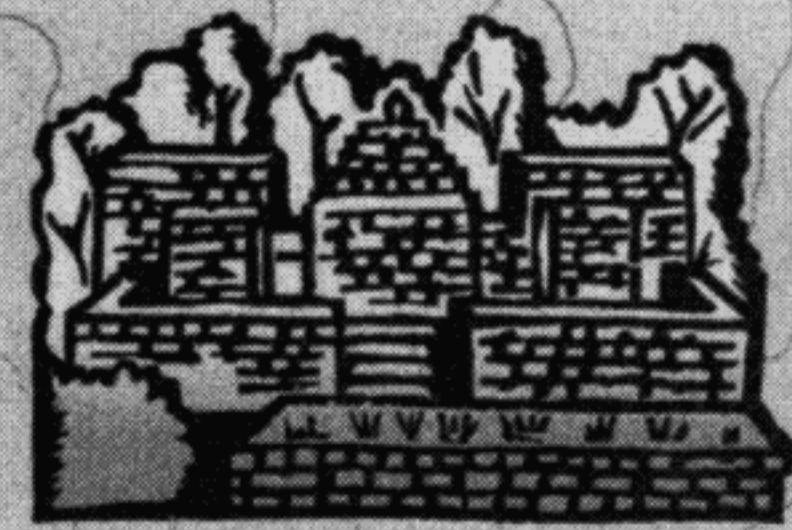
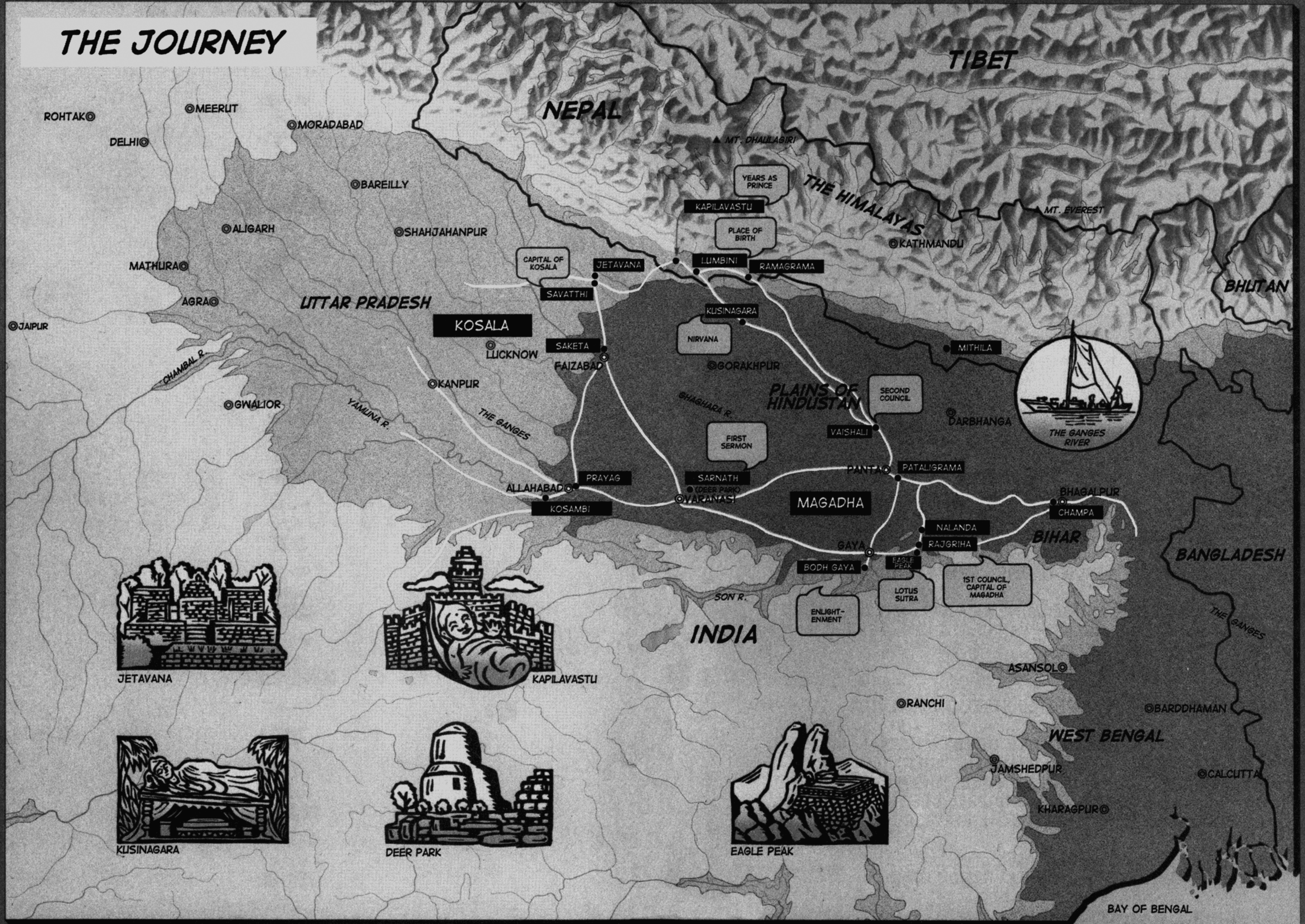


OSAMU TEZUKA

4: *The Forest of Uruvela*



THE JOURNEY



JETAVANA



KAPILAVASTU



KUSINAGARA



DEER PARK



EAGLE PEAK



PART THREE (CONTINUED)

6/ IN THE FOREST OF TRIALS

7

7/ CHASTISED

121

8/ ASSAJI'S END

145

9/ SUJATA

169

10/ THE CRYSTAL PRINCE

217

11/ THE STORY OF YATALA

253

PART THREE (CONTINUED)

CHAPTER SIX

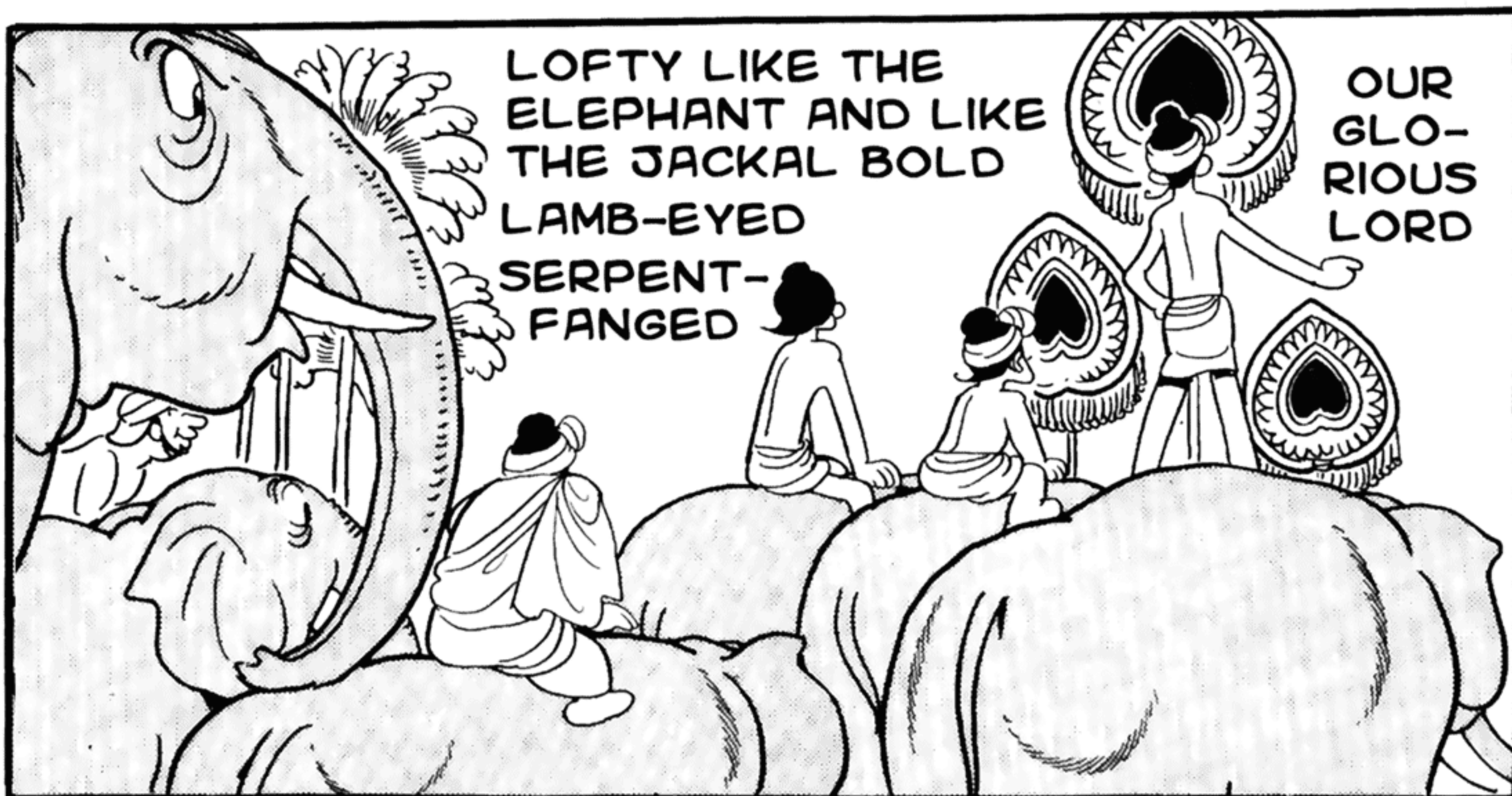
IN THE FOREST OF TRIALS



RIDGES
BLUE
AND
BUBBLING
BROOKS

FERTILE
FIELDS
AND
HAMLETS
FAIR

MIGHTY IS
MAGADHA'S
REALM

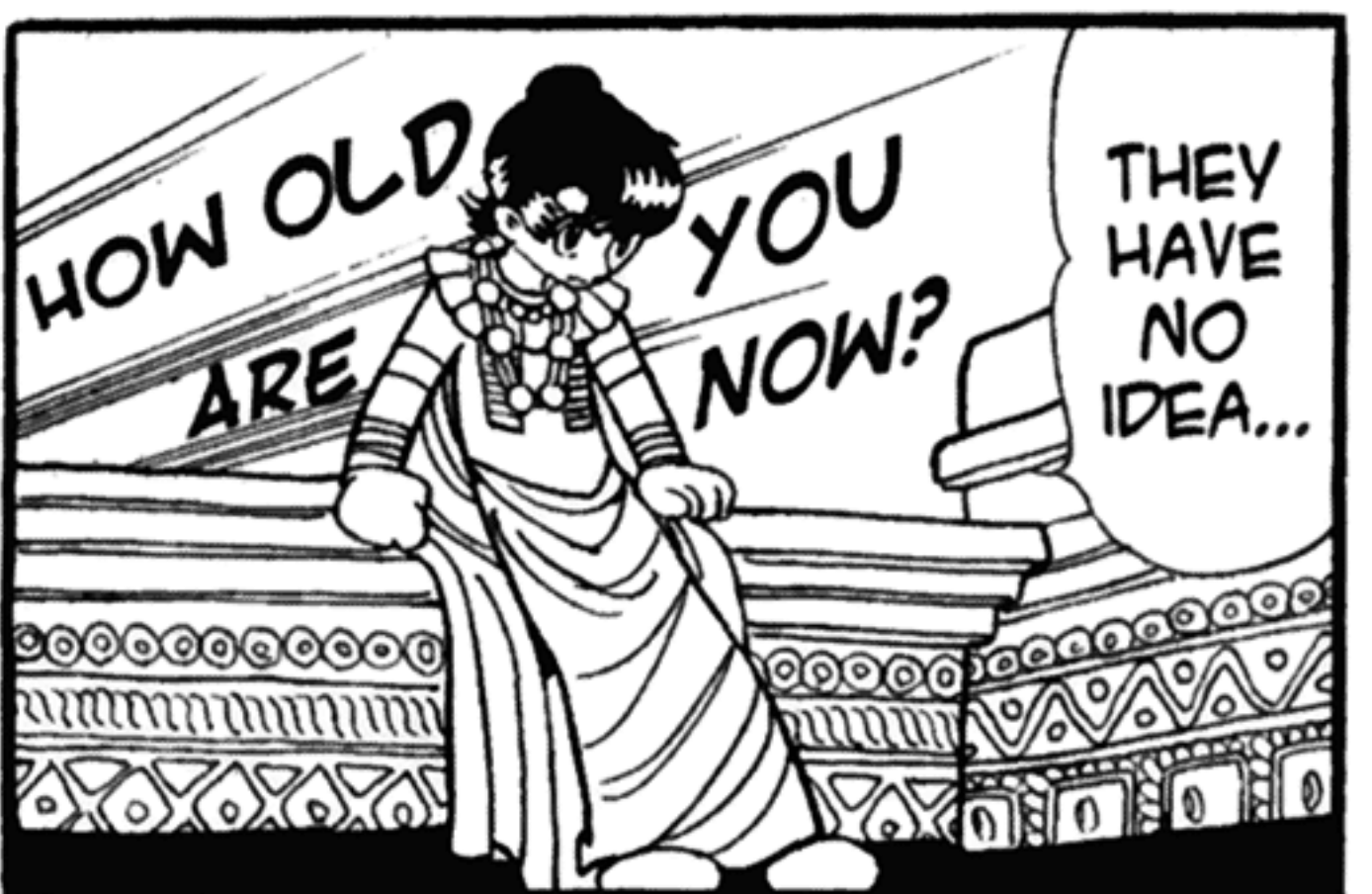


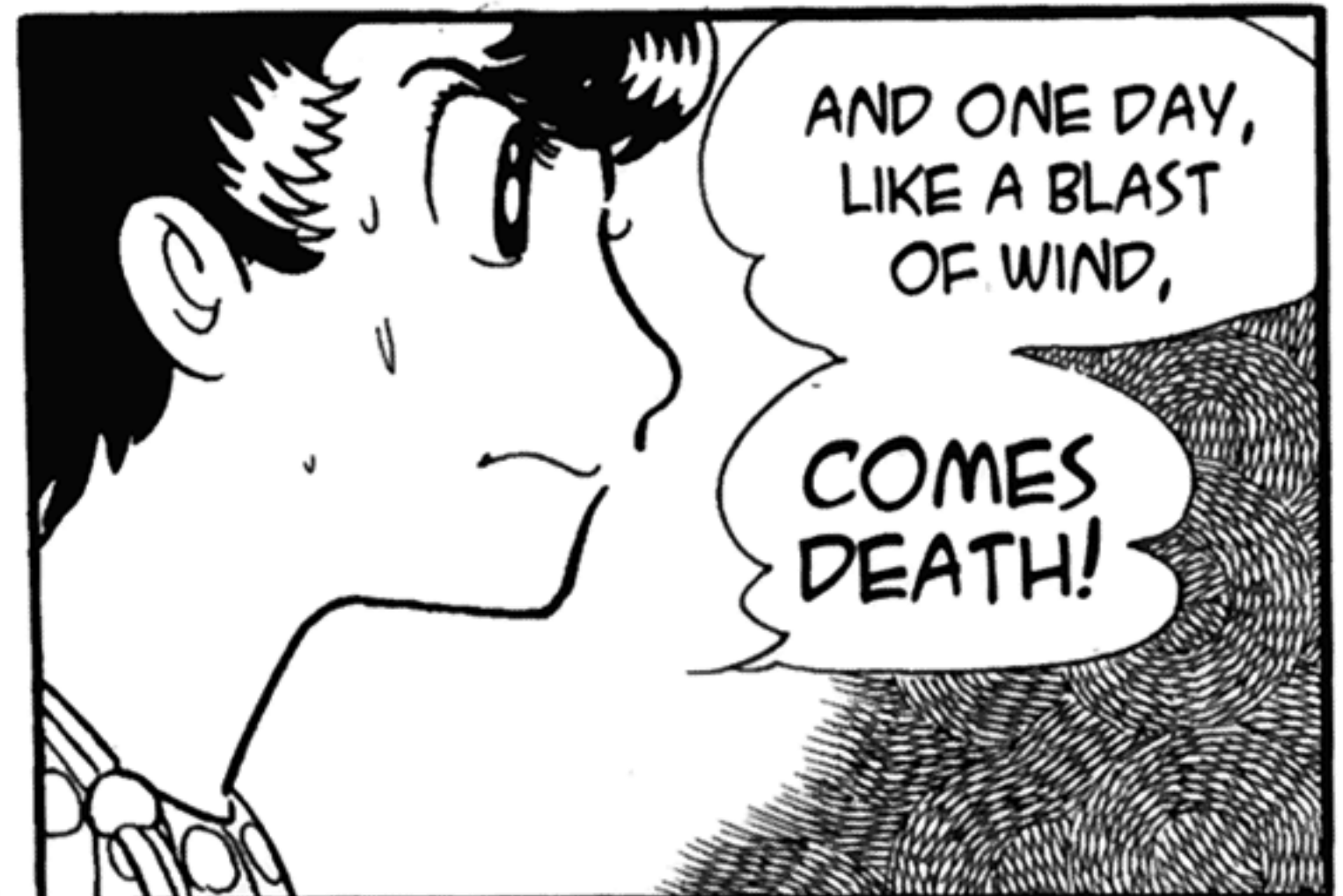
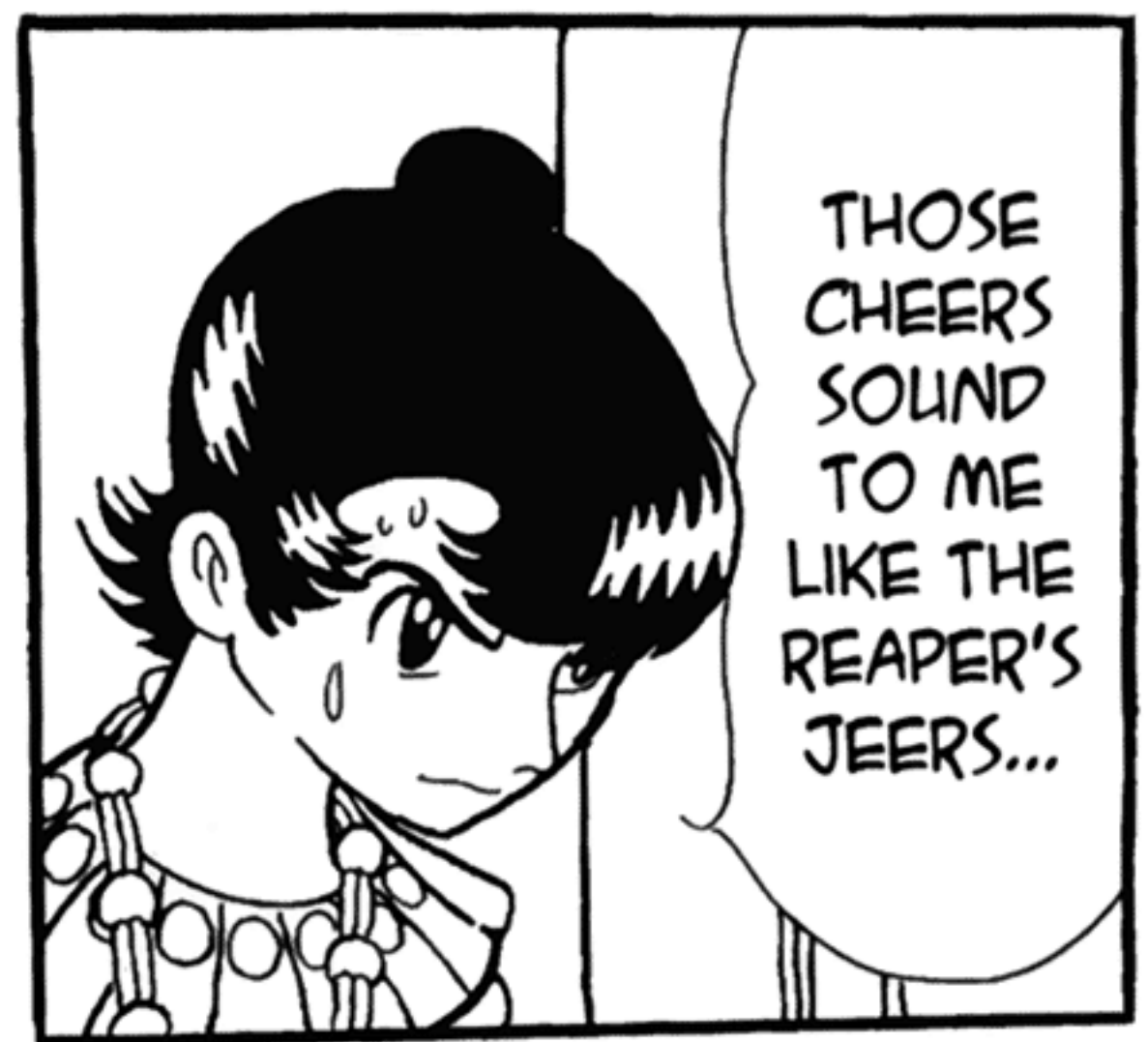
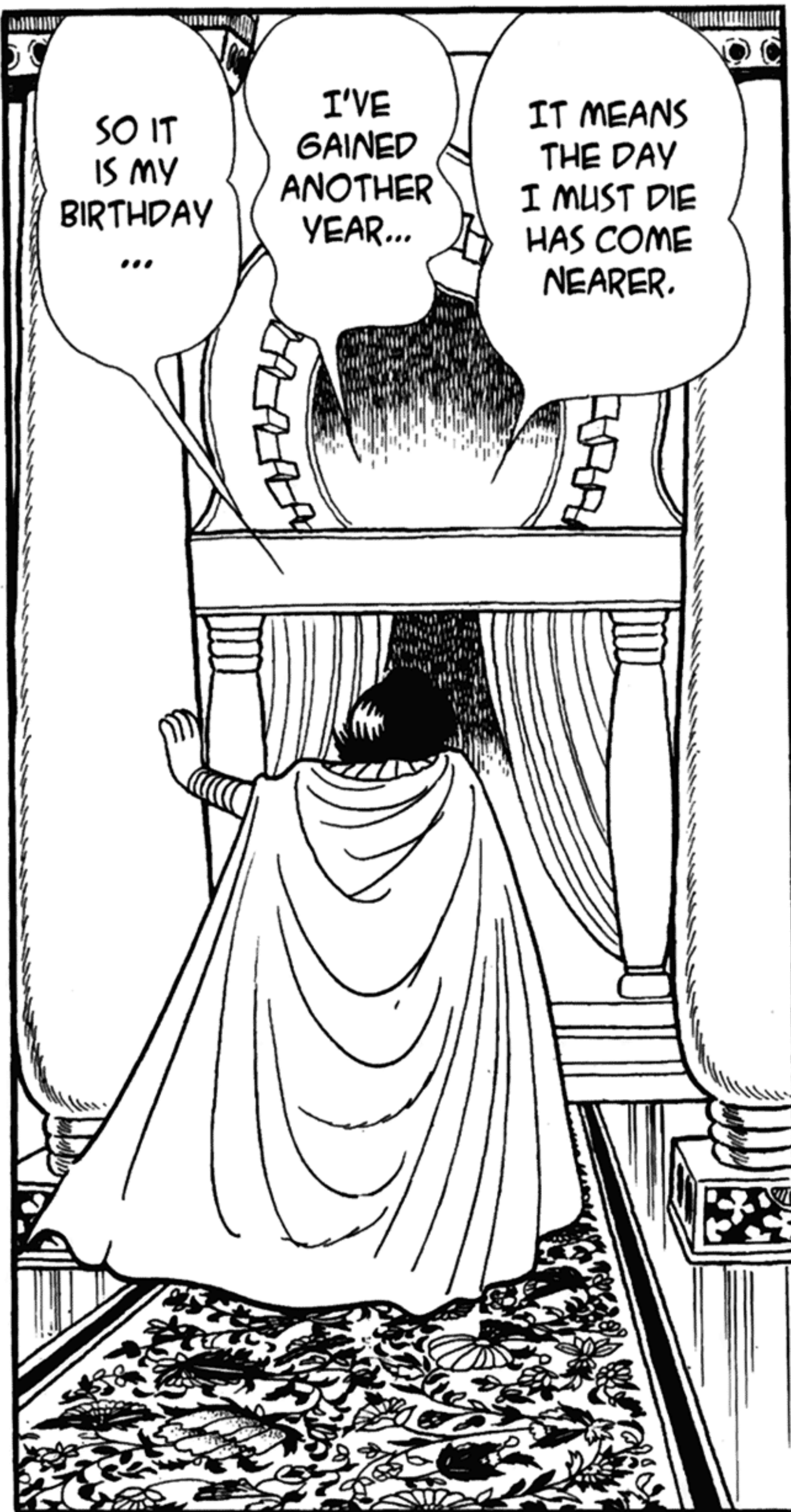
LOFTY LIKE THE
ELEPHANT AND LIKE
THE JACKAL BOLD
LAMB-EYED
SERPENT-
FANGED

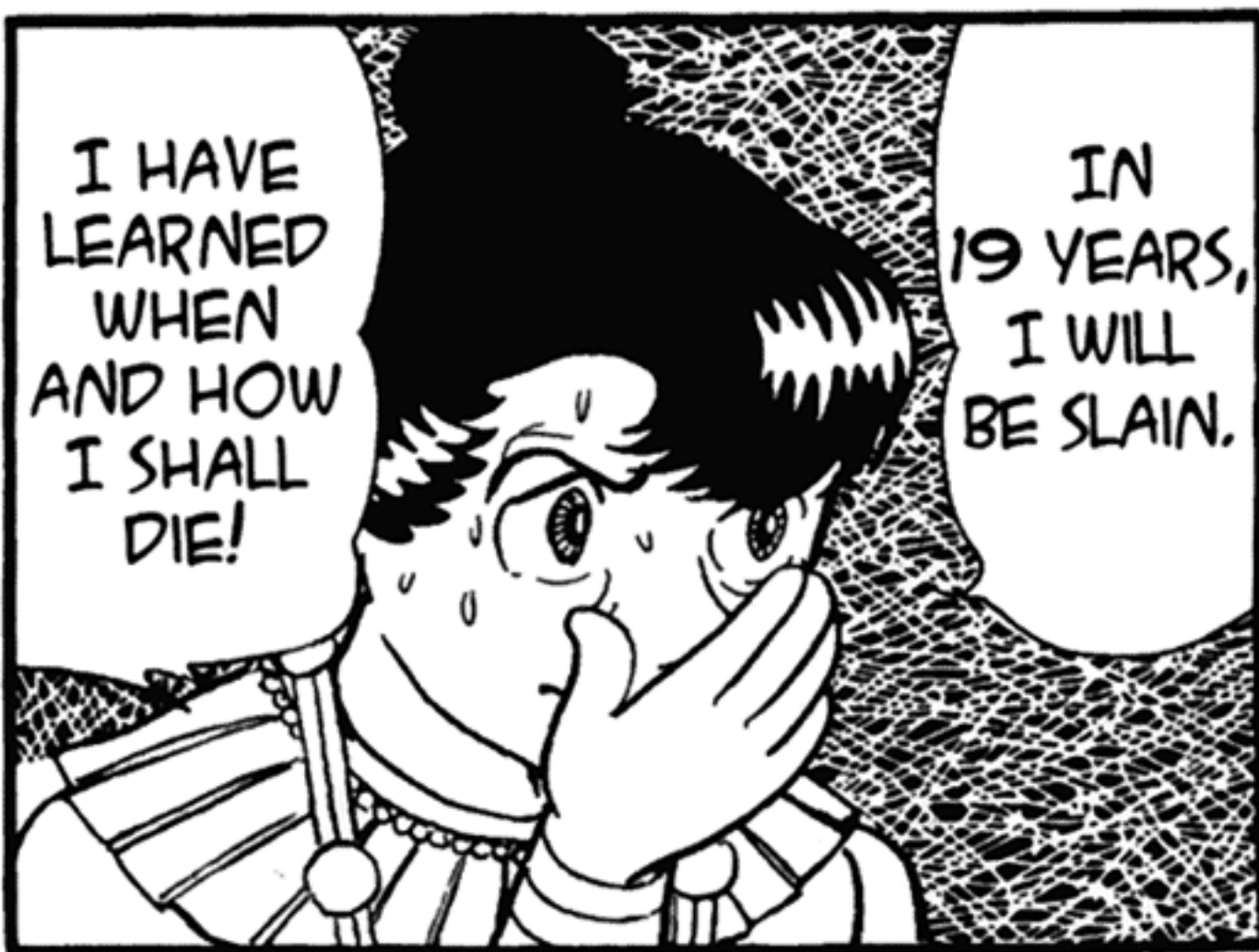
OUR
GLO-
RIOUS
LORD

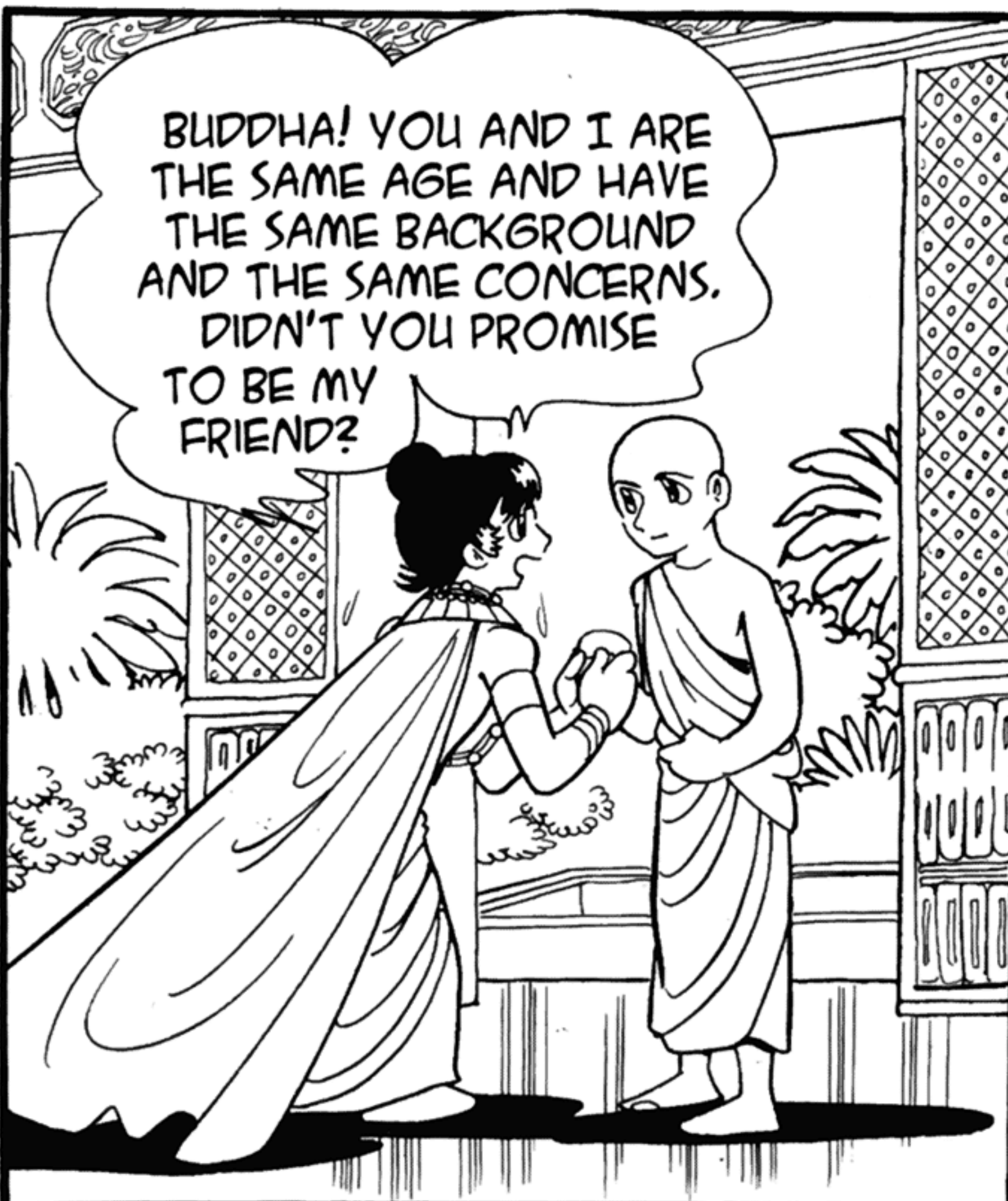
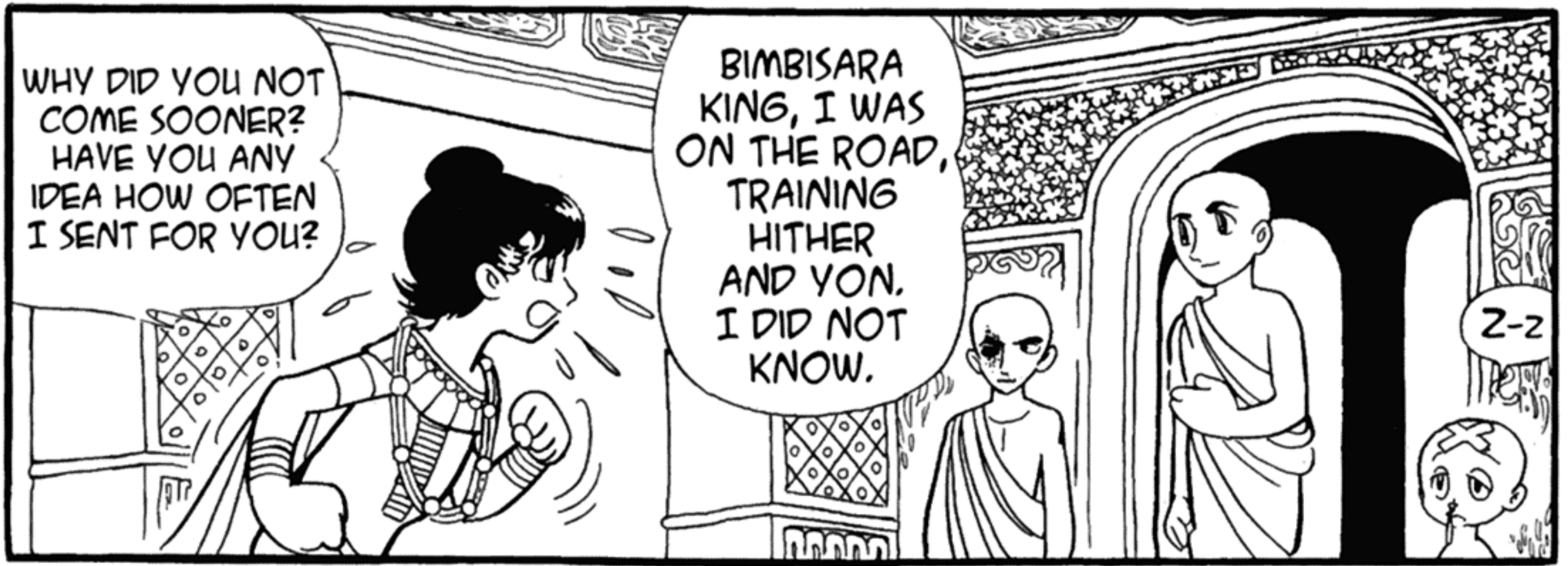


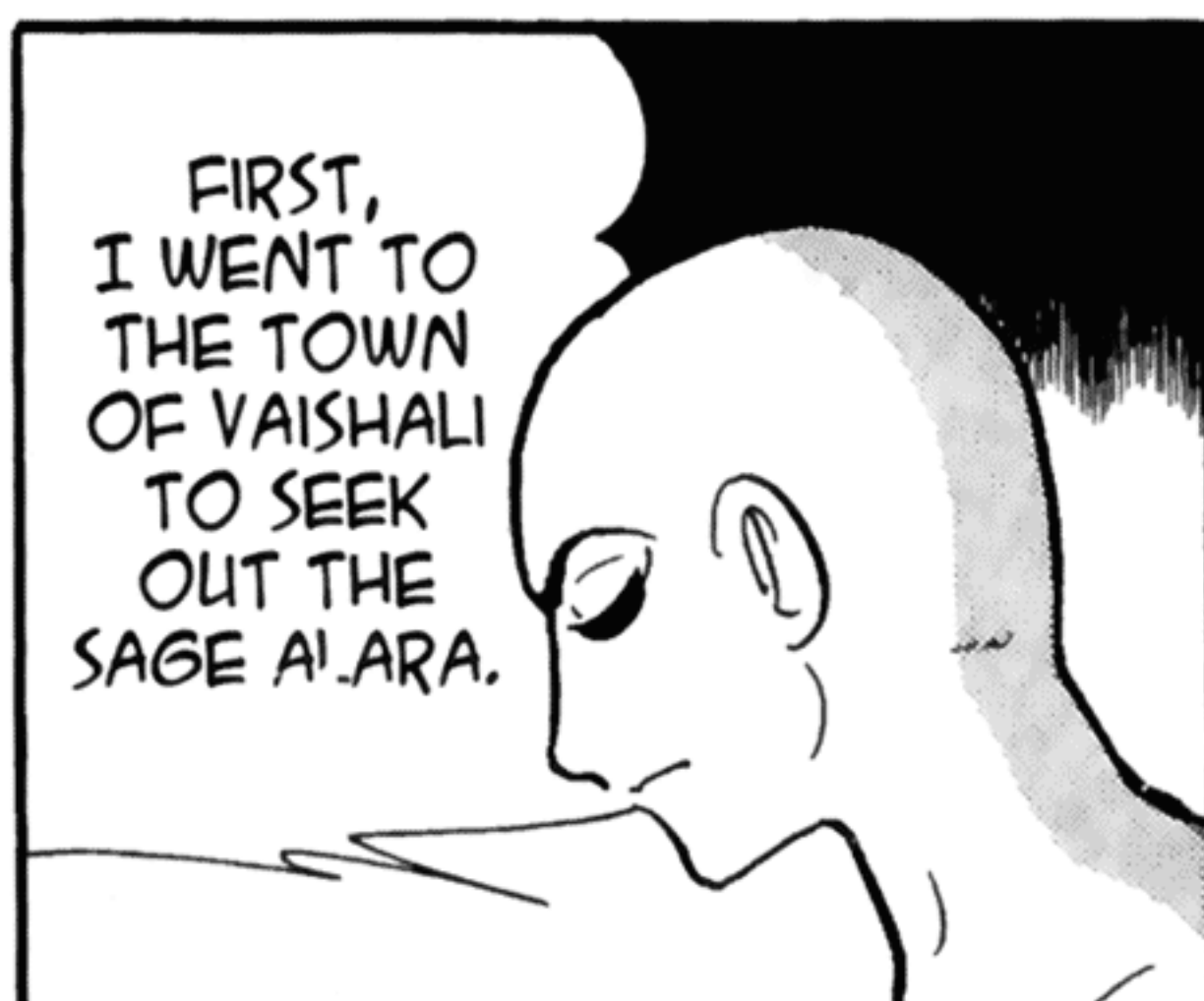
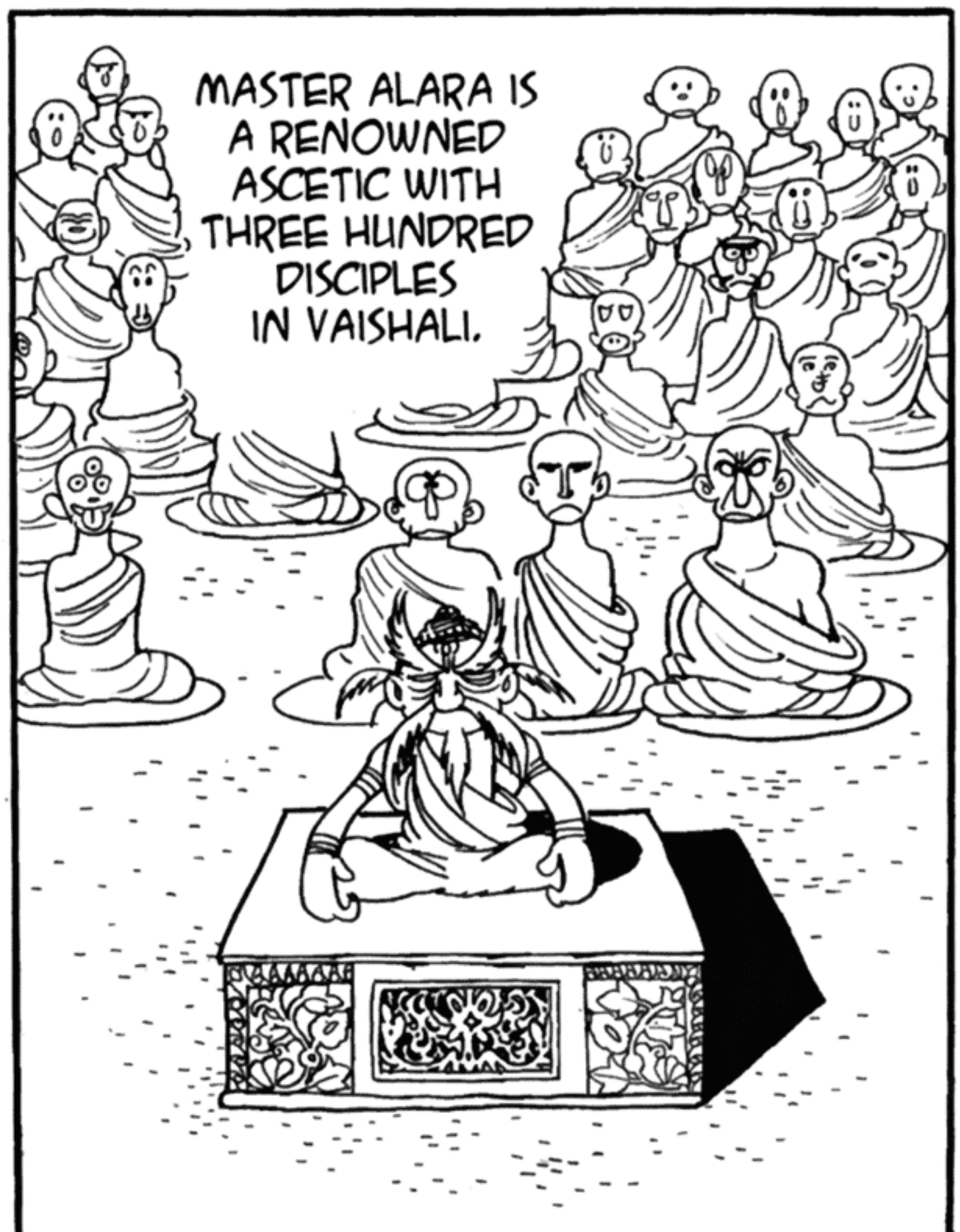
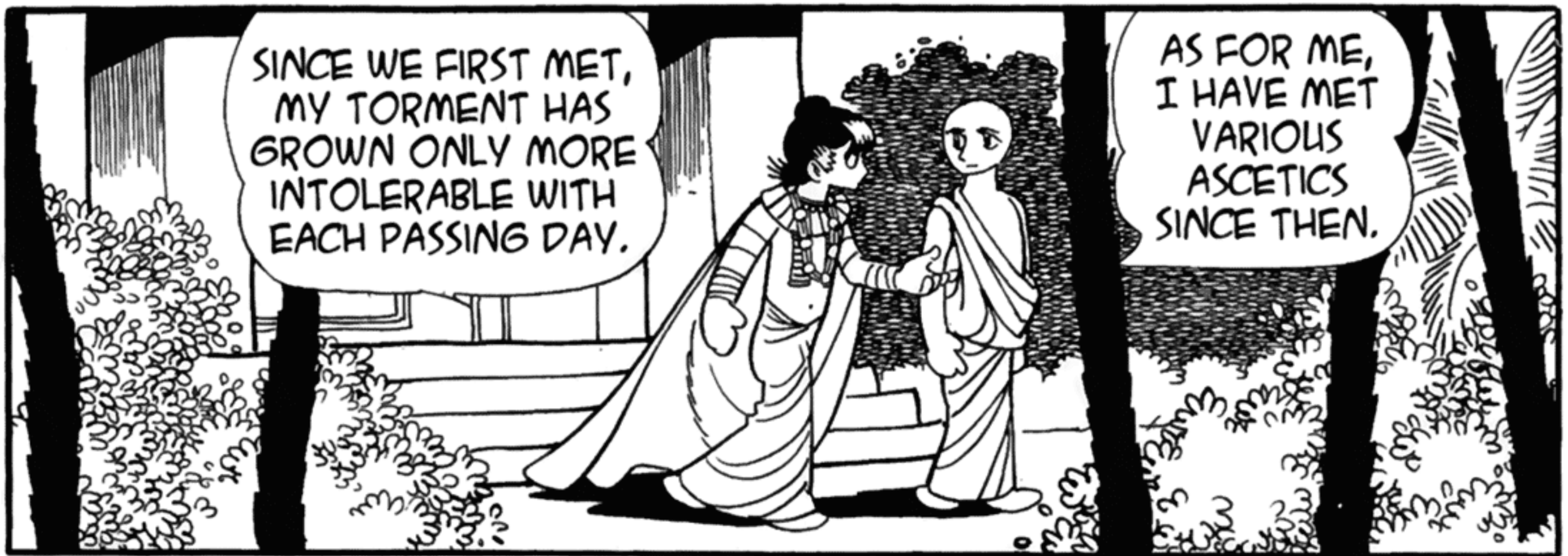
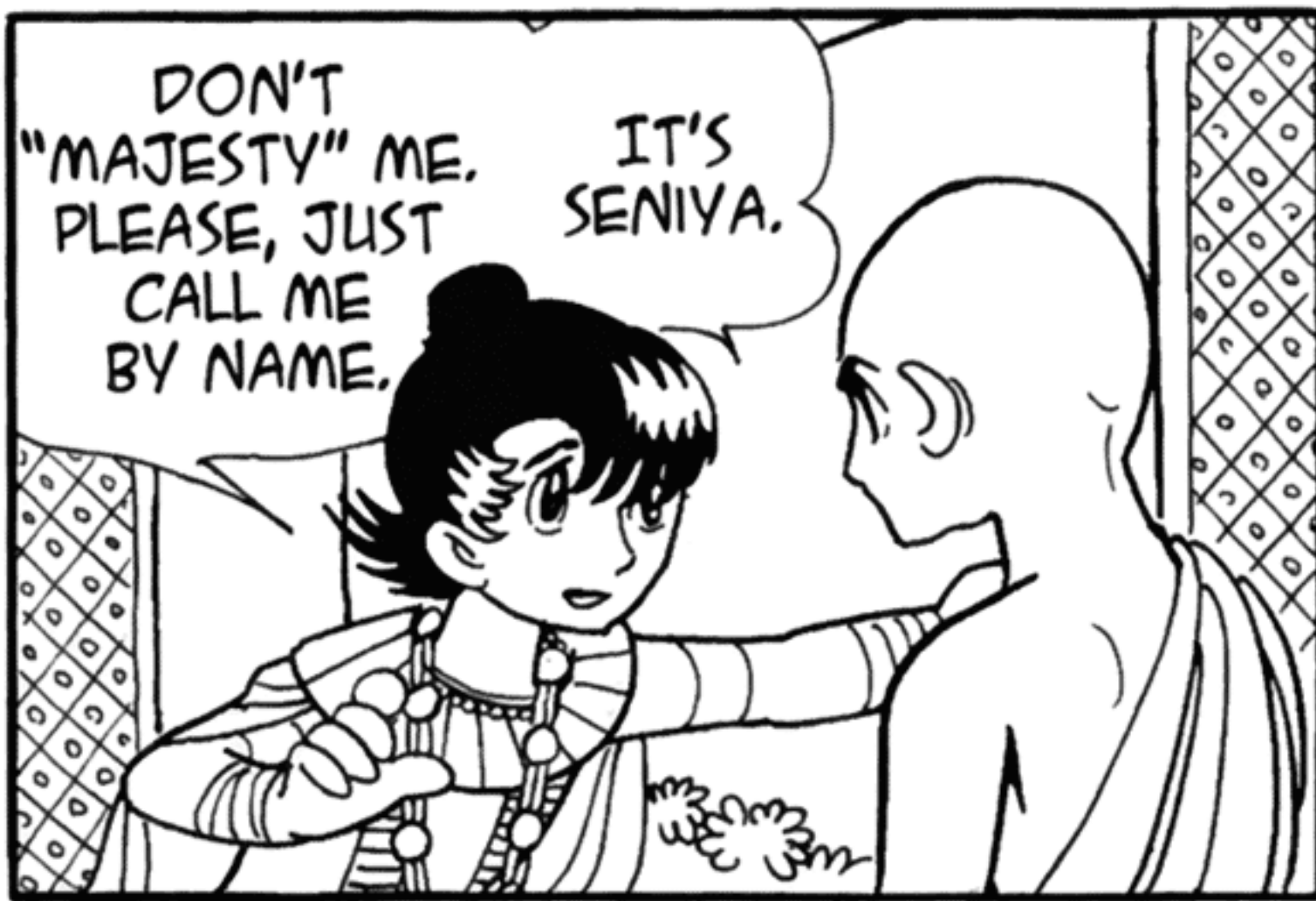
O JOYOUS
DAY THAT
HE WAS
BORN,
O SENIYA
BIMBISARA,
KING

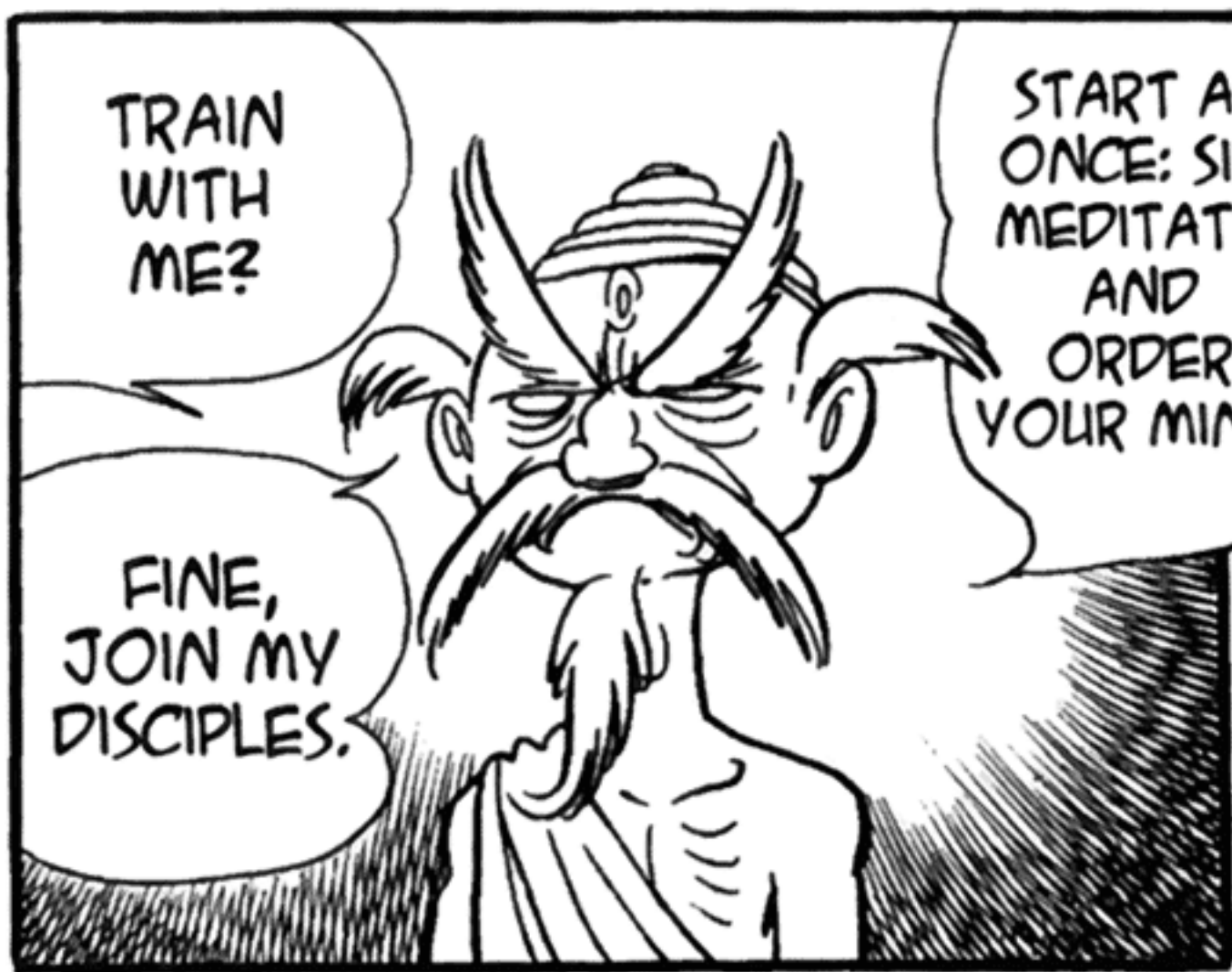












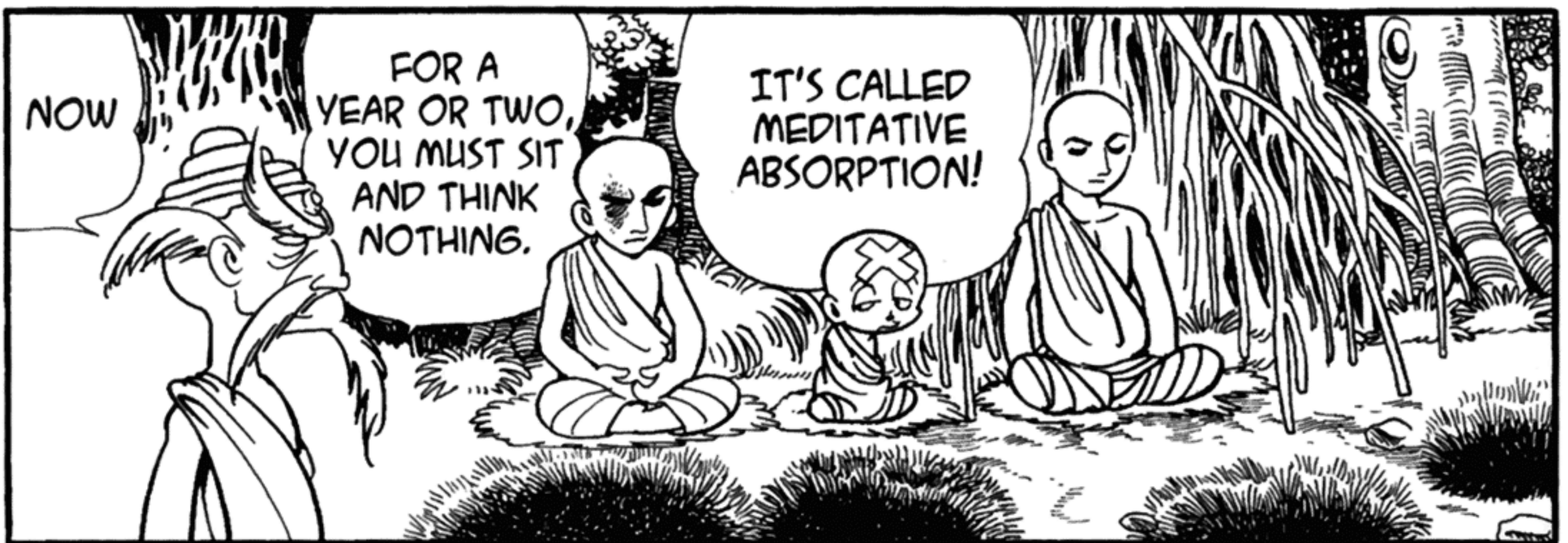
TRAIN WITH ME?

FINE, JOIN MY DISCIPLES.

START AT ONCE: SIT, MEDITATE, AND ORDER YOUR MIND.



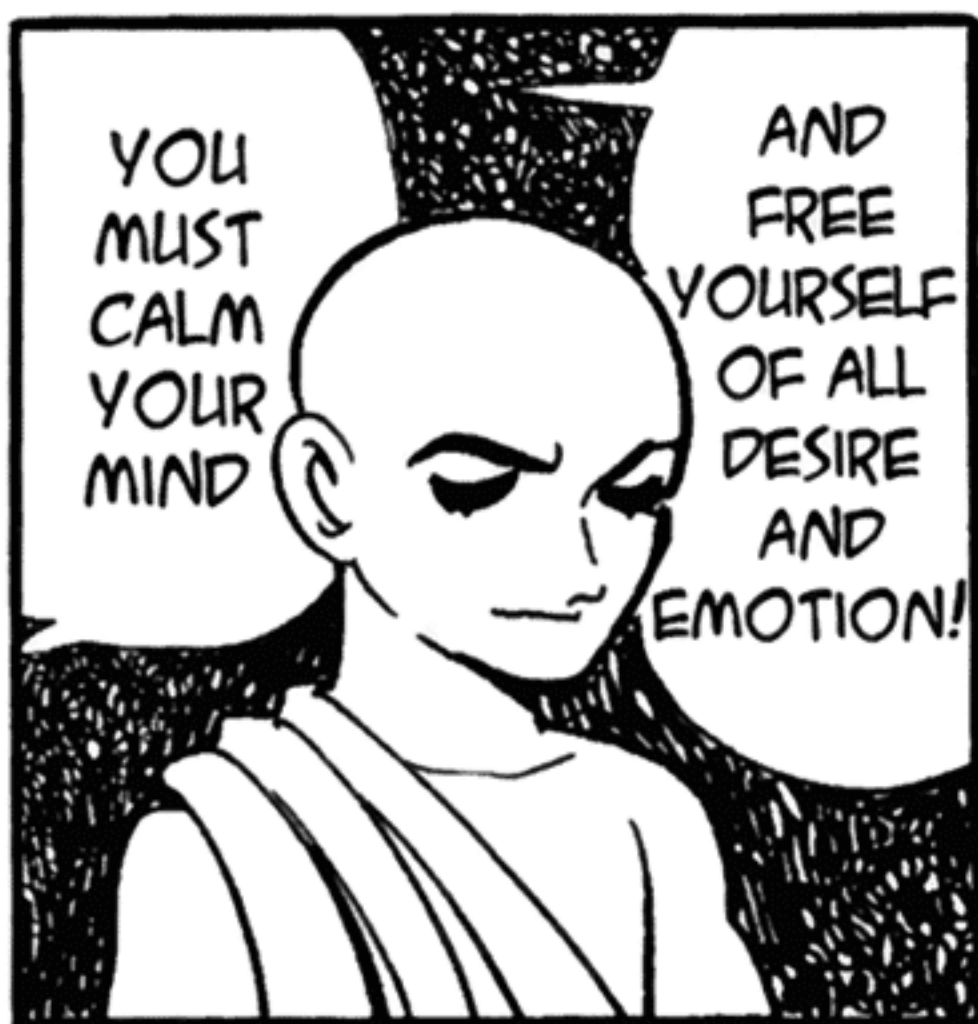
SOMEONE, GIVE THESE GUYS A PLACE TO SIT AND SOME MATS.



NOW

FOR A YEAR OR TWO, YOU MUST SIT AND THINK NOTHING.

IT'S CALLED MEDITATIVE ABSORPTION!

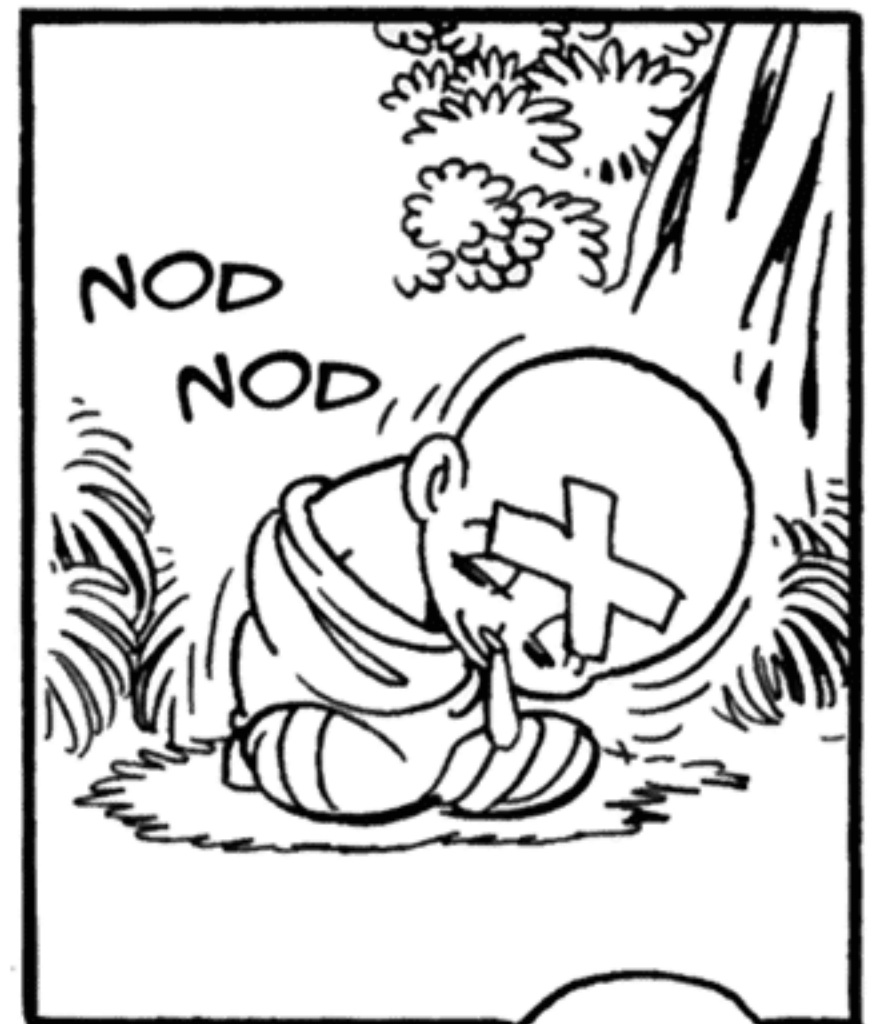


YOU MUST CALM YOUR MIND

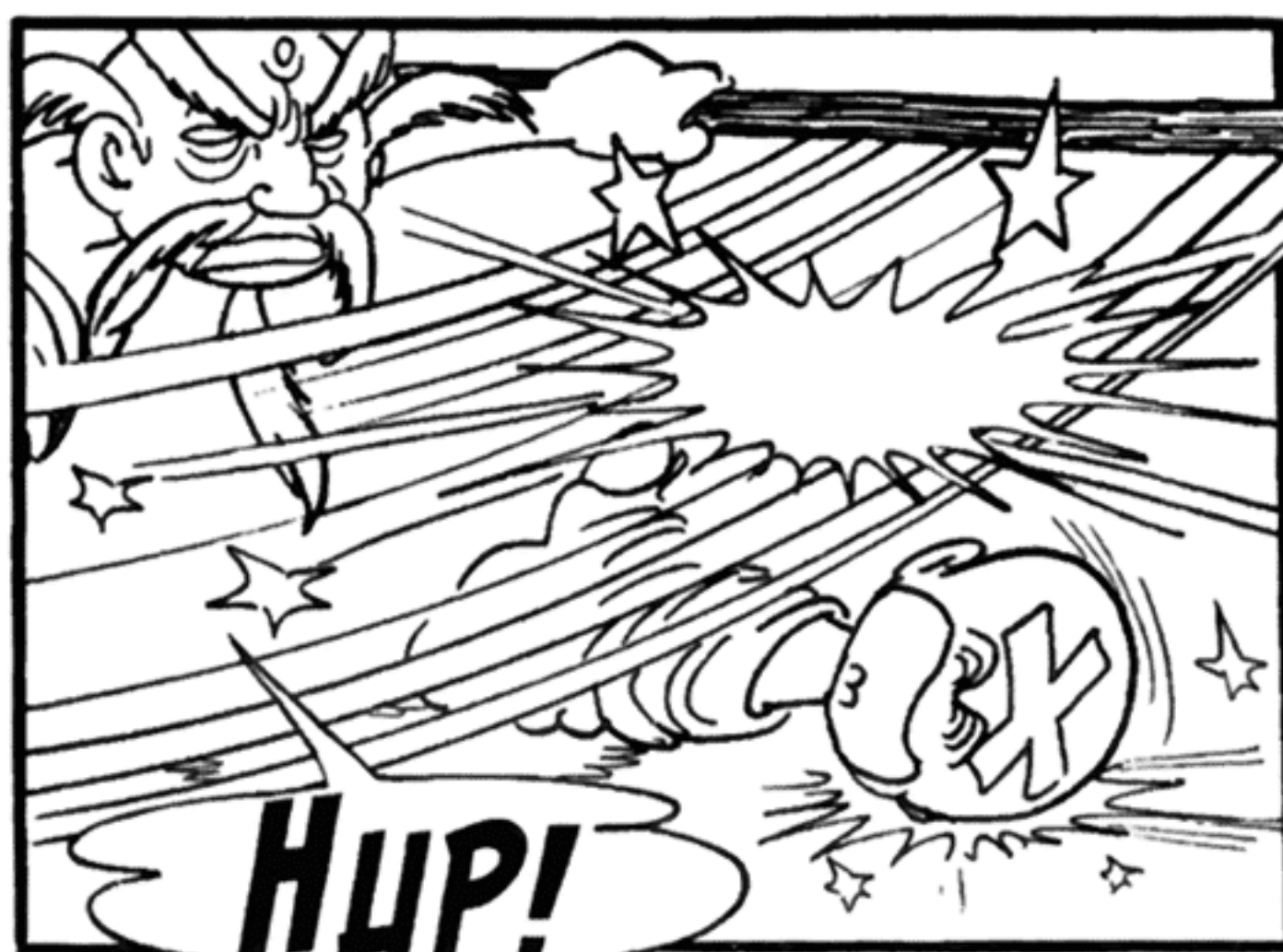
AND FREE YOURSELF OF ALL DESIRE AND EMOTION!



YOU MUST NOT FALL ASLEEP OR DAYDREAM, THAT'S NOT THE SAME THING.



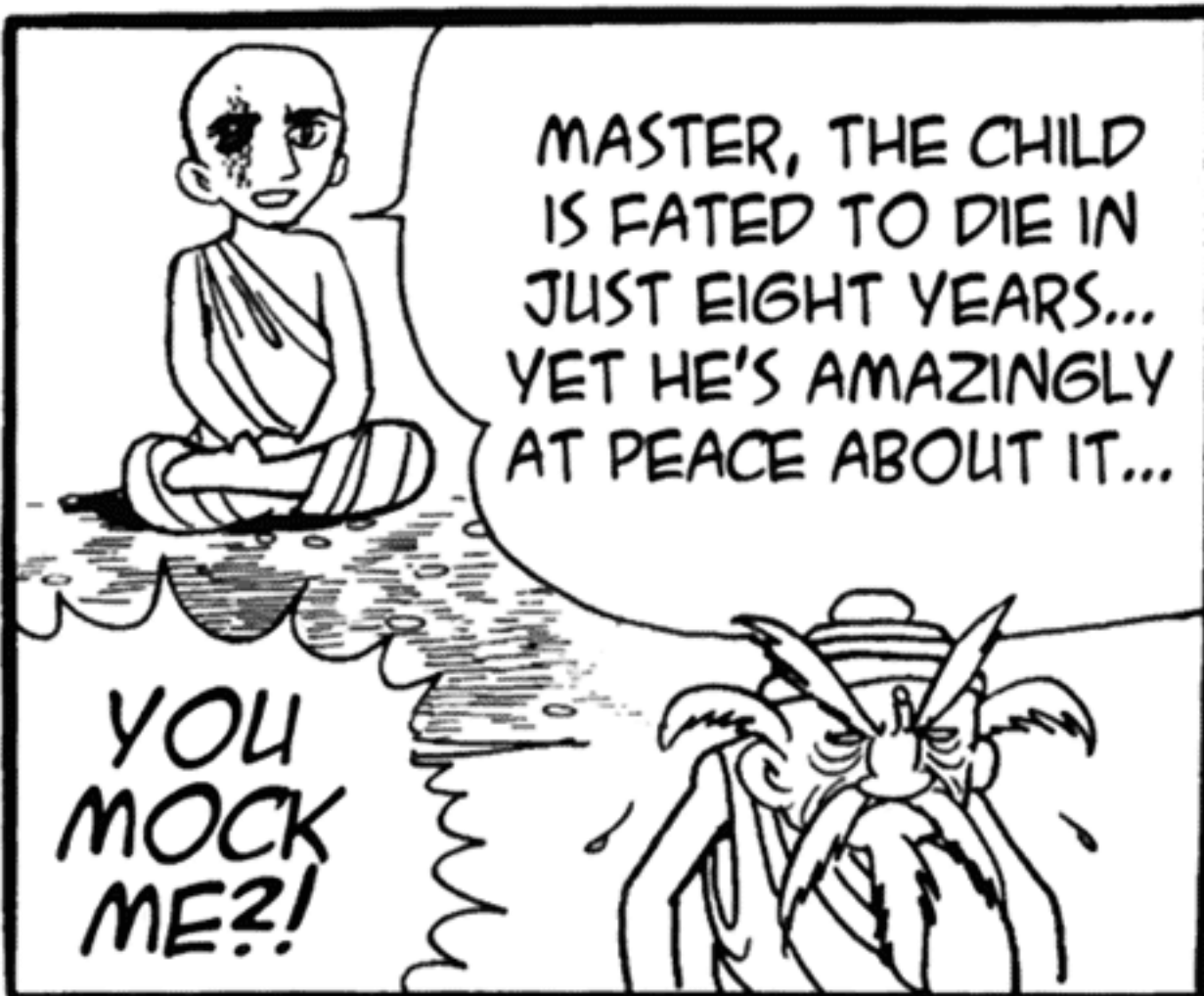
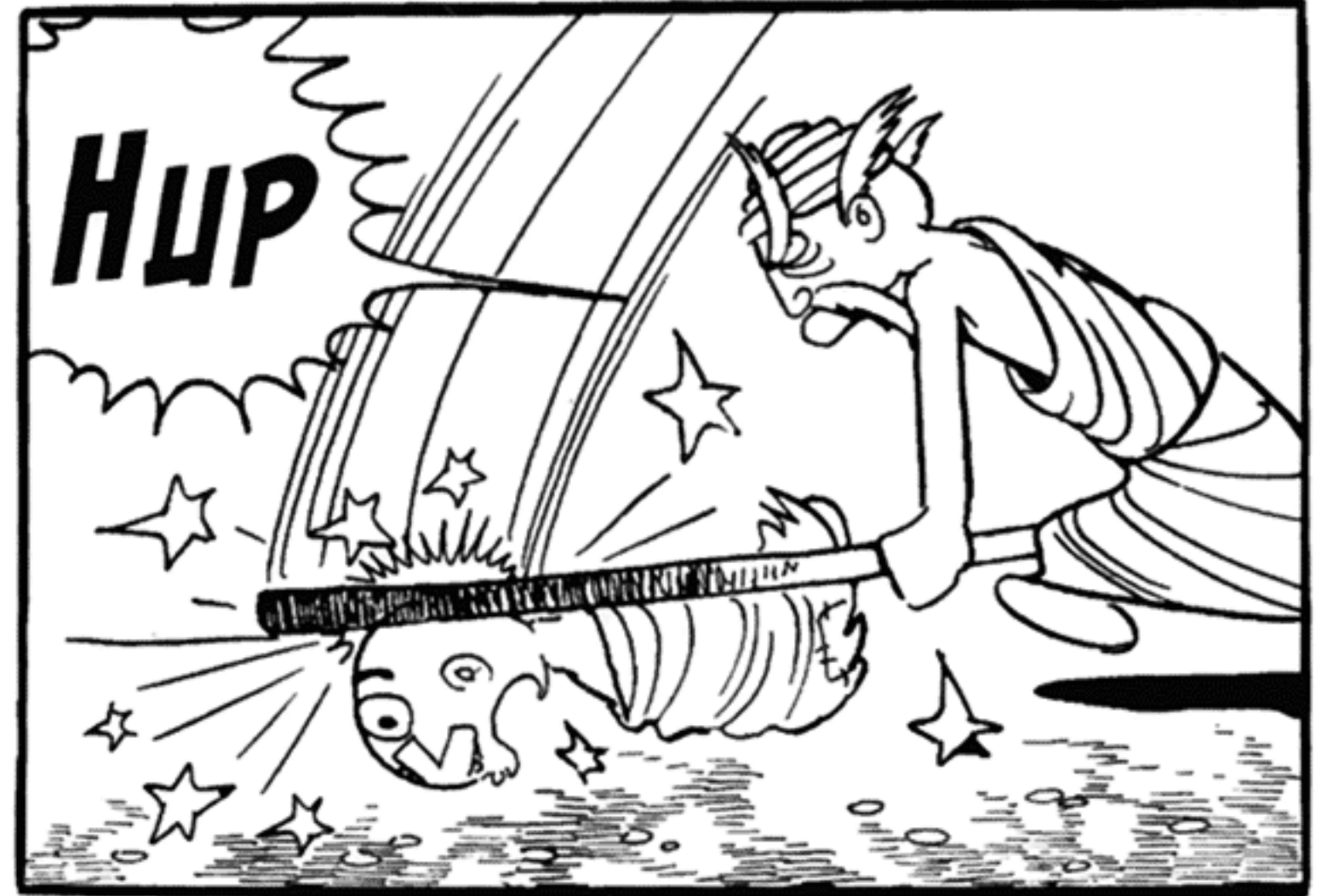
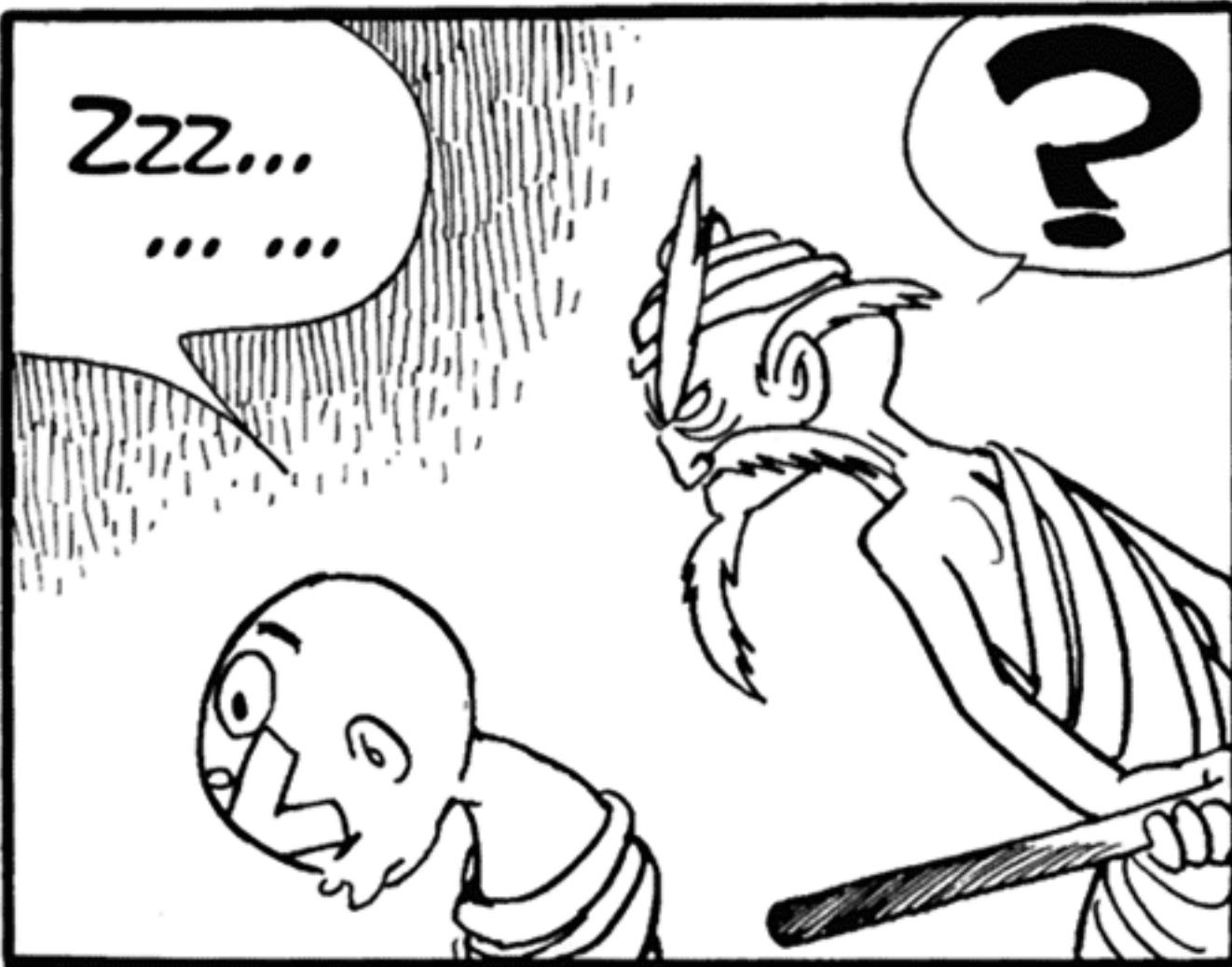
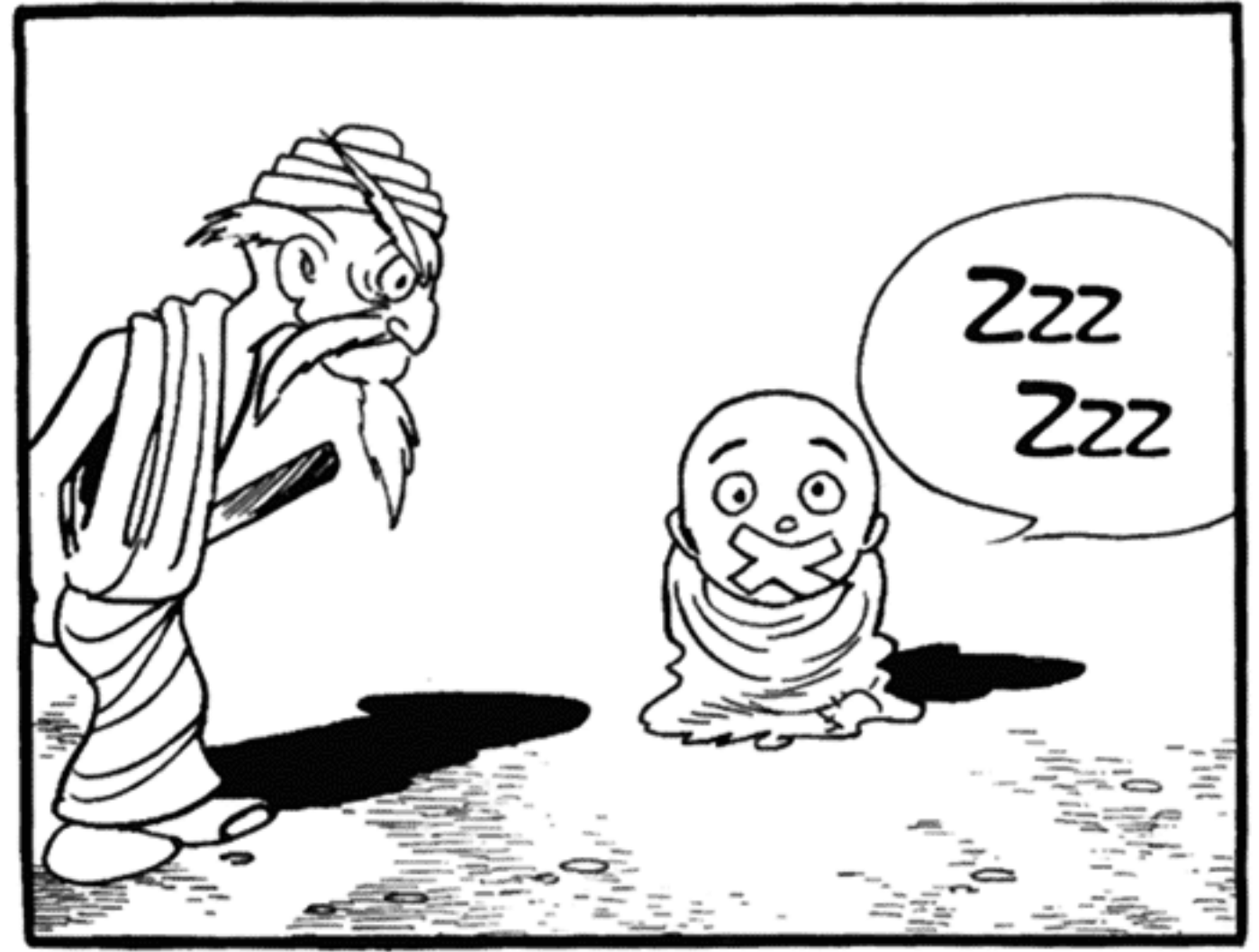
NOD NOD

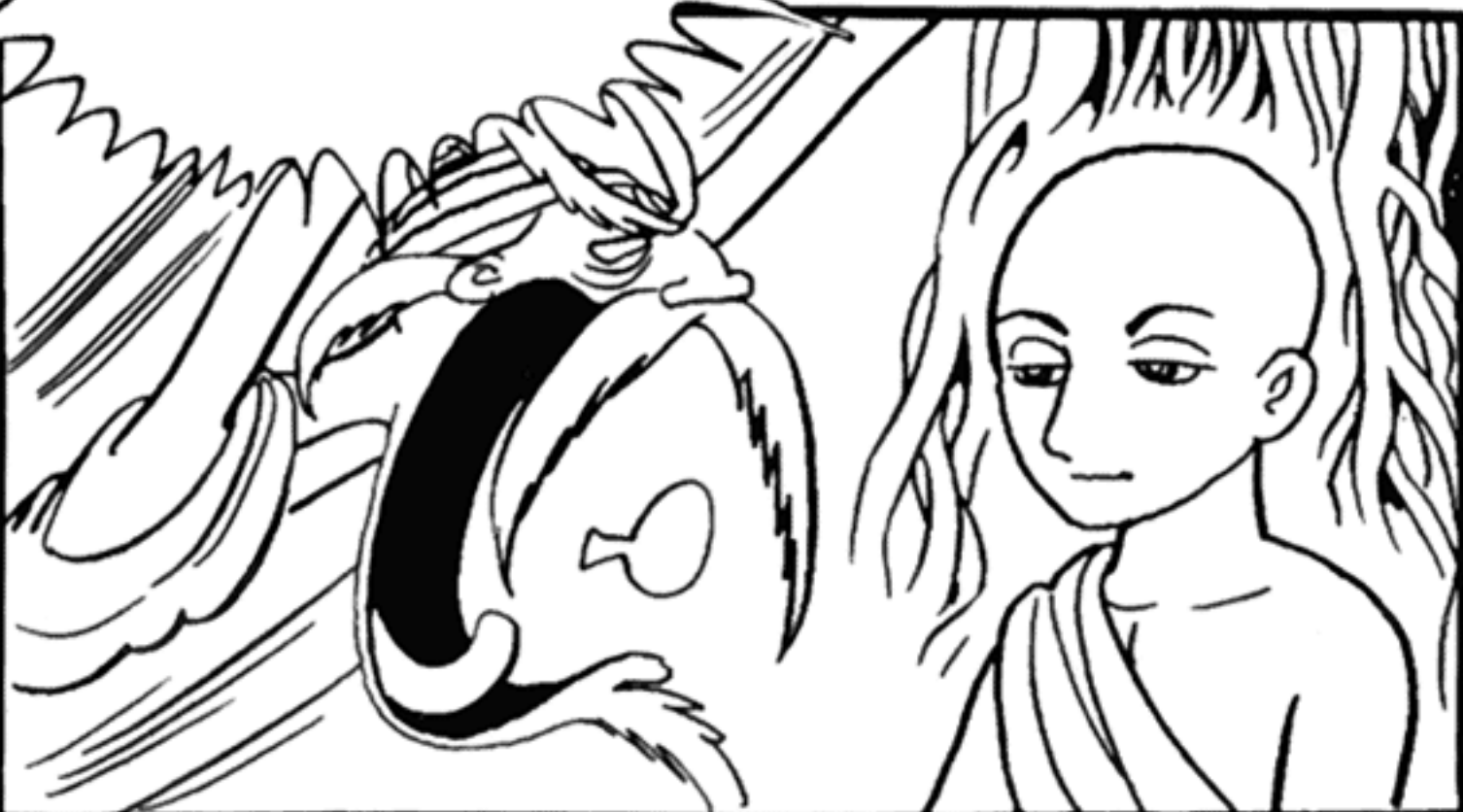
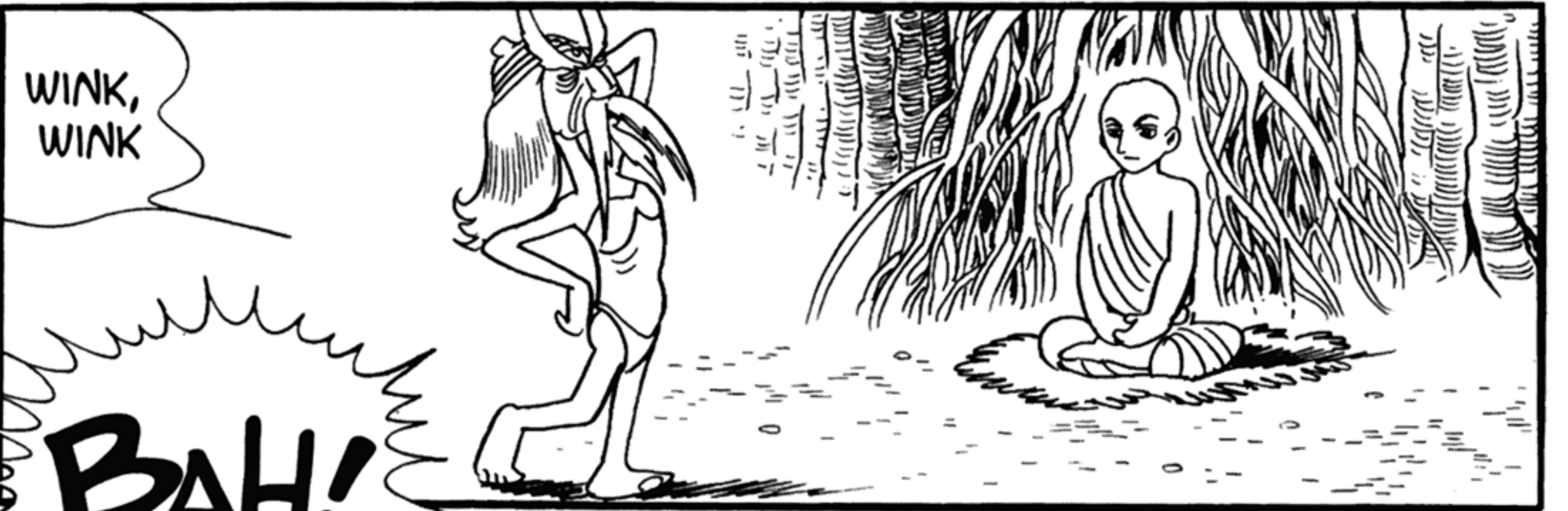
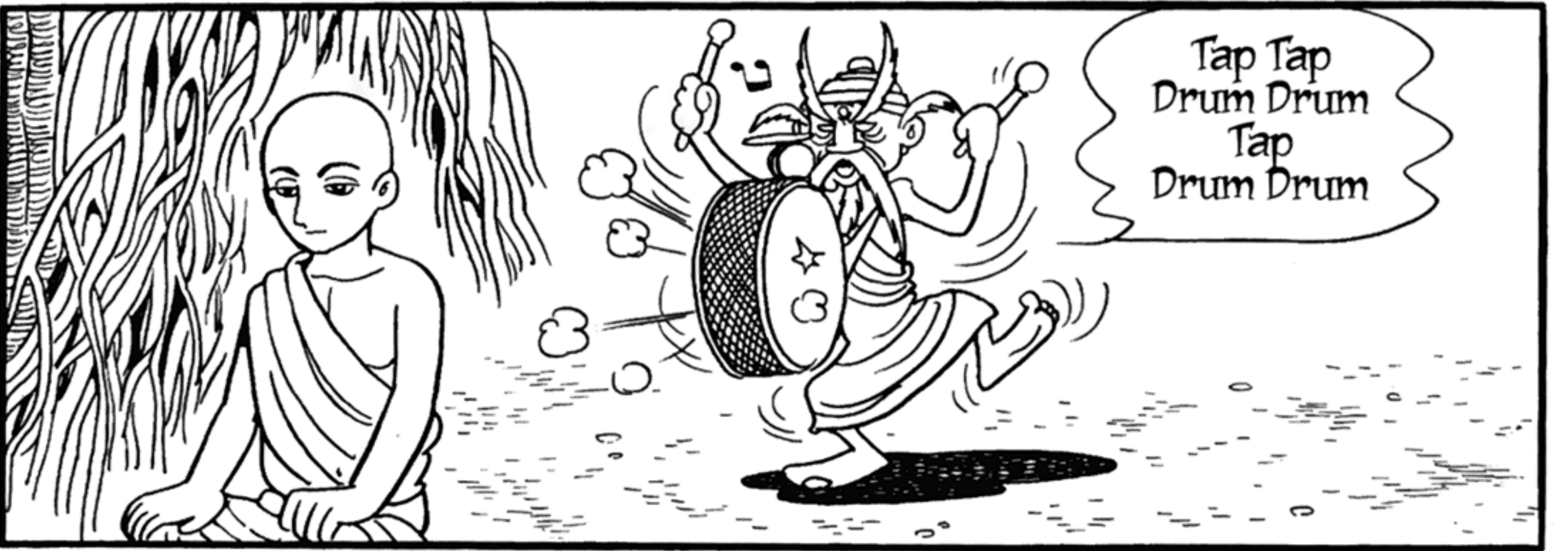


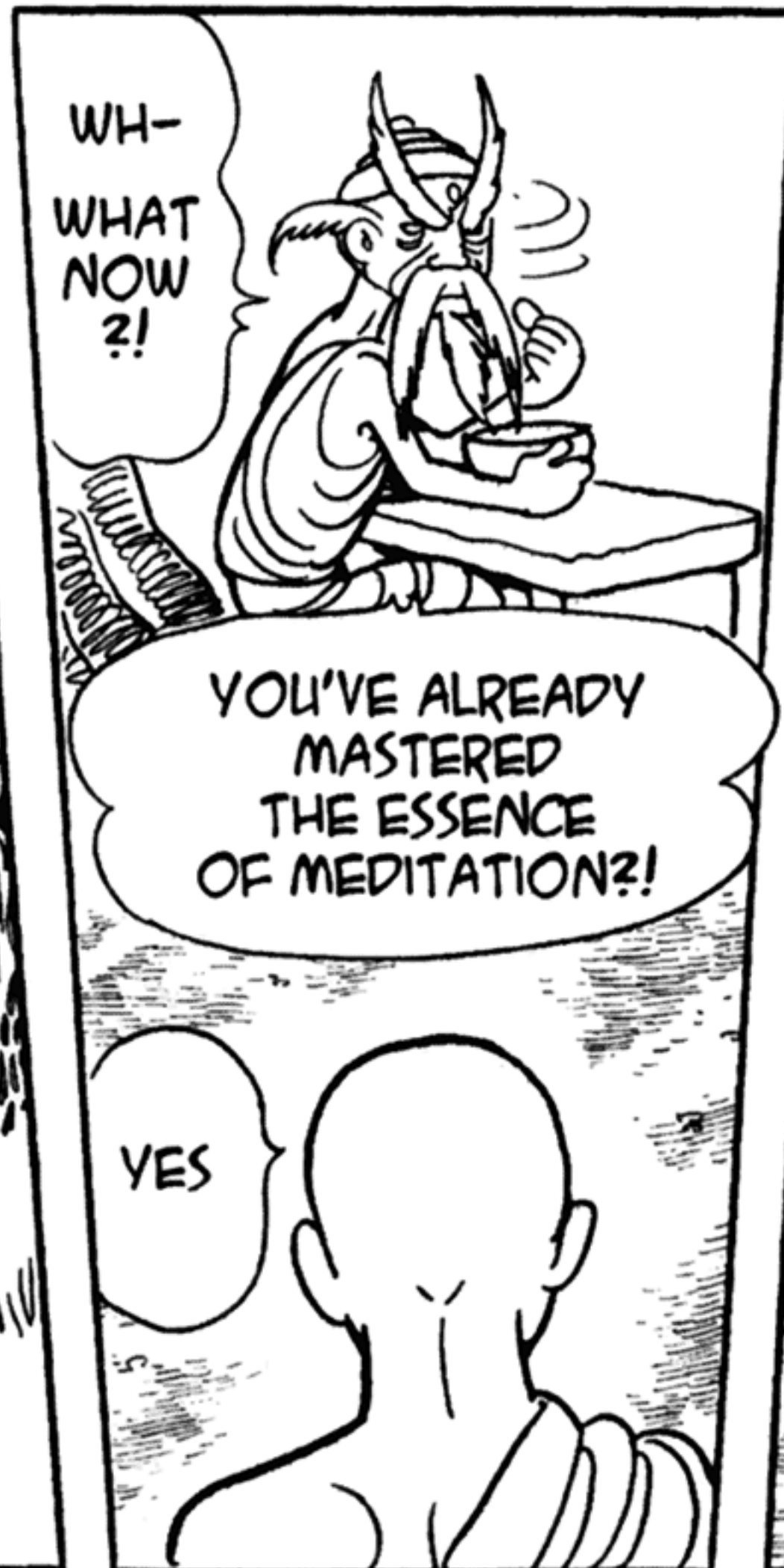
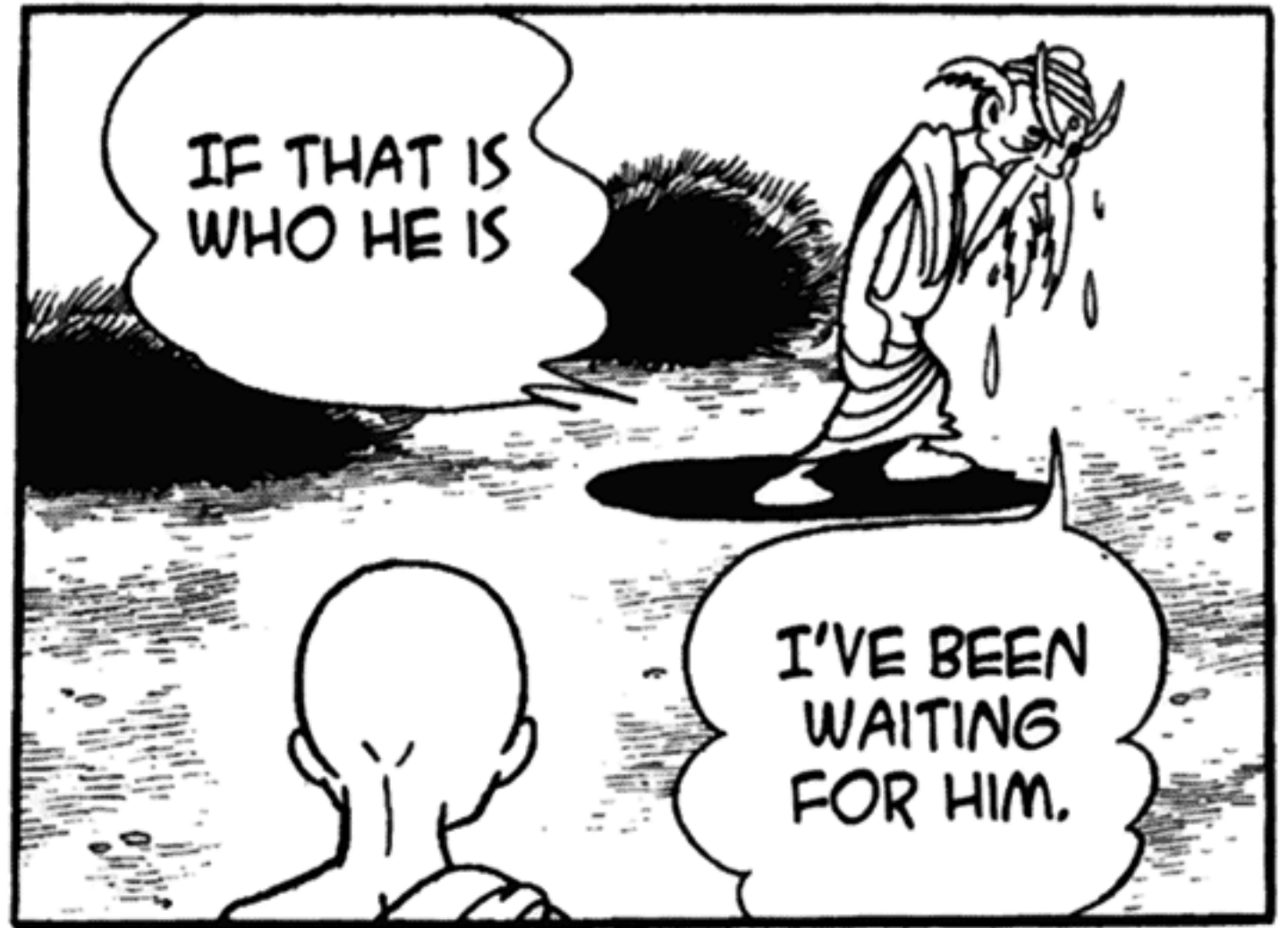
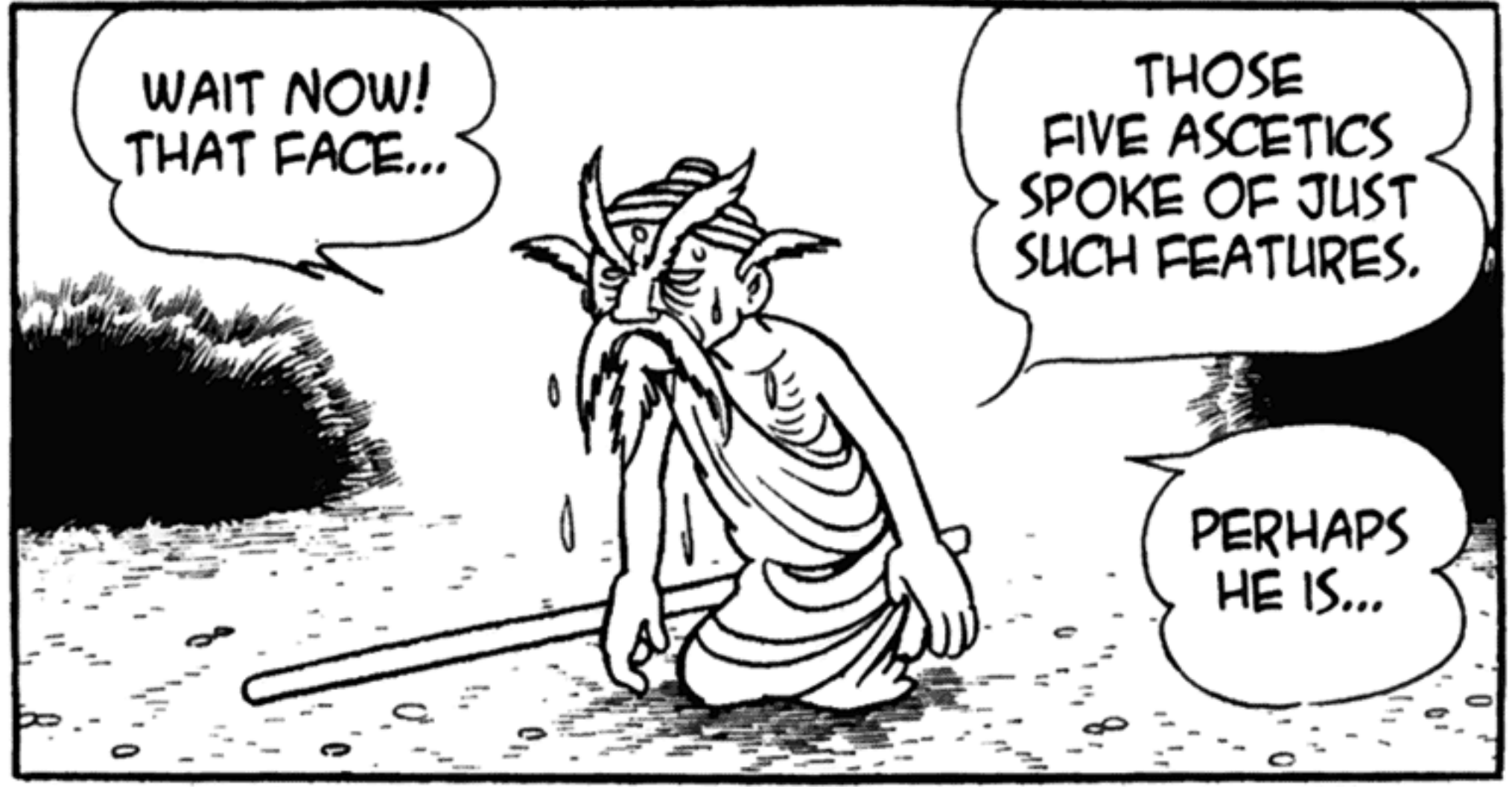
HUP!

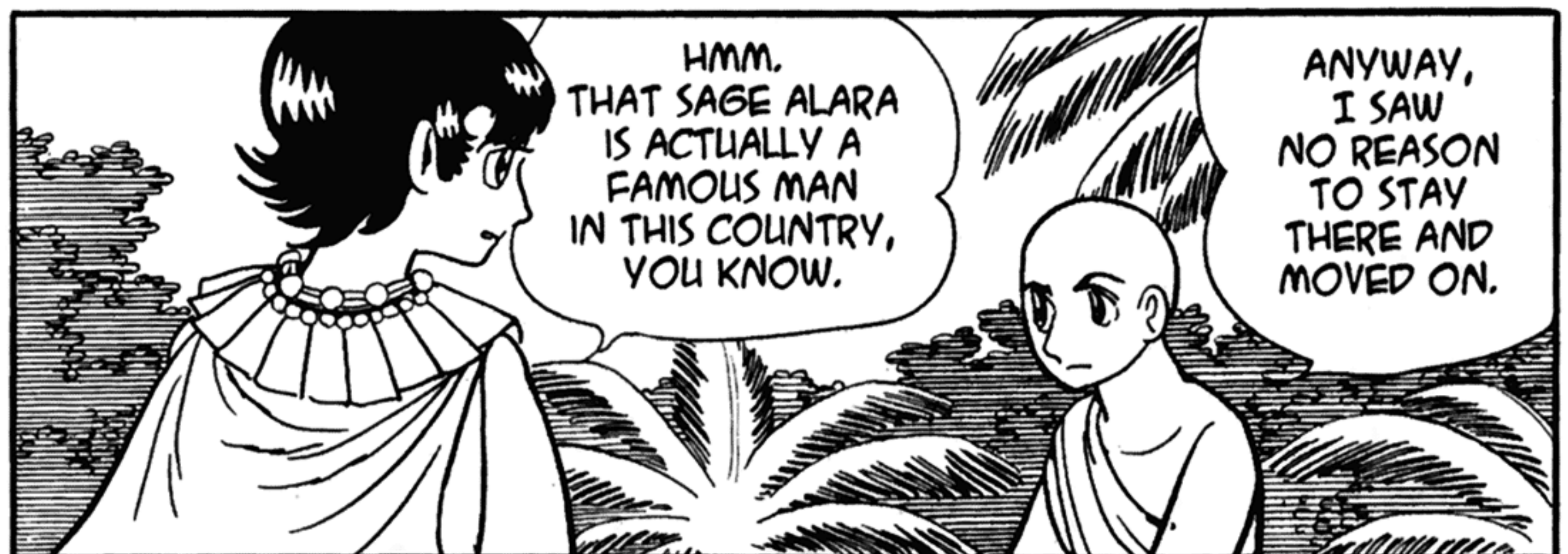
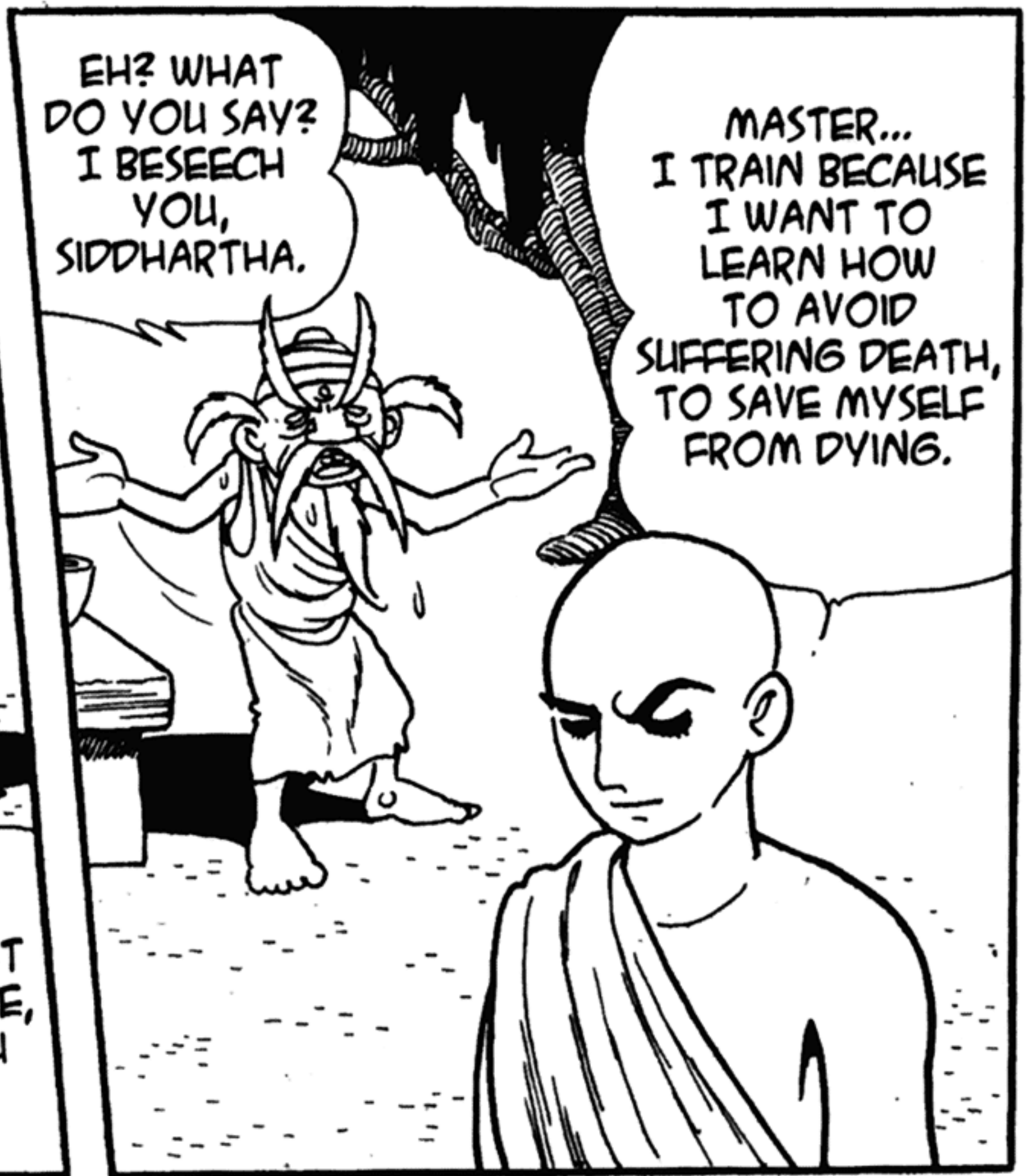
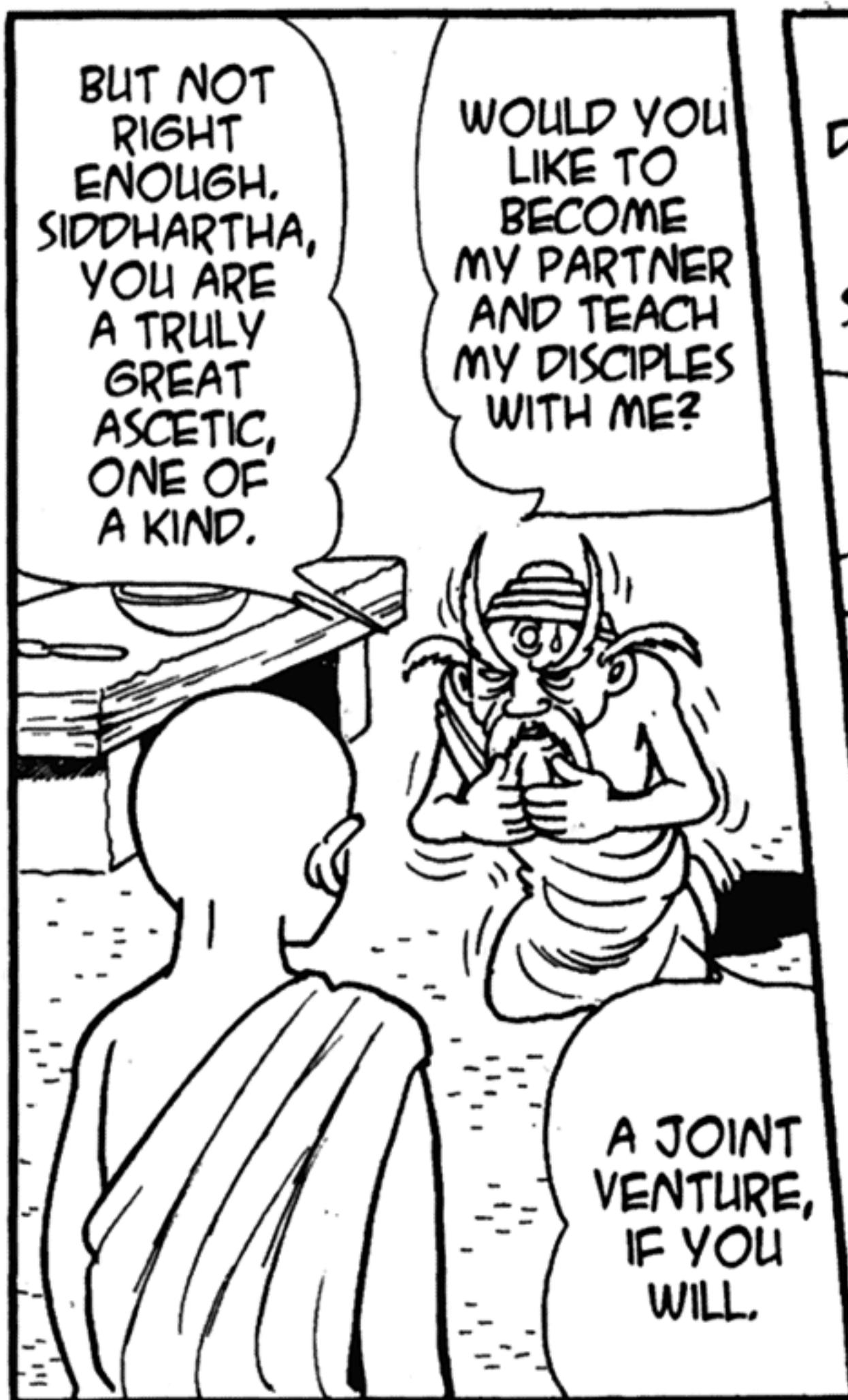


C'MON, YOU'VE GOTTA LAST MORE THAN TEN MINUTES.

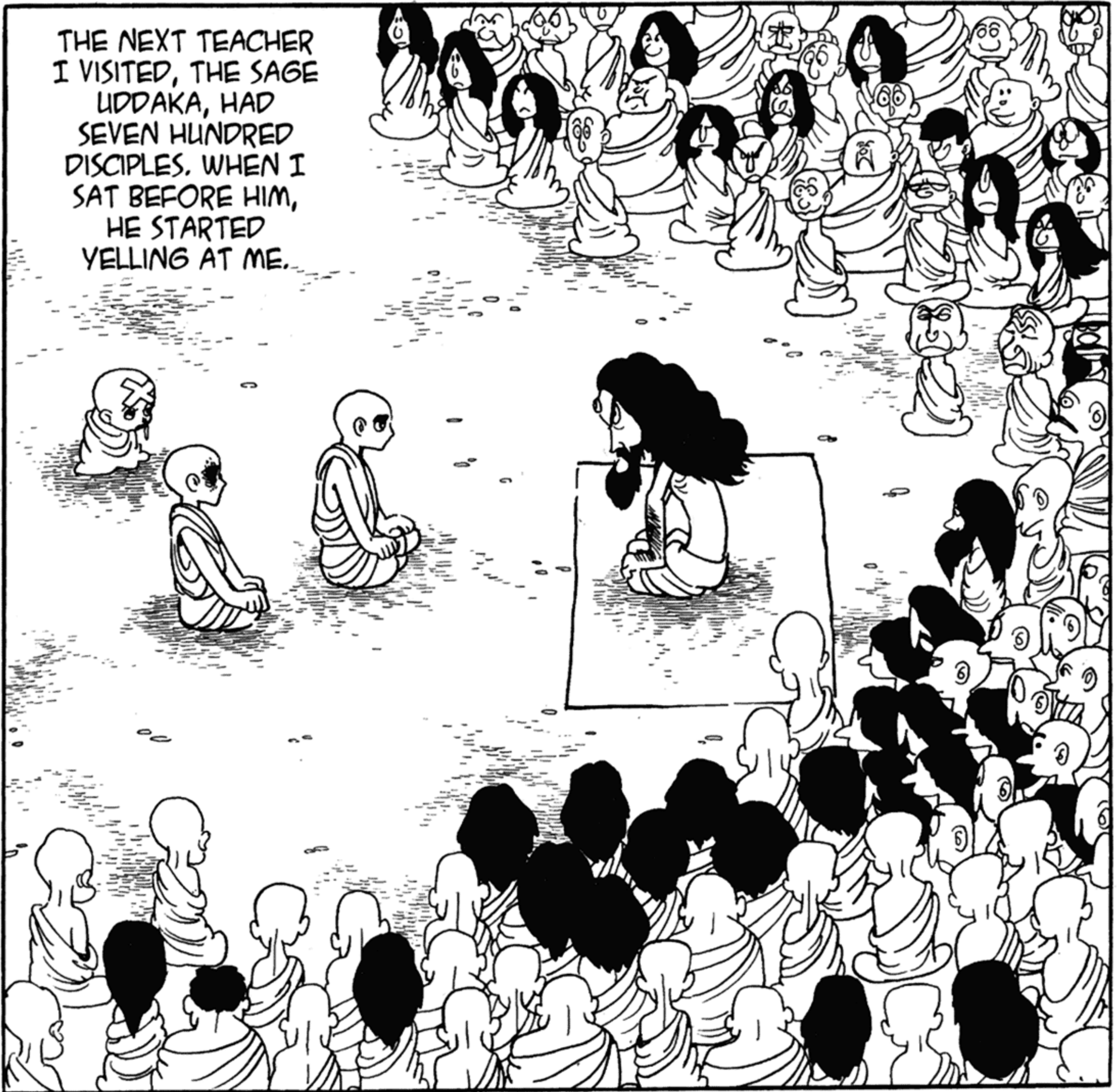








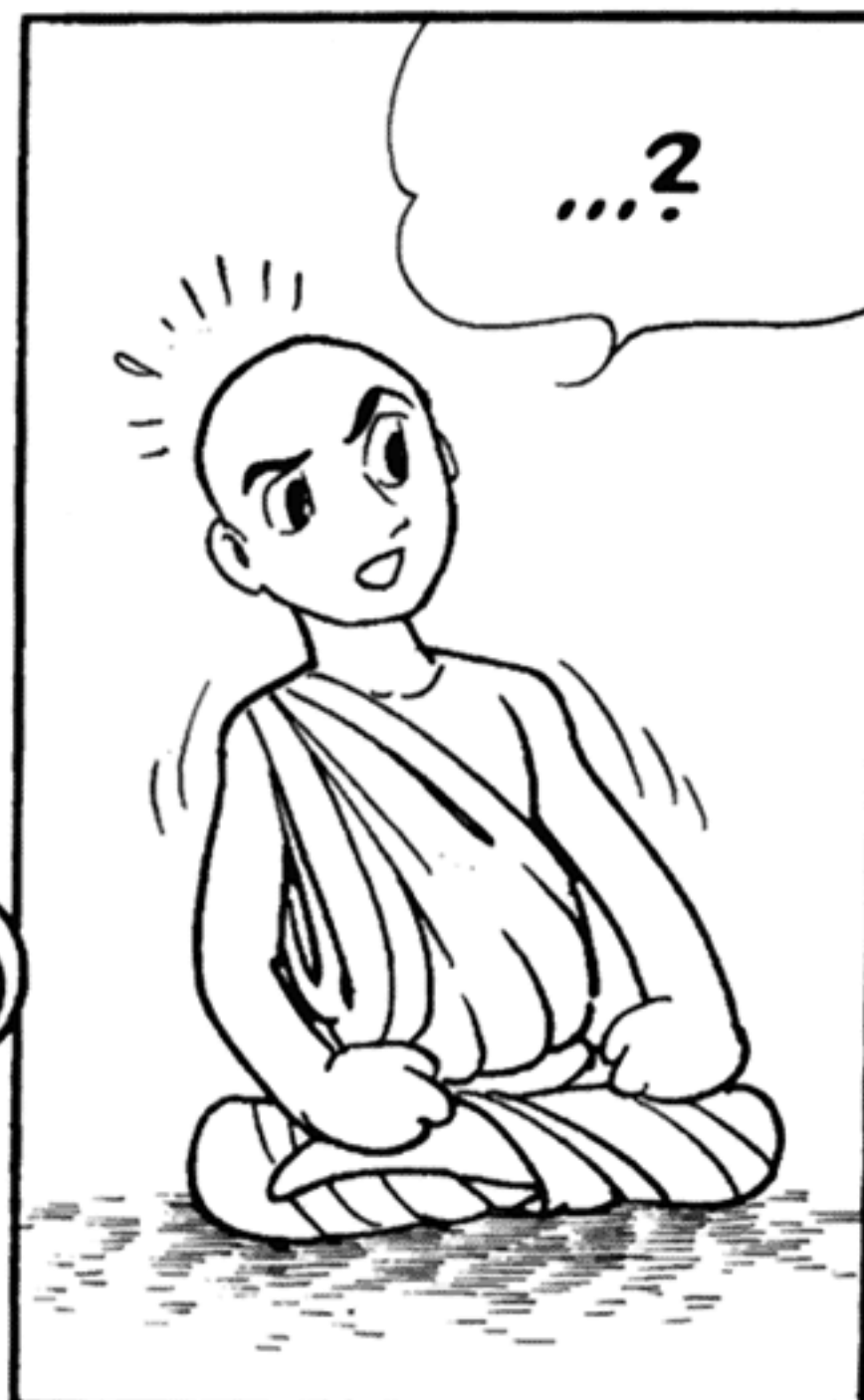
THE NEXT TEACHER I VISITED, THE SAGE UDDAKA, HAD SEVEN HUNDRED DISCIPLES. WHEN I SAT BEFORE HIM, HE STARTED YELLING AT ME.



YOU'RE A CHEAT,
YOU SHAM ASCETIC!



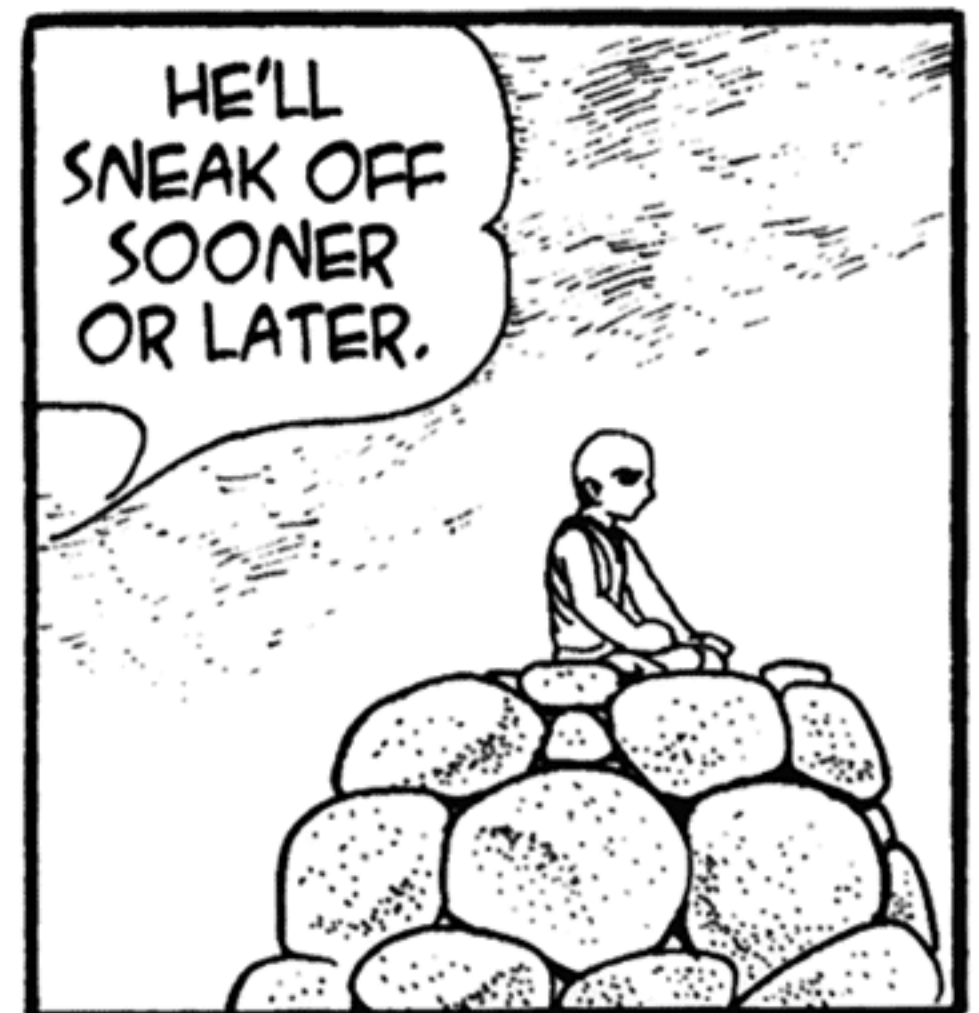
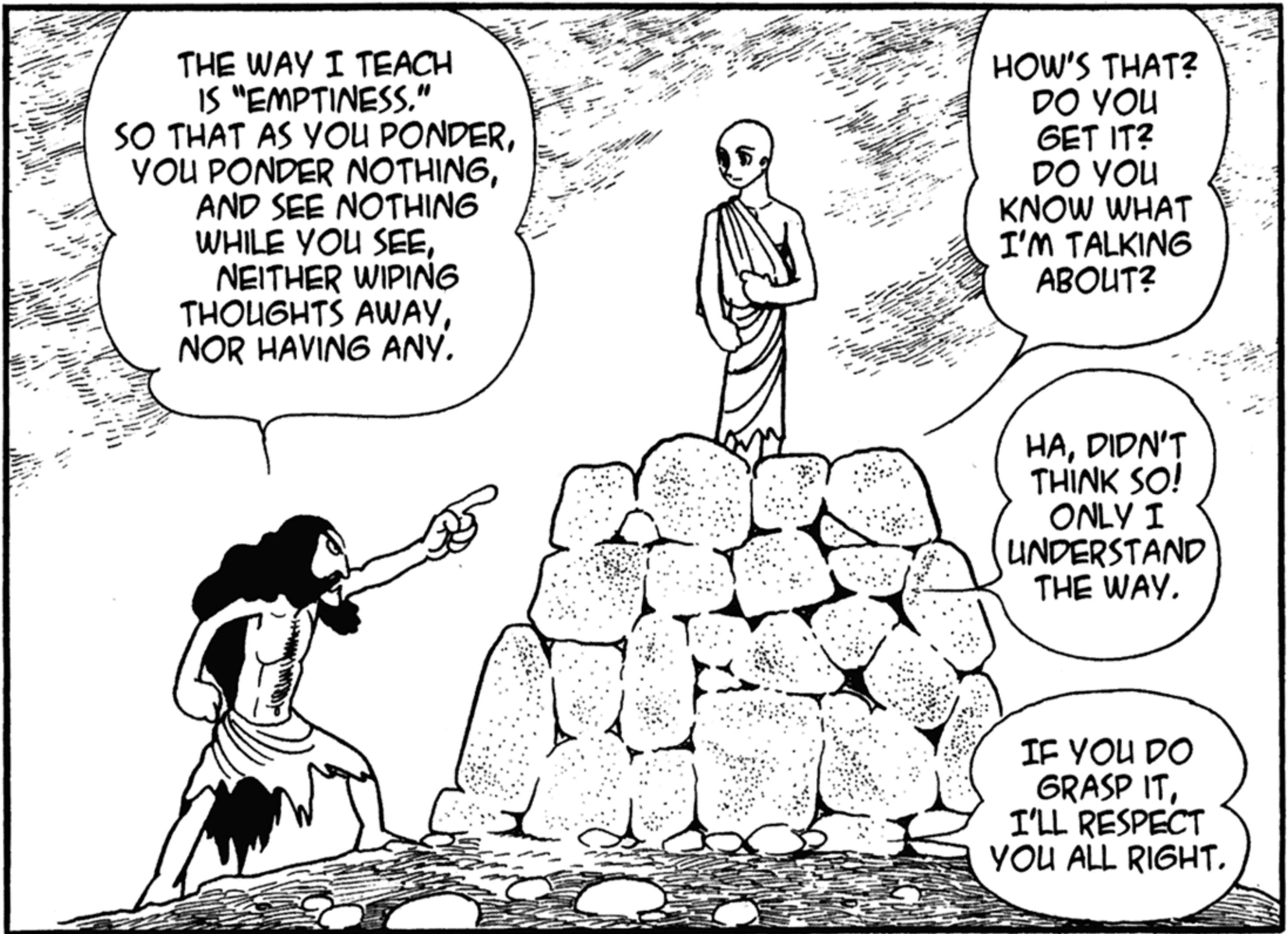
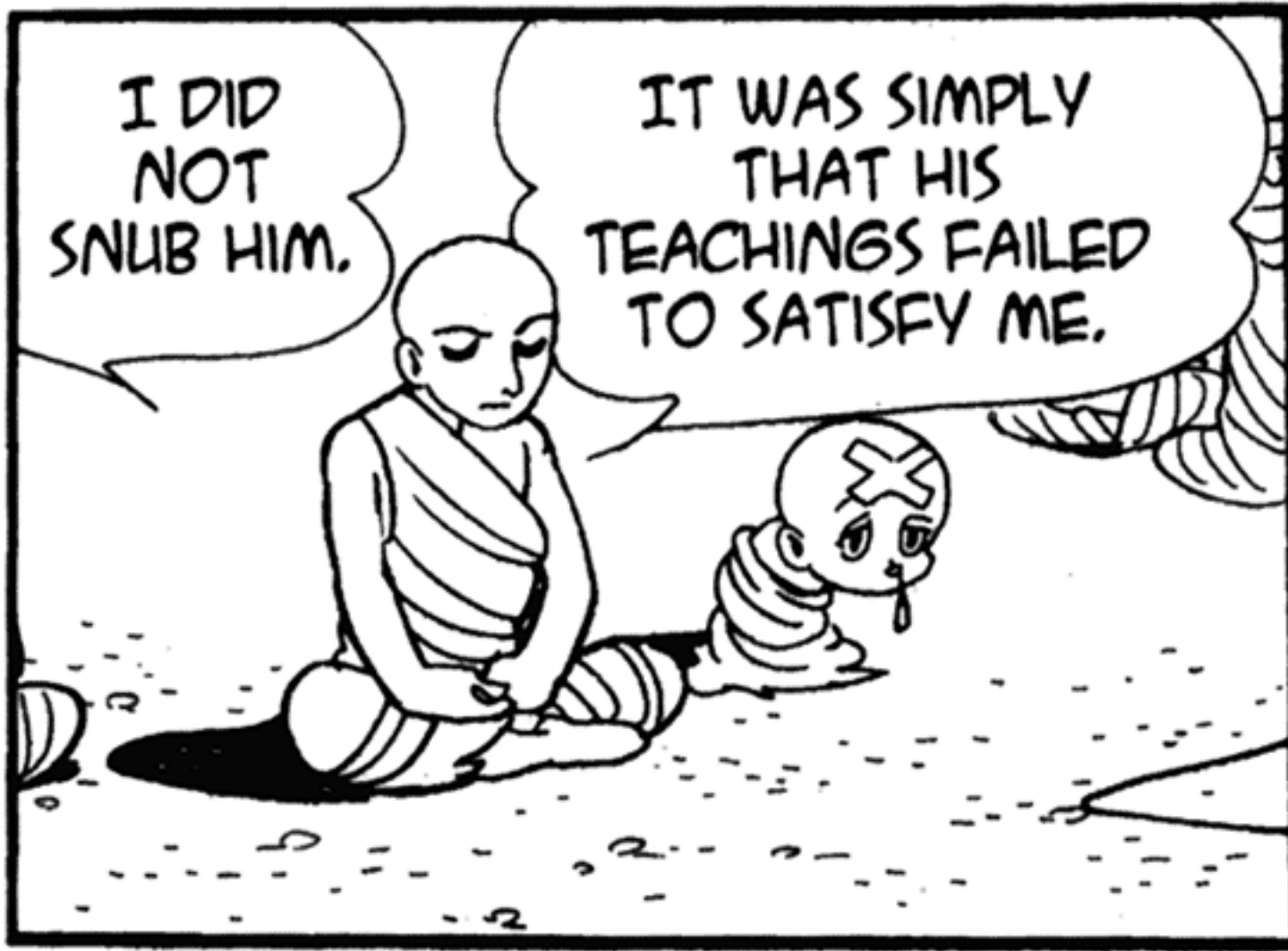
...?

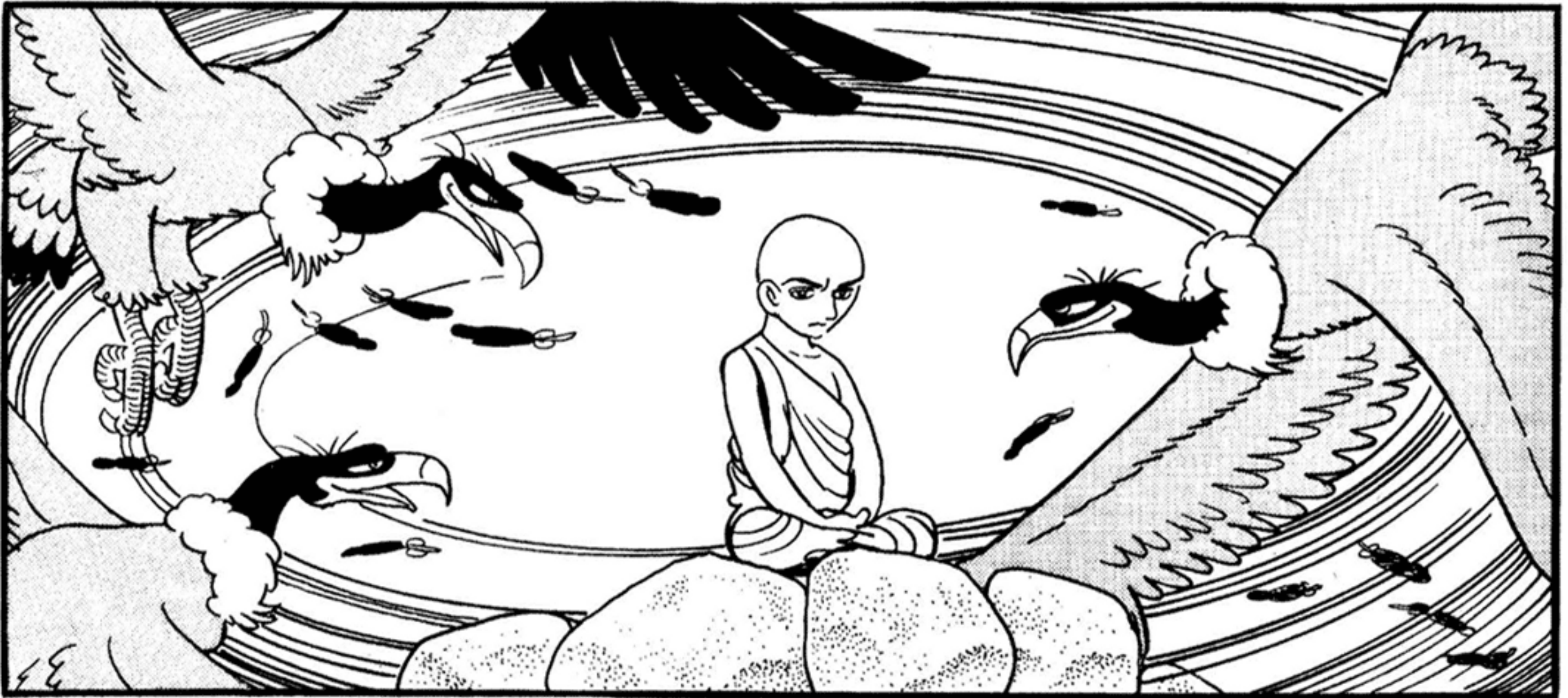


YOU BECAME
MASTER ALARA'S
DISCIPLE ONLY
TO SNUB HIM,
AND THEN
SKIPPED OUT.

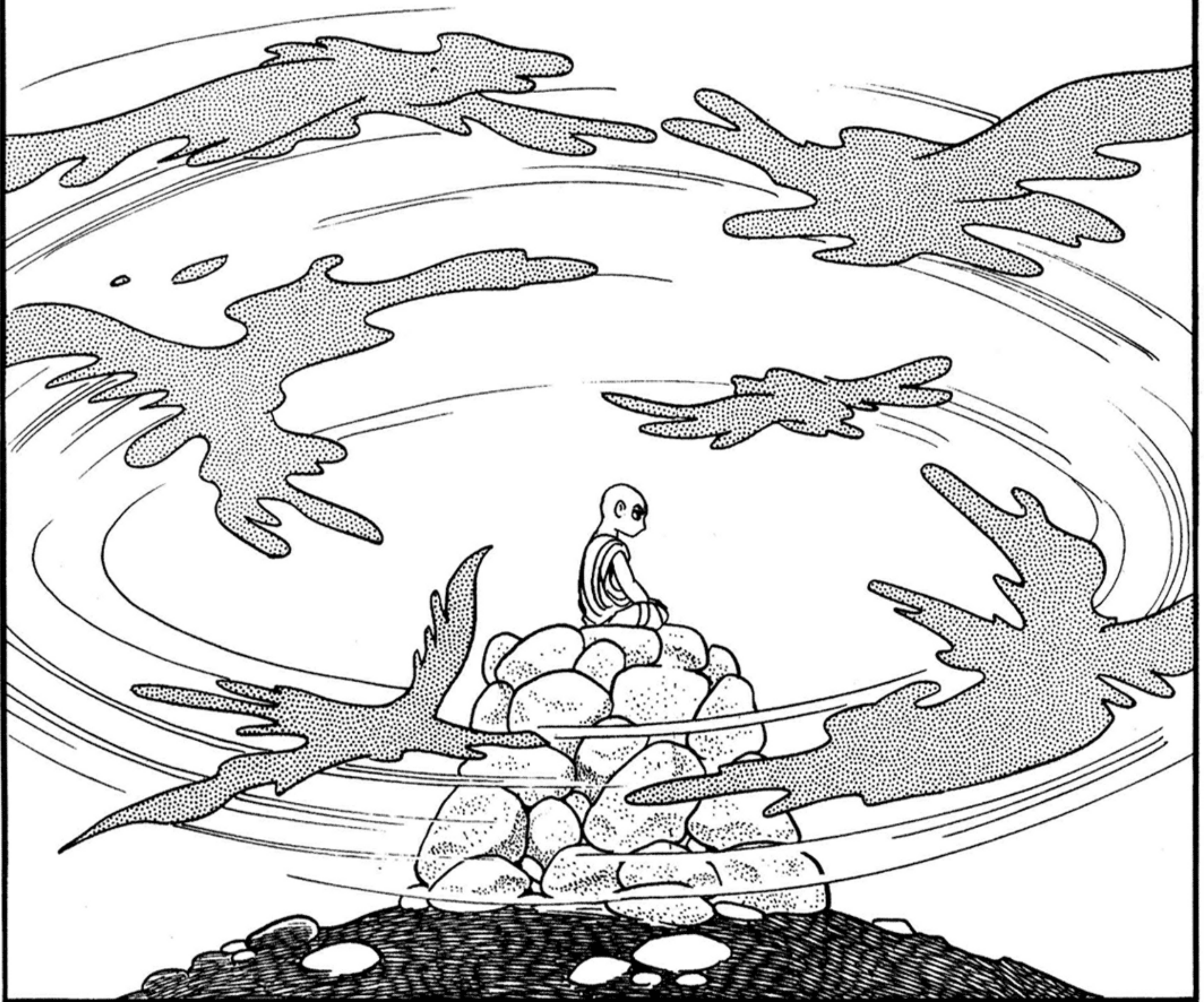
I KNOW
ALL ABOUT
YOU.





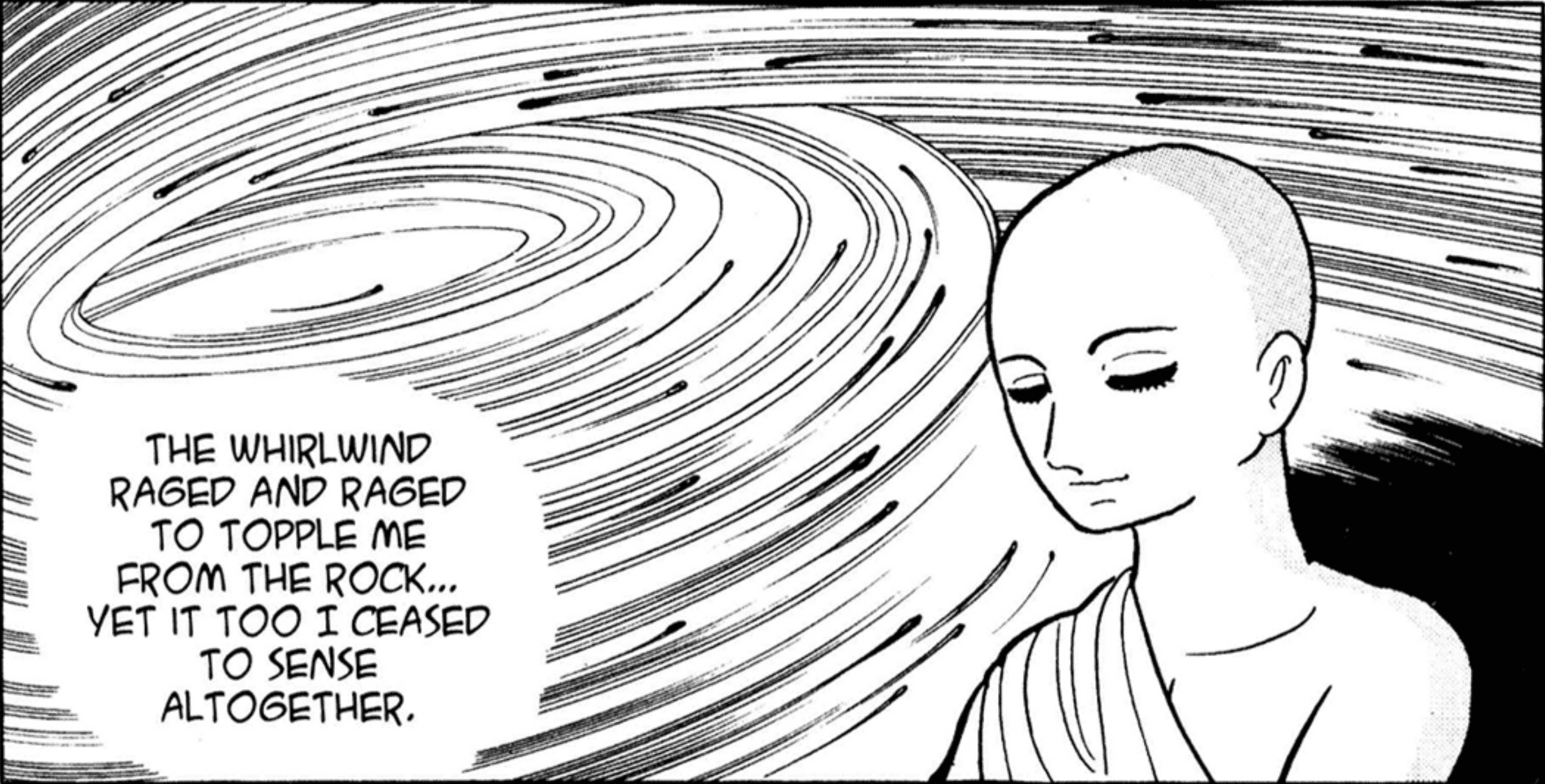


THE HILLOCK WHERE I SAT
MEDITATING WAS TERRIFYING.
VULTURES FLAPPED NOISILY
ABOUT ME DAY AFTER DAY,
BUT AS I KEPT QUIETING MY HEART...

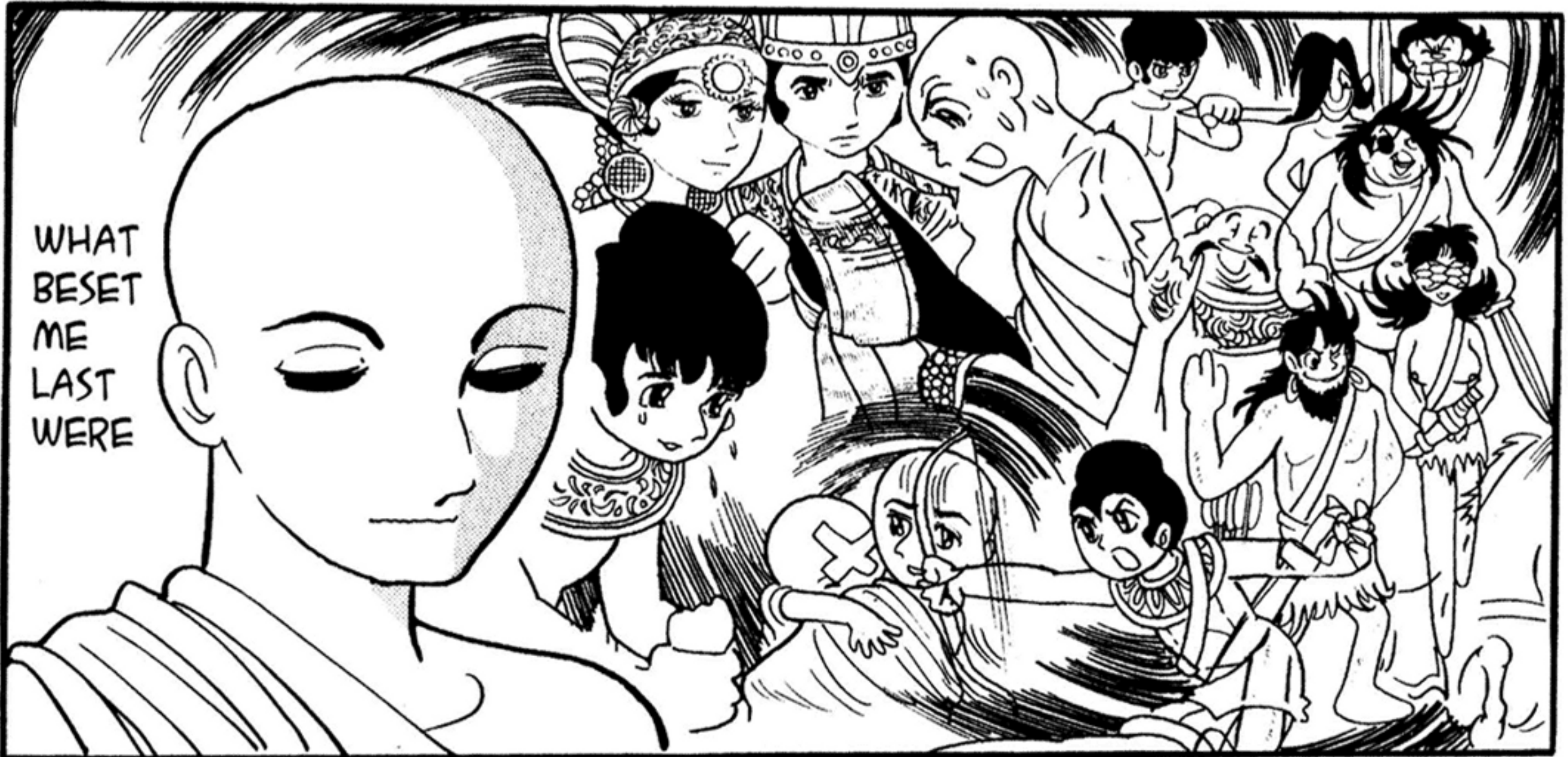




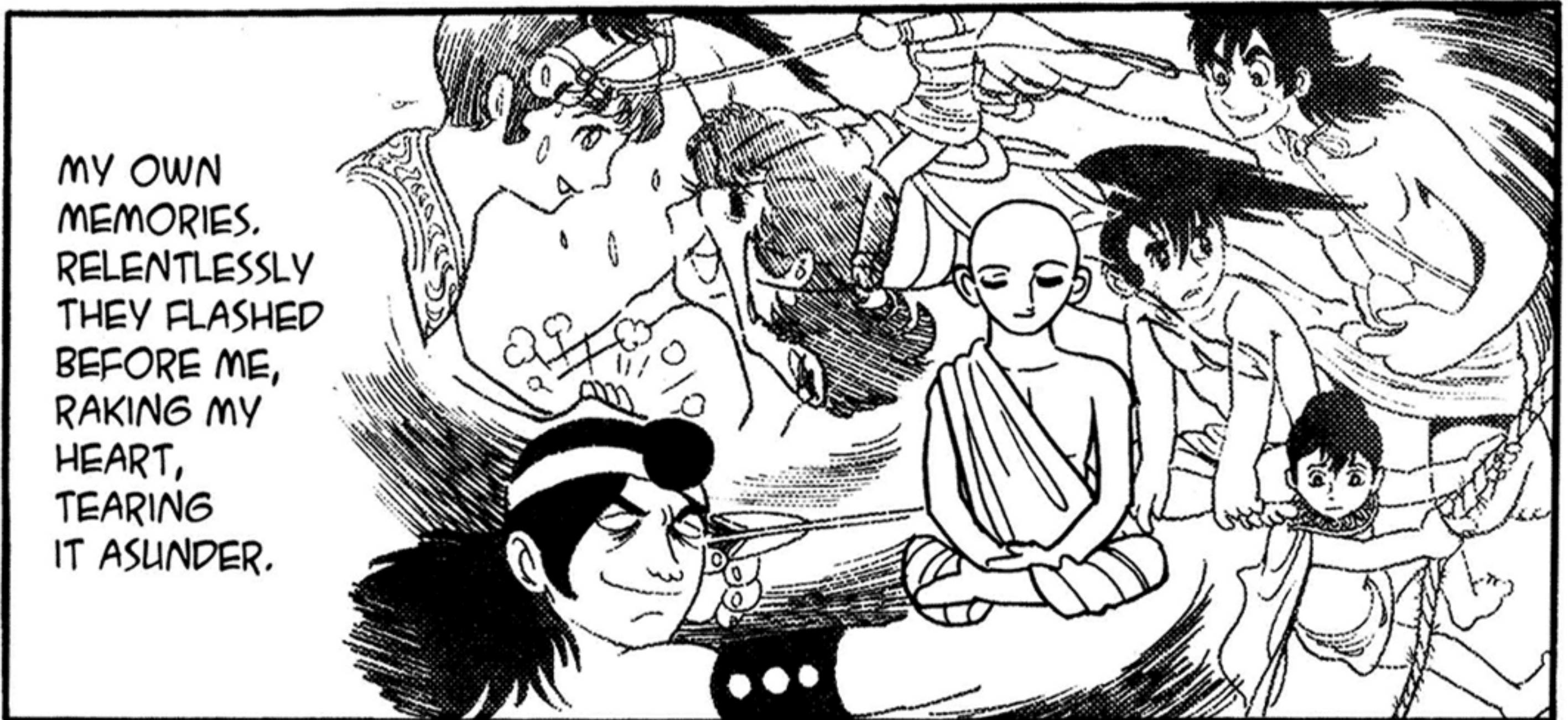
THE VULTURES
SLOWLY FADED
AND BECAME A MIST,
THEIR LOATHSOME
SCREECHES
NO LONGER AUDIBLE.
THE BIRDS CEASED
TO BOTHER ME.
WHAT CAME NEXT
WAS A WHIRLWIND.



THE WHIRLWIND
RAGED AND RAGED
TO TOPPLE ME
FROM THE ROCK...
YET IT TOO I CEASED
TO SENSE
ALTOGETHER.



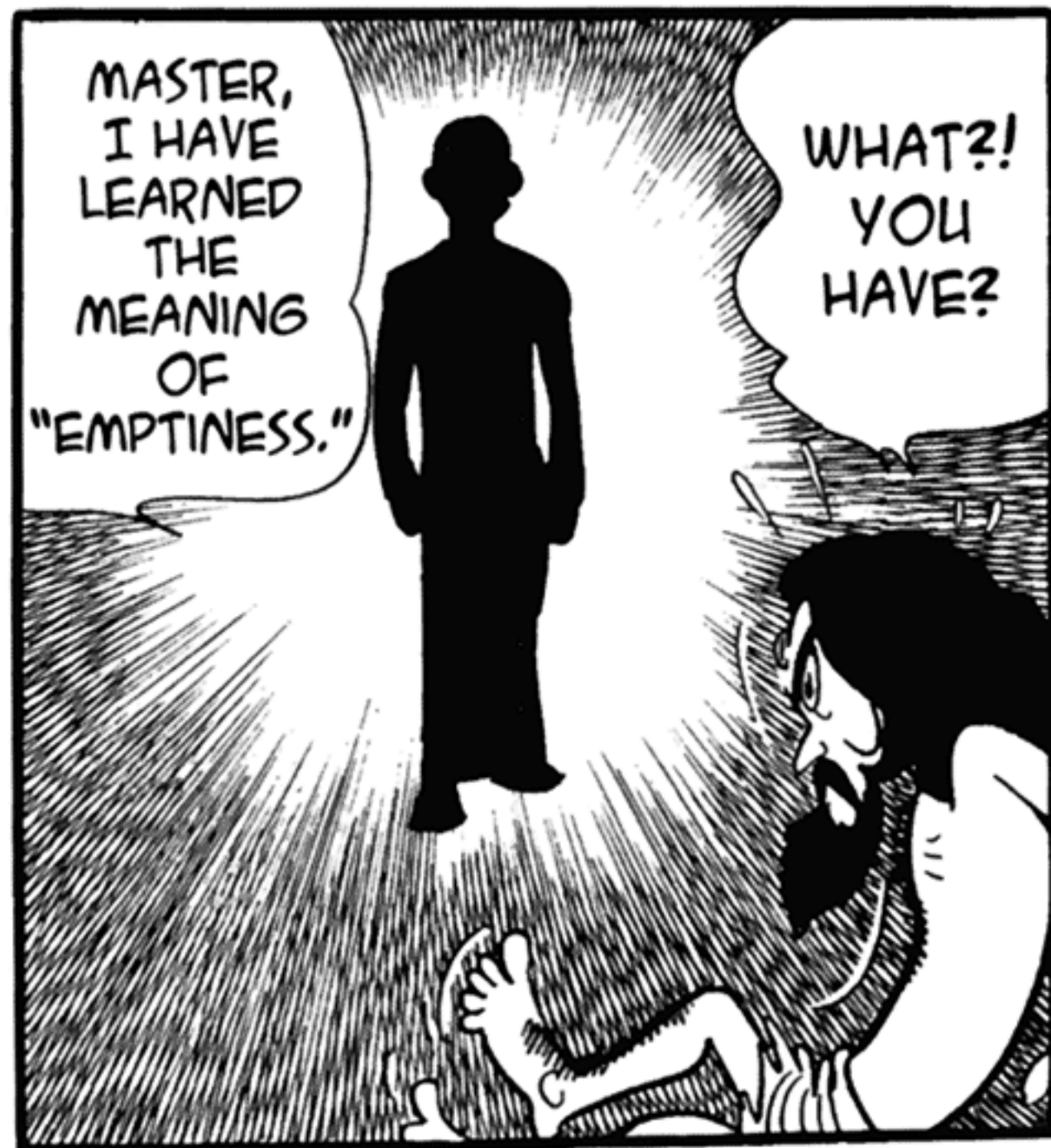
WHAT
BESET
ME
LAST
WERE

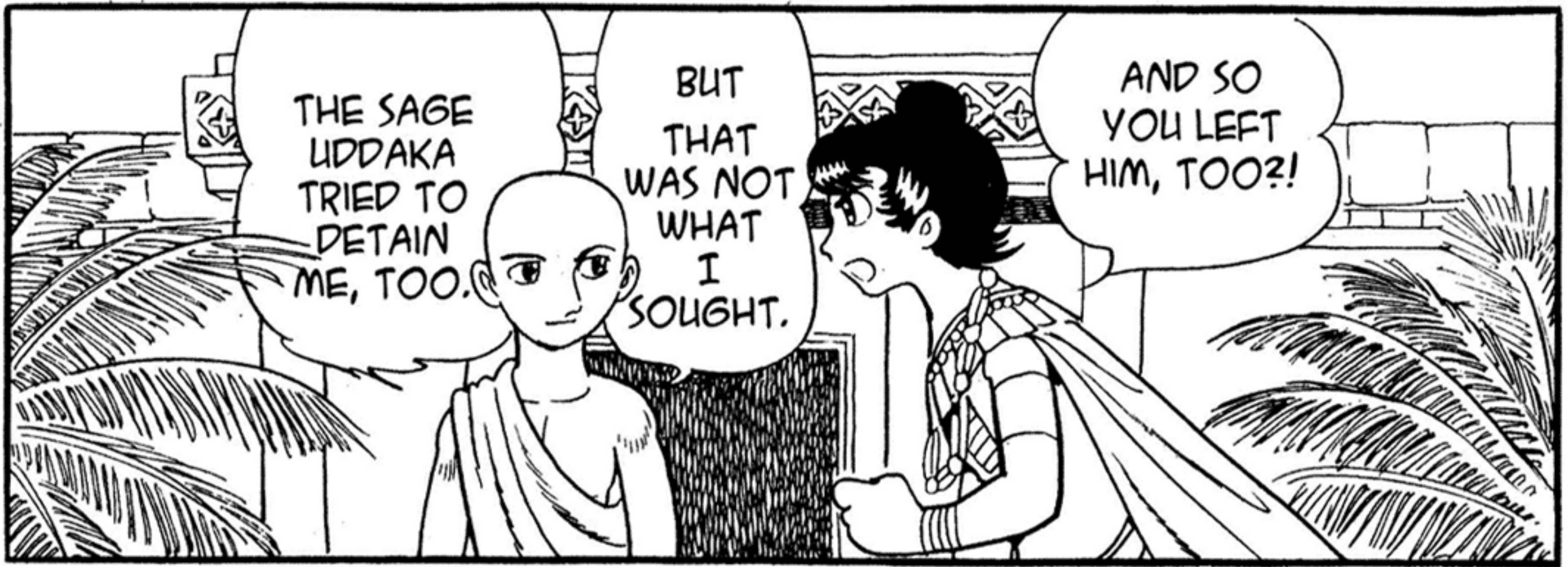


MY OWN
MEMORIES.
RELENTLESSLY
THEY FLASHED
BEFORE ME,
RAKING MY
HEART,
TEARING
IT ASUNDER.



AT THAT POINT,
I DECIDED TO ERASE
MY OWN EXISTENCE.
FOR IF I DISAPPEARED,
SO WOULD MY MEMORIES.
I TURNED MY WILL
AGAINST MY VERY OWN
BEING IN THIS WORLD.

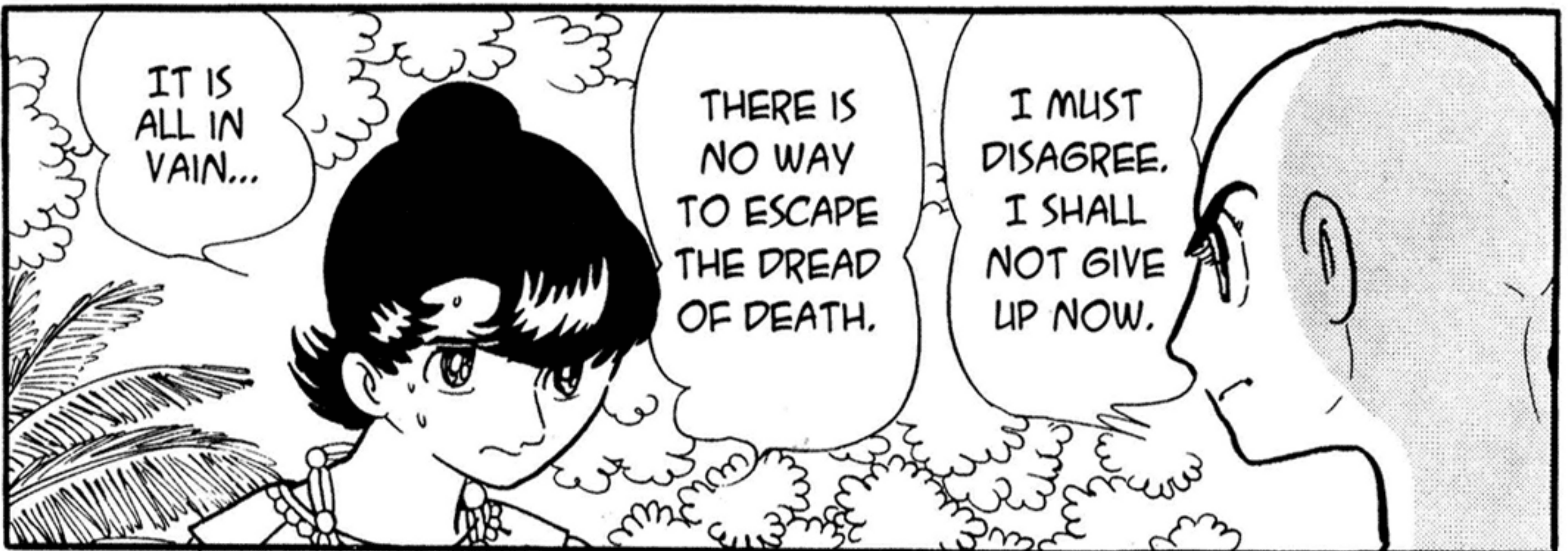




THE SAGE
UDDAKA
TRIED TO
DETAIN
ME, TOO.

BUT
THAT
WAS NOT
WHAT
I
SOUGHT.

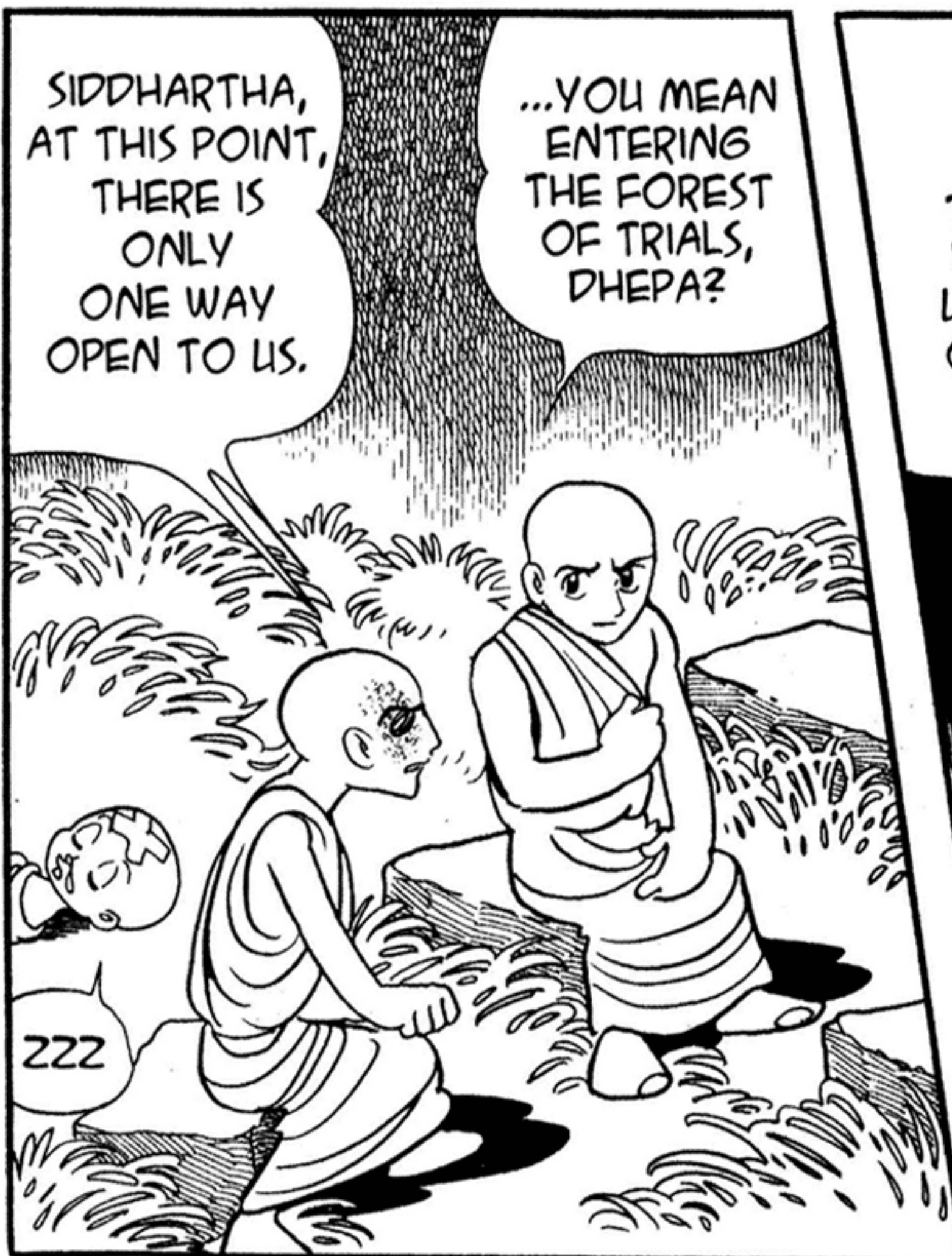
AND SO
YOU LEFT
HIM, TOO?!



IT IS
ALL IN
VAIN...

THERE IS
NO WAY
TO ESCAPE
THE DREAD
OF DEATH.

I MUST
DISAGREE.
I SHALL
NOT GIVE
UP NOW.



SIDDHARTHA,
AT THIS POINT,
THERE IS
ONLY
ONE WAY
OPEN TO US.

...YOU MEAN
ENTERING
THE FOREST
OF TRIALS,
DHEPA?

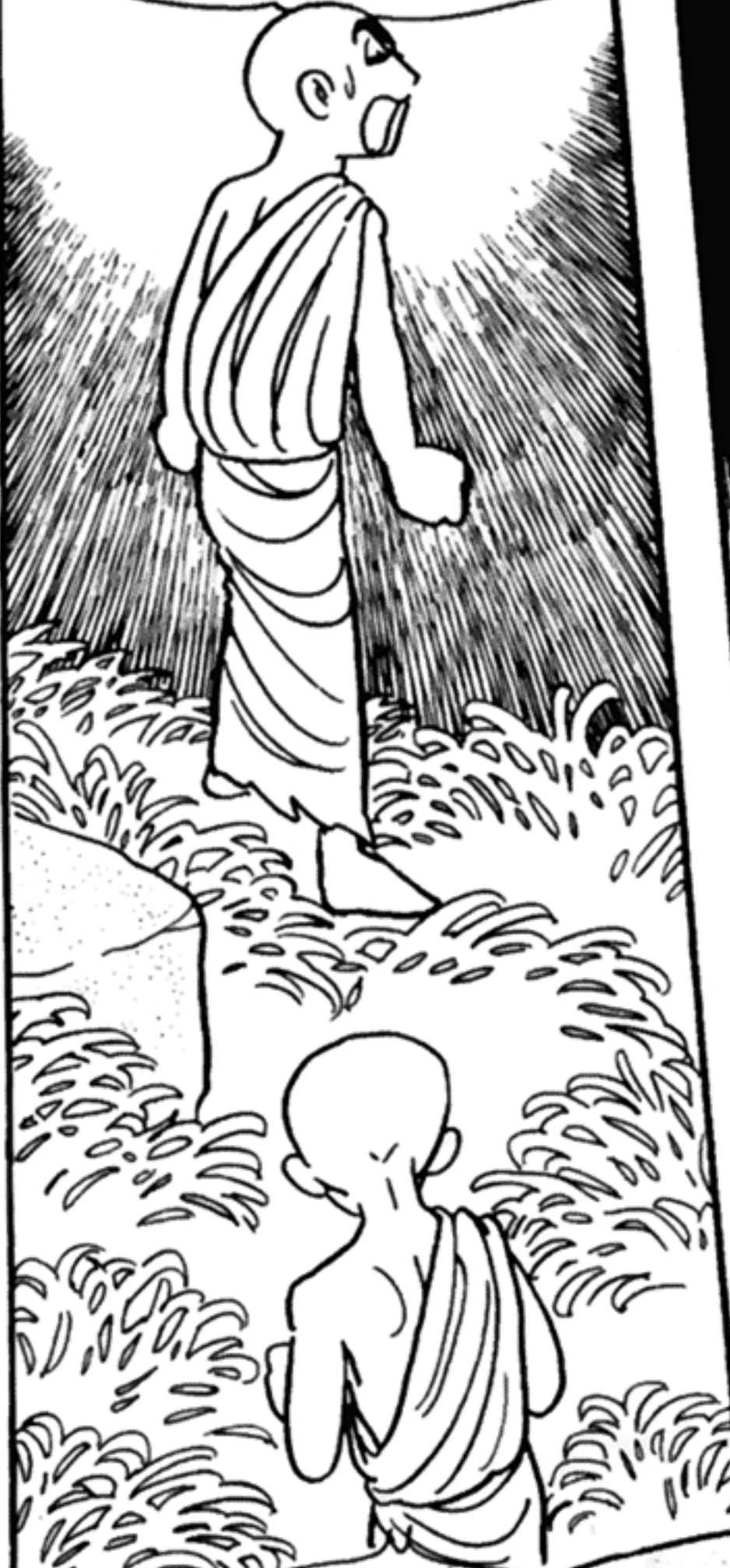
zzz



YES!
TO FIND
THE WAY,
WE MUST
UNDERGO
ORDEALS.

PRECISELY BECAUSE
YOU HAVE TRIED
TO AVOID THEM.

ORDEALS ARE POINTLESS SUFFERING. WHAT GOOD CAN COME OF WRECKING ONE'S BODY?

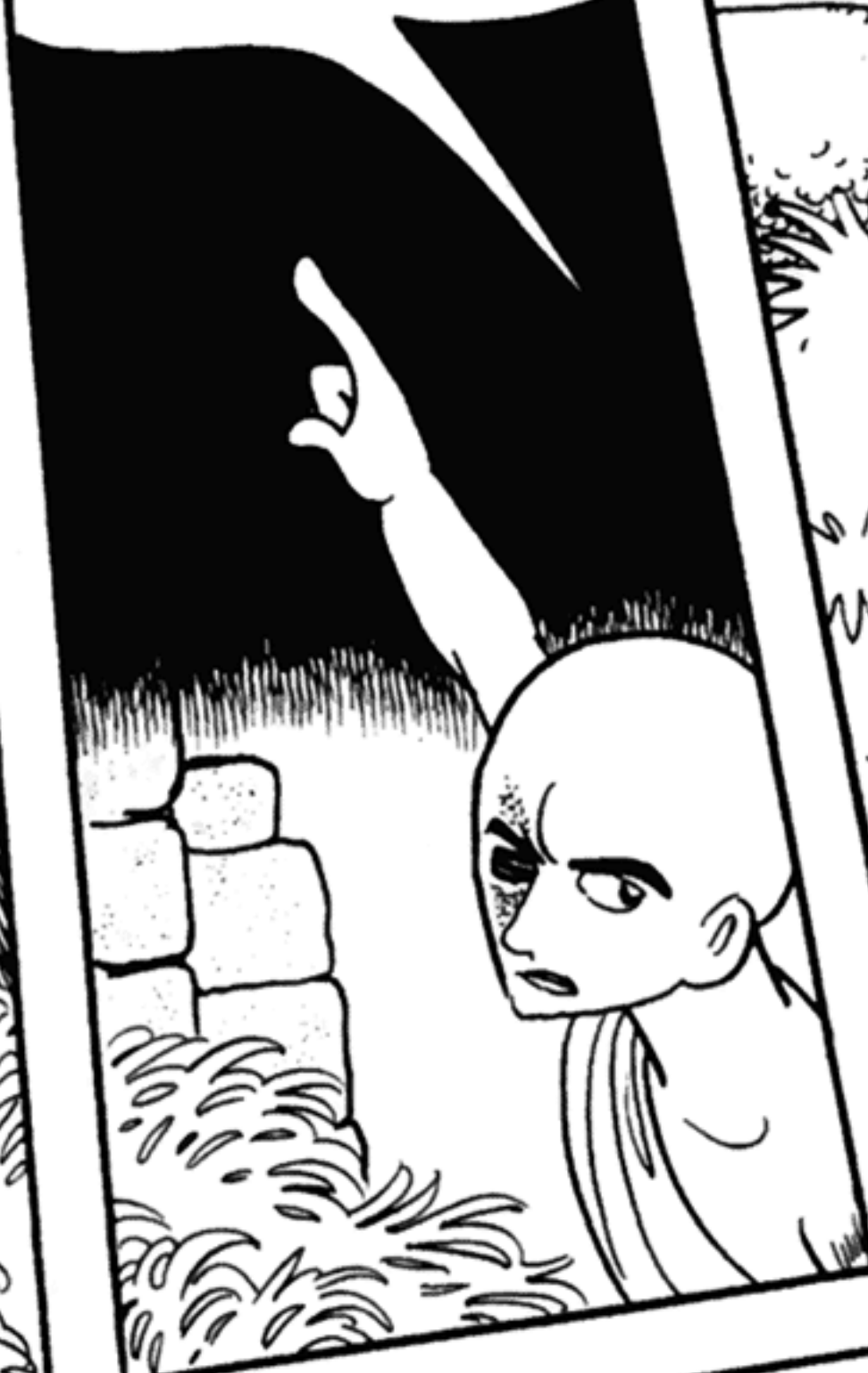


BUT IT'S IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING THAT HUMANS FIND GREAT TRUTHS!

zzz



LURVELA AND ITS FOREST OF TRIALS ARE CLOSE BY. LET US SUFFER THERE.



TOMORROW, I SHALL ENTER THE LURVELA FOREST OF TRIALS. I MAY NOT SEE YOU FOR SOME TIME.

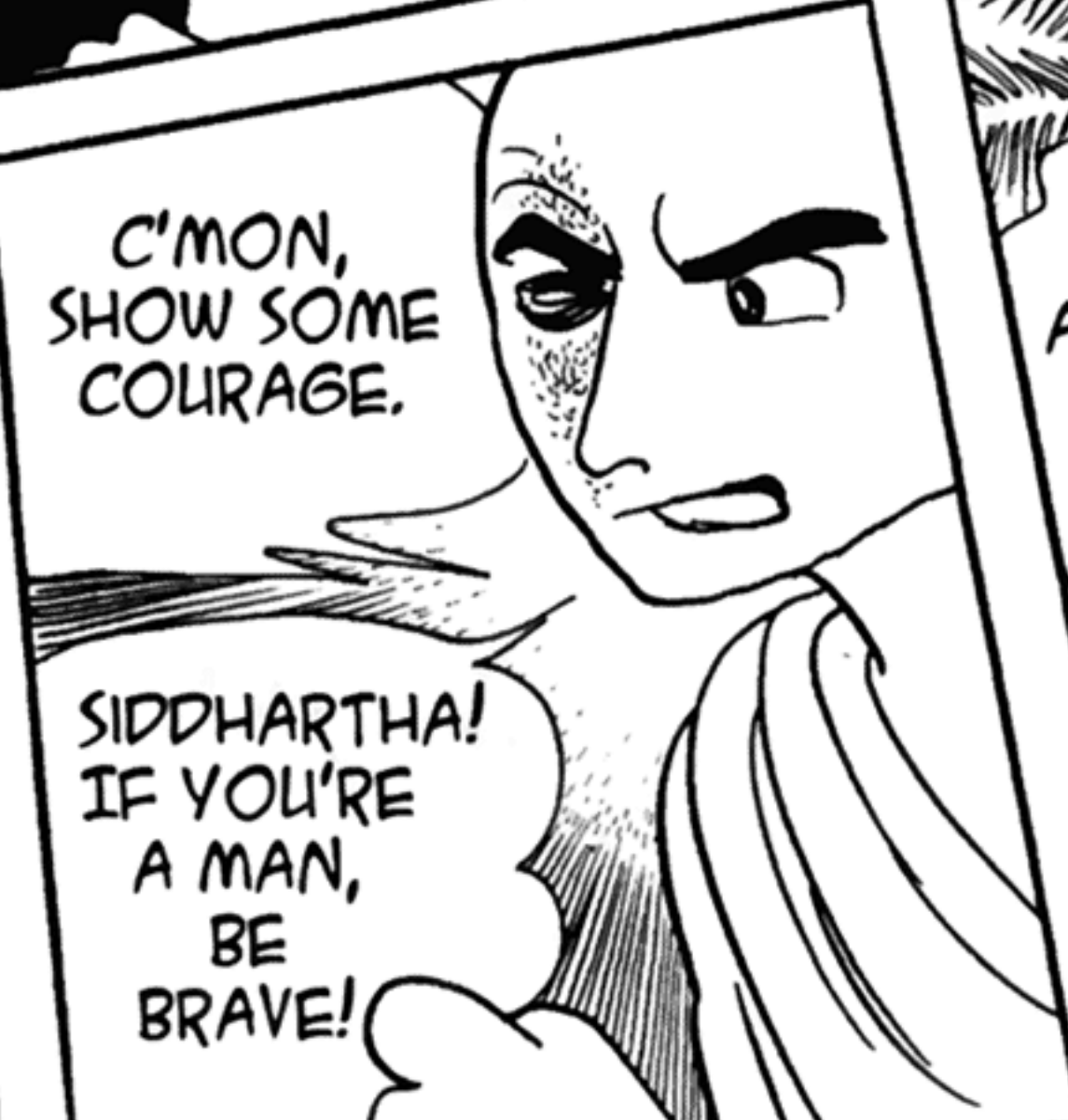


LURVELA ...?



C'MON, SHOW SOME COURAGE.

SIDDHARTHA! IF YOU'RE A MAN, BE BRAVE!



BUT THAT'S A TERRIBLE PLACE. MANY HAVE DIED THERE.





THE ORDEALS UNDERTAKEN ARE SO FIERCE...

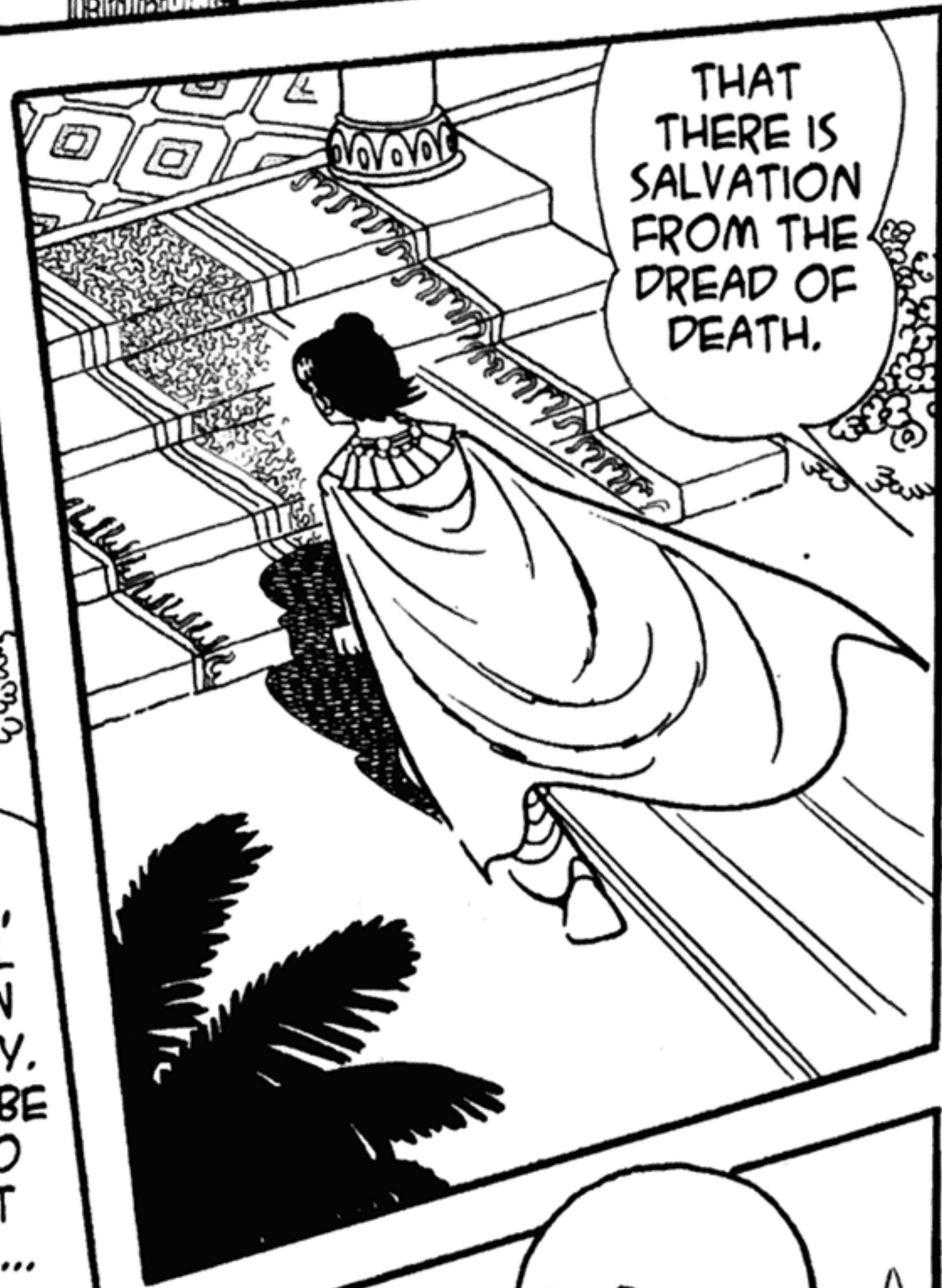
ASCETICS DIE ONE AFTER ANOTHER. DO YOU WISH TO DIE, TOO?

IT IS FOR THE GODS TO DECIDE WHETHER I SHALL SURVIVE.



OH, BUDDHA! THE LENGTHS TO WHICH YOU GO... I DO NOT WANT TO LOSE YOU!!

SENIYA, I SHALL RETURN ONE DAY. I SHALL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO YOU...



THAT THERE IS SALVATION FROM THE DREAD OF DEATH.



PLEASE ACCEPT THIS TOKEN OF MY FRIENDSHIP.

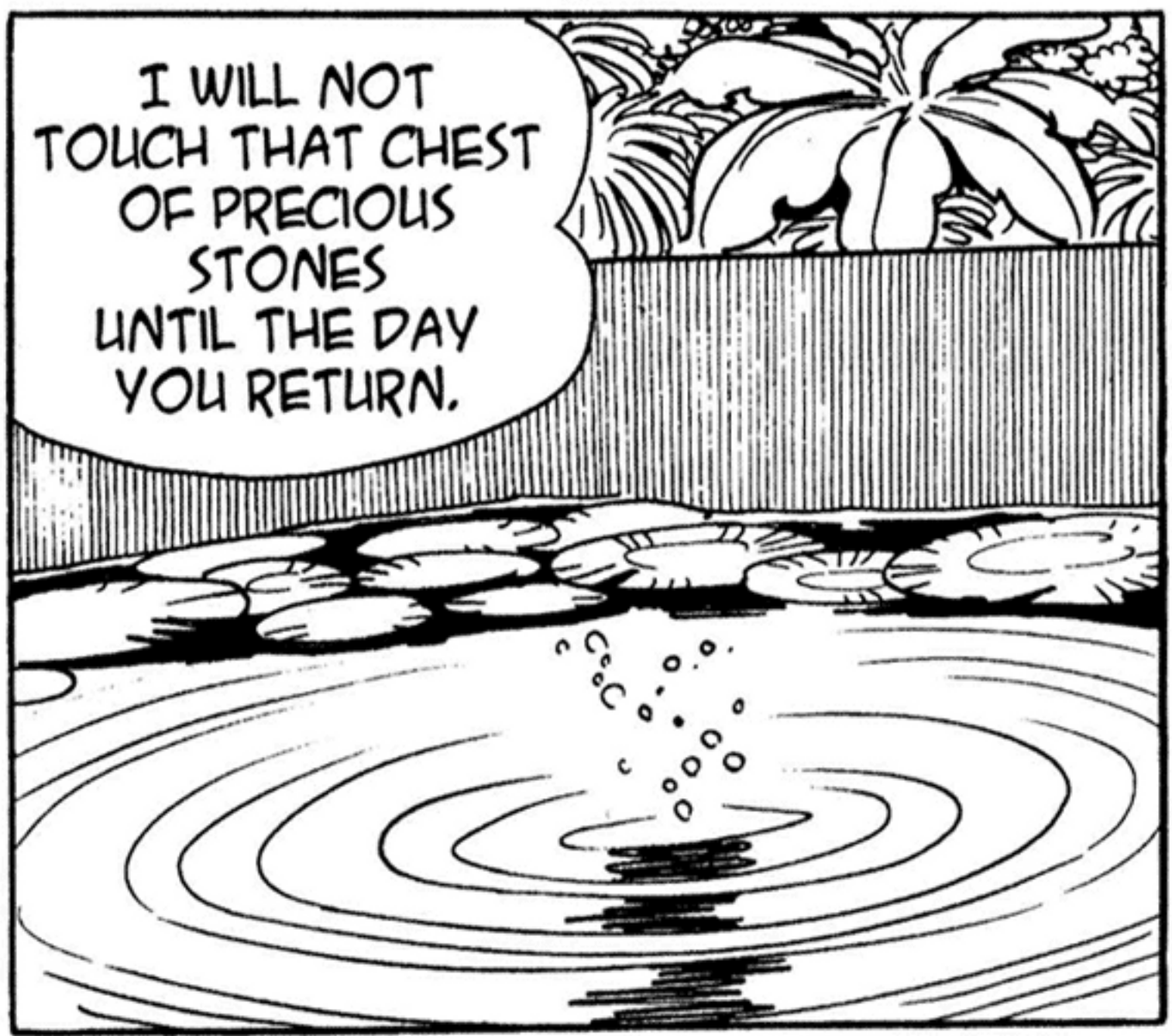
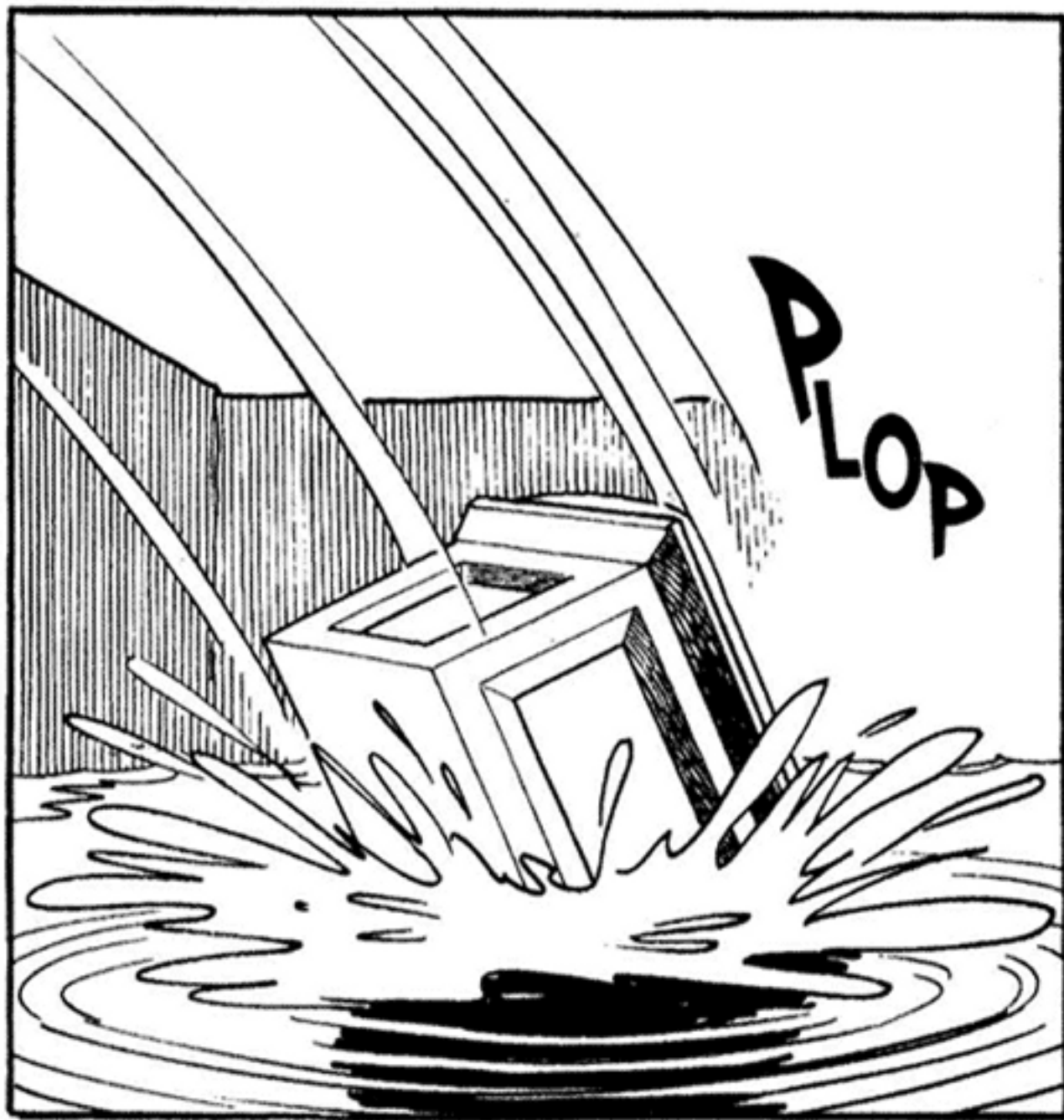
EXCHANGE THIS FOR MONEY AND YOU'LL NOT WANT DURING THE TRIALS.



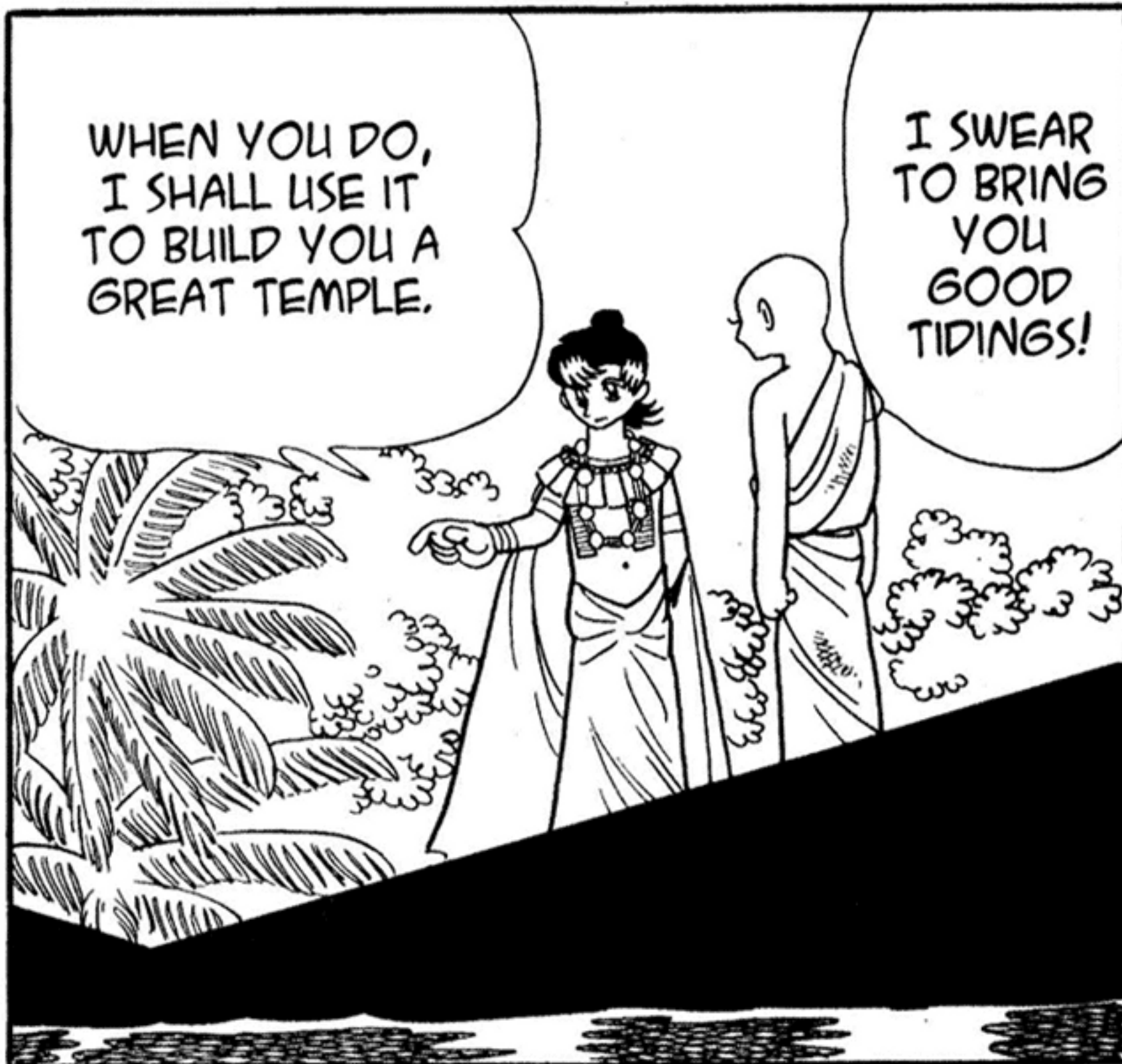
SENIYA, MONKS
IN TRAINING CAN
ACCEPT NO
OFFERINGS
BUT FOOD.



AH, YES...
OF COURSE
...

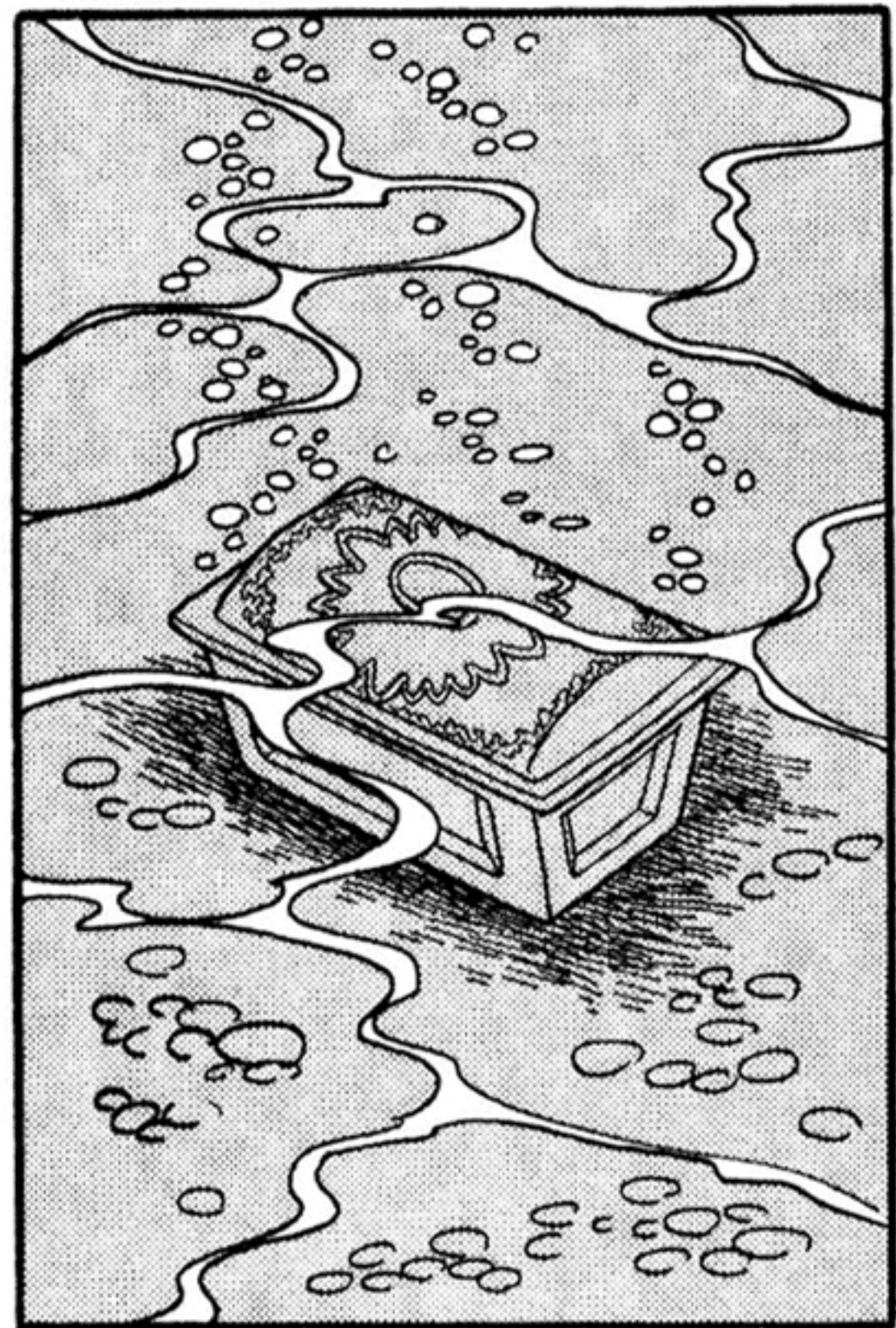


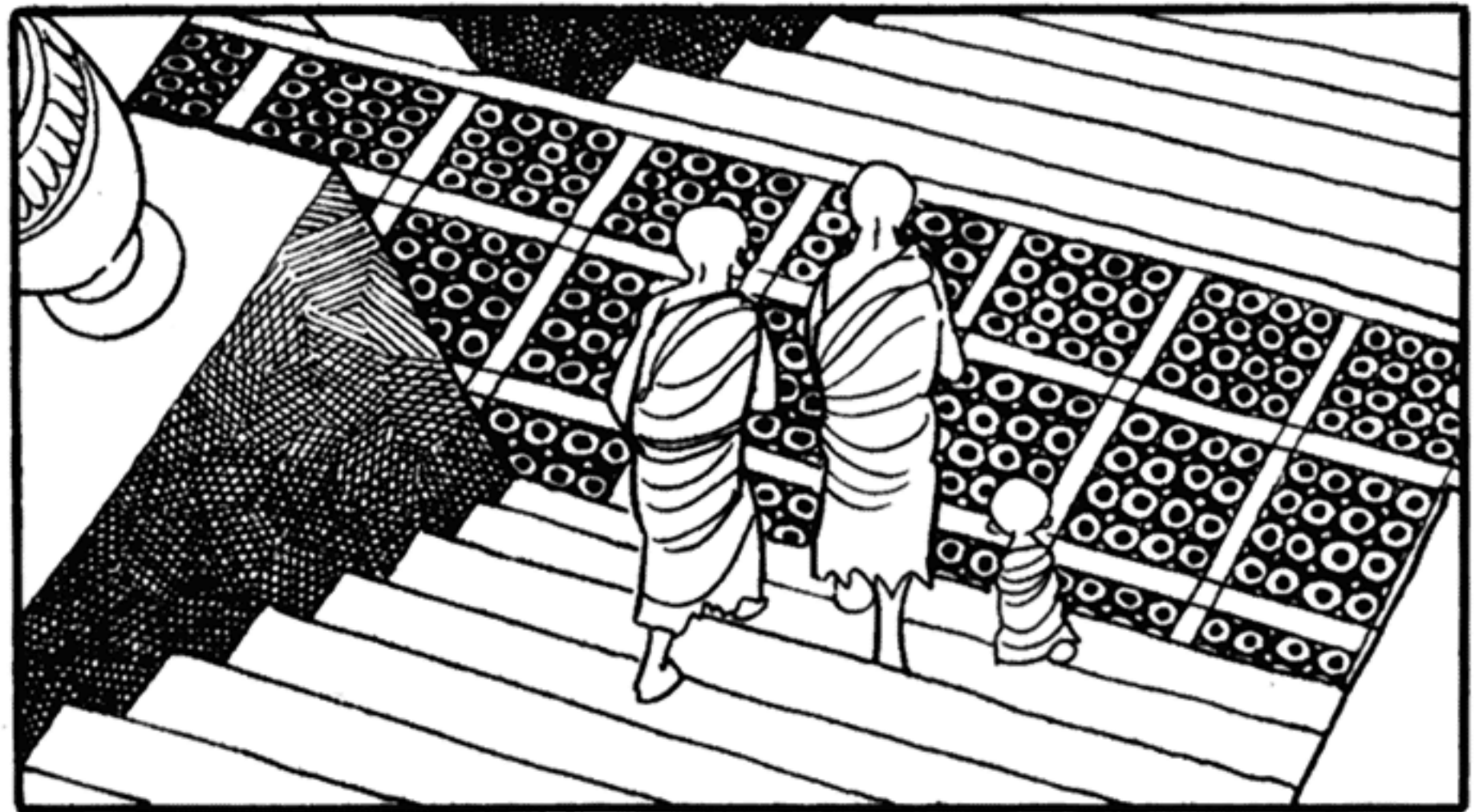
I WILL NOT
TOUCH THAT CHEST
OF PRECIOUS
STONES
UNTIL THE DAY
YOU RETURN.

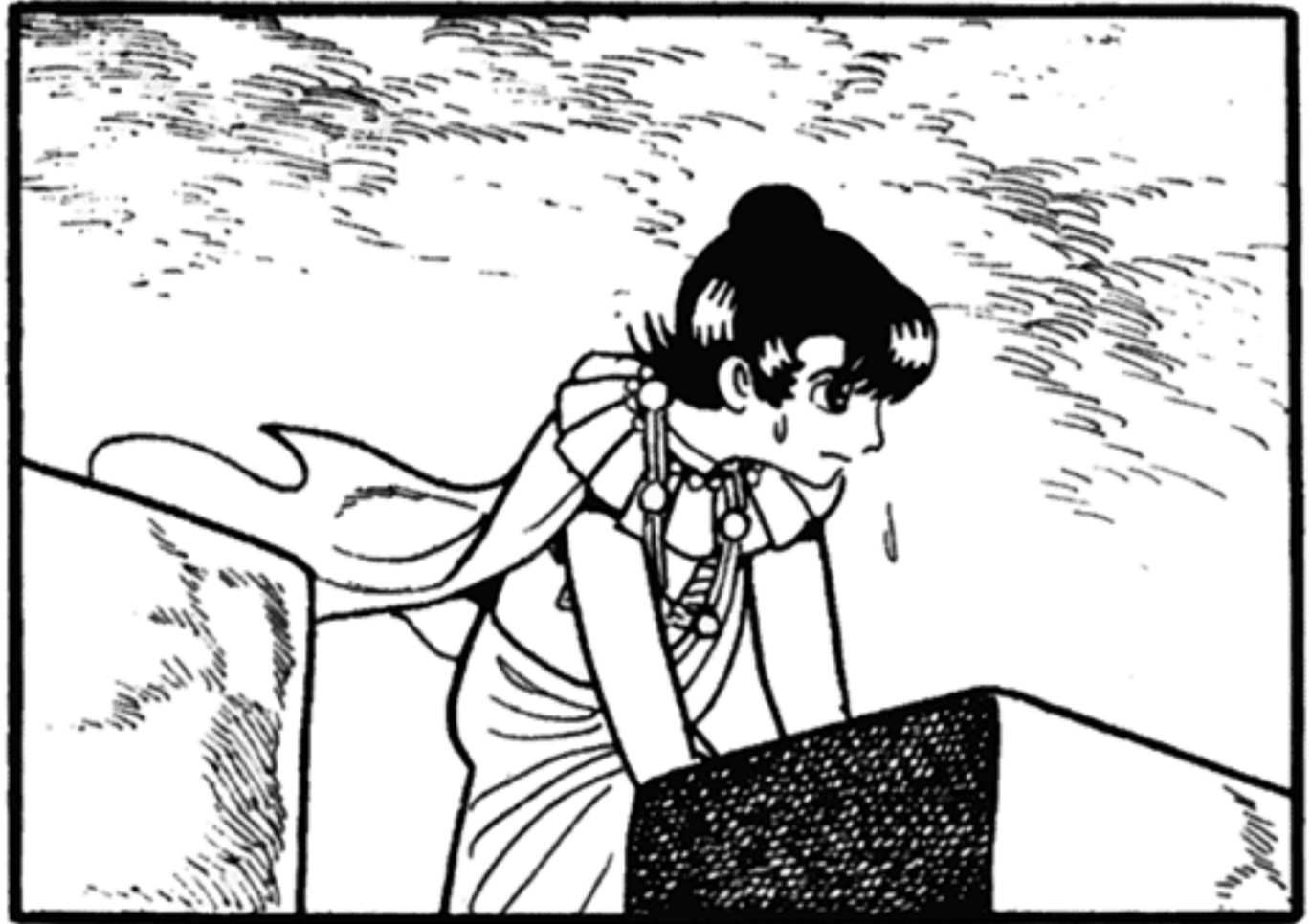
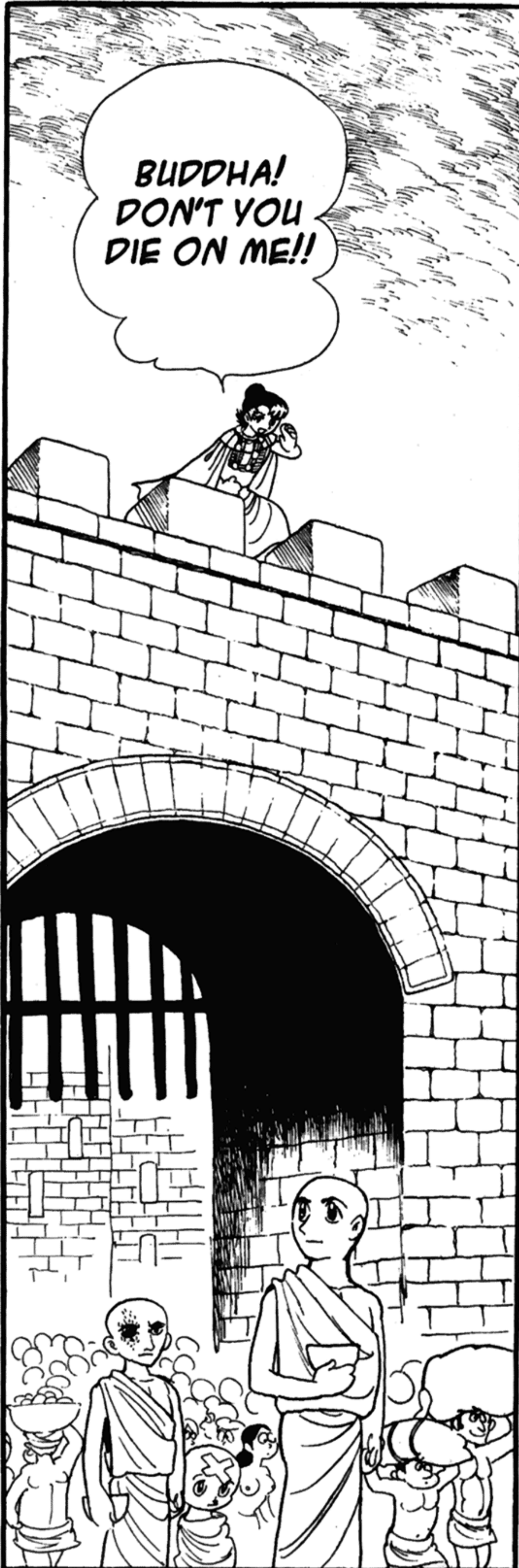


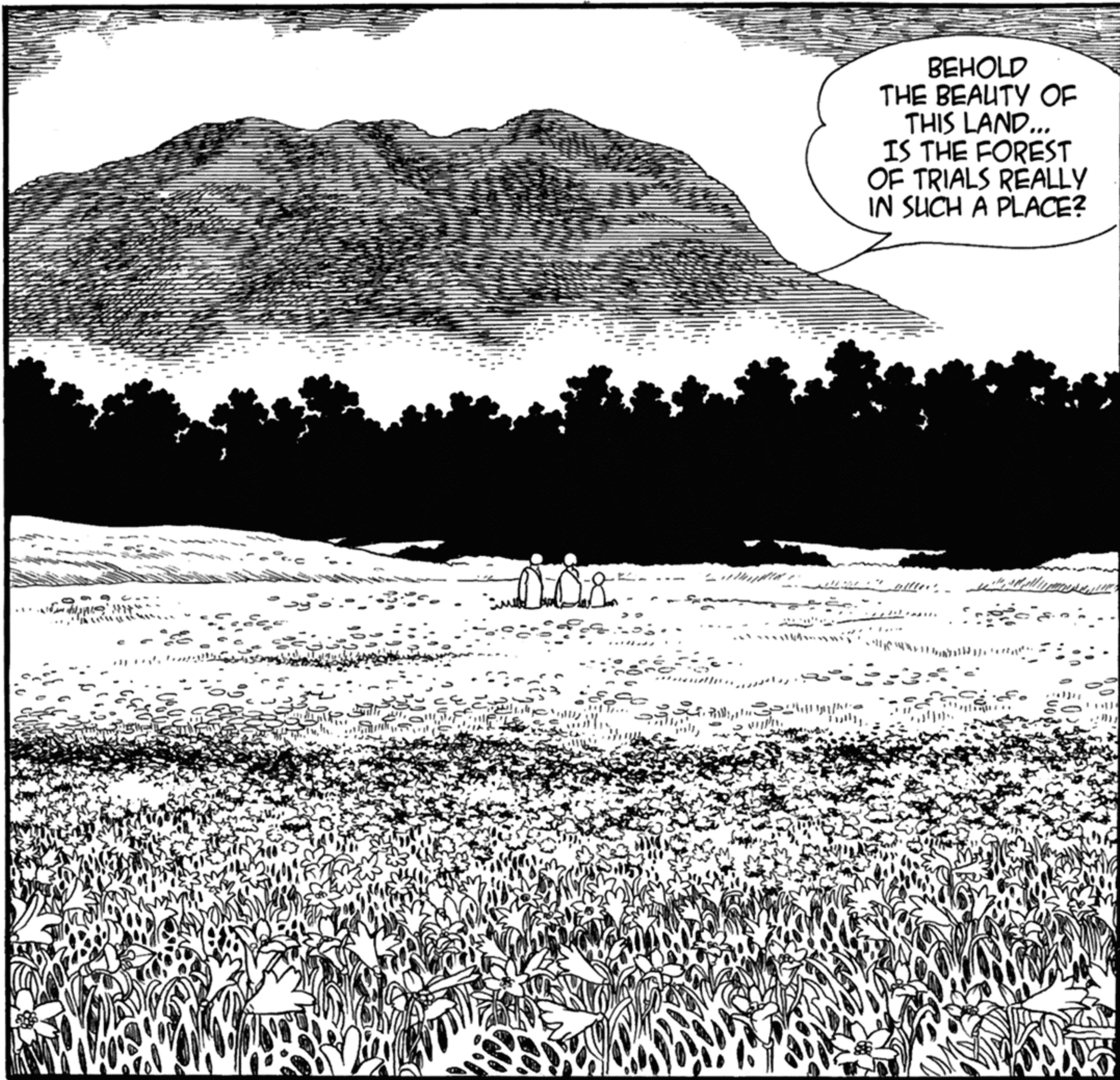
WHEN YOU DO,
I SHALL USE IT
TO BUILD YOU A
GREAT TEMPLE.

I SWEAR
TO BRING
YOU
GOOD
TIDINGS!

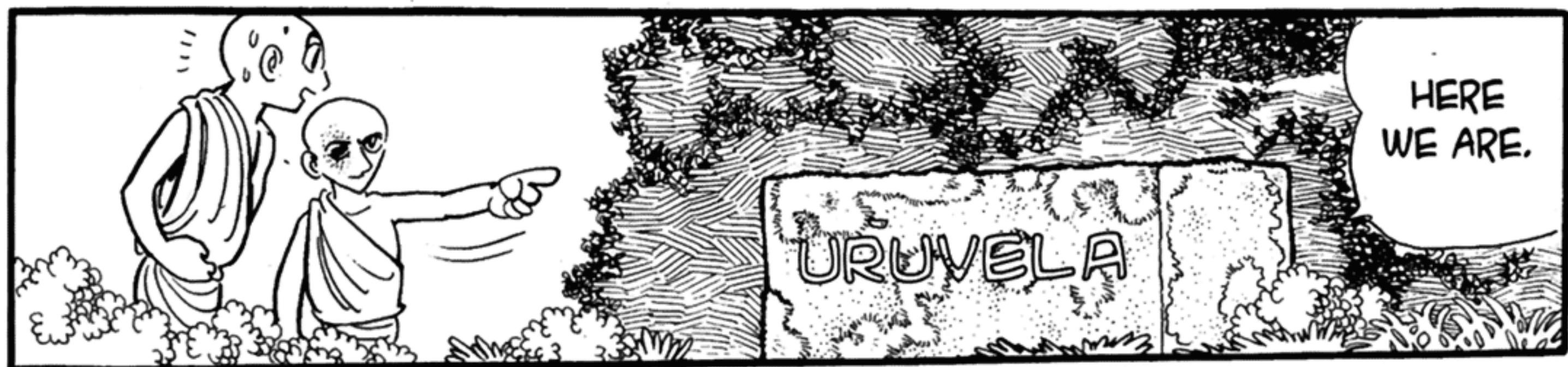






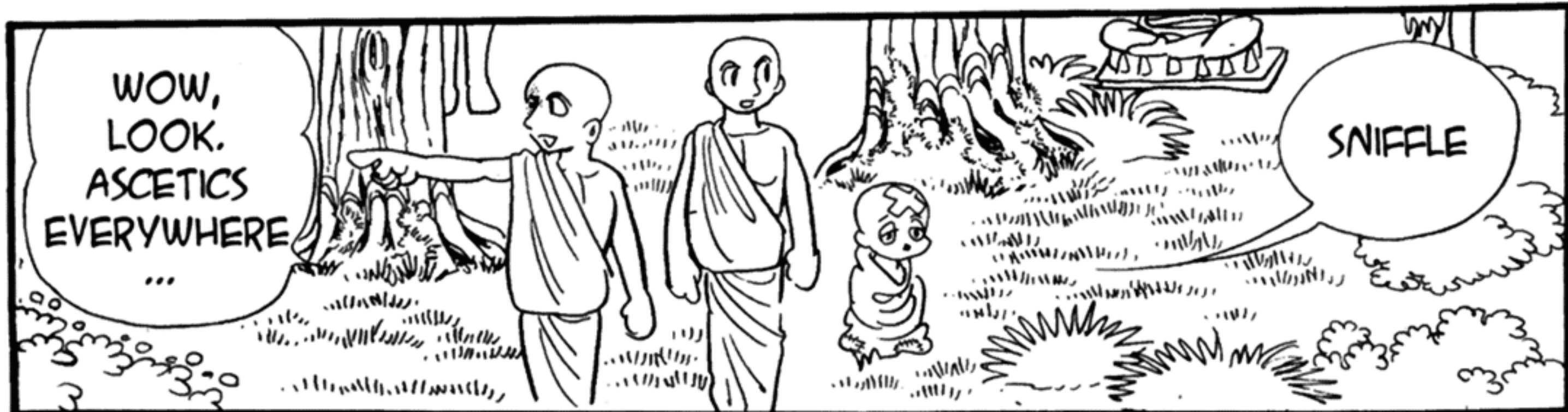


BEHOLD THE BEAUTY OF THIS LAND... IS THE FOREST OF TRIALS REALLY IN SUCH A PLACE?



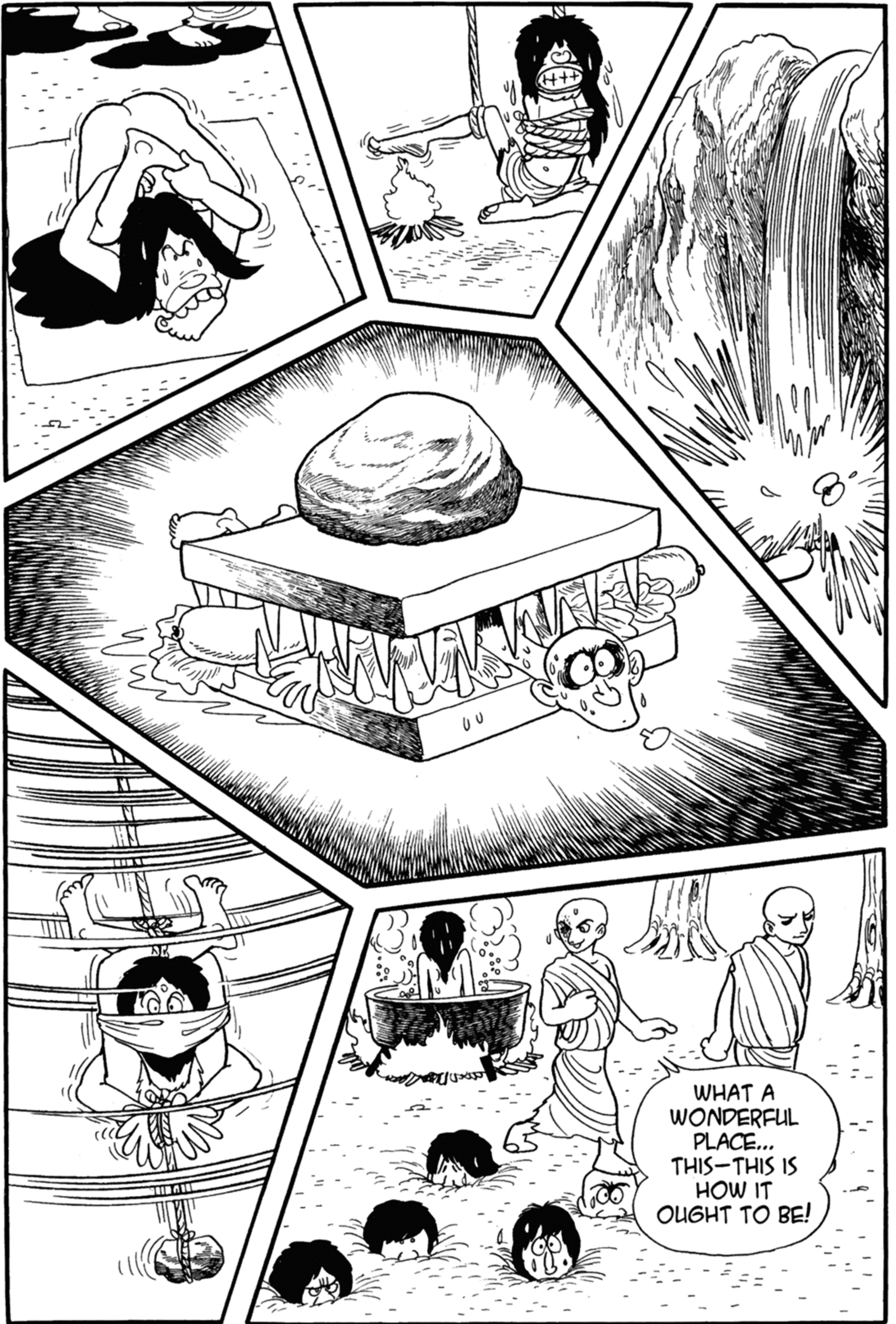
HERE WE ARE.

URUVELA



WOW, LOOK. ASCETICS EVERYWHERE ...

SNIFFLE

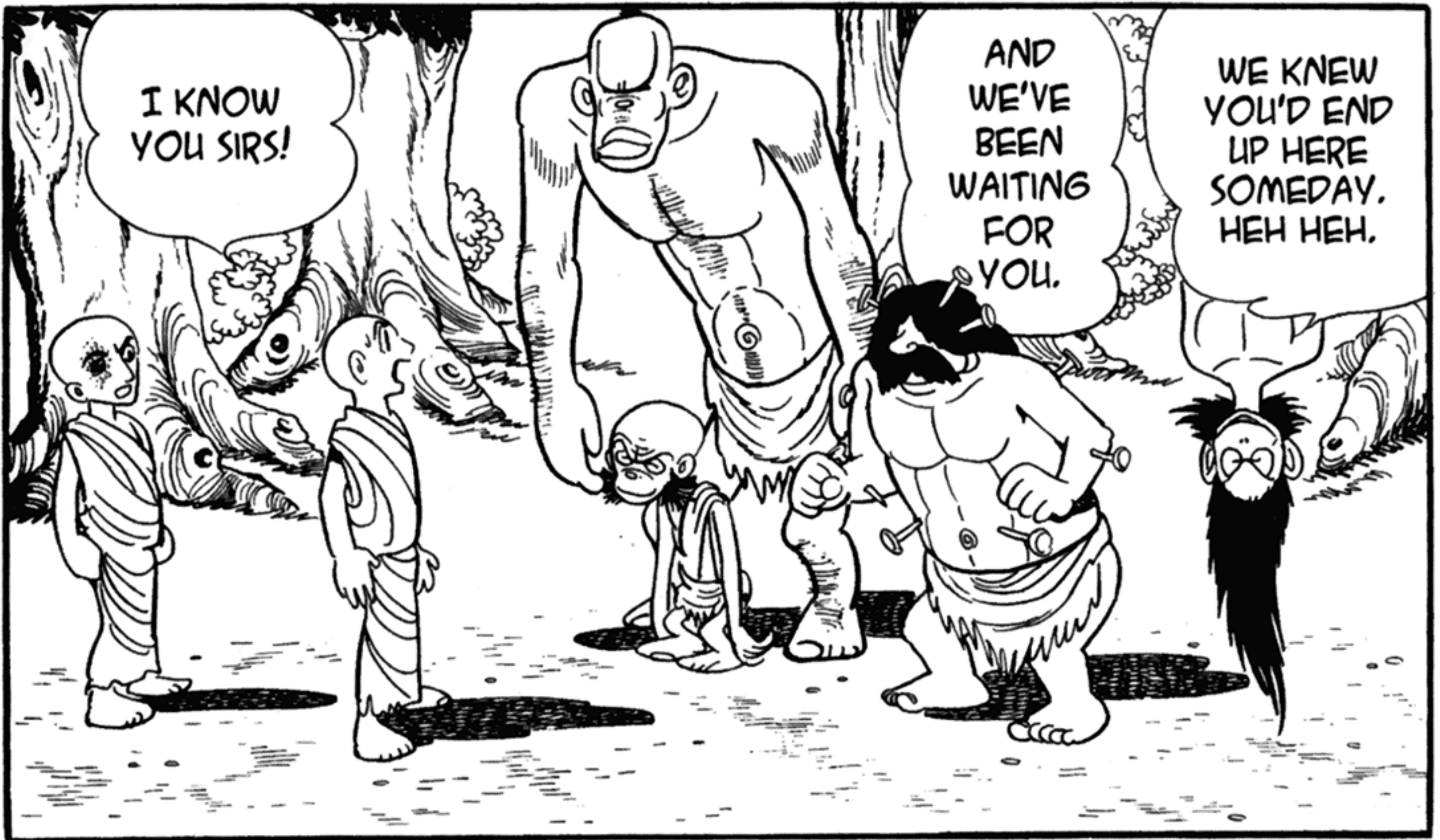


WHAT A
WONDERFUL
PLACE...
THIS—THIS IS
HOW IT
OUGHT TO BE!



HEY!
IT'S
SIDDHARTHA.

ALL
RIGHT
!!



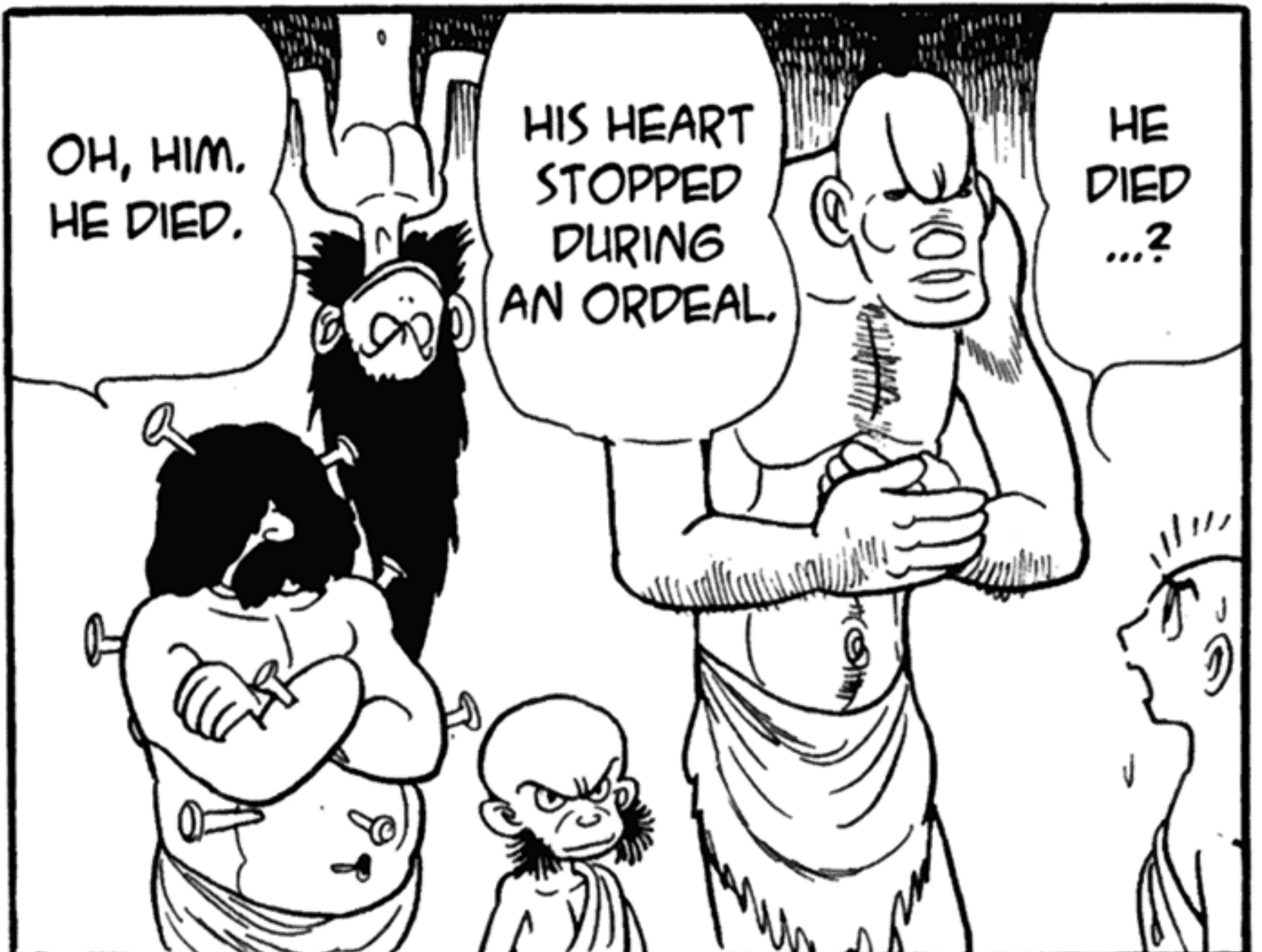
I KNOW
YOU SIR!

AND
WE'VE
BEEN
WAITING
FOR
YOU.

WE KNEW
YOU'D END
UP HERE
SOMEDAY.
HEH HEH.



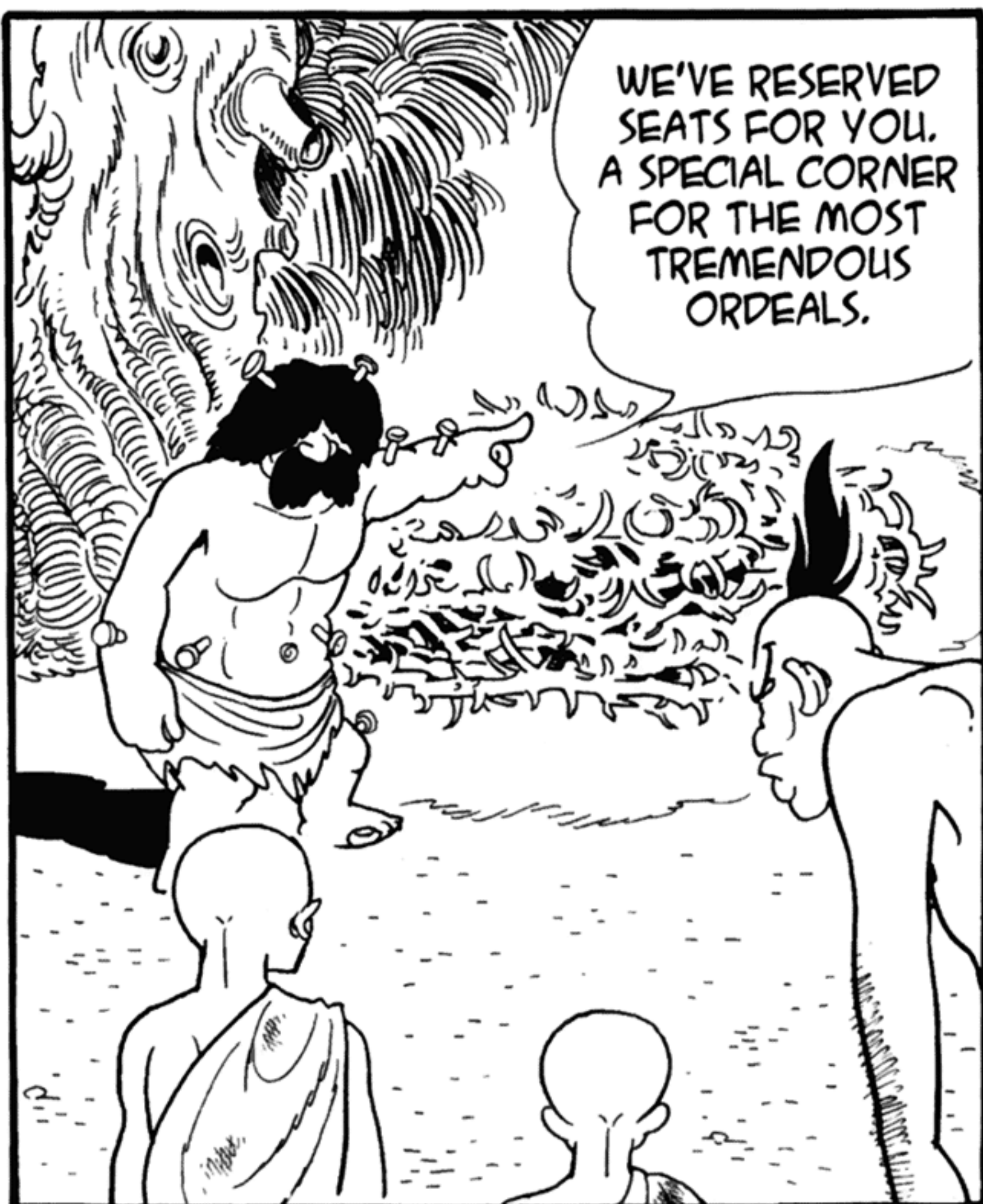
THERE
WERE
FIVE OF
YOU.

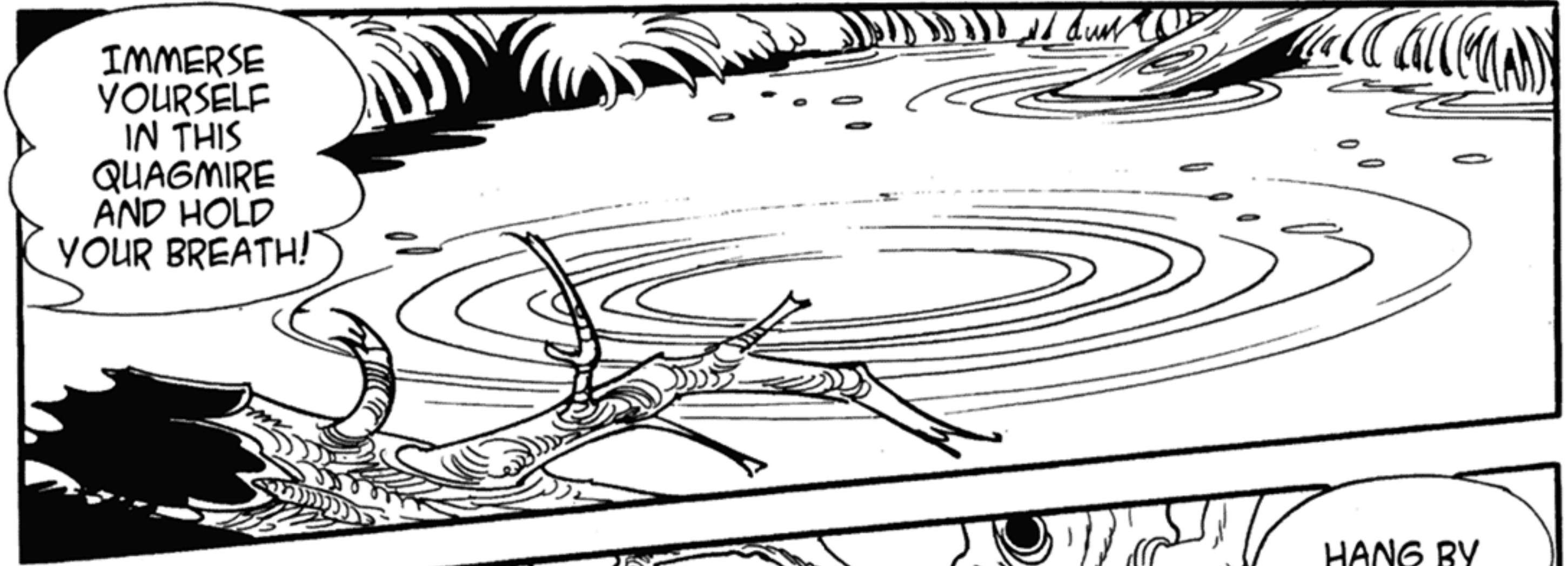


OH, HIM.
HE DIED.

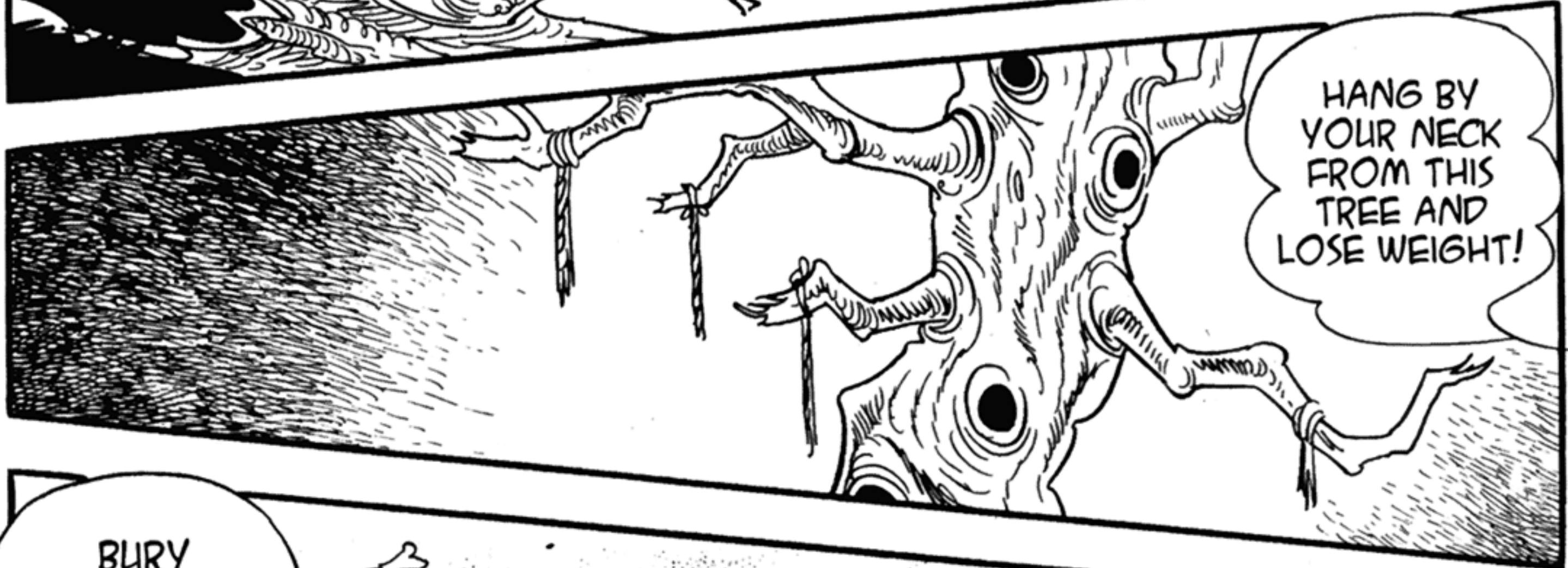
HIS HEART
STOPPED
DURING
AN ORDEAL.

HE
DIED
...?

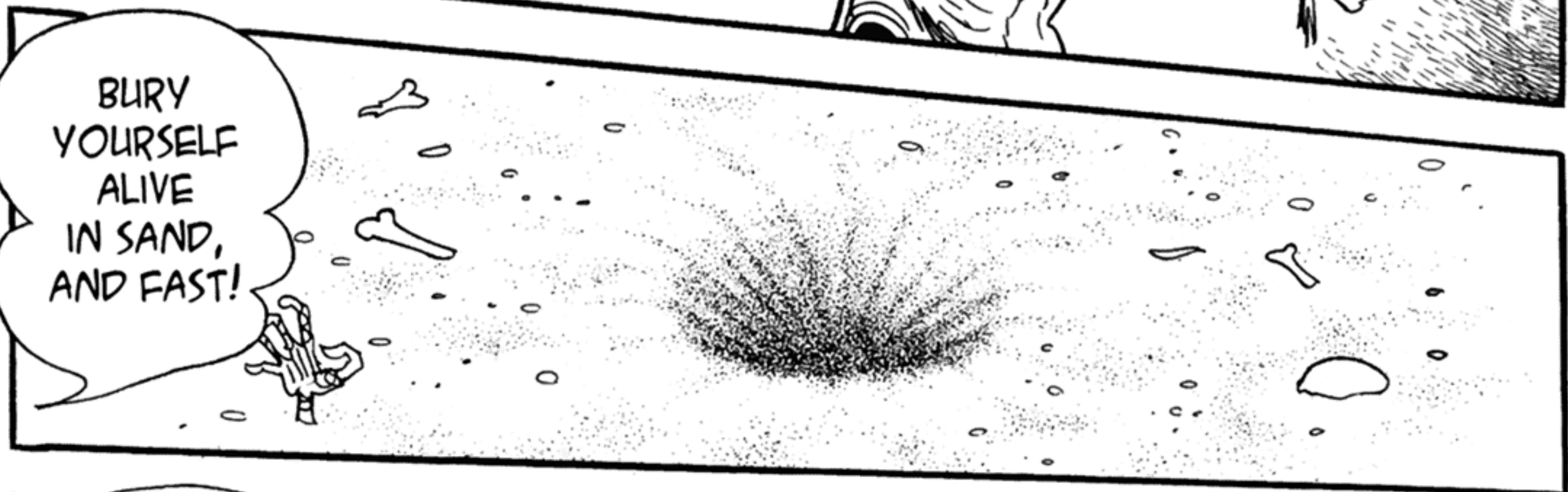




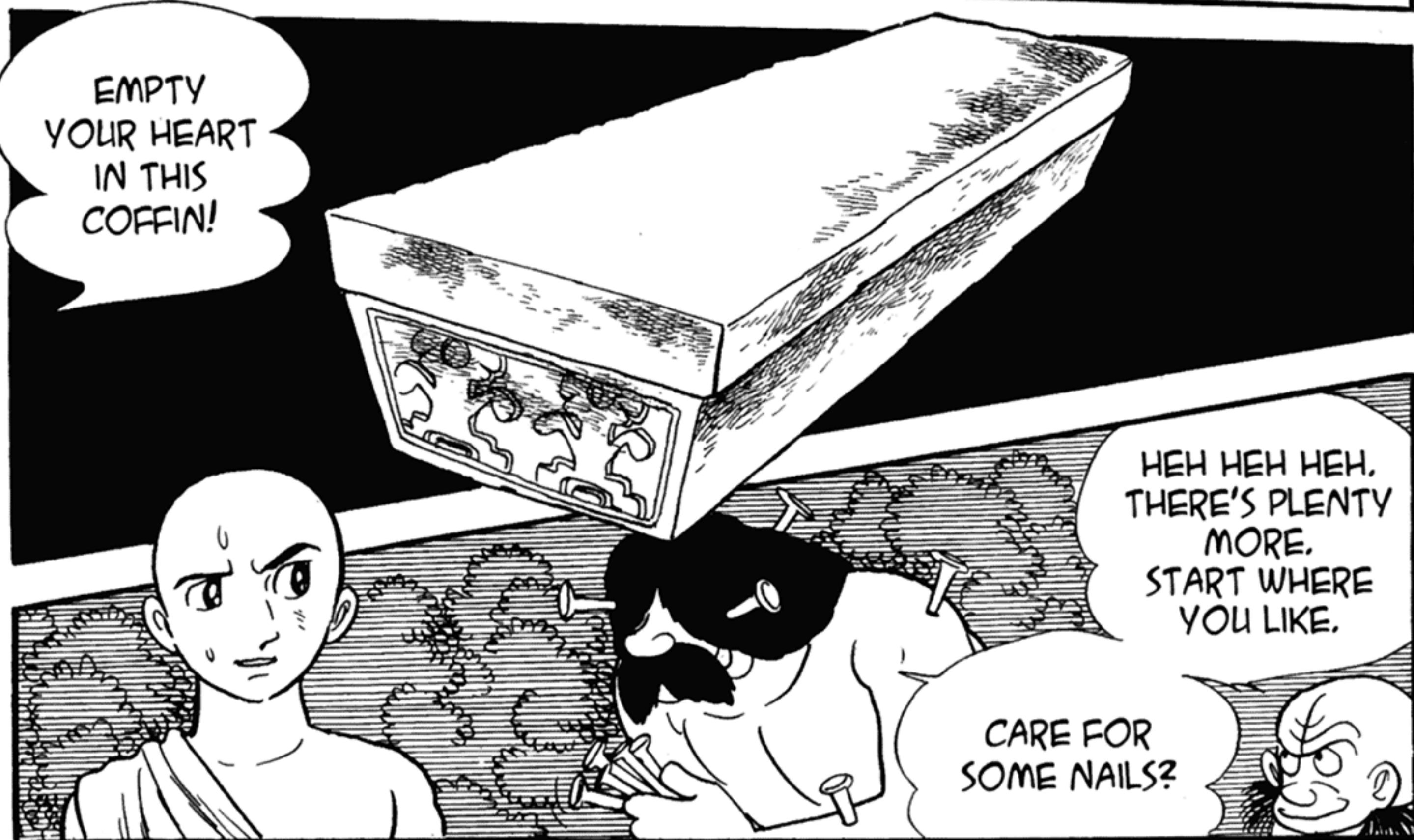
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THIS QUAGMIRE AND HOLD YOUR BREATH!



HANG BY YOUR NECK FROM THIS TREE AND LOSE WEIGHT!



BURY YOURSELF ALIVE IN SAND, AND FAST!

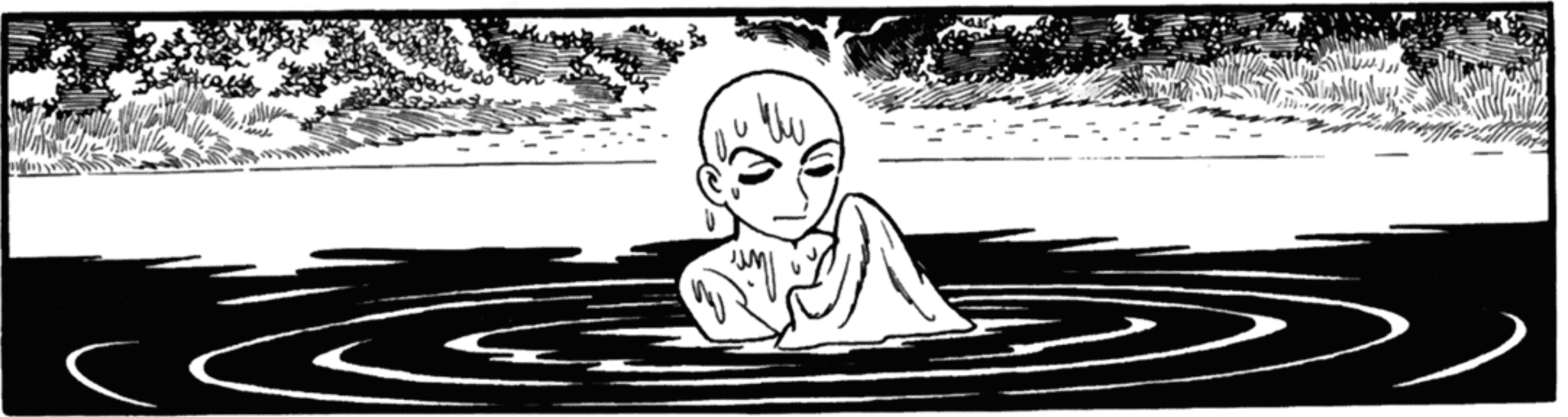


EMPTY YOUR HEART IN THIS COFFIN!

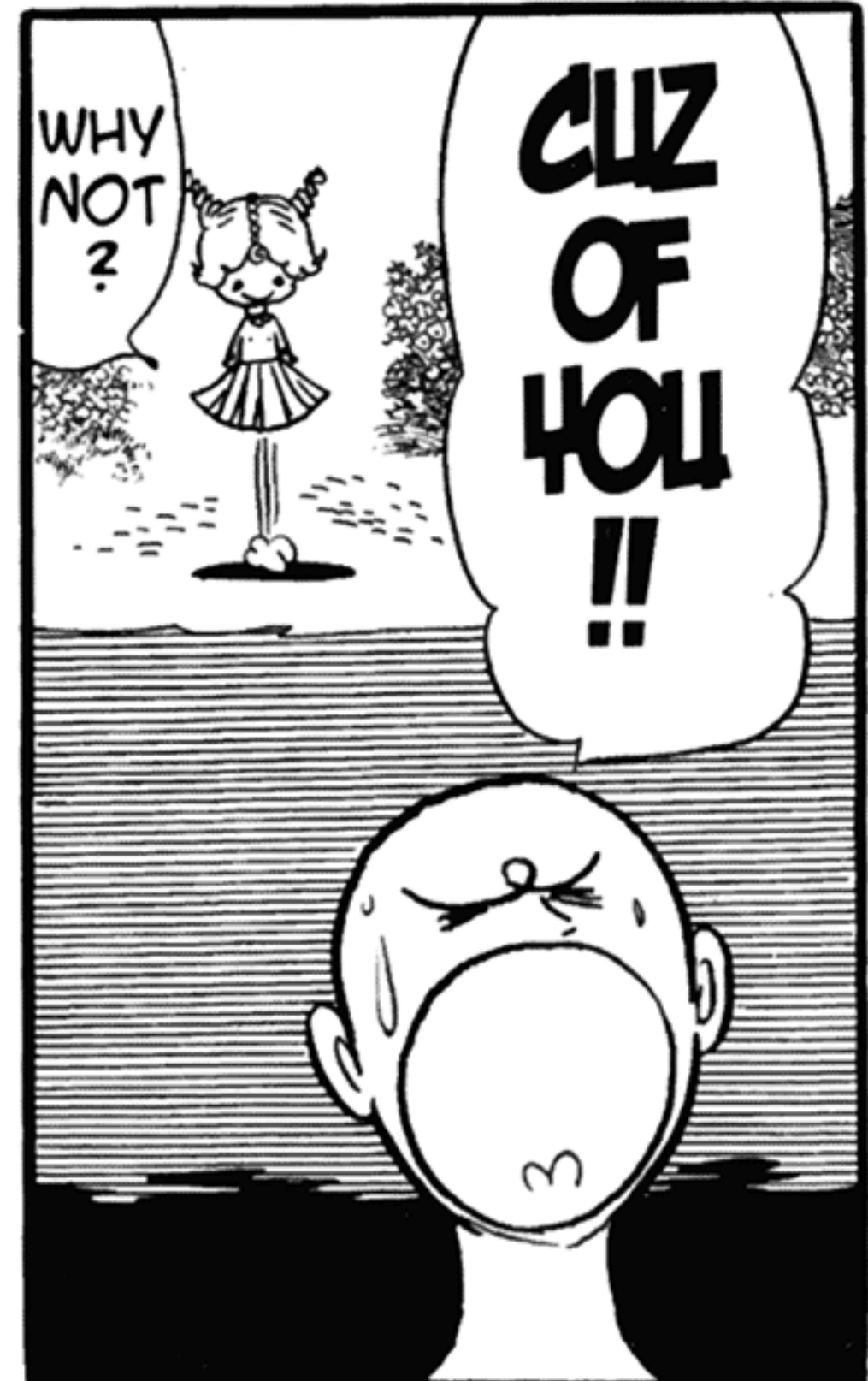
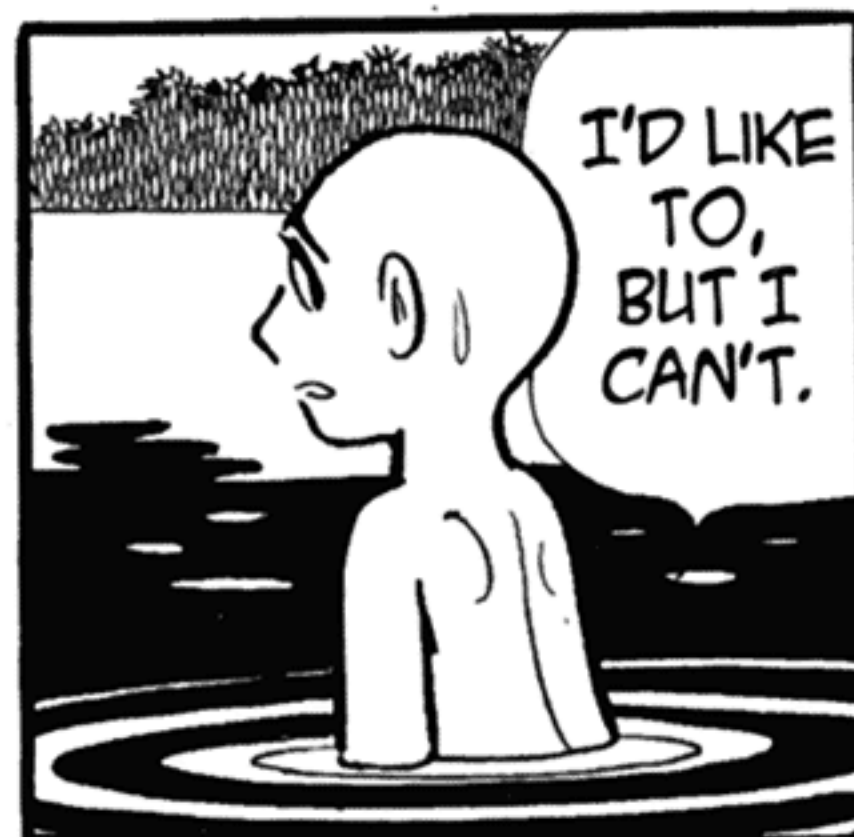
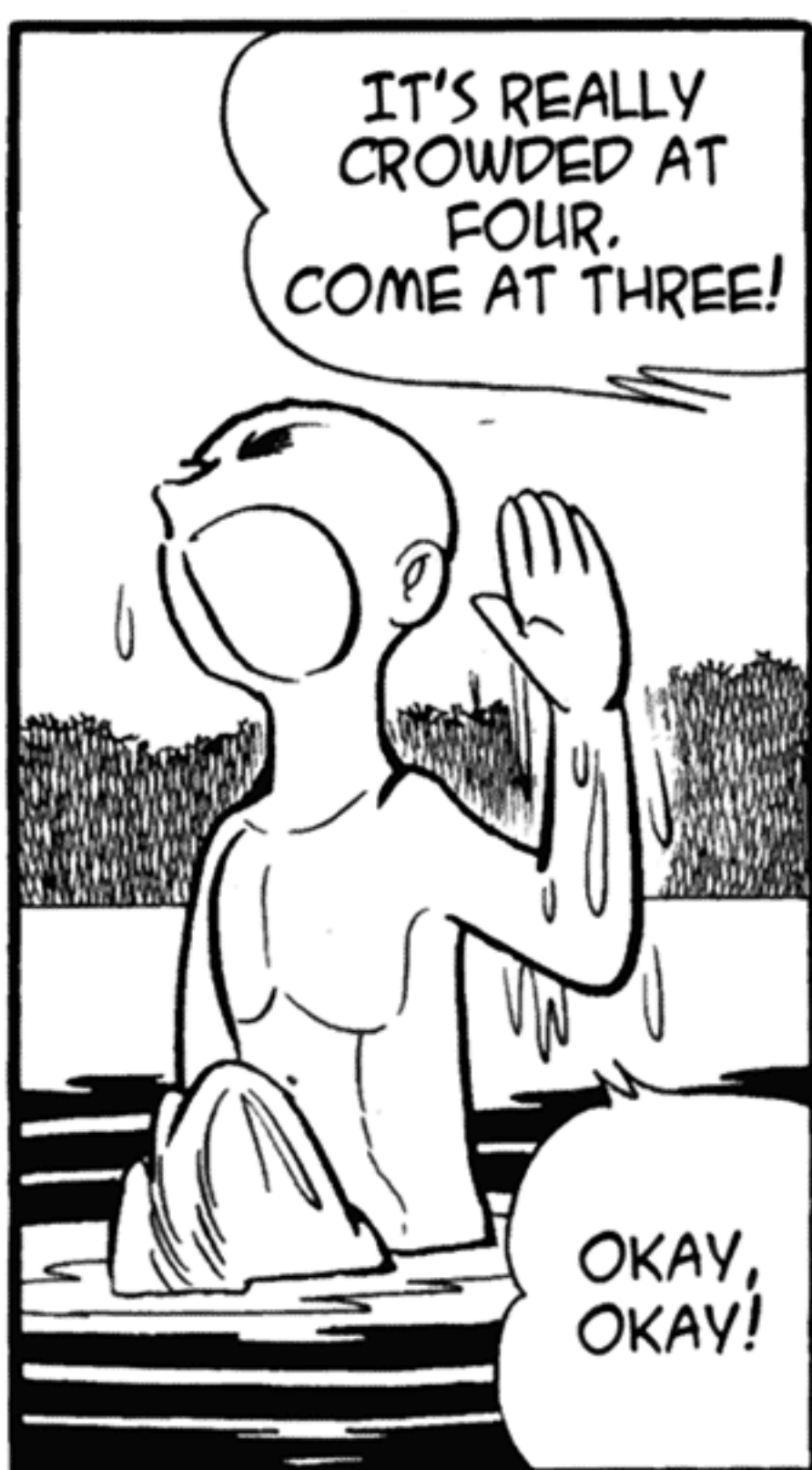
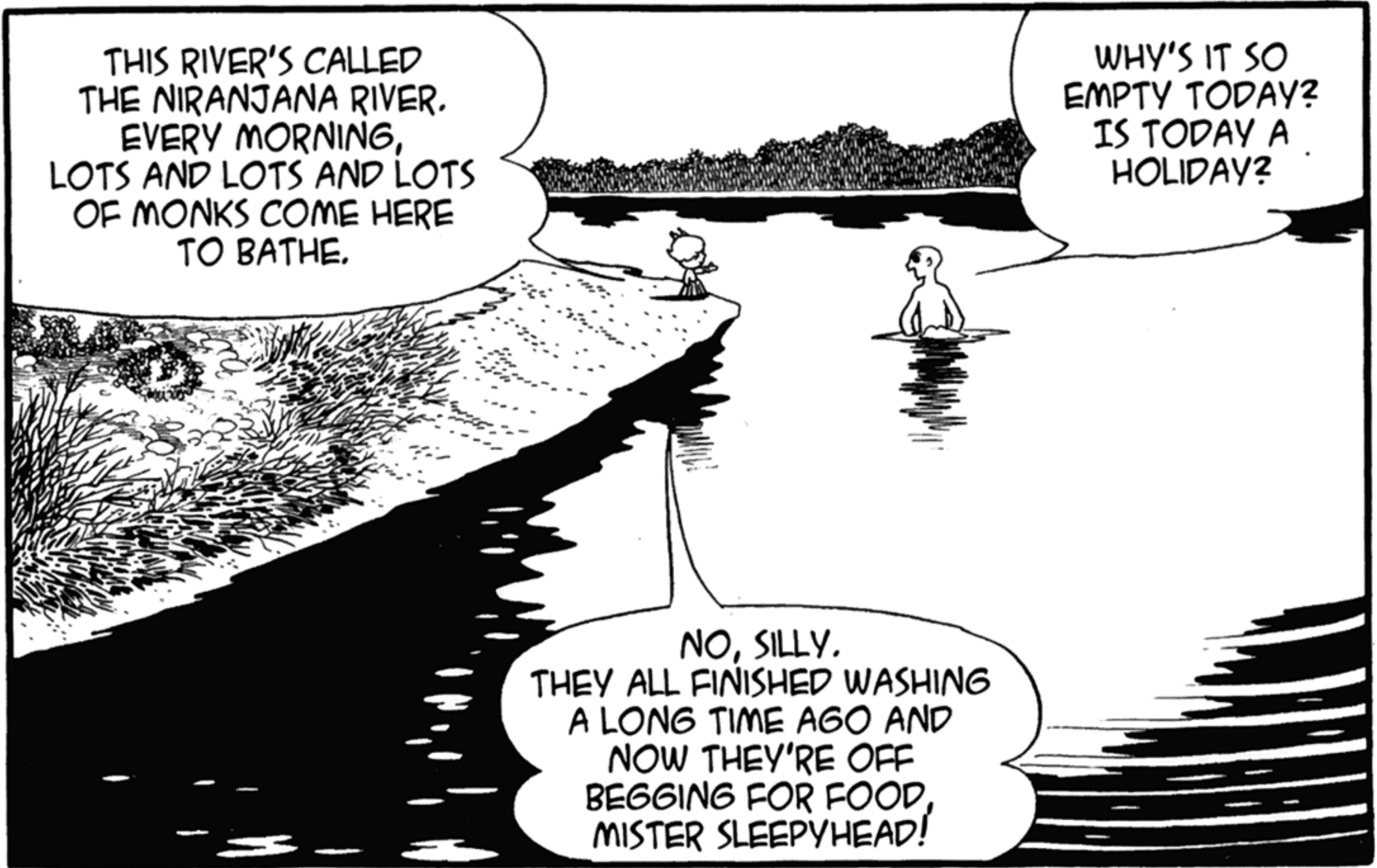
HEH HEH HEH, THERE'S PLENTY MORE, START WHERE YOU LIKE.

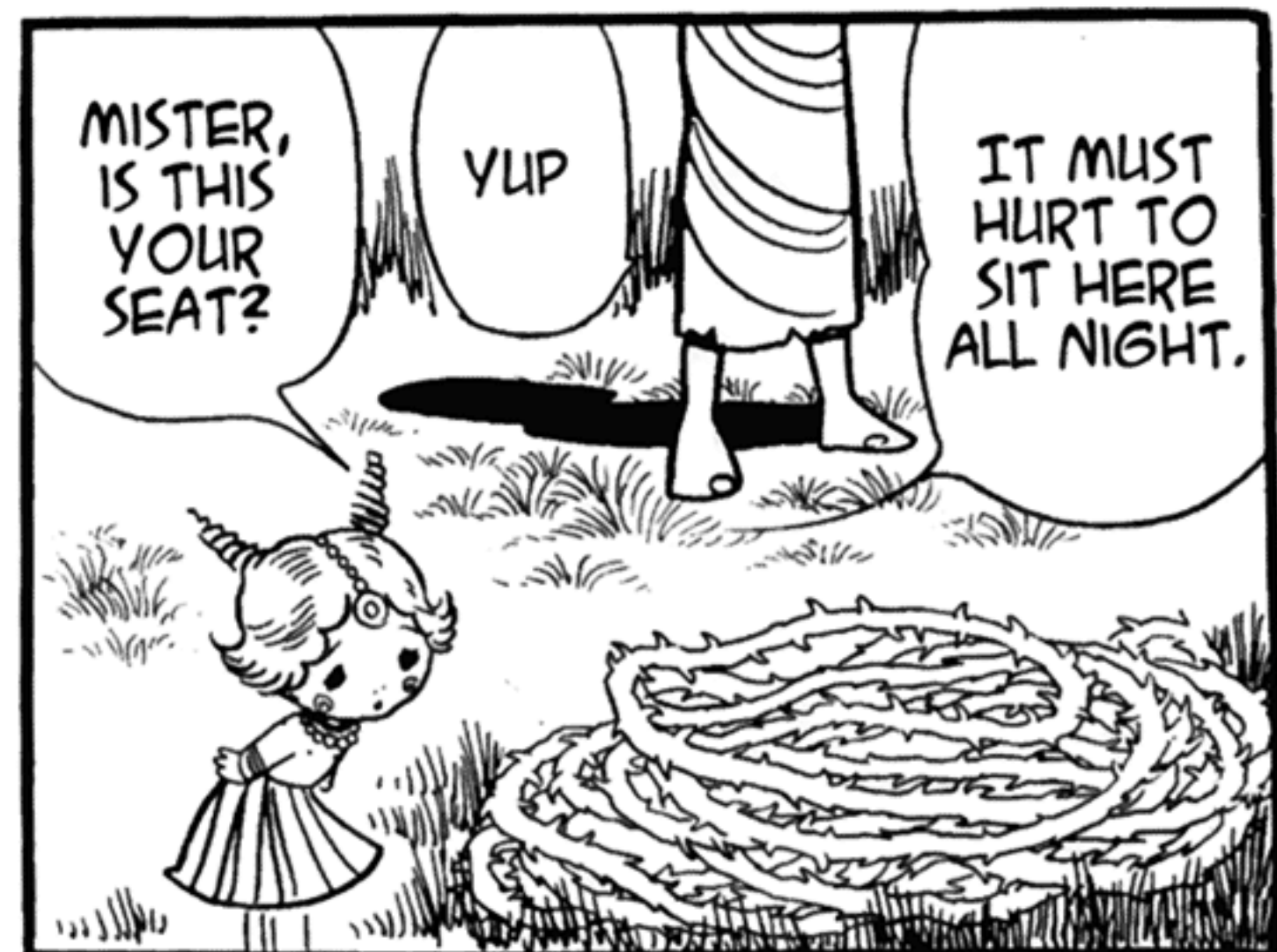
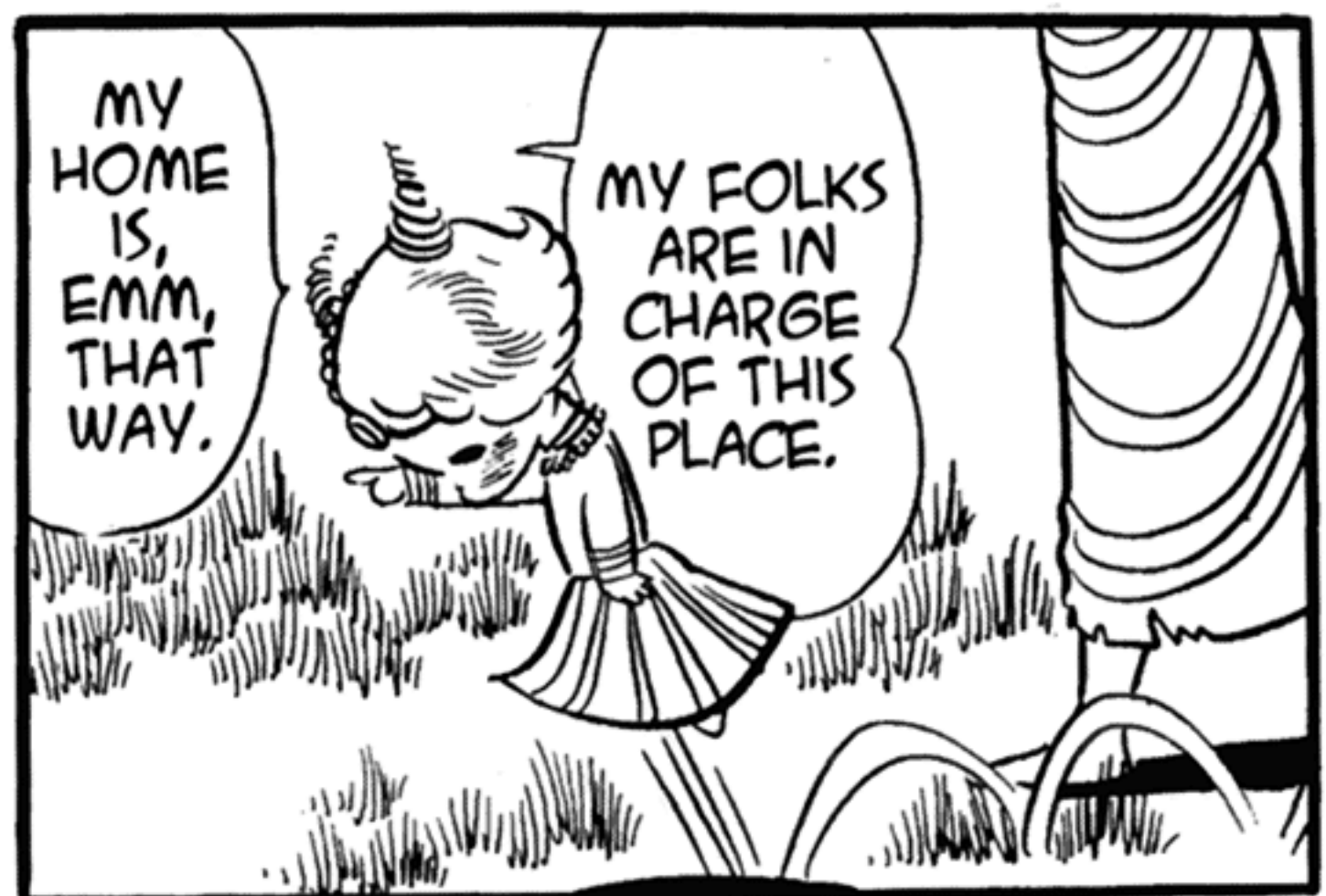
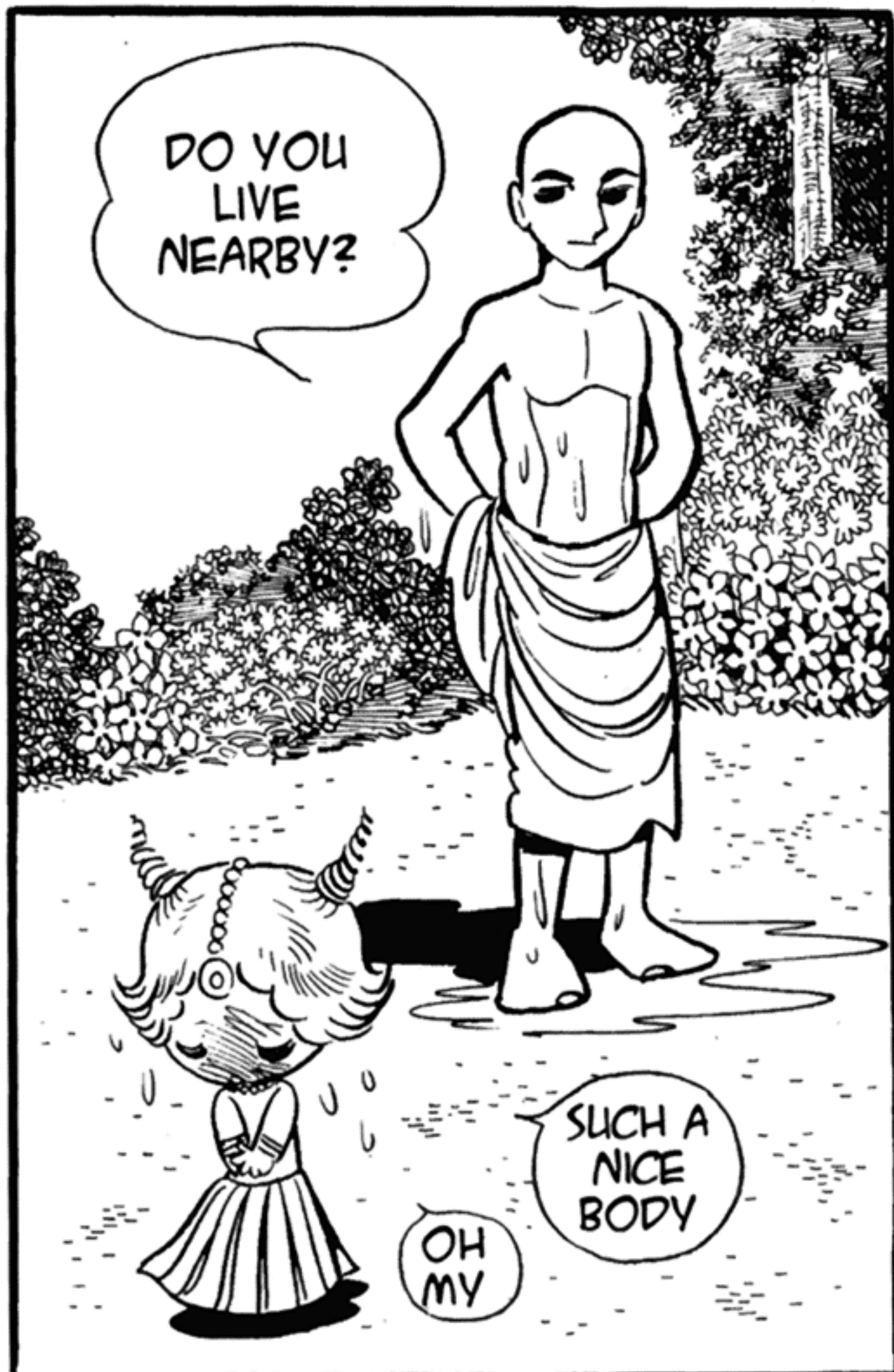
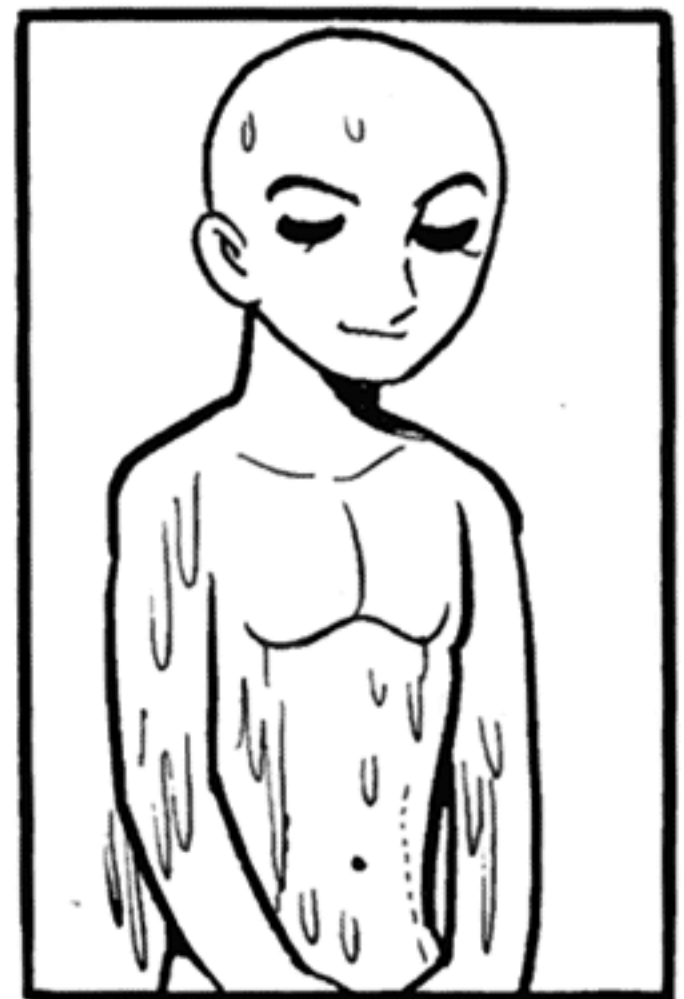
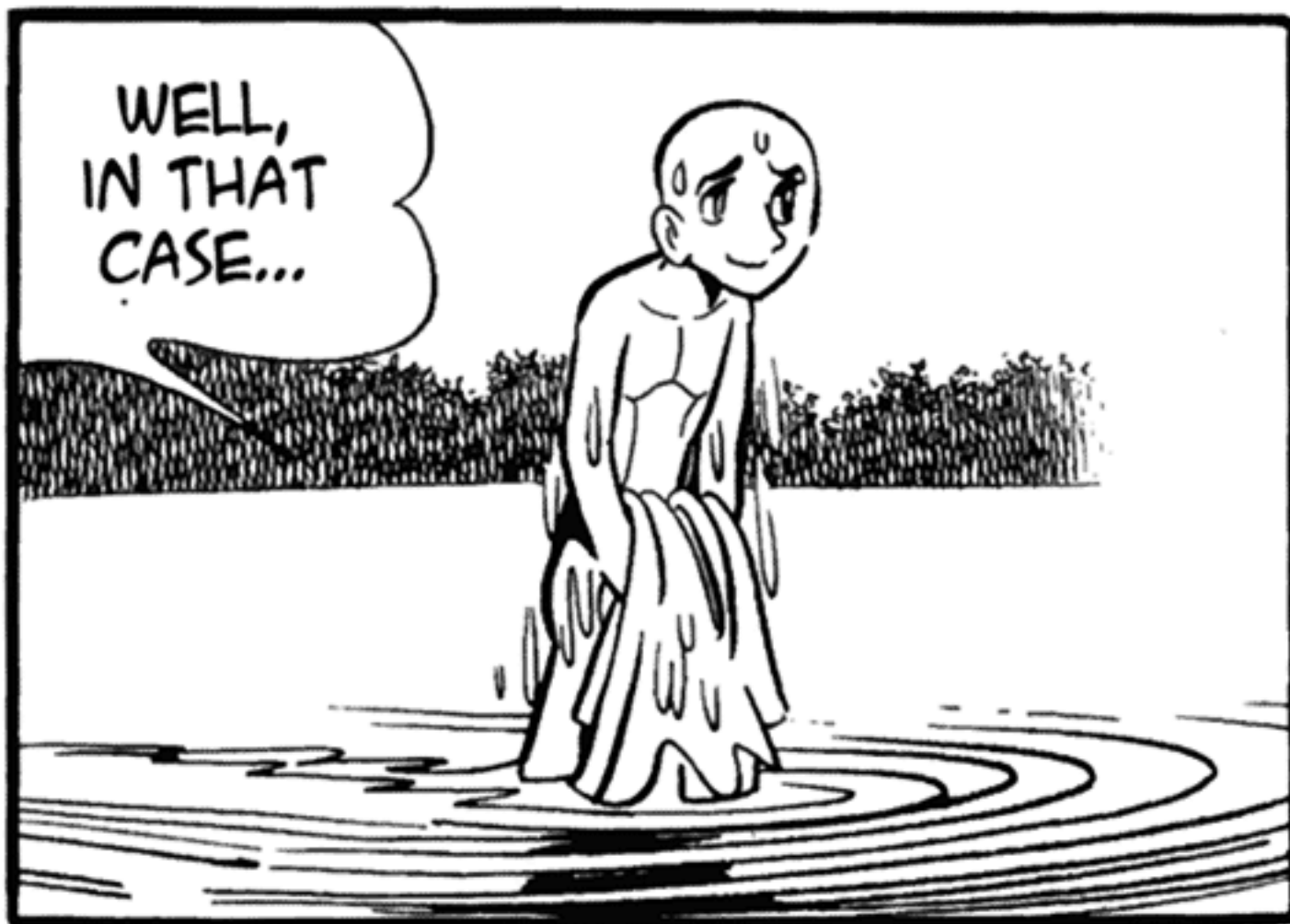
CARE FOR SOME NAILS?

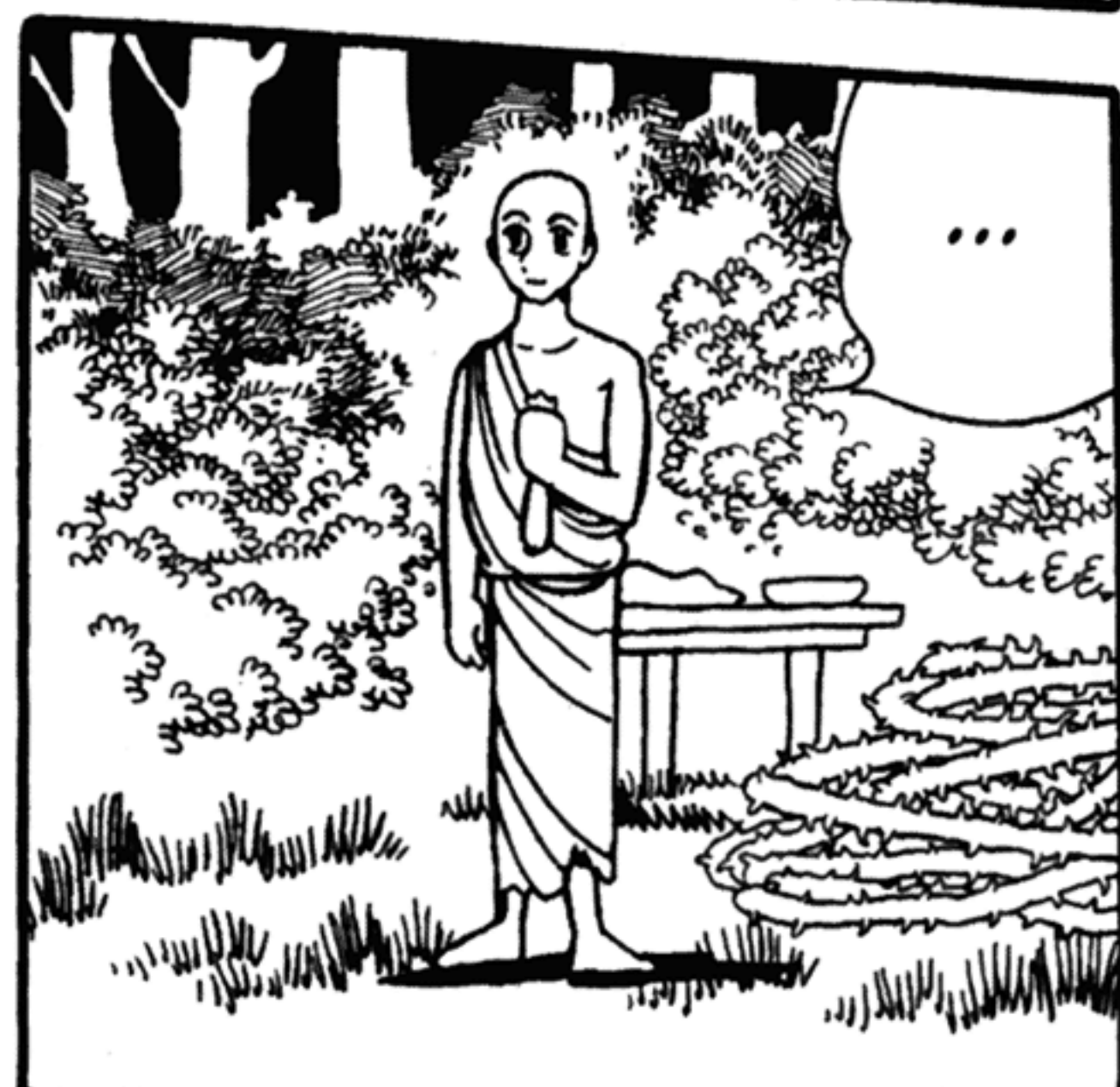
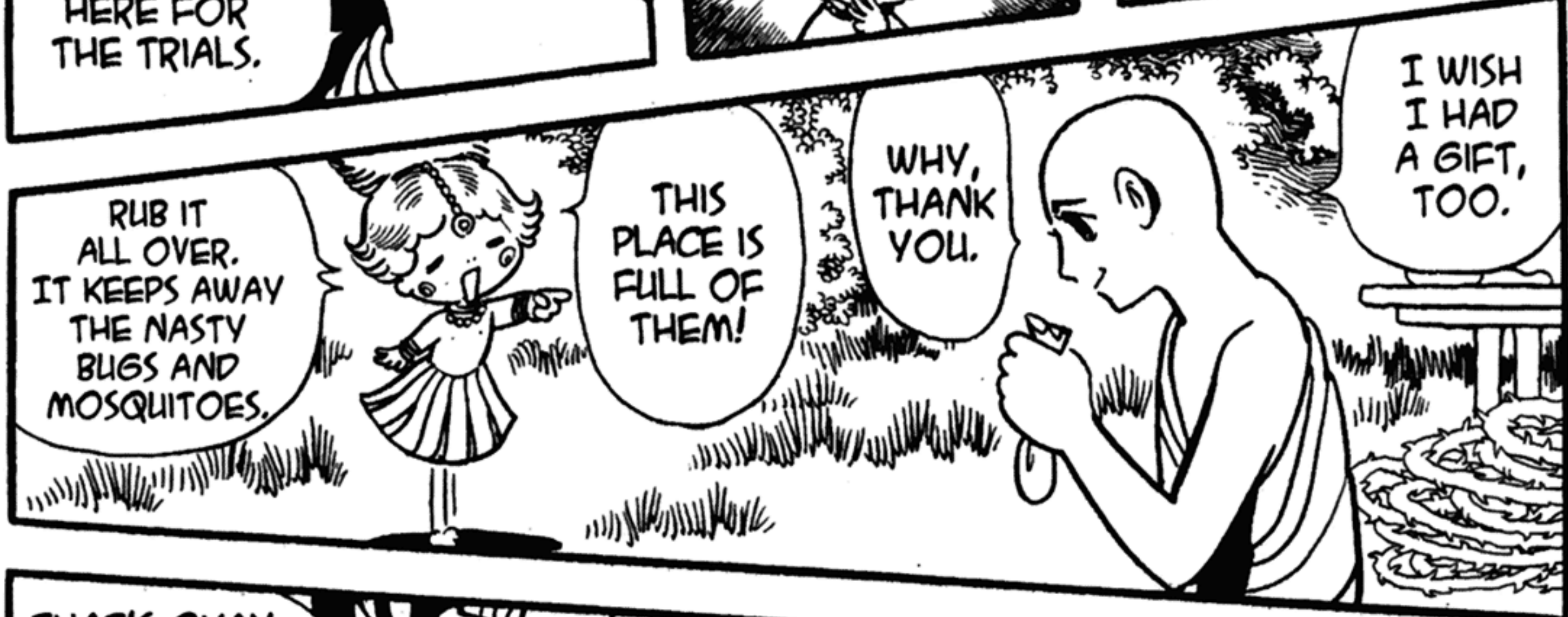
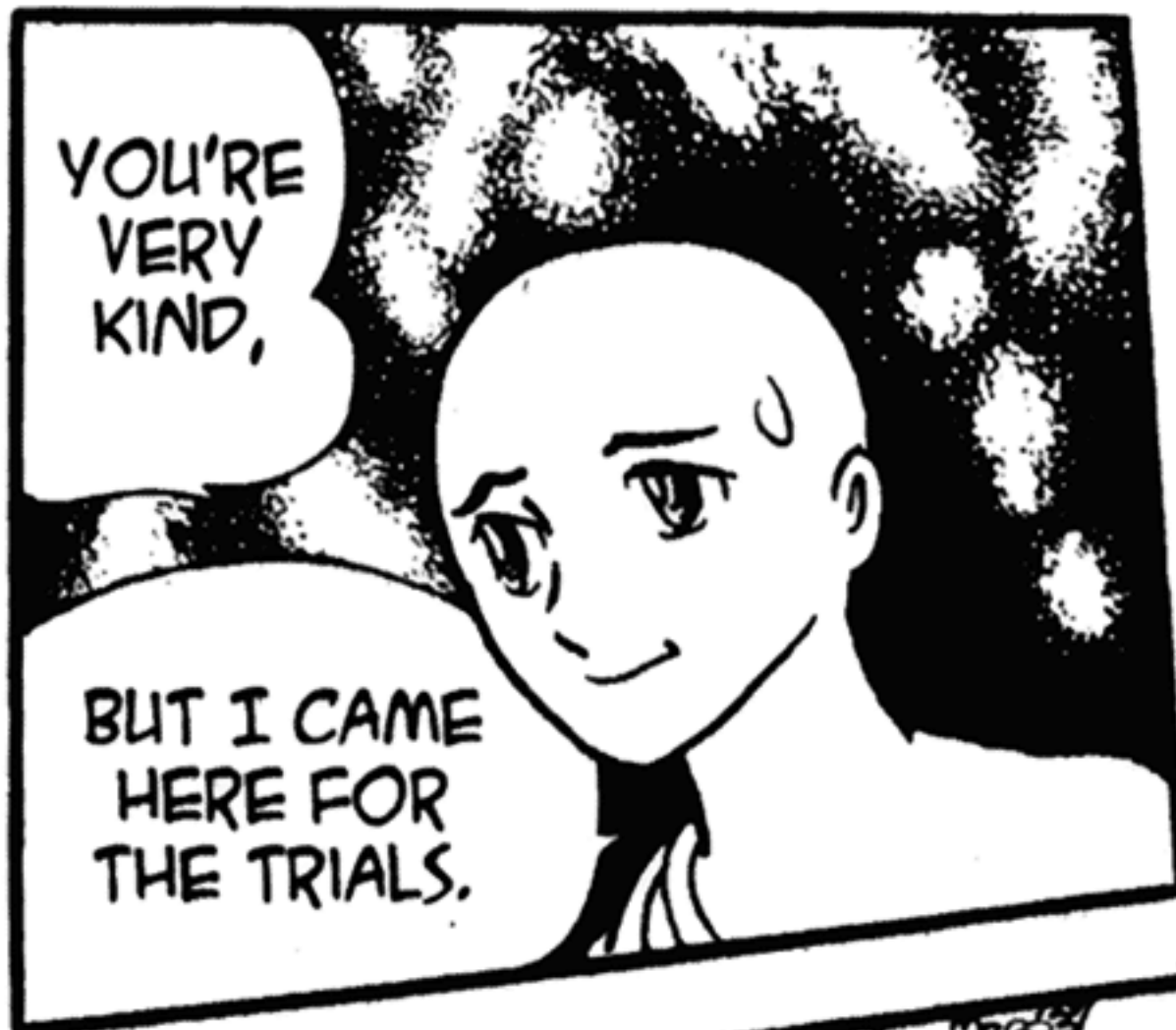


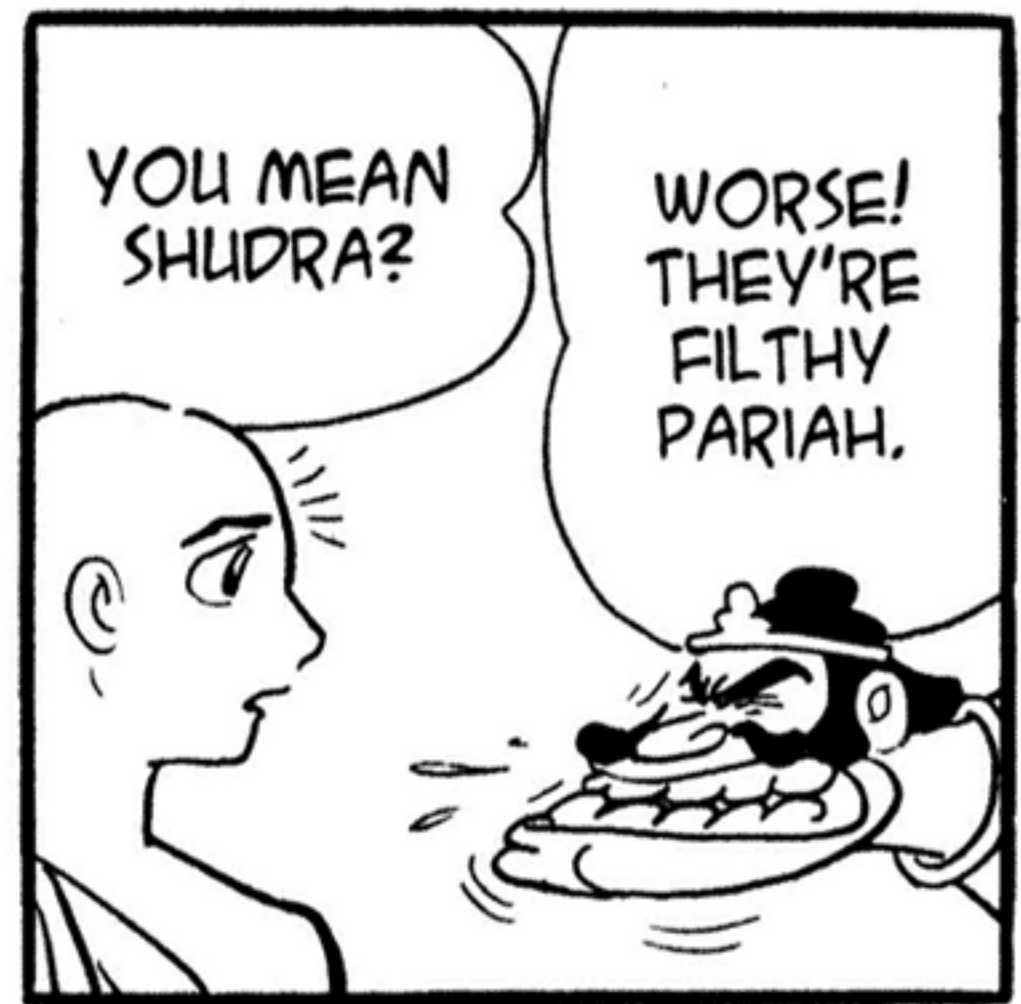
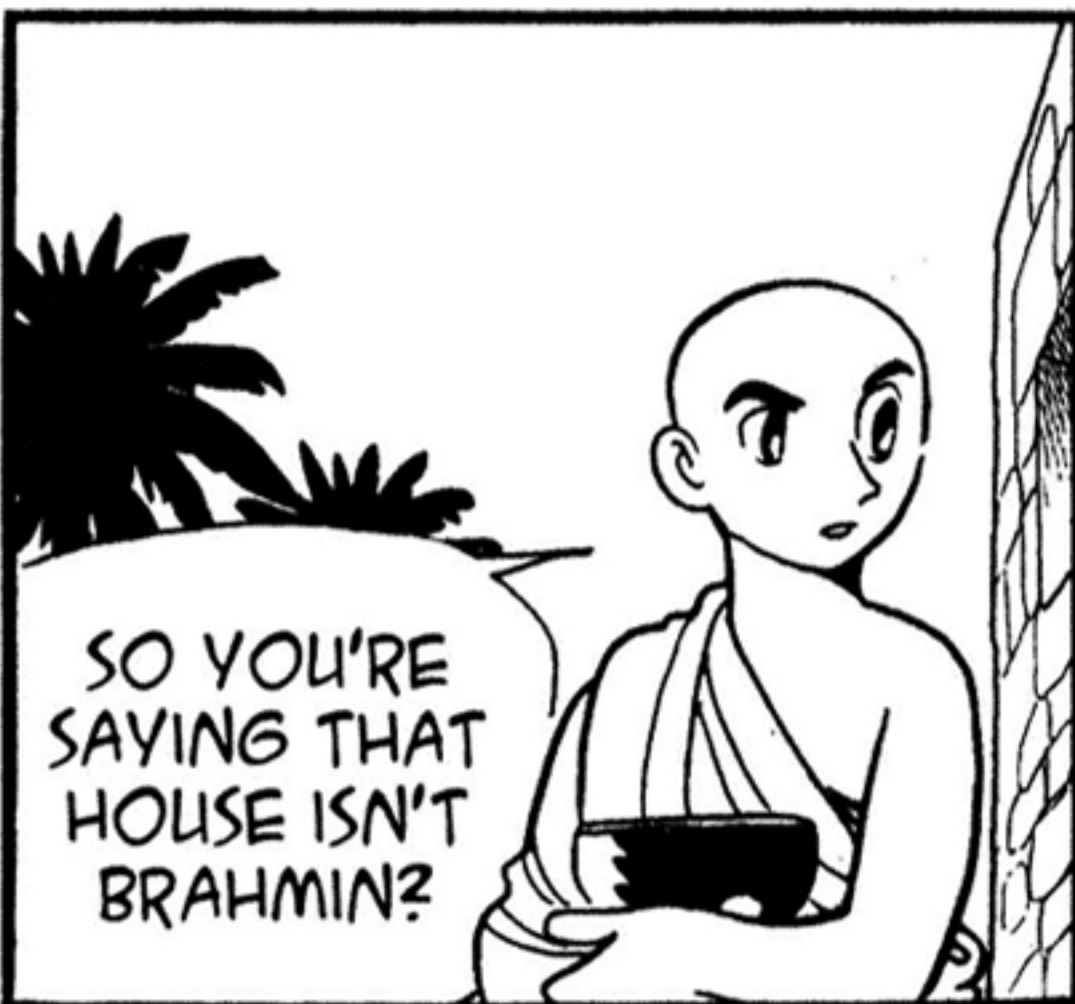
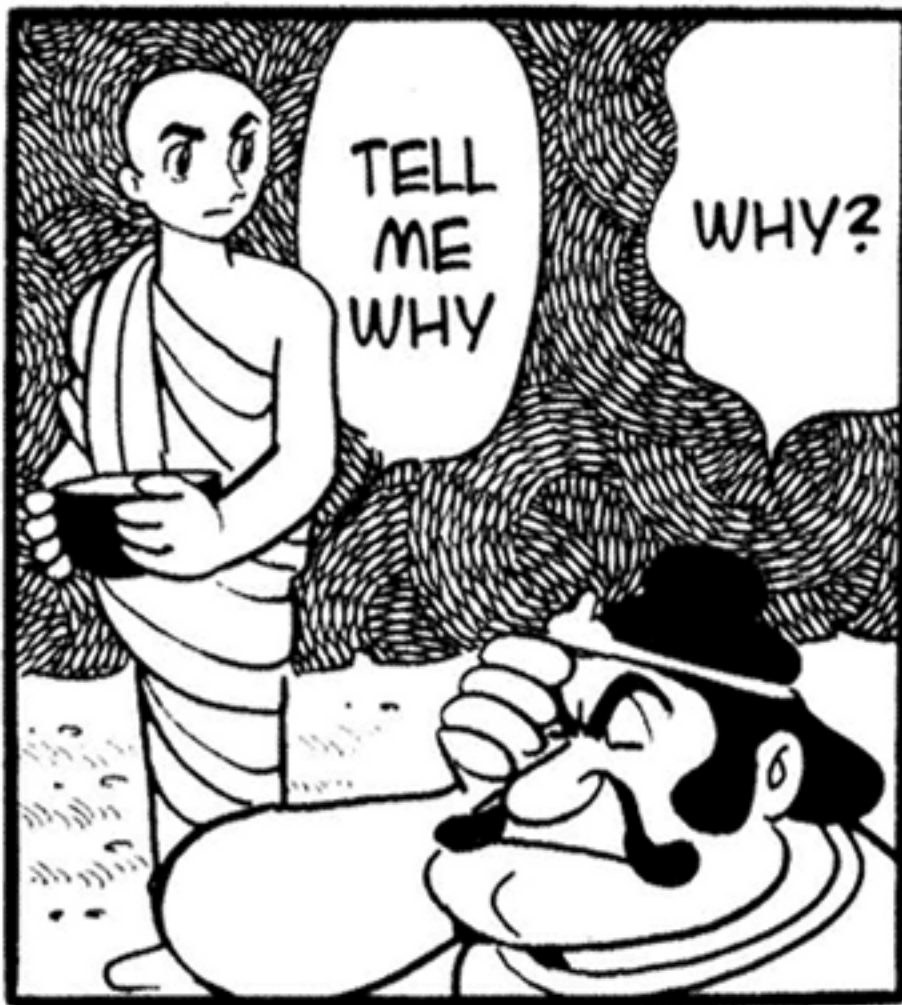
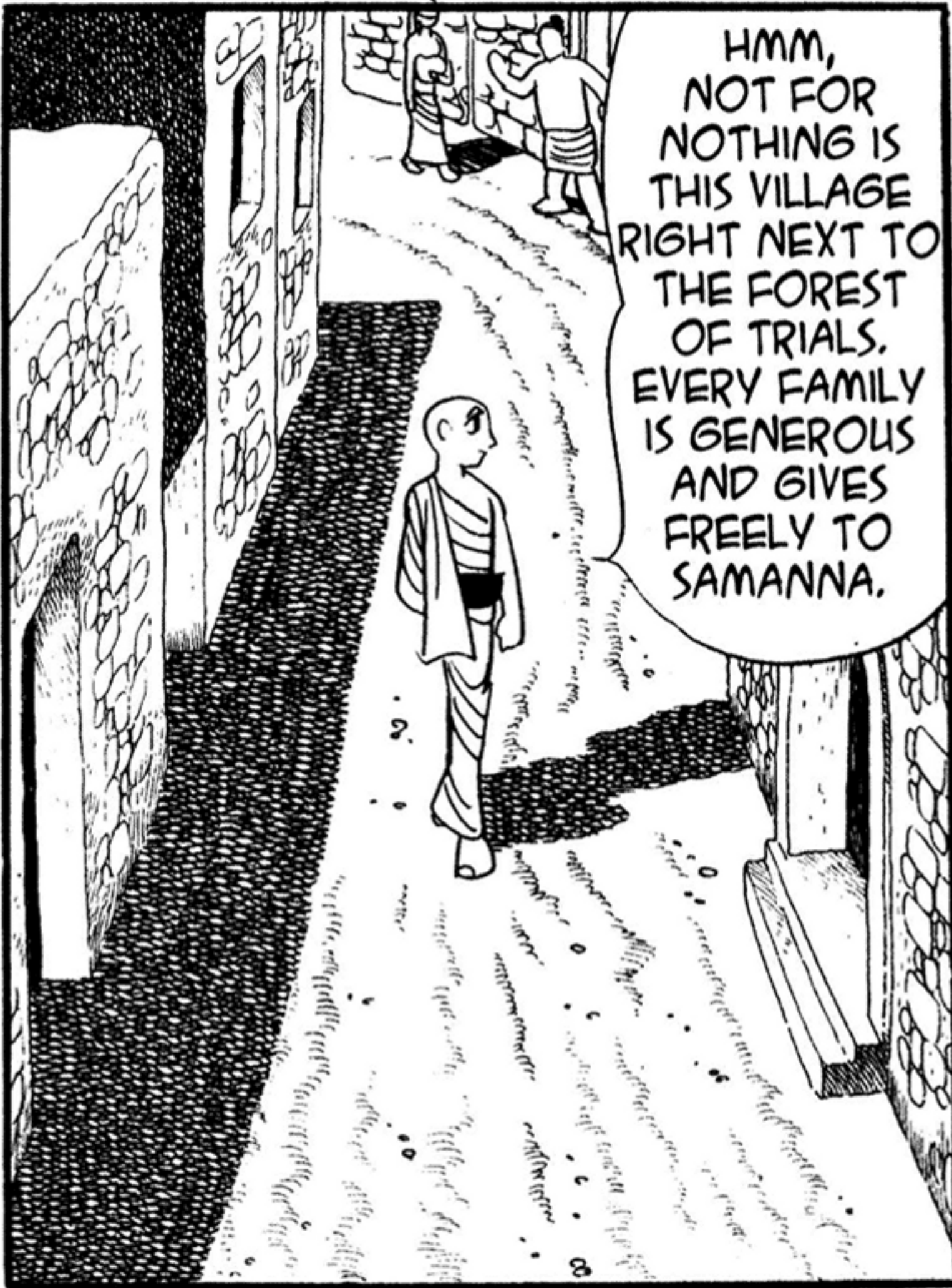


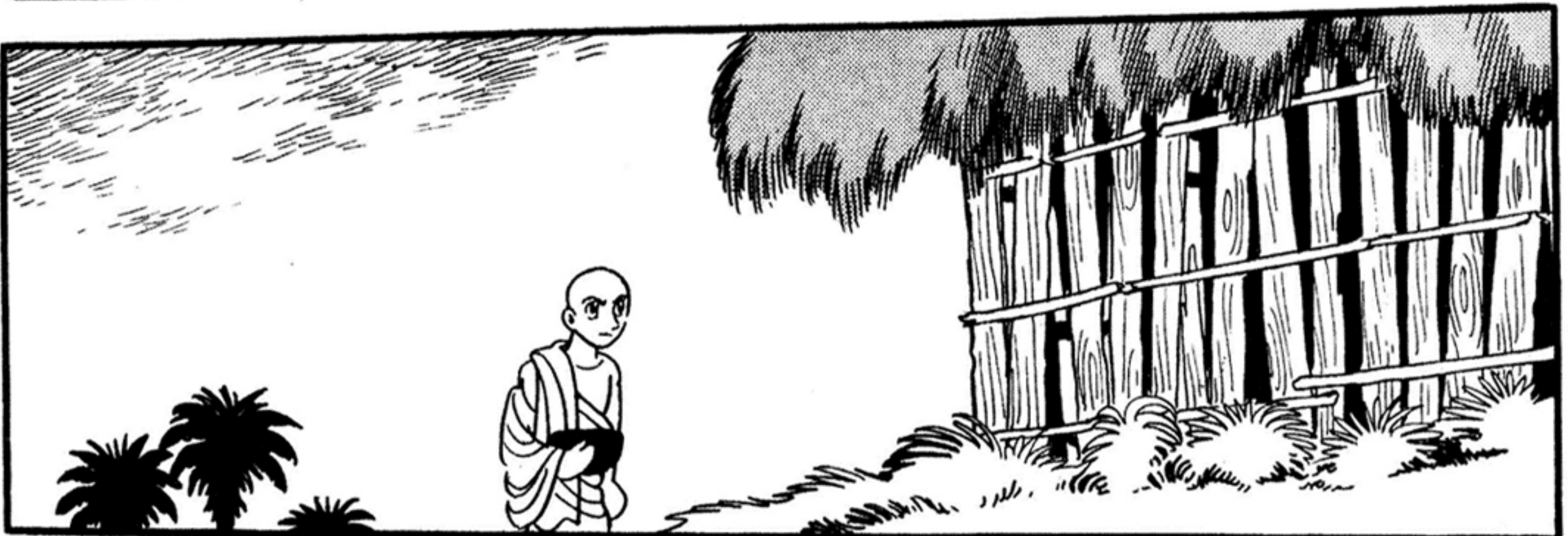
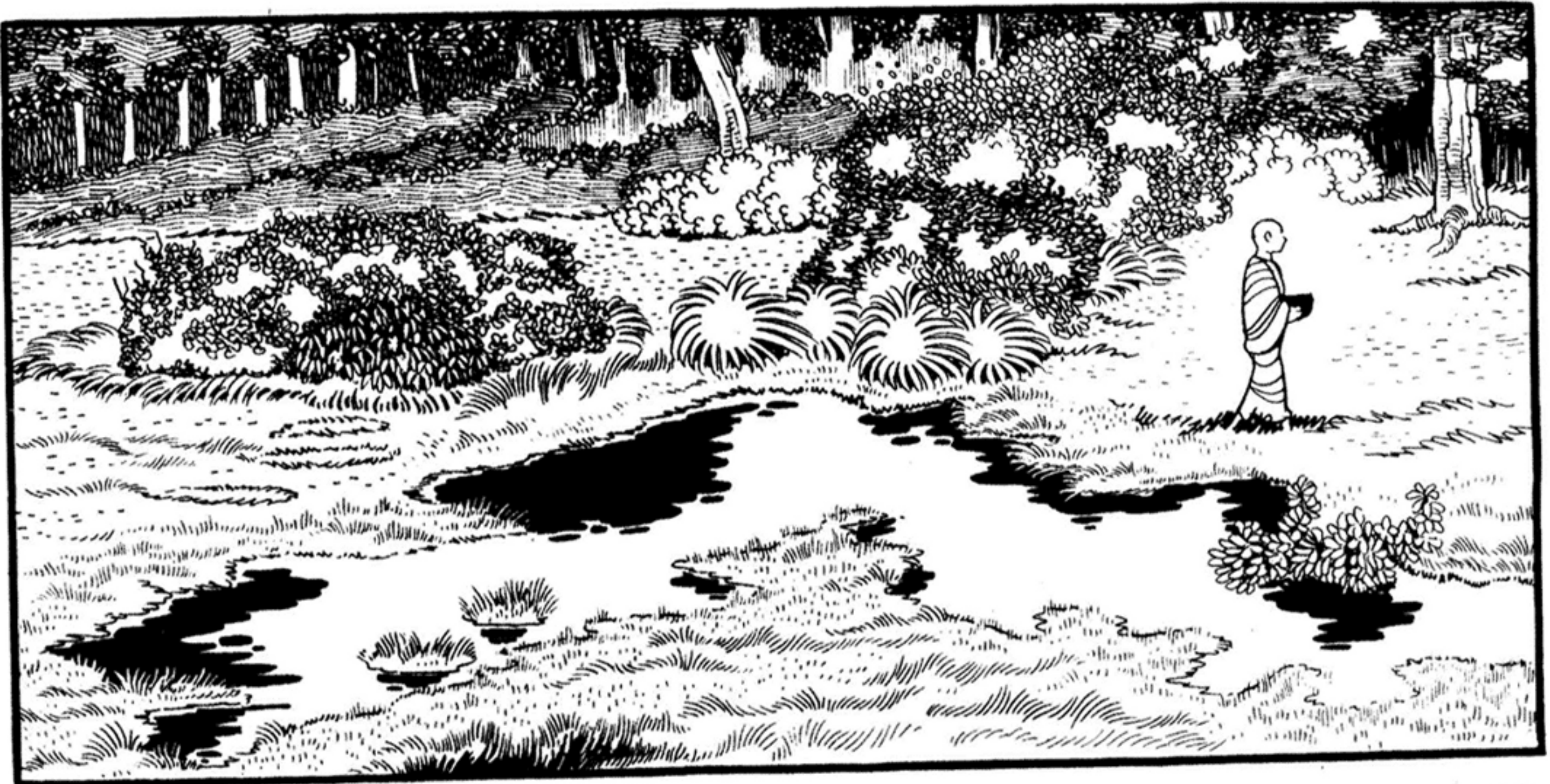


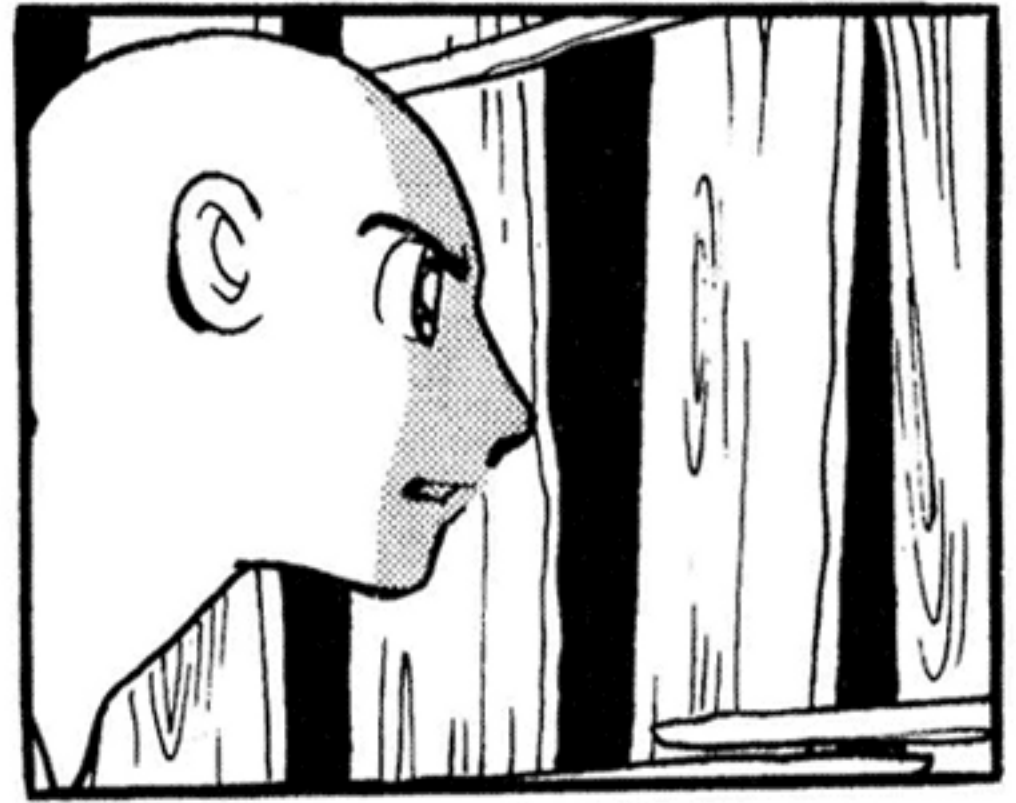
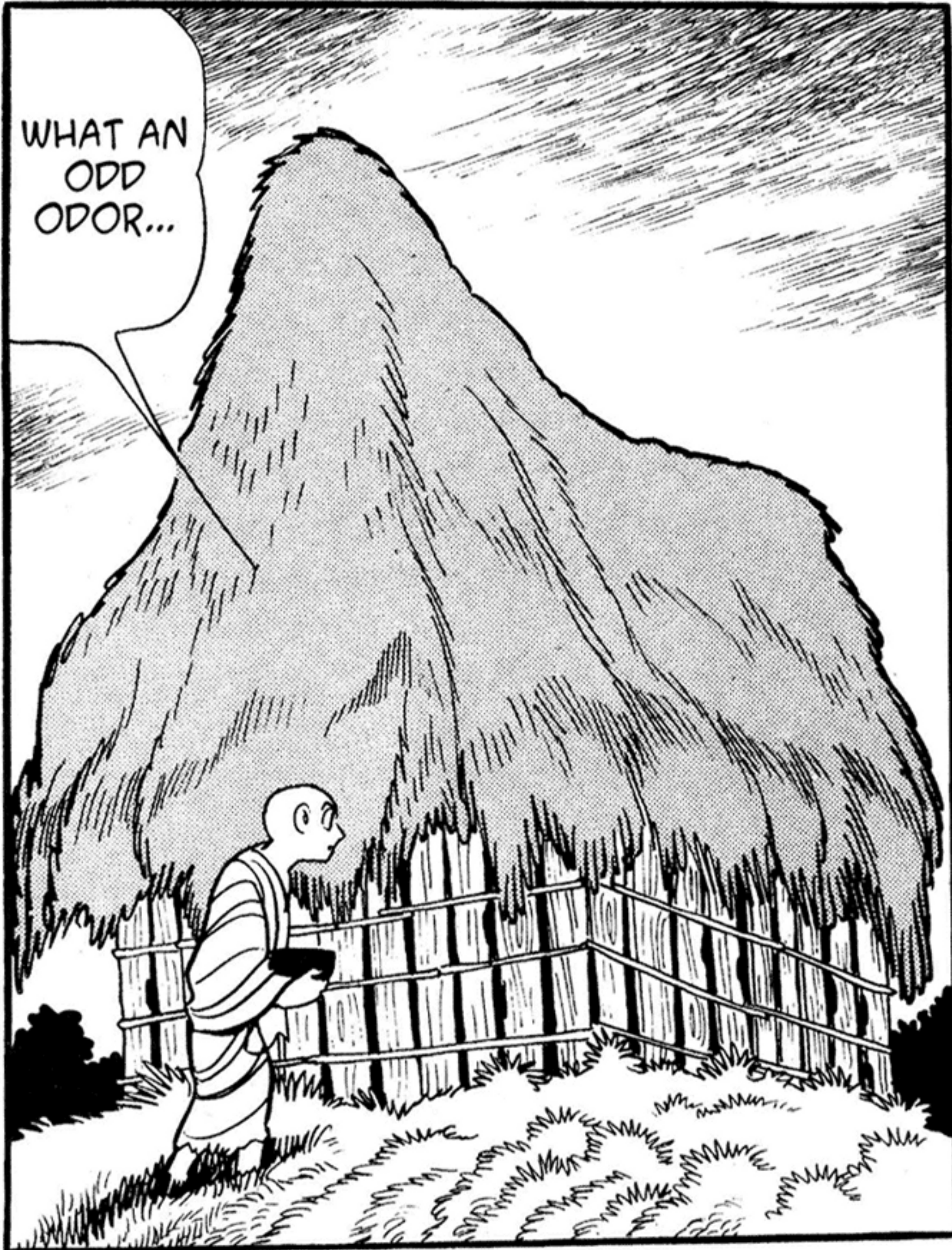


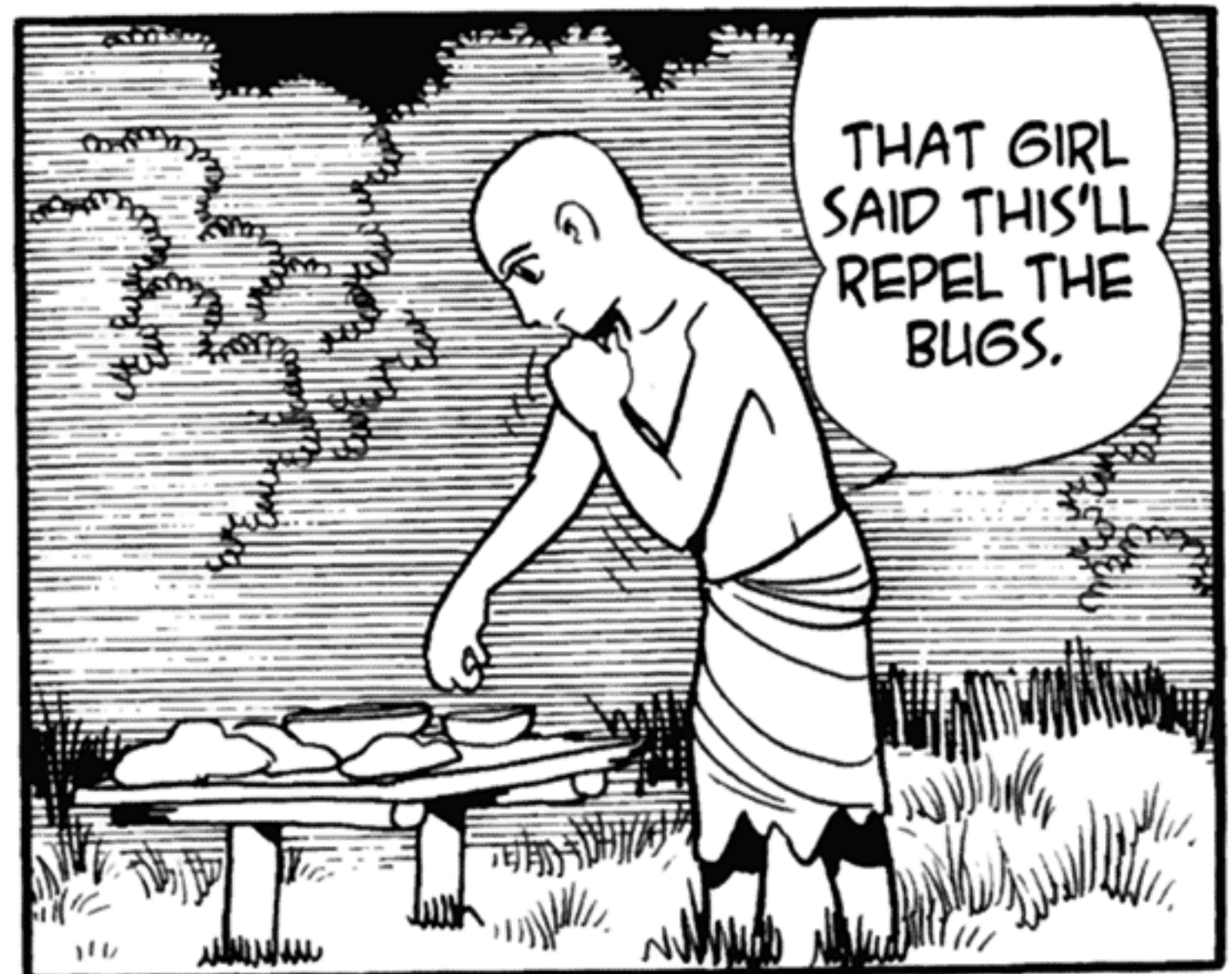


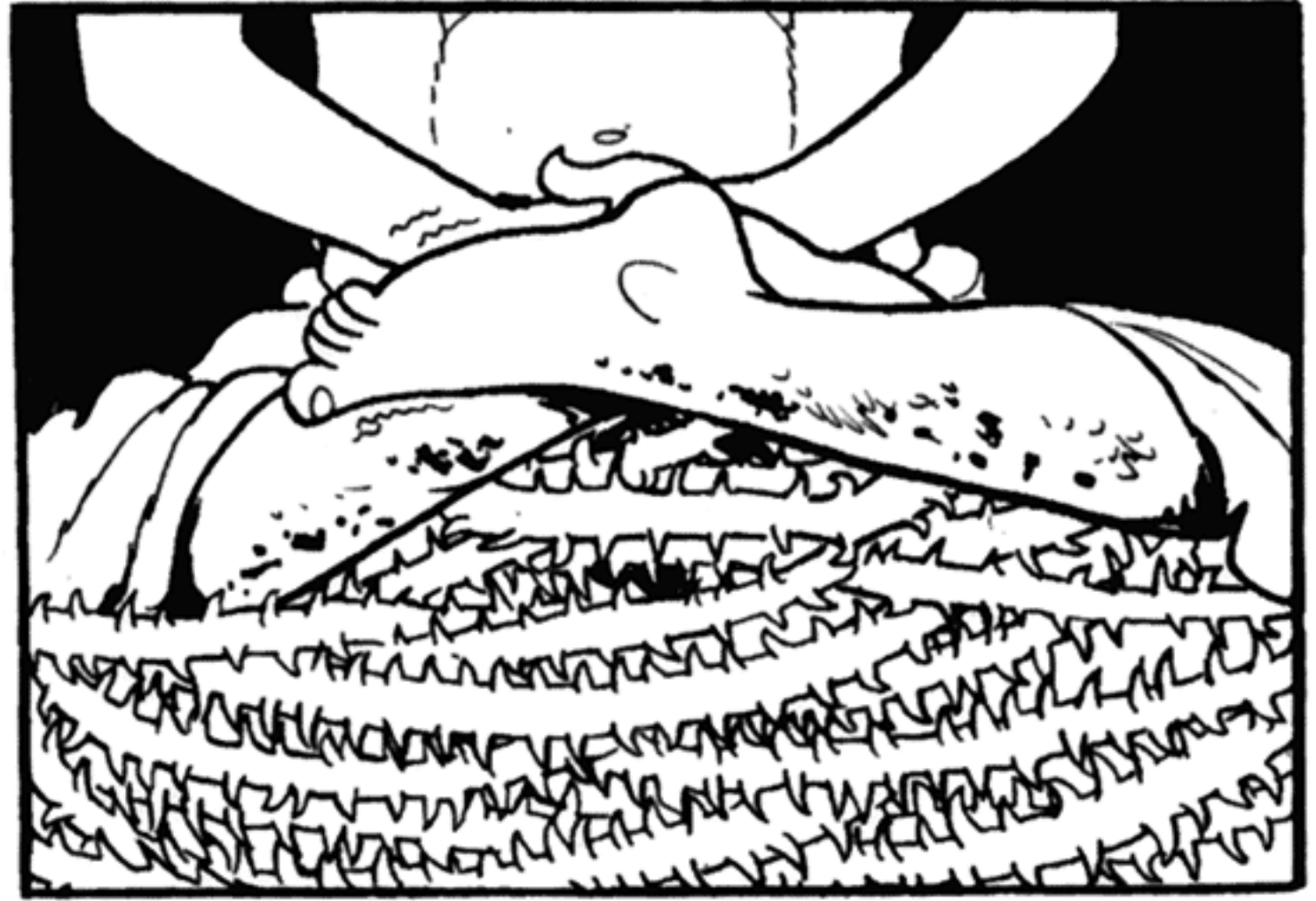
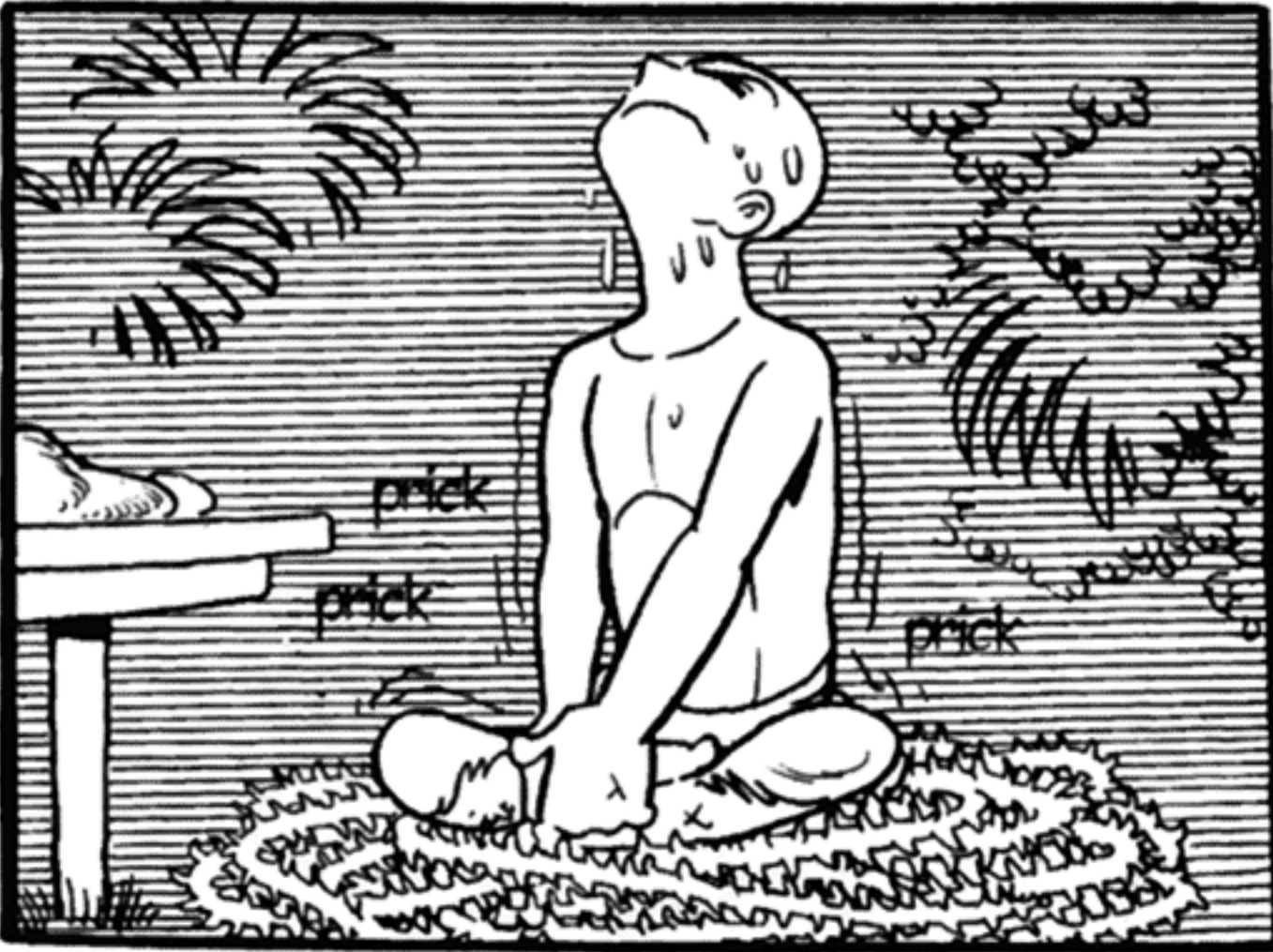
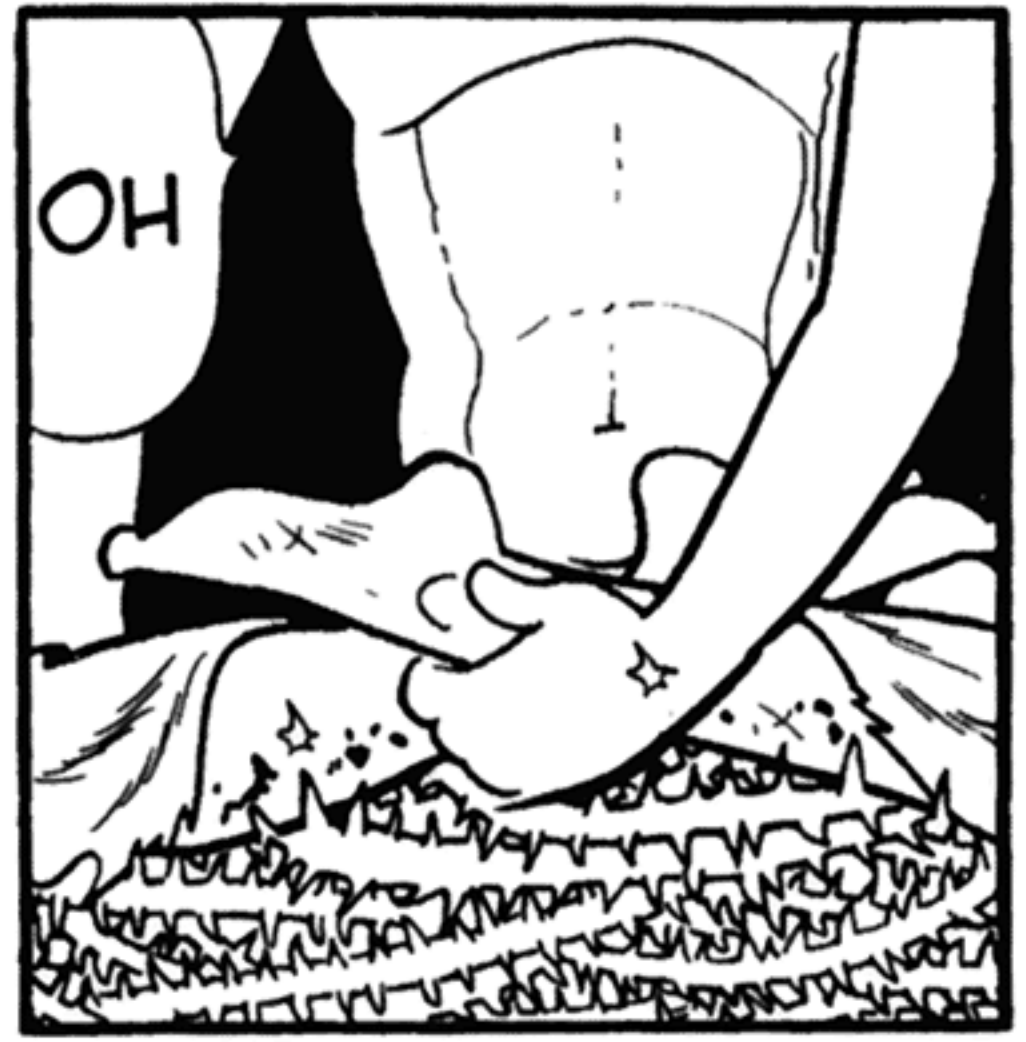




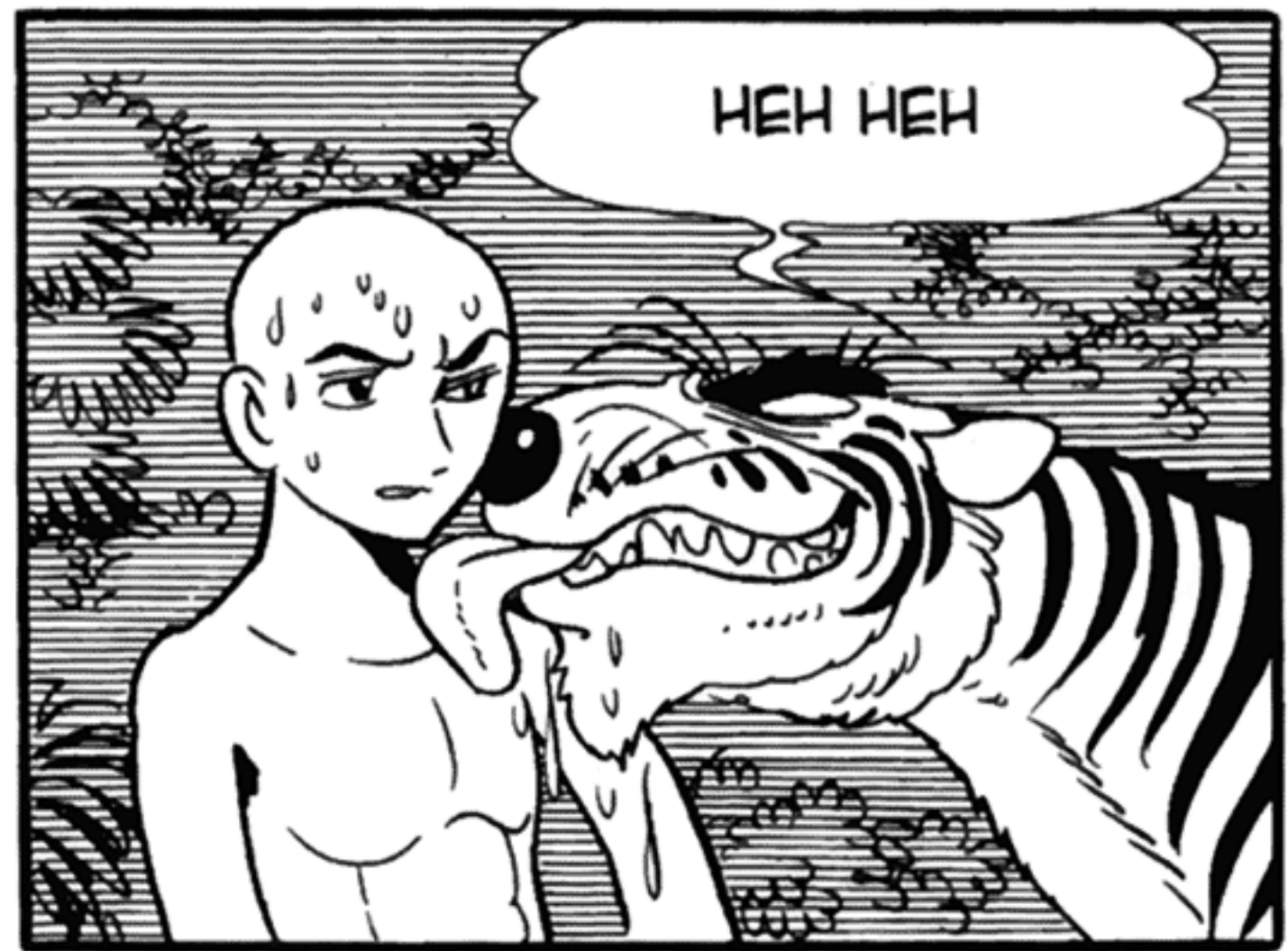


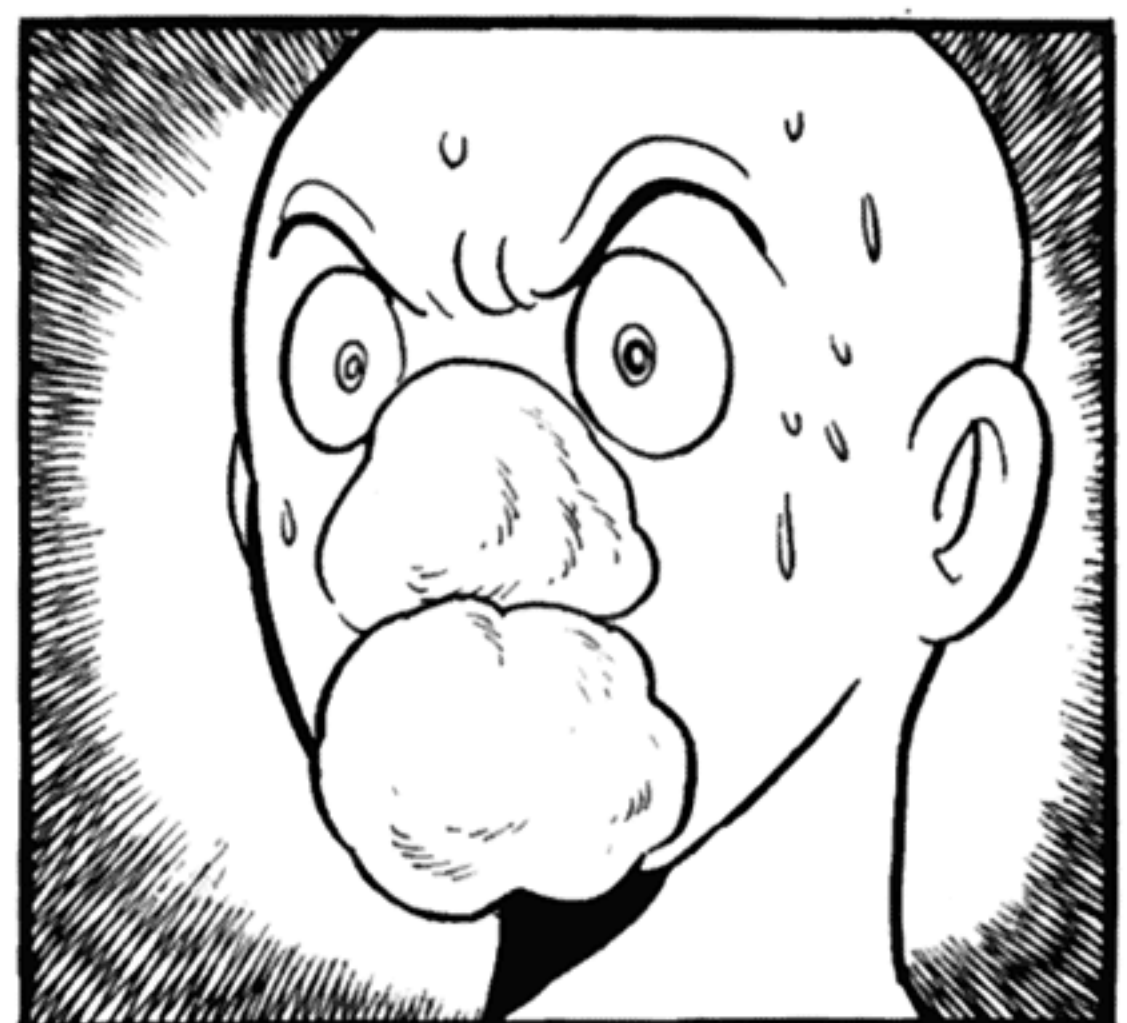
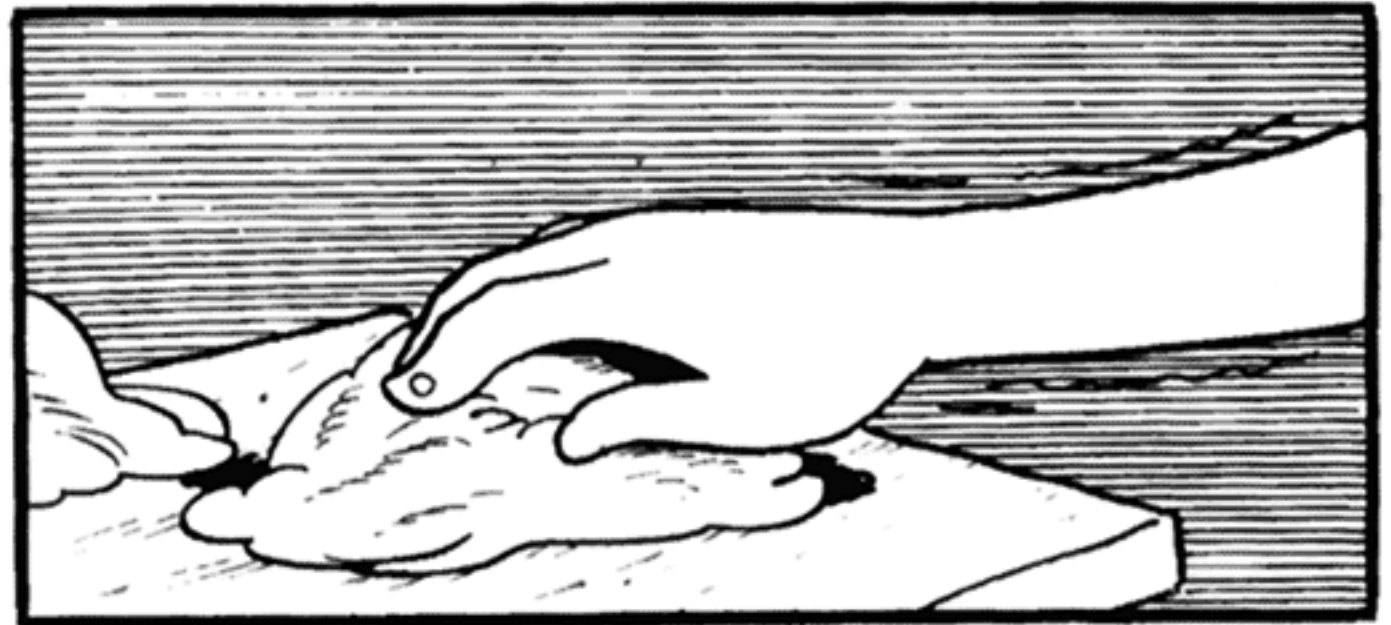
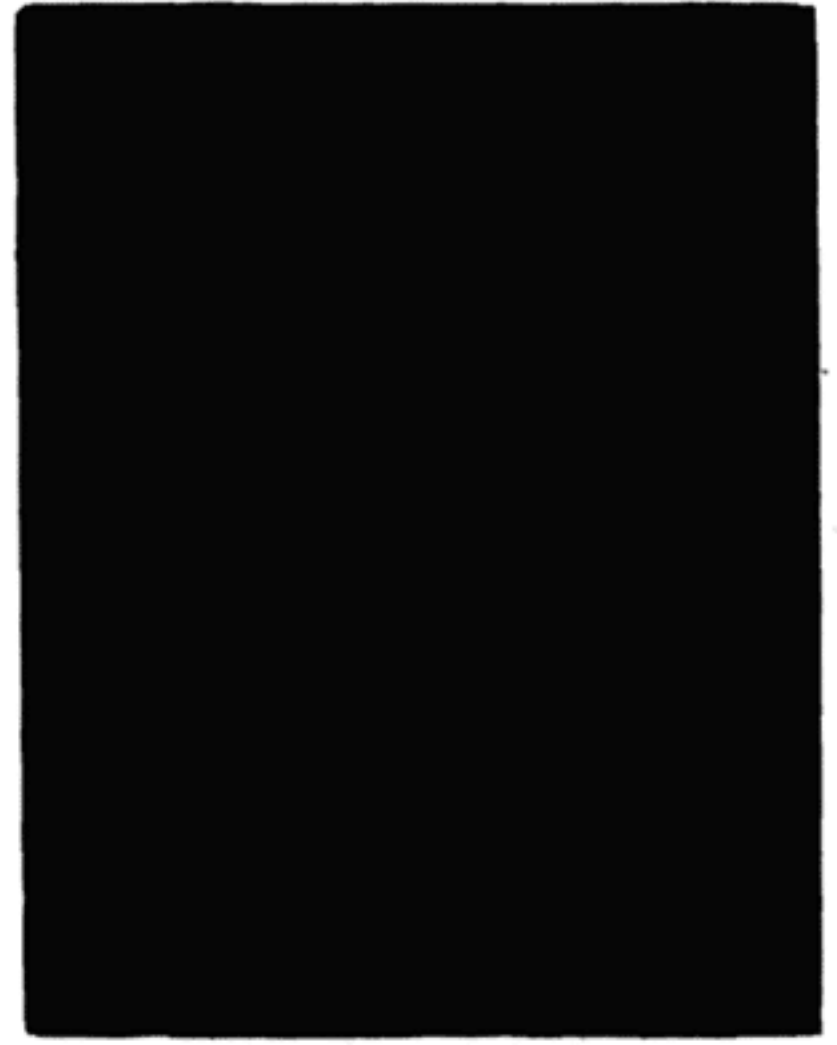
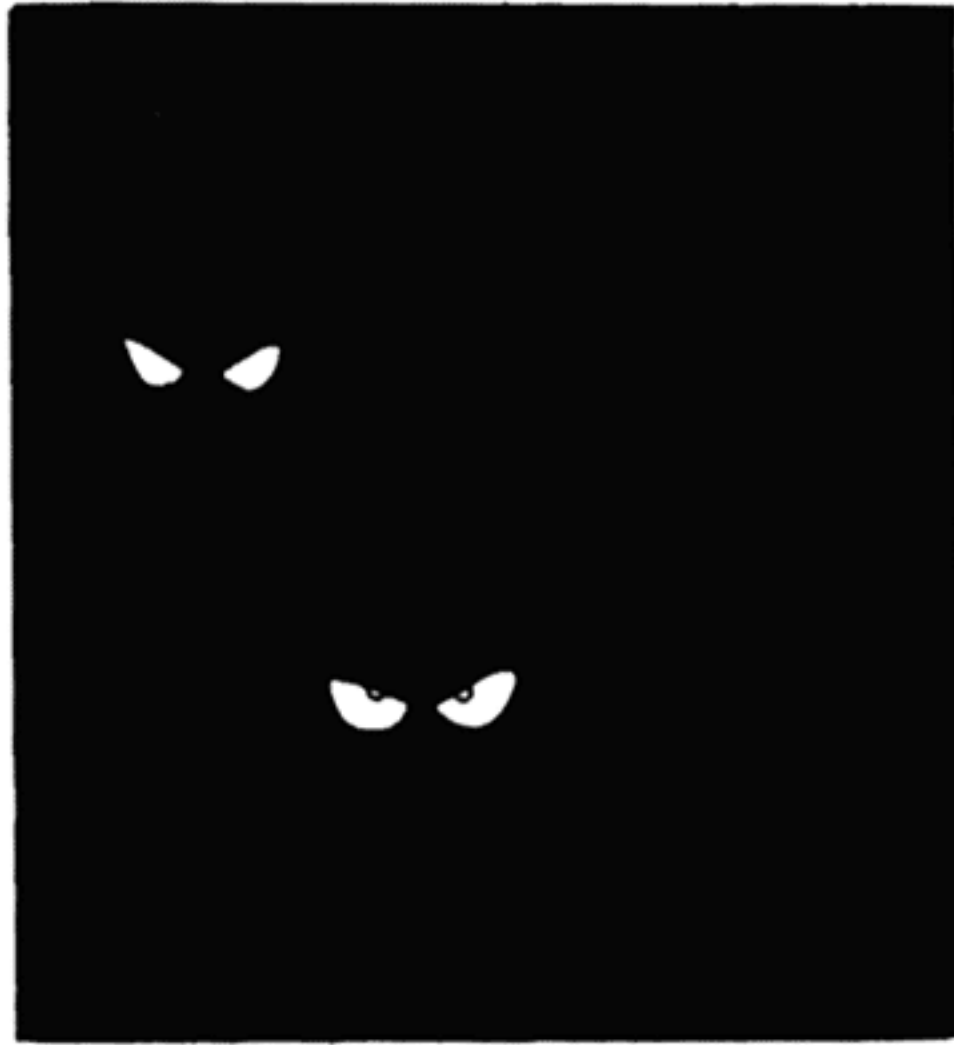


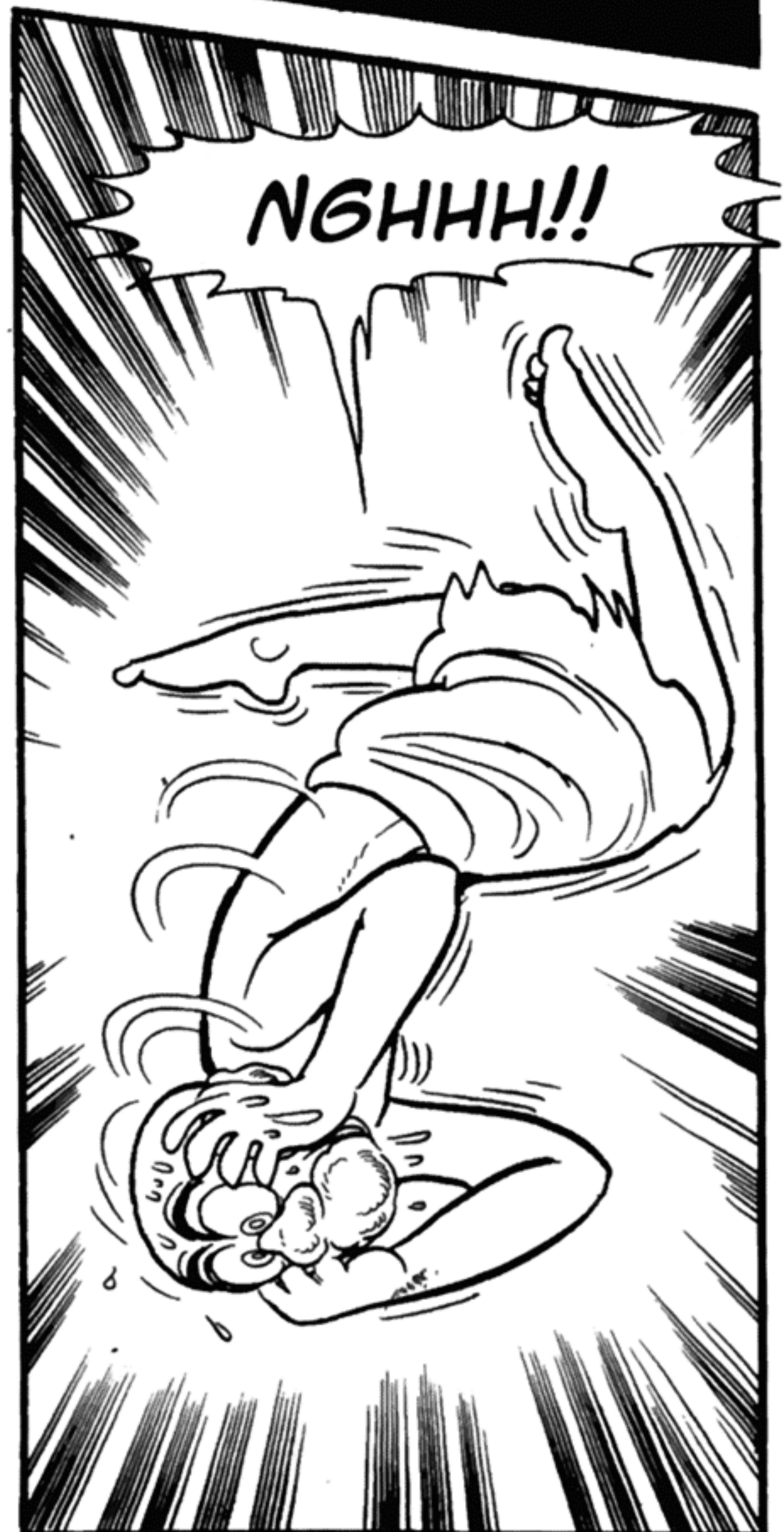
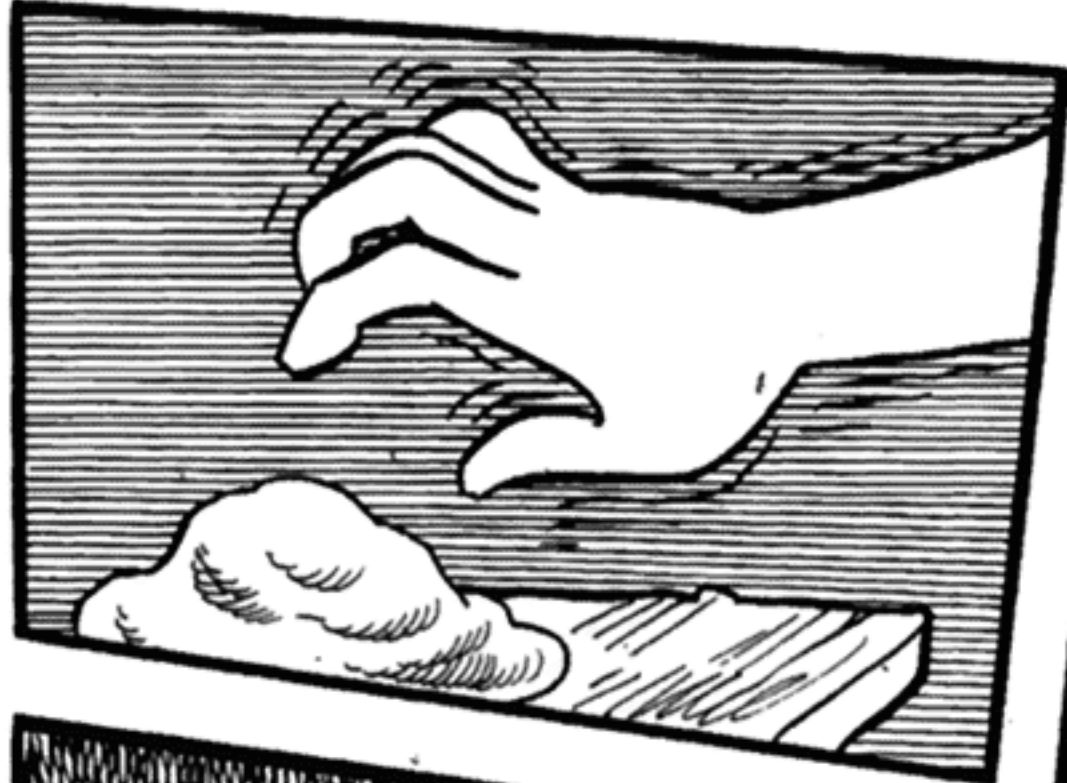


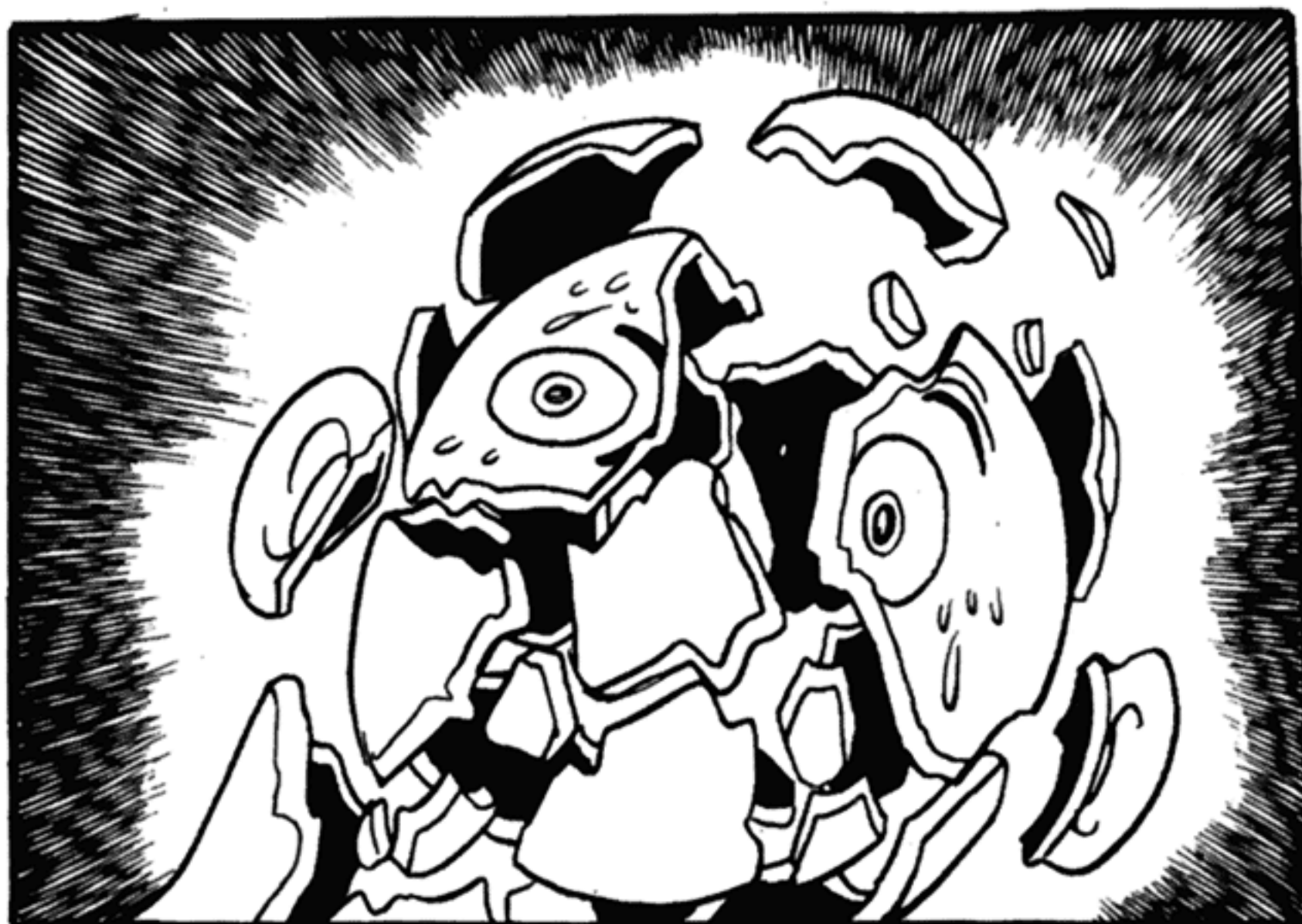
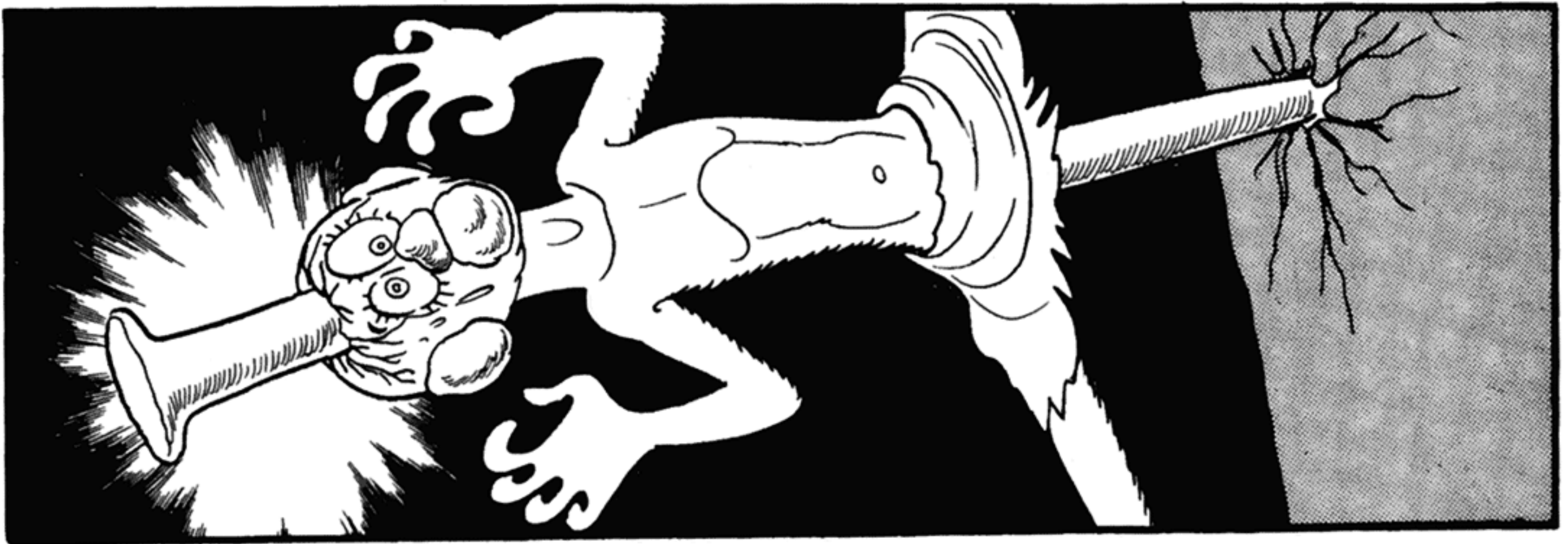
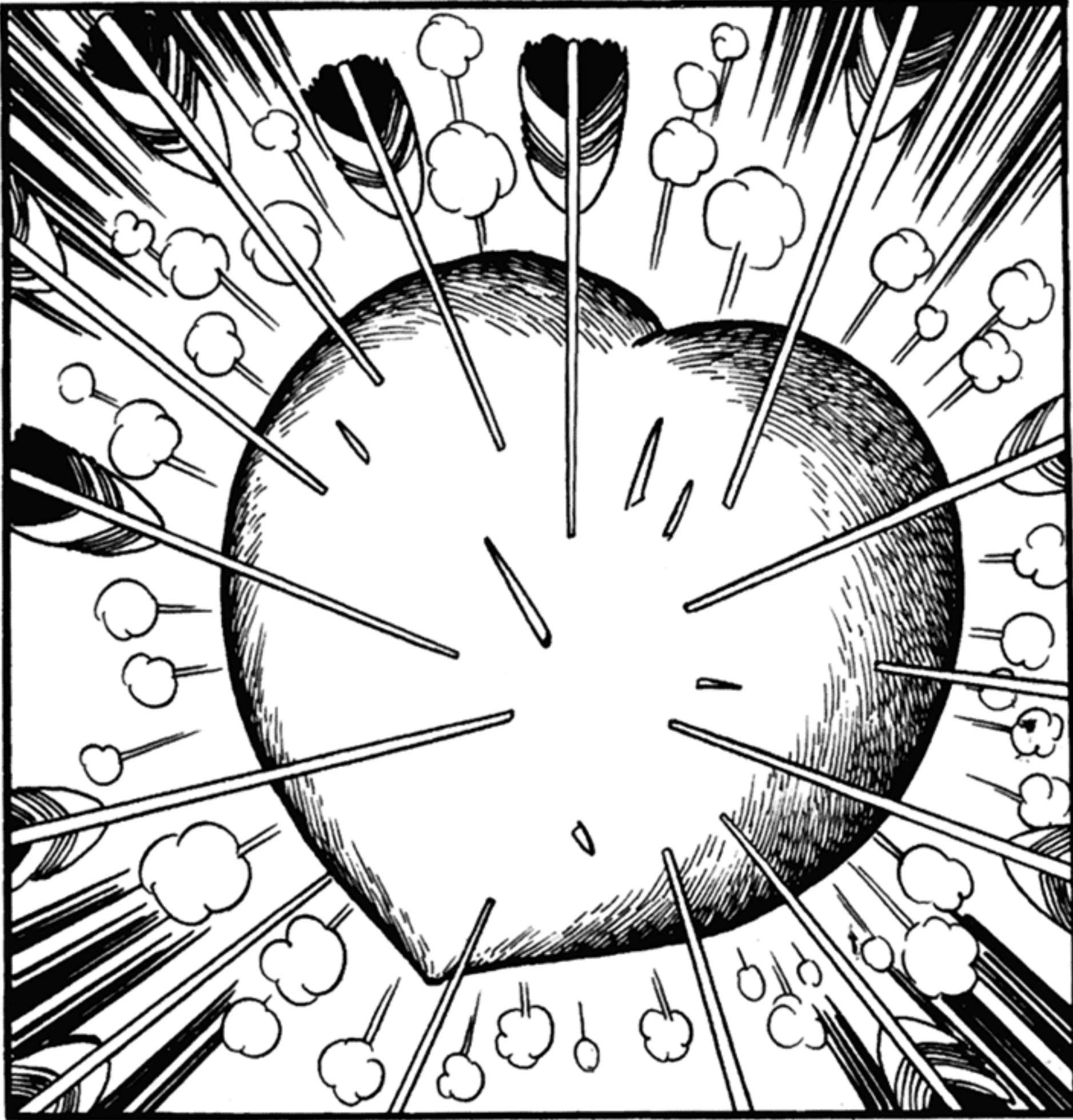










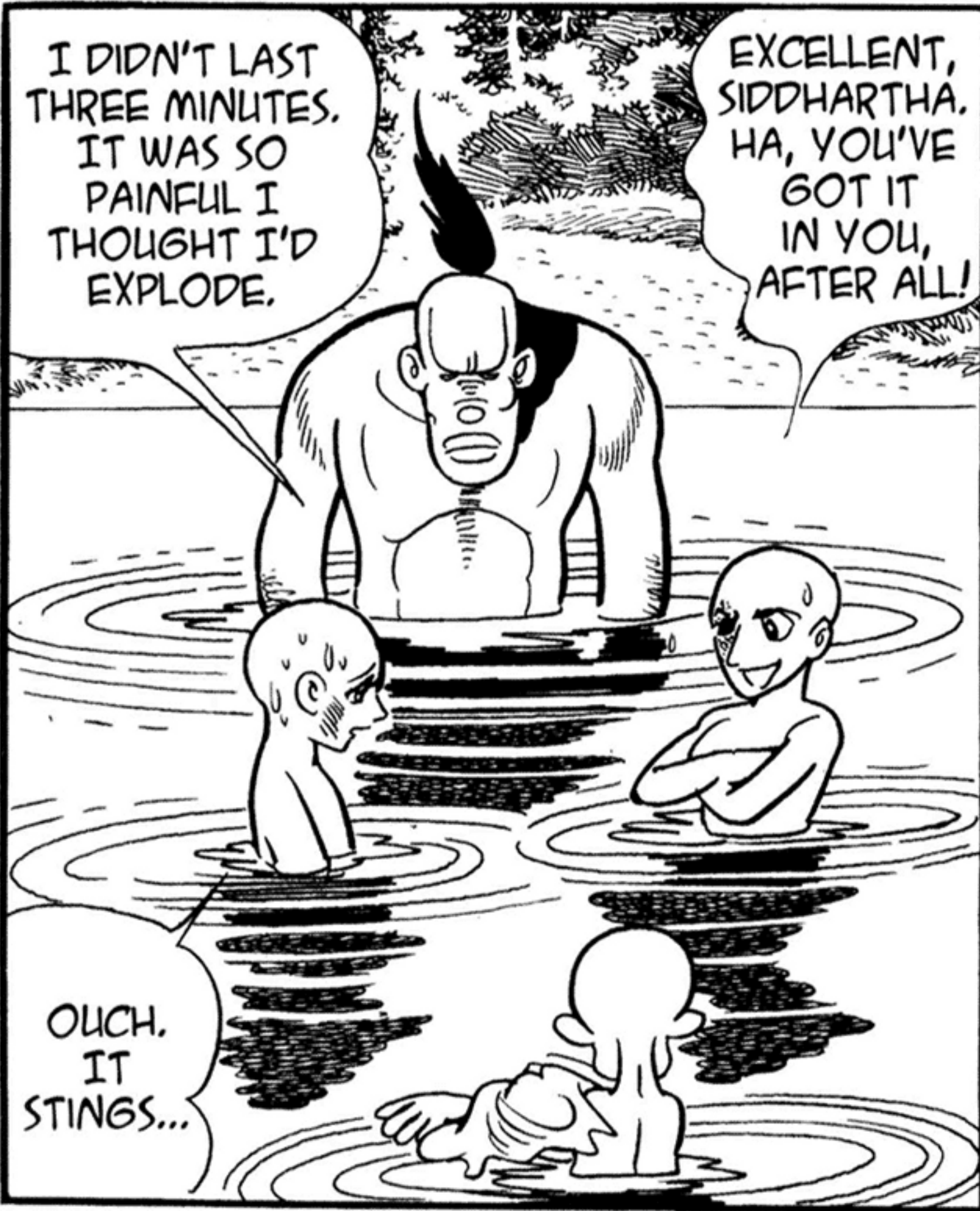




YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS.

DID A DEVIL ATTACK YOU?

I TRIED TO STOP BREATHING.



I DIDN'T LAST THREE MINUTES. IT WAS SO PAINFUL I THOUGHT I'D EXPLODE.

EXCELLENT, SIDDHARTHA. HA, YOU'VE GOT IT IN YOU, AFTER ALL!

OUCH. IT STINGS...



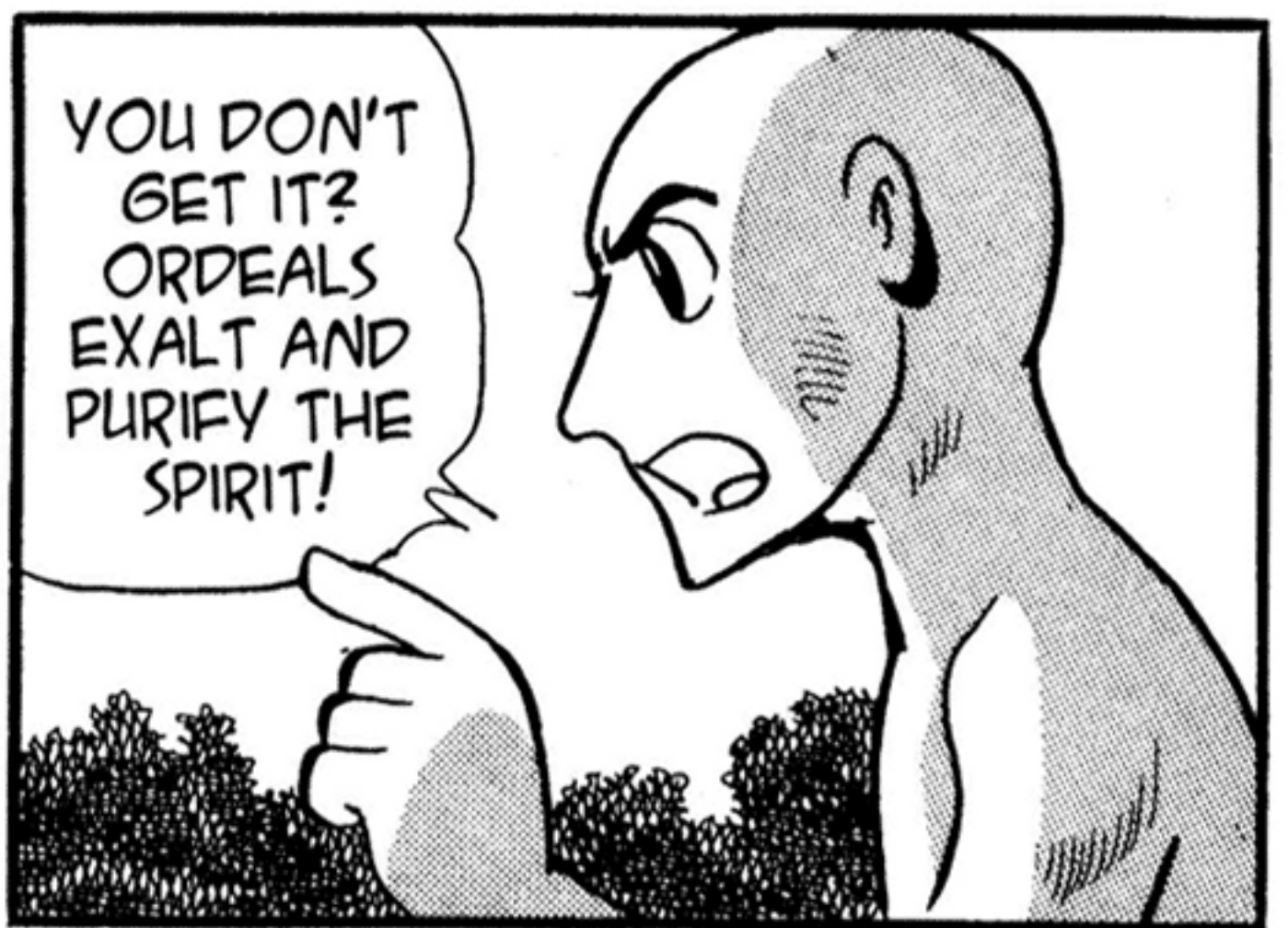
TONIGHT, GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY. THEN TOMORROW NIGHT, AND THEN THE NIGHT AFTER. KEEP IT UP, AND ONE DAY YOU'LL GO WITHOUT AIR FOR A FULL TEN MINUTES!

AT THAT POINT, YOU SHOULD TRY LYING ON THE POND BOTTOM LIKE A CLAM.

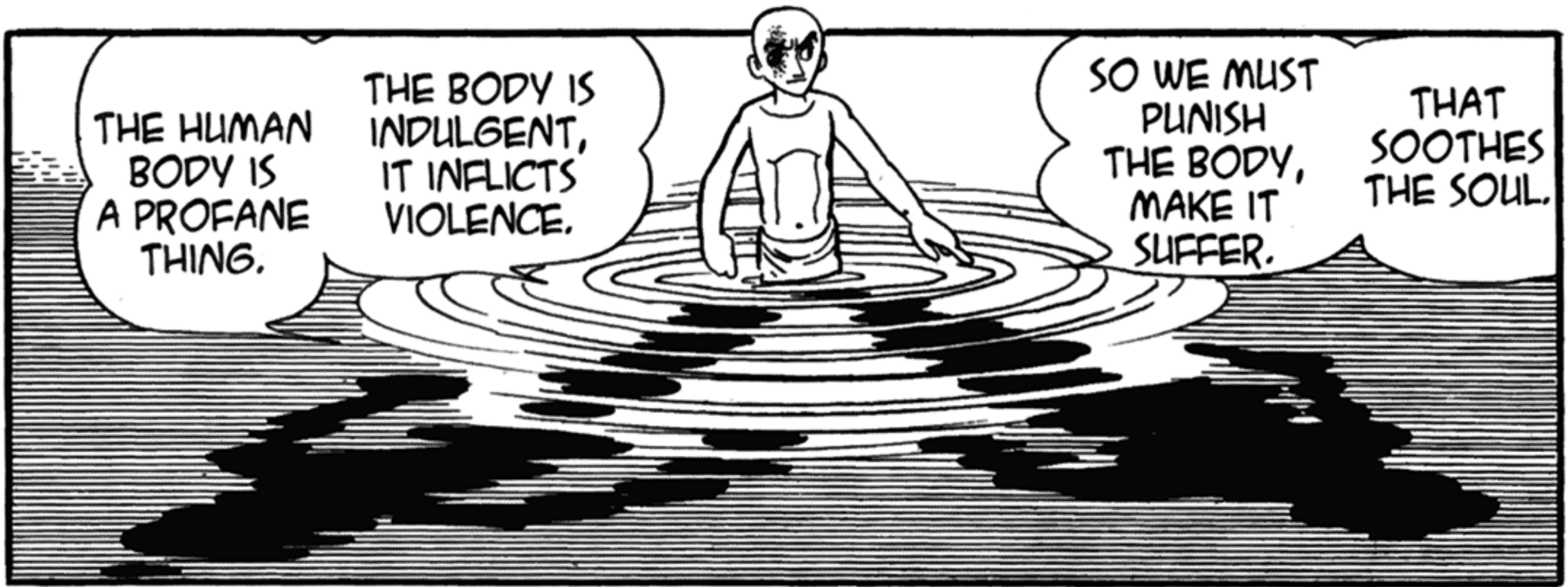


I STILL DON'T GET IT, THOUGH.

WHY MUST WE GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO COURT SUFFERING?



YOU DON'T GET IT? ORDEALS EXALT AND PURIFY THE SPIRIT!

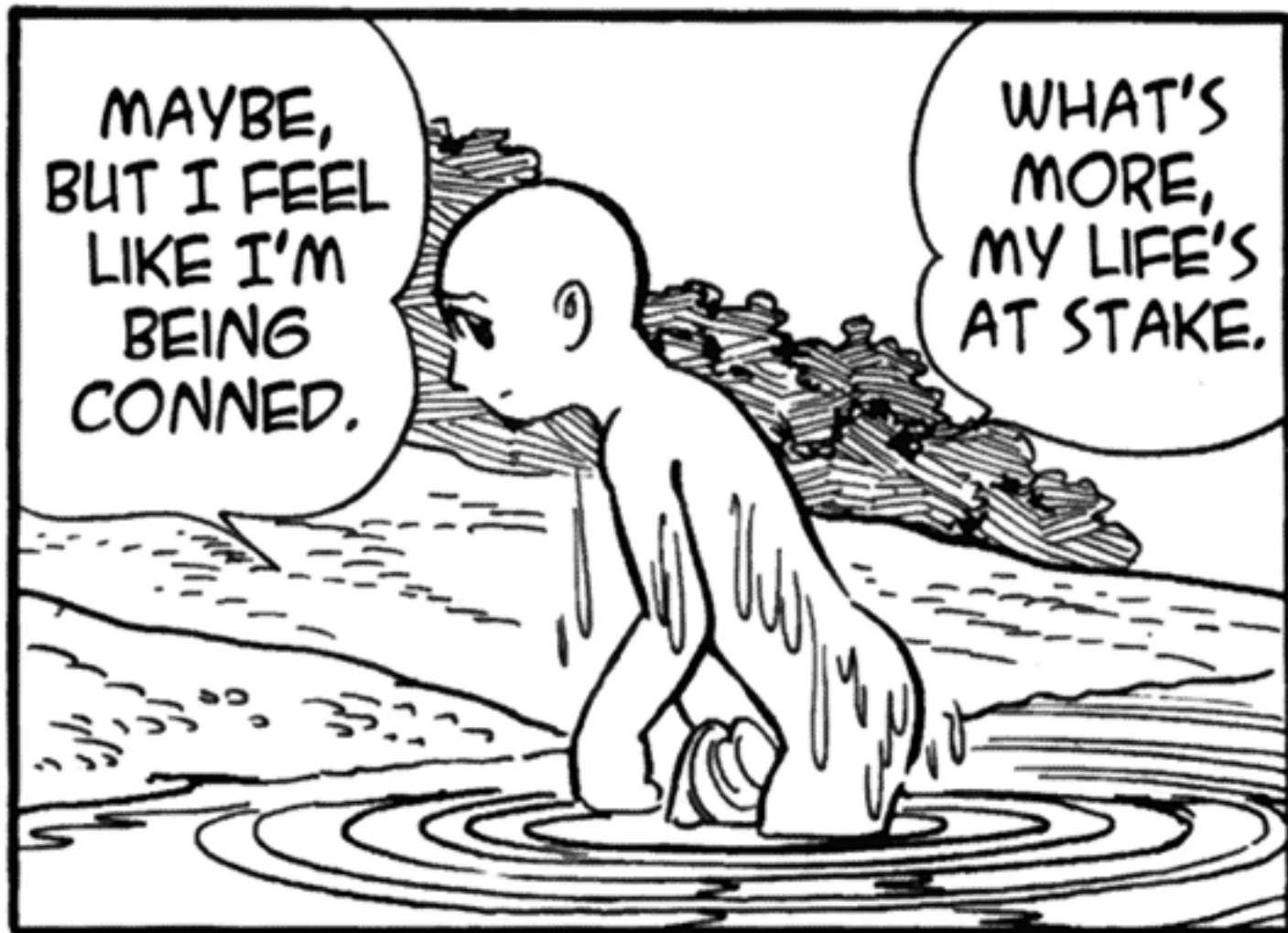


THE HUMAN BODY IS A PROFANE THING.

THE BODY IS INDULGENT, IT INFLICTS VIOLENCE.

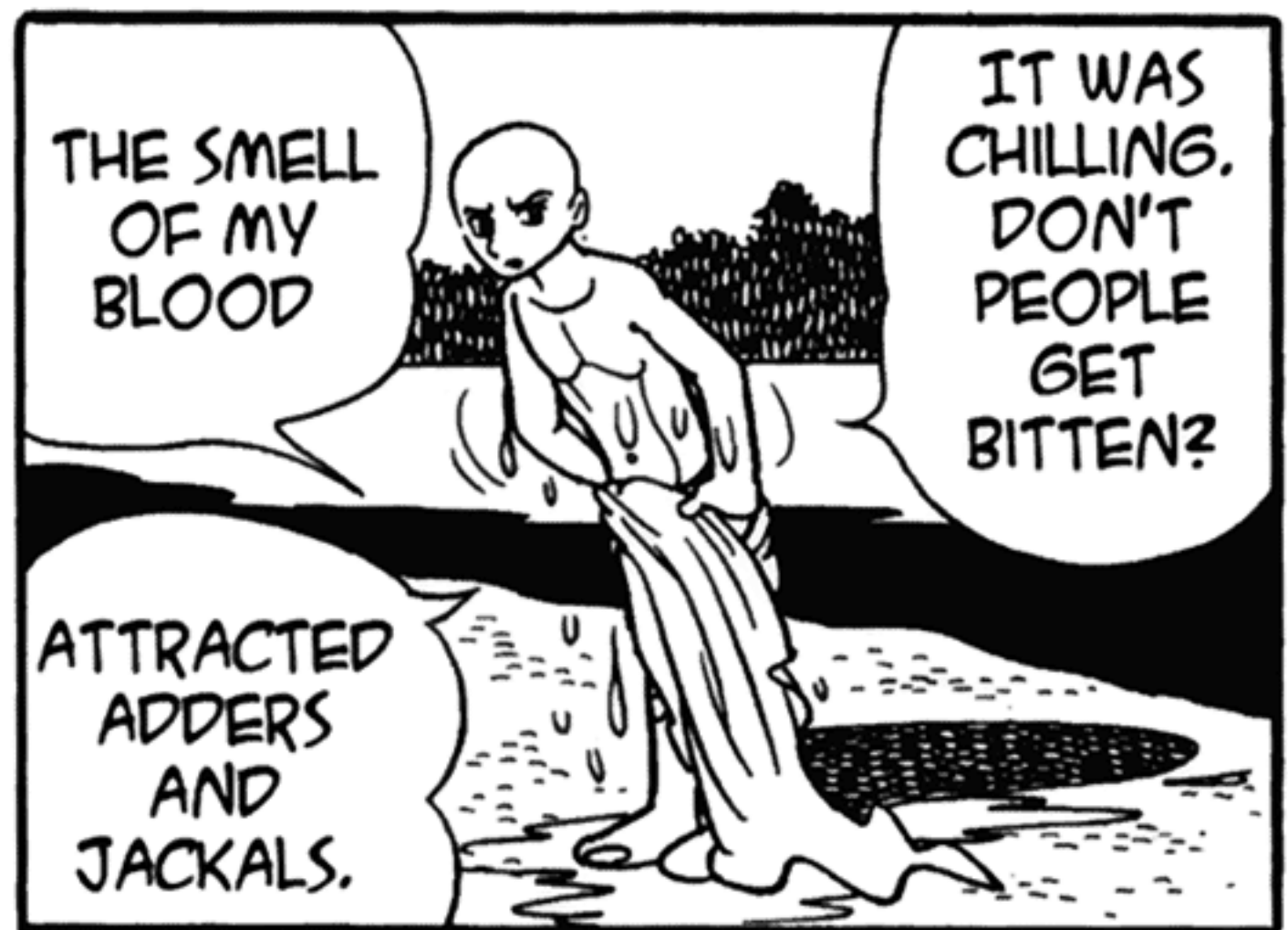
SO WE MUST PUNISH THE BODY, MAKE IT SUFFER.

THAT SOOTHES THE SOUL.



MAYBE, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING CONNED.

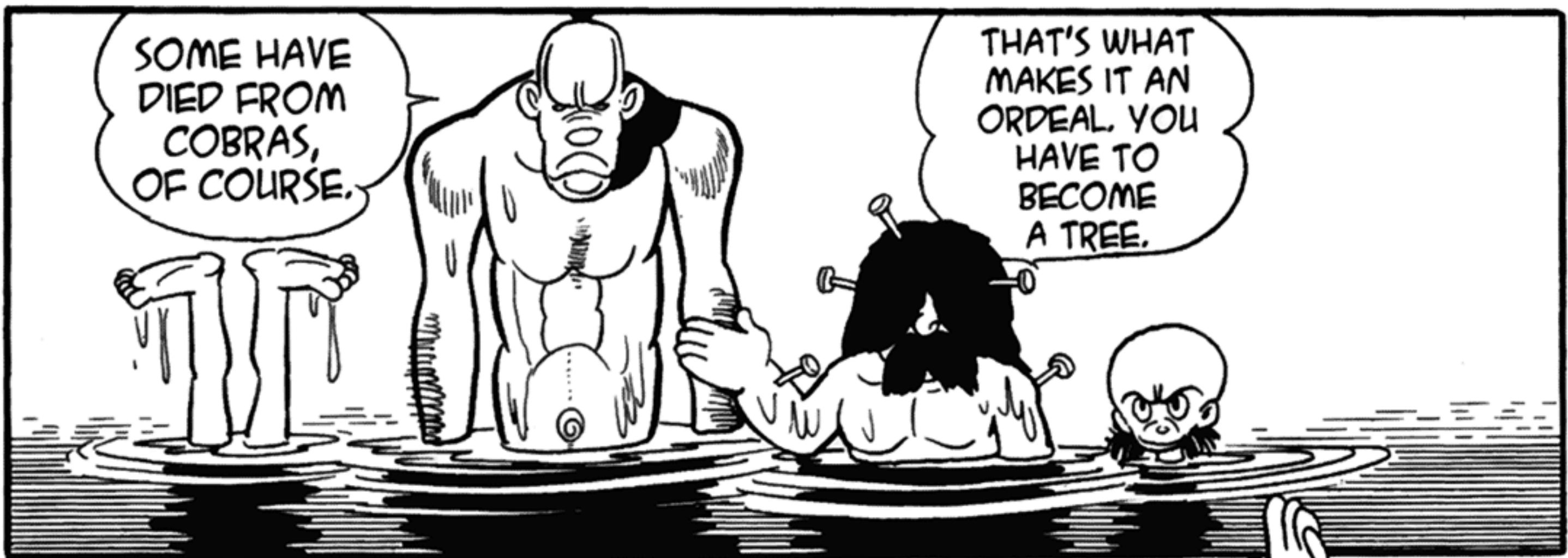
WHAT'S MORE, MY LIFE'S AT STAKE.



THE SMELL OF MY BLOOD

IT WAS CHILLING. DON'T PEOPLE GET BITTEN?

ATTRACTED ADDERS AND JACKALS.

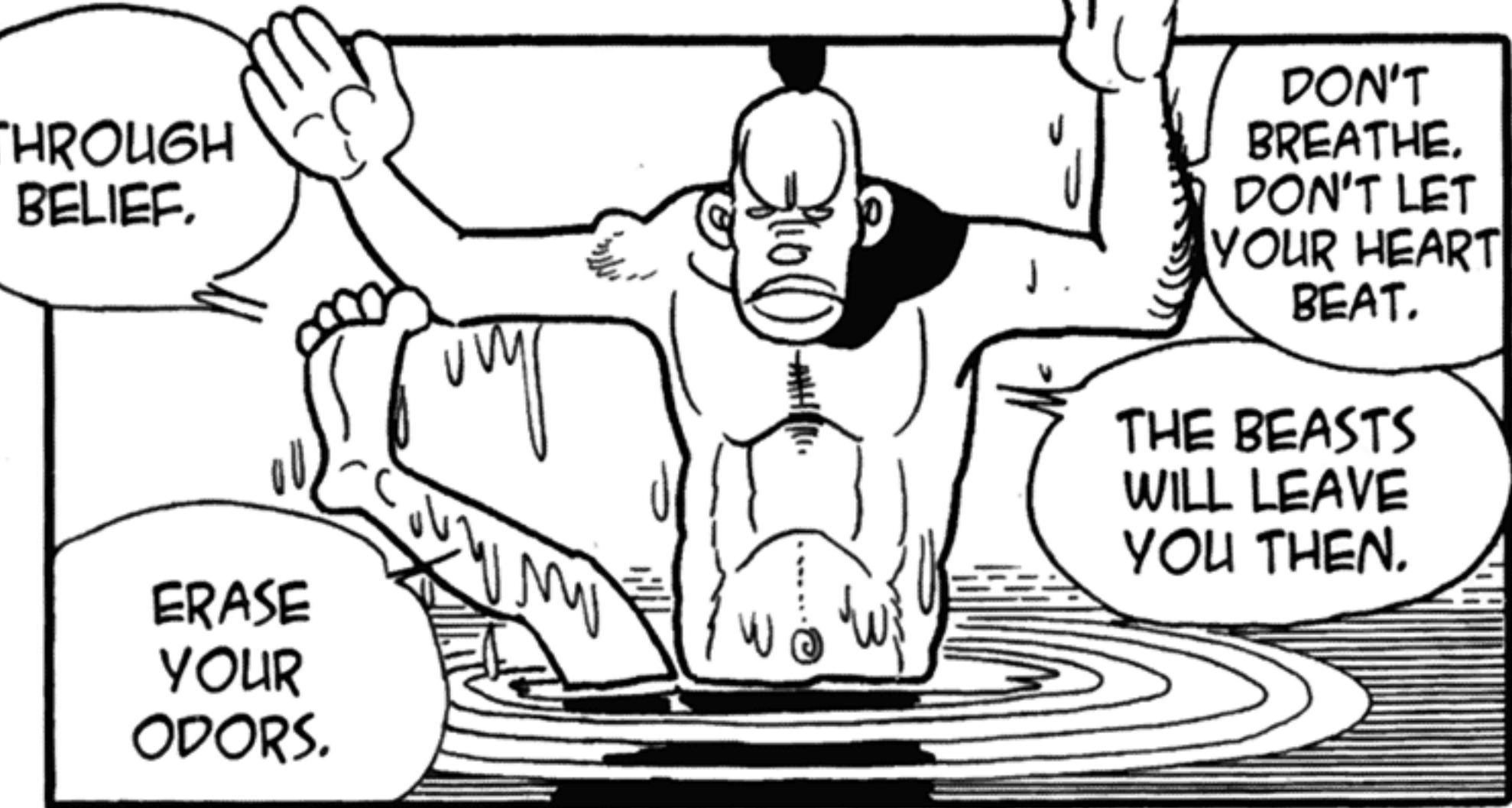


SOME HAVE DIED FROM COBRAS, OF COURSE.

THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT AN ORDEAL. YOU HAVE TO BECOME A TREE.



HOW DO YOU TURN INTO A TREE?

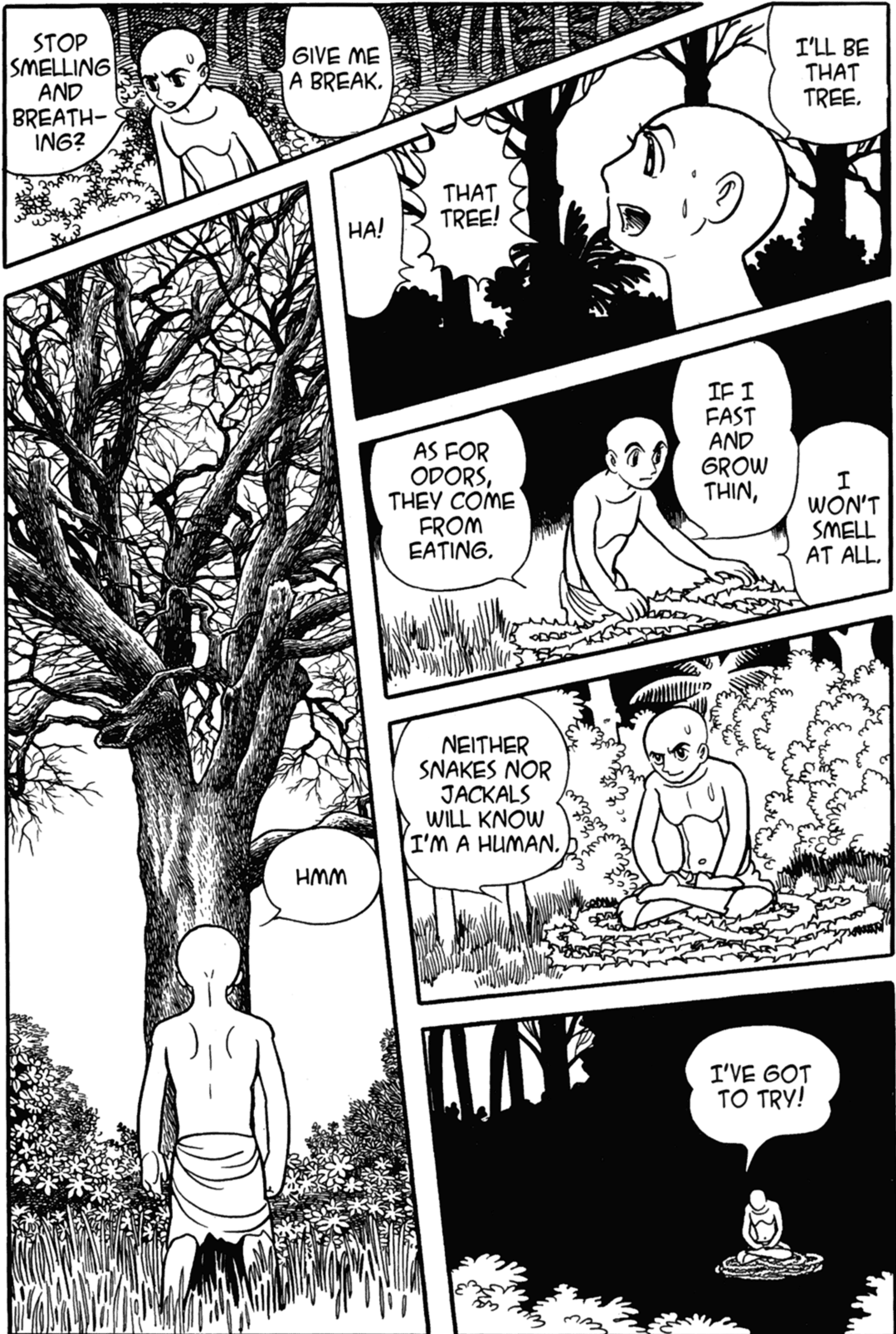


THROUGH BELIEF.

DON'T BREATHE. DON'T LET YOUR HEART BEAT.

ERASE YOUR ODORS.

THE BEASTS WILL LEAVE YOU THEN.



STOP SMELLING AND BREATHING?

GIVE ME A BREAK.

I'LL BE THAT TREE.

HA!

THAT TREE!

AS FOR ODORS, THEY COME FROM EATING.

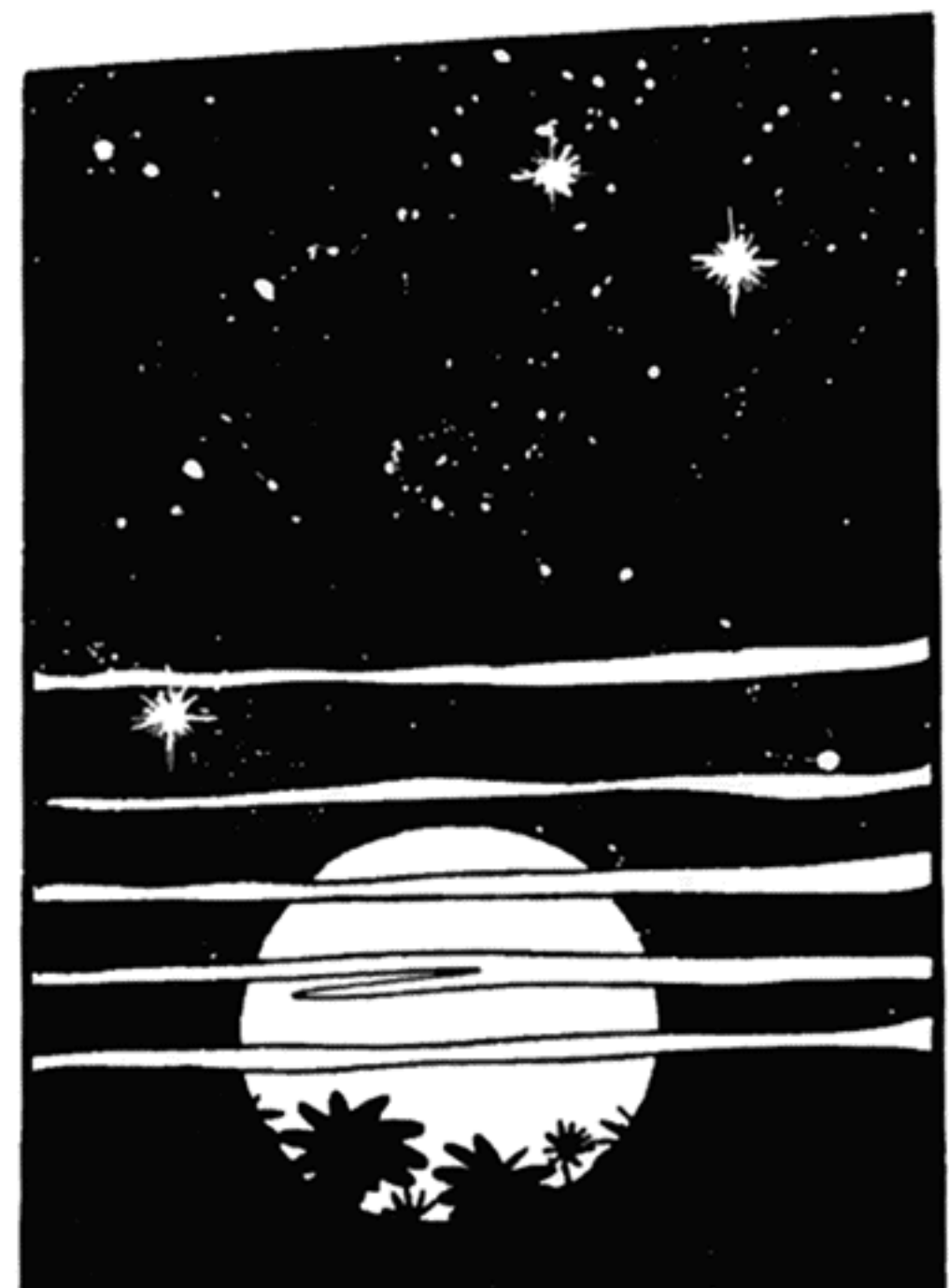
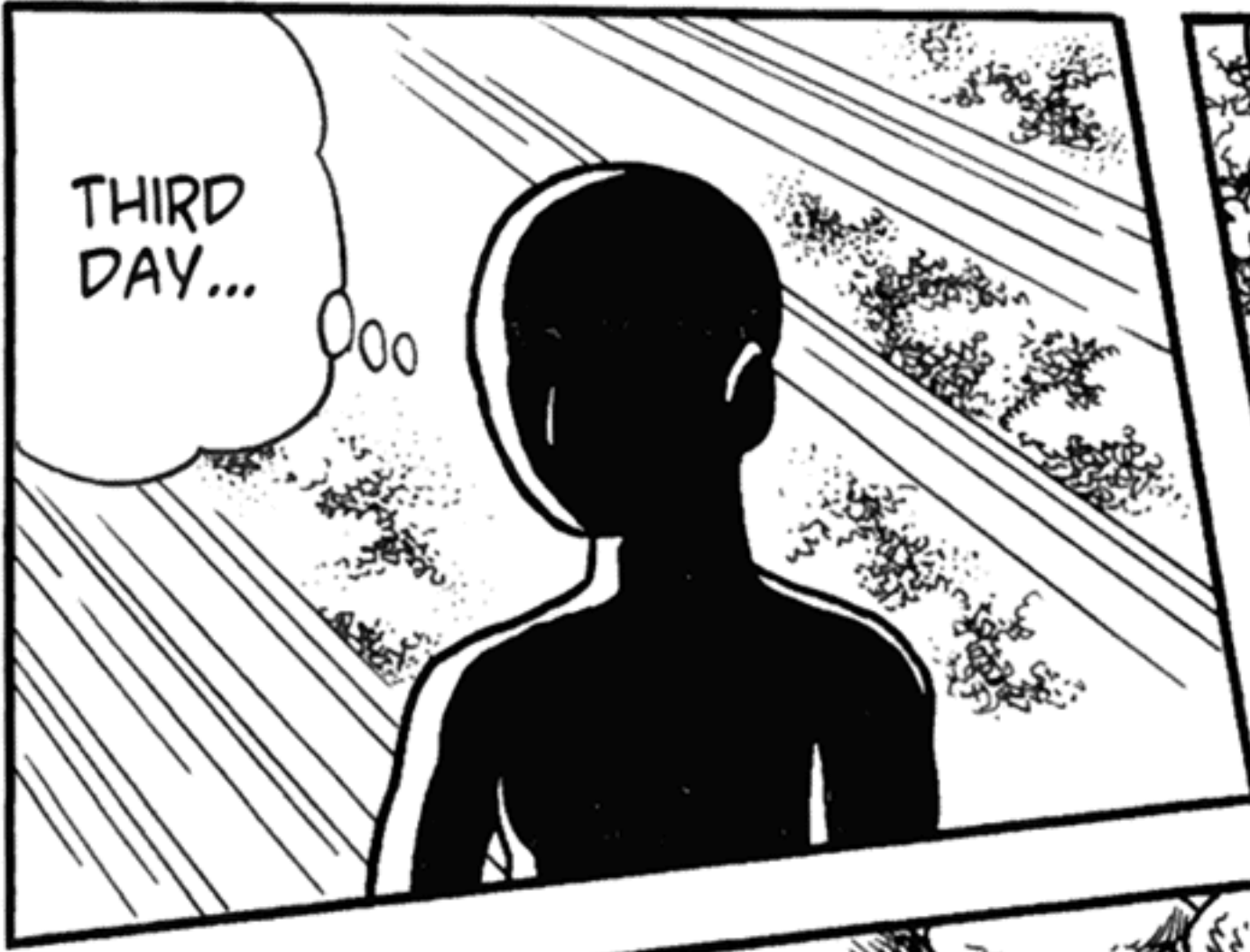
IF I FAST AND GROW THIN,

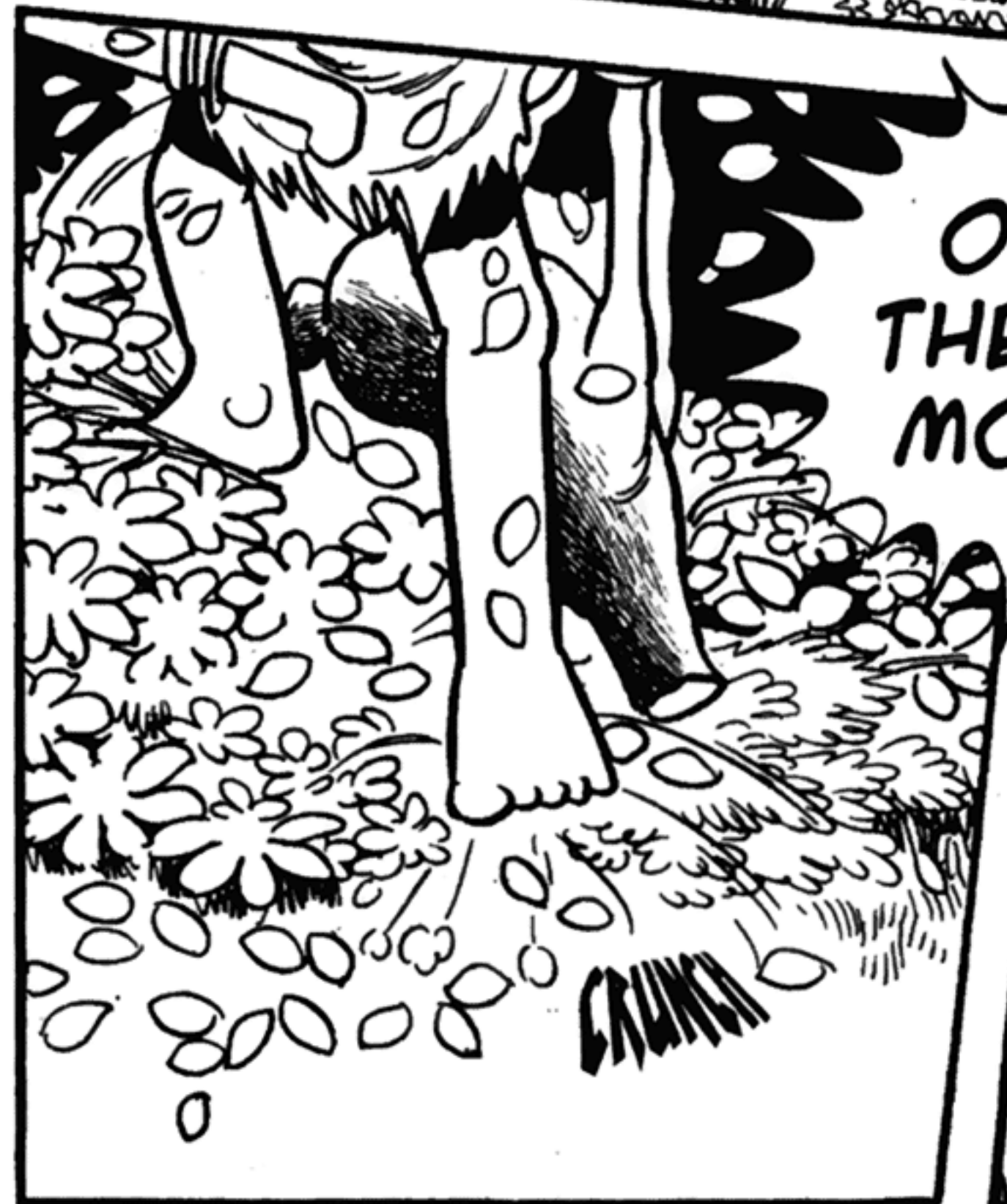
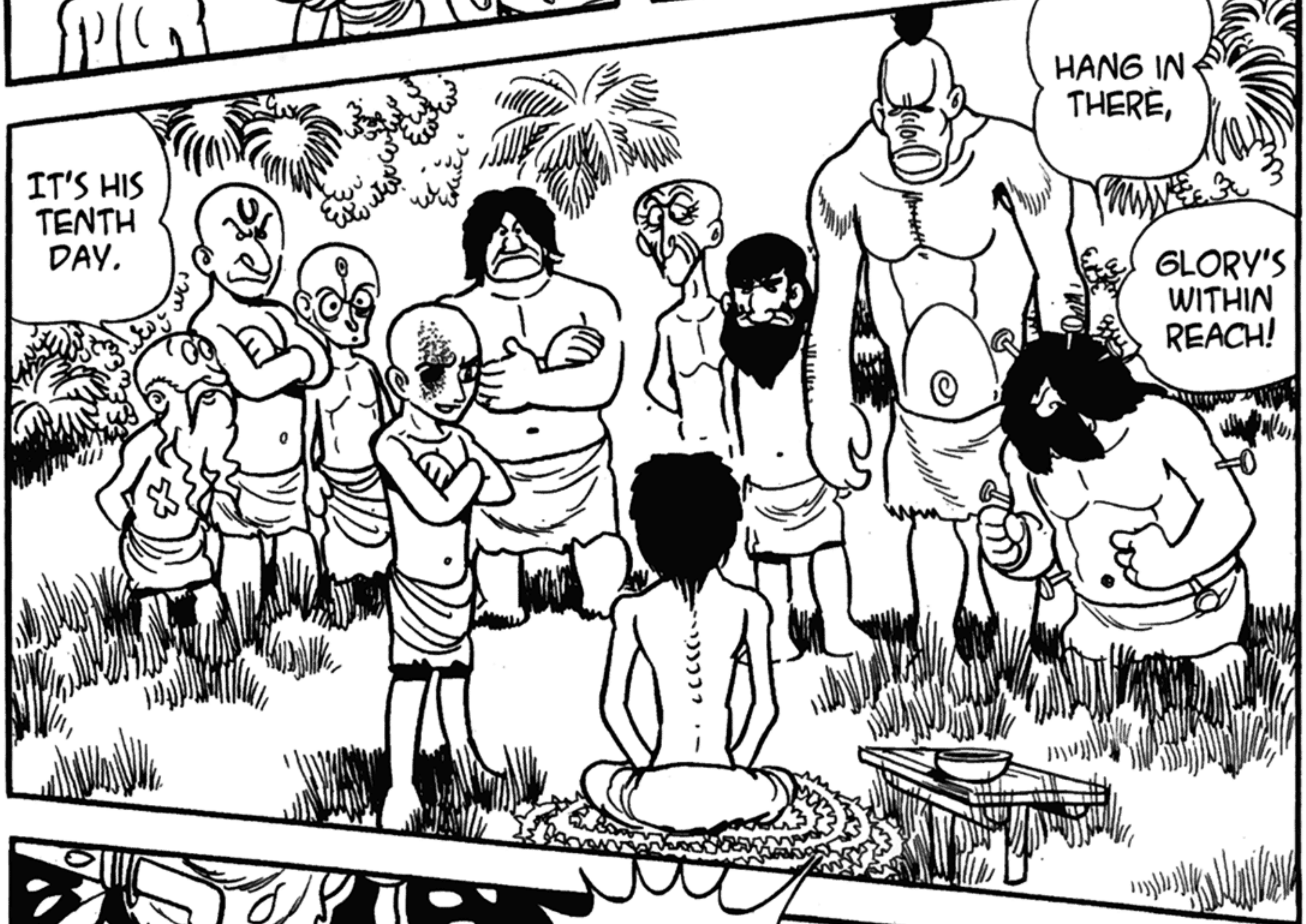
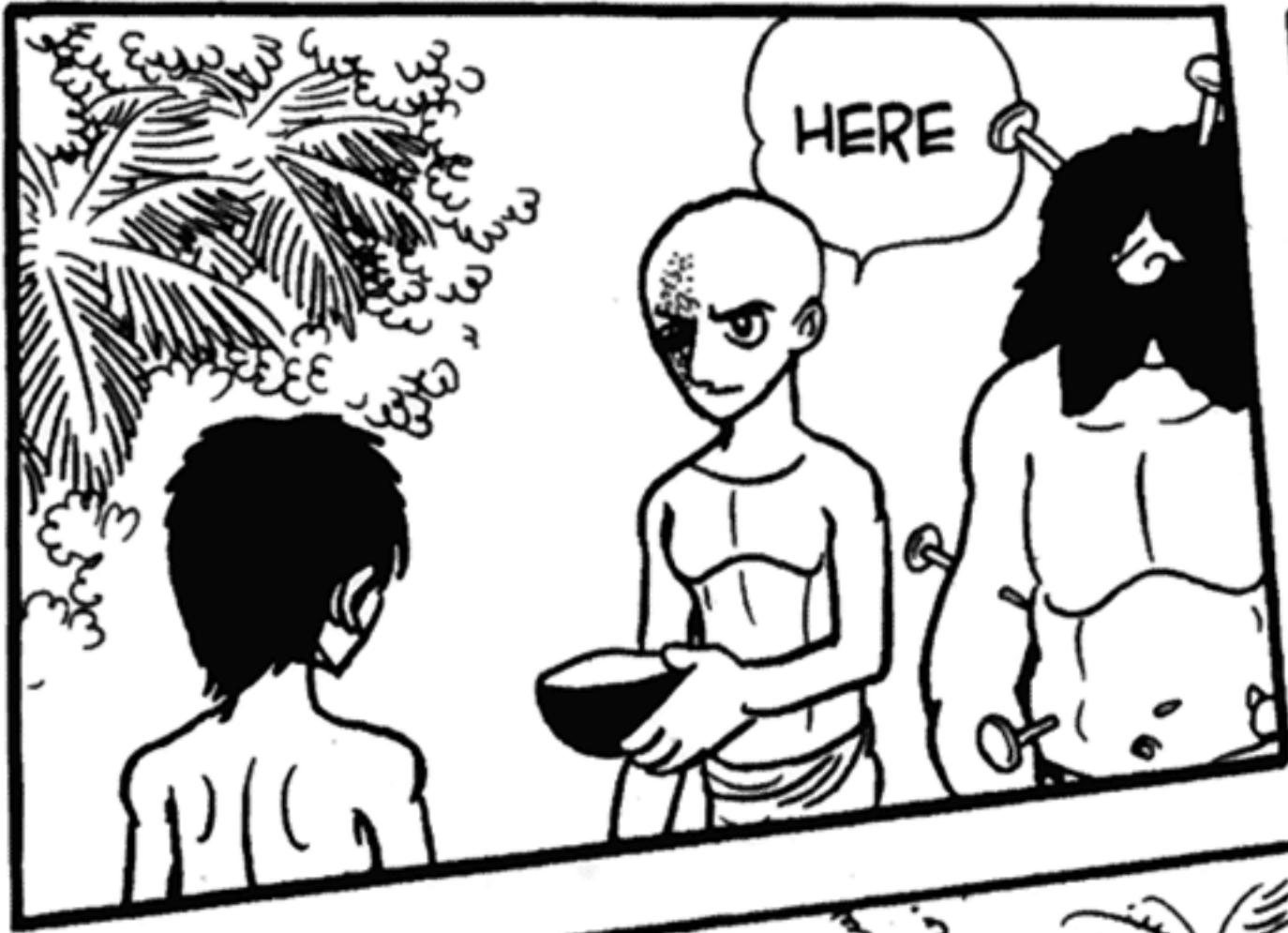
I WON'T SMELL AT ALL.

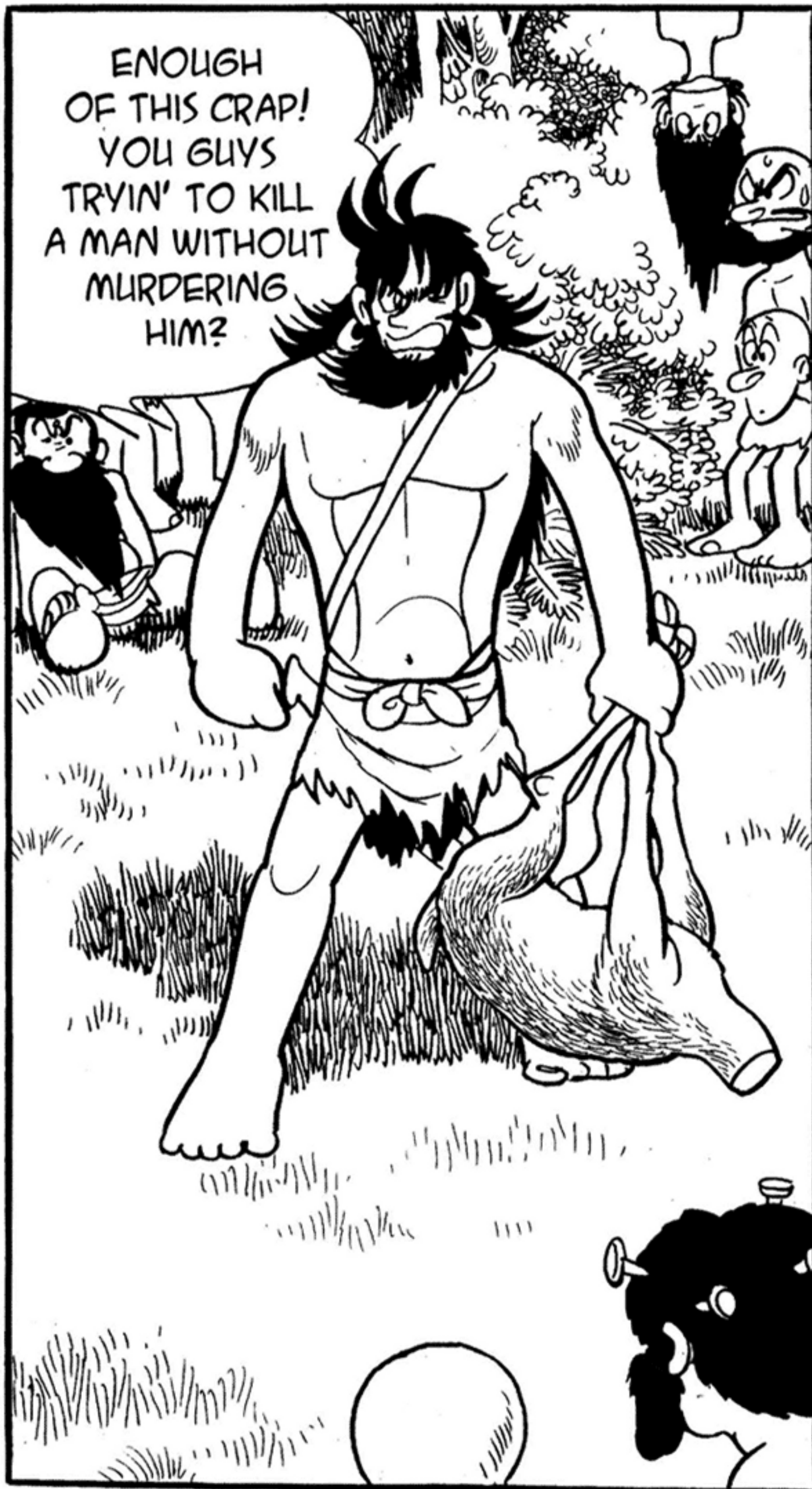
HMM

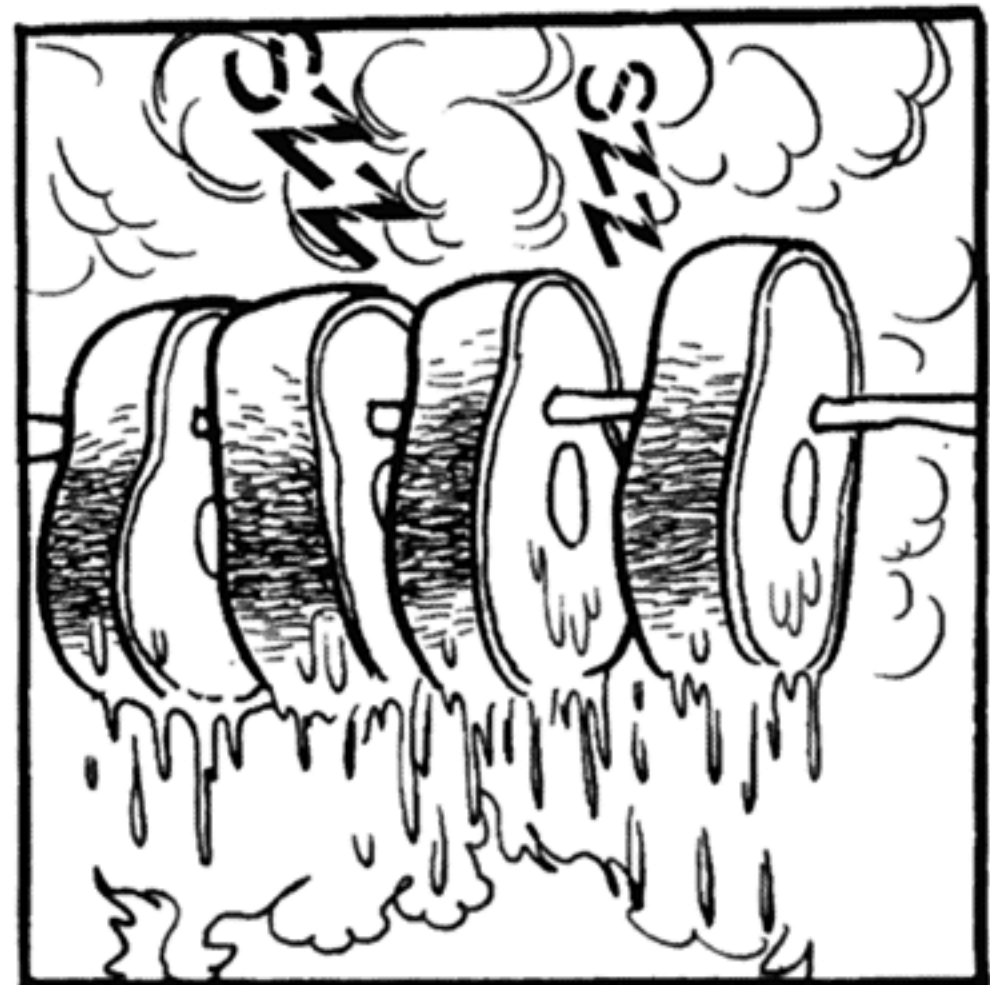
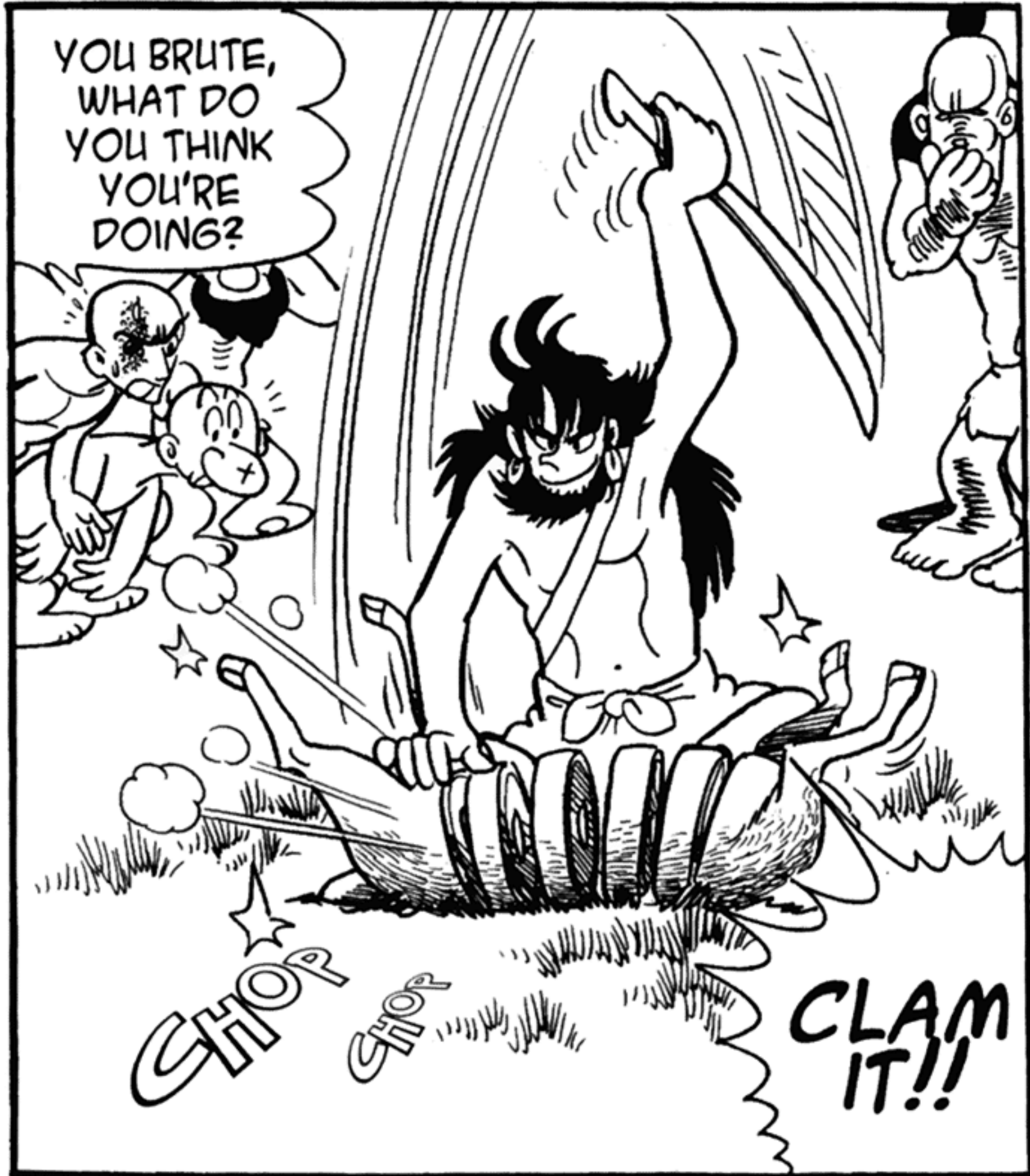
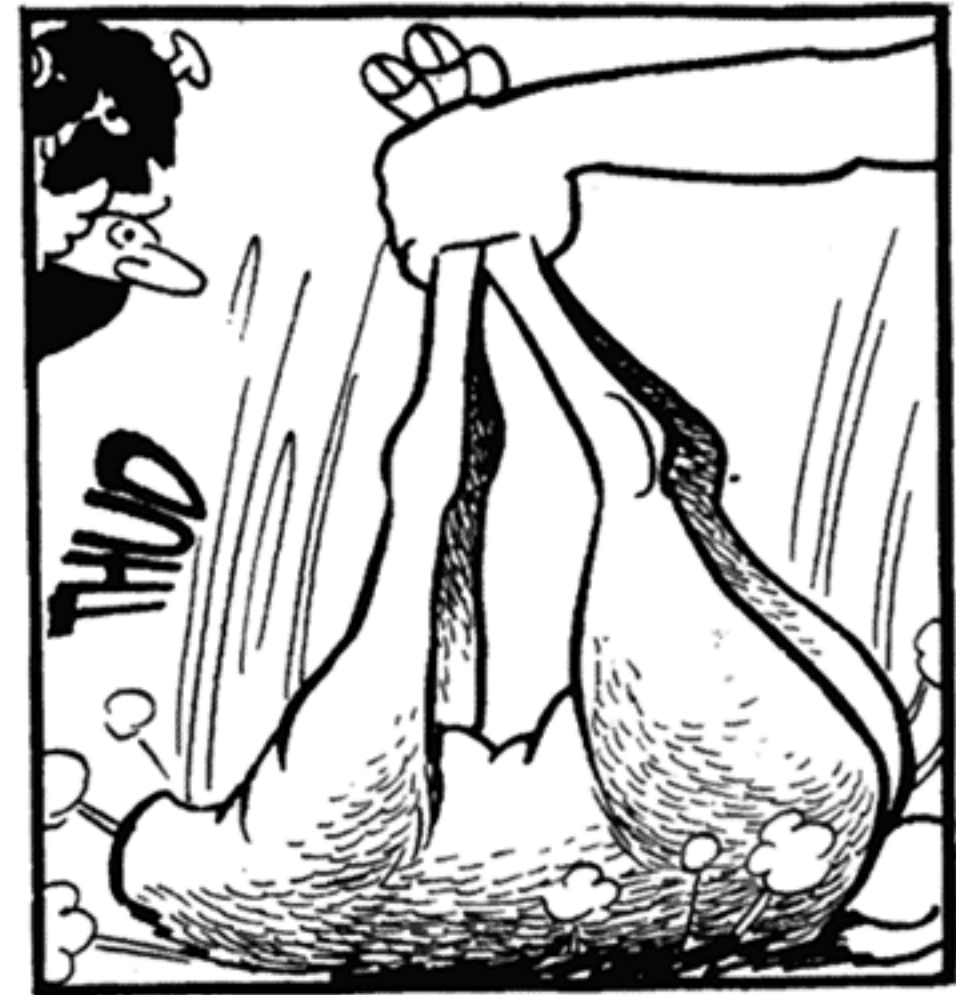
NEITHER SNAKES NOR JACKALS WILL KNOW I'M A HUMAN.

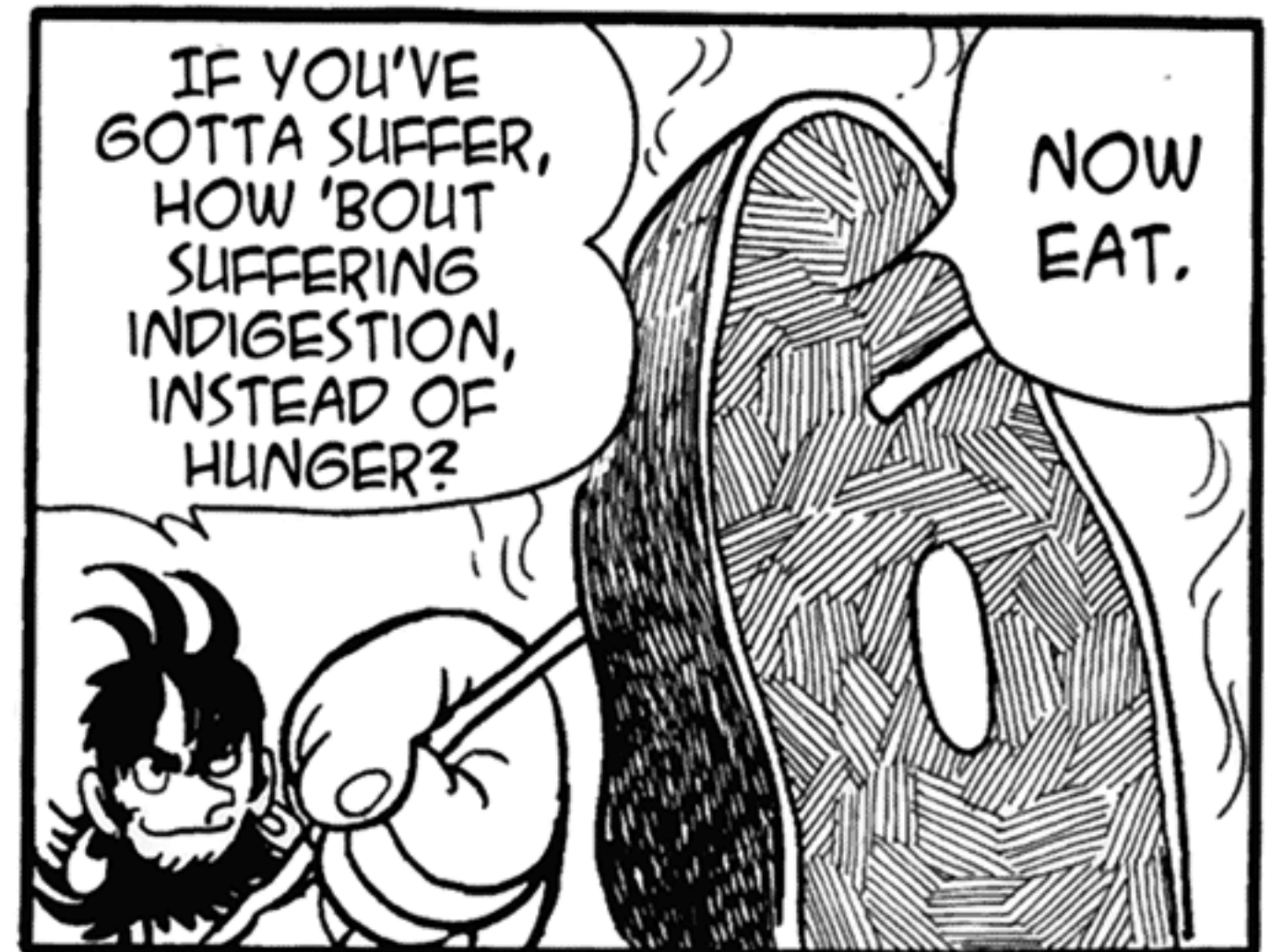
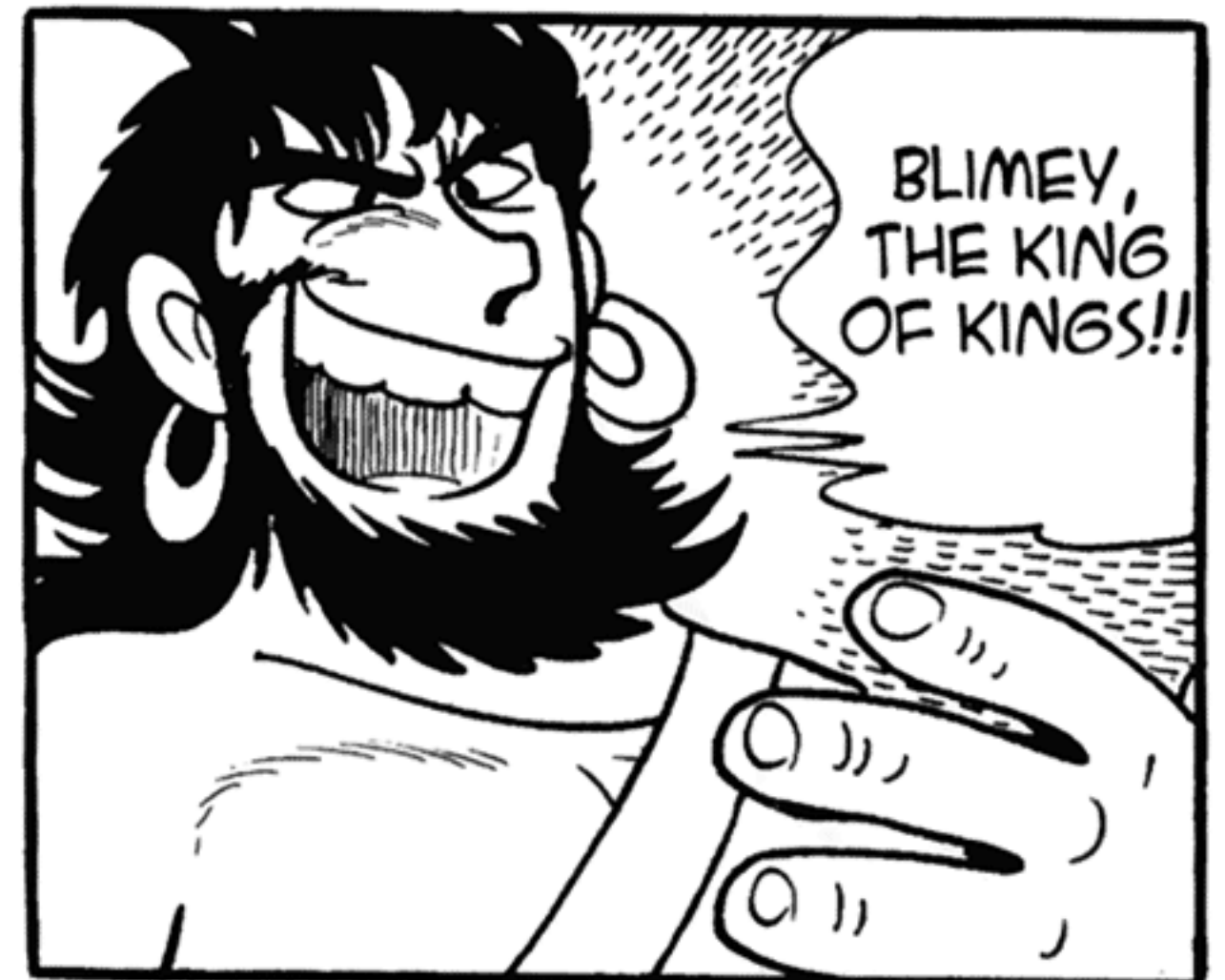
I'VE GOT TO TRY!

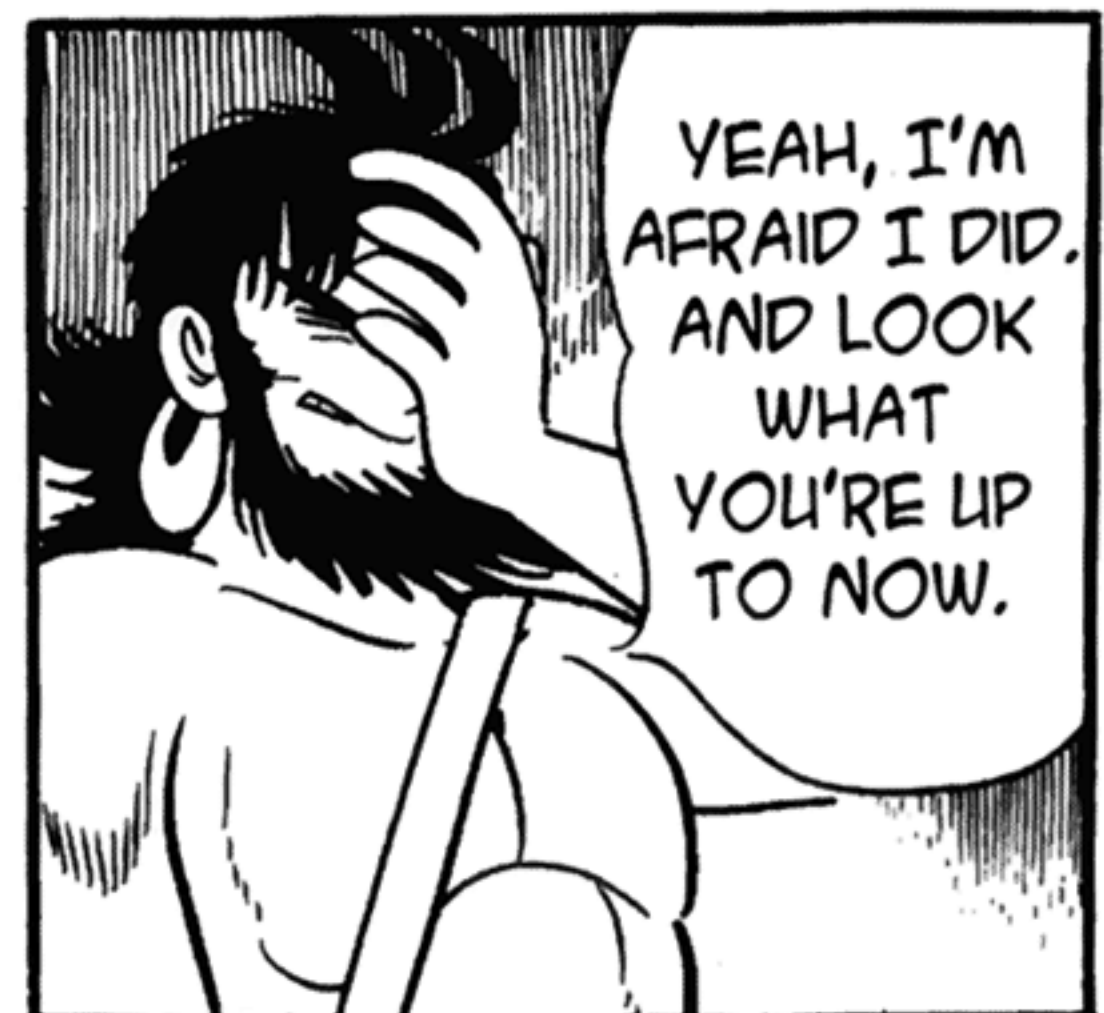
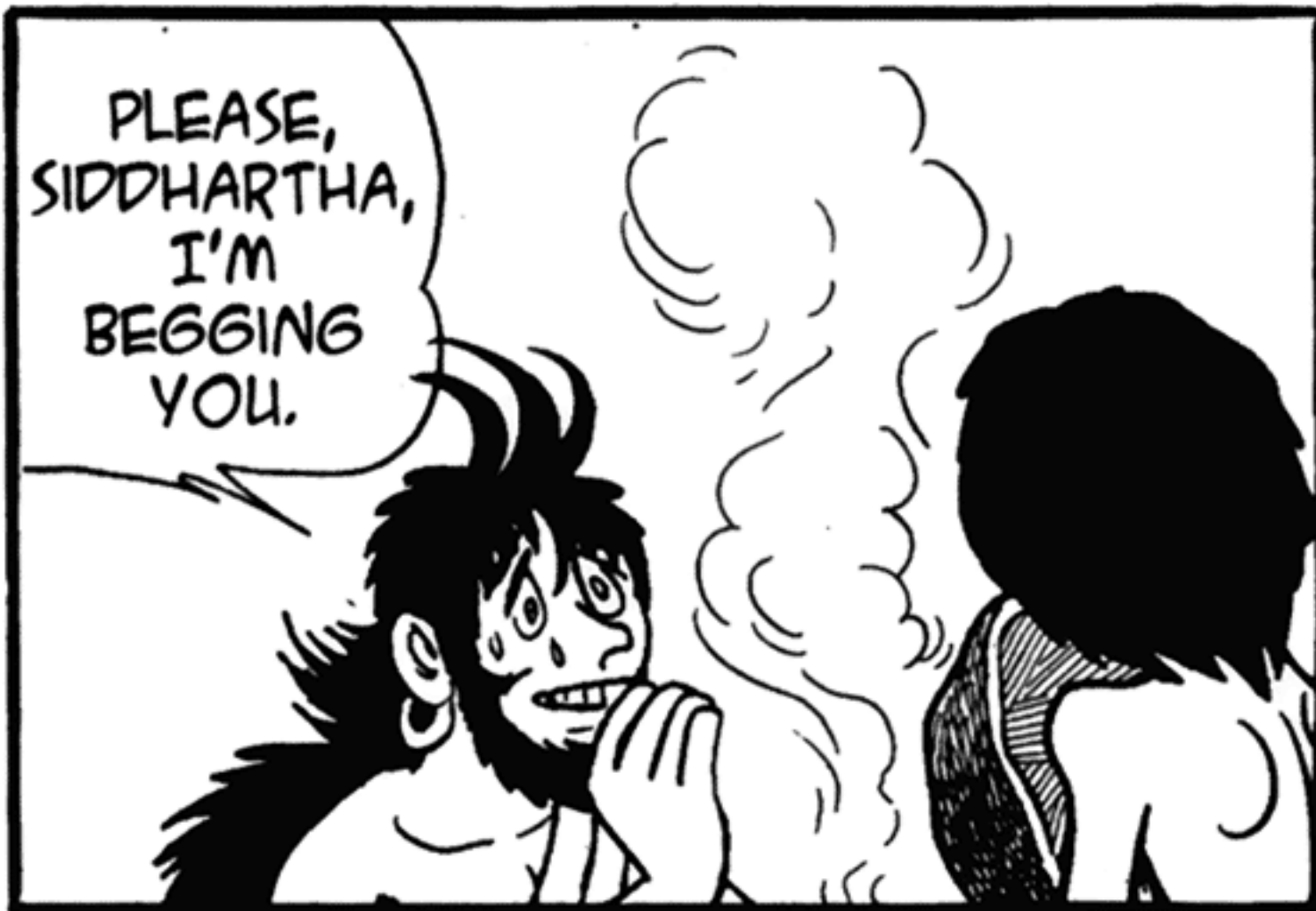
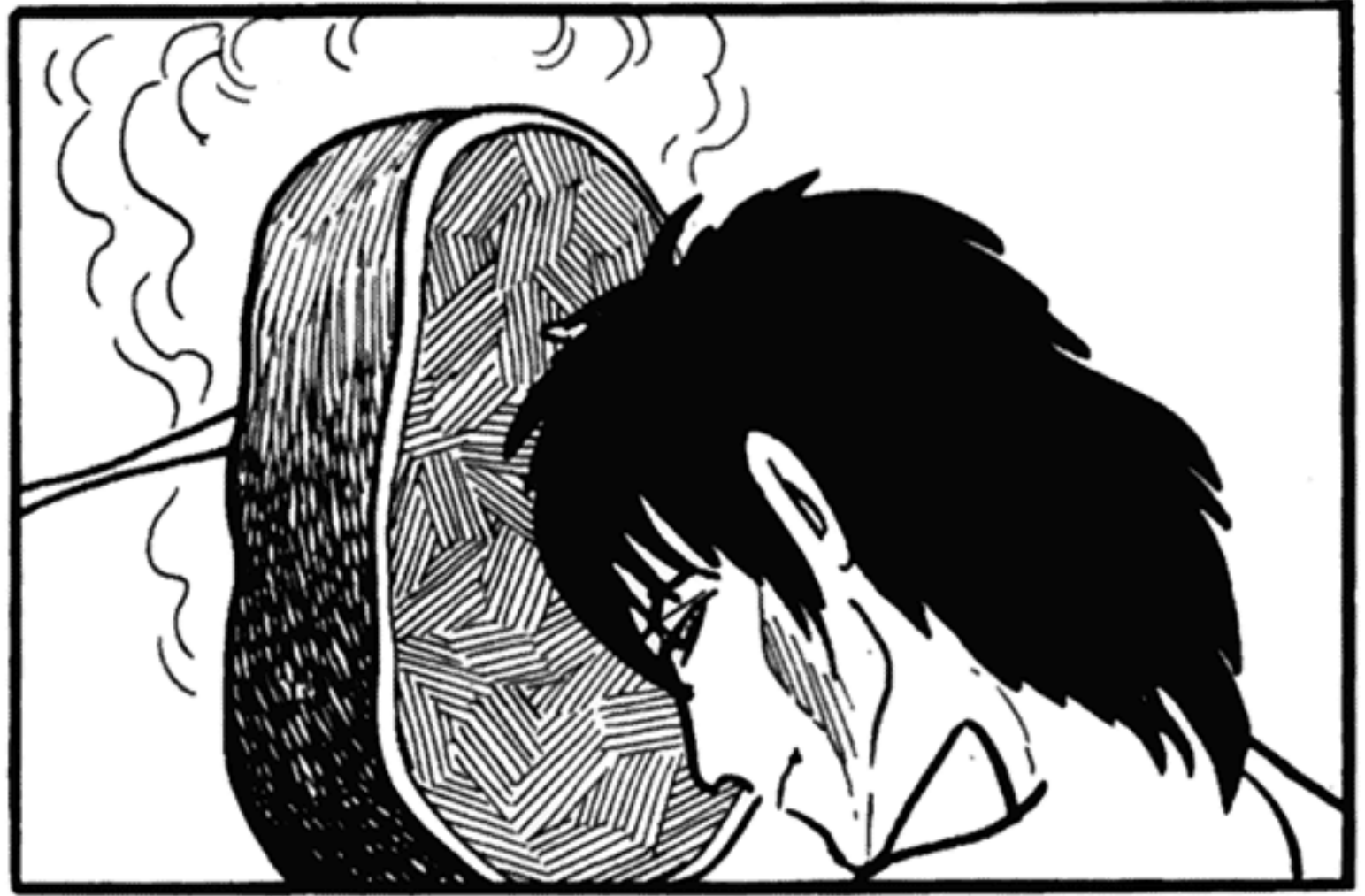


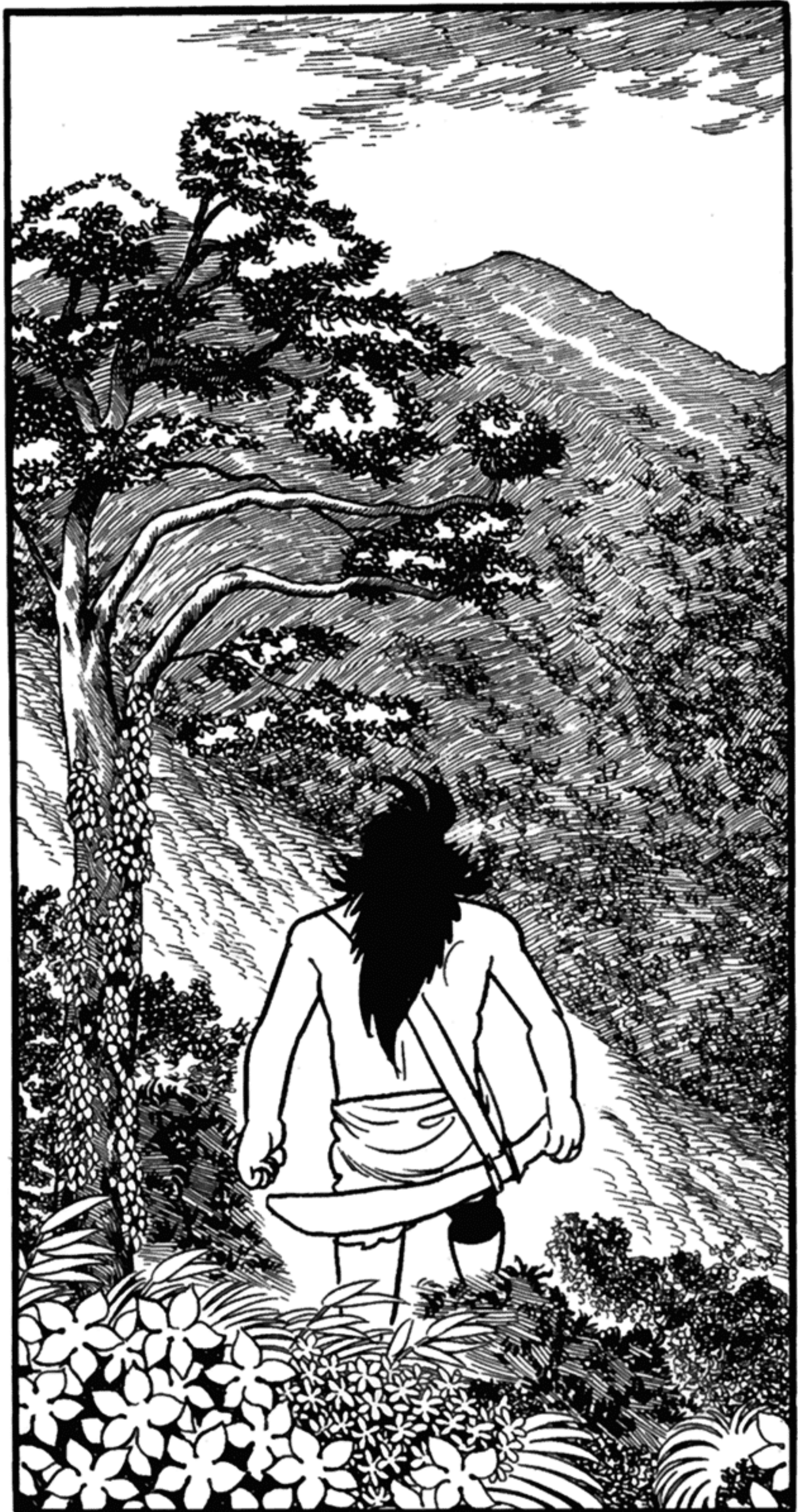
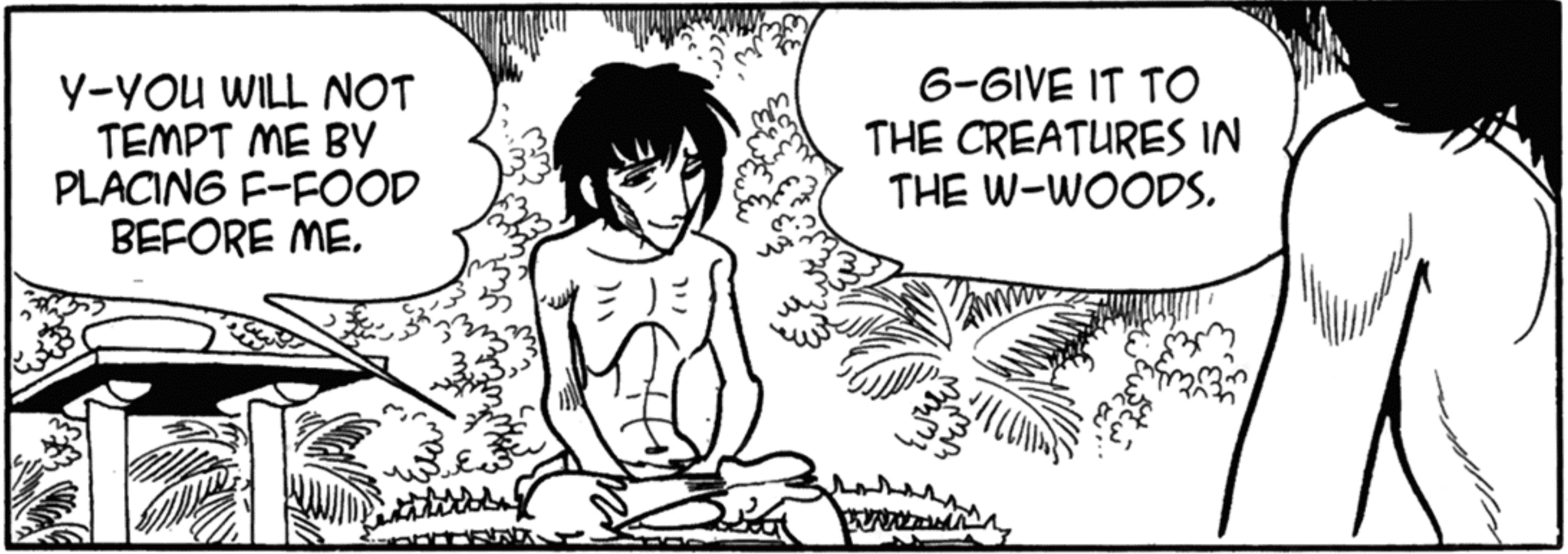


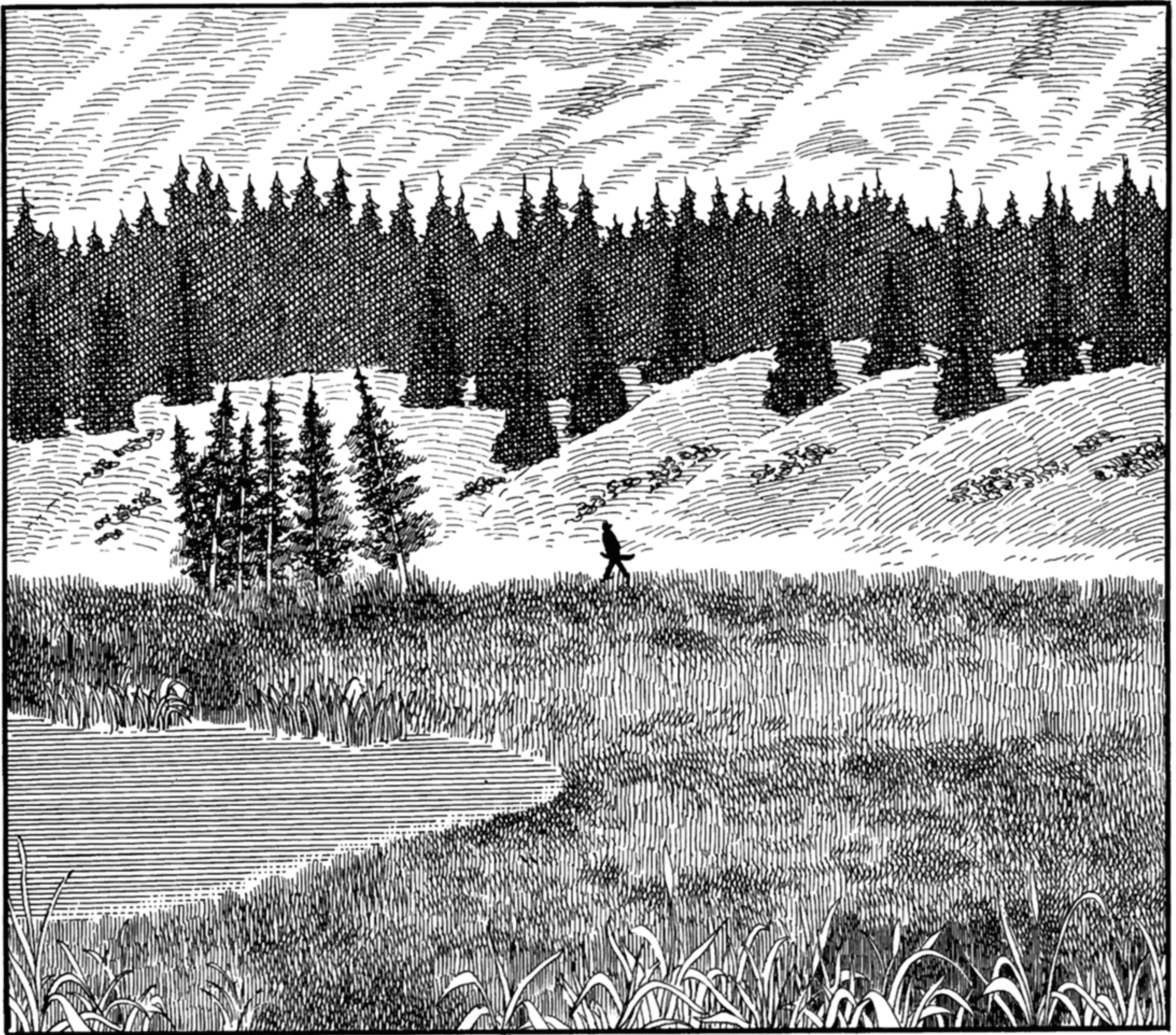






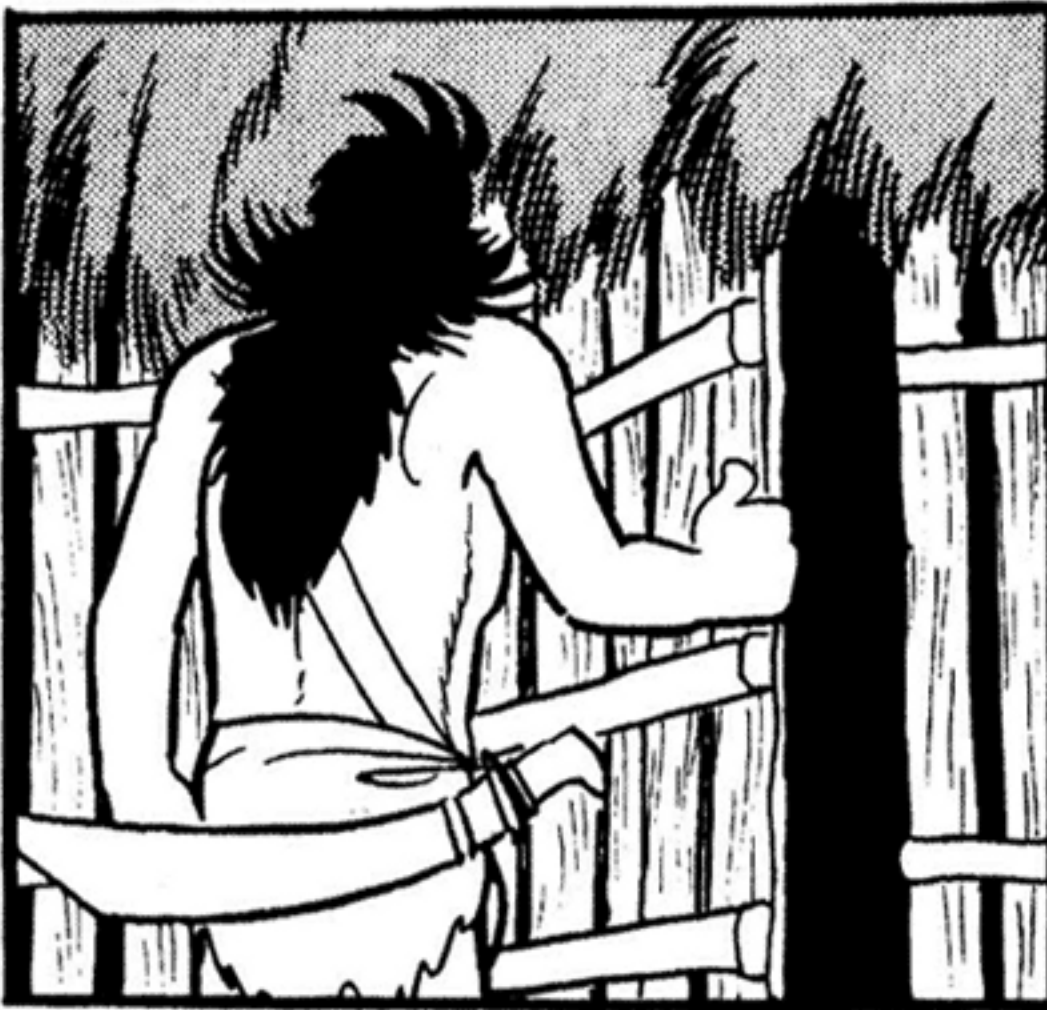




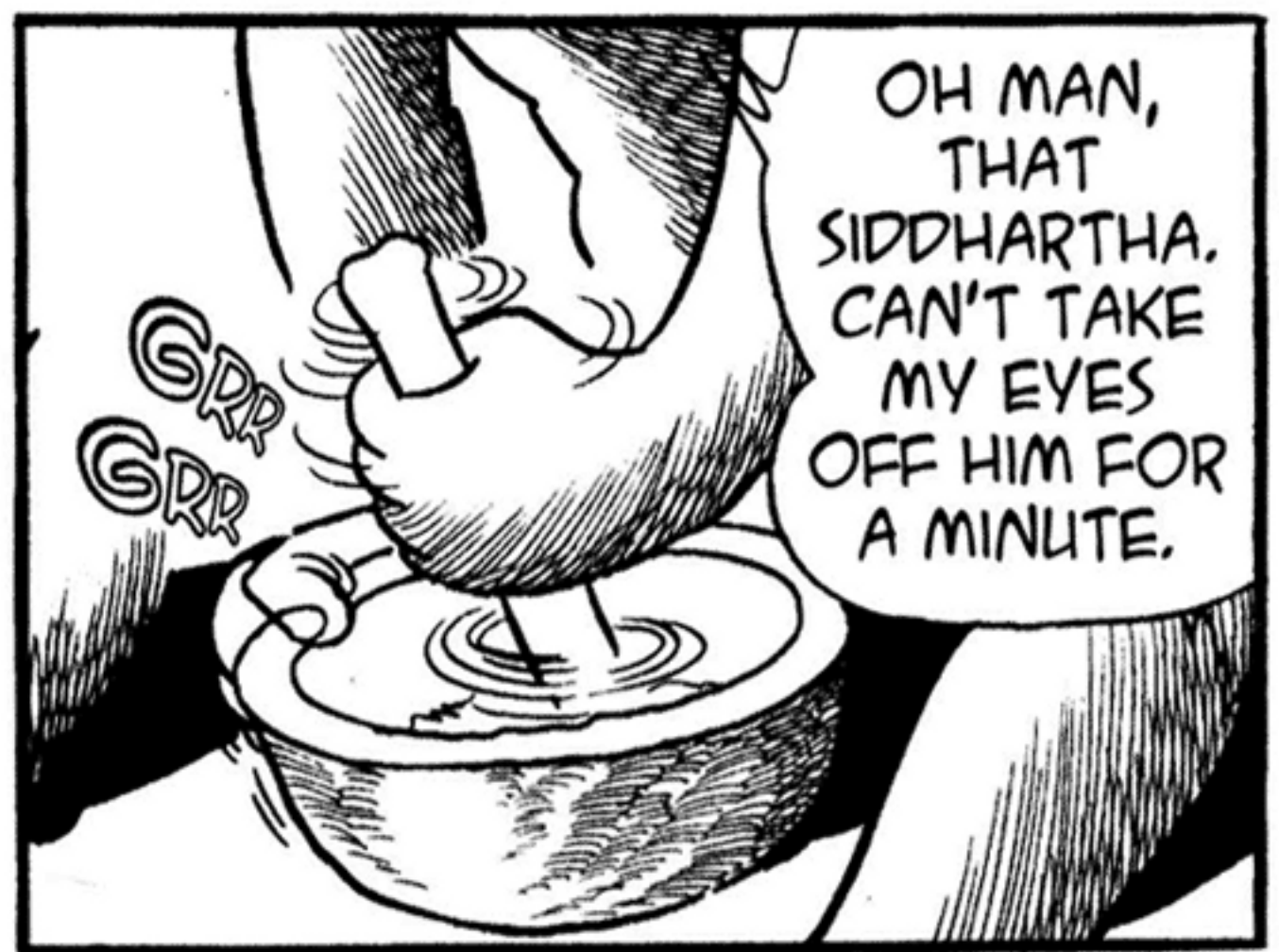




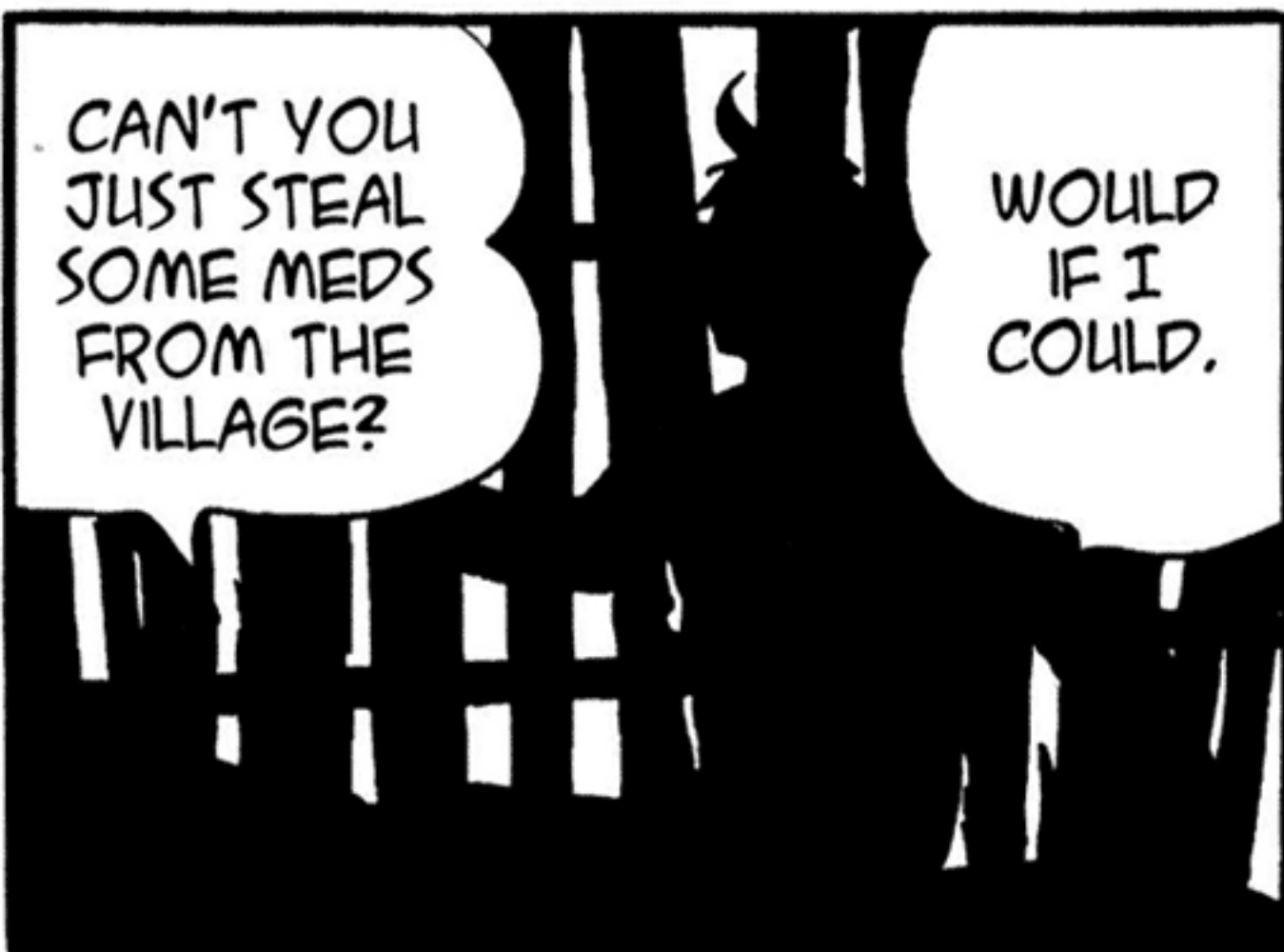
I'M HOME.



I'LL FIX YOUR MEDICINE, GIMME A SEC.

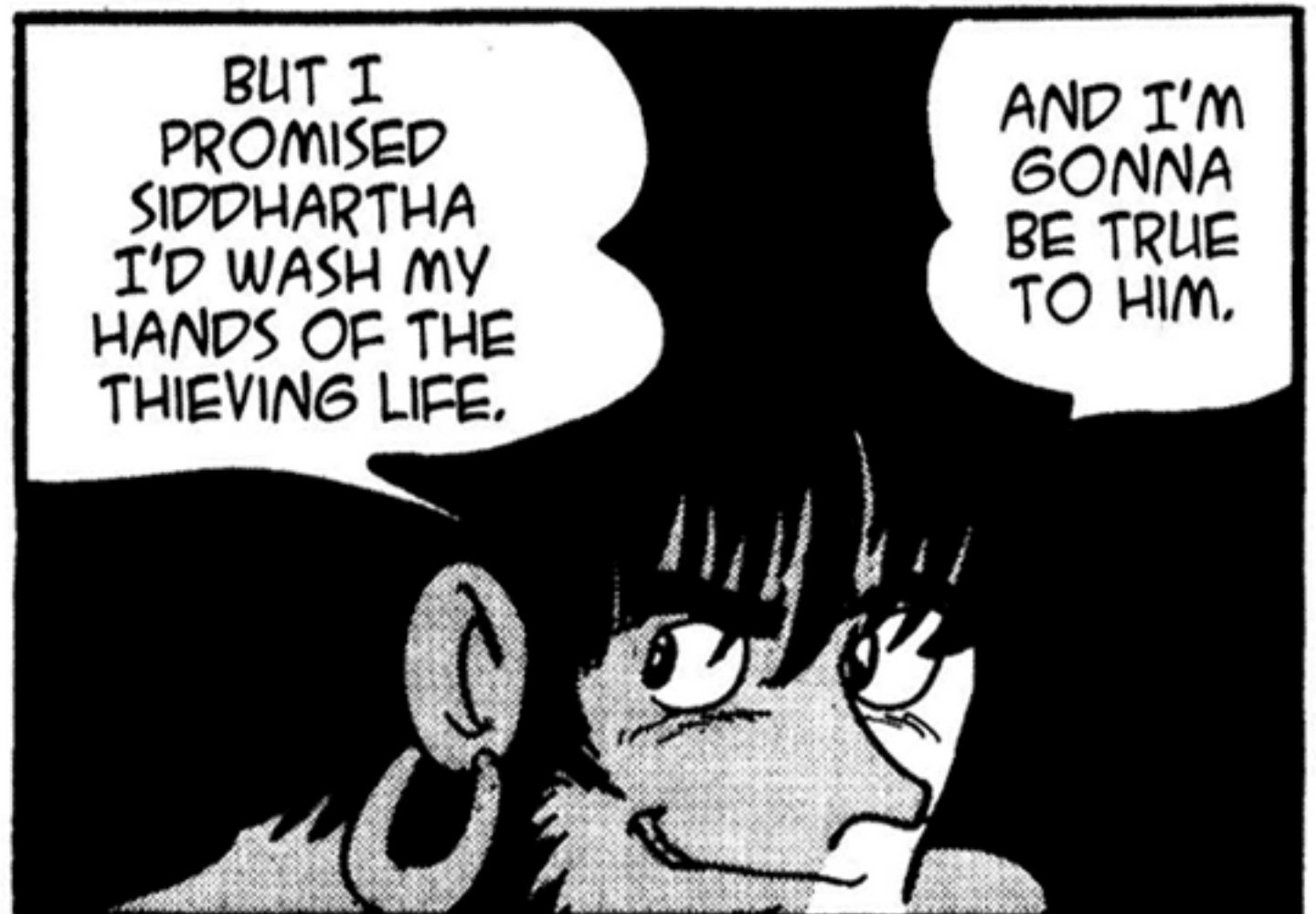


OH MAN, THAT SIDDHARTHA. CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HIM FOR A MINUTE.



CAN'T YOU JUST STEAL SOME MEDS FROM THE VILLAGE?

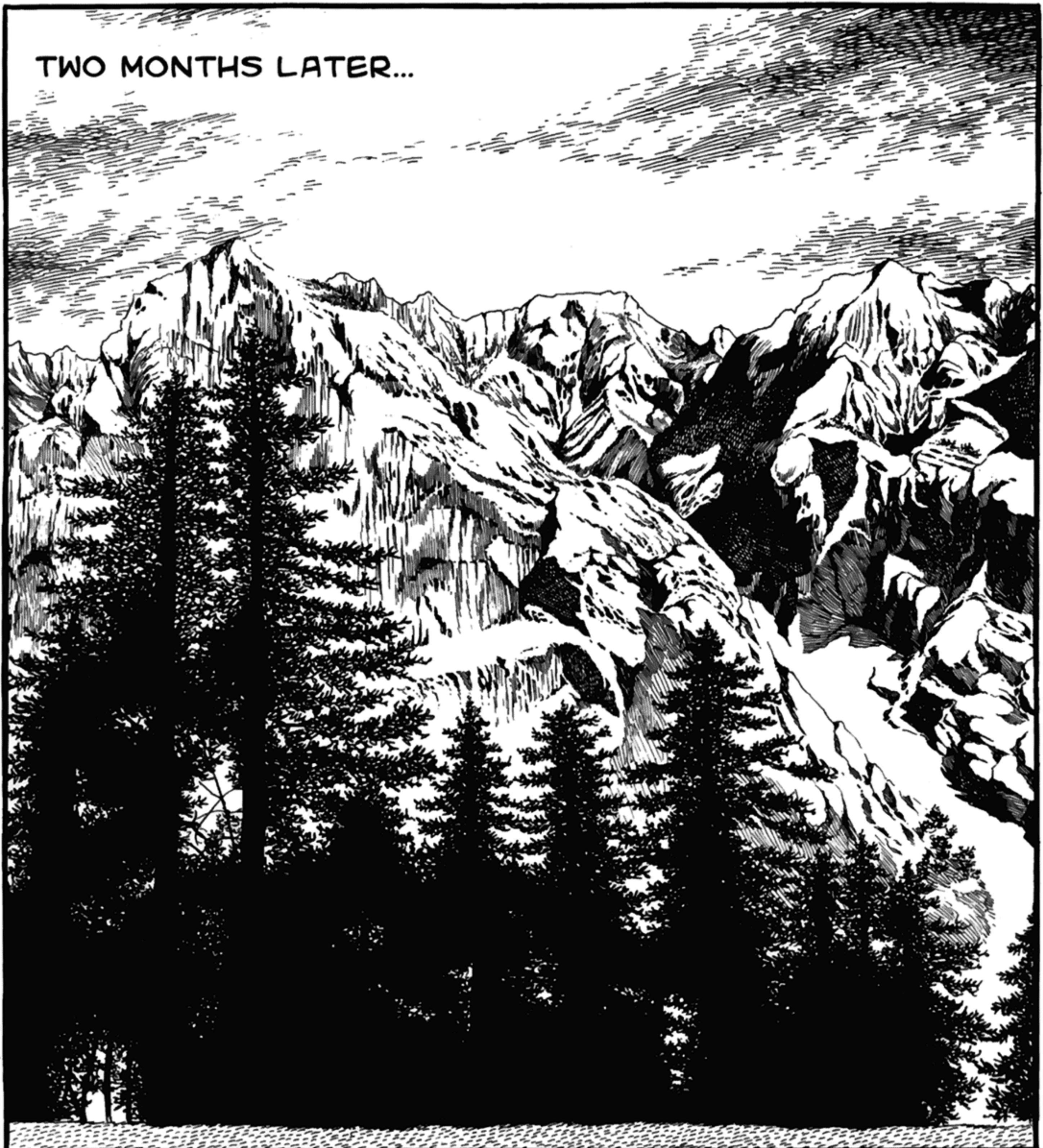
WOULD IF I COULD.

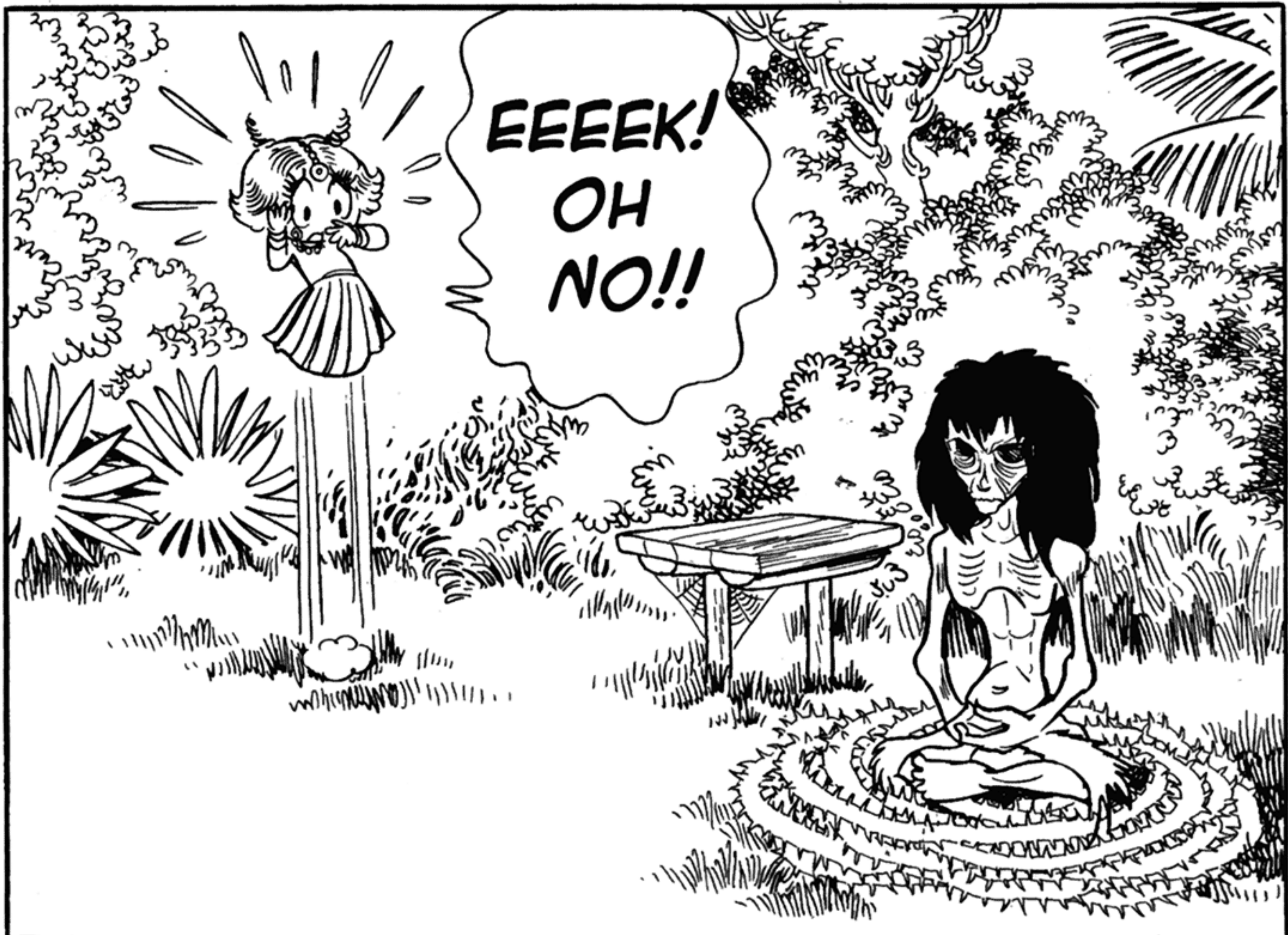
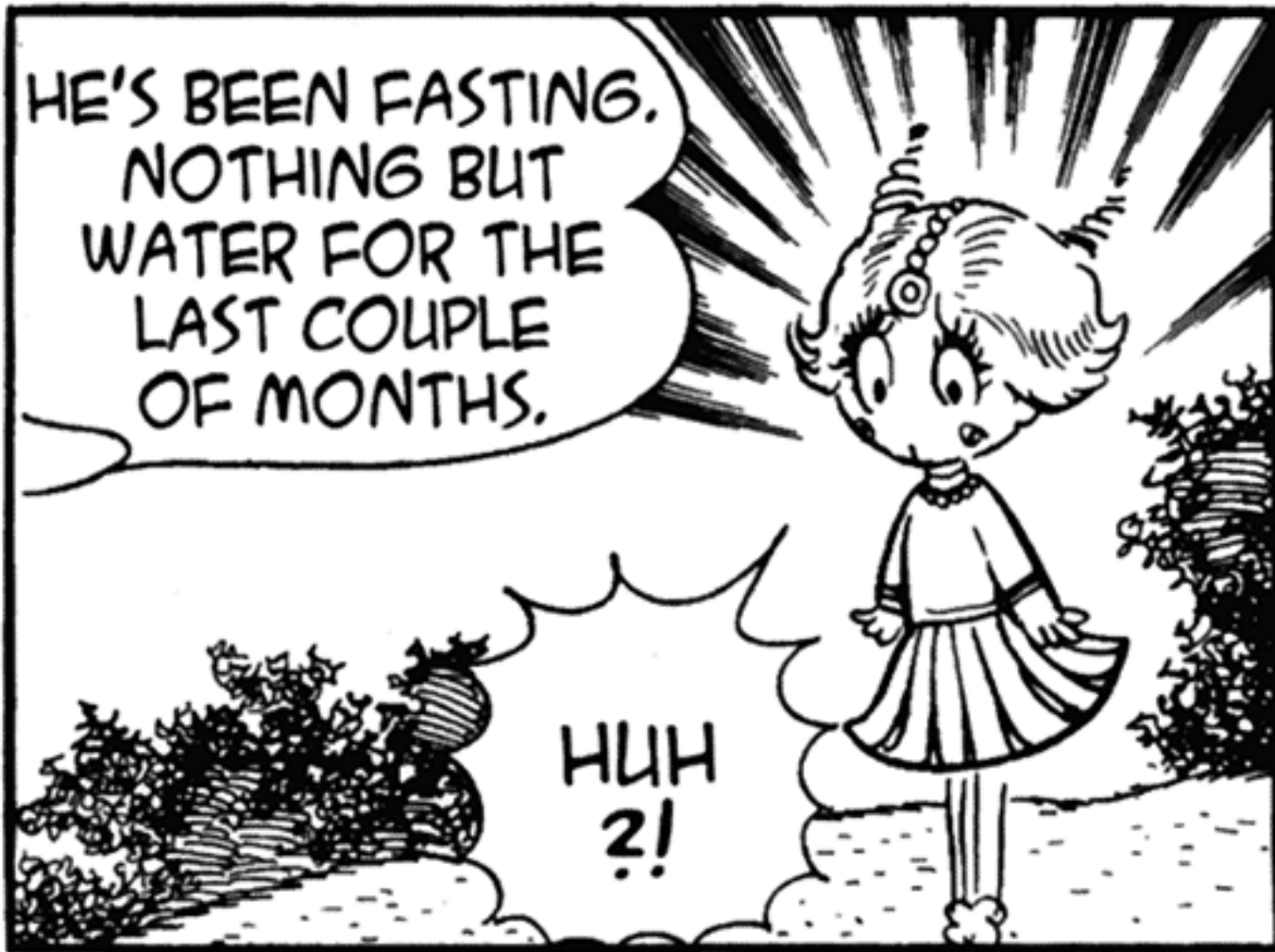


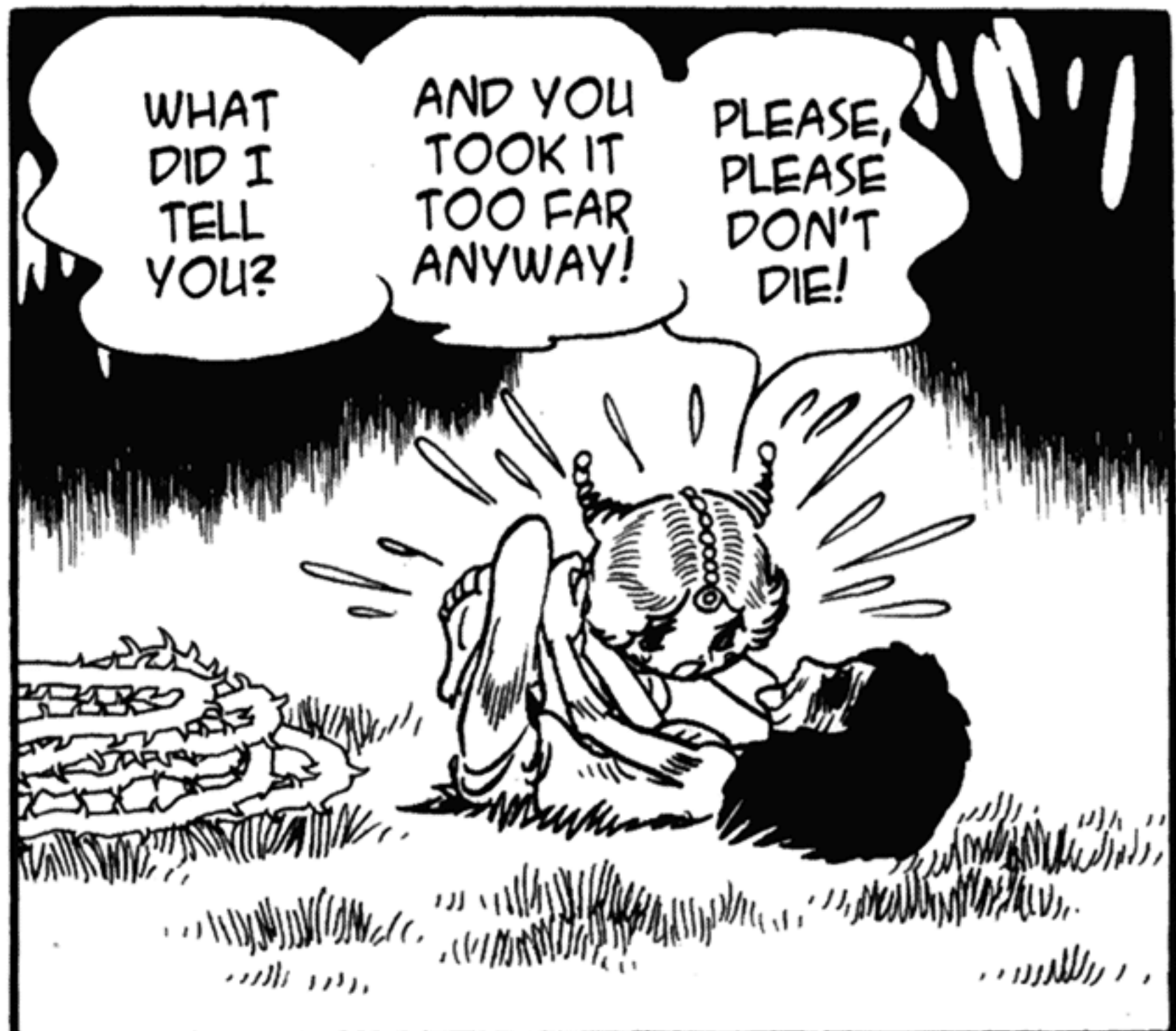
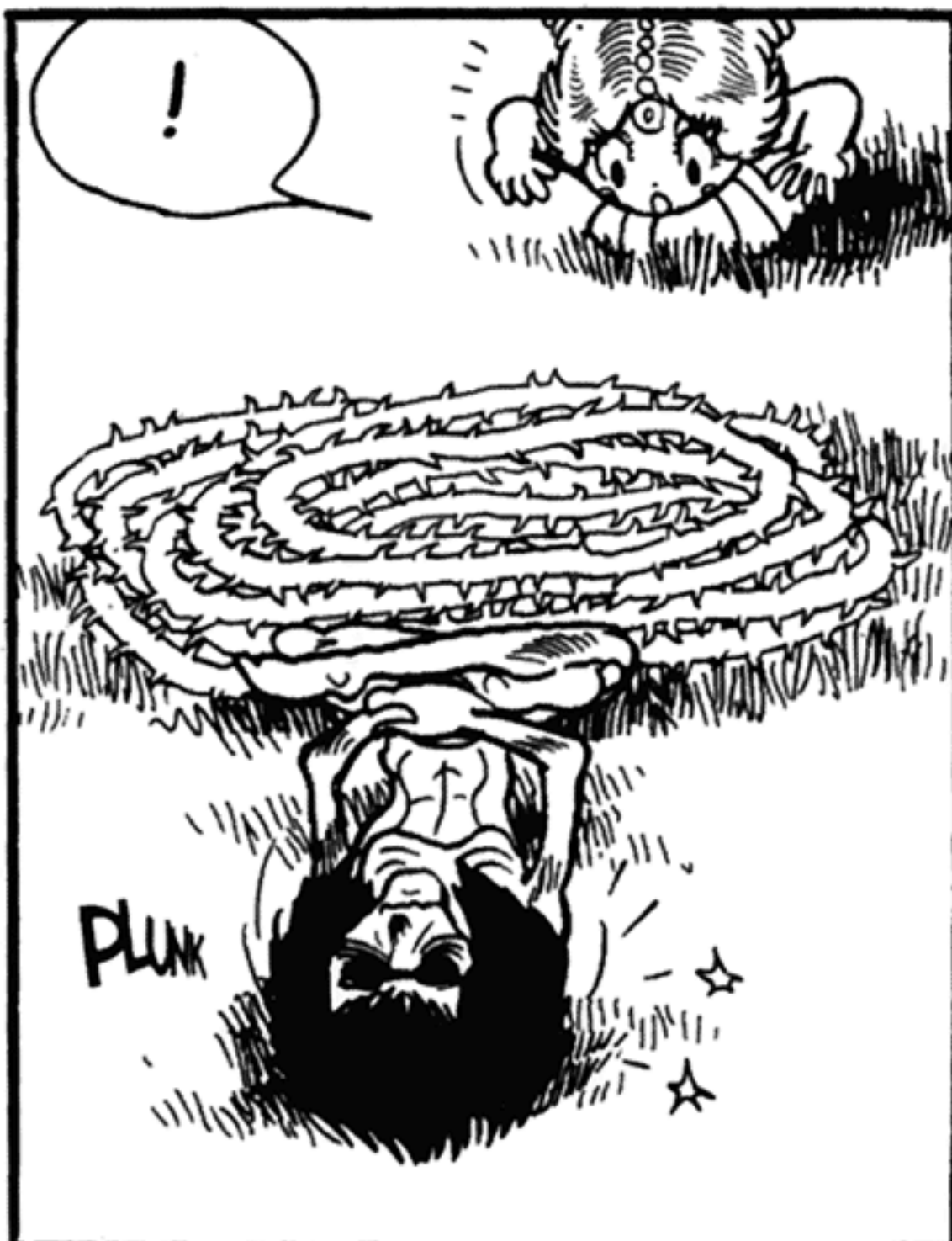
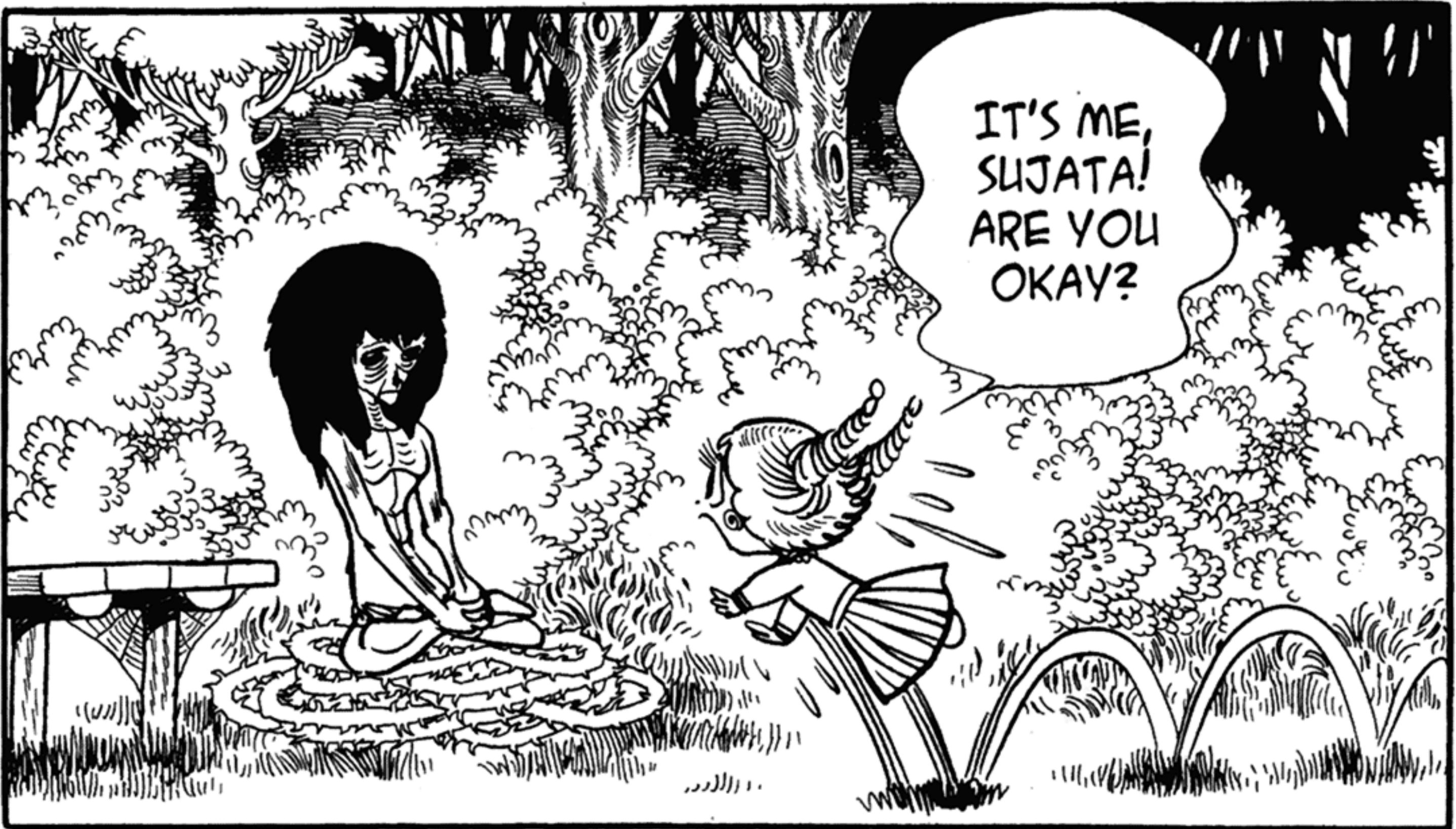
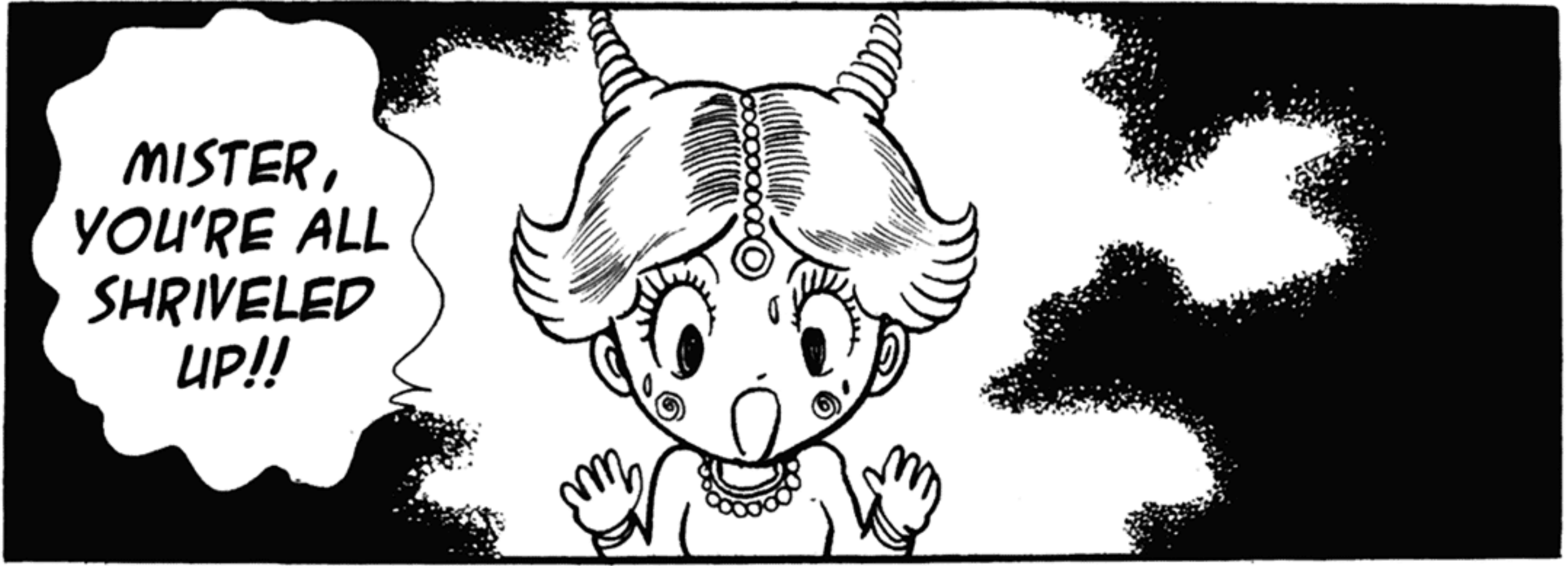
BUT I PROMISED SIDDHARTHA I'D WASH MY HANDS OF THE THIEVING LIFE.

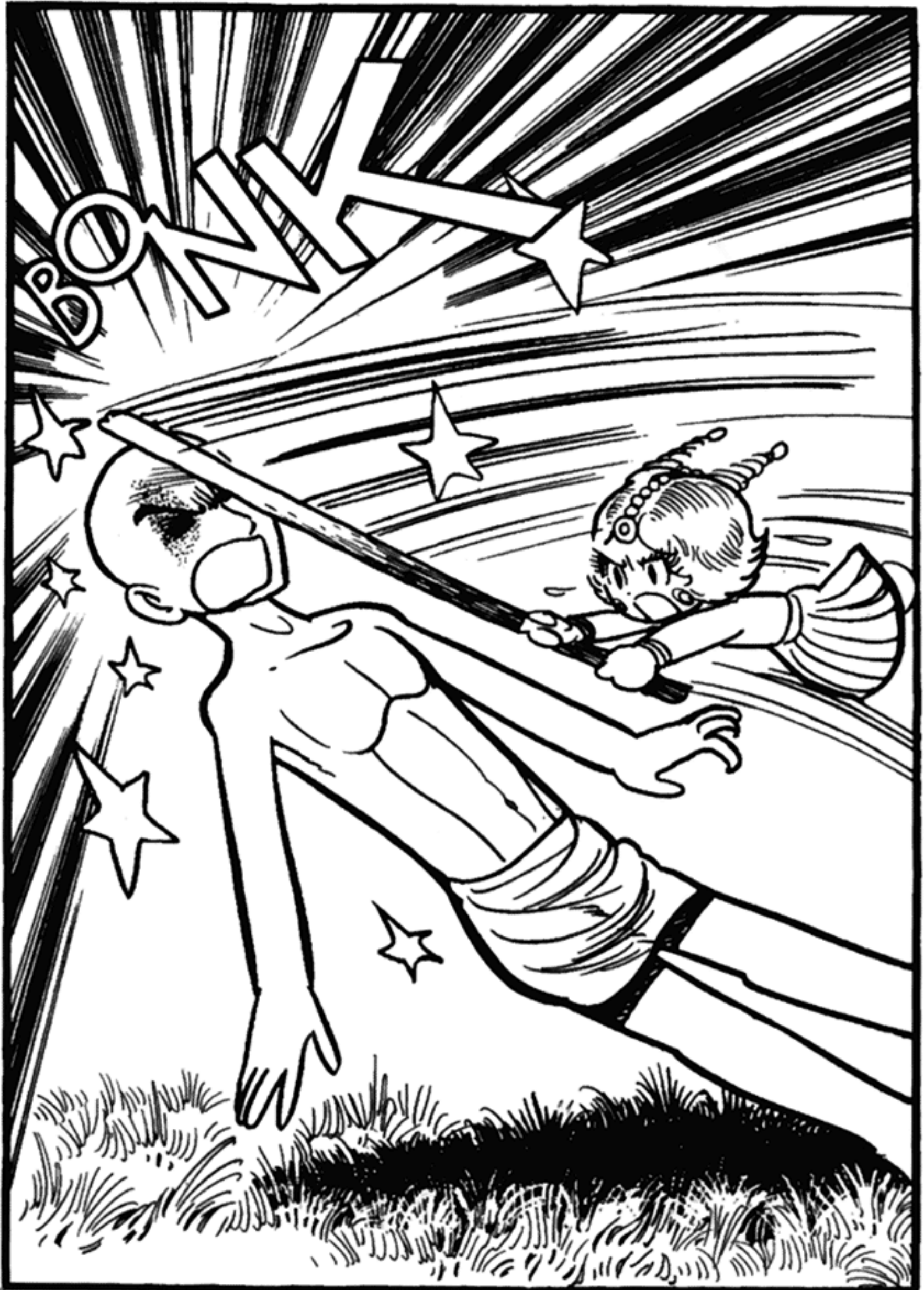
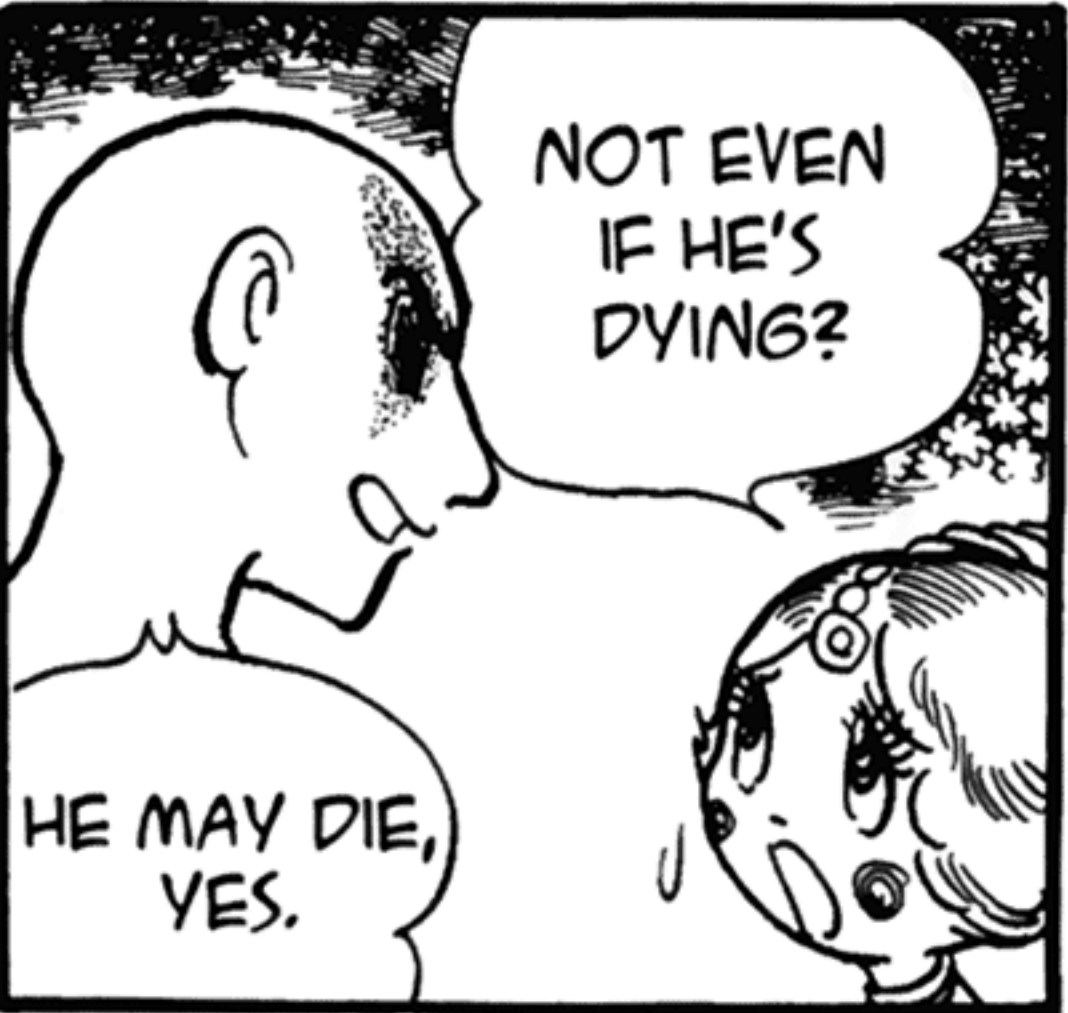
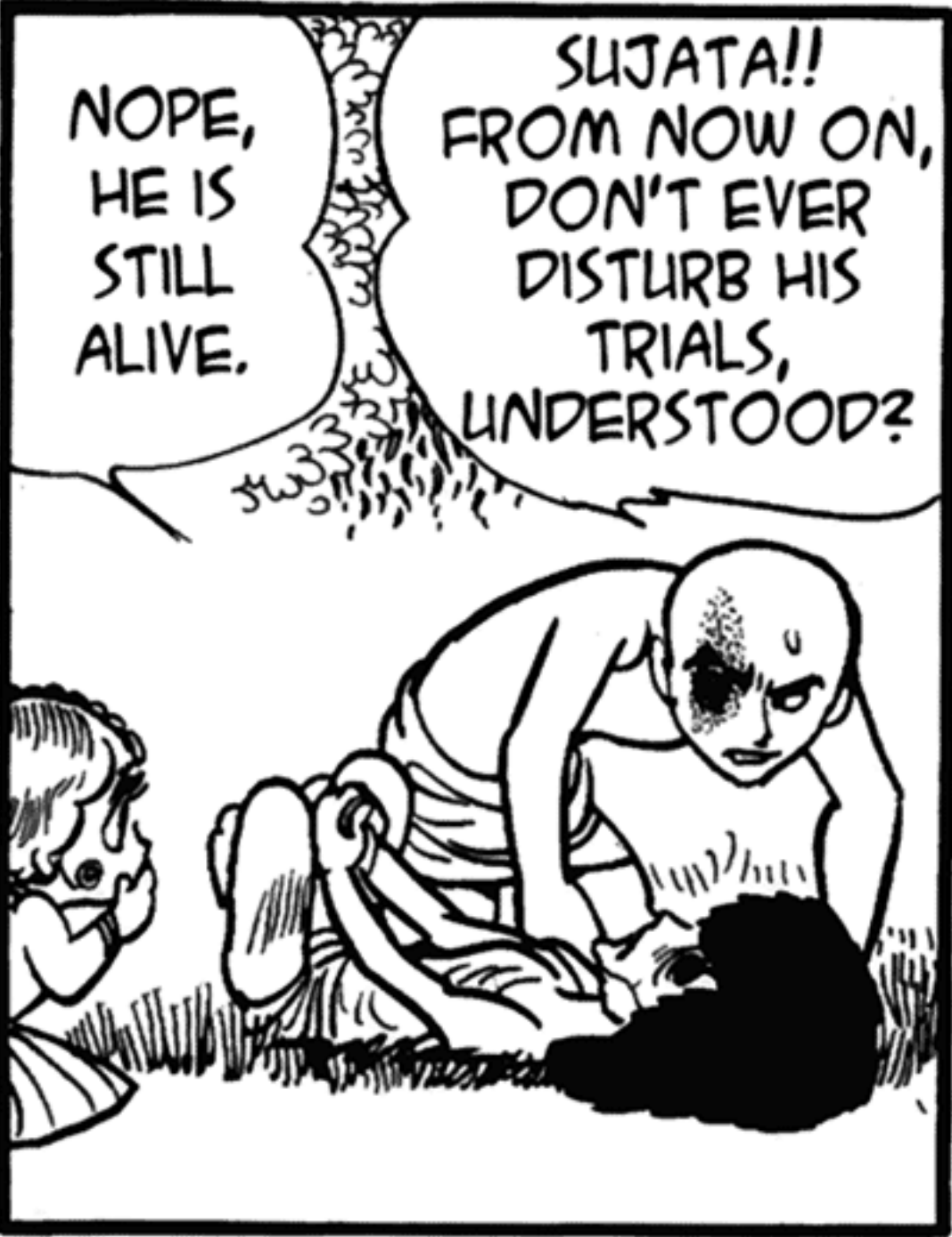
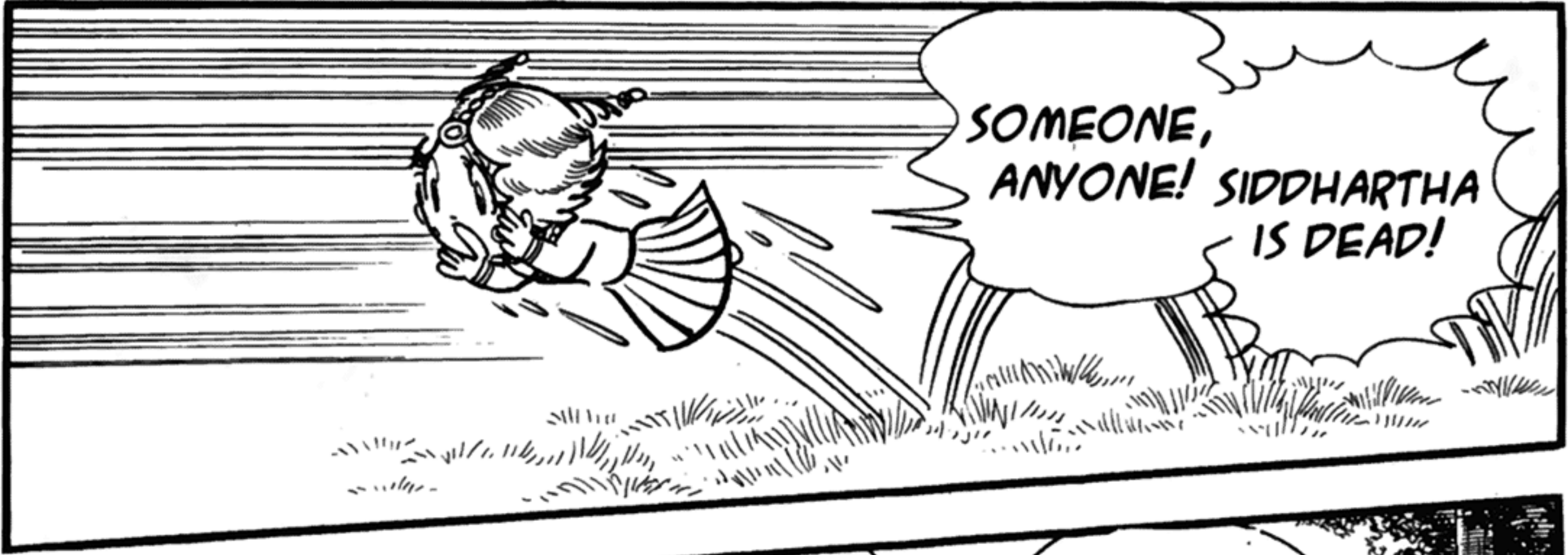
AND I'M GONNA BE TRUE TO HIM.

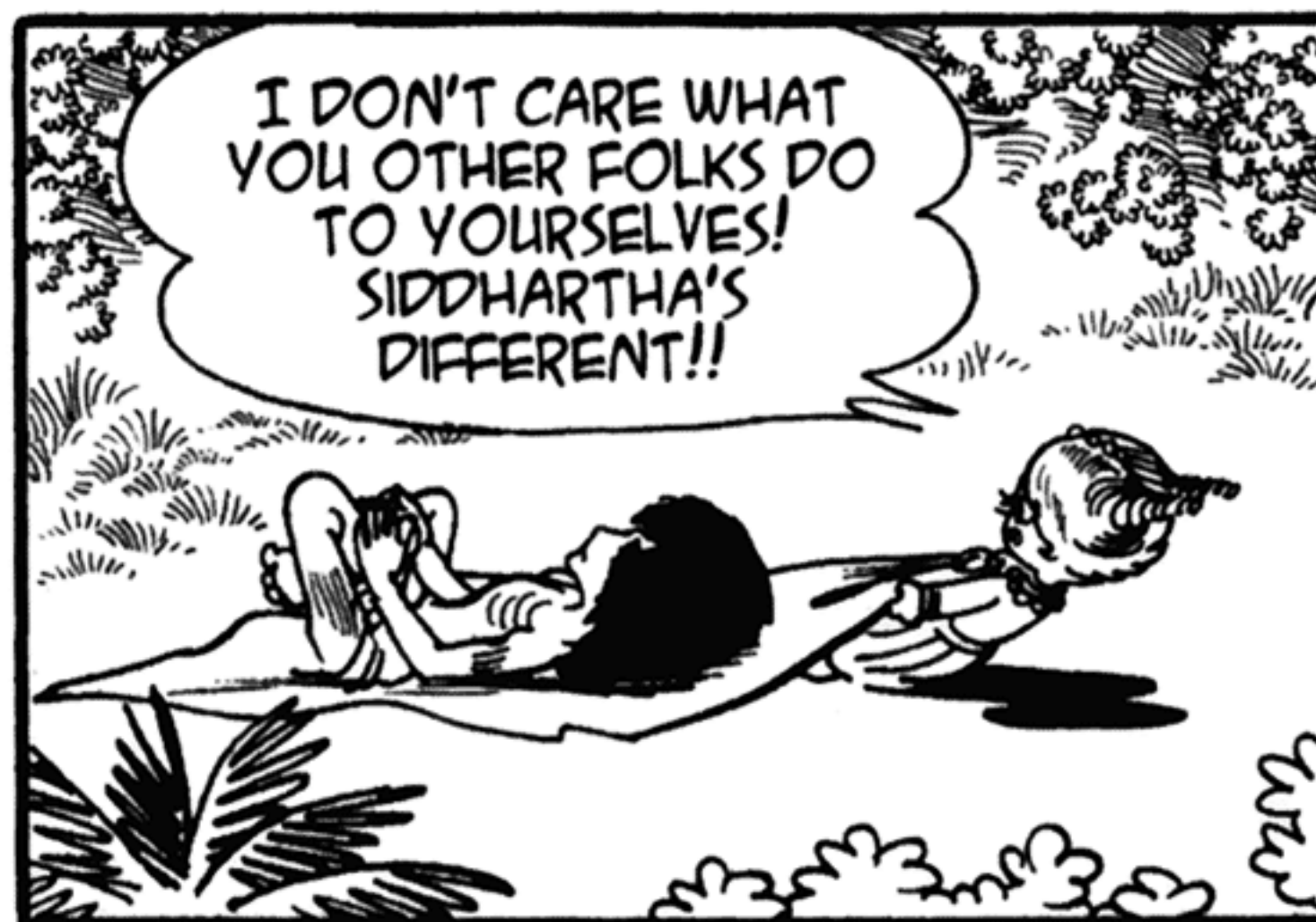
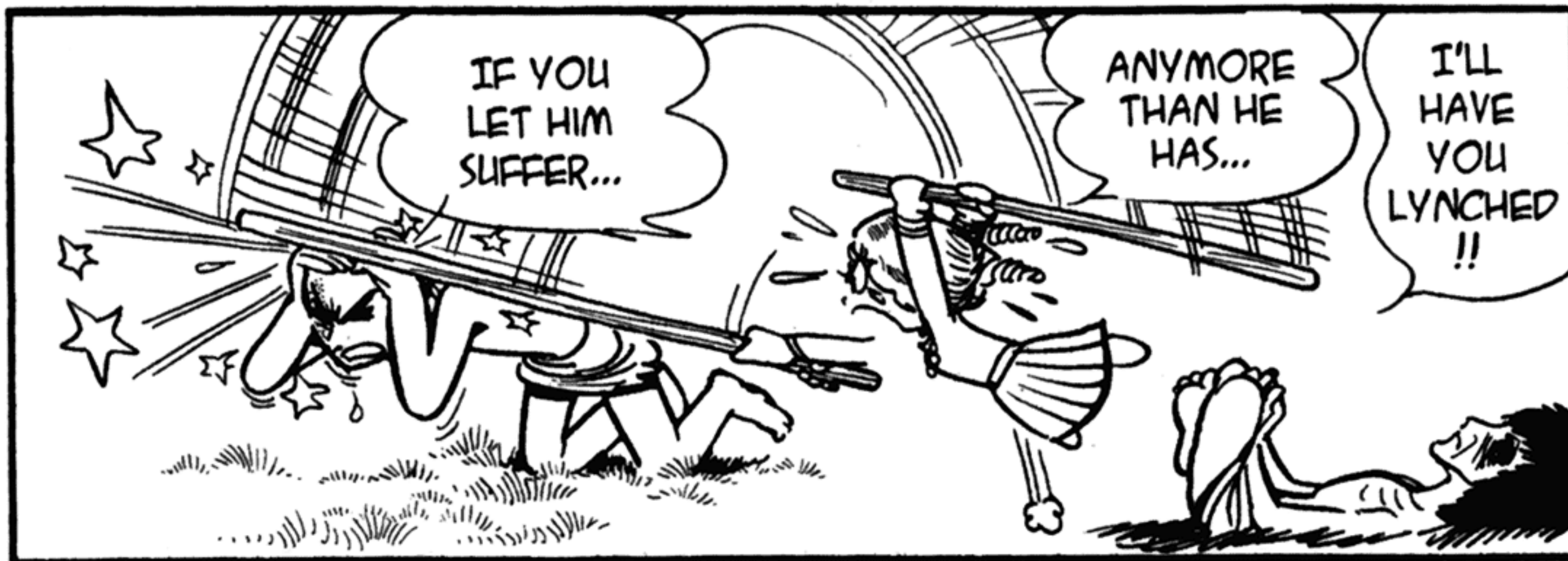


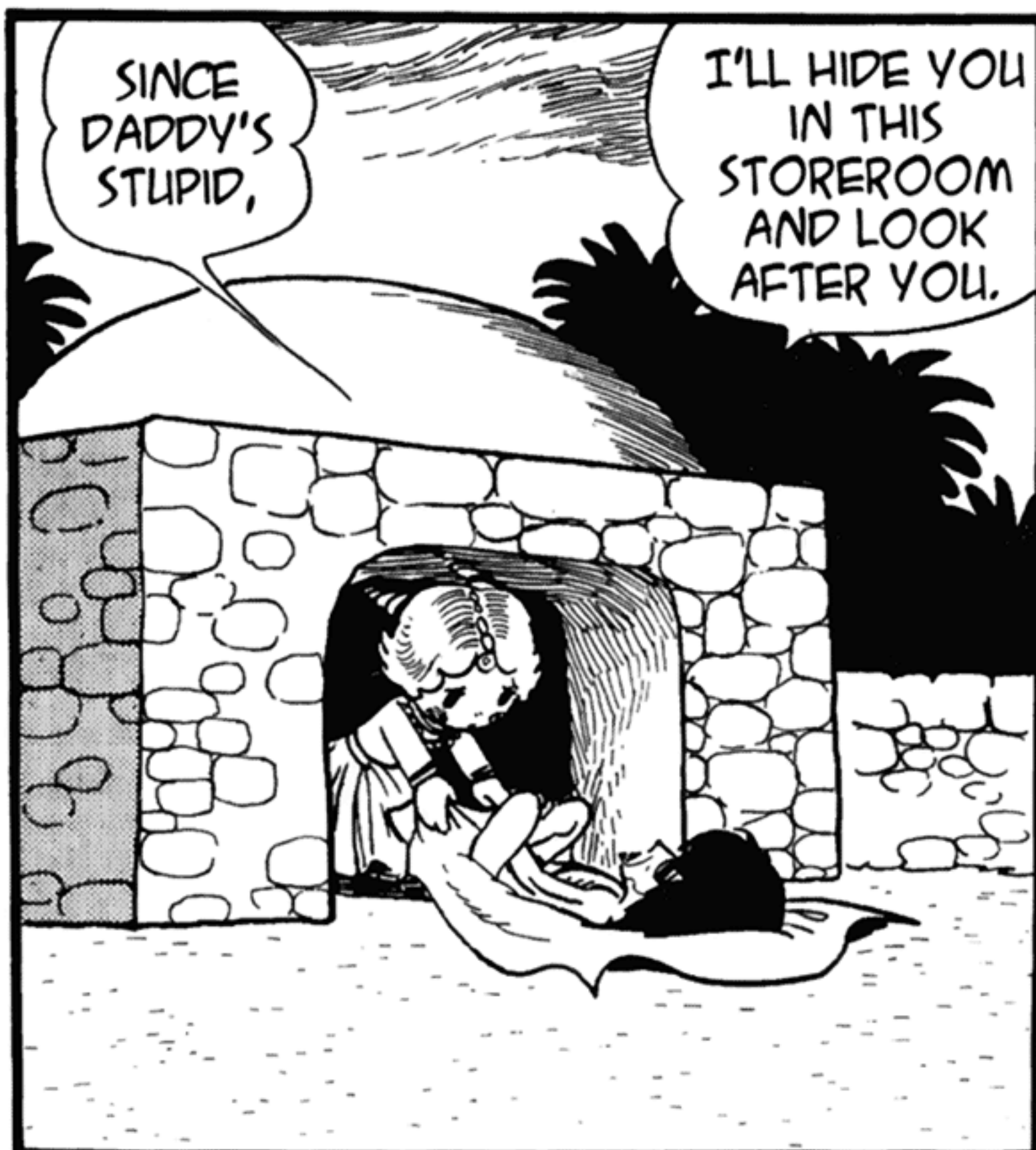
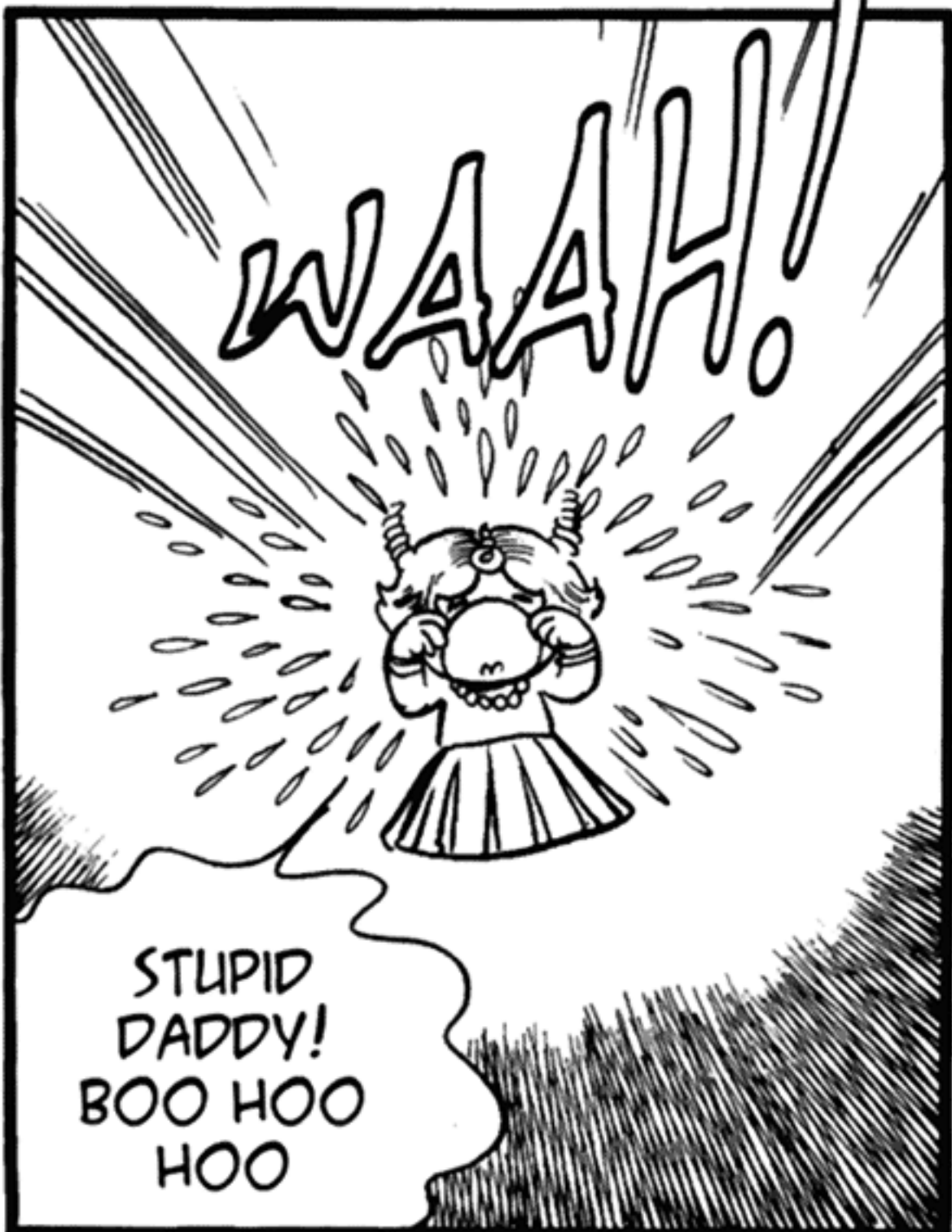
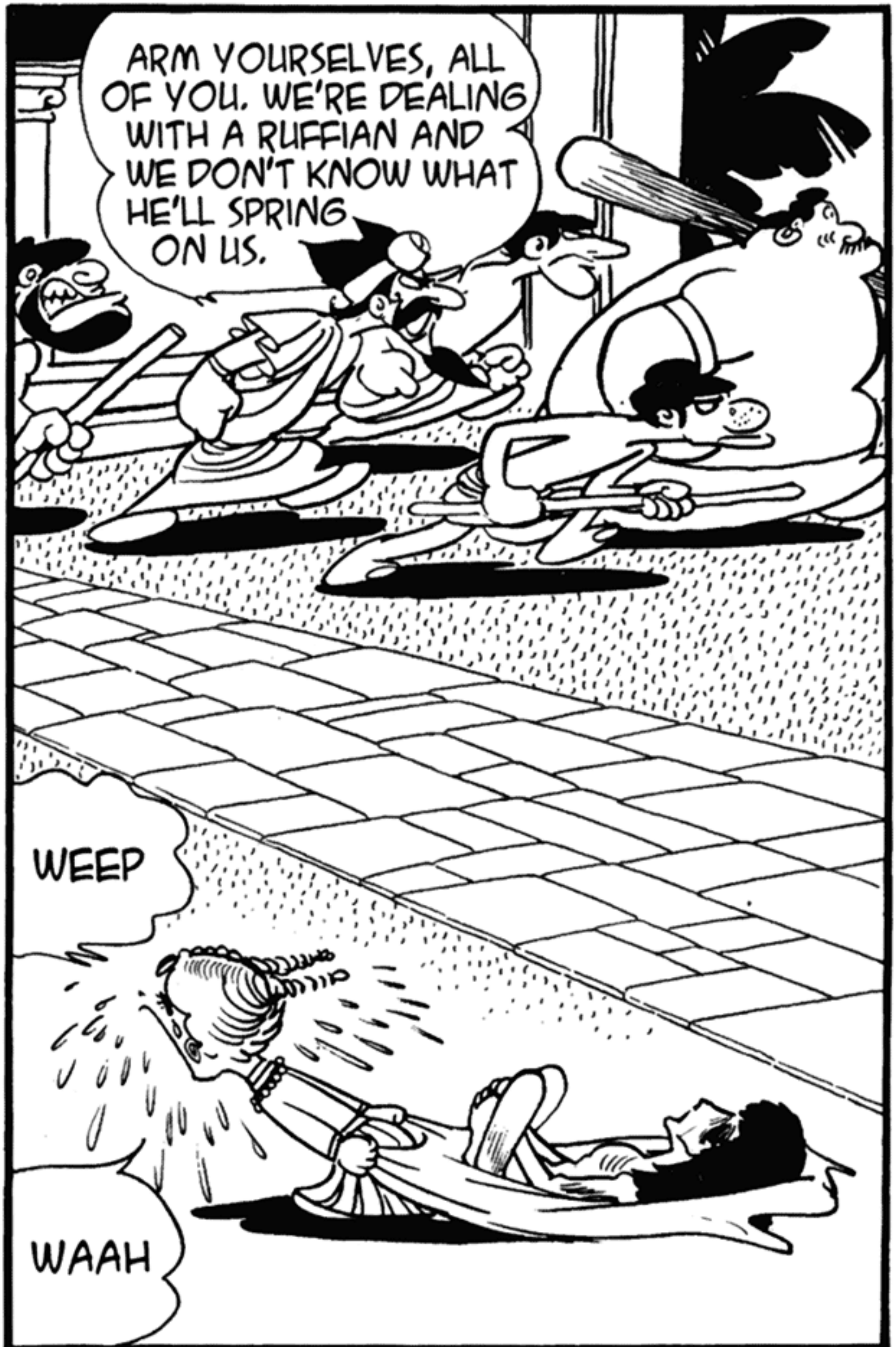


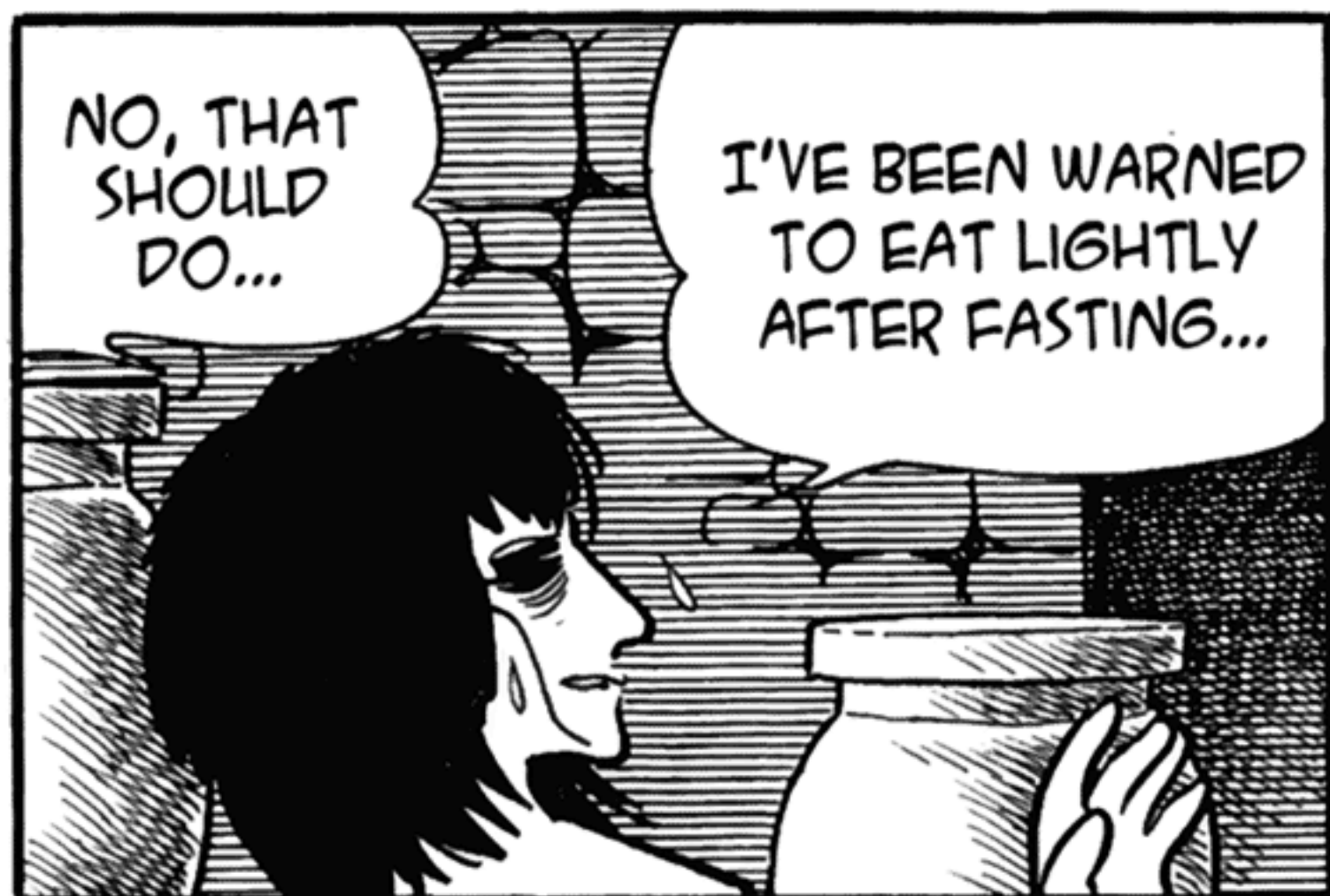
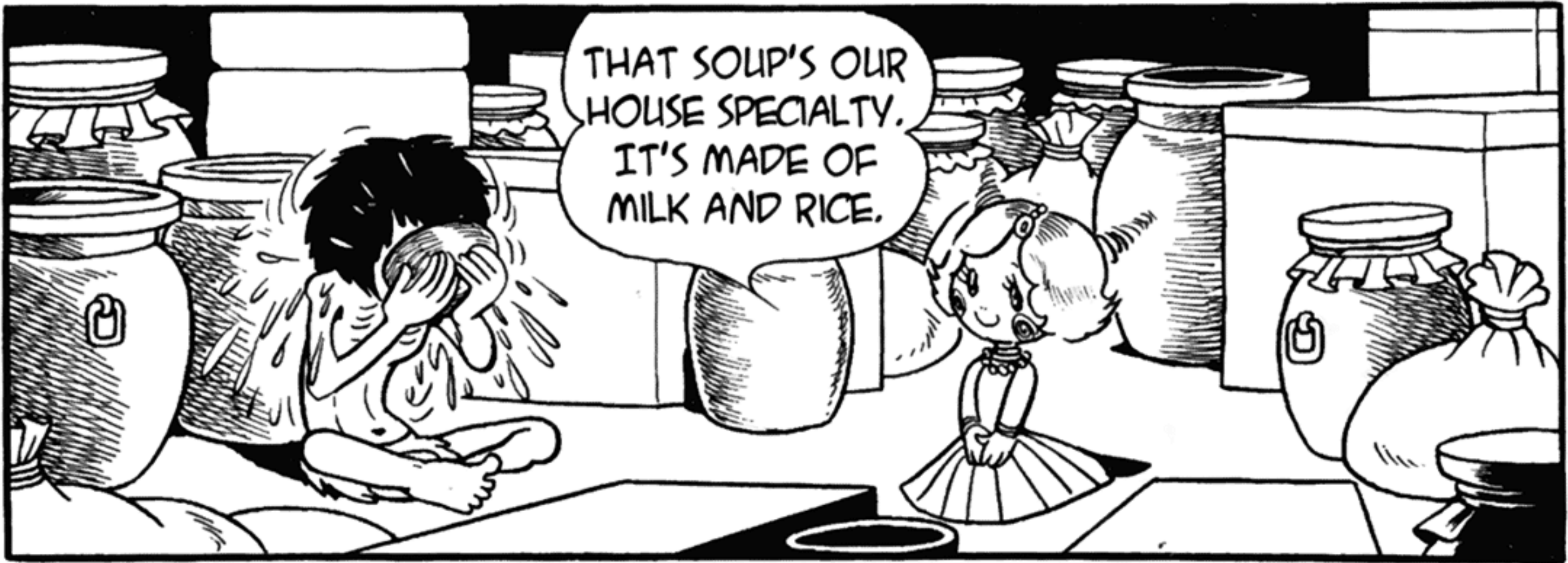
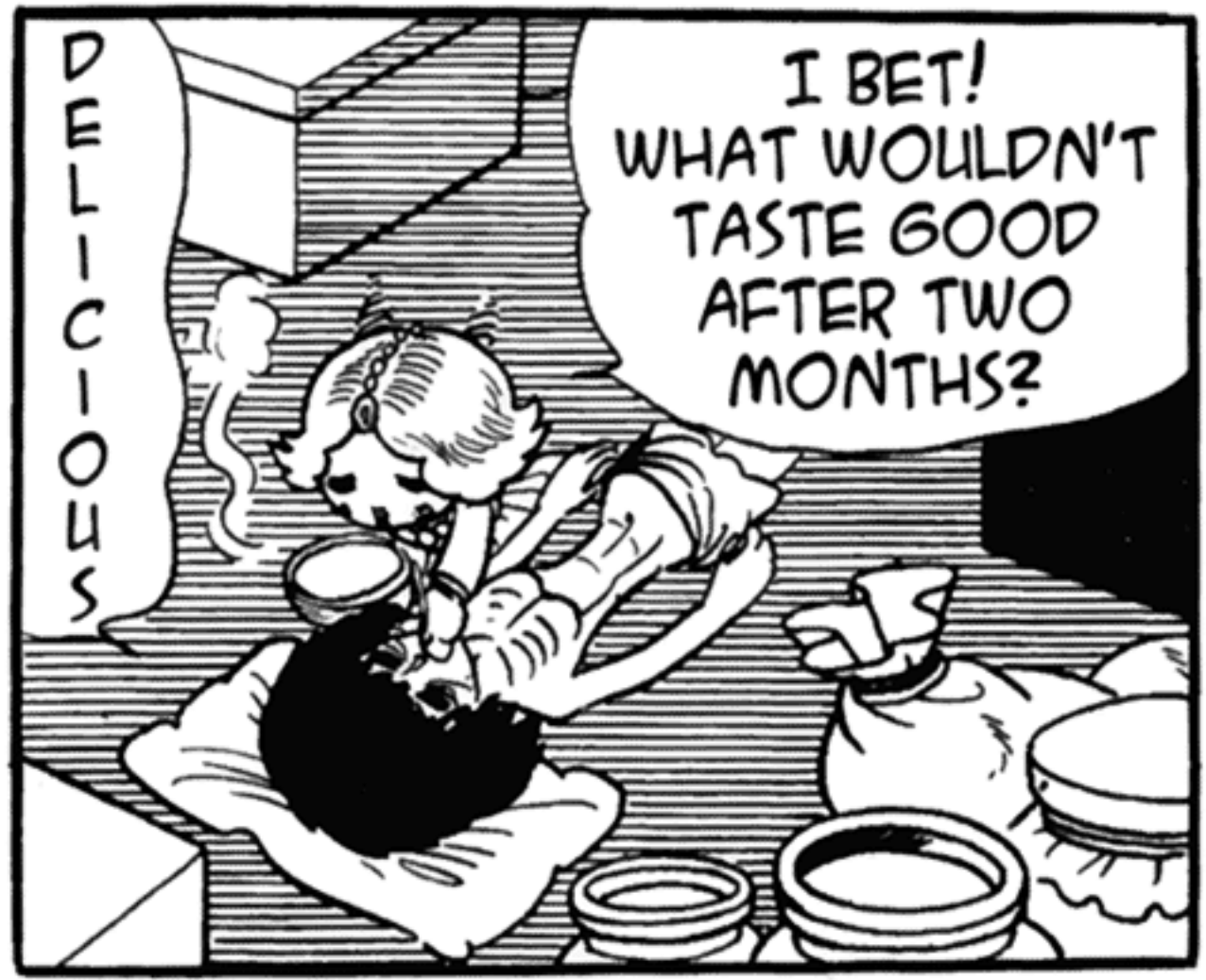
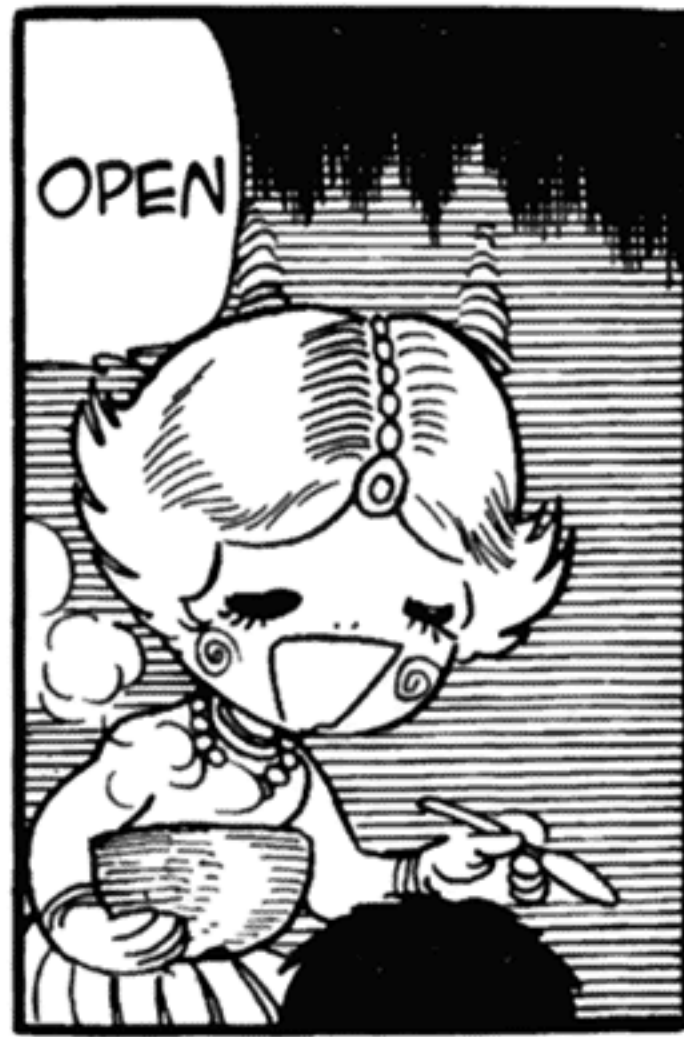


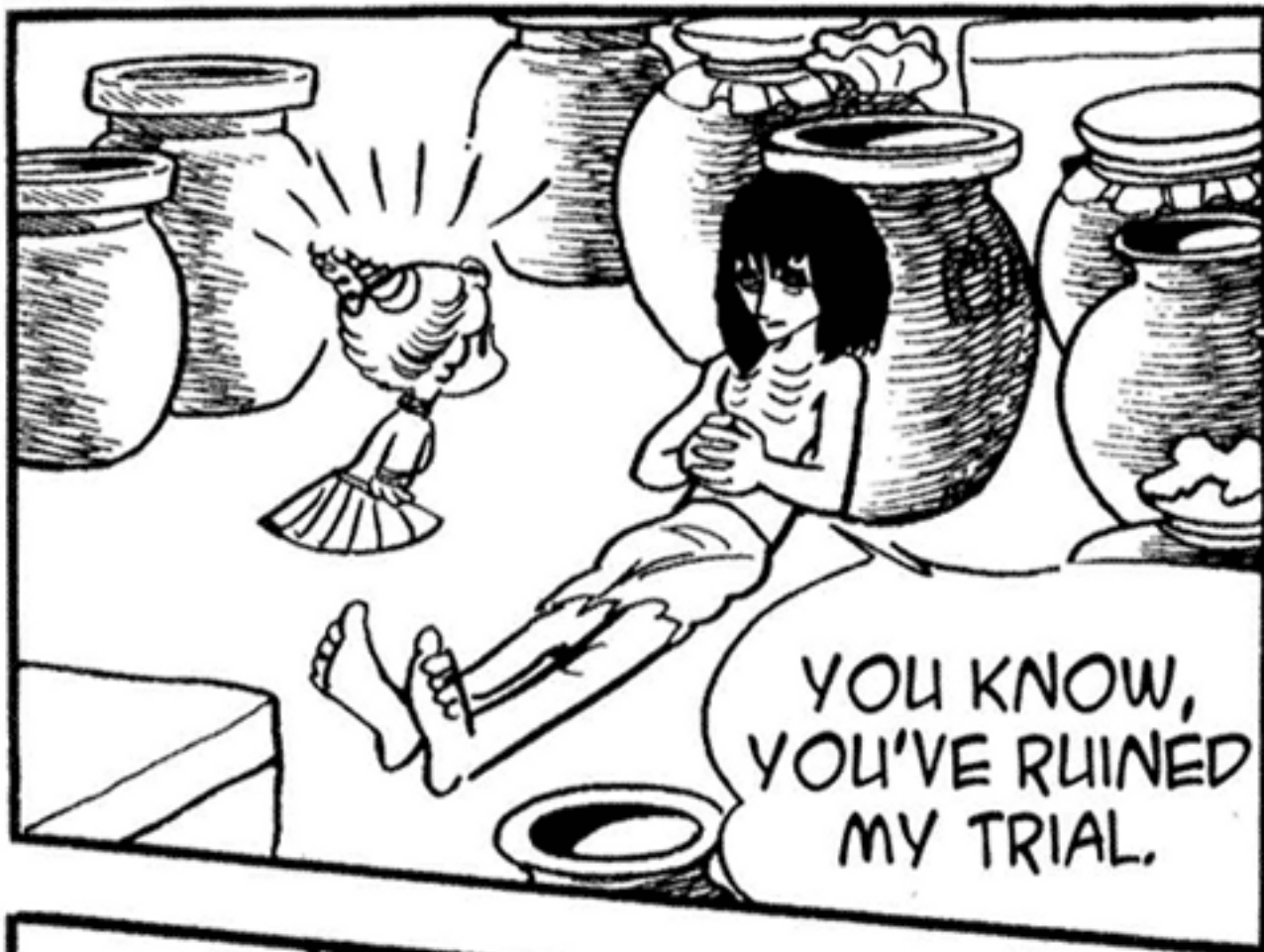












YOU KNOW, YOU'VE RUINED MY TRIAL.



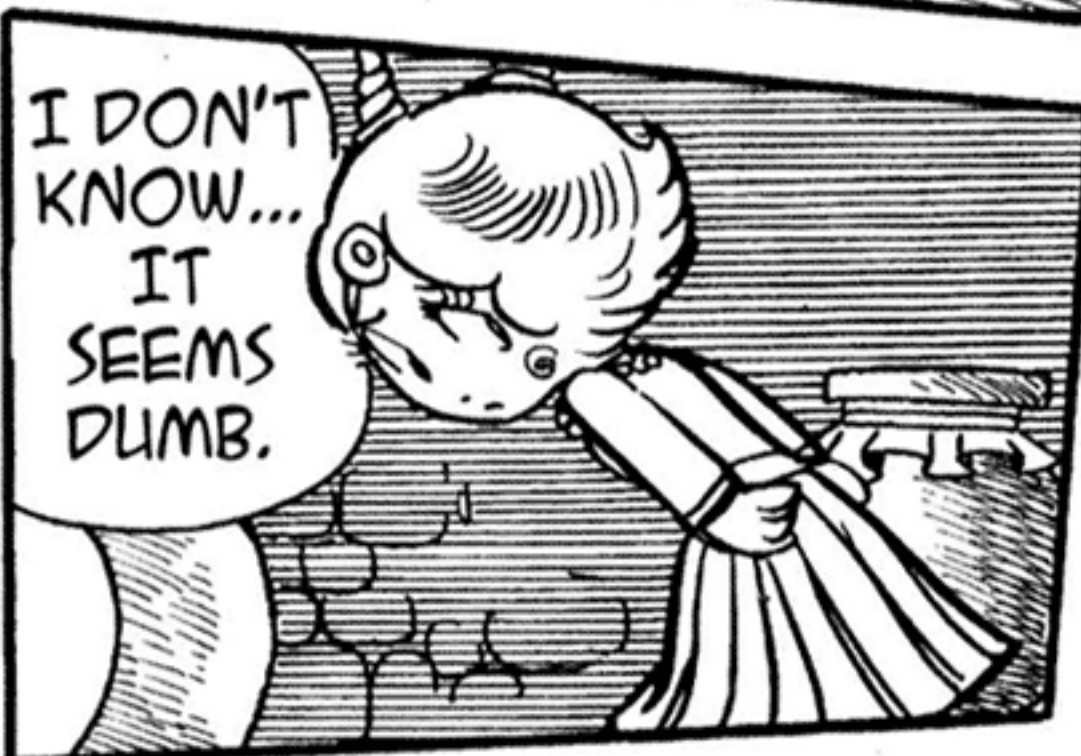
WELL, GOOD THING THAT I DID!!

DON'T EVER DO ANY TRIALS AGAIN. THOSE MONKS ARE TRYING TO KILL YOU!



I CAN'T TAKE YOUR ADVICE.

WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE I CAME HERE?



I DON'T KNOW... IT SEEMS DUMB.



I MUST RETURN TO THE FOREST OF TRIALS!

NO! DON'T TRY TO MOVE YET.



LISTEN UP! A LOWLY PARIAH HAS TAKEN TO DWELLING ON THAT HILL. WORSE, HE HAS THE NERVE TO STROLL THROUGH THE FOREST OF TRIALS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. THIS IS HIS LAST DAY IN OUR VILLAGE!! DO YOU HEAR ME?!



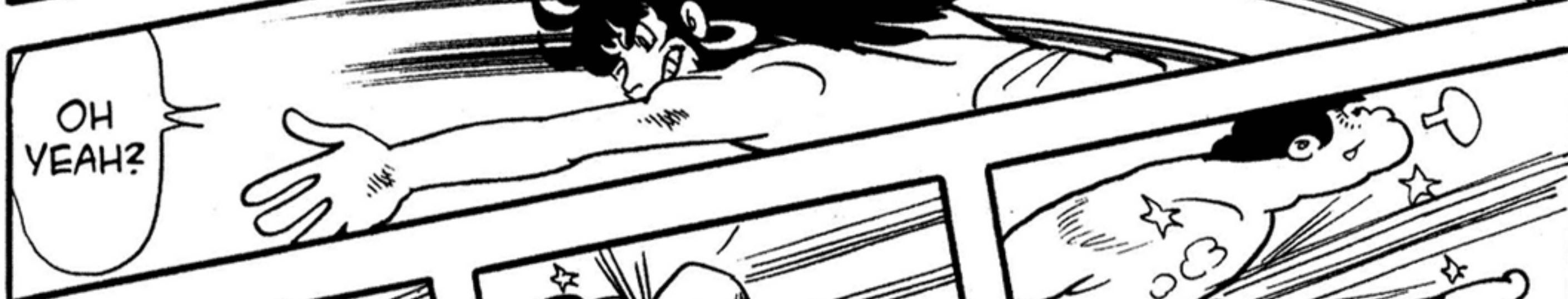


YOU HEARD HIM! NOW GET HIM!

NO PARIAH POLLUTES OUR NICE VILLAGE!

HA HA HA

WE'LL BEAT HIM UP!



OH YEAH?



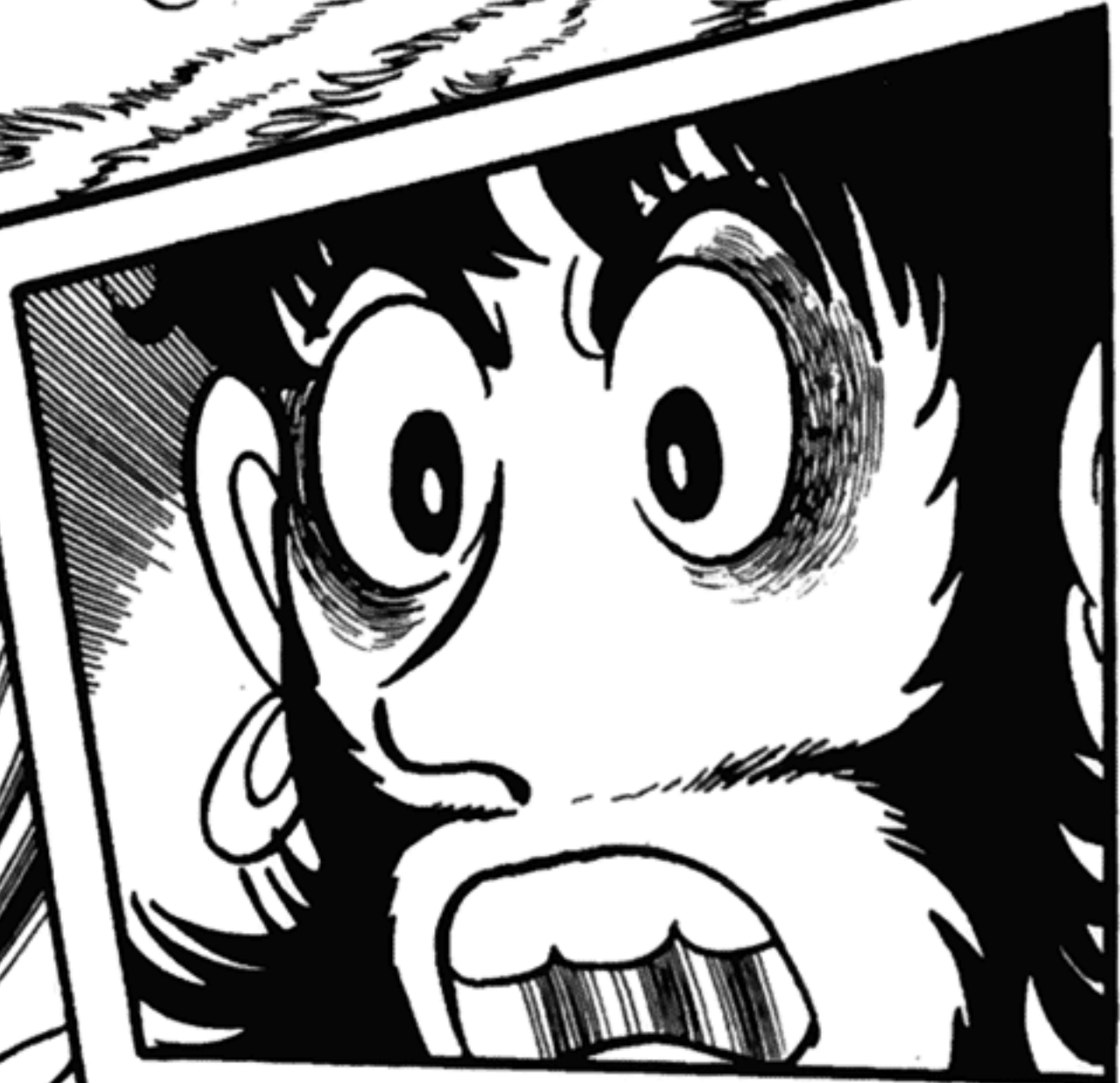
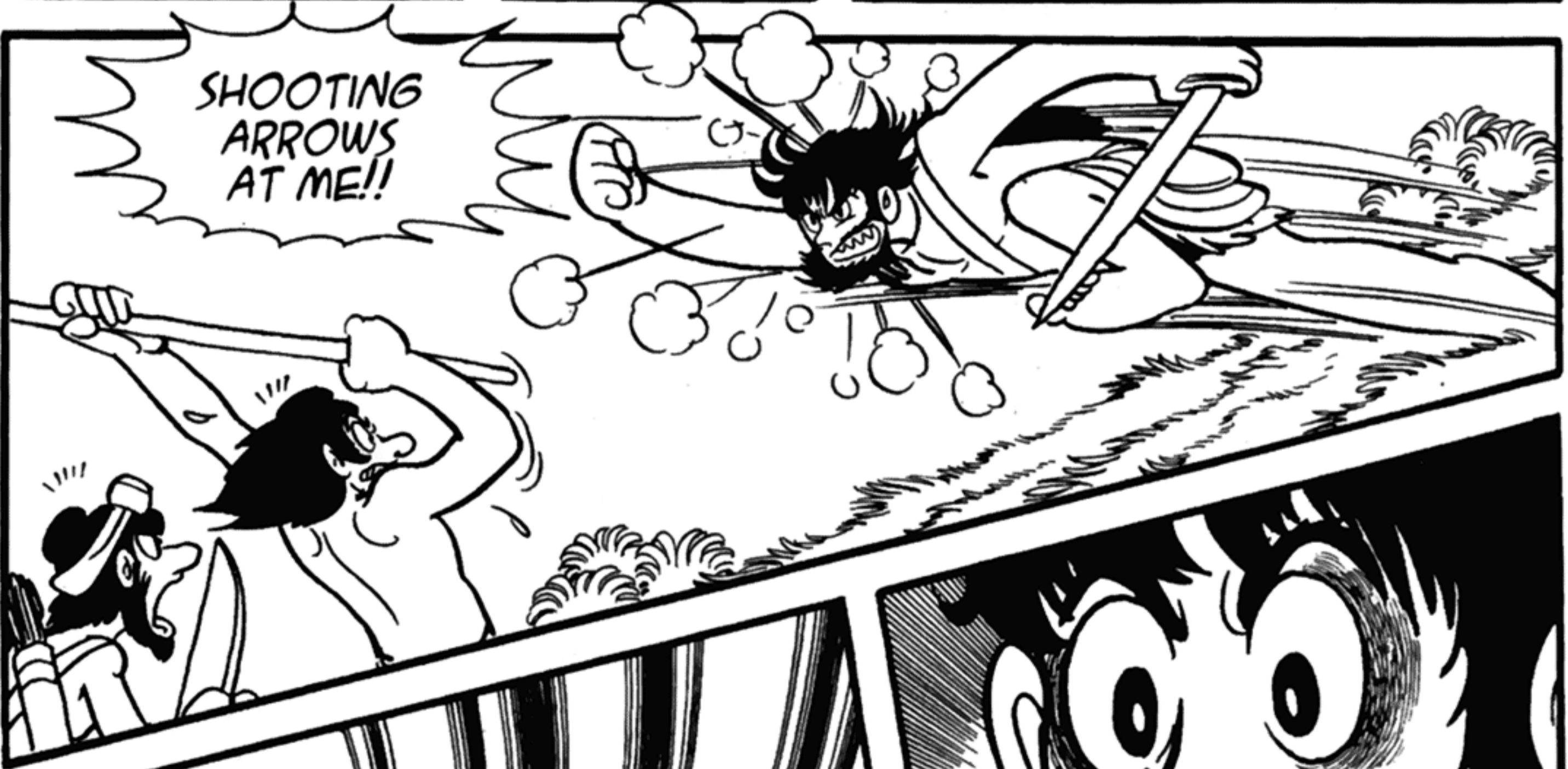
THANKS A MILLION, CHAPRA.

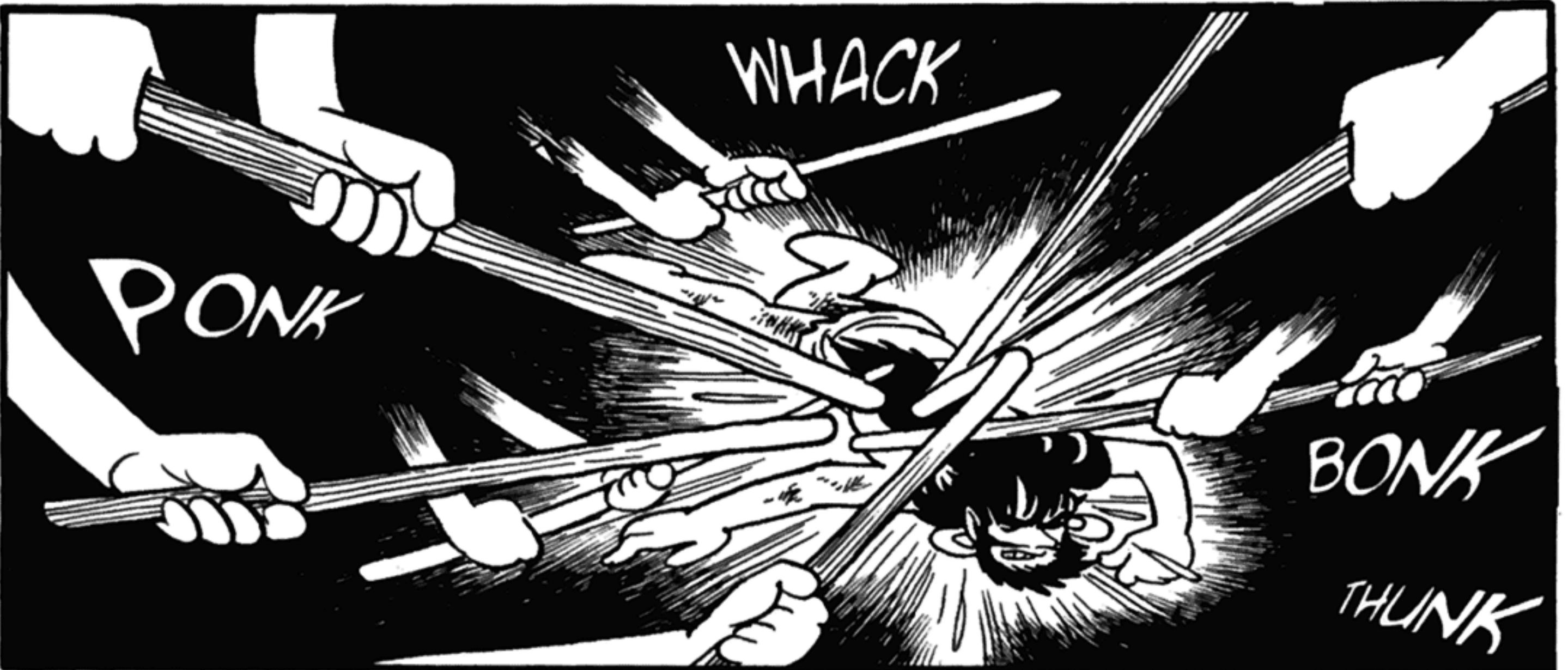
HEH. THE ROCK-THROWING THAT CHAPRA TAUGHT ME COMES IN HANDY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

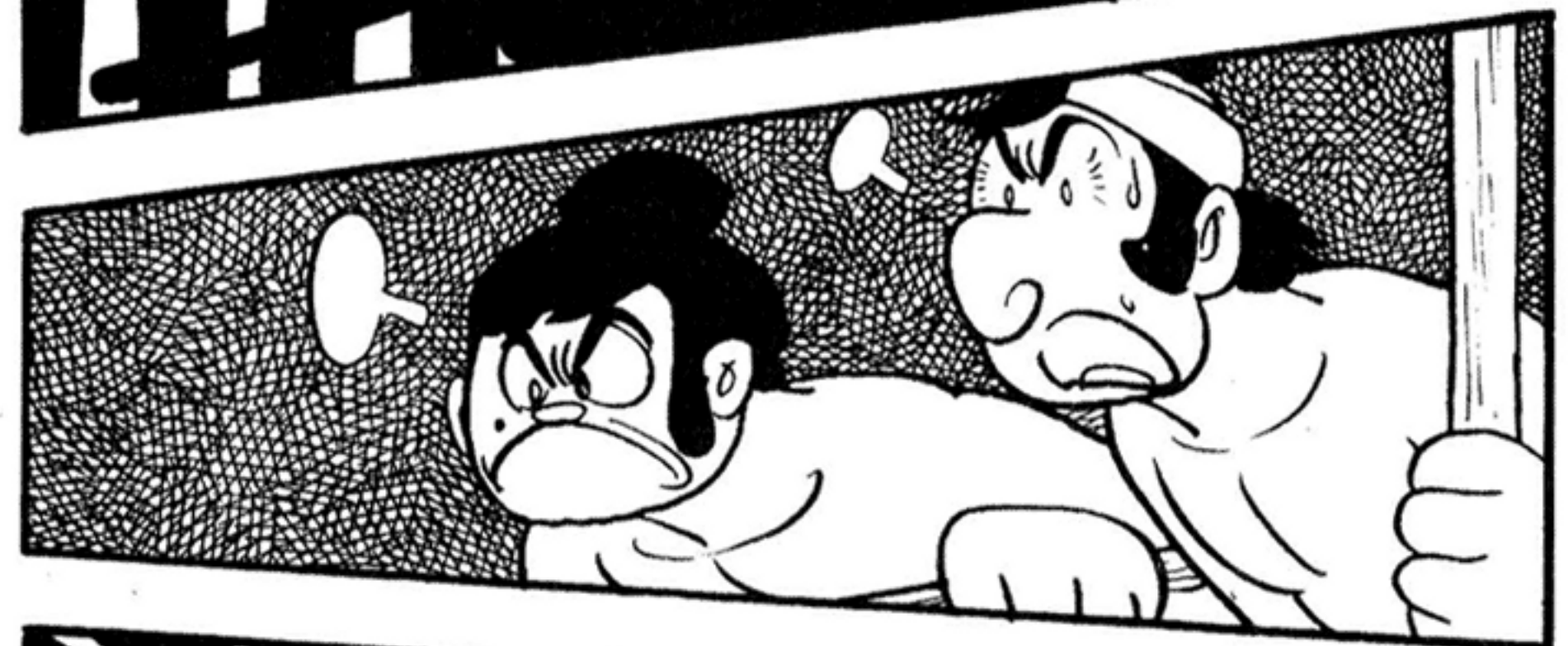
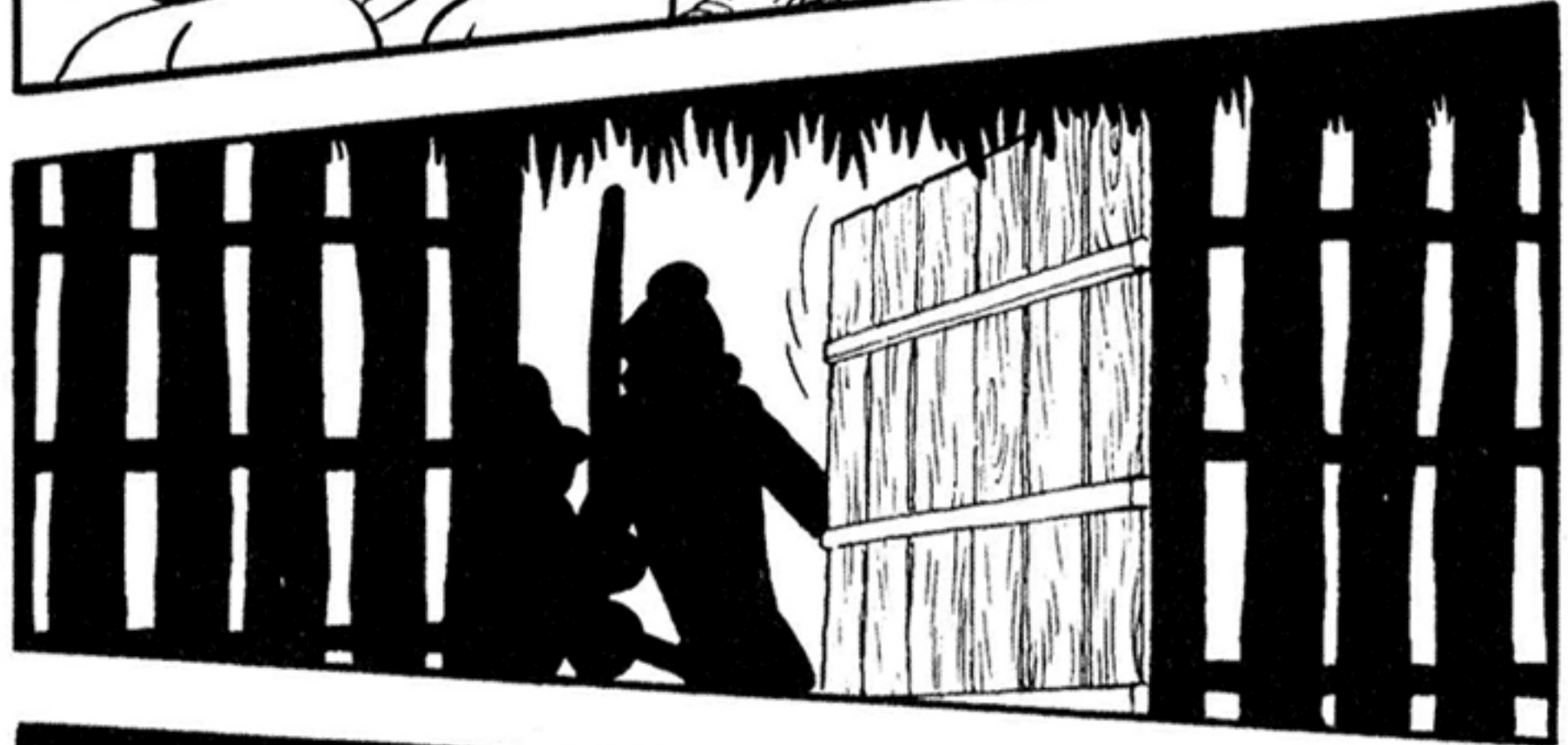
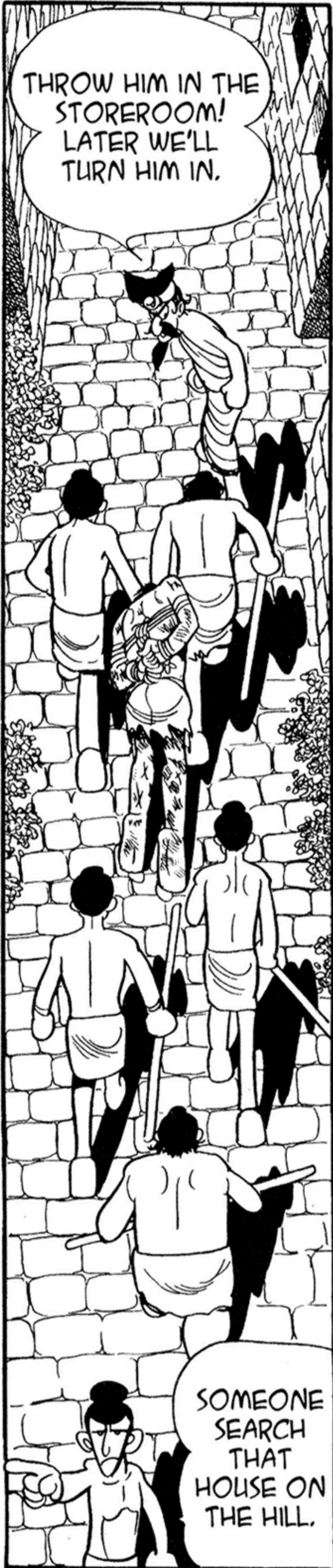


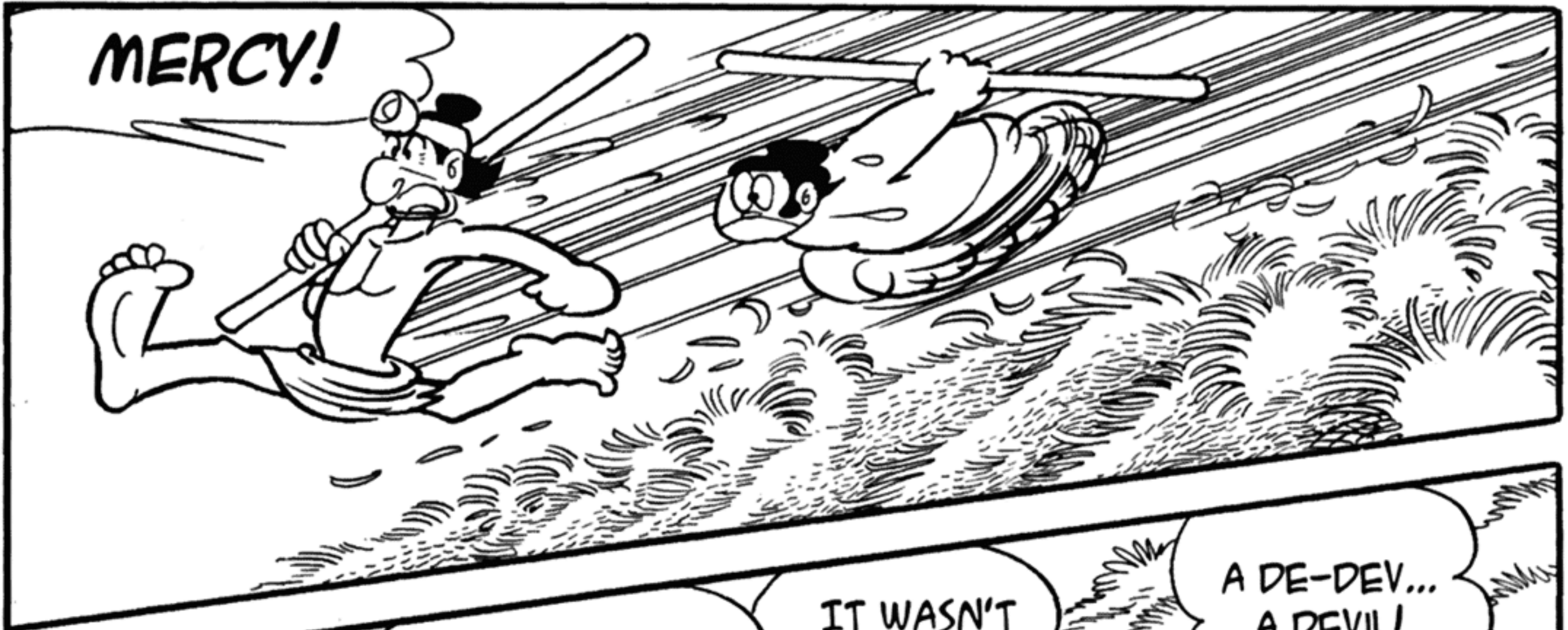
WHIZZ











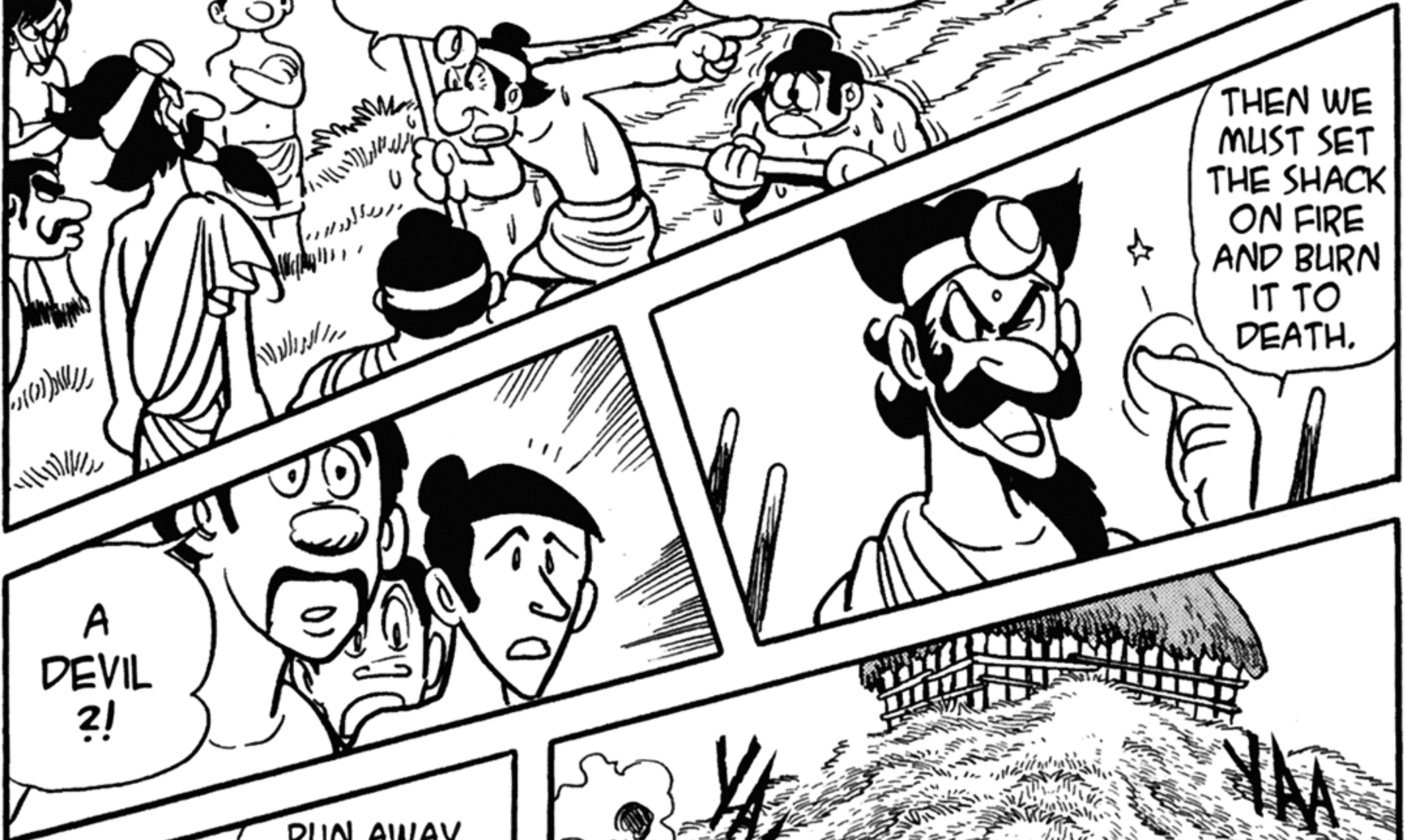
MERCY!



I-I-IT WAS SLEEPING.

IT WASN'T HUMAN... MORE LIKE...

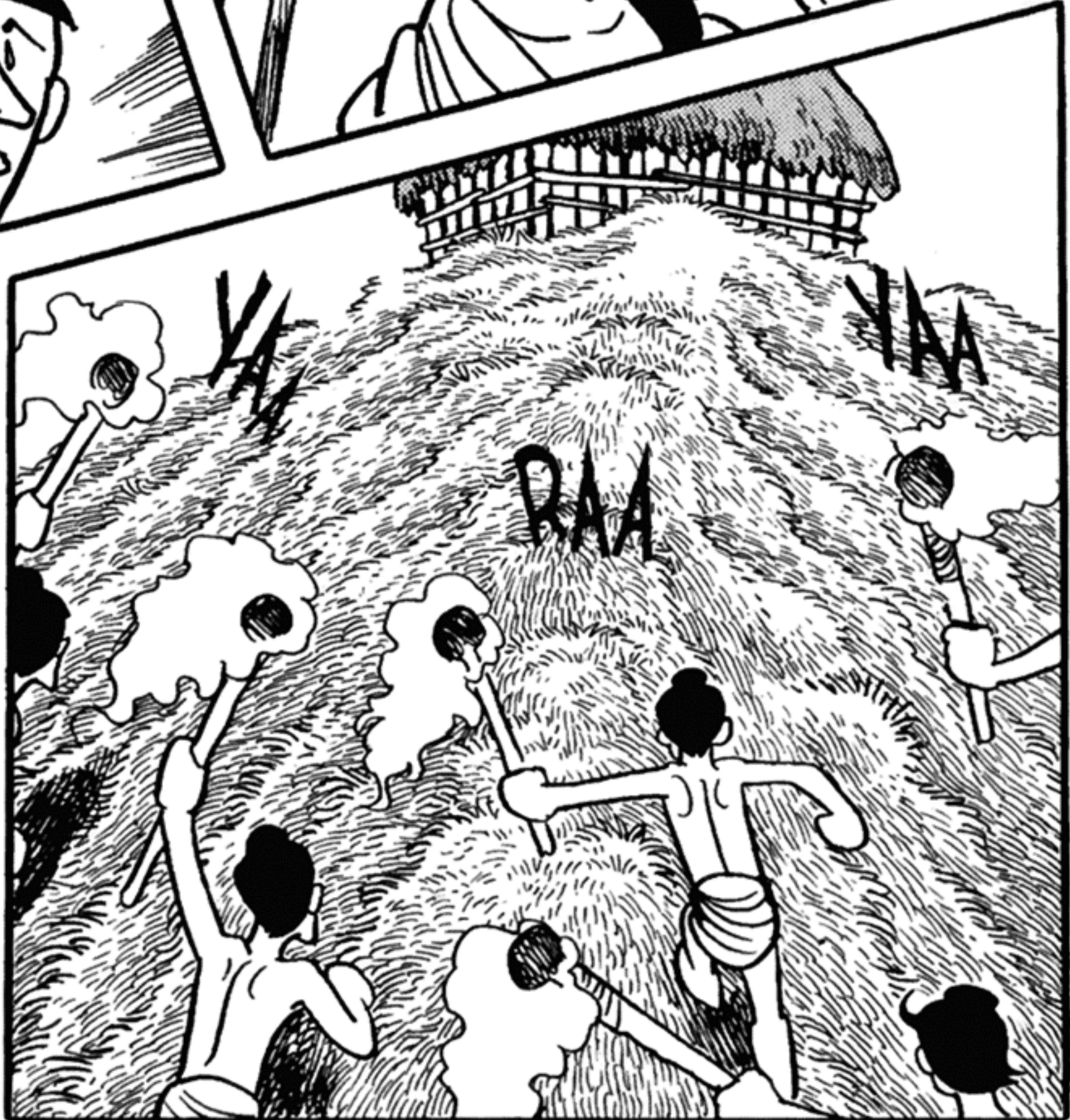
A DE-DEV... A DEVIL!

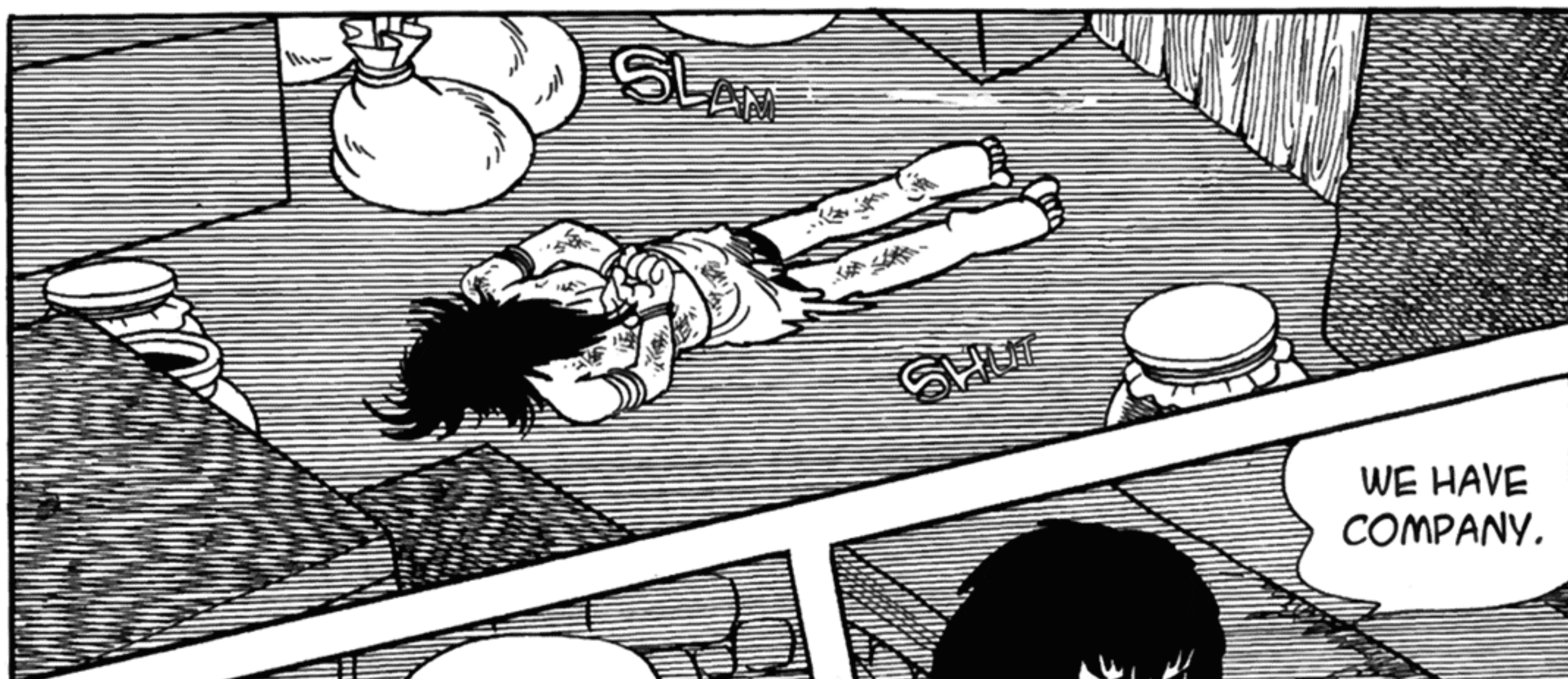
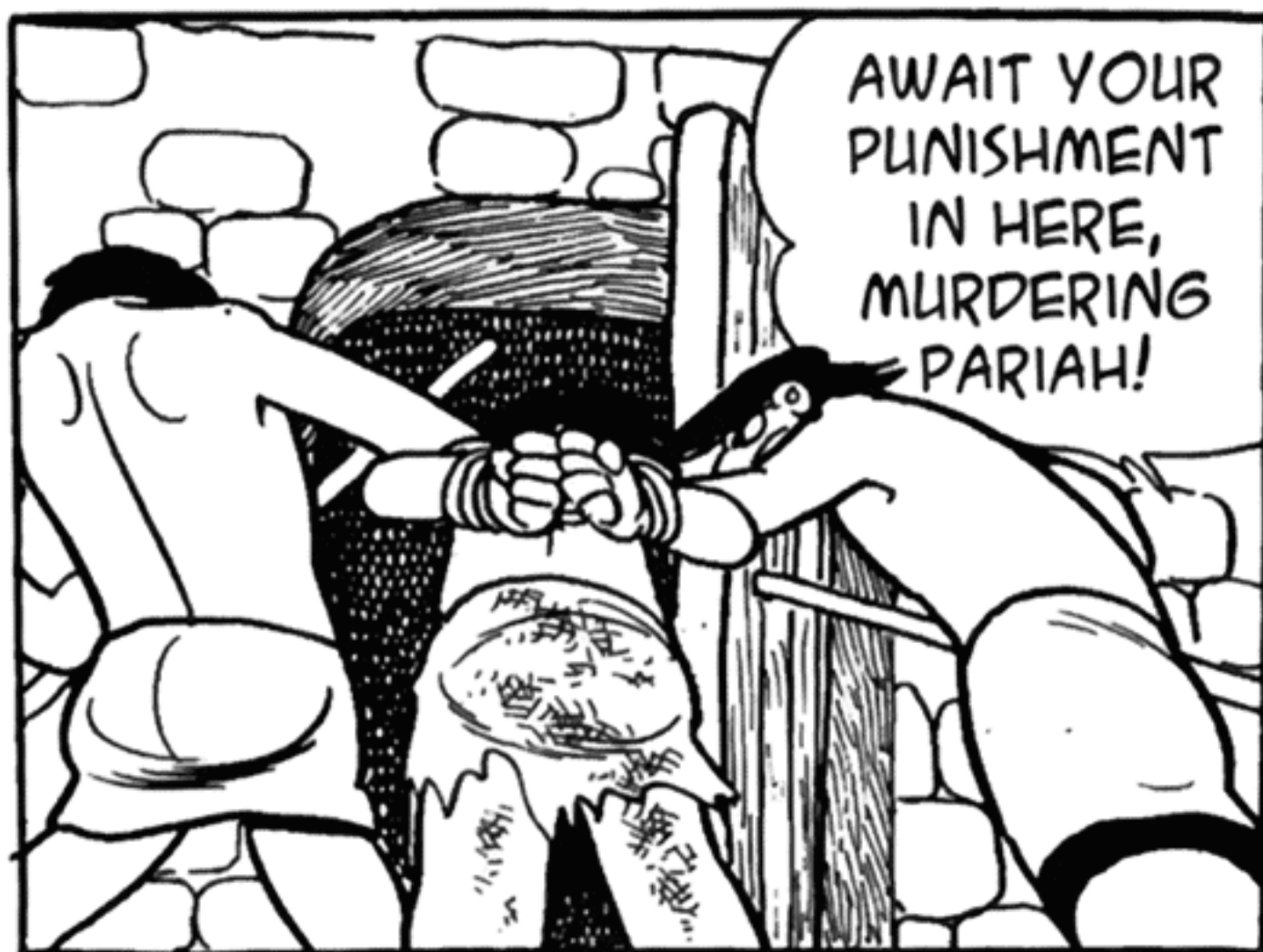


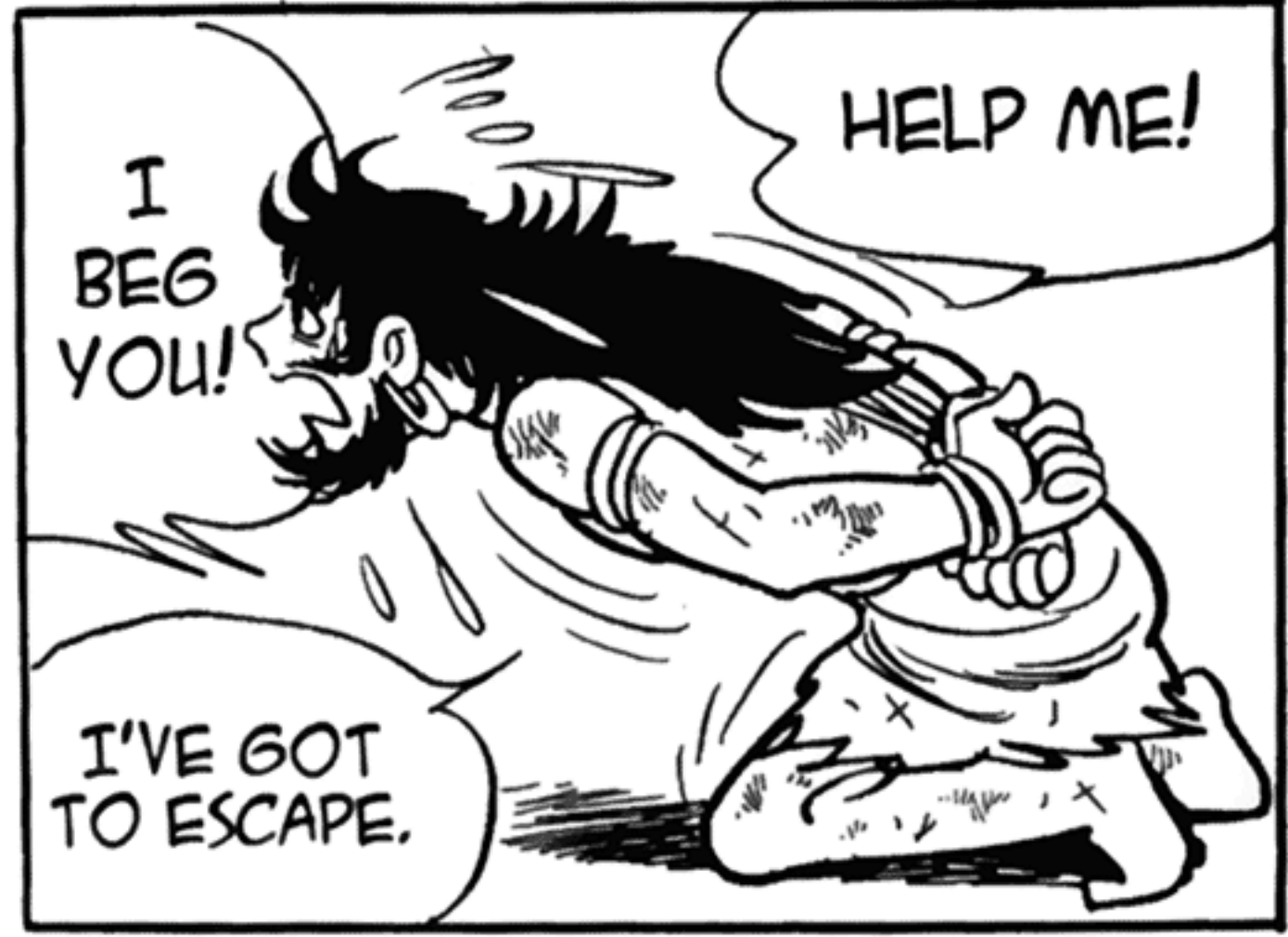
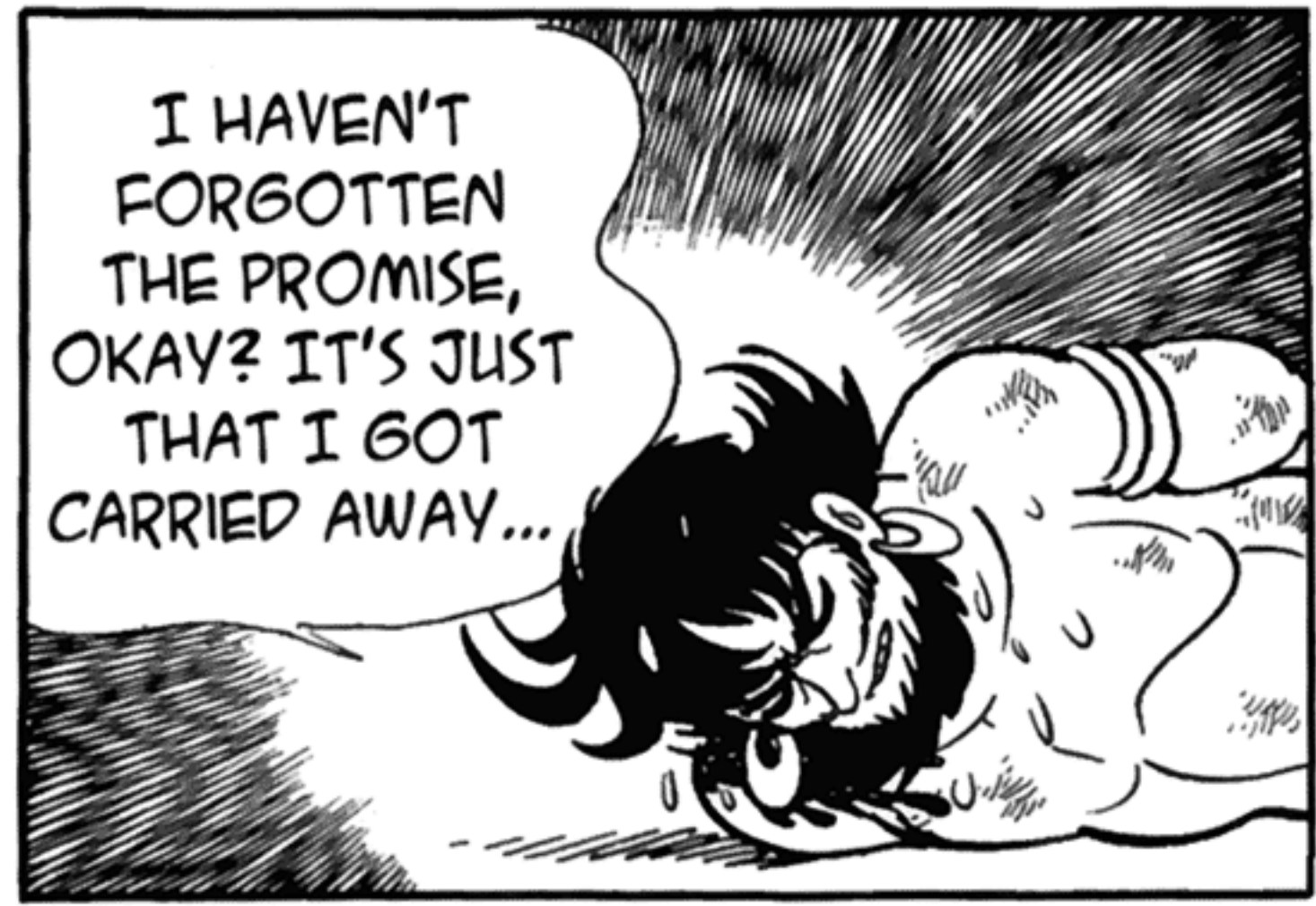
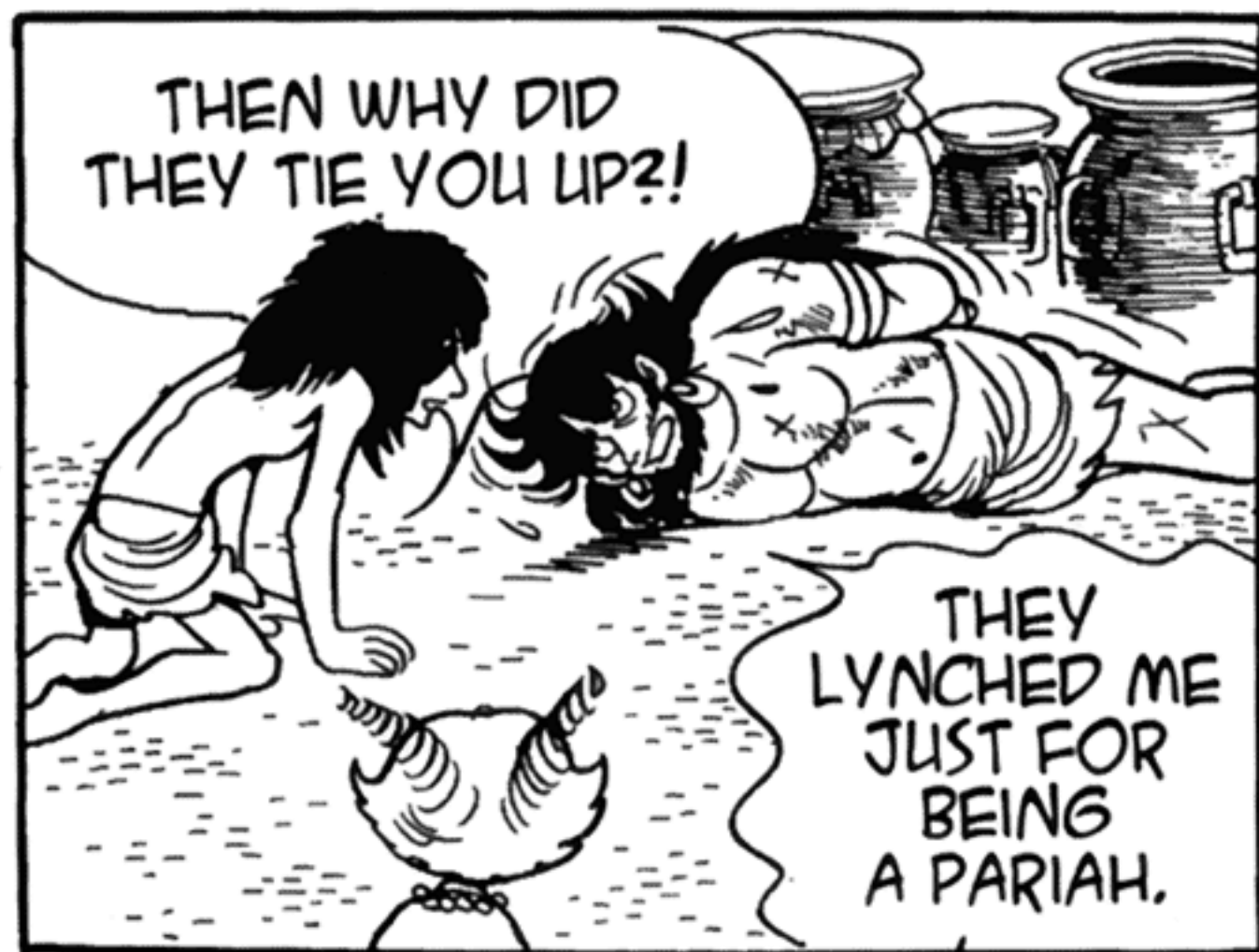
THEN WE MUST SET THE SHACK ON FIRE AND BURN IT TO DEATH.

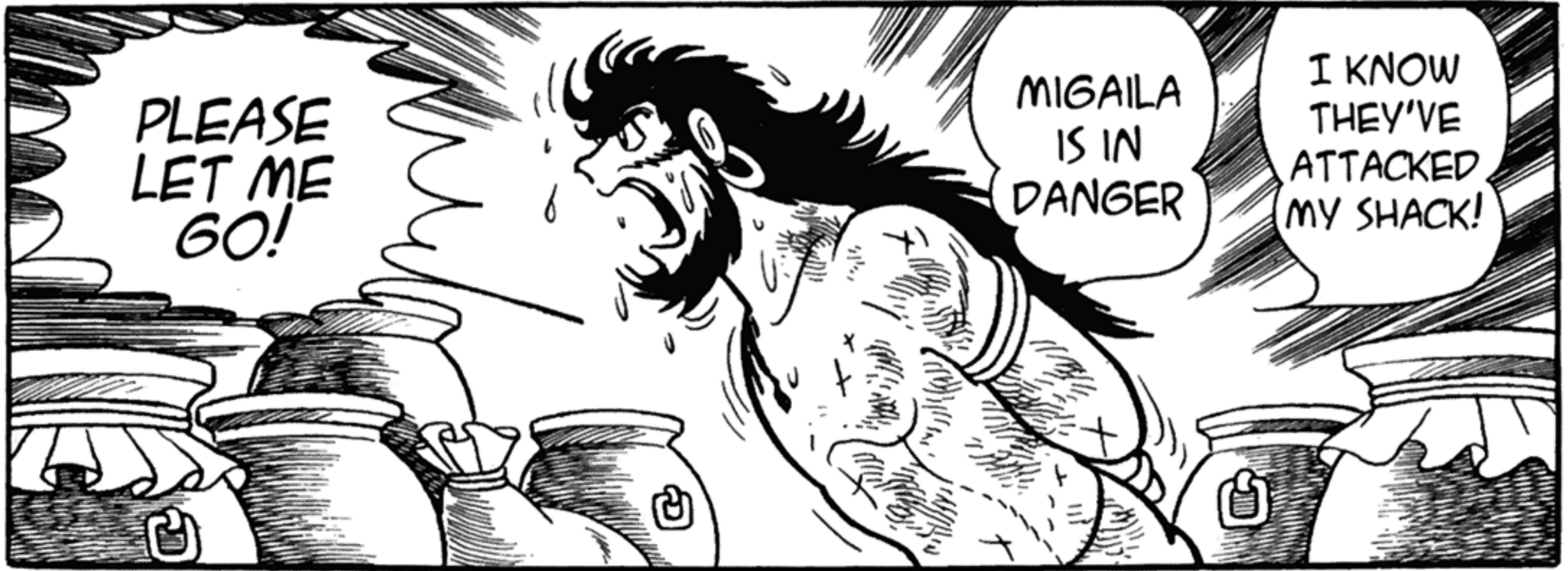


RUN AWAY AS SOON AS THE FIRE STARTS. THE DEVIL MAY COME TUMBLING OUT.









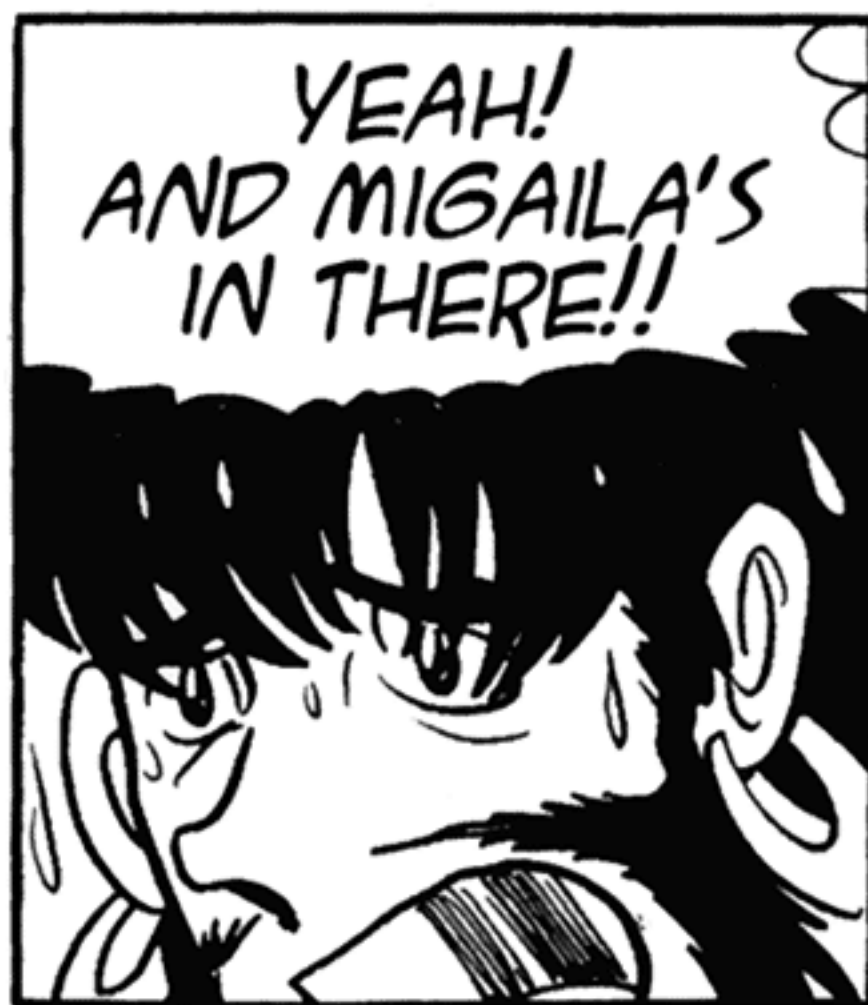
PLEASE LET ME GO!

MIGAILA IS IN DANGER

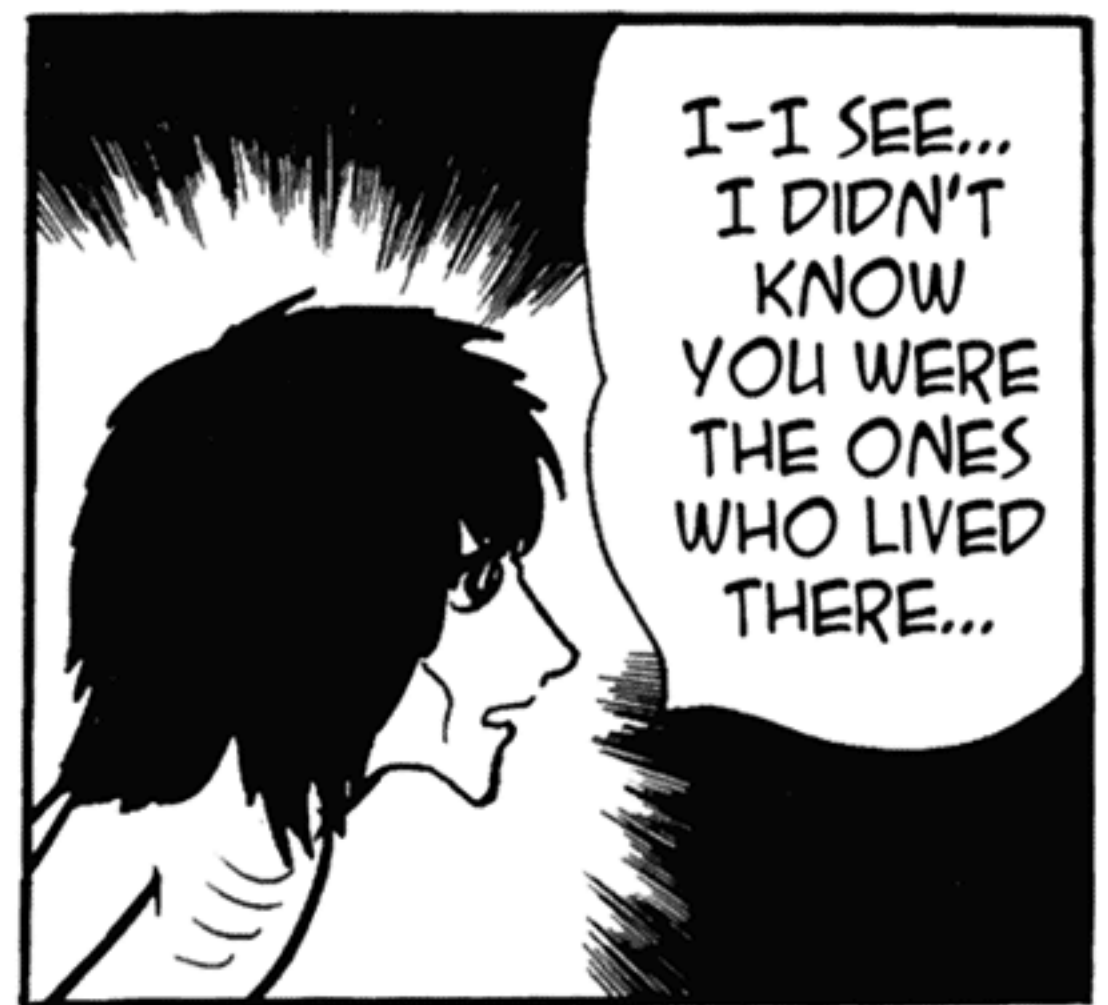
I KNOW THEY'VE ATTACKED MY SHACK!



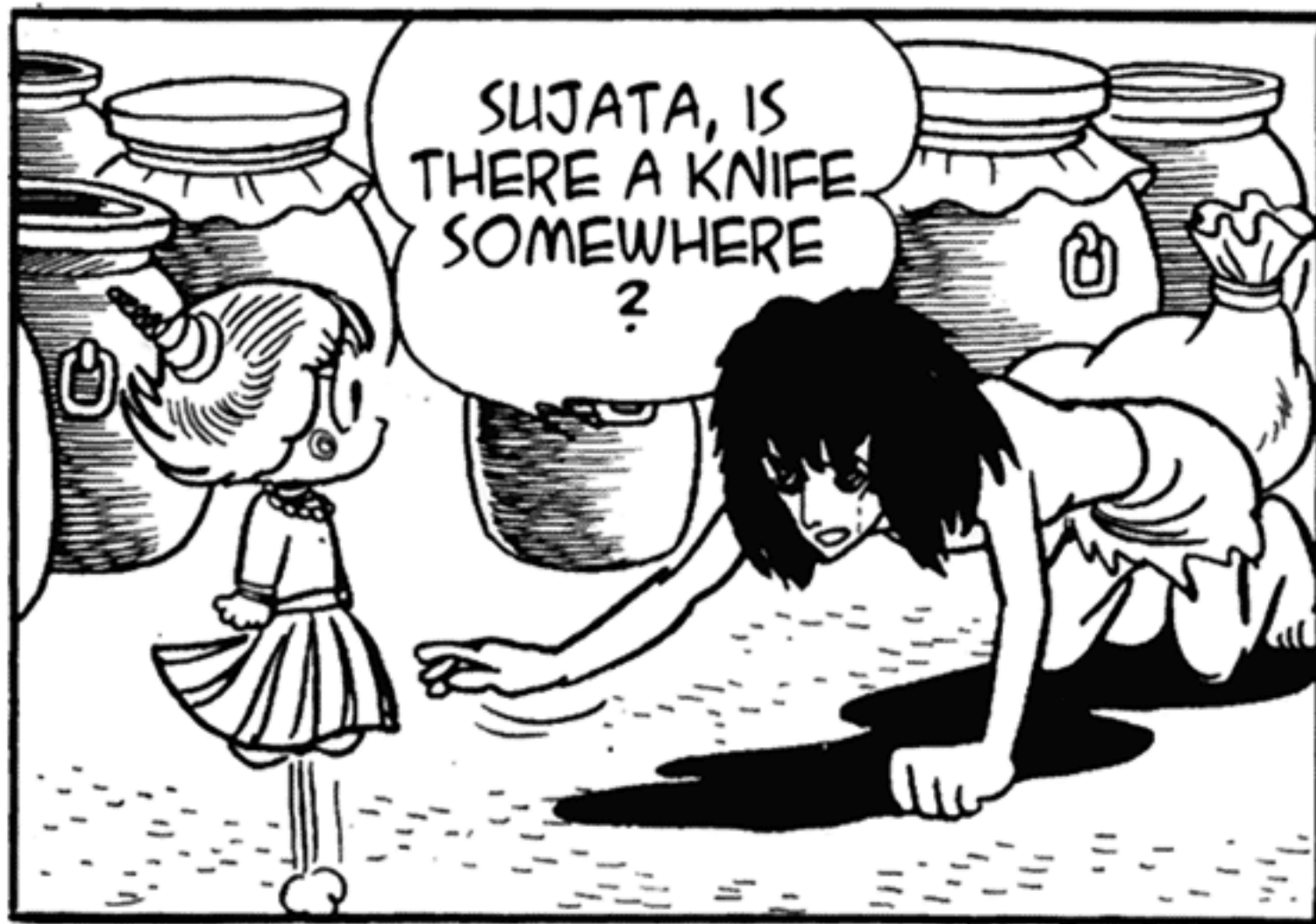
SHACK? YOU MEAN, THAT SHACK ON THE TOP OF THE HILL?



YEAH! AND MIGAILA'S IN THERE!!



I-I SEE... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THE ONES WHO LIVED THERE...



SUJATA, IS THERE A KNIFE SOMEWHERE?

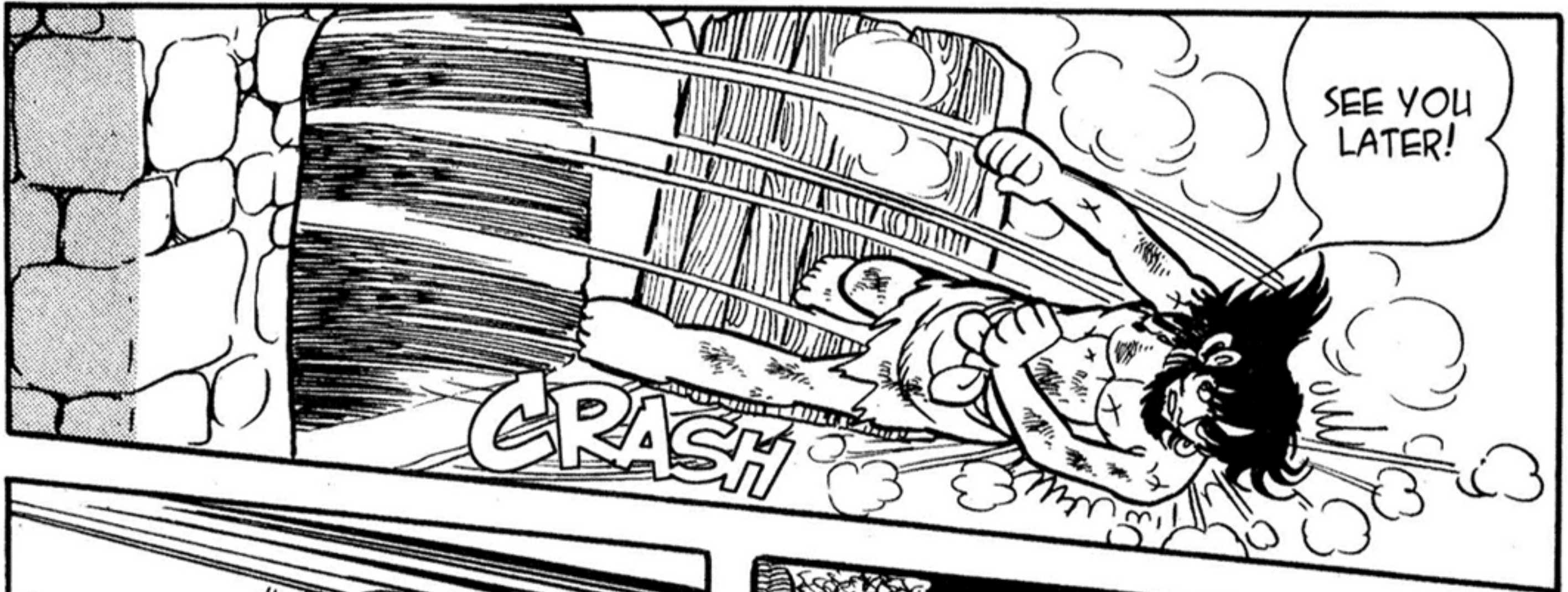


THANKS, MAN.



I OWE YOU BIG TIME FOR THIS.







SWEET
HEART
?!

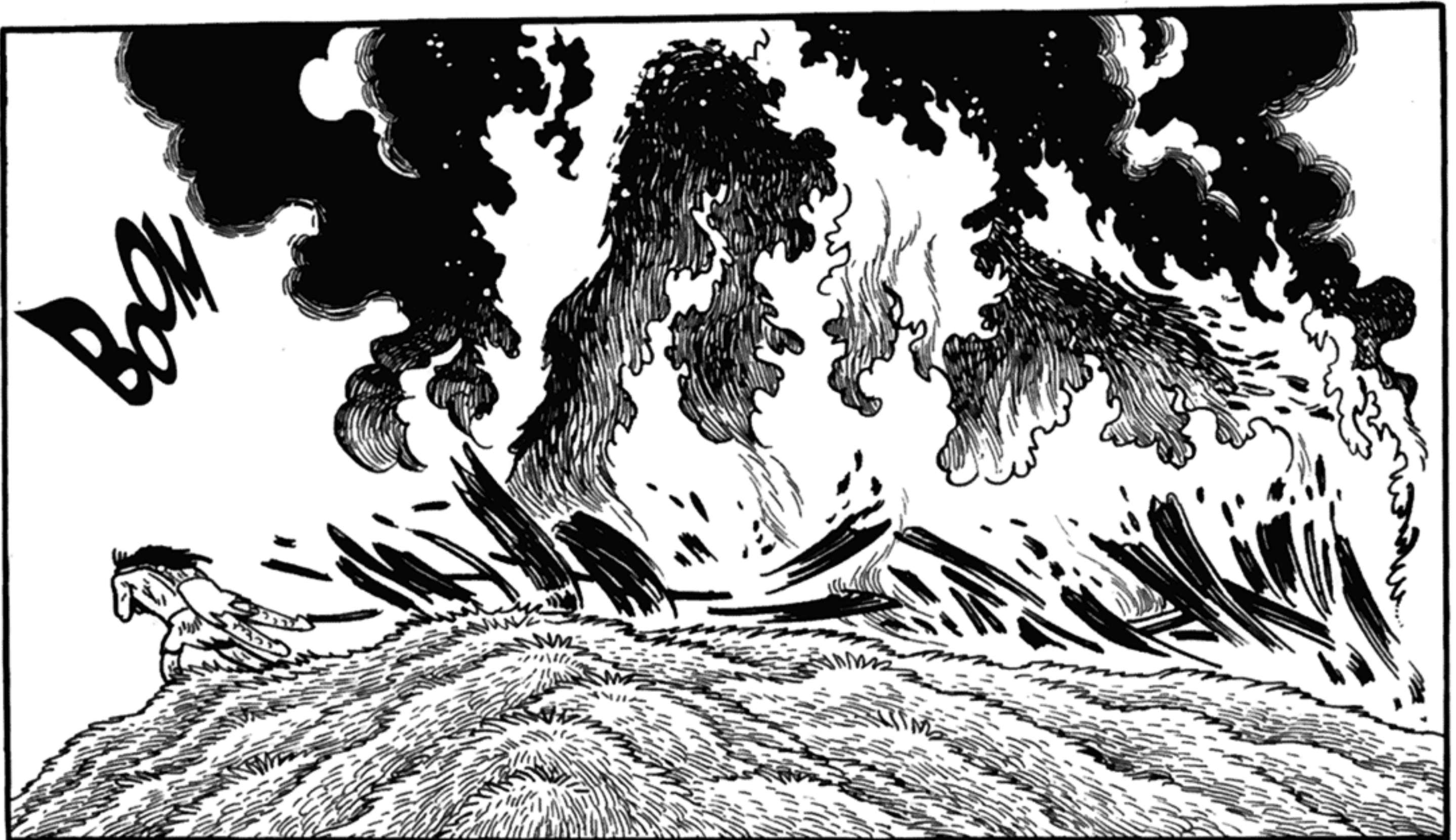
I'M COMING
FOR YOU!
DON'T DIE!!

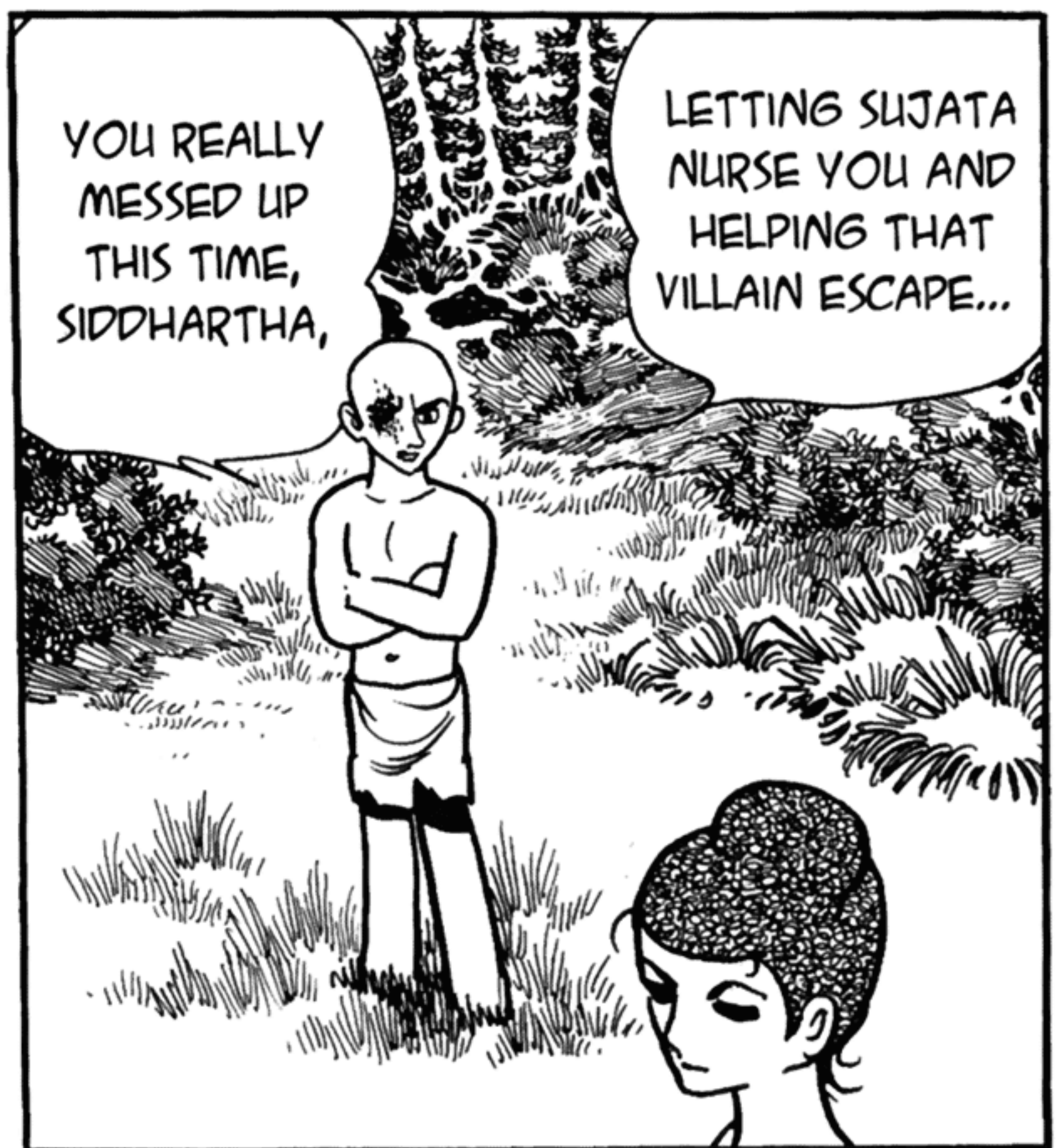
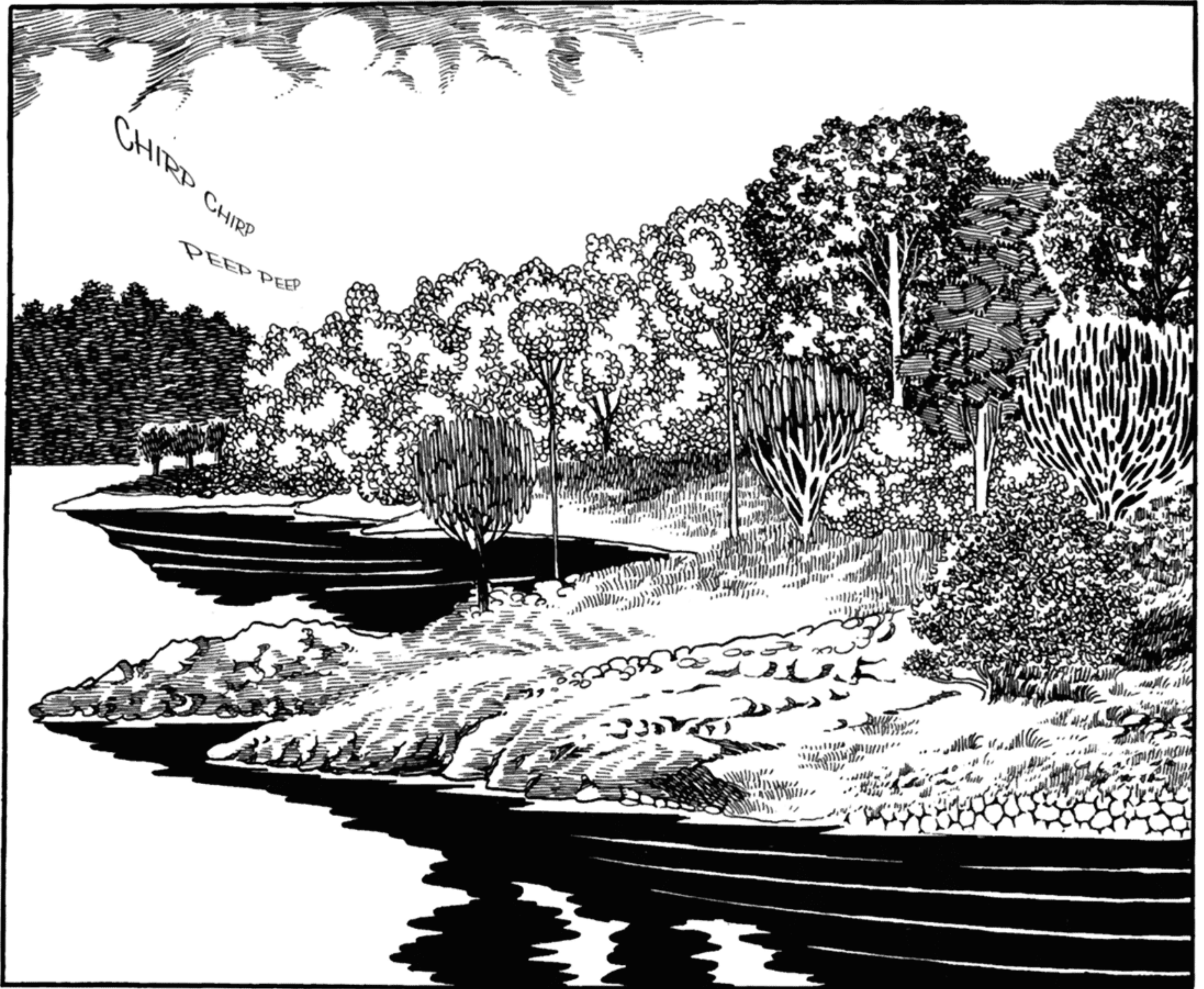
MIGAILA
ARE YOU
OKAY?

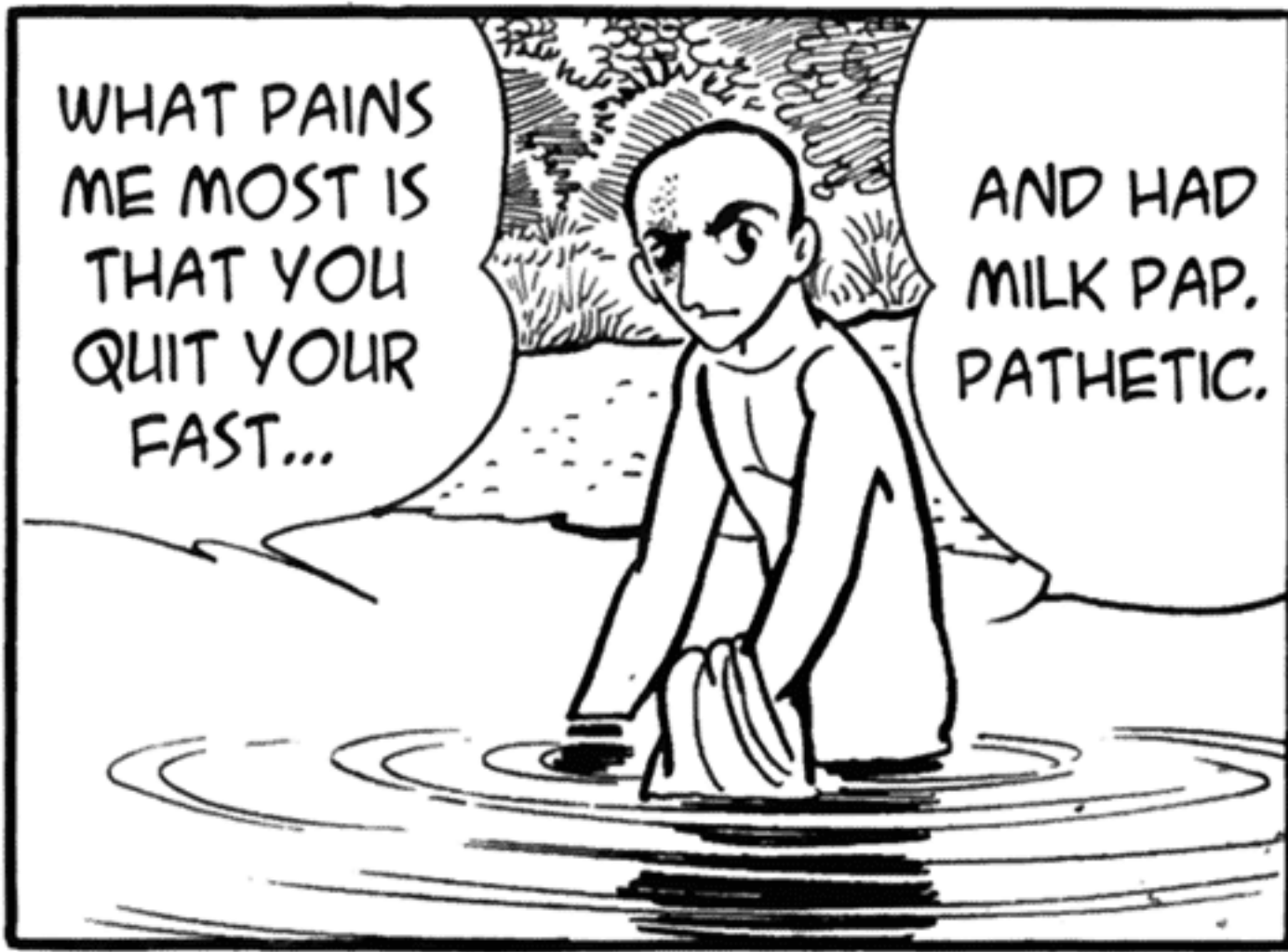
MIGAILA

PHEW

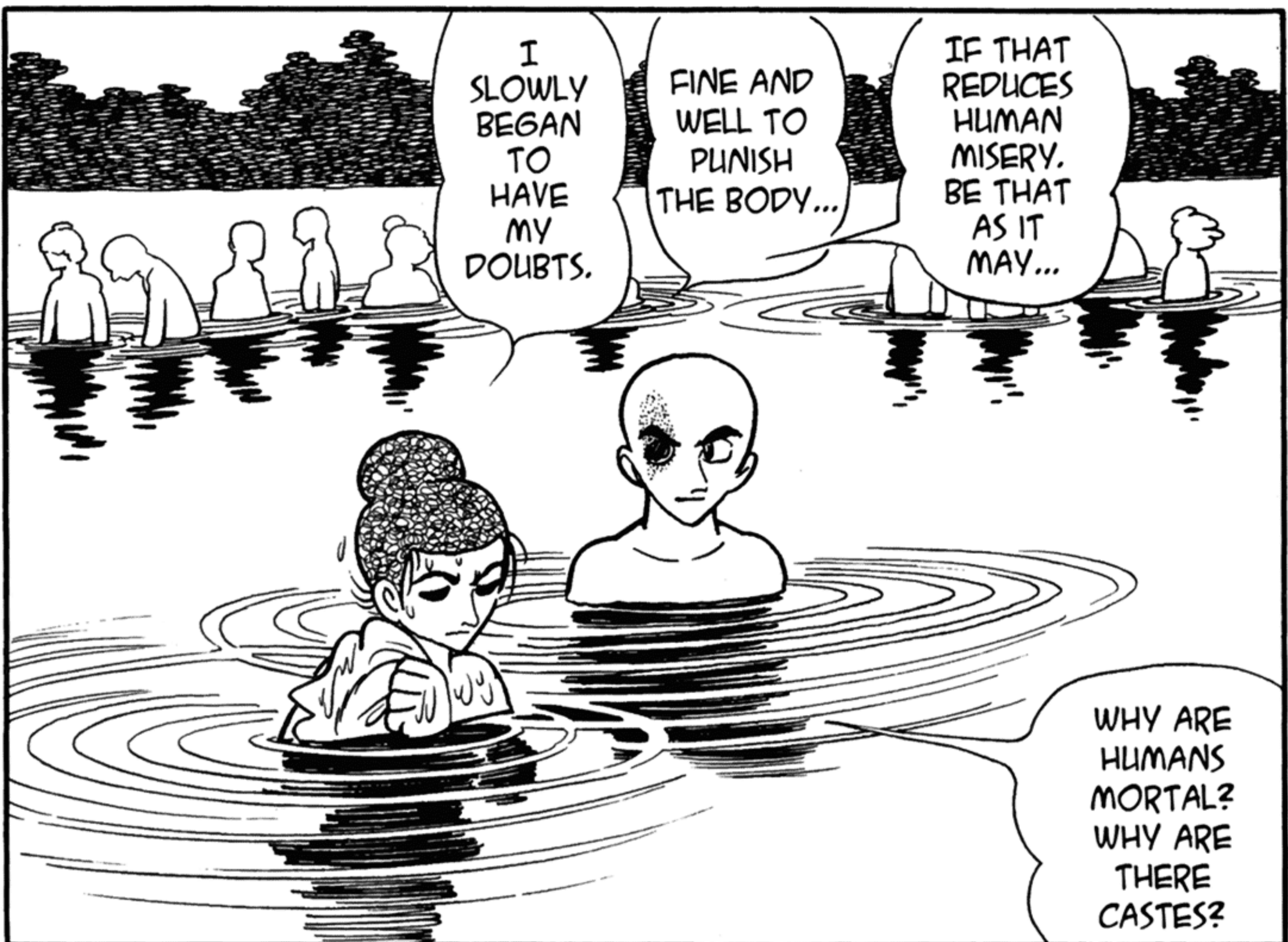
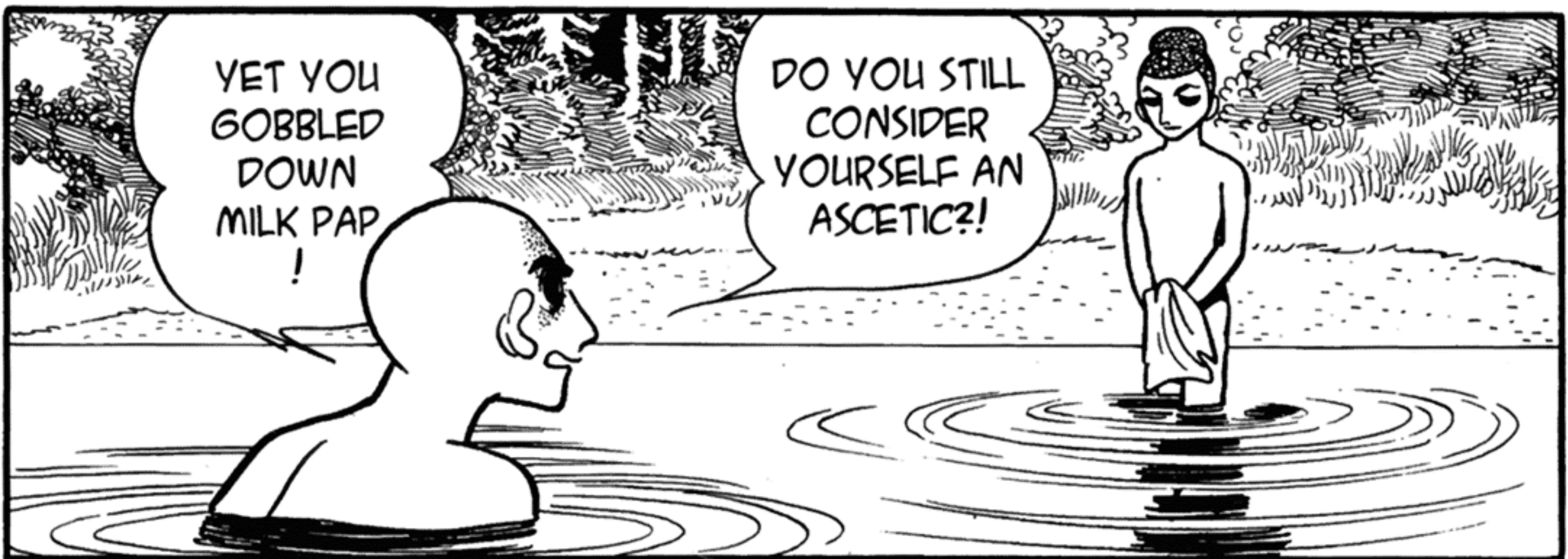
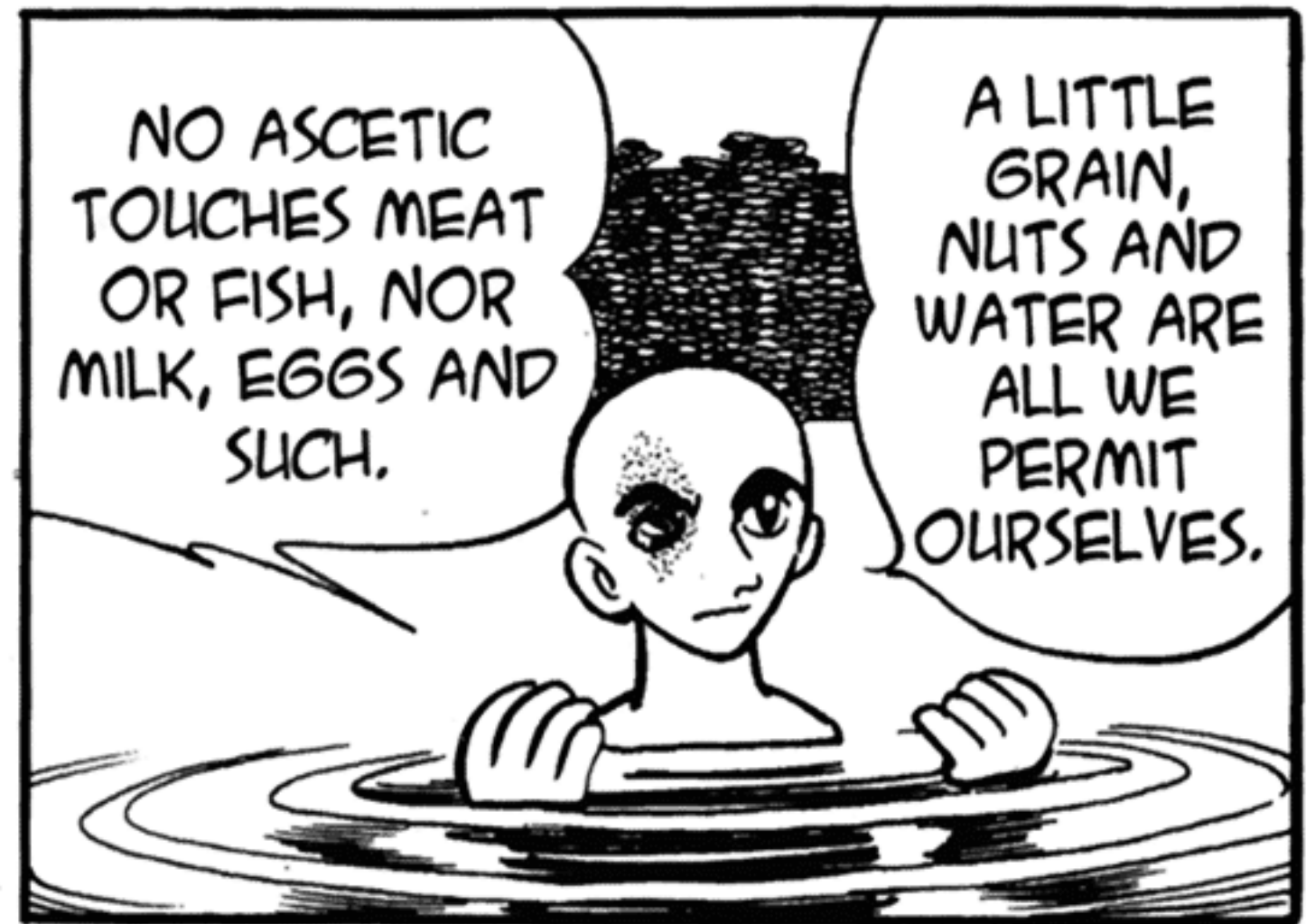
HOLD
ON
TIGHT.







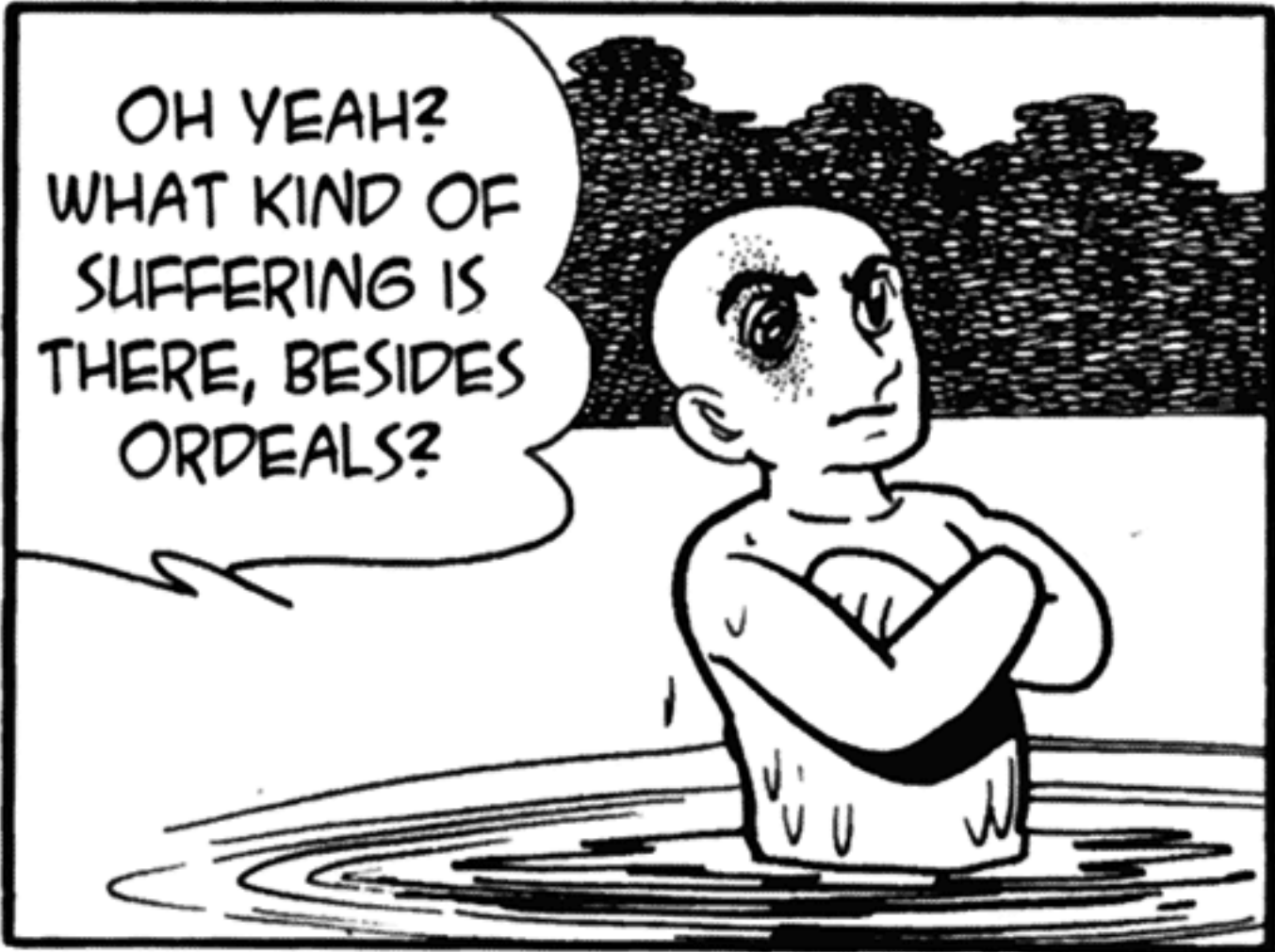
AND HAD MILK PAP. PATHETIC.





ORDEALS...
WHAT'S AN
ORDEAL
ANYWAY?

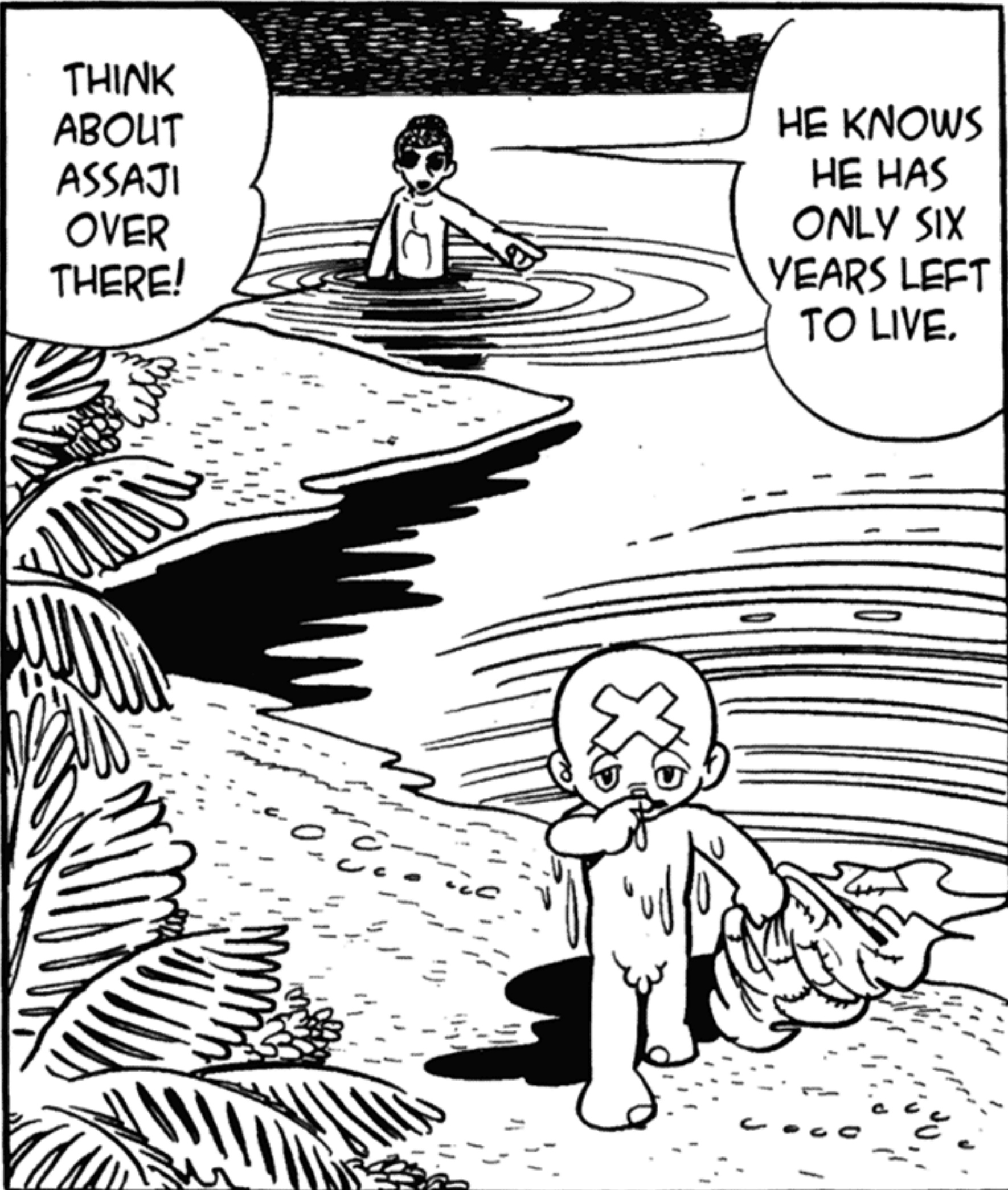
TRUE HUMAN
SUFFERING
OWES TO
SOME
OTHER
CAUSE.



OH YEAH?
WHAT KIND OF
SUFFERING IS
THERE, BESIDES
ORDEALS?



THERE'S
ILLNESS.
THERE'S
POVERTY.
THERE'S
DISCRIMI-
NATION.

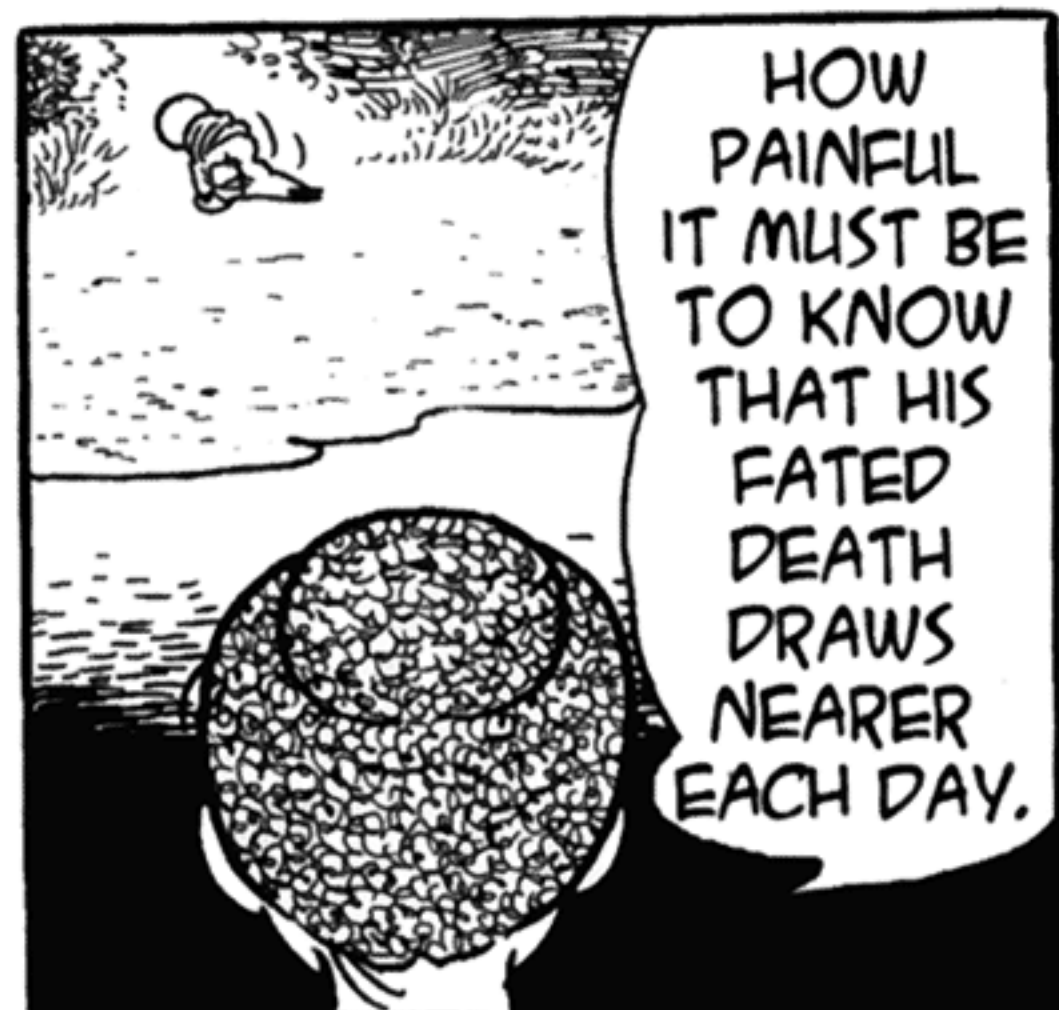


THINK
ABOUT
ASSAJI
OVER
THERE!

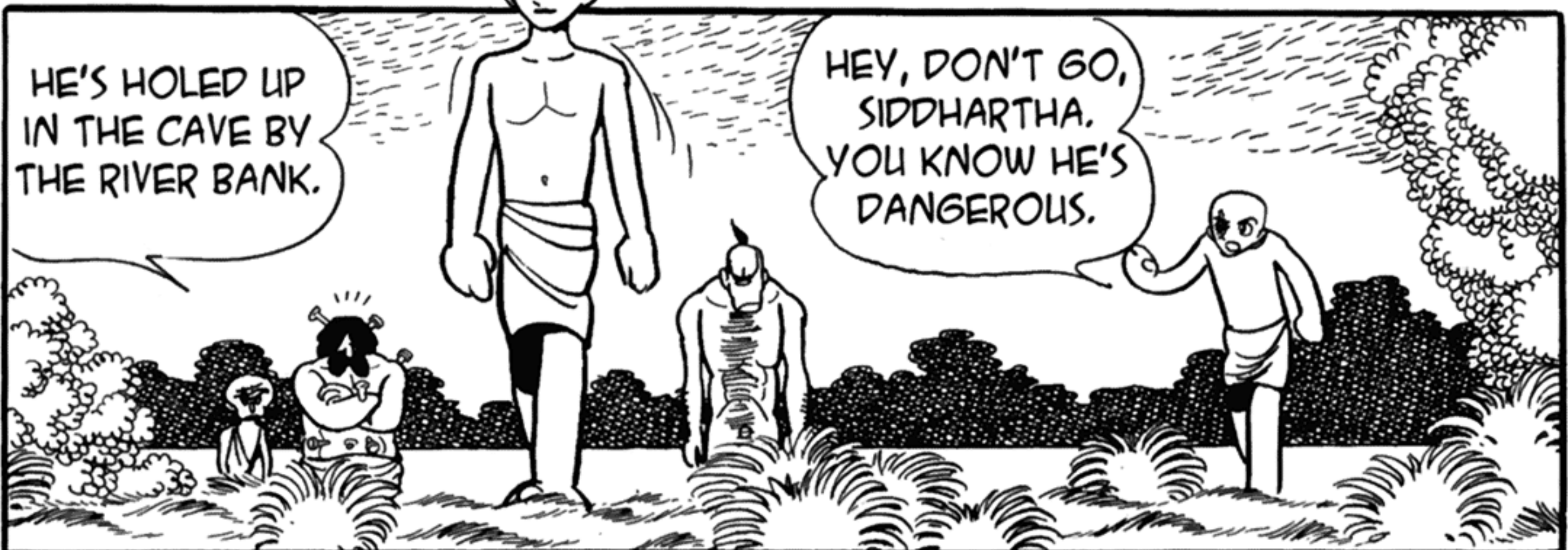
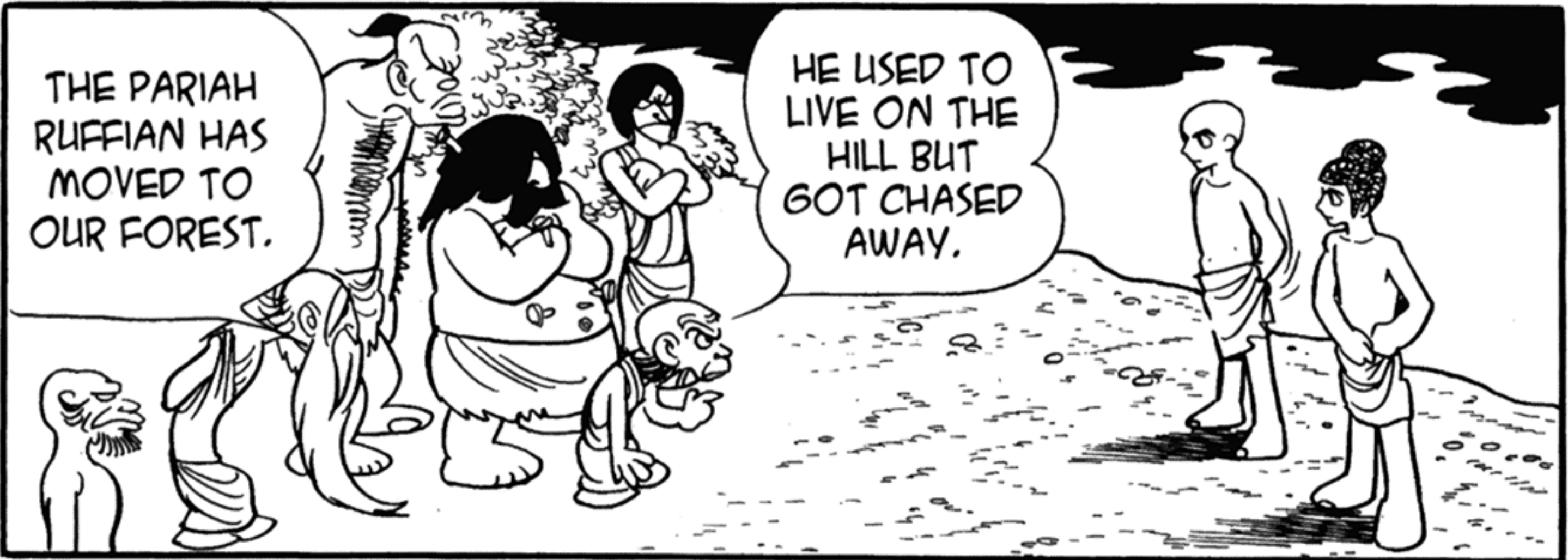
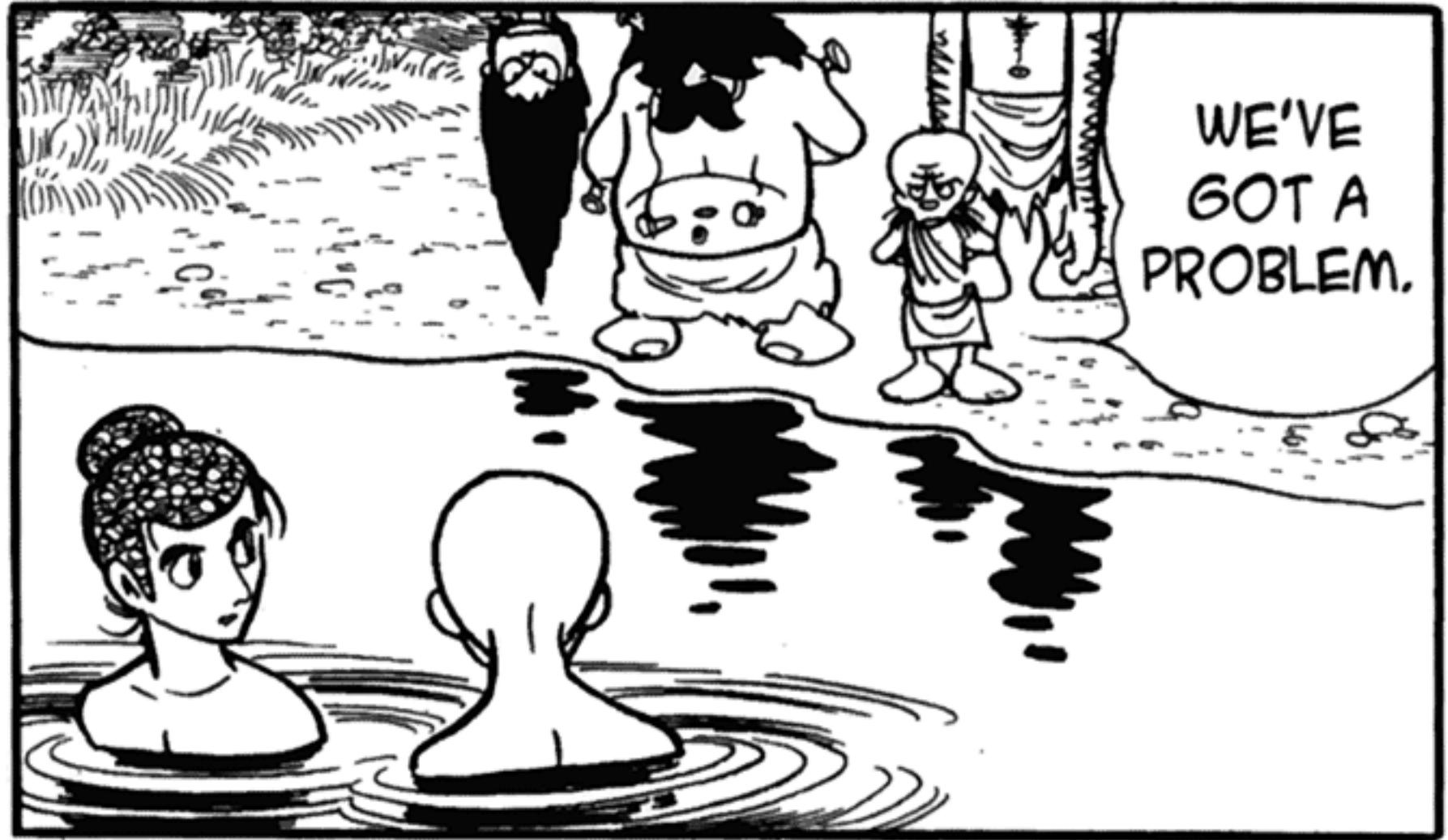
HE KNOWS
HE HAS
ONLY SIX
YEARS LEFT
TO LIVE.



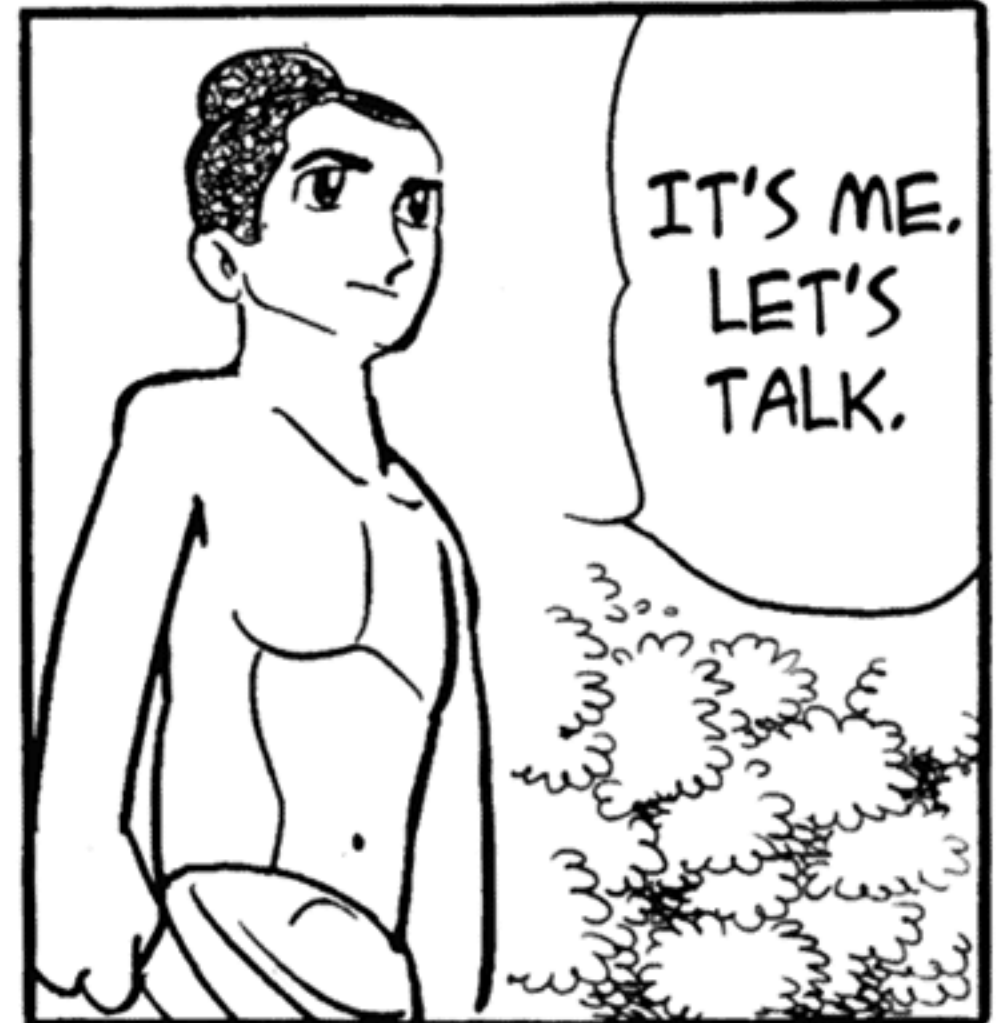
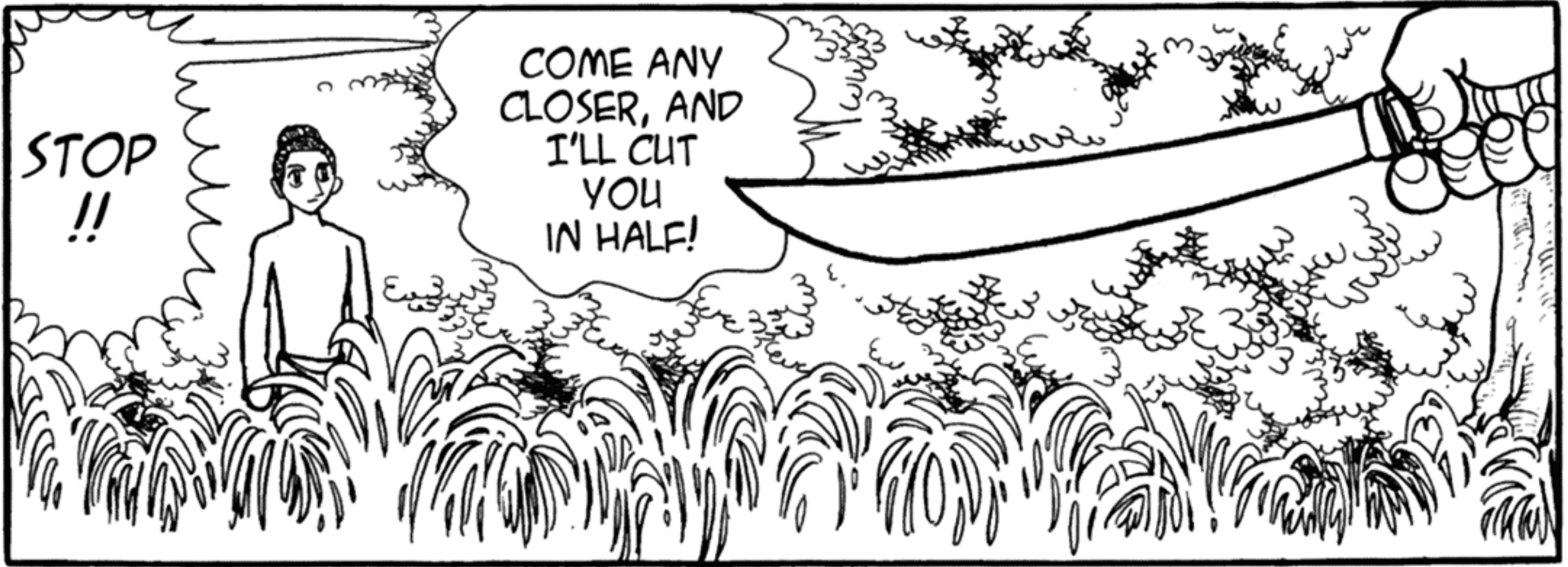
SNIF

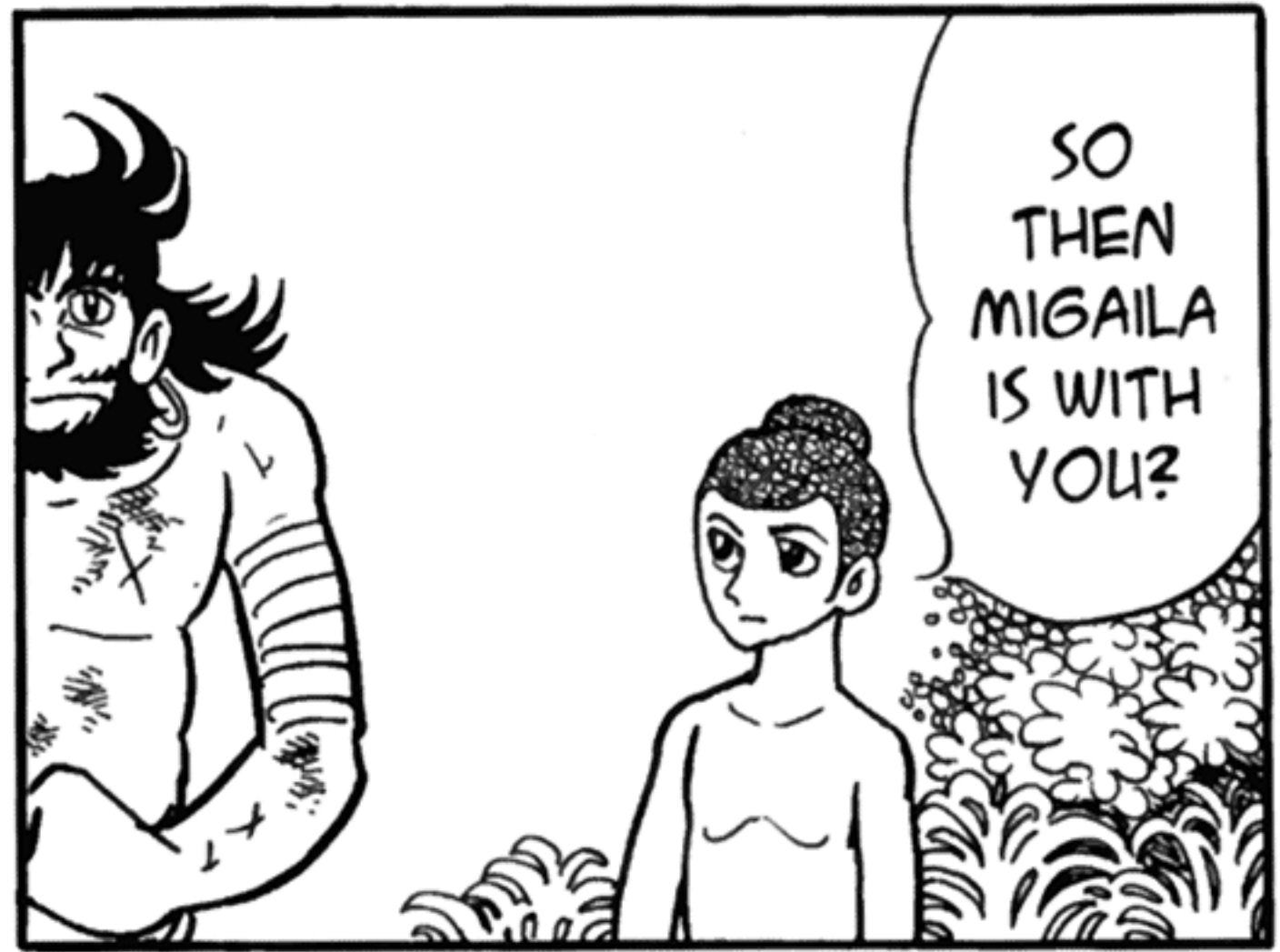
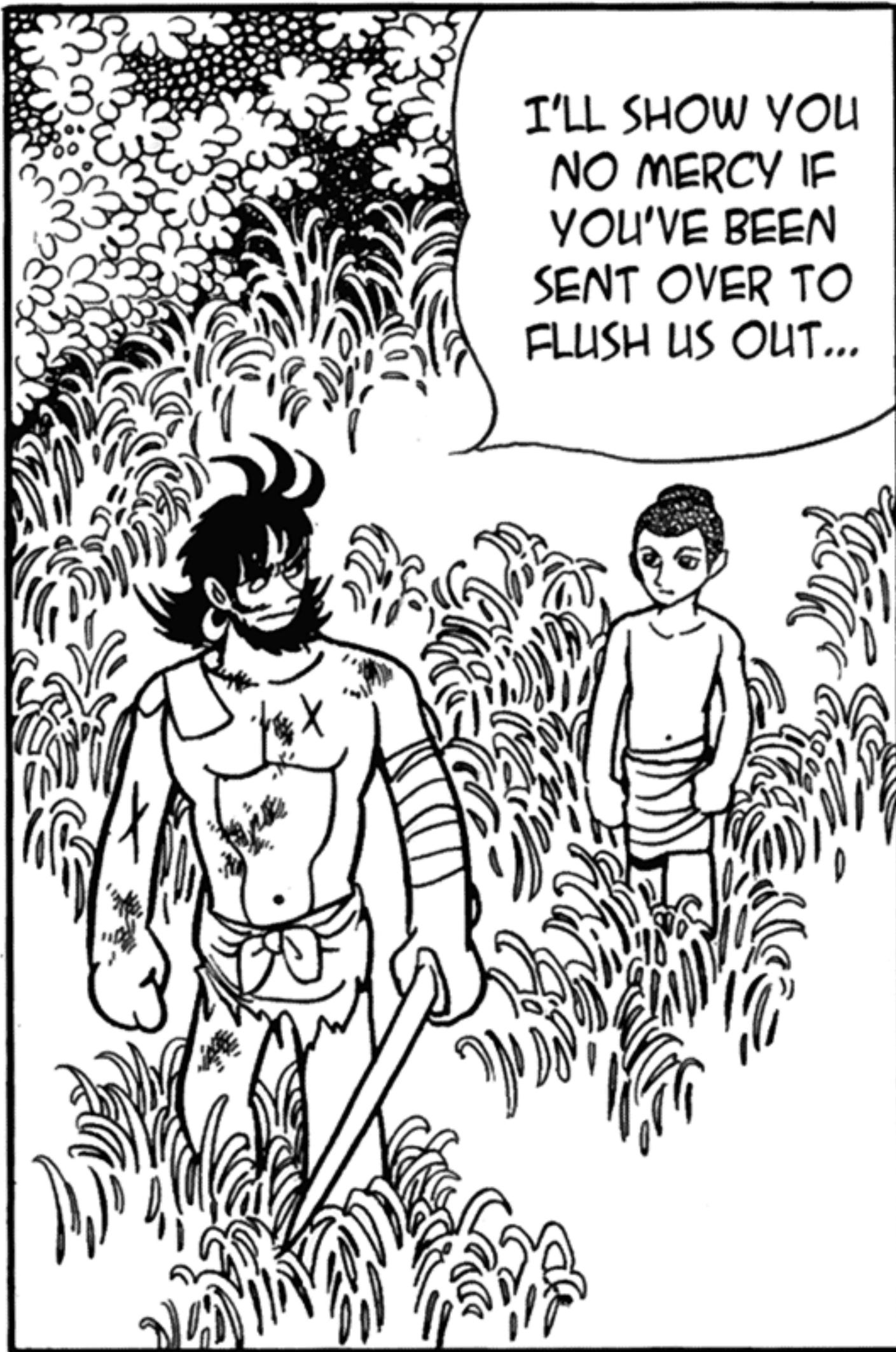


HOW
PAINFUL
IT MUST BE
TO KNOW
THAT HIS
FATED
DEATH
DRAWS
NEARER
EACH DAY.

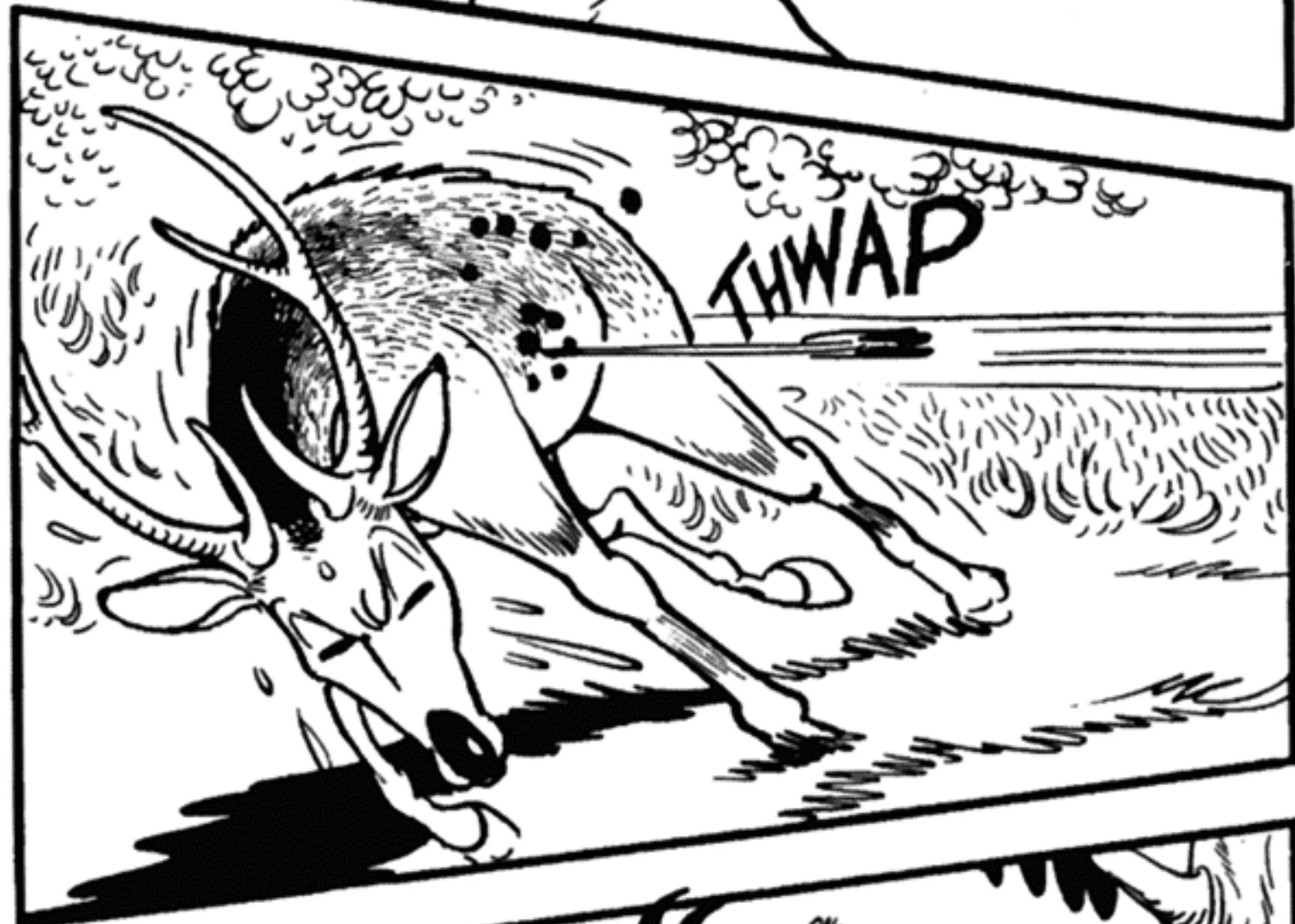
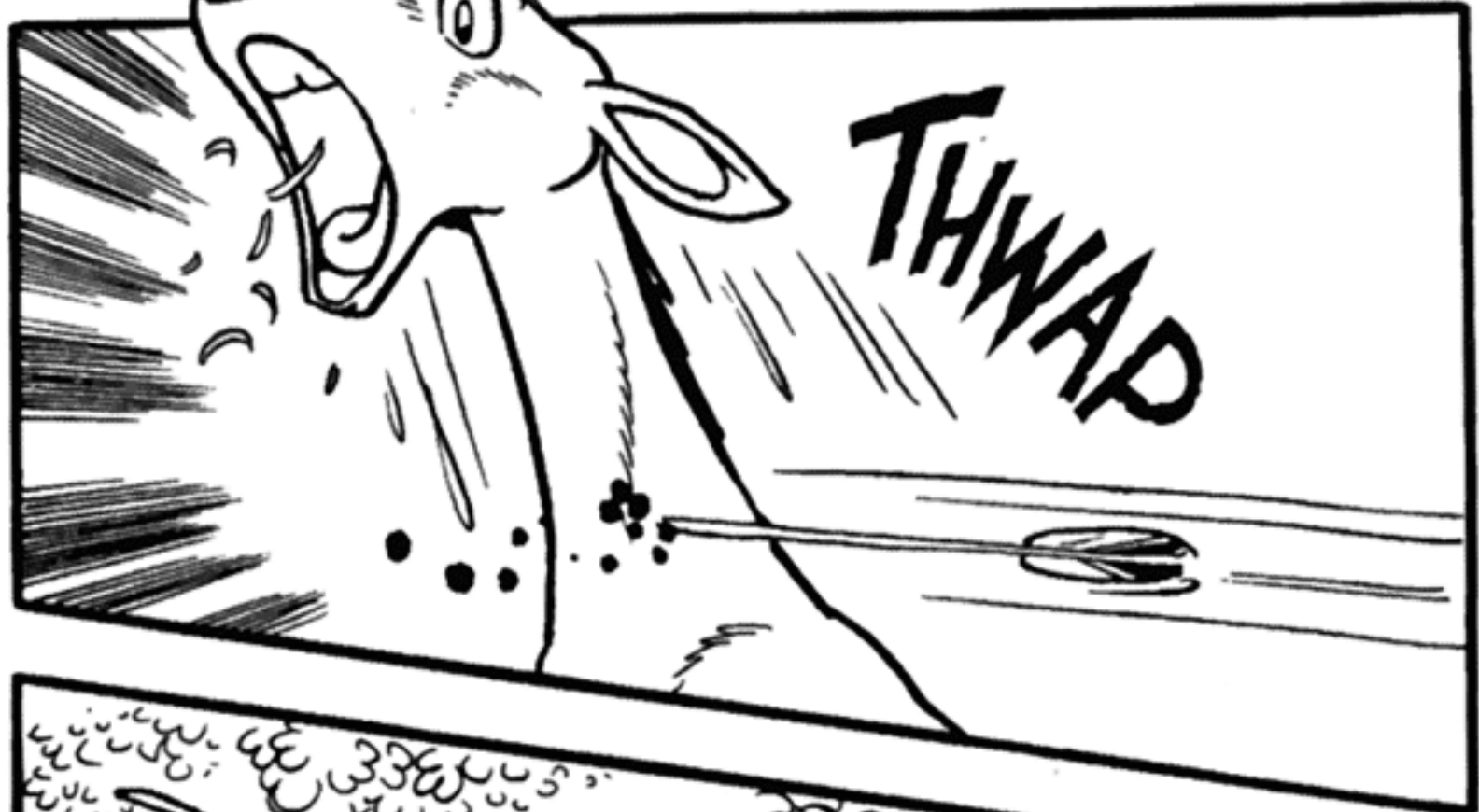
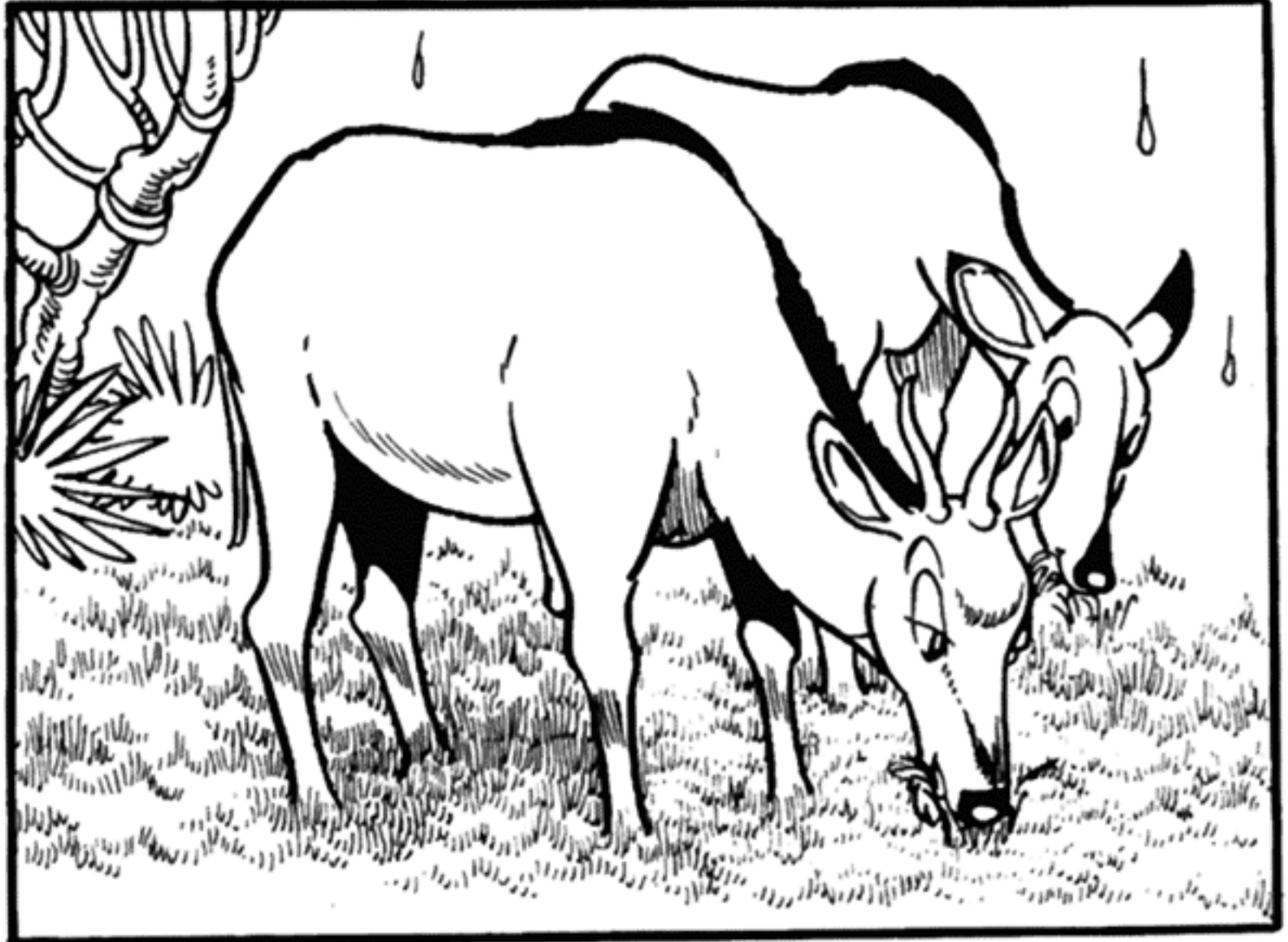


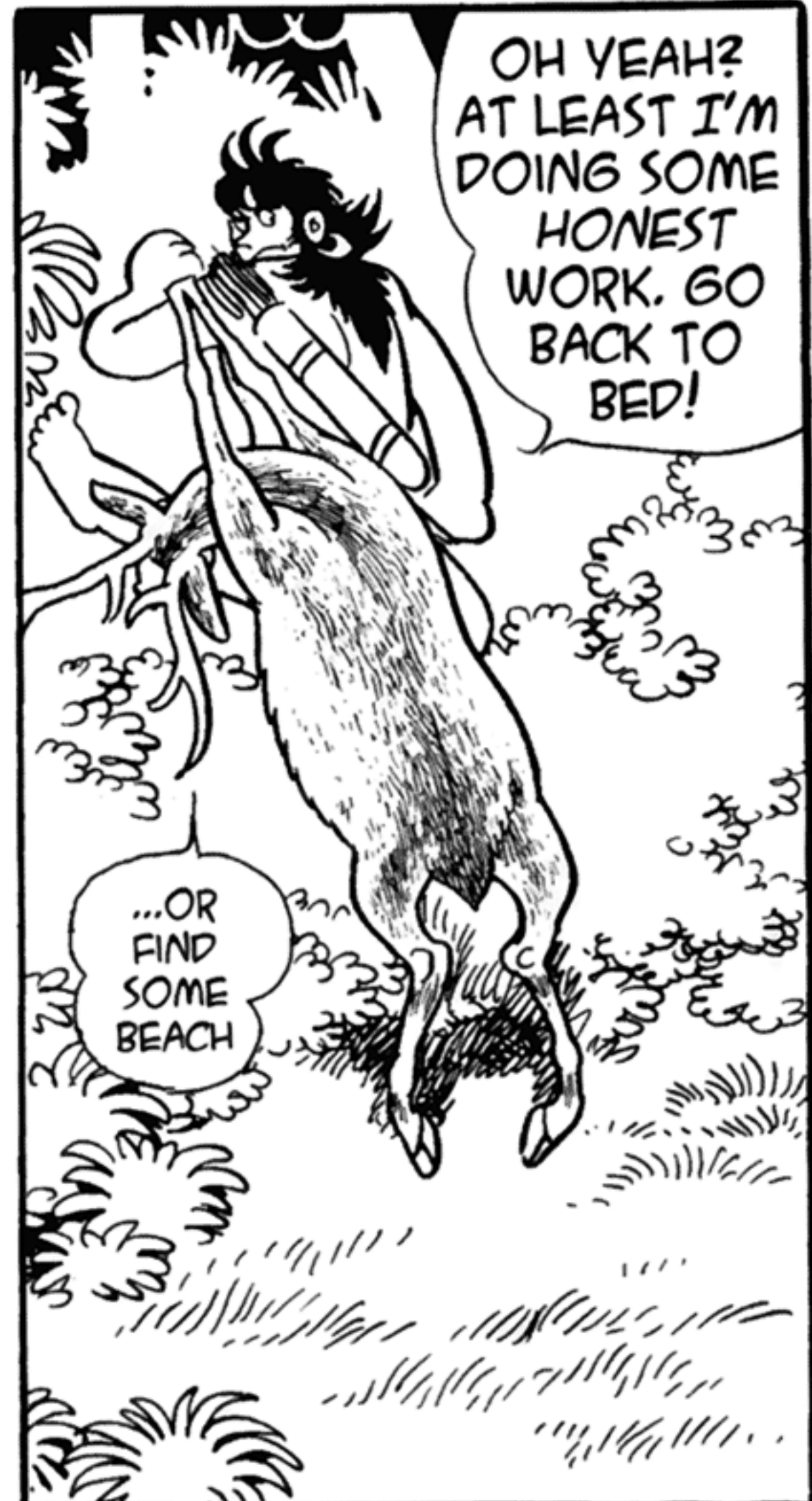
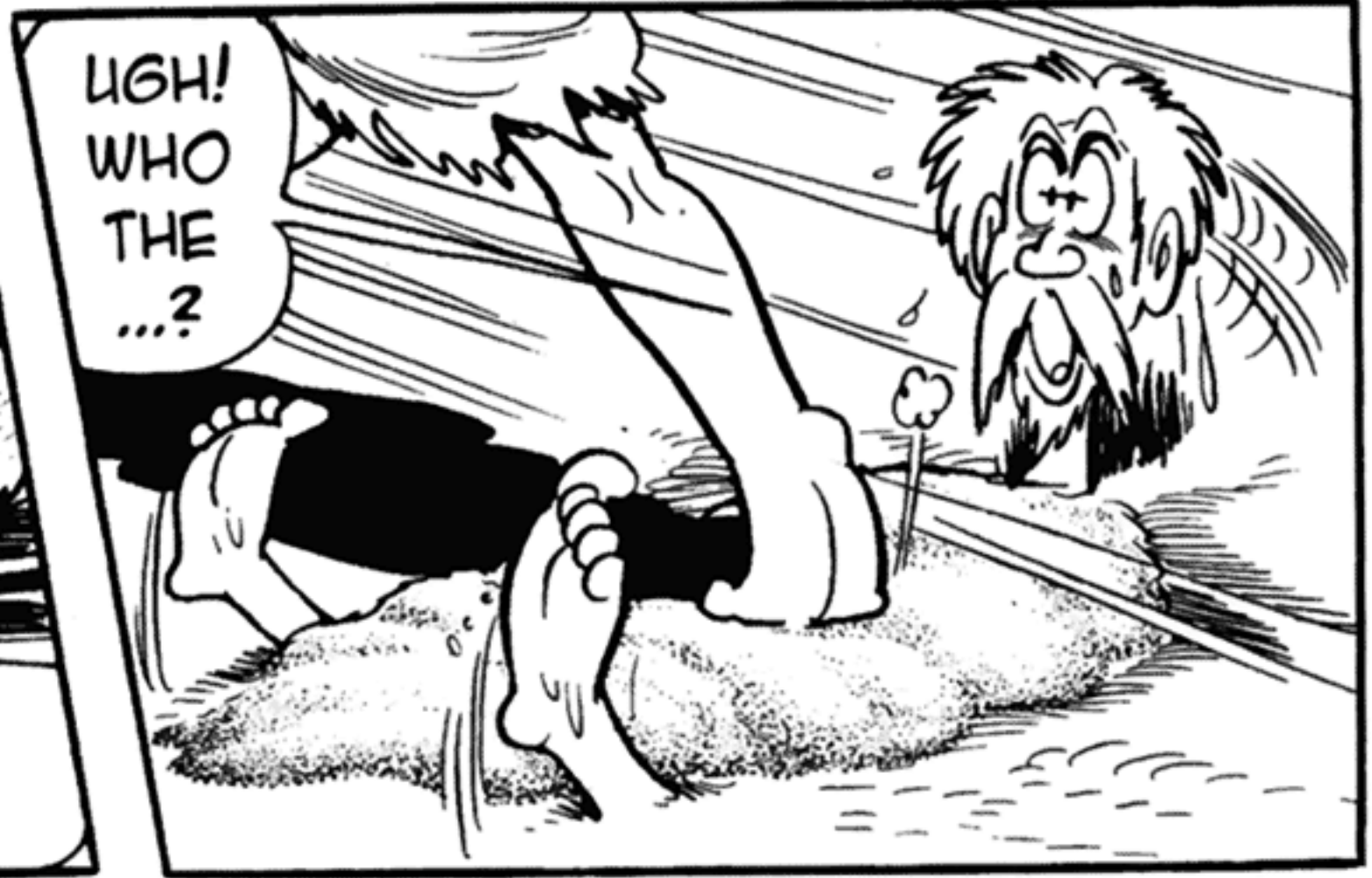
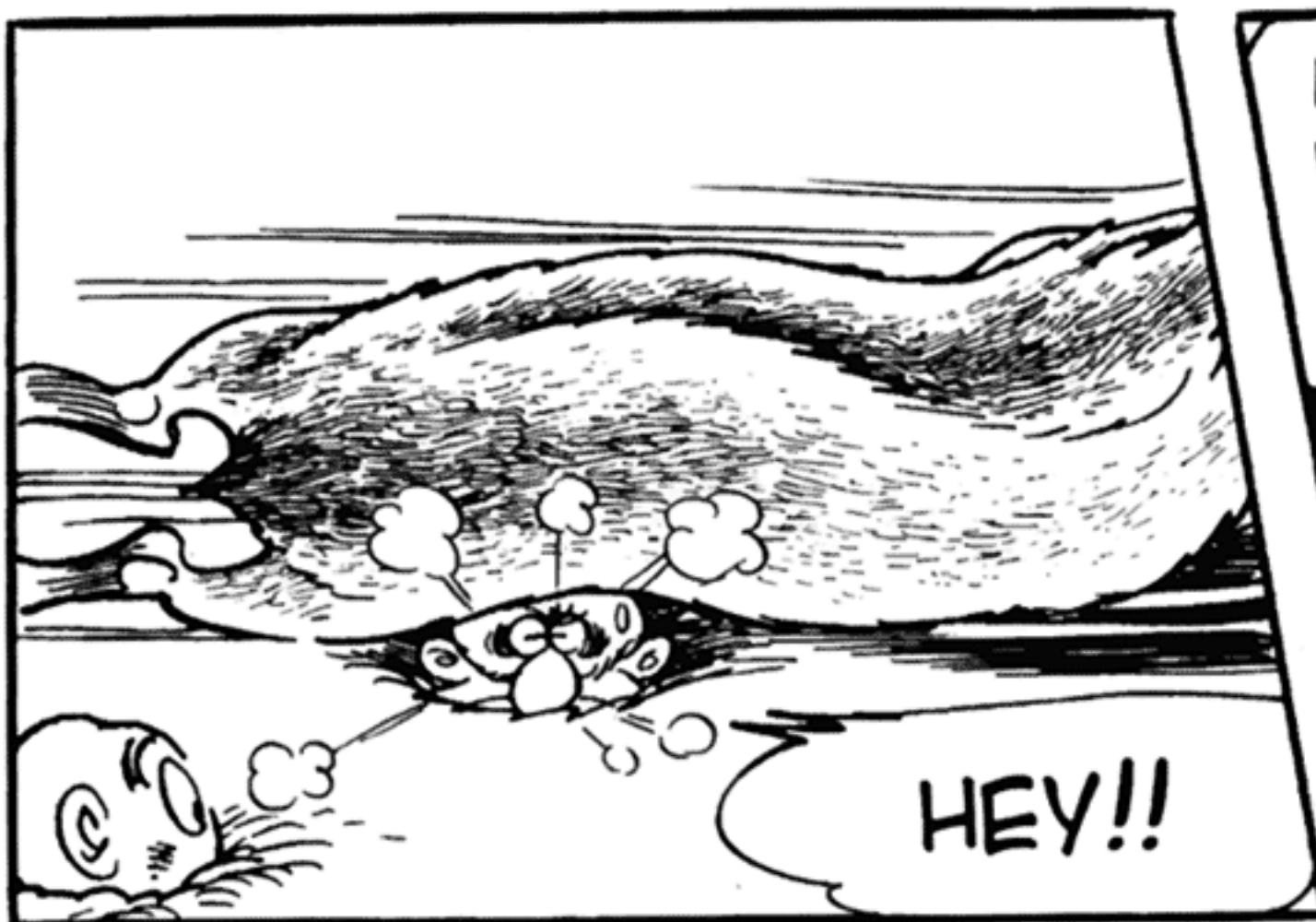


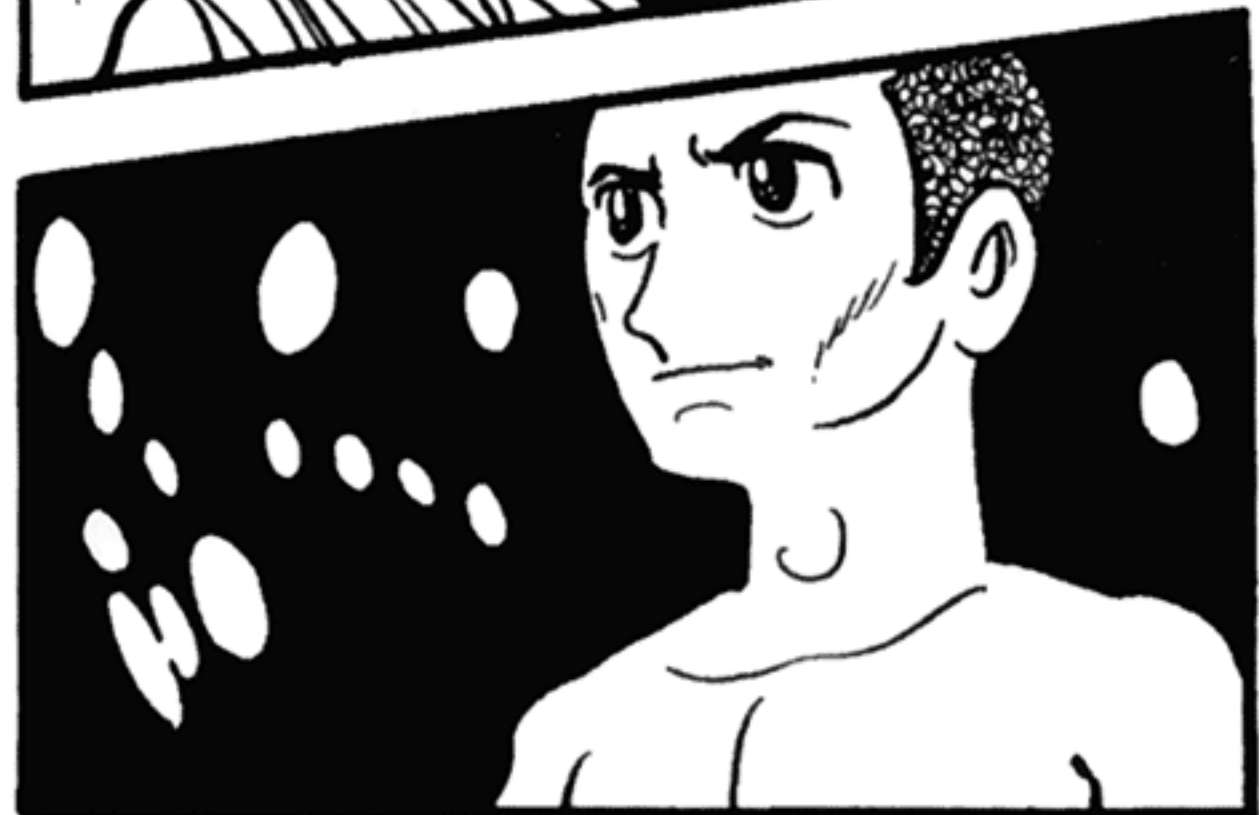














SIDDHARTHA, WE'VE TURNED A BLIND EYE SO FAR ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR EVIDENT NOBILITY, BUT WE'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT!

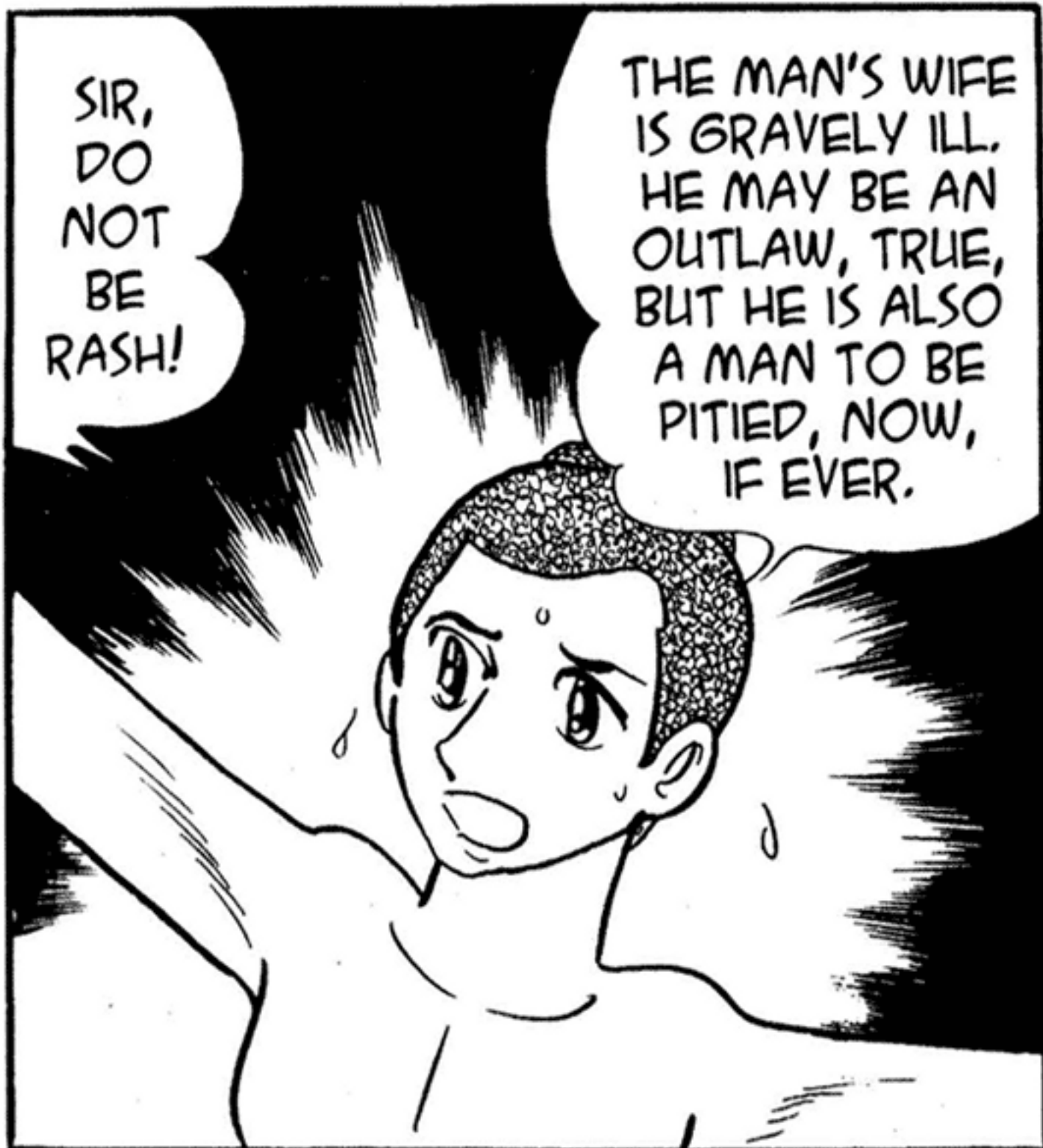
WHY DO YOU SHELTER THAT NO-GOOD PARIAH IN THESE WOODS?



COMPLAINTS ARE POURING IN FROM THE ASCETICS!

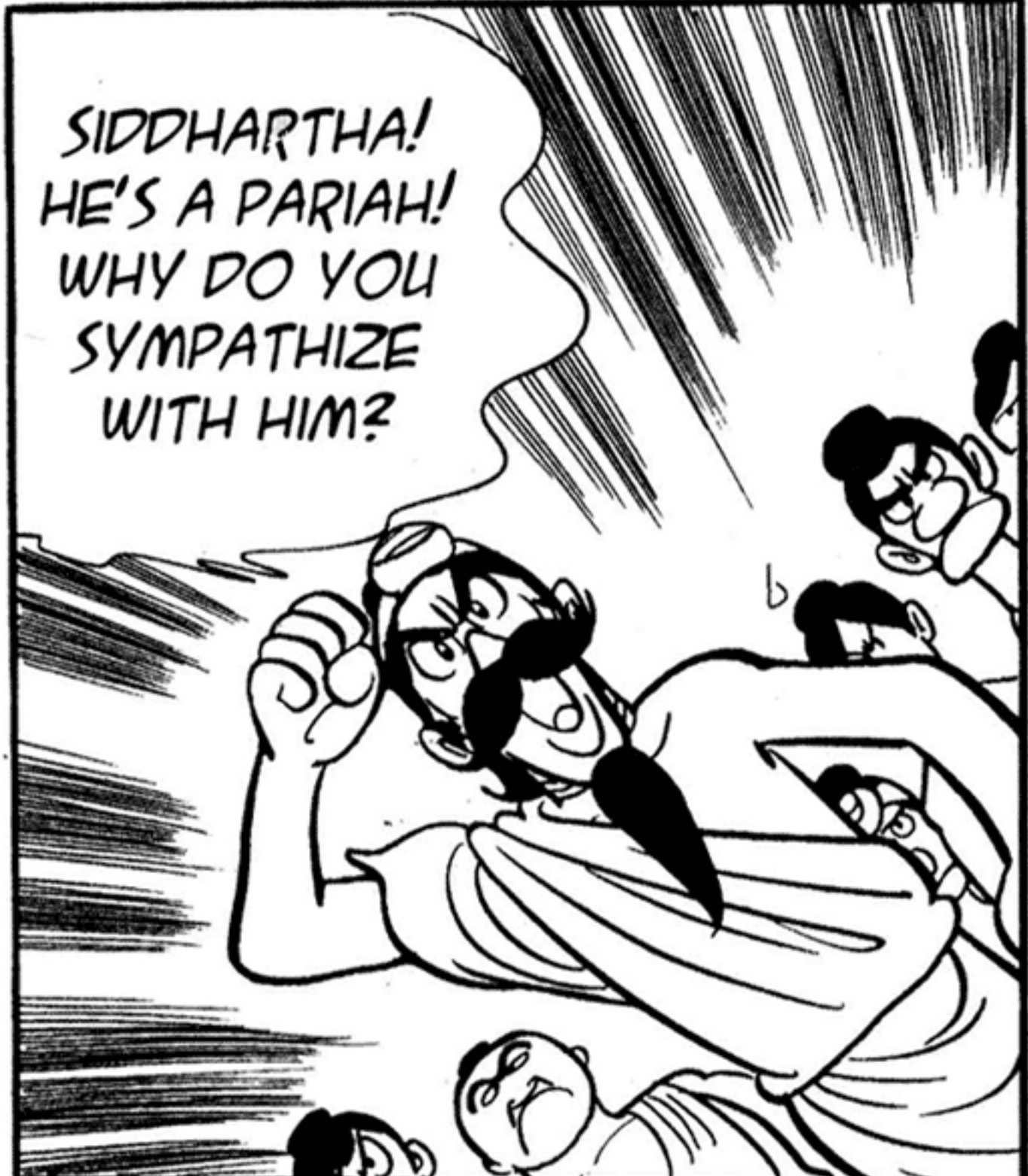
TODAY WE WILL CHASE HIM OUT OF THIS FOREST, AND TEACH HIM A LESSON.

NO USE TRYING TO STOP US, SIDDHARTHA!

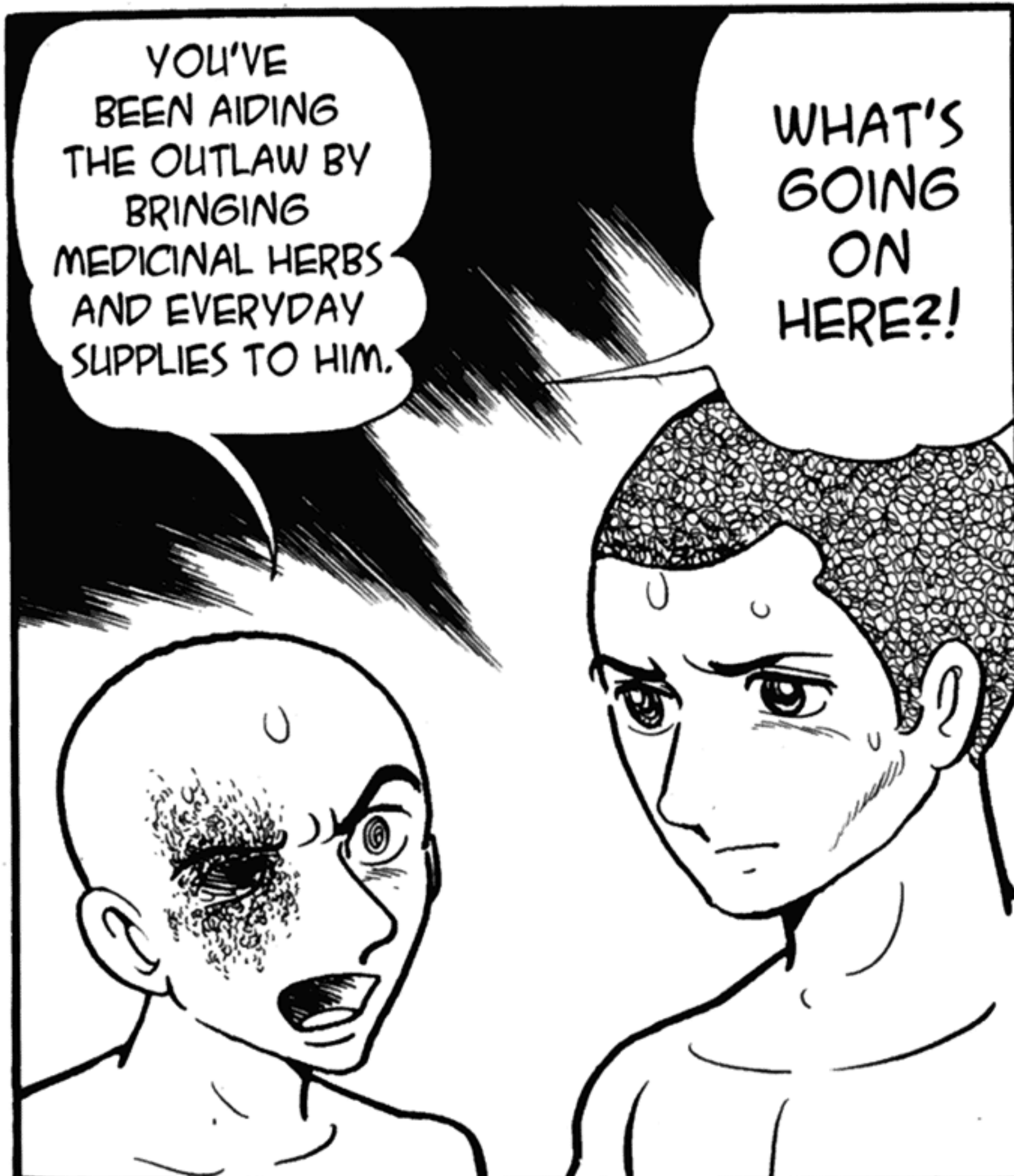
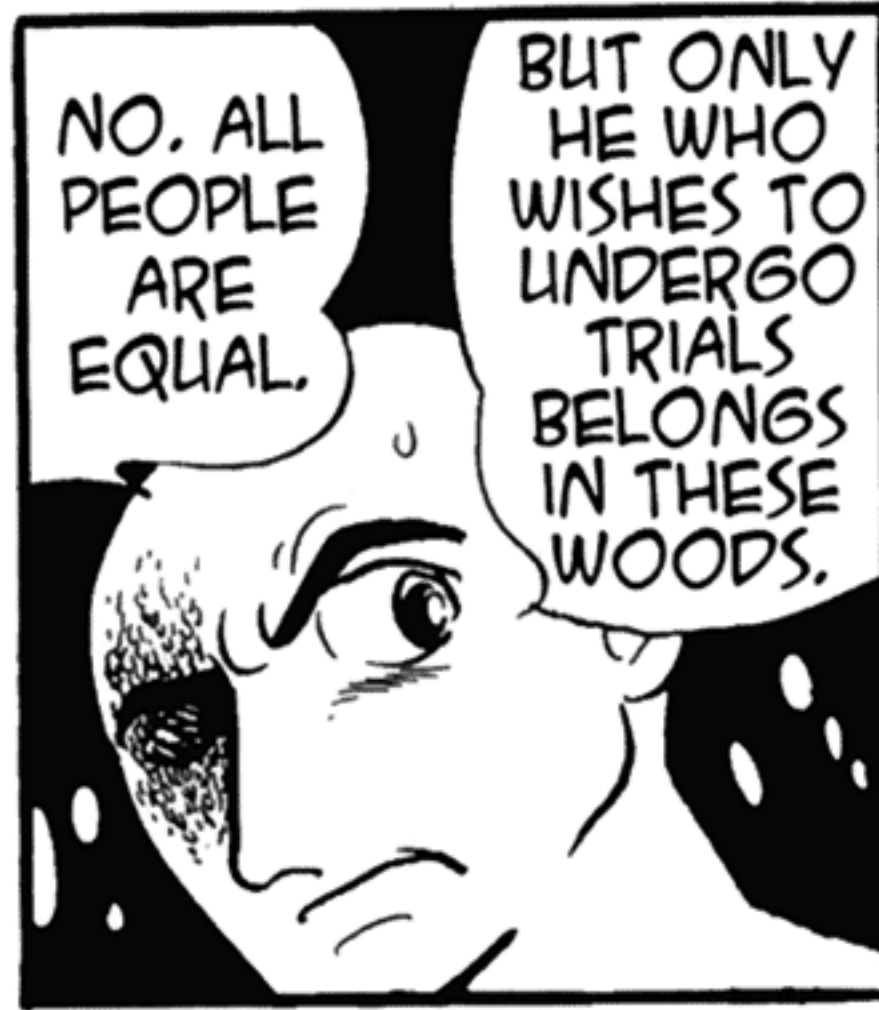


SIR, DO NOT BE RASH!

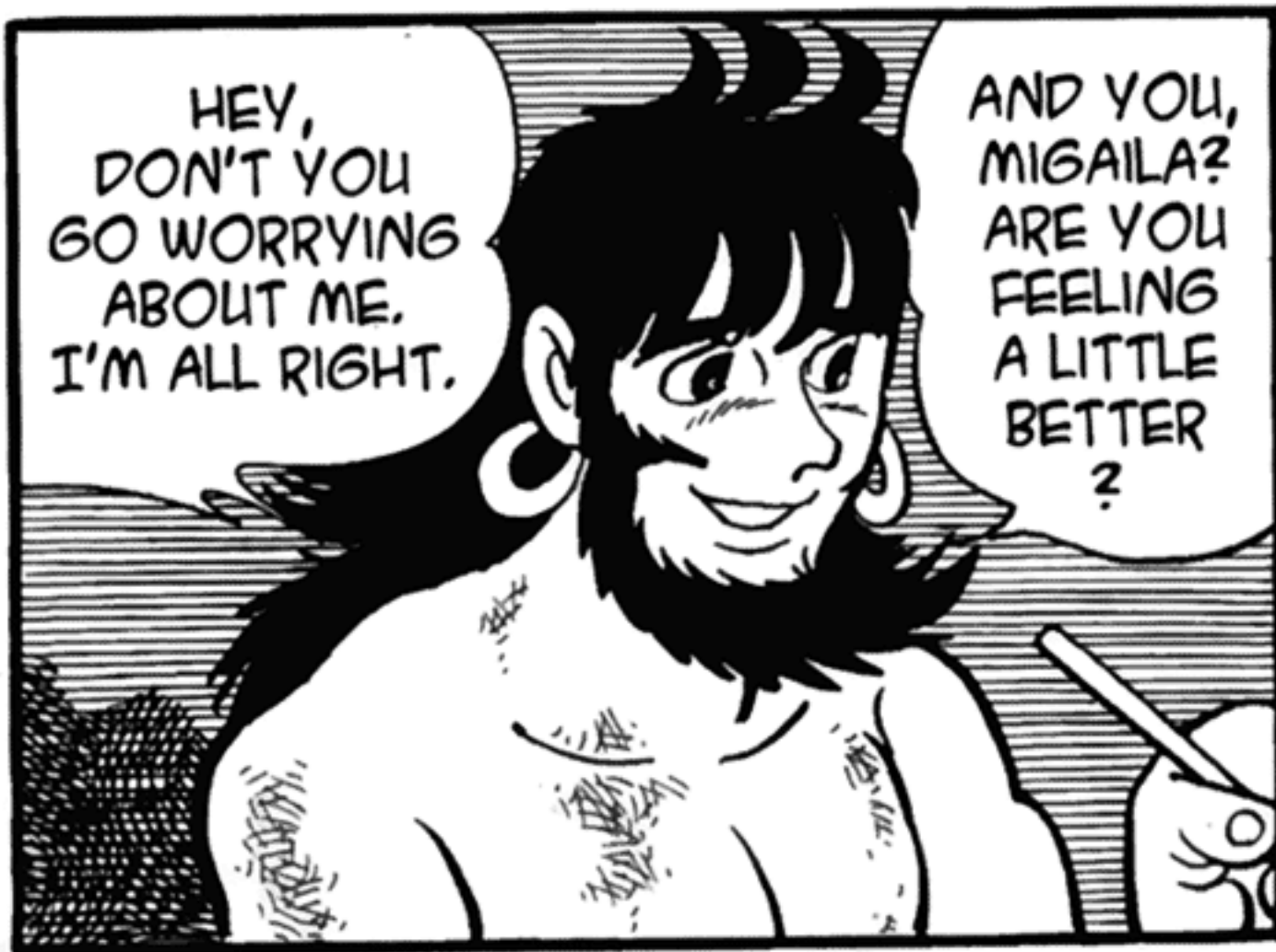
THE MAN'S WIFE IS GRAVELY ILL. HE MAY BE AN OUTLAW, TRUE, BUT HE IS ALSO A MAN TO BE PITIED, NOW, IF EVER.



SIDDHARTHA! HE'S A PARIAH! WHY DO YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM?









YOU'RE
RIGHT,
TATTA.



I BARELY
MANAGED TO
CALM THEM
DOWN
JUST NOW.



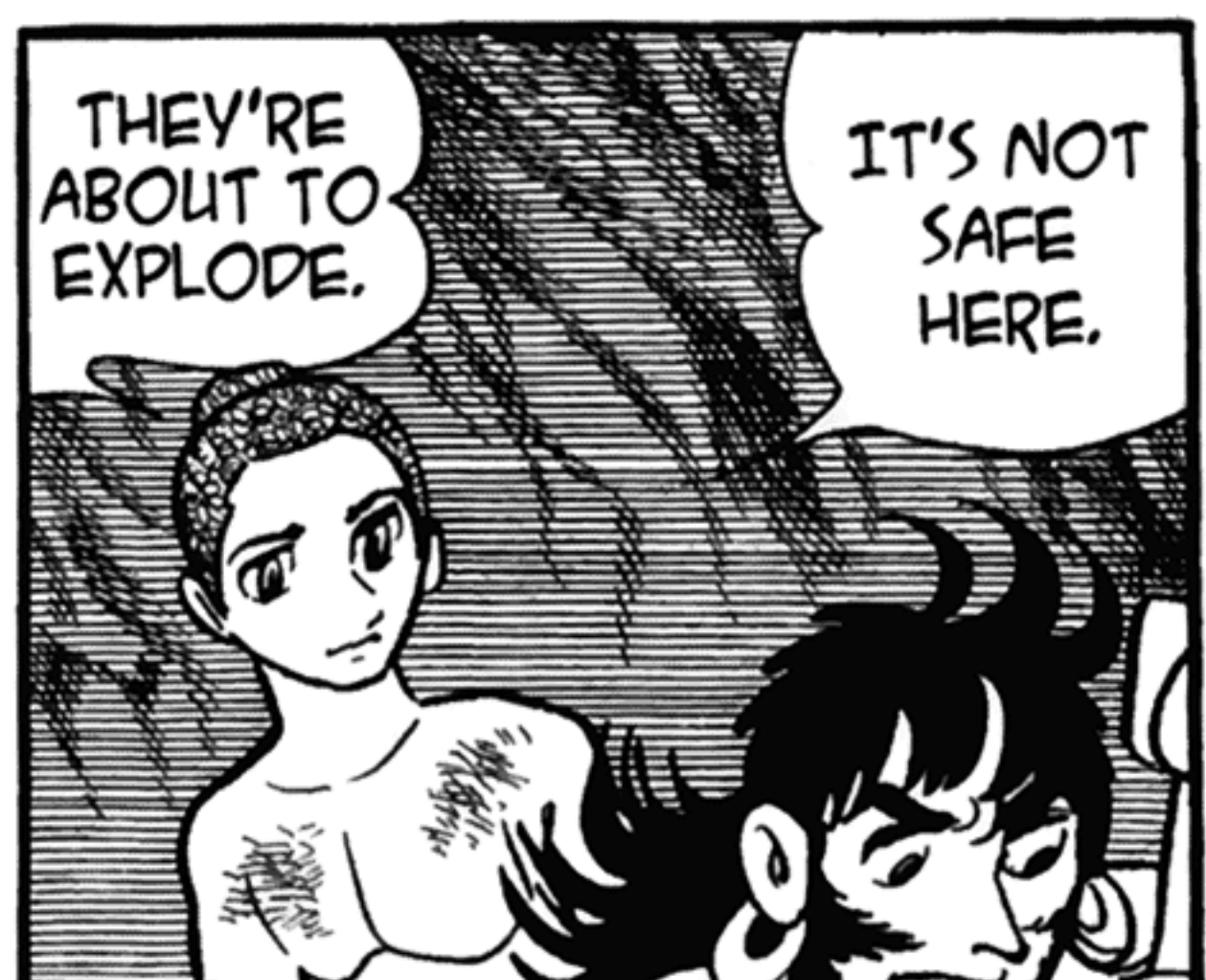
HERE,
SOME
HERBS.



THANKS,
AS
ALWAYS
...

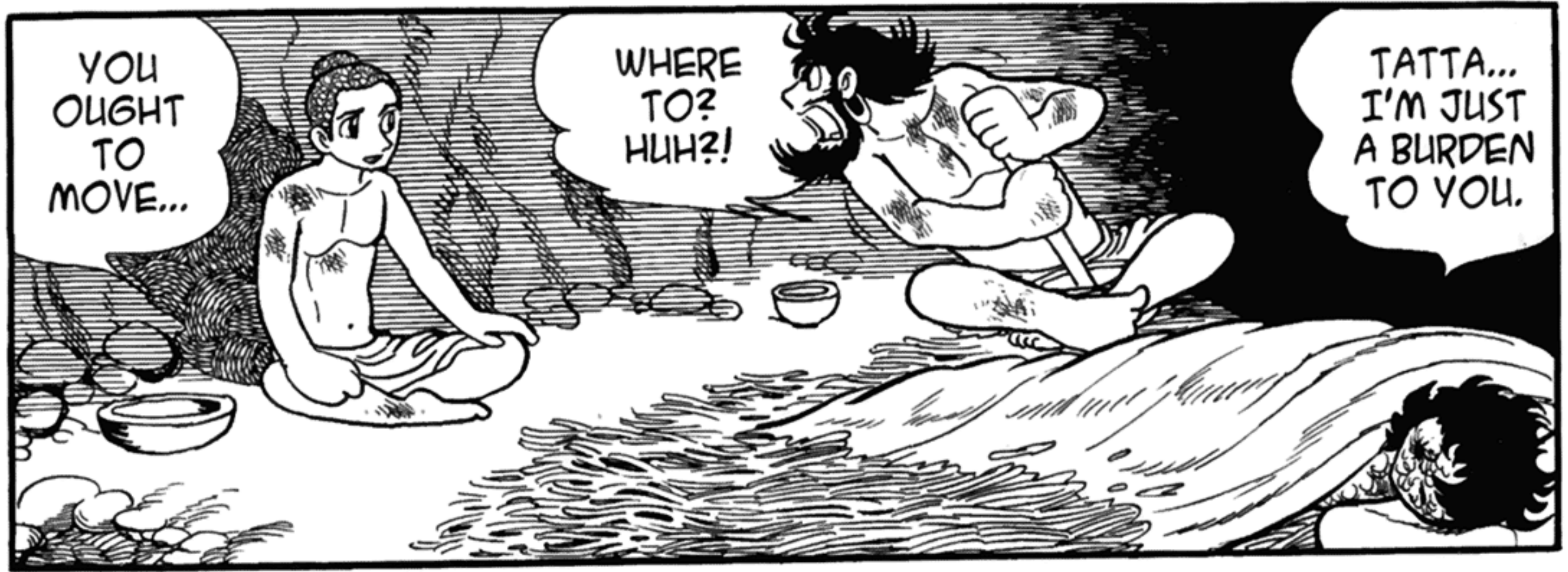


GRIND
GRIND



THEY'RE
ABOUT TO
EXPLODE.

IT'S NOT
SAFE
HERE.



YOU OUGHT TO MOVE...

WHERE TO? HUH?!

TATTA... I'M JUST A BURDEN TO YOU.

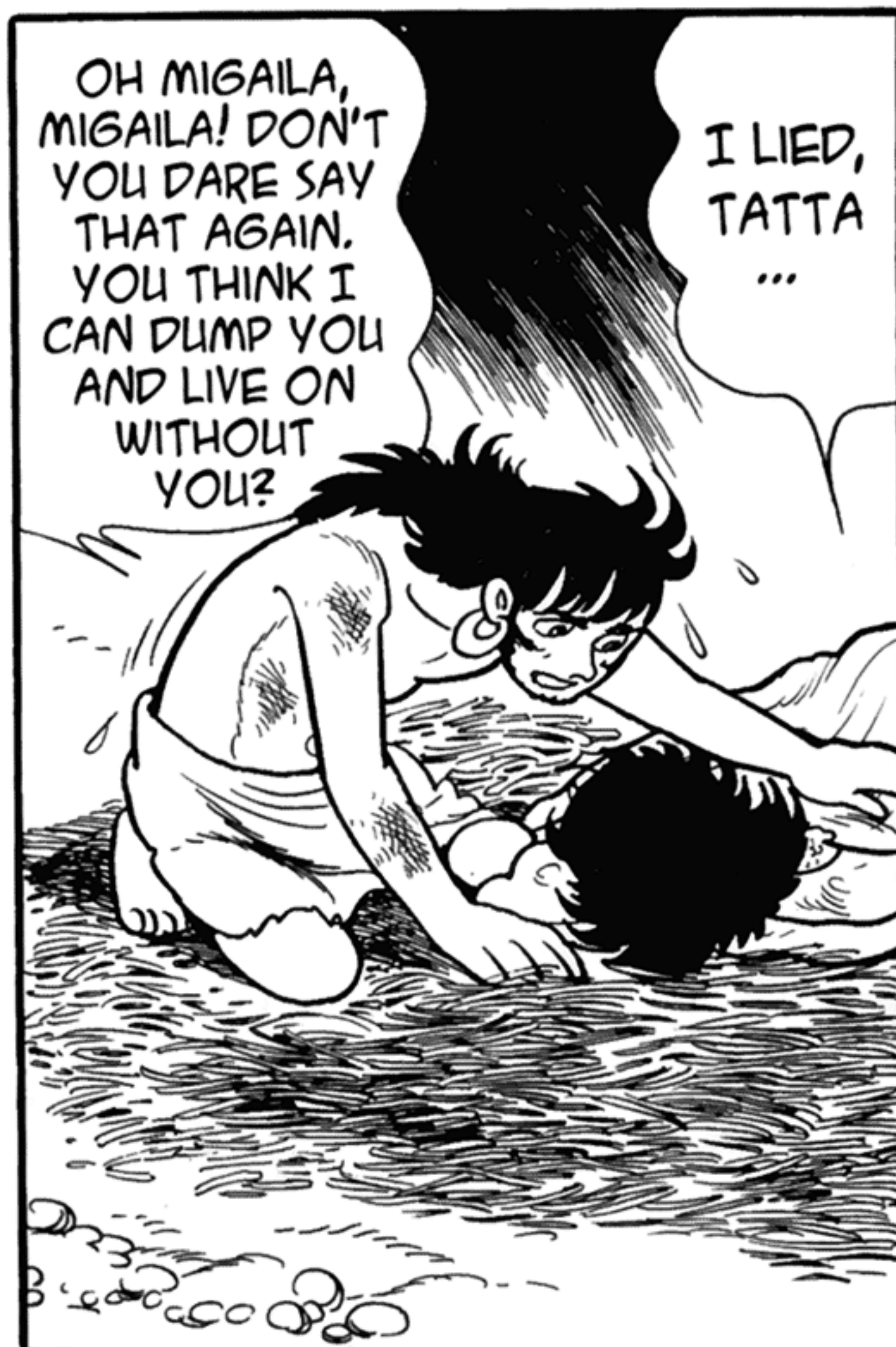


IF ONLY I WAS GONE, YOU'D BE FREE.

HURRY AND KILL ME... AND YOU'LL BE FREE AS A BIRD.



MIGAILA, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!



OH MIGAILA, MIGAILA! DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT AGAIN. YOU THINK I CAN DUMP YOU AND LIVE ON WITHOUT YOU?

I LIED, TATTA ...

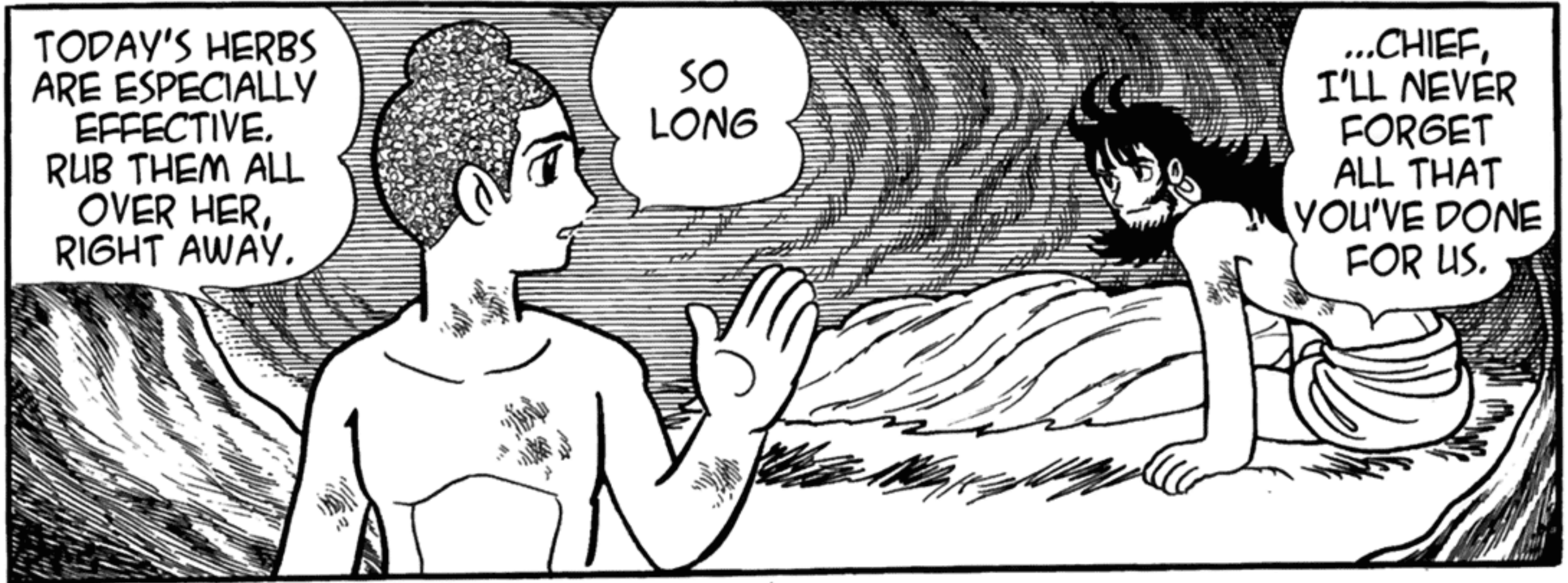


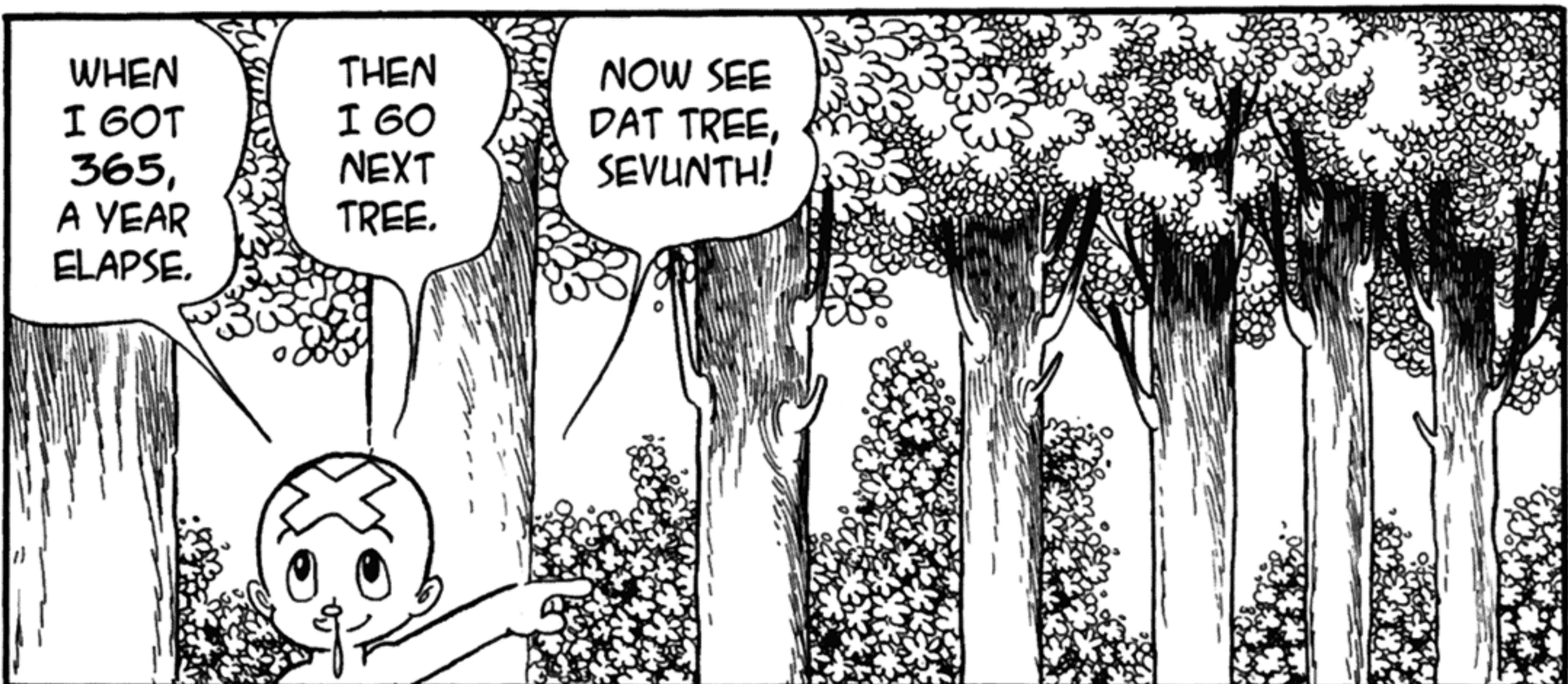
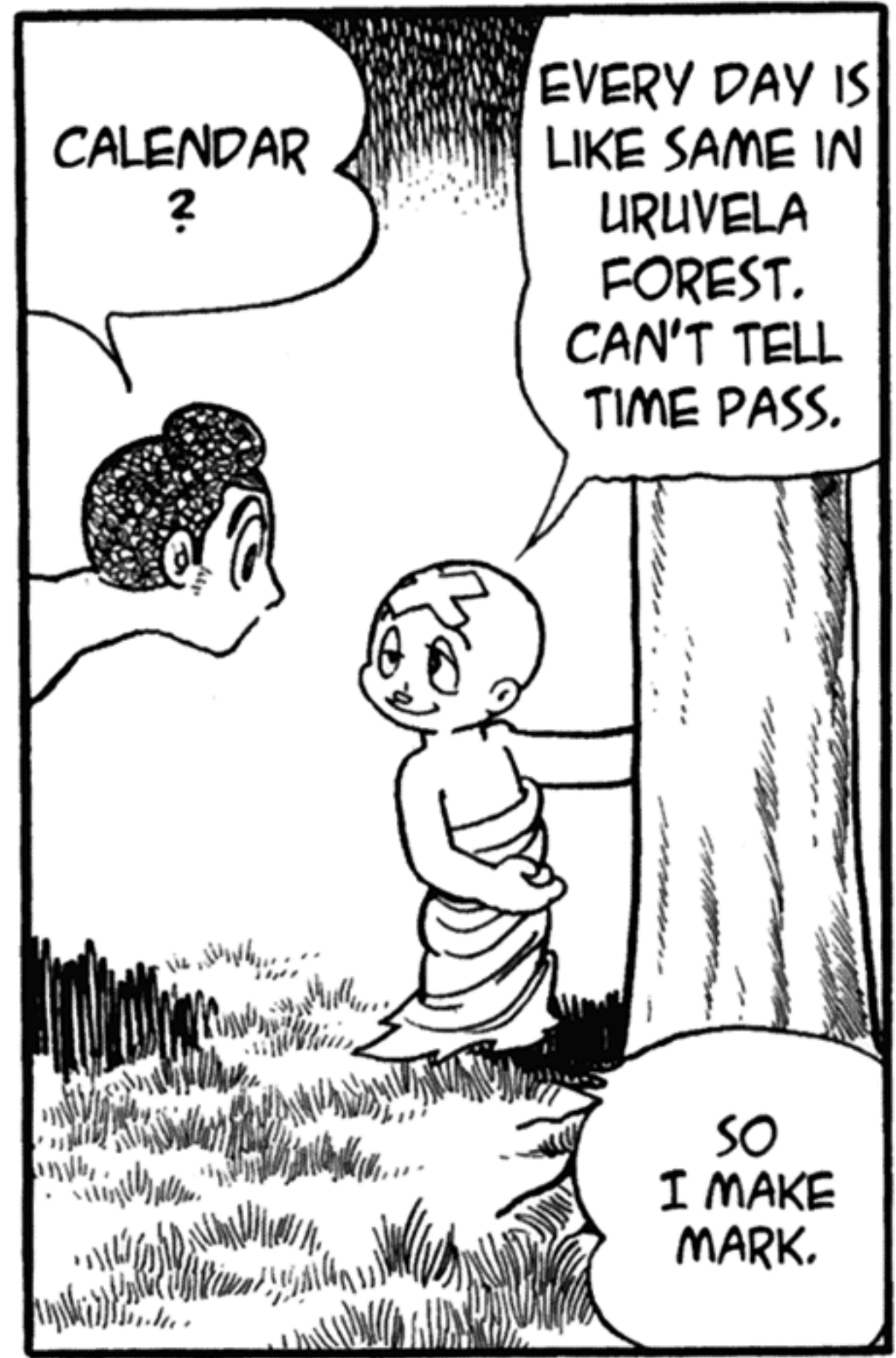
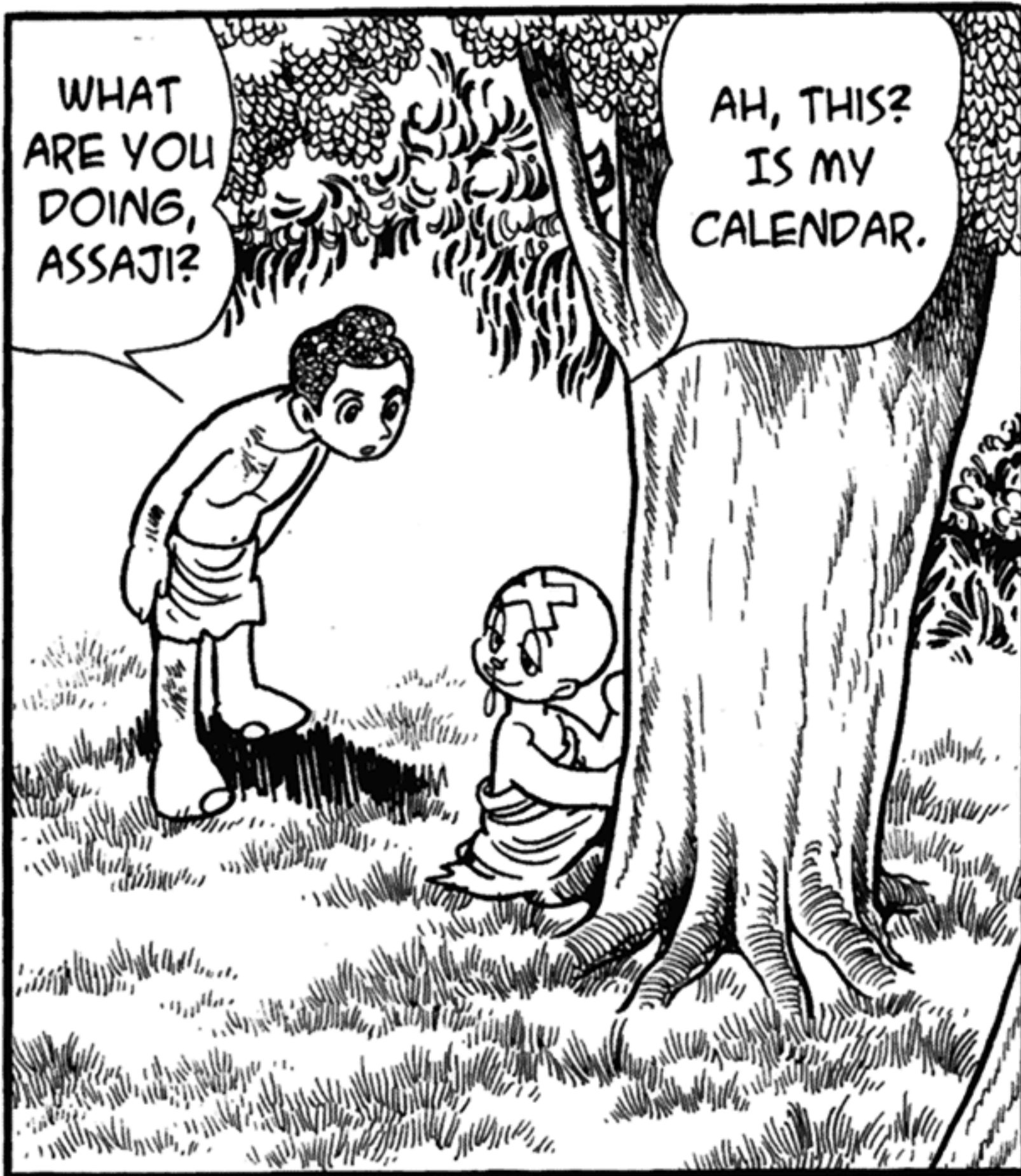
THIS DISEASE OF MINE IS JUST GETTING WORSE... IT'S LIKE I'M BEYOND SAVING.



PLEASE DON'T LOSE HEART...

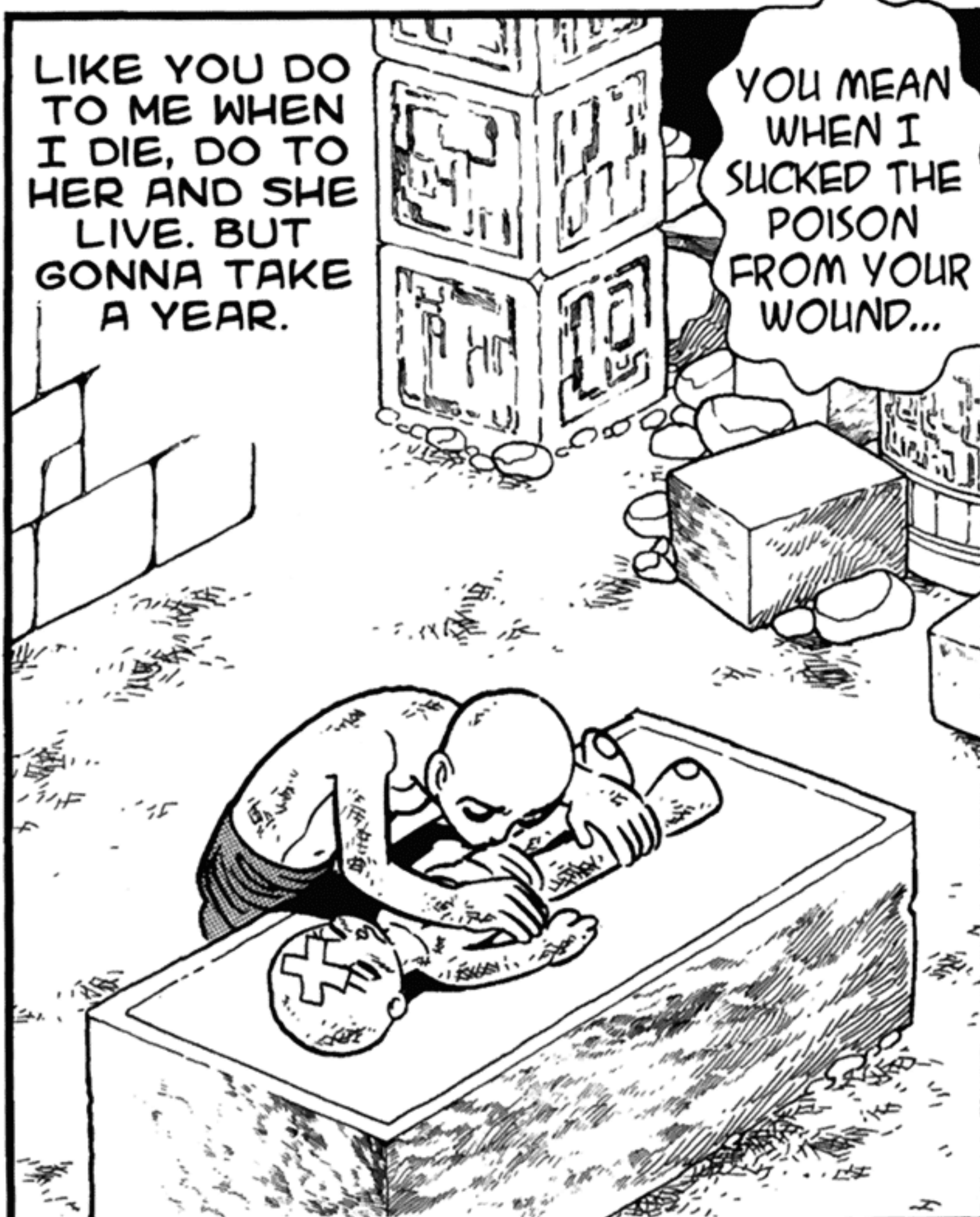
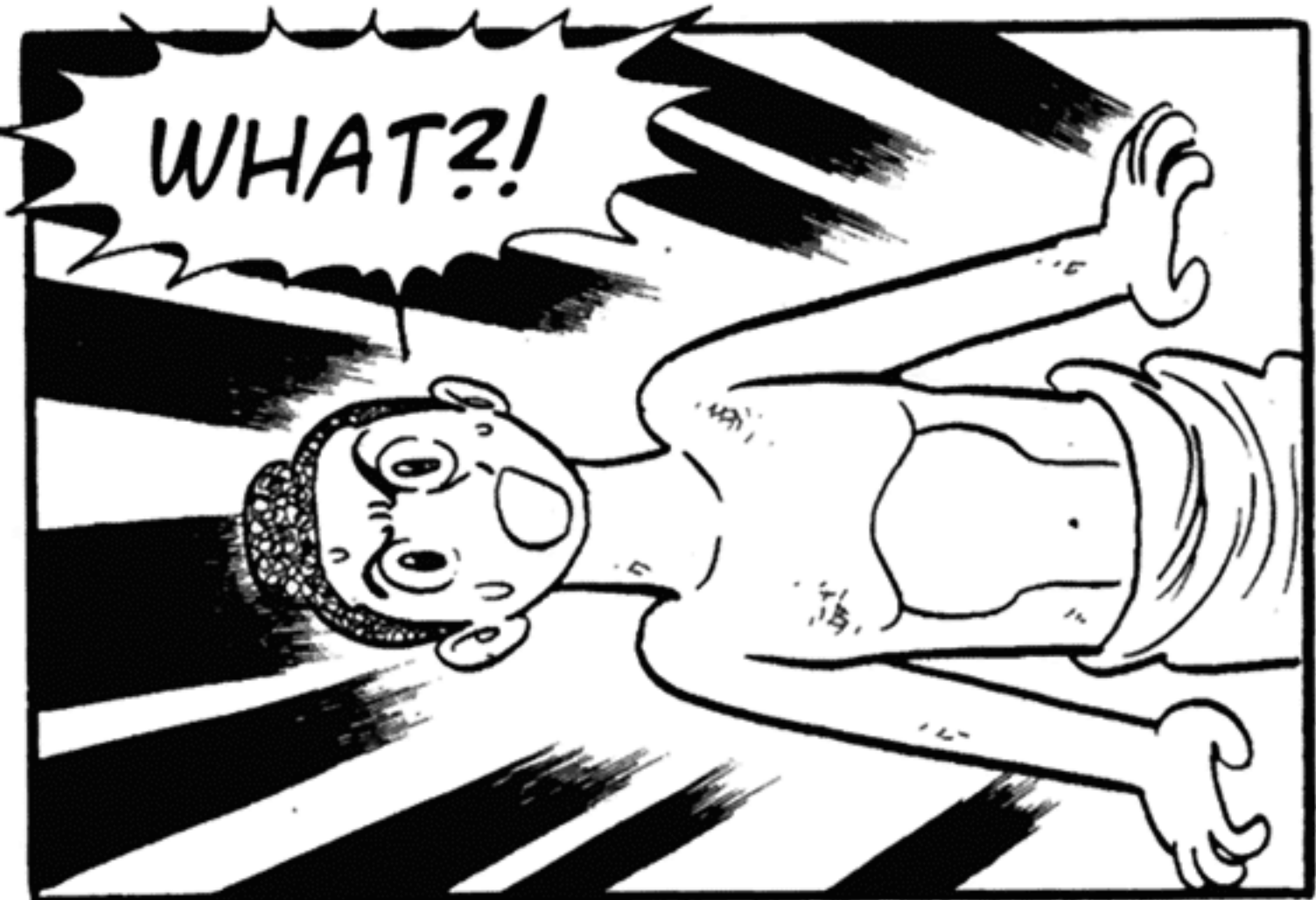
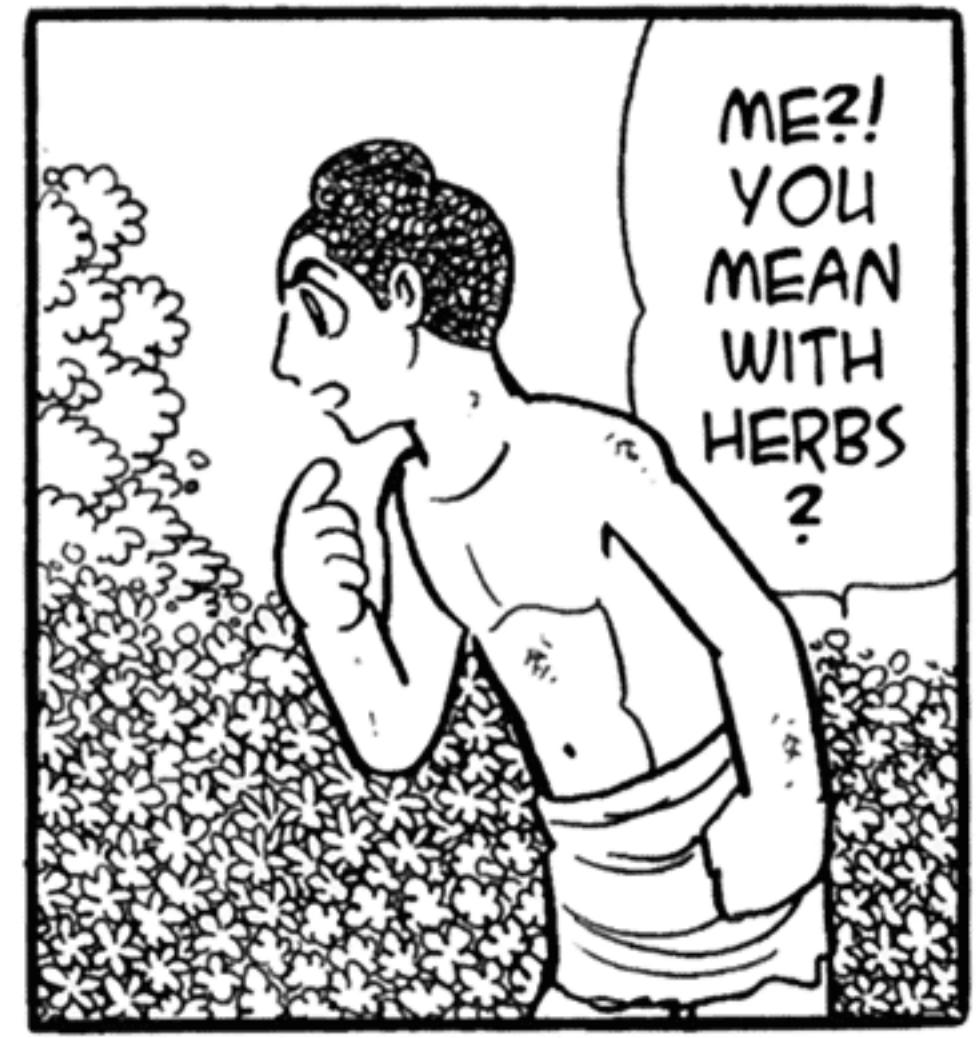
YOU, I MUST SAVE-- AND I WILL!!

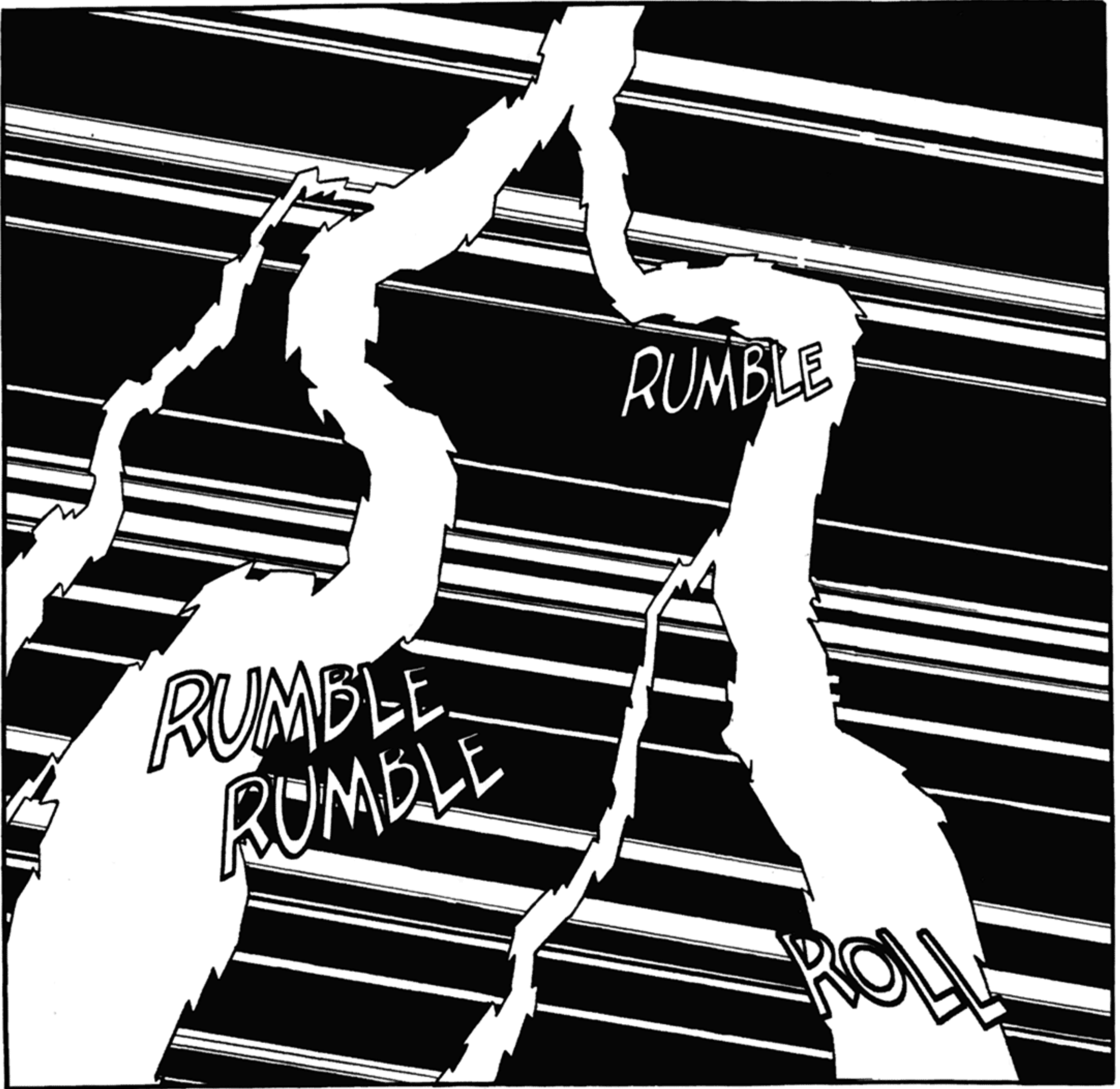


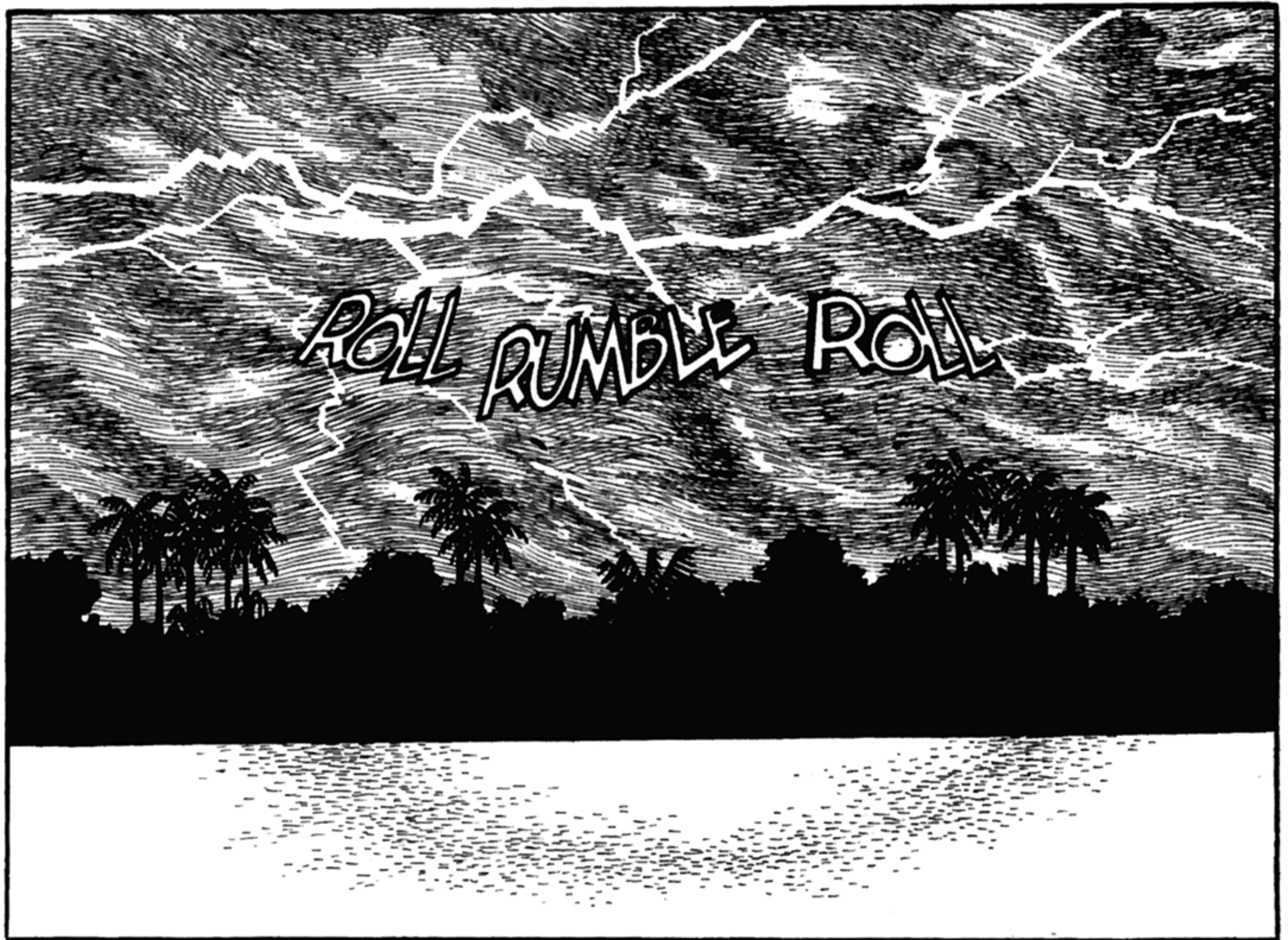


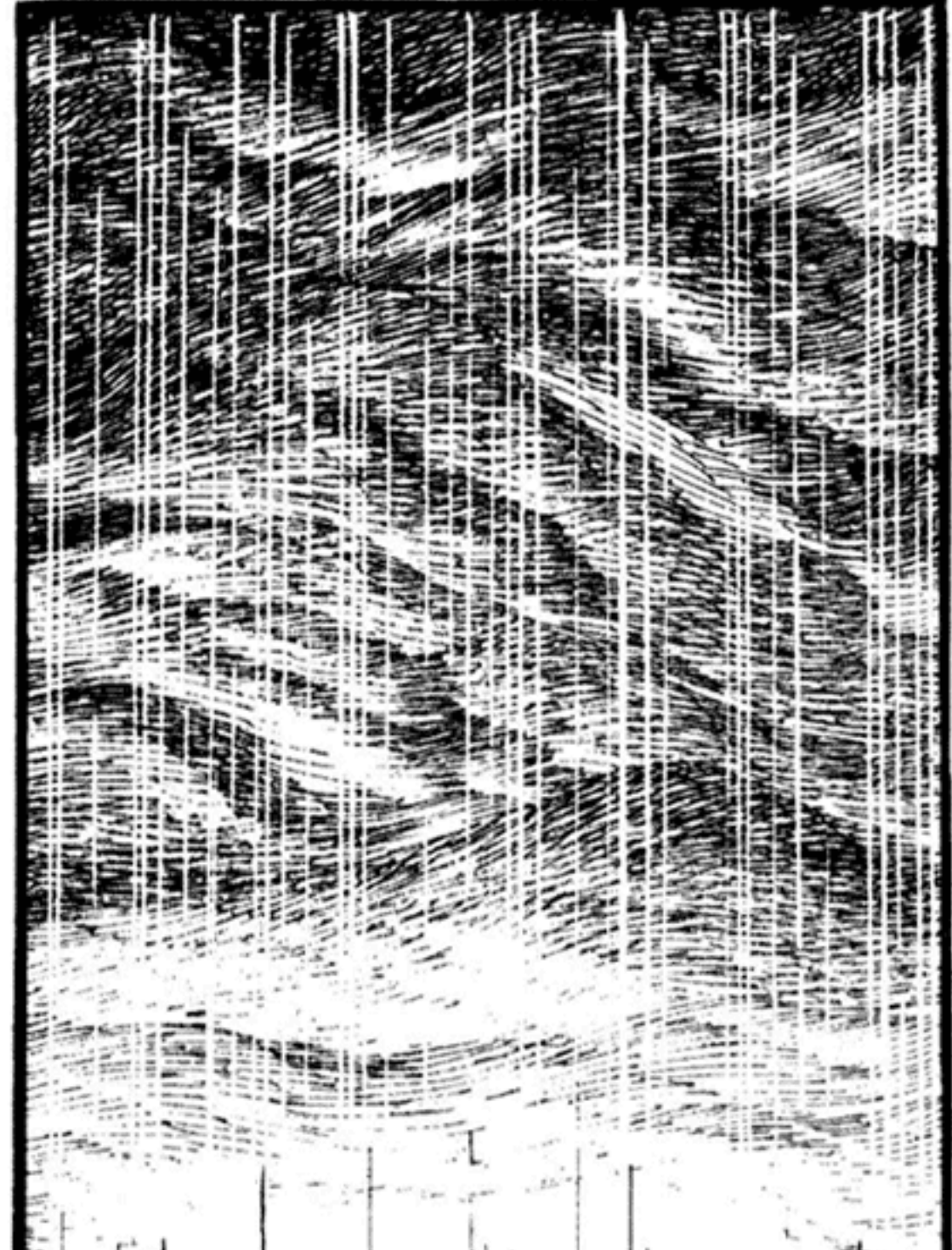








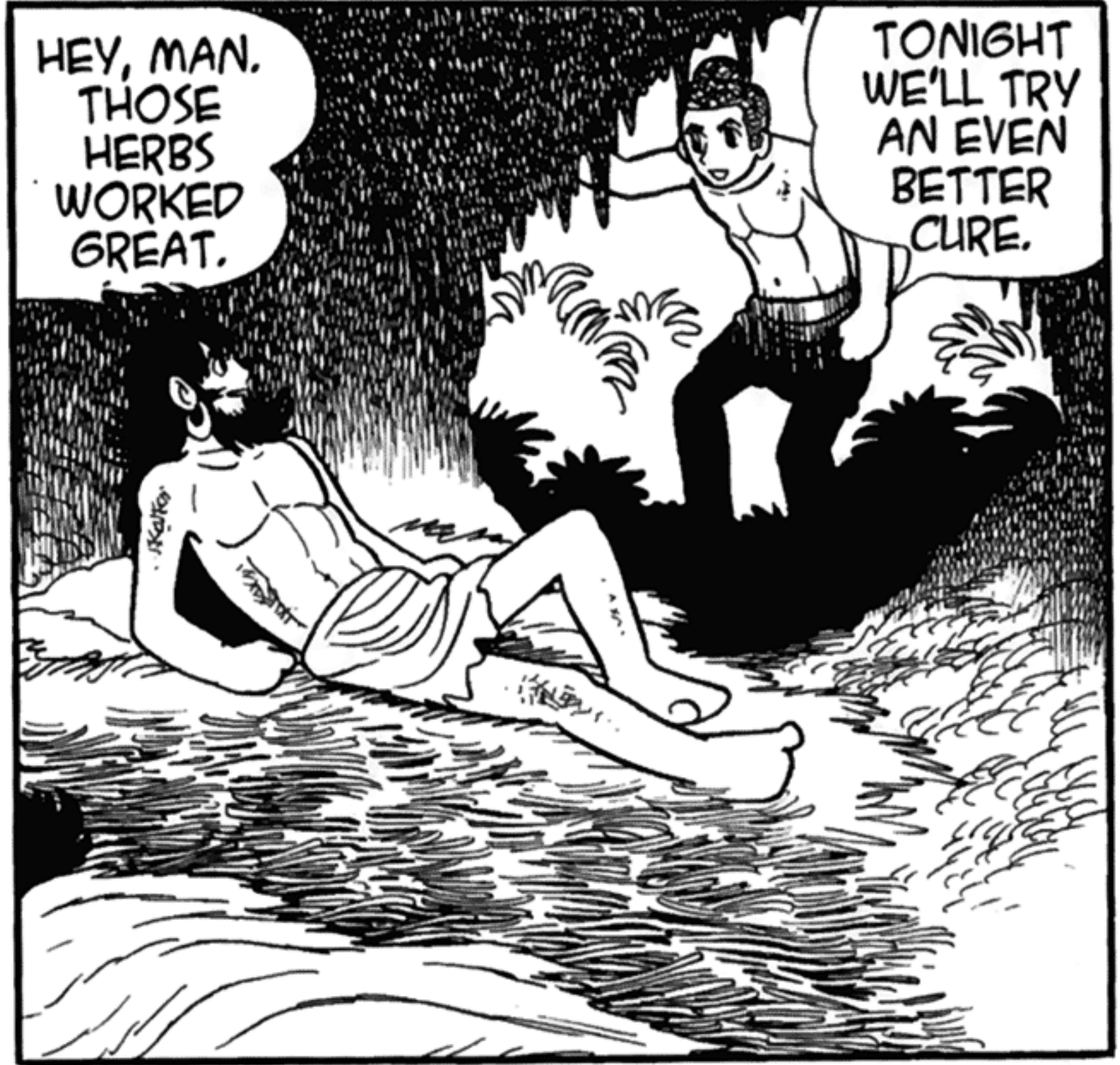


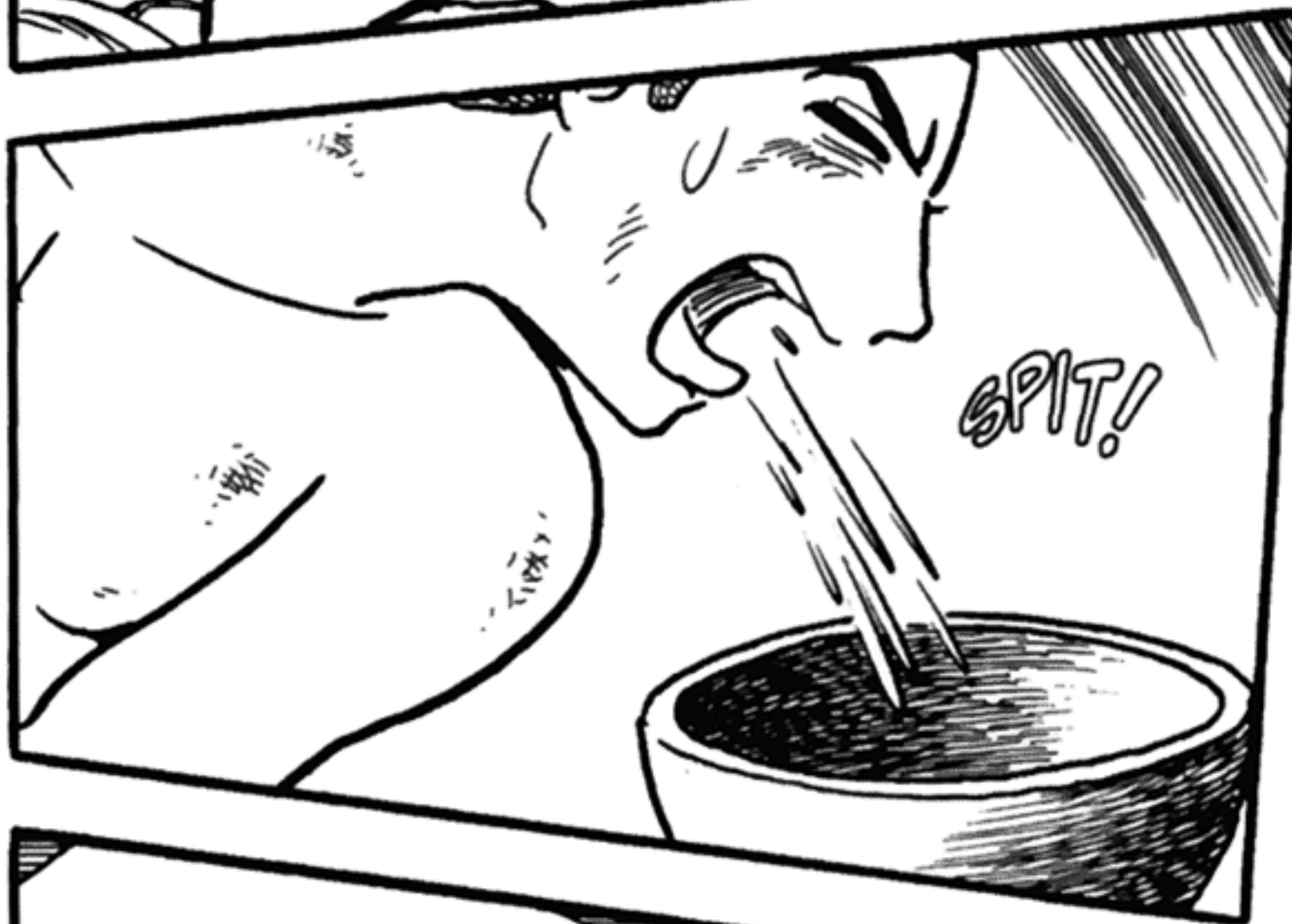
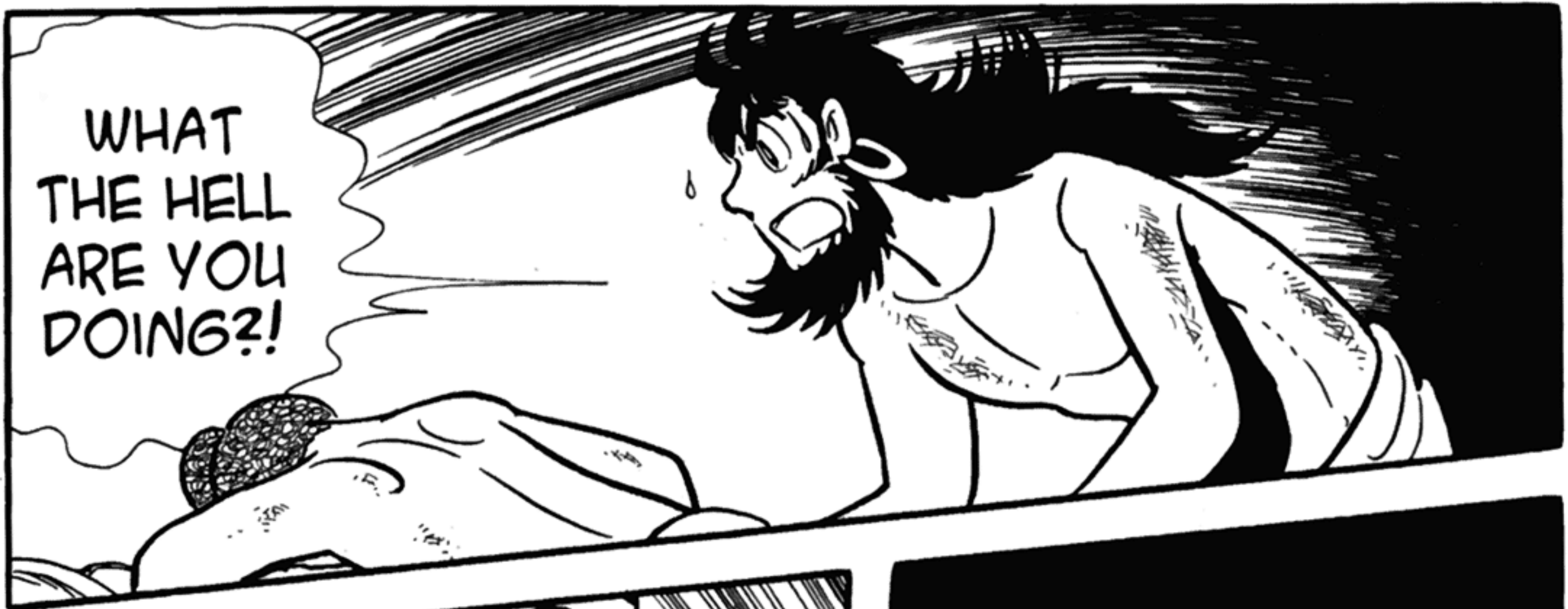
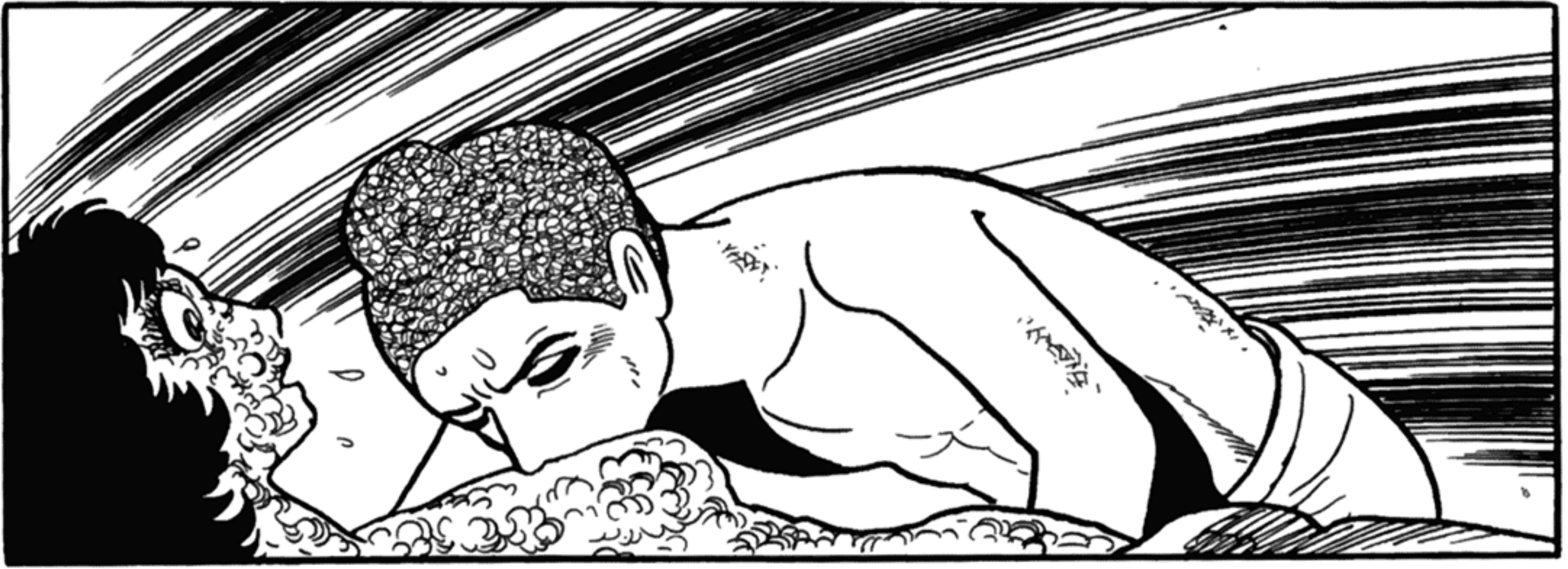


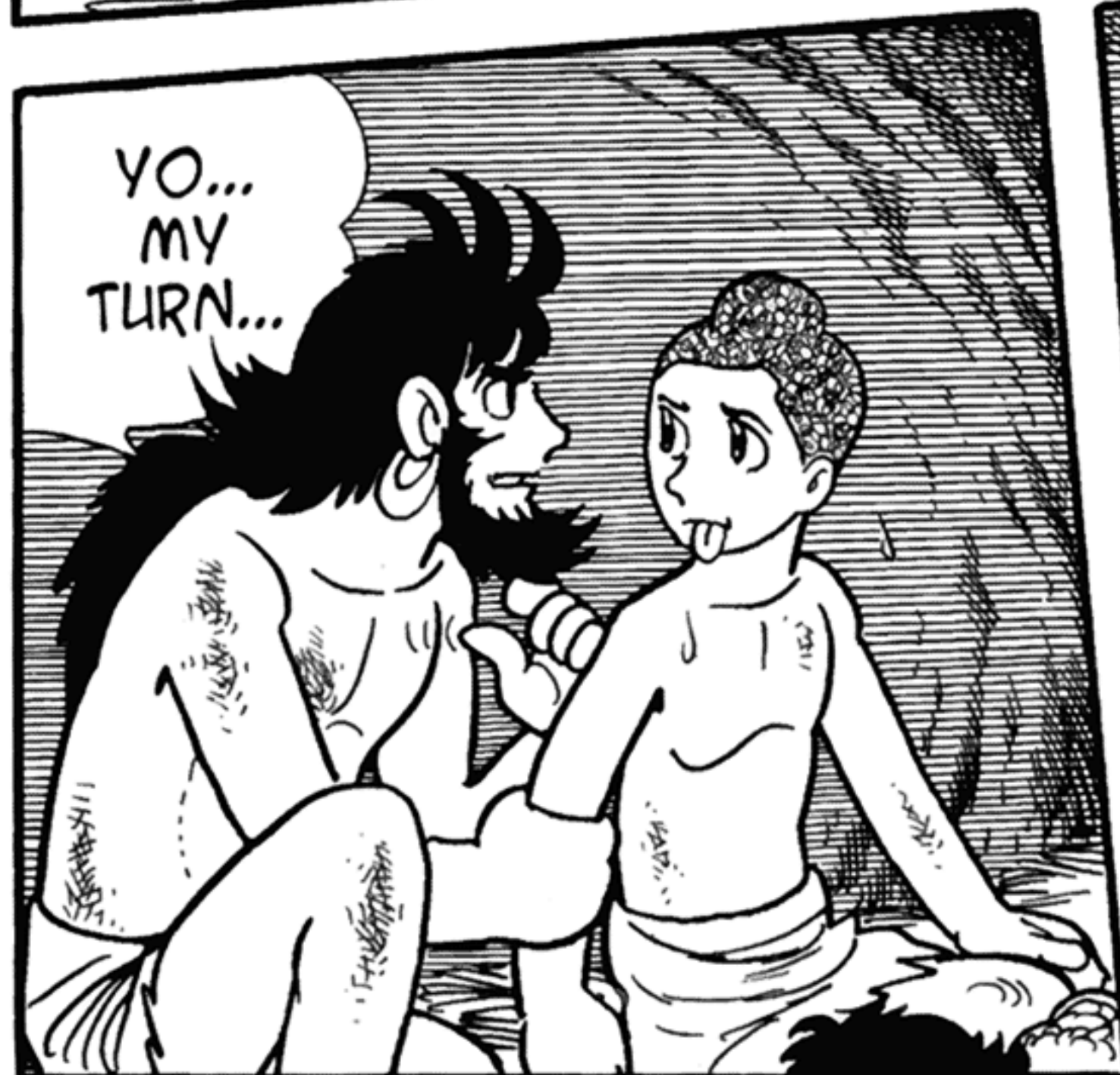
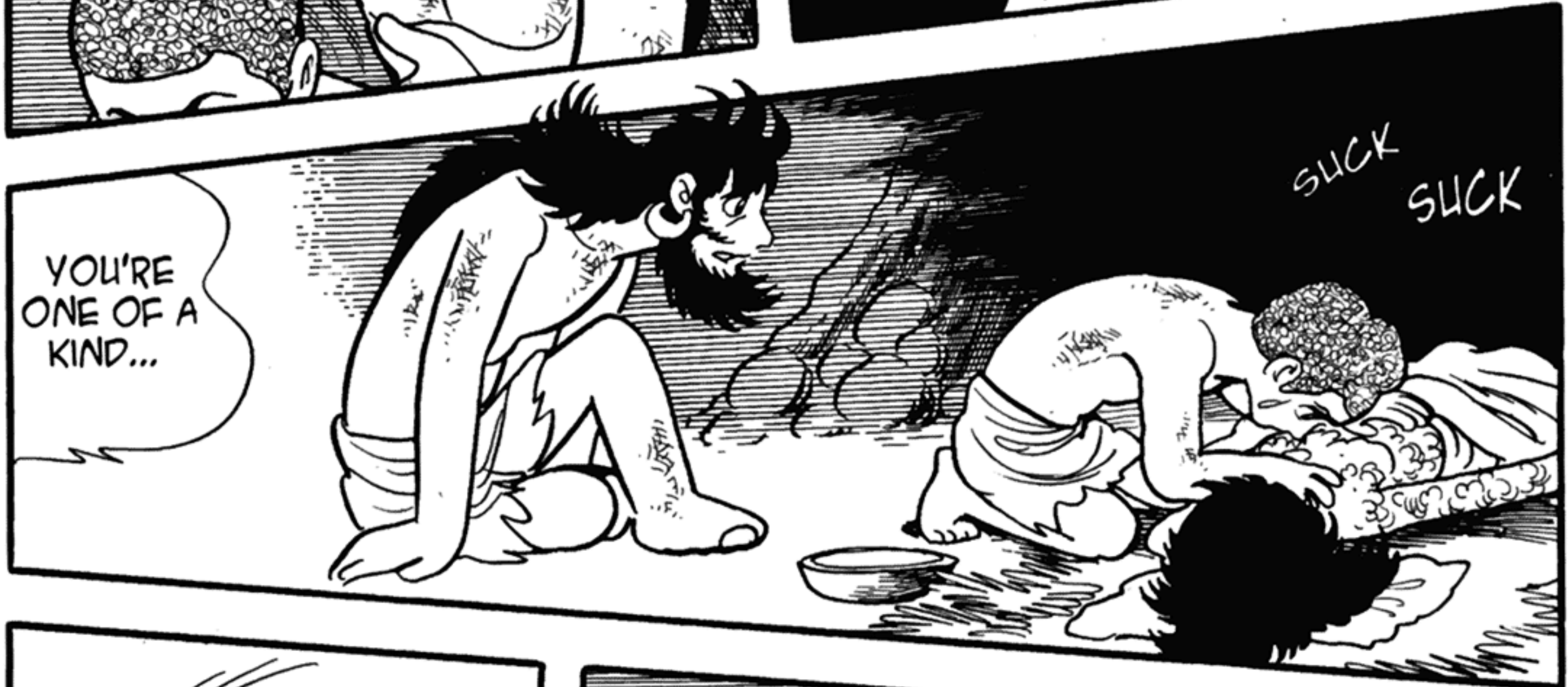
ALMIGHTY
GOD, IF IT IS
THE ONLY WAY,
THEN I SHALL
WALK IT!!

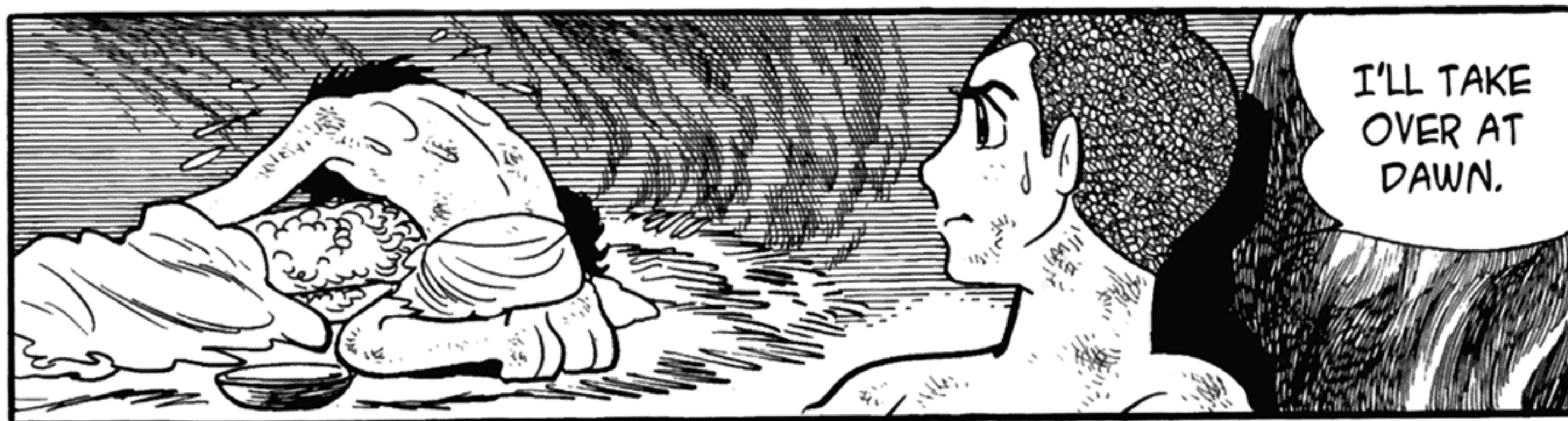


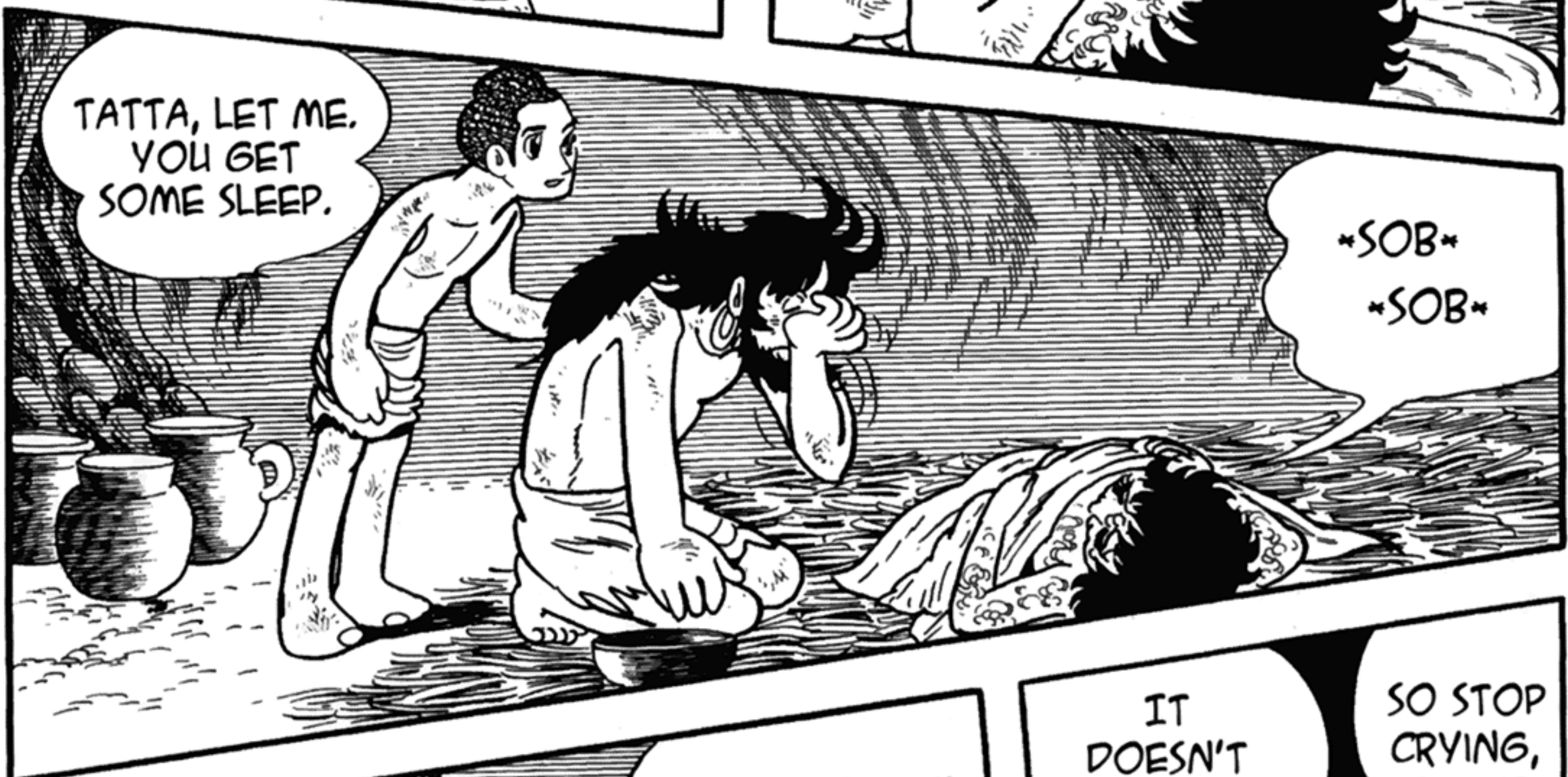
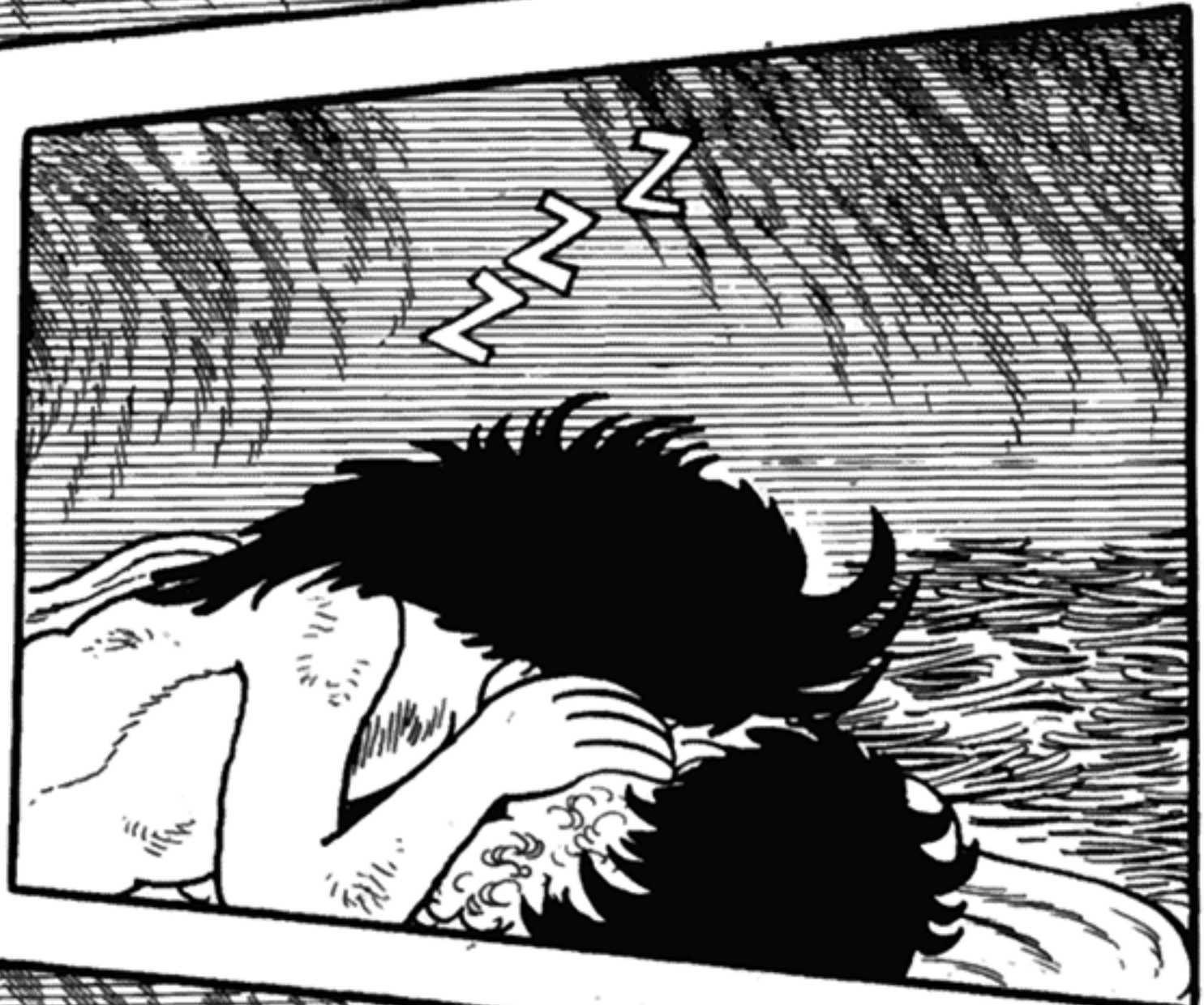
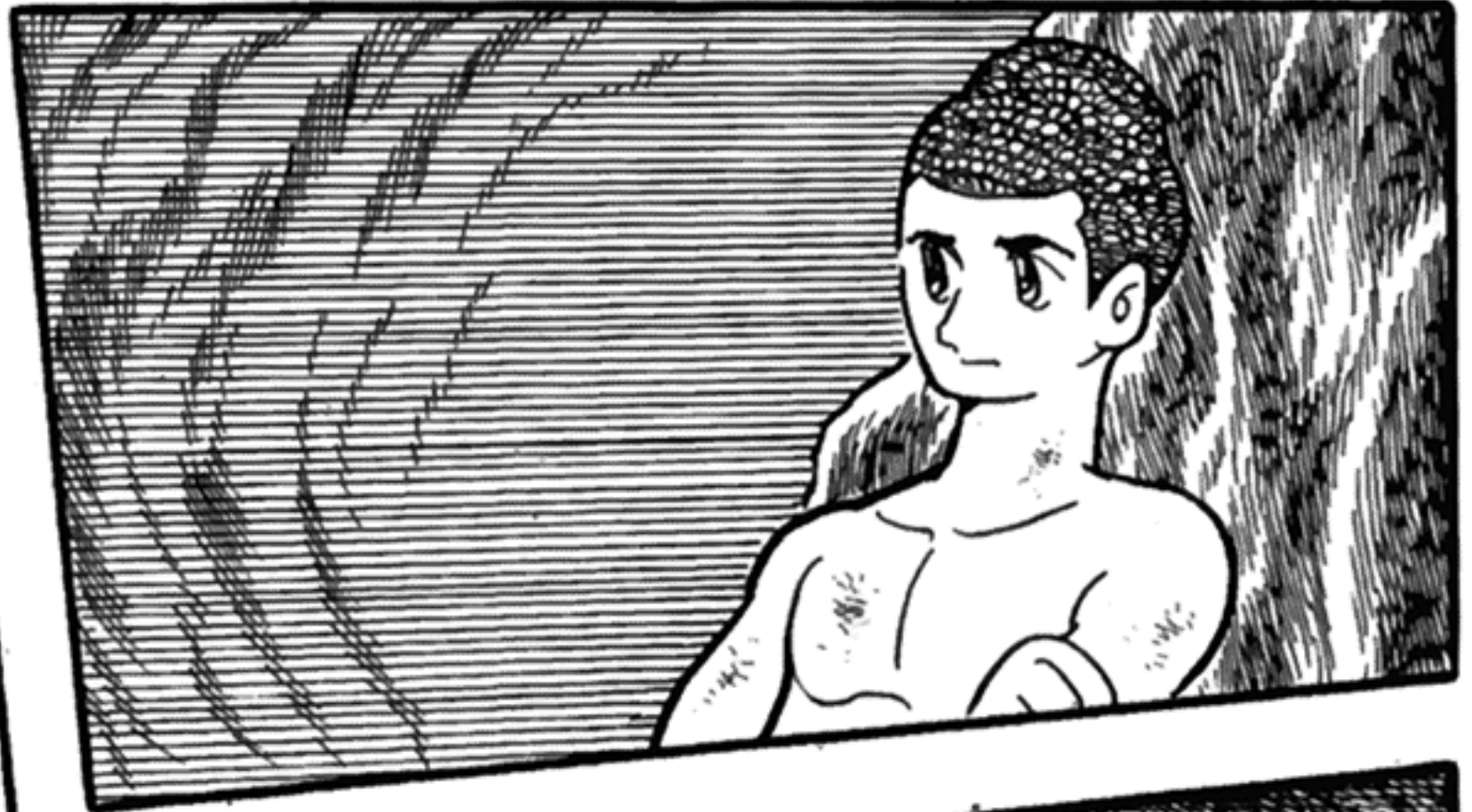
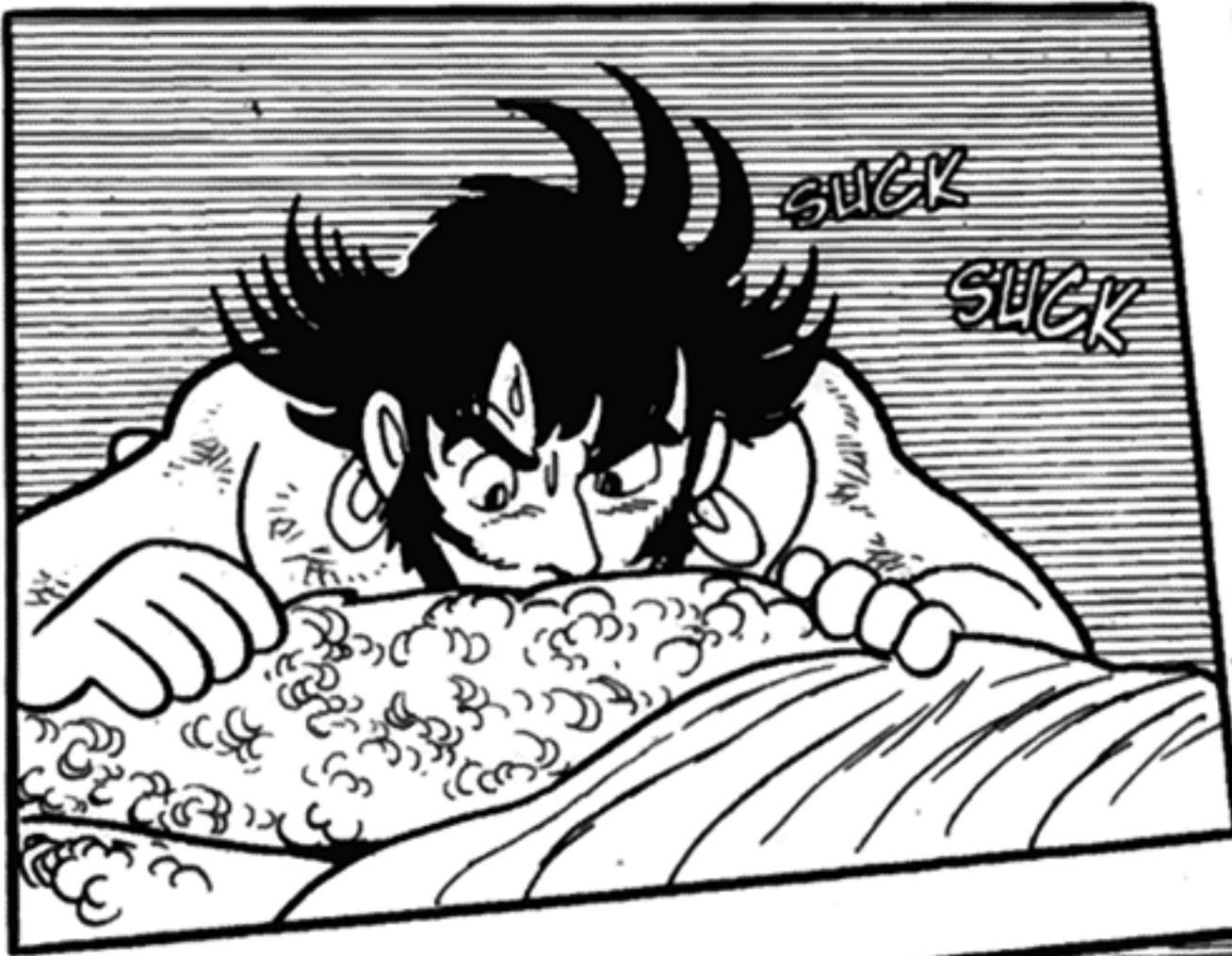


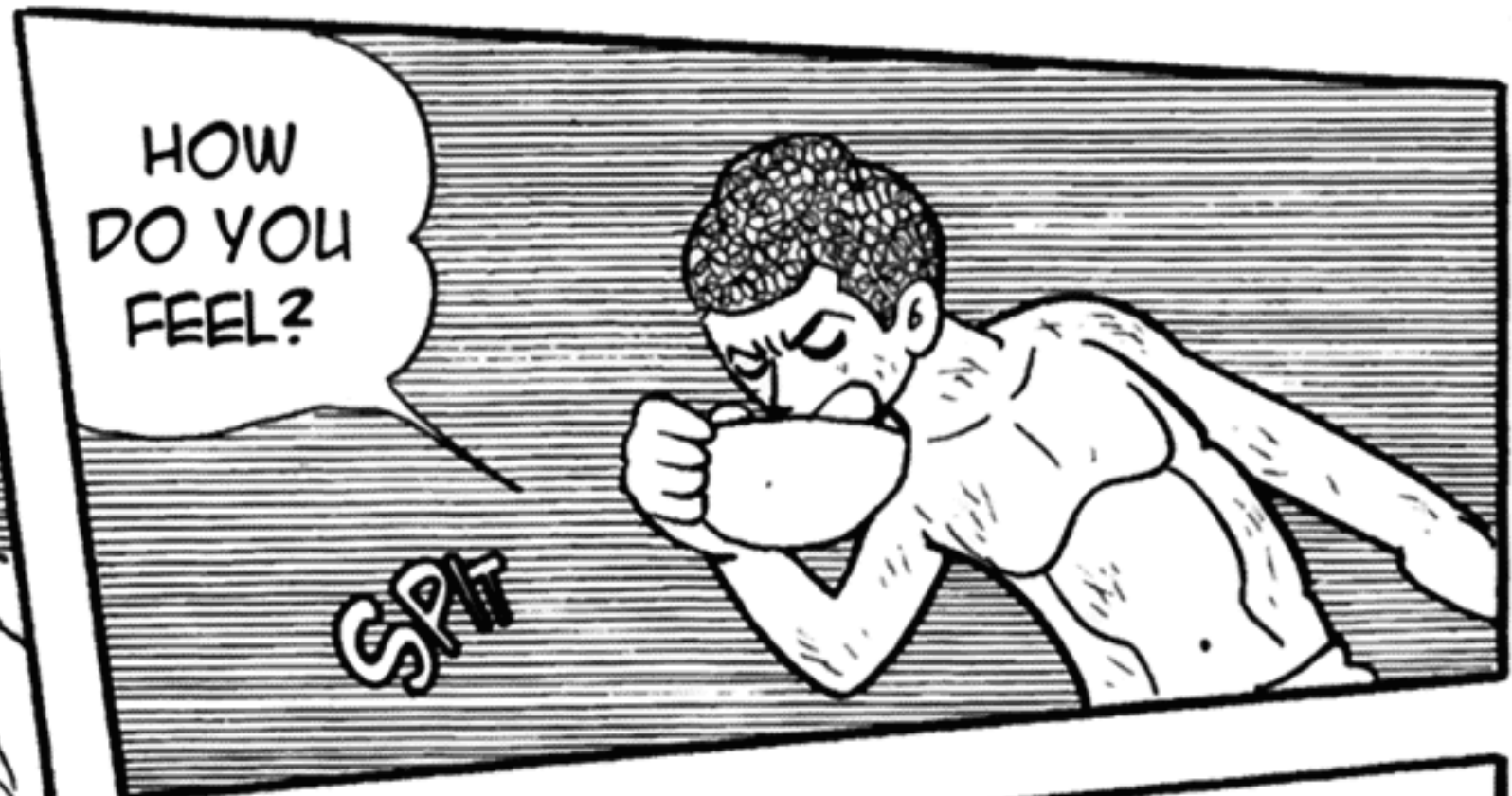


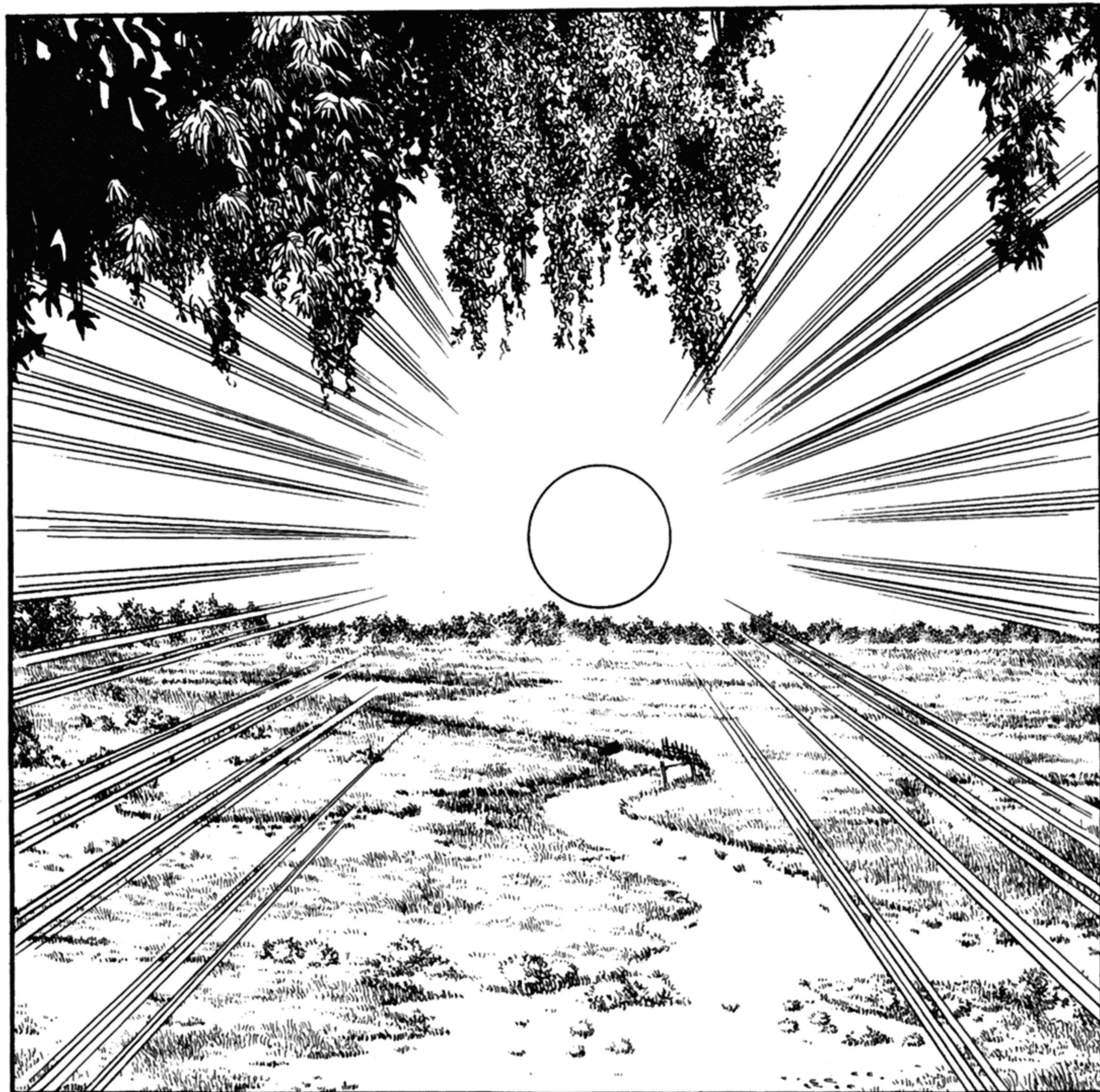






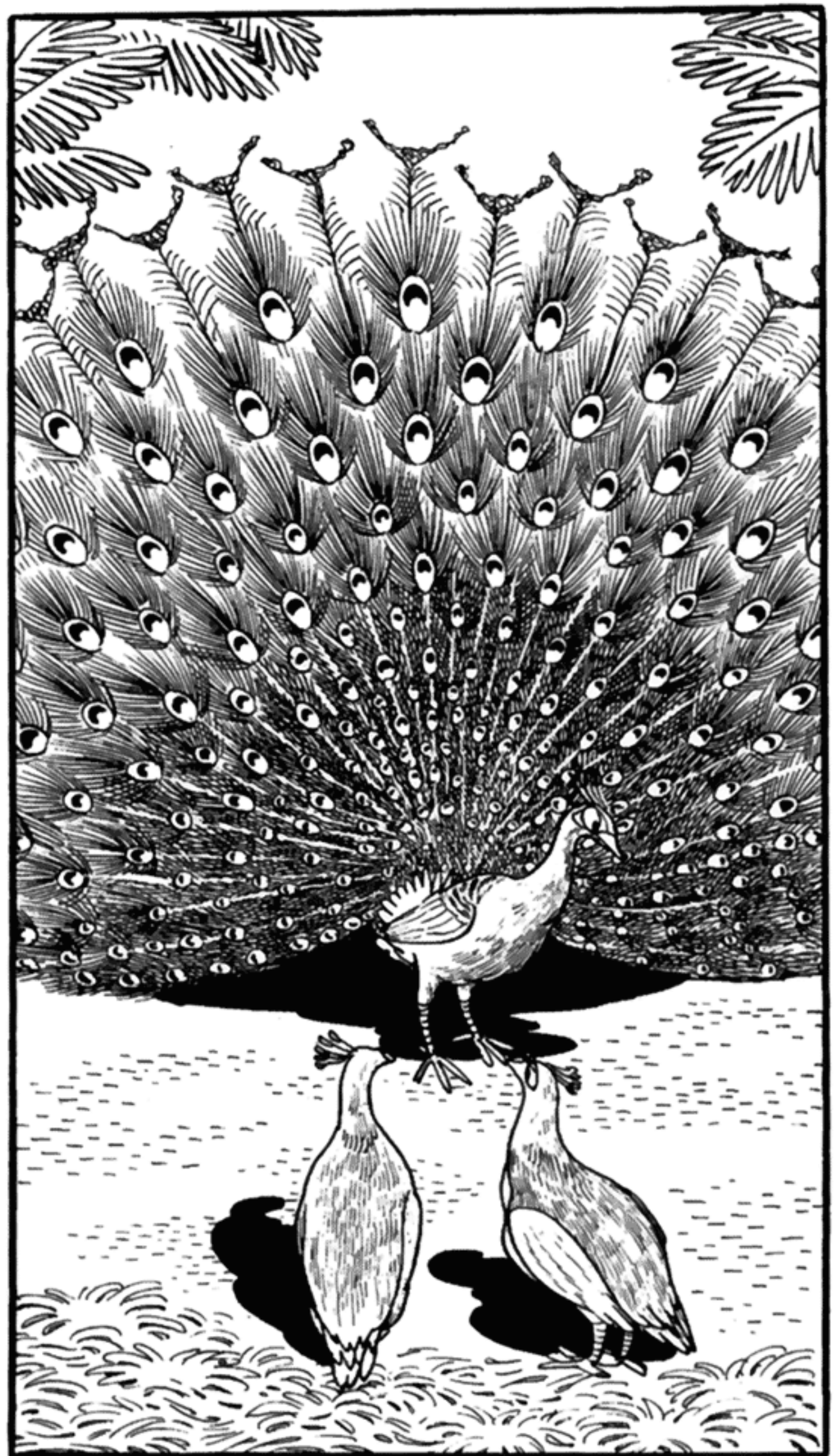
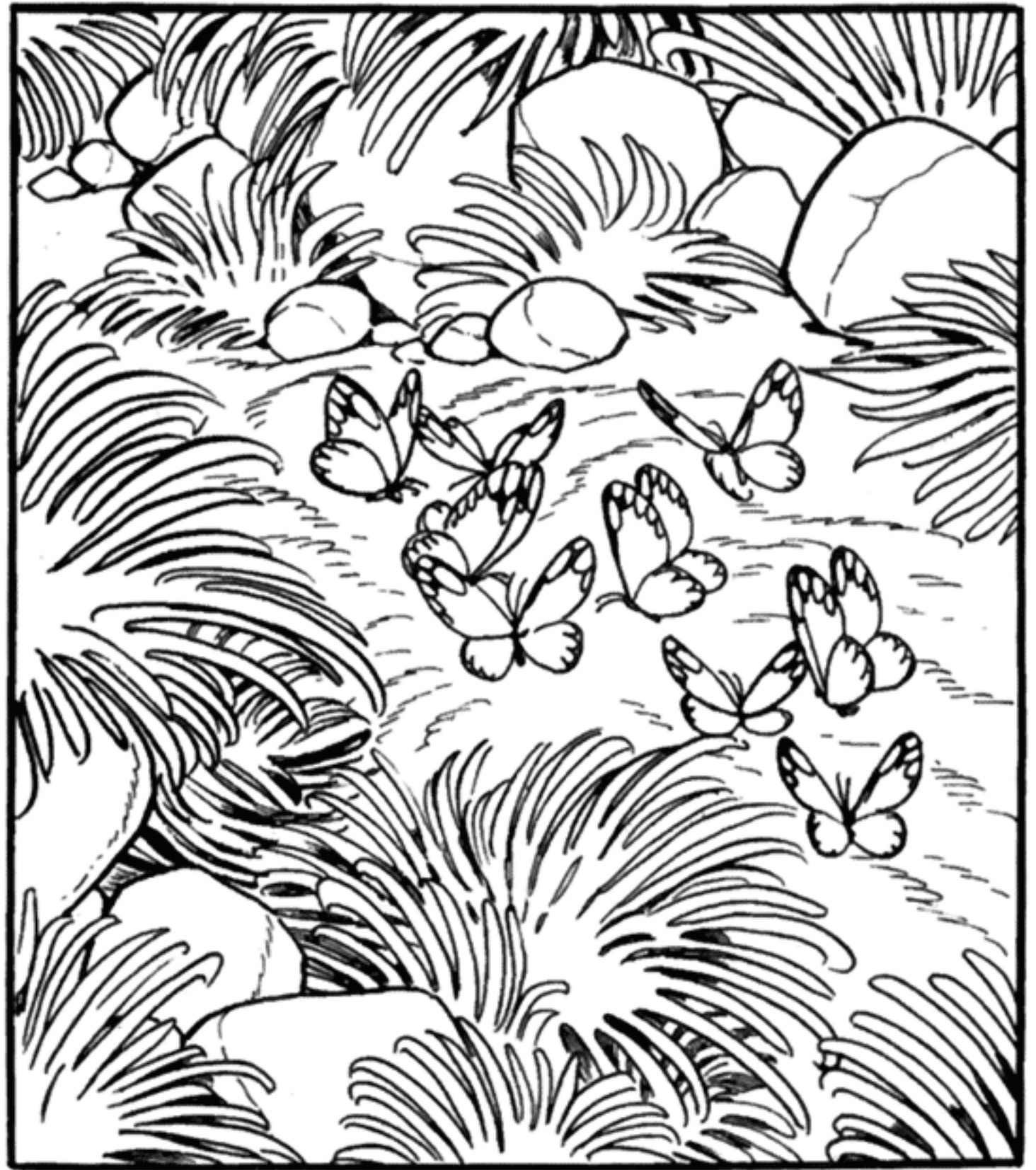


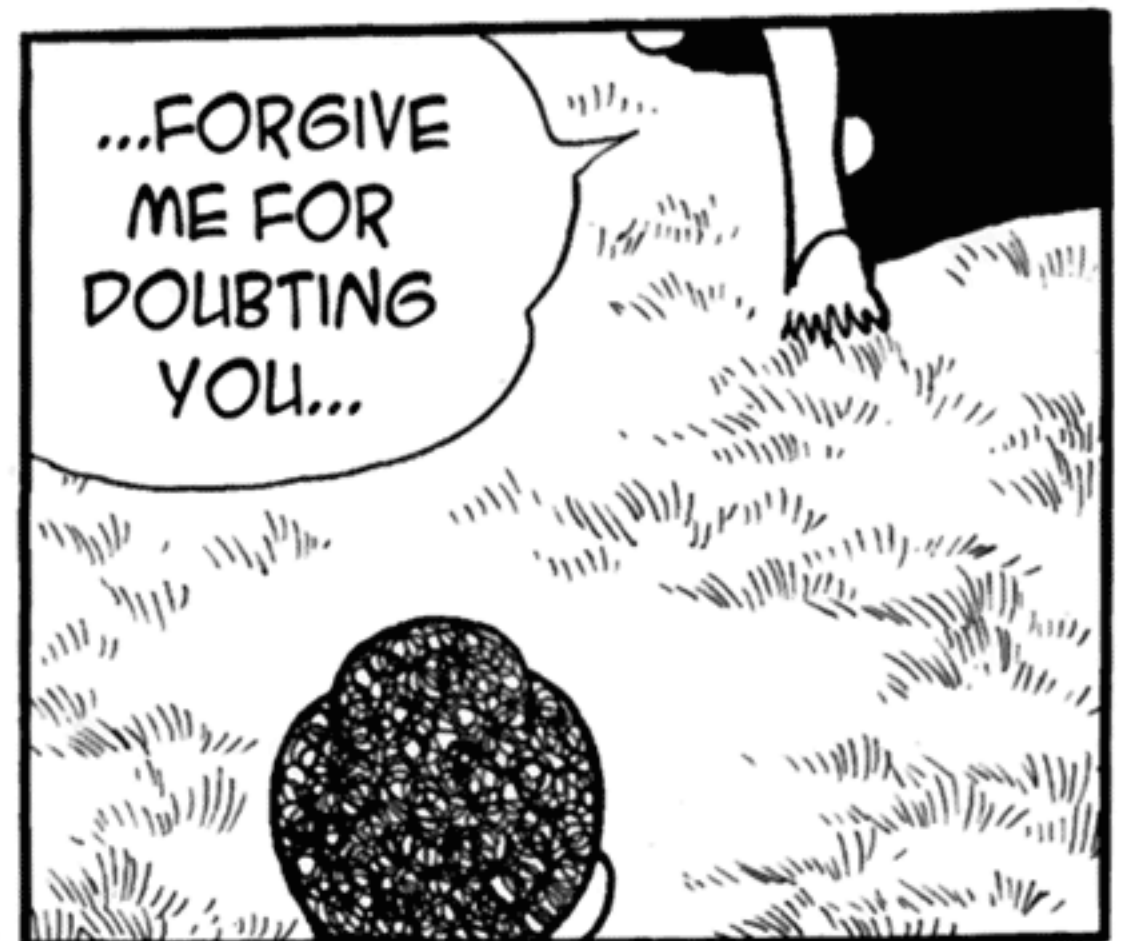
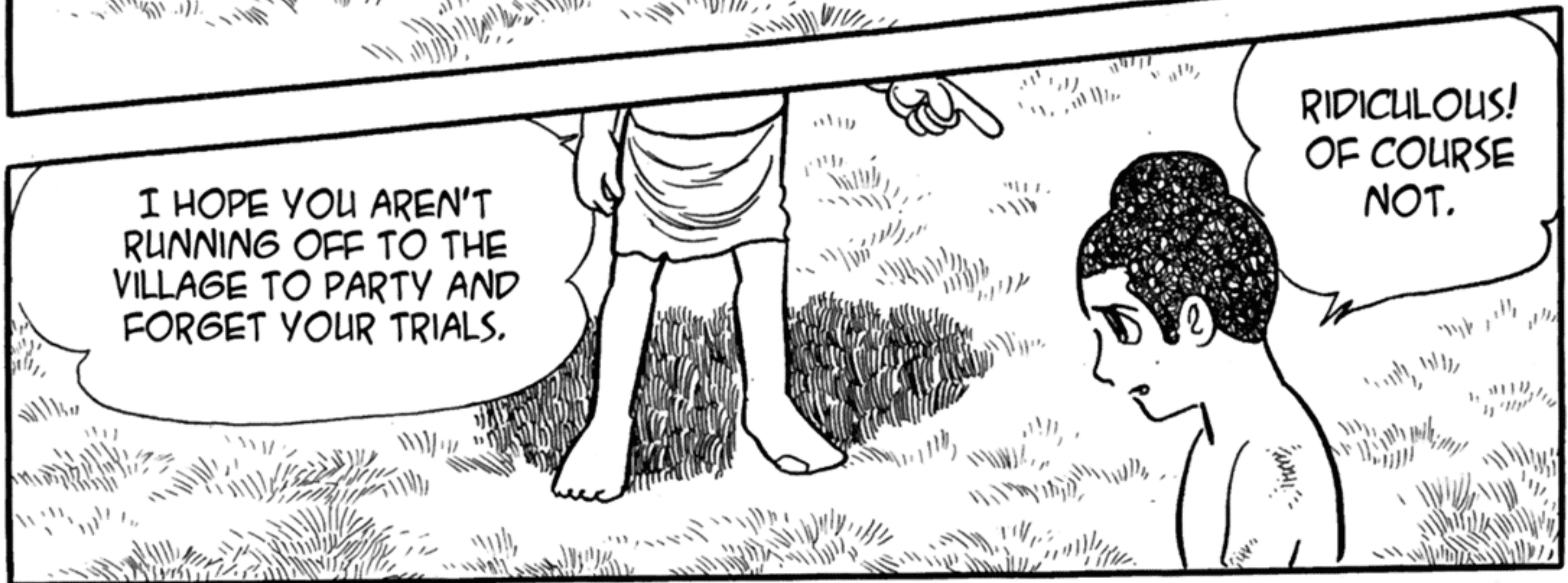
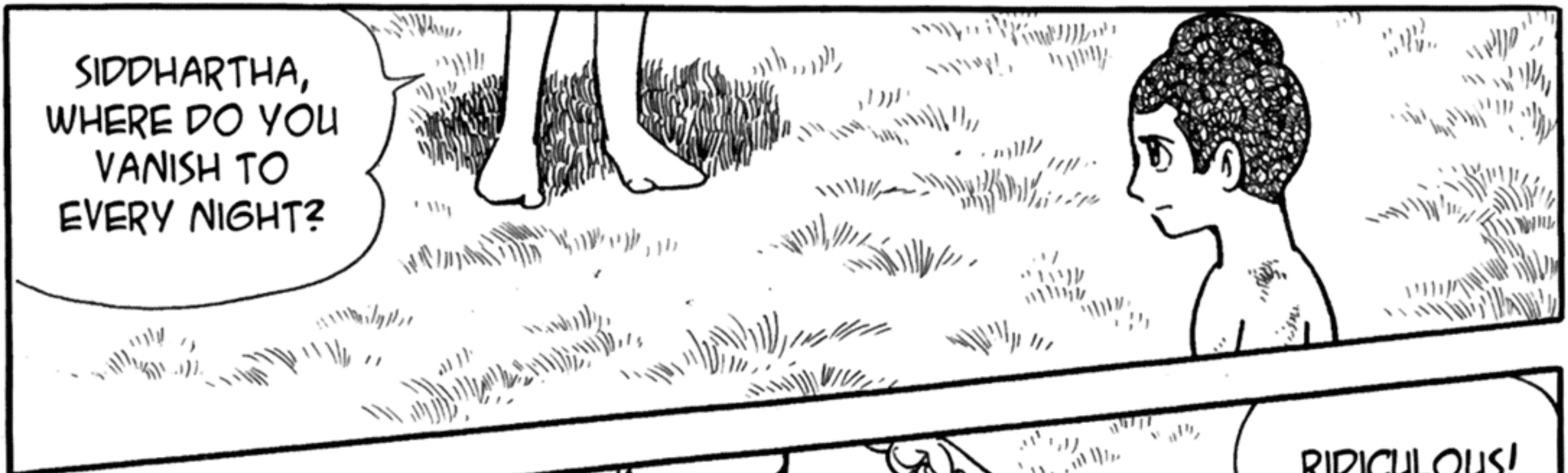


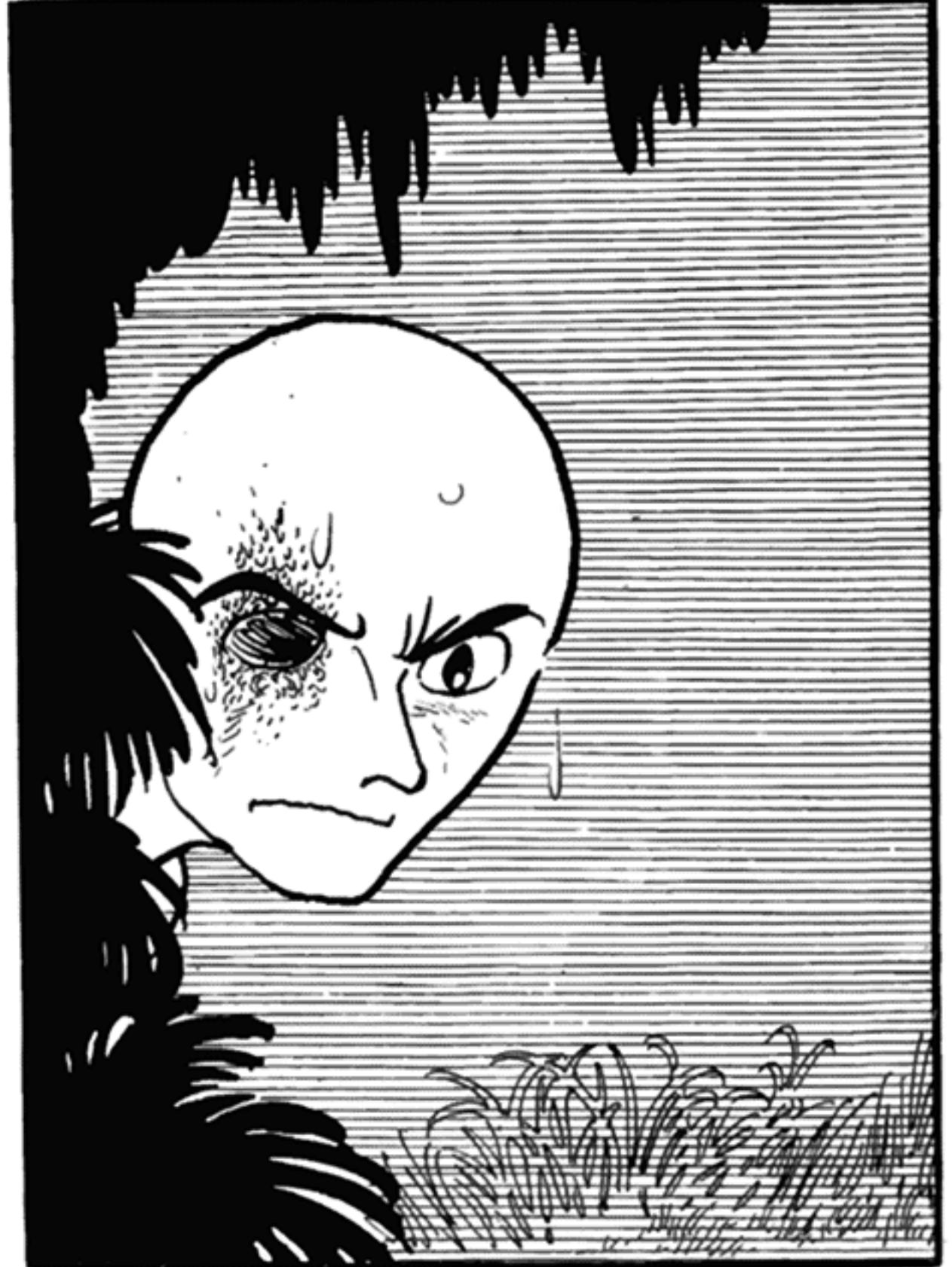


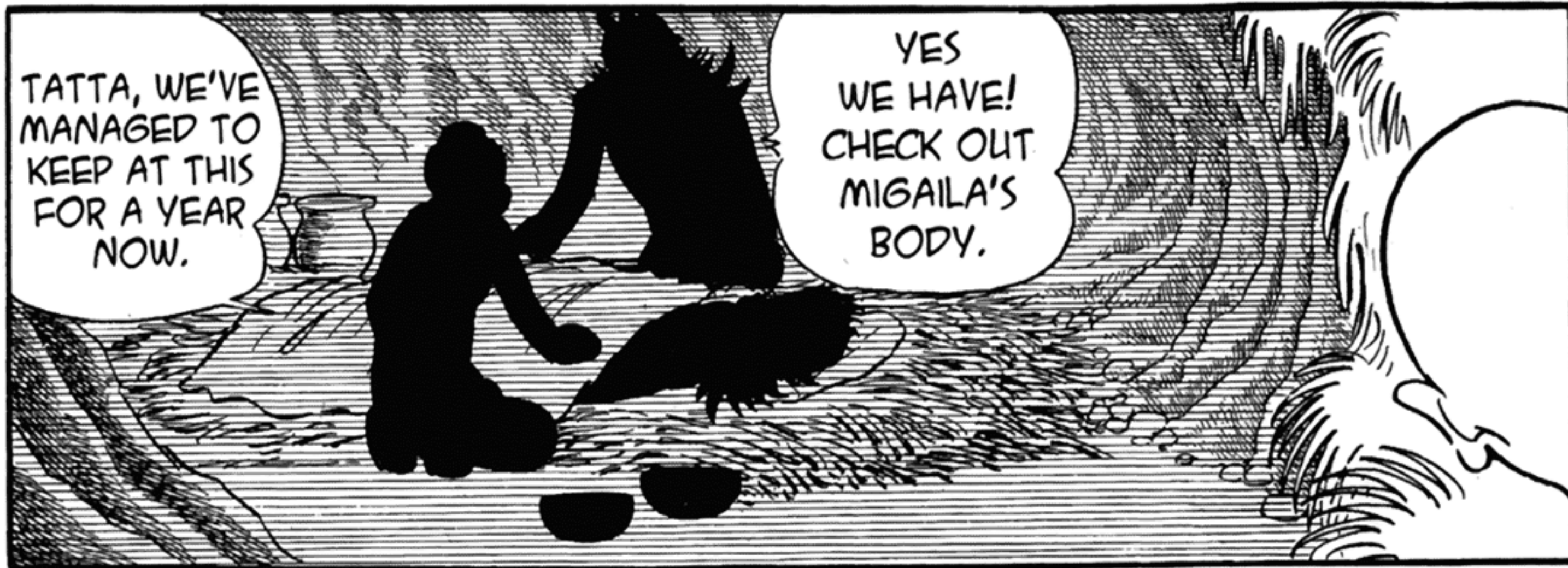
CHAPTER SEVEN

CHASTISED







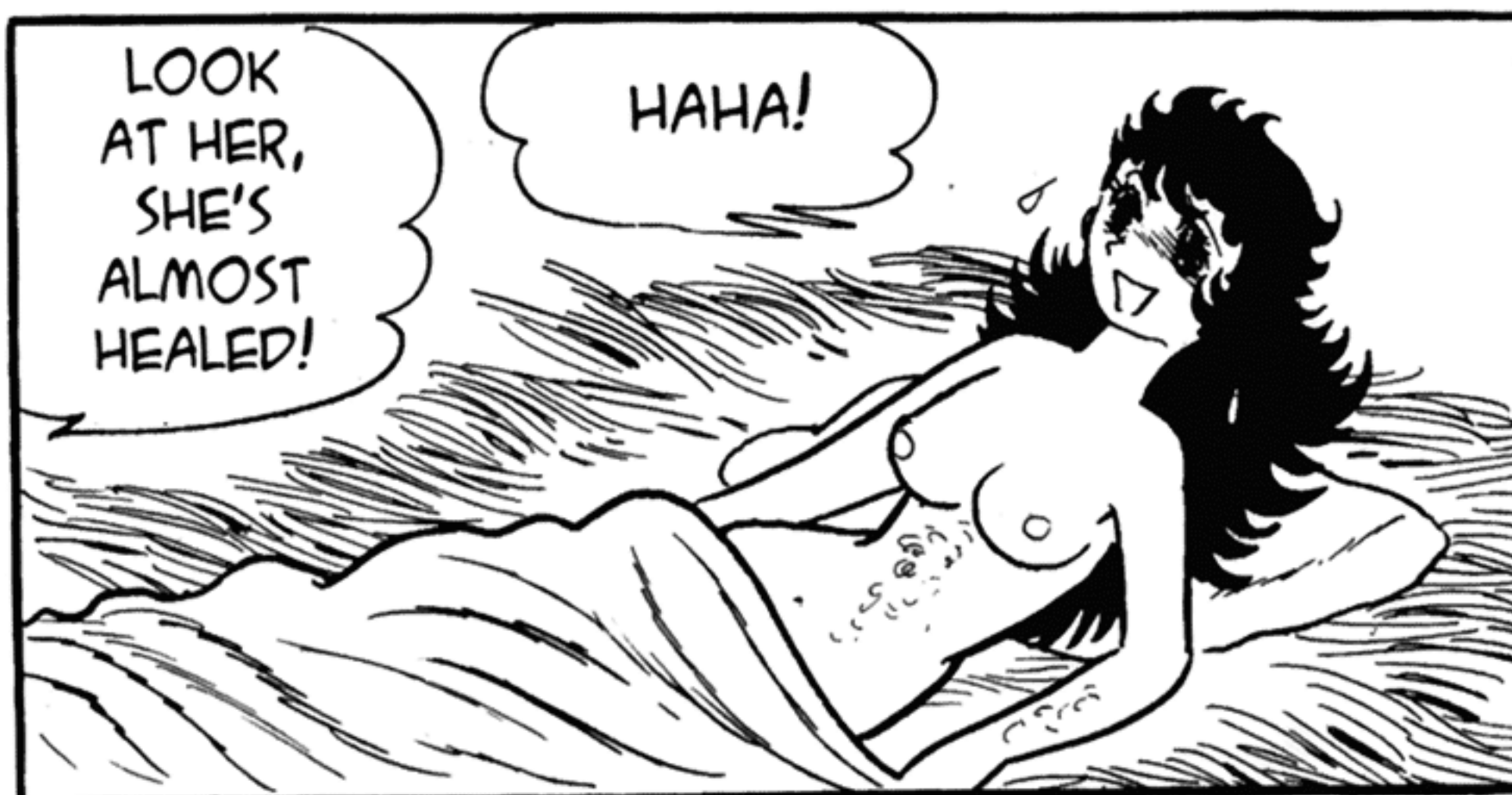


TATTA, WE'VE
MANAGED TO
KEEP AT THIS
FOR A YEAR
NOW.

YES
WE HAVE!
CHECK OUT
MIGAILA'S
BODY.



WOW



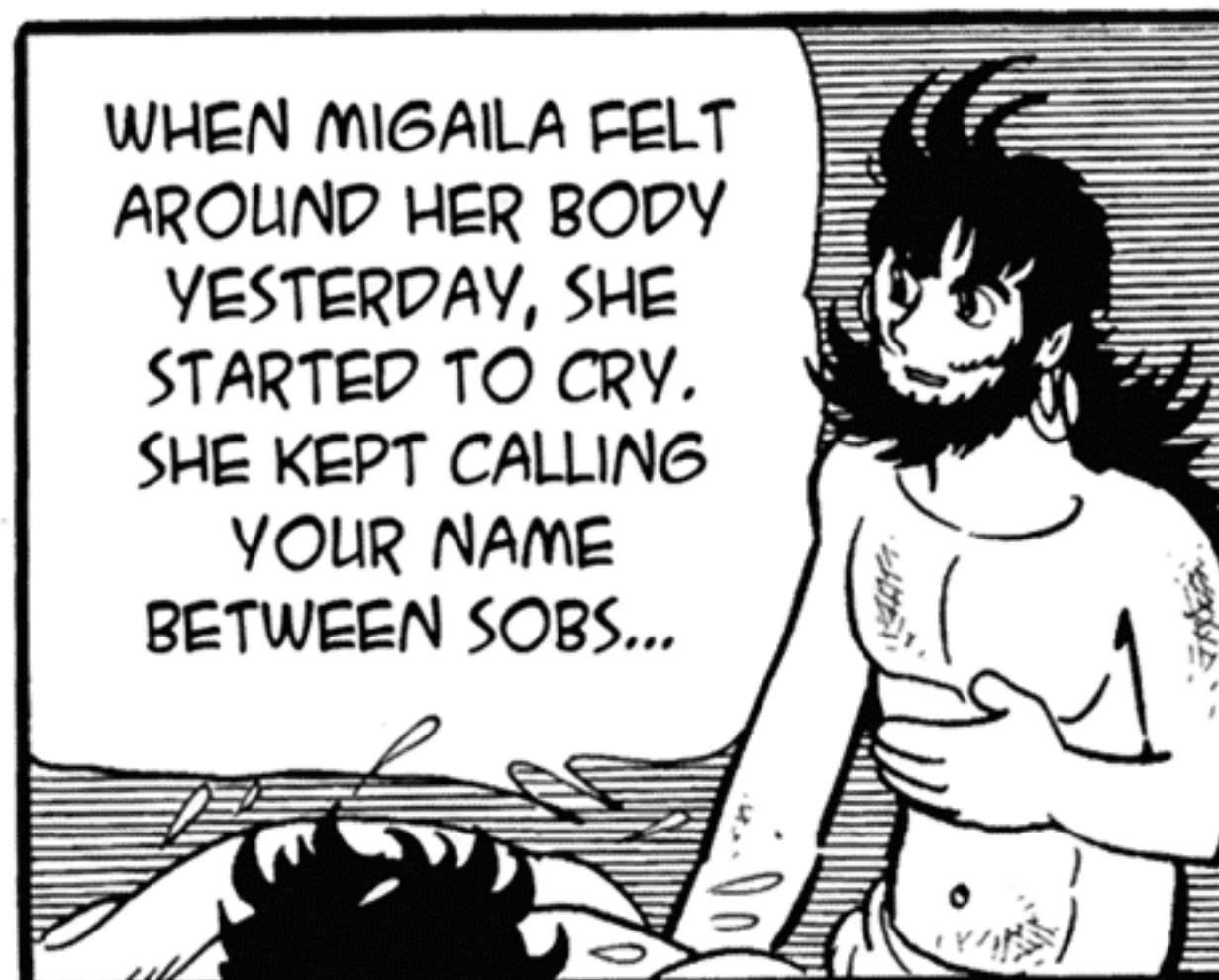
LOOK
AT HER,
SHE'S
ALMOST
HEALED!

HAHA!



S-STOP
THIS,
THERE'S
NO NEED
...

WAAH WAAH!
SI-SIDDHARTHA
WEEP WEEP

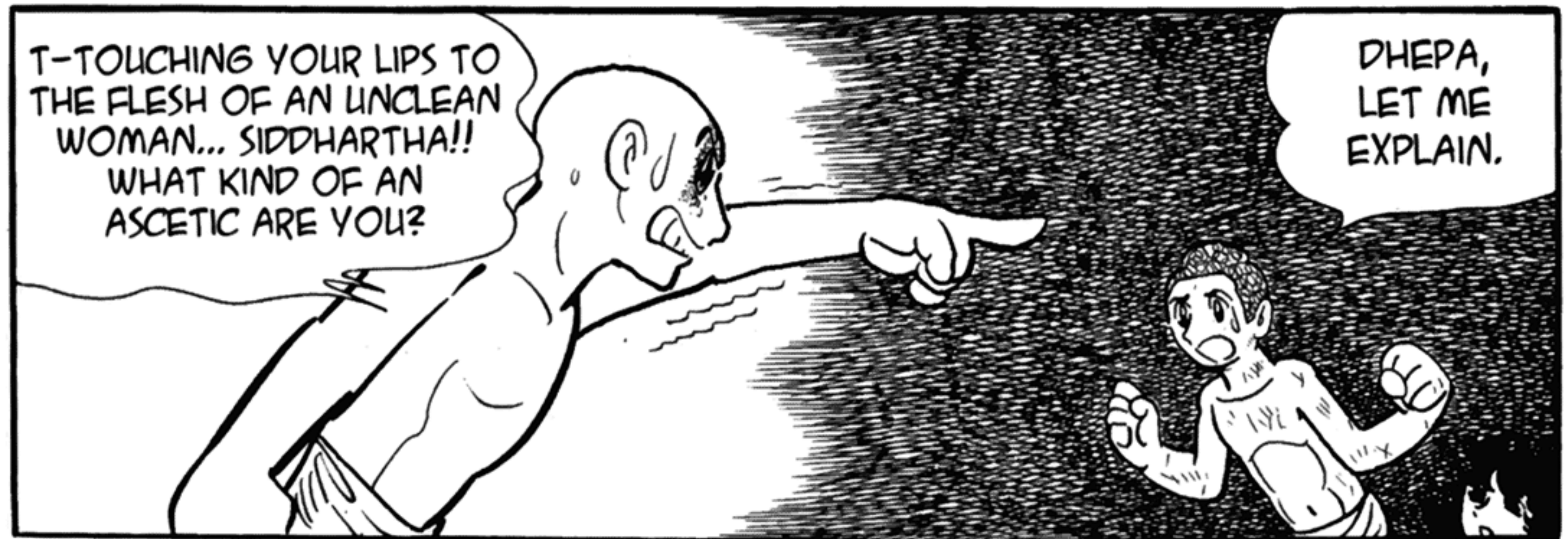
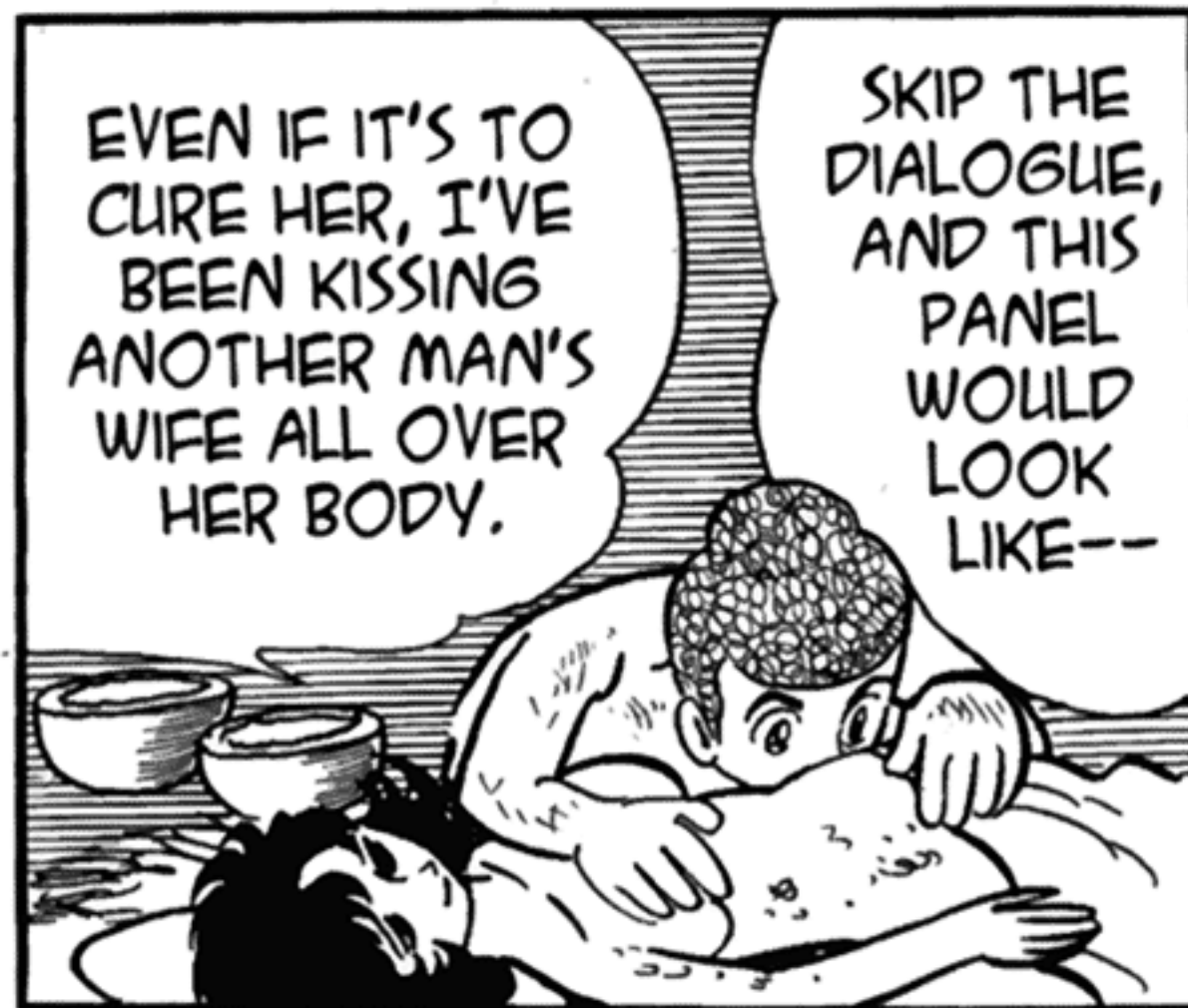
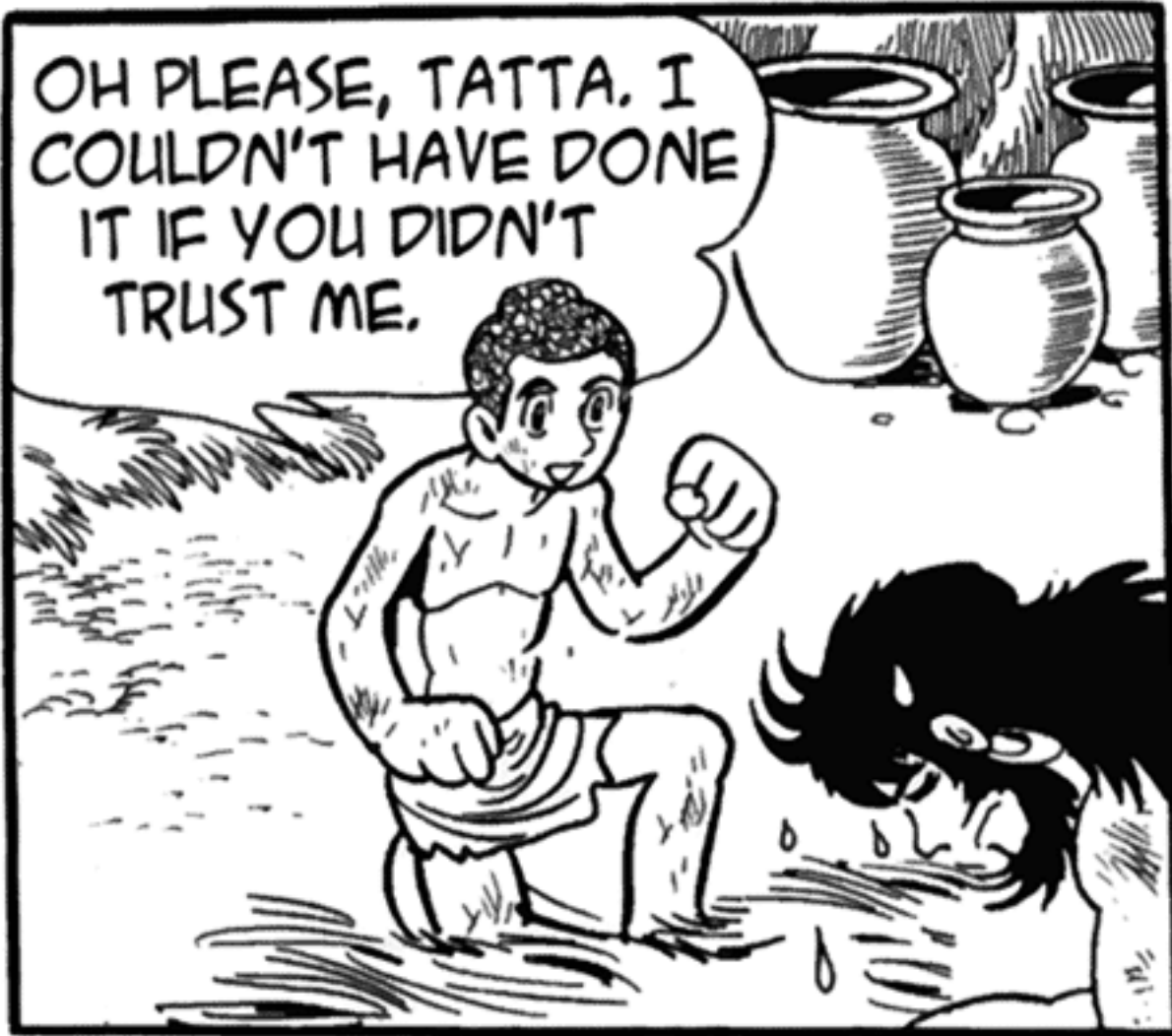


WHEN MIGAILA FELT
AROUND HER BODY
YESTERDAY, SHE
STARTED TO CRY.
SHE KEPT CALLING
YOUR NAME
BETWEEN SOBS...



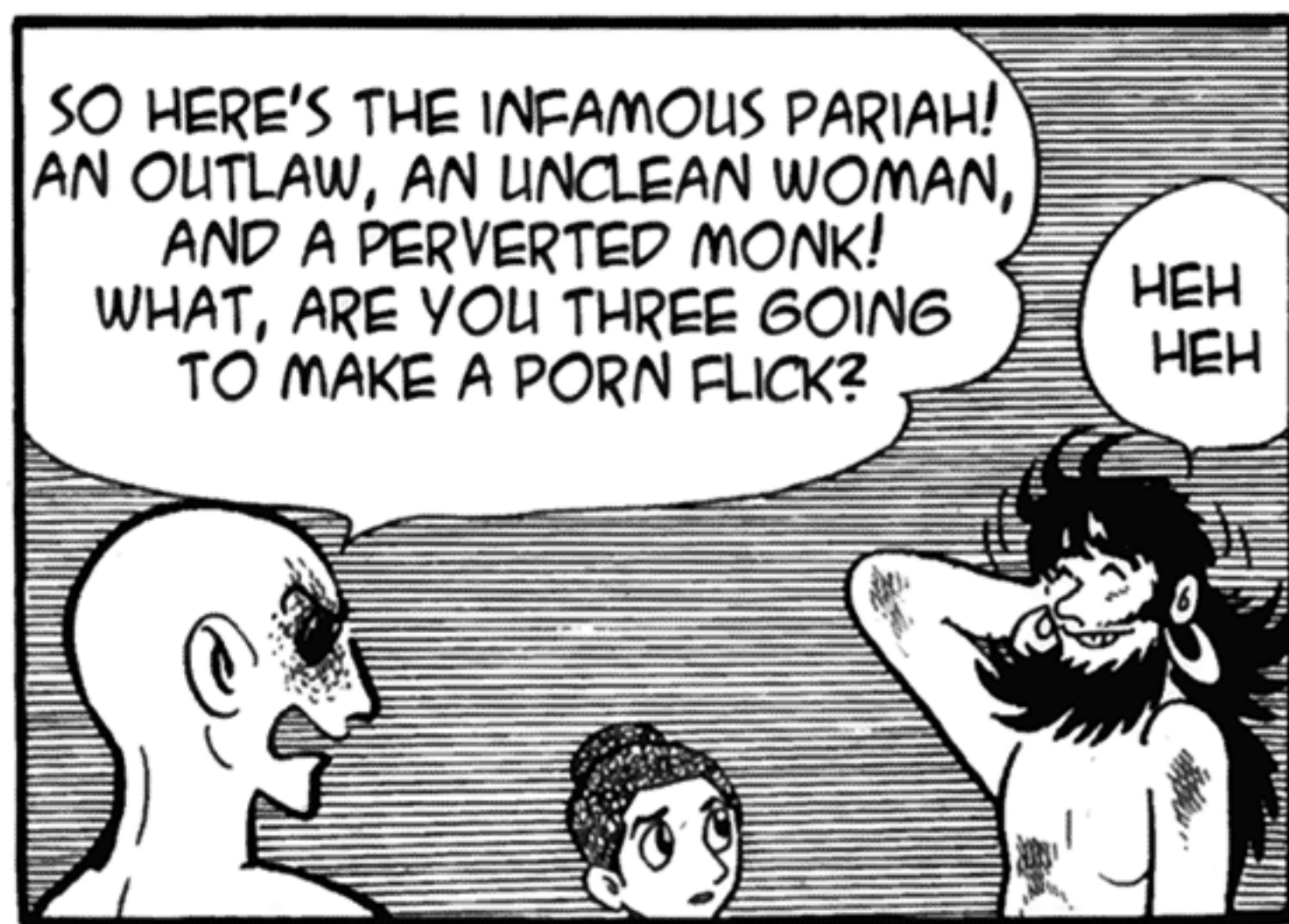
I FEEL
THE SAME
WAY...

HOW
CAN I
POSSIBLY
REPAY
YOU?





YOU BETTER THINK TWICE BEFORE SAYING THAT AGAIN! UNLESS YOU LOVE EATING DOG SHIT!!



SO HERE'S THE INFAMOUS PARIAH! AN OUTLAW, AN UNCLEAN WOMAN, AND A PERVERTED MONK! WHAT, ARE YOU THREE GOING TO MAKE A PORN FLICK?

HEH HEH



SHUT UP !!

SAY WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT ME; SIDDHARTHA YOU WON'T INSULT!



I'M GONNA KILL YA...



STOP, TATTA!



NO VIOLENCE, PLEASE. CALM DOWN.



IF YOU SAY SO ... TOO BAD.

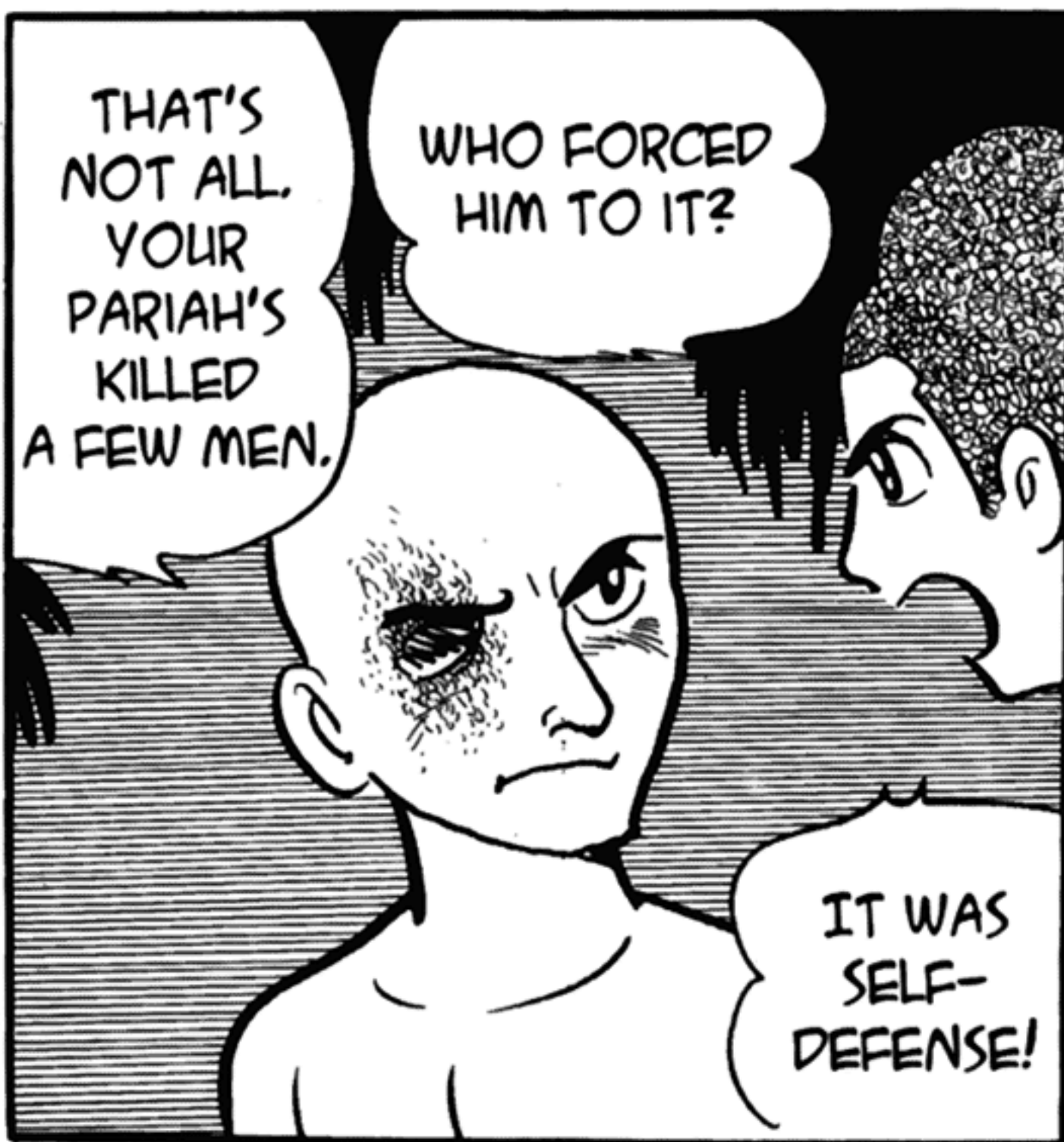


IT'S ALL CLEAR NOW.

TOMORROW, THE WHOLE VILLAGE SHALL COME TO HUNT YOU DOWN.

HUNT? WHOM?

DHEPA, YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE, HAVE YOU?





OKAY, THEN!
I'LL LEAVE.

THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY, ONE-EYE?



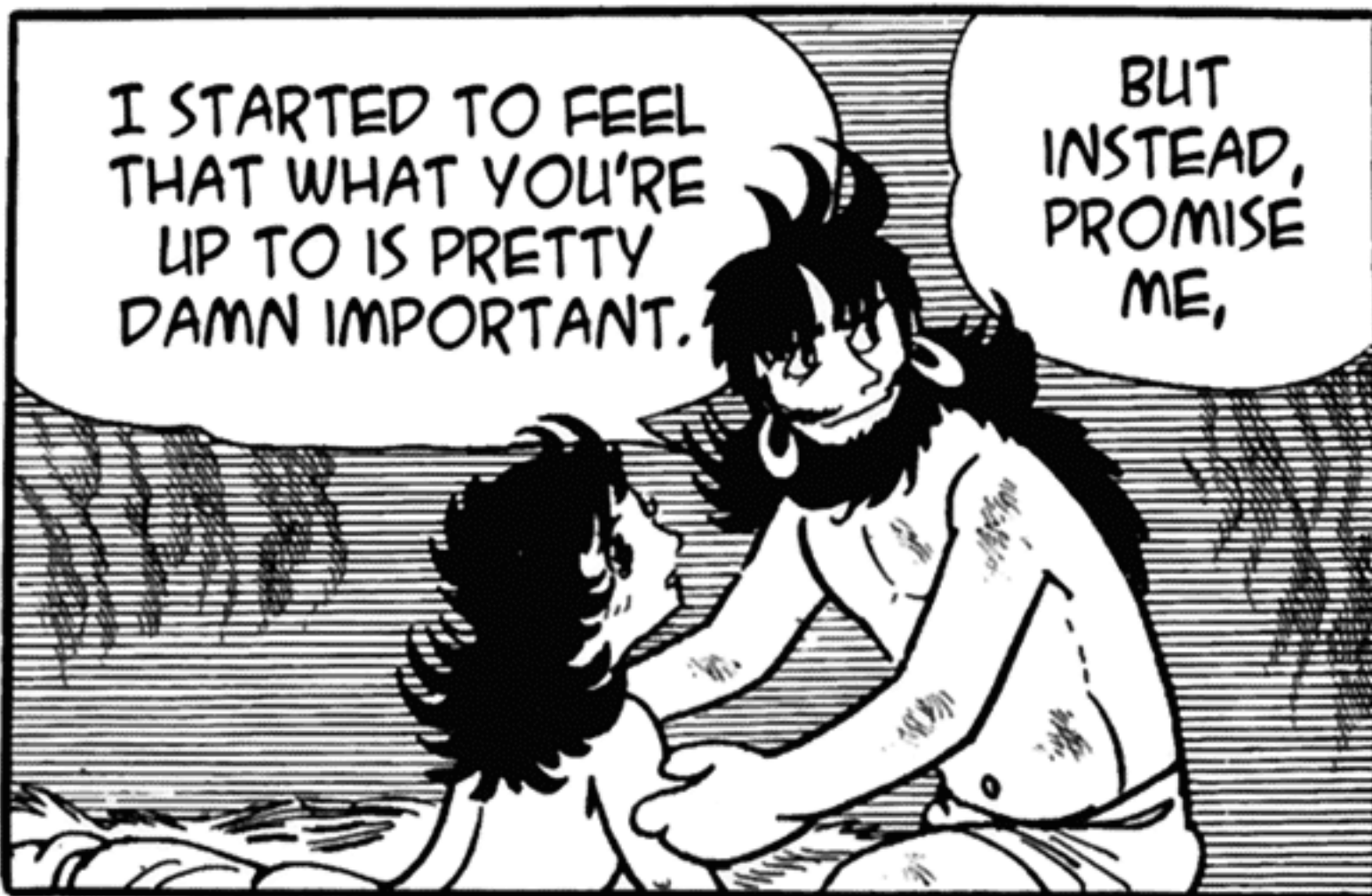
HATE TO BACK DOWN, BUT SIDDHARTHA'S REPUTATION'S AT STAKE...

SO I'M GONNA GET LOST!



SIDDHARTHA... REMEMBER HOW, ACCORDING TO OUR PROMISE, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO HOME TOGETHER?

I'VE CHANGED MY MIND OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR... IF YOU WANT TO COMPLETE YOUR TRAINING TO YOUR SATISFACTION, THAT'S FINE BY ME...



I STARTED TO FEEL THAT WHAT YOU'RE UP TO IS PRETTY DAMN IMPORTANT.

BUT INSTEAD, PROMISE ME,

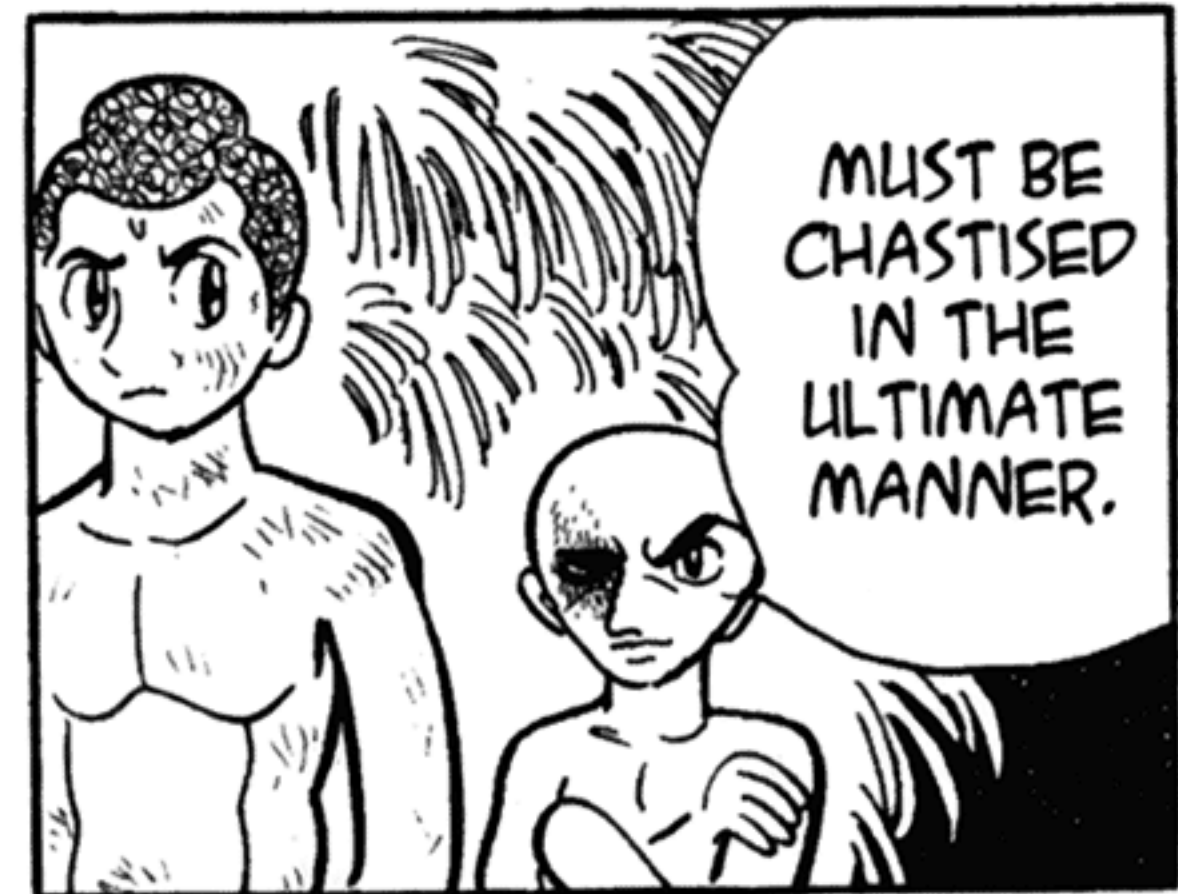
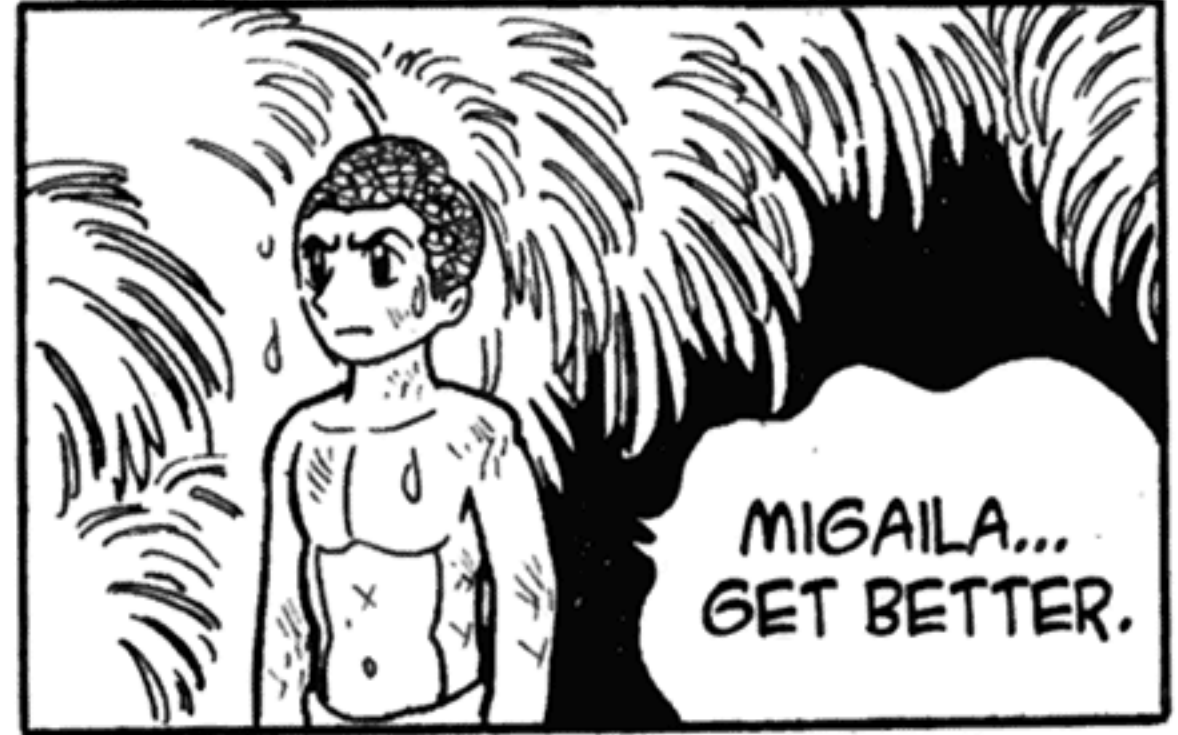


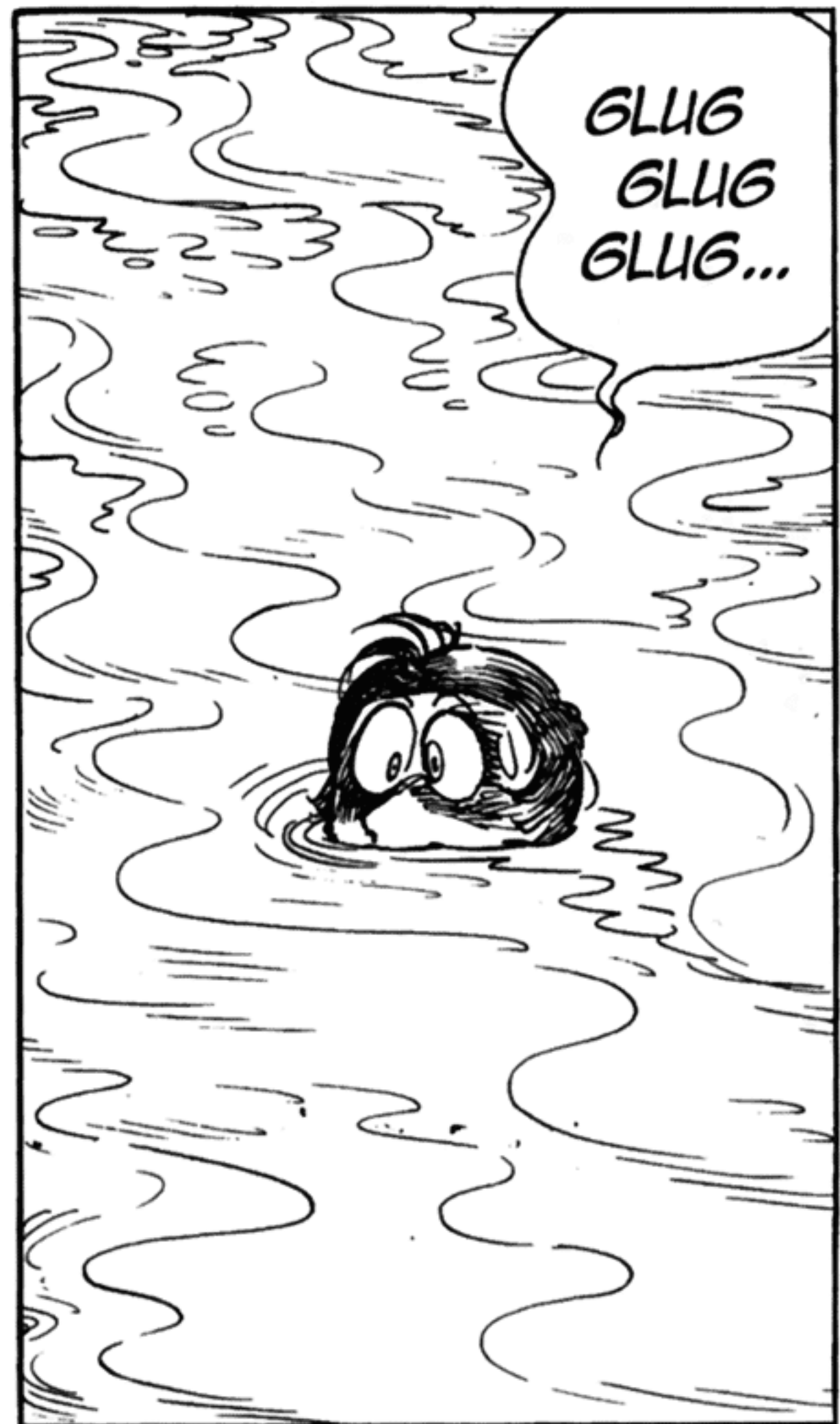
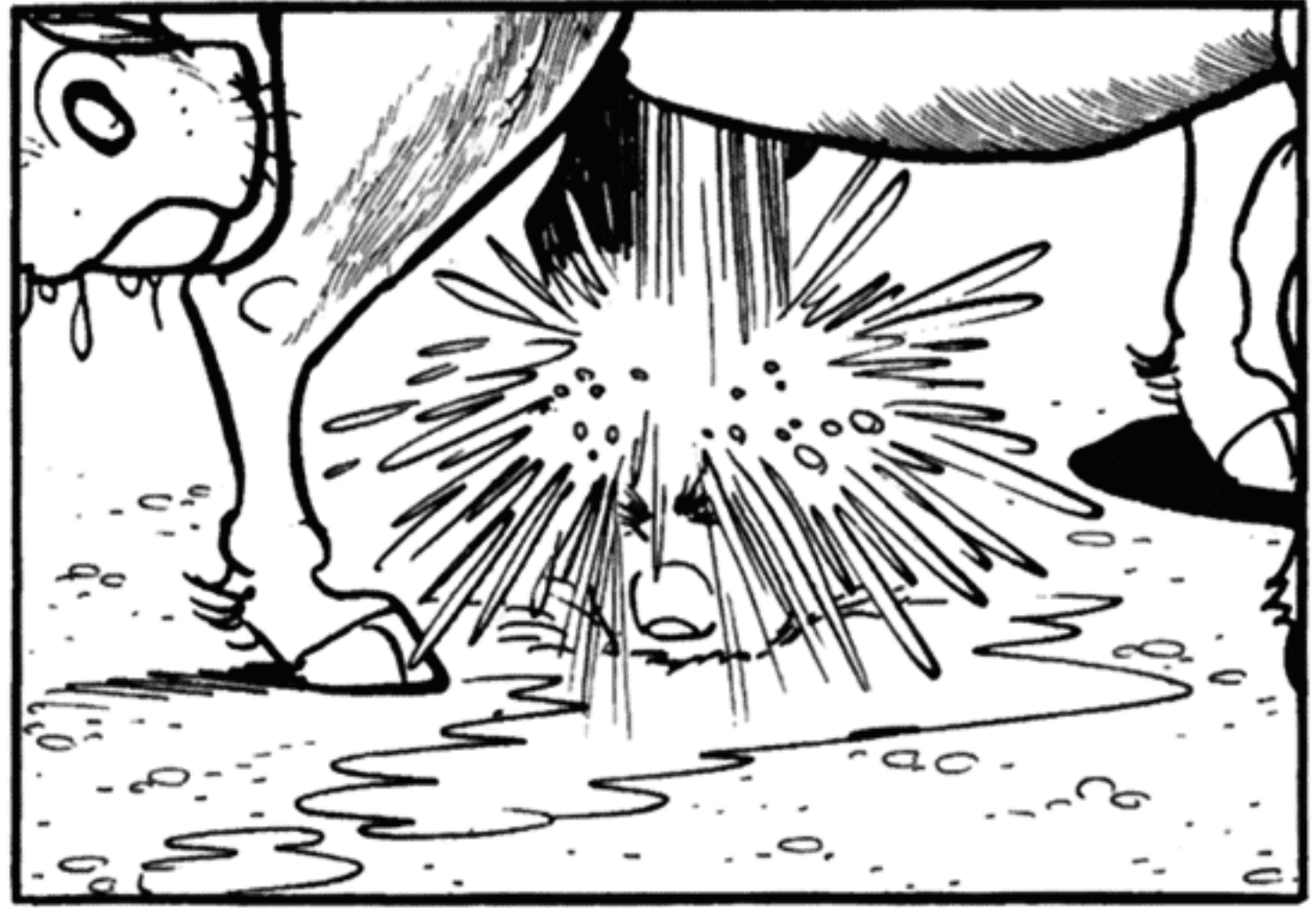
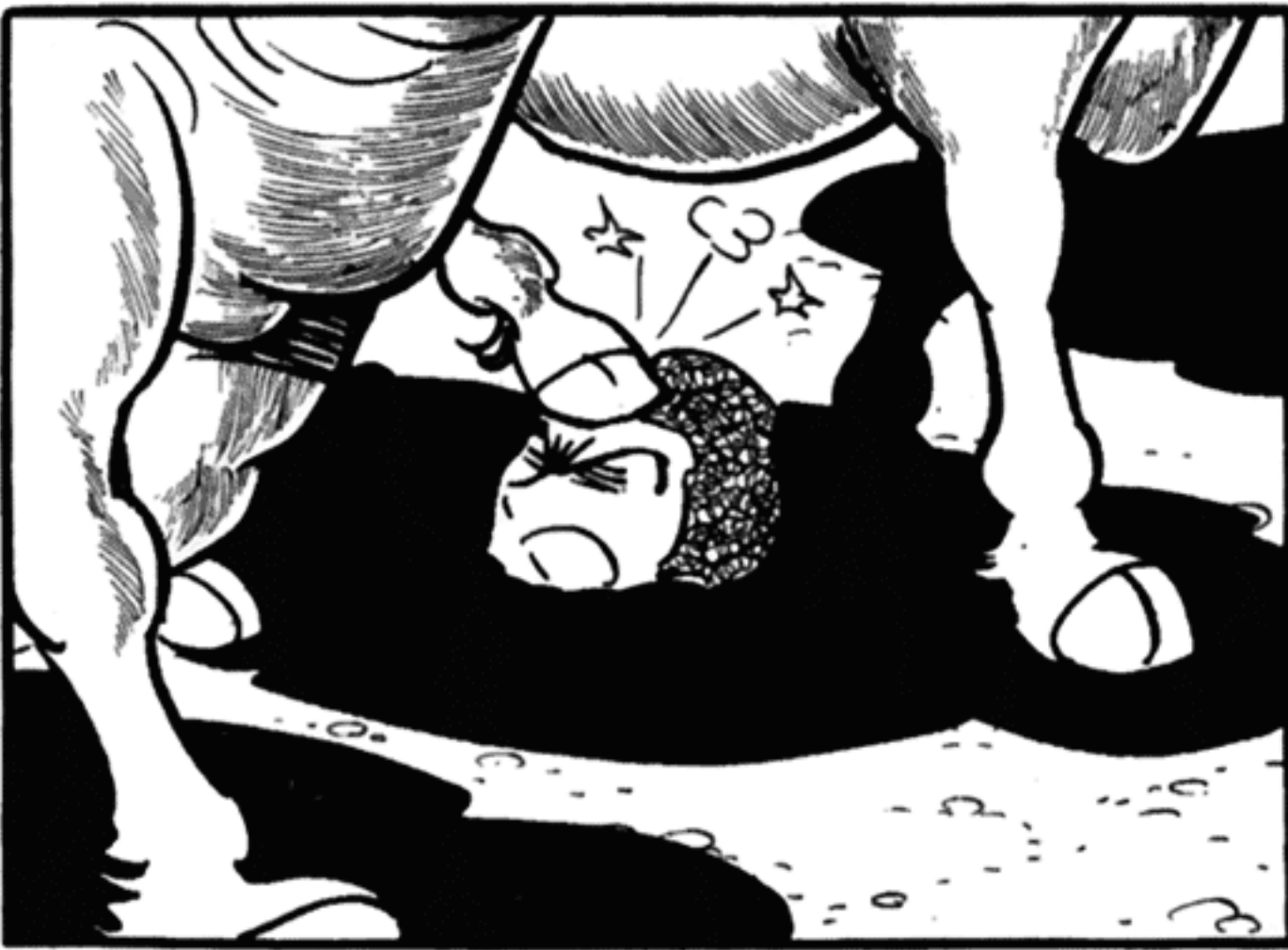
ACCEPT ME AS A DISCIPLE, YOUR FIRST.

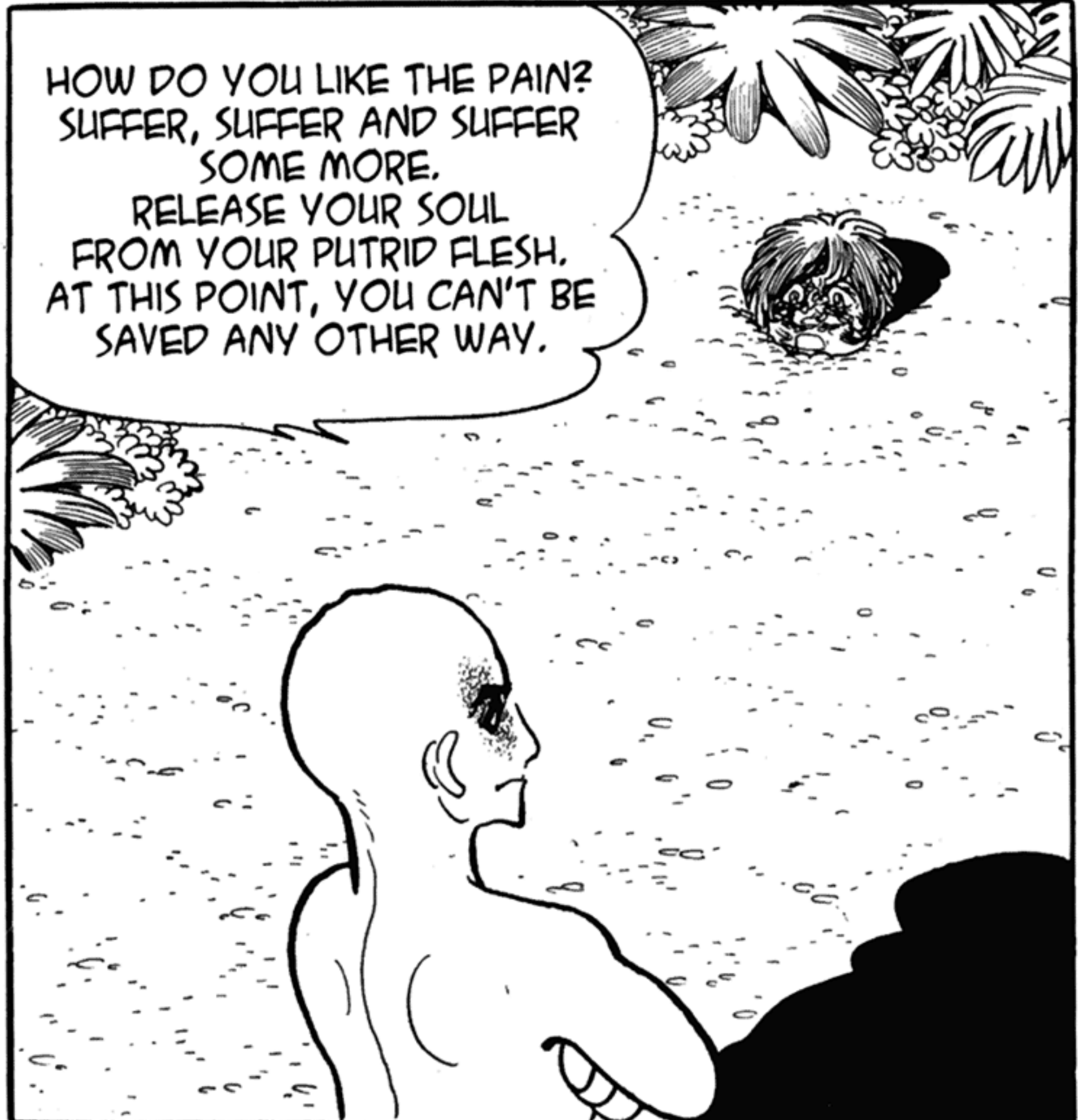
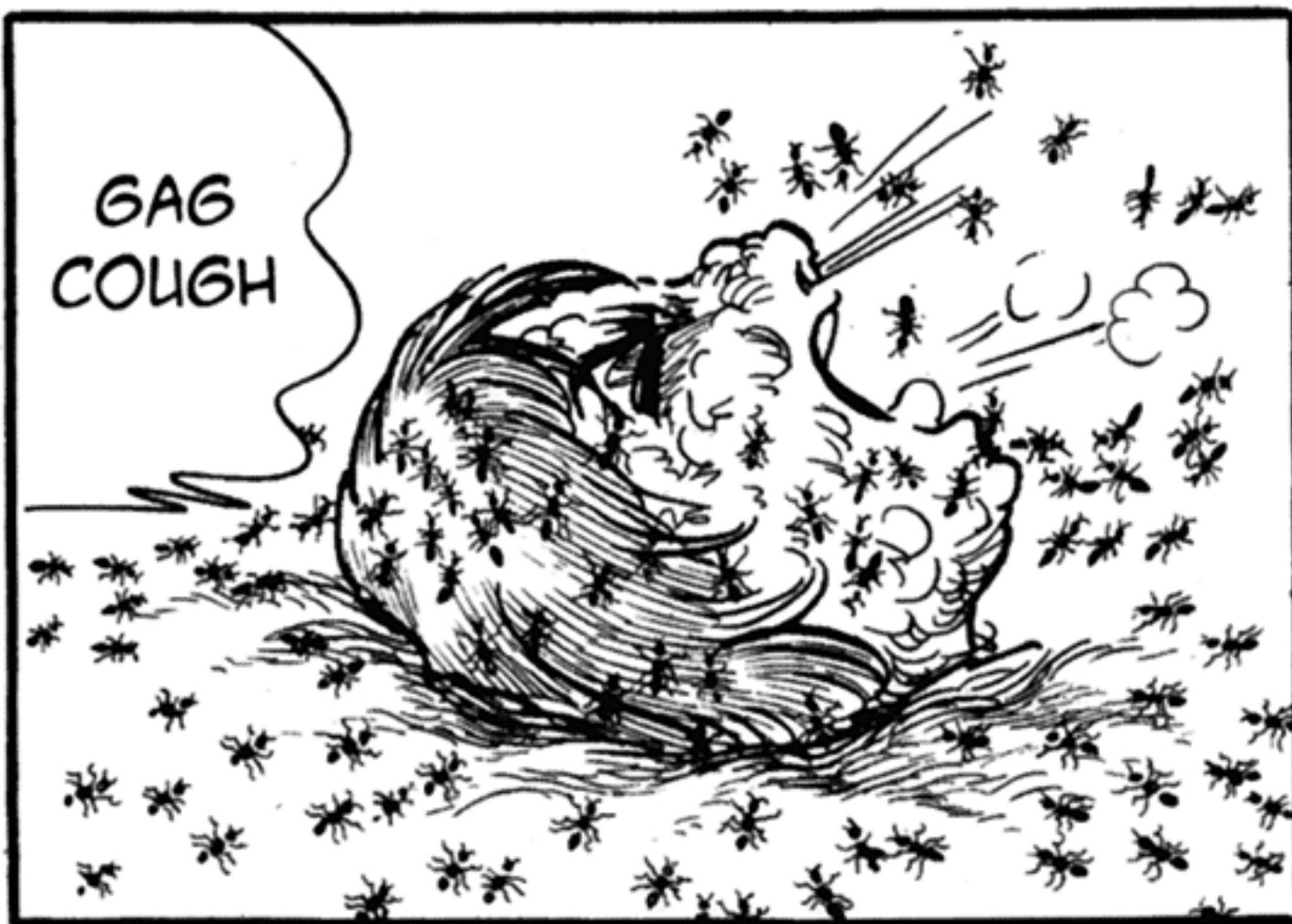
I'LL BE WAITING ...

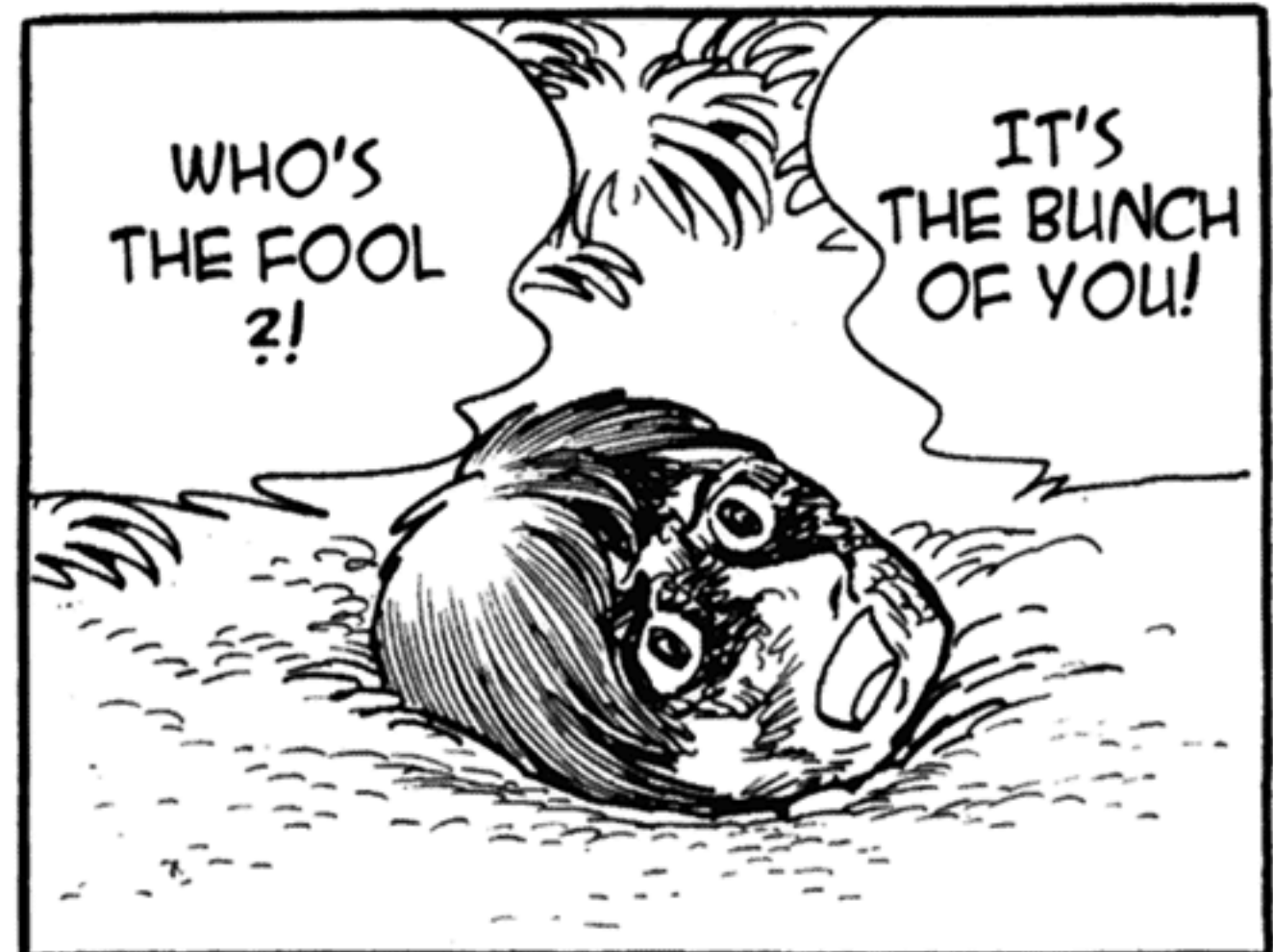
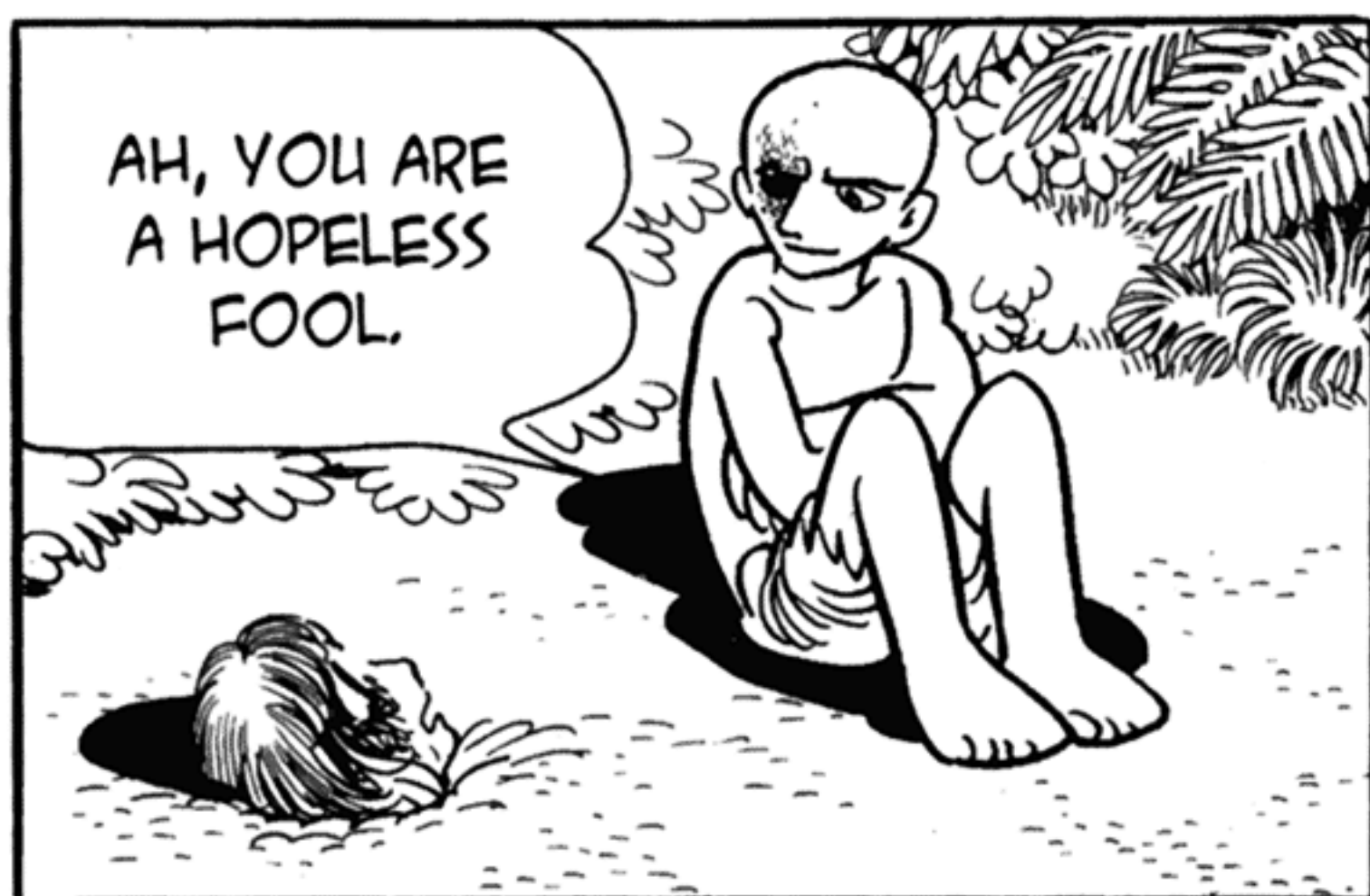
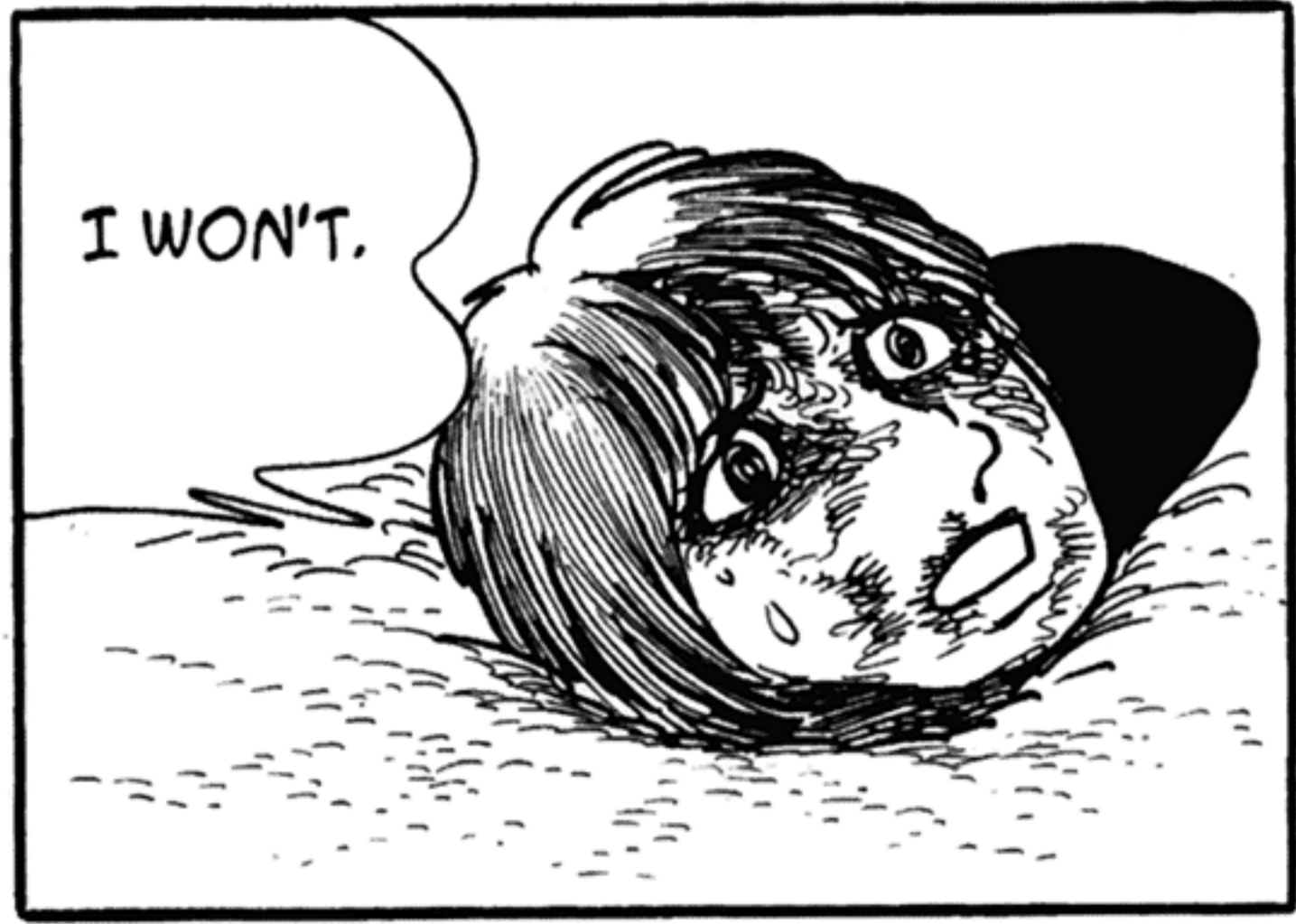
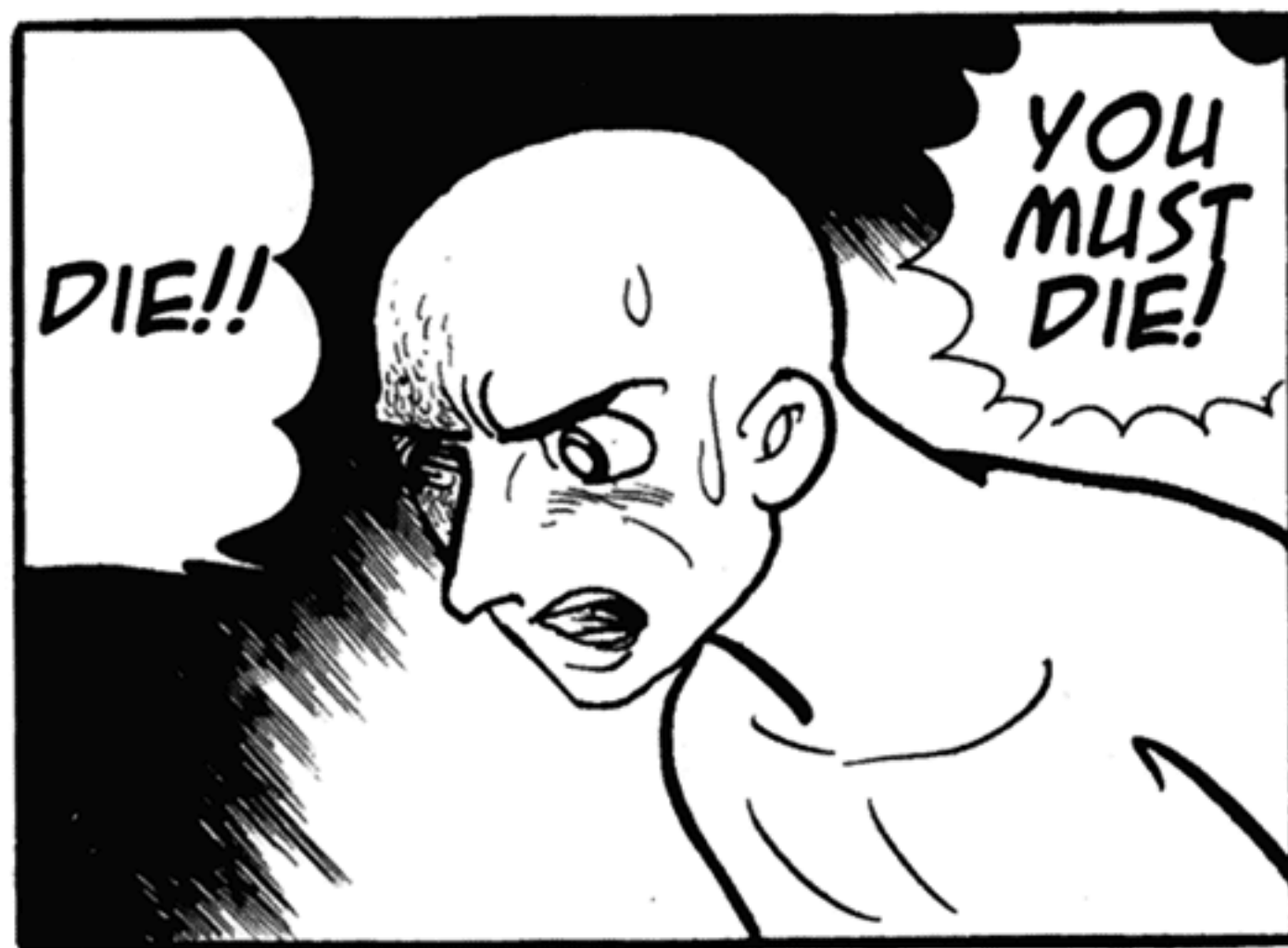
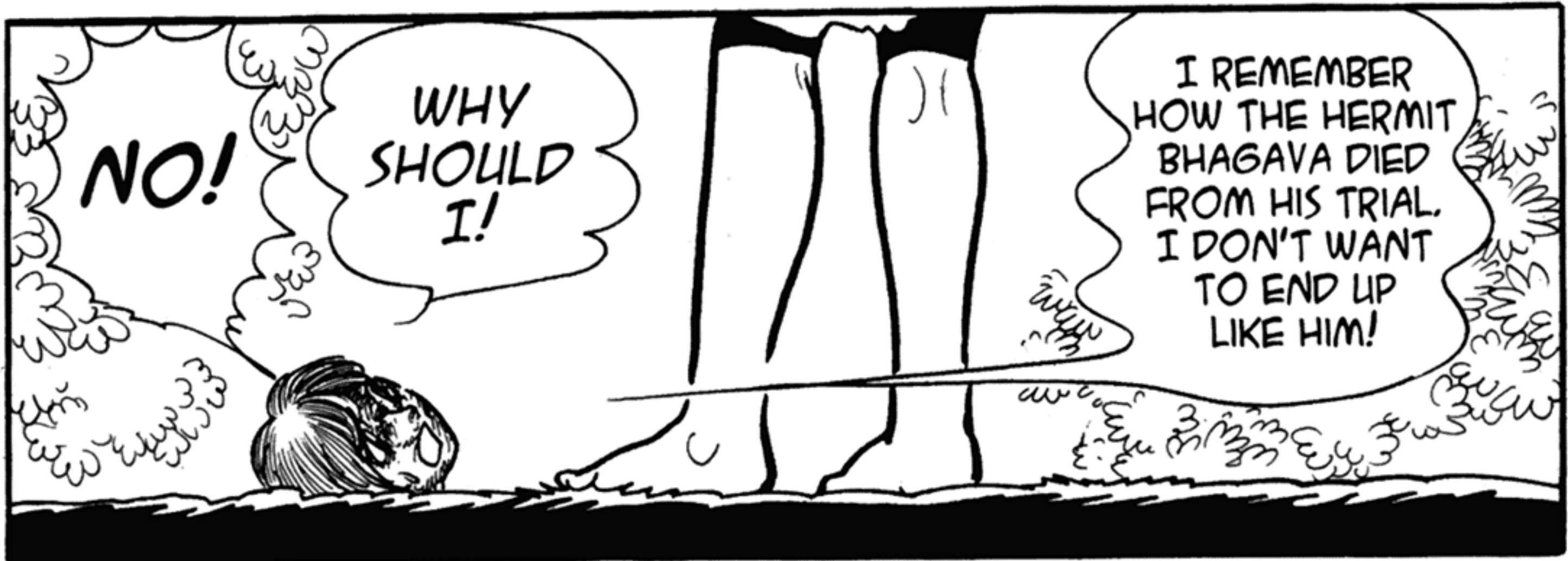
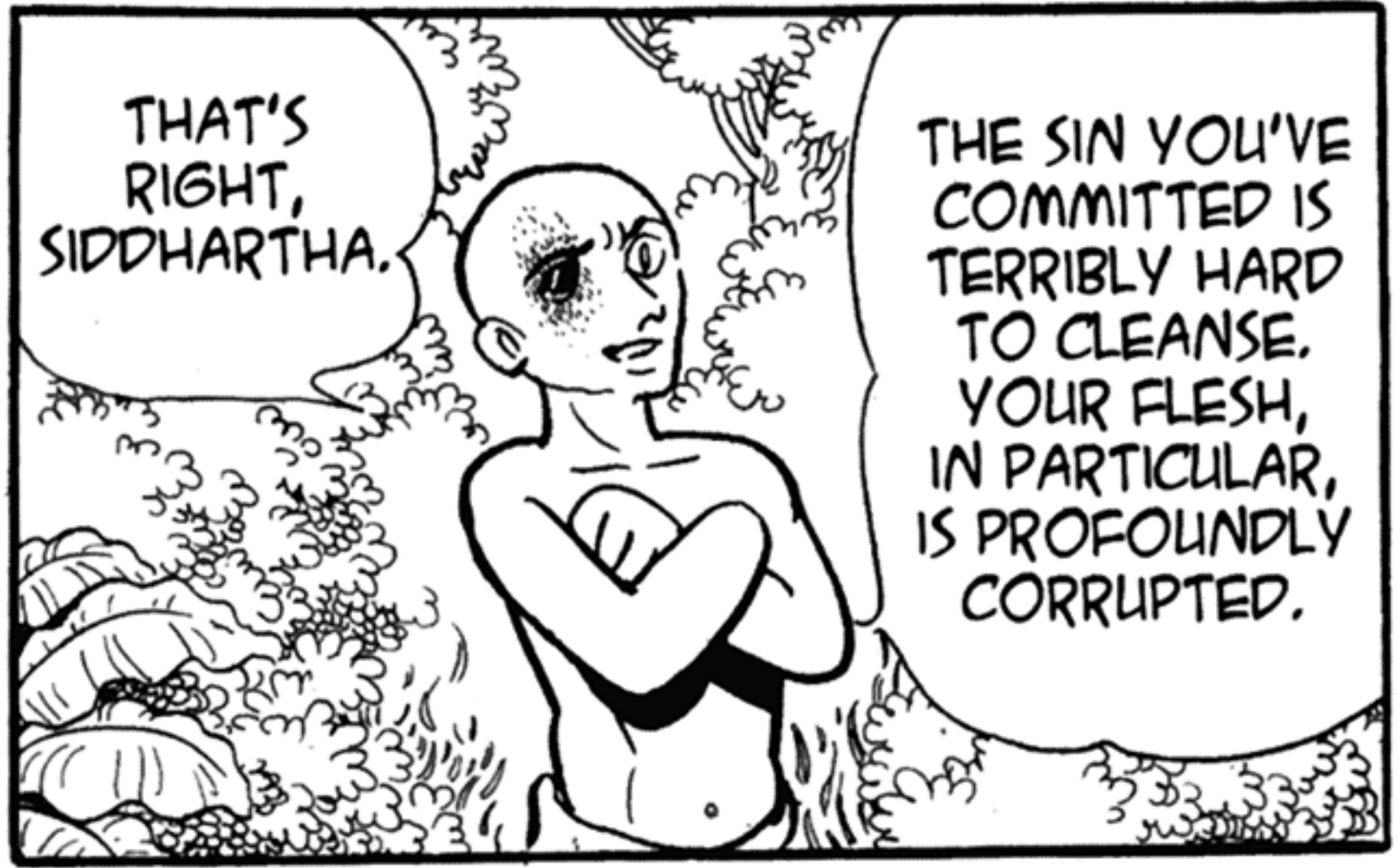
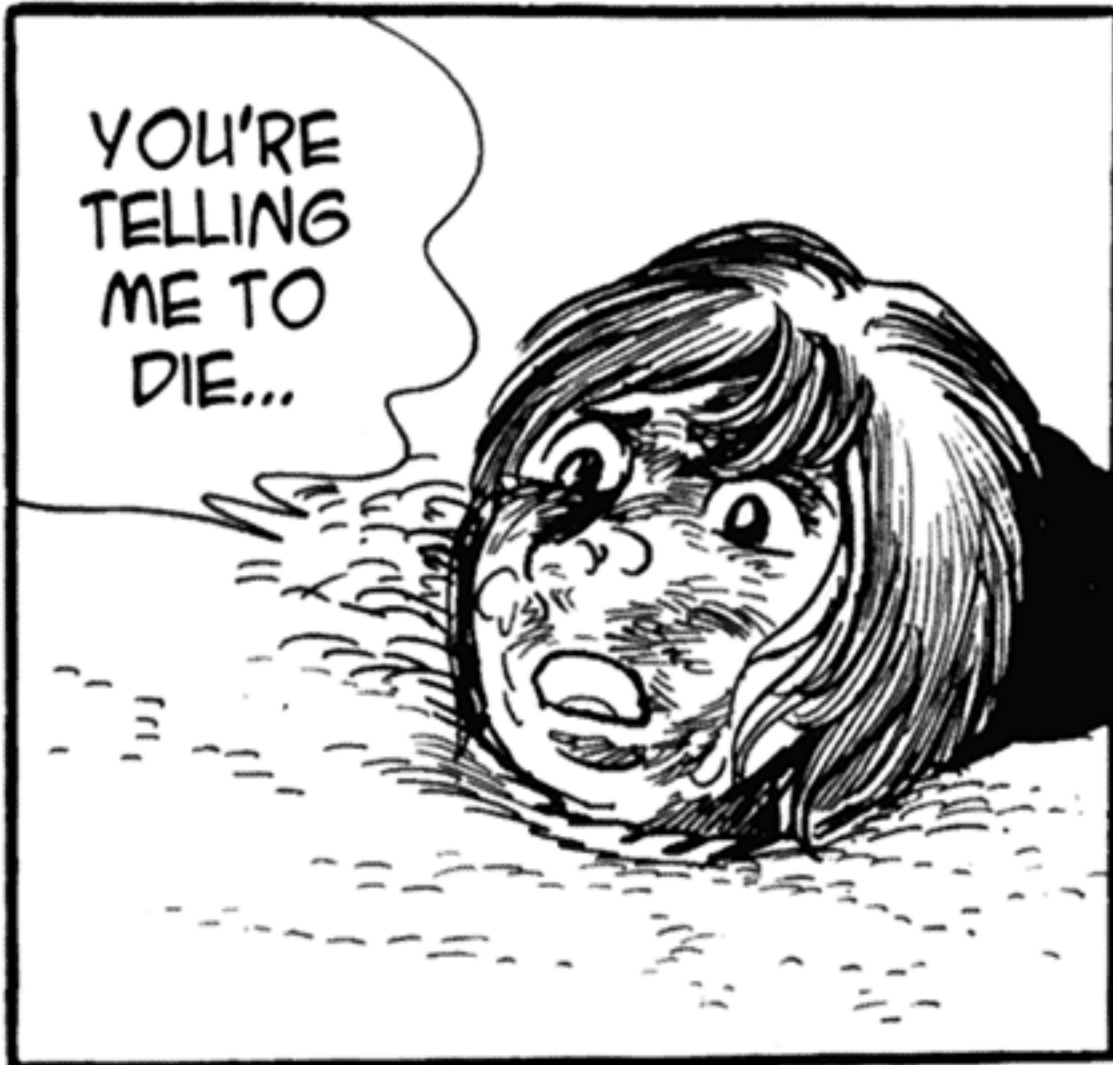


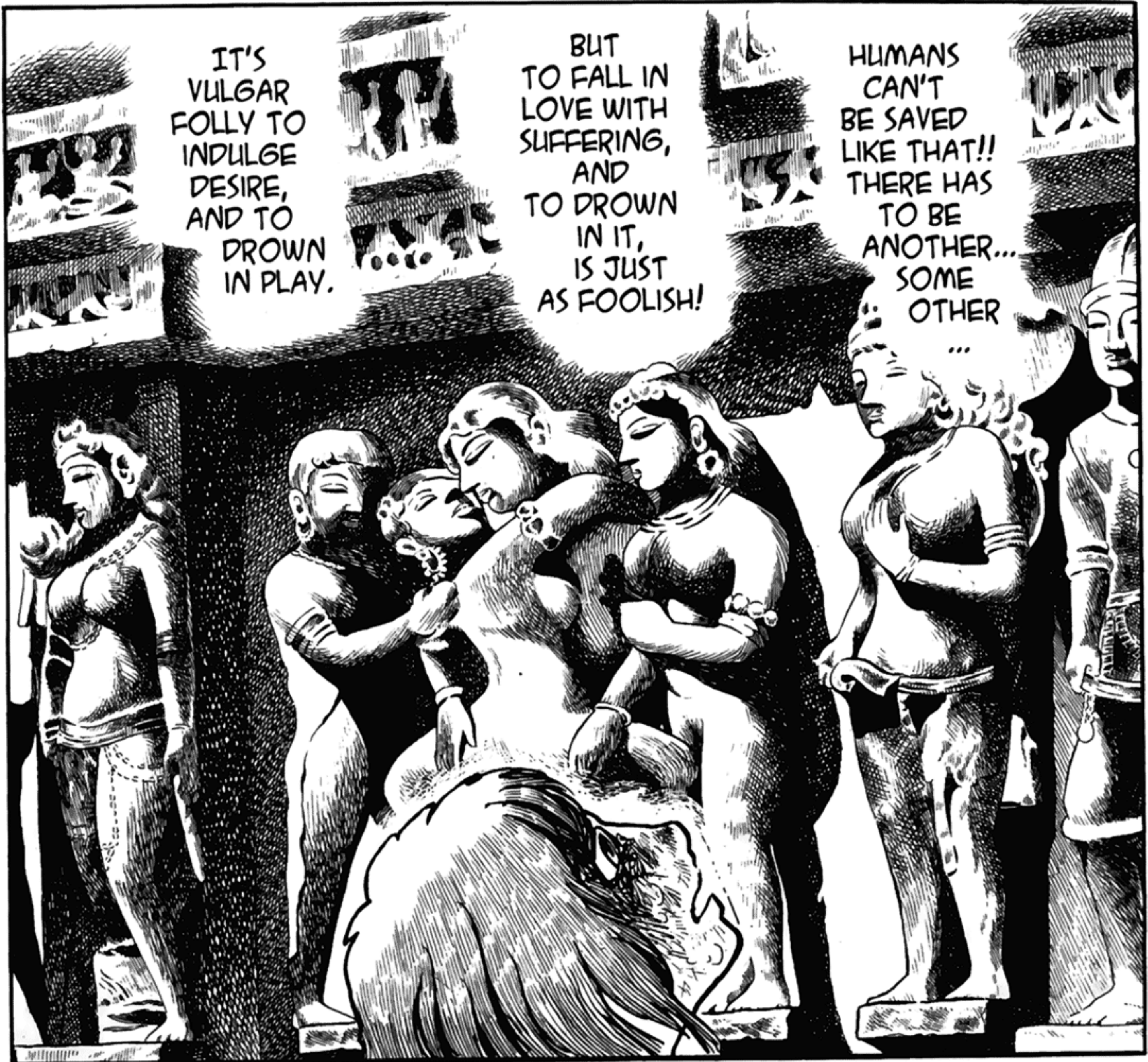
WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR TRAINING AND BECOME A FINE MONK,







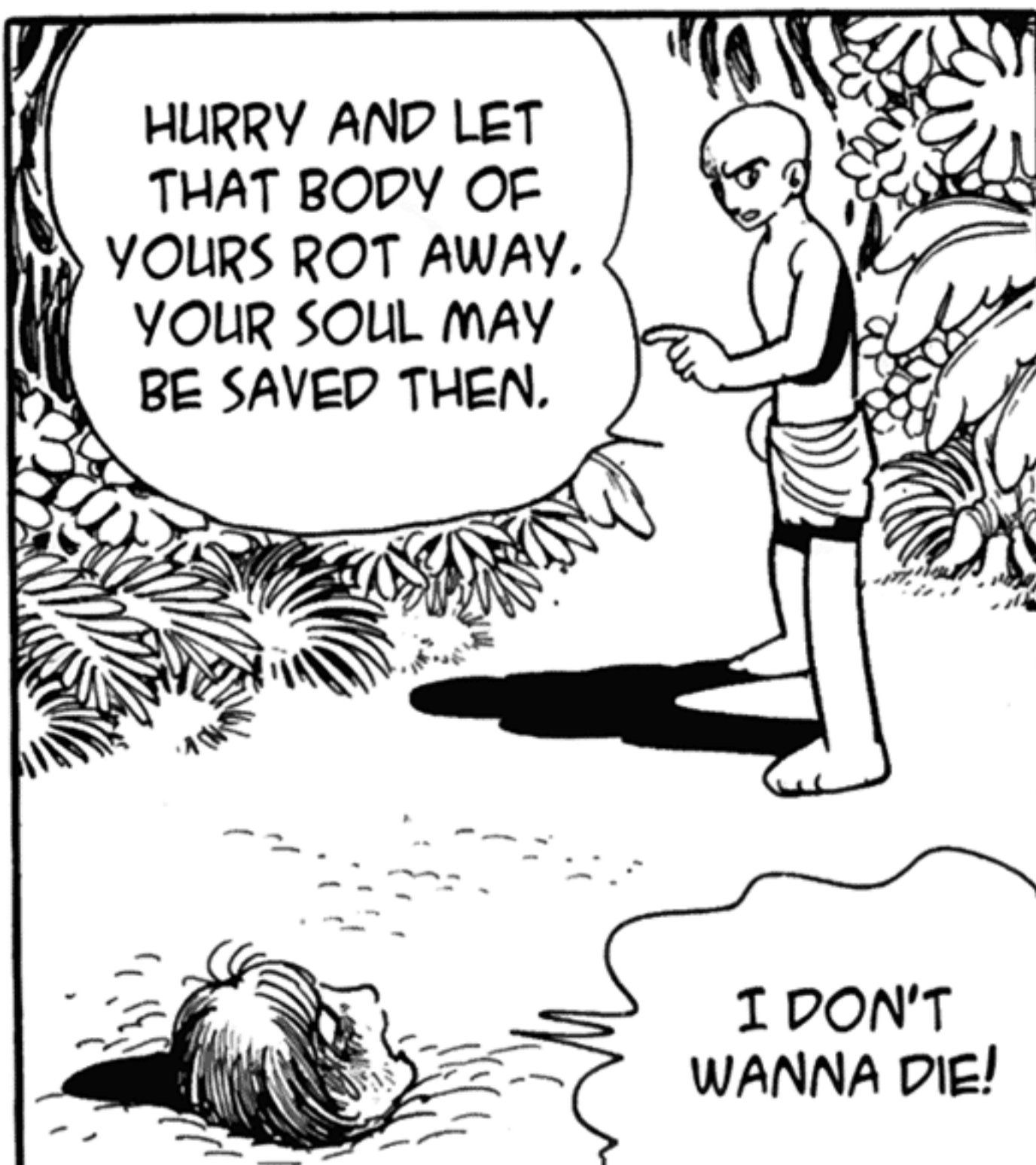




IT'S
VULGAR
FOLLY TO
INDULGE
DESIRE,
AND TO
DROWN
IN PLAY.

BUT
TO FALL IN
LOVE WITH
SUFFERING,
AND
TO DROWN
IN IT,
IS JUST
AS FOOLISH!

HUMANS
CAN'T
BE SAVED
LIKE THAT!!
THERE HAS
TO BE
ANOTHER...
SOME
OTHER



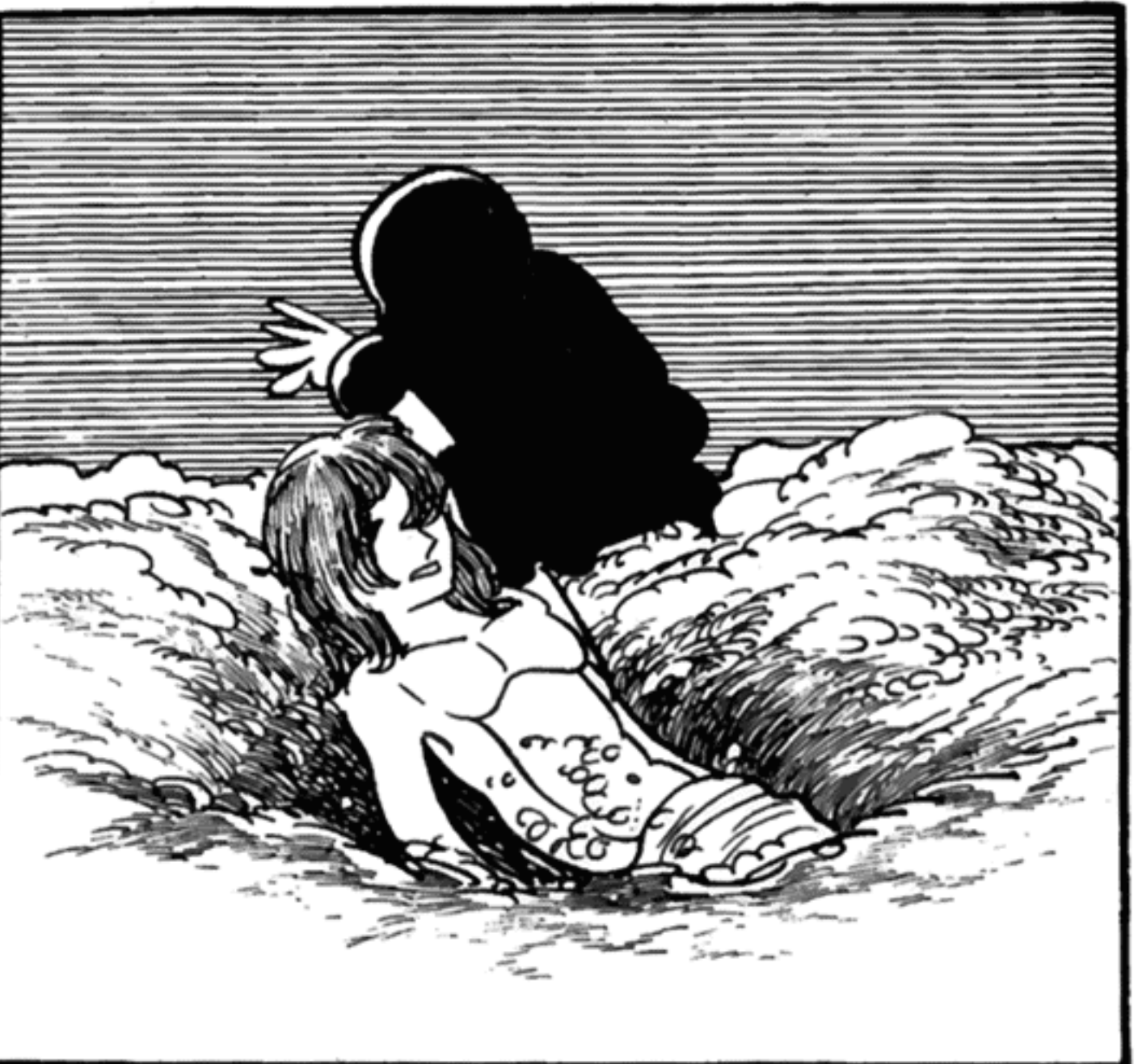
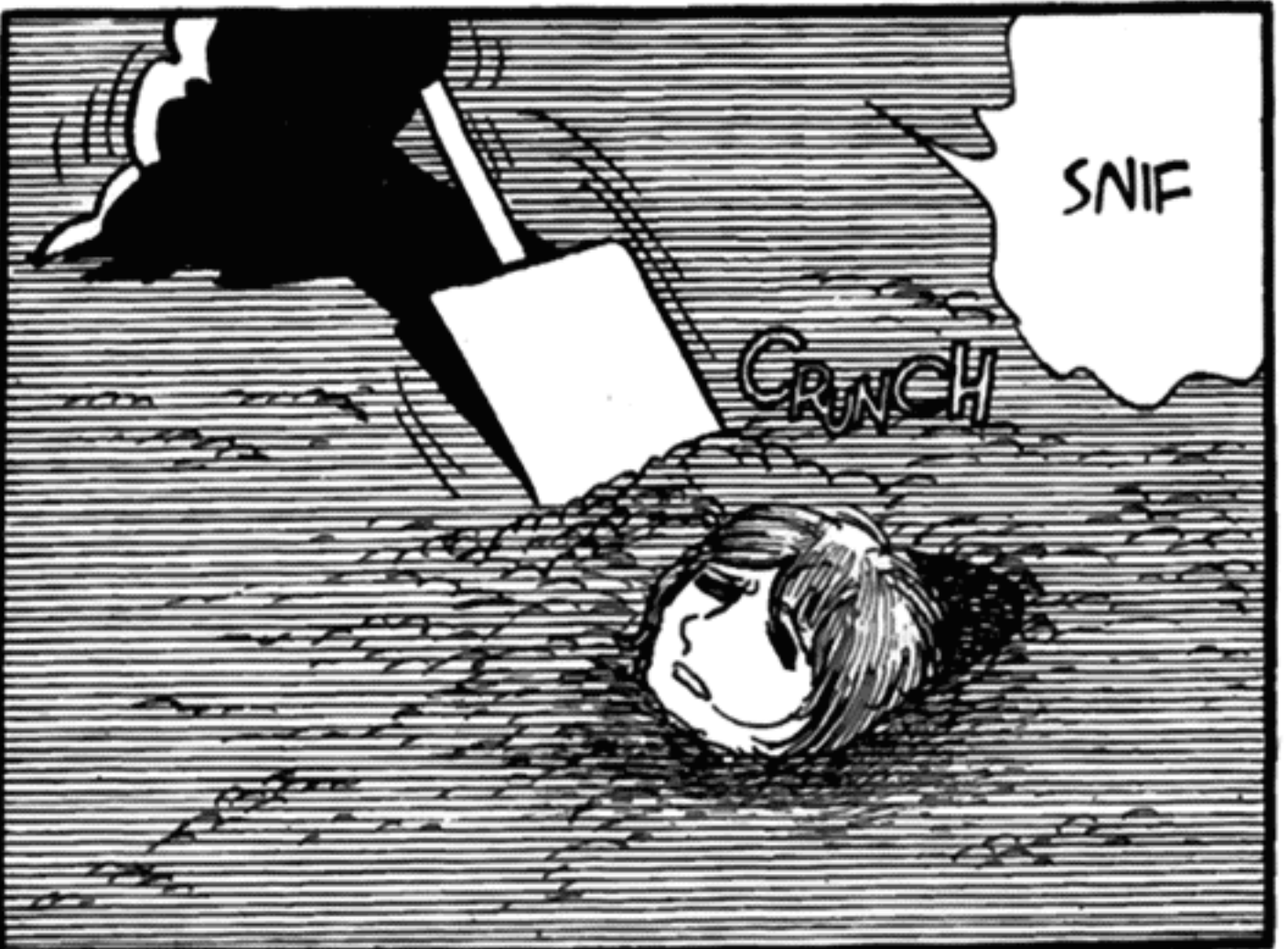
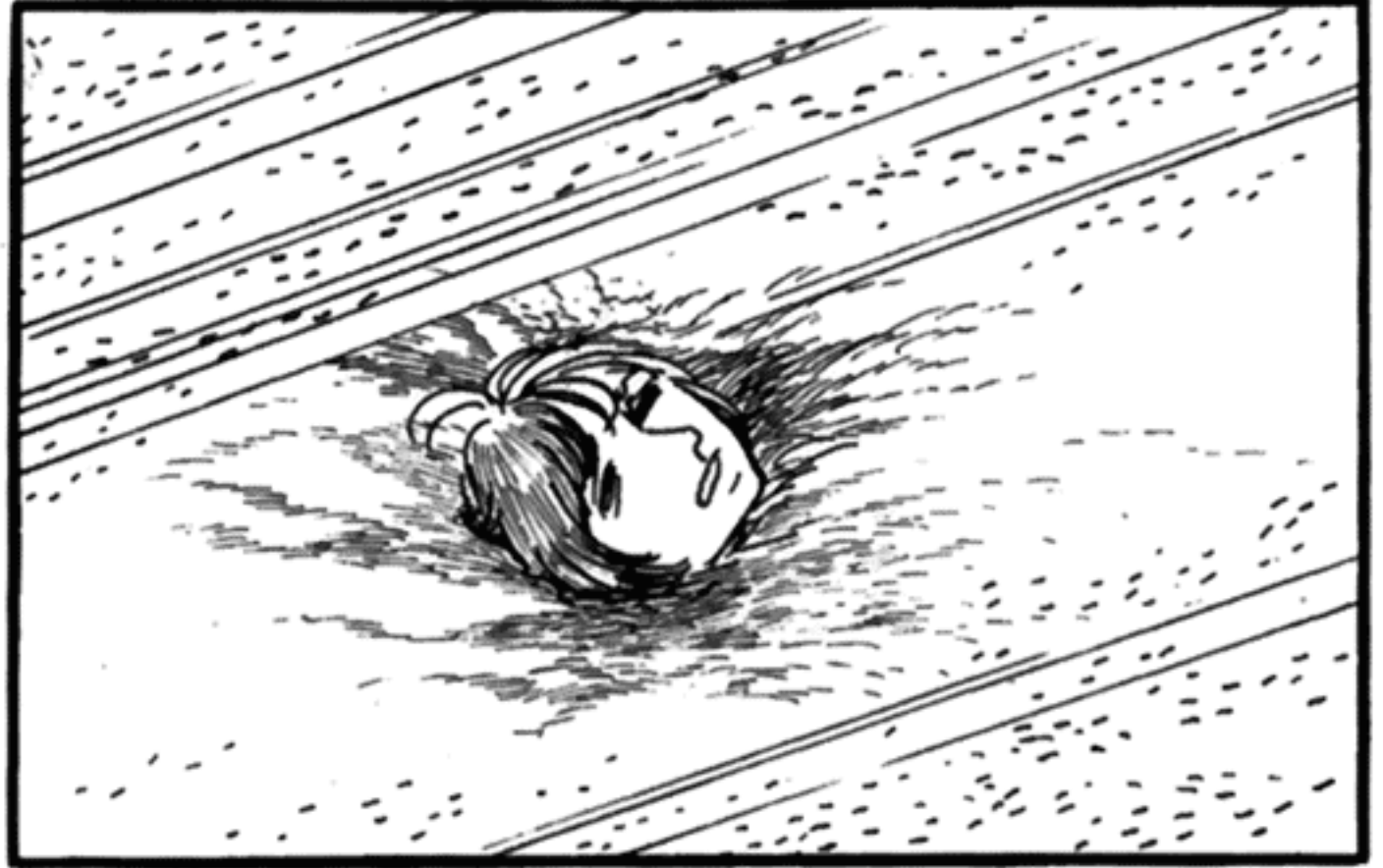
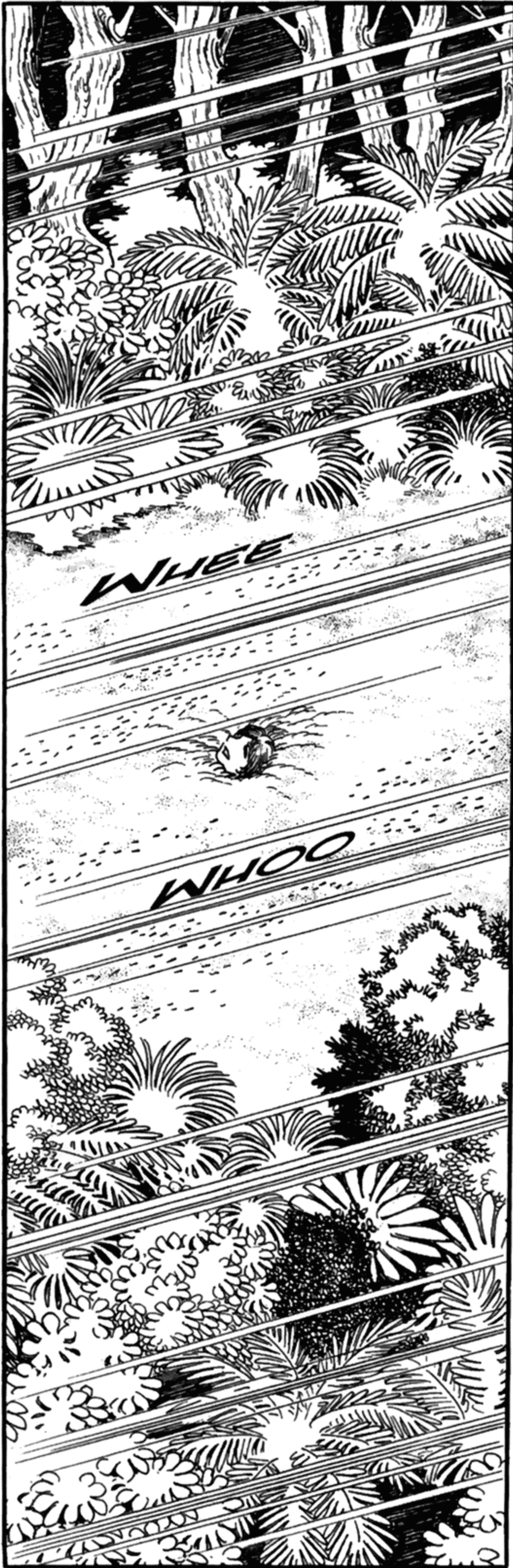
HURRY AND LET
THAT BODY OF
YOURS ROT AWAY.
YOUR SOUL MAY
BE SAVED THEN.

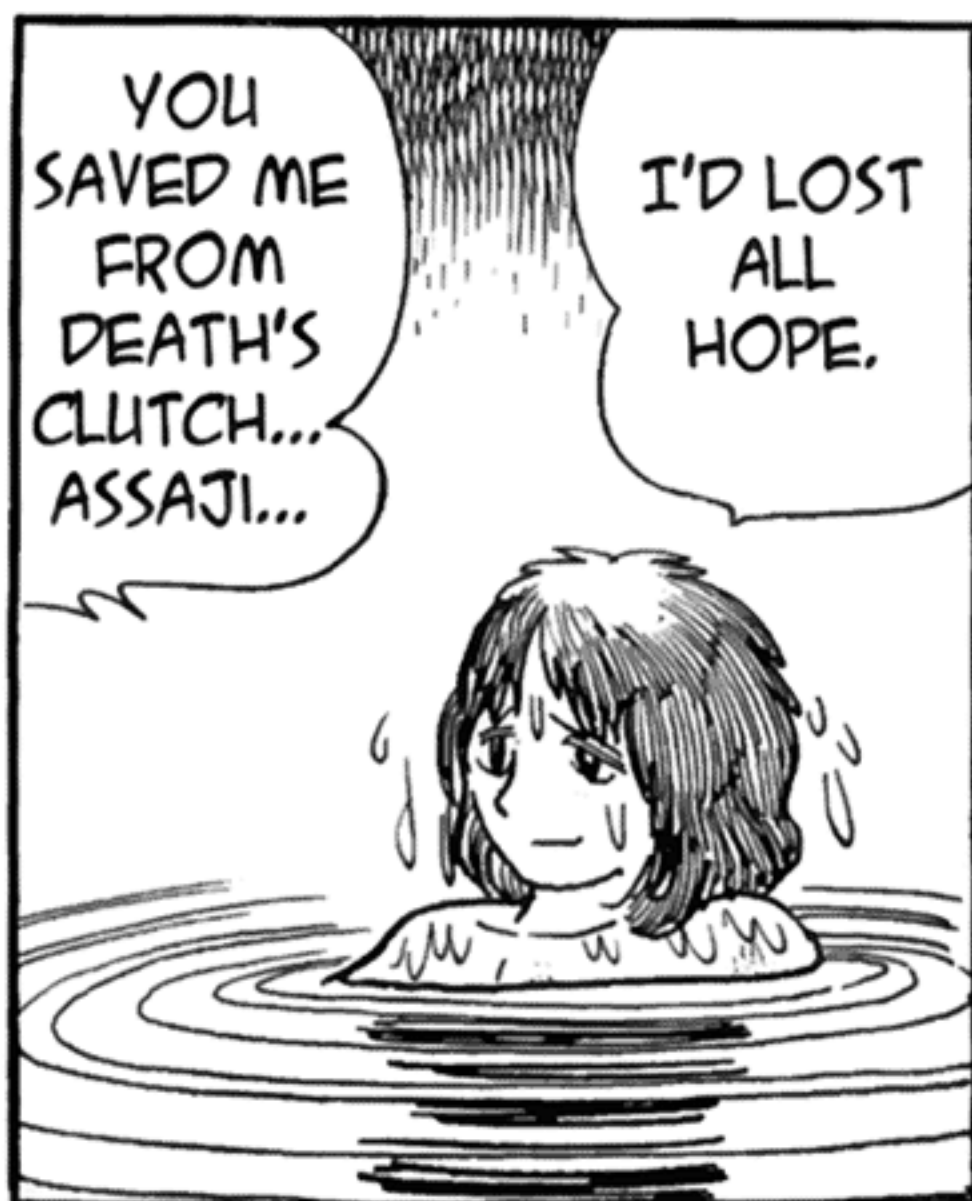
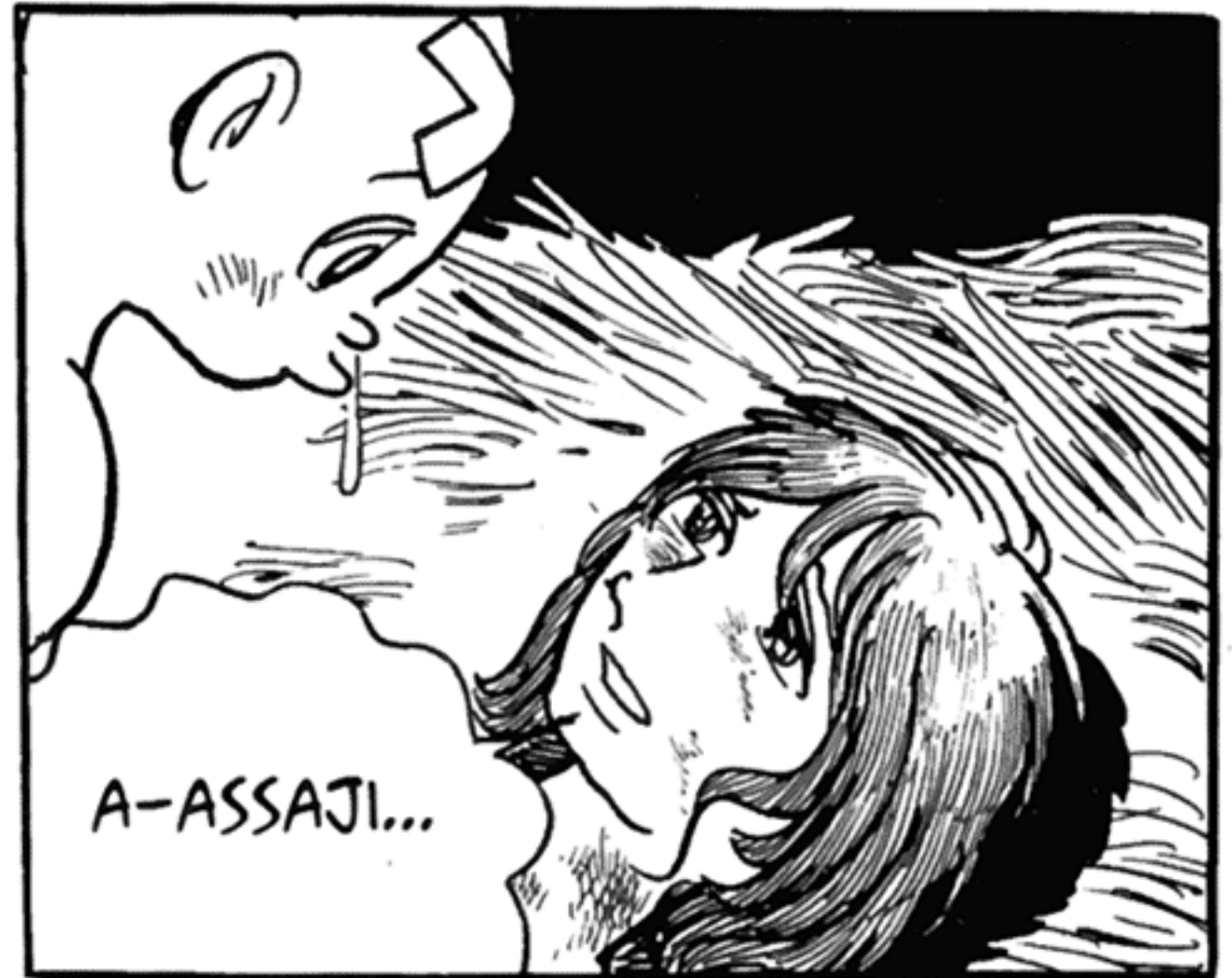
I DON'T
WANNA DIE!

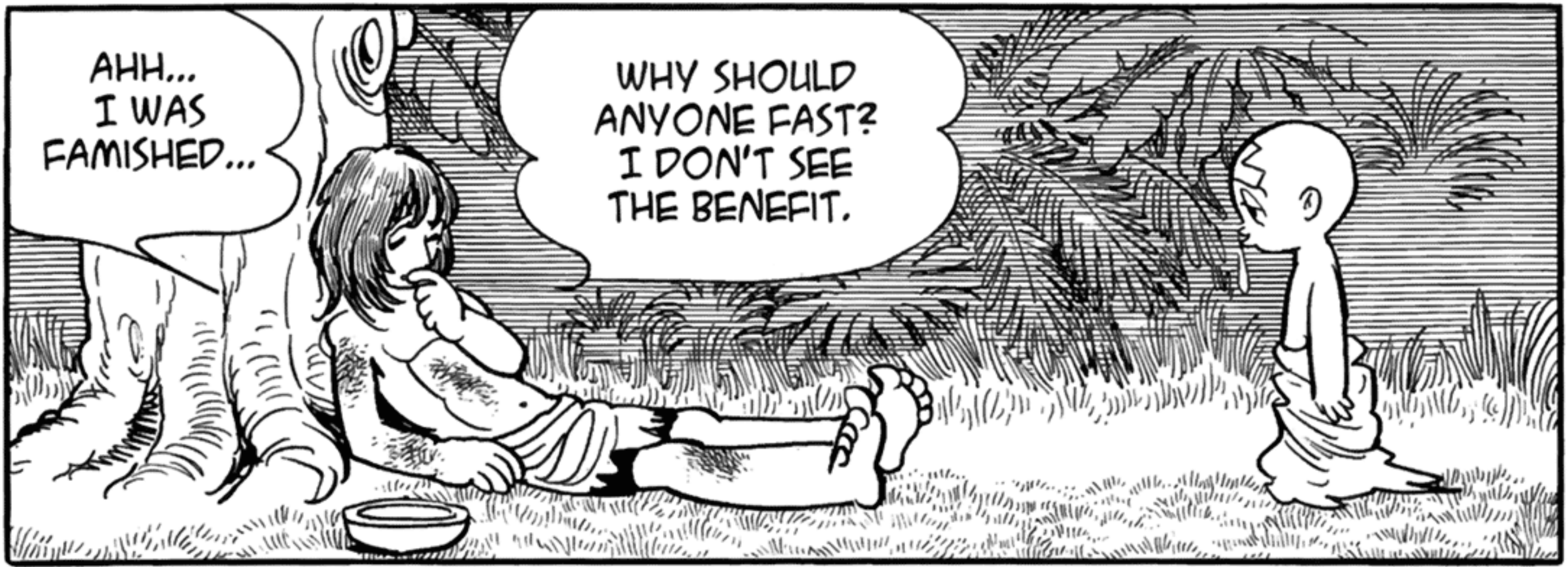


DHEPA!

PLEASE,
LET ME OUT
OF HERE.







AHH...
I WAS
FAMISHED...

WHY SHOULD
ANYONE FAST?
I DON'T SEE
THE BENEFIT.



AT DAWN, DHEPA
WILL FIND OUT THAT
I'VE ESCAPED,
AND GO CRAZY.



DHEPA
...

HE AND I
JUST DON'T
SEE THINGS
THE SAME
WAY
...



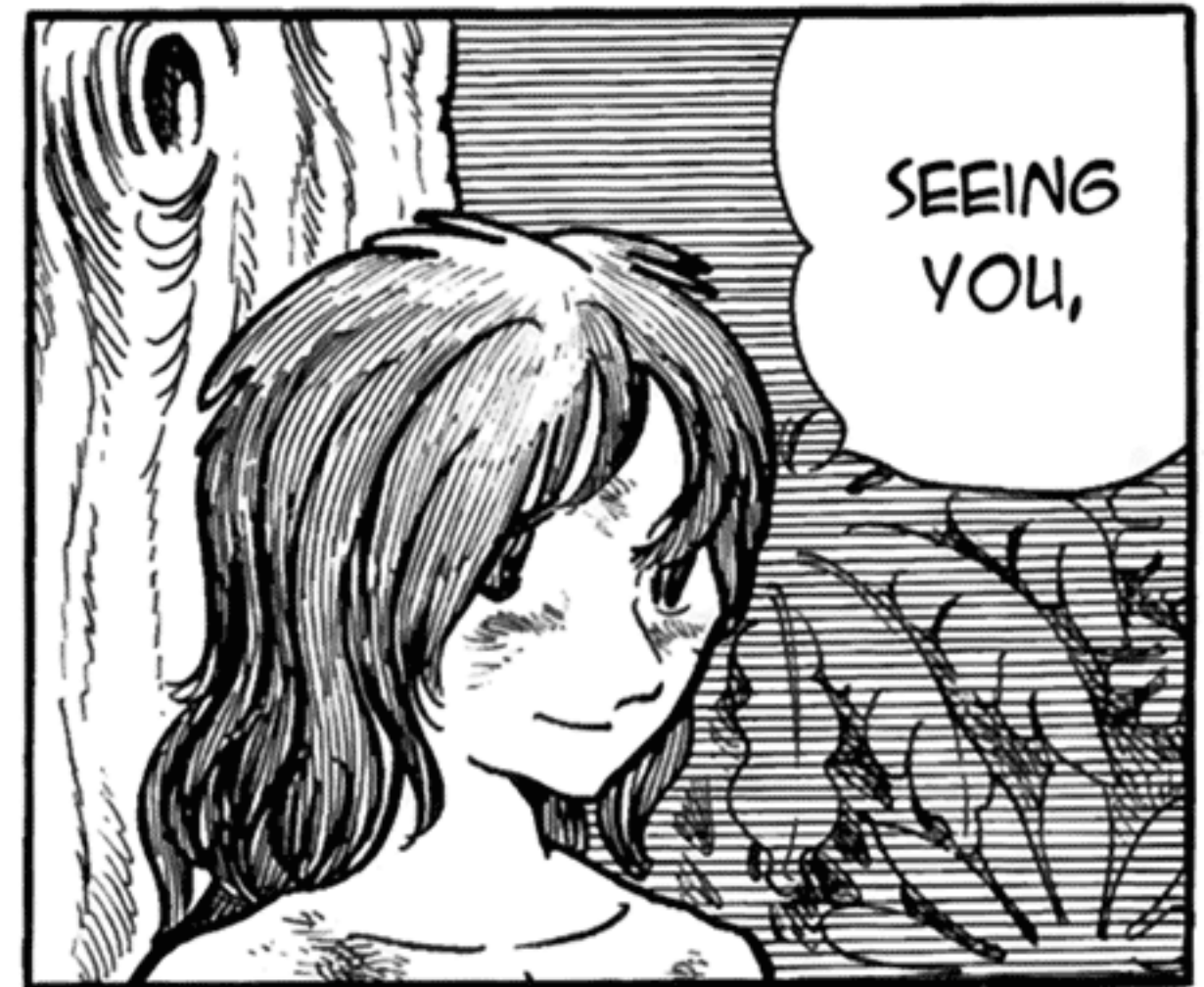
I'VE HAD
ENOUGH
OF HIM.



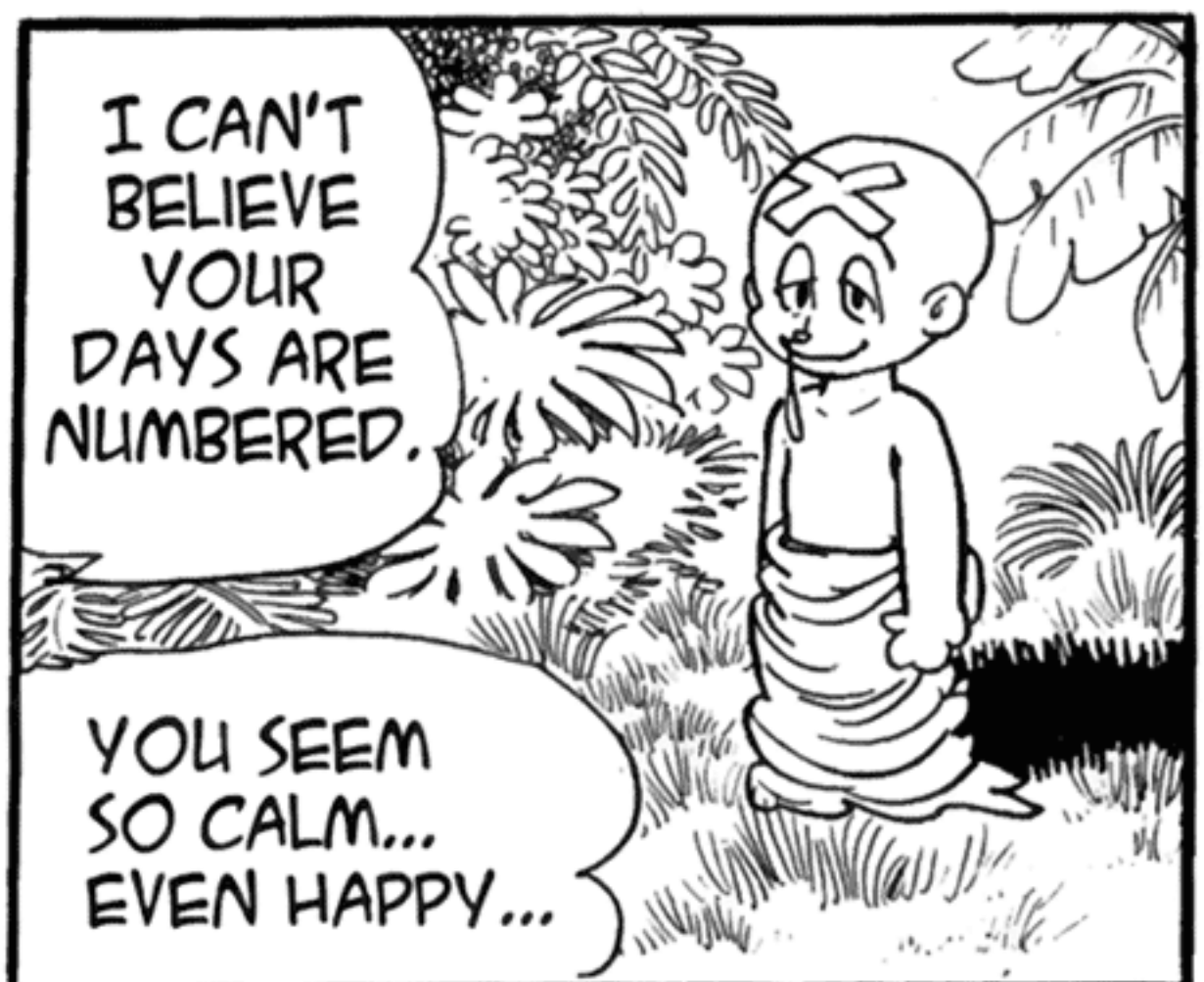
I KNOW! ASSAJI,
CAN WE TRAIN
TOGETHER?

MAY I
STAY HERE?

YOU'RE MY
ONLY FRIEND
IN THESE
WOODS
NOW...

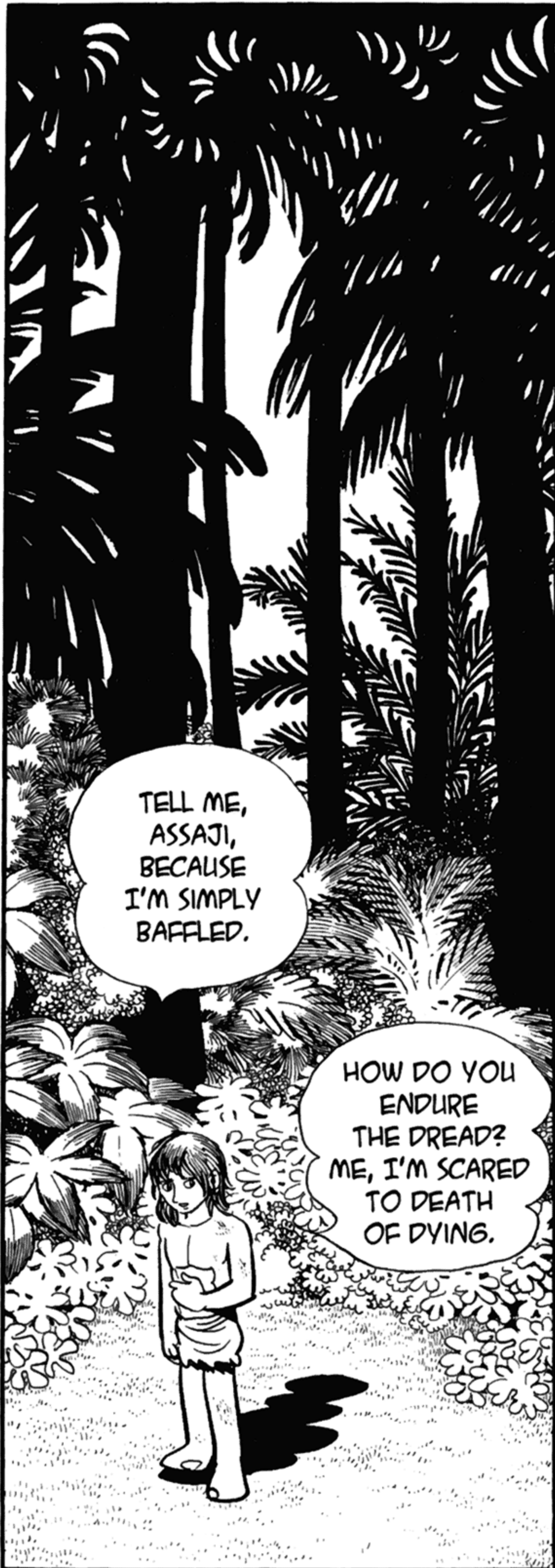


SEEING
YOU,



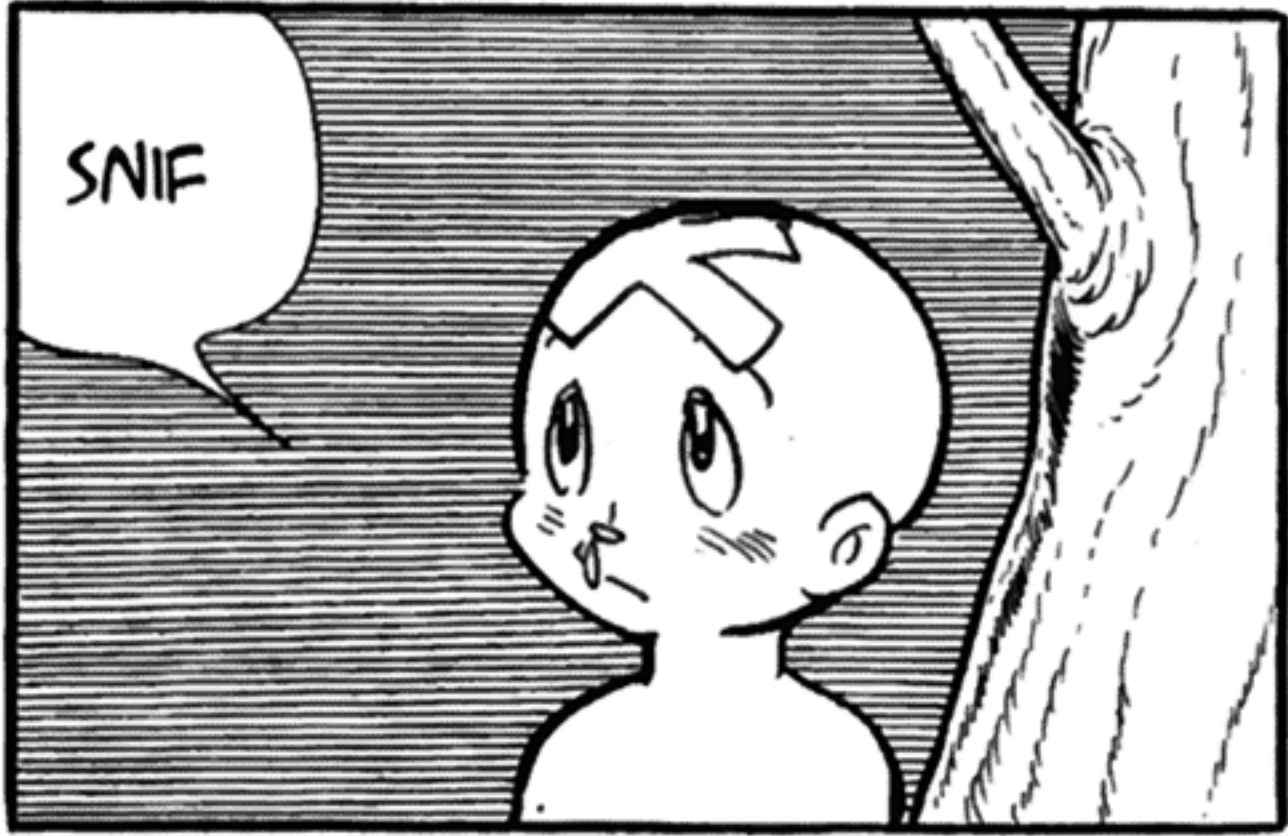
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
YOUR
DAYS ARE
NUMBERED.

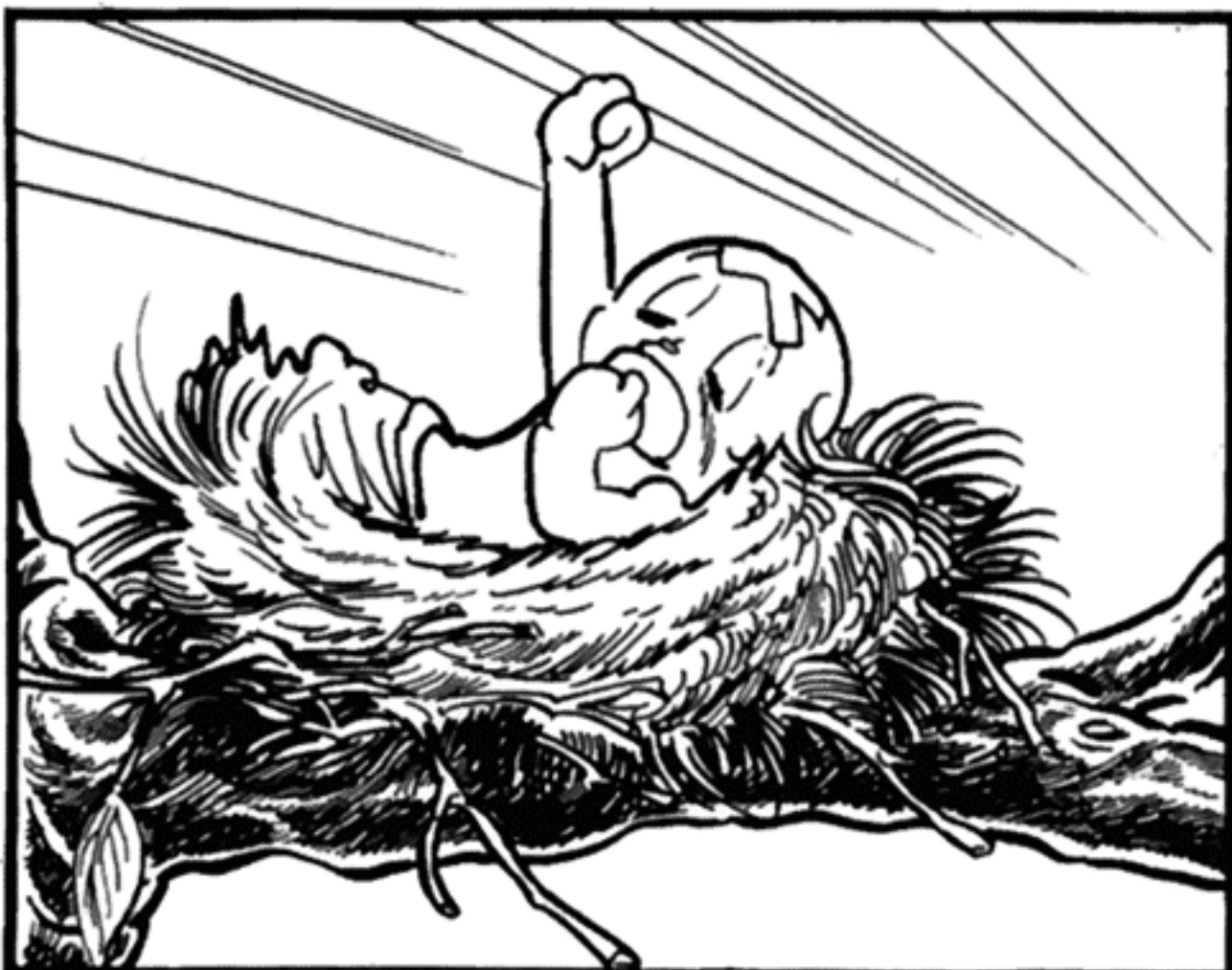
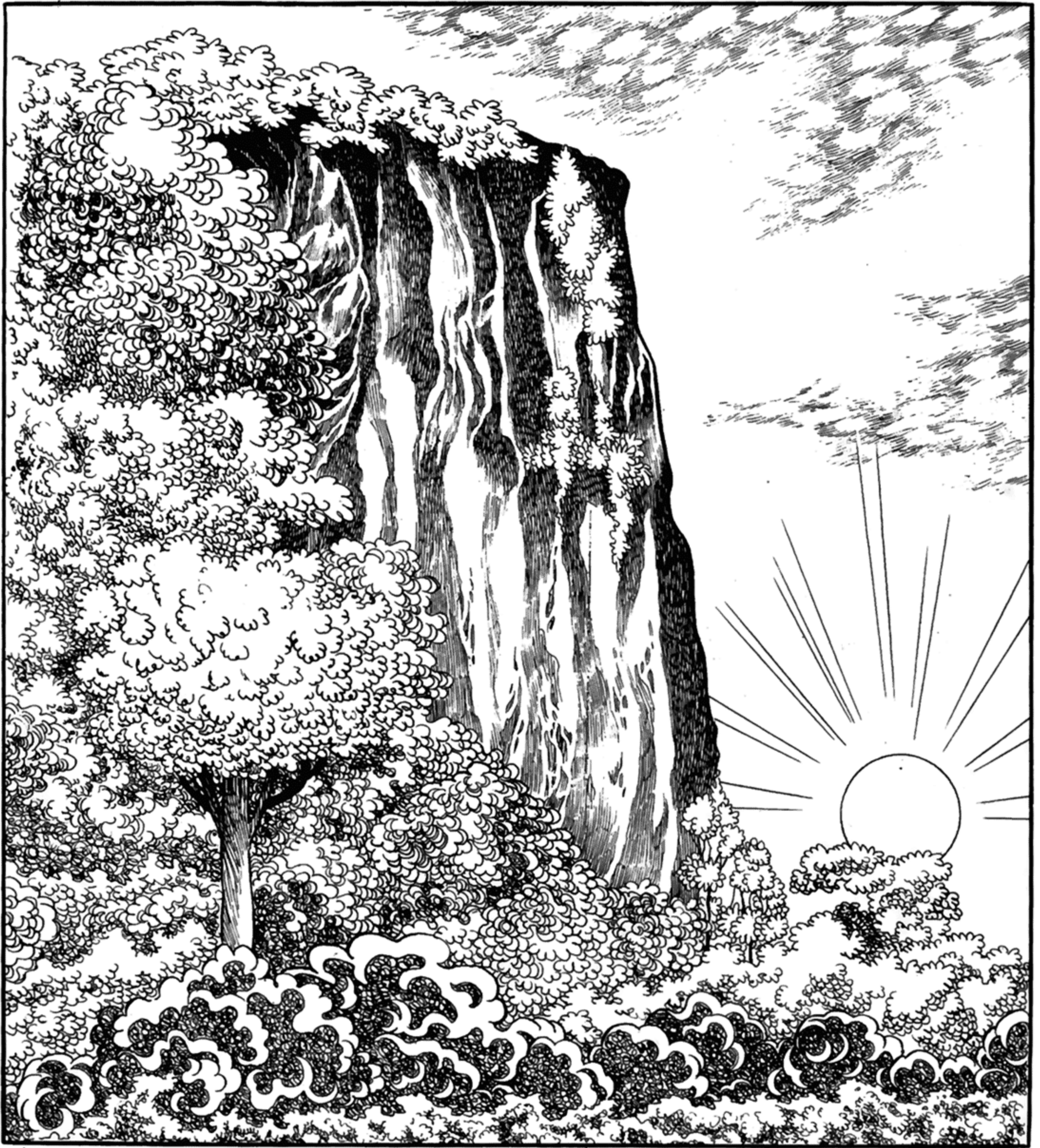
YOU SEEM
SO CALM...
EVEN HAPPY...



TELL ME,
ASSAJI,
BECAUSE
I'M SIMPLY
BAFFLED.

HOW DO YOU
ENDURE
THE DREAD?
ME, I'M SCARED
TO DEATH
OF DYING.





SLEEP
OKAY?

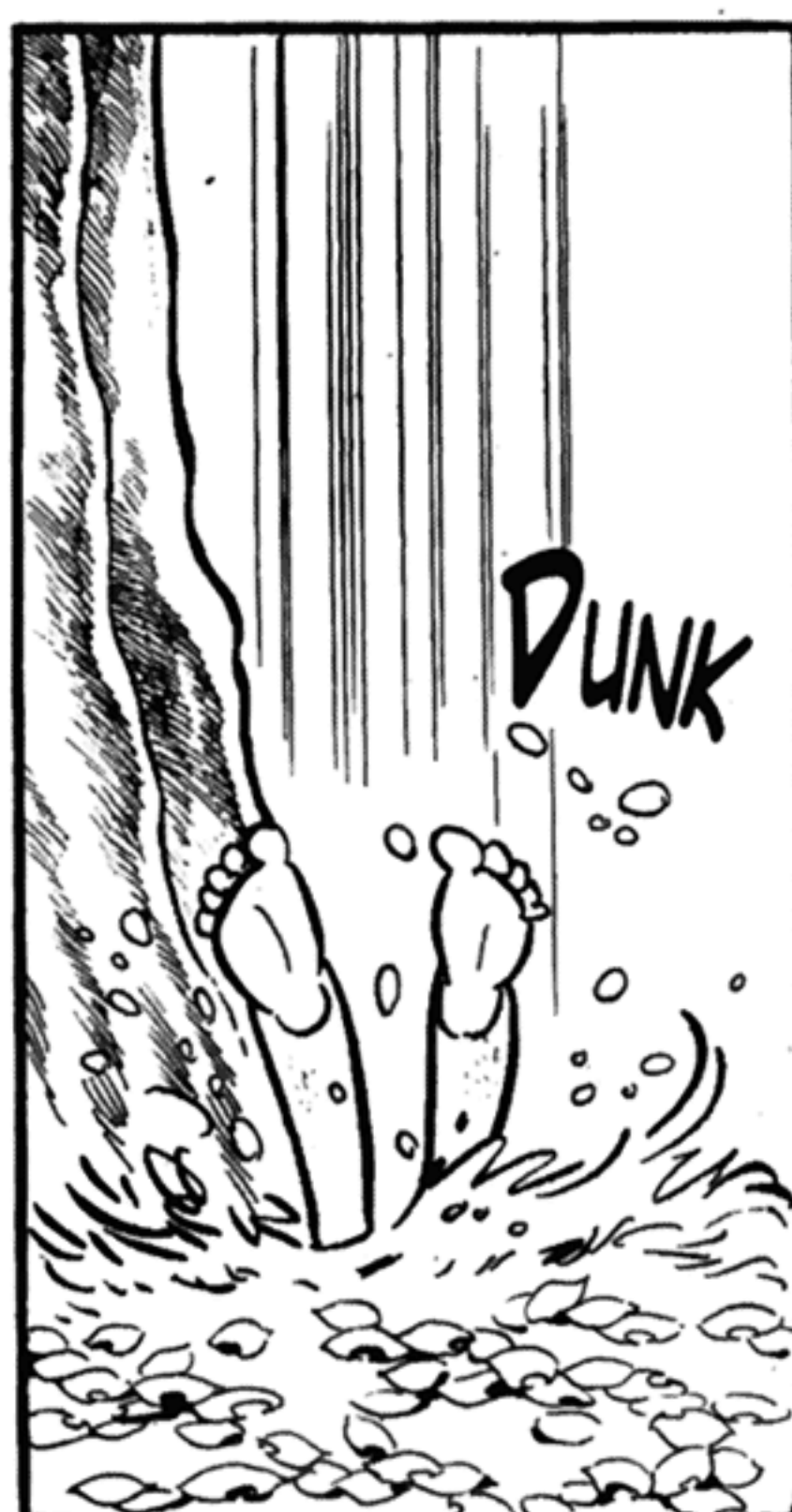


I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SLEPT IN A TREE LIKE A BIRD!

I GUESS IT WORKS FOR A KID. FOR ME IT'S A SQUEEZE.



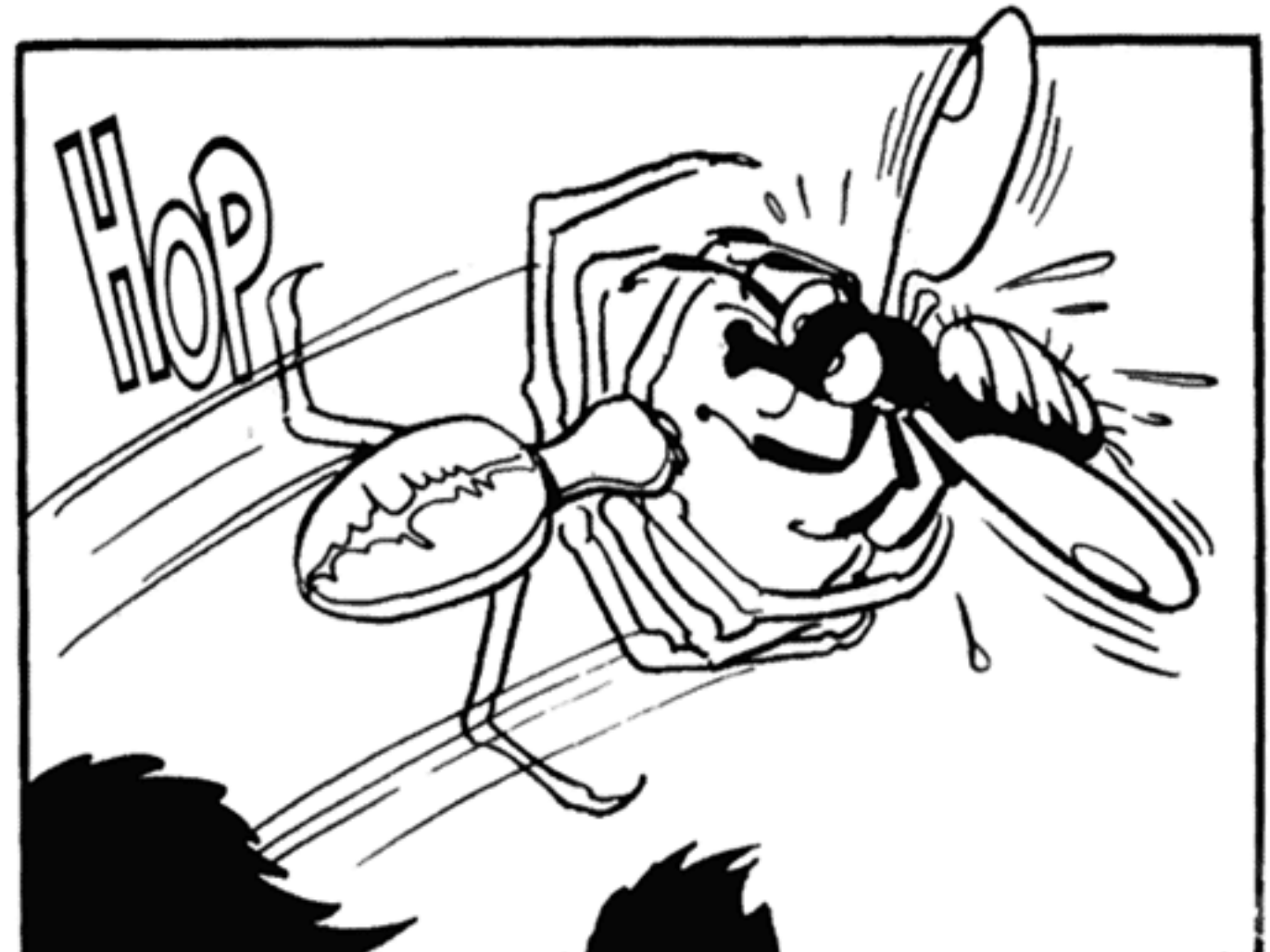
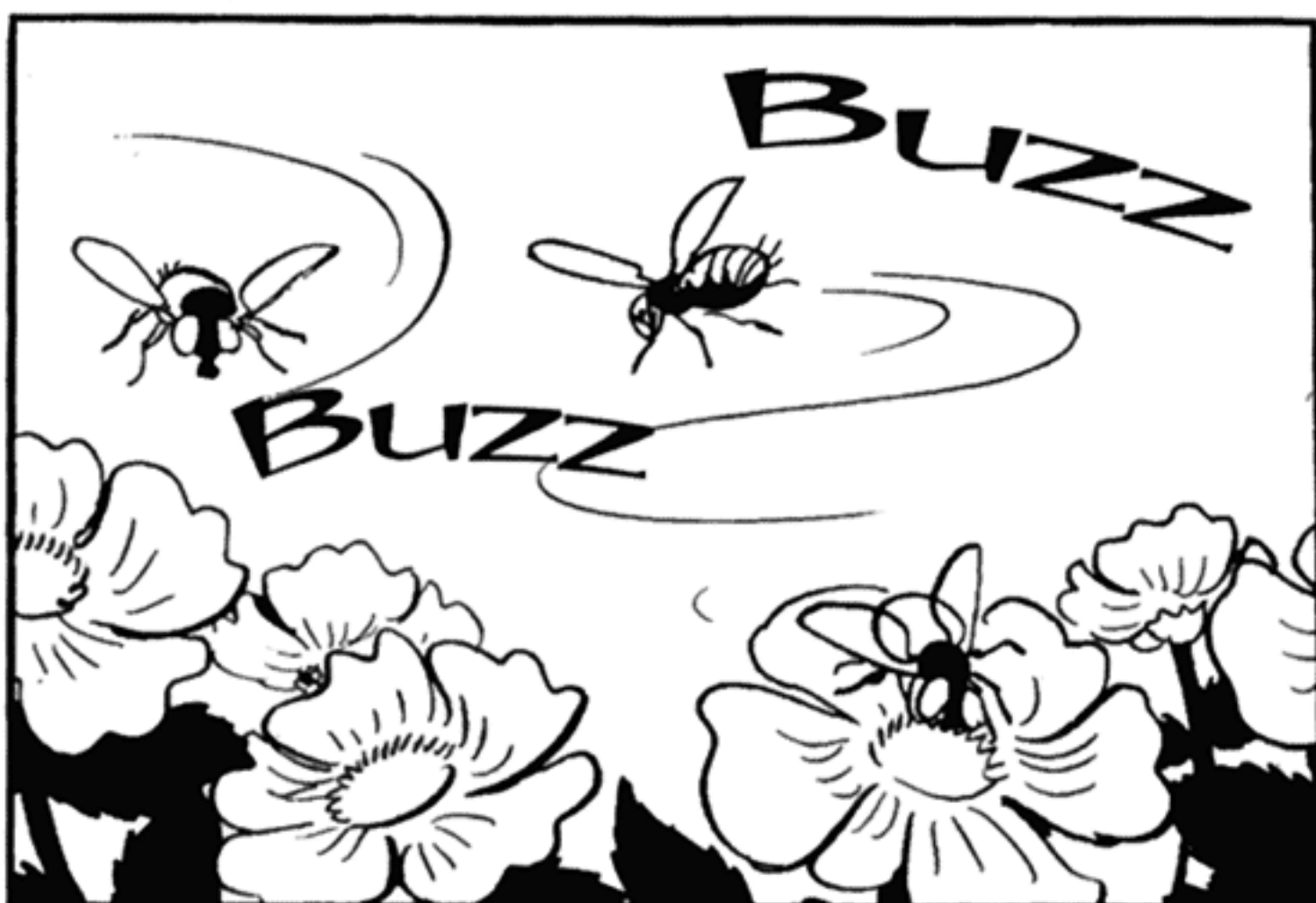
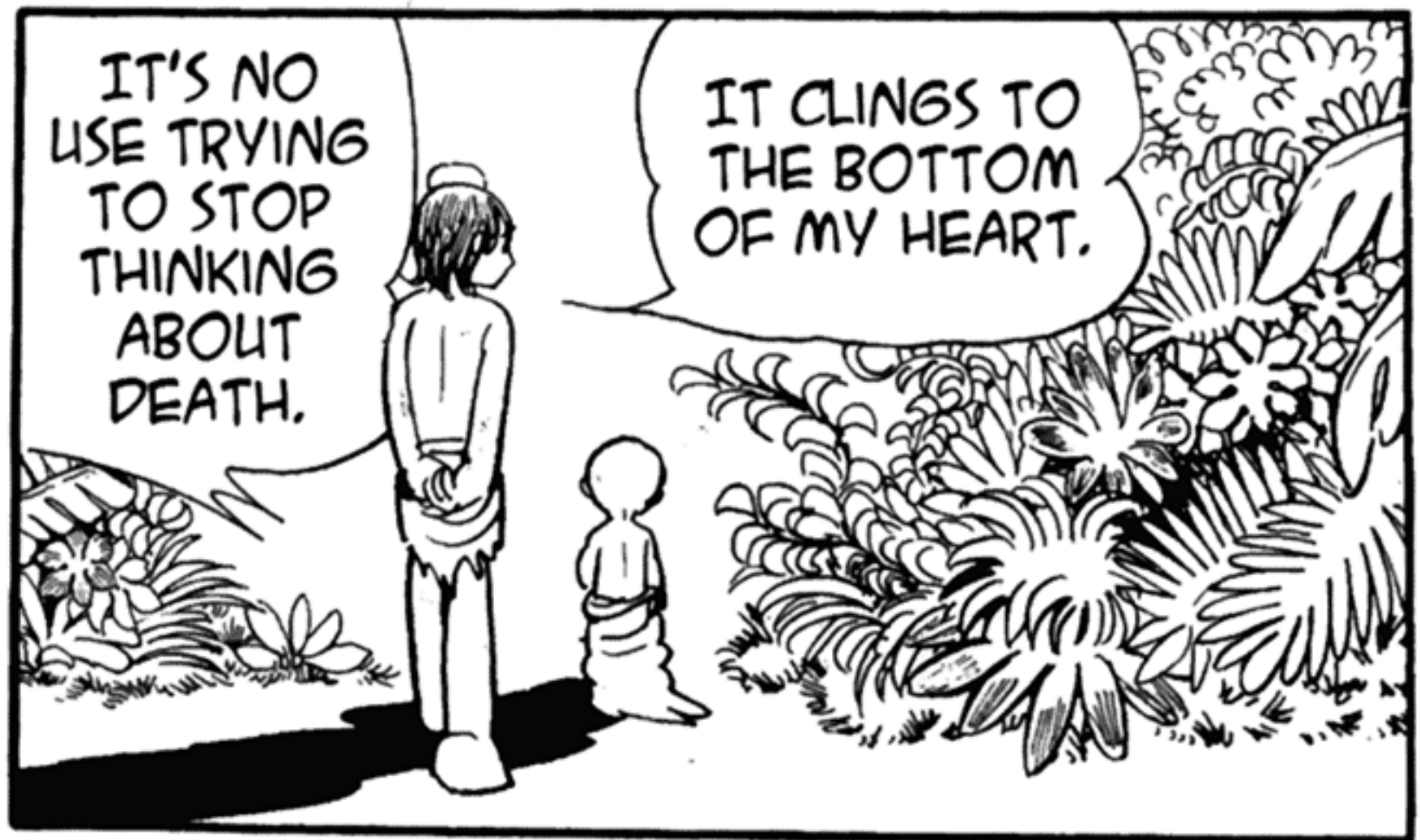
OOPS

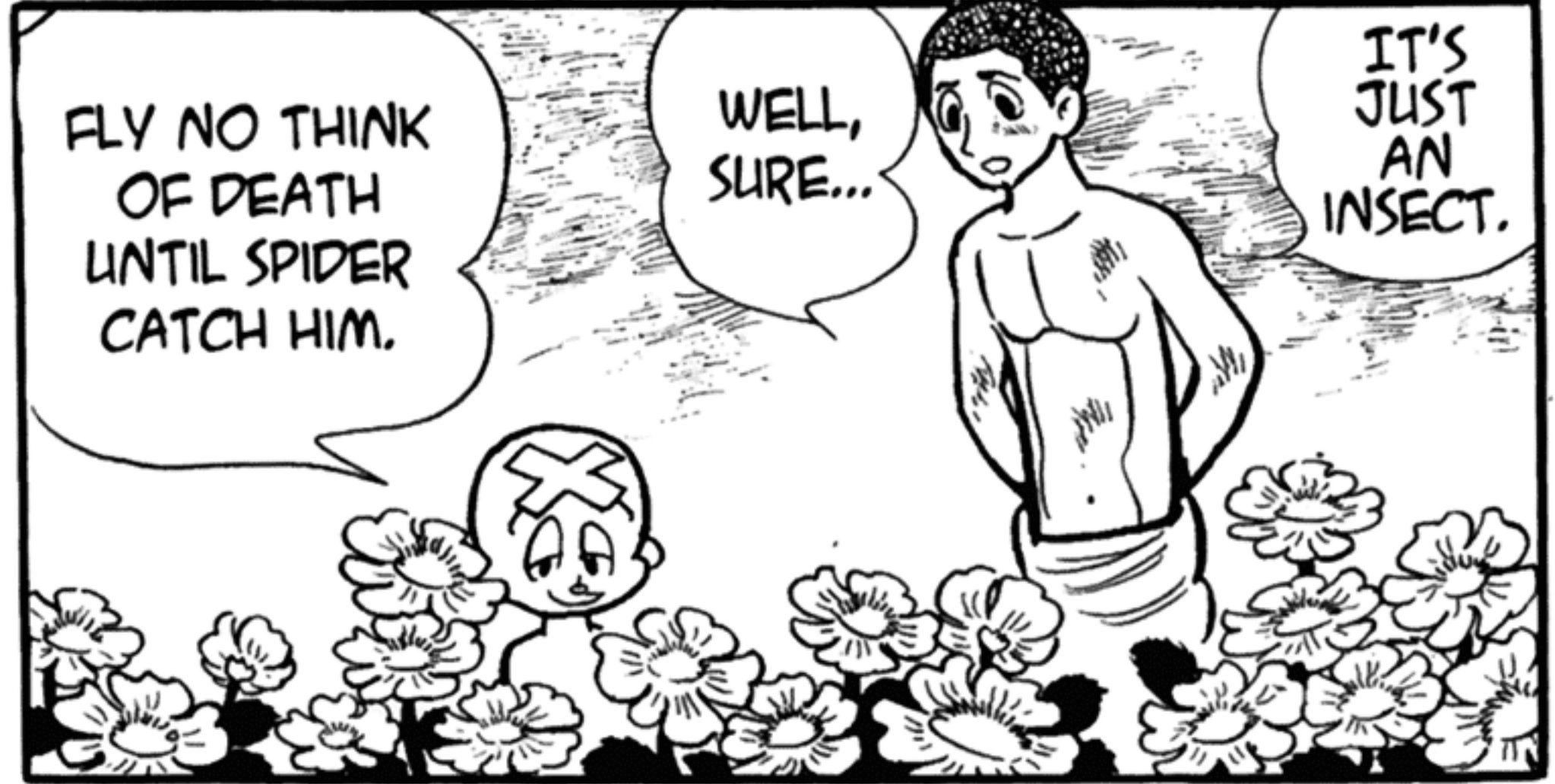
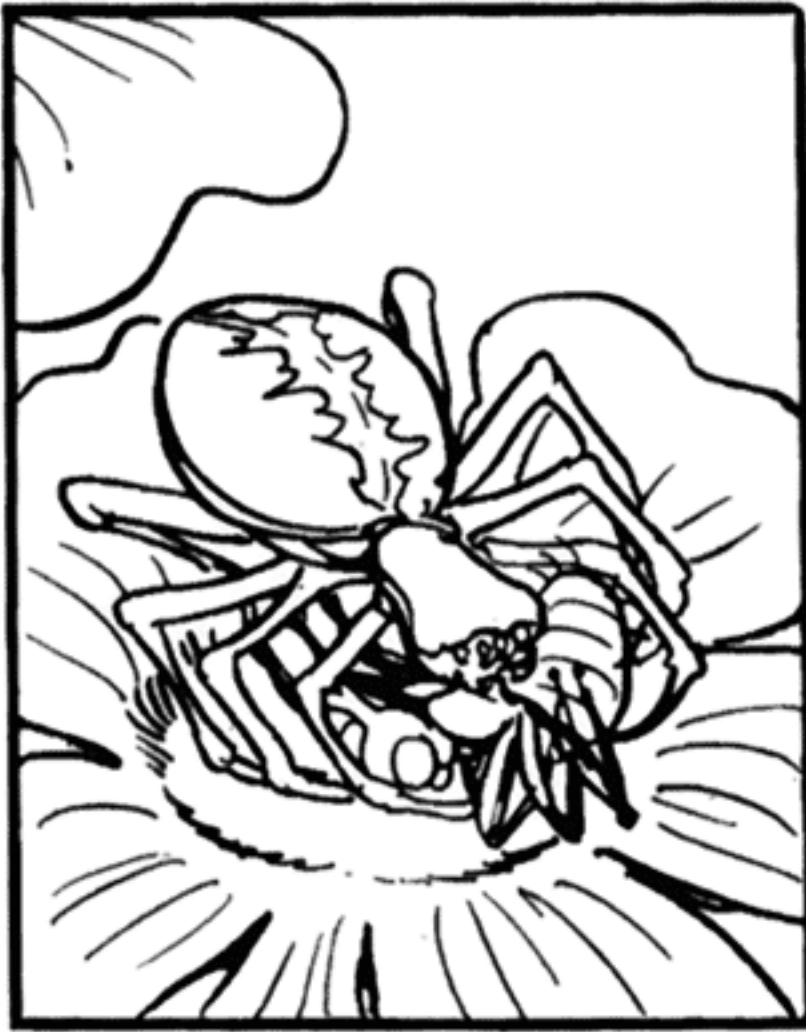


DUNK



GRASS AND LEAVES AROUND TREE. I PLACE FOR HAPPY LANDING.

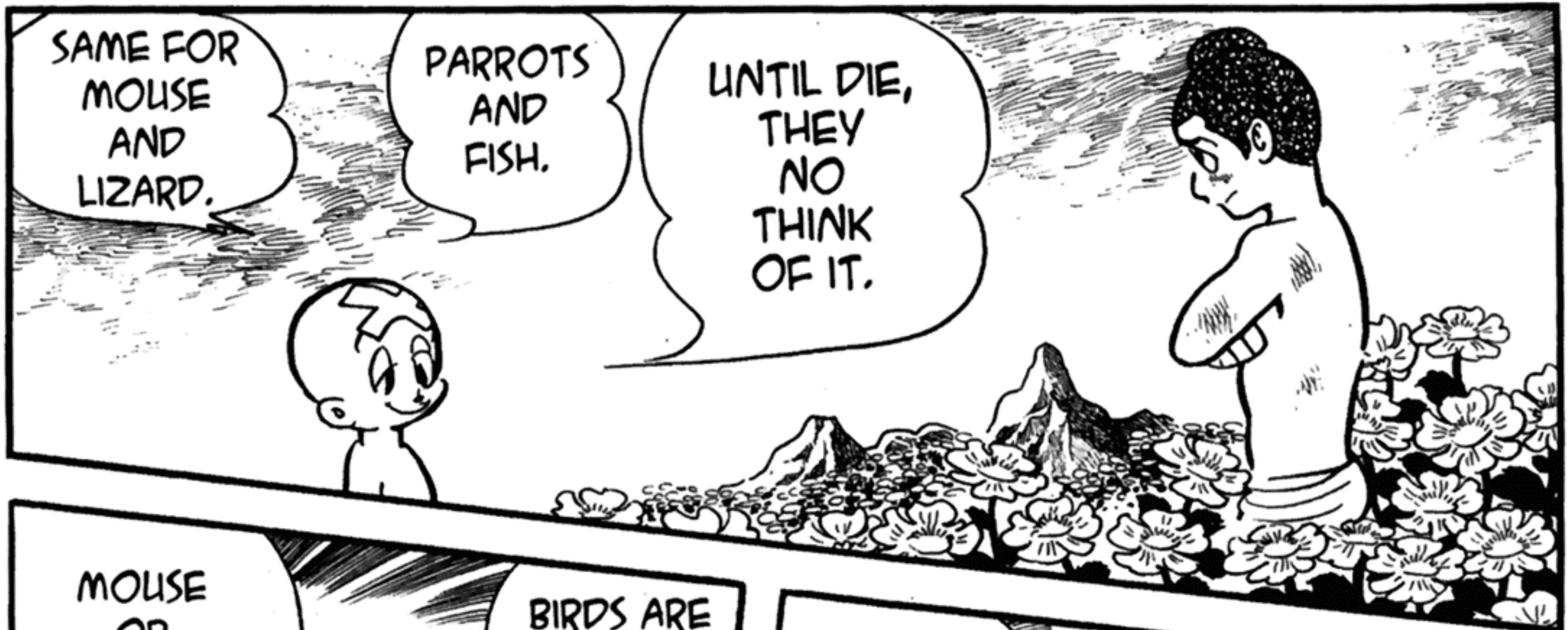




FLY NO THINK OF DEATH UNTIL SPIDER CATCH HIM.

WELL, SURE...

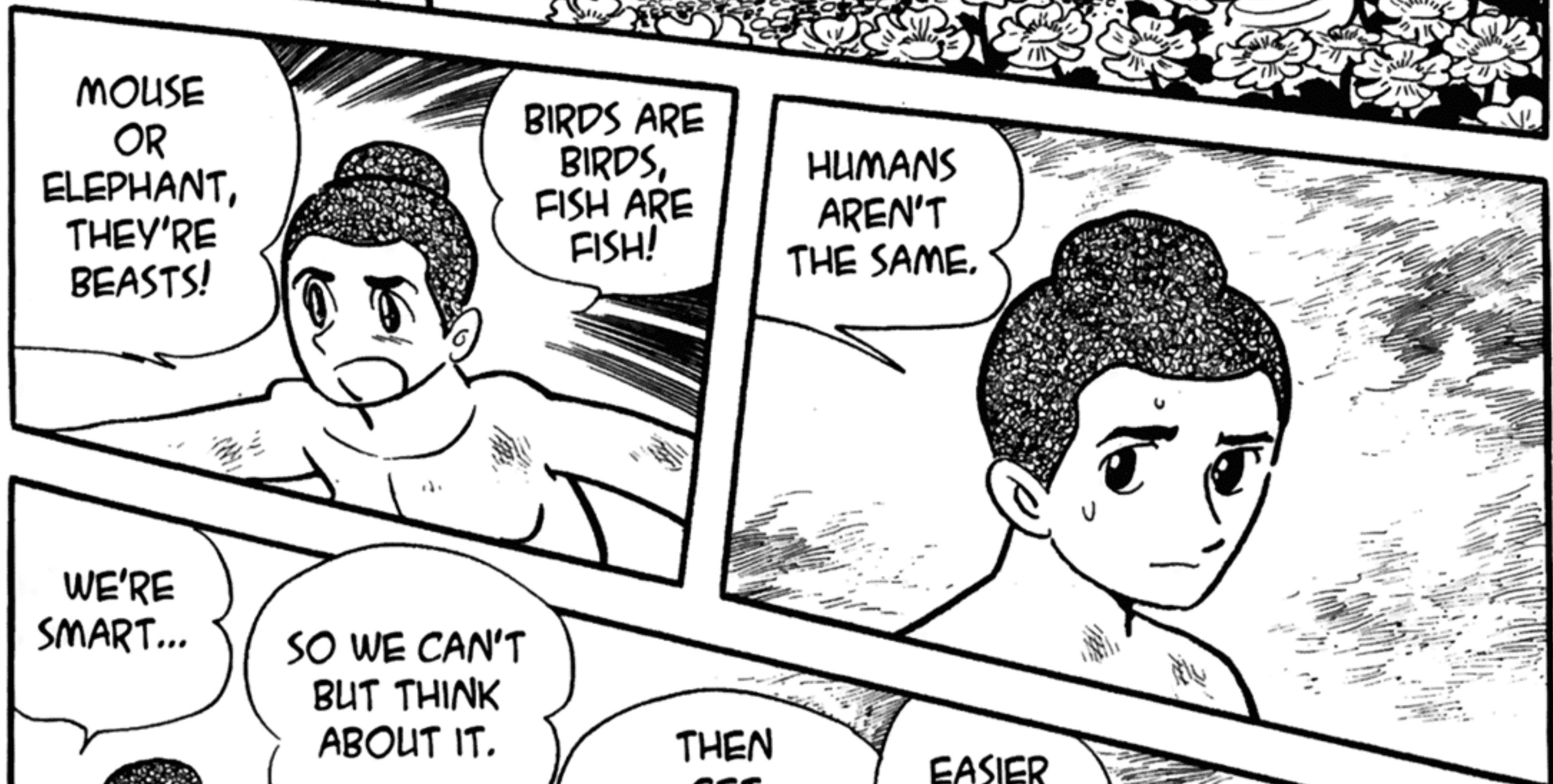
IT'S JUST AN INSECT.



SAME FOR MOUSE AND LIZARD.

PARROTS AND FISH.

UNTIL DIE, THEY NO THINK OF IT.



MOUSE OR ELEPHANT, THEY'RE BEASTS!

BIRDS ARE BIRDS, FISH ARE FISH!

HUMANS AREN'T THE SAME.

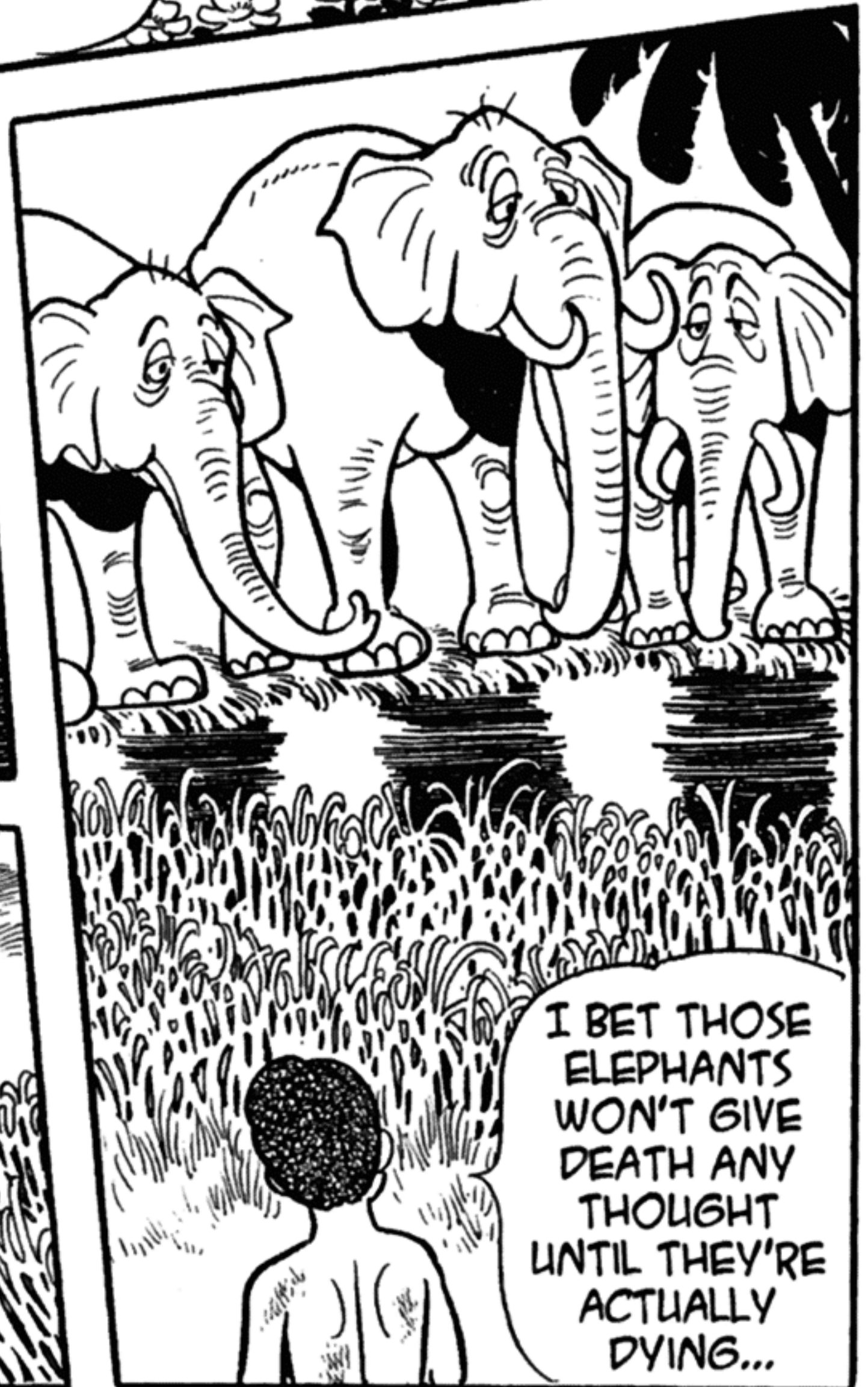
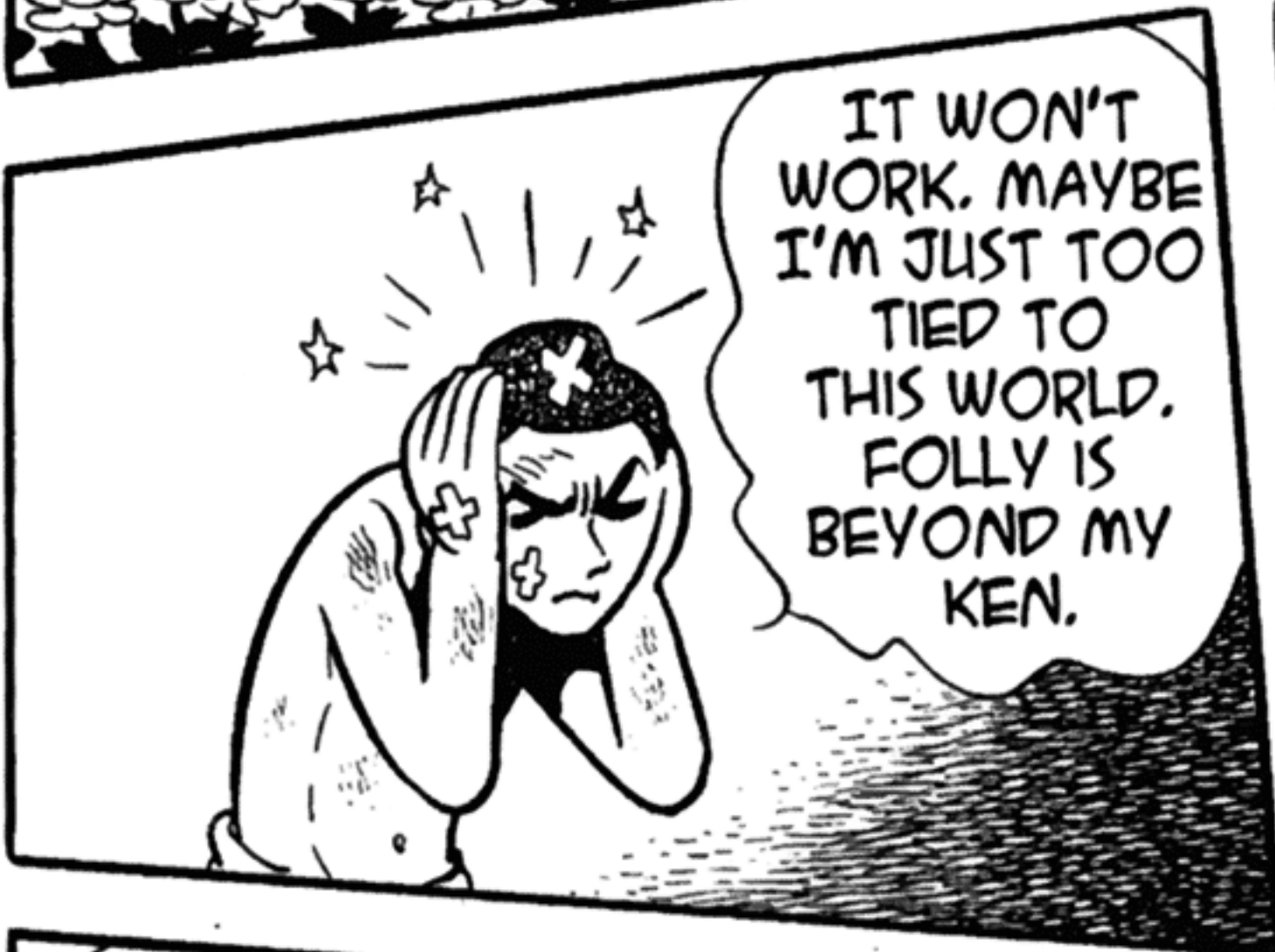
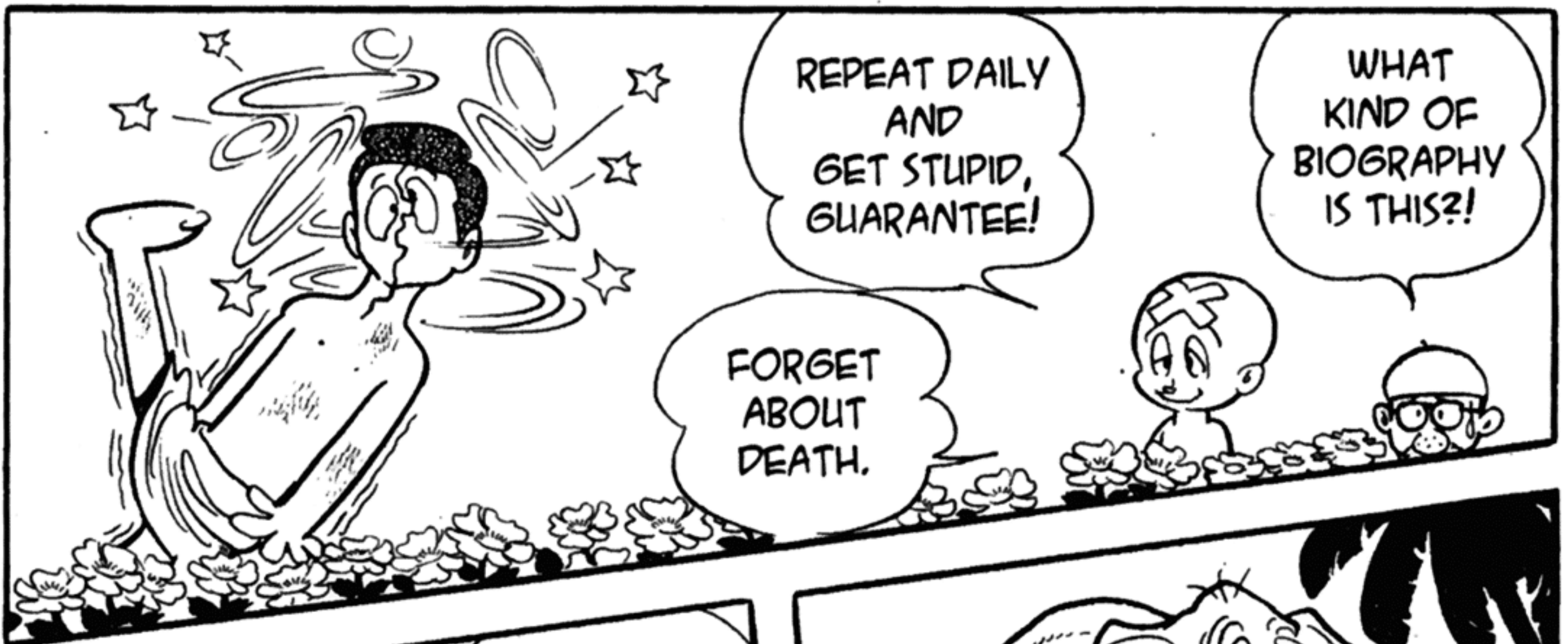
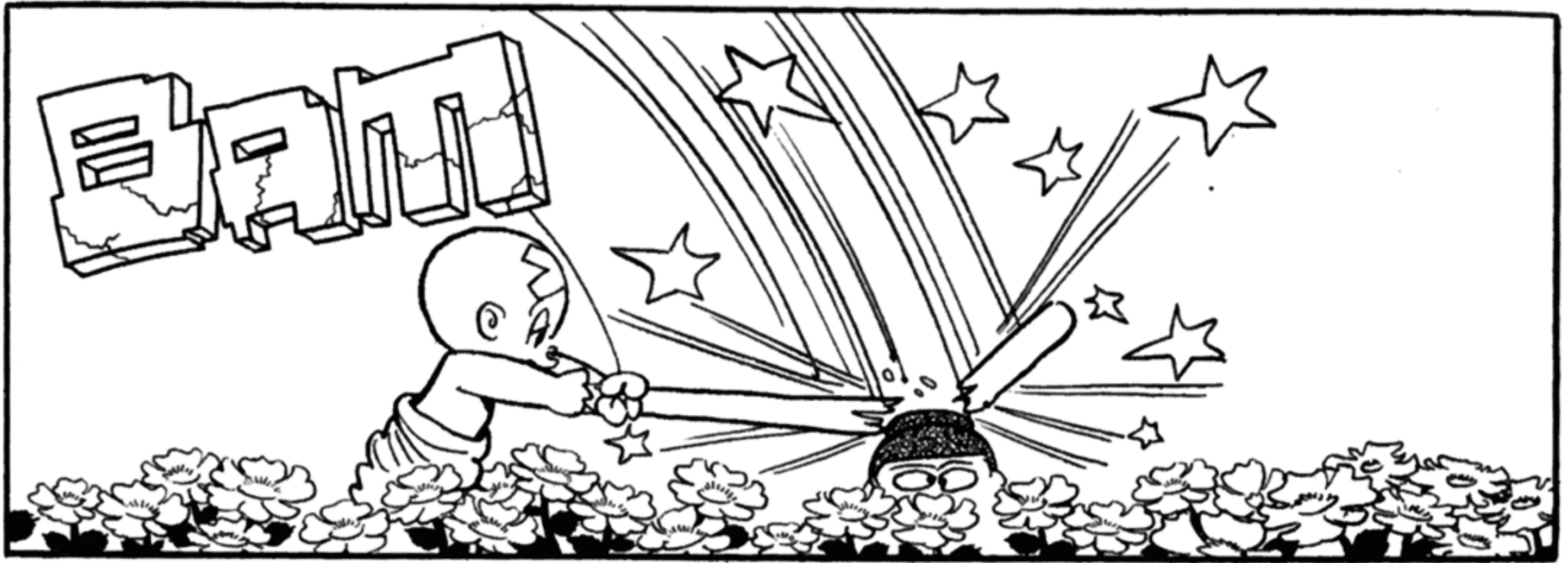


WE'RE SMART...

SO WE CAN'T BUT THINK ABOUT IT.

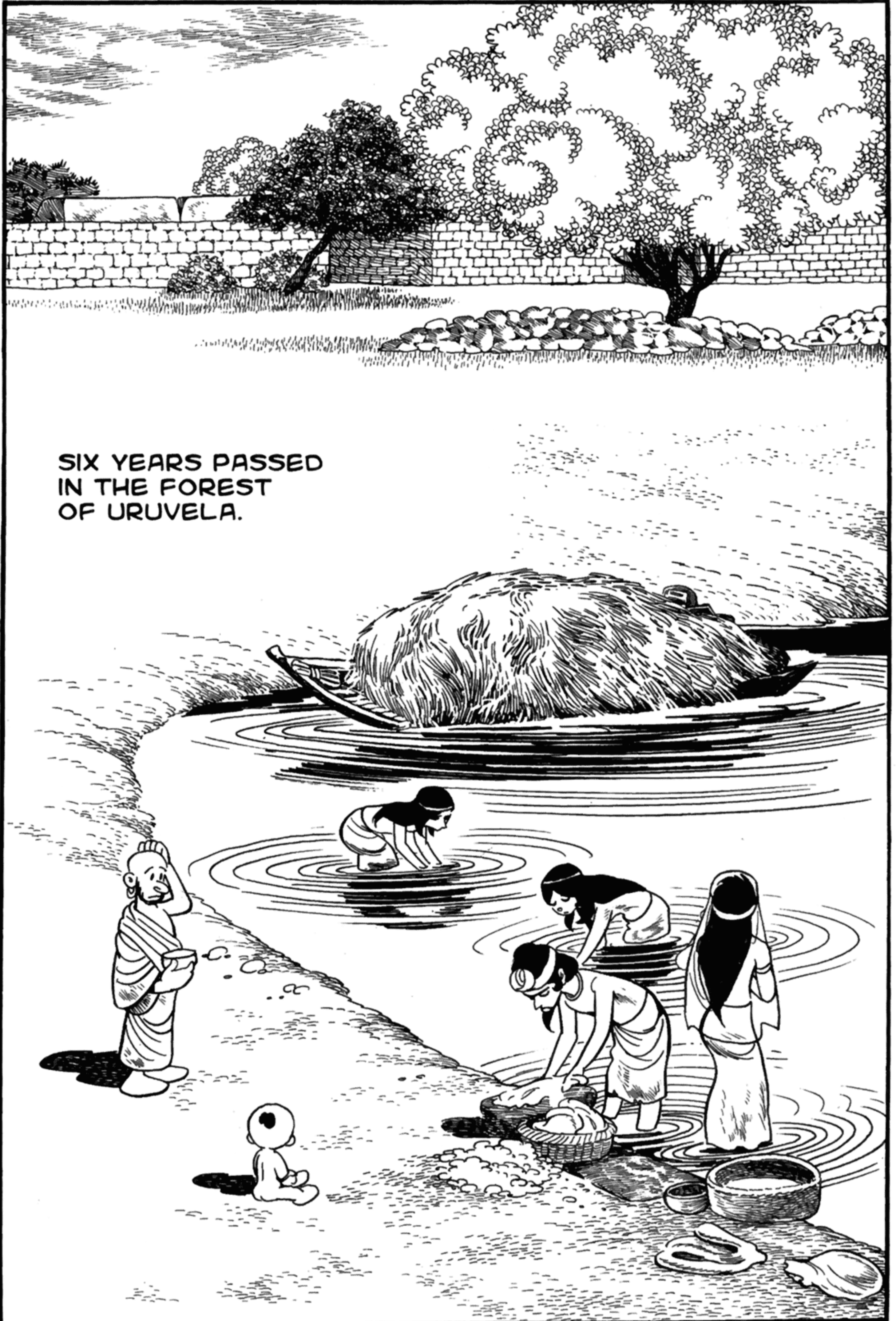
THEN GET STUPID.

EASIER SAID THAN DONE.



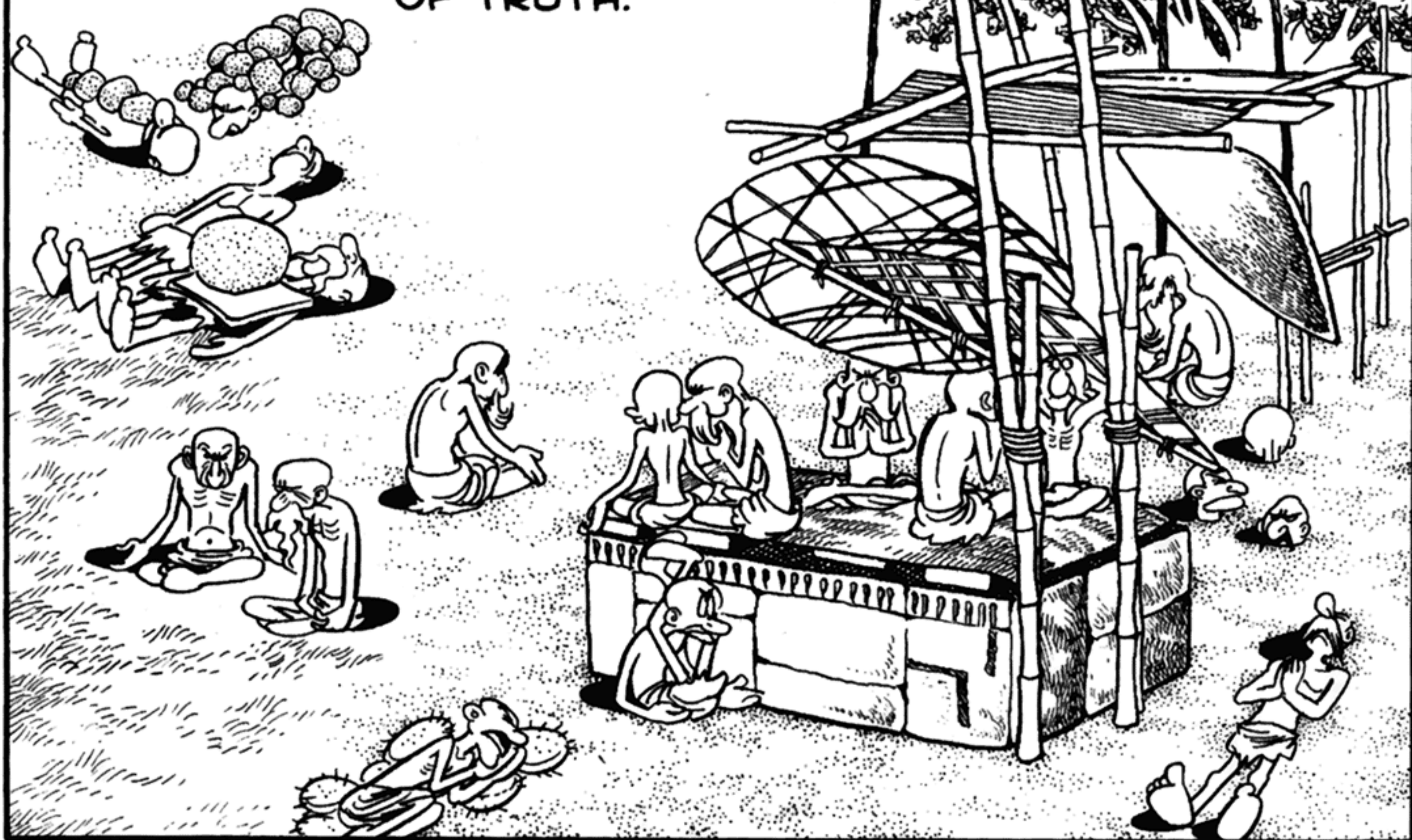
CHAPTER EIGHT

ASSAJI'S END



SIX YEARS PASSED
IN THE FOREST
OF URUELA.

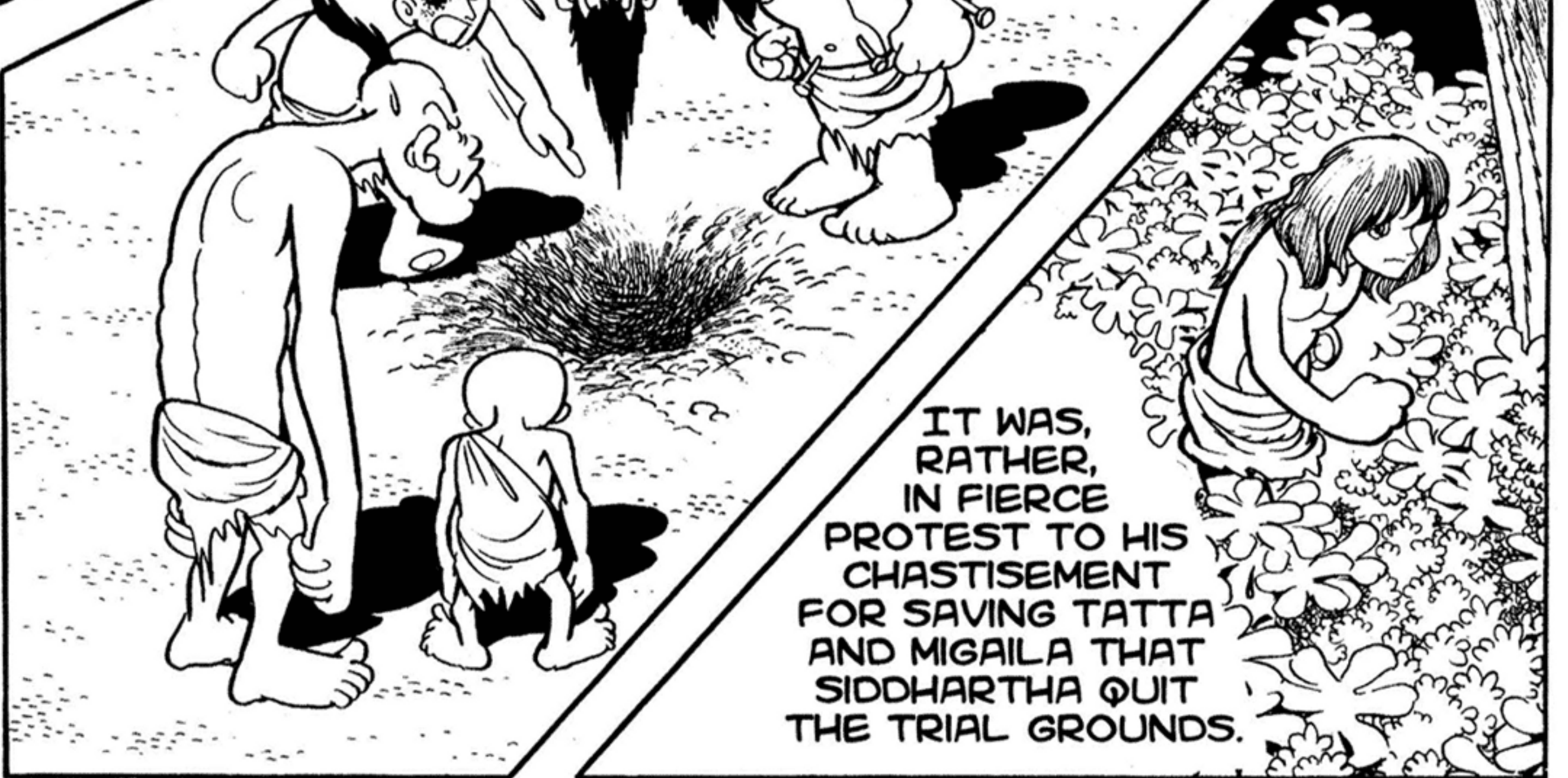
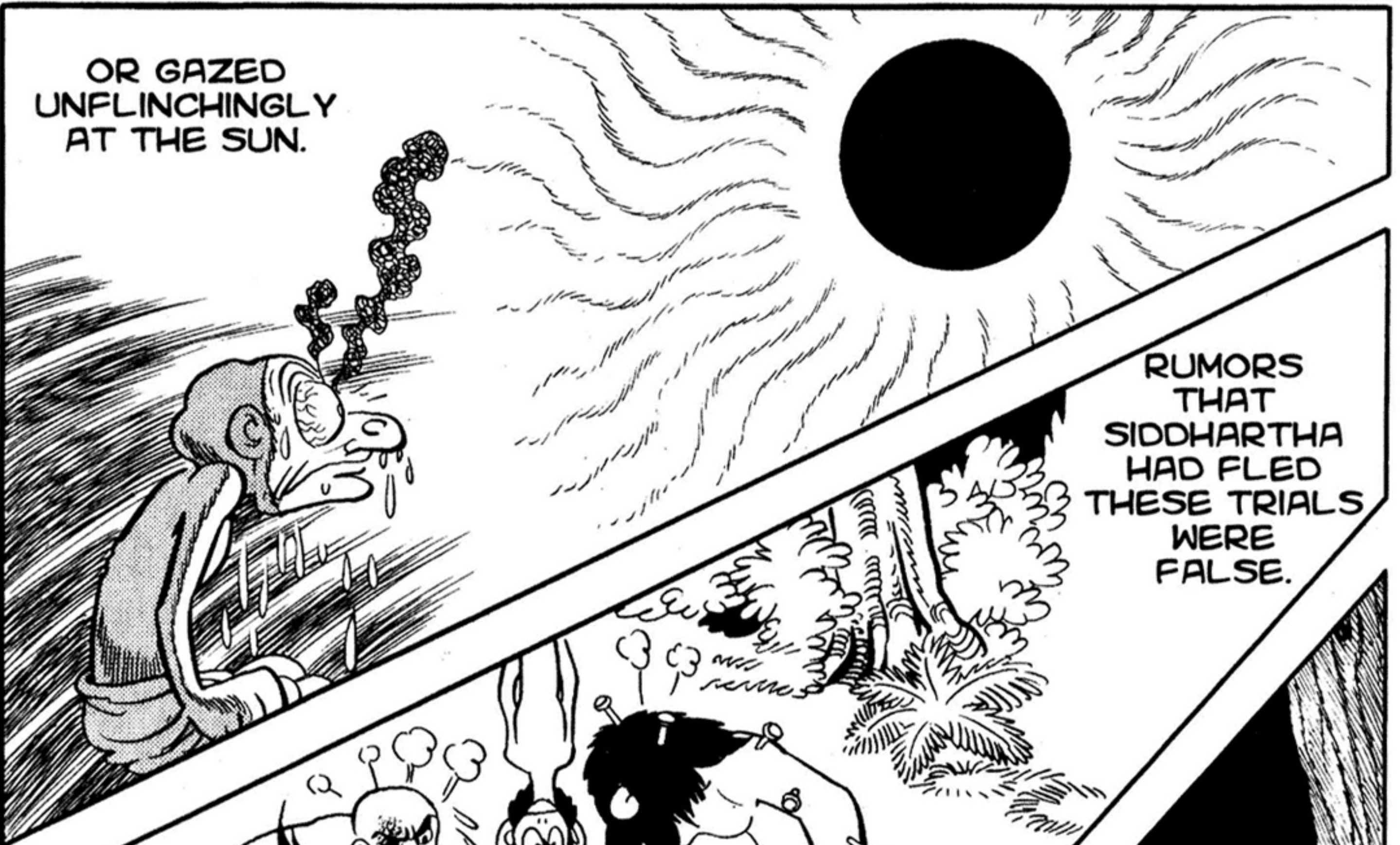
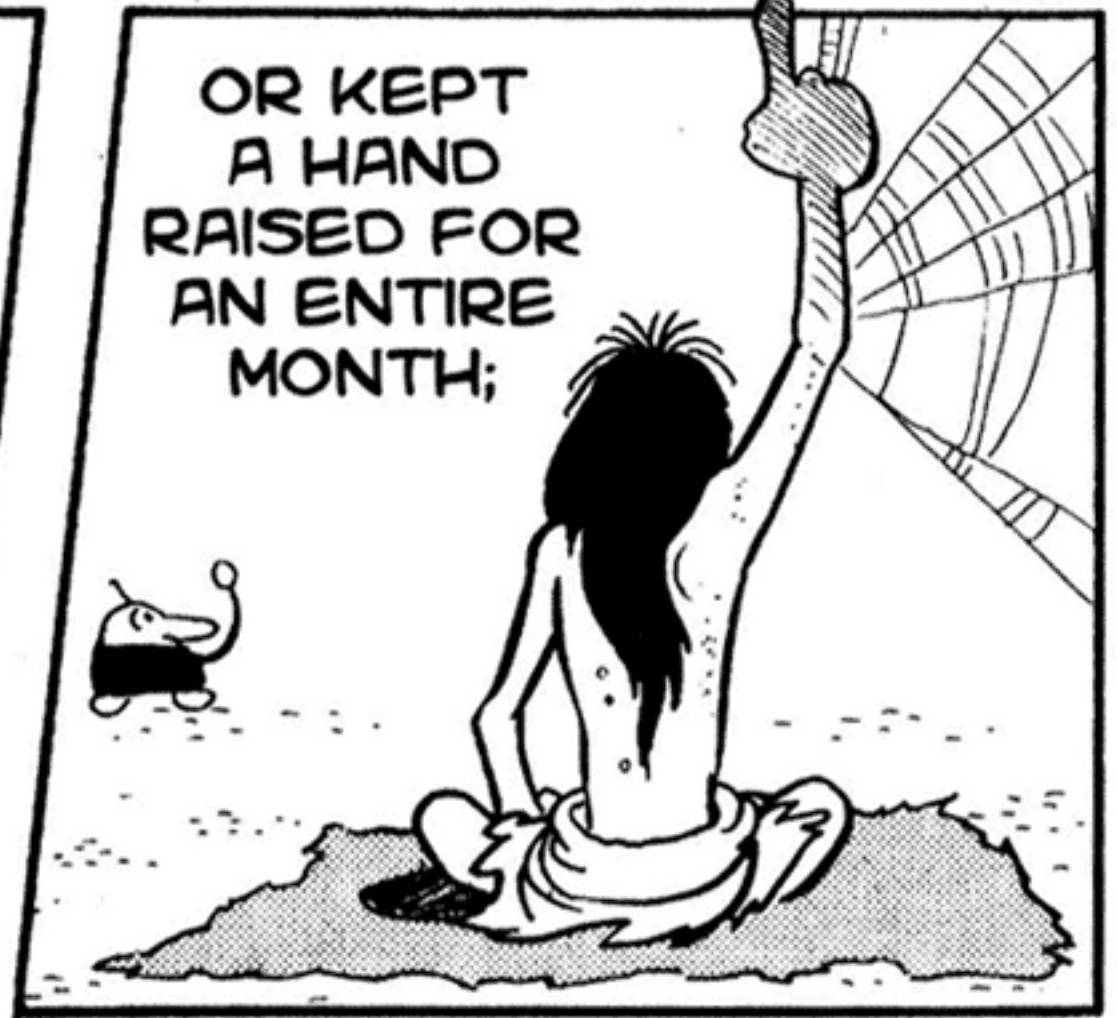
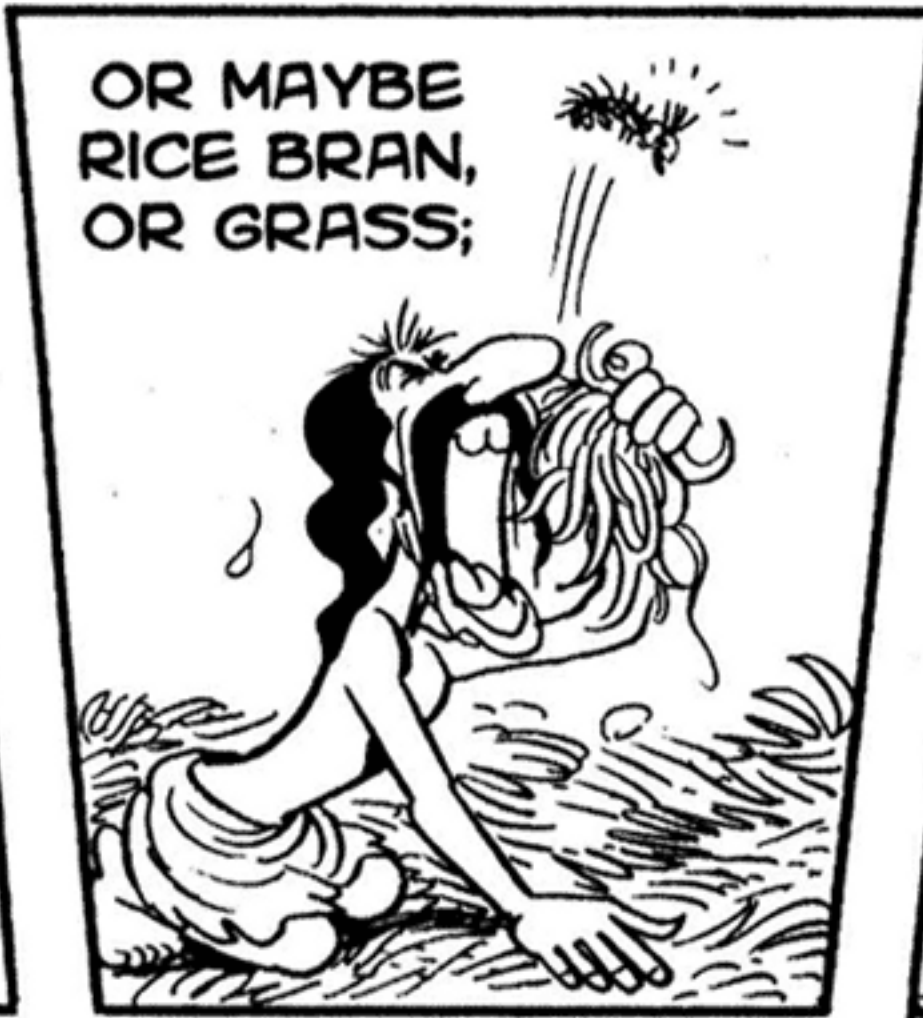
SIX YEARS...
A LONG, ARDUOUS
JOURNEY IN TIME
FOR THE ASPIRING
SCHOLAR-MONKS.
FORSAKING PATHS
TO GLORY,
THE THRILLS OF
ADVENTURE,
AND OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ROMANCE,
THEY COMMIT BODY
AND SOUL TO THE
STEADFAST PURSUIT
OF TRUTH.



IT IS SAID OF
THE ASCETIC
NATAPUTTA'S
ELEVEN
DISCIPLES
THAT NINE
LOST THEIR
LIVES IN
ORDEALS.



THERE WERE
TRIALS WHERE,
WITHOUT
BATHING
FOR YEARS,
COVERED
IN DIRT
AND DUST,



IT WAS,
RATHER,
IN FIERCE
PROTEST TO HIS
CHASTISEMENT
FOR SAVING TATTA
AND MIGAILA THAT
SIDDHARTHA QUIT
THE TRIAL GROUNDS.



HE CONTINUED HIS TRAINING ALONE WITH ASSAJI. HE WISHED TO SEE HIS YOUNG FRIEND THROUGH TO THE END.



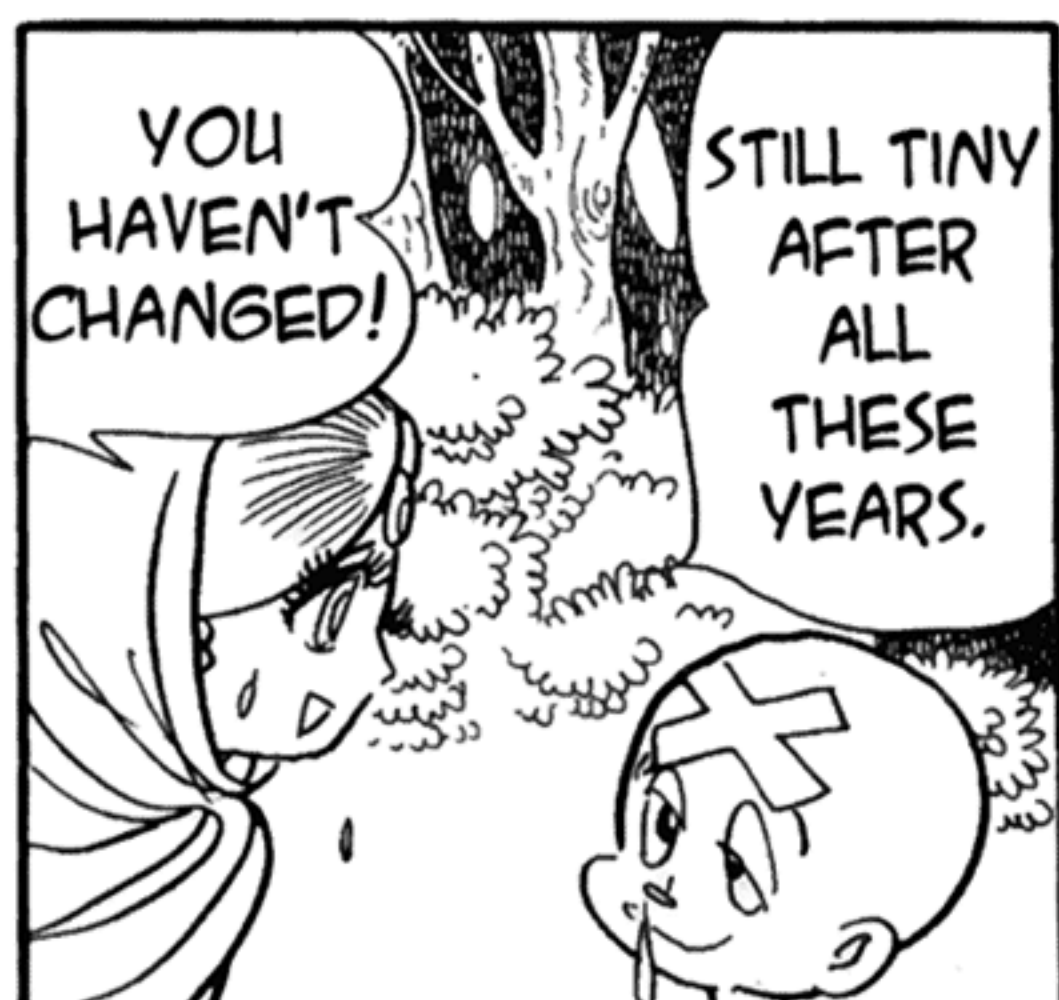
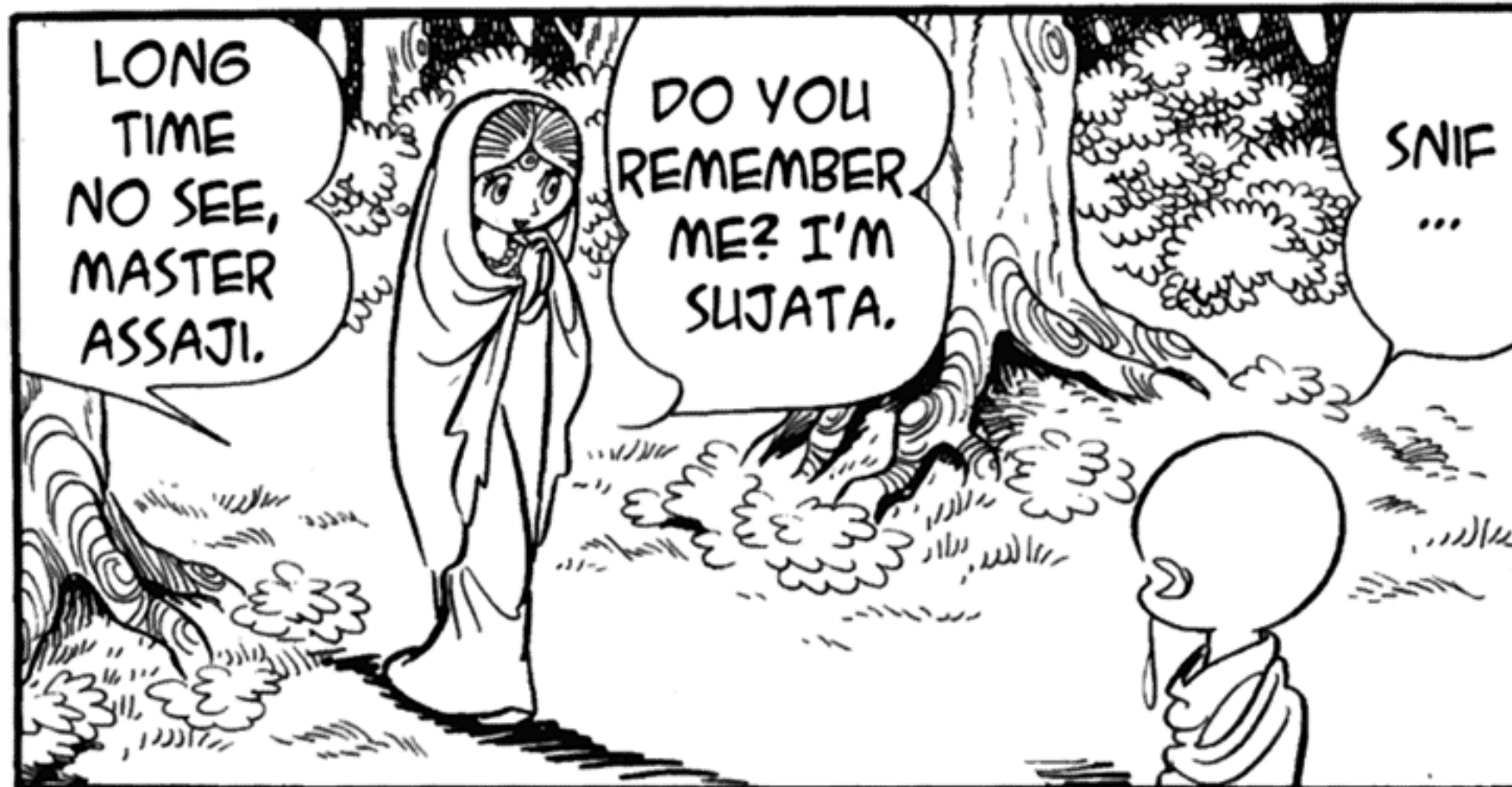
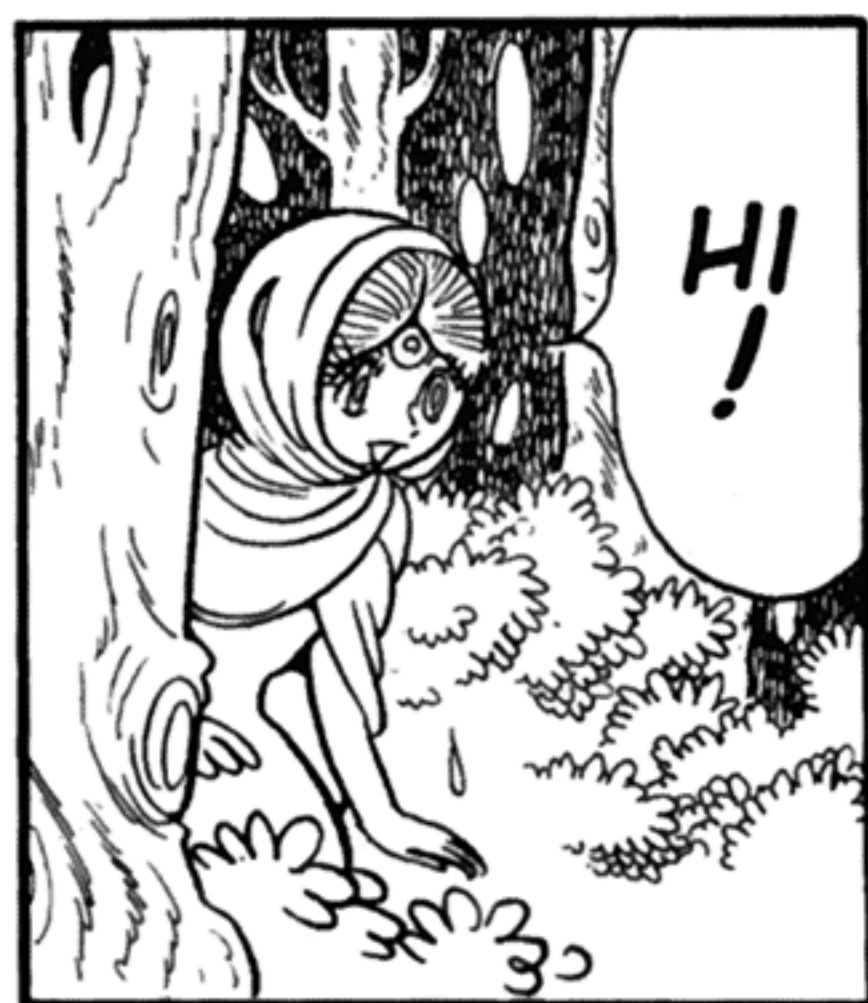
EACH DAY, ASSAJI'S END GREW NEARER...

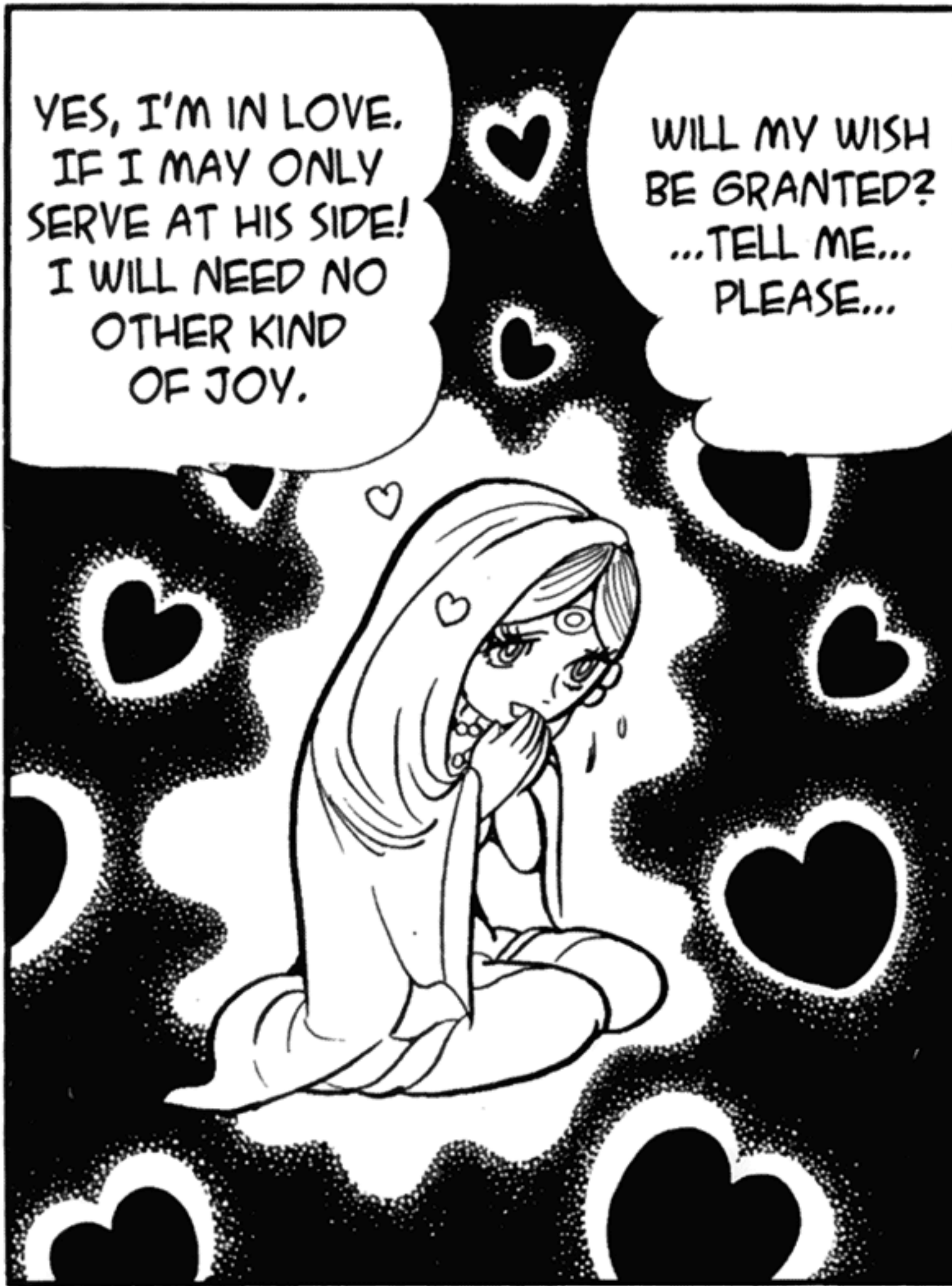
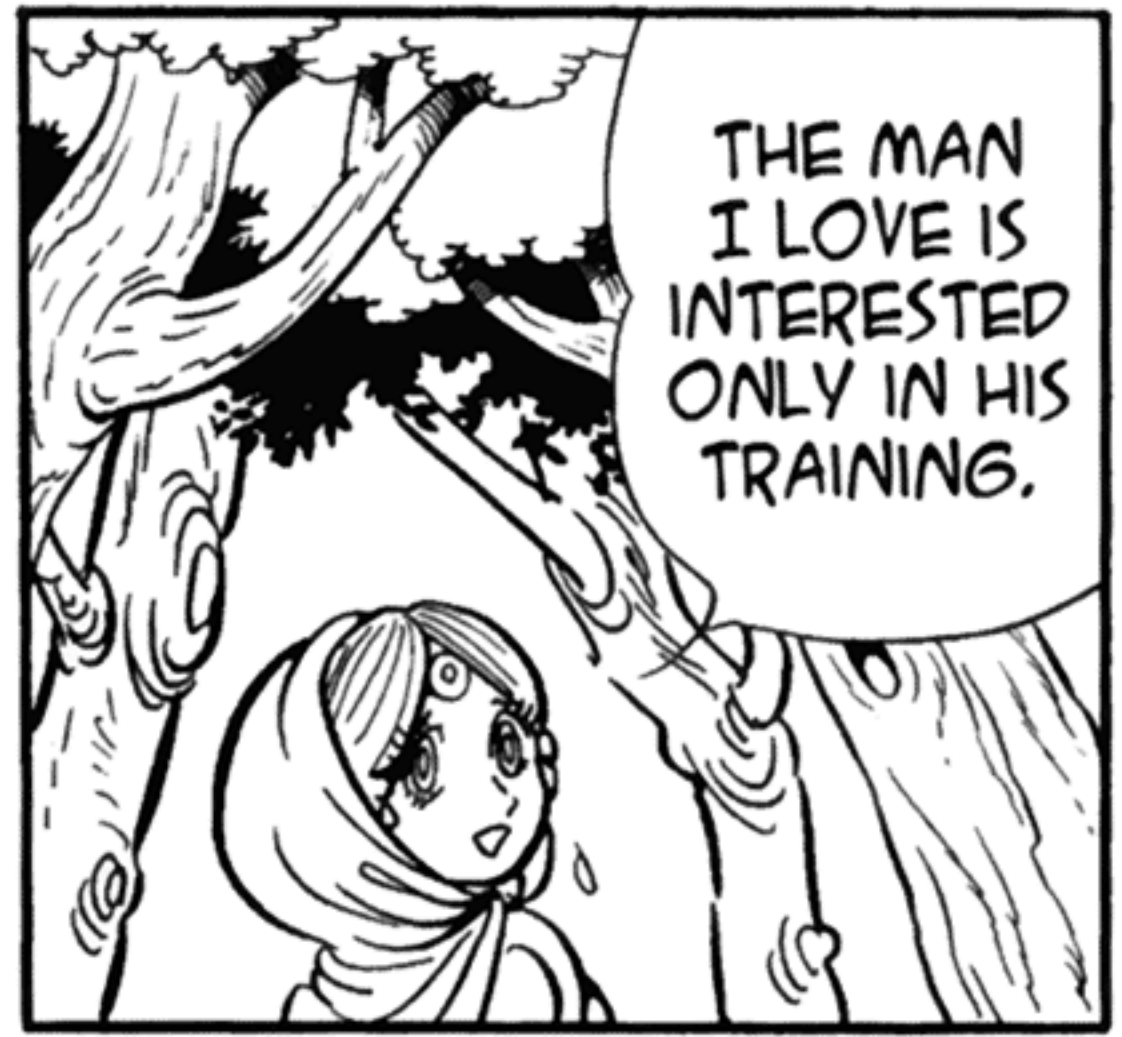
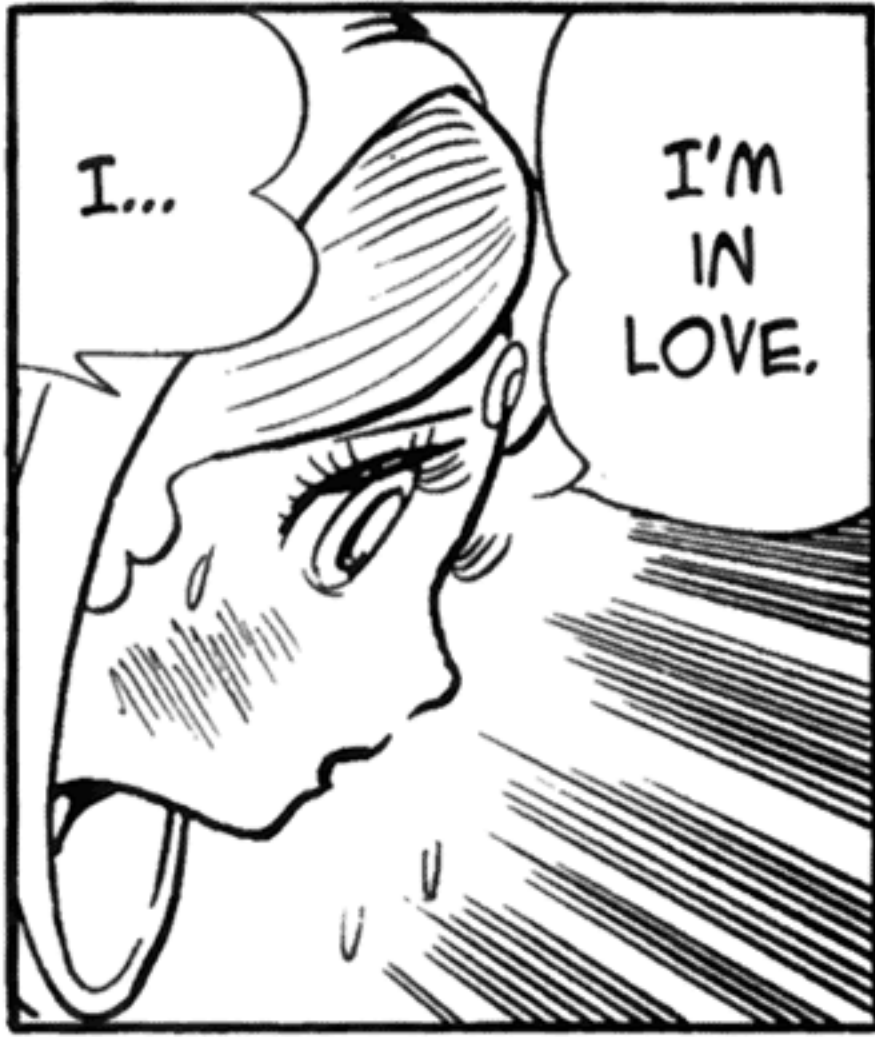


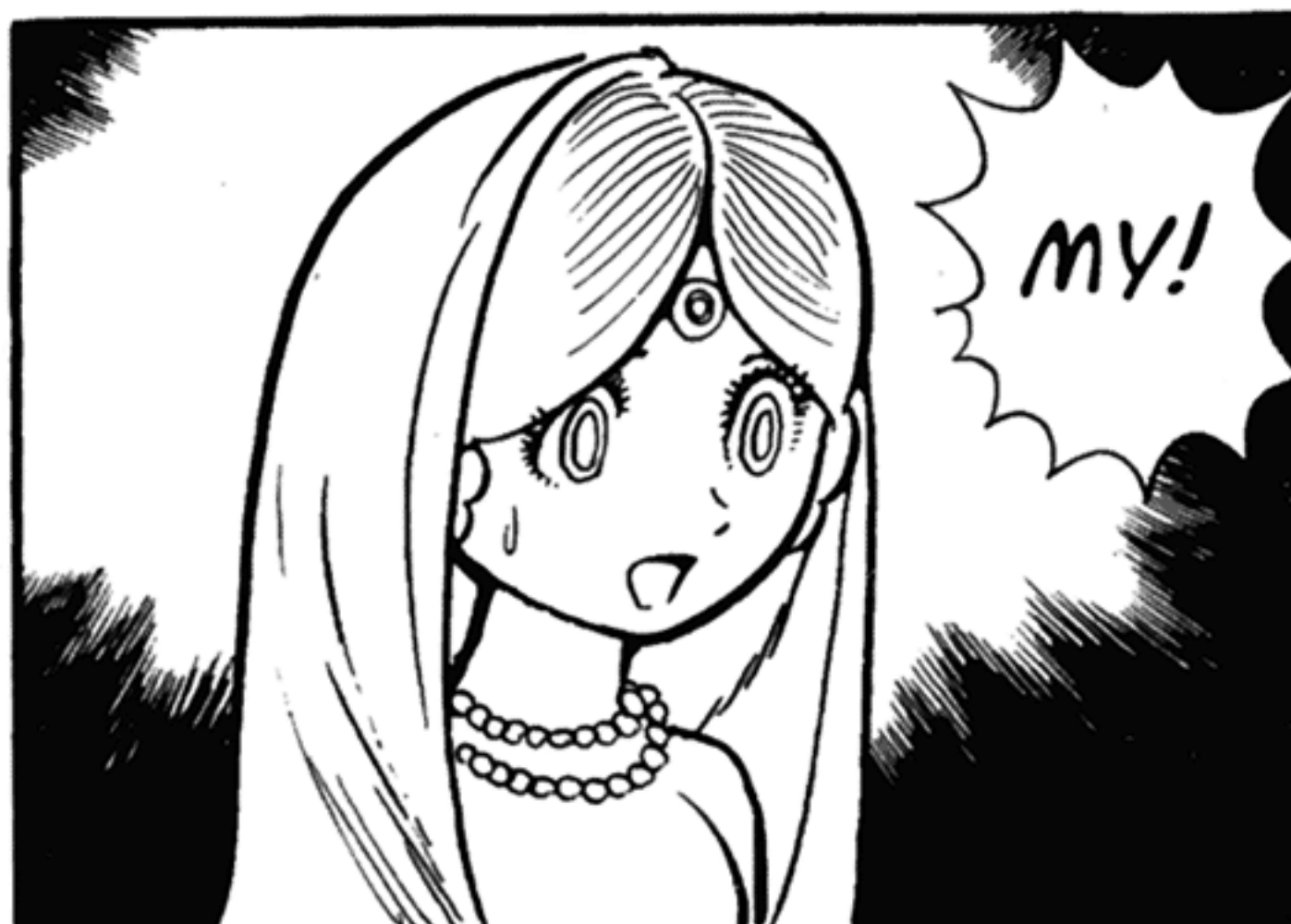
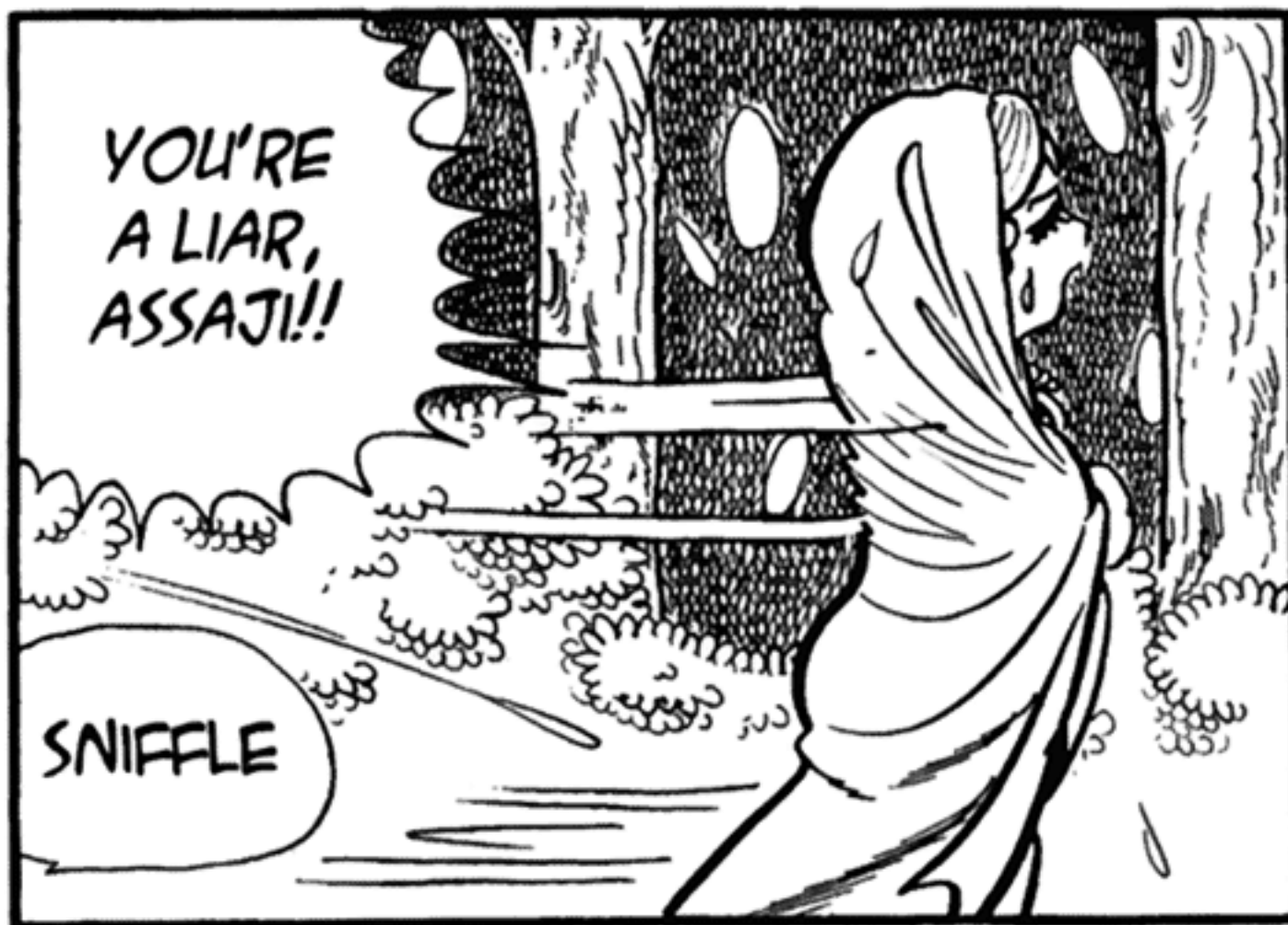
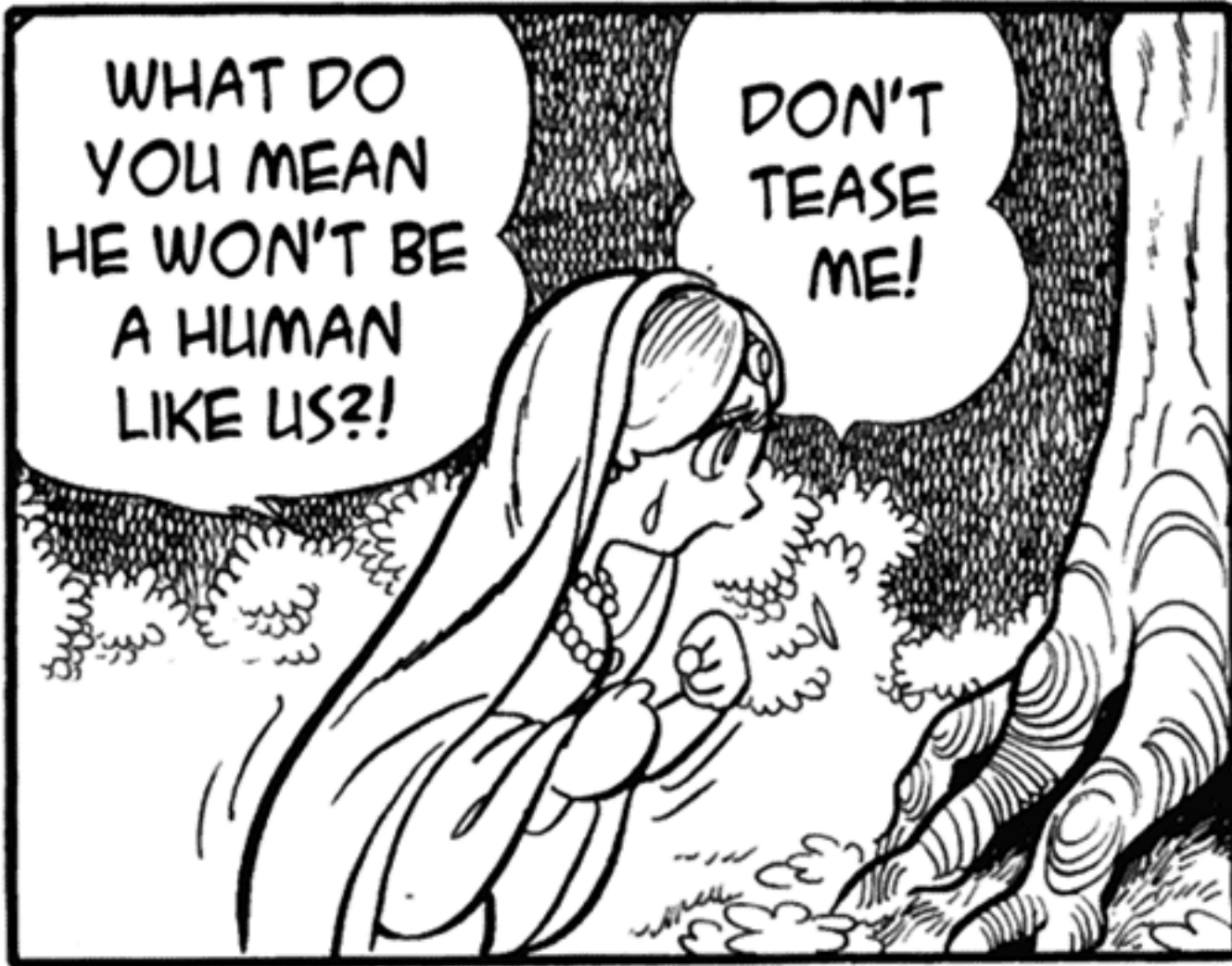
BUT HE WAS AS COOL AS EVER,



TELLING FORTUNES FOR THE OCCASIONAL VISITOR FROM THE VILLAGE.









SO, THE NIGHT THAT MOON WAXES TO FULL, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE?

SNIF



DO YOU KNOW HOW YOU'LL DIE?

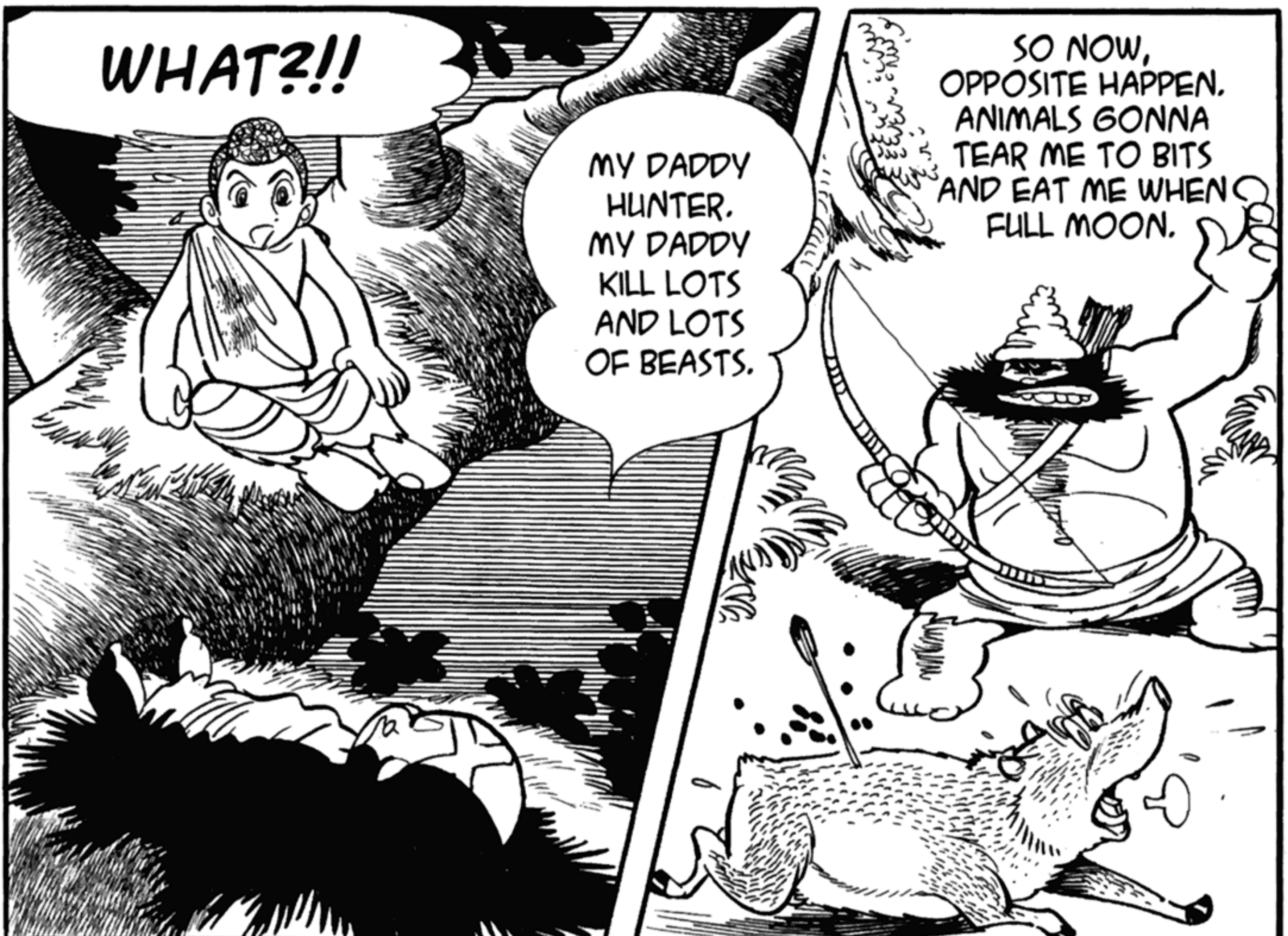


YOU LOOK THE SAME AS EVER, HEALTHY, CAREFREE, CALM.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE DYING SOON.



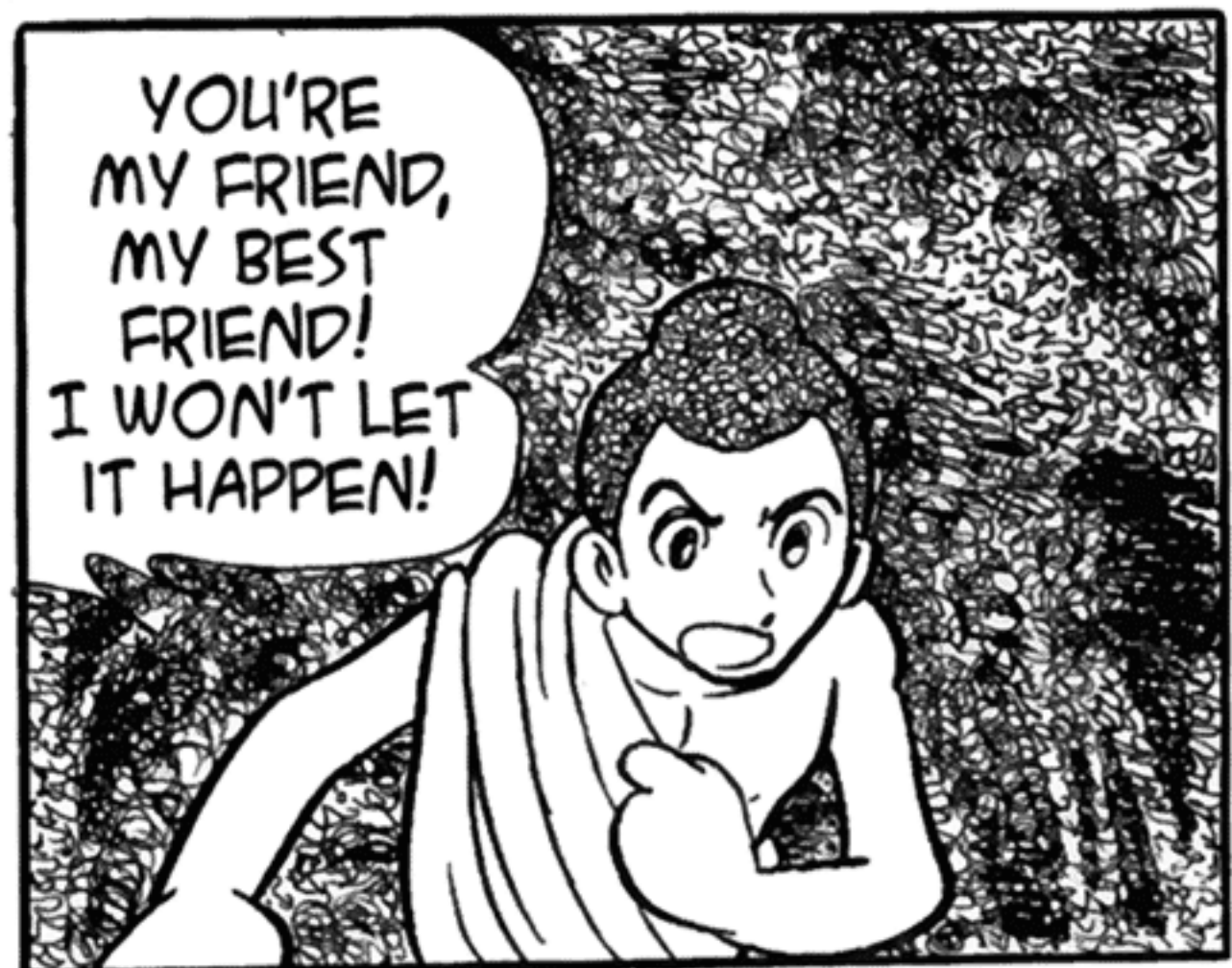
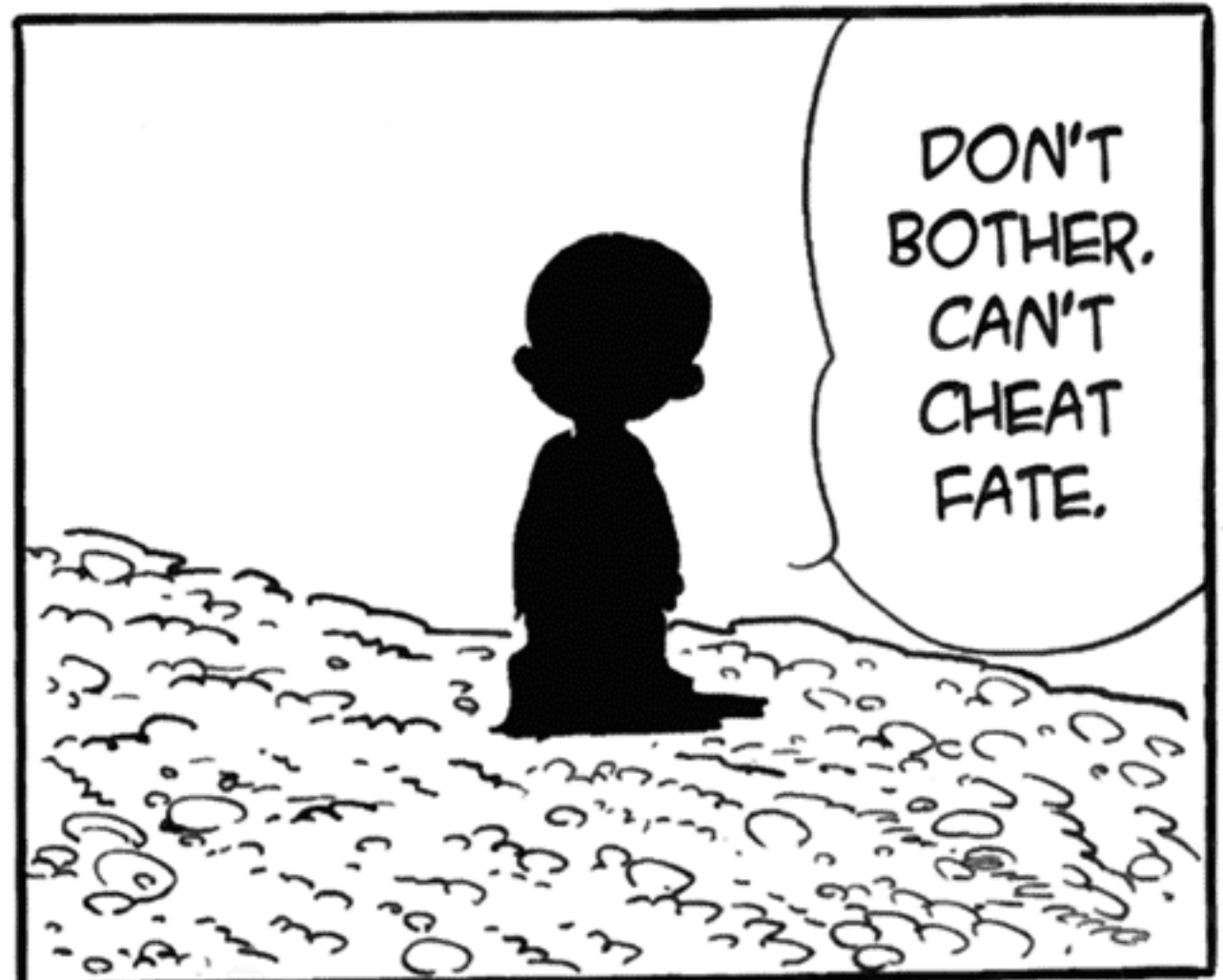
BEASTS GONNA TEAR ME APART.

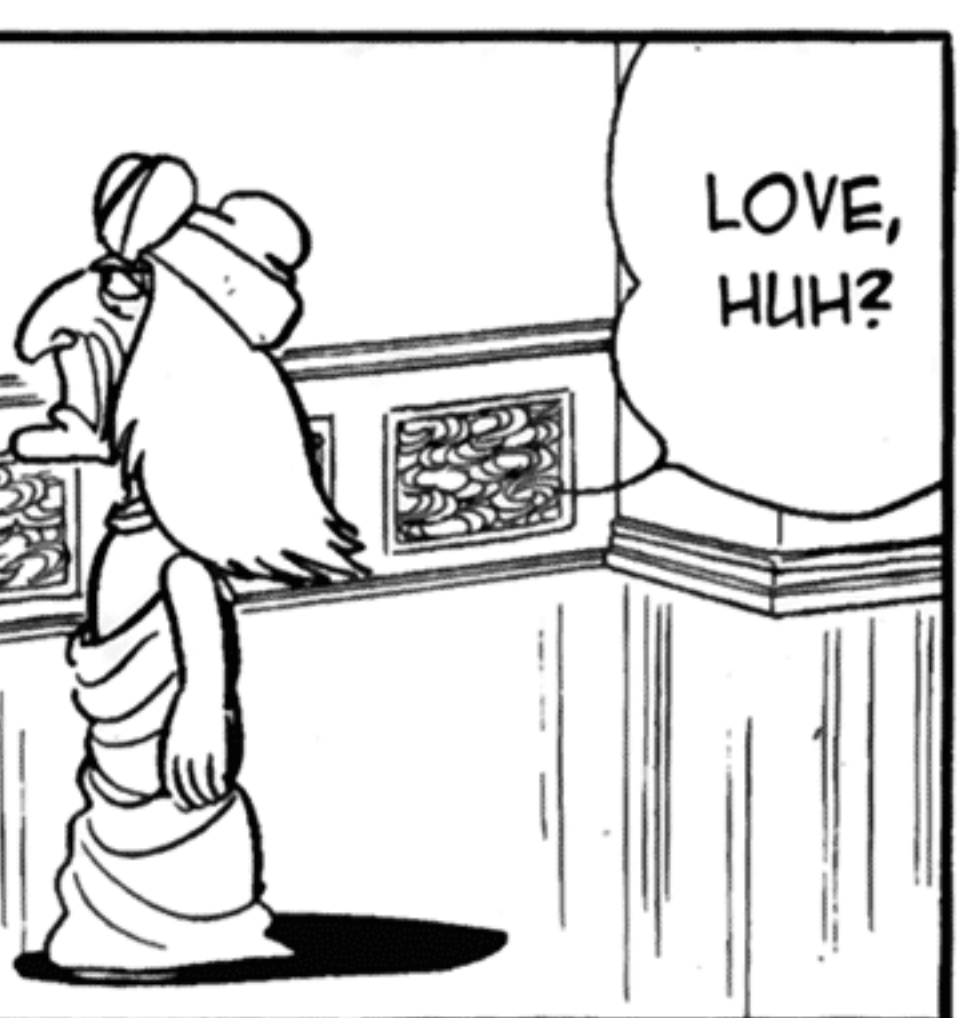
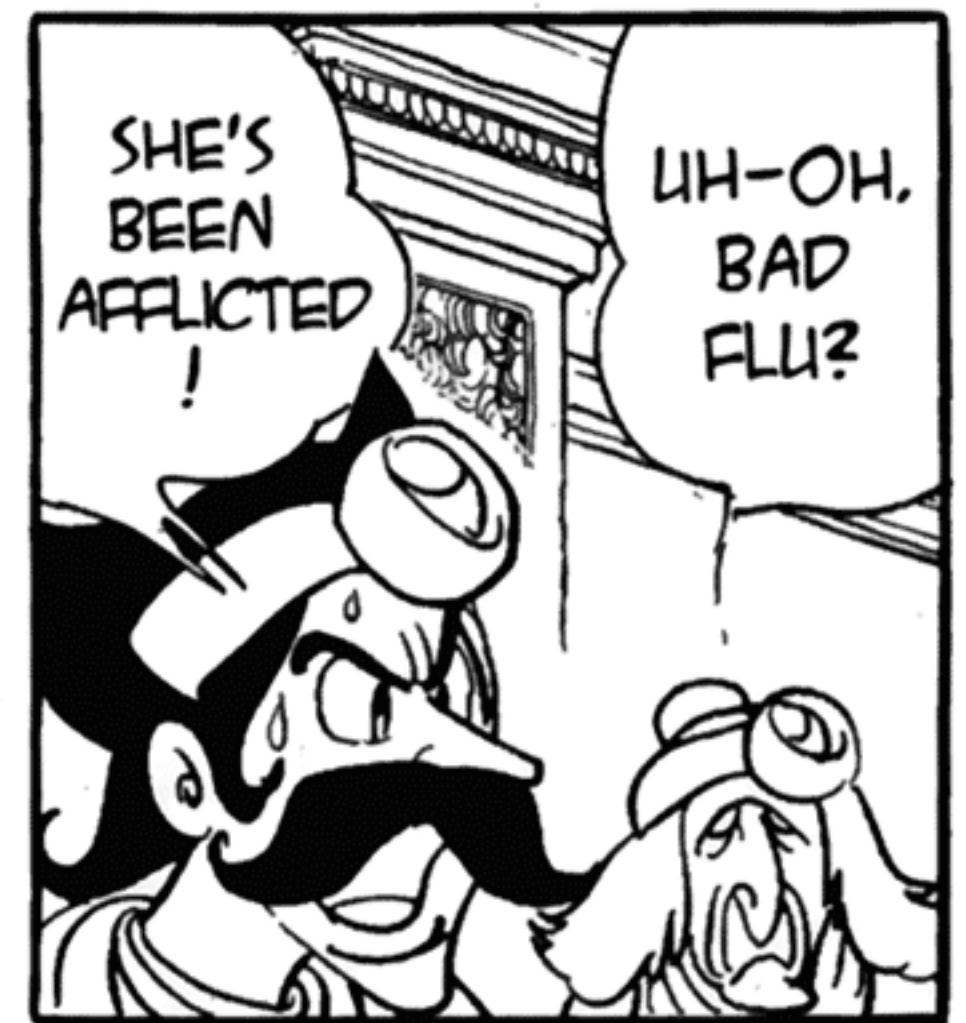
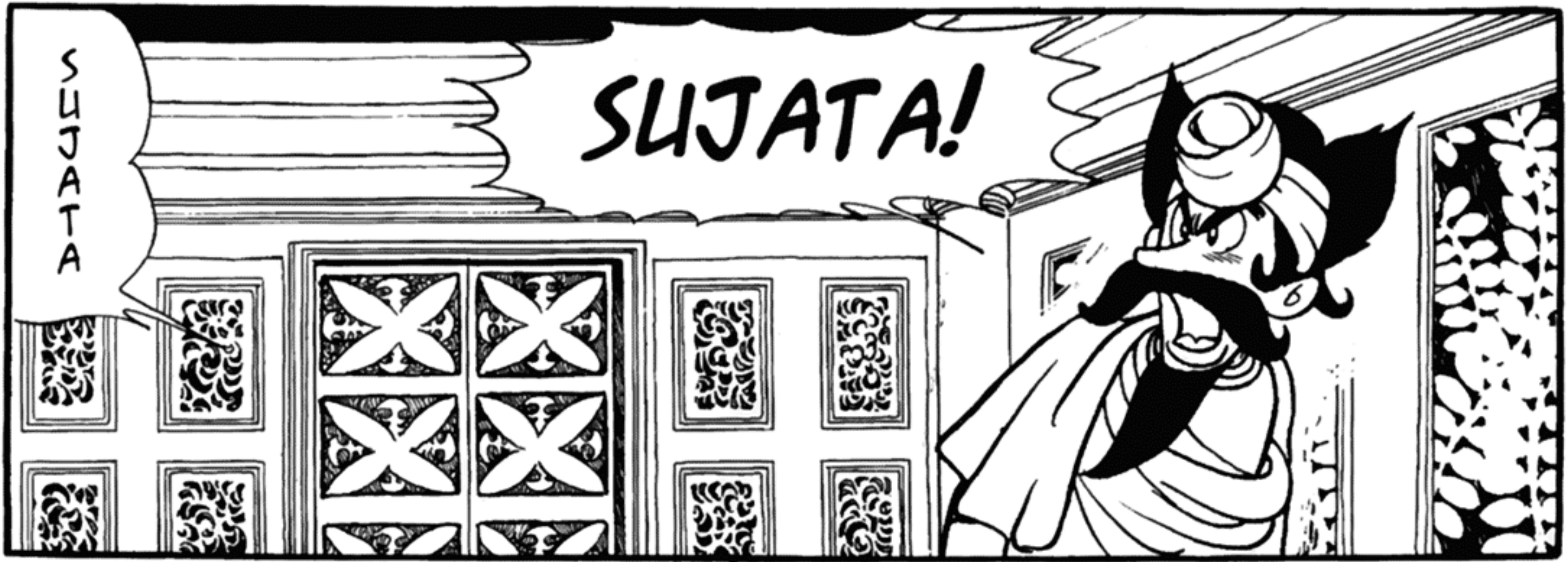


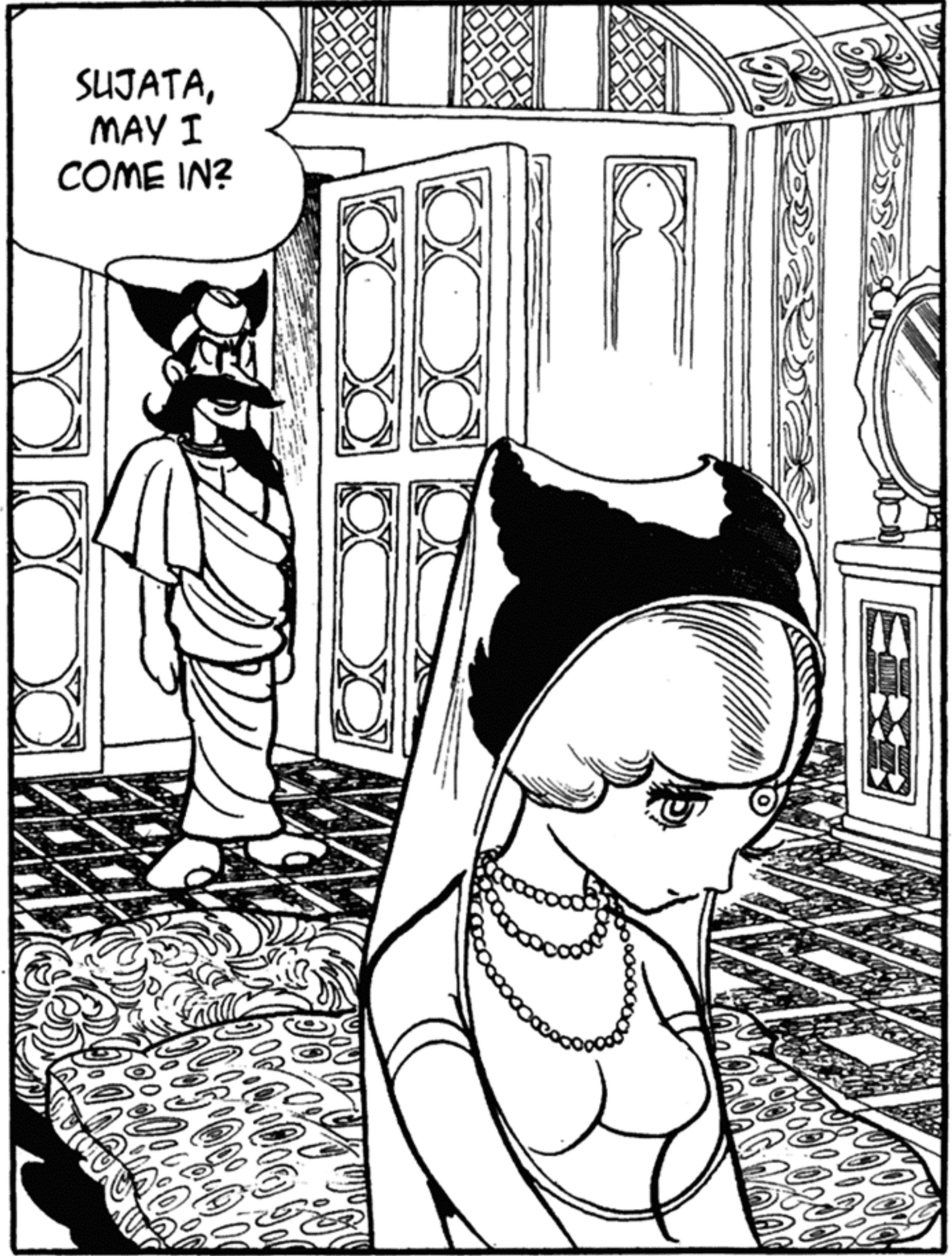
WHAT?!!

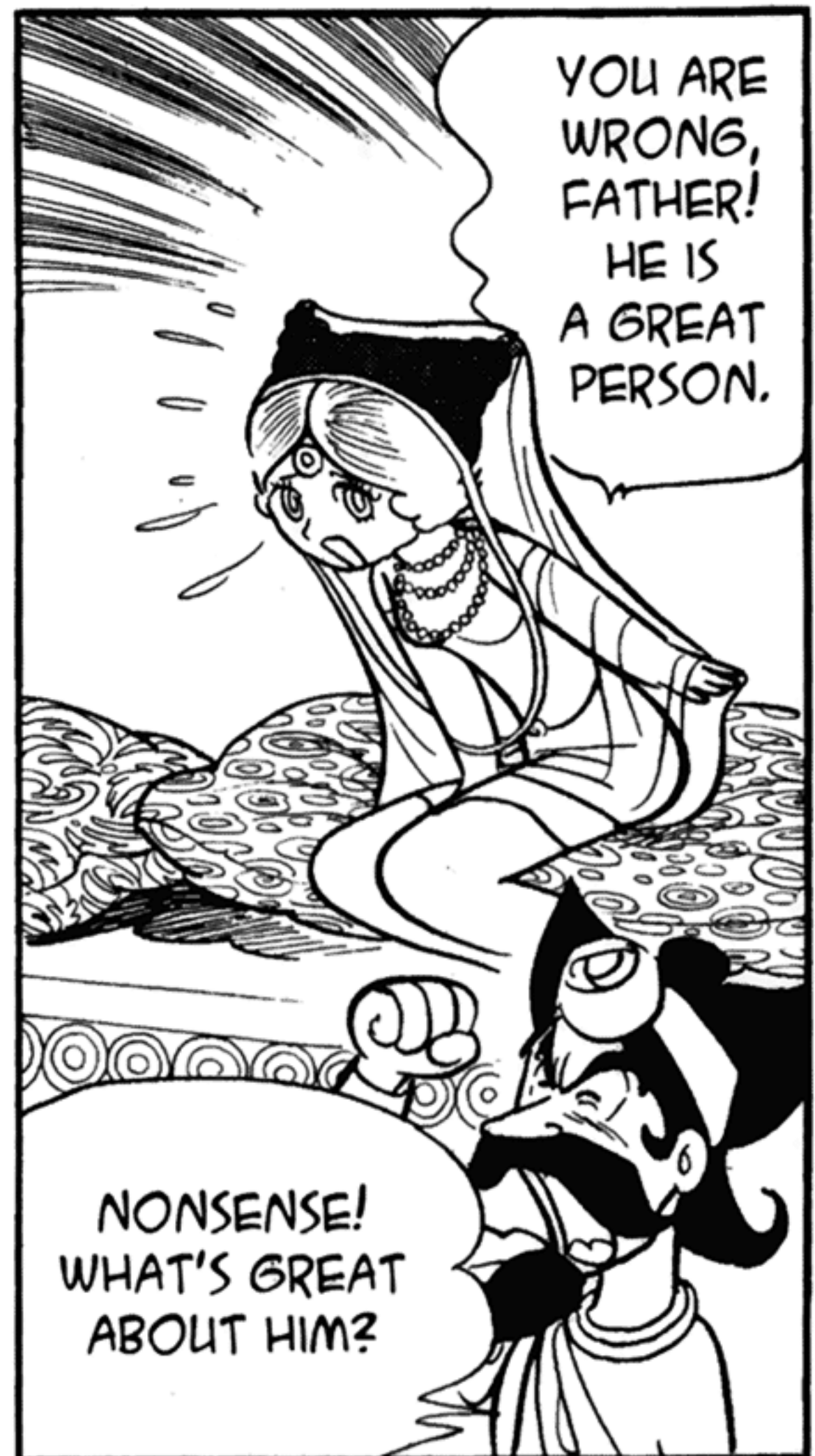
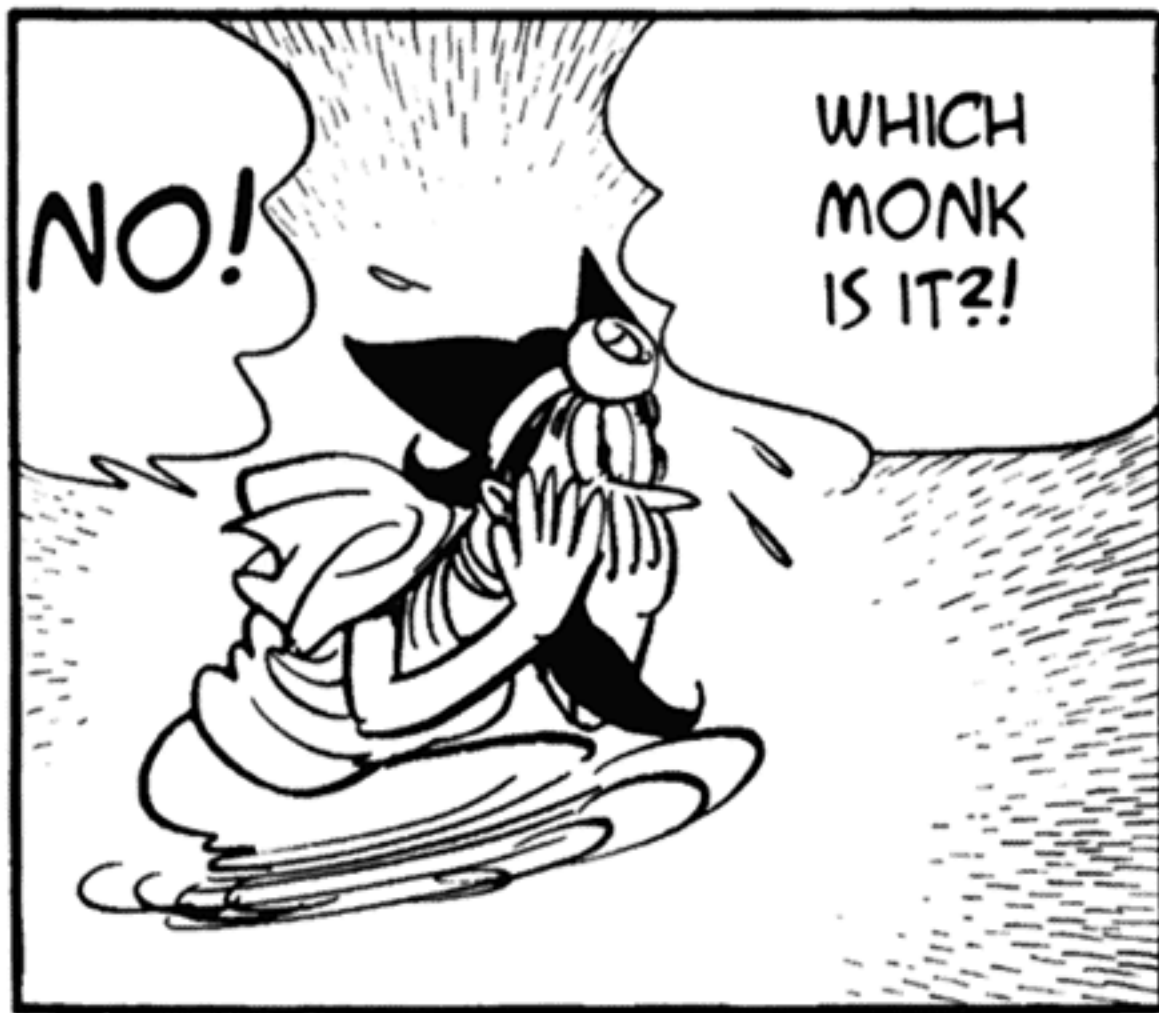
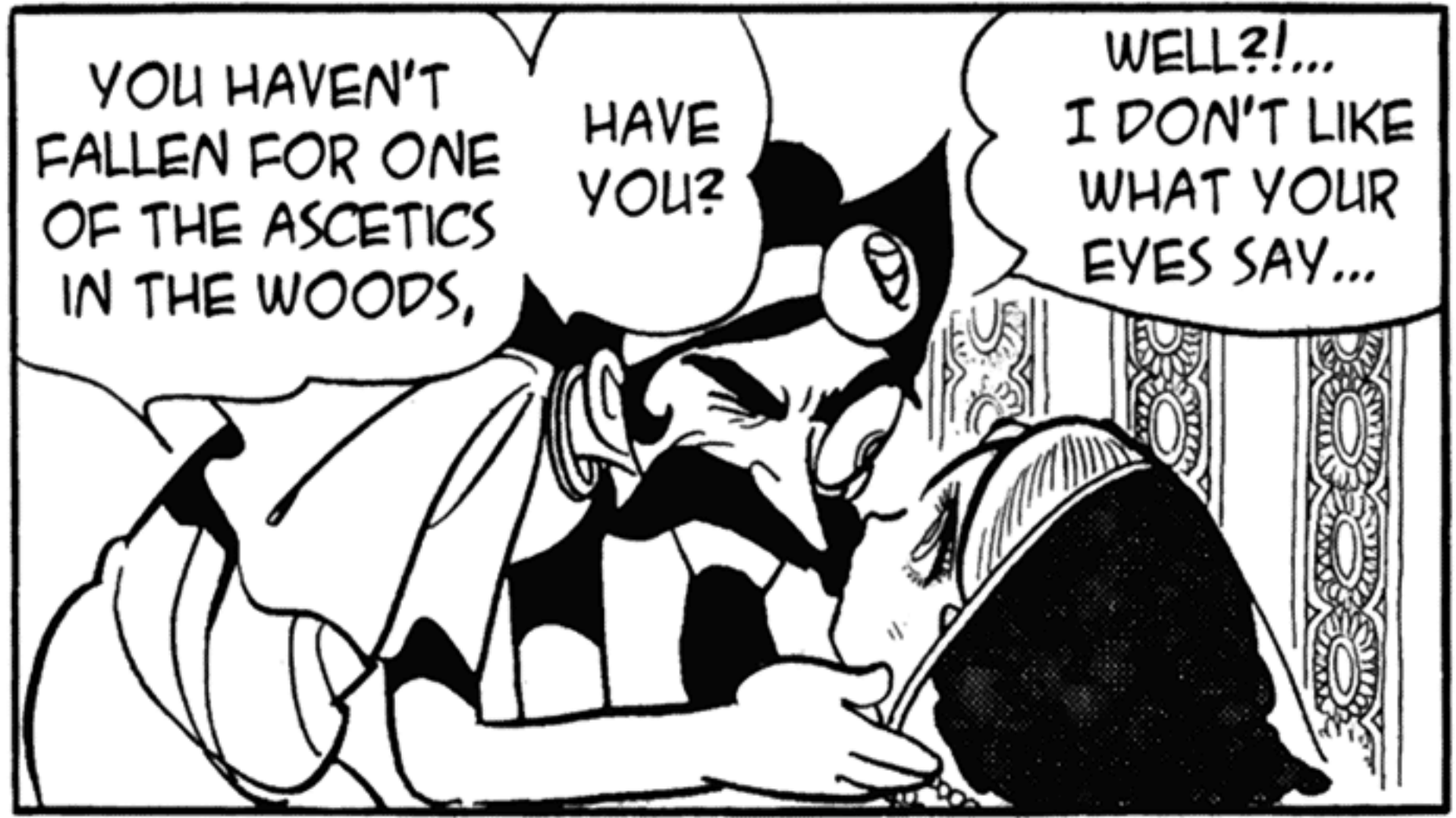
MY DADDY HUNTER. MY DADDY KILL LOTS AND LOTS OF BEASTS.

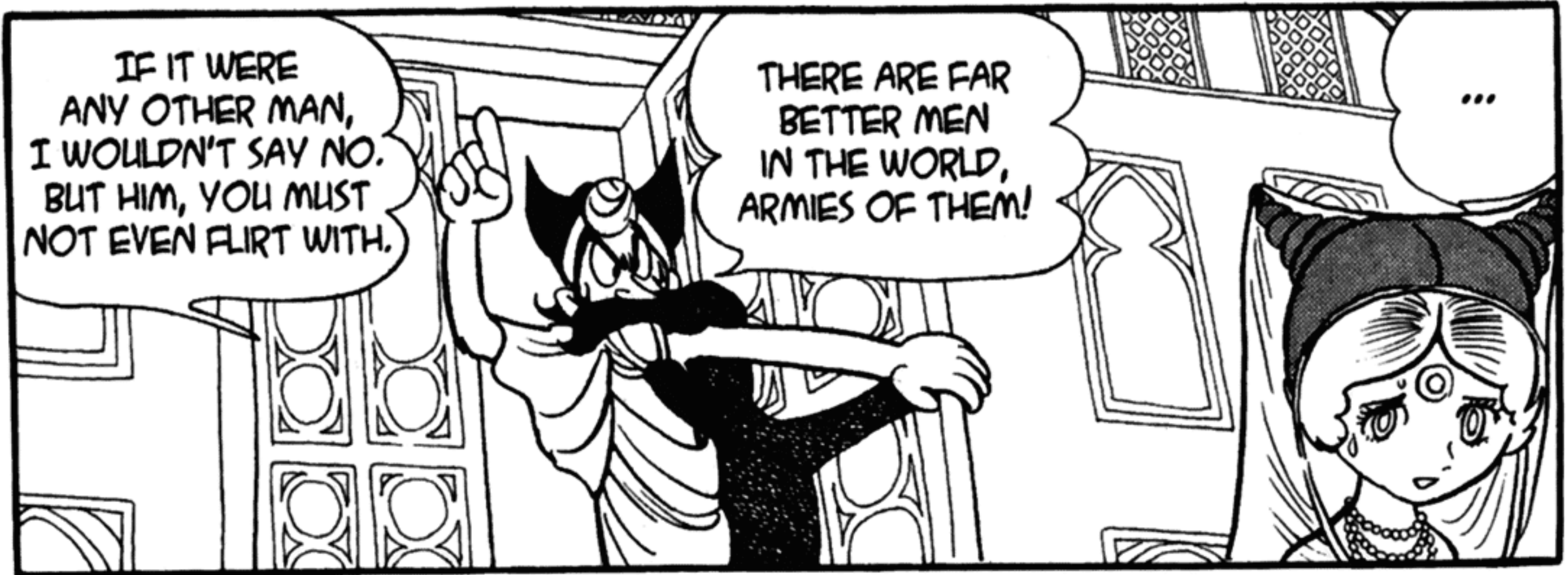
SO NOW, OPPOSITE HAPPEN. ANIMALS GONNA TEAR ME TO BITS AND EAT ME WHEN FULL MOON.











IF IT WERE ANY OTHER MAN, I WOULDN'T SAY NO. BUT HIM, YOU MUST NOT EVEN FLIRT WITH.

THERE ARE FAR BETTER MEN IN THE WORLD, ARMIES OF THEM!

...

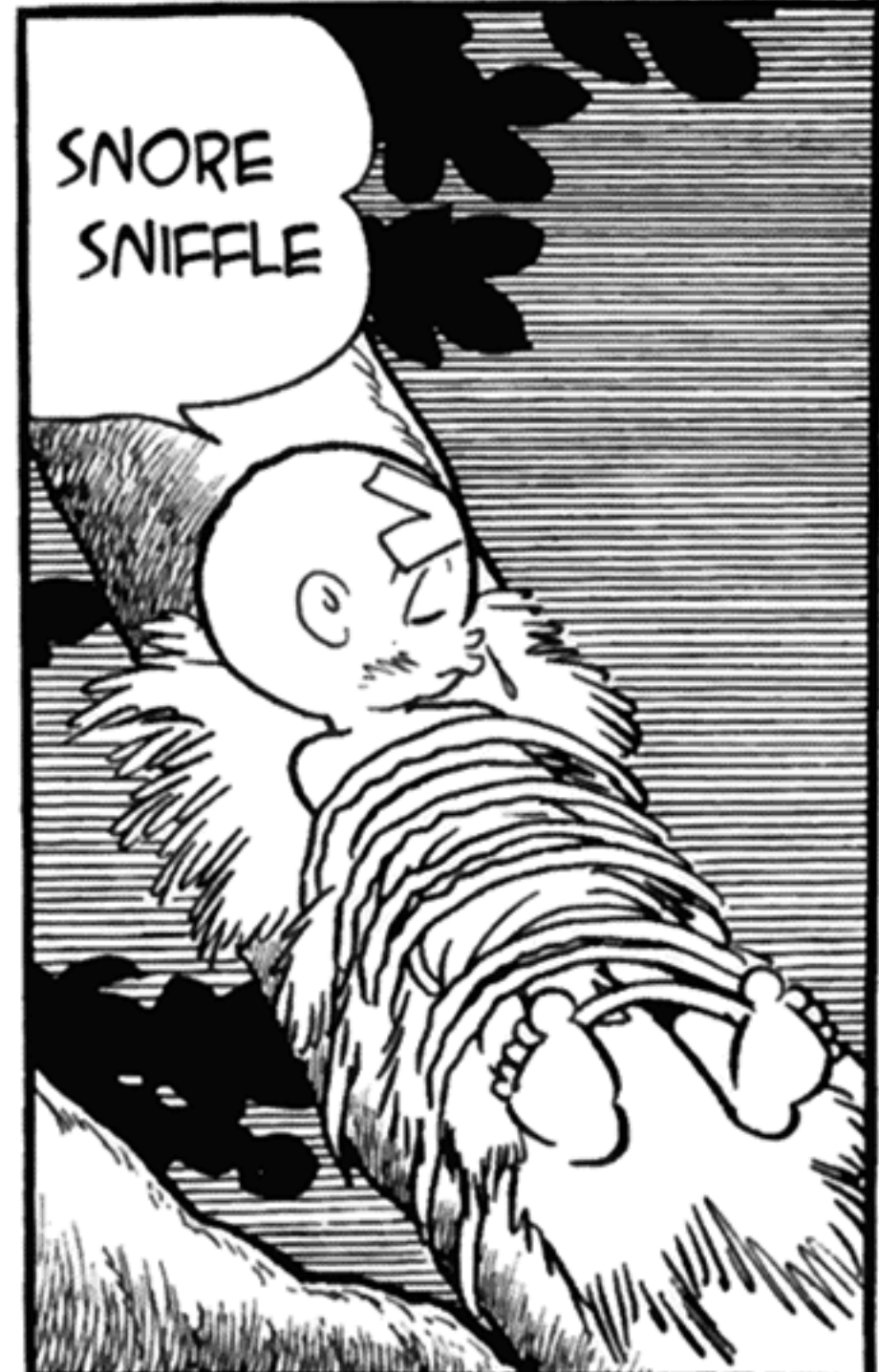
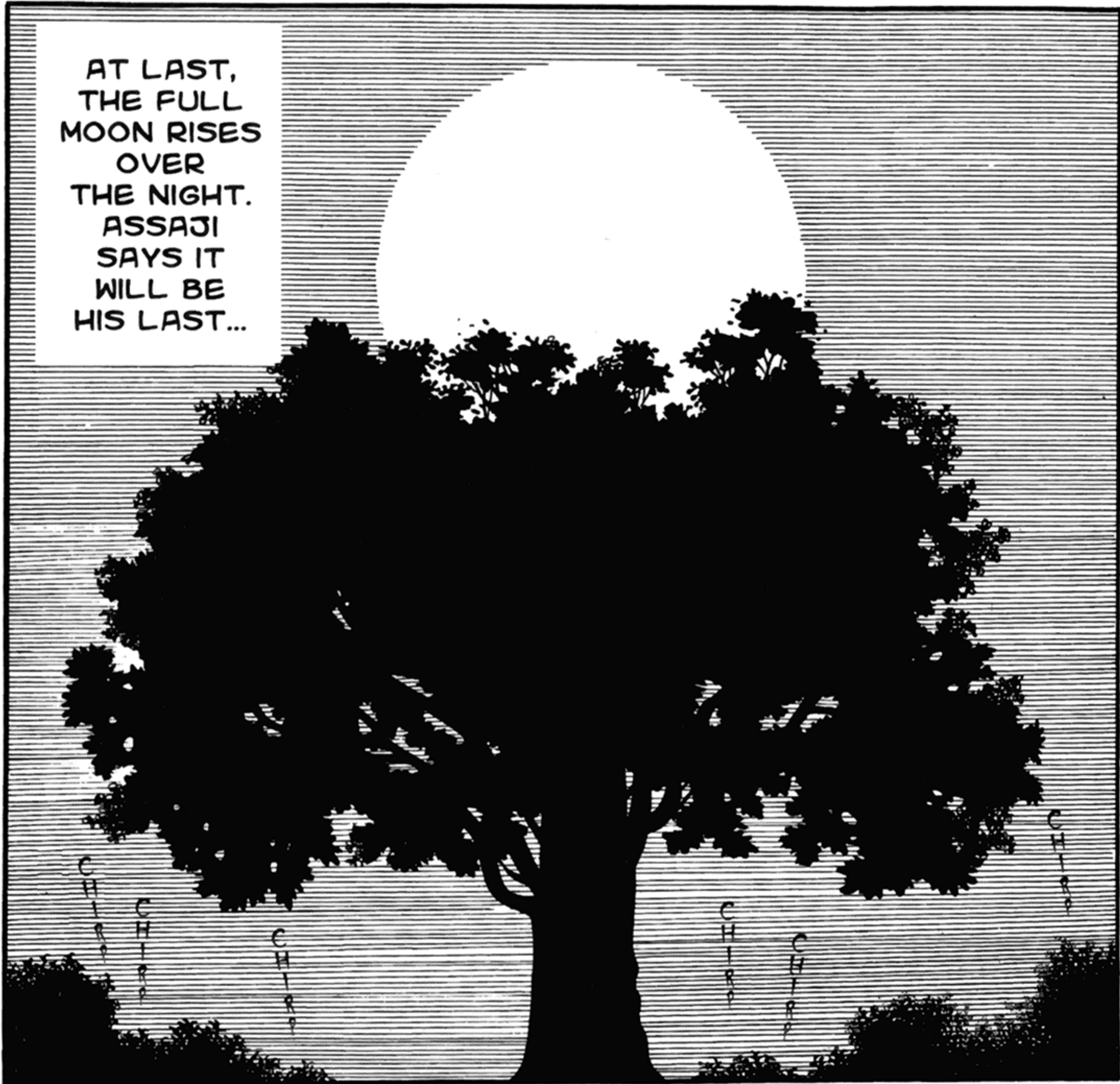


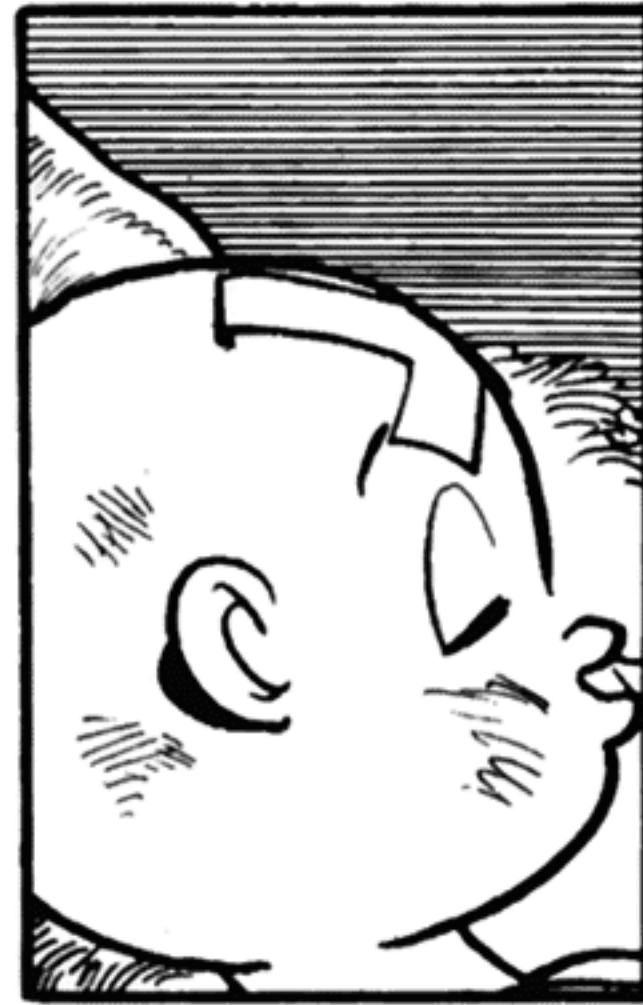
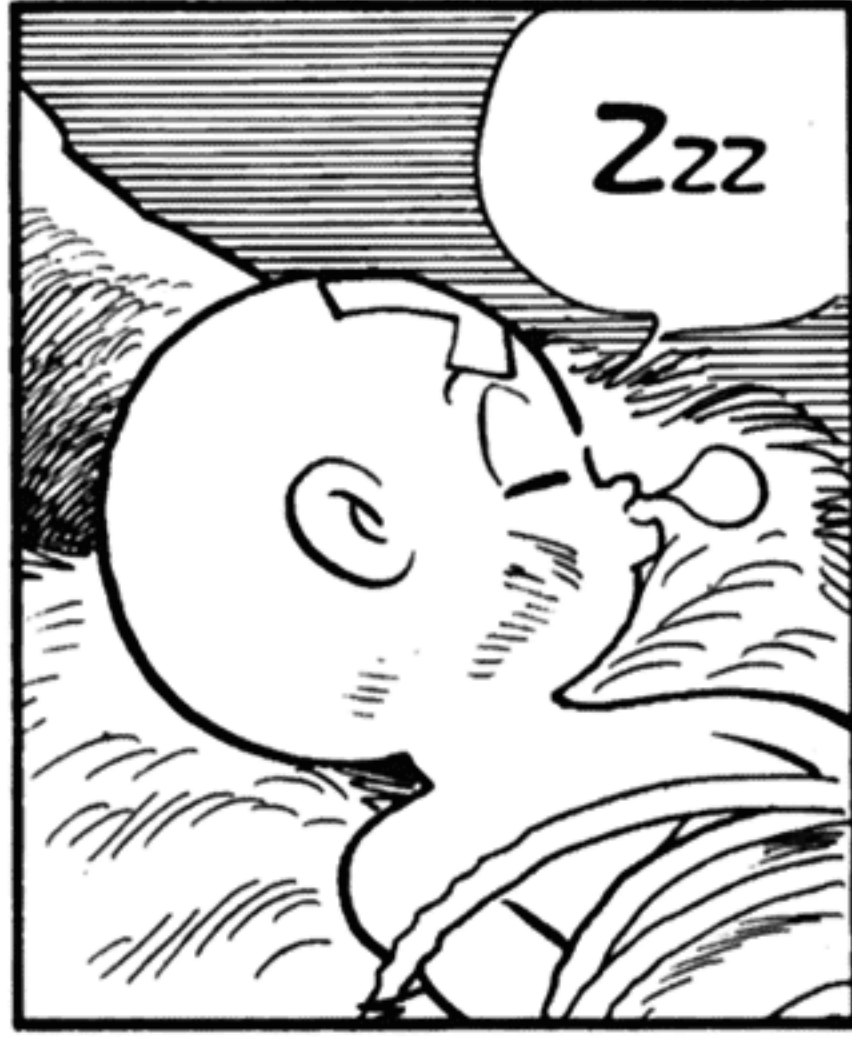
SIDDHARTHA... HOW I WOULD LOVE TO FLY TO YOUR SIDE... IF ONLY I COULD PREPARE YOUR FOOD, BATHE YOUR BODY...

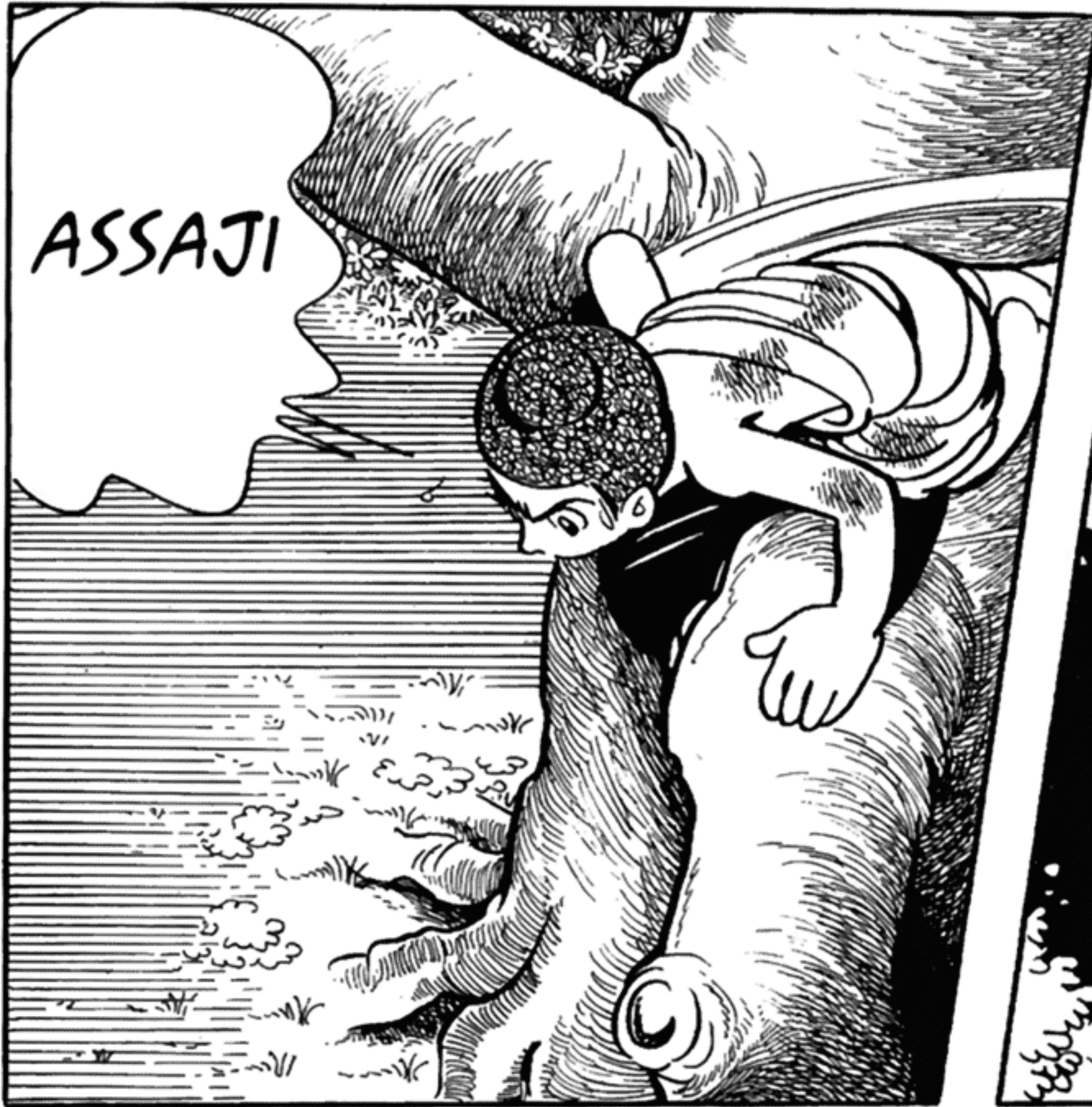
BUT IF THAT SPOILS YOUR TRAINING...

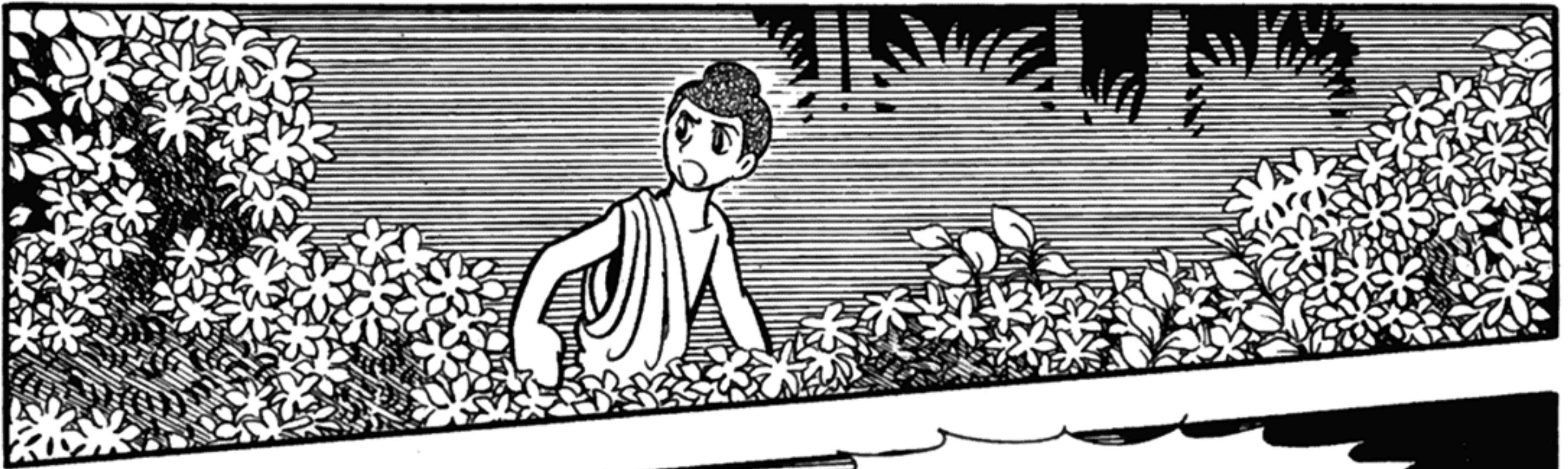
OH, WHAT AM I TO DO?

AT LAST,
THE FULL
MOON RISES
OVER
THE NIGHT.
ASSAJI
SAYS IT
WILL BE
HIS LAST...







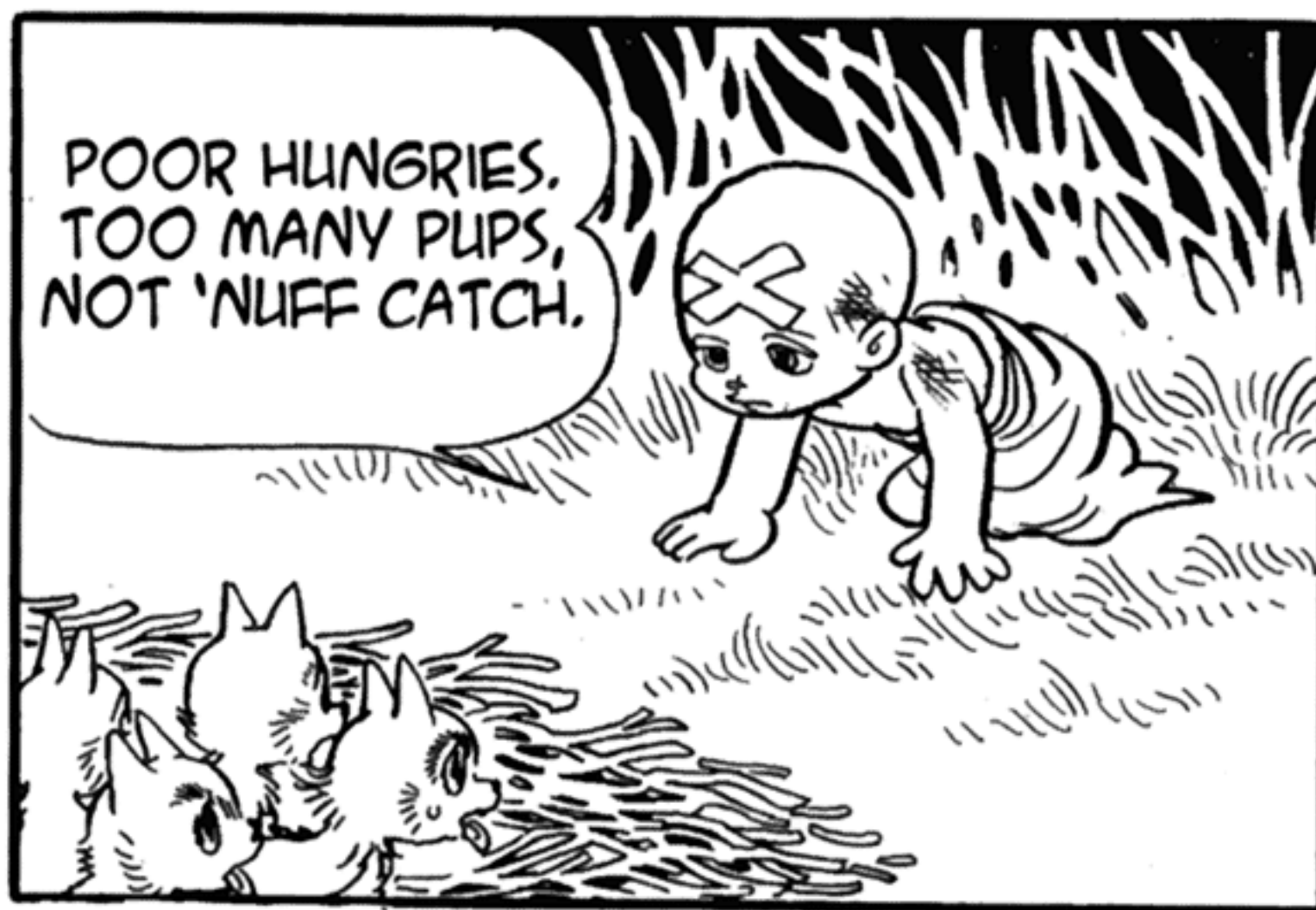


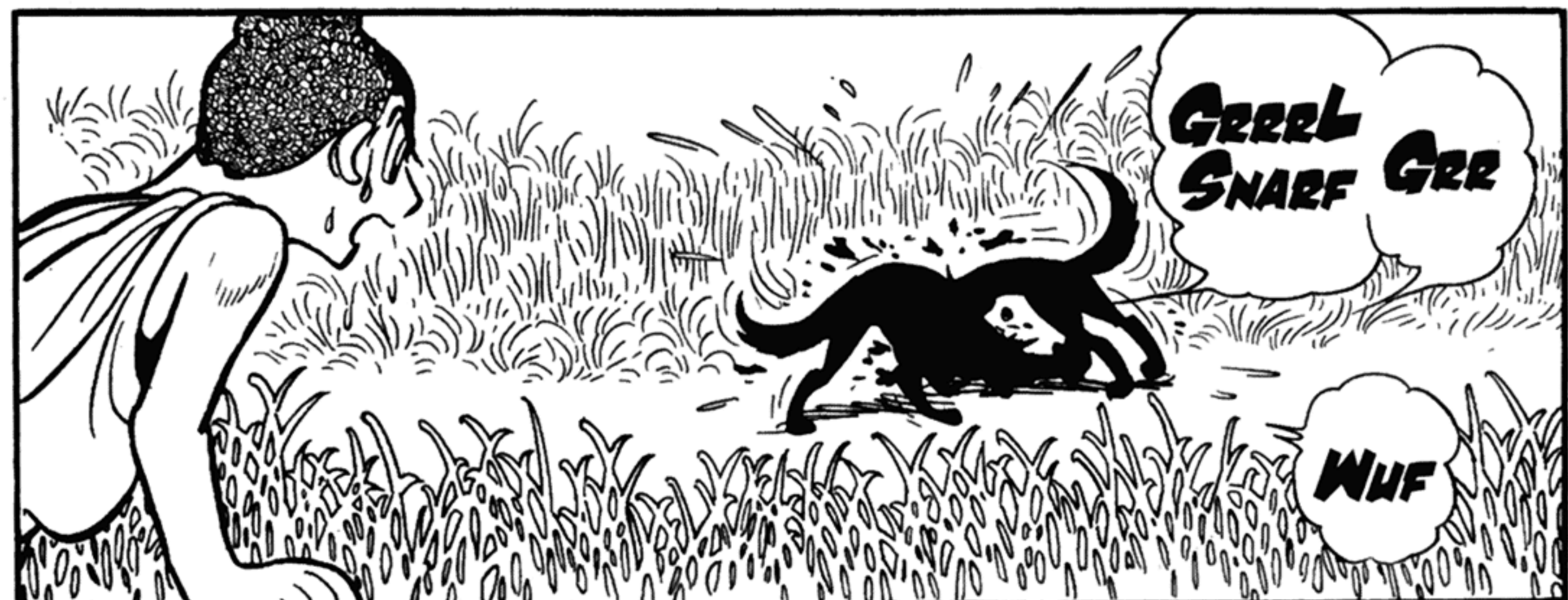
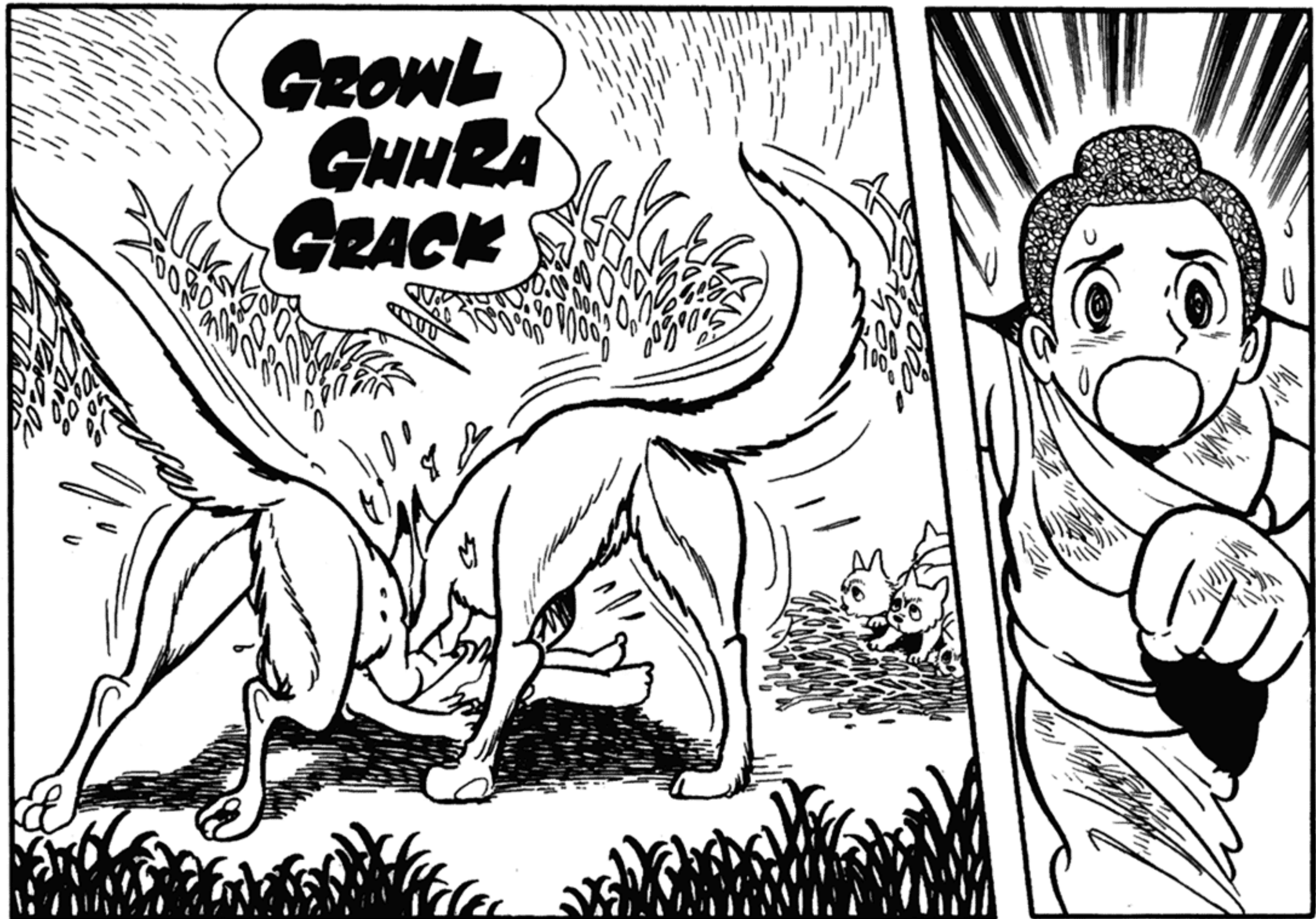
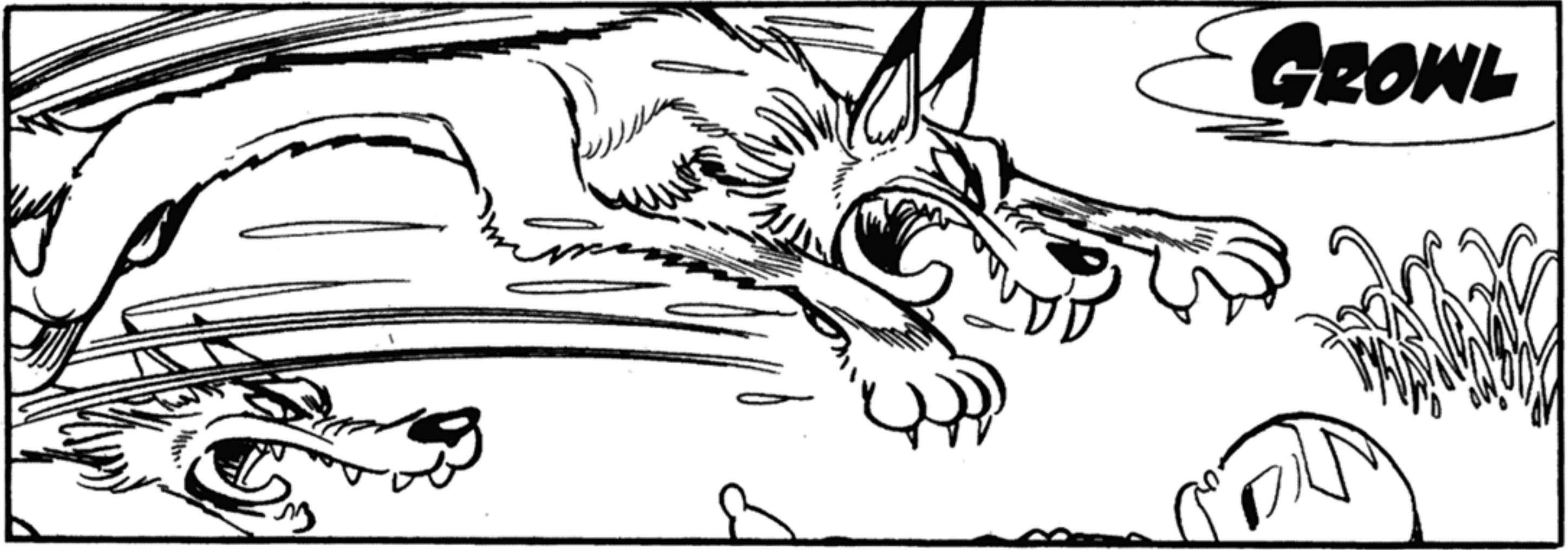
ASSAJI-I-I-

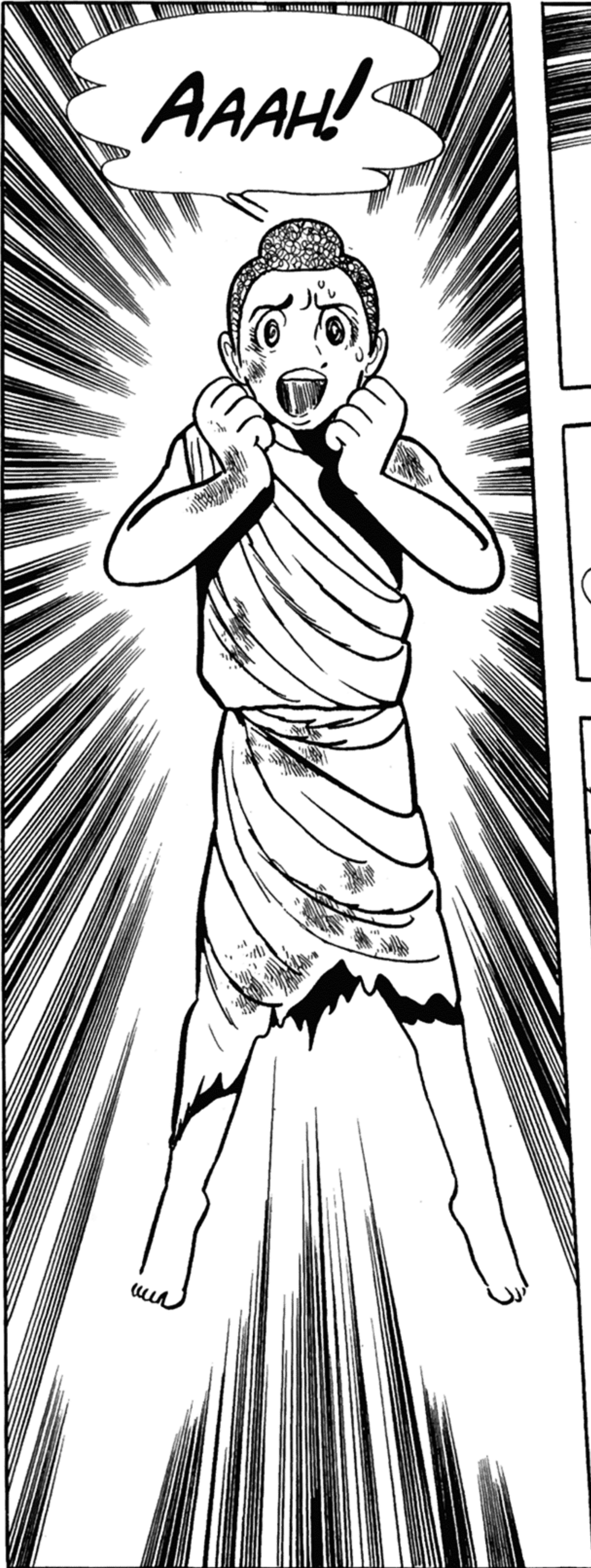
WHERE ARE YOU?

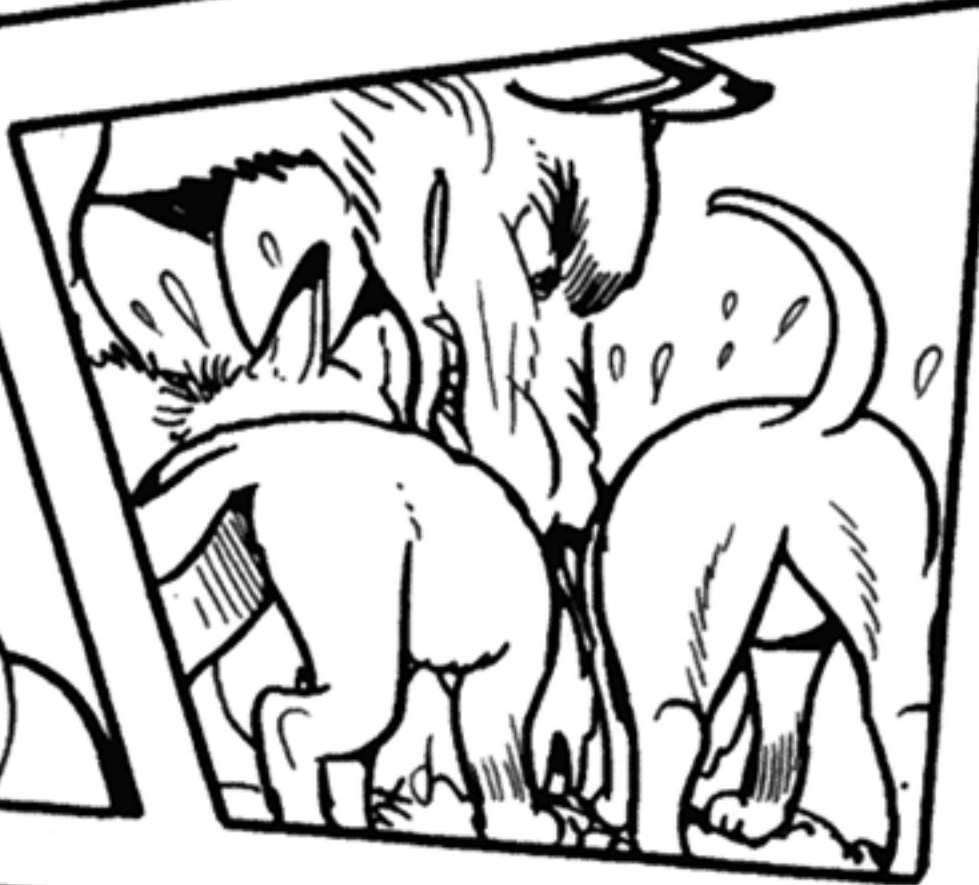
THAT'S HIM!

ASSAJI, WAIT!
I'M COMING!
DON'T GO
ANY FARTHER!







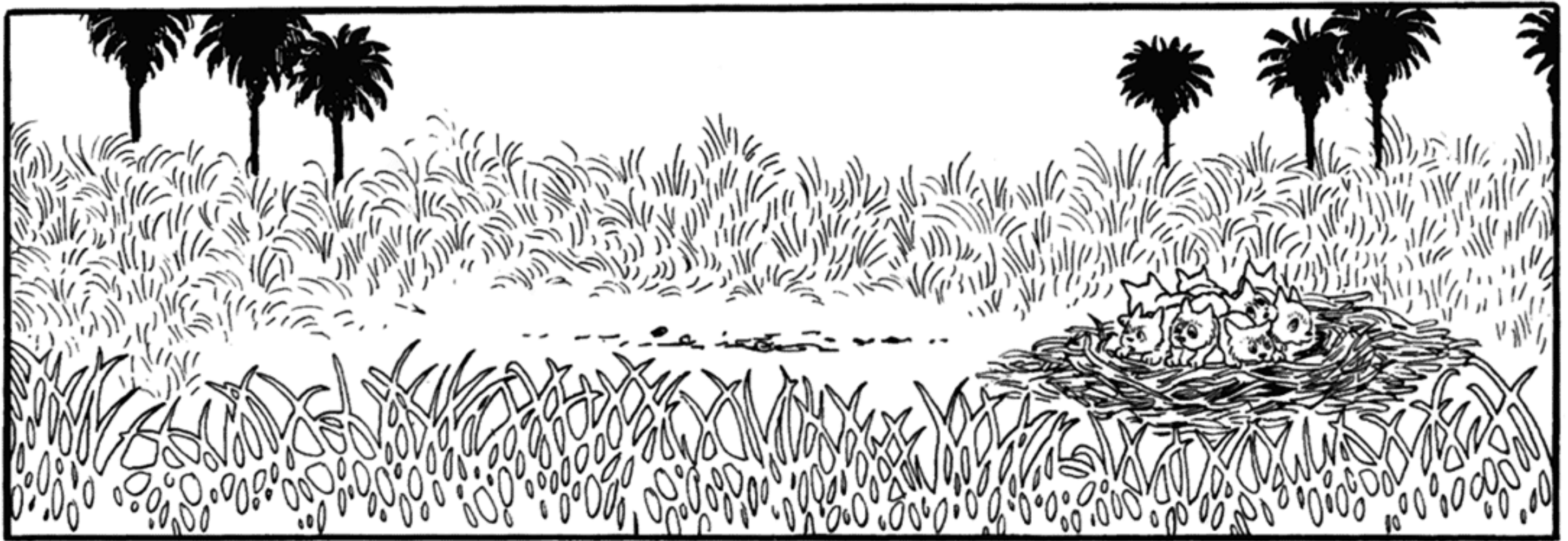




OH...
OHHH
ACH!
AAA...

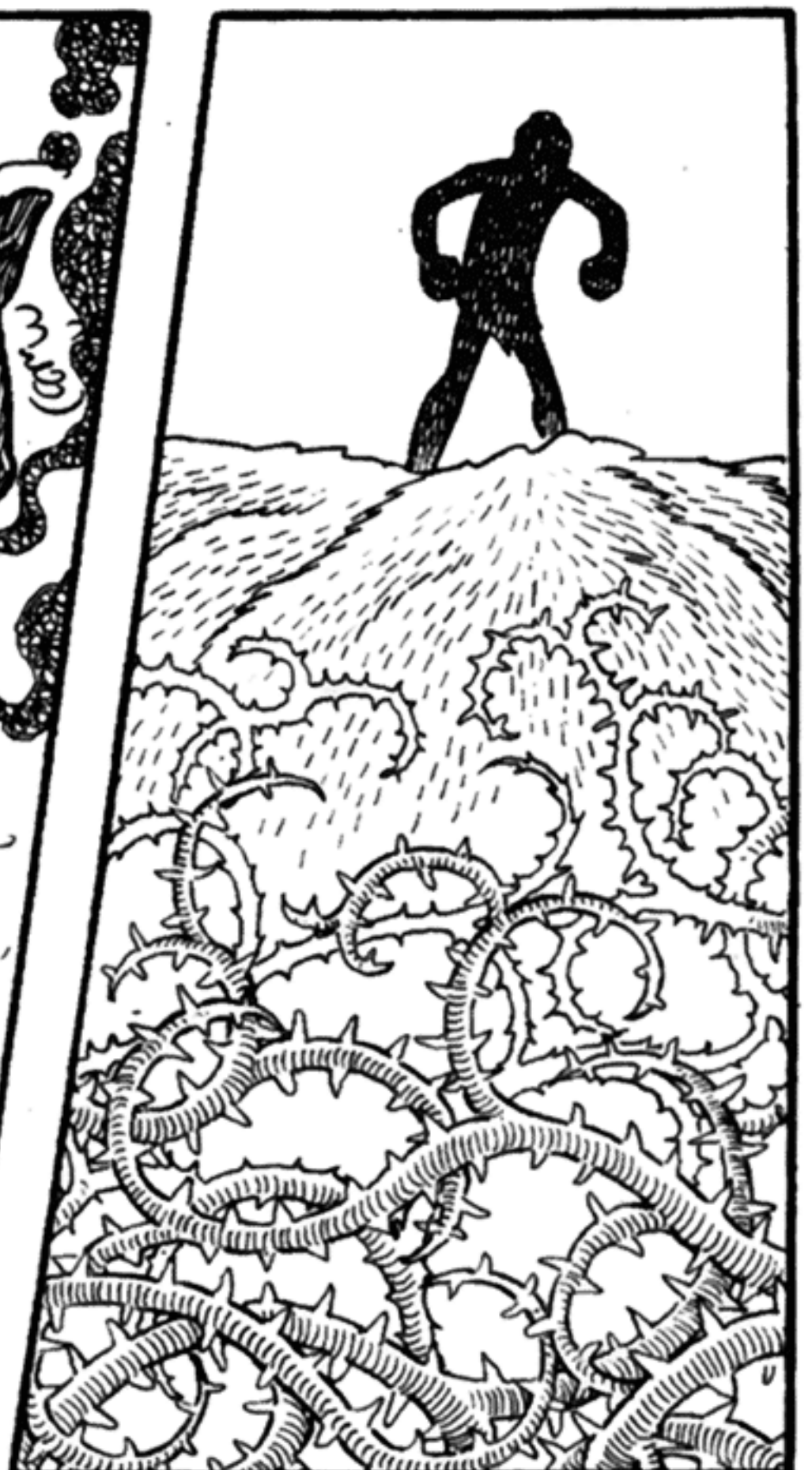
FOOL

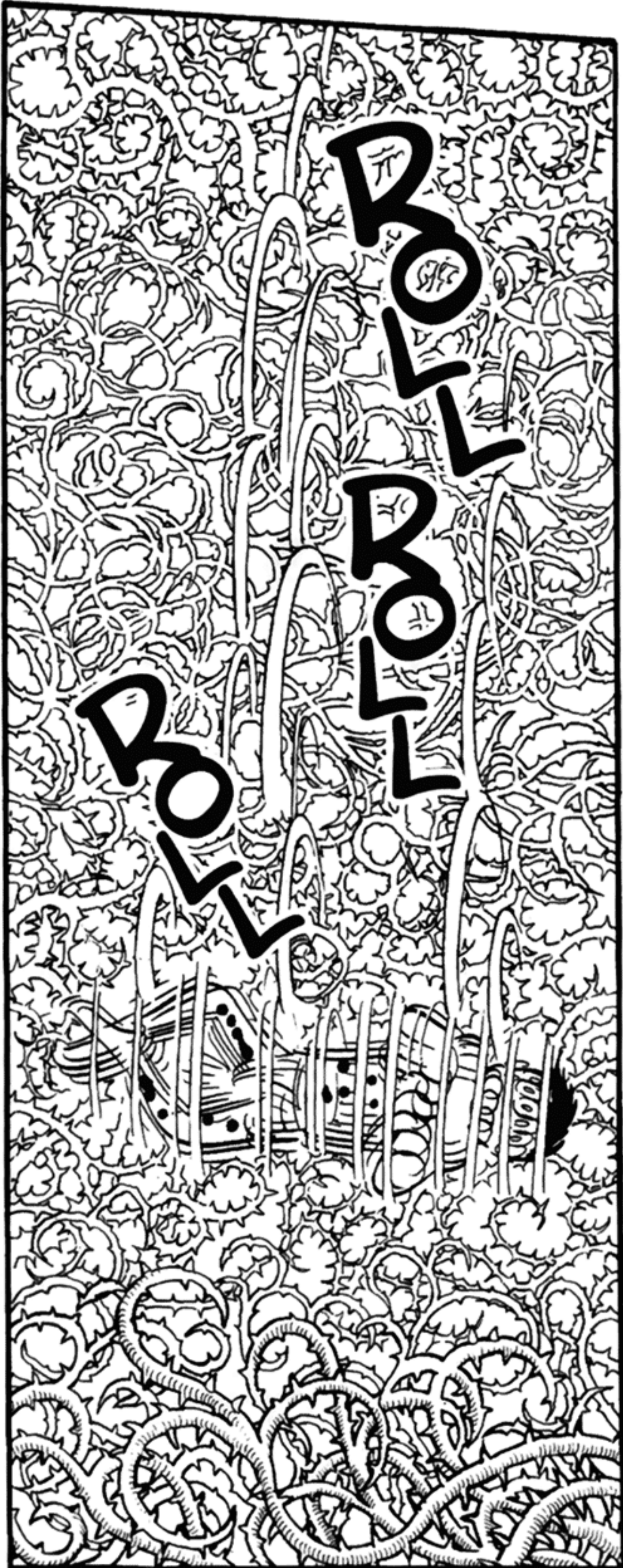
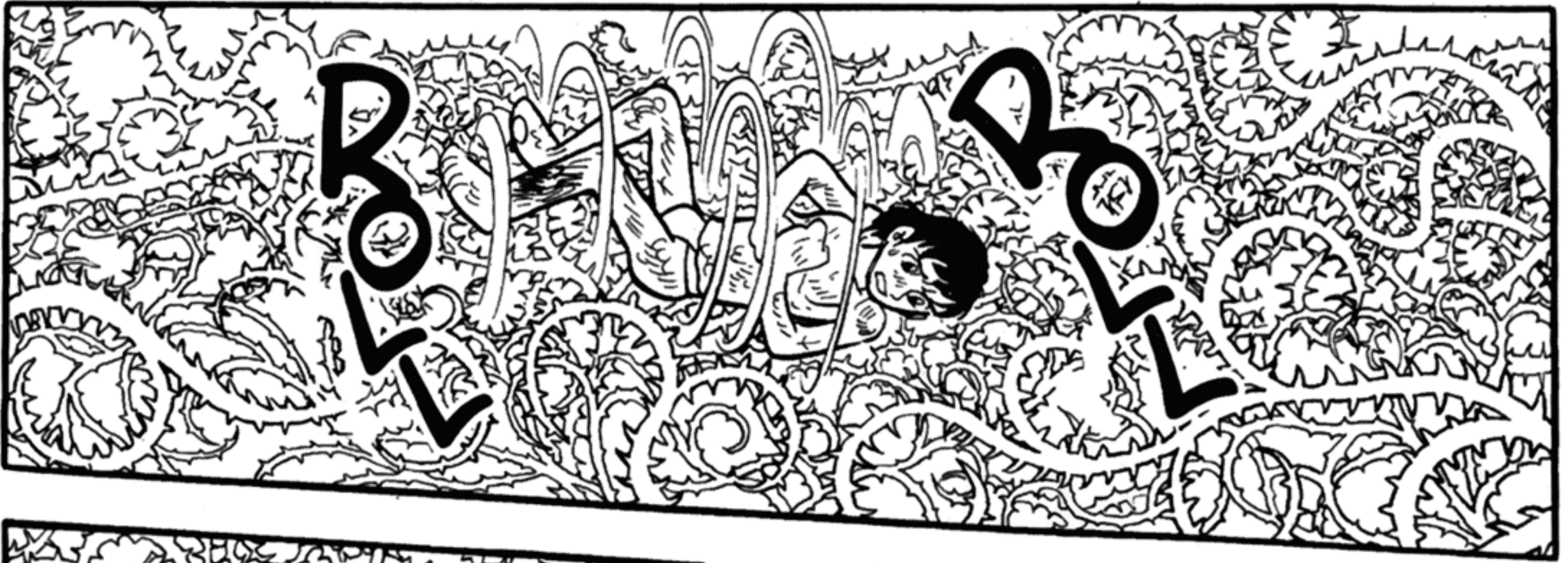
FOOL

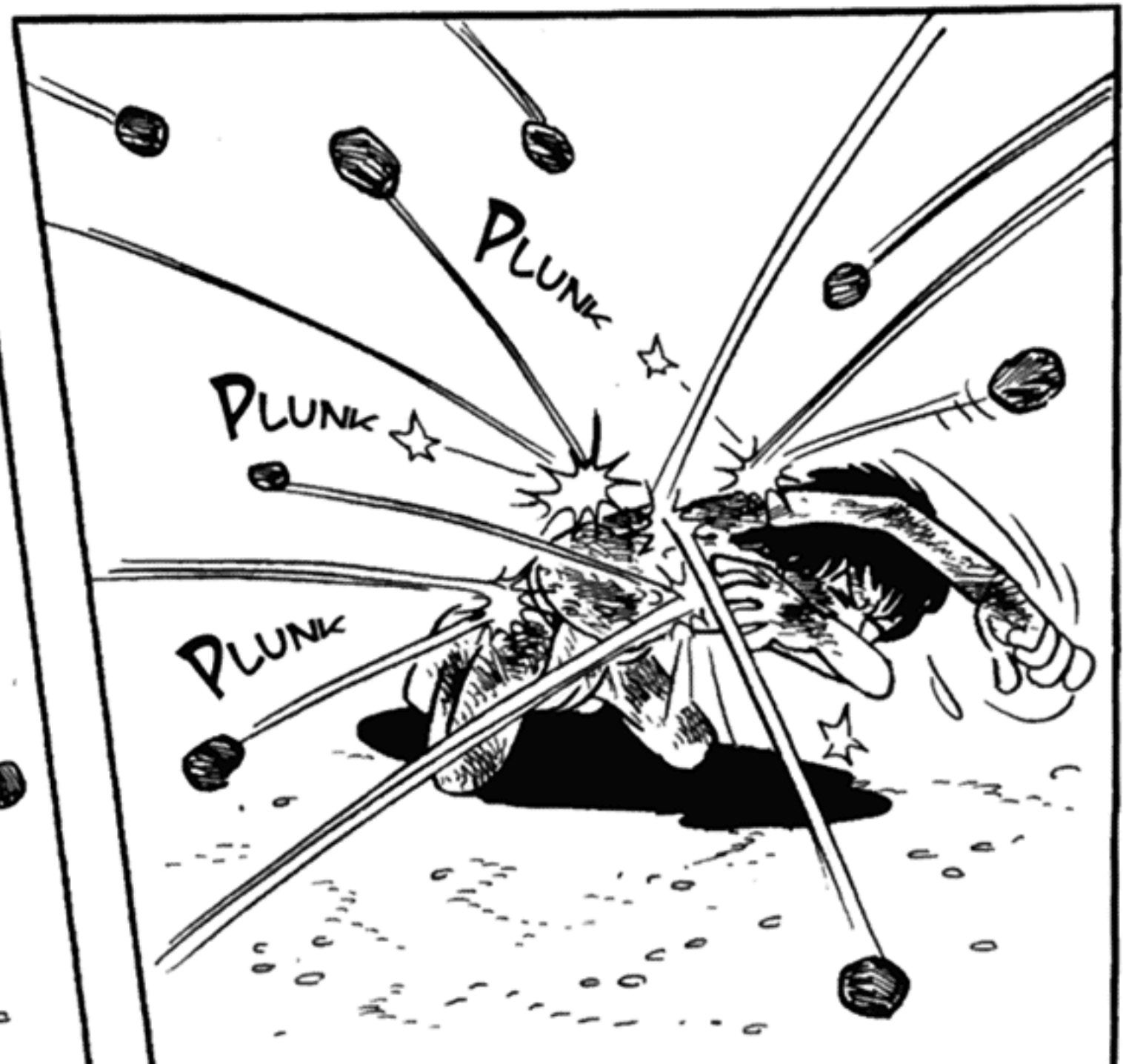
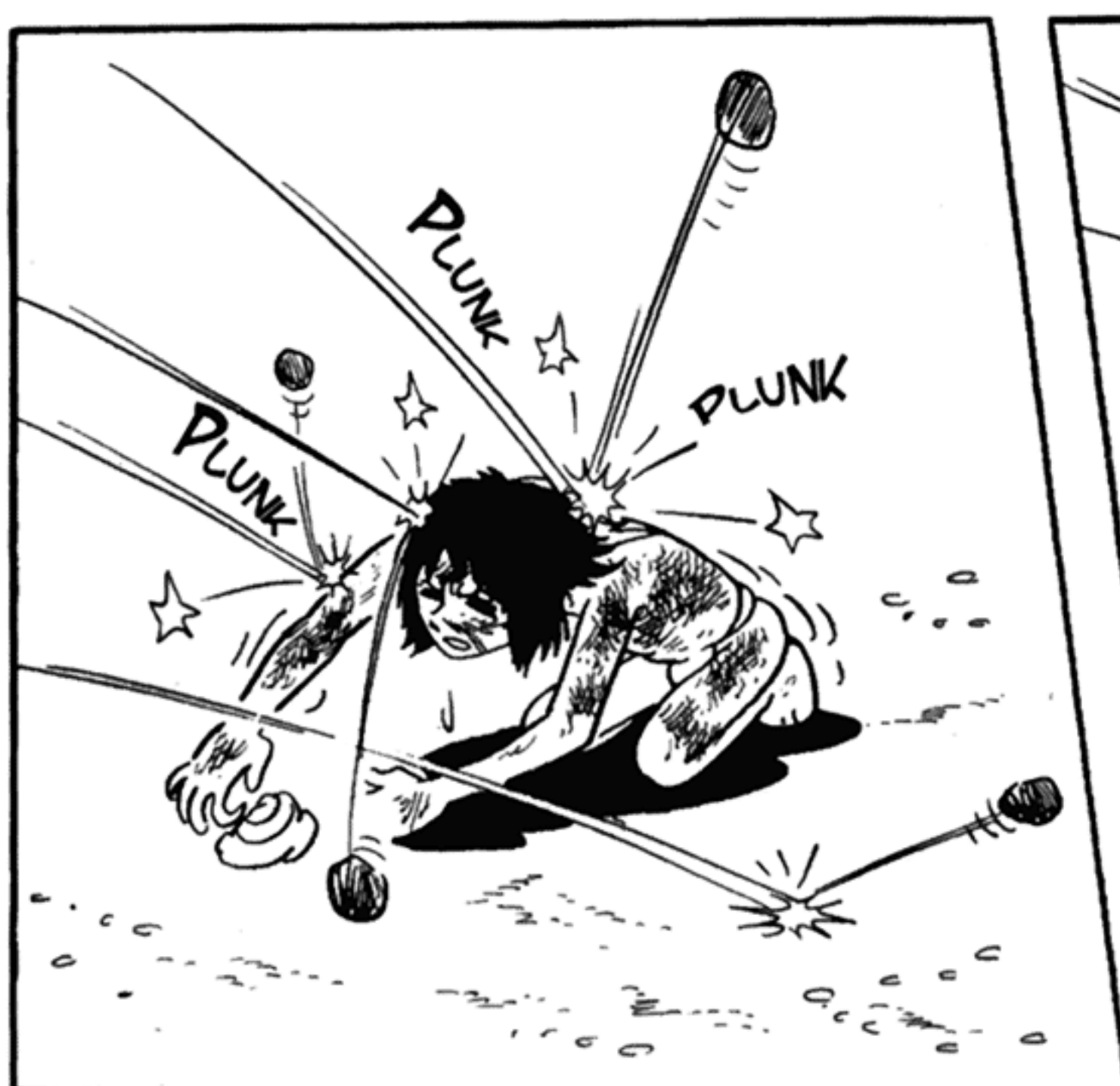
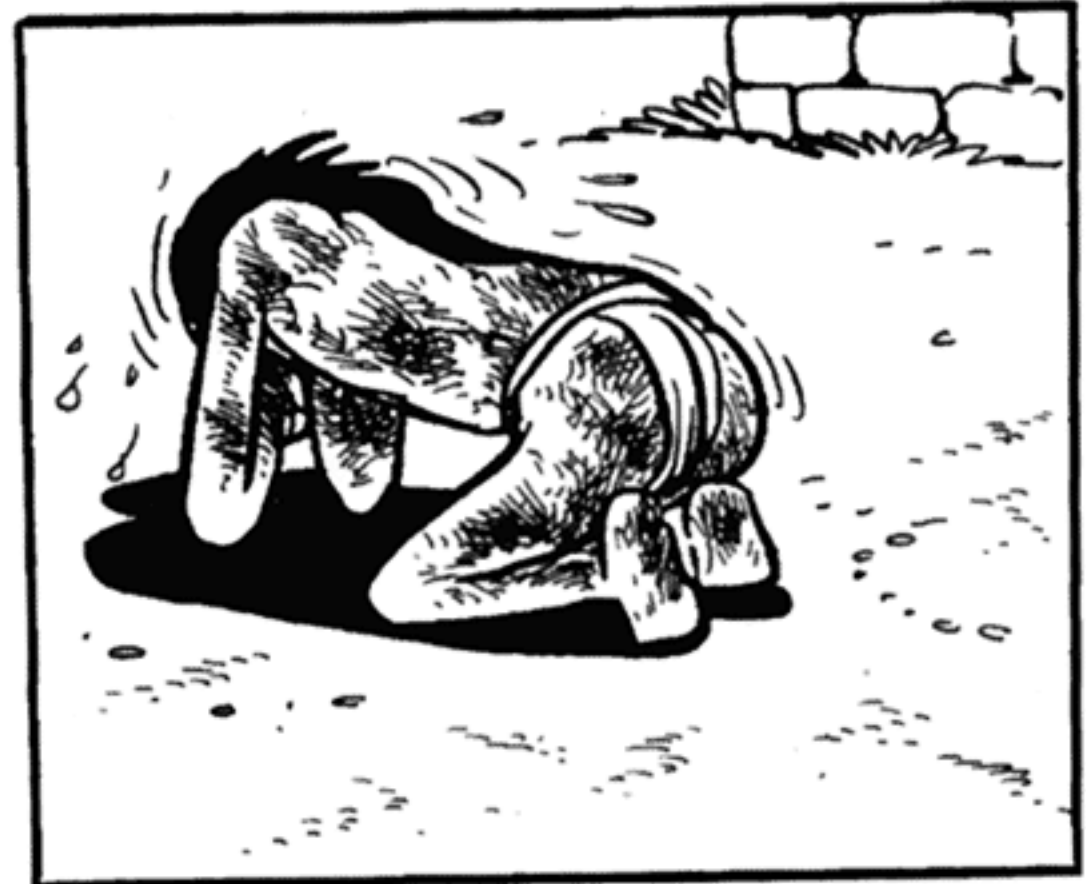
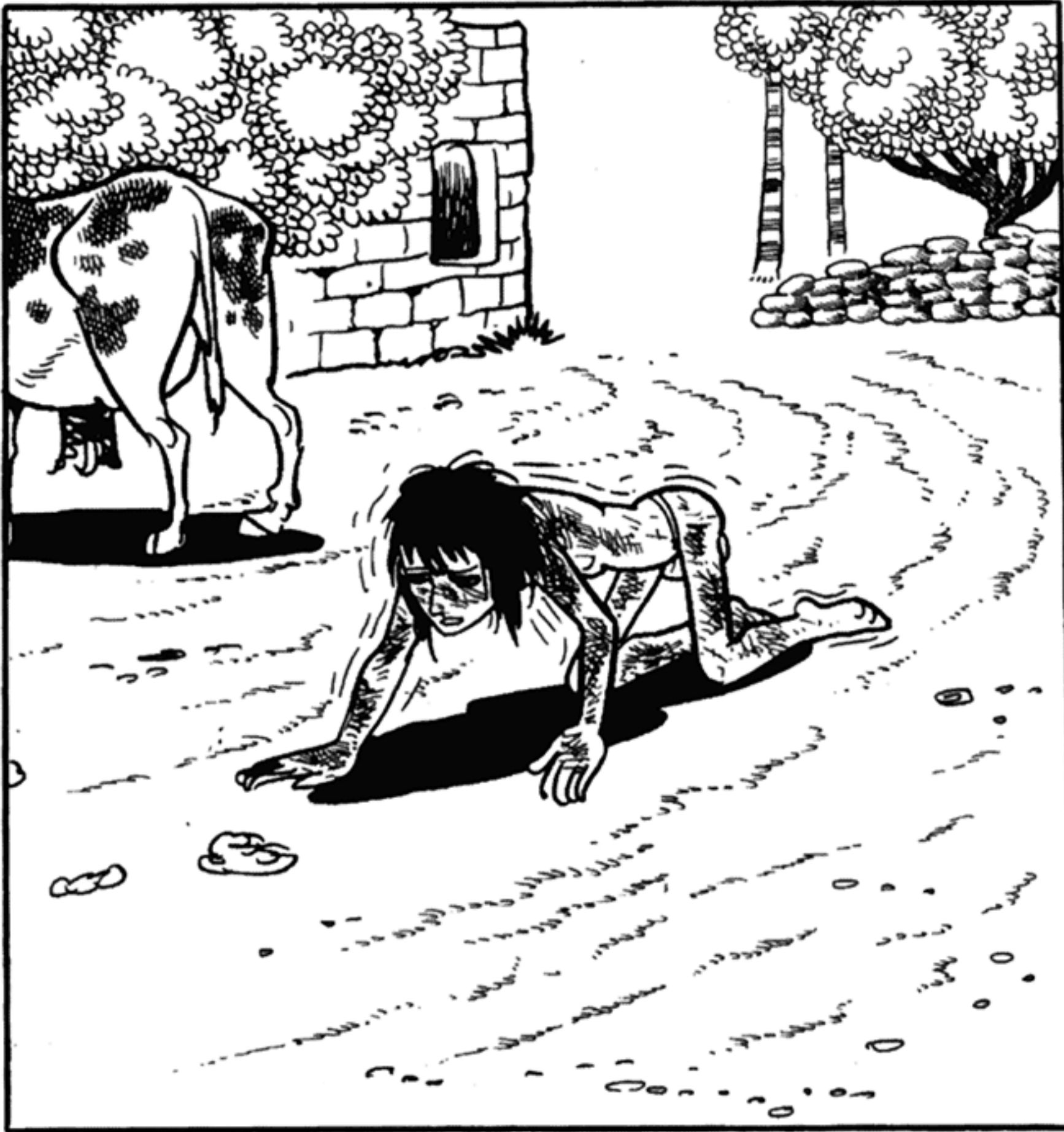


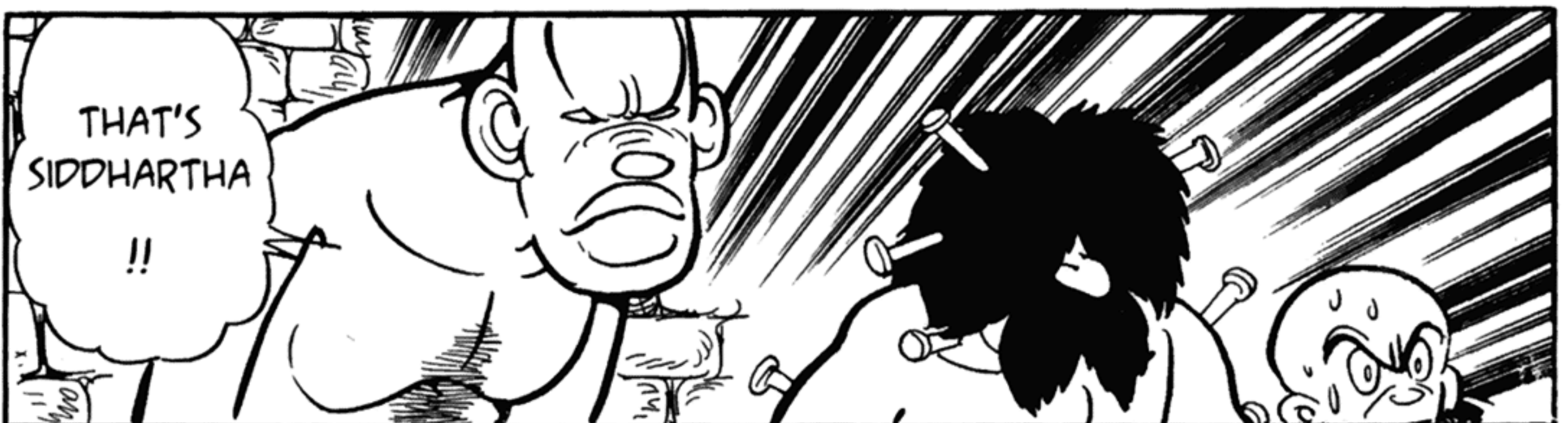
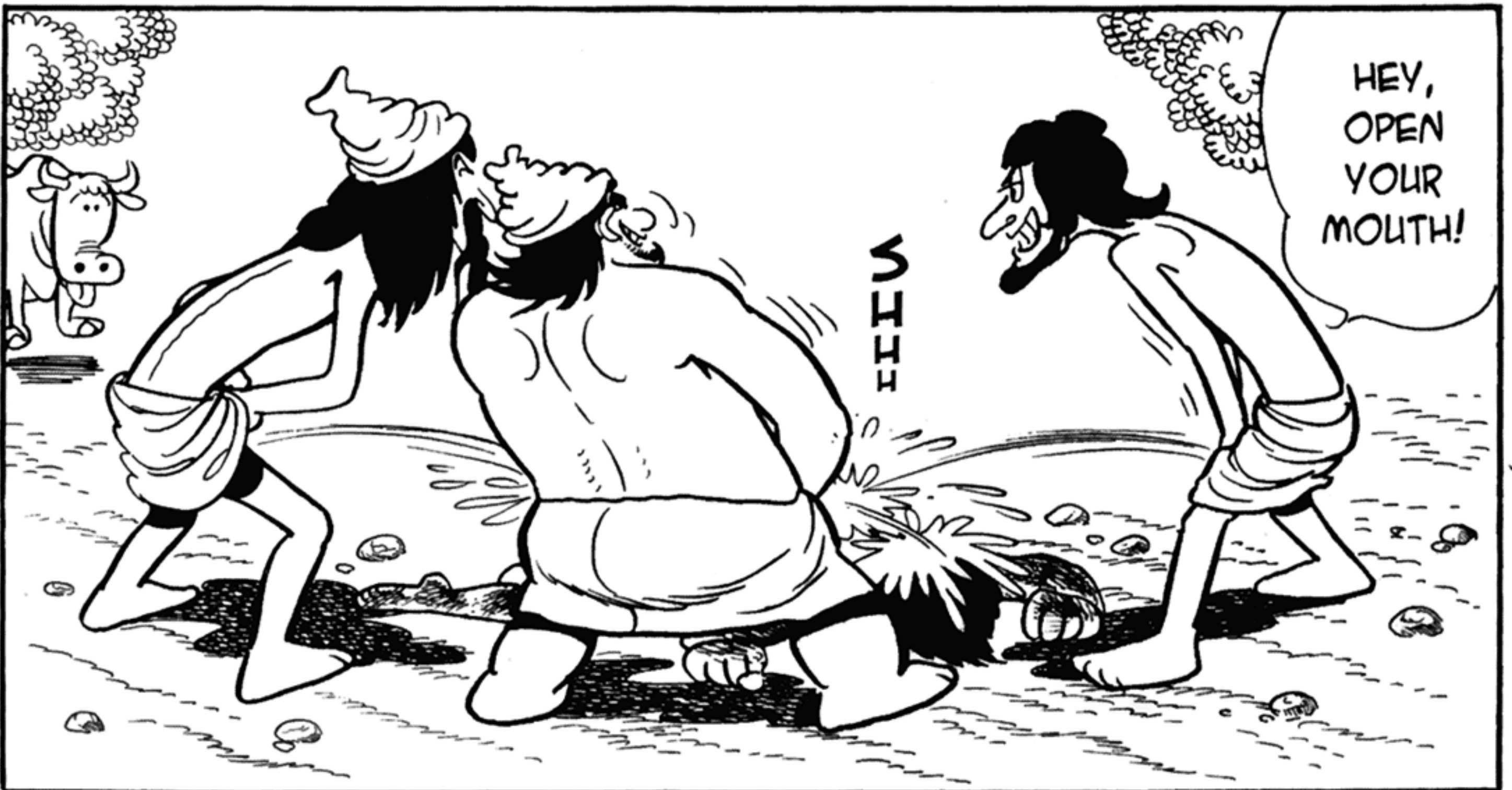
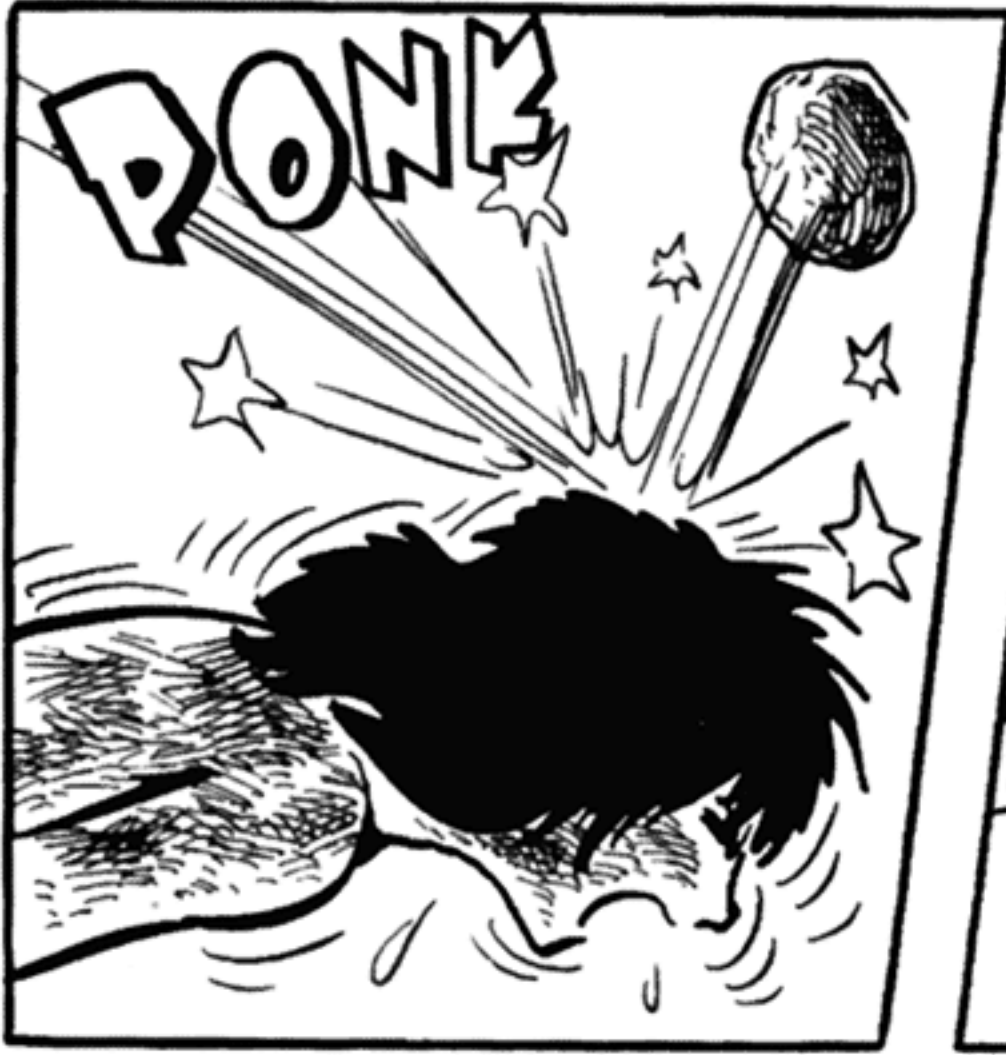
CHAPTER NINE

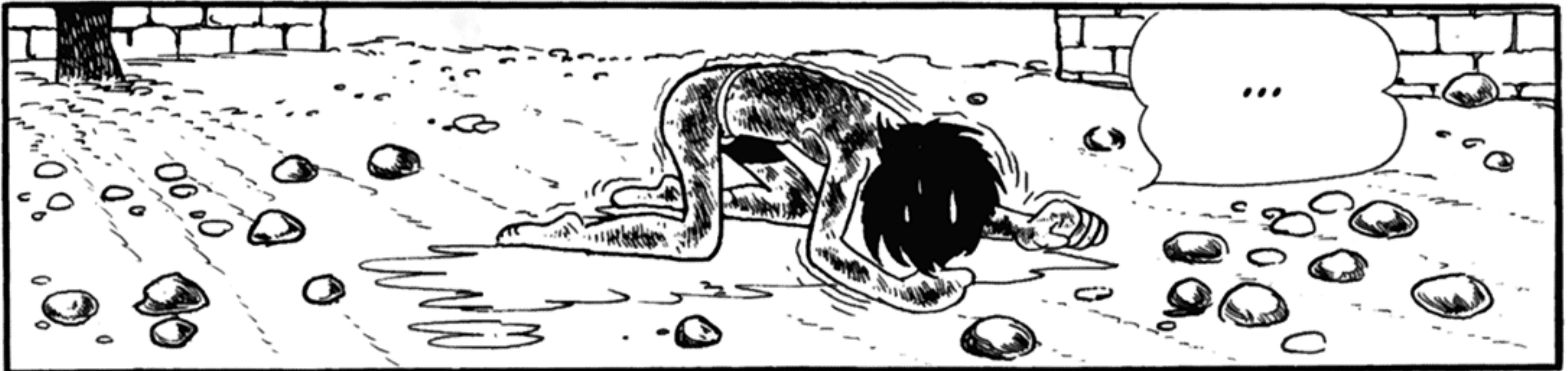
SUJATA

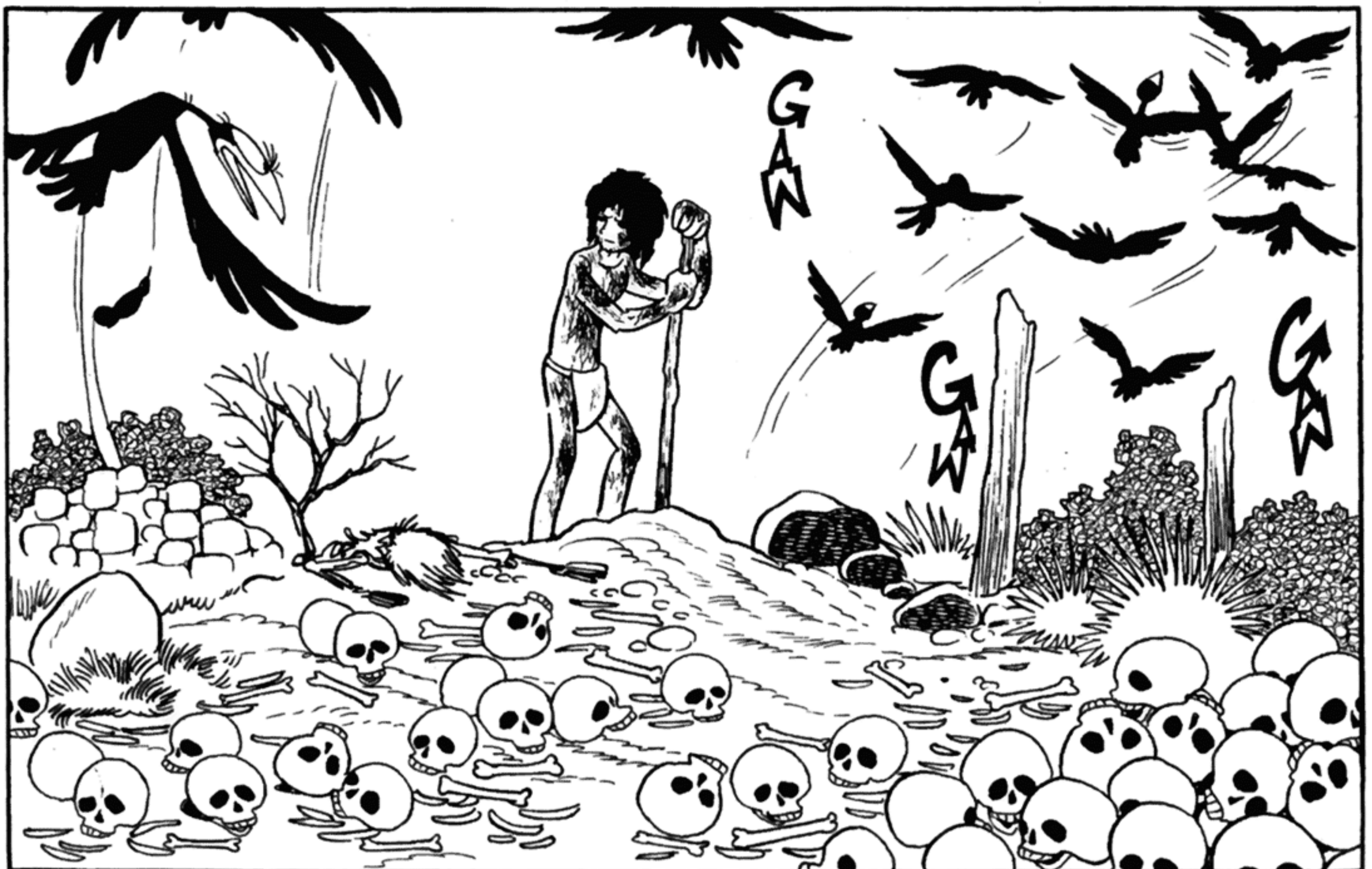
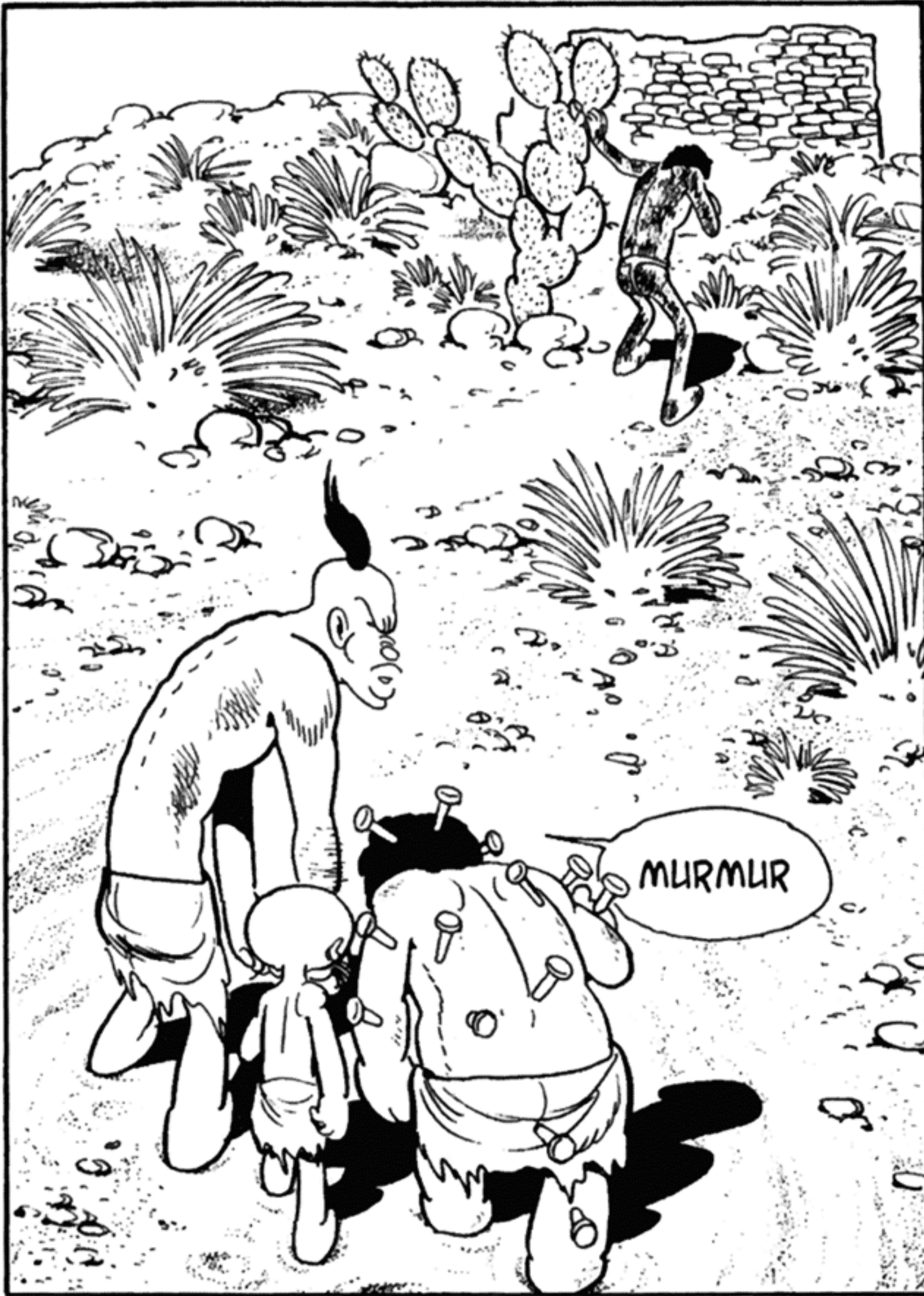


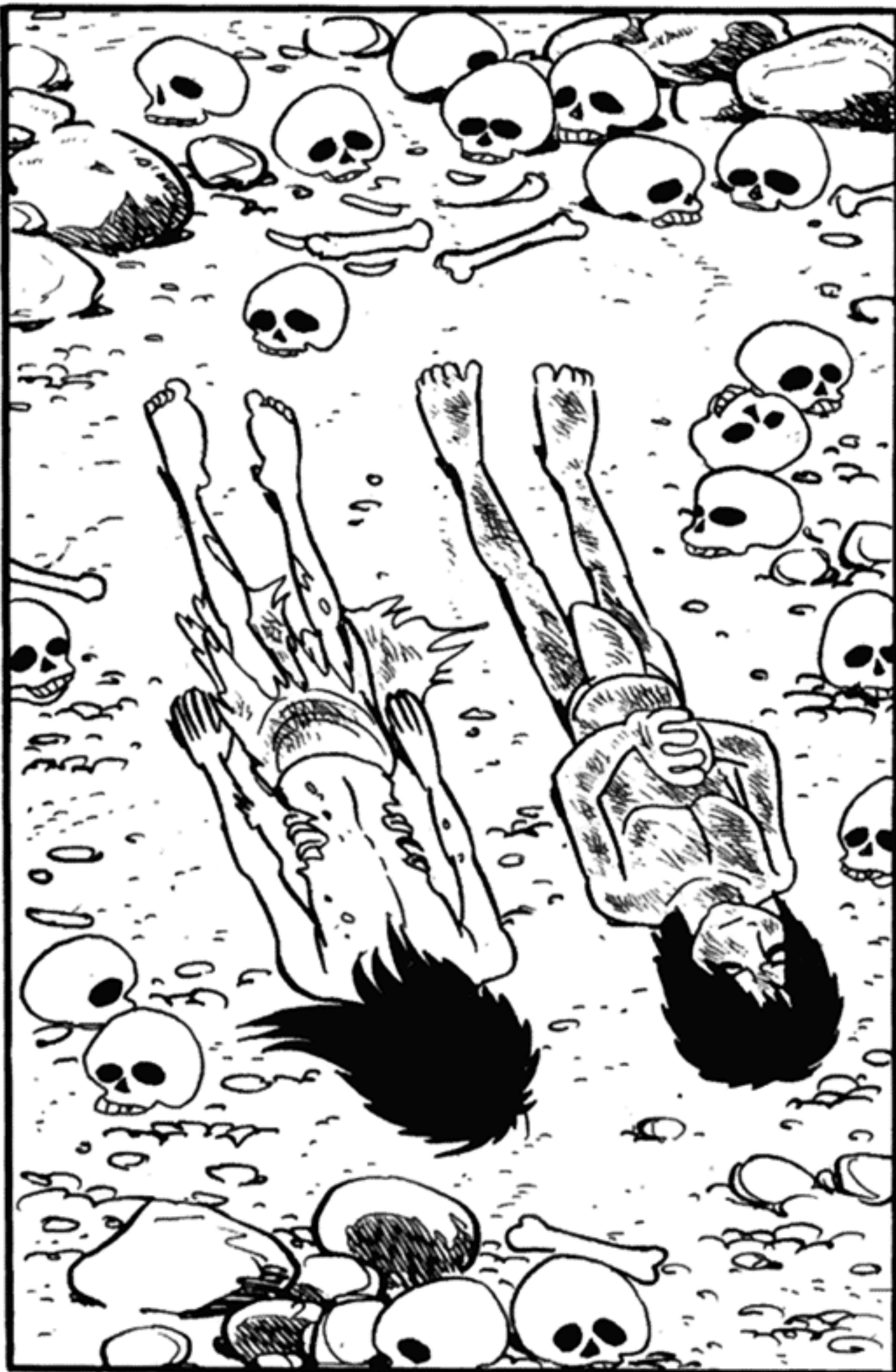


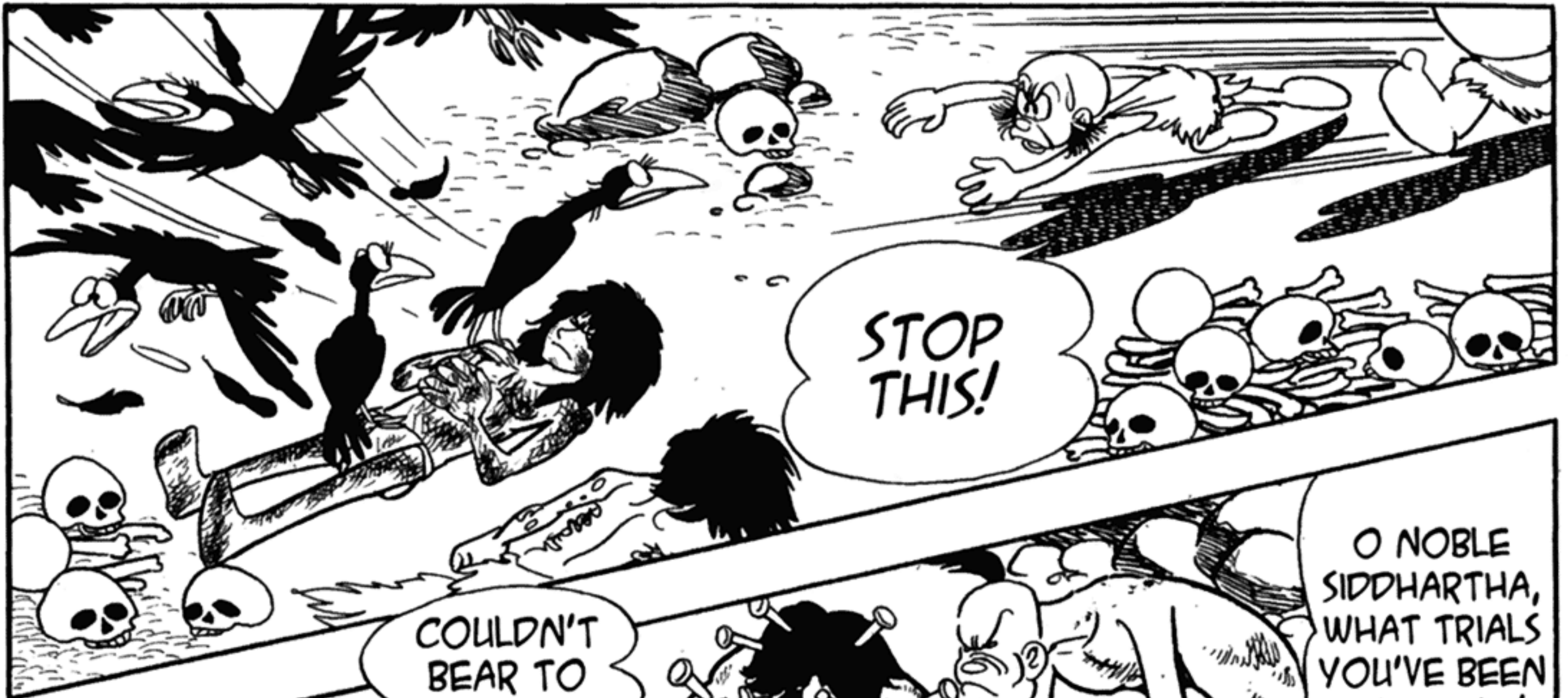










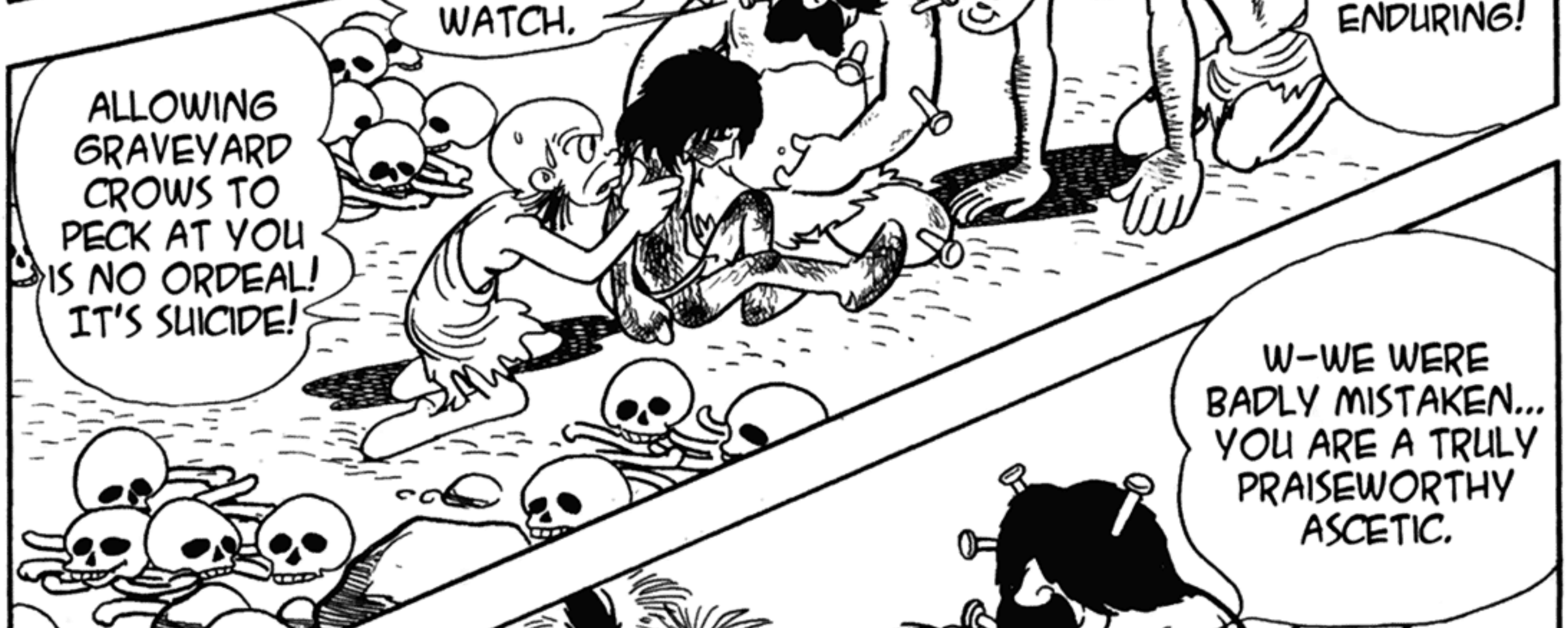


STOP THIS!



O NOBLE SIDDHARTHA, WHAT TRIALS YOU'VE BEEN ENDURING!

COULDN'T BEAR TO WATCH.



ALLOWING GRAVEYARD CROWS TO PECK AT YOU IS NO ORDEAL! IT'S SUICIDE!



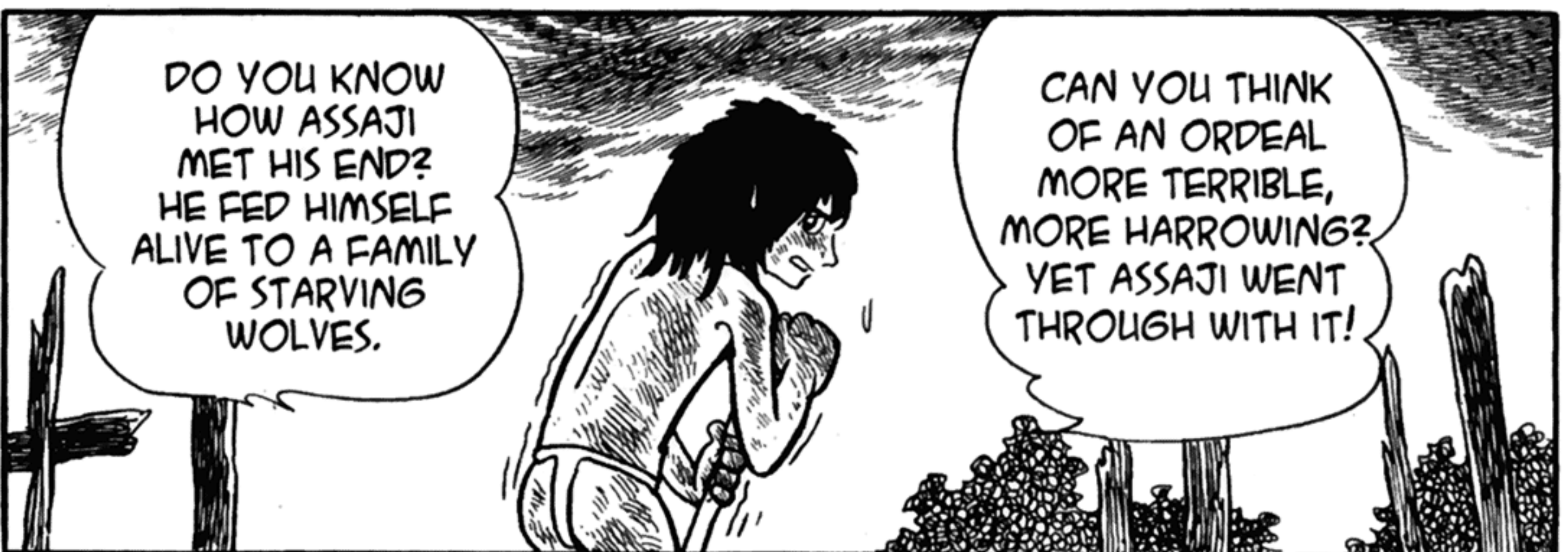
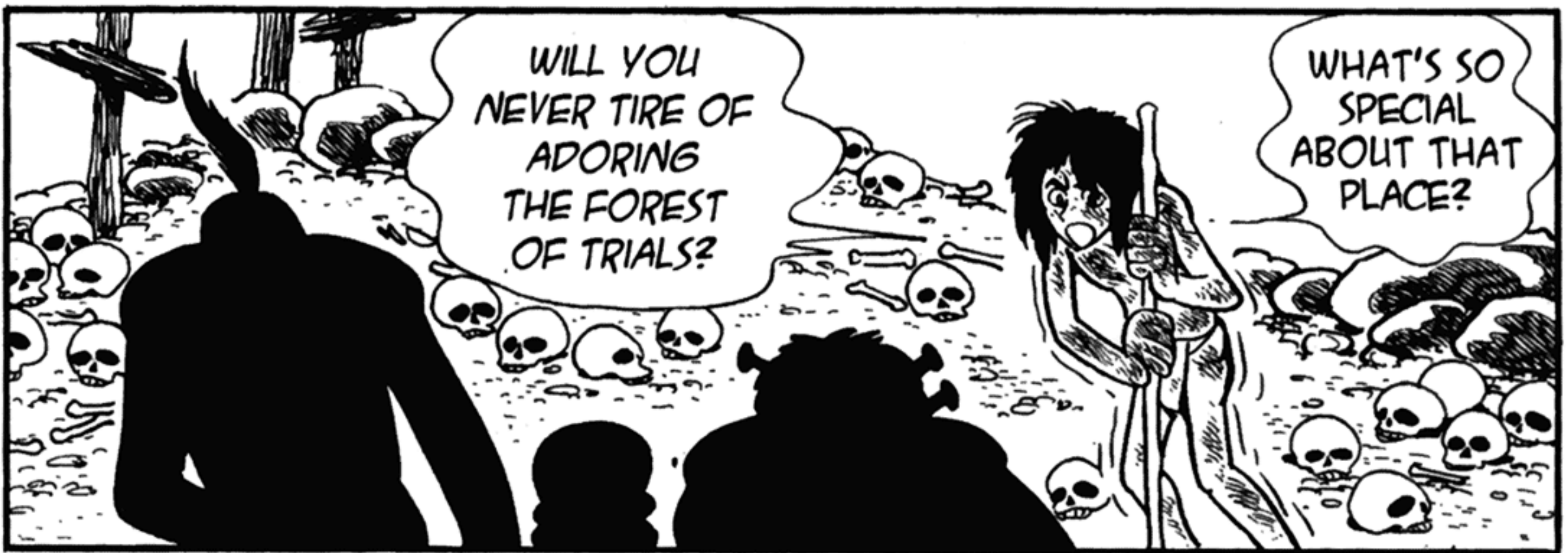
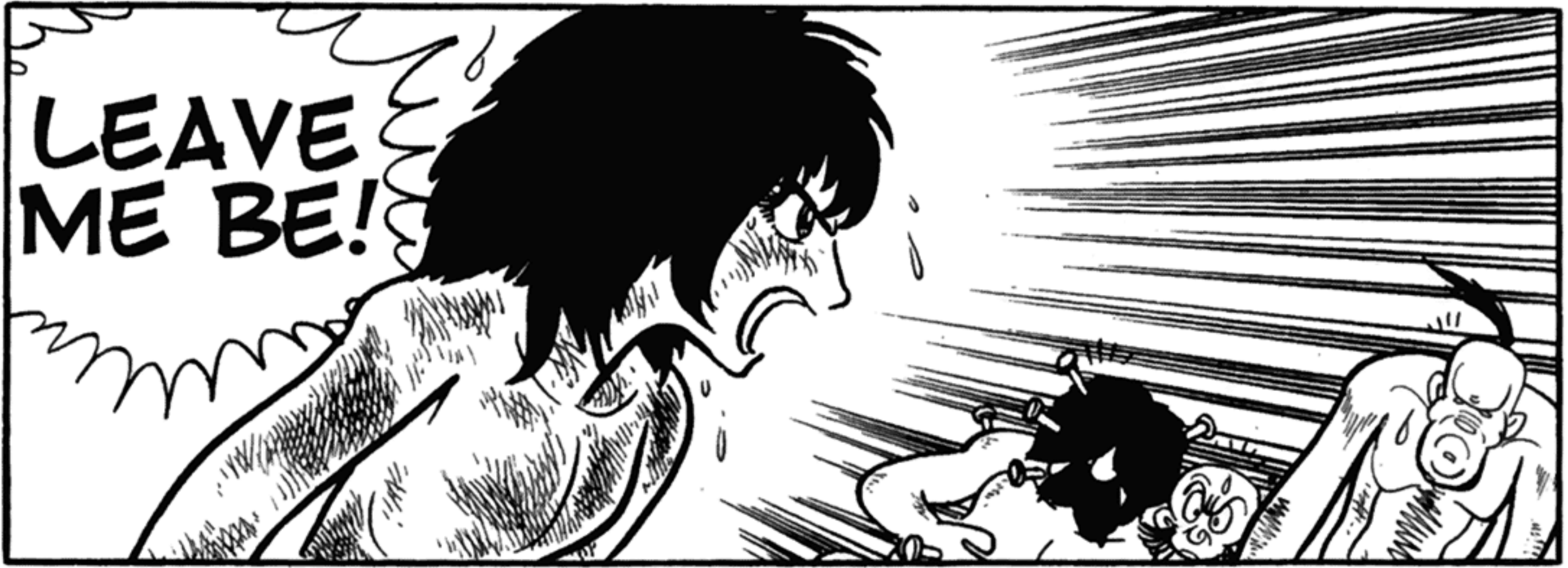
W-WE WERE BADLY MISTAKEN... YOU ARE A TRULY PRAISEWORTHY ASCETIC.

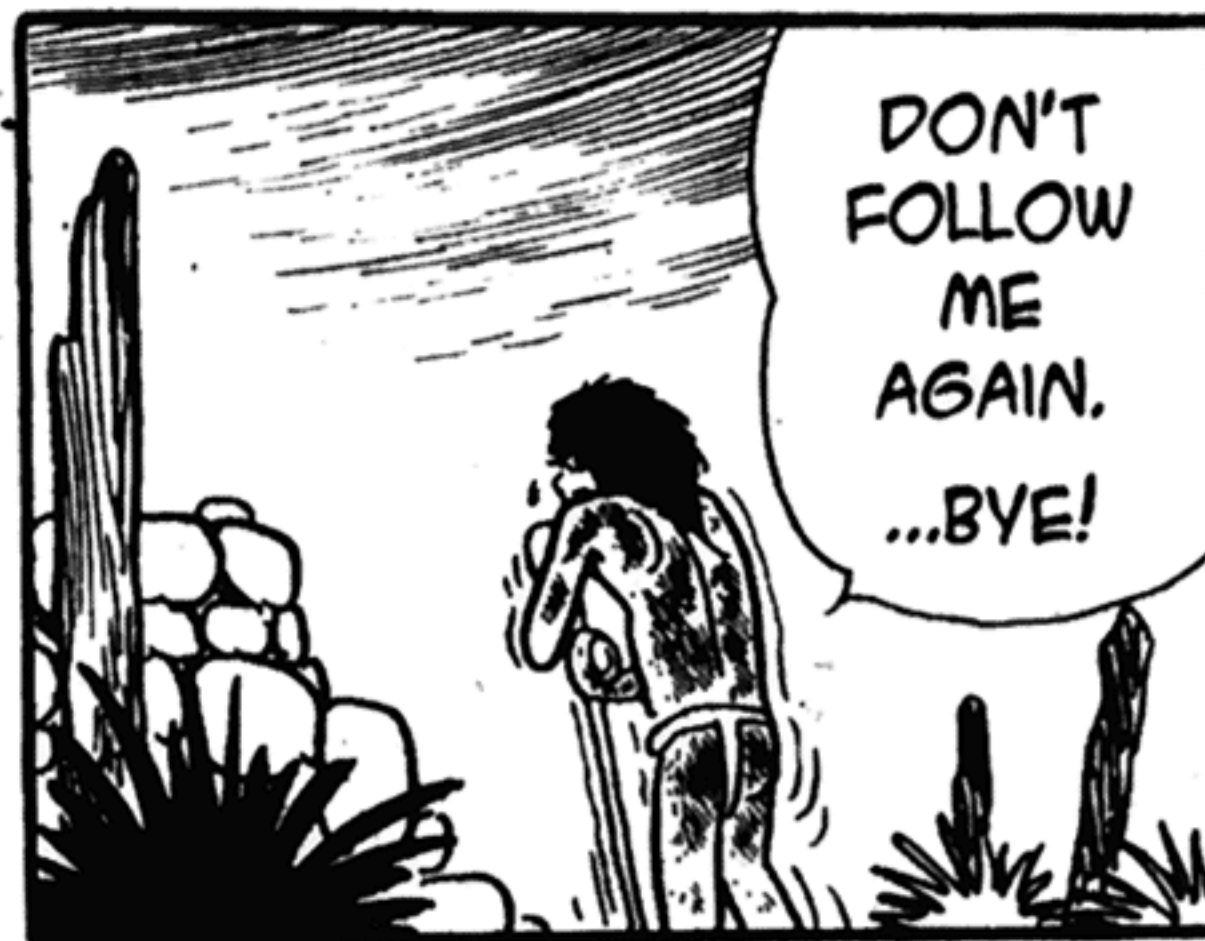
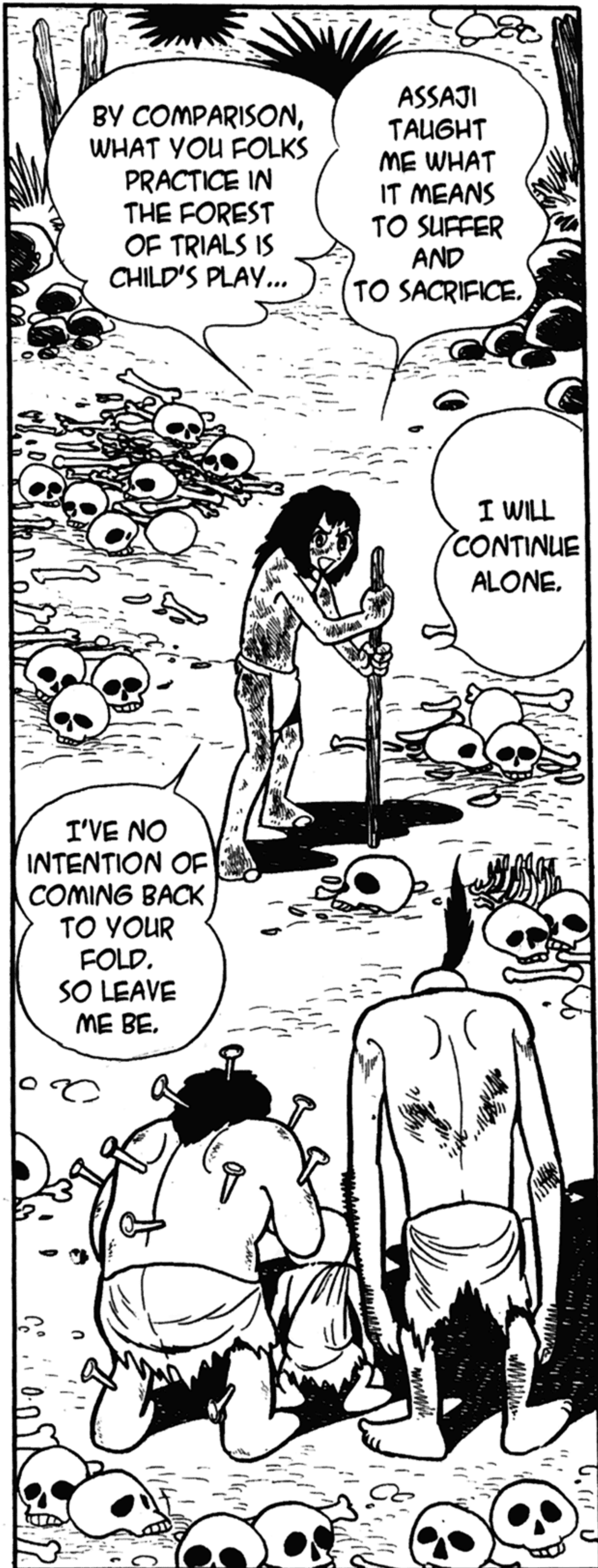


W-WON'T YOU PLEASE RETURN TO THE FOREST OF TRIALS...?

WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU FOR A WHILE NOW.

DHEPA WILL BE GLAD.









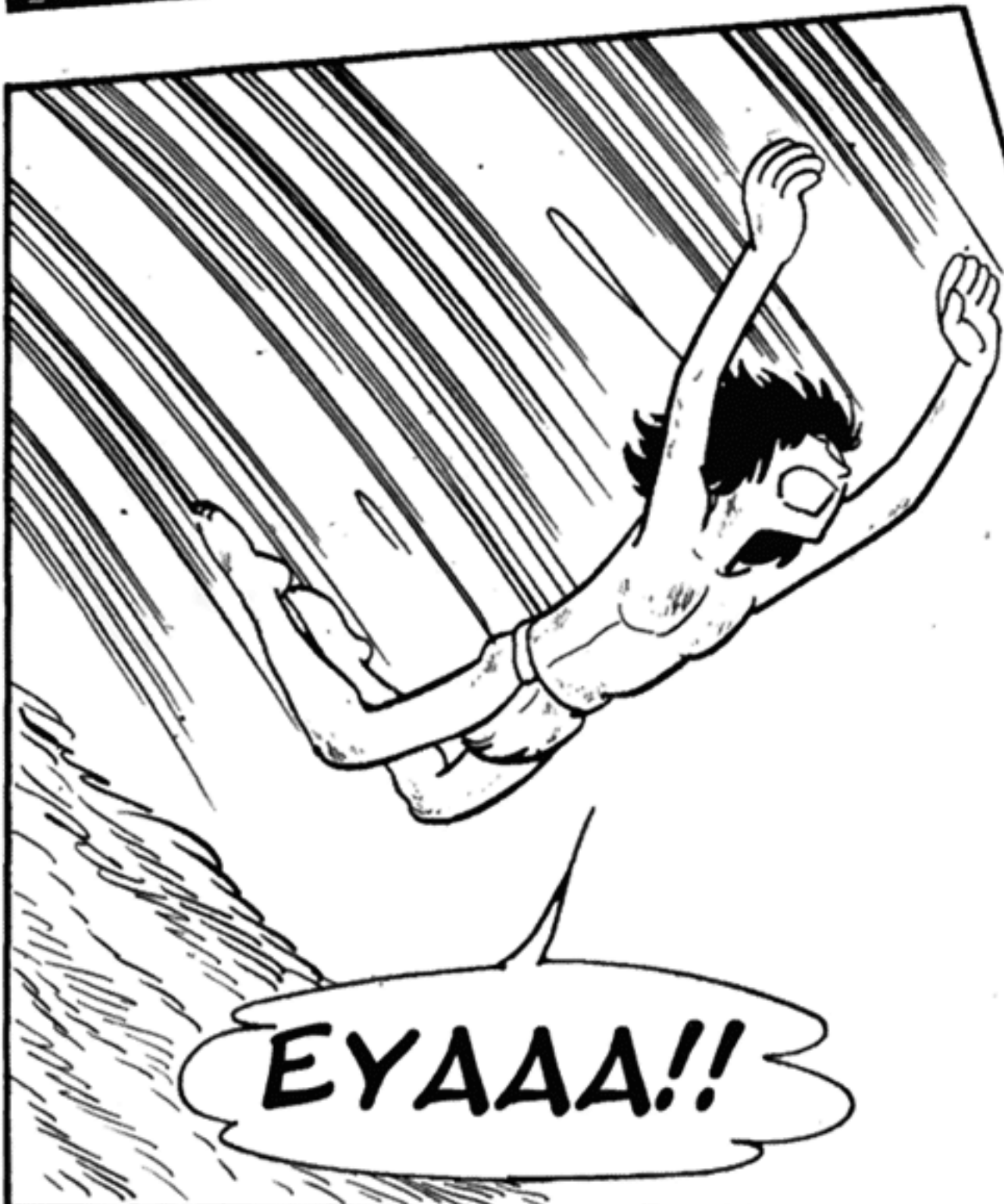
WHO
ARE
YOU
?!

UH-OH...
JUST MY
NERVES
AGAIN.

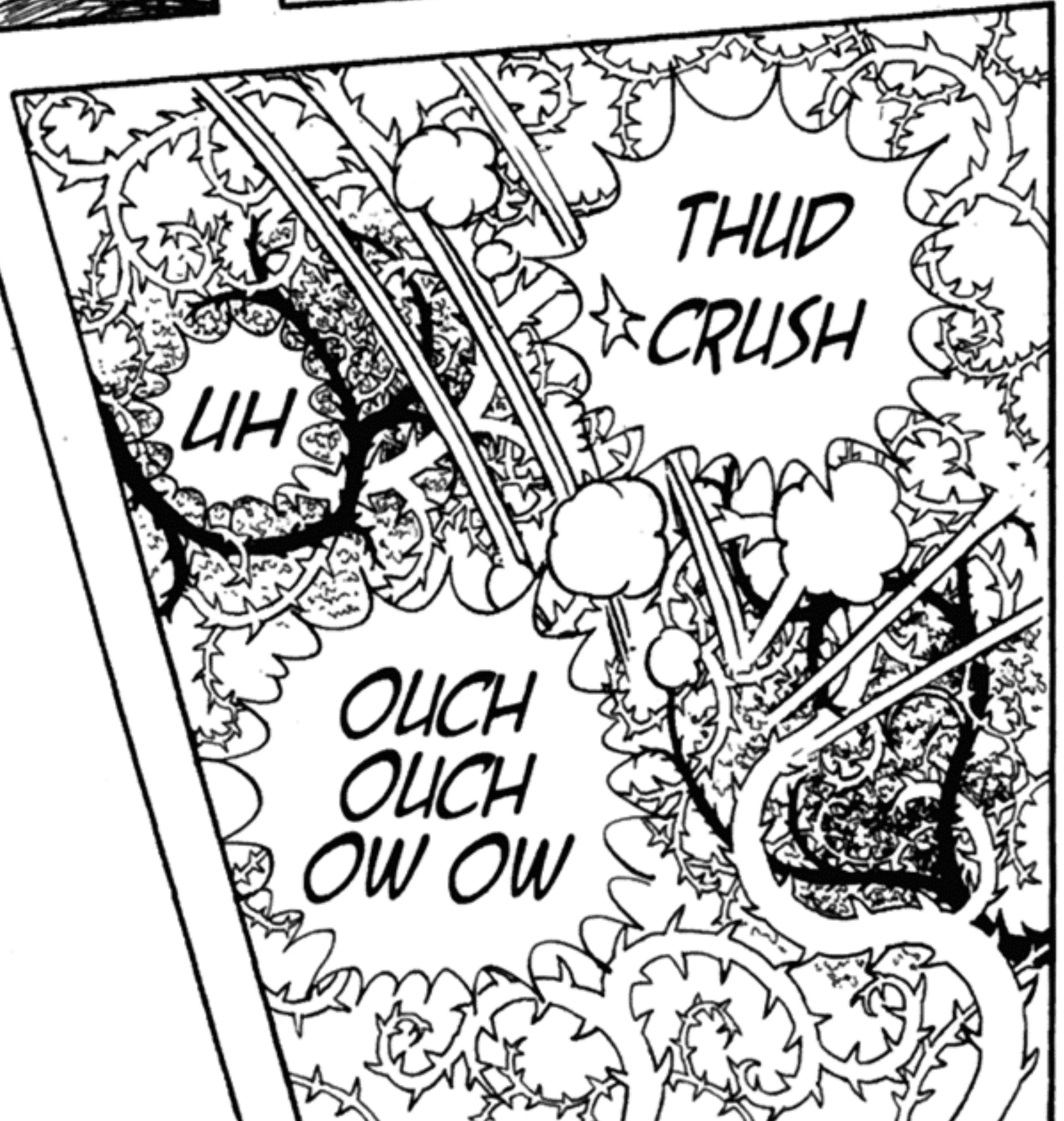
I'M STARTING
TO HEAR THAT
LAUGHTER
MORE AND
MORE
CLEARLY...

EVERY
NIGHT!

PERHAPS
MY ORDEALS
HAVE DRIVEN
ME MAD...



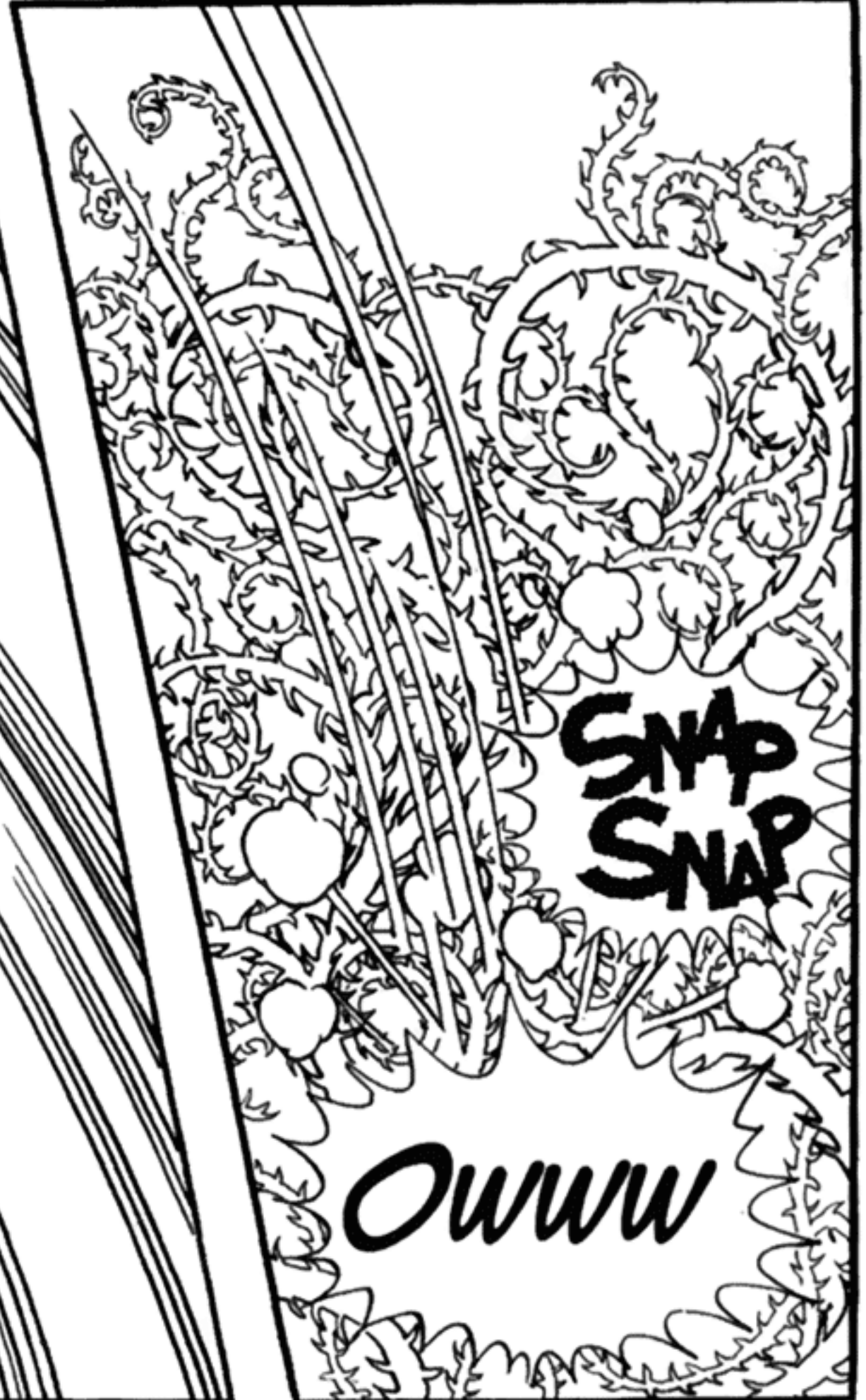
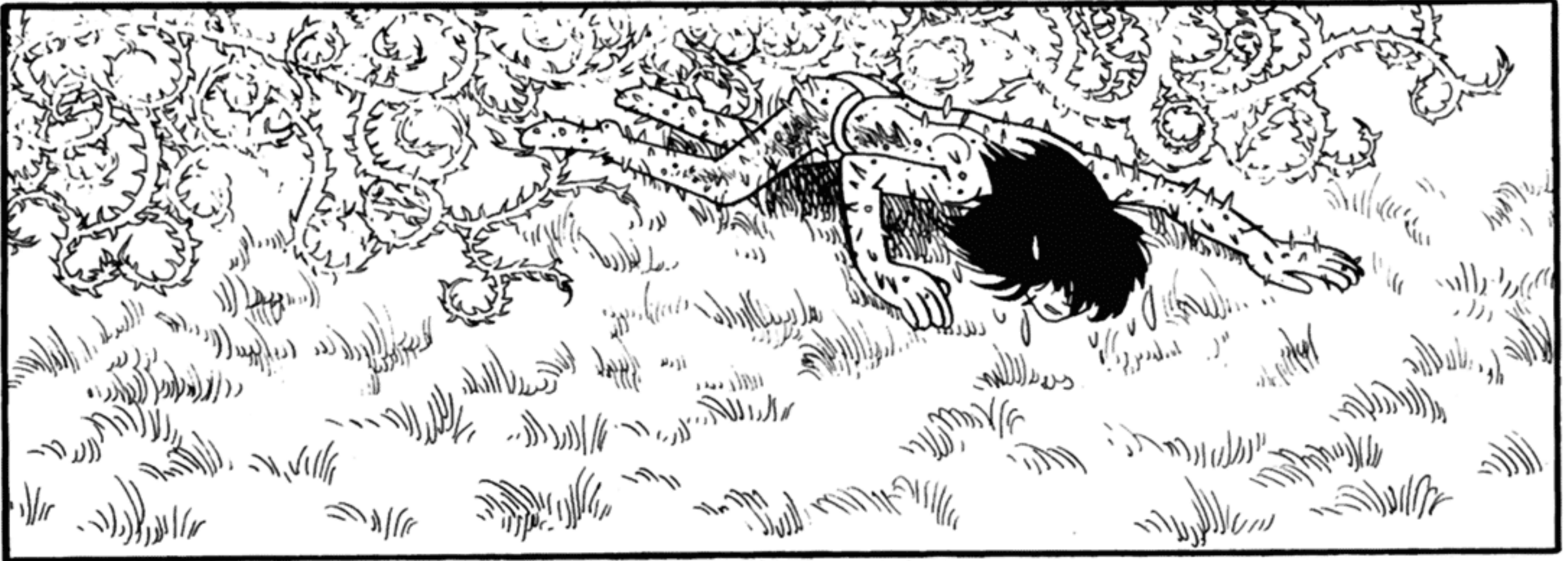
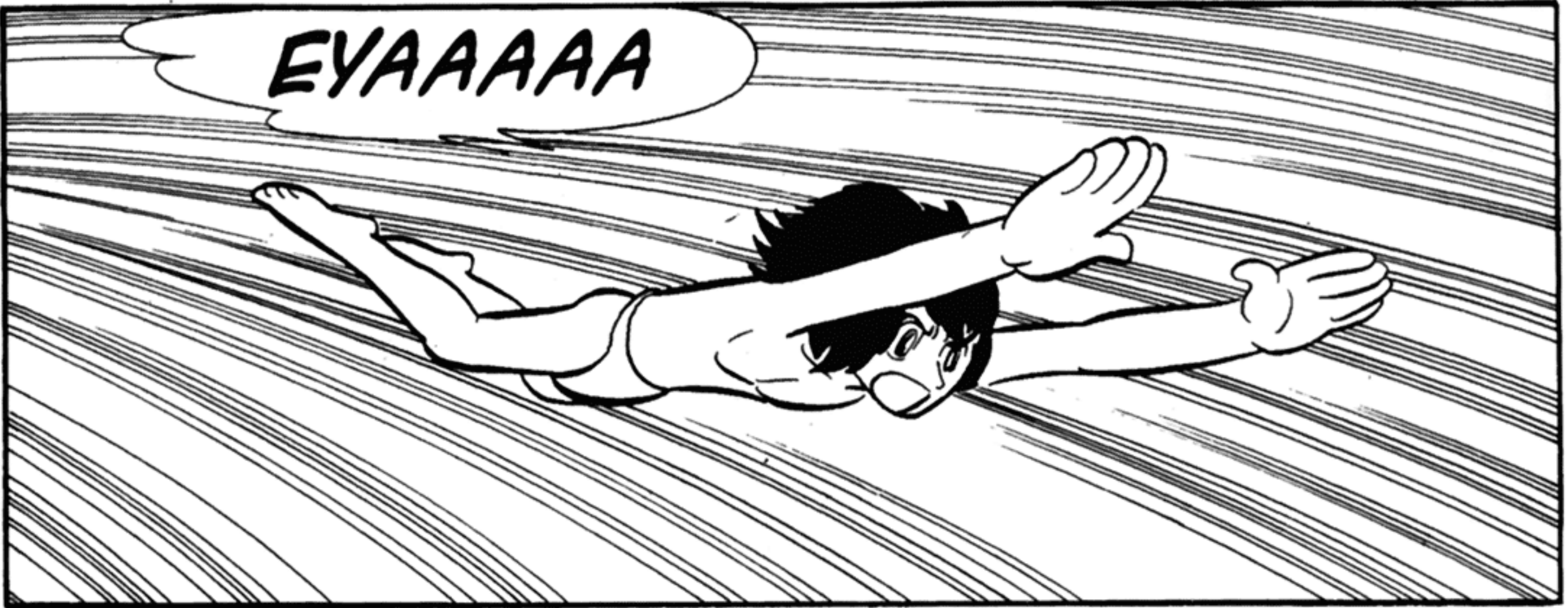
EYAAA!!

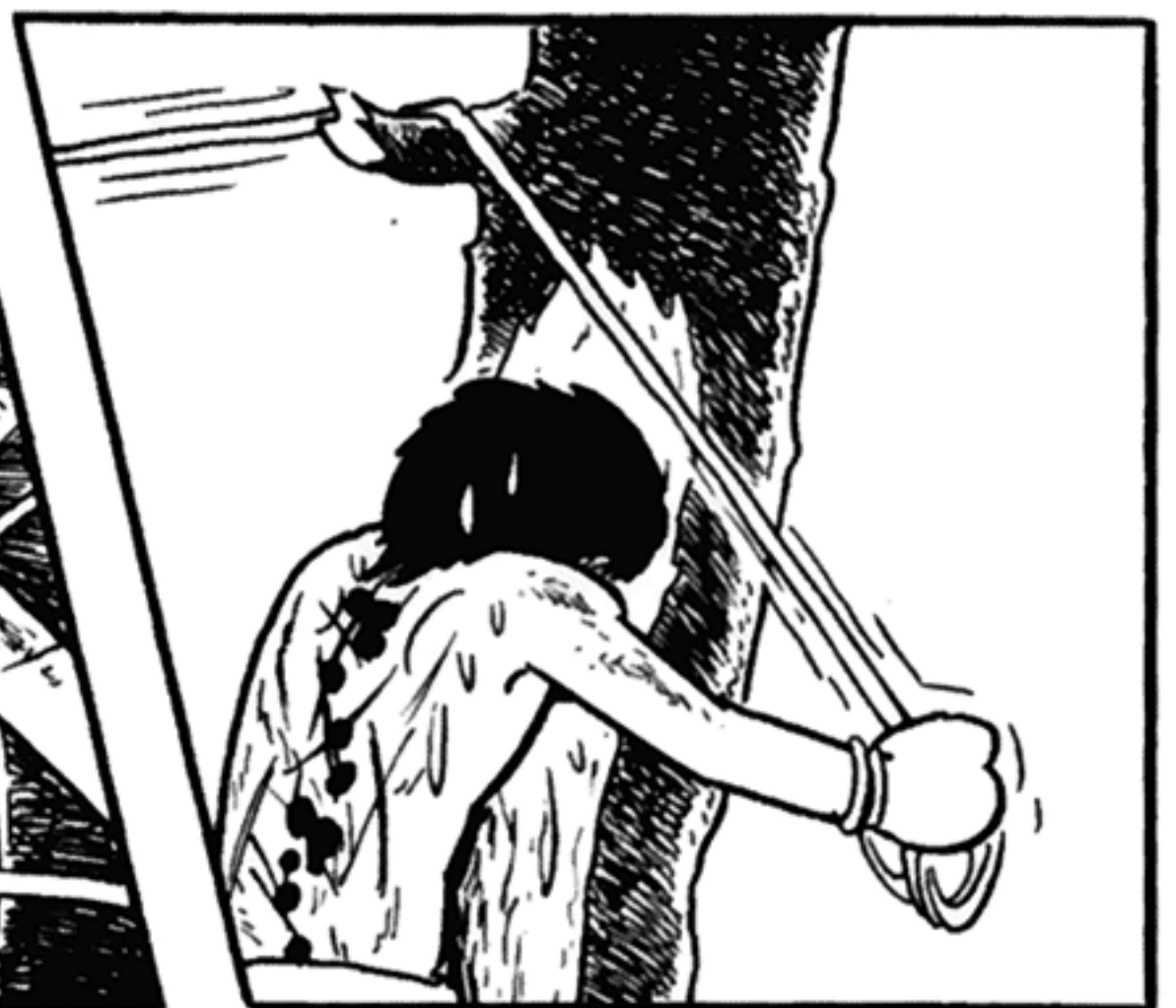
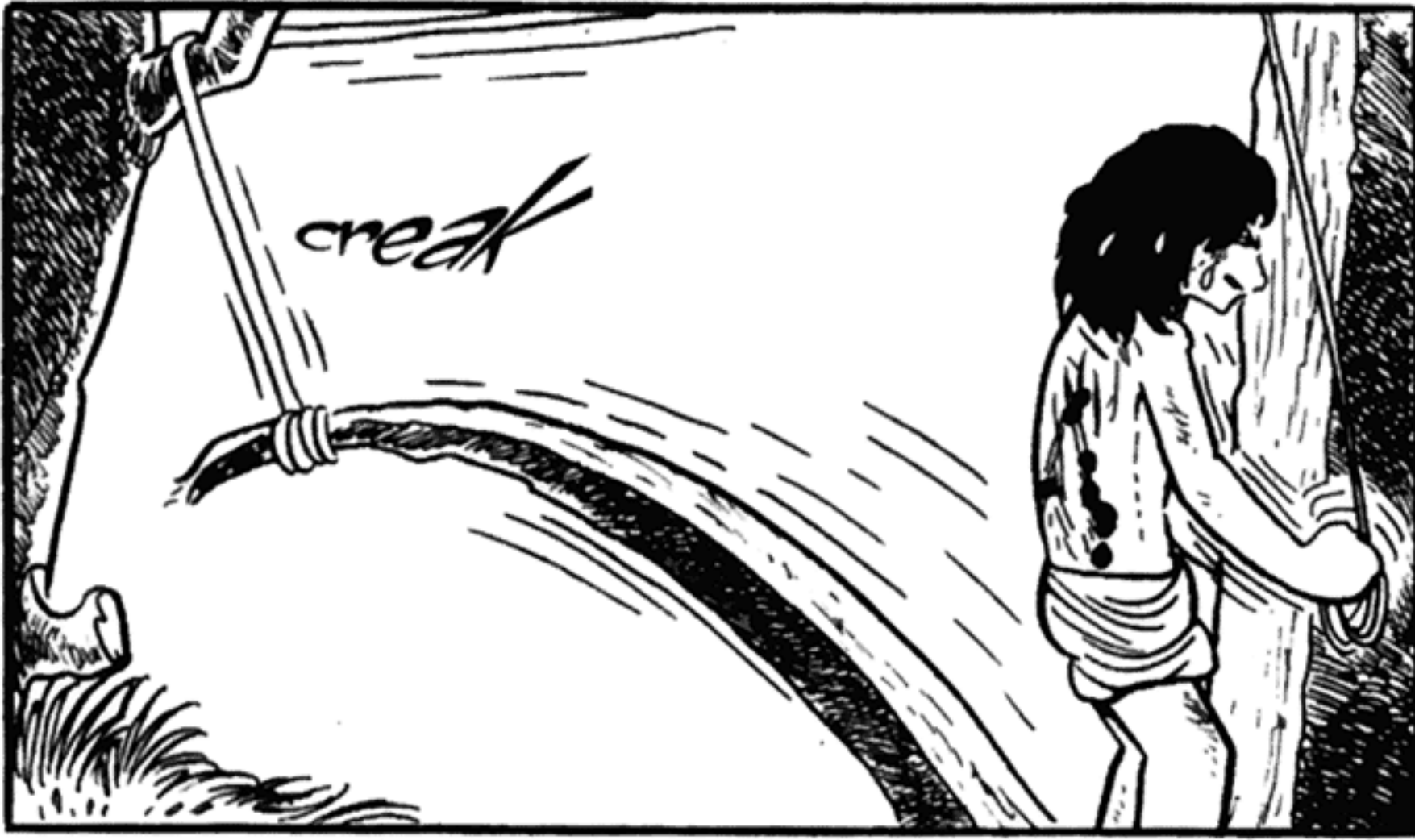


LIH

THUD
CRUSH

OUCH
OUCH
OW OW







HMM,
THIS LOOKS
SERIOUS.
THE MONKS
HAVE TAKEN
SIDES

...AND ARE
THROWING
STONES
AT EACH
OTHER



DHEPA!

WHAT
ON
EARTH IS
GOING
ON?

SID...
SIDDHAR-
THA...?

WHICH SIDE
ARE YOU
ON?
OURS OR
THEIRS?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
WHICH
SIDE?

AH, SO
YOU KNOW
NOTHING
THEN.

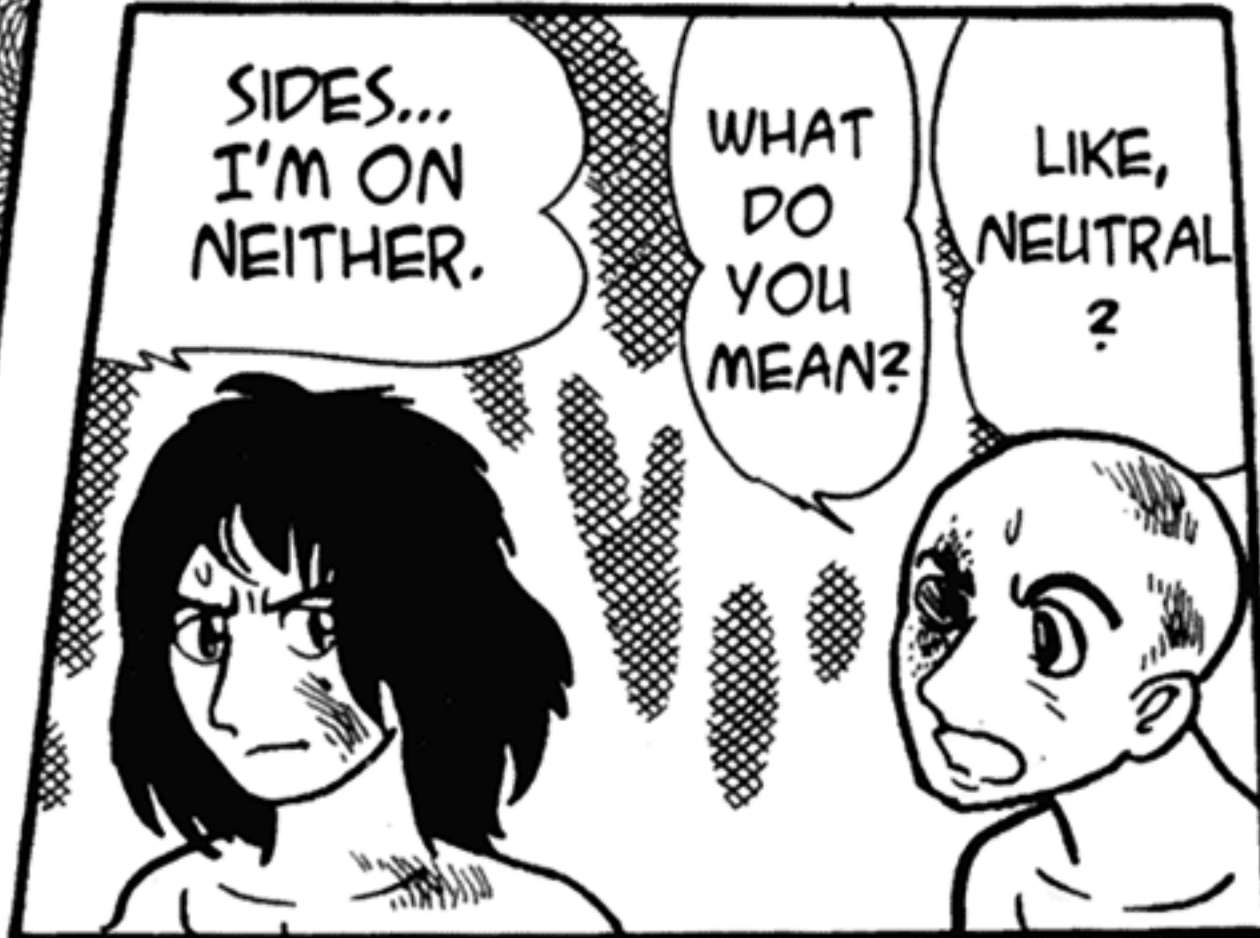
THE ELDER'S OF
THE FOREST
STAND DIVIDED,
AFTER A DISPUTE.

THE ELDER'S ARE
FIGHTING?
COULDN'T YOU
GUYS STOP
THEM?

STOP THEM?!
THE ENTIRE FOREST
HAS SPLIT INTO TWO
EVEN CAMPS.



YOU'RE A FRIEND.
I KNOW YOU WANT
TO JOIN OUR SIDE.



SIDES...
I'M ON
NEITHER.

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN?

LIKE,
NEUTRAL
?



THERE IS
NO MIDDLE
GROUND!

MAKE UP
YOUR MIND!
ARE YOU
FRIEND
OR FOE?!

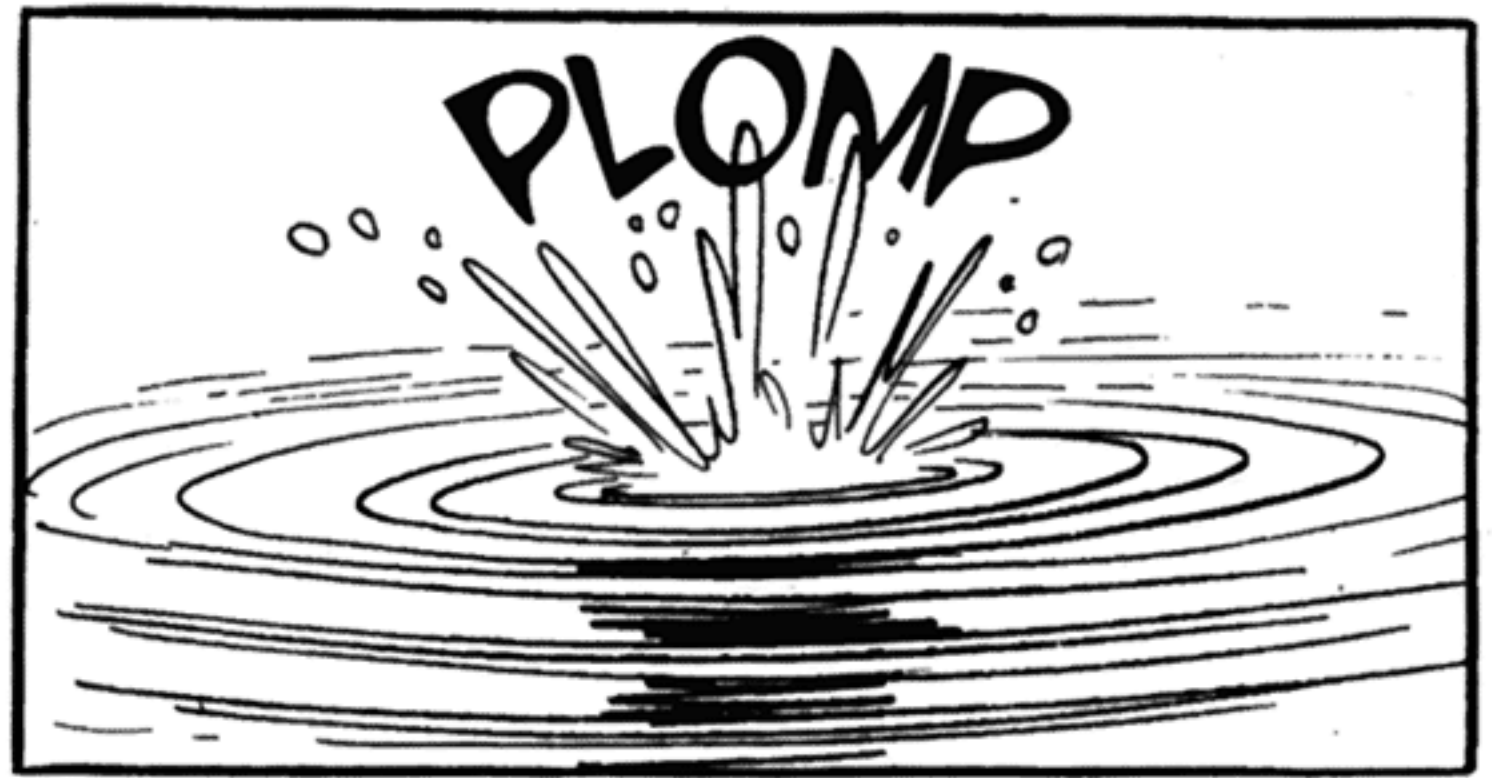
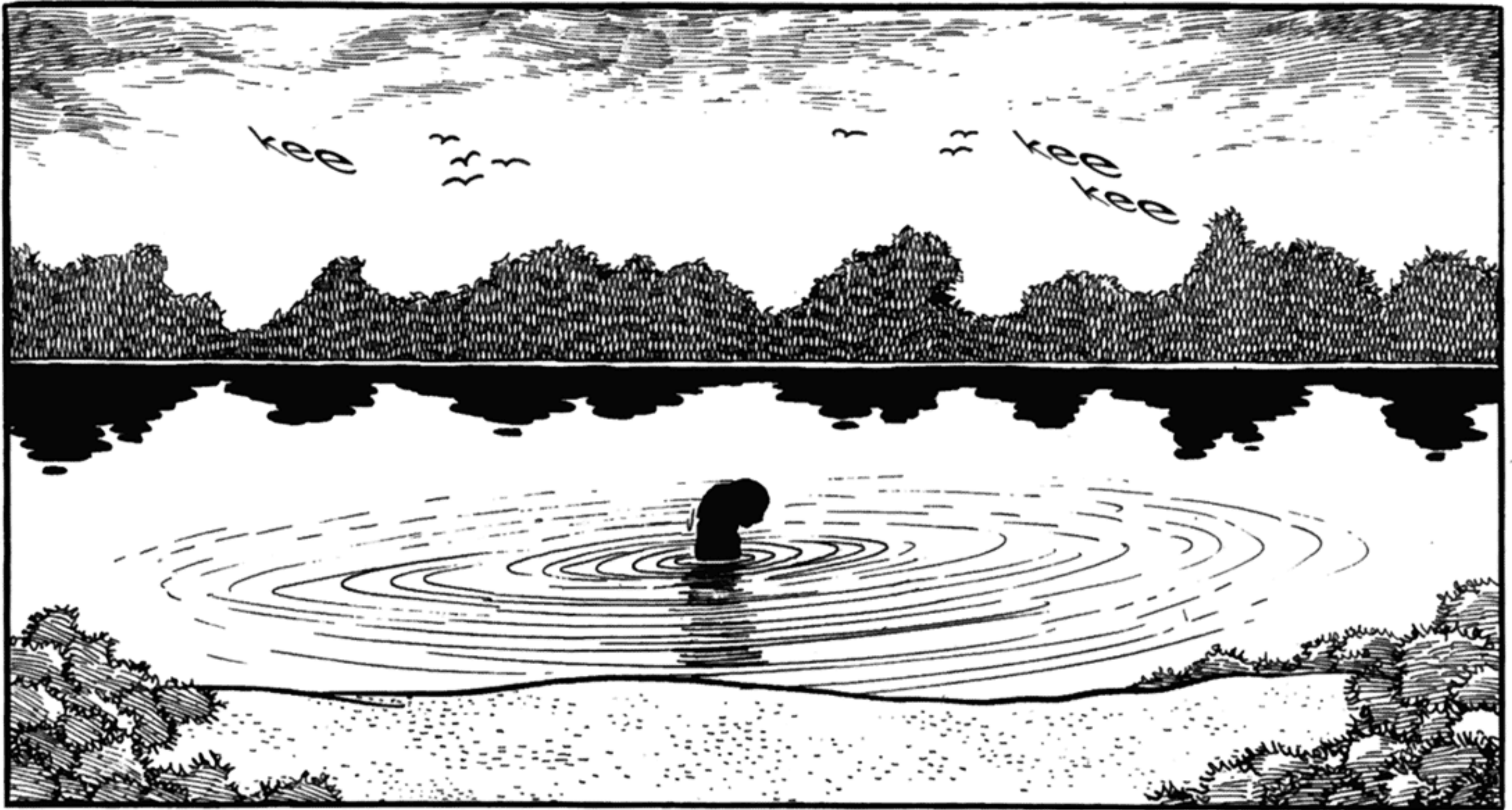


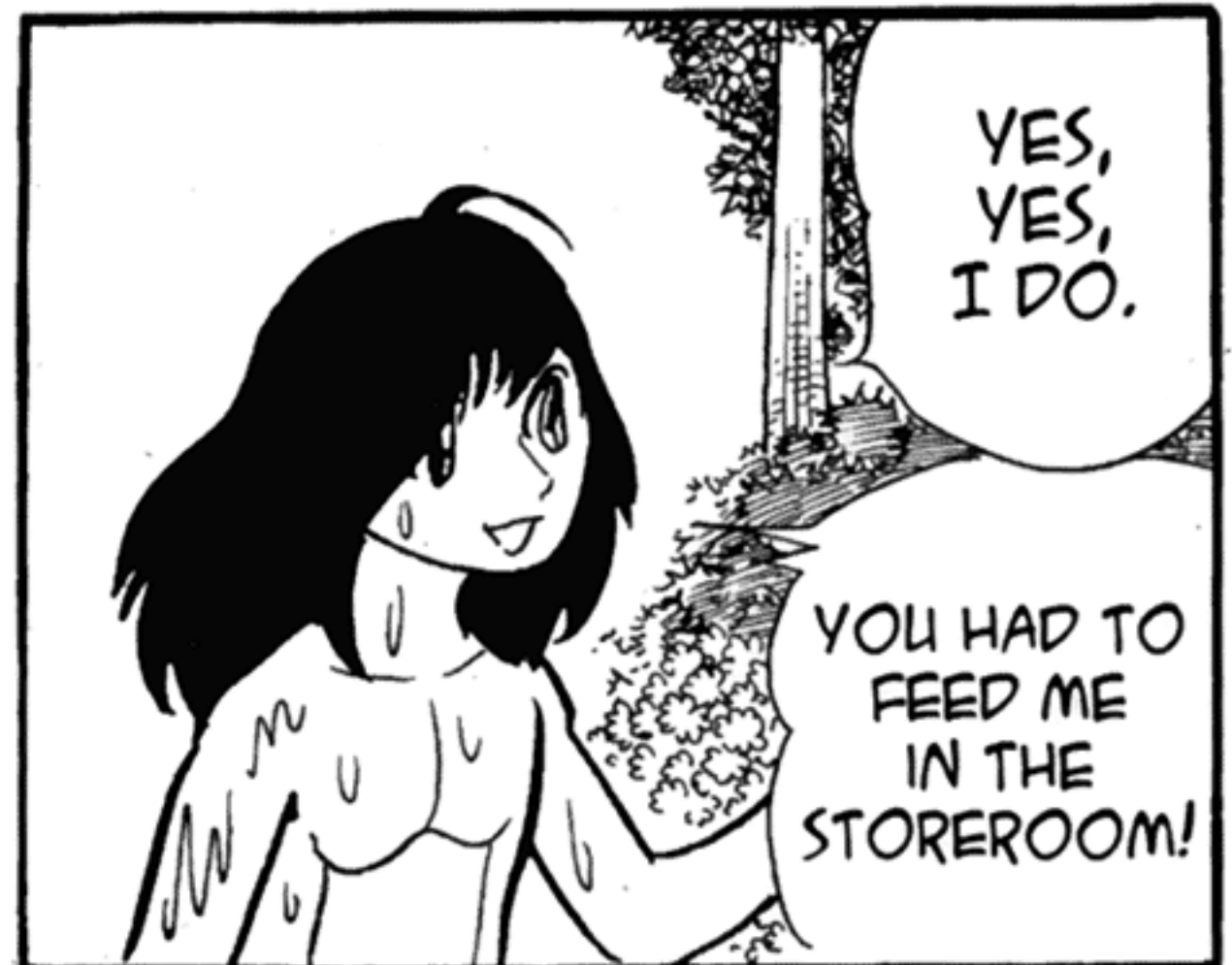
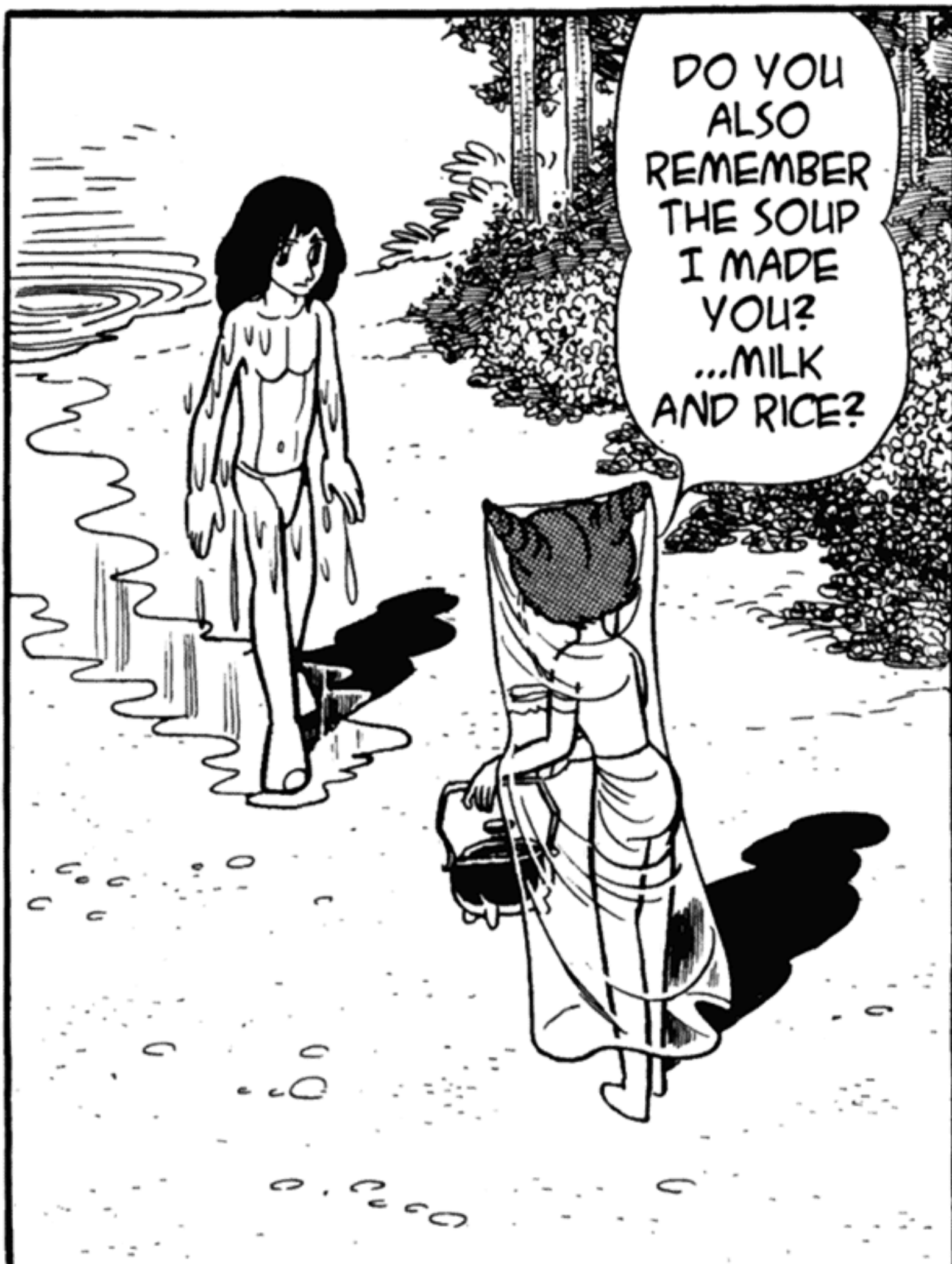
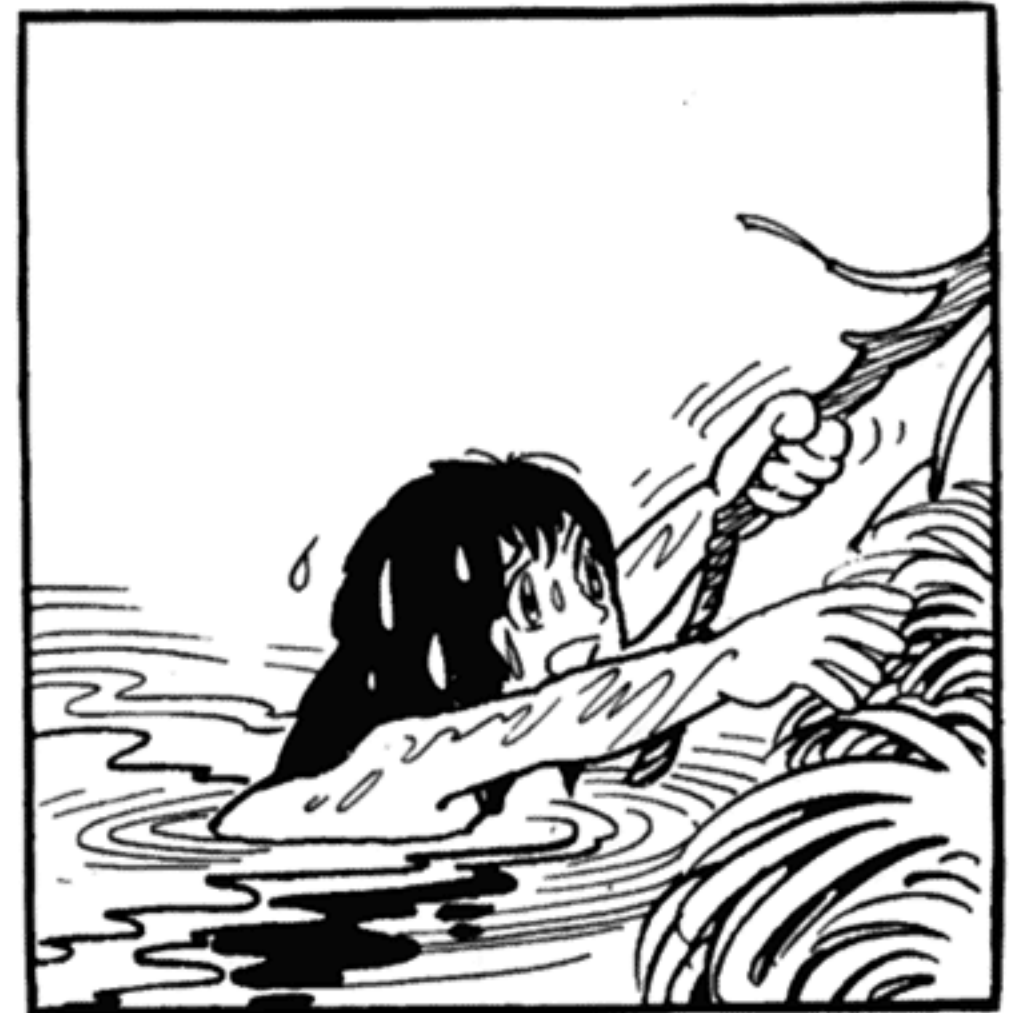
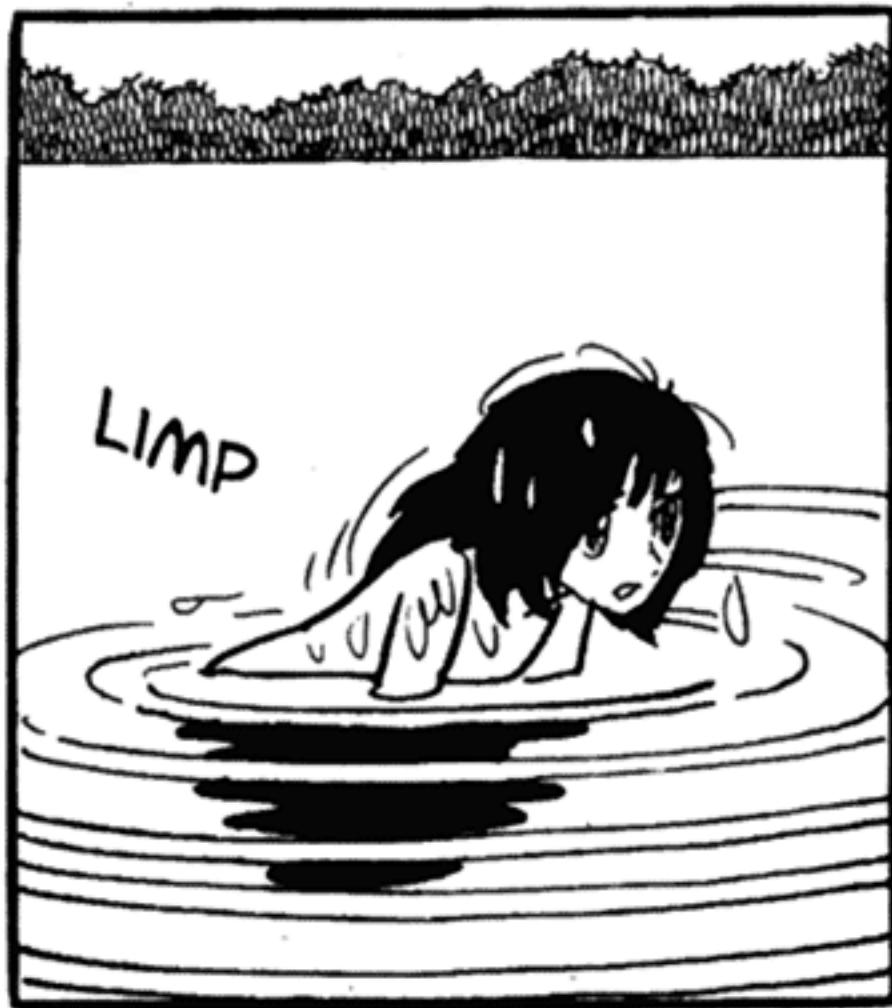
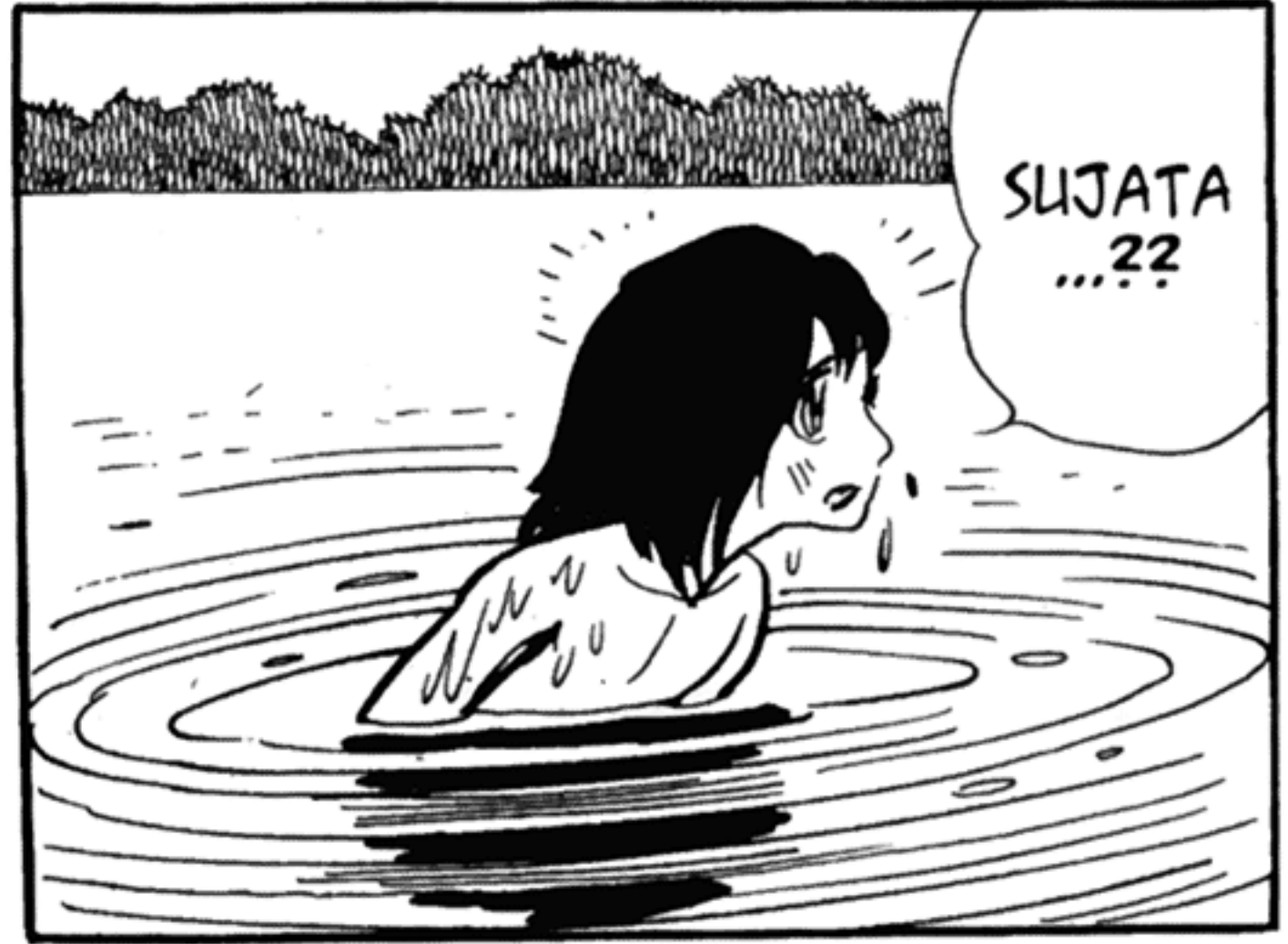
SLAP

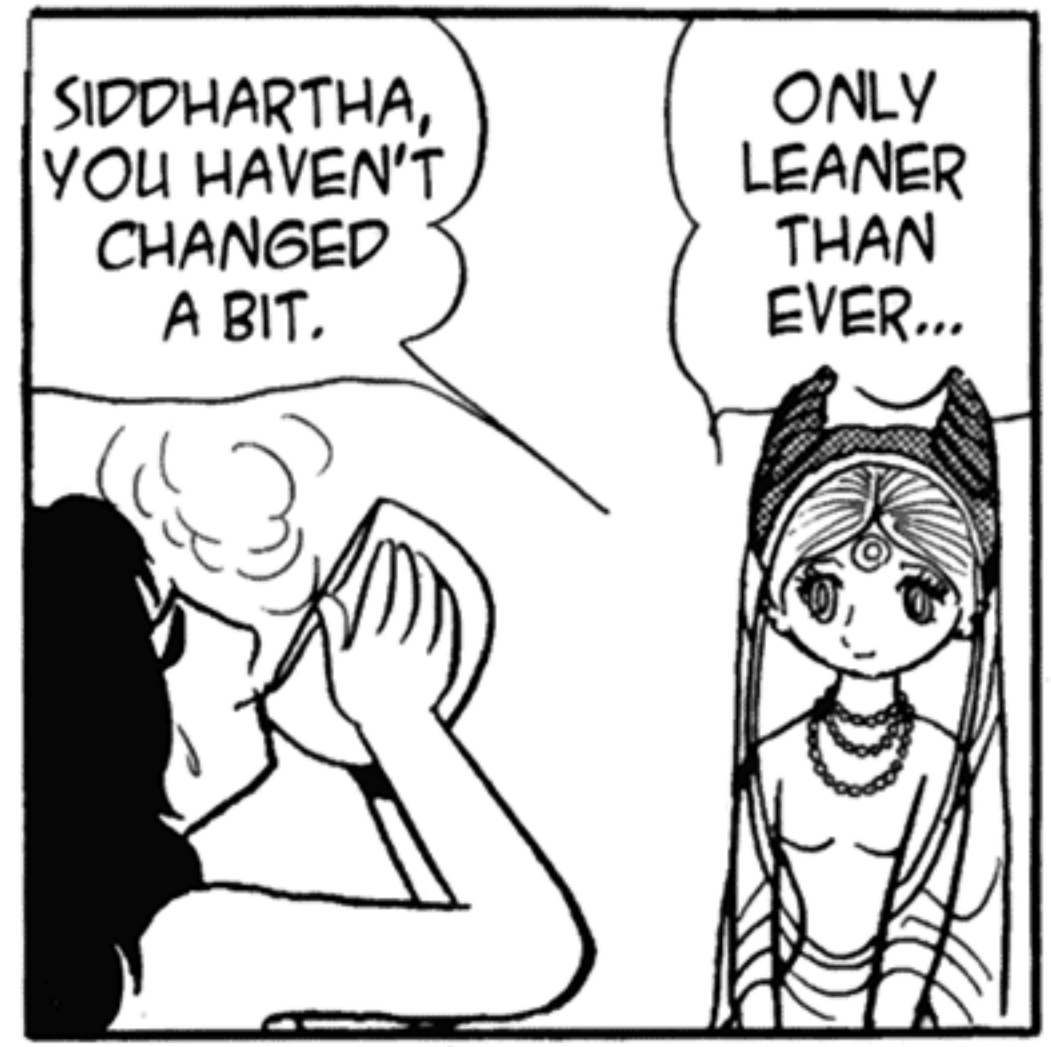
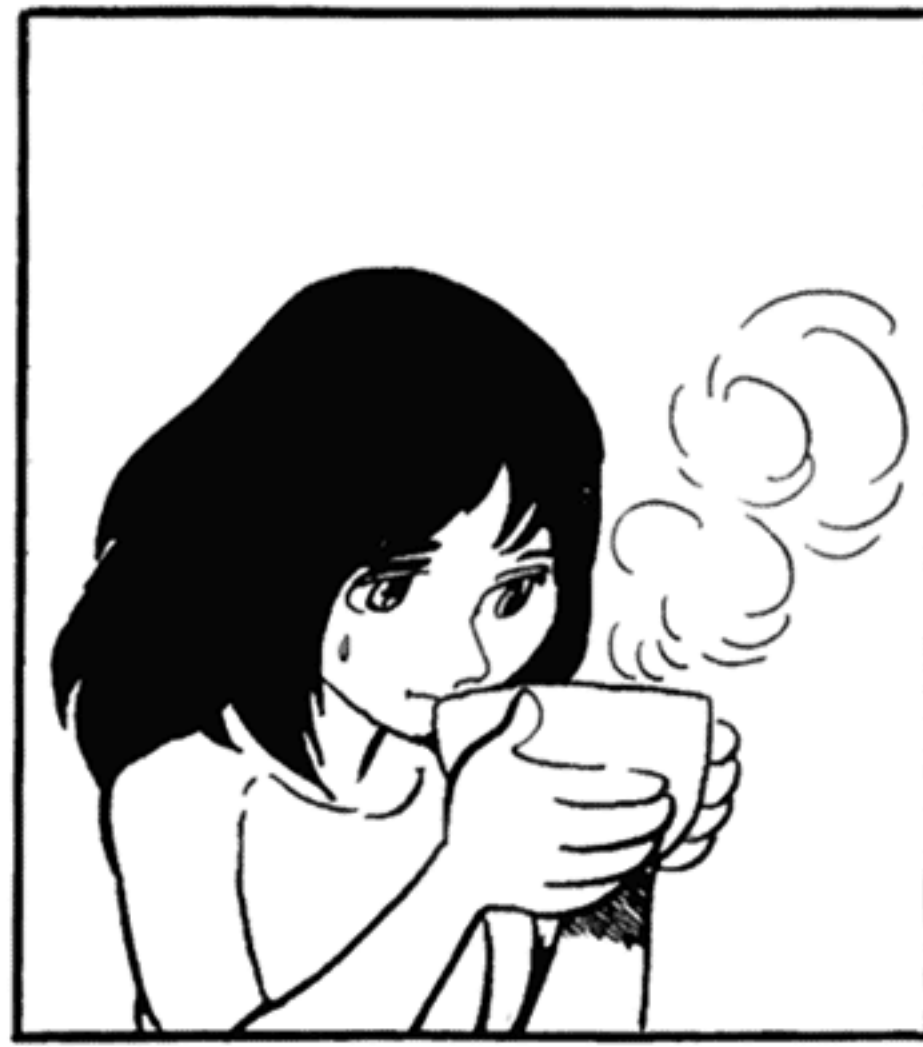


Y-YOU!
WHAT KIND
OF ASCETIC
ARE YOU?!

DHEPA...
HENCEFORTH,
I WILL HAVE
NOTHING TO
DO WITH YOUR
FOREST OF
TRIALS.

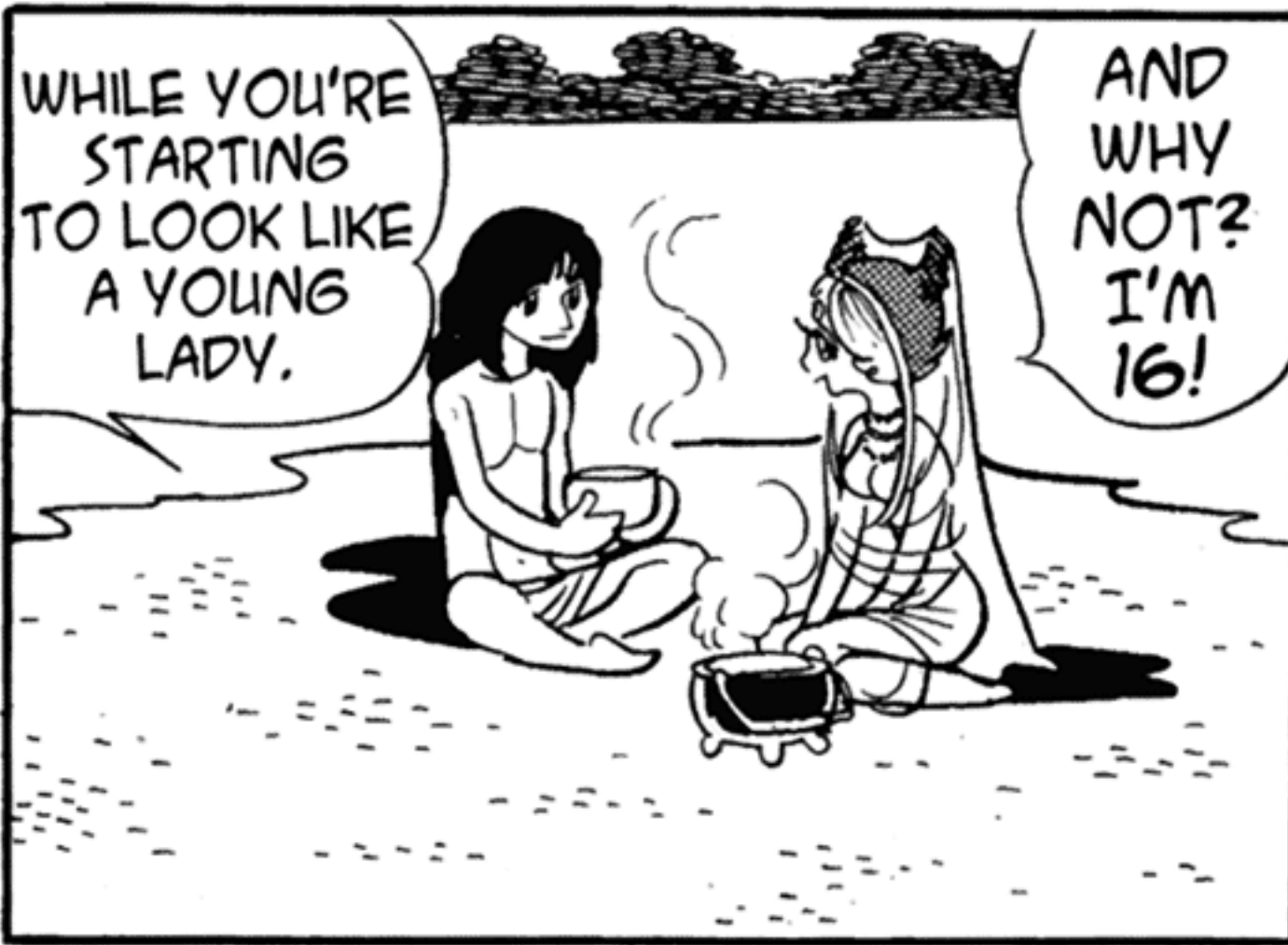






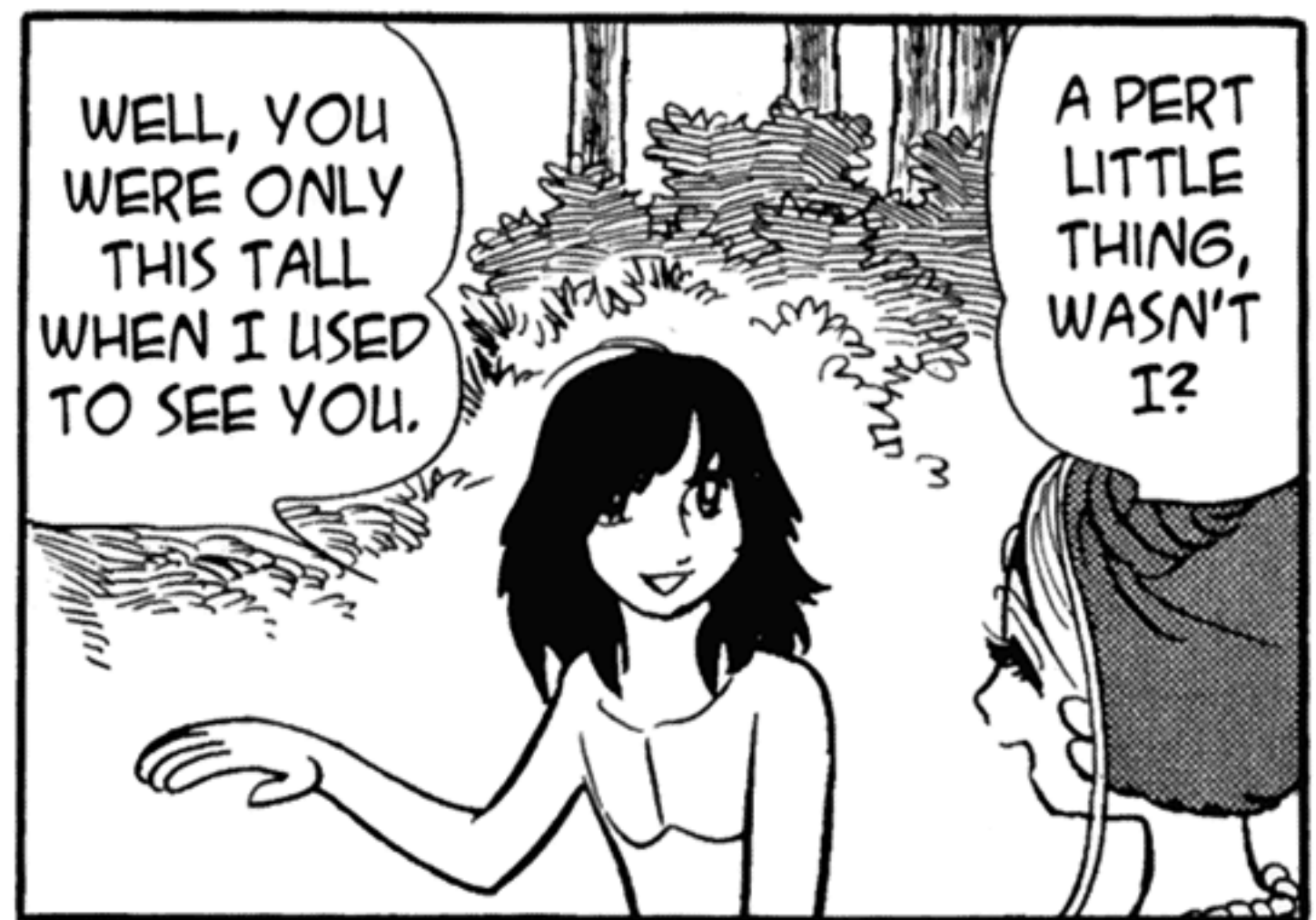
SIDDHARTHA, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.

ONLY LEANER THAN EVER...



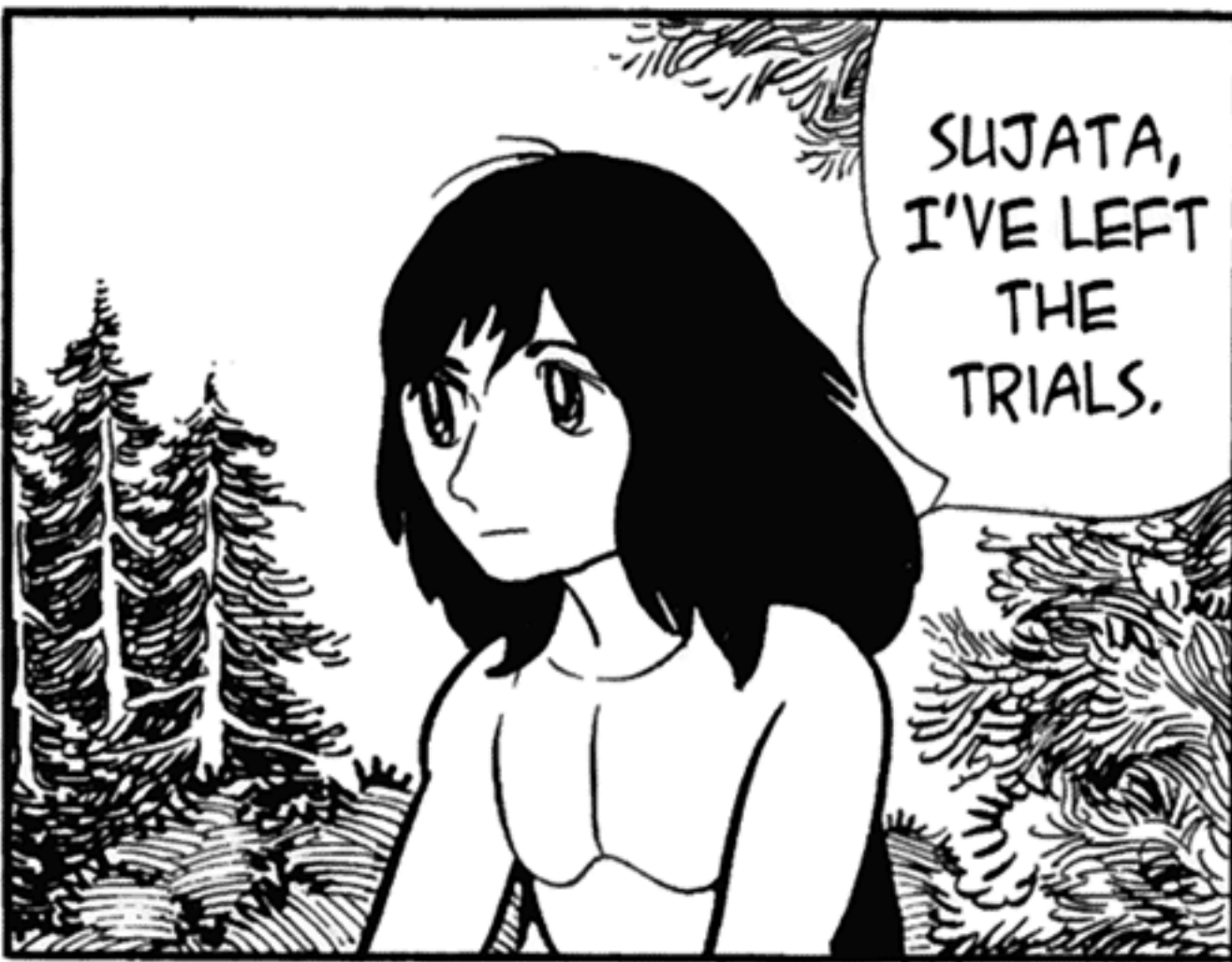
WHILE YOU'RE STARTING TO LOOK LIKE A YOUNG LADY.

AND WHY NOT? I'M 16!



WELL, YOU WERE ONLY THIS TALL WHEN I USED TO SEE YOU.

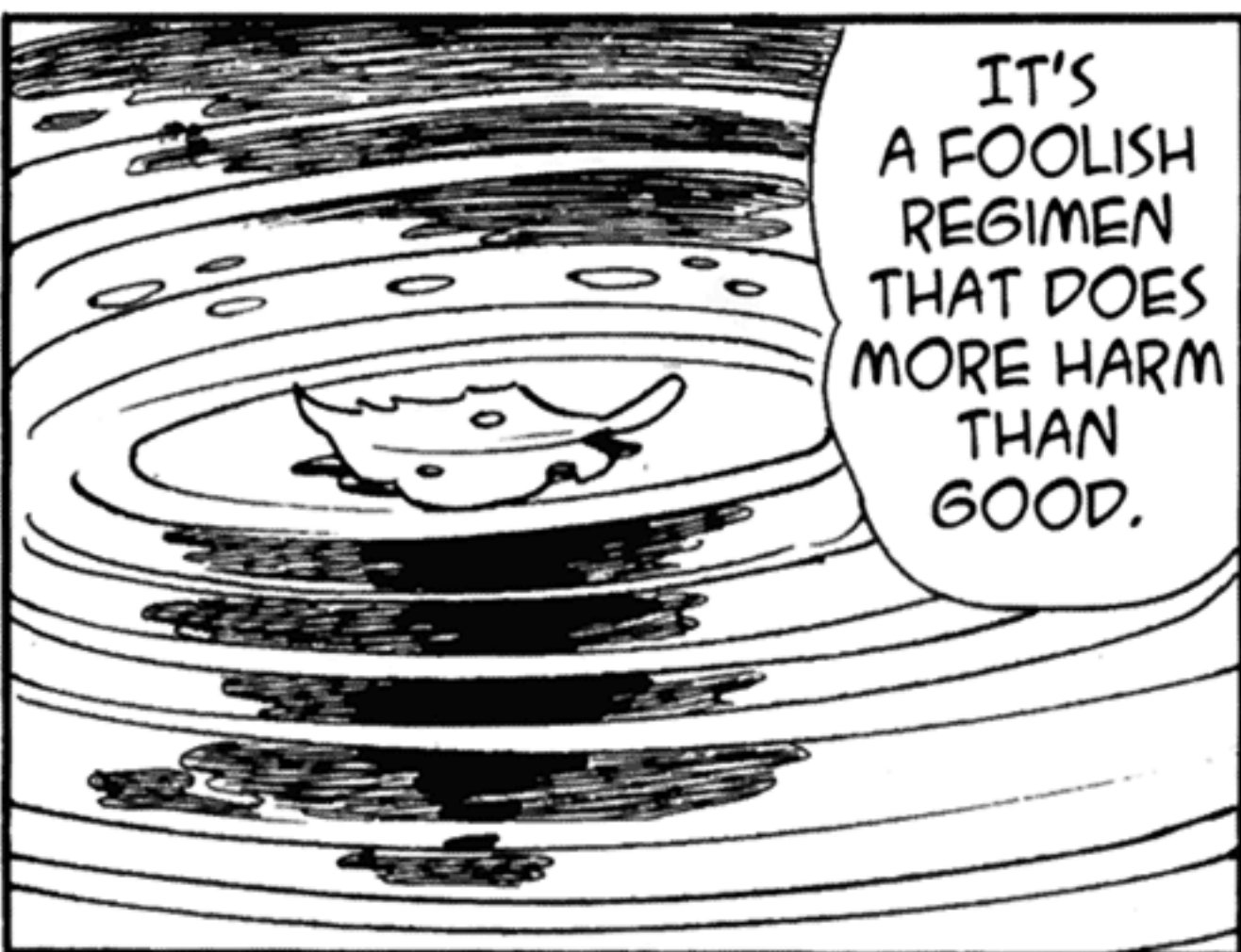
A PERT LITTLE THING, WASN'T I?



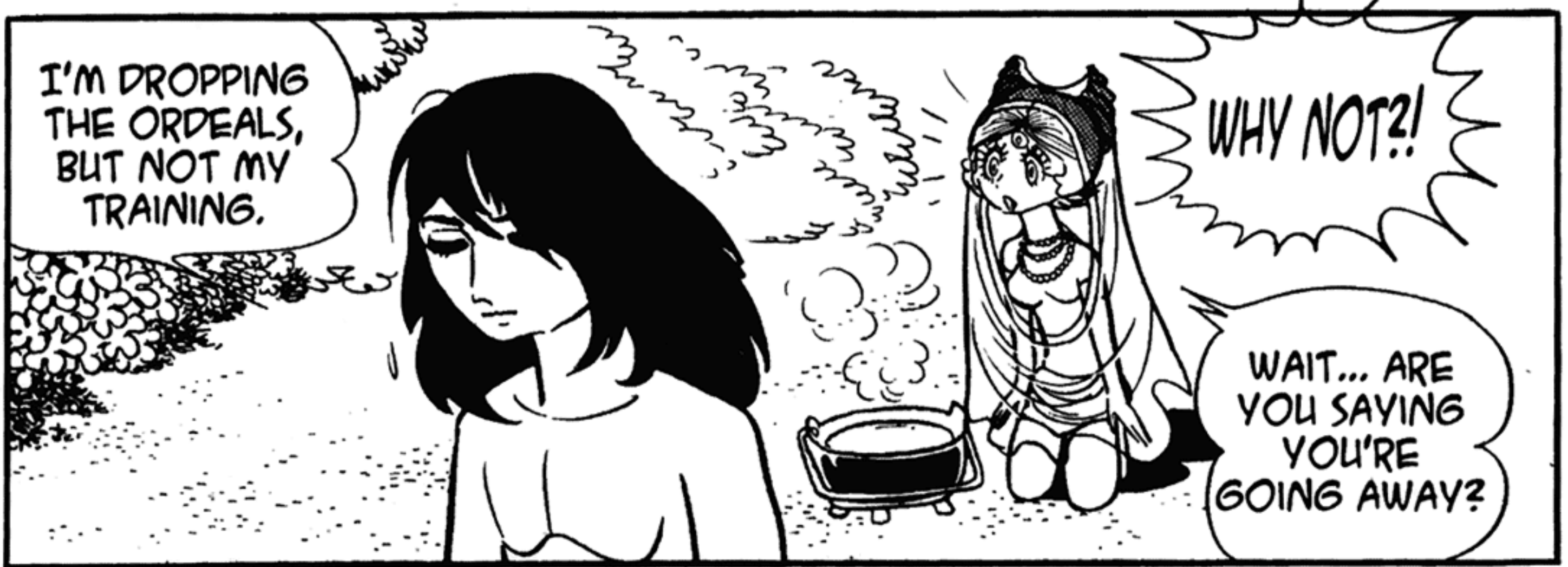
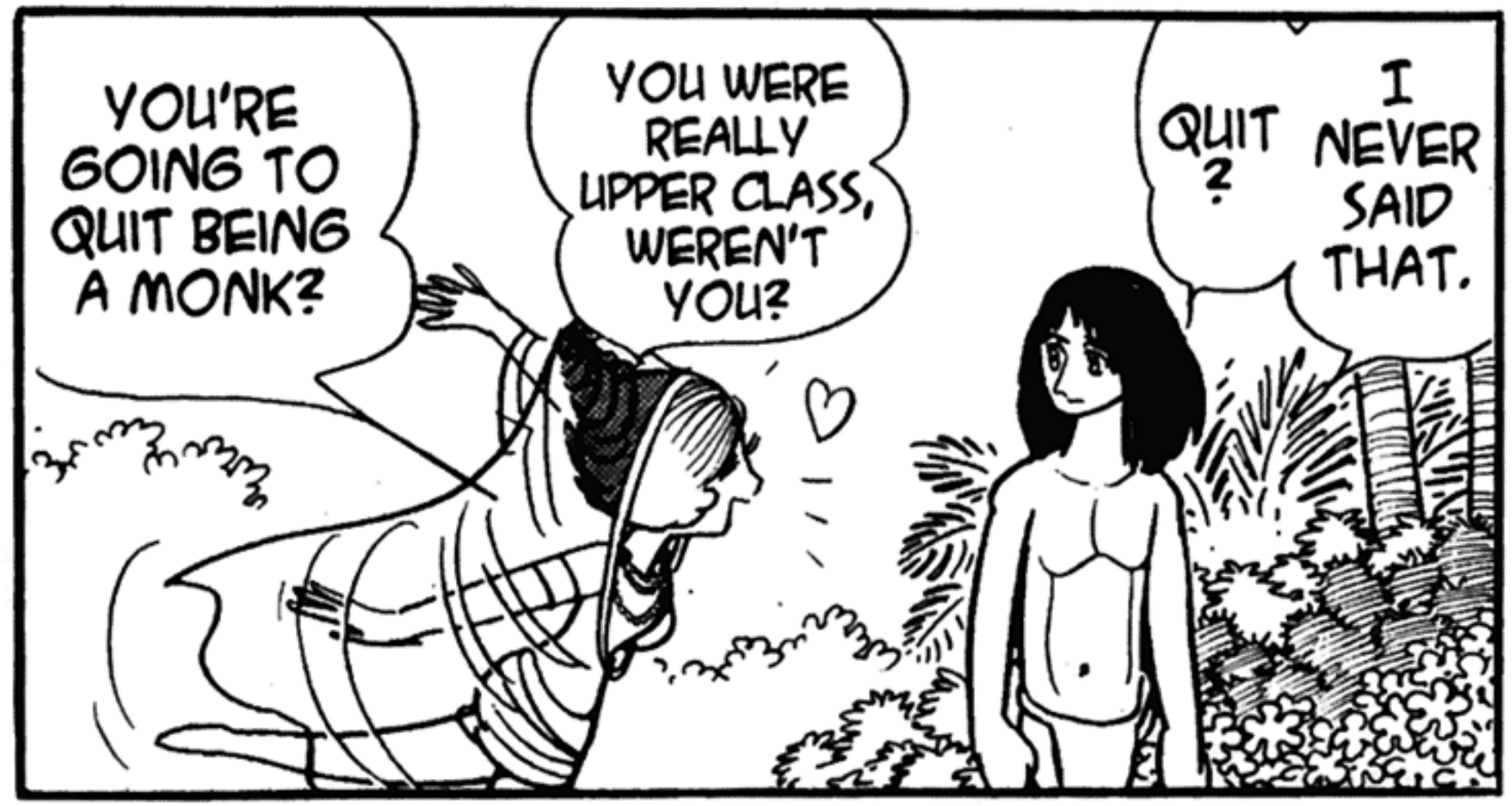
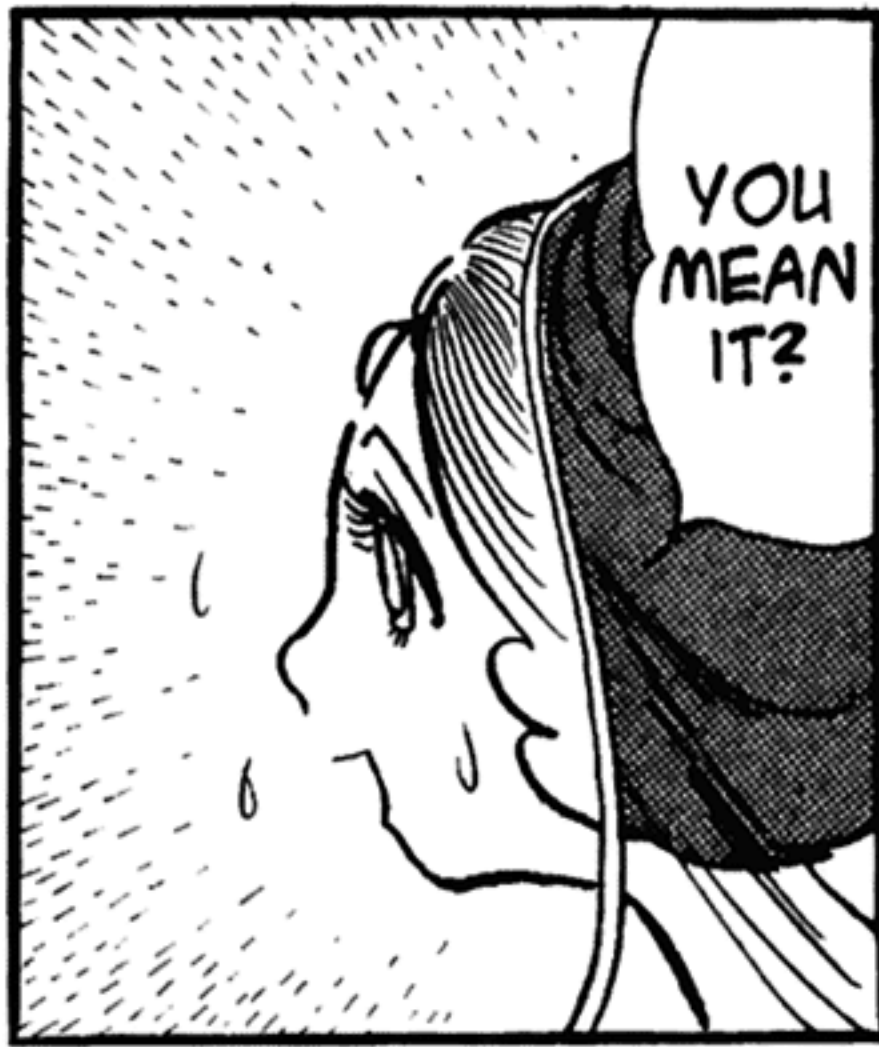
SUJATA, I'VE LEFT THE TRIALS.

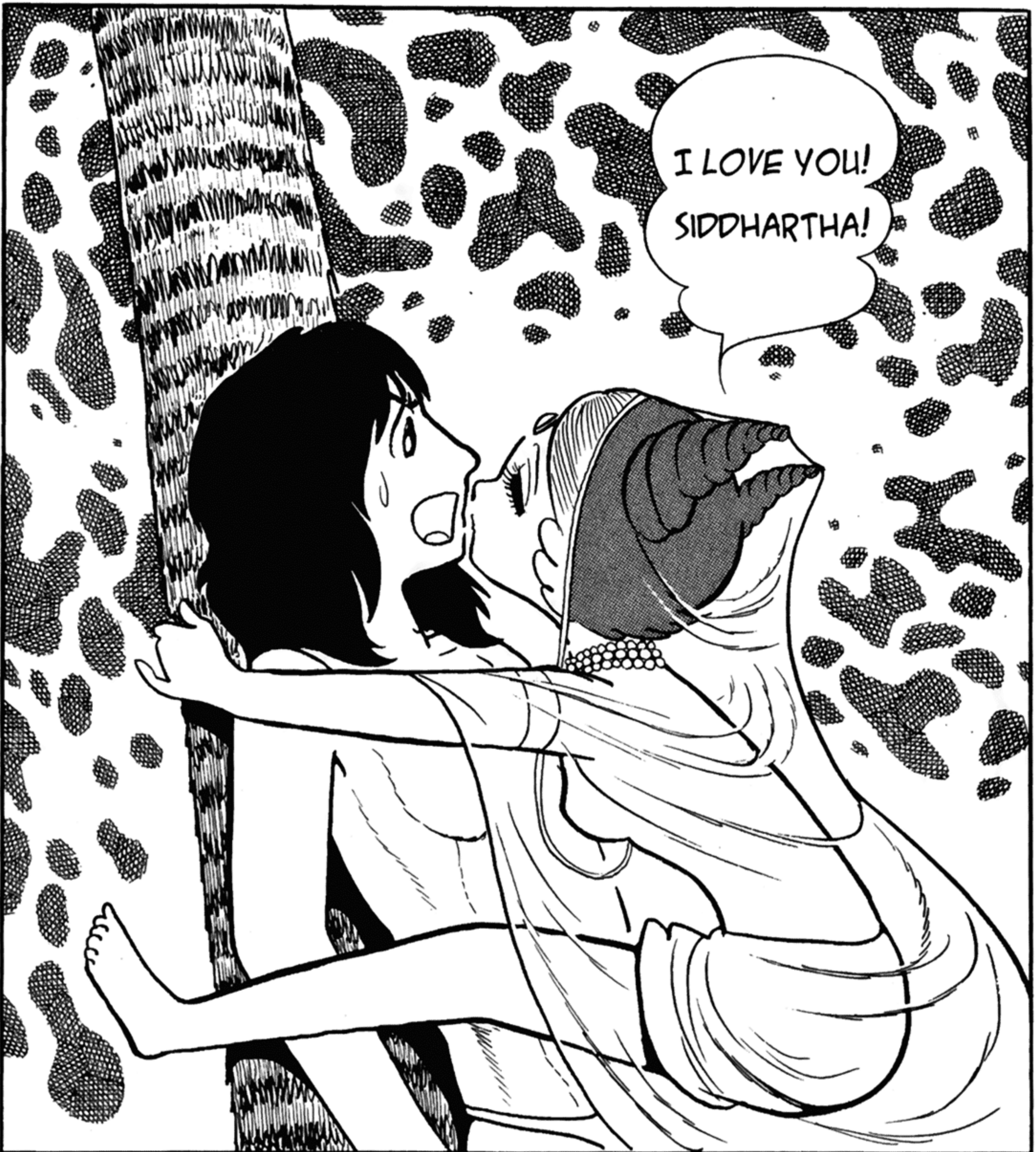
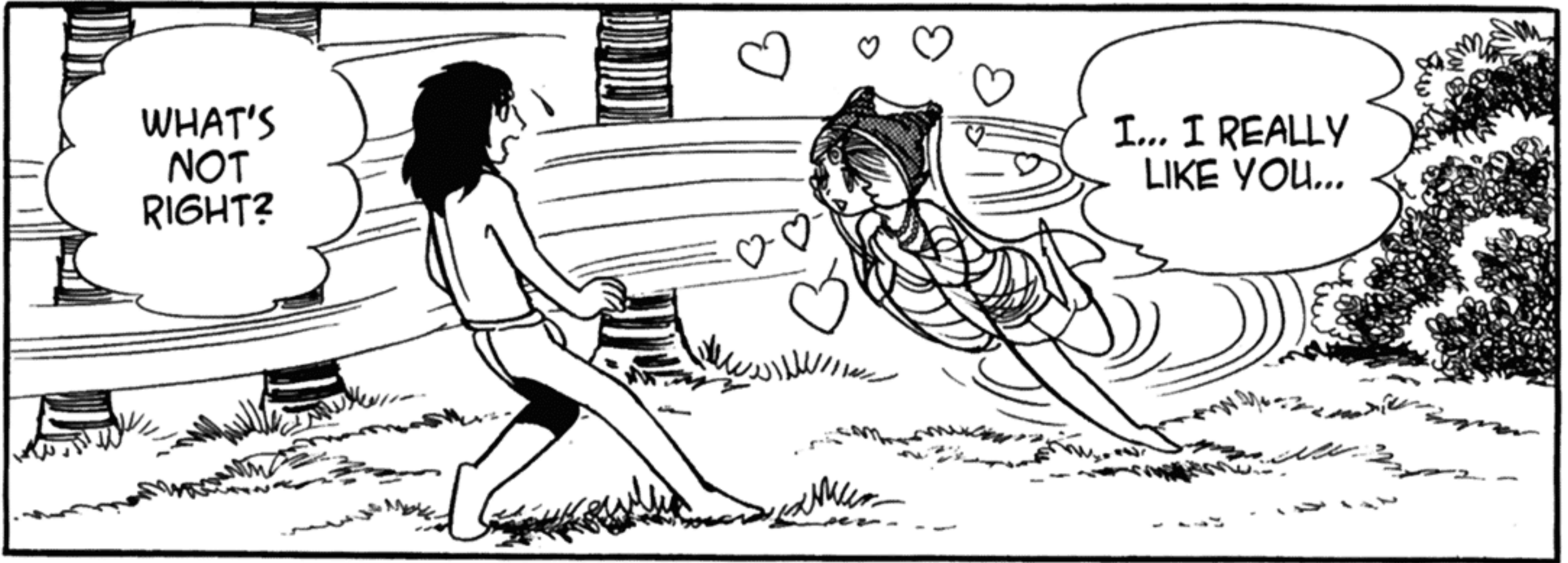


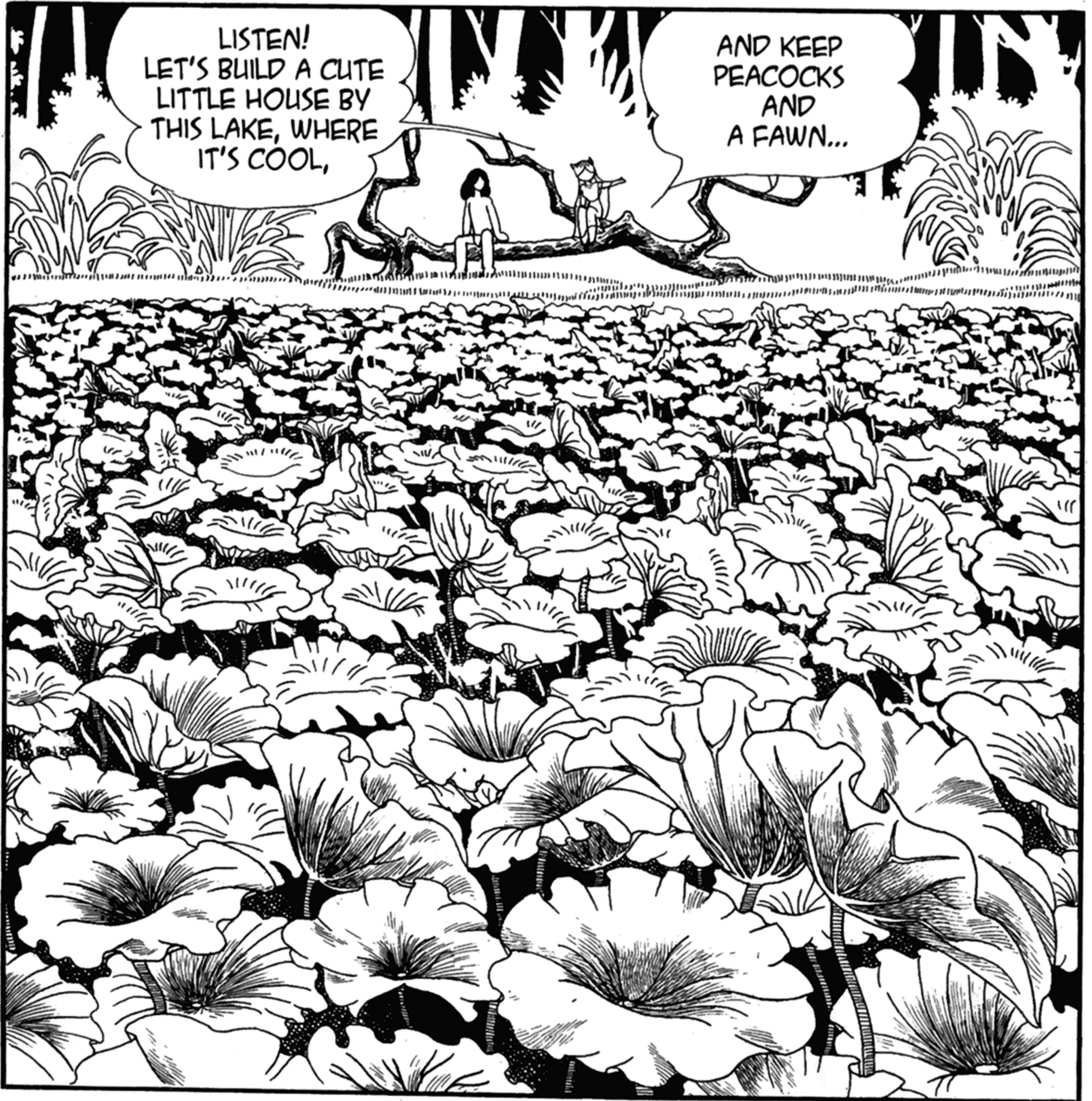
I CAME TO THIS FOREST ON DHEPA AND OTHERS' SUGGESTION, BUT MY TIME HERE HAS SOLVED NOTHING.

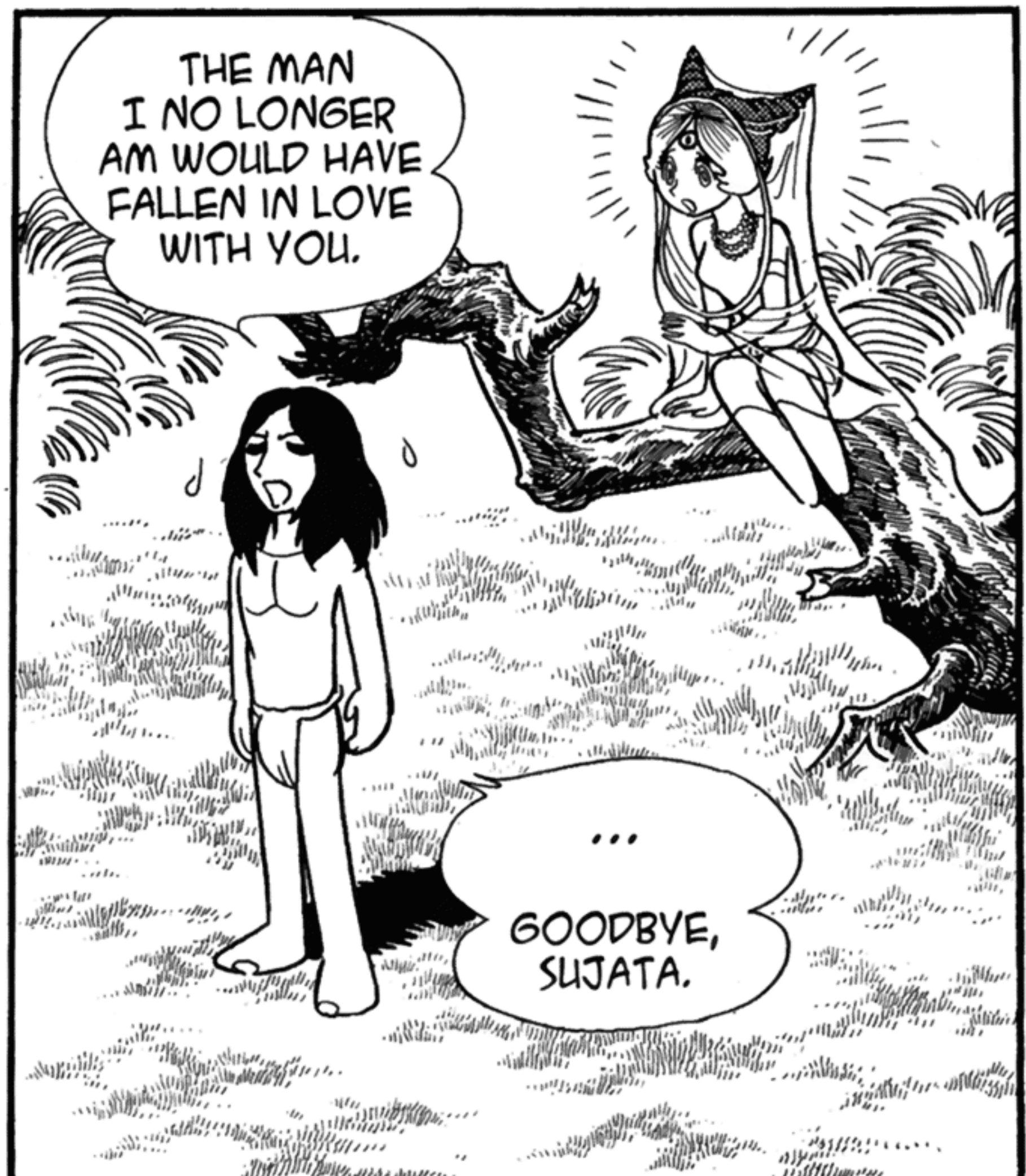
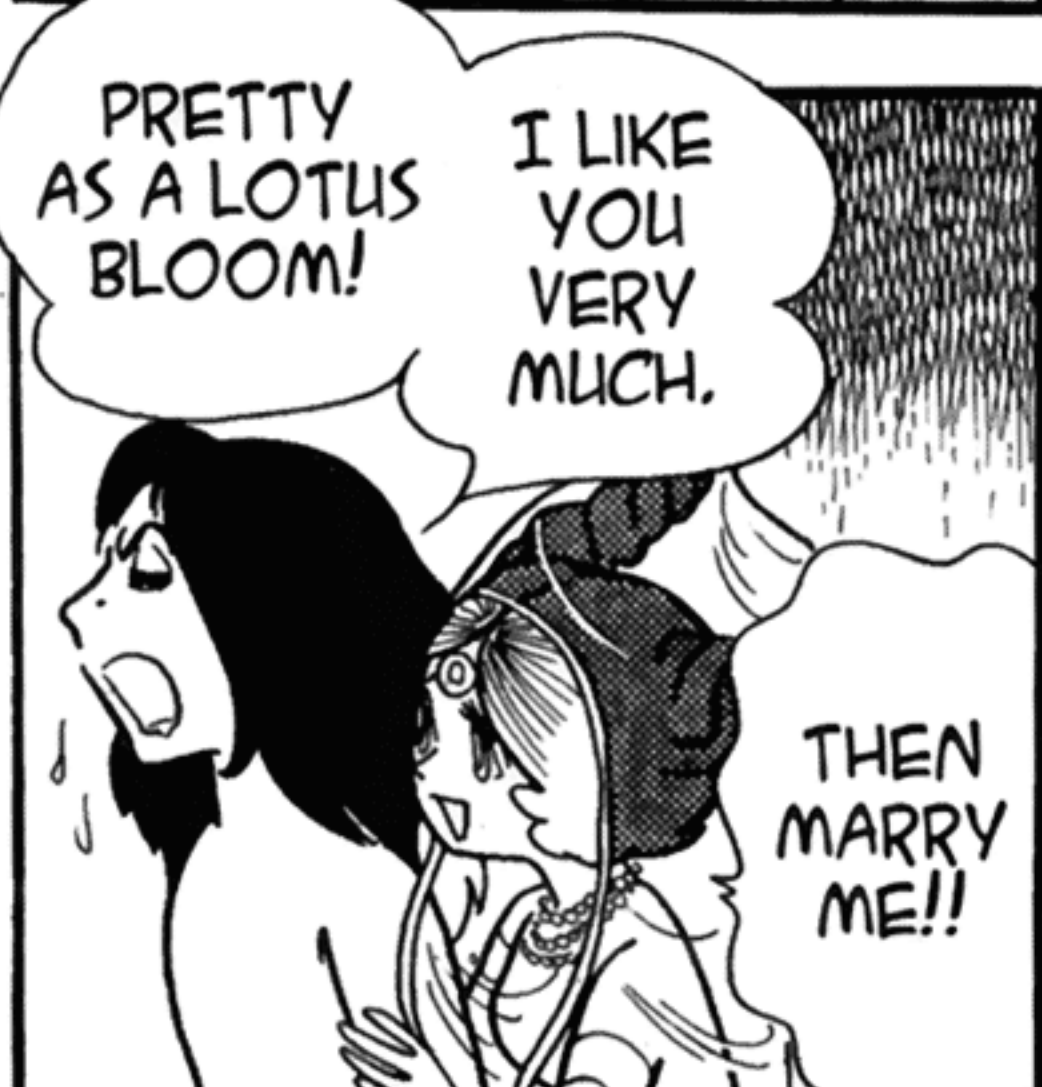
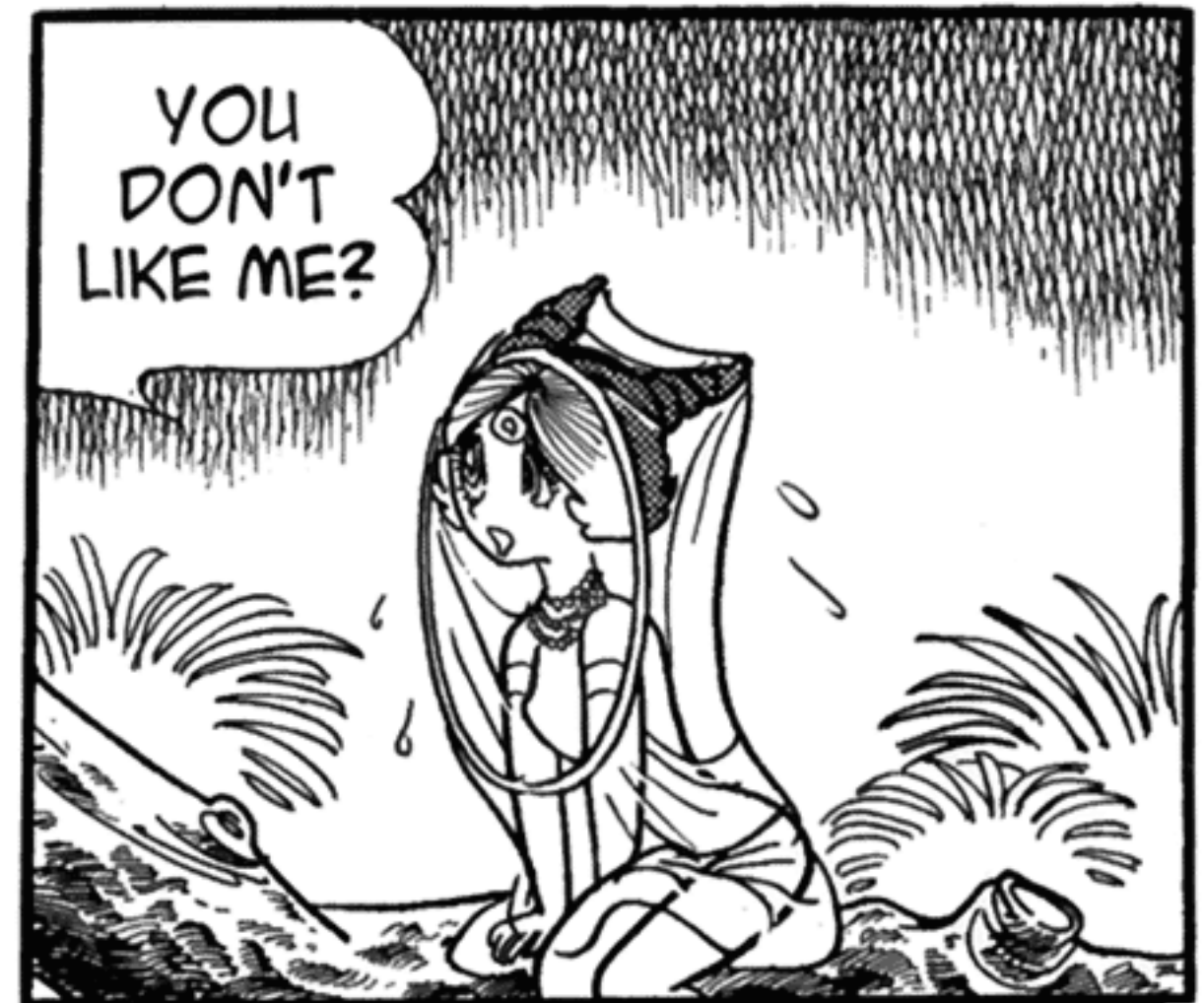
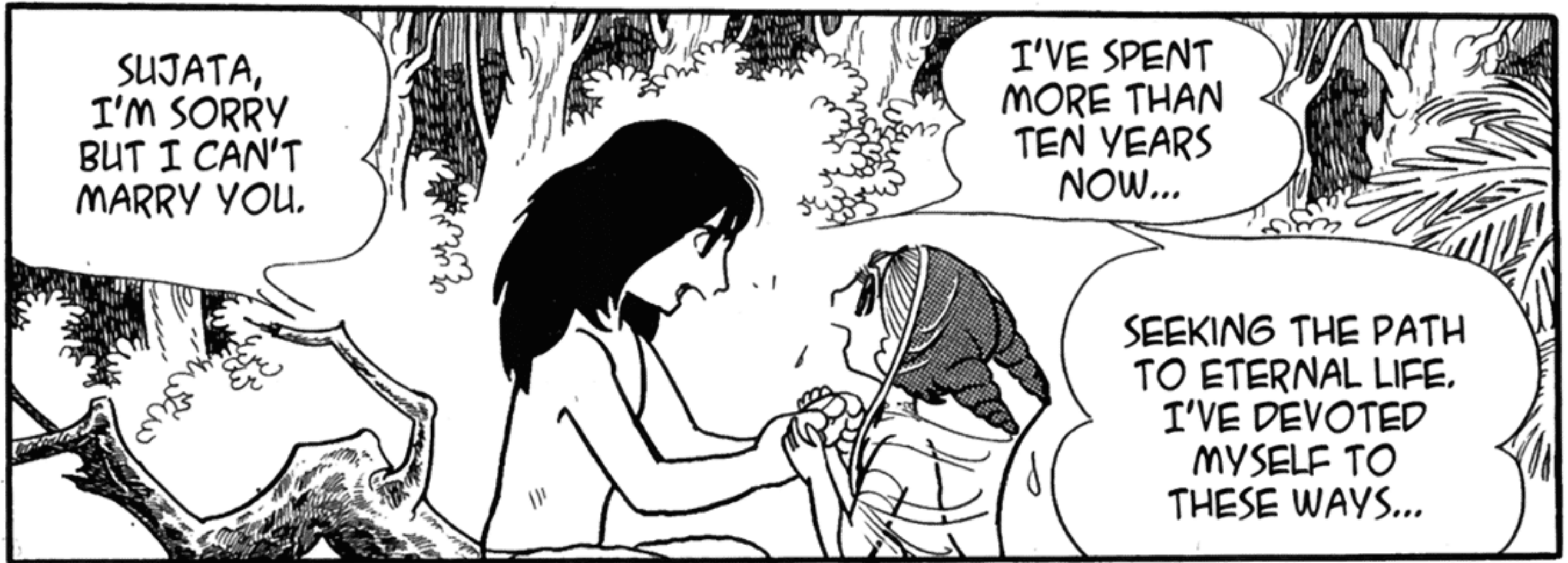


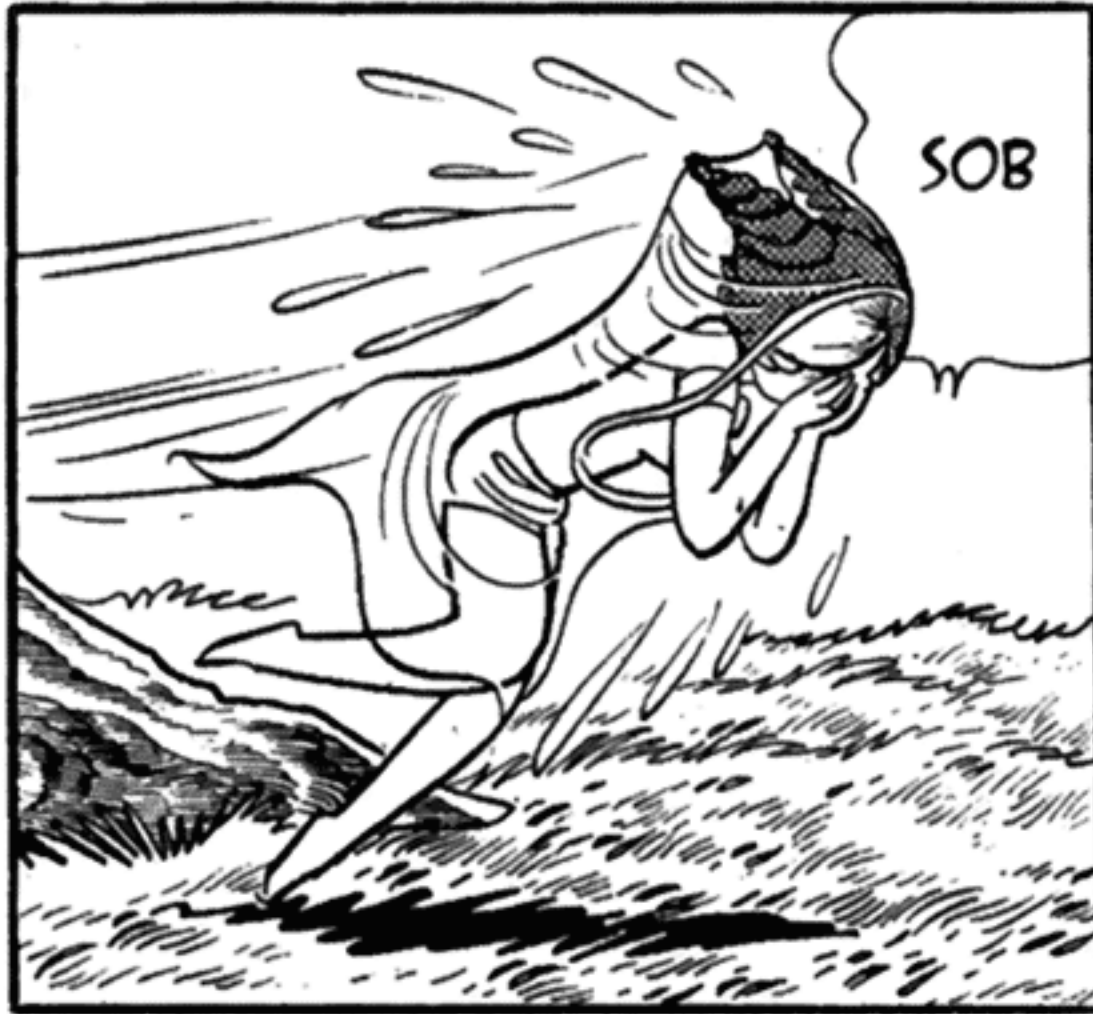
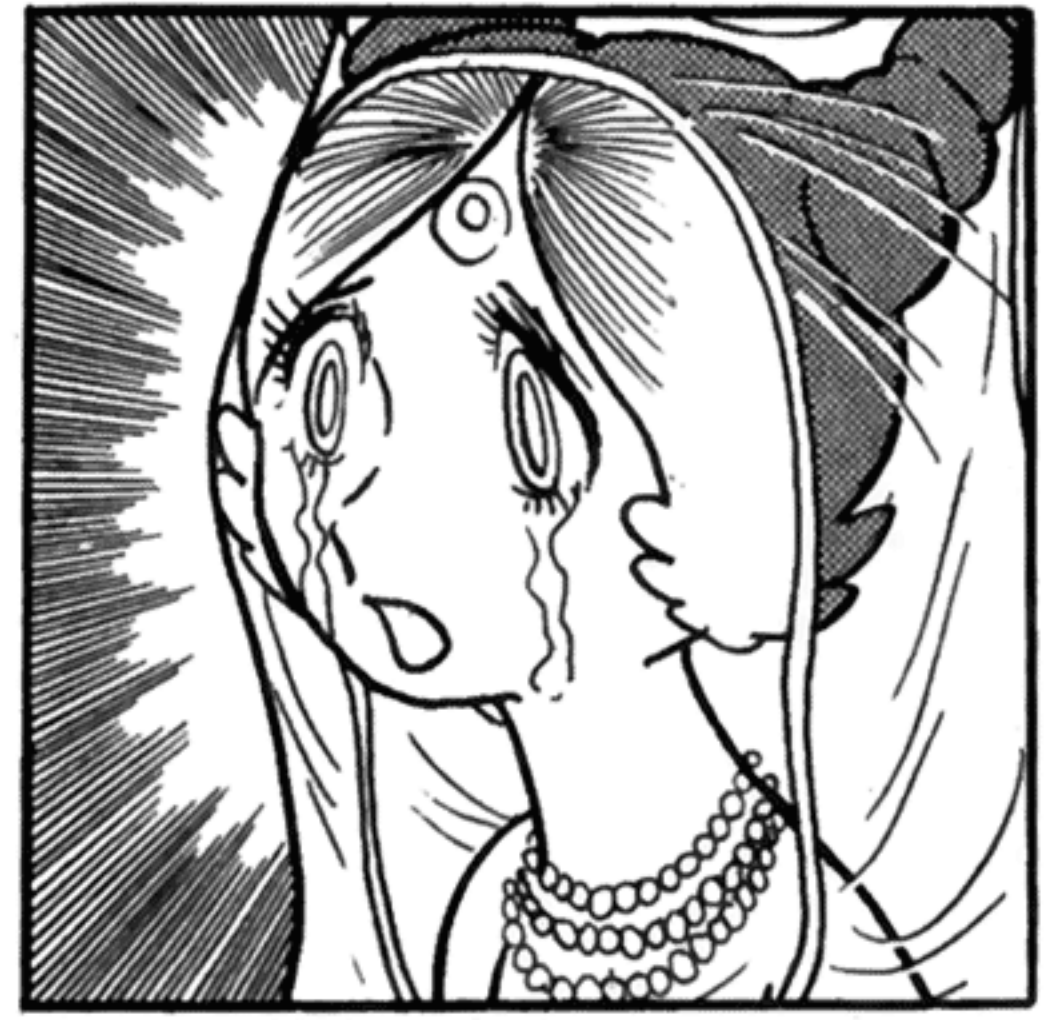
IT'S A FOOLISH REGIMEN THAT DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

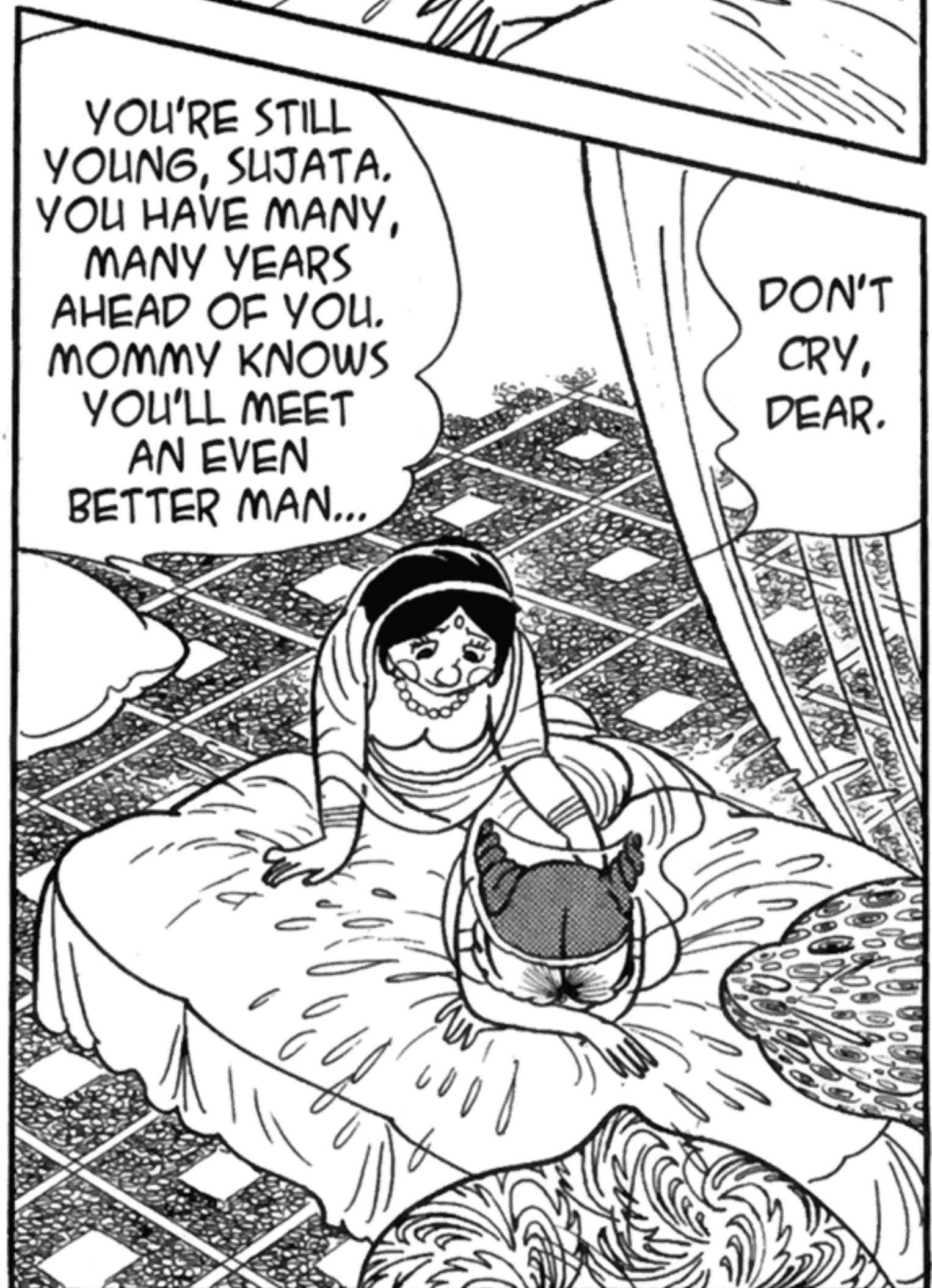
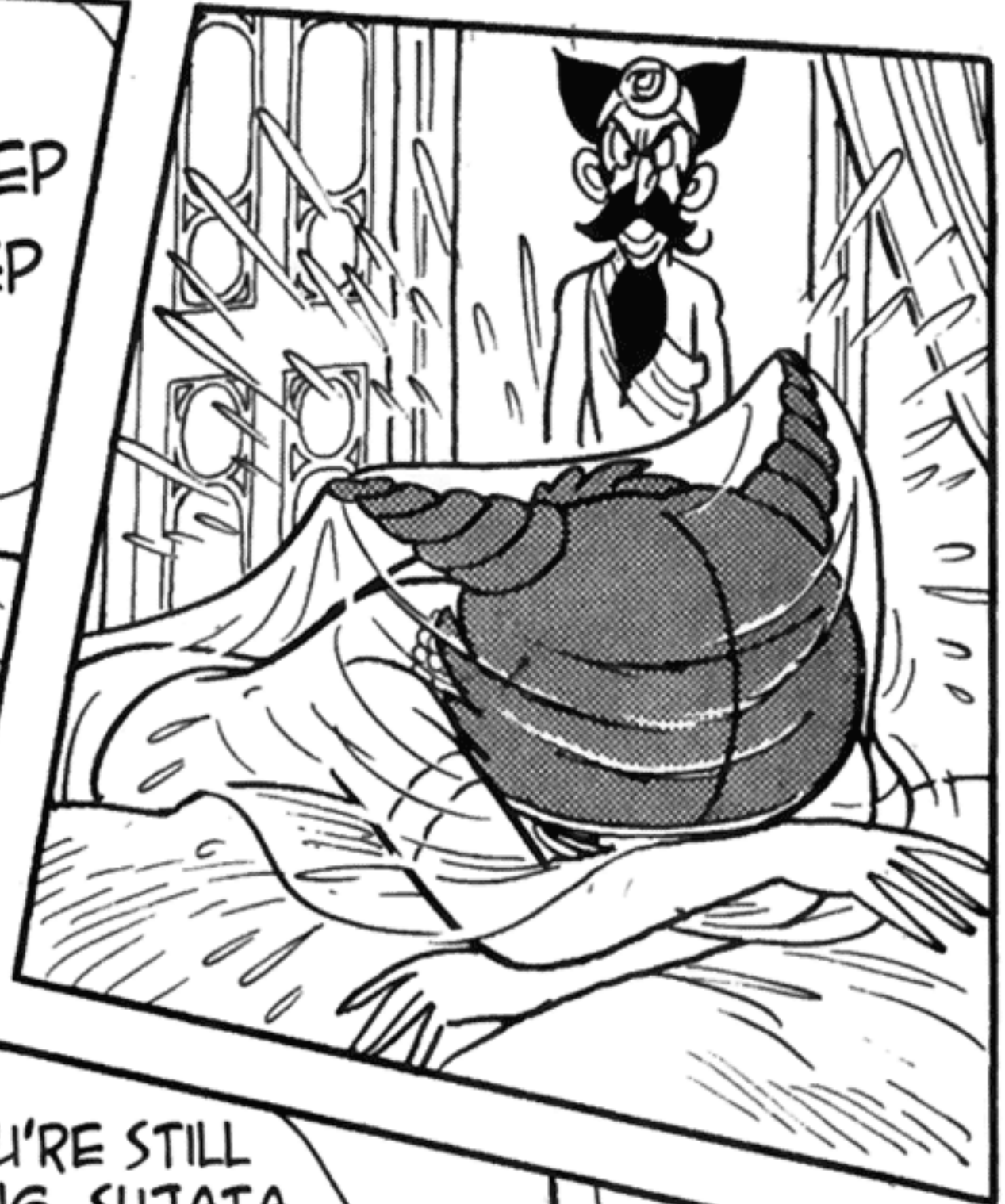
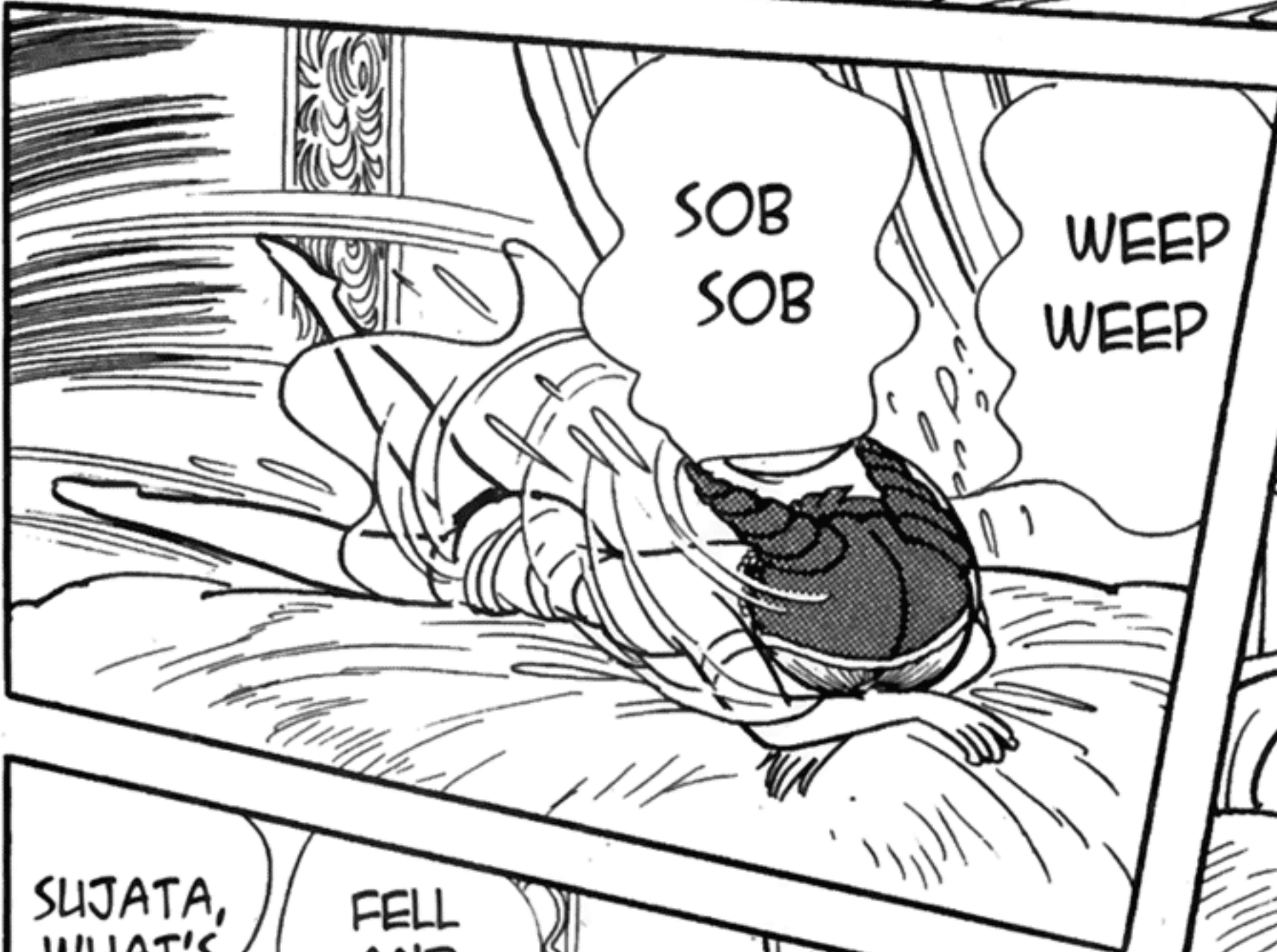
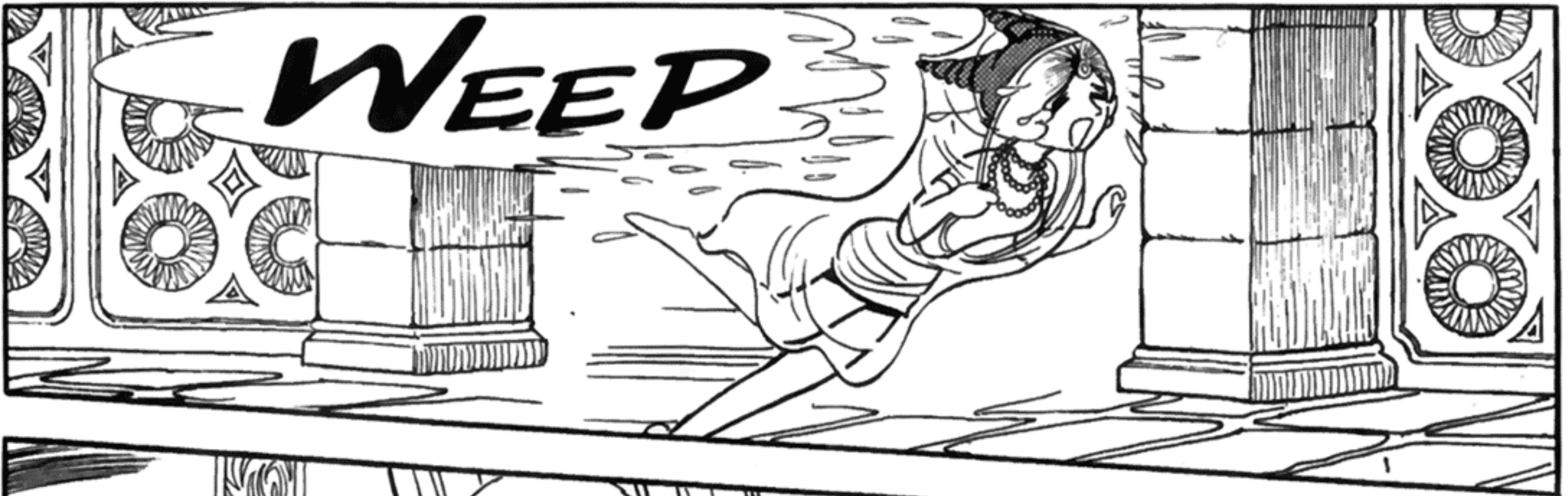


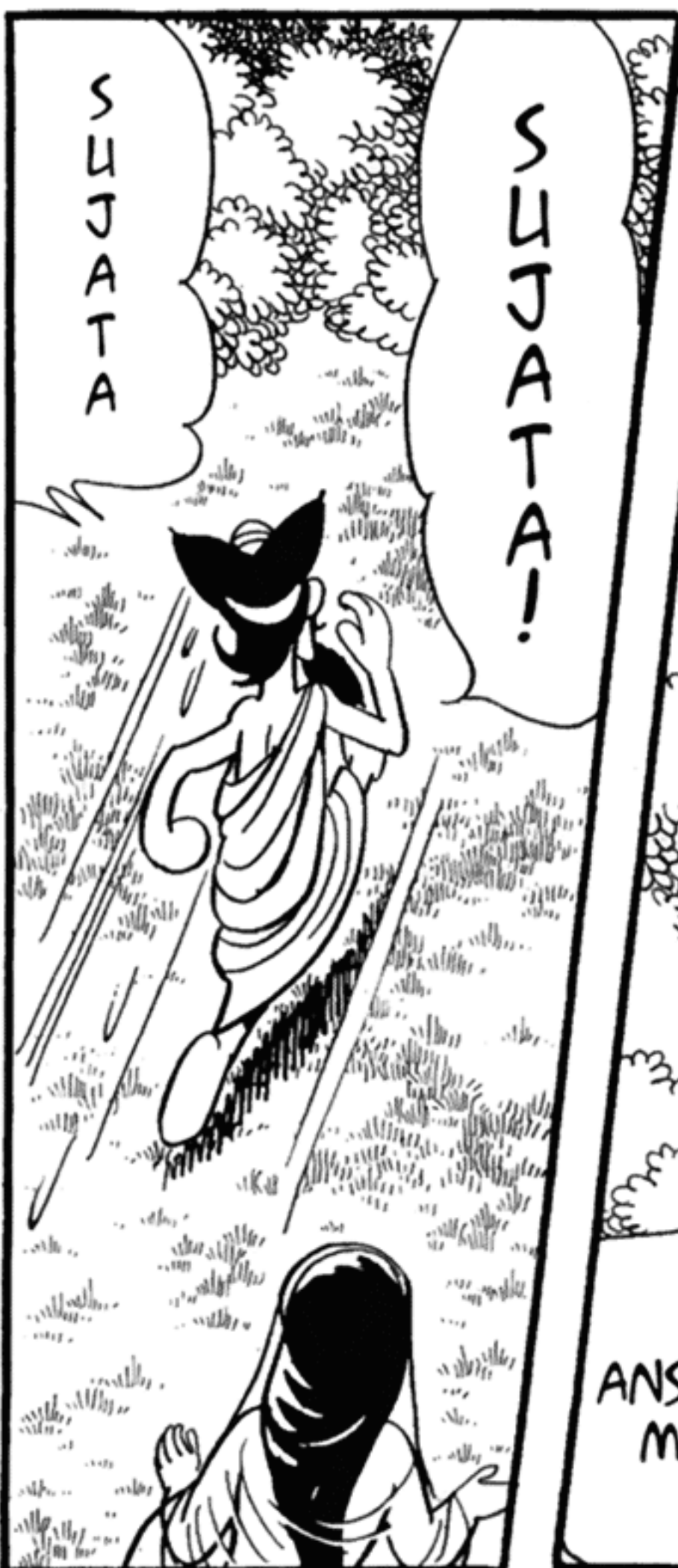
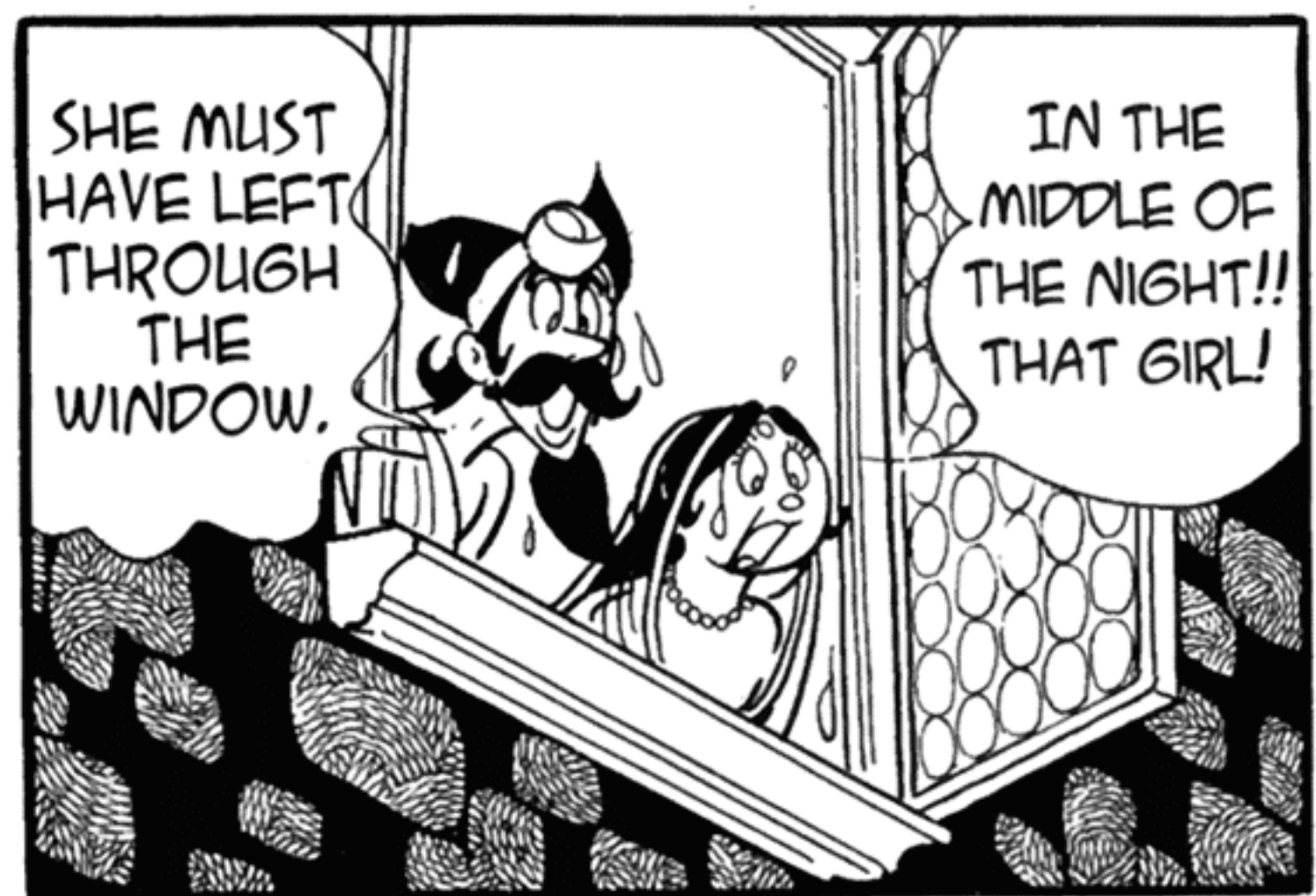
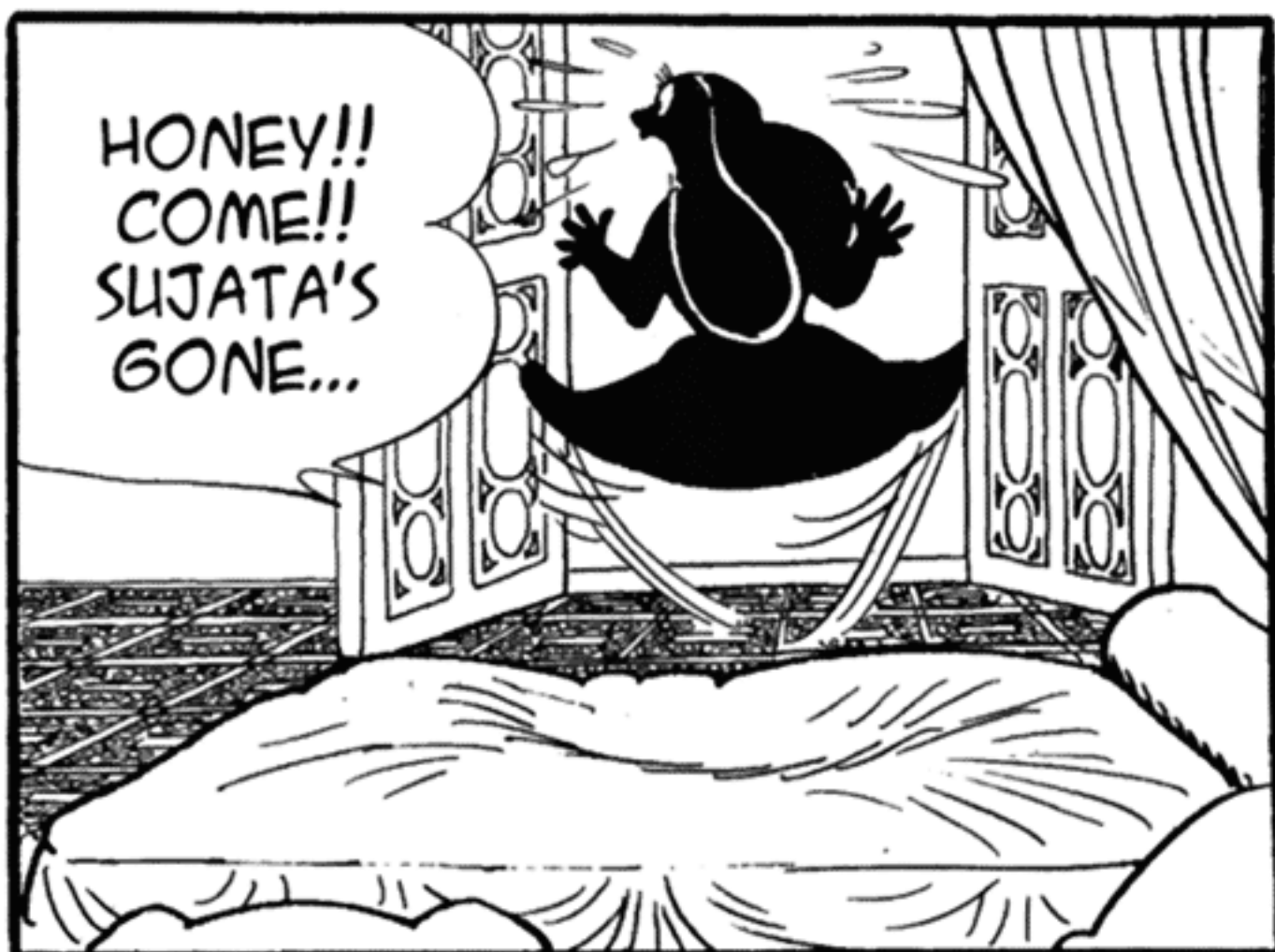
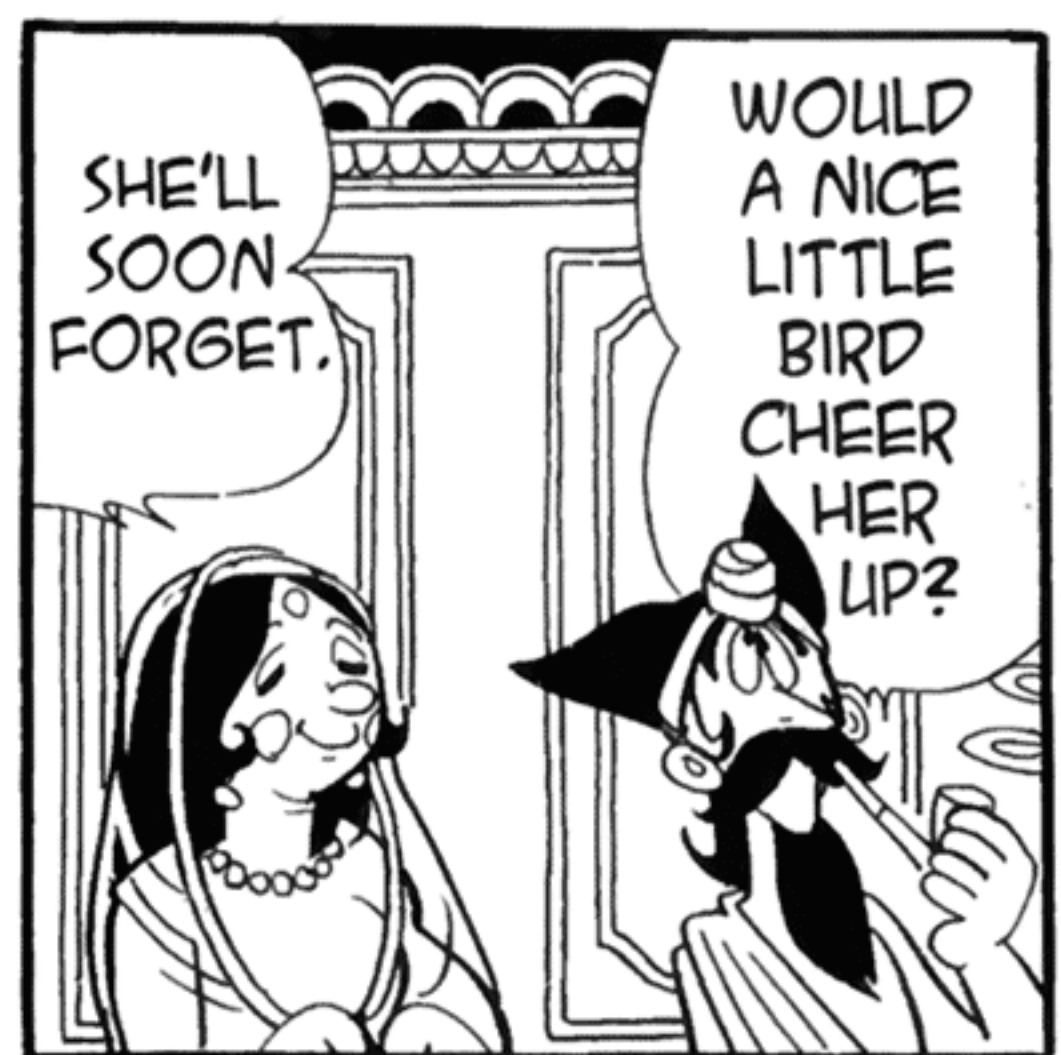


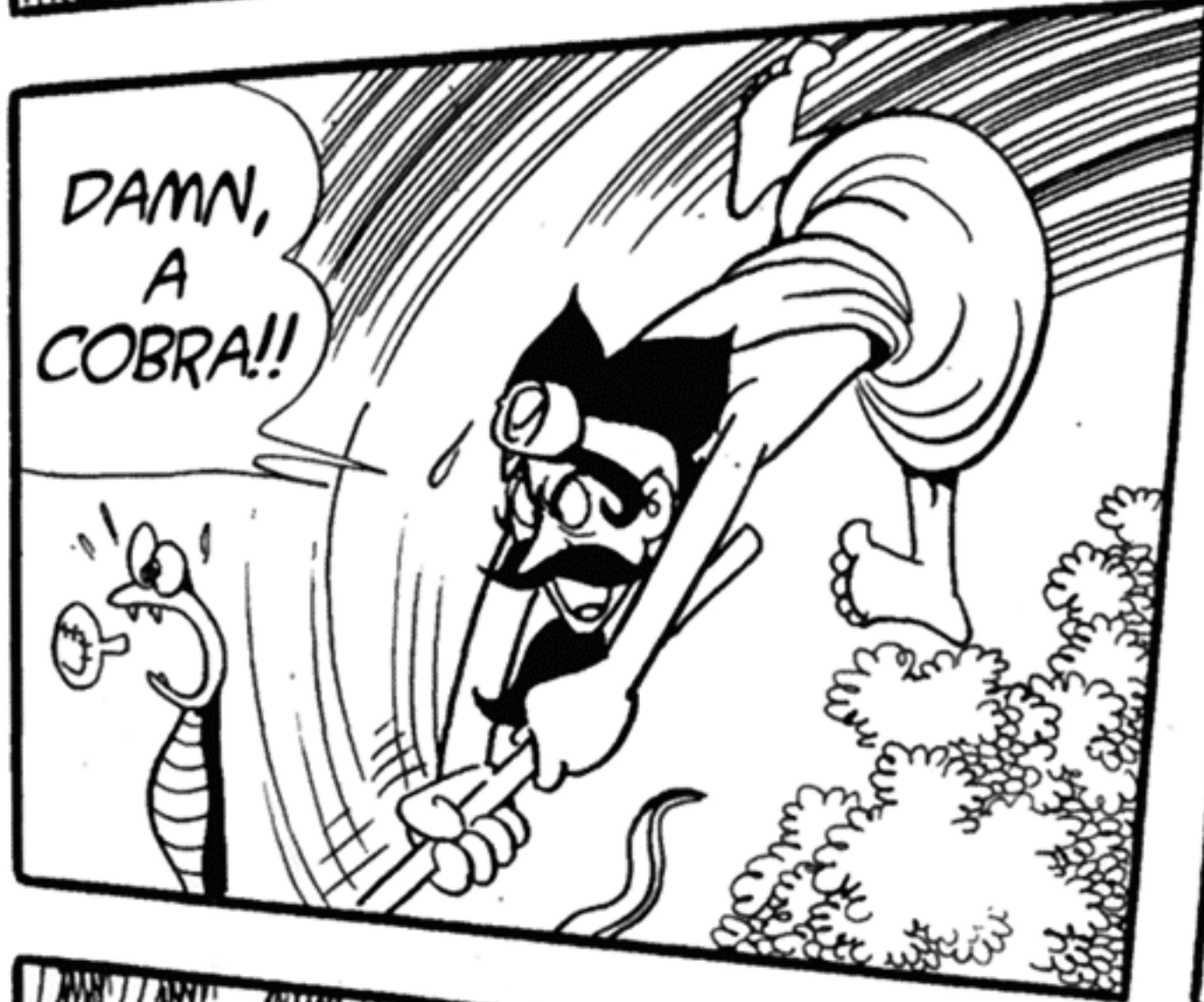










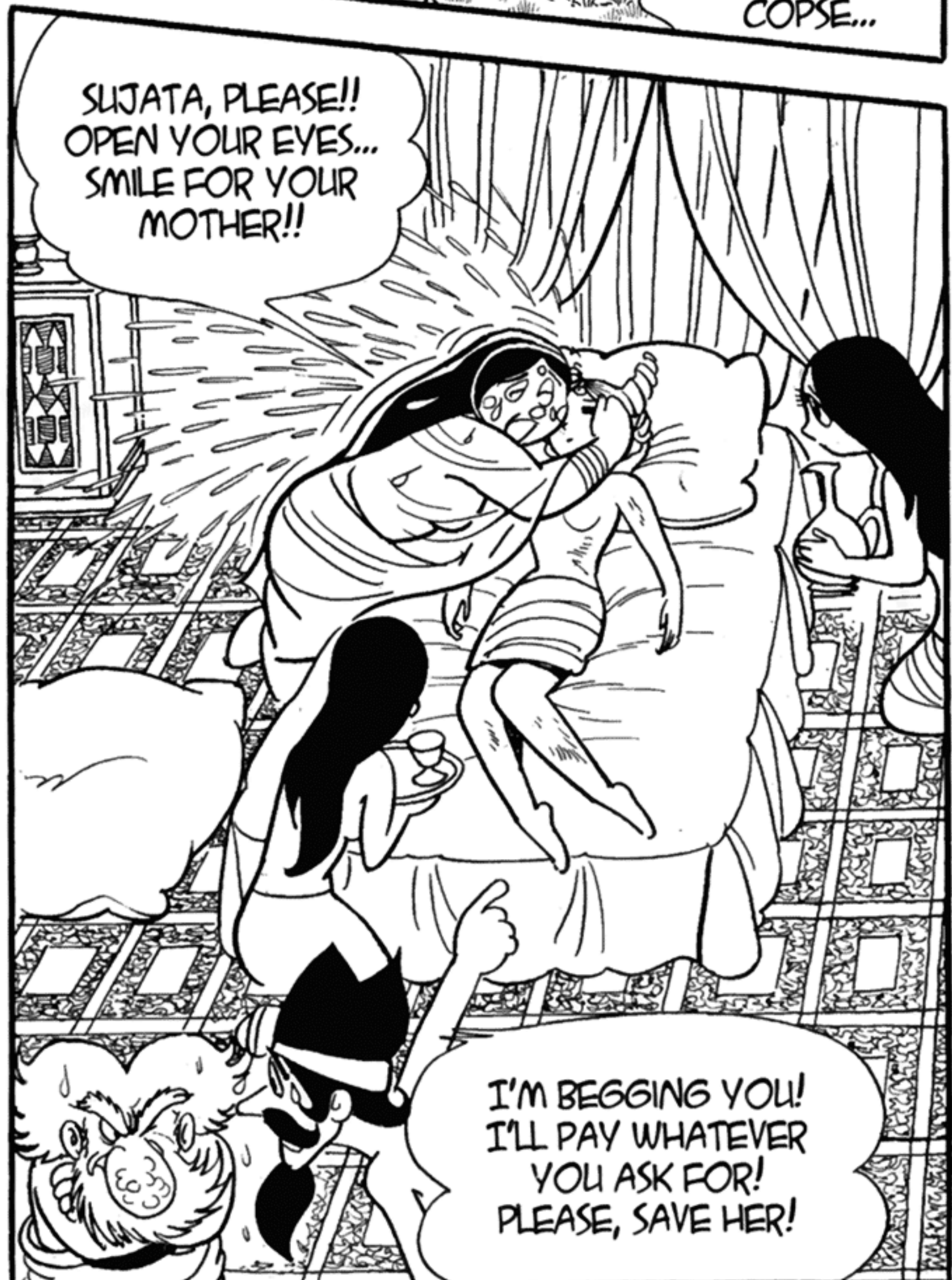
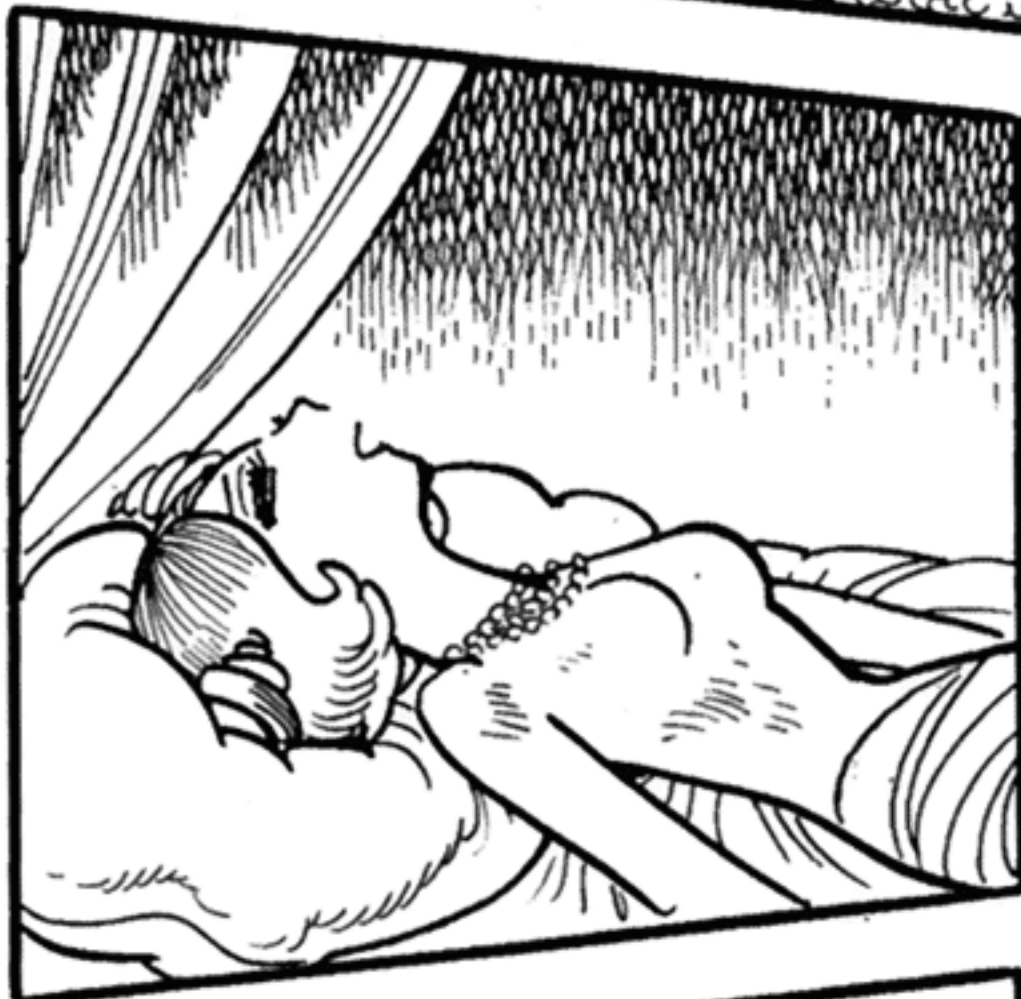


DAMN,
A
COBRA!!



SEND FOR
A DOCTOR,
QUICK!

WHAT WAS
SHE THINKING?
RUNNING
INTO THAT
DANGEROUS
COPSE...



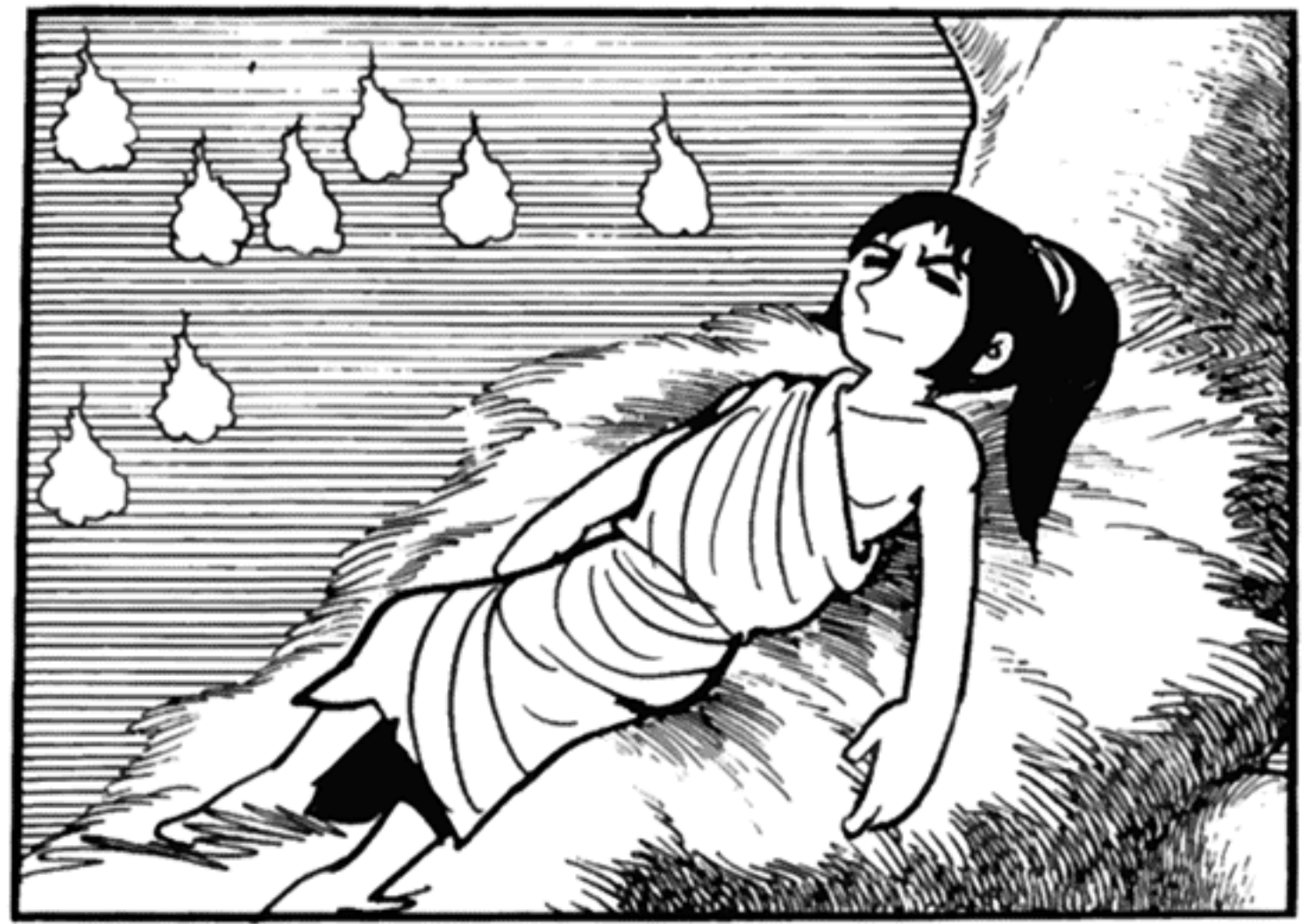
SUJATA, PLEASE!!
OPEN YOUR EYES...
SMILE FOR YOUR
MOTHER!!

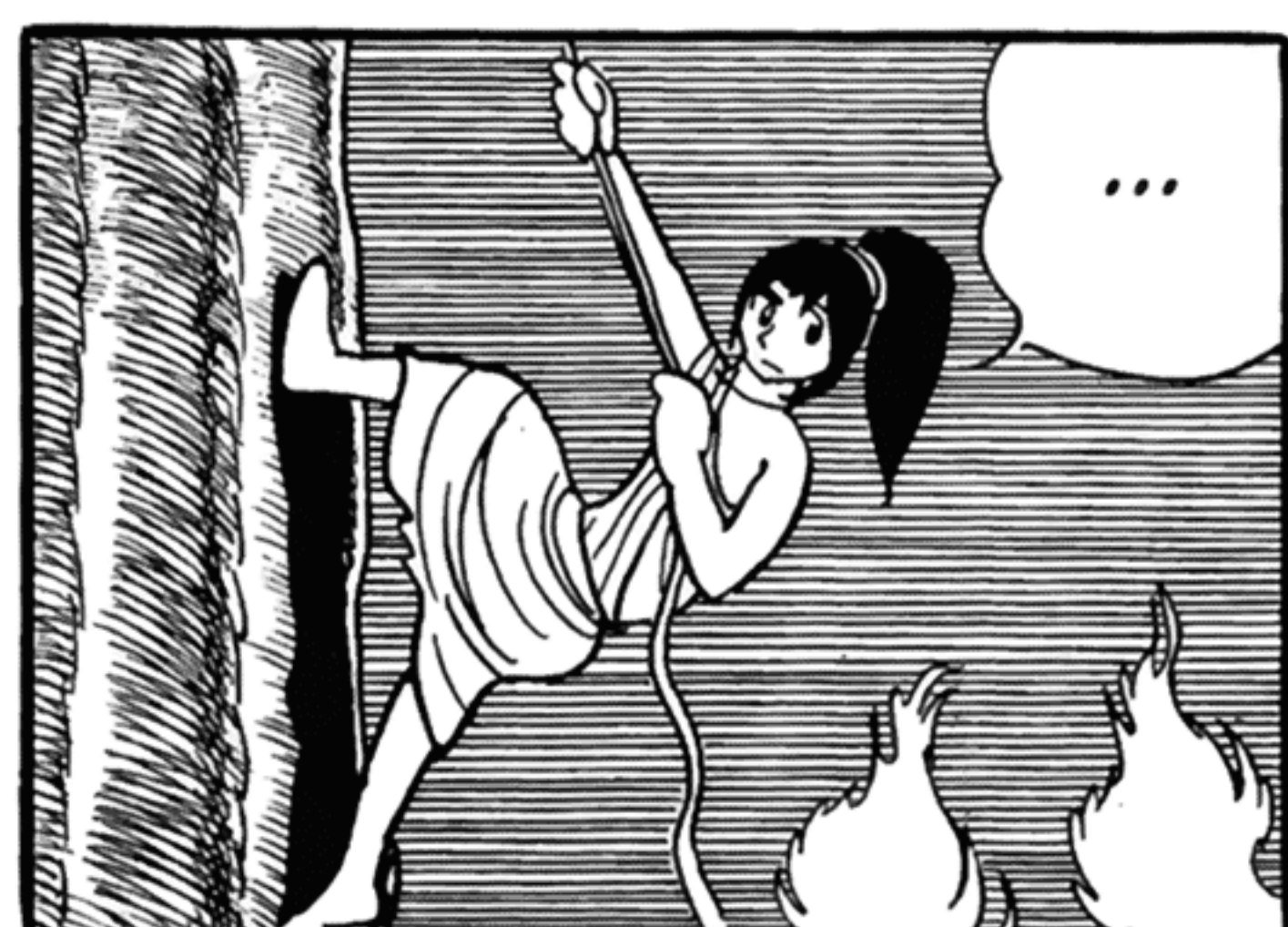
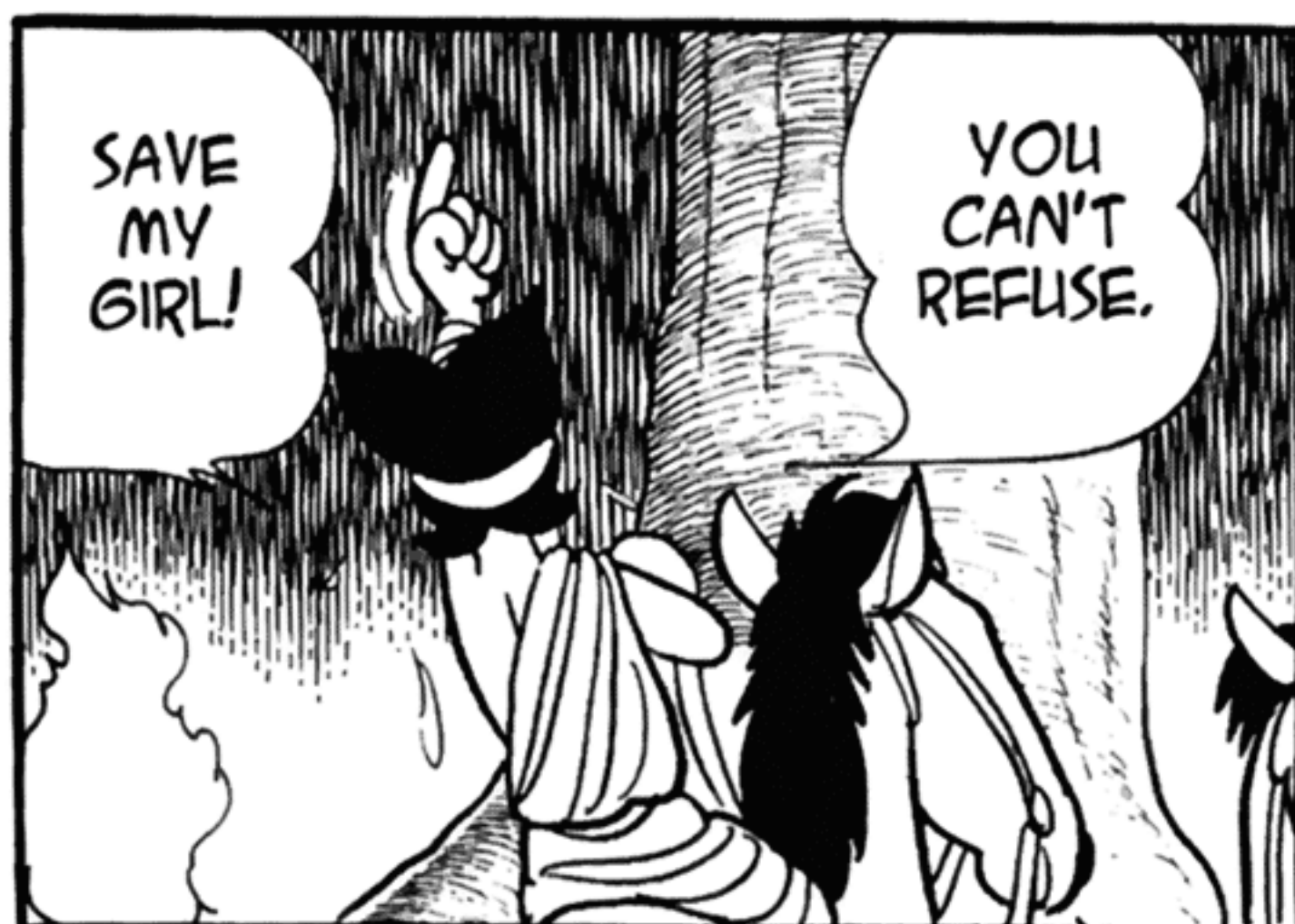
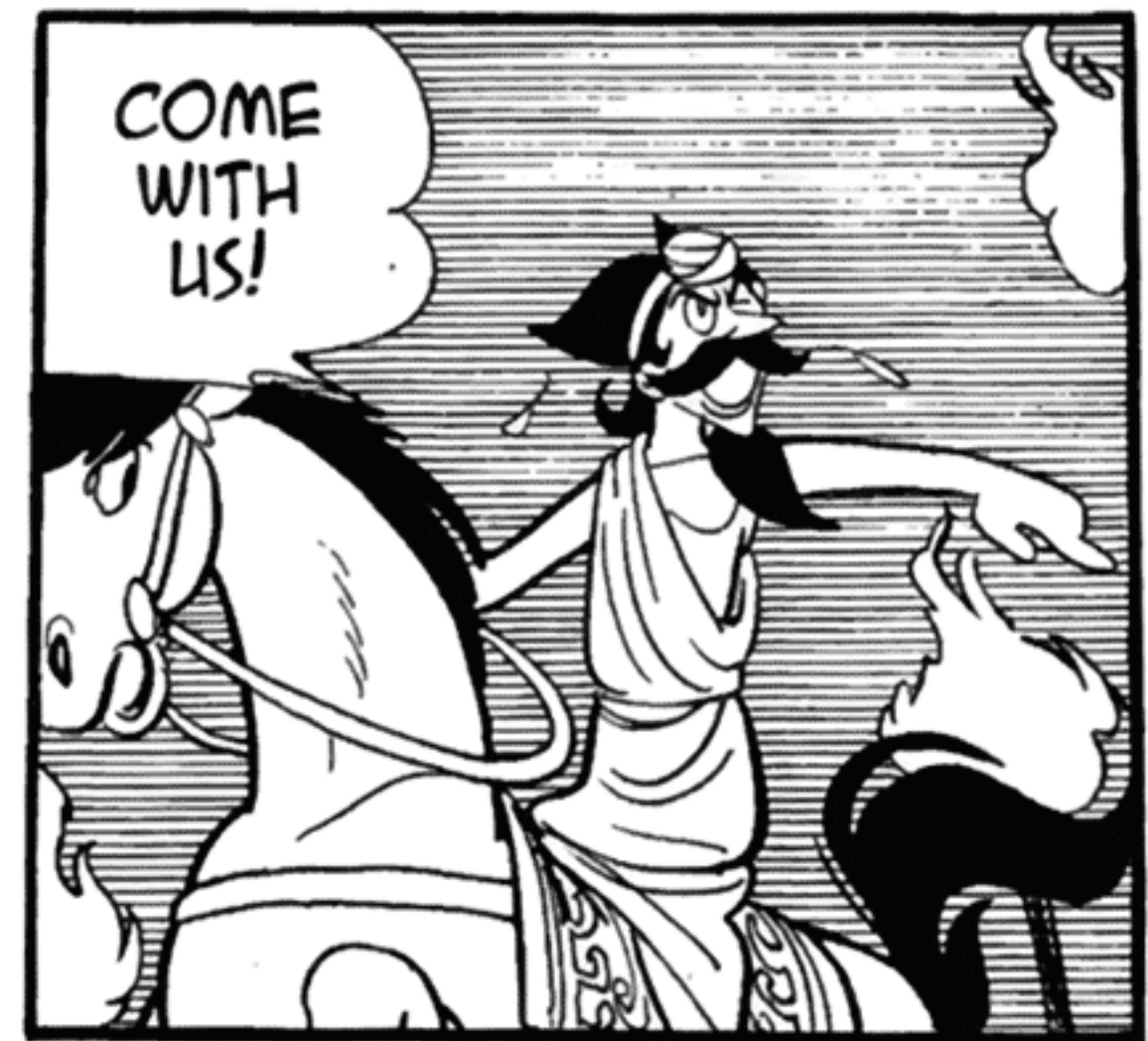
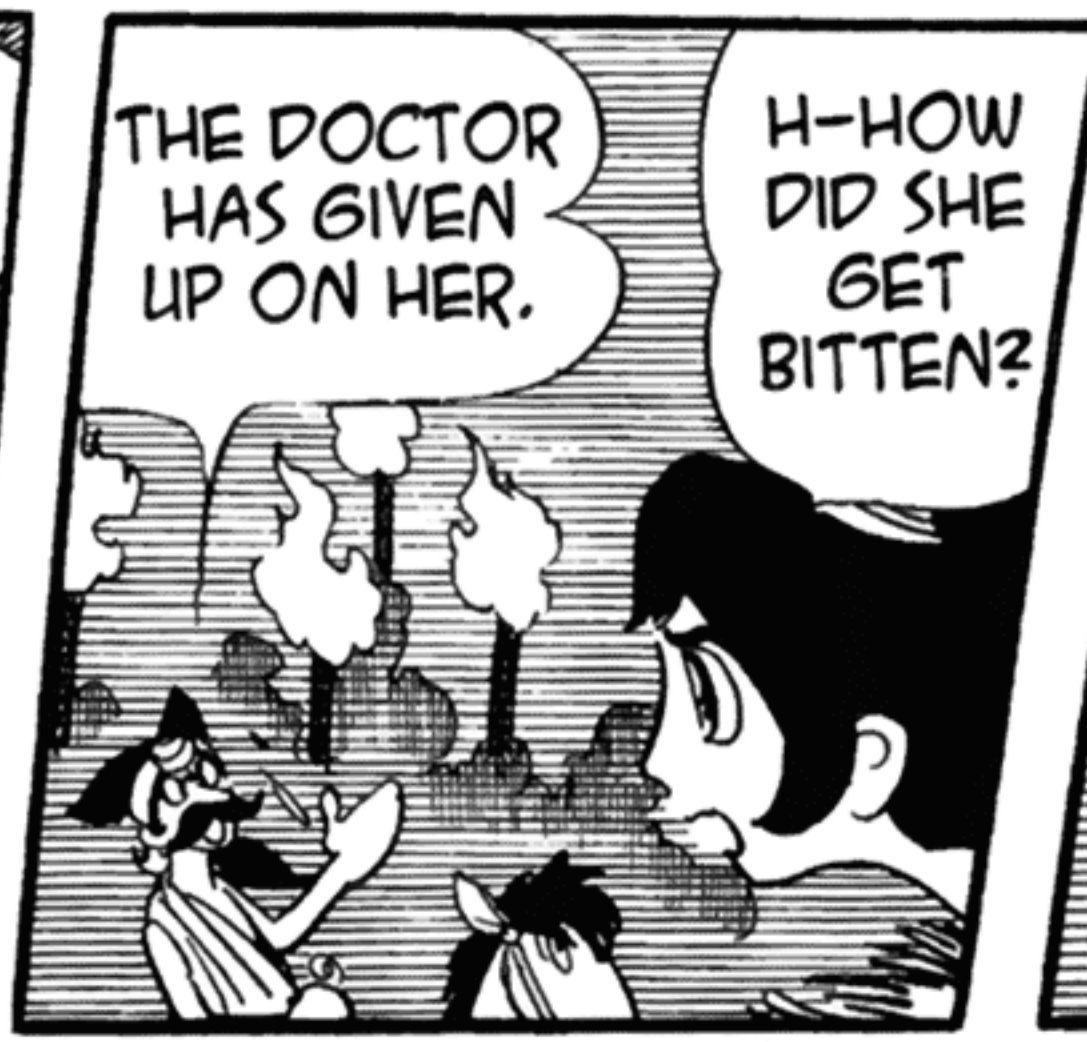
I'M BEGGING YOU!
I'LL PAY WHATEVER
YOU ASK FOR!
PLEASE, SAVE HER!



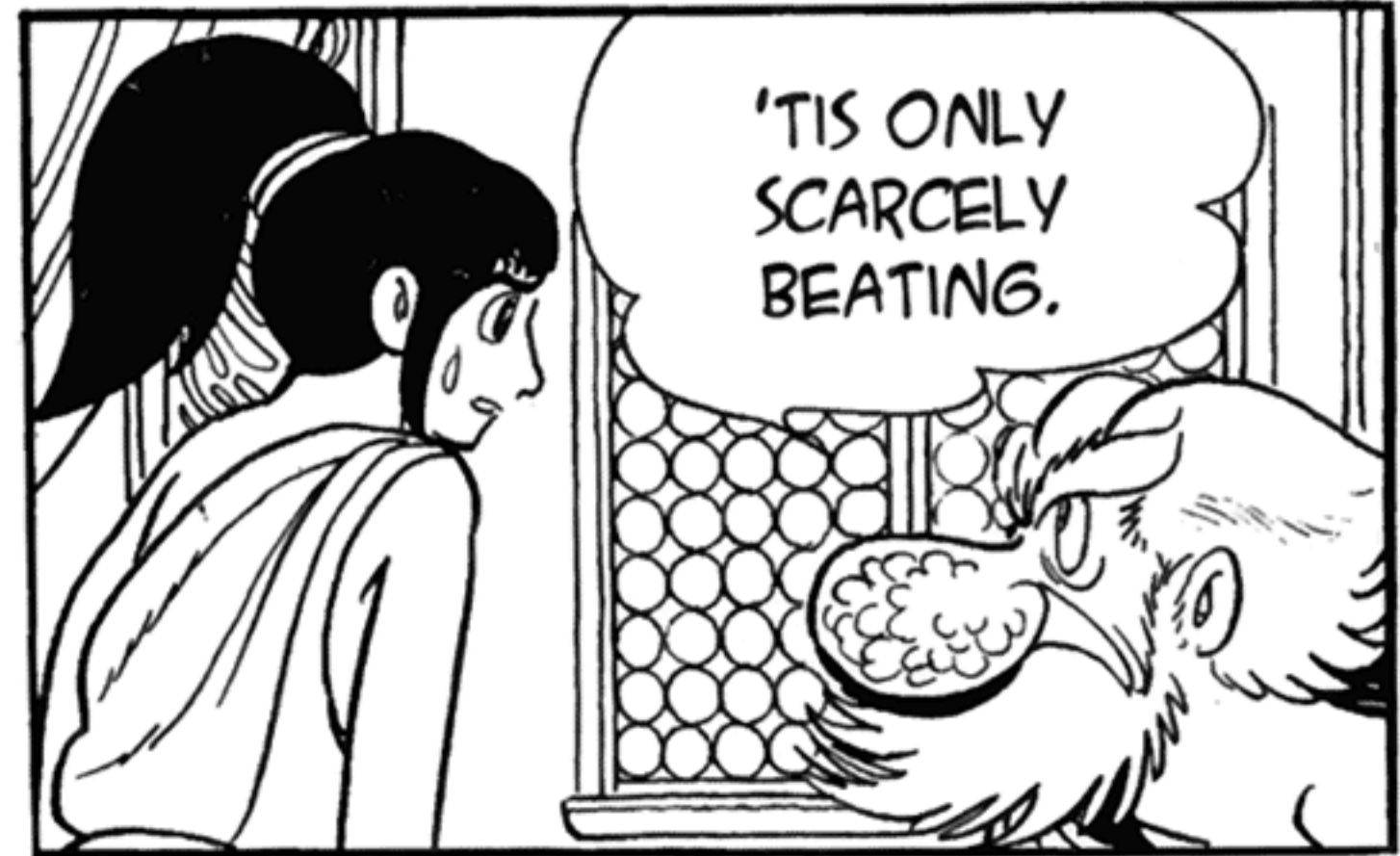
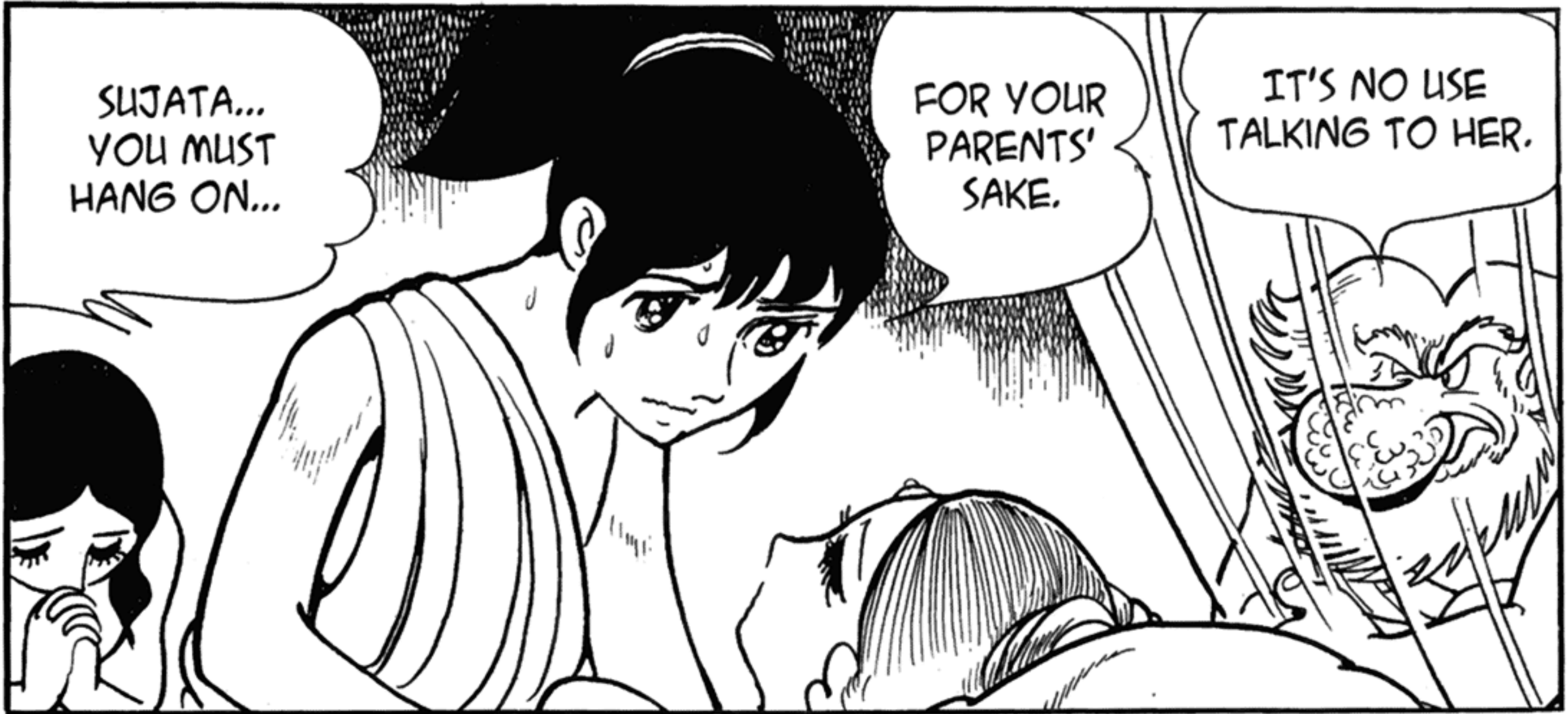
THE
VENOM'S
SPREAD...

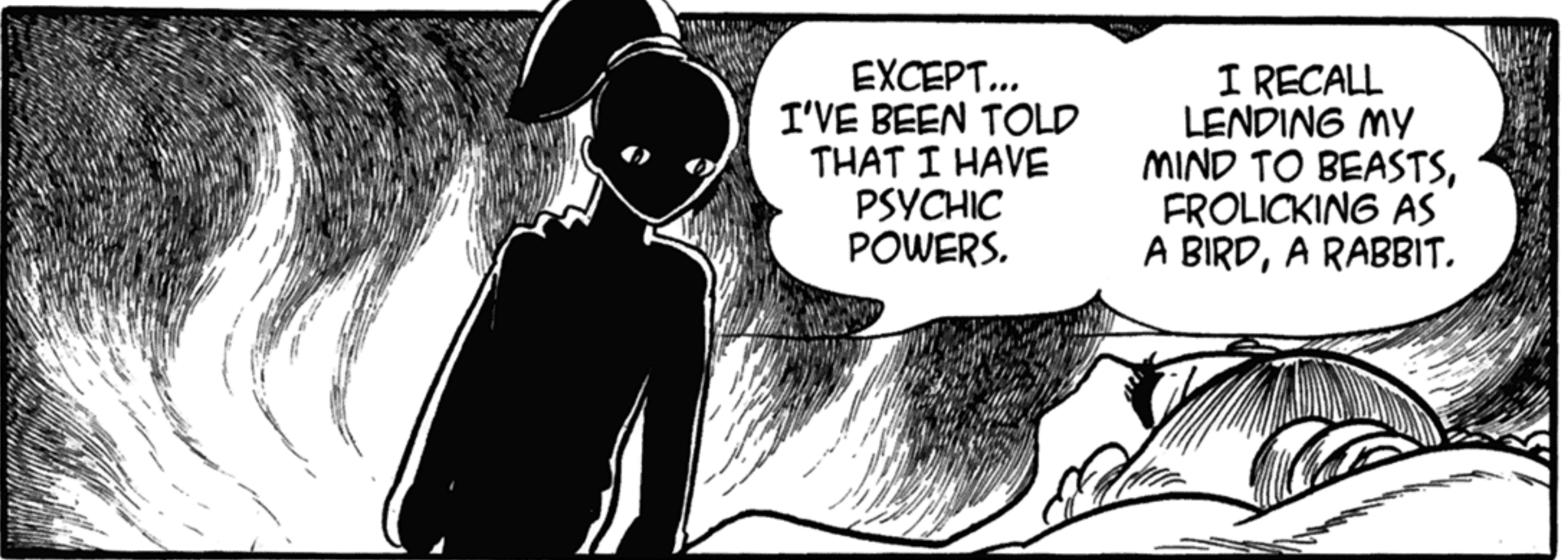
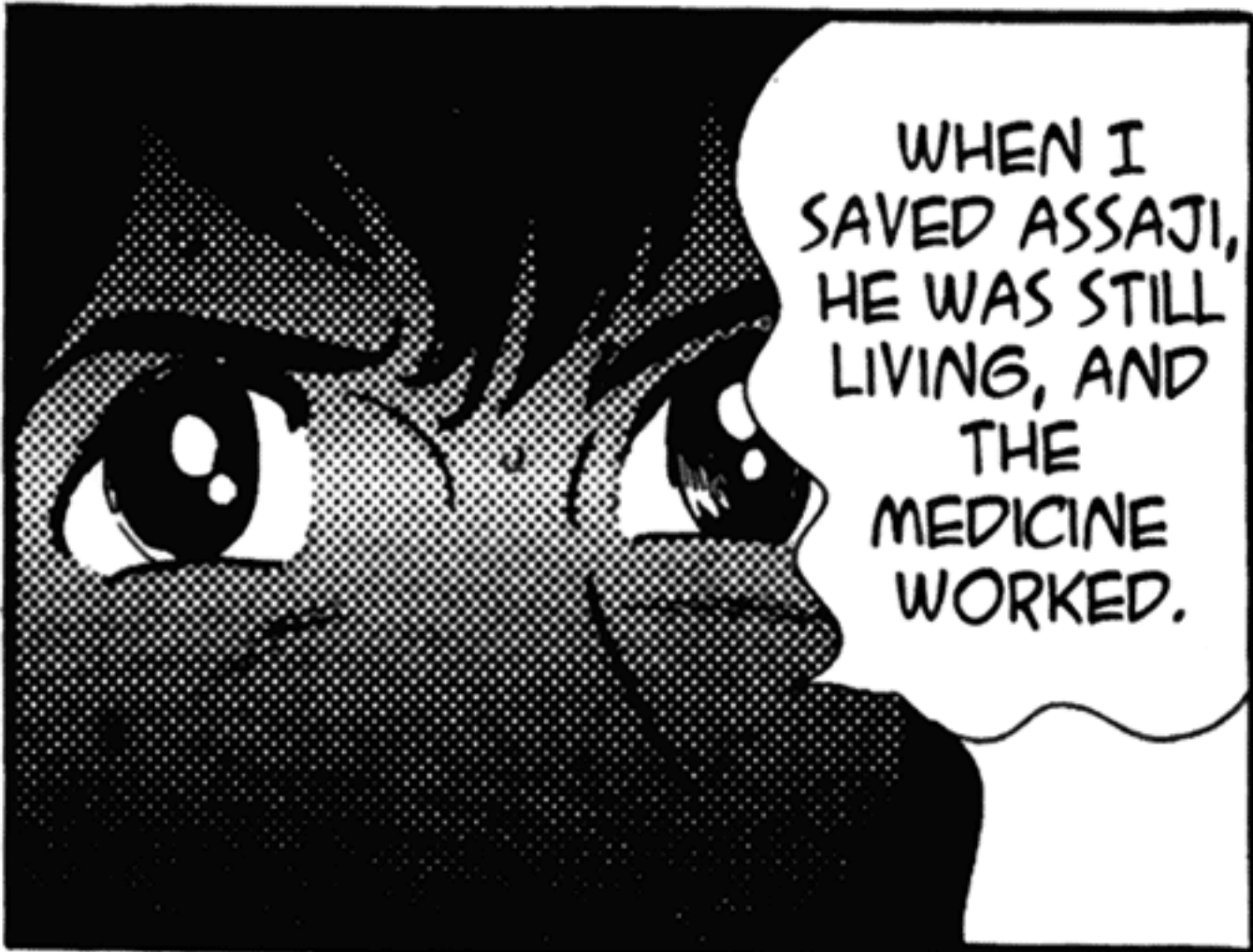
IT
MAY BE
TOO
LATE...











IF ONLY
I COULD SPEAK
TO HER
SILENCED SOUL...

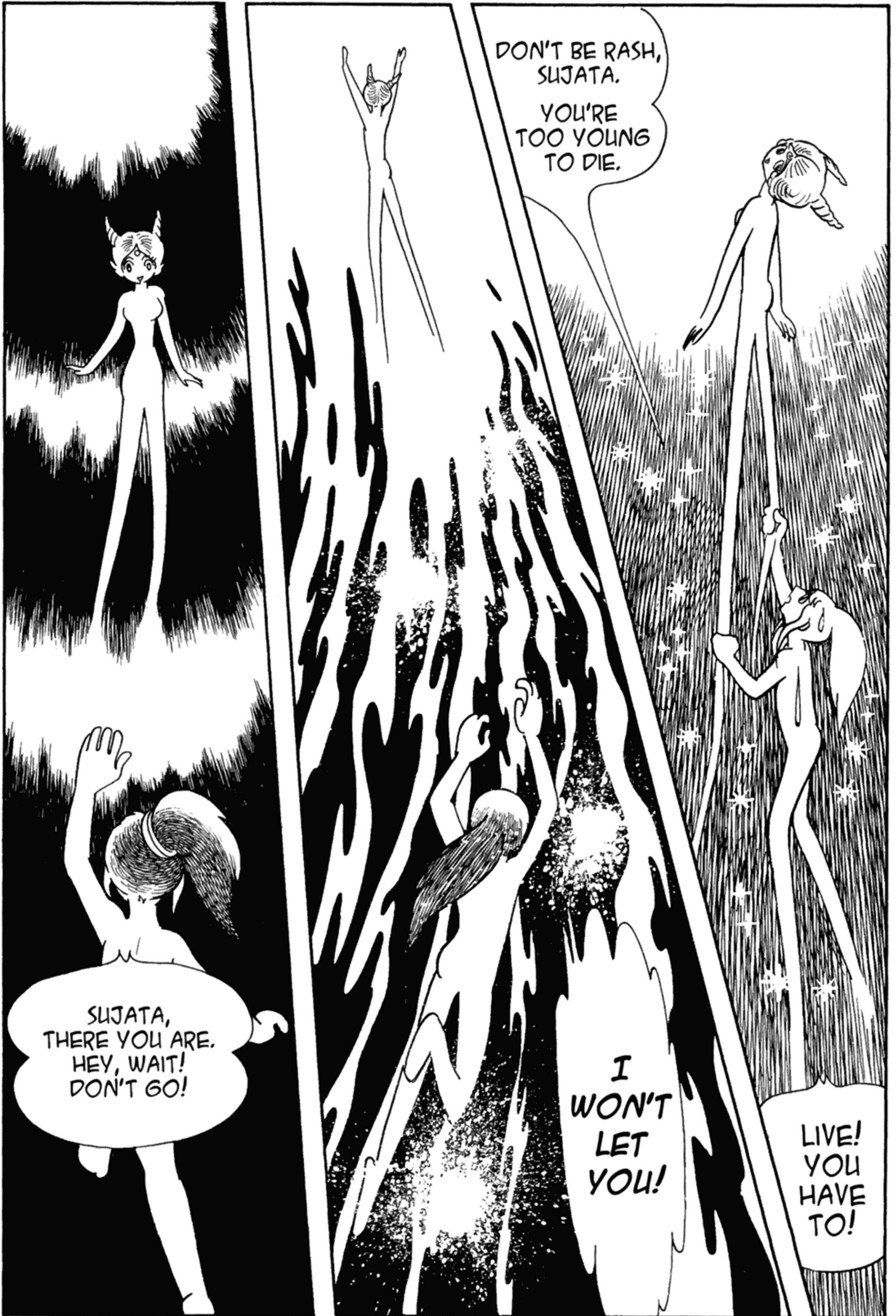
I WISH
I COULD
MELT INTO
HER BODY!

WHERE
AM I?!

HAVE I...?
YES!
I'M INSIDE
HER BODY!

SUJATA!

I WANT
TO SPEAK
TO YOUR
SOUL!



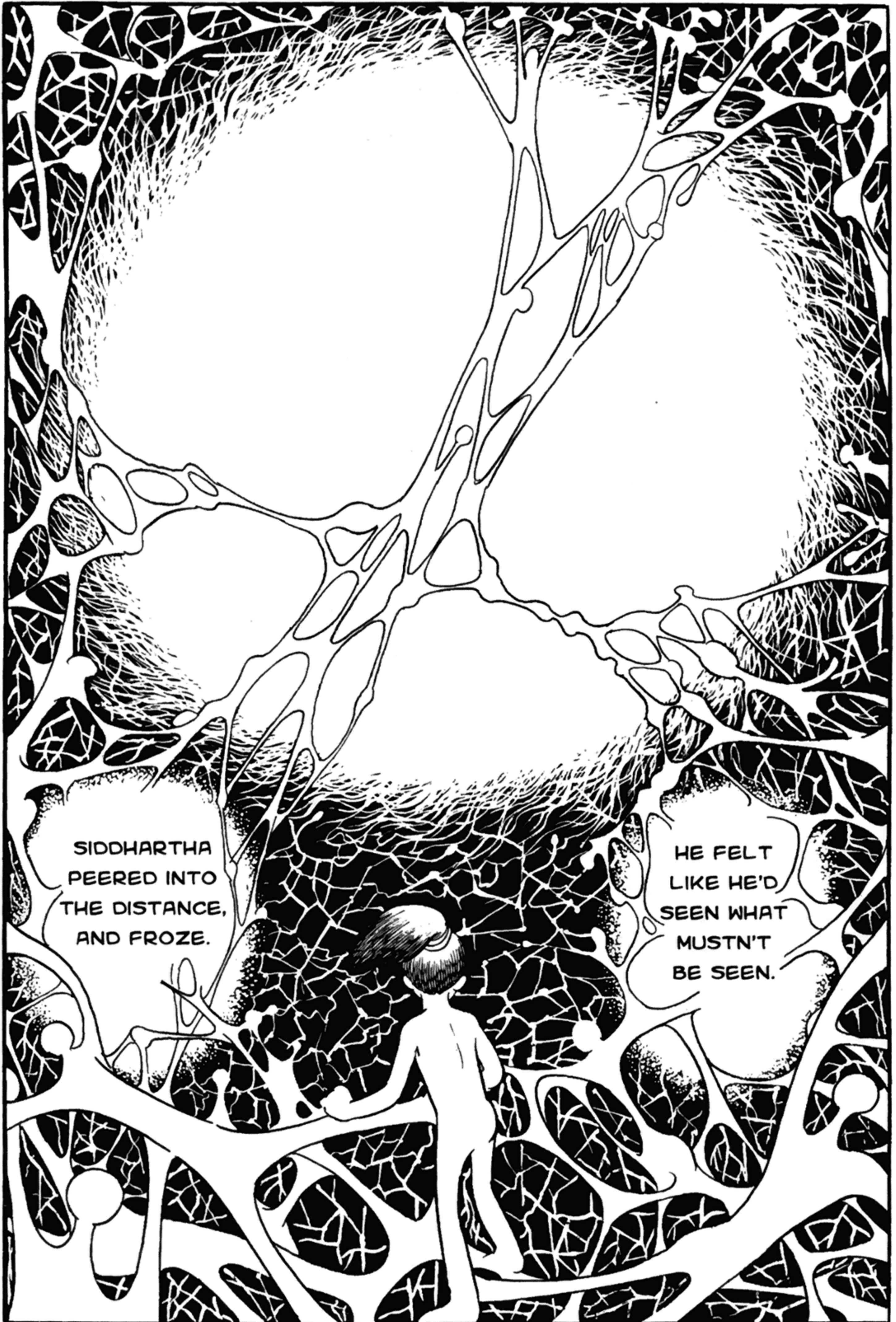
DON'T BE RASH,
SUJATA.
YOU'RE
TOO YOUNG
TO DIE.

SUJATA,
THERE YOU ARE.
HEY, WAIT!
DON'T GO!

I
WON'T
LET
YOU!

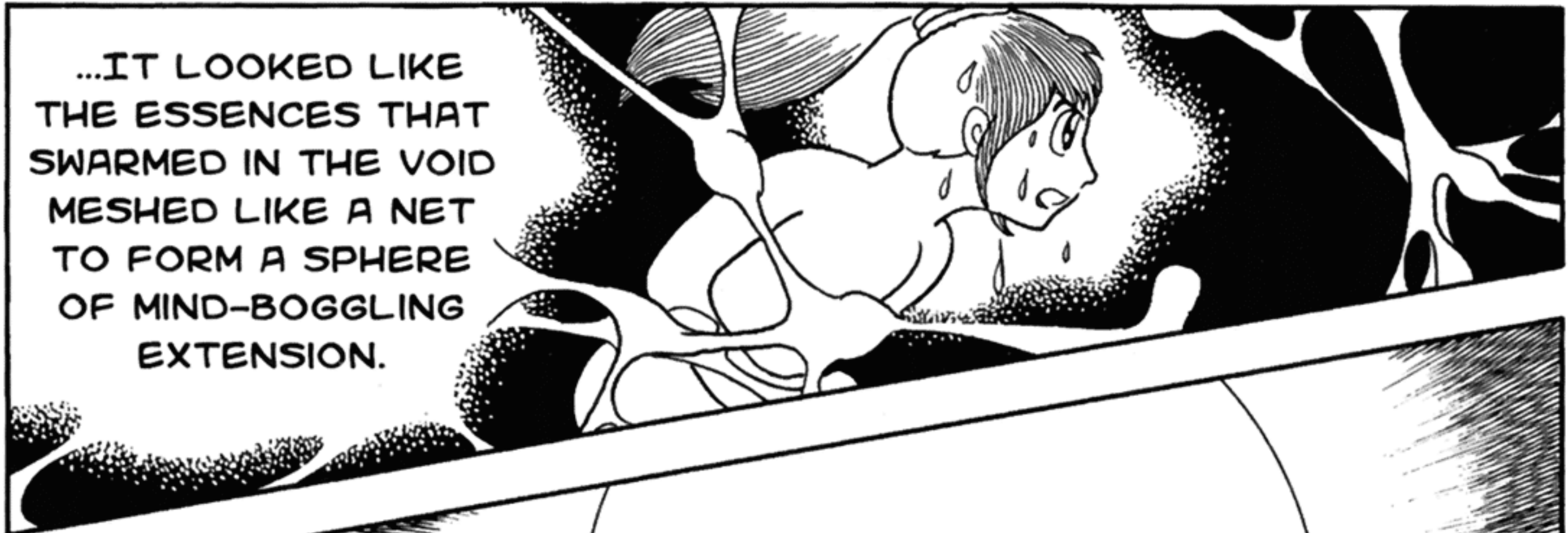
LIVE!
YOU
HAVE
TO!





SIDDHARTHA
PEERED INTO
THE DISTANCE,
AND FROZE.

HE FELT
LIKE HE'D
SEEN WHAT
MUSTN'T
BE SEEN.



...IT LOOKED LIKE THE ESSENCES THAT SWARMED IN THE VOID MESHED LIKE A NET TO FORM A SPHERE OF MIND-BOGGLING EXTENSION.



AND THE THING WAS ALIVE! IT WAS CHANGING SHAPE, SWELLING AND PULSING.

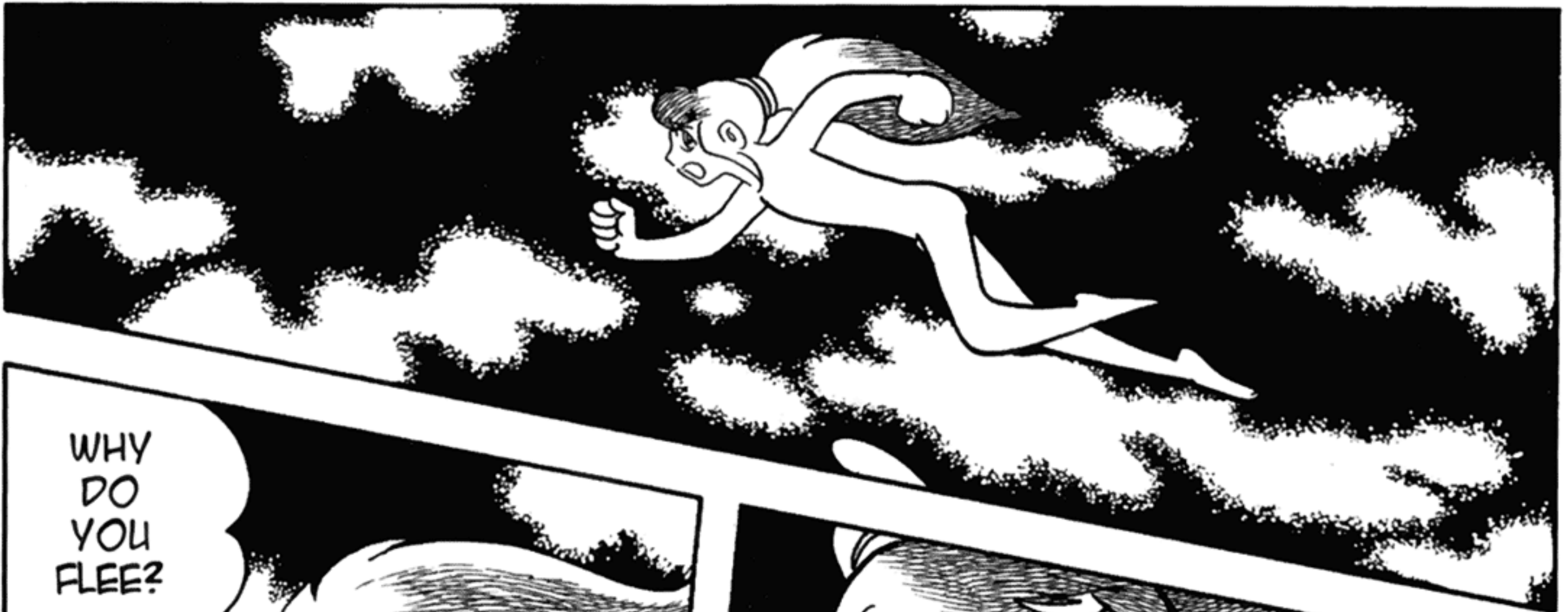


BEFORE HE COULD EVEN THINK...

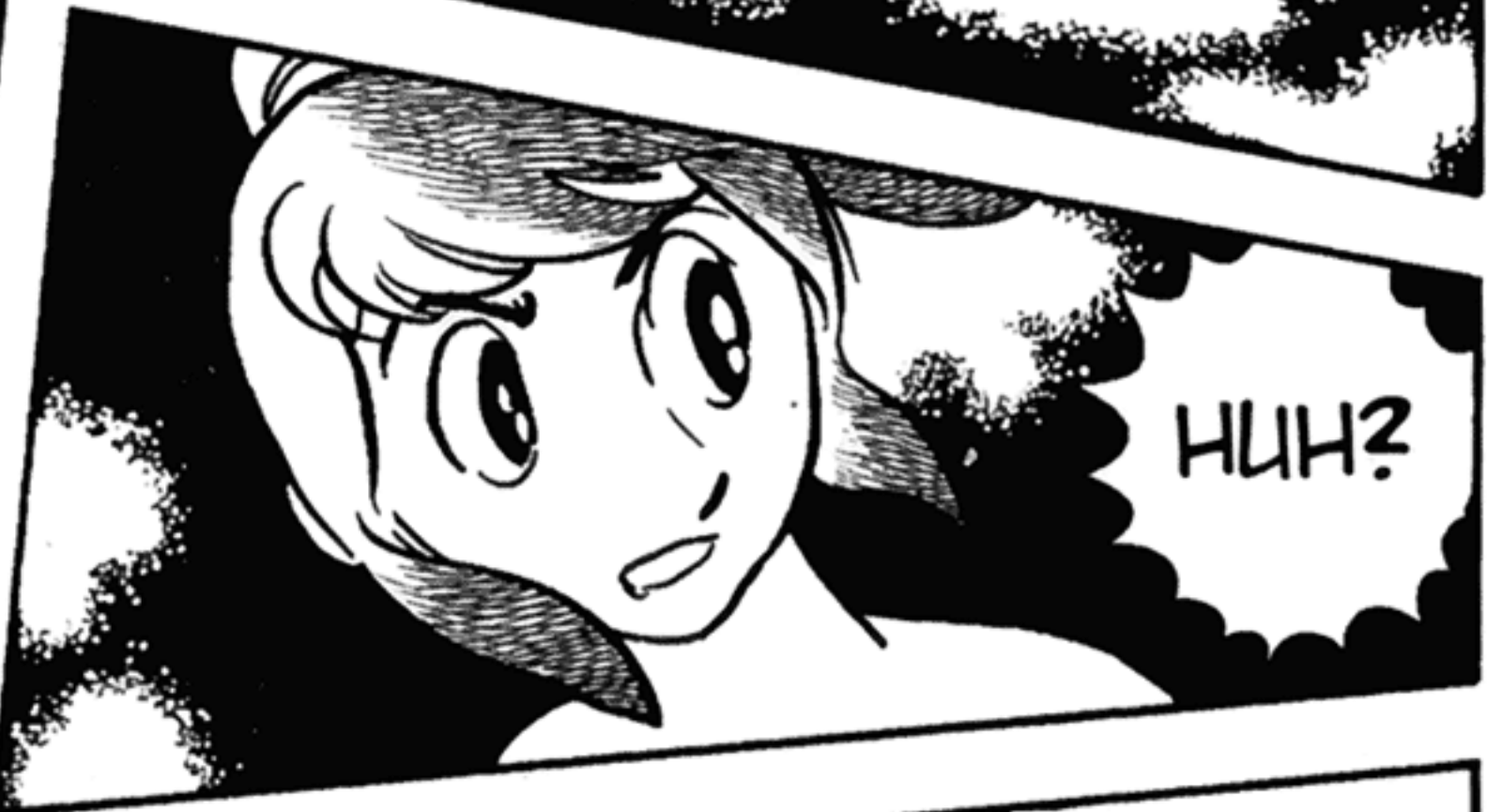
SIDDHARTHA BEGAN TO FLEE, AS THOUGH HE, TOO, MIGHT GET CAUGHT AND LOST IN ITS WEAVE.

WHOA

HELP



WHY DO YOU FLEE?



HUH?



THAT VOICE... I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE...

THIS IS THE WORLD YOU'VE LONGED TO SEE EVER SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE... TAKE IT IN.



LONG AGO, WHEN I WAS STILL A PRINCE!



SO WE MEET AGAIN.



Y-YOU ARE ...

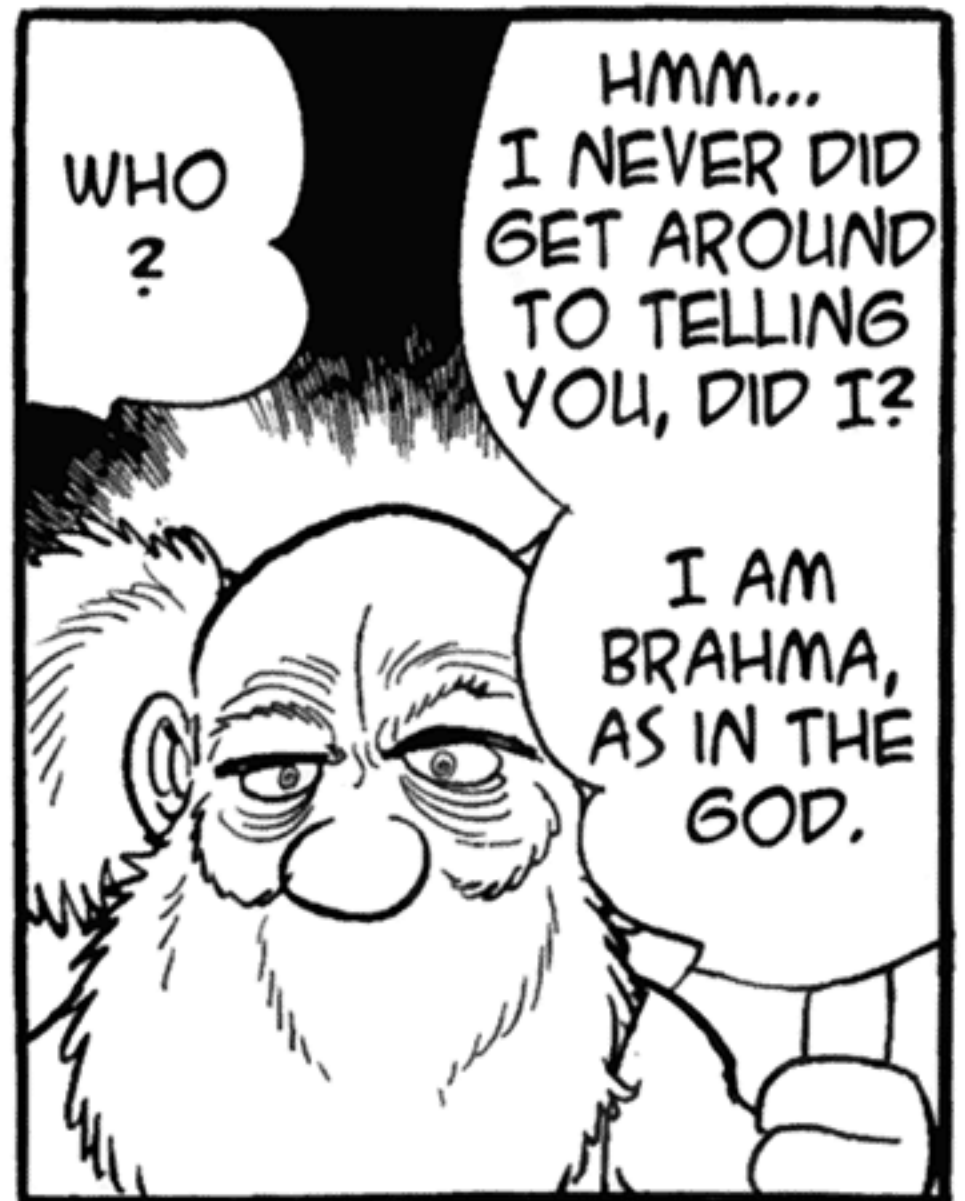


THE MYSTERIOUS
OLD MAN
I KNEW THEN.
WHAT A SURPRISE!
WHY ON EARTH HAVE
I FOUND YOU IN
A PLACE LIKE THIS?

SIDDHARTHA,
I AM ABLE TO
VISIT YOU
WHEREVER
AND
WHENEVER
I PLEASE.



WHO...
WHO
ARE
YOU
REALLY?



WHO
?

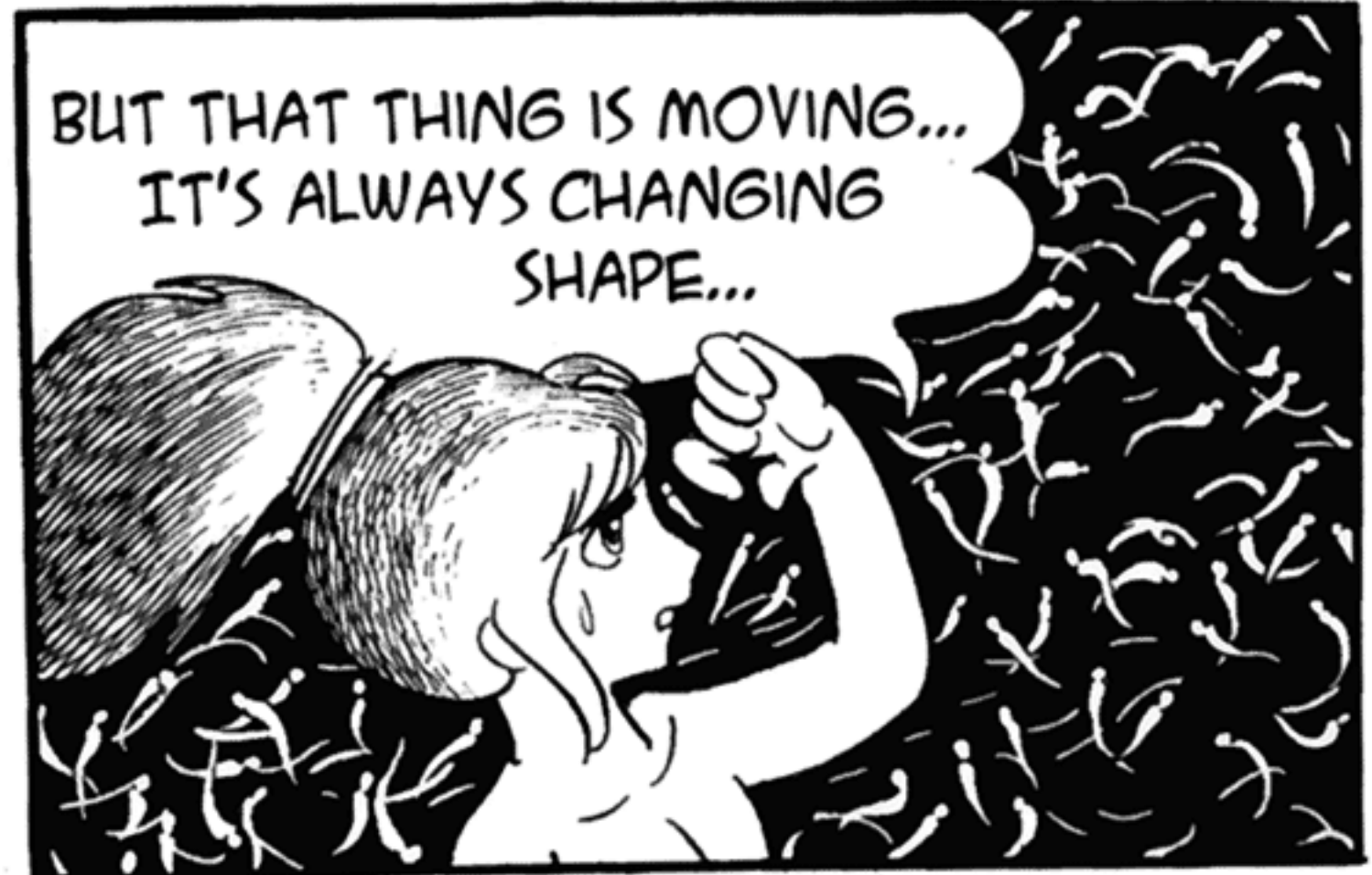
HMM...
I NEVER DID
GET AROUND
TO TELLING
YOU, DID I?

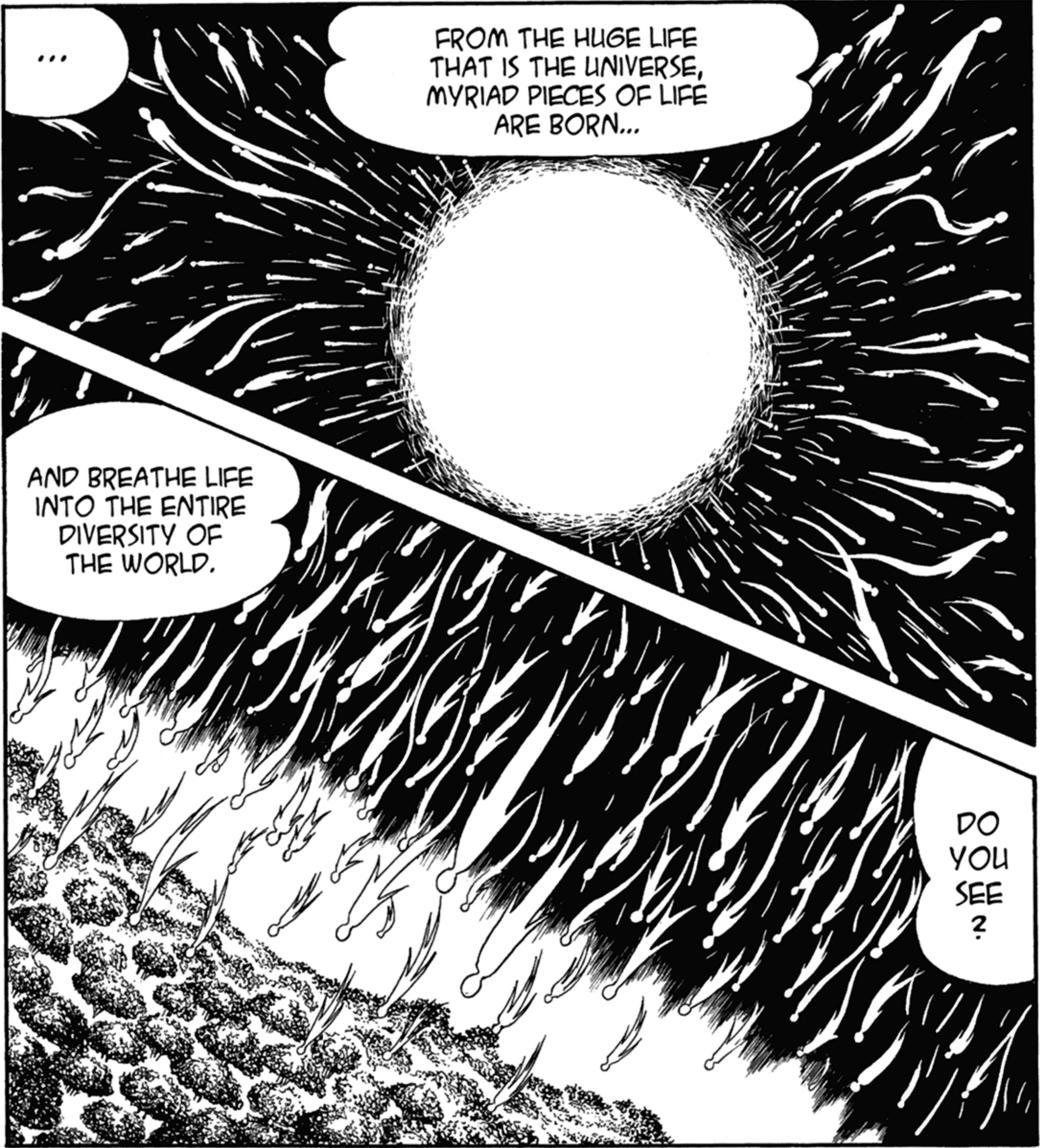
I AM
BRAHMA,
AS IN THE
GOD.



BUT ENOUGH OF THAT.
NOW LOOK AROUND,
SIDDHARTHA. THESE
ARE ALL PIECES OF LIFE.

PIECES
OF
LIFE...?





...

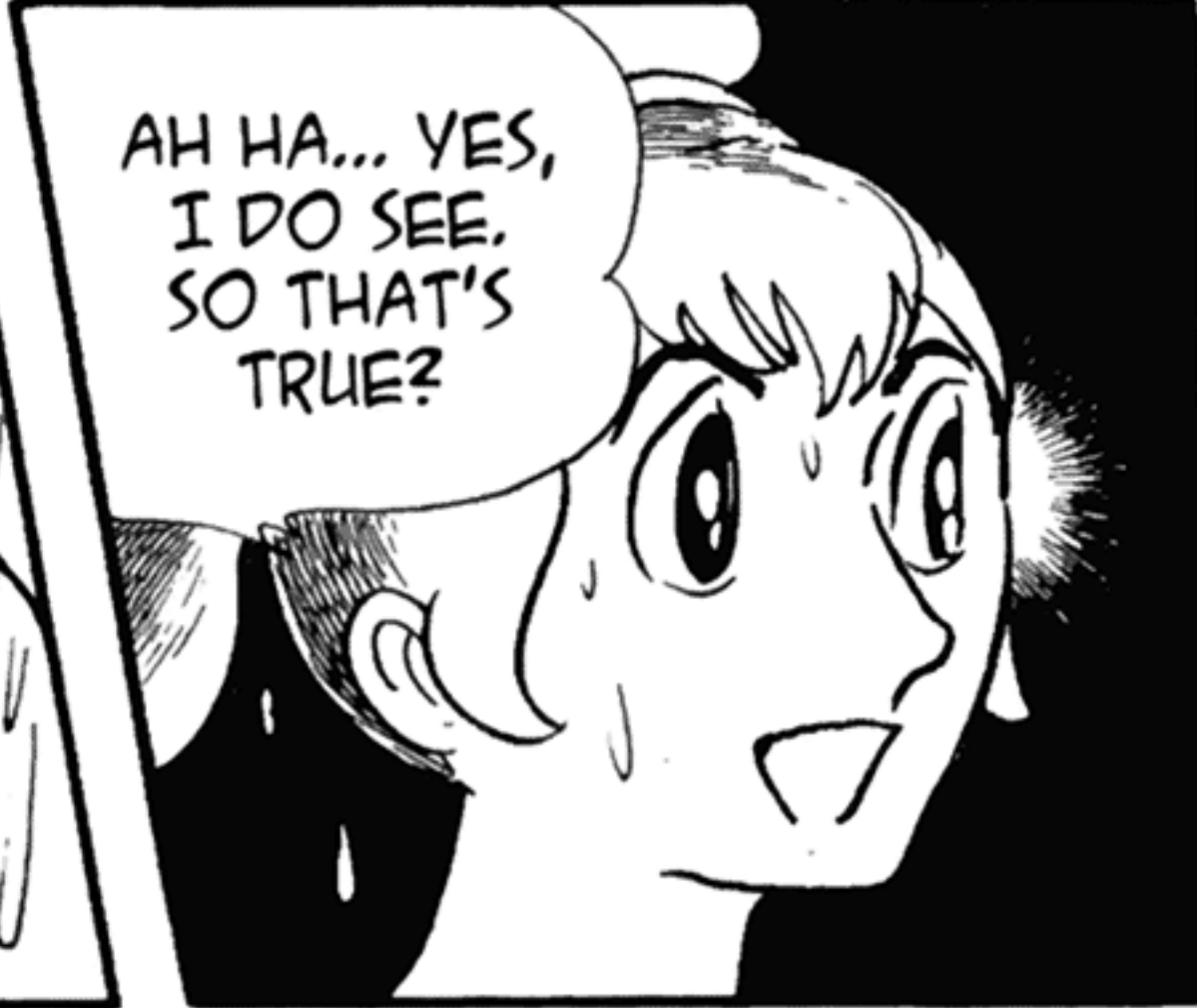
FROM THE HUGE LIFE THAT IS THE UNIVERSE, MYRIAD PIECES OF LIFE ARE BORN...

AND BREATHE LIFE INTO THE ENTIRE DIVERSITY OF THE WORLD.

DO YOU SEE ?

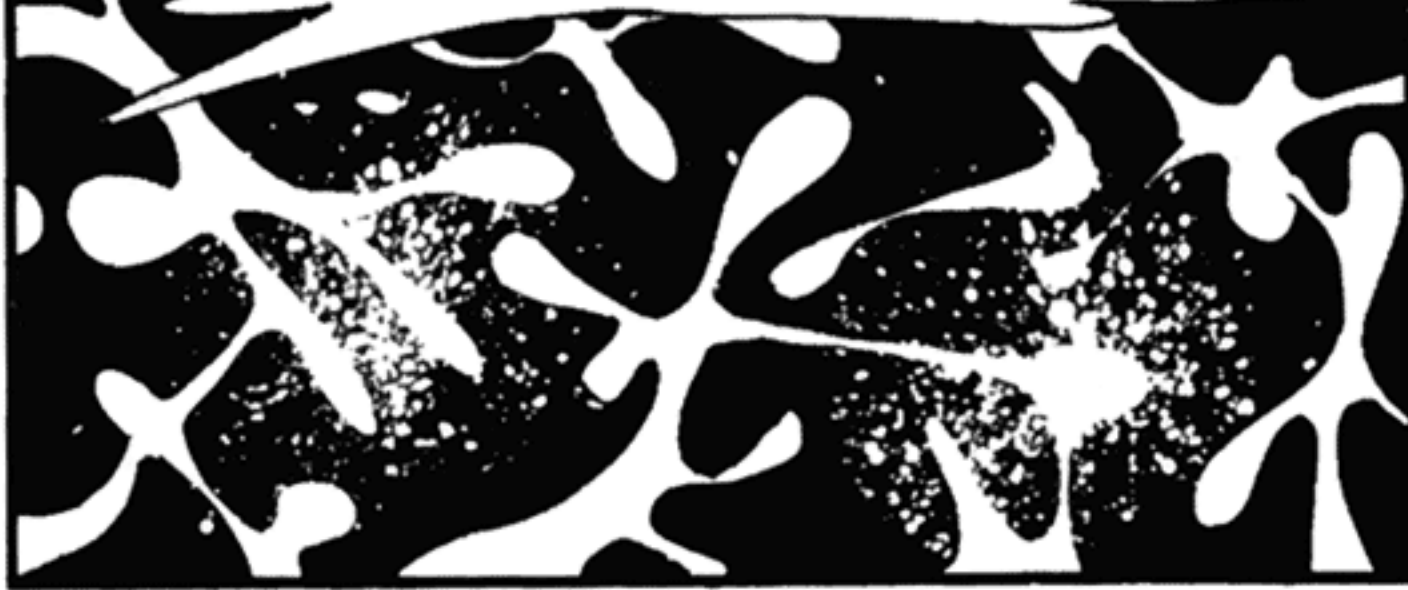


BUGS, ELEPHANTS, FLOWERS, AND PEOPLE, ALL ARE BY ORIGIN FELLOWS OF EACH.



AH HA... YES, I DO SEE. SO THAT'S TRUE?

A LIFE HAS NO FORM, NEITHER AN UP
NOR A DOWN, A RIGHT NOR A LEFT.
AND THERE IS NO PAST, PRESENT,
OR FUTURE FOR IT. YOU CAN TELL,
JUST FROM WATCHING THIS.

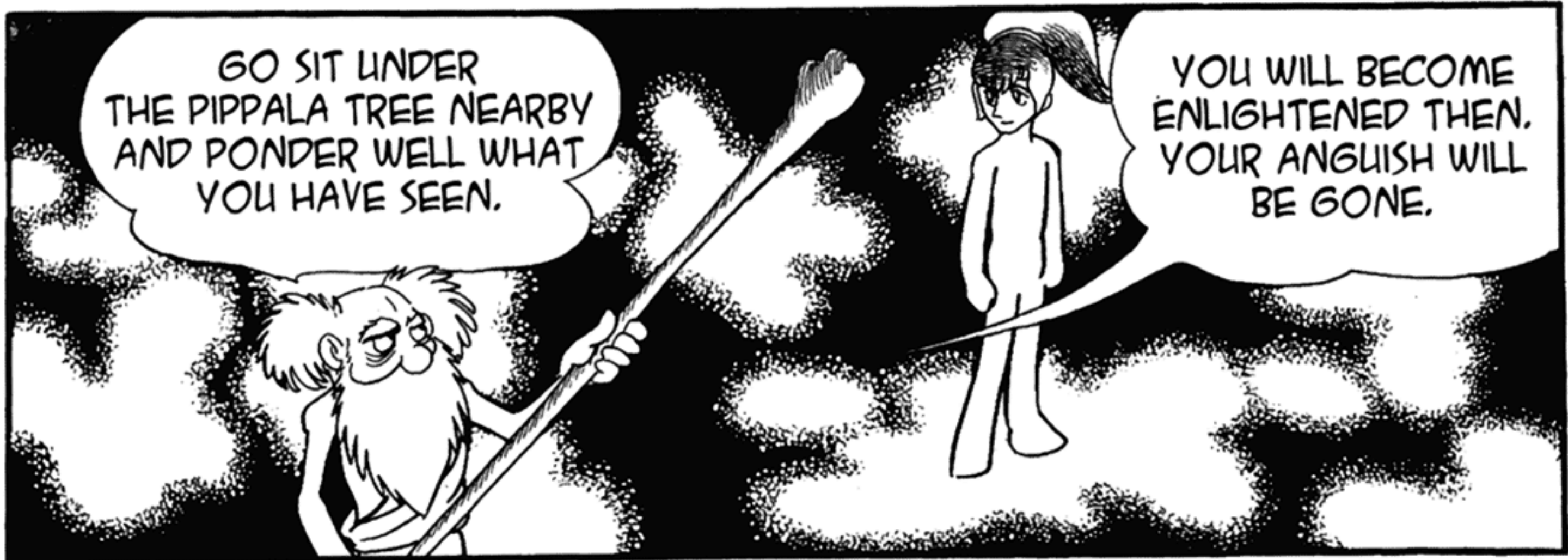


ONCE,
IF YOU
RECALL,
I MADE A
PROPHECY.



GO SIT UNDER
THE PIPPALA TREE NEARBY
AND PONDER WELL WHAT
YOU HAVE SEEN.

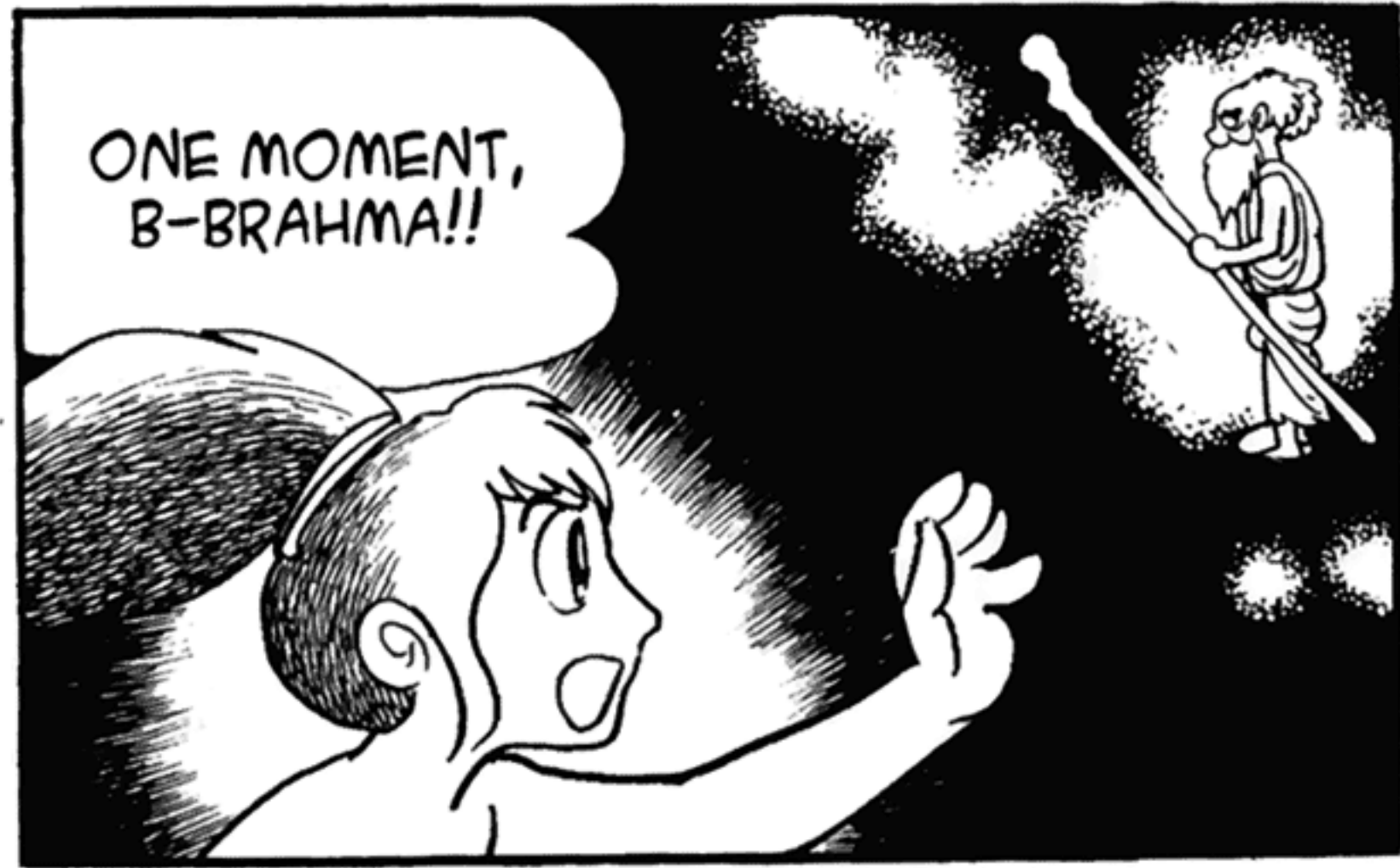
YOU WILL BECOME
ENLIGHTENED THEN.
YOUR ANGLISH WILL
BE GONE.



THAT IS WHEN
I SHALL SEE
YOU AGAIN...



ONE MOMENT,
B-BRAHMA!!



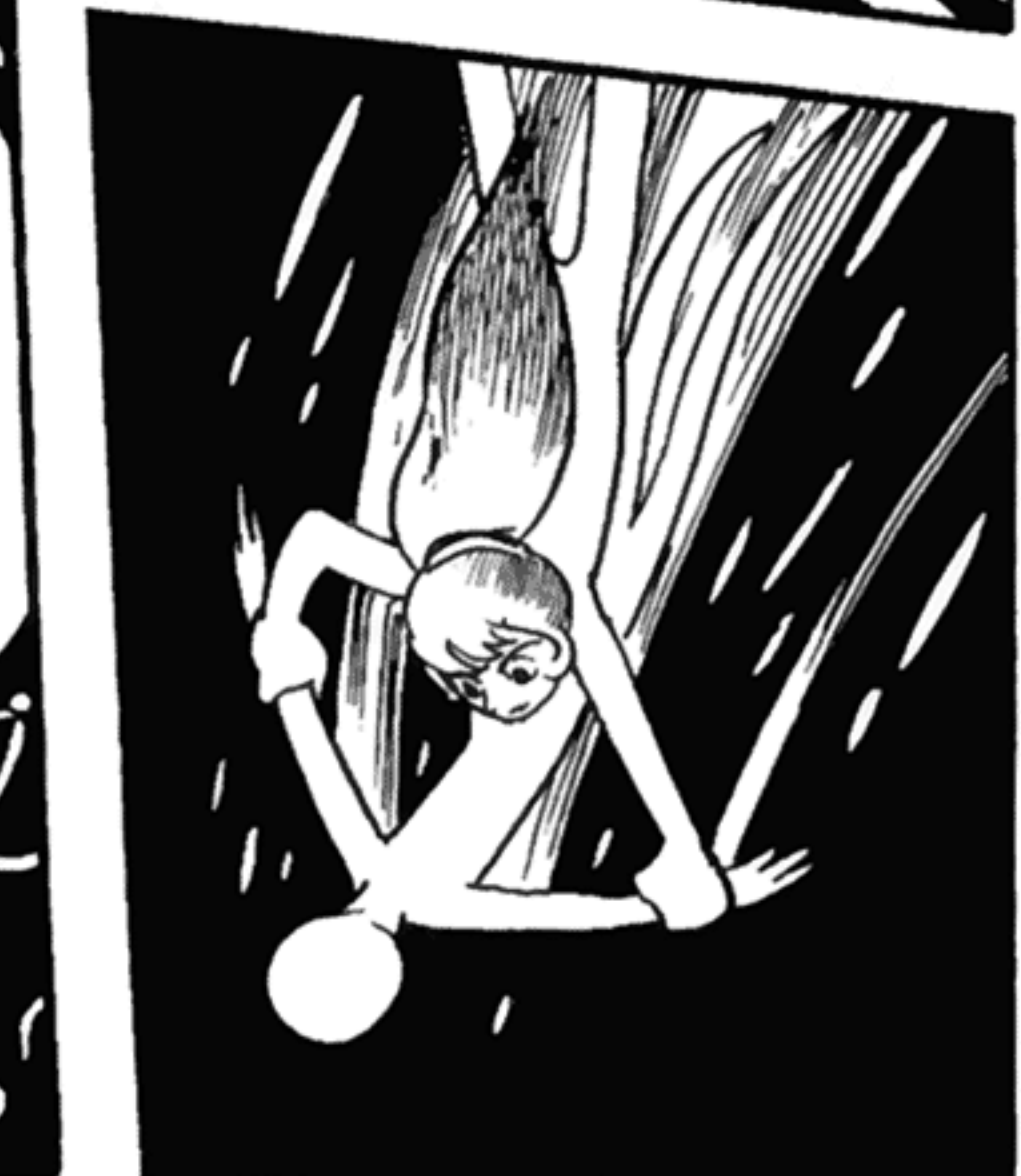
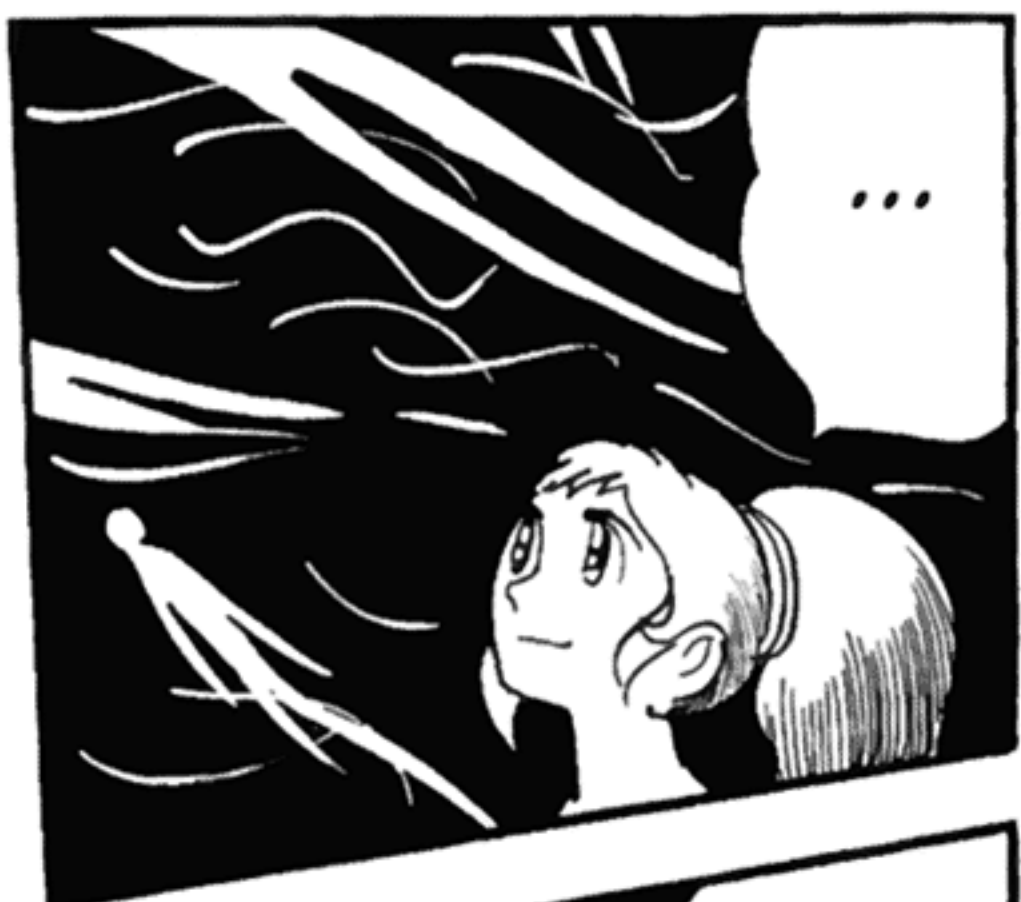
WHAT
IS IT?

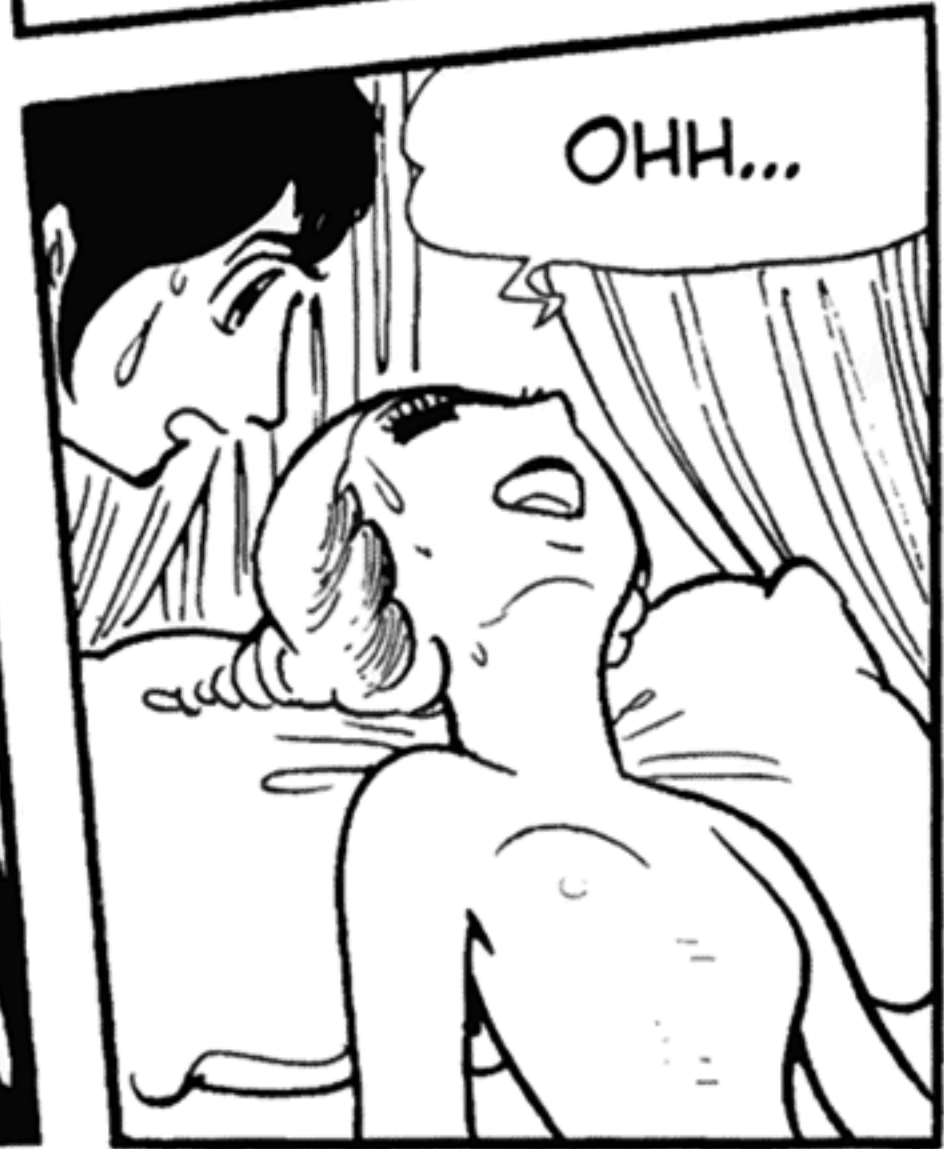


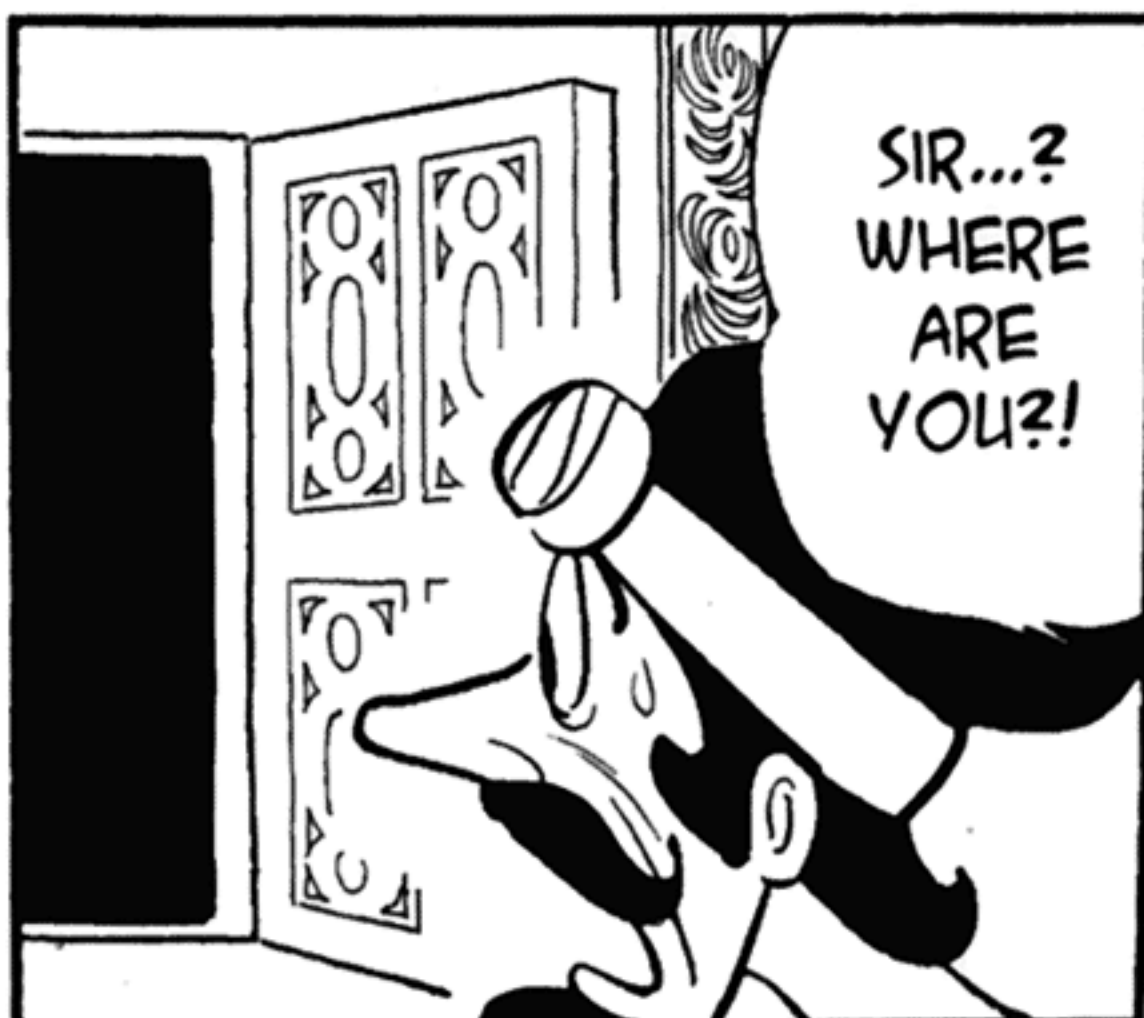
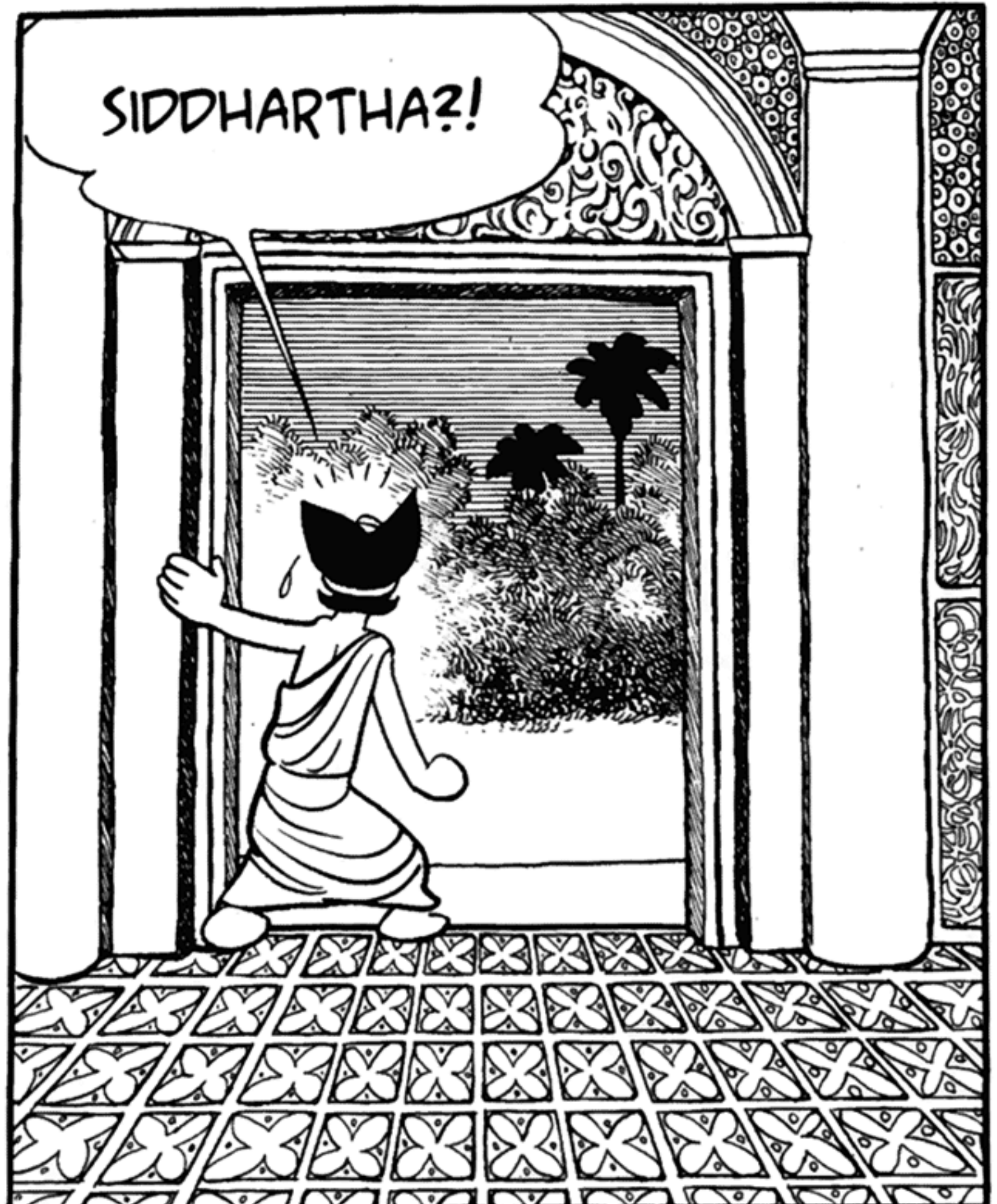
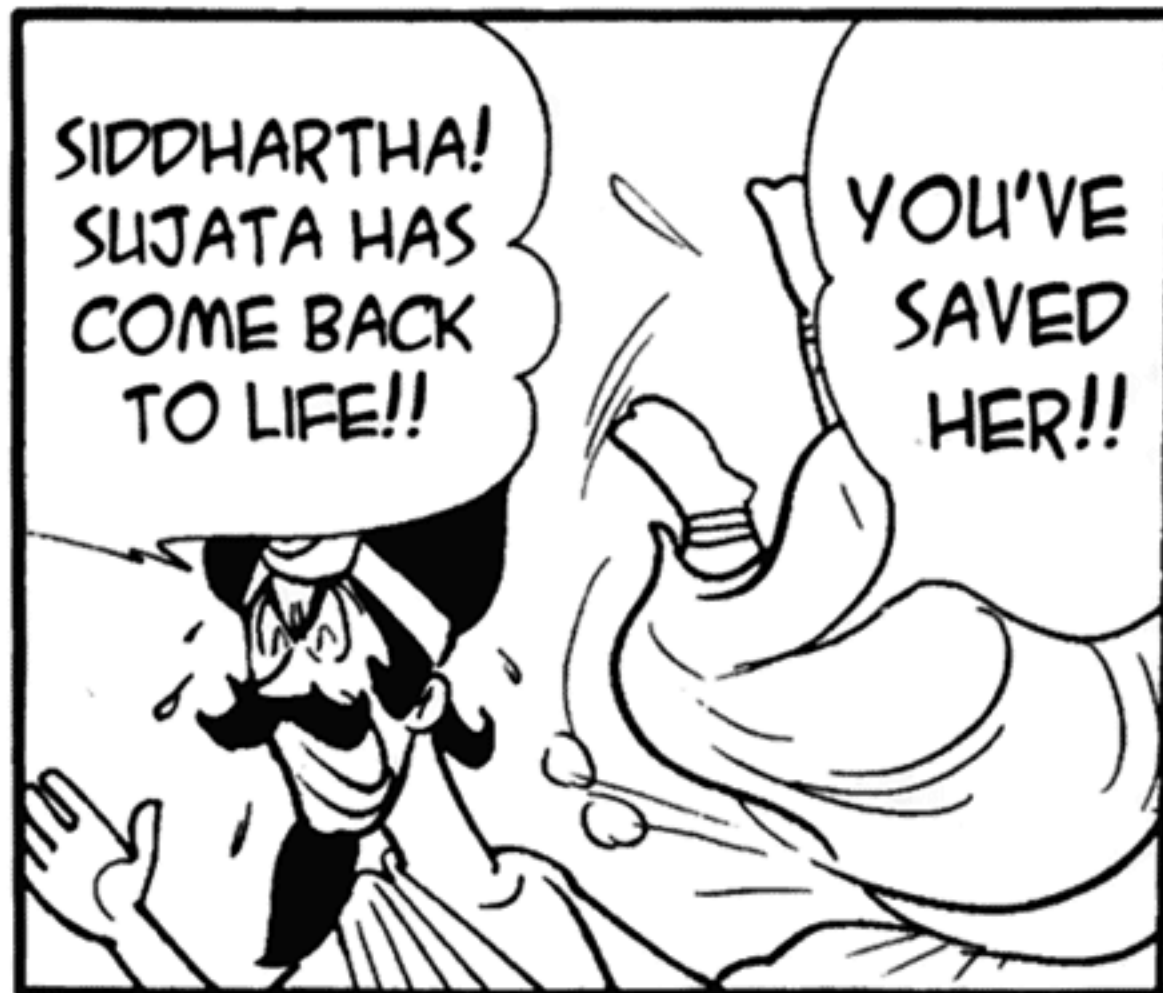
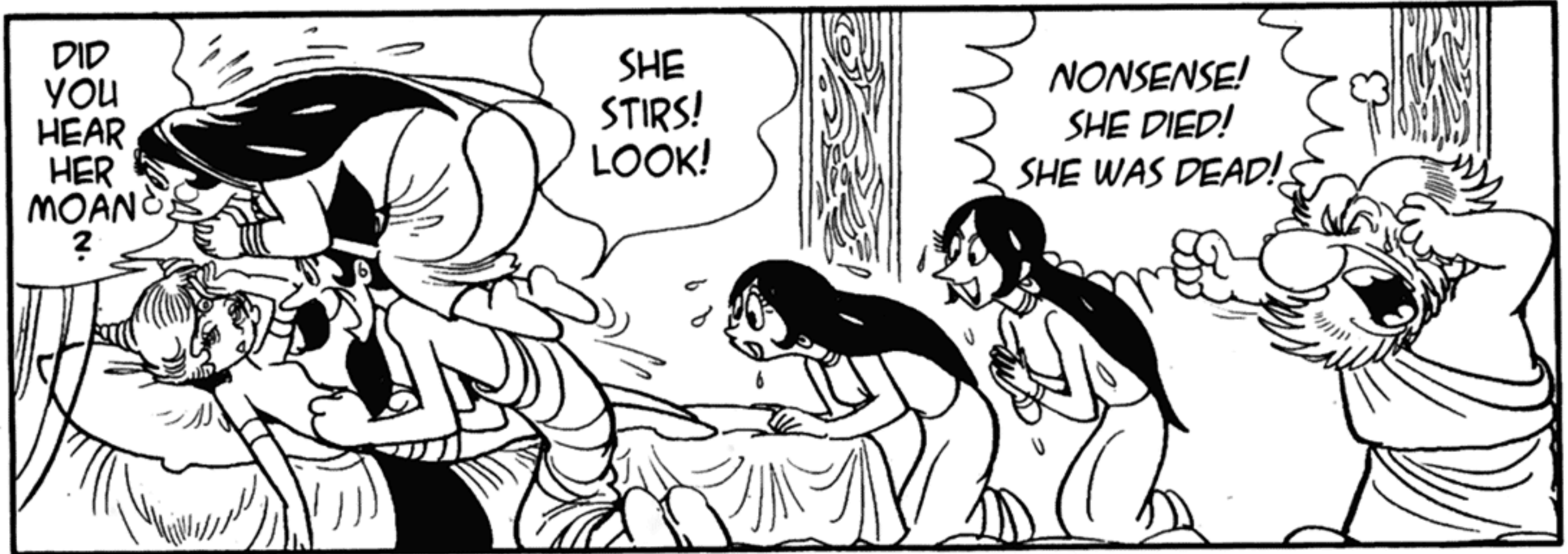
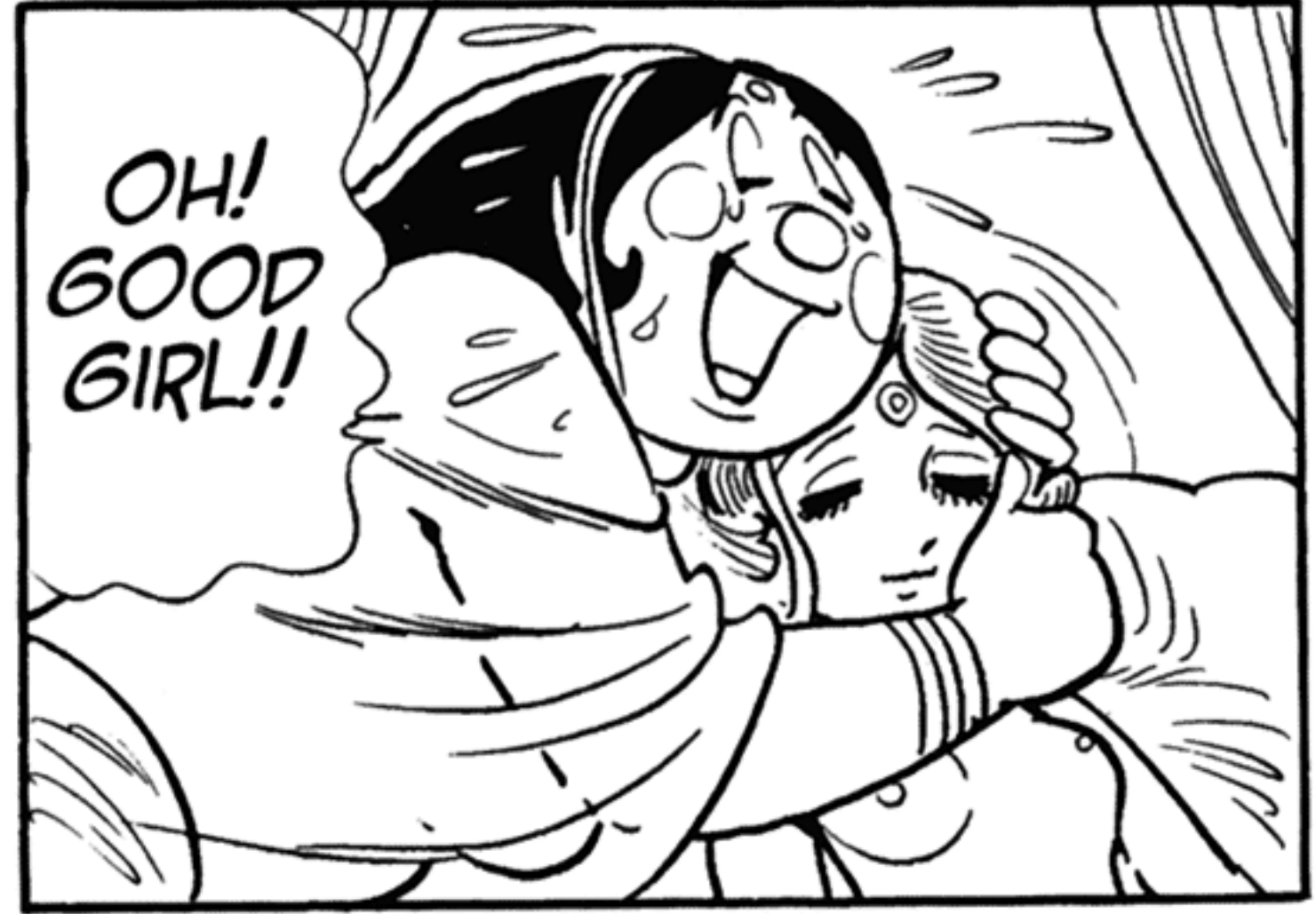
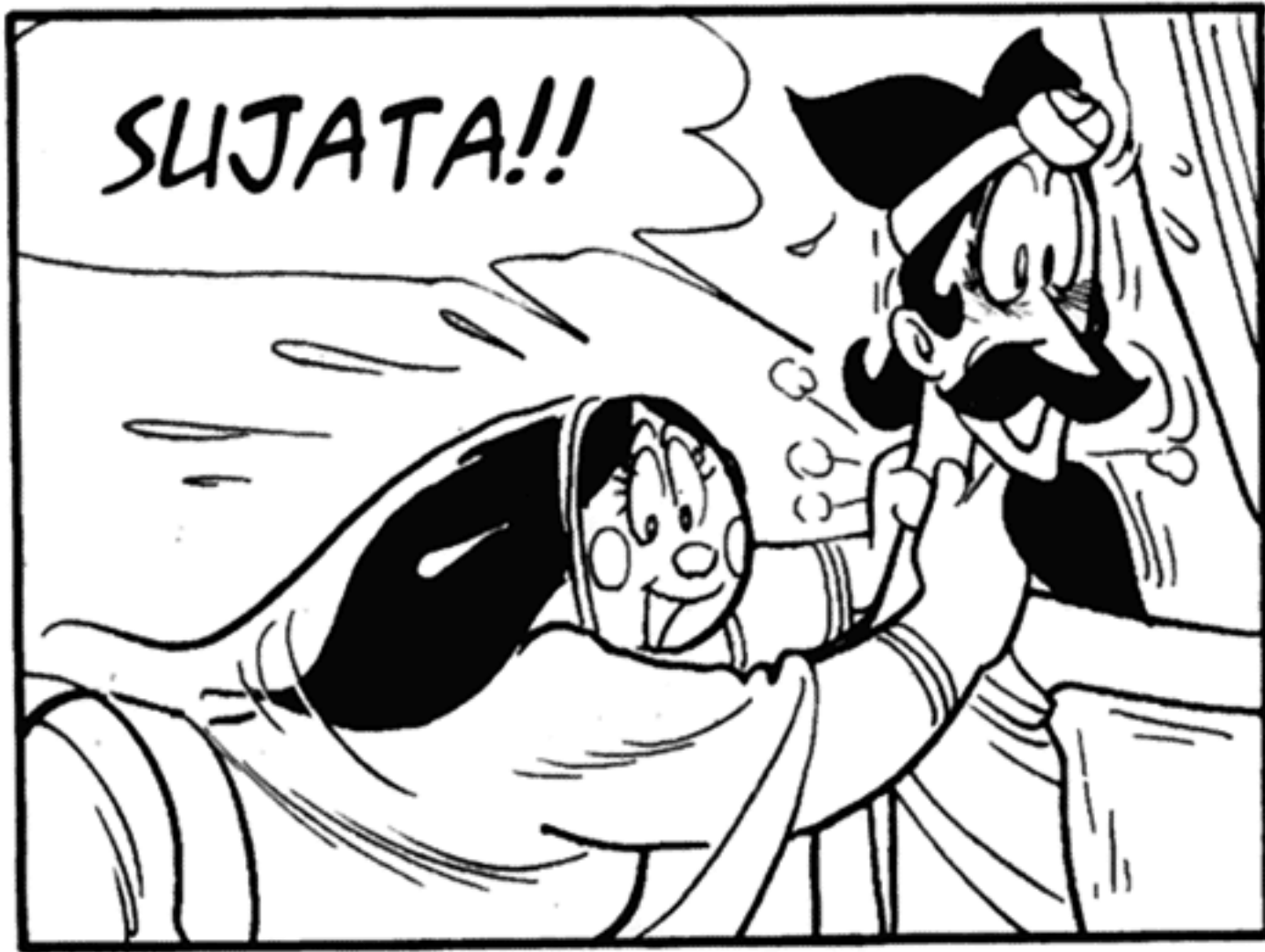
I-IT WAS TO BRING
THIS G-GIRL BACK
TO LIFE THAT I...

CAME TO
THIS
WORLD.



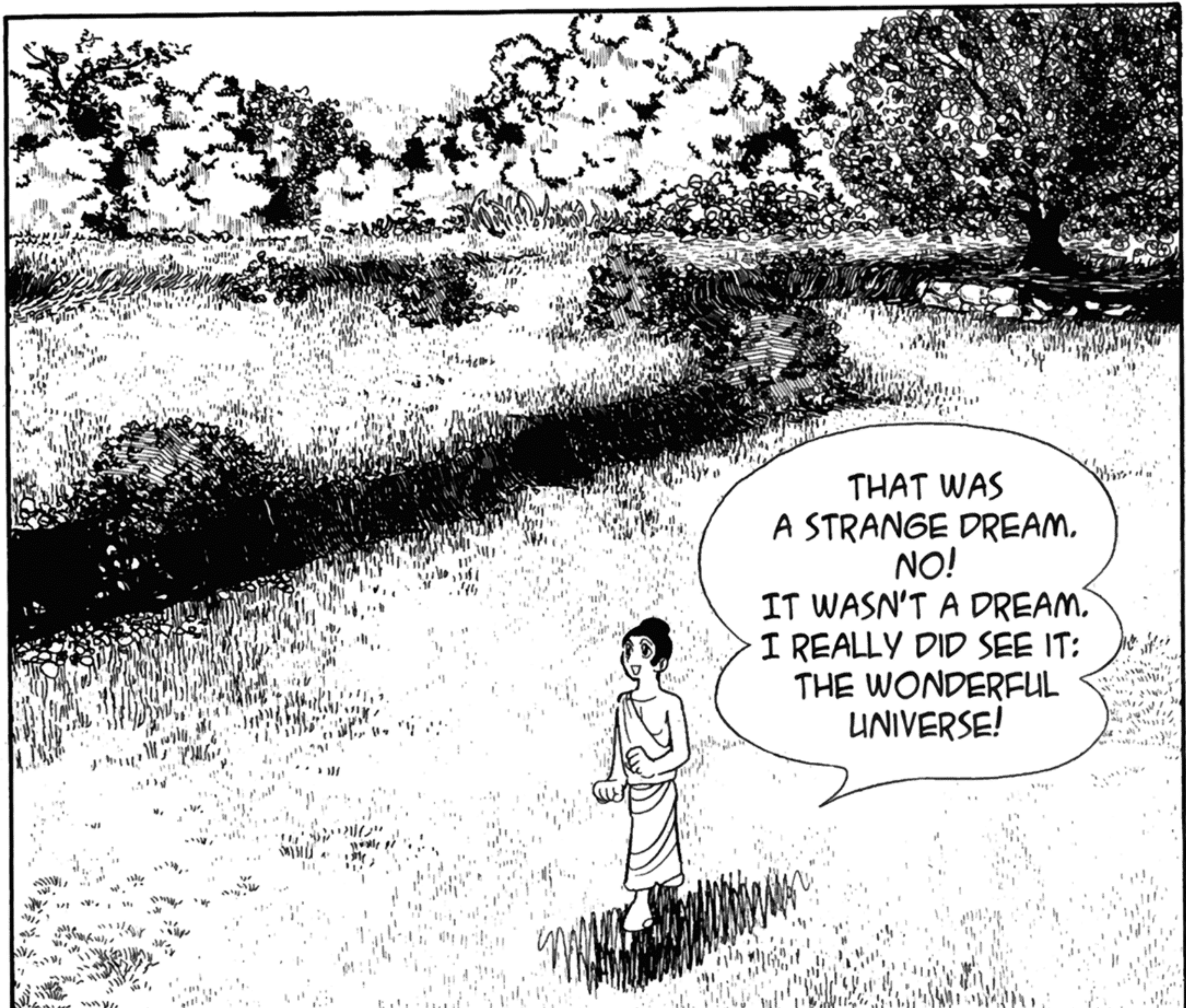


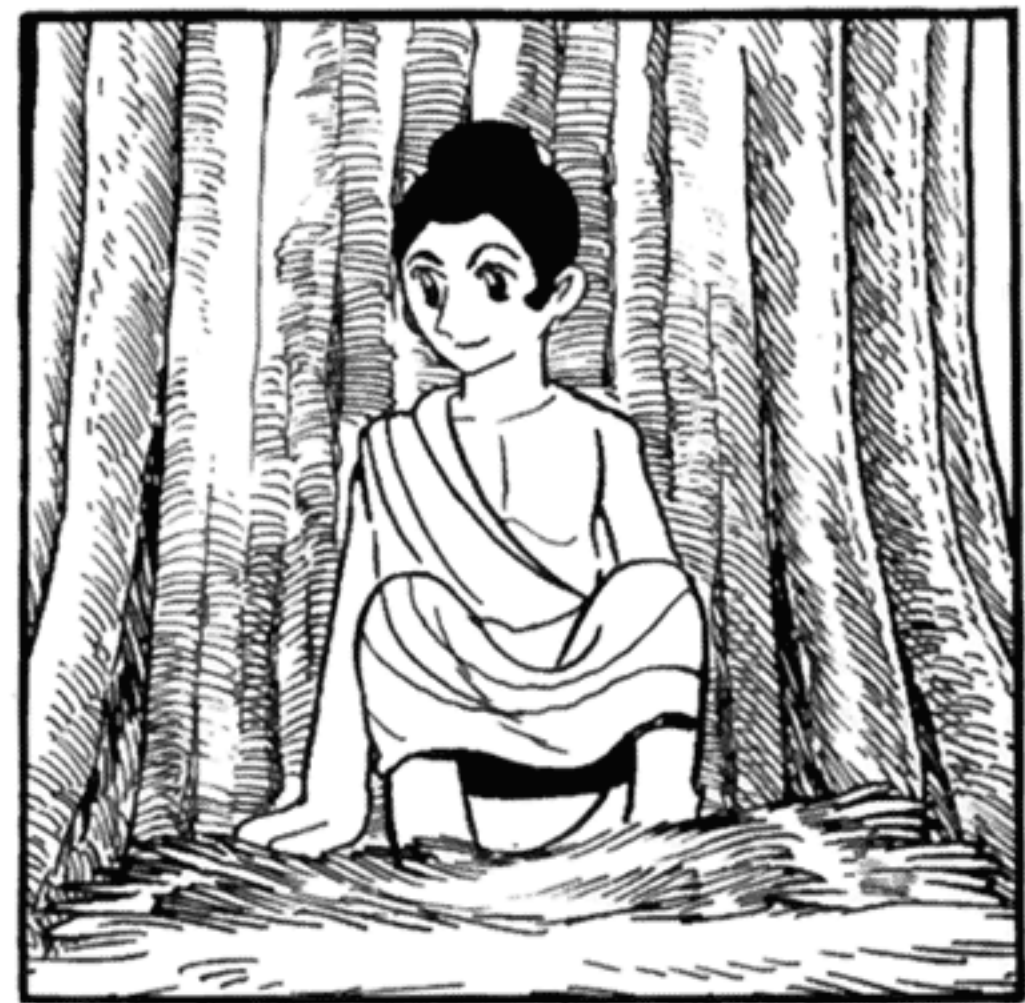
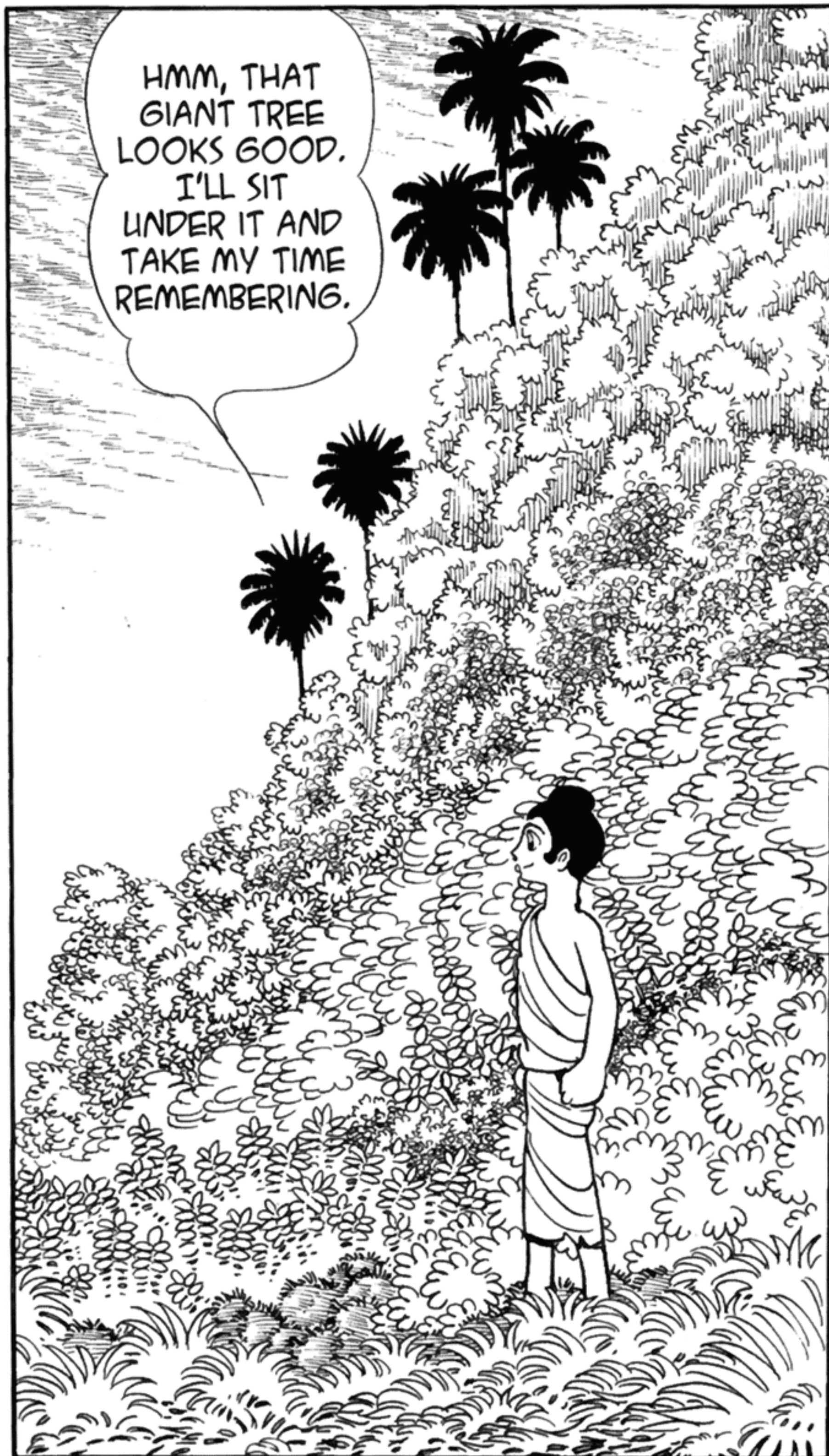


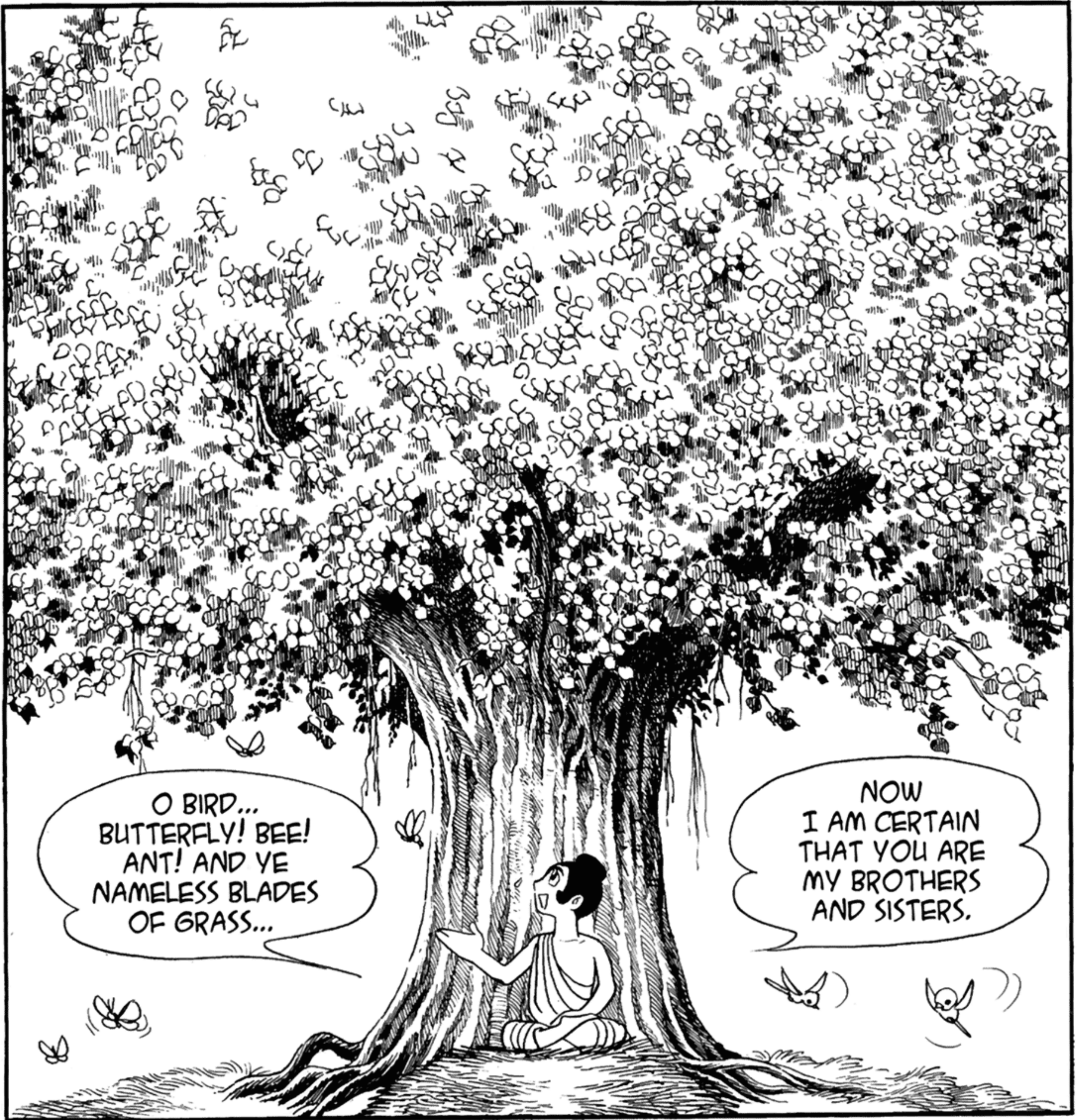


CHAPTER TEN

THE CRYSTAL PRINCE







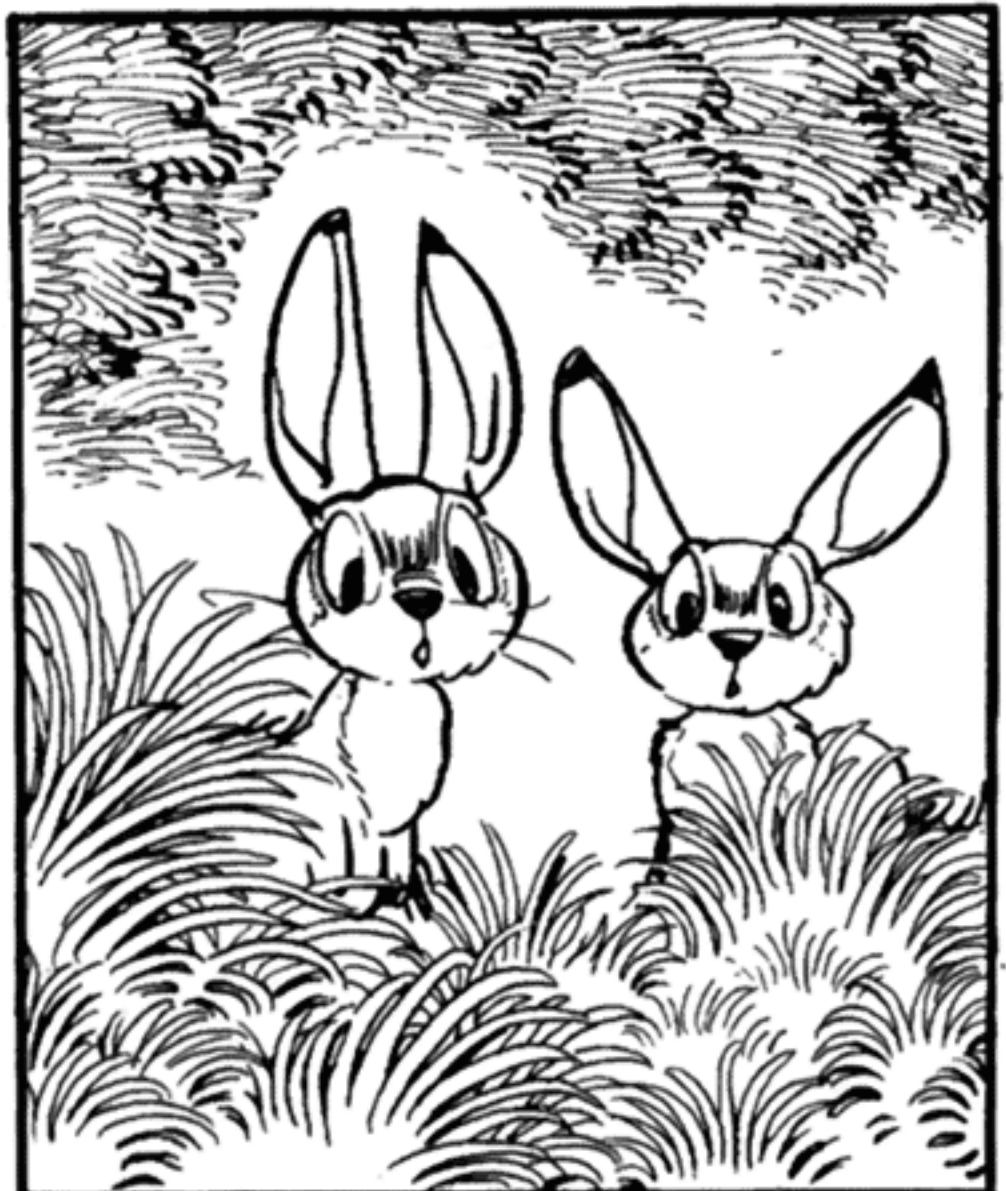
O BIRD...
BUTTERFLY! BEE!
ANT! AND YE
NAMELESS BLADES
OF GRASS...

NOW
I AM CERTAIN
THAT YOU ARE
MY BROTHERS
AND SISTERS.

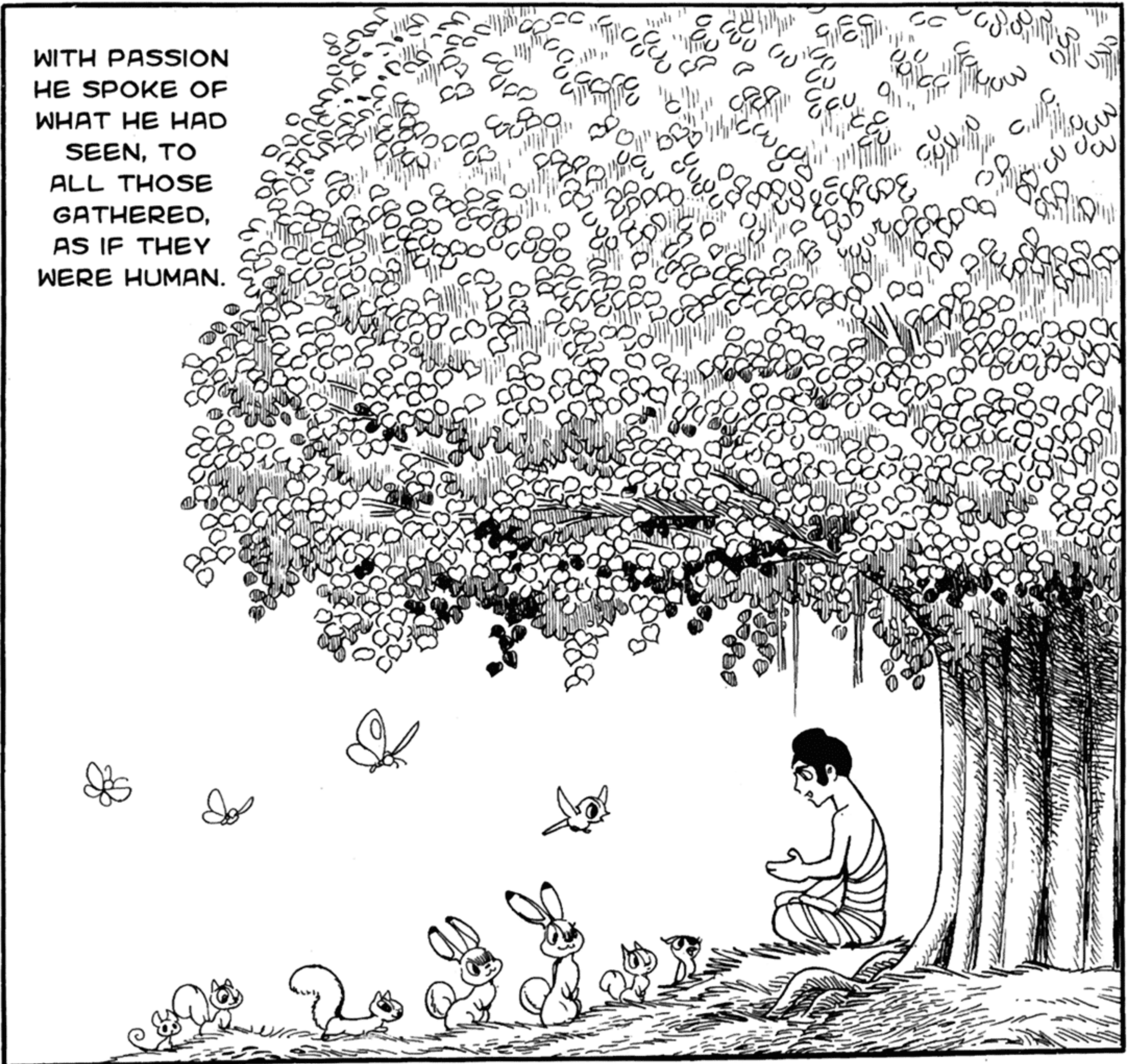


GATHER
AROUND,
ALL OF
YOU.

LISTEN WELL,
I'VE WONDERFUL
THINGS TO TELL
YOU.



WITH PASSION
HE SPOKE OF
WHAT HE HAD
SEEN, TO
ALL THOSE
GATHERED,
AS IF THEY
WERE HUMAN.

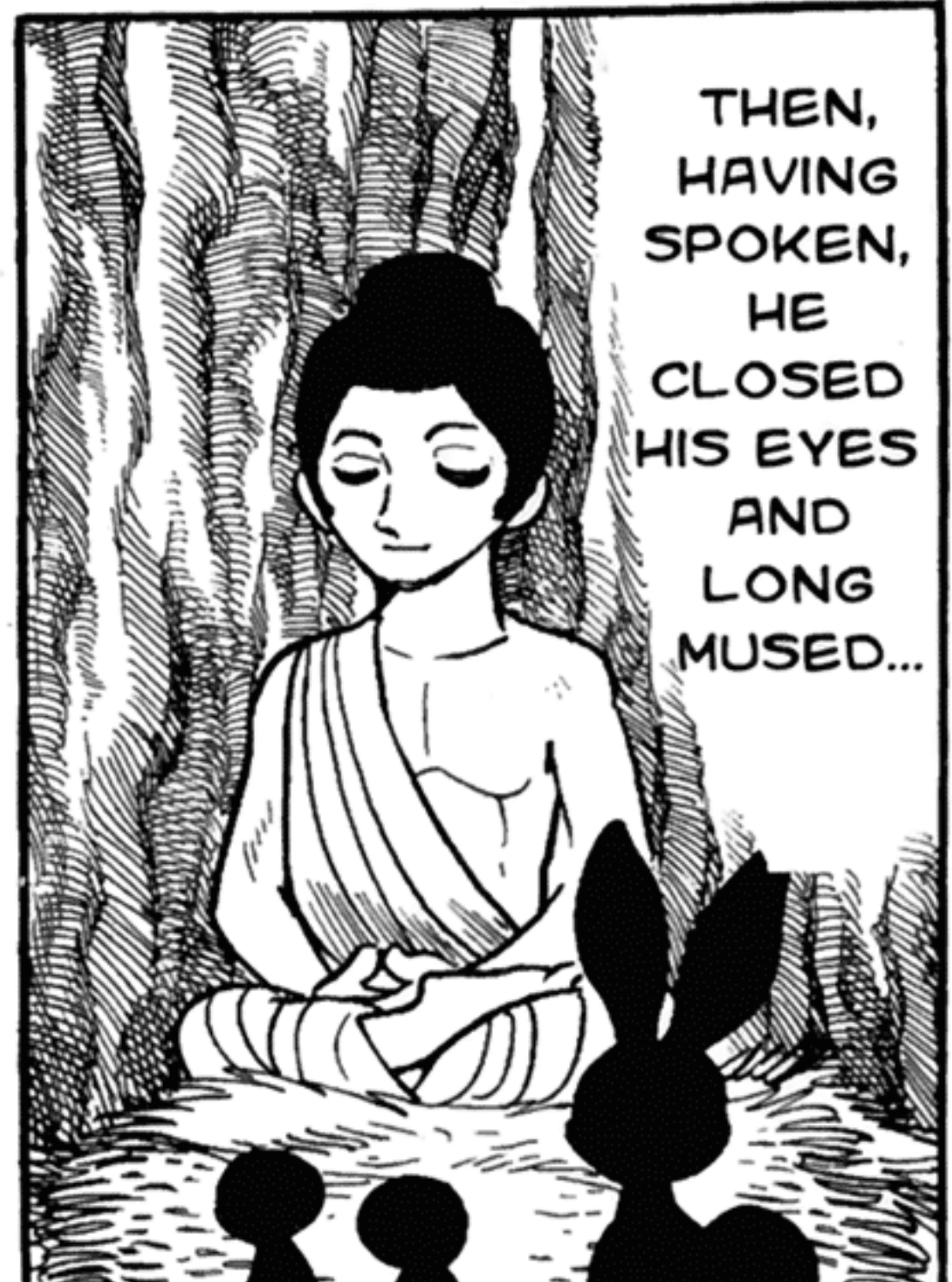


STRANGELY,
BEAST AND
BIRD AND BUG,
FALLEN SILENT,
LENT HIM
THEIR EARS.

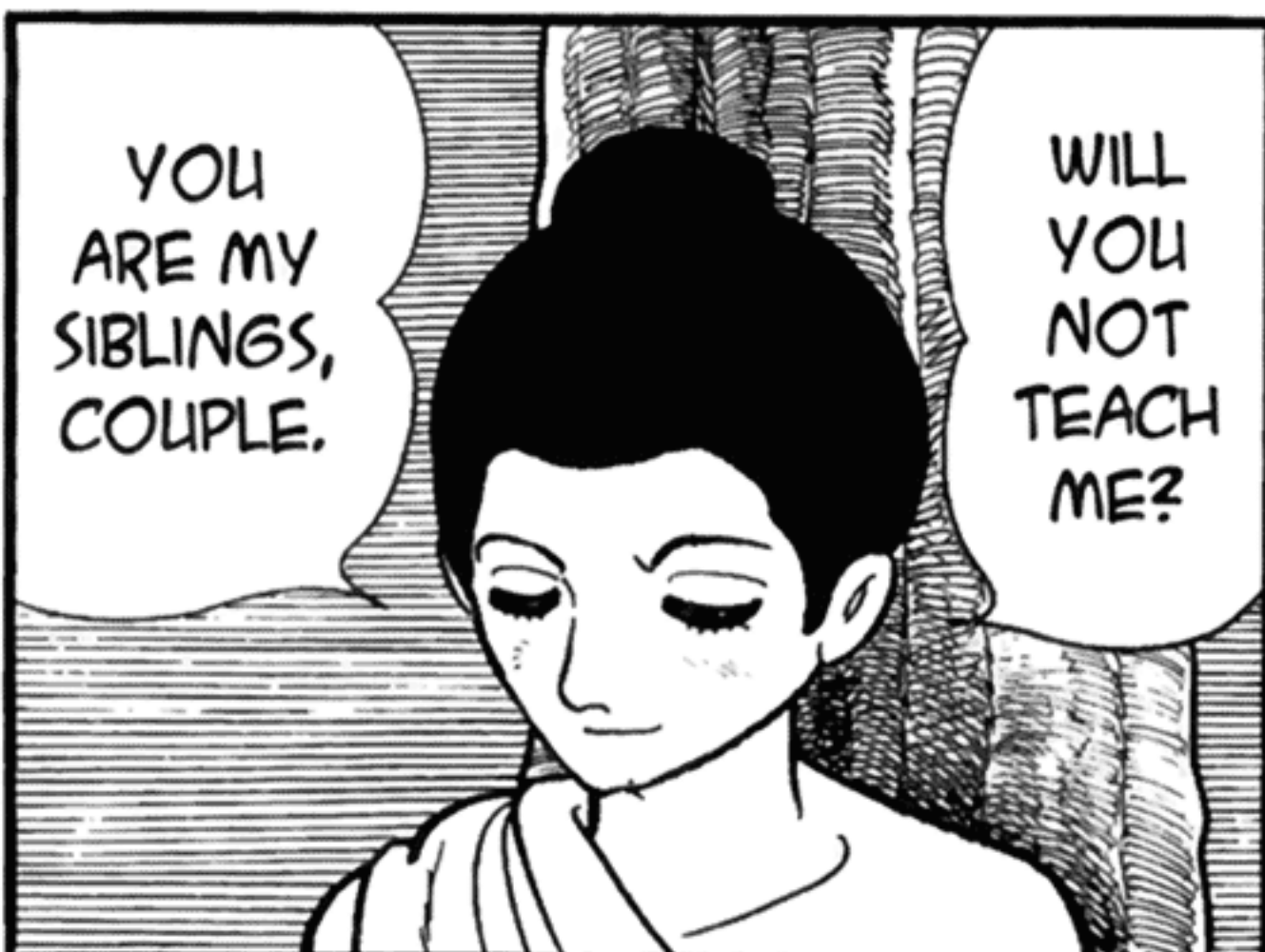
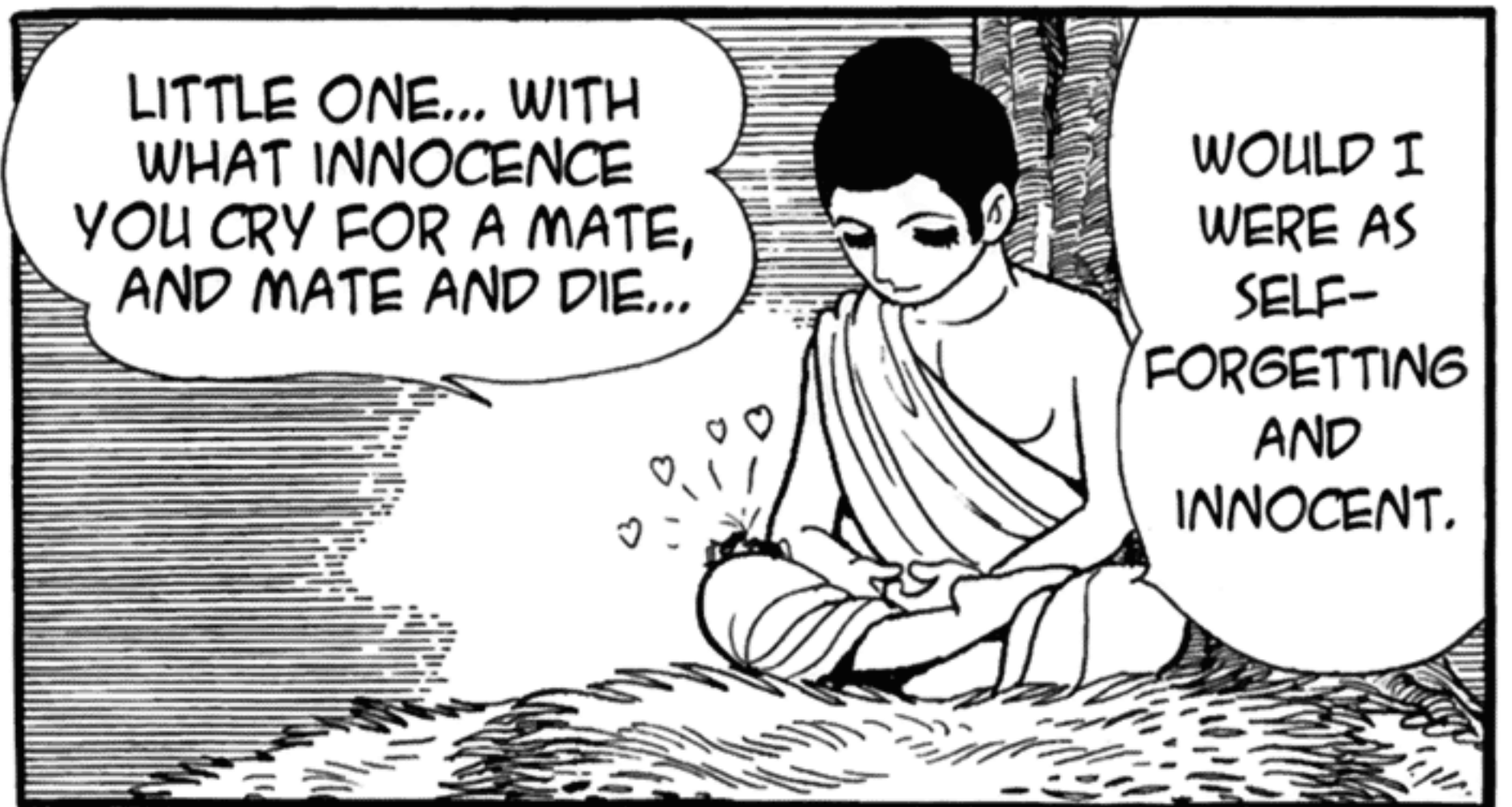
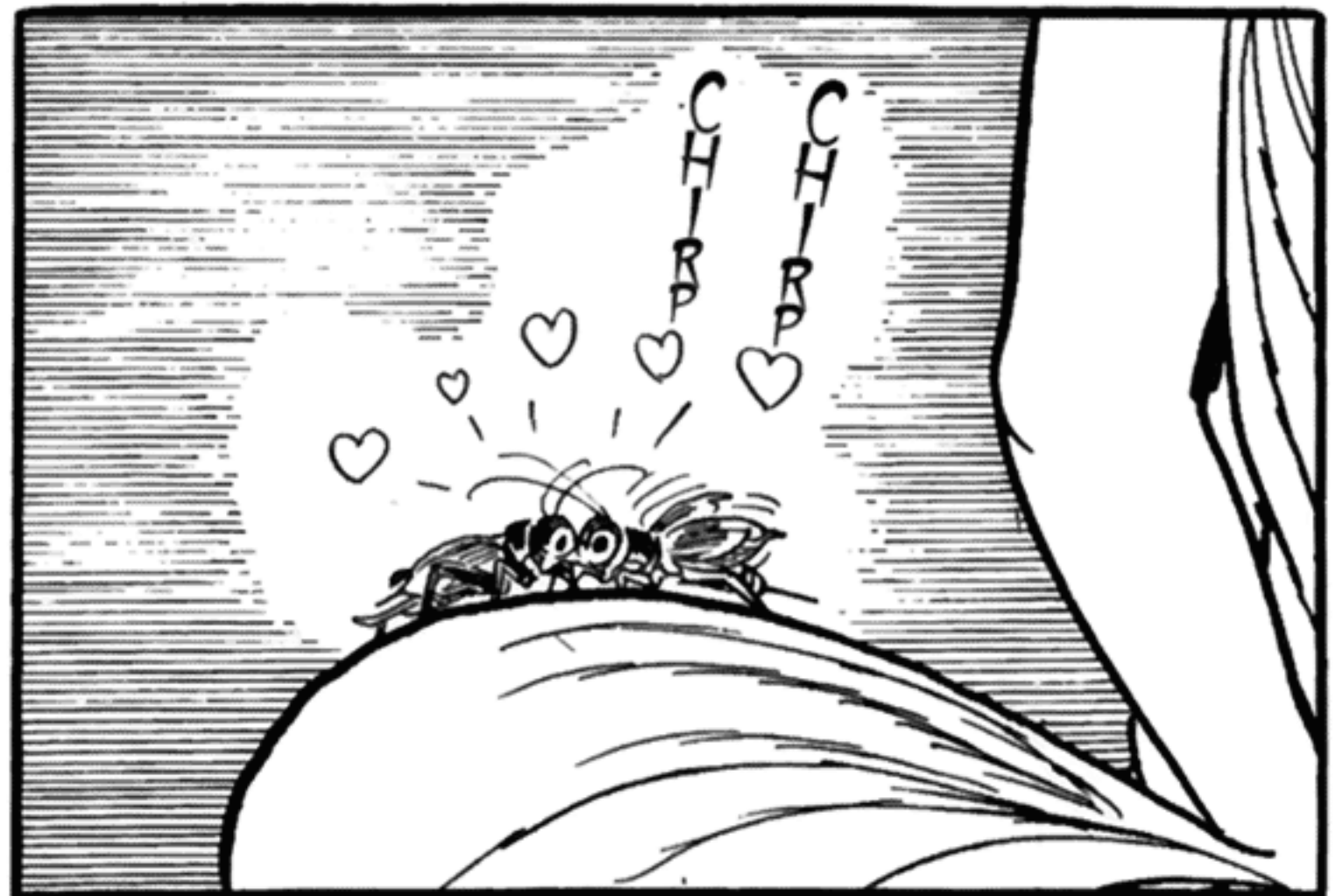
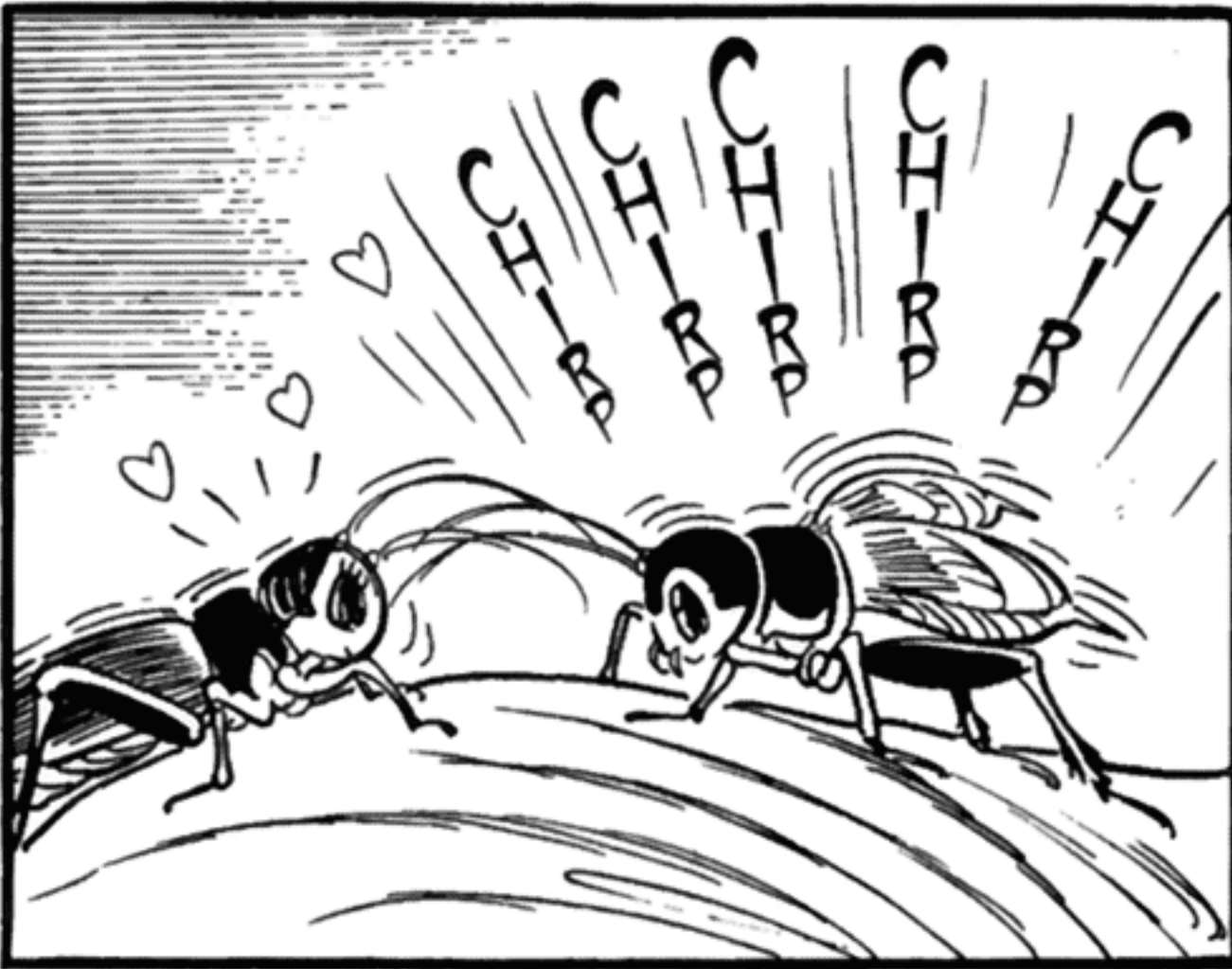
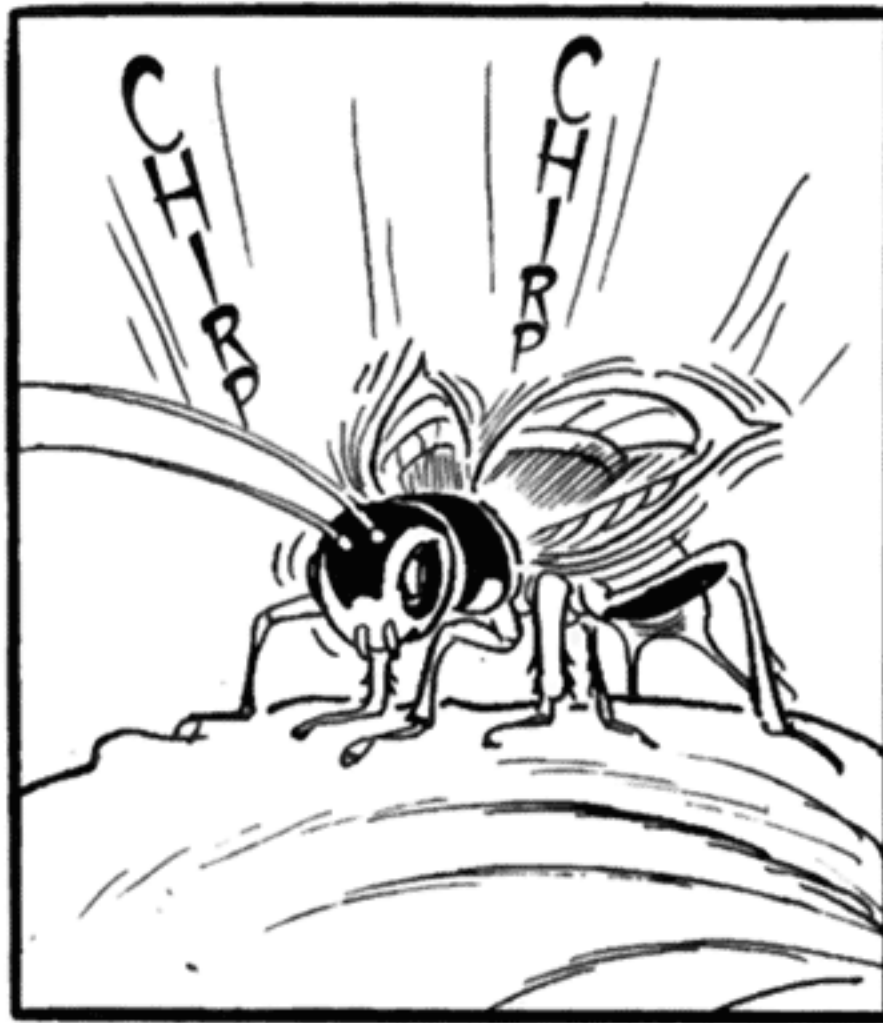
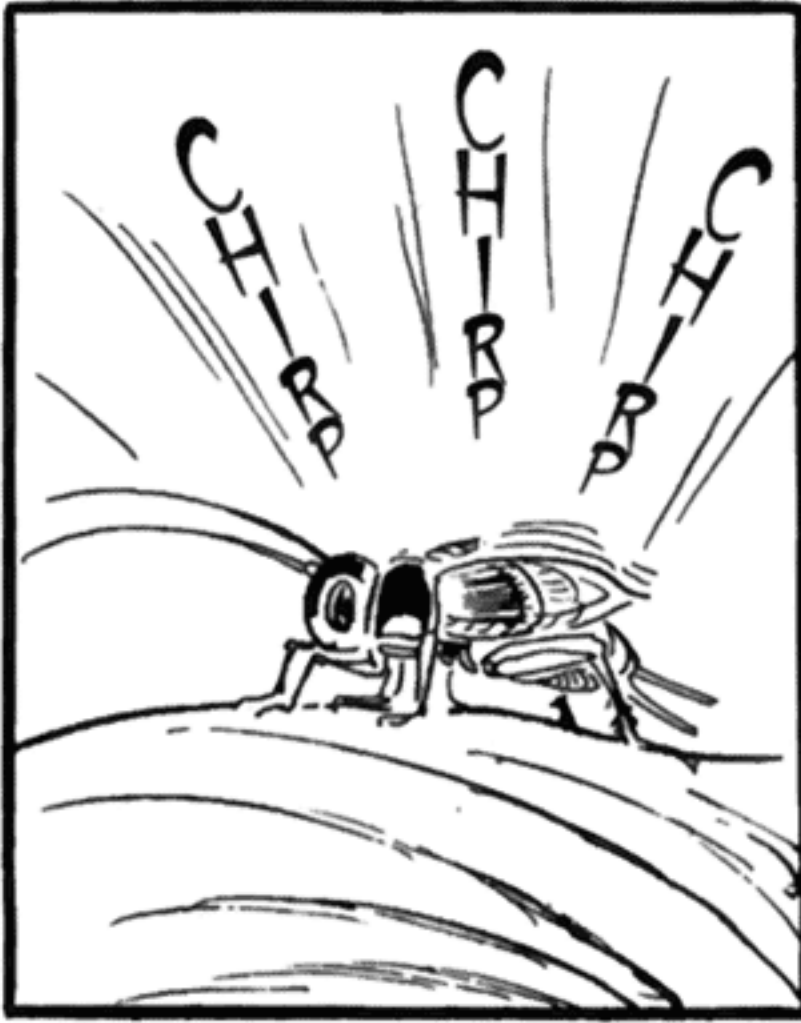


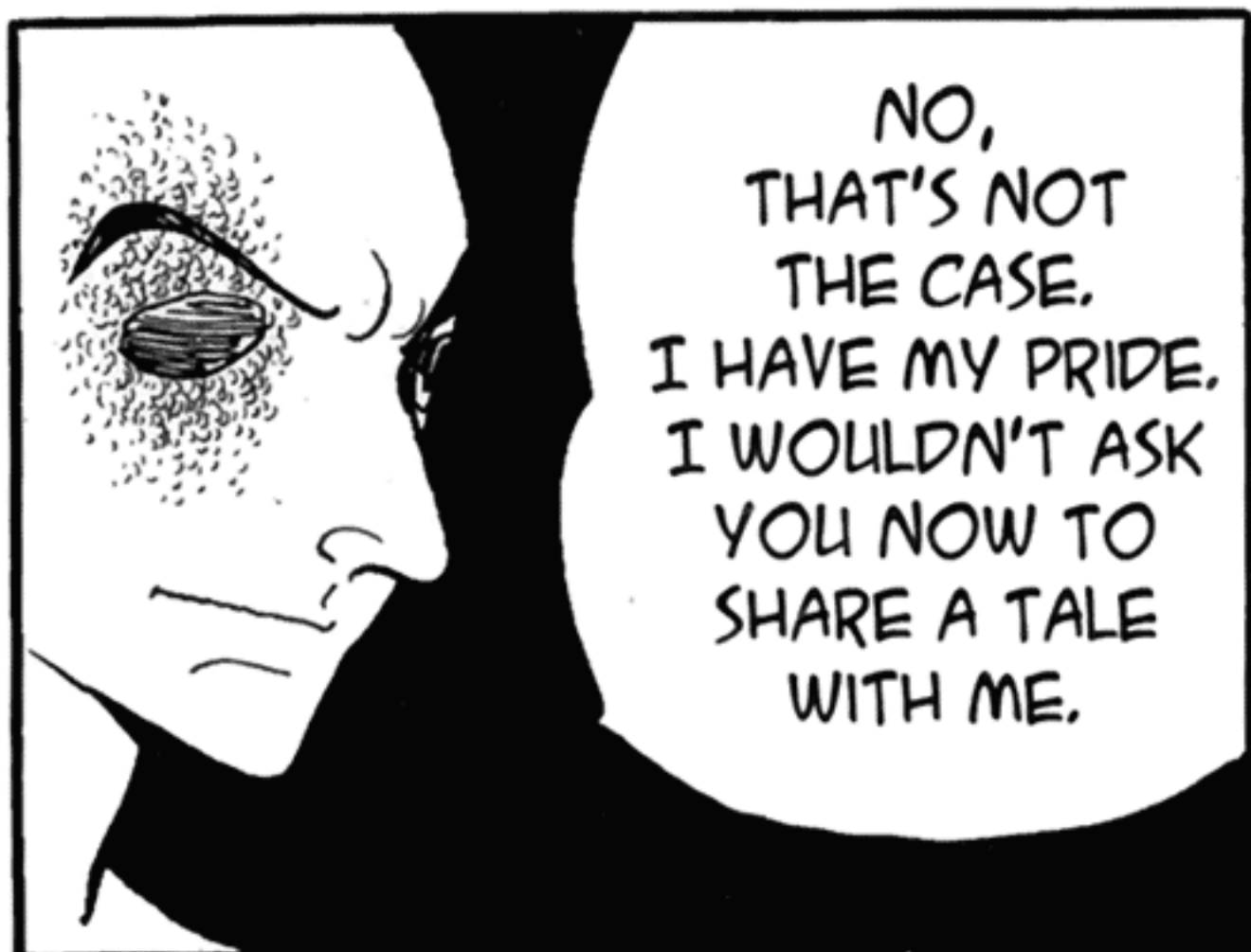
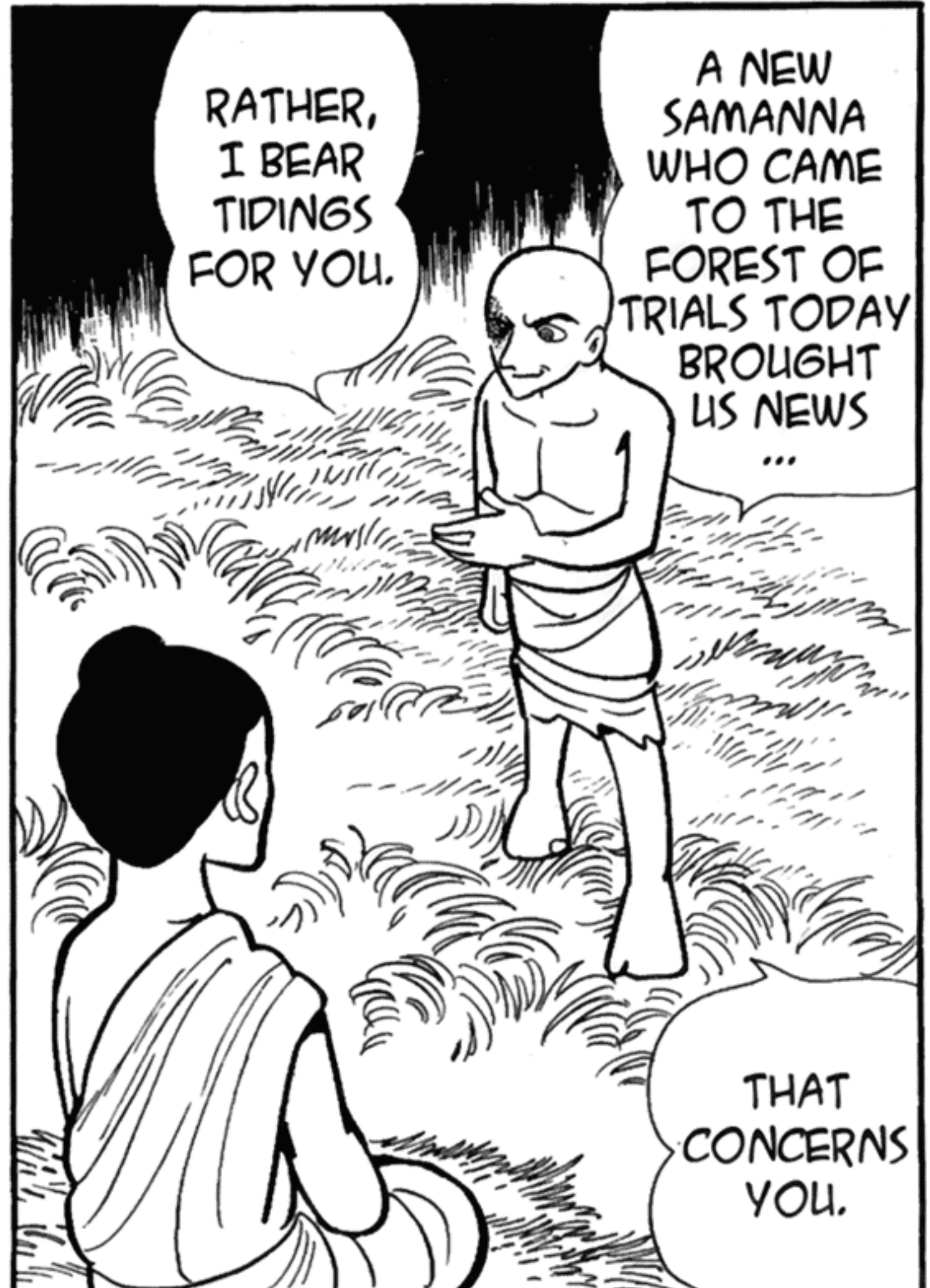
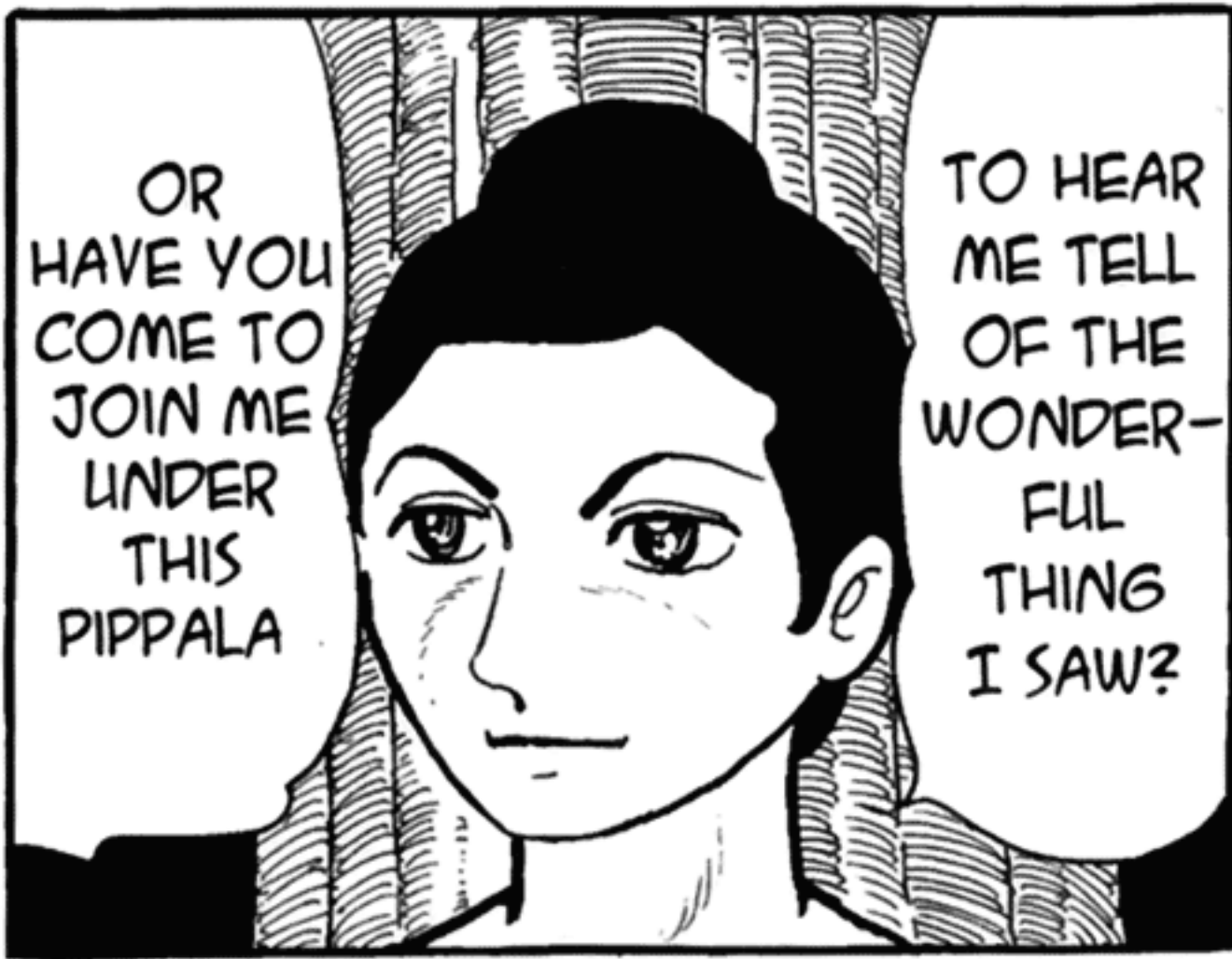
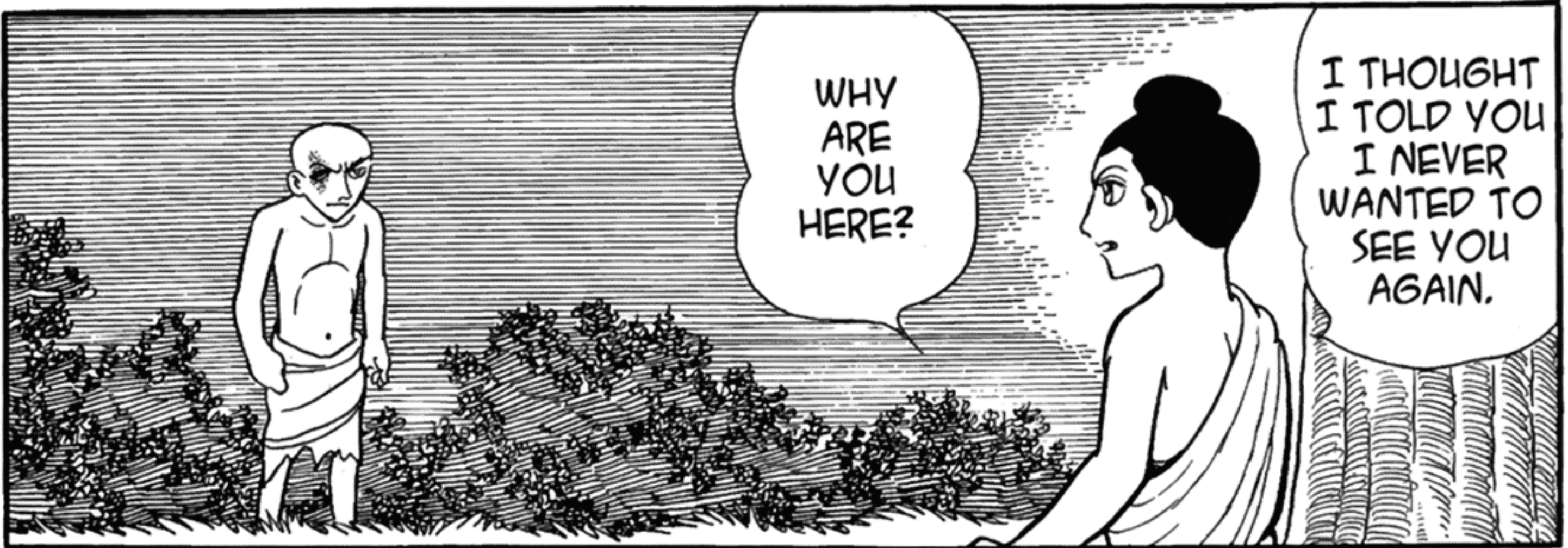
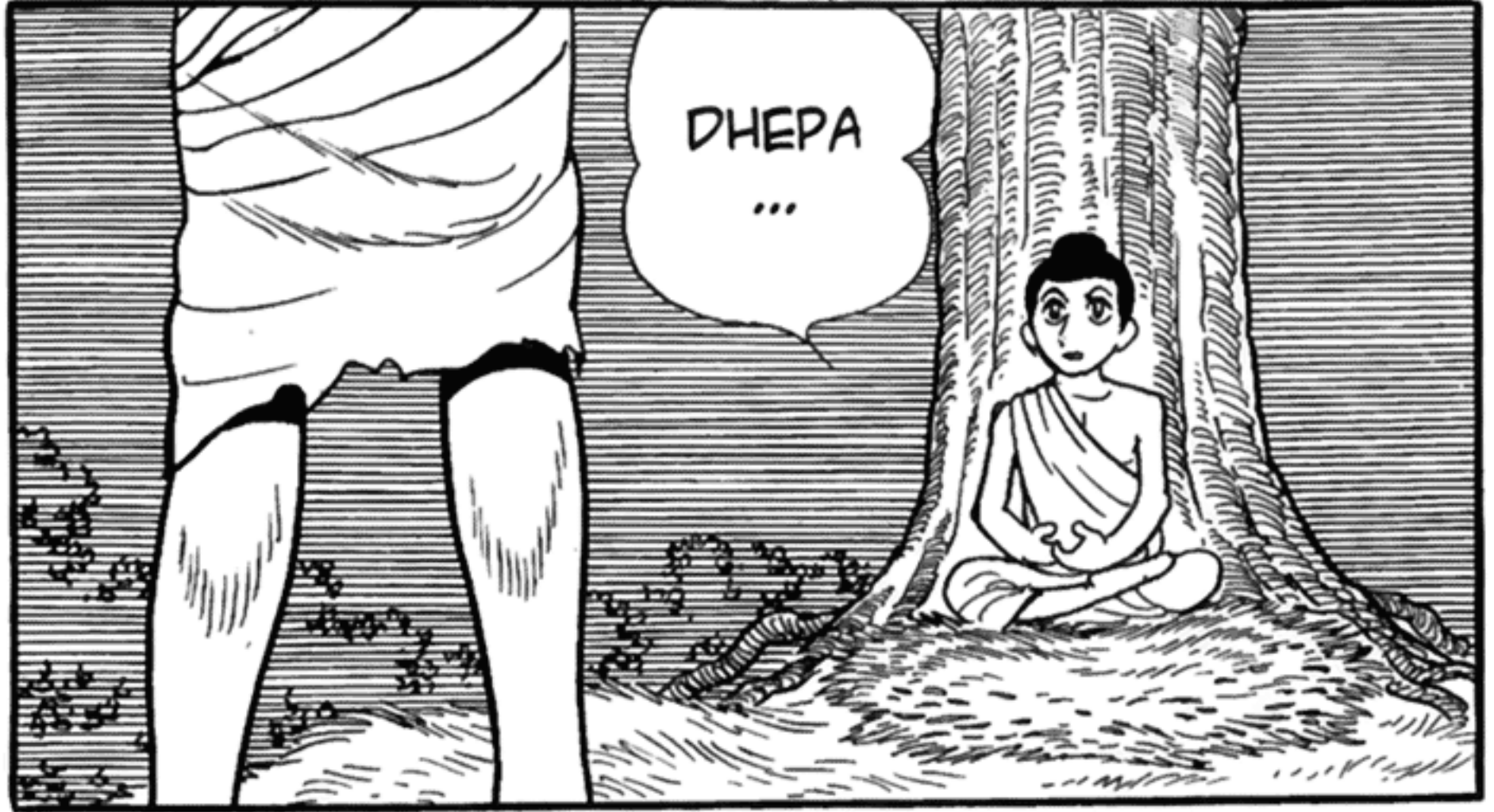
FLOWER,
GRASS,
EVEN
THE GREAT
TREE
SEEMED
TO LISTEN,
HUSHED.

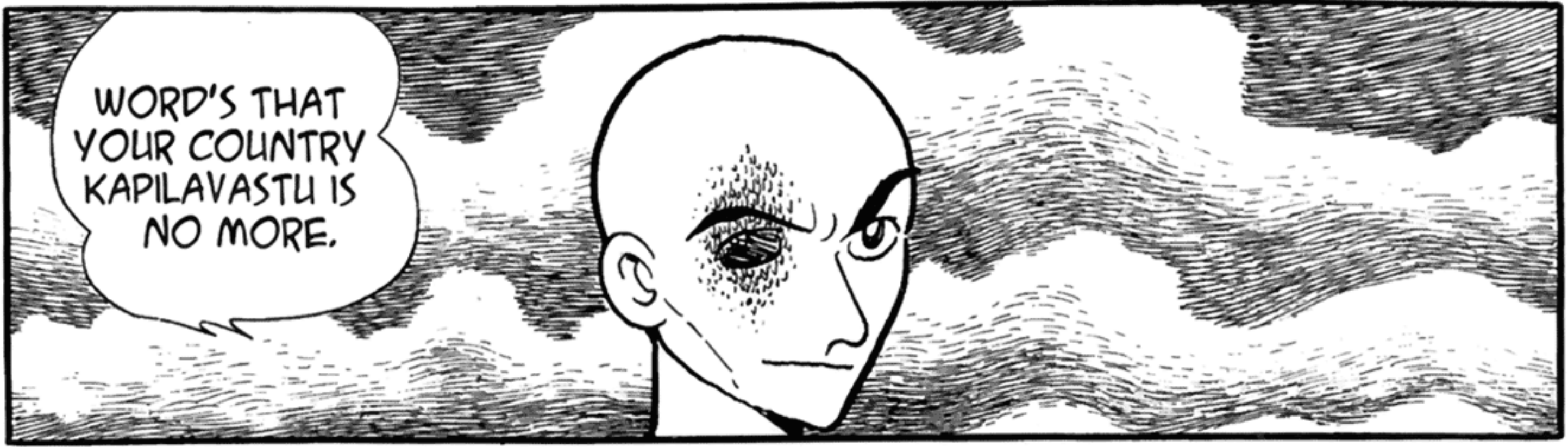
THEN,
HAVING
SPOKEN,
HE
CLOSED
HIS EYES
AND
LONG
MUSED...



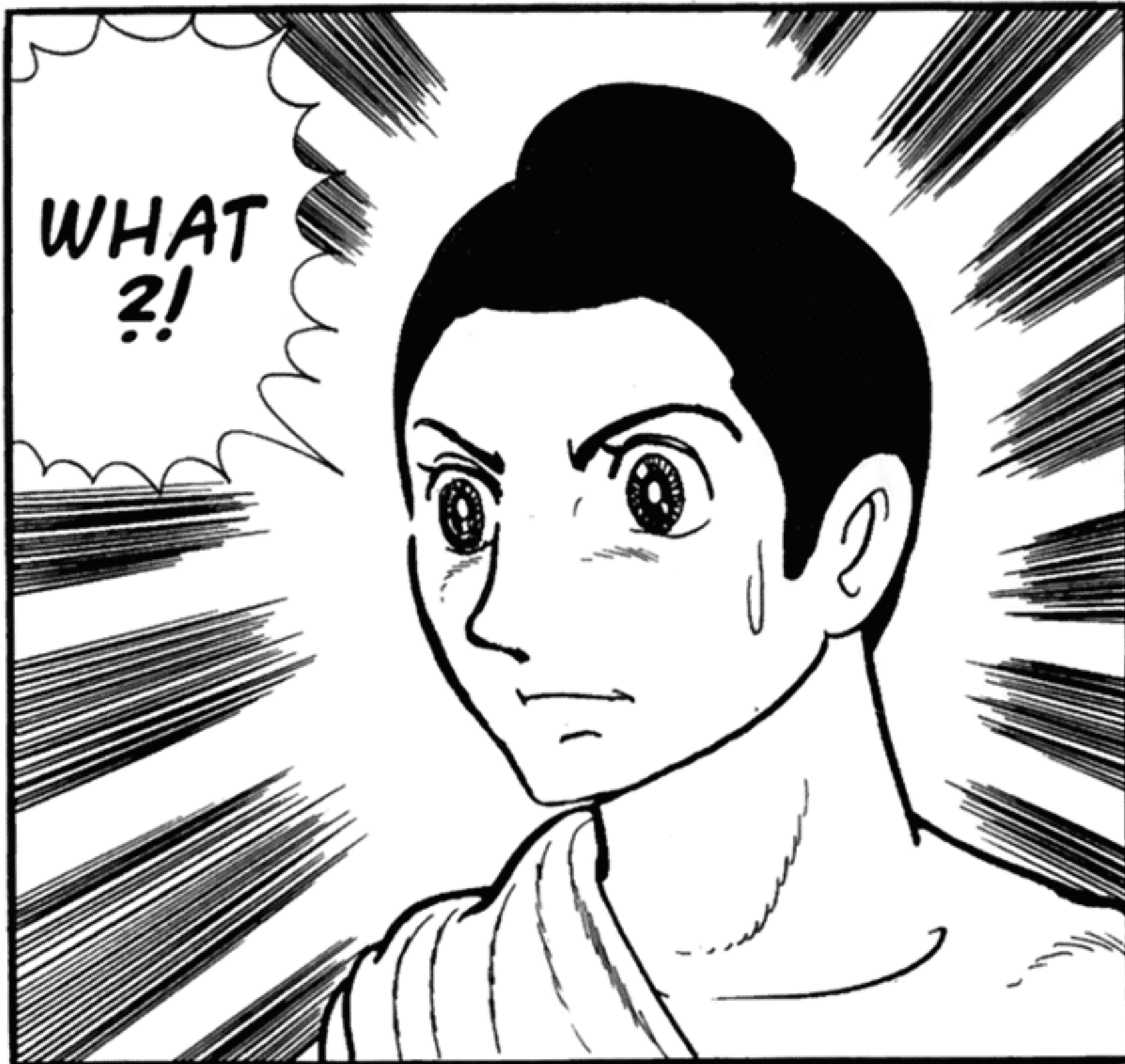




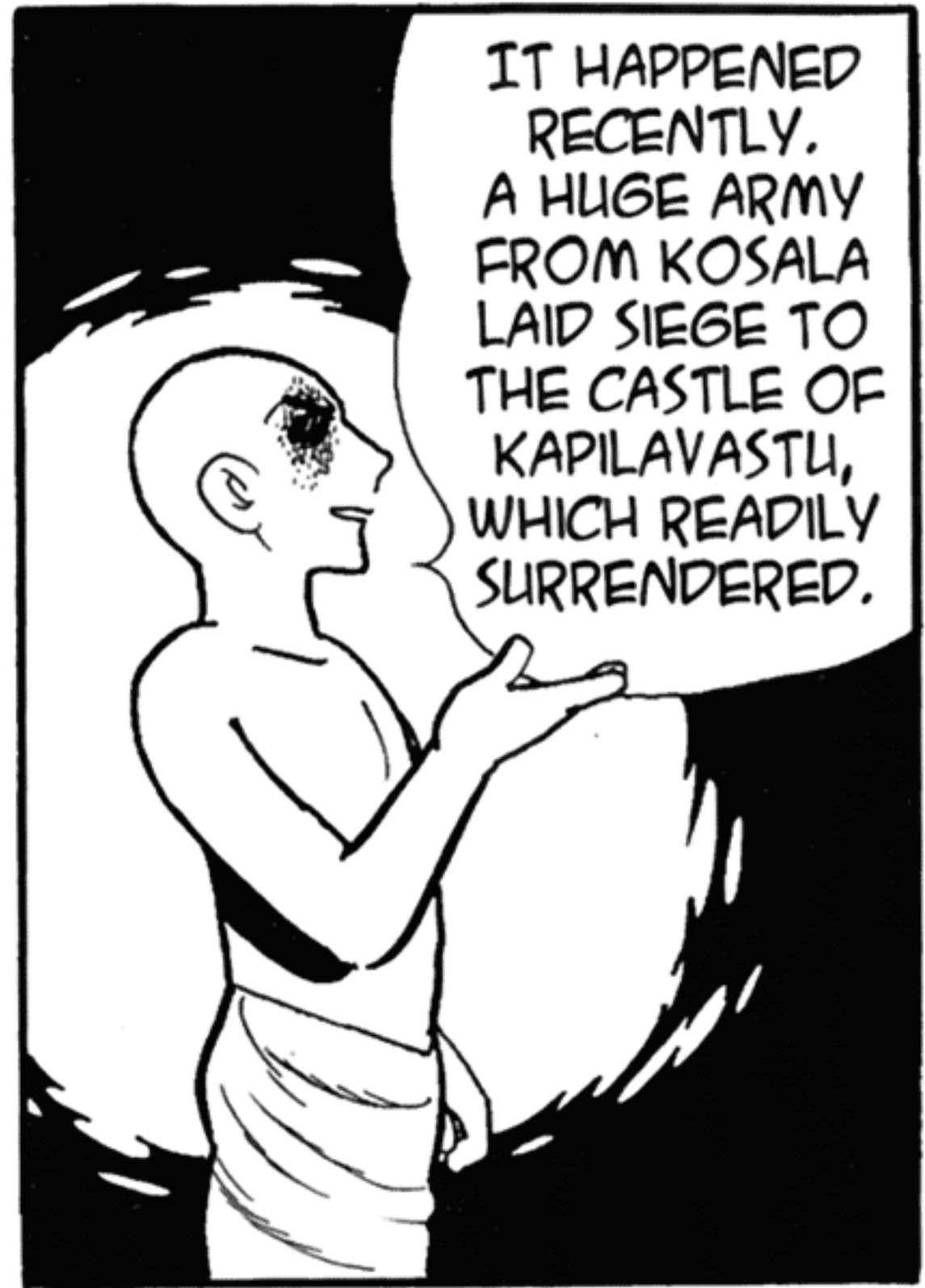




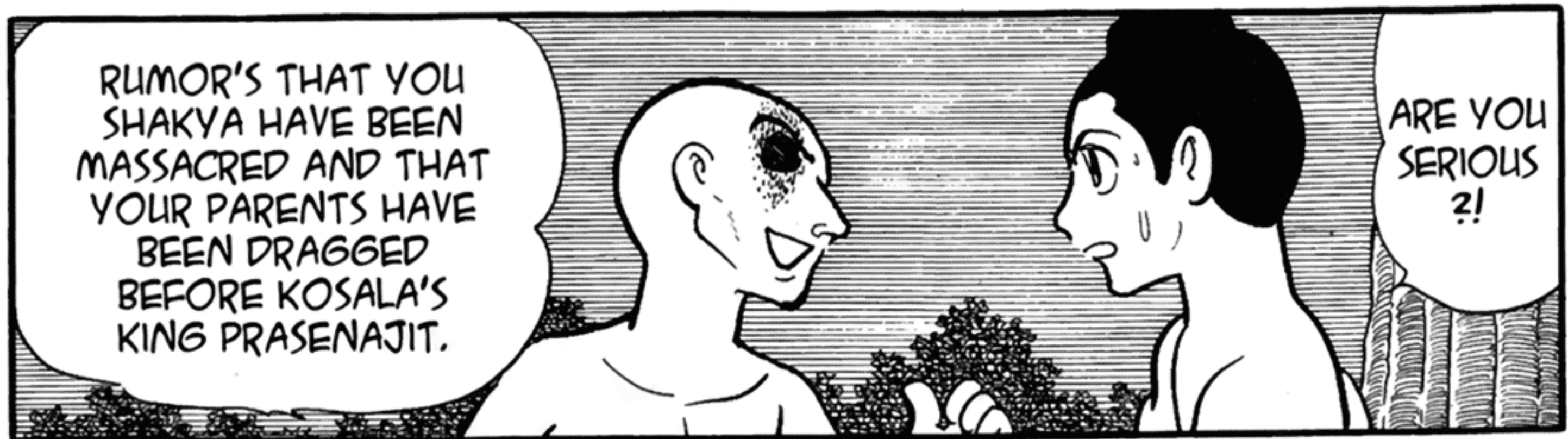
WORD'S THAT YOUR COUNTRY KAPILAVASTU IS NO MORE.



WHAT ?!

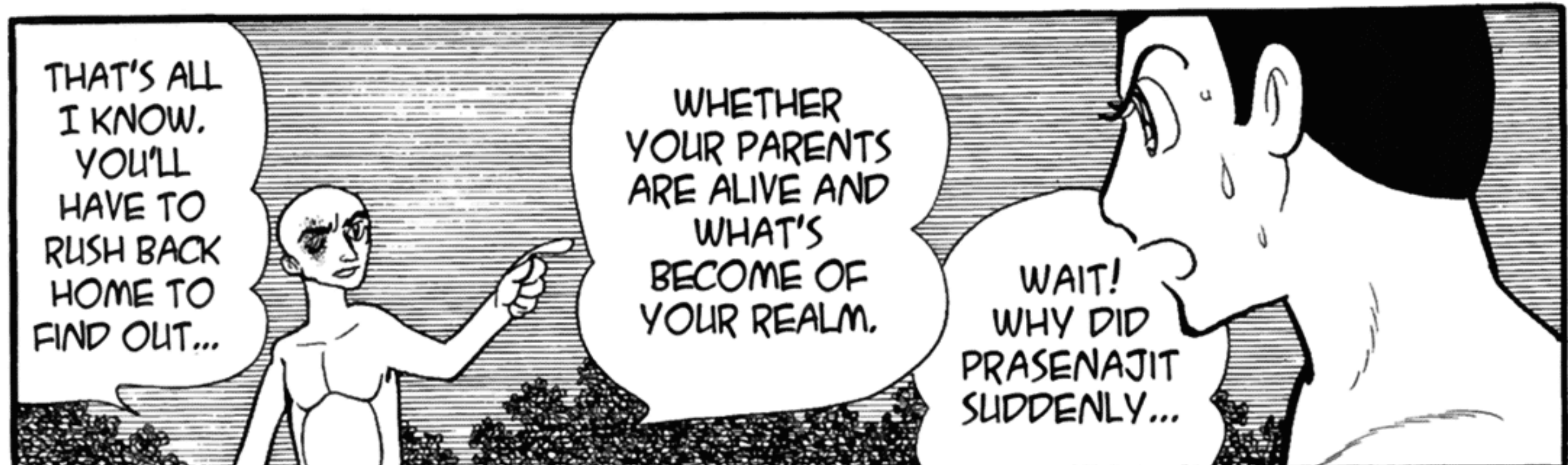


IT HAPPENED RECENTLY. A HUGE ARMY FROM KOSALA LAID SIEGE TO THE CASTLE OF KAPILAVASTU, WHICH READILY SURRENDERED.



RUMOR'S THAT YOU SHAKYA HAVE BEEN MASSACRED AND THAT YOUR PARENTS HAVE BEEN DRAGGED BEFORE KOSALA'S KING PRASENAJIT.

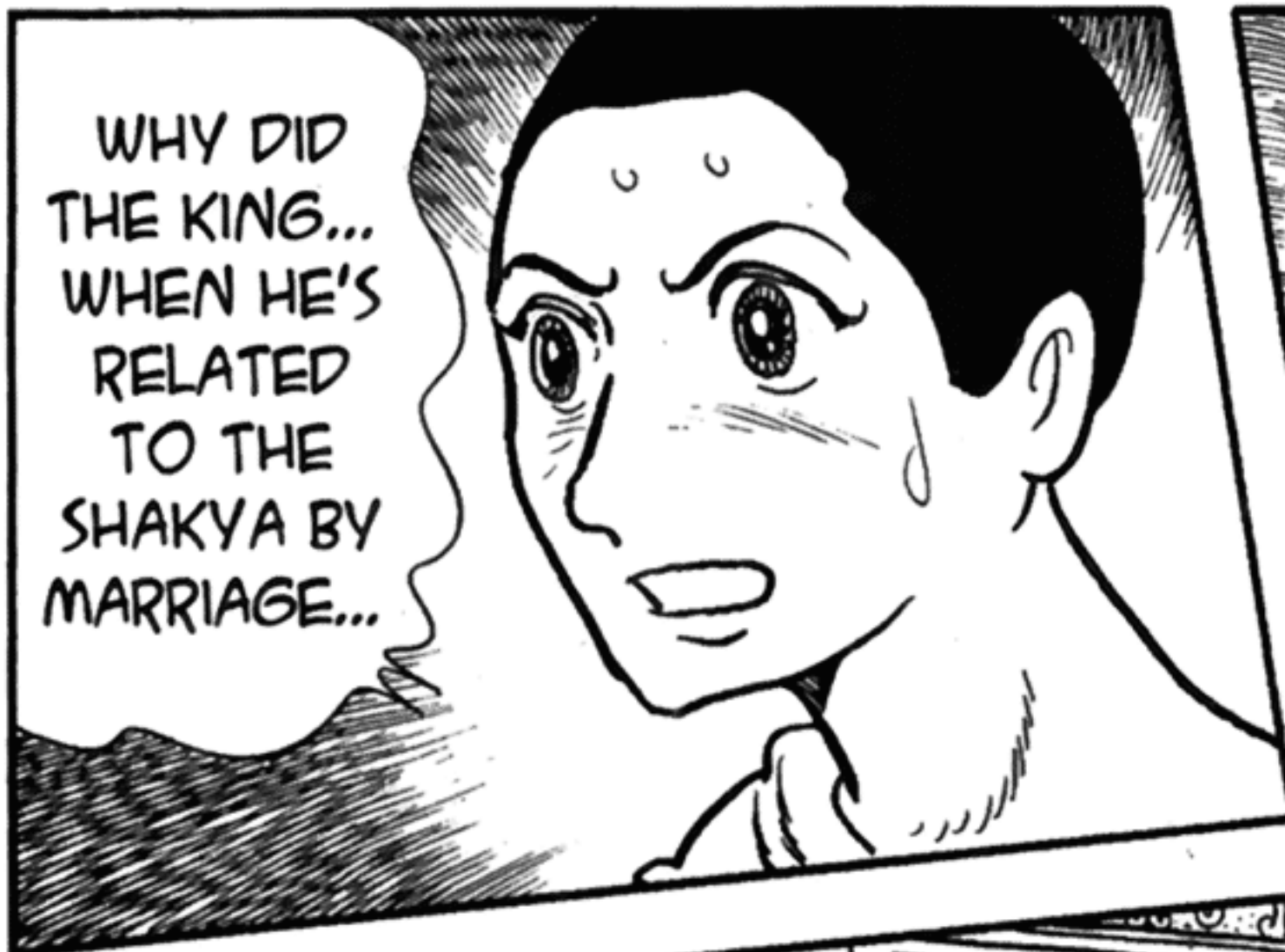
ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

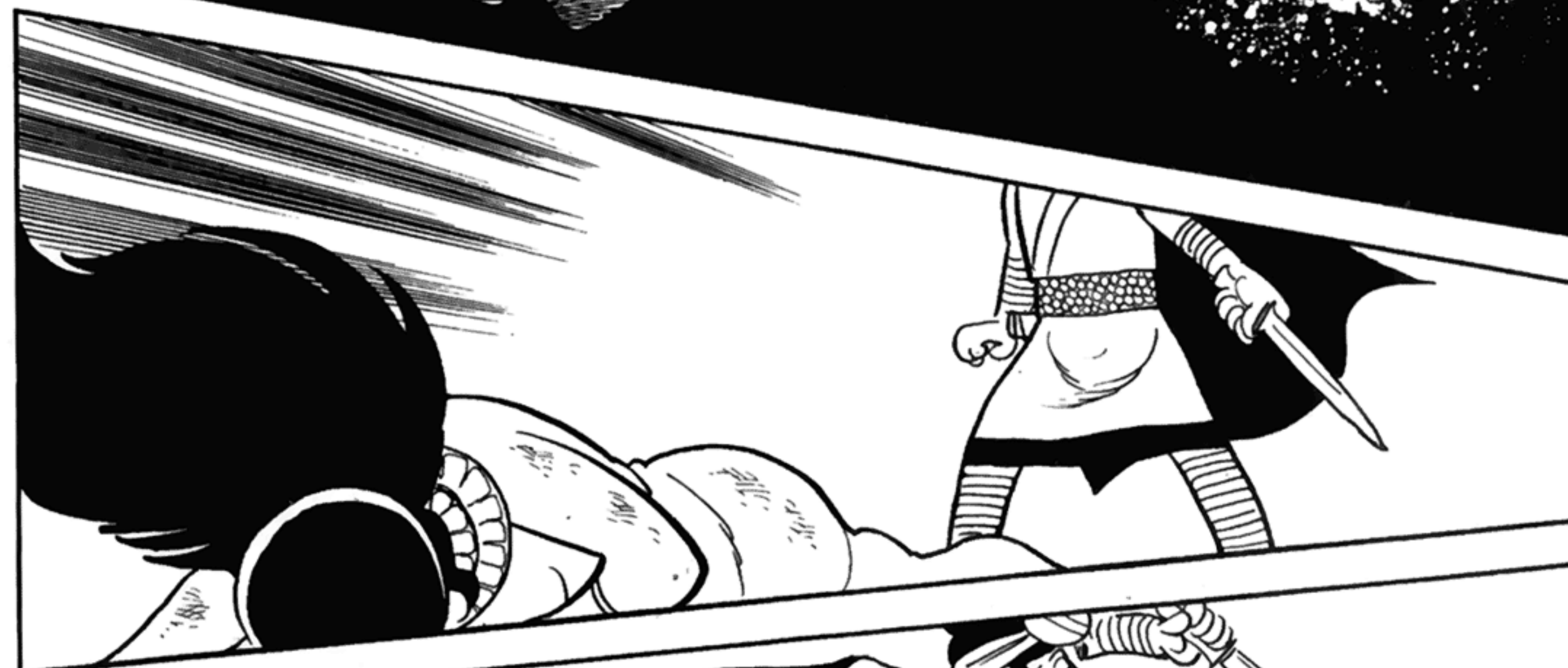
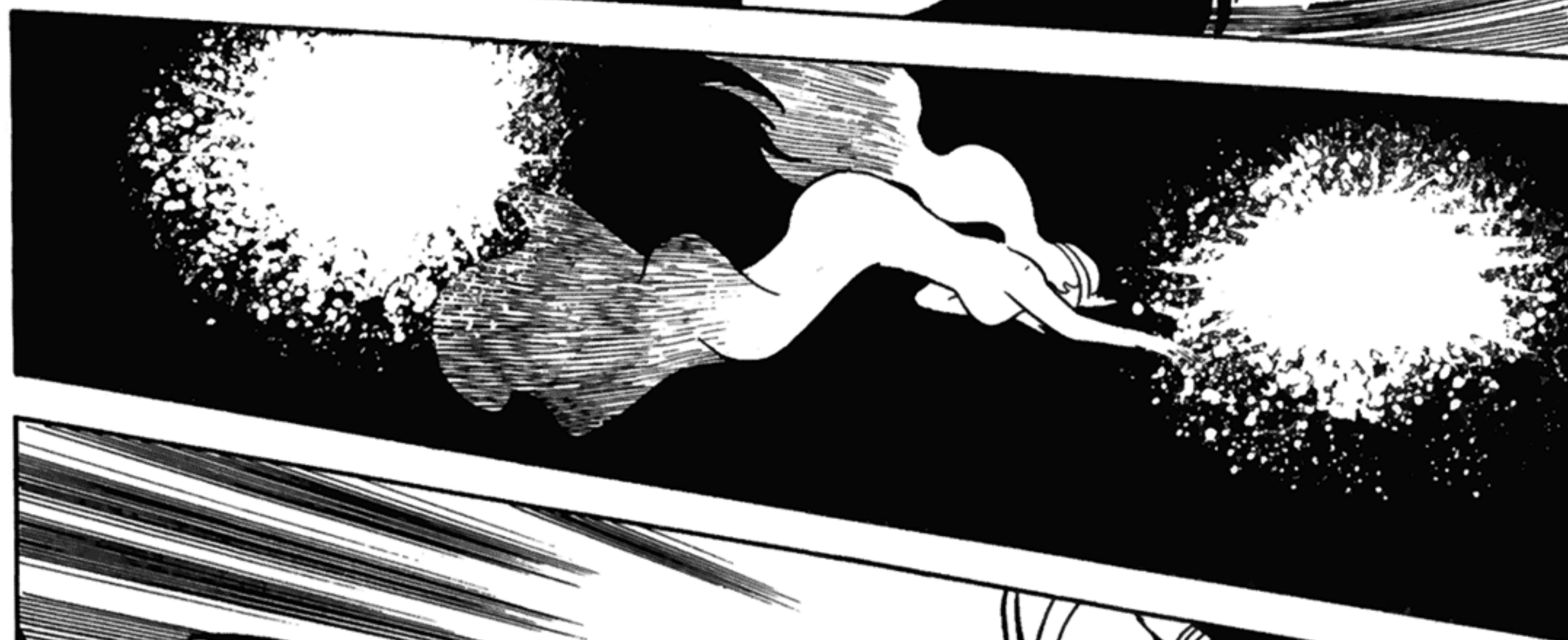
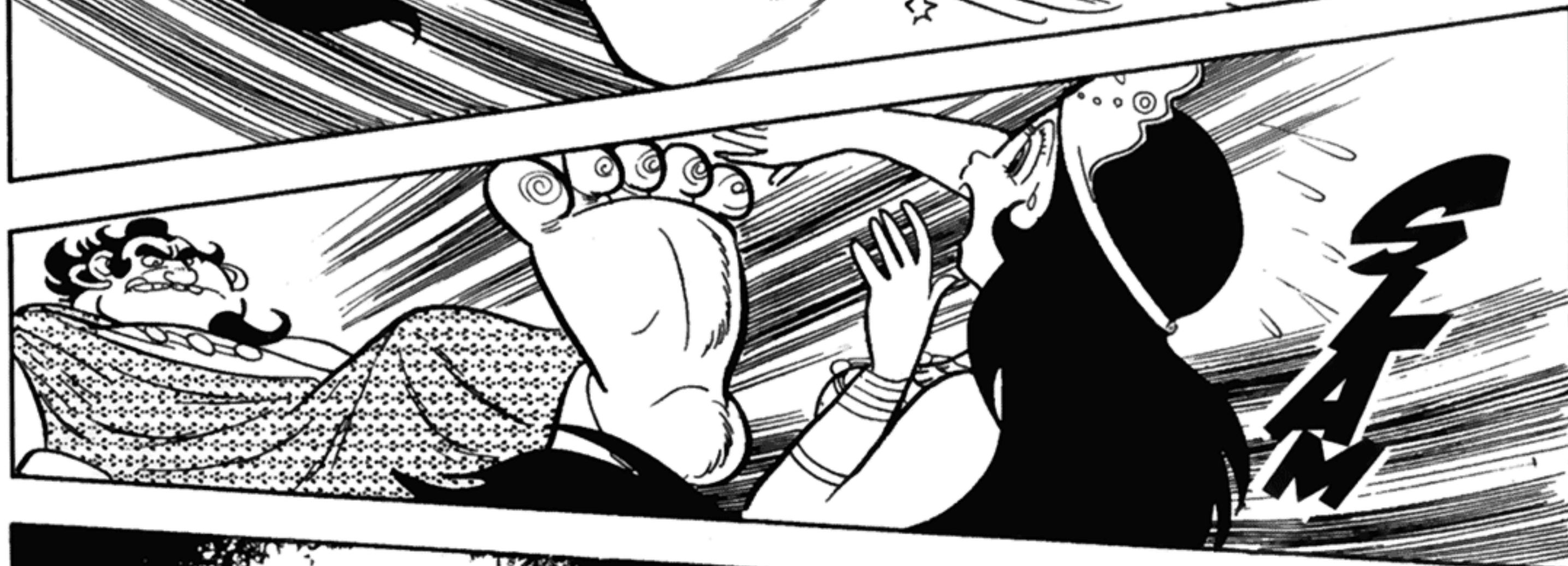


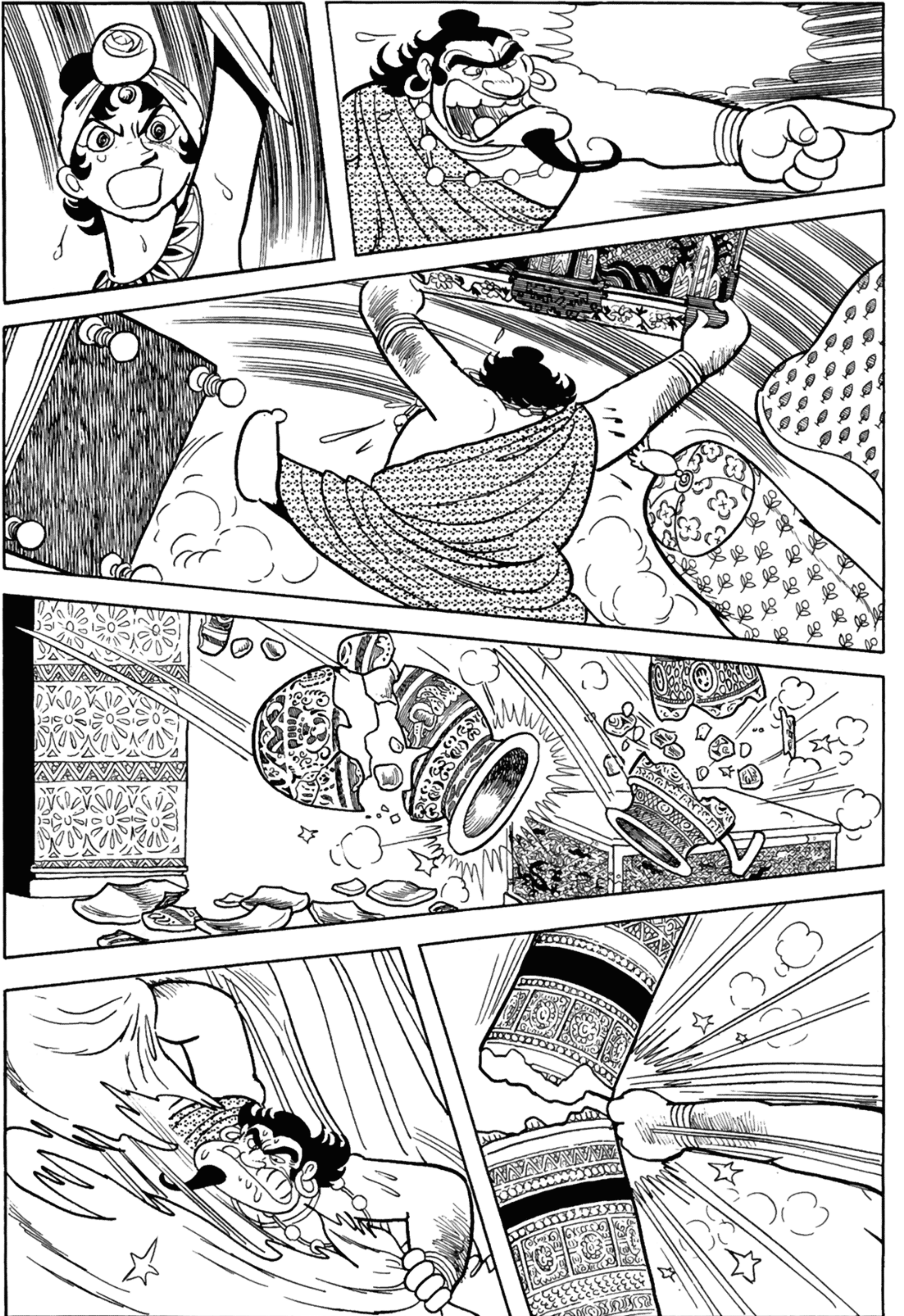
THAT'S ALL I KNOW. YOU'LL HAVE TO RUSH BACK HOME TO FIND OUT...

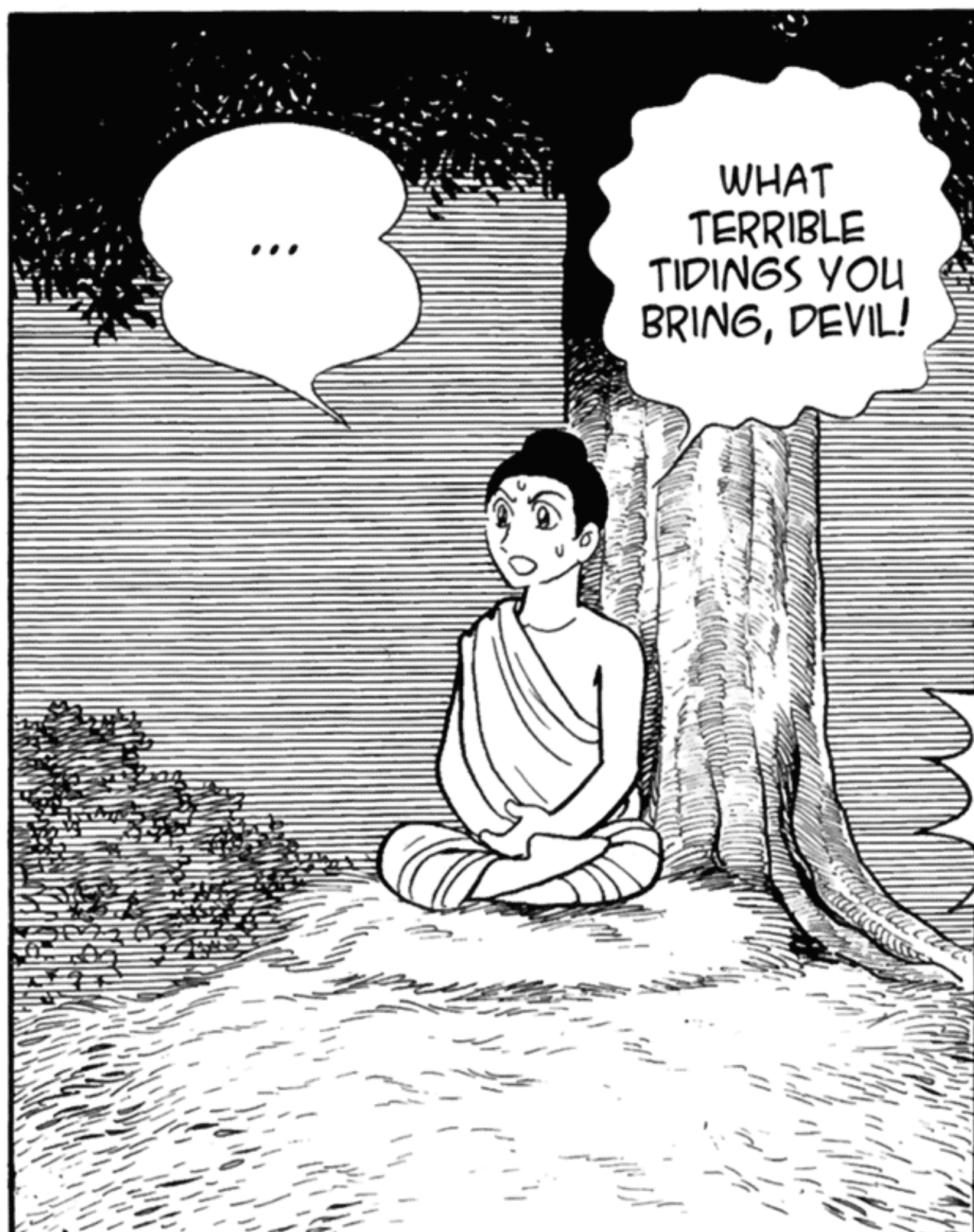
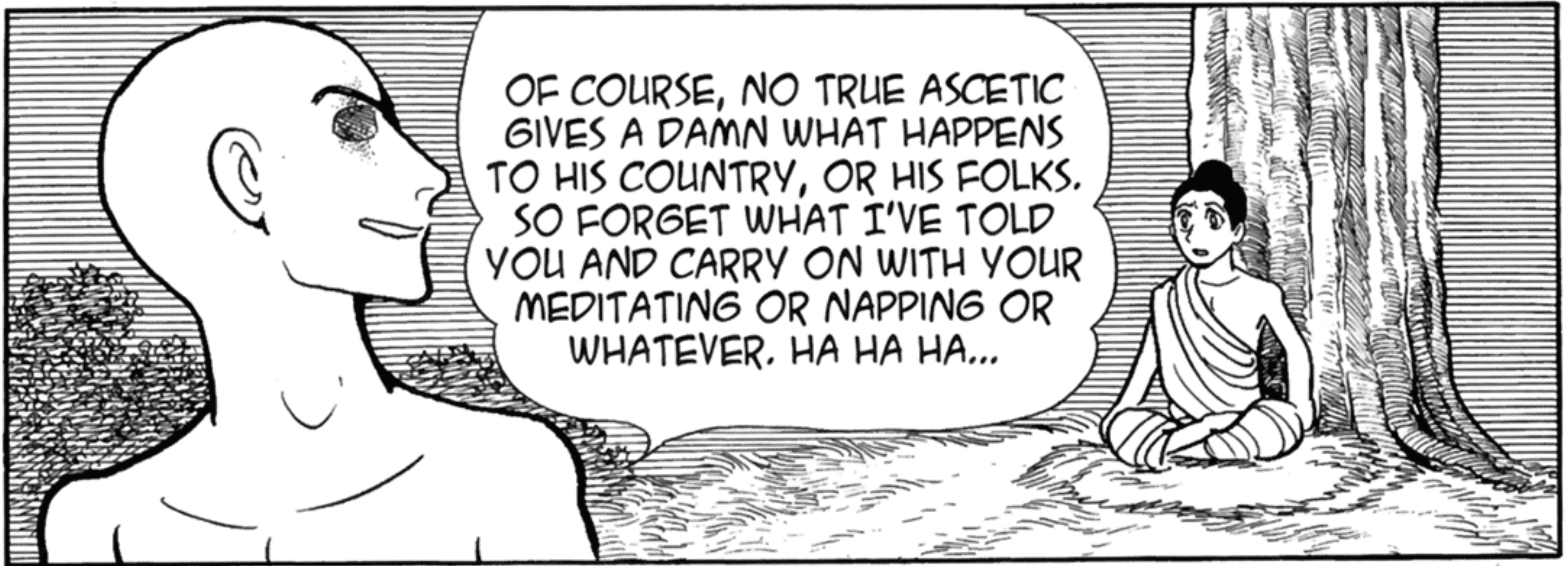
WHETHER YOUR PARENTS ARE ALIVE AND WHAT'S BECOME OF YOUR REALM.

WAIT! WHY DID PRASENAJIT SUDDENLY...





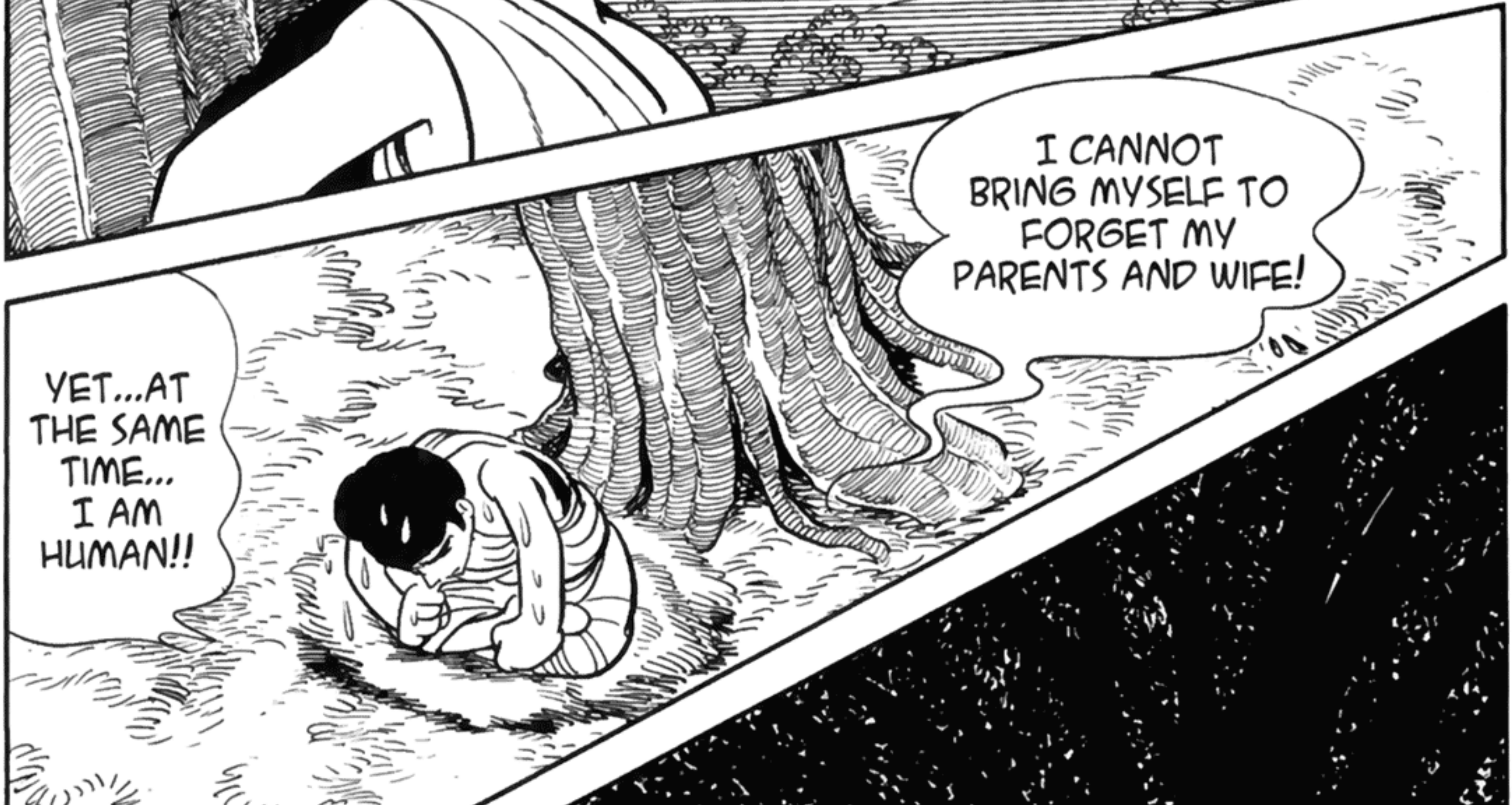






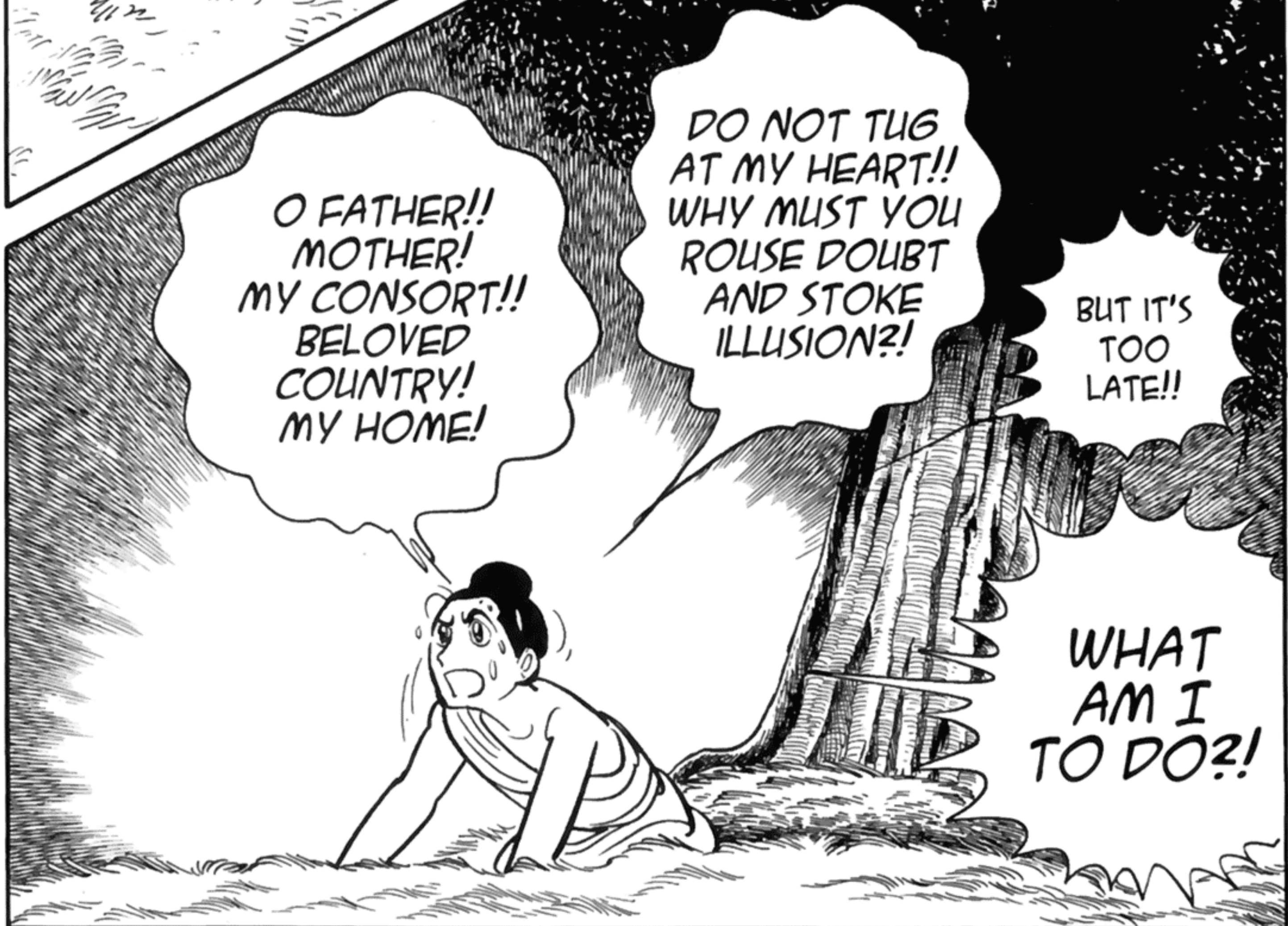
IT'S TRUE THAT
COUNTRY AND
FAMILY CONCERN
ME NO MORE.

A FAR GREATER
PURPOSE IN LIFE
IS ALMOST WITHIN
MY REACH.



YET...AT
THE SAME
TIME...
I AM
HUMAN!!

I CANNOT
BRING MYSELF TO
FORGET MY
PARENTS AND WIFE!



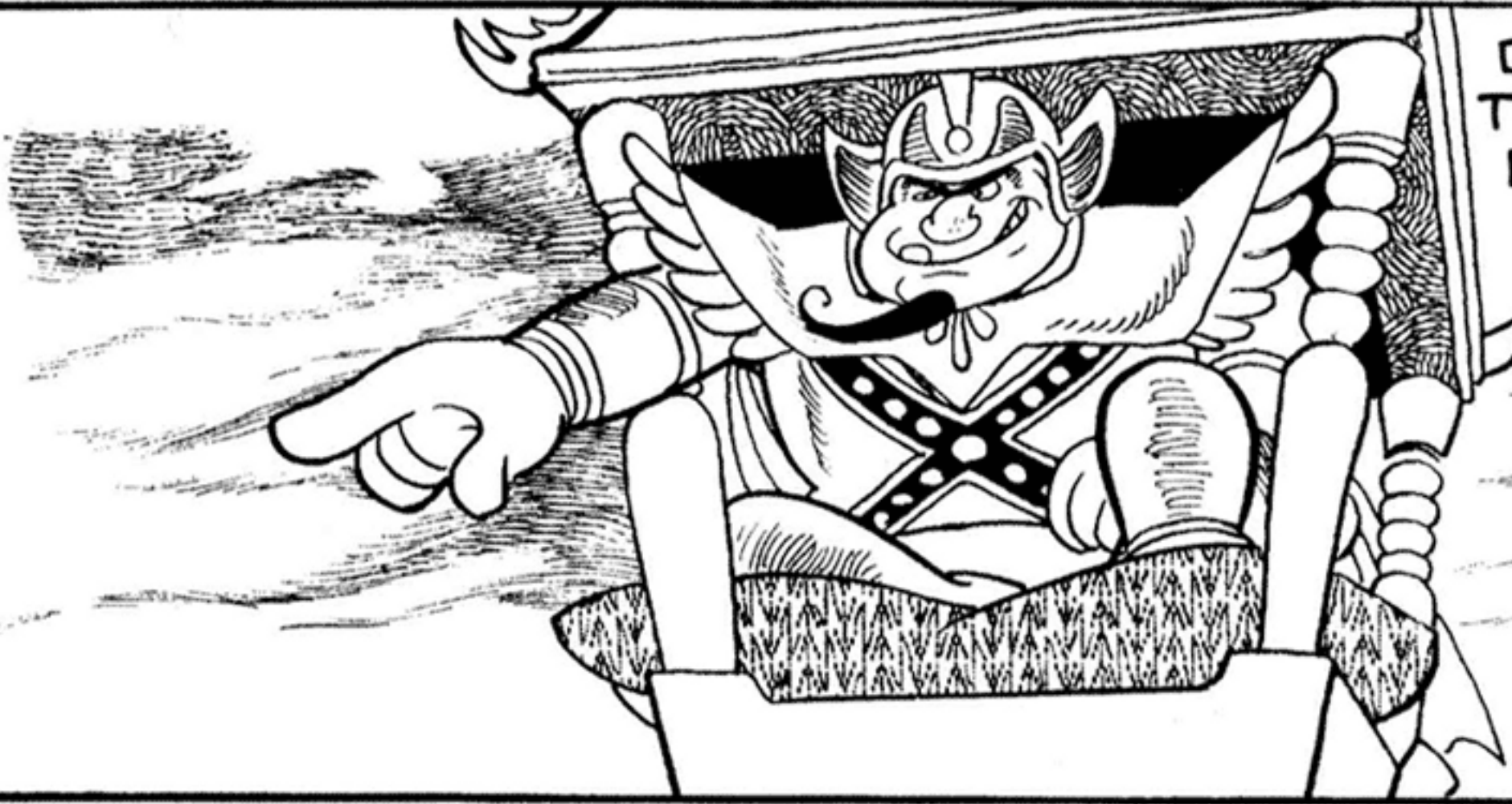
O FATHER!!
MOTHER!
MY CONSORT!!
BELOVED
COUNTRY!
MY HOME!

DO NOT TUG
AT MY HEART!!
WHY MUST YOU
ROUSE DOUBT
AND STOKE
ILLUSION?!

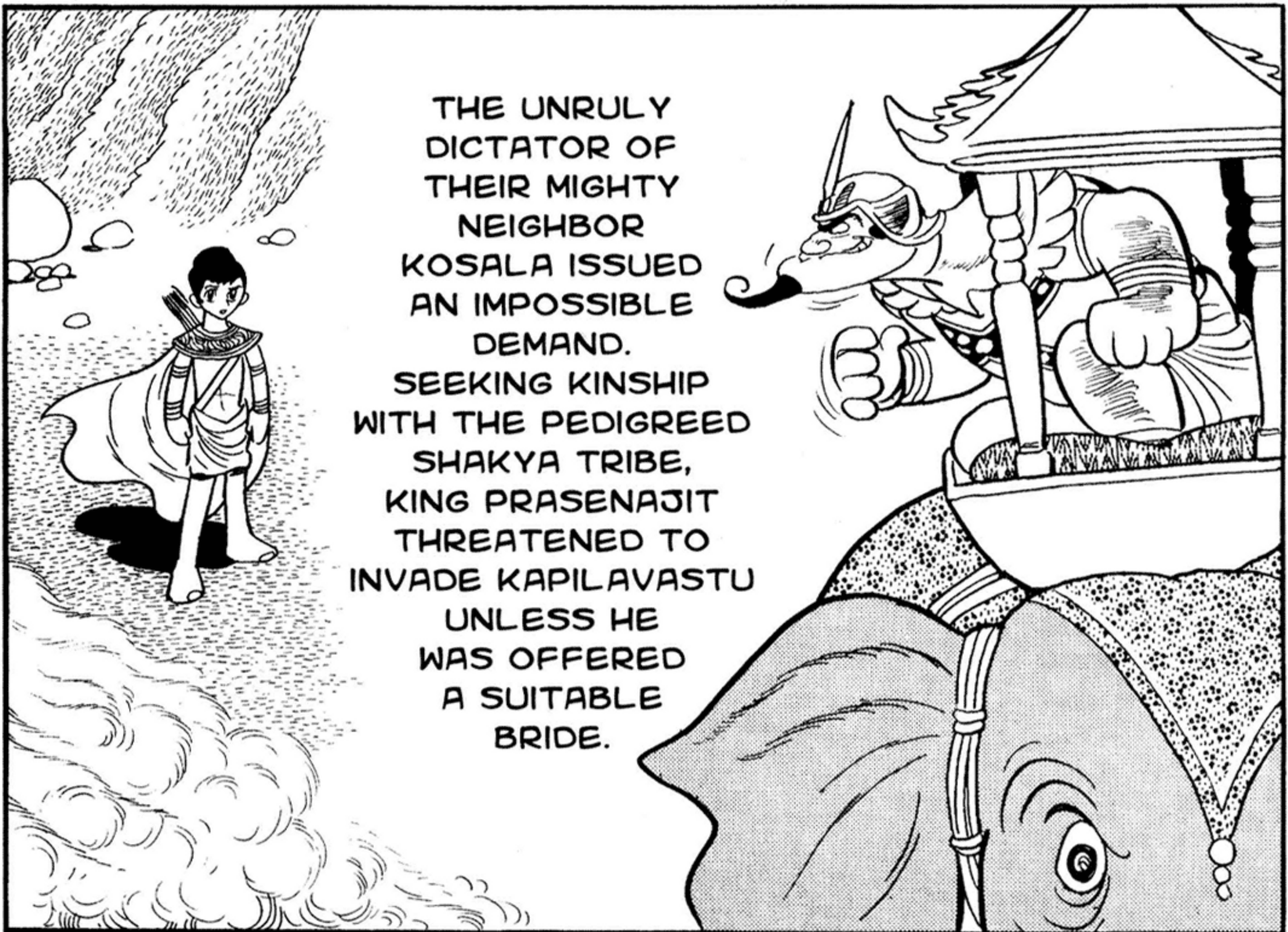
BUT IT'S
TOO
LATE!!

WHAT
AM I
TO DO?!

—CARTOON—



DO YOU REMEMBER
THE NAME, READER?
WHEN SIDDHARTHA
WAS STILL
THE PRINCE OF
KAPILAVASTU...



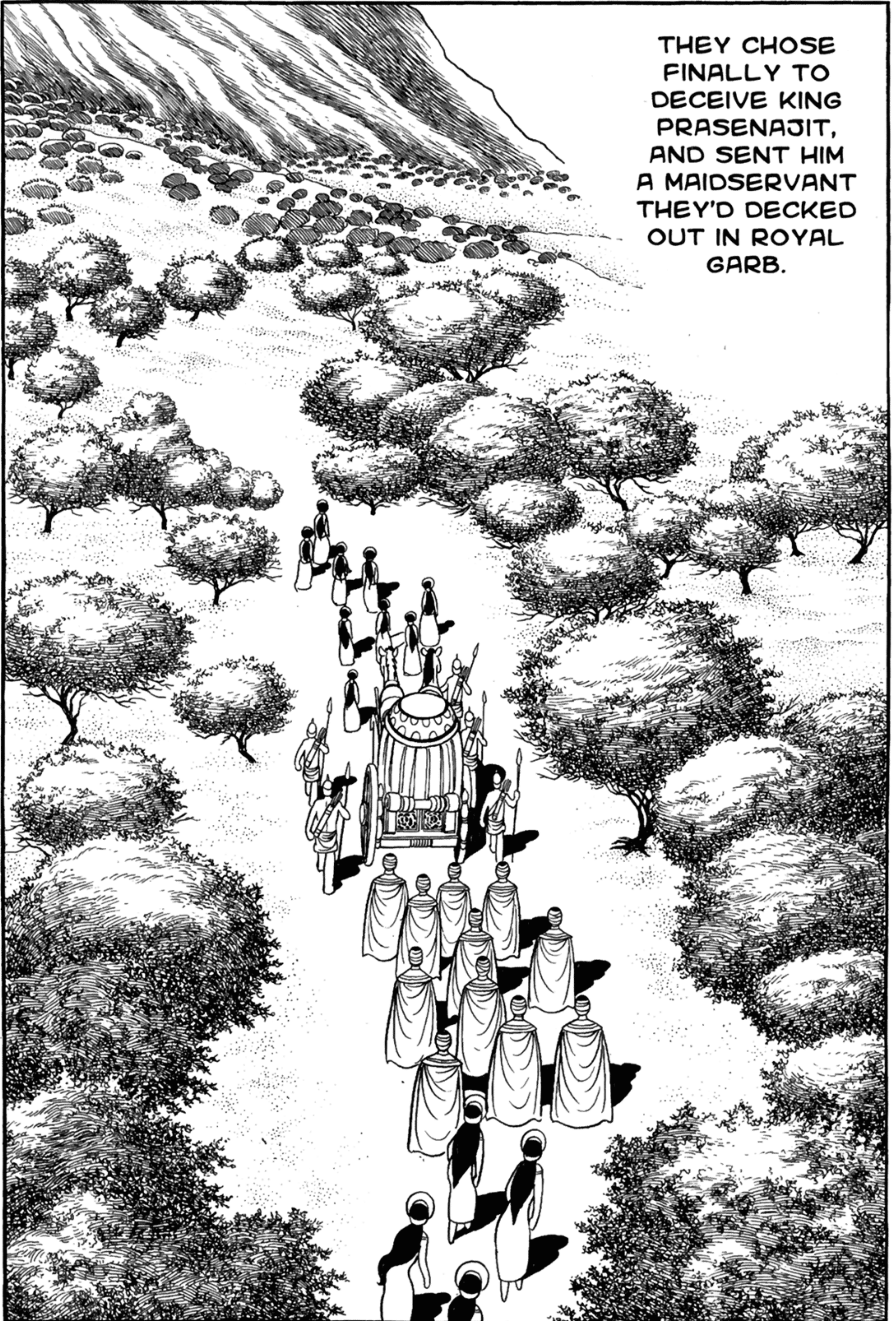
THE UNRULY
DICTATOR OF
THEIR MIGHTY
NEIGHBOR
KOSALA ISSUED
AN IMPOSSIBLE
DEMAND.
SEEKING KINSHIP
WITH THE PEDIGREED
SHAKYA TRIBE,
KING PRASENAJIT
THREATENED TO
INVADE KAPILAVASTU
UNLESS HE
WAS OFFERED
A SUITABLE
BRIDE.



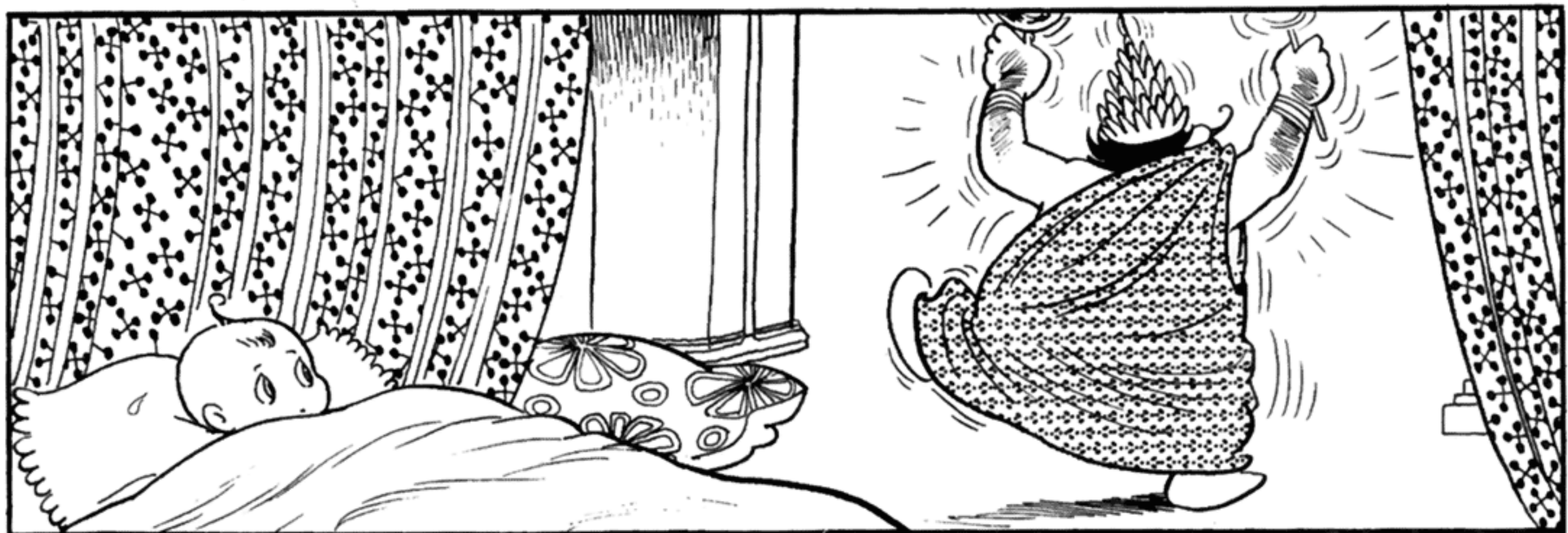
ALARMED,
THE
SHAKYA
CONVENED
A CLAN
MEETING

AND
DEBATED
WHETHER
TO MEET
THE INSOLENT
DEMAND OR
TO BRAVE
WAR WITH
KOSALA.

THEY CHOSE
FINALLY TO
DECEIVE KING
PRASENAJIT,
AND SENT HIM
A MAIDSERVANT
THEY'D DECKED
OUT IN ROYAL
GARB.



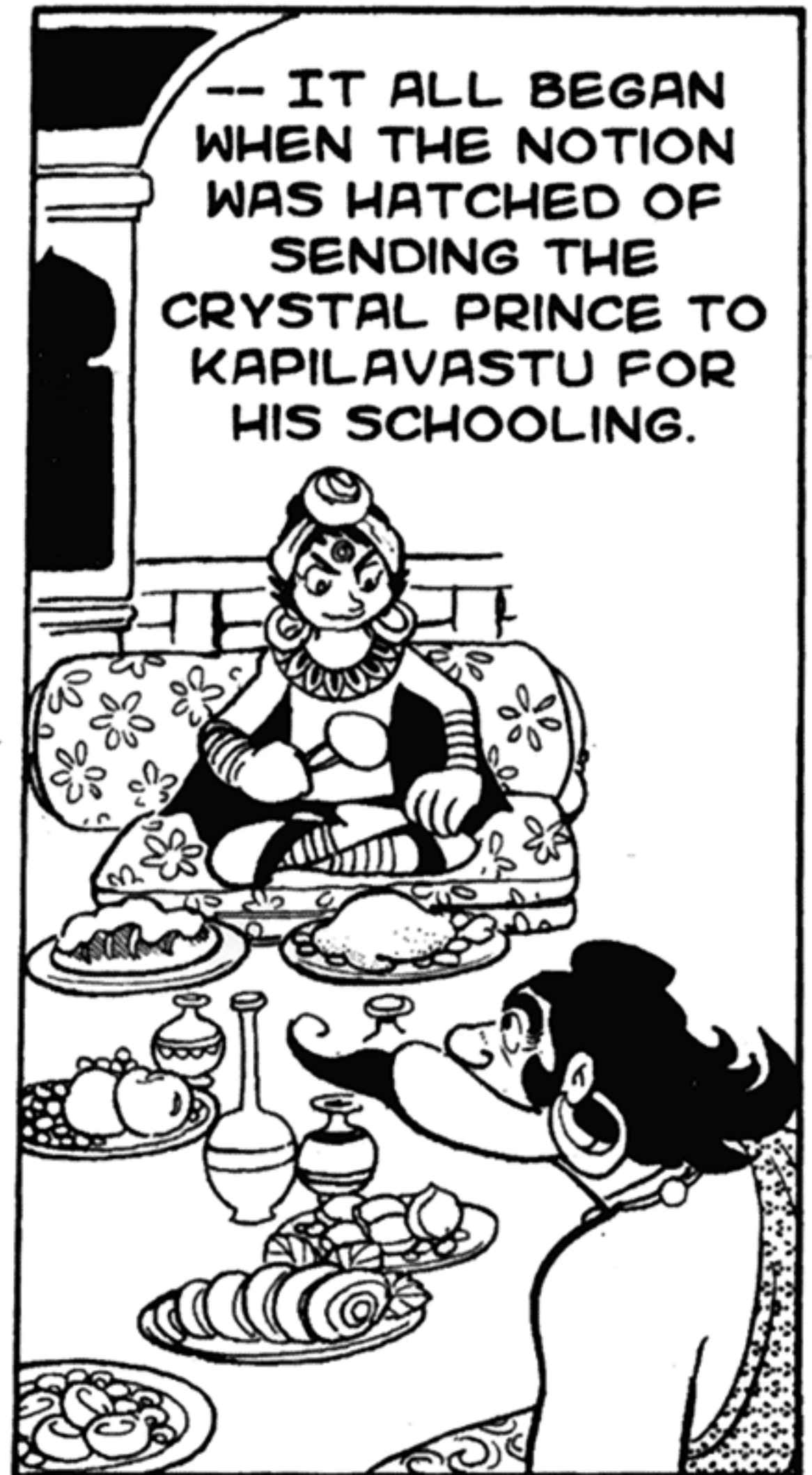
KING PRASENAJIT,
WHO WAS AN
IGNORANT UPSTART,
FAILED TO SEE
THROUGH THE
RUSE AND TOOK
HER AS HIS QUEEN.
A YEAR LATER,
SHE BORE HIM
A PRINCE,
VIRUDHAKA...





TAKING
AFTER
HIS FATHER
THE KING,
PRINCE
VIRUDHAKA
WAS RATHER
VIOLENT
AND WILD.

PEOPLE
CALLED HIM
"THE
CRYSTAL
PRINCE"
AFTER
THE LAPIS
LAZULI
SET IN
HIS
BROW.



-- IT ALL BEGAN
WHEN THE NOTION
WAS HATCHED OF
SENDING THE
CRYSTAL PRINCE TO
KAPILAVASTU FOR
HIS SCHOOLING.



I DON'T KNOW, DEAR,
I'D RATHER NOT SEND
THE PRINCE TO
STUDY IN
KAPILAVASTU.

WHY NOT?
KAPILAVASTU'S
A SCHOLARLY
PLACE, FULL
OF GOOD
TEACHERS.

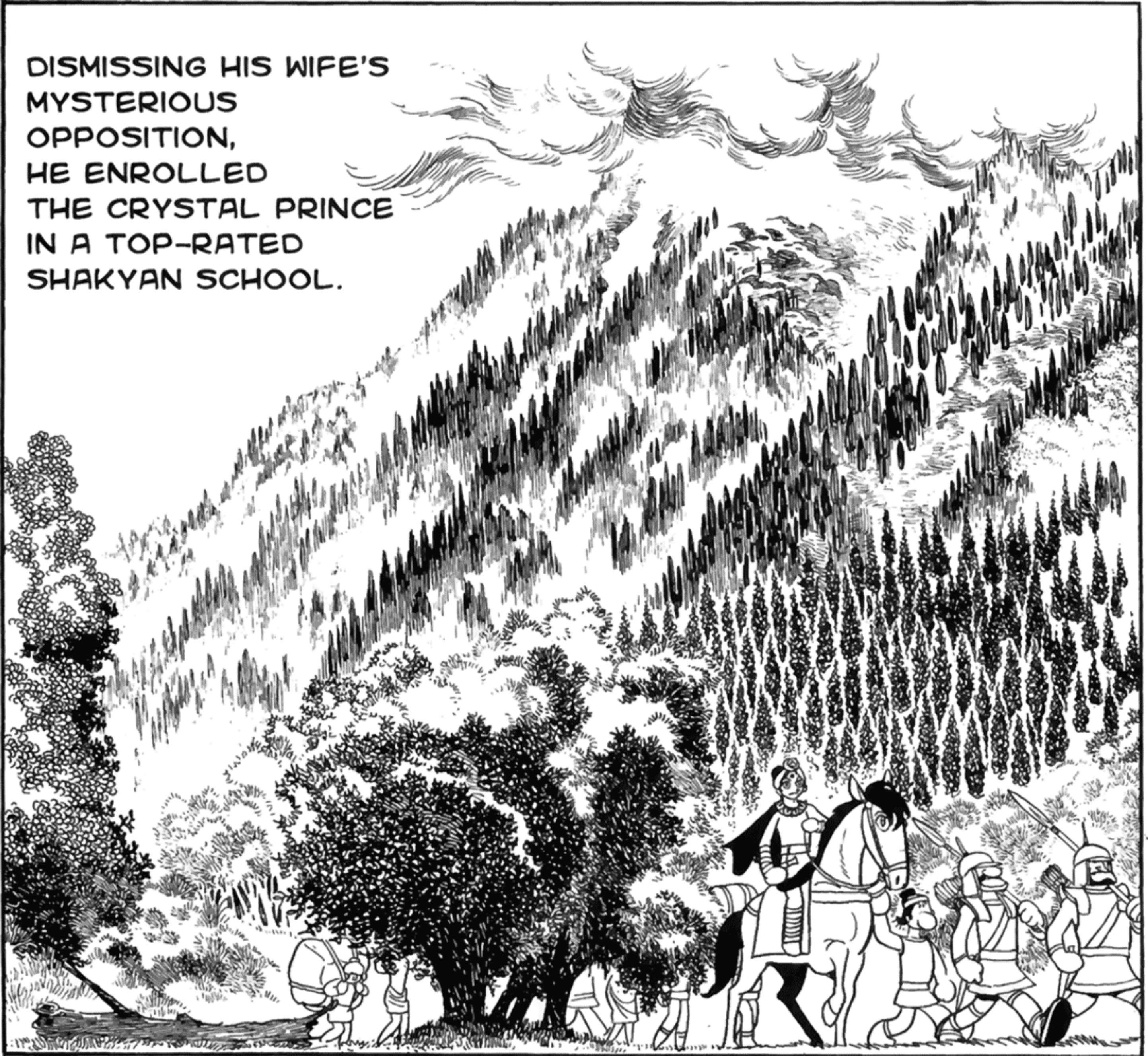


HOW ABOUT
THE KINGDOM
OF MAGADHA?
I THINK HE'LL
LIKE IT
BETTER
THERE.

NO! I HATE CHANGING
MY MIND, DAMMIT!
HE'S GOING TO
KAPILAVASTU!

BESIDES,
THE
TUITION
IS MUCH
CHEAPER
THERE.

DISMISSING HIS WIFE'S
MYSTERIOUS
OPPOSITION,
HE ENROLLED
THE CRYSTAL PRINCE
IN A TOP-RATED
SHAKYAN SCHOOL.

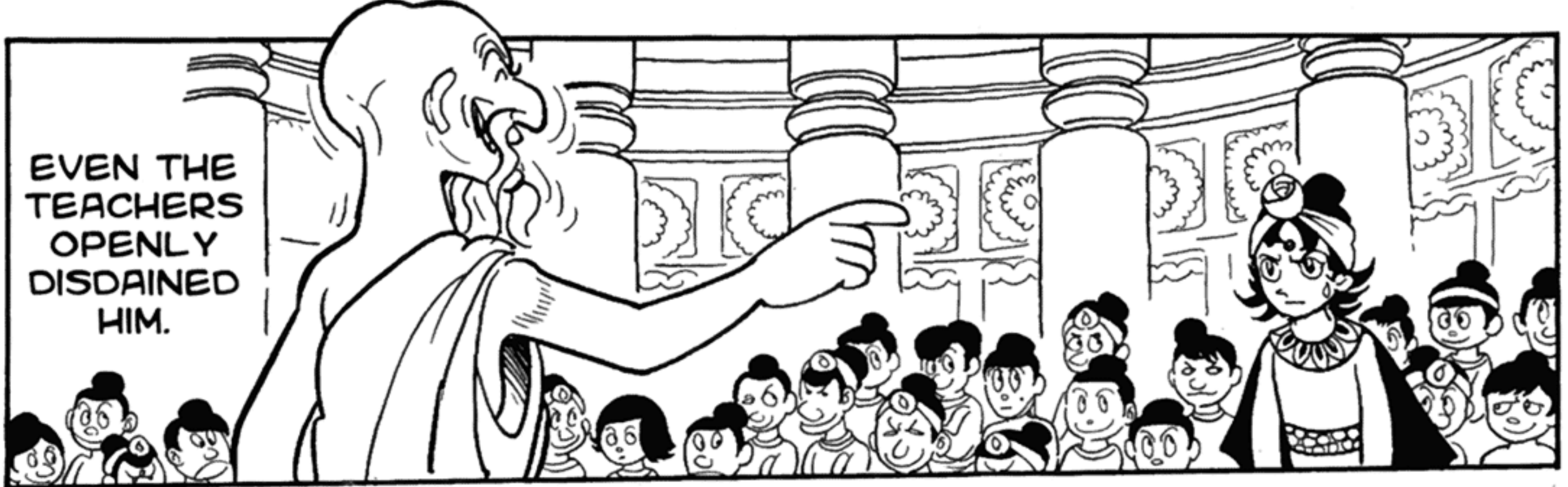
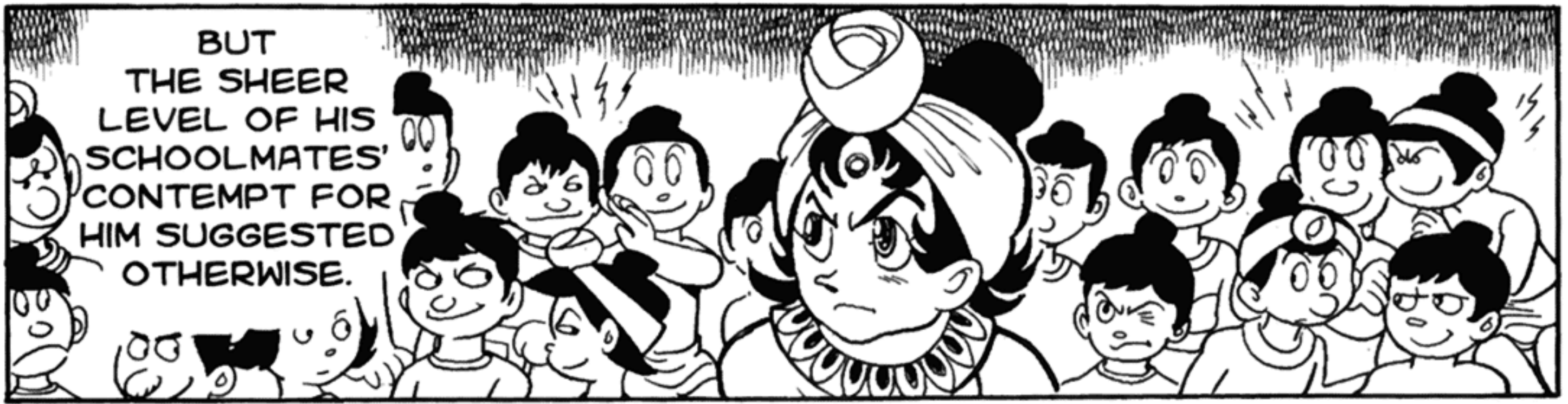


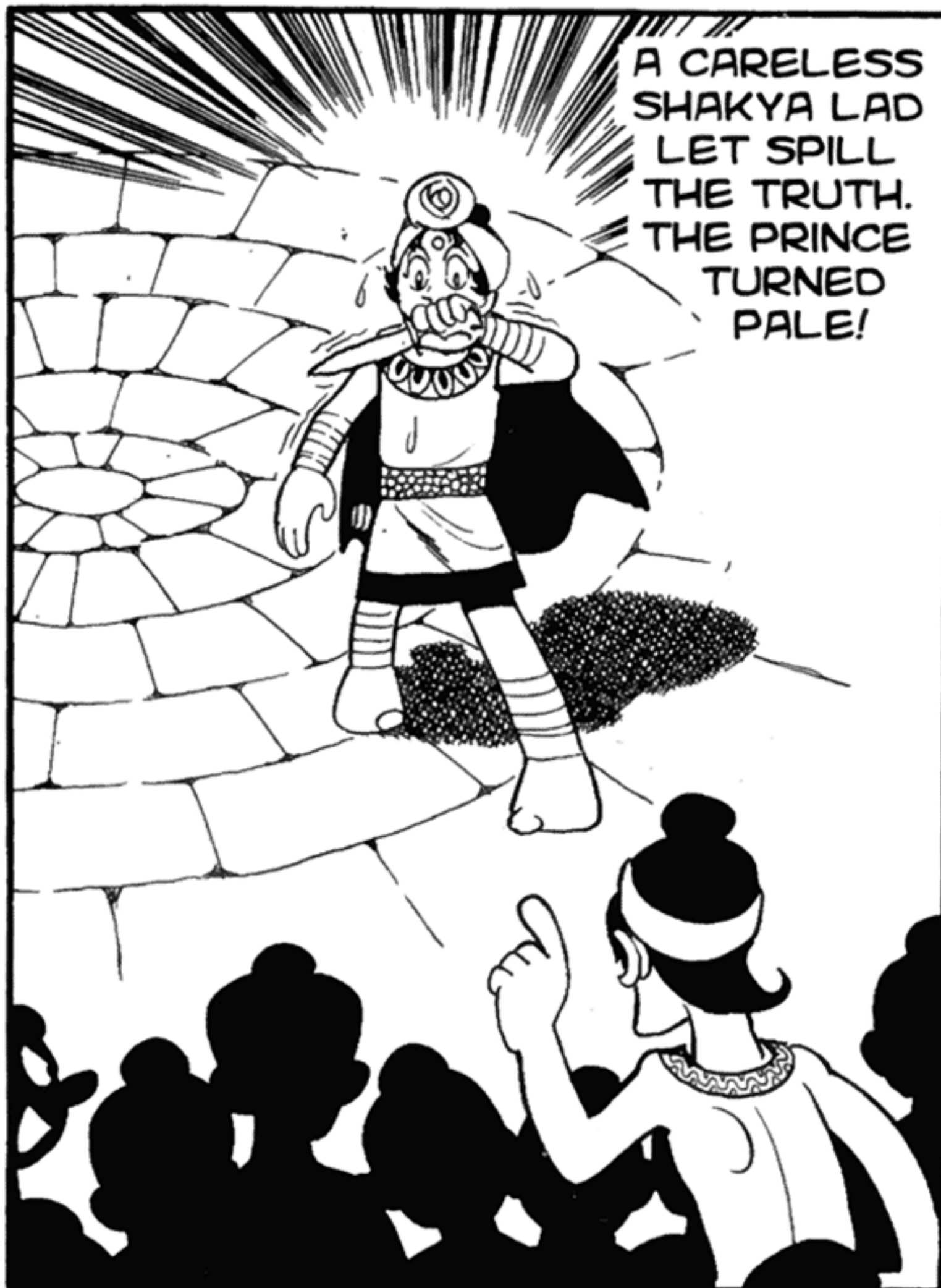
BUT WHEN
THE PRINCE
STARTED
THERE,
HE FOUND
HIMSELF
STRANGELY
SHUNNED.

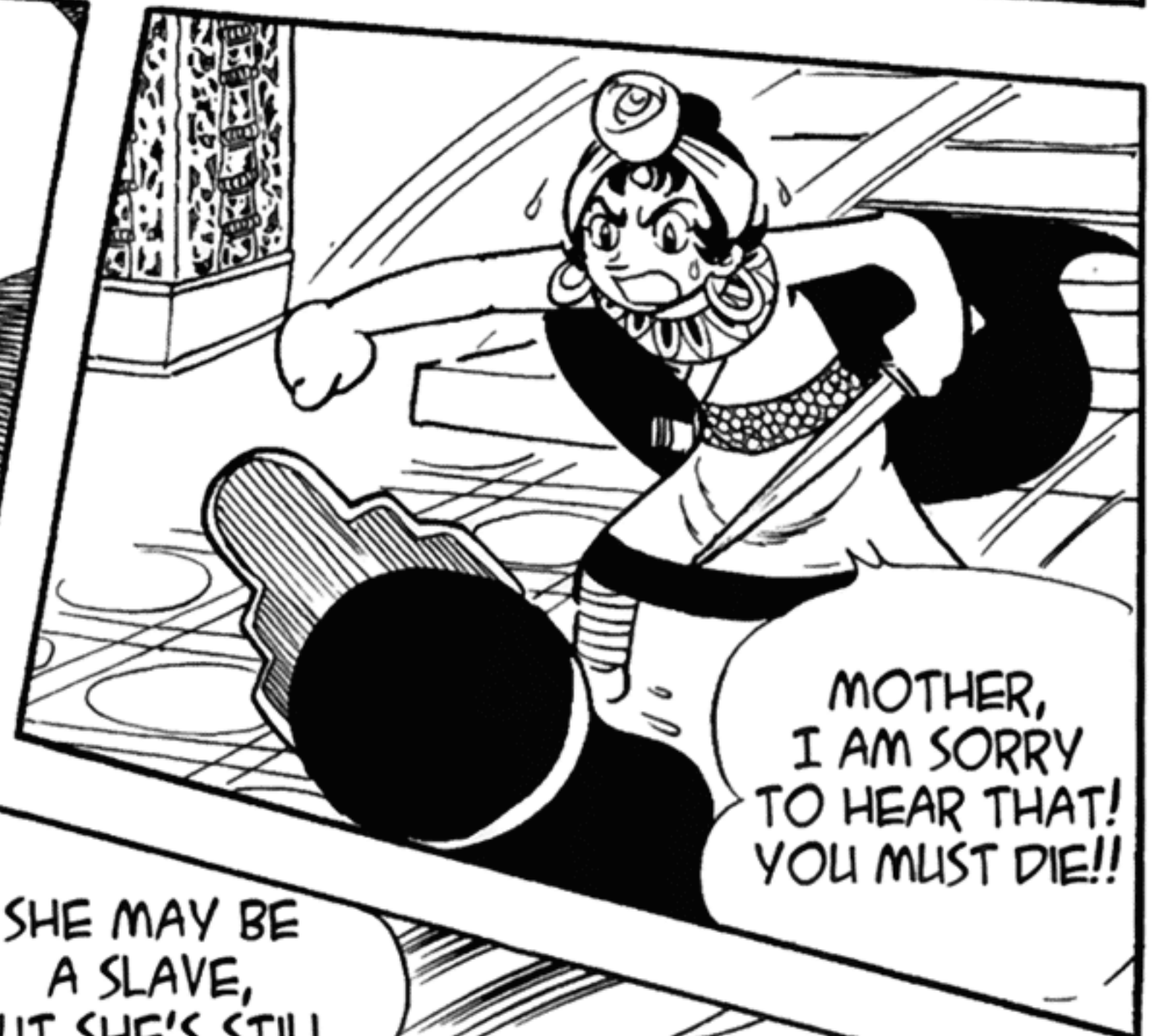
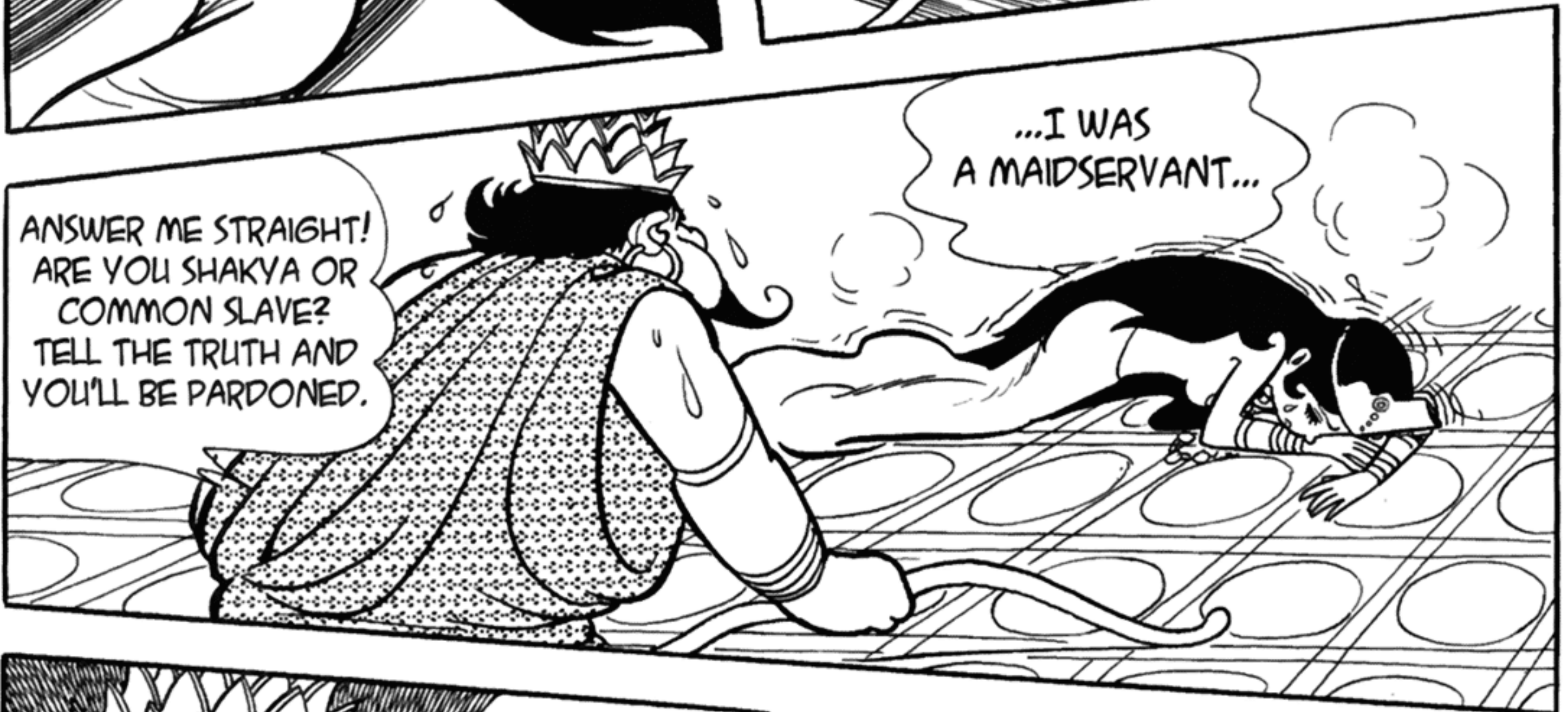
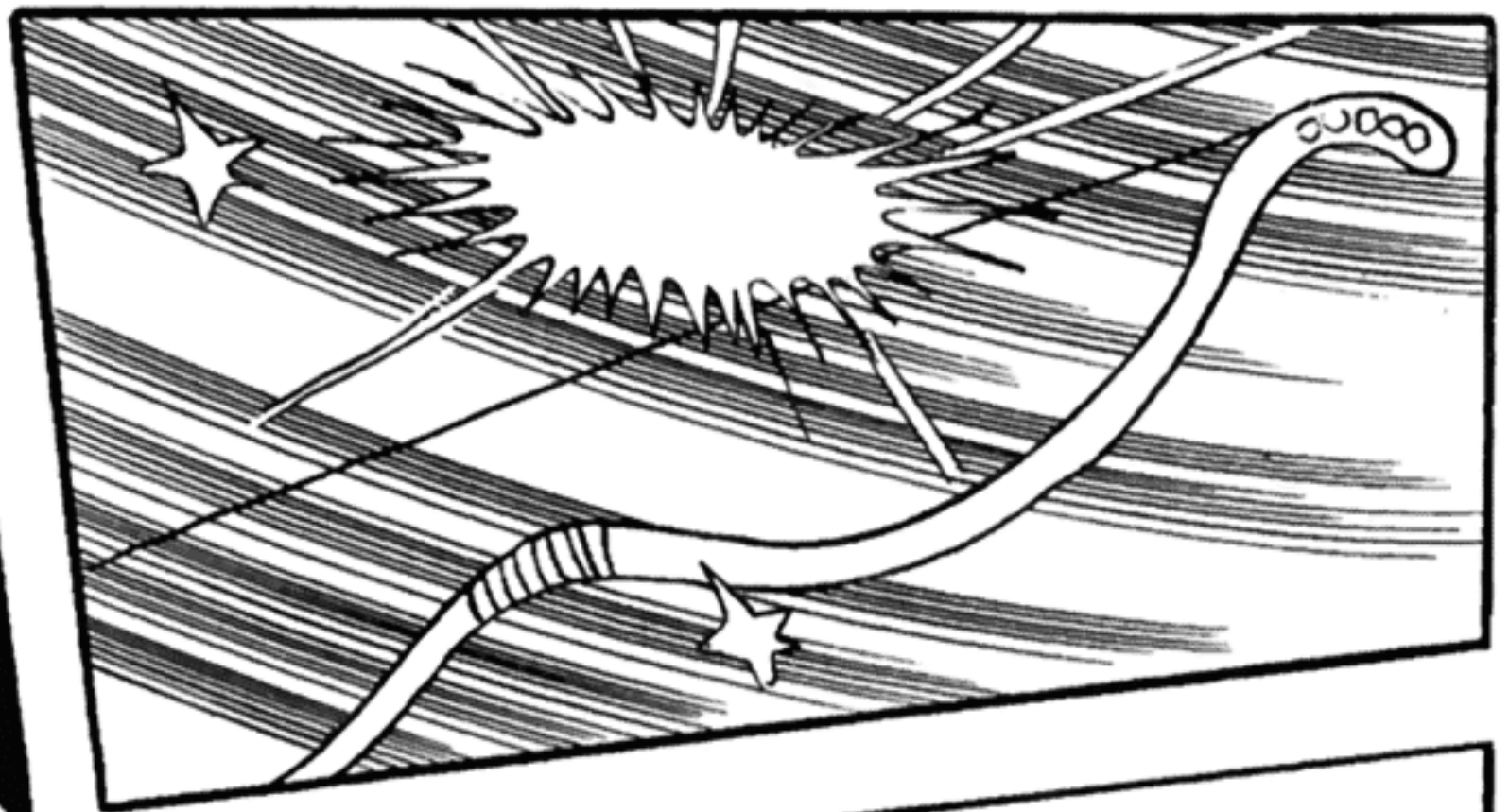
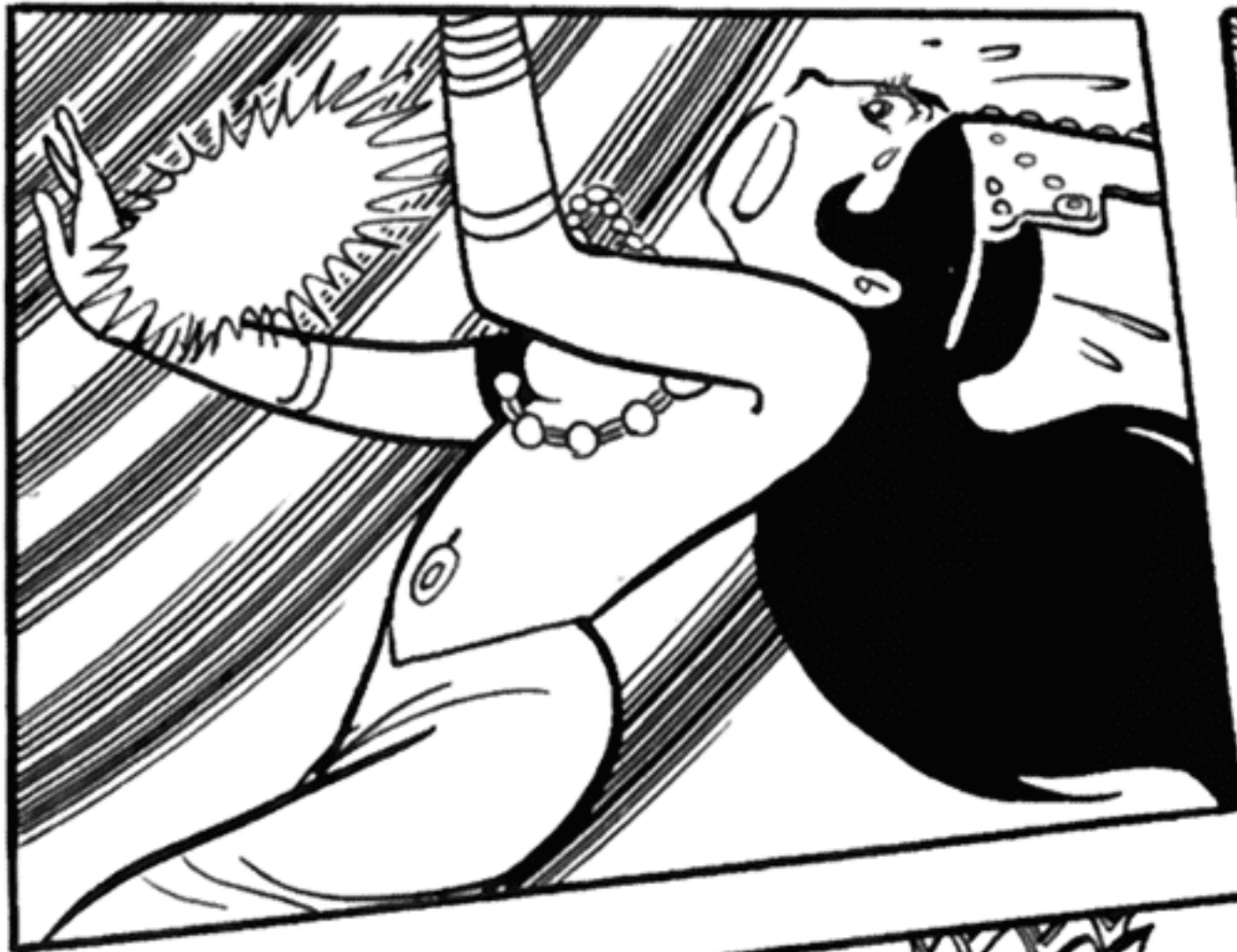


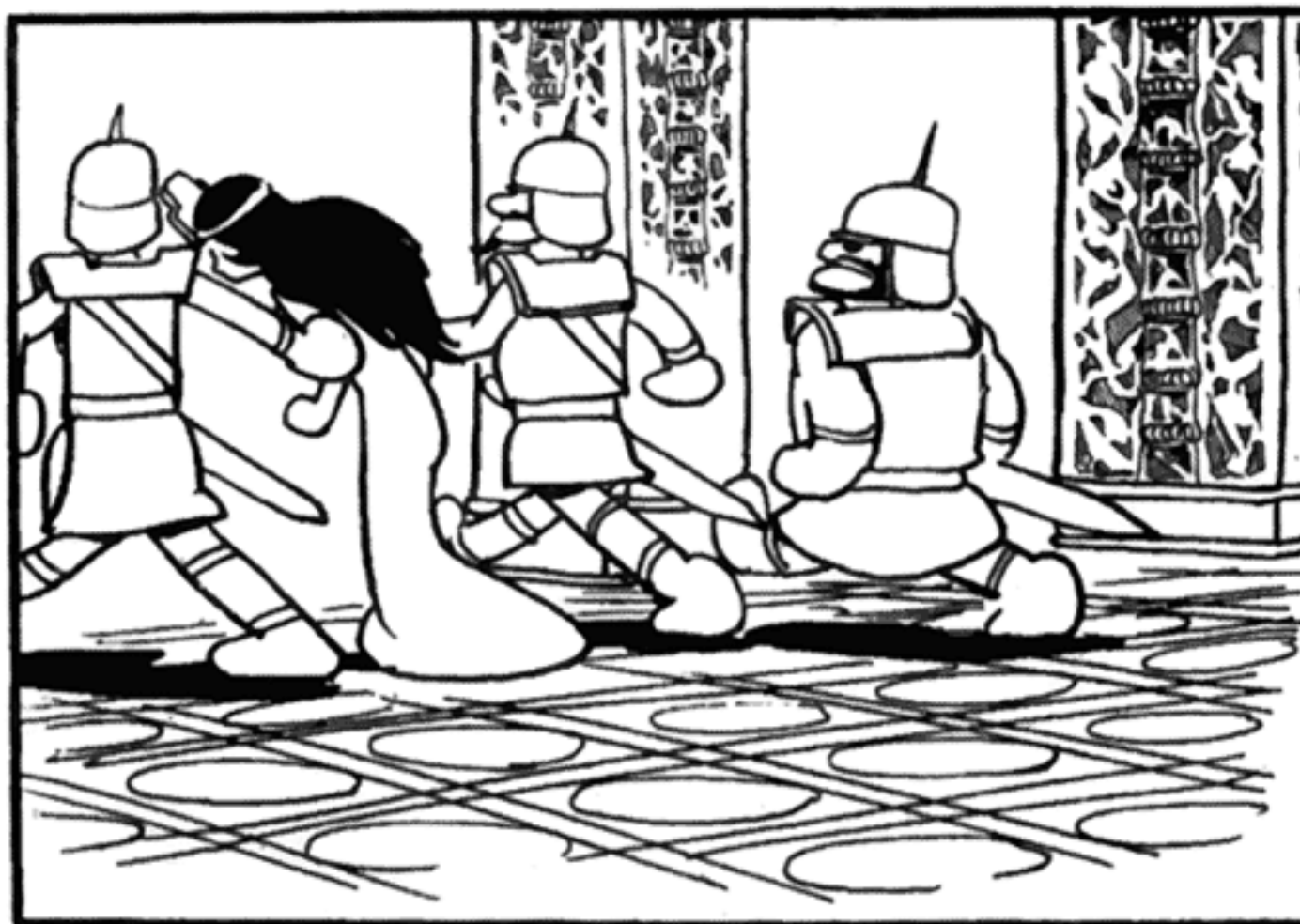
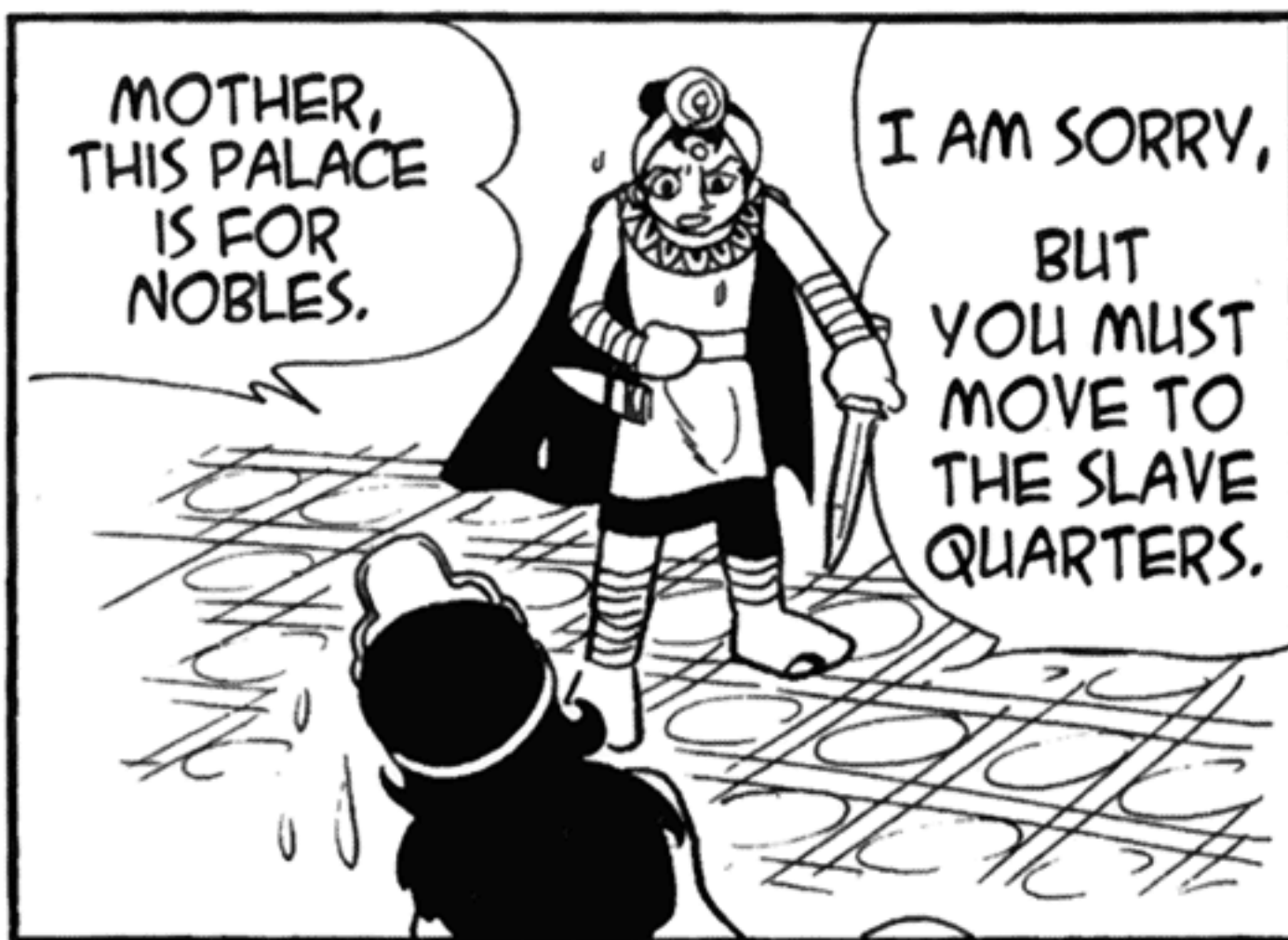
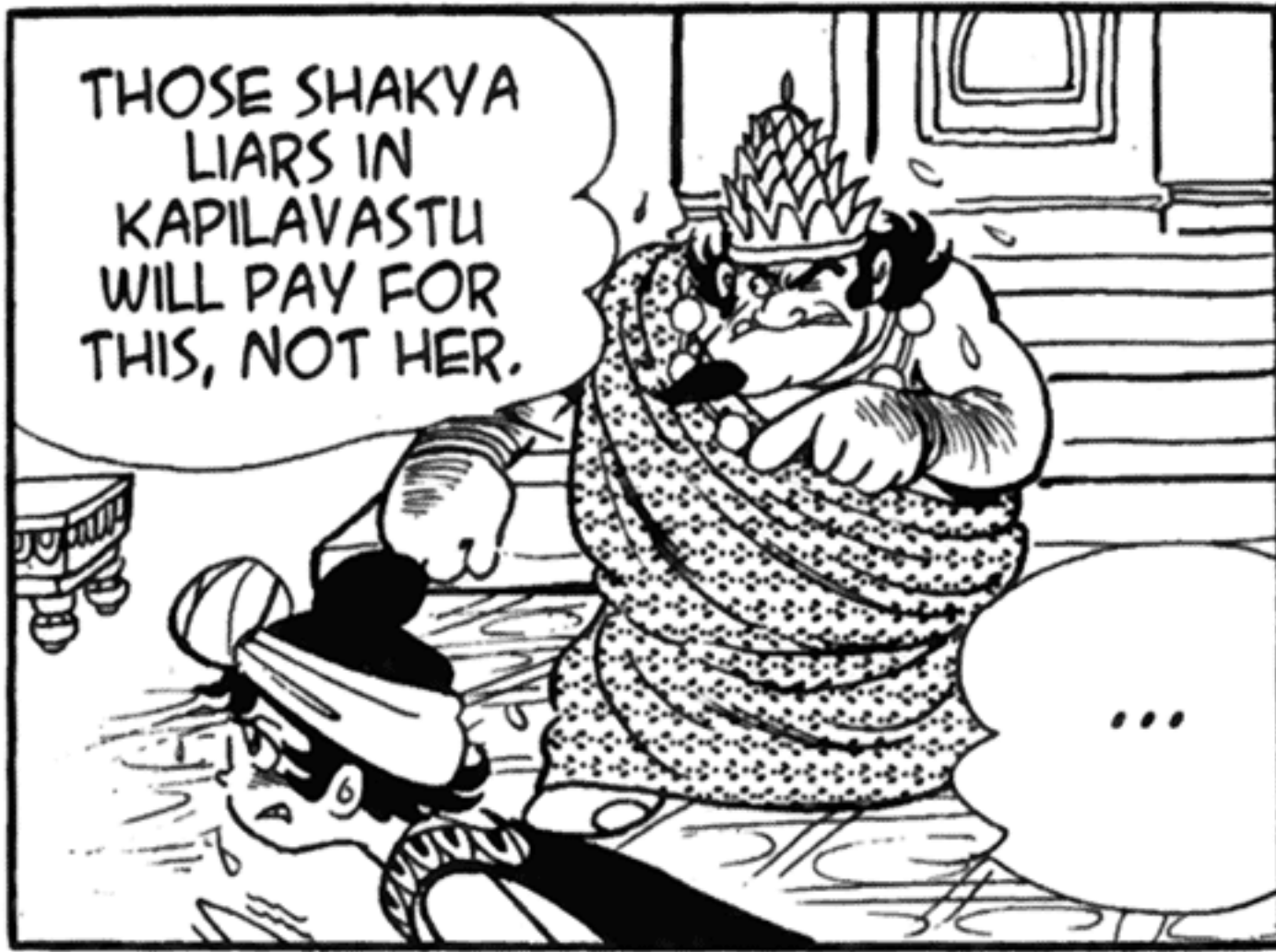
AT FIRST
HE THOUGHT
IT WAS HIS
FOREIGN
BIRTH





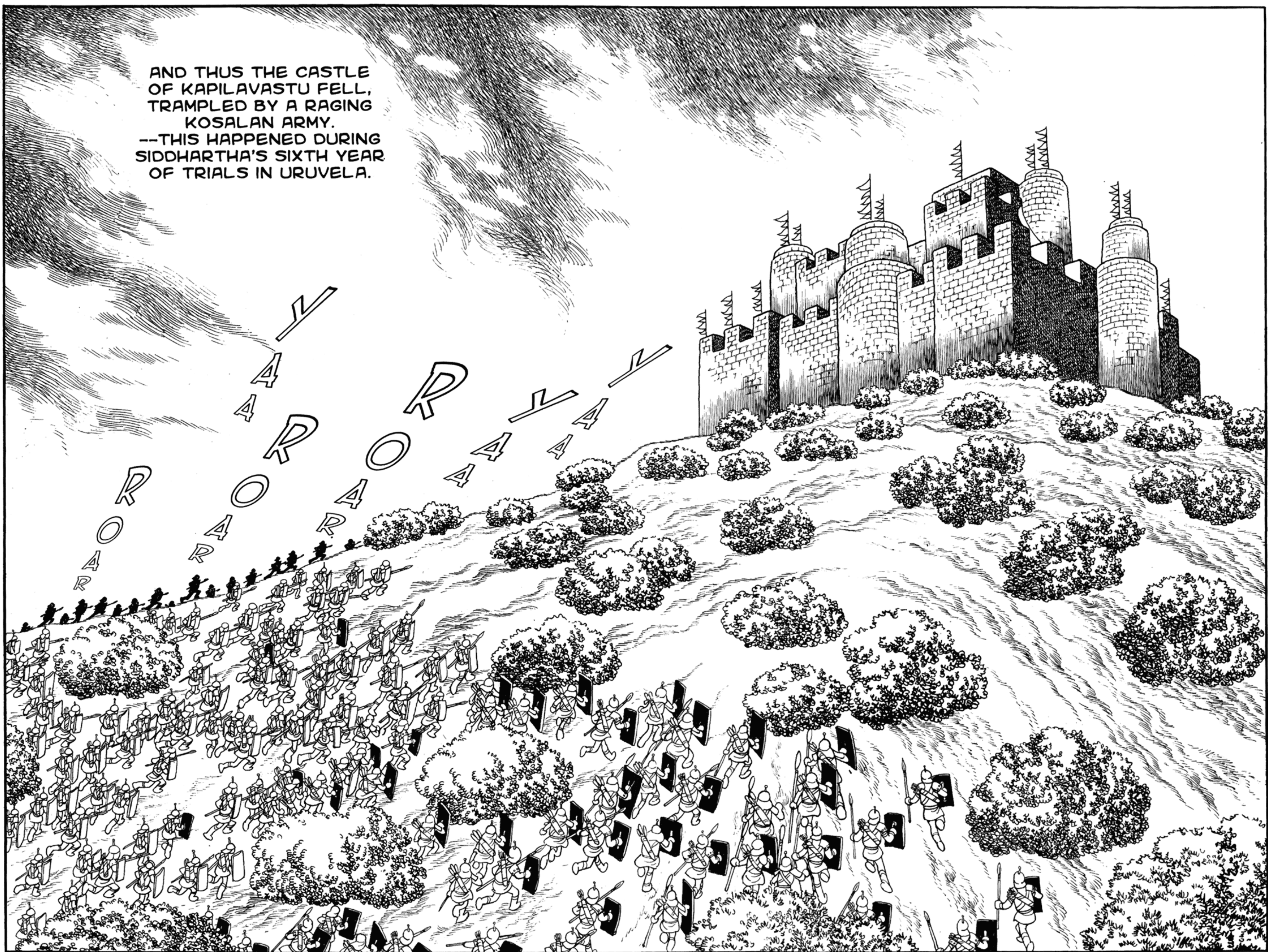




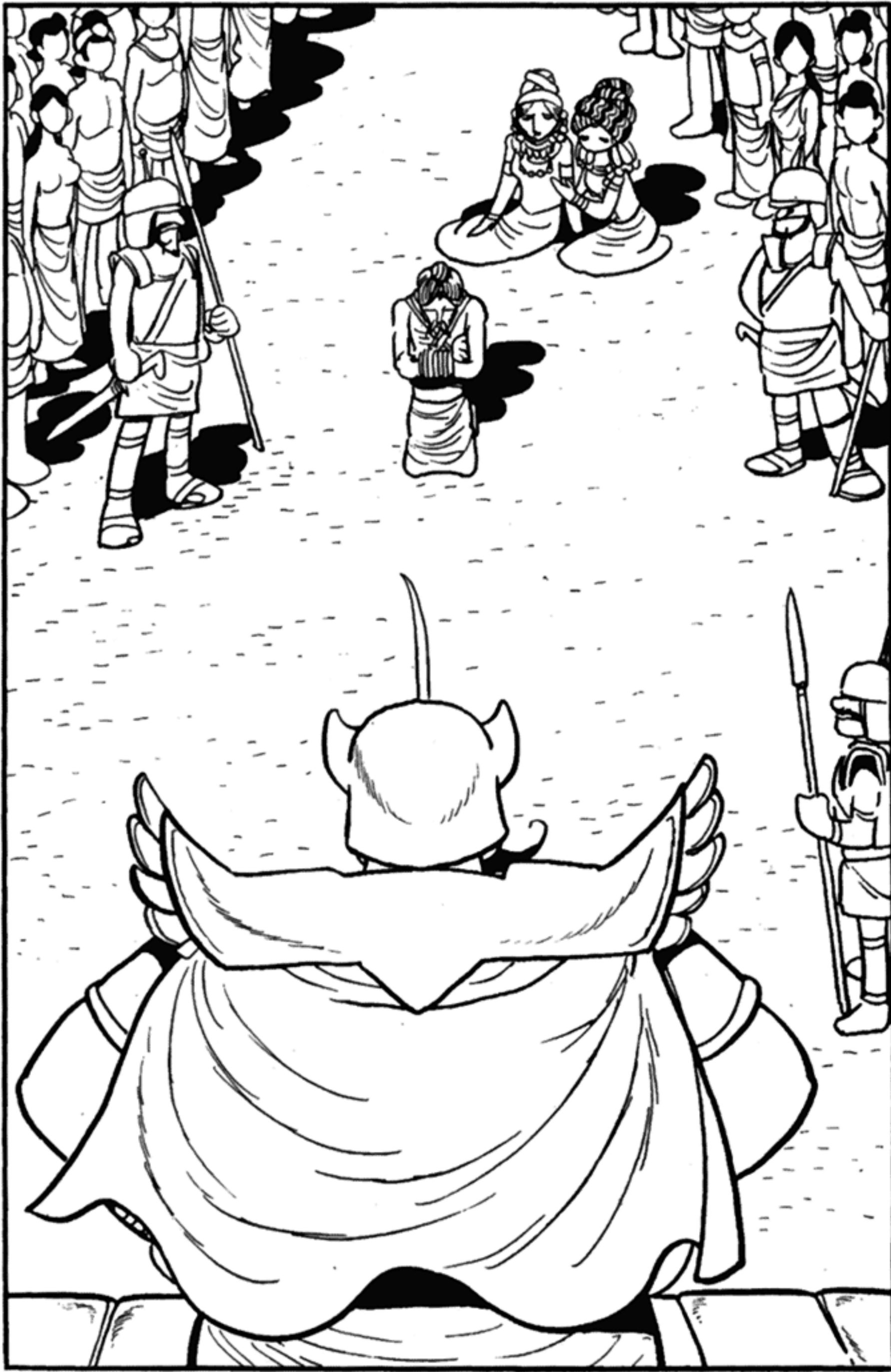


SHE WAS THE ROYAL BRIDE AND HIS BIRTH MOTHER, BUT NOTHING COULD BE DONE ABOUT DISCRIMINATION. IT WAS THE BRAHMIN WHO CREATED THE SYSTEM, AND IN KOSALA, THEY WERE PARTICULARLY POWERFUL, AS YOU MAY RECALL FROM THE STORY OF CHAPRA THE FIGHTER.

AND THUS THE CASTLE
OF KAPILAVASTU FELL,
TRAMPLED BY A RAGING
KOSALAN ARMY.
--THIS HAPPENED DURING
SIDDHARTHA'S SIXTH YEAR
OF TRIALS IN URUVELA.







KING SUDDHODANA,
HAVE YOU SOME GOOD
EXCUSE? I DOUBT IT!
LOOK AT MY FACE!
CAN YOU TELL HOW
MUCH I HATE YOU?

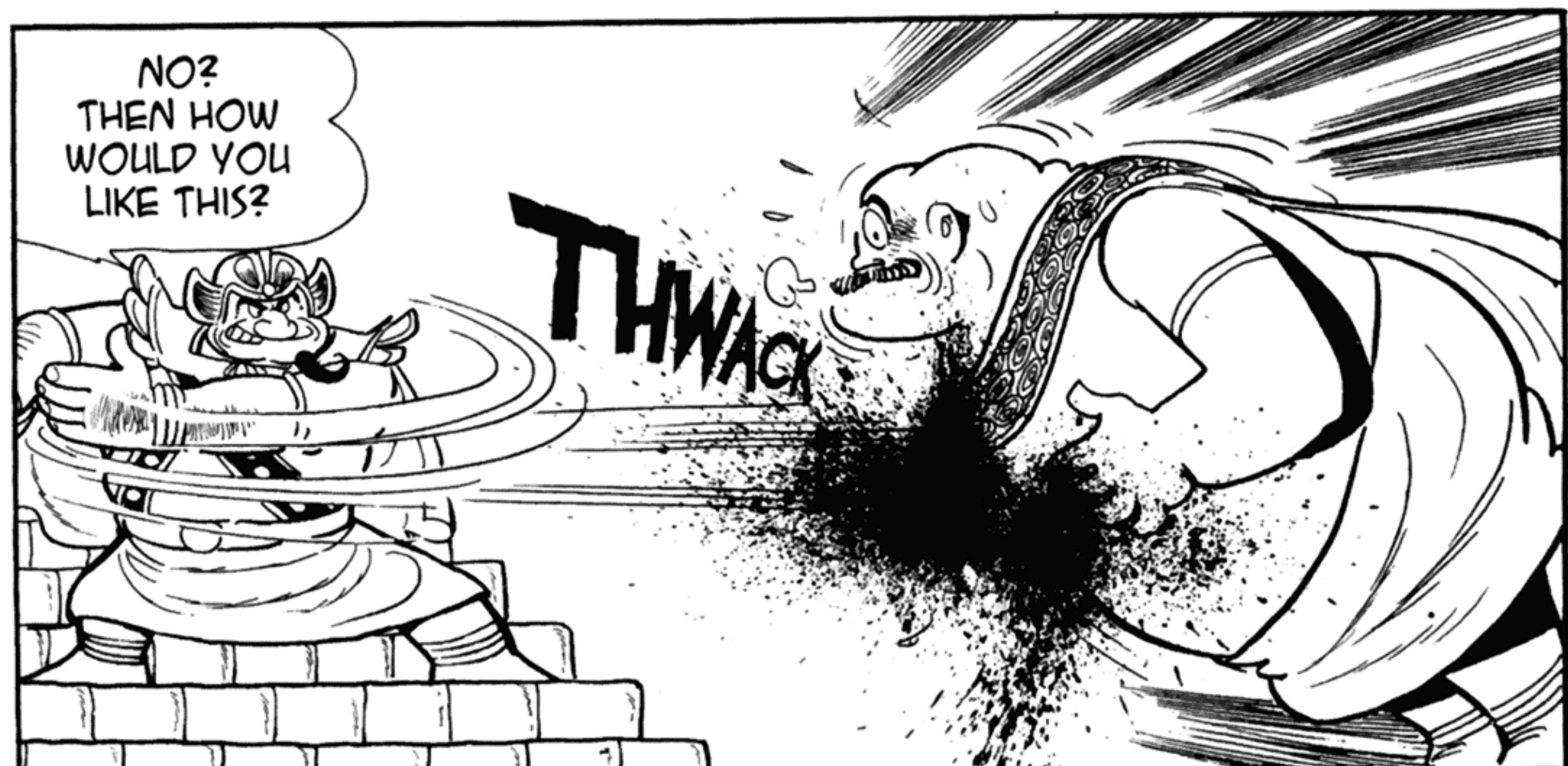
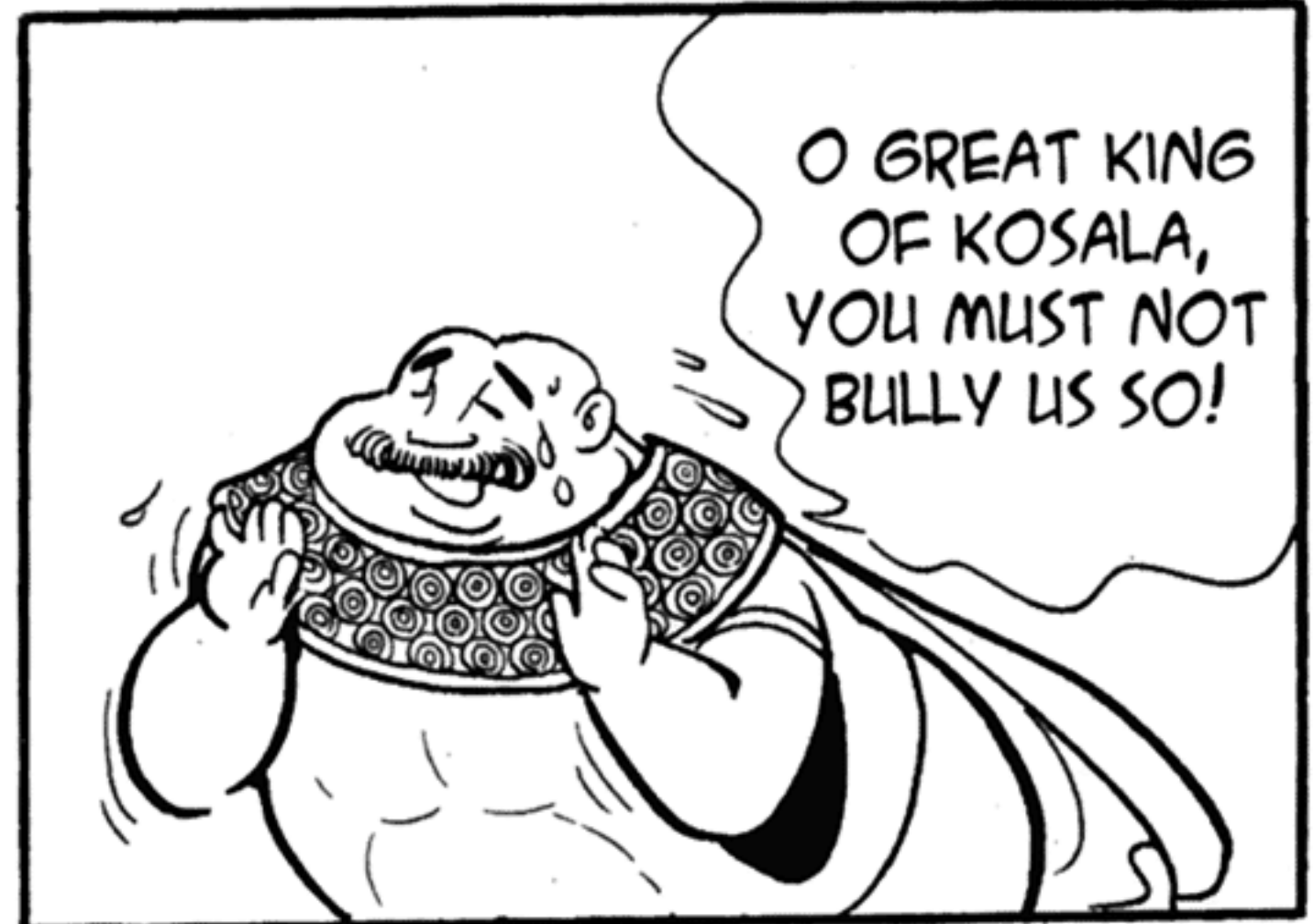
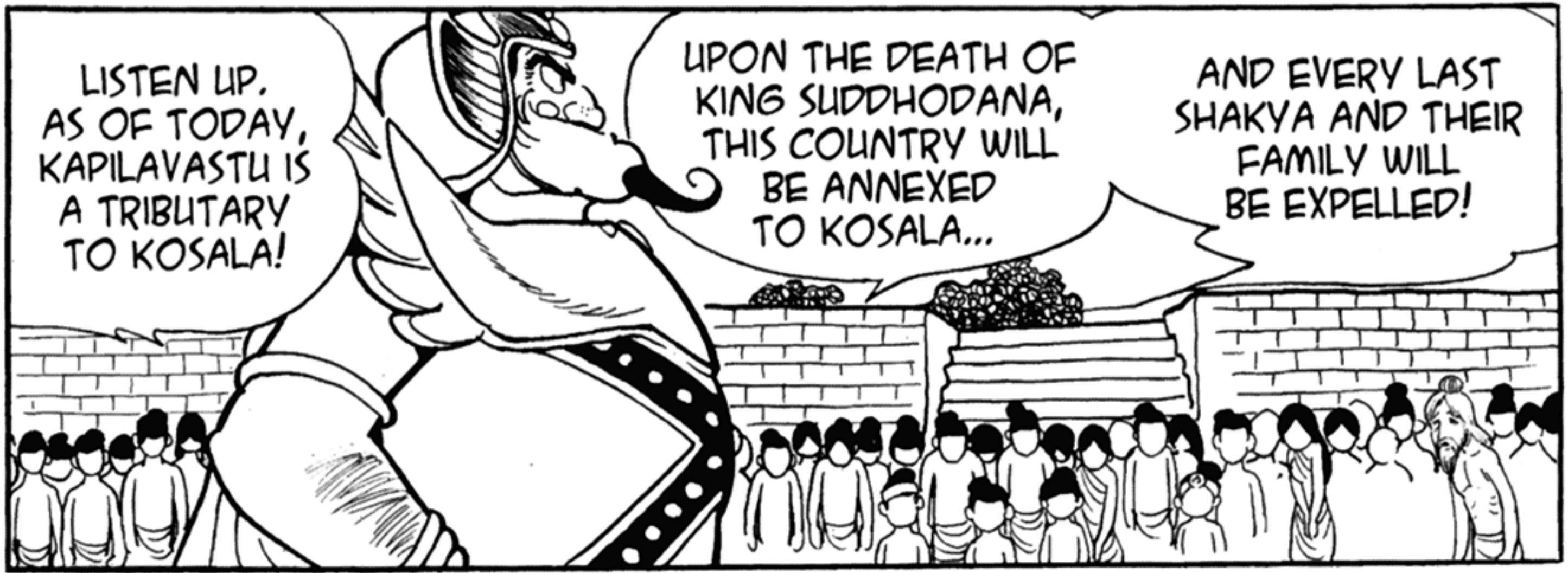


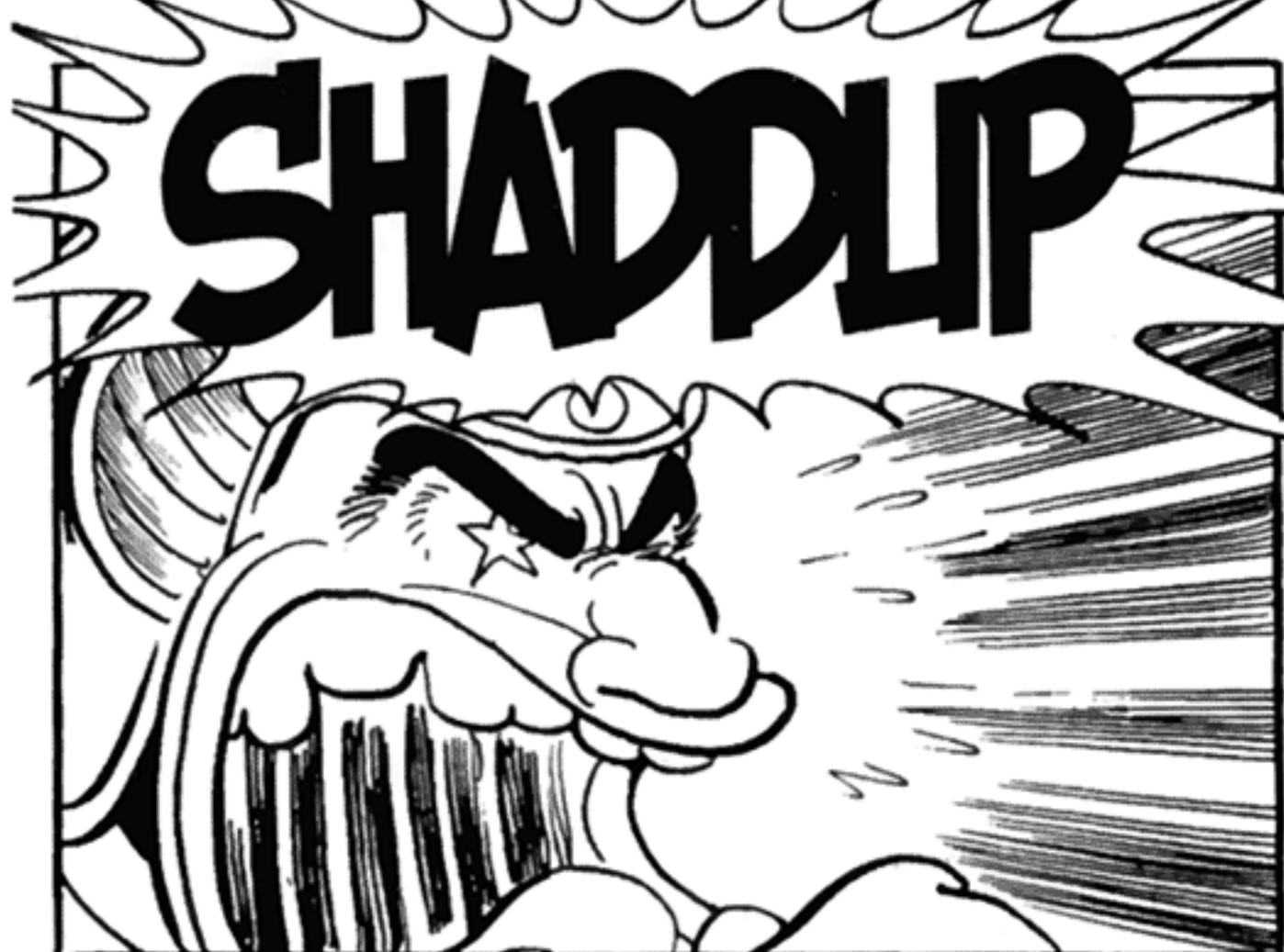
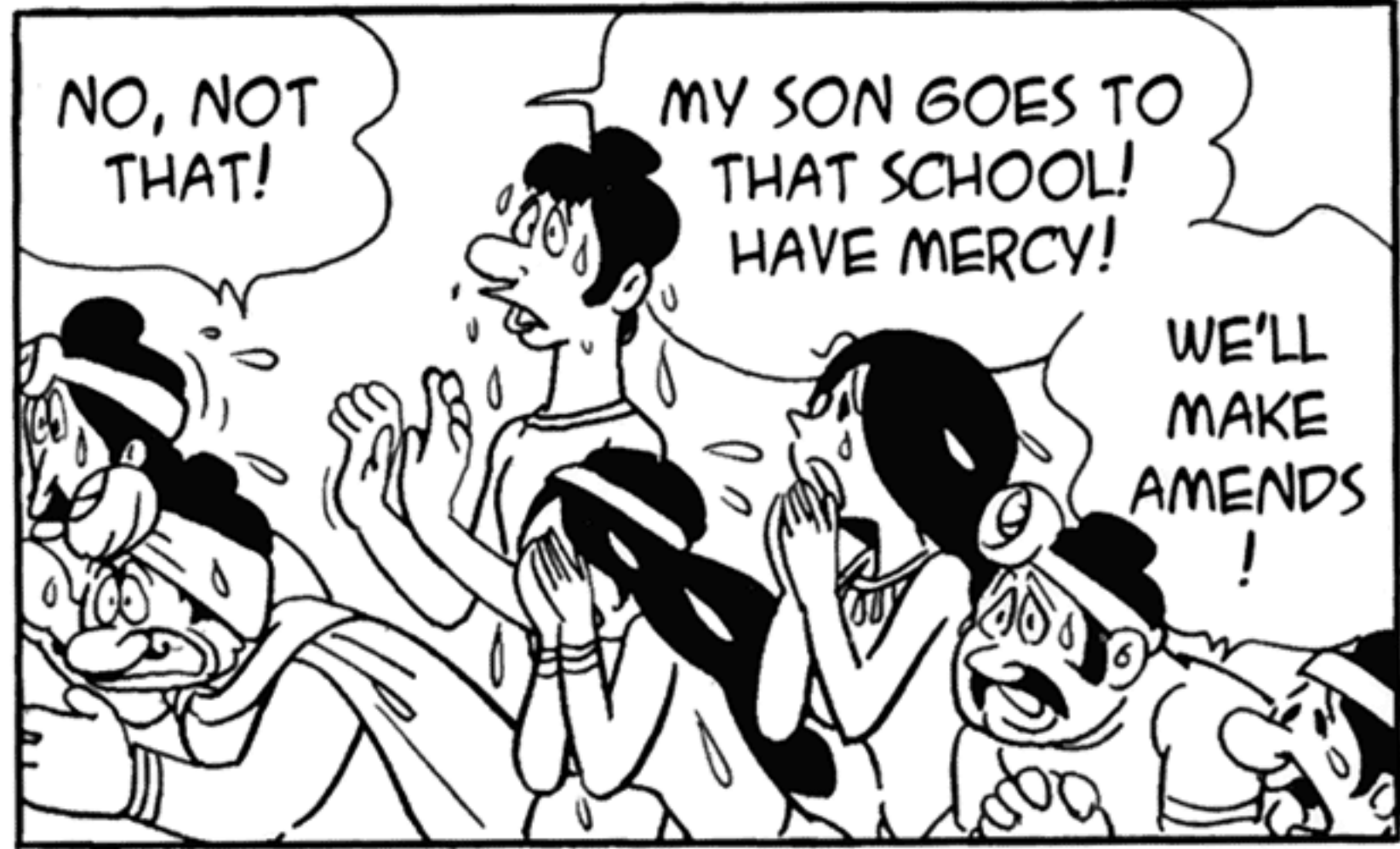
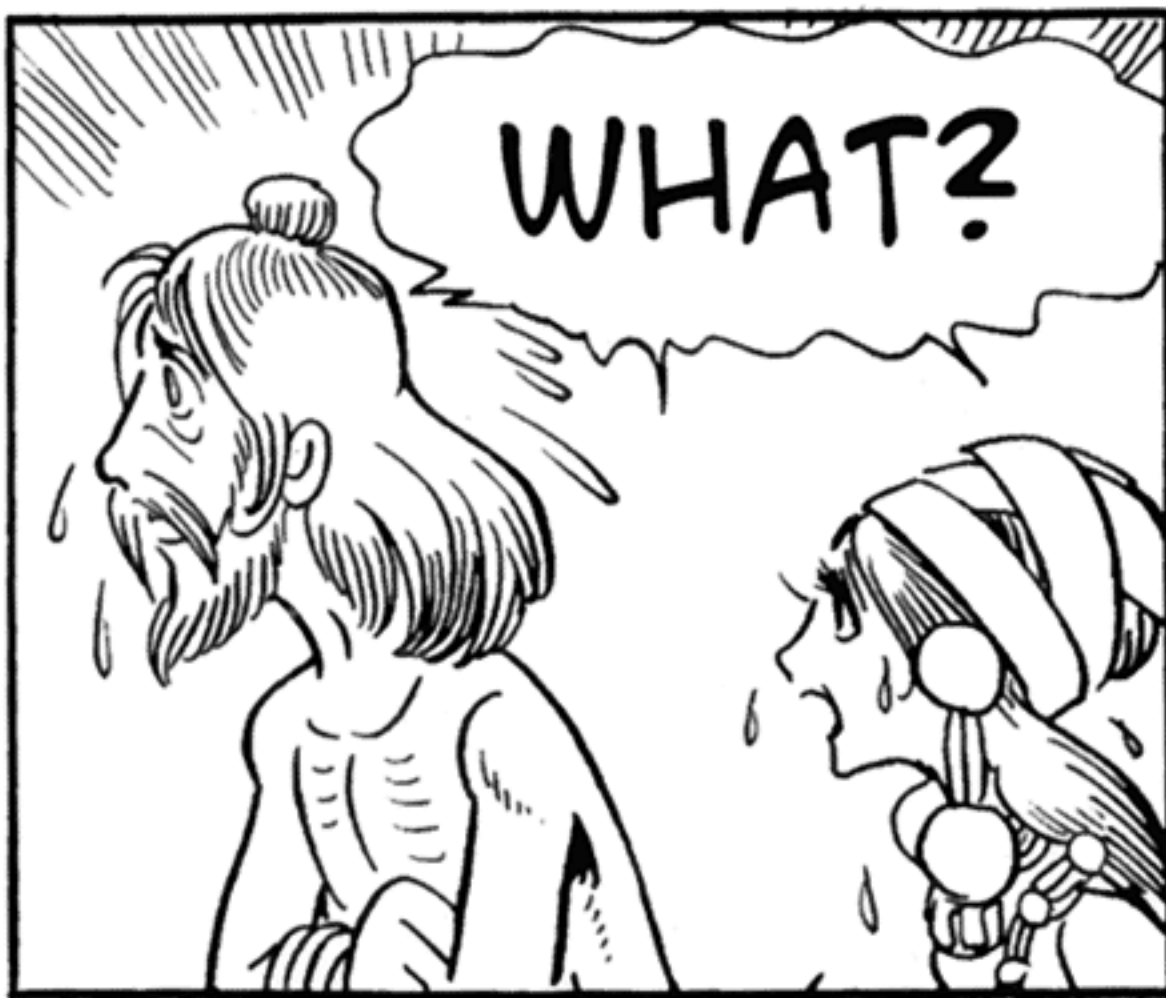
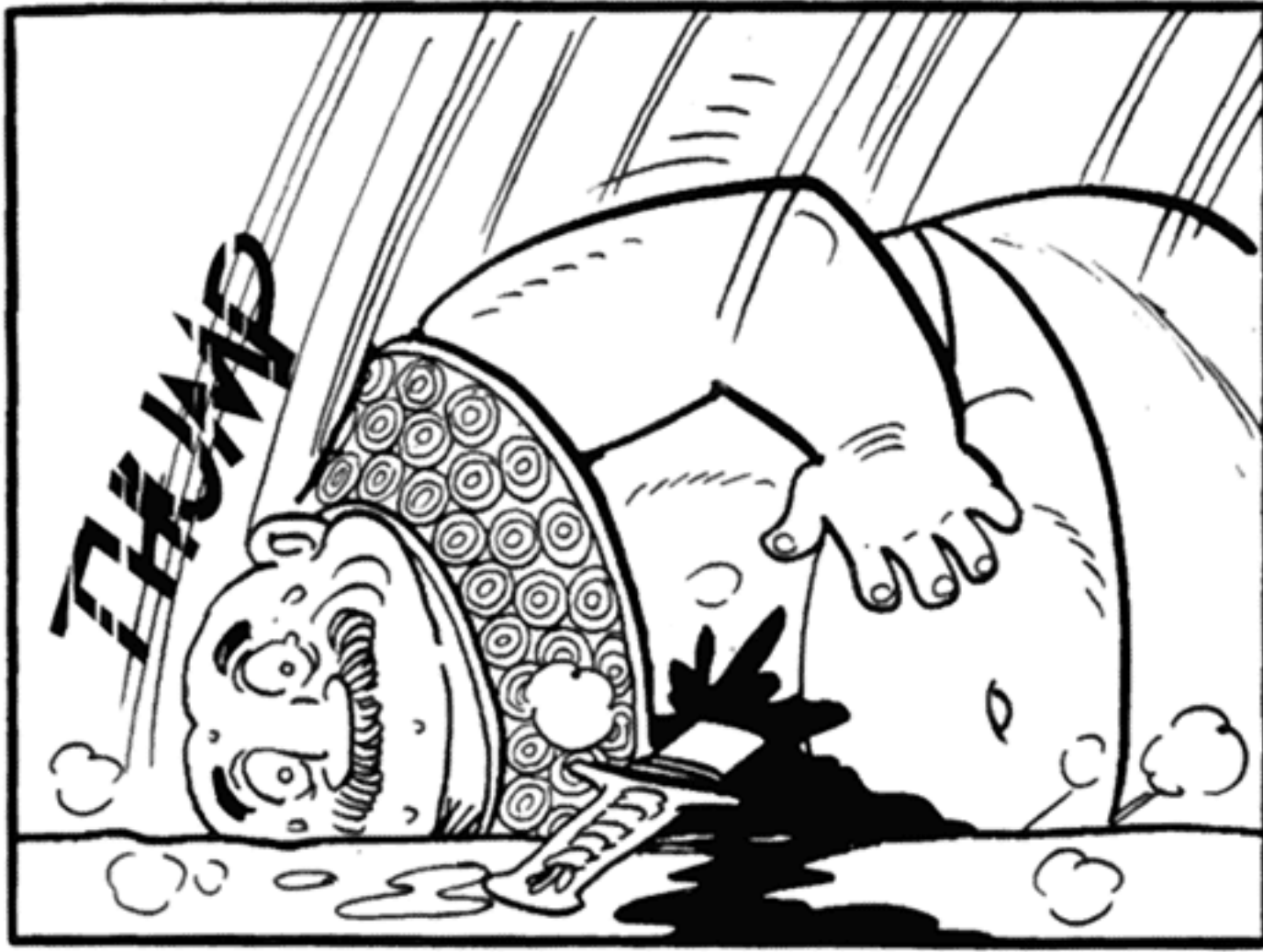
YOUR MAJESTY...
IT WAS OUR
COUNCIL OF
ELDERS THAT MADE
THE DECISION.
MY QUEEN
AND PRINCESS
YASHODARA
ARE BLAMELESS.
MERCY UPON
THEM!

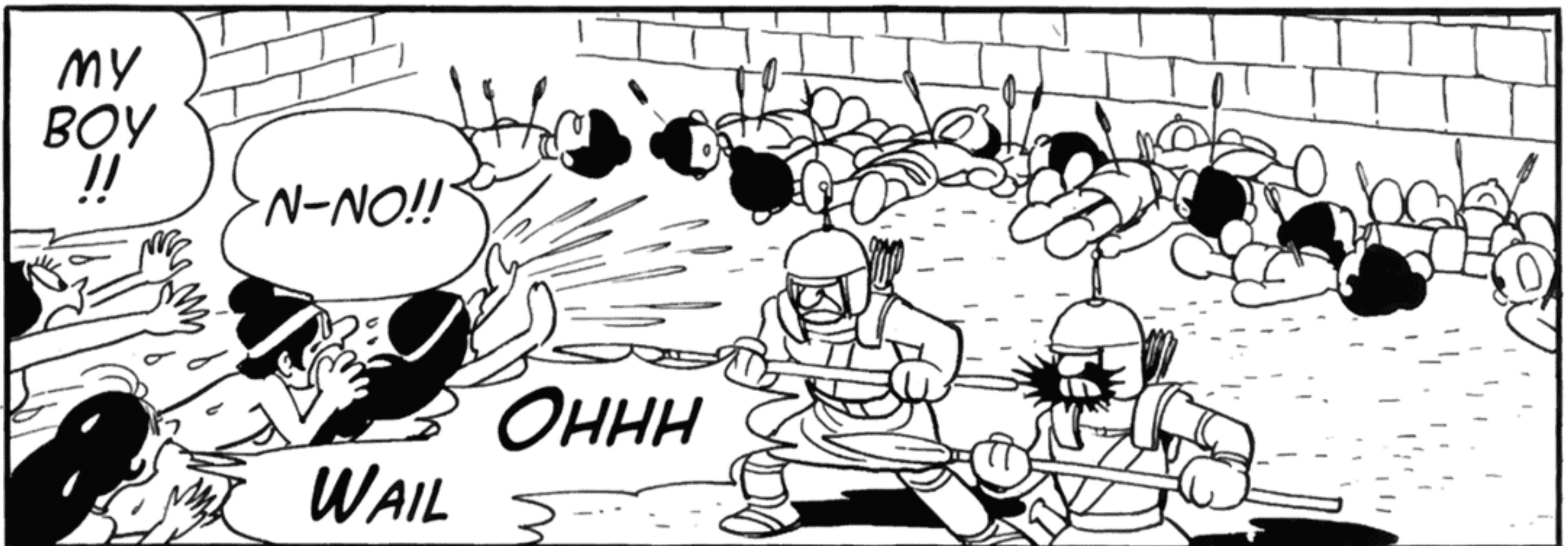
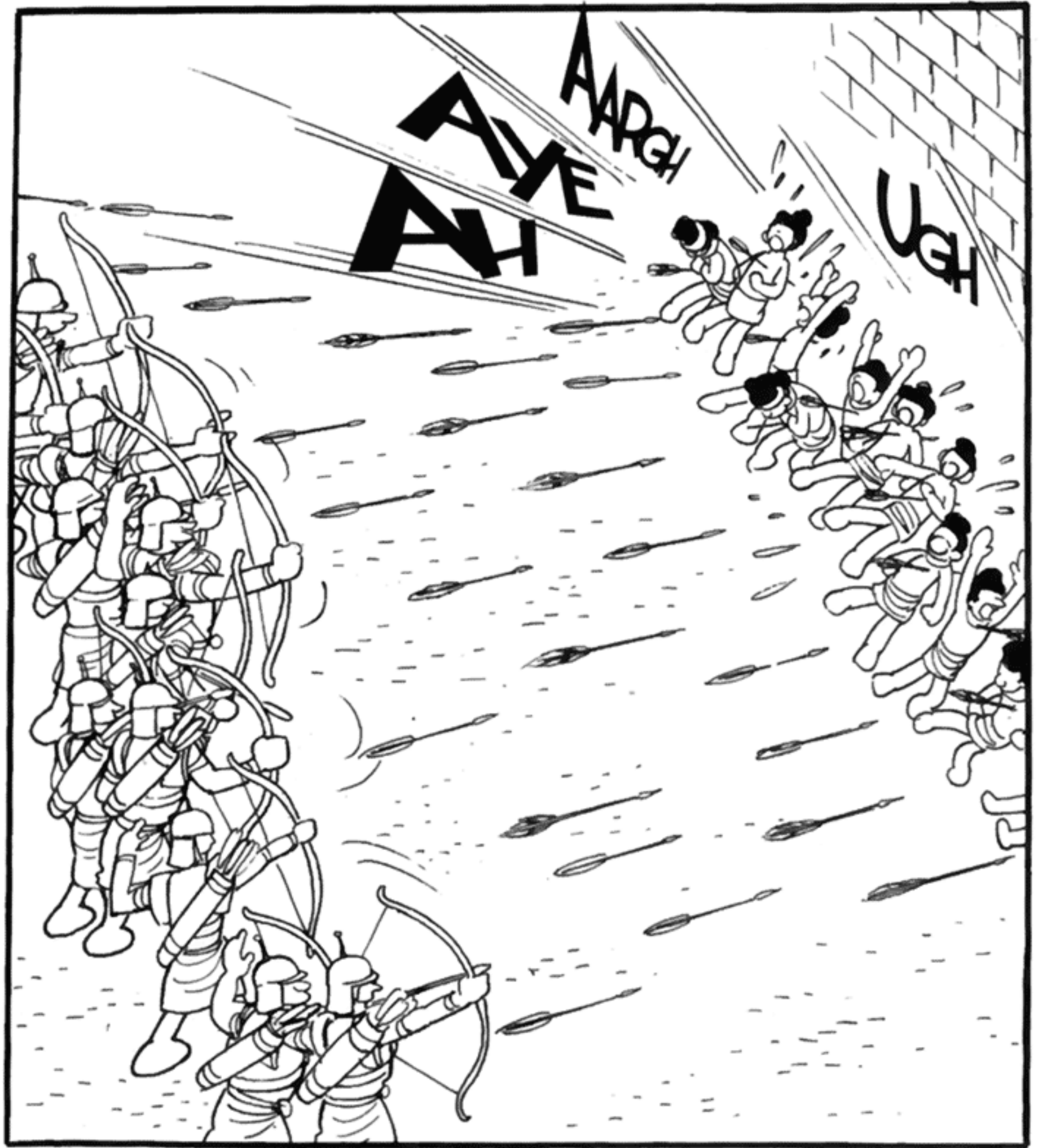
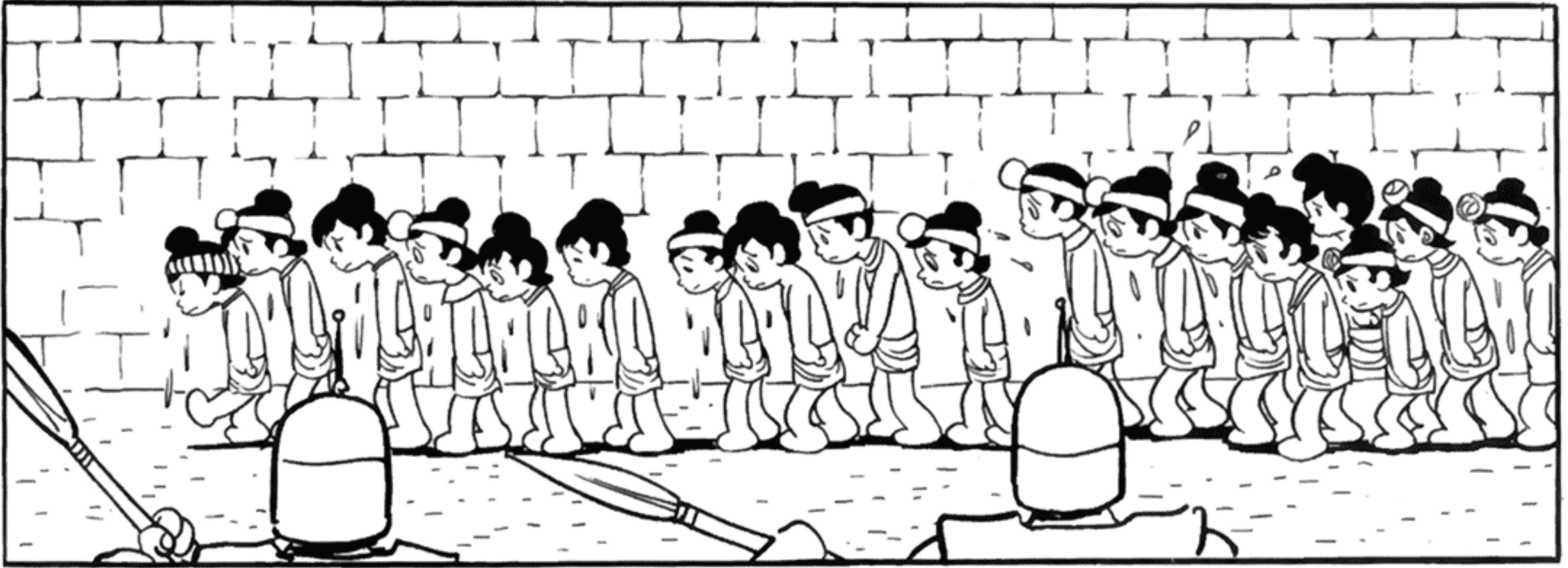
NO, DEAR,
WE WERE IN
THE SAME
BOAT AND
SHARE
THE
BLAME.

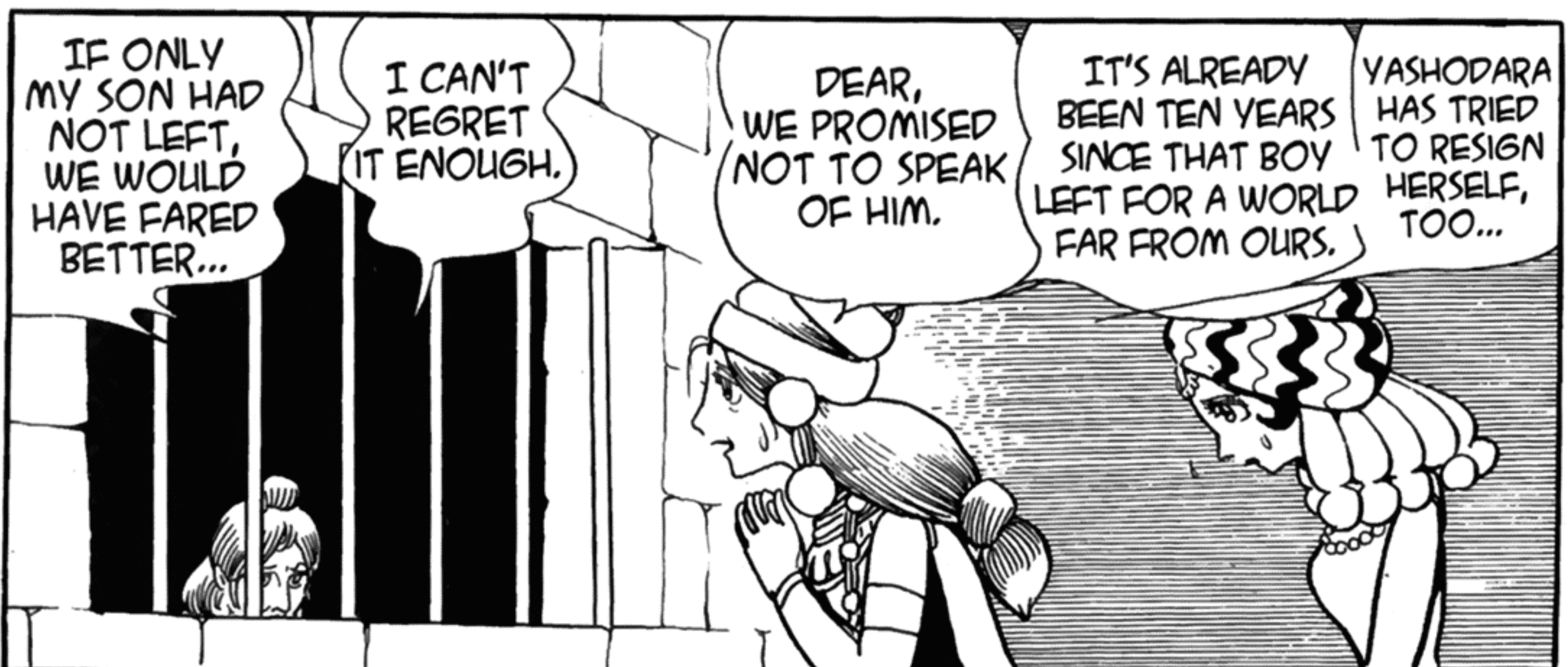
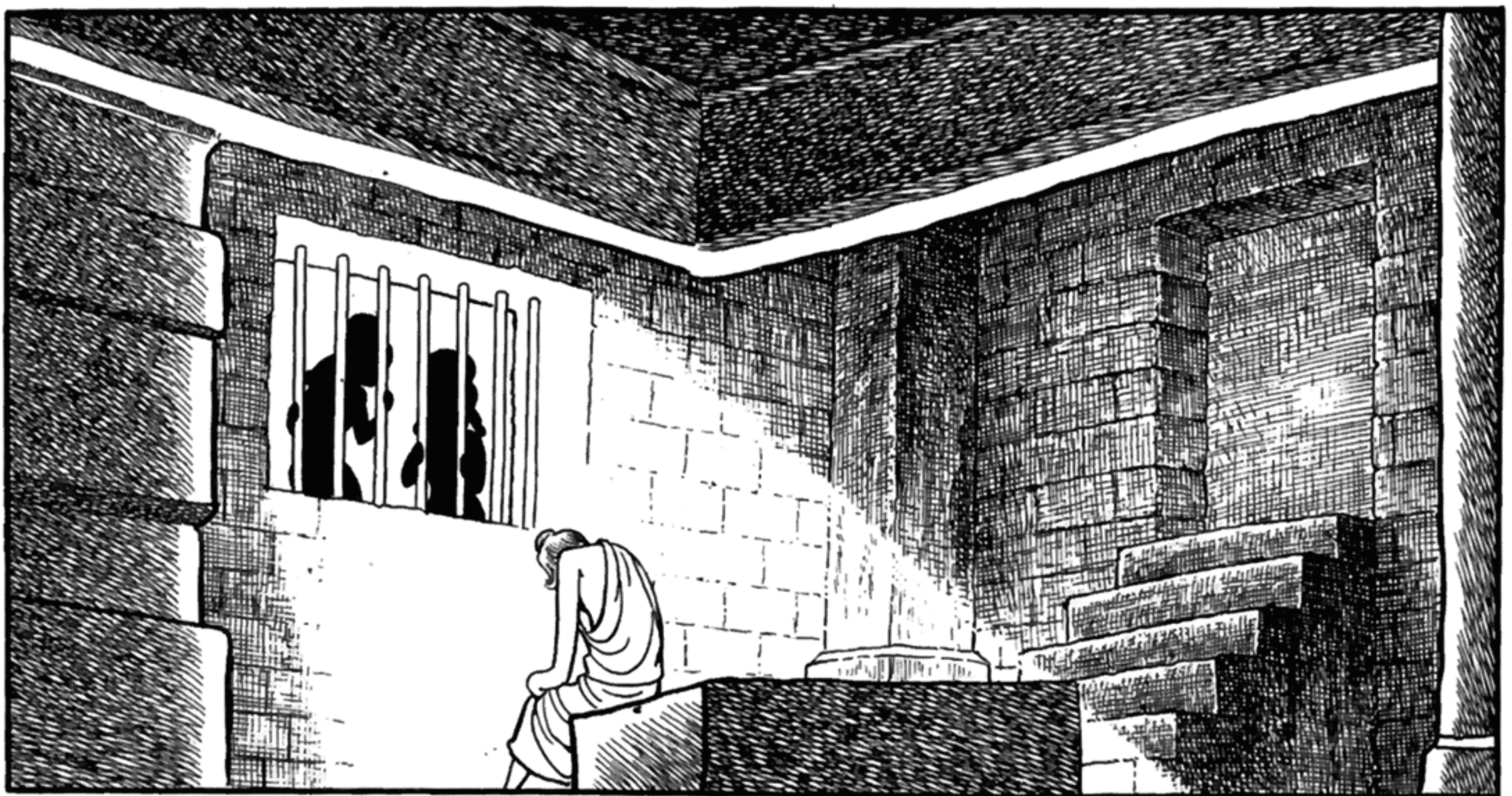


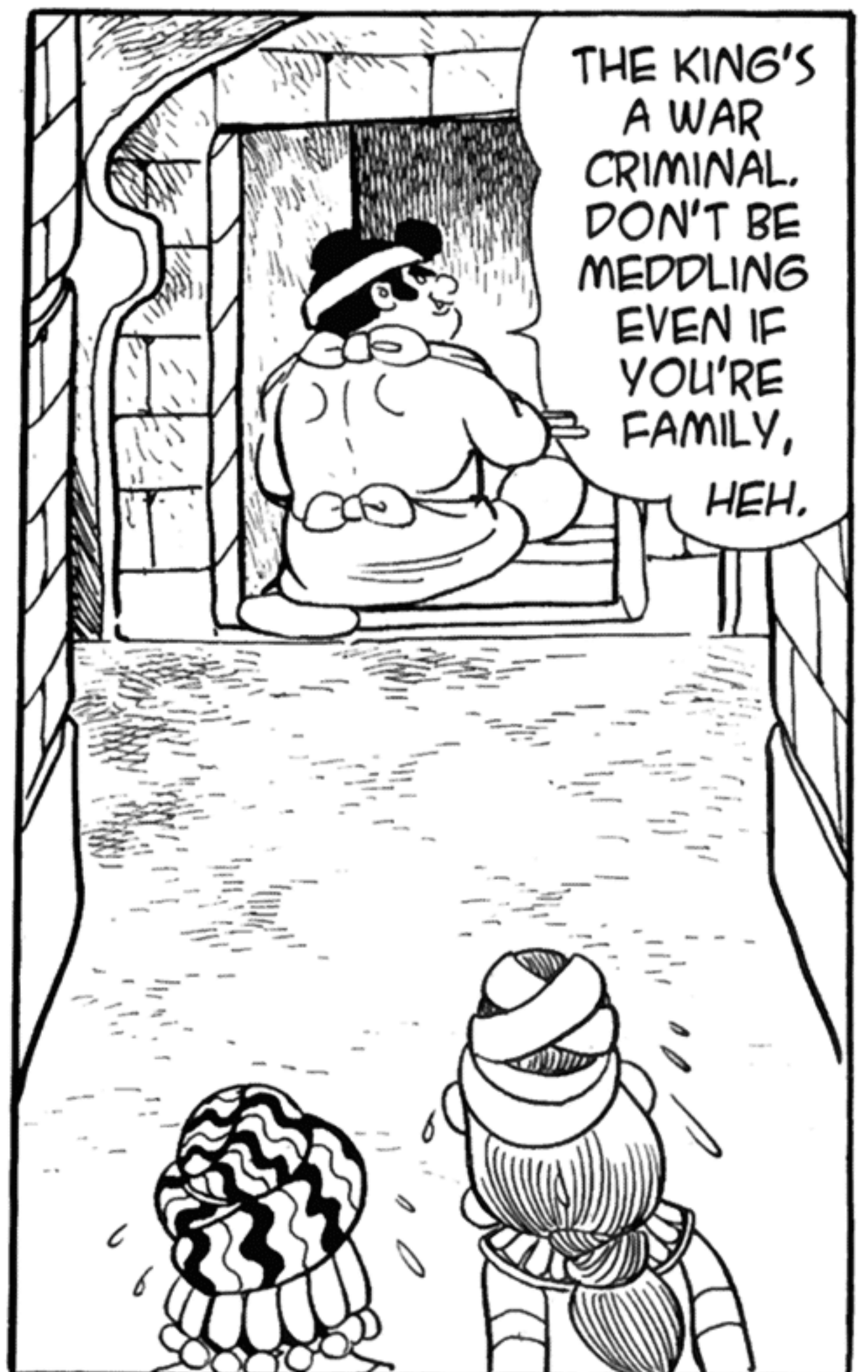
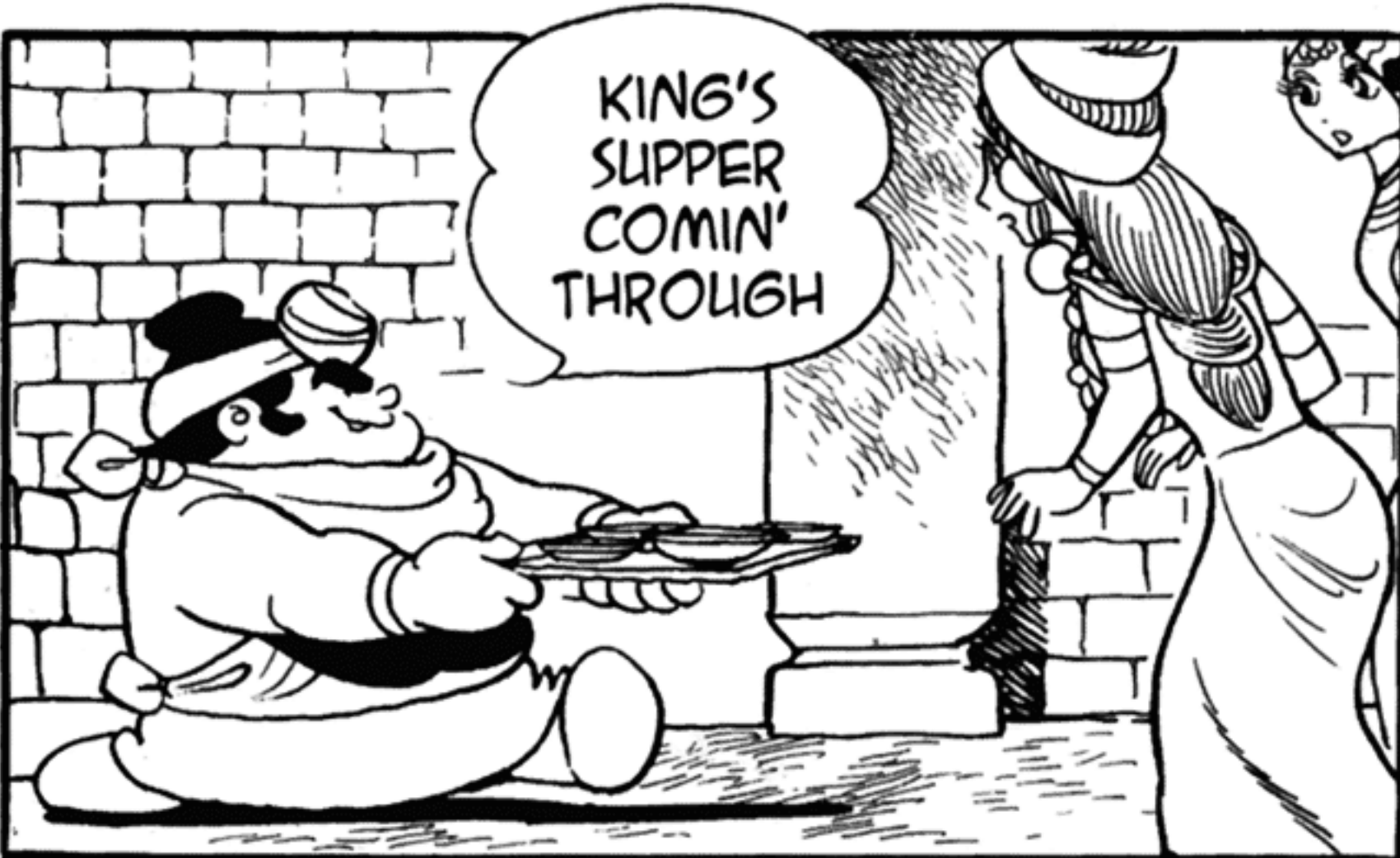
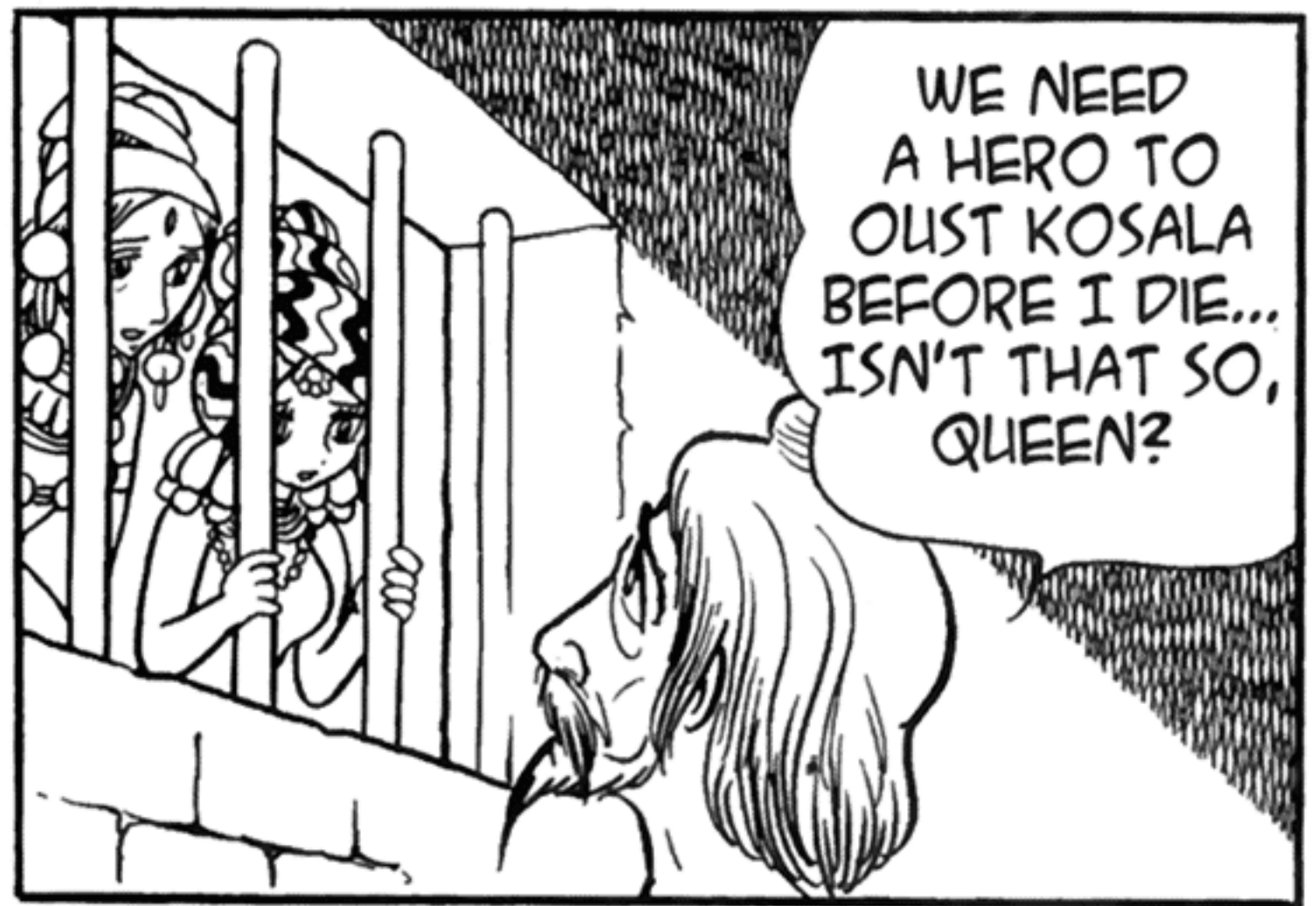
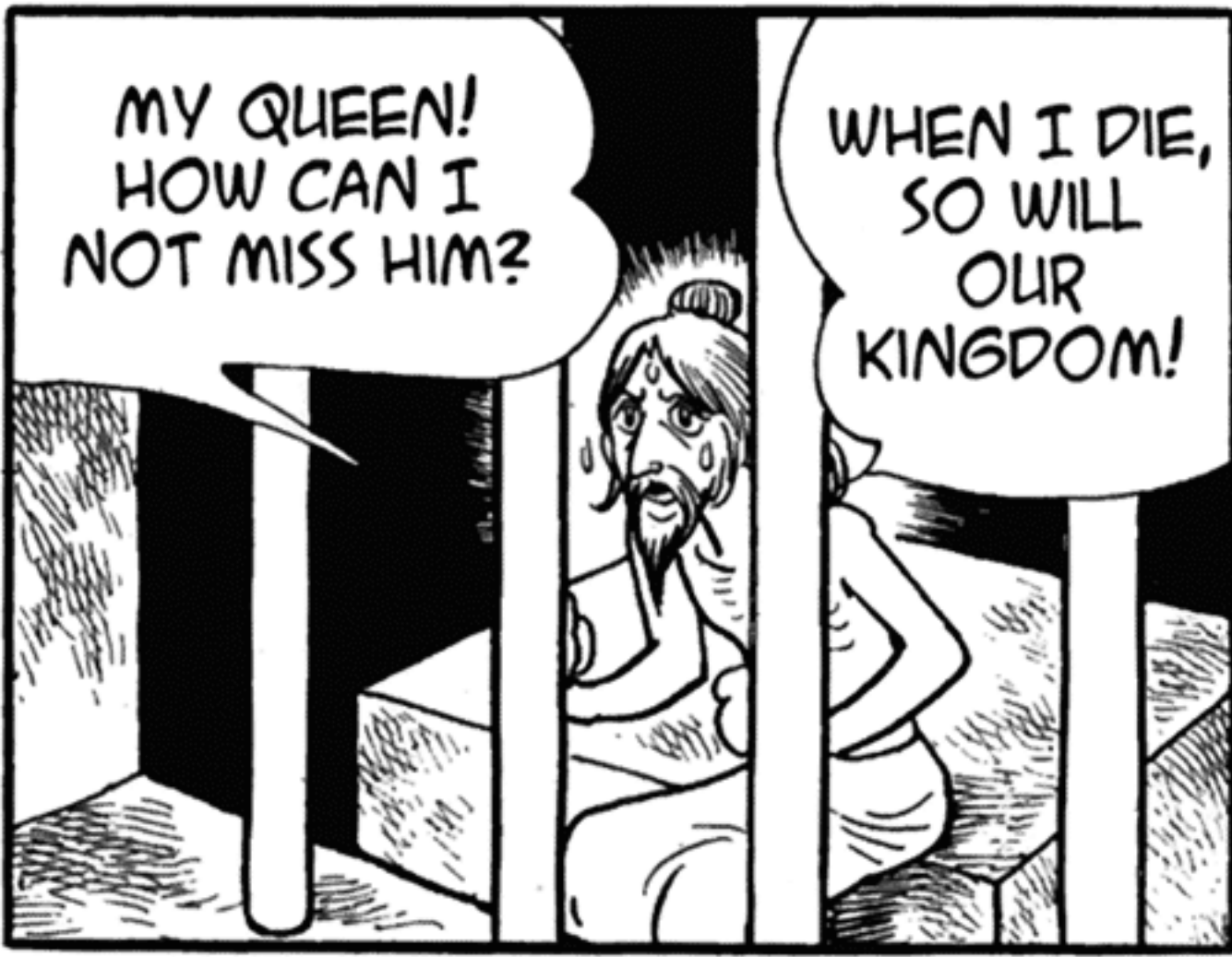
SHUDDUP!
I DON'T CARE
WHO DID
WHAT!
THE WHOLE
DAMN
SHAKYA
TRIBE WILL
PAY.

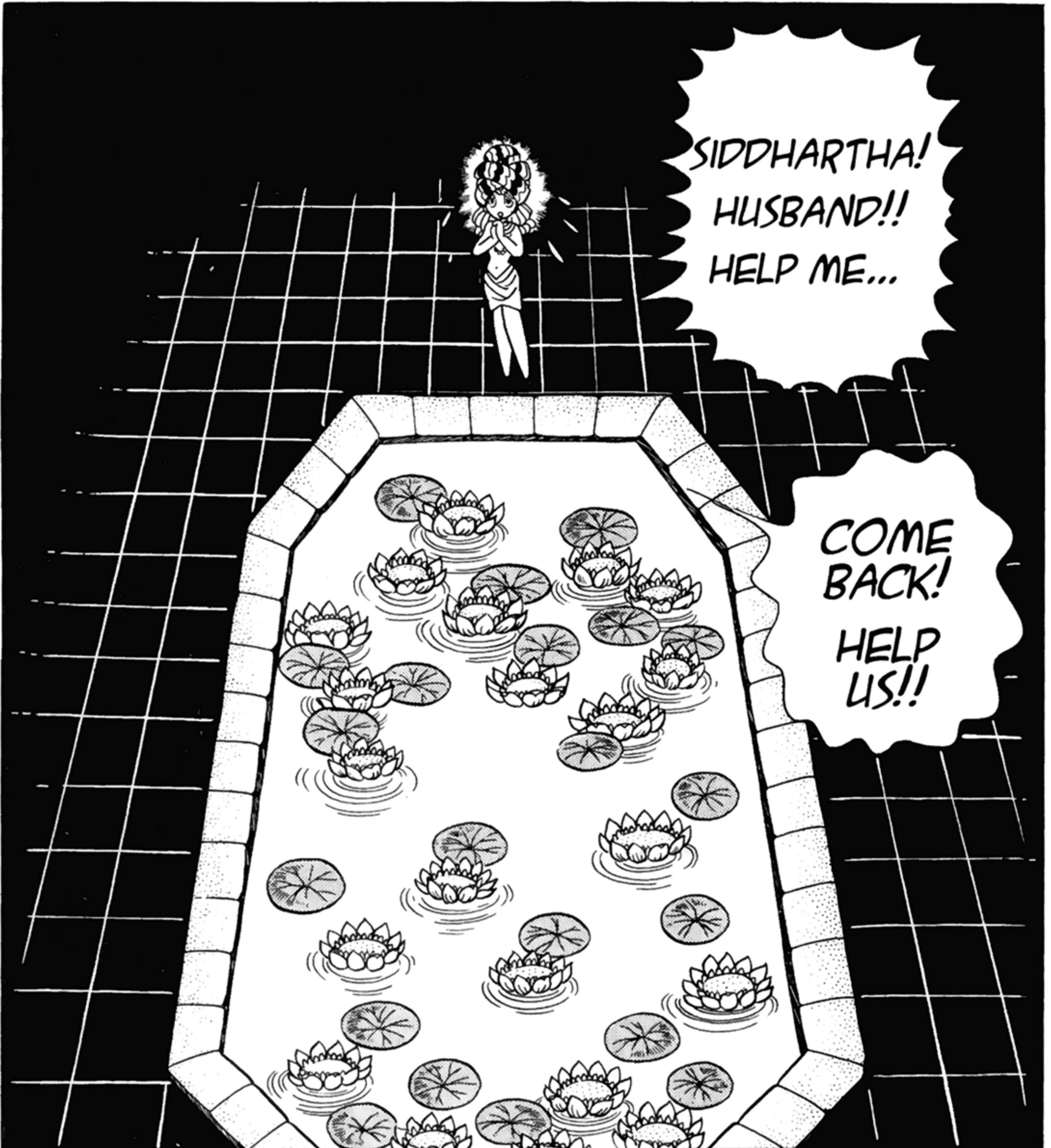


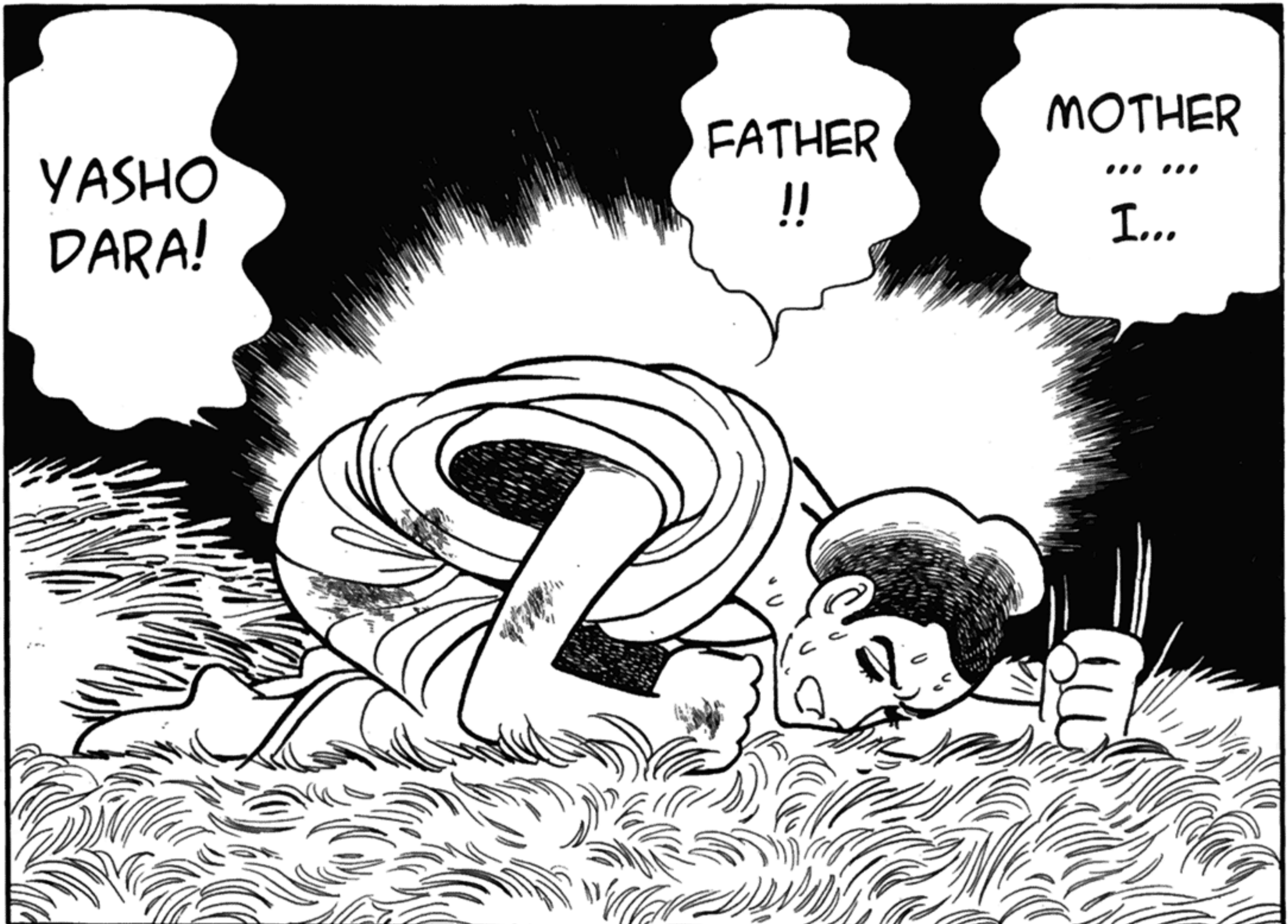
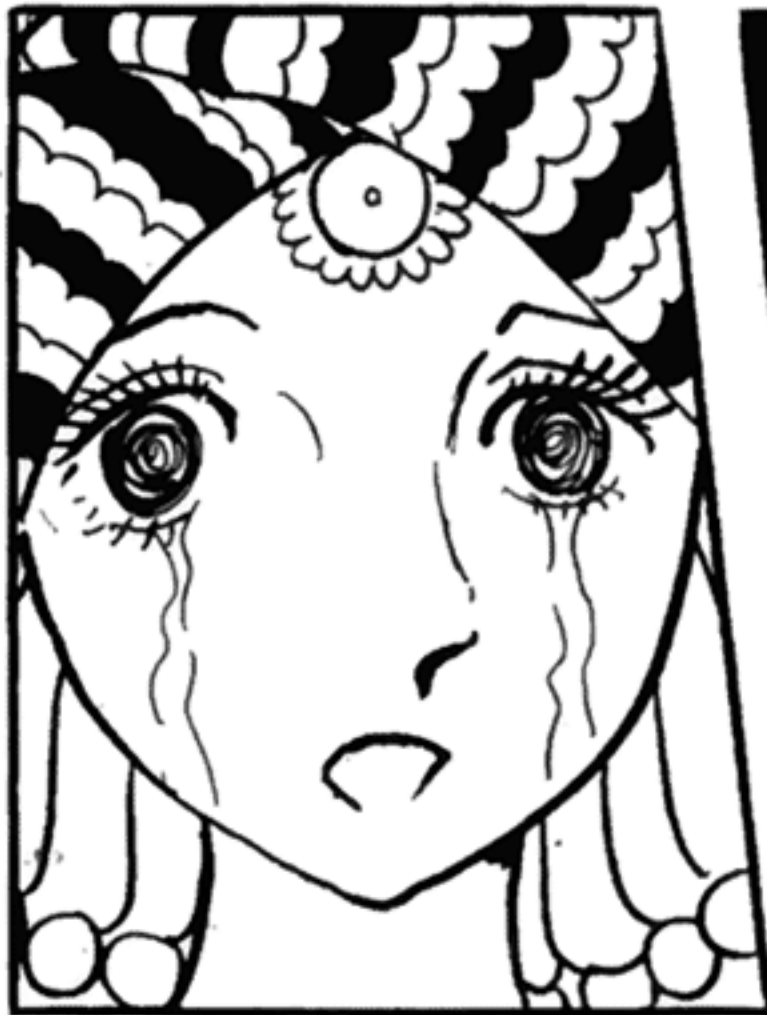




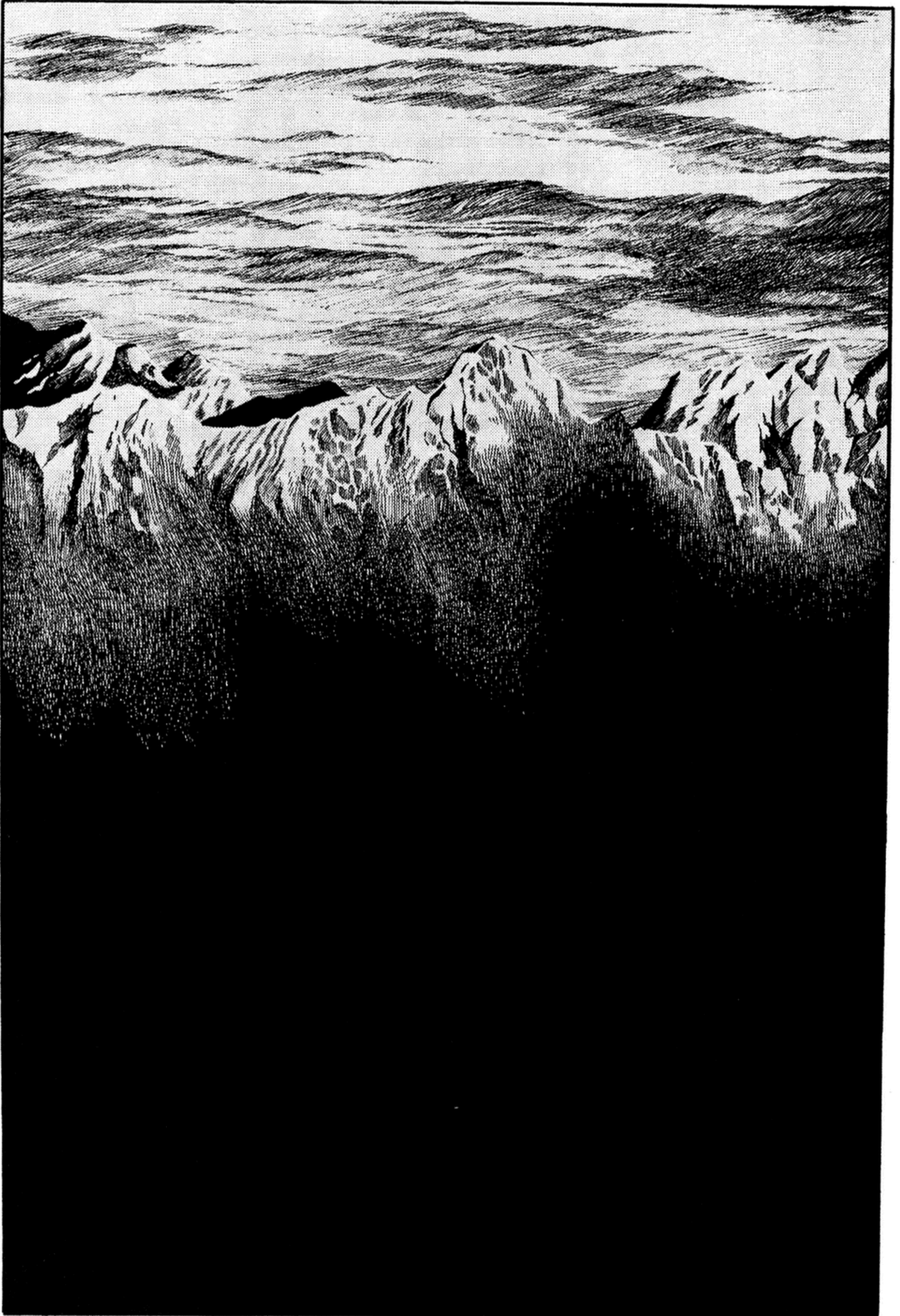






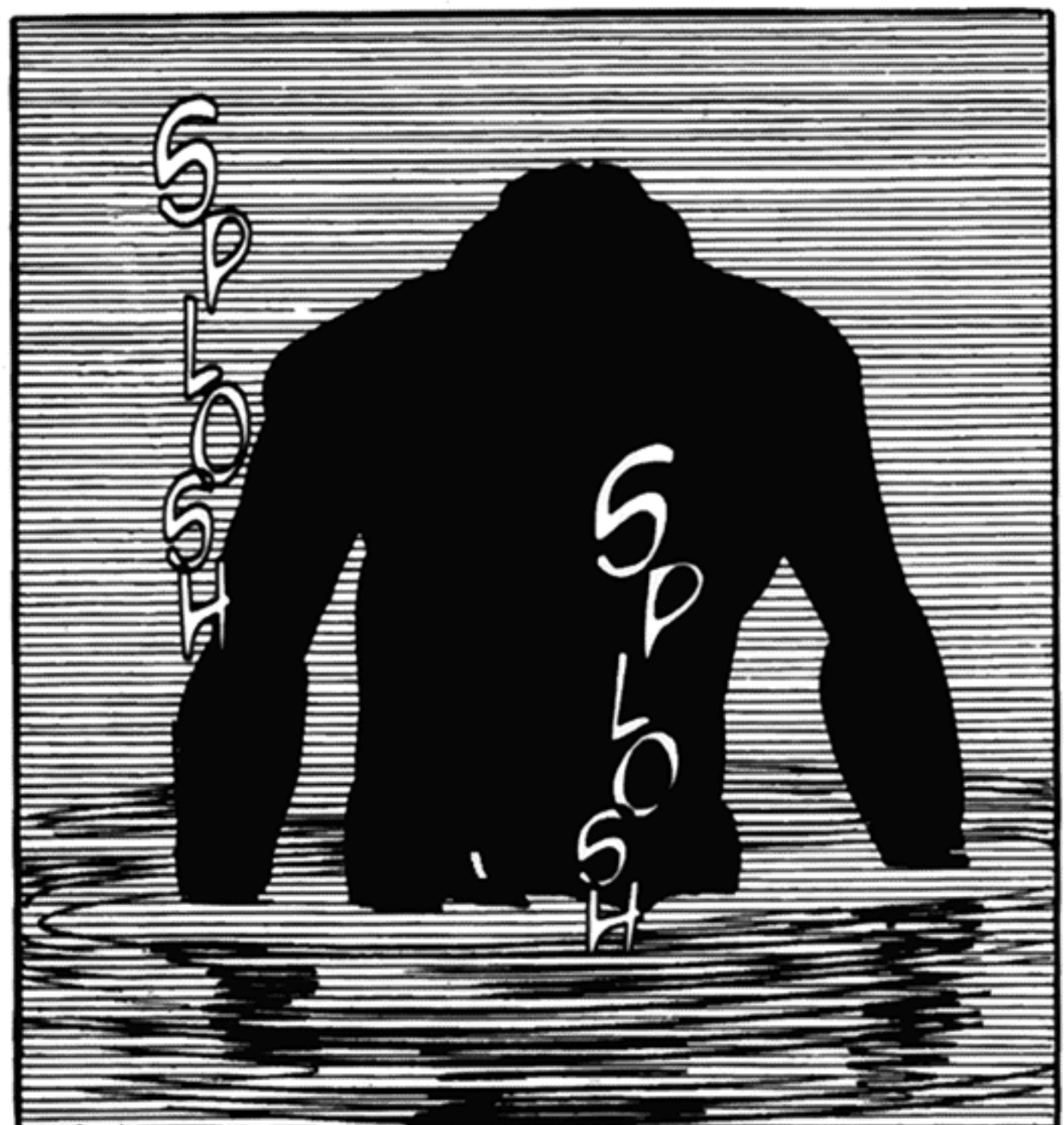
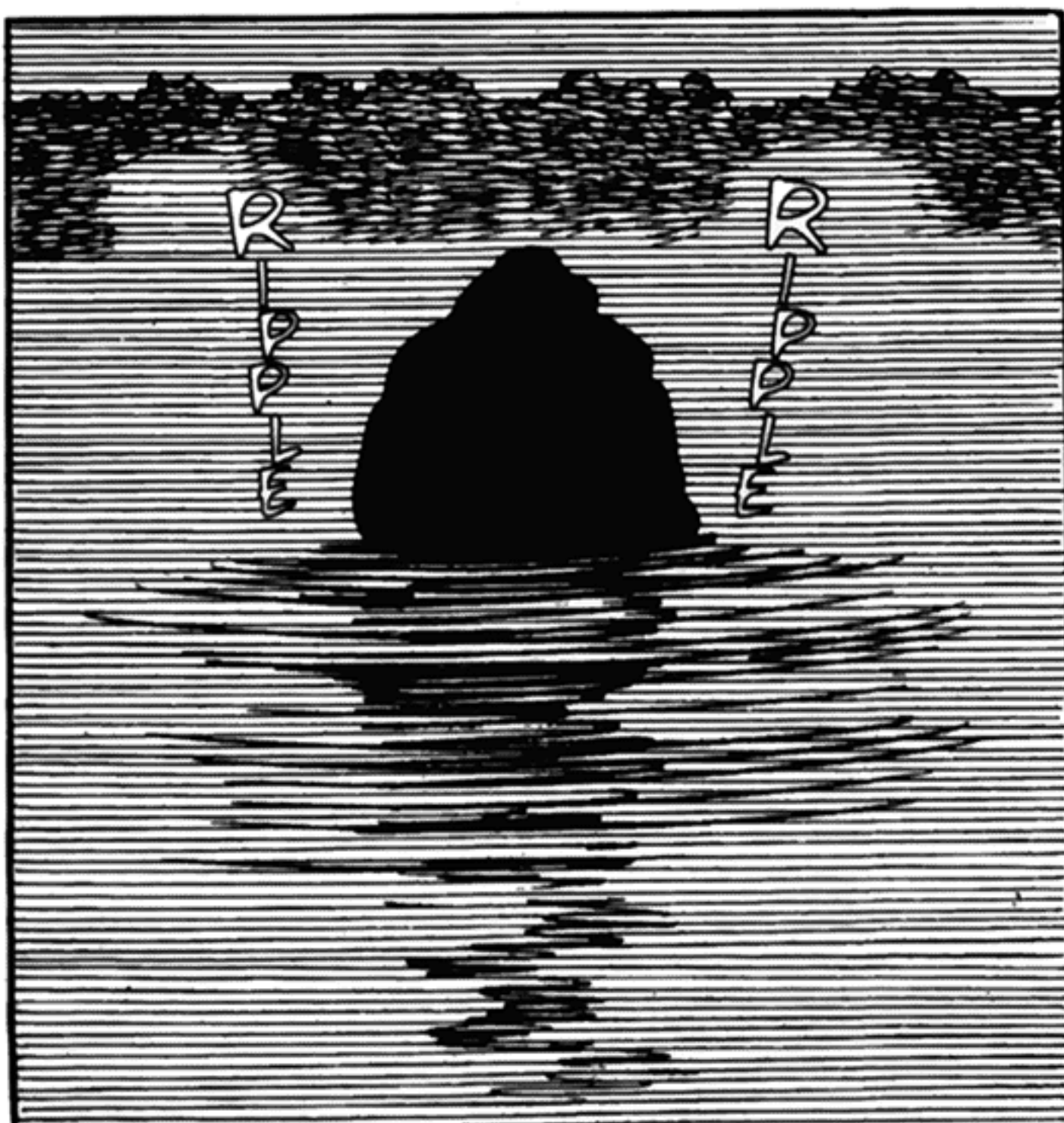
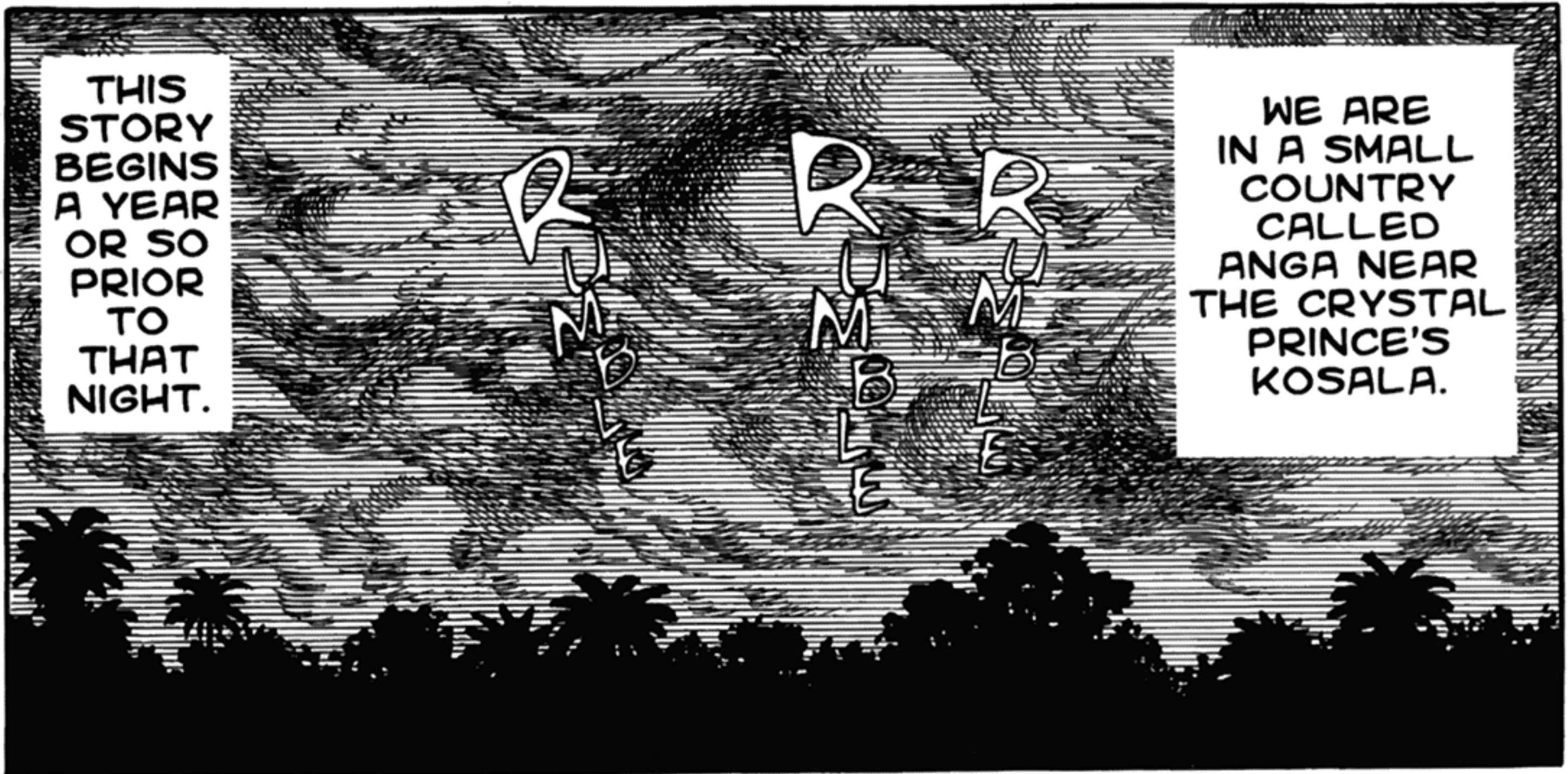


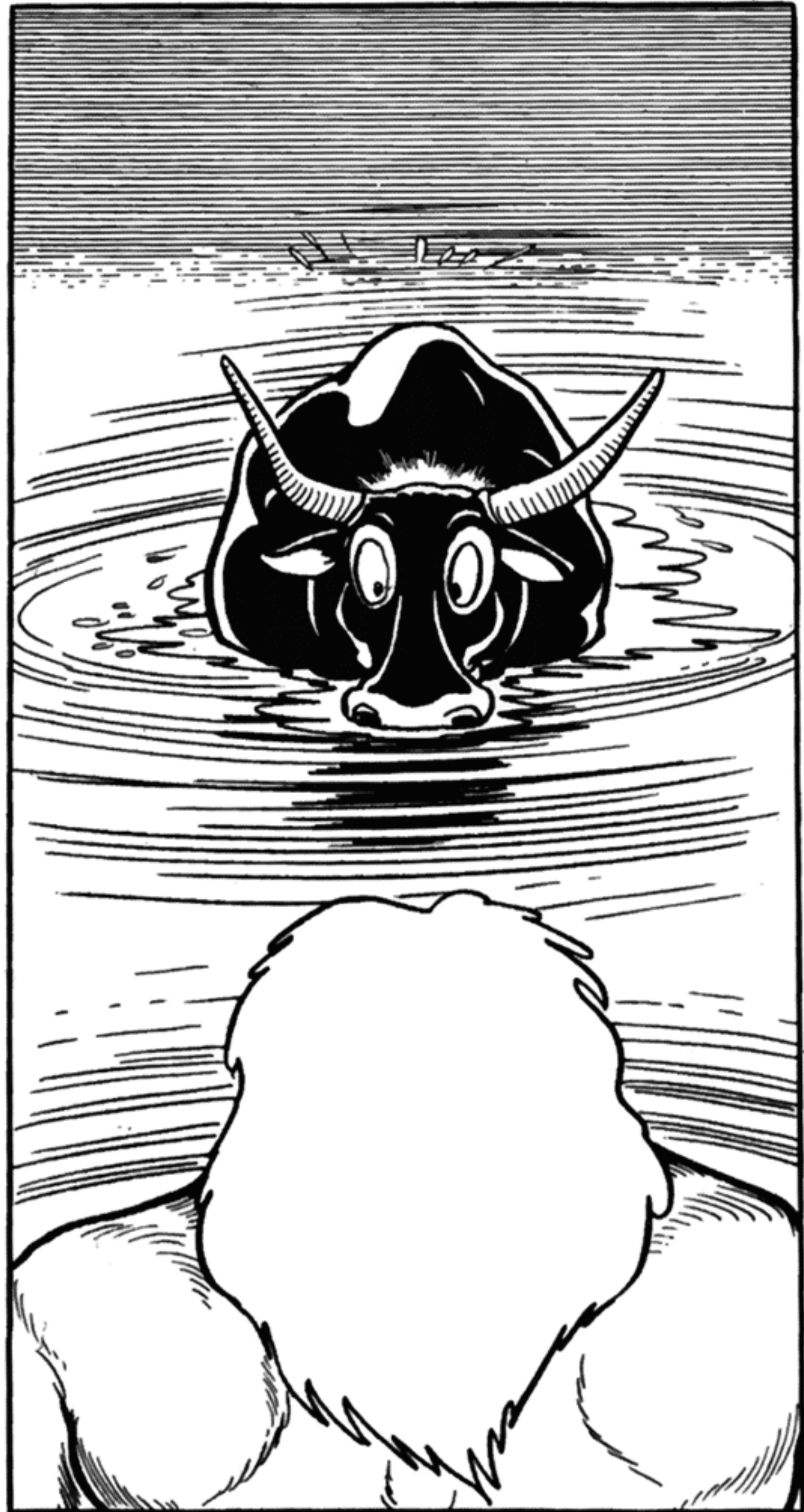
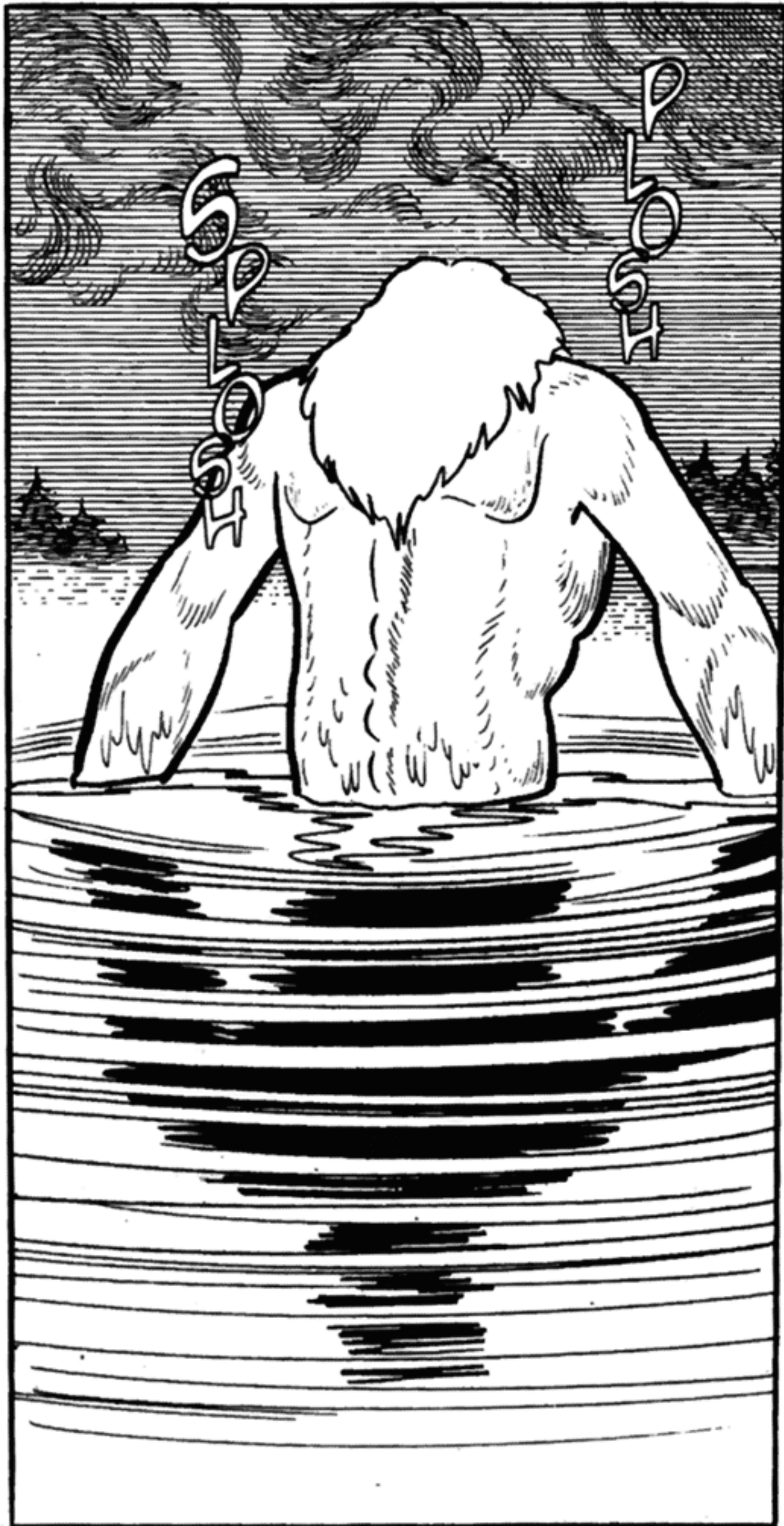
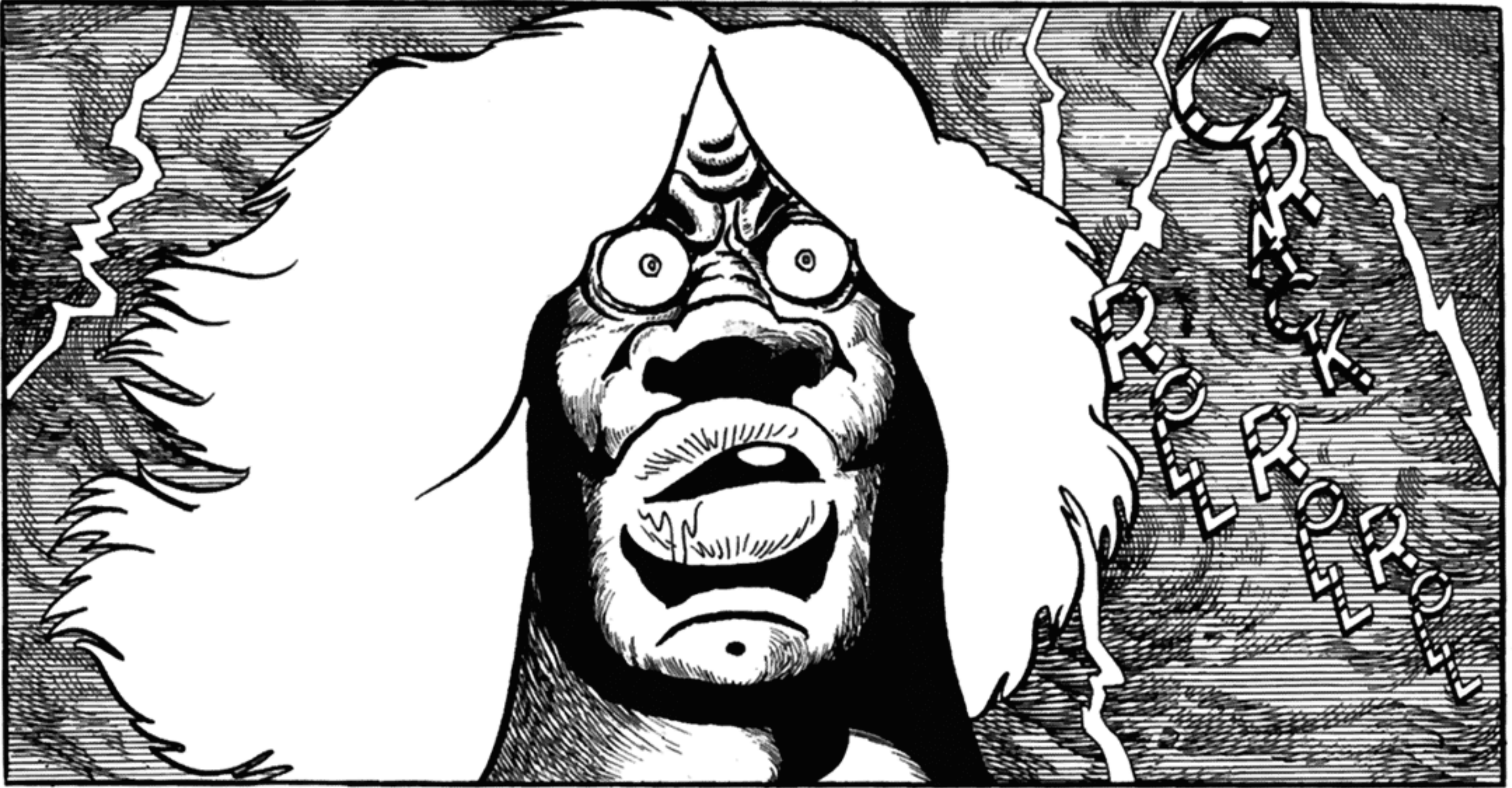


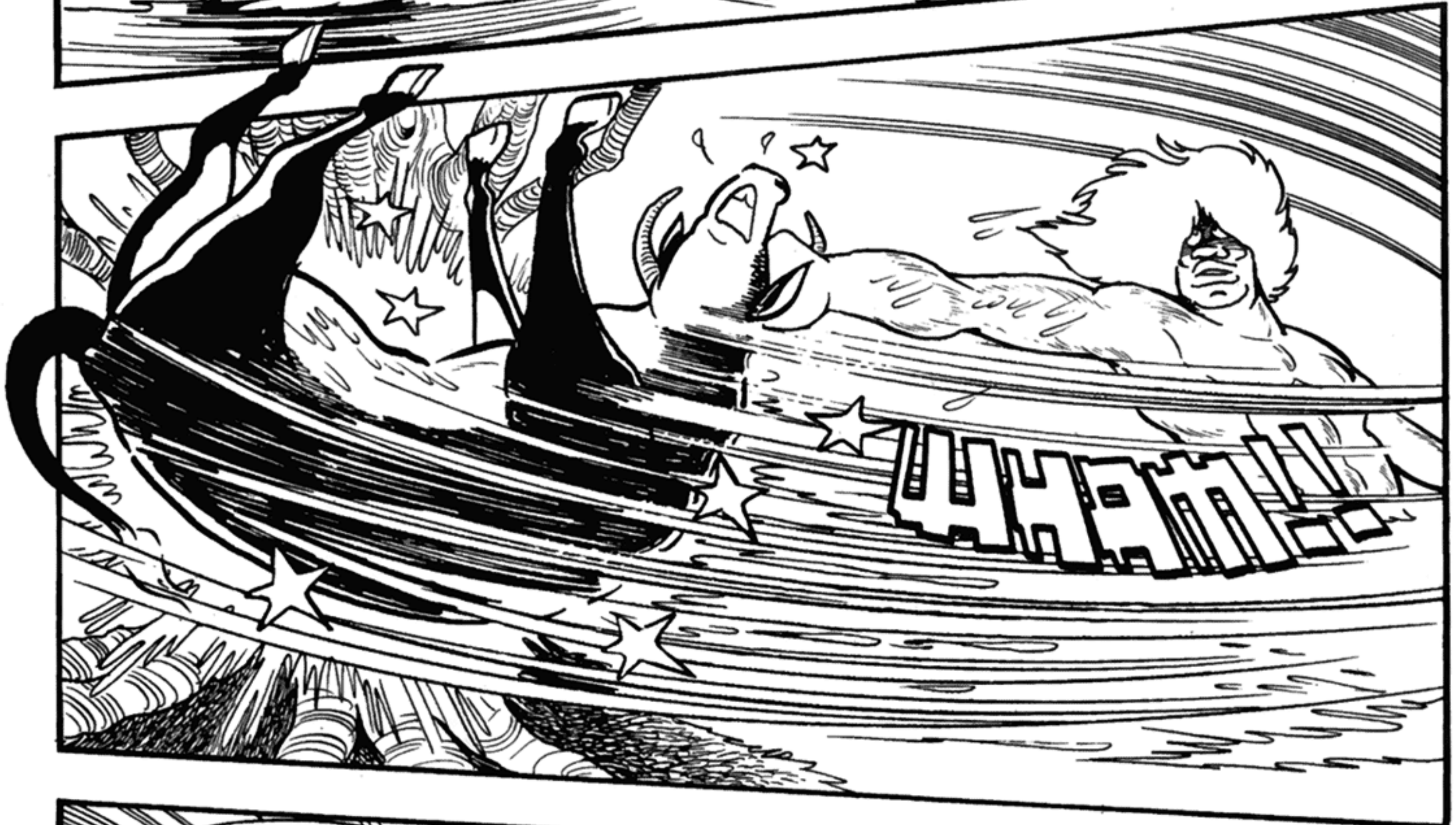
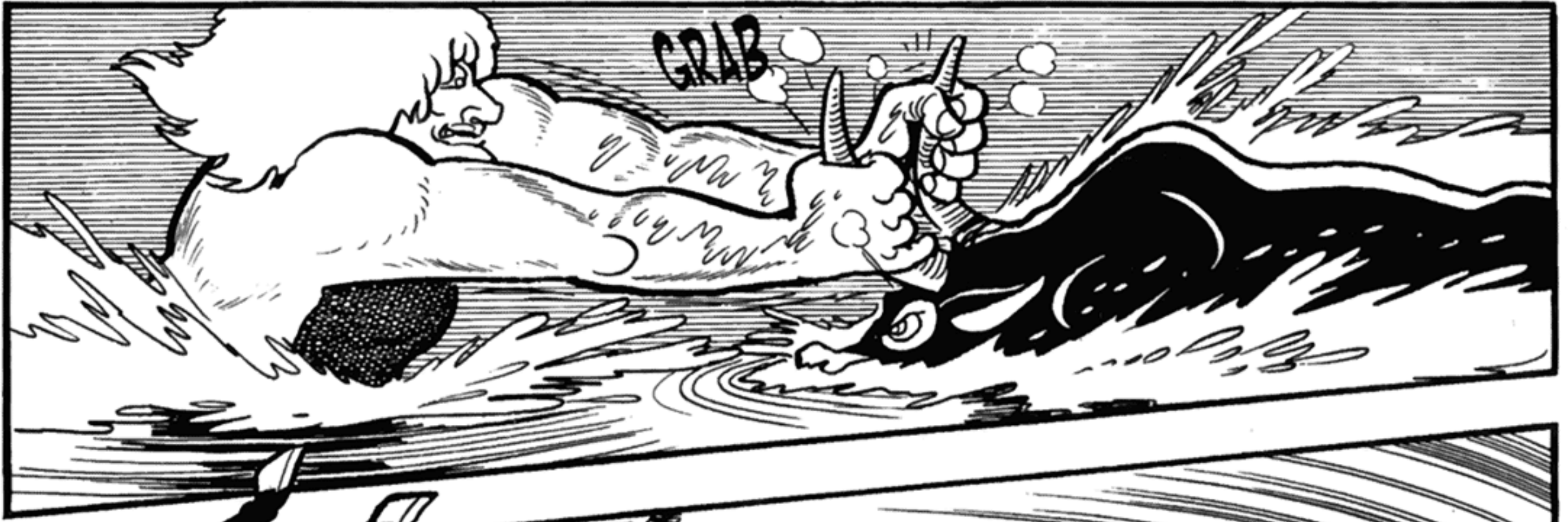


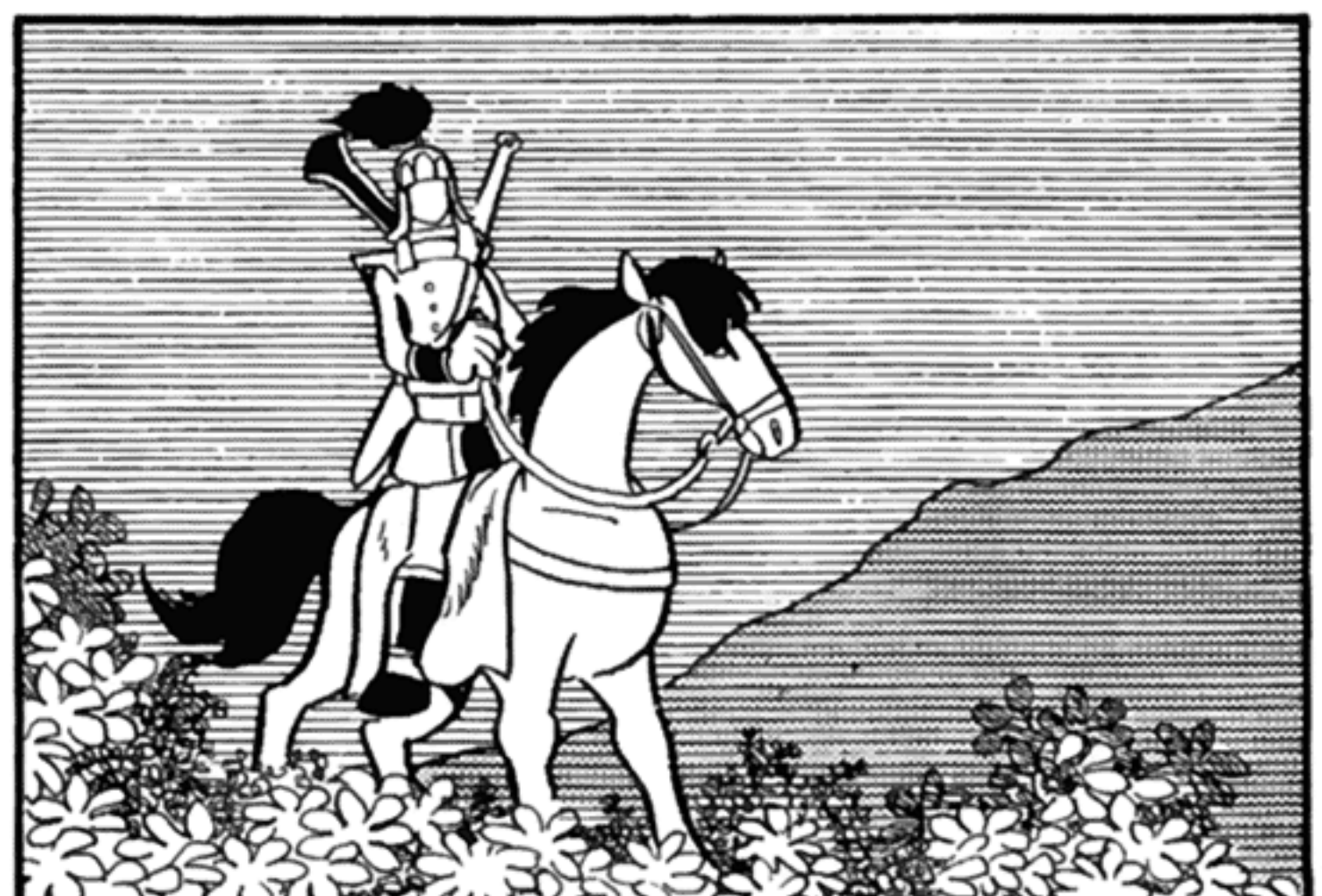
CHAPTER ELEVEN

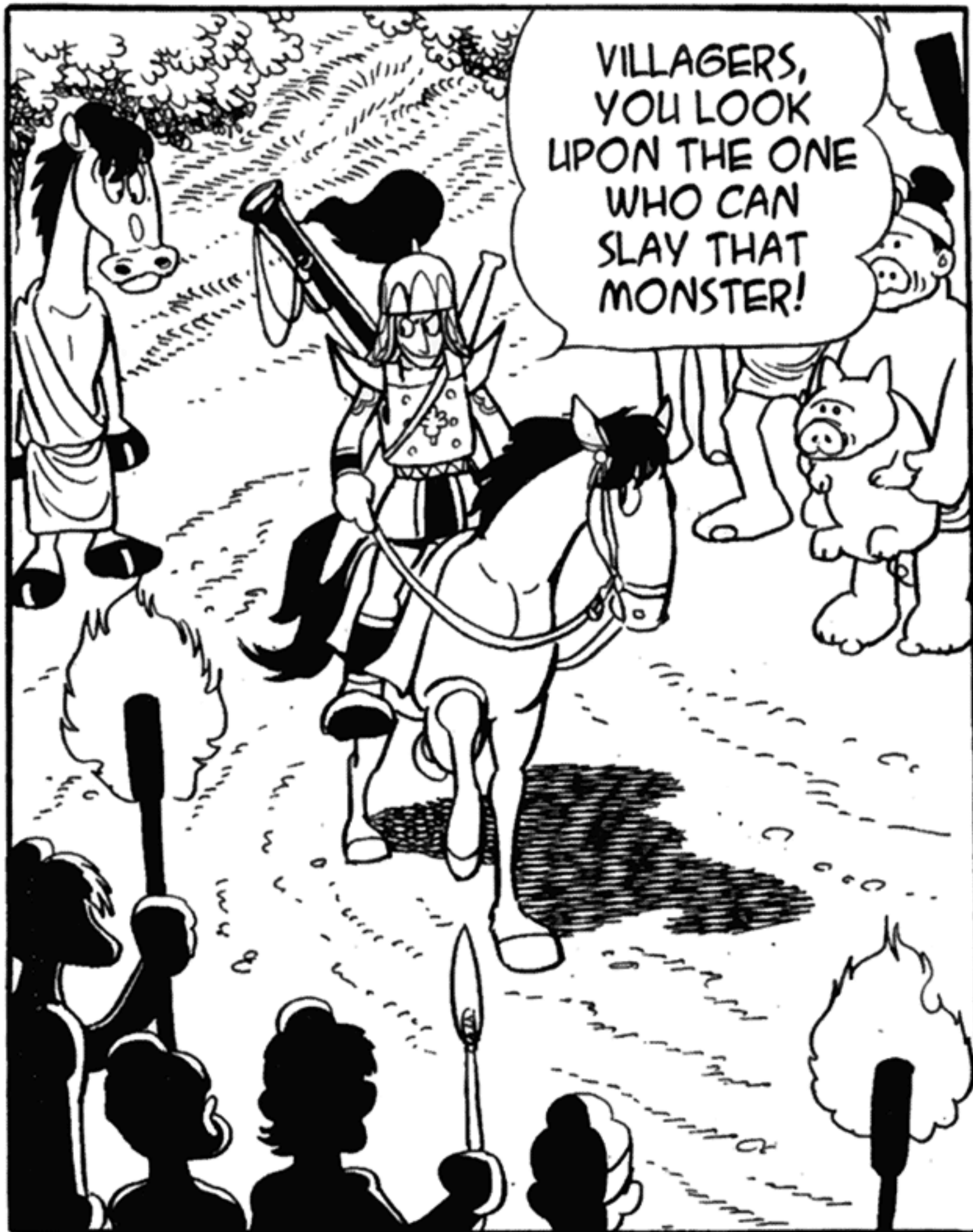
THE STORY OF YATALA

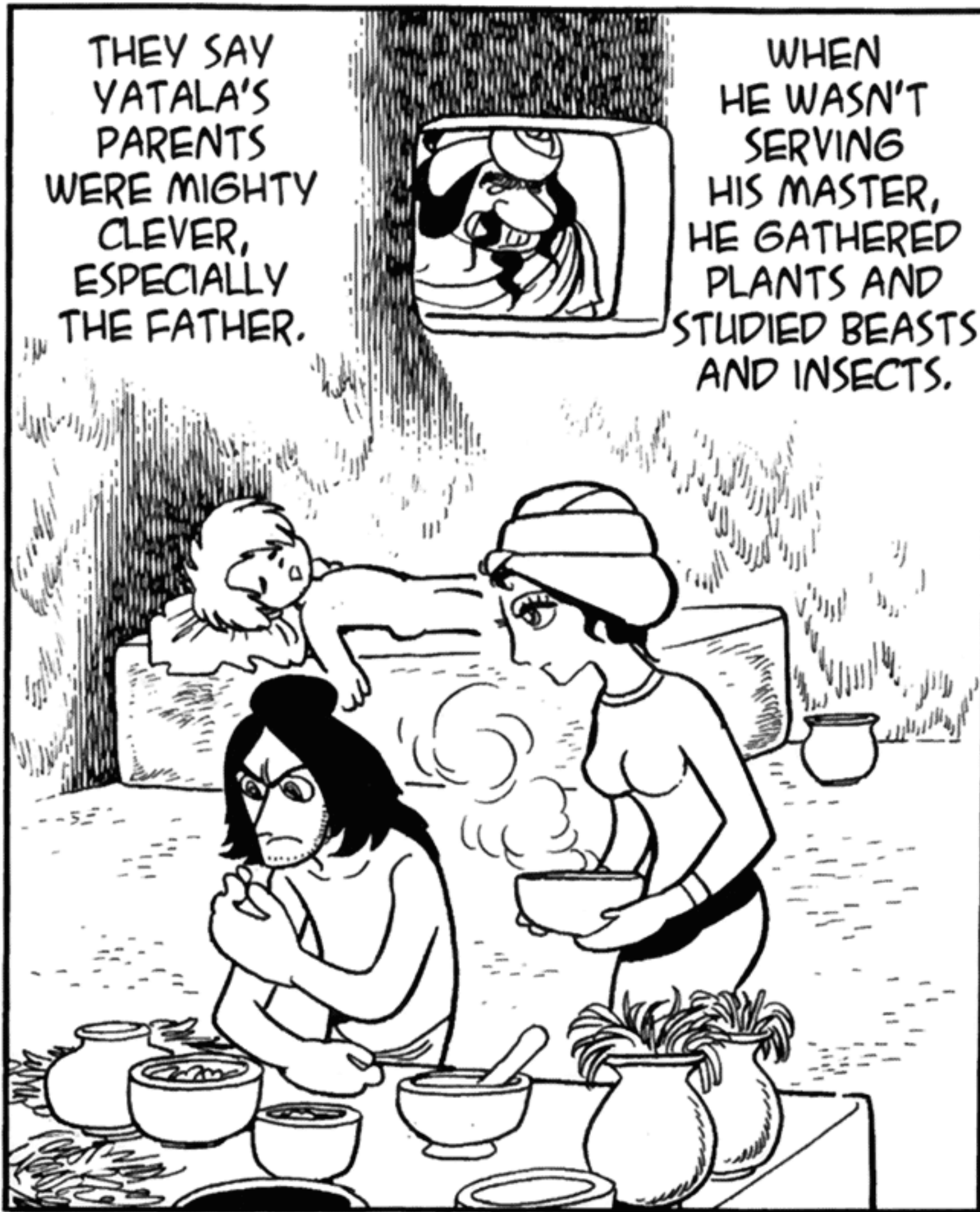










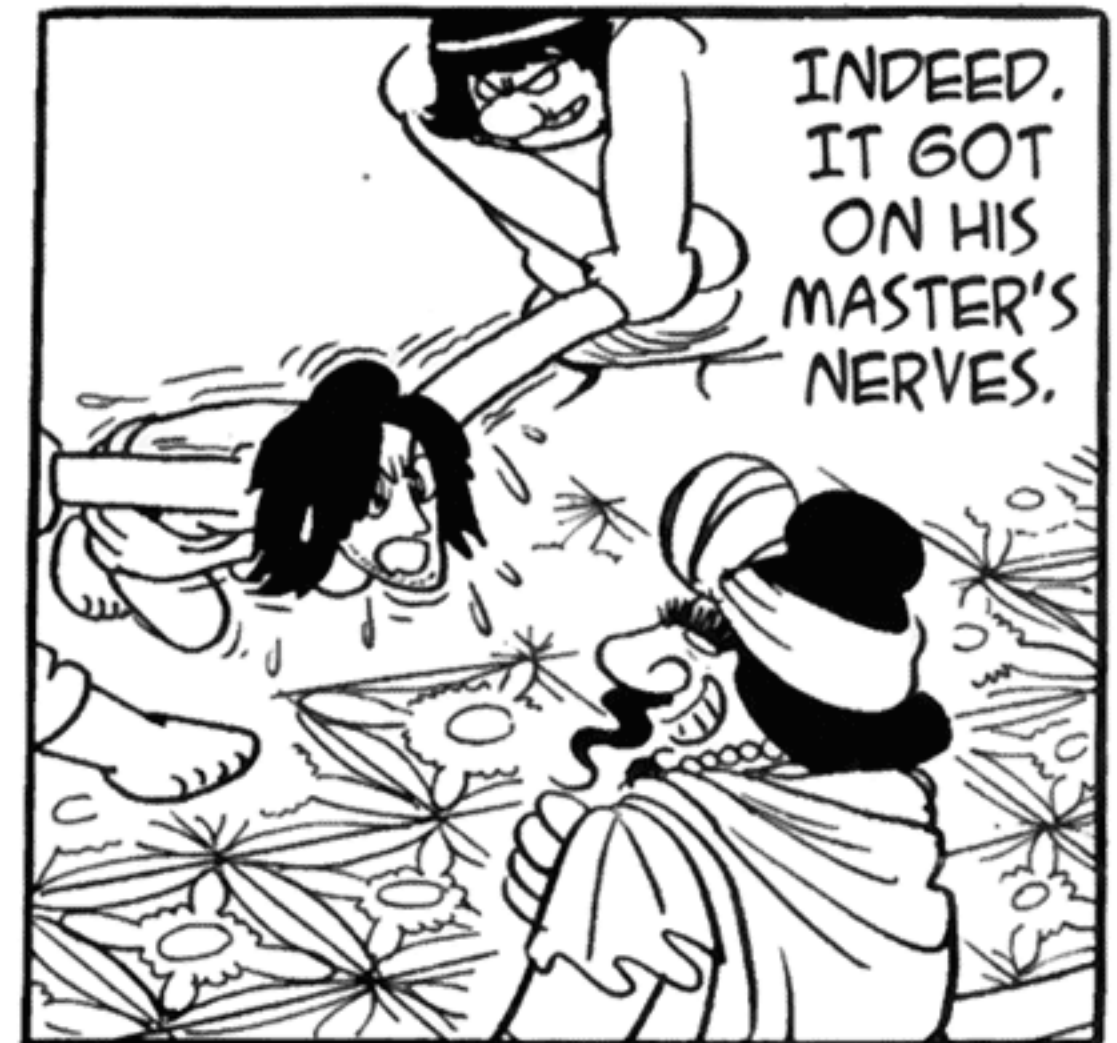


THEY SAY
YATALA'S
PARENTS
WERE MIGHTY
CLEVER,
ESPECIALLY
THE FATHER.

WHEN
HE WASN'T
SERVING
HIS MASTER,
HE GATHERED
PLANTS AND
STUDIED BEASTS
AND INSECTS.



THAT'S A
WRONG-
HEADED
SLAVE
THERE.



INDEED,
IT GOT
ON HIS
MASTER'S
NERVES.



NOT
ONLY
THE
MAN,



BUT HIS
WIFE AND SON



WERE
BEATEN
FOR IT.

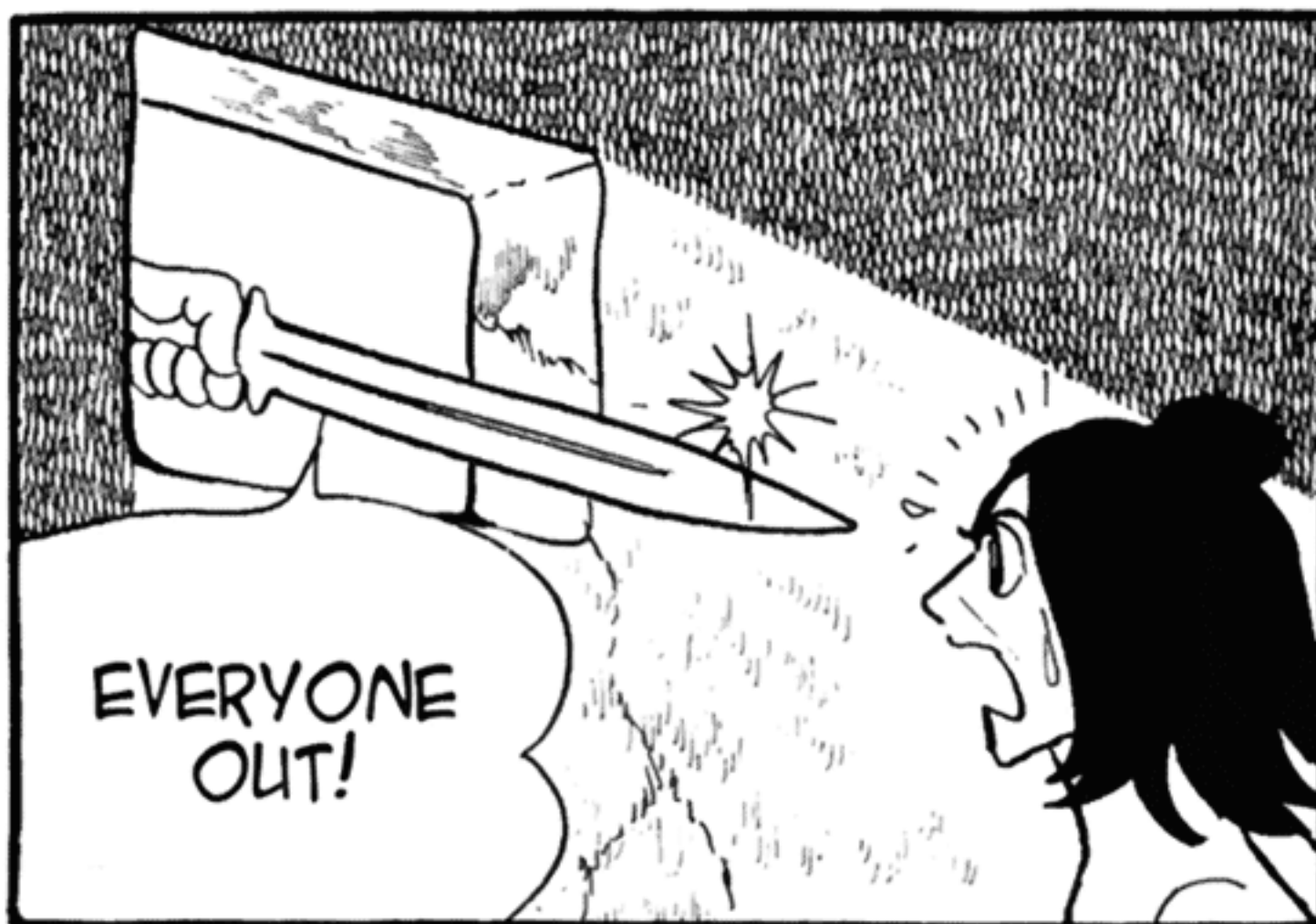
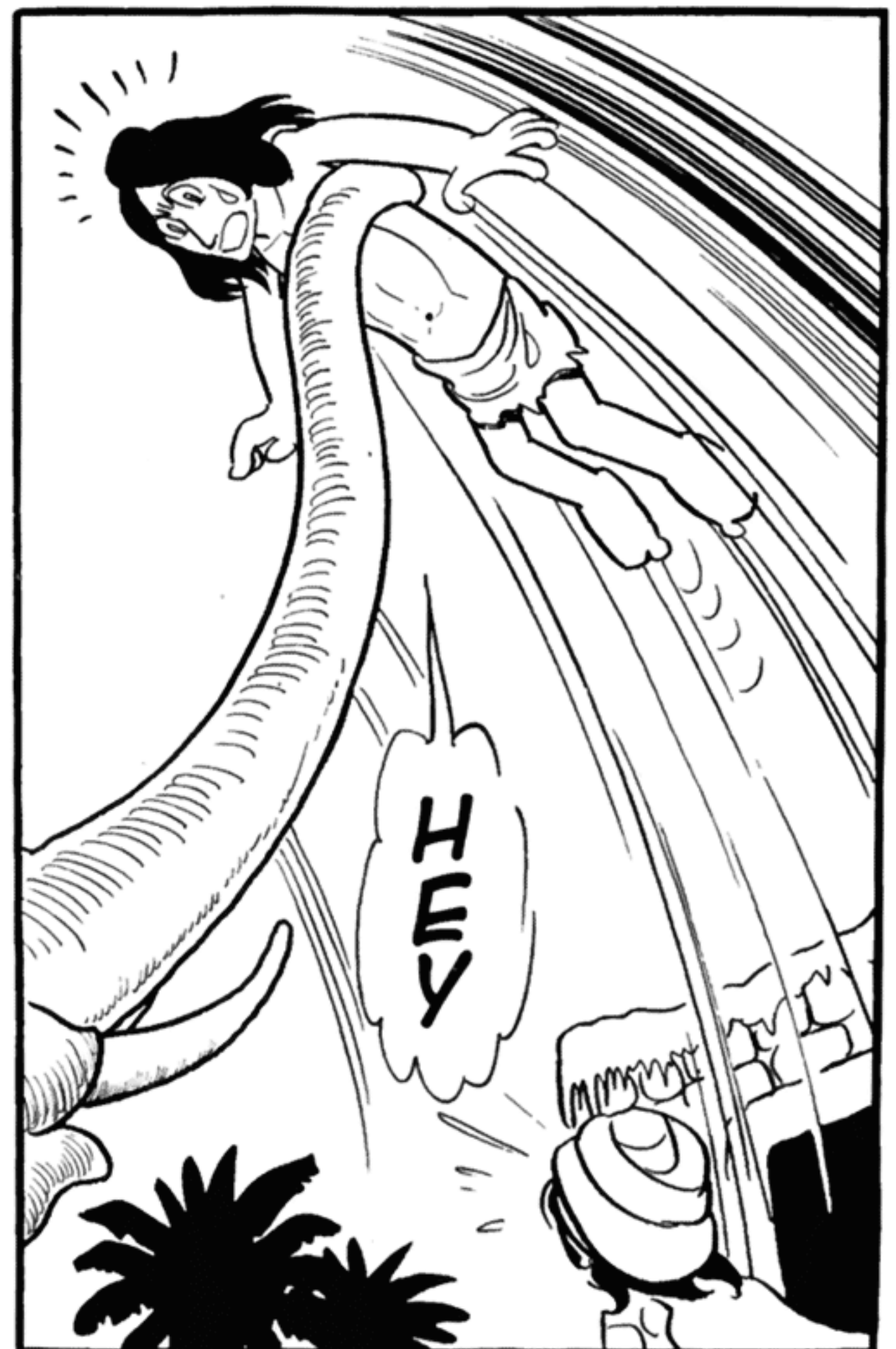
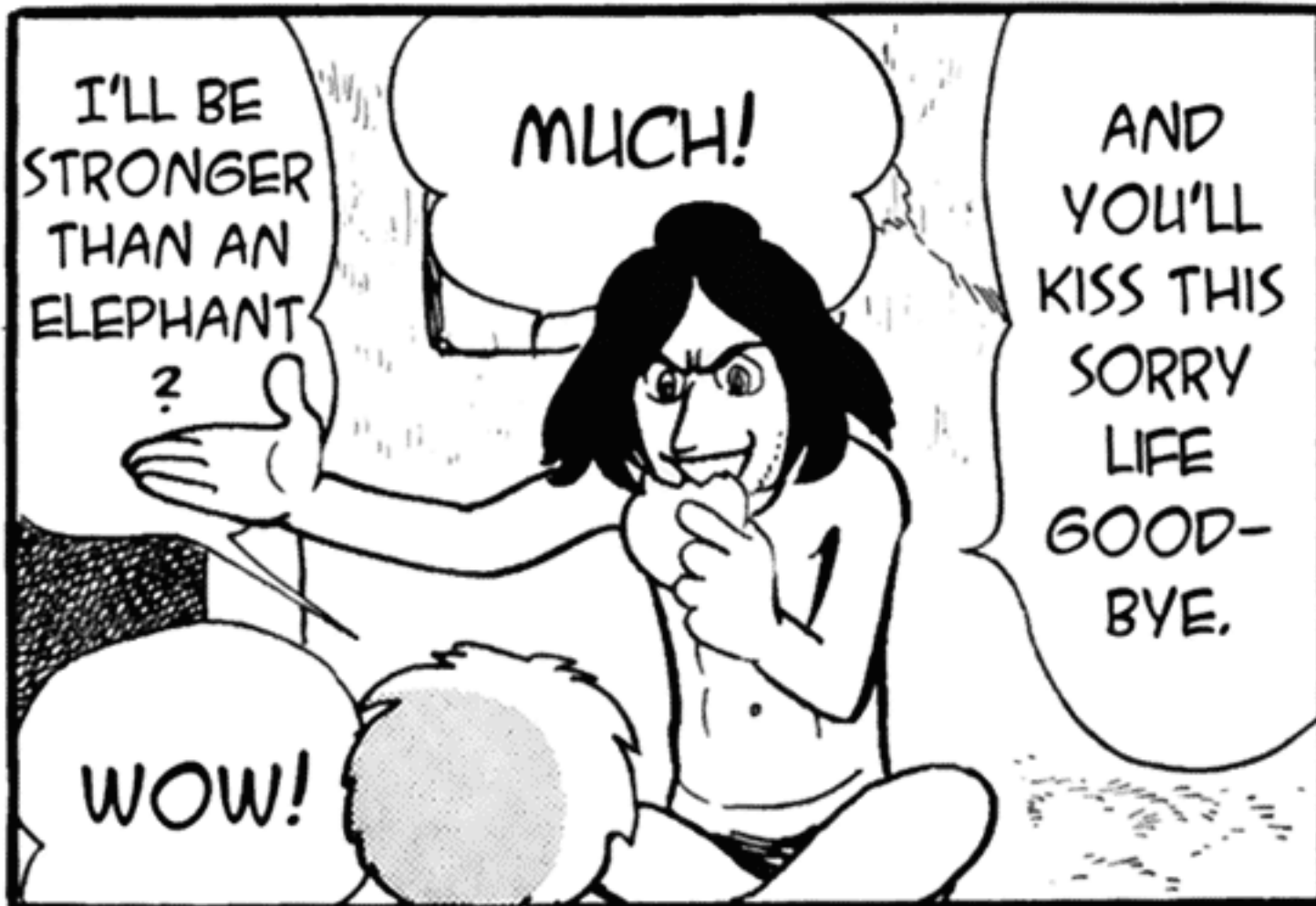
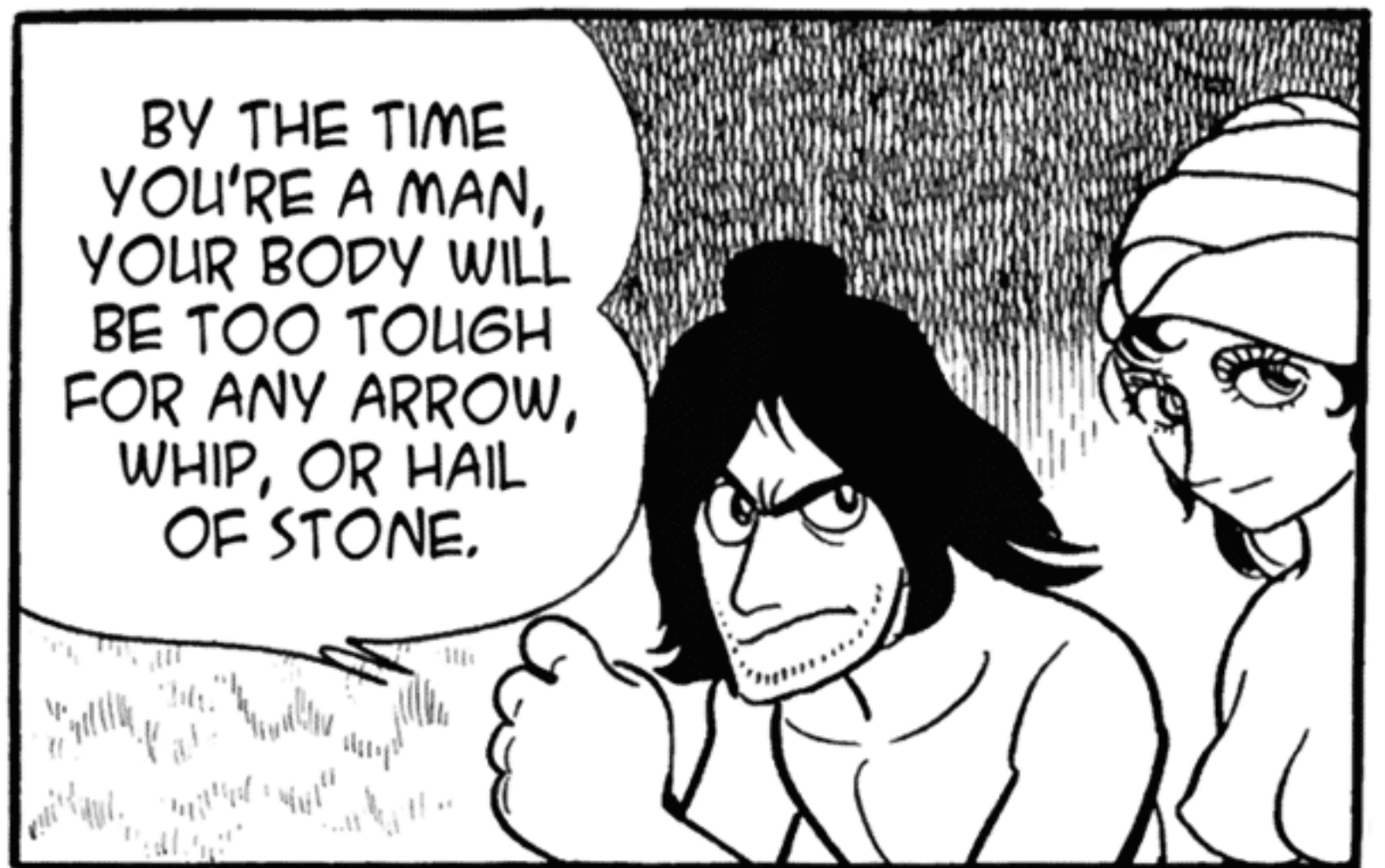
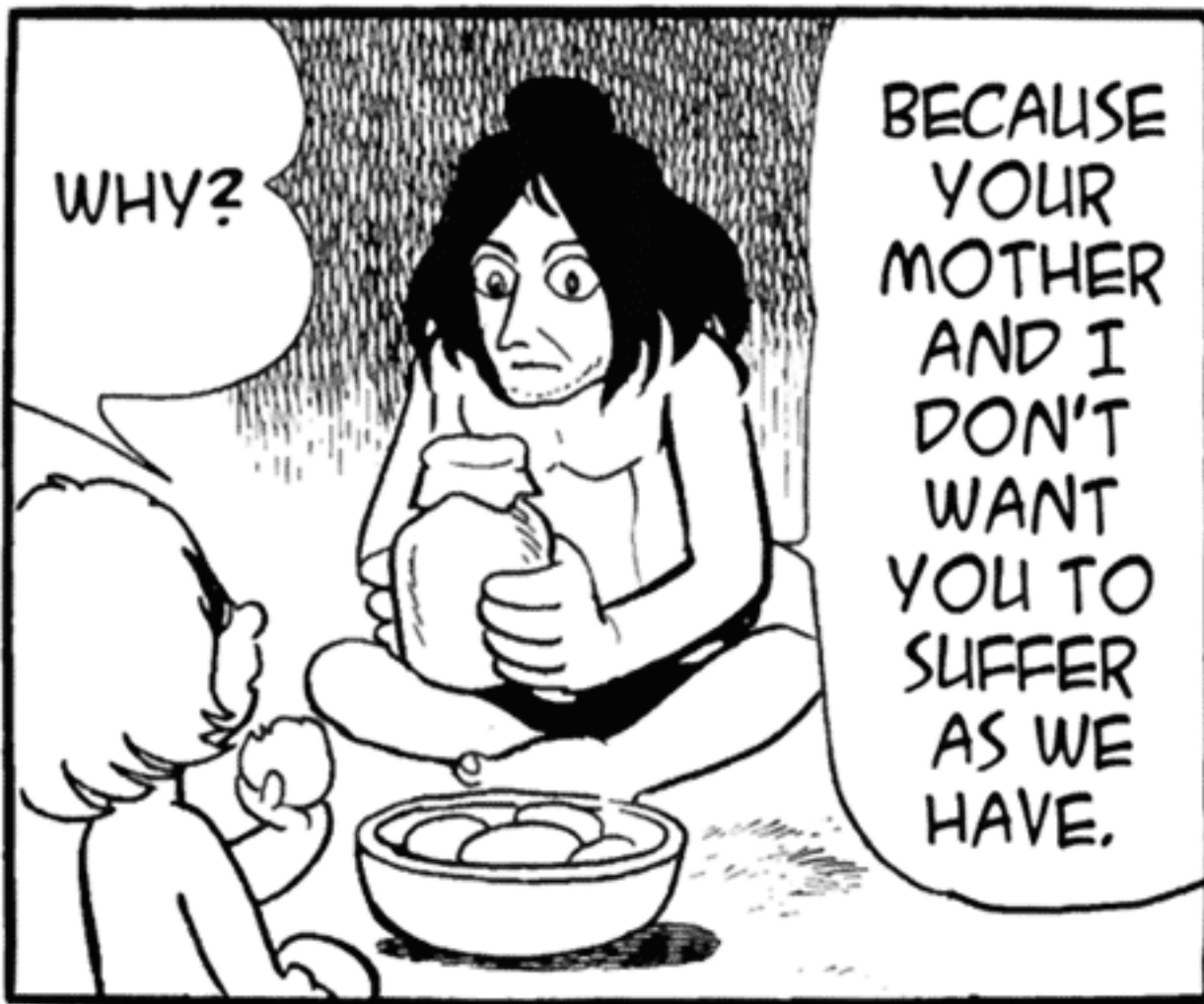
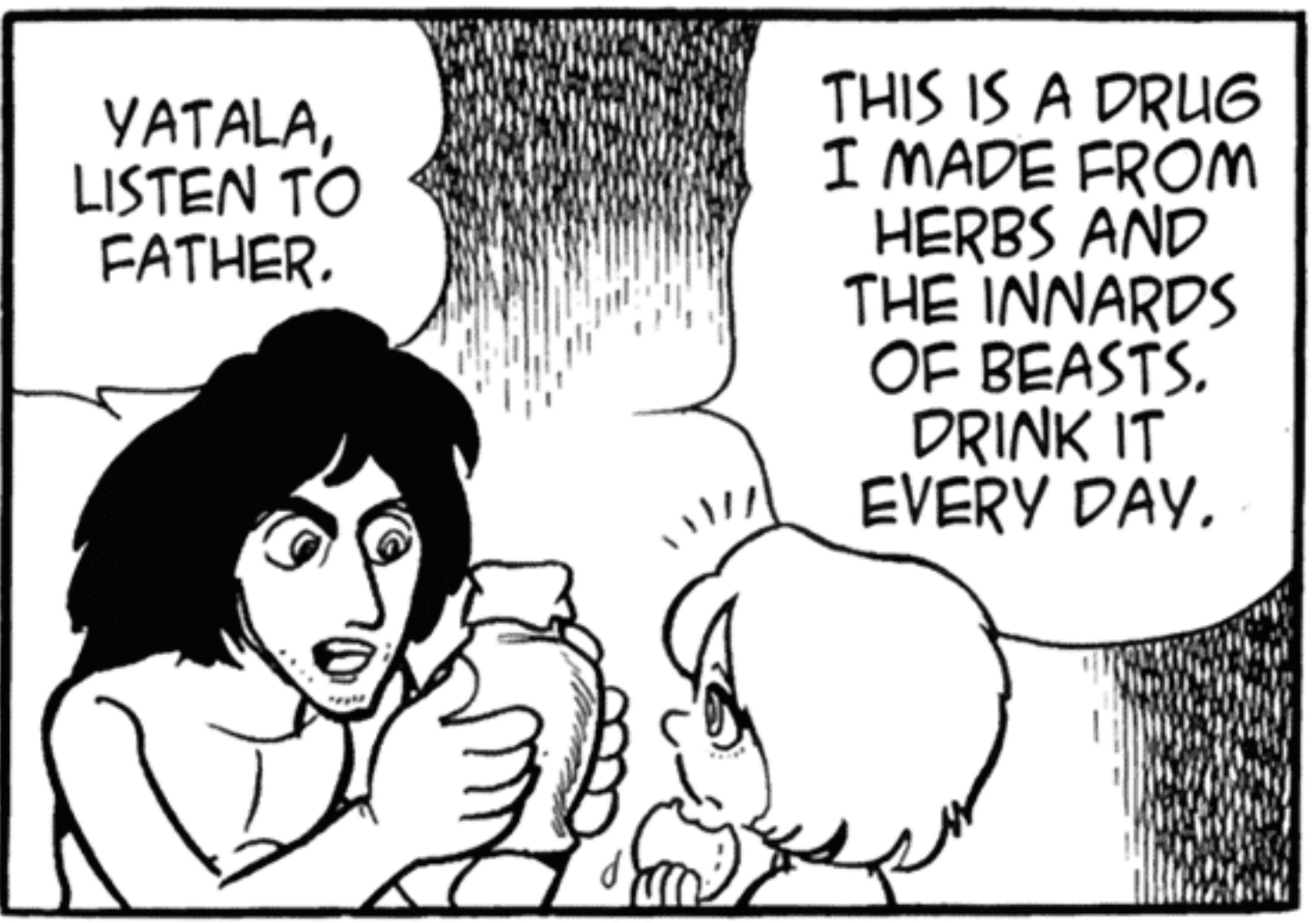


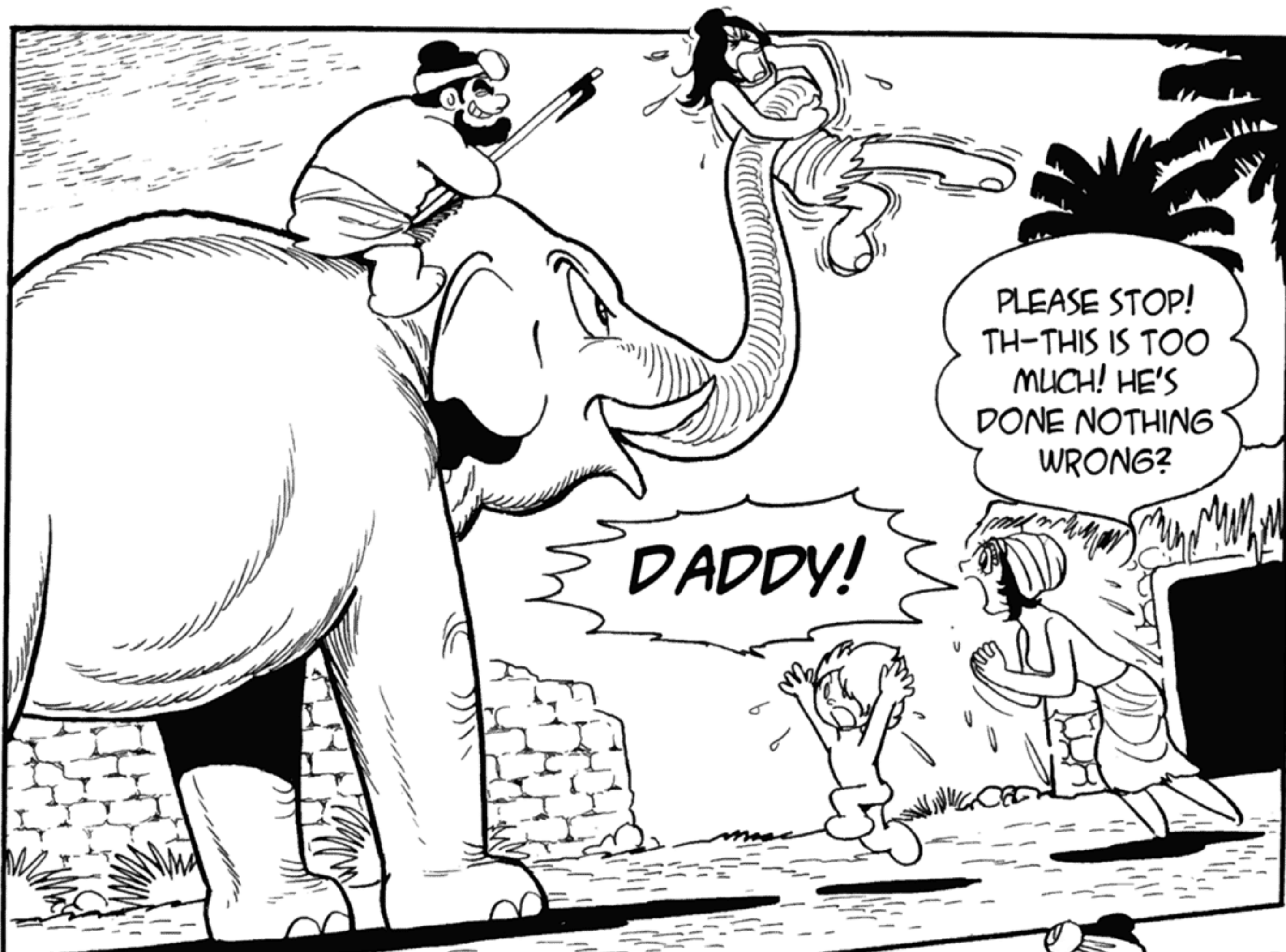
BUT
THE
GUY'S
HABIT

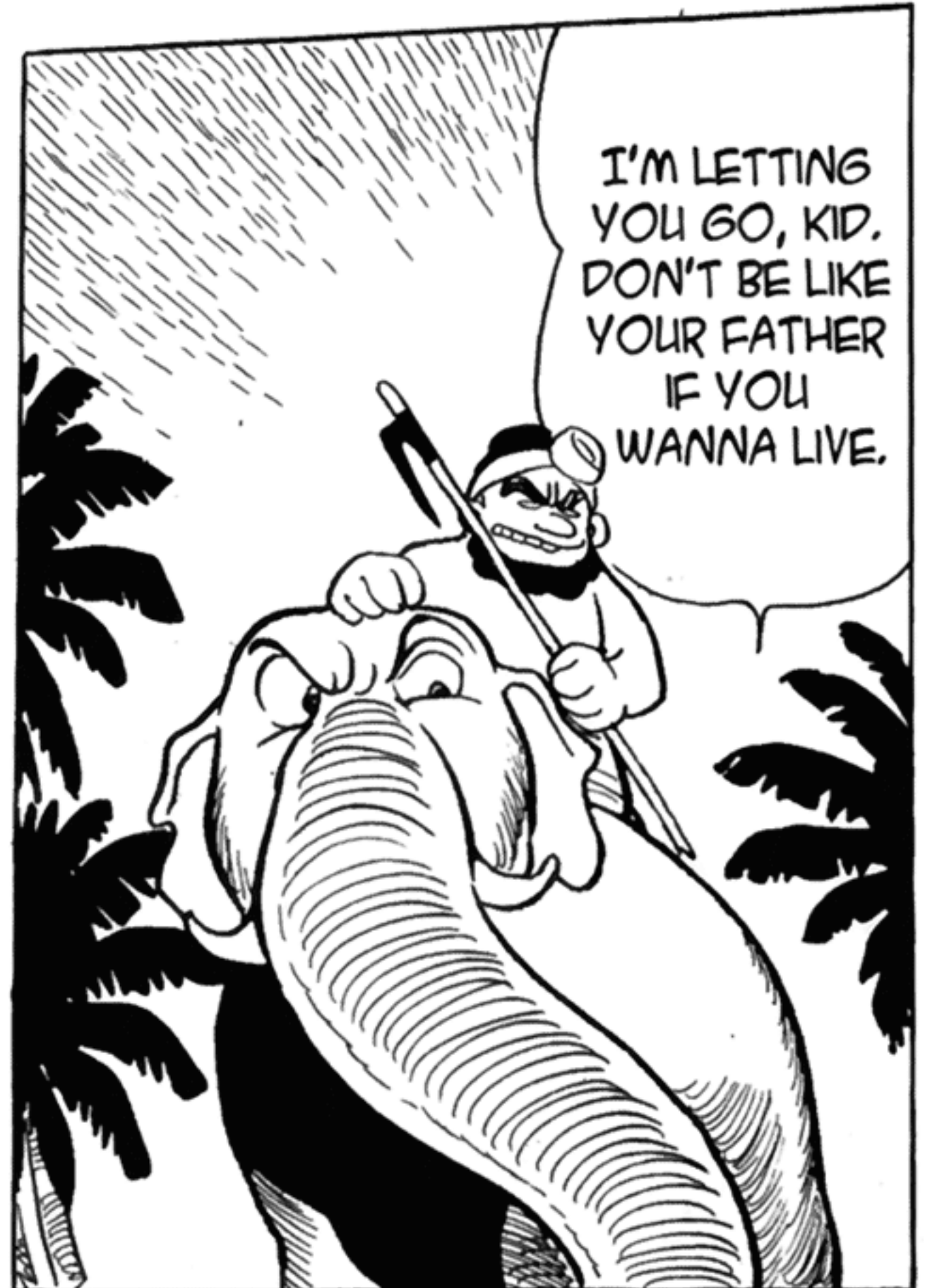
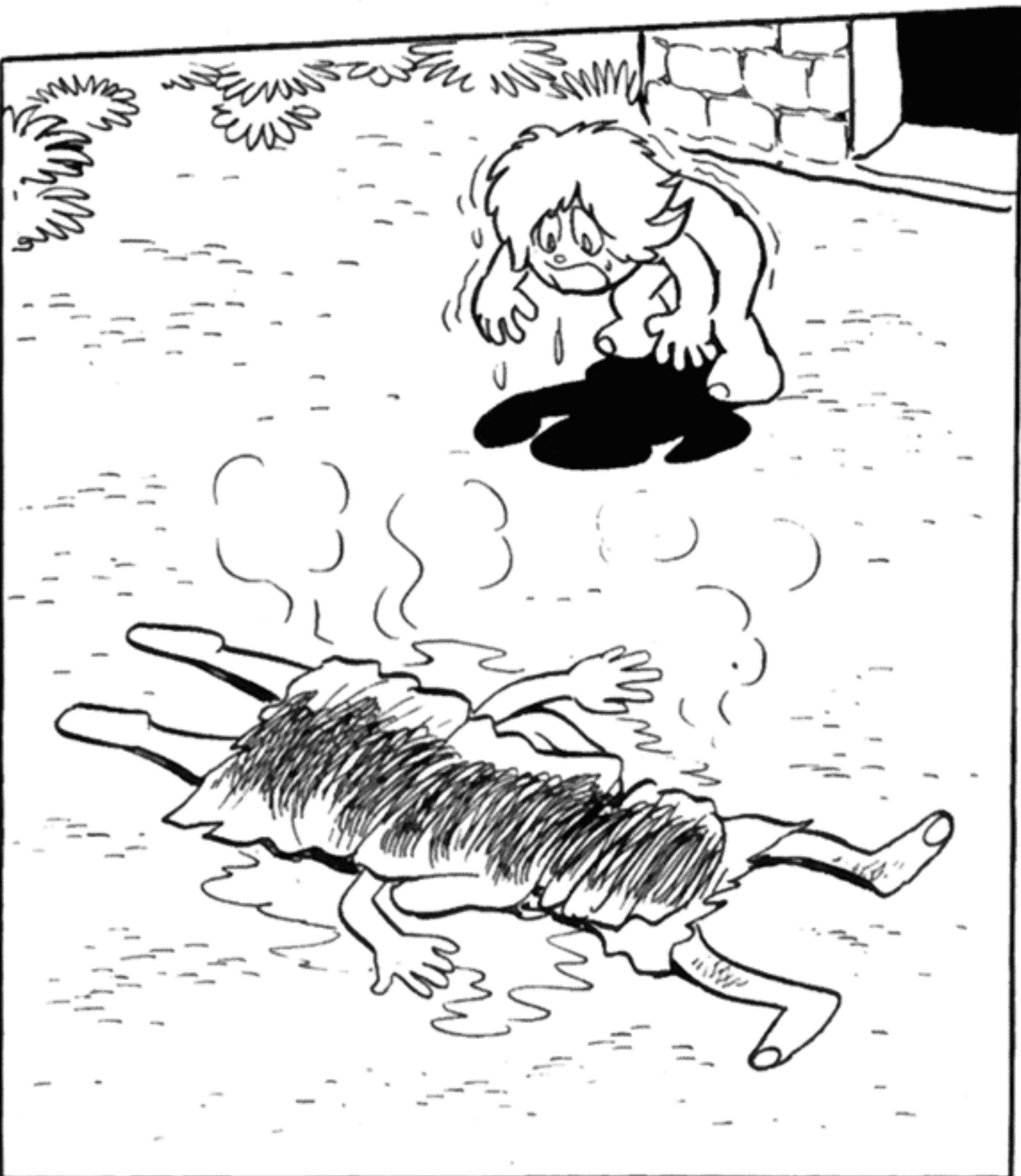
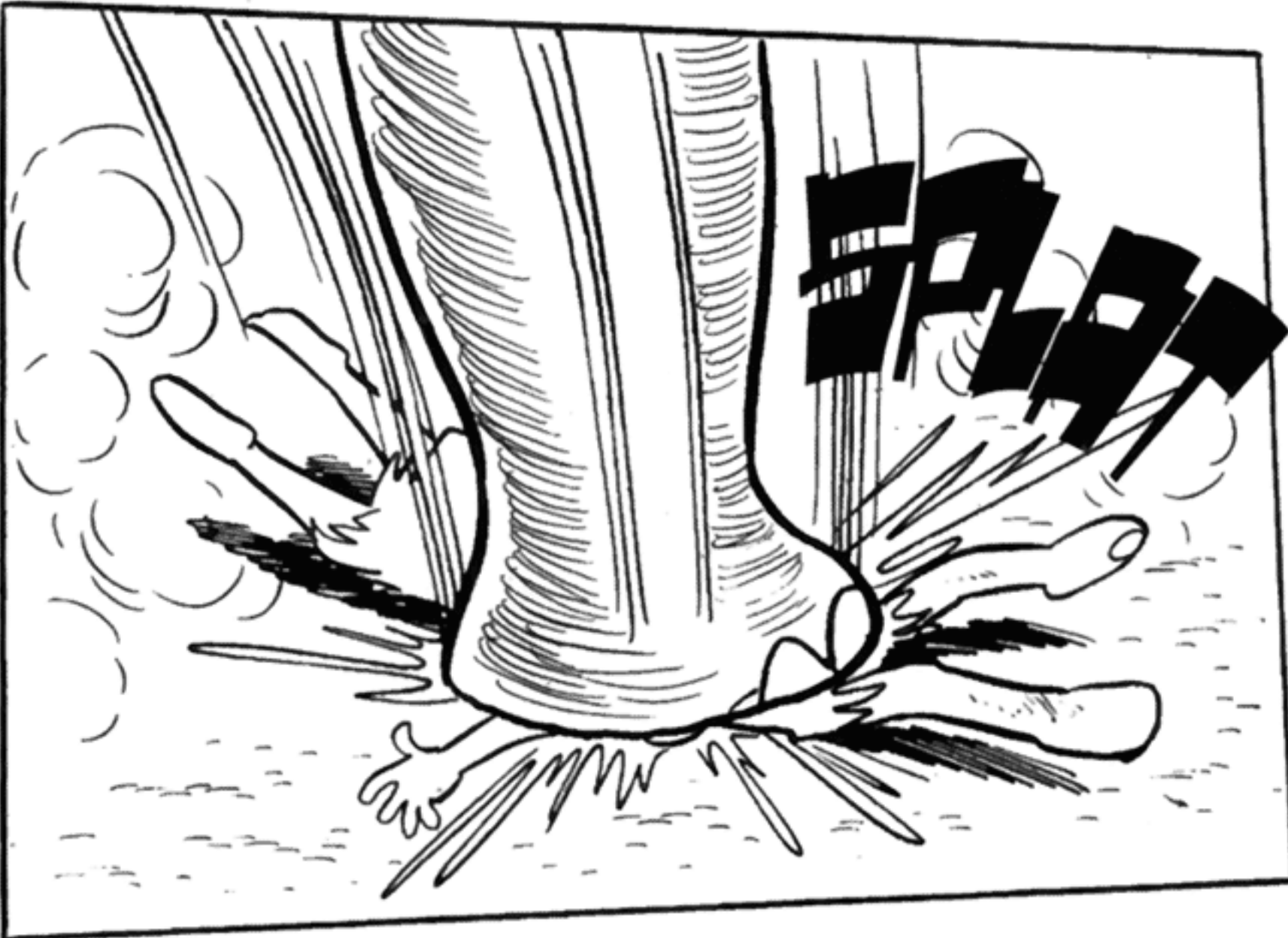
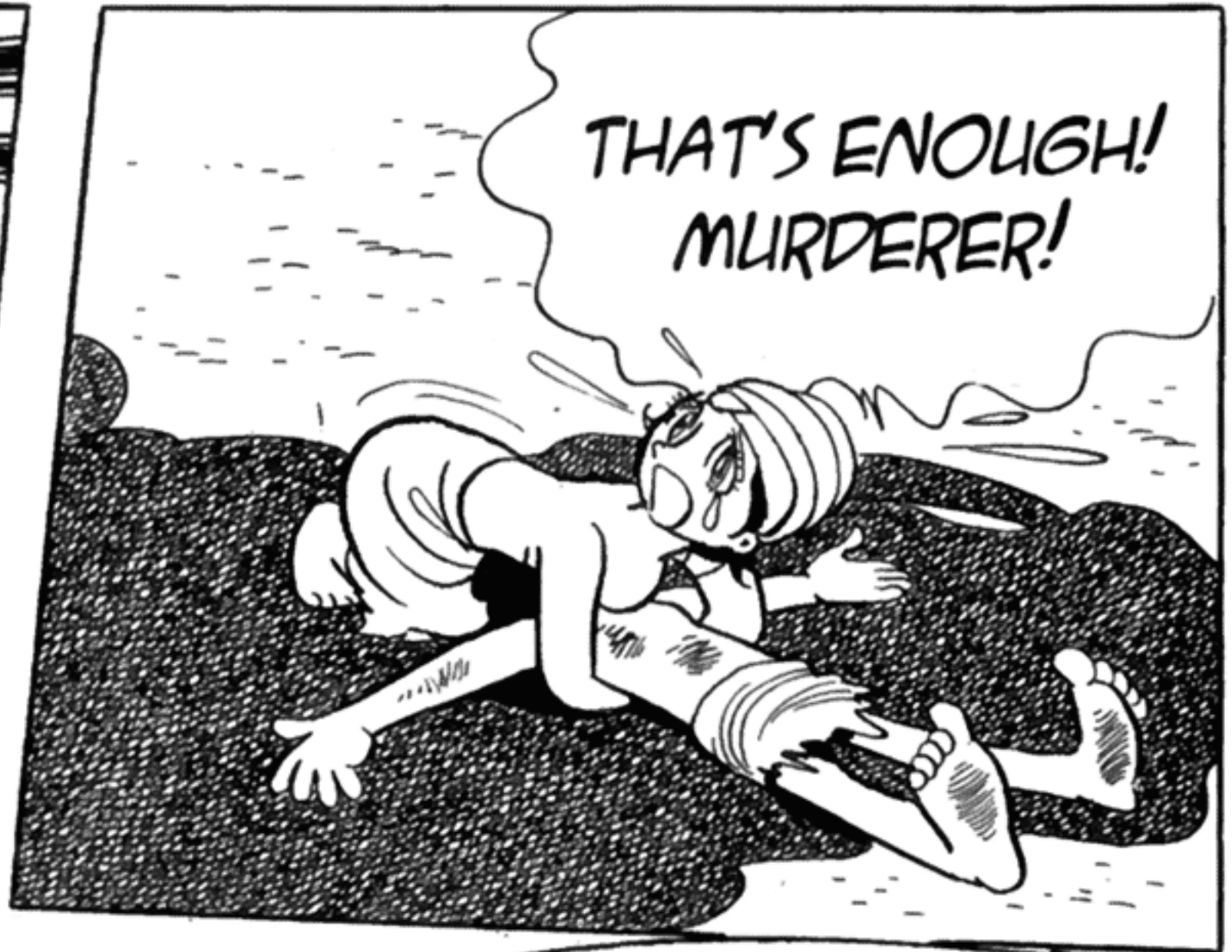
KNEW
NO
CURE.

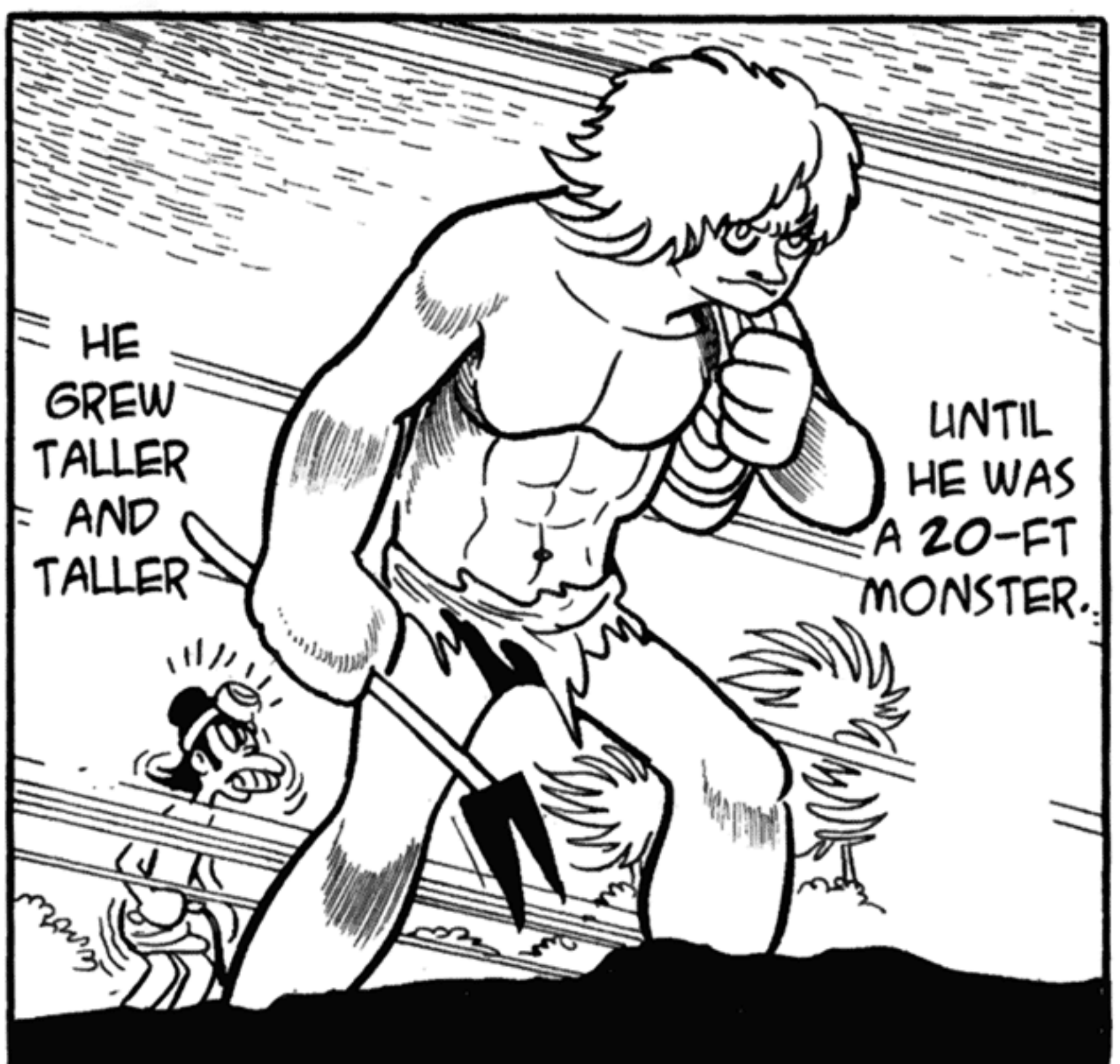
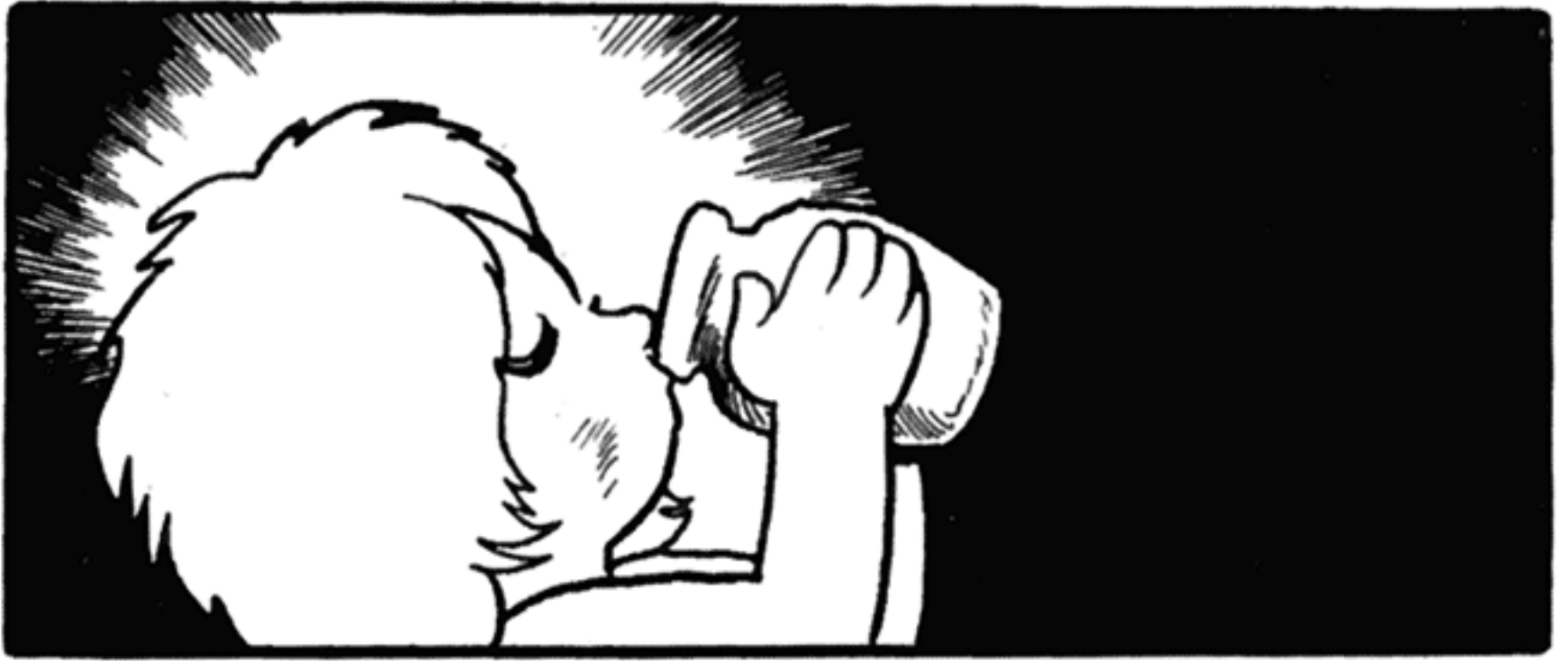


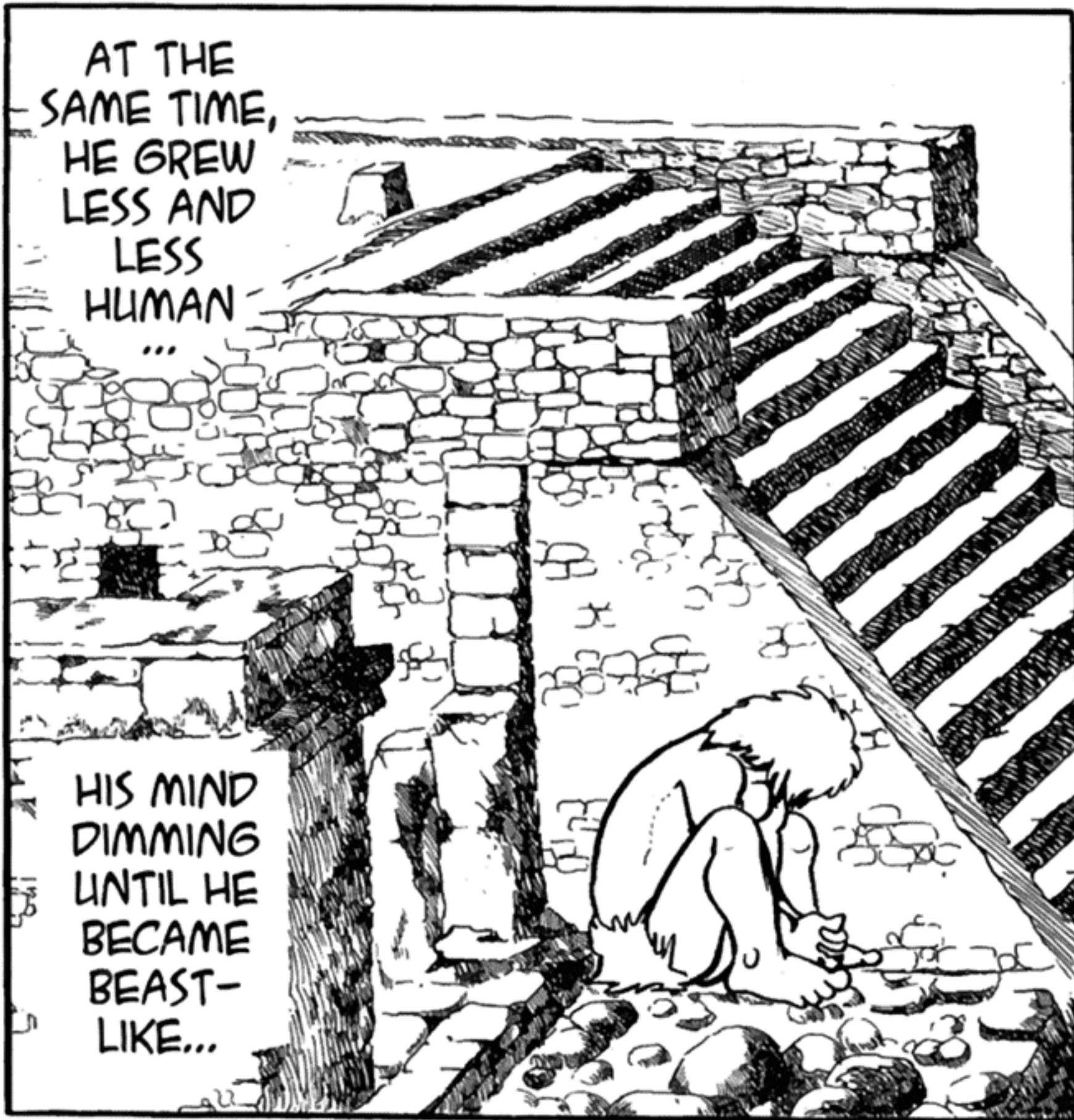
WHO
DOES
HE THINK
HE IS?





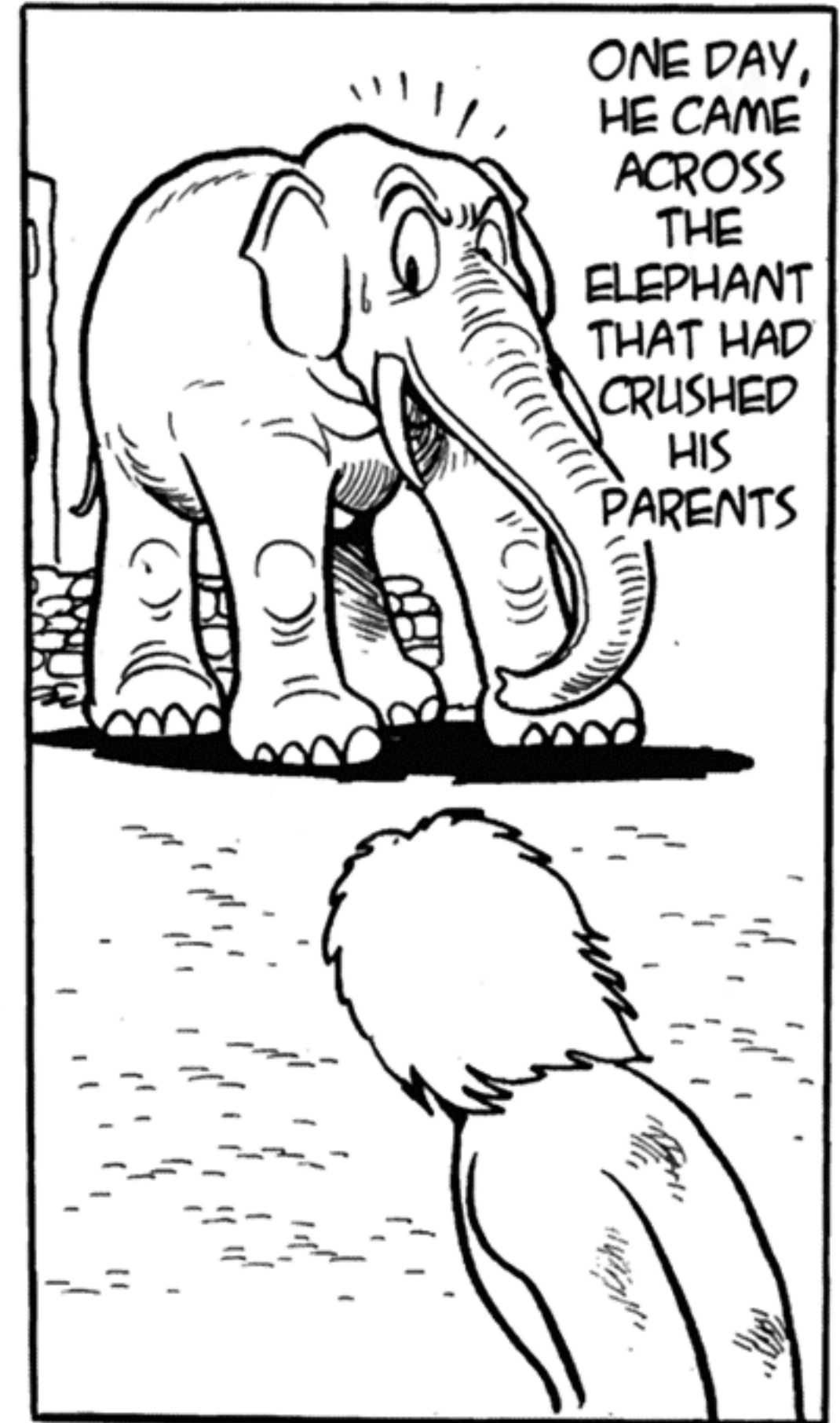




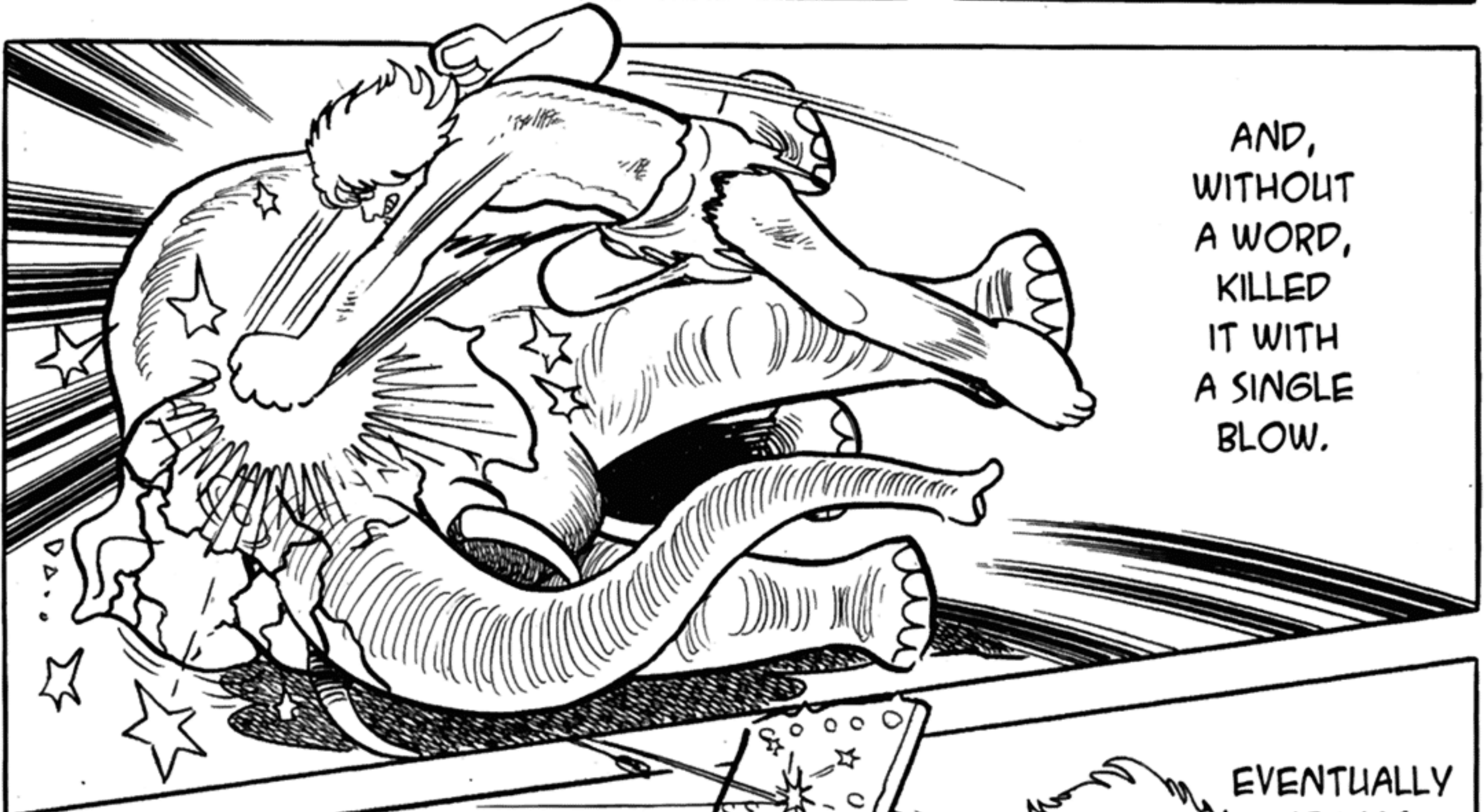


AT THE
SAME TIME,
HE GREW
LESS AND
LESS
HUMAN
...

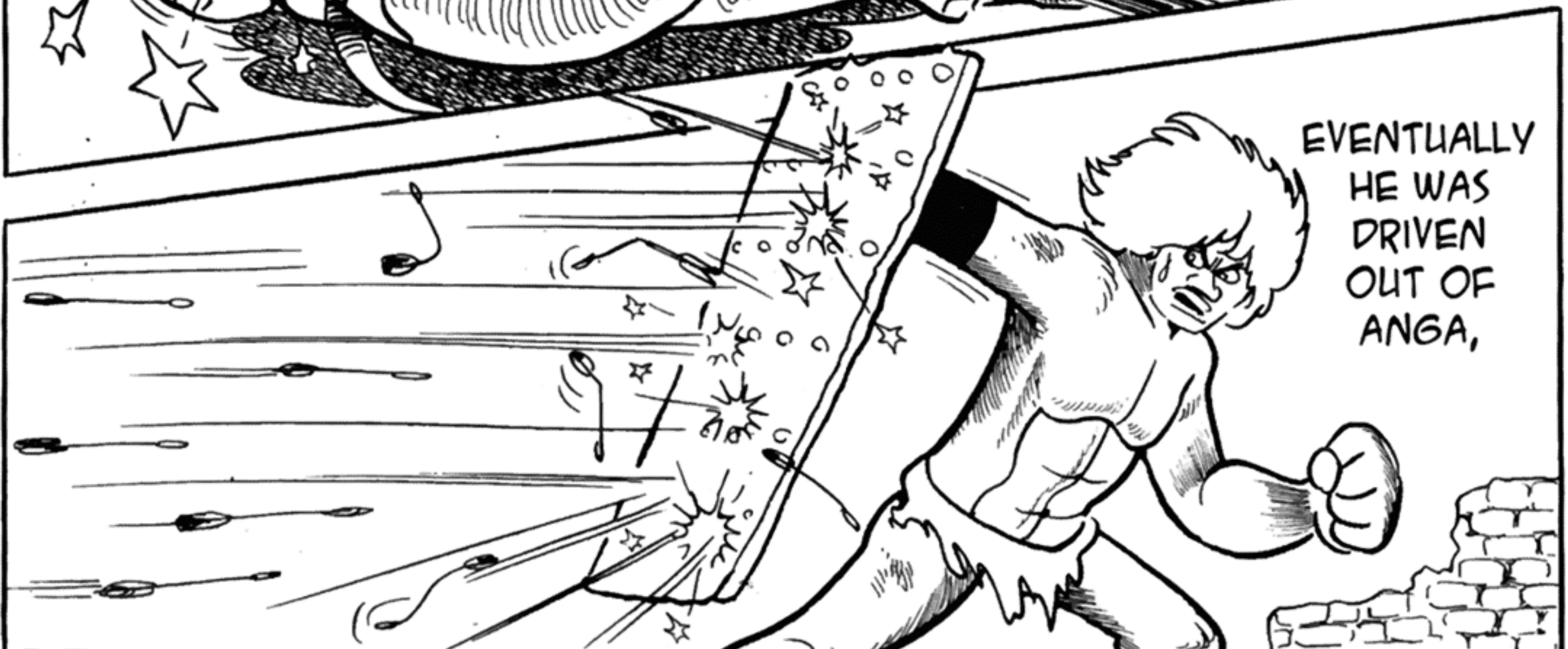
HIS MIND
DIMMING
UNTIL HE
BECAME
BEAST-
LIKE...



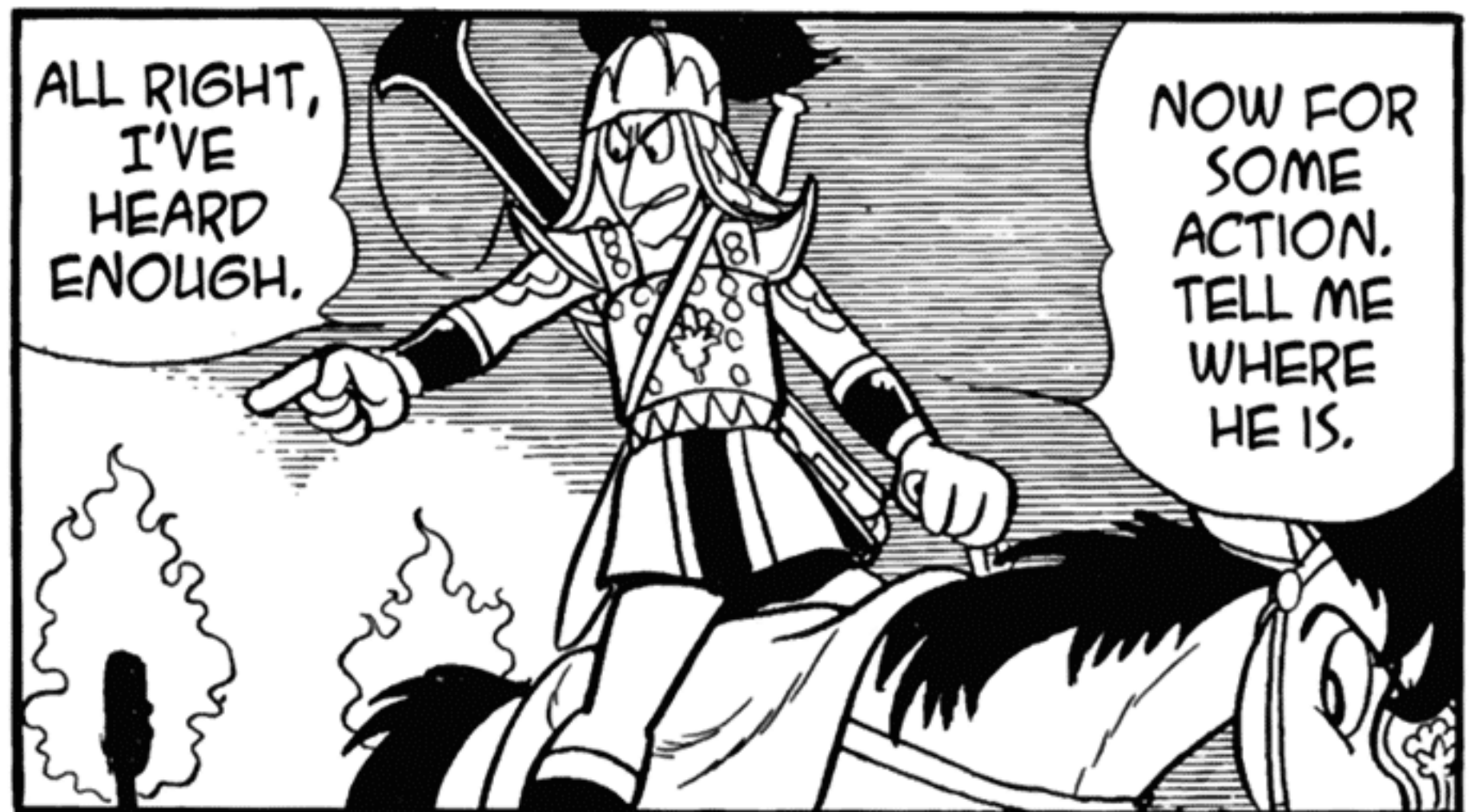
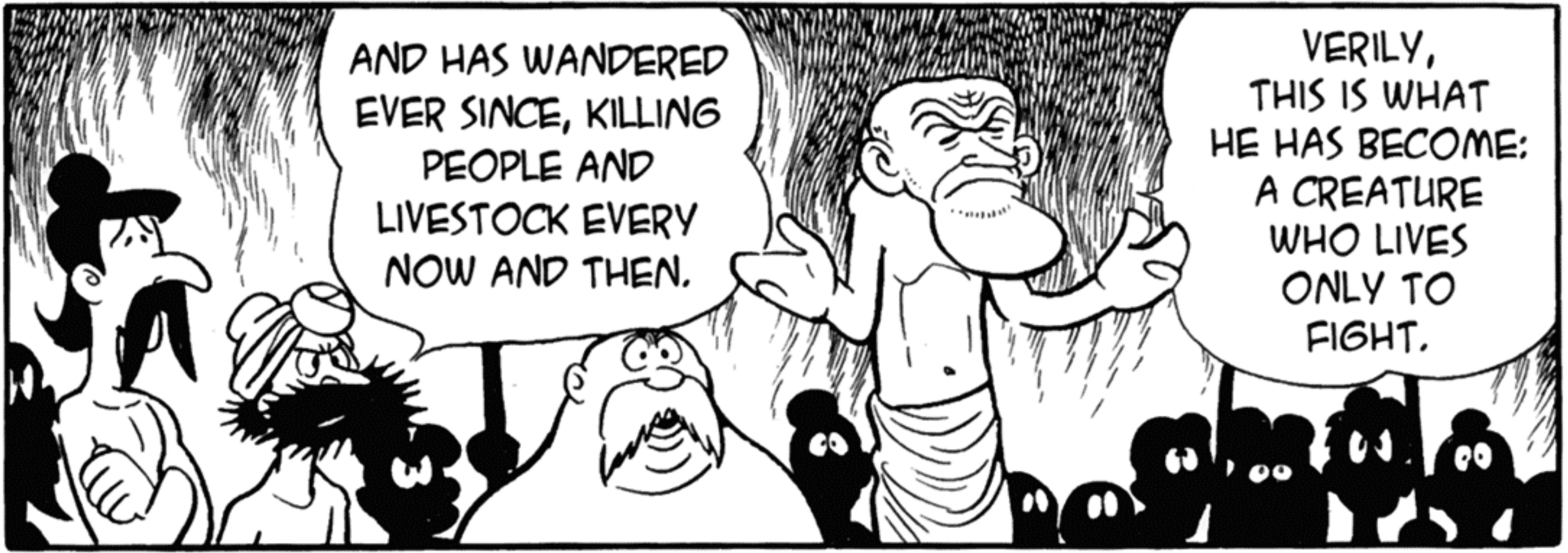
ONE DAY,
HE CAME
ACROSS
THE
ELEPHANT
THAT HAD
CRUSHED
HIS
PARENTS

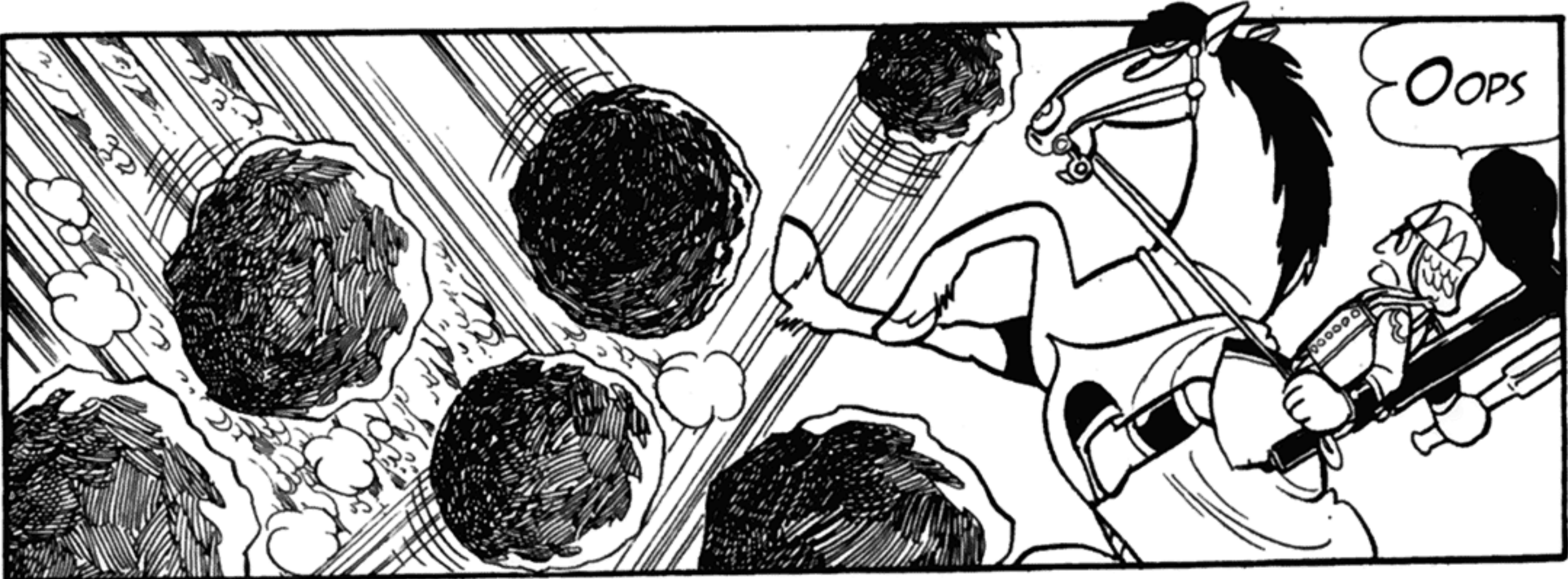
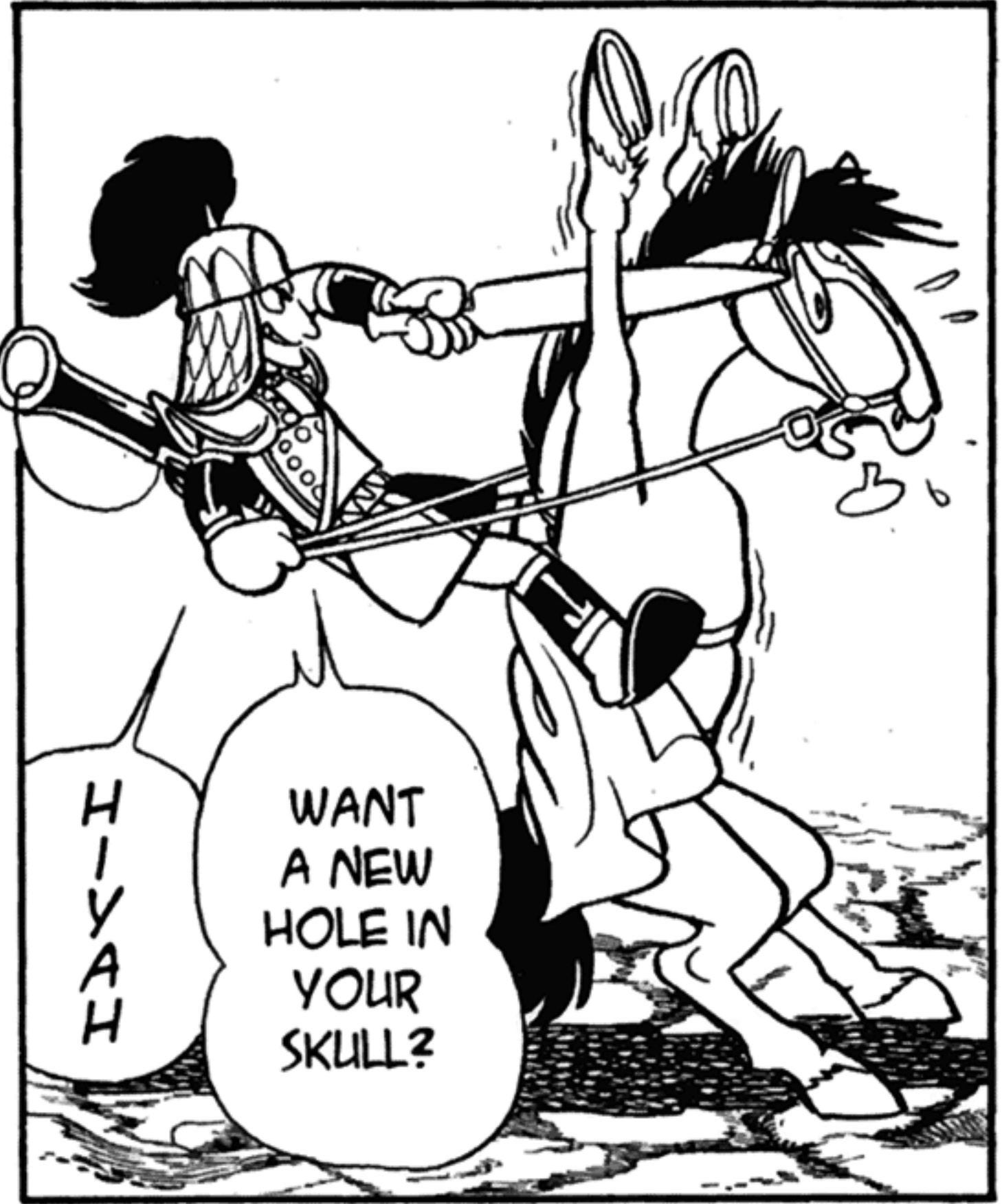
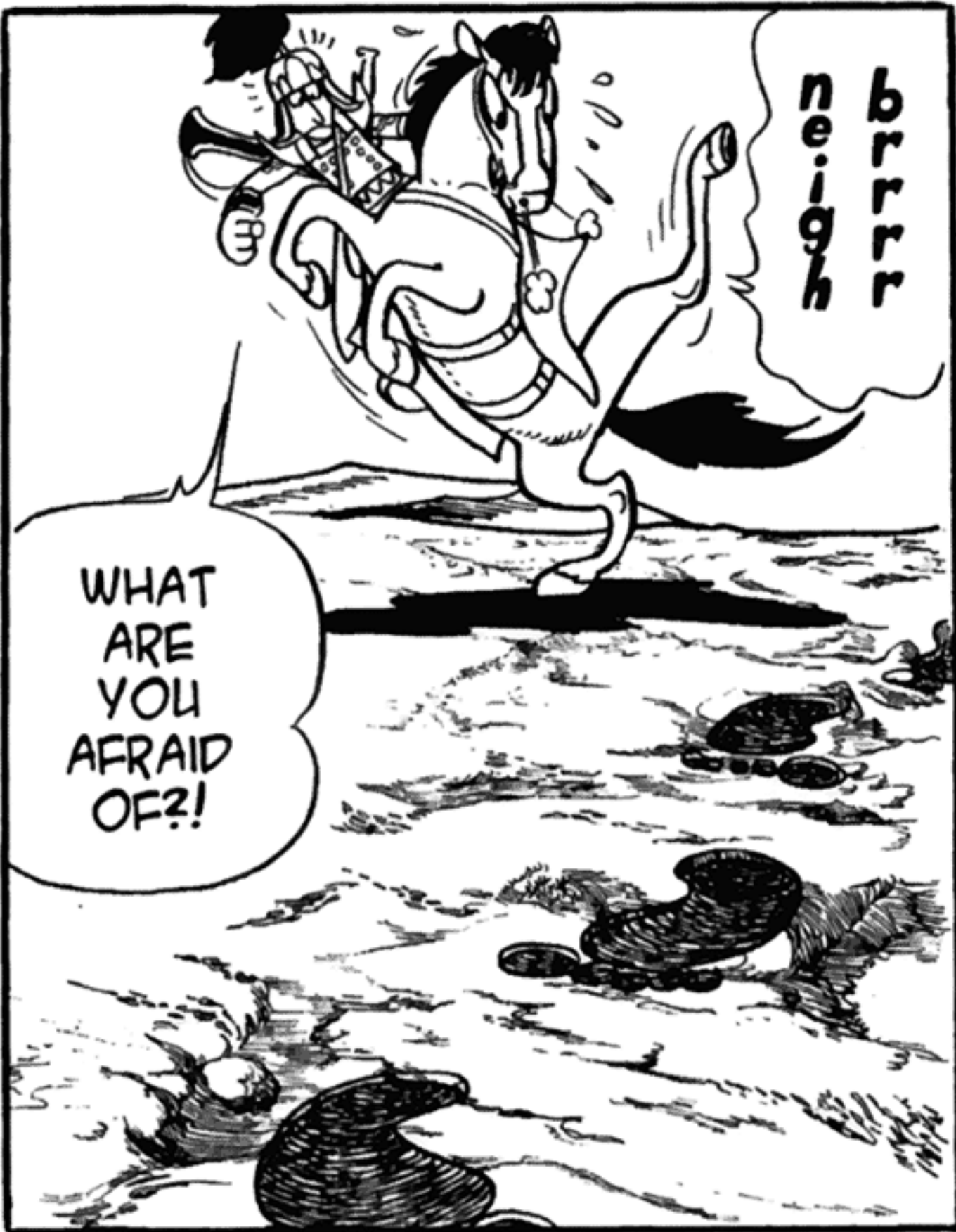
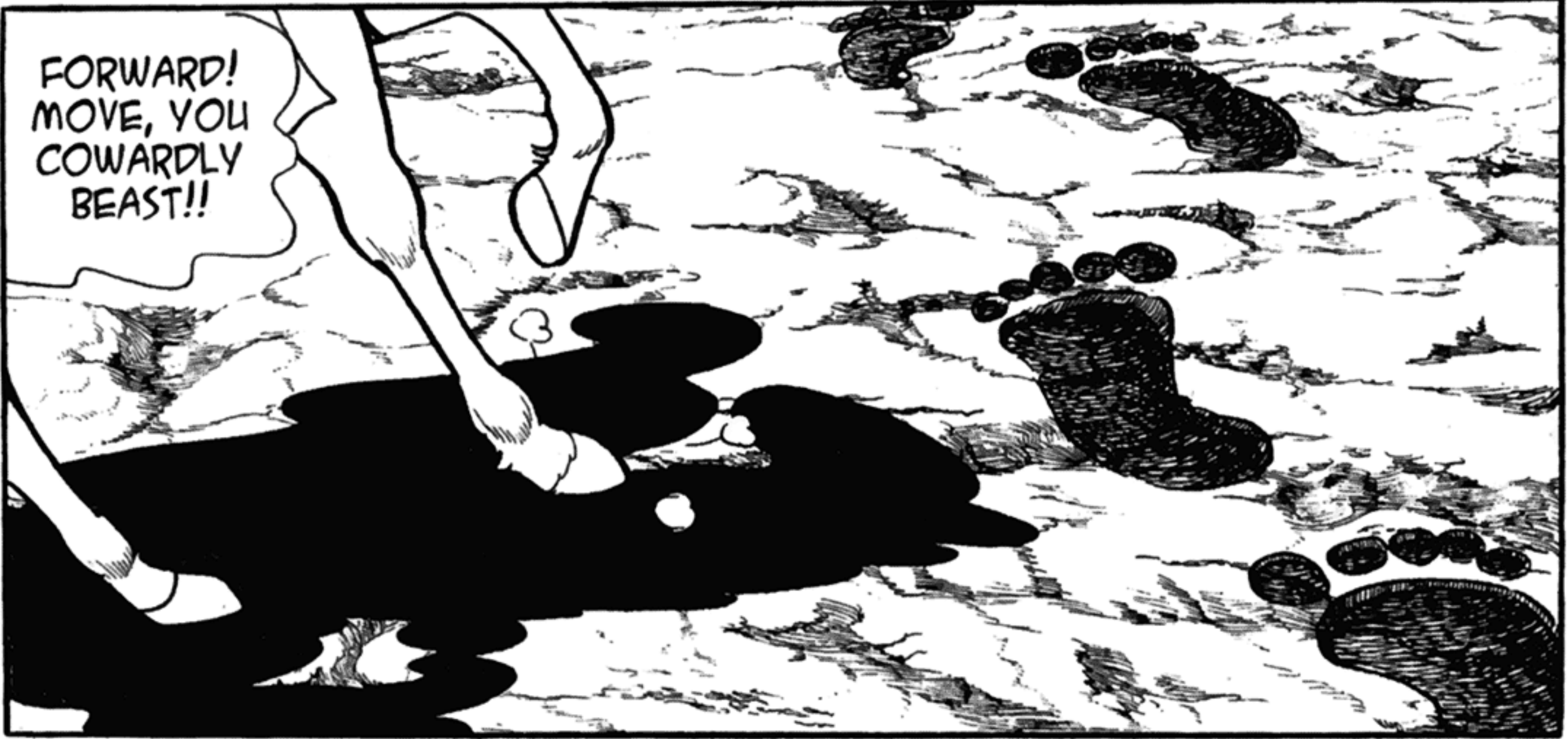


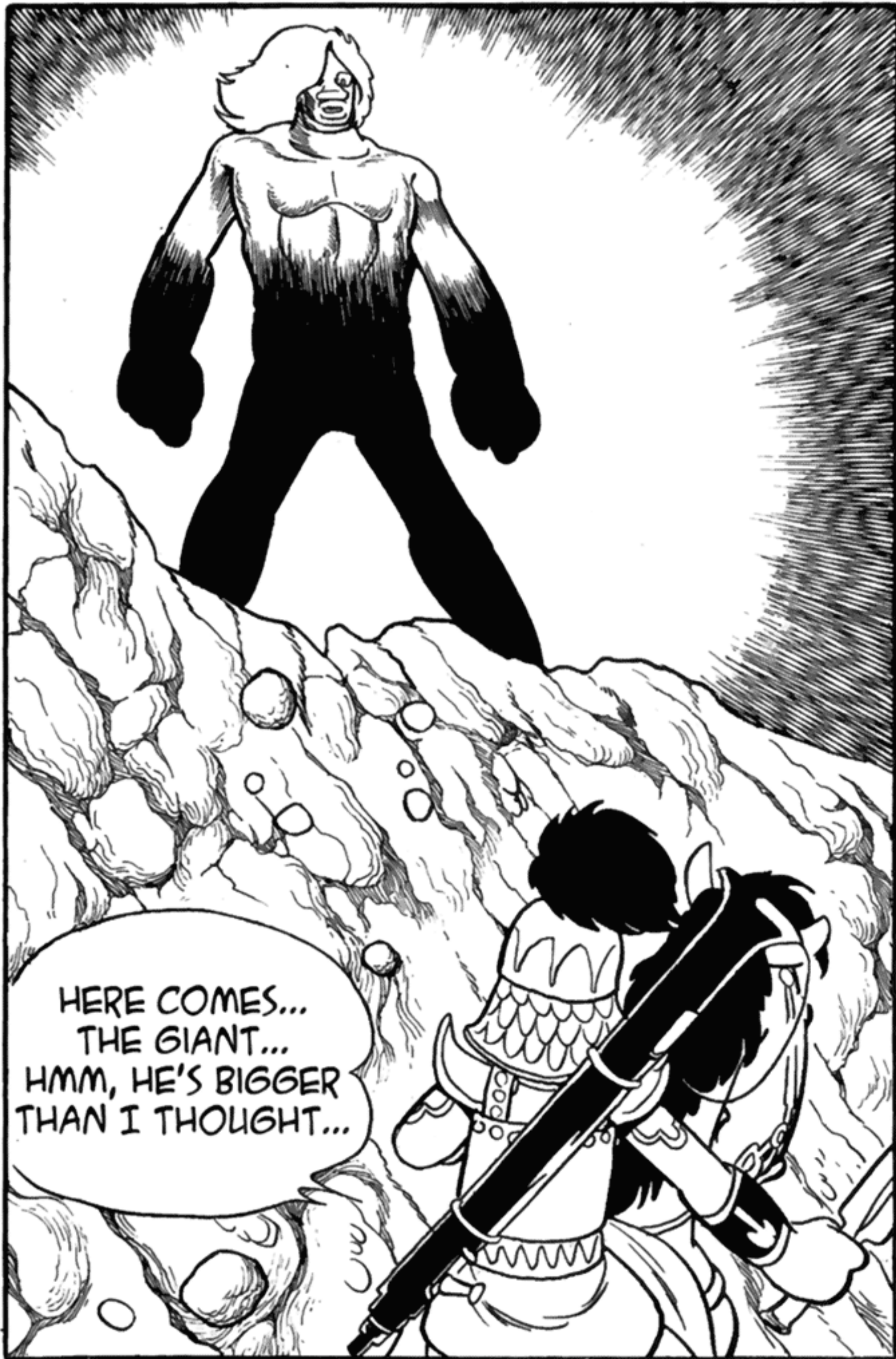
AND,
WITHOUT
A WORD,
KILLED
IT WITH
A SINGLE
BLOW.



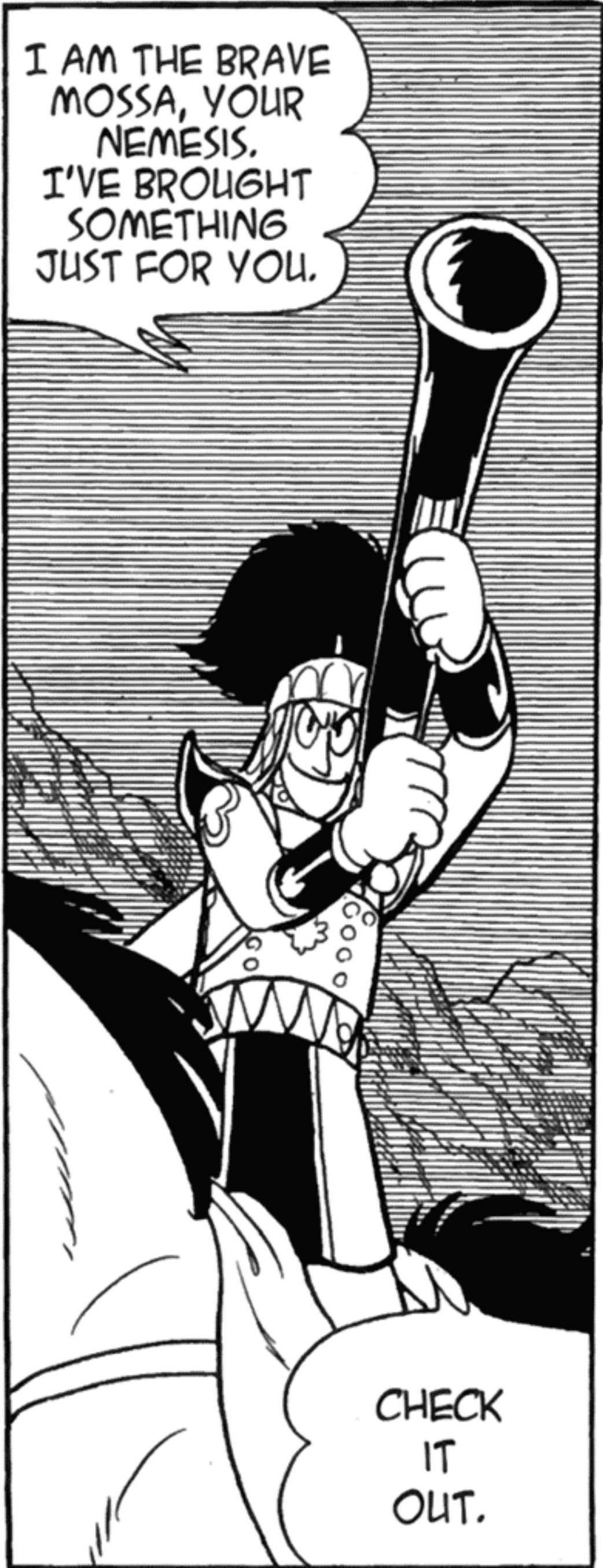
EVENTUALLY
HE WAS
DRIVEN
OUT OF
ANGA,





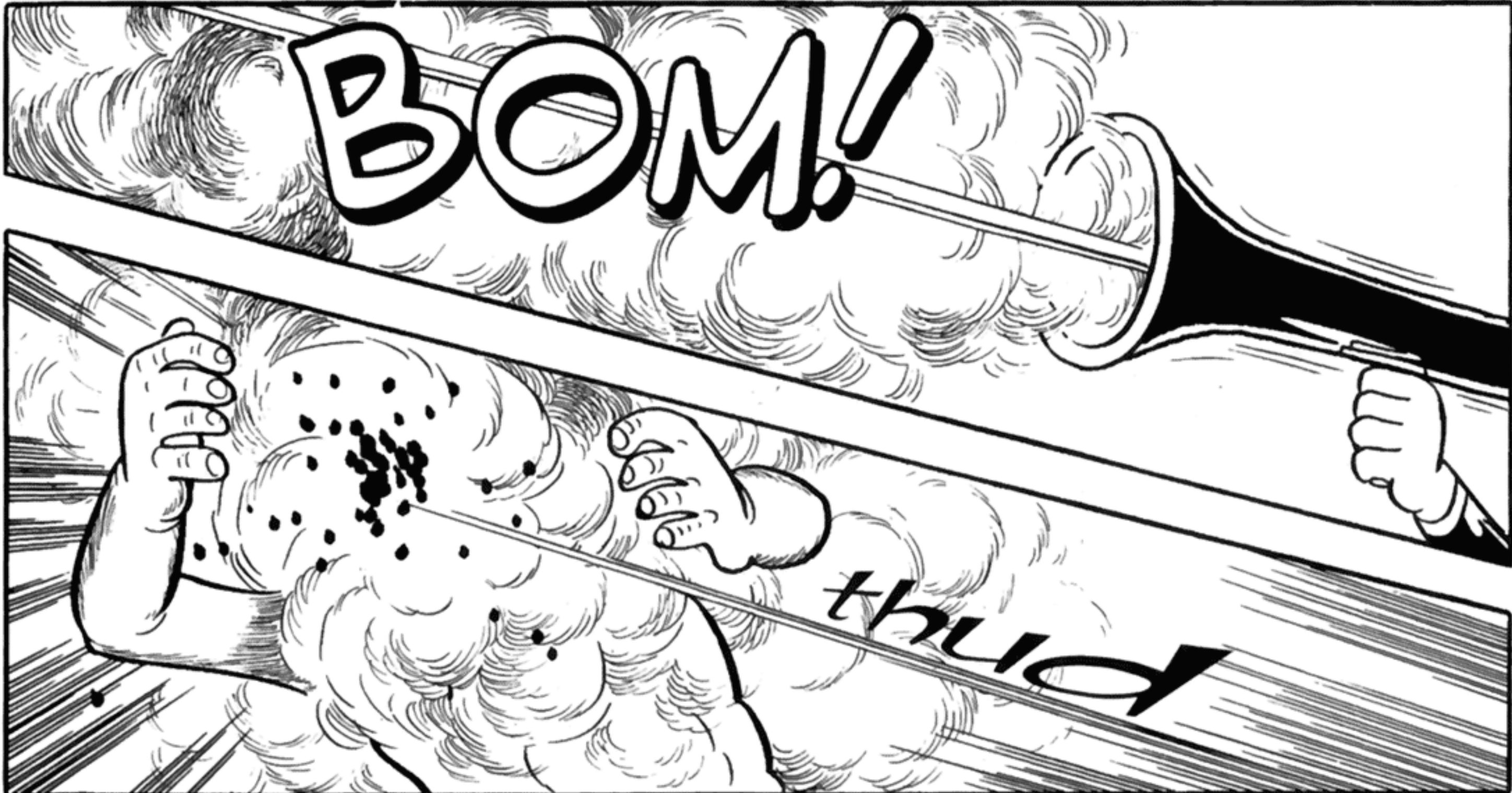


HERE COMES...
THE GIANT...
HMM, HE'S BIGGER
THAN I THOUGHT...



I AM THE BRAVE
MOSSA, YOUR
NEMESIS.
I'VE BROUGHT
SOMETHING
JUST FOR YOU.

CHECK
IT
OUT.





GAH



BOM!



SMACK

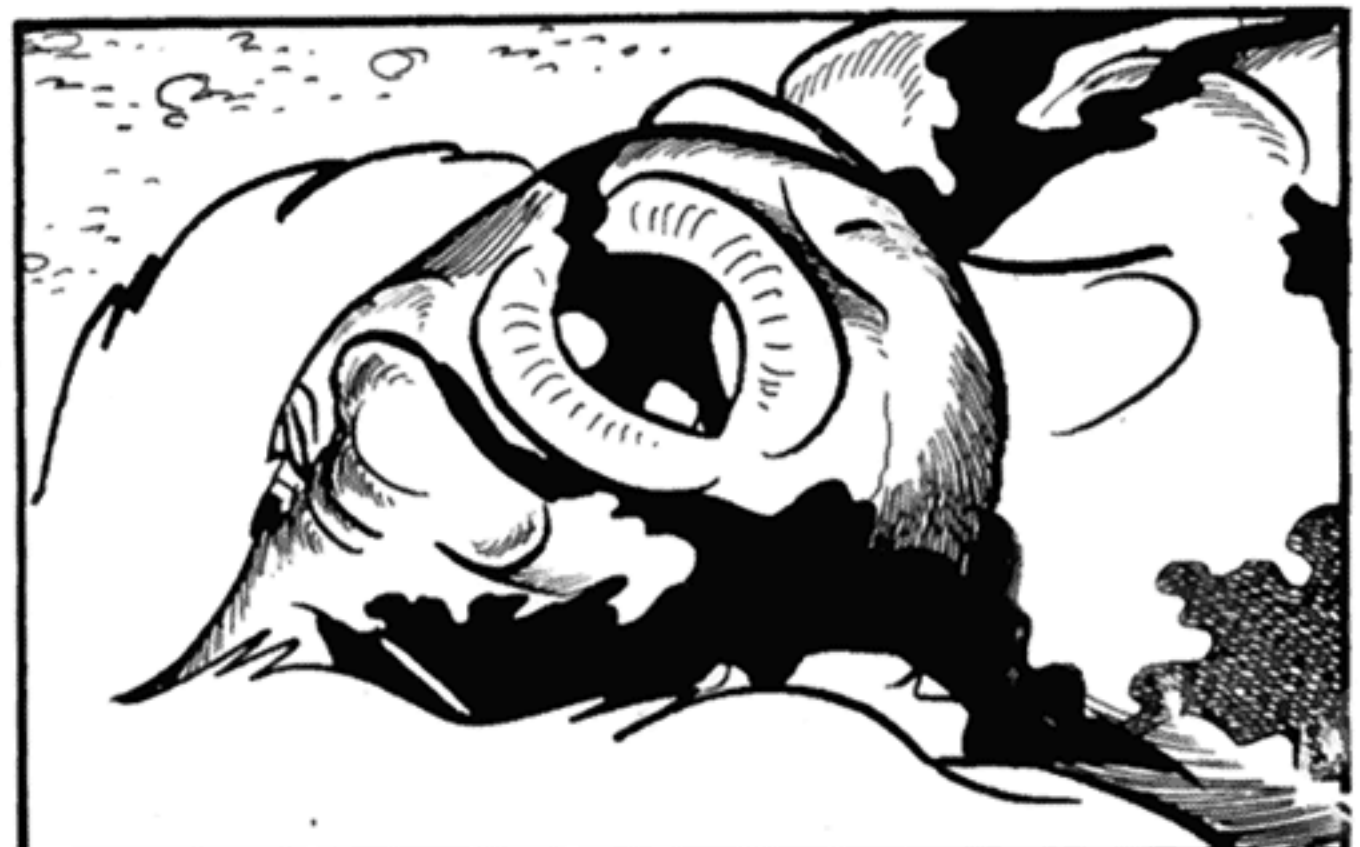
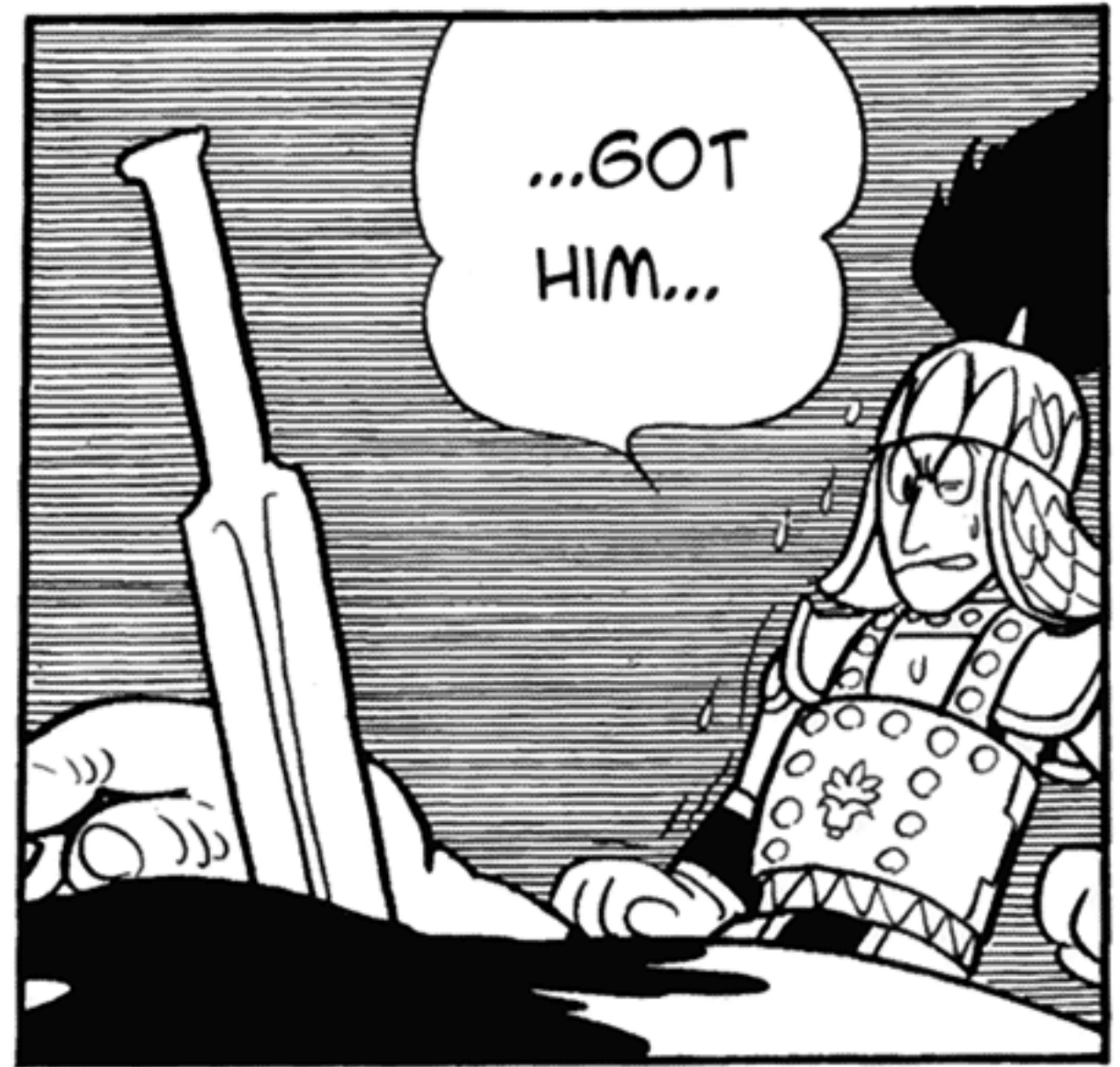
GH!!

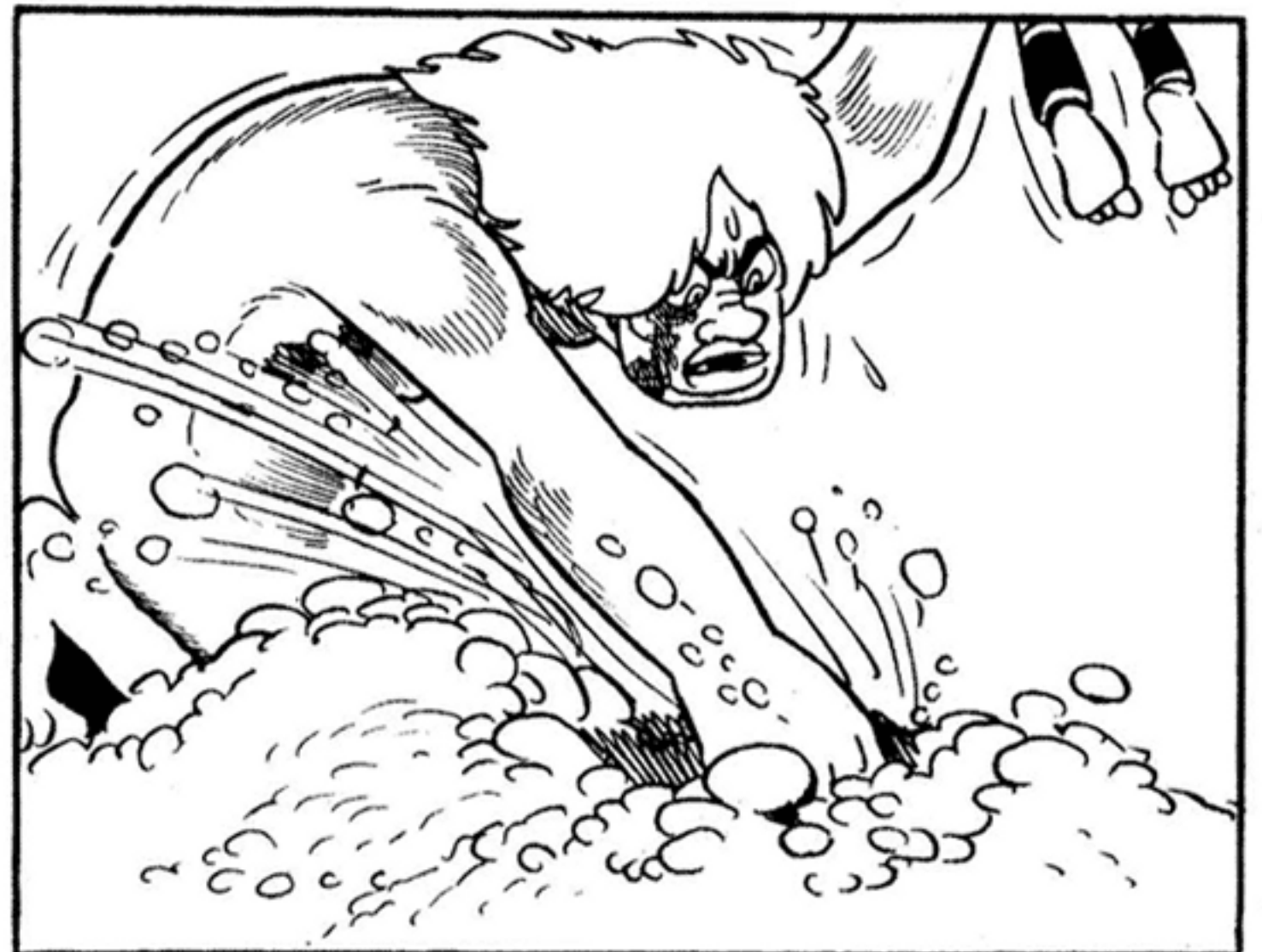
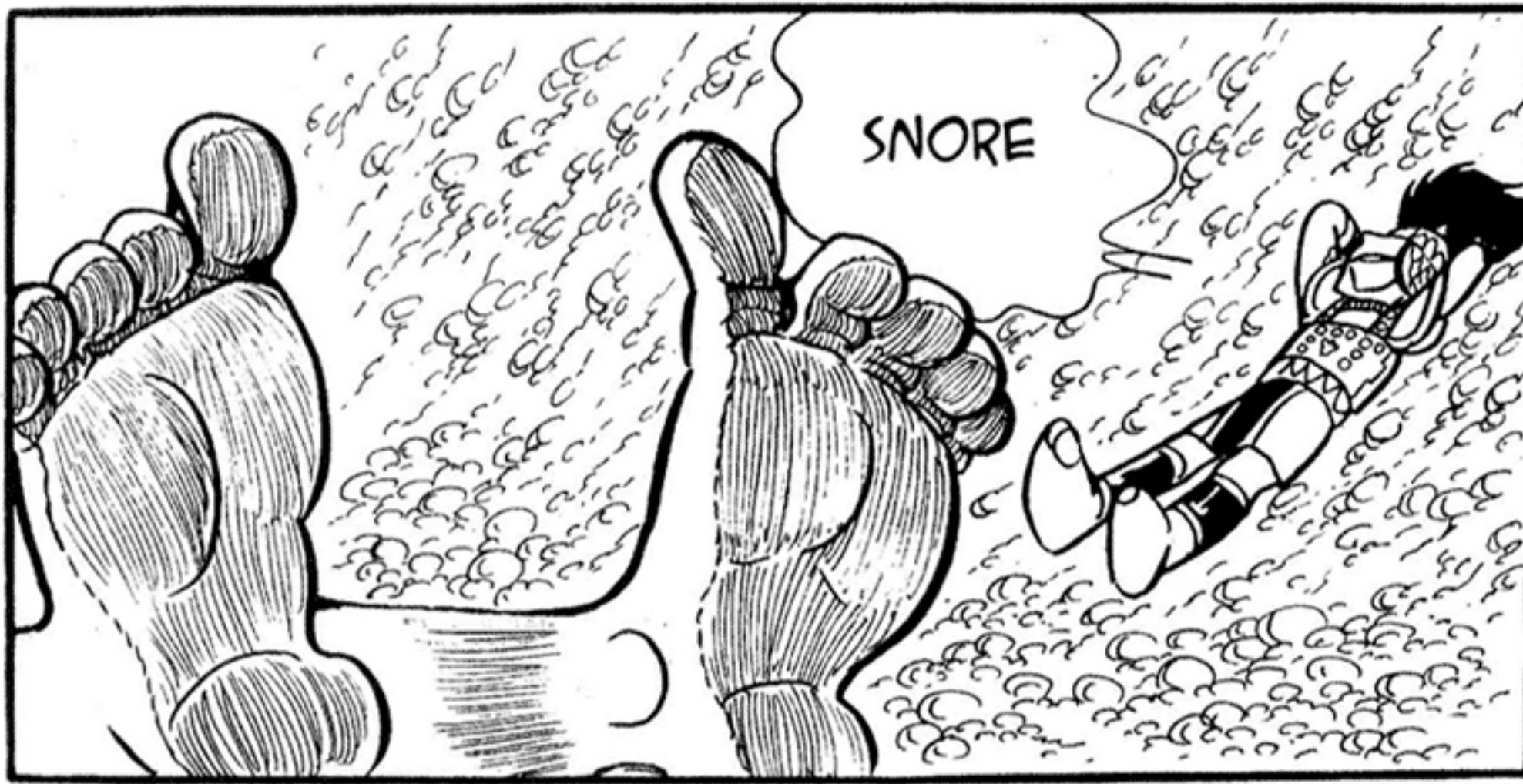


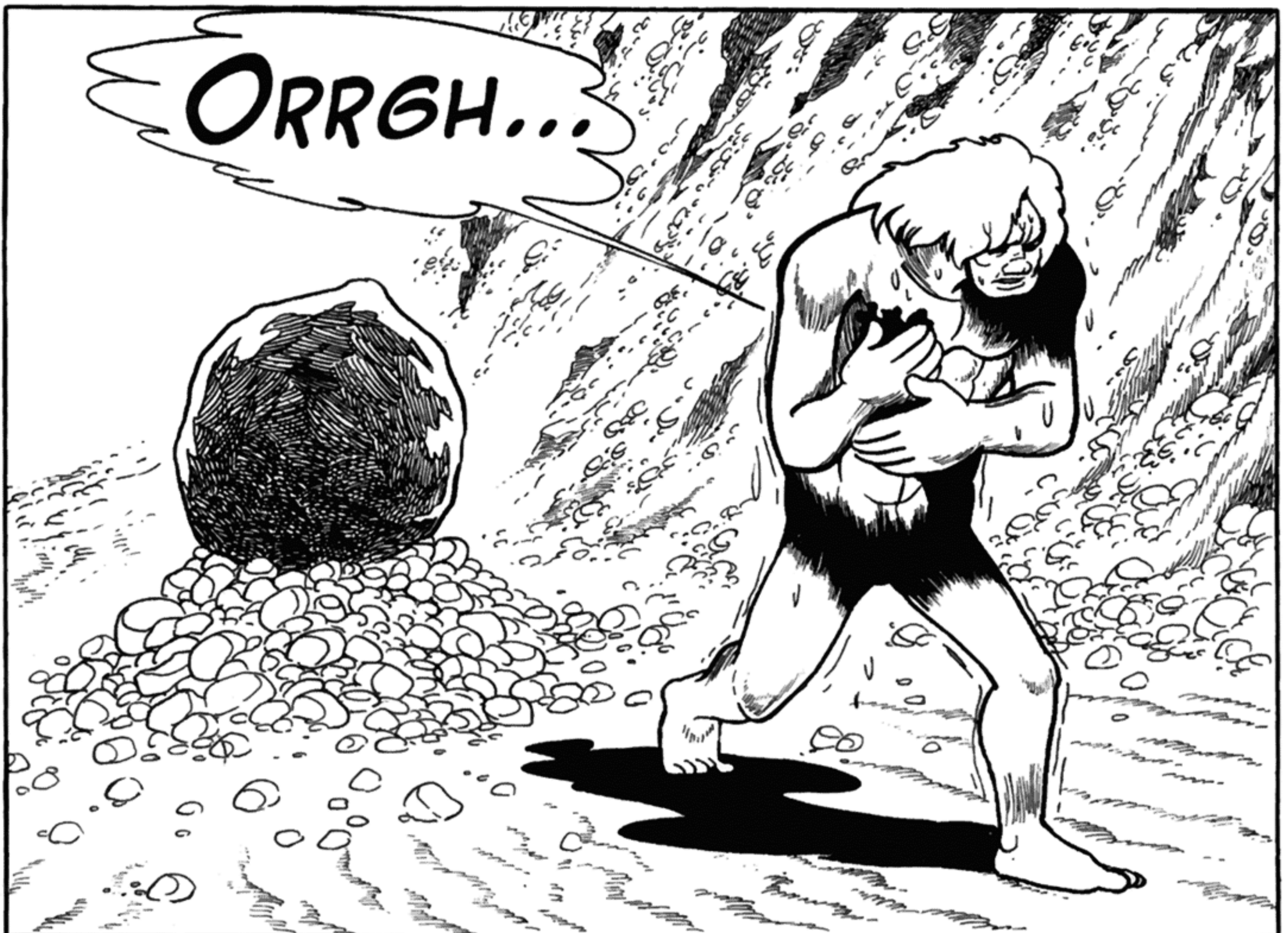
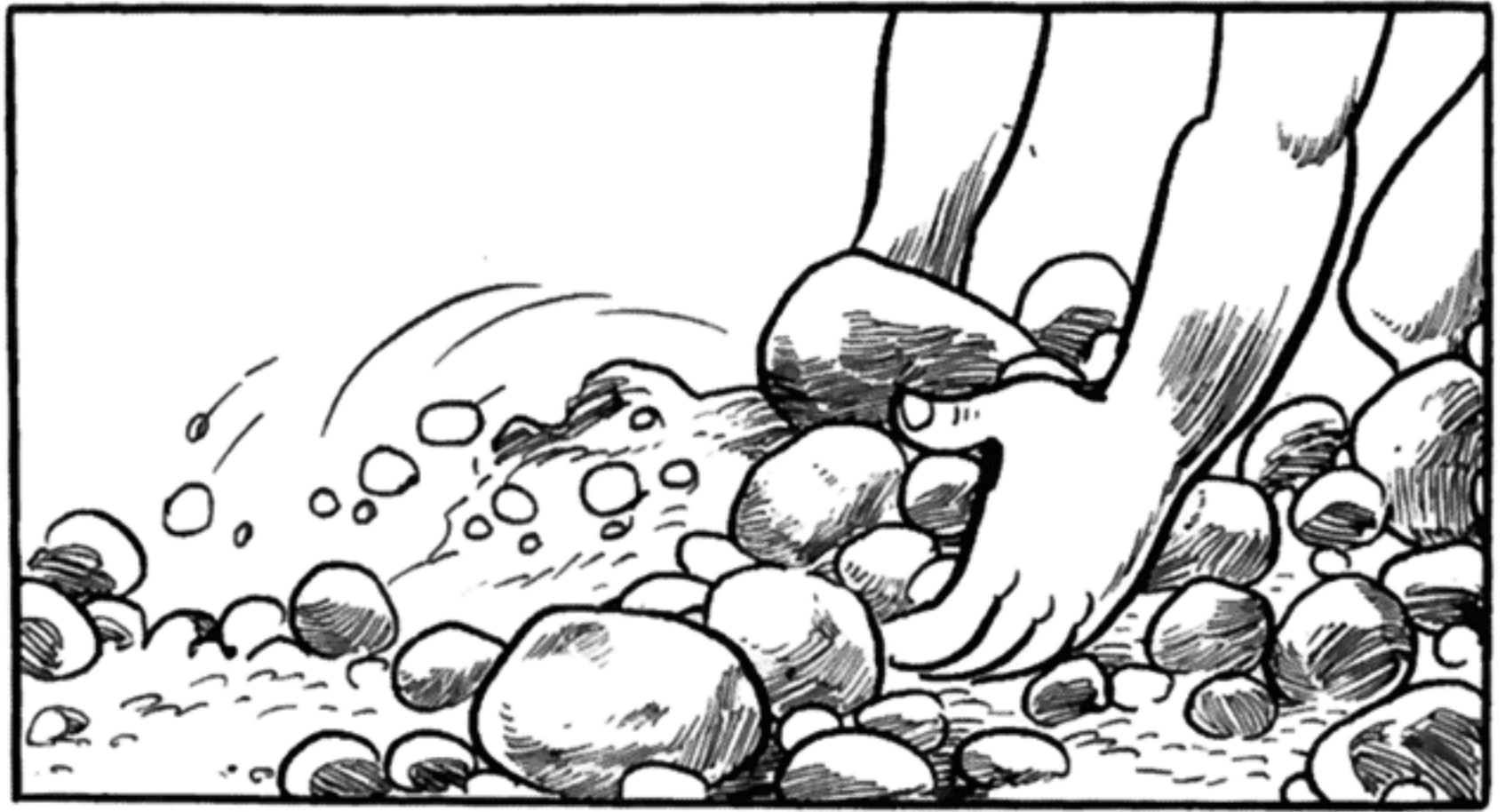
**AGH
GHA
GHH**

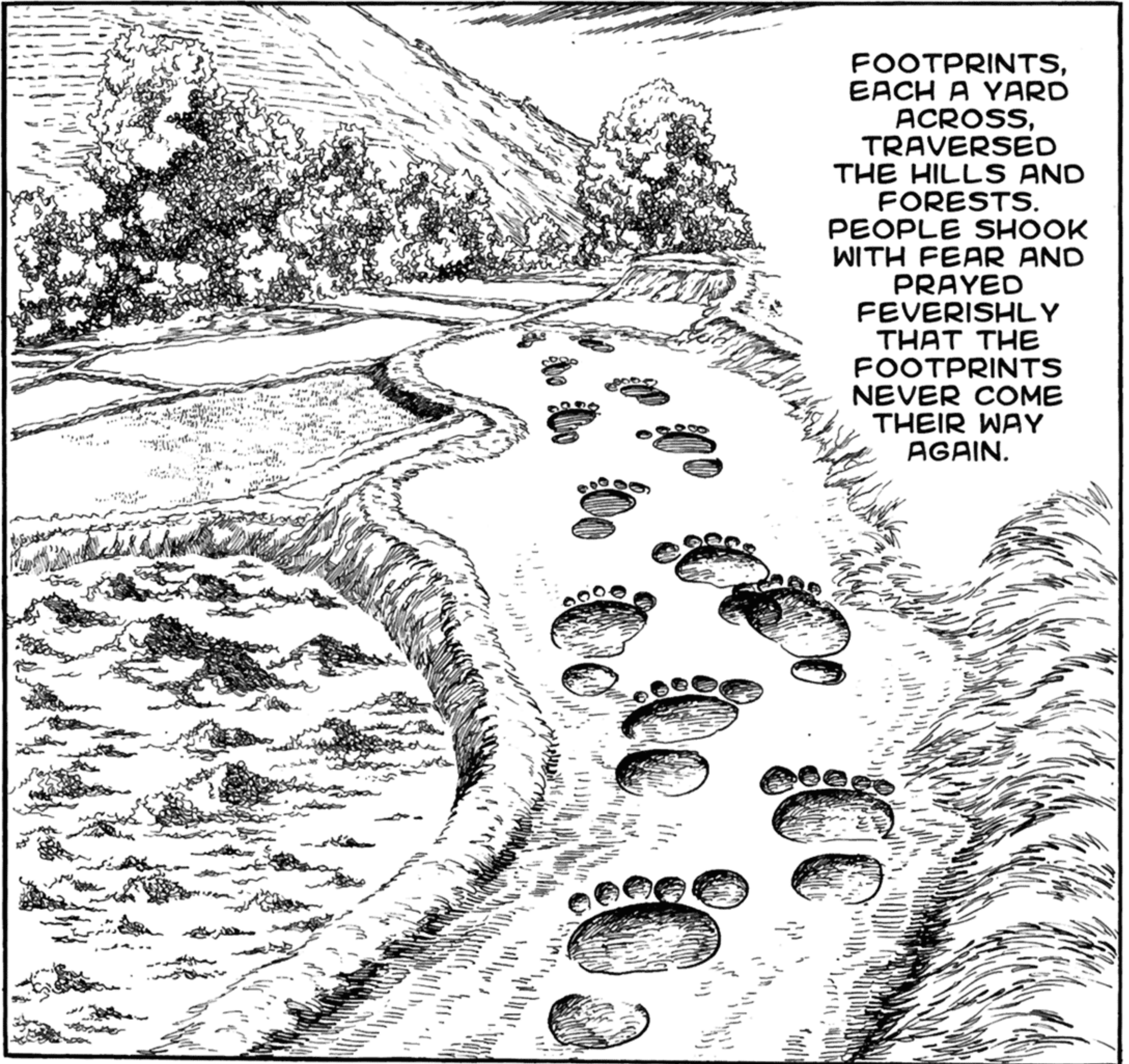


**ORRGH
NGGHA**





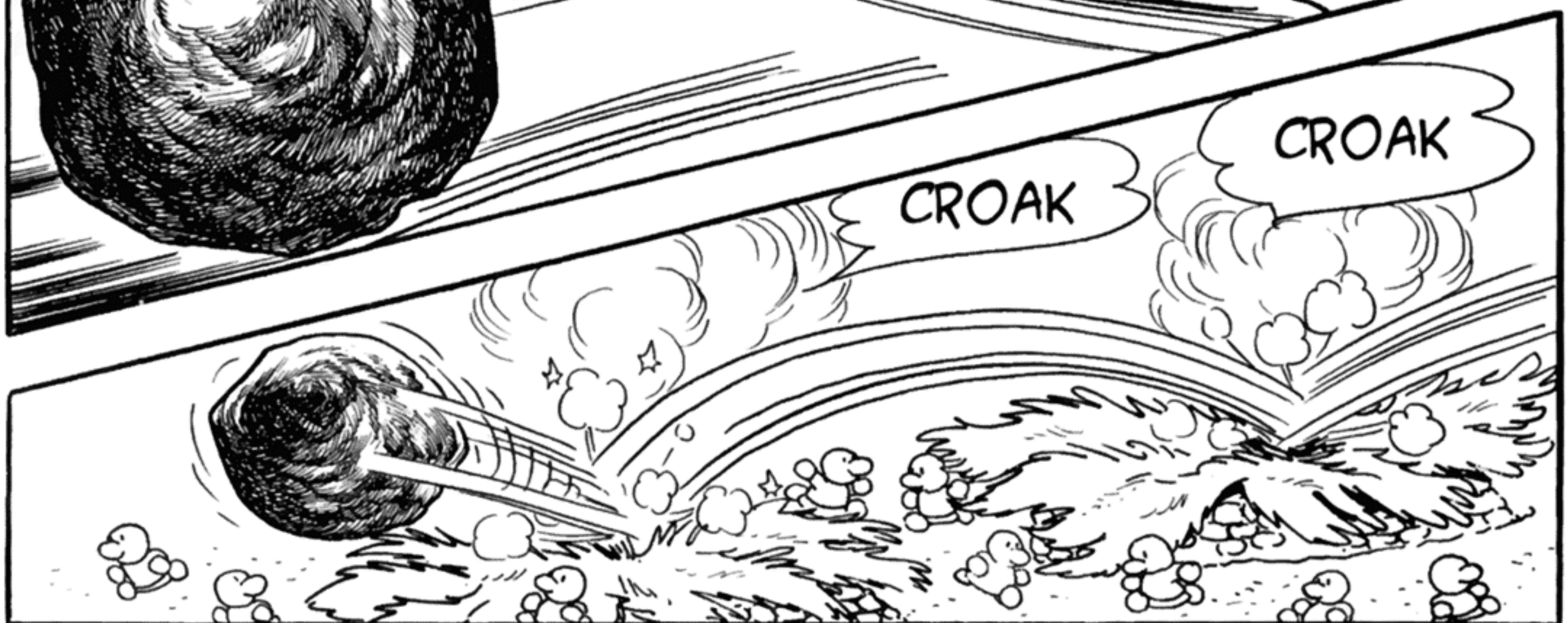
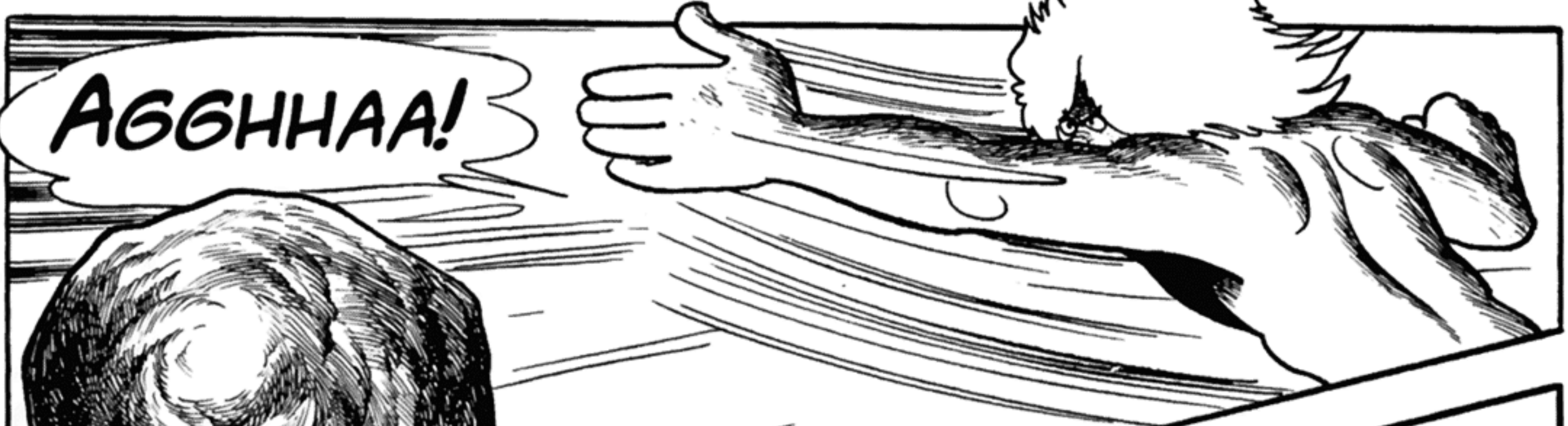
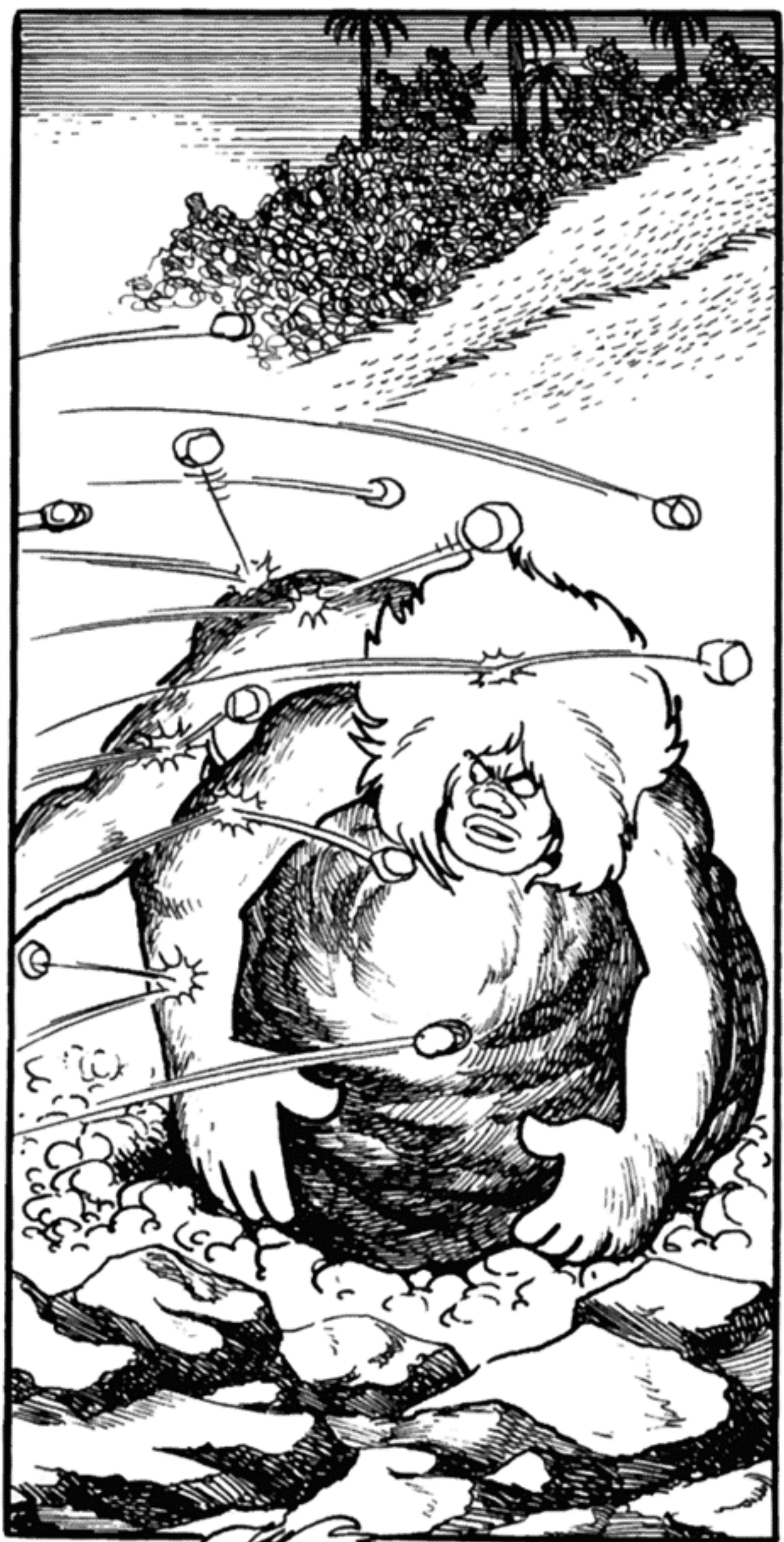


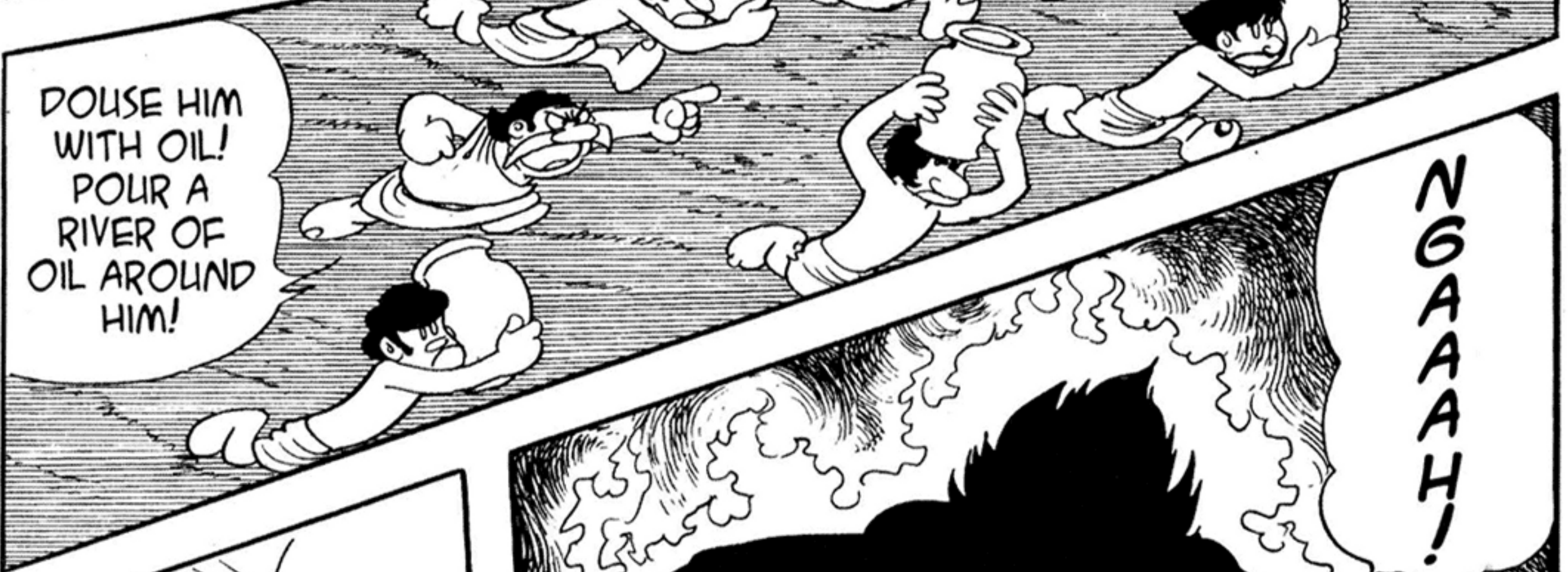


FOOTPRINTS,
EACH A YARD
ACROSS,
TRAVERSED
THE HILLS AND
FORESTS.
PEOPLE SHOOK
WITH FEAR AND
PRAYED
FEVERISHLY
THAT THE
FOOTPRINTS
NEVER COME
THEIR WAY
AGAIN.



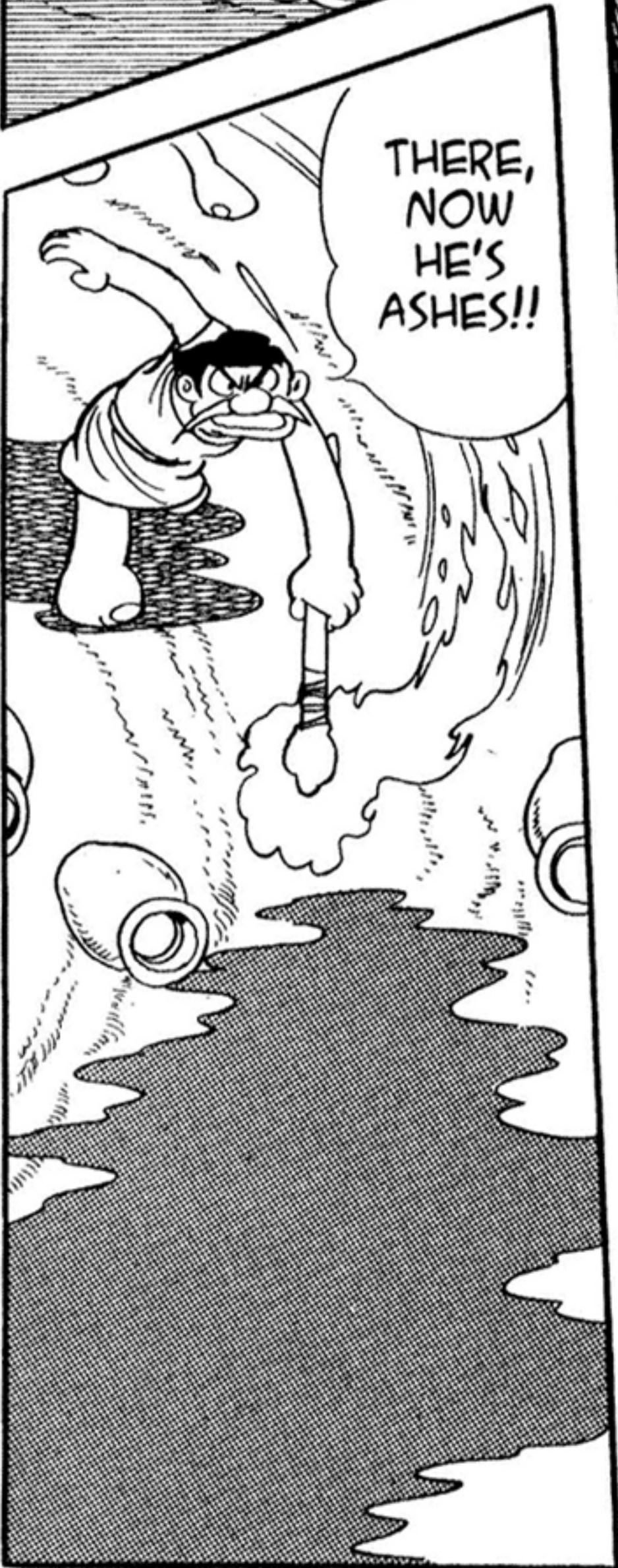
WHEREVER
HE WENT,
YATALA'S
GIANT
DARK-RED
FORM DREW
TORCHES,
ARROWS, AND
TORRENTS
OF STONES.



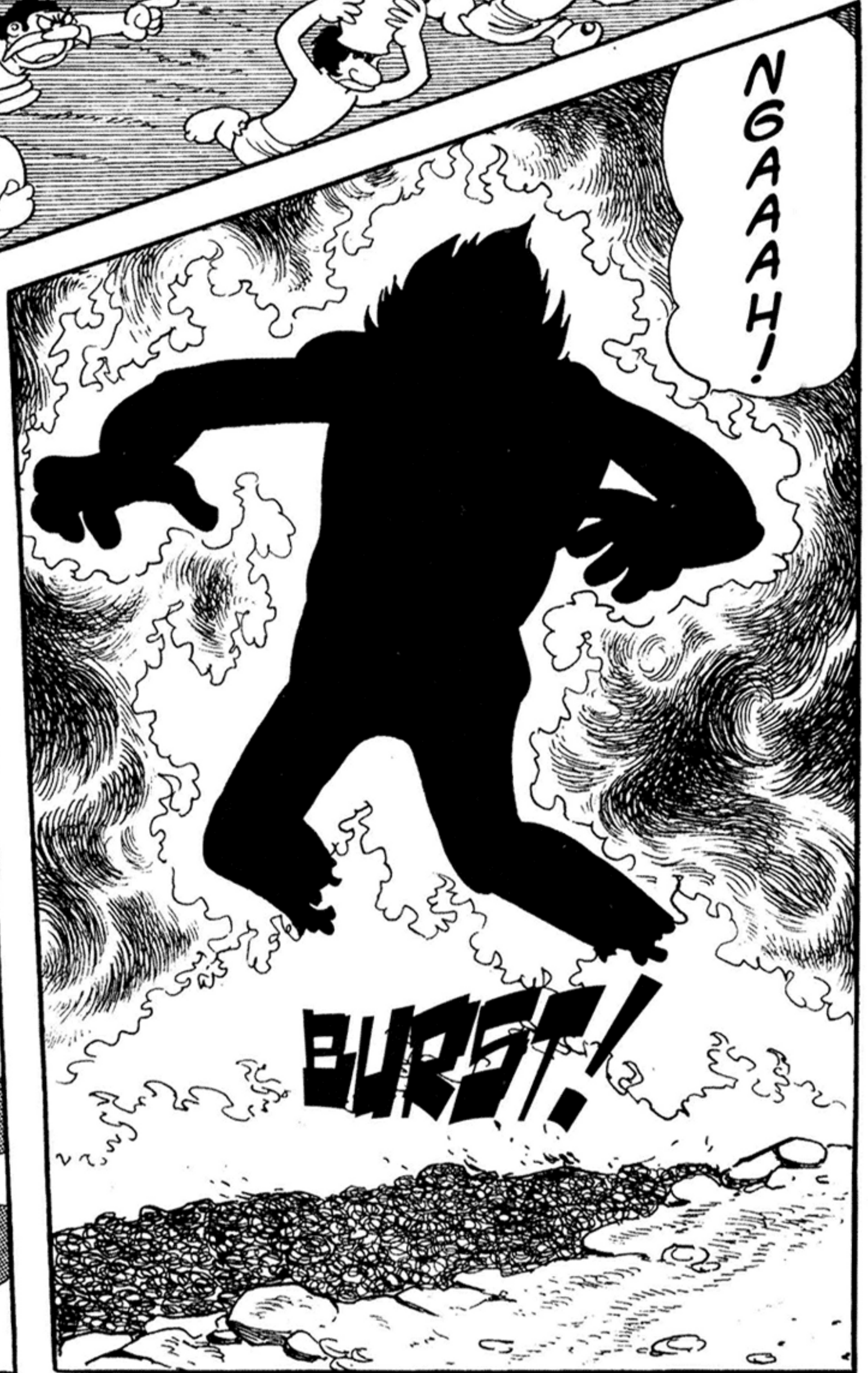


DOUSE HIM WITH OIL!
POUR A RIVER OF OIL AROUND HIM!

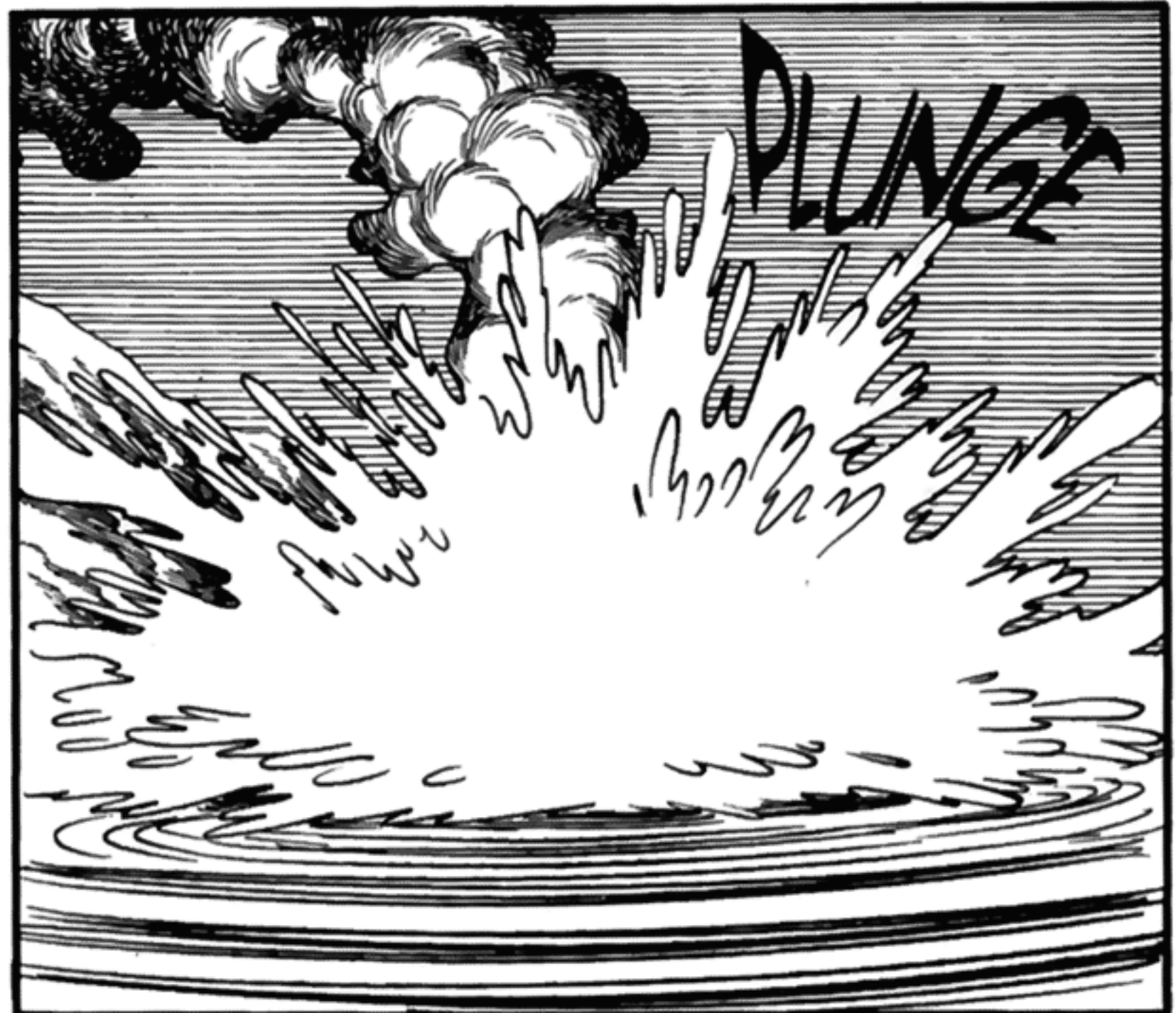
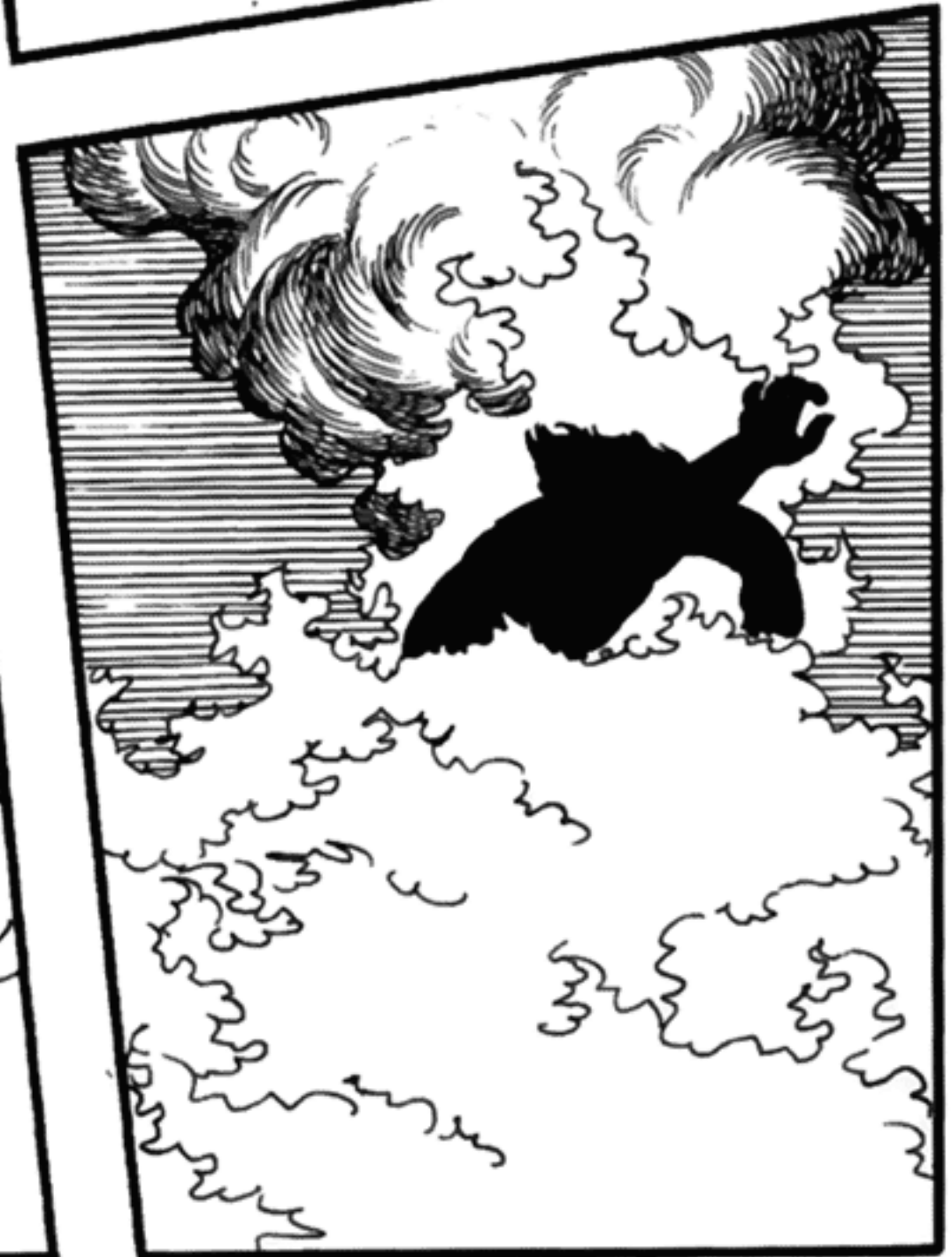
NOAAH!

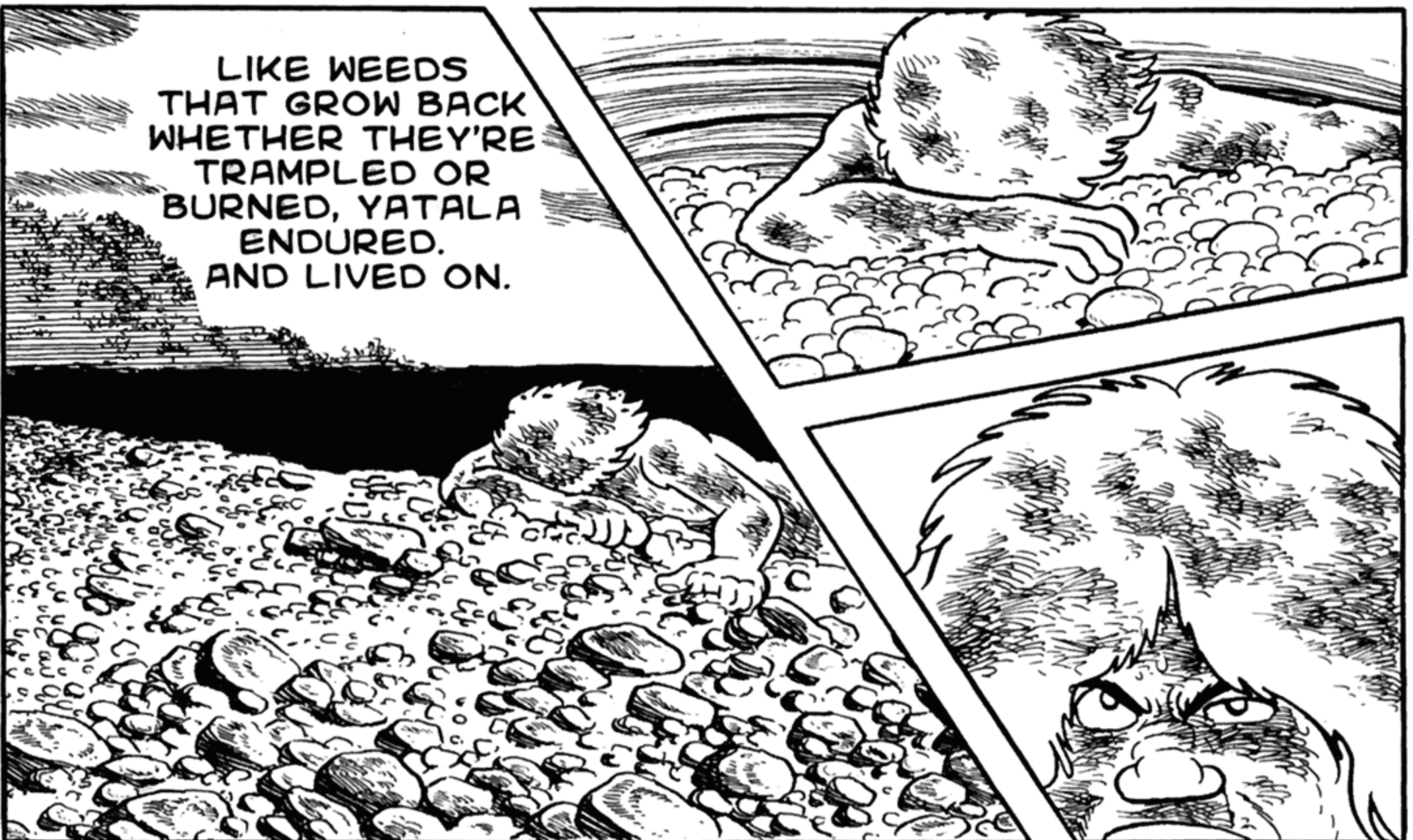
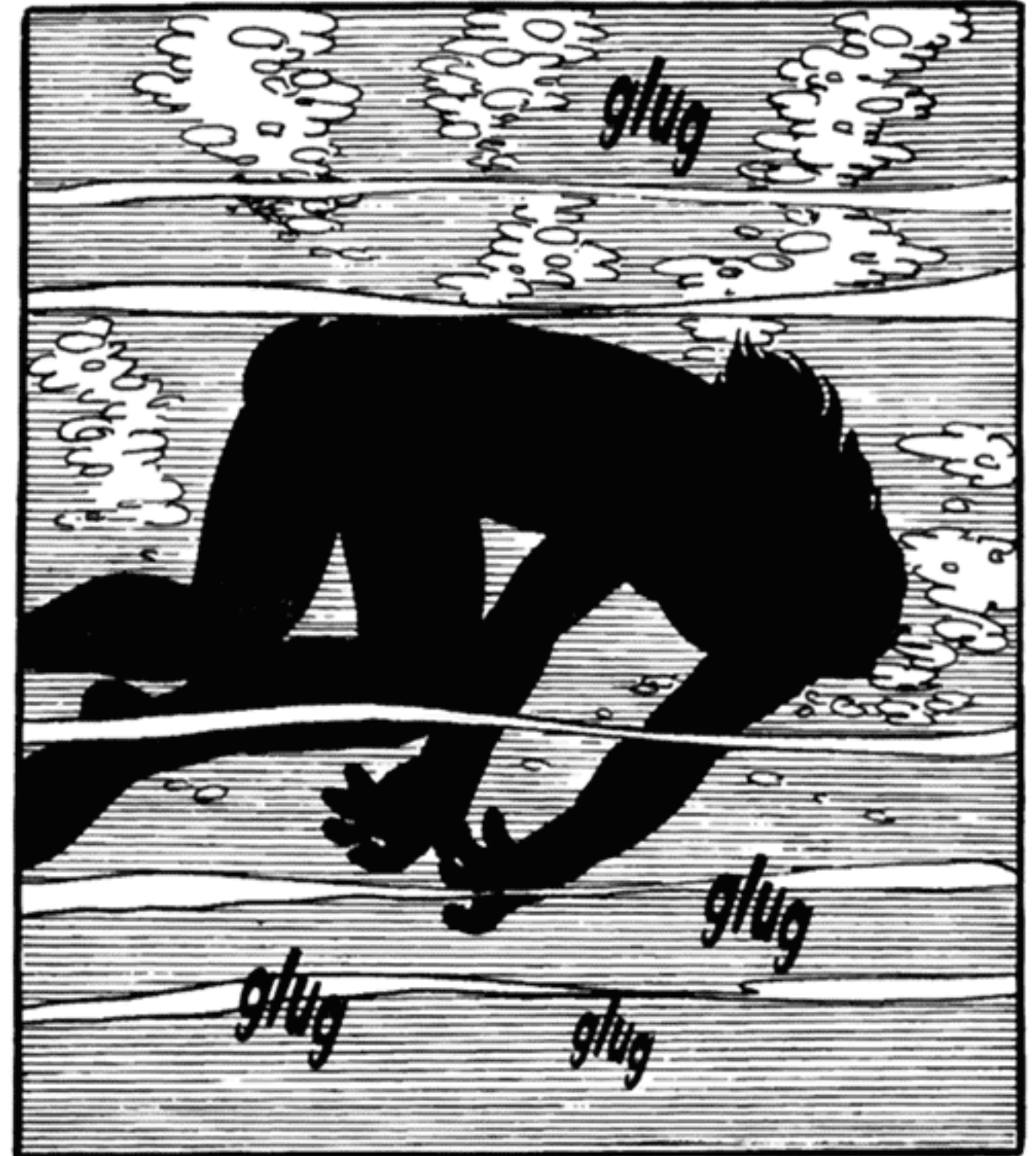
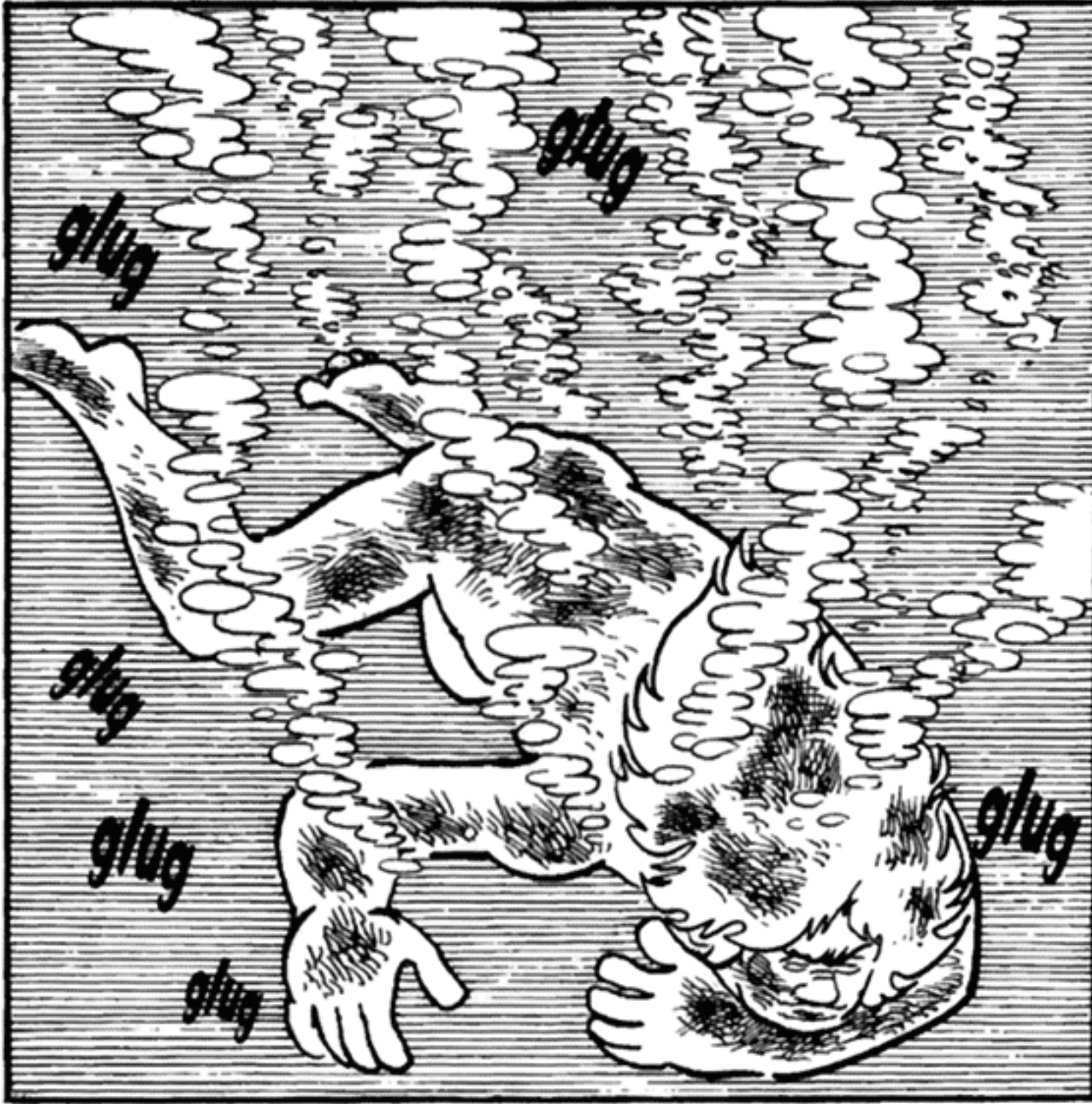


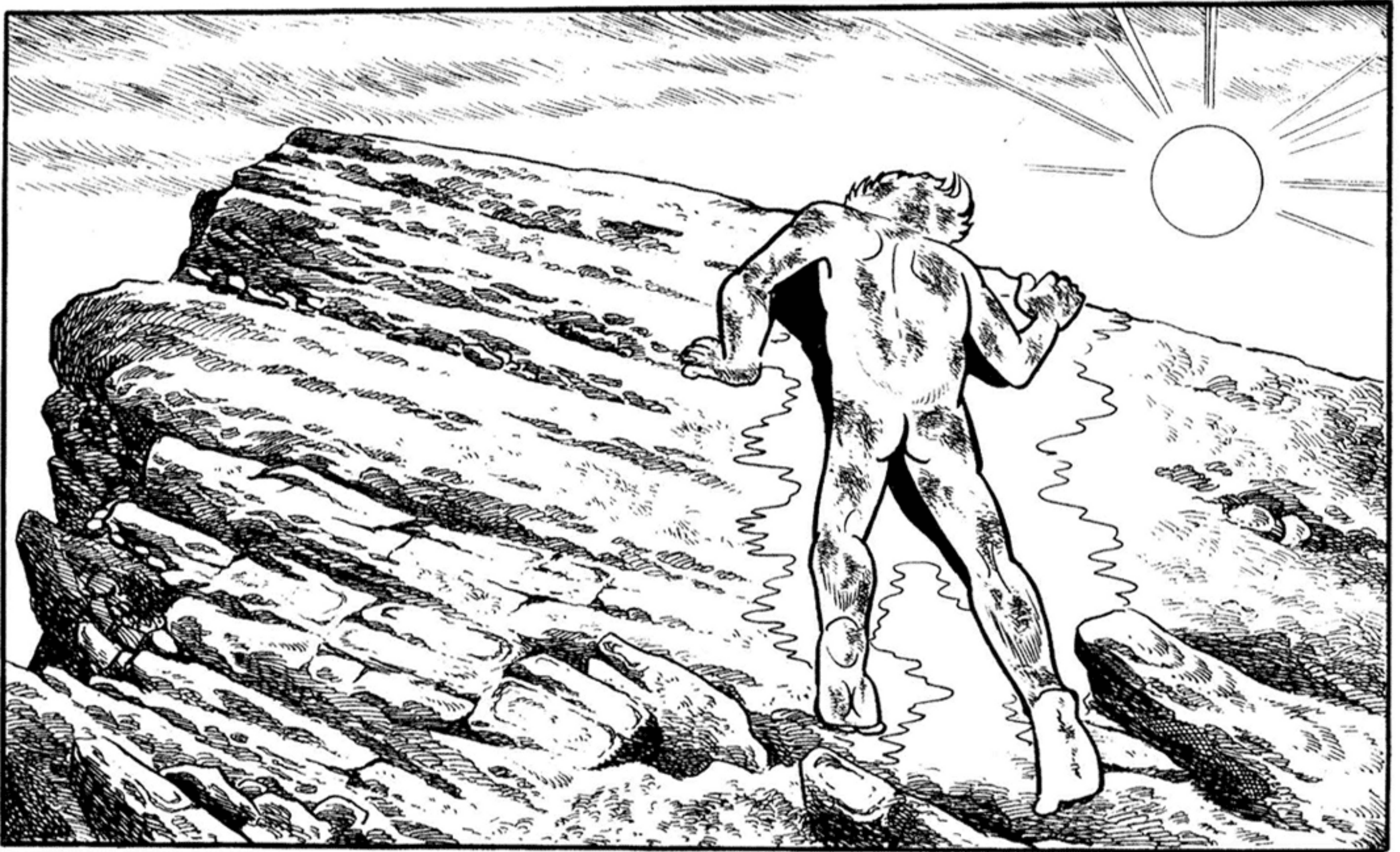
THERE, NOW HE'S ASHES!!



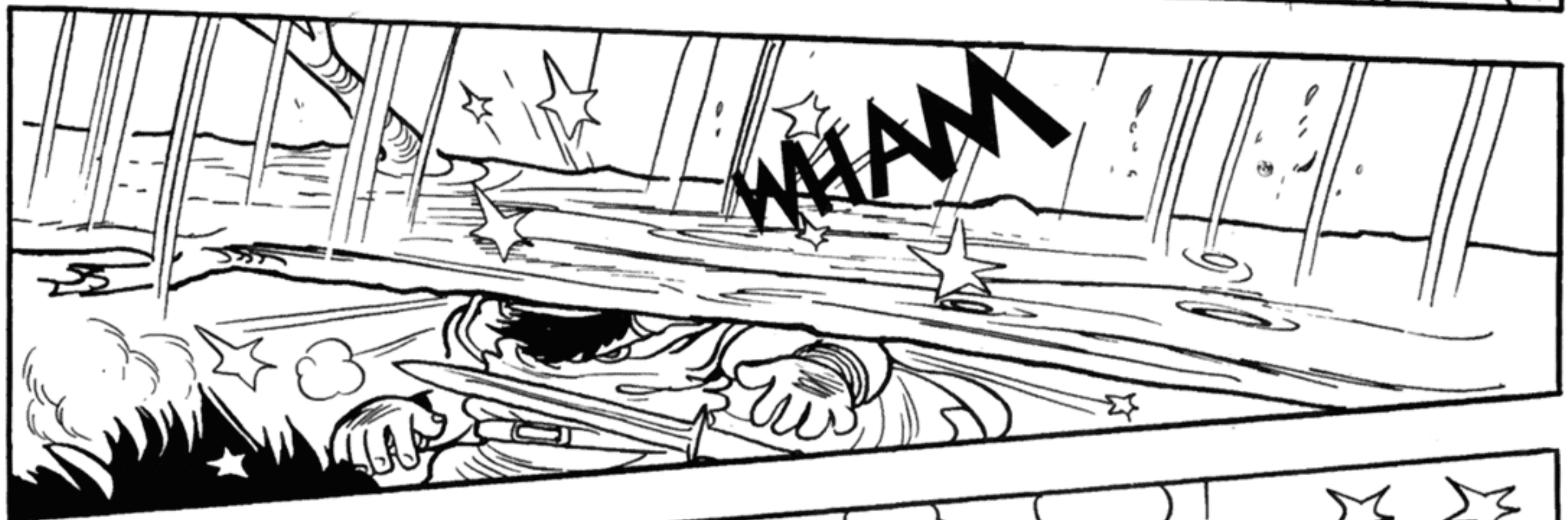
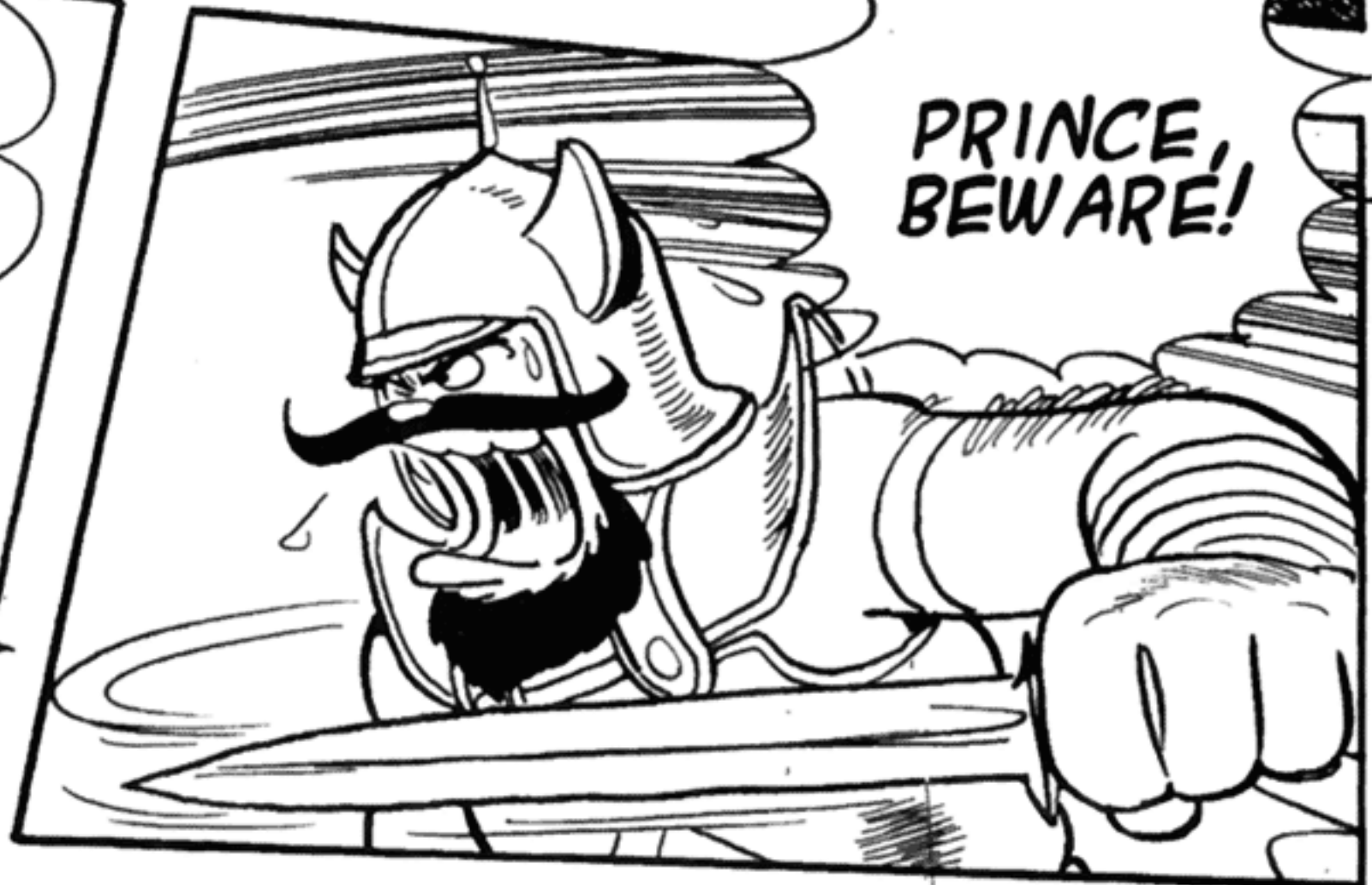
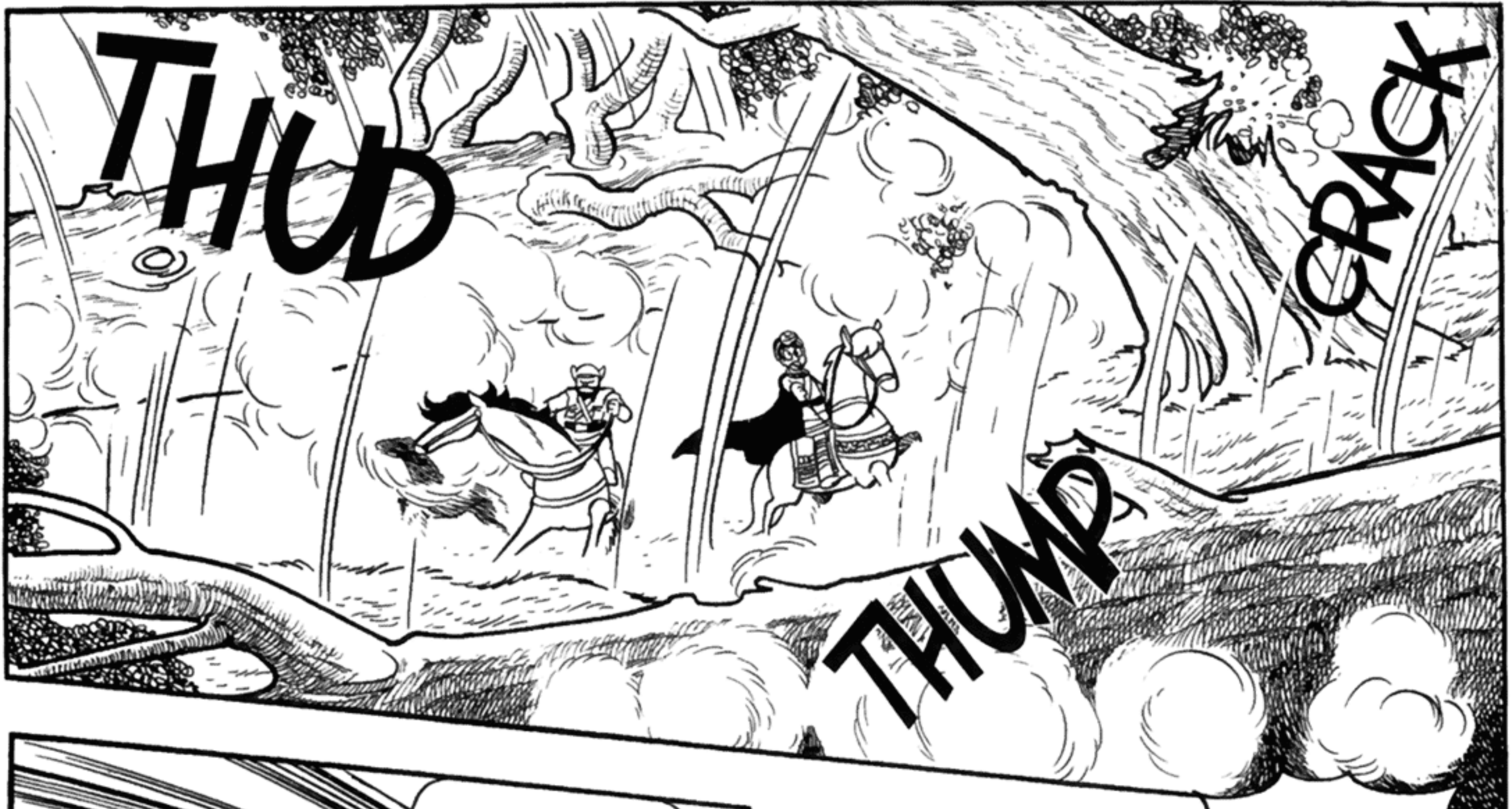
BURST!

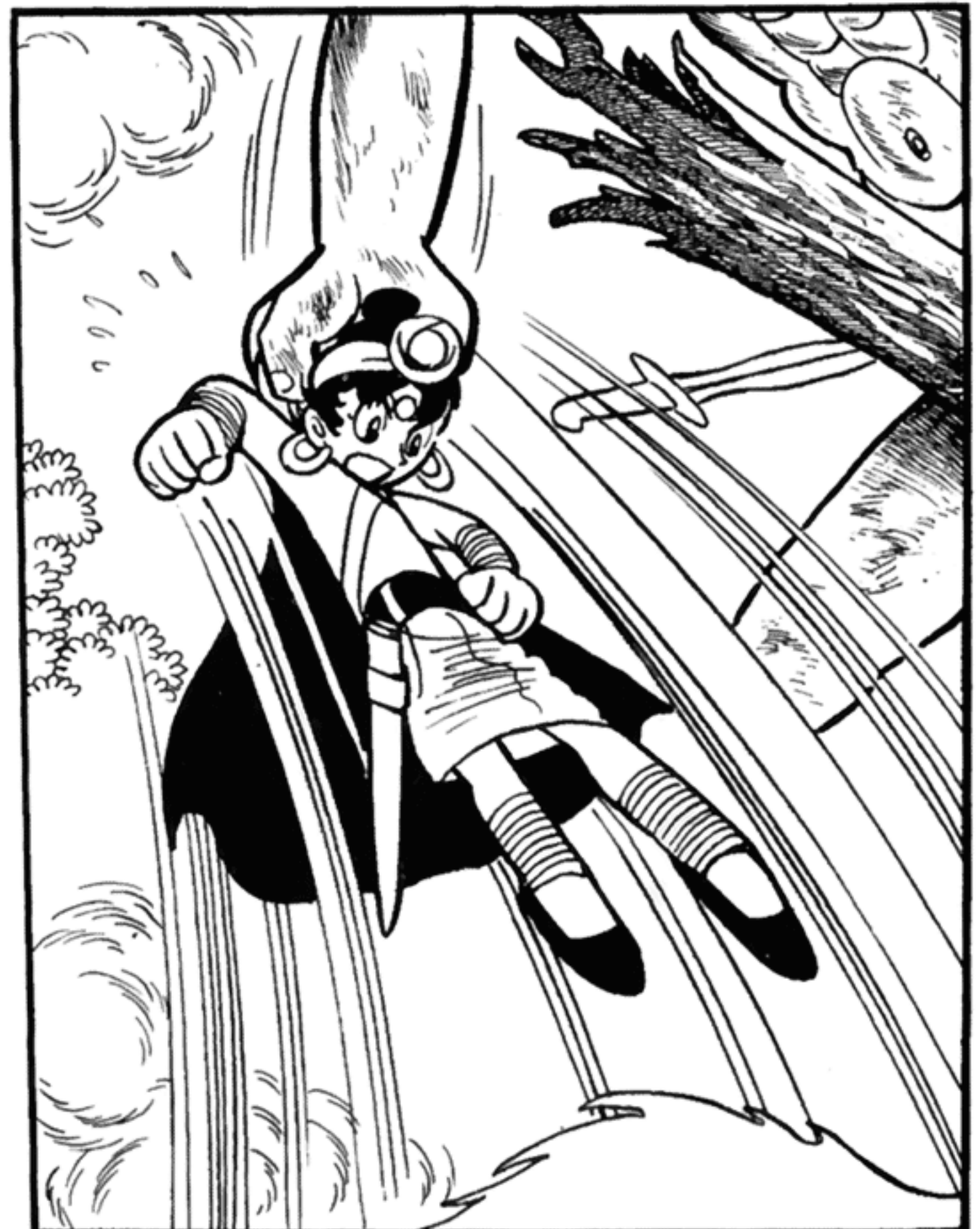
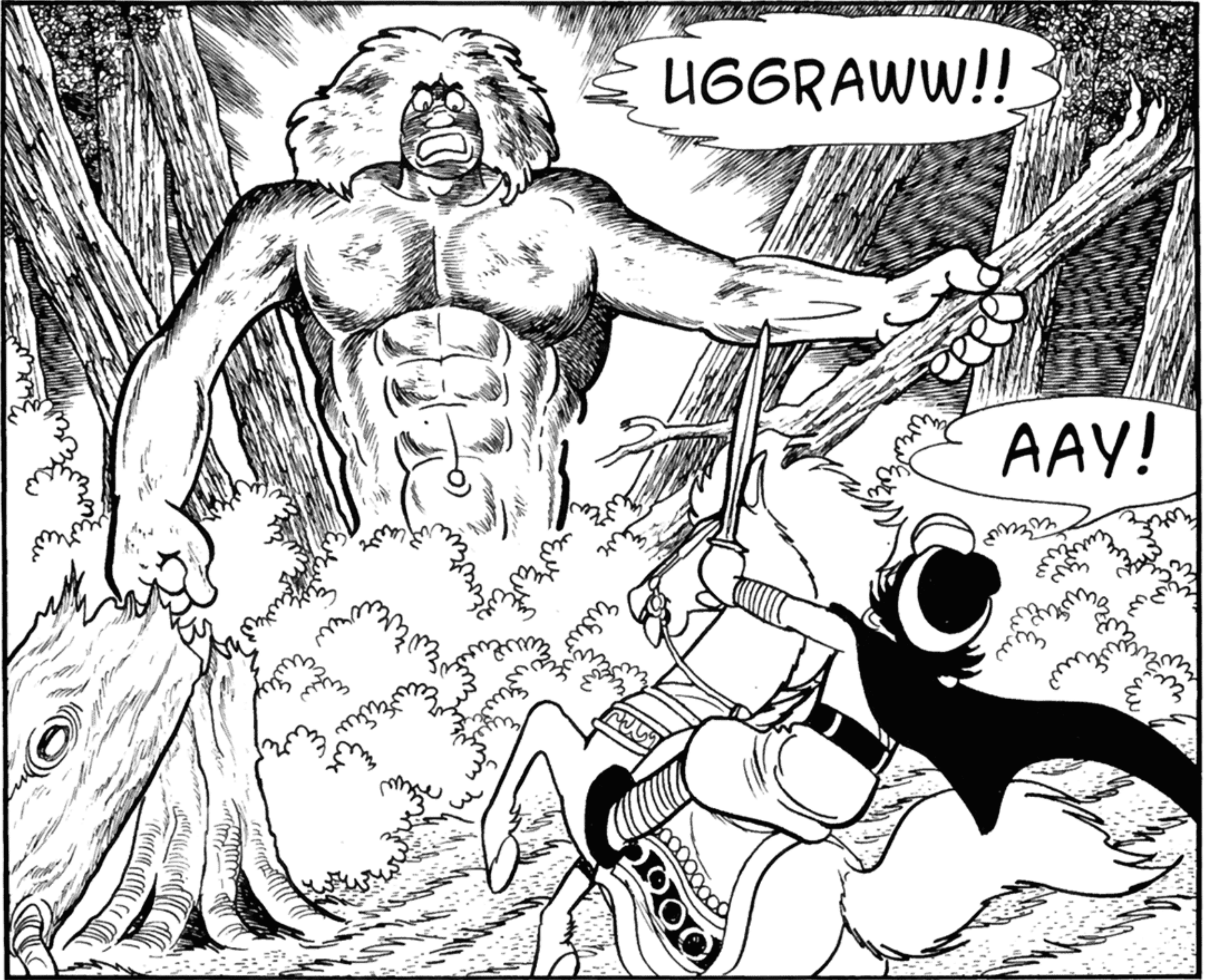


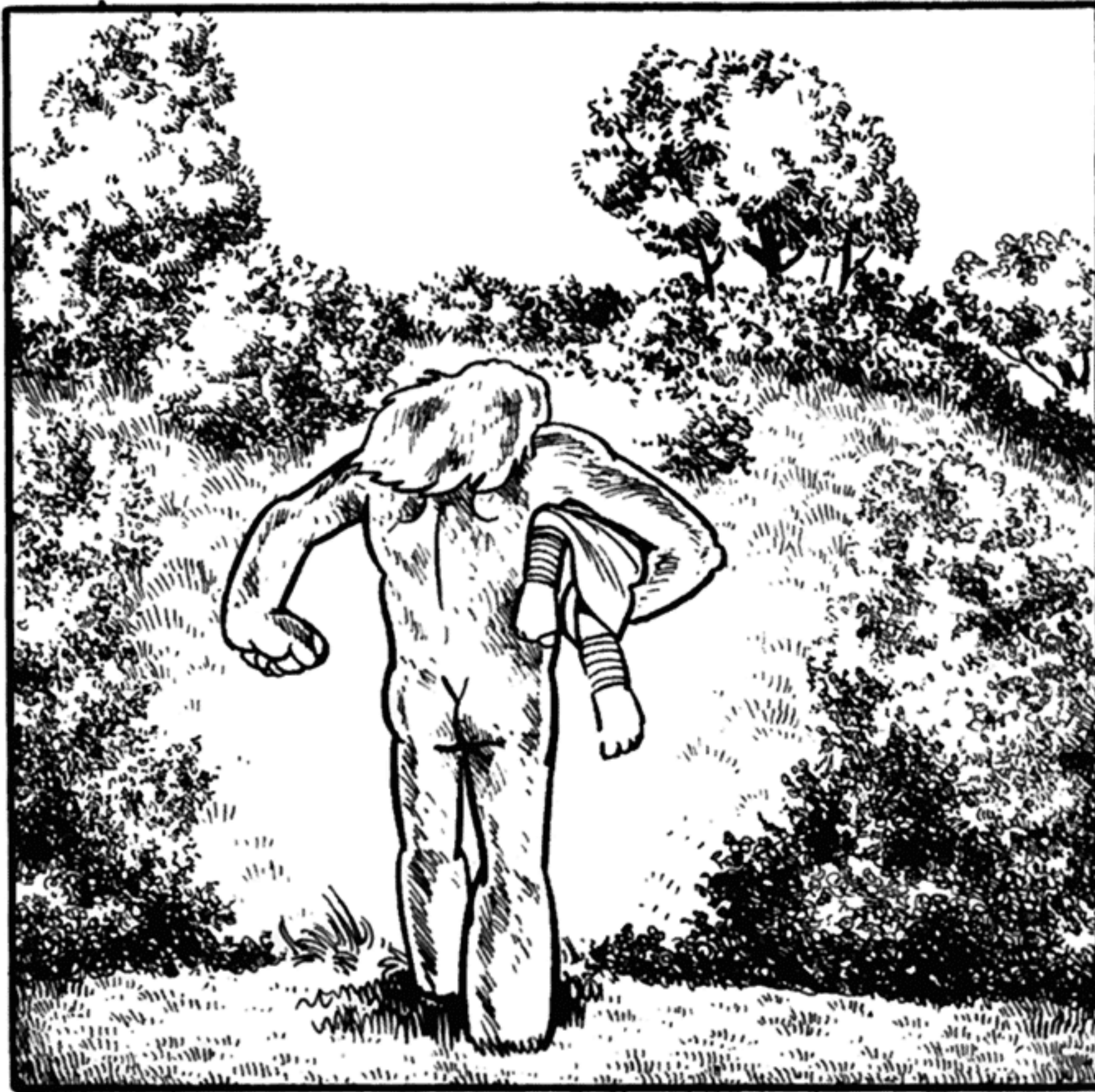


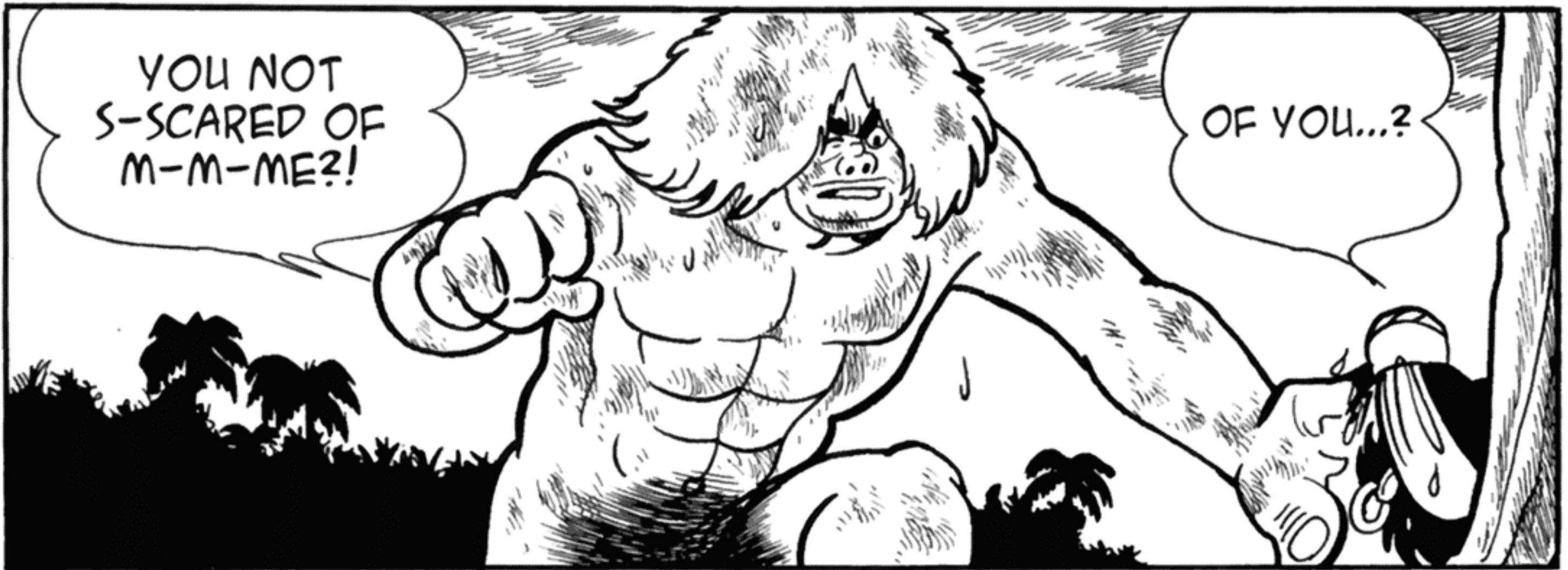












YOU NOT
S-SCARED OF
M-M-ME?!

OF YOU...?

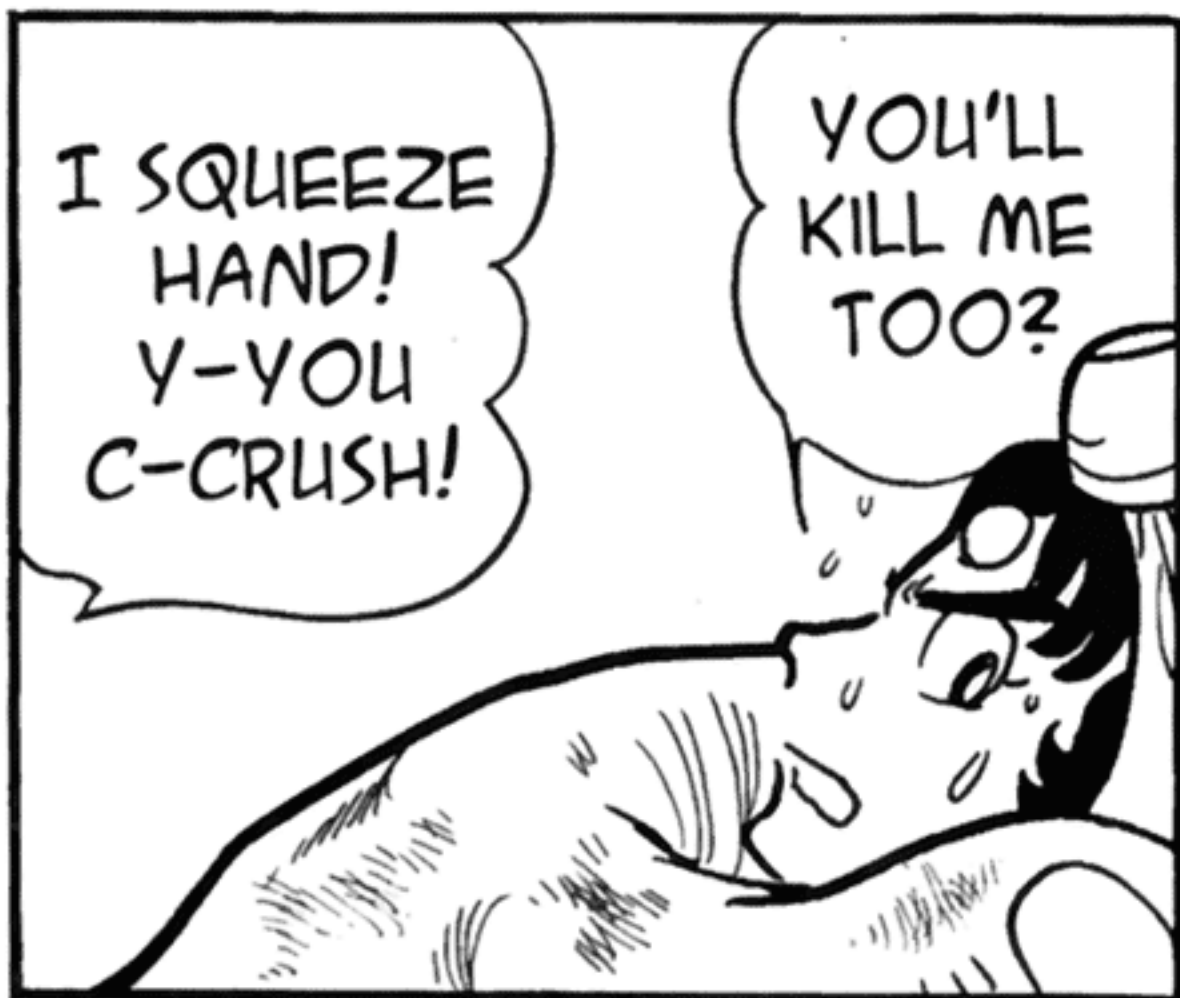


ARE YOU
REALLY
A DEMON?
THOUGH
PEOPLE SEEM
TO
BE TERRIFIED
OF YOU...

UP
CLOSE,
YOU'RE
JUST
BIG.

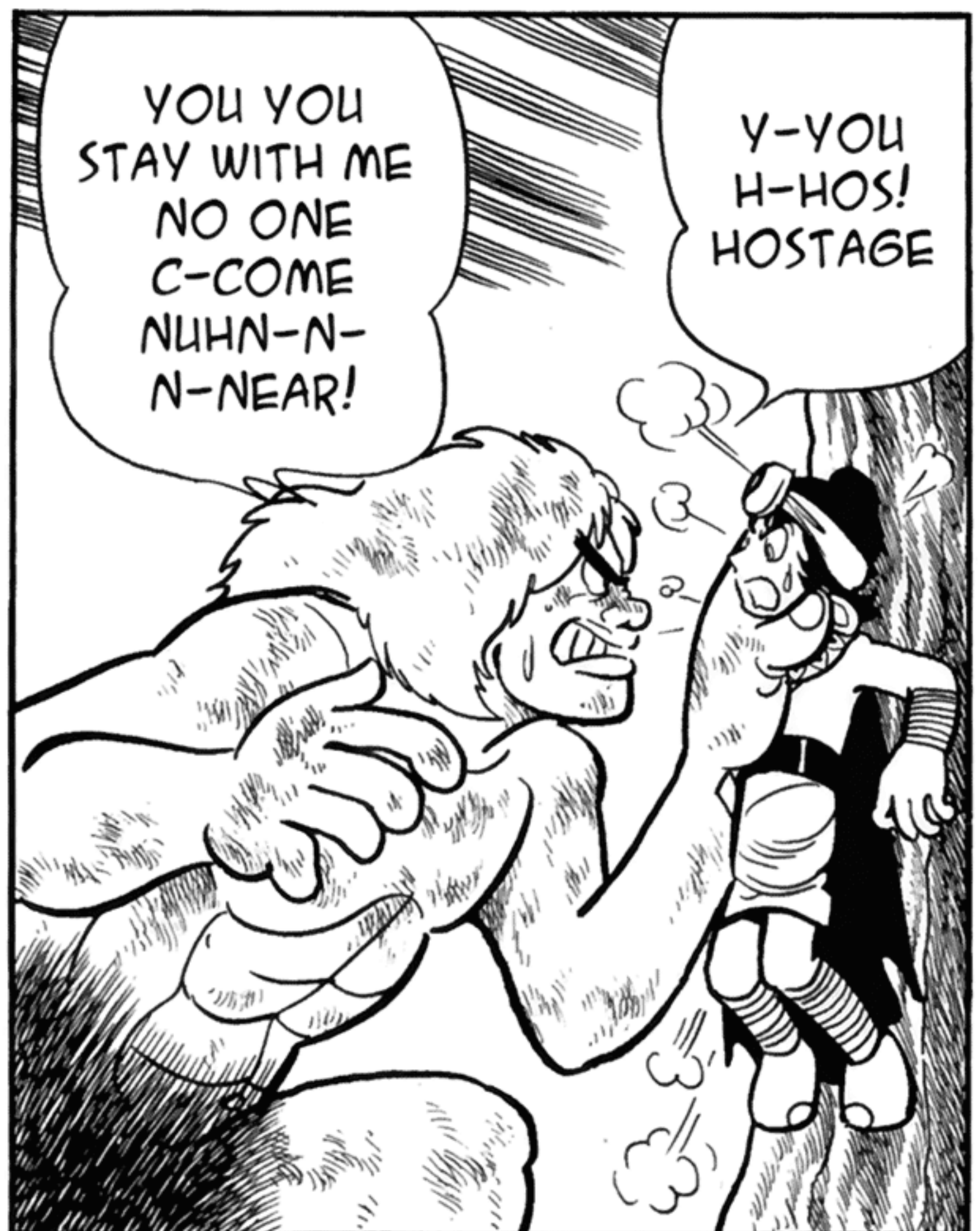


I I I
K-KILL
M-MANY
MANY!



I SQUEEZE
HAND!
Y-YOU
C-CRUSH!

YOU'LL
KILL ME
TOO?

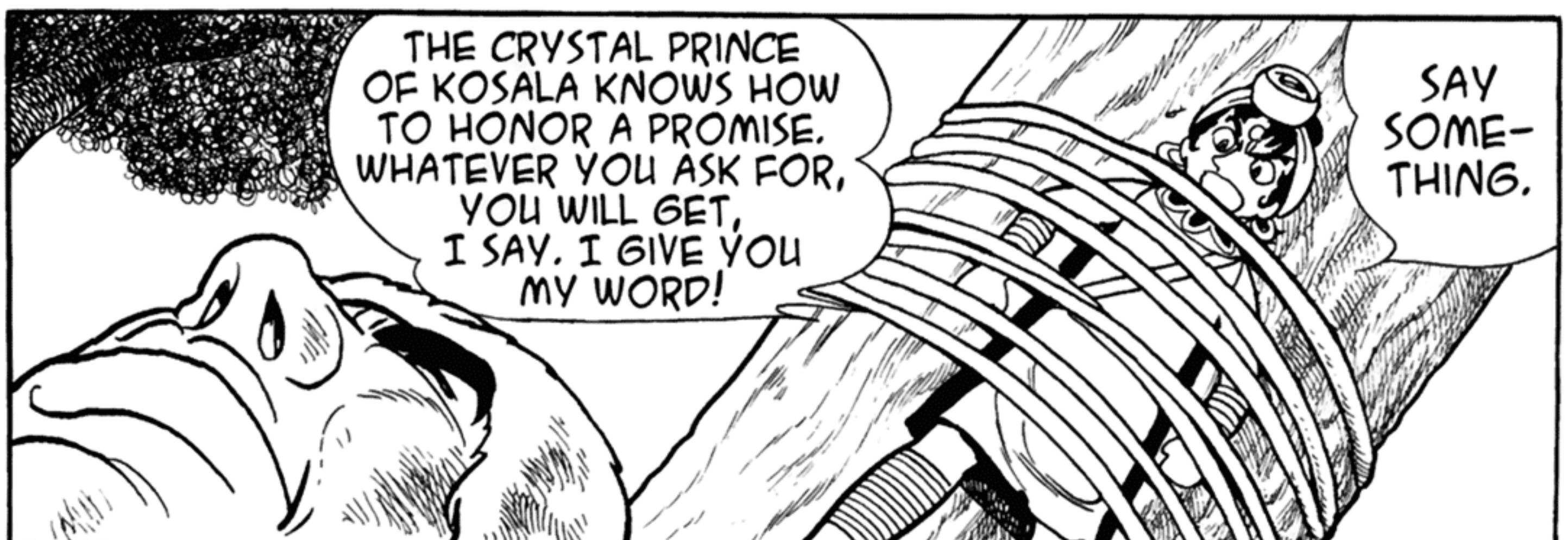
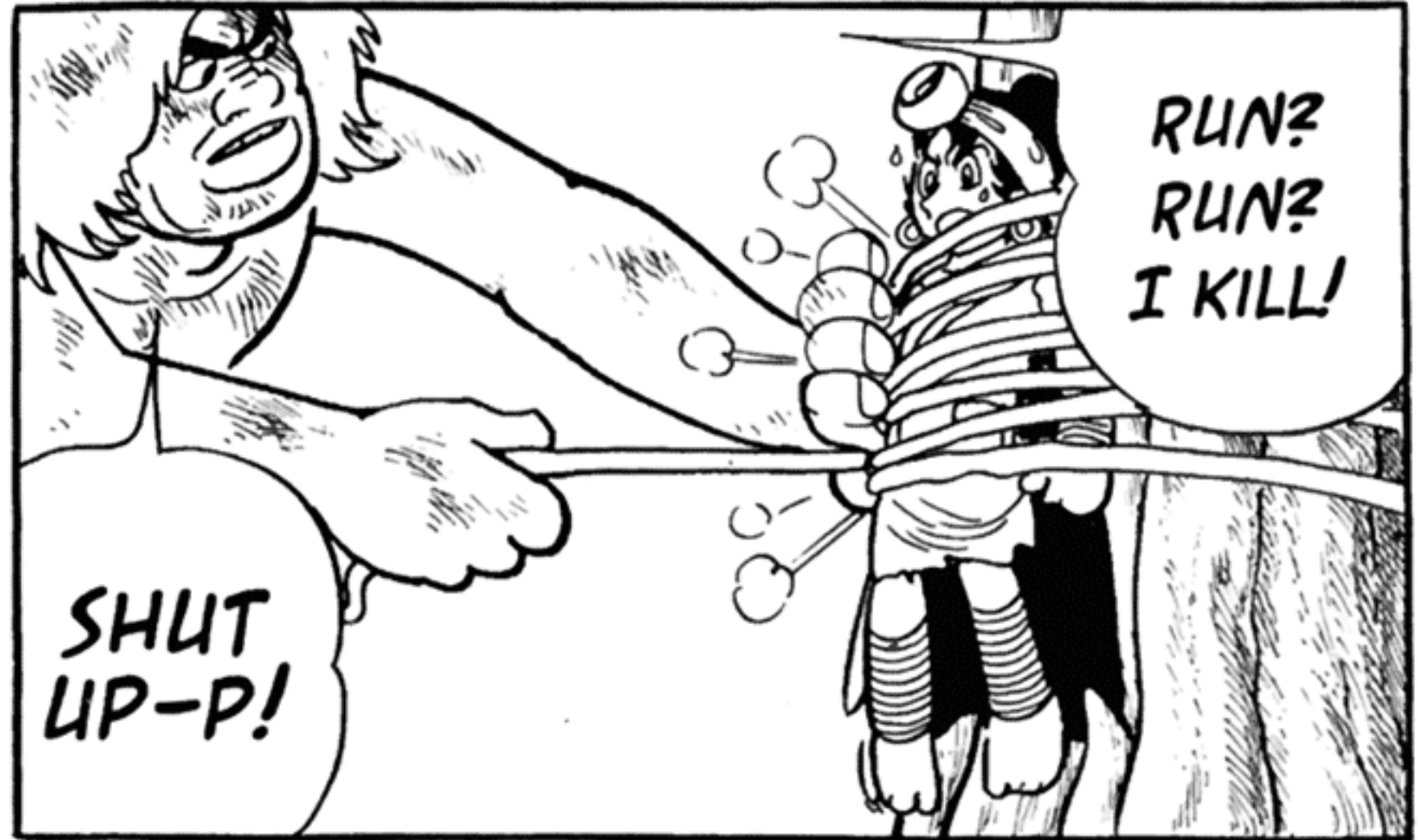


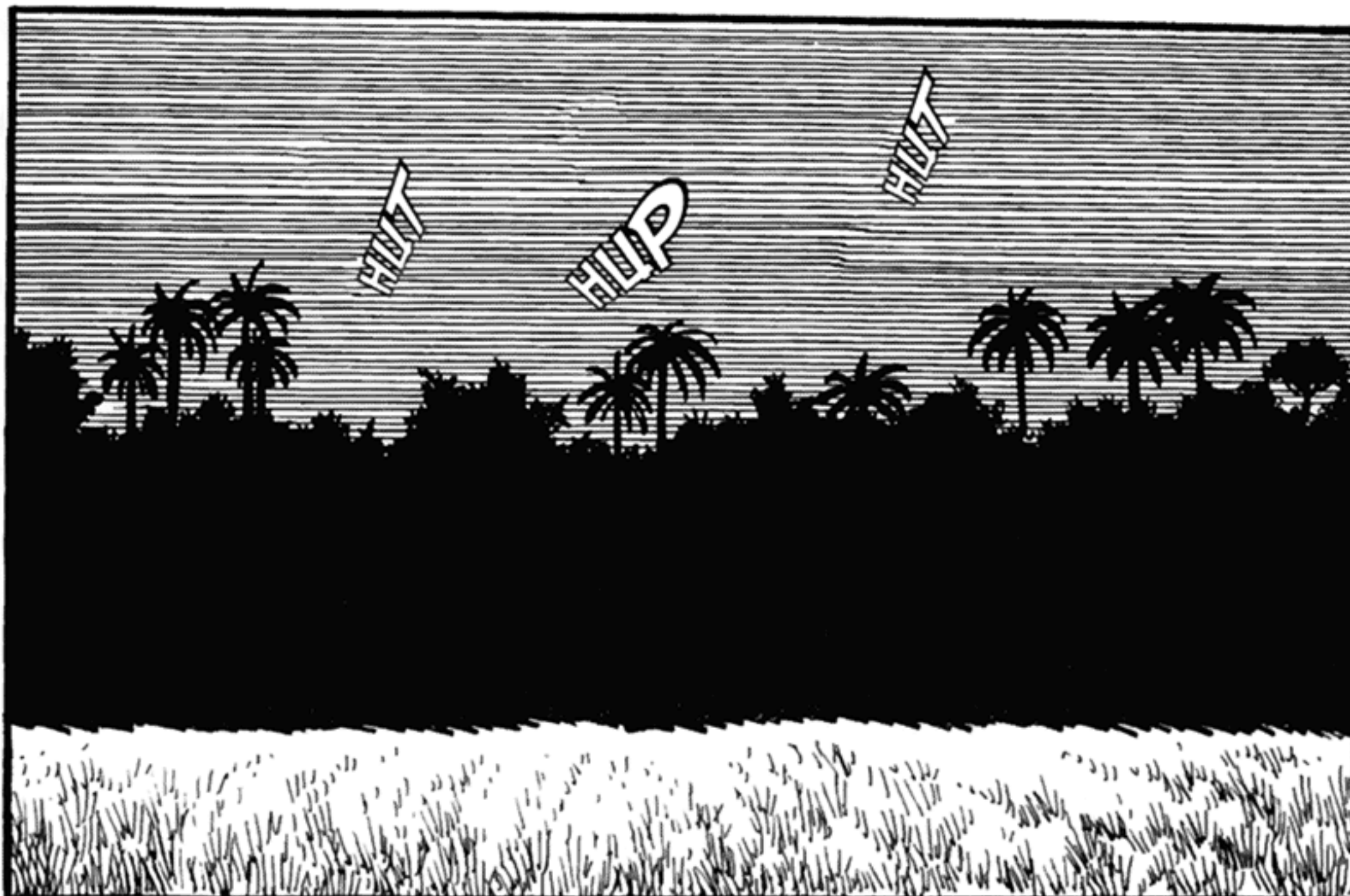
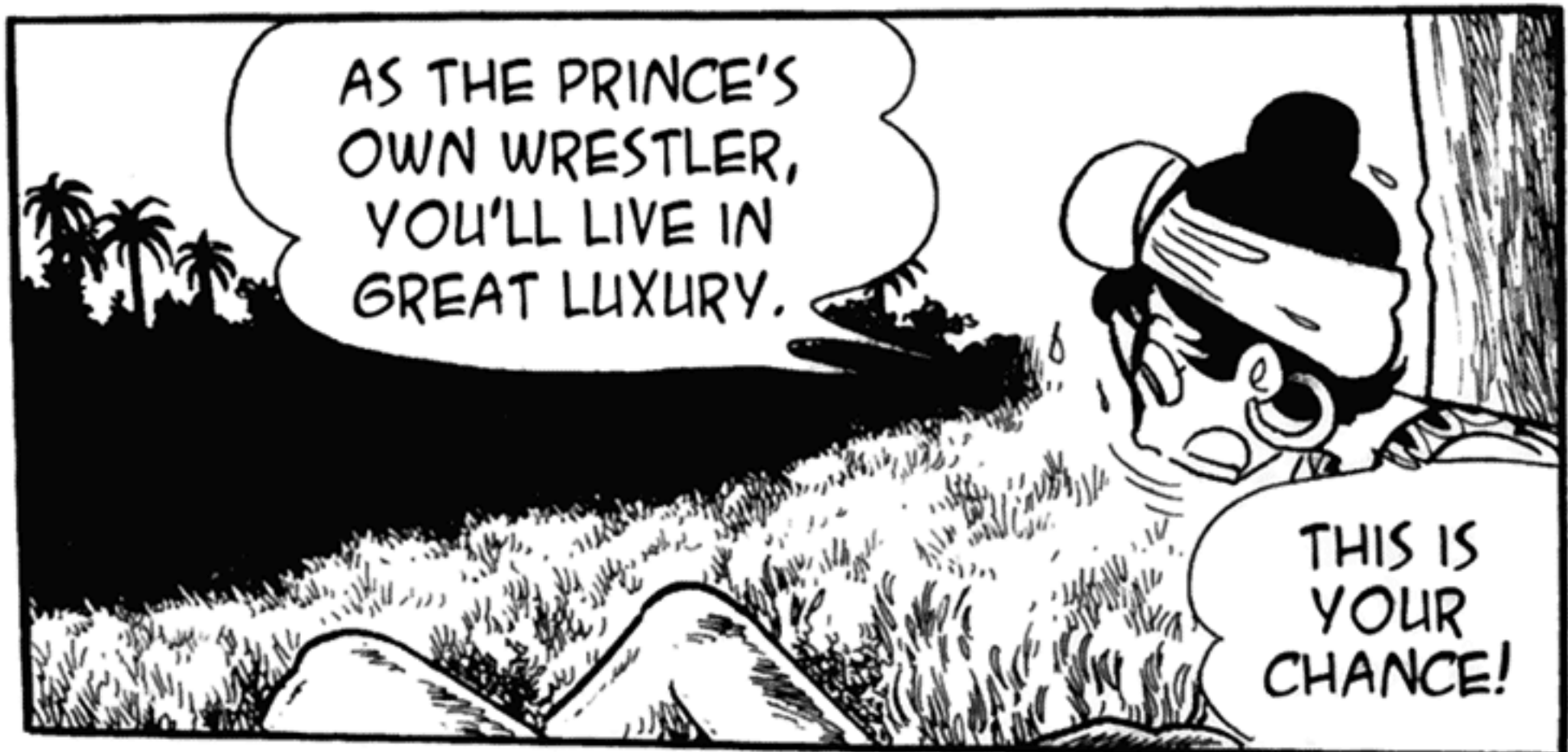
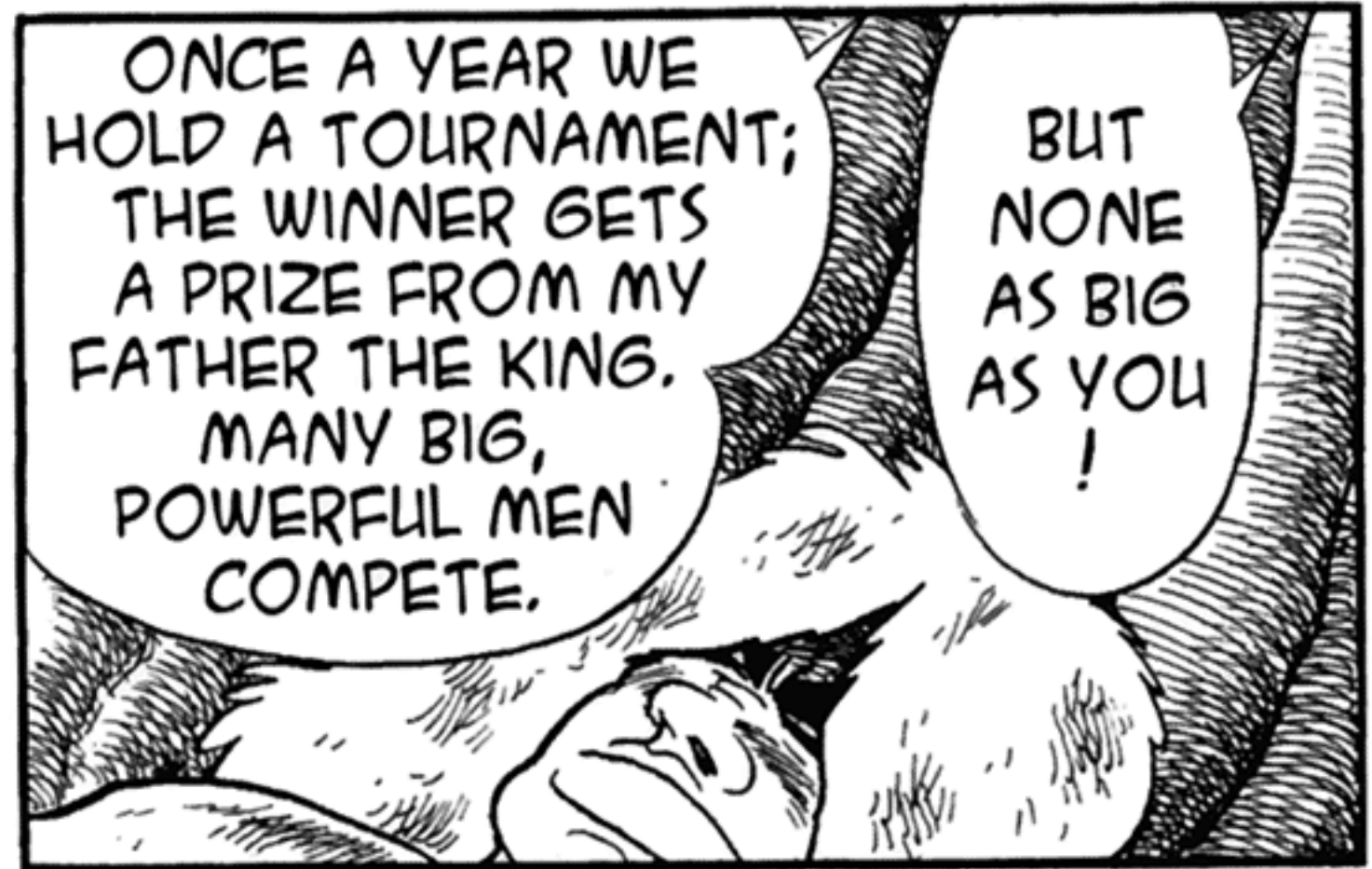
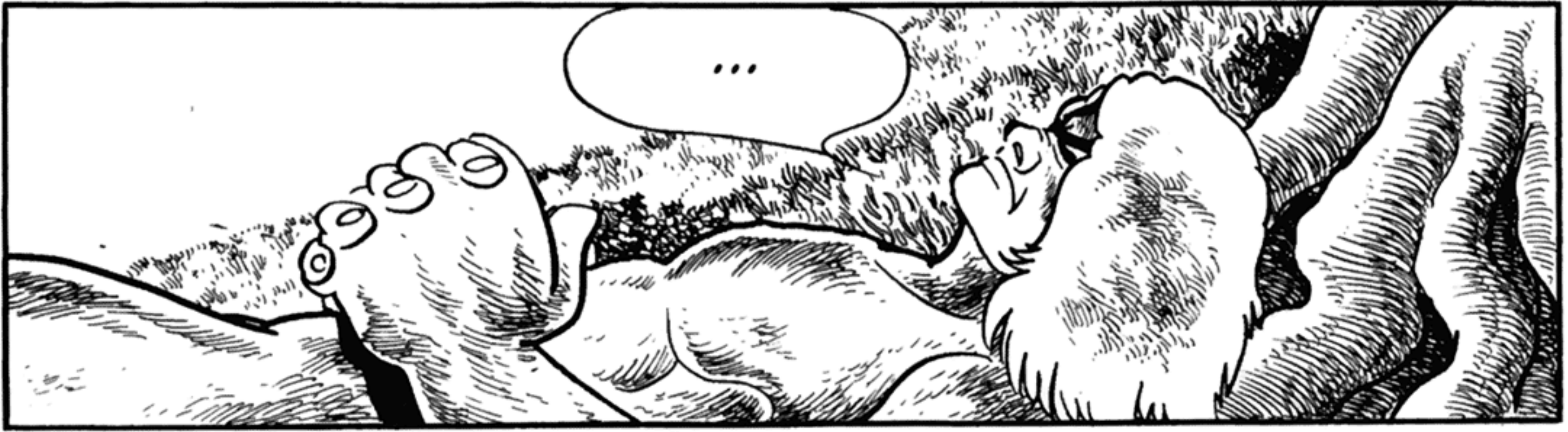
YOU YOU
STAY WITH ME
NO ONE
C-COME
NUHN-N-
N-NEAR!

Y-YOU
H-HOS!
HOSTAGE



NOT...
YET





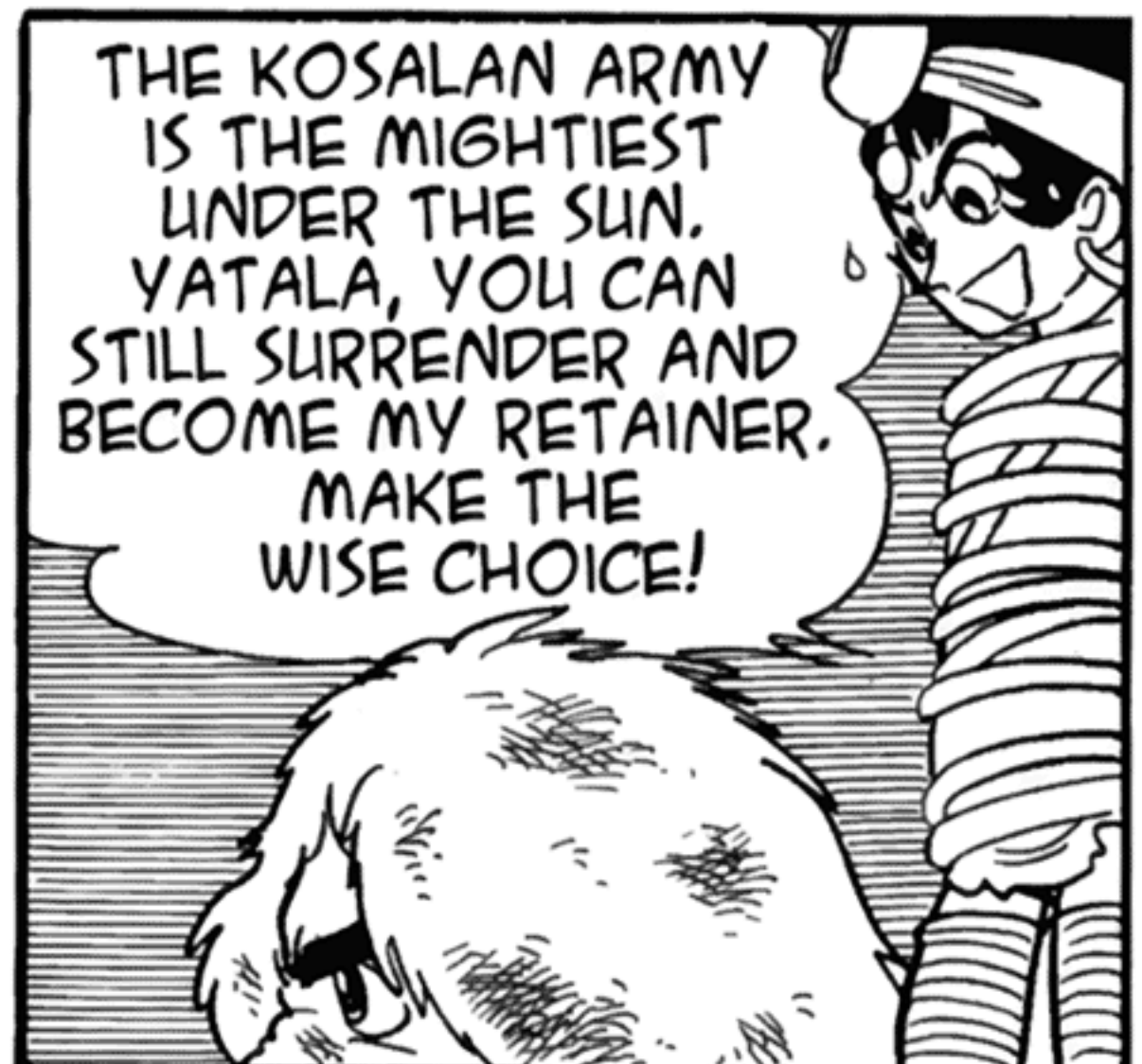


A PURSUIT FORCE!!
THE ARMY HAS
COME TO RESCUE ME!

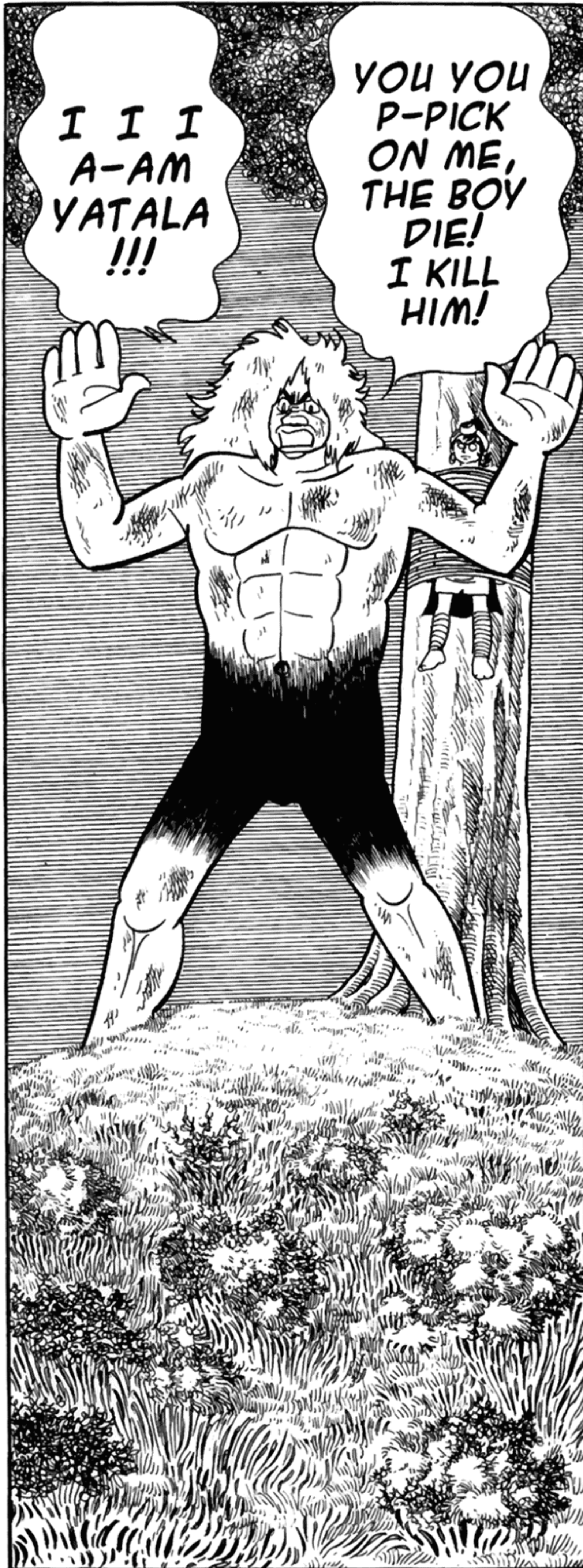
YHHGG!!



AGHHA
AH
AH UHH



THE KOSALAN ARMY
IS THE MIGHTIEST
UNDER THE SUN.
YATALA, YOU CAN
STILL SURRENDER AND
BECOME MY RETAINER.
MAKE THE
WISE CHOICE!



I I I
A-AM
YATALA
!!!

YOU YOU
P-PICK
ON ME,
THE BOY
DIE!
I KILL
HIM!

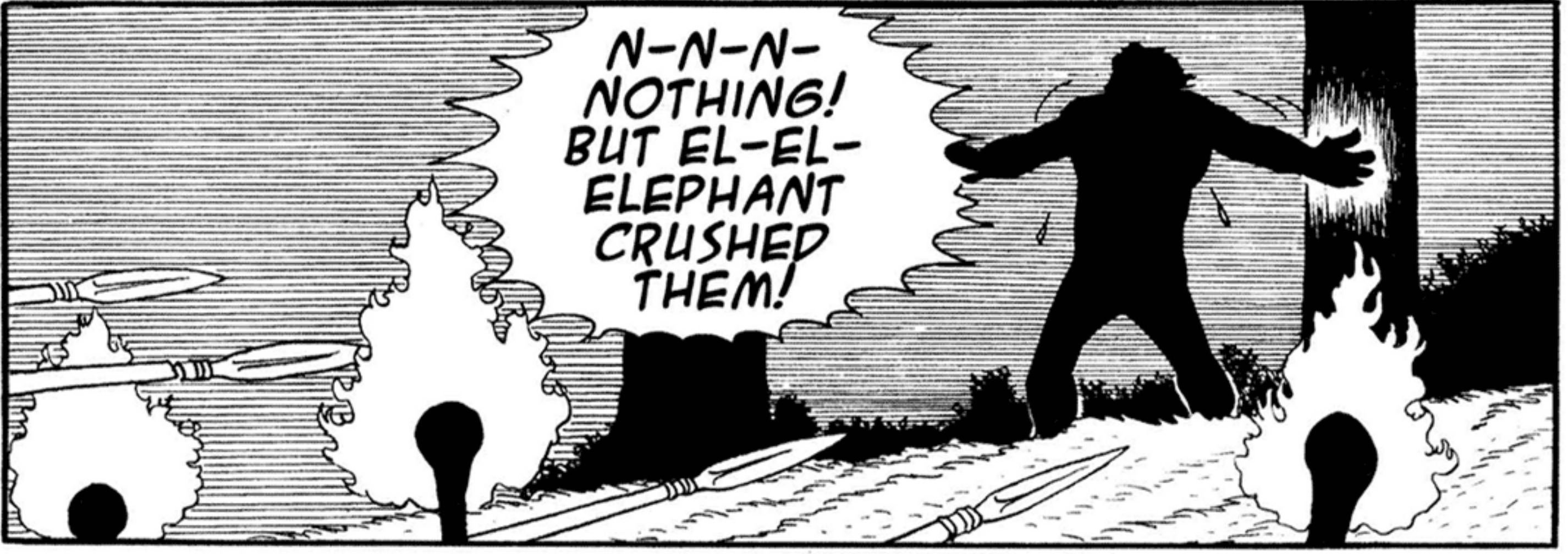
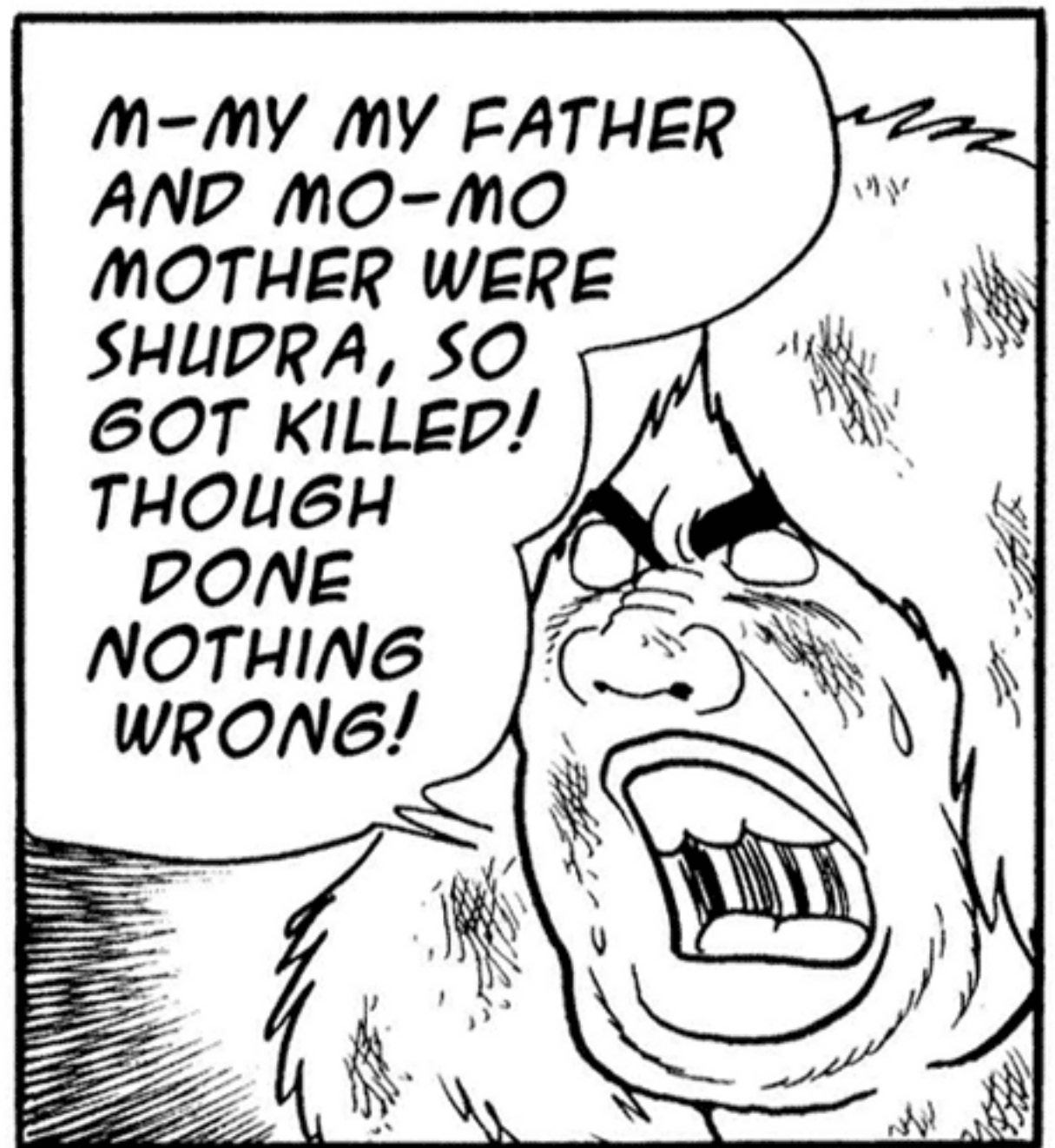
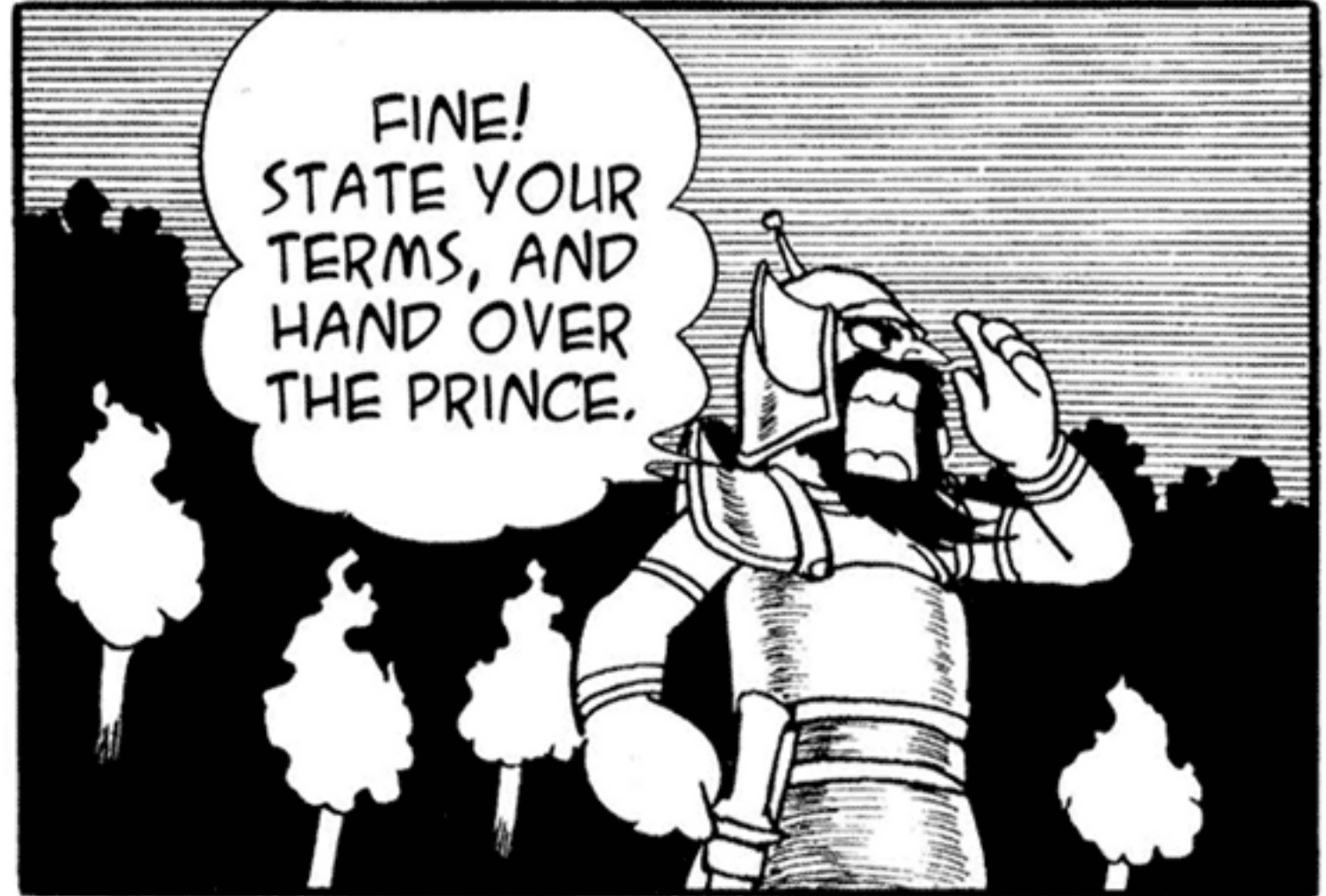
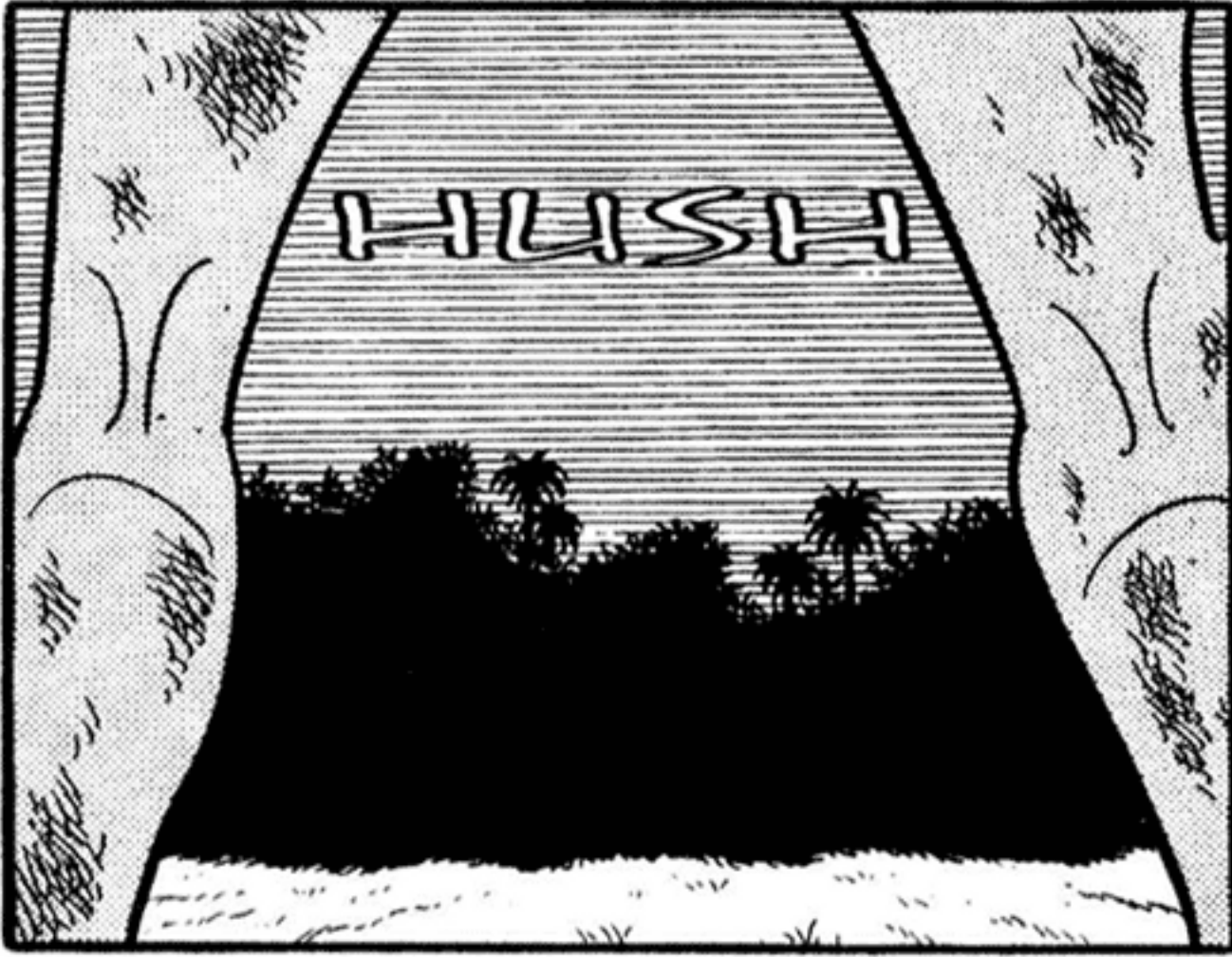


SO MANY
HITS, AND
HE'S DOING
JUST FINE...

WHAT A
MONSTER!



TH- THESE
ARROWS
A- ALL OF THEM
I STICK IN BOY!
AGH ORRGH!

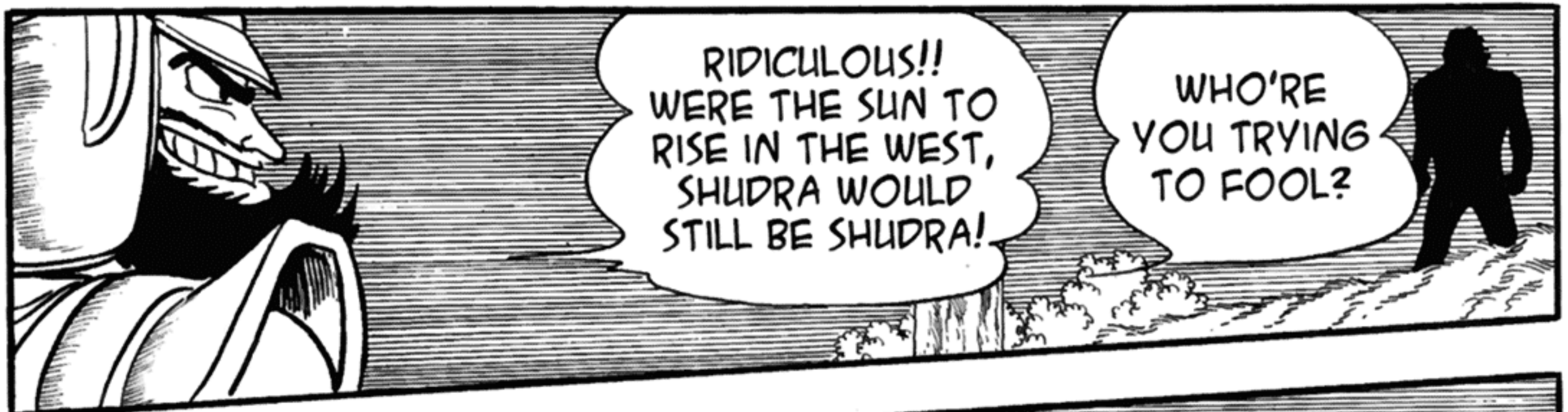






M-MY W-WISH IS FOR CASTE TO BE GONE!

I F-FIGHT UNTIL THEN!



RIDICULOUS!! WERE THE SUN TO RISE IN THE WEST, SHUDRA WOULD STILL BE SHUDRA!

WHO'RE YOU TRYING TO FOOL?



YES! YES! FOOL!! EVERYWHERE CALL ME FOOL FOOL FOOL! ORRF...

THA'S WHY I ALWAYS FIGHT!!



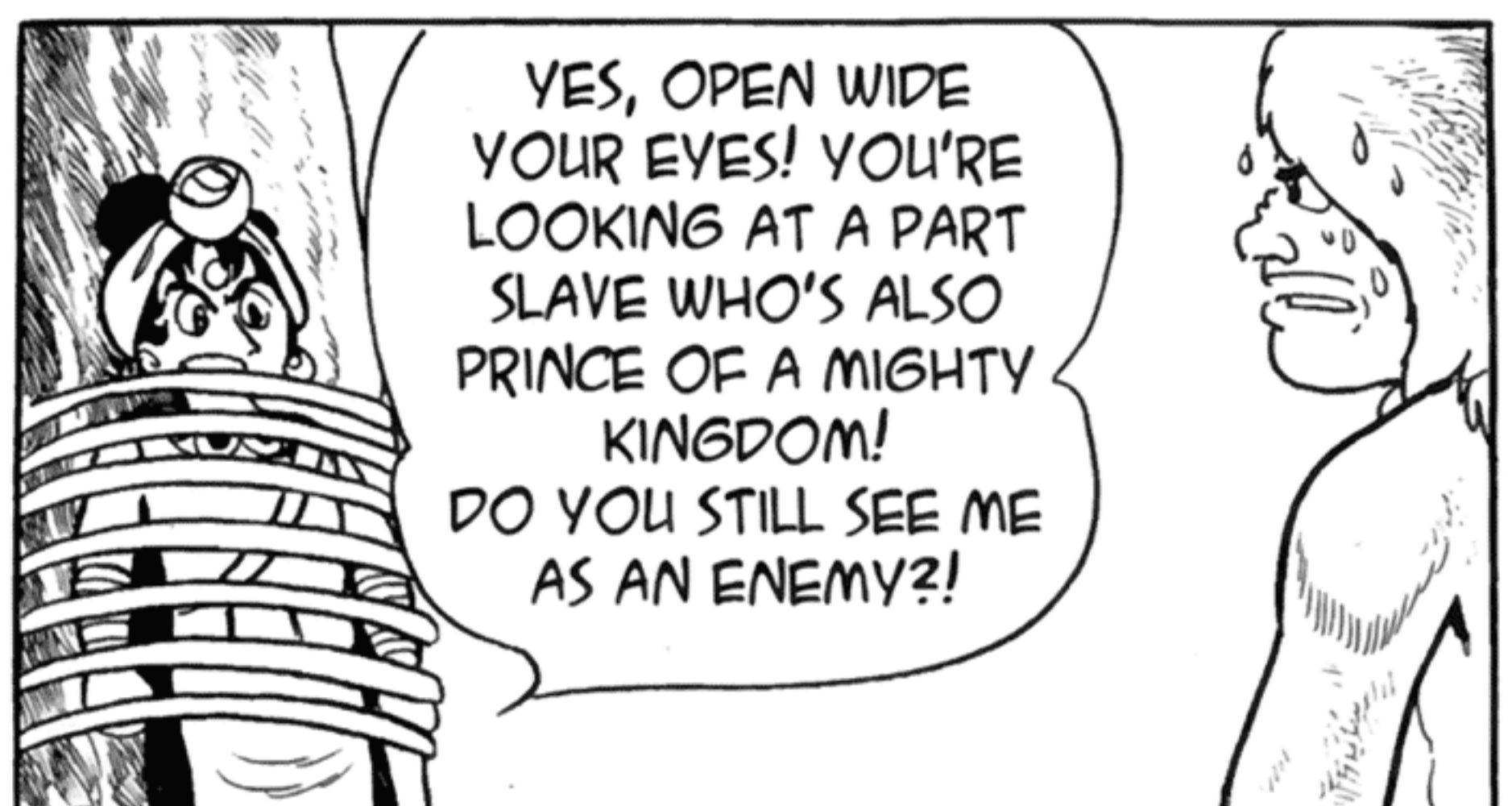
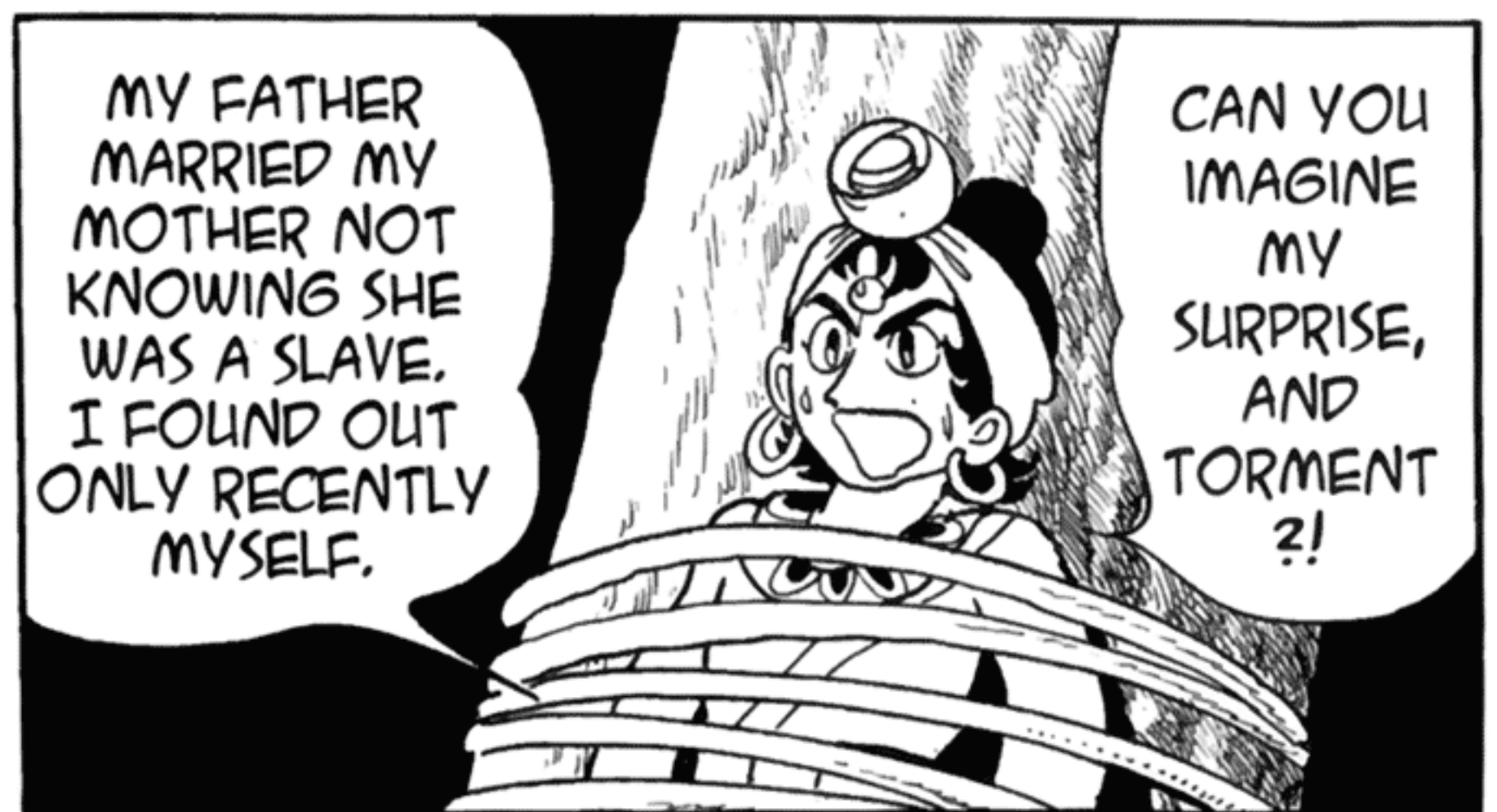
I WILL NOT STOP FIGHT! W-WAIT AND SEE, ALL YOU LAUGH AT S-SLAVE, I KILL!!

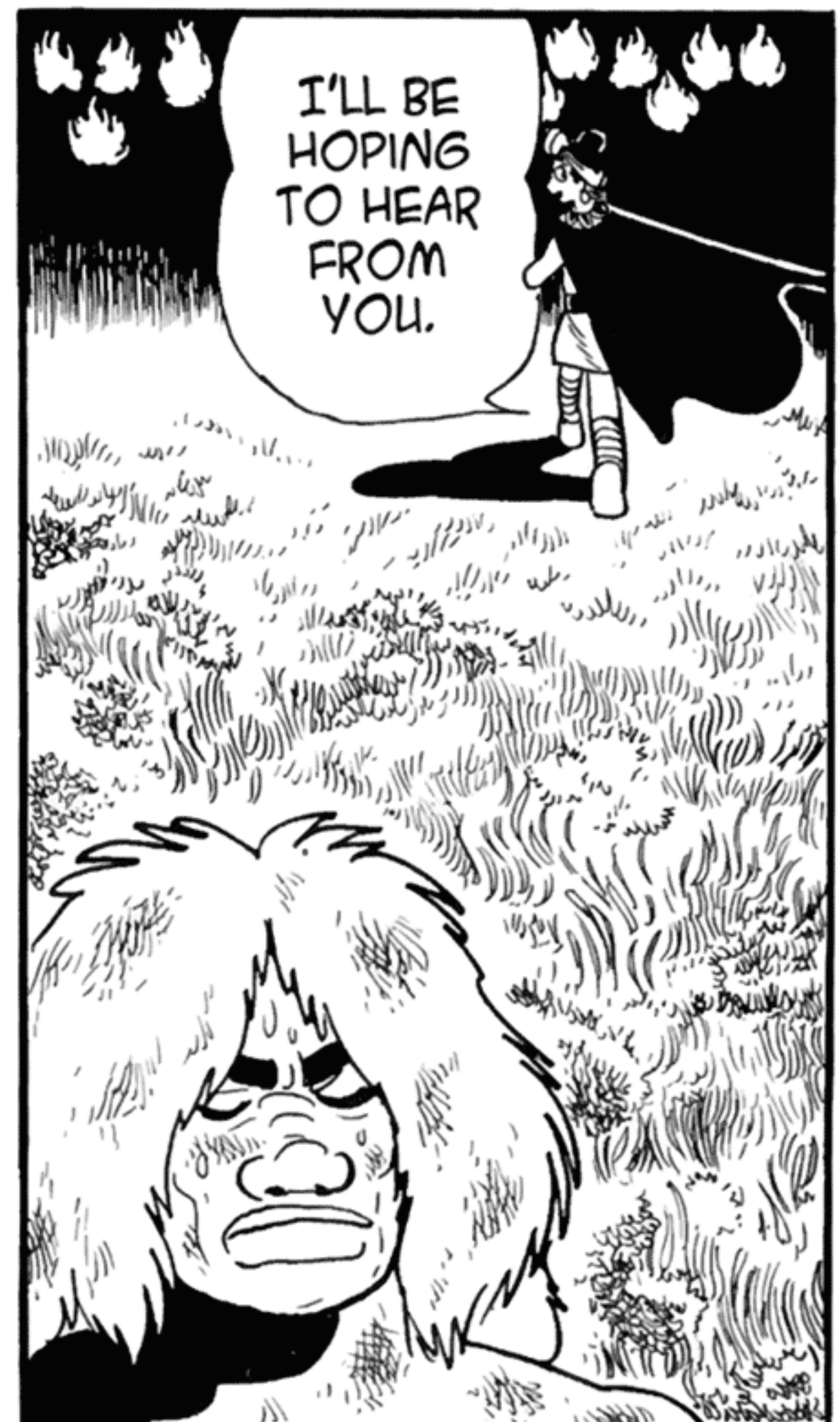
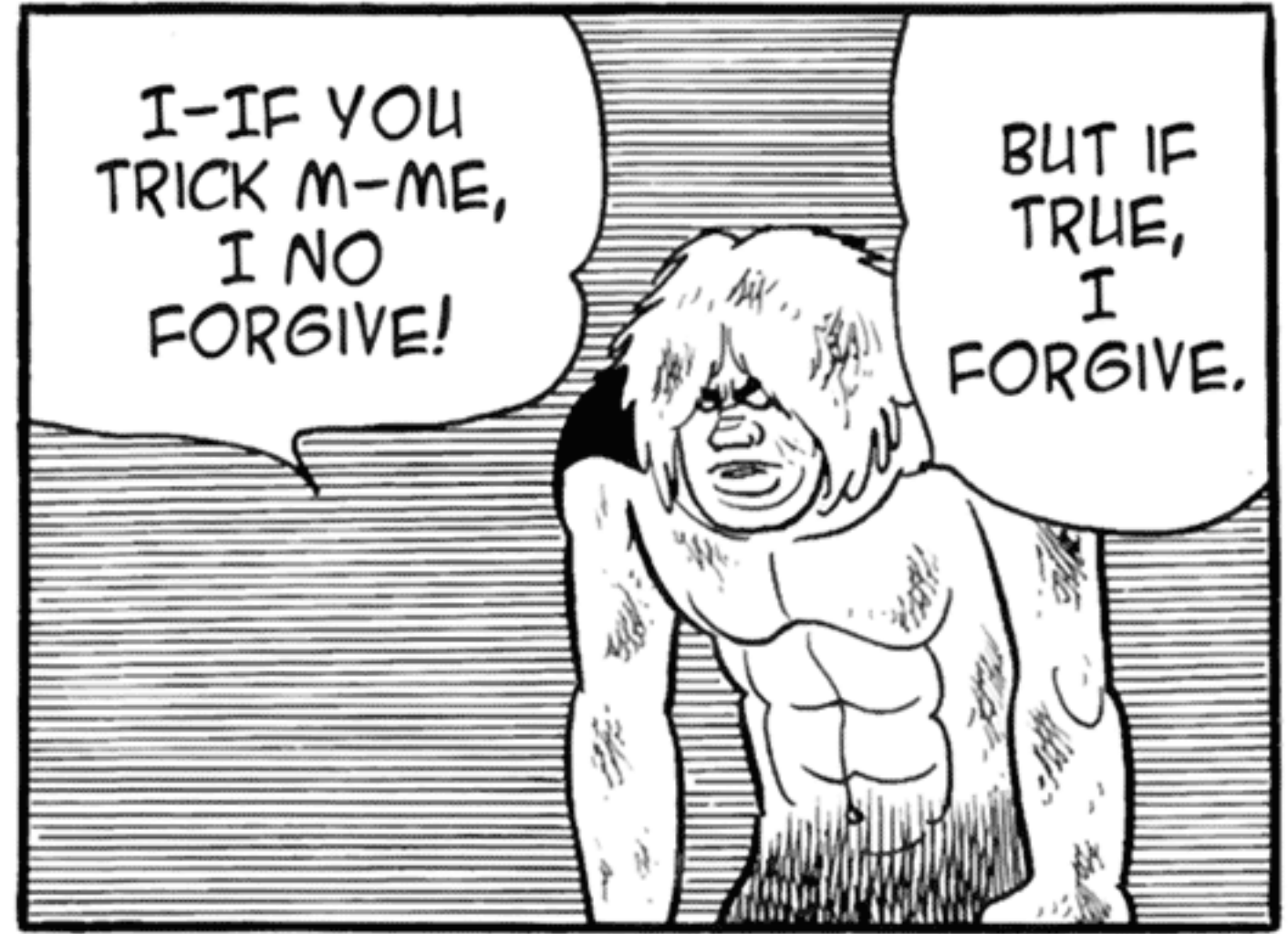


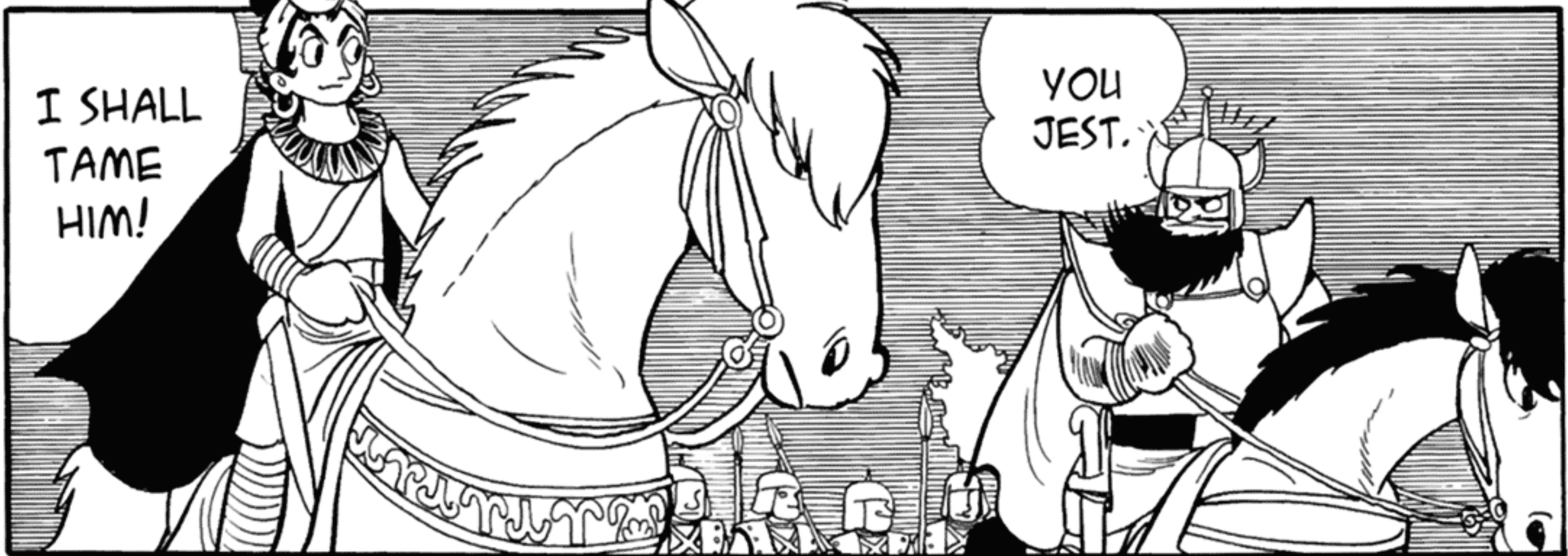
BEHIND YOU IS ANOTHER WITH SLAVE BLOOD IN HIM!

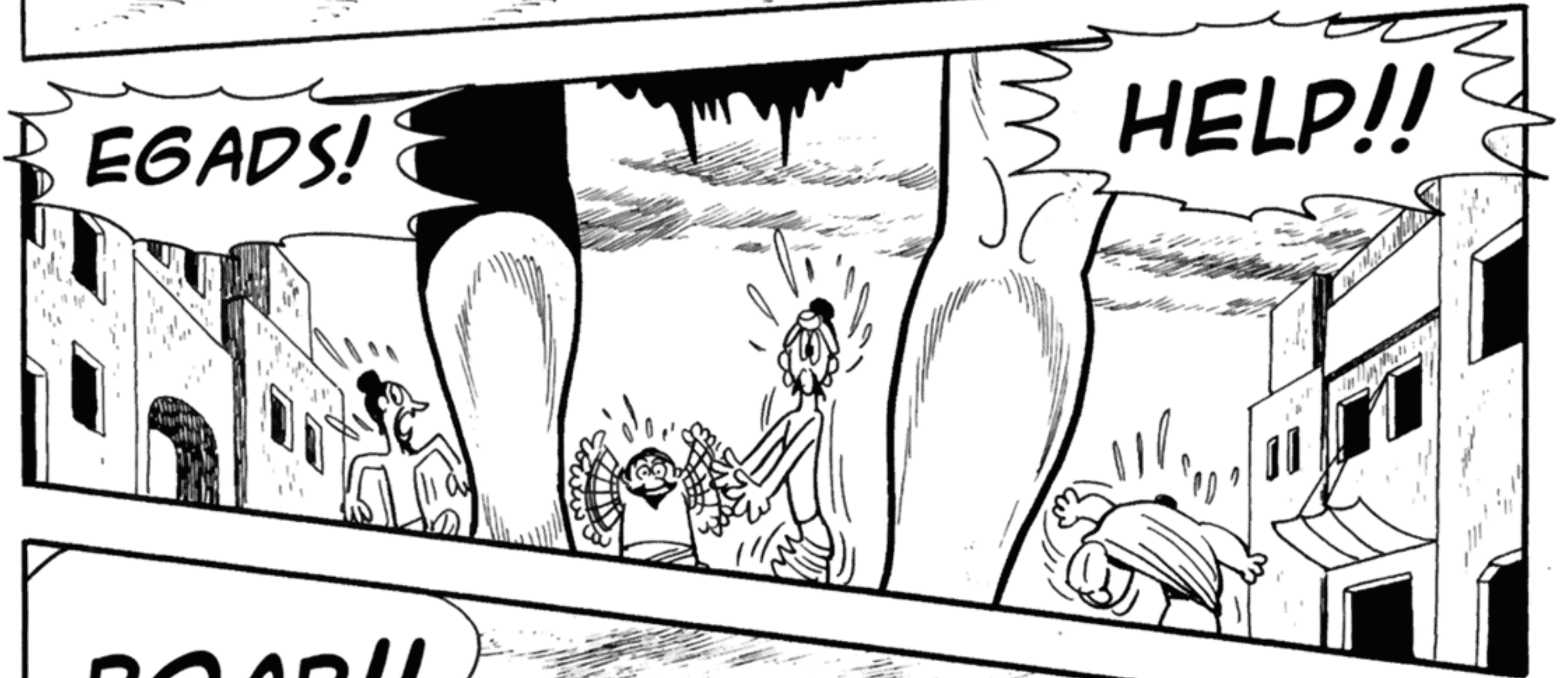
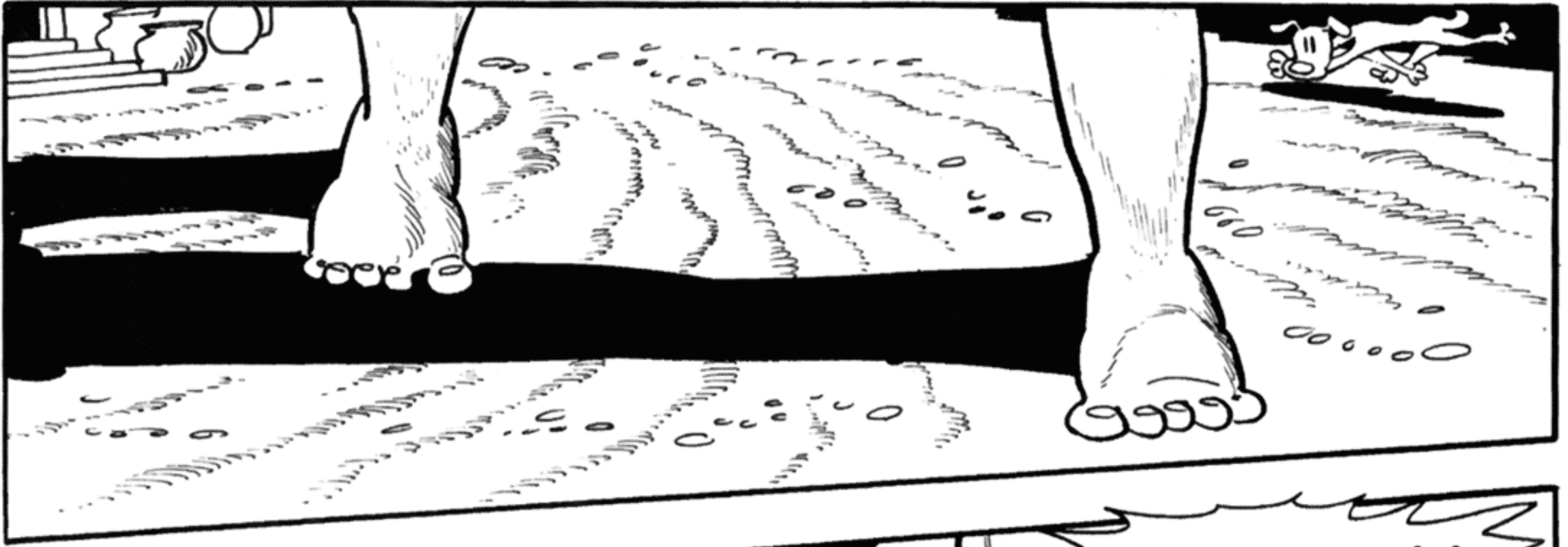


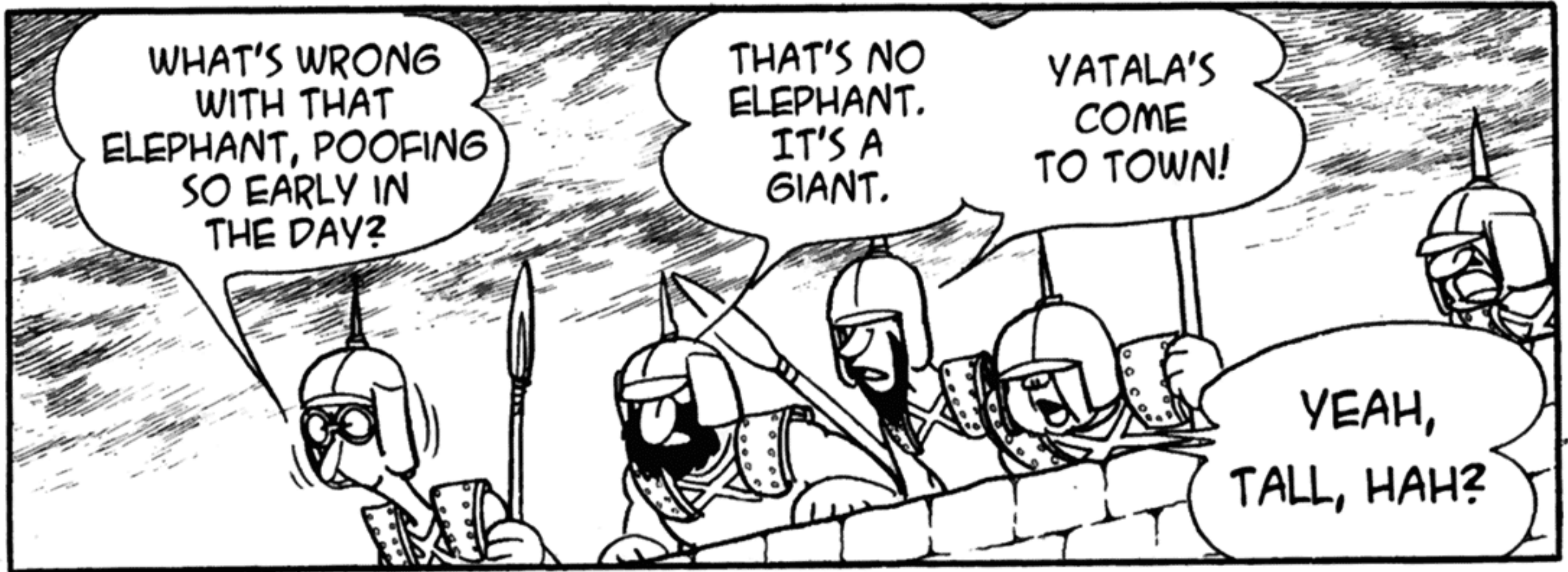
TAKE A GOOD LOOK, YATALA. I AM HE!









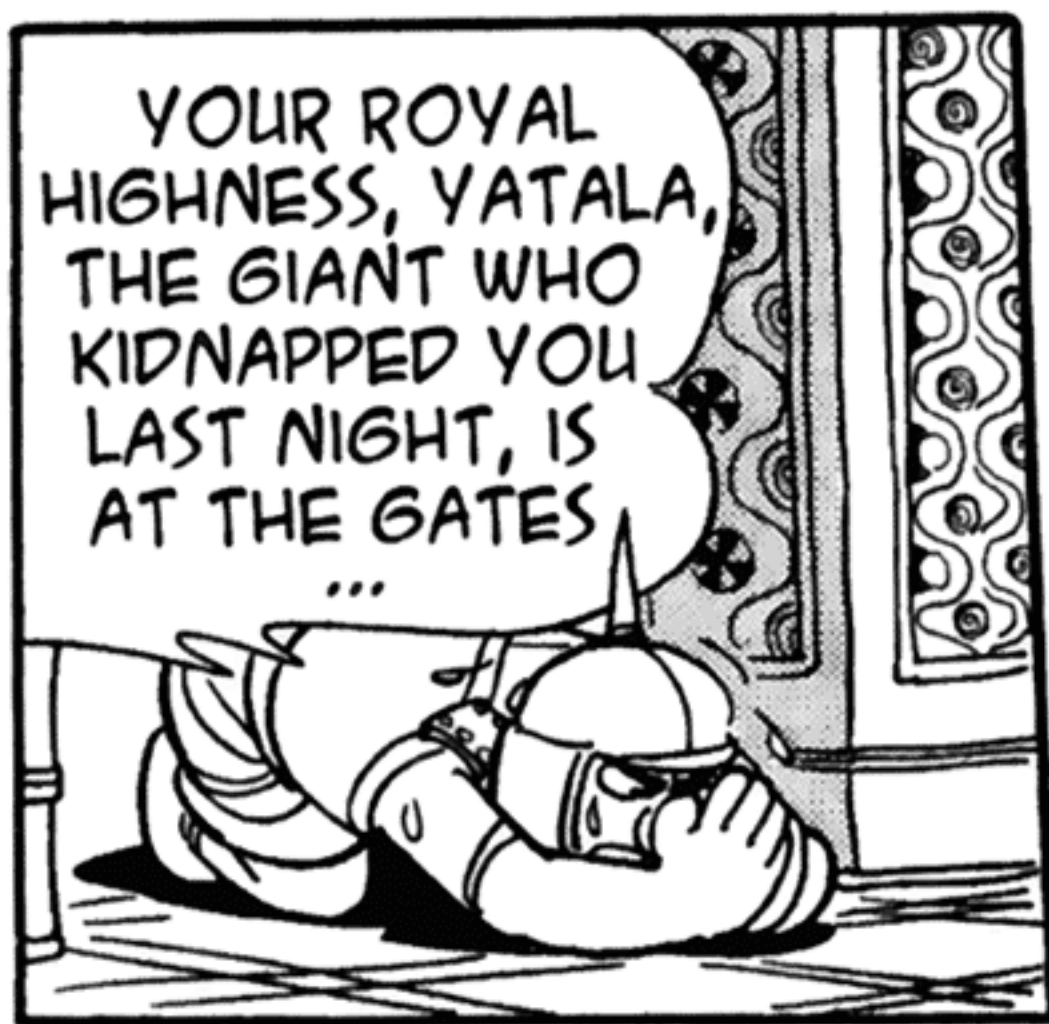


WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT ELEPHANT, POOFING SO EARLY IN THE DAY?

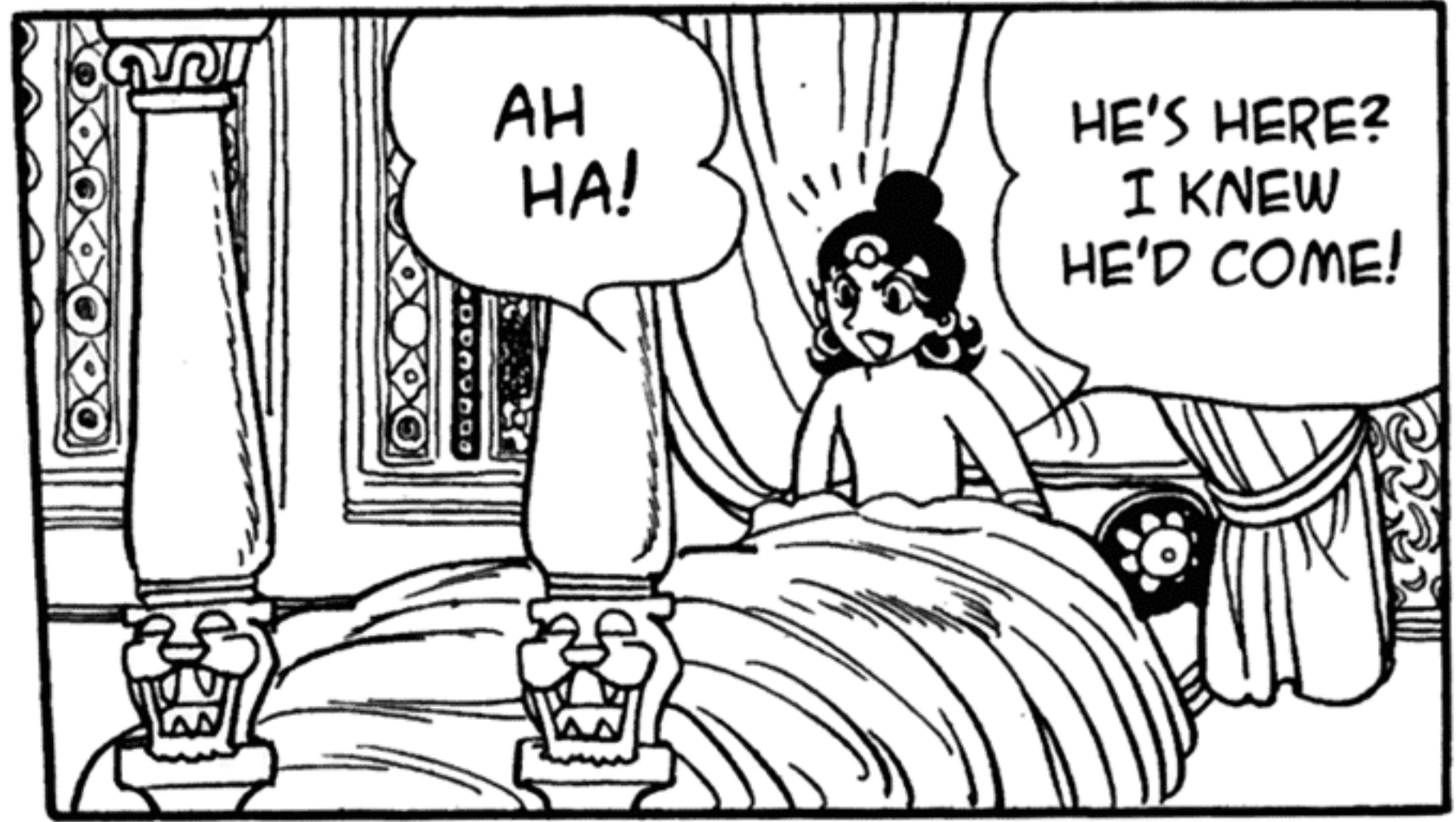
THAT'S NO ELEPHANT. IT'S A GIANT.

YATALA'S COME TO TOWN!

YEAH, TALL, HAH?



YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, YATALA, THE GIANT WHO KIDNAPPED YOU LAST NIGHT, IS AT THE GATES ...



AH HA!

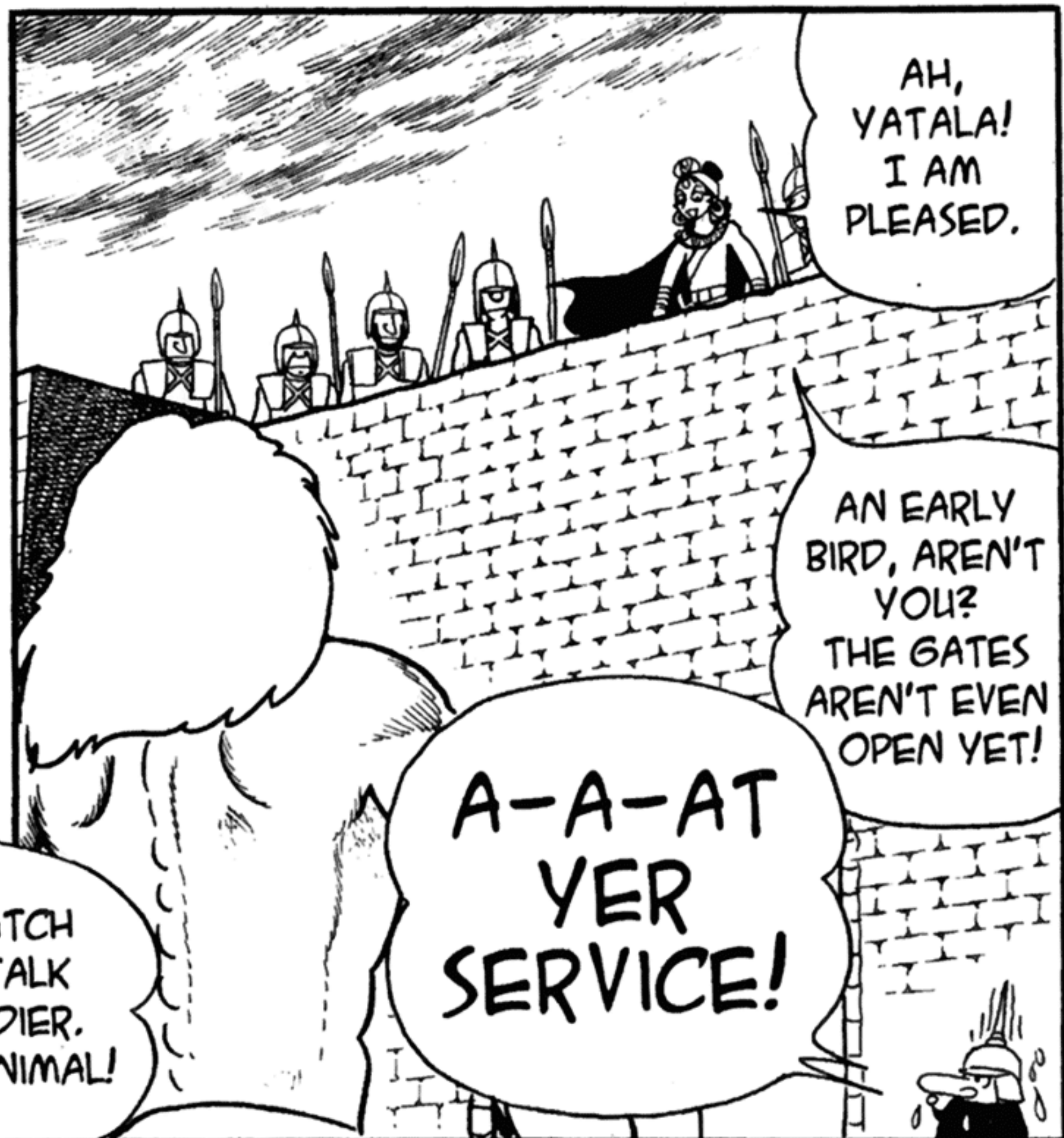
HE'S HERE? I KNEW HE'D COME!



ORDERS! THE TROOPS ARE NOT TO HARASS HIM! ANY WHO DO SO WILL BE PUNISHED.

YESSIR. SHALL WE PUT OUT SOME FEED?

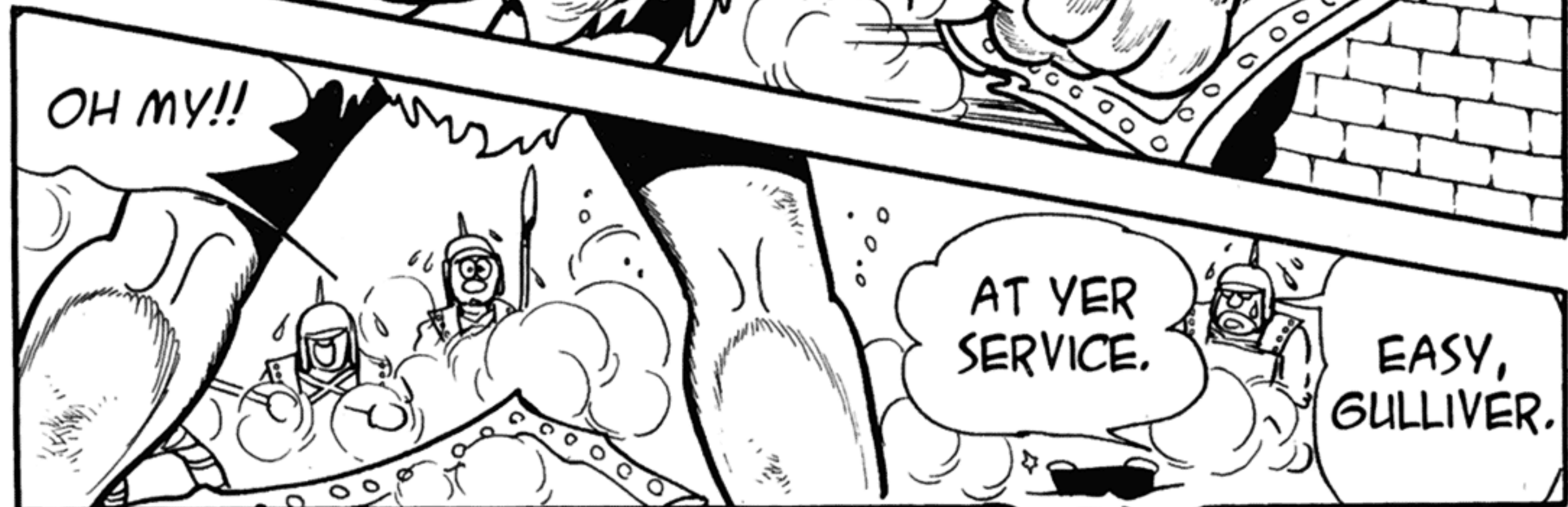
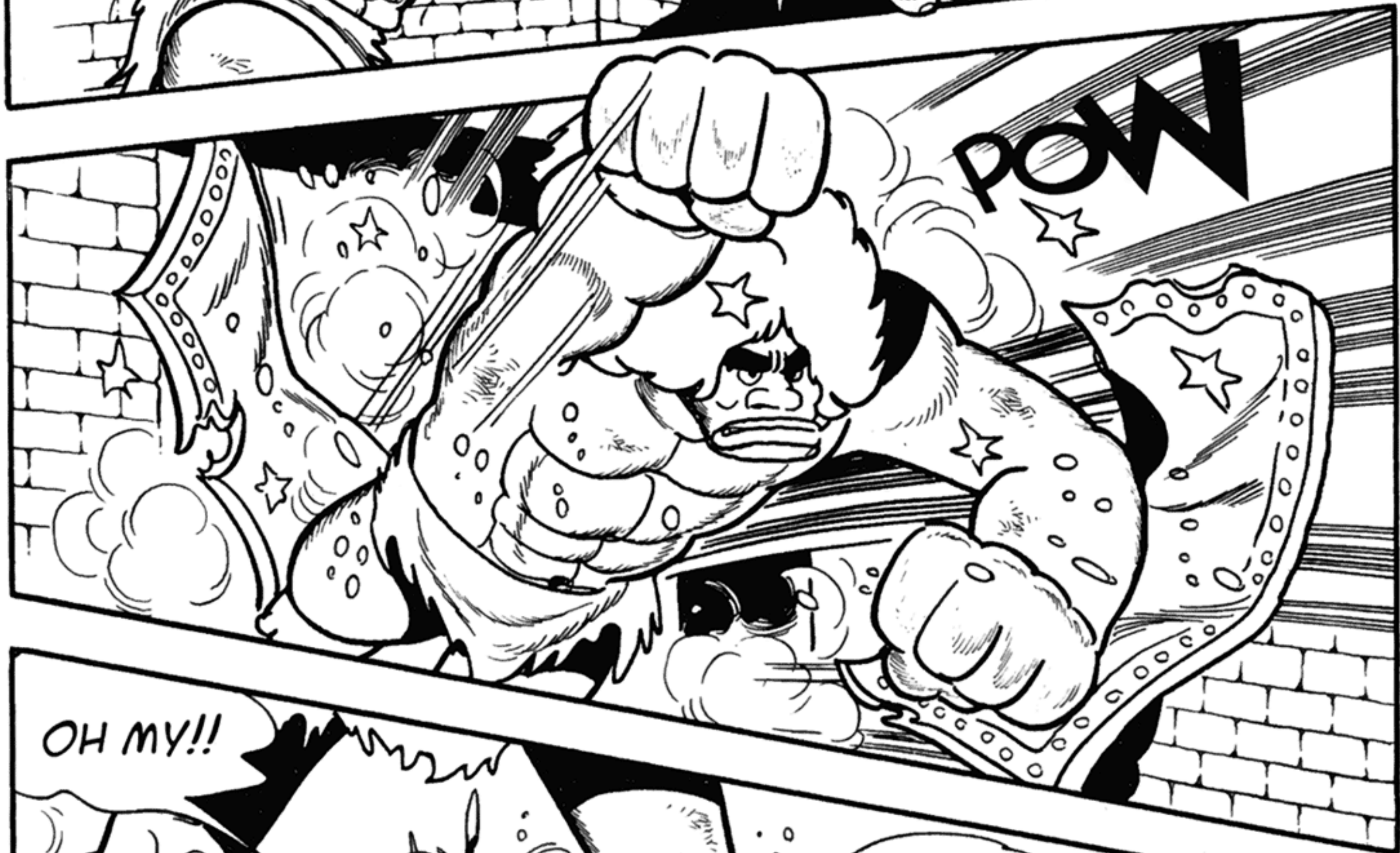
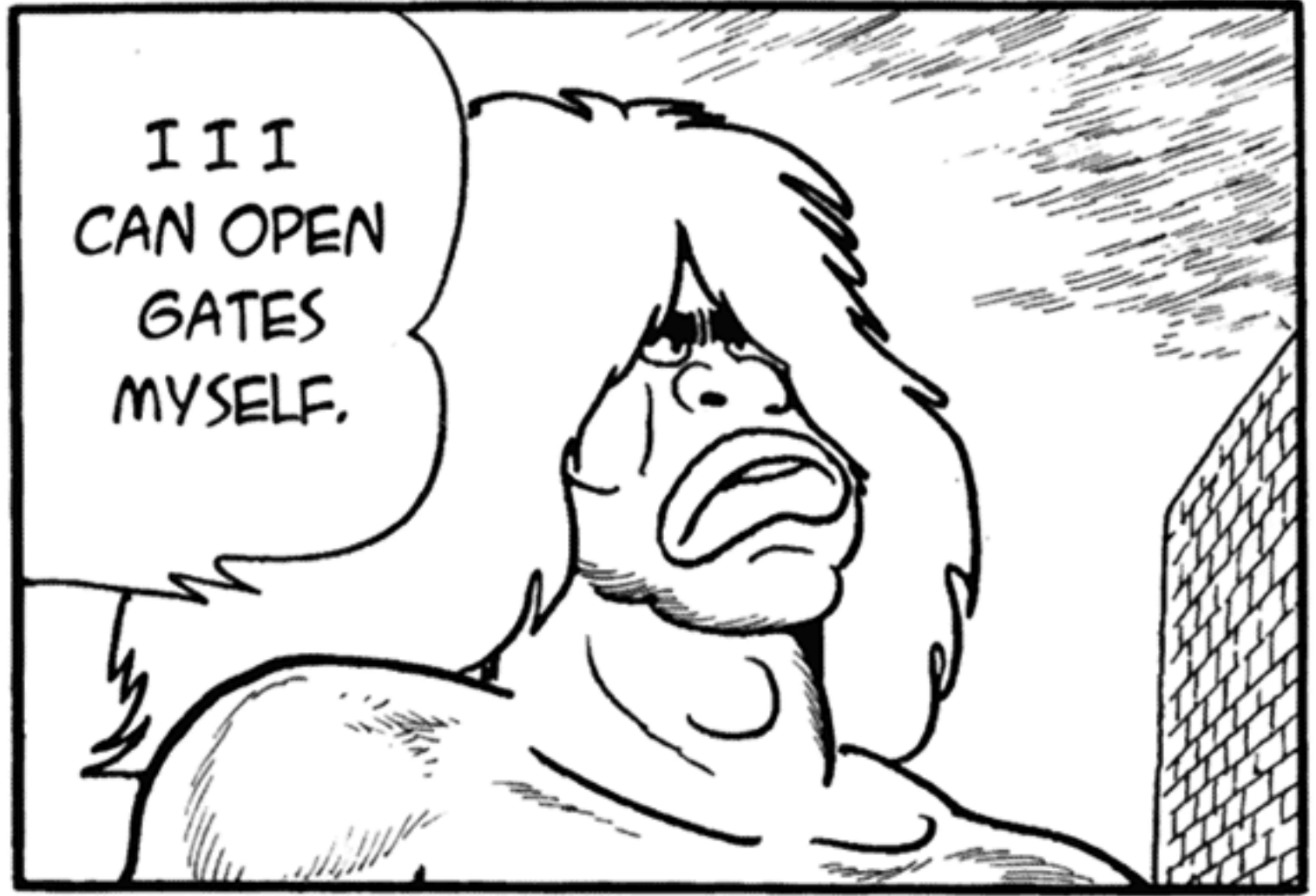
YOU BETTER WATCH THE WAY YOU TALK ABOUT HIM, SOLDIER. HE ISN'T A ZOO ANIMAL!

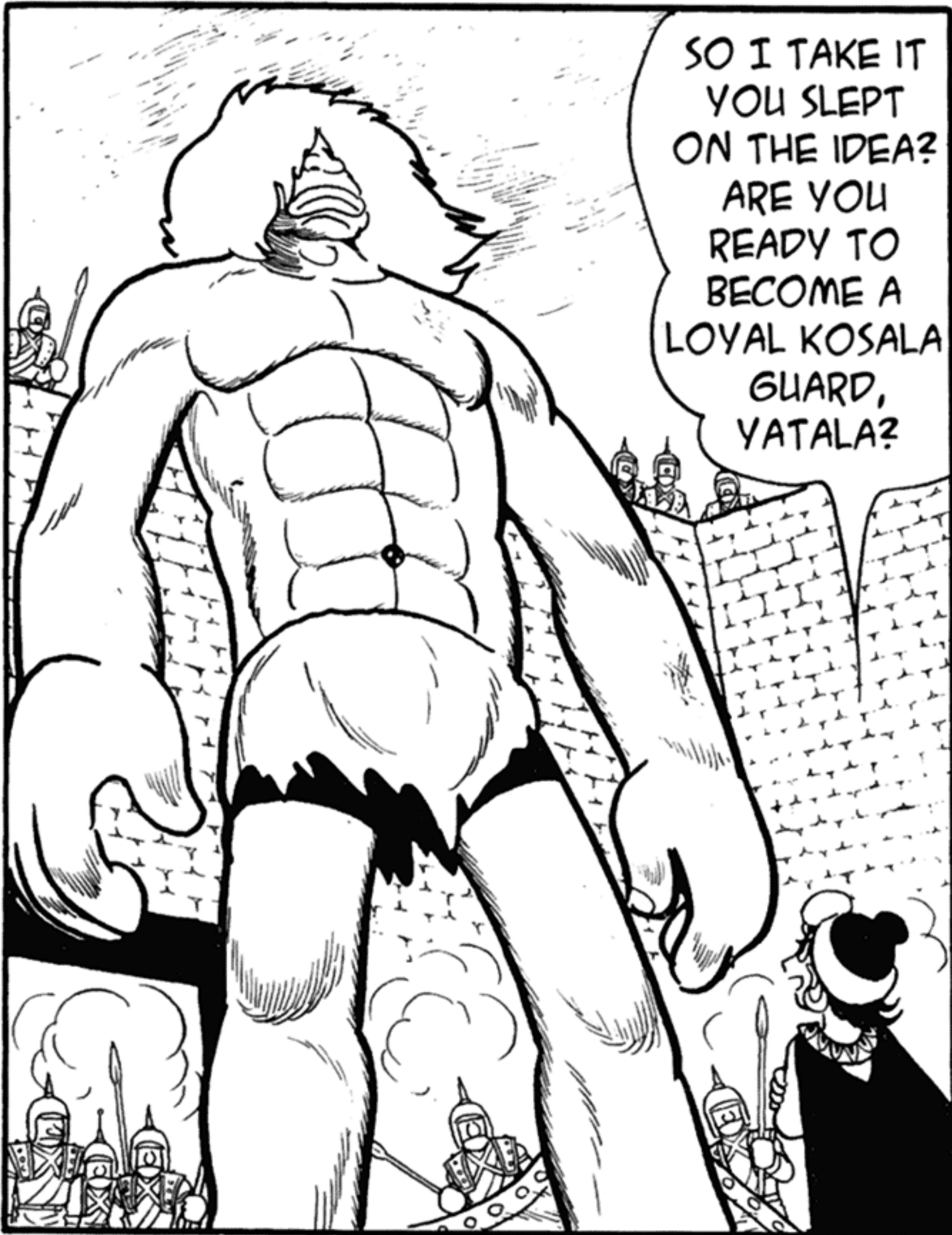


AH, YATALA! I AM PLEASED.

AN EARLY BIRD, AREN'T YOU? THE GATES AREN'T EVEN OPEN YET!

A-A-AT YER SERVICE!





SO I TAKE IT YOU SLEPT ON THE IDEA? ARE YOU READY TO BECOME A LOYAL KOSALA GUARD, YATALA?



I I I
KO KO
KO KO
KOSALA

KOSALA
SERVANT
REFUSE
TO BE.

NO
NO
NO!



WHAT IS THIS?



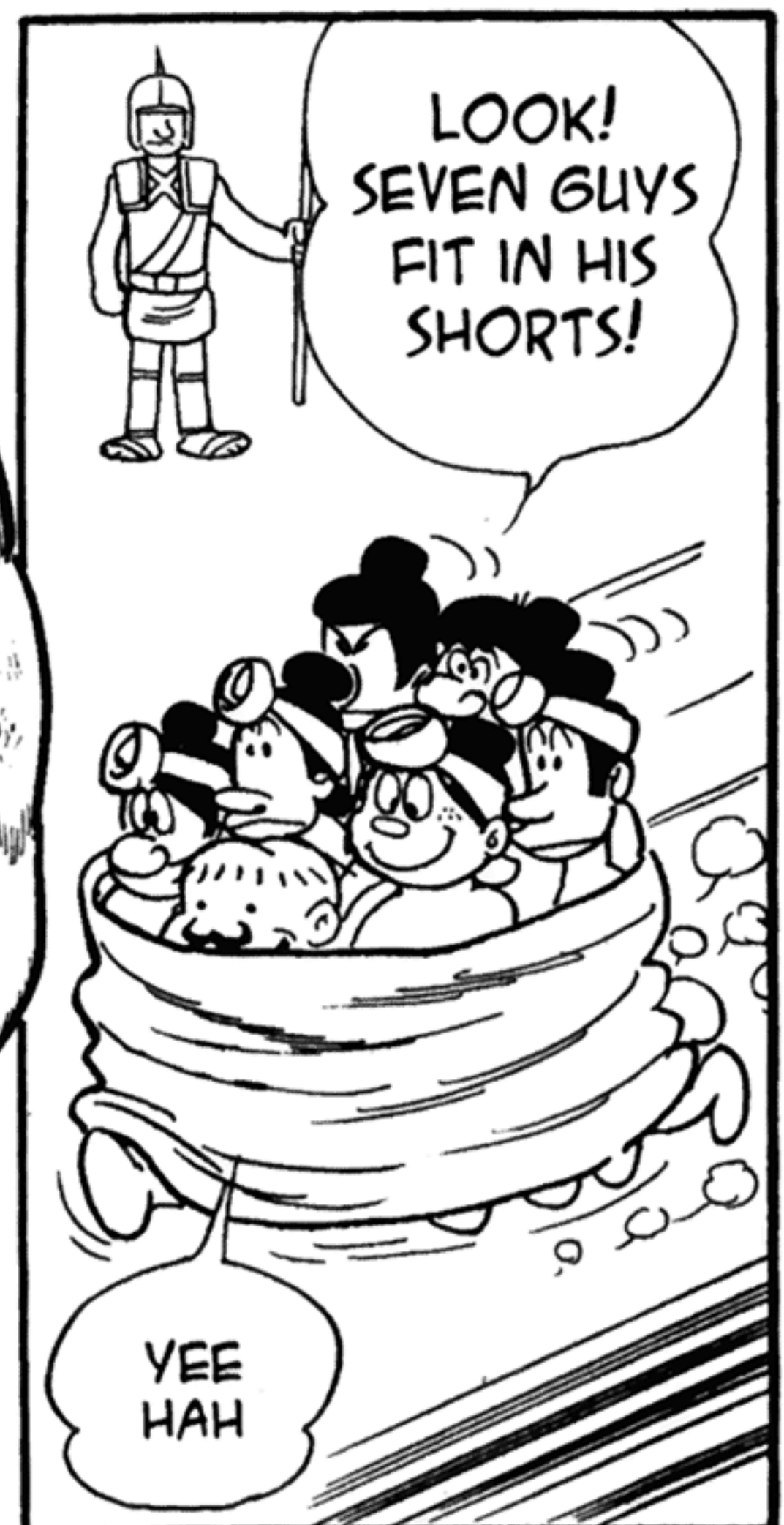
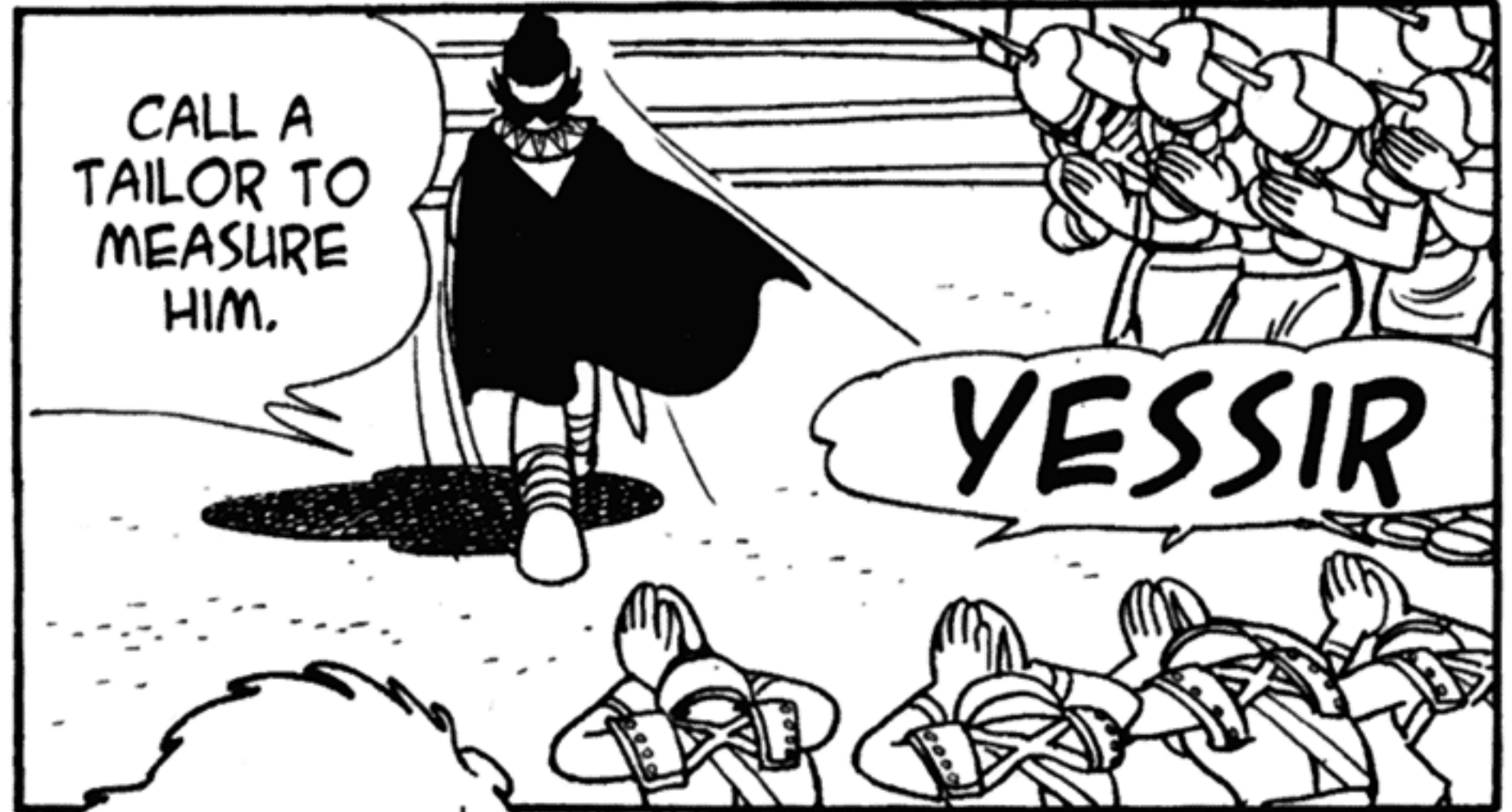
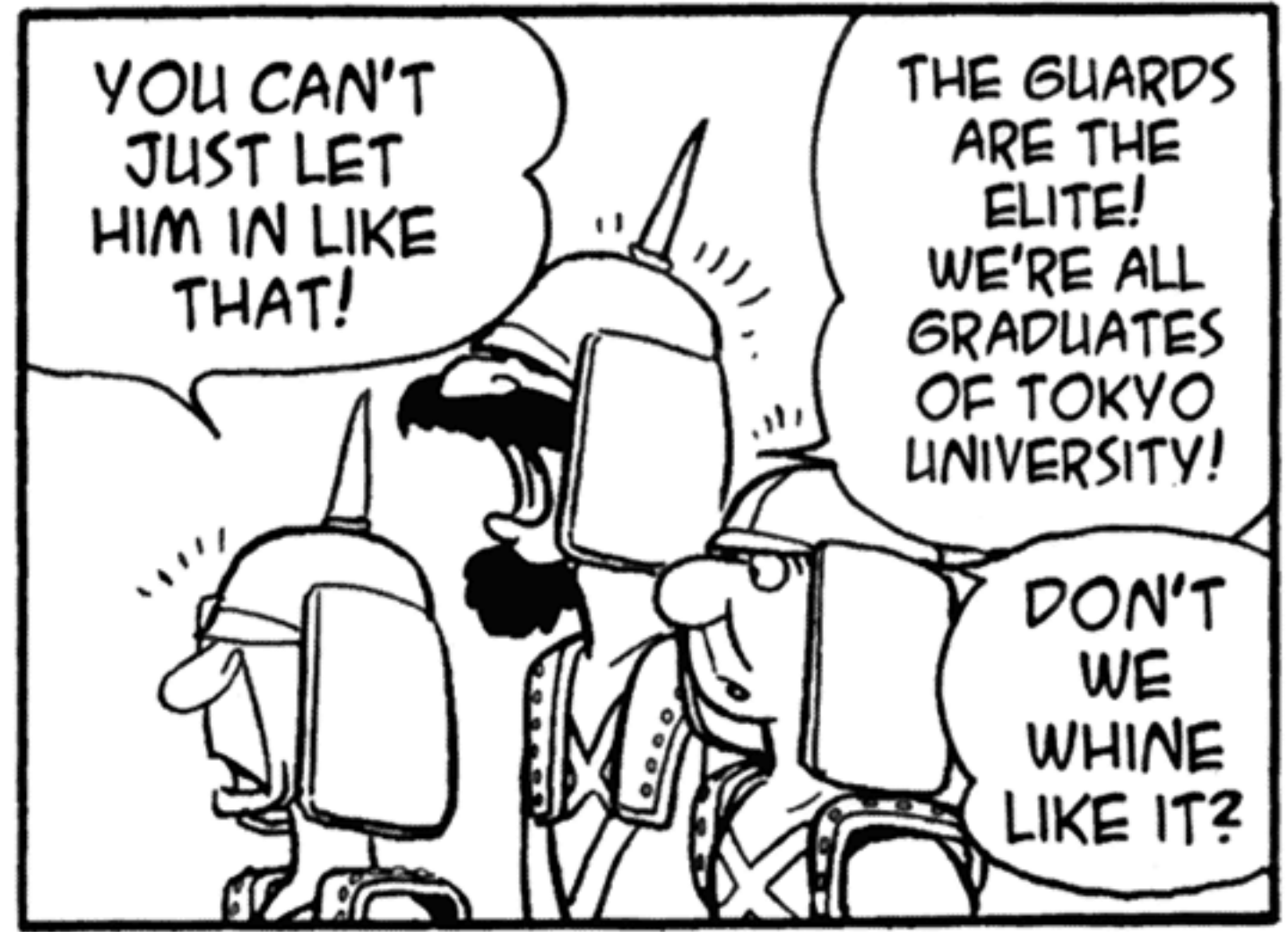
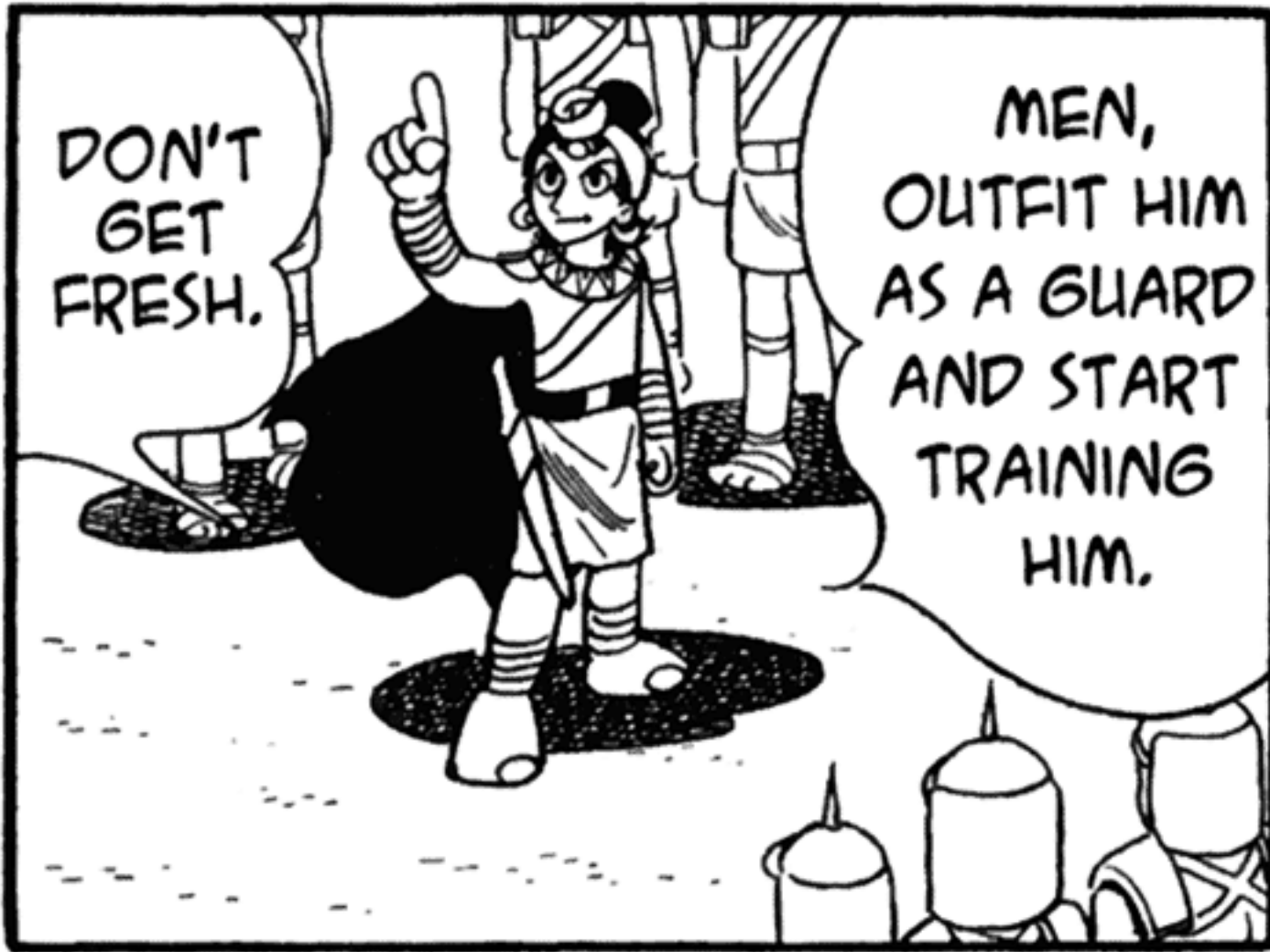
I MADE P-PROMISE WITH Y-Y-YOU!
I BECOME SERVANT OF YOU!
NOT KOSALA!

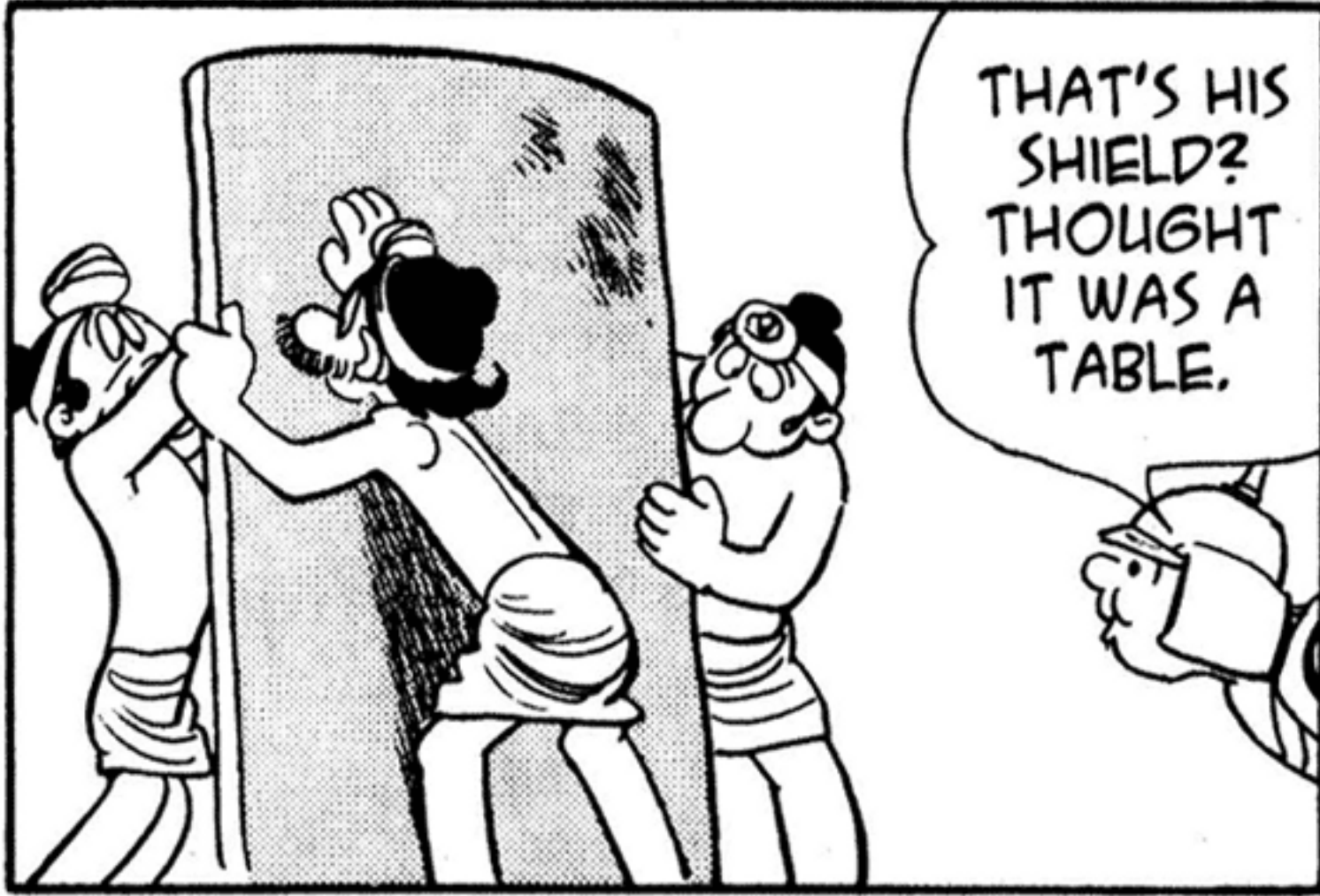


FINE, FINE, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE EITHER WAY. SO YOU'LL BE LOYAL TO ME?

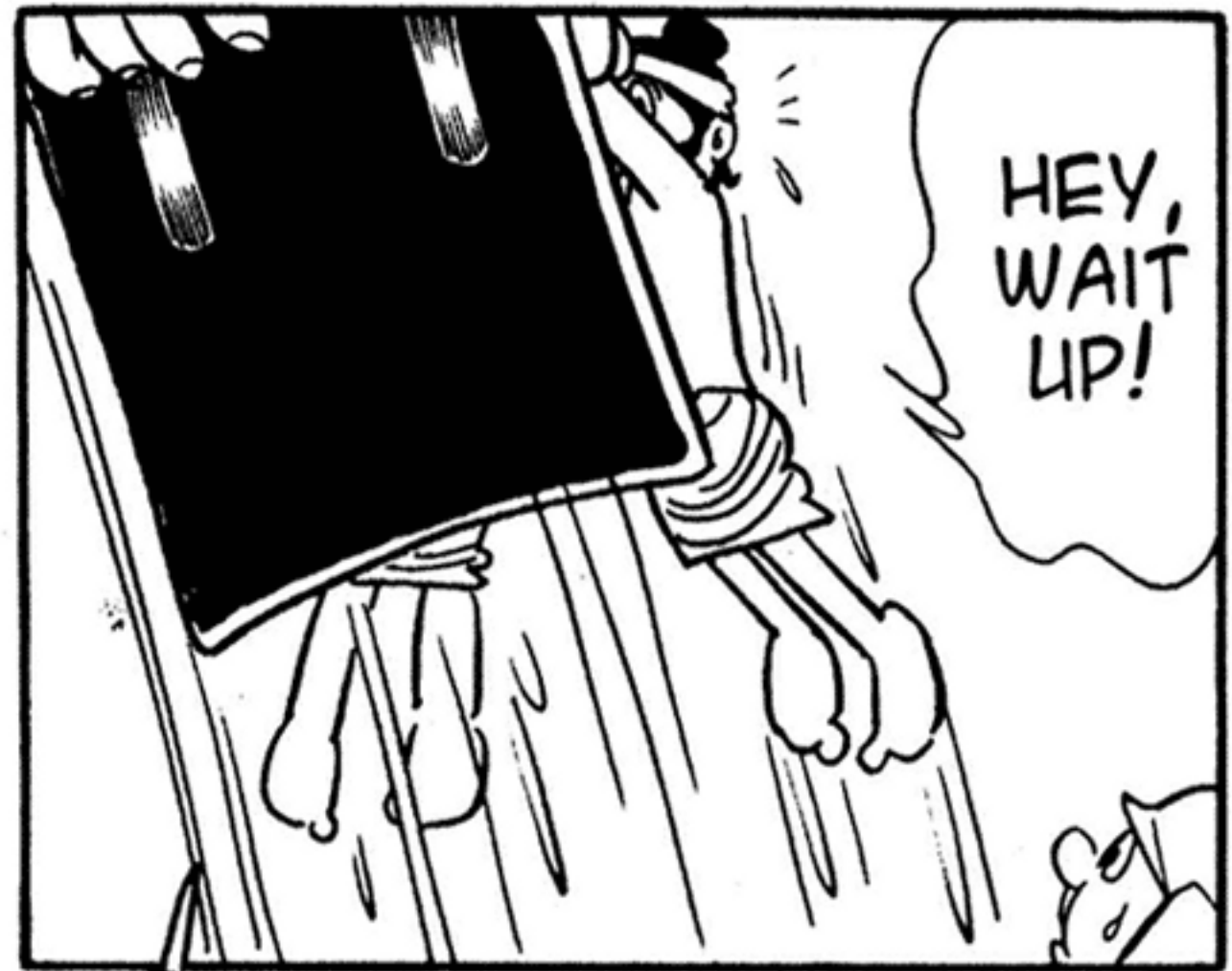


I W-WORK FOR YOU. B-BUT IF YOU BETRAY ME, I NEVER FORGIVE YOU.

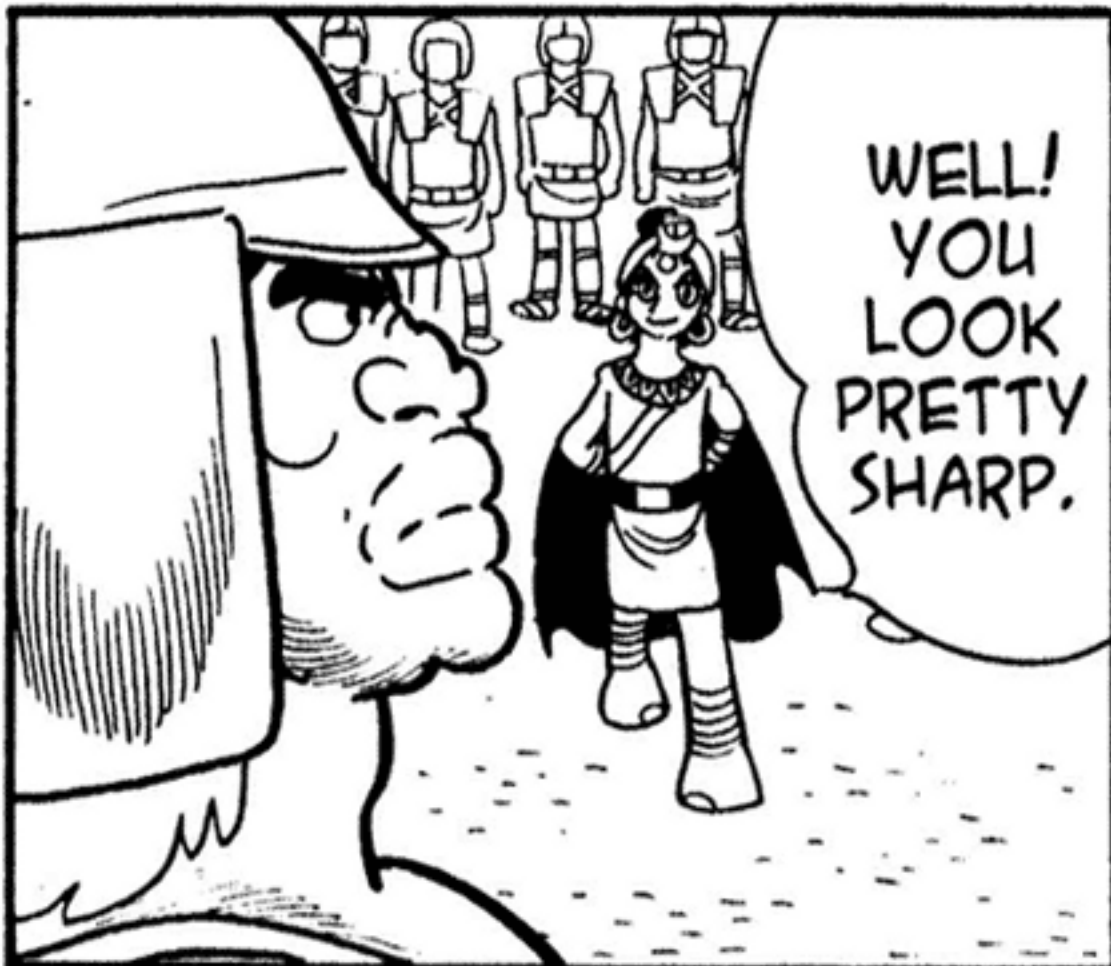




THAT'S HIS SHIELD?
THOUGHT
IT WAS A
TABLE.



HEY,
WAIT
UP!



WELL!
YOU
LOOK
PRETTY
SHARP.



BUT THAT FACE
OF YOURS POSES
A PROBLEM.
CHILDREN
WILL FAINT.
DOGS WILL BARK.
HORSES WILL DO
HANDSTANDS.



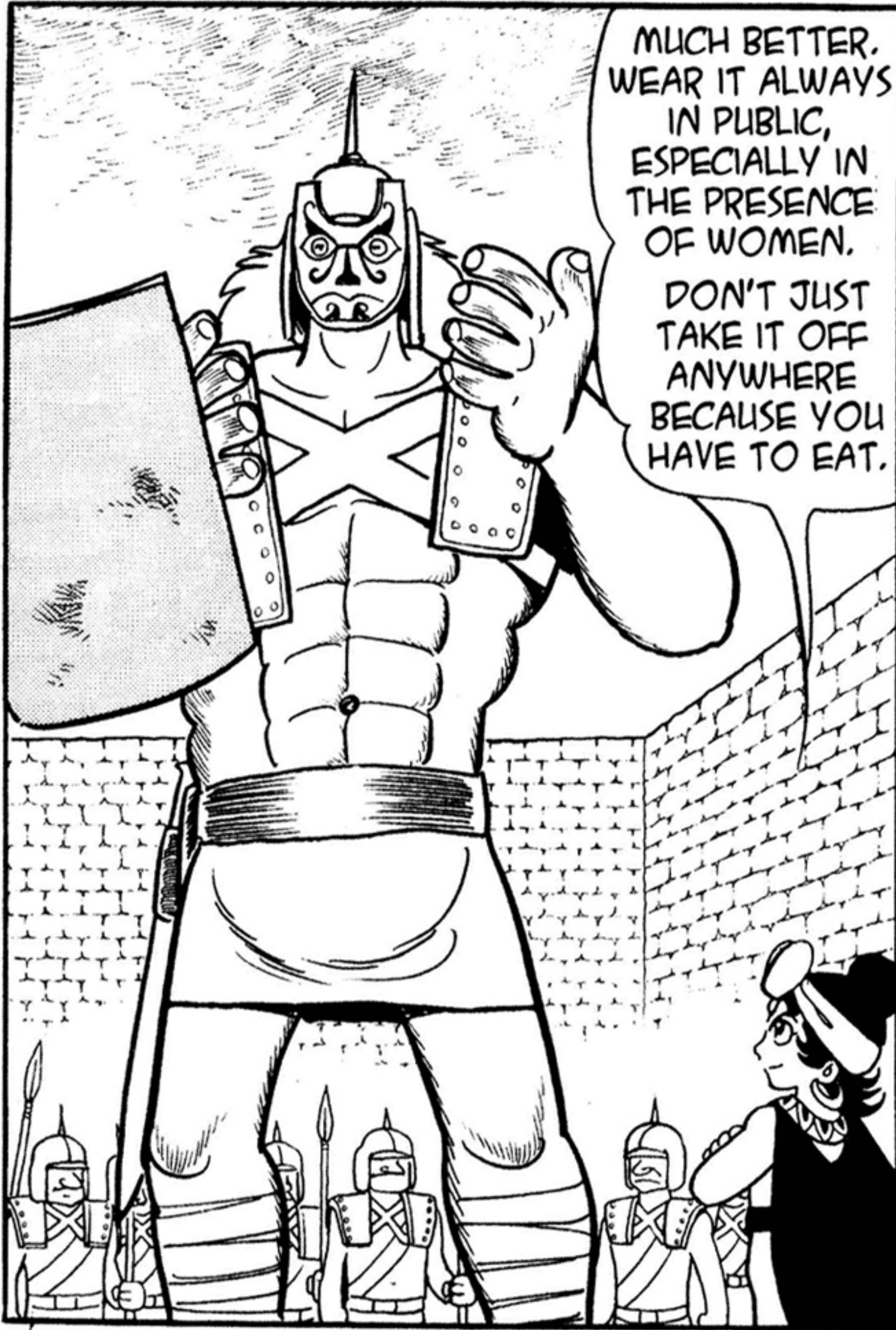
SO WE'VE
FASHIONED
FOR YOU



A MASK.
TRY IT ON.



THAT'S
UPSIDE
DOWN!



MUCH BETTER.
WEAR IT ALWAYS
IN PUBLIC,
ESPECIALLY IN
THE PRESENCE
OF WOMEN.
DON'T JUST
TAKE IT OFF
ANYWHERE
BECAUSE YOU
HAVE TO EAT.



YOU'LL
SLEEP
BACK
THERE,

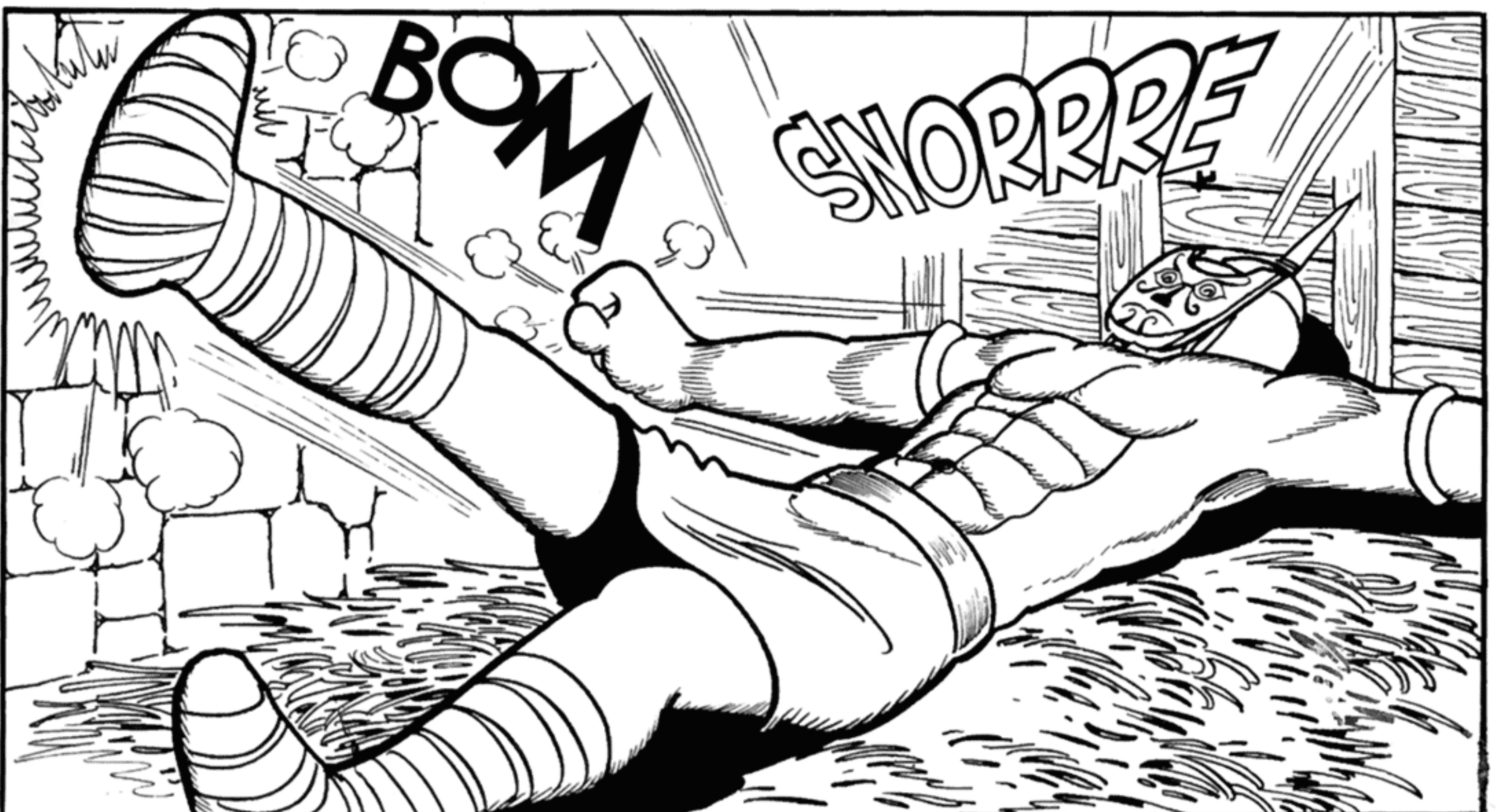
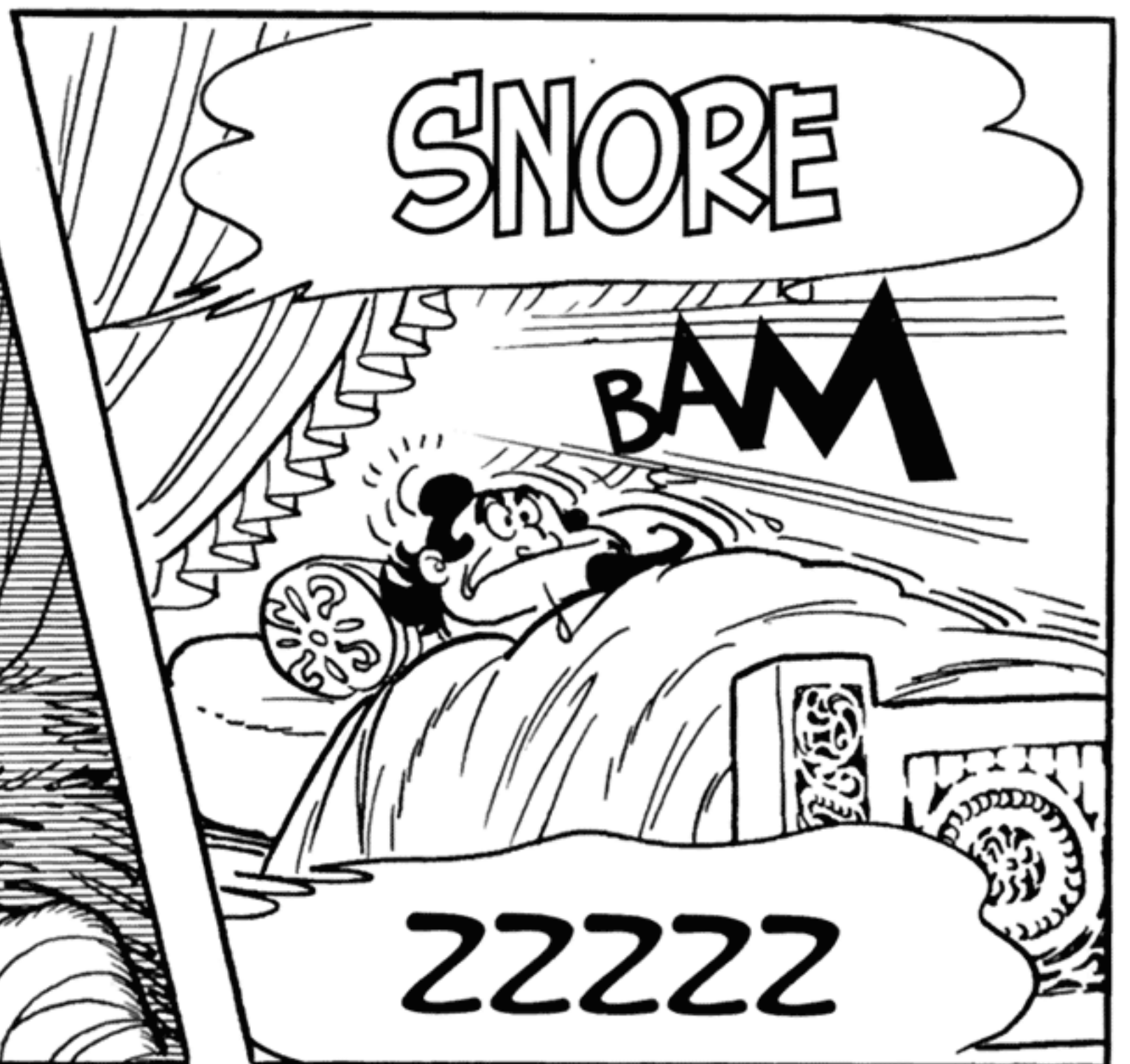
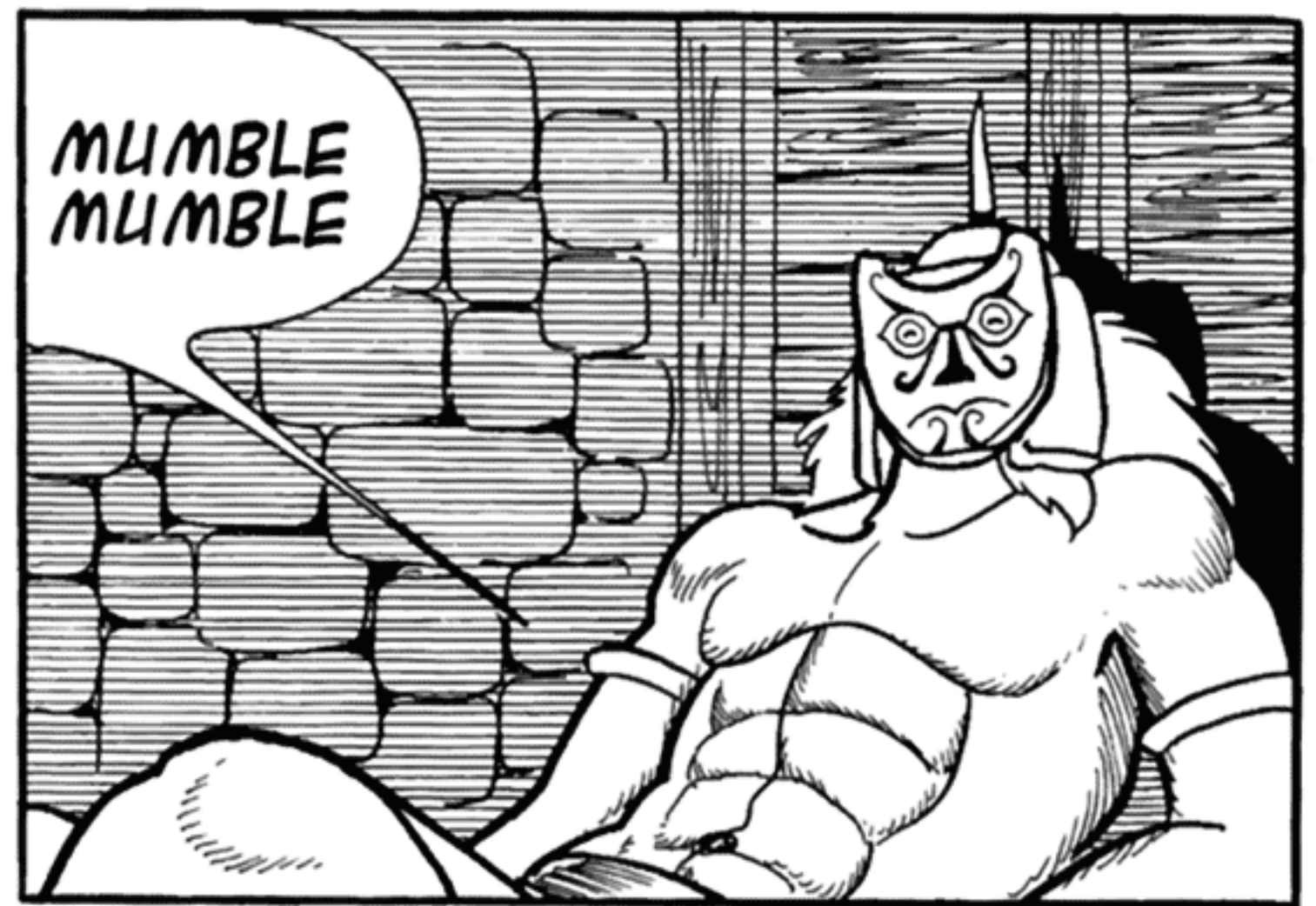
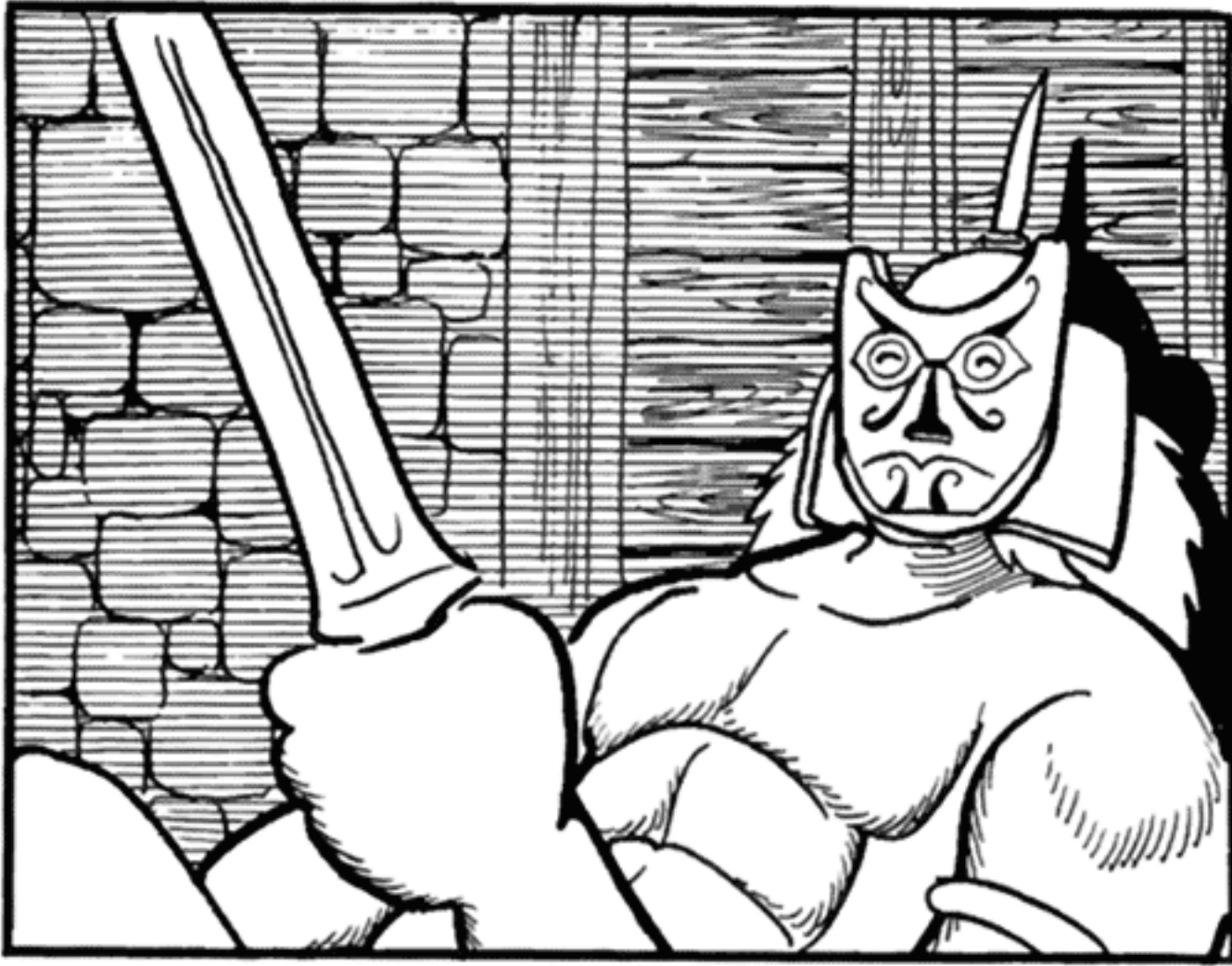


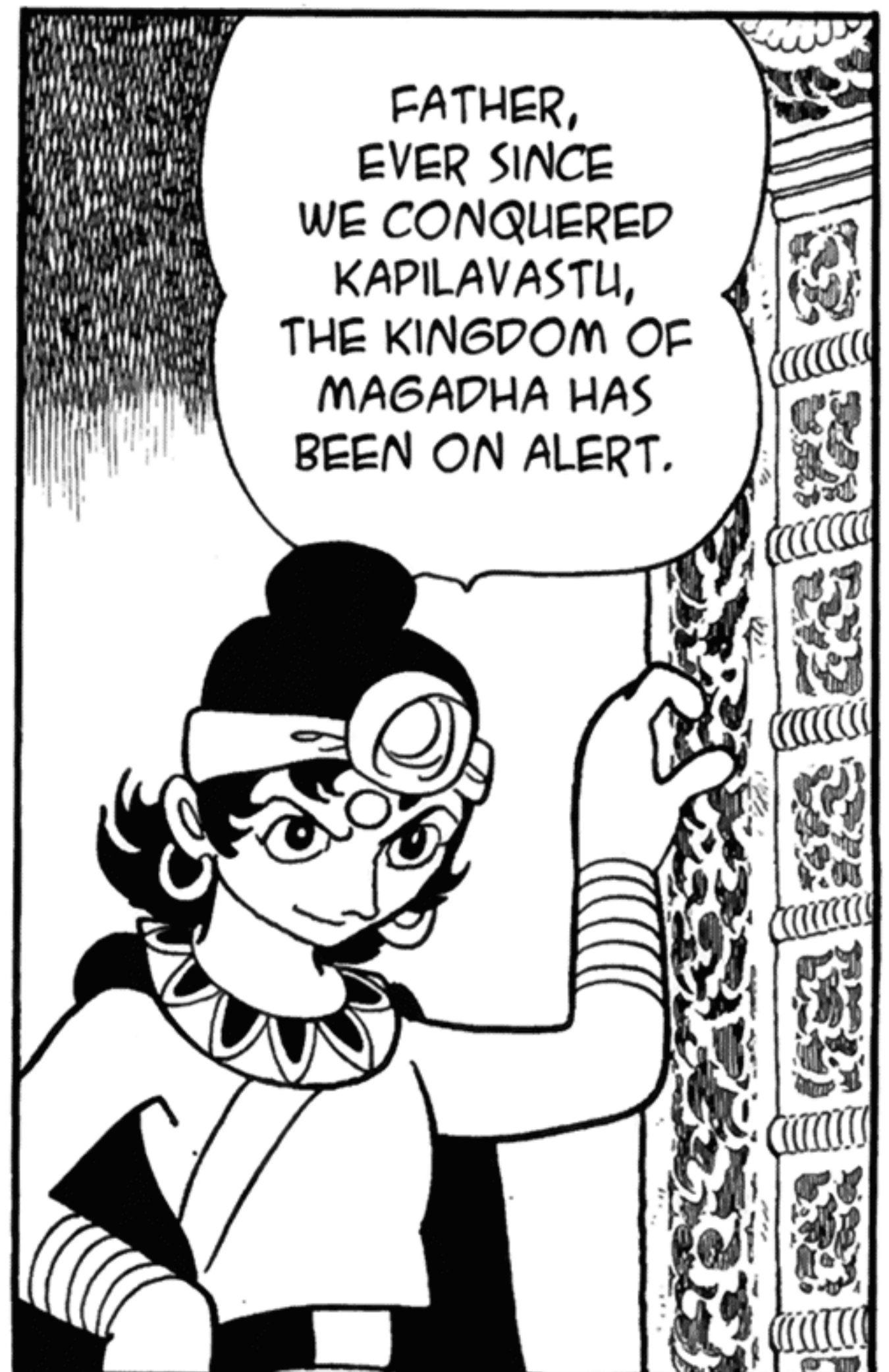
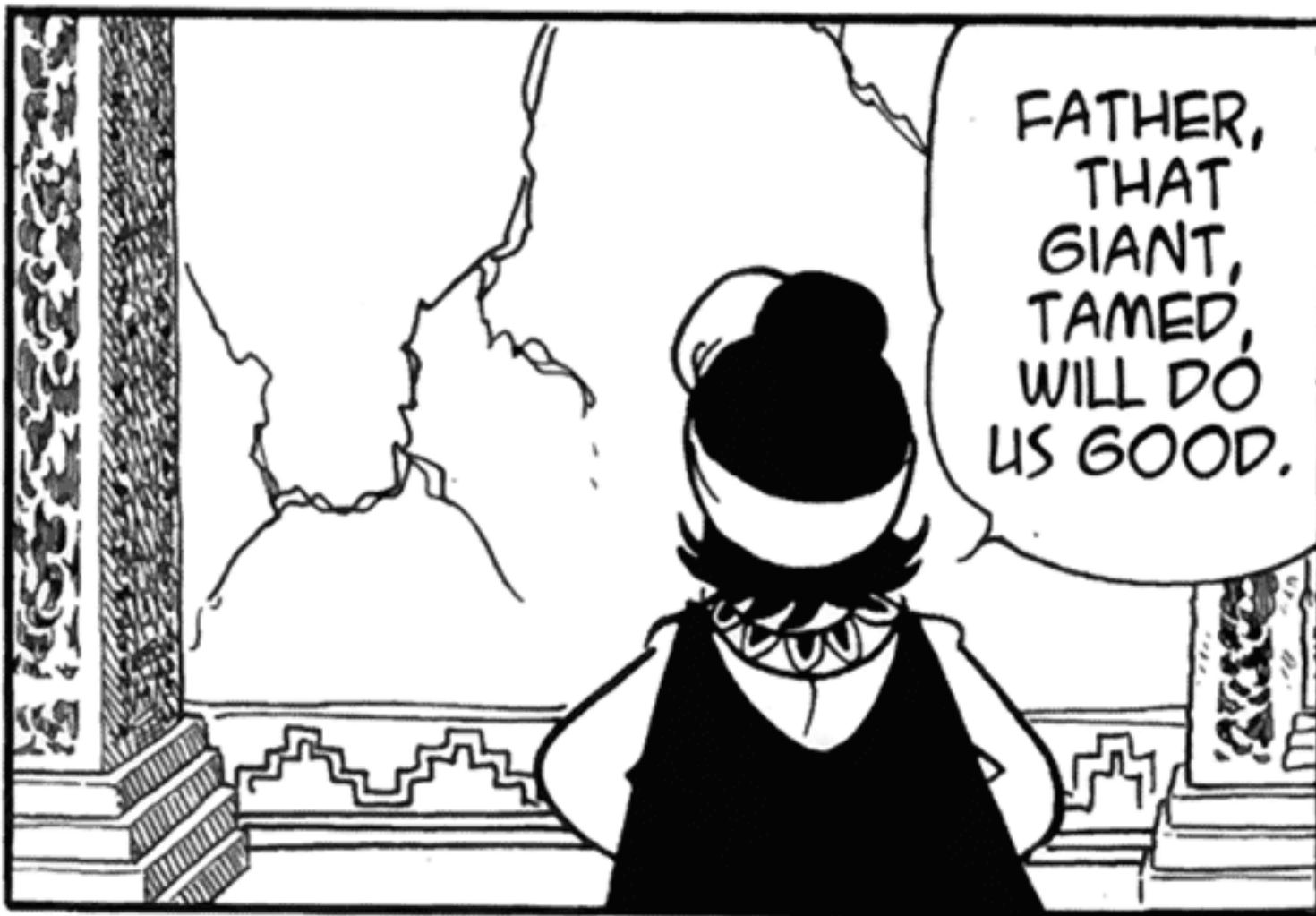
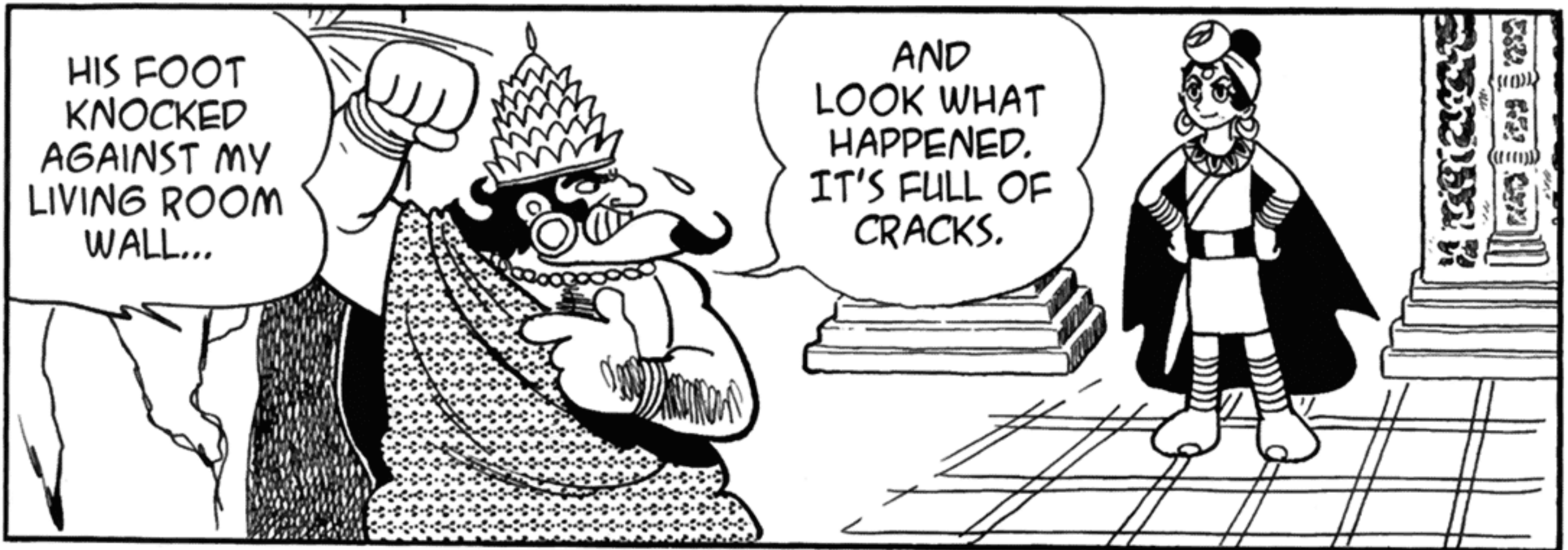
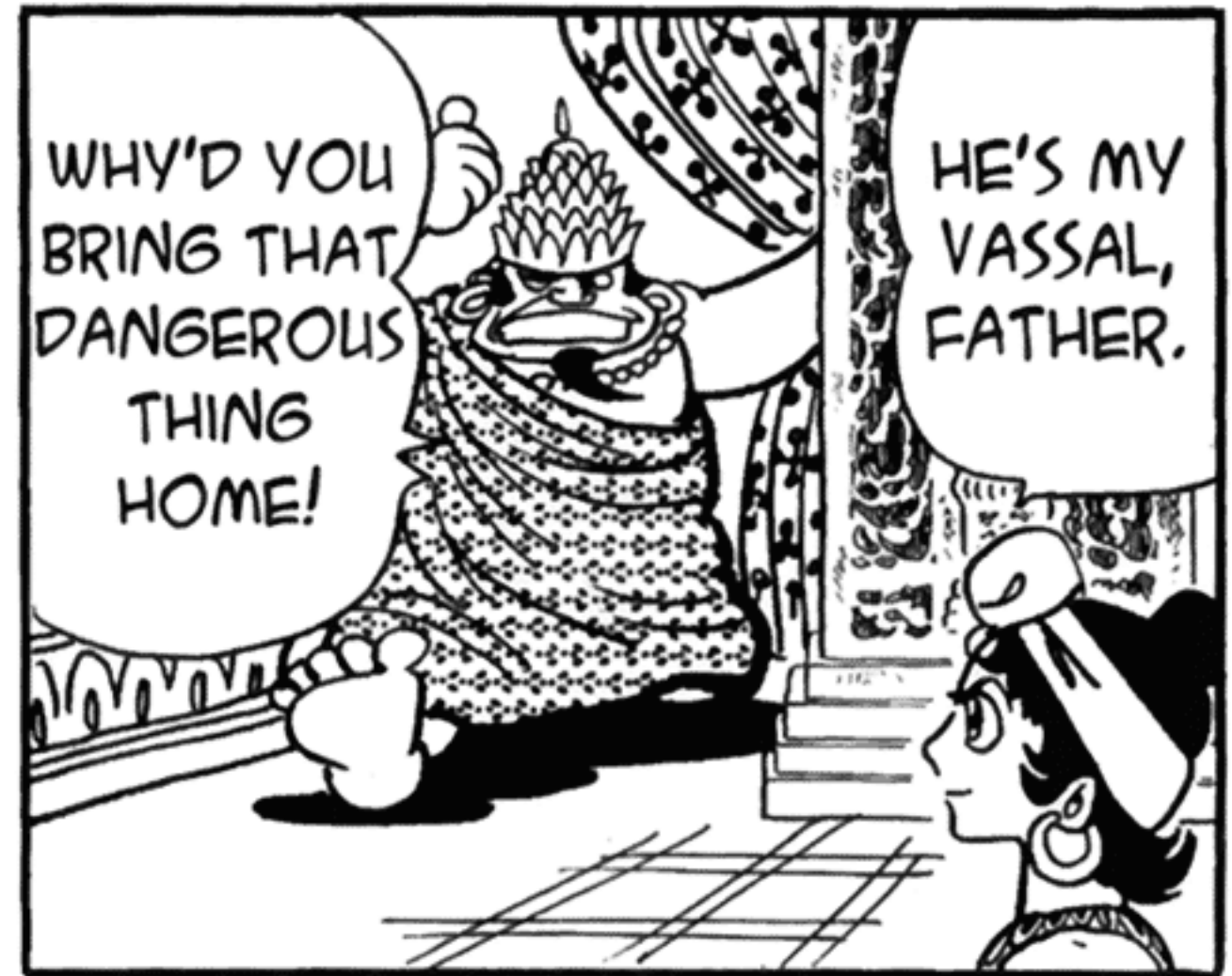
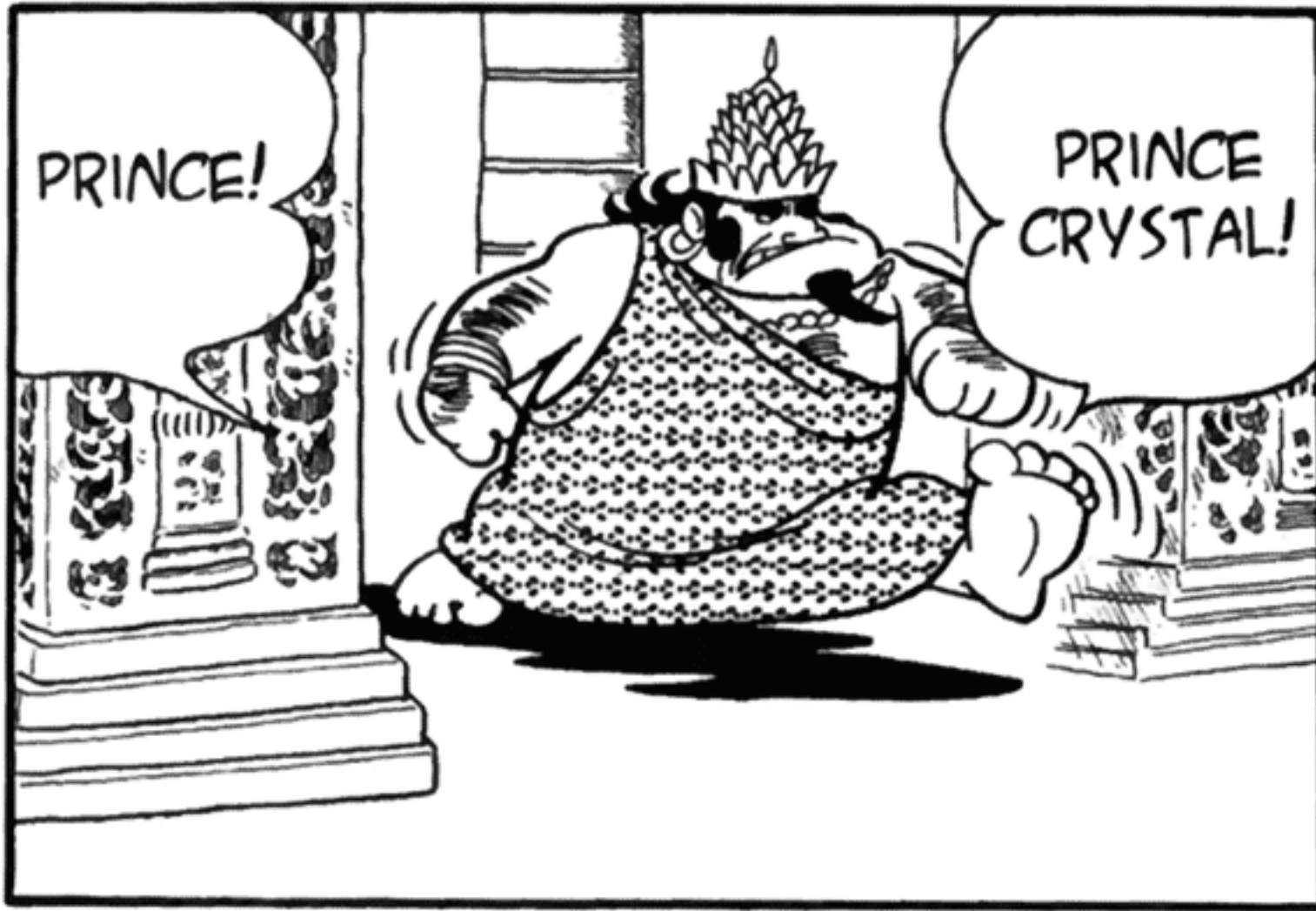
BETWEEN THE
STOREROOM
AND THE STABLE!
YOU MUST
NEVER COME
INTO THE
PALACE, UNLESS
SPECIAL ORDERS
REQUIRE
YOU TO.

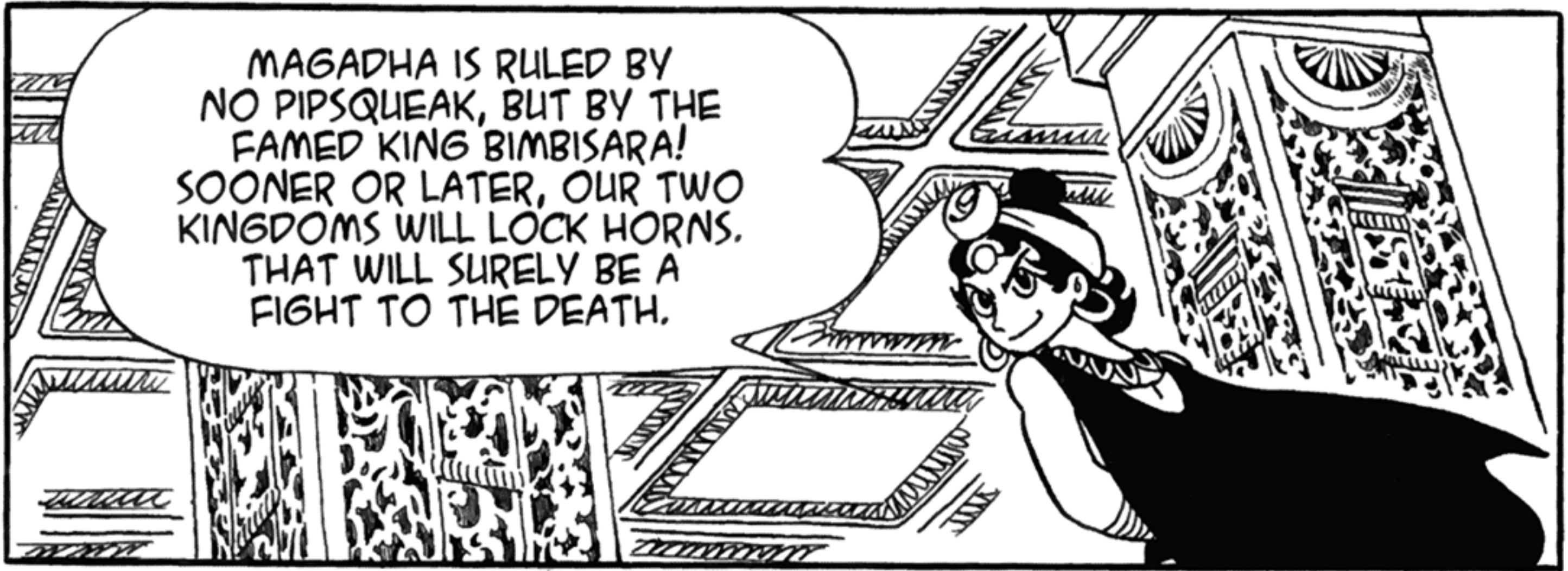


YAWN

YAAUGHN







MAGADHA IS RULED BY NO PIPSQUEAK, BUT BY THE FAMED KING BIMBISARA! SOONER OR LATER, OUR TWO KINGDOMS WILL LOCK HORNS. THAT WILL SURELY BE A FIGHT TO THE DEATH.



WE'LL FIGHT THEM IF WE MUST.



MAGADHA HAS MORE ELEPHANTS THAN US. THEY ALSO HAVE MORE, IF NOT BETTER, TROOPS THAN KOSALA.

IF WE TRAIN THAT GIANT...



HE'LL BE OUR PRIZE WEAPON.

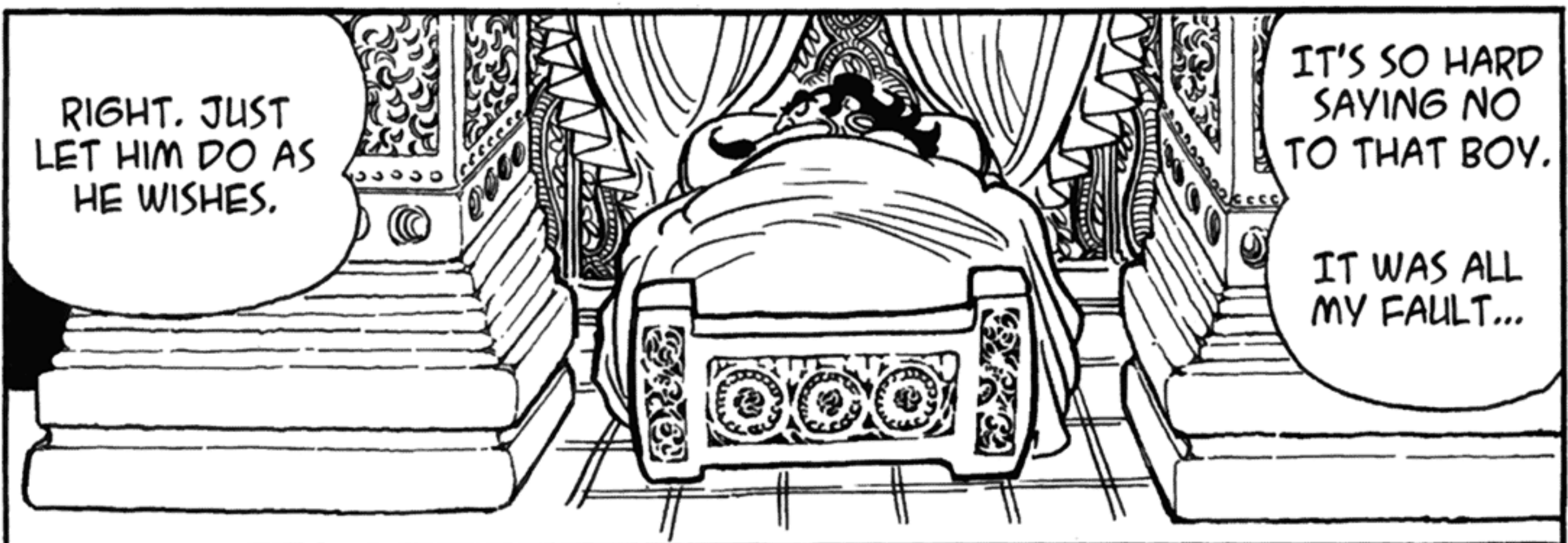


HE'LL BE OUR SUPERHERO? HE'LL FIGHT FOR THE GOOD GUYS?



FATHER, LEAVE THE GIANT TO ME.

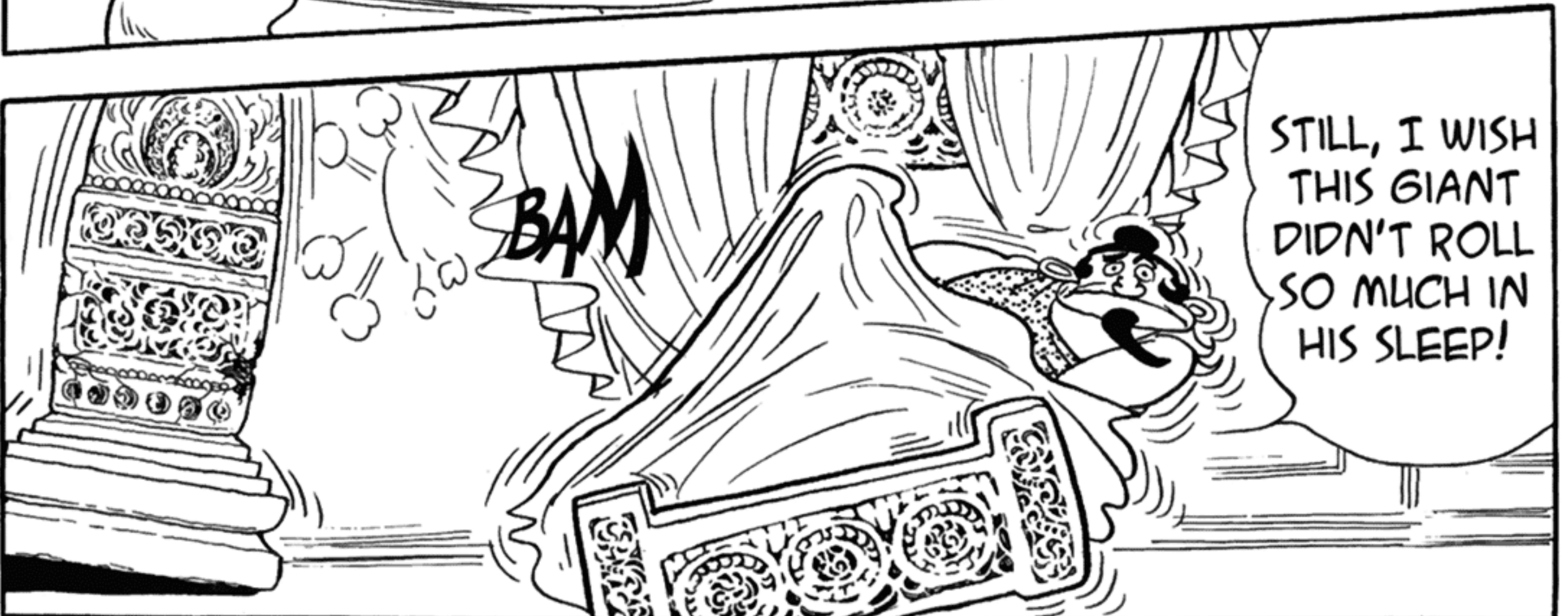
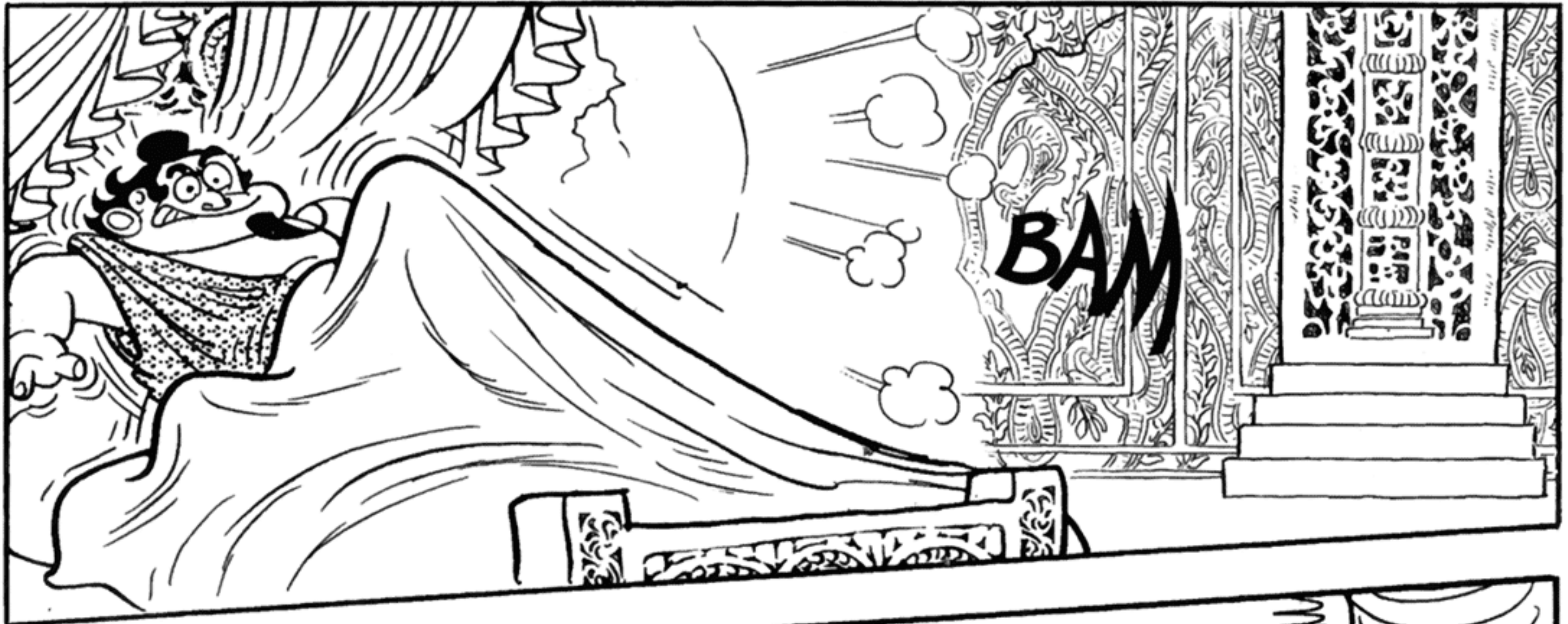
SIGH FINE.

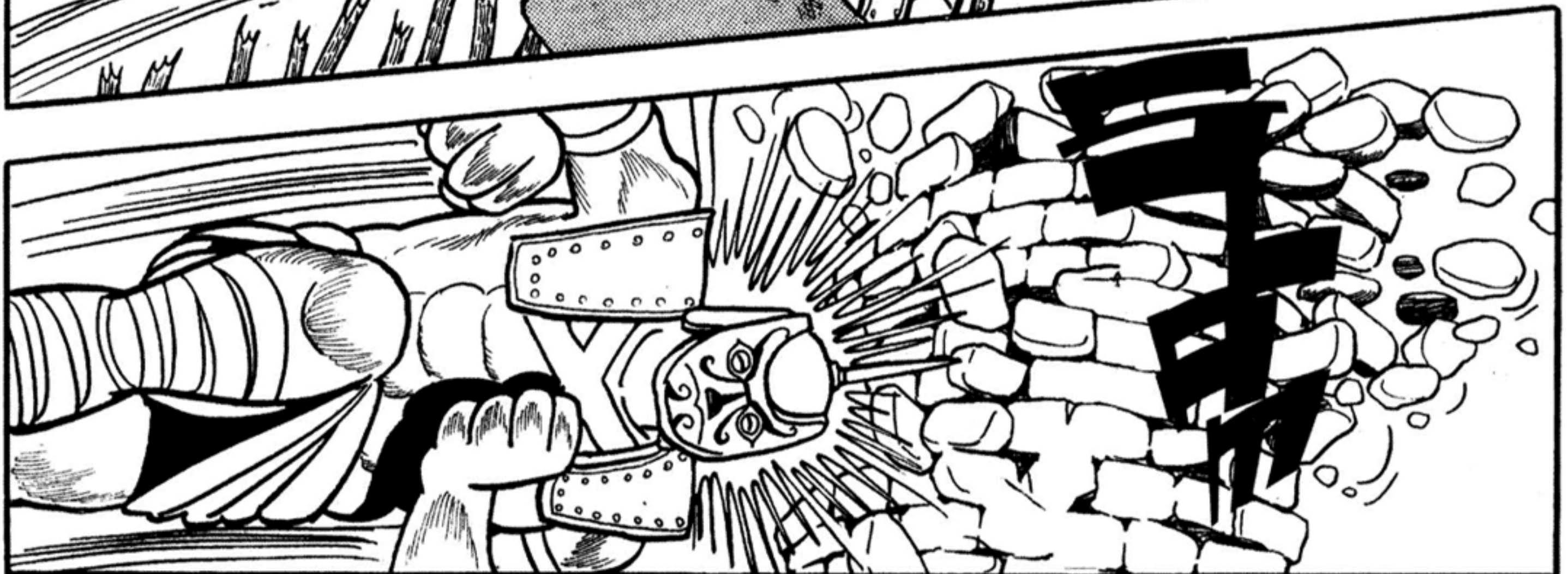
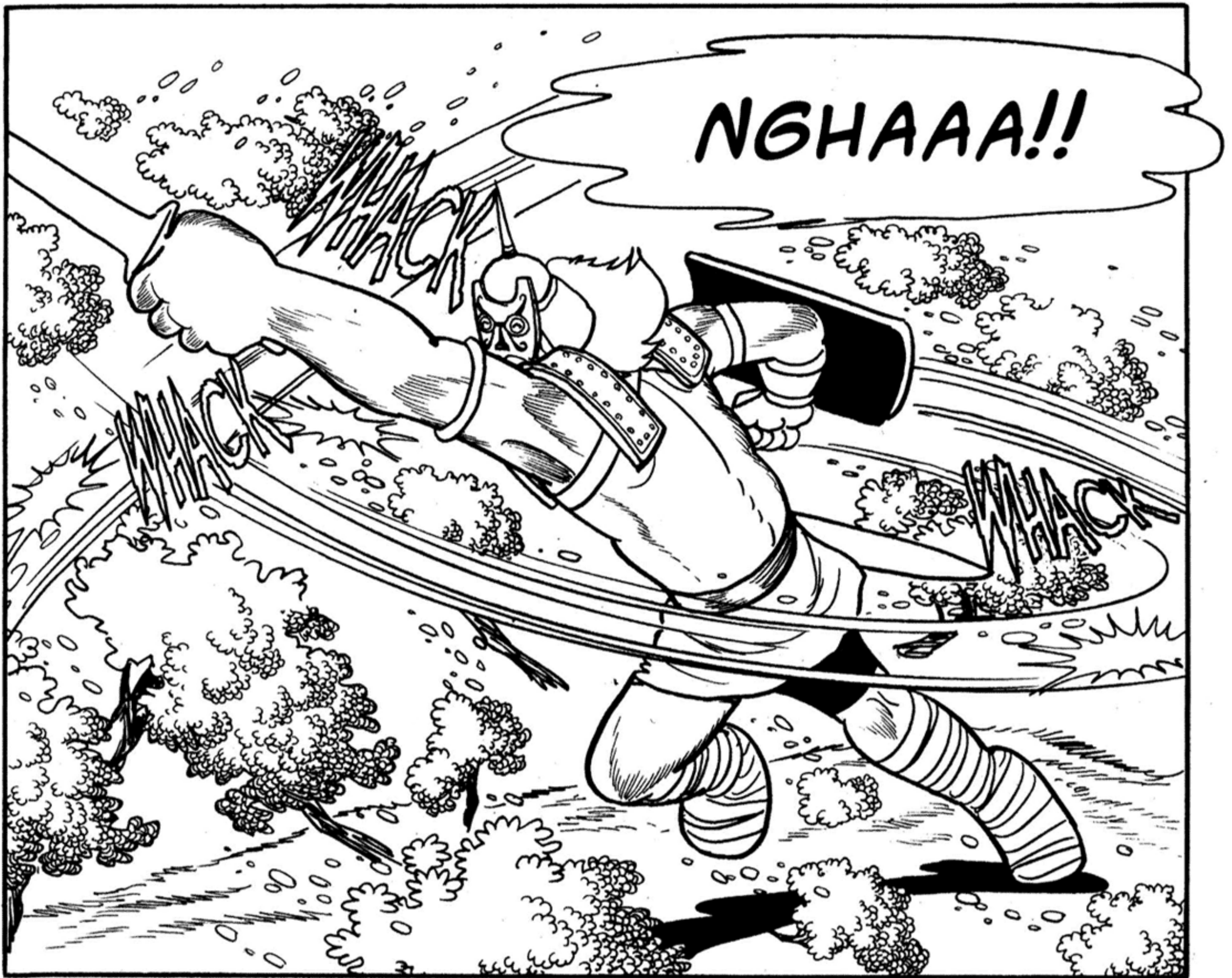


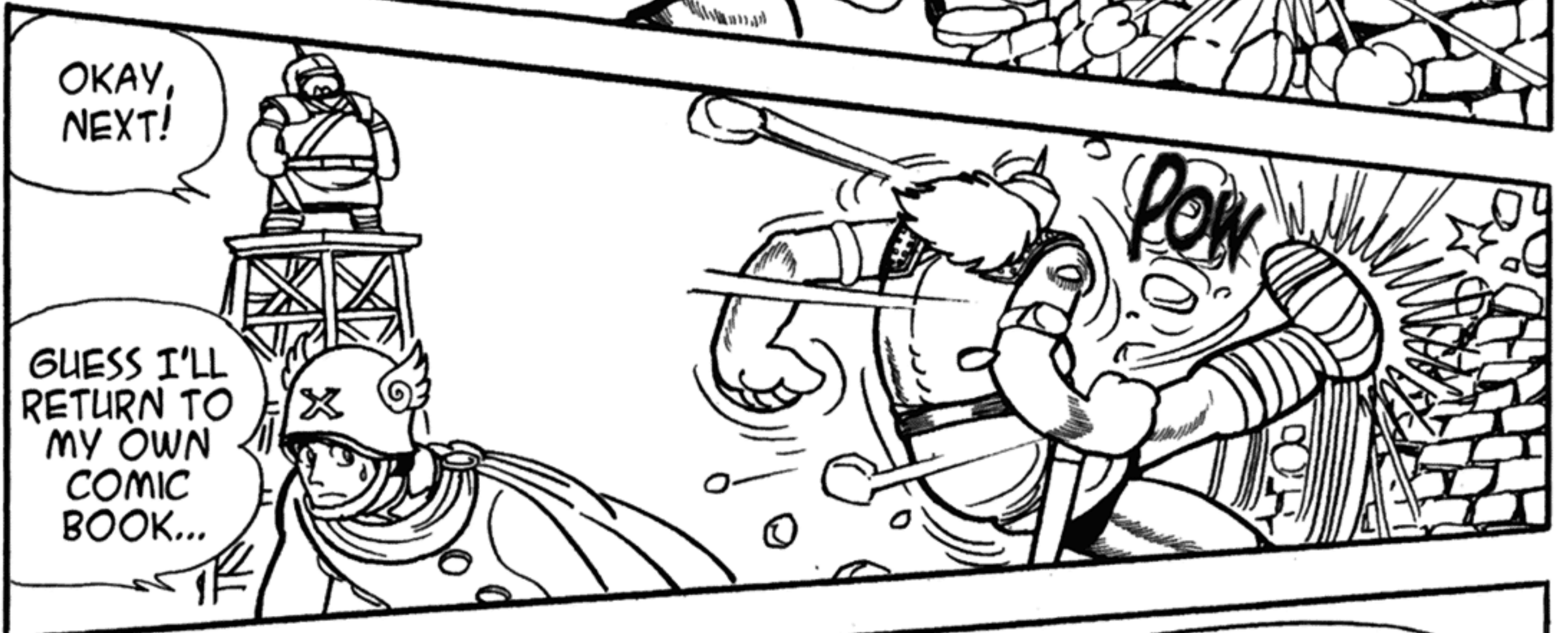
RIGHT. JUST LET HIM DO AS HE WISHES.

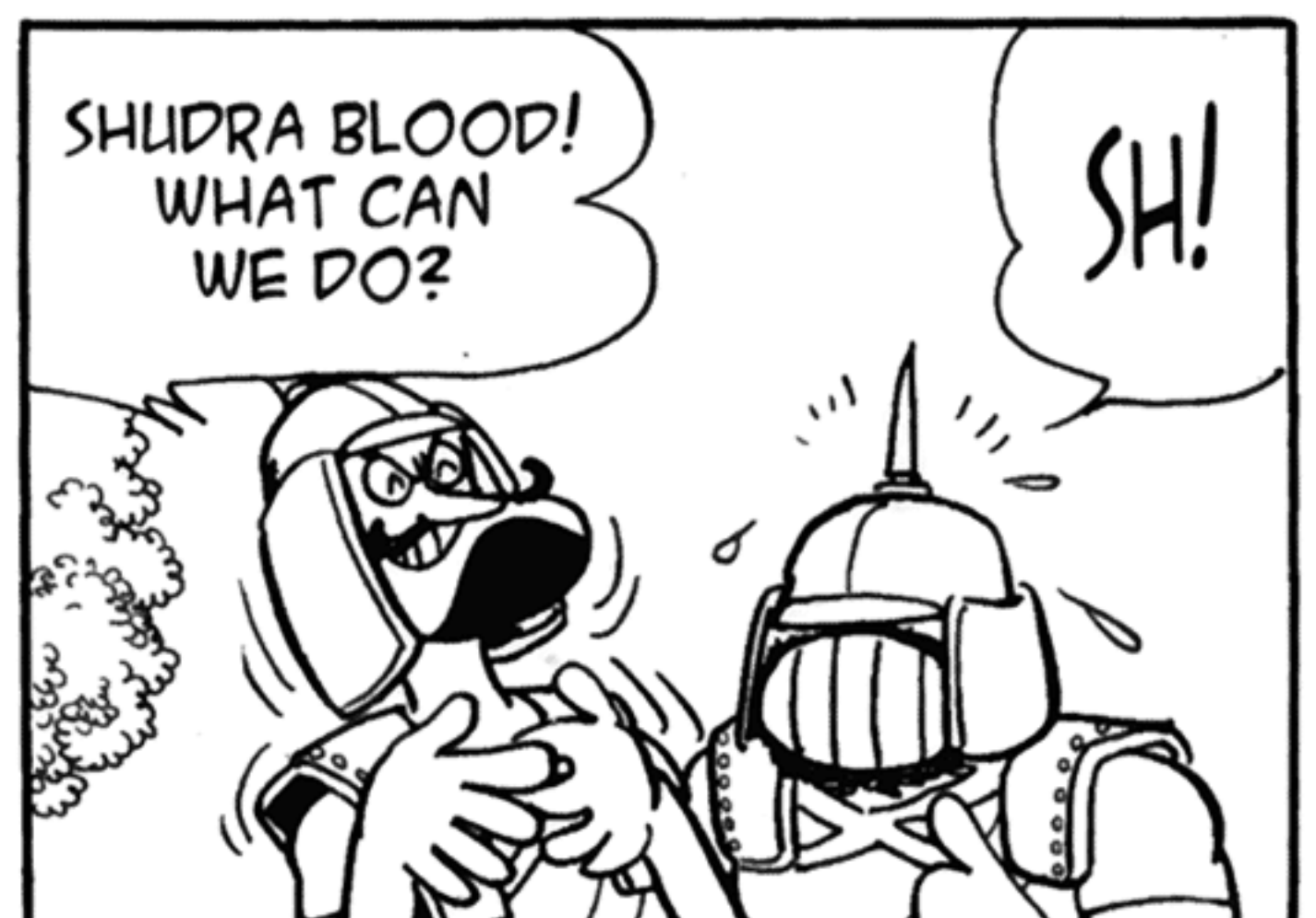
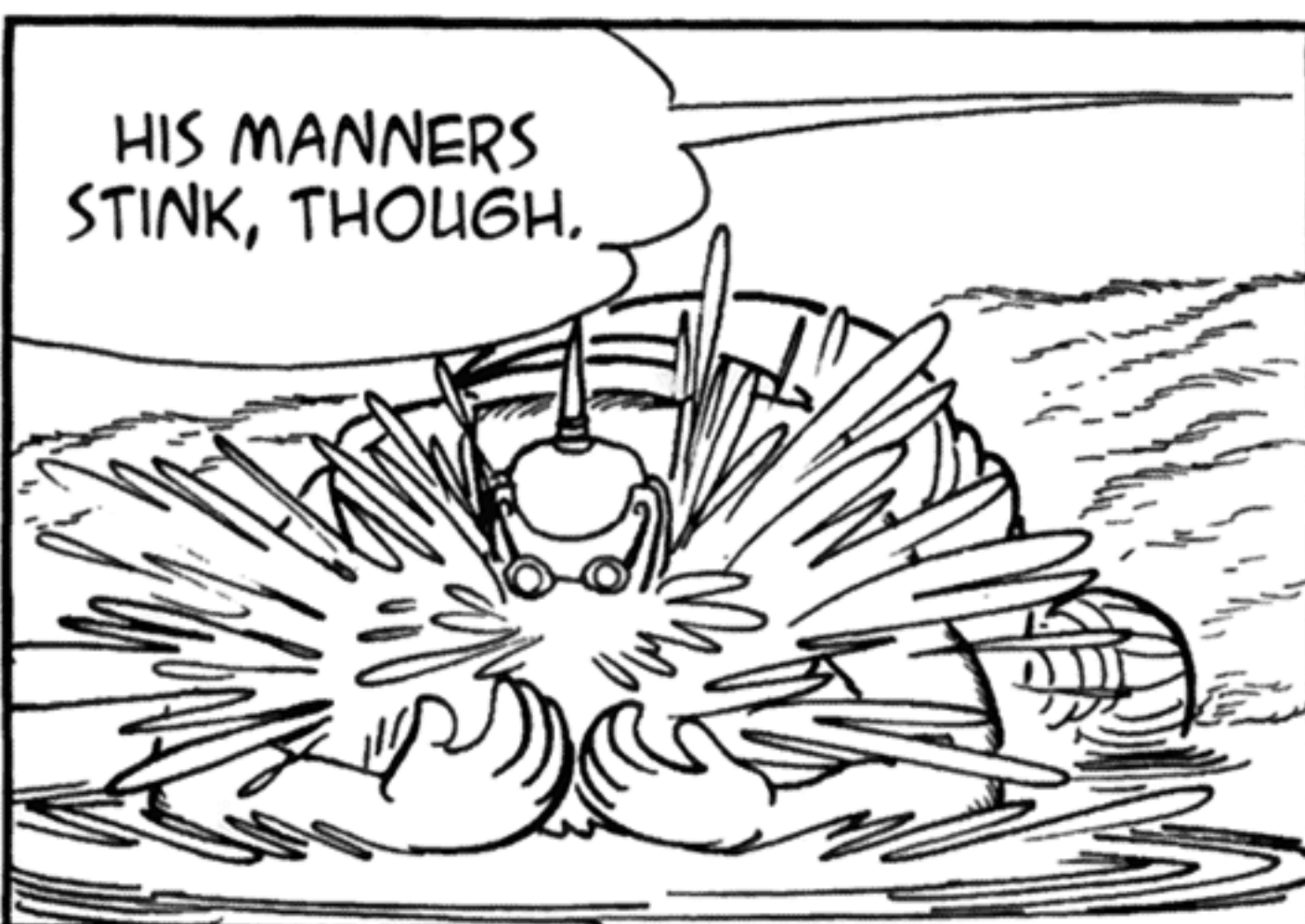
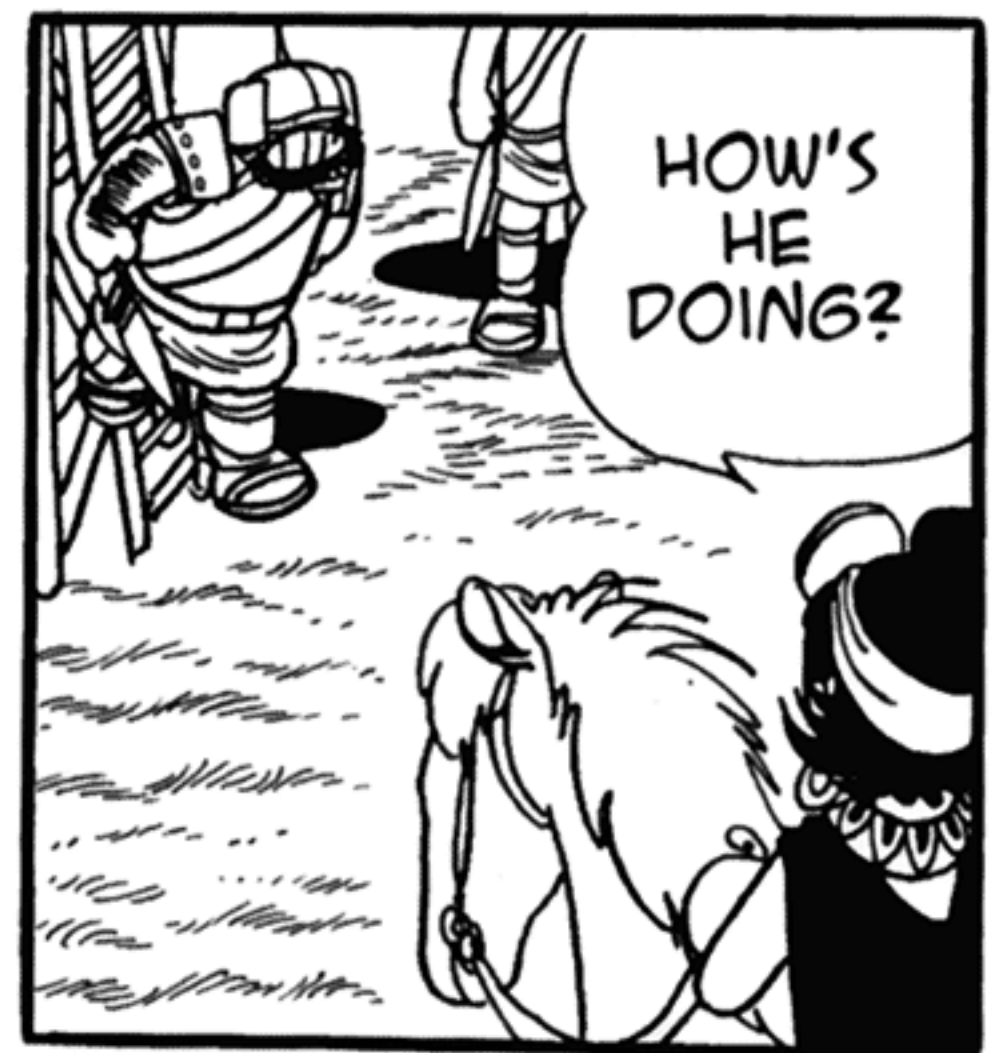
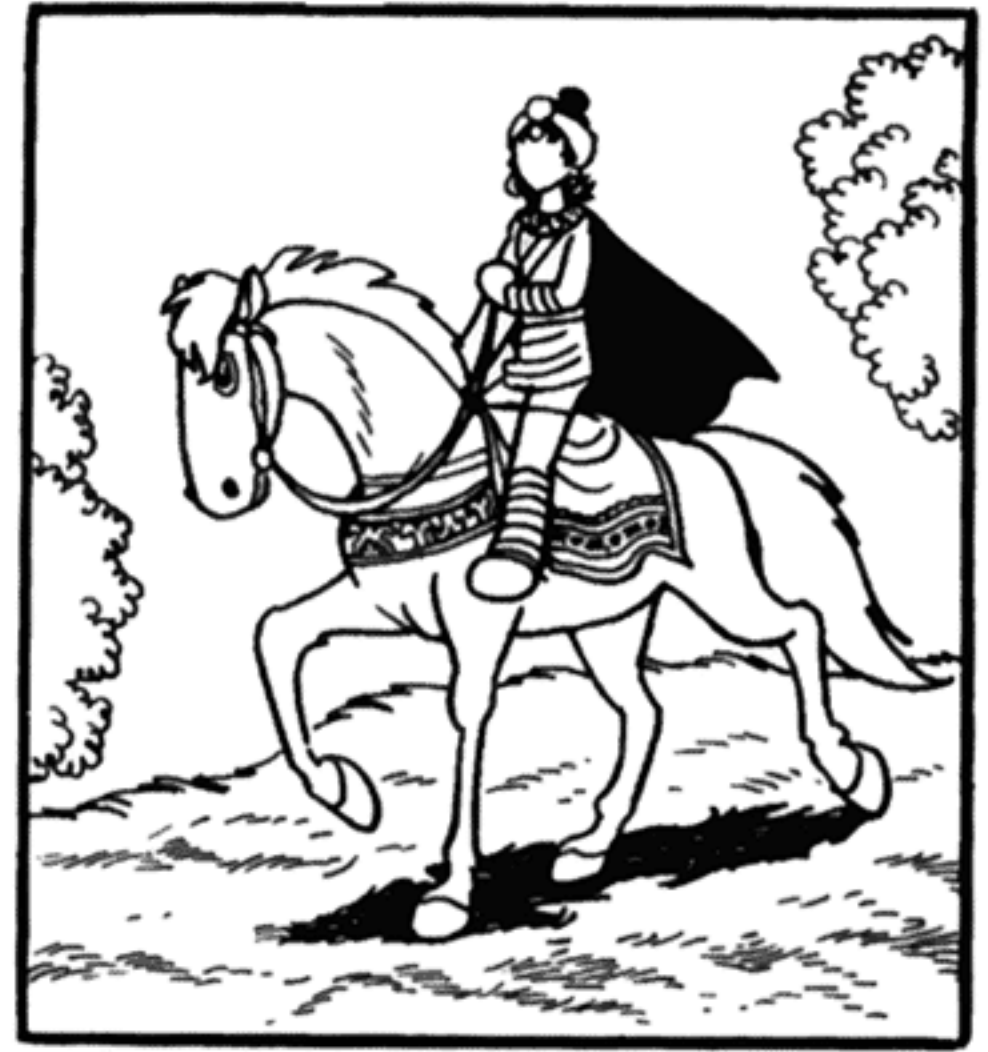
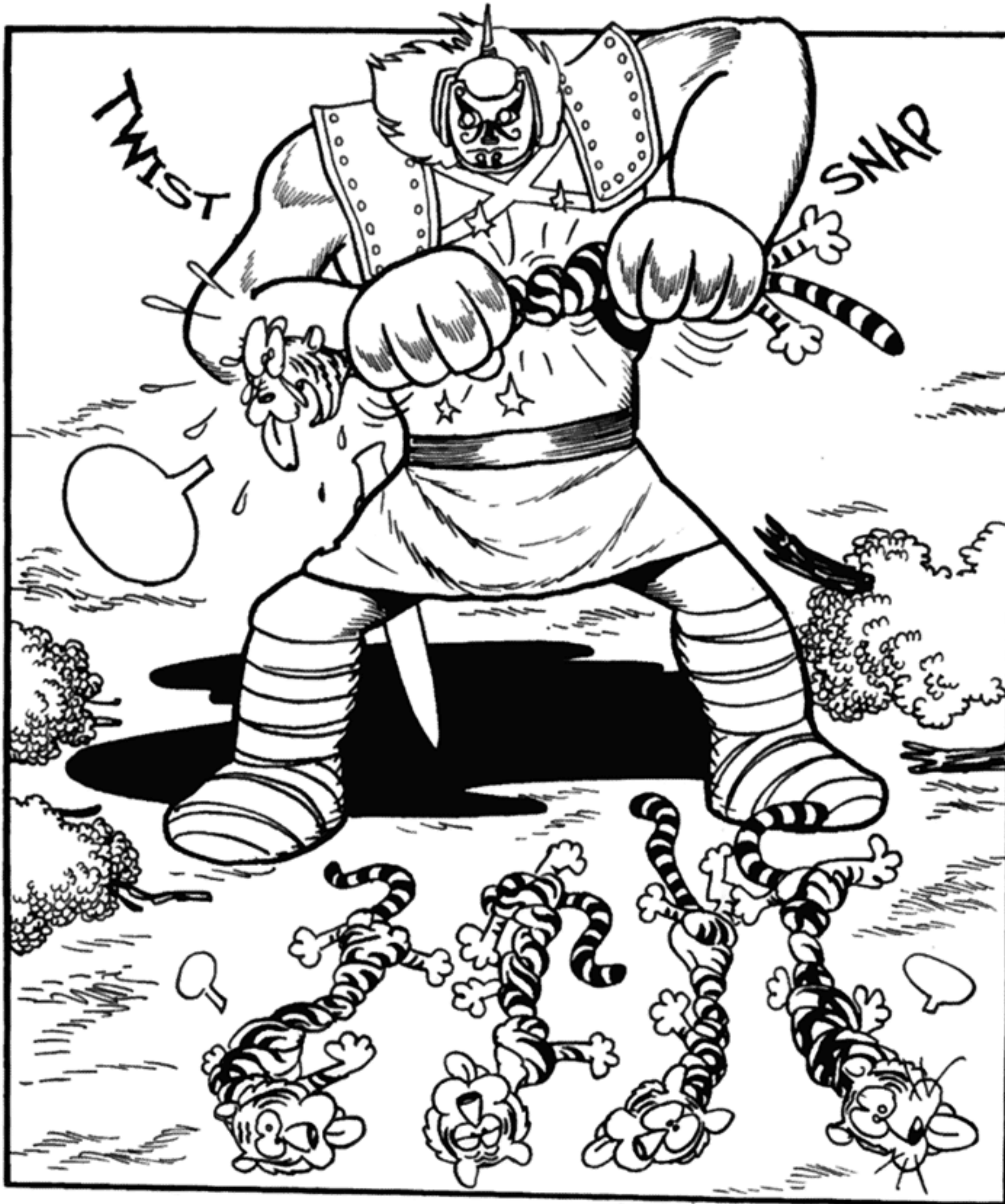
IT'S SO HARD SAYING NO TO THAT BOY.

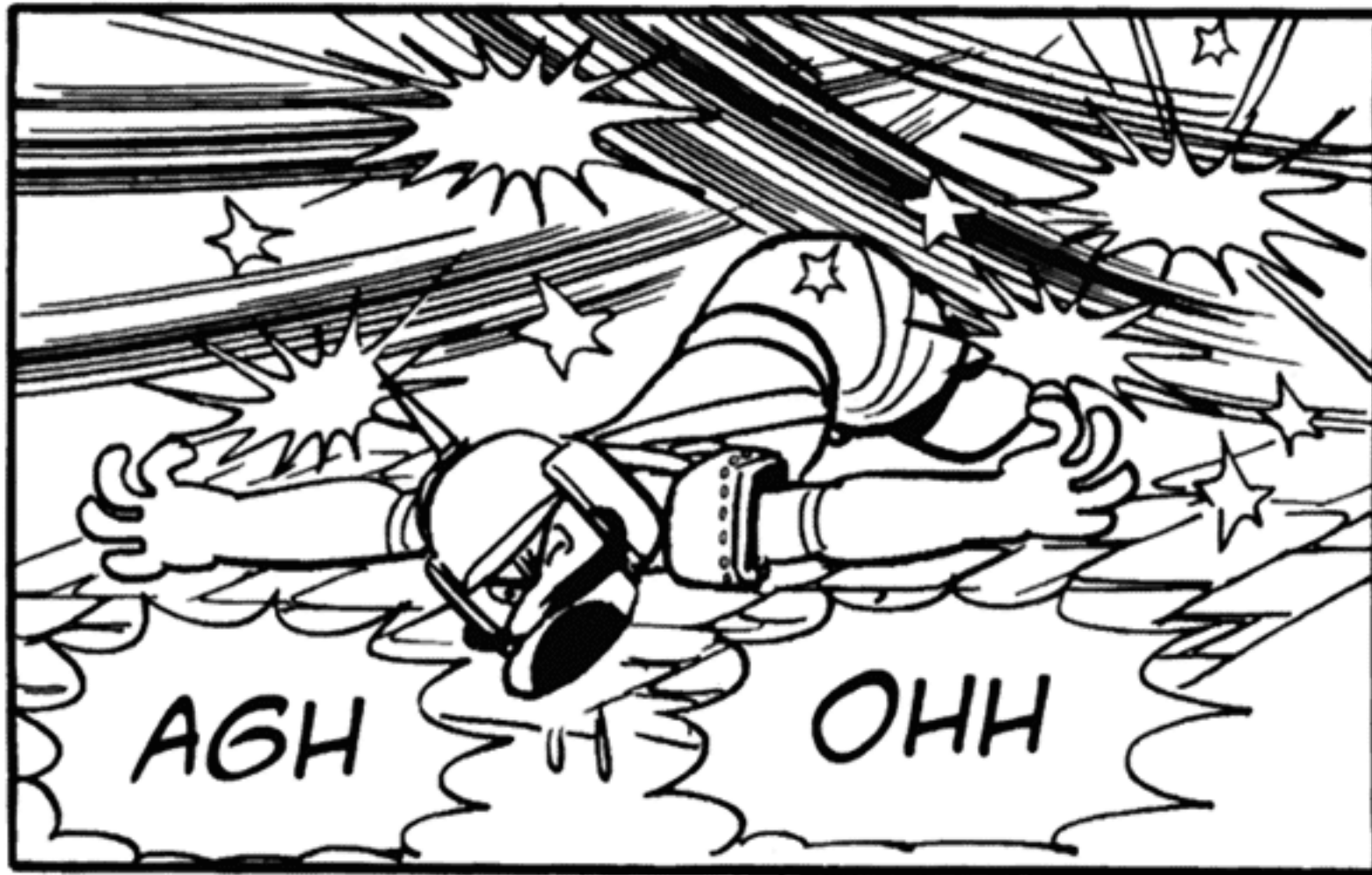
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT...

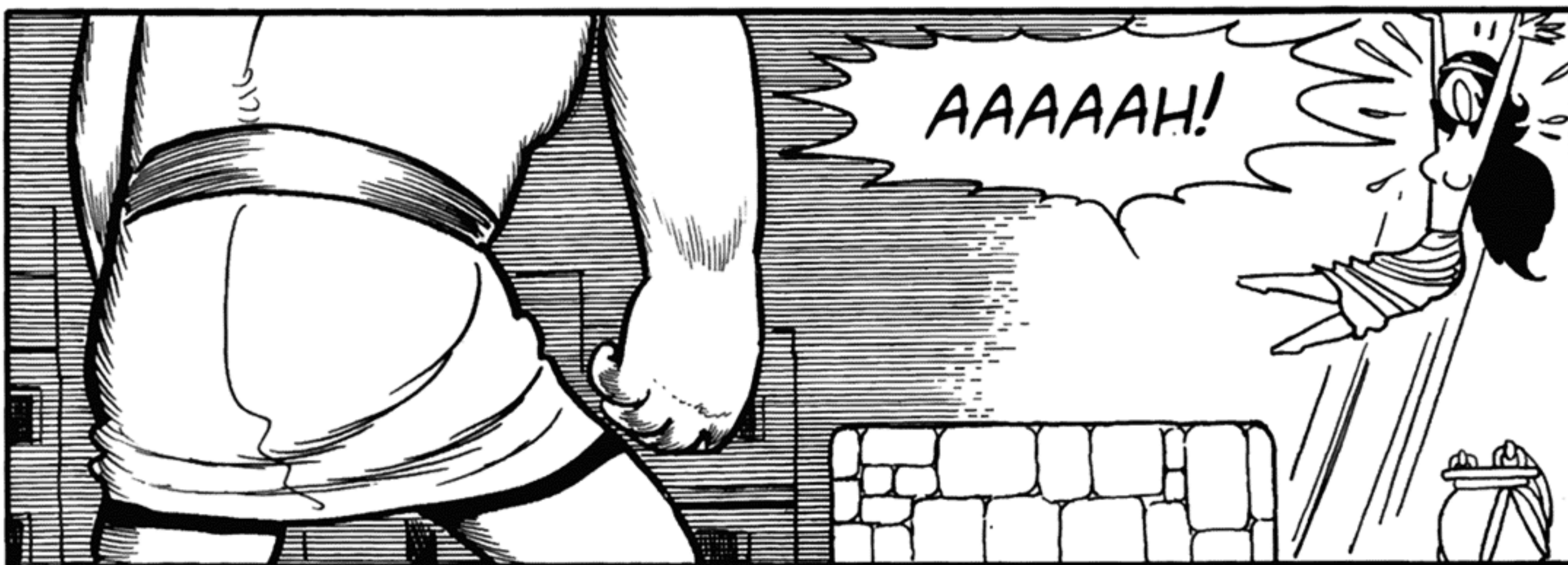
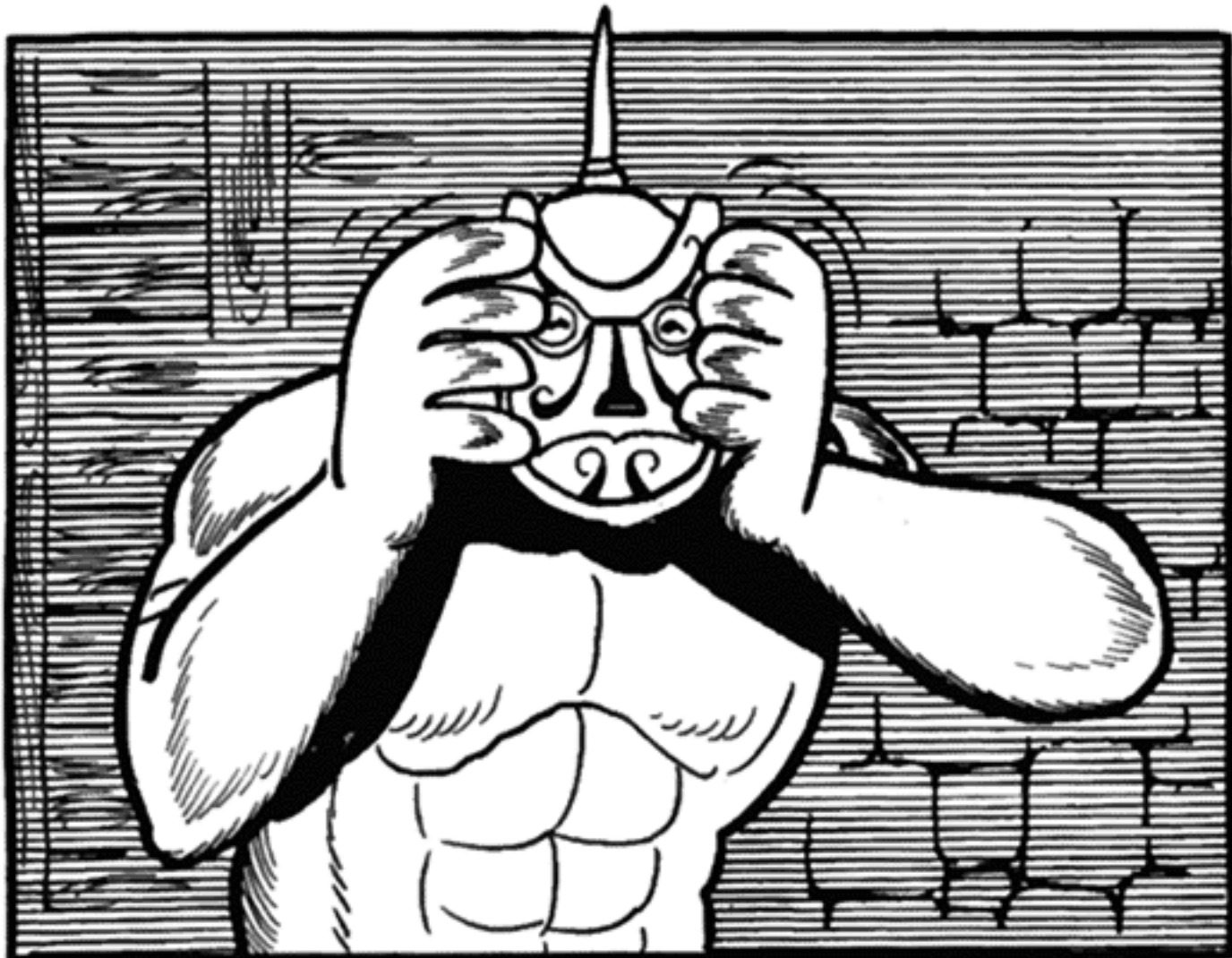


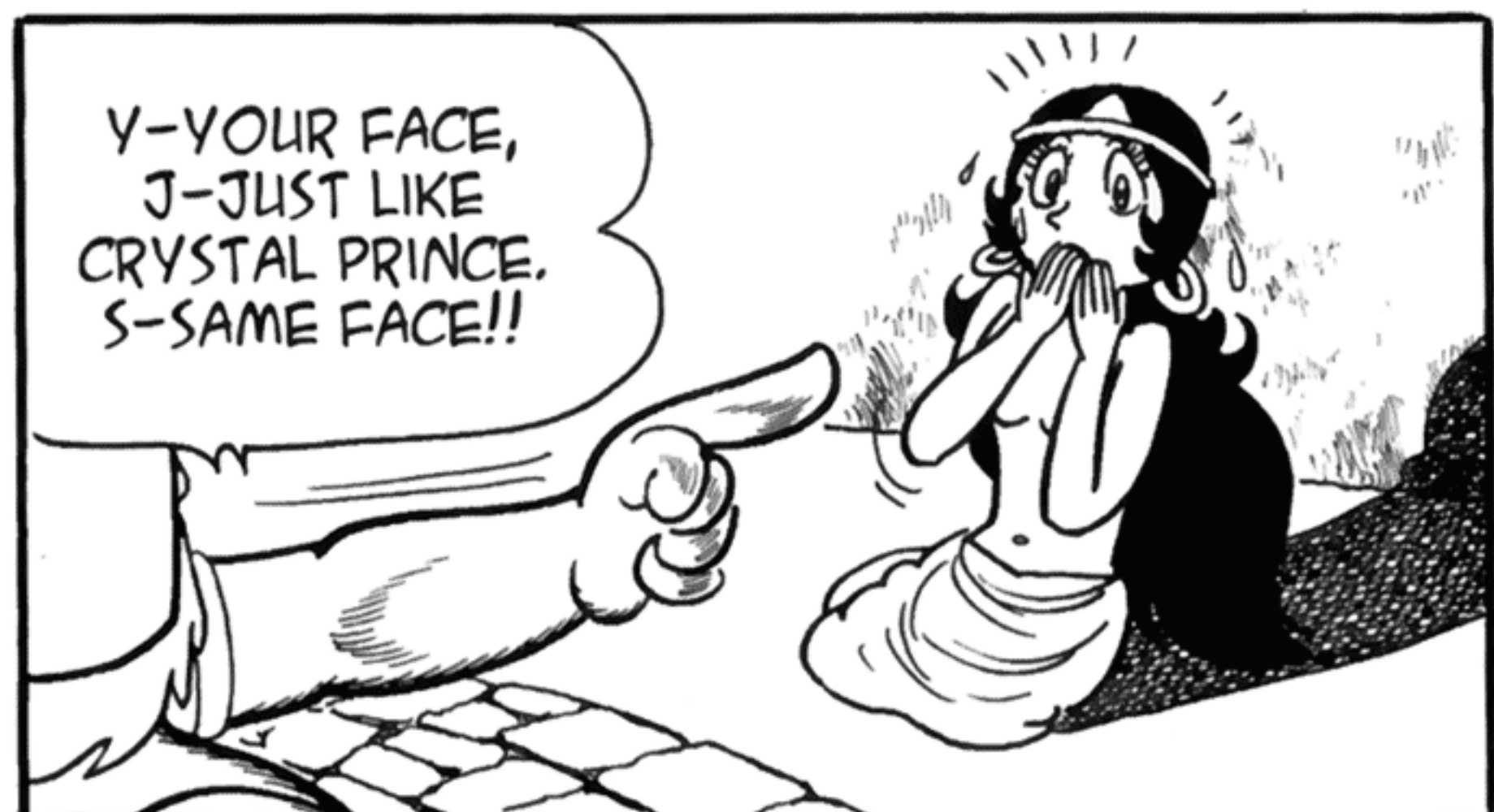
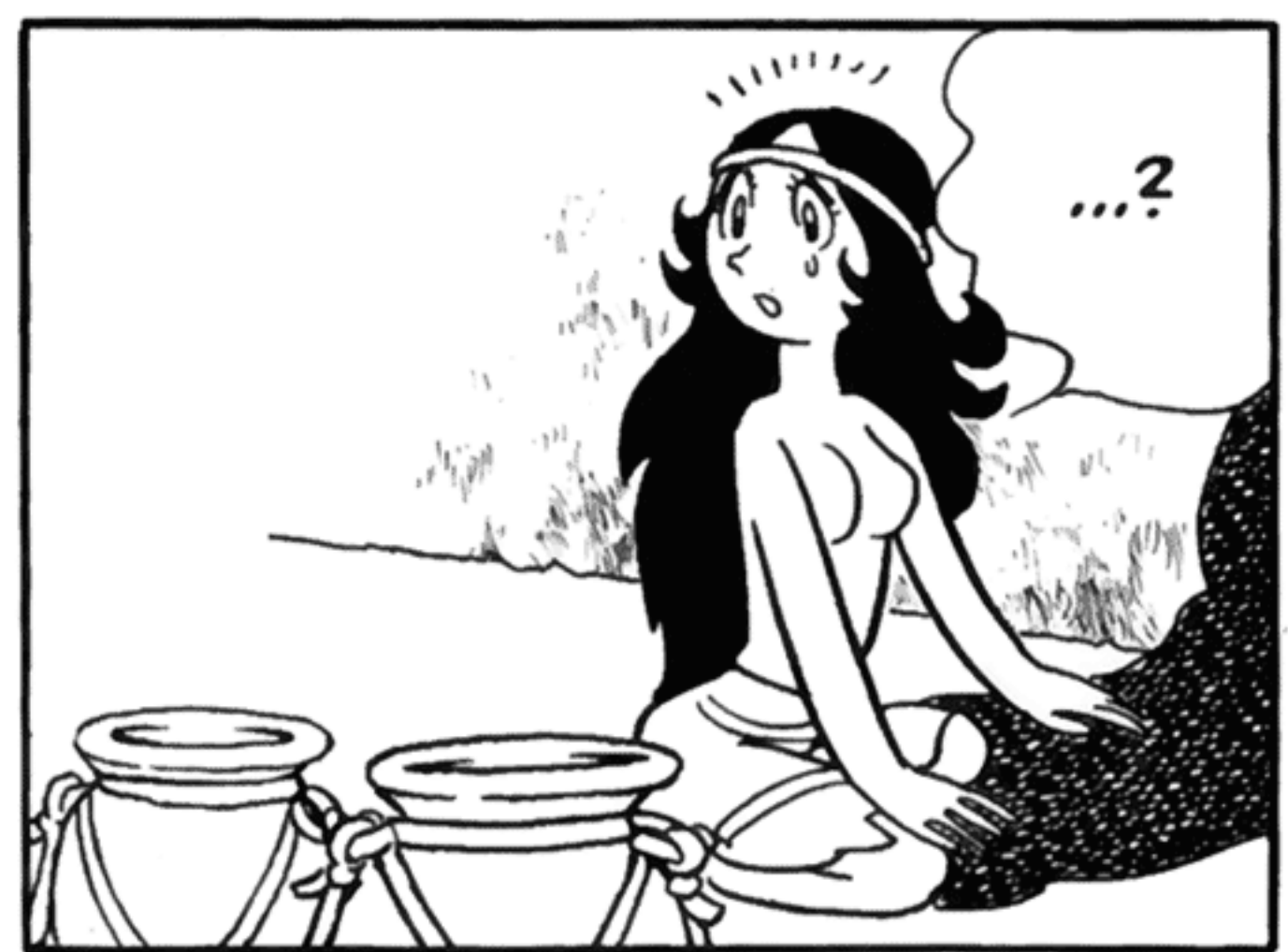
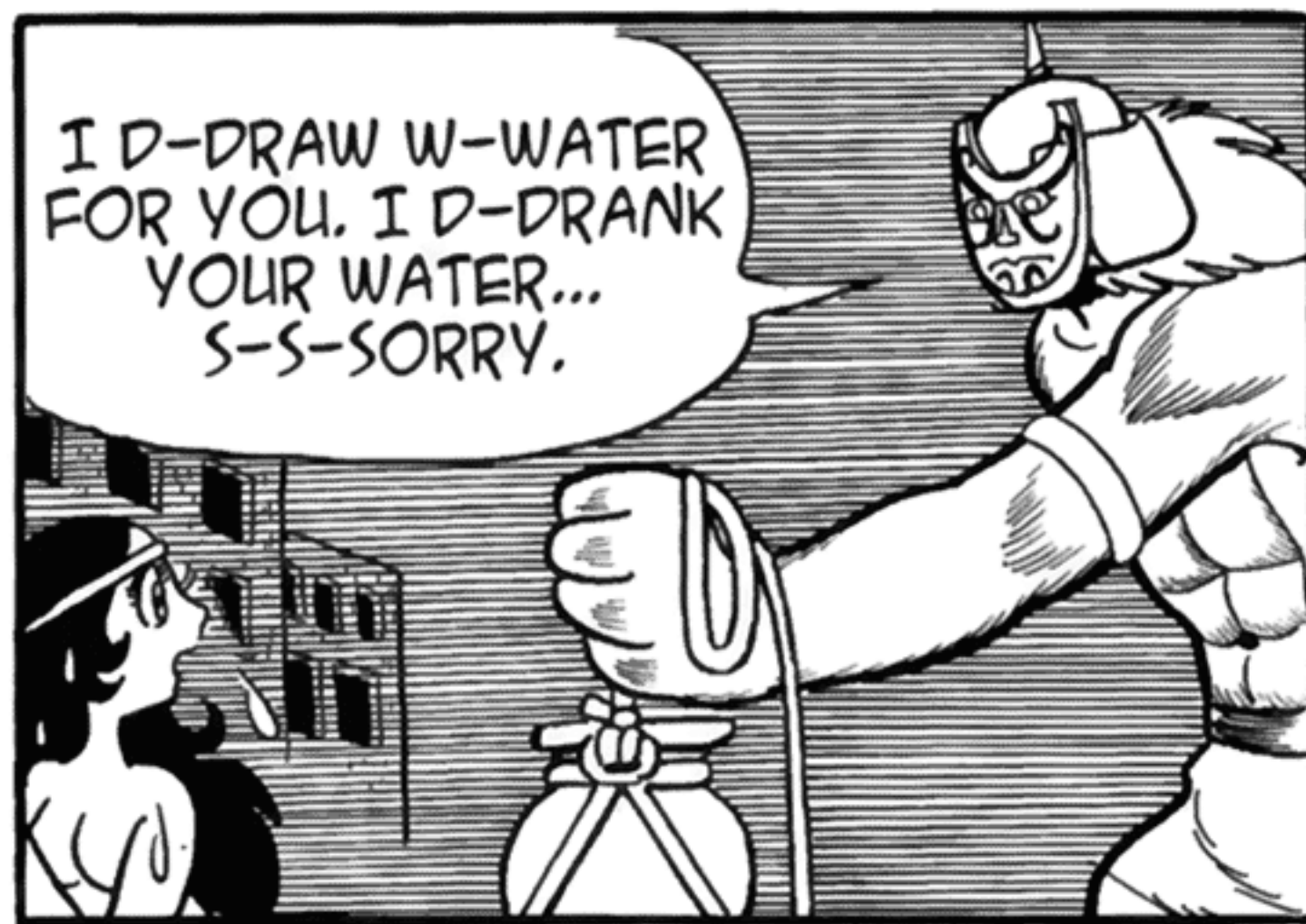
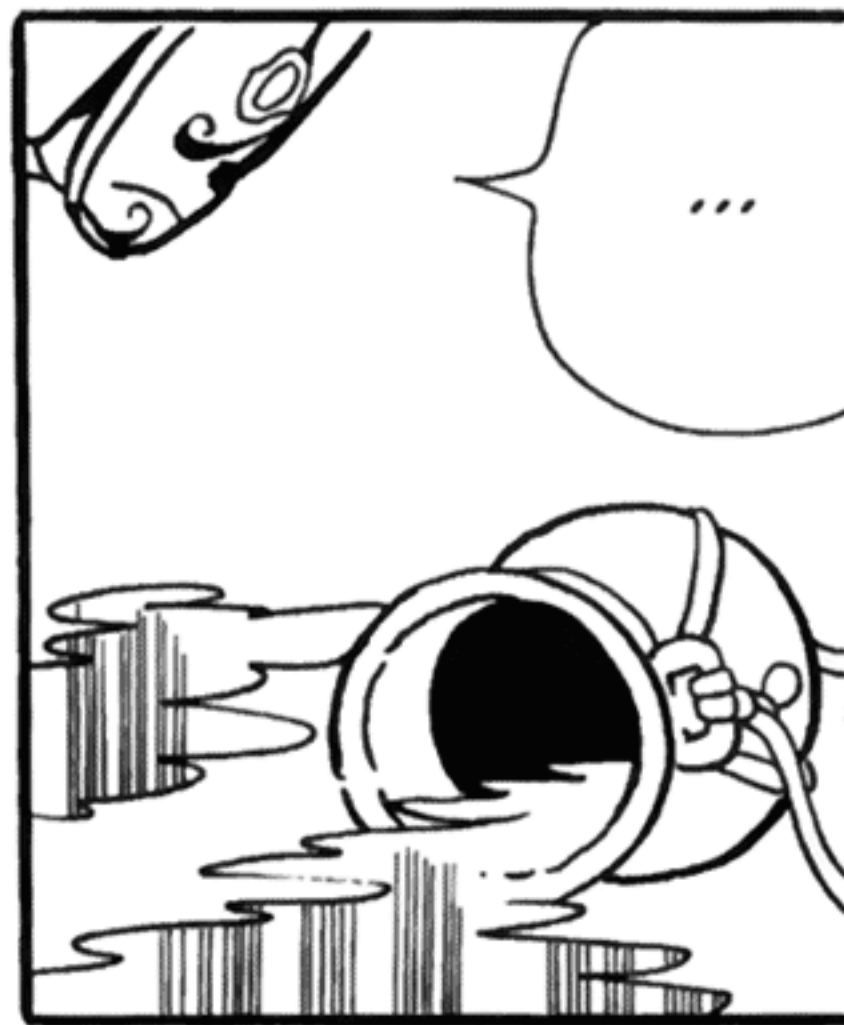
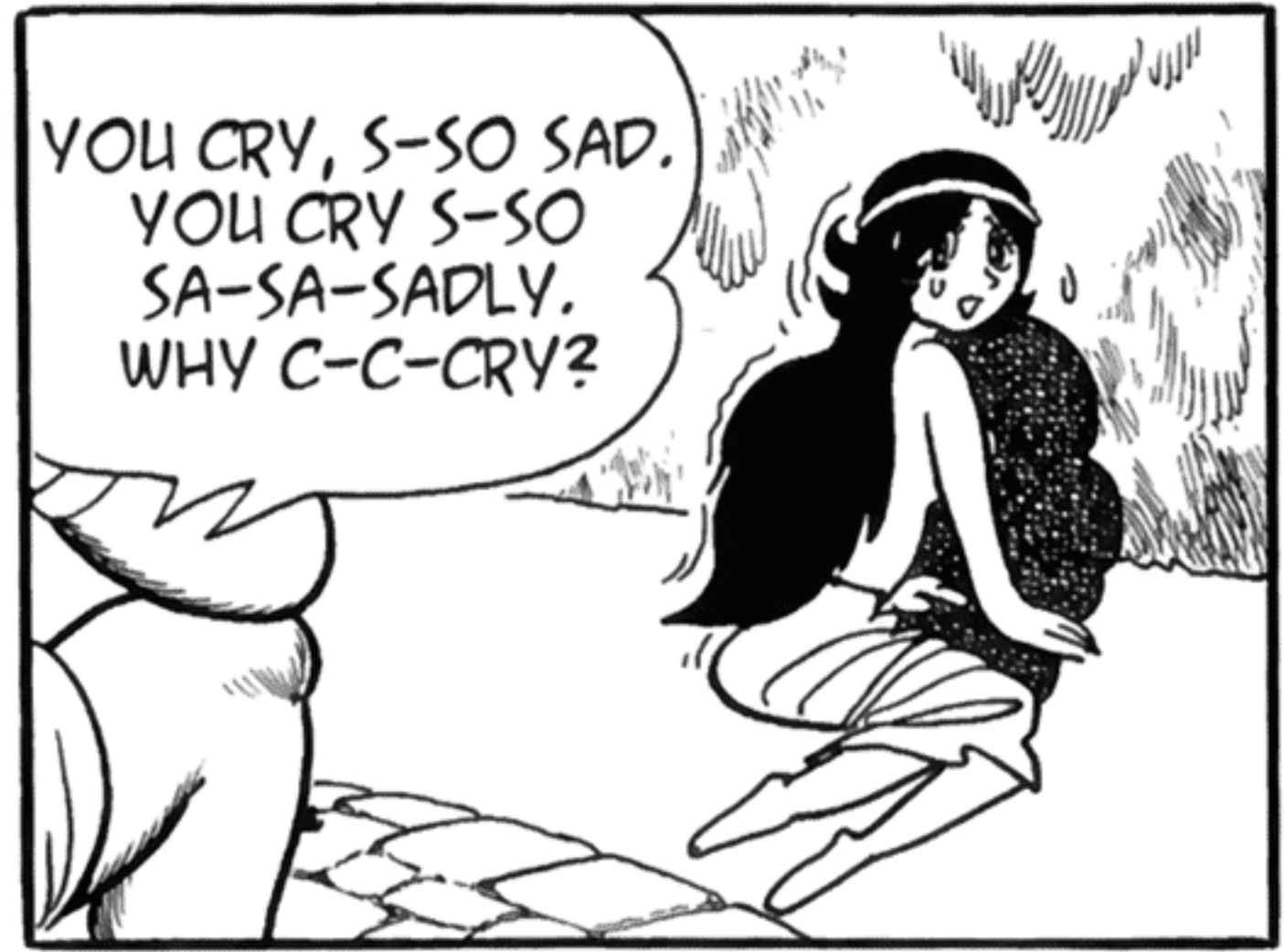
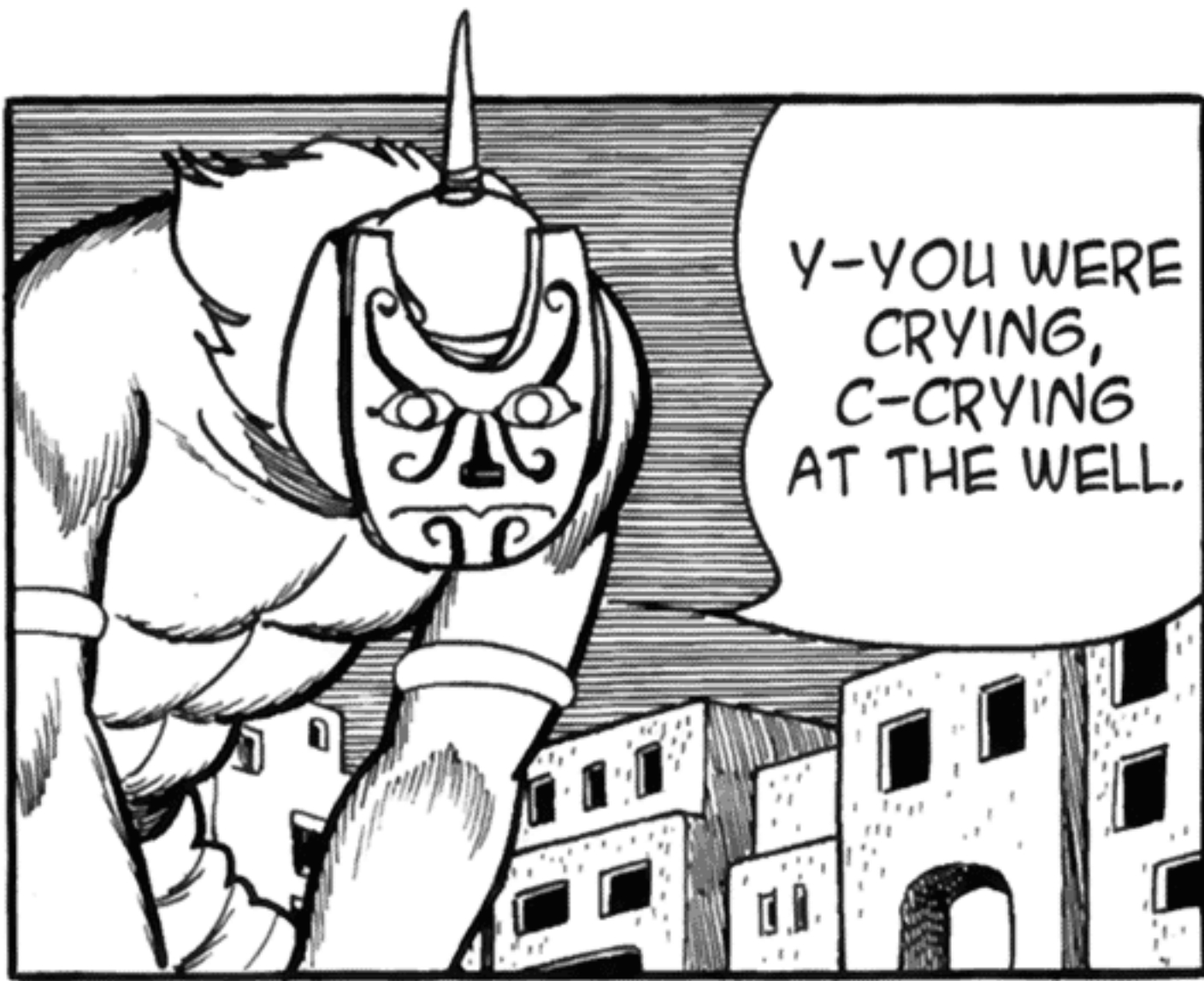


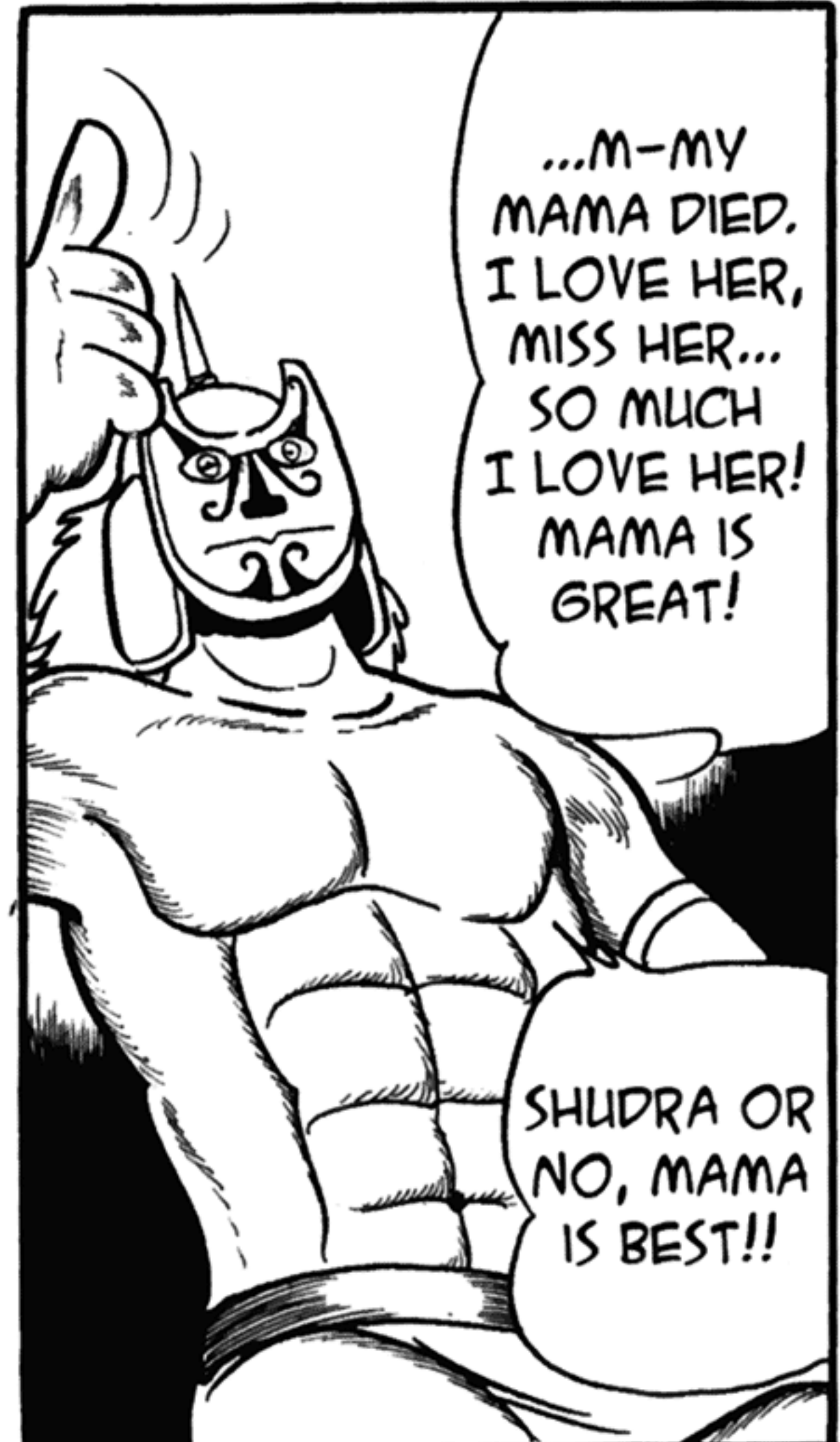
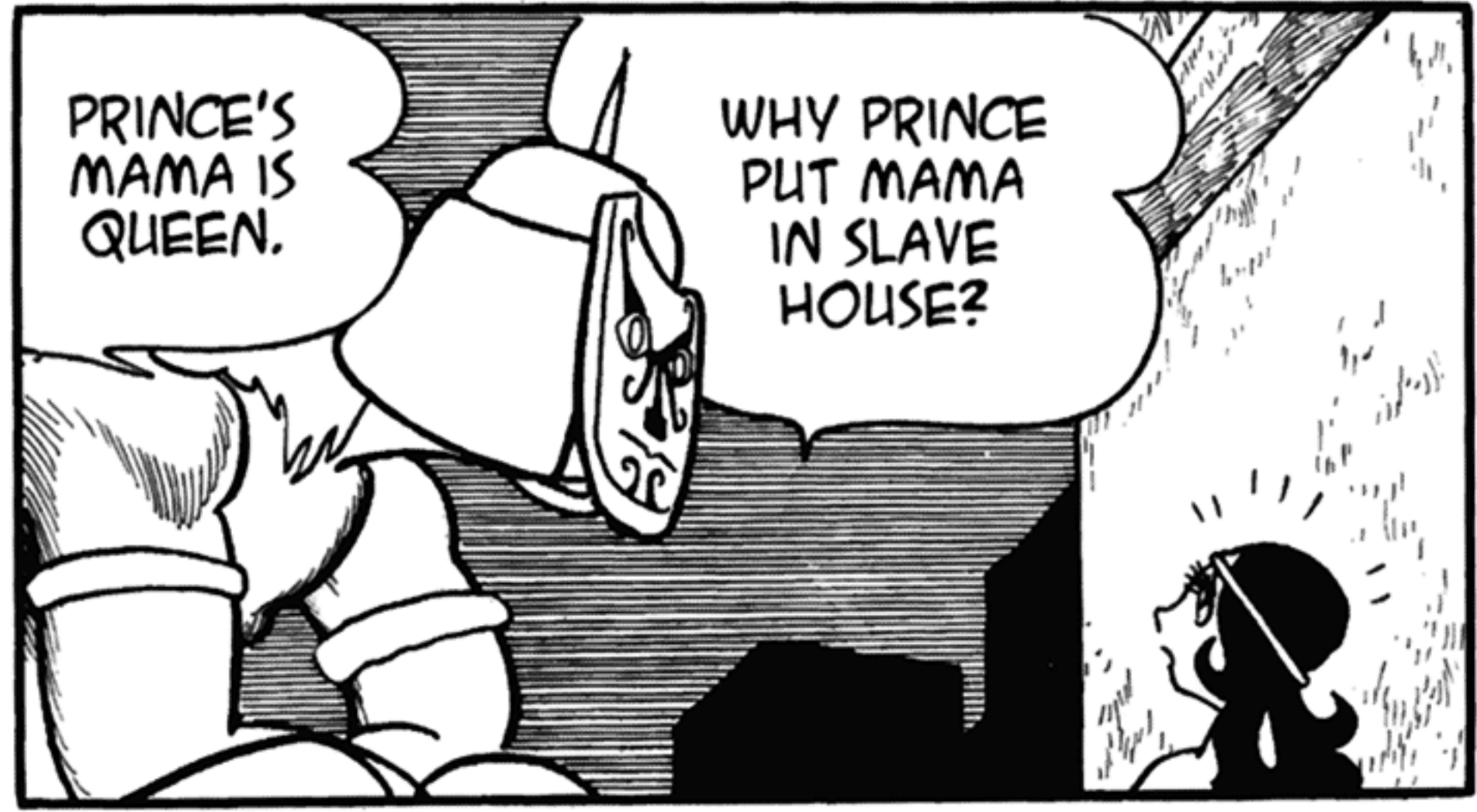
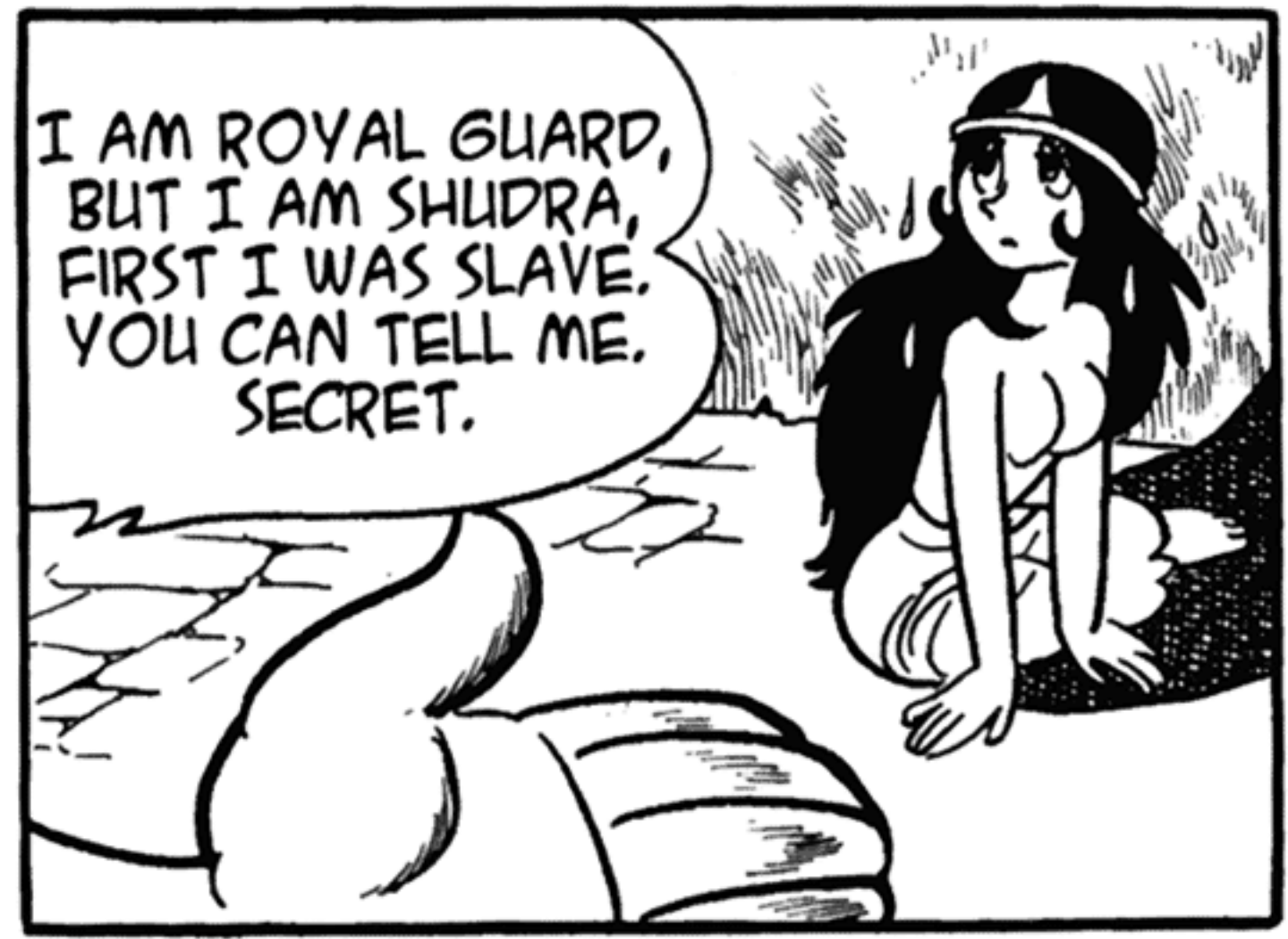
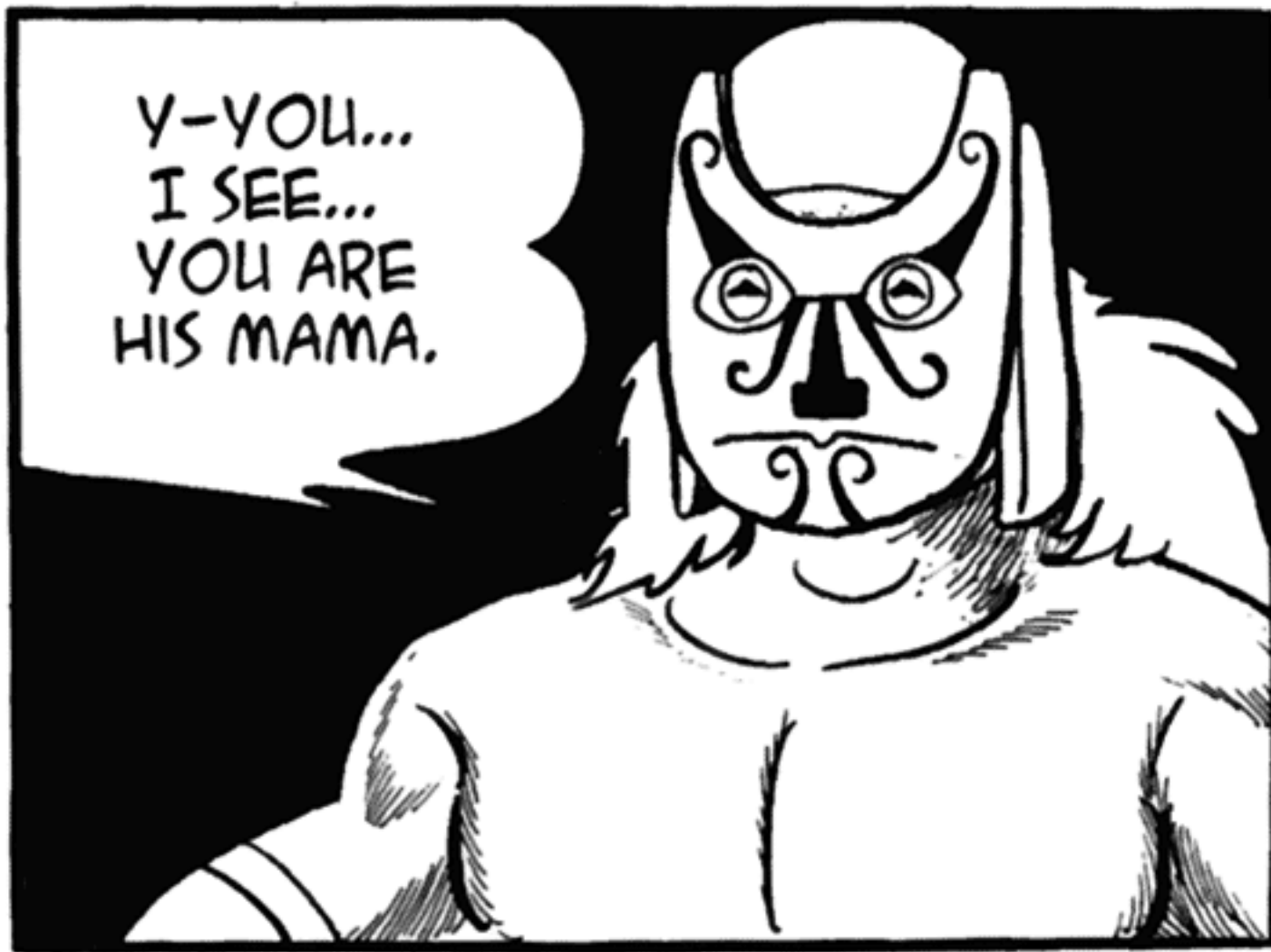


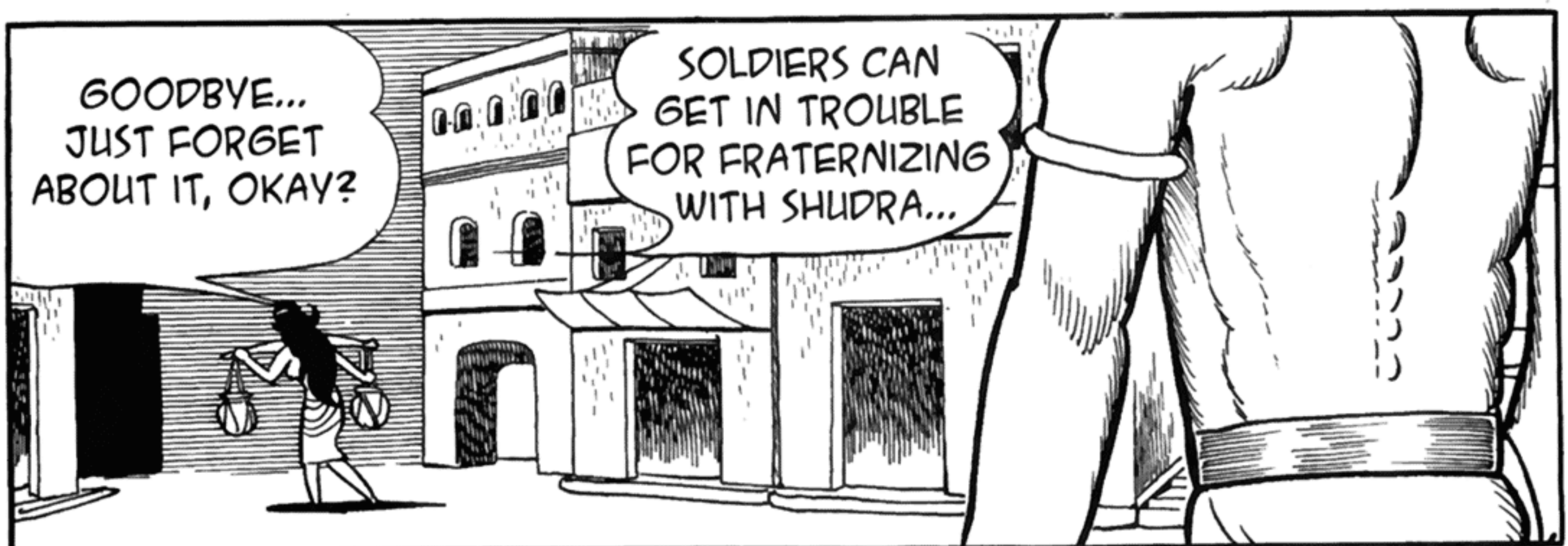
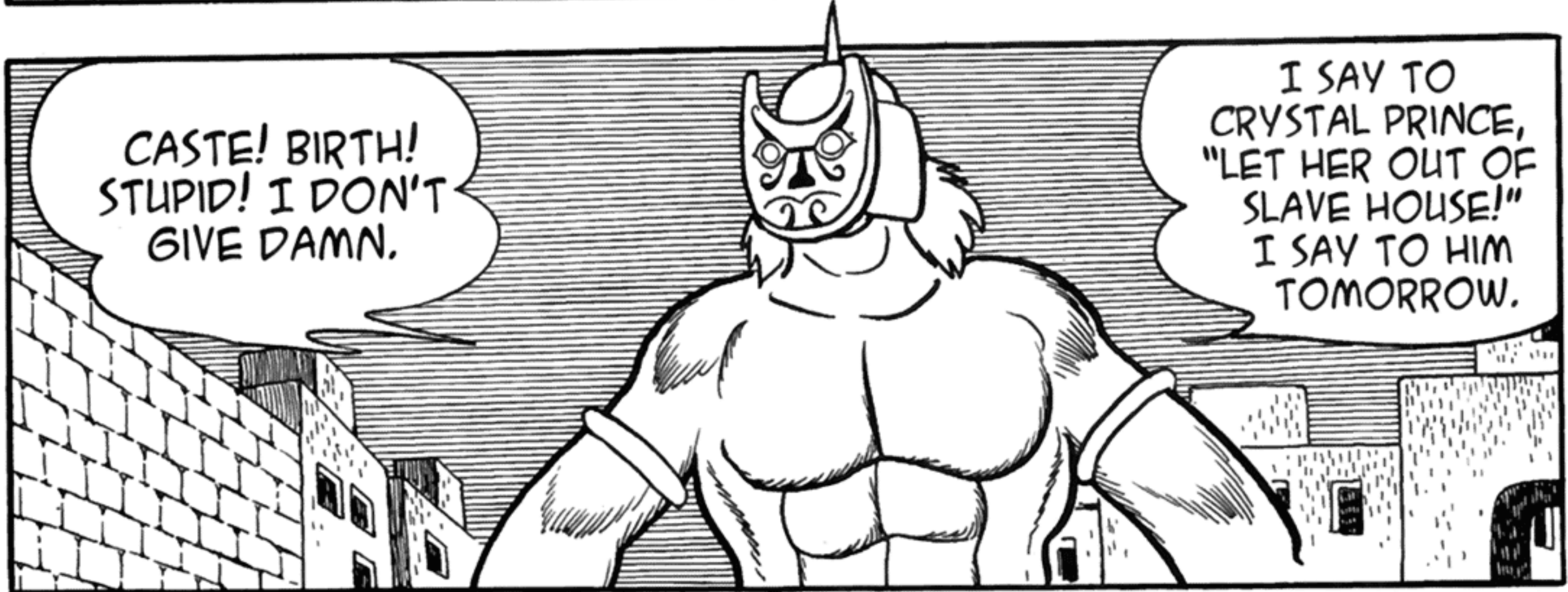
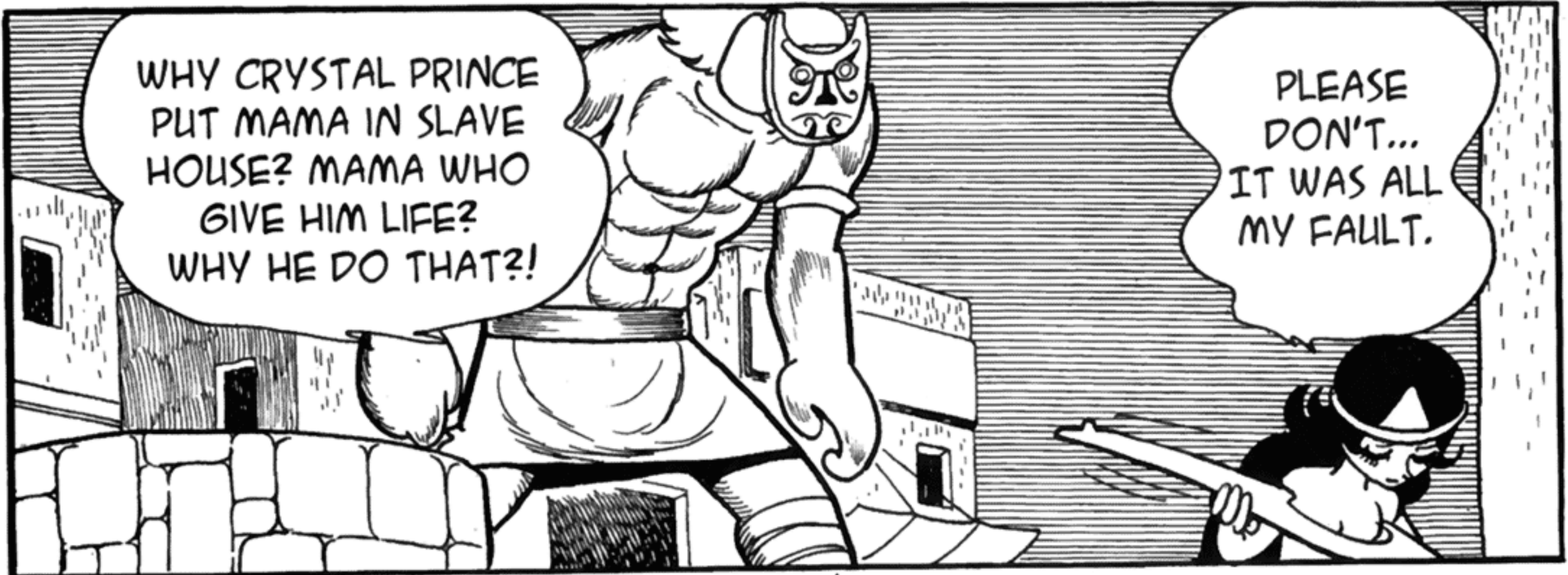


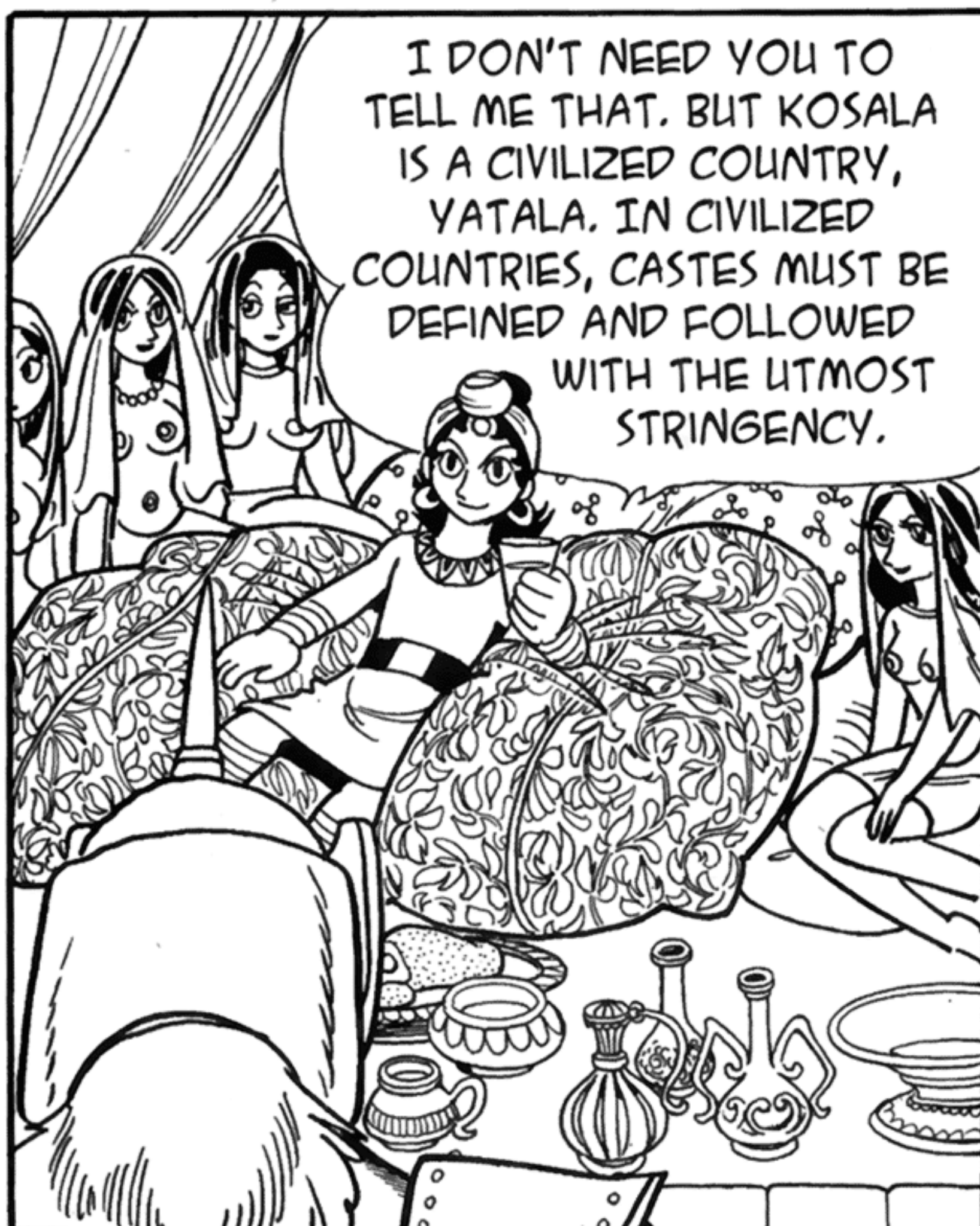
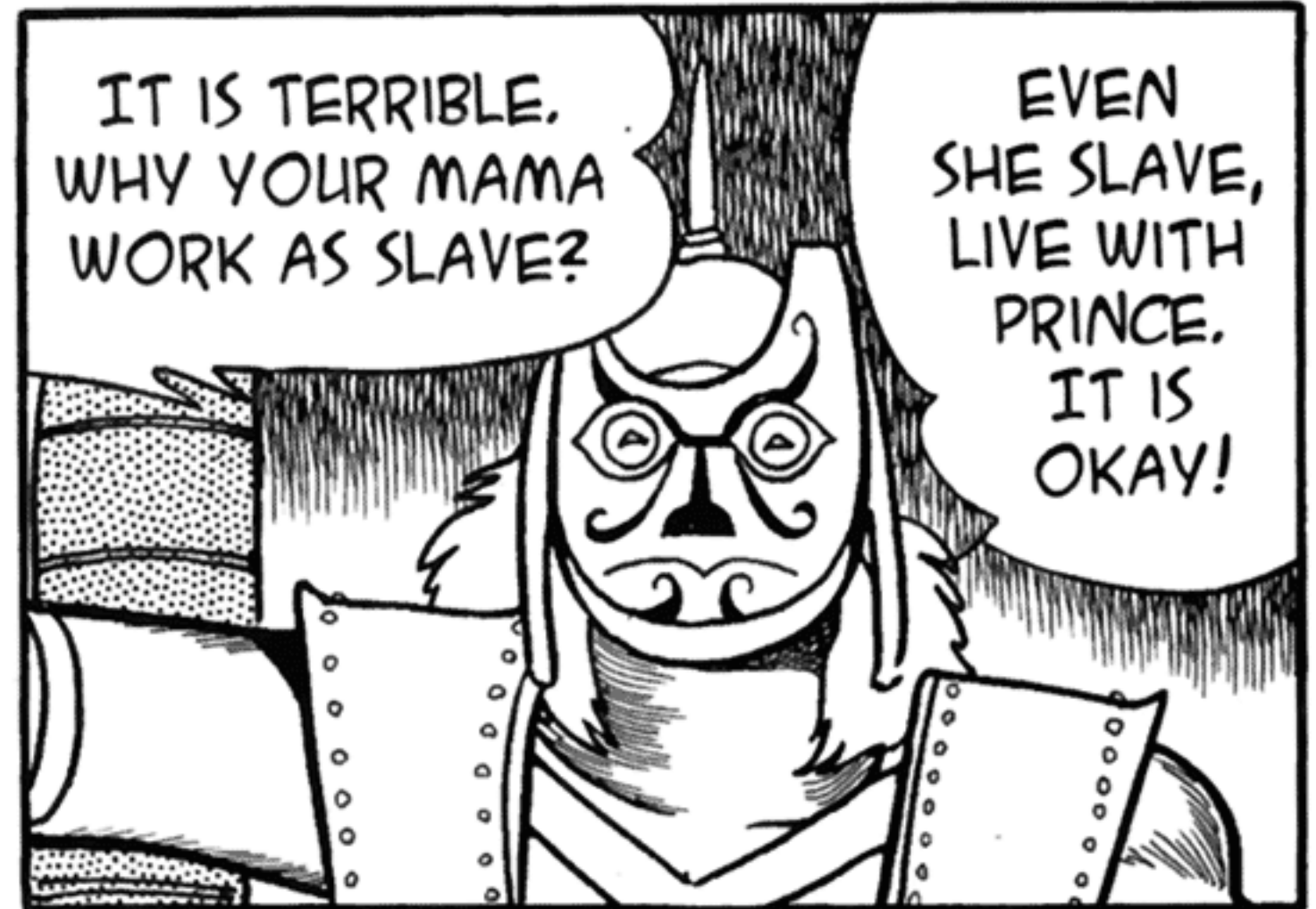
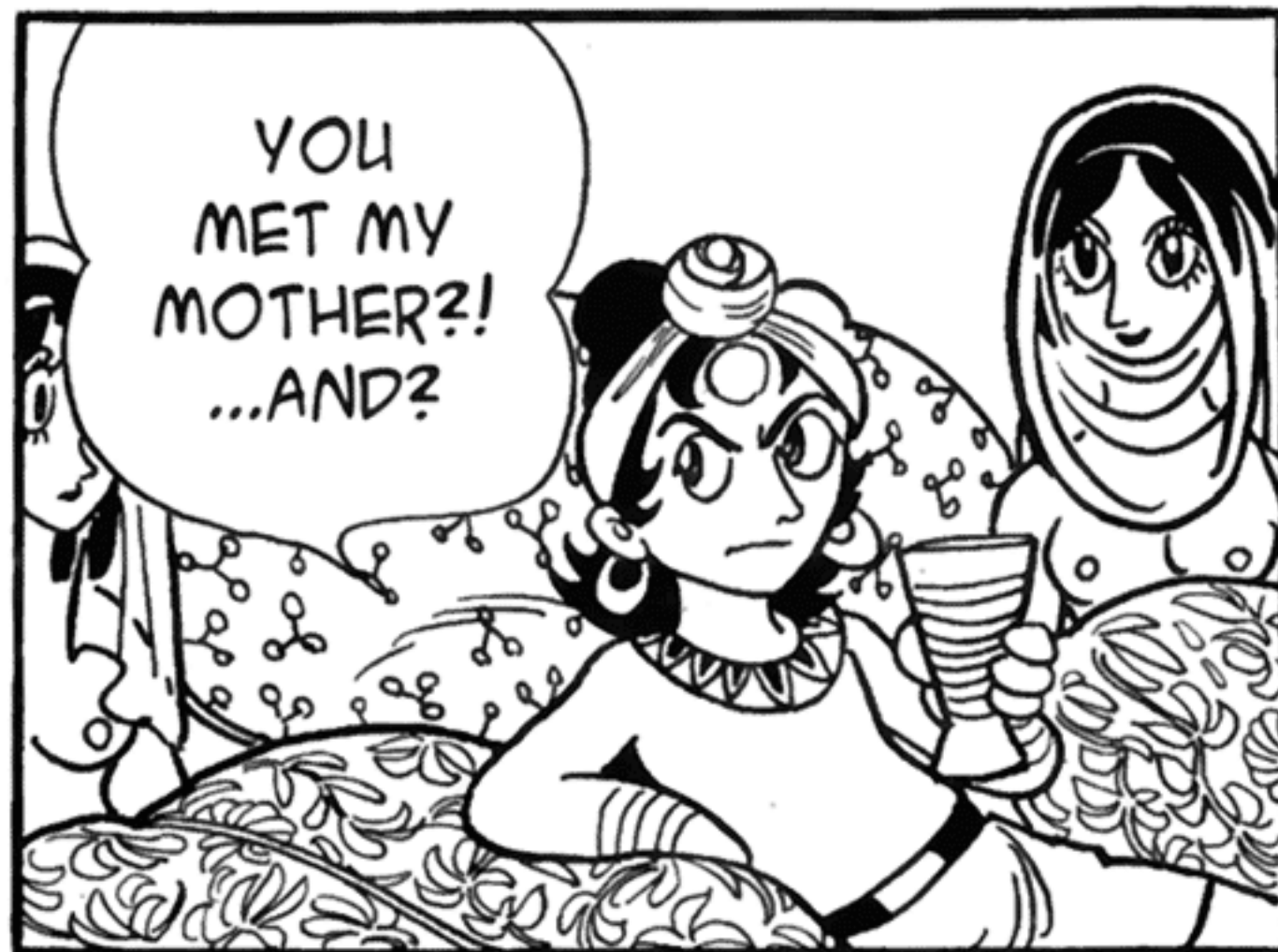


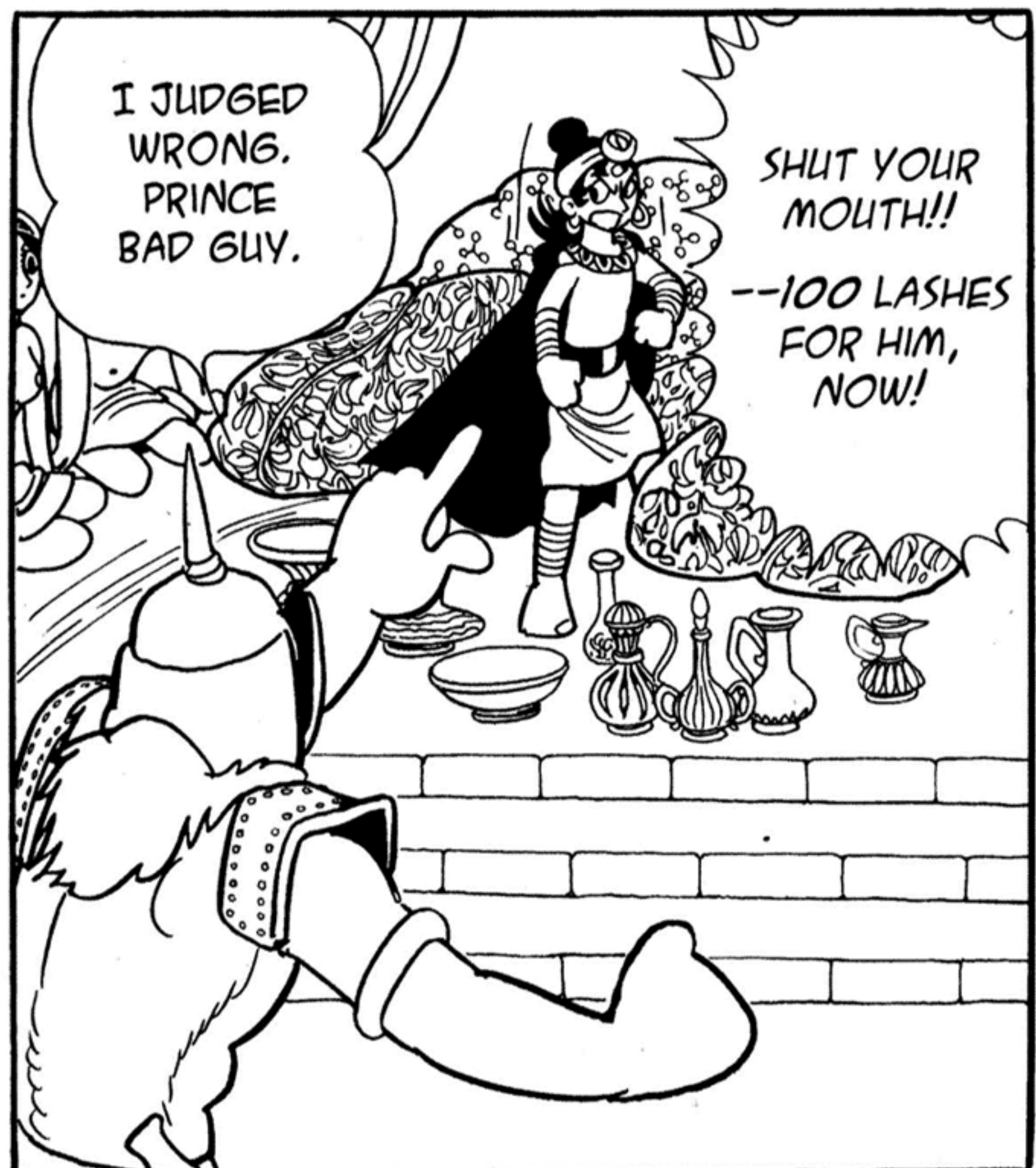
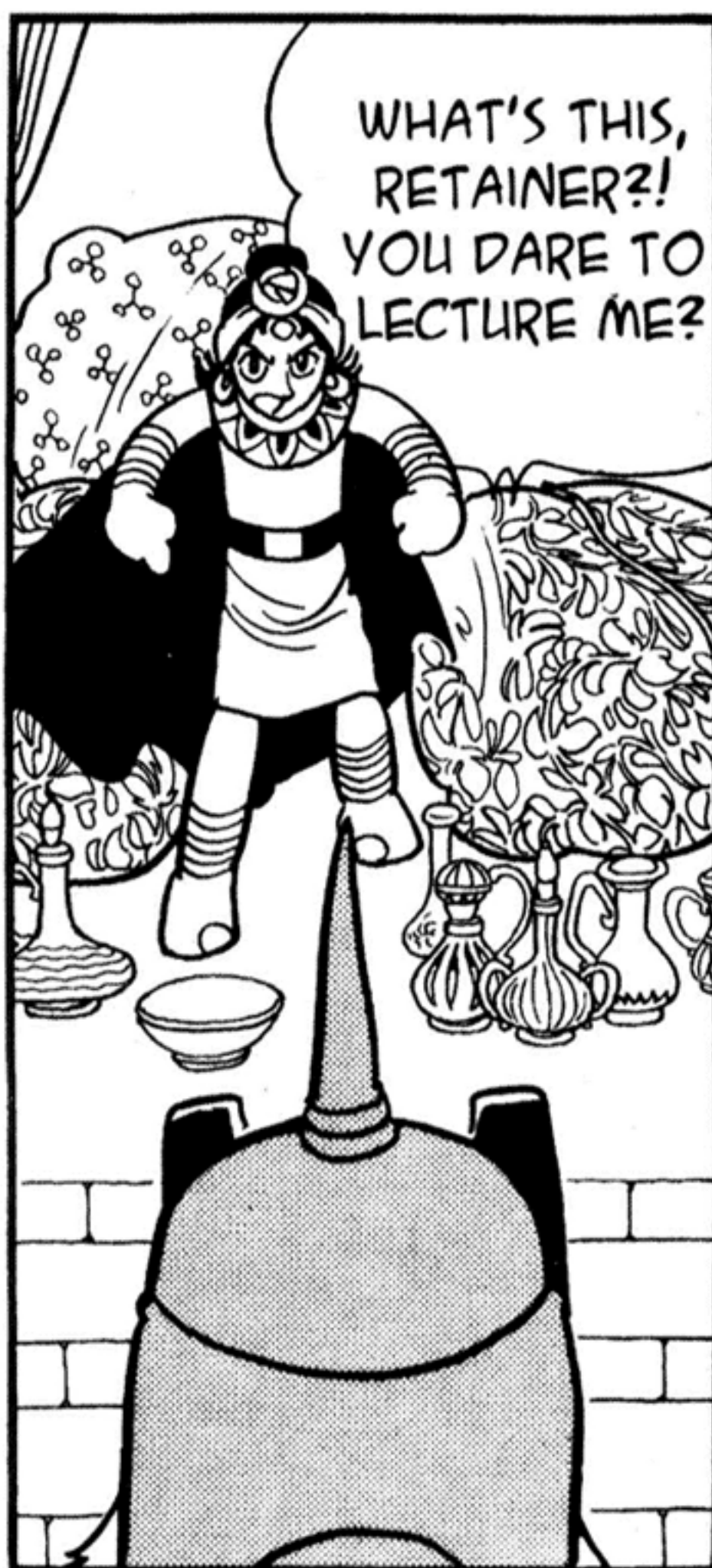
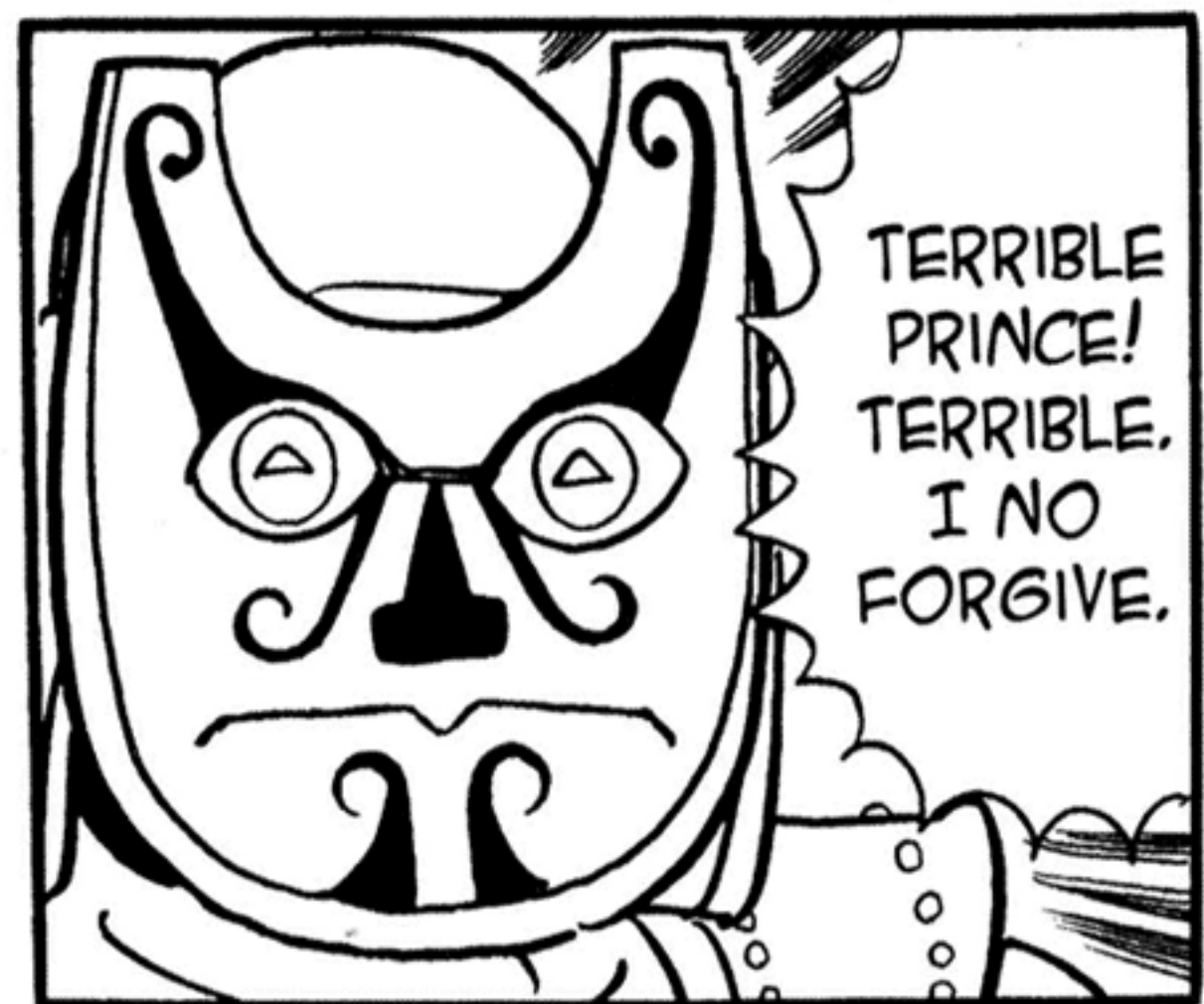
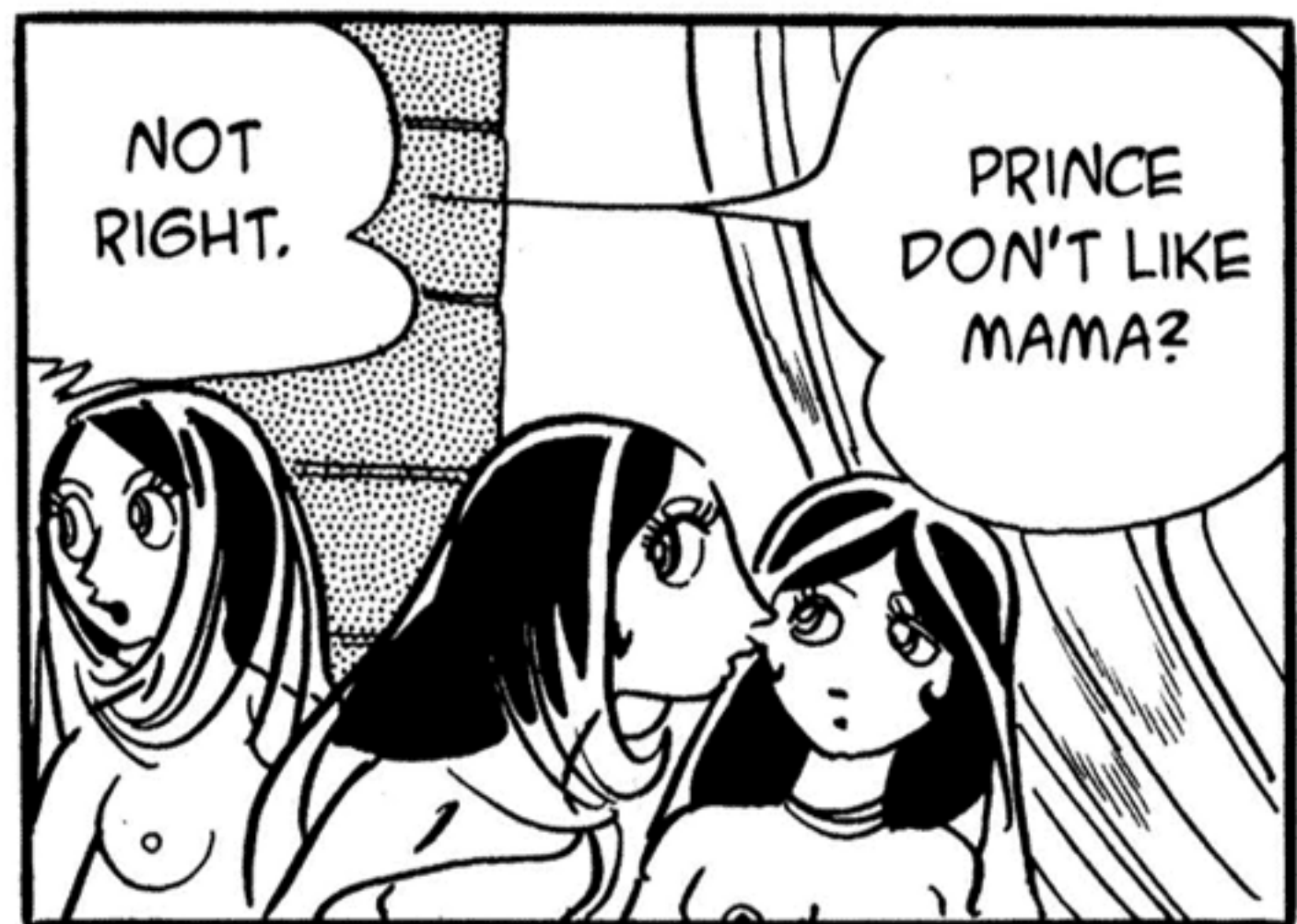
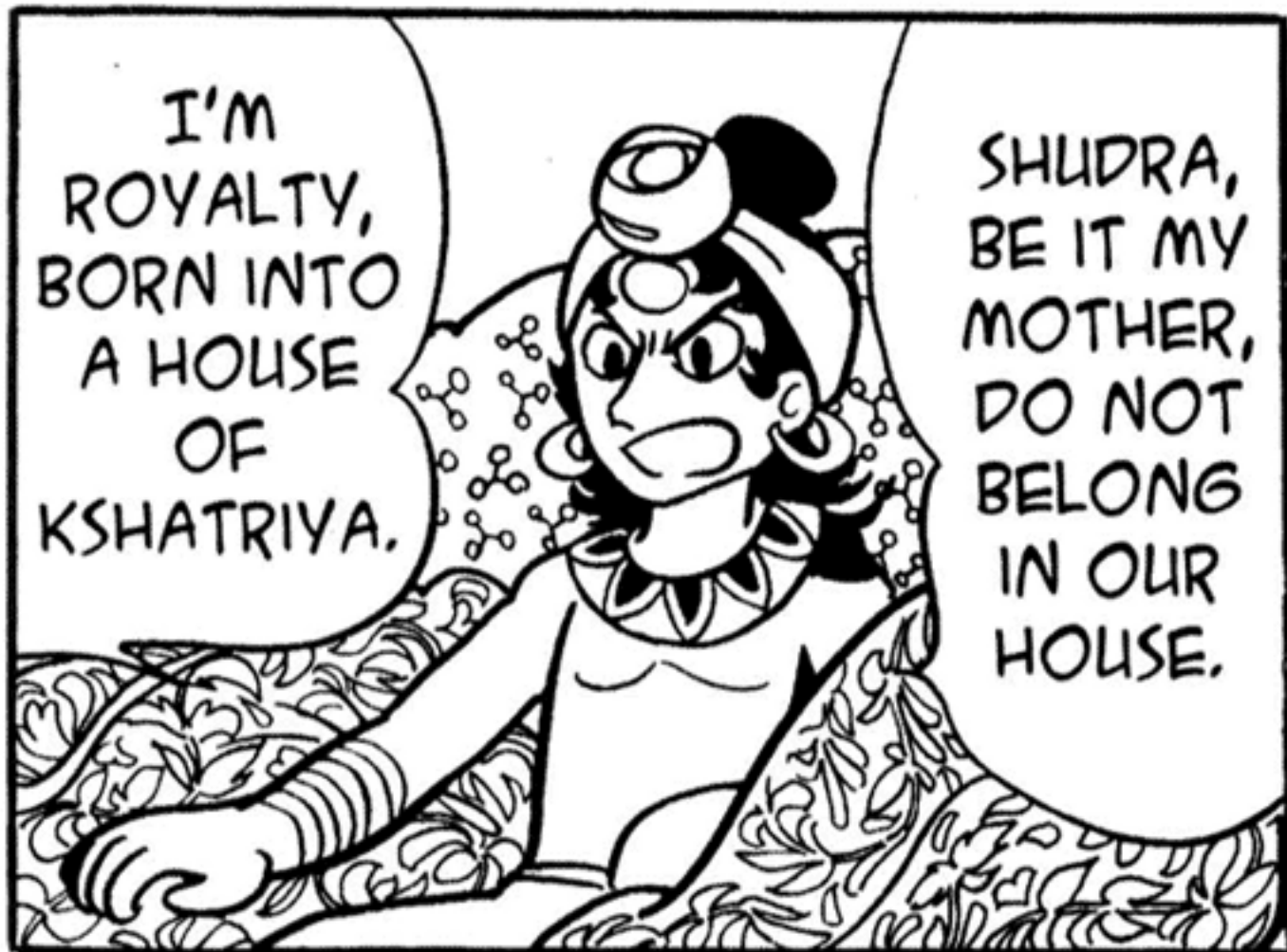


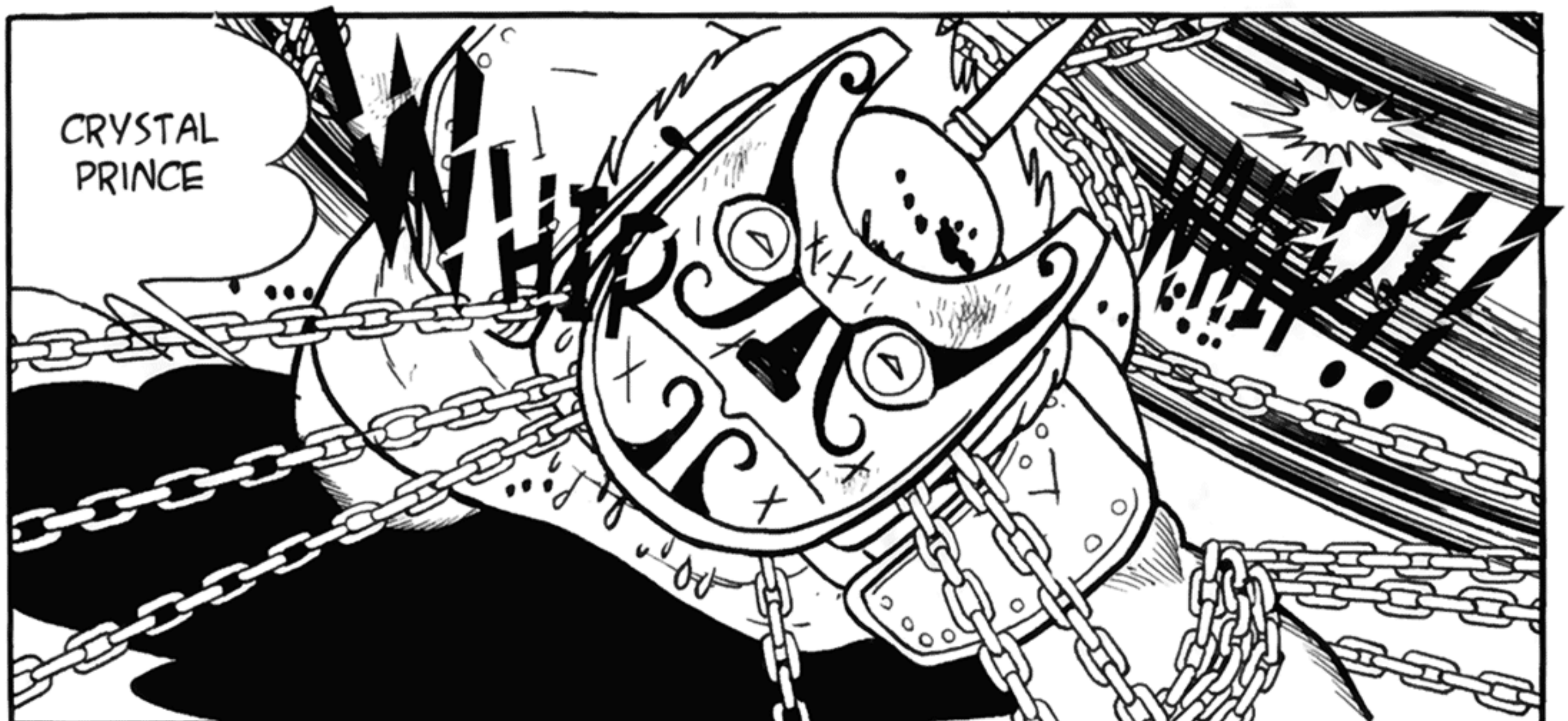
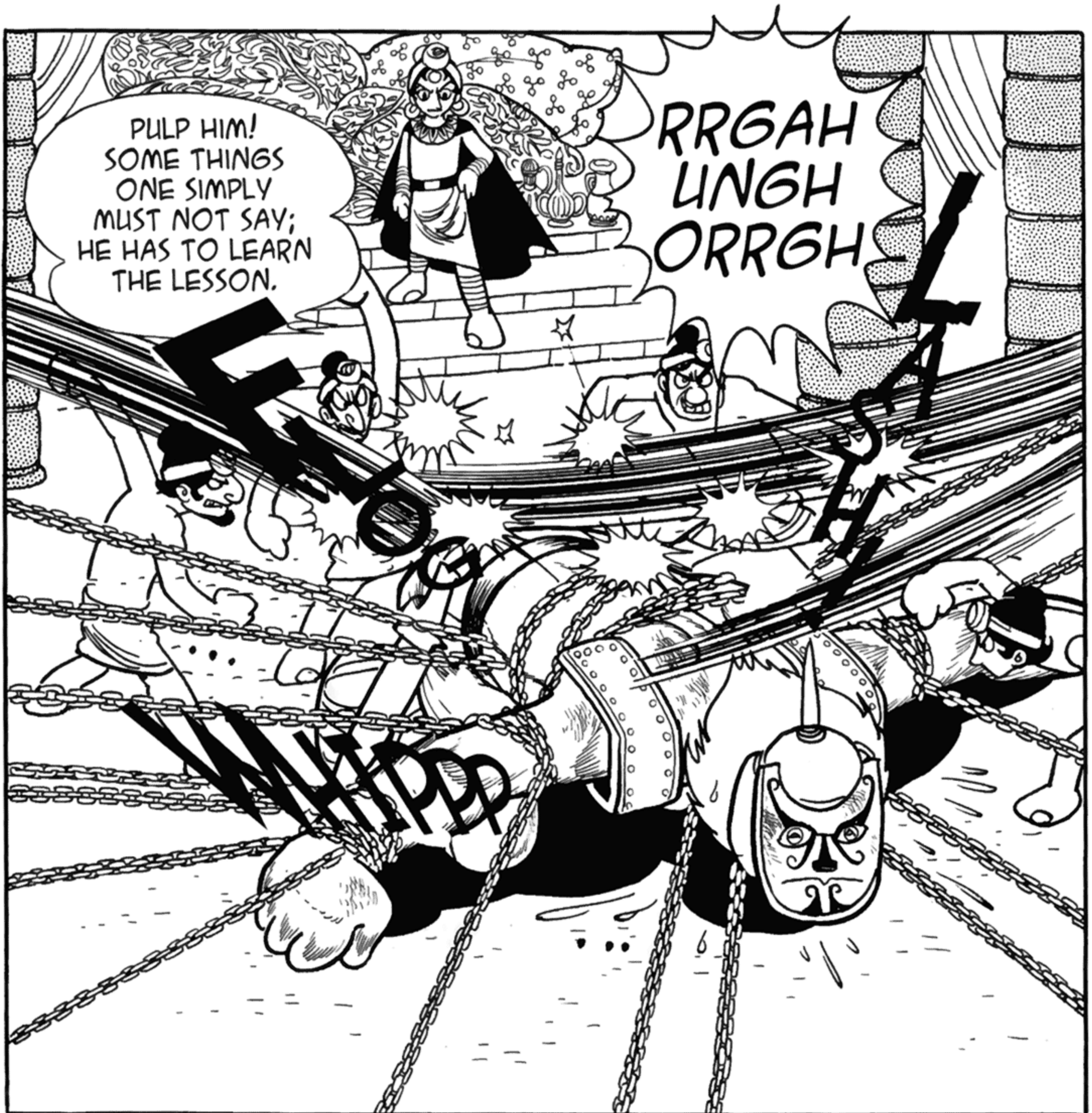


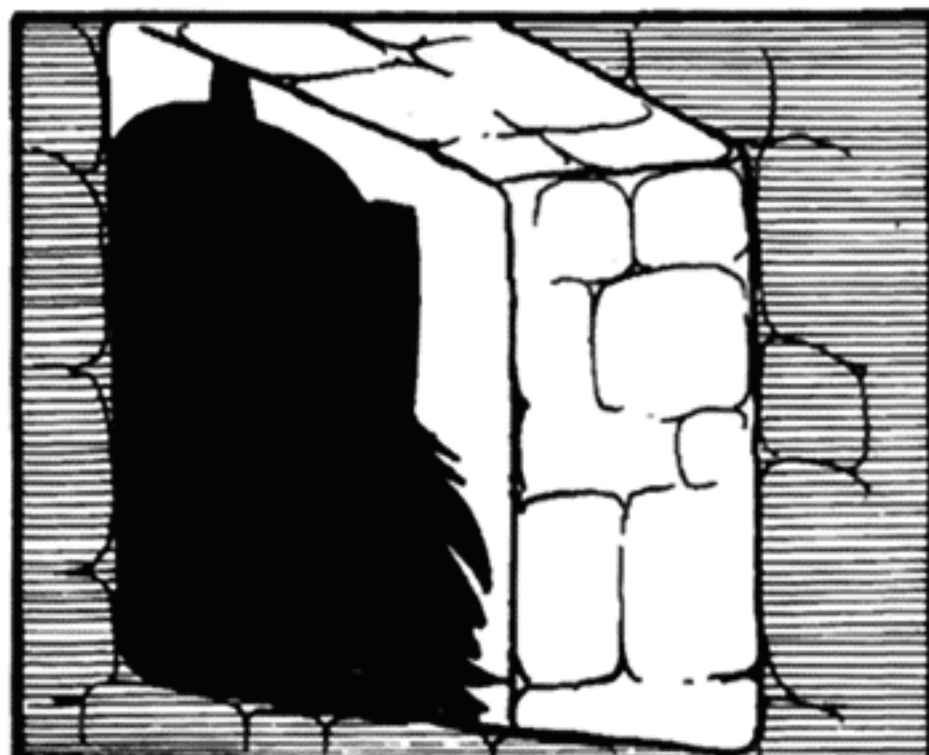
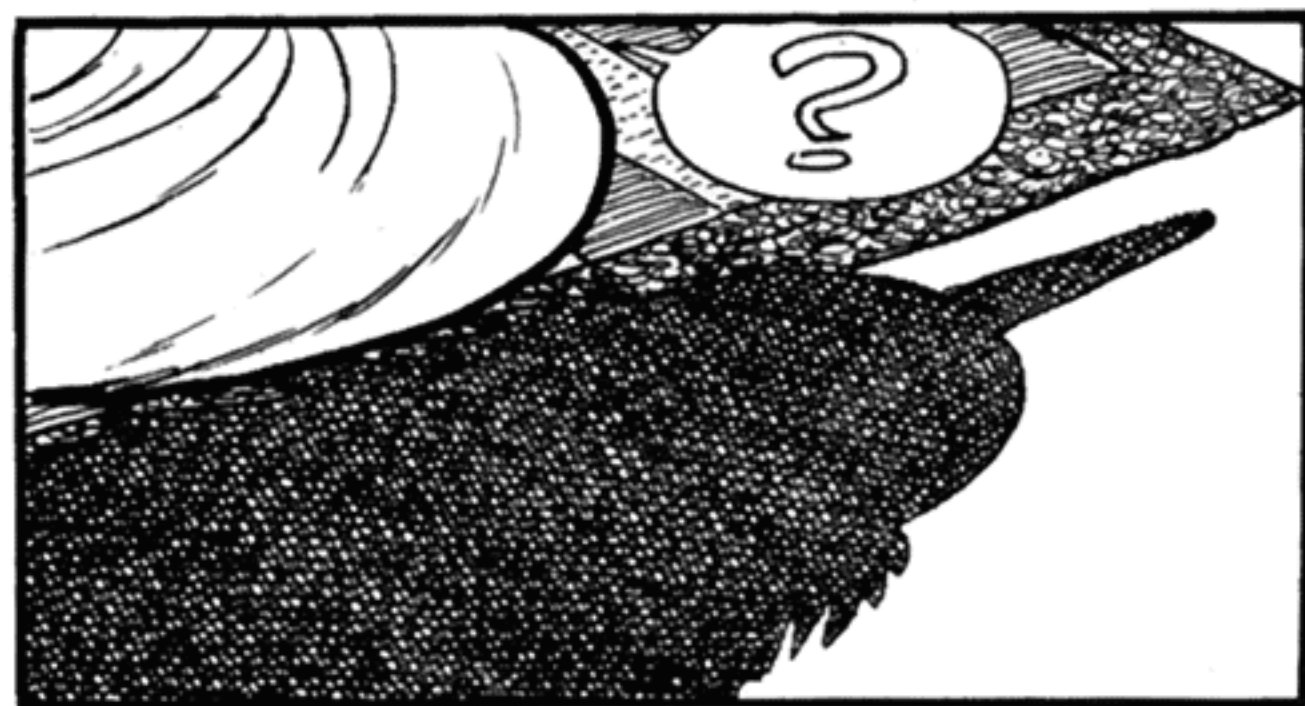
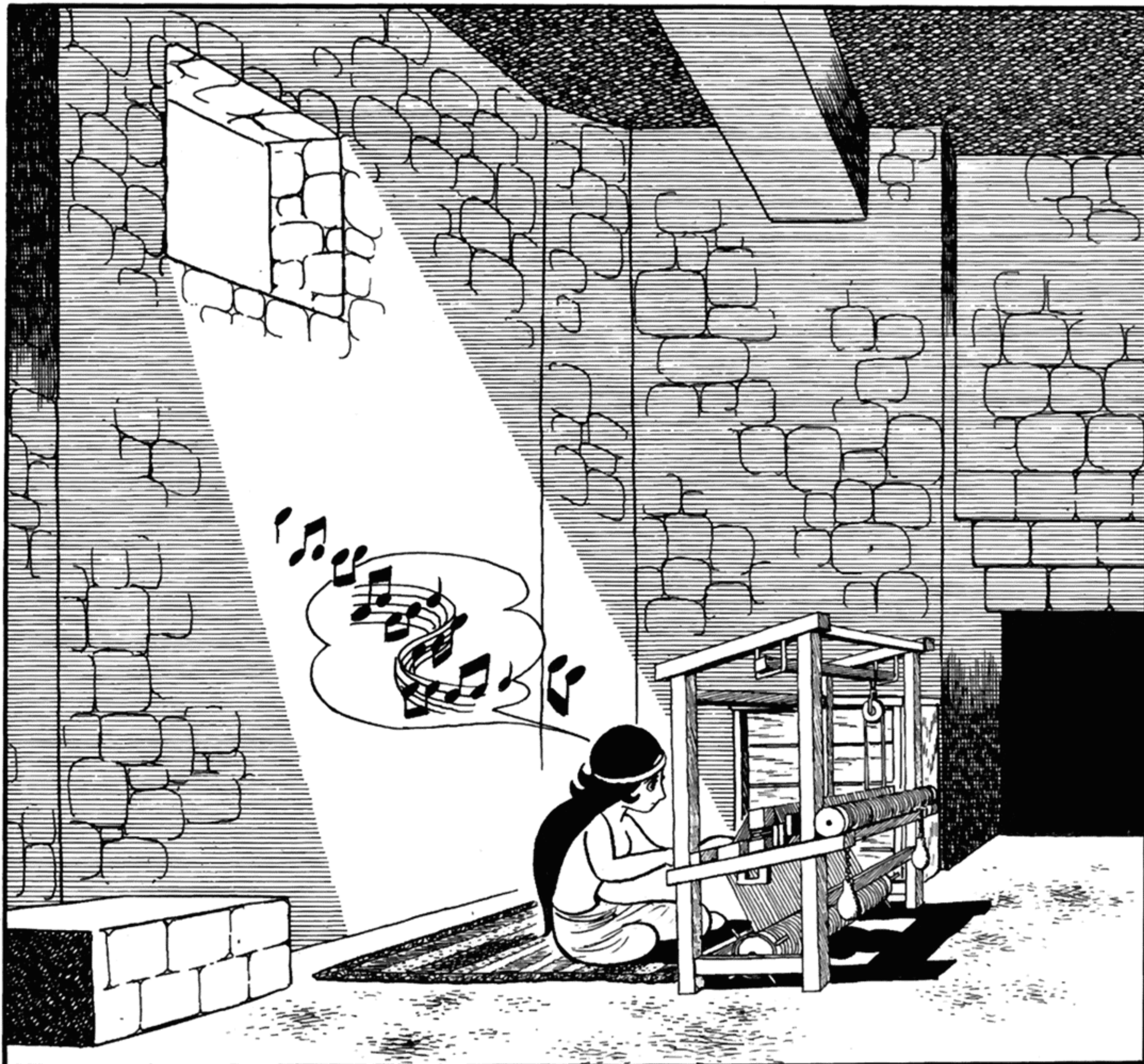


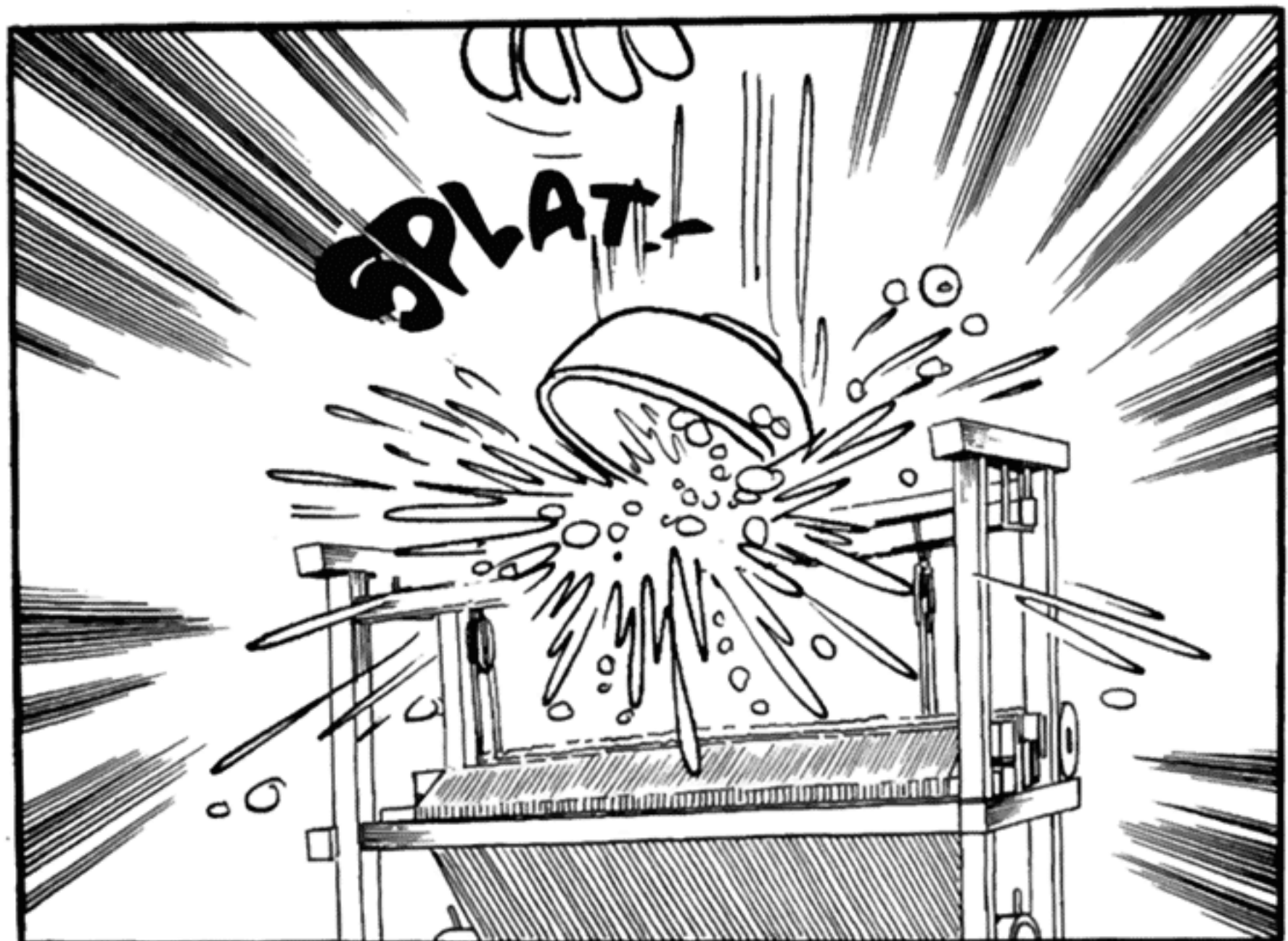
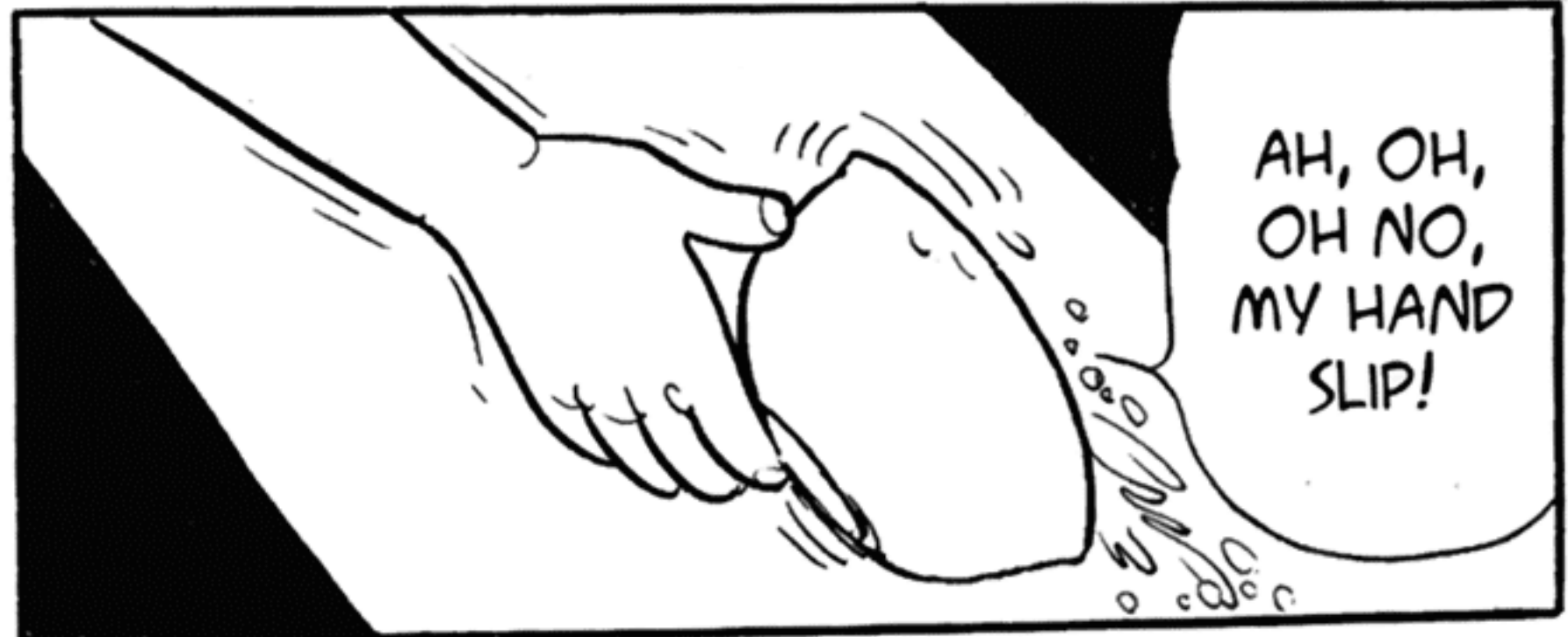
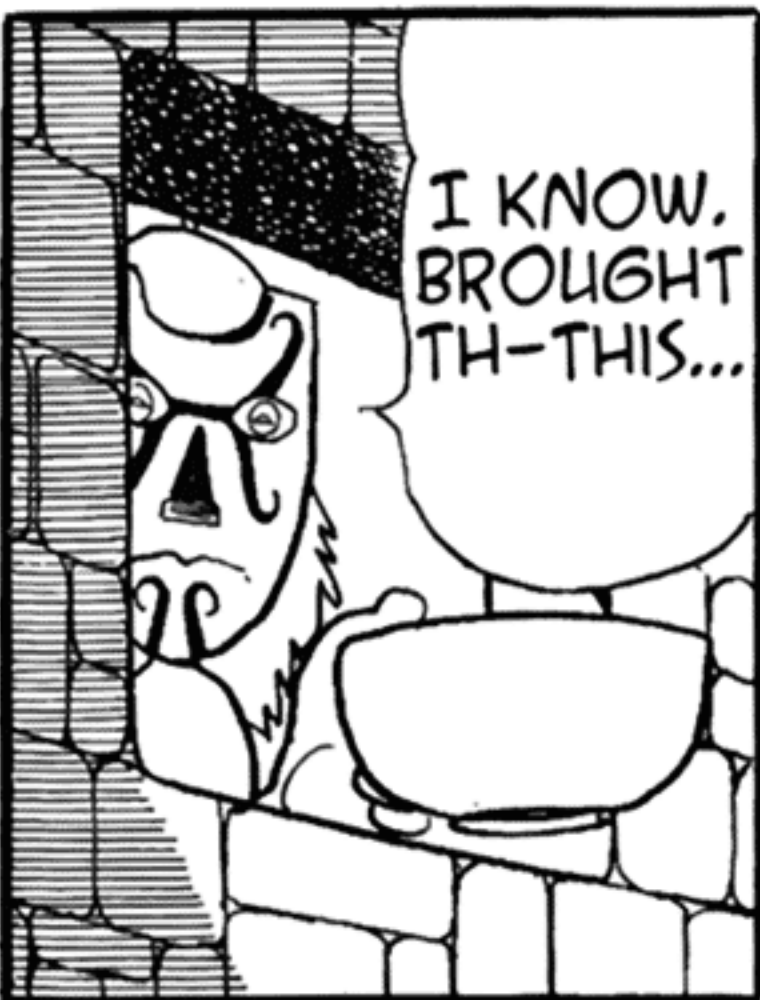
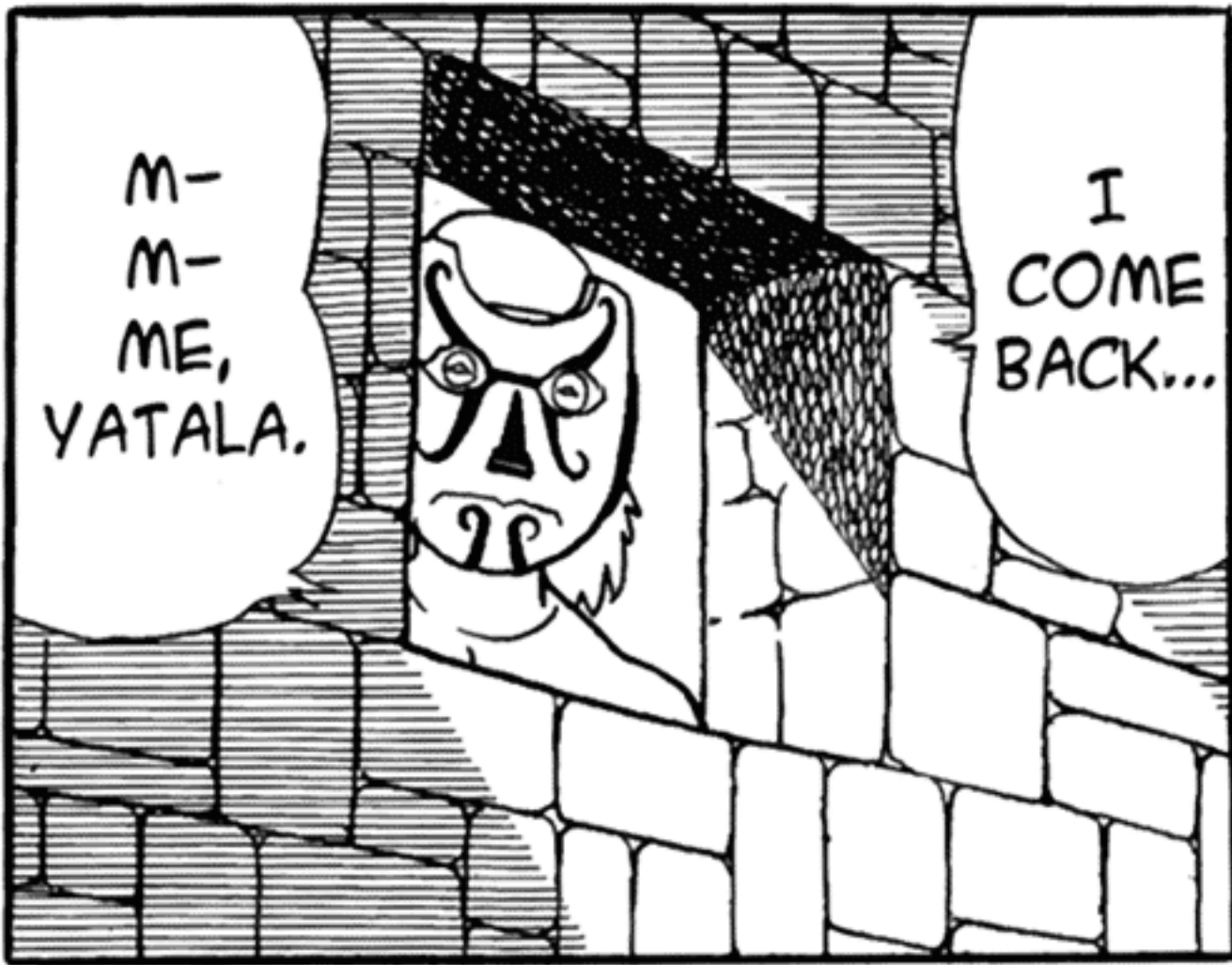


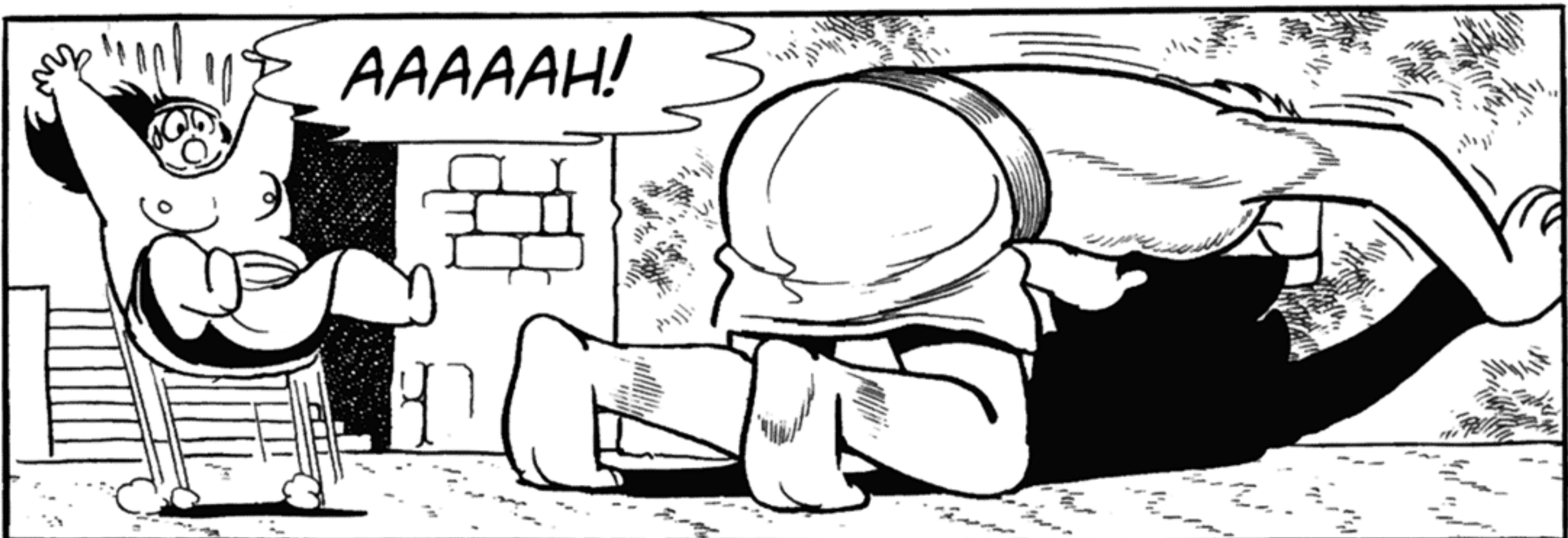
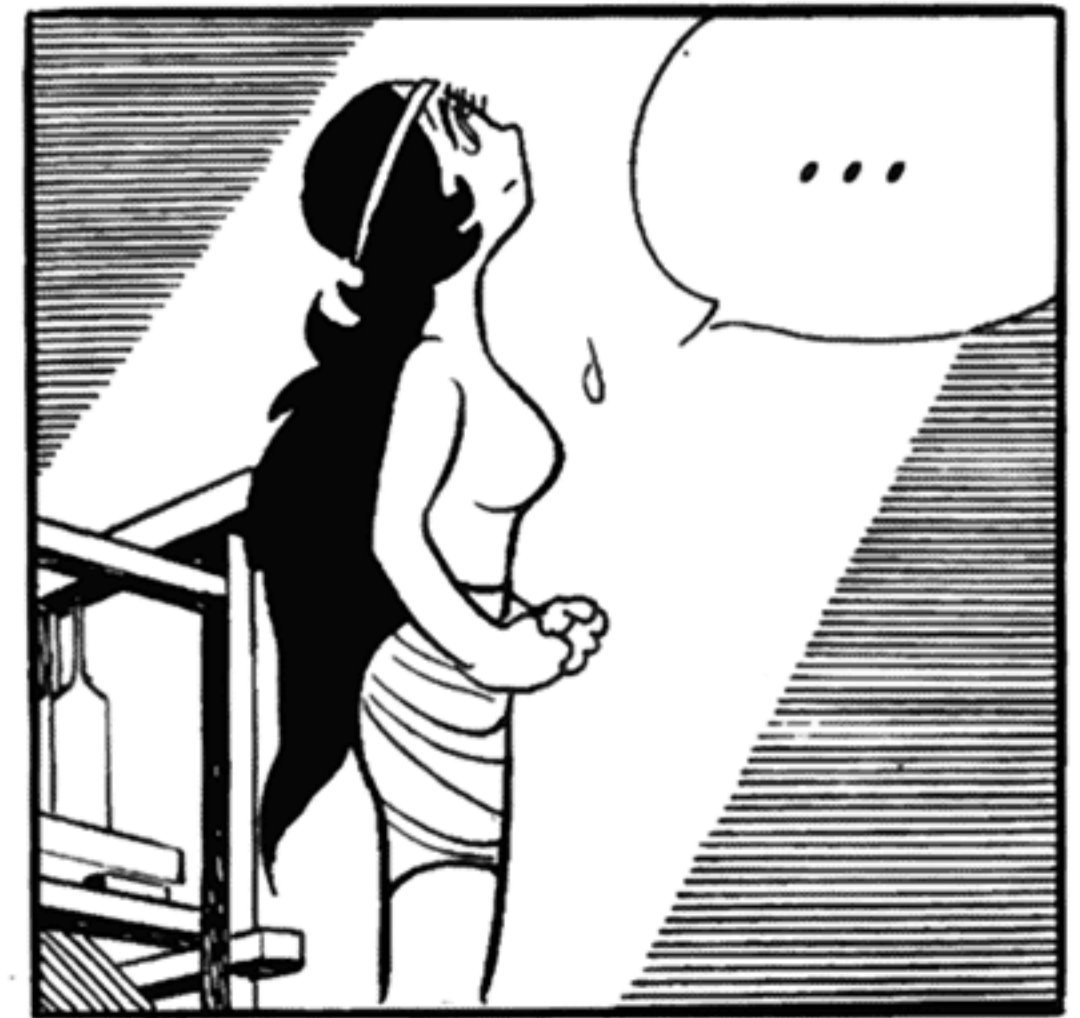


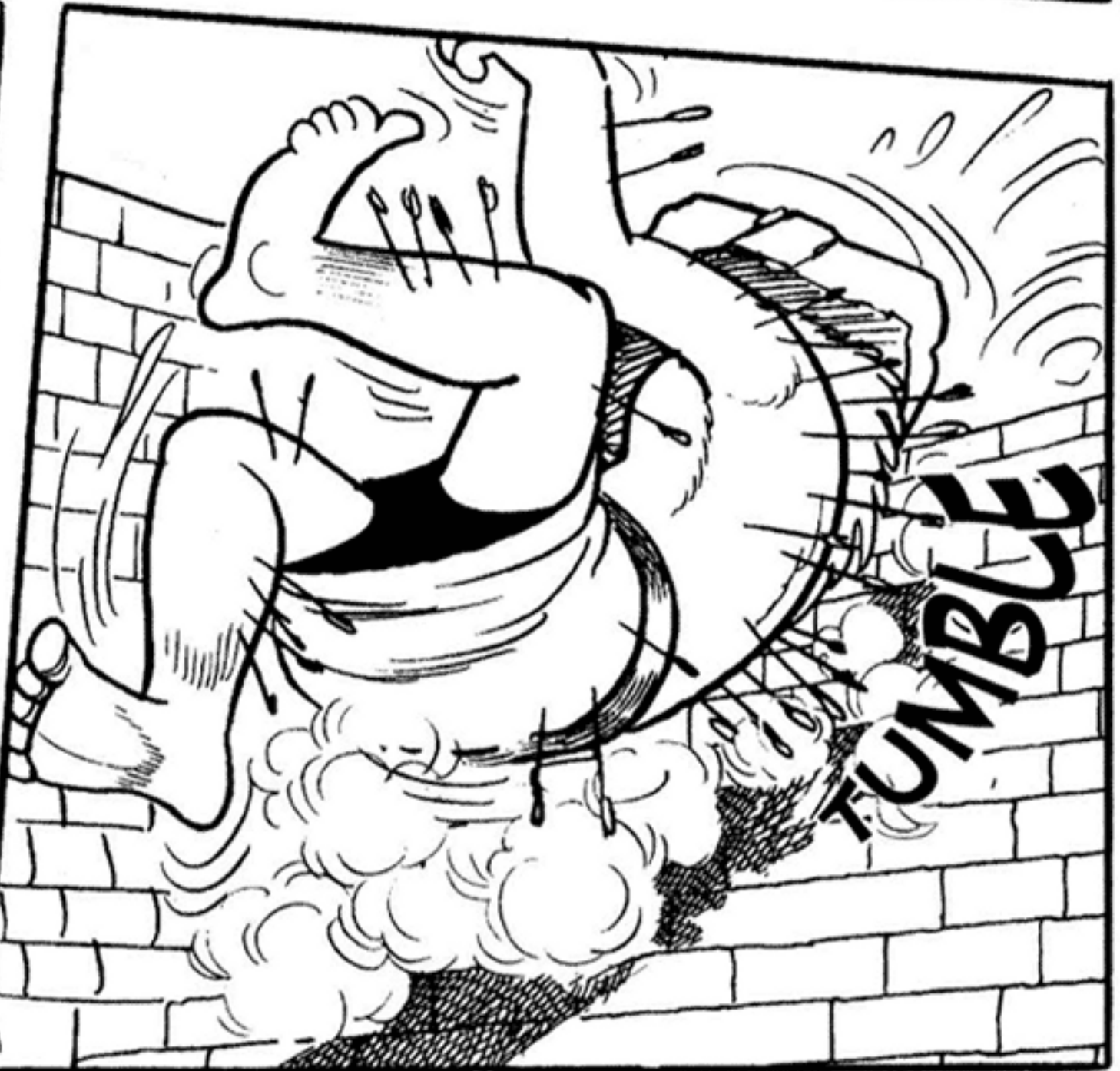
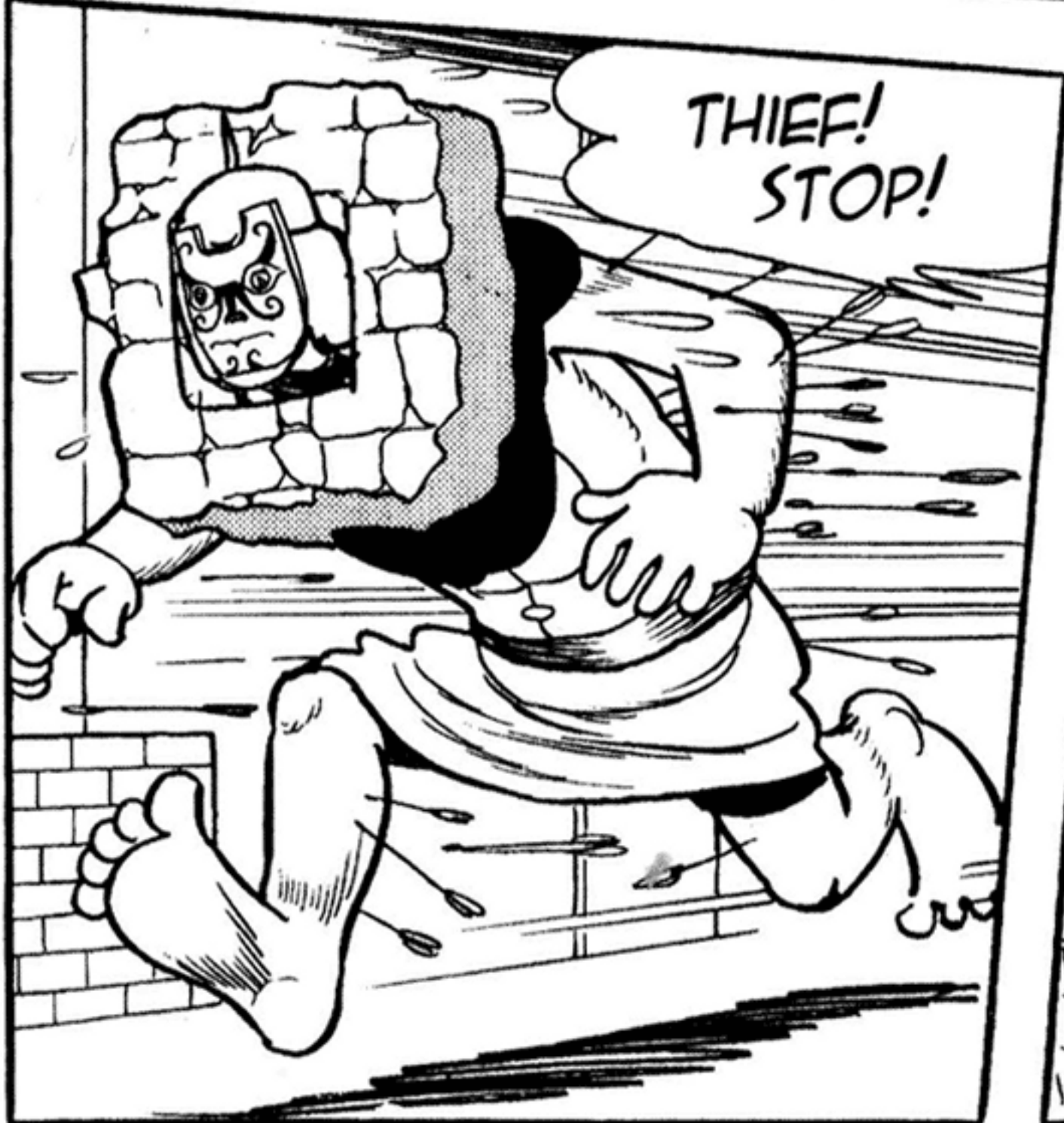
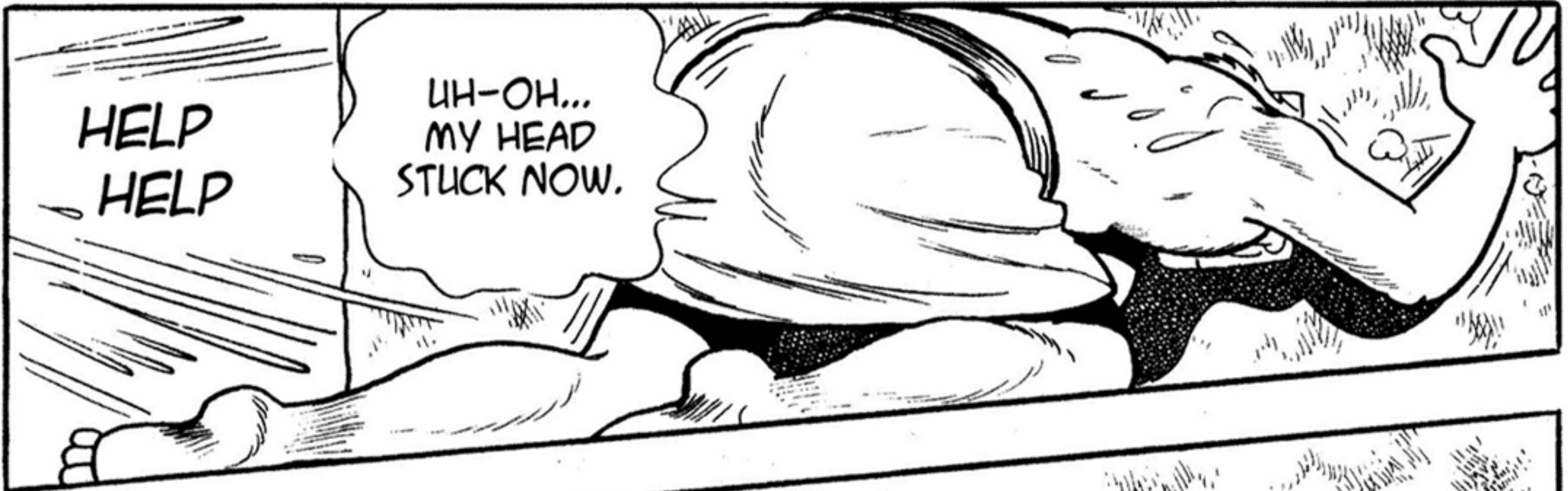


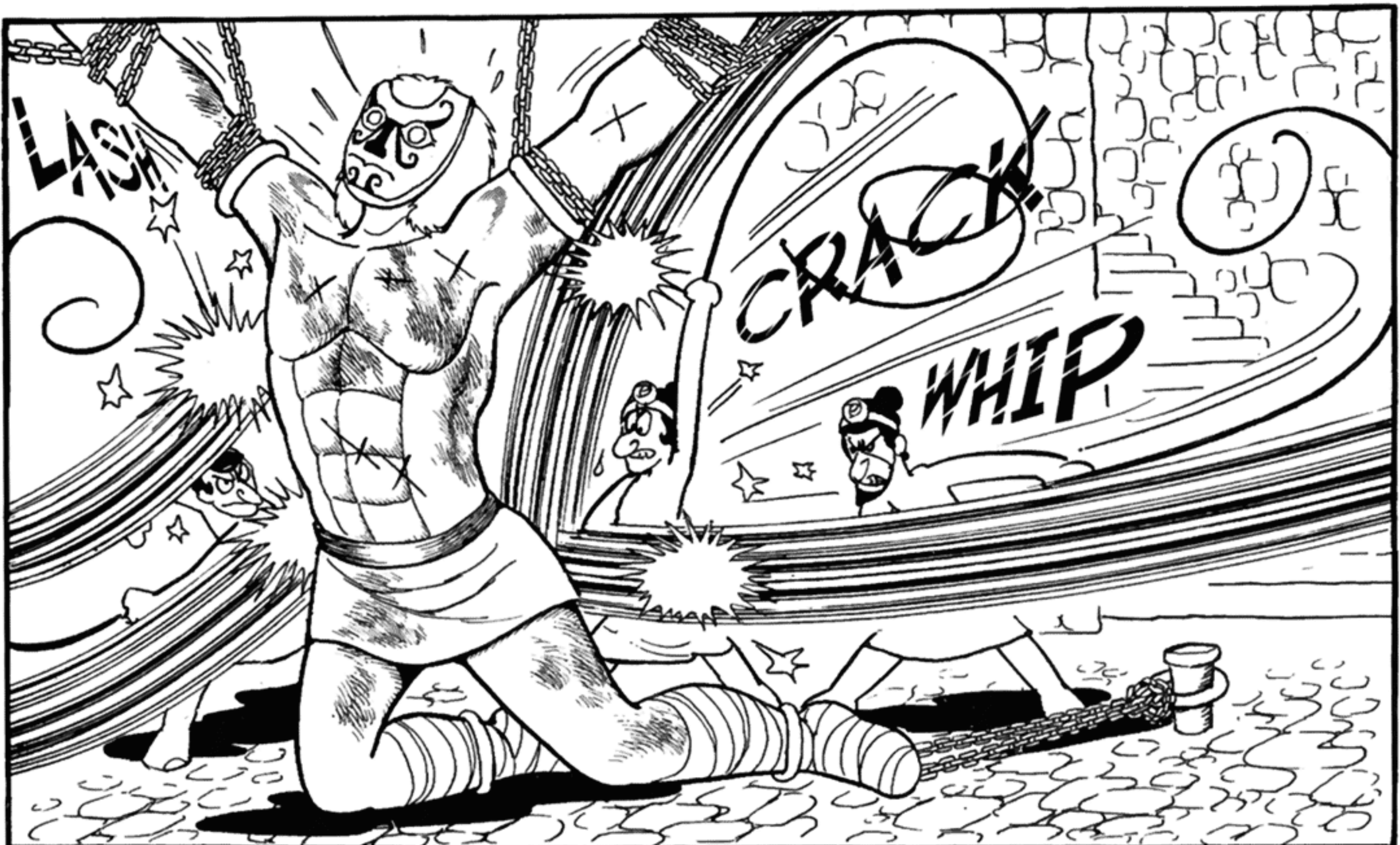
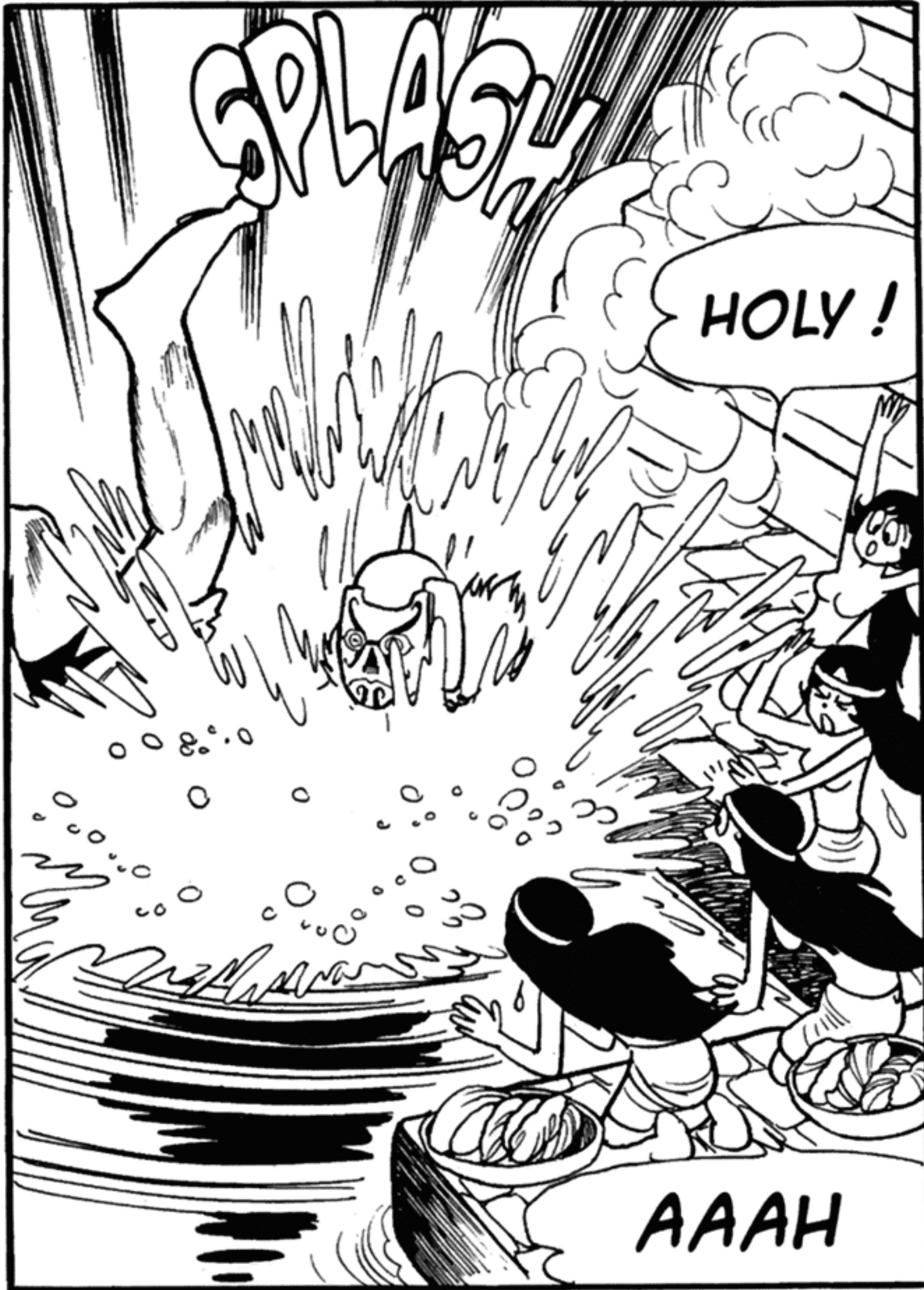


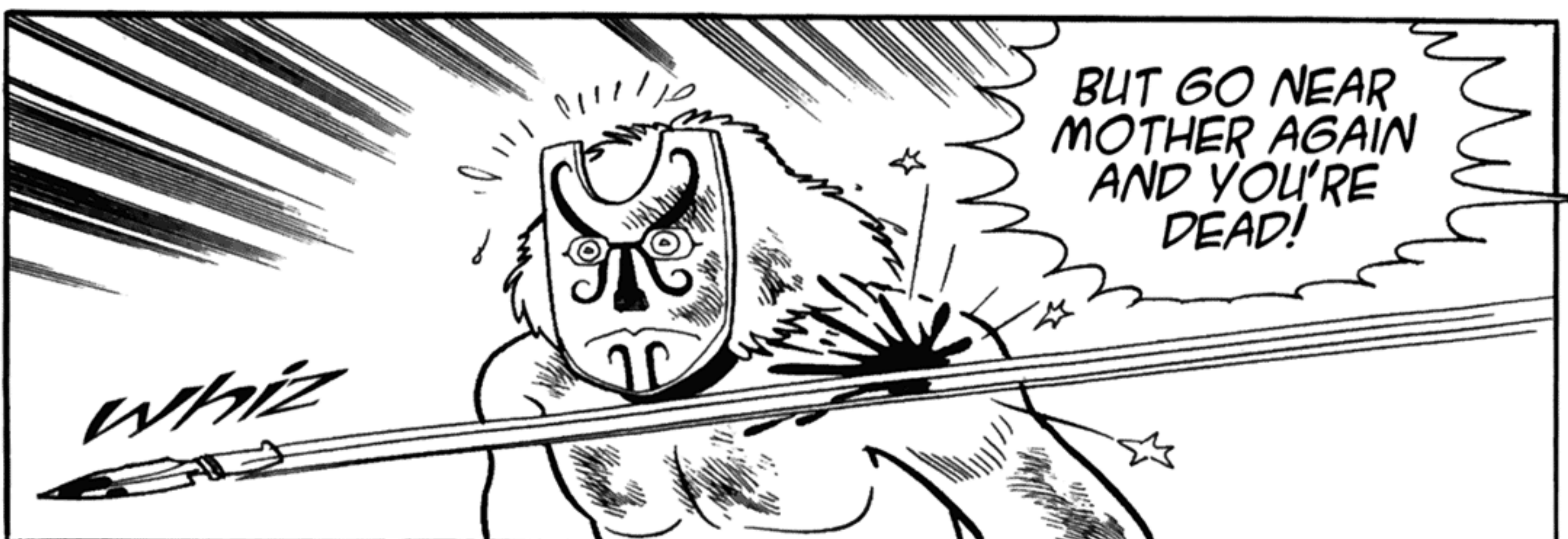
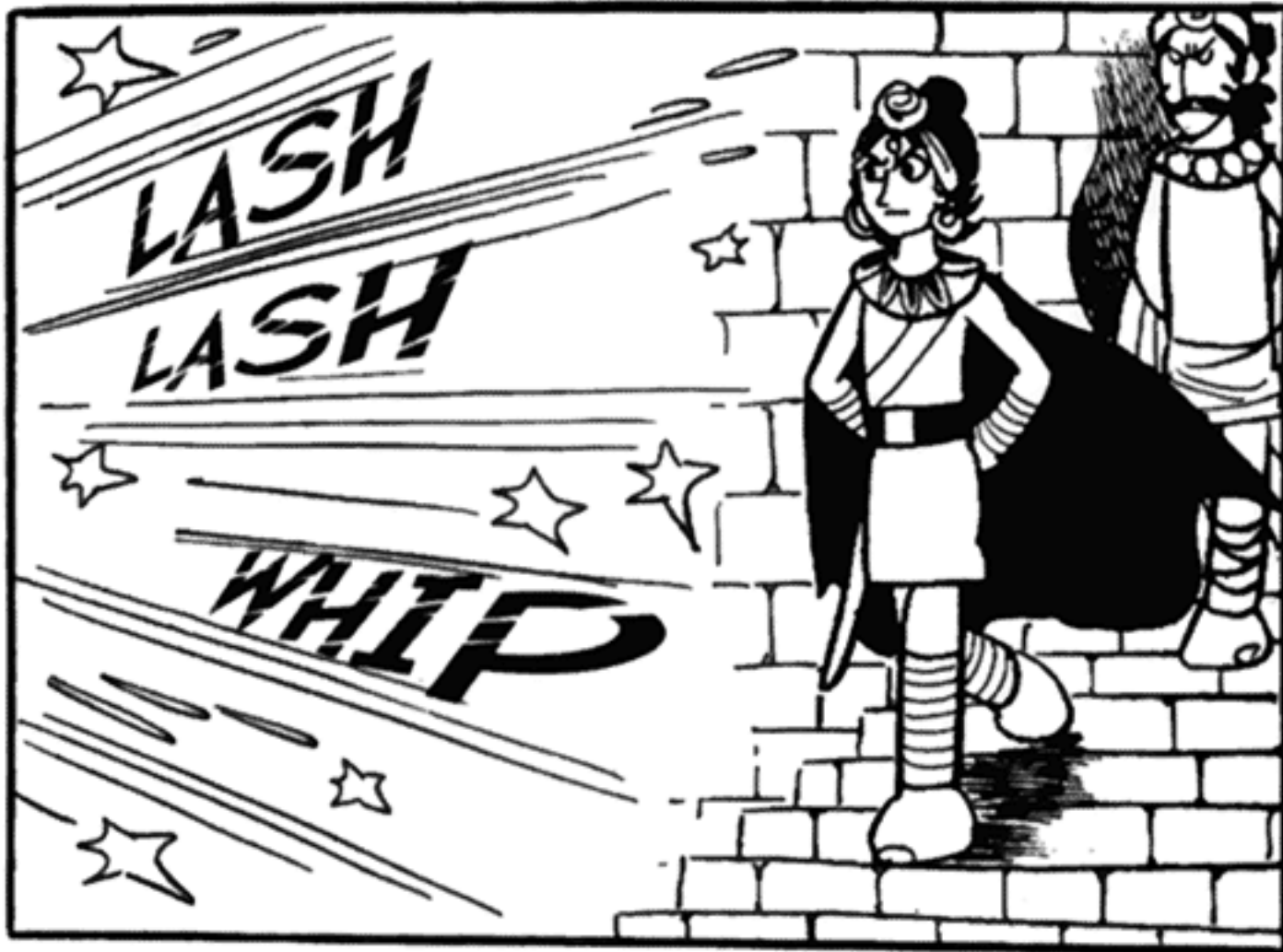


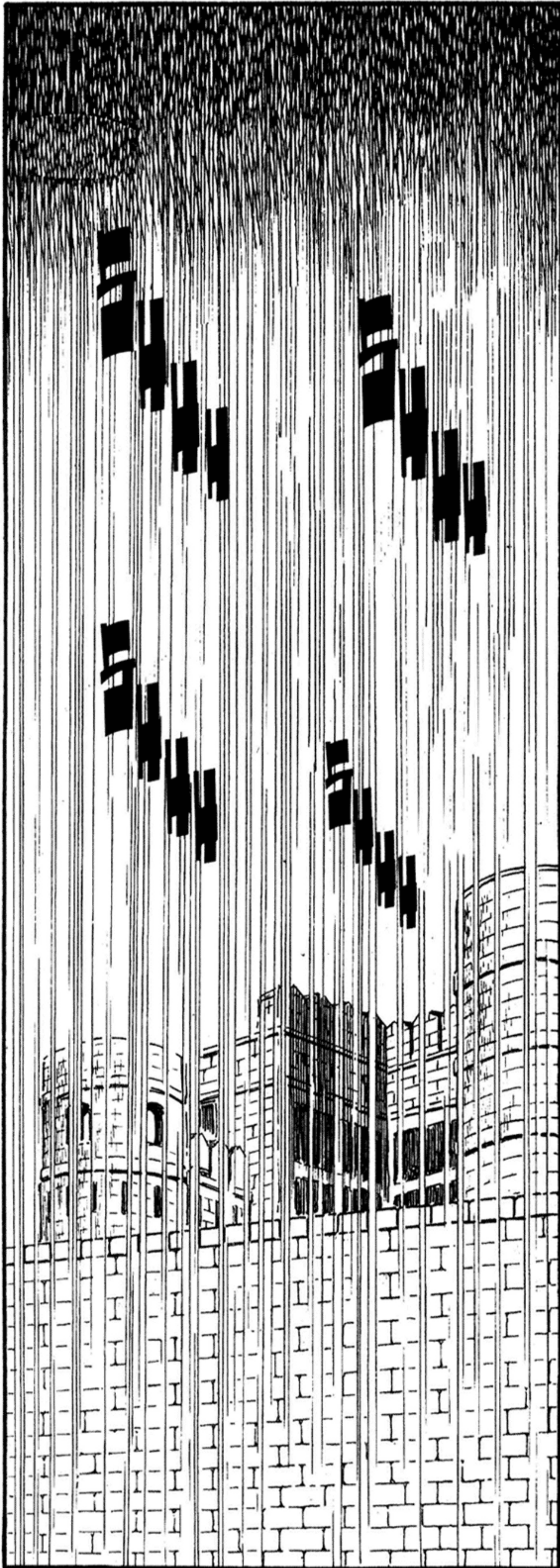


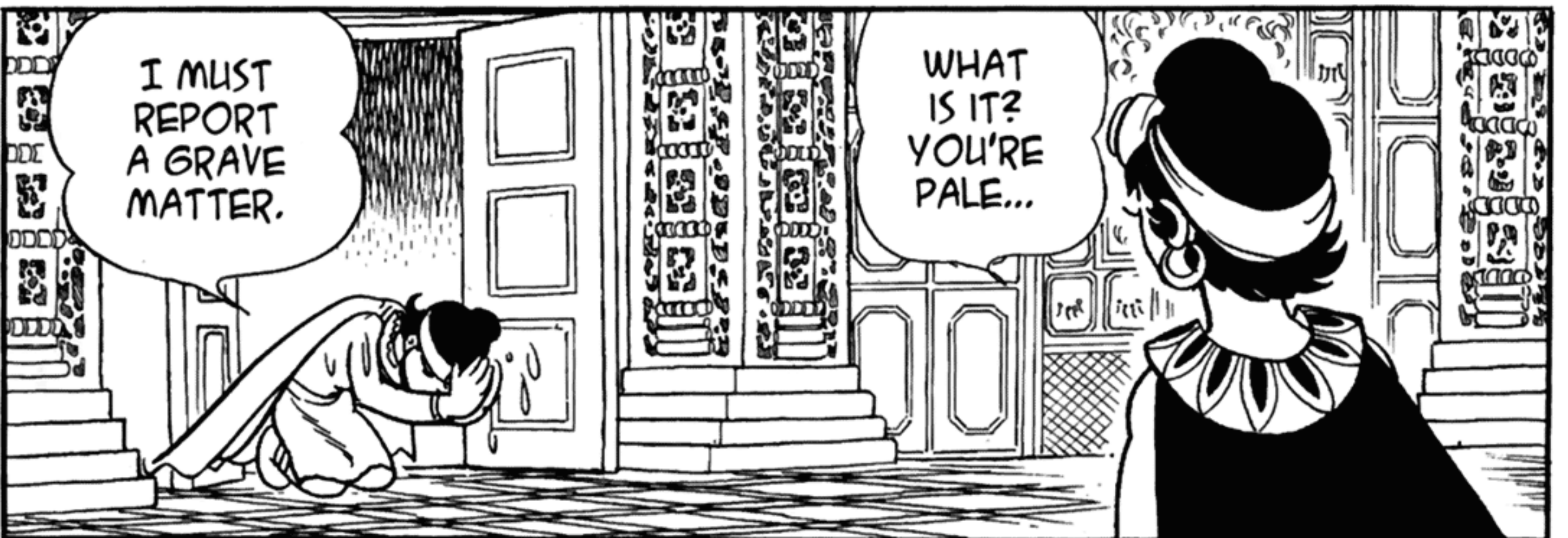
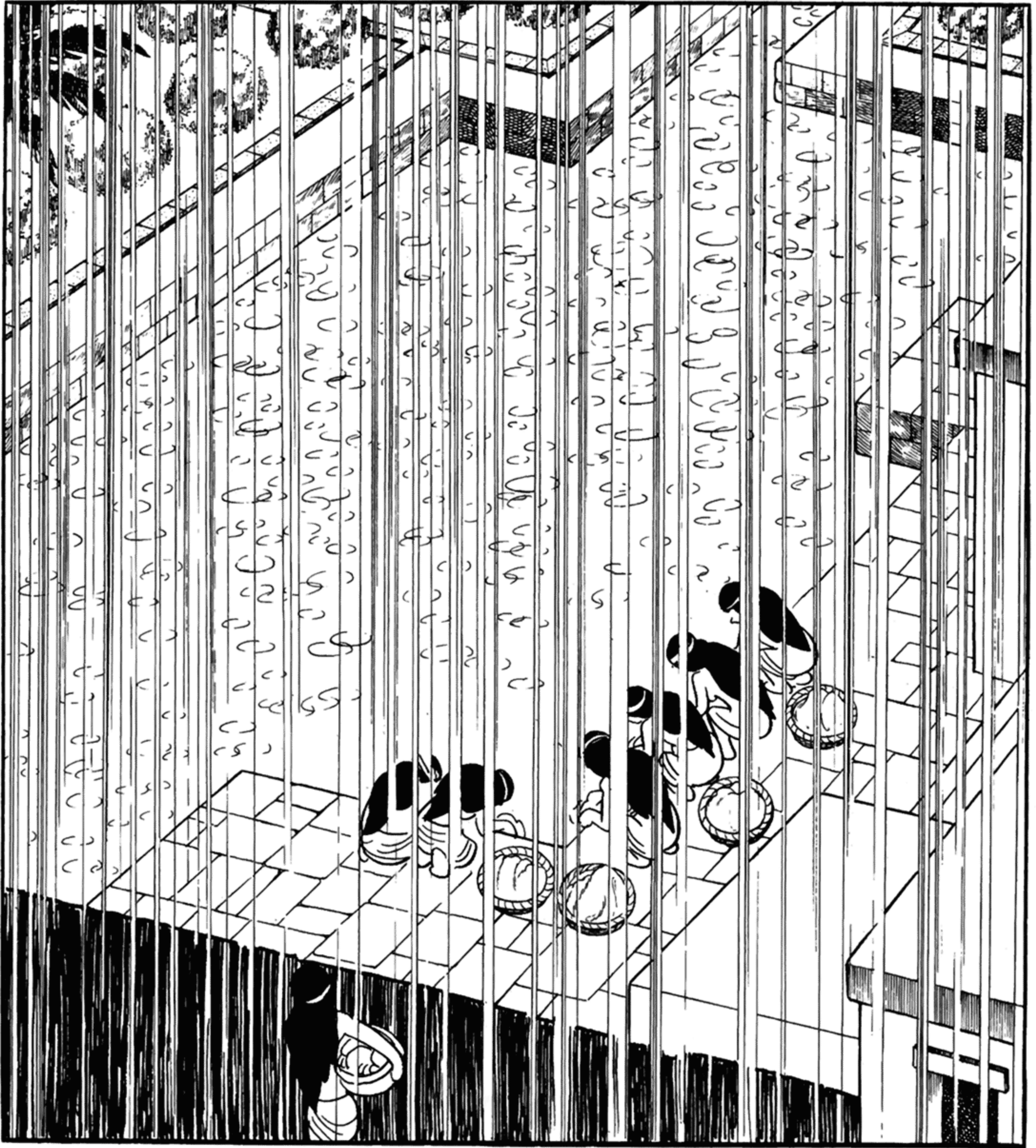


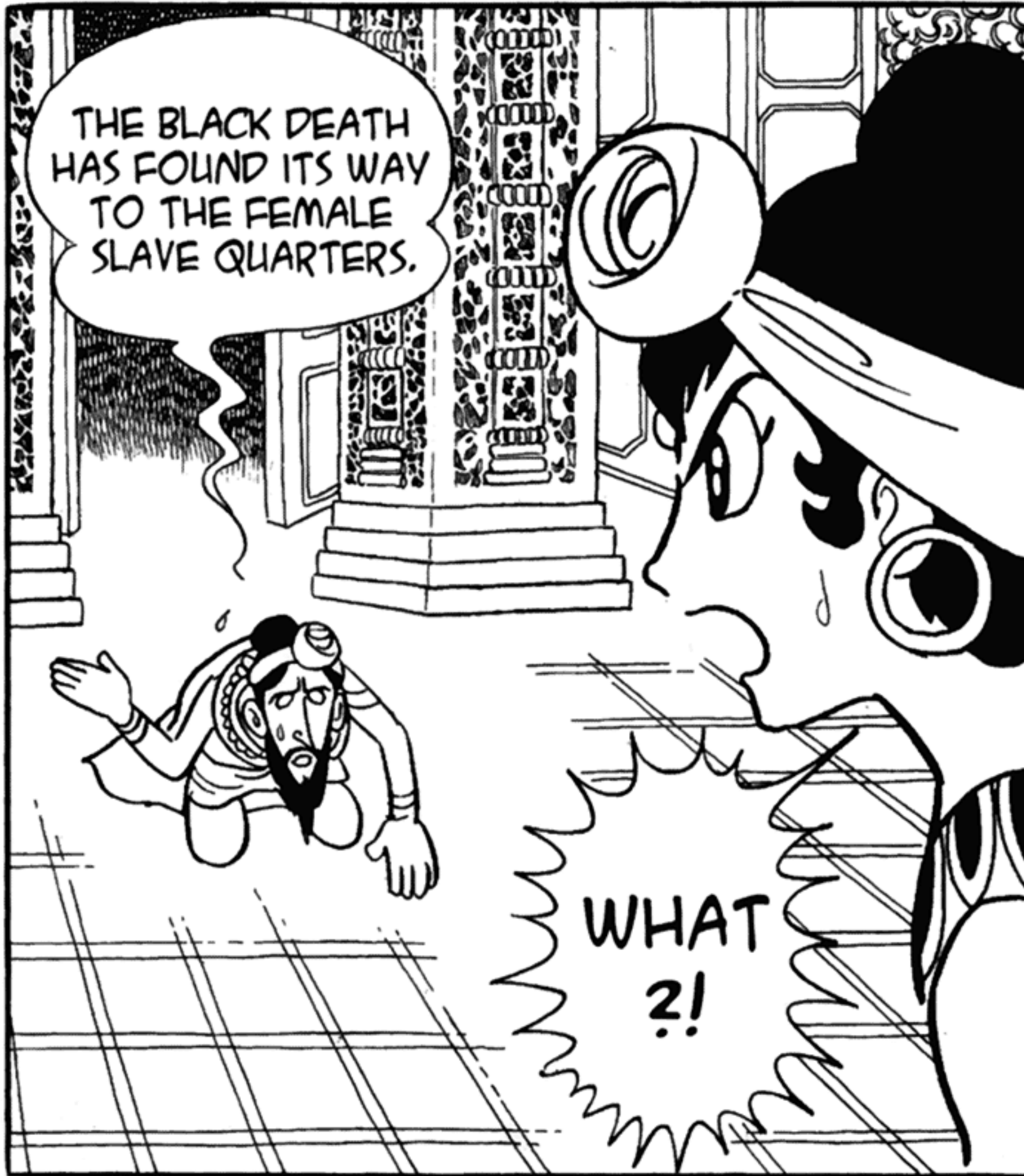


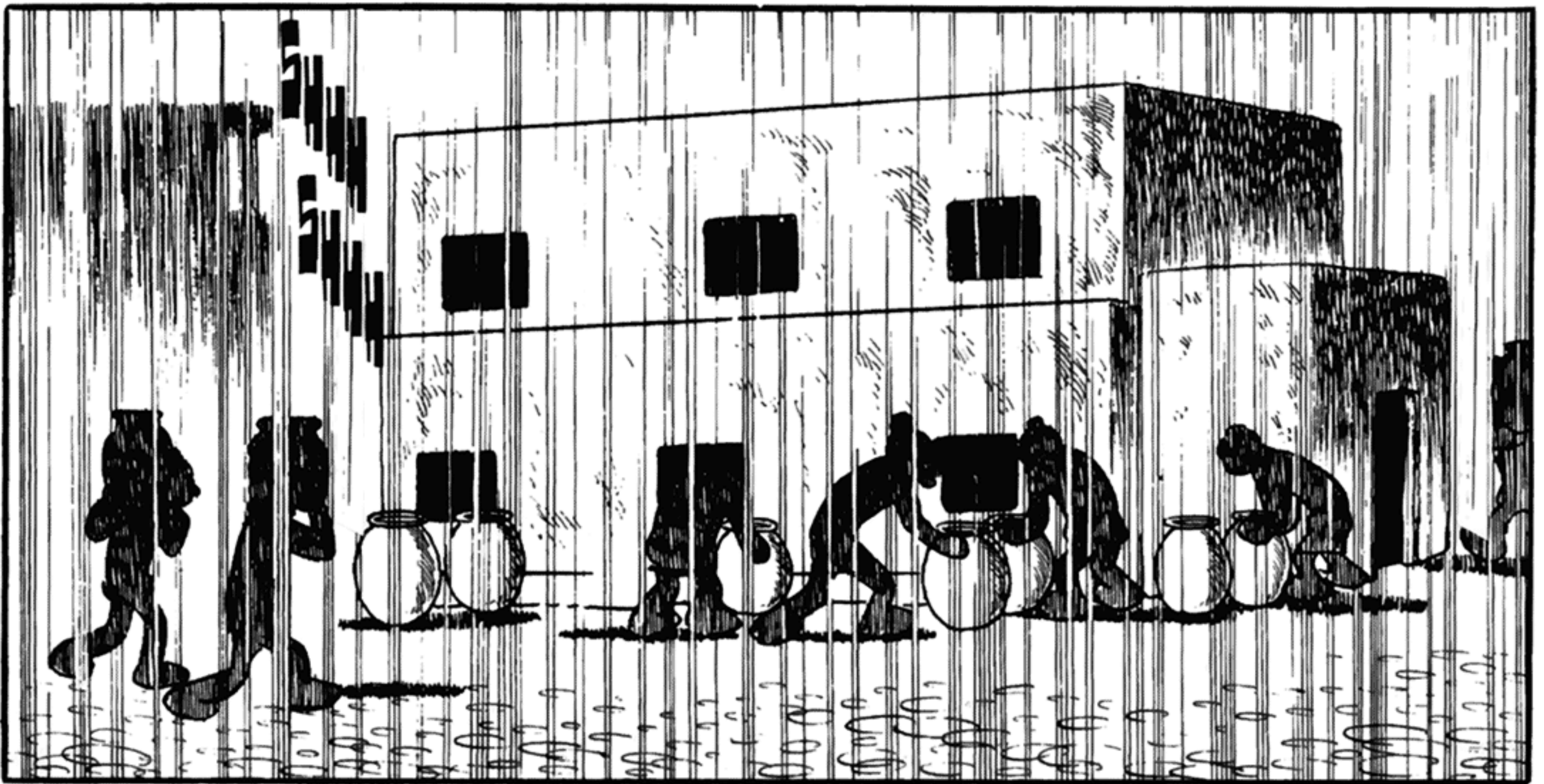
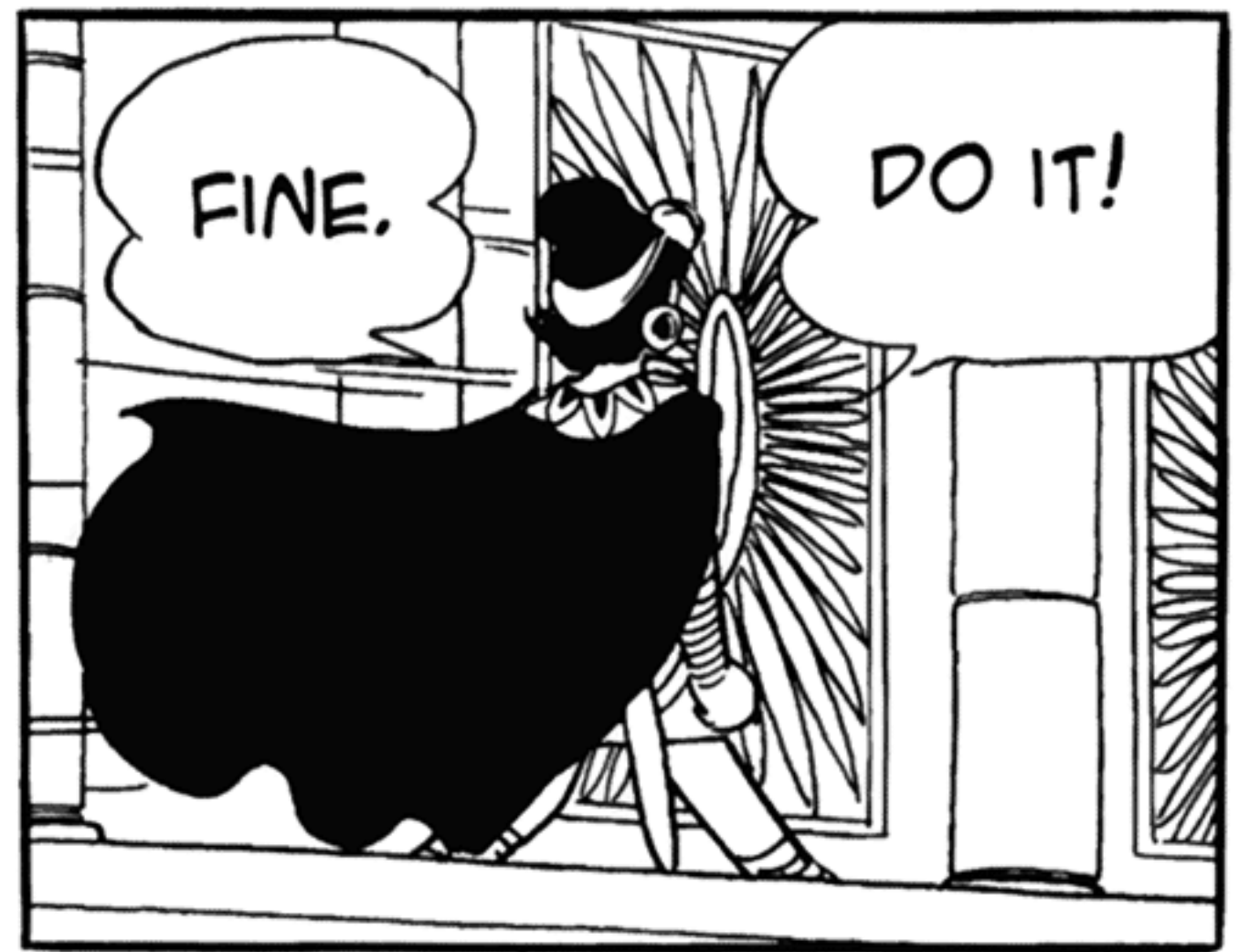




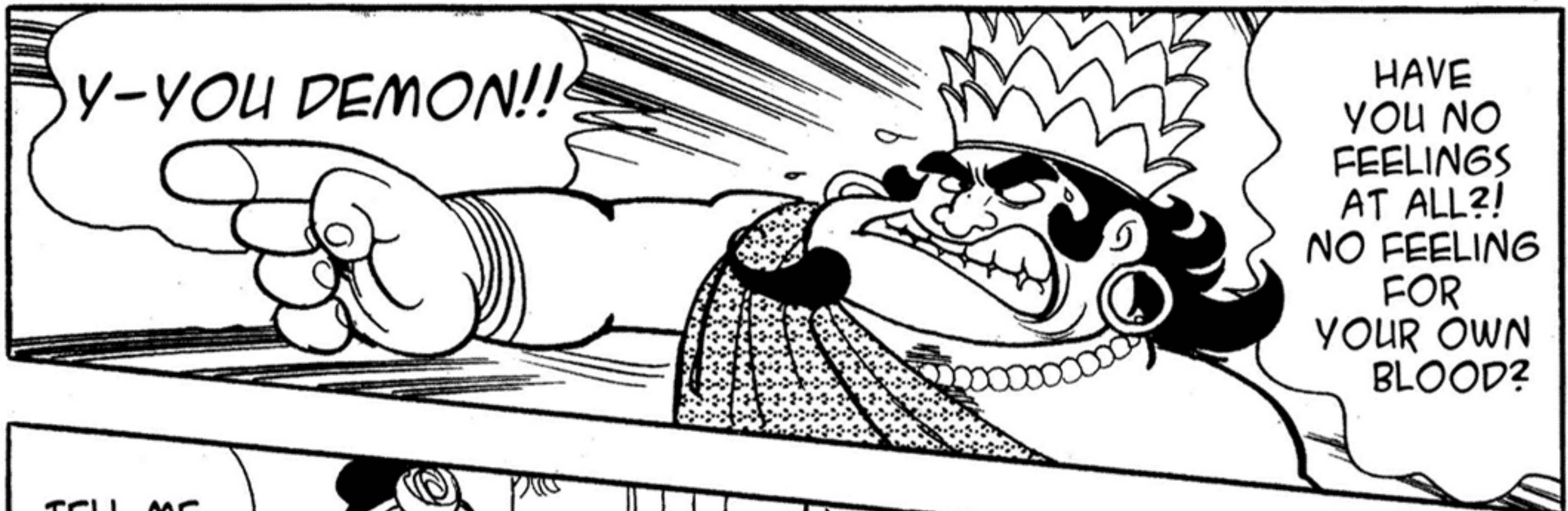
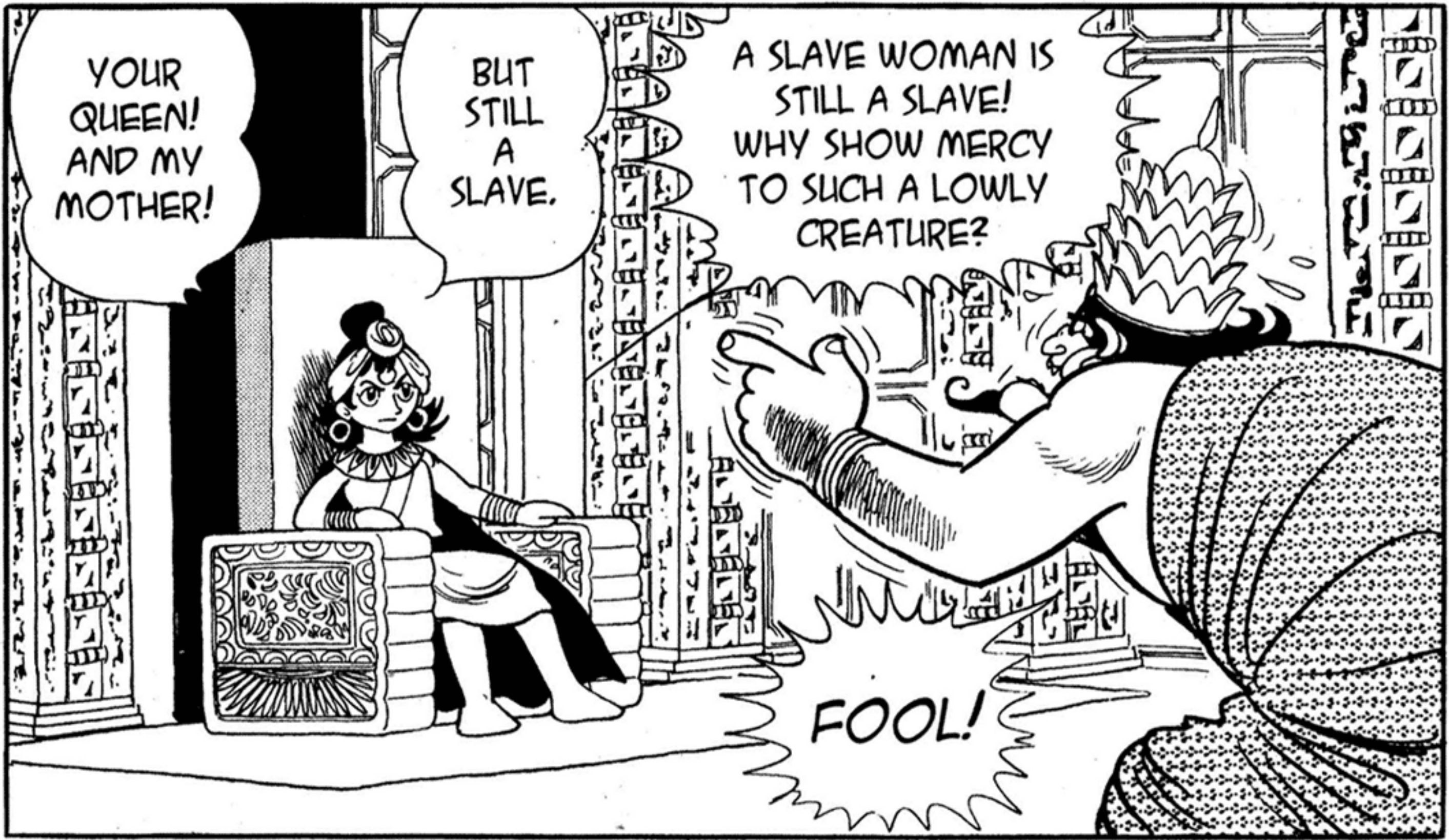


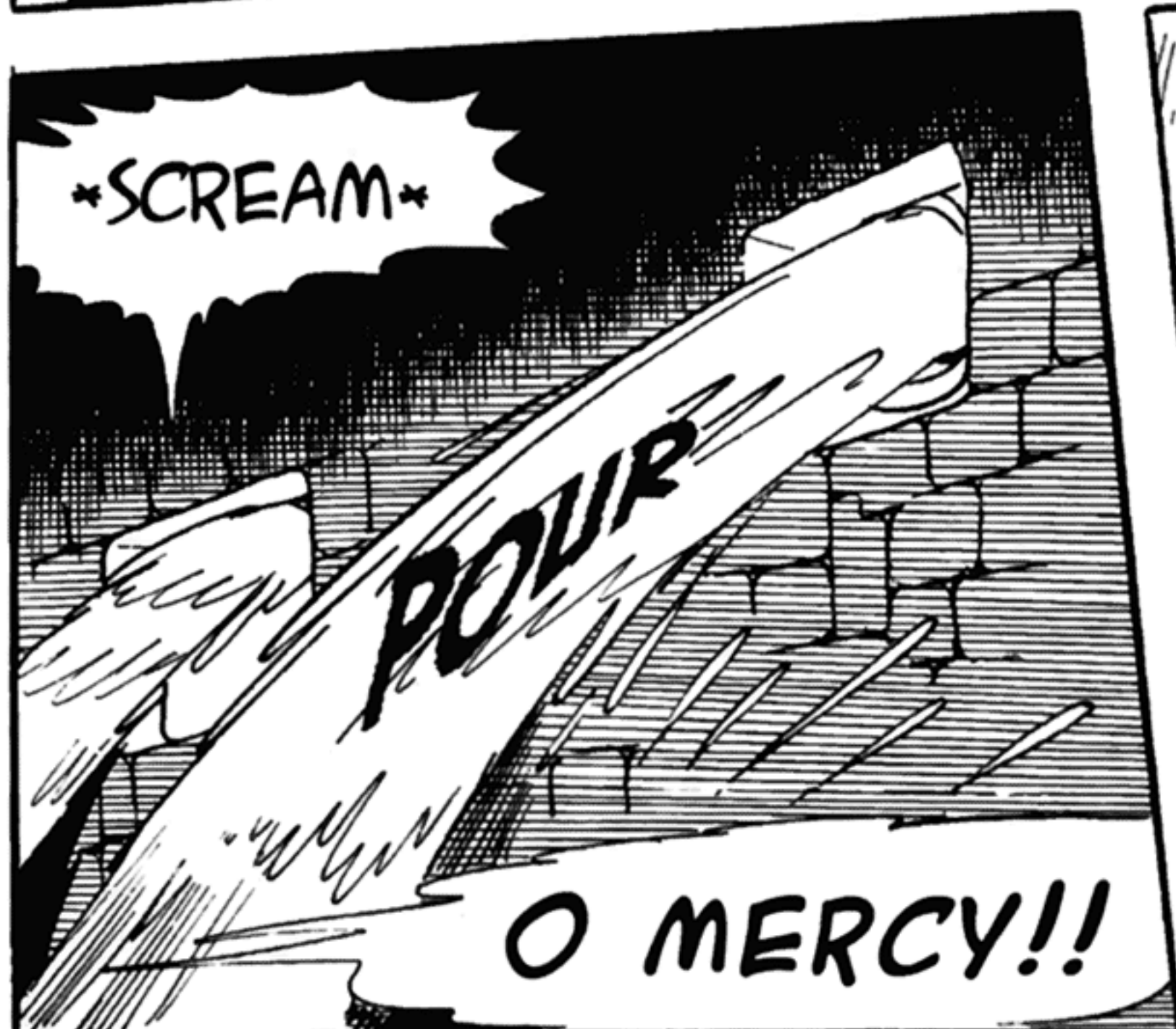
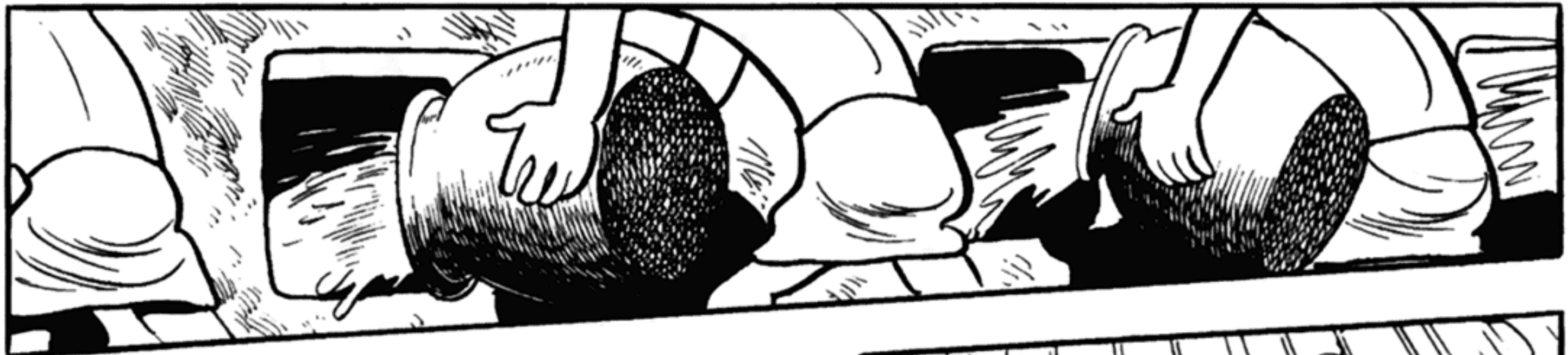
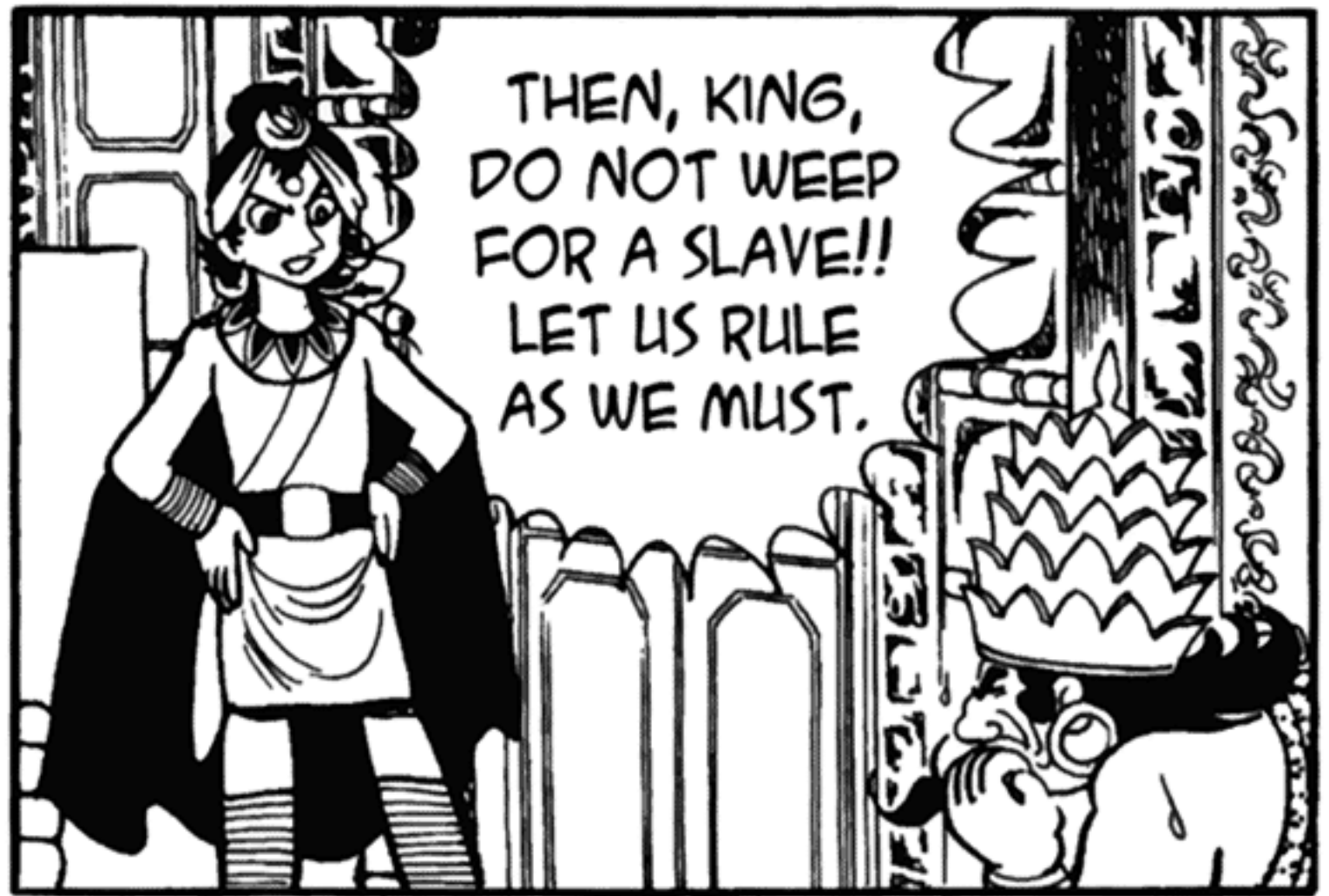
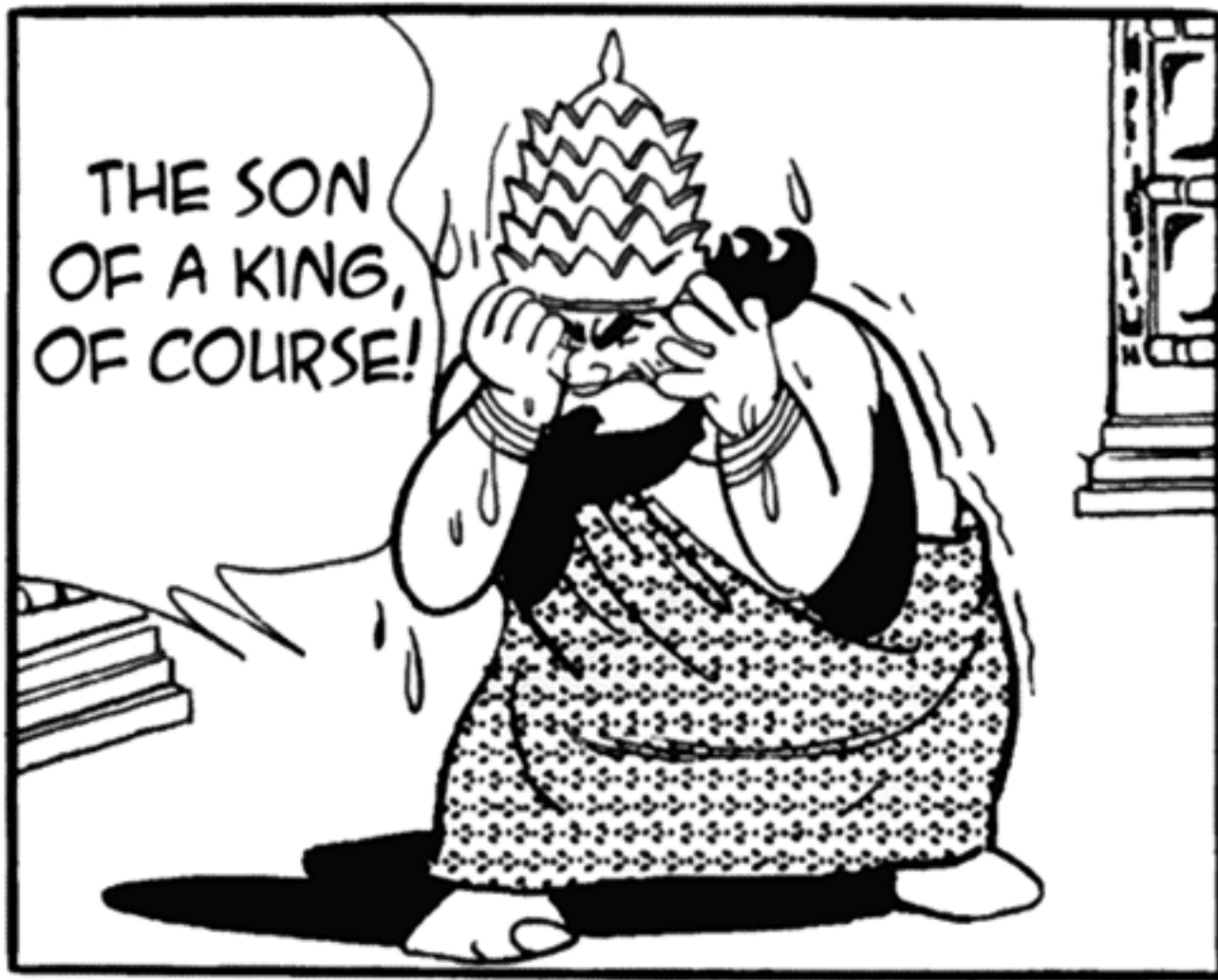


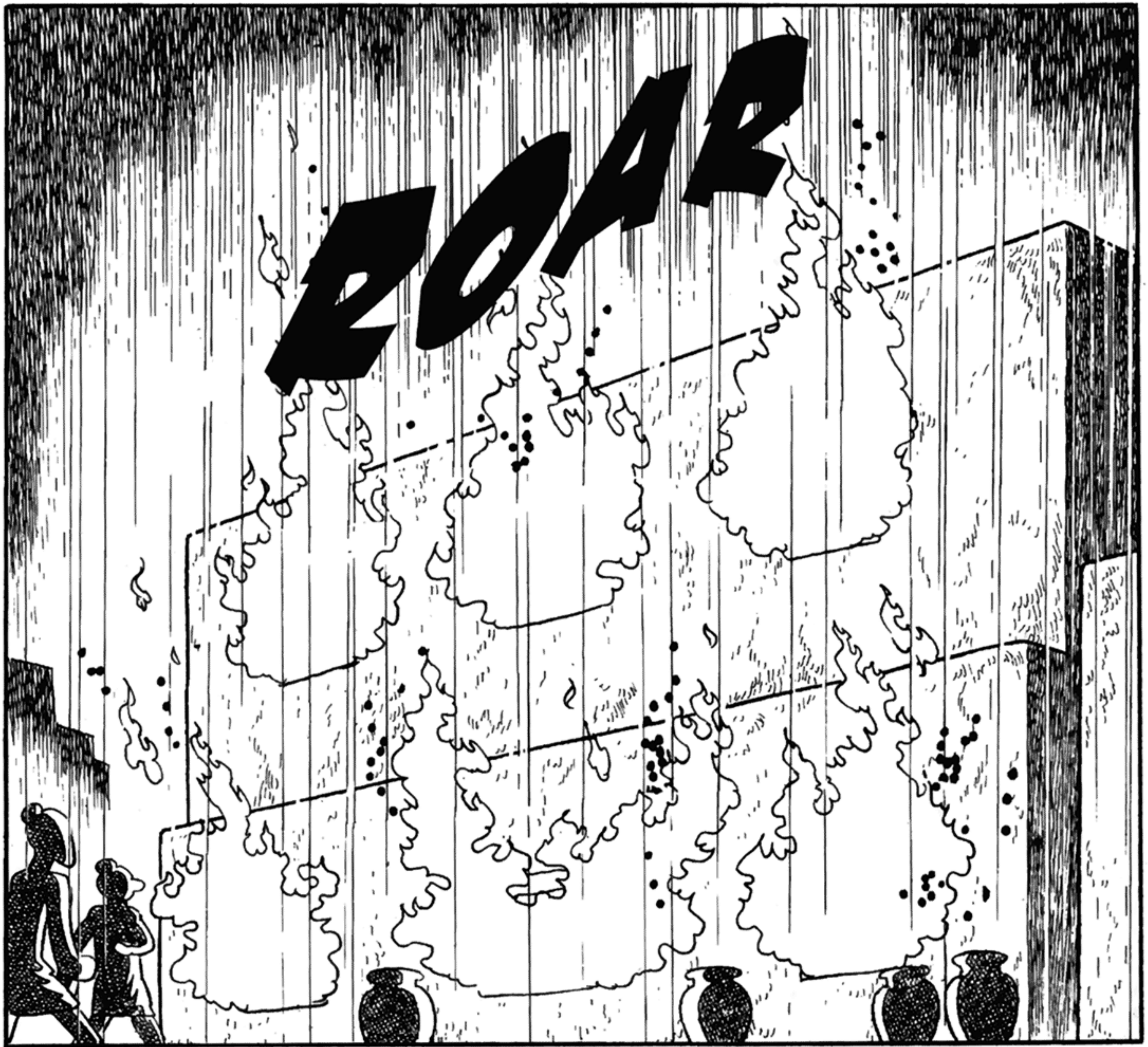


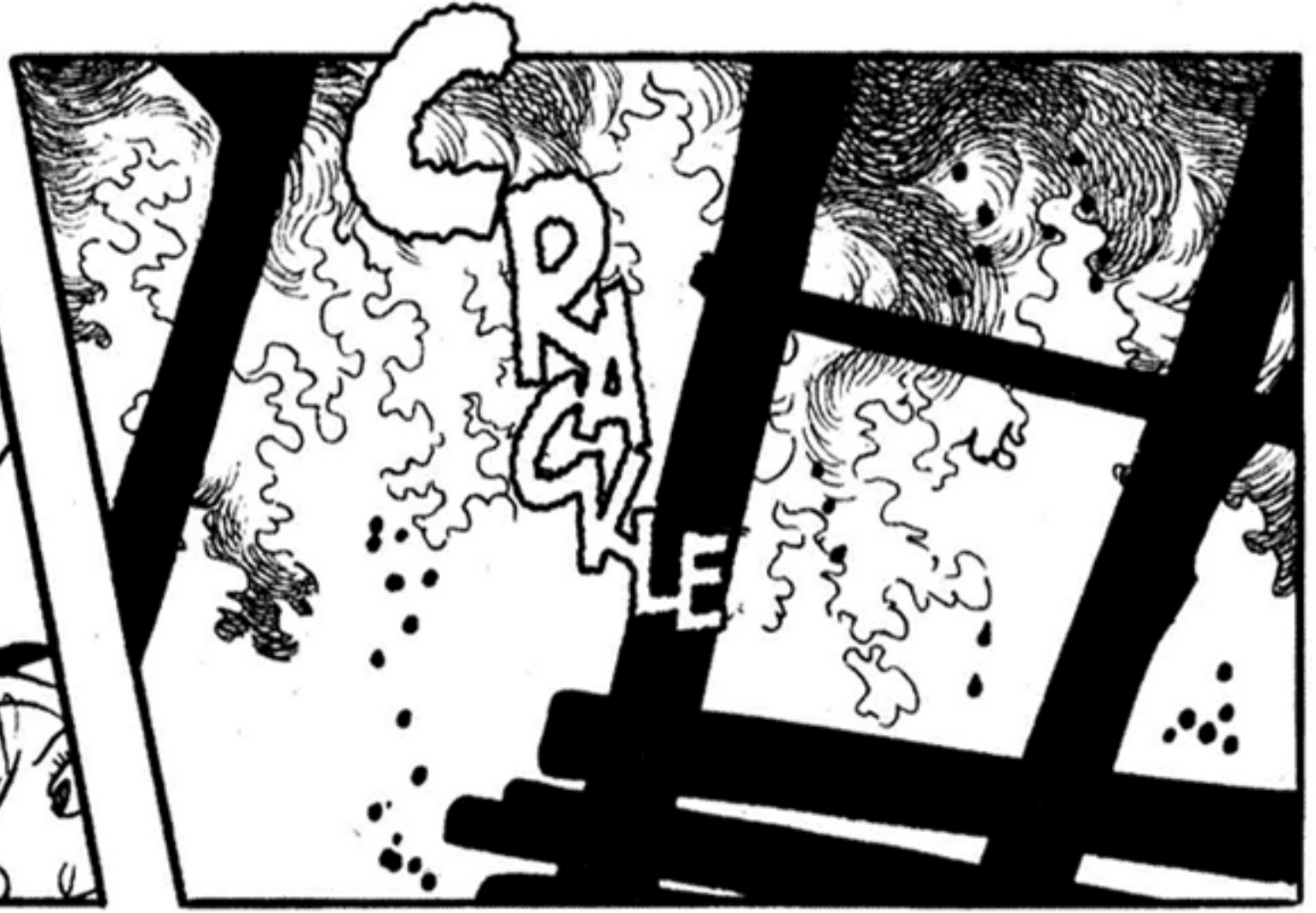
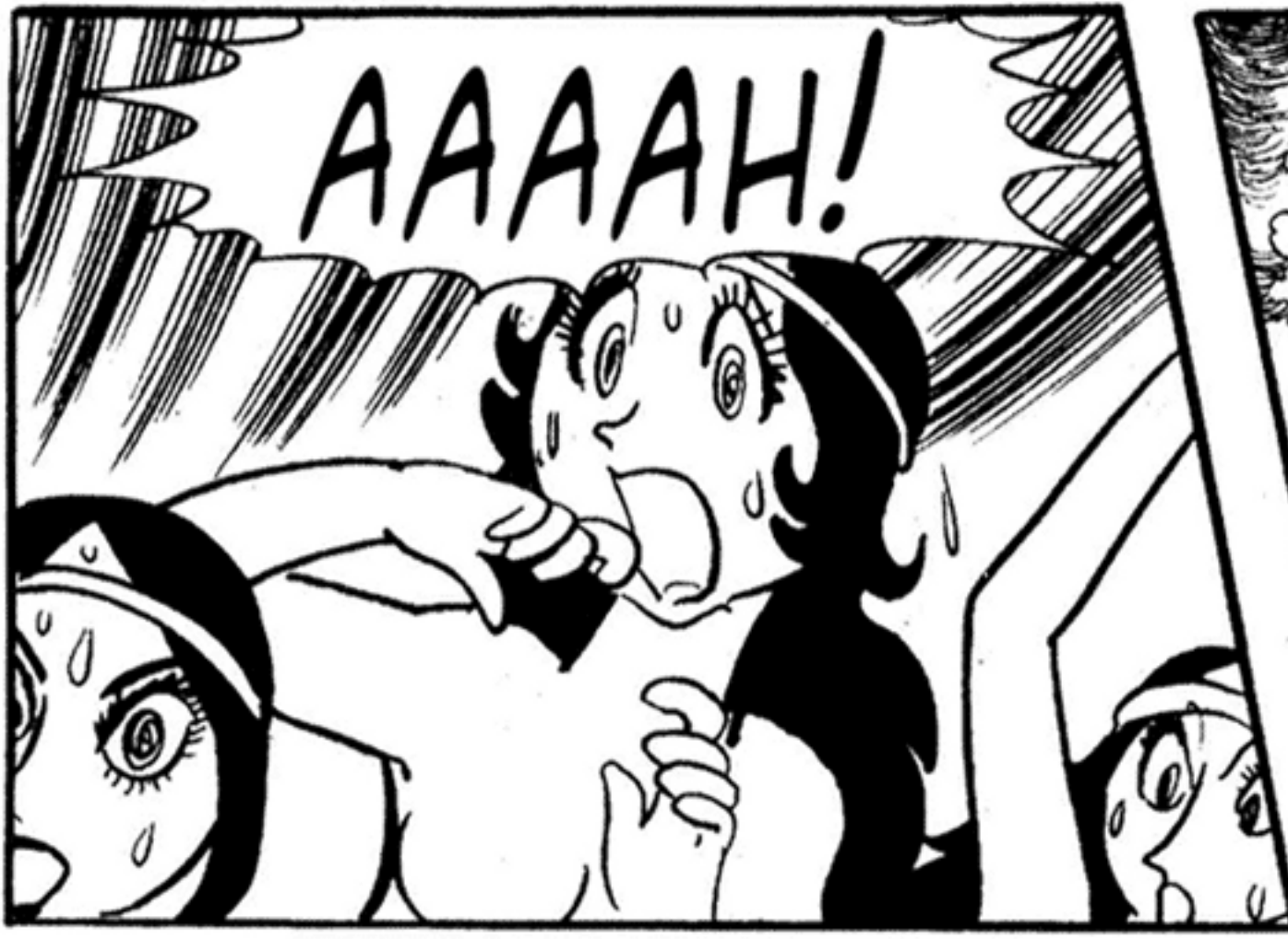


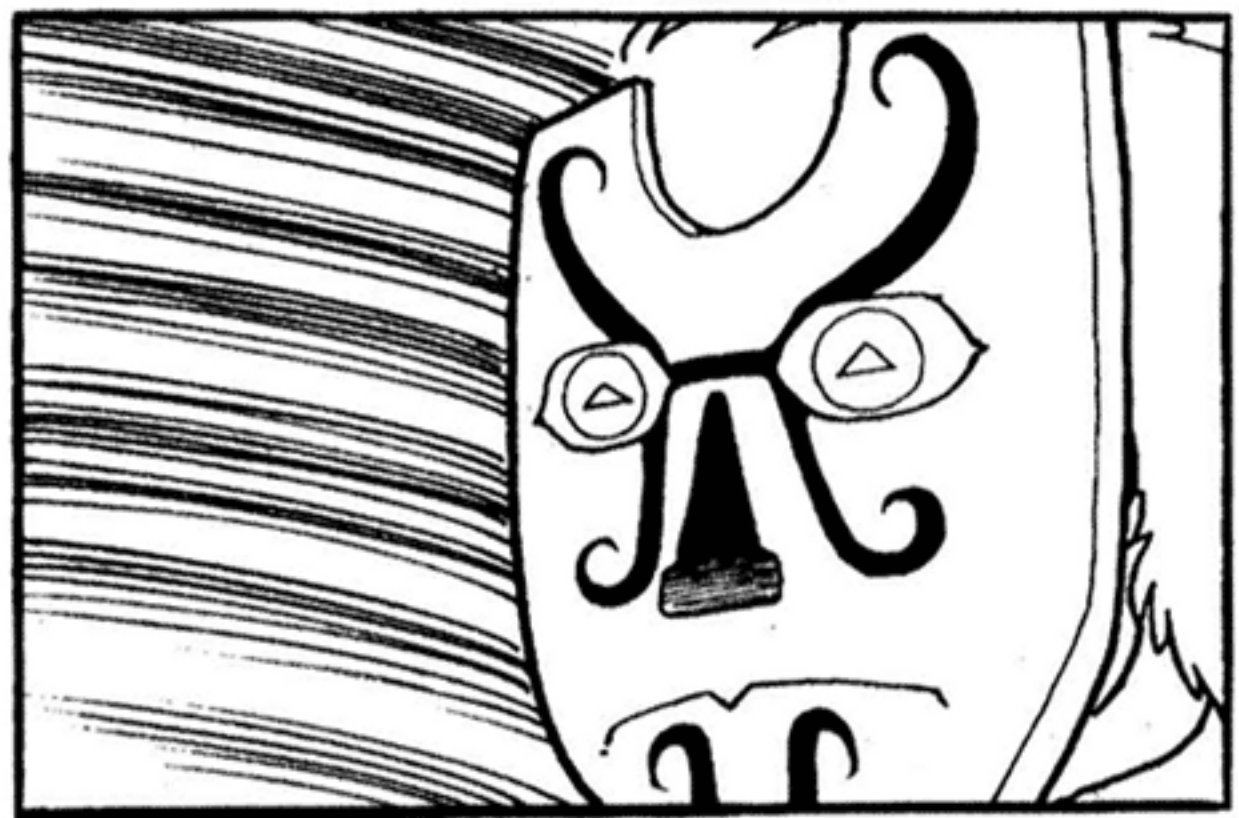
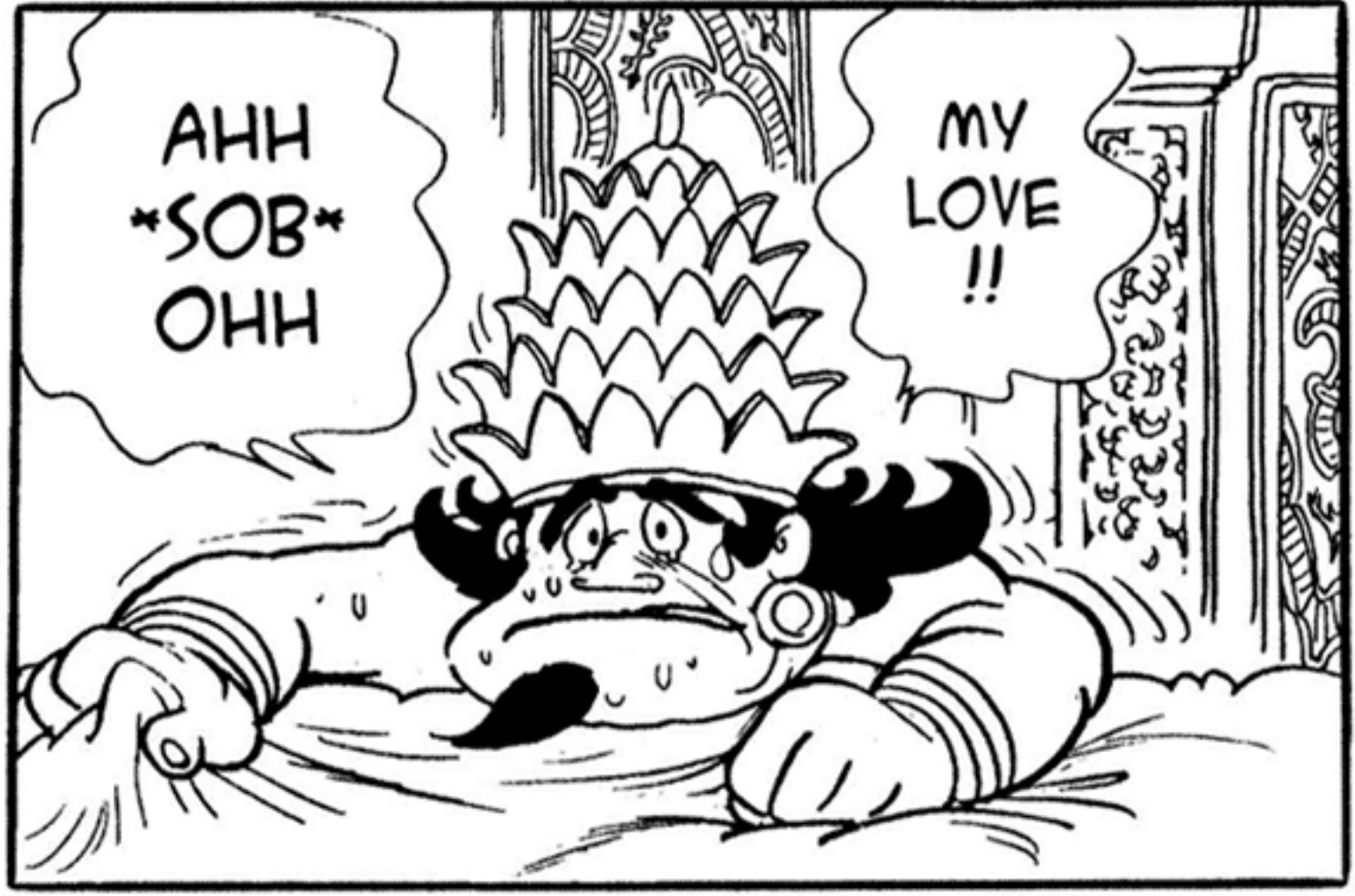
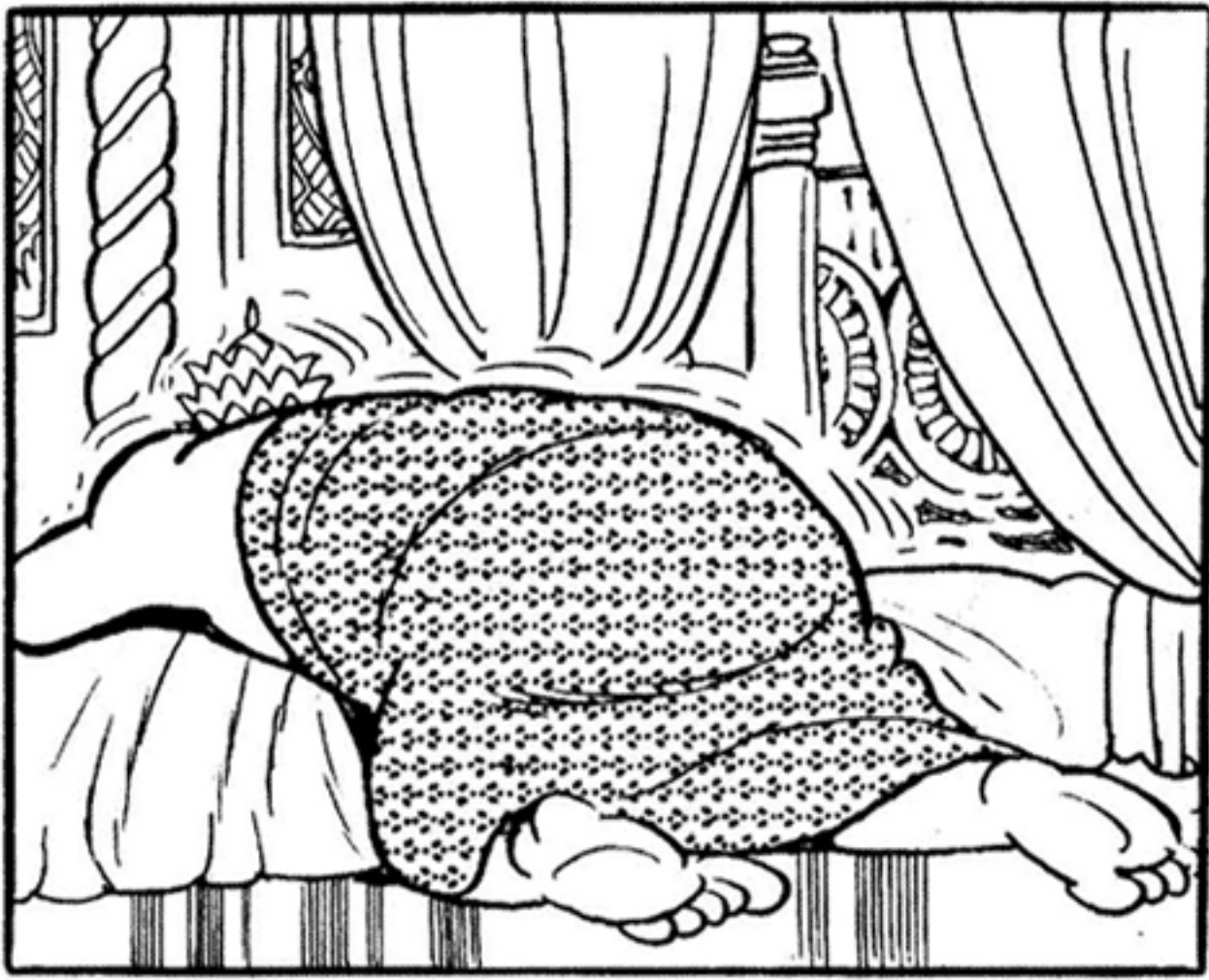


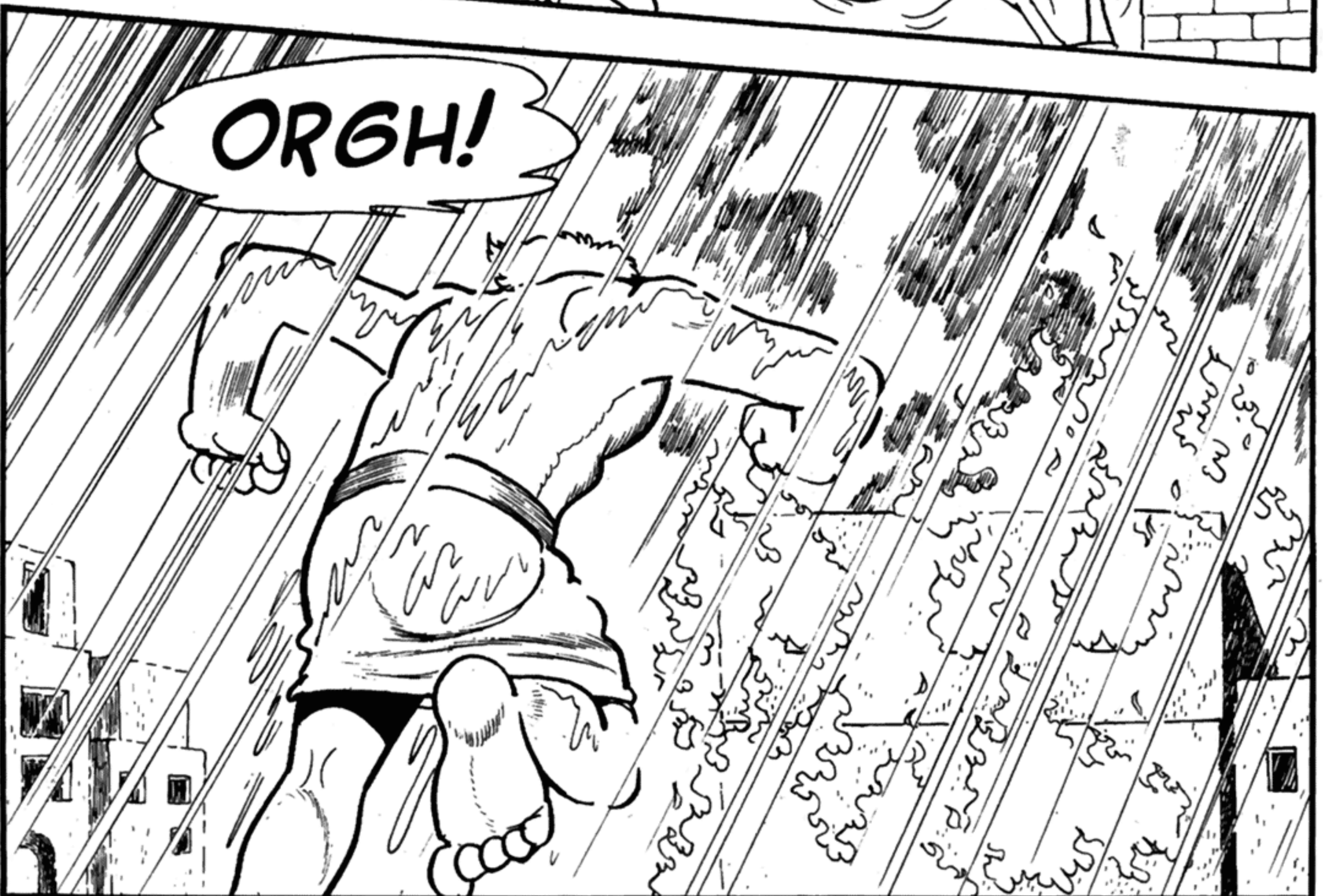
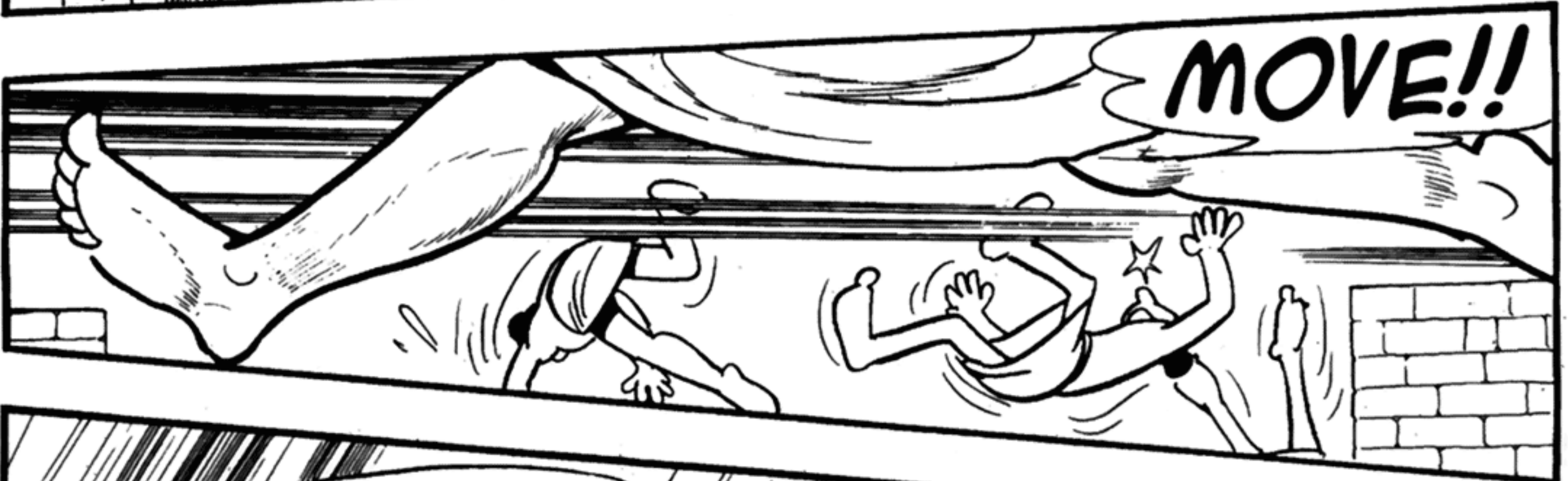
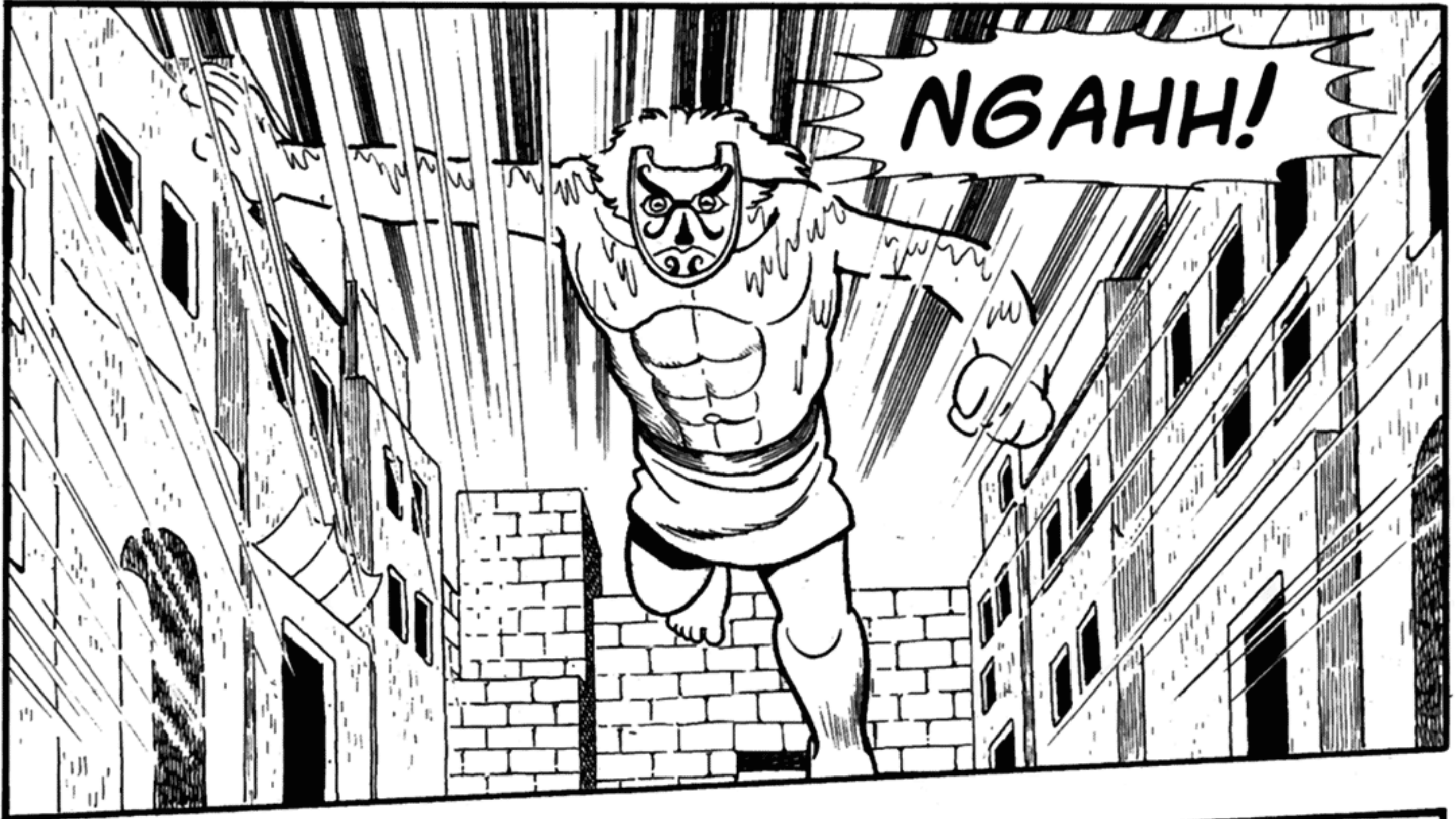


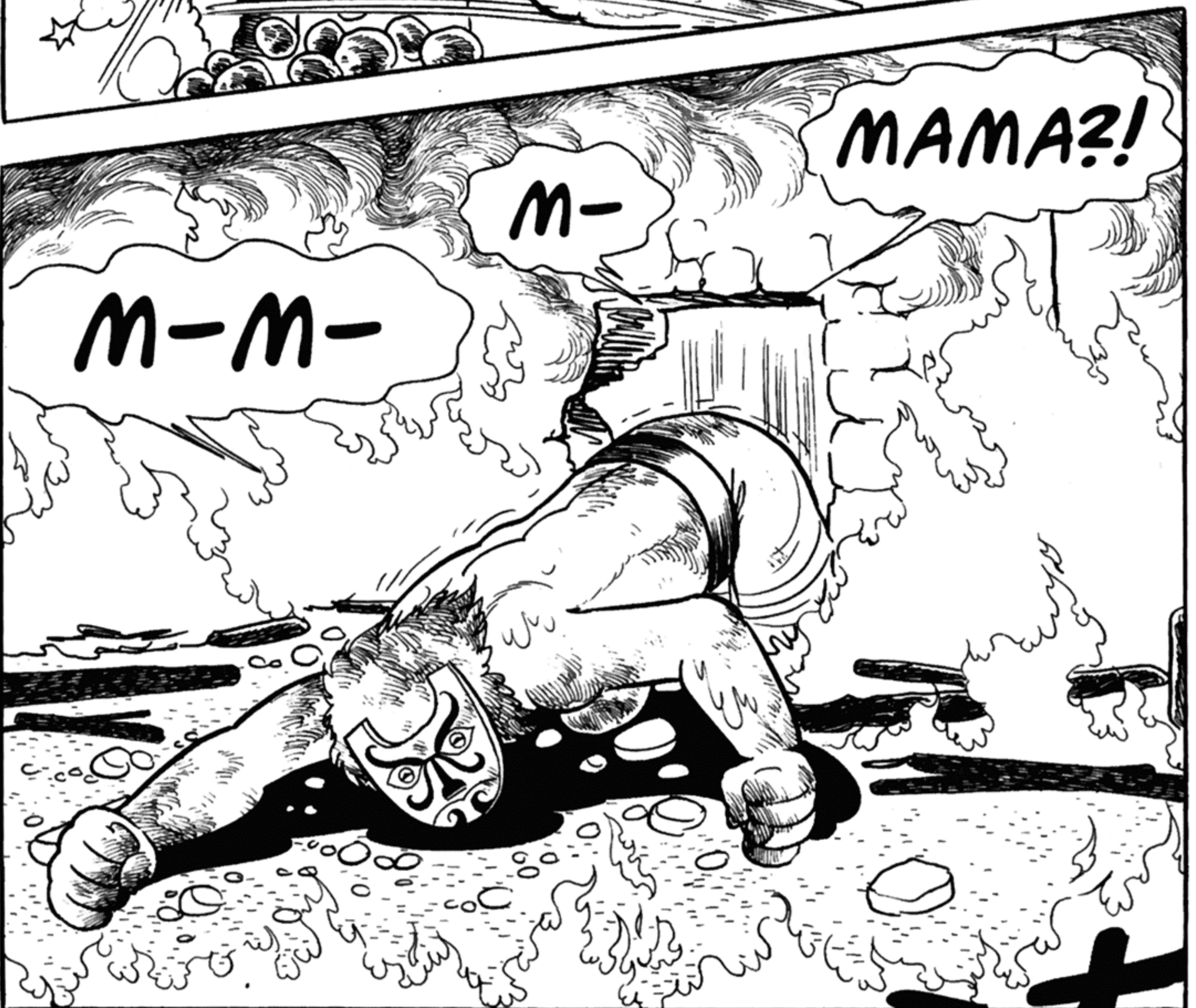
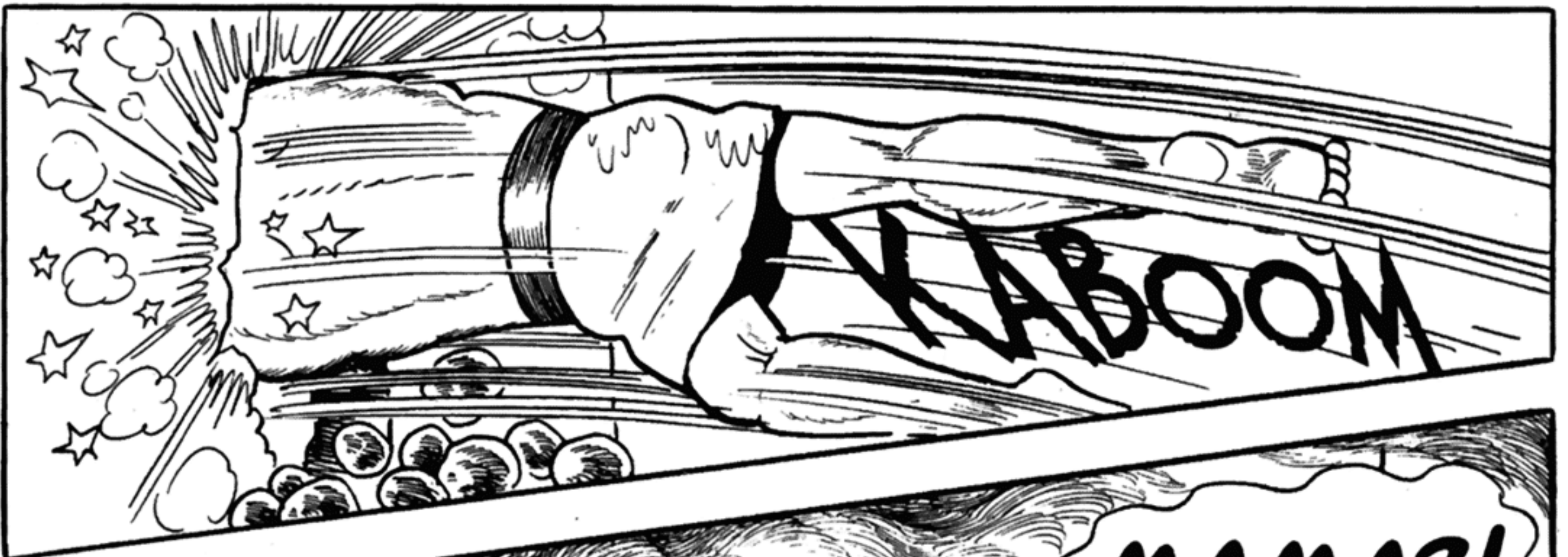


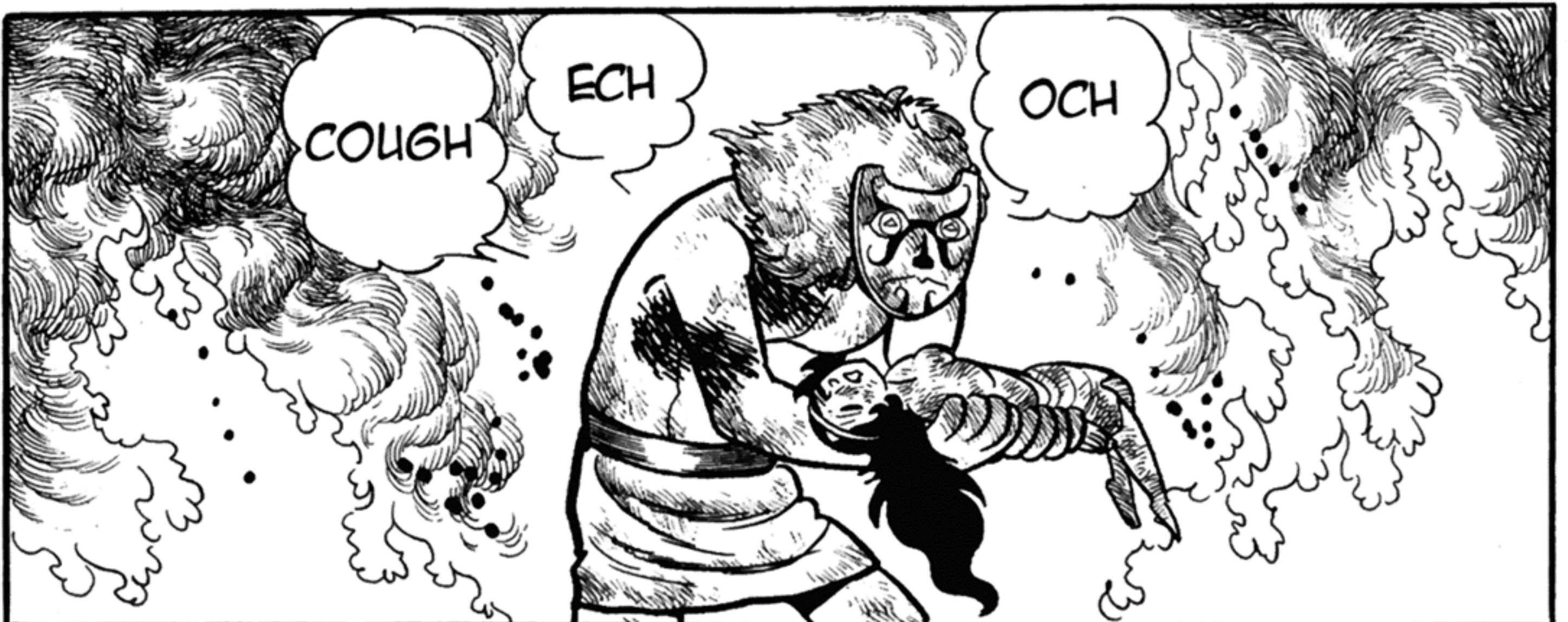
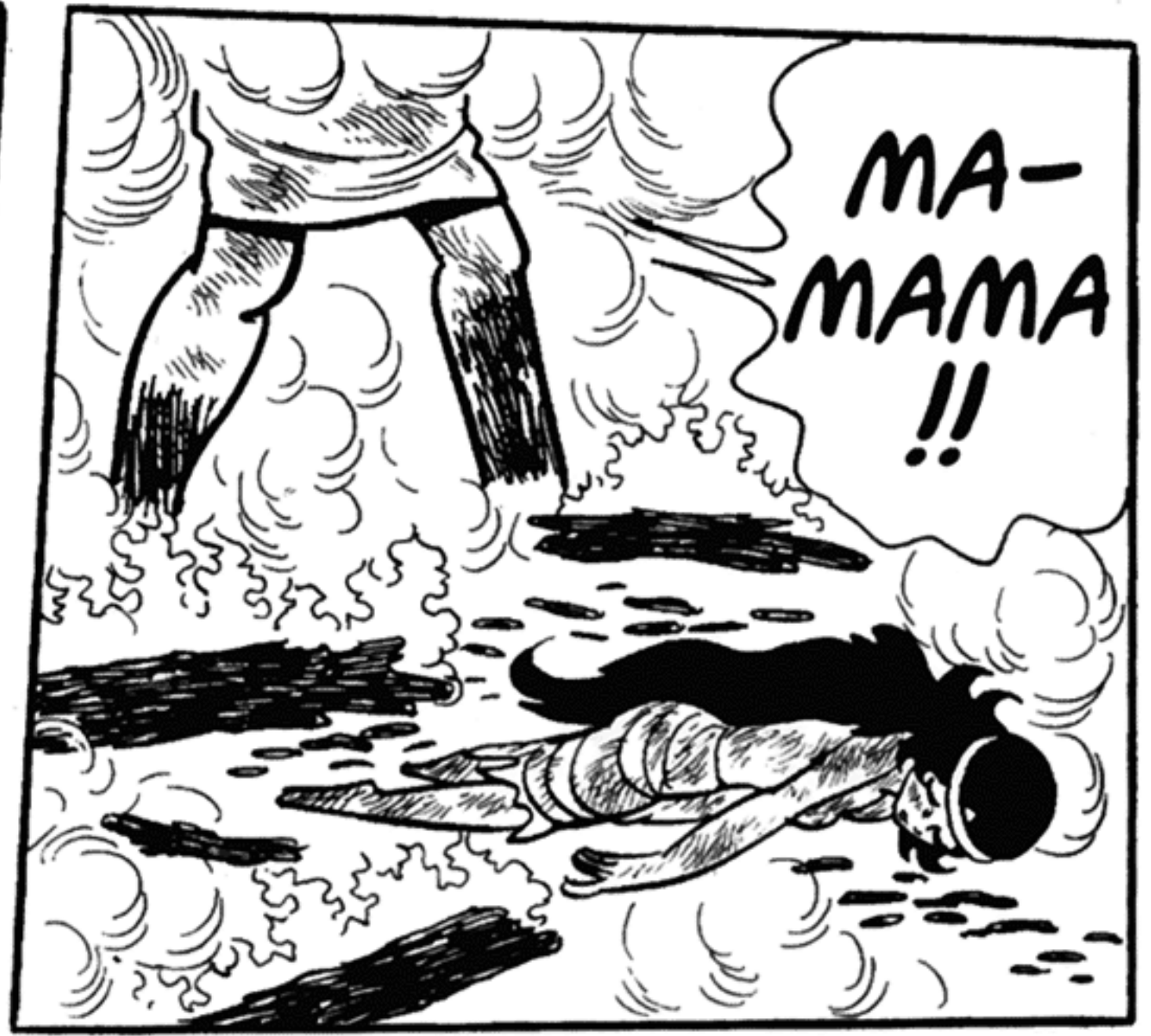
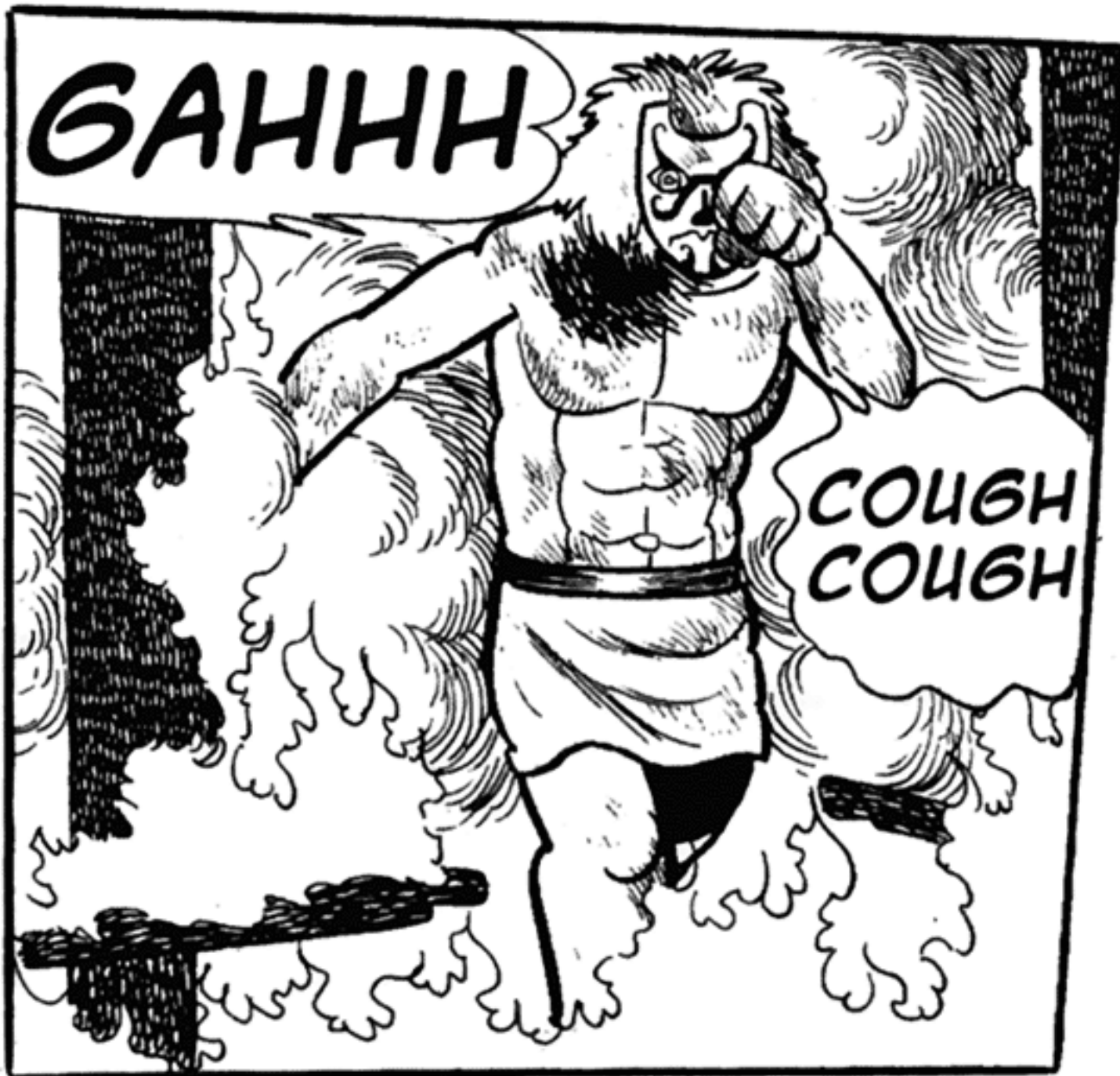


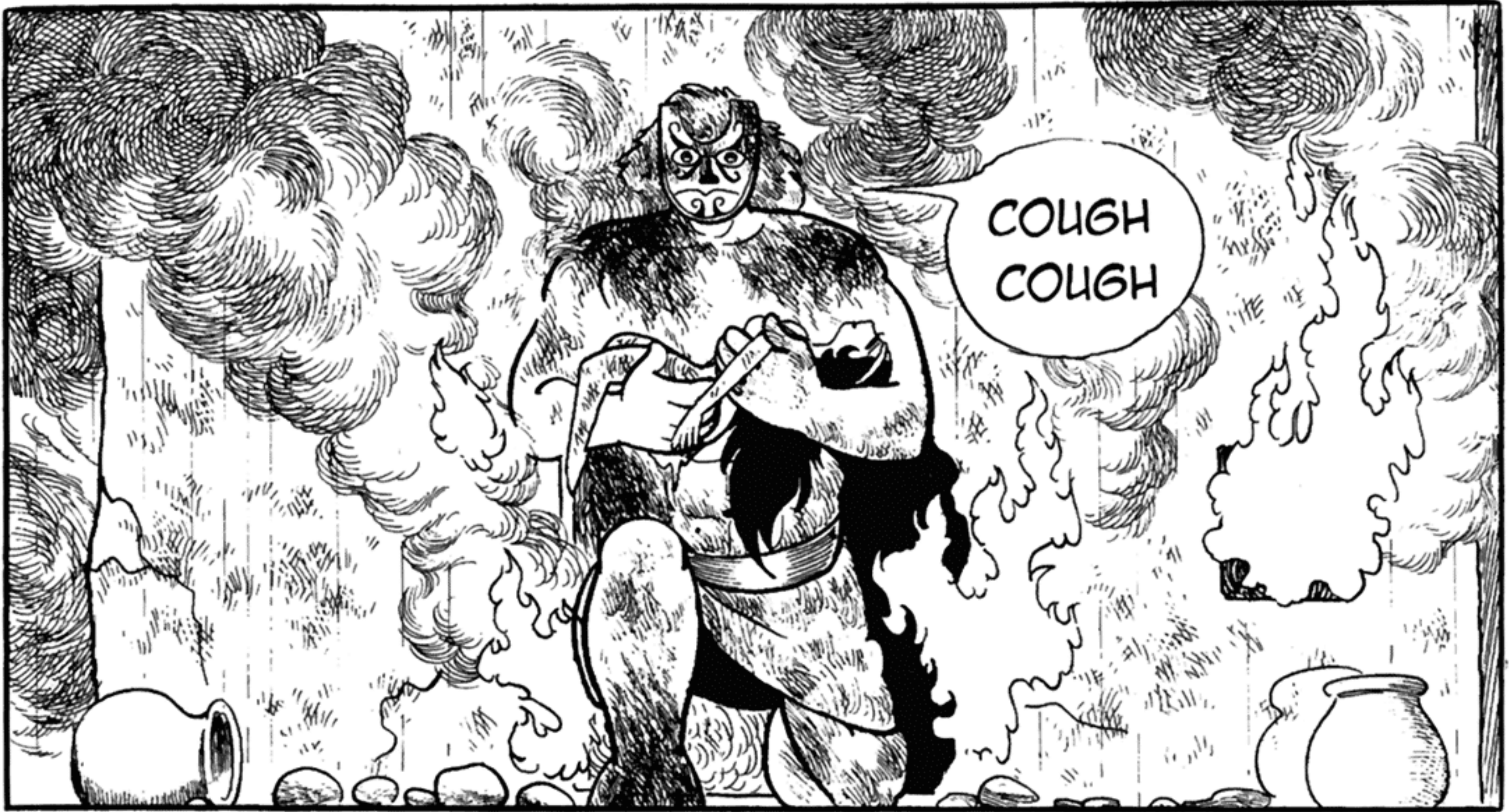


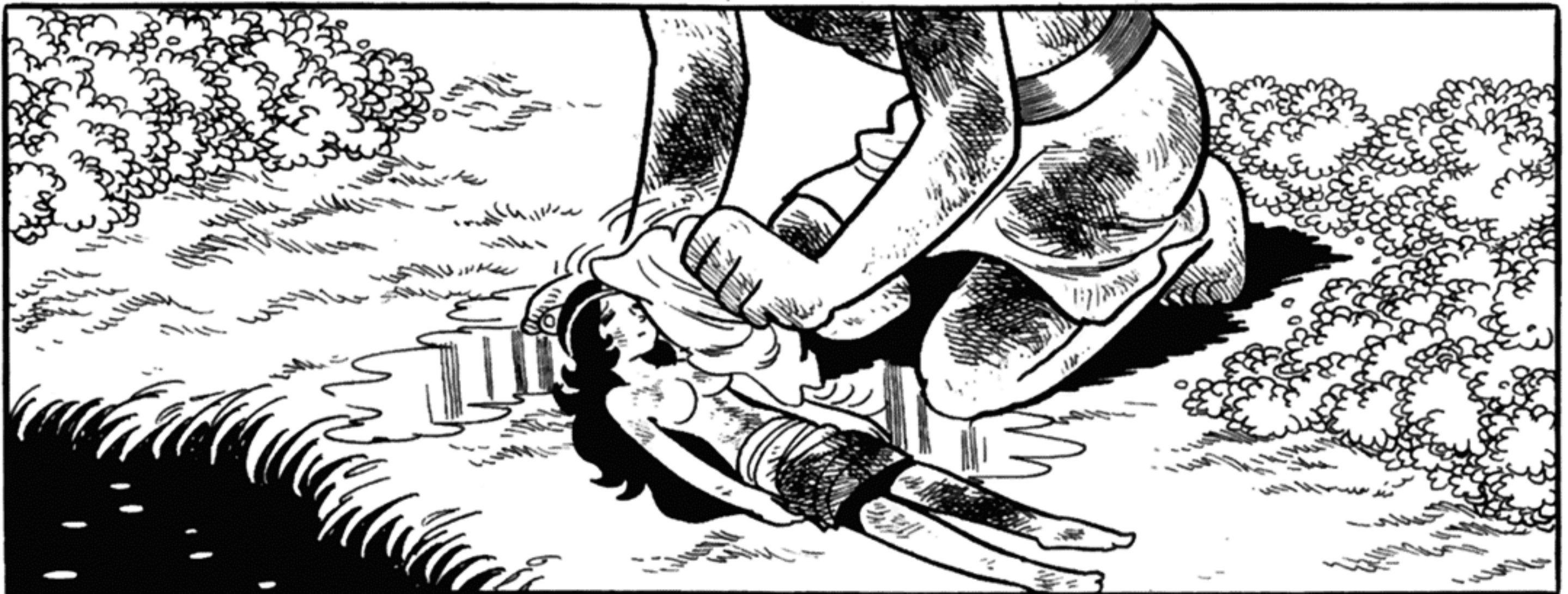
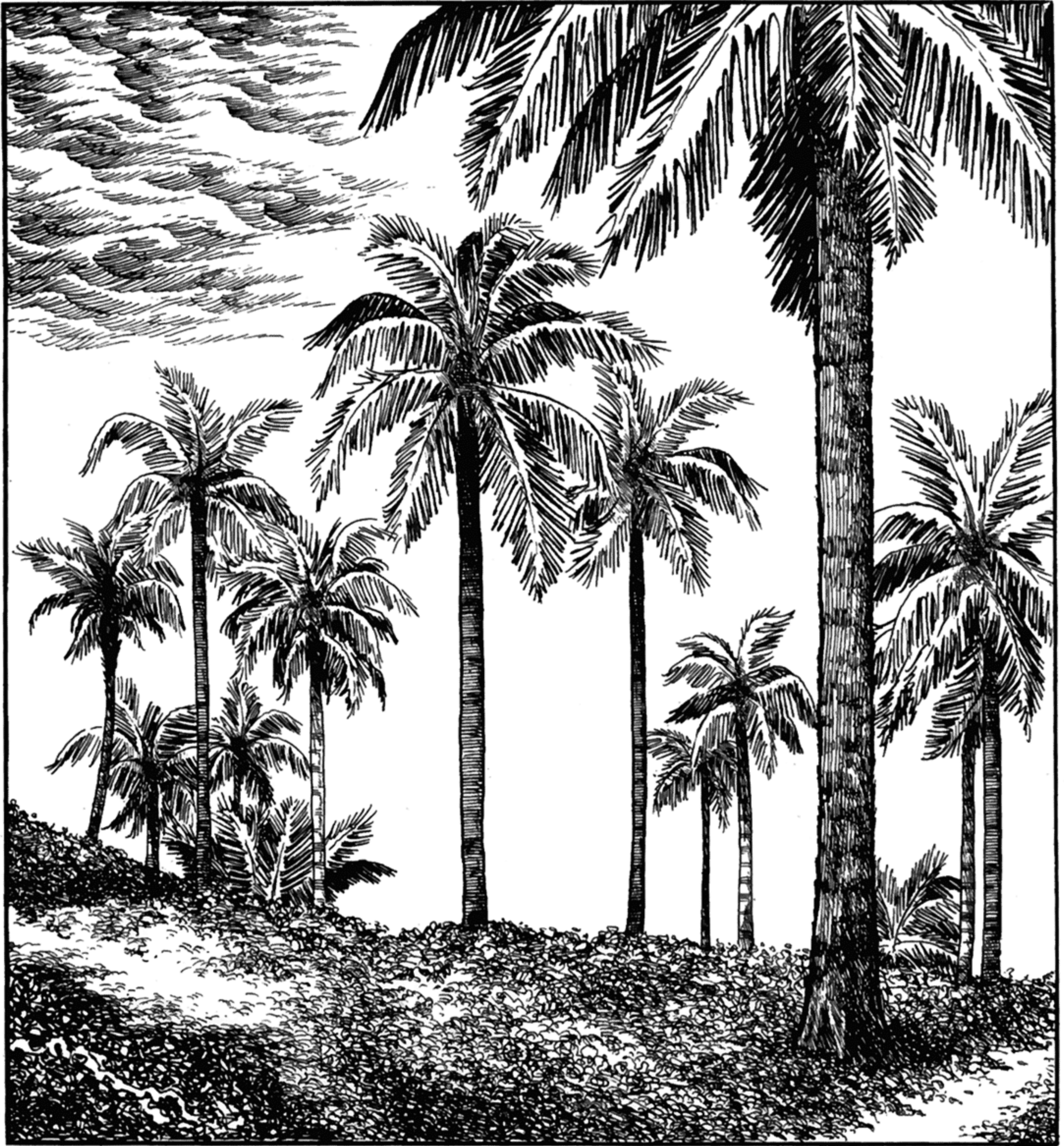


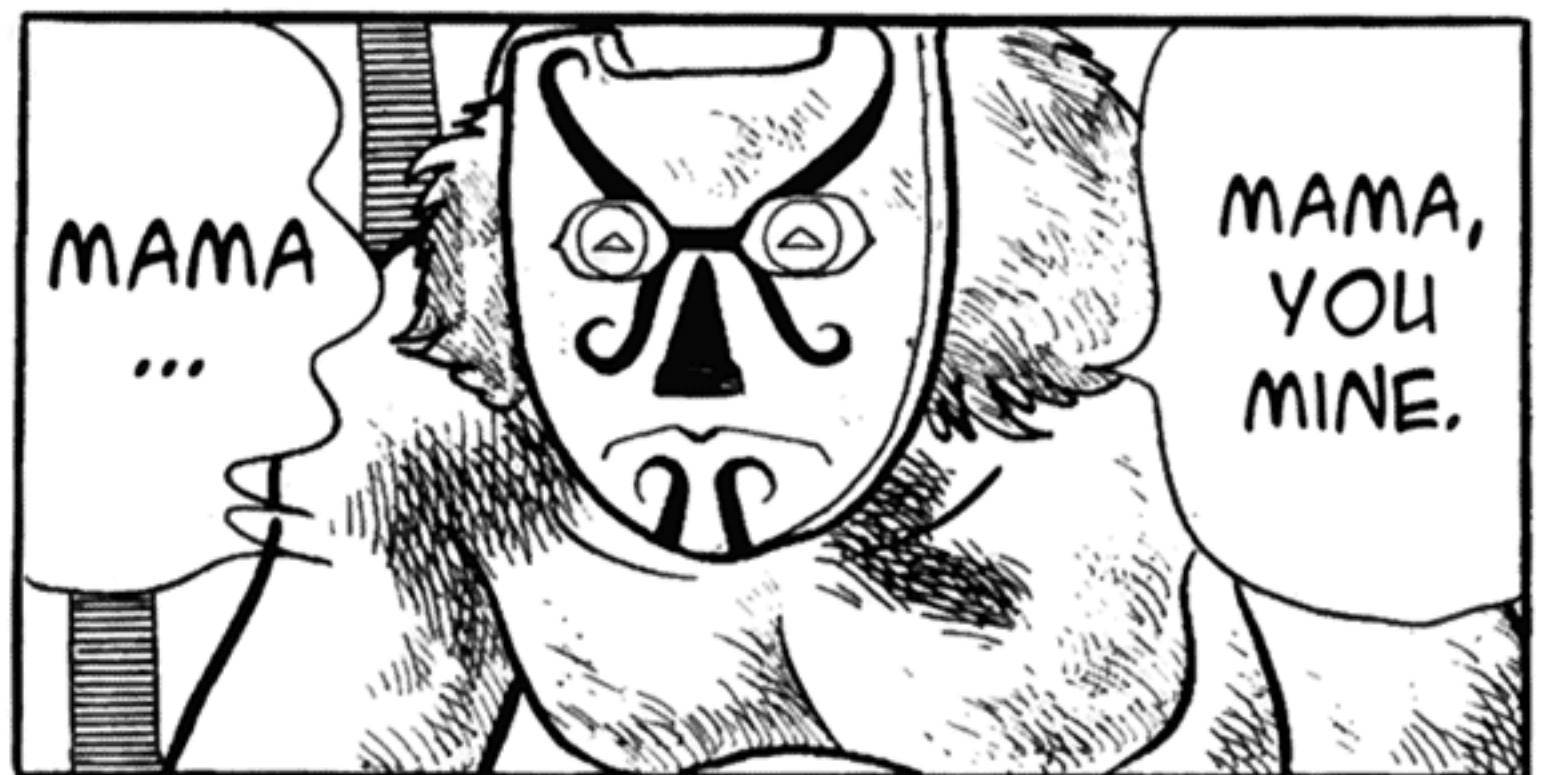
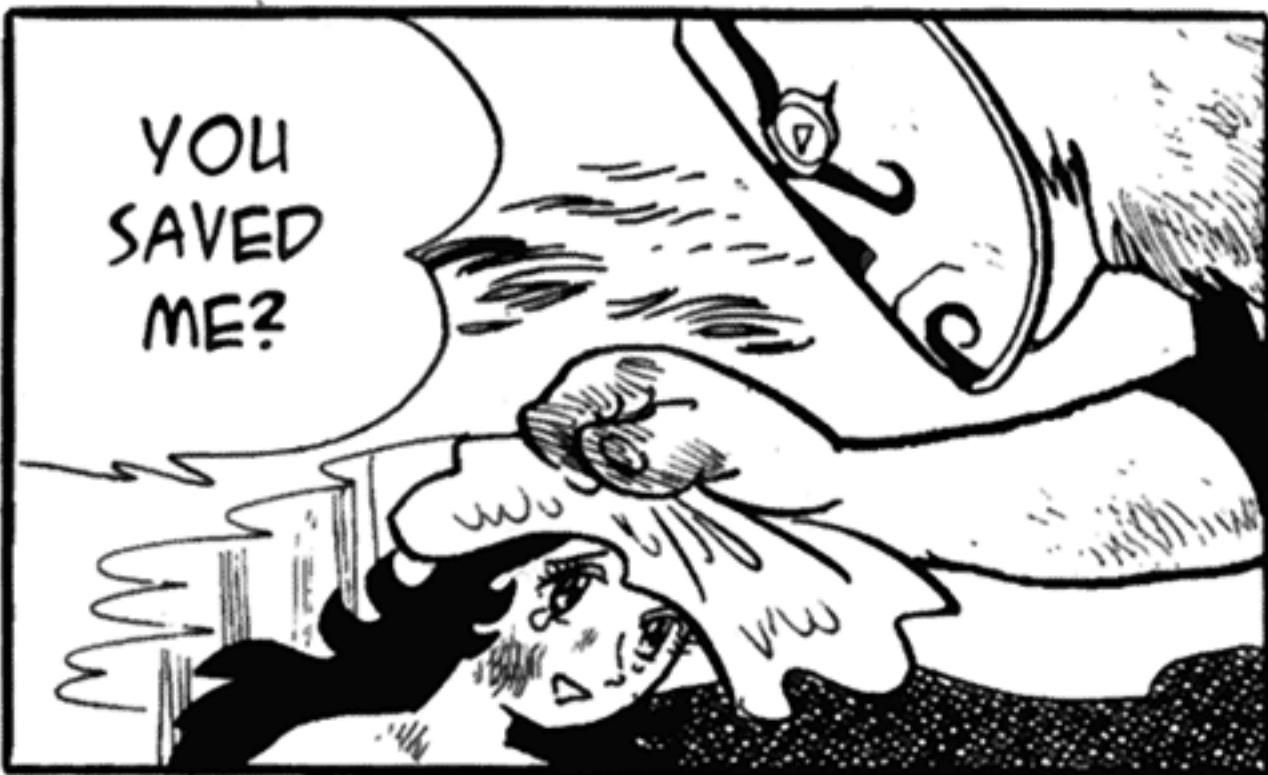
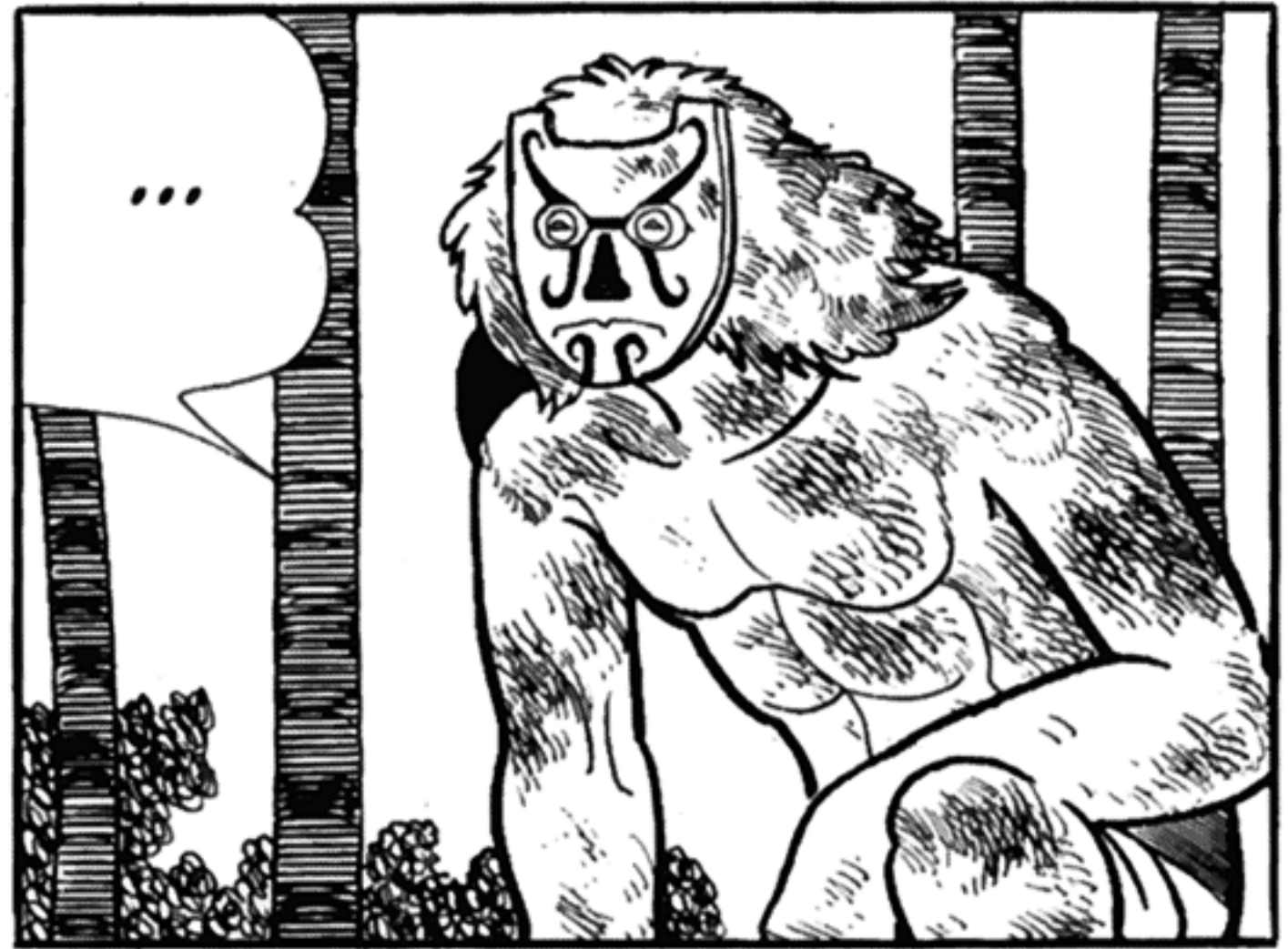


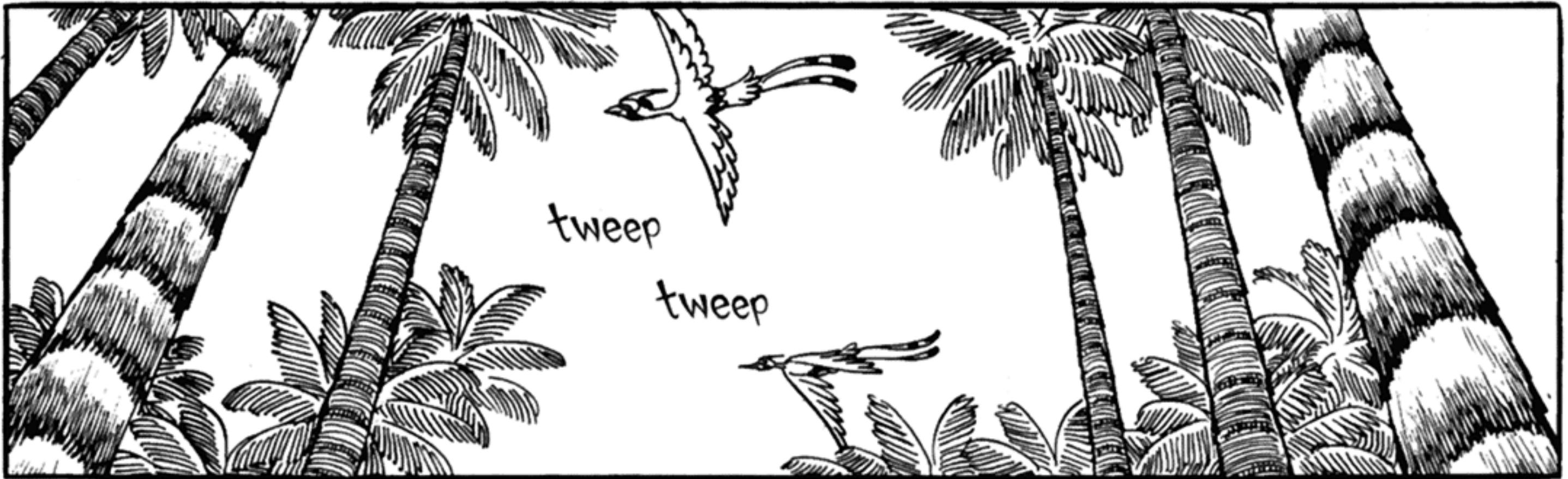












tweep

tweep



MAMA

...

YOU NOT HURT, GOOD.



I'M NOBODY. WHY DID YOU... SAVE ME?



SAW SERVANTS THEY L-LIT FIRE I SAW THE MAN WHO LIT F-FIRE TO BURN SLAVE WOMEN... BAD! PRINCE BAD...

ON THE PRINCE'S ORDER?!



FIRE WAS SET. I SAW MAN SET FIRE!

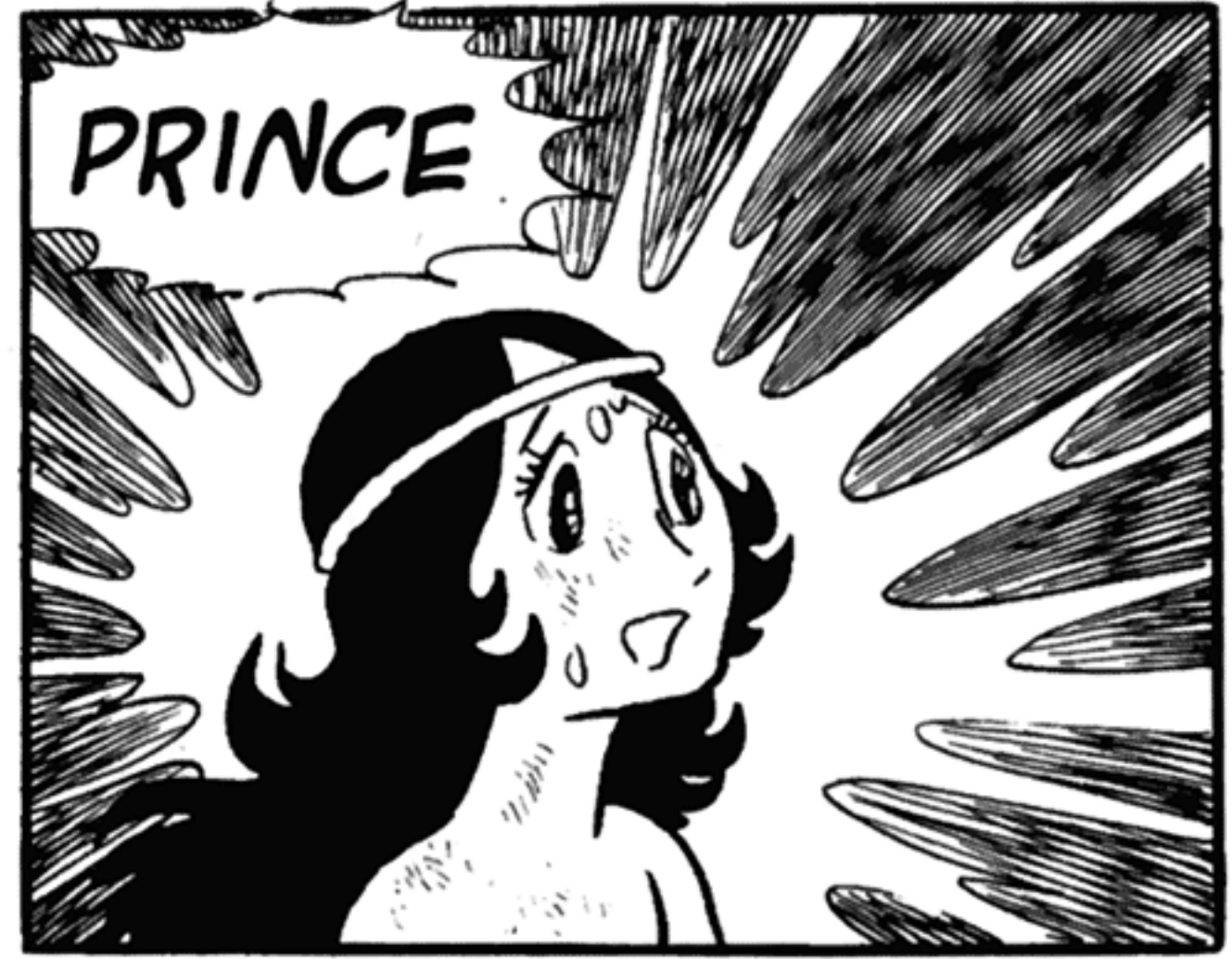
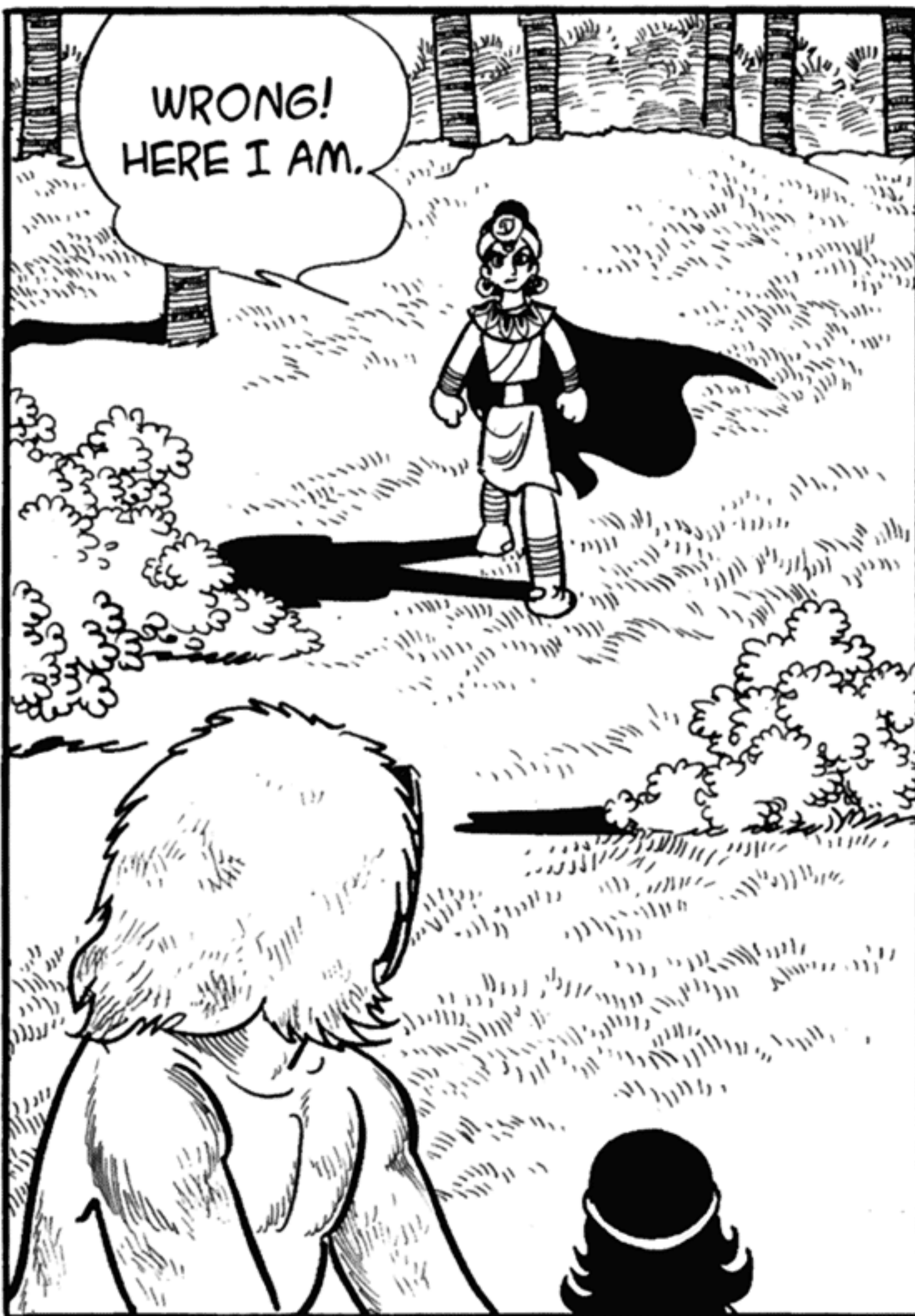
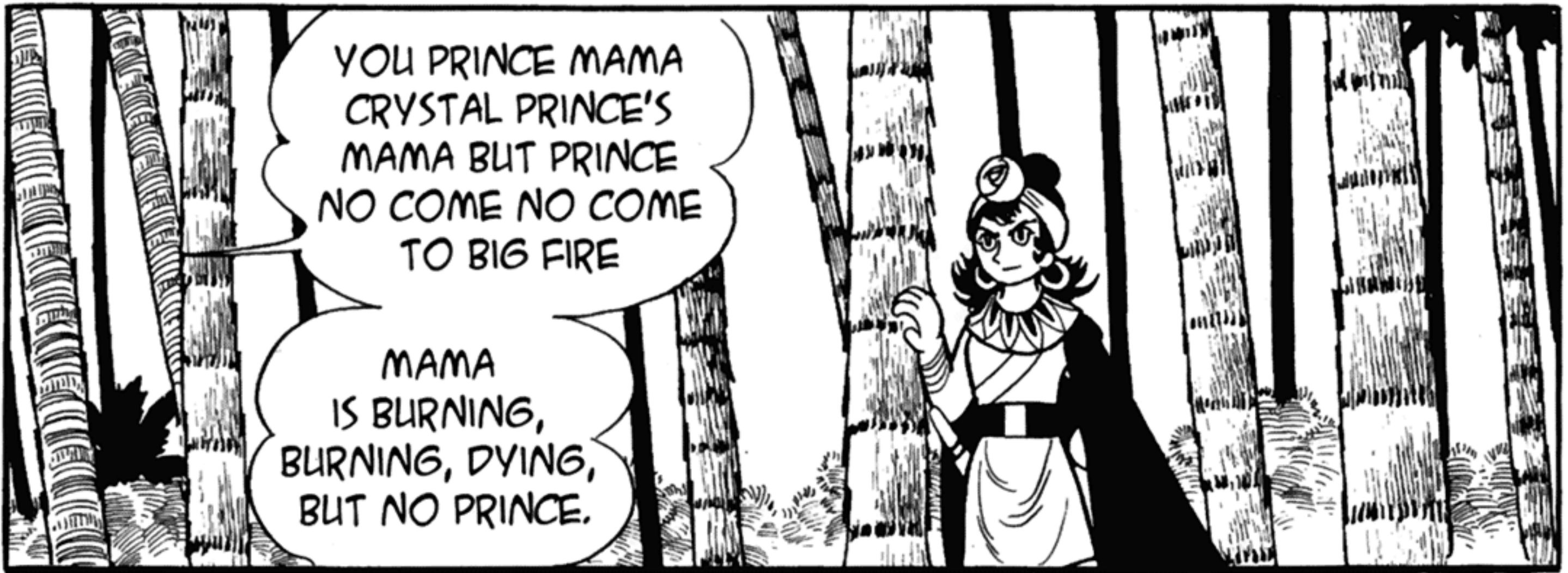
DO NOT KNOW, BUT

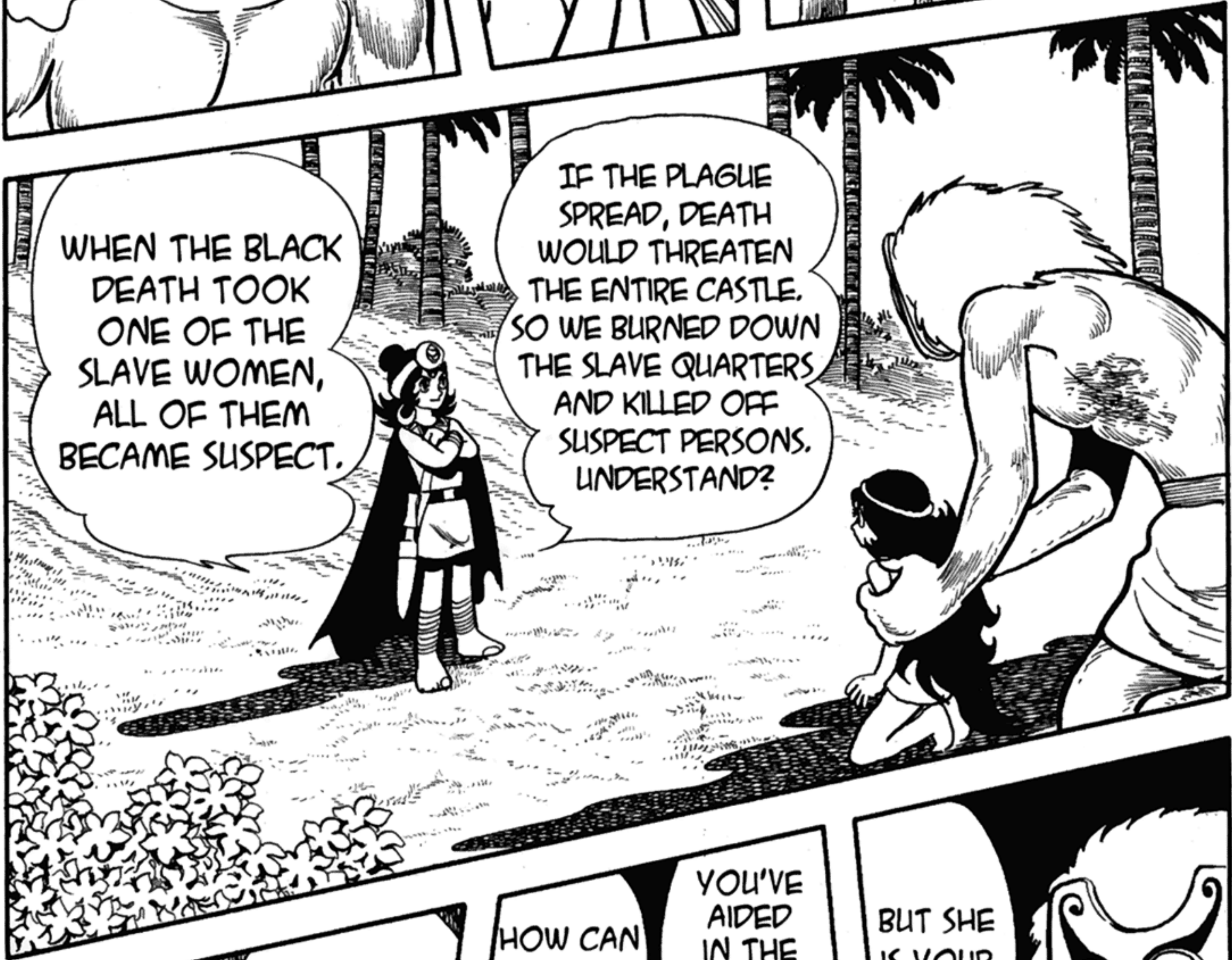


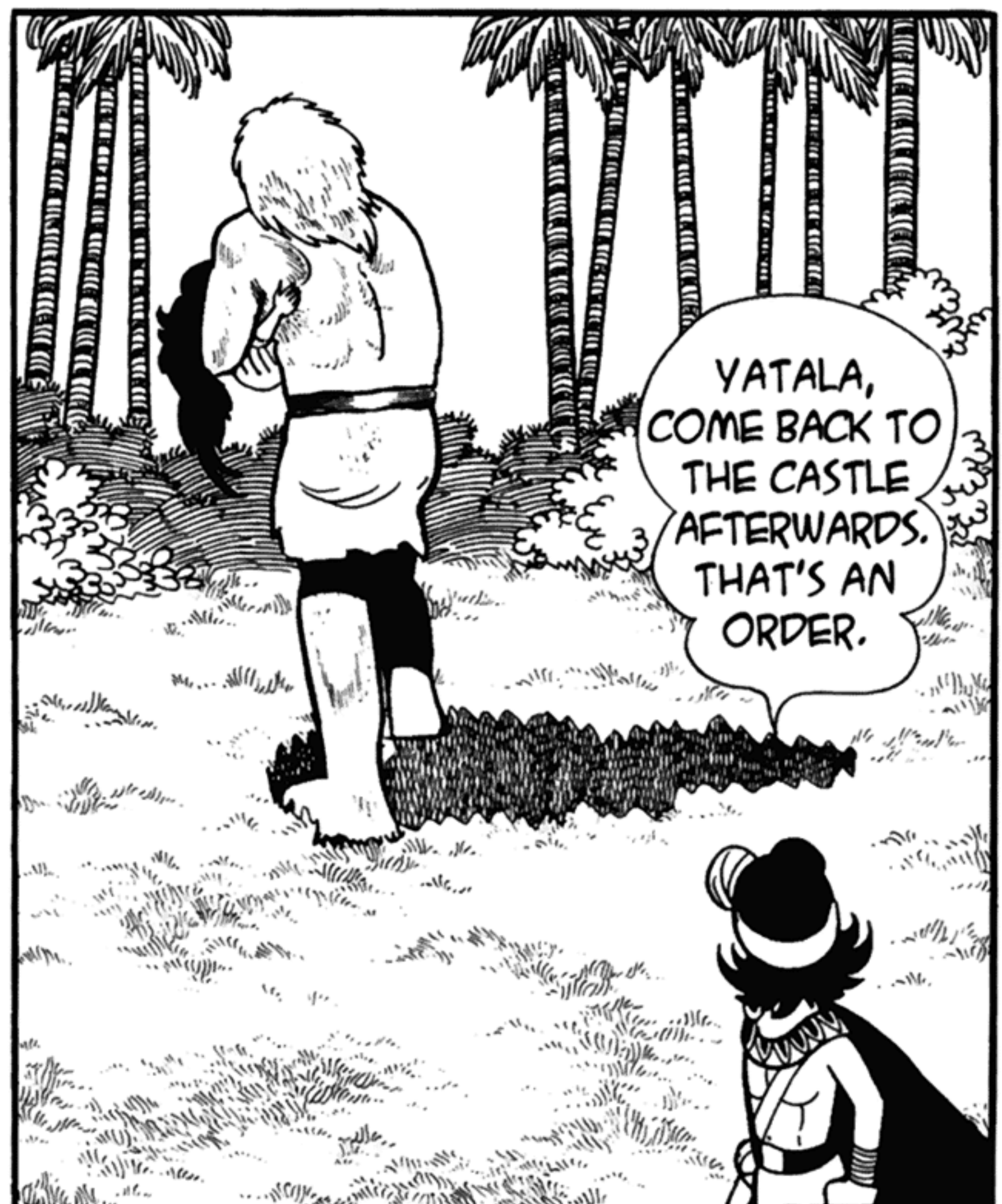
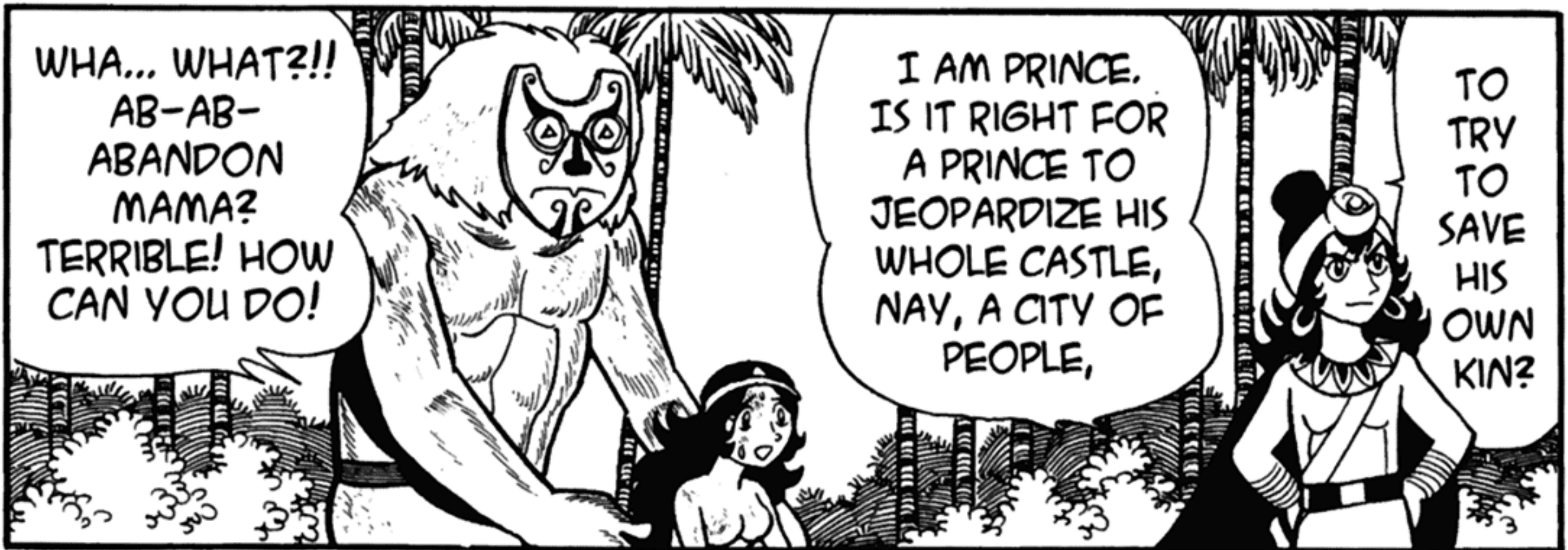
HOW CRUEL !!

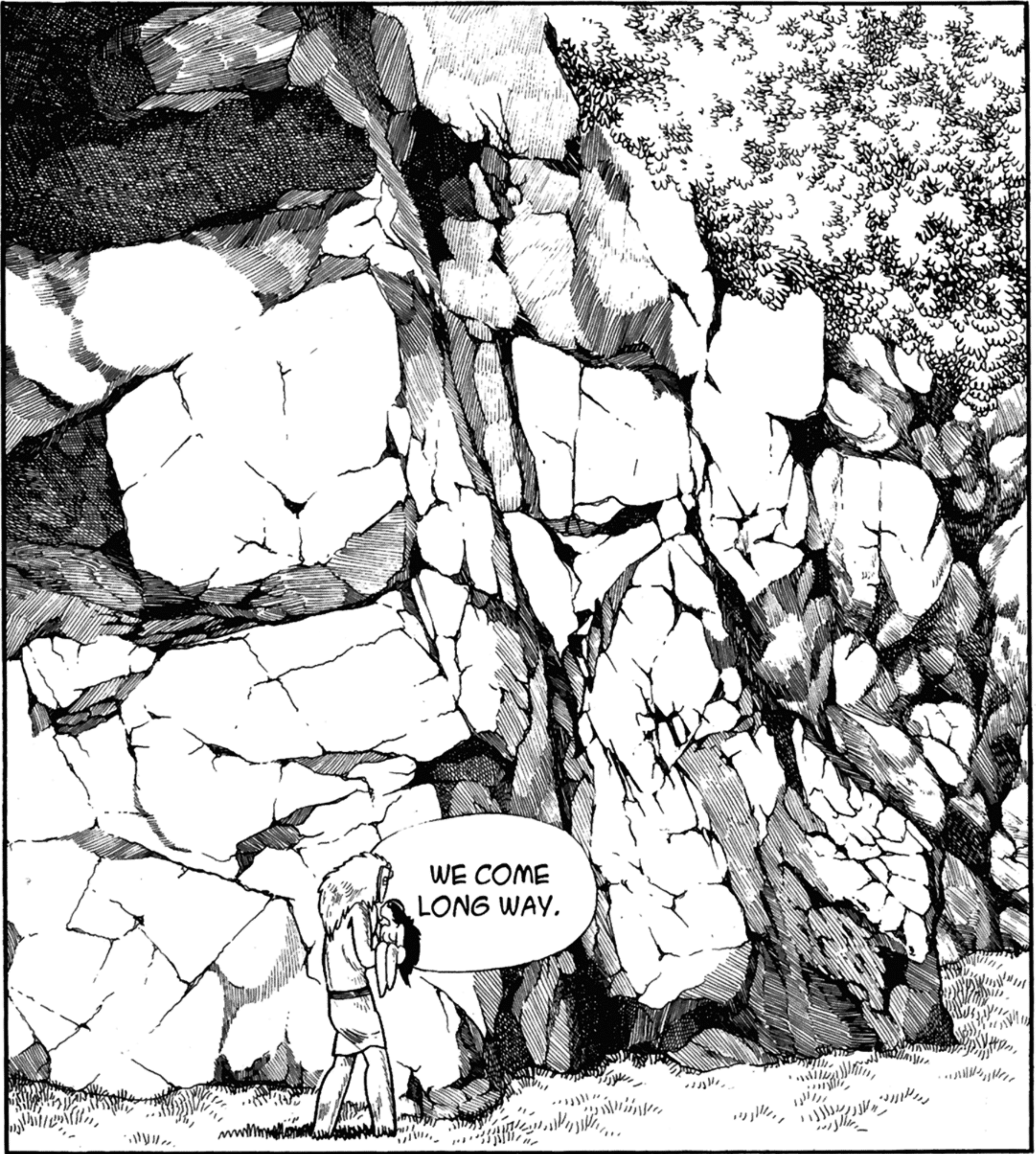
SO ALL THE OTHERS ARE DEAD?!

YES, YES, I ONLY SAVE Y-YOU...









WE COME
LONG WAY.

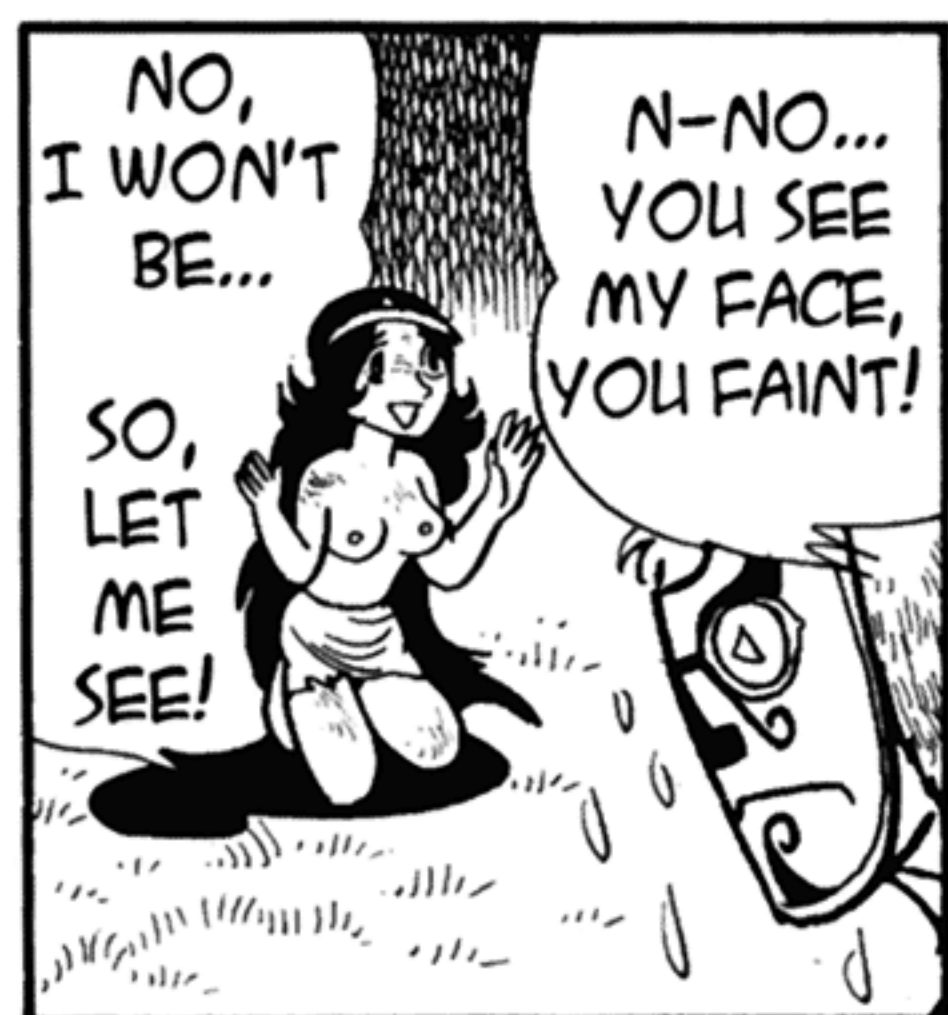
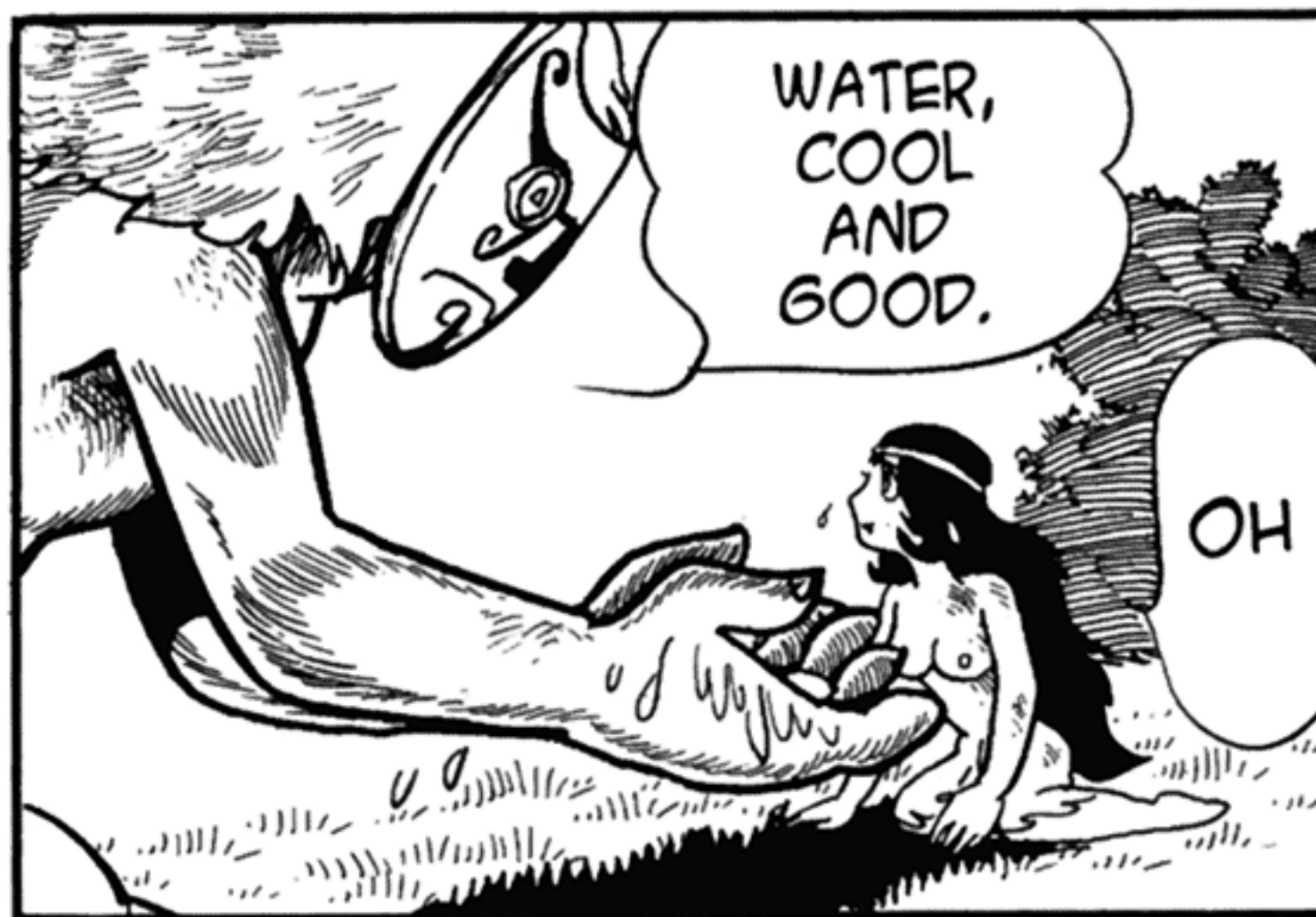
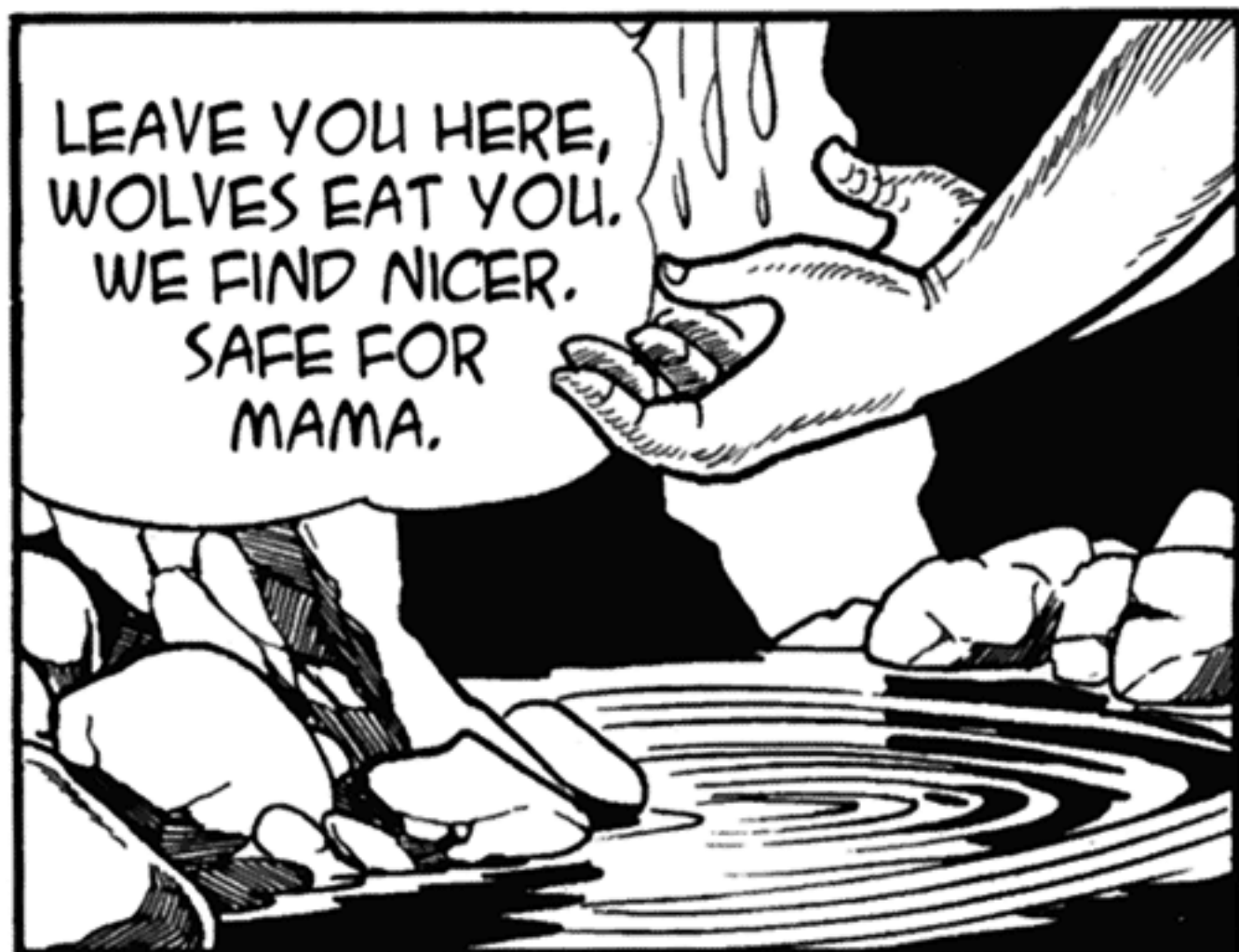


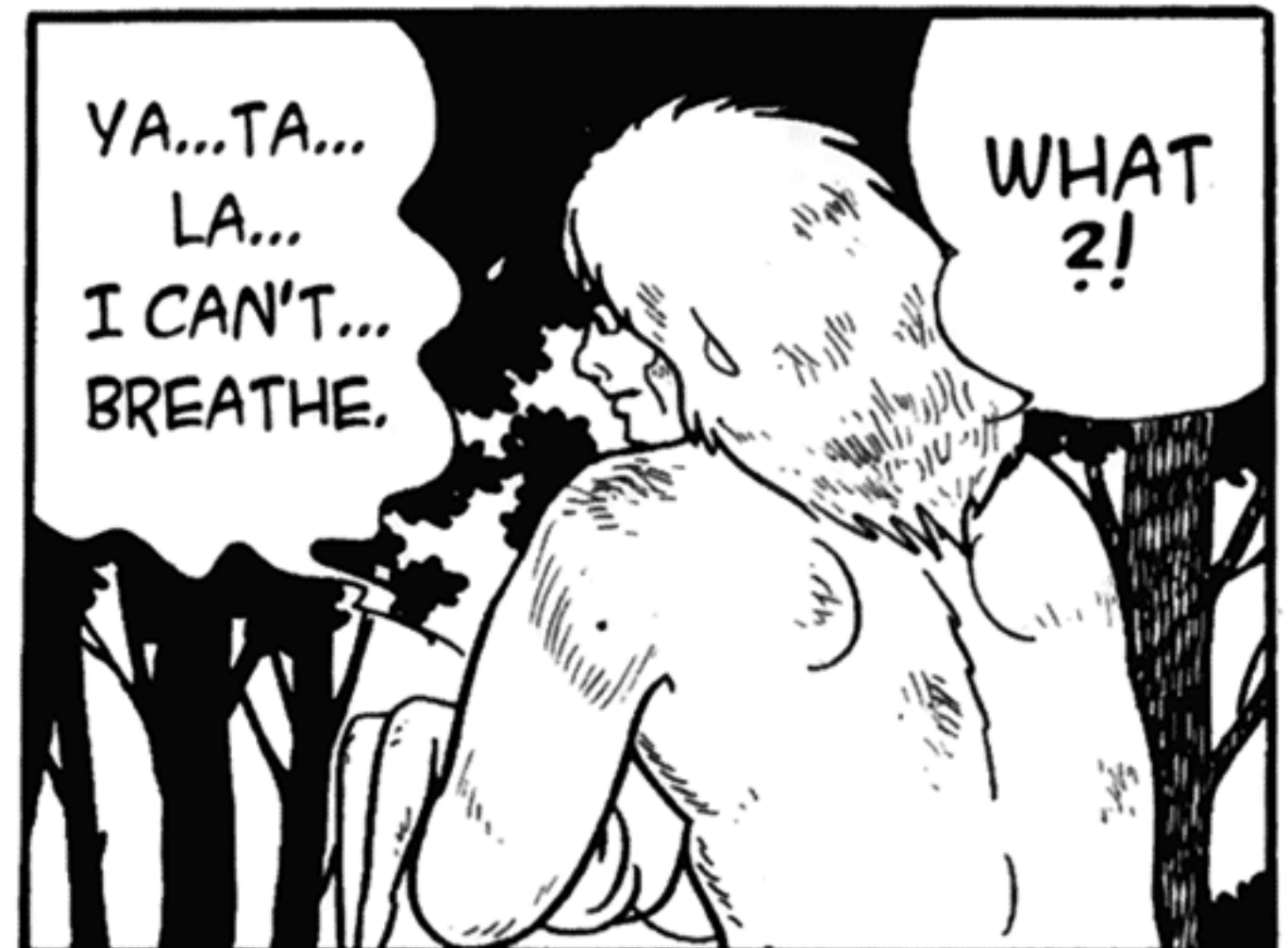
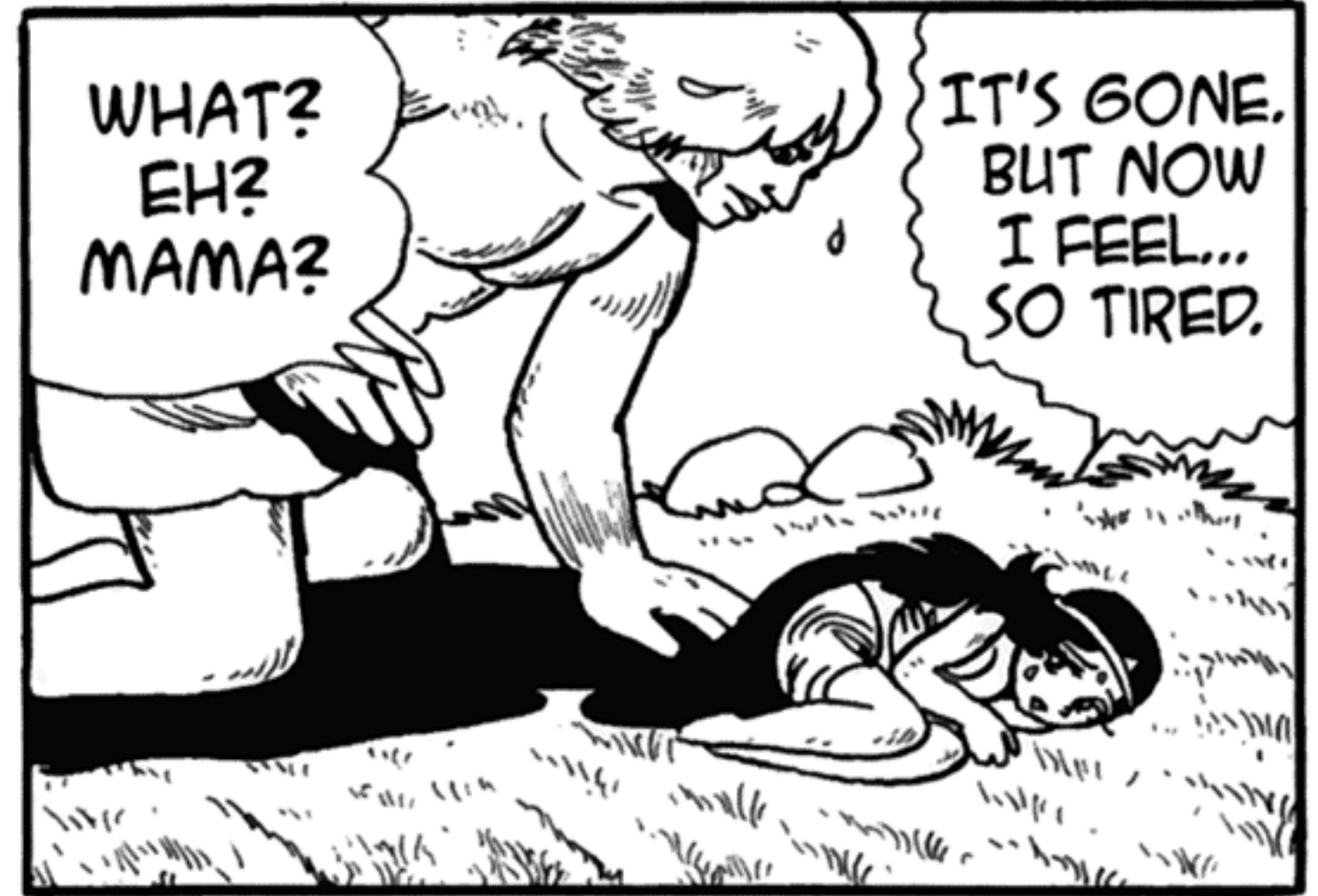
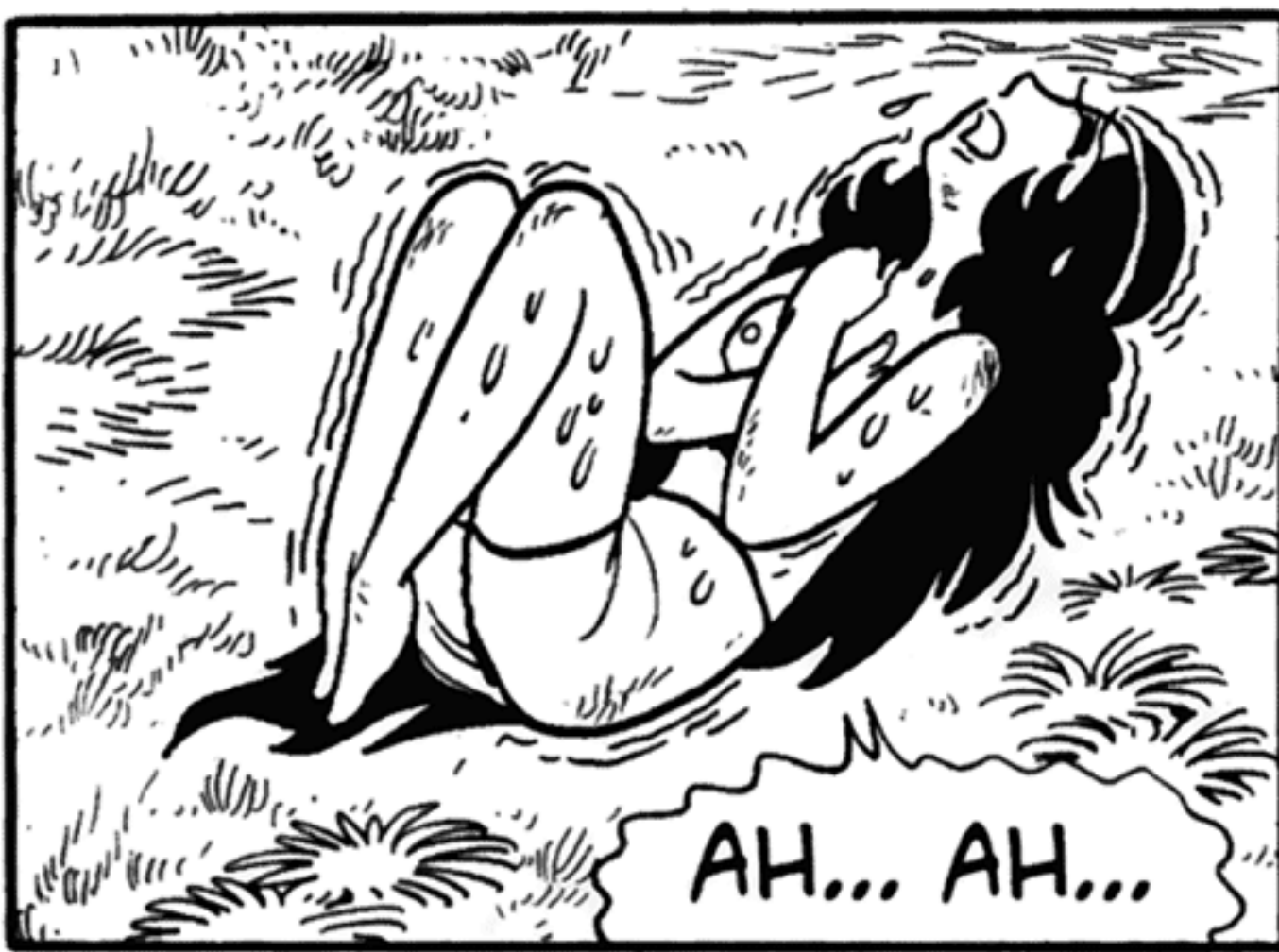
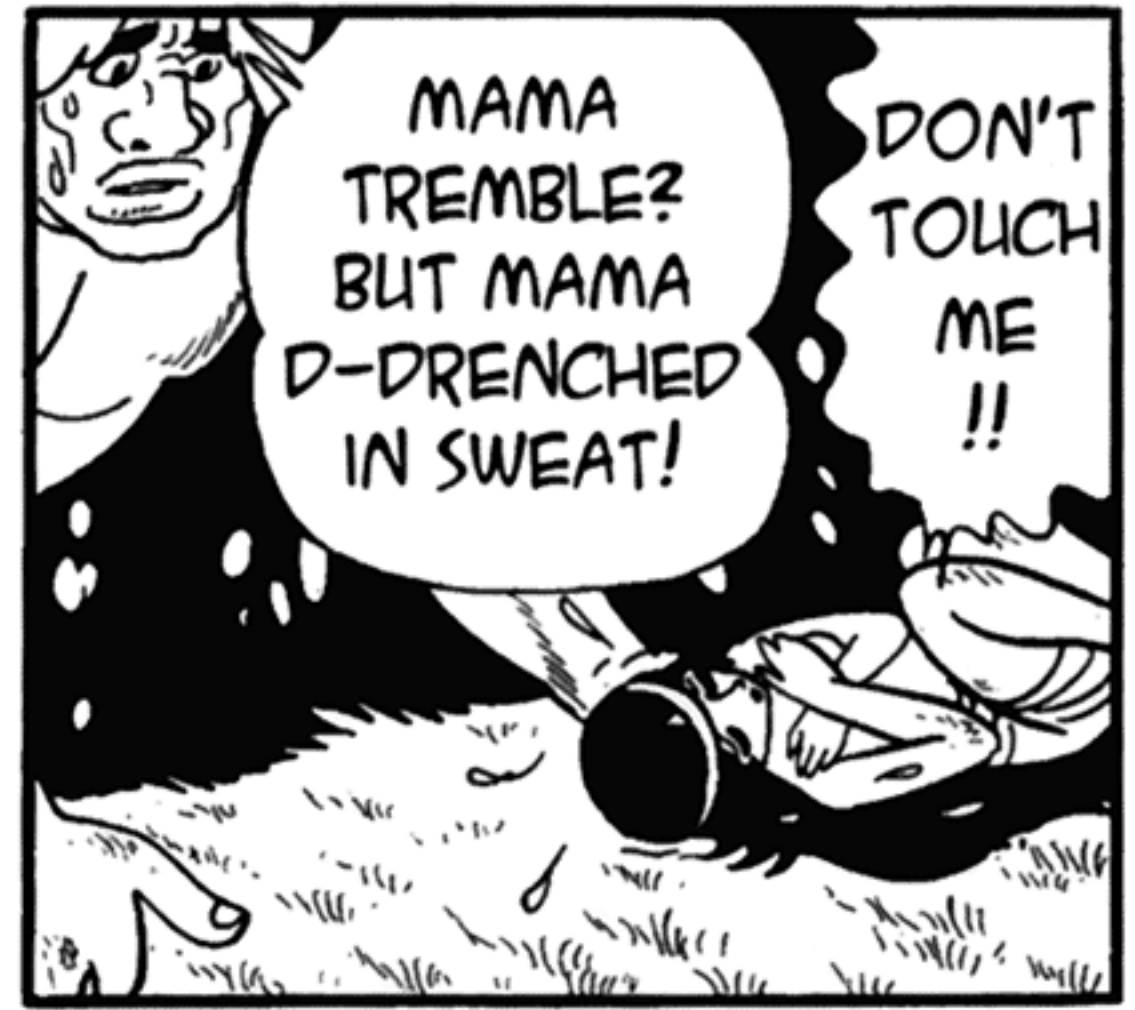
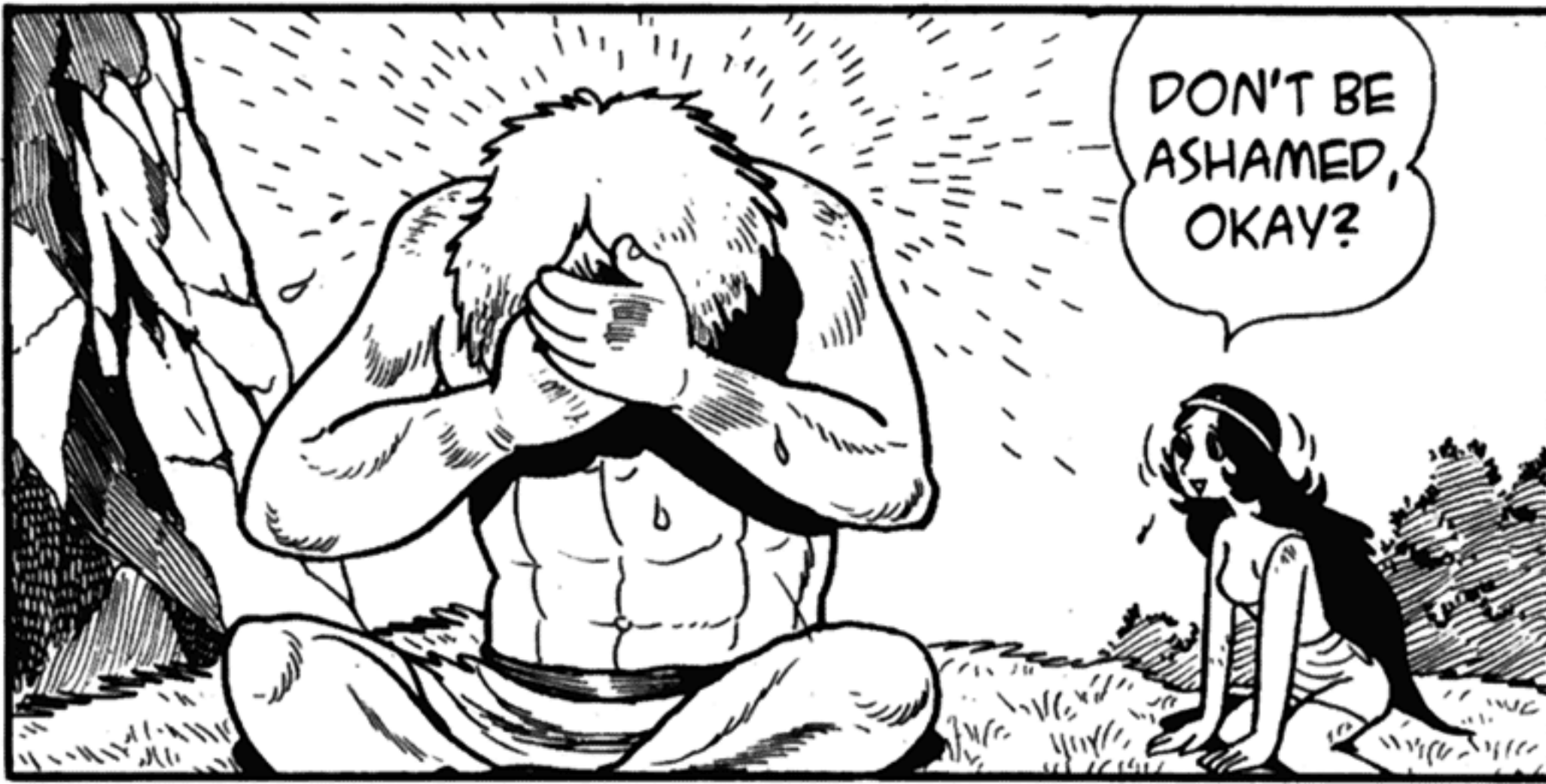
WE'RE
ALMOST
AT THE
BORDER...



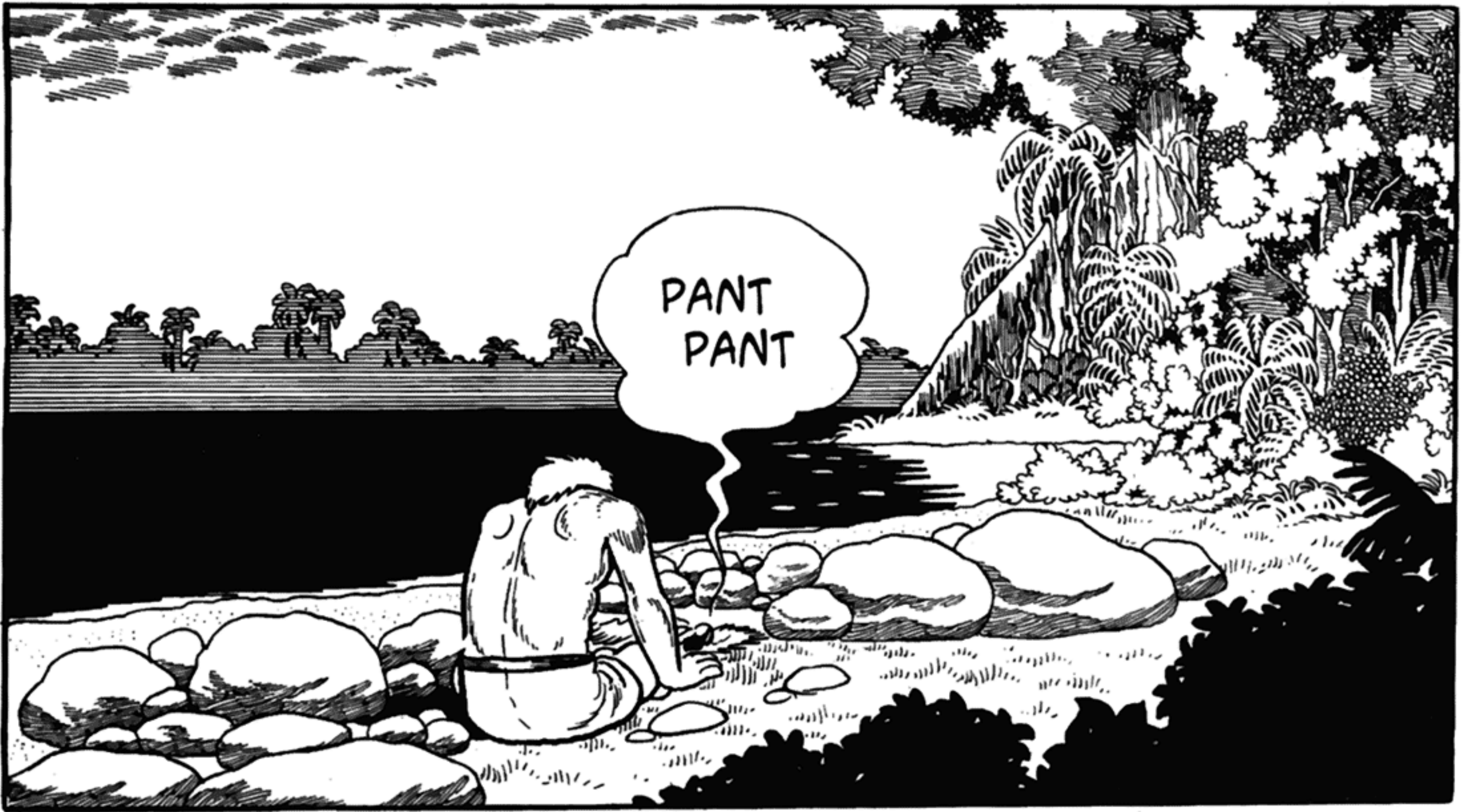
I THINK
IT'S SAFE
TO LEAVE
ME HERE.

WHAT
YOU SAY,
MAMA.









PANT
PANT



I'M BEING...
SUCH A BURDEN.
SORRY...



YOU'LL
CATCH IT
FROM ME...
AND YOU
WON'T BE
ALLOWED
BACK.

NO WORRY,
NO WORRY.
YOU GET
BETTER NOW.
THEN, DOWN RIVER
FASTER, SAFER.



PANT PANT
...CAN'T...



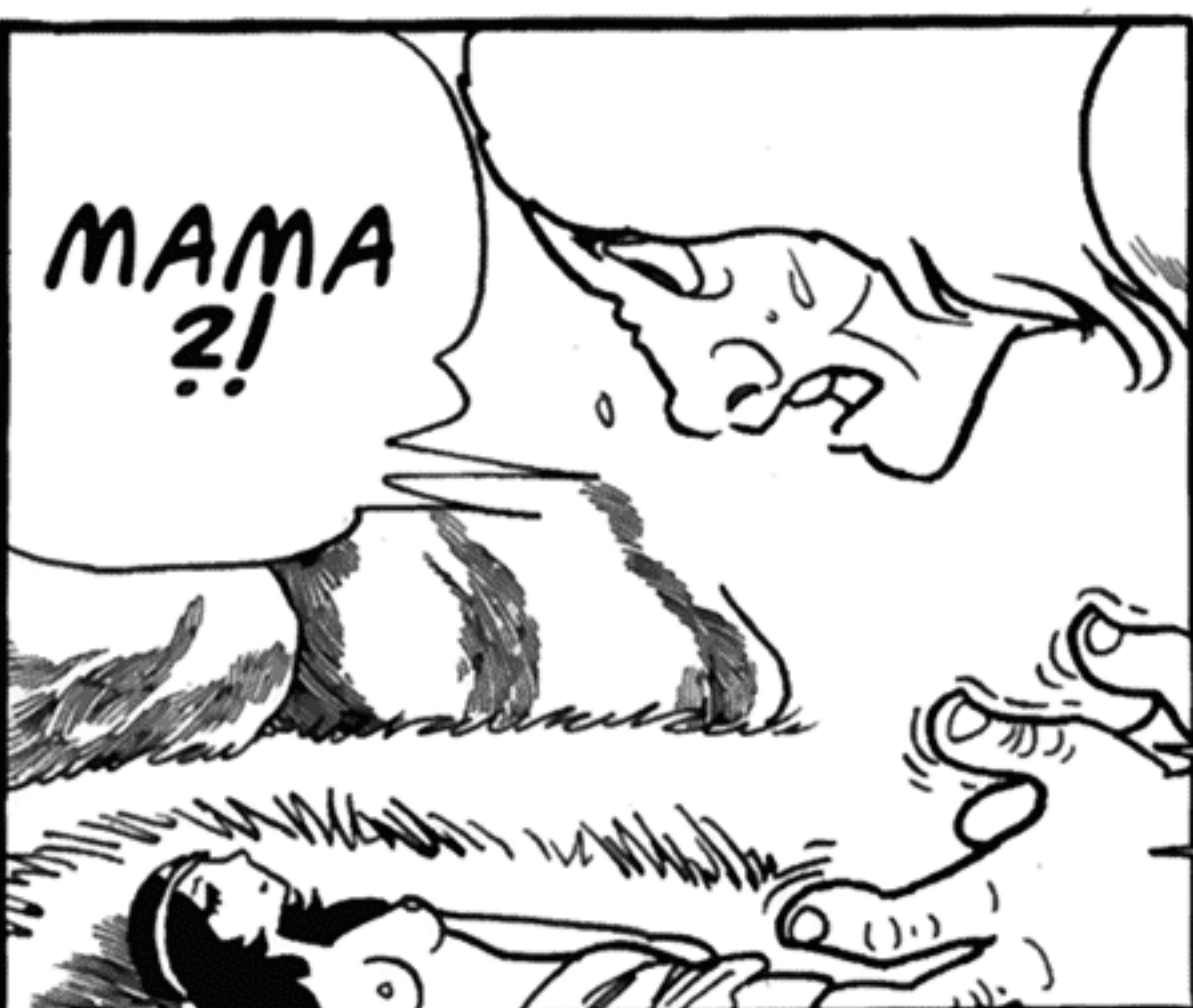
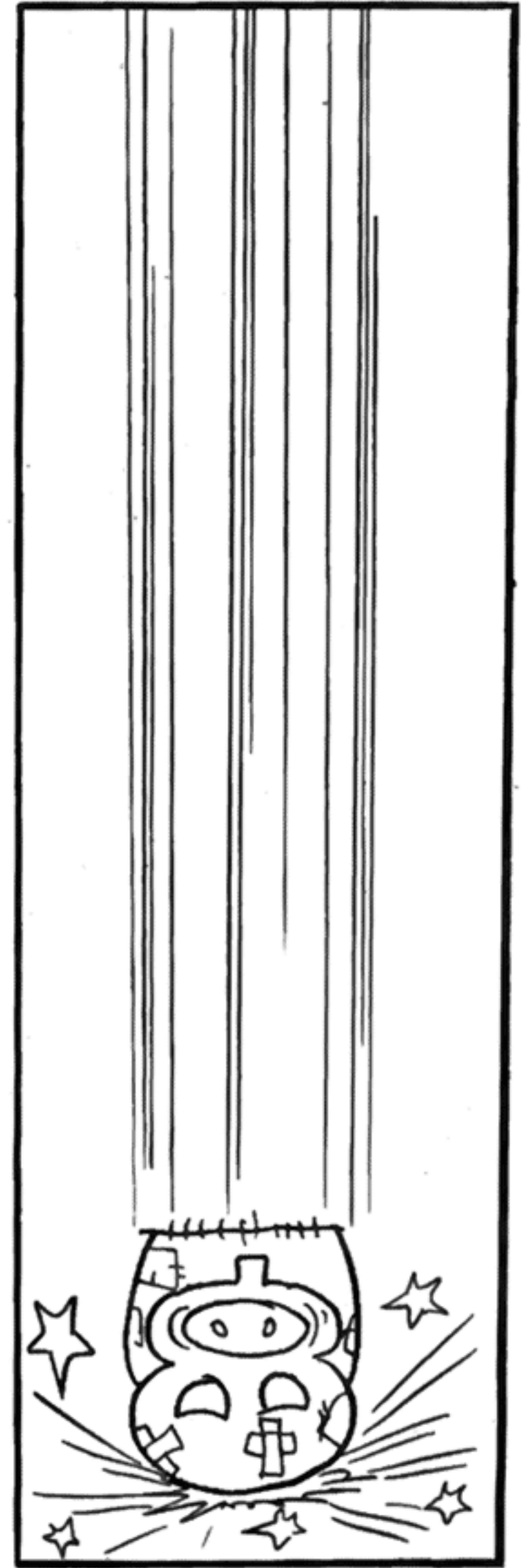
YOU SUFFER?
WHAT FOR ME
TO DO?!

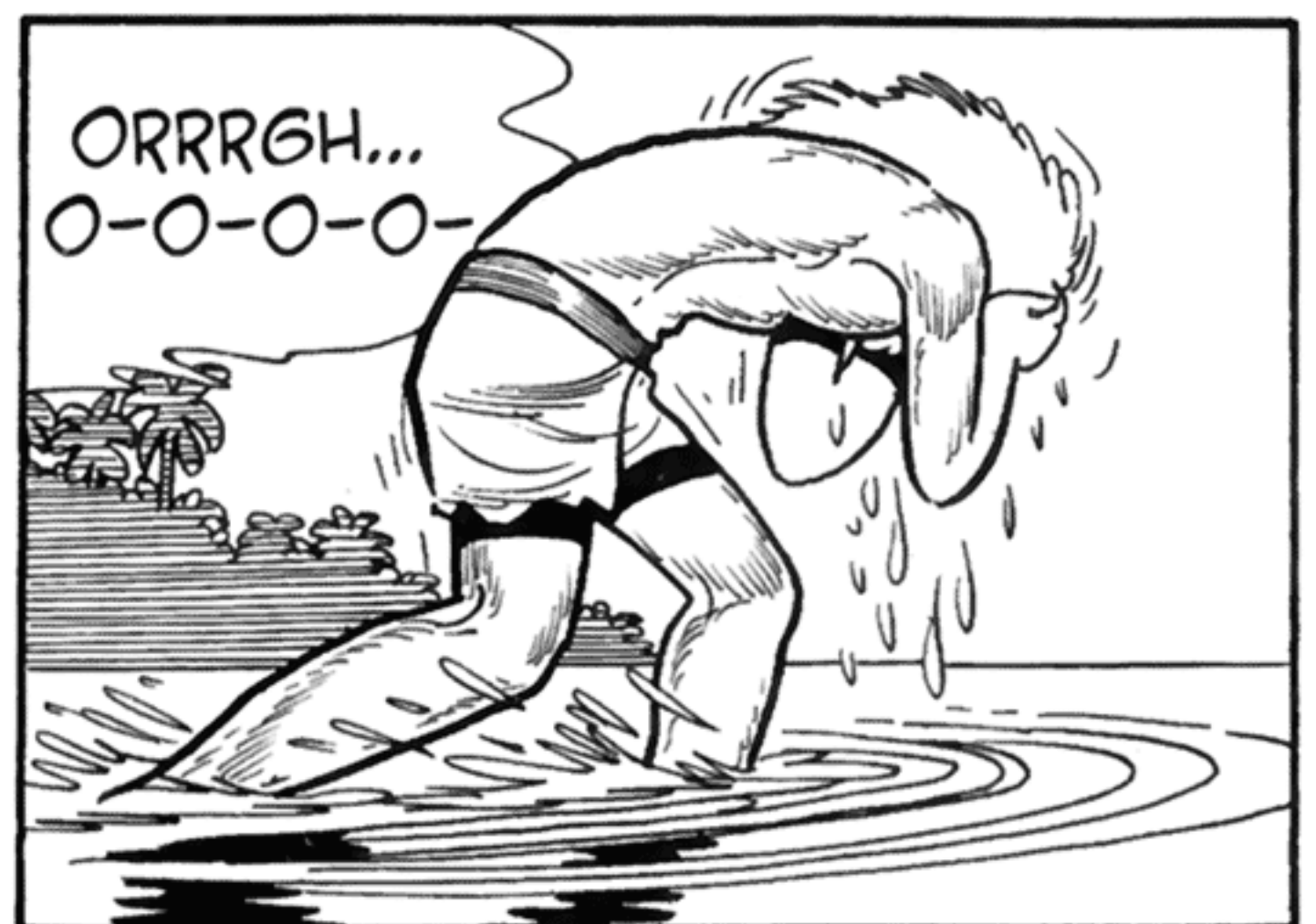
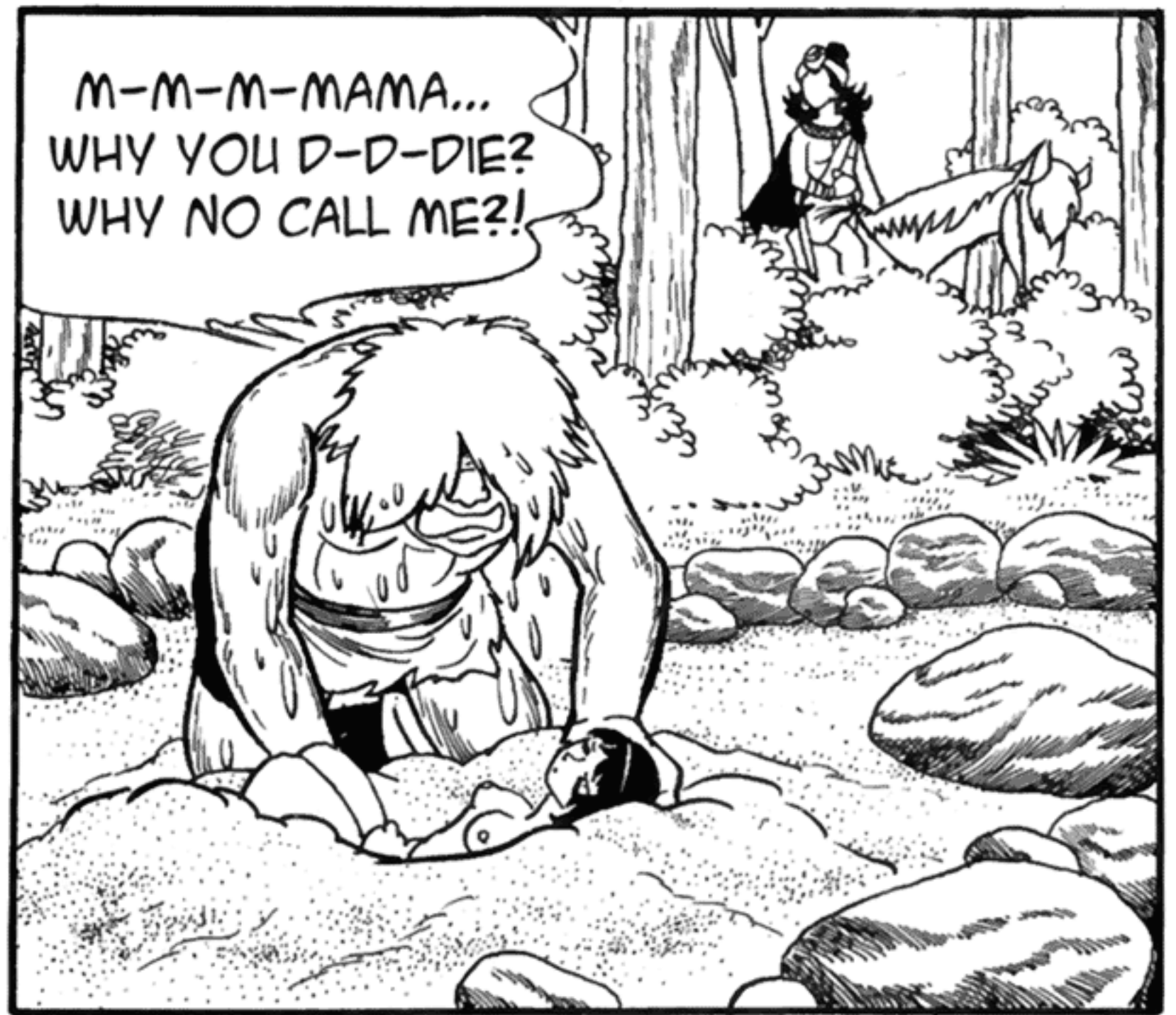
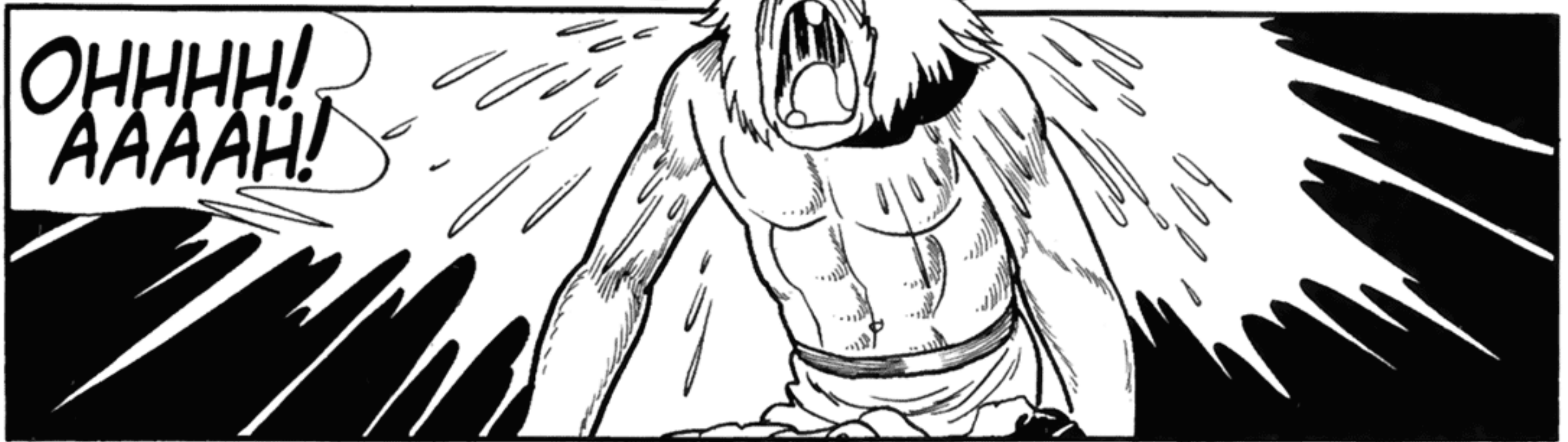
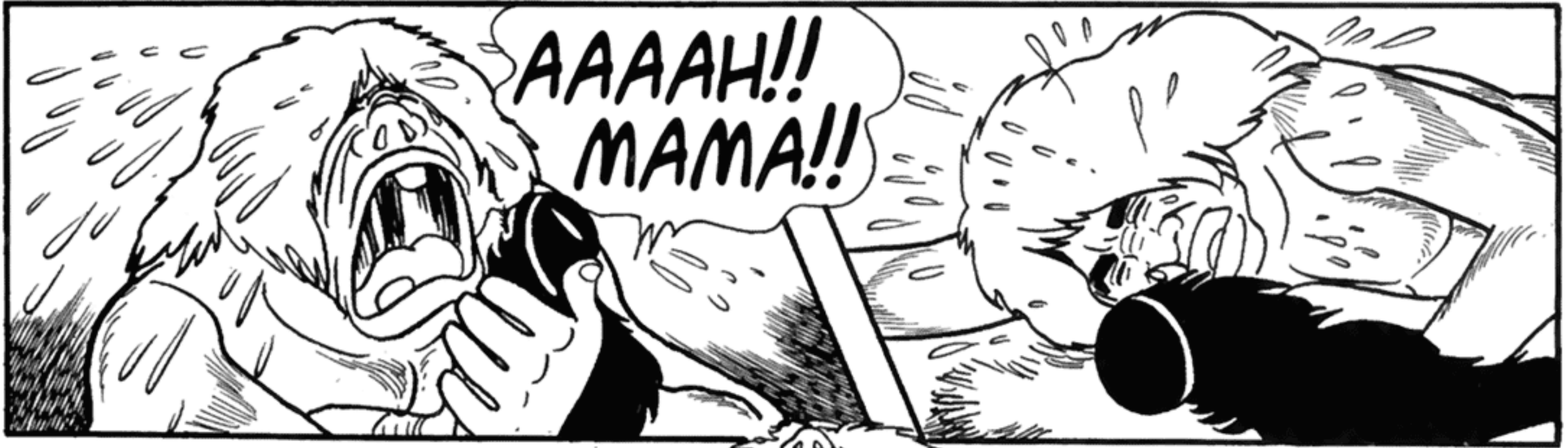


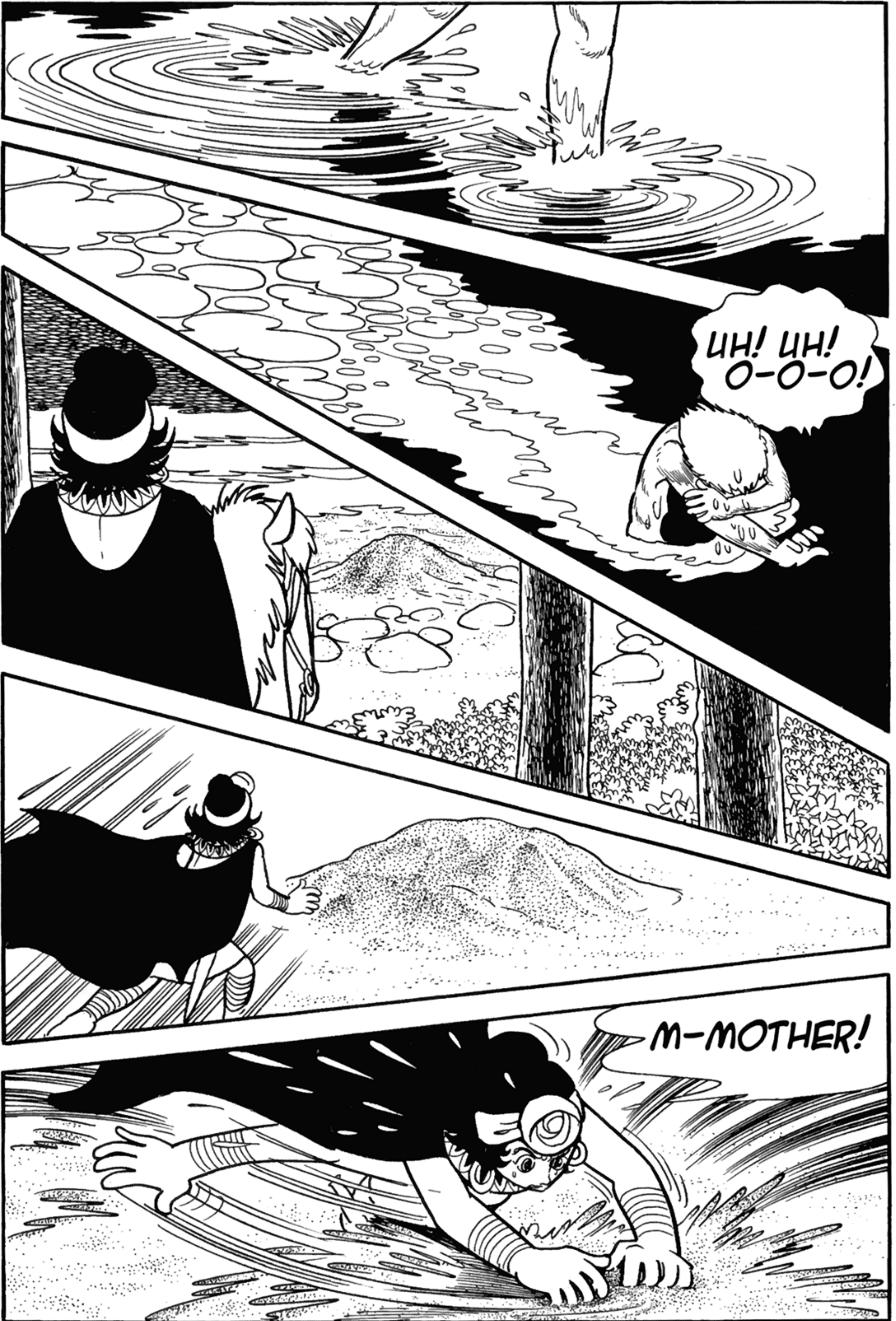
HAHH HAHH
AHHH OH...
HAAH UHH



ASLEEP... BODY SO HOT.
MUST COOL WITH WATER.

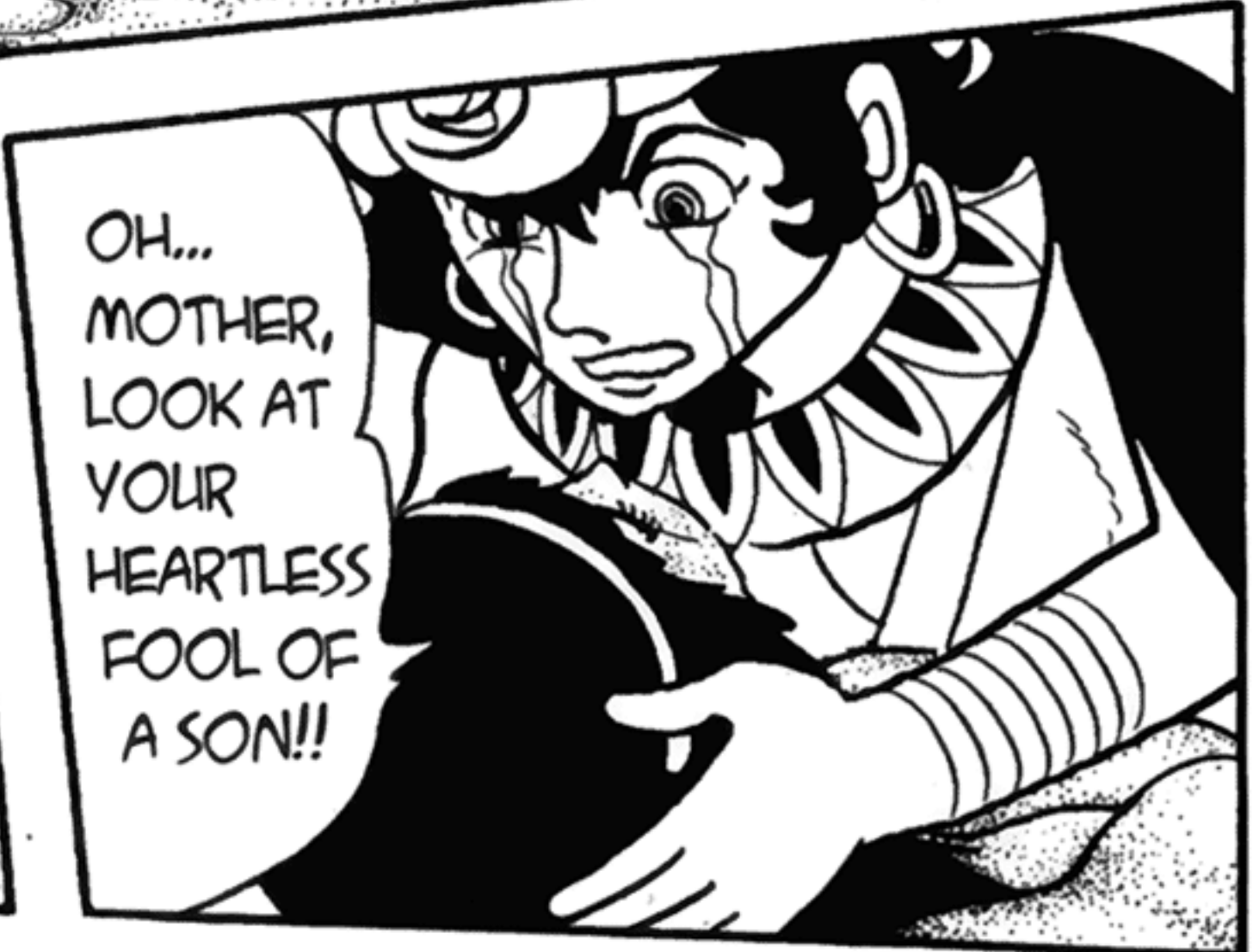
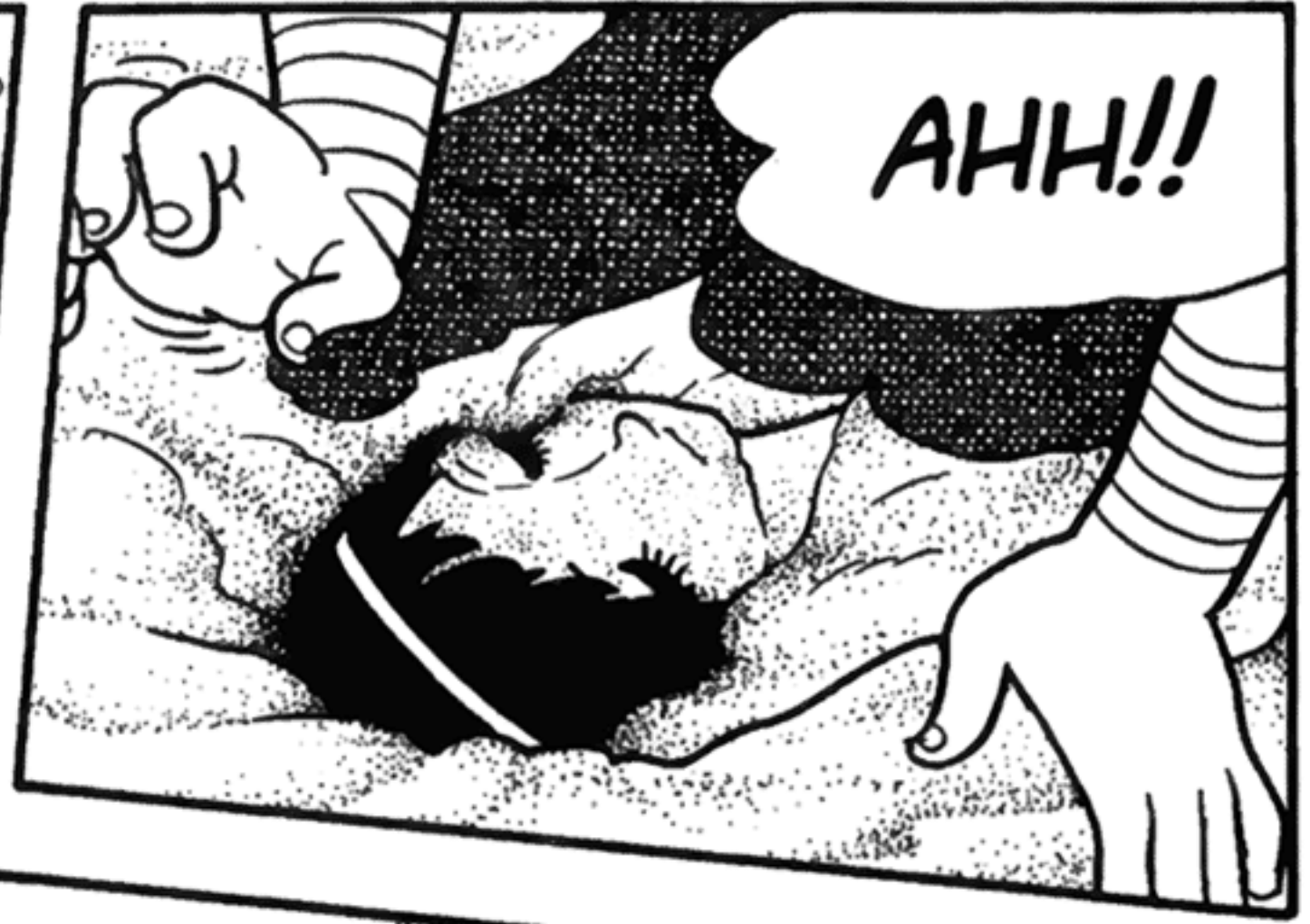
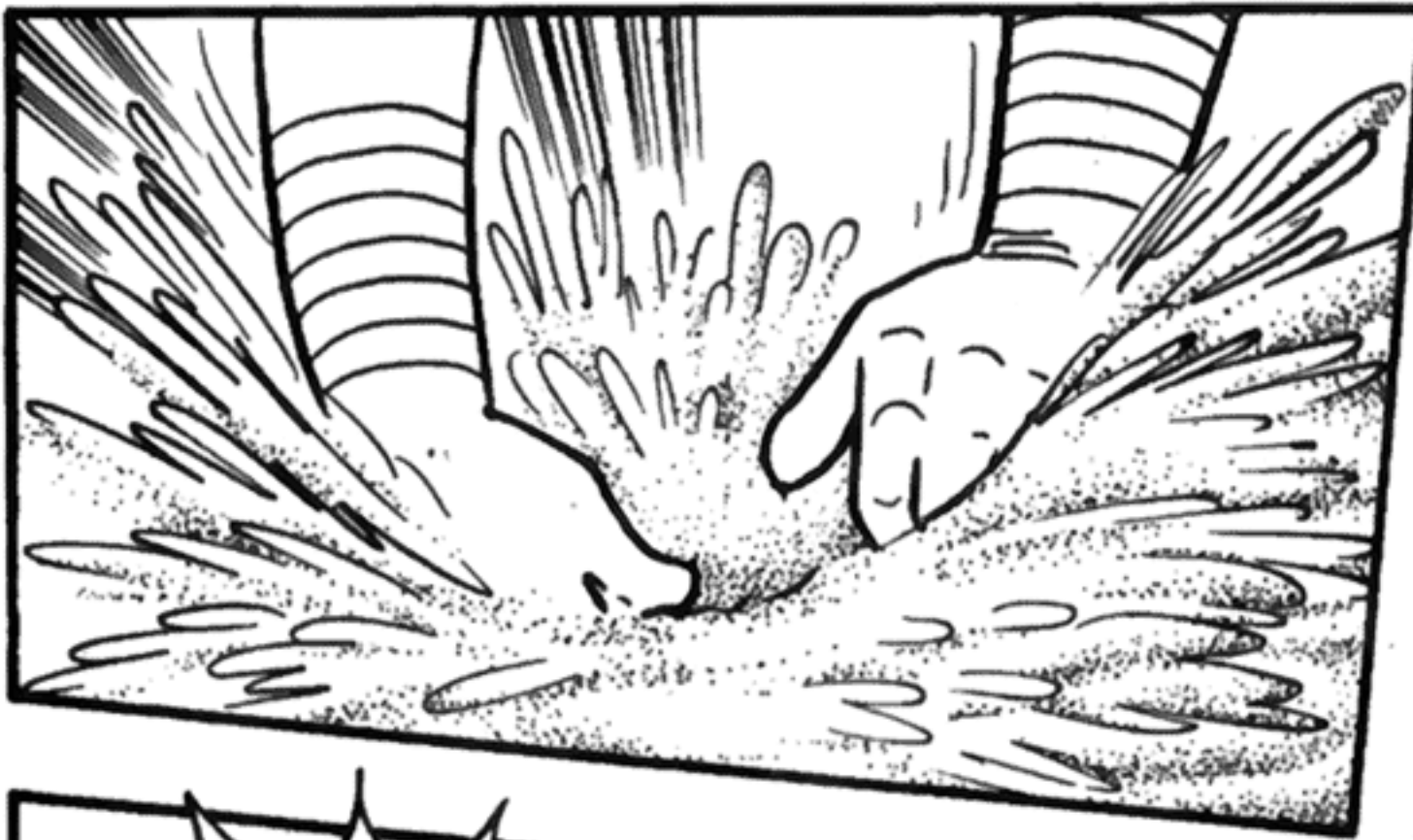


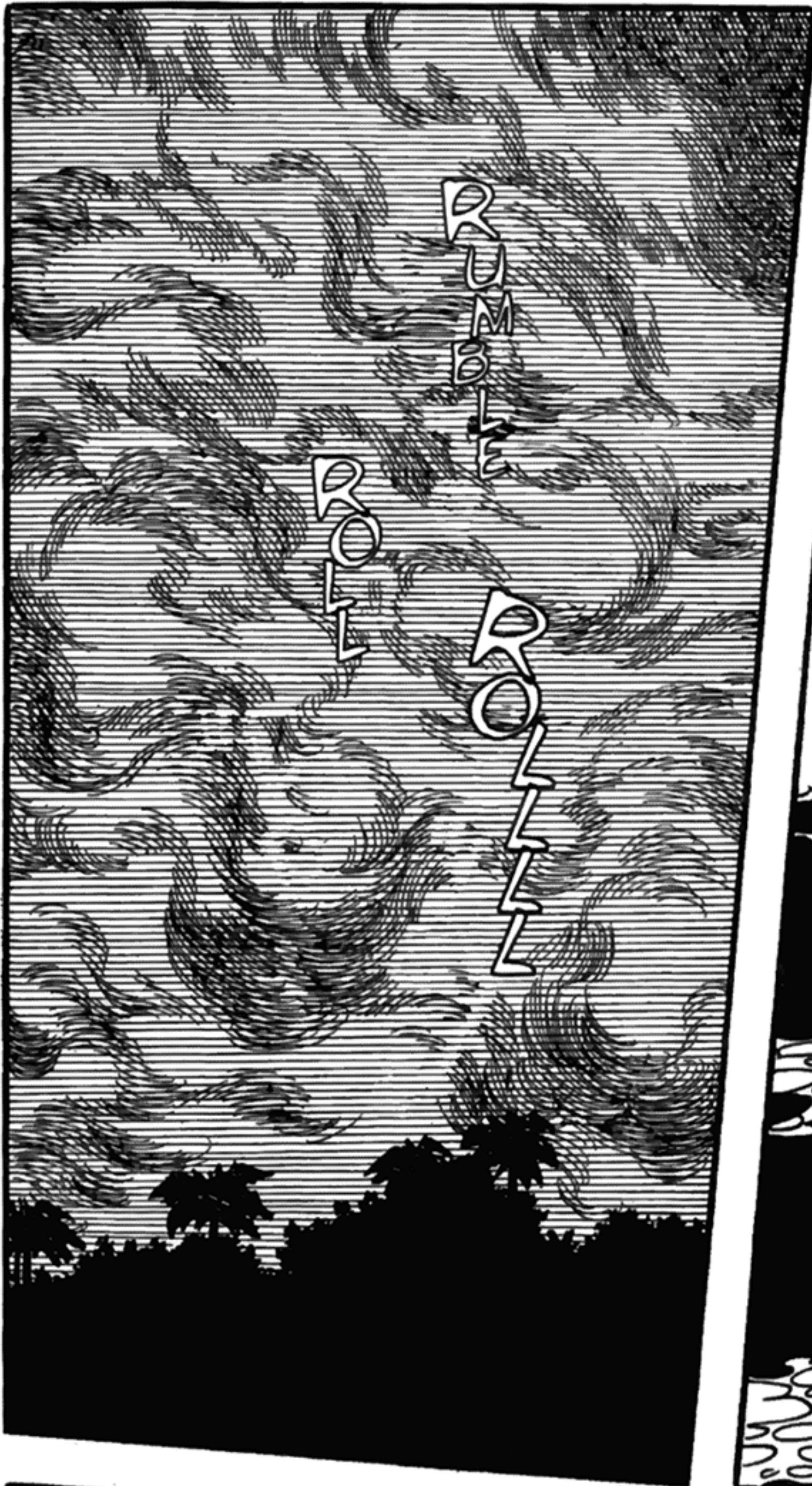




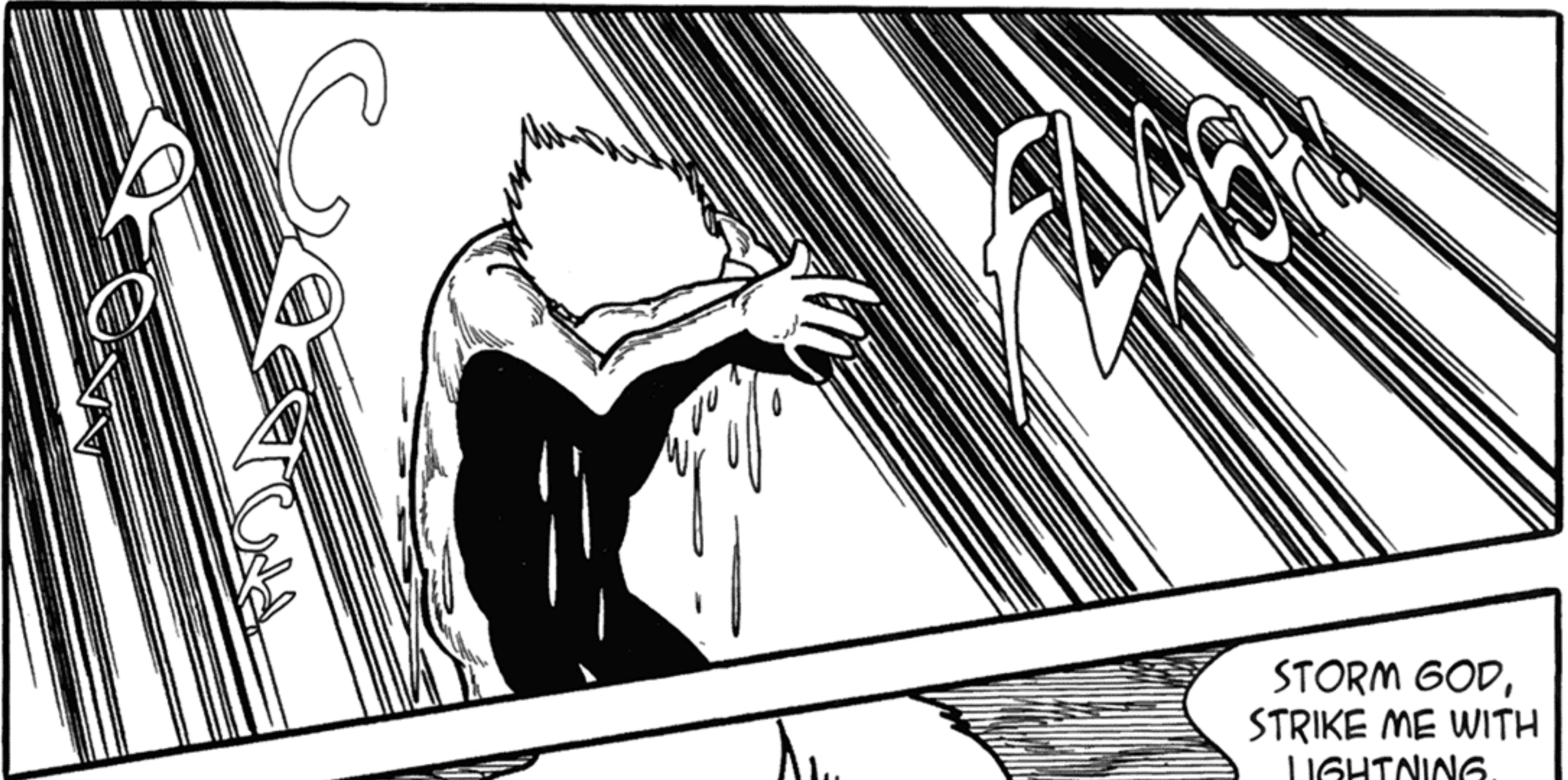
UH! UH!
O-O-O!

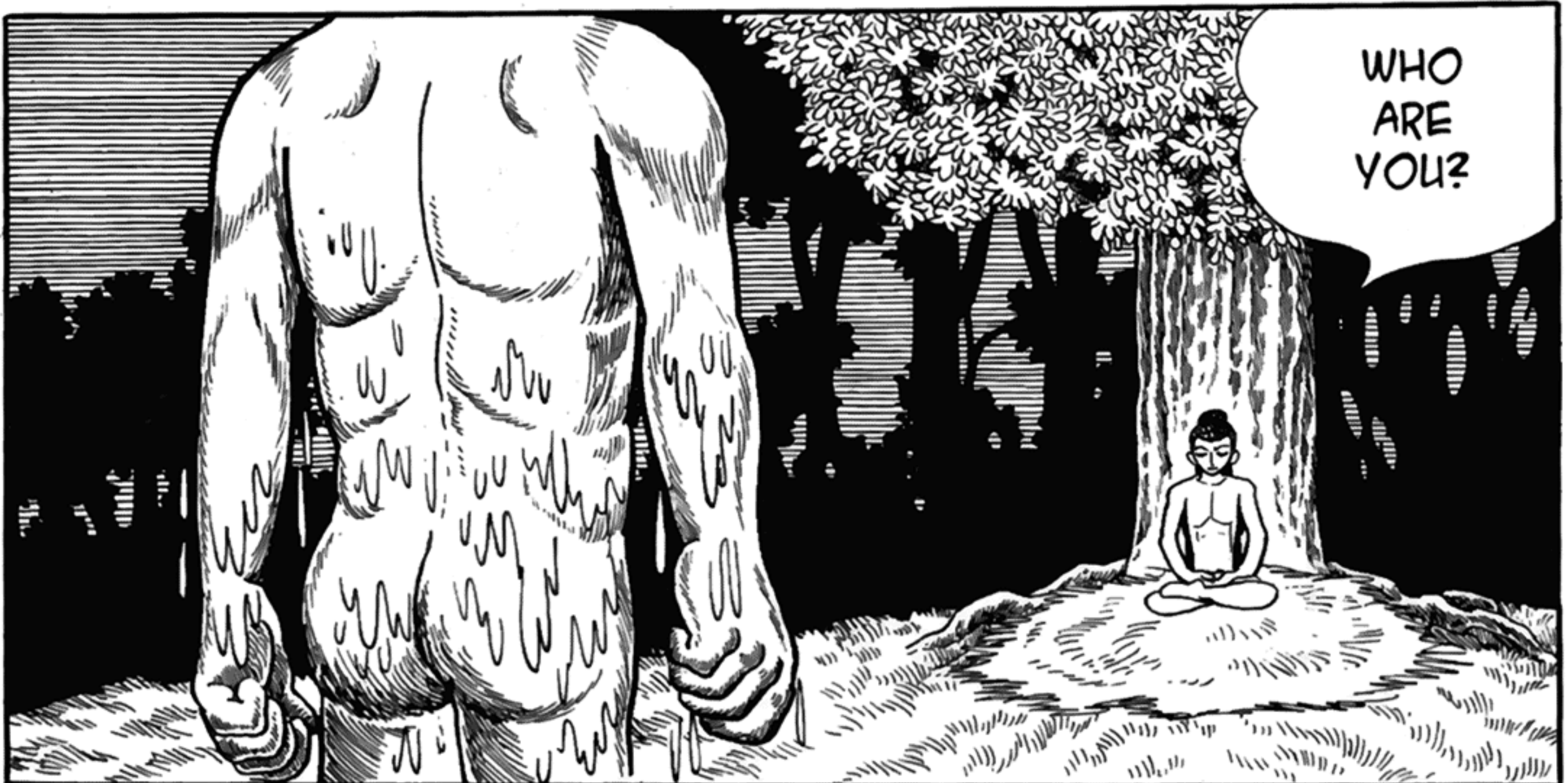
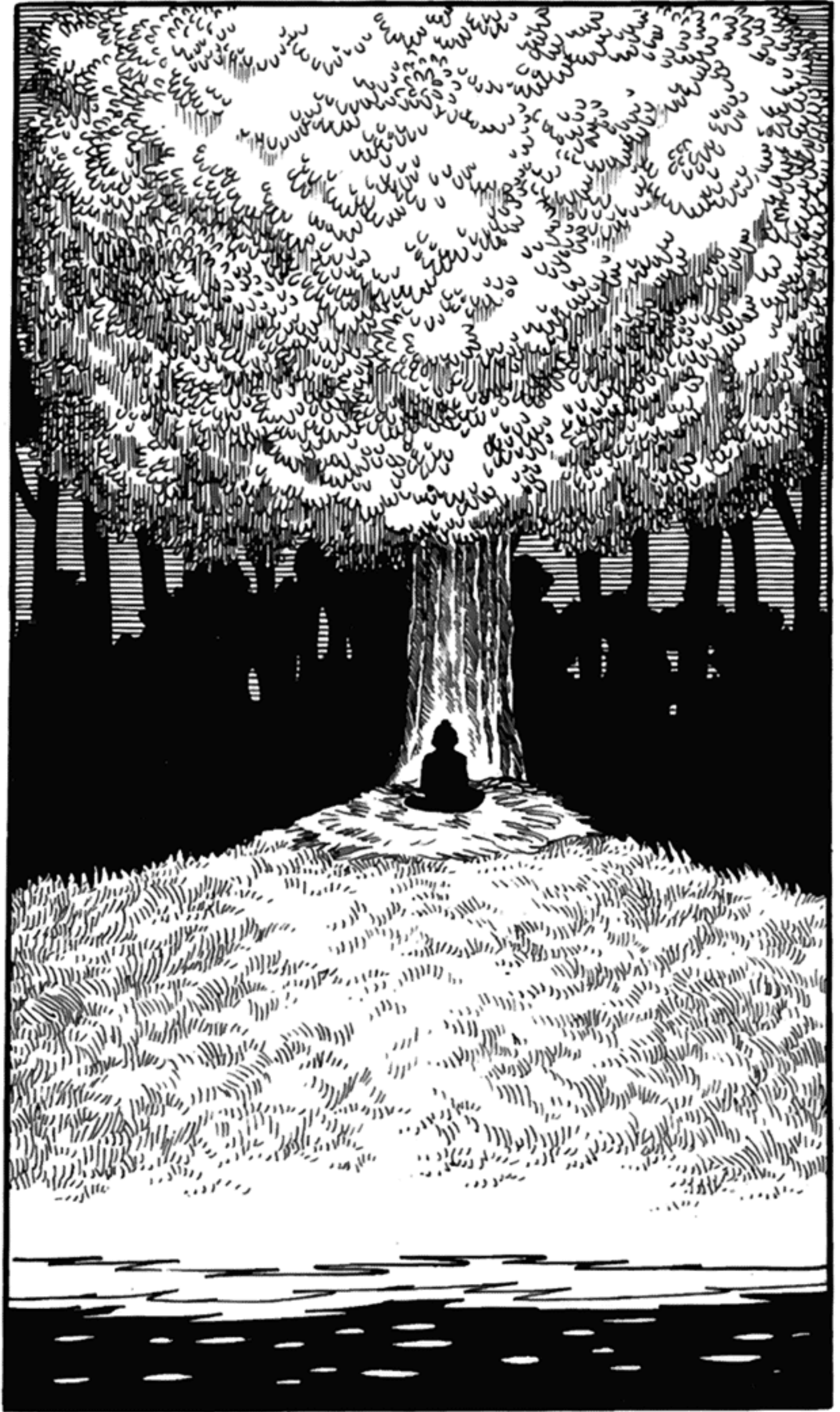
M-MOTHER!

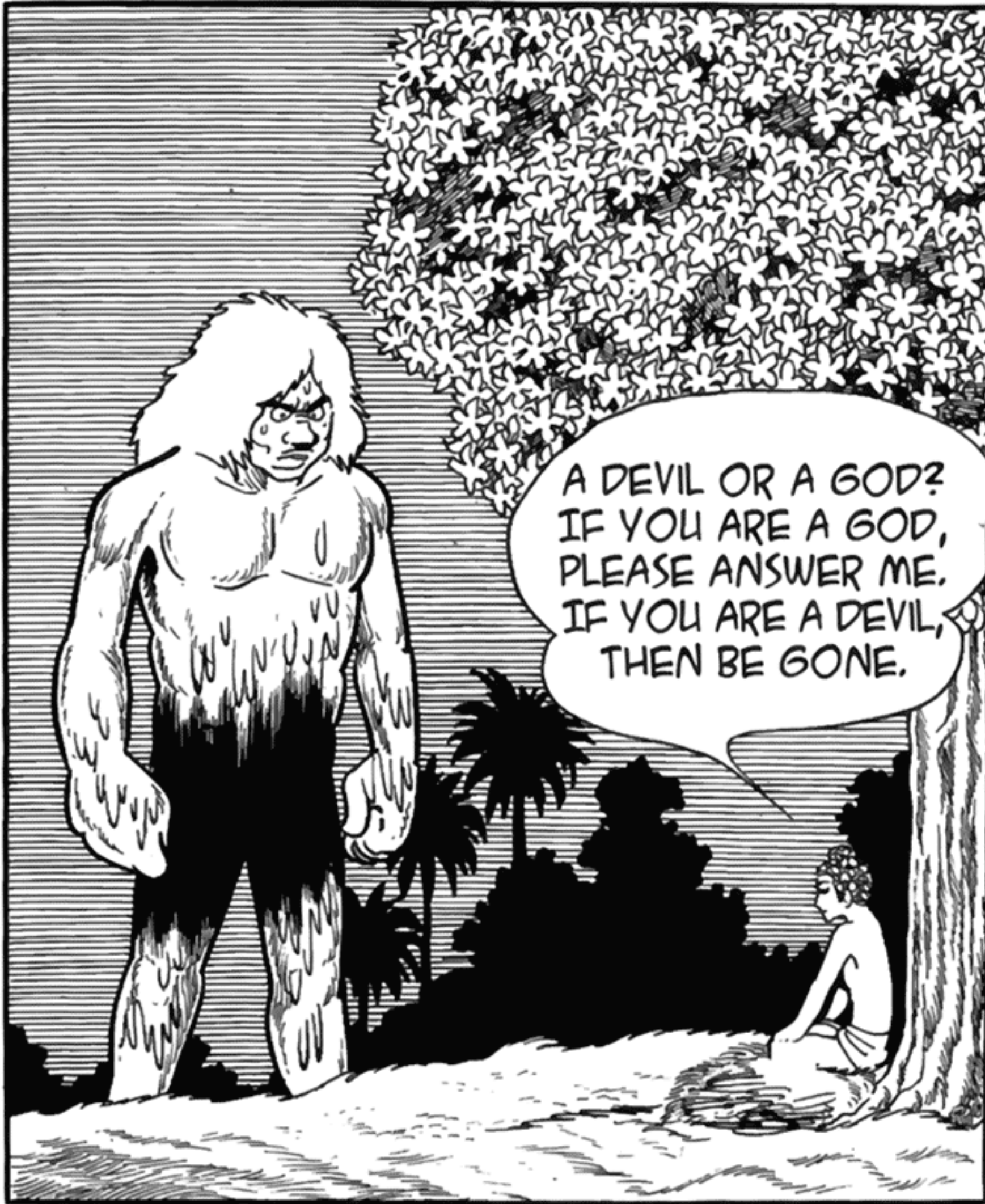












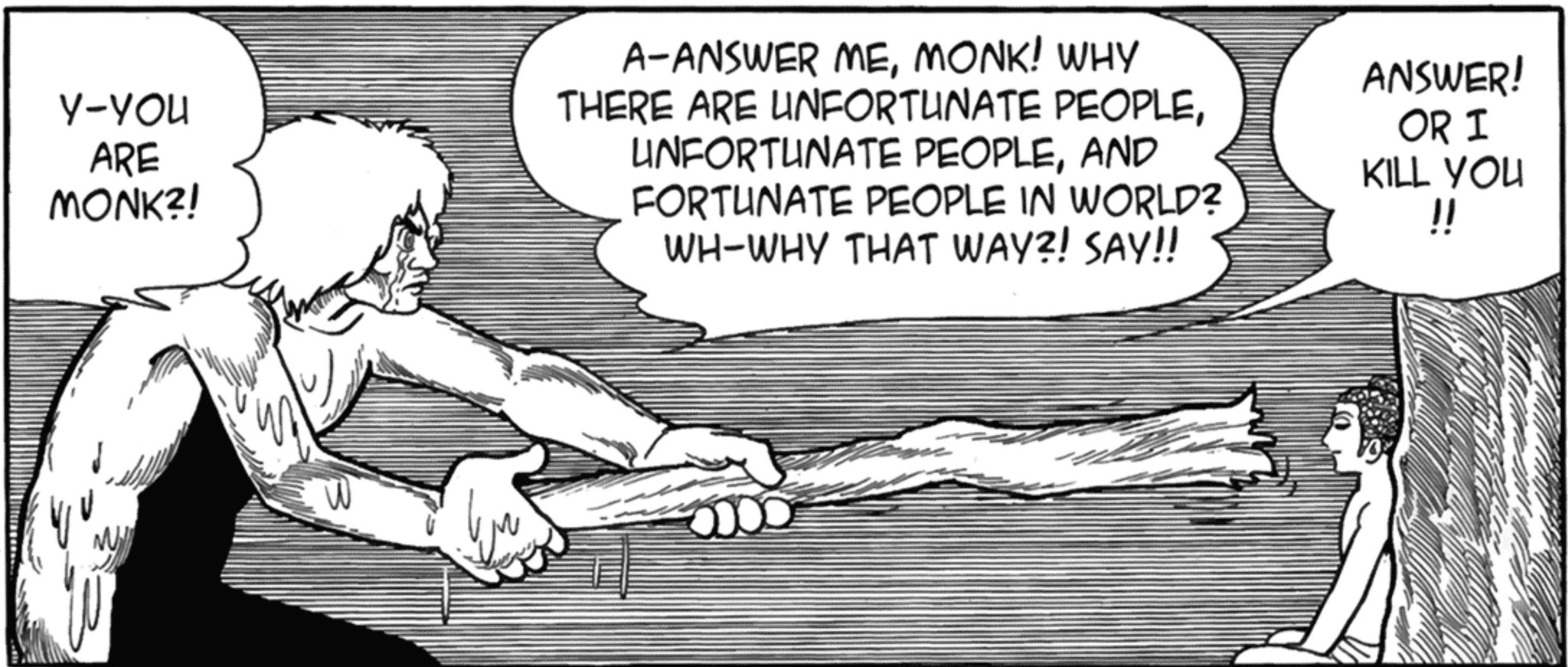
A DEVIL OR A GOD?
IF YOU ARE A GOD,
PLEASE ANSWER ME.
IF YOU ARE A DEVIL,
THEN BE GONE.



I NO GOD,
NO DEVIL...
I AM
HUMAN!!



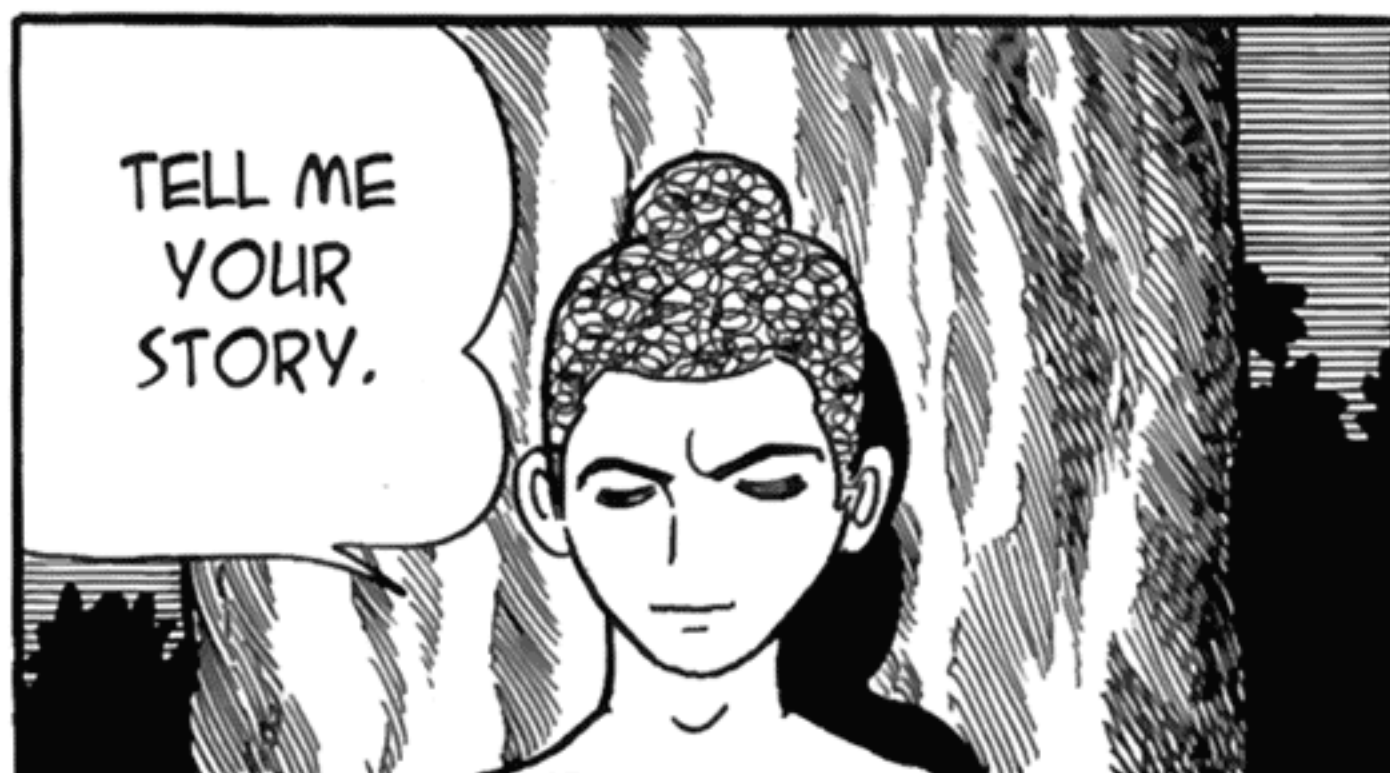
MOST UN-
FORTUNATE
HUMAN IN
WORLD!



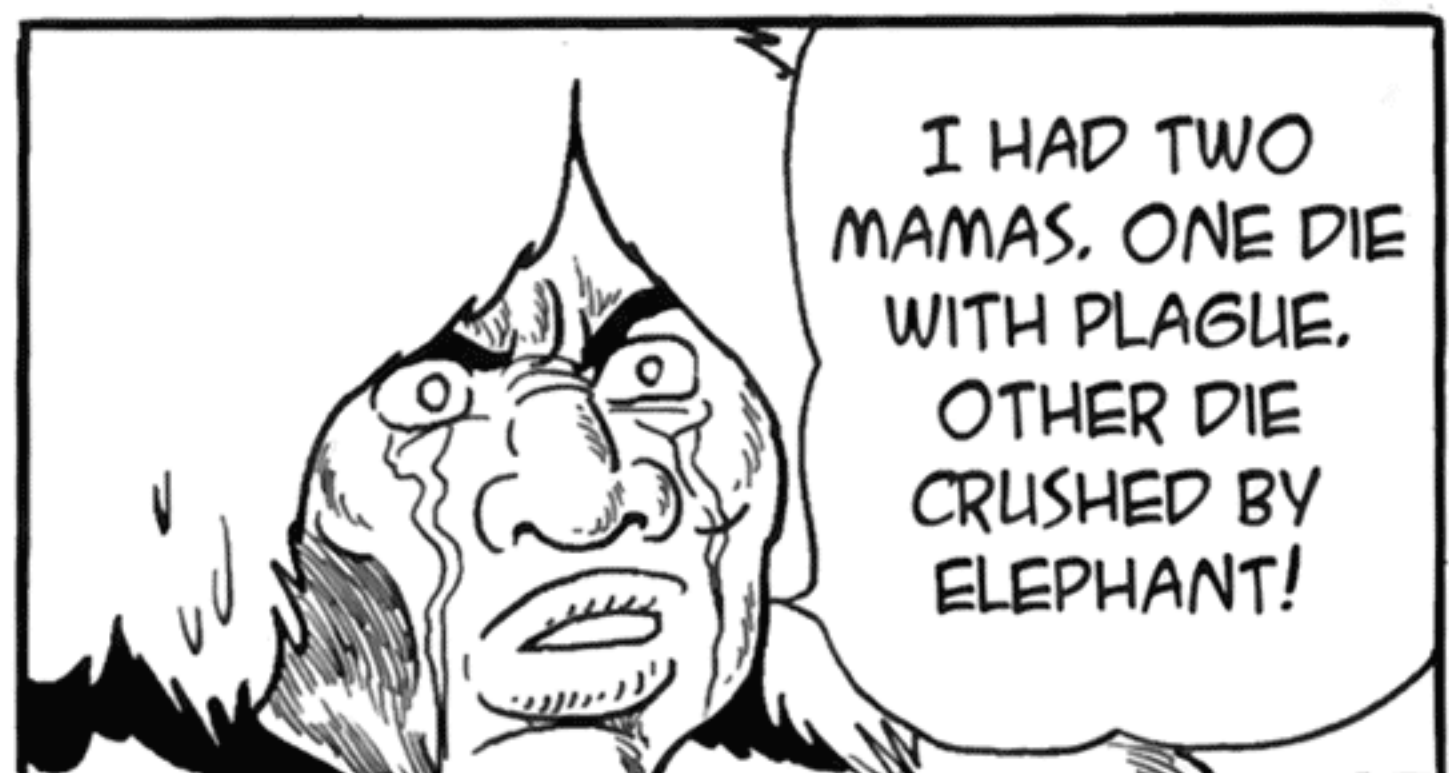
Y-YOU
ARE
MONK?!

A-ANSWER ME, MONK! WHY
THERE ARE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE,
UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE, AND
FORTUNATE PEOPLE IN WORLD?
WH-WHY THAT WAY?! SAY!!

ANSWER!
OR I
KILL YOU
!!



TELL ME
YOUR
STORY.



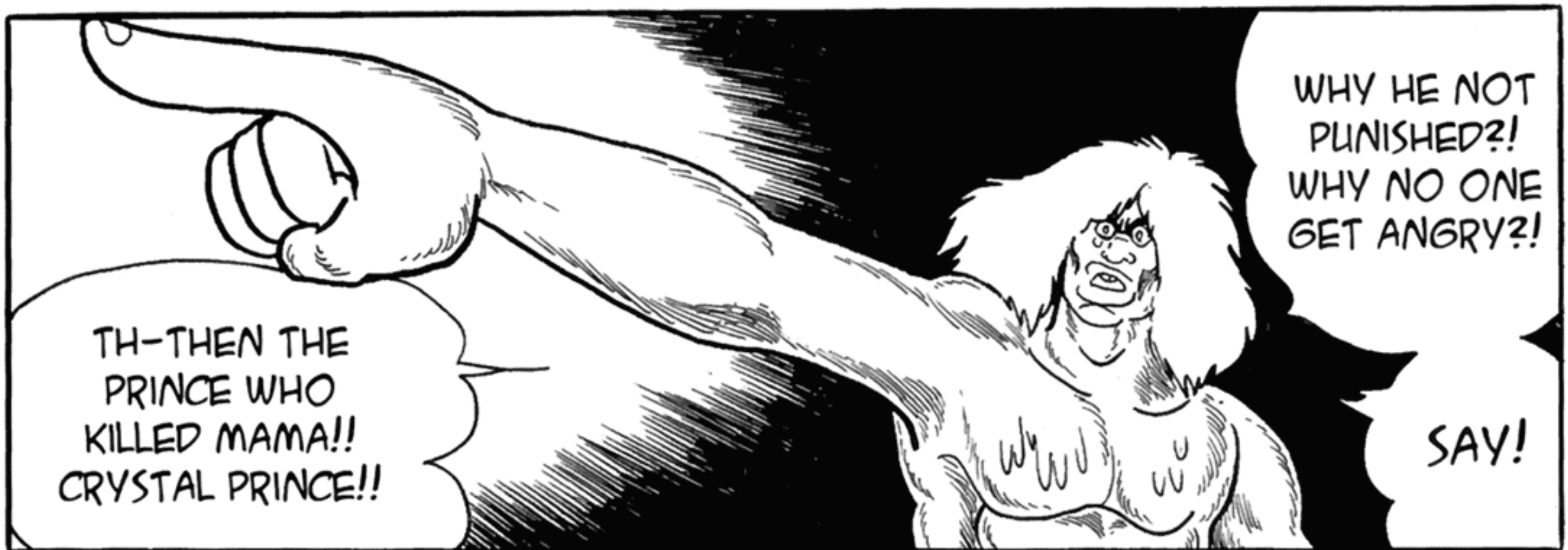
I HAD TWO
MAMAS. ONE DIE
WITH PLAGUE.
OTHER DIE
CRUSHED BY
ELEPHANT!



YOU SAY YOU ARE THE MOST UNFORTUNATE HUMAN...

BUT YOUR TWO MOTHERS, ARE THEY NOT MORE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE?

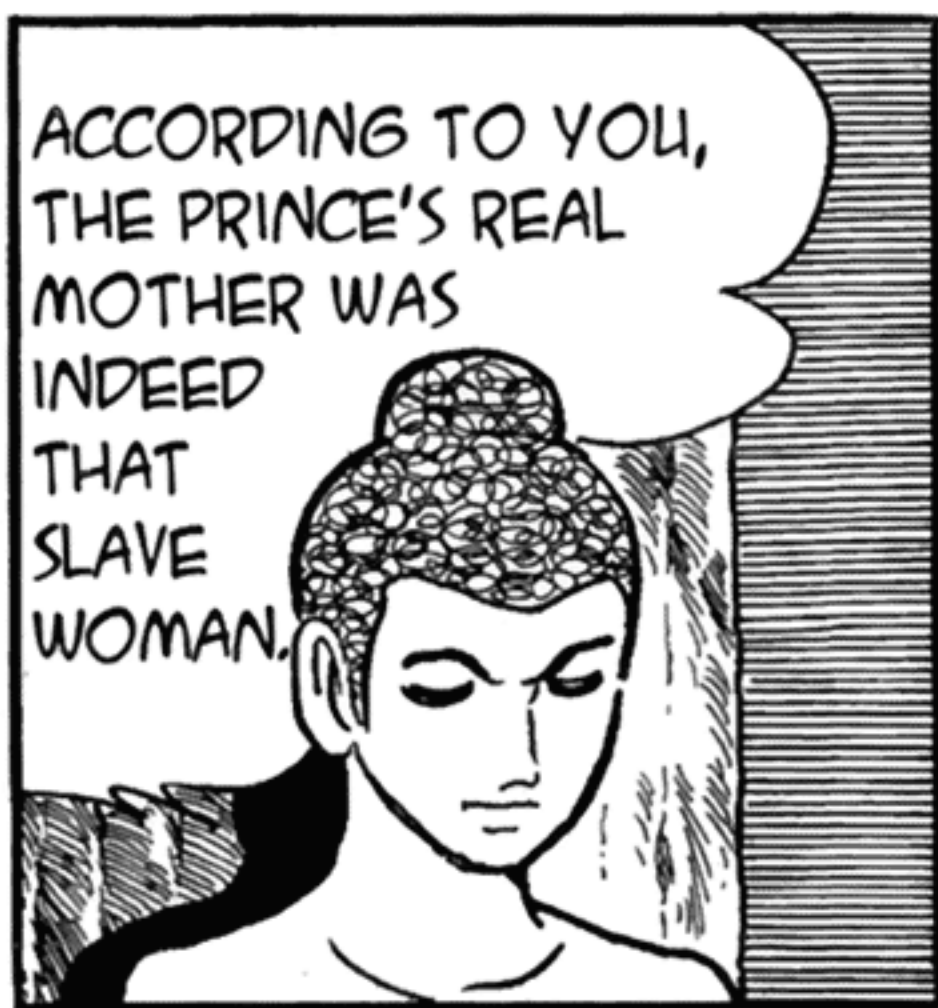
UH...



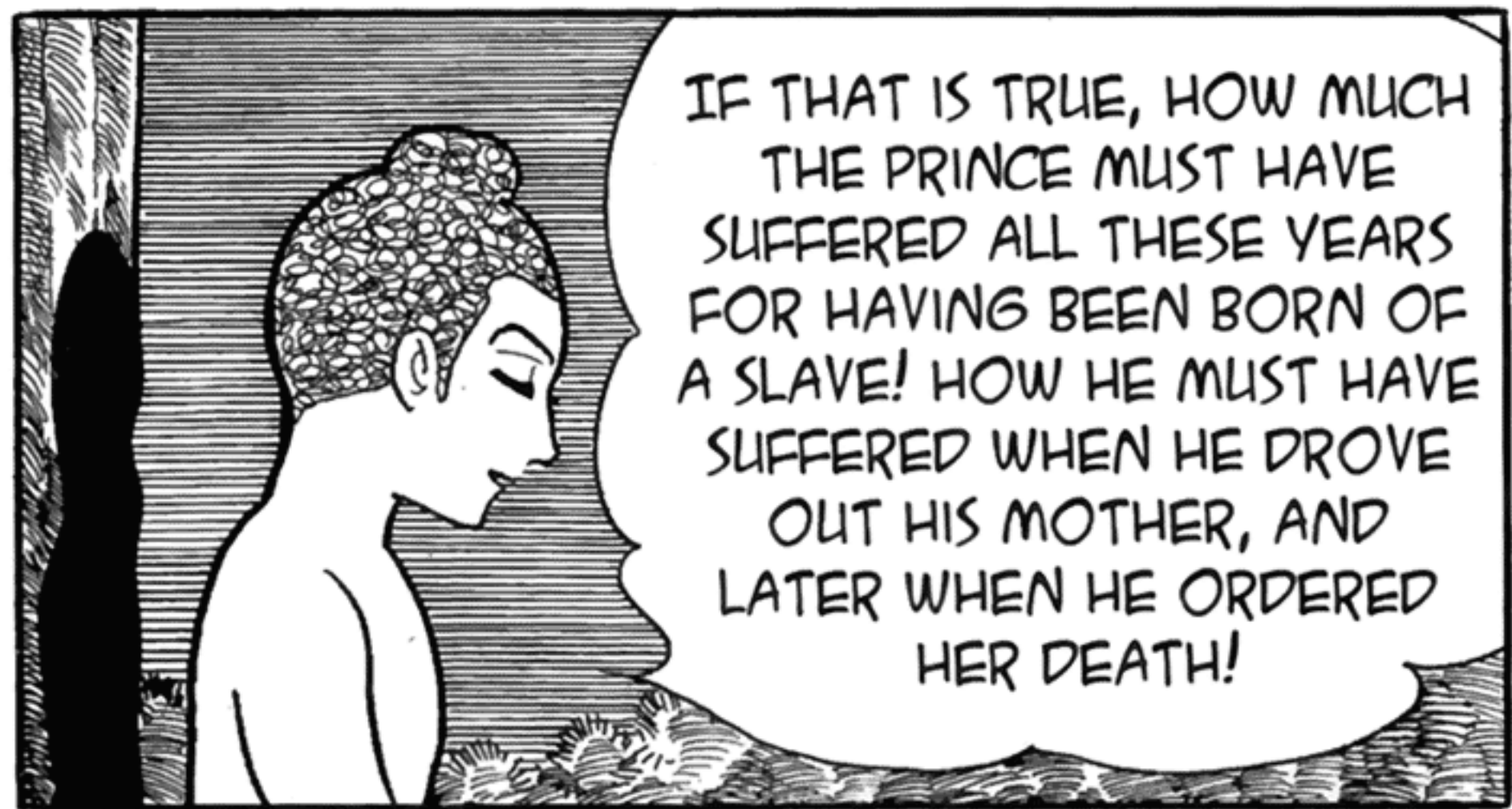
TH-THEN THE PRINCE WHO KILLED MAMA!! CRYSTAL PRINCE!!

WHY HE NOT PUNISHED?! WHY NO ONE GET ANGRY?!

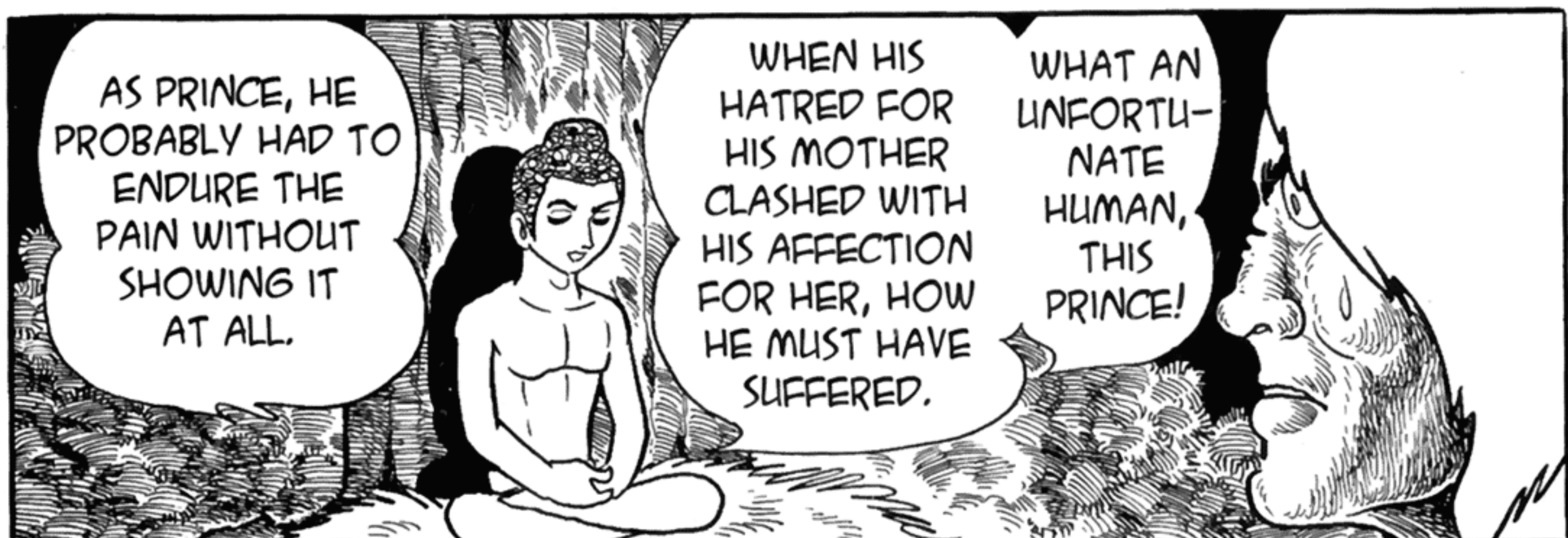
SAY!



ACCORDING TO YOU, THE PRINCE'S REAL MOTHER WAS INDEED THAT SLAVE WOMAN.



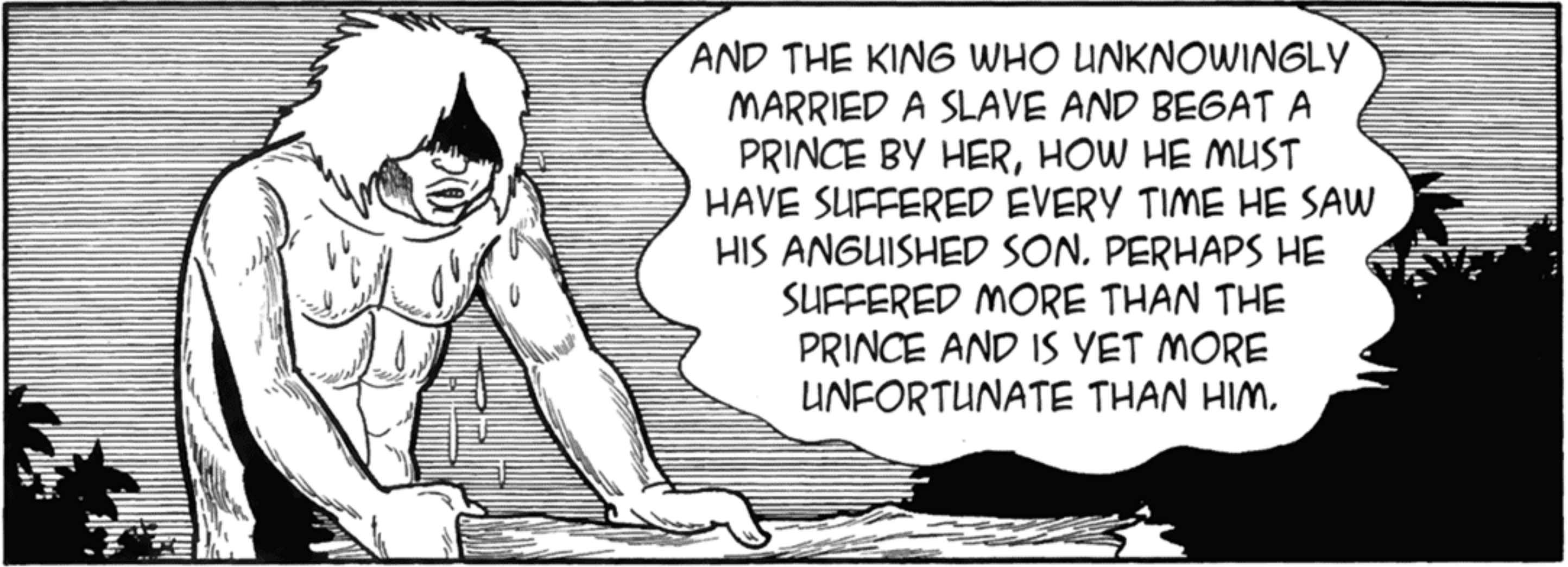
IF THAT IS TRUE, HOW MUCH THE PRINCE MUST HAVE SUFFERED ALL THESE YEARS FOR HAVING BEEN BORN OF A SLAVE! HOW HE MUST HAVE SUFFERED WHEN HE DROVE OUT HIS MOTHER, AND LATER WHEN HE ORDERED HER DEATH!



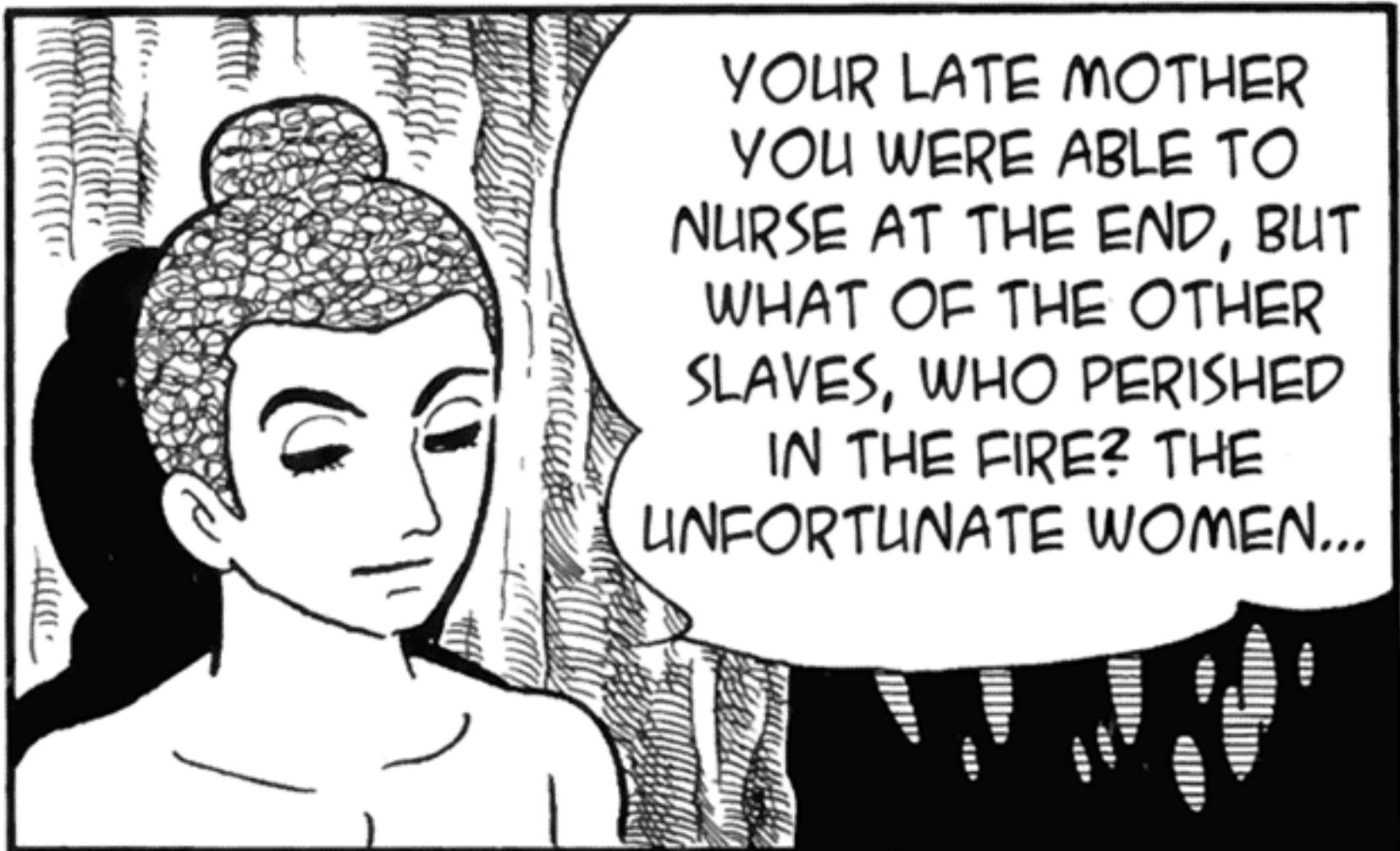
AS PRINCE, HE PROBABLY HAD TO ENDURE THE PAIN WITHOUT SHOWING IT AT ALL.

WHEN HIS HATRED FOR HIS MOTHER CLASHED WITH HIS AFFECTION FOR HER, HOW HE MUST HAVE SUFFERED.

WHAT AN UNFORTUNATE HUMAN, THIS PRINCE!



AND THE KING WHO UNKNOWINGLY MARRIED A SLAVE AND BEGAT A PRINCE BY HER, HOW HE MUST HAVE SUFFERED EVERY TIME HE SAW HIS ANGLISHED SON. PERHAPS HE SUFFERED MORE THAN THE PRINCE AND IS YET MORE UNFORTUNATE THAN HIM.



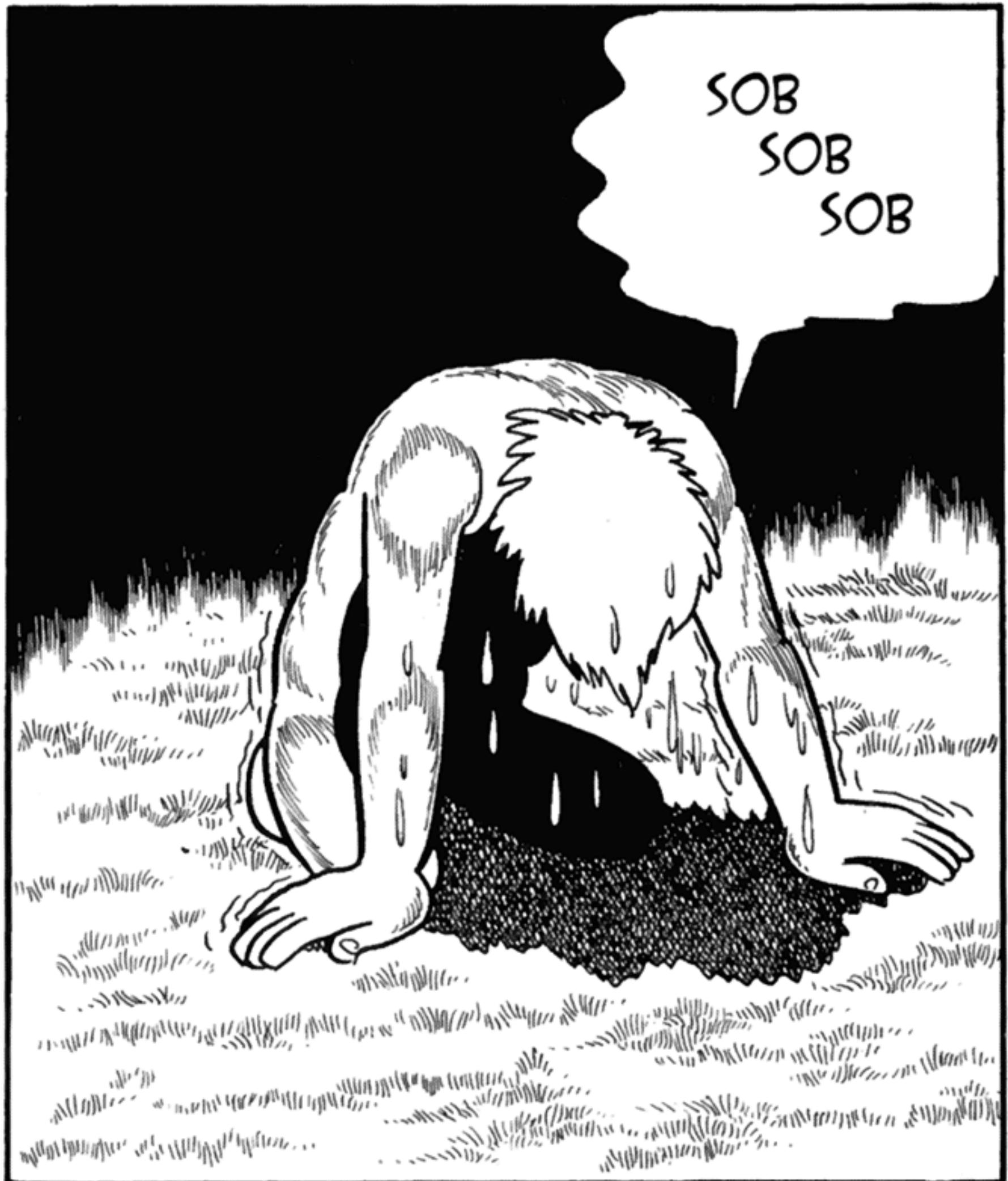
YOUR LATE MOTHER YOU WERE ABLE TO NURSE AT THE END, BUT WHAT OF THE OTHER SLAVES, WHO PERISHED IN THE FIRE? THE UNFORTUNATE WOMEN...



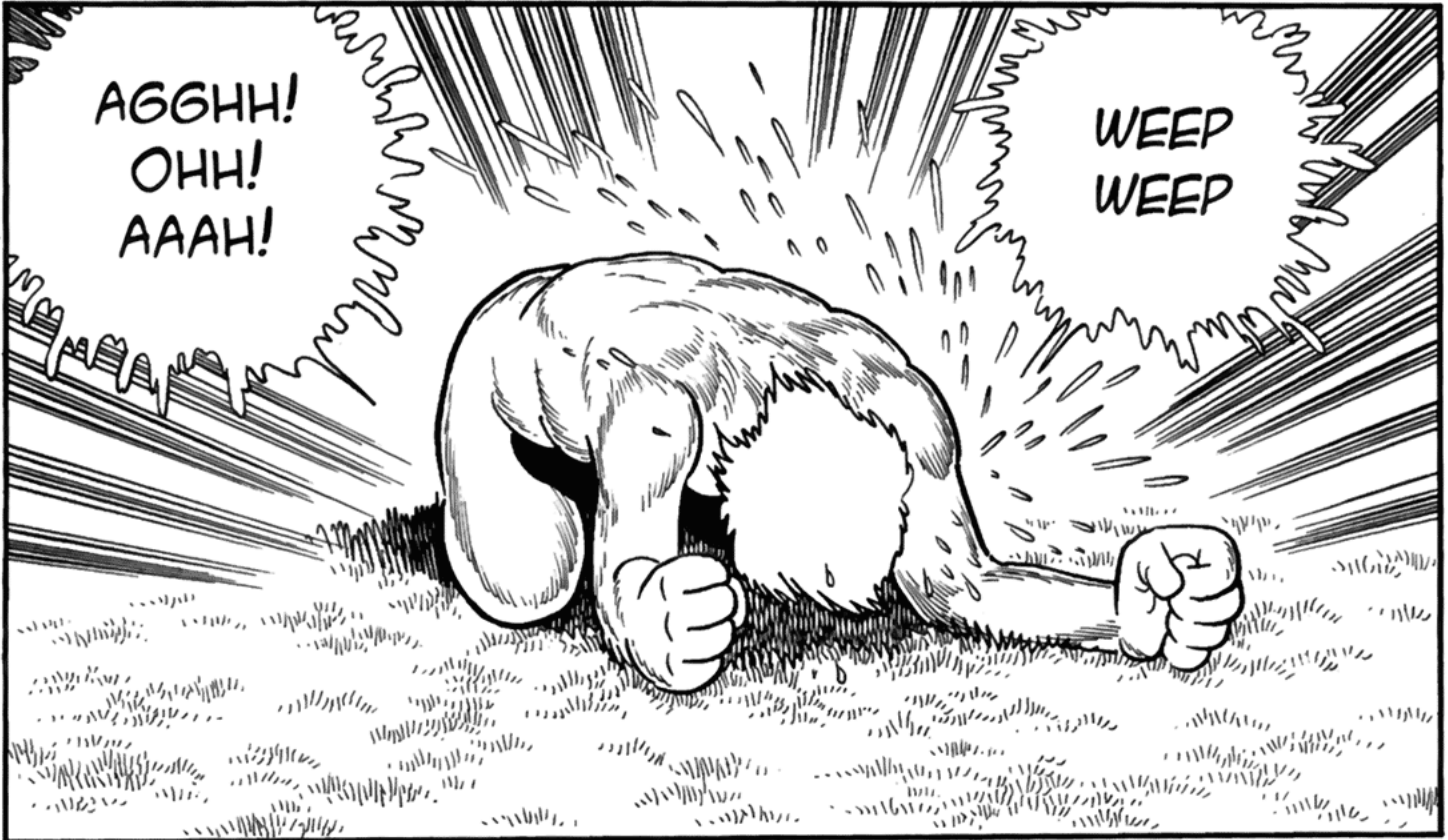
THINK BACK CAREFULLY. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM IS UNFORTUNATE.



THERE IS NO FORTUNATE HUMAN IN THIS WORLD!



SOB
SOB
SOB

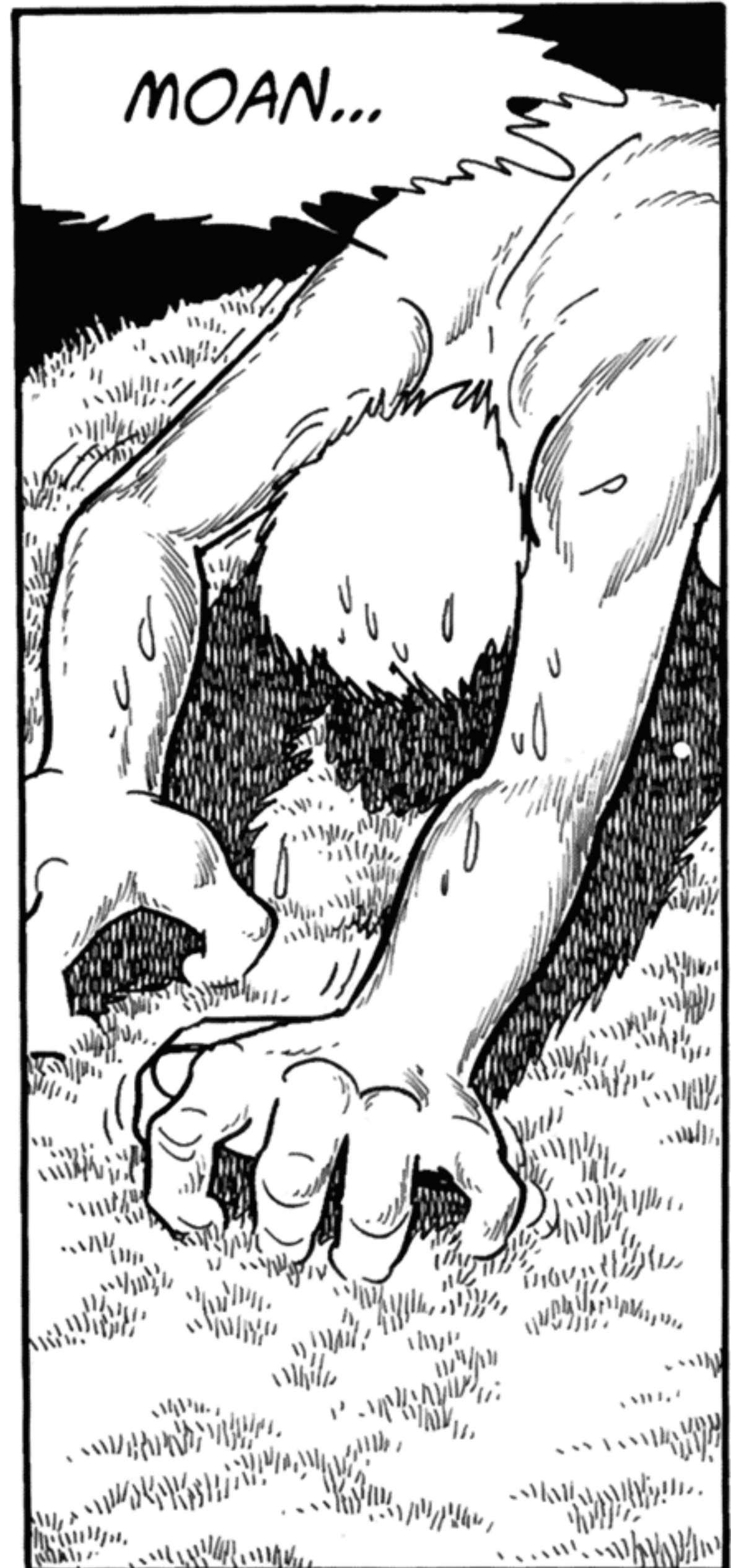


AGGHH!
OHH!
AAAH!

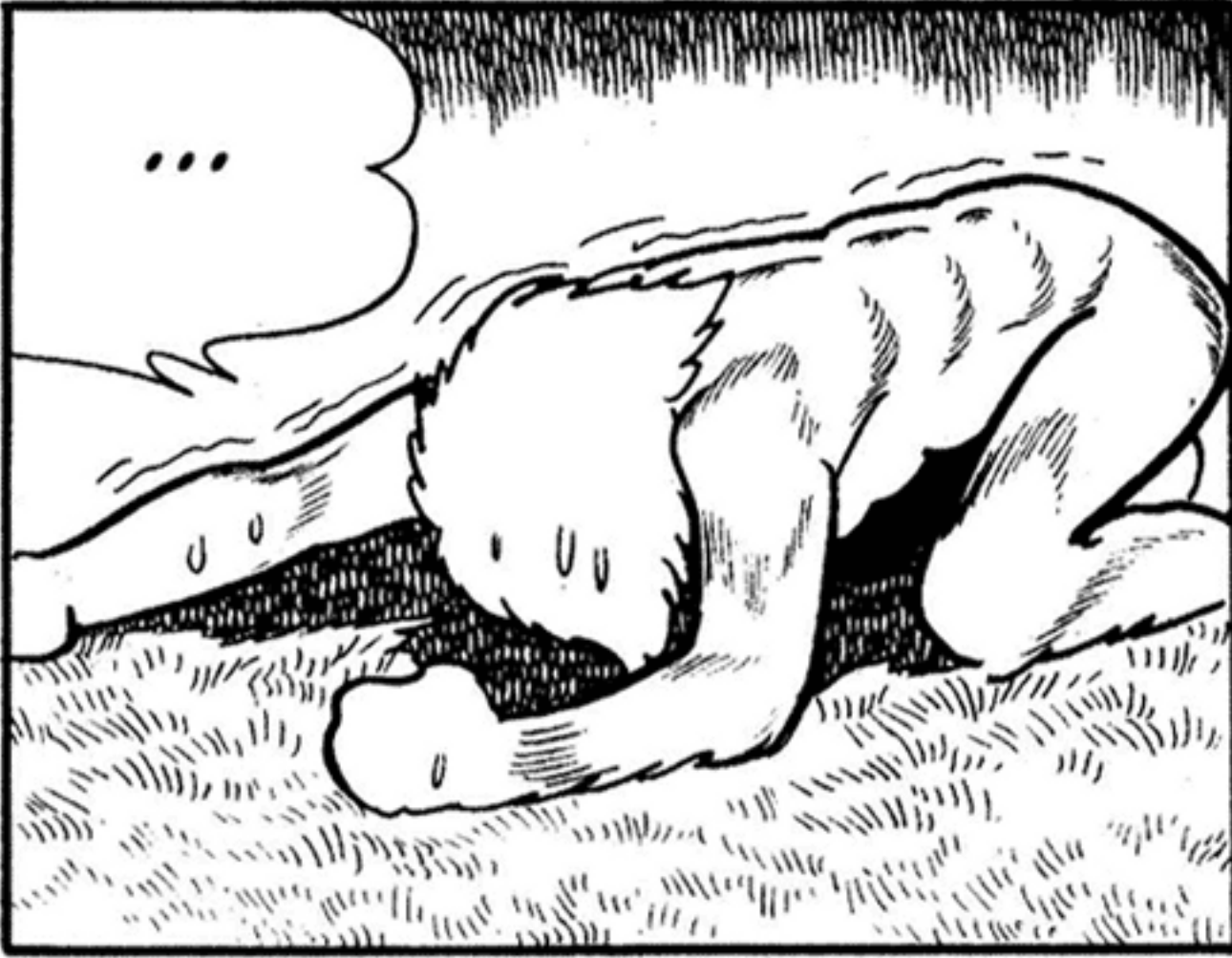
WEEP
WEEP

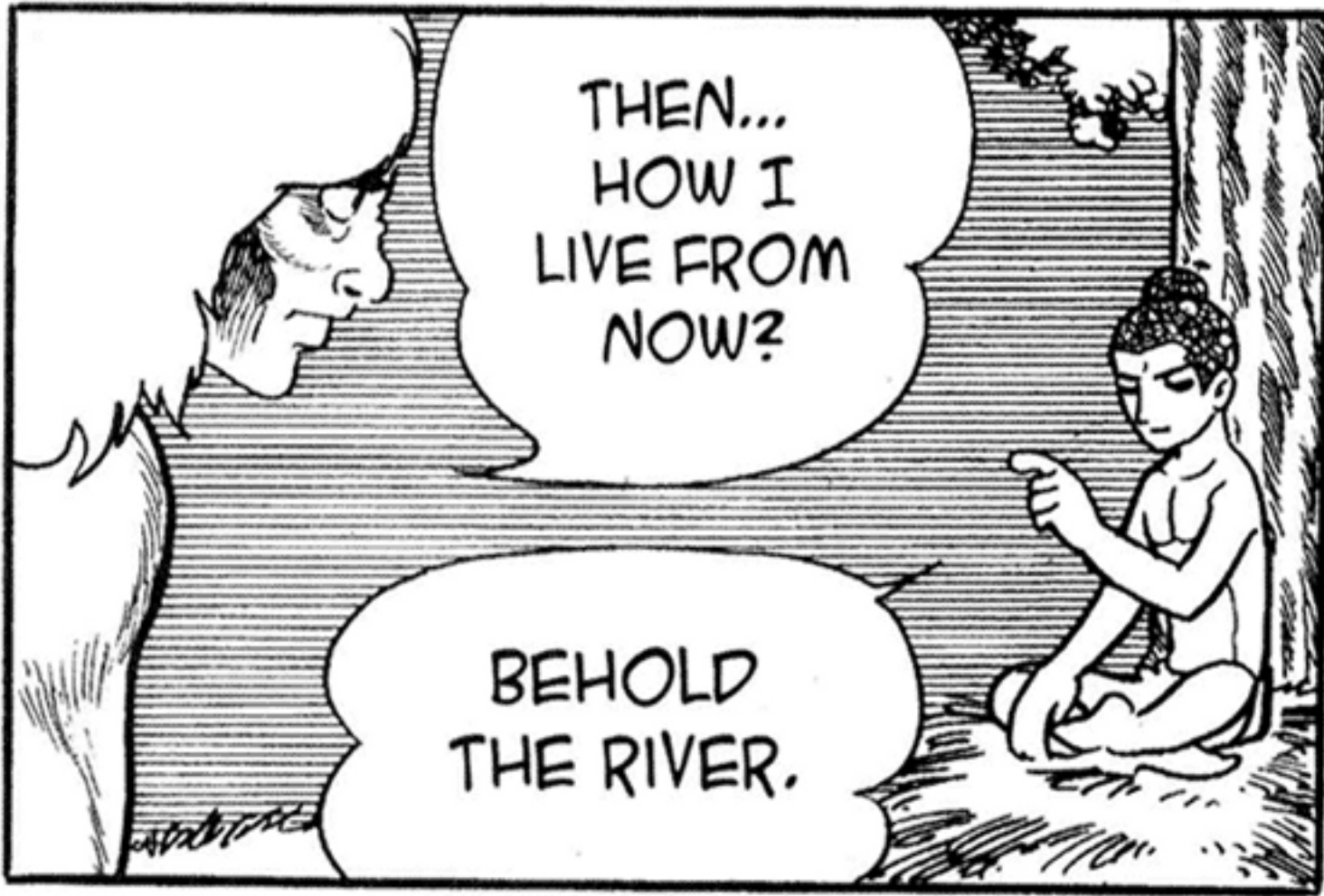


ORRGHHH



MOAN...





THEN...
HOW I
LIVE FROM
NOW?

BEHOLD
THE RIVER.



A TRULY
GREAT THING.
FOR COUNTLESS
CENTURIES, IT
HAS FLOWED
THE WAY
NATURE
ORDAINED
IT TO.



IT HAS NO DESIRE TO
STOP FLOWING, NOR
DOES IT TRY TO
ALTER ITS COURSE.
IT IS PERFECTLY
NATURAL!



WHAT'S MORE,
IT IS VAST AND
BEAUTIFUL...
IT IS
APPRE-
CIATED.
AND IT
GIVES.



LIKE THE
RIVER, YOU
ARE HUGE.
BUT YOU
WILL ALSO
BE GREAT
LIKE IT IF
YOU LIVE
RIGHTLY.



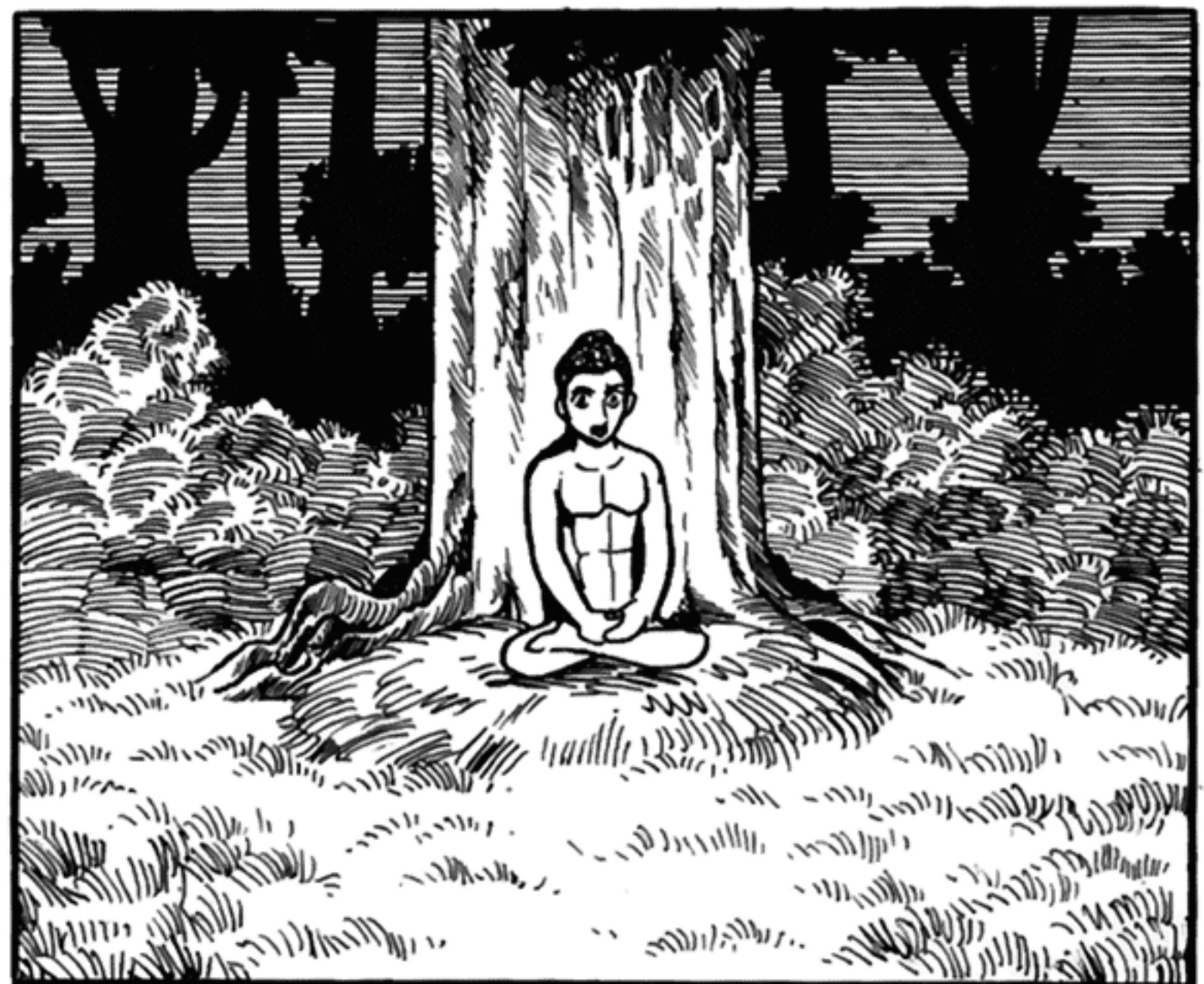
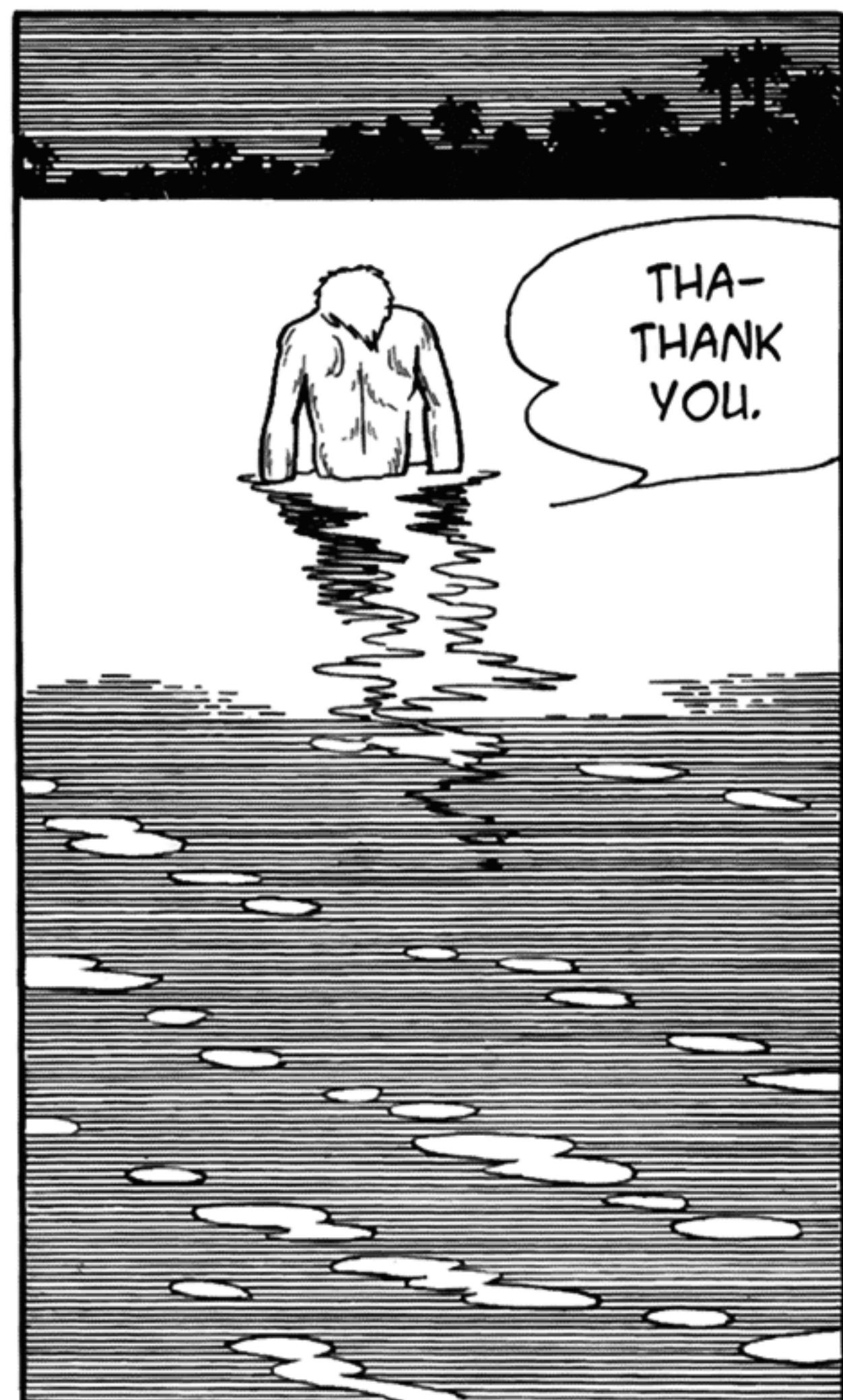
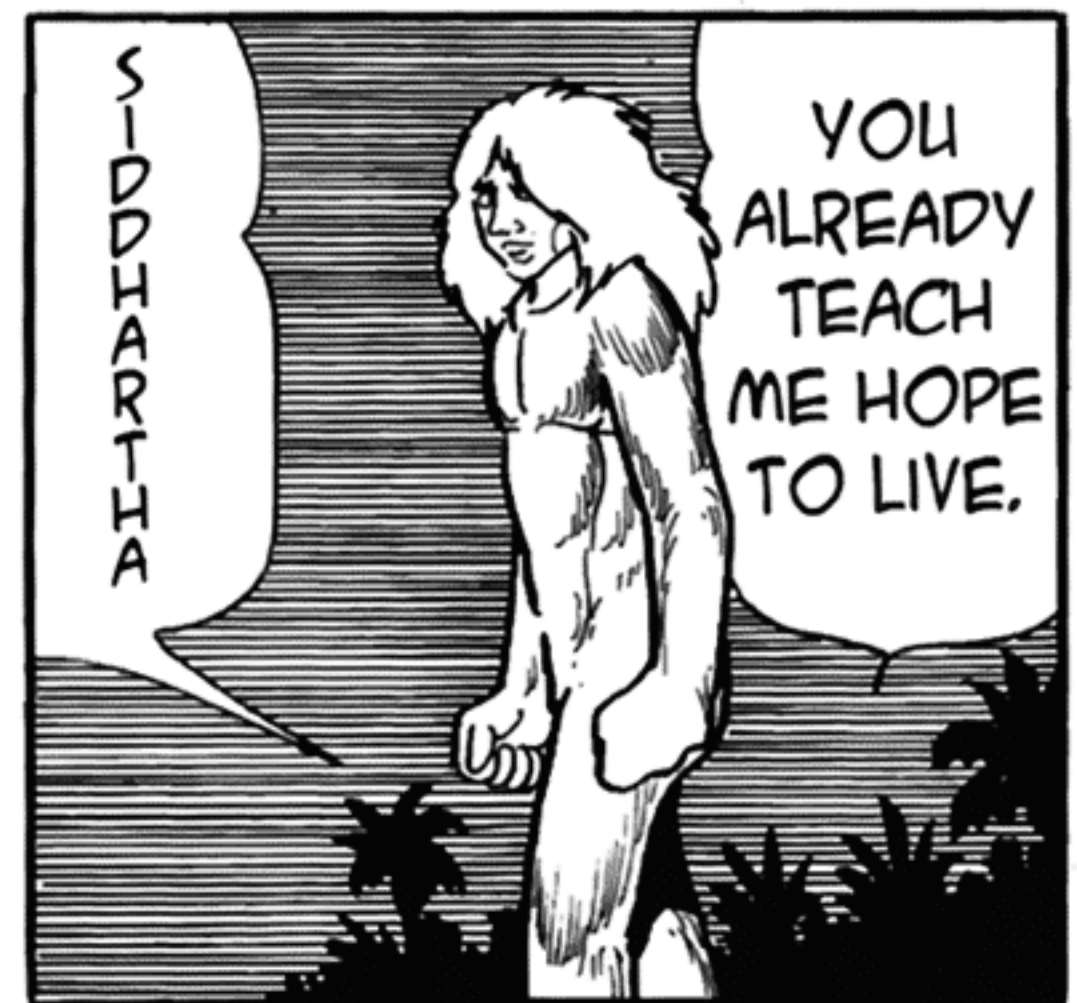
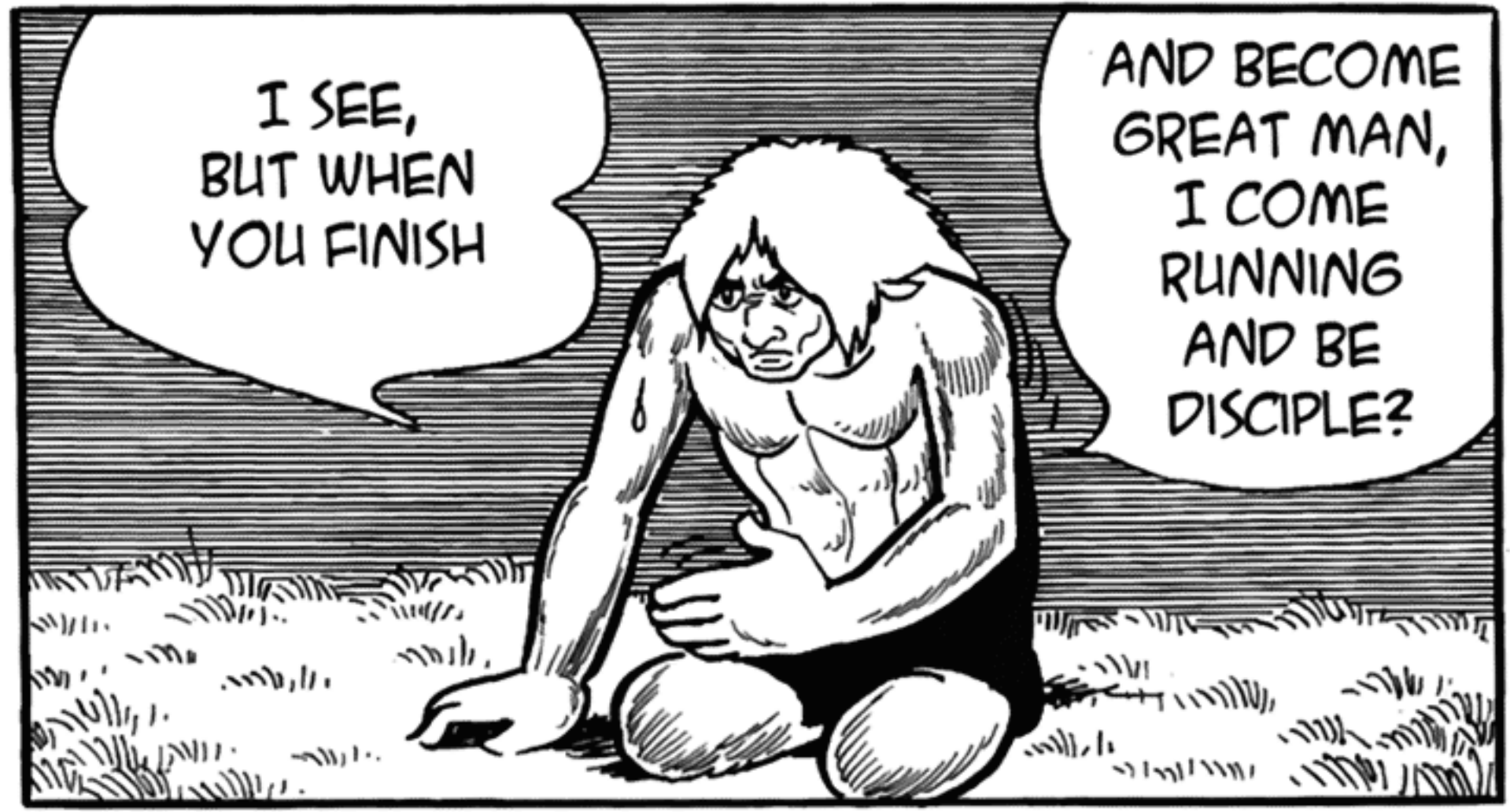
YOU...
TELL
ME
YOUR
NAME
...



MY
NAME
IS
SIDDHARTHA.

SIDDHARTHA!
YOU GREAT
HUMAN.

I WANT BE
YOUR DISCIPLE.
MAKE ME
DISCIPLE,
PLEASE.



THAT MAN
PRAISED ME.



HE...



WAS PERHAPS
A GOD,
TESTING ME...



MAYBE
THAT
WAS IT.



WHY?
WHY DID
I...



WHY DID I SAY THOSE
THINGS JUST NOW?
THE WORDS JUST
POURED OUT OF ME.
WORDS I HAD NEVER
THOUGHT BEFORE!



"LIKE TREES,
GRASS, HILLS,
AND STREAMS,
HUMANS EXIST, AS
PART OF NATURE,
SO THERE IS SOME
PURPOSE FOR
WHICH WE LIVE."



"TIED
TO..."

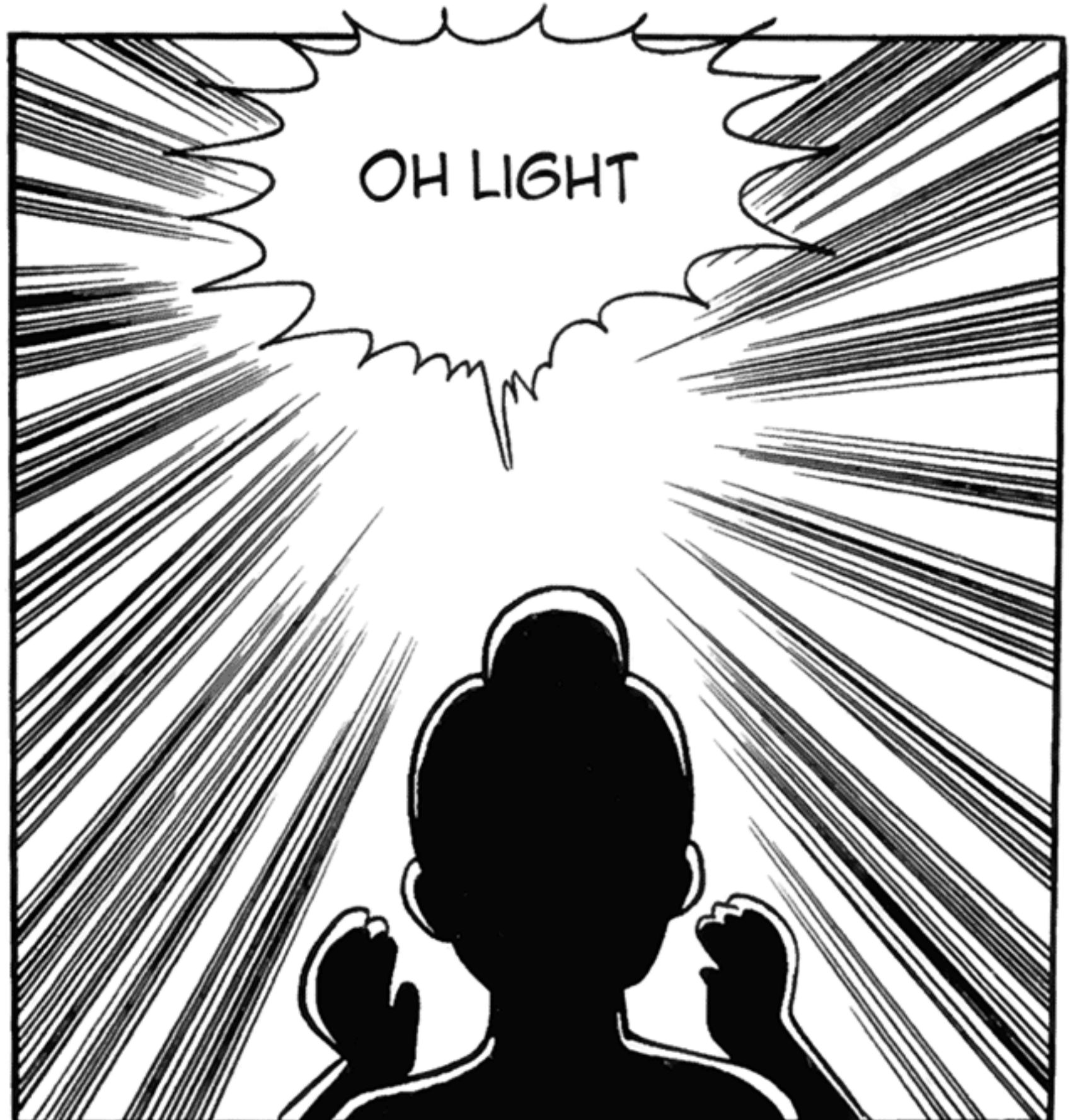
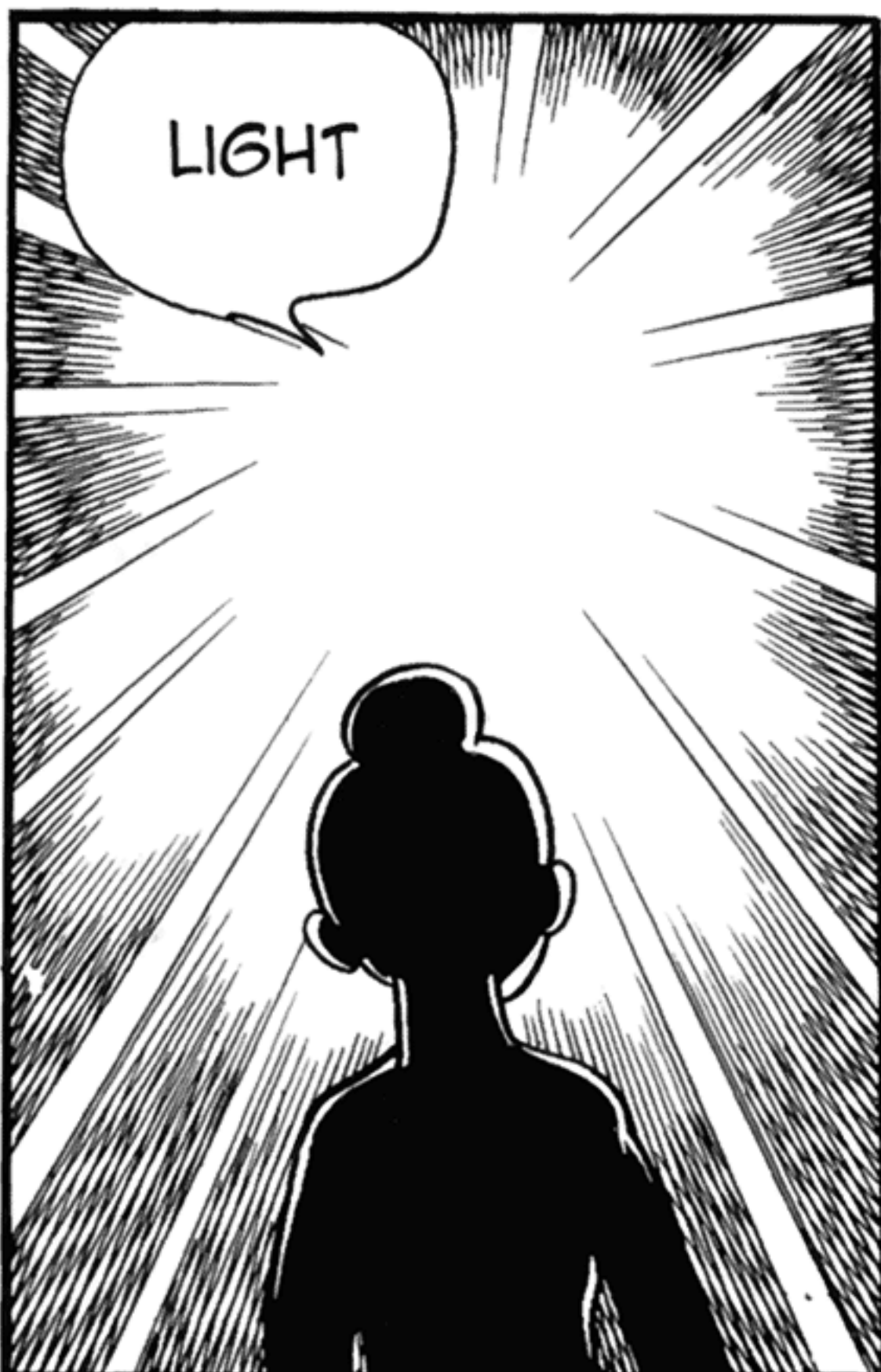
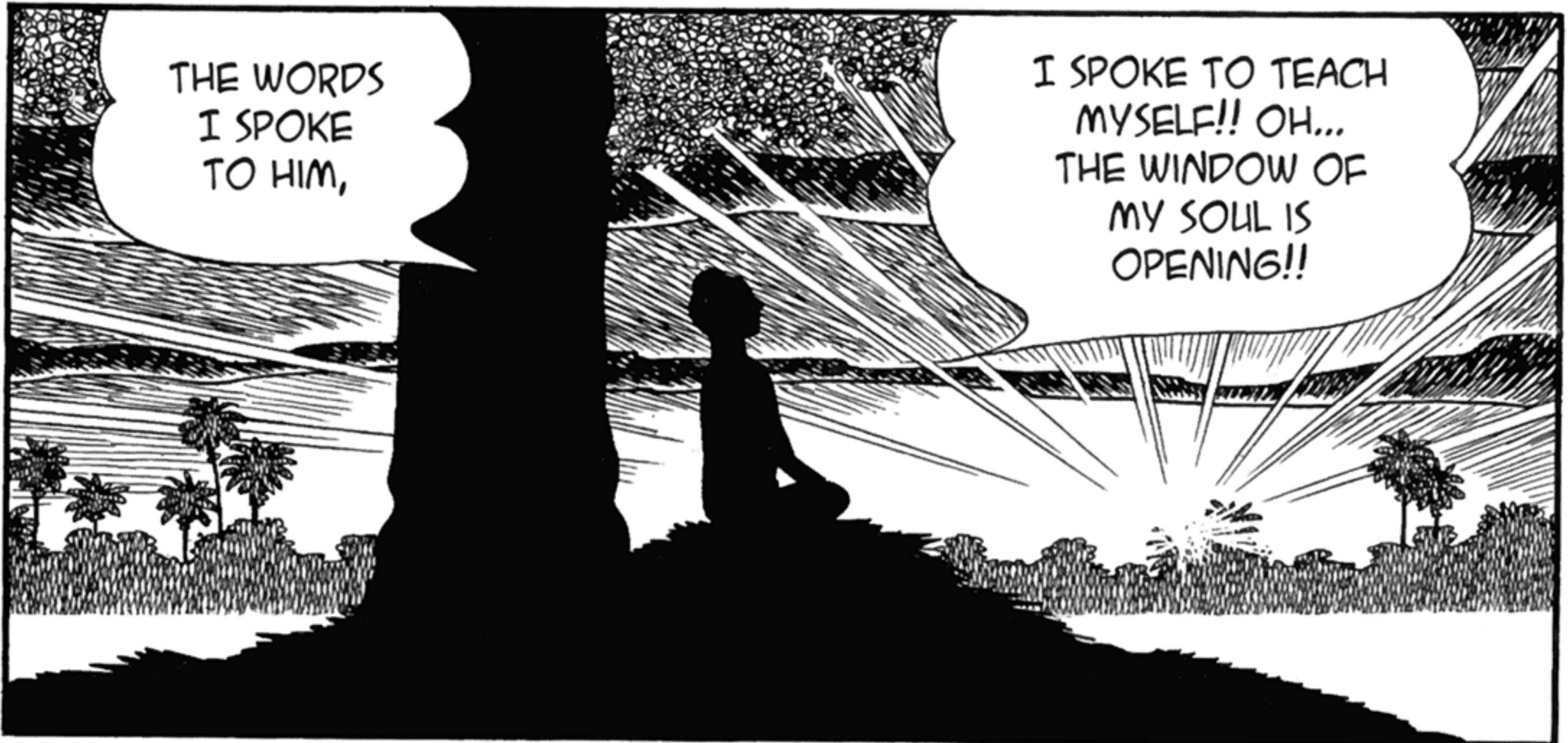
ALL
THAT
IS!"

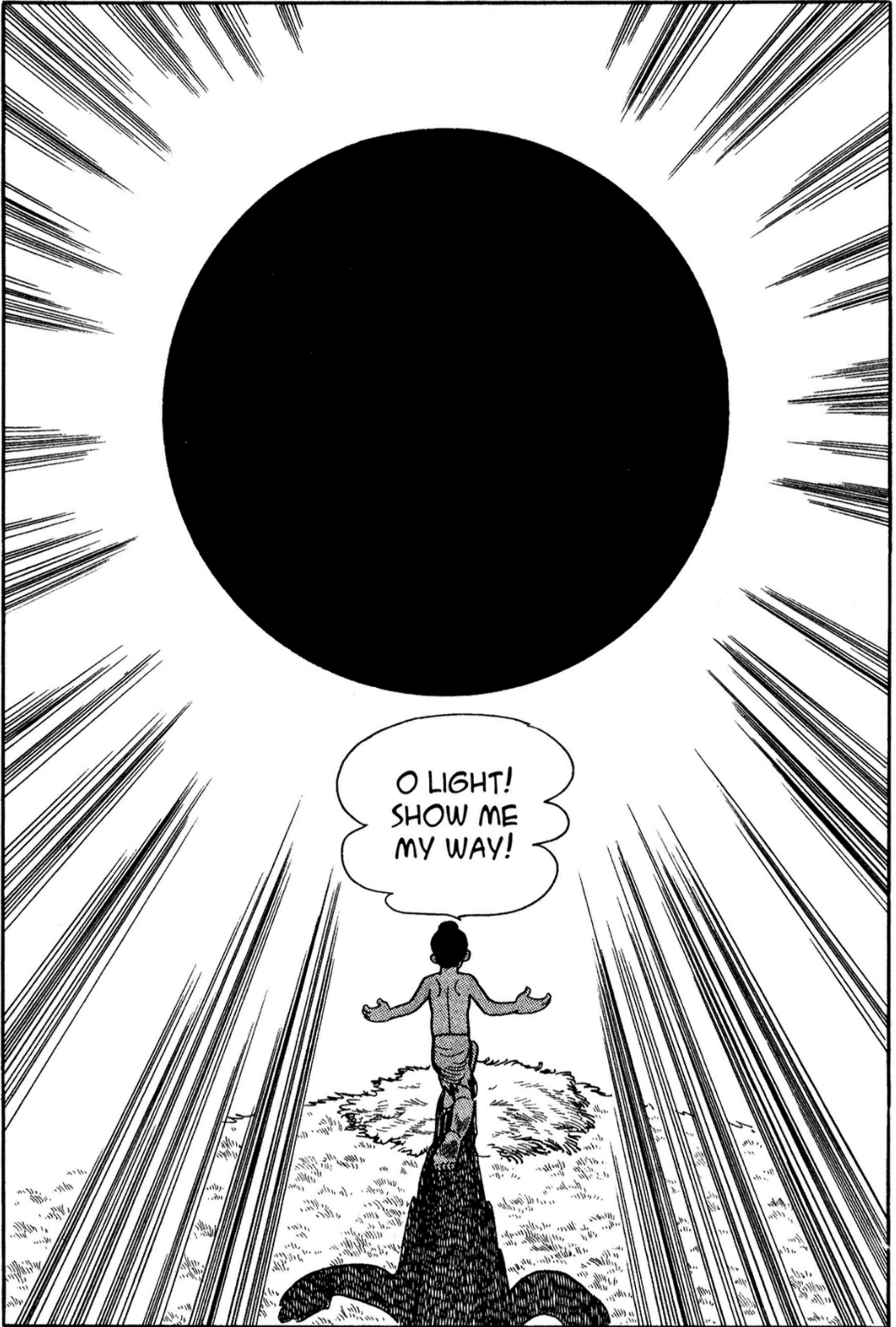


"IF YOU
DID NOT
EXIST,
SOMETHING
WOULD GO
AWRY.
YOU, TOO,
PLAY A
CRUCIAL
PART."









AS LONG AS I LIVE,
I WILL DO MY PART IN
THIS UNIVERSE!

