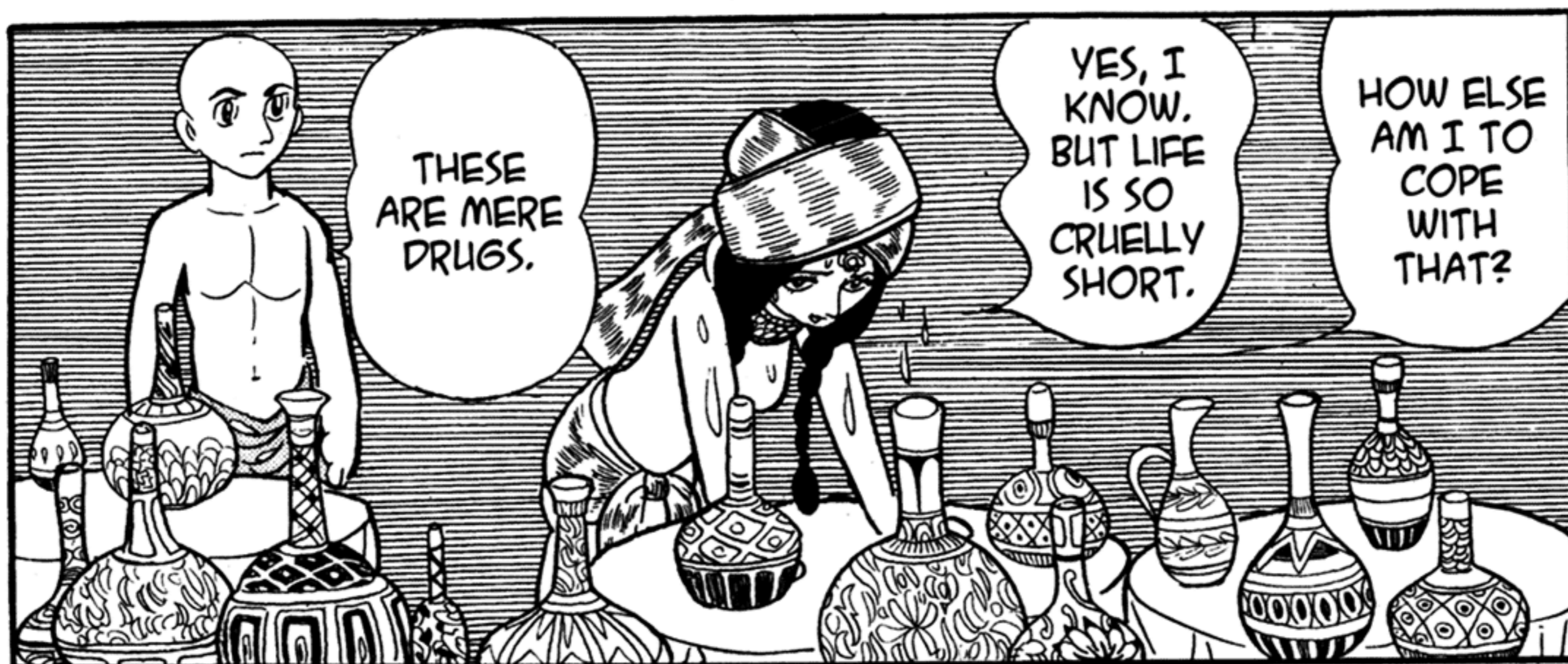
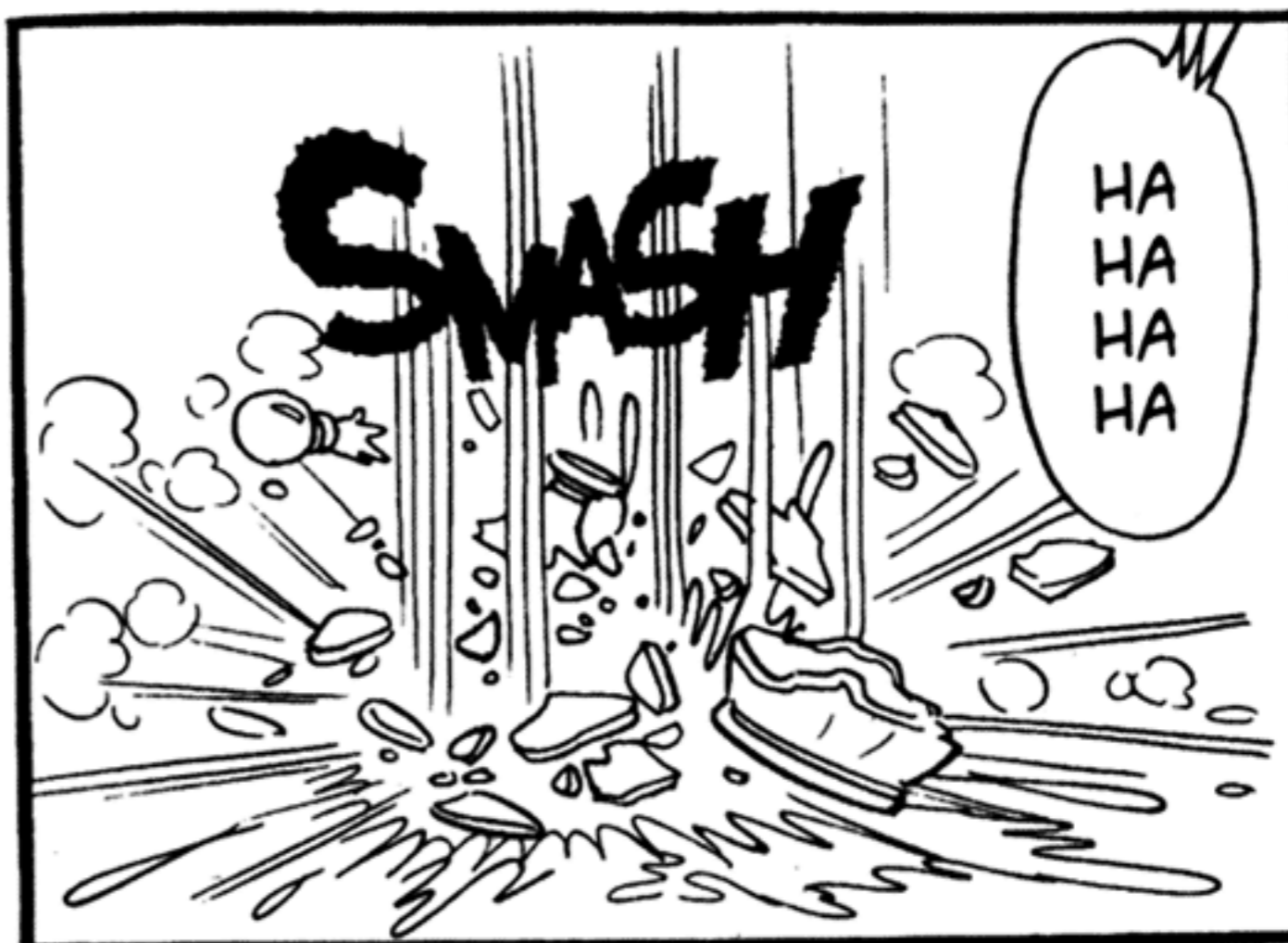
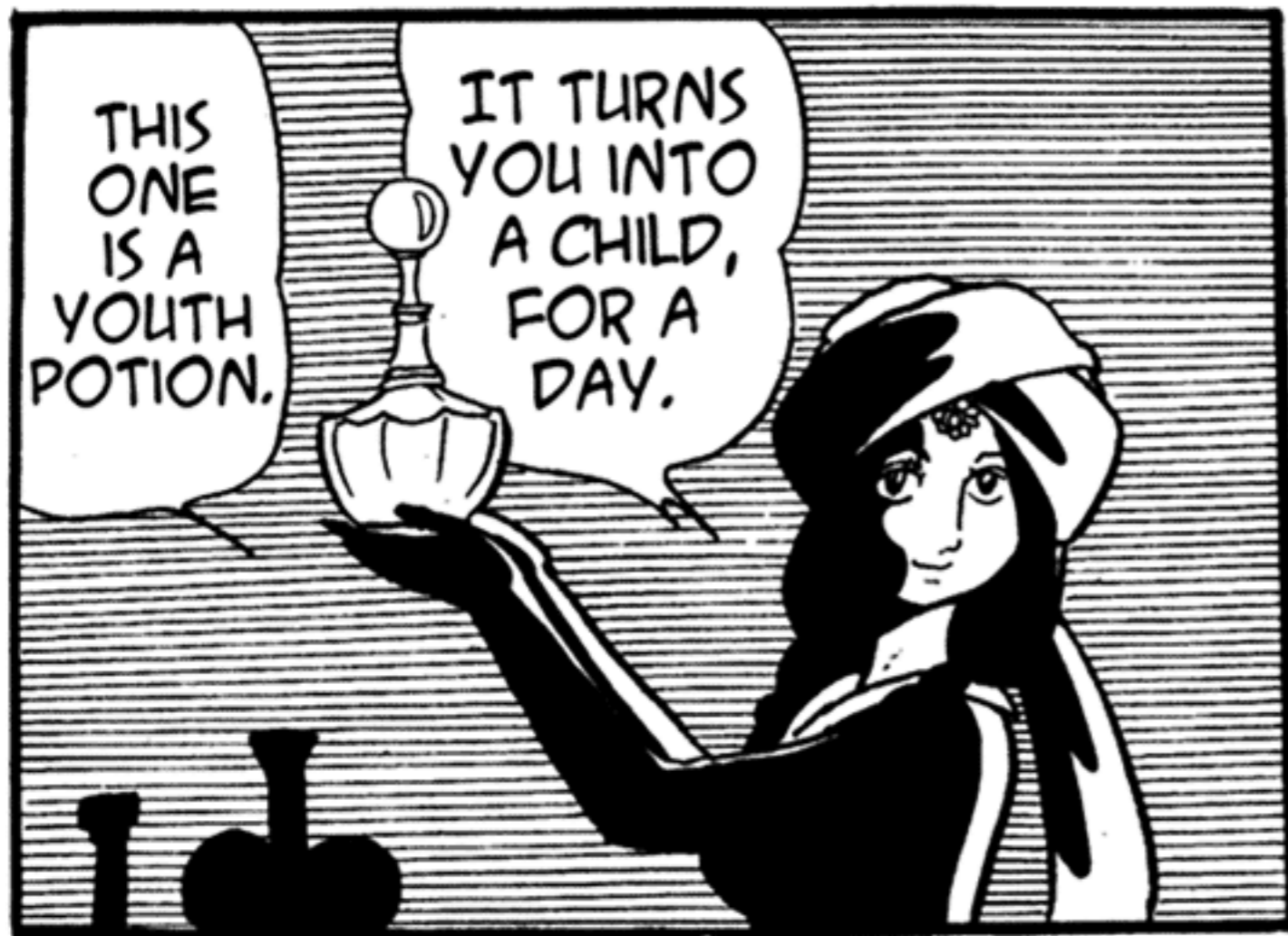
PERHAPS THERE WE WILL FIND WHAT WE SEEK.

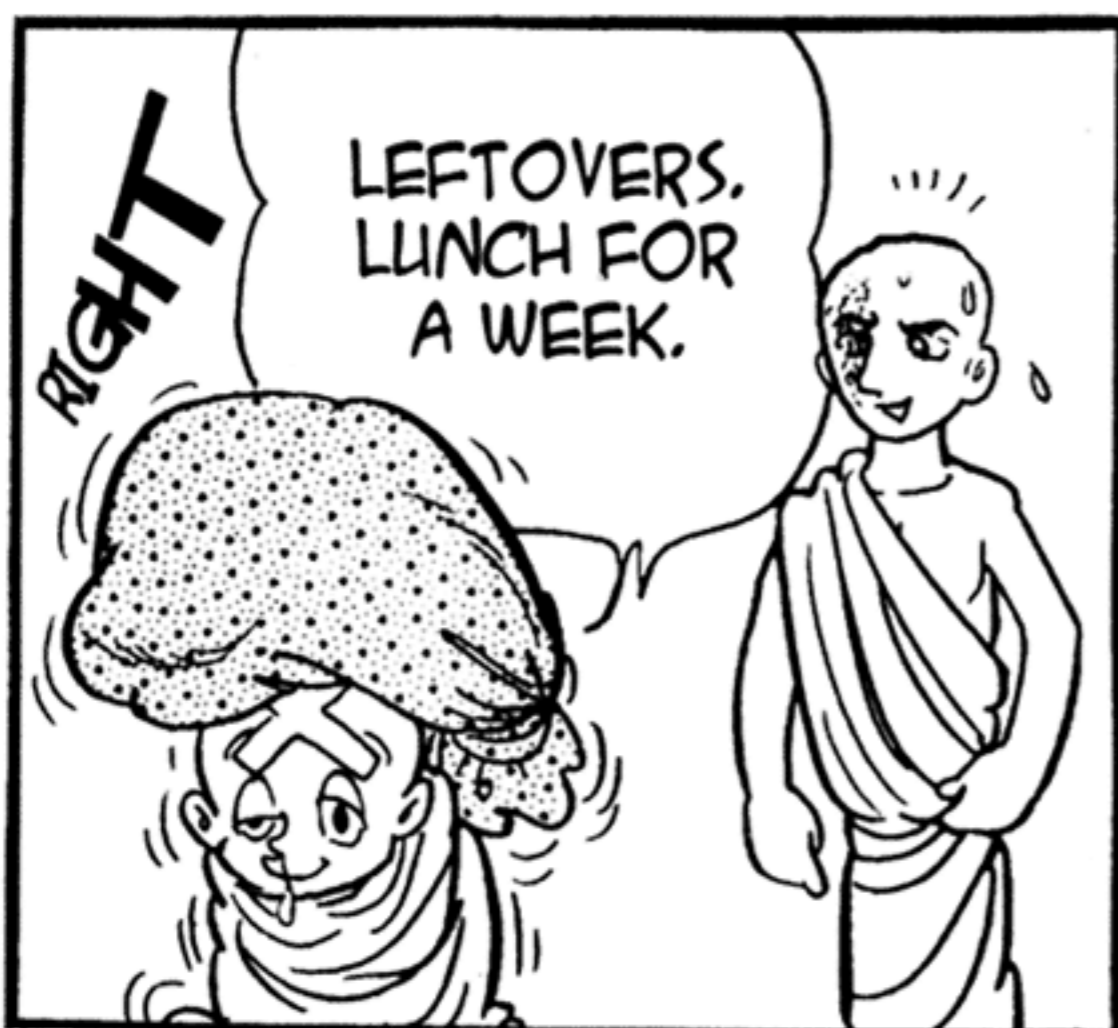
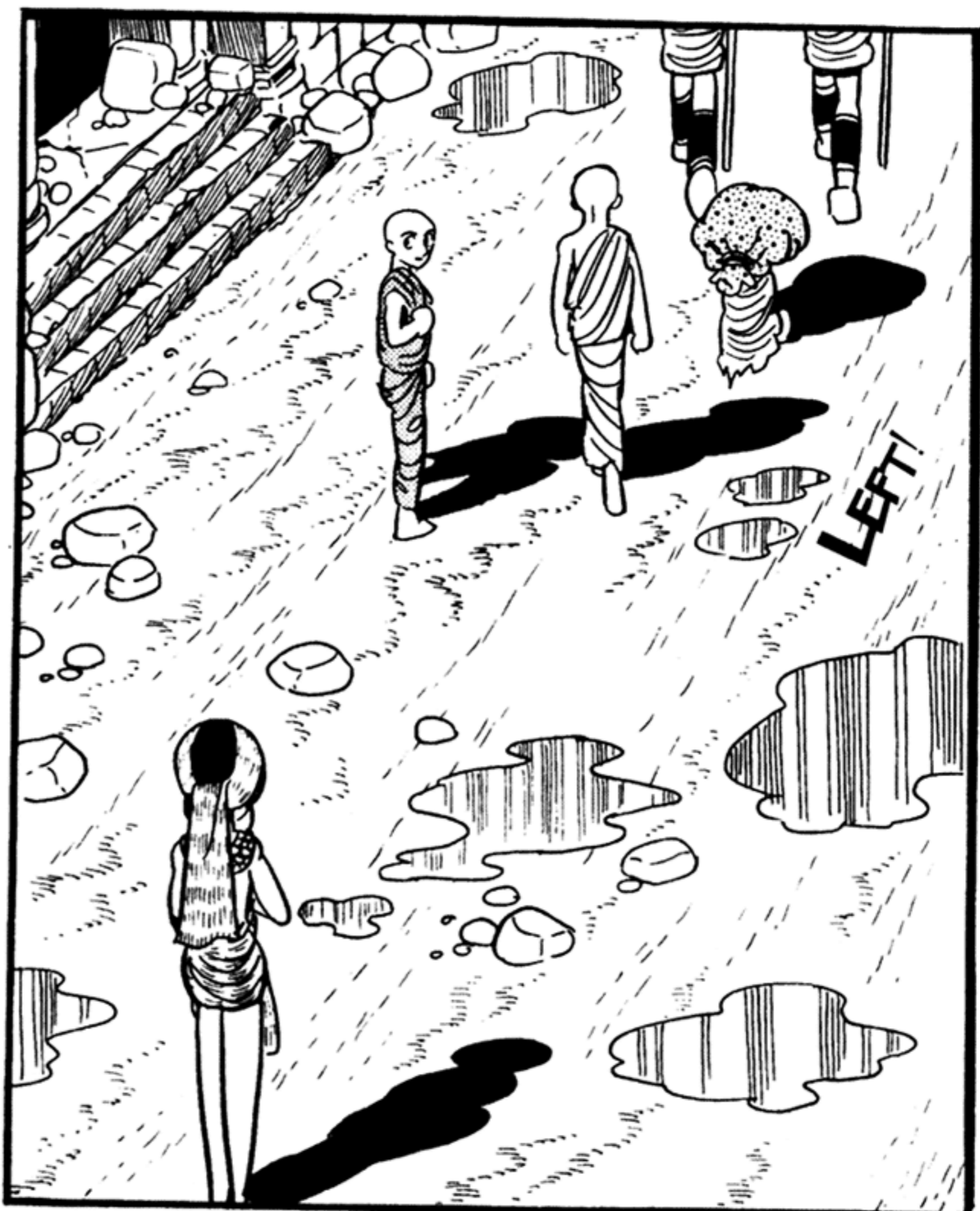
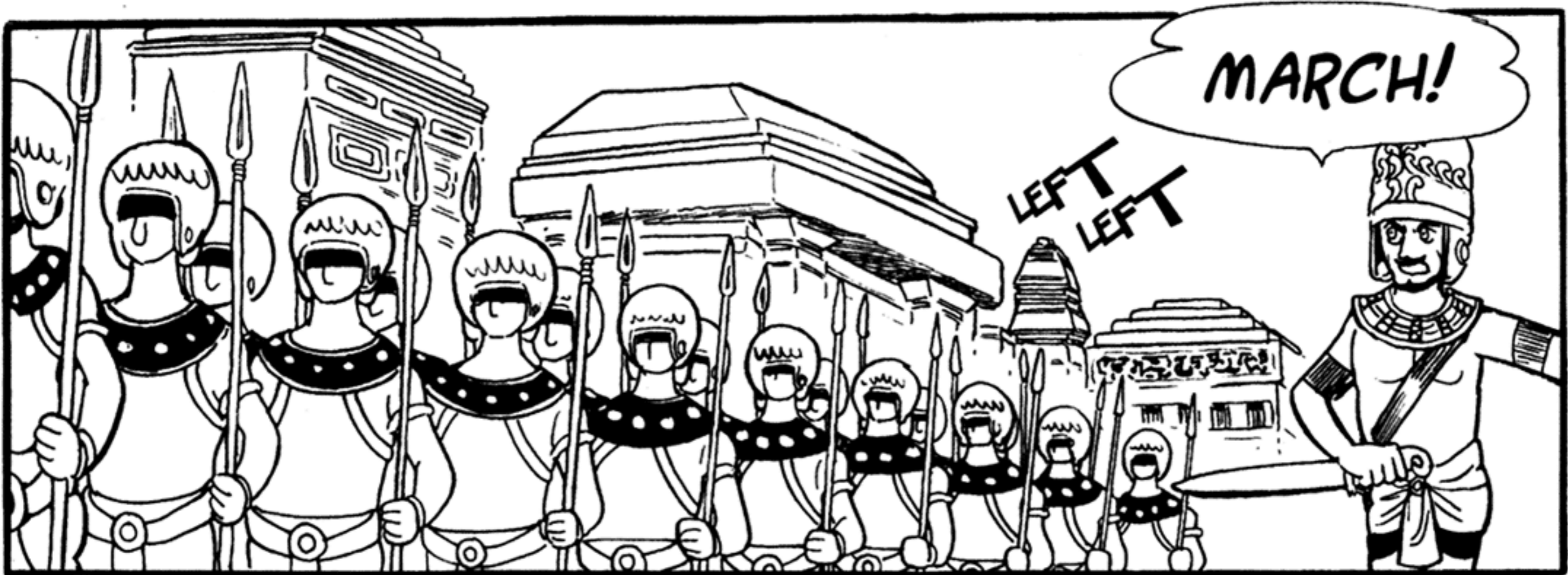
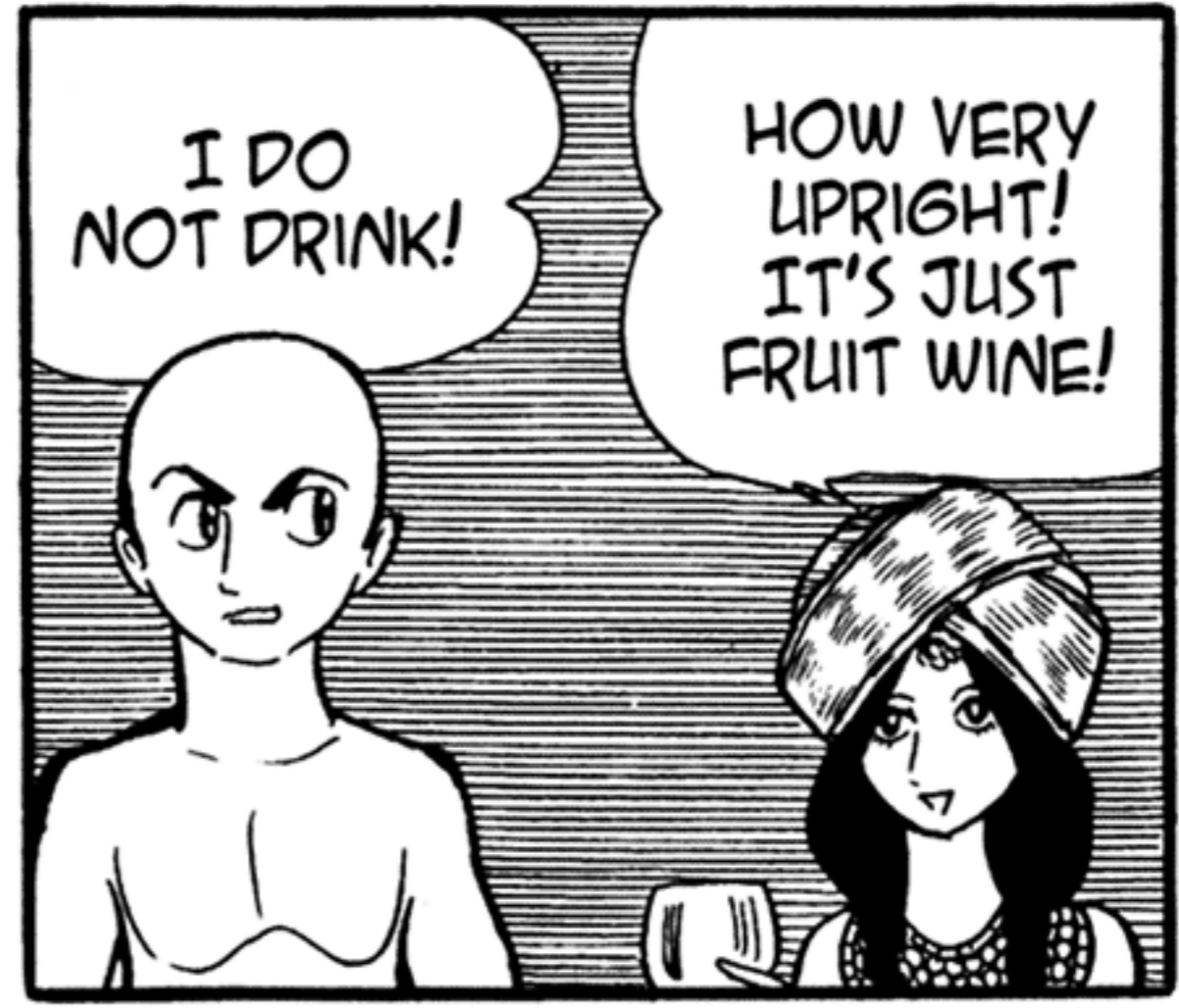
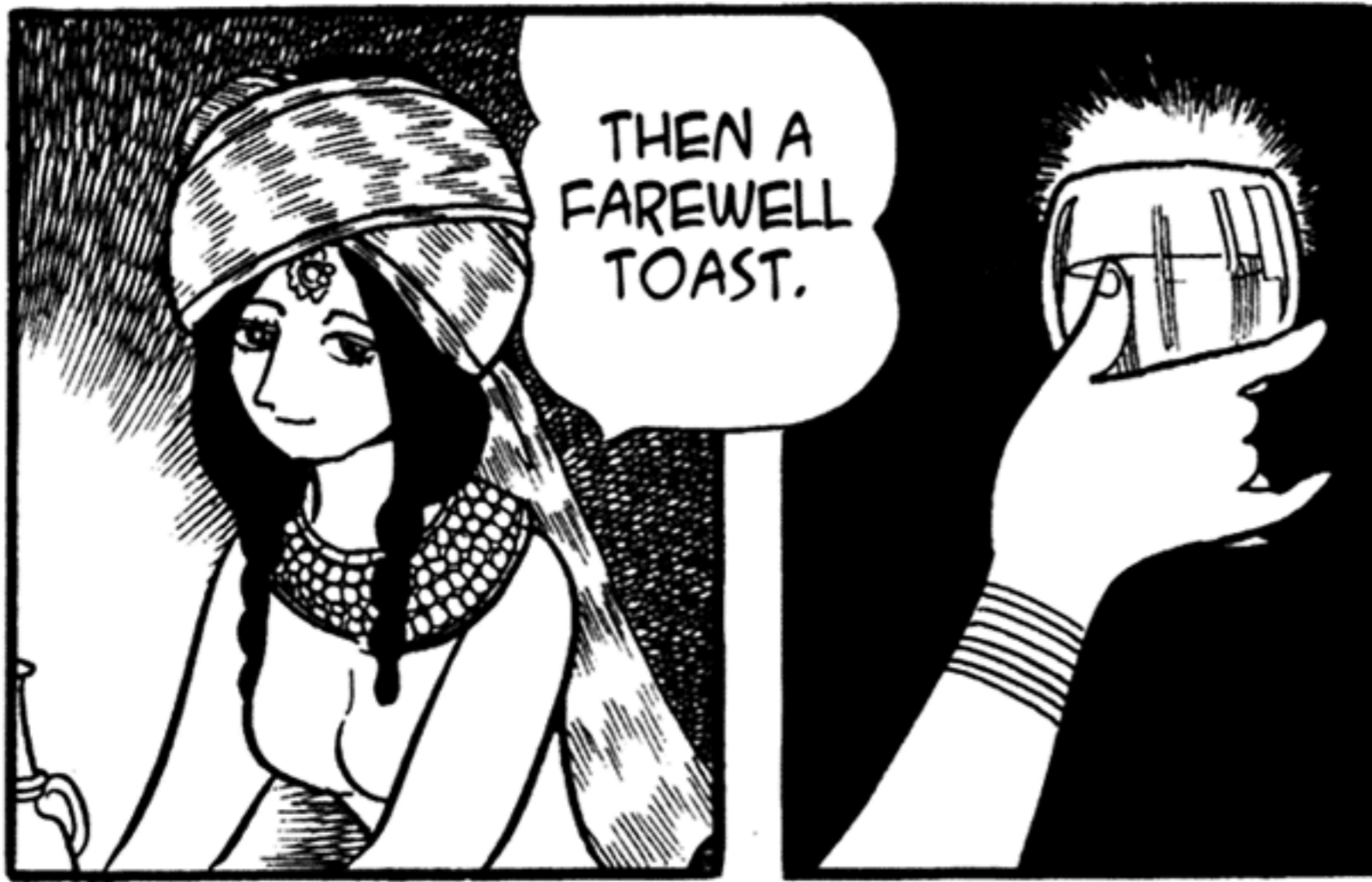


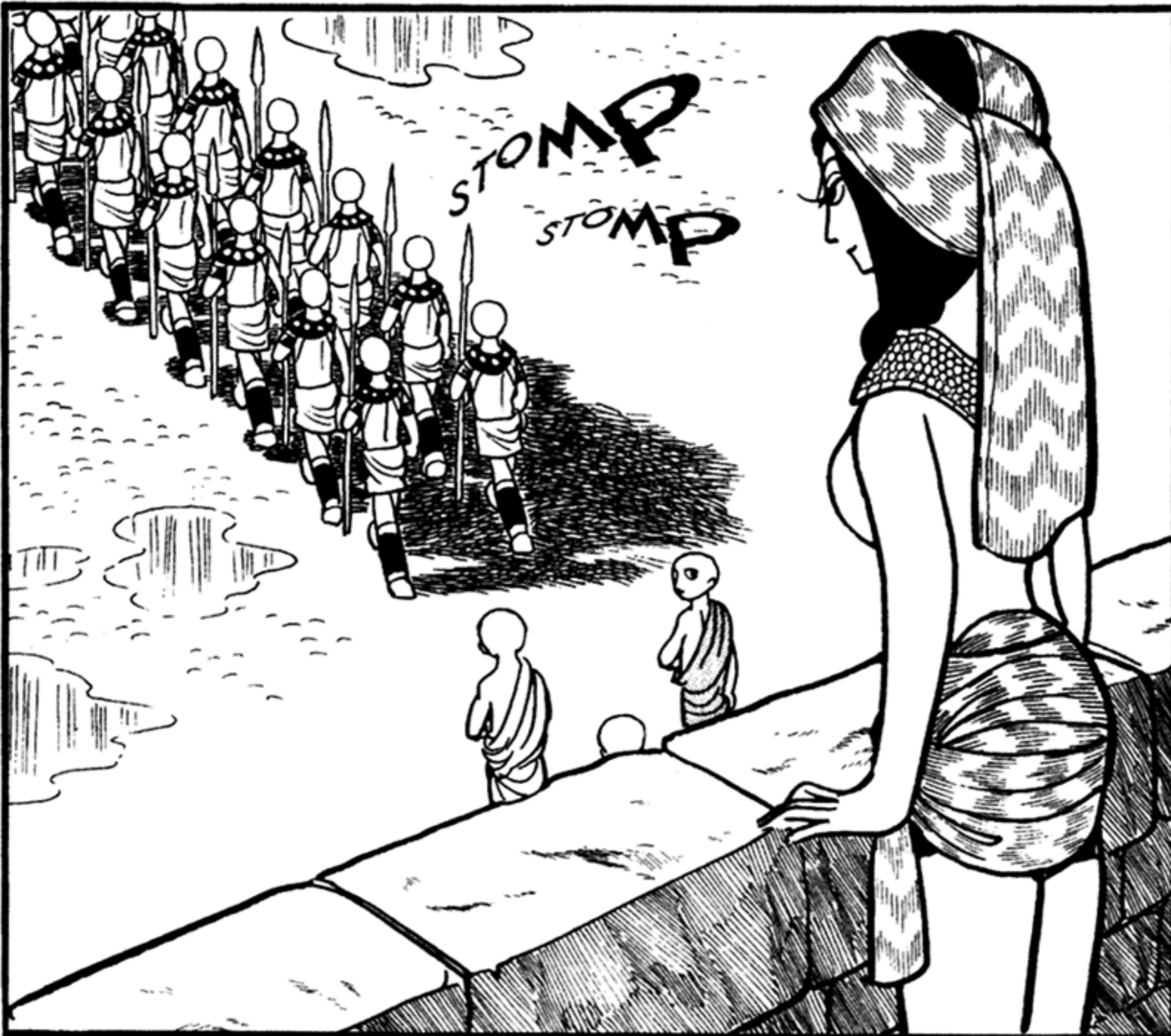
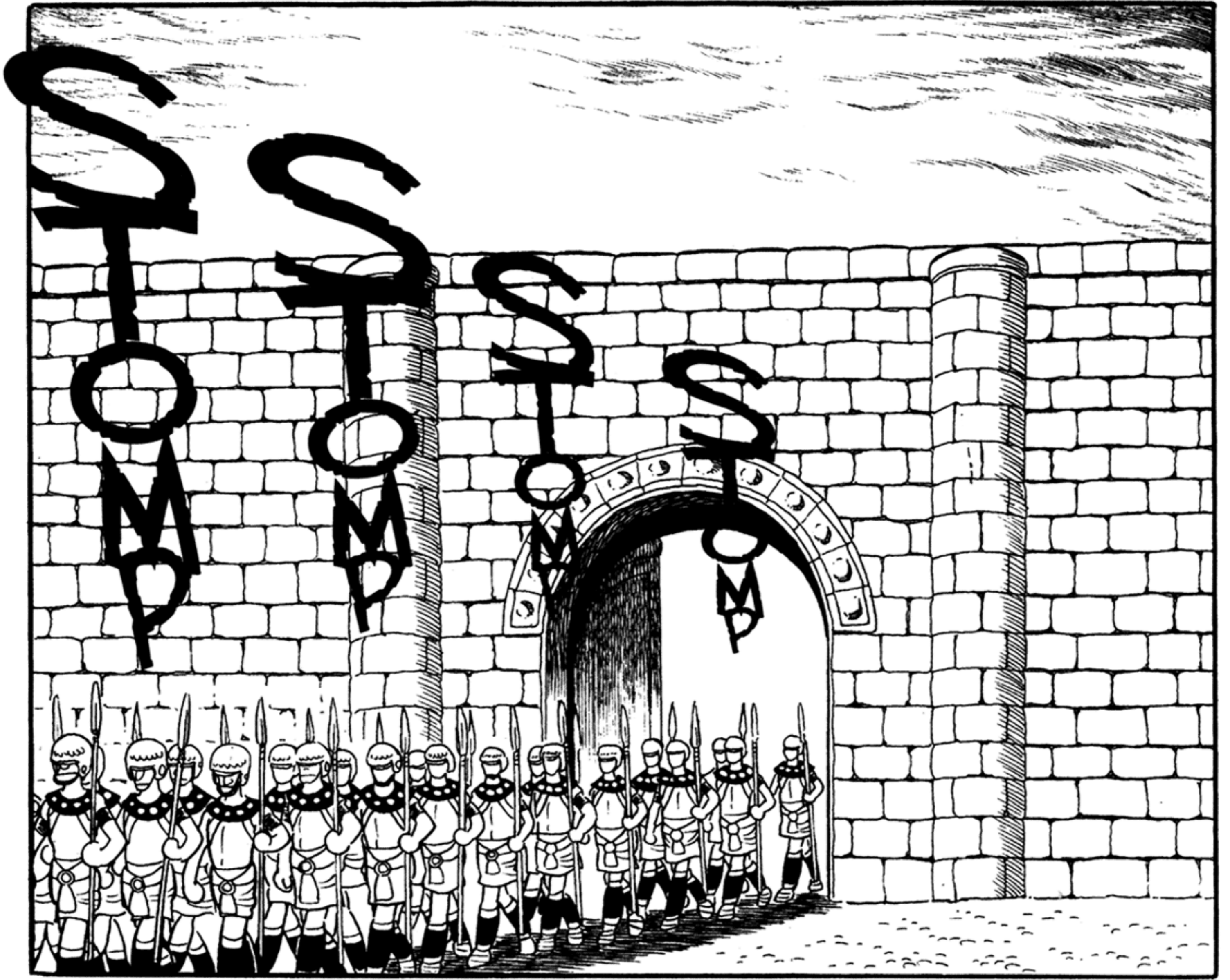
AND WHAT DO YOU SEEK?

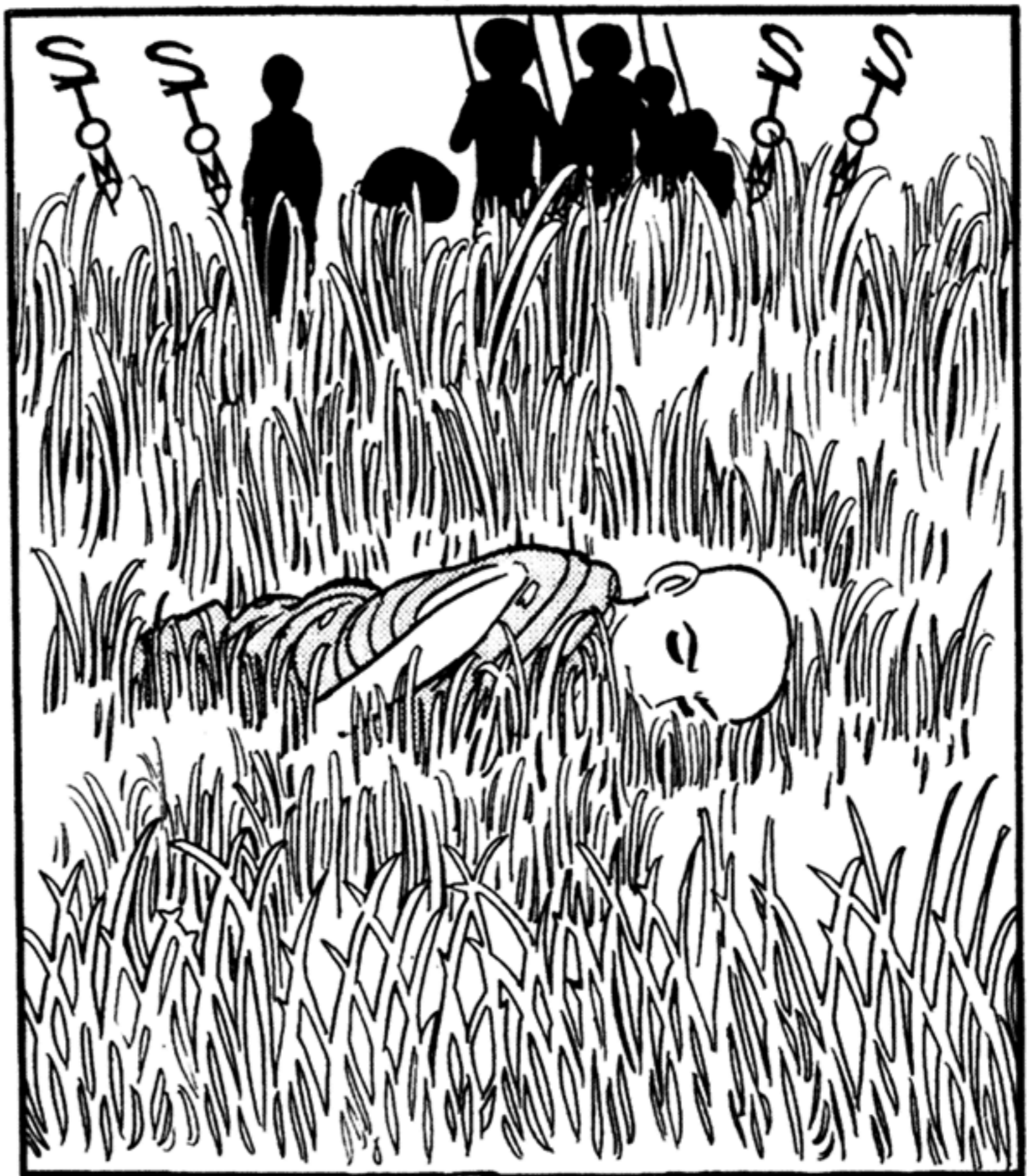
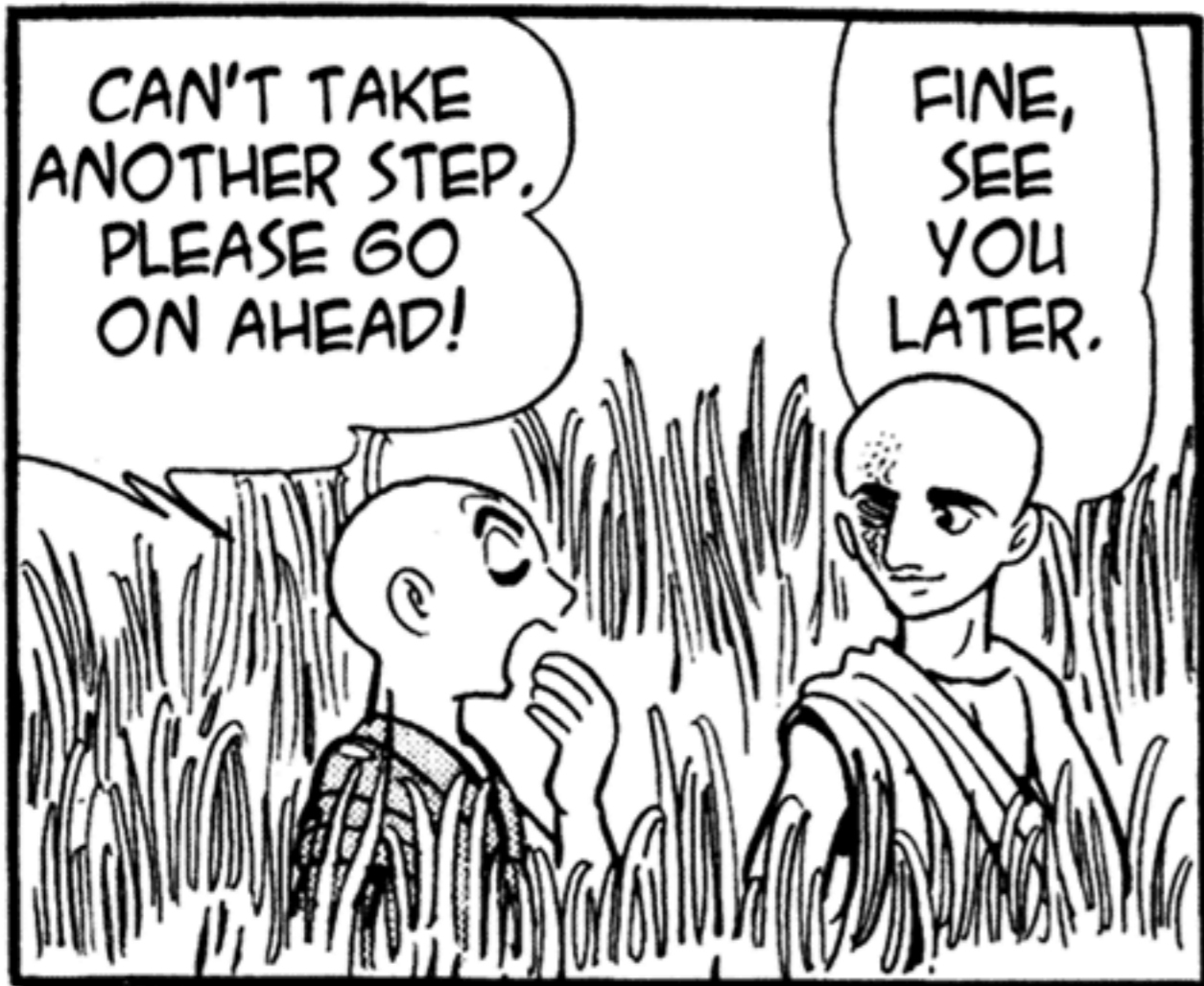




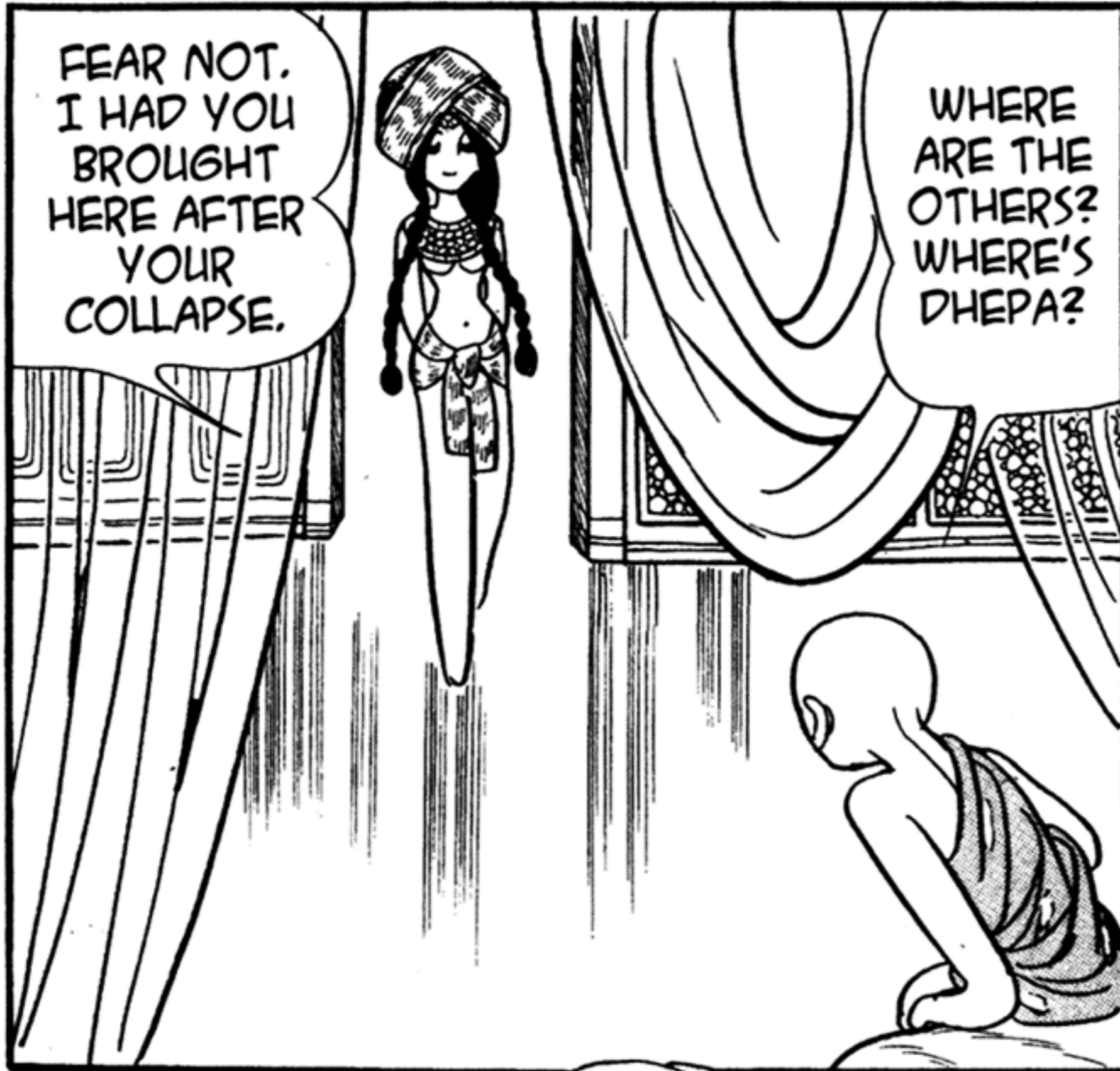












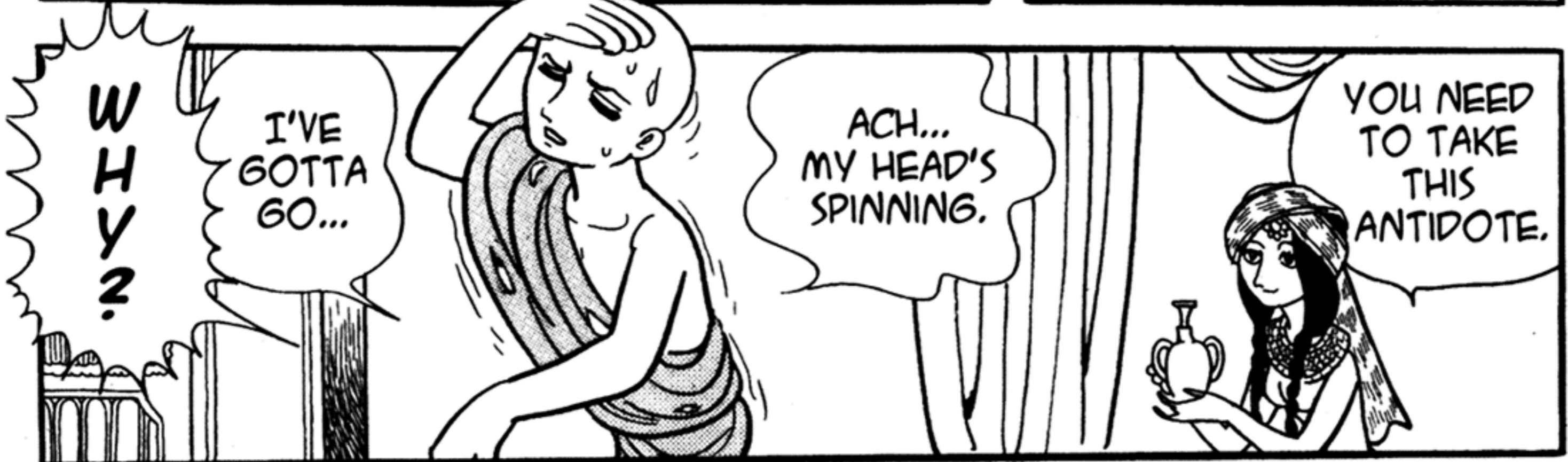
FEAR NOT. I HAD YOU BROUGHT HERE AFTER YOUR COLLAPSE.

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? WHERE'S DHEPA?



I'VE NO IDEA. MAYBE THEY WENT ON AHEAD?

ACTUALLY, JUST NOW, SOME TROOPS CAME BACK LOOKING FOR YOU. I TOLD THEM YOU WEREN'T HERE.

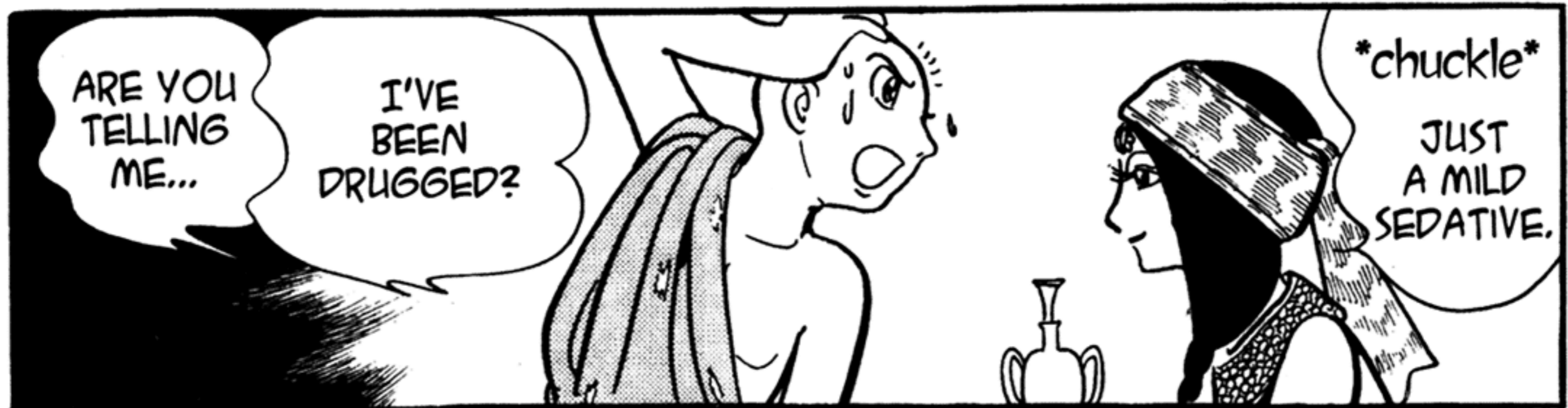


WHY?

I'VE GOTTA GO...

ACH... MY HEAD'S SPINNING.

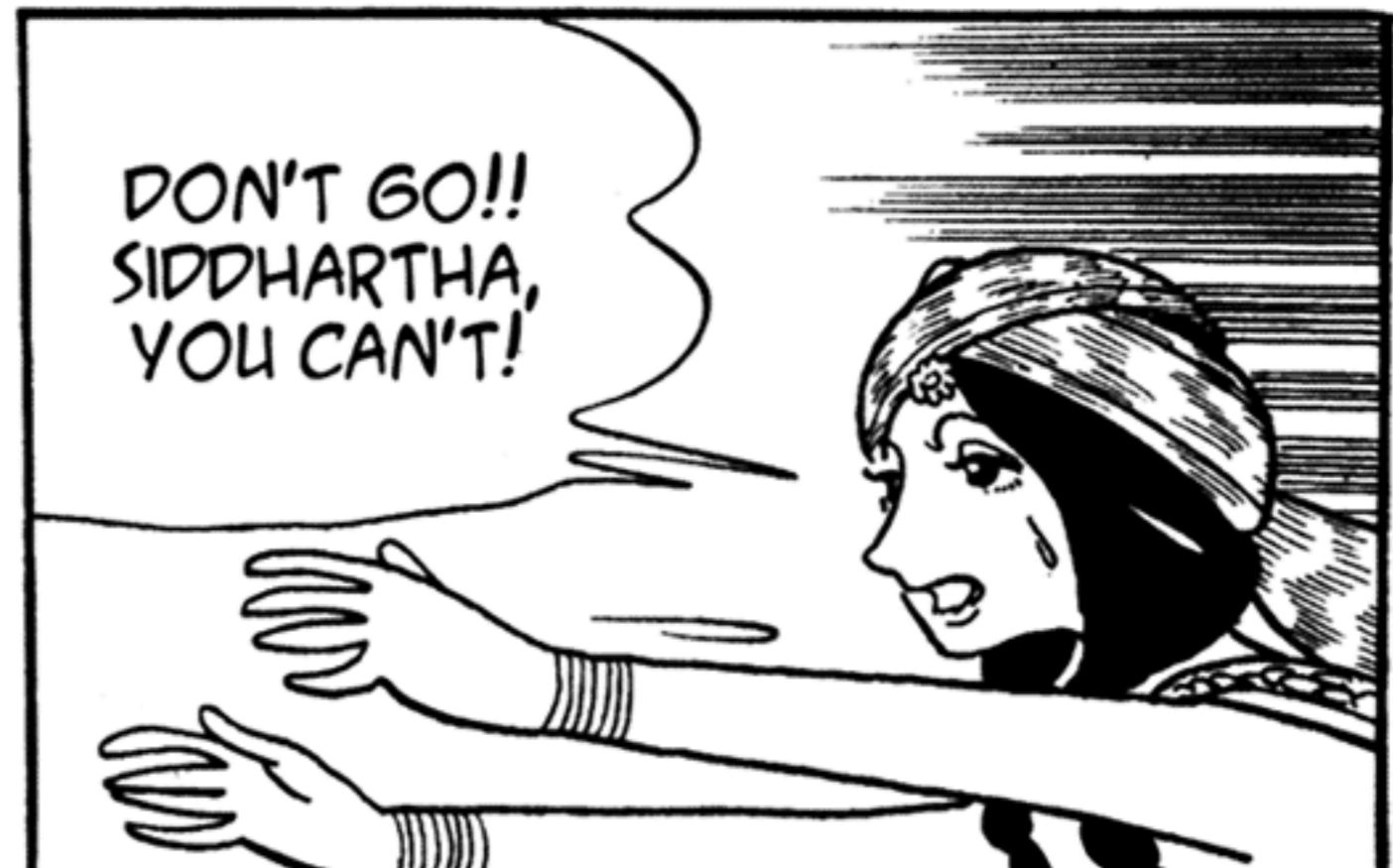
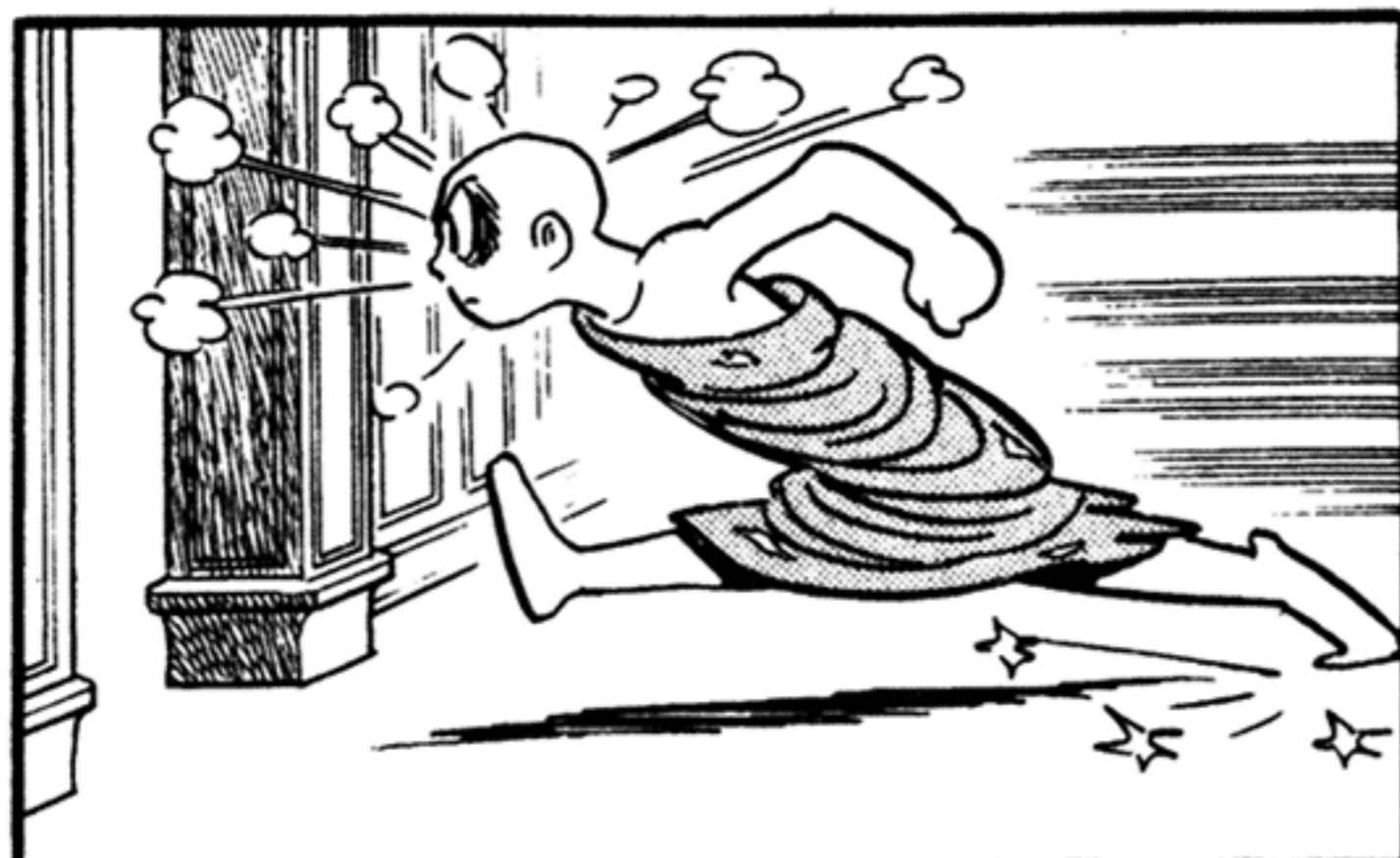
YOU NEED TO TAKE THIS ANTIDOTE.



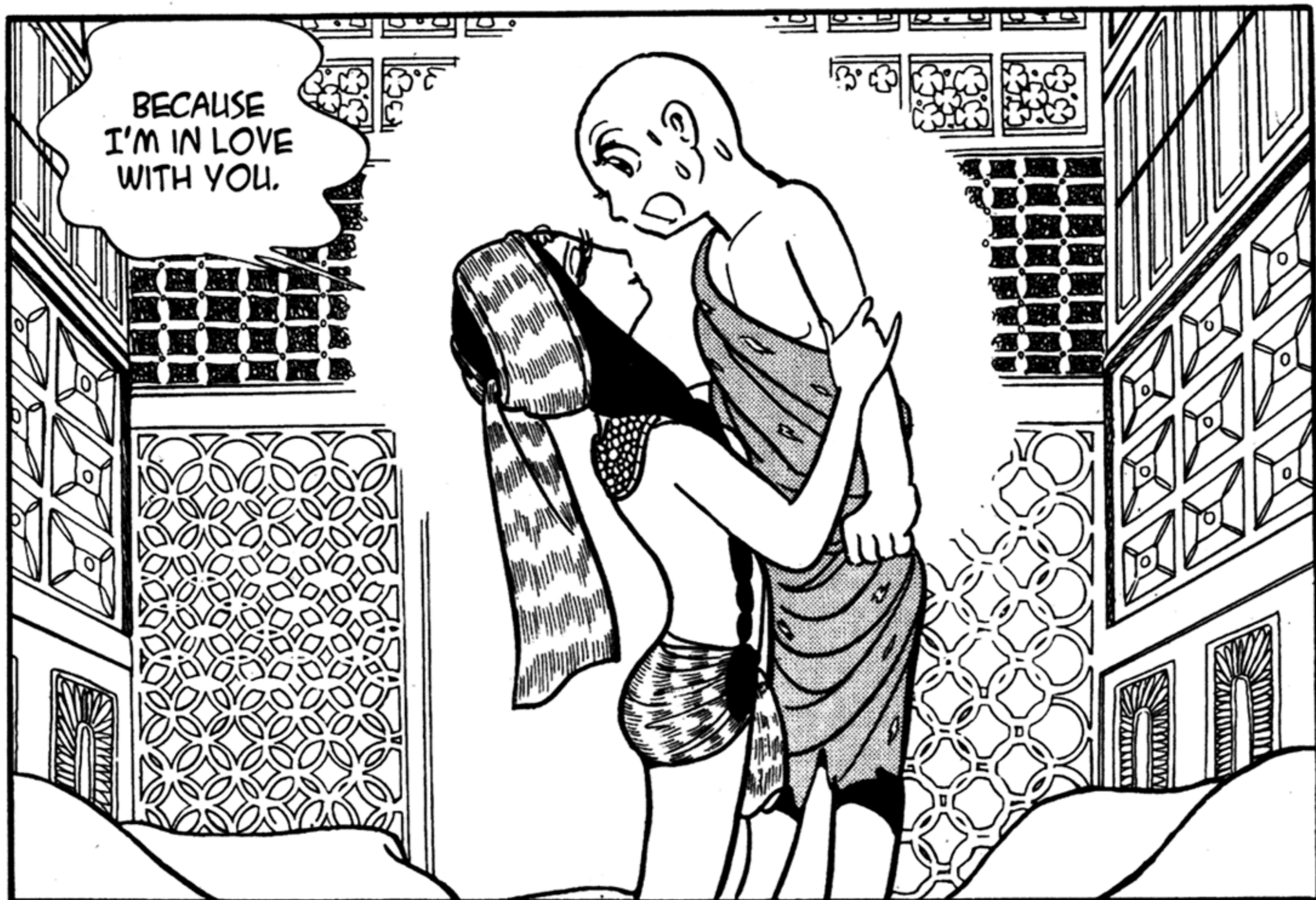
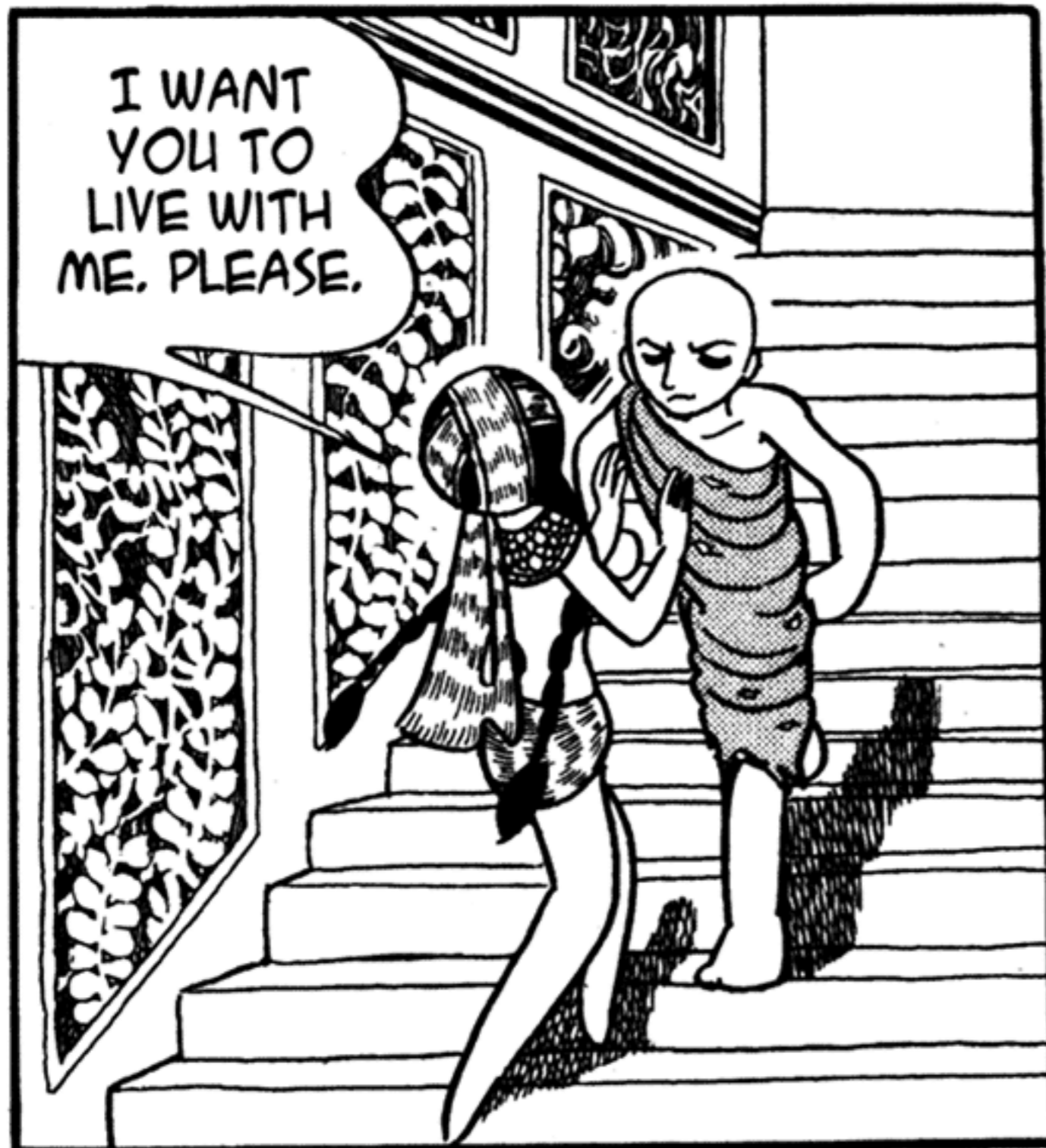
ARE YOU TELLING ME...

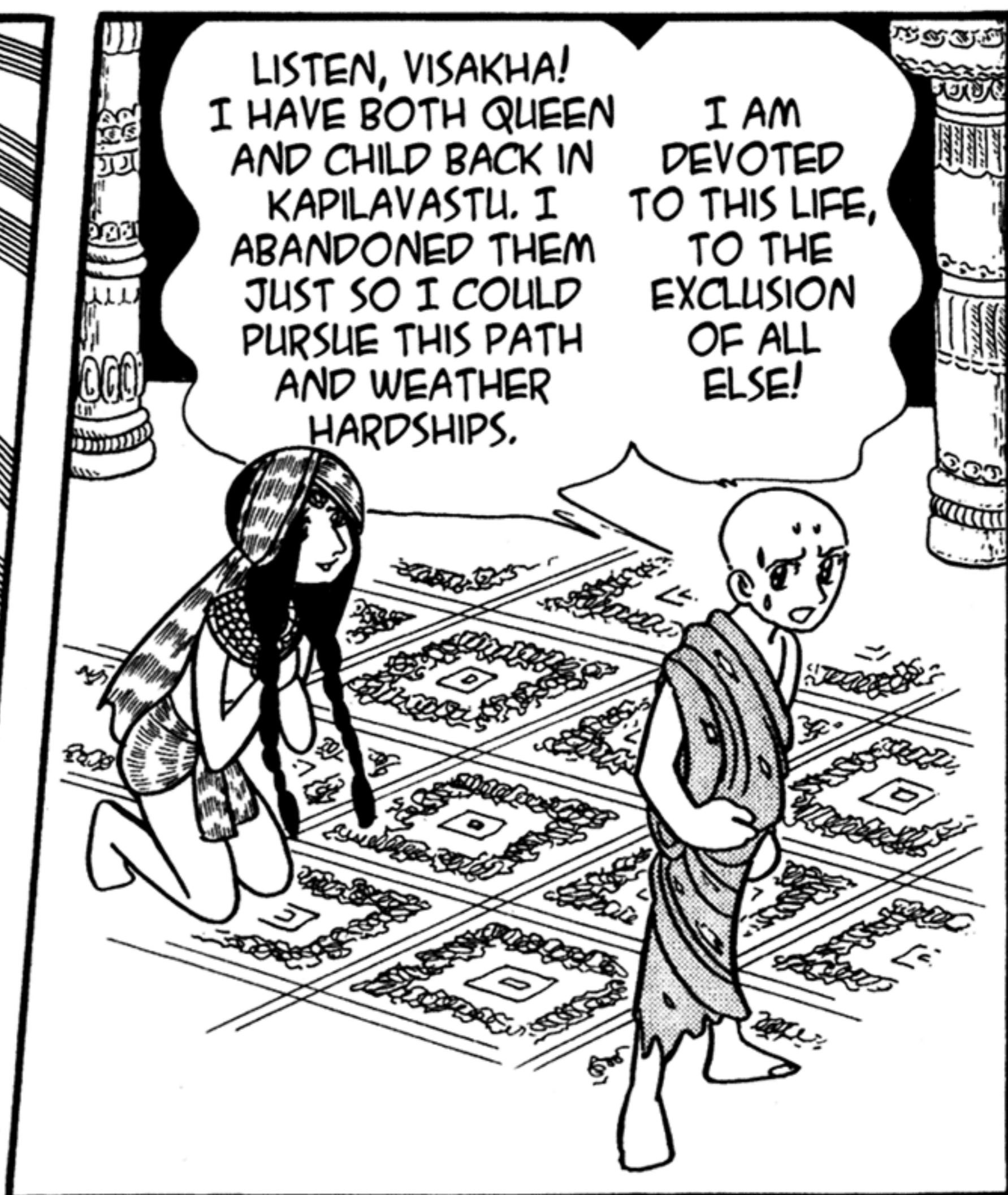
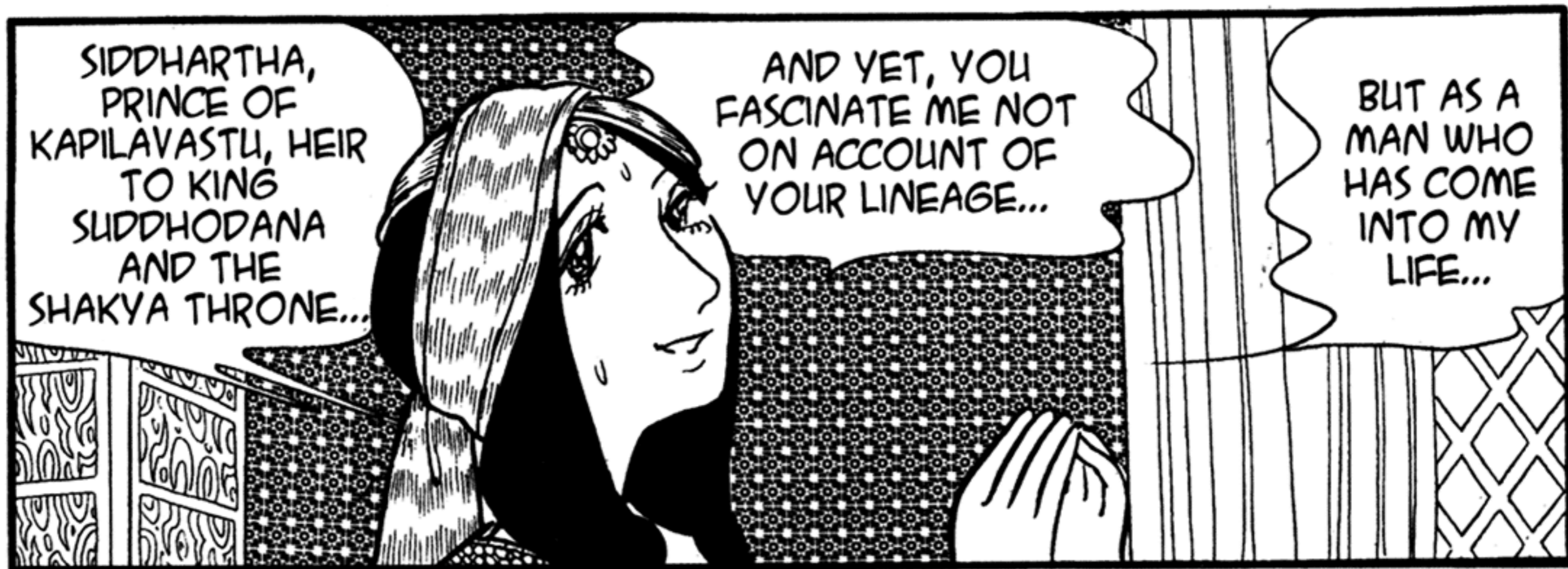
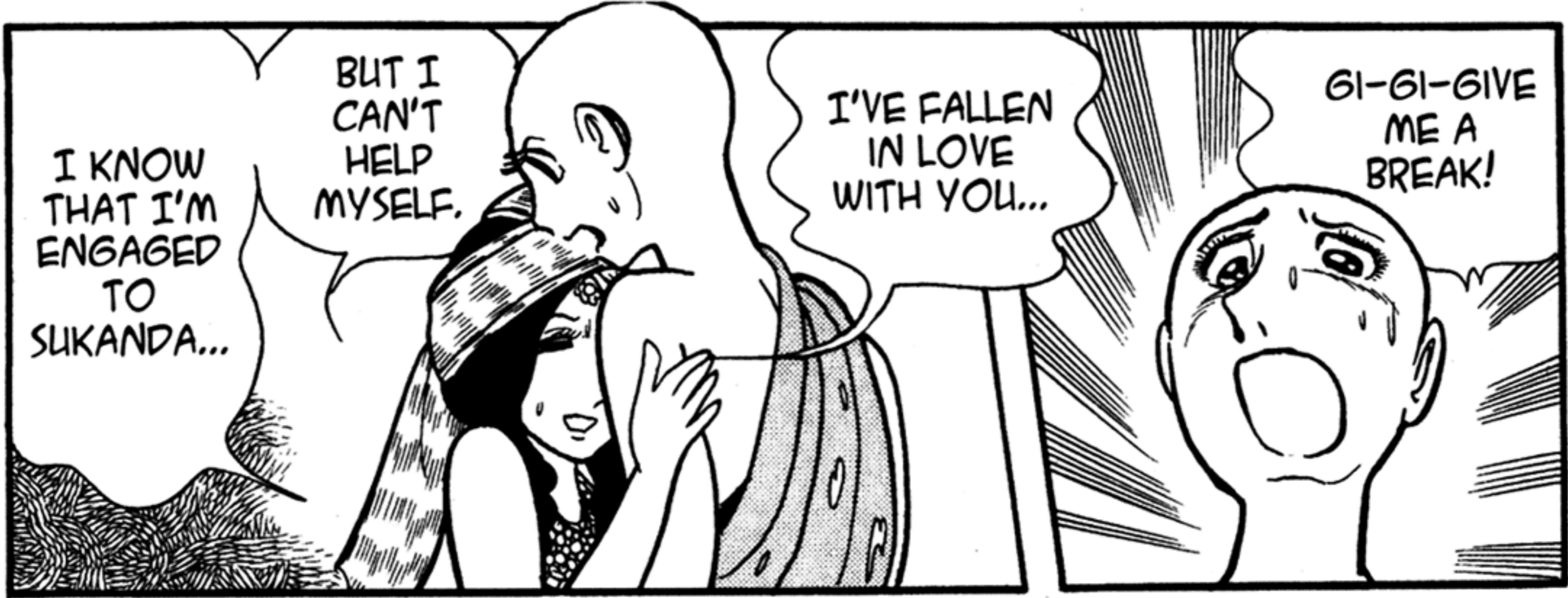
I'VE BEEN DRUGGED?

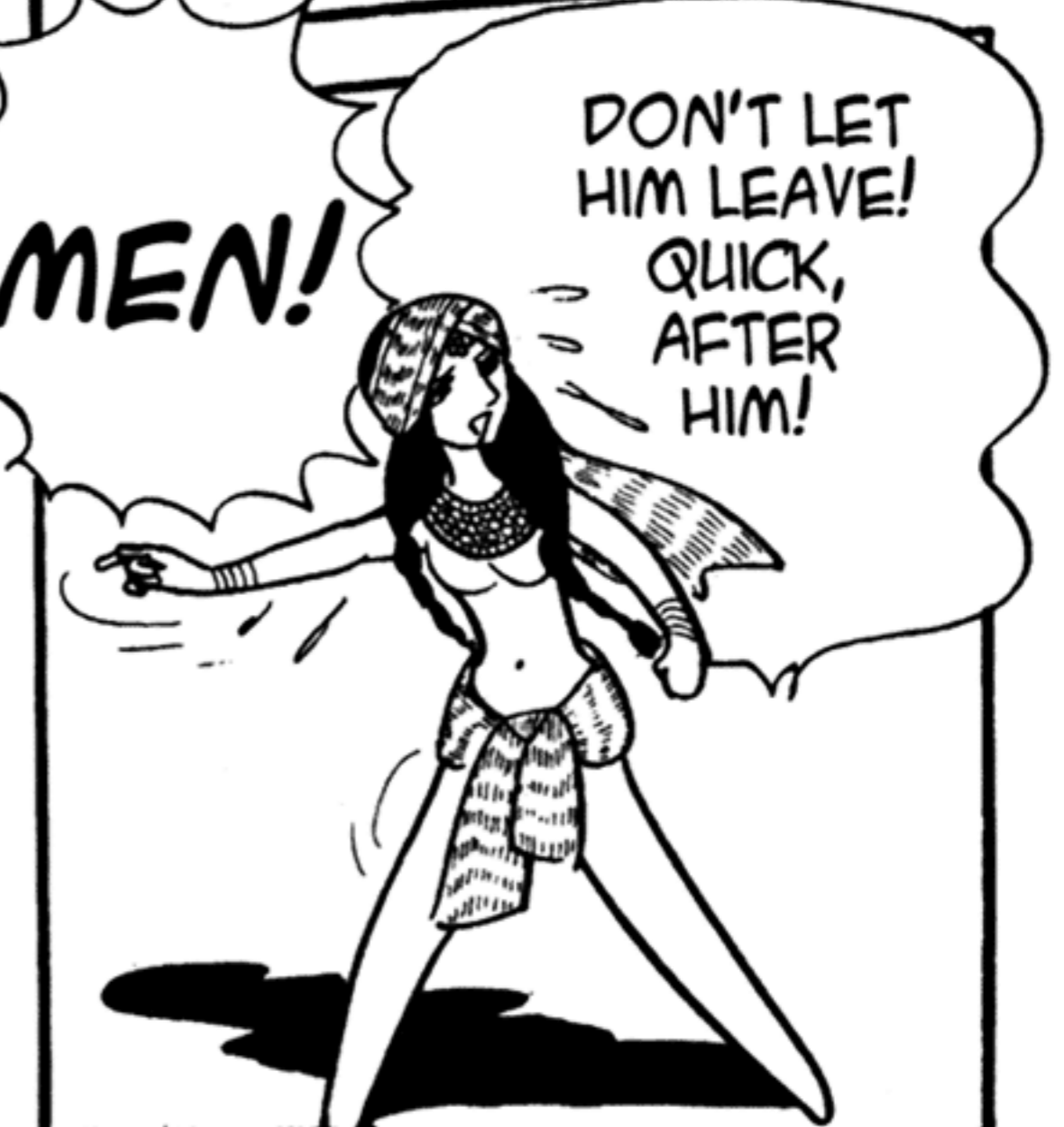
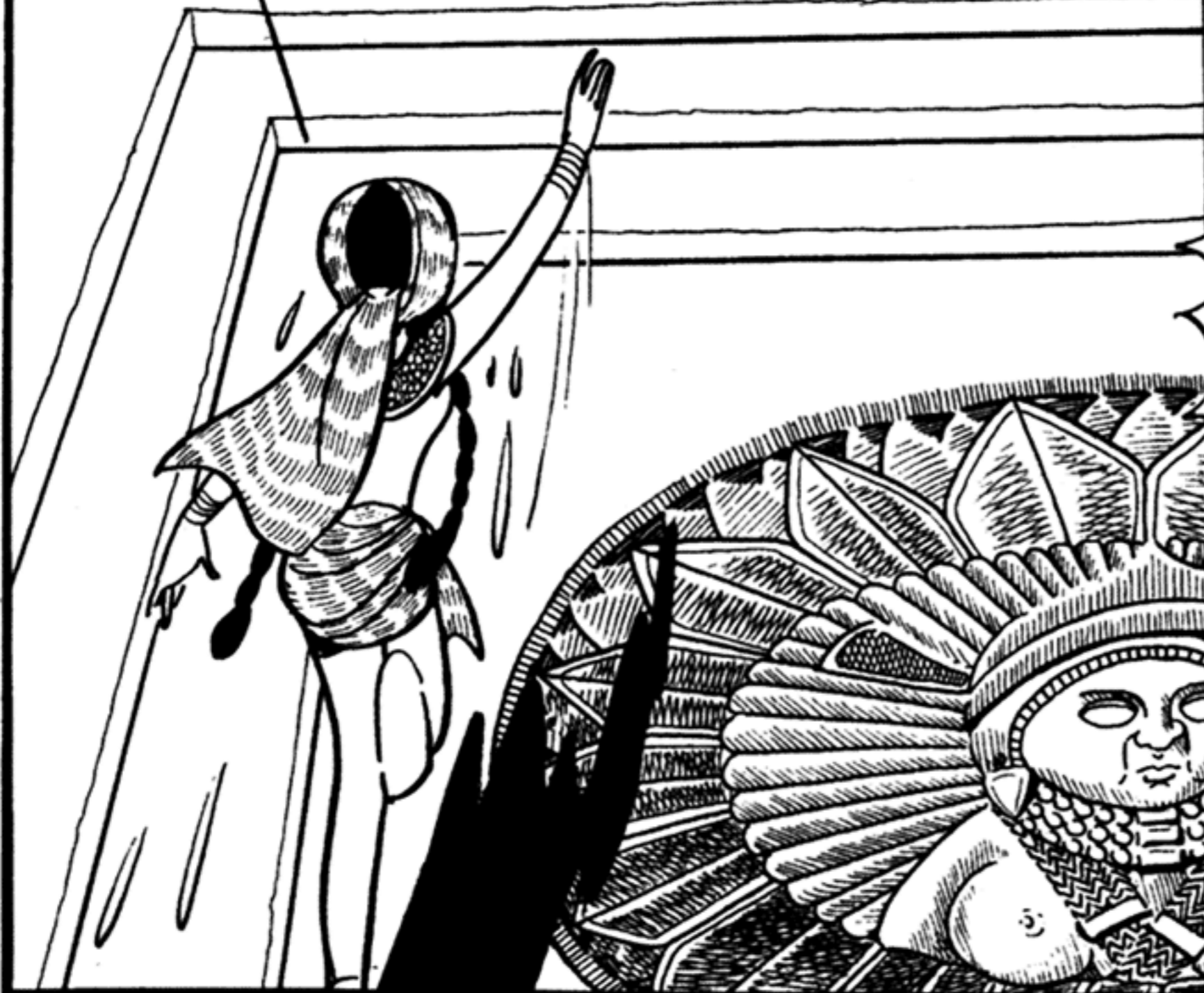
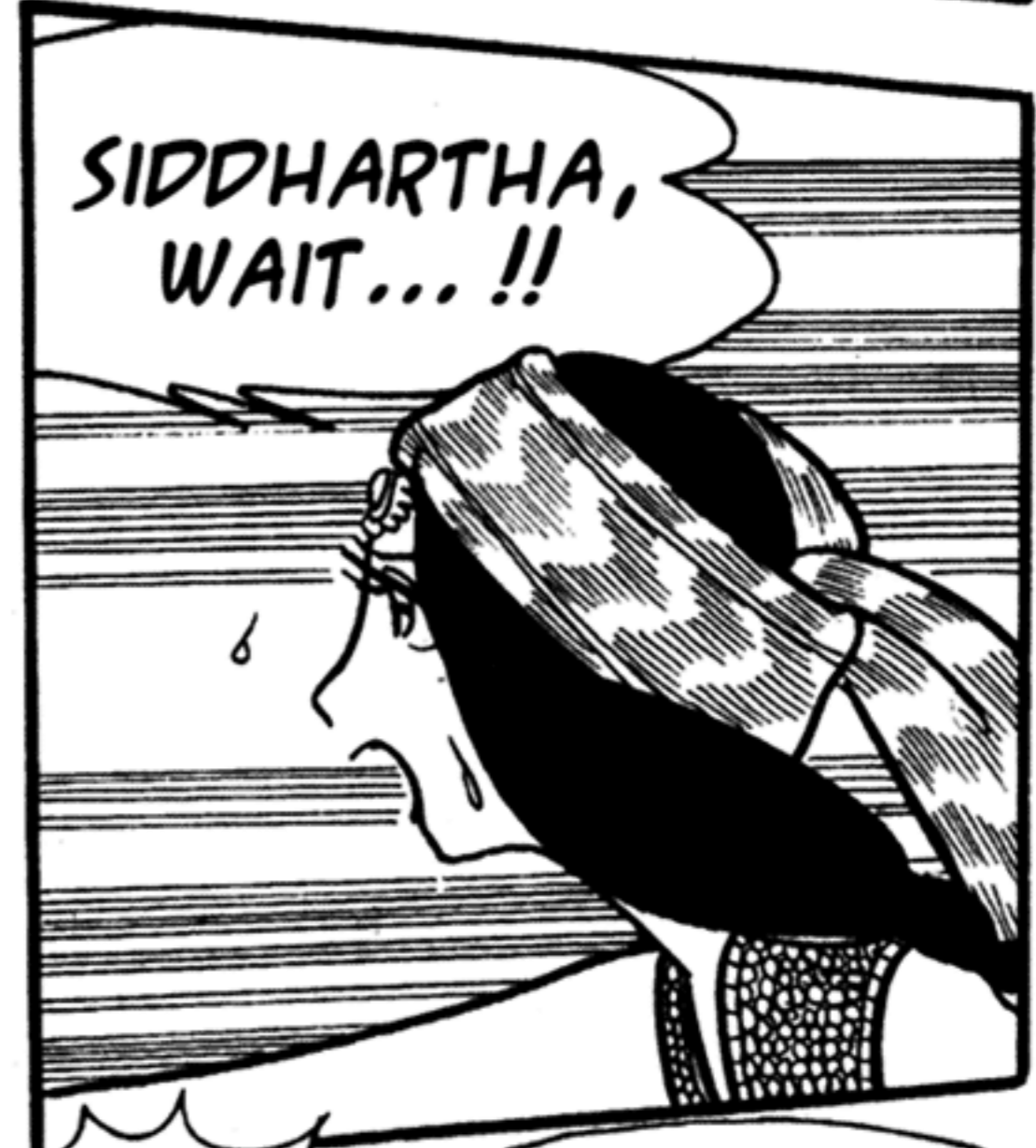
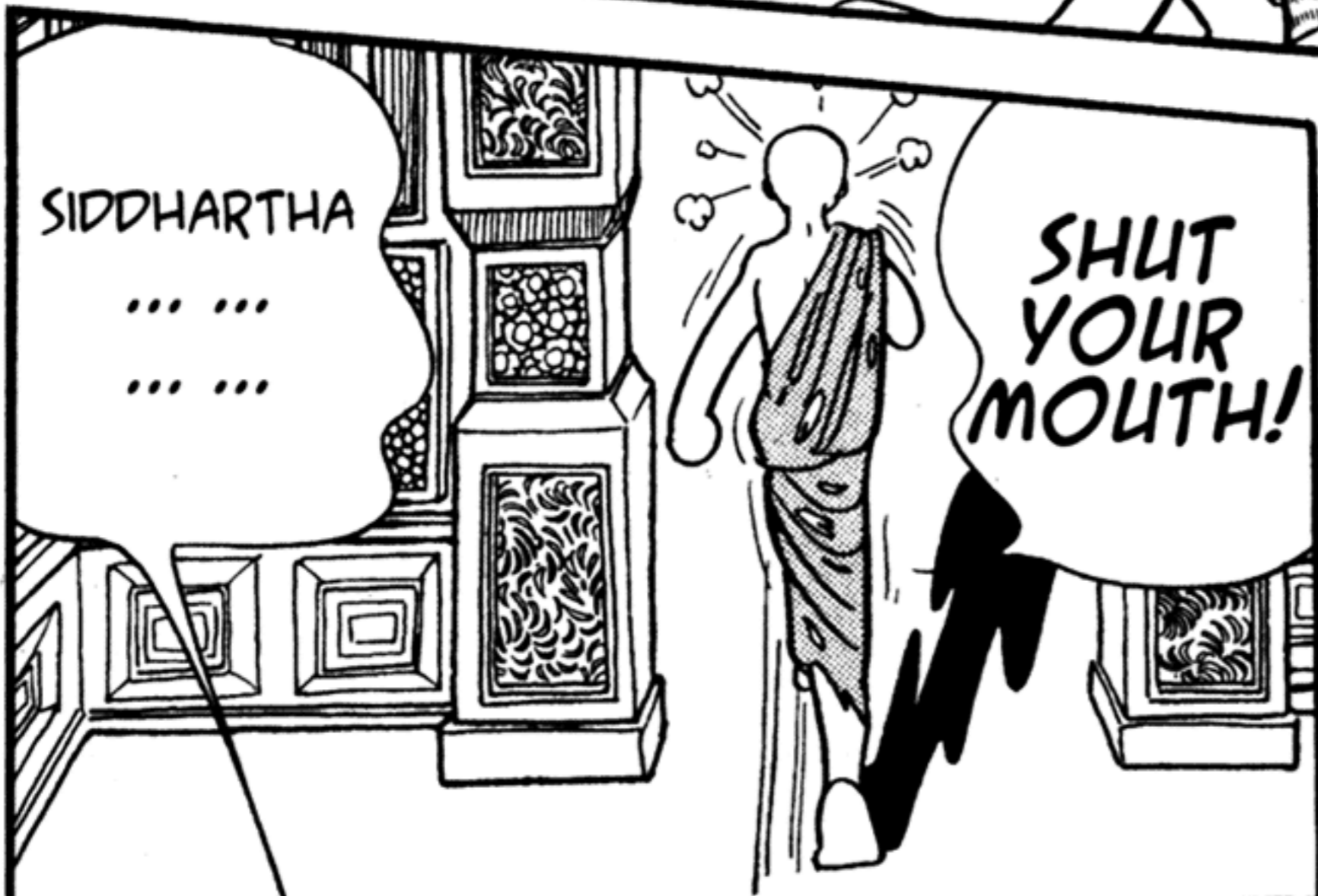
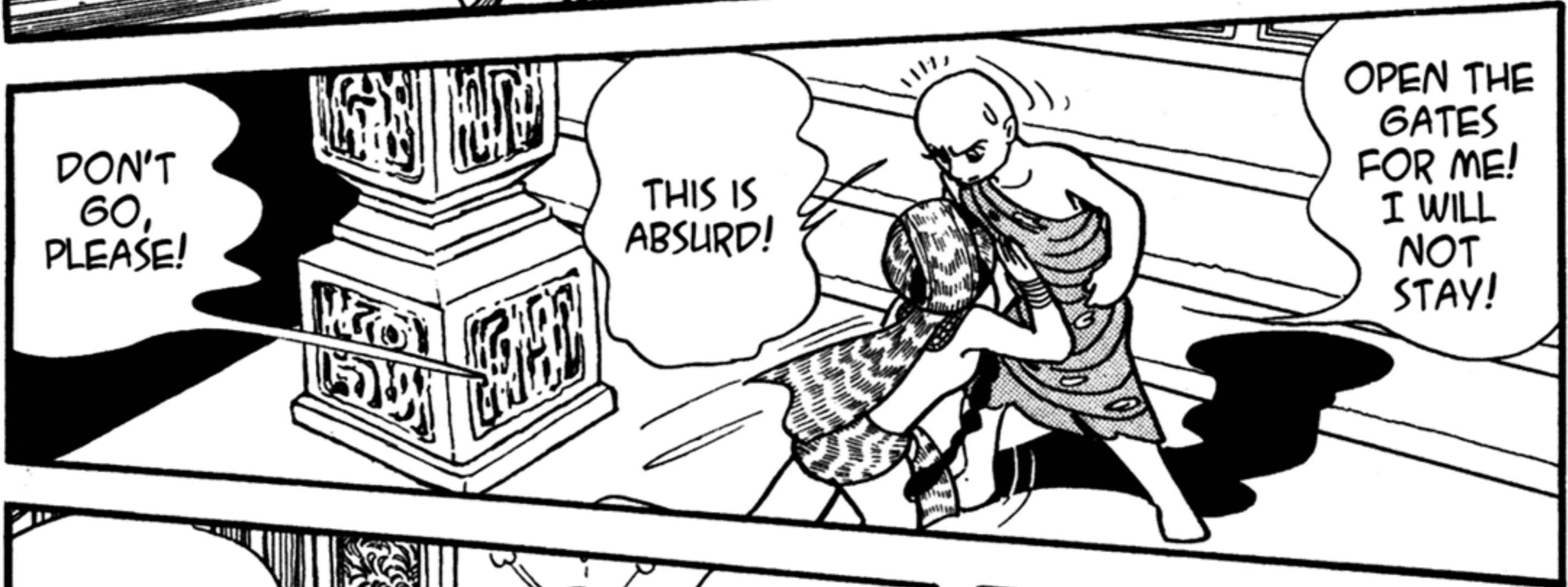
chuckle JUST A MILD SEDATIVE.

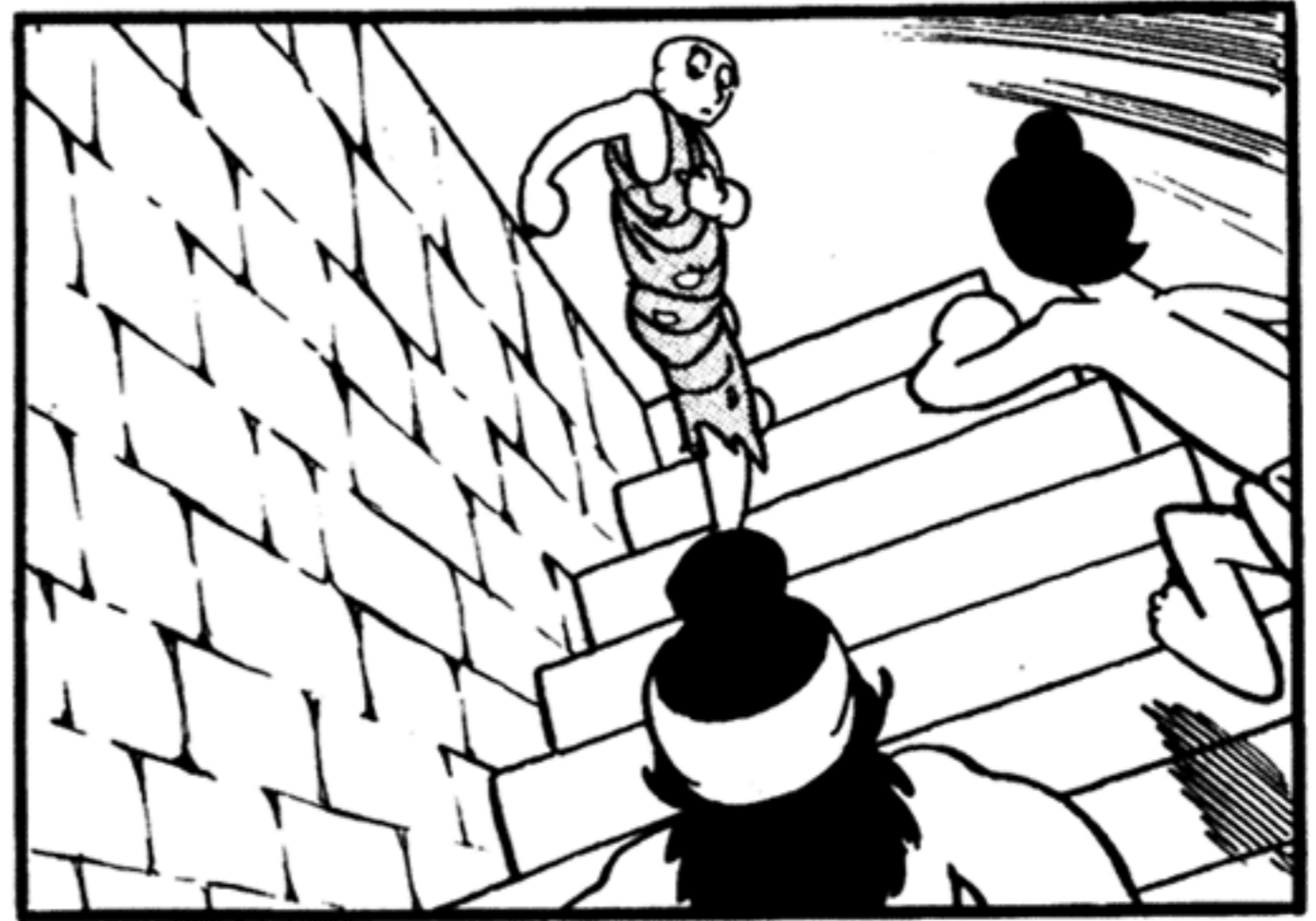
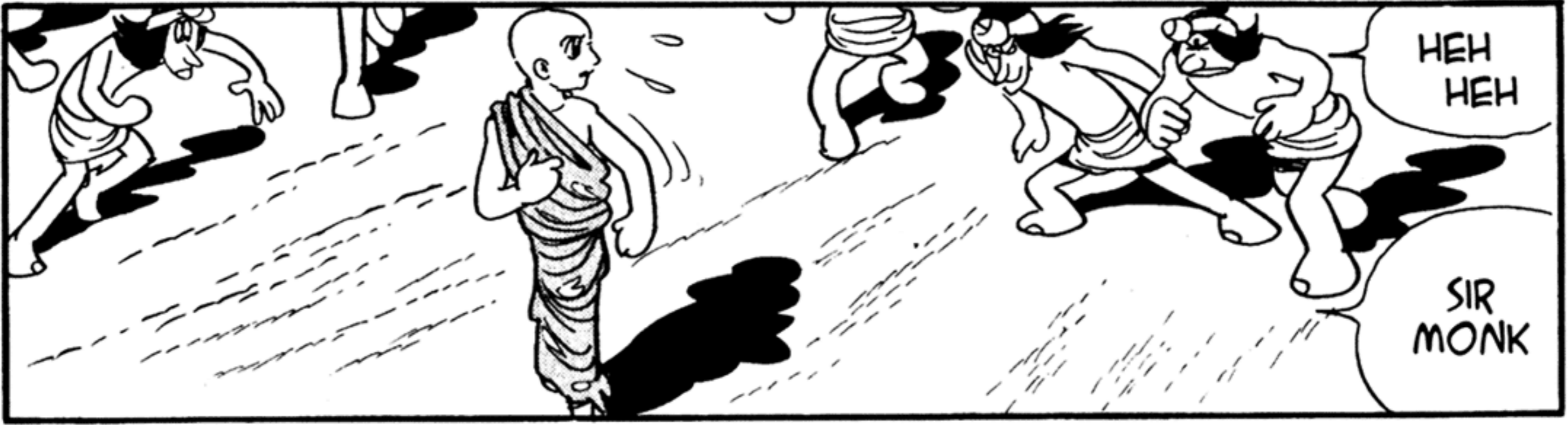


DON'T GO!! SIDDHARTHA, YOU CAN'T!







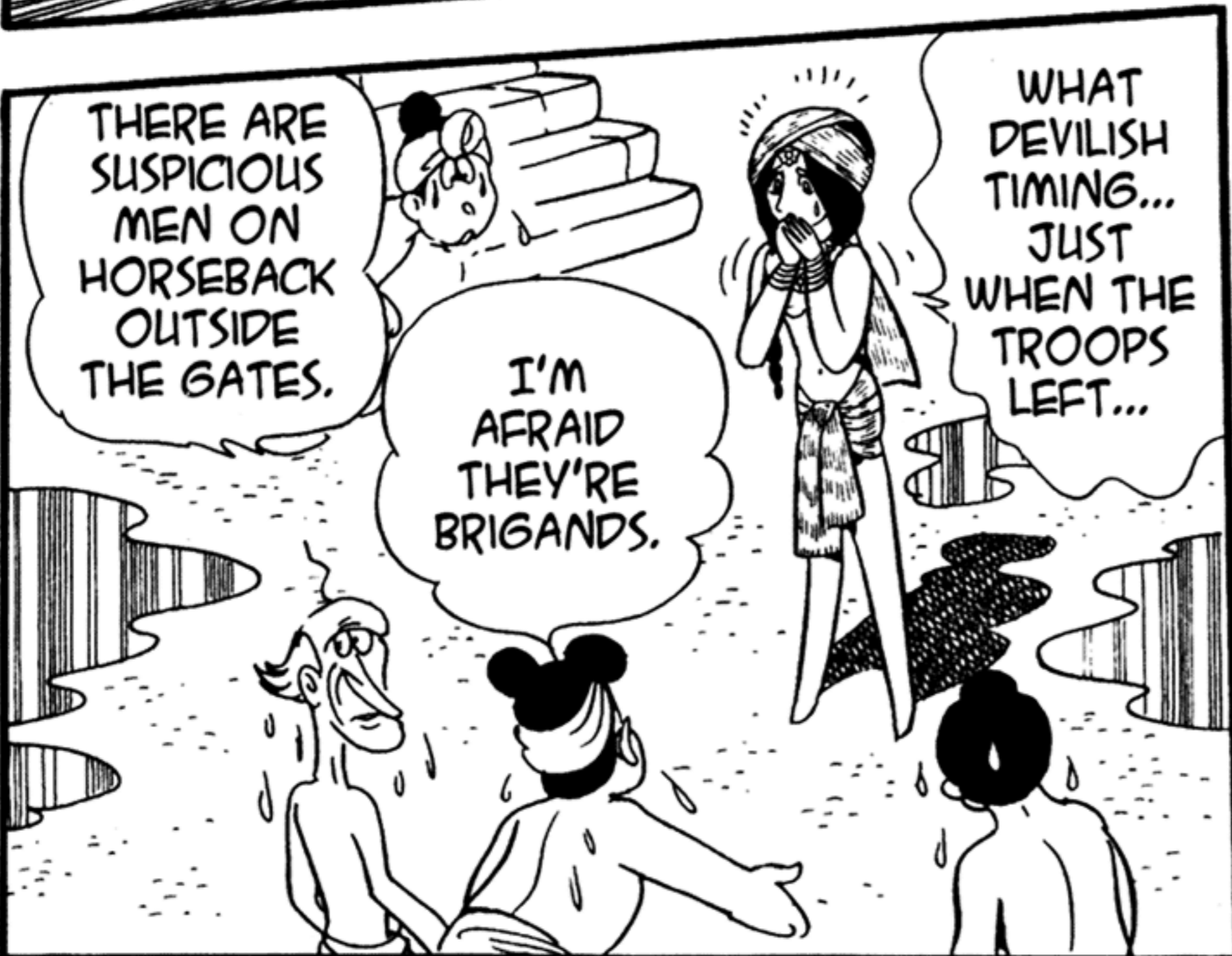
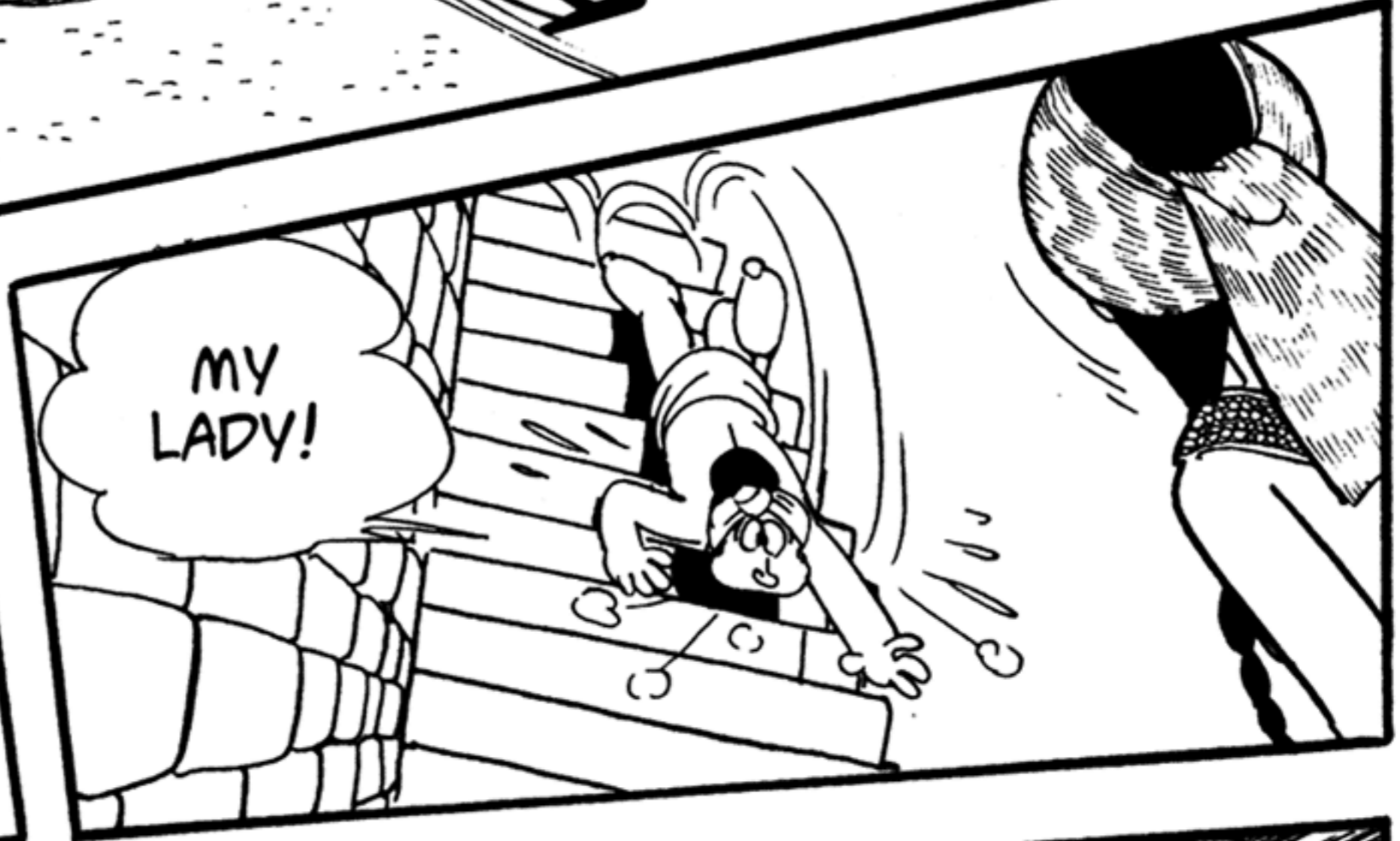
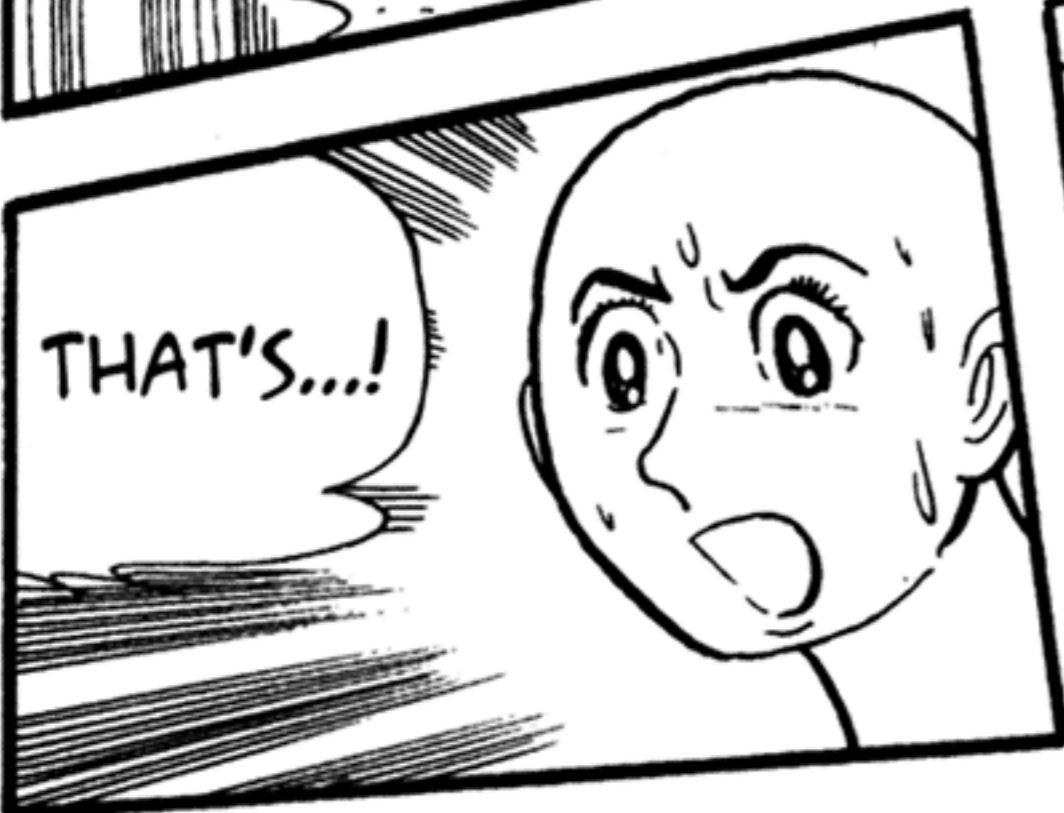


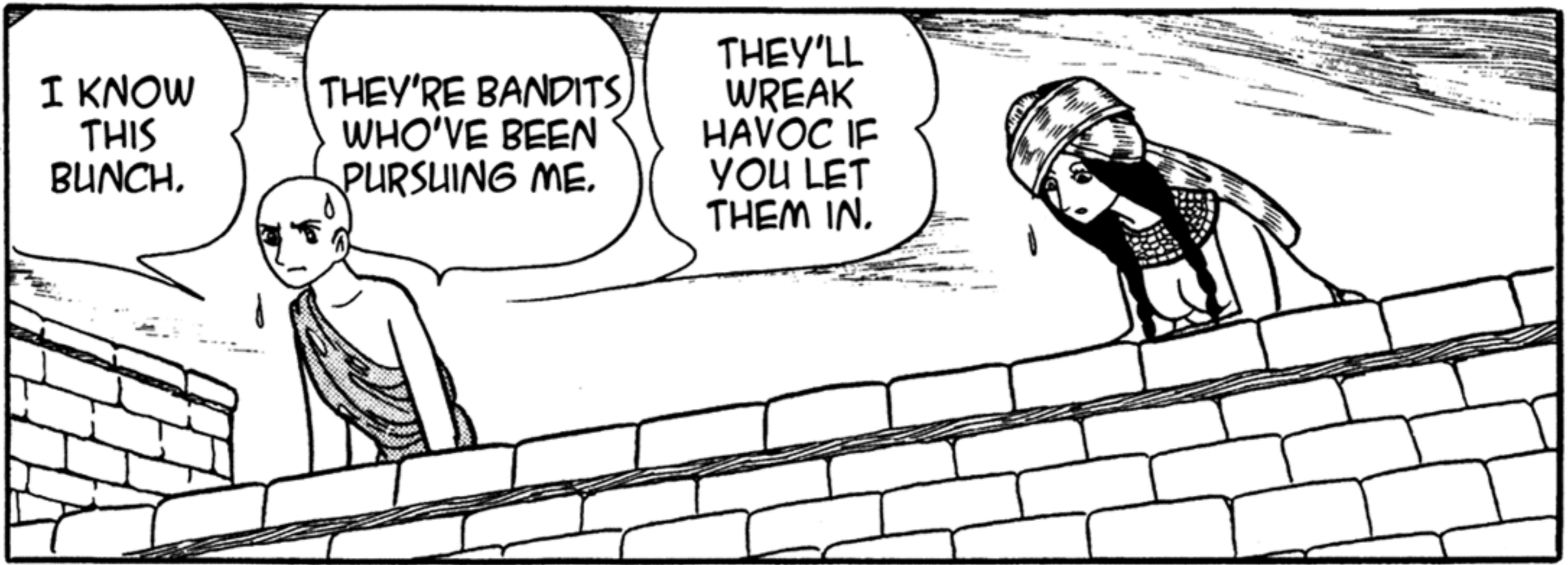
HEY YA FOLKS IN THERE,
OPEN WIDE YER GATES!
WE'RE A HUMBLE GANG
LOOKIN' TO DO SOME
WORK IN YOUR TOWN!
HOPE YOU LIKED OUR
INTRODUCTION!

Hehehehe
Hahahaha

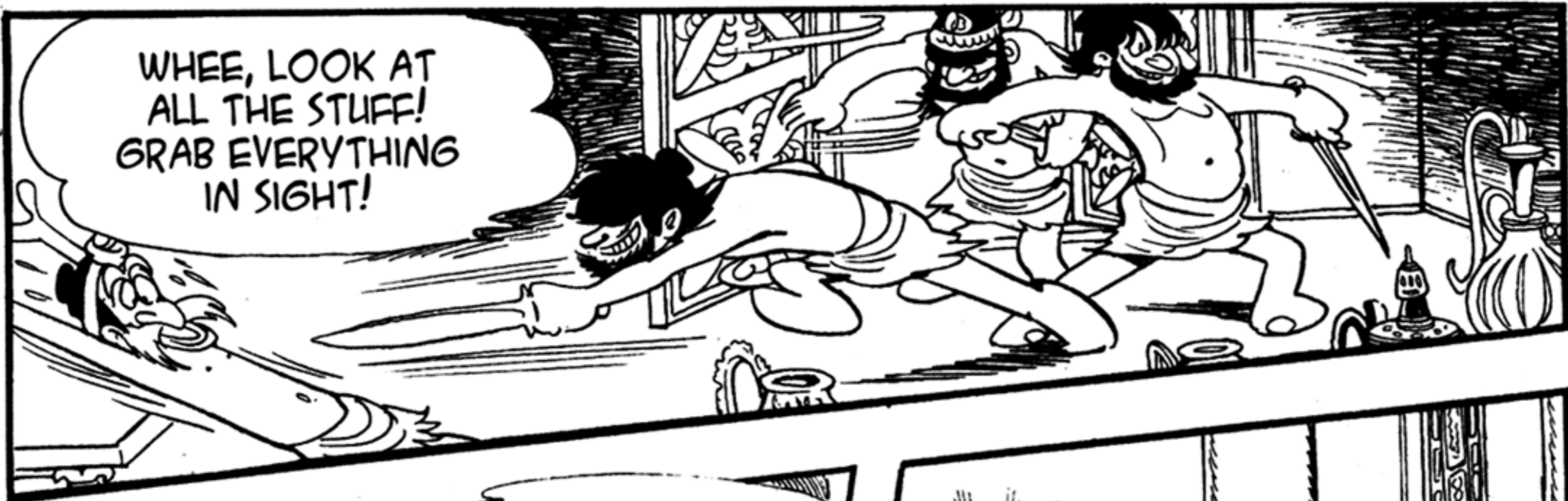
ROARS
Guffaw
cheers

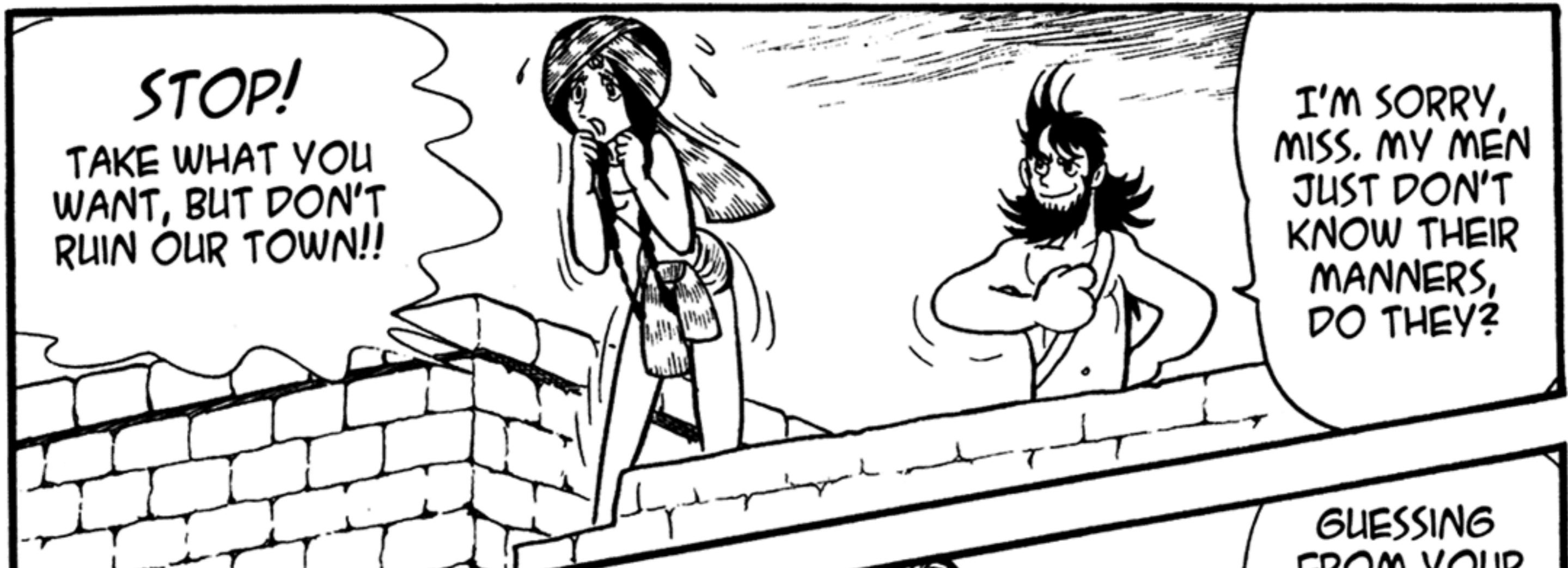






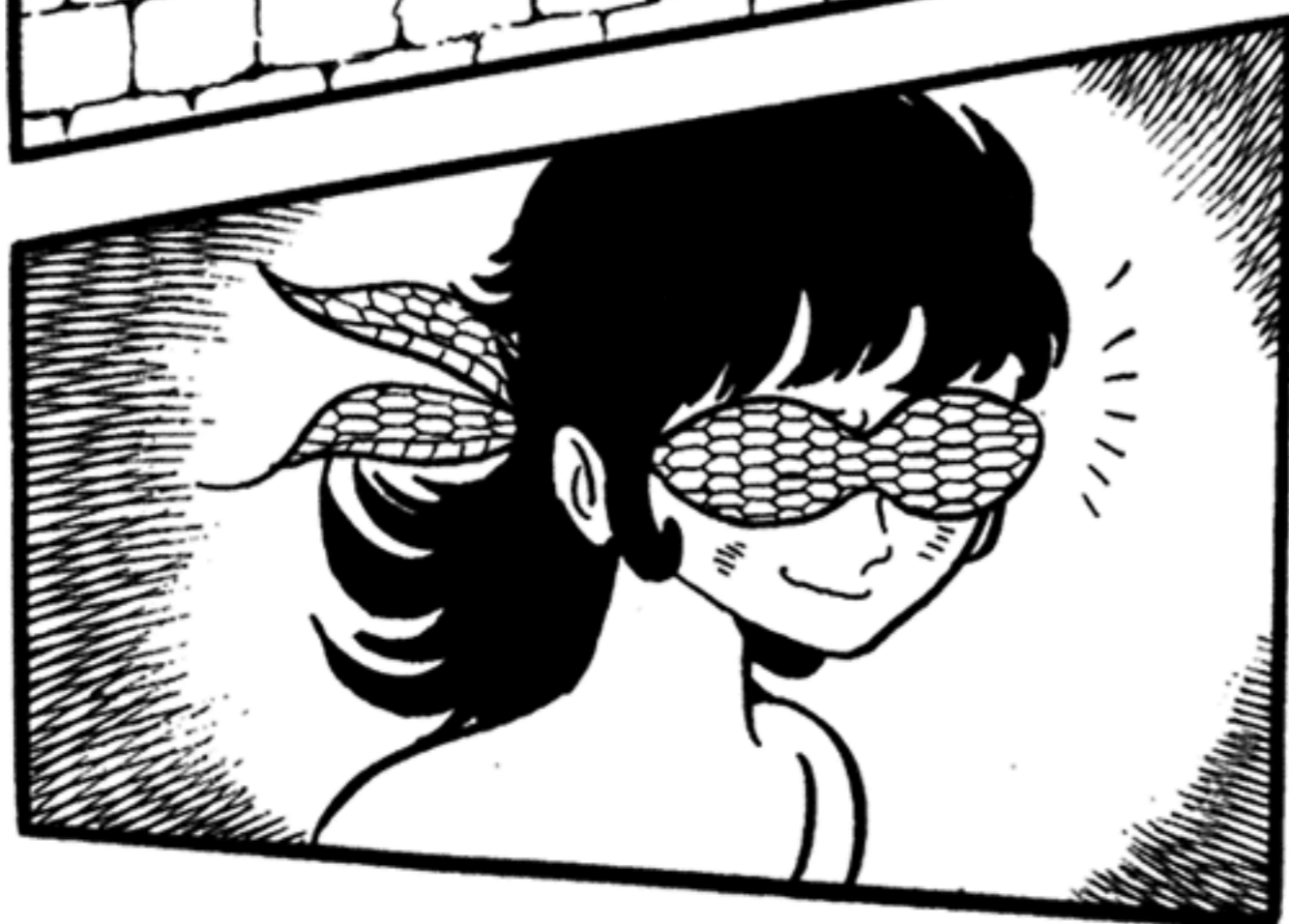






STOP!
TAKE WHAT YOU WANT, BUT DON'T RUIN OUR TOWN!!

I'M SORRY, MISS. MY MEN JUST DON'T KNOW THEIR MANNERS, DO THEY?



oh!

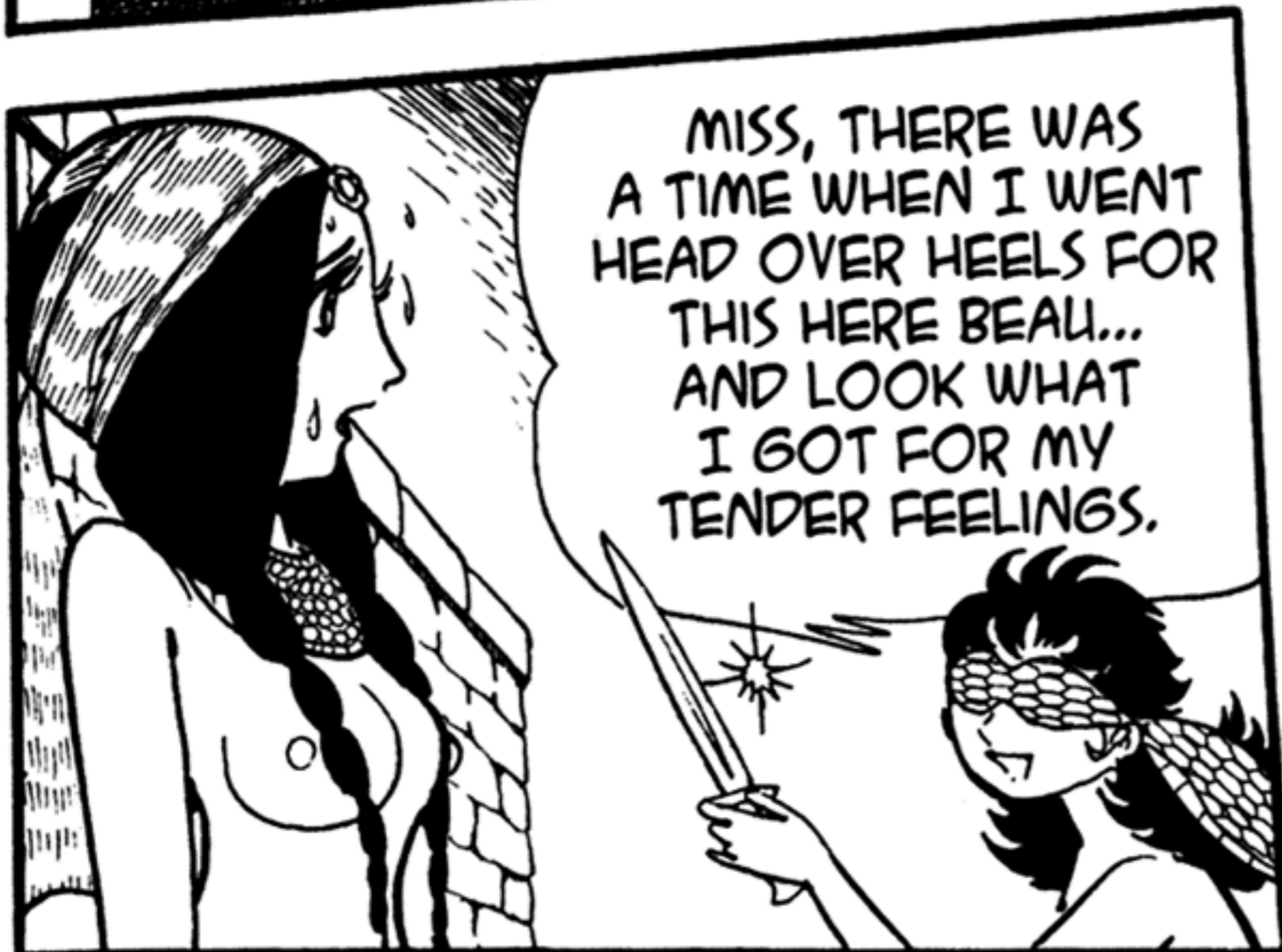
GUESSING FROM YOUR VOICE, I BET YOURS IS A PRETTY FACE! MIND IF I MARKED IT SOME?



M I G A I L A

WHAT'S SHE DONE TO YOU?!

HEH HEH, NOW WAIT A SEC. ARE SHE AND YOU LOVERS, SIDDHARTHA? IS THAT IT?

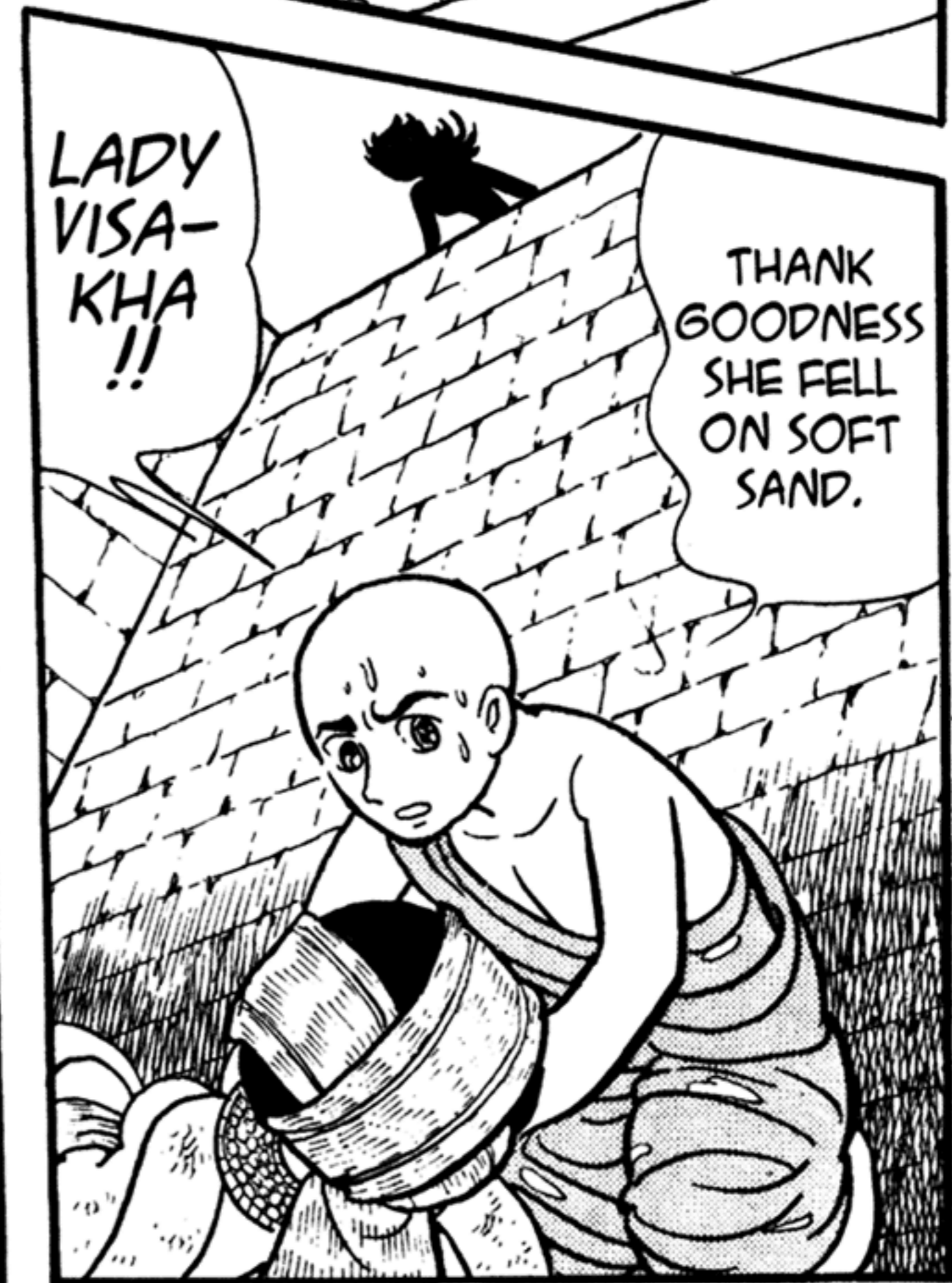
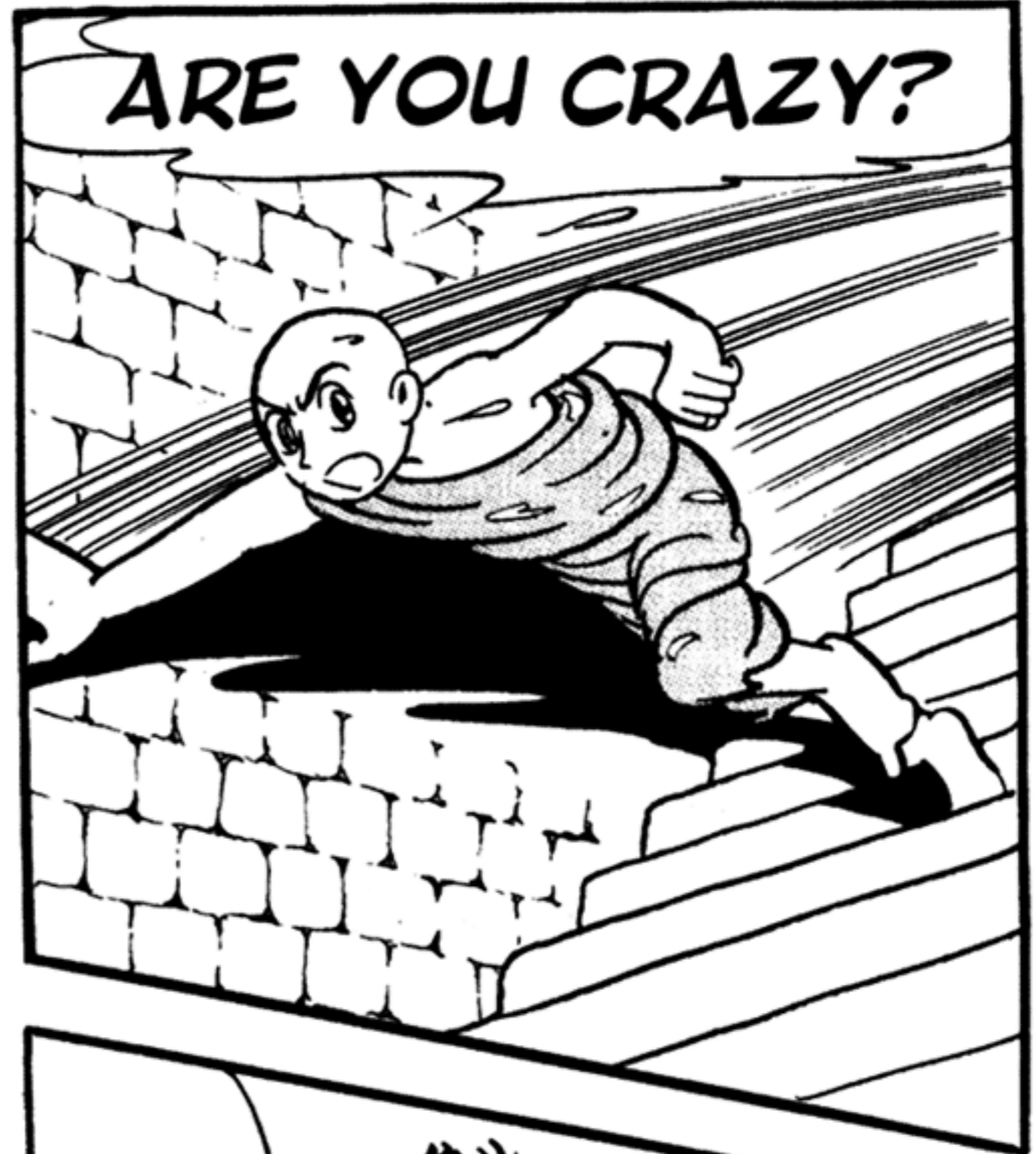
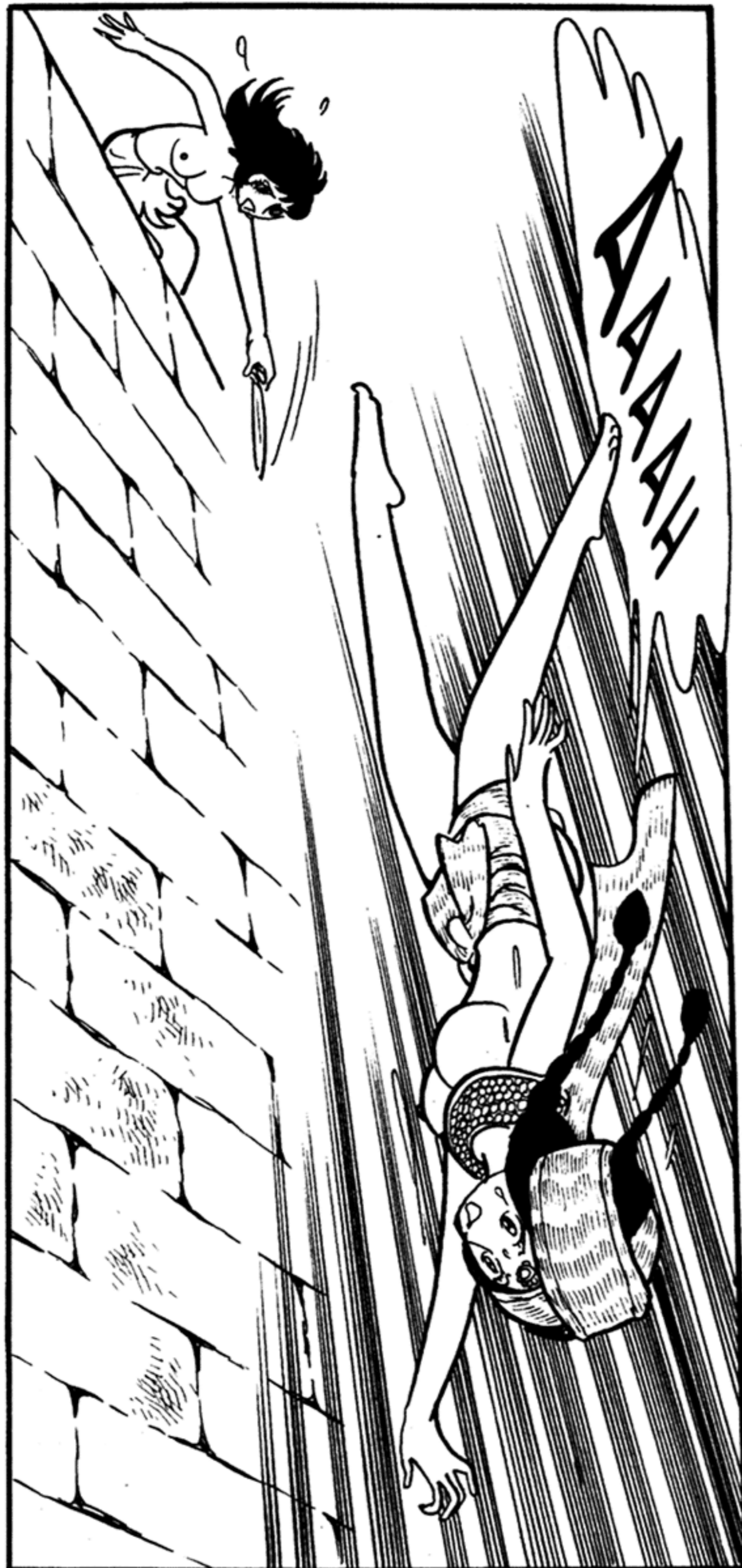
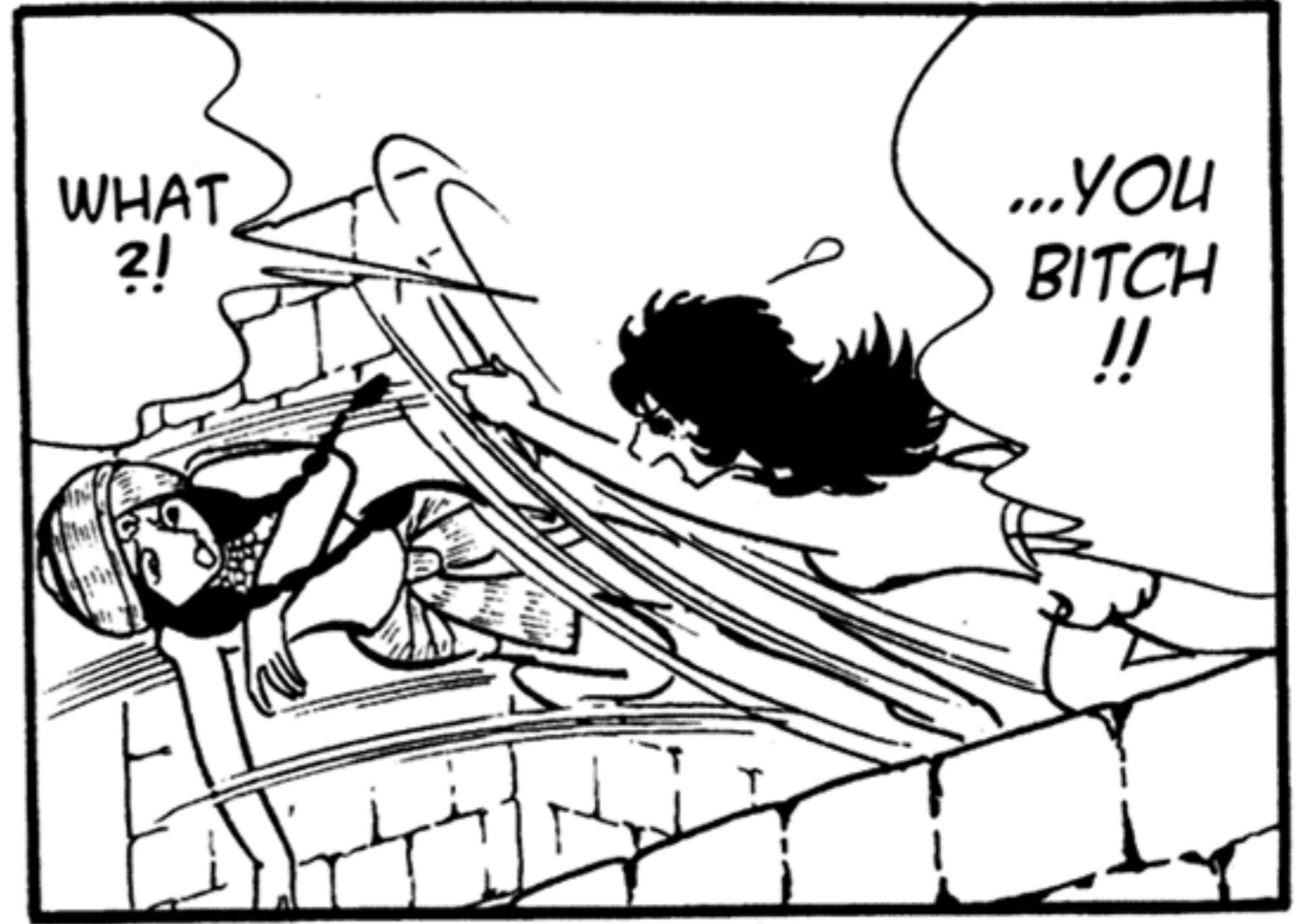
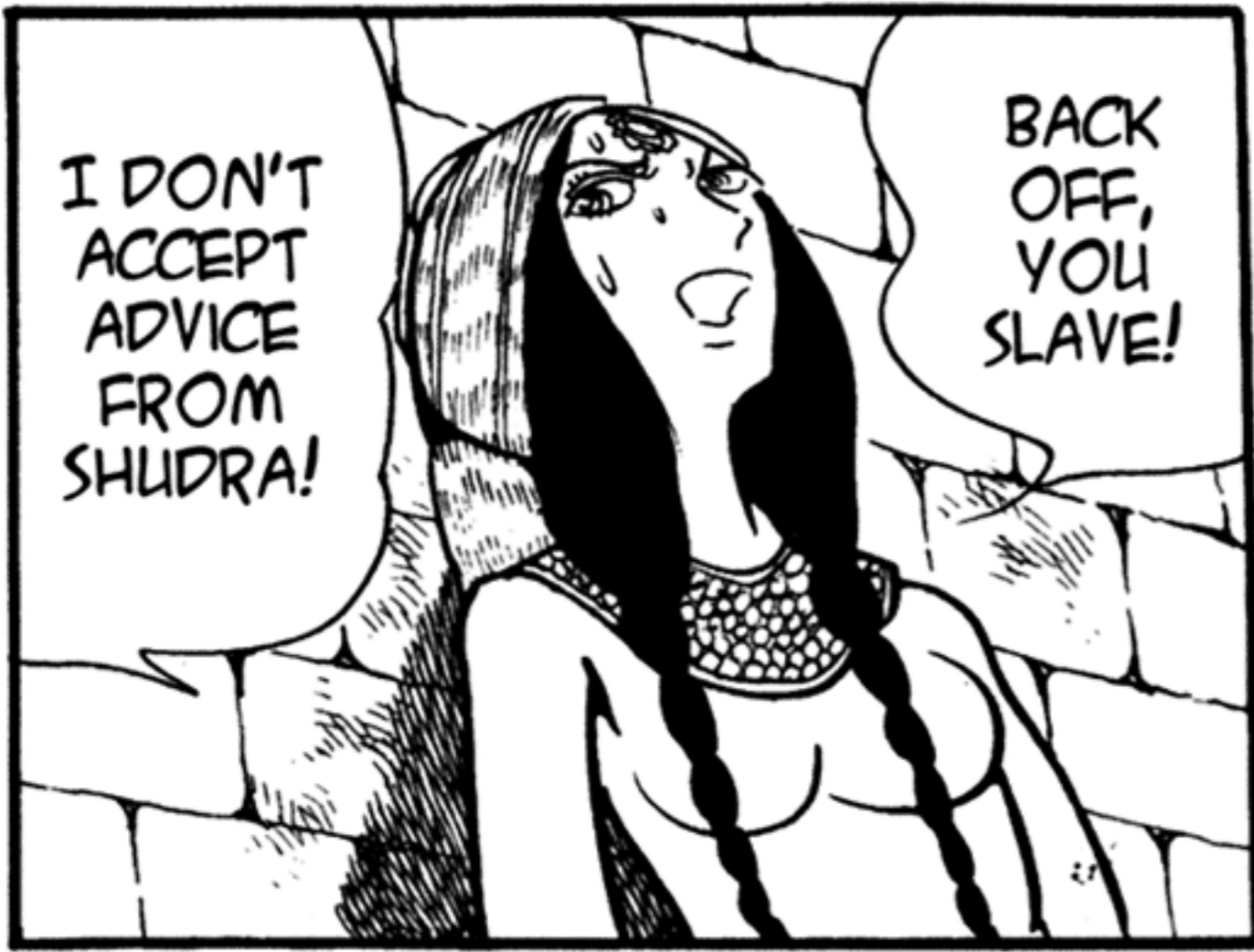


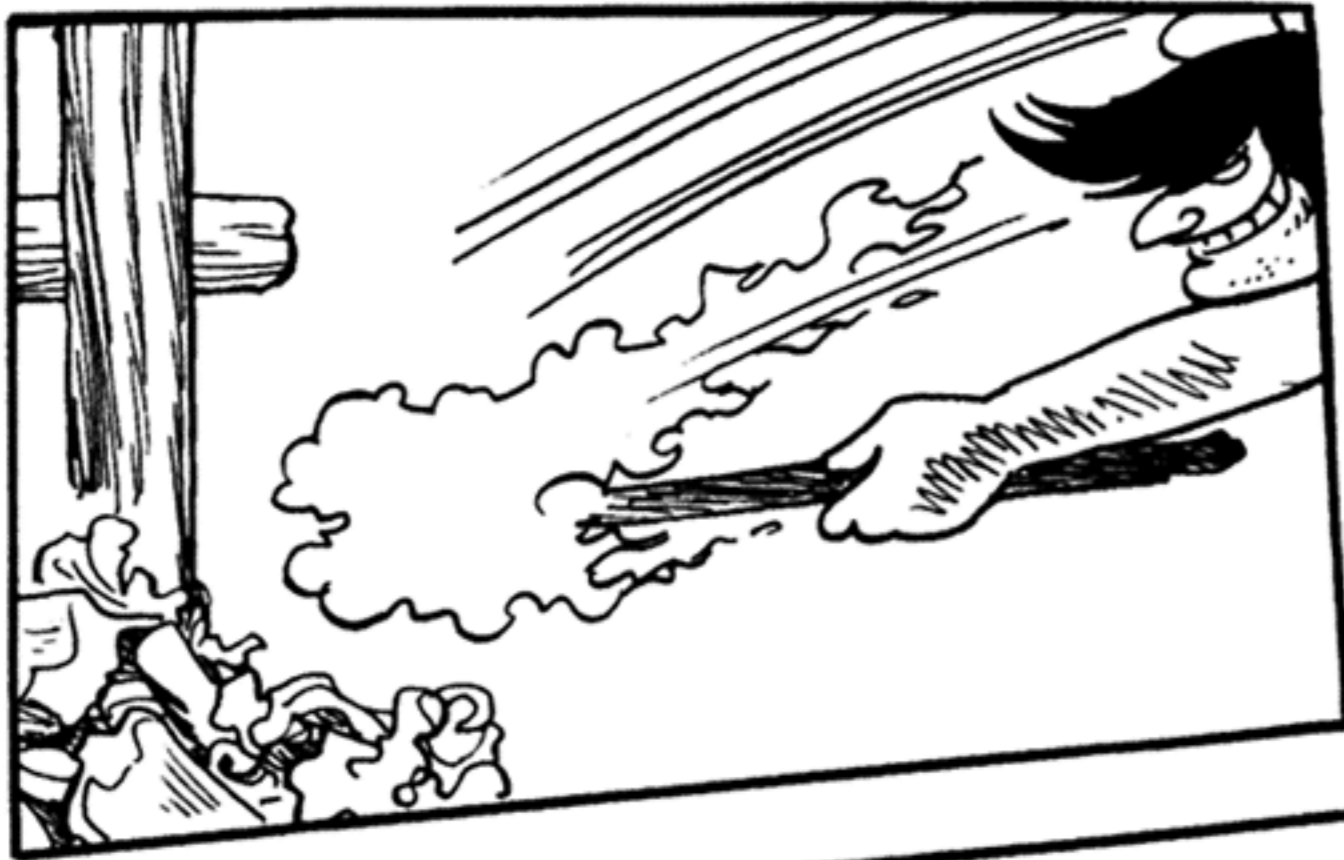
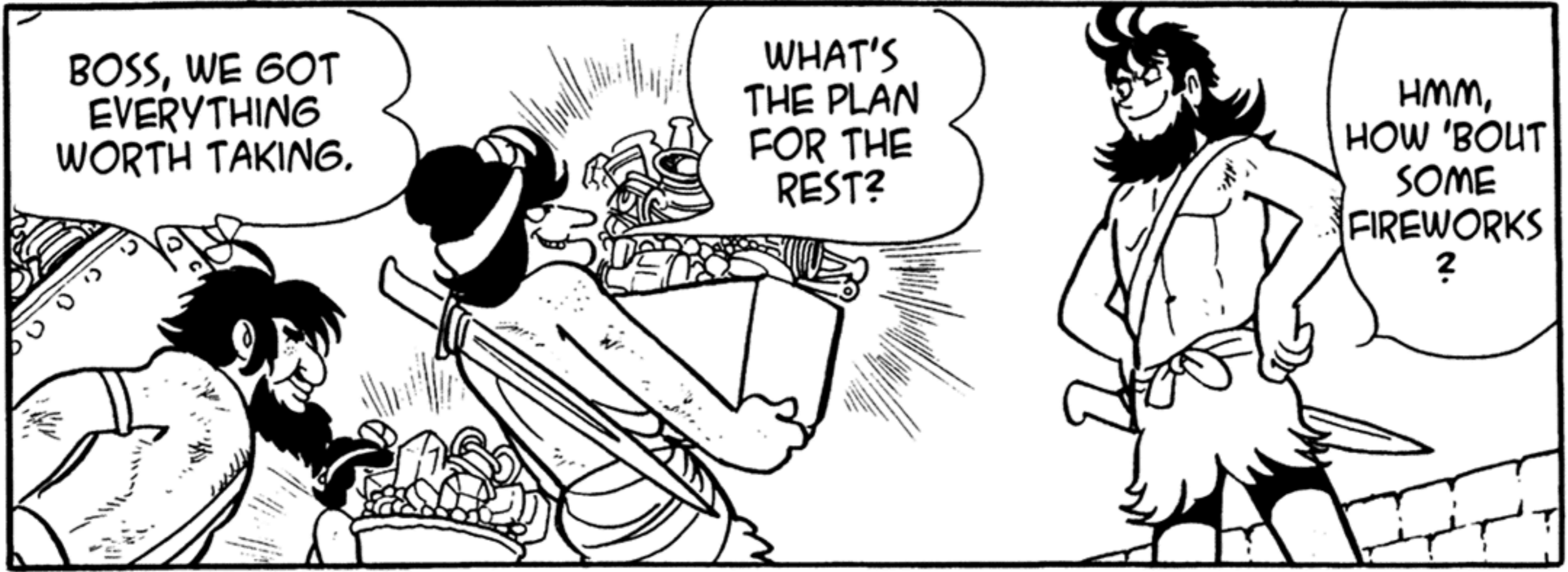
MISS, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WENT HEAD OVER HEELS FOR THIS HERE BEAU... AND LOOK WHAT I GOT FOR MY TENDER FEELINGS.

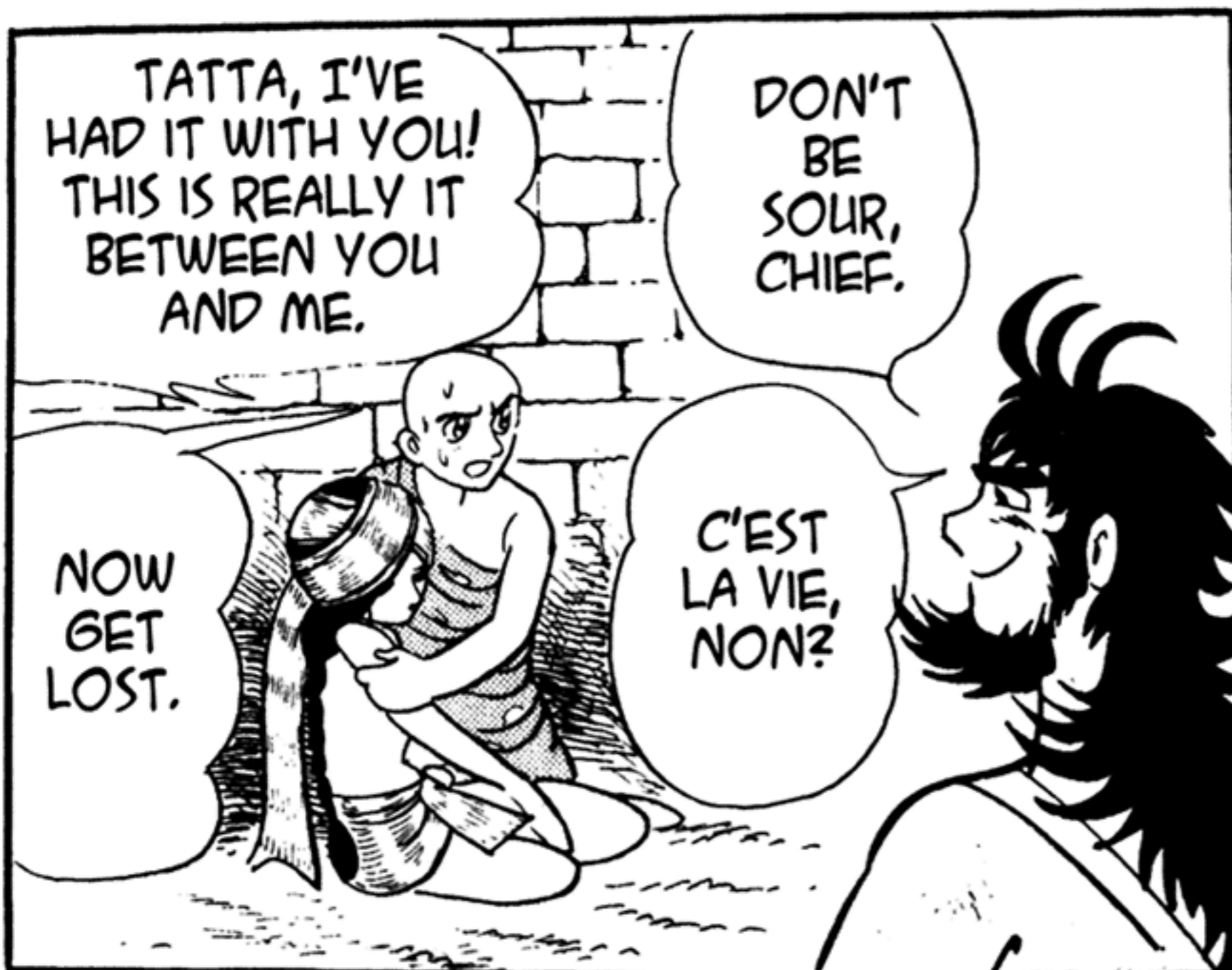


THIS FACE! TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

LOVE CAN MAKE YOU BLIND!
HA HA
HA HA









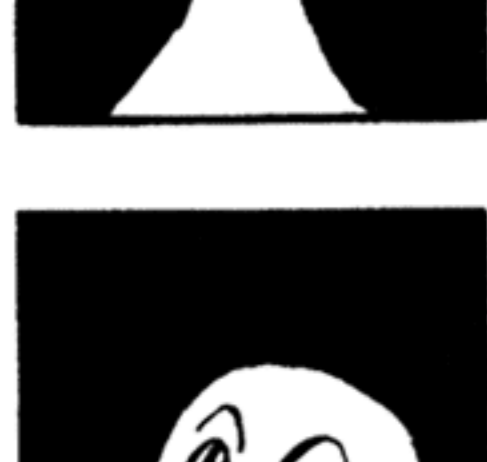
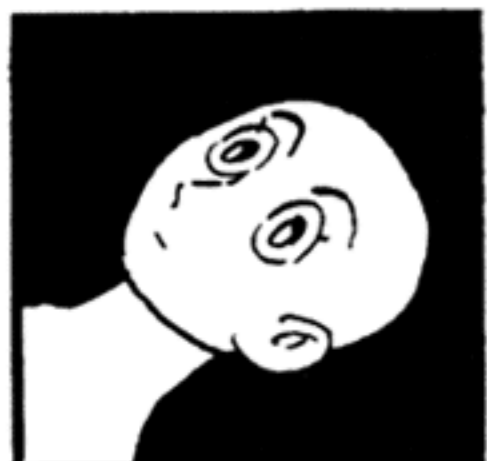
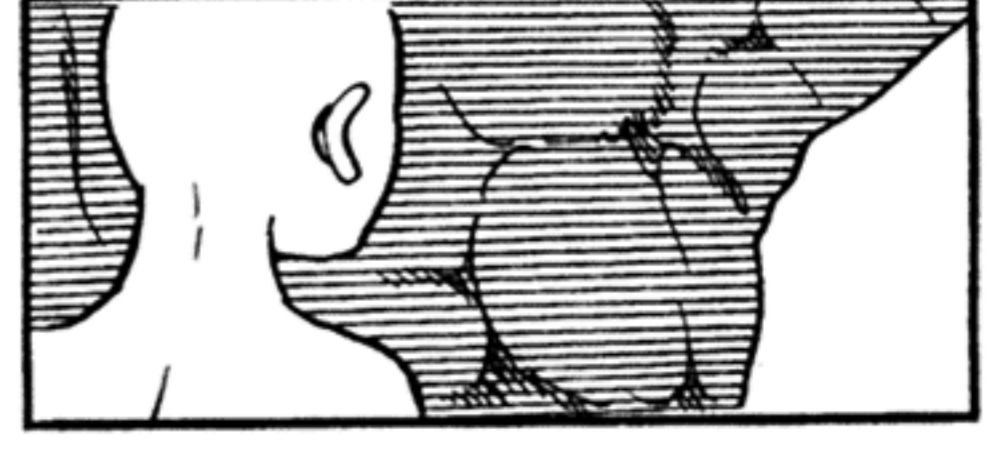
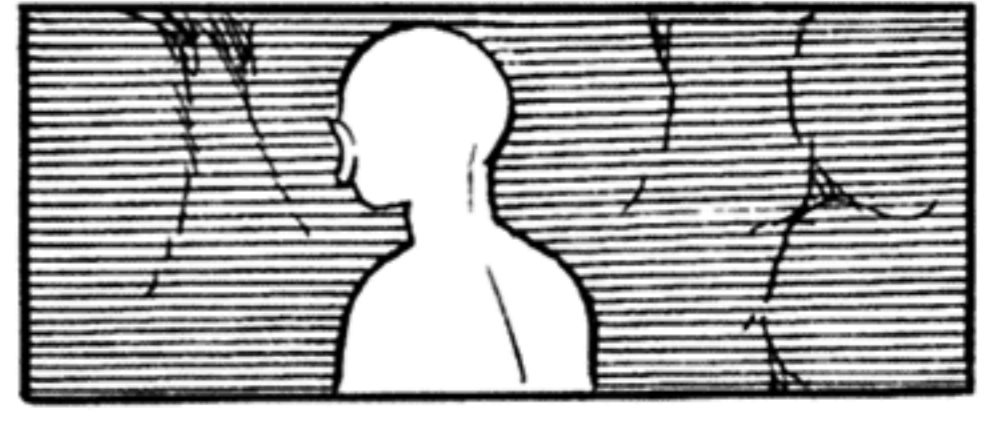
SHE'LL BE A NUISANCE, SIDDHARTHA. DUMP HER!

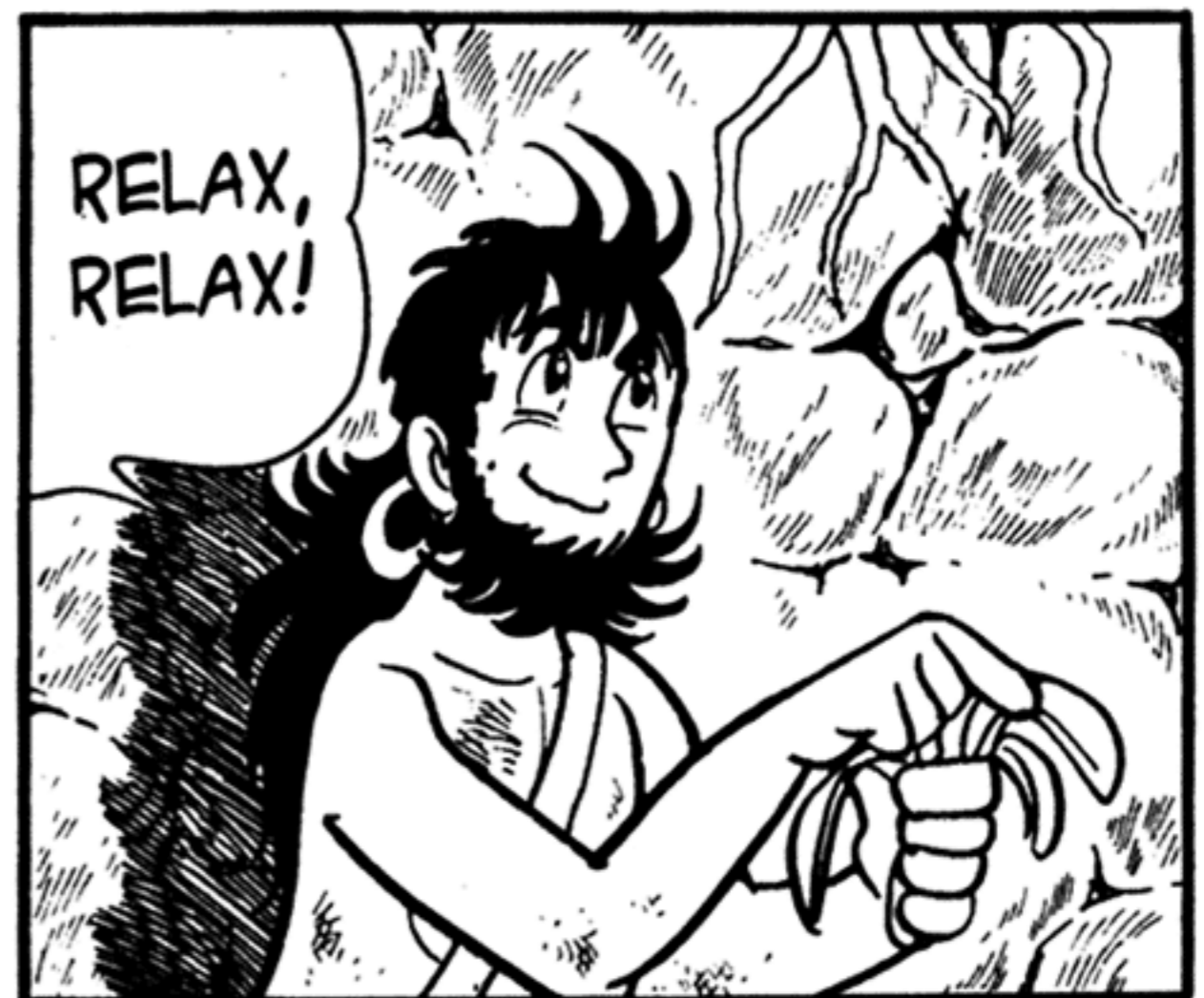
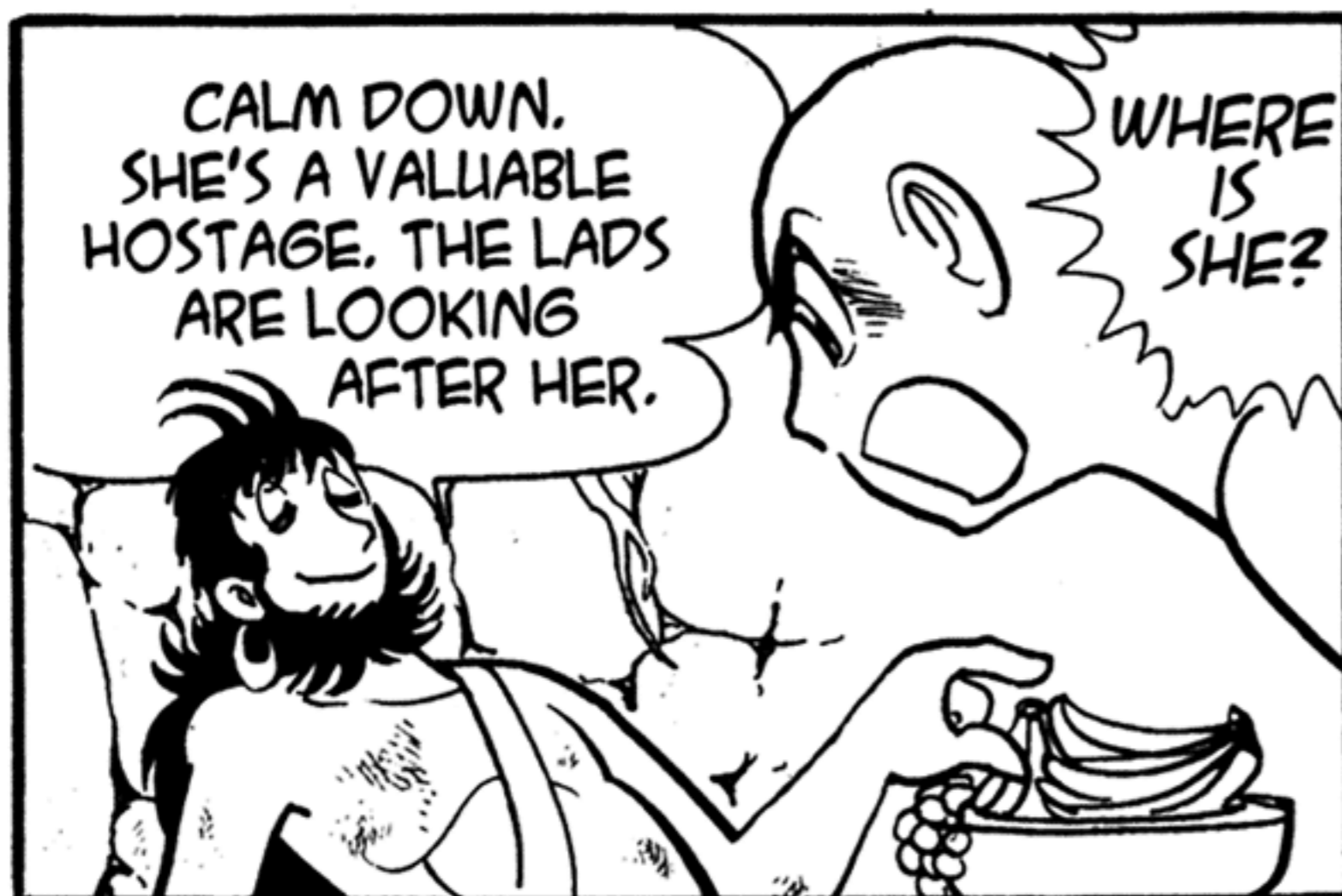
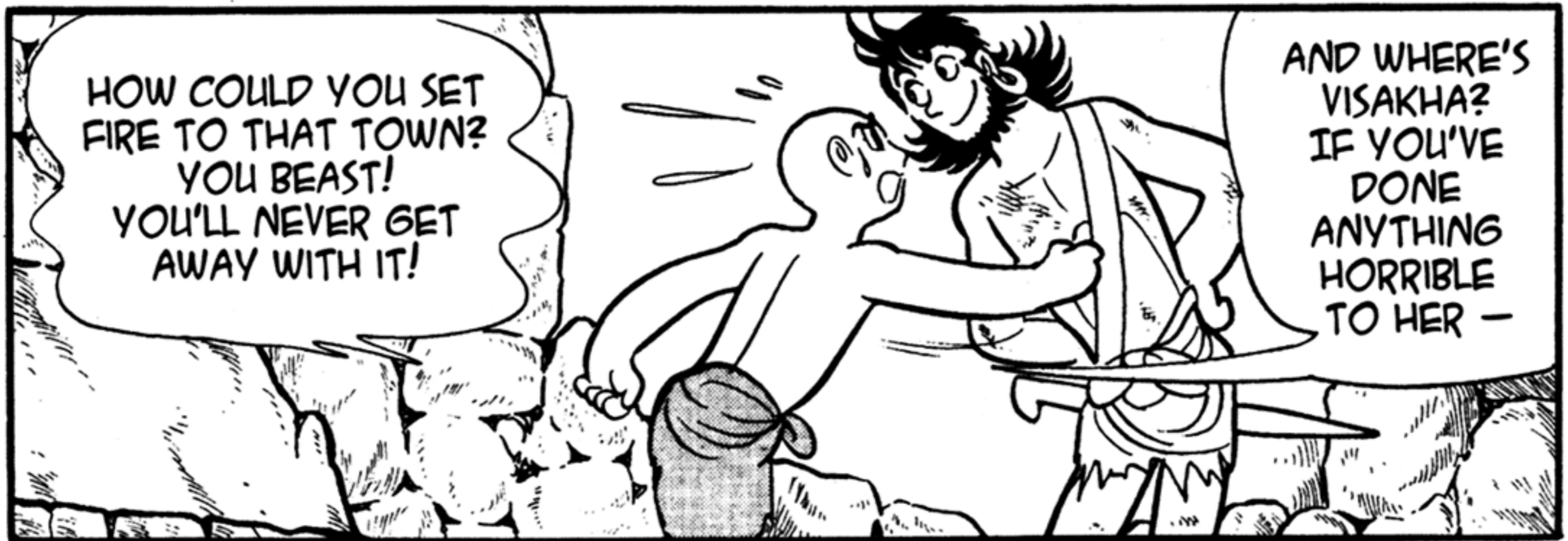
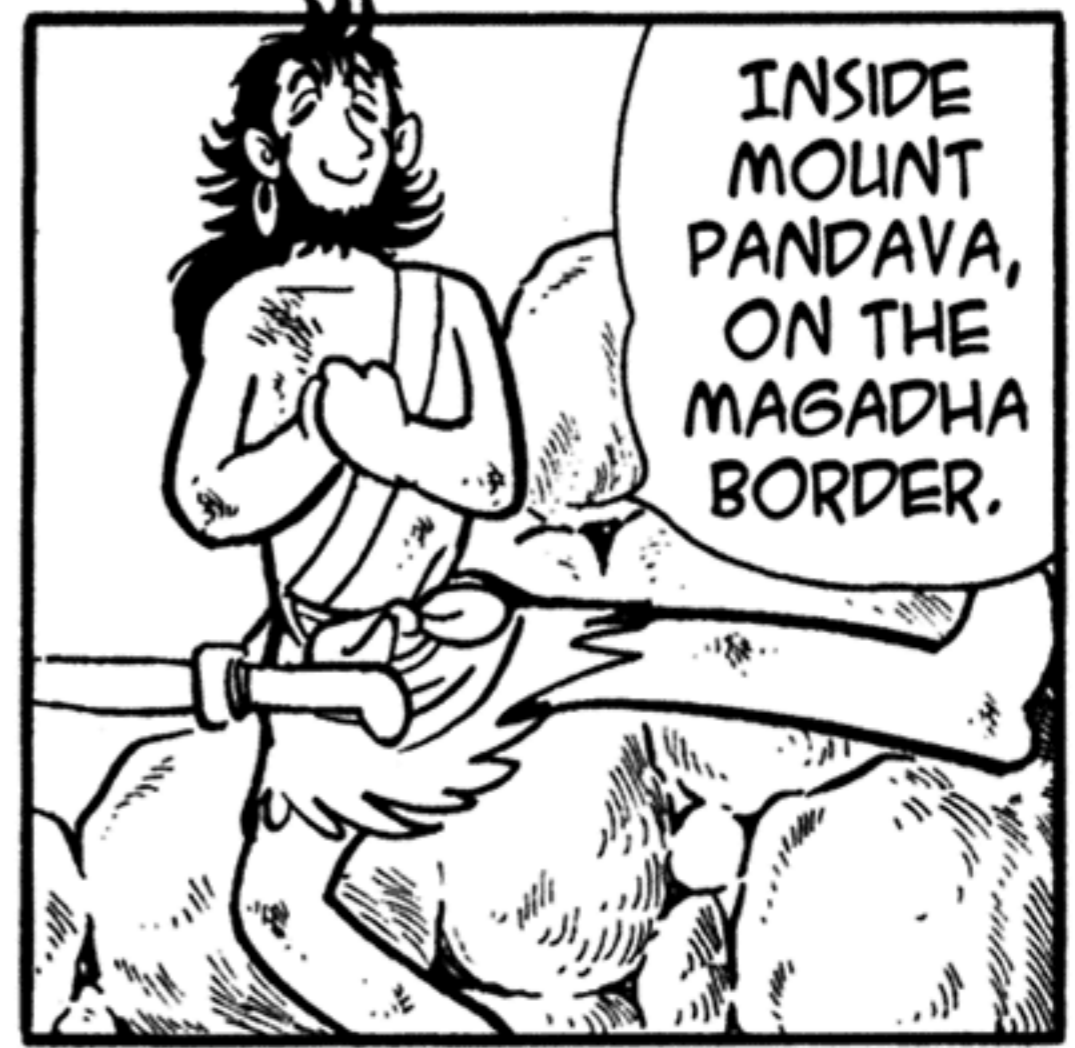
SHUSH. HE LIKES HANGING OUT WITH HER, OBVIOUSLY. LET HIM DO AS HE WANTS.

DO NOT DESPAIR, VISAKHA!

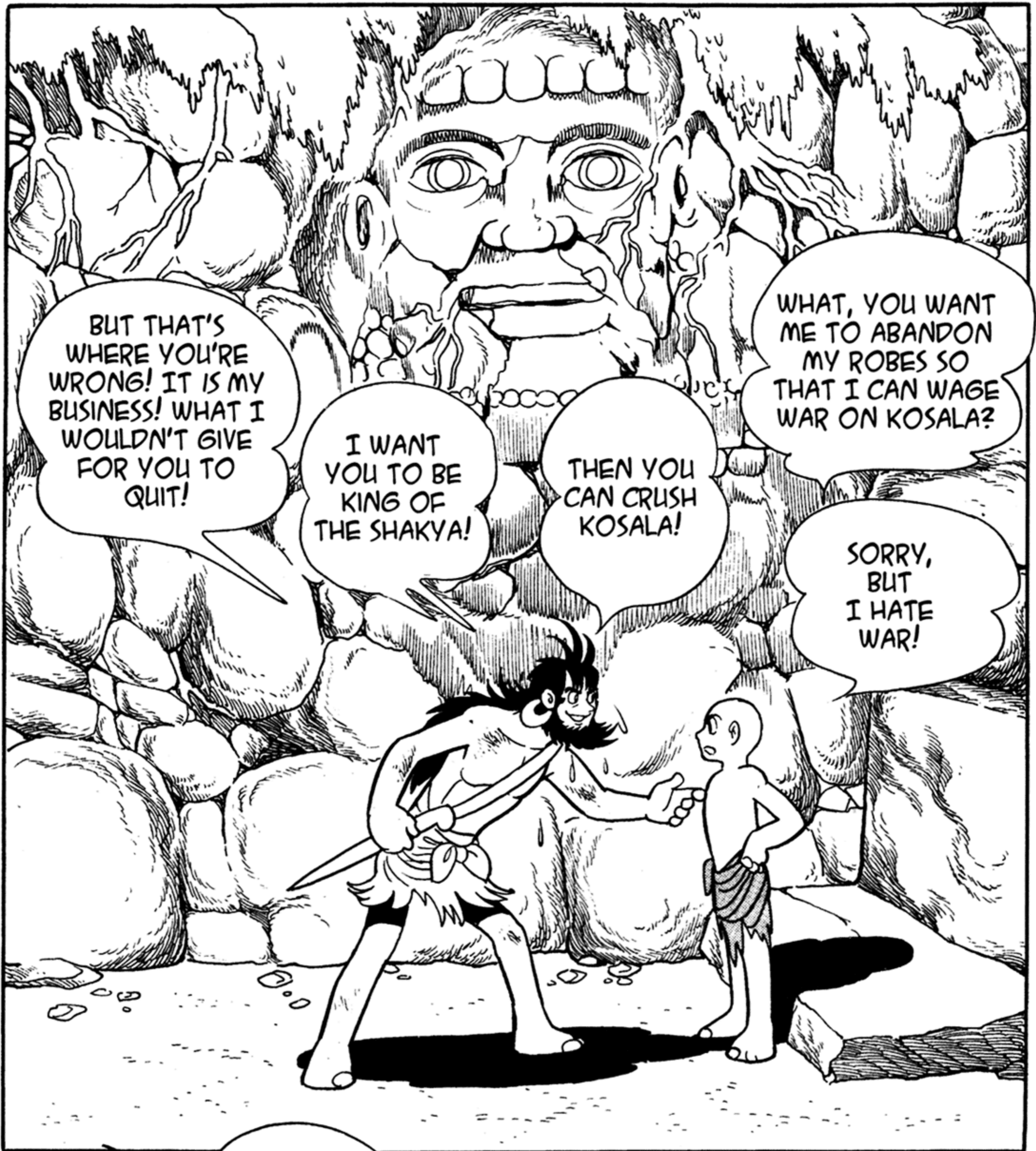
SNIFF
SOB
GROAN











BUT THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG! IT IS MY BUSINESS! WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR YOU TO QUIT!

I WANT YOU TO BE KING OF THE SHAKYA!

THEN YOU CAN CRUSH KOSALA!

WHAT, YOU WANT ME TO ABANDON MY ROBES SO THAT I CAN WAGE WAR ON KOSALA?

SORRY, BUT I HATE WAR!



THEN THE SHAKYA ARE SUNK.

LISTEN, FOR THE SAKE OF PURSUING THIS PATH...

I CAST AWAY BOTH FAMILY AND COUNTRY. I CAN'T JUST —

OKAY, OKAY!
THEN HOW
'BOUT A DEAL:
IF YOU COME
BACK,
I'LL GIVE UP
THIEVIN'.

YOU'LL
REALLY...
RETURN
ALL
THE...?

I'LL DISBAND THE
GANG, GIVE BACK
ALL THE LOOT,
AND LET THE
HOSTAGE GO.

DON'T DO
THIS TO ME!!

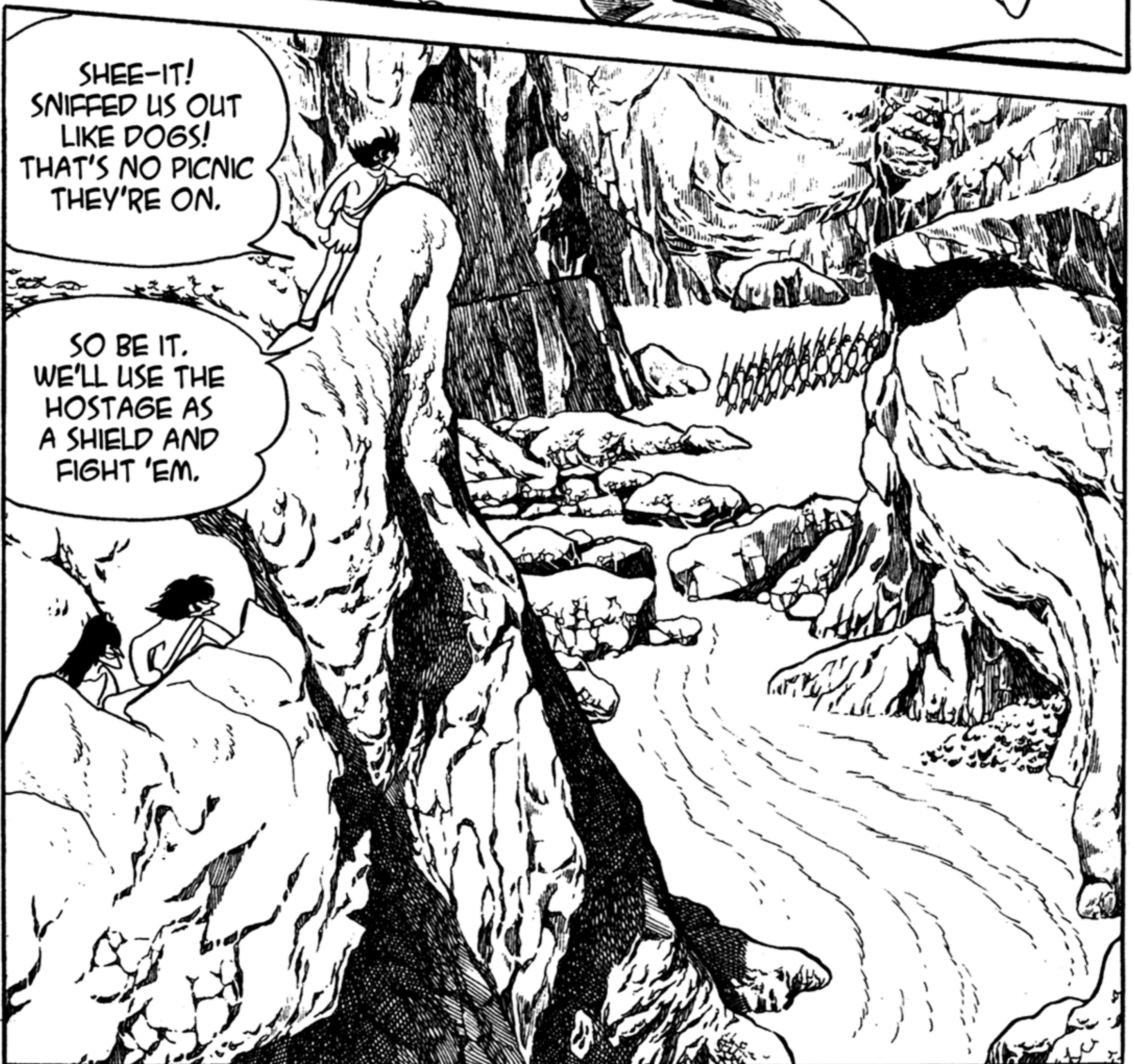
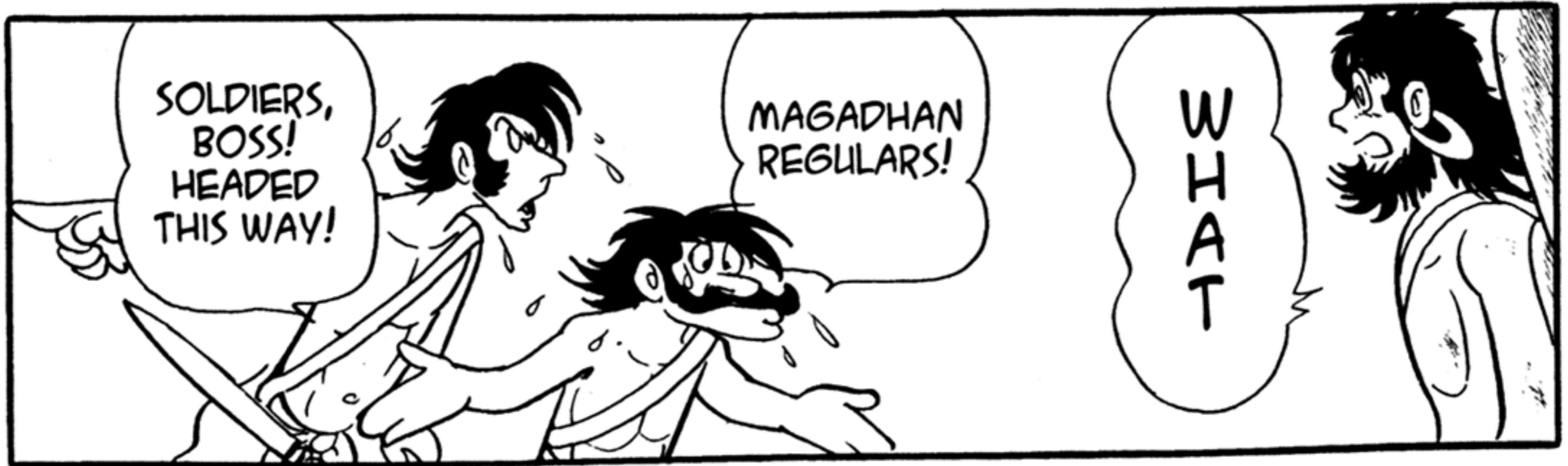
YEAH. AND I'LL DO
ANYTHING ELSE YOU
ASK ME TO DO.
WANNA SEE ME
POKE OUT MY EYE?

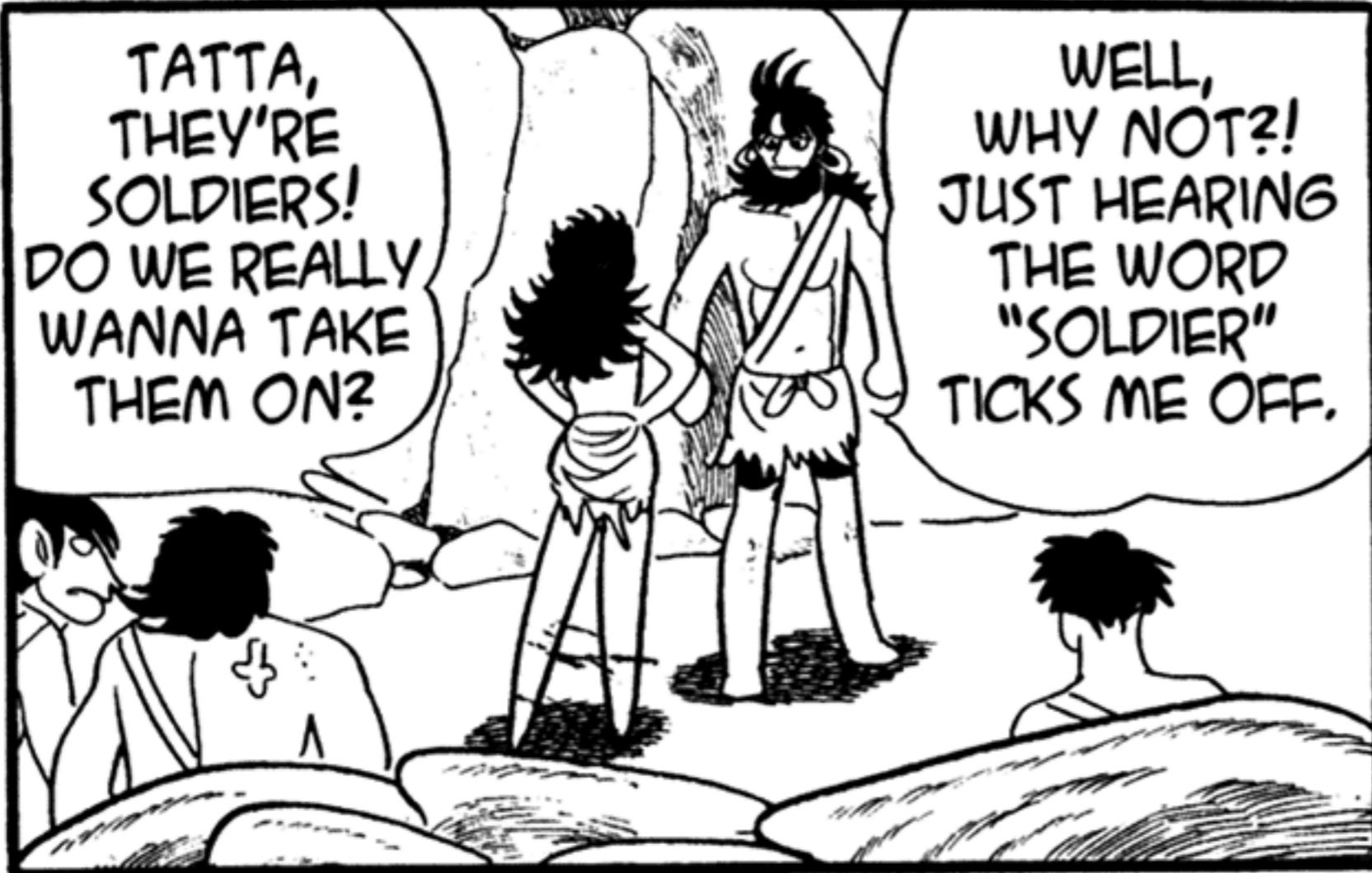
JUST LET
VISAKHA GO...
PLEASE.

MAN, YOU'RE
A HANDFUL...
LIKE YOU'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN...
ANYWAY, I'M
GIVING YOU
MY WORD!

JUST GIVE IT
SOME
THOUGHT,
WILL YA?

I KNOW
YOU'LL COME
AROUND!





TATTA,
THEY'RE
SOLDIERS!
DO WE REALLY
WANNA TAKE
THEM ON?

WELL,
WHY NOT?!
JUST HEARING
THE WORD
"SOLDIER"
TICKS ME OFF.



BOSS,
THEIR
CAPTAIN'S
YELLIN'
LIKE
NUTS.



VILLAINS!
I AM
SUKANDA,
KNIGHT
OF
MAGADHA
!!

WE KNOW
YOU'VE
SACKED
A TOWN
AND TAKEN
HOSTAGE
A LADY
VISAKHA!

RELEASE VISAKHA
IMMEDIATELY! RELEASE
ALSO THE MONK
SIDDHARTHA!
SURRENDER YOUR
LOOT AND YOURSELVES,
AND WE MAY SPARE
THE LIVES OF
SOME OF YOU!

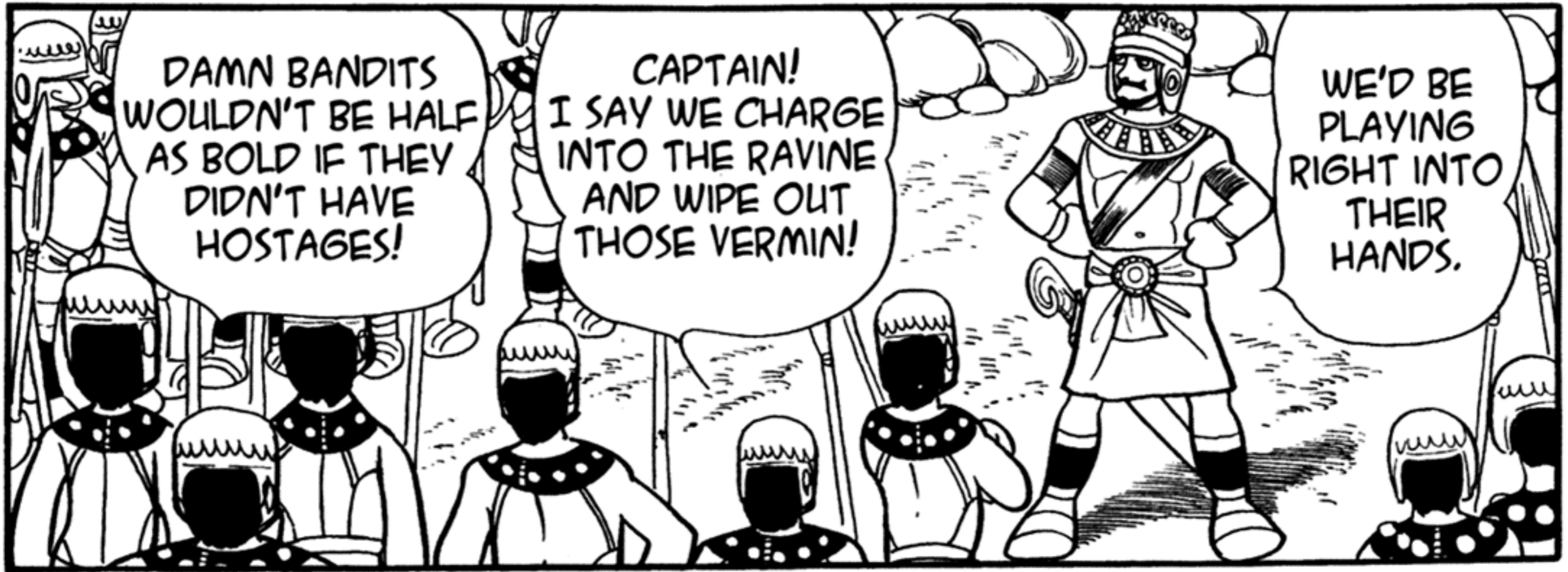


BUT THE
GANG
LEADER
MUST
DIE...

AIN'T
THAT
NICE!



YOU GOT
A PROBLEM,
JUST COME
ON OVER.
HAPPY TO
FIGHT YOU
IN THIS
RAVINE!



DAMN BANDITS WOULD'N'T BE HALF AS BOLD IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE HOSTAGES!

CAPTAIN! I SAY WE CHARGE INTO THE RAVINE AND WIPE OUT THOSE VERMIN!

WE'D BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS.



BESIDES, I WORRY FOR THE LADY'S SAFETY.

TAKE UP POSITIONS AT THE MOUTH OF THE RAVINE. I WILL GO ALONE.



ARE YOU SERIOUS?

I'LL SCALE THE SLOPE AND SNEAK INTO THEIR CAMP.

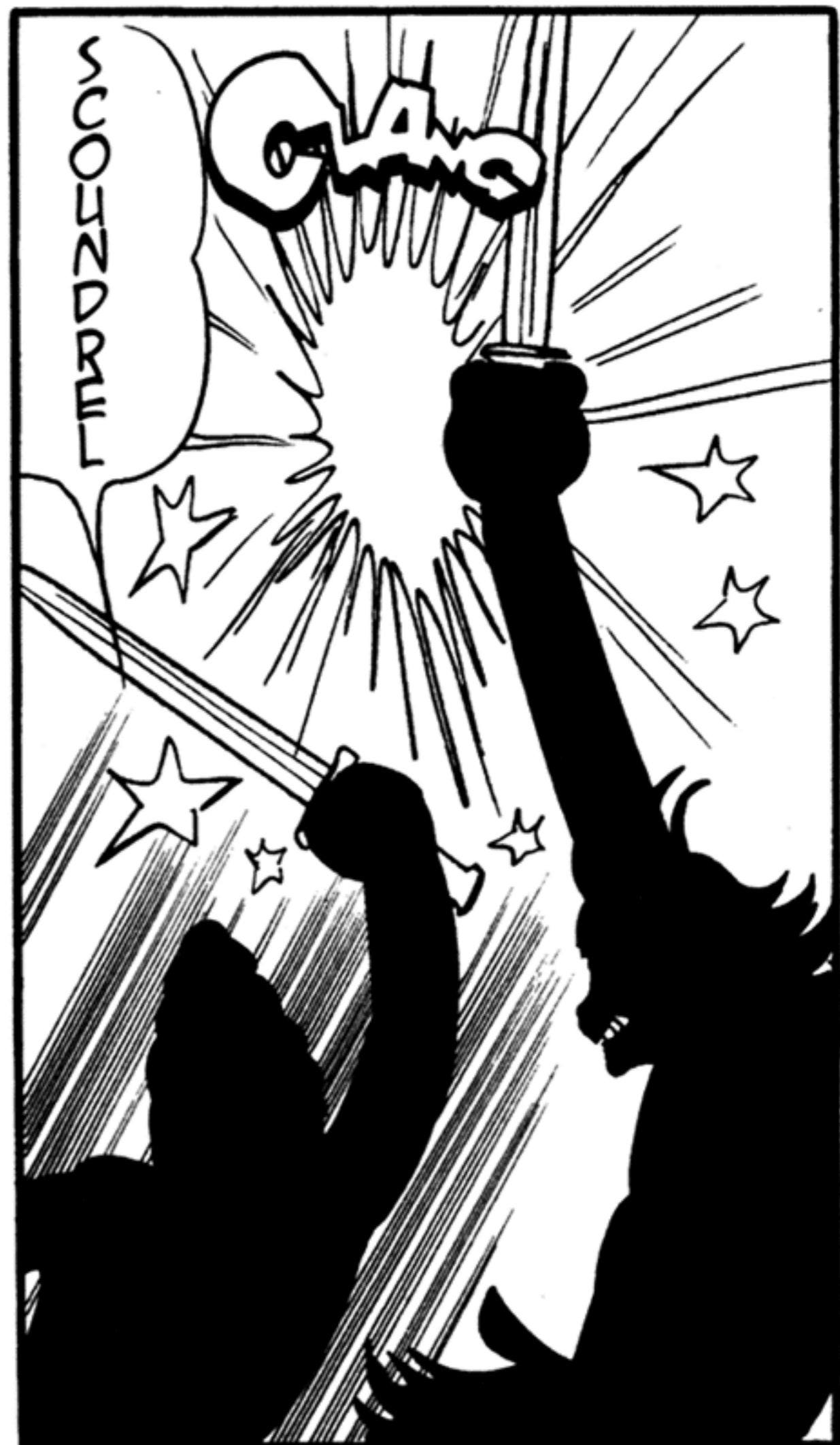
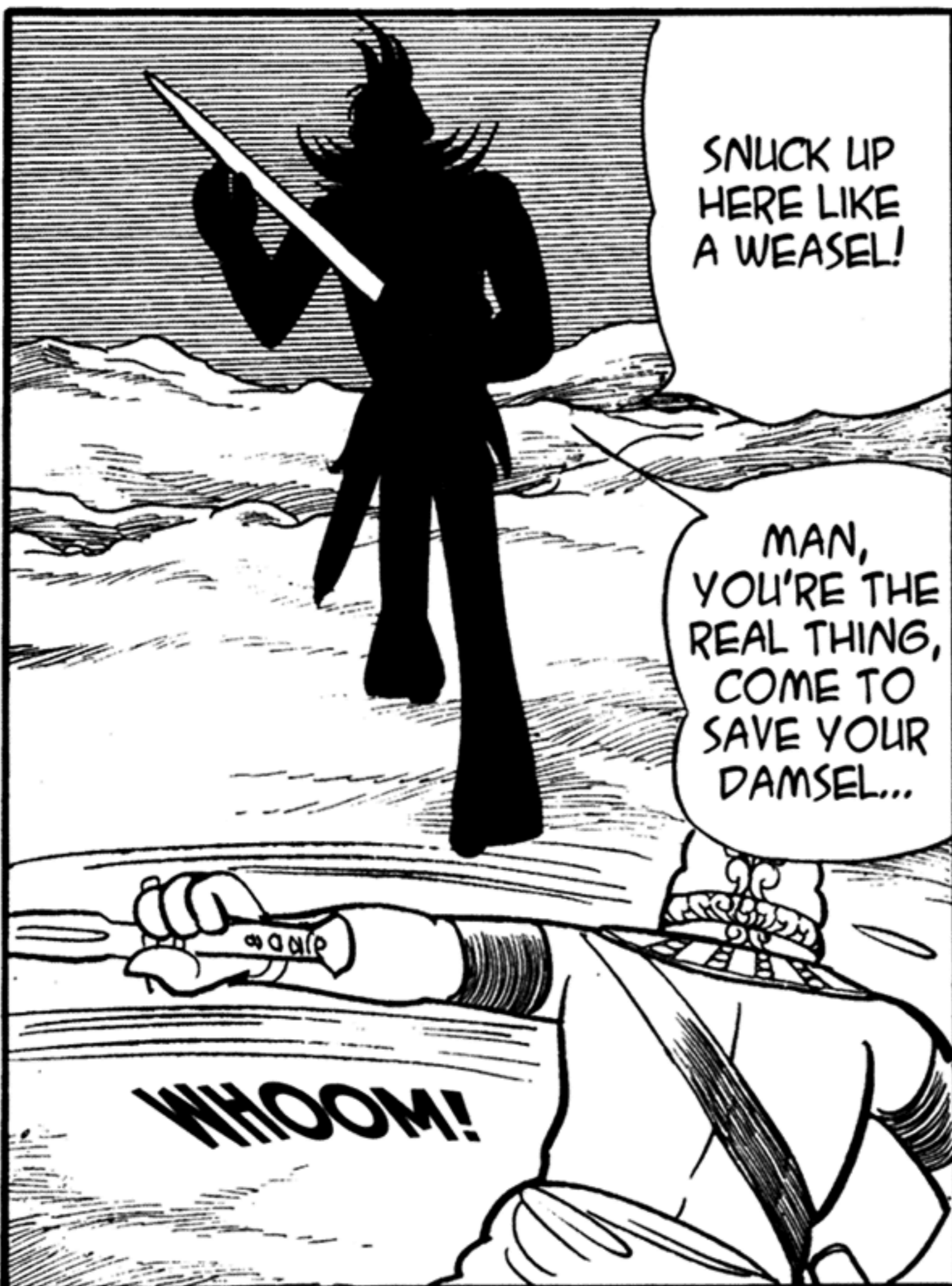
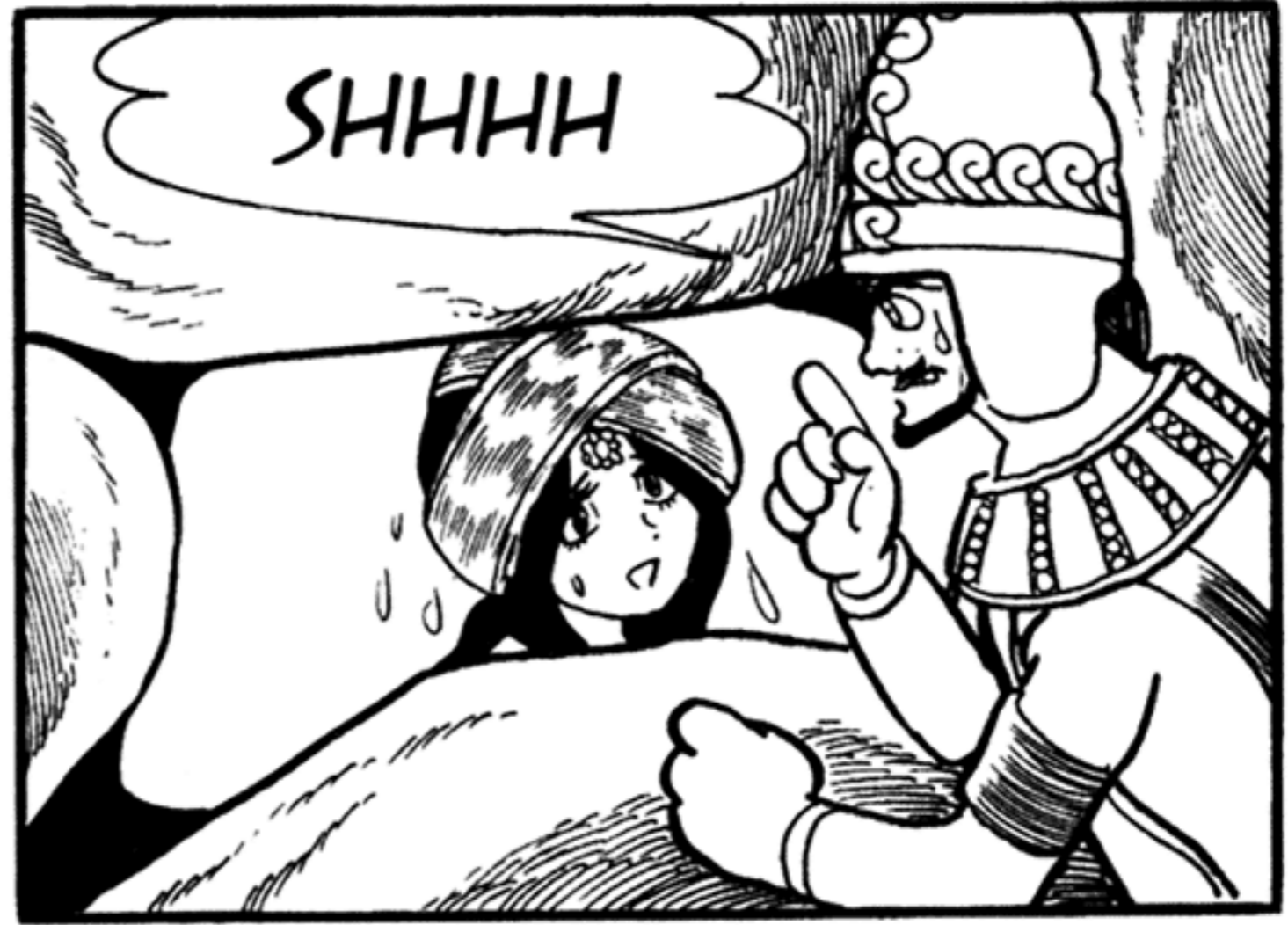


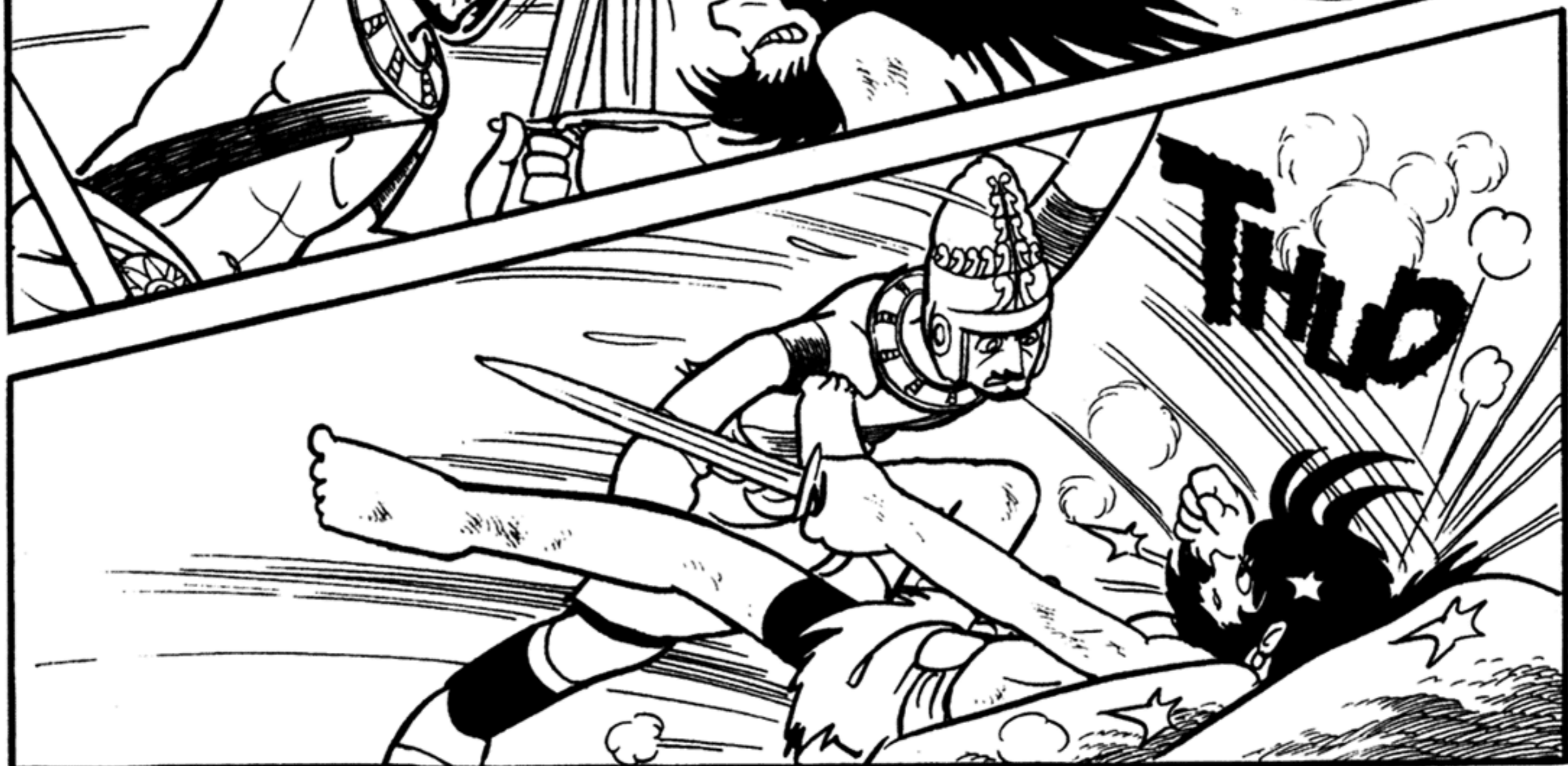
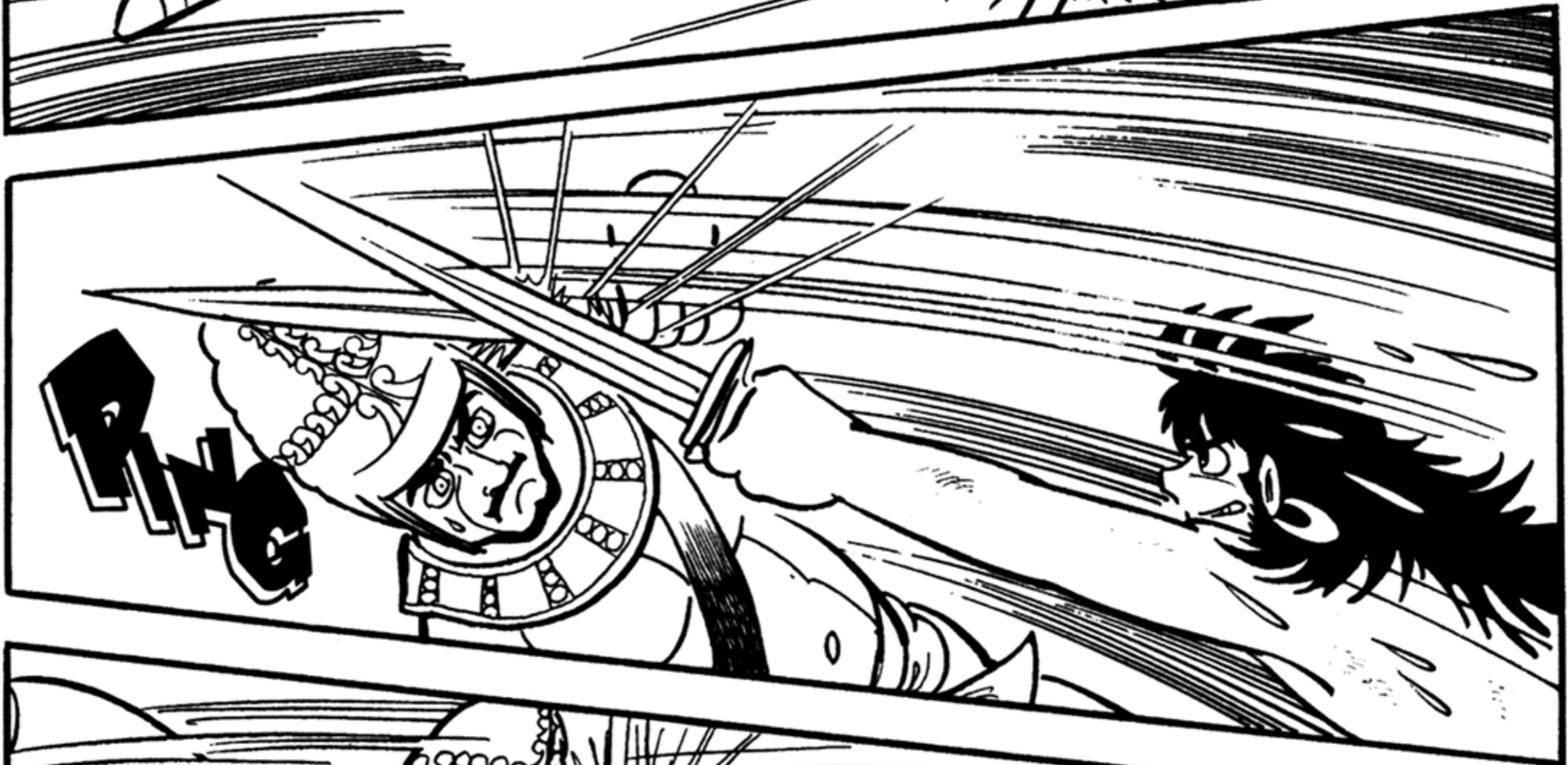
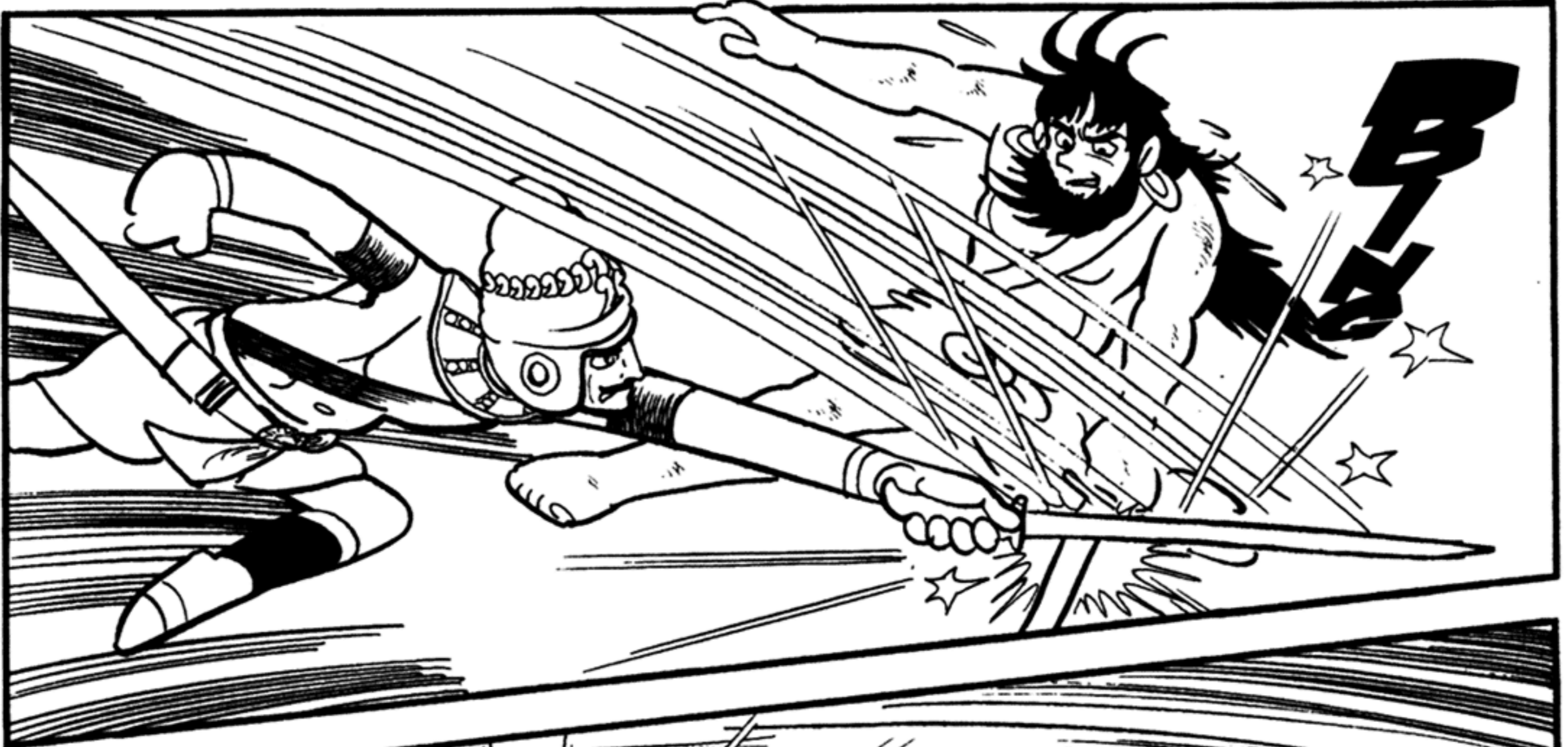
I'LL FIND THEIR LEADER, DESTROY HIM, AND RESCUE THE LADY VISAKHA.

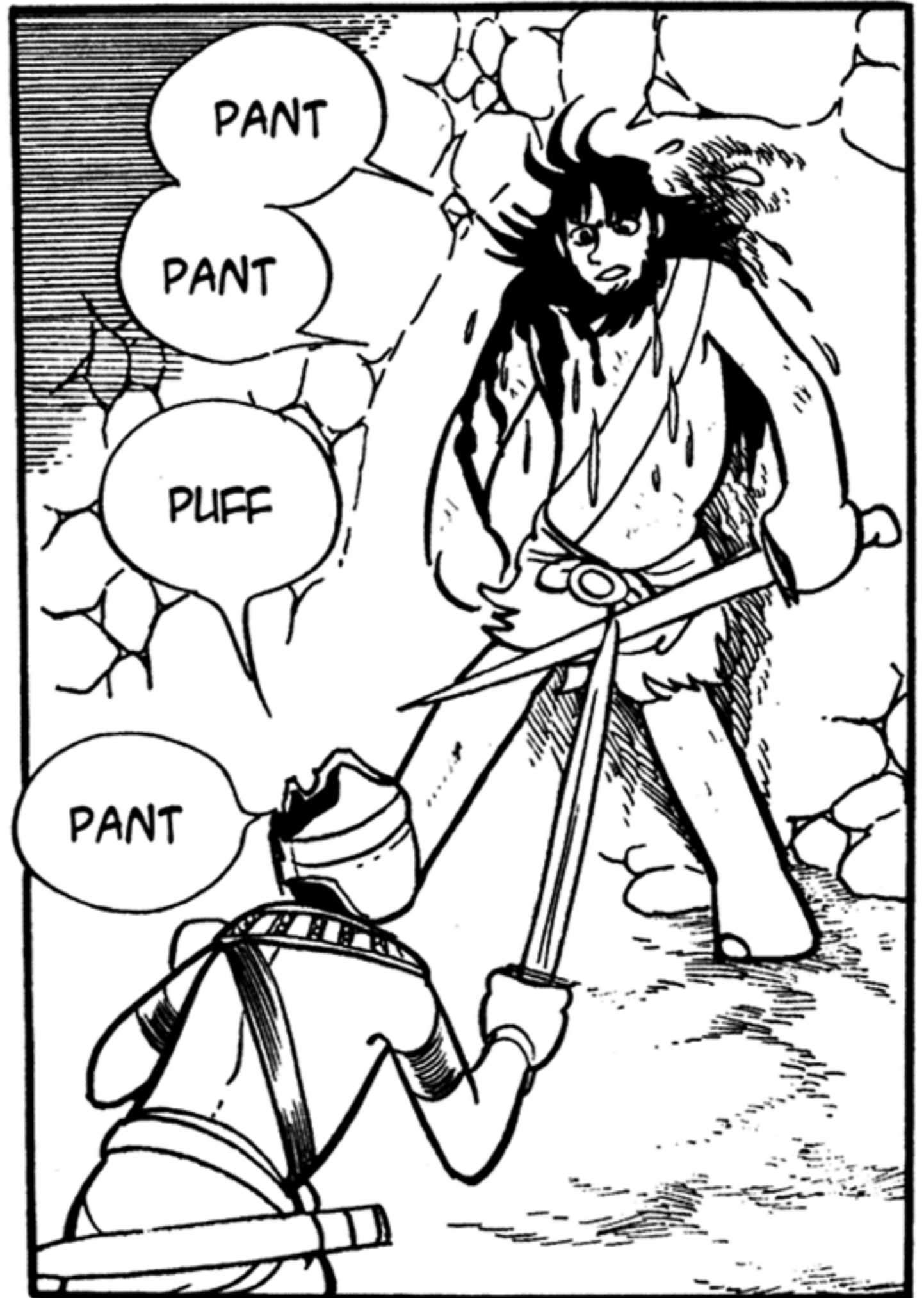
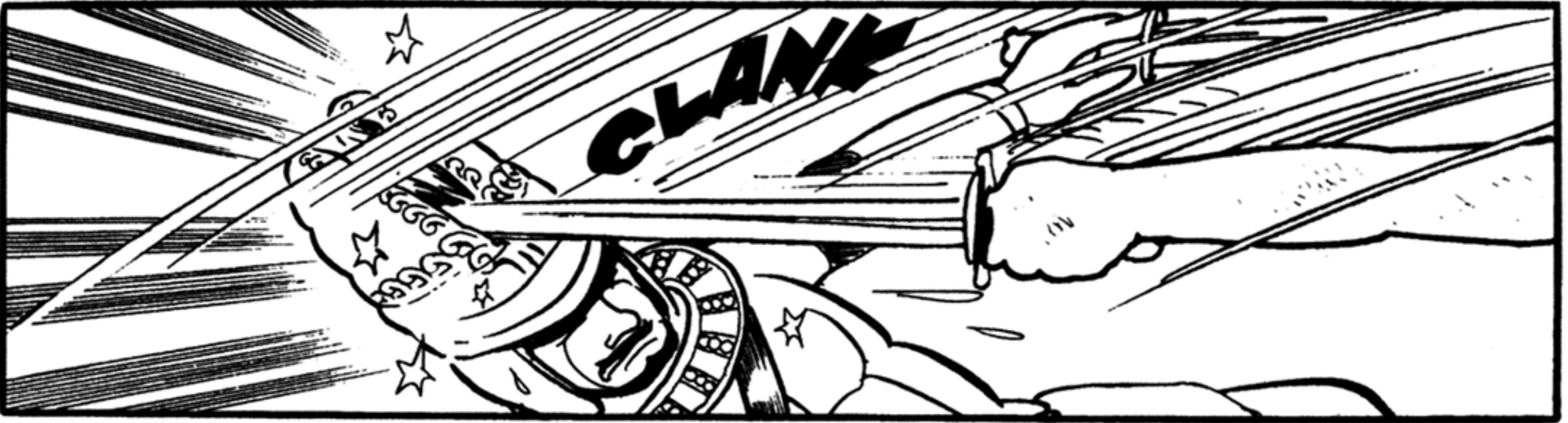
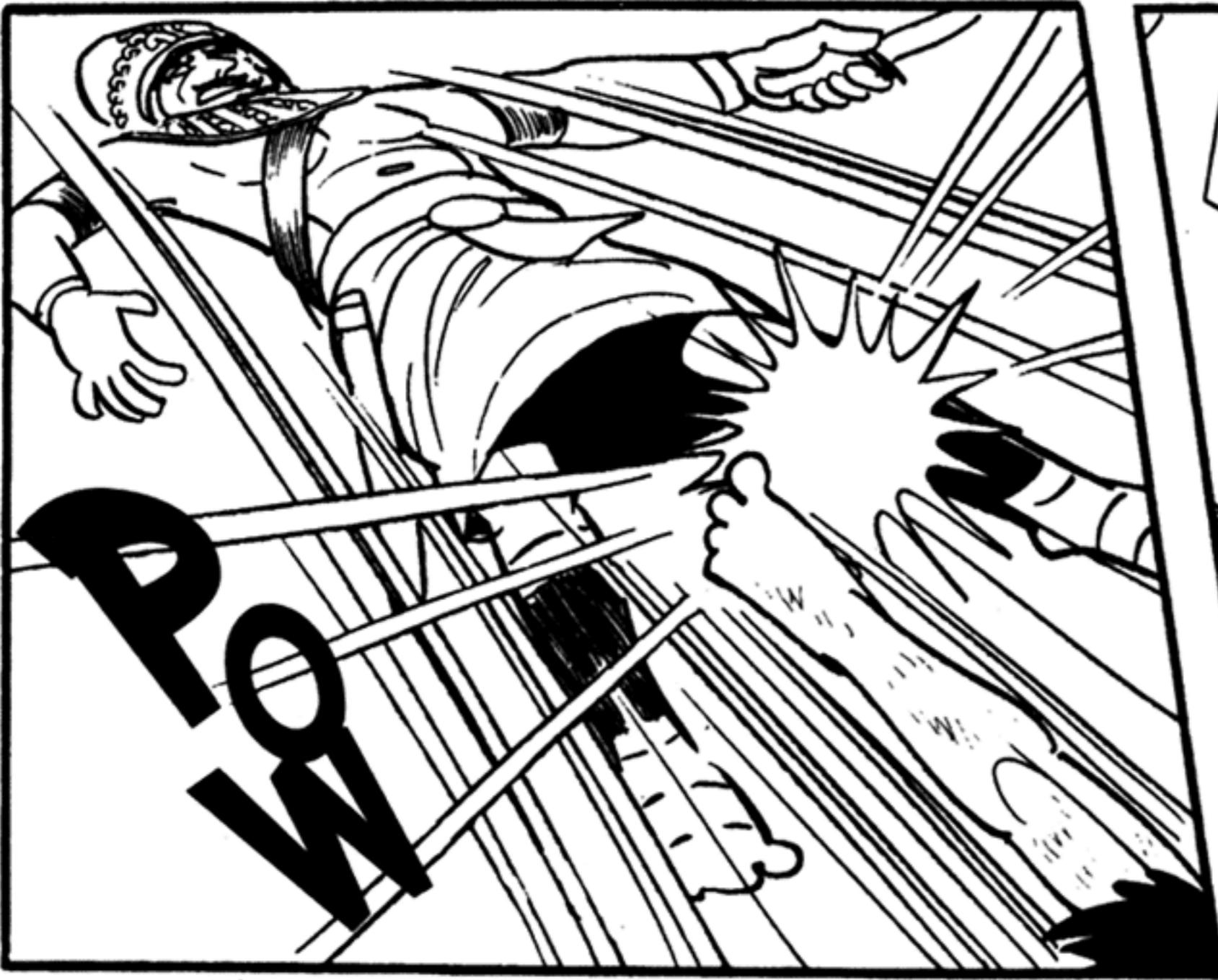
I LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE.

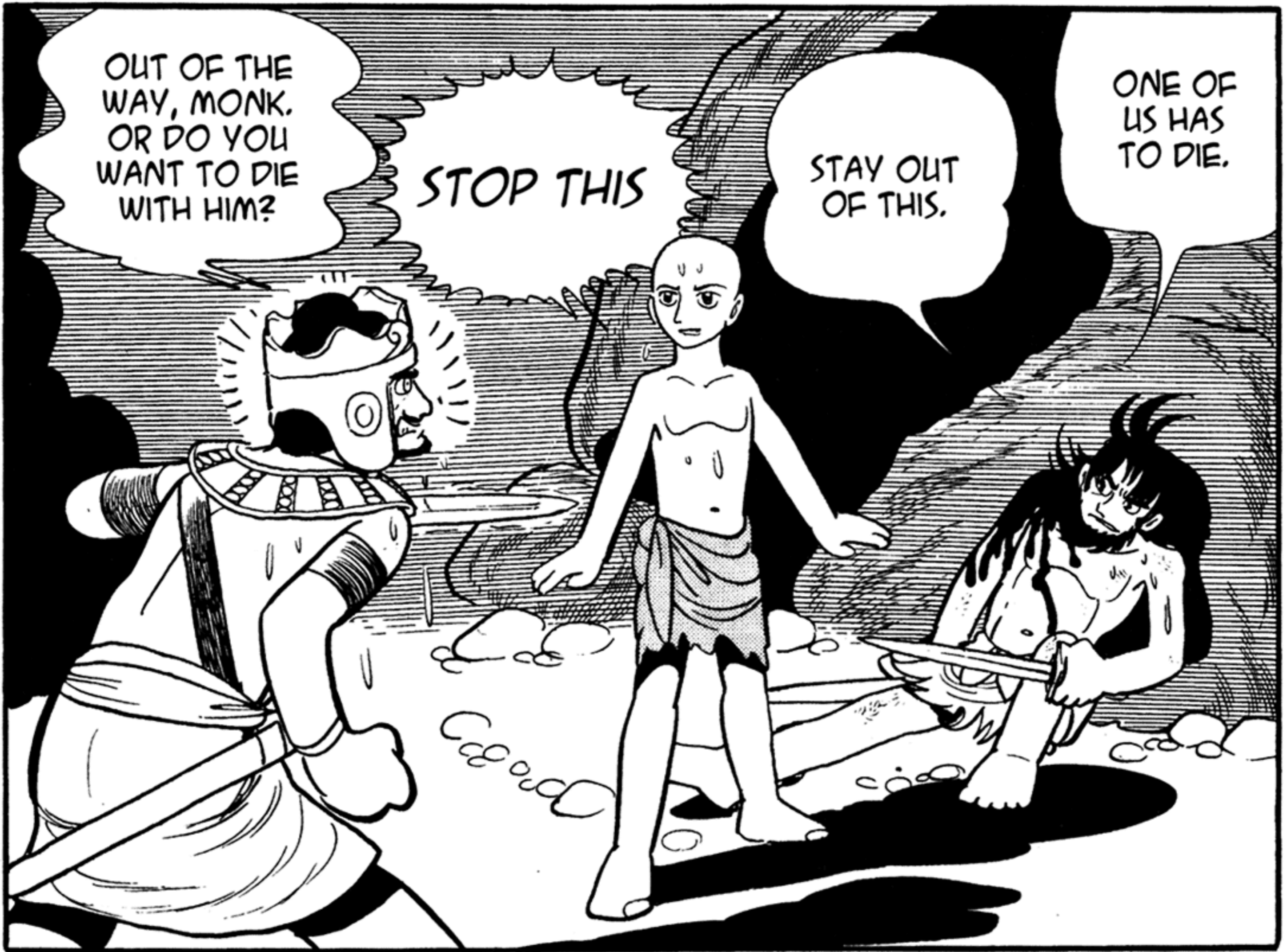
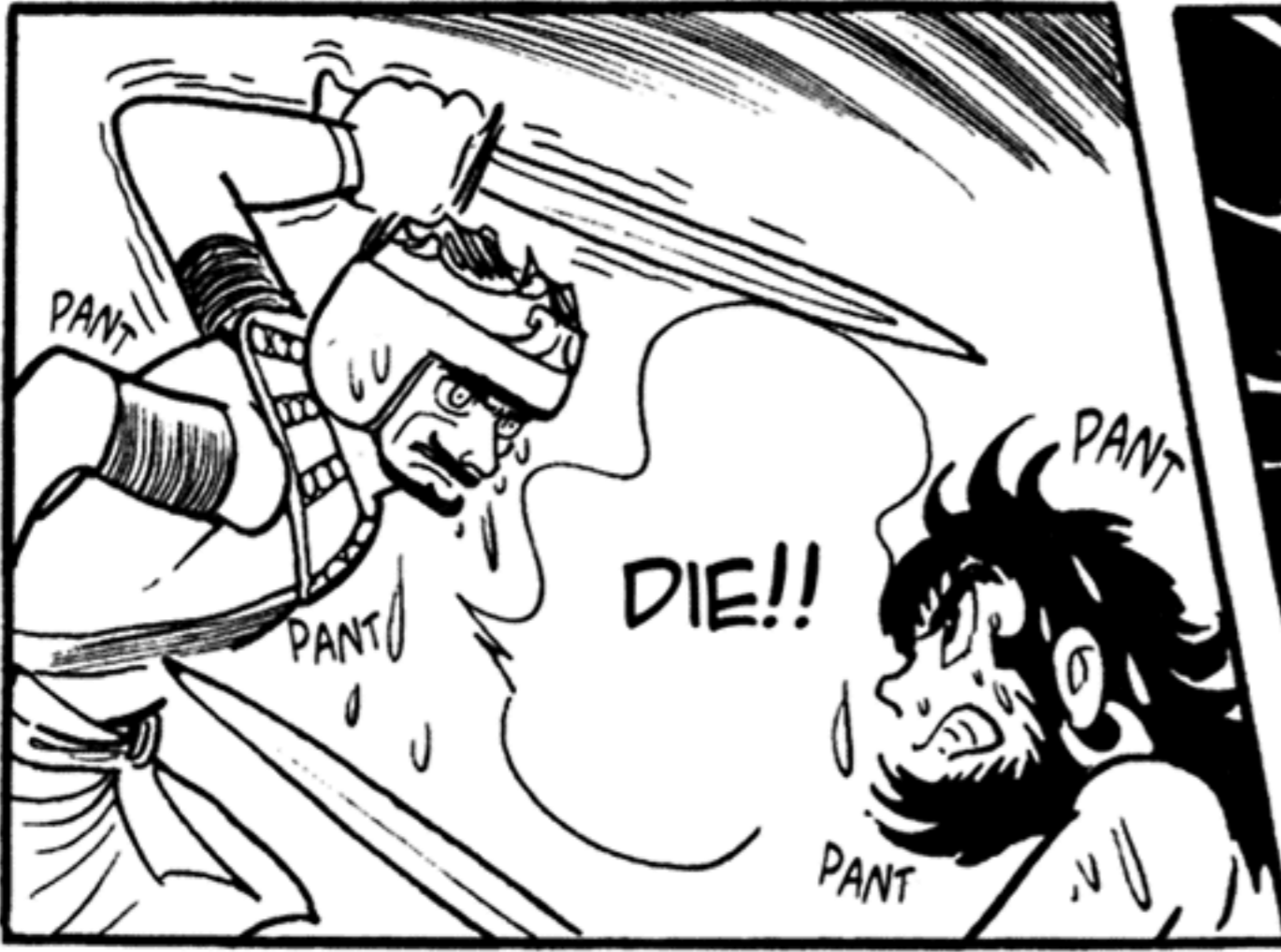


GOOD LUCK, CAPT'N!

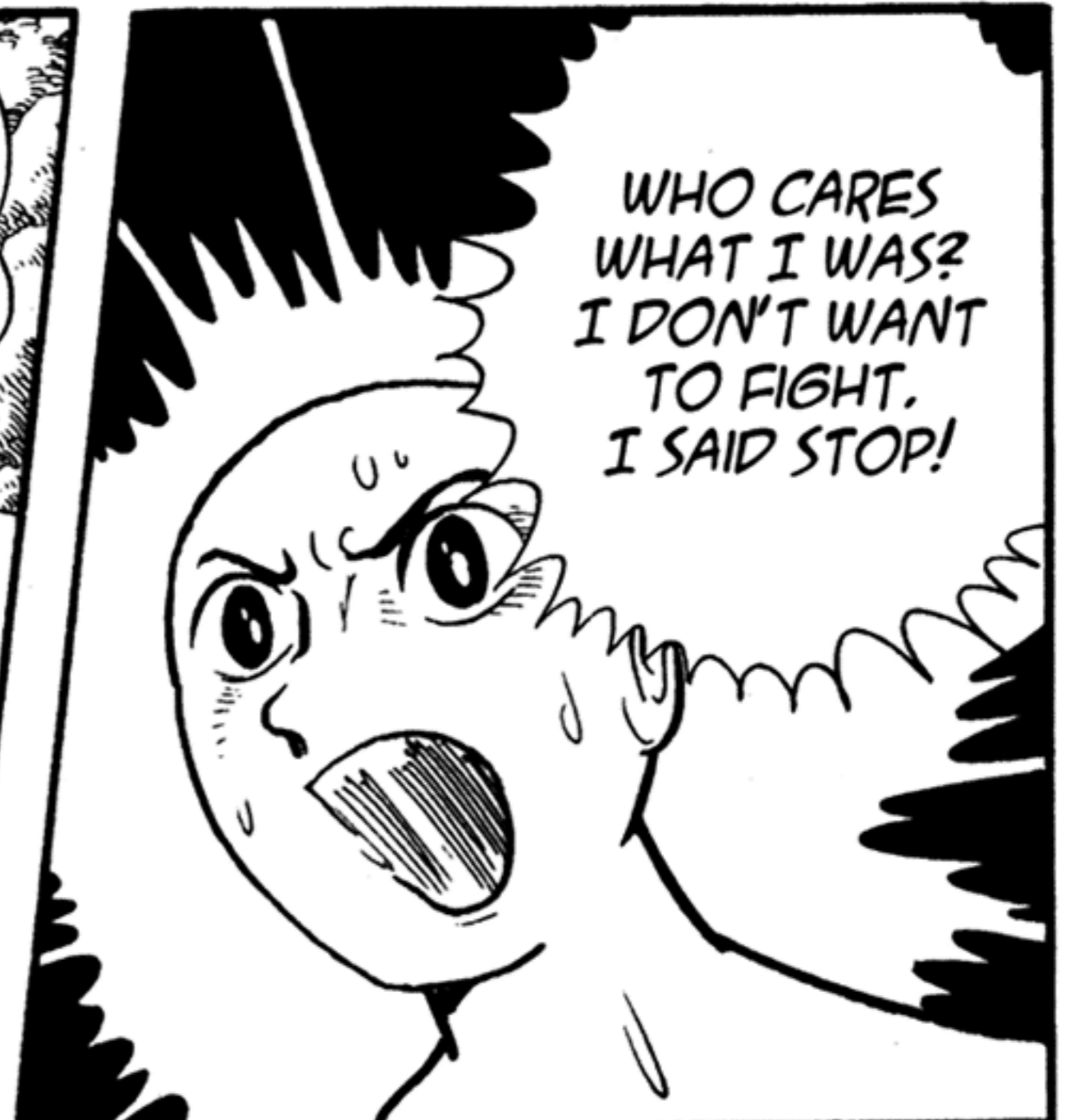
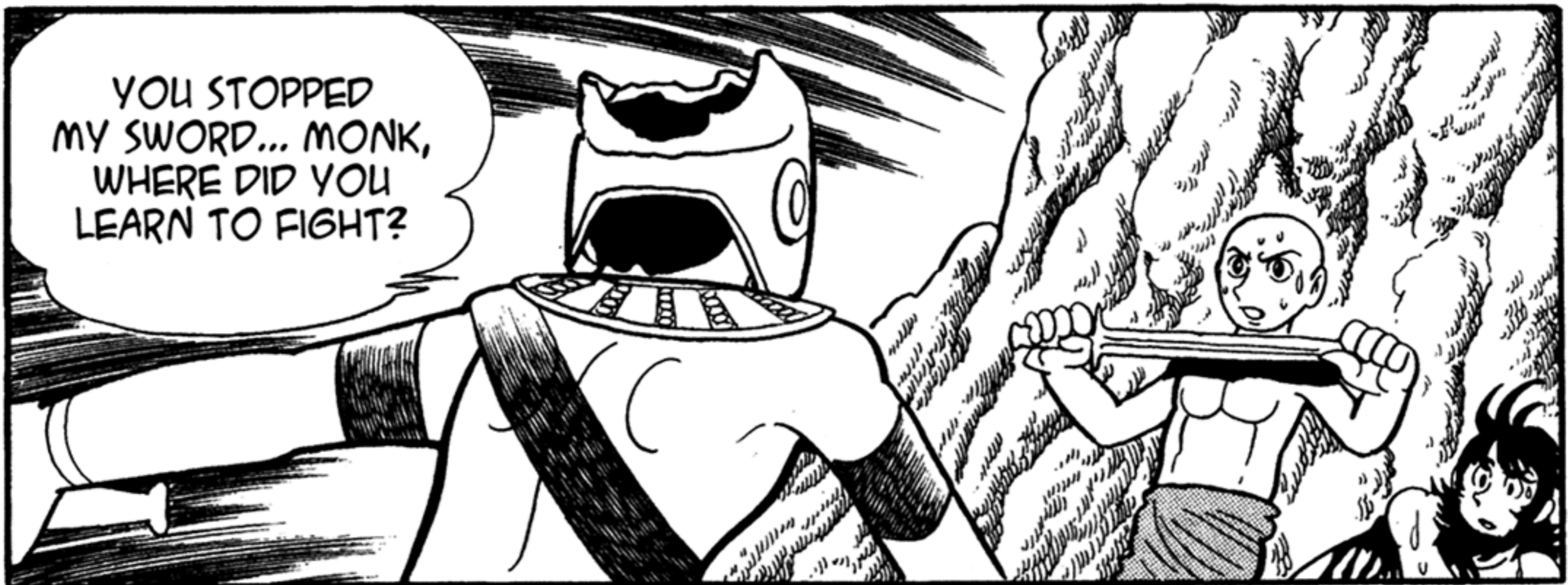
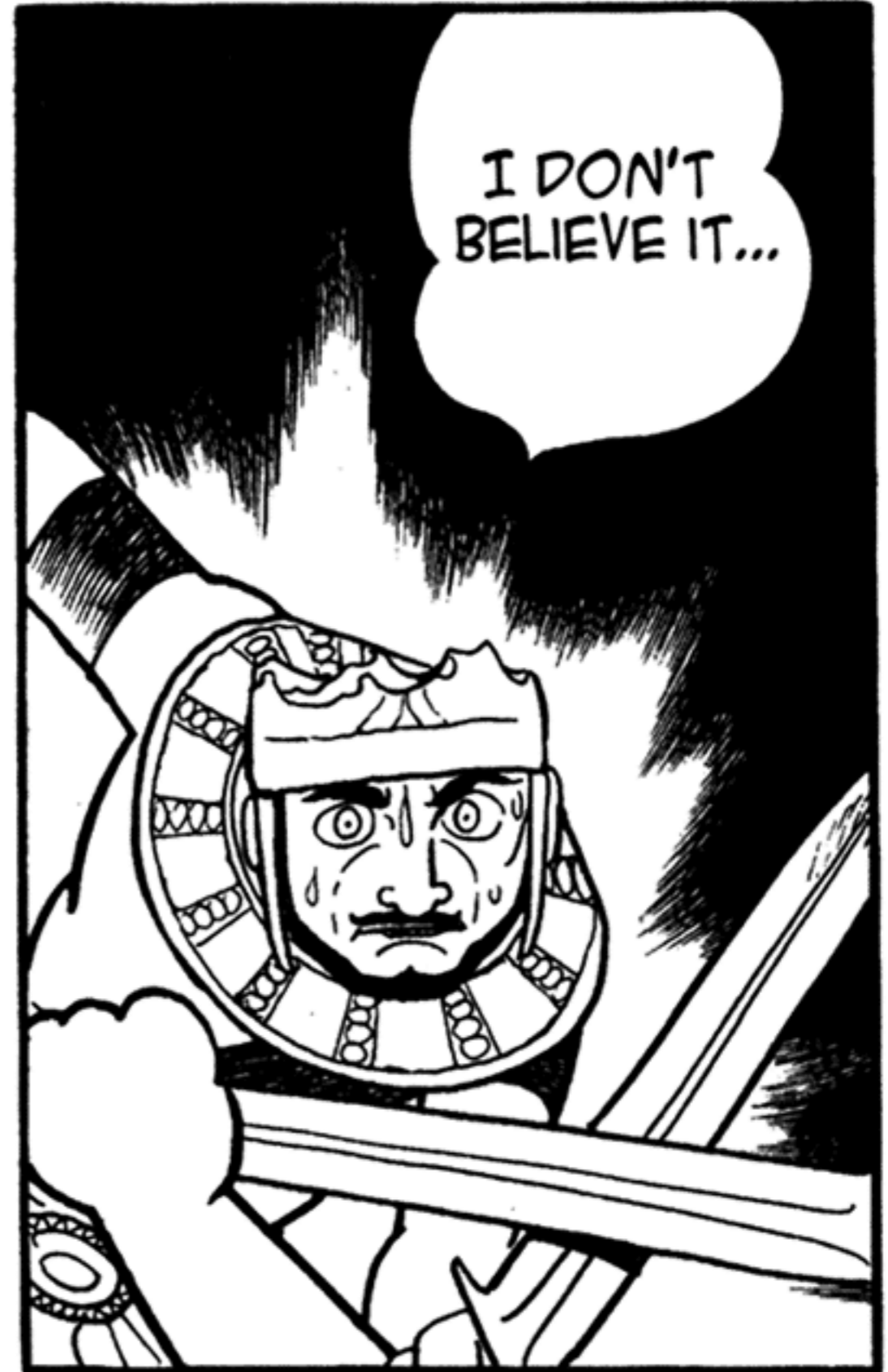
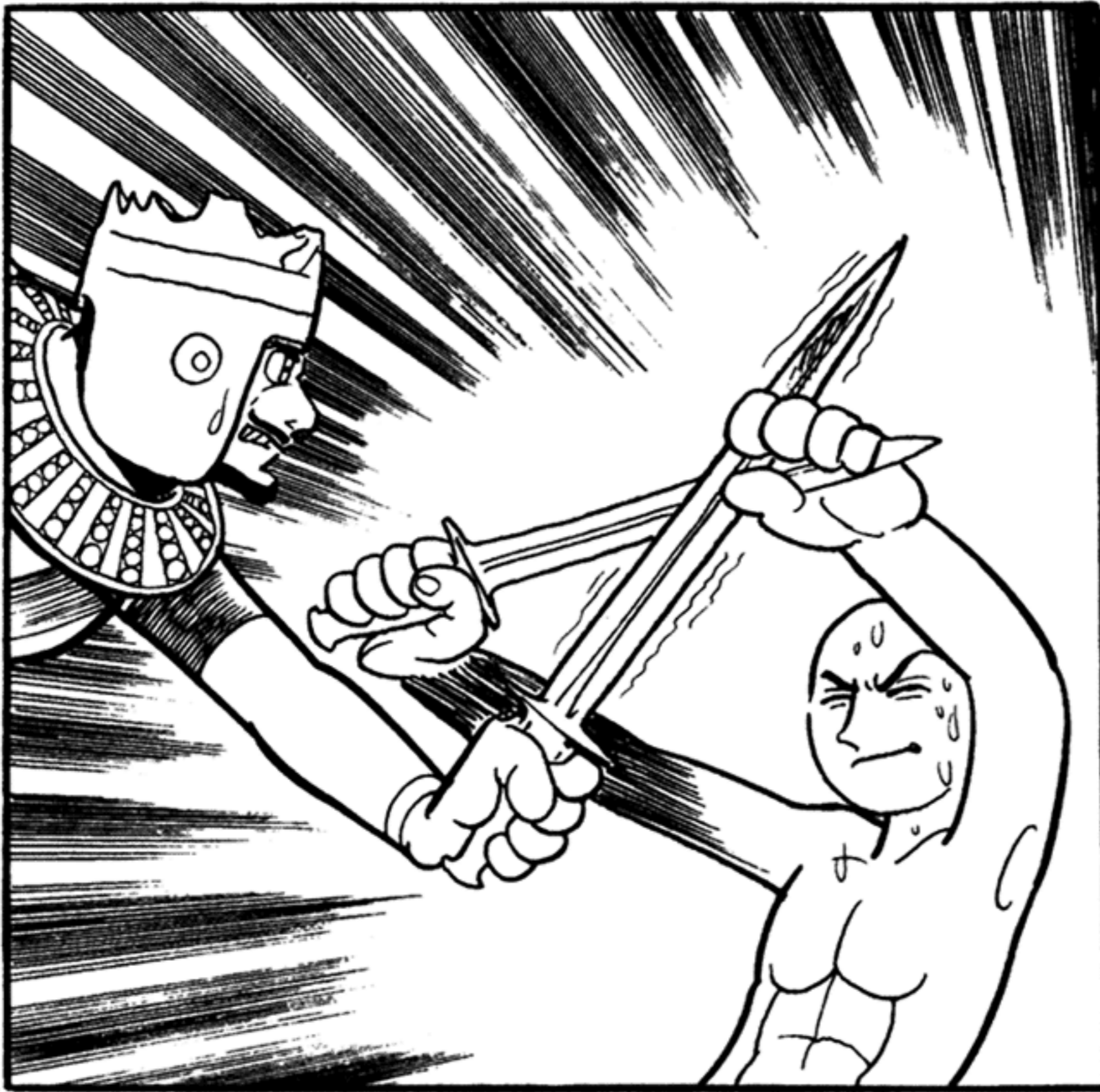


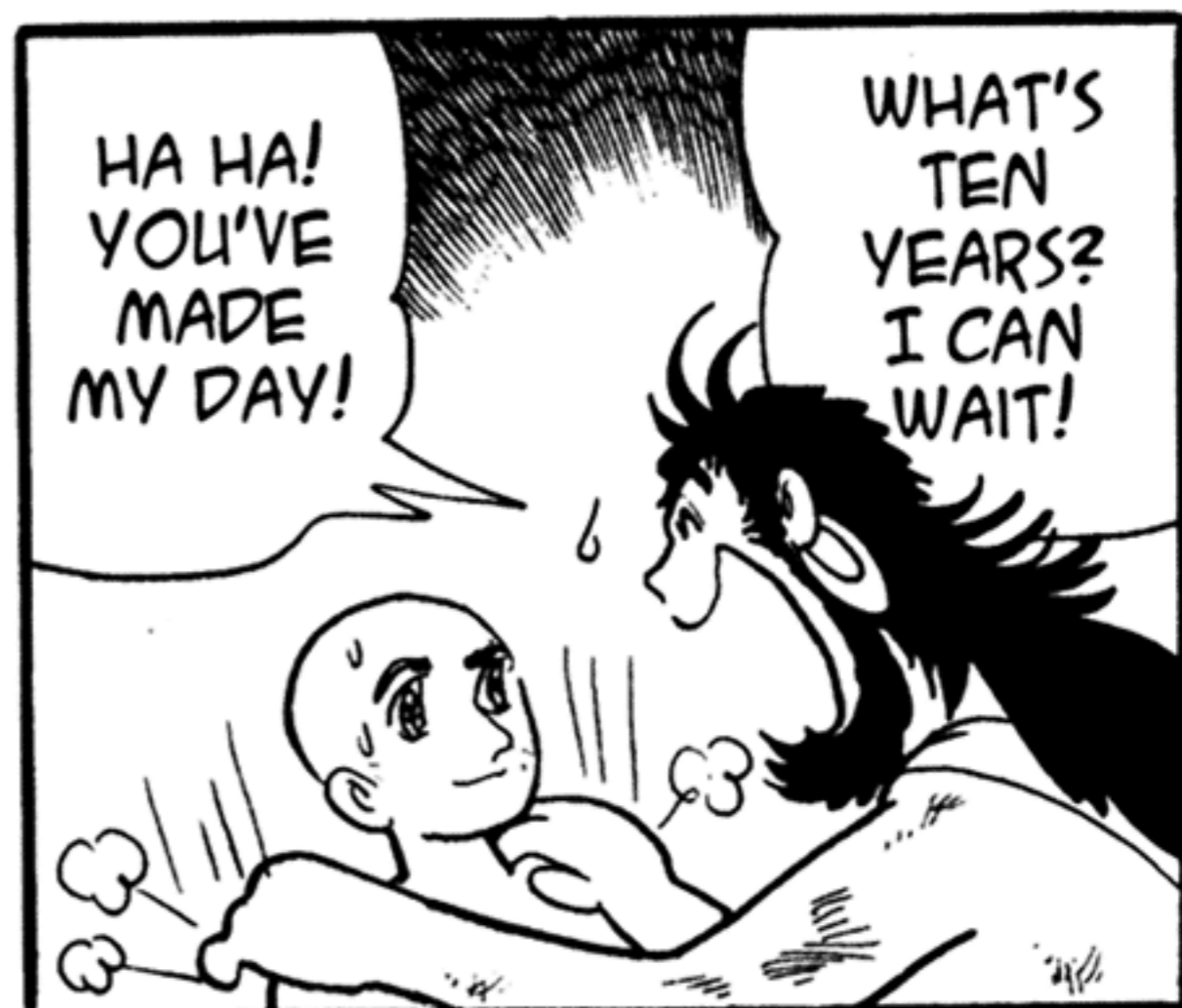
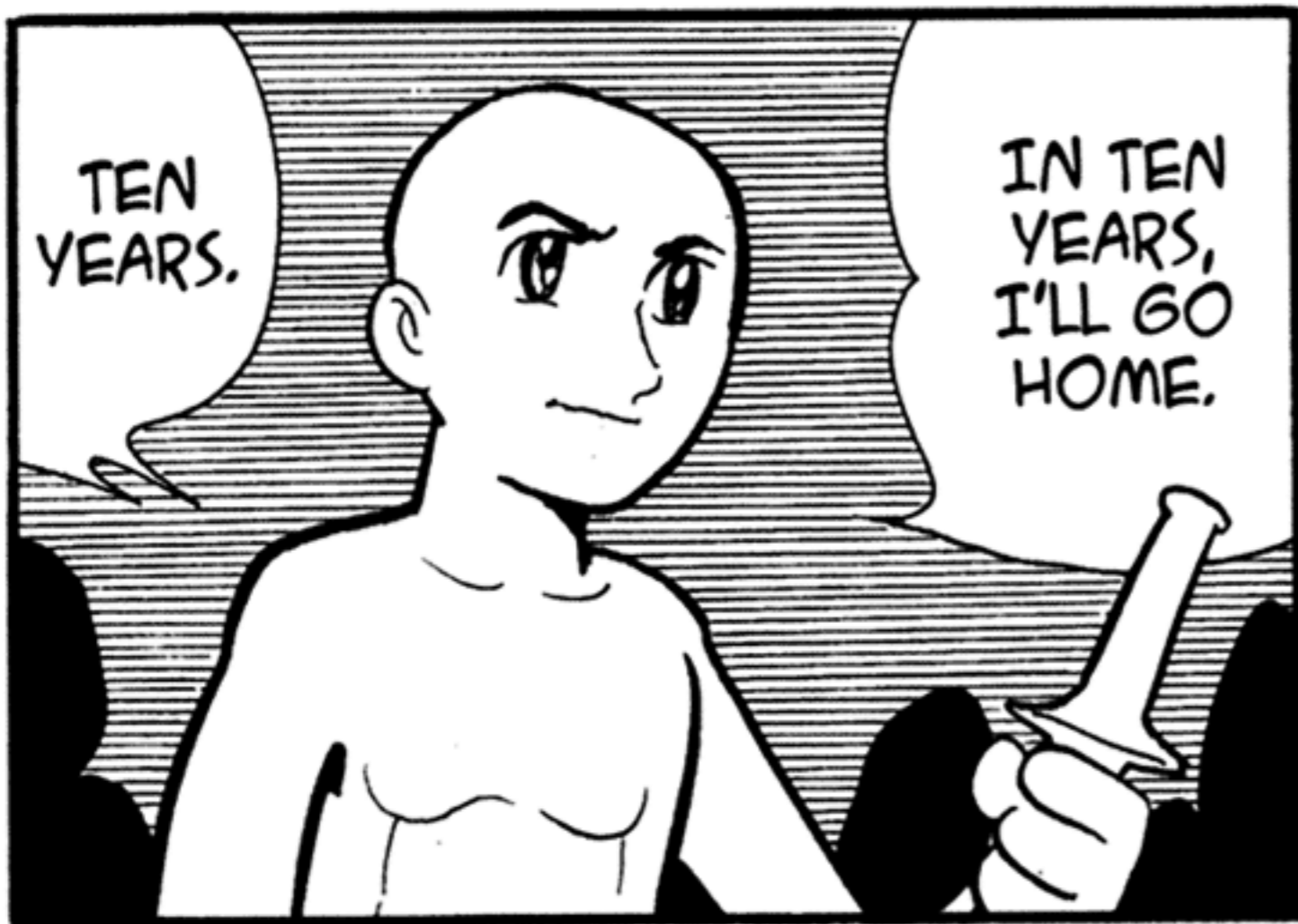
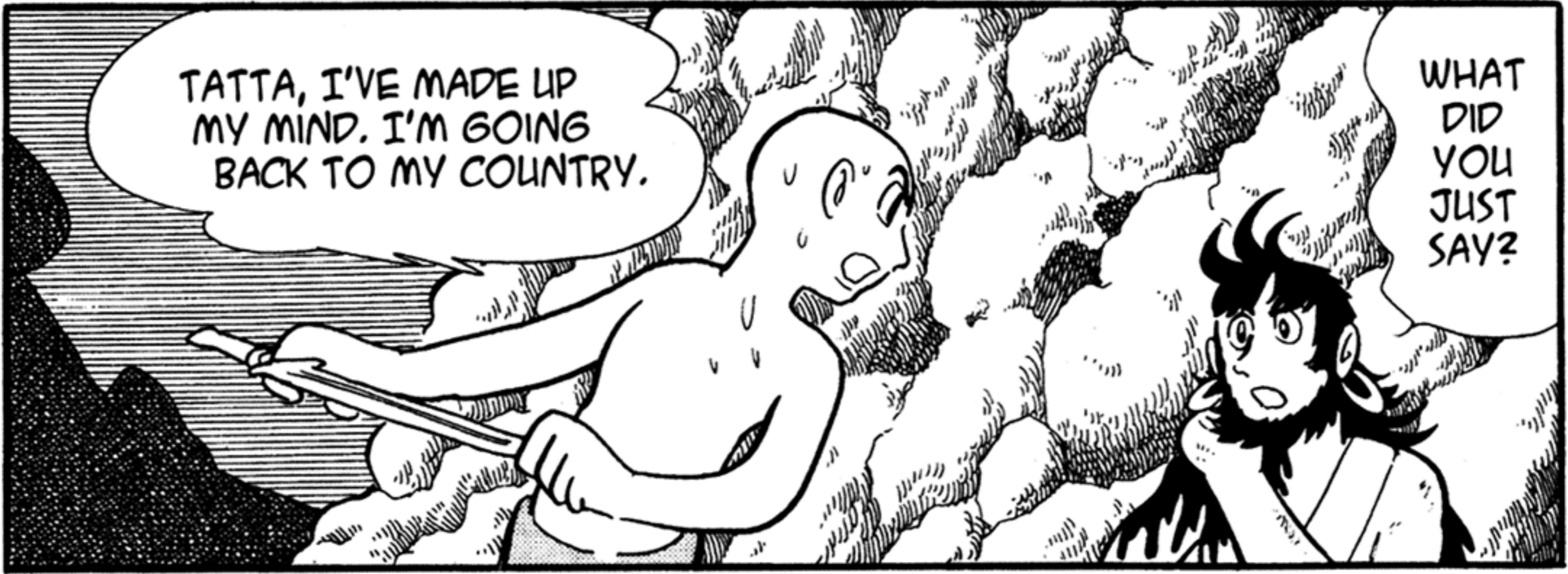


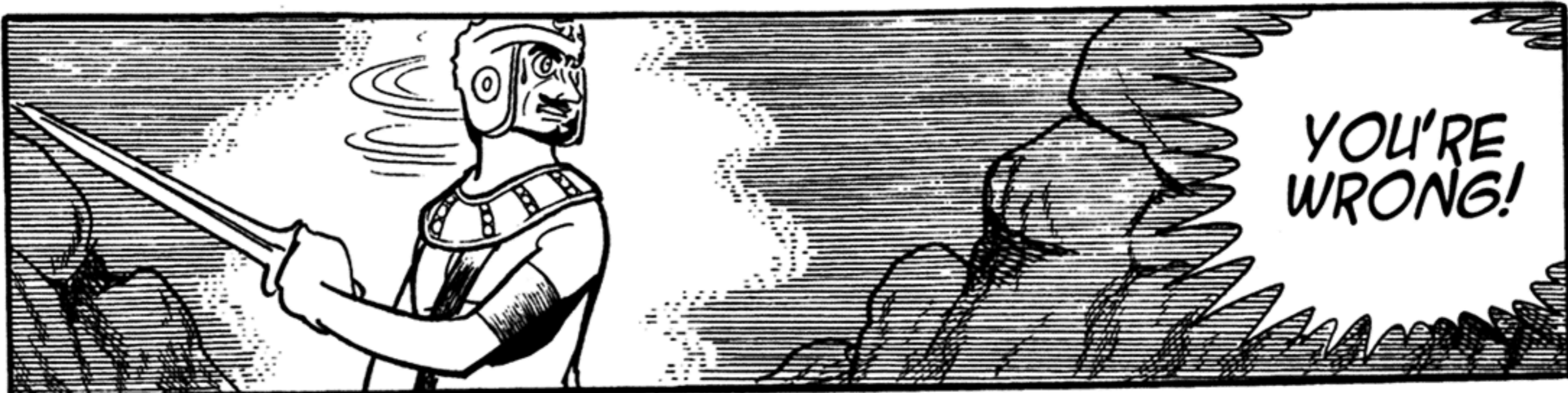
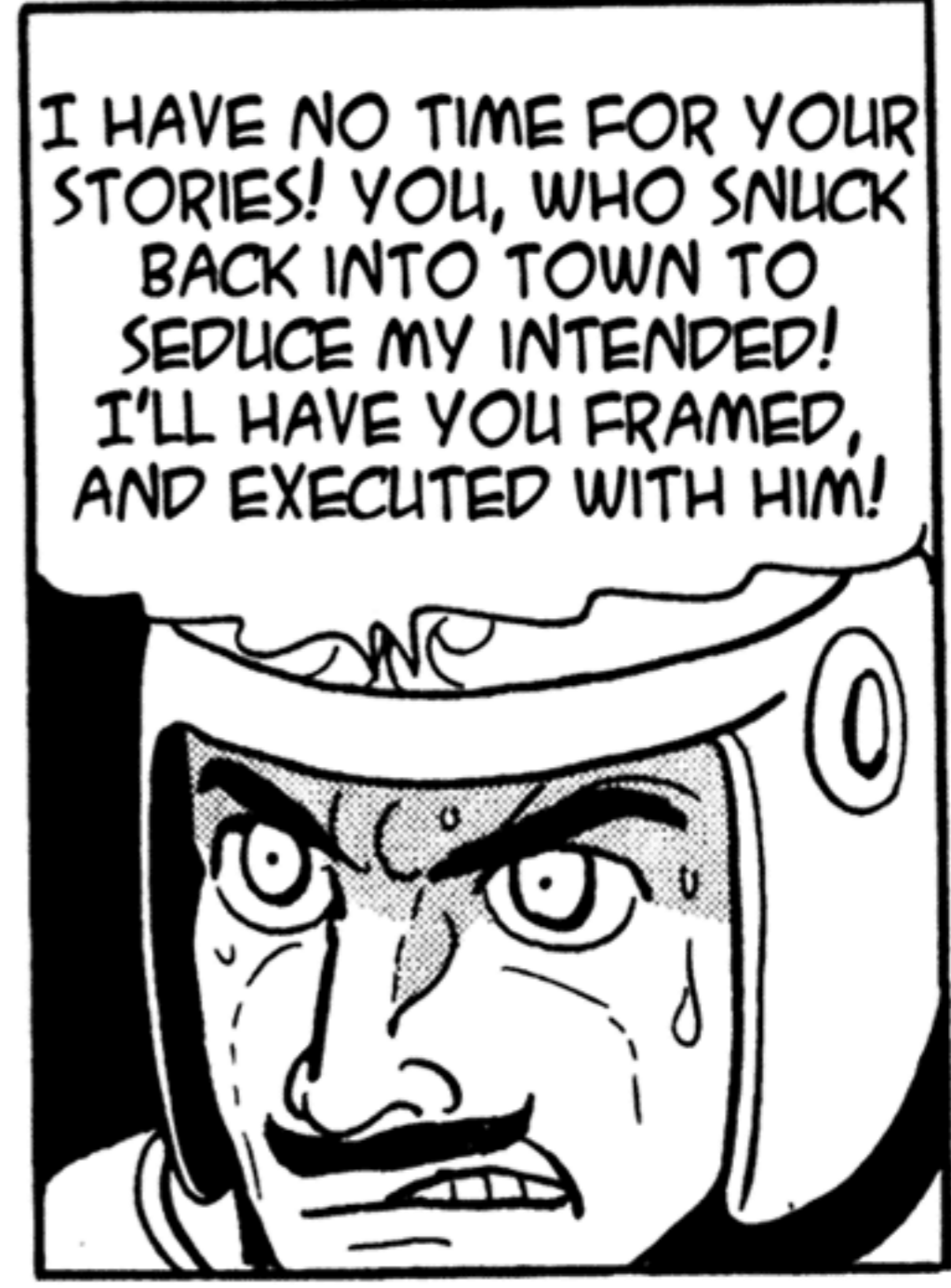
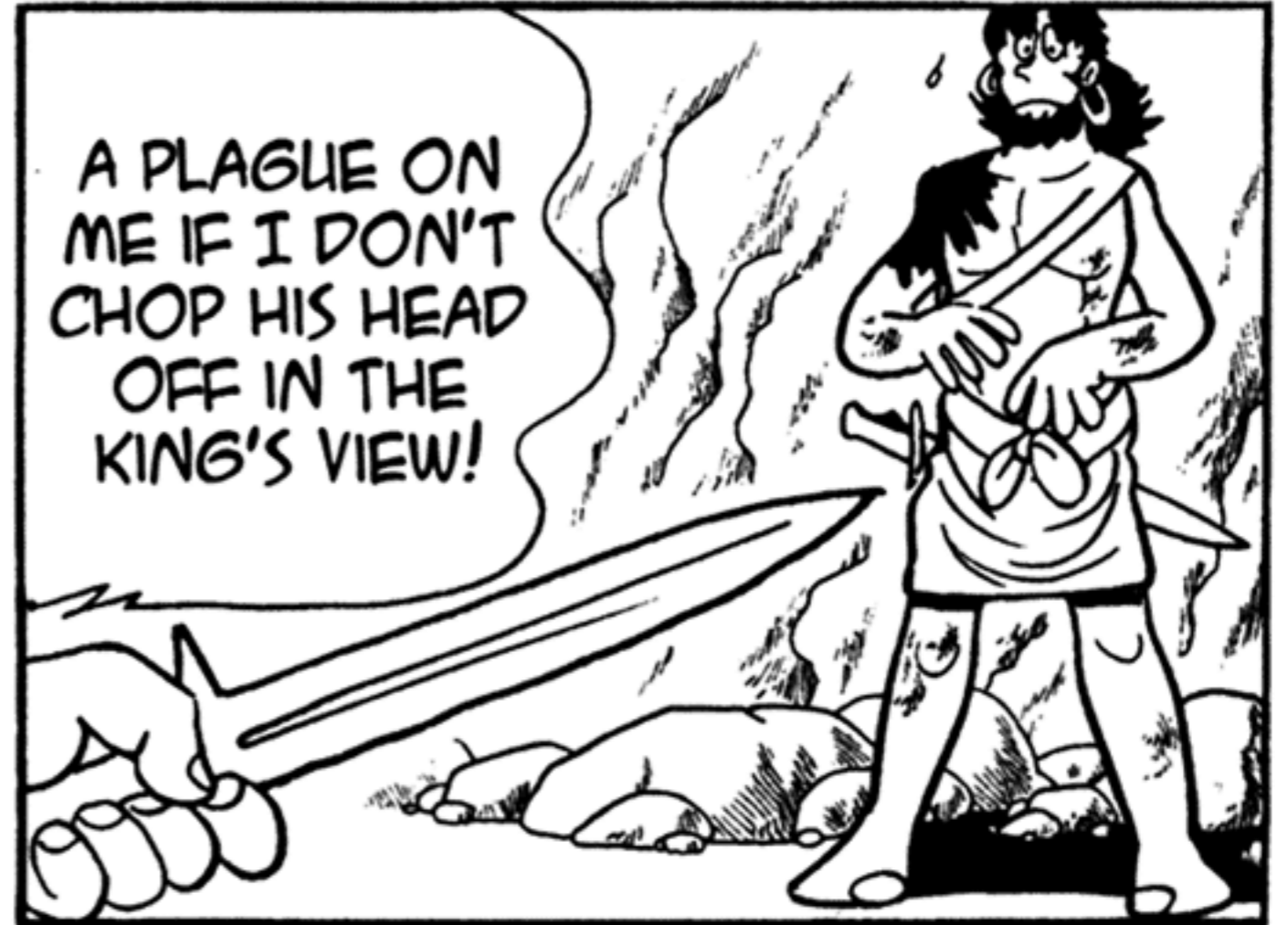
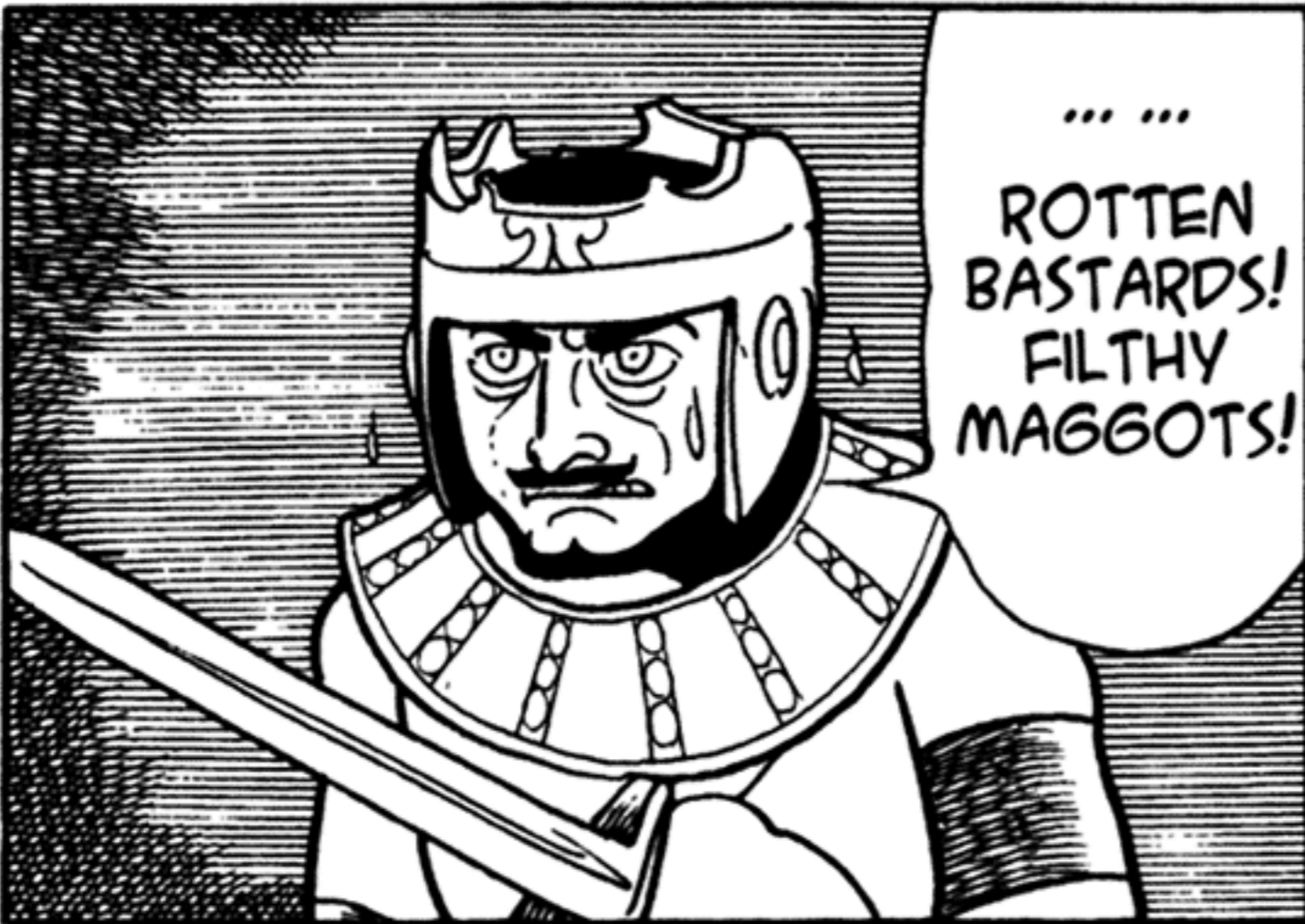
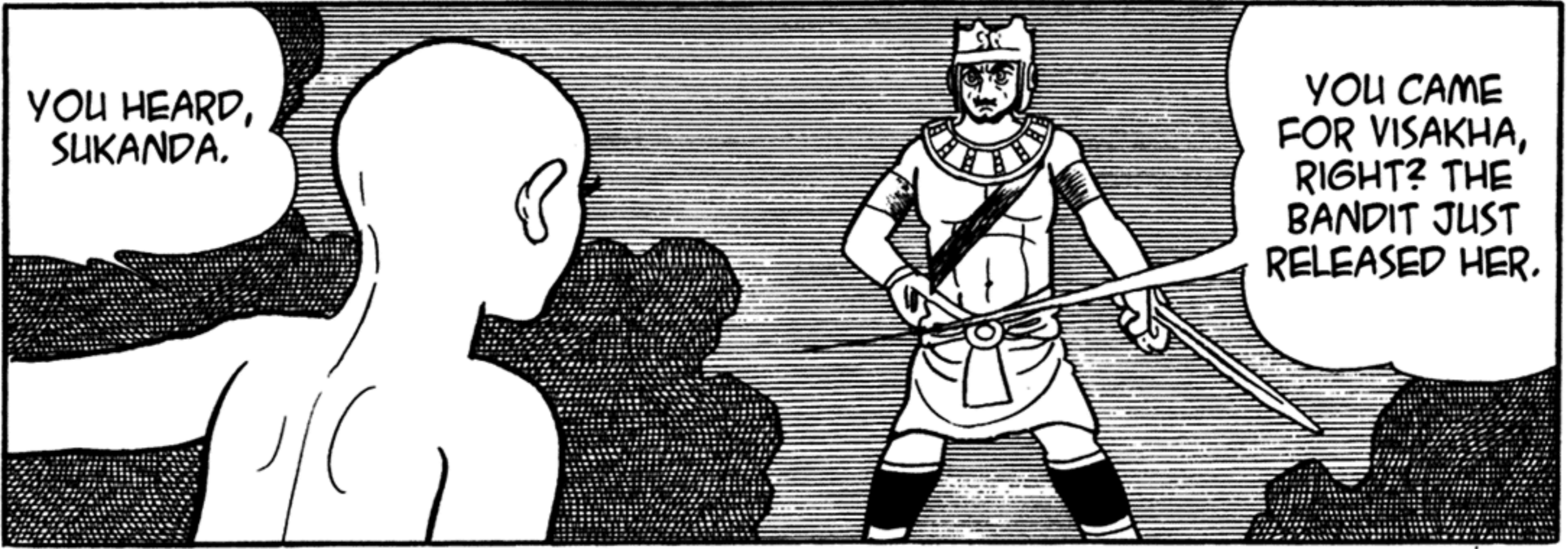


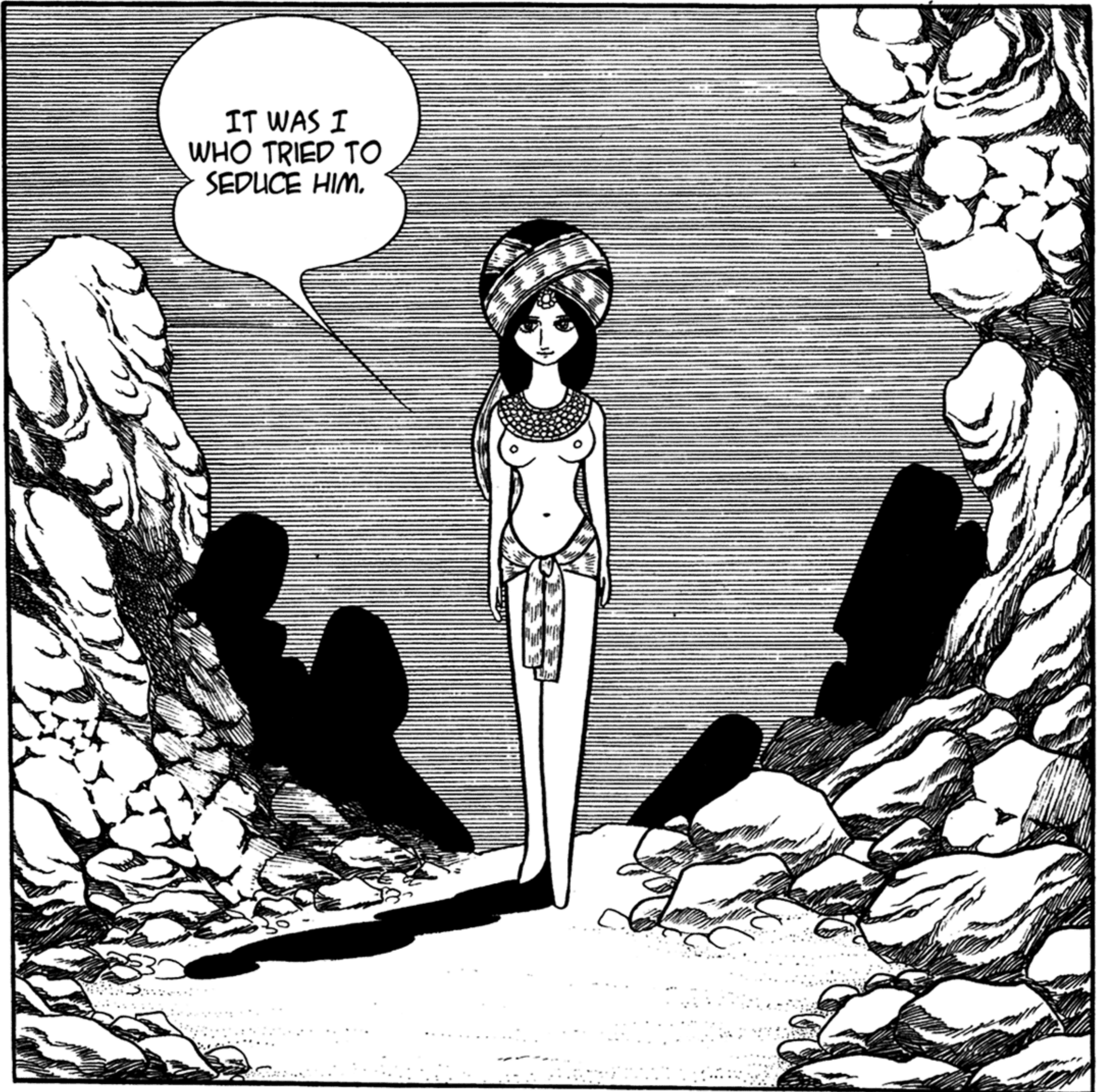










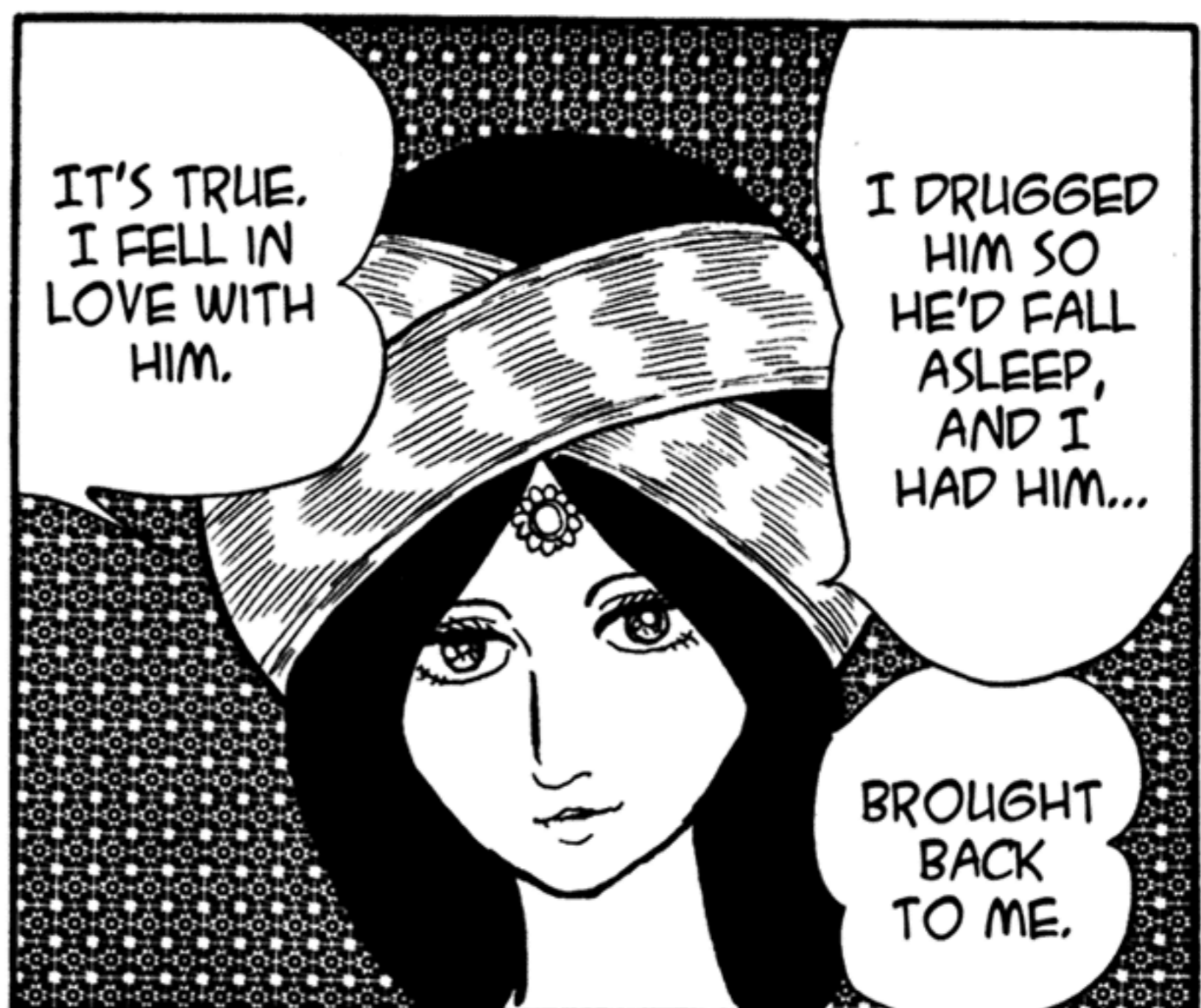


IT WAS I WHO TRIED TO SEDUCE HIM.



VISAKHA!!

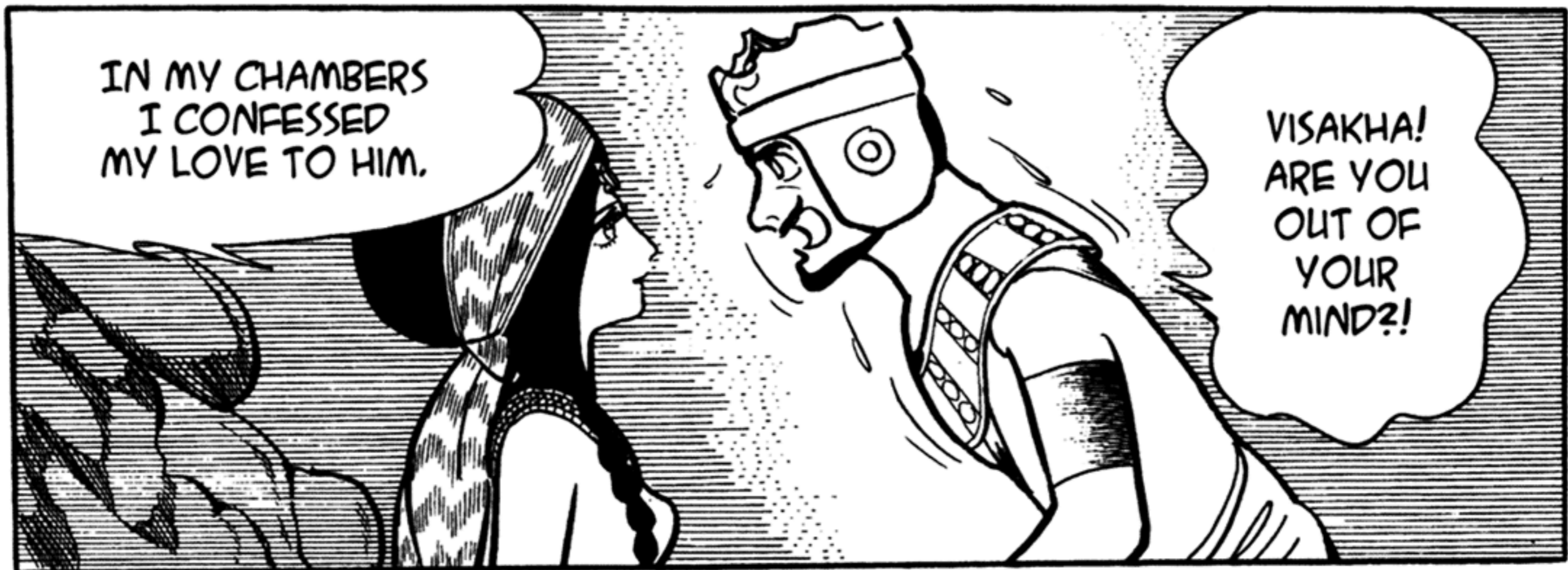
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



IT'S TRUE, I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM.

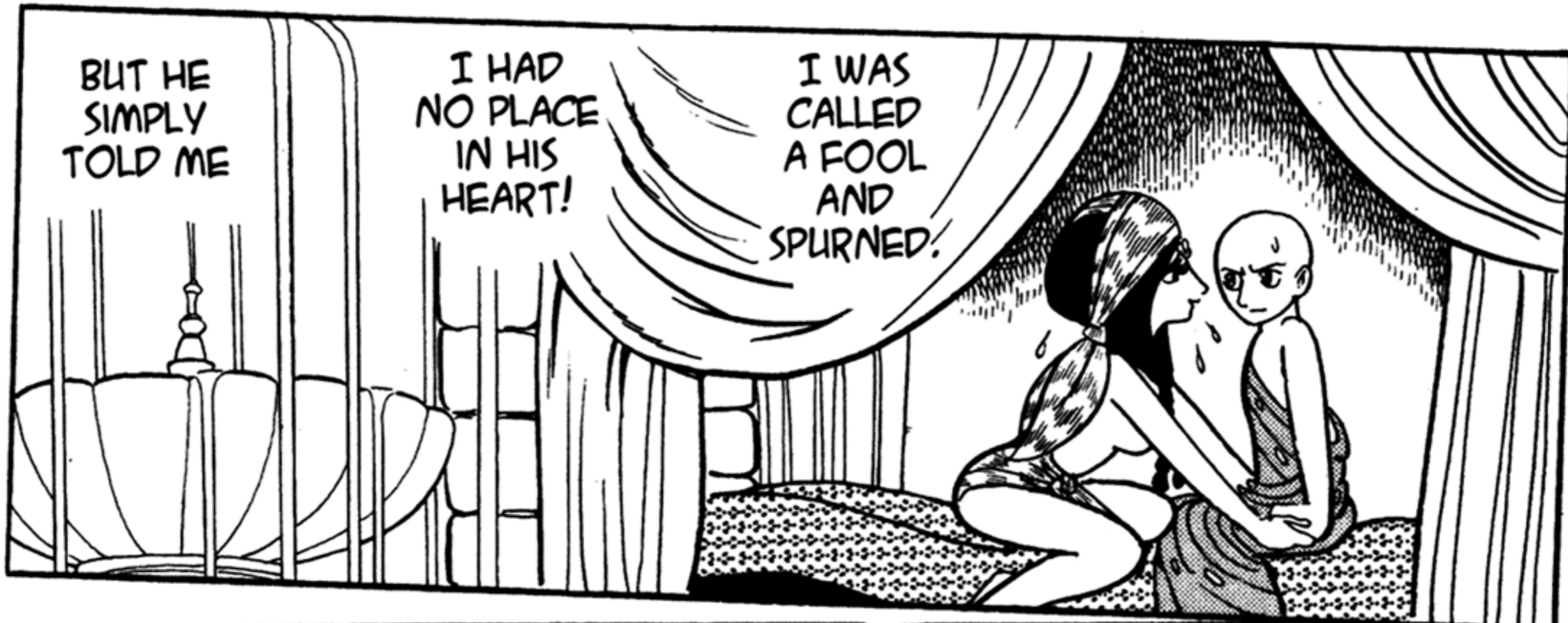
I DRUGGED HIM SO HE'D FALL ASLEEP, AND I HAD HIM...

BROUGHT BACK TO ME.



IN MY CHAMBERS
I CONFESSED
MY LOVE TO HIM.

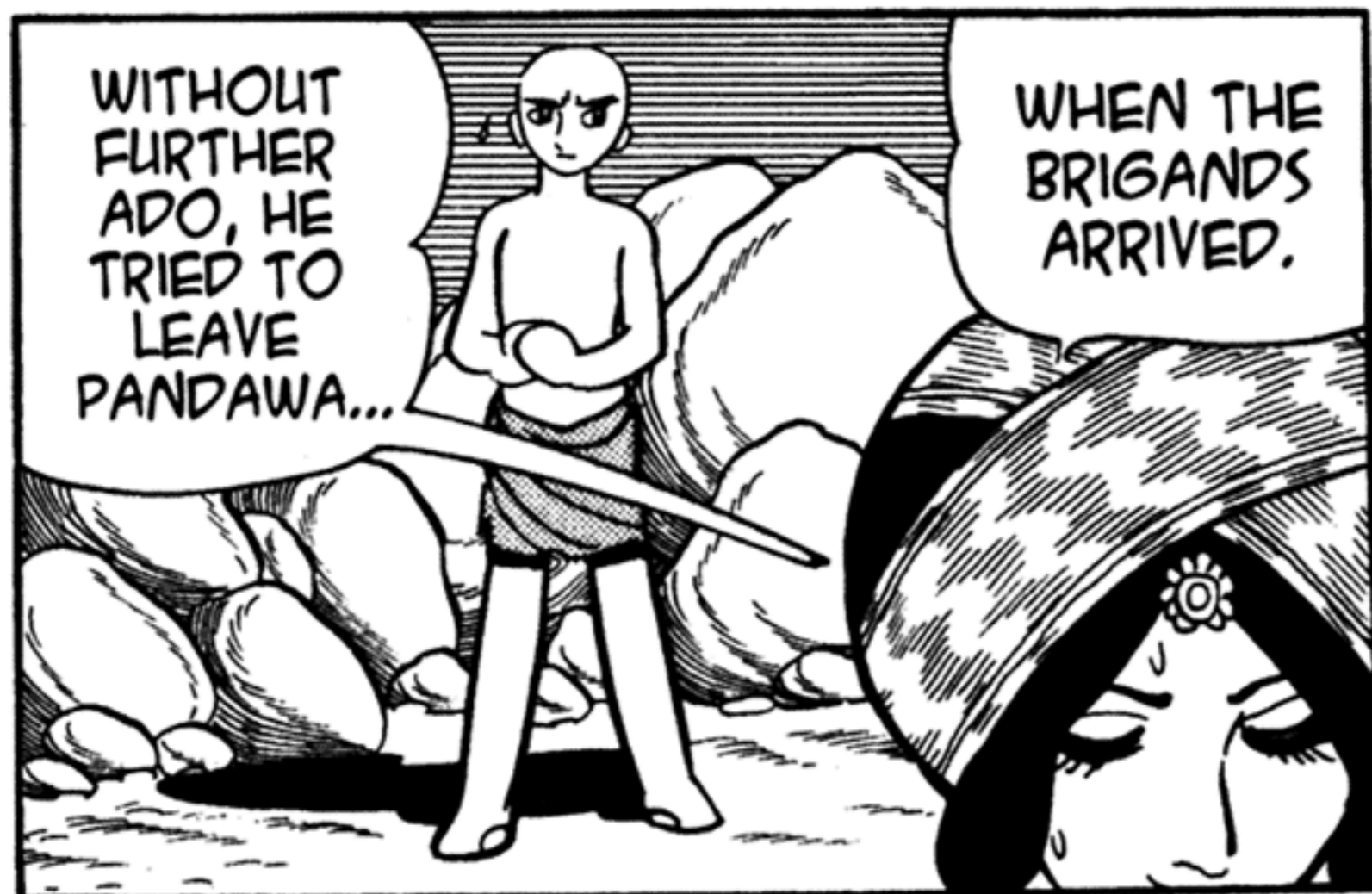
VISAKHA!
ARE YOU
OUT OF
YOUR
MIND?!



BUT HE
SIMPLY
TOLD ME

I HAD
NO PLACE
IN HIS
HEART!

I WAS
CALLED
A FOOL
AND
SPURNED.



WITHOUT
FURTHER
ADO, HE
TRIED TO
LEAVE
PANDAWA...

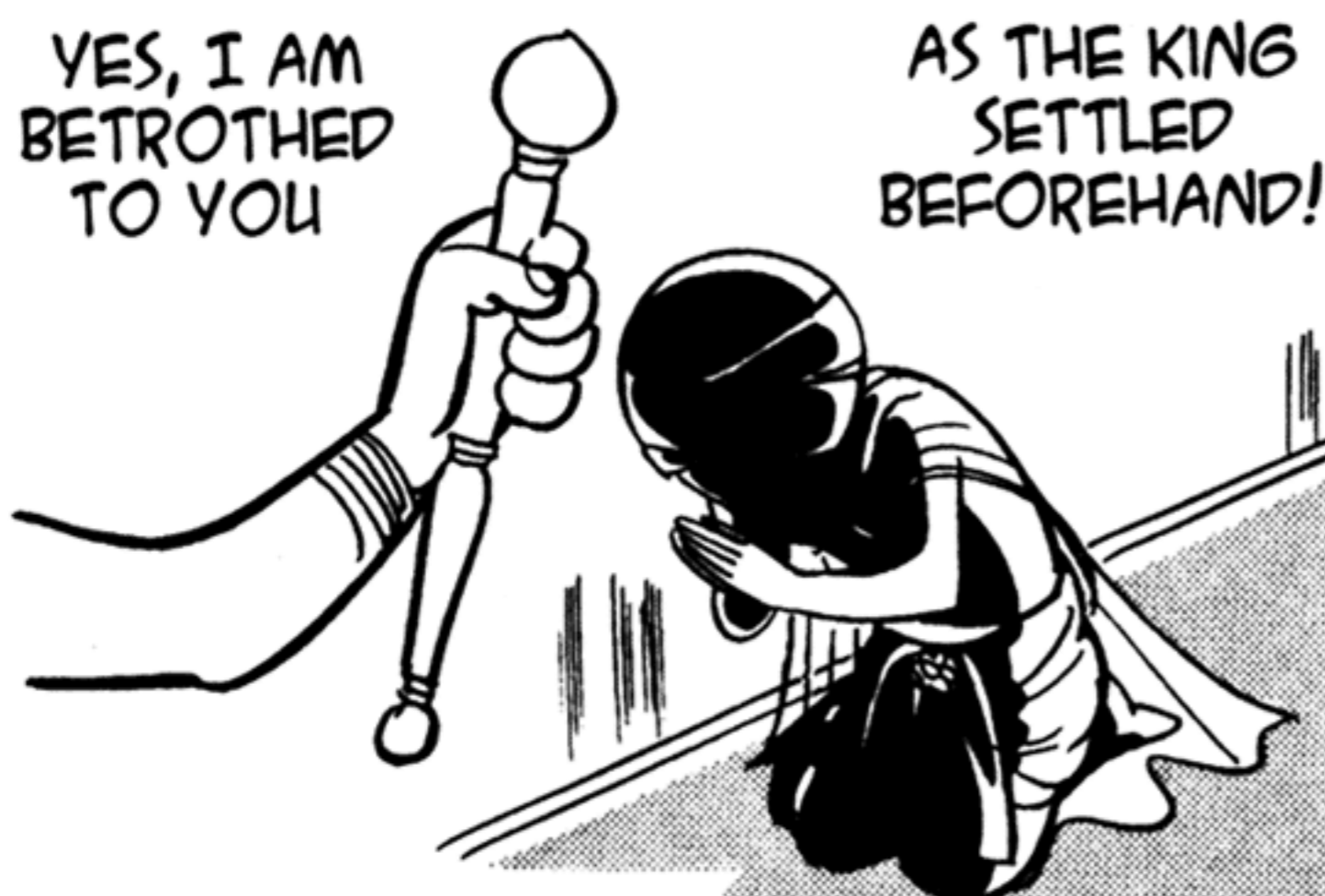
WHEN THE
BRIGANDS
ARRIVED.



BUT...
WHY?

YOU
ALREADY
HAVE...
ME!

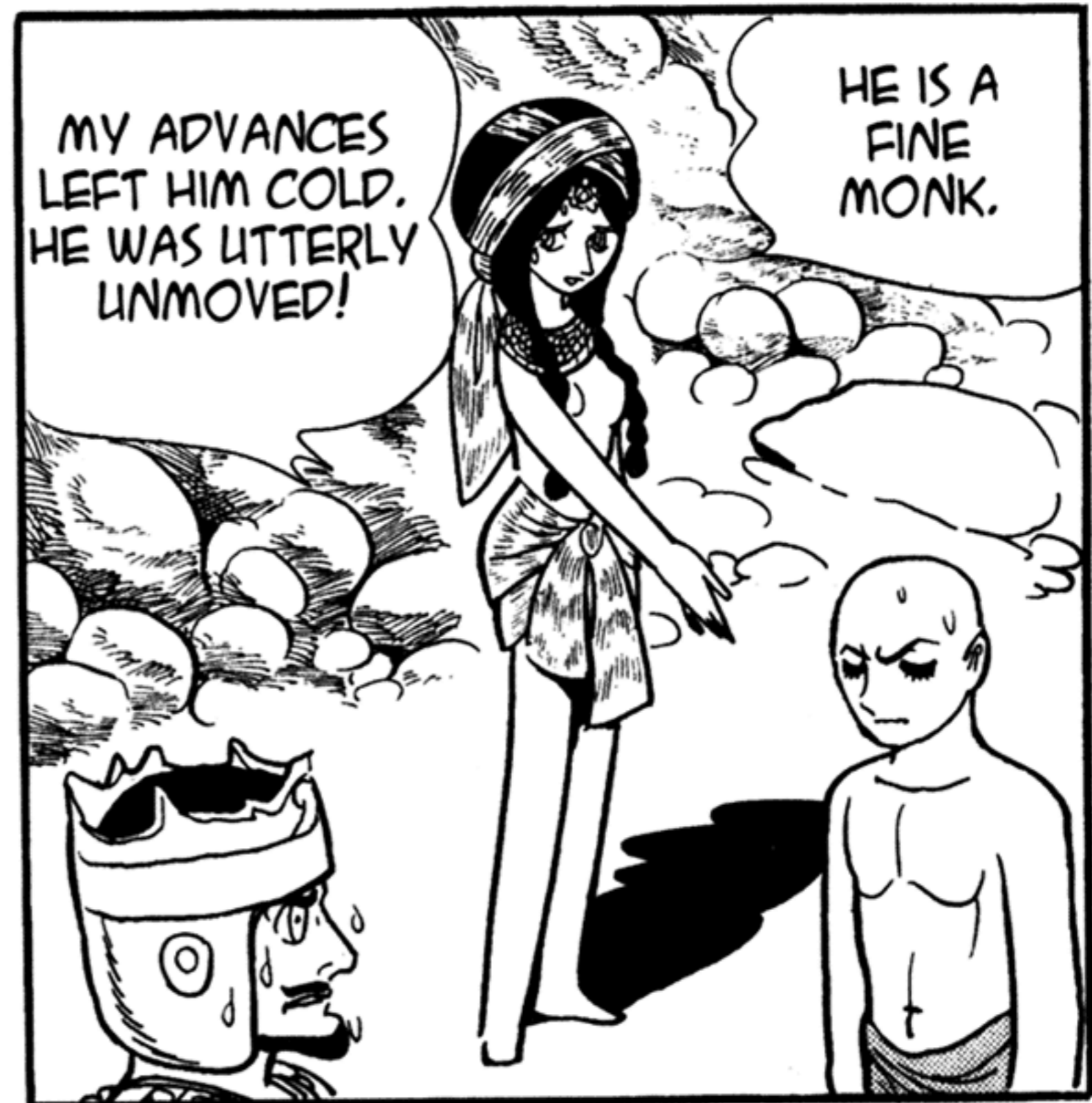
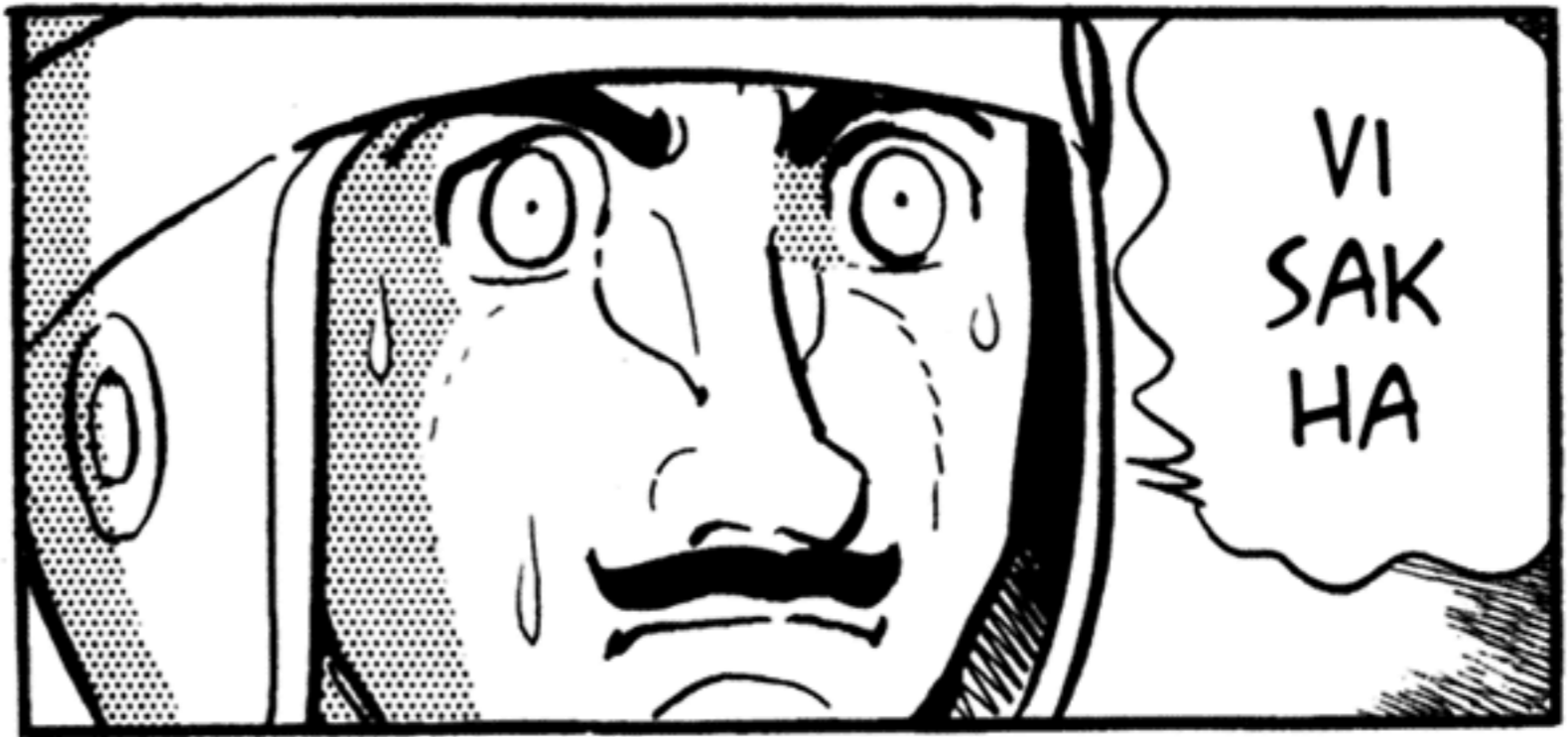
YES, I AM
BETROTHED
TO YOU

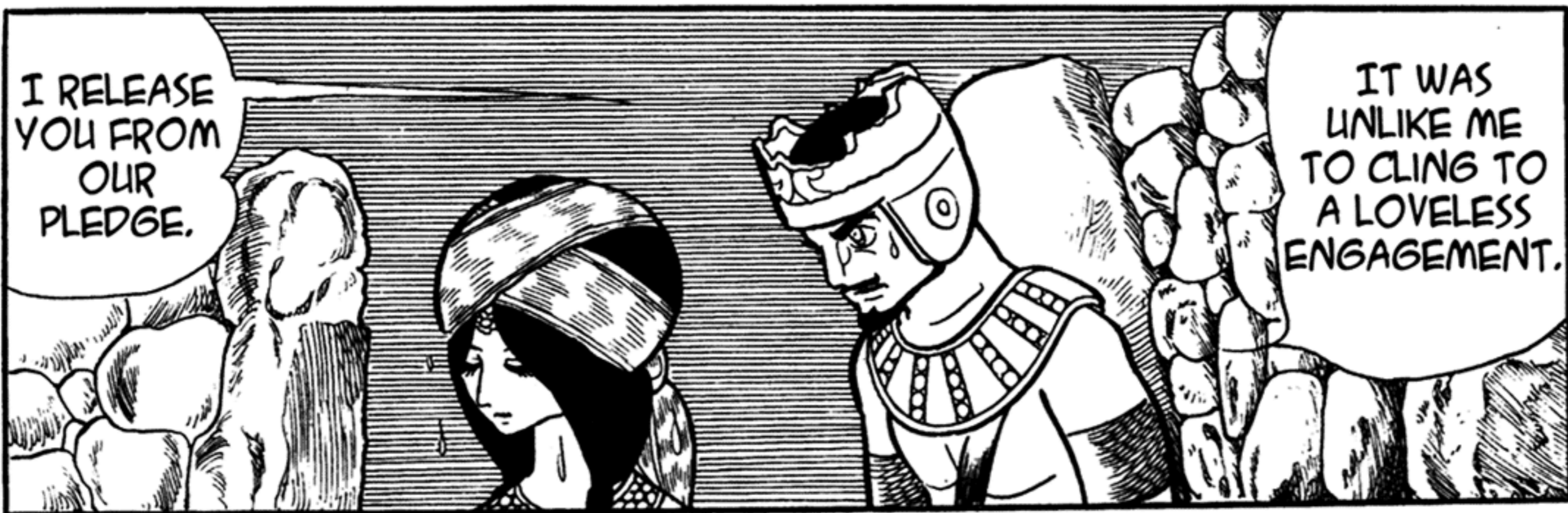
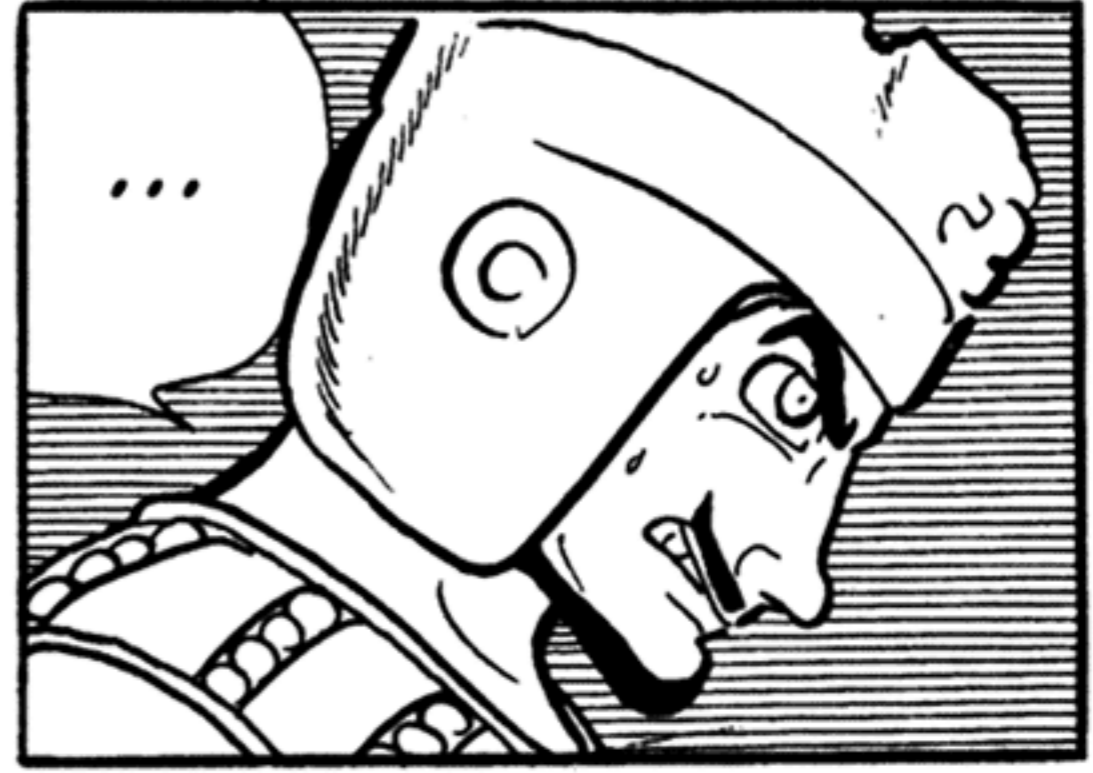
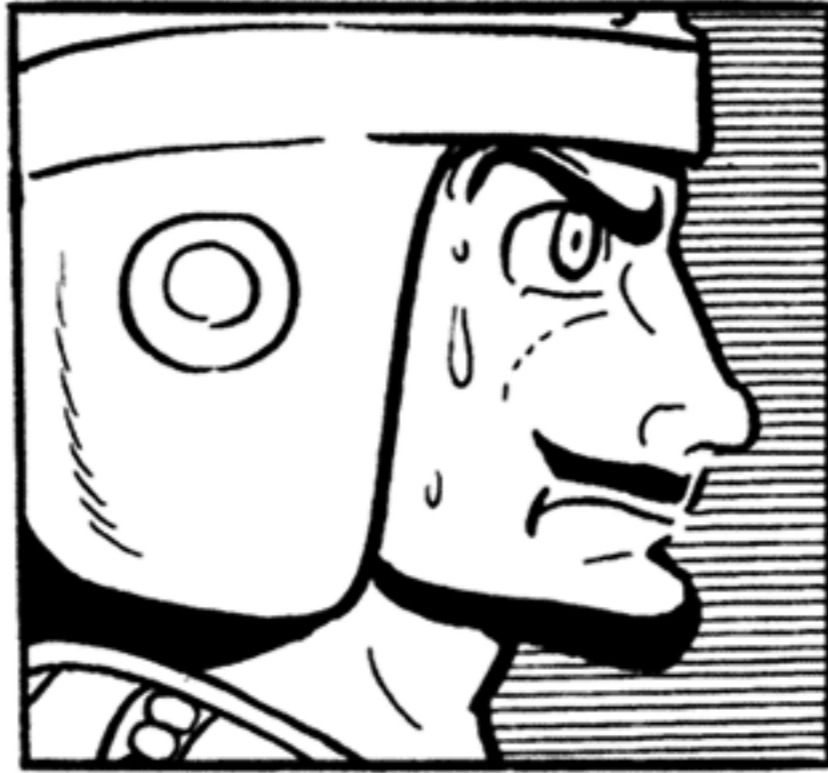
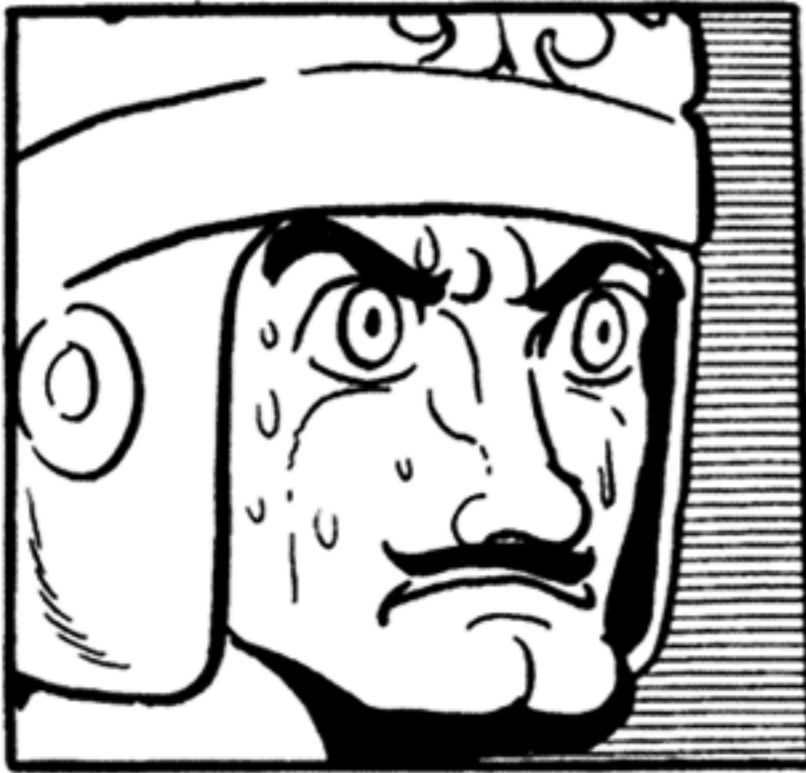


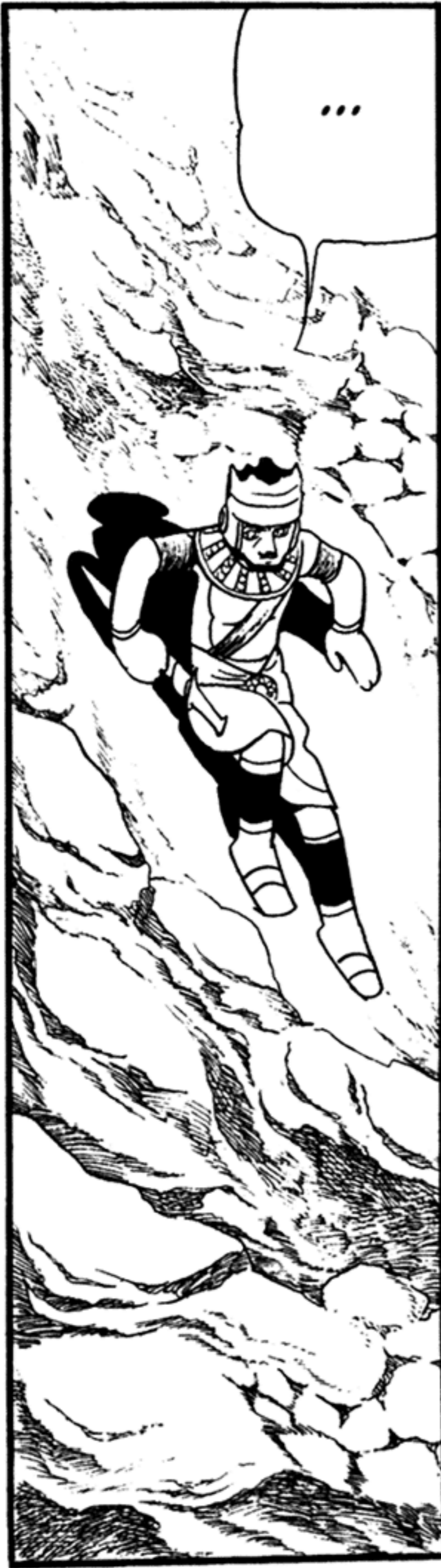
AS THE KING
SETTLED
BEFOREHAND!

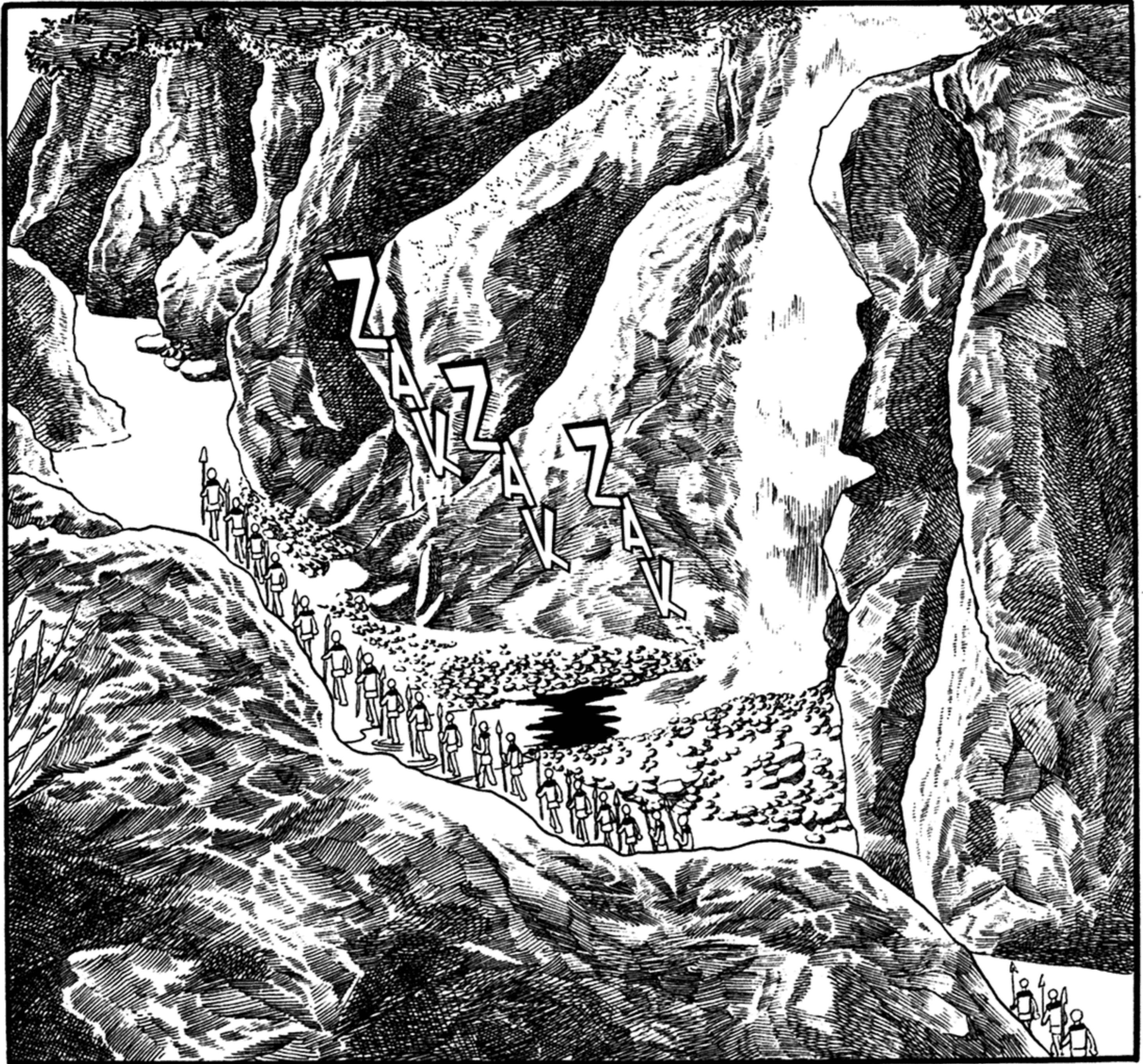
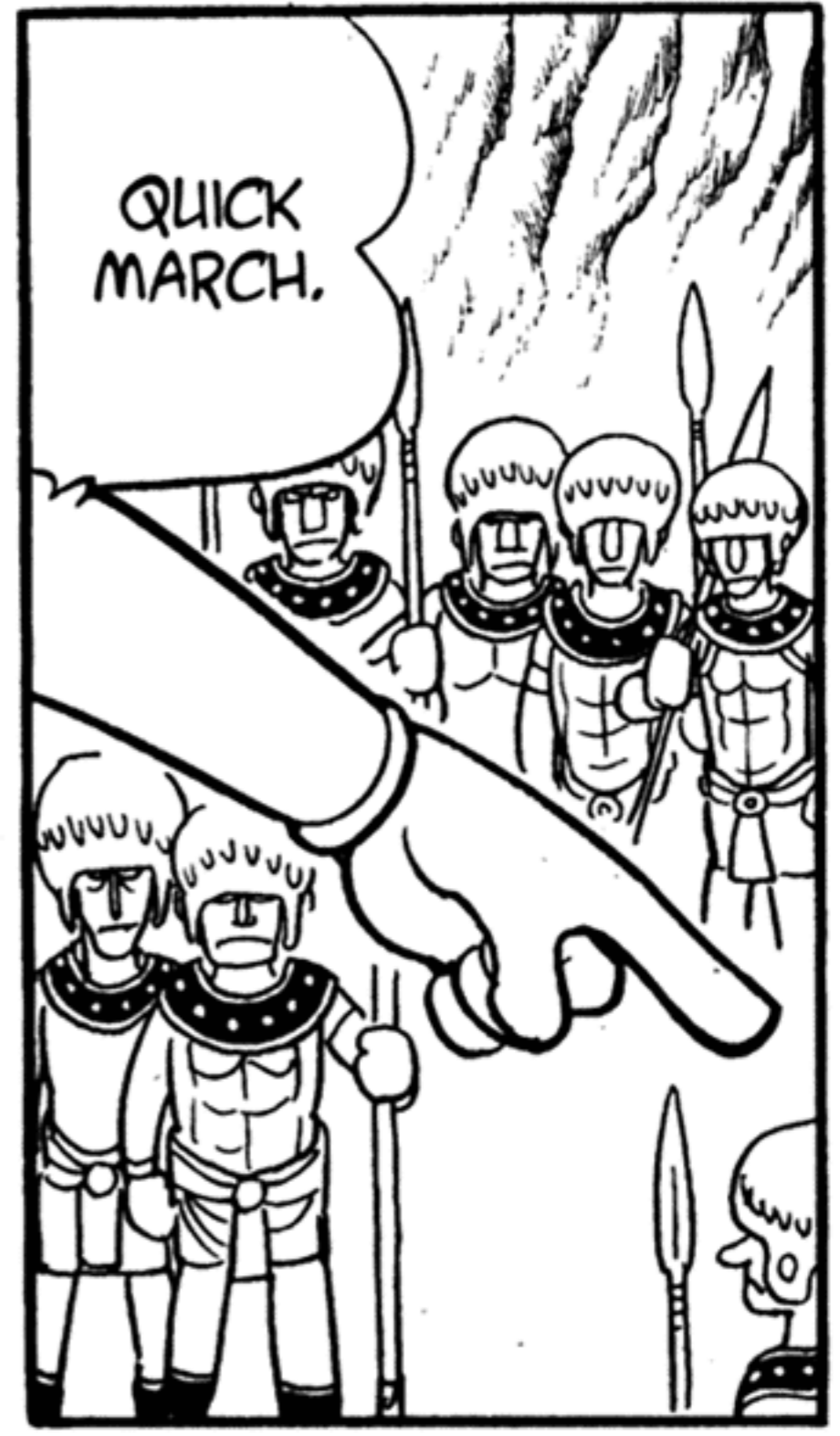
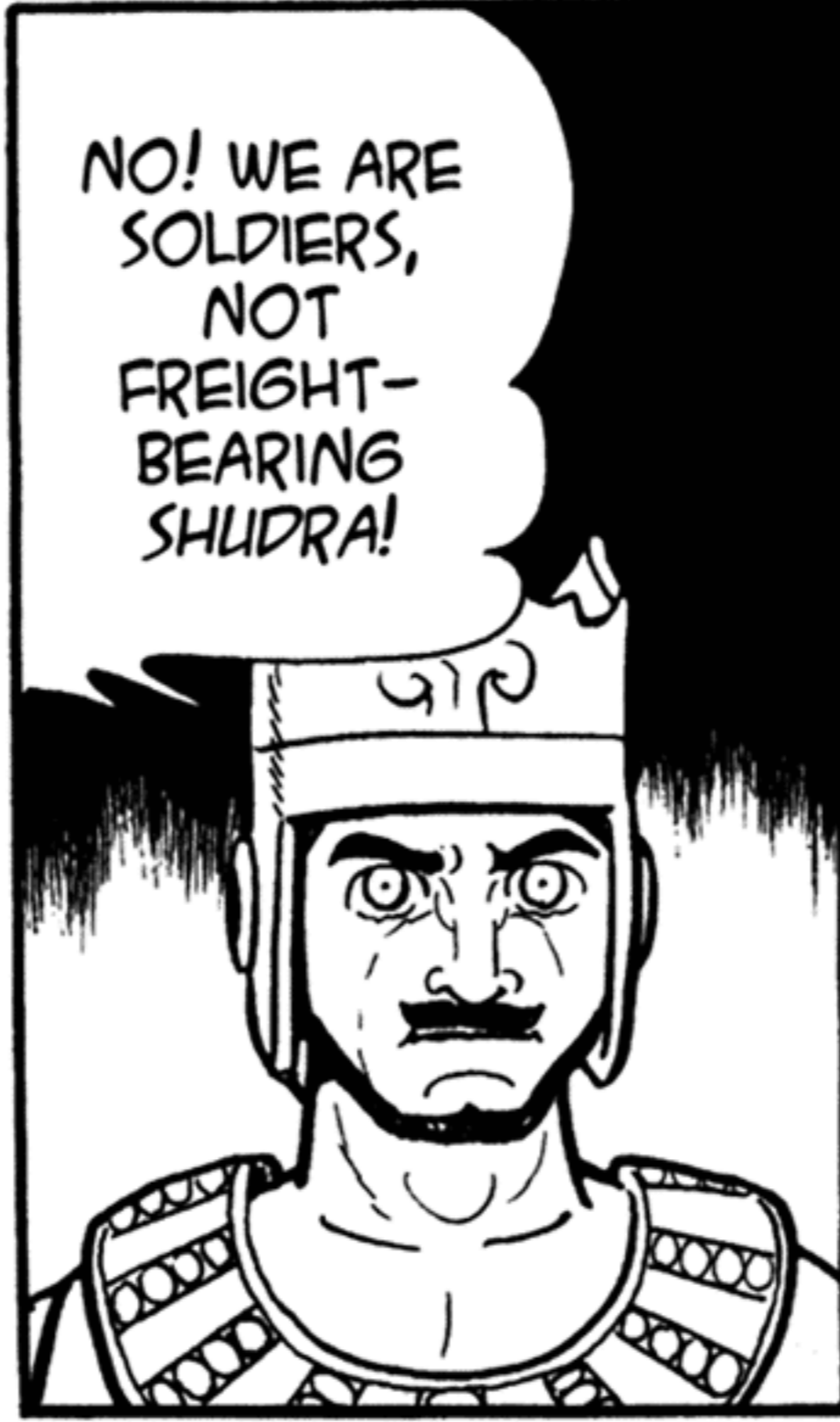


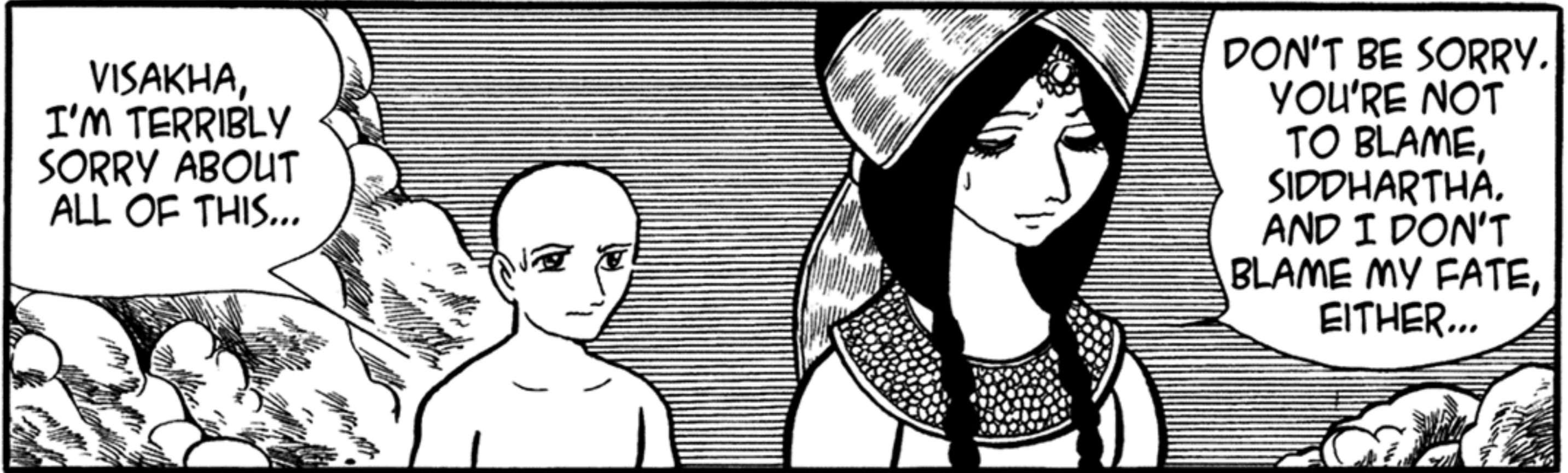
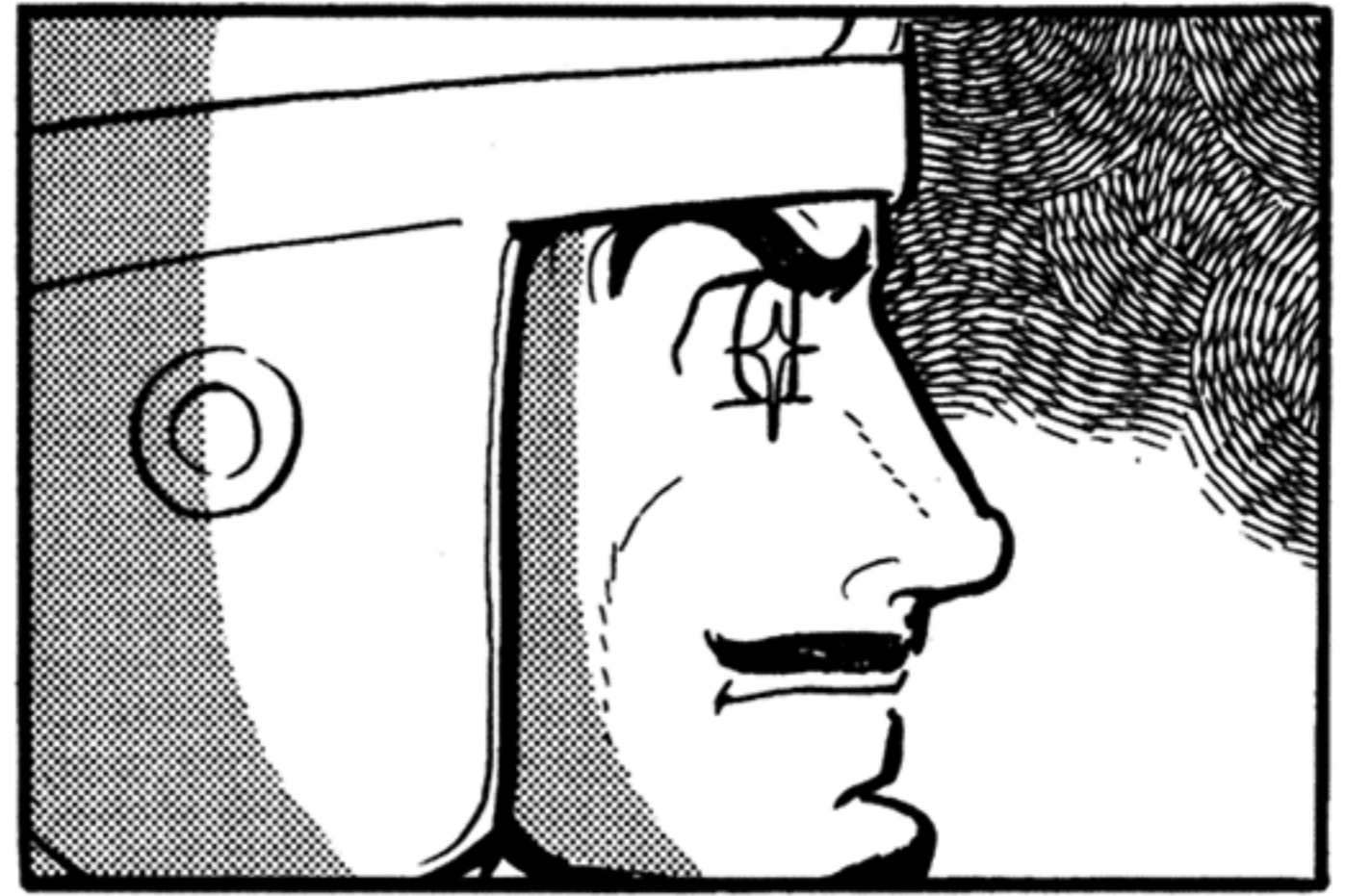
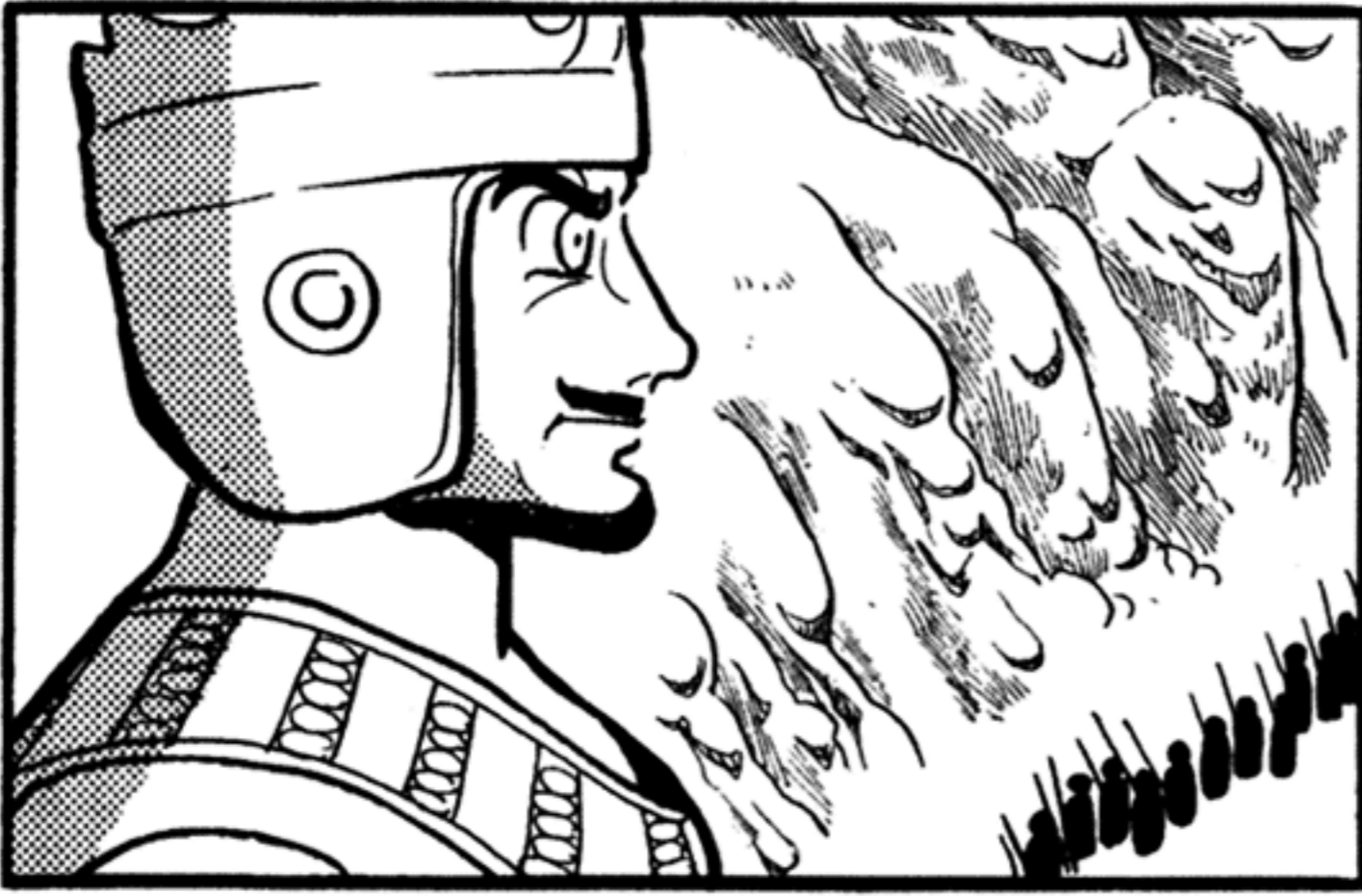
BETWEEN MEN
AND WOMEN,
THOUGH, THINGS
AREN'T THAT EASY.











VISAKHA,
I'M TERRIBLY
SORRY ABOUT
ALL OF THIS...

DON'T BE SORRY.
YOU'RE NOT
TO BLAME,
SIDDHARTHA.
AND I DON'T
BLAME MY FATE,
EITHER...



LISTEN
UP!

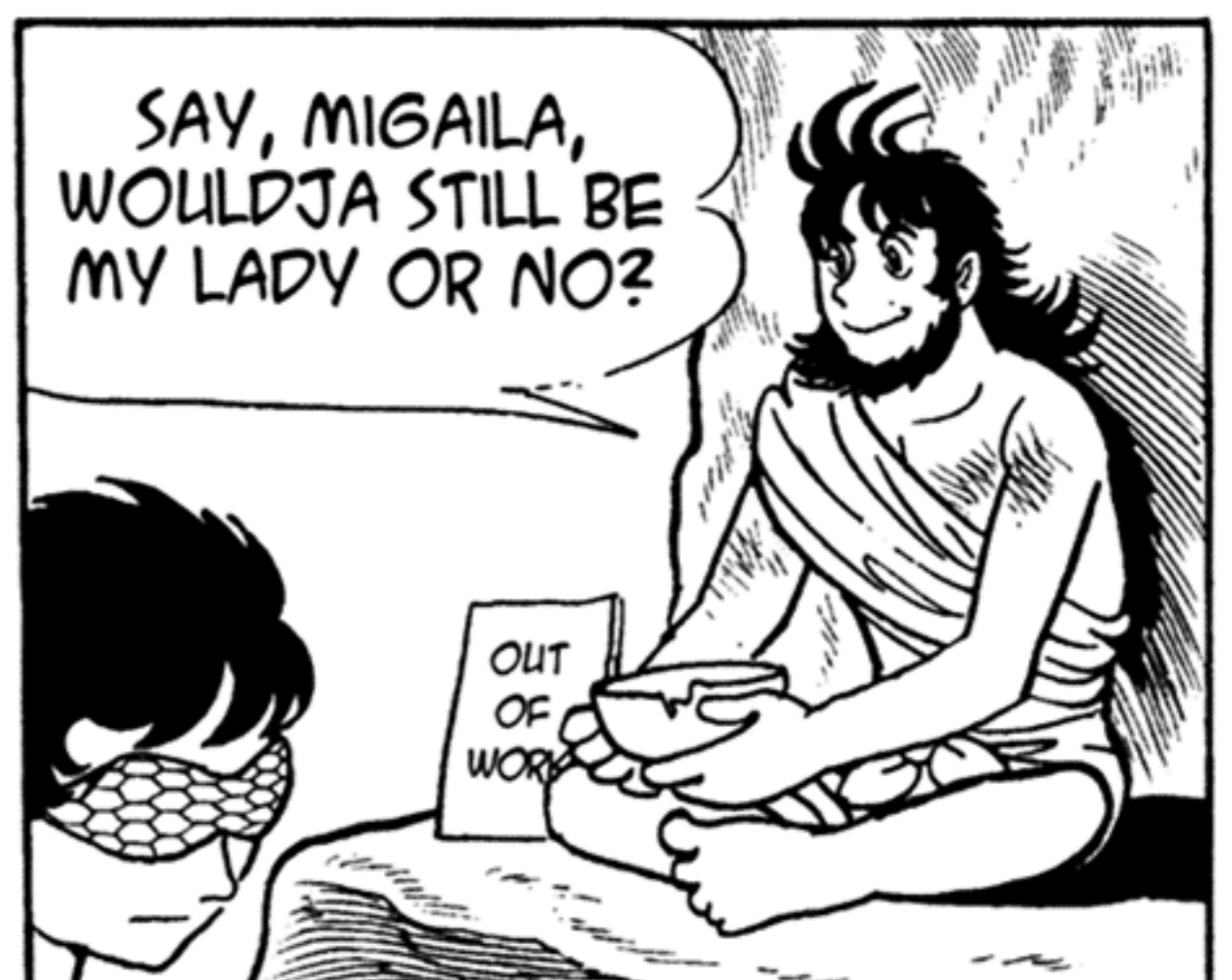
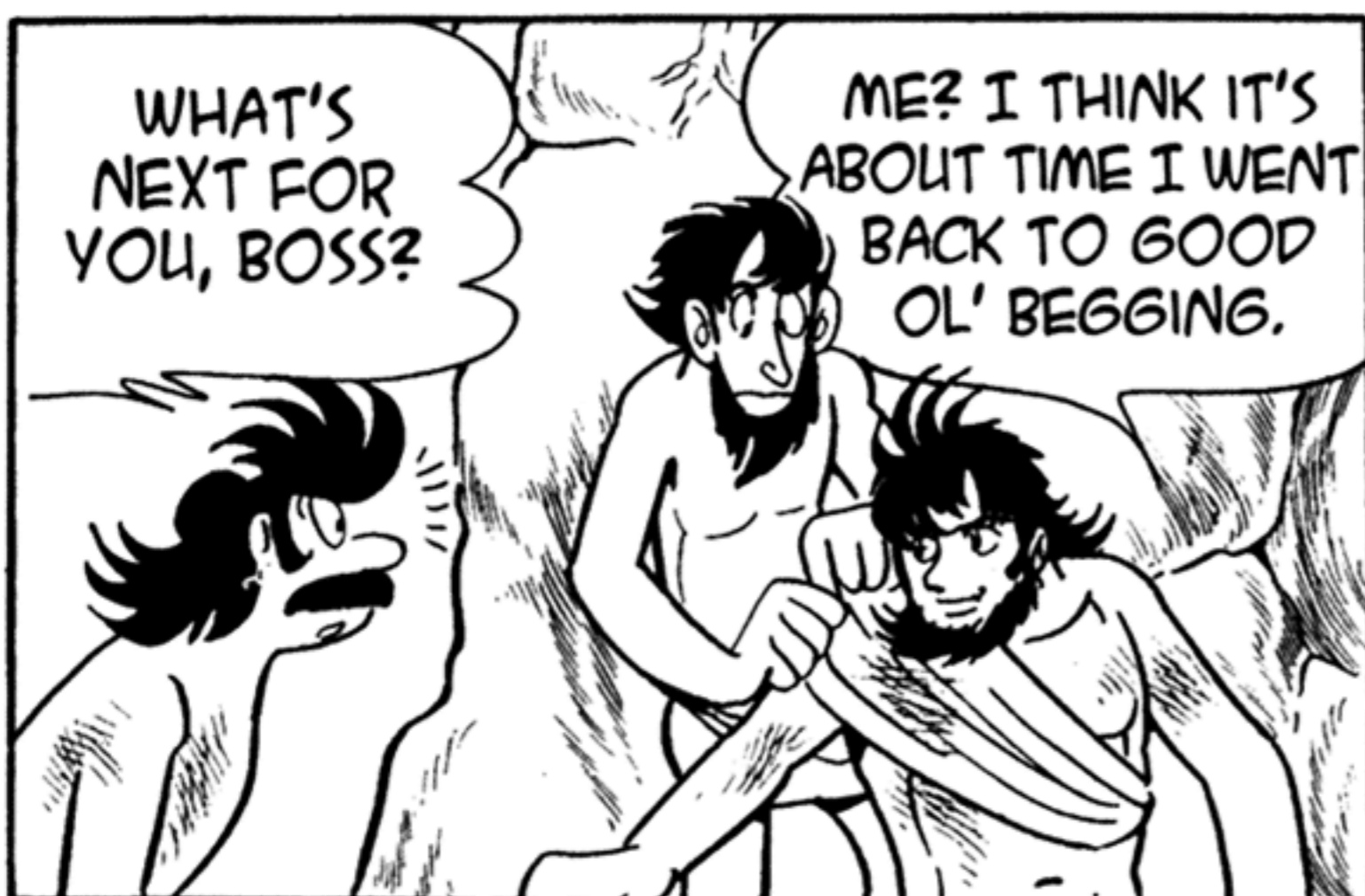


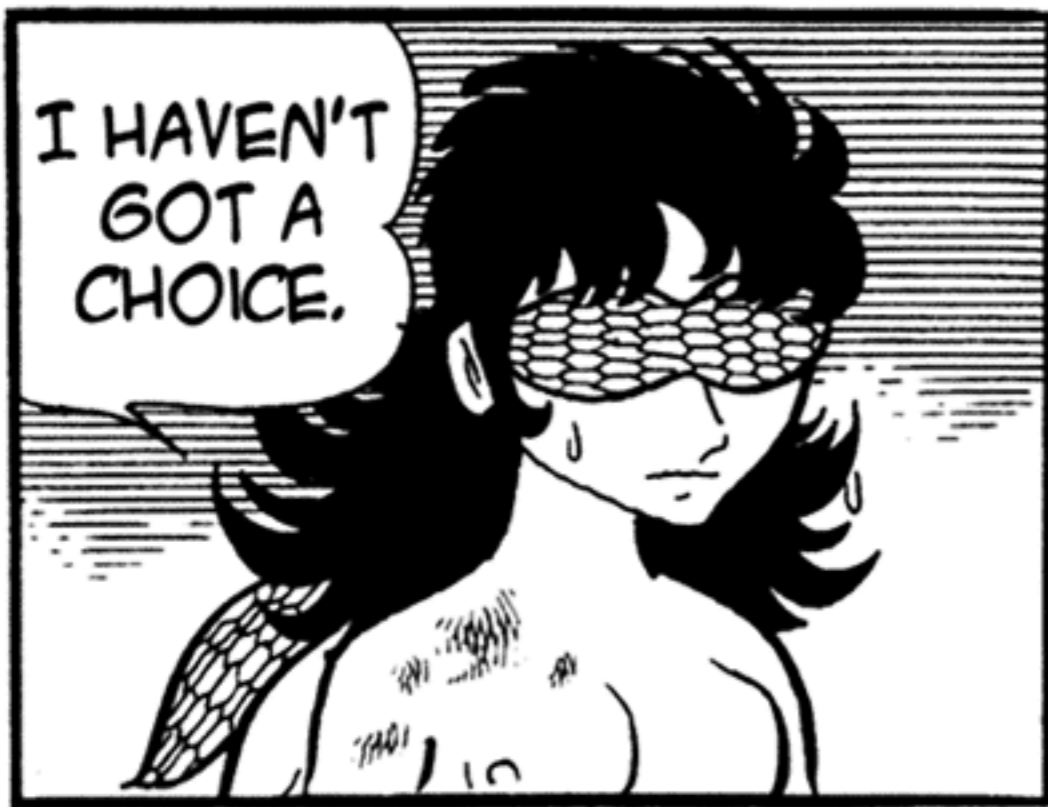
YOU HEARD
ALL THAT,
RIGHT?

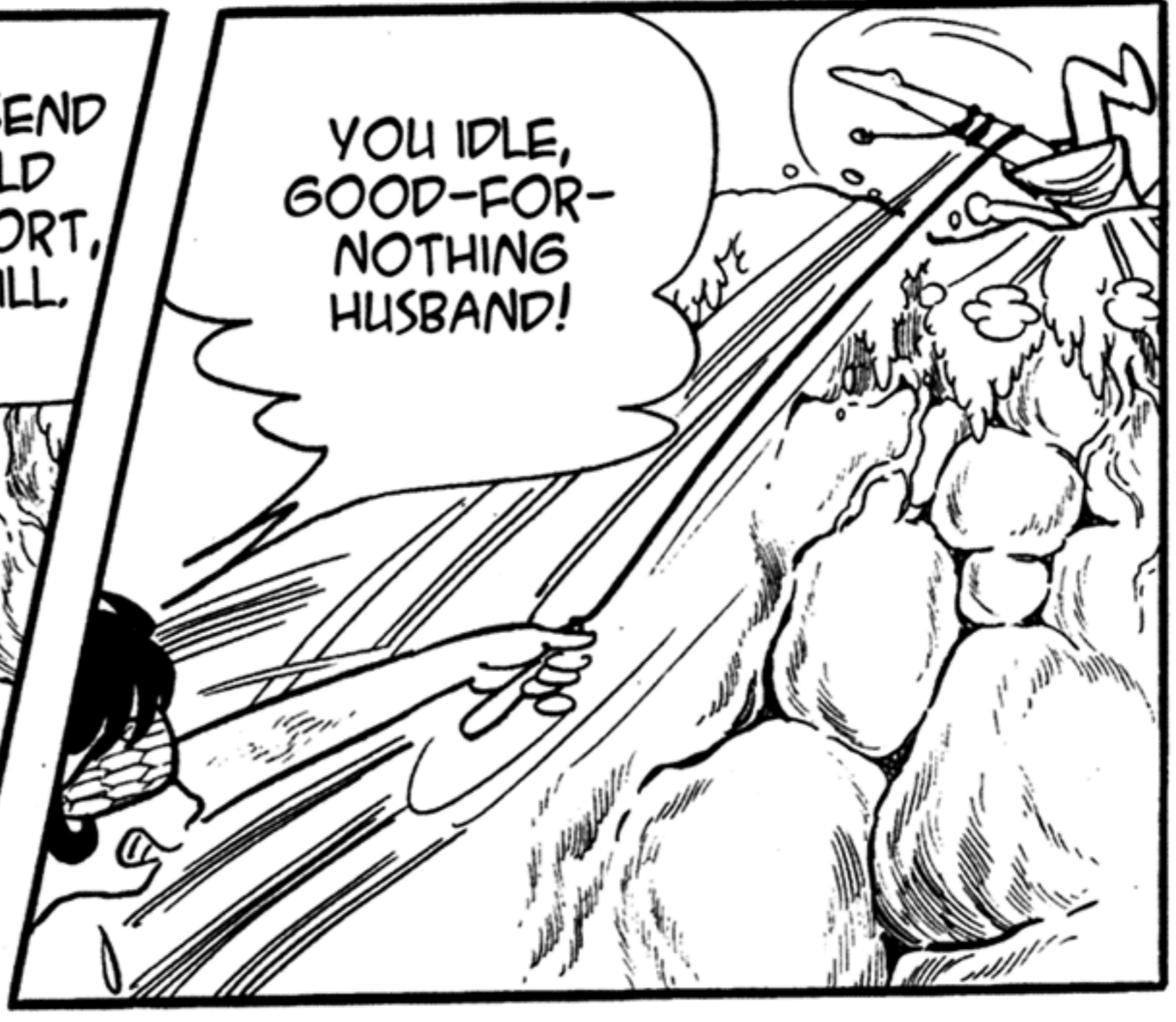
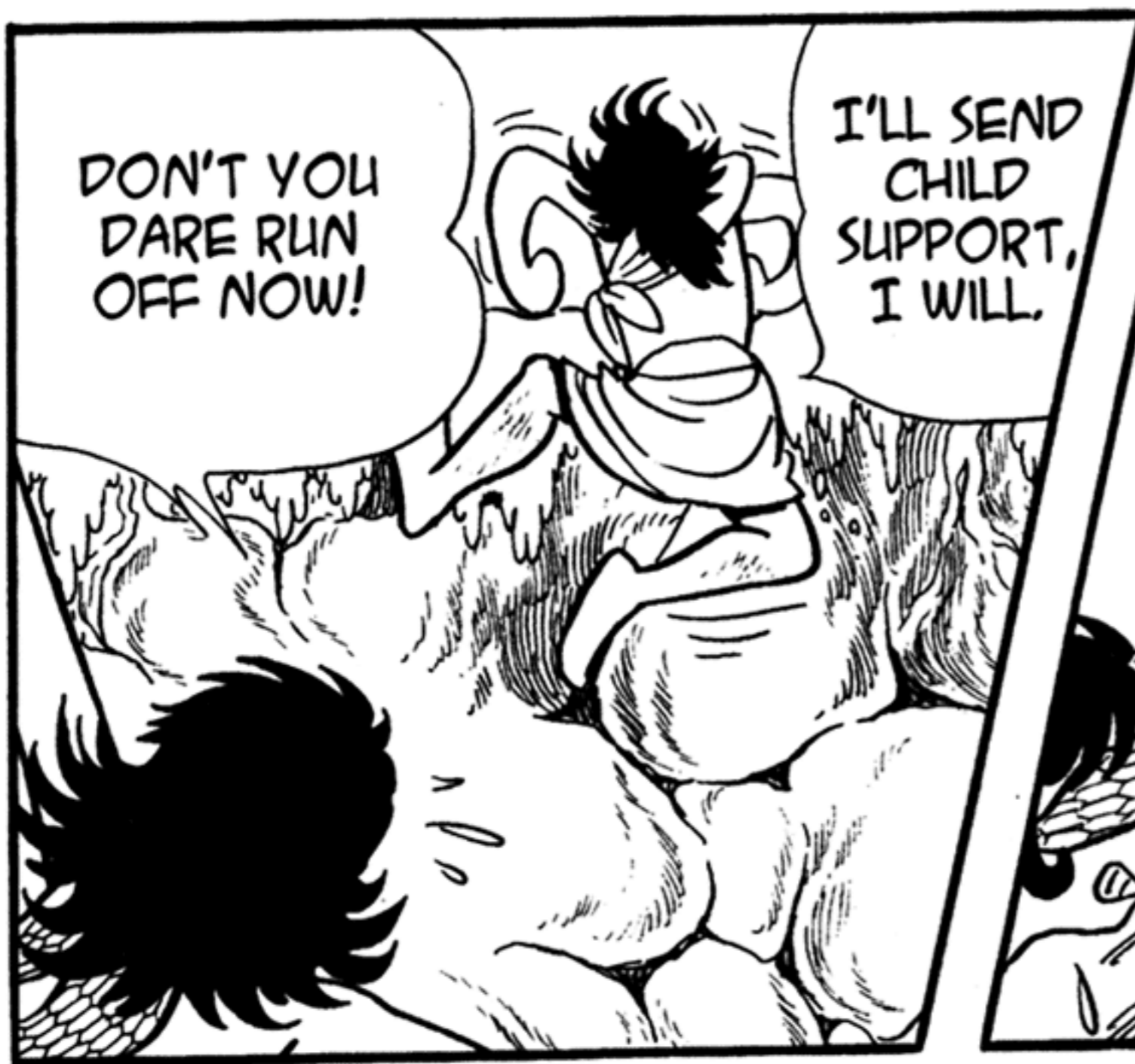
I HAVE TO FULFILL
MY PROMISE
TO SIDDHARTHA.
WE DISBAND
AS OF TONIGHT.

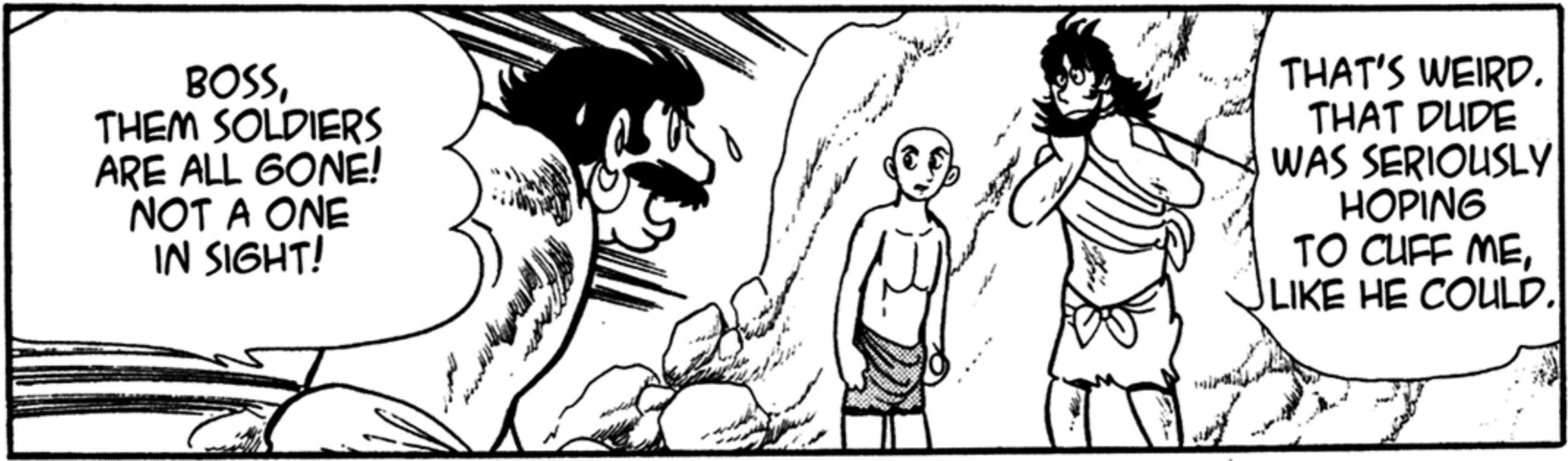
WAIT
A
SEC!

THAT'S
PURE
WHIMSY,
BOSS!





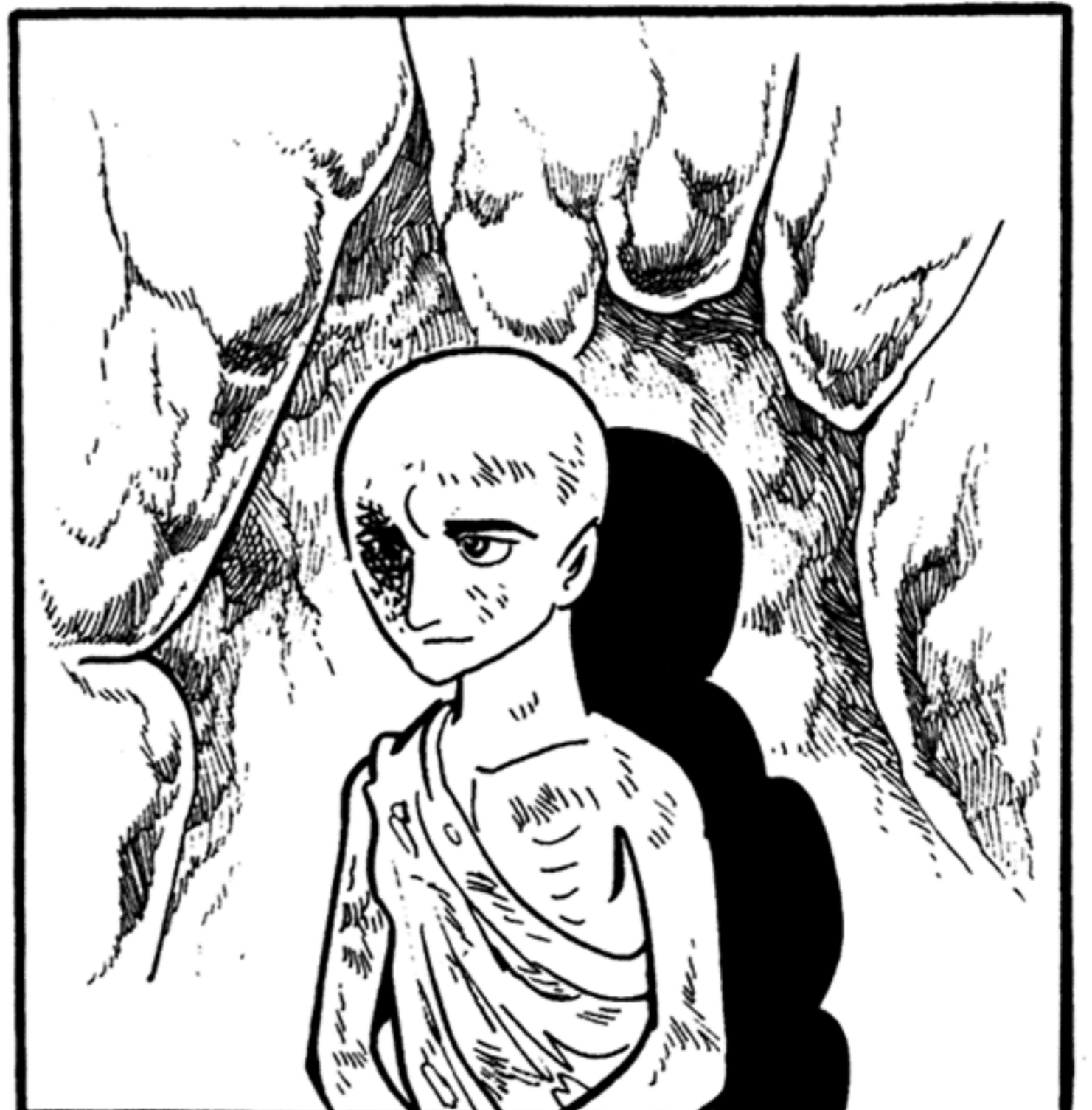
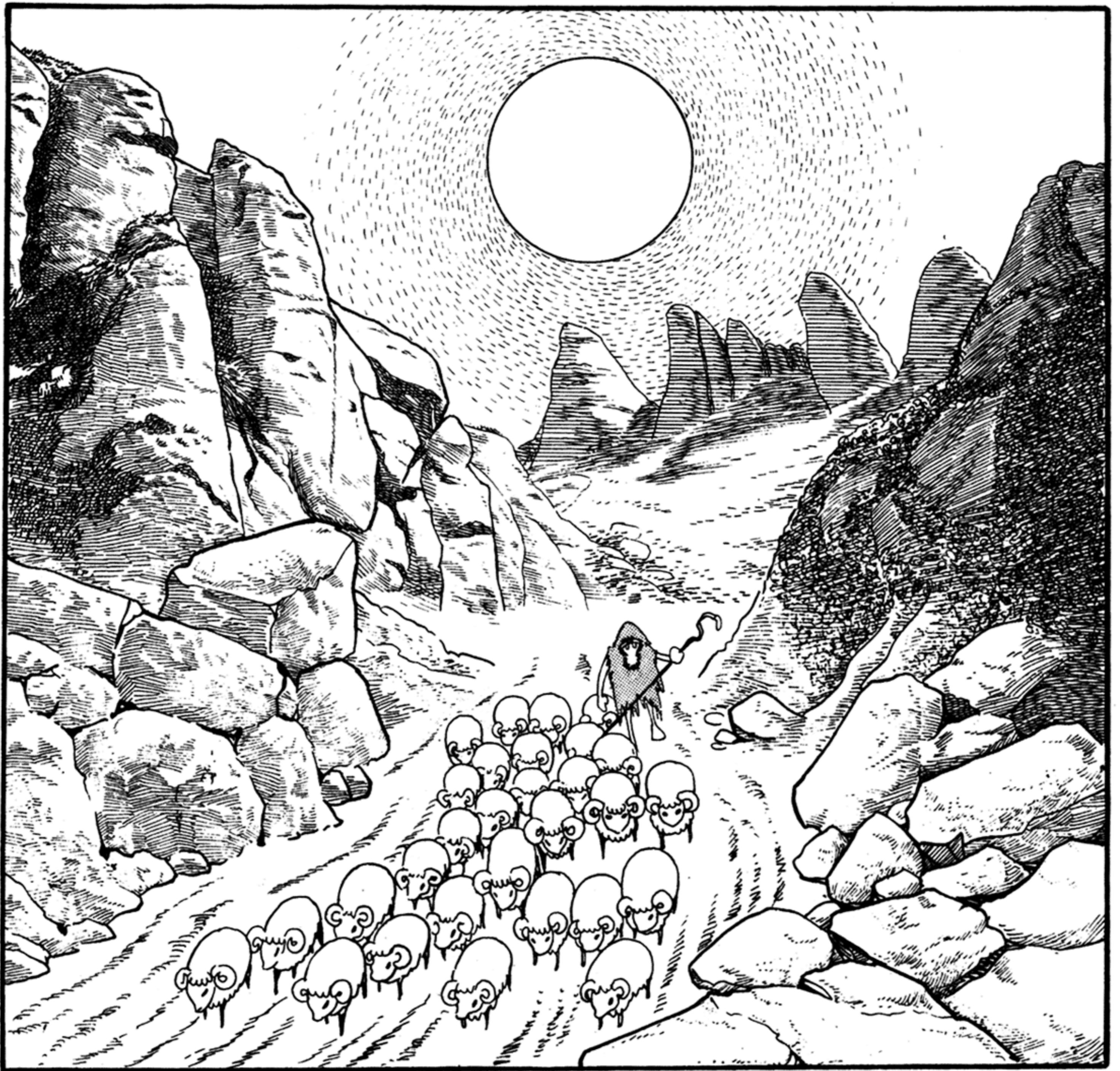


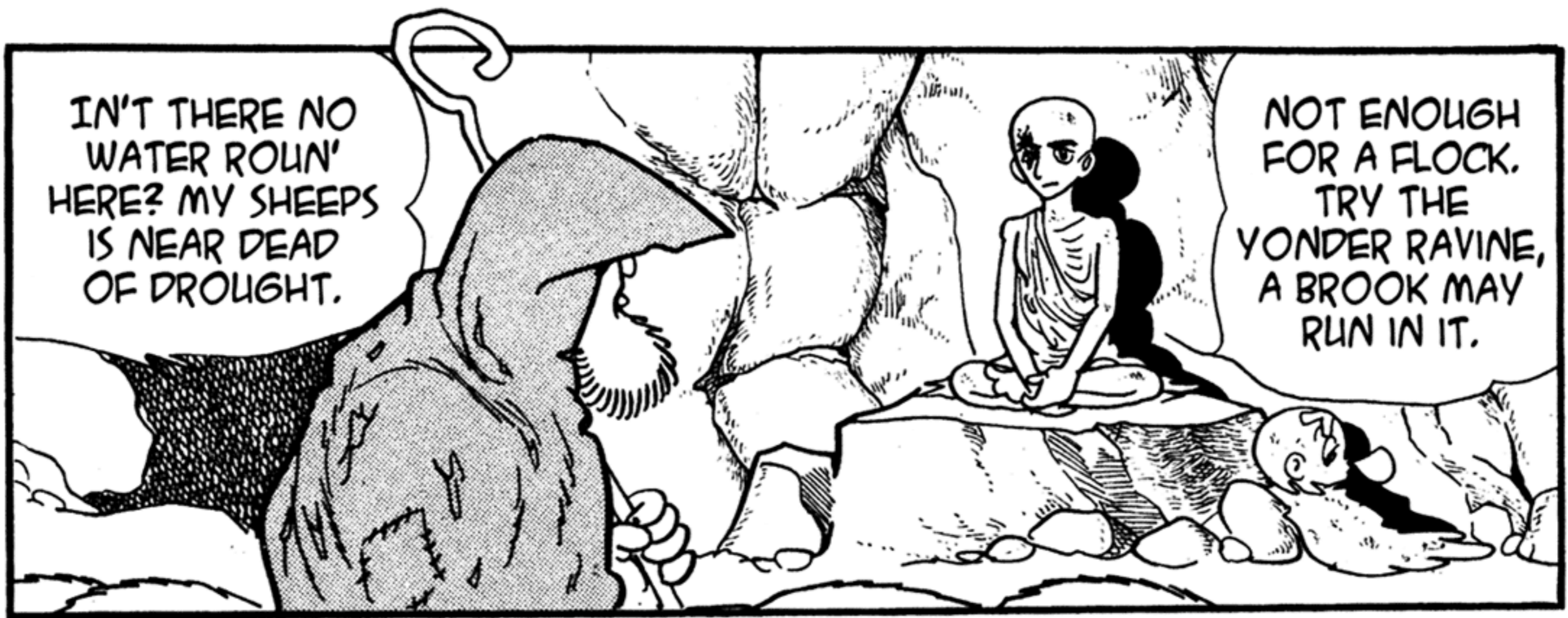




CHAPTER FIVE

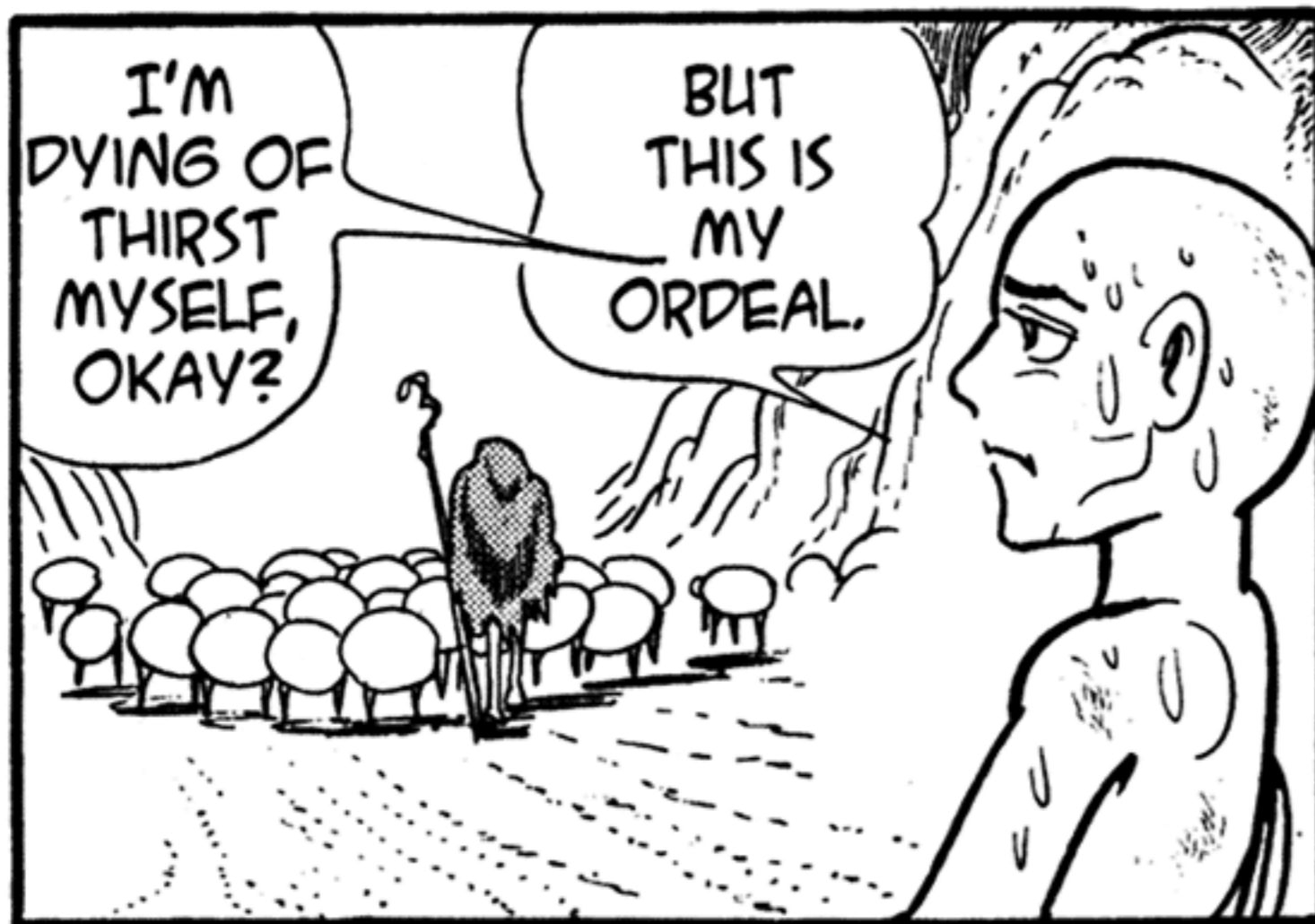
INTERVIEW AT MT. PANDAVA





IN'T THERE NO WATER ROUN' HERE? MY SHEEPS IS NEAR DEAD OF DROUGHT.

NOT ENOUGH FOR A FLOCK. TRY THE YONDER RAVINE, A BROOK MAY RUN IN IT.

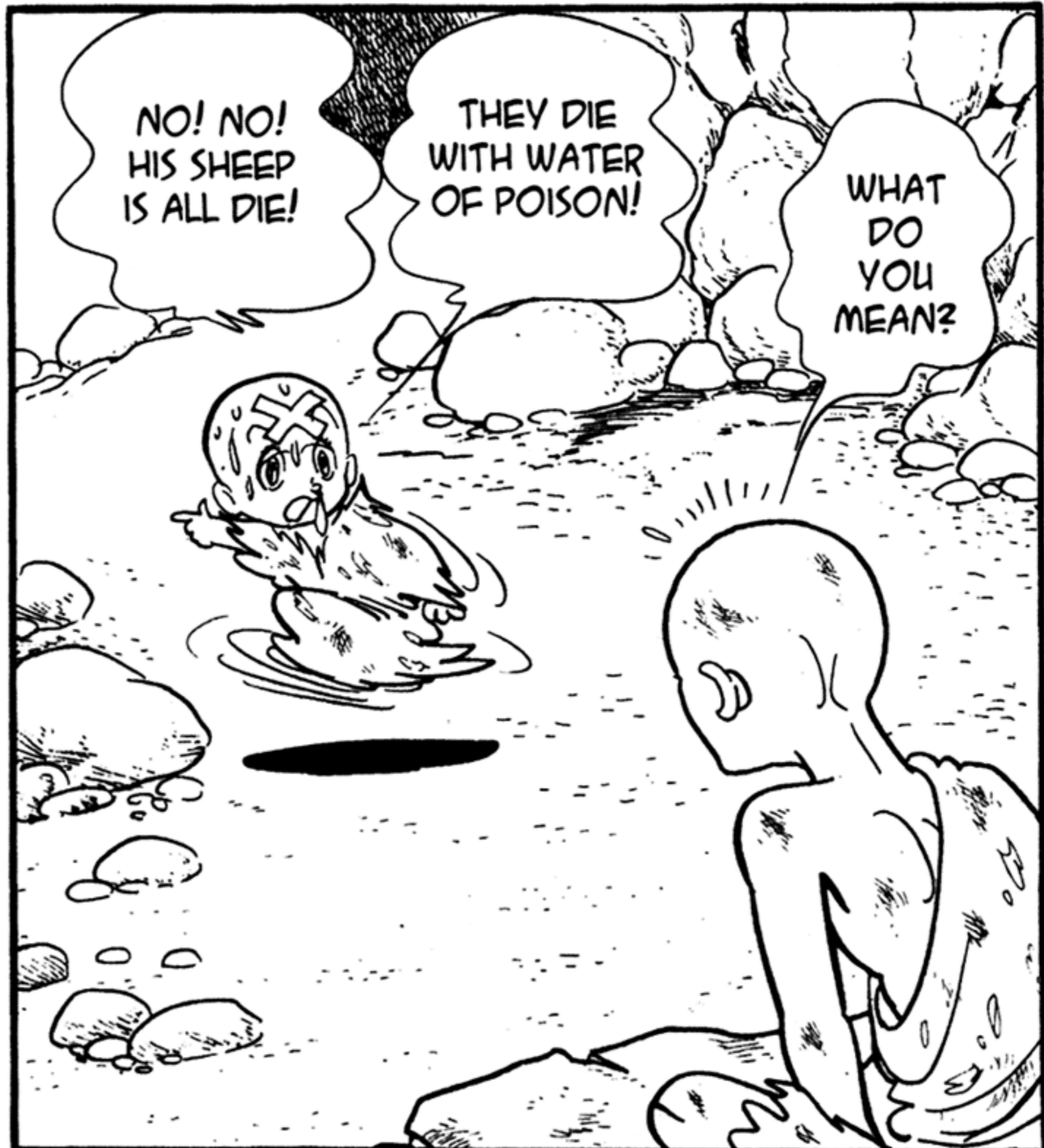
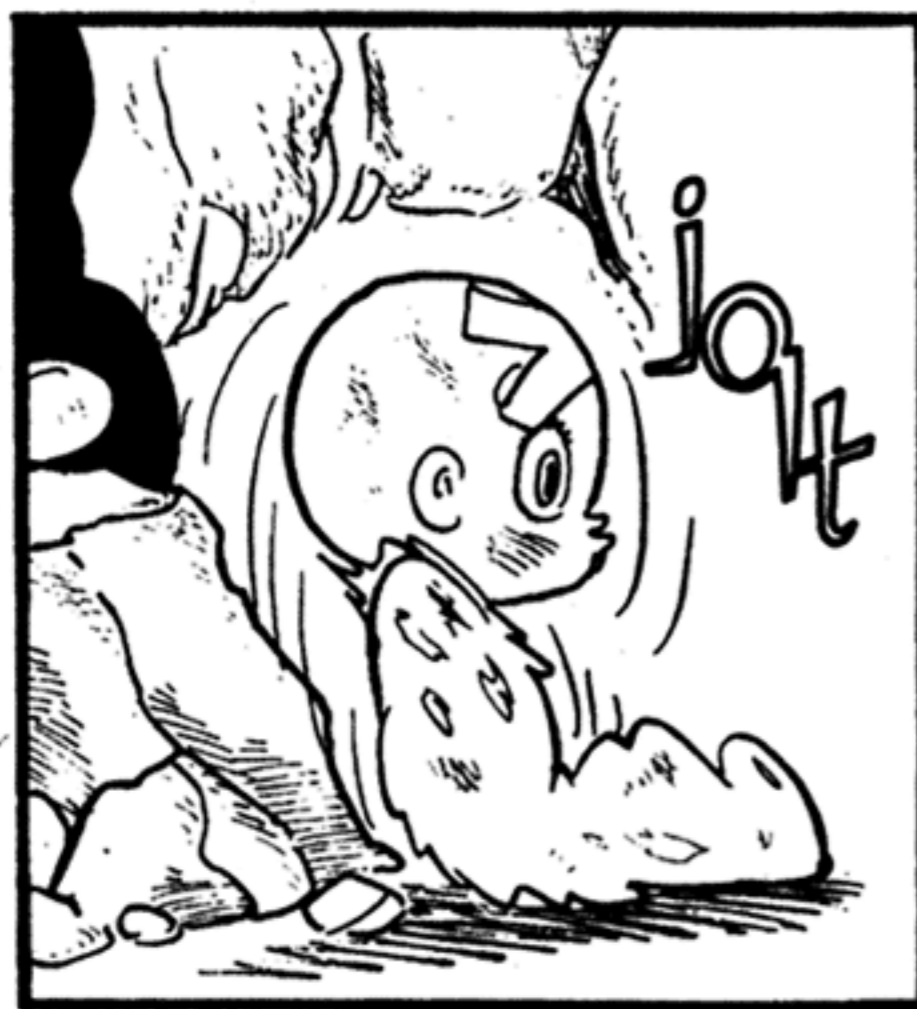


I'M DYING OF THIRST MYSELF, OKAY?

BUT THIS IS MY ORDEAL.



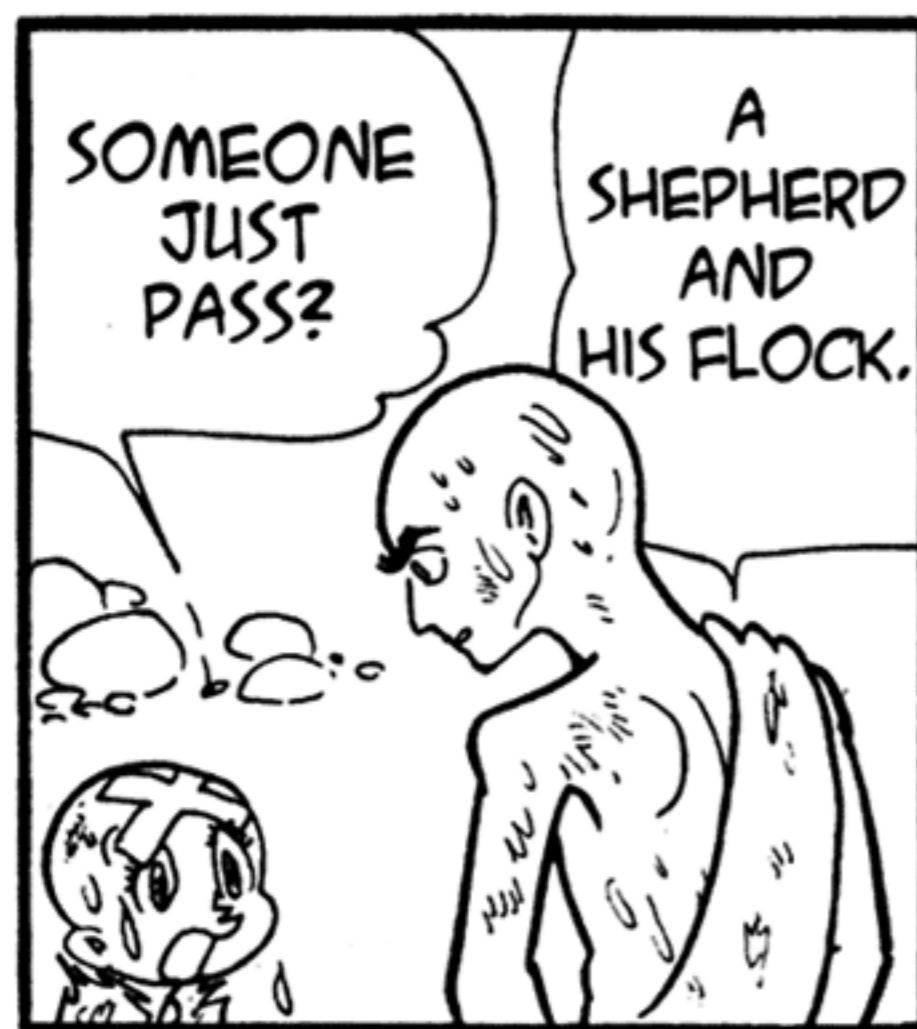
MUST BE GREAT TO BE YOU, ASSAJI.



NO! NO! HIS SHEEP IS ALL DIE!

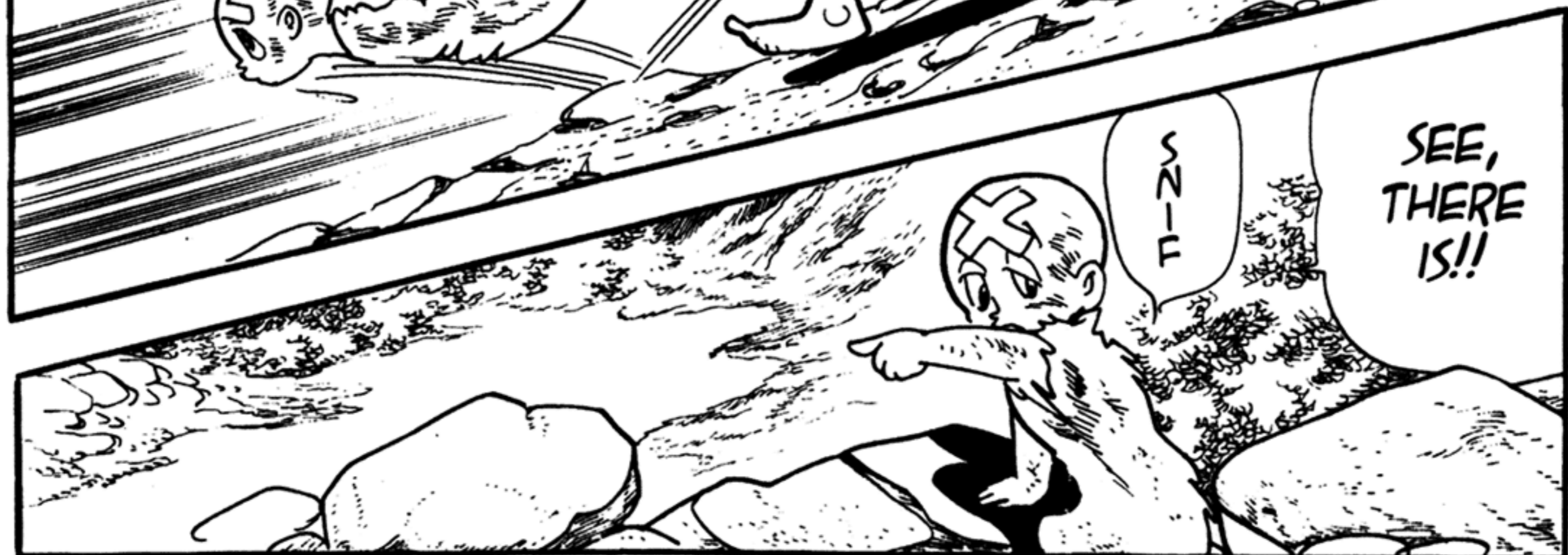
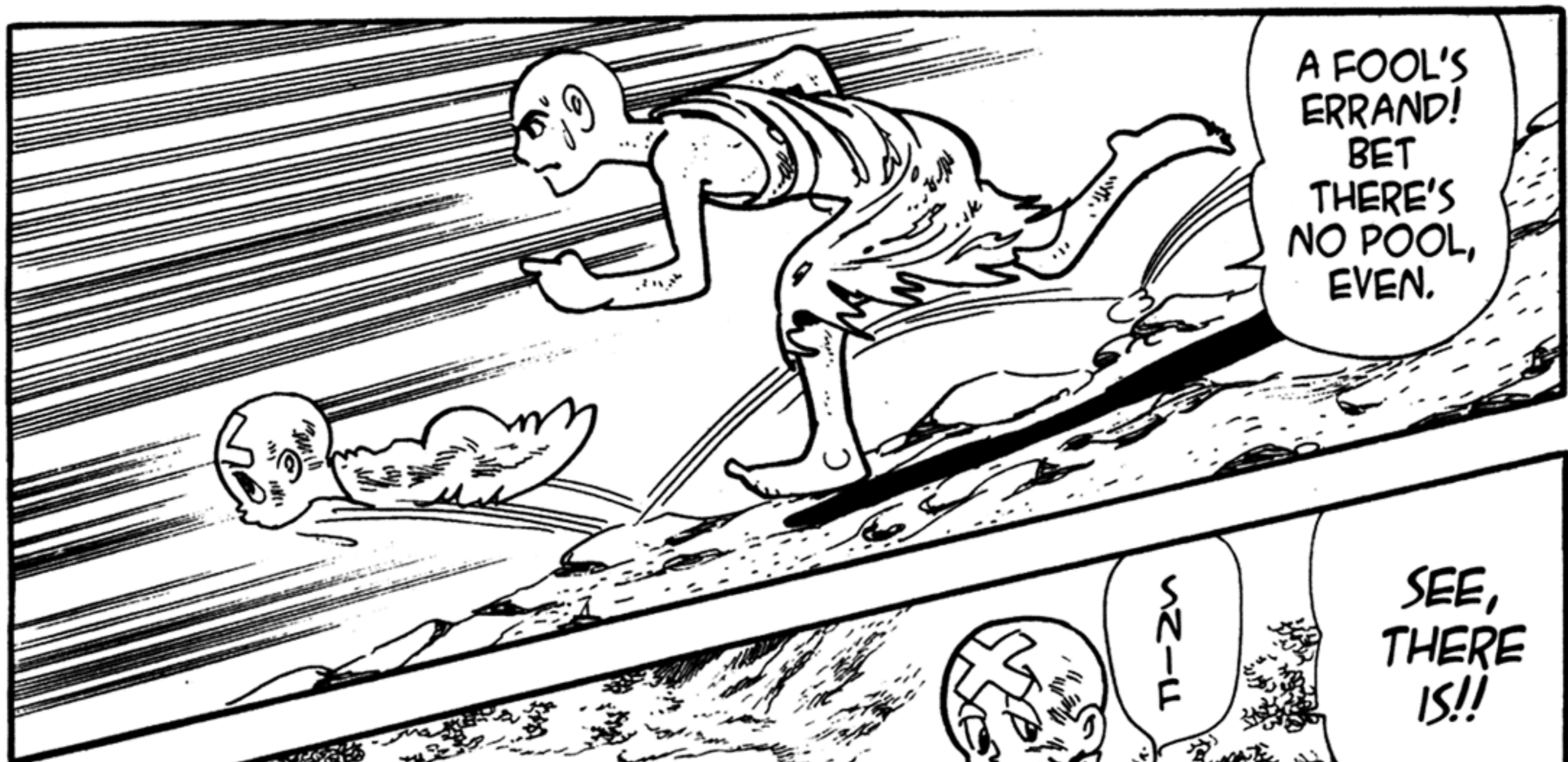
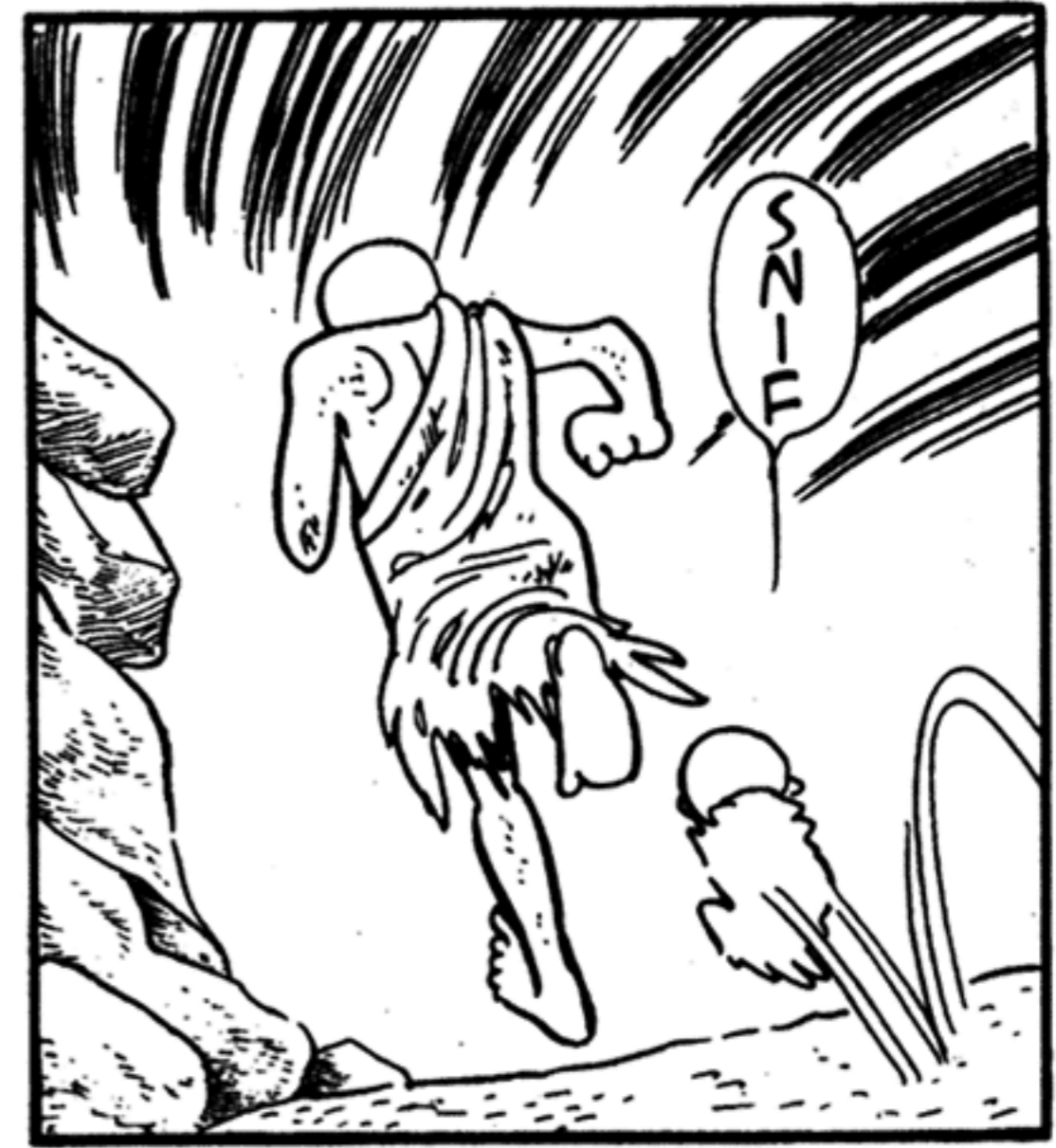
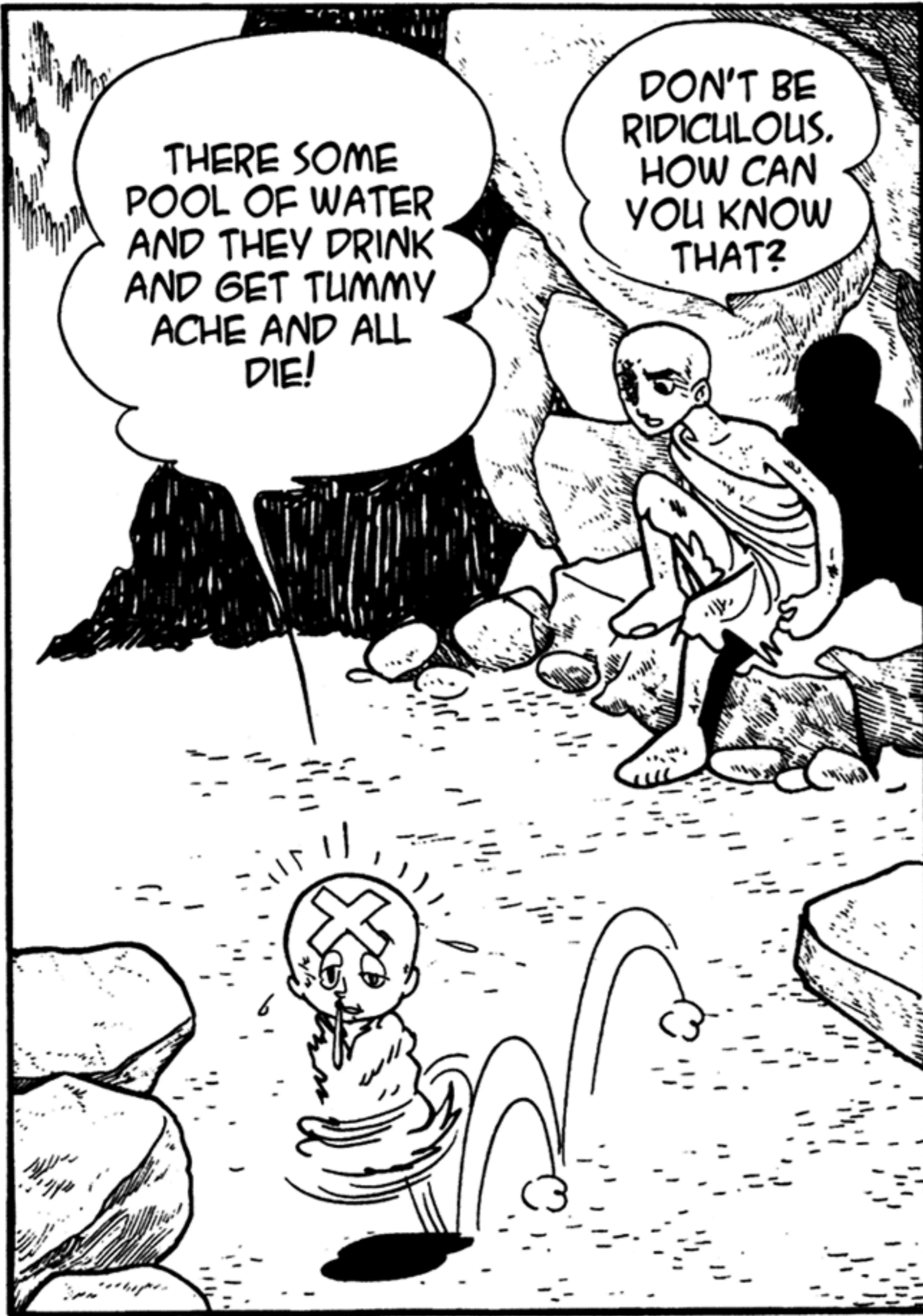
THEY DIE WITH WATER OF POISON!

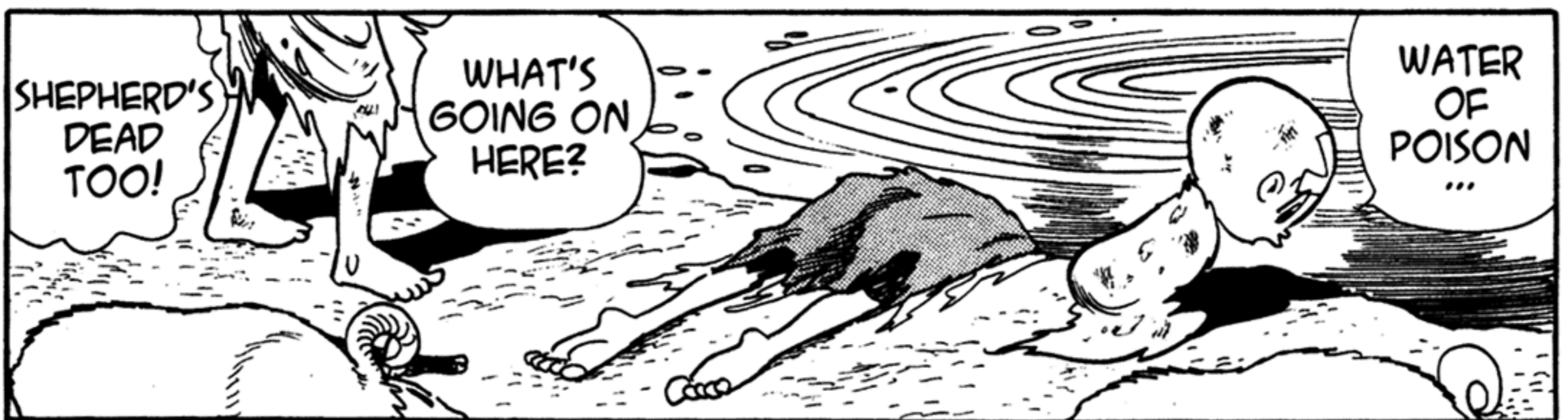
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

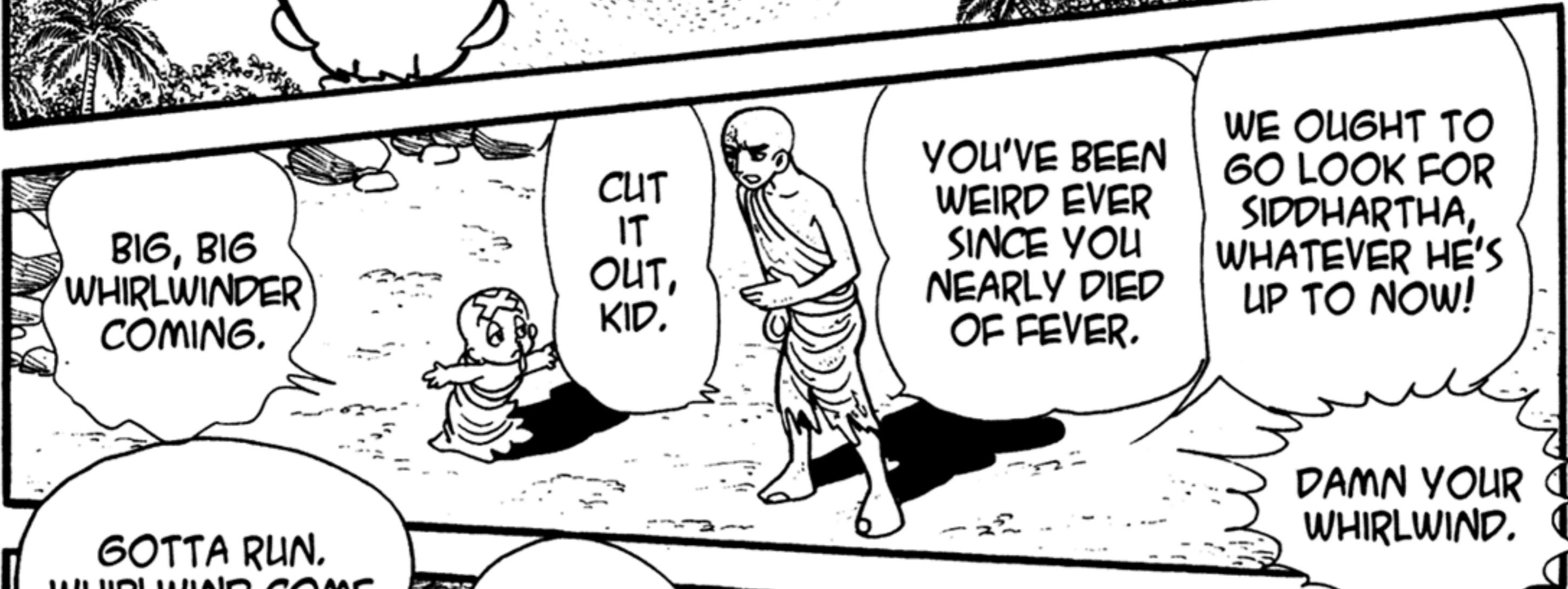
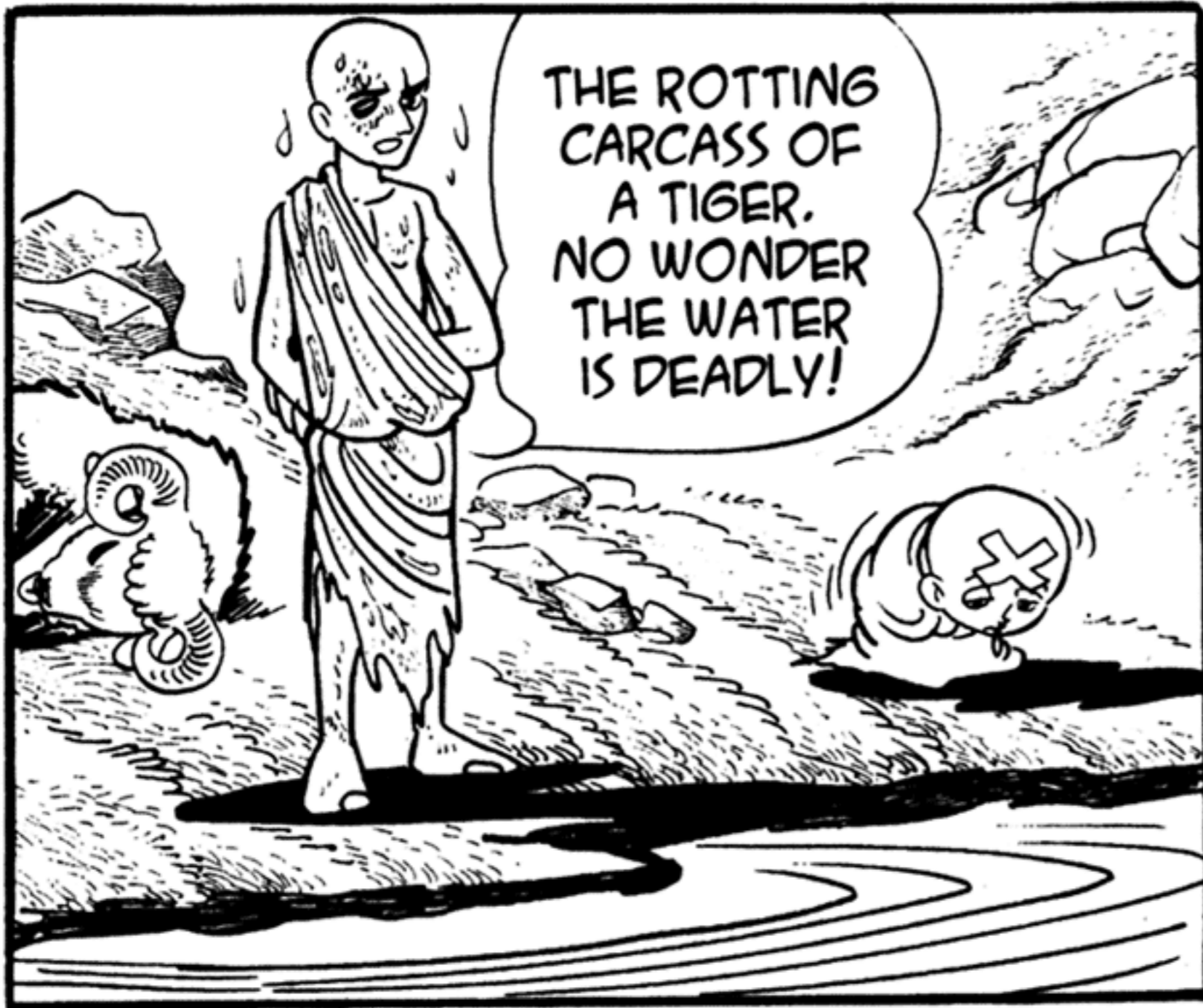


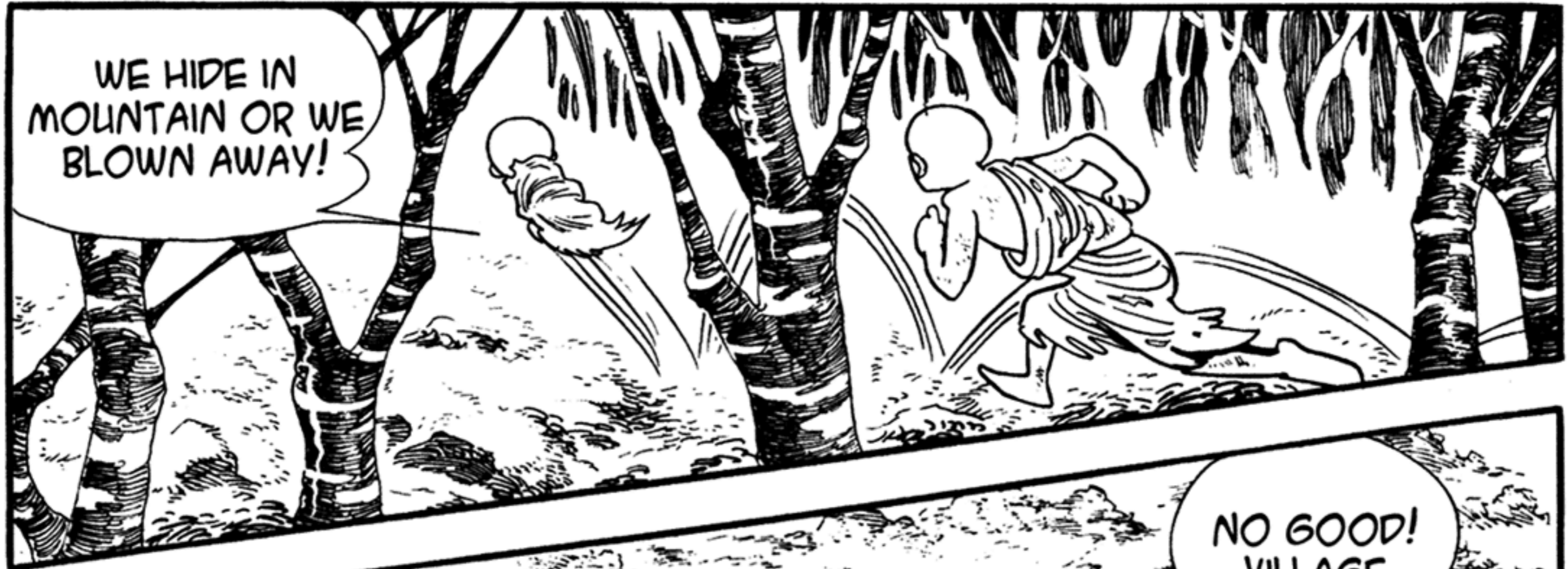
SOMEONE JUST PASS?

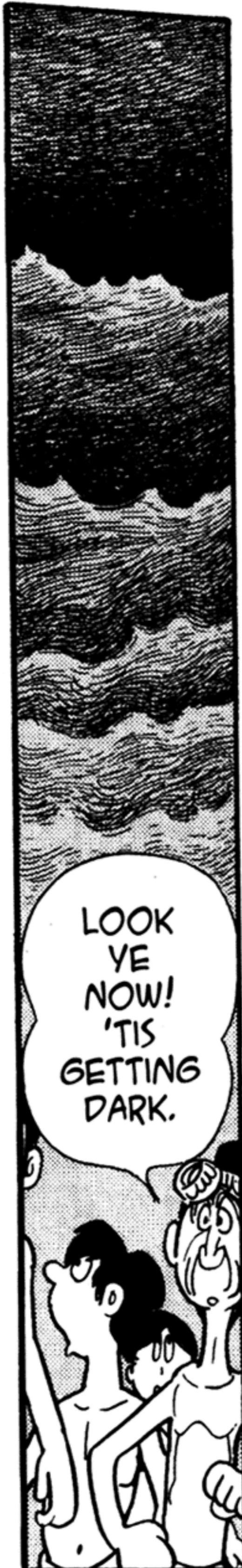
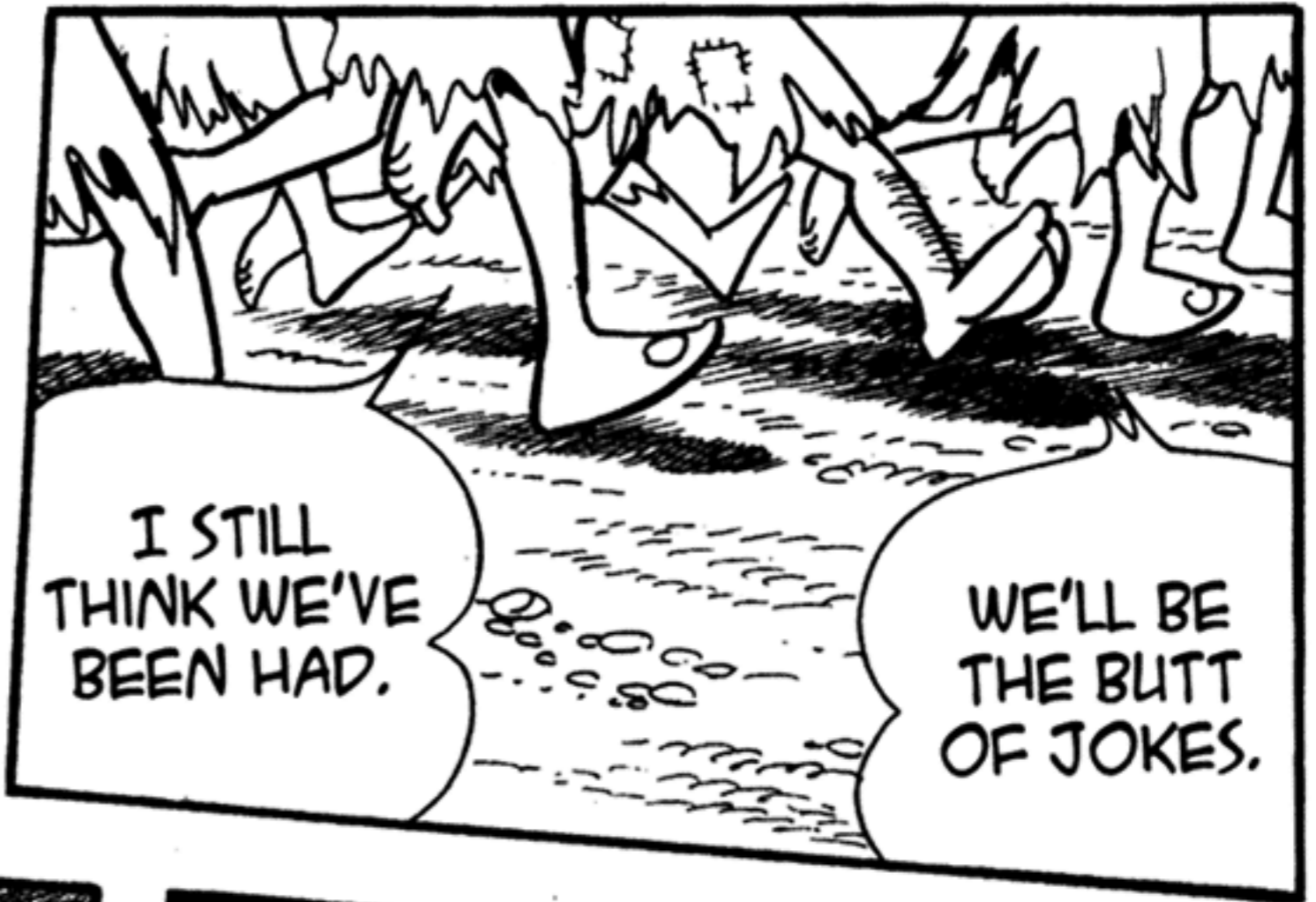
A SHEPHERD AND HIS FLOCK.

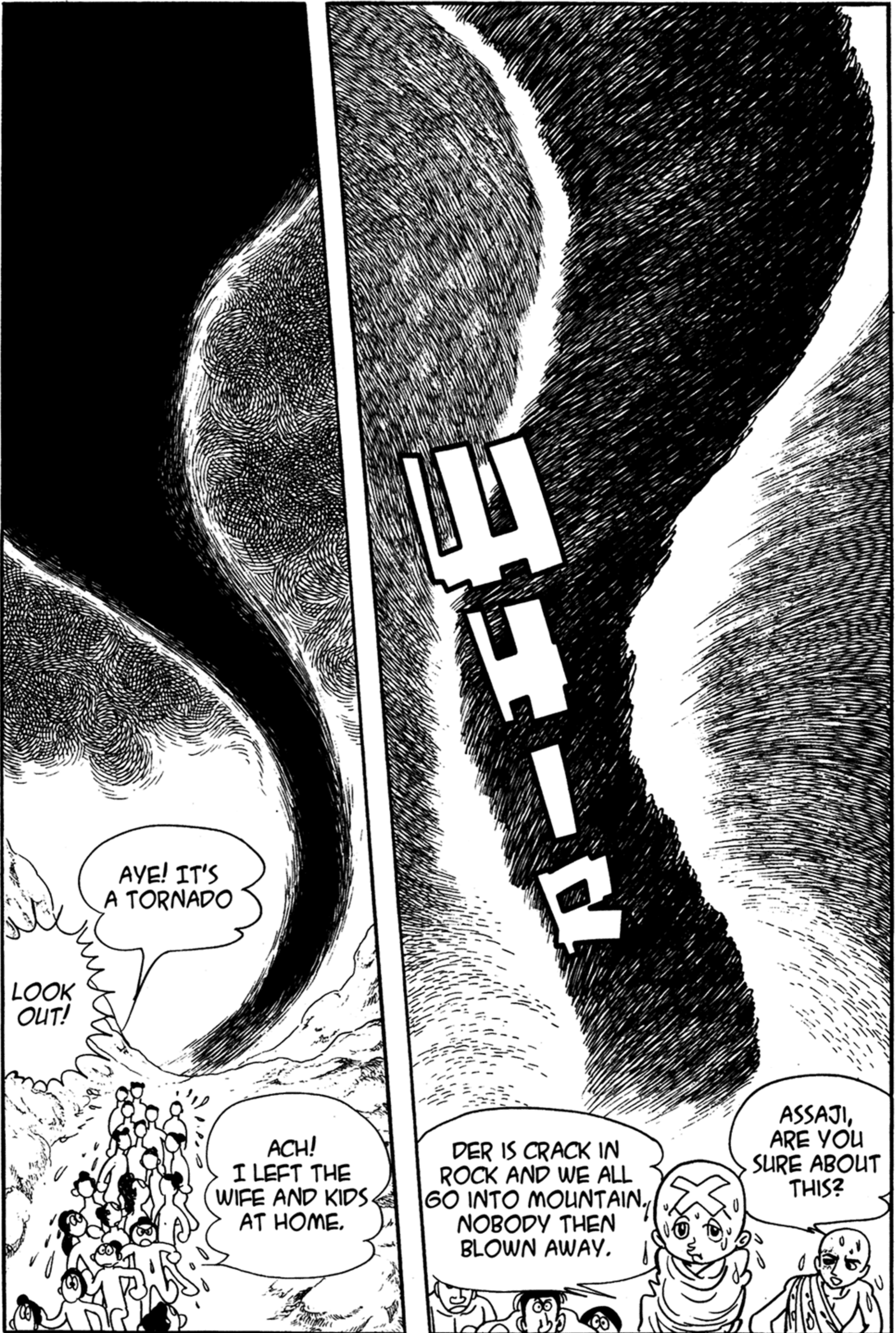












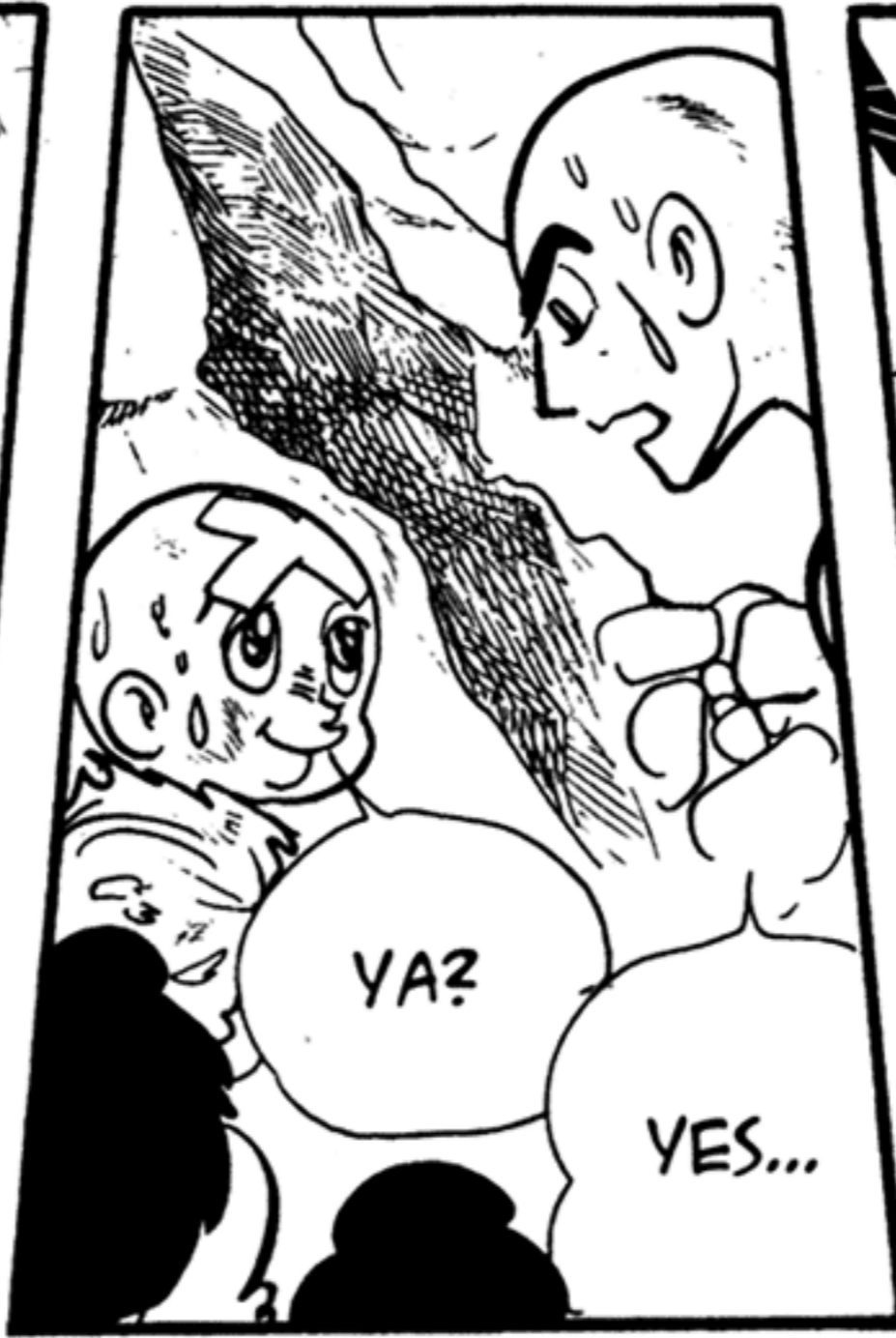
AYE! IT'S
A TORNADO

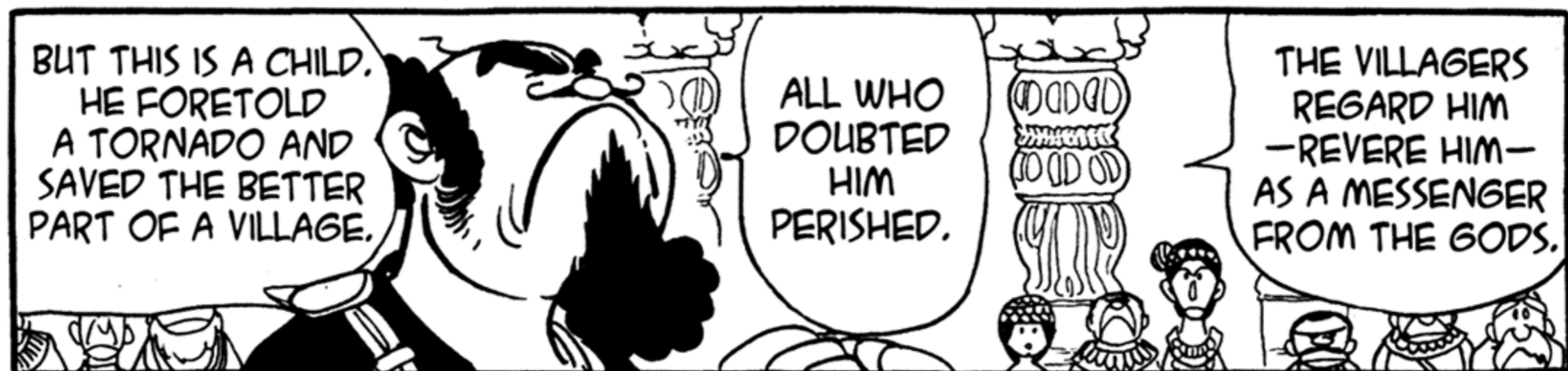
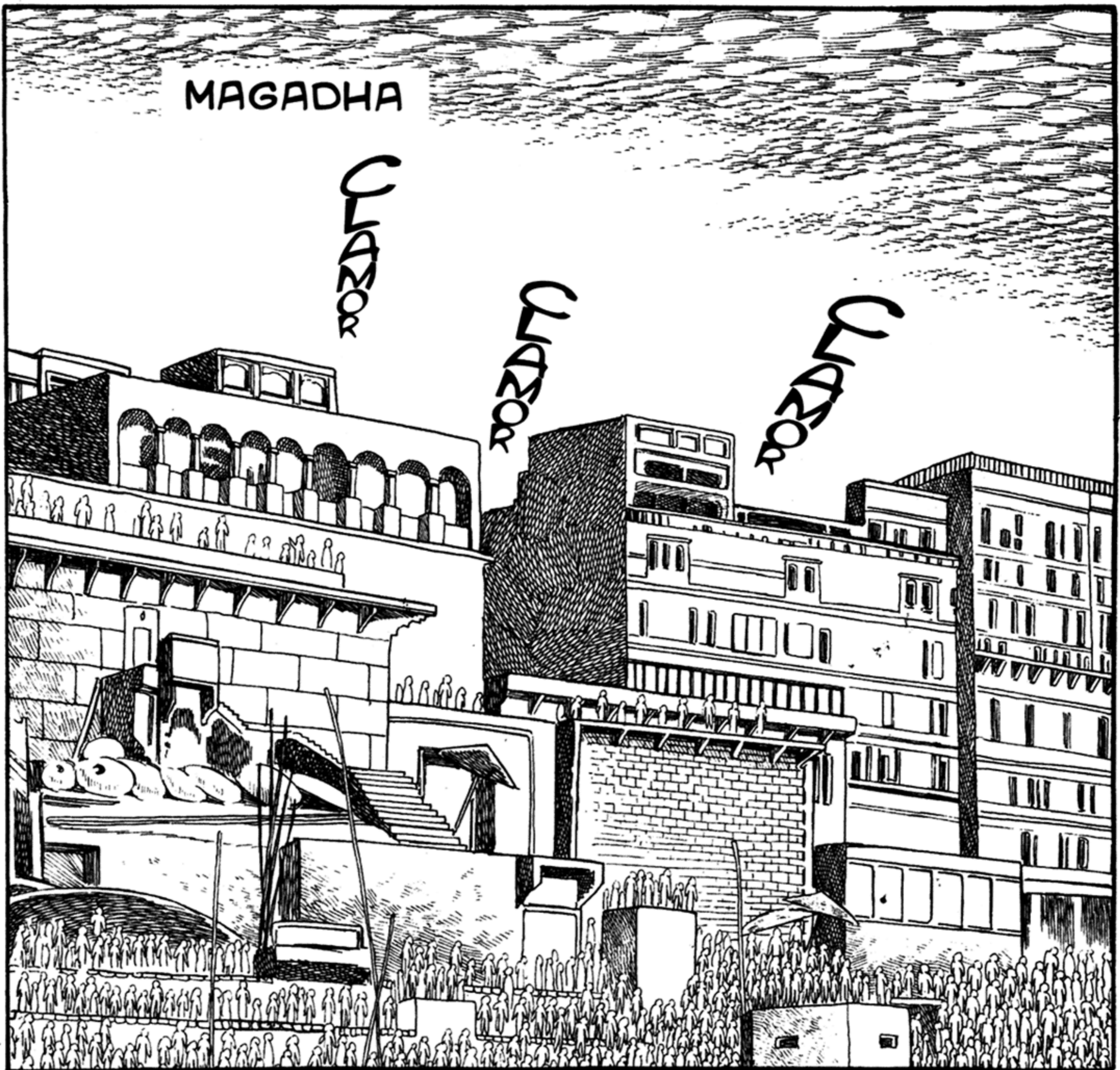
LOOK
OUT!

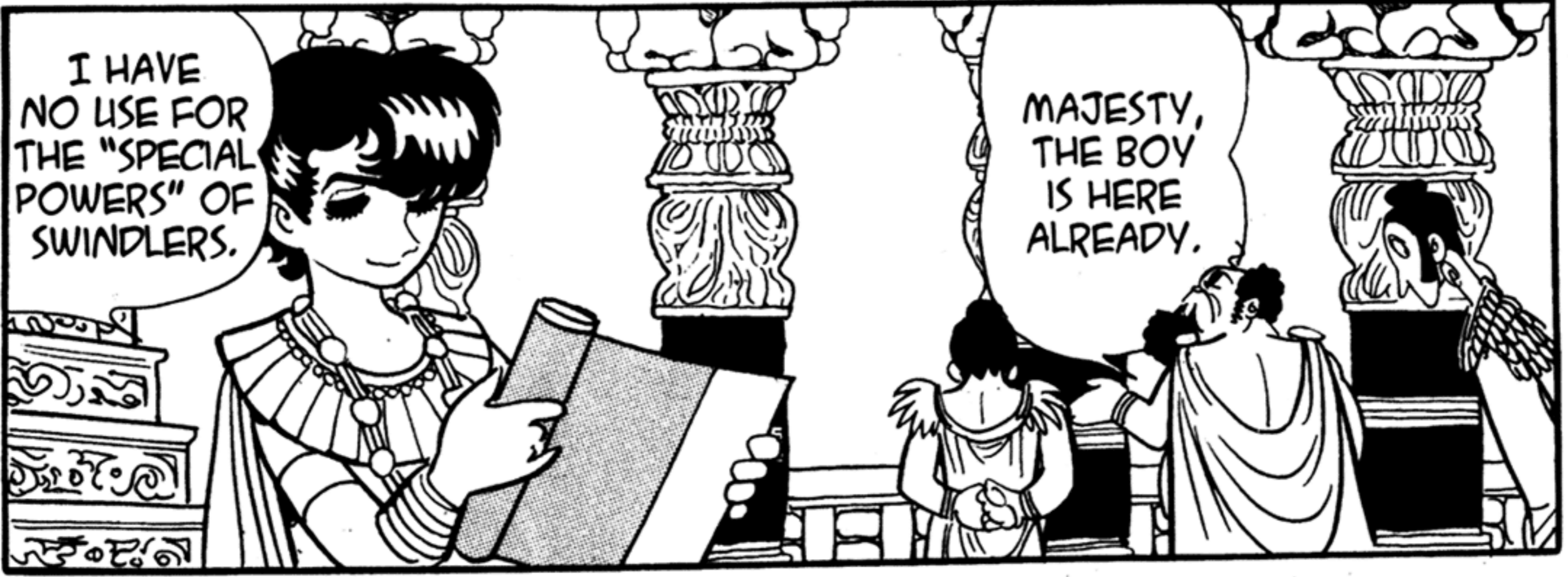
ACH!
I LEFT THE
WIFE AND KIDS
AT HOME.

DER IS CRACK IN
ROCK AND WE ALL
GO INTO MOUNTAIN,
NOBODY THEN
BLOWN AWAY.

ASSAJI,
ARE YOU
SURE ABOUT
THIS?

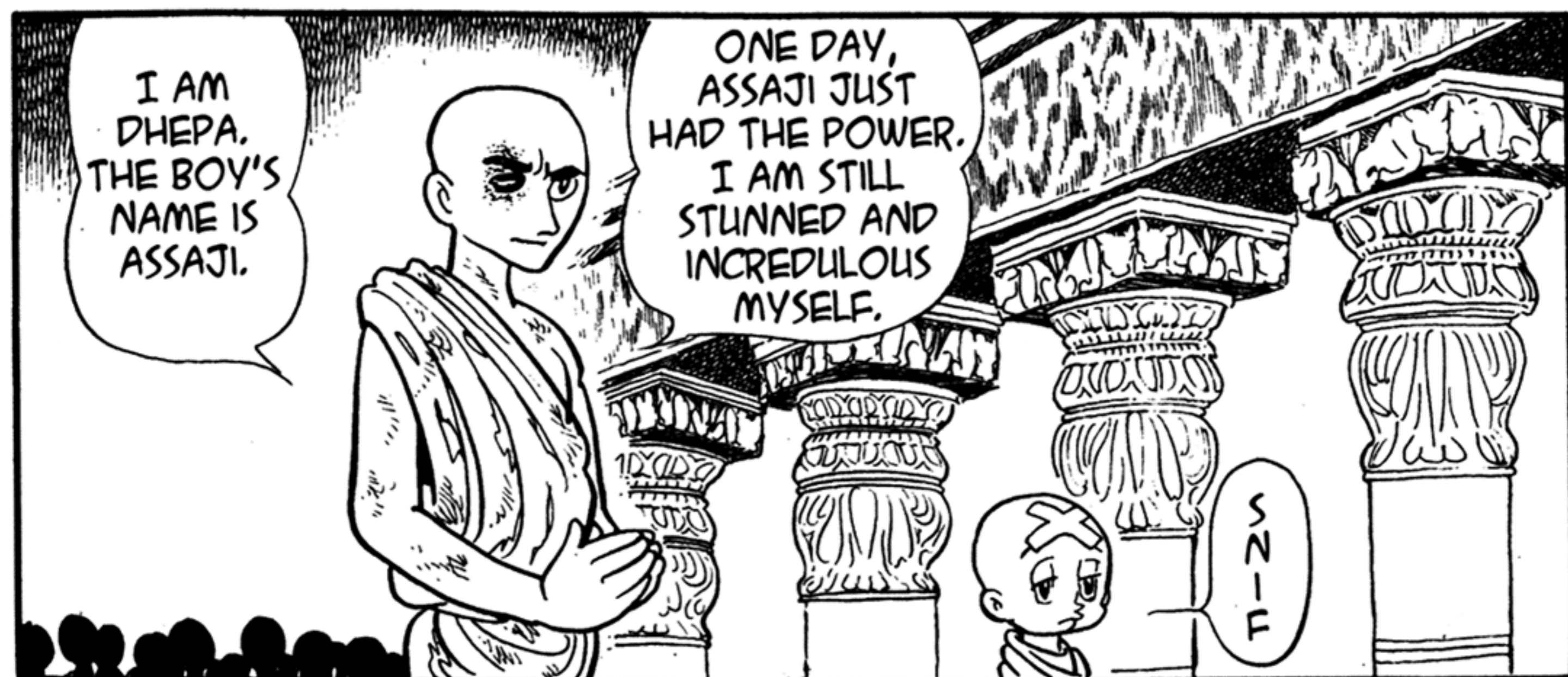








I AM KING BIMBISARA, KING OF ALL MAGADHA. ARE YOU THE PRODIGY WHO SEES INTO THE FUTURE?



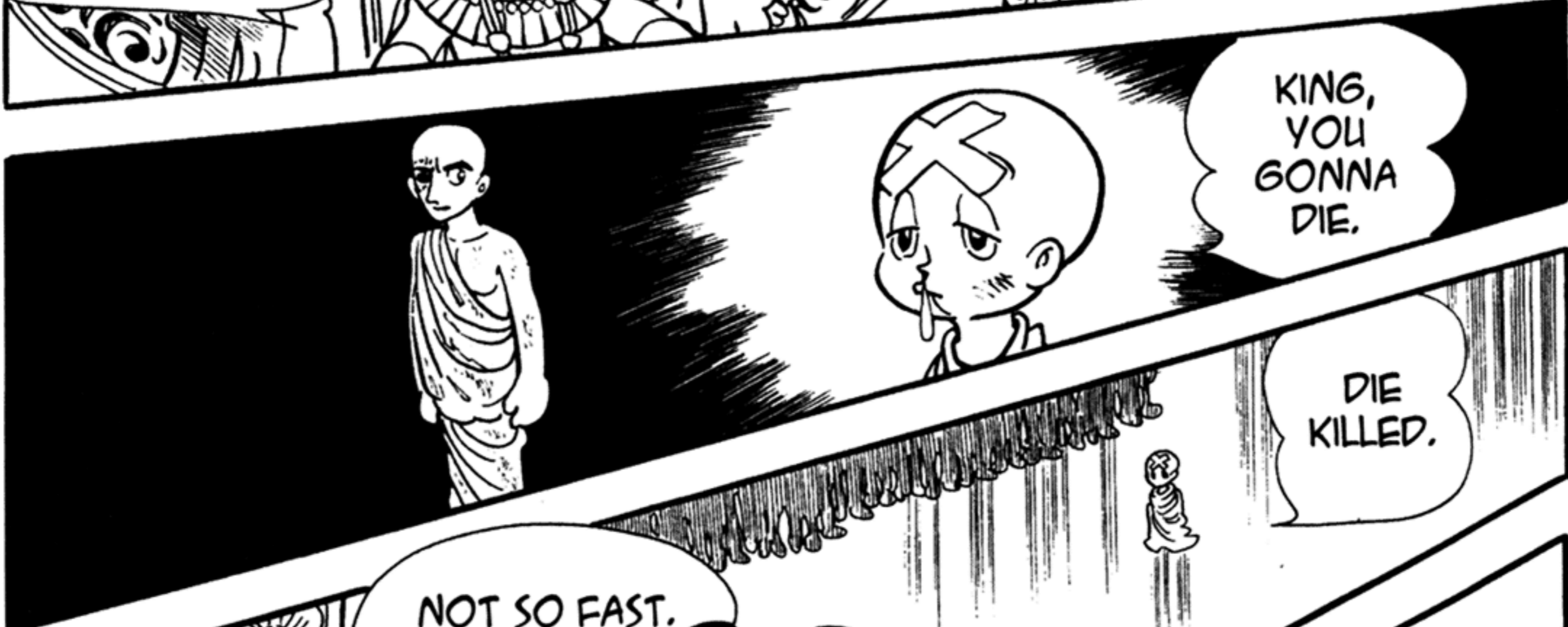
I AM DHEPA, THE BOY'S NAME IS ASSAJI.

ONE DAY, ASSAJI JUST HAD THE POWER. I AM STILL STUNNED AND INCREDULOUS MYSELF.

॥-२॥



TELL ME,
ASSAJI.
IS MY FUTURE
BLESSED OR
CURSED?



KING,
YOU
GONNA
DIE.

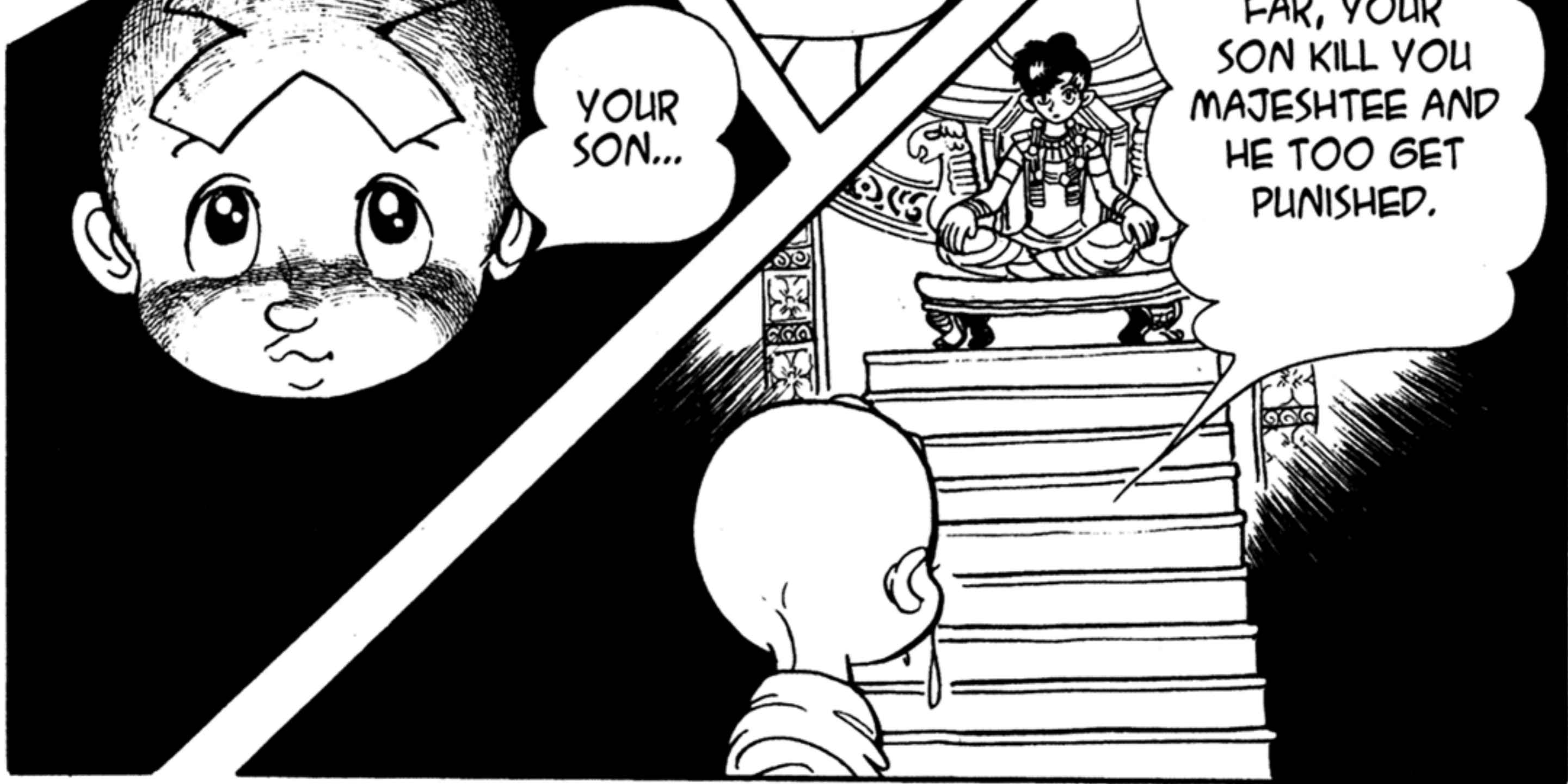
DIE
KILLED.



INSOLENT
FRAUD!

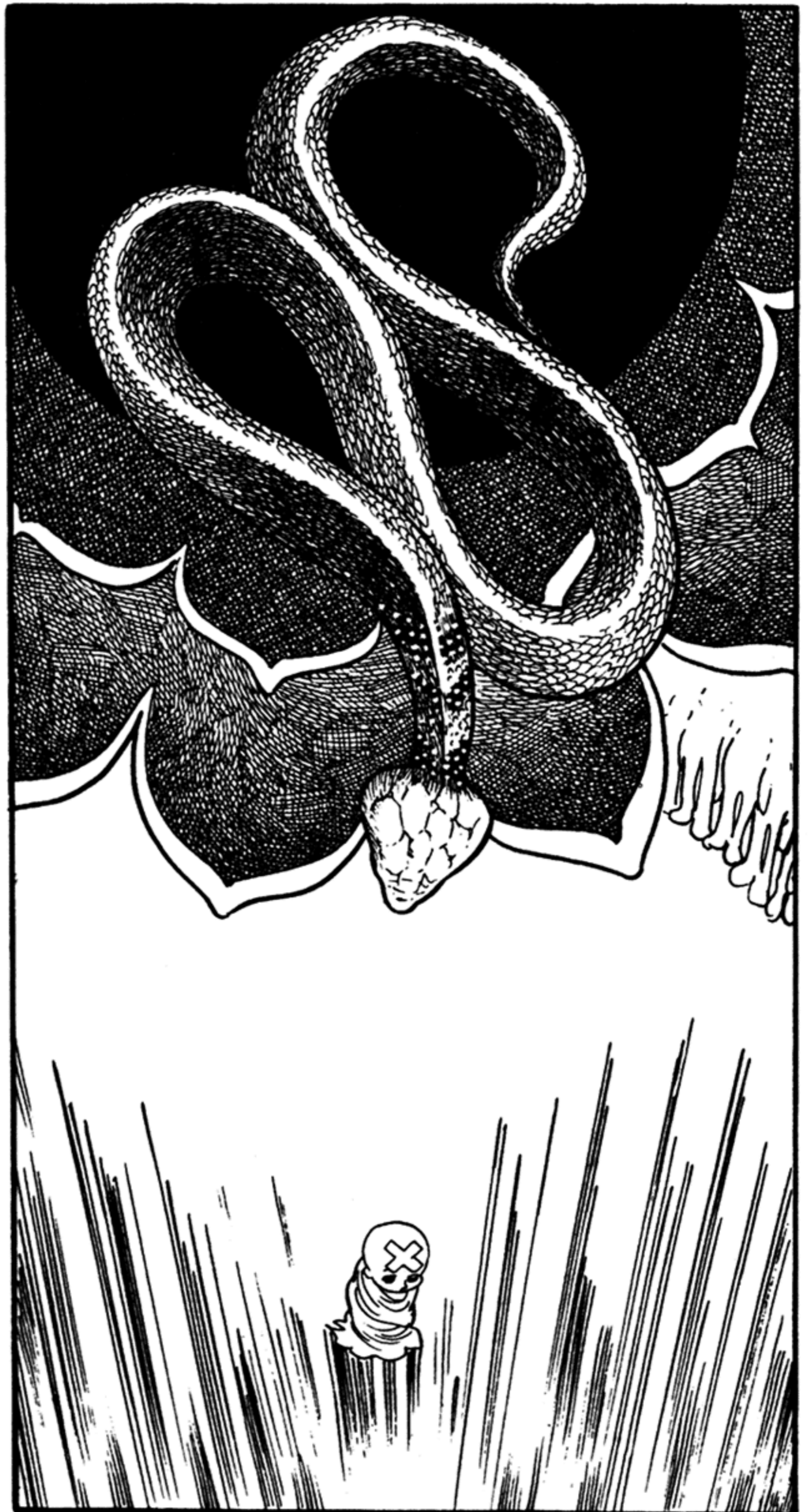
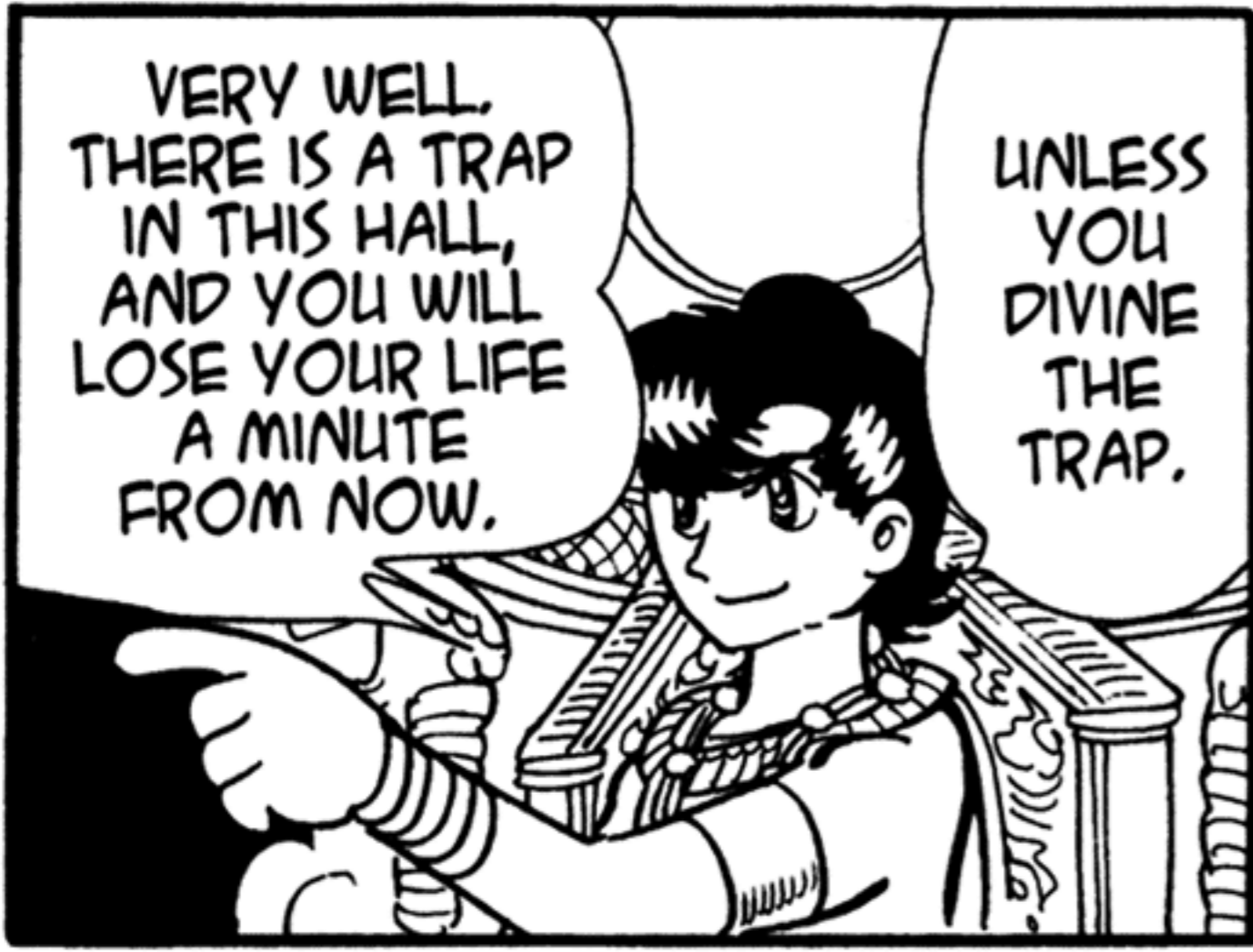
NOT SO FAST.
HOW SHALL
I DIE?
FROM
ILLNESS?

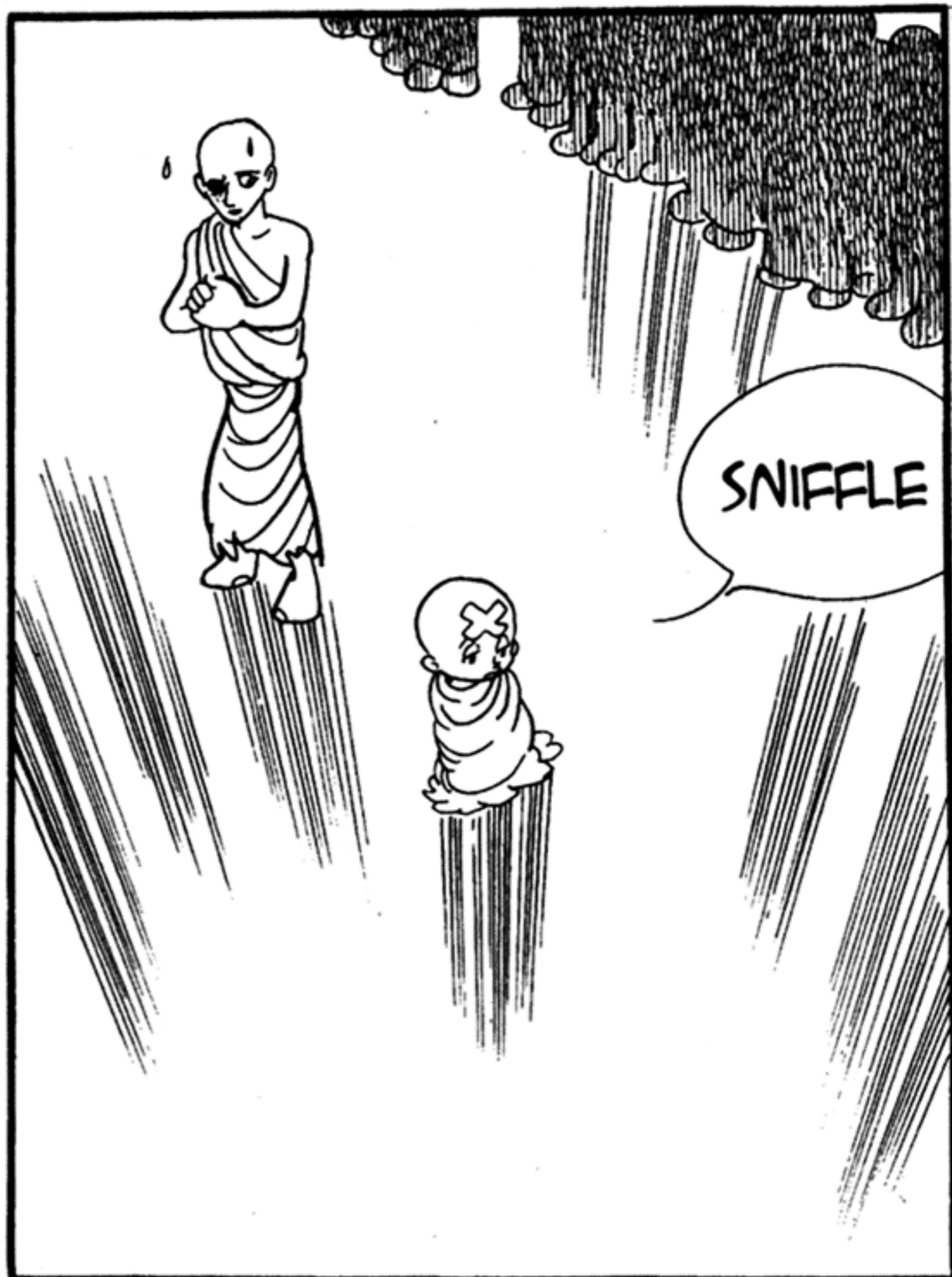
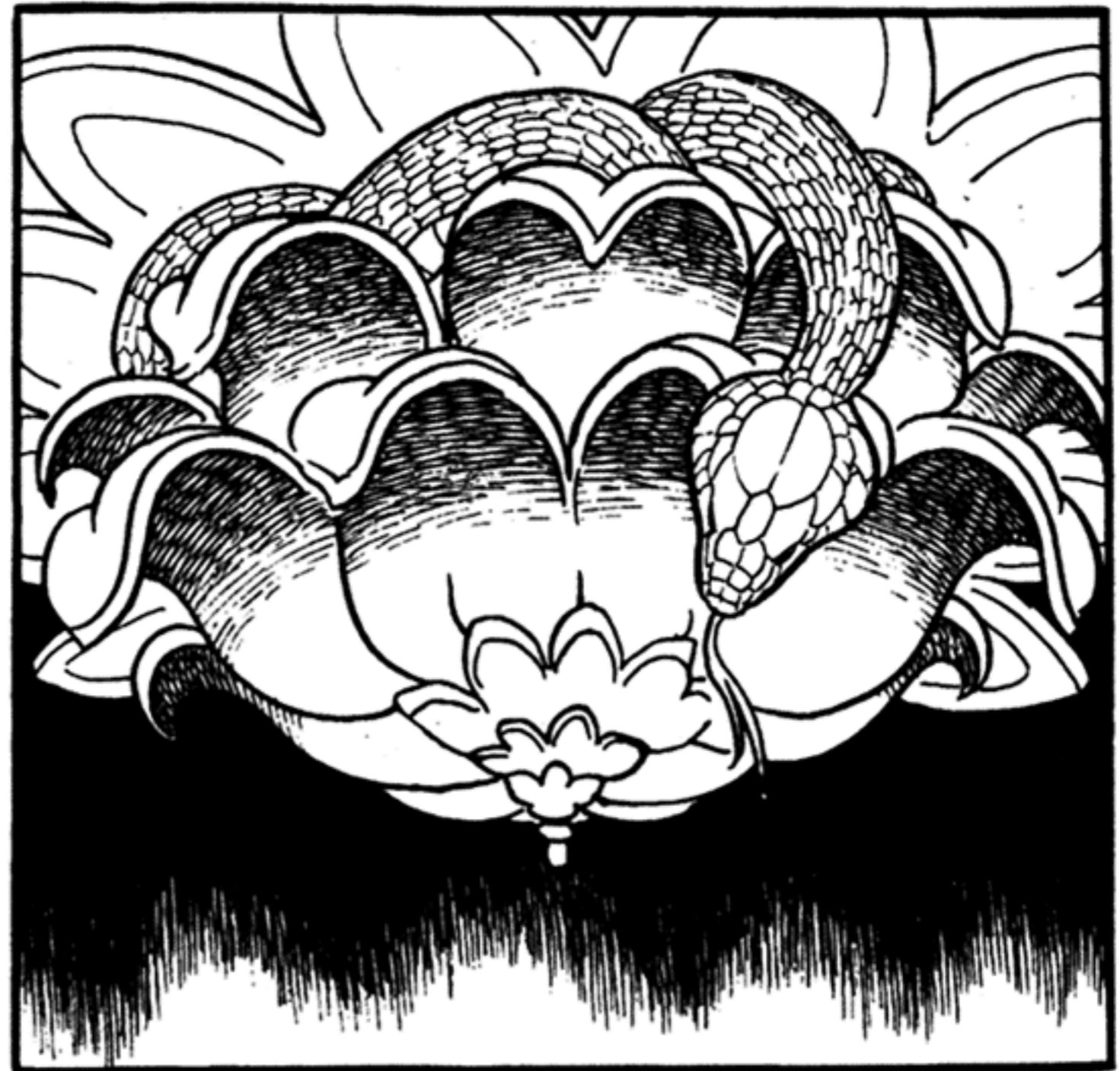
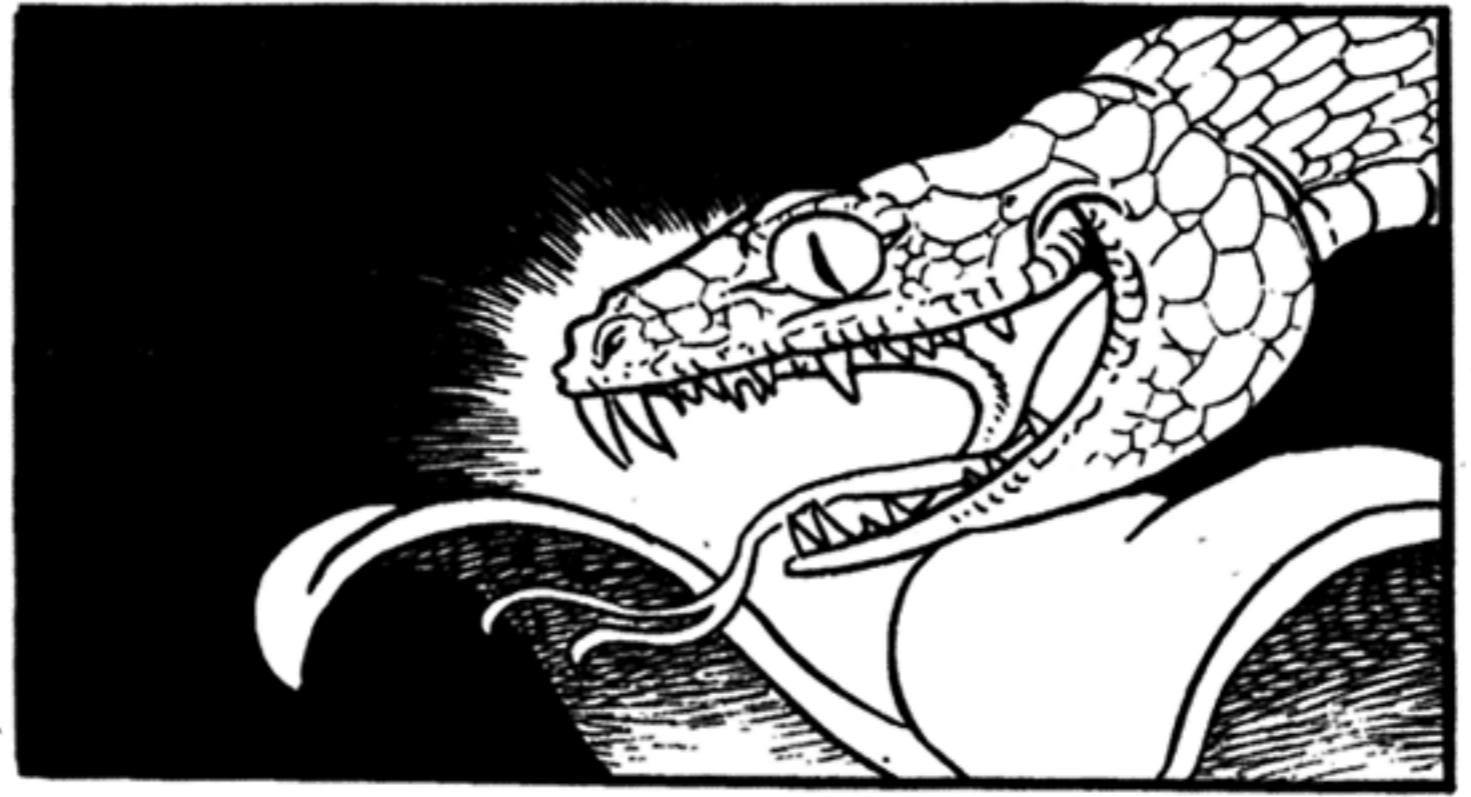
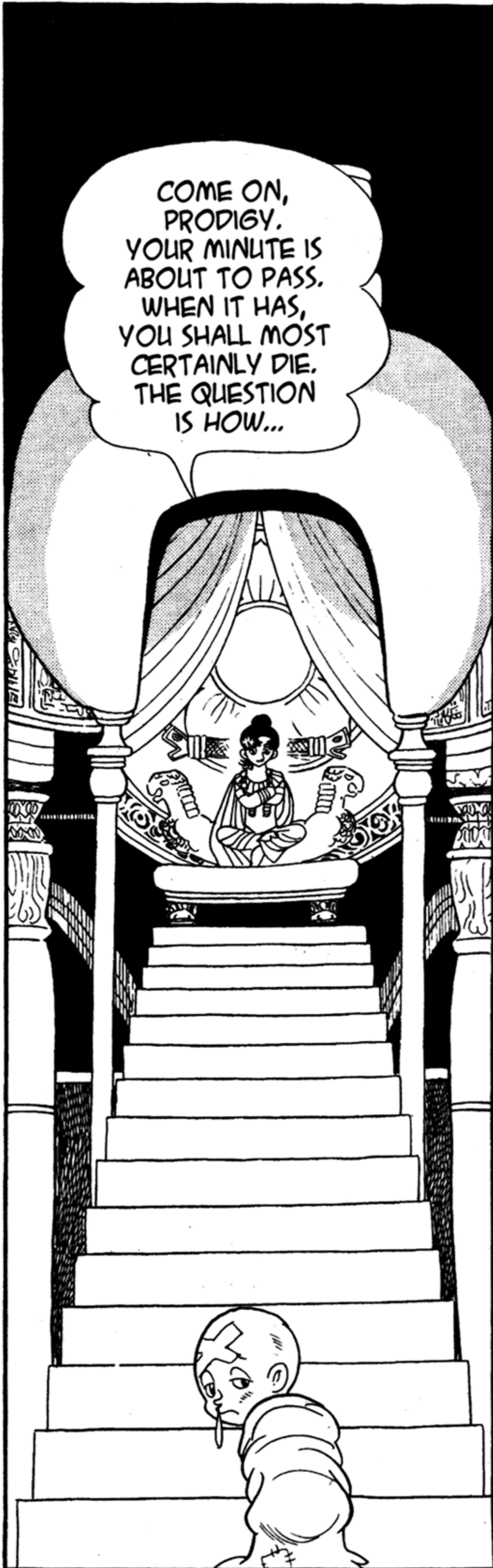
SO I AM TO BE
KILLED? A GRAVE
MATTER.
WHO IS THE
ASSASSIN?

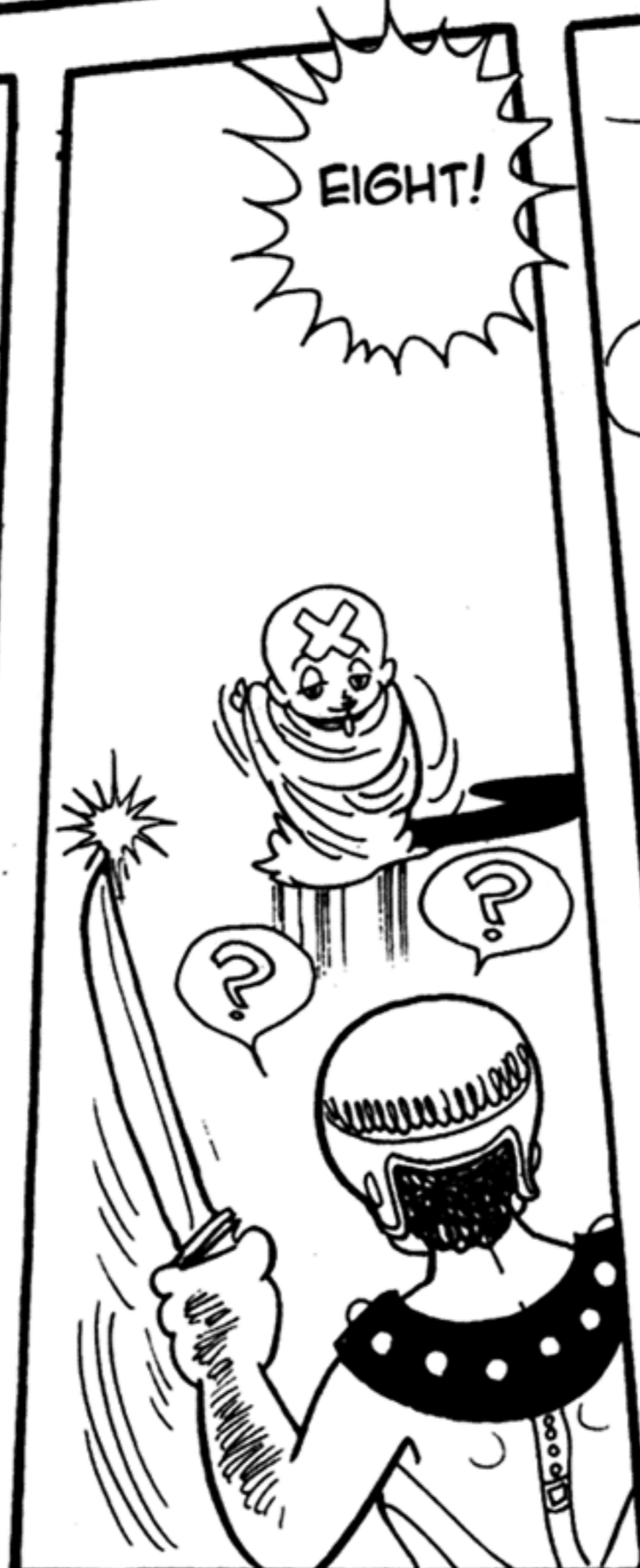
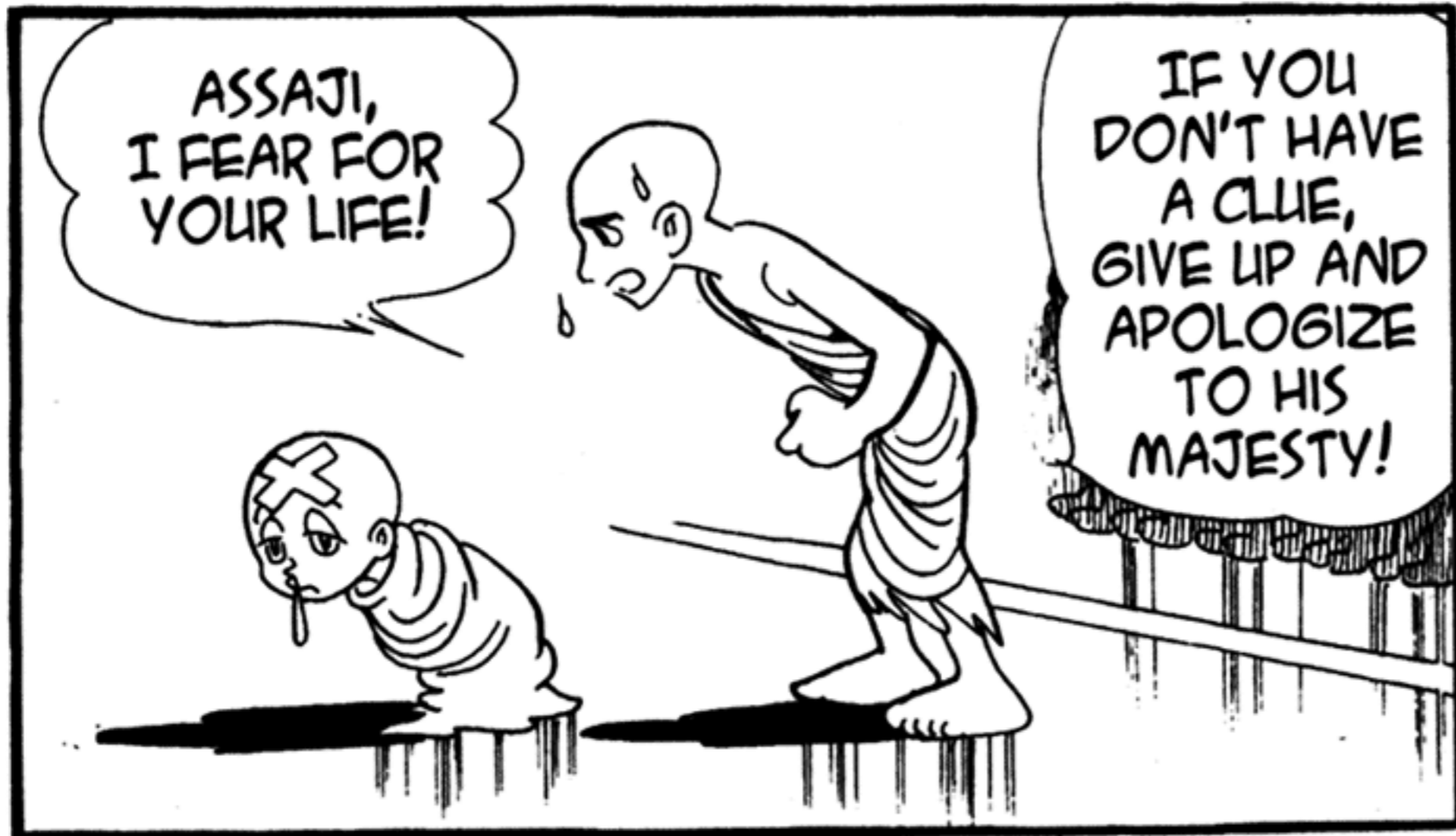


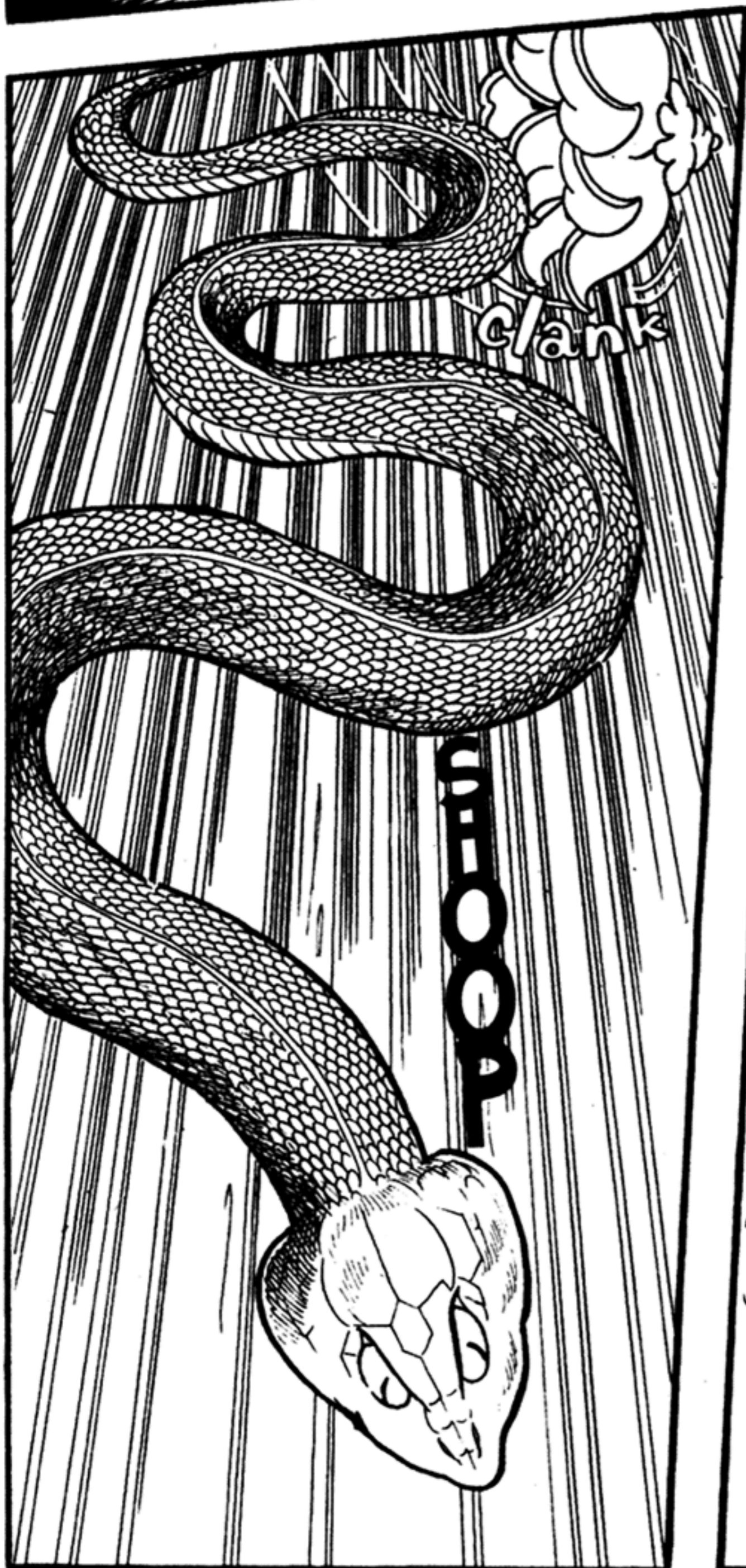
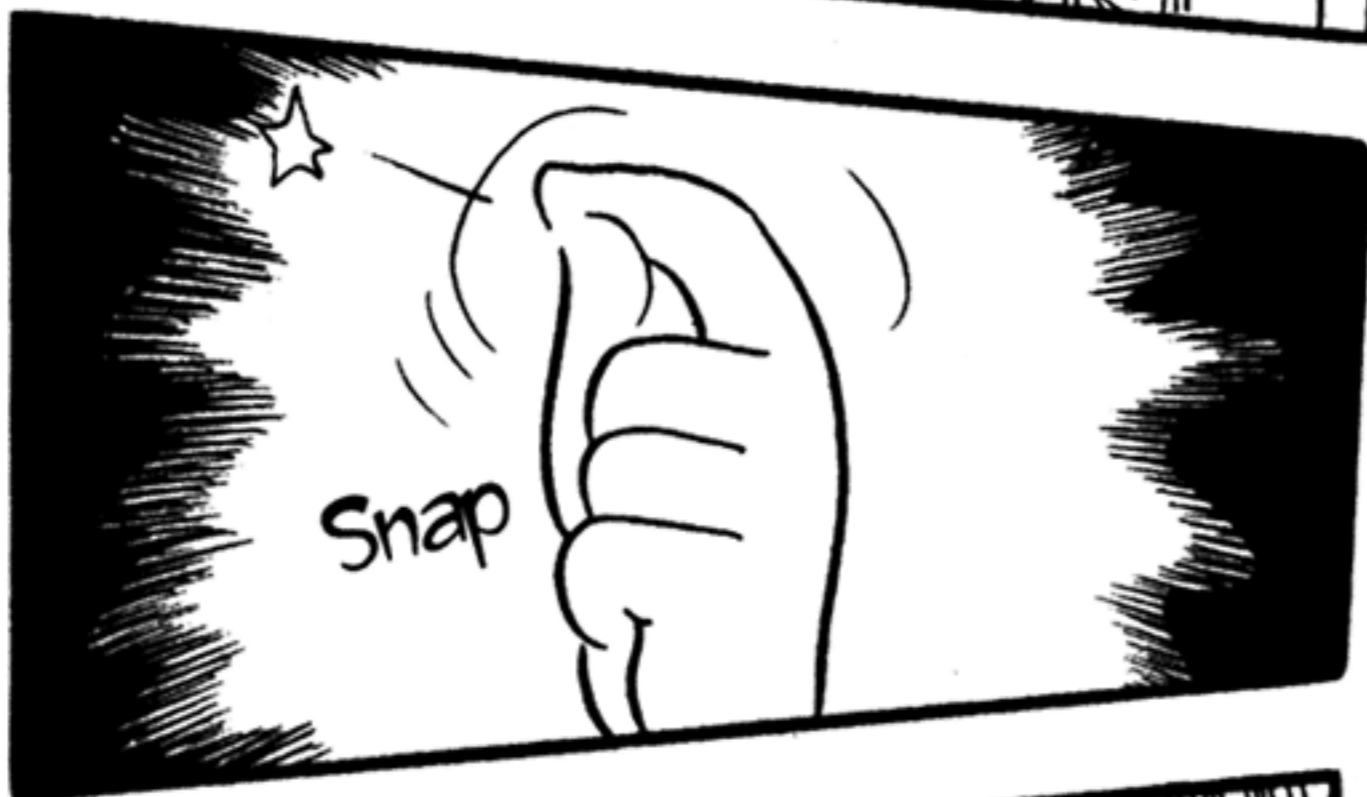
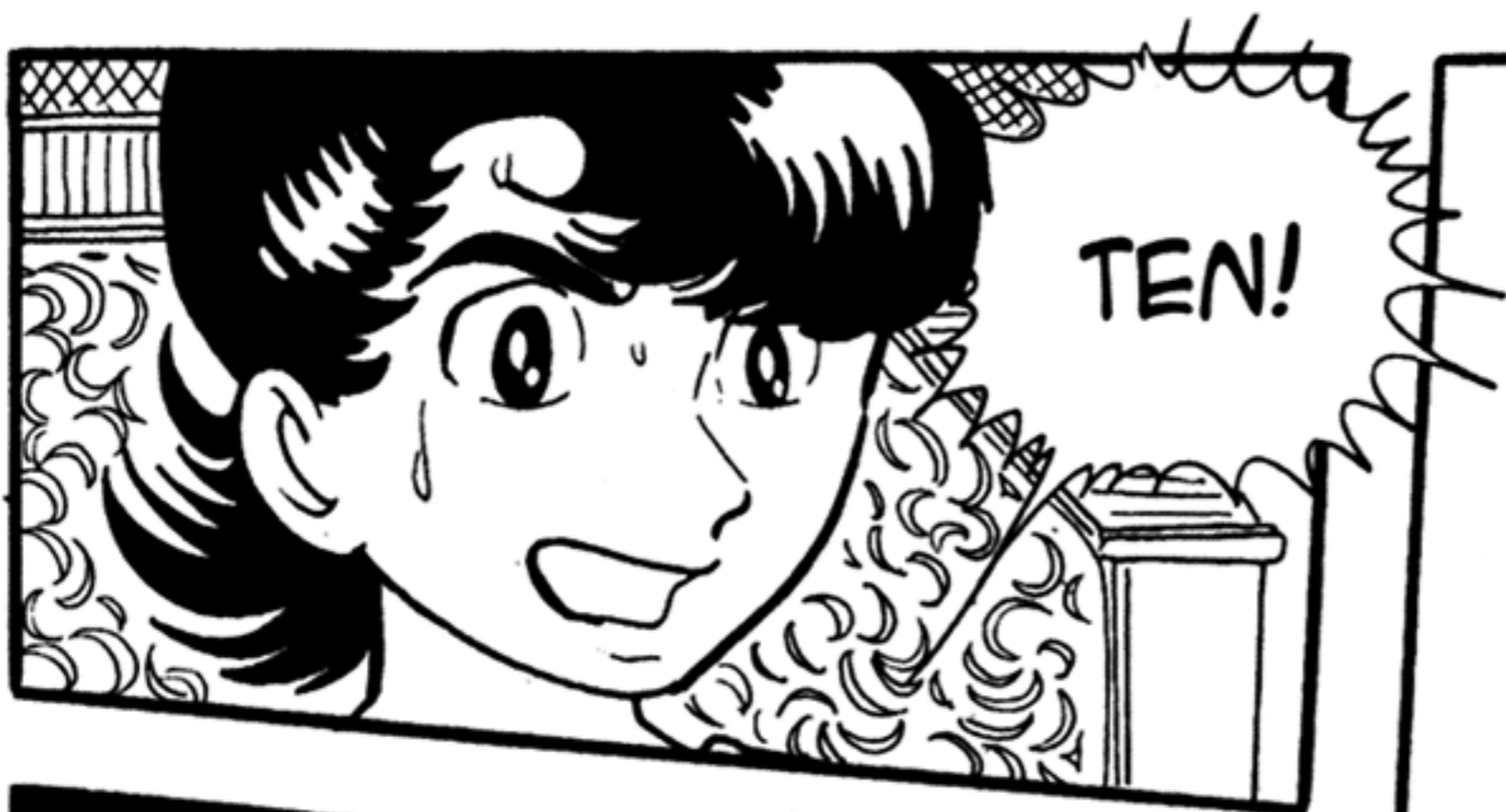
YOUR
SON...

TWENTY YEARS
FAR, YOUR
SON KILL YOU
MAJESHTEE AND
HE TOO GET
PUNISHED.

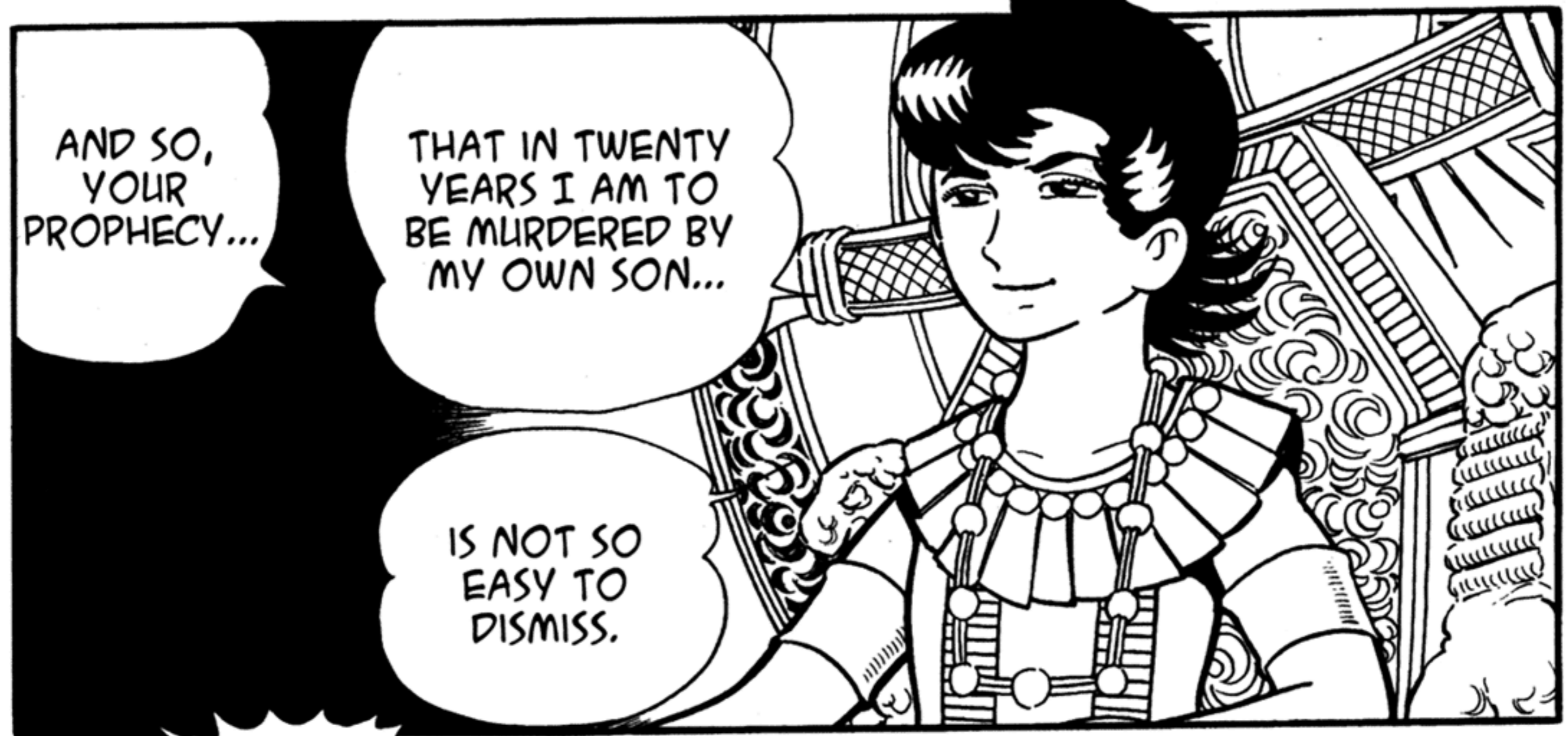
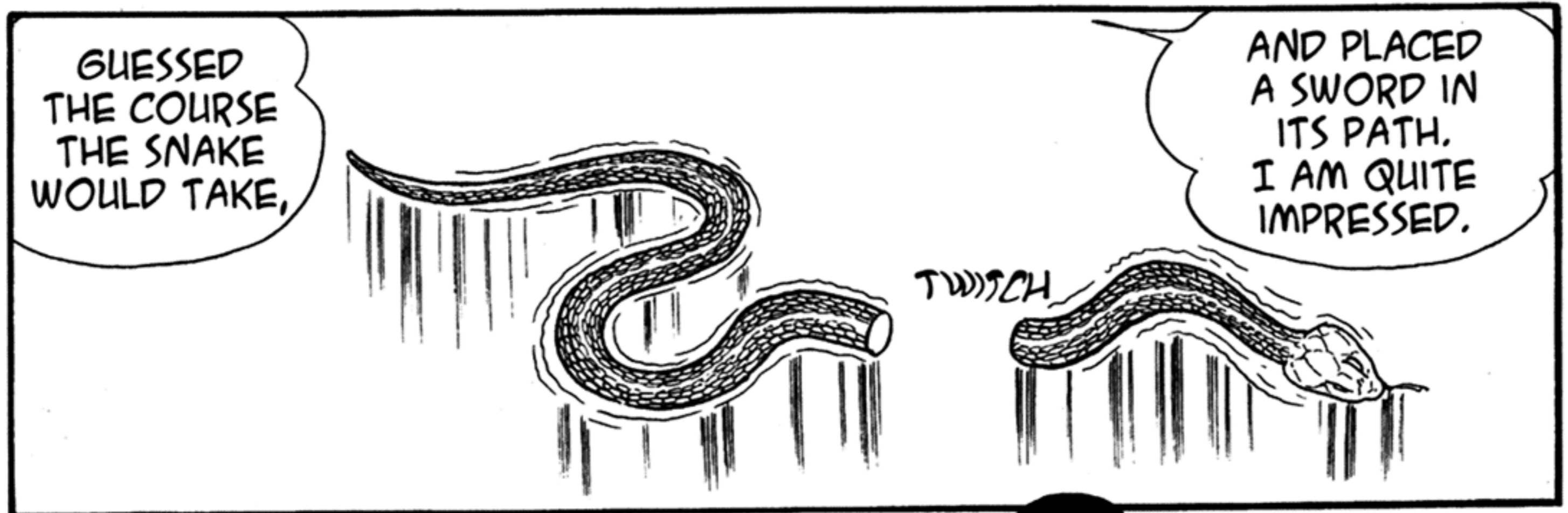


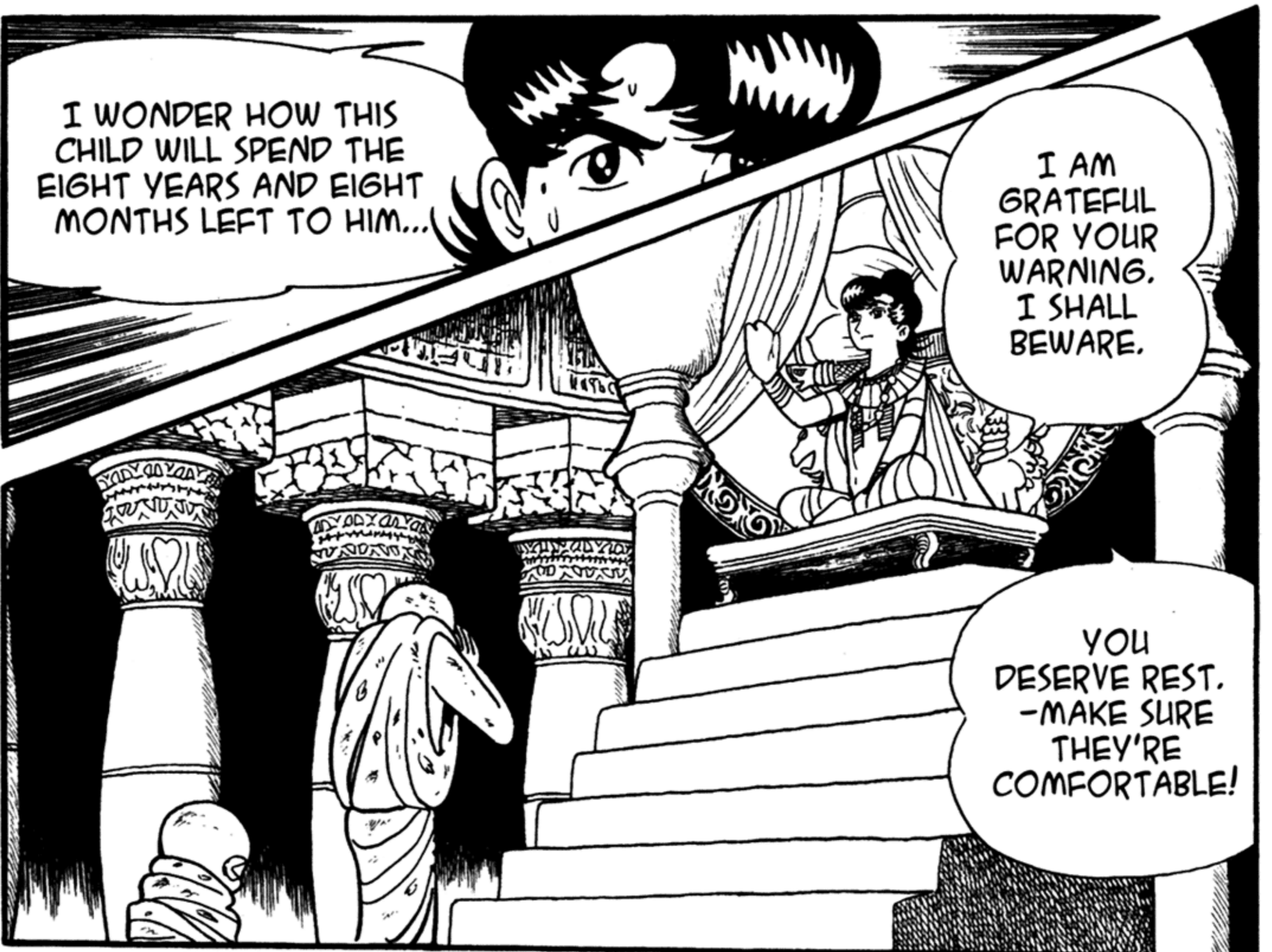
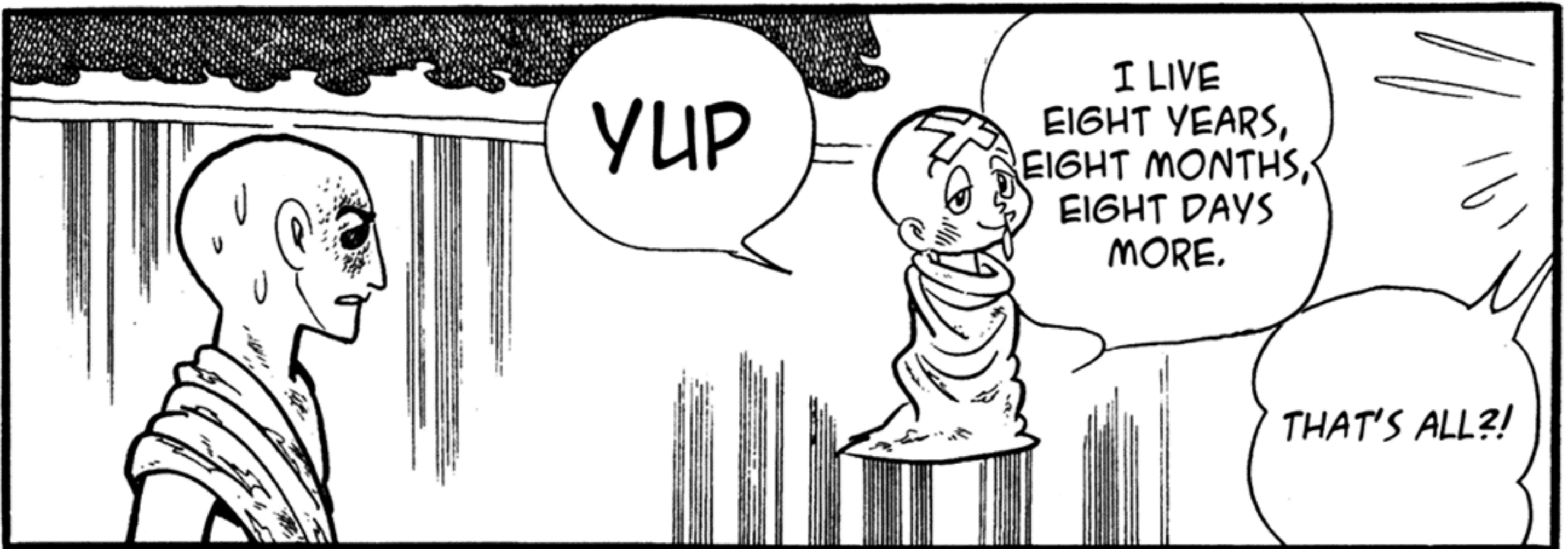
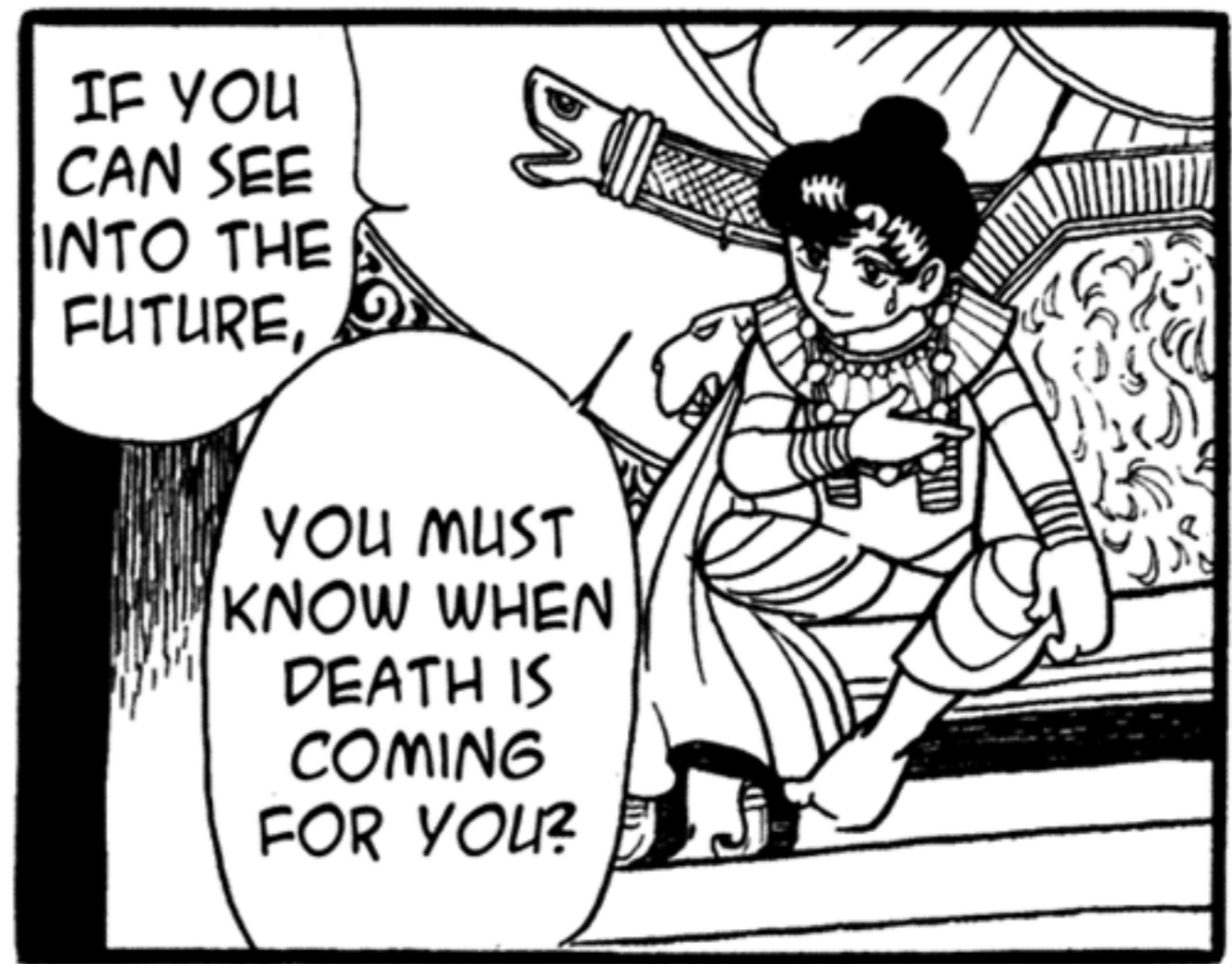
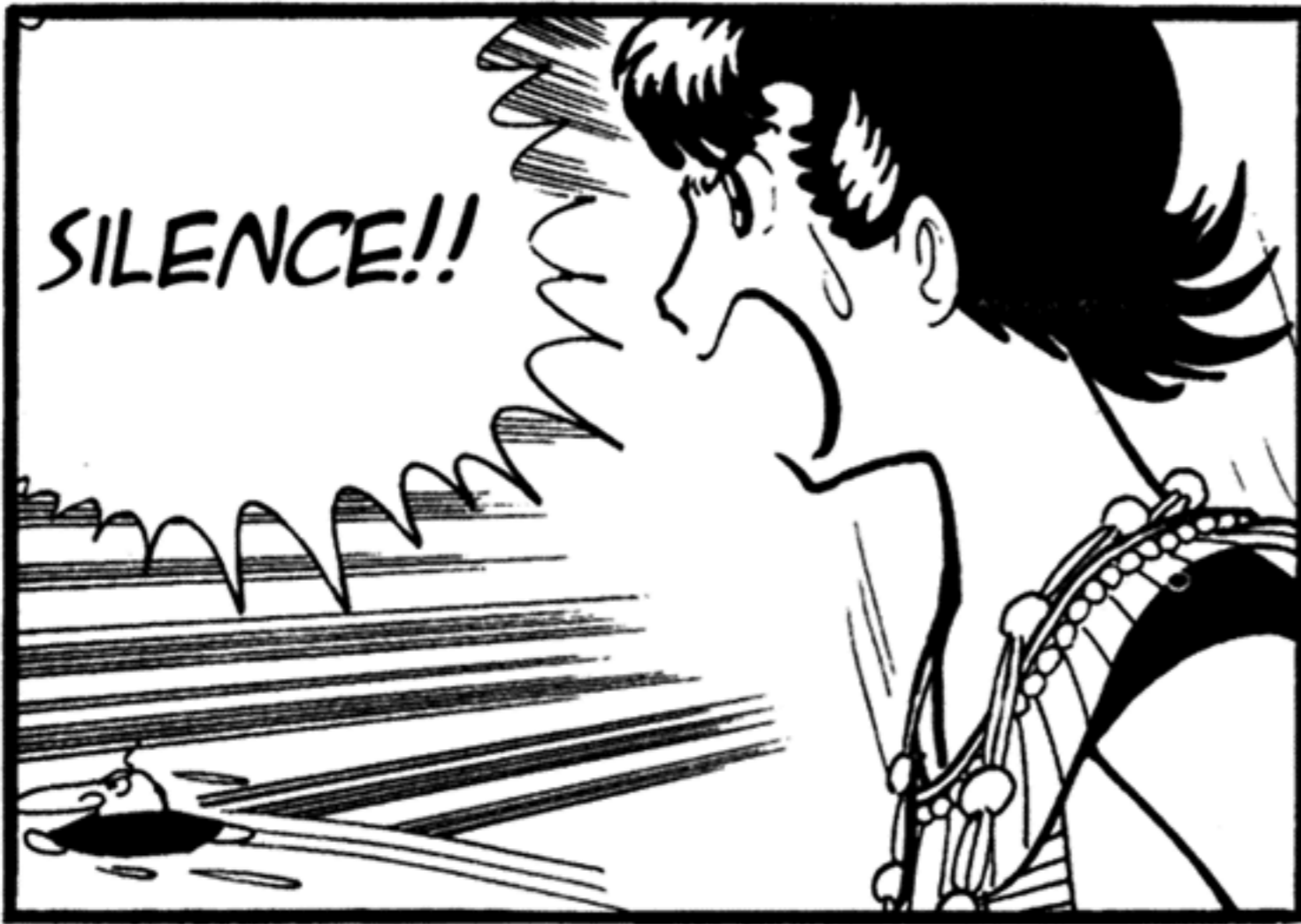


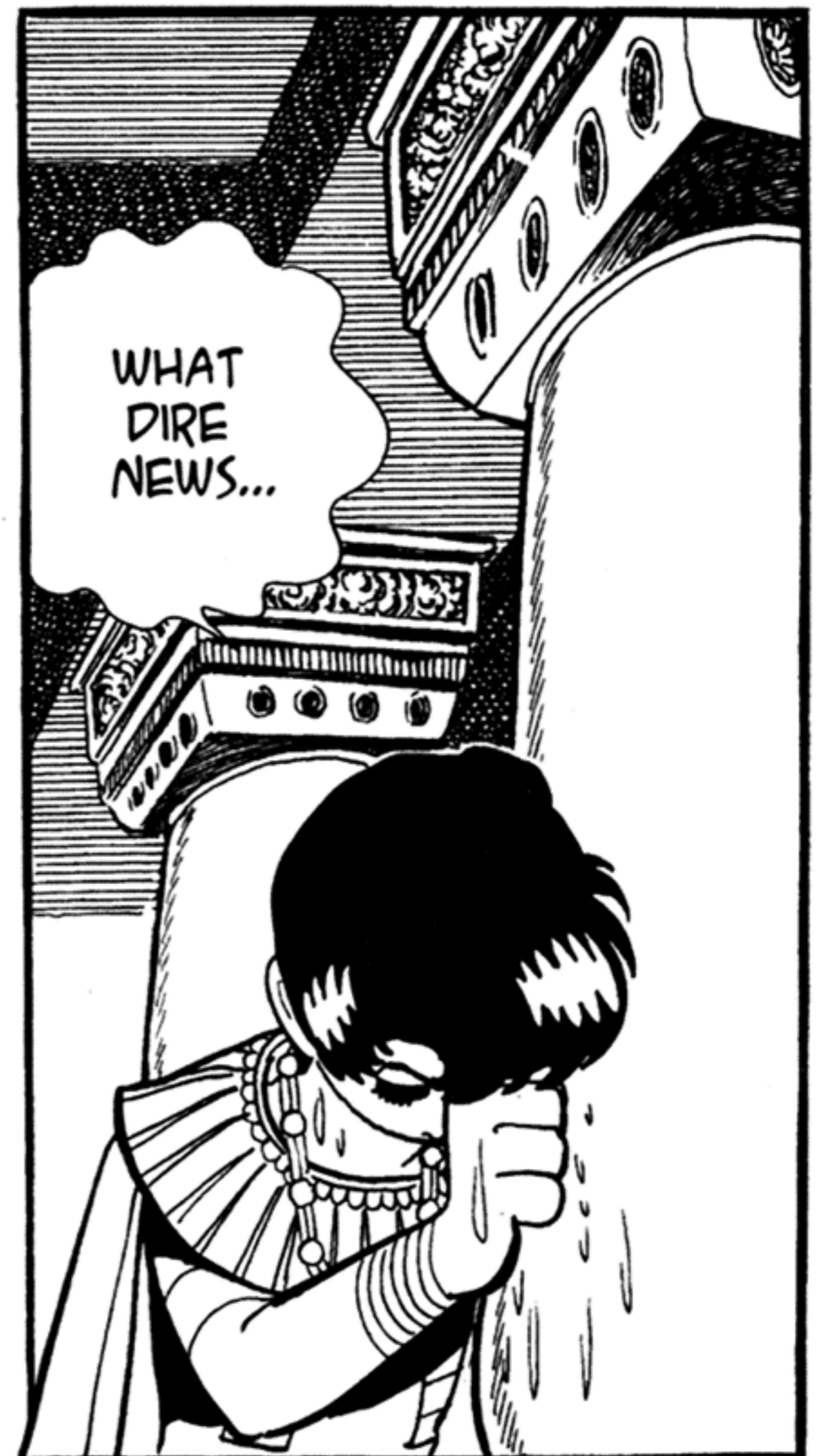
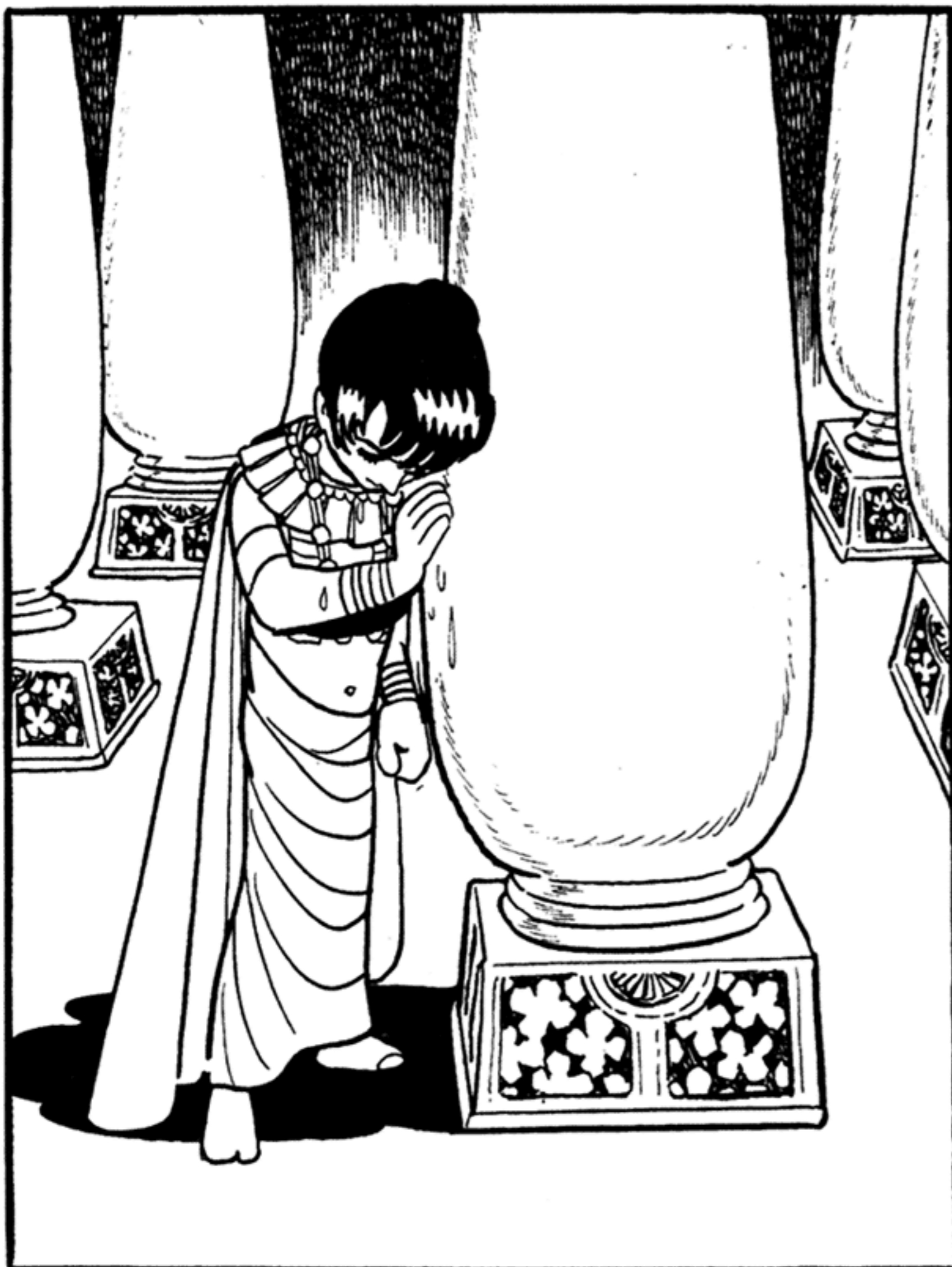
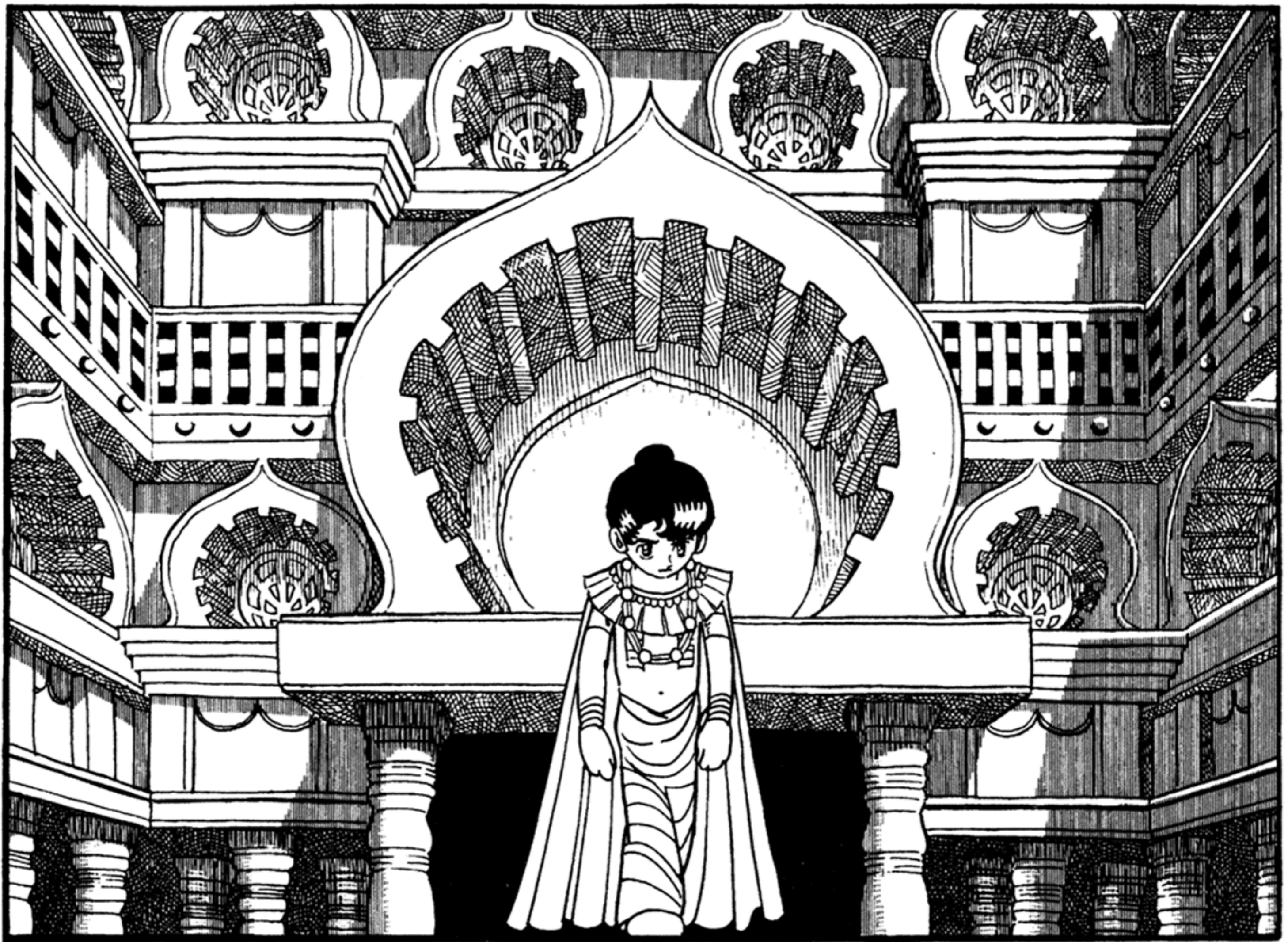


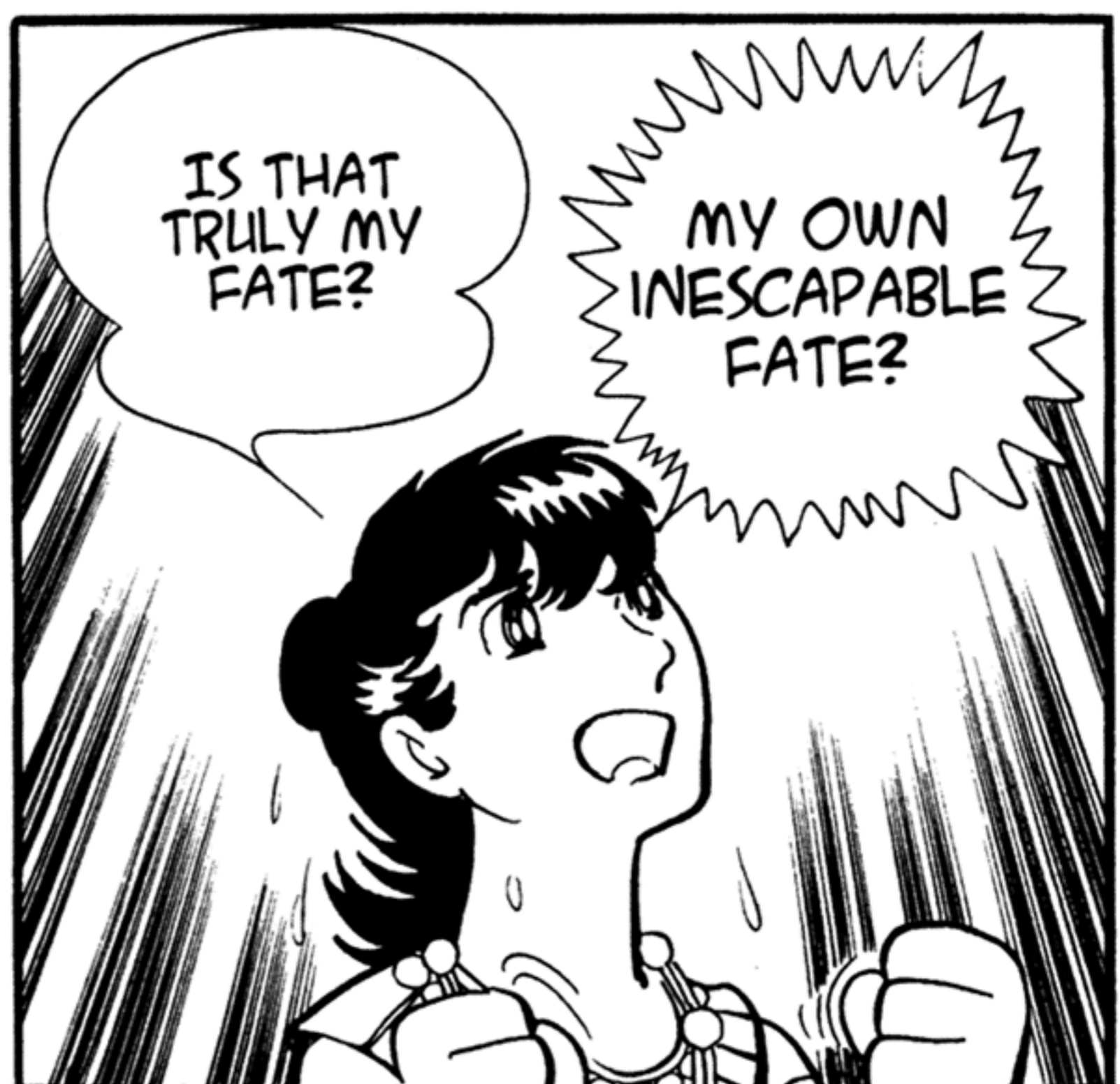
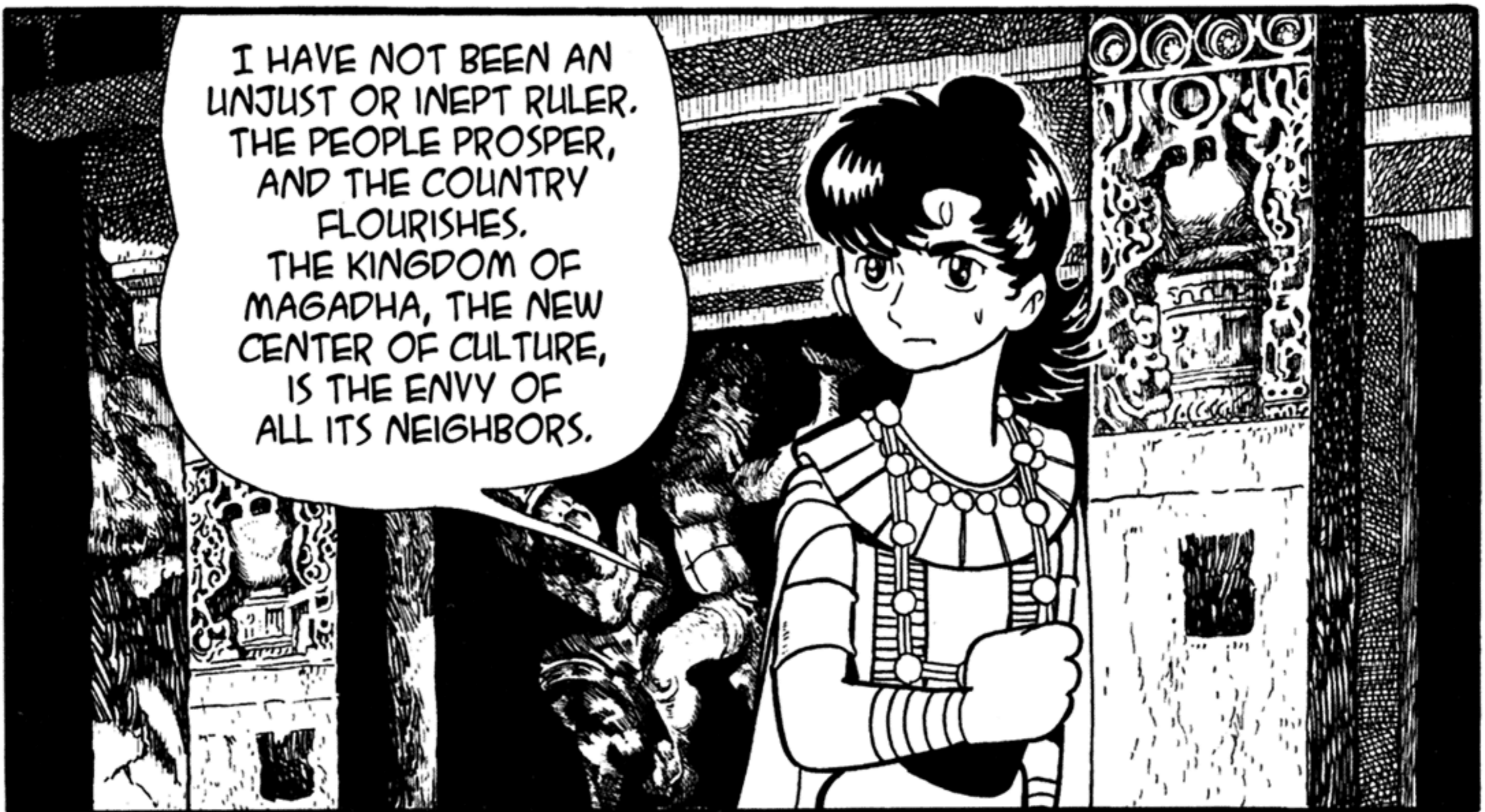
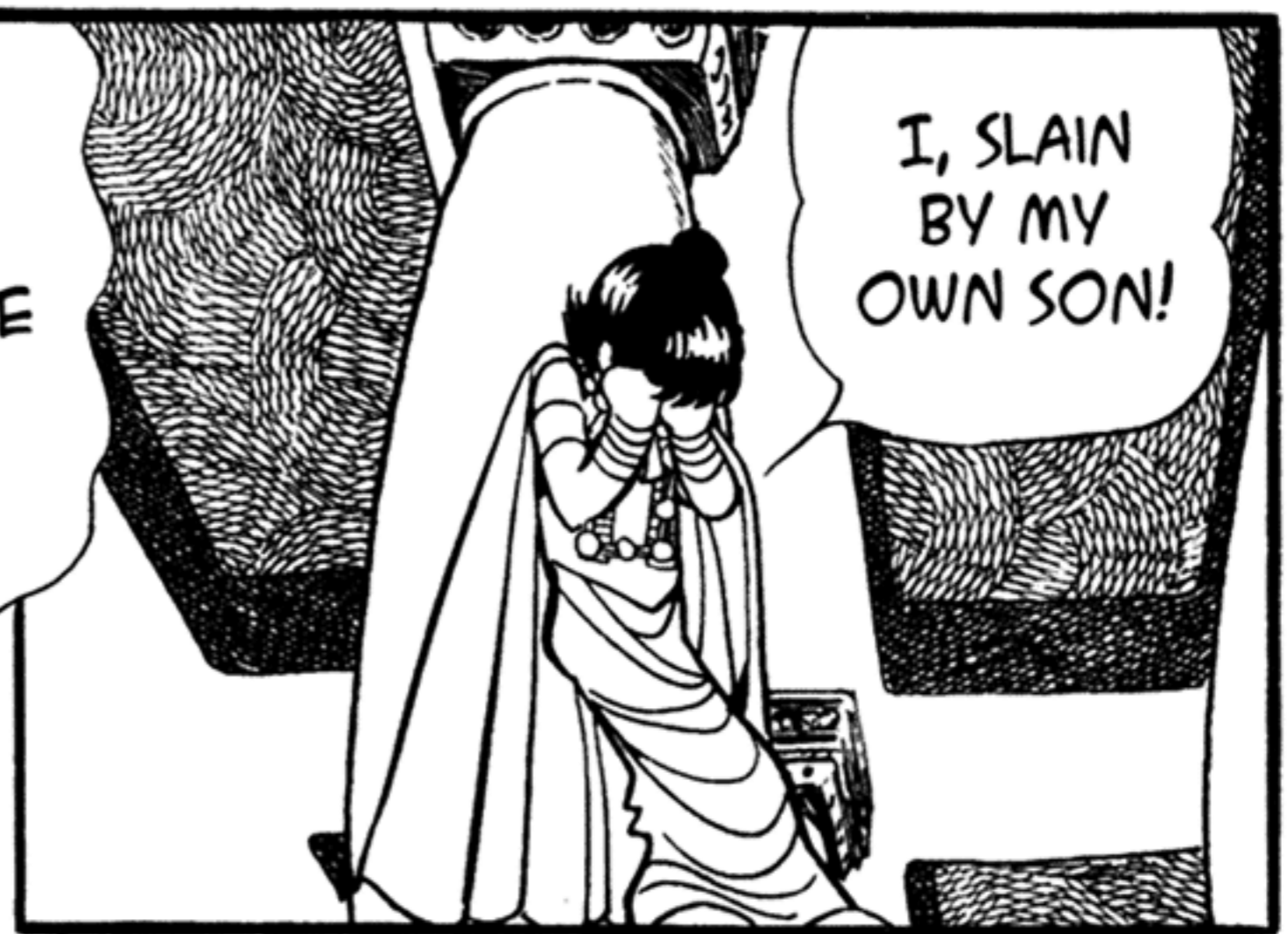


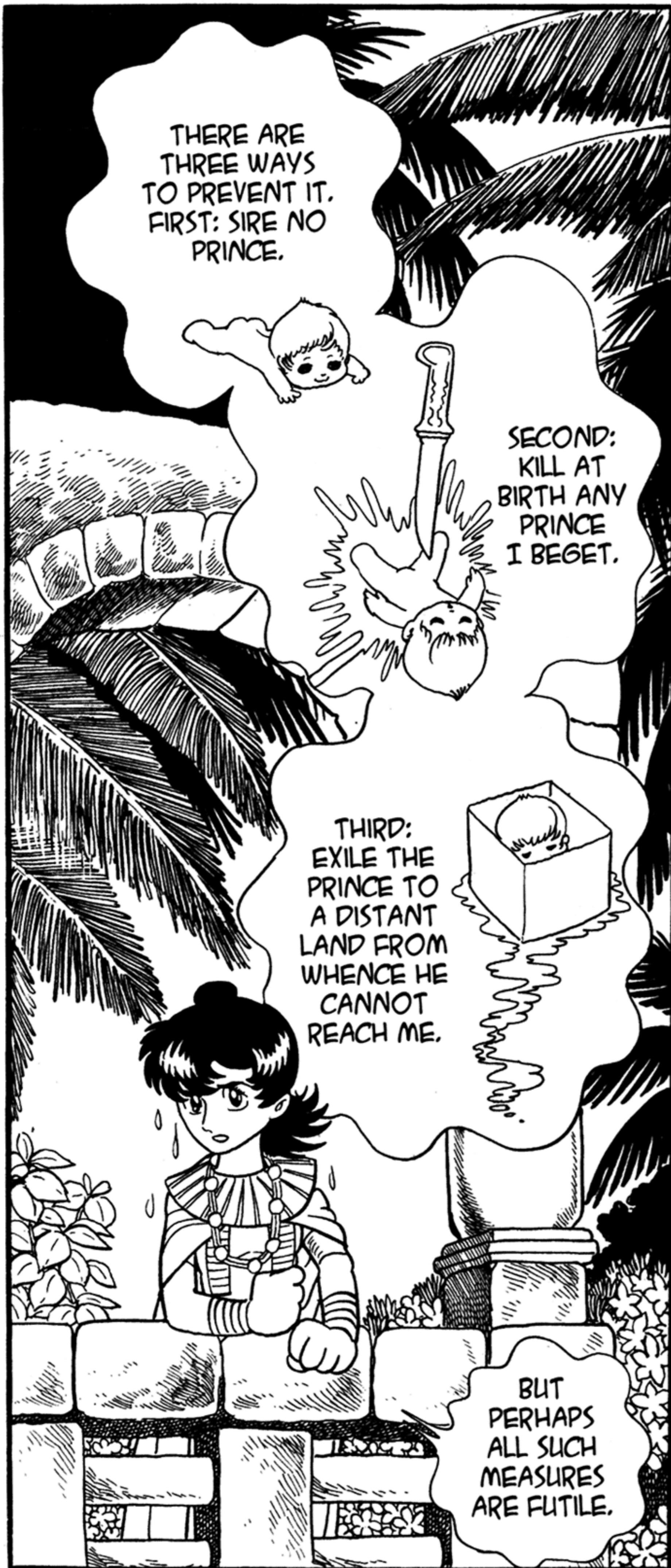












THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO PREVENT IT. FIRST: SIRE NO PRINCE.

SECOND: KILL AT BIRTH ANY PRINCE I BEGET.

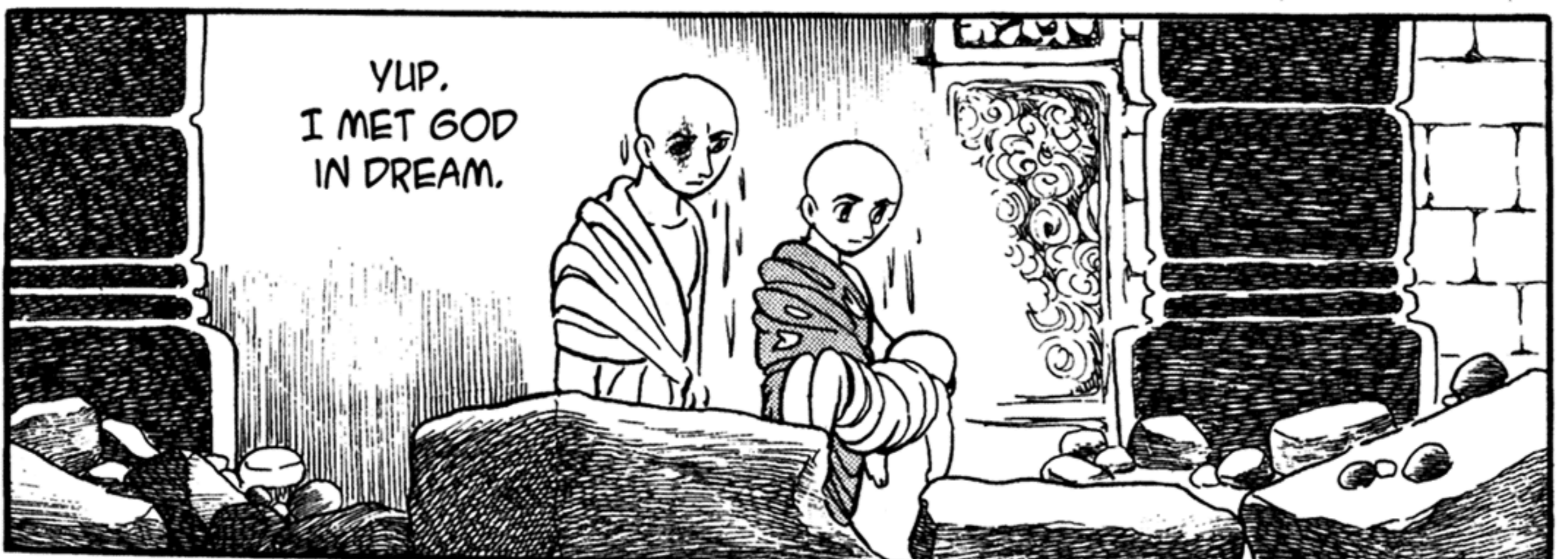
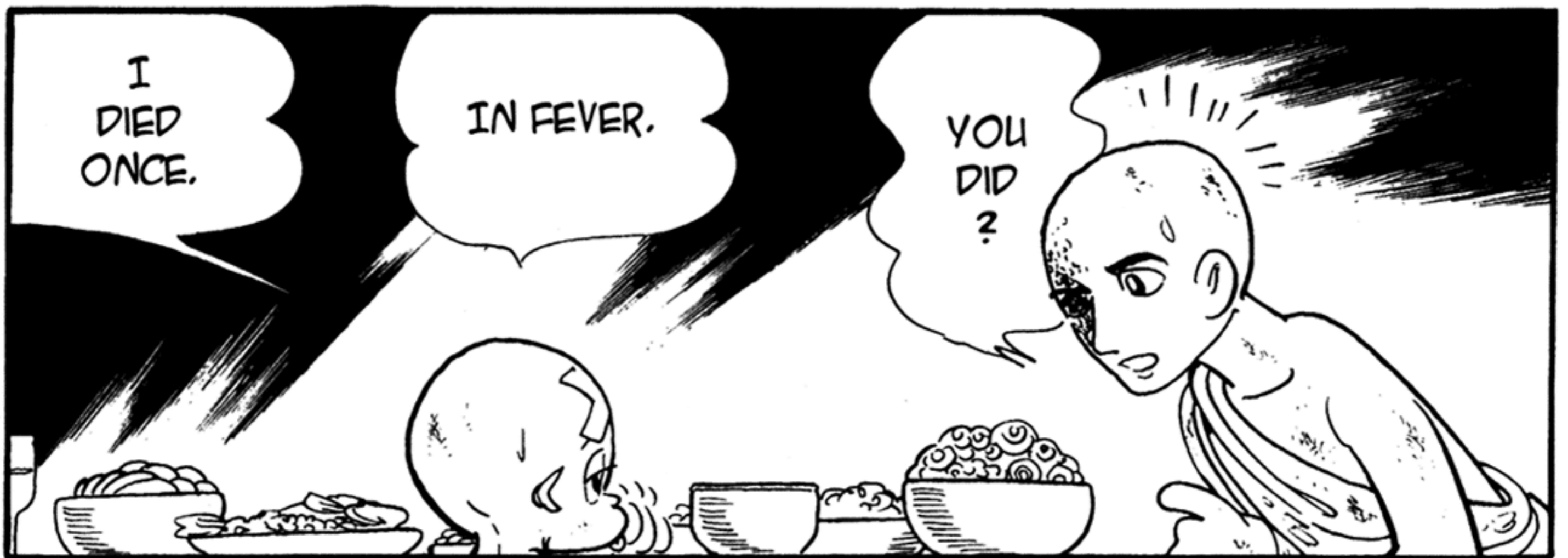
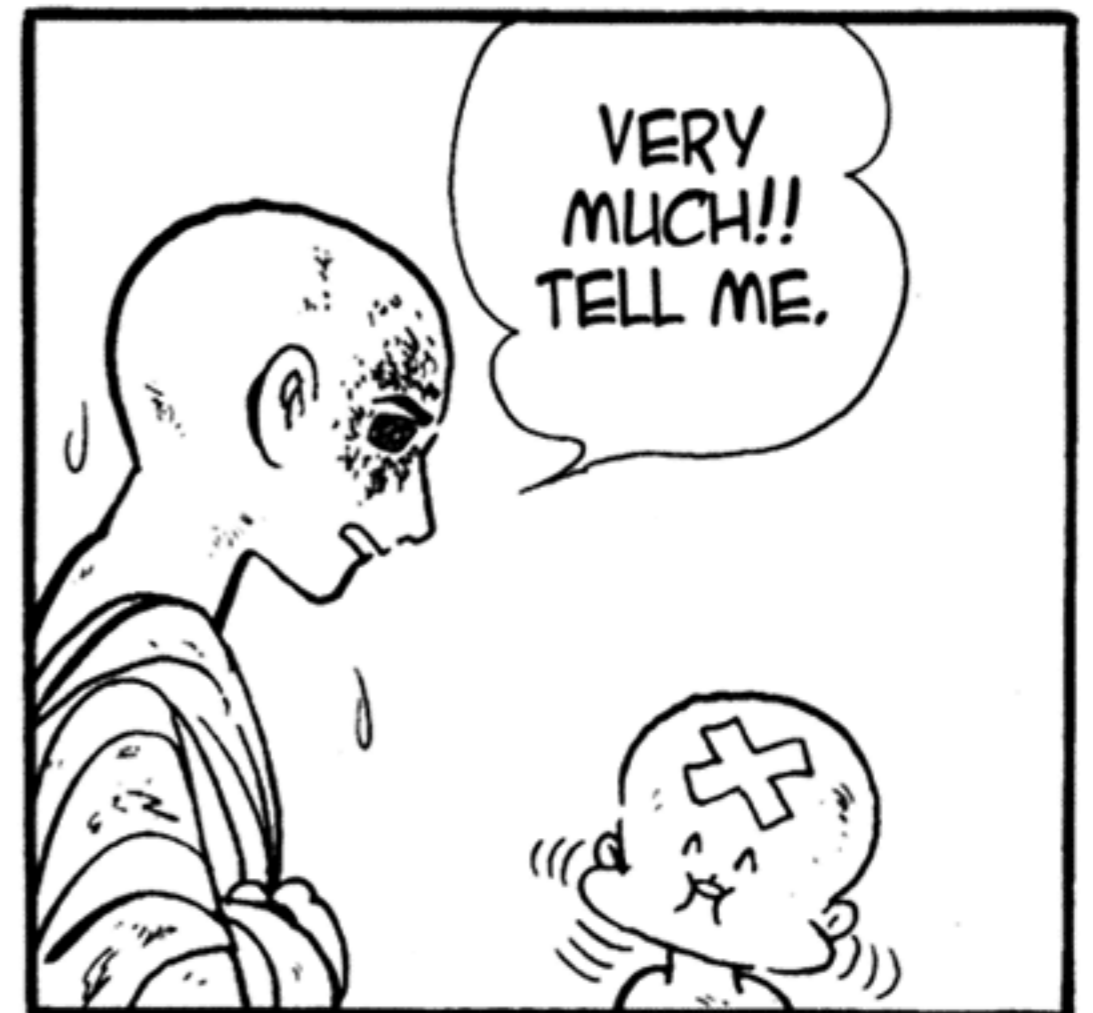
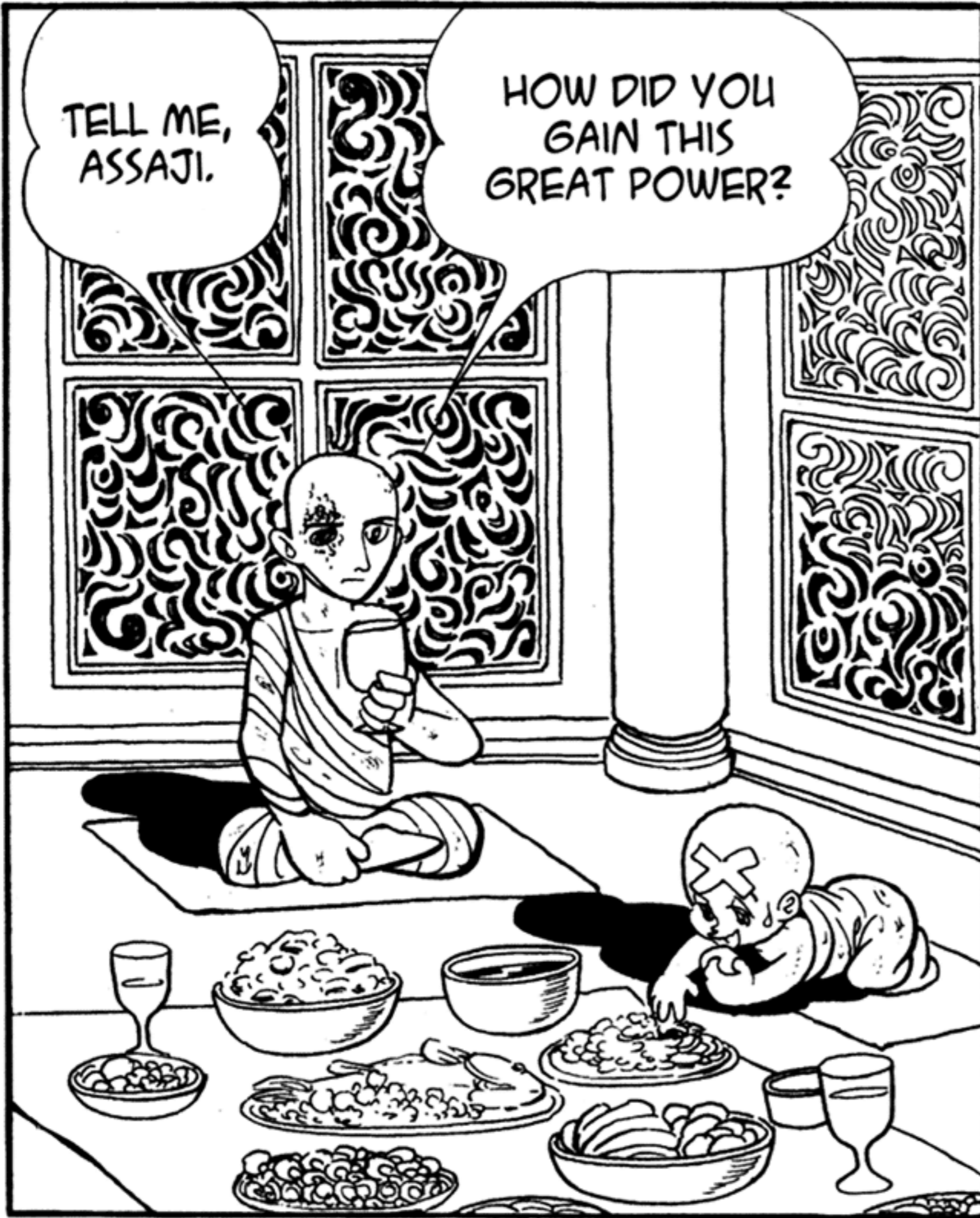
THIRD: EXILE THE PRINCE TO A DISTANT LAND FROM WHENCE HE CANNOT REACH ME.

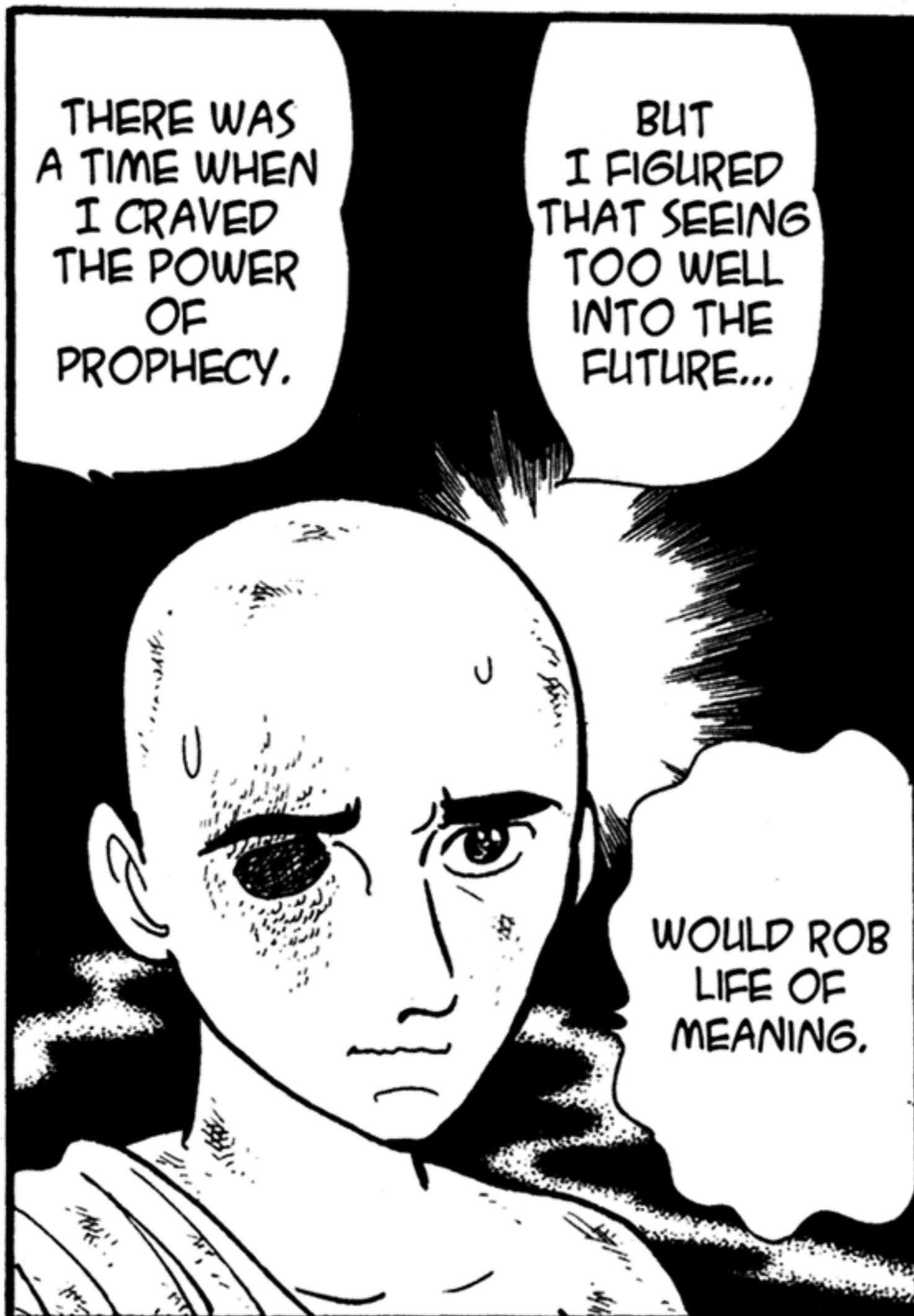
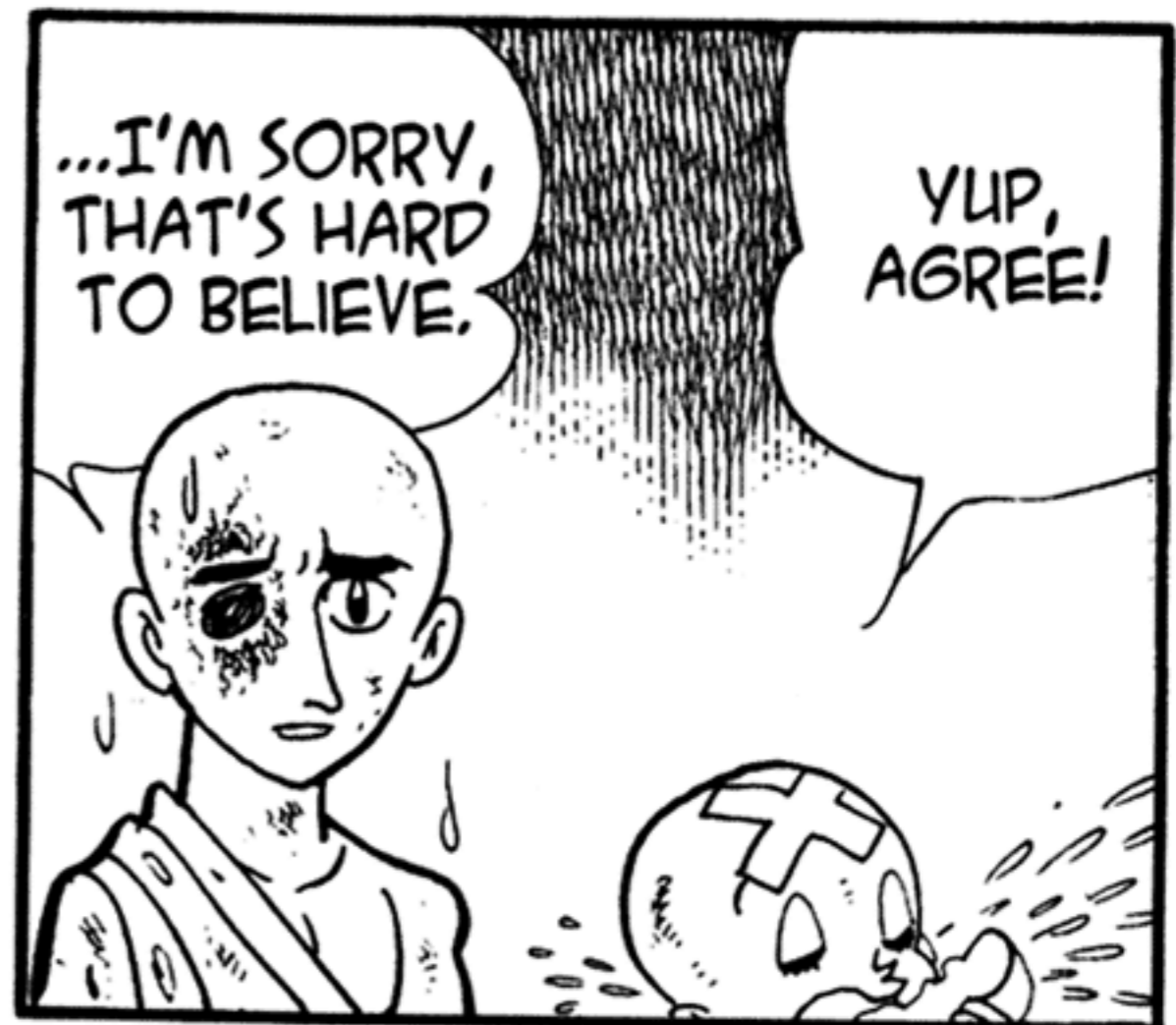
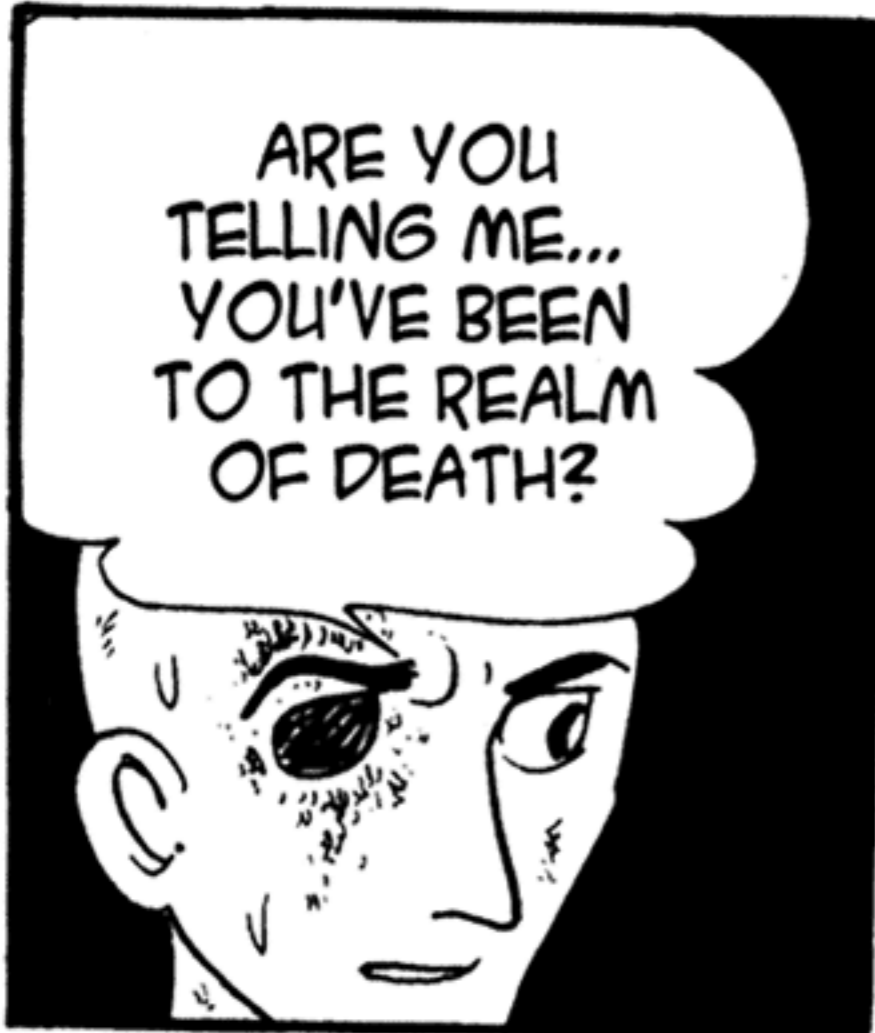
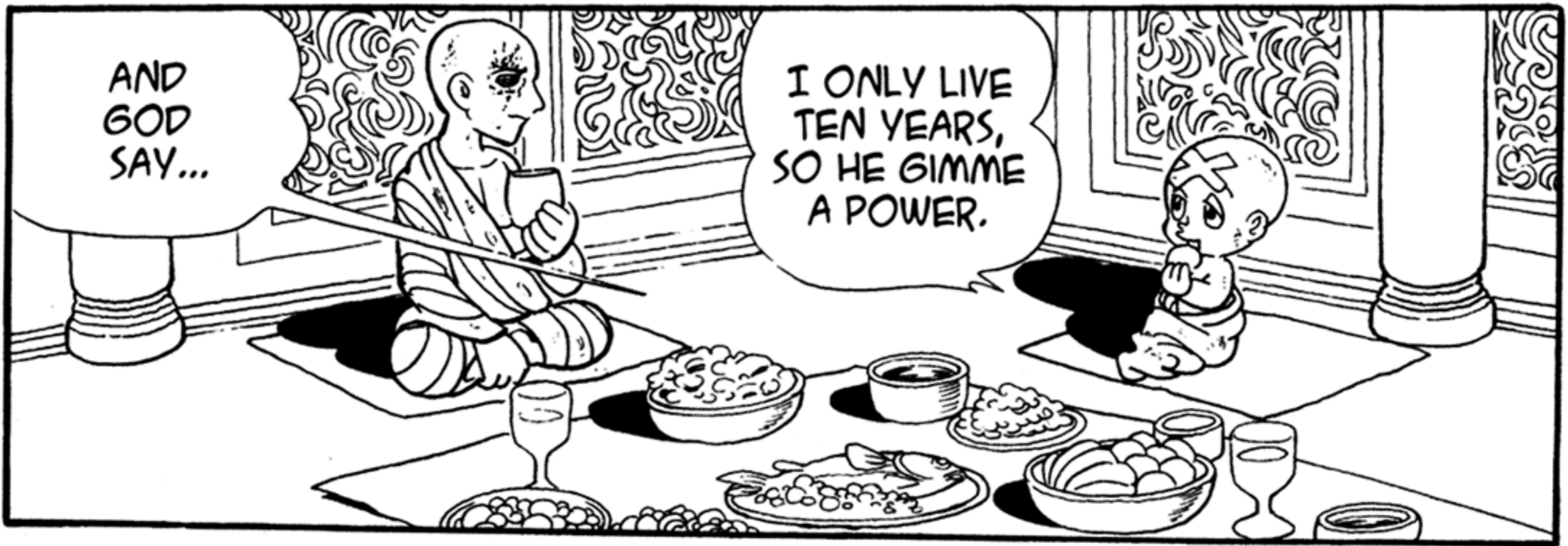
BUT PERHAPS ALL SUCH MEASURES ARE FUTILE.

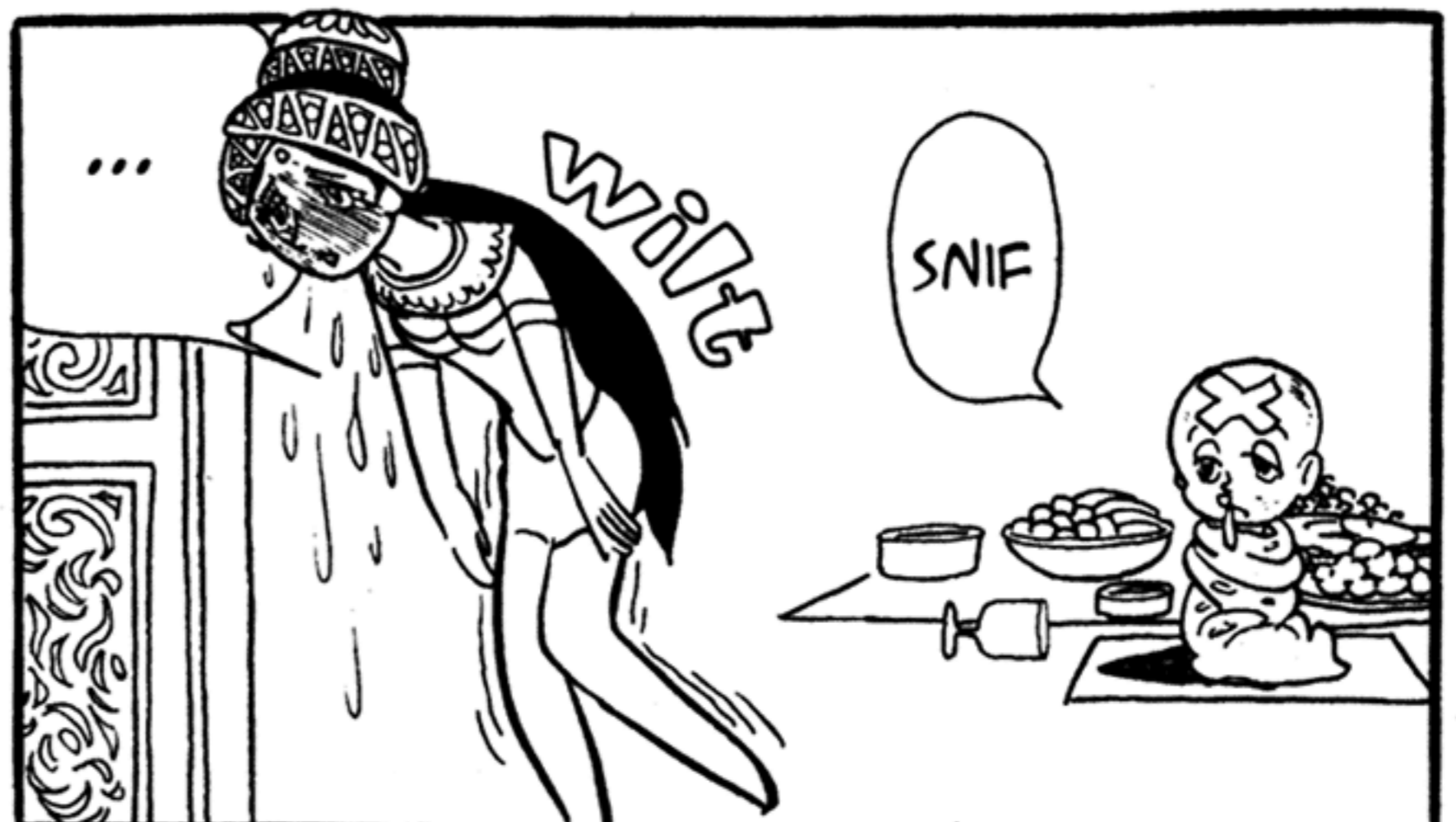


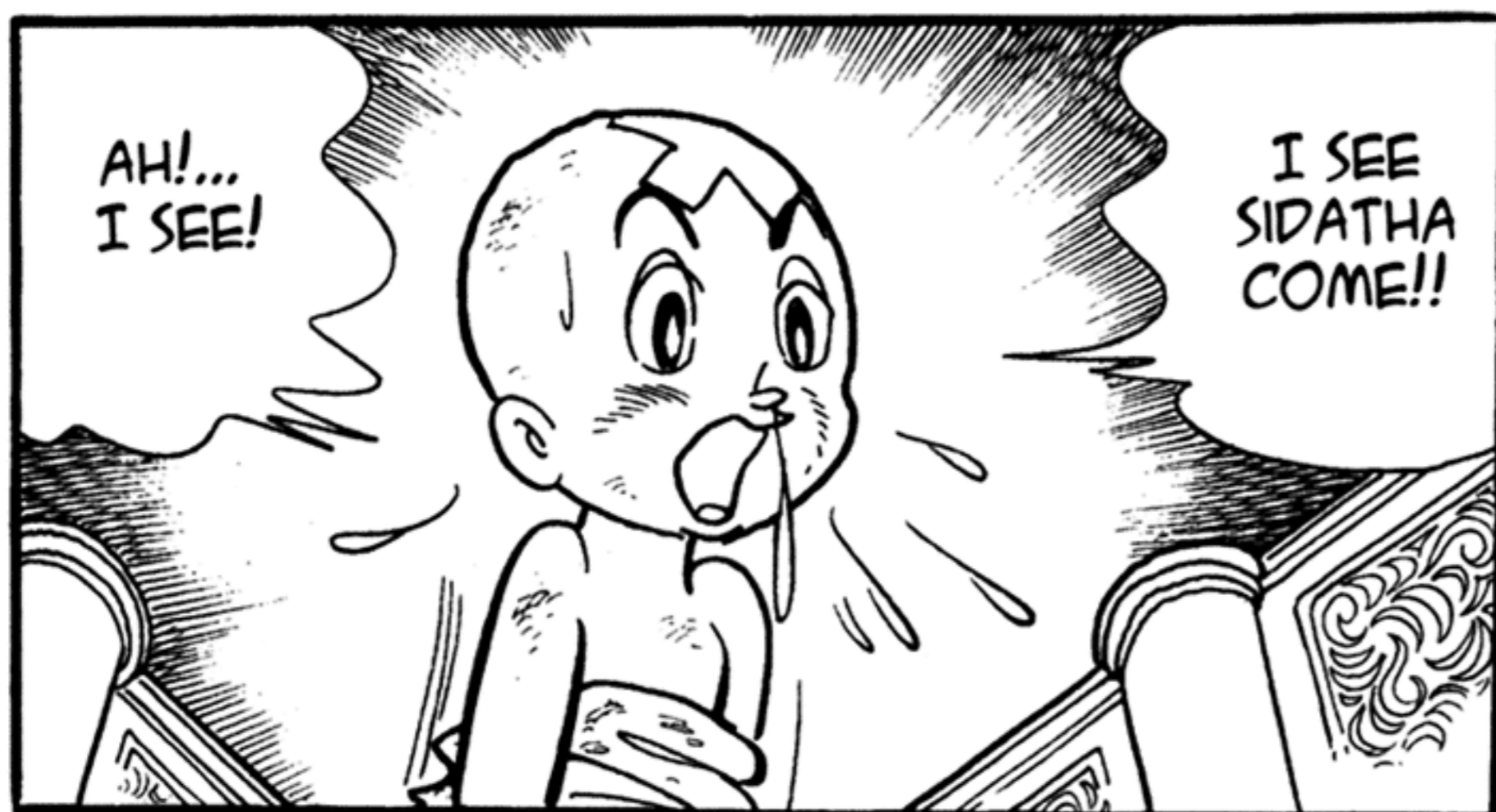
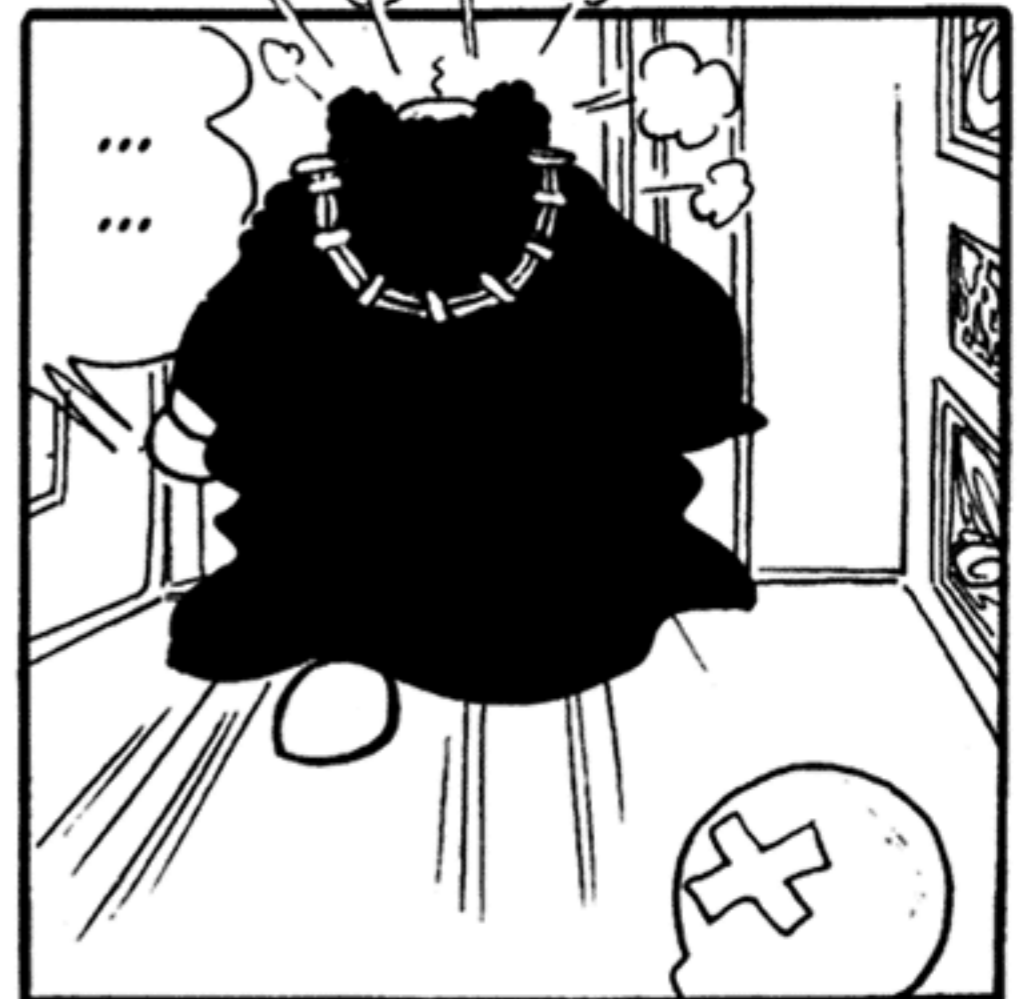
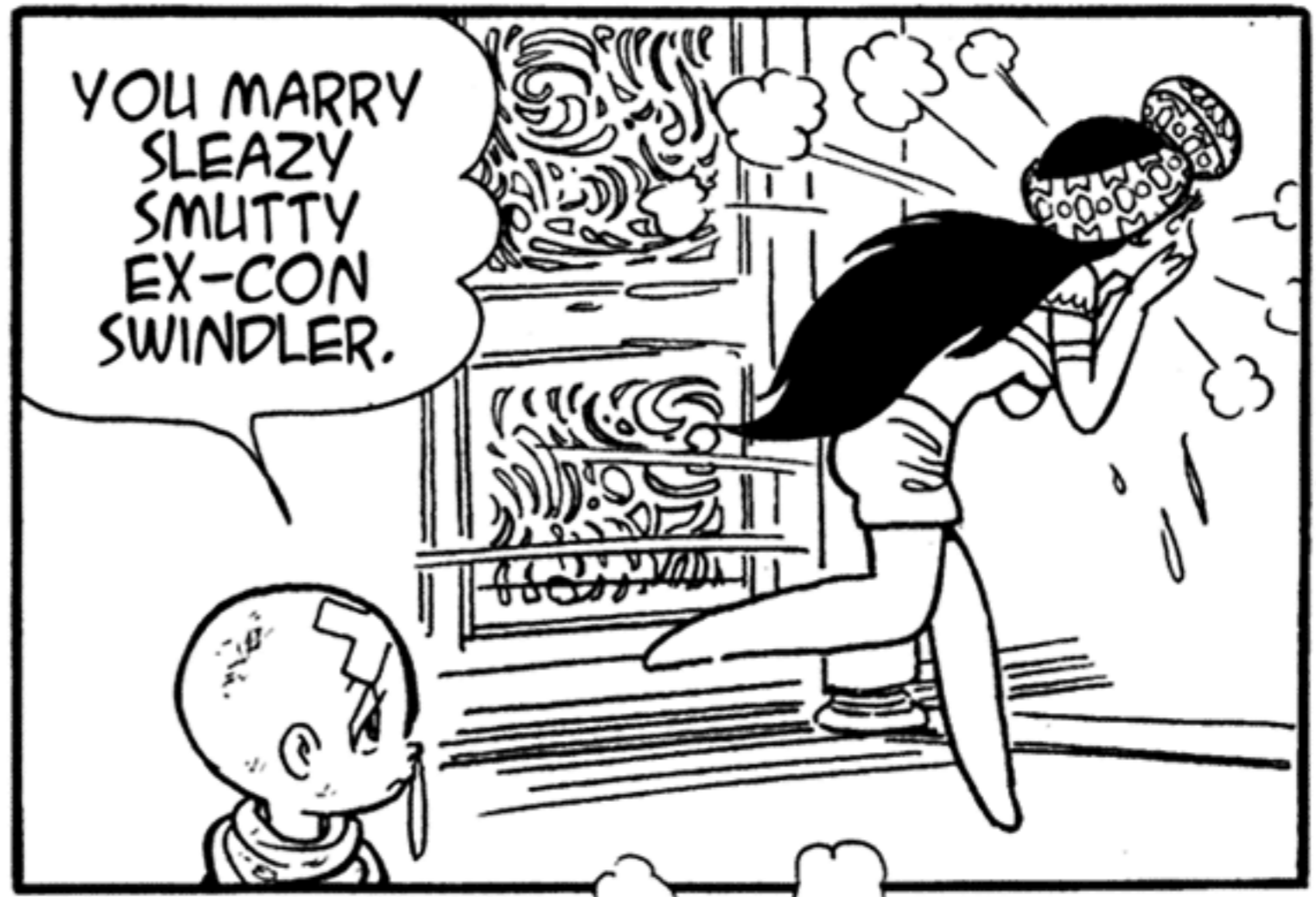
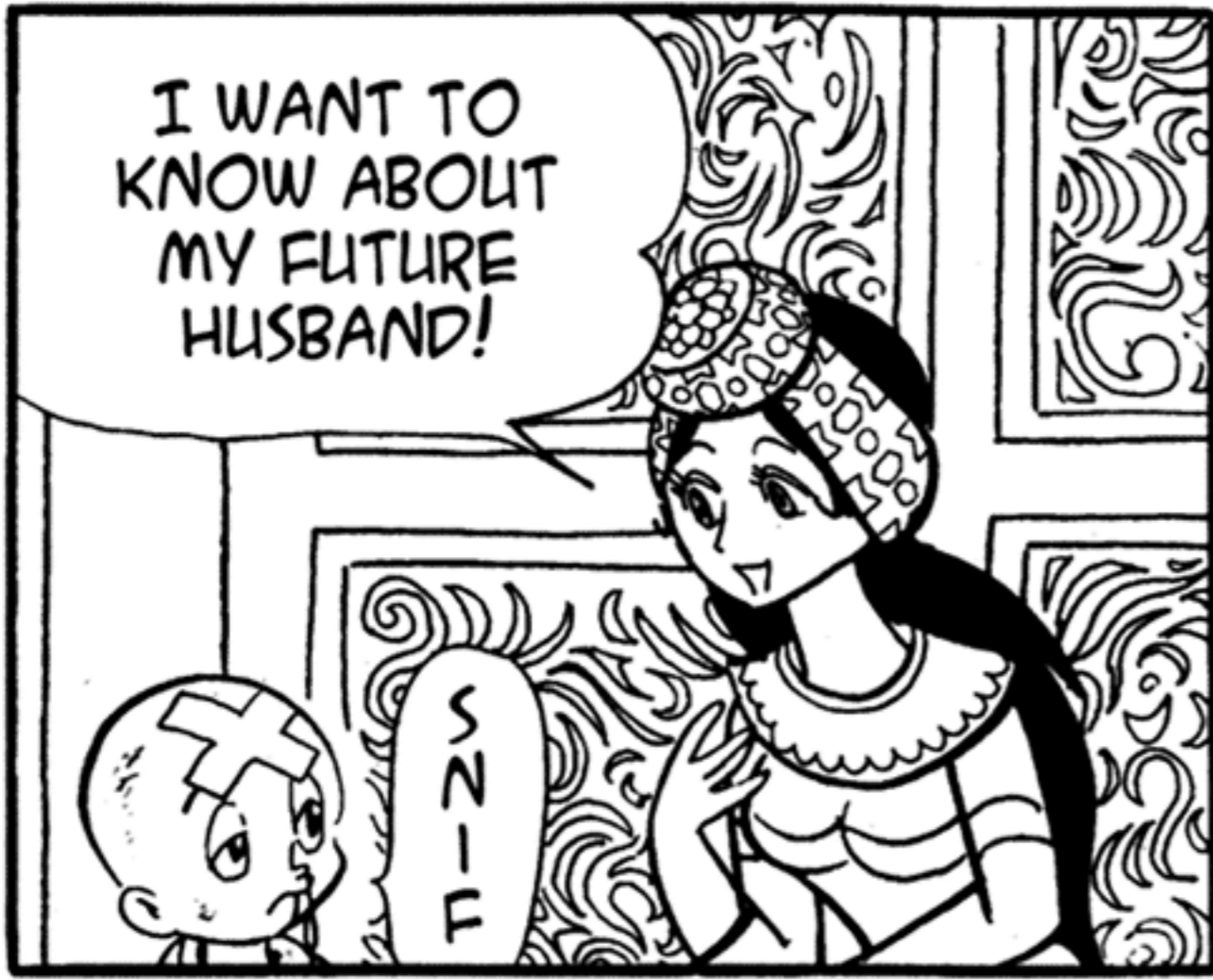
I HAVE ONLY TWENTY YEARS LEFT!

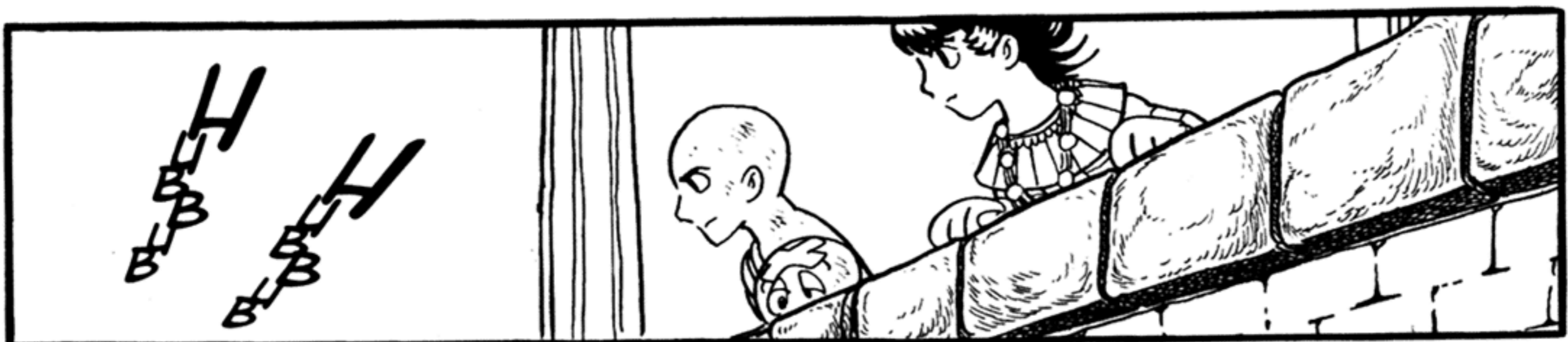
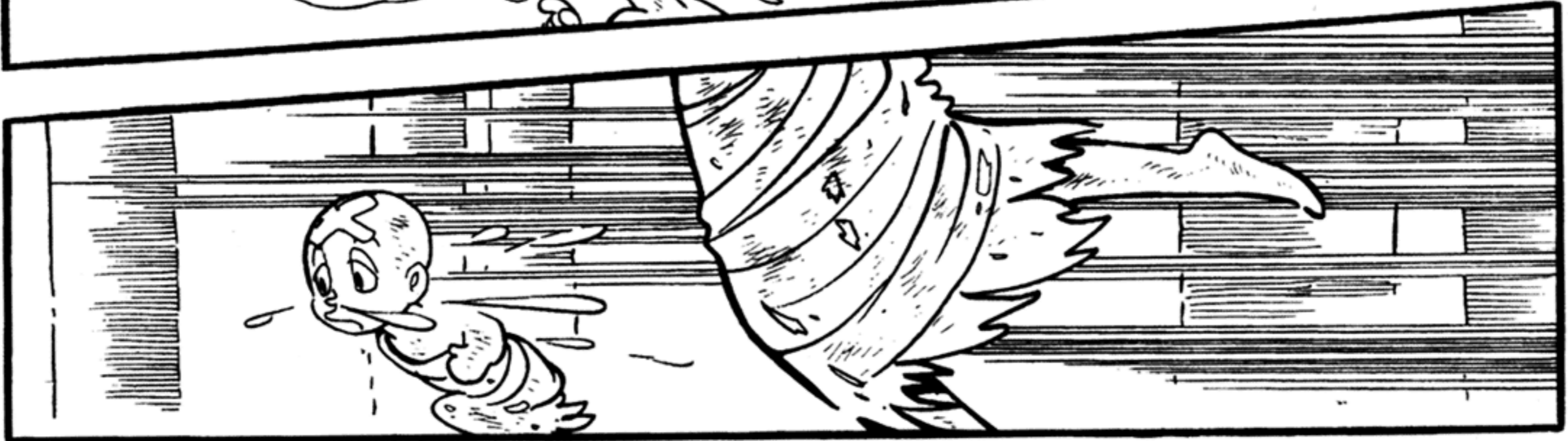
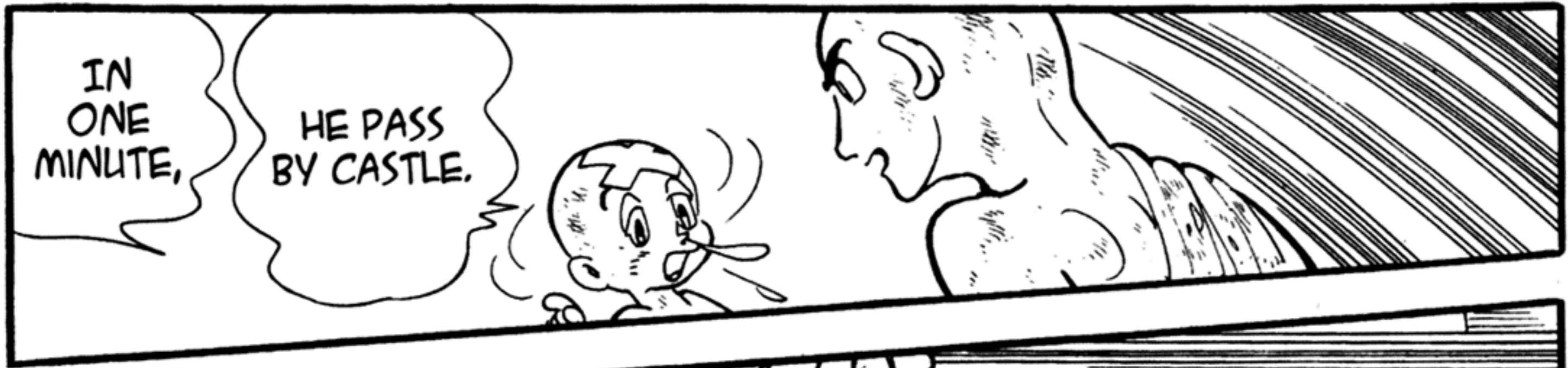
WHAT CAN I ACHIEVE IN TWO MEASLY DECADES?



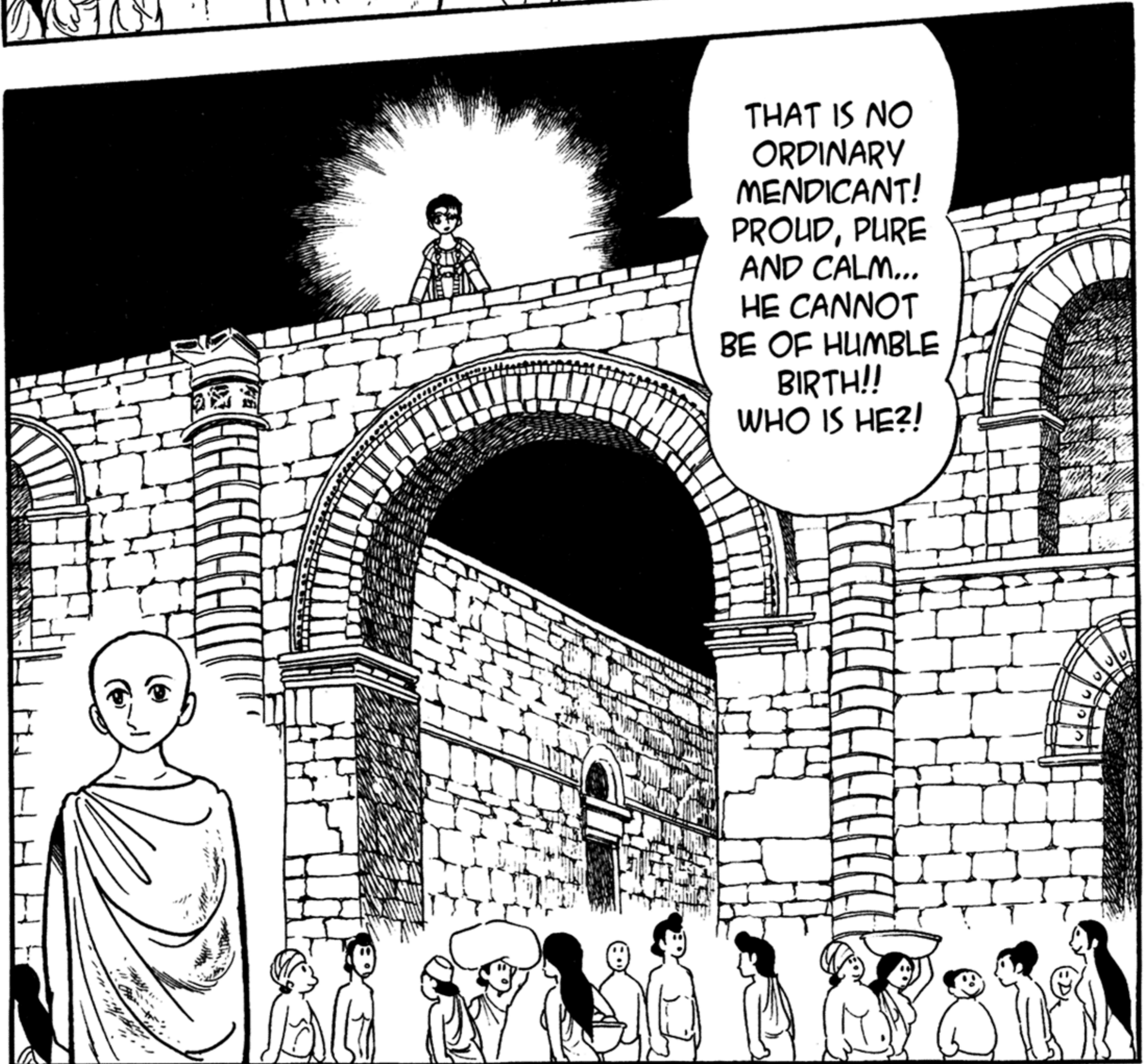
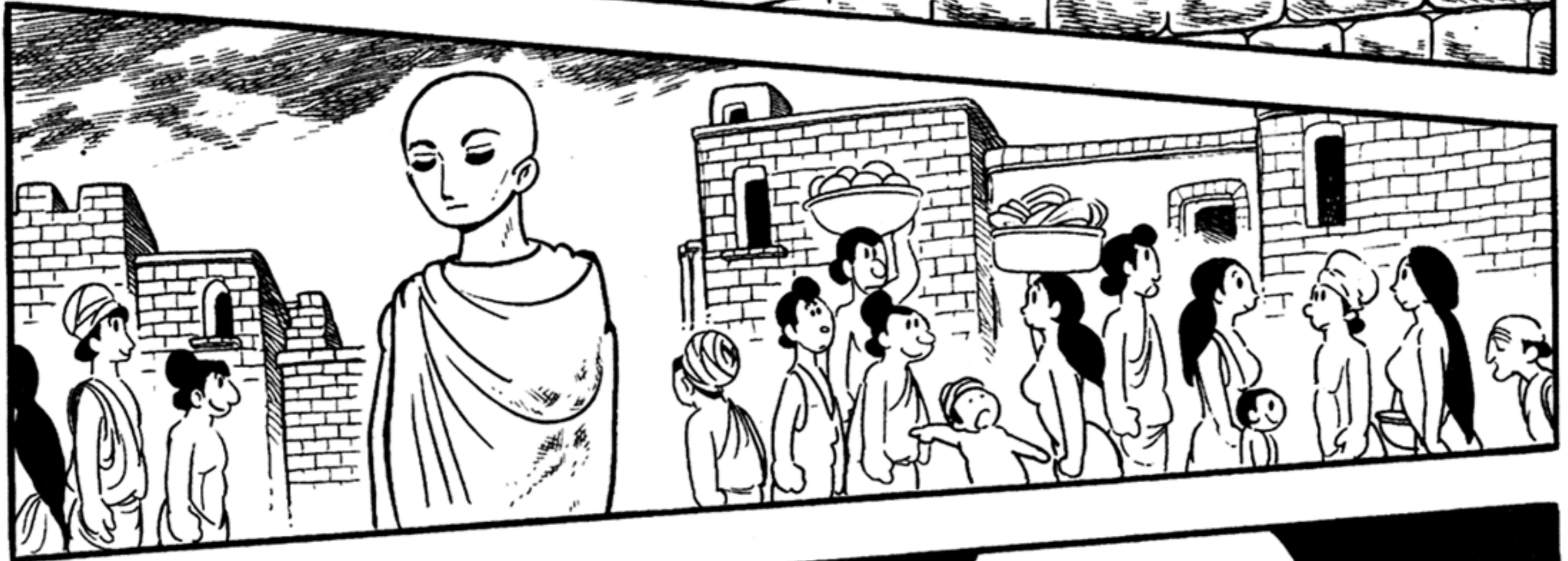
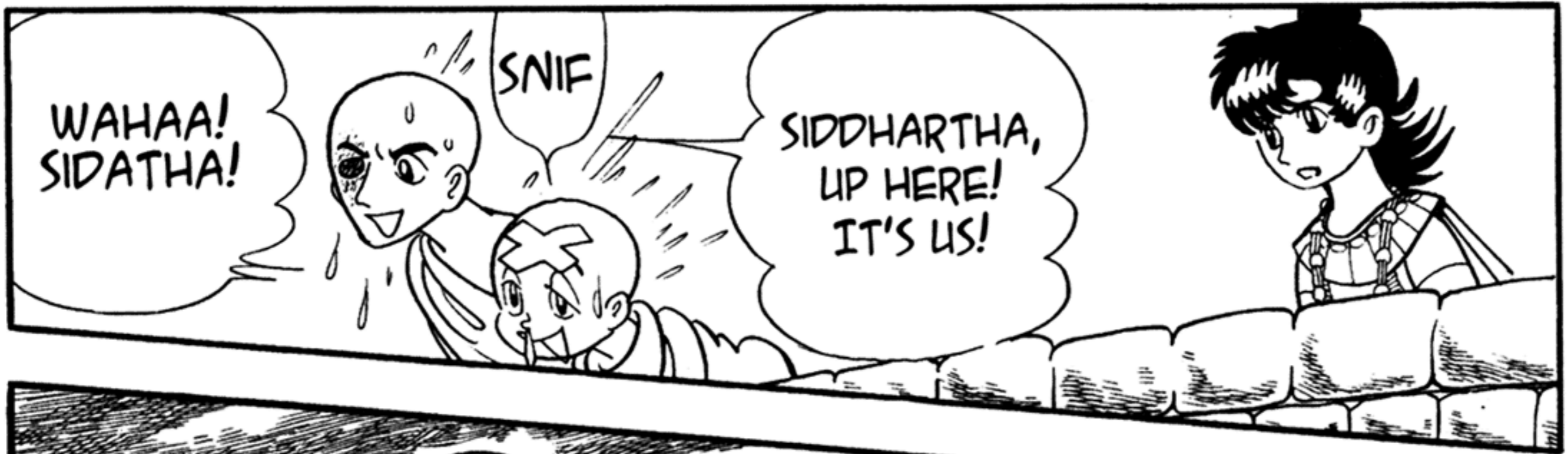








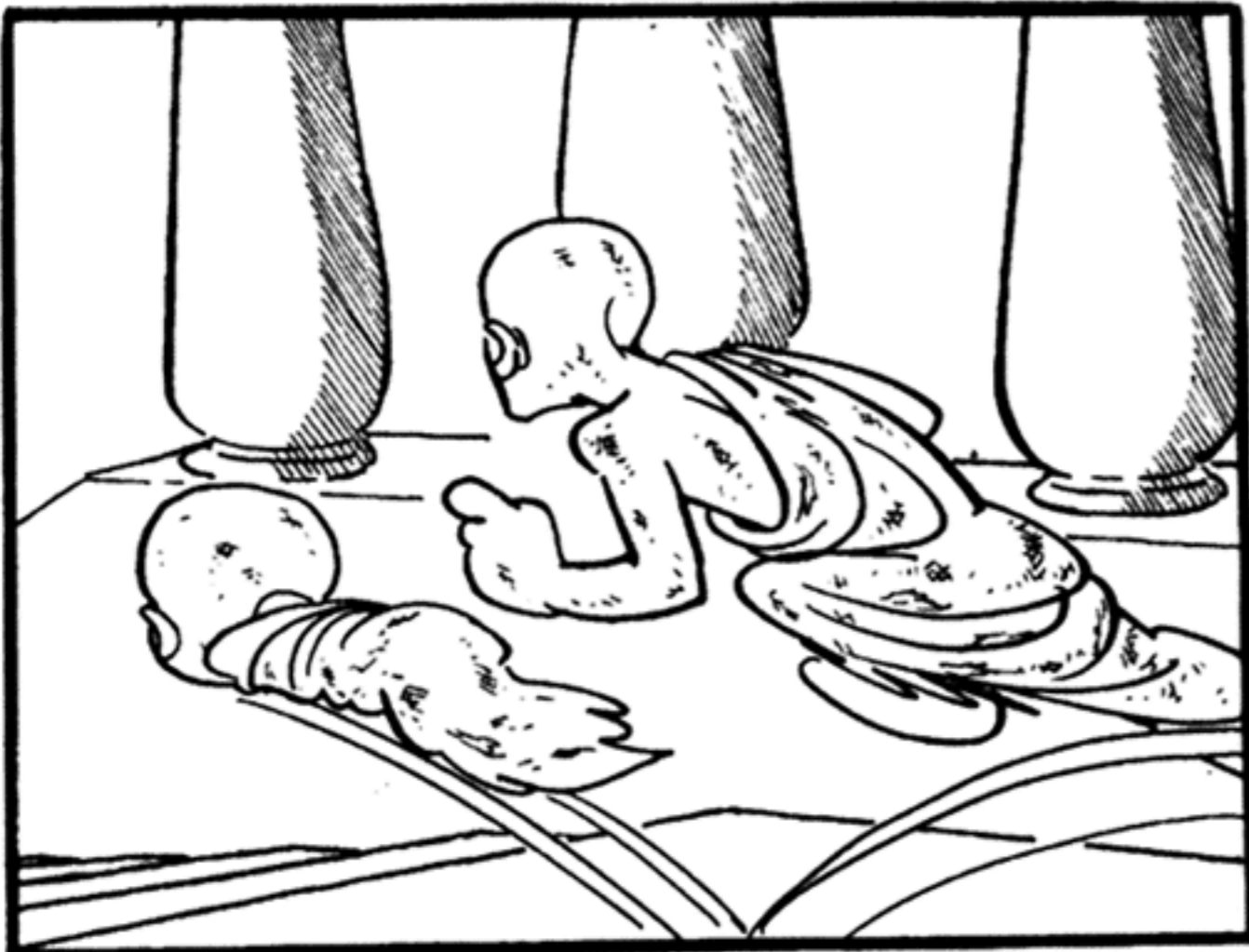






GUARD!

FOLLOW THE SAMANNA WHO JUST PASSED! FIND OUT WHERE HE STAYS AND WHERE HE MEANS TO GO!



WAIT, YOU TWO!

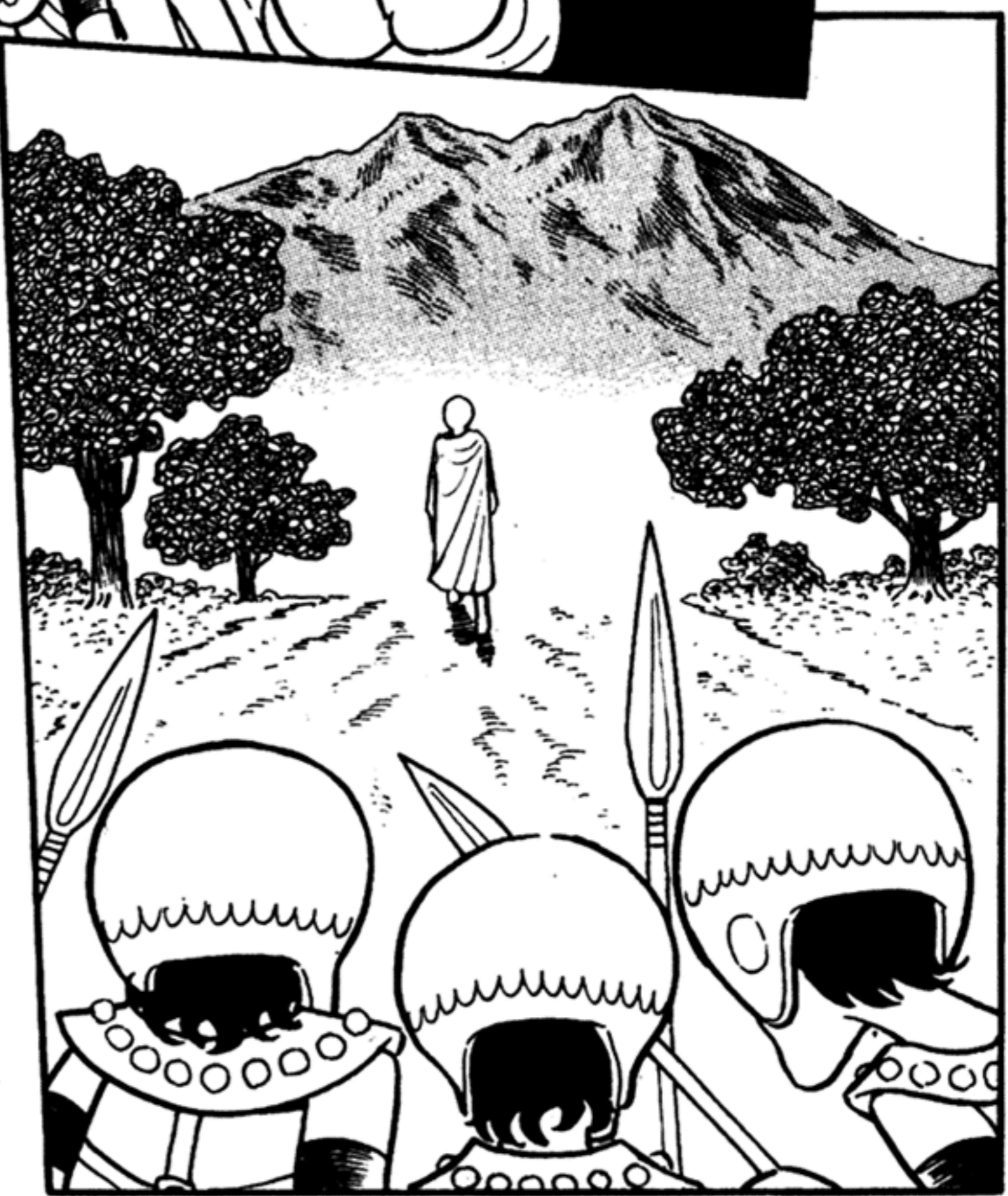
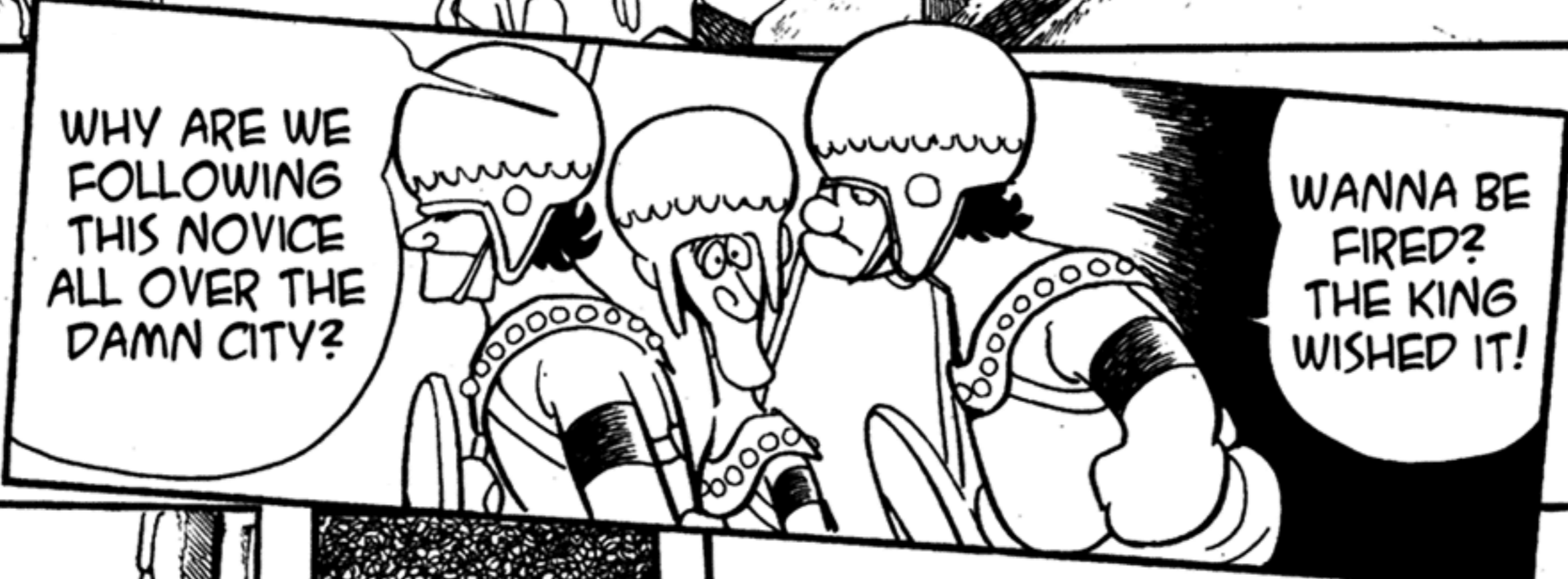
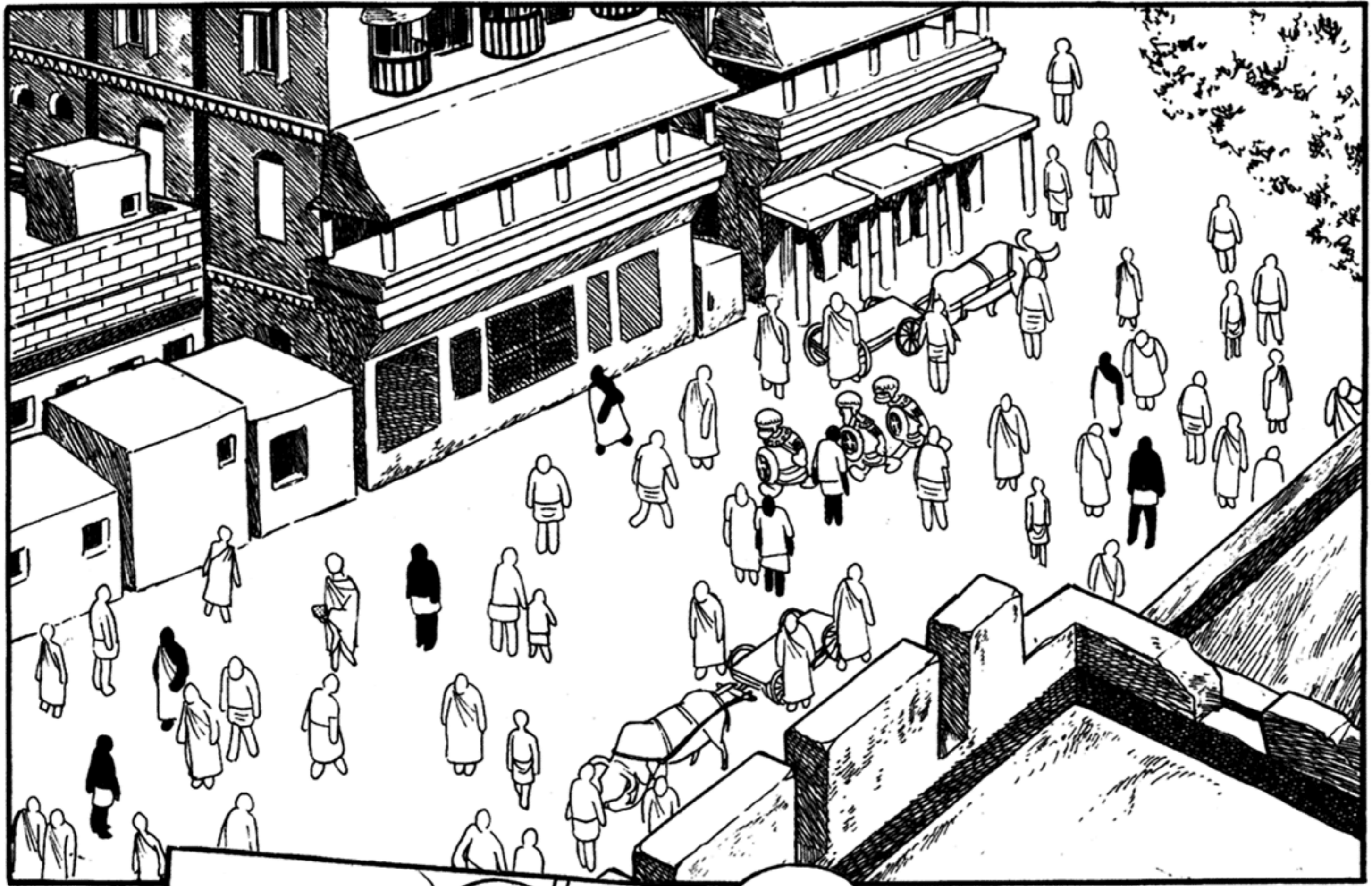
I CANNOT LET YOU GO NOW.

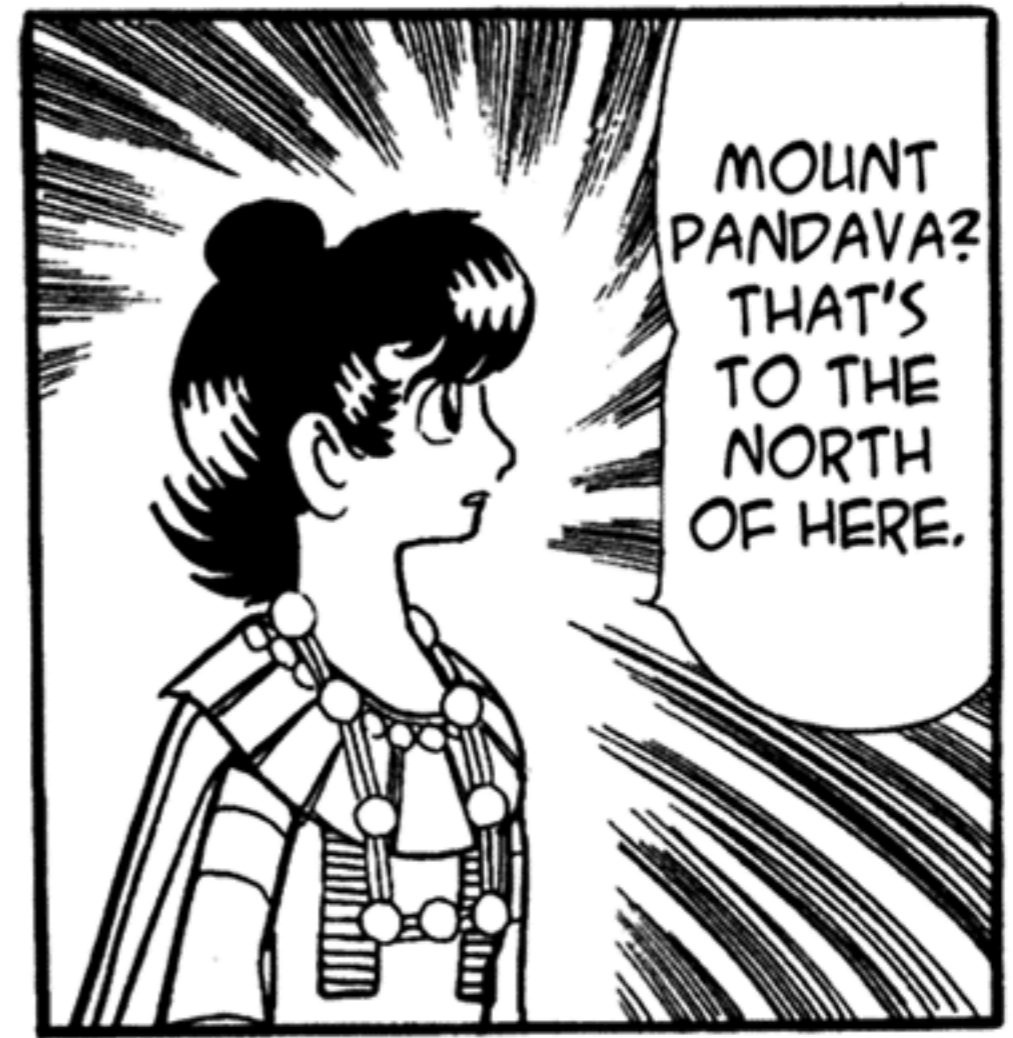
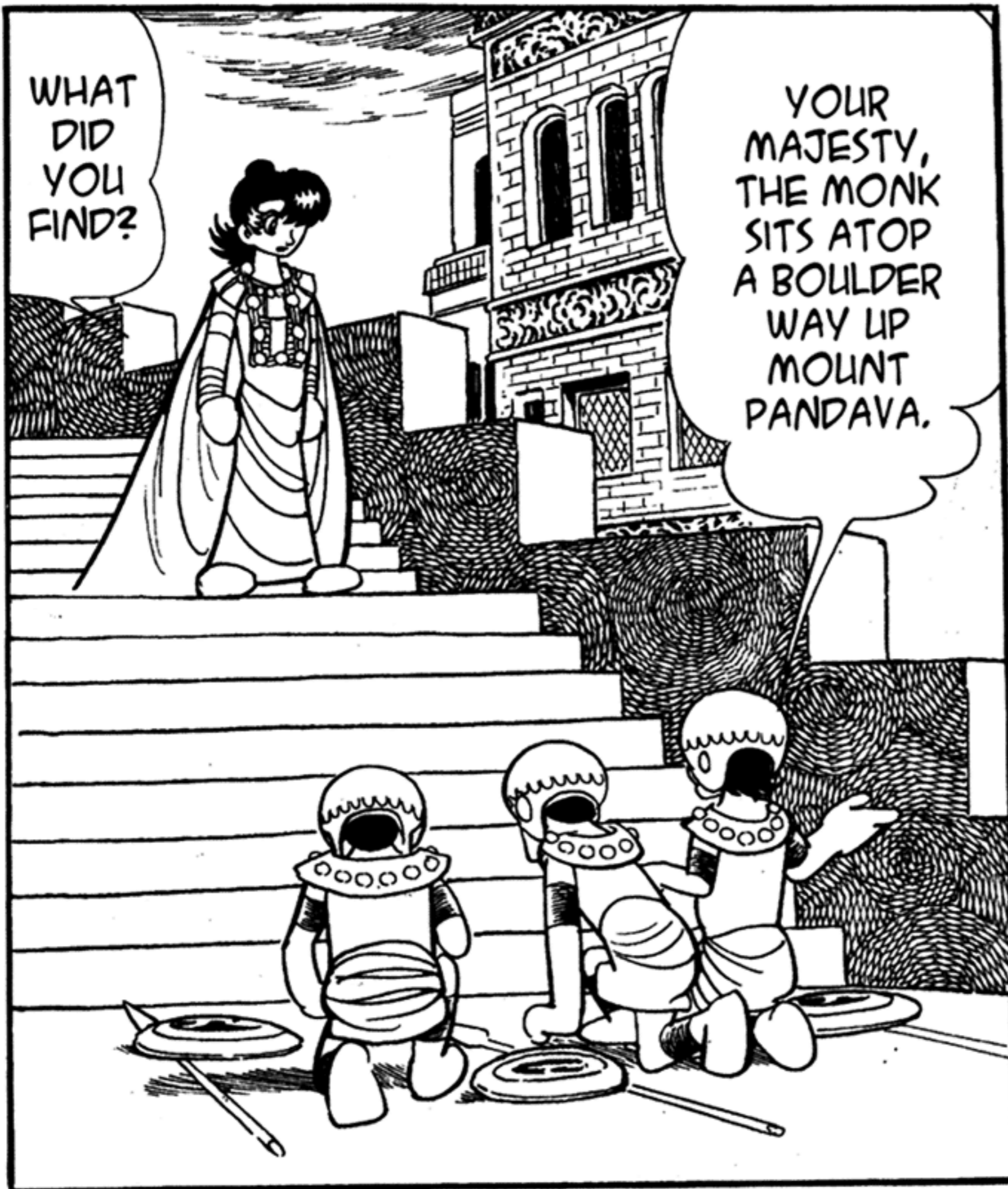


WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM!

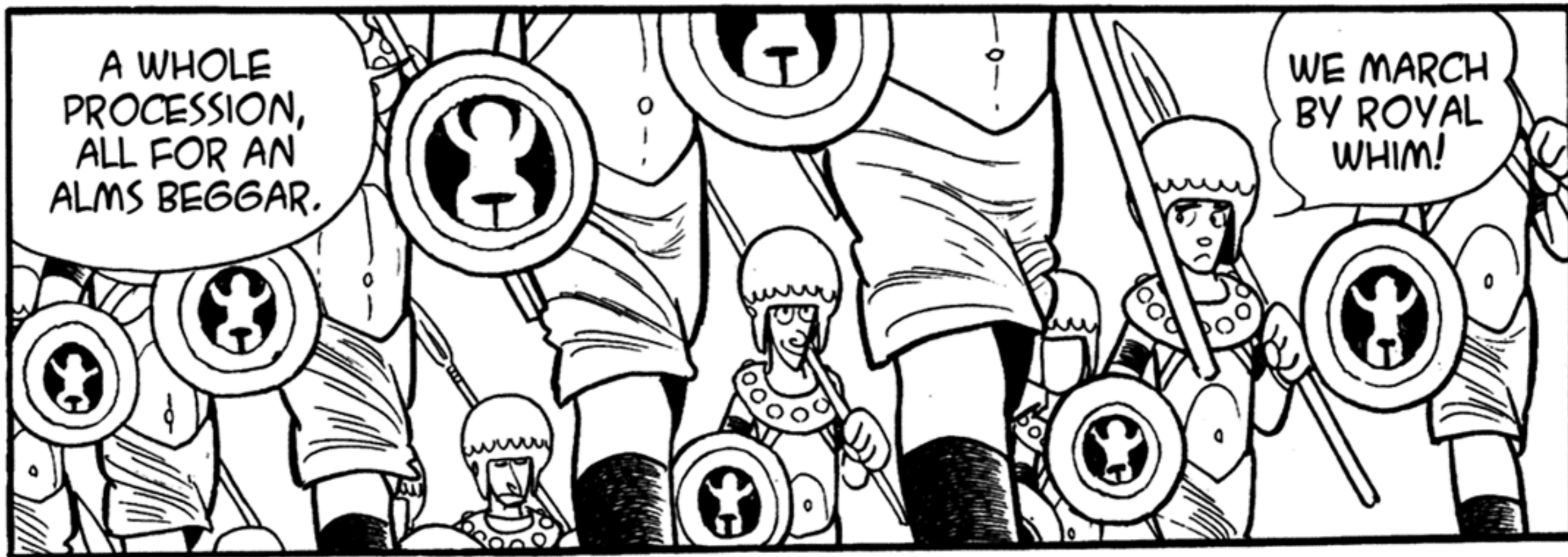
AFTER MY MEN FIND OUT ALL ABOUT HIM, YOU MAY SEE HIM.

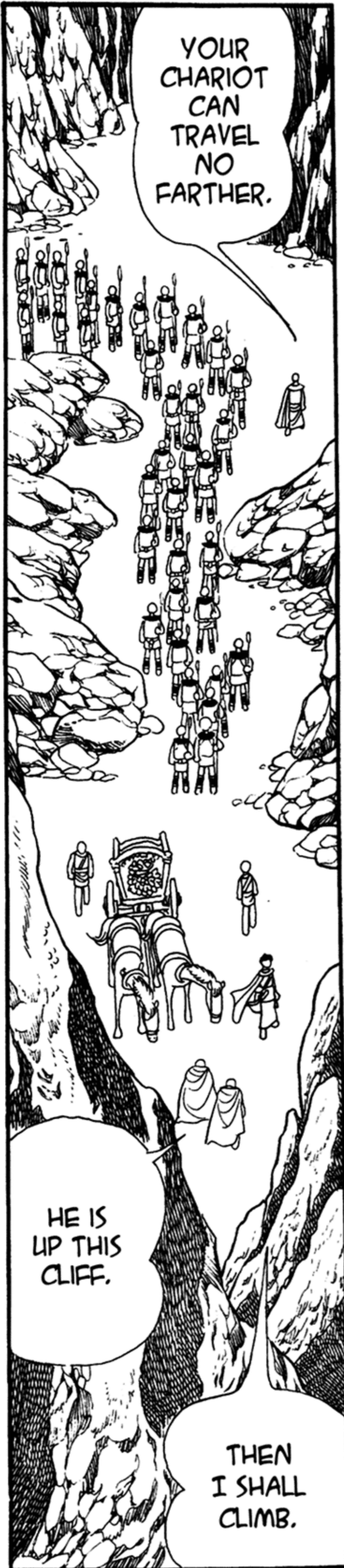












YOUR CHARIOT CAN TRAVEL NO FARTHER.

HE IS UP THIS CLIFF.

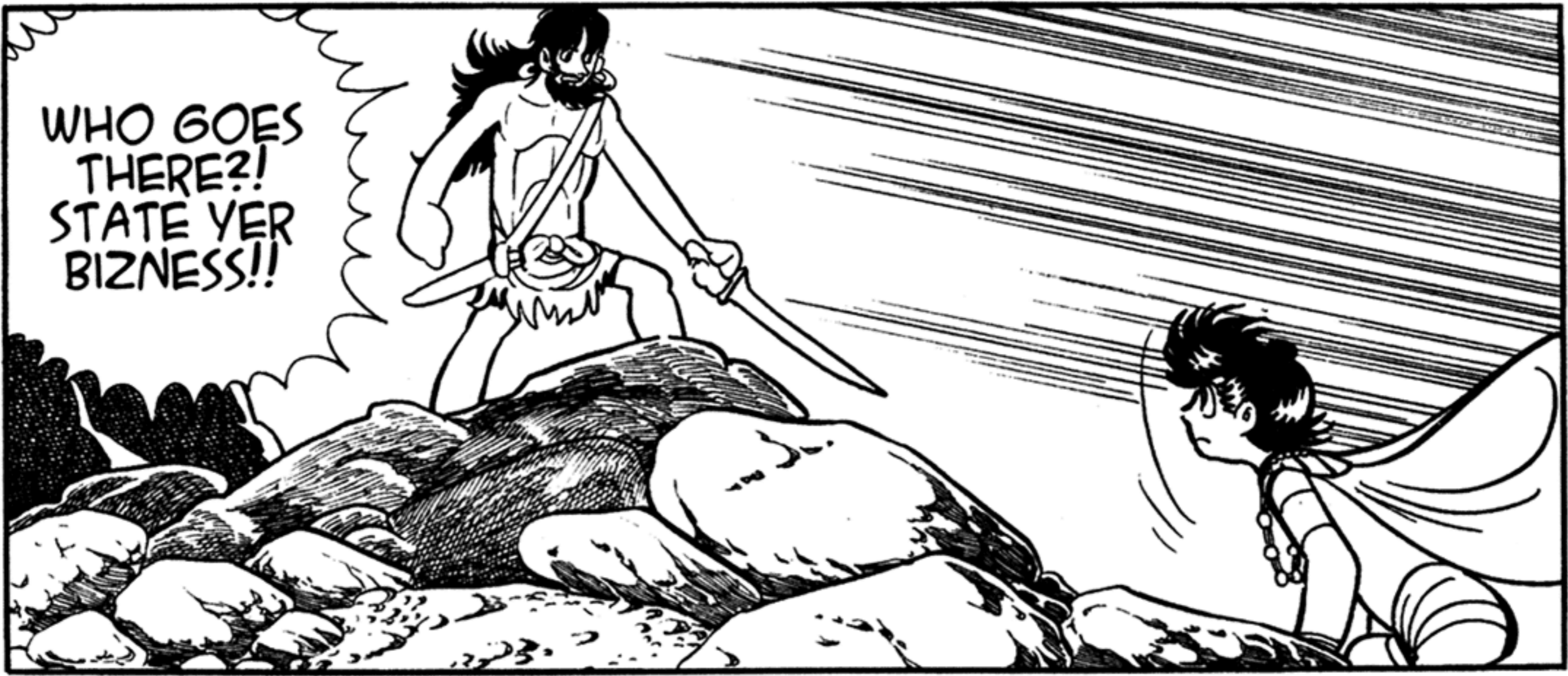
THEN I SHALL CLIMB.



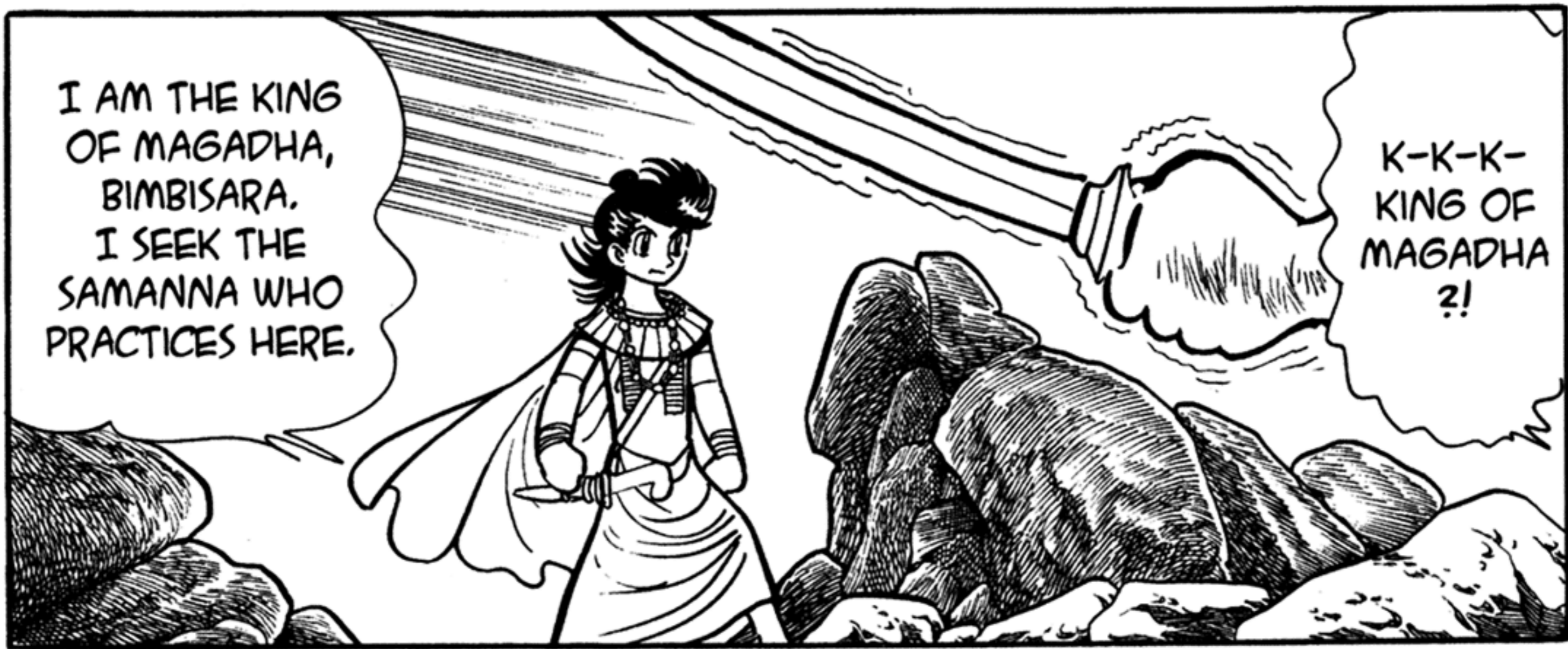
MAJESTY, WE WILL READY A PALANQUIN. PLEASE WAIT.

DON'T BOTHER. I CAN WALK.

PLEASE, WAIT!



WHO GOES THERE?!
STATE YER
BIZNESS!!



I AM THE KING
OF MAGADHA,
BIMBISARA.
I SEEK THE
SAMANNA WHO
PRACTICES HERE.

K-K-K-
KING OF
MAGADHA
?!



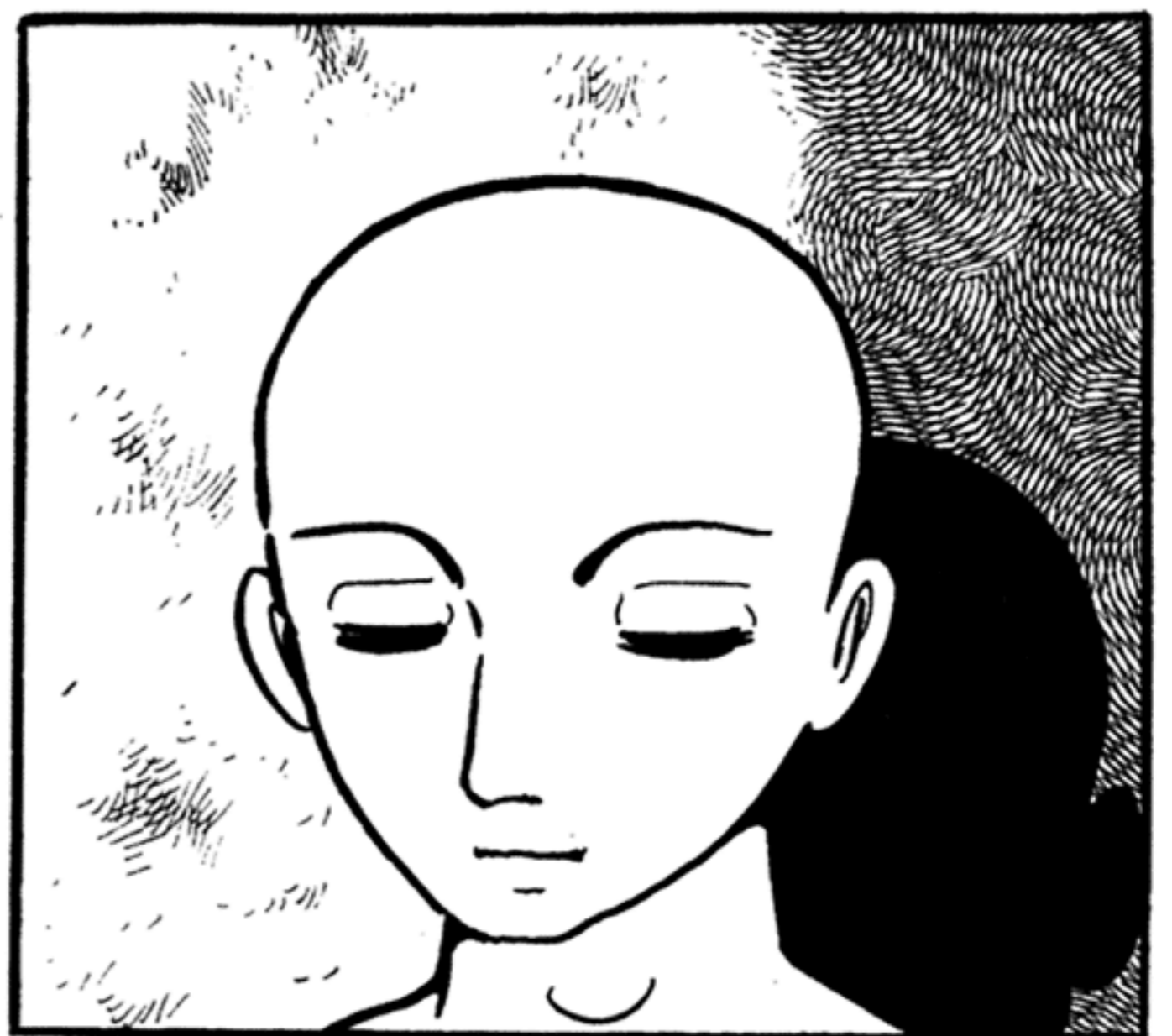
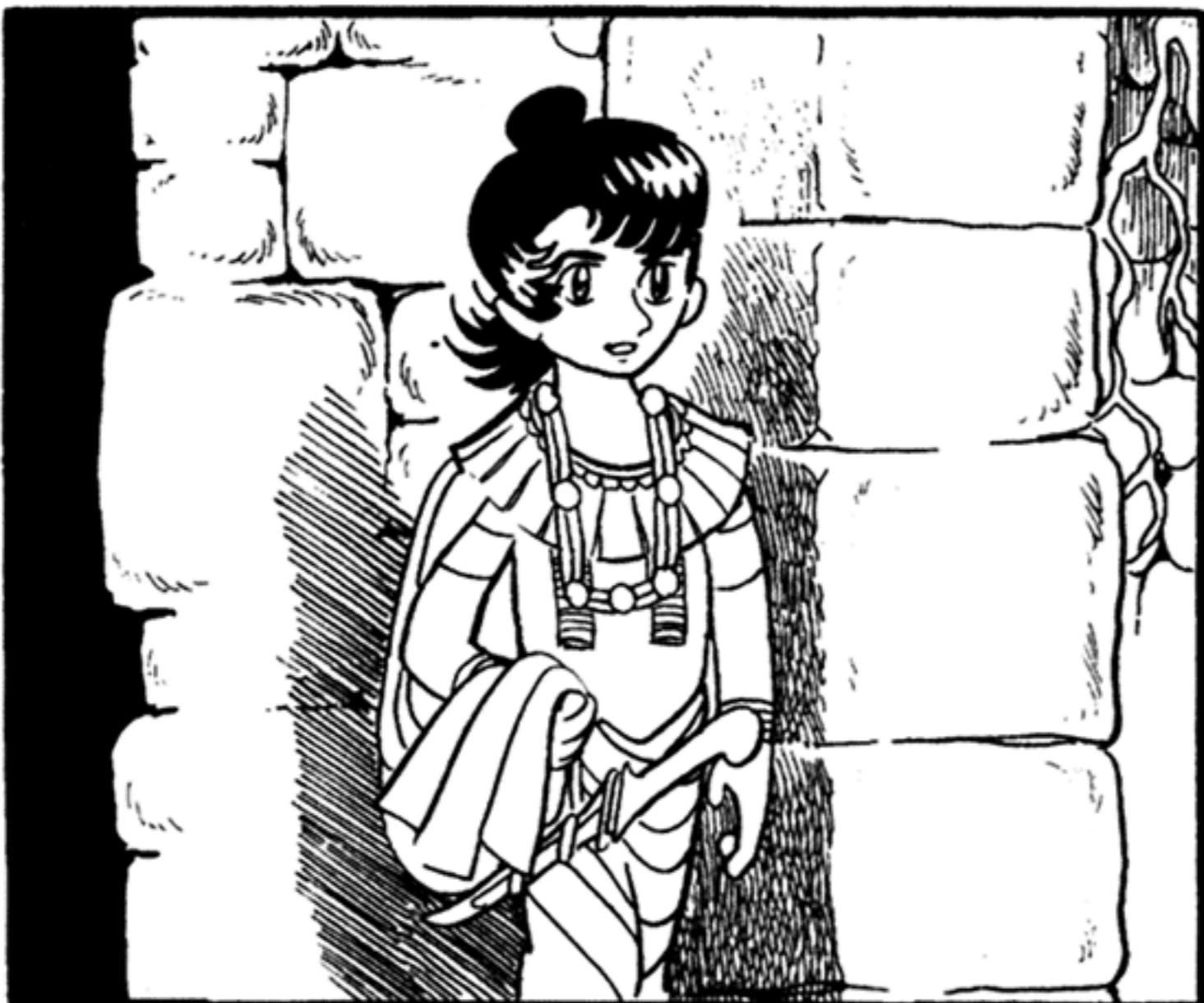
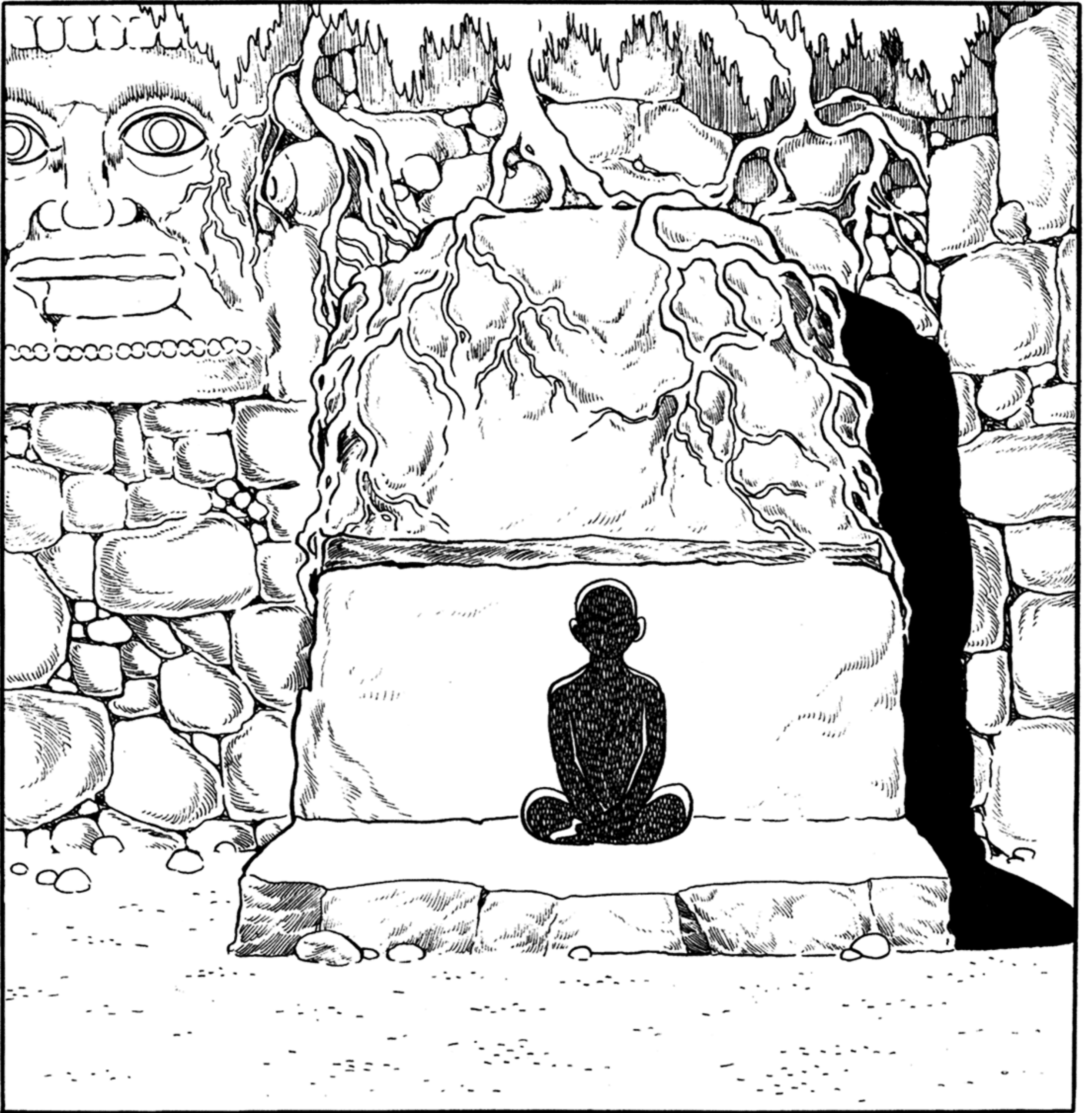
JUST
A
MOMENT.



...



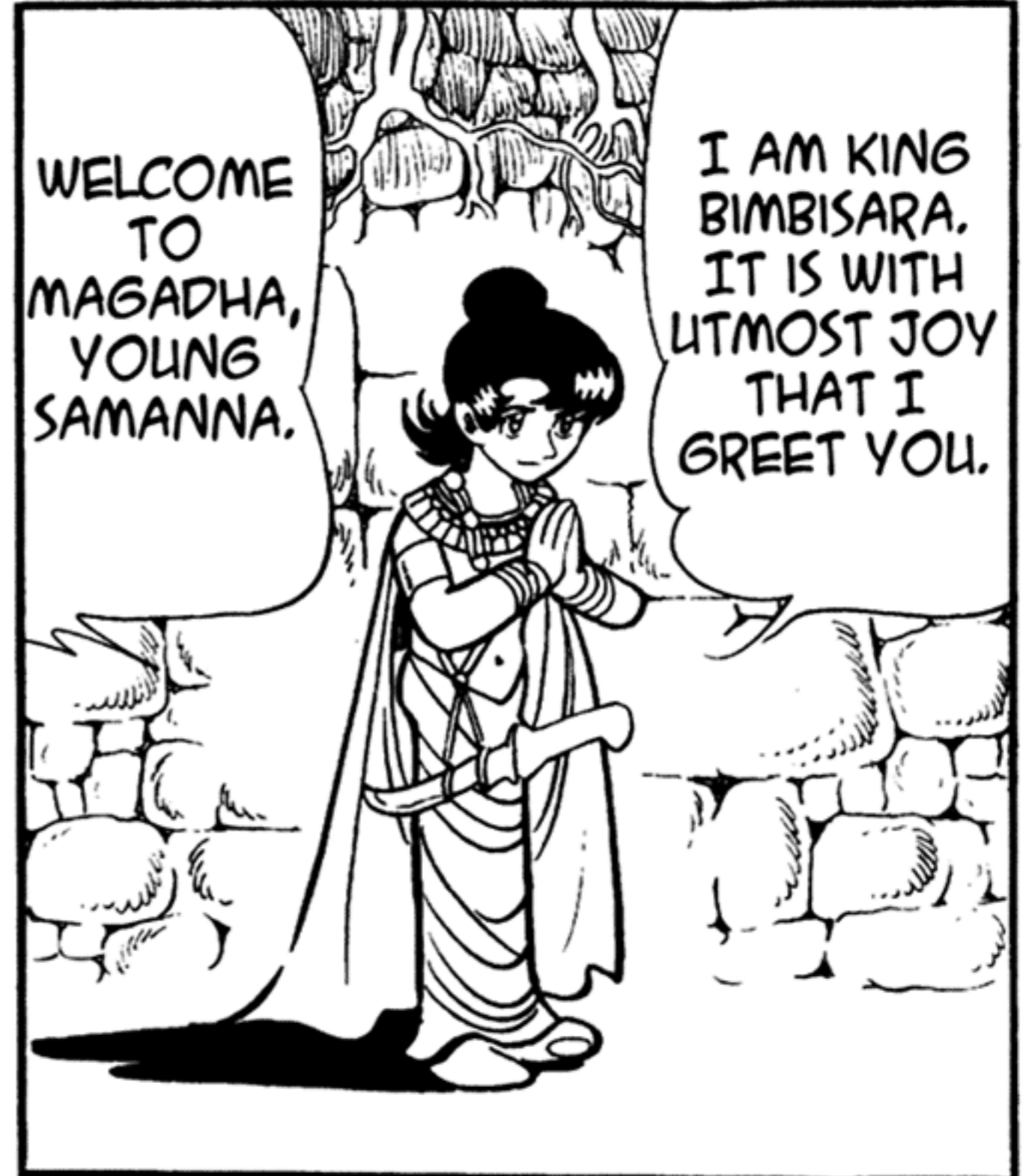
THIS WAY,
PLEASE.





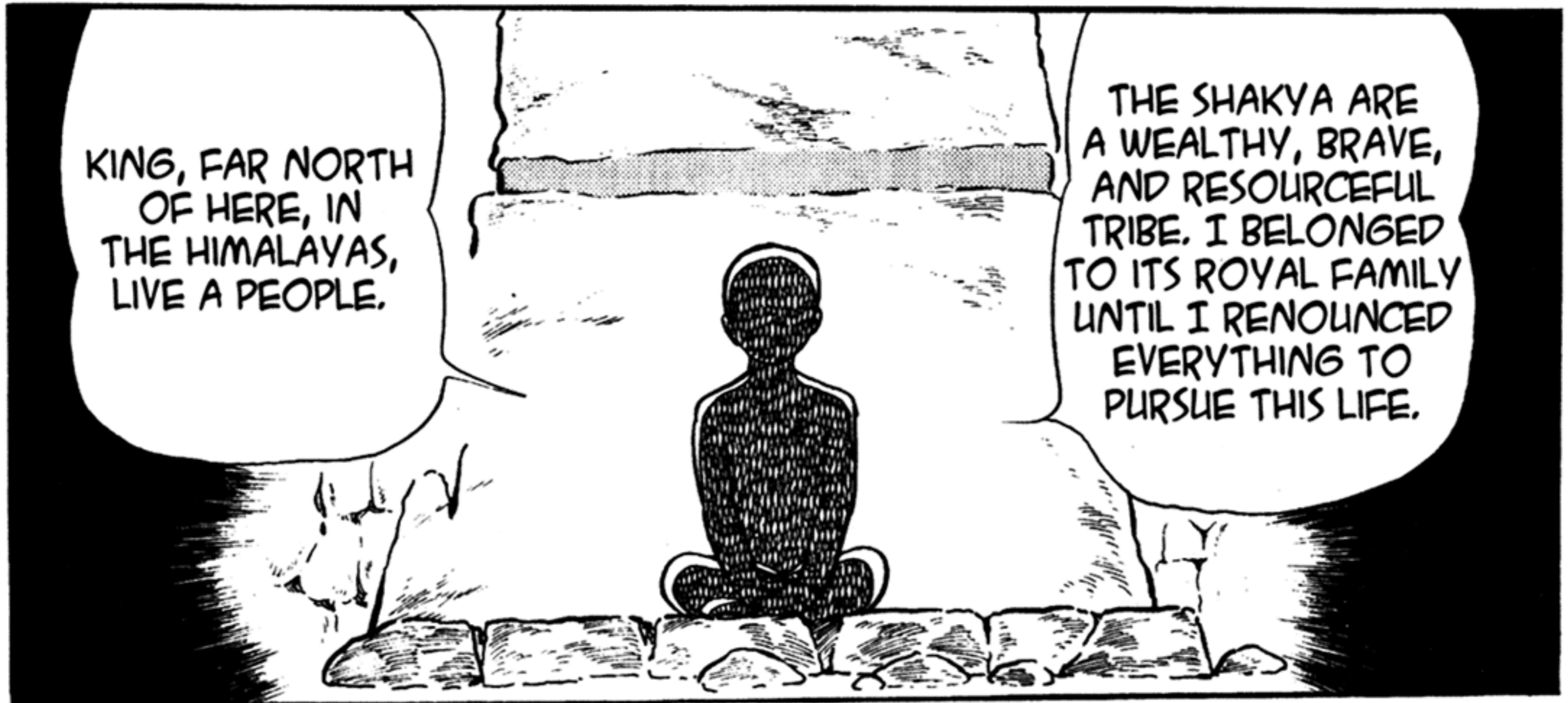
I WAS RIGHT,
THIS IS NO
ORDINARY
MONK.

I'VE
ALREADY
TAKEN
A GREAT
LIKING
TO HIM.



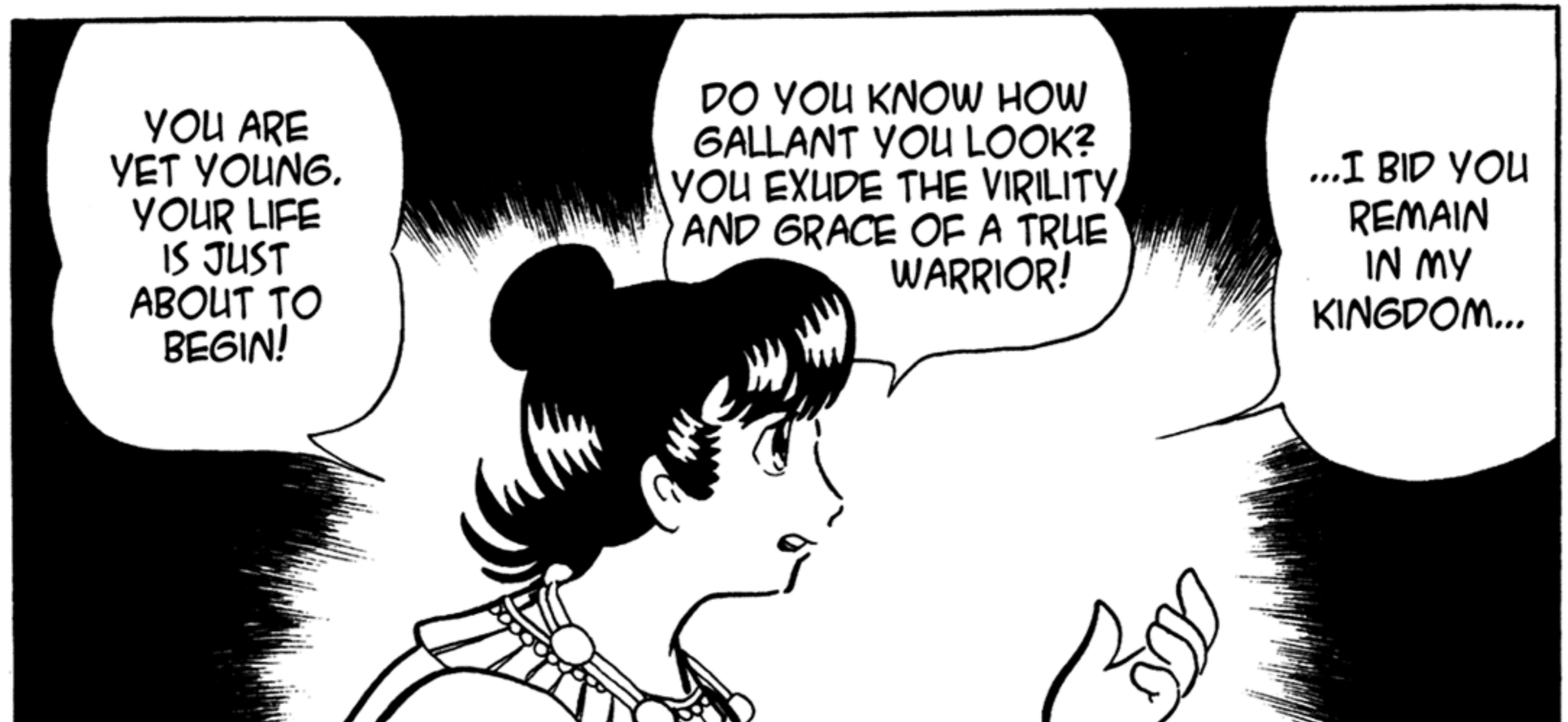
WELCOME
TO
MAGADHA,
YOUNG
SAMANNA.

I AM KING
BIMBISARA.
IT IS WITH
UTMOST JOY
THAT I
GREET YOU.



KING, FAR NORTH
OF HERE, IN
THE HIMALAYAS,
LIVE A PEOPLE.

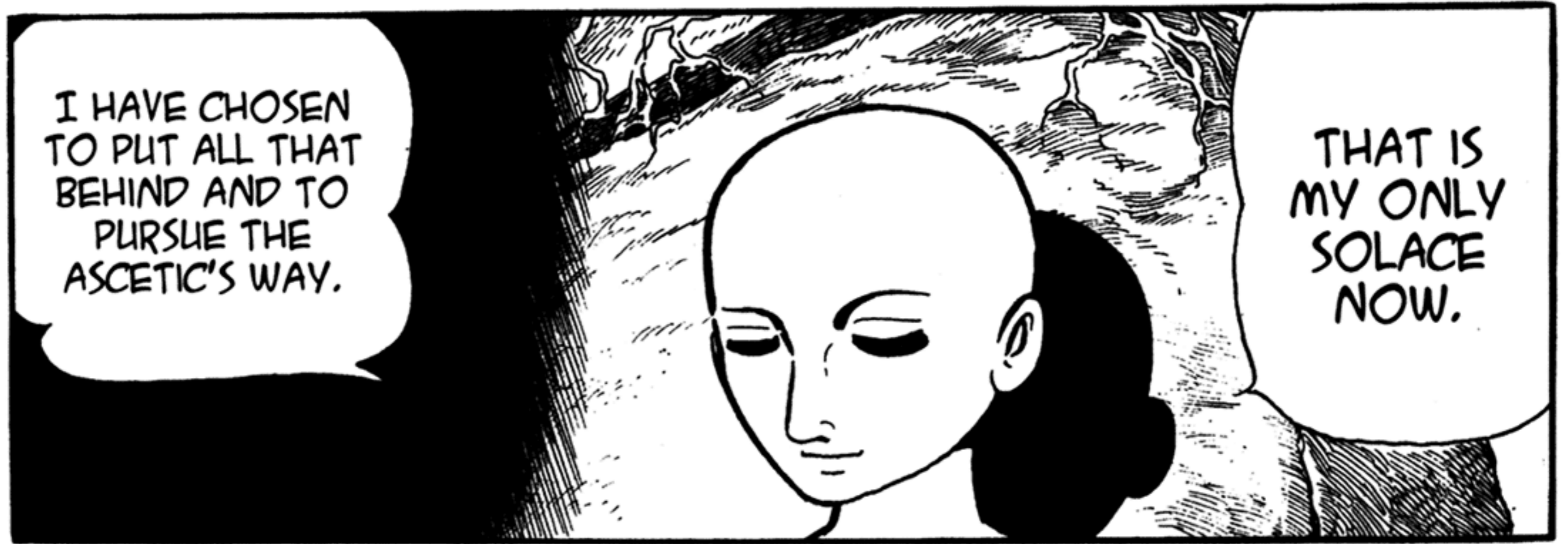
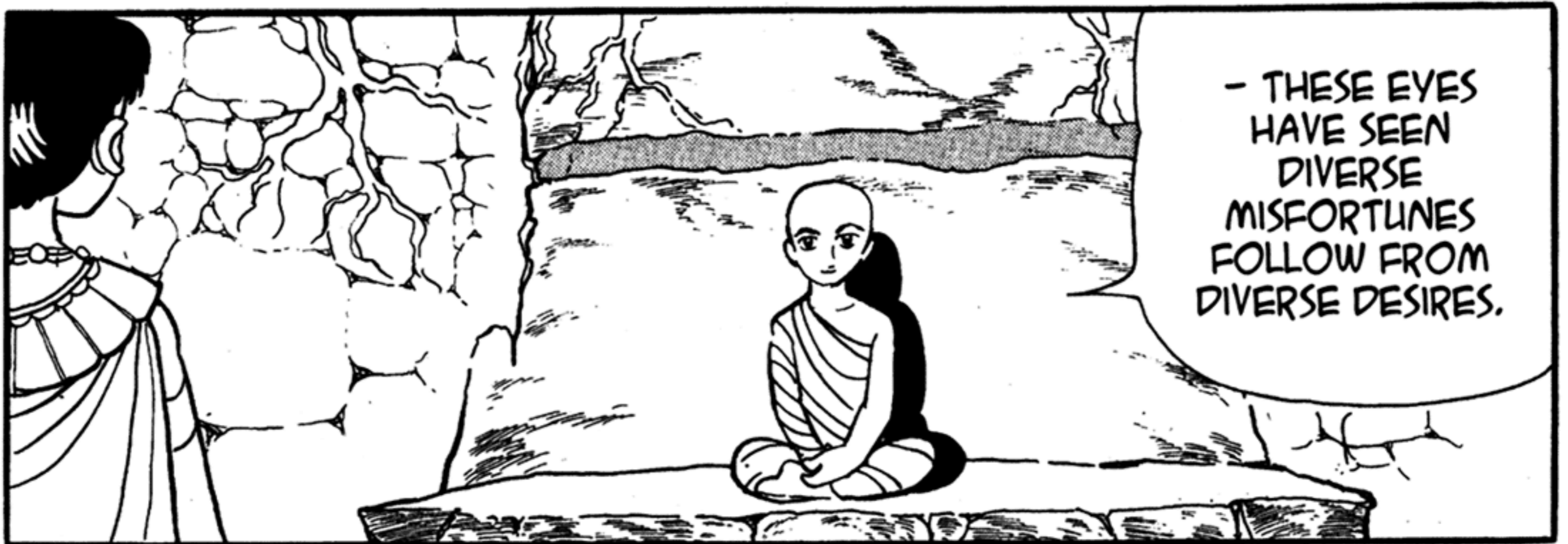
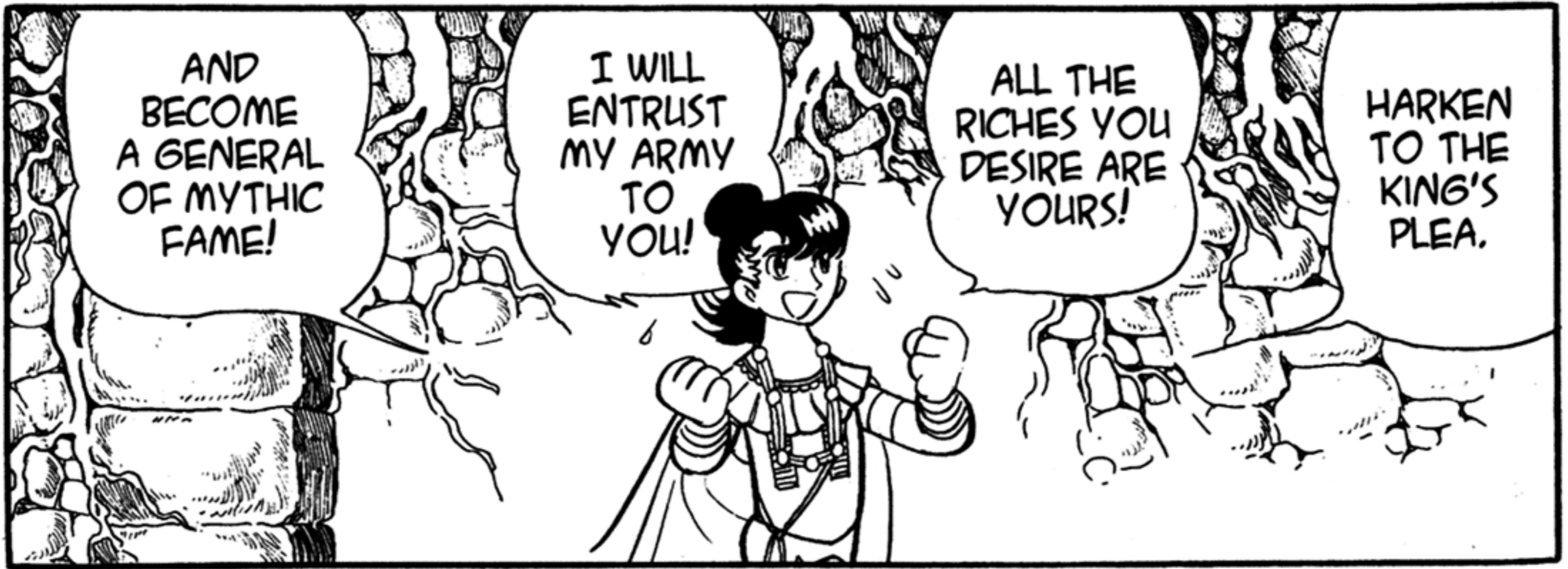
THE SHAKYA ARE
A WEALTHY, BRAVE,
AND RESOURCEFUL
TRIBE. I BELONGED
TO ITS ROYAL FAMILY
UNTIL I RENOUNCED
EVERYTHING TO
PURSUE THIS LIFE.

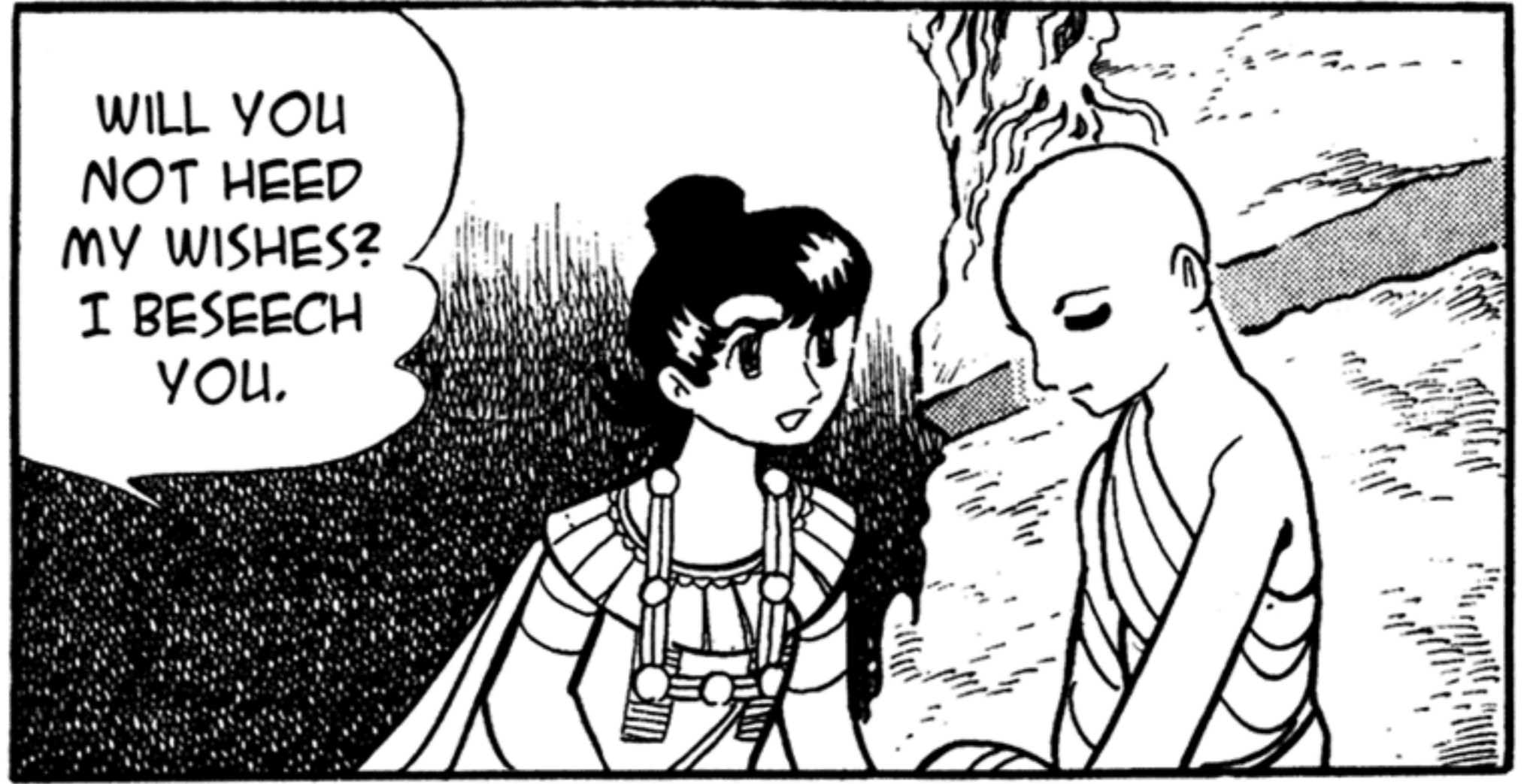


YOU ARE
YET YOUNG.
YOUR LIFE
IS JUST
ABOUT TO
BEGIN!

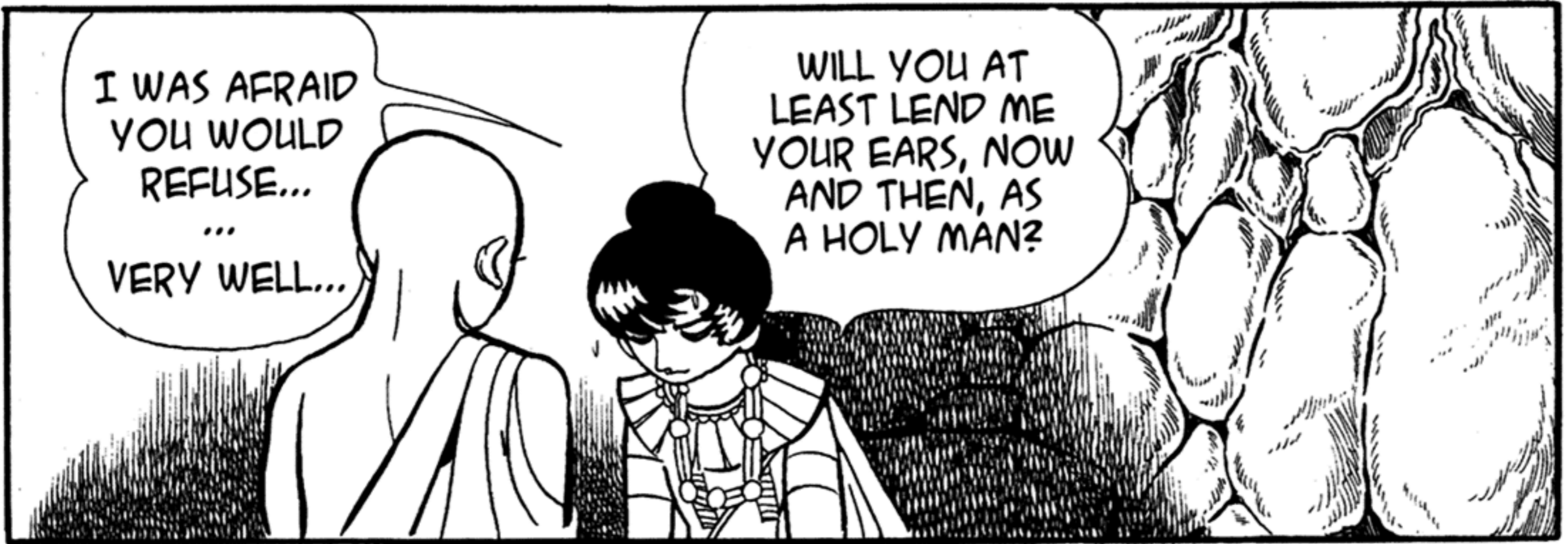
DO YOU KNOW HOW
GALLANT YOU LOOK?
YOU EXUDE THE VIRILITY
AND GRACE OF A TRUE
WARRIOR!

...I BID YOU
REMAIN
IN MY
KINGDOM...



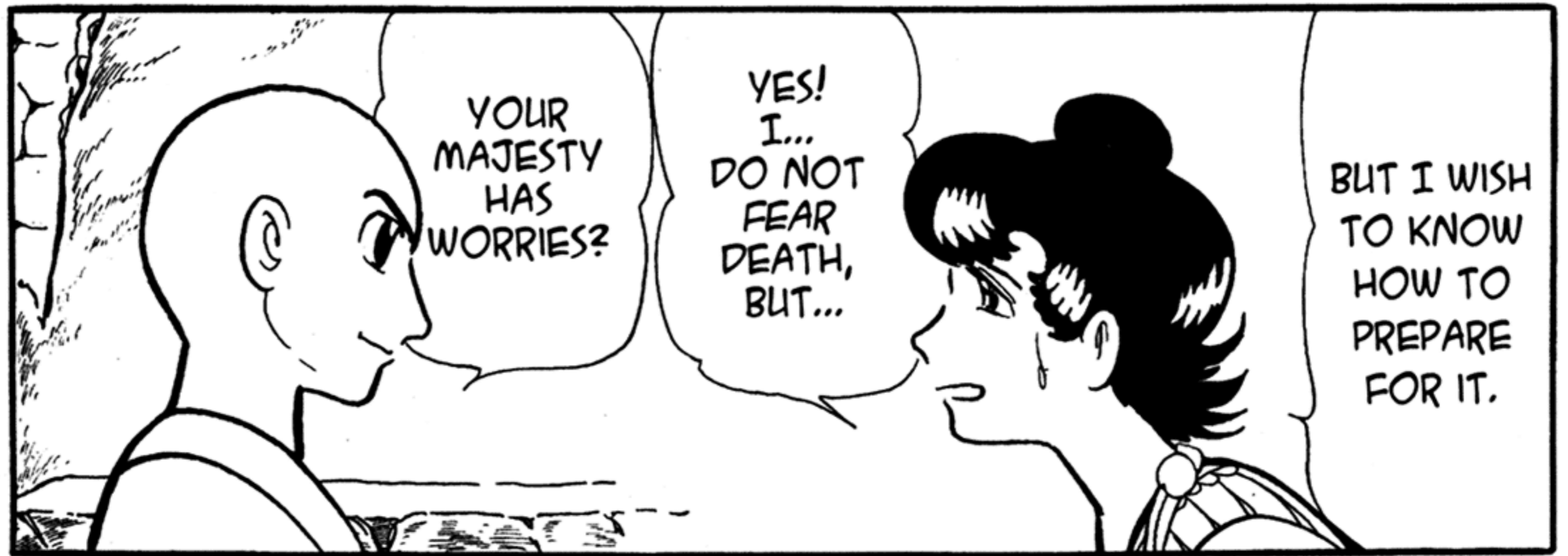


WILL YOU NOT HEED MY WISHES? I BESEECH YOU.



I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULD REFUSE...
...
VERY WELL...

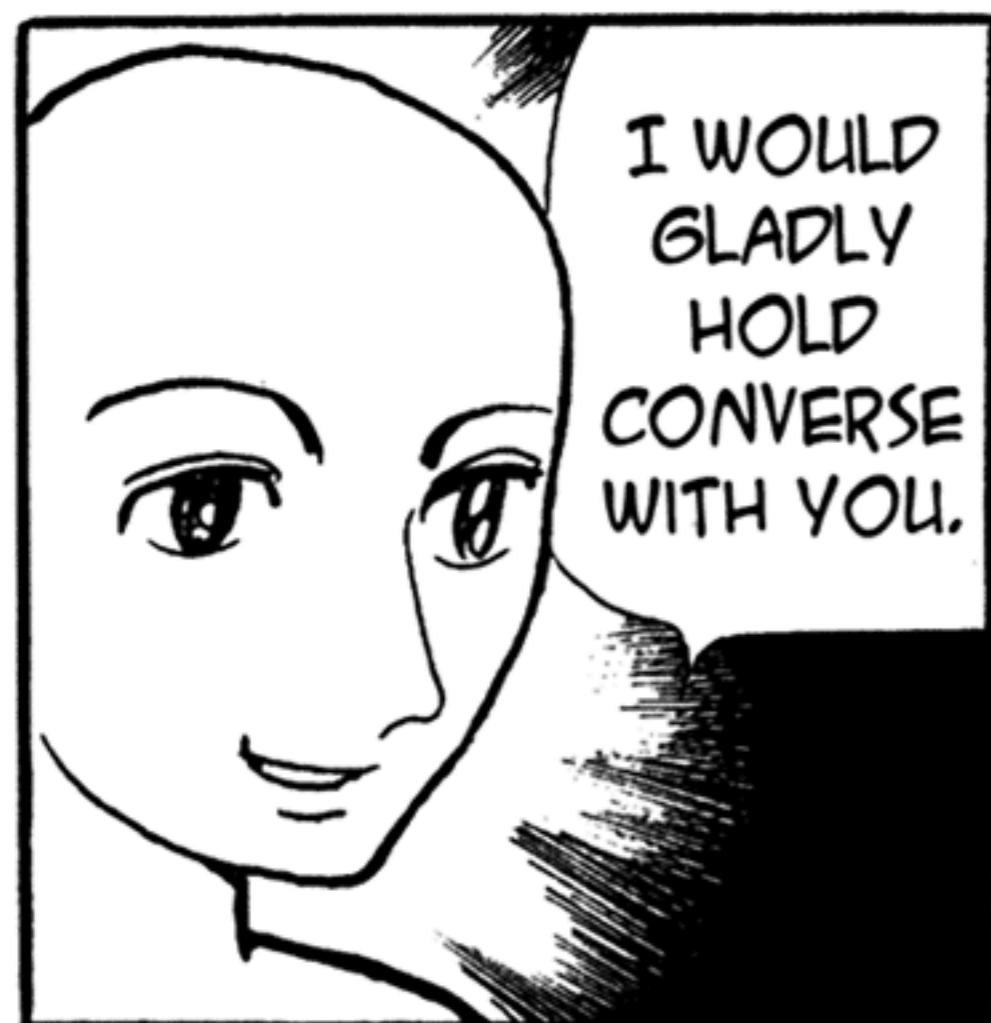
WILL YOU AT LEAST LEND ME YOUR EARS, NOW AND THEN, AS A HOLY MAN?



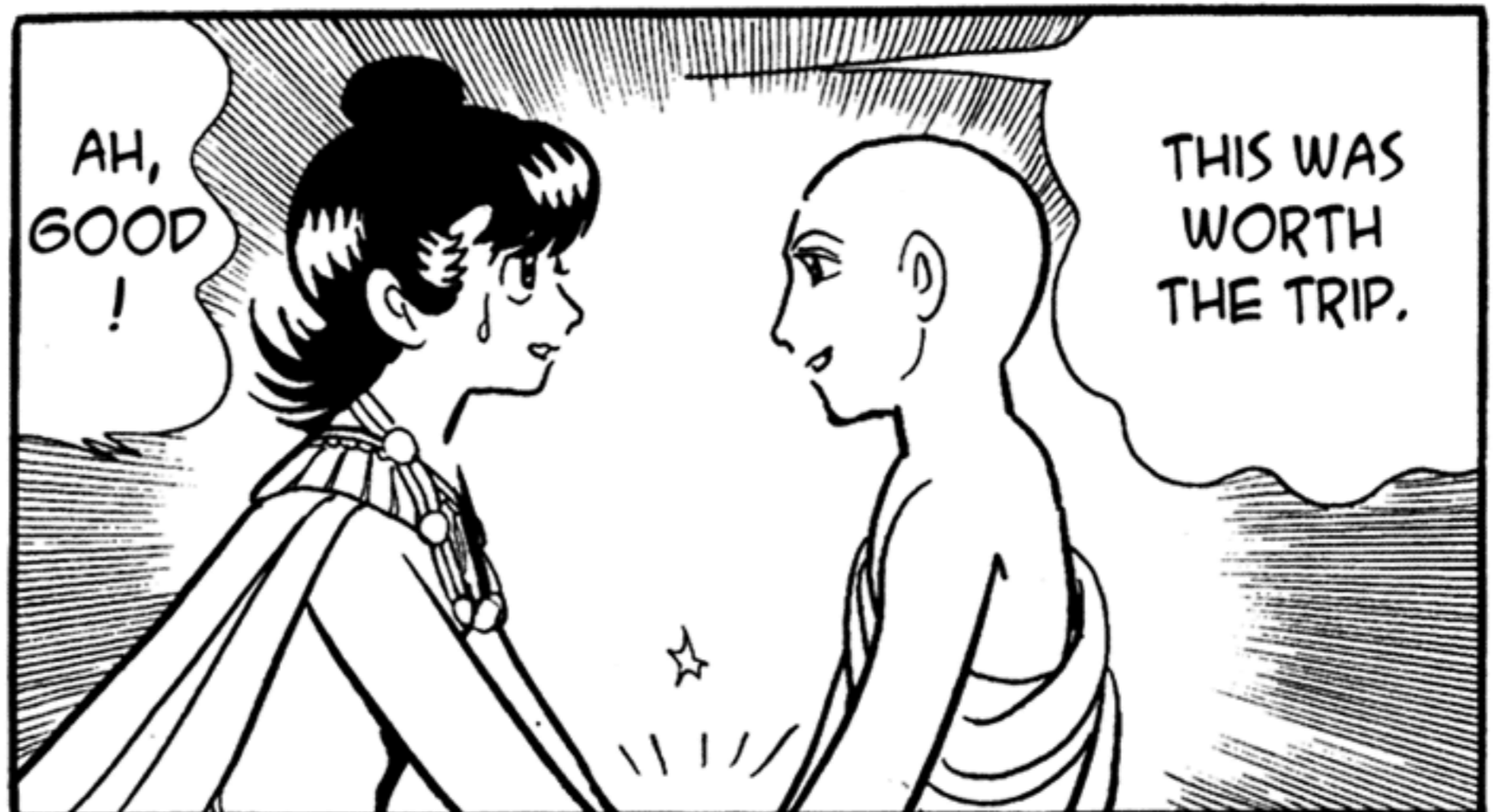
YOUR MAJESTY HAS WORRIES?

YES!
I... DO NOT FEAR DEATH, BUT...

BUT I WISH TO KNOW HOW TO PREPARE FOR IT.



I WOULD GLADLY HOLD CONVERSE WITH YOU.



AH, GOOD!

THIS WAS WORTH THE TRIP.

