



Jataka Tales

Bird Stories

Vol. 573 Rs. 25



Jataka Tales

Bird Stories

All living creatures die to be born again—so the Hindus believe. Siddhartha who became the Buddha was no exception. It is believed that several lifetimes as a Bodhisattva go into the making of the Buddha, the Enlightened one.

The Bodhisattva has come in many forms—man, monkey, deer, elephant and lion. Whatever his mortal body, he has spread the message of justice and wisdom, tempered with compassion. This wisdom of right thinking and right living, is preserved in the Jataka tales.

These tales are based on the folklore, legends and ballads of ancient India. We cannot assign a definite date to the Jataka stories. Taking into account archaeological and literary evidence it appears that they were compiled in the period, the third century B.C. to the fifth century A.D. They give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

This volume of deer stories will keep children amused, while never failing to point out the ultimate triumph of good over evil.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
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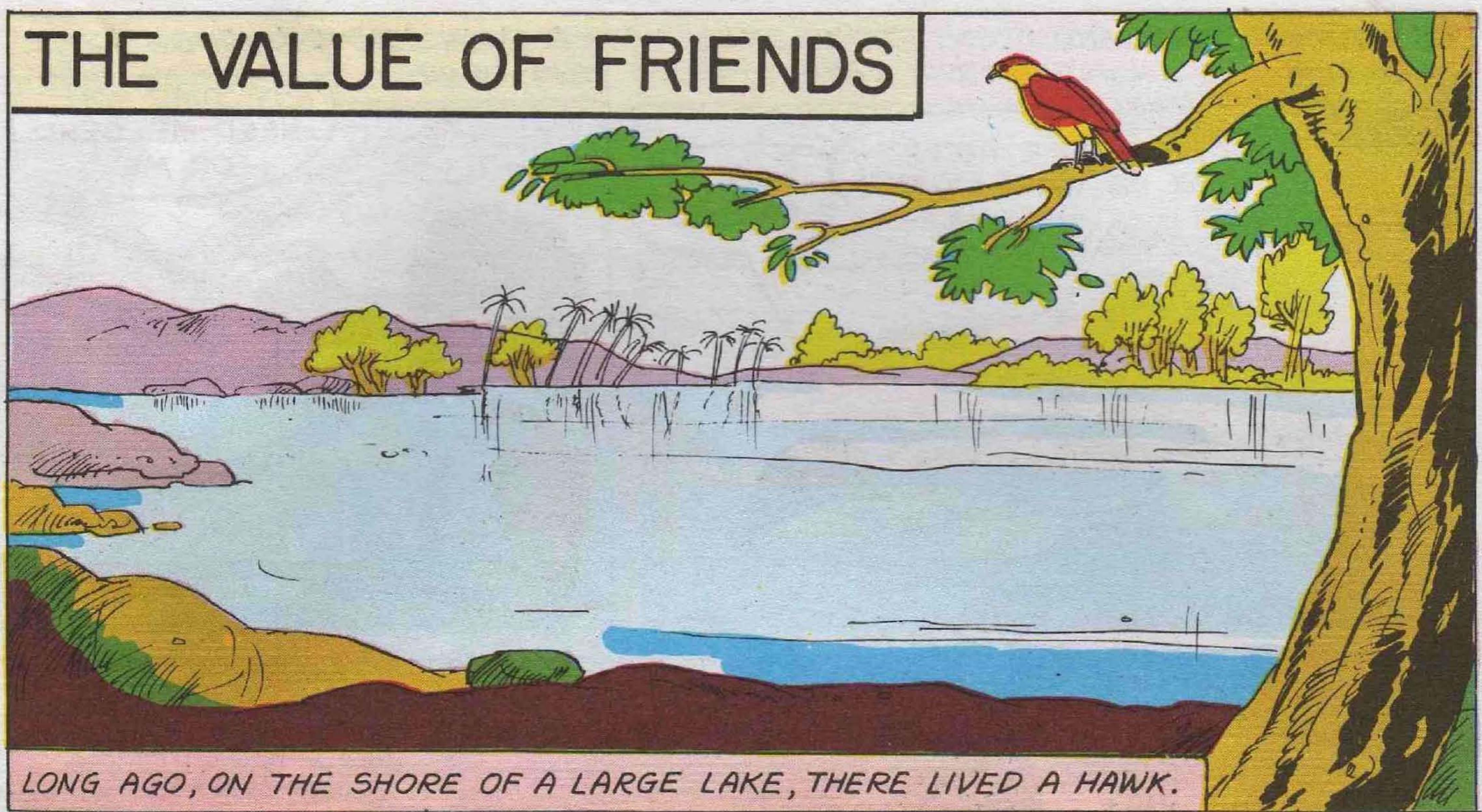
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THE VALUE OF FRIENDS



LONG AGO, ON THE SHORE OF A LARGE LAKE, THERE LIVED A HAWK.

THEN ONE DAY, A SHE-HAWK CAME TO LIVE ON THE OPPOSITE SHORE. WHEN THE HAWK HEARD OF IT HE FLEW OVER TO HER.

WILL YOU BE MY WIFE?
TOGETHER WE COULD
RAISE A FINE
FAMILY

ALL RIGHT. BUT
TELL ME, DO YOU
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS?

NO.
THEN YOU MUST MAKE
SOME FRIENDS. IN
TIMES OF NEED, IT
IS FRIENDS WHO
HELP.



THE HAWK AGREED AND FLEW TO THE TINY ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE WHERE THE TORTOISE DWELT.

O, TORTOISE, ACCEPT ME AS YOUR FRIEND.

WITH PLEASURE!



HE THEN MADE FRIENDS WITH THE OSPREY.

ANY TIME YOU NEED ME, SEND FOR ME.



FINALLY, THE HAWK CALLED ON THE LION —

NOW THAT YOU ARE MY FRIEND, NO ONE WILL HARM YOU.



THE HAWK THEN RETURNED TO THE SHE-HAWK.

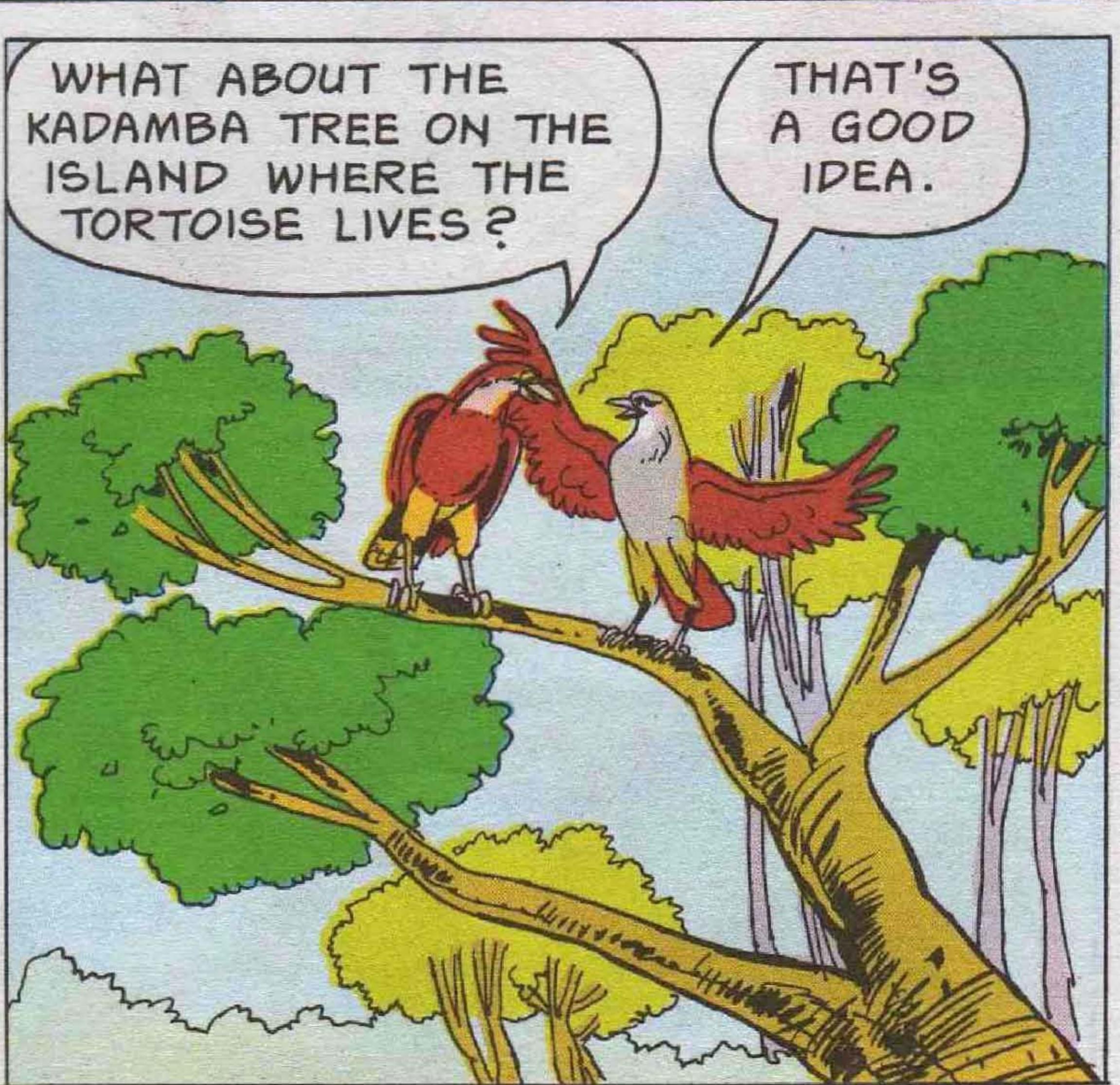
I HAVE THREE FRIENDS NOW.

AH! NOW WE CAN DECIDE WHERE TO MAKE OUR HOME.

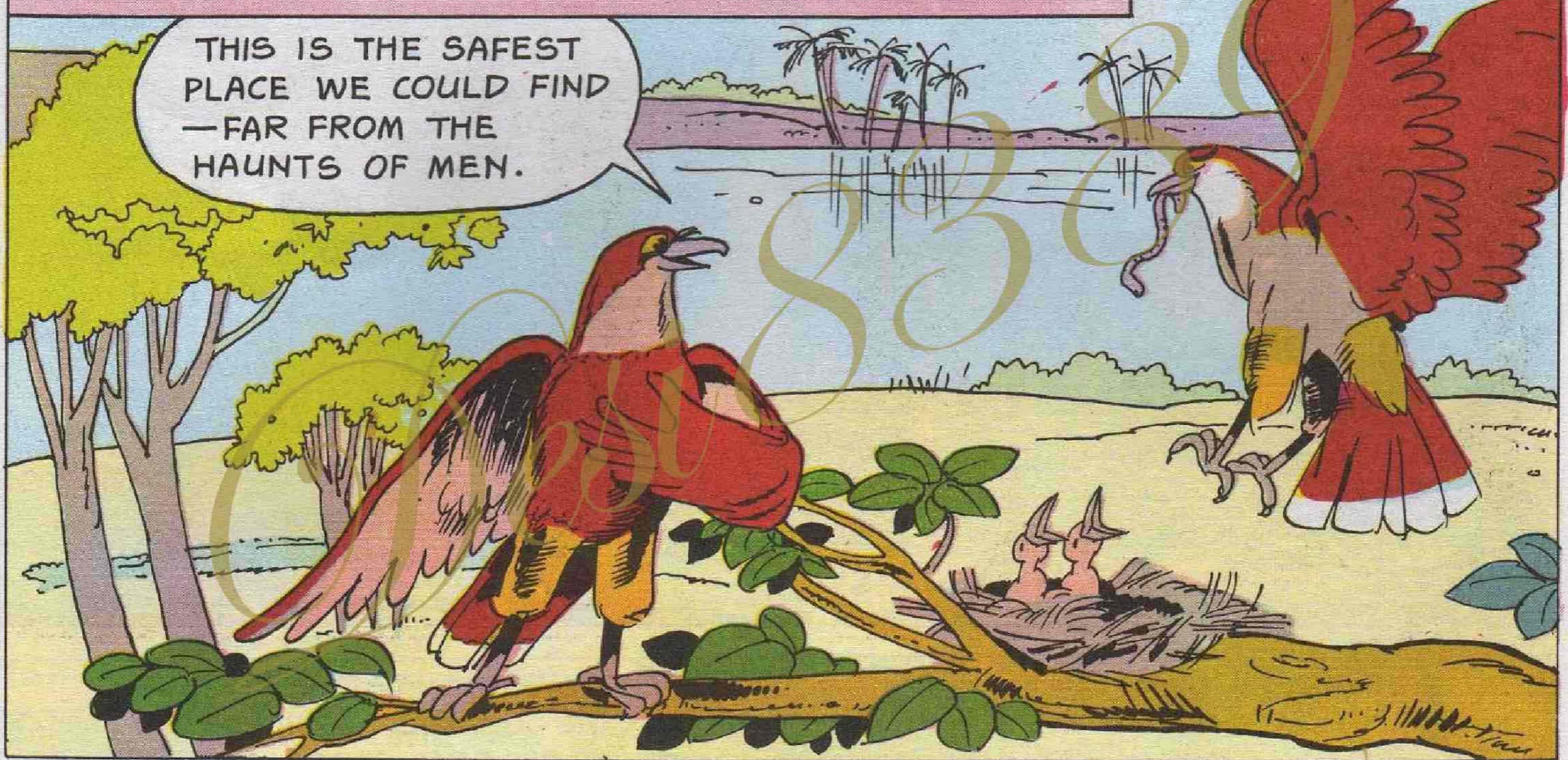


WHAT ABOUT THE KADAMBA TREE ON THE ISLAND WHERE THE TORTOISE LIVES?

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.



SO THE TWO FLEW OVER TO THE ISLAND AND MADE A NEST ON THE KADAMBA TREE. SOON TWO LITTLE ONES WERE BORN TO THEM.



BUT THE PLACE WAS NOT AS SAFE AS THE HAWKS IMAGINED. ONE DAY TWO HUNTERS CAME —

IT'S BEEN A BAD DAY. WE'VE CAUGHT NOTHING, NOT EVEN A RABBIT!

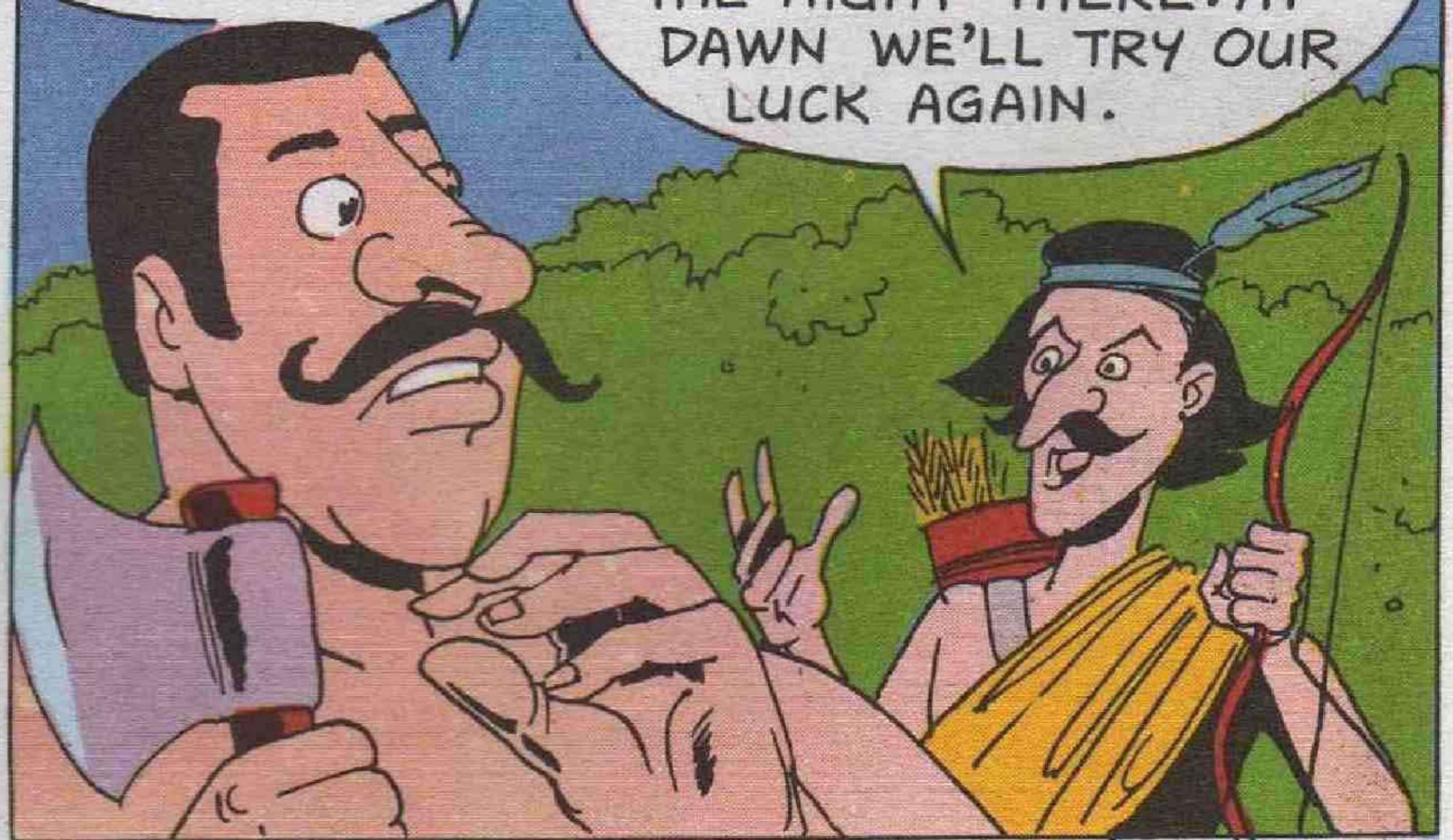
AND IT'S ALMOST EVENING!

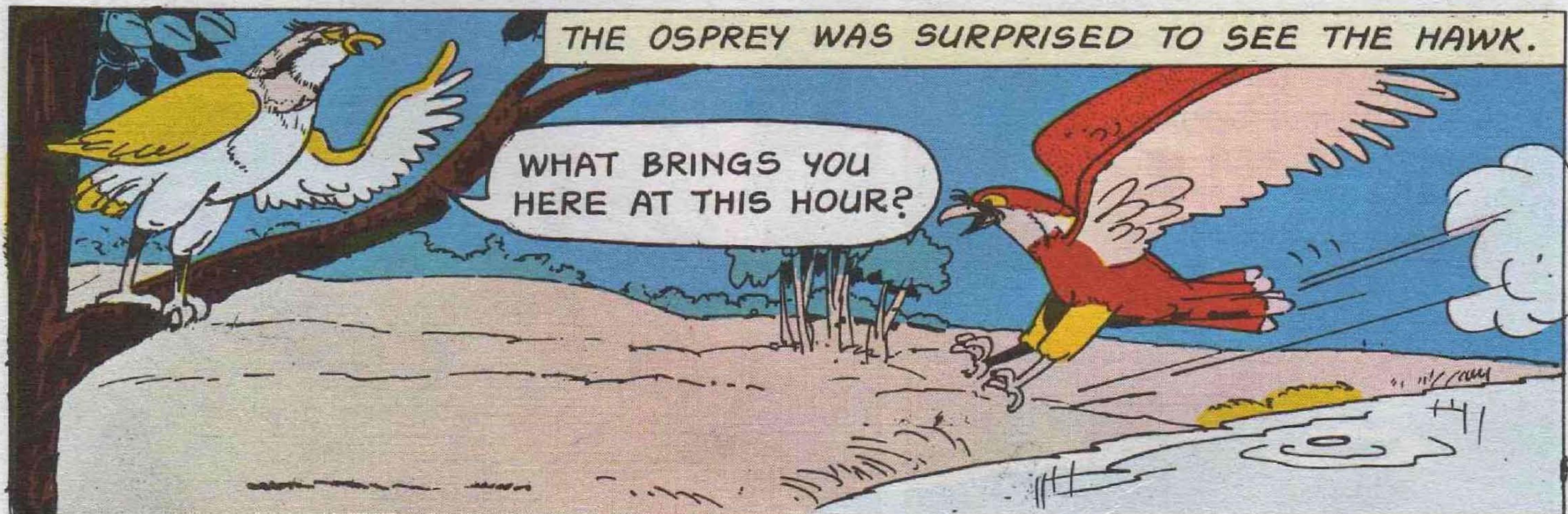
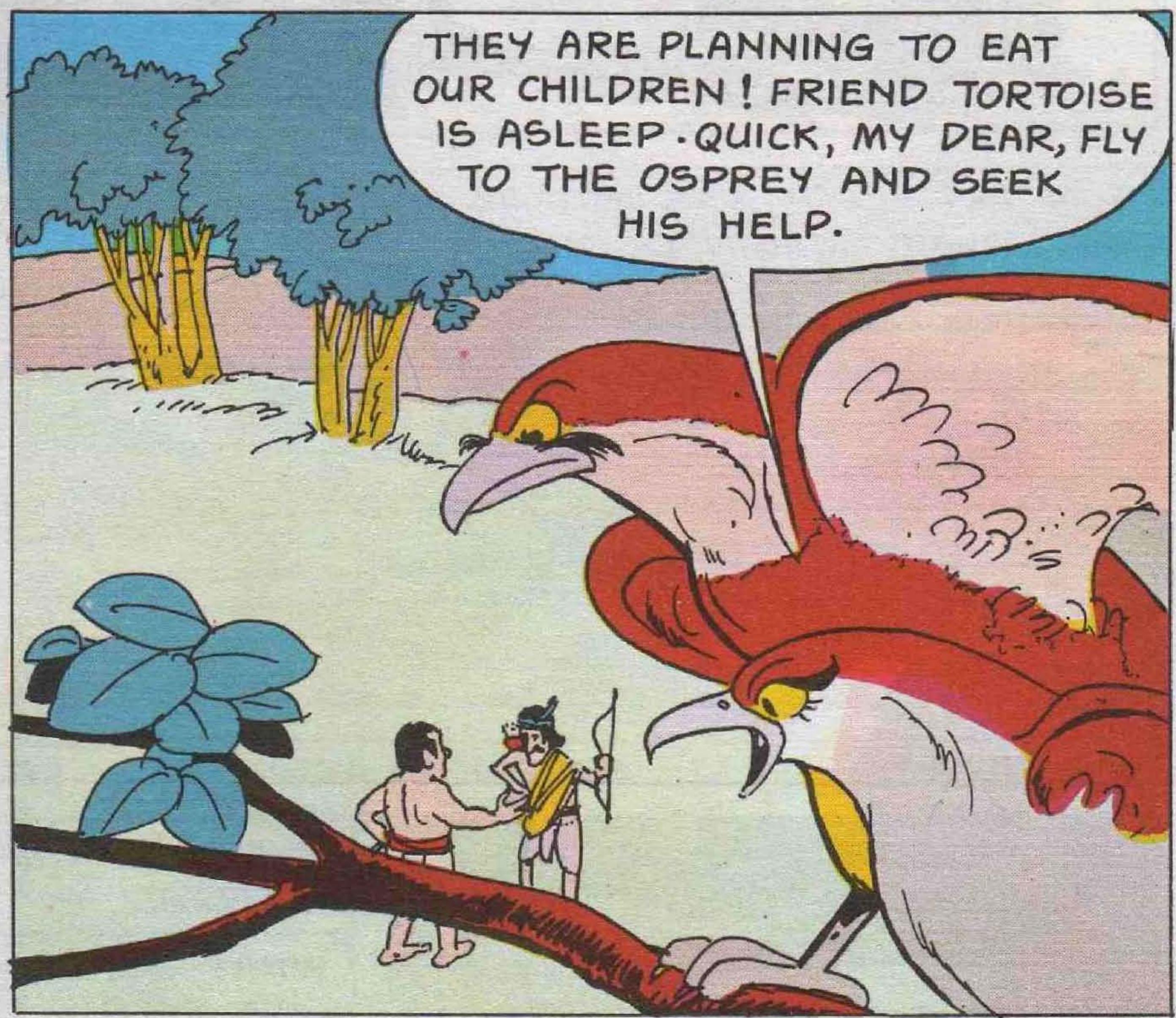
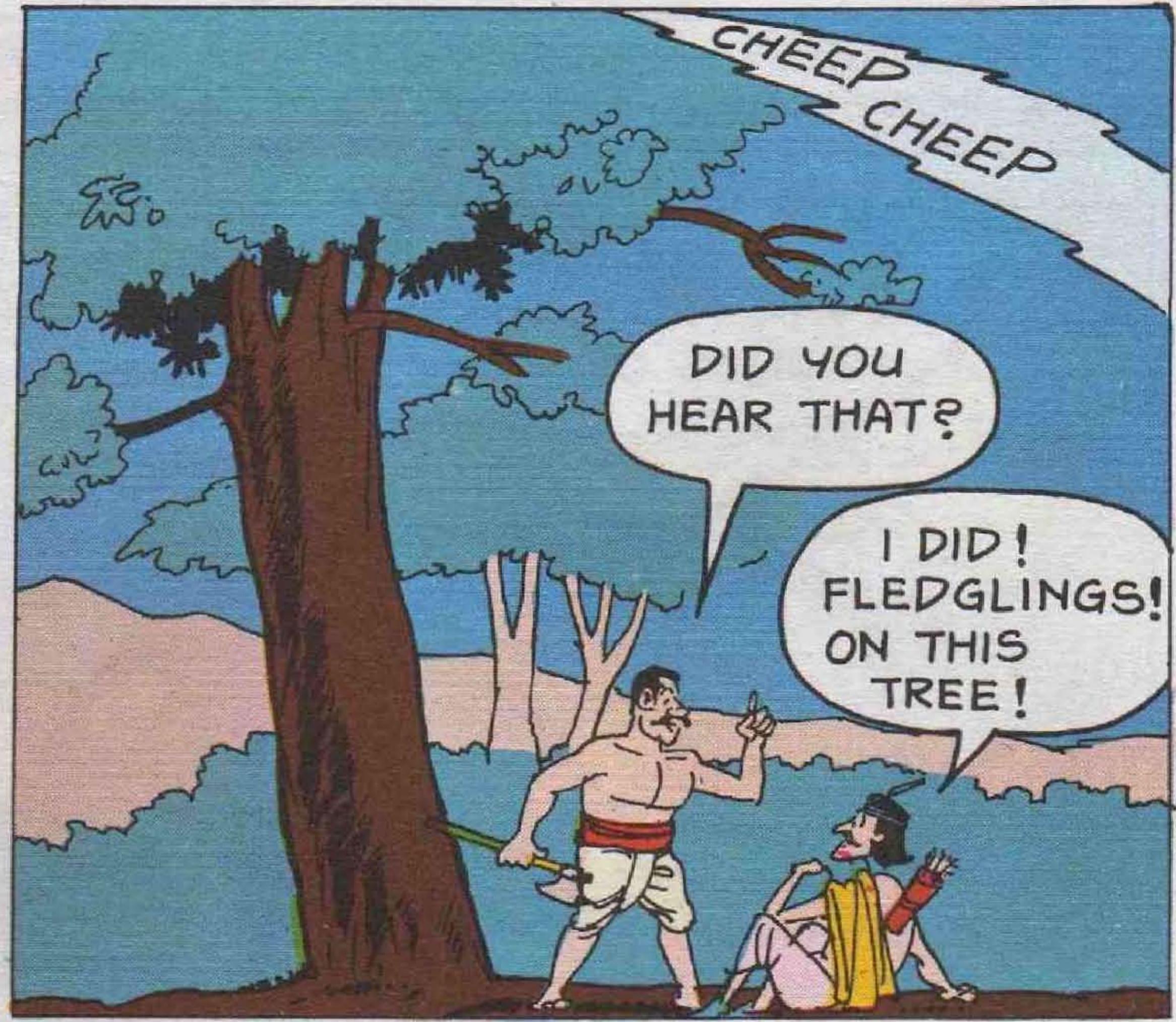
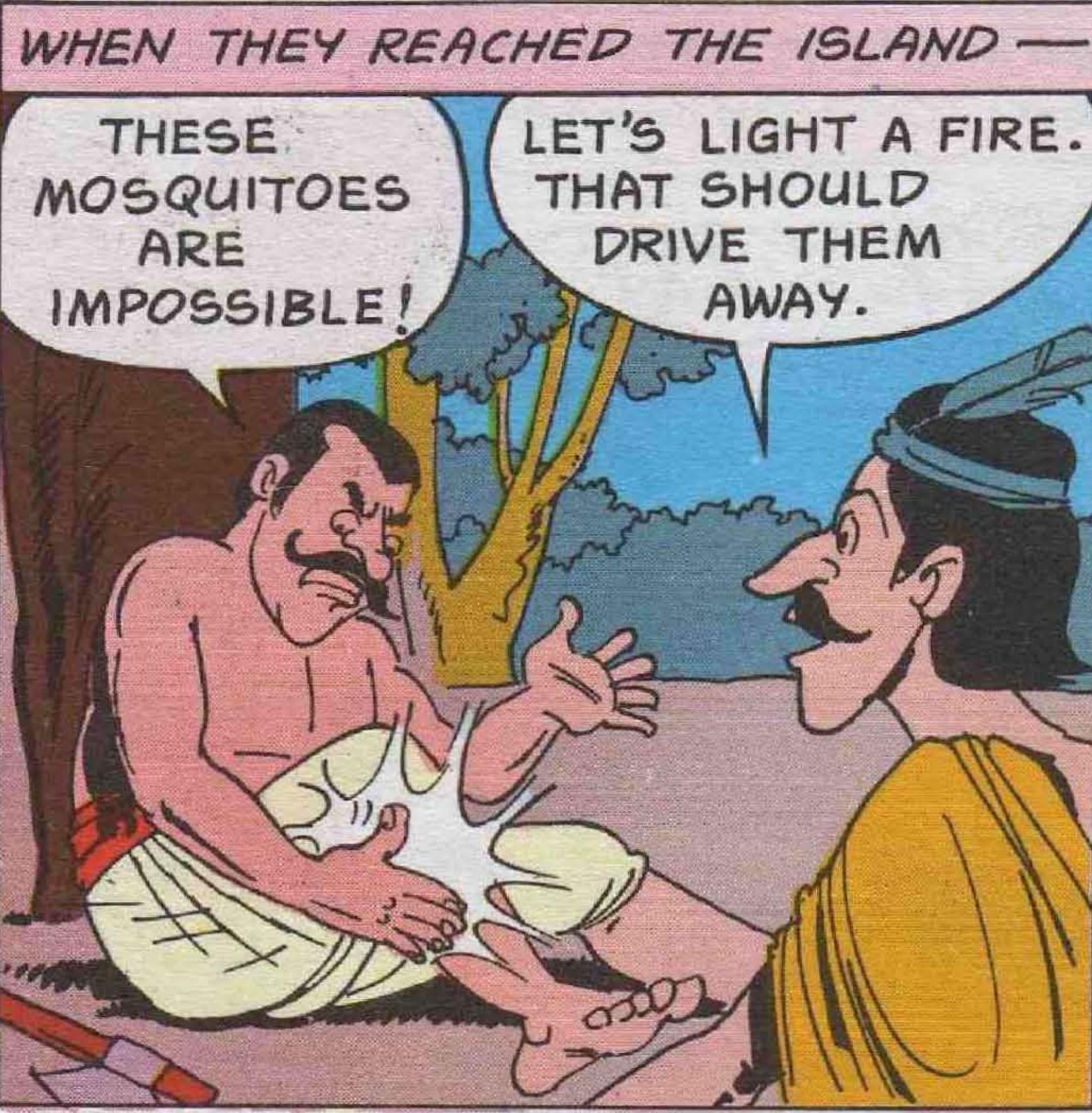


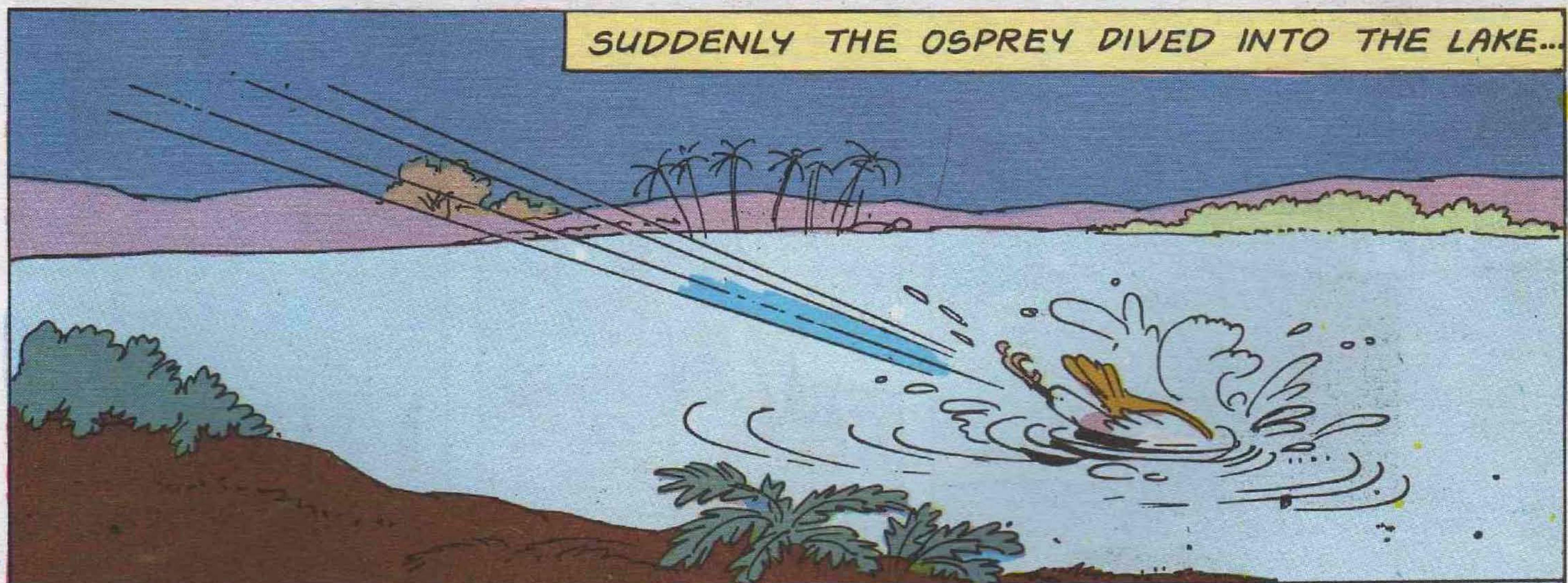
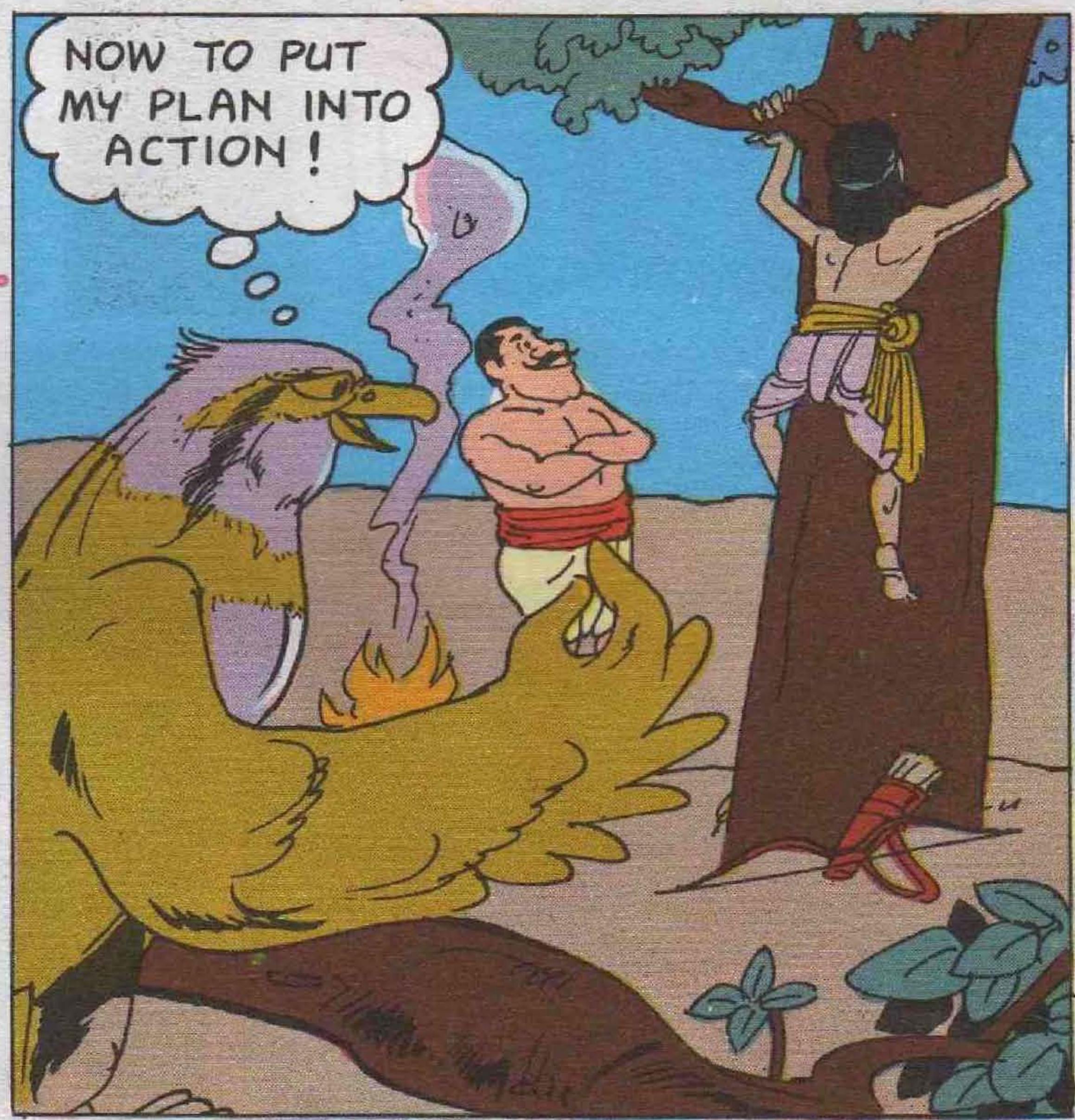
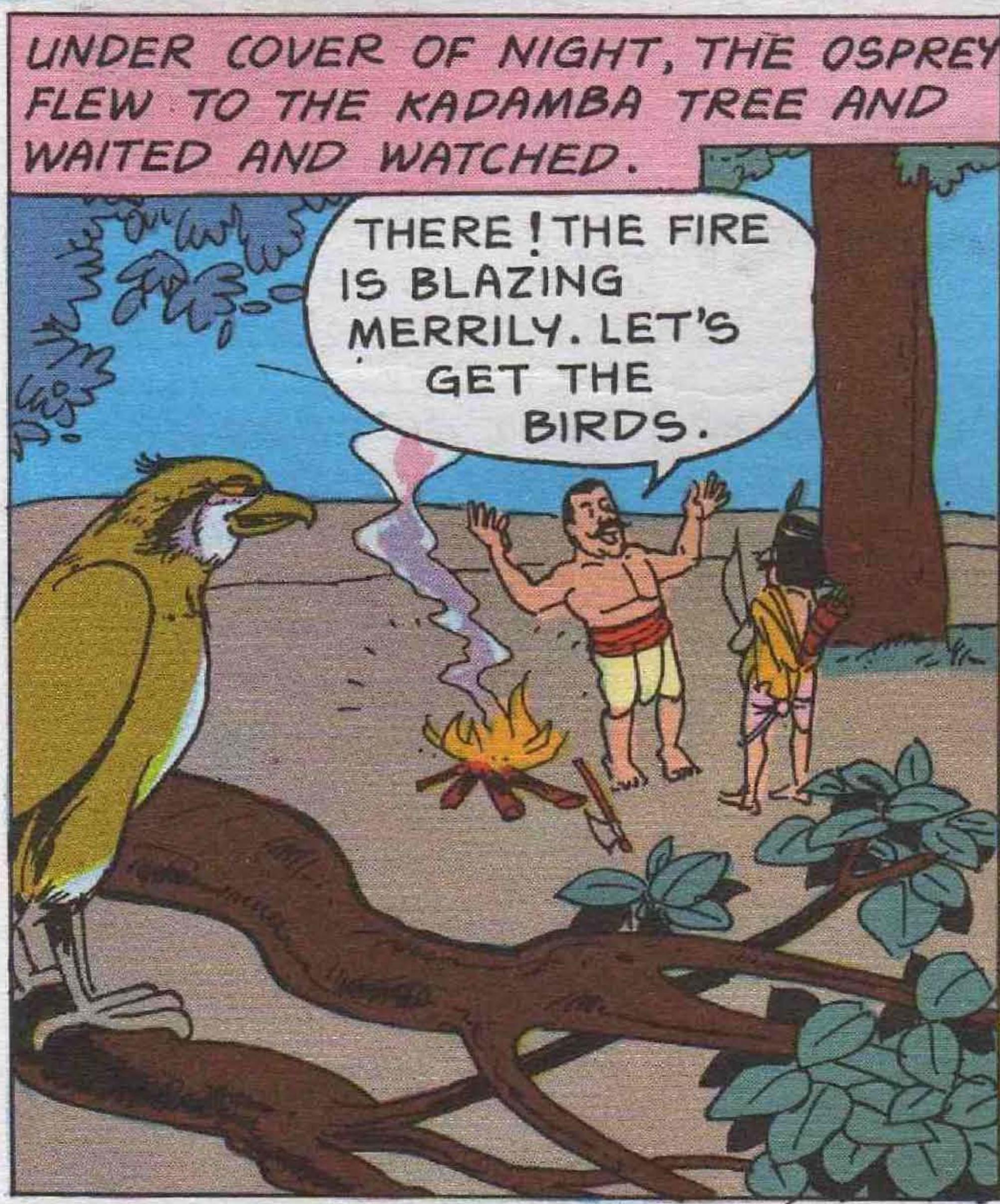
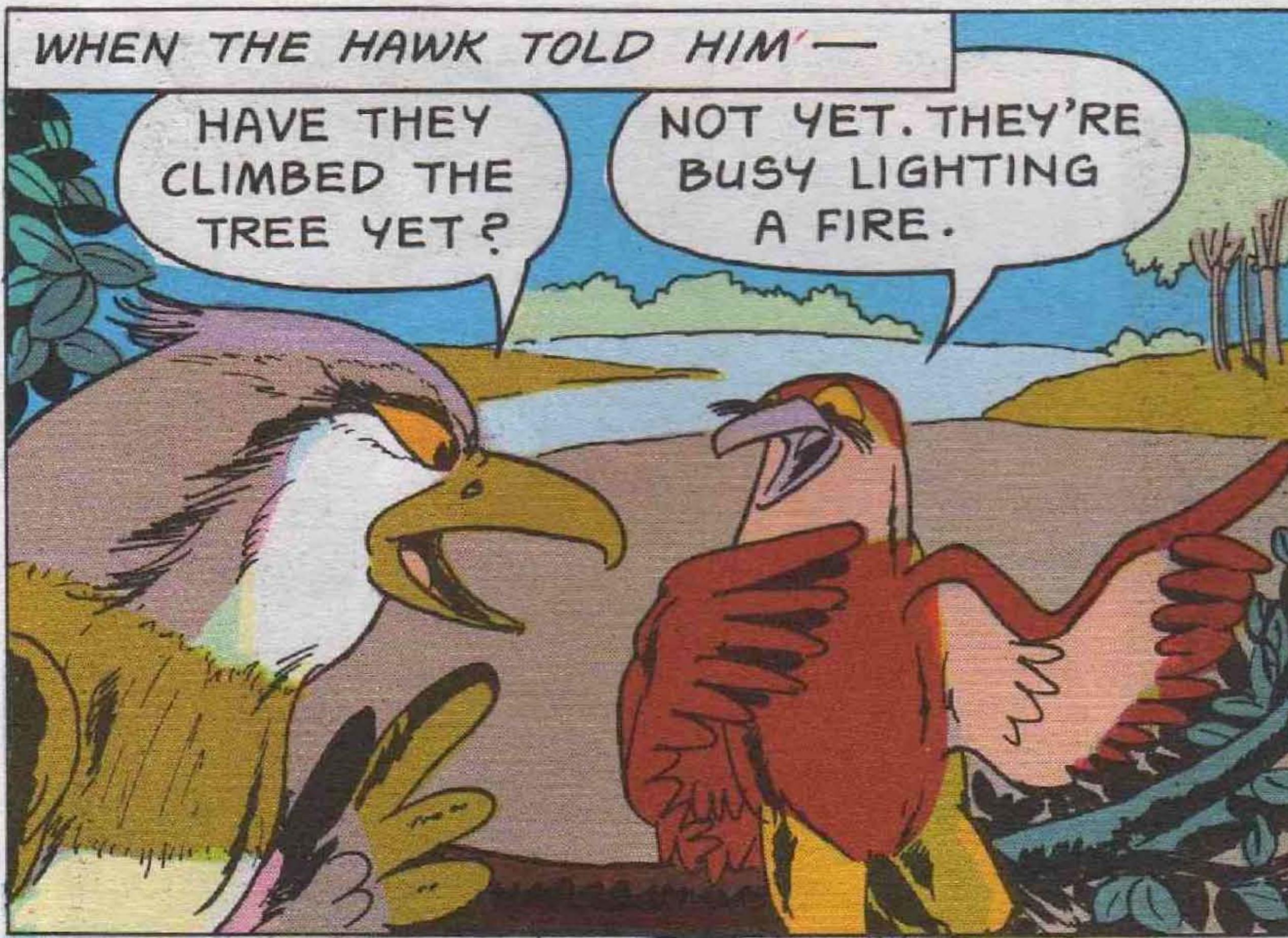
BUT THEY HAD NO LUCK. TOWARDS NIGHTFALL —

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

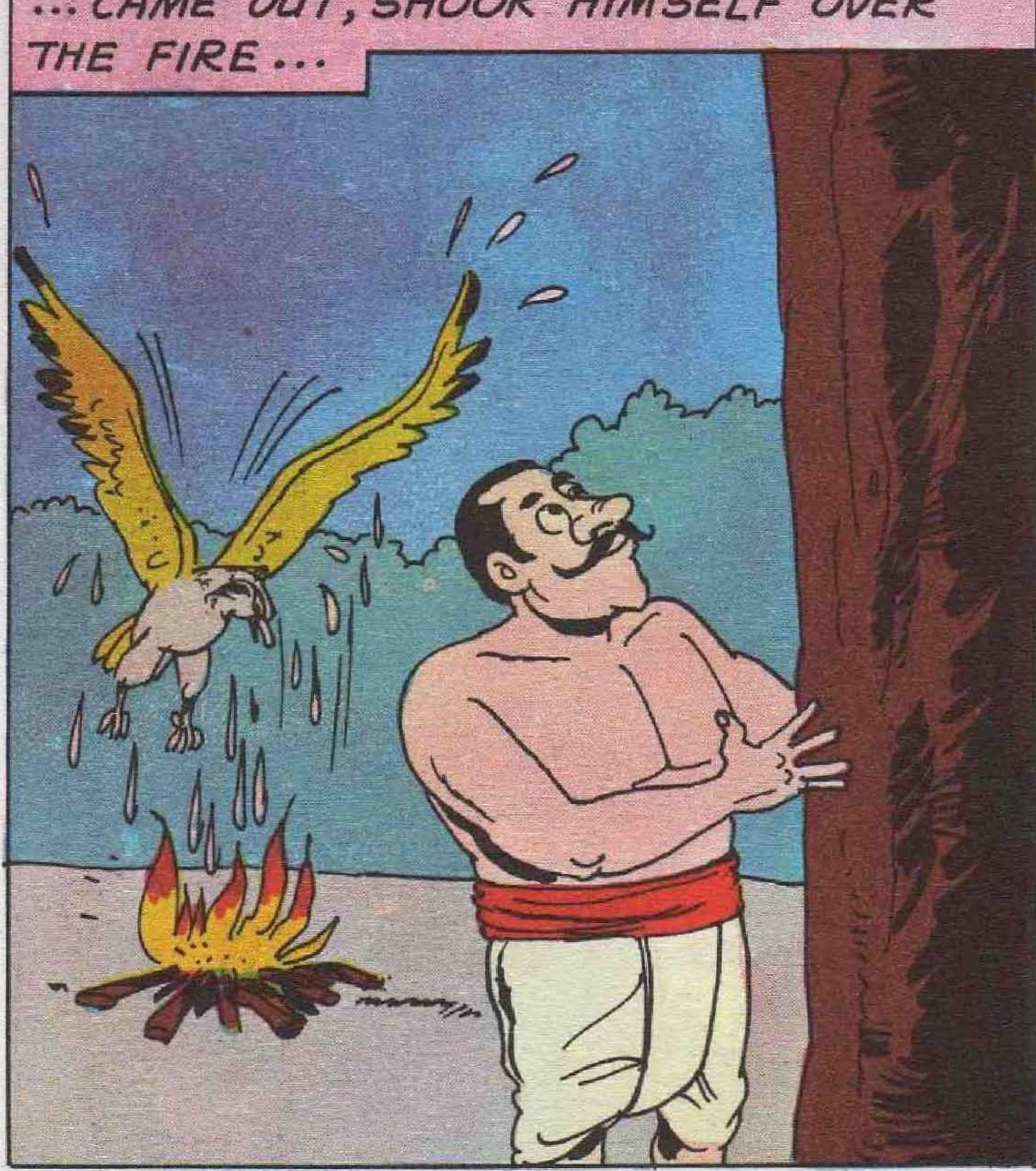
LET'S SWIM ACROSS TO THAT ISLAND, AND SPEND THE NIGHT THERE. AT DAWN WE'LL TRY OUR LUCK AGAIN.



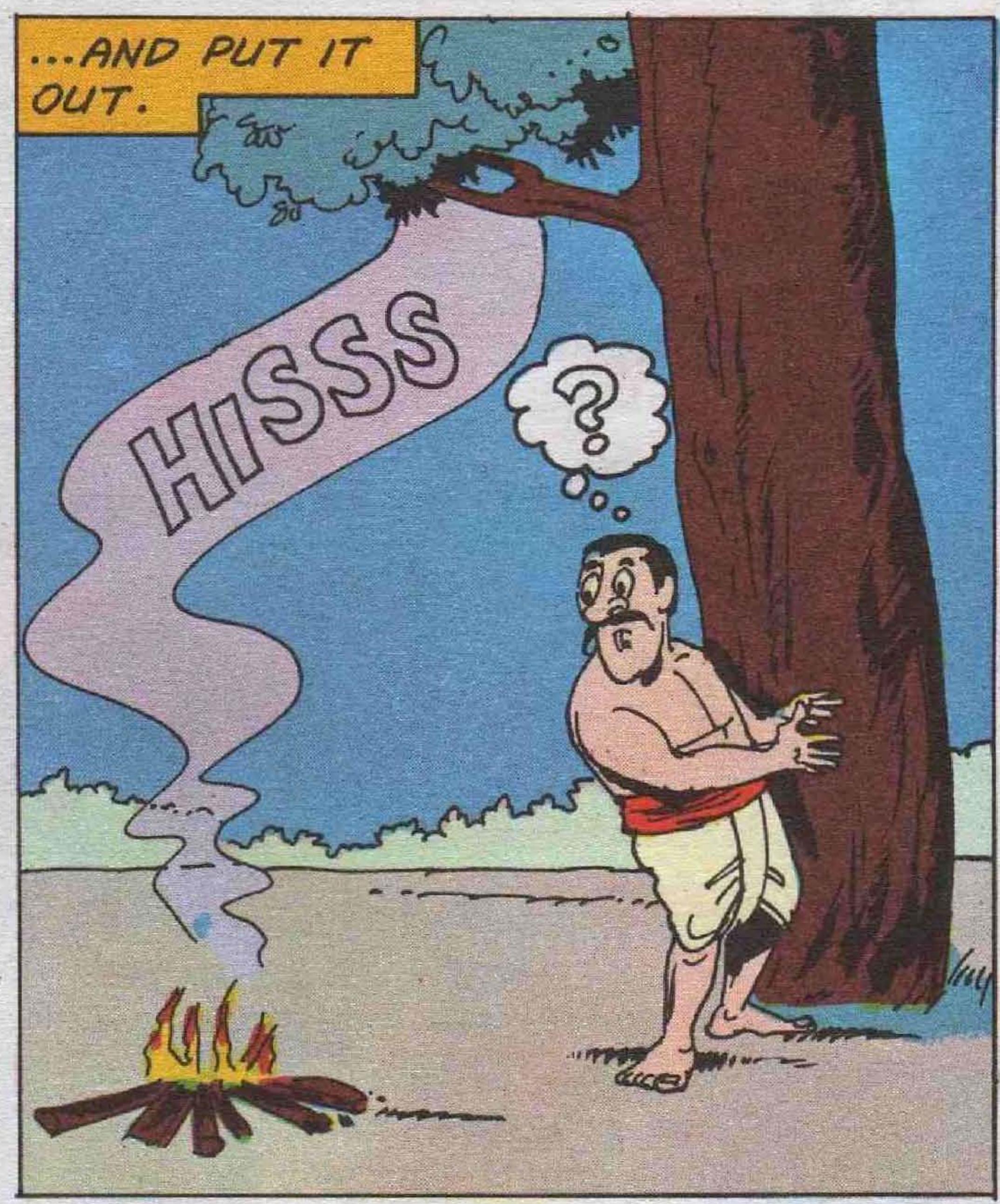




...CAME OUT, SHOOK HIMSELF OVER
THE FIRE...



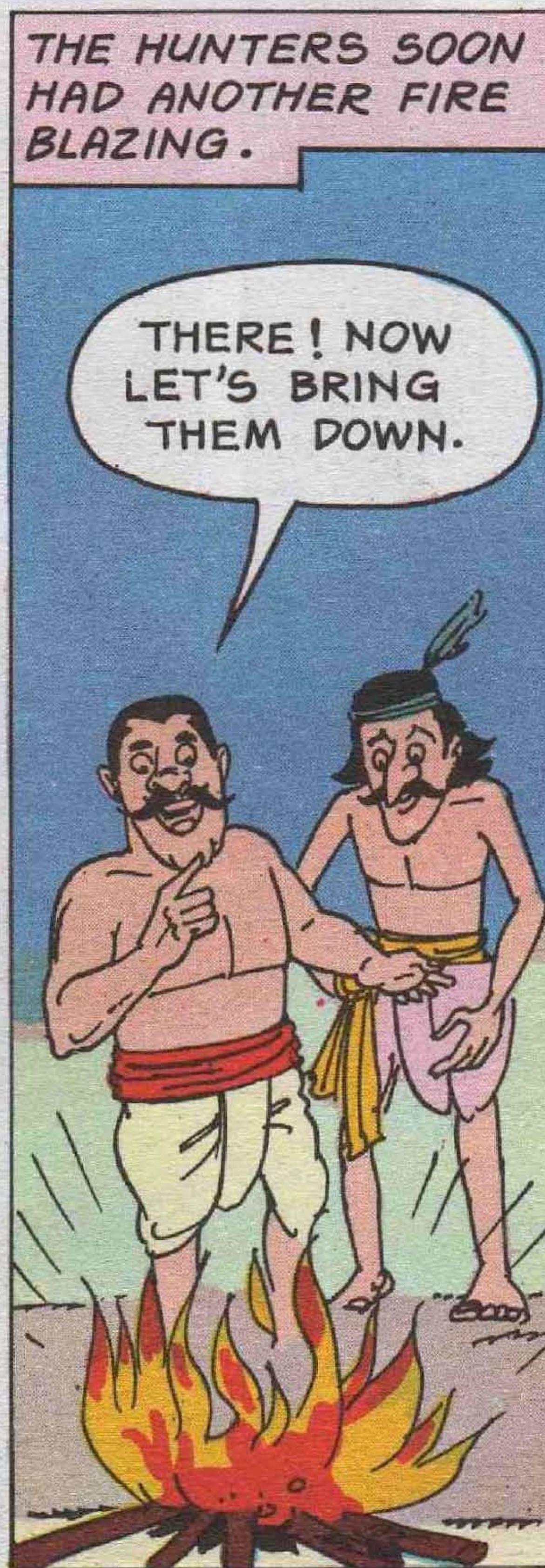
...AND PUT IT
OUT.



WHAT'S THAT? IS
IT THE FIRE?
PERHAPS, THE
WOOD WAS WET!



THE HUNTERS SOON
HAD ANOTHER FIRE
BLAZING.



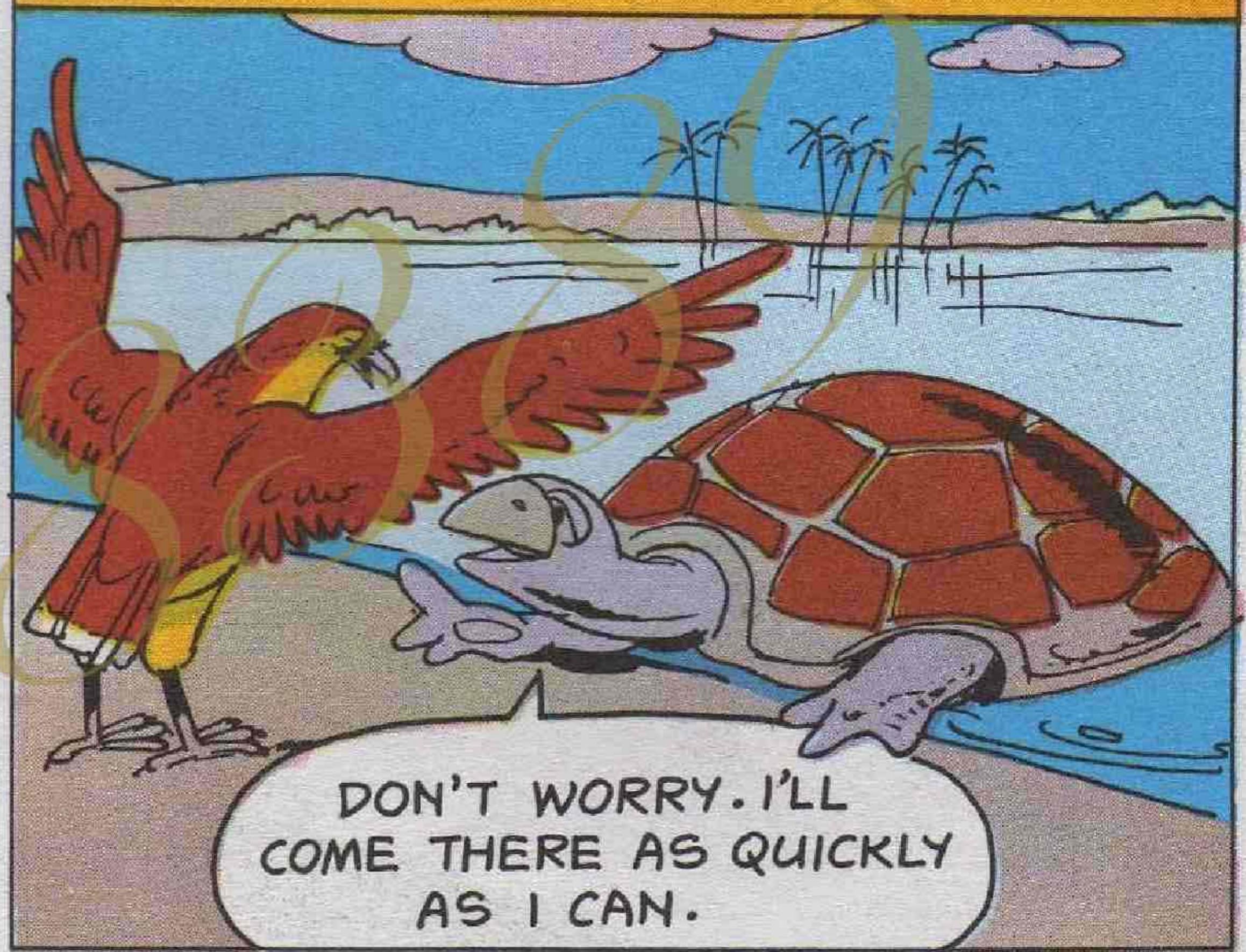
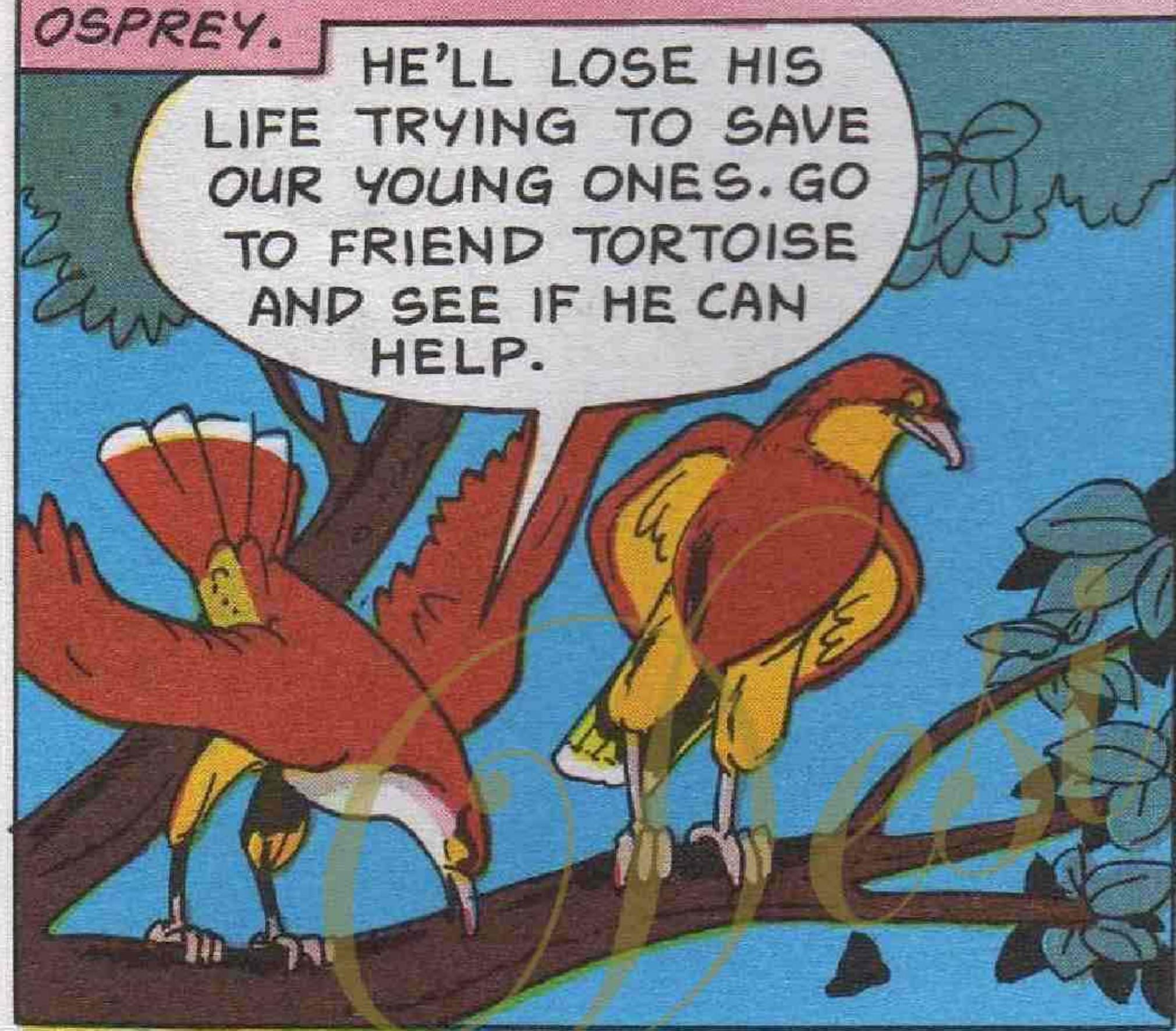
BUT AS SOON AS
THEY WENT TO GET
THE BIRDS, THE
OSPREY ONCE AGAIN
PUT OUT THE FIRE.



THIS WENT ON TILL MIDNIGHT. THE SHE-HAWK FELT SORRY FOR THE OSPREY.

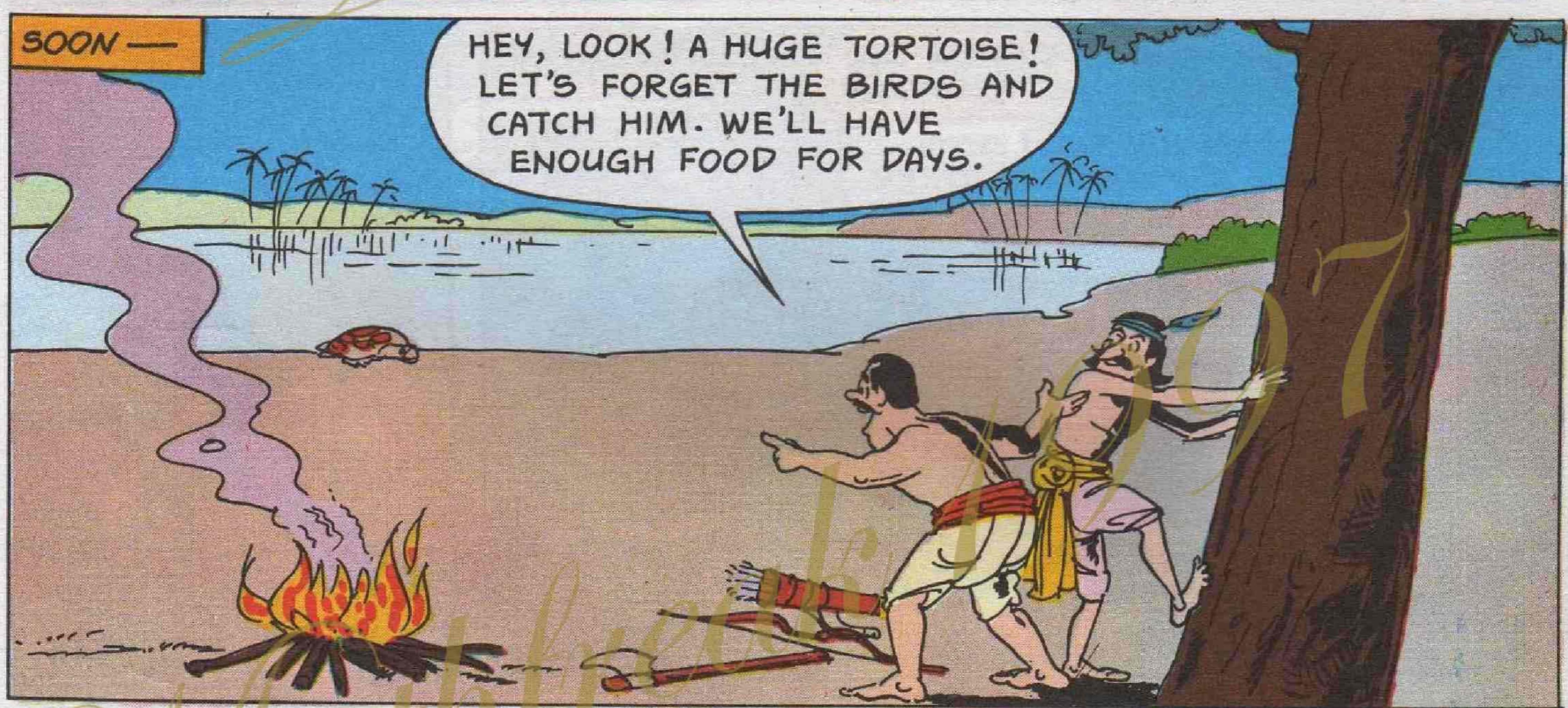
HE'LL LOSE HIS LIFE TRYING TO SAVE OUR YOUNG ONES. GO TO FRIEND TORTOISE AND SEE IF HE CAN HELP.

WHEN THE HAWK FLEW TO THE TORTOISE AND TOLD HIM THE WHOLE STORY —



SOON —

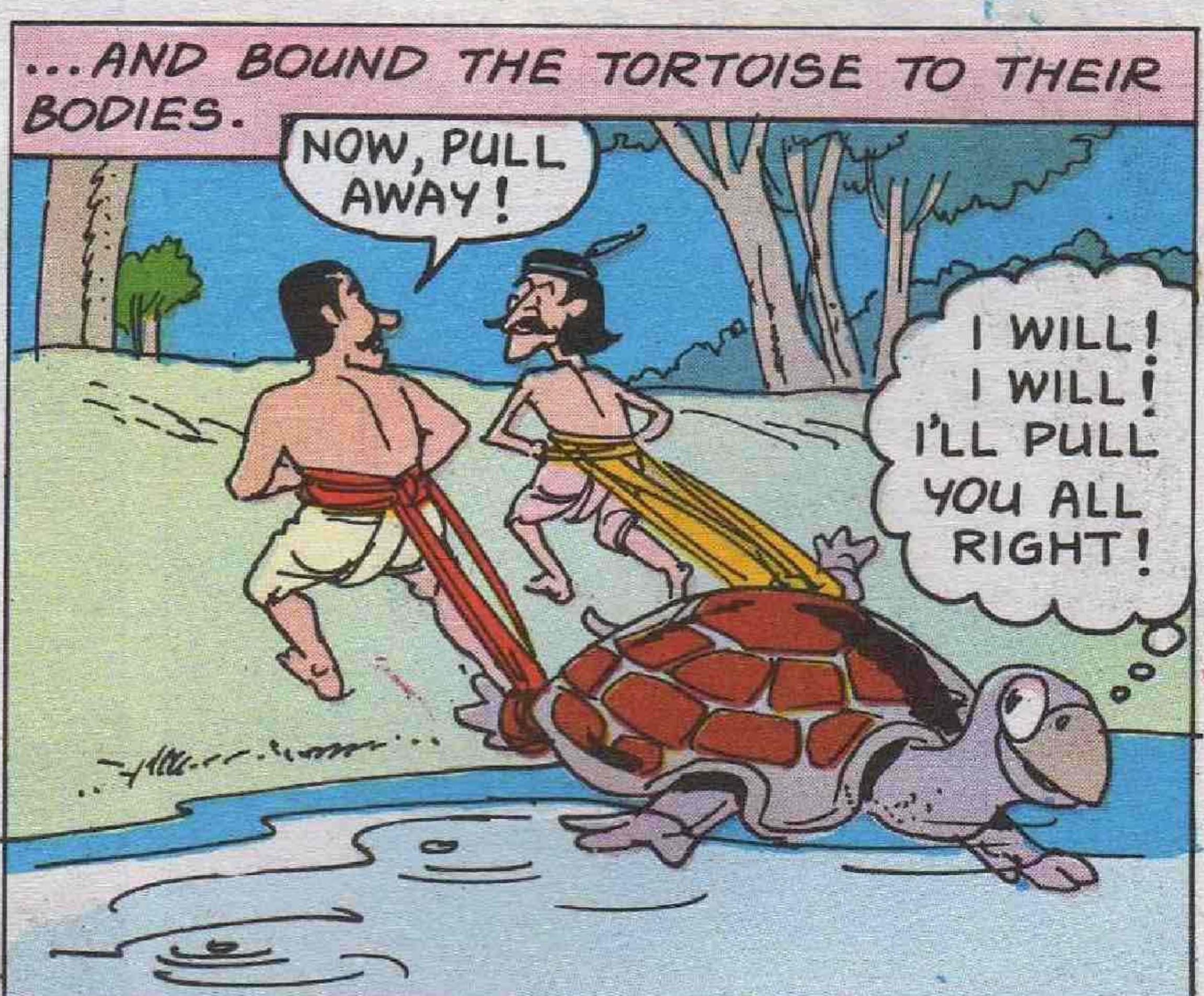
HEY, LOOK! A HUGE TORTOISE! LET'S FORGET THE BIRDS AND CATCH HIM. WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH FOOD FOR DAYS.



...AND BOUND THE TORTOISE TO THEIR BODIES.

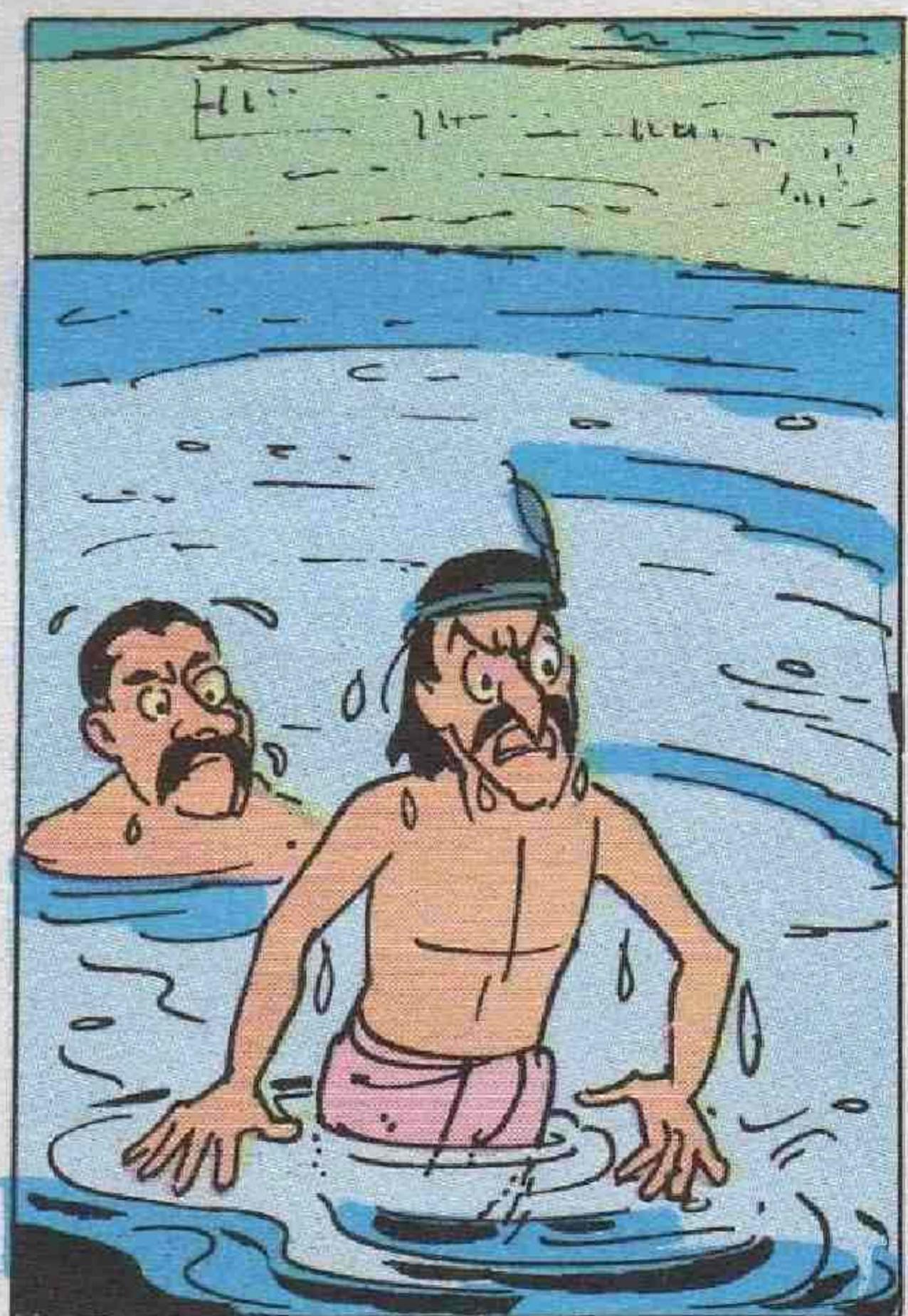
NOW, PULL AWAY!

I WILL!
I WILL!
I'LL PULL
YOU ALL
RIGHT!





THE HUNTERS QUICKLY LOOSENERED THE STRIPS OF CLOTH THAT BOUND THEM TO THE TORTOISE.



A FEW MINUTES LATER —

AH! THE FIRE IS READY!
LET'S GO AND CATCH
THE ...



SUDDENLY —

GR-R-R

EE-A-AH!

A LION!

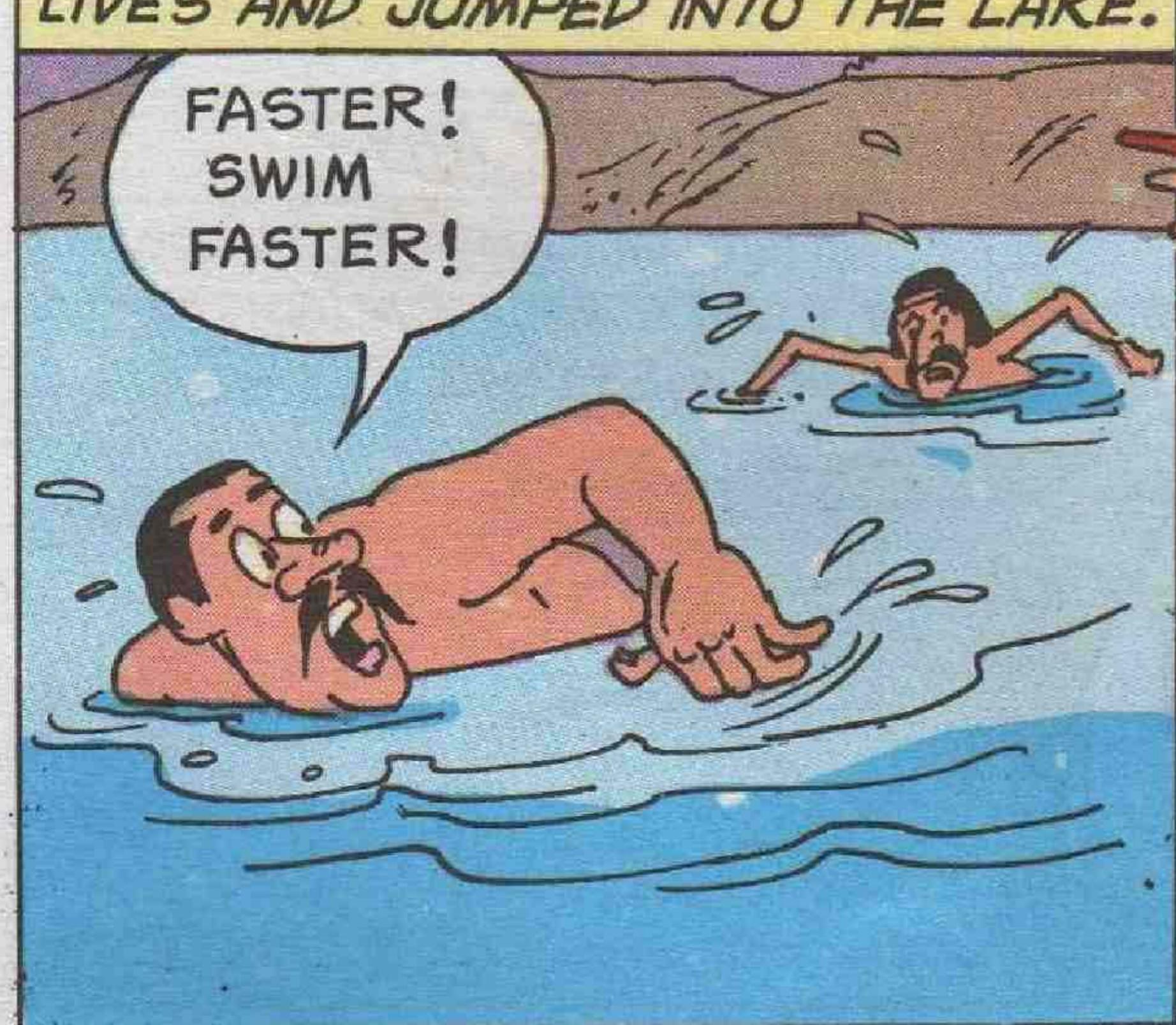


THE HUNTERS RAN FOR THEIR LIVES AND JUMPED INTO THE LAKE.

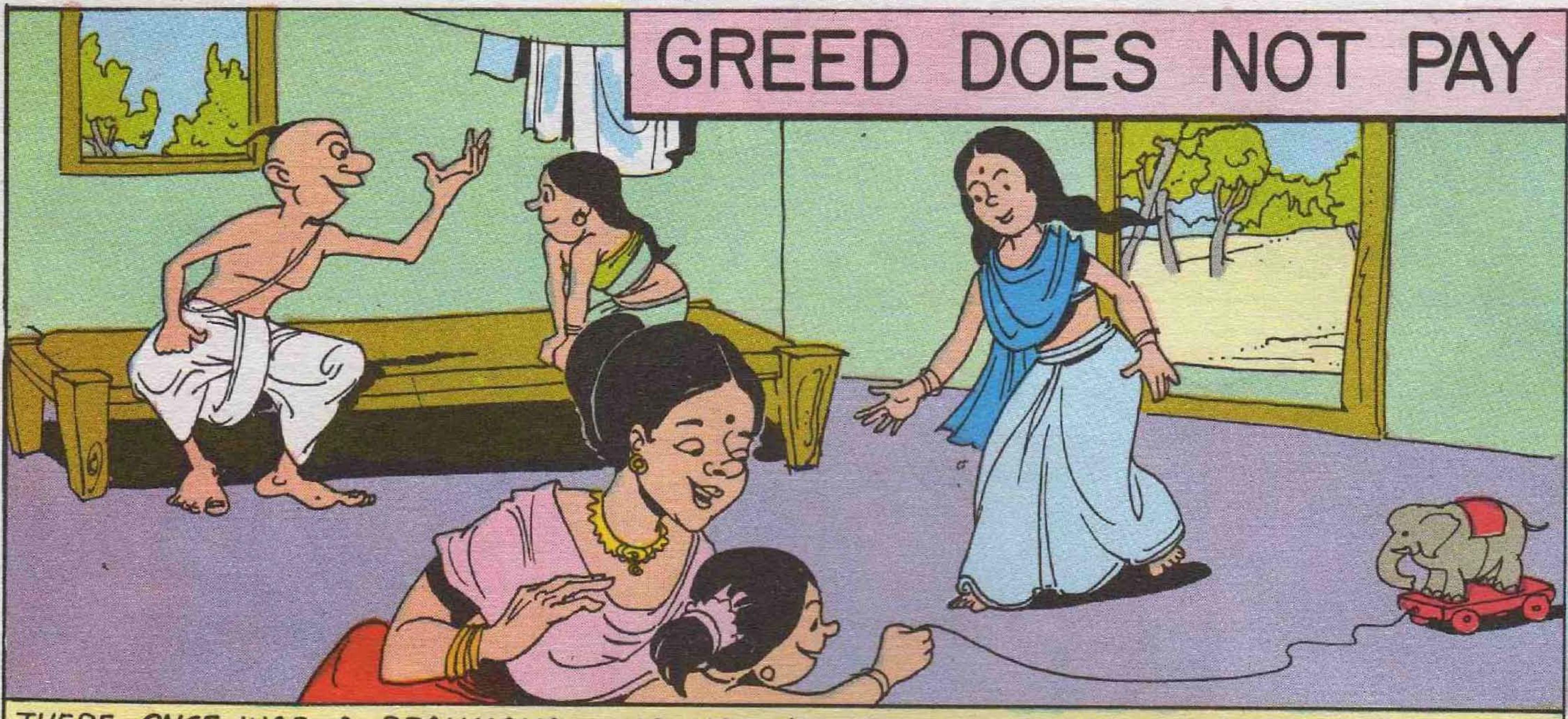
FASTER!
SWIM
FASTER!

AH! MY LITTLE
ONES, YOU ARE
SAFE!

NOW DO YOU SEE
THE VALUE OF HAVING
FRIENDS?



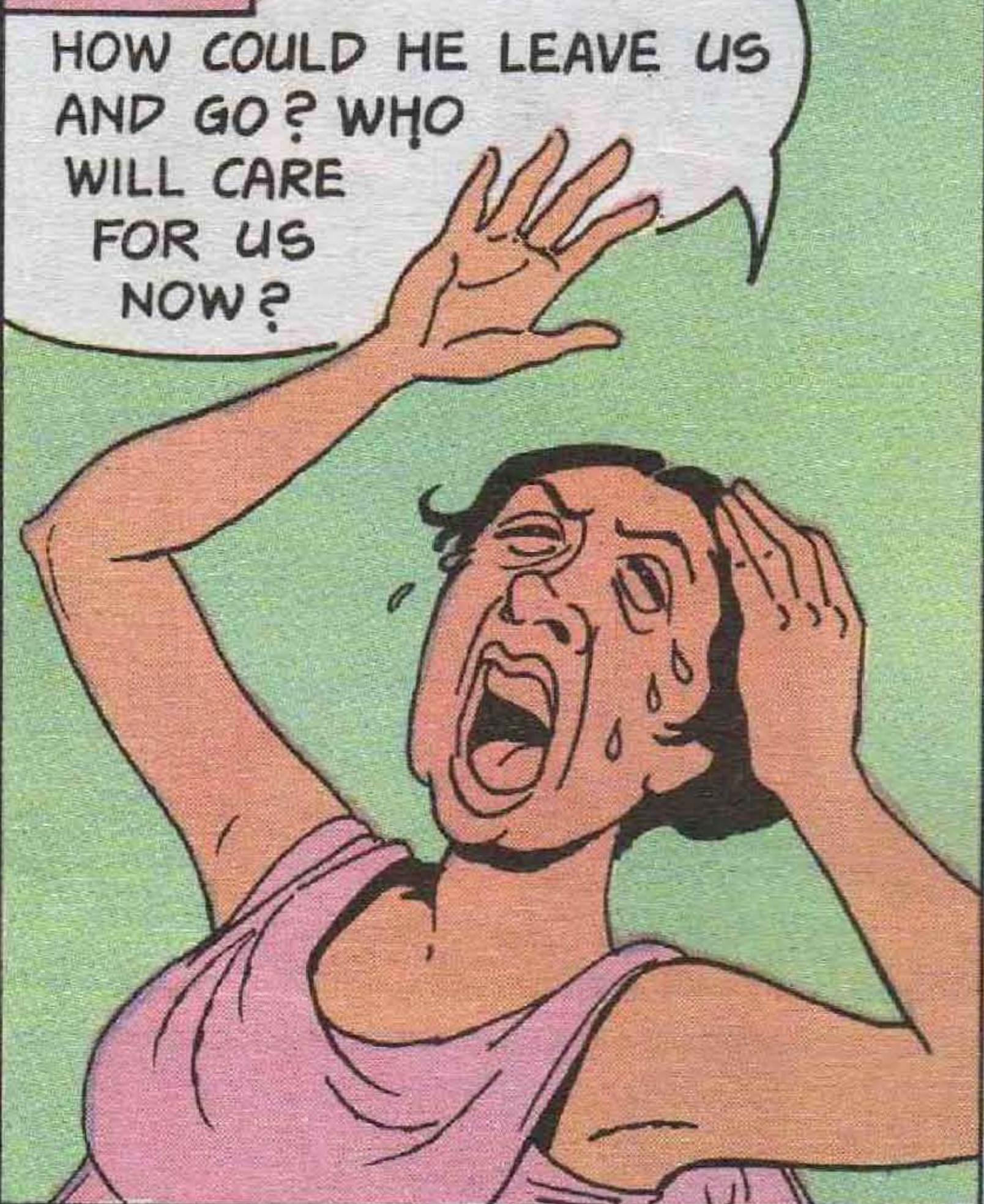
GREED DOES NOT PAY



THERE ONCE WAS A BRAHMANA WHO HAD A WIFE AND THREE DAUGHTERS. HE LOVED THEM DEARLY AND TOOK GOOD CARE OF THEM.

THEN SUDDENLY ONE DAY HE DIED.

HOW COULD HE LEAVE US AND GO? WHO WILL CARE FOR US NOW?



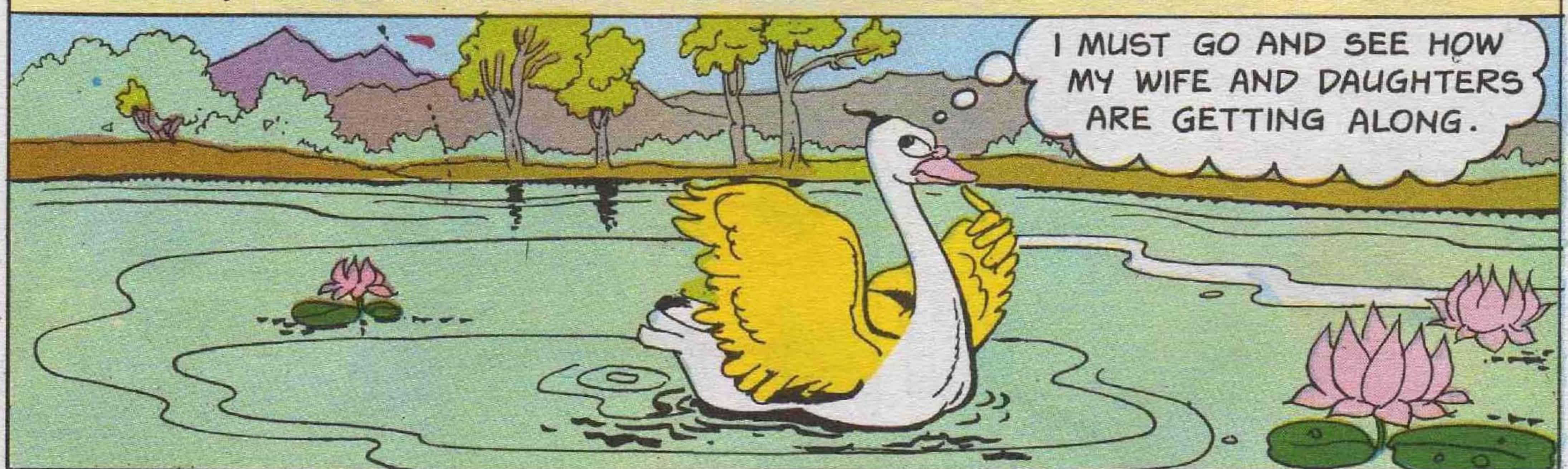
SOME KIND NEIGHBOURS WHO HEARD HER WAILING RUSHED IN.

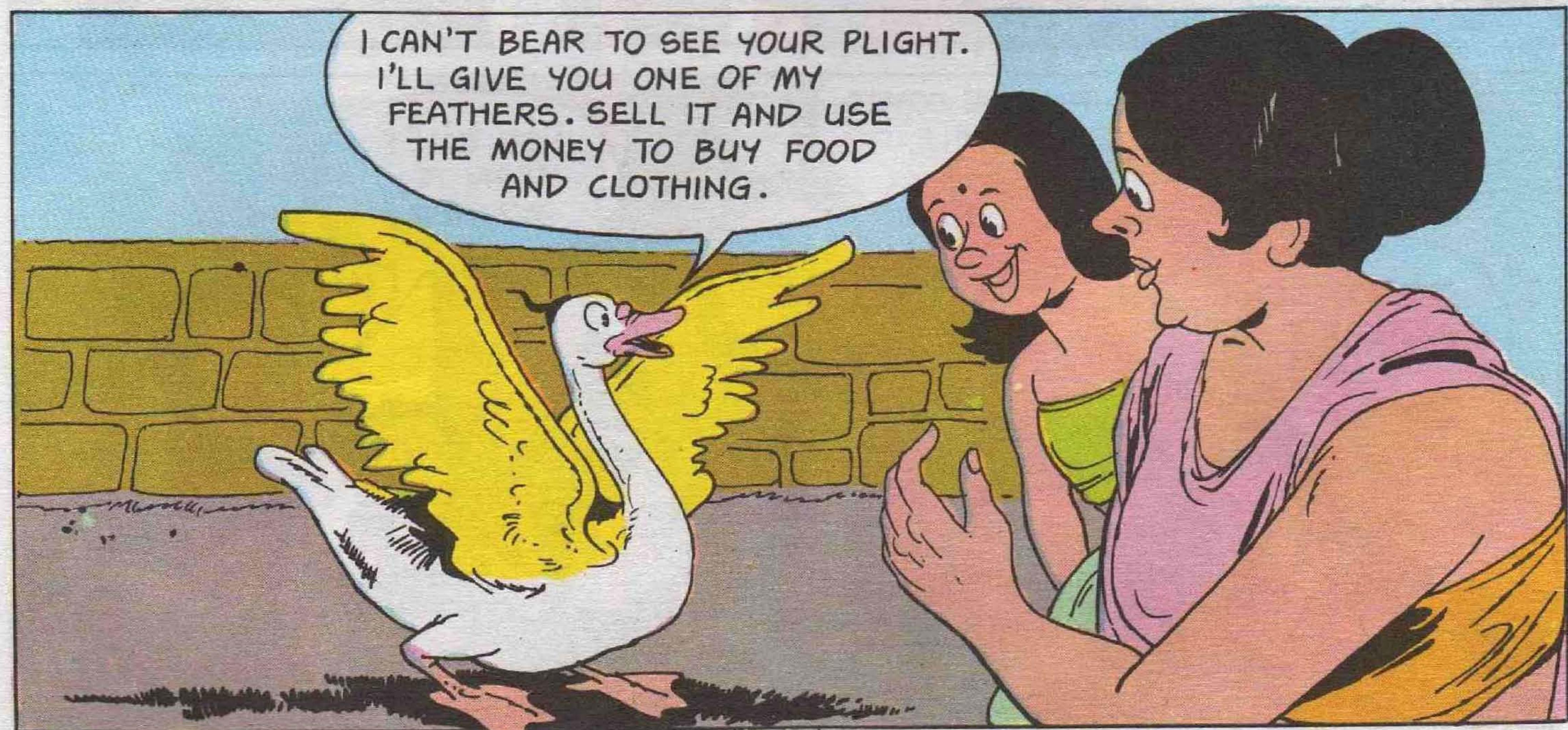
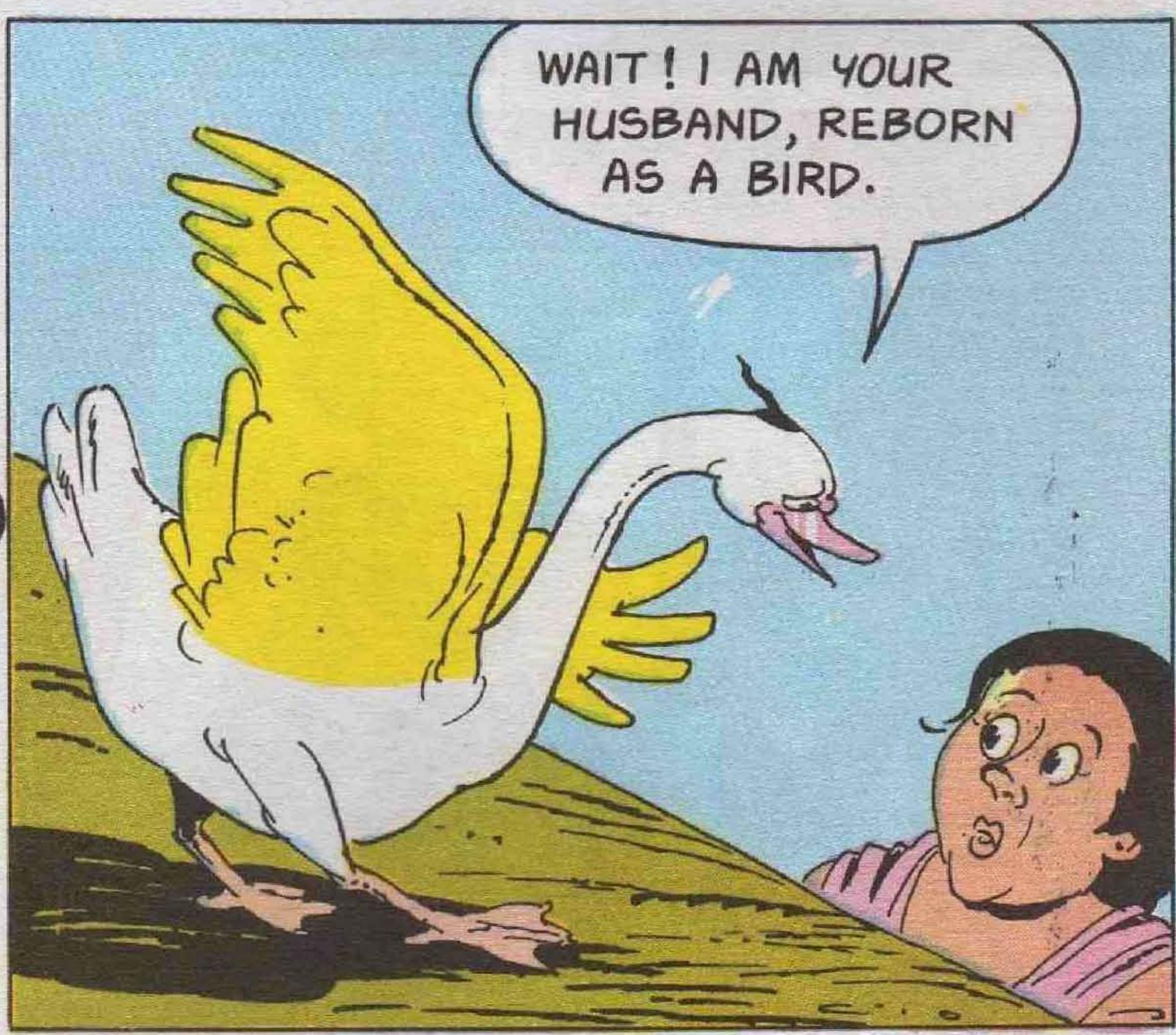
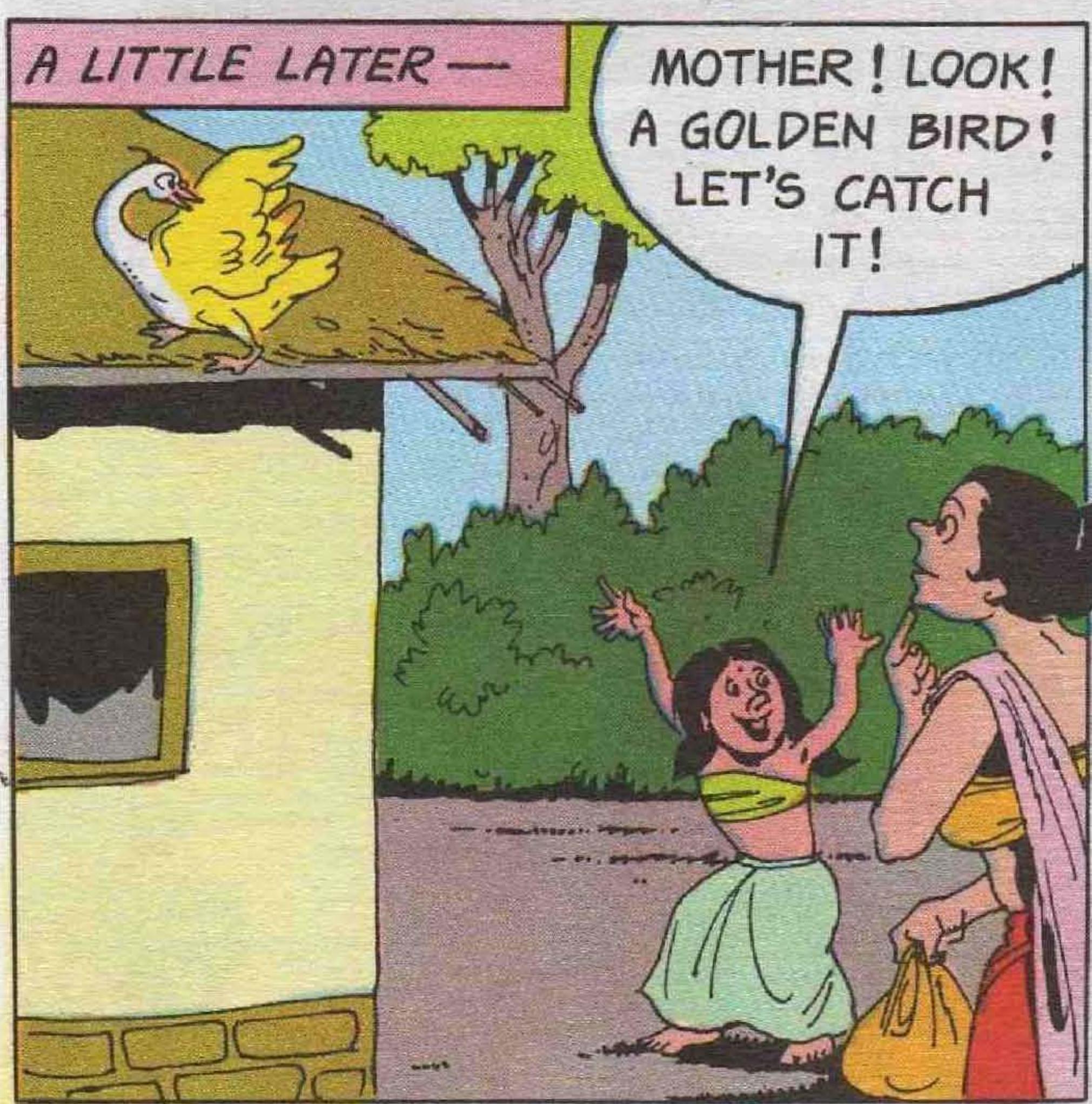
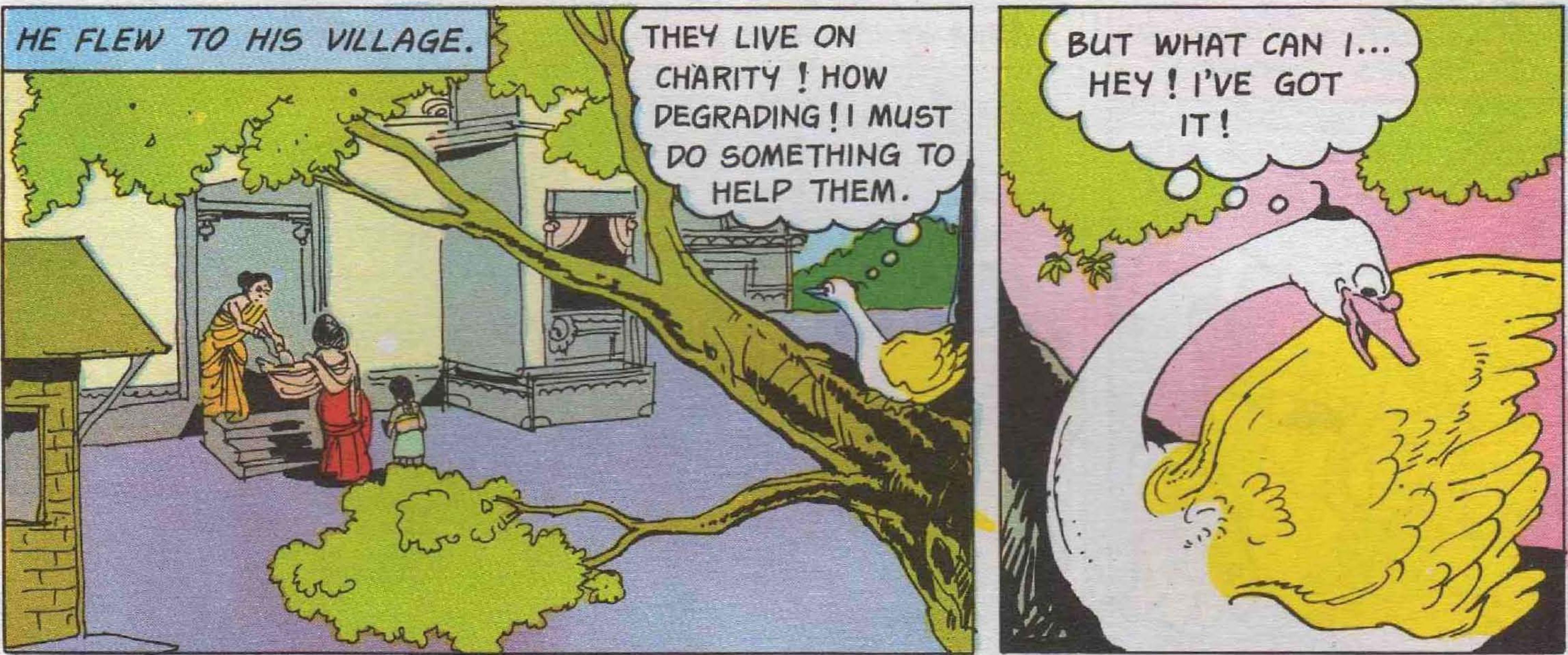
WE WILL. WE WON'T LET YOU STARVE. NOW PLEASE WIPE YOUR TEARS.



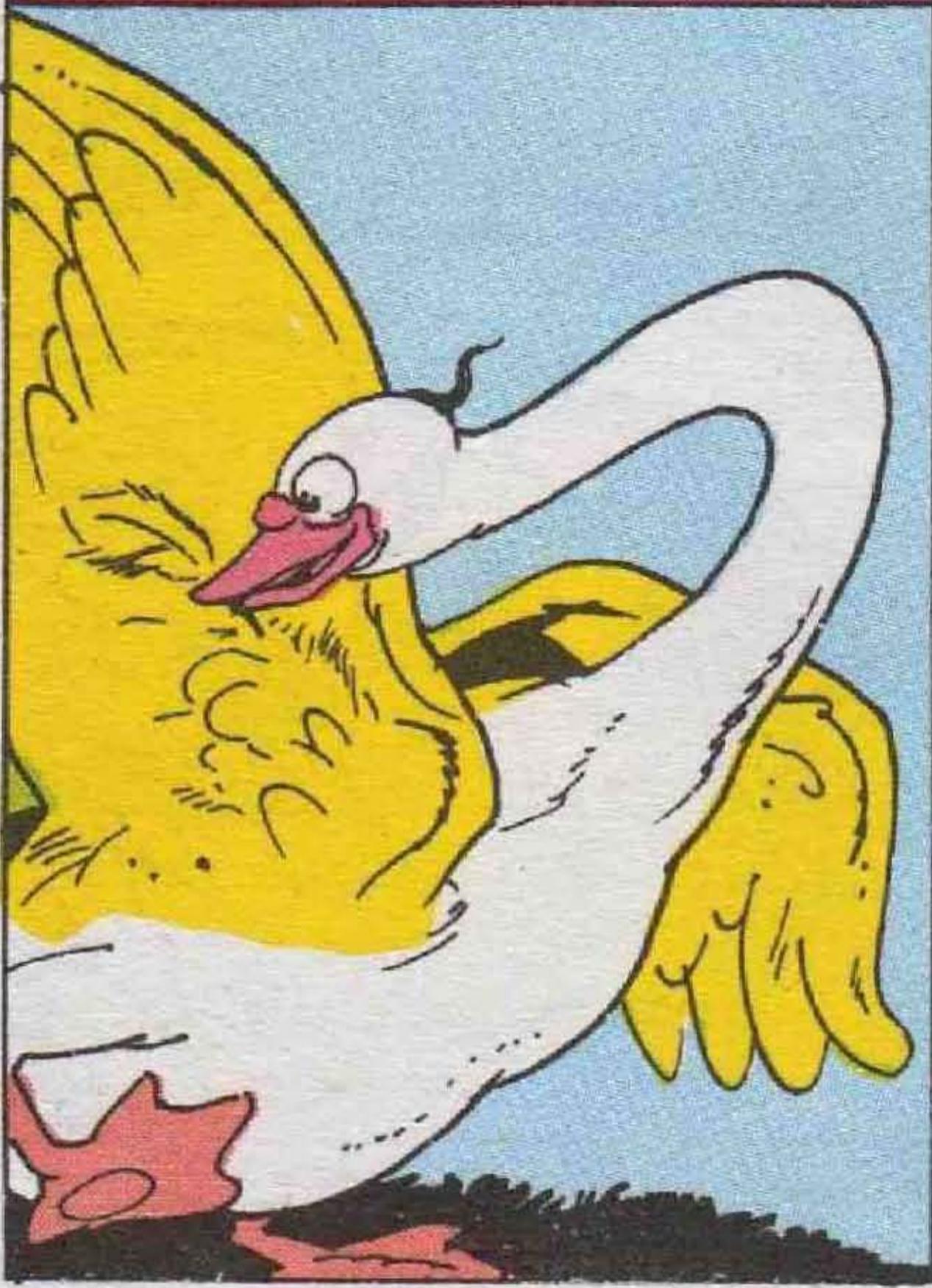
MEANWHILE, THE BRAHMANA WAS REBORN AS A GOLDEN SWAN. ONE DAY —

I MUST GO AND SEE HOW MY WIFE AND DAUGHTERS ARE GETTING ALONG.

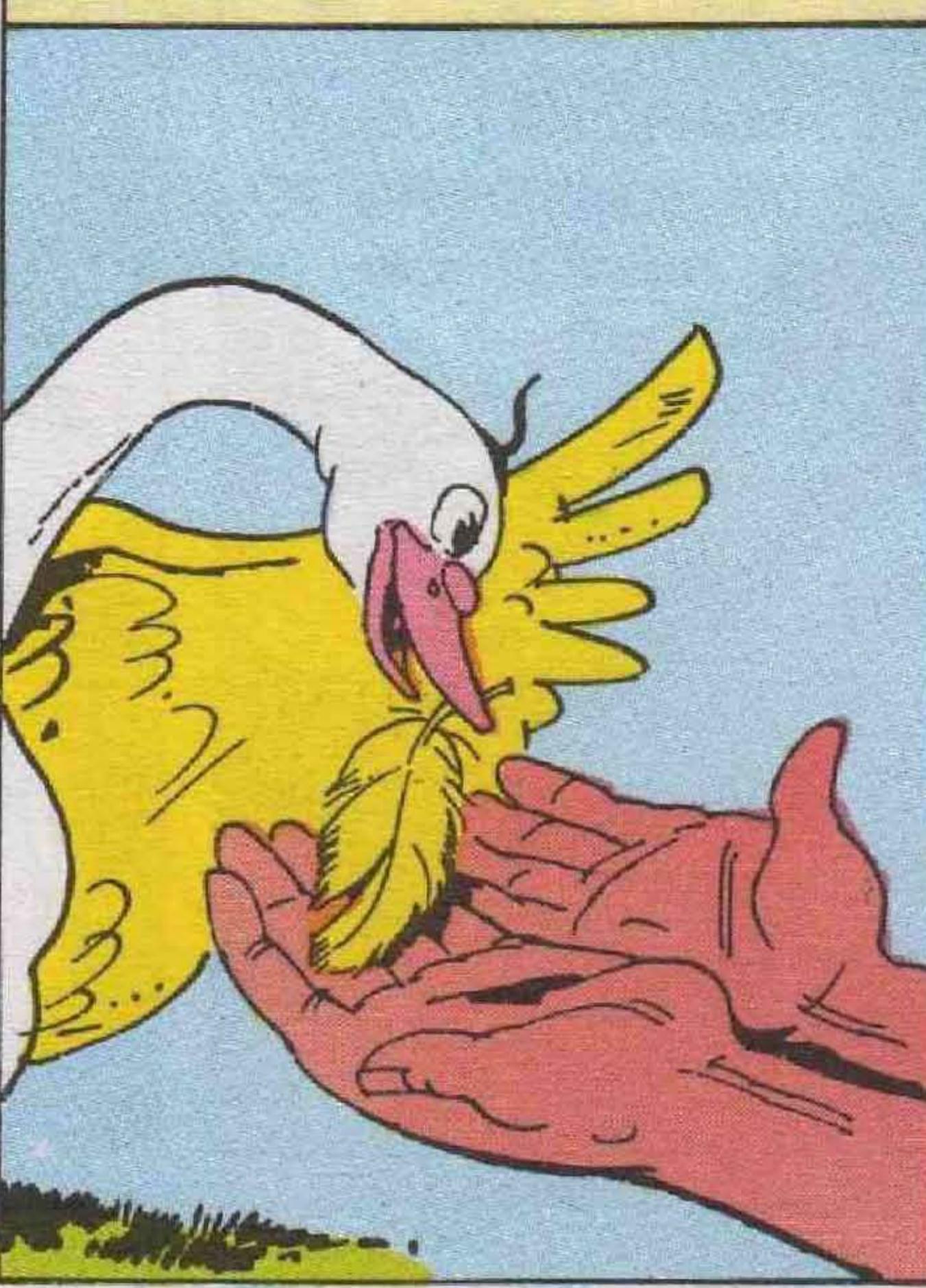




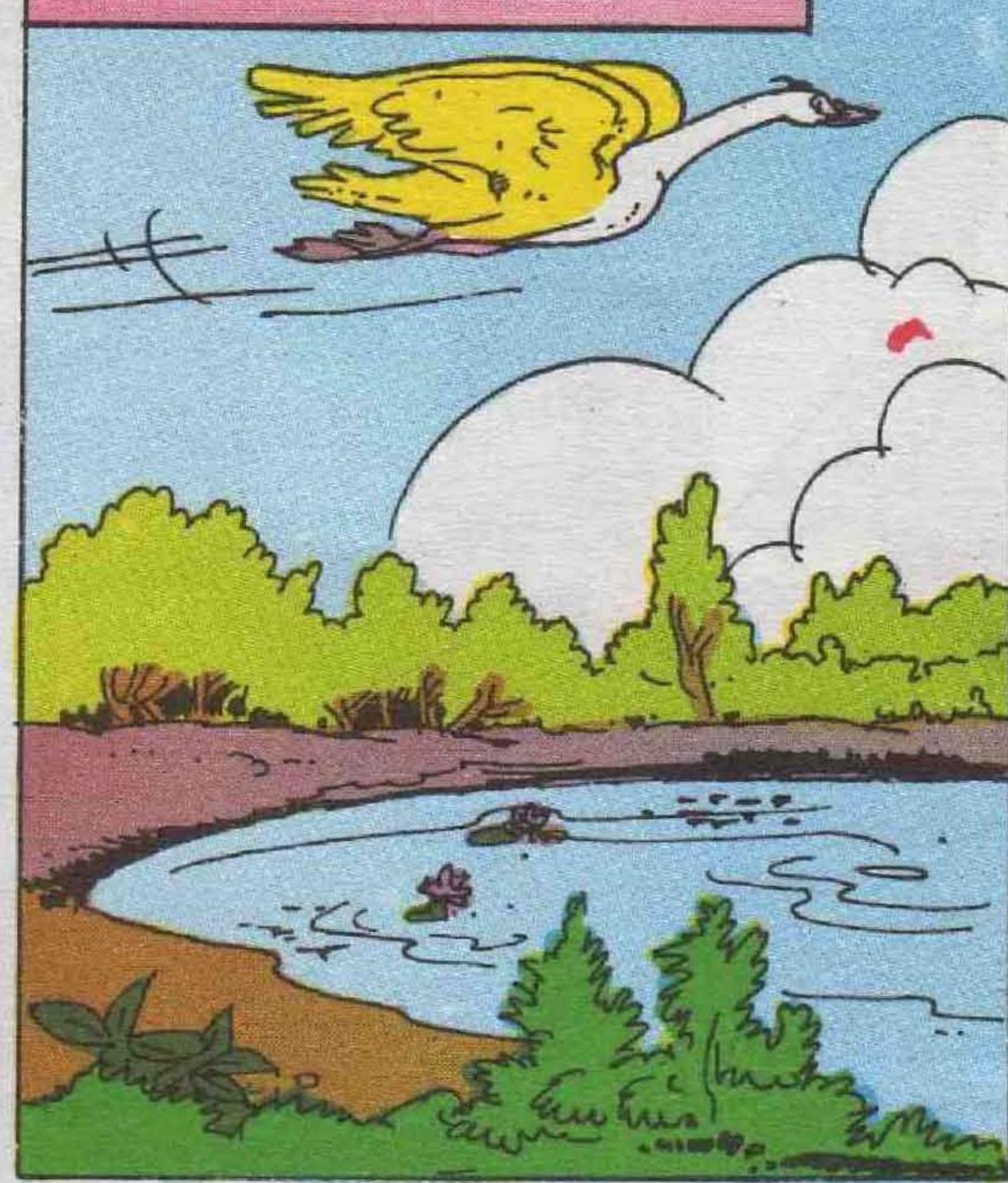
HE PLUCKED OUT ONE OF HIS GOLDEN FEATHERS...



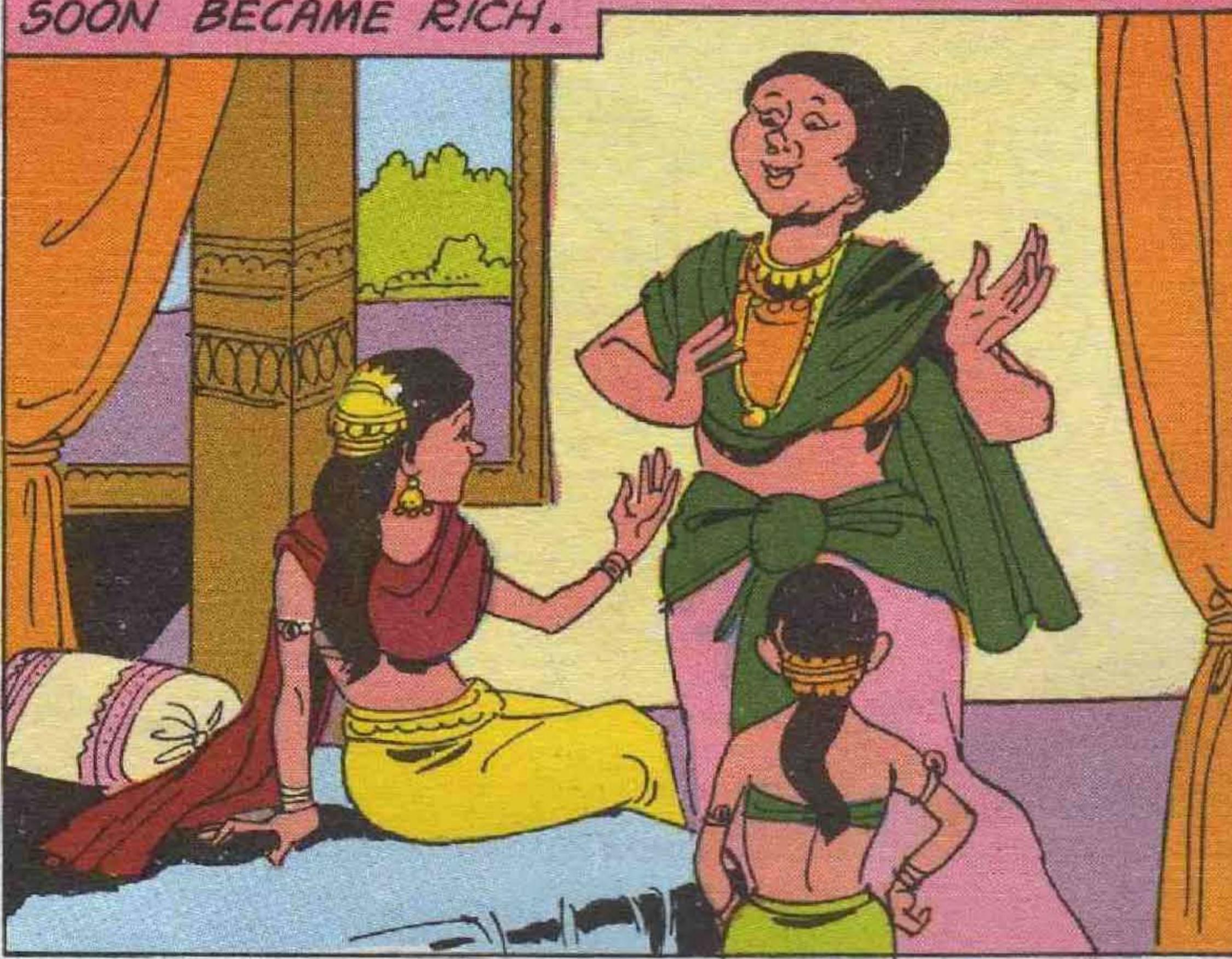
...GAVE IT TO HER ...



...AND FLEW AWAY.



WEEK AFTER WEEK HE RETURNED TO GIVE HER YET ANOTHER FEATHER AND THE WIDOW SOON BECAME RICH.



BUT, ALAS ! LIKE MOST RICH PEOPLE SHE BECAME GREEDY. ONE DAY —

SUPPOSE HE STOPS COMING ? A MERE BIRD IS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.



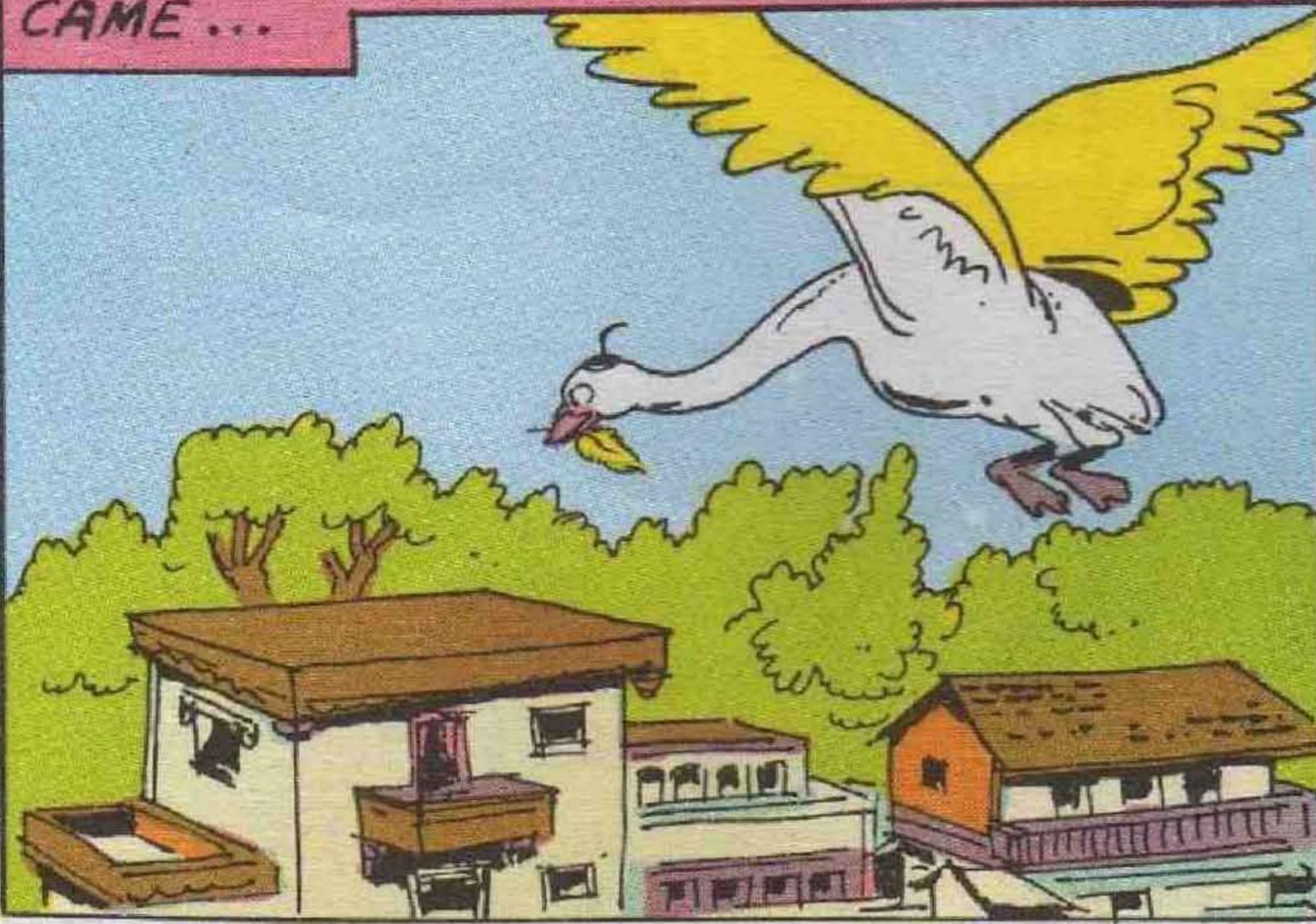
THE NEXT TIME HE COMES,
I'LL PLUCK OUT ALL
HIS FEATHERS.

YOU CAN'T
MEAN IT,
MOTHER !

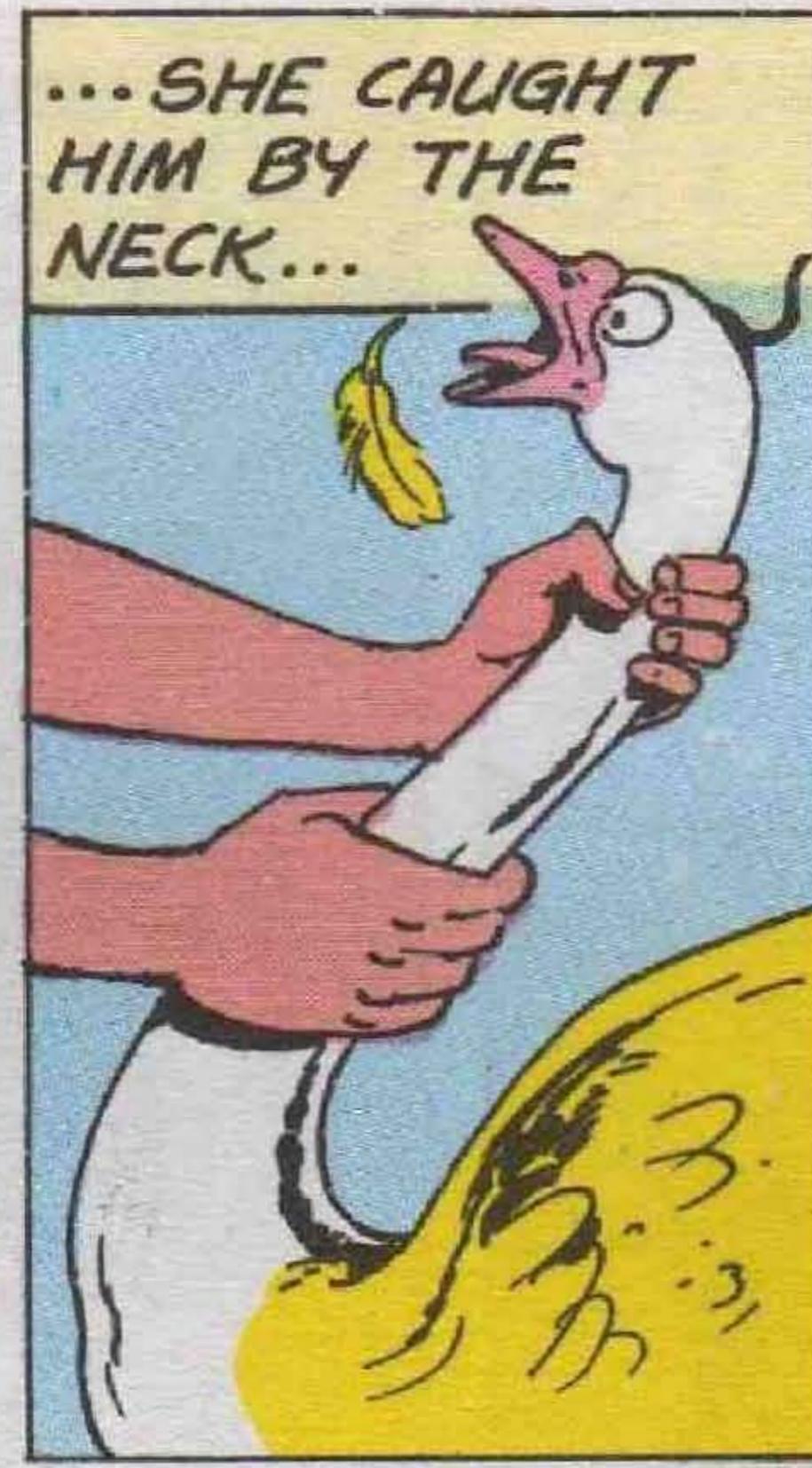
NO, MOTHER !
YOU CAN'T DO
THAT !



BUT THE WIDOW HAD MADE UP HER MIND. THE NEXT TIME THE BIRD CAME ...

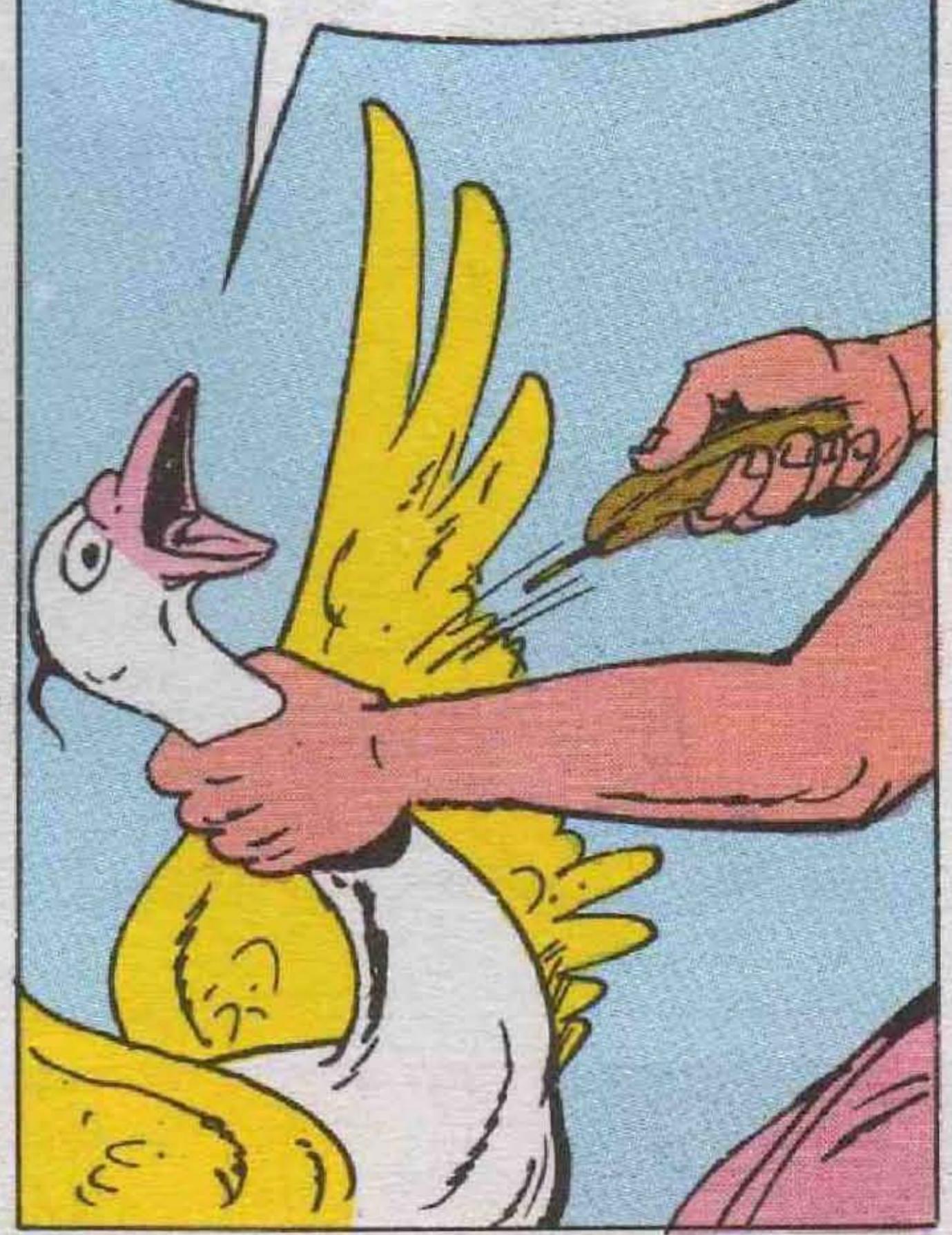


... SHE CAUGHT HIM BY THE NECK ...

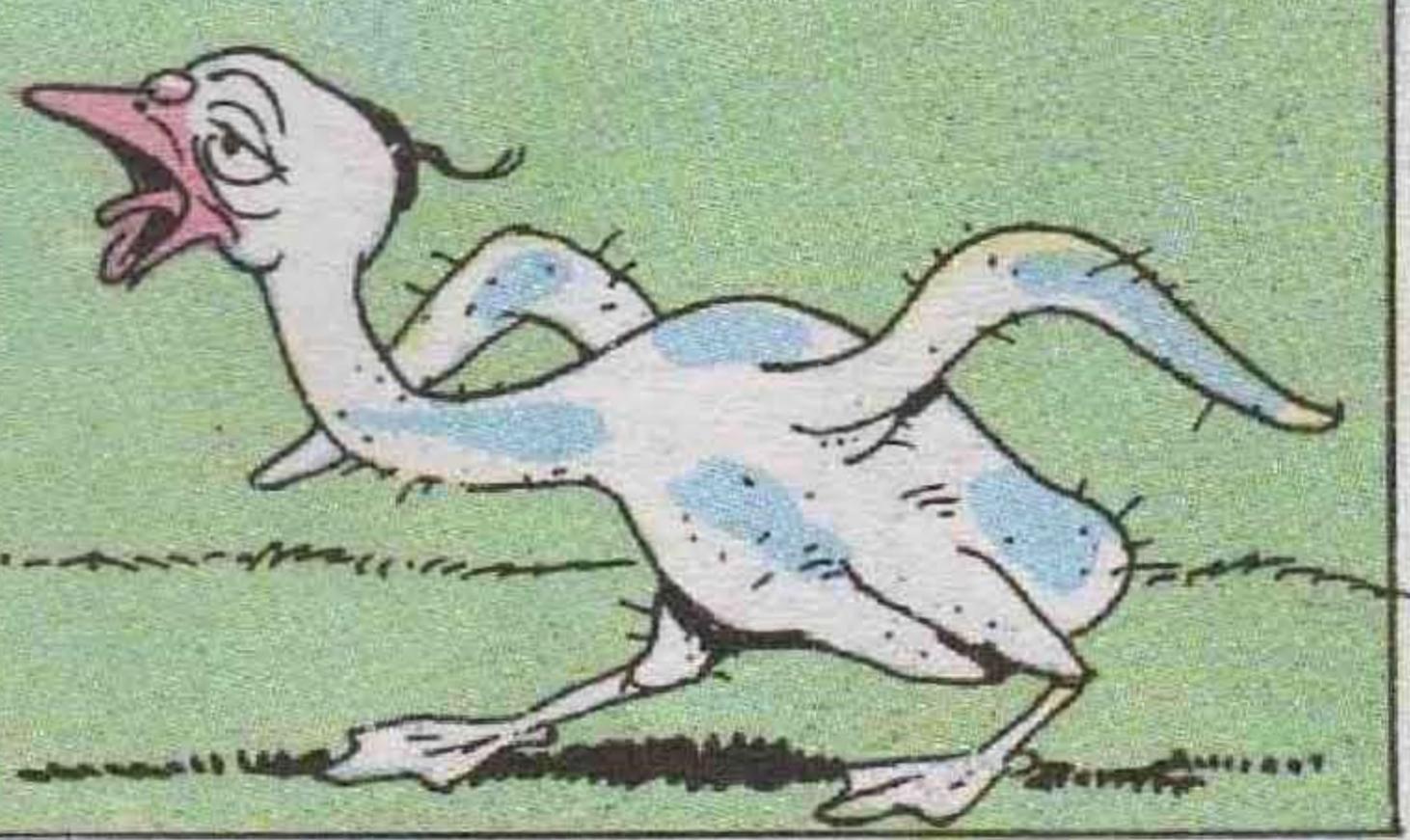
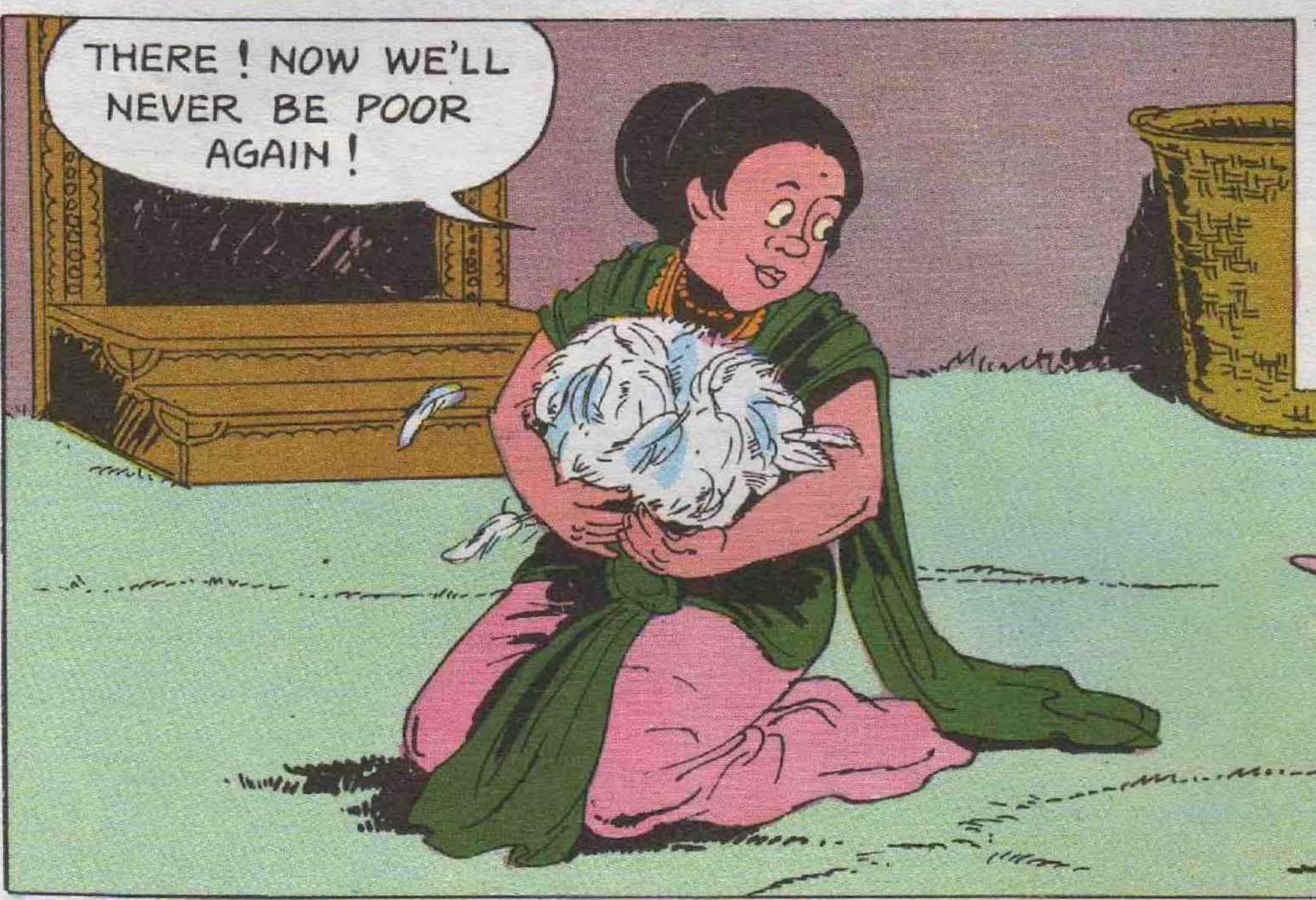


... AND DESPITE ALL HIS STRUGGLING, PLUCKED HIM CLEAN.

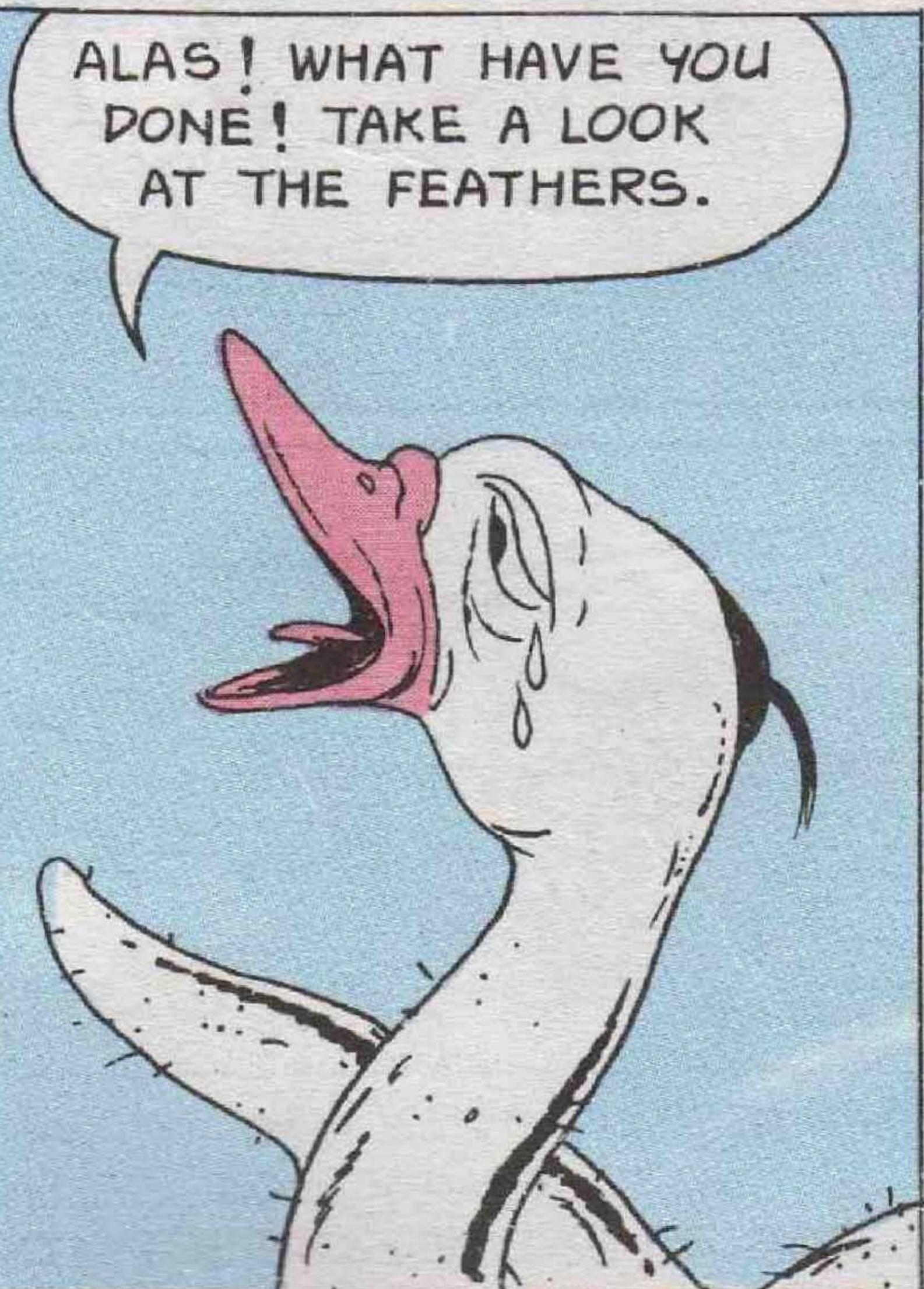
NOT ALL MY FEATHERS!
NO! PLEASE DON'T!
I...



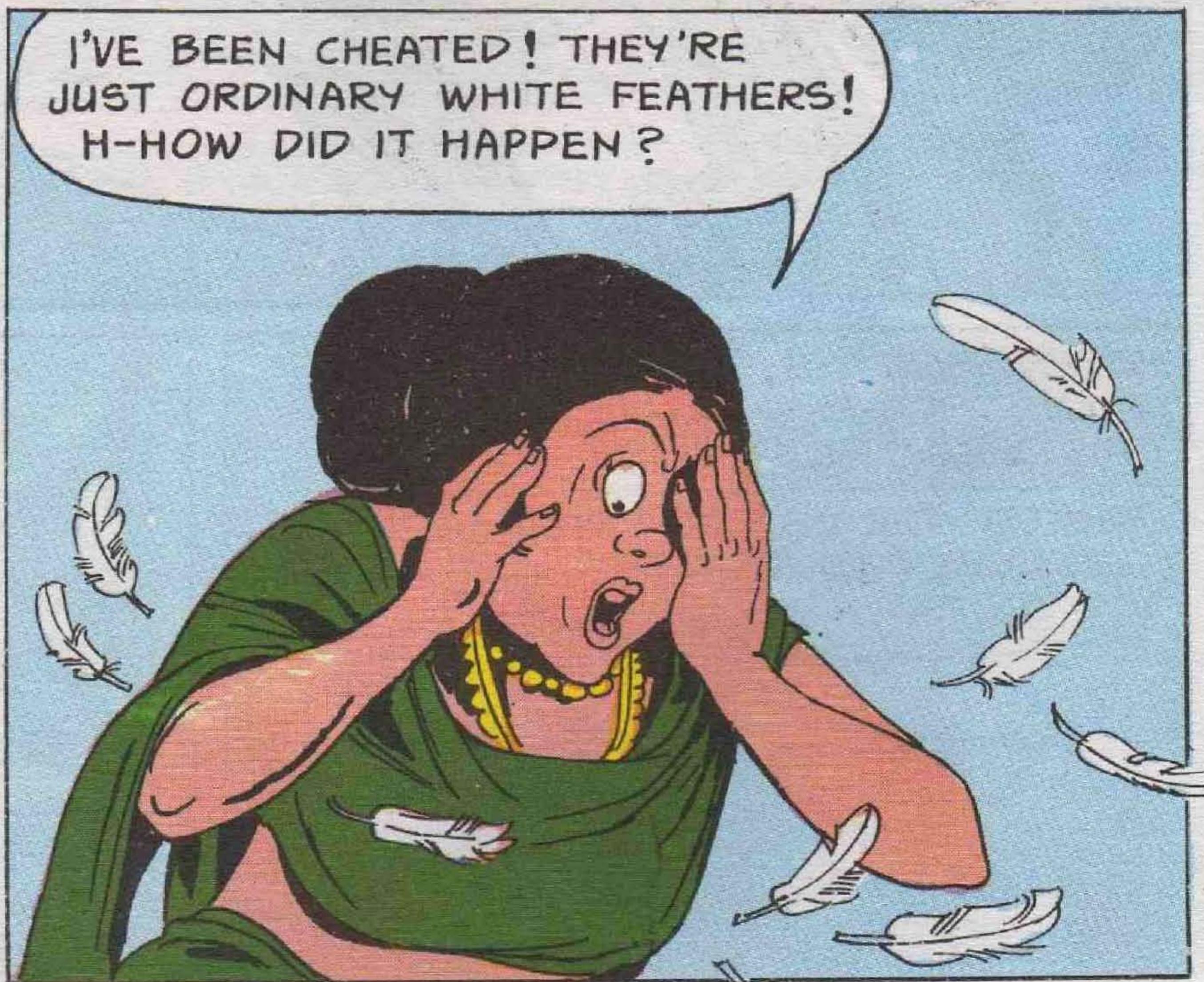
THERE! NOW WE'LL NEVER BE POOR AGAIN!

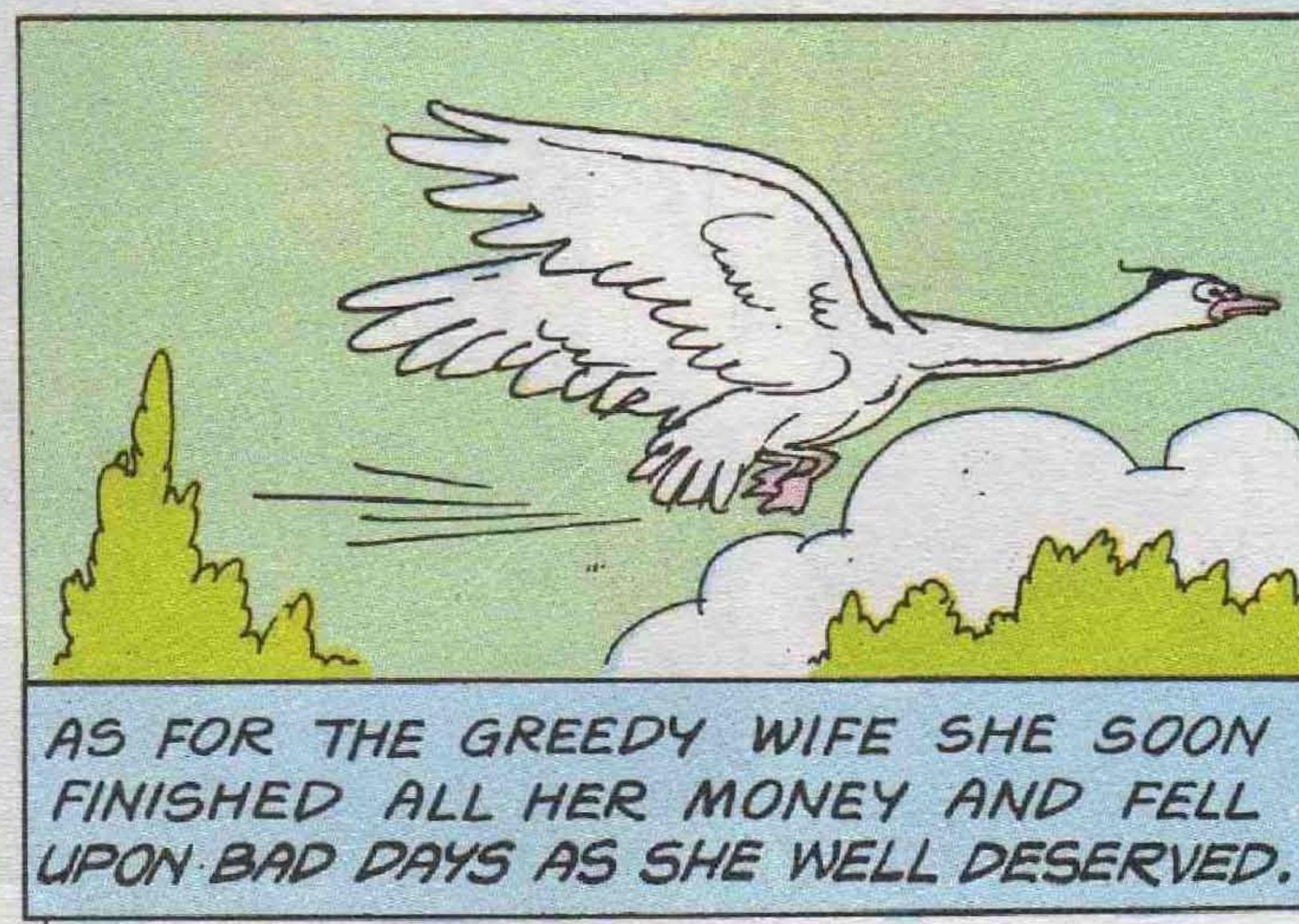
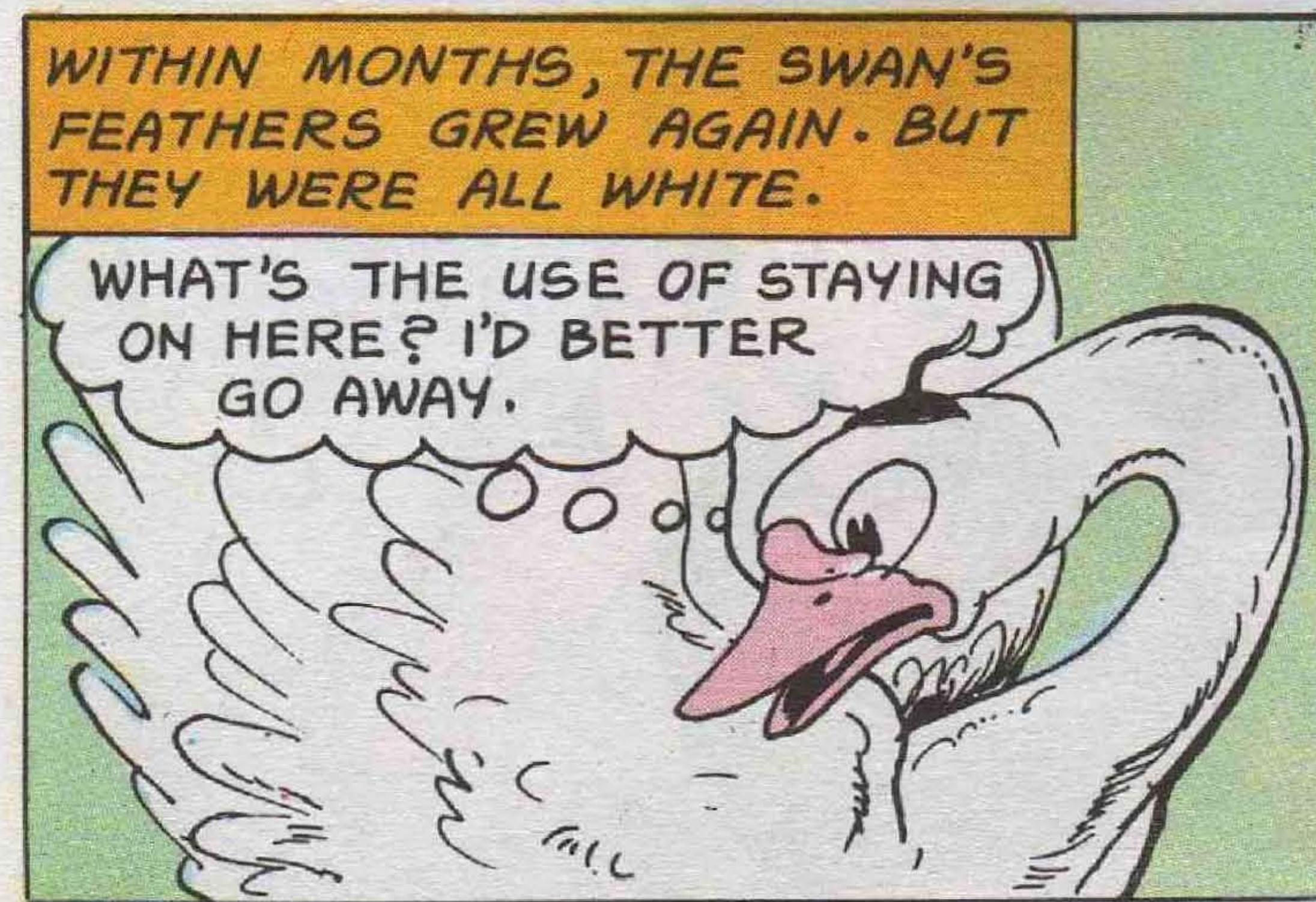
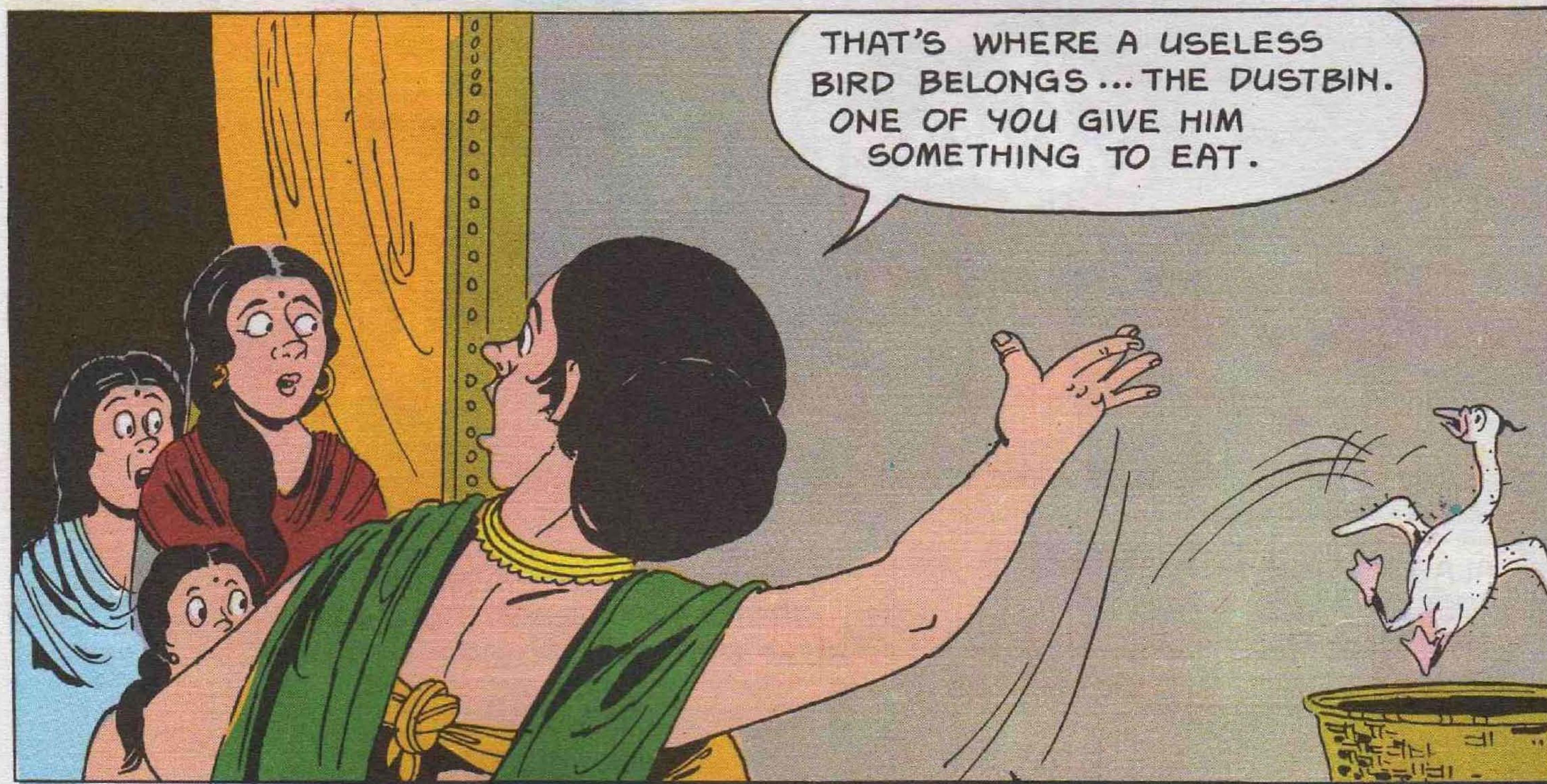


ALAS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE! TAKE A LOOK AT THE FEATHERS.

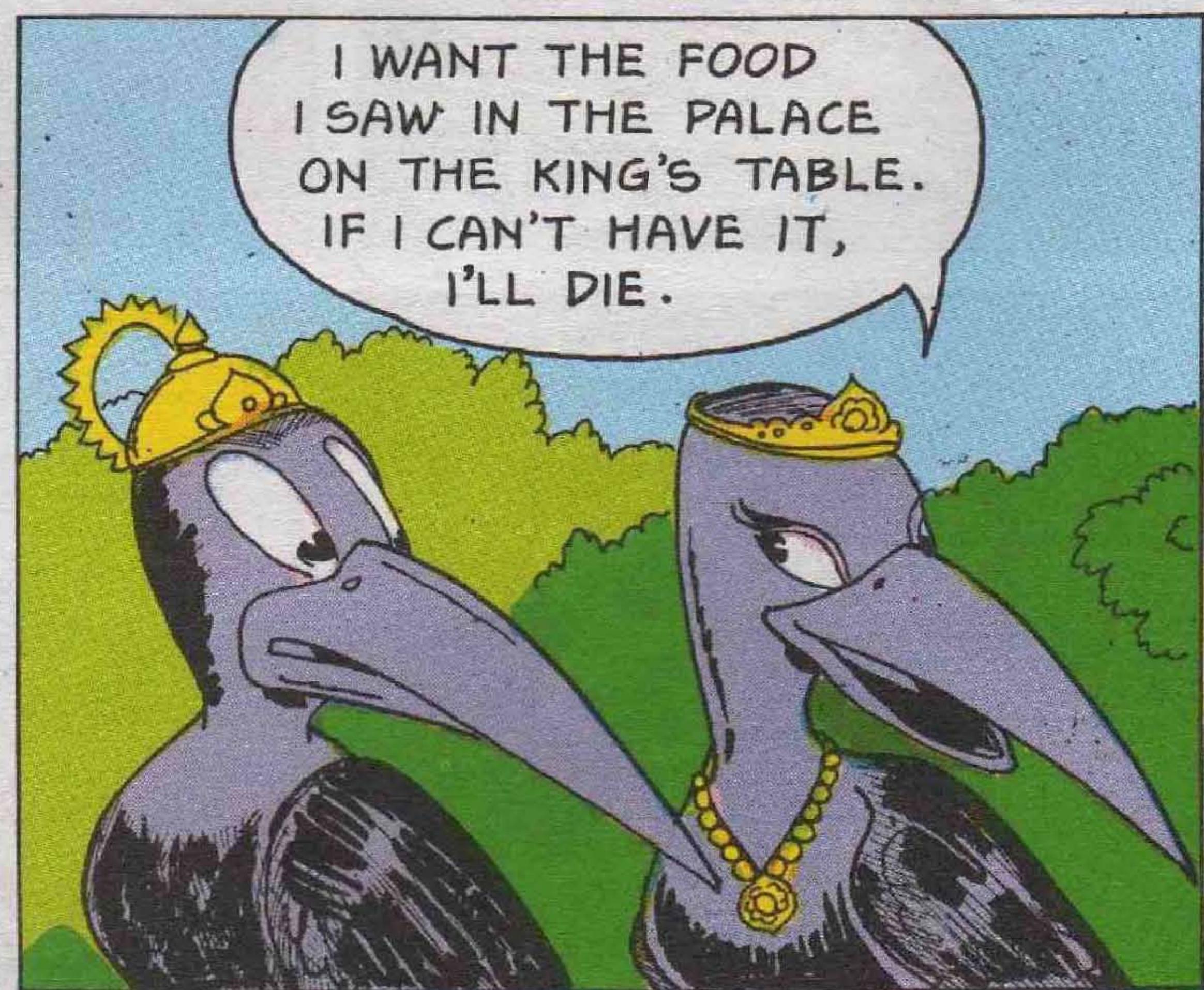
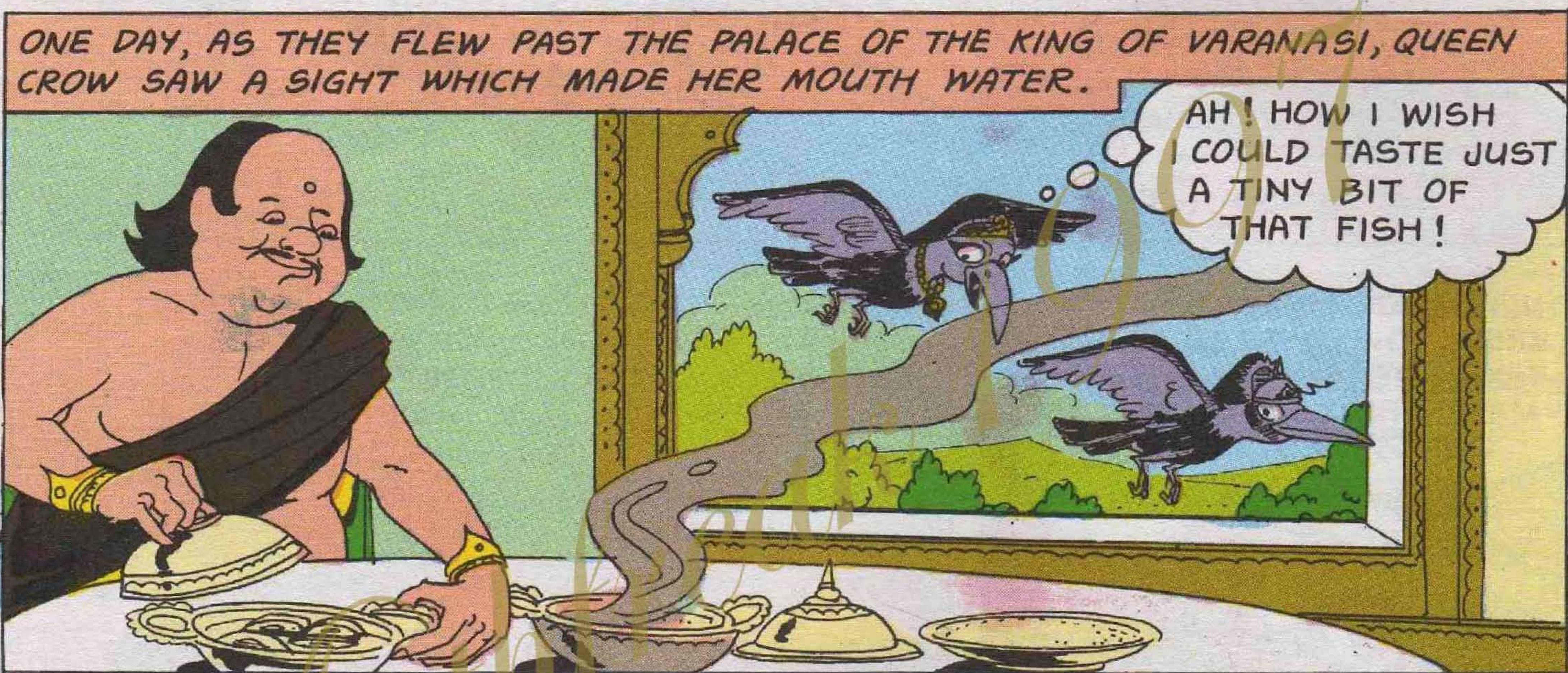


I'VE BEEN CHEATED! THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY WHITE FEATHERS! H-HOW DID IT HAPPEN?





THE LOYAL GENERAL



AS THE KING CROW WONDERED WHAT HE SHOULD DO, HIS GENERAL CAME UP.

YOUR MAJESTY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

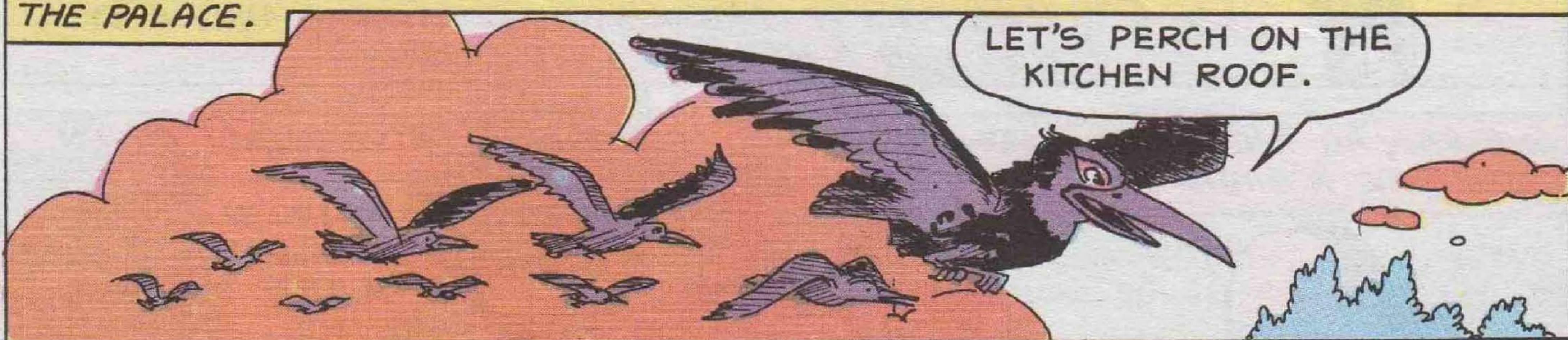


WHEN THE KING CROW TOLD HIM —

OH! IS THAT ALL?
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL SEE THAT OUR
QUEEN HAS THE
FOOD SHE CRAVES
FOR.

TAKING EIGHT OF THE BEST CROWS WITH HIM, THE GENERAL FLEW TOWARDS THE PALACE.

LET'S PERCH ON THE KITCHEN ROOF.



NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY.
WHILE THE FOOD IS BEING
TAKEN TO THE KING, I'LL
MAKE THE COOK DROP
THE DISHES.



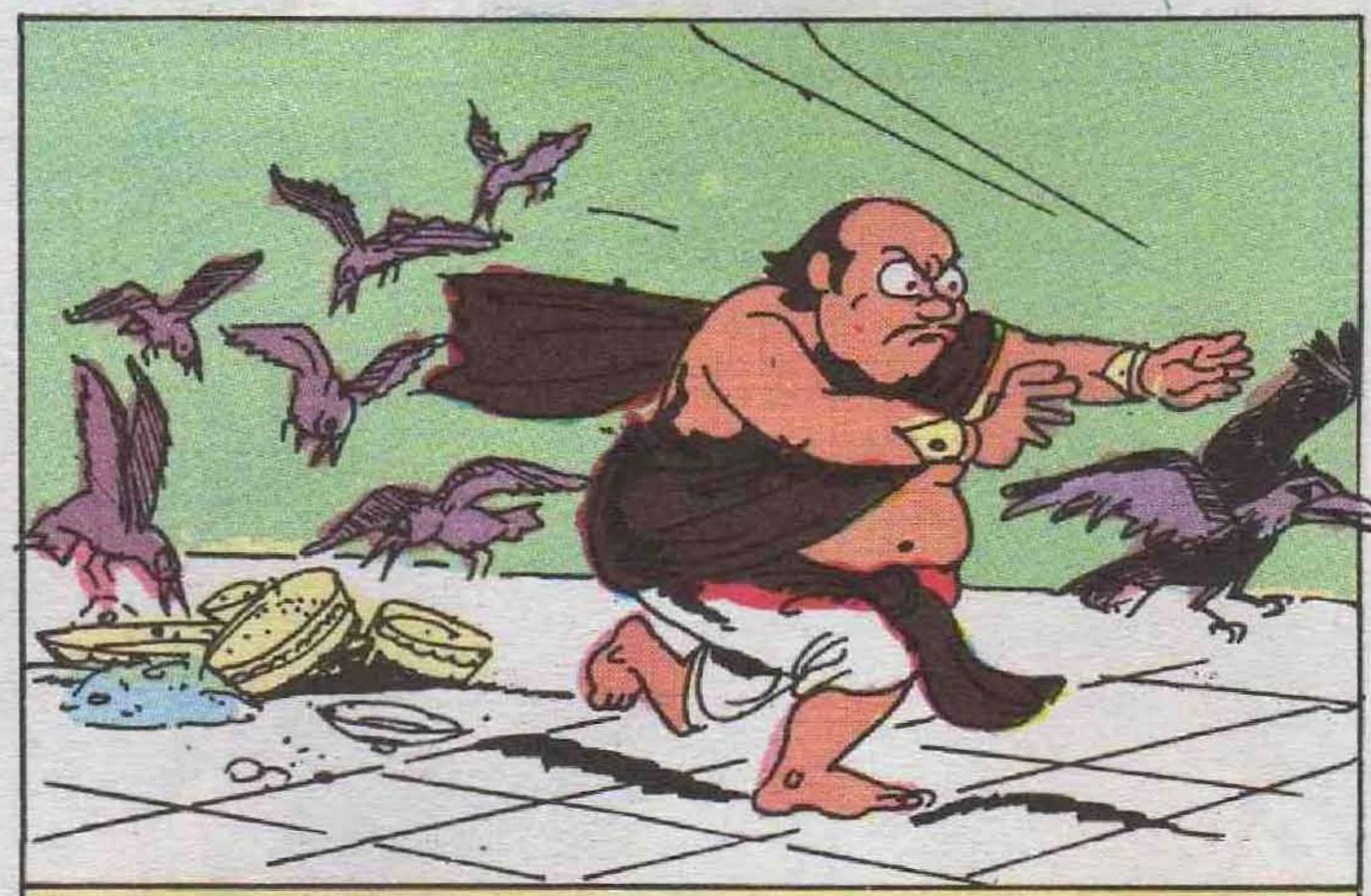
FOUR OF YOU MUST THEN
FILL YOUR BEAKS WITH
RICE AND FOUR WITH FISH,
AND FLY TO OUR QUEEN.



AH! HERE COMES THE COOK!
WHEN HE REACHES THE
OPEN COURTYARD, I'LL
STRIKE!

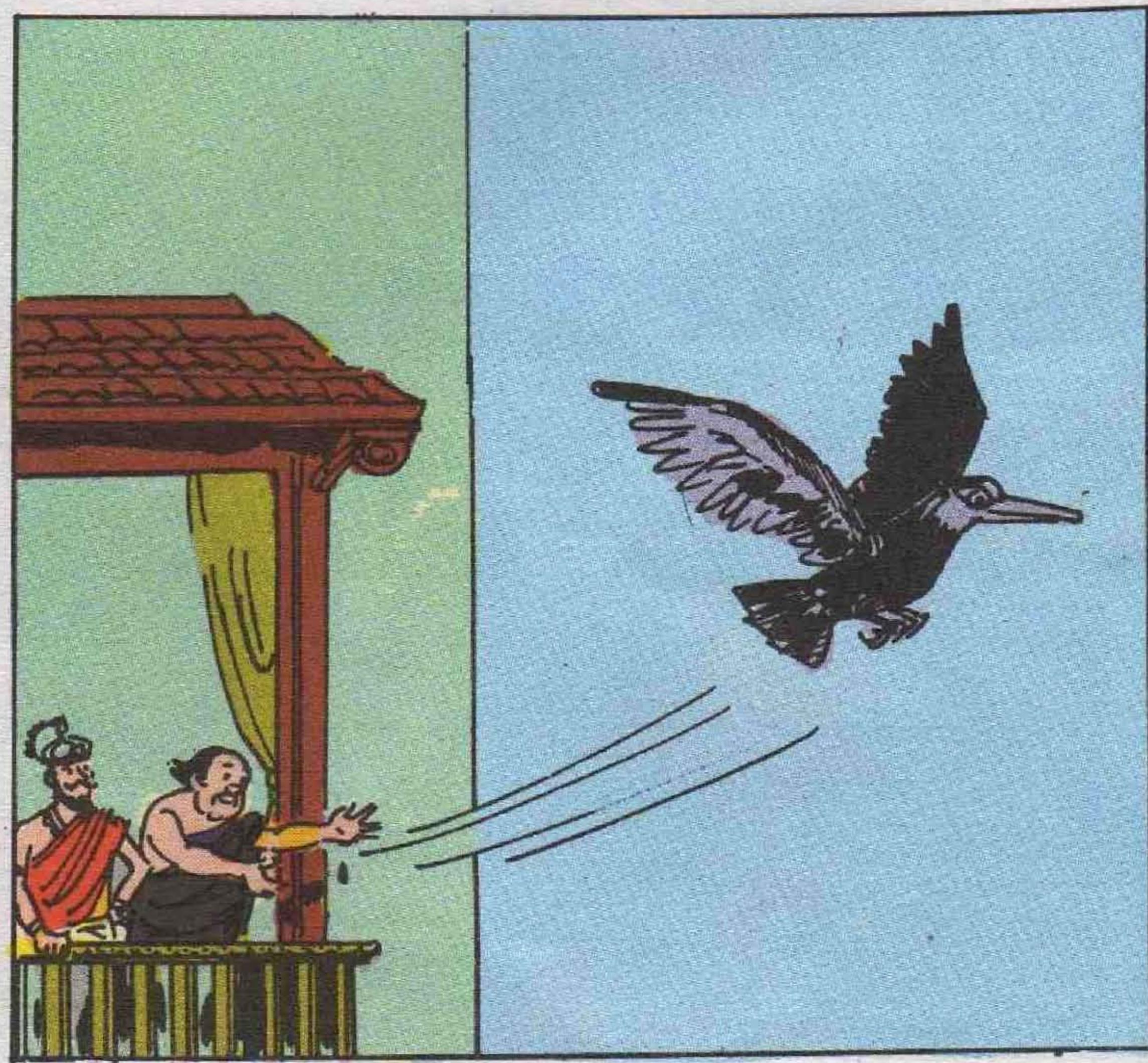
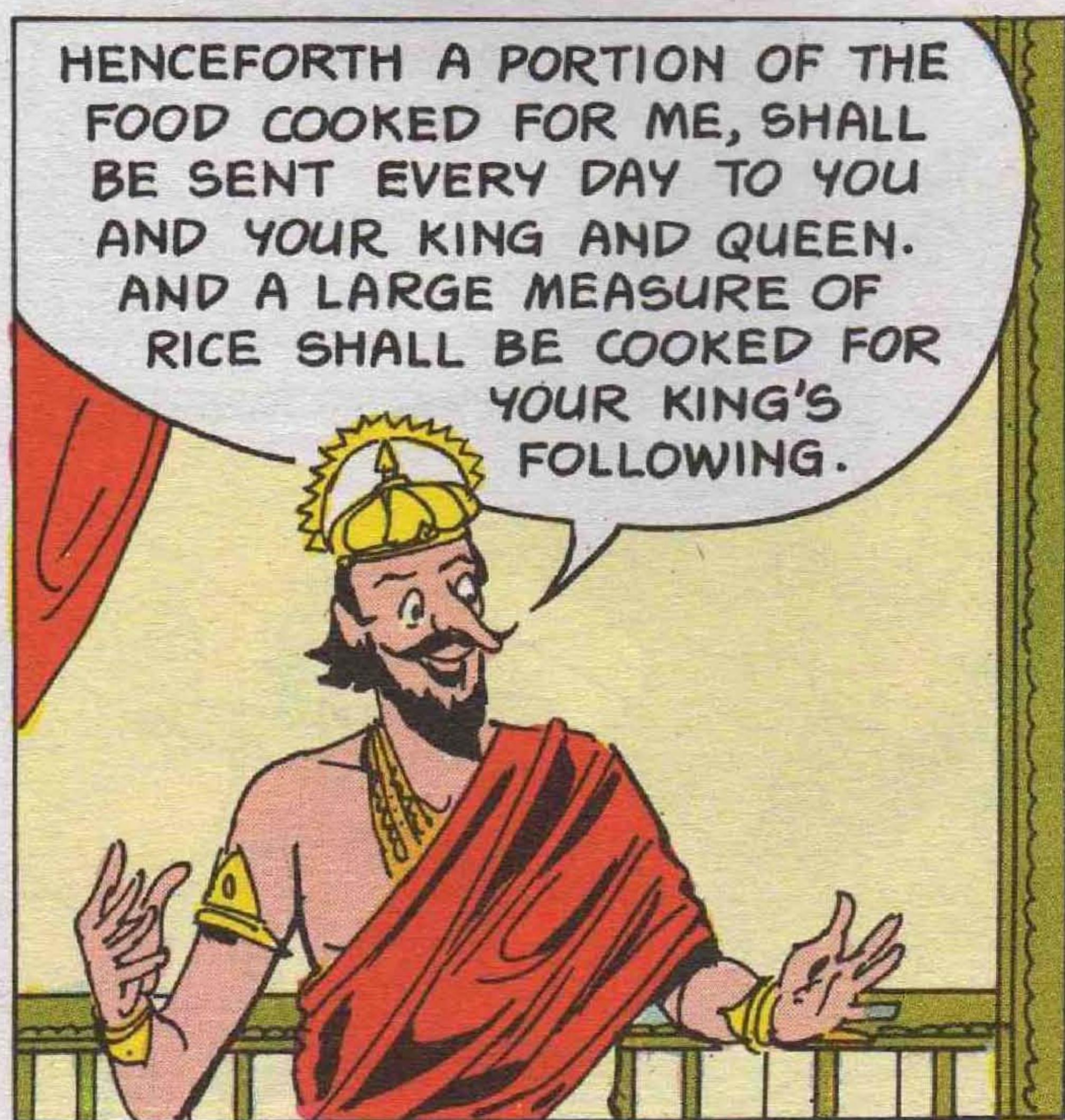
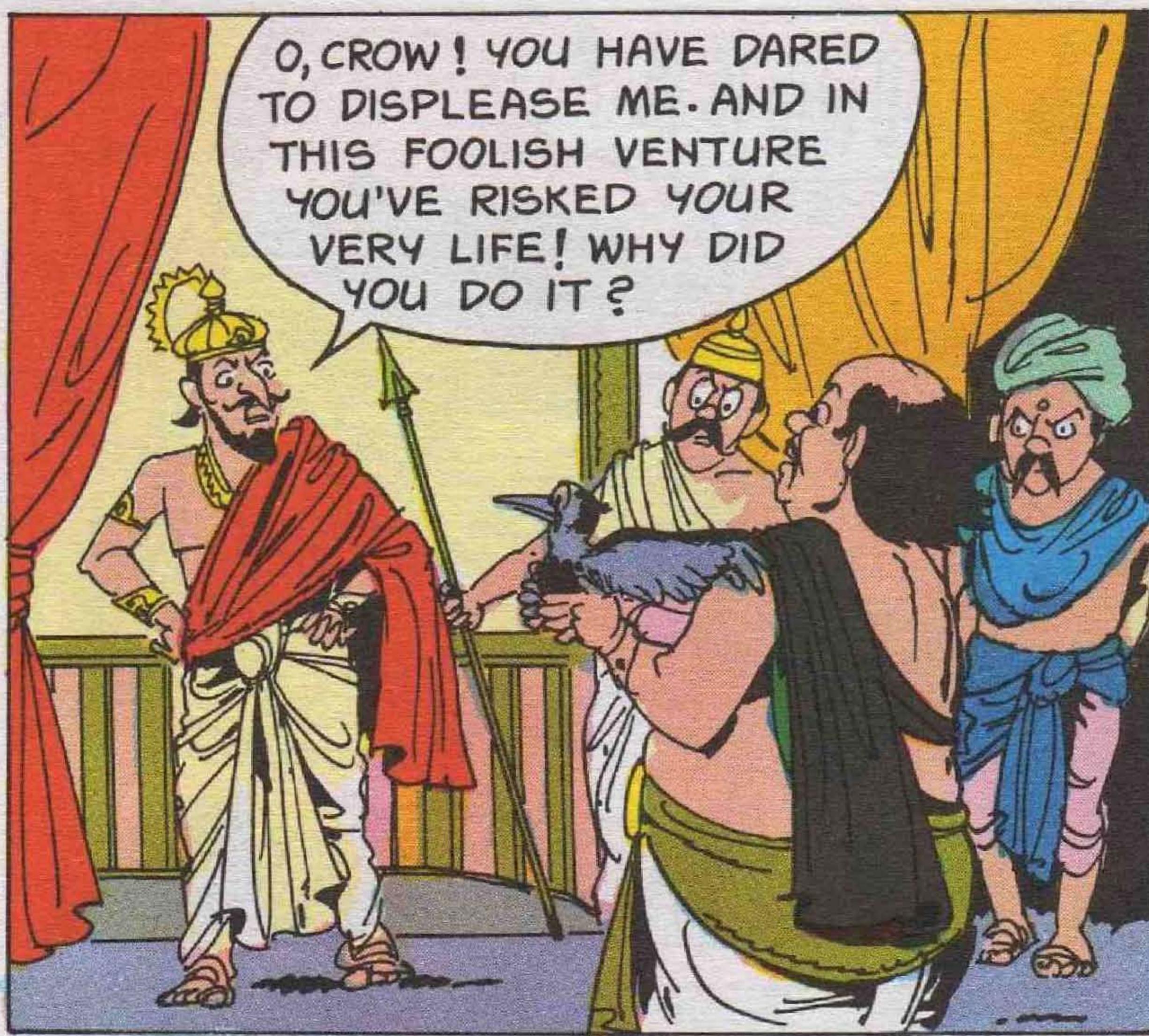


THE NEXT MOMENT —



THE MOMENT THE DISHES WERE DROPPED, THE CHOSEN EIGHT FILLED THEIR BEAKS AND FLEW AWAY.



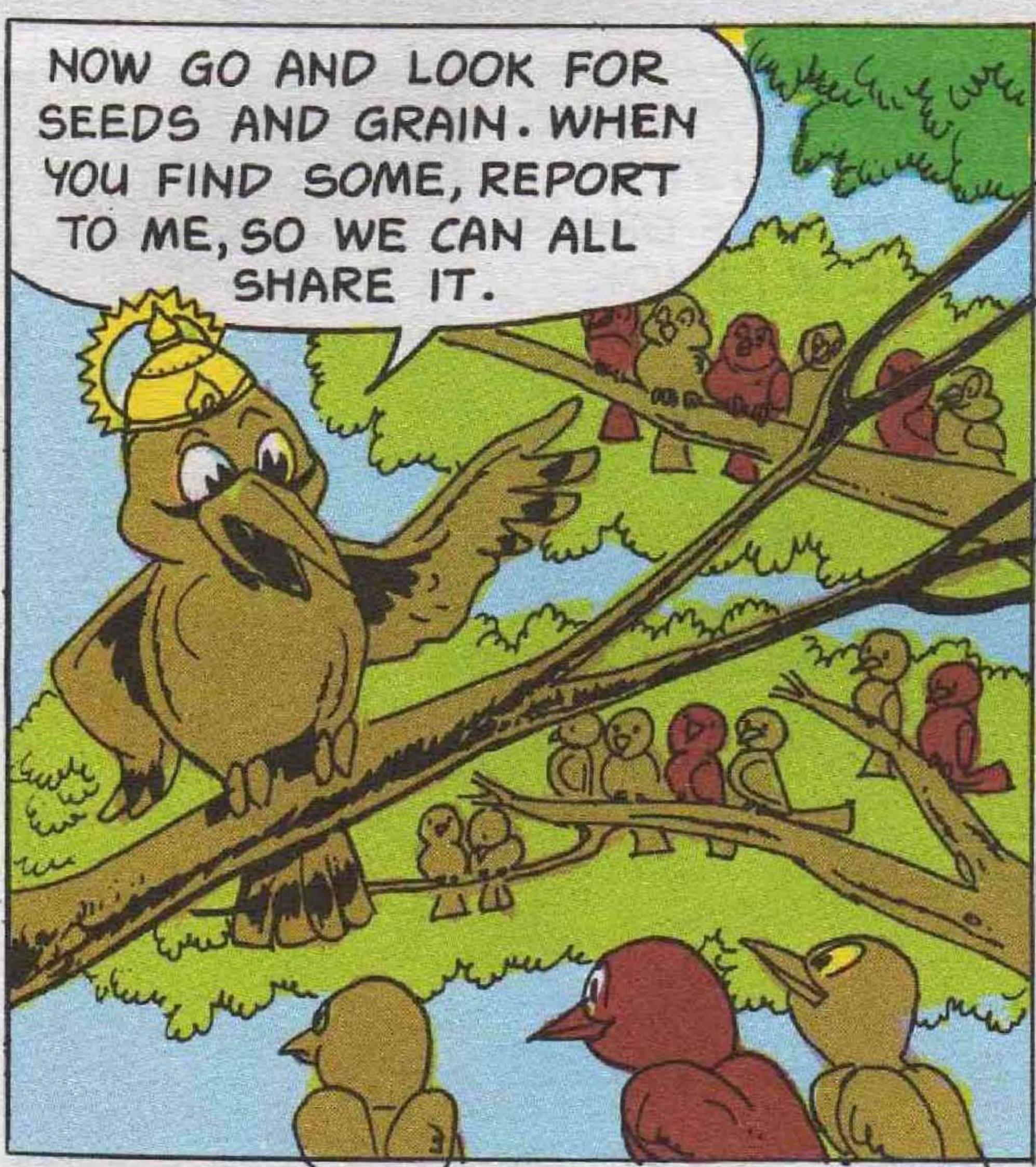


PRACTISE WHAT YOU PREACH

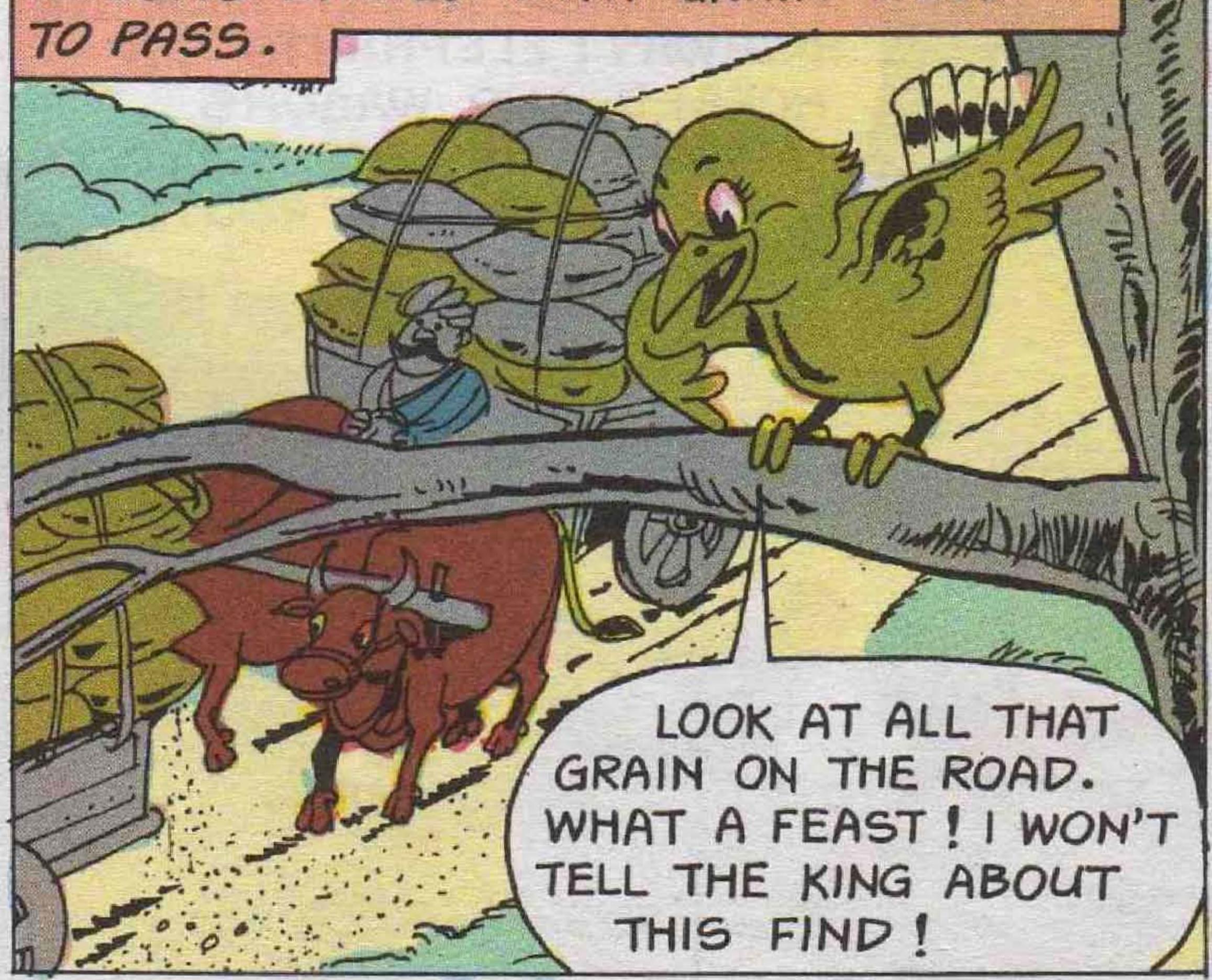


ONCE THE KING OF THE BIRDS TOOK HIS FLOCK TO THE HIMALAYAS IN SEARCH OF FOOD.

NOW GO AND LOOK FOR SEEDS AND GRAIN. WHEN YOU FIND SOME, REPORT TO ME, SO WE CAN ALL SHARE IT.

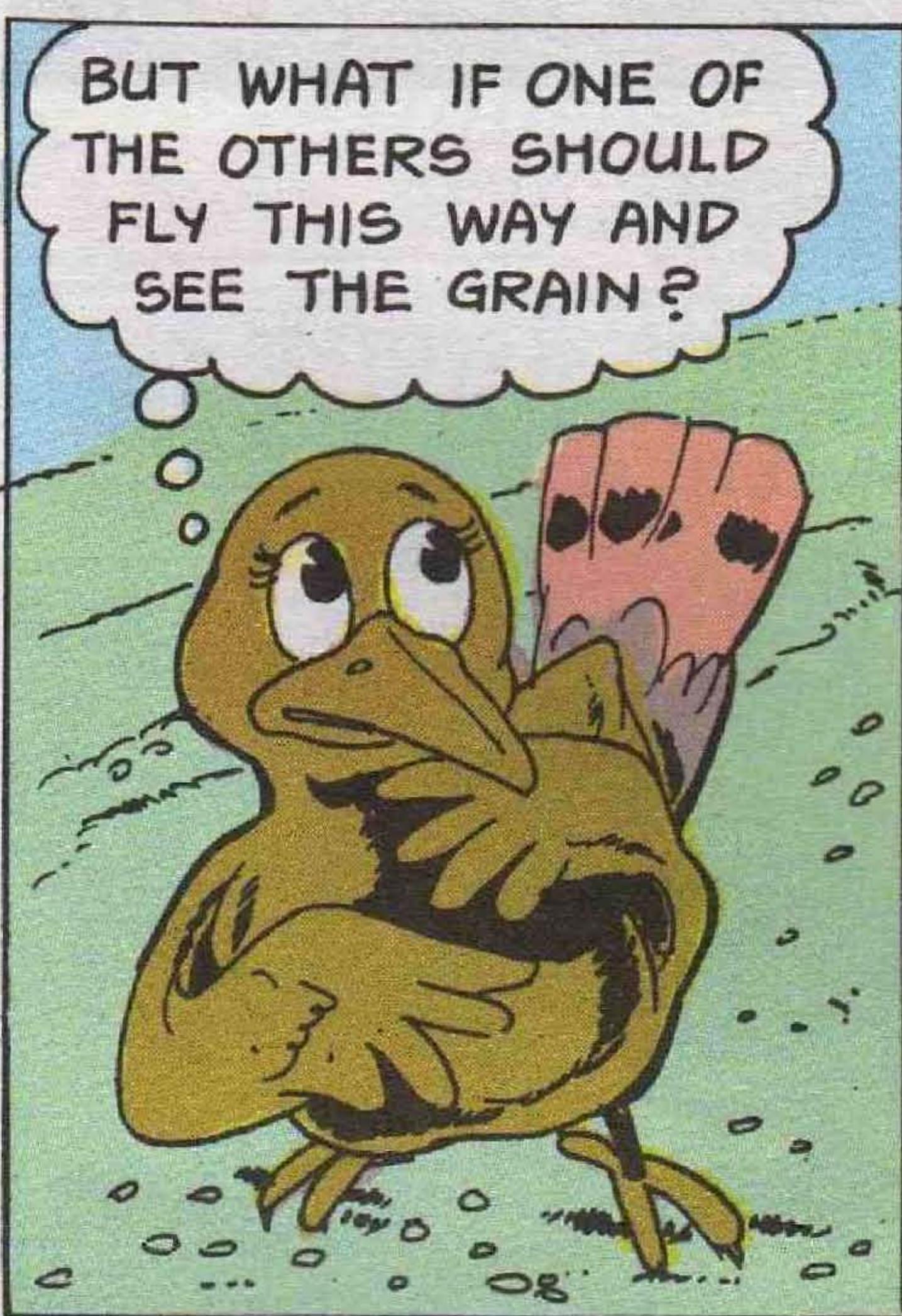


AS THEY WANDERED OFF, ONE OF THE BIRDS CAME TO A ROAD ALONG WHICH WAGONS LOADED WITH GRAIN USED TO PASS.



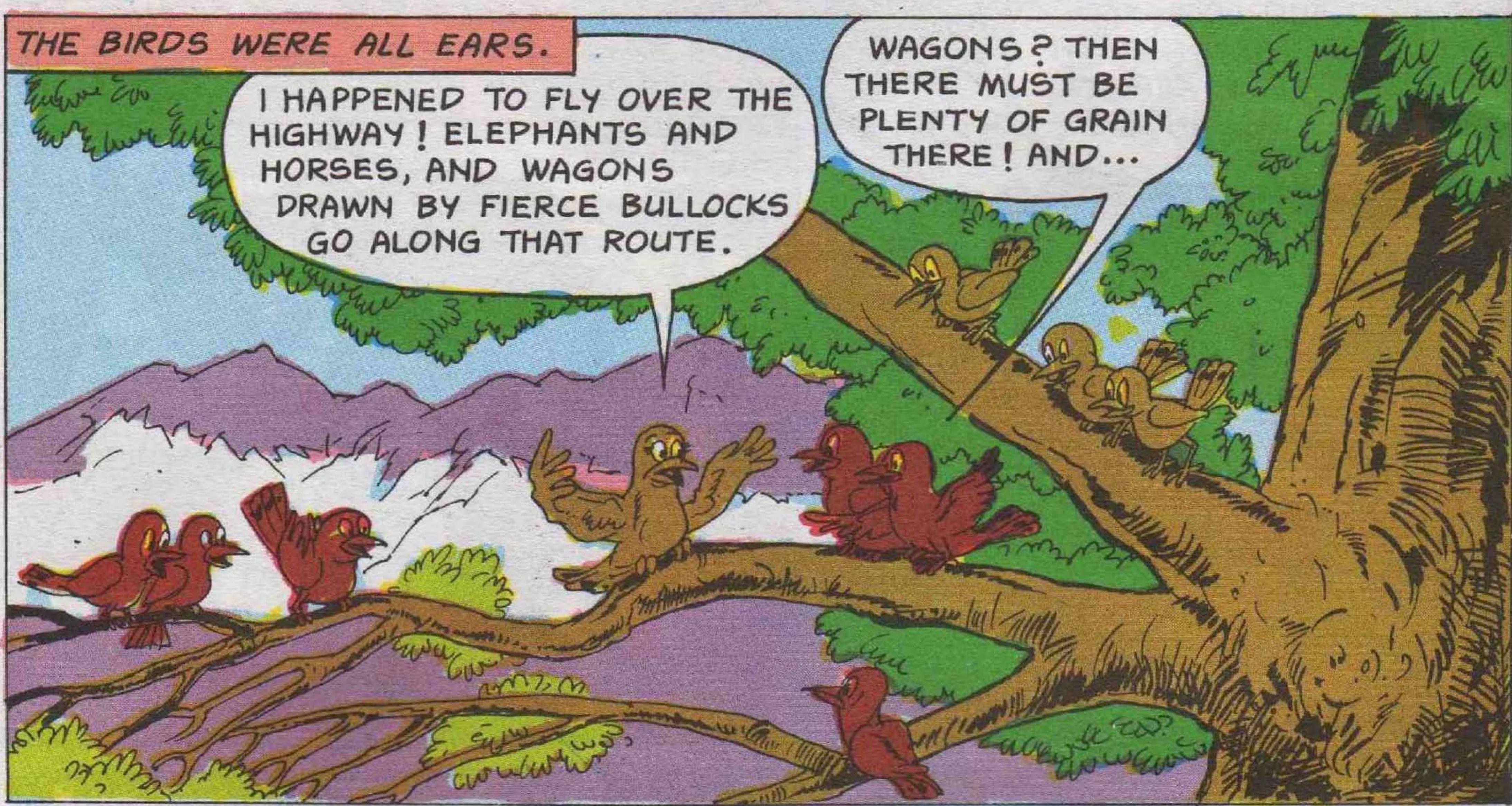
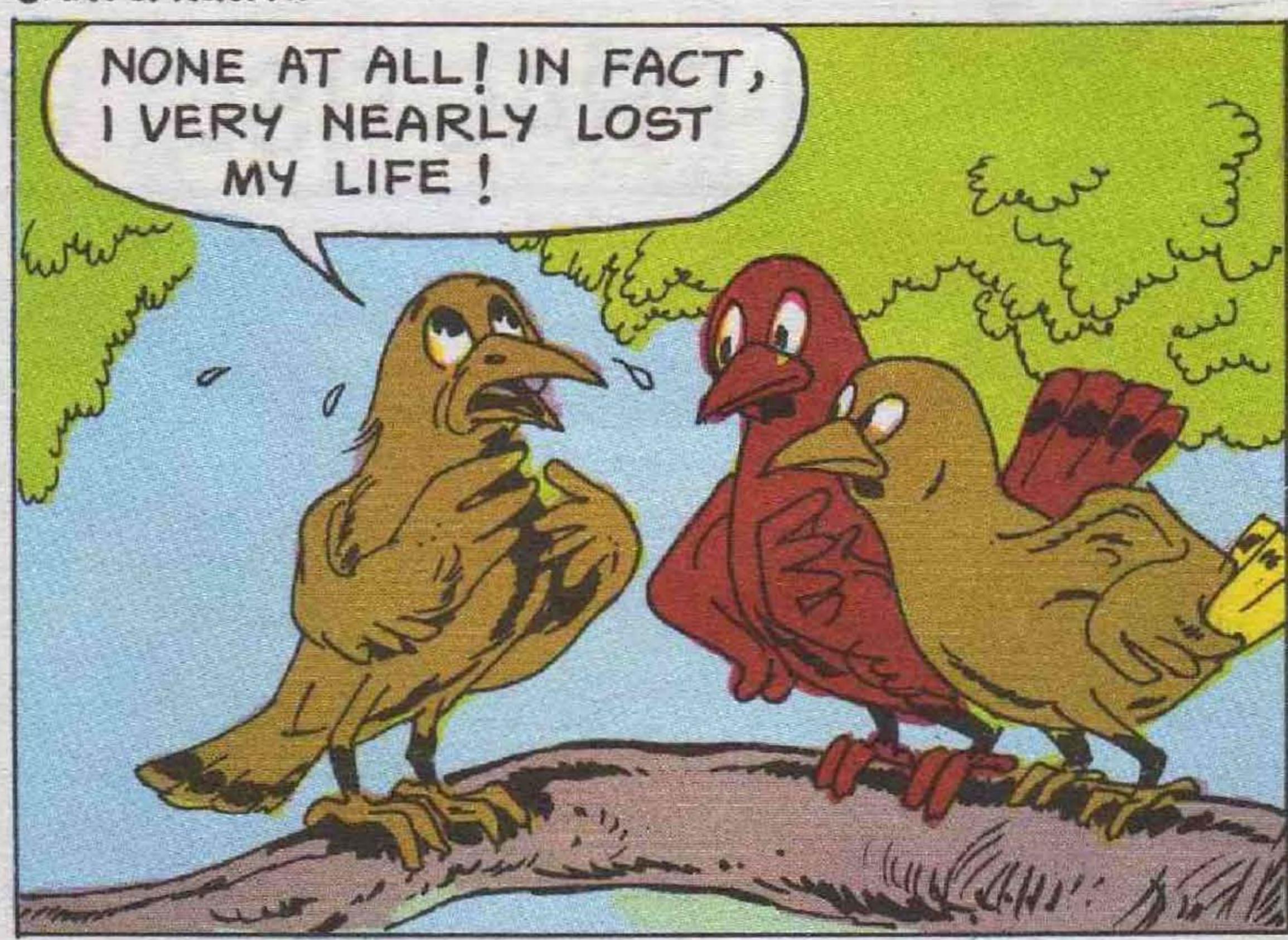
LOOK AT ALL THAT GRAIN ON THE ROAD. WHAT A FEAST! I WON'T TELL THE KING ABOUT THIS FIND!

BUT WHAT IF ONE OF THE OTHERS SHOULD FLY THIS WAY AND SEE THE GRAIN?



I KNOW! I'LL TELL THEM ABOUT IT AND YET KEEP THEM AWAY!





SUDENLY —



WHAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT IT WAS AN EXPRESS CART.



SUDENLY —

BUT BEFORE SHE COULD TAKE WING,
THE CART RAN OVER HER.

THAT EVENING, WHEN ALL THE BIRDS CAME HOME TO ROOST, THEY FOUND HER MISSING.



THE BIRDS FLEW IN ALL DIRECTIONS IN SEARCH OF THEIR LOST COMPANION.

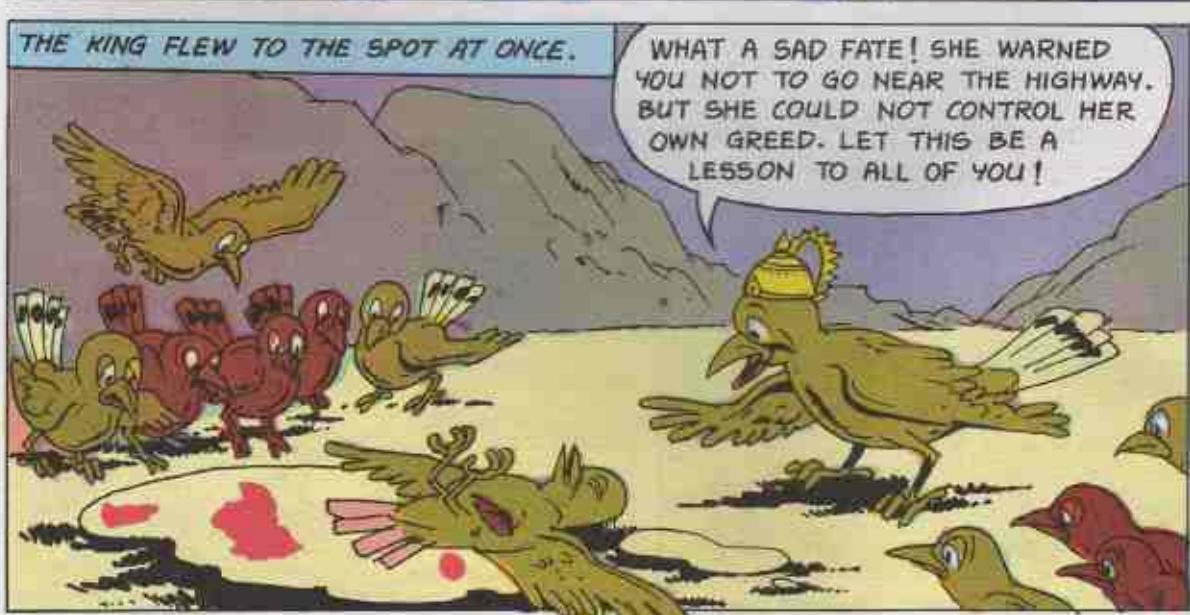


LATER, A FEW BIRDS REPORTED TO THE KING —

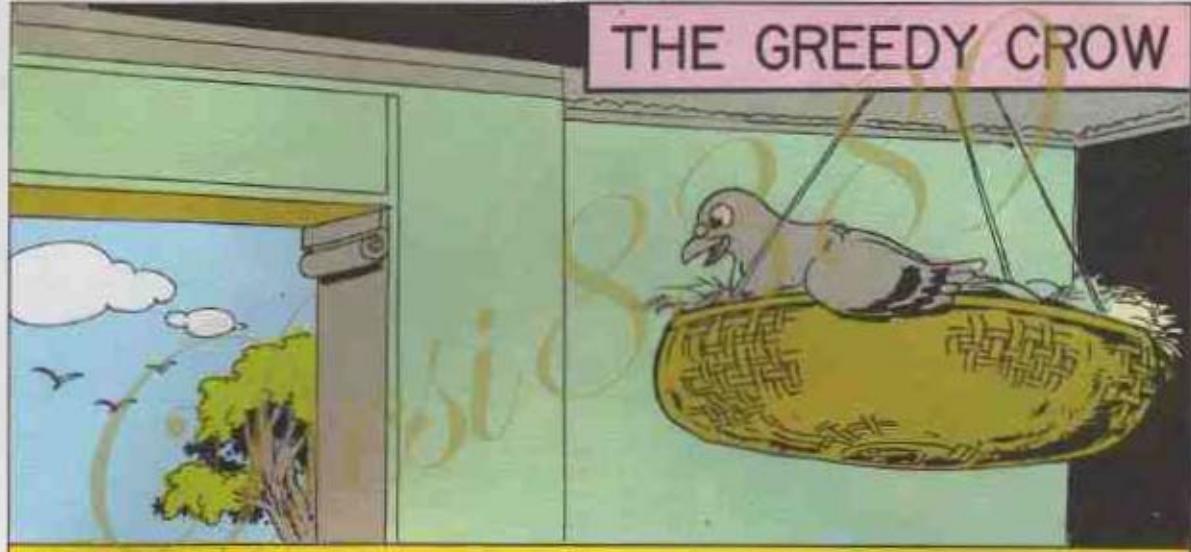


THE KING FLEW TO THE SPOT AT ONCE.

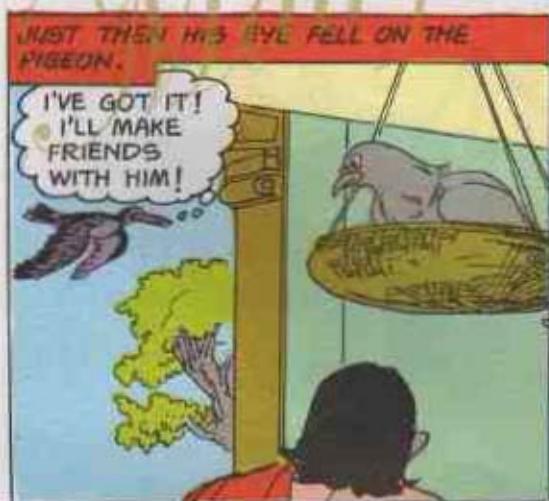
WHAT A SAD FATE! SHE WARNED YOU NOT TO GO NEAR THE HIGHWAY. BUT SHE COULD NOT CONTROL HER OWN GREED. LET THIS BE A LESSON TO ALL OF YOU!

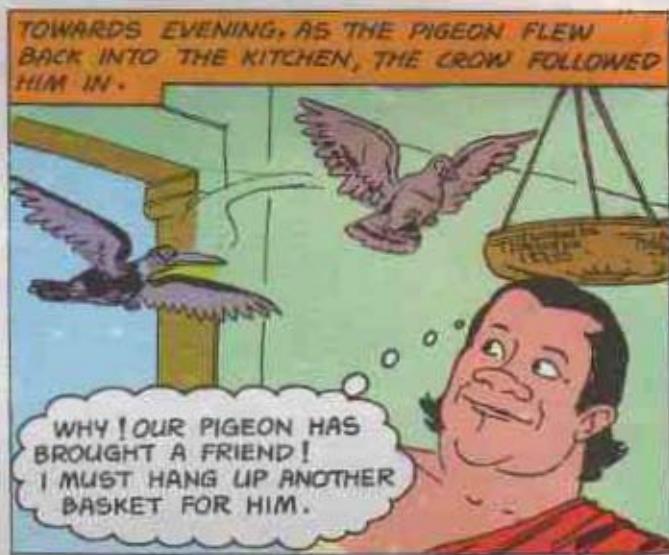


THE GREEDY CROW



A PIGEON ONCE MADE ITS HOME IN THE KITCHEN OF A RICH MERCHANT OF VARANASI.



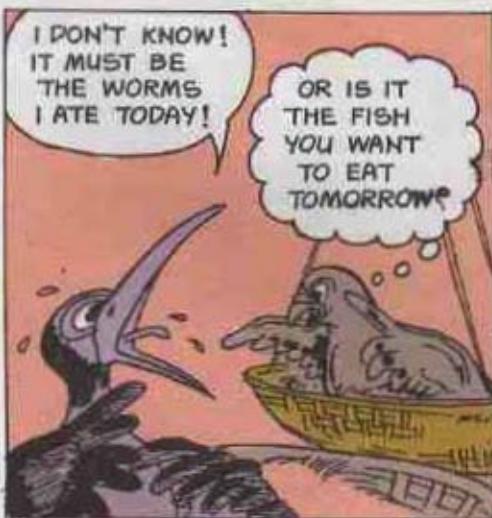


AND SO THE CROW, TOO, BEGAN TO LIVE IN THE KITCHEN. THEN, ONE EVENING AS THE TWO RETURNED HOME —

THE MASTER IS HAVING A BANQUET TOMORROW. CLEAN AND CUT ALL THIS FISH TONIGHT.



WHAT LUCK! I'VE ALREADY EATEN MY FILL TODAY. TOMORROW I'LL FEAST — NOT ON WORMS BUT ON FISH!



NONSENSE! IT'S THE FISH, ISN'T IT? TAKE MY ADVICE. IT IS DANGEROUS TO TOUCH MEN'S FOOD. COME, LET'S GO. UP WITH YOU!

WHAT! AND GIVE UP WHAT I CAME HERE FOR IN THE FIRST PLACE! NEVER!



I DO HAVE A STOMACHACHE.
YOU GO.

ALL RIGHT, I'M
GOING. BUT
TAKE CARE.

AS THE PIGEON FLEW OUT, THE COOK ENTERED AND SET TO WORK.

THESE PIECES I'LL
FRY. AND THESE
I'LL PUT INTO
THE CURRY.

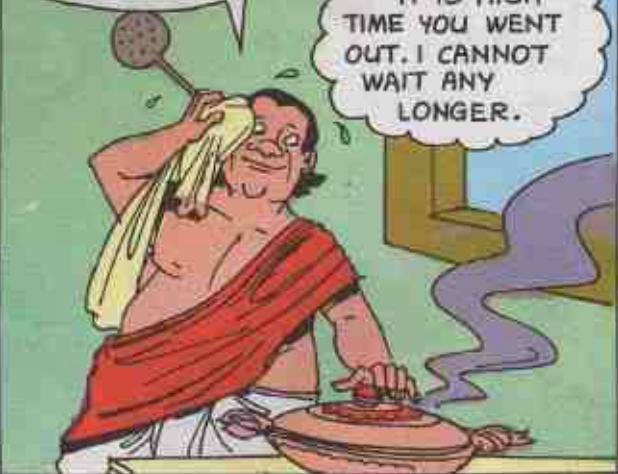
AH! THE BEST
BITS ARE TO BE
FRIED! I'LL SETTLE
FOR FRIED FISH!



WHEN THE FOOD WAS READY, THE COOK COVERED THE DISHES.

I'LL GO OUT AND REST FOR A WHILE
TILL THE MAID COMES FOR THE FOOD.

IT IS HIGH
TIME YOU WENT
OUT. I CANNOT
WAIT ANY LONGER.



AS SOON AS THE COOK'S BACK WAS TURNED —

I'LL TAKE A LARGE PIECE OF FRIED FISH AND FLY BACK TO MY BASKET.

I CAN EAT IT THERE IN PEACE WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT.



SUDDENLY —

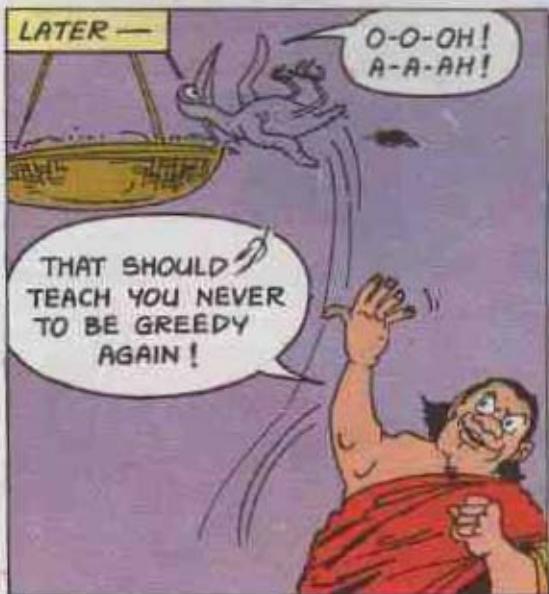
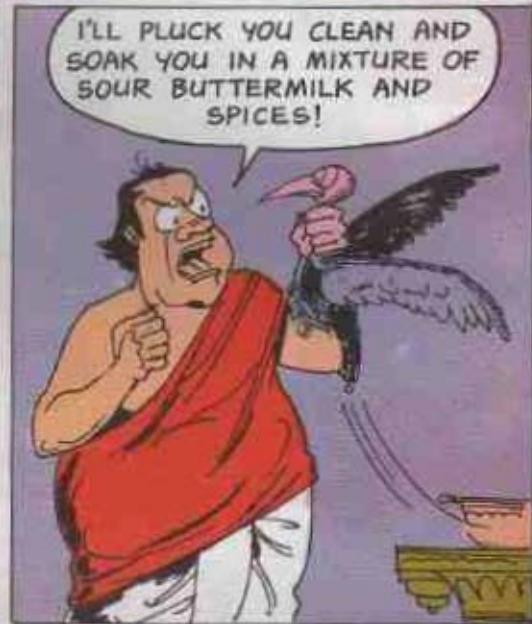
OH! OH!
WHAT HAVE
I DONE!

CLANGING
CLANGGG

THE COOK TURNED ROUND —

WHAT
WAS THAT?





THE BULBUL AND THE HORNBILL

THE HORNBILL WAS ONCE THE KING OF THE BIRDS. BUT HE USED TO KILL SMALLER BIRDS IF THEY MADE THE SLIGHTEST MISTAKE.



SO ONE DAY ALL THE BIRDS GOT TOGETHER AND DECIDED THAT THEY MUST HAVE A NEW KING. THEIR CHOICE FELL ON THE BULBUL.

