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# phoenix

DAWN

OSAMU TEZUKA

vol.1

# phoenix

DAWN



BY OSAMU TEZUKA

Phoenix Dawn  
Vol. 1  
VIZ Signature Edition

STORY AND ART BY  
OSAMU TEZUKA

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY DADAKAI  
Jared Cook, Shinji Sakamoto and Frederik L. Schodt

Touch-Up Art & Lettering/Susan Daigle-Leach  
Design/Izumi Evers  
Editor/Alvin Lu

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A message to our readership:

Some of the phrasing and expressions in the work you are about to read reflect the time and context in which it was originally created and thus might not be in accordance with present standards. The author had an unflinching dedication to conveying several themes through the art of manga, such as the importance of nature, love and peace; a warning against the idolization of science, and the preciousness of life. It is clear that at the root of his work there is a strong belief in the power of human love overall.

We believe that publishing a faithful translation is essential to accurately conveying the message within the work itself as intended by the author, as well as protecting its integrity as a part of Japan's cultural heritage and preserving it for future generations. We therefore appreciate your understanding as you enjoy this work of art.

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**PARENTAL ADVISORY**  
PHOENIX is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence and nudity.  
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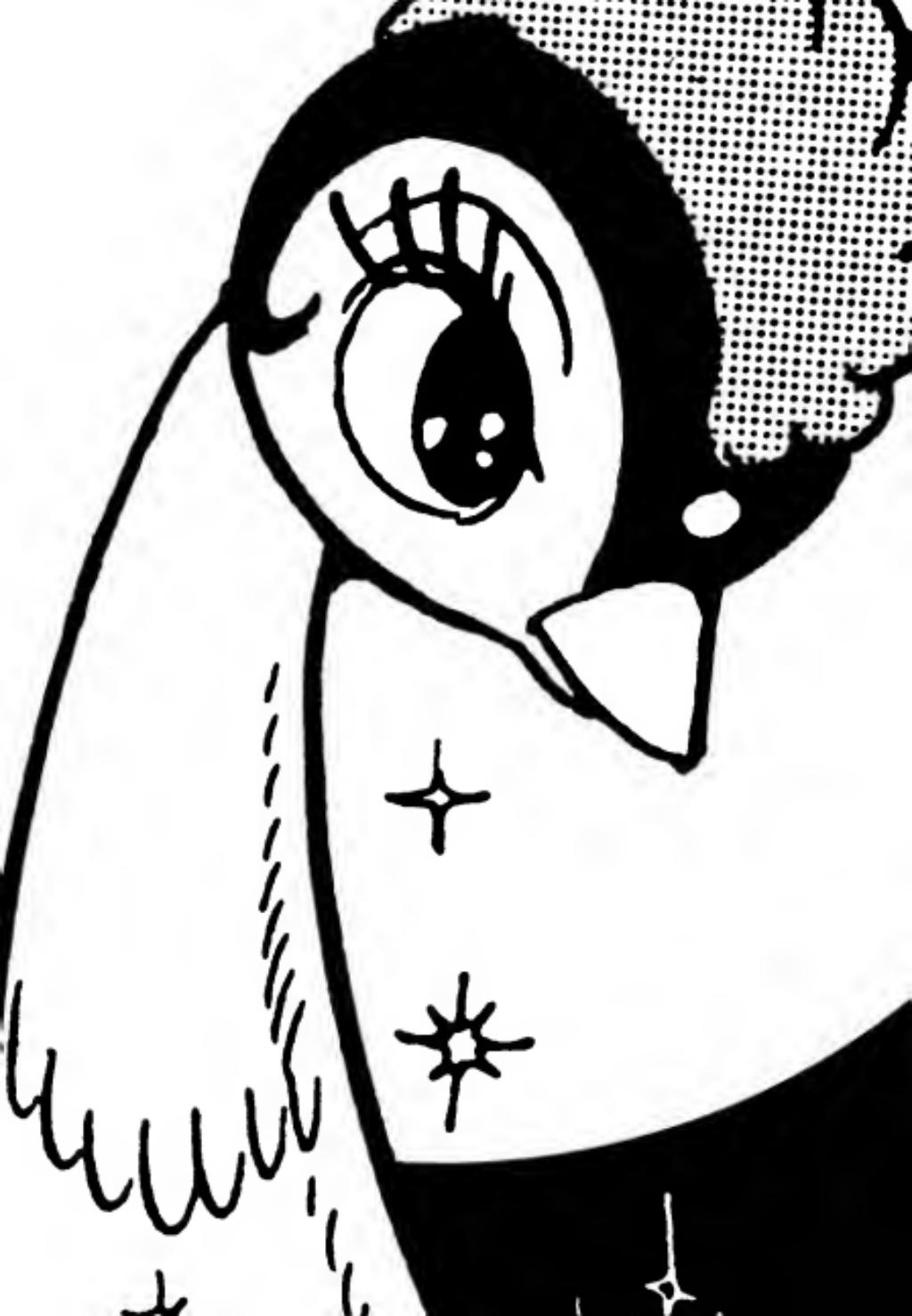
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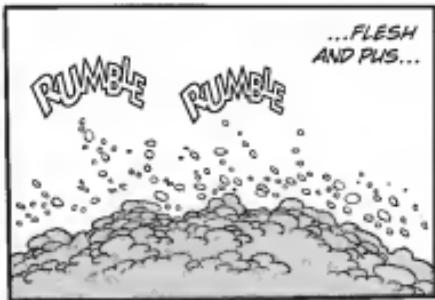
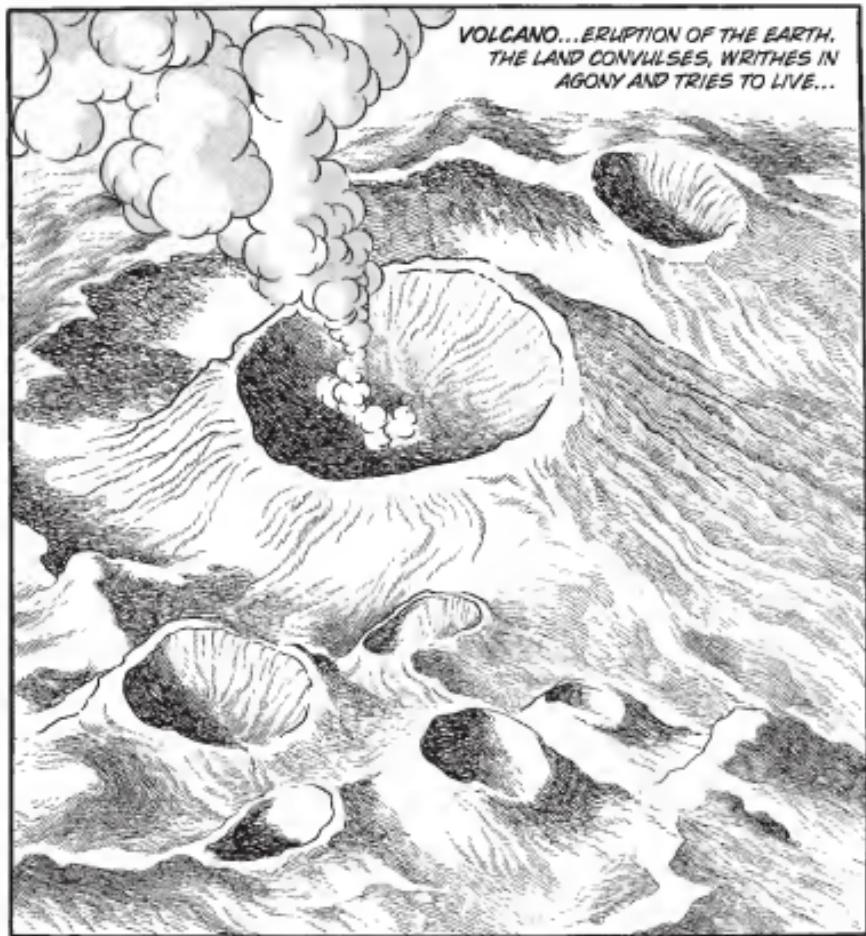
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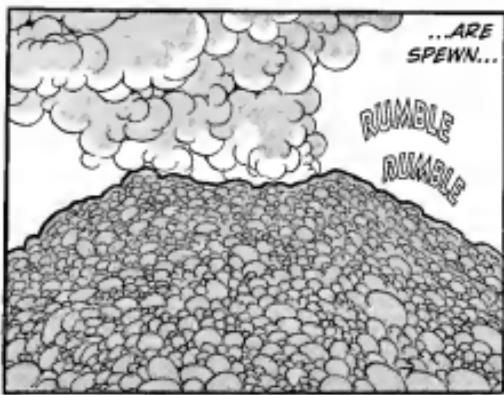
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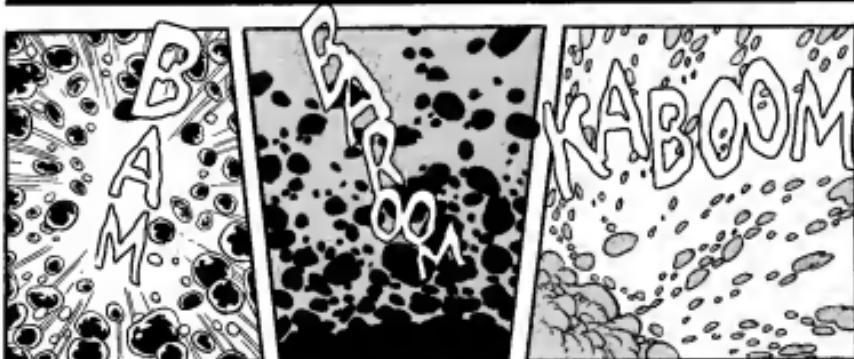
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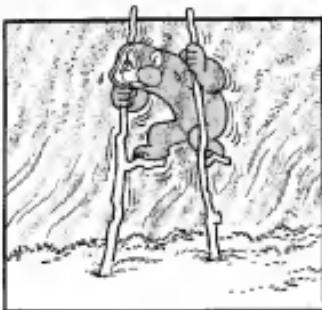




IN GREEK  
MYTHOLOGY  
THE GOD OF  
THE VOLCANO  
IS CALLED  
VULCAN. ONCE  
ANGERED, HIS  
VOICE TURNS  
THE AIR INSIDE  
OUT AND  
CAUSES THE  
SEA TO  
TREMBLE IN  
FEAR...



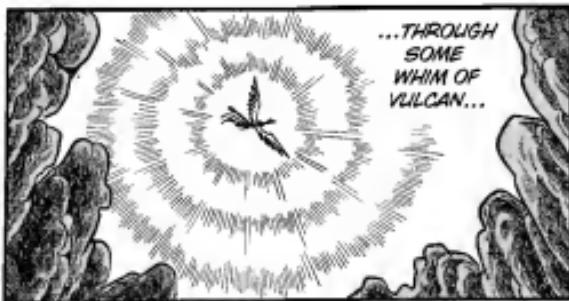
SEETHING FILTH  
ENVELOPES THE  
SURROUNDING  
AREA IN  
THICKENING  
LAYERS...



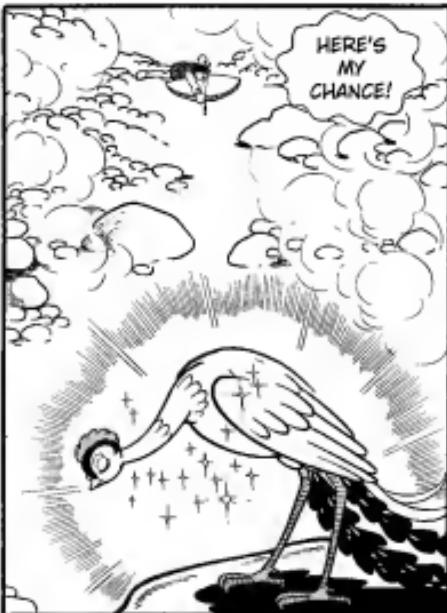
...ENTOMBING  
EVERYTHING  
LIVING  
AND NON-  
LIVING.

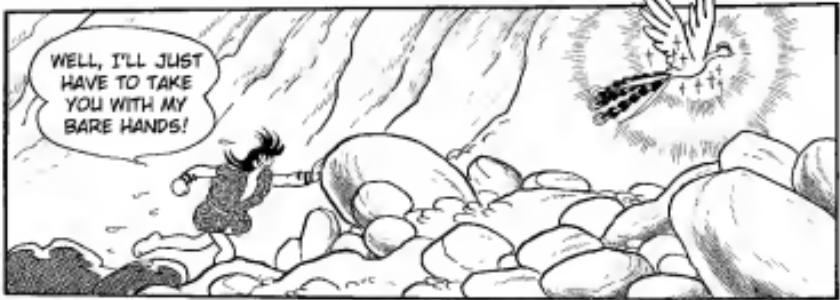


...THROUGH  
SOME  
WHIM OF  
VULCAN...

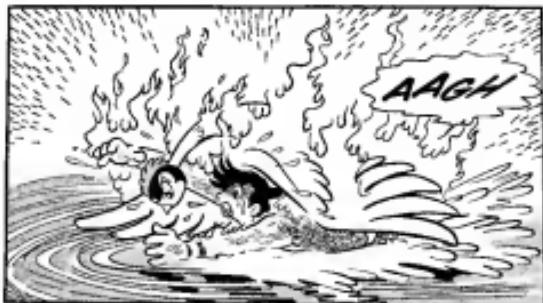










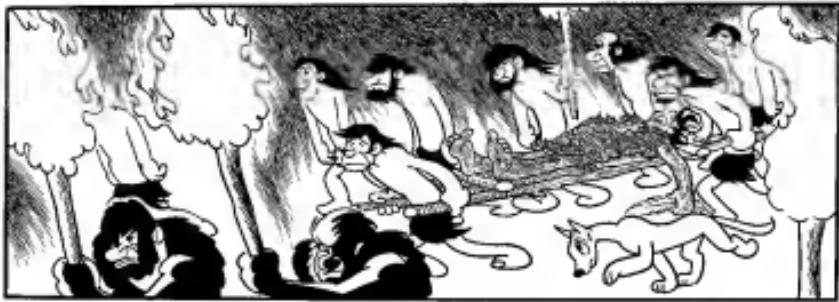
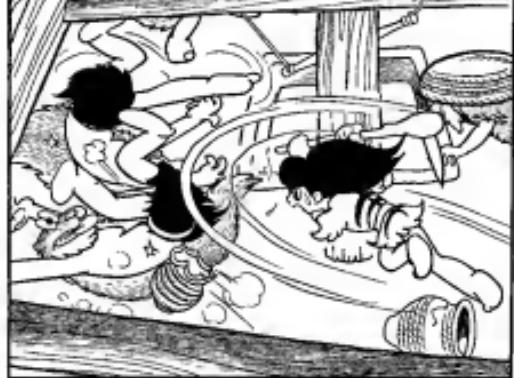


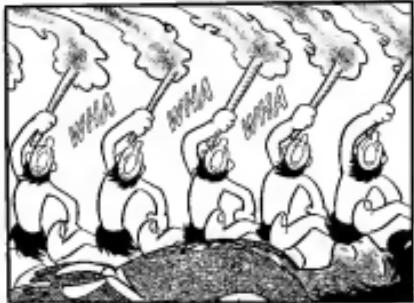
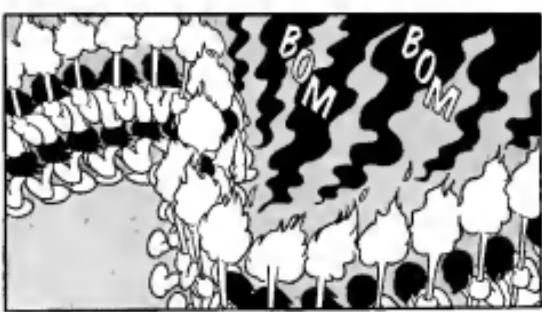


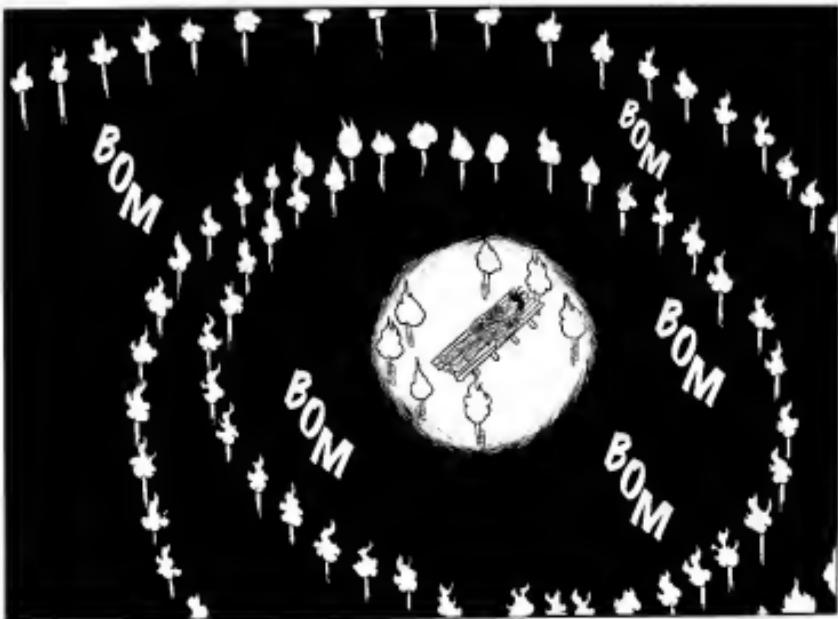
LOOK YONDER.  
IT'S THE SEA  
FIRE. LOOK  
HOW BRIGHT IT  
BURNS ON THE  
WAVES.

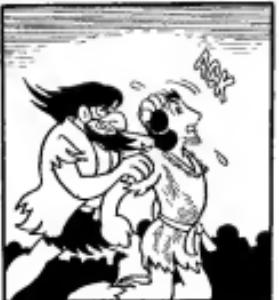
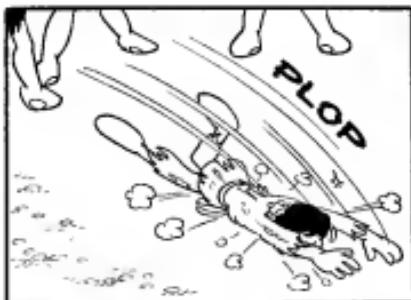
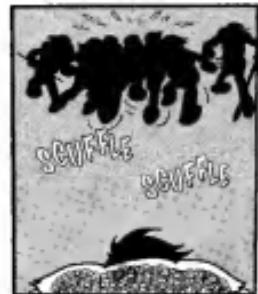
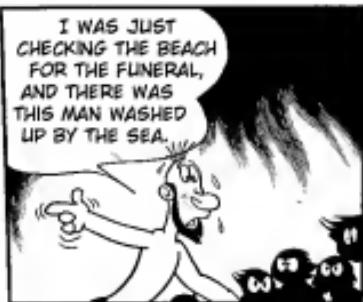


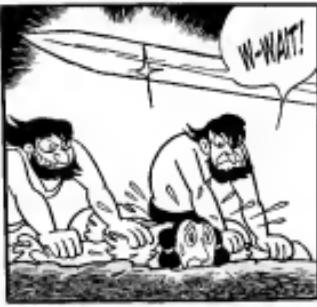
















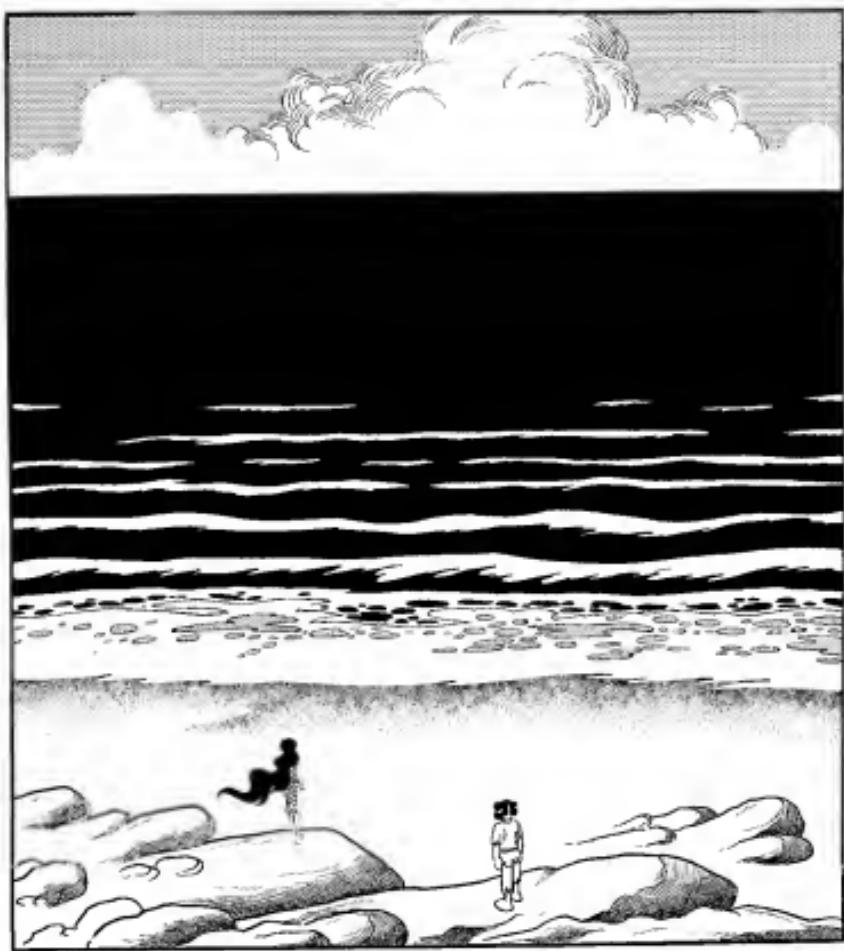


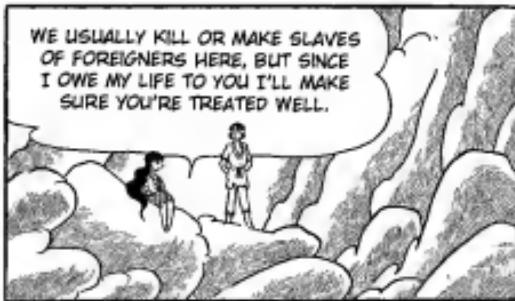
AS IS COMMONLY KNOWN, BLUE MOLD CONTAINS A DRUG CALLED PENICILLIN, WHICH IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN TREATING CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND FESTERING WOUNDS. THE SICKNESS HINAKU IS SUFFERING FROM APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY BACTERIA ENTERING A CUT MADE BY DRIED GRASS, AND IS PROBABLY TETANUS, WHICH PENICILLIN IS VERY EFFECTIVE IN CURING.

ALTHOUGH TODAY IT IS USUALLY GIVEN AS AN INJECTION, IN THIS AGE THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A HYPODERMIC, LEAVING NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO HAVE THE PATIENT DRINK IT. IN DOING SO, FIVE TIMES THE AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR AN INJECTION WAS NECESSARY.

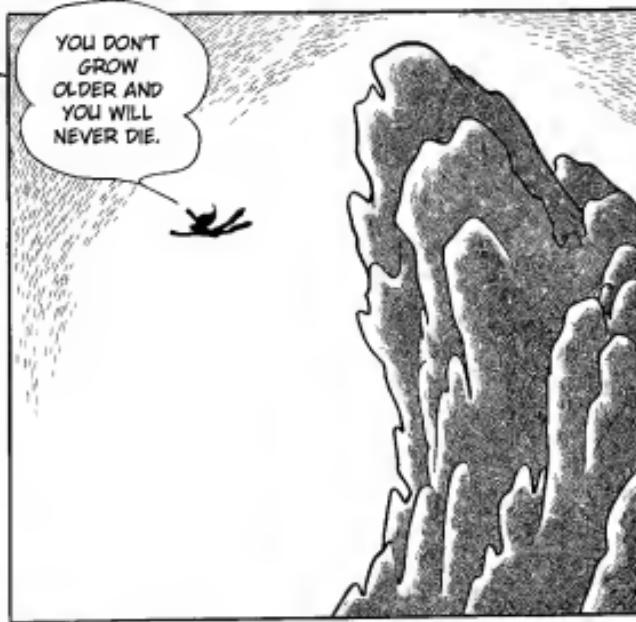


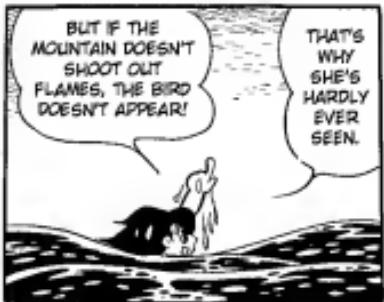




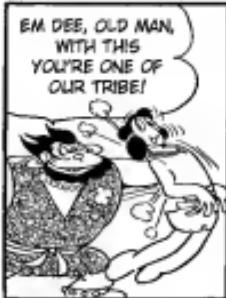


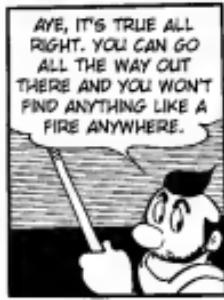


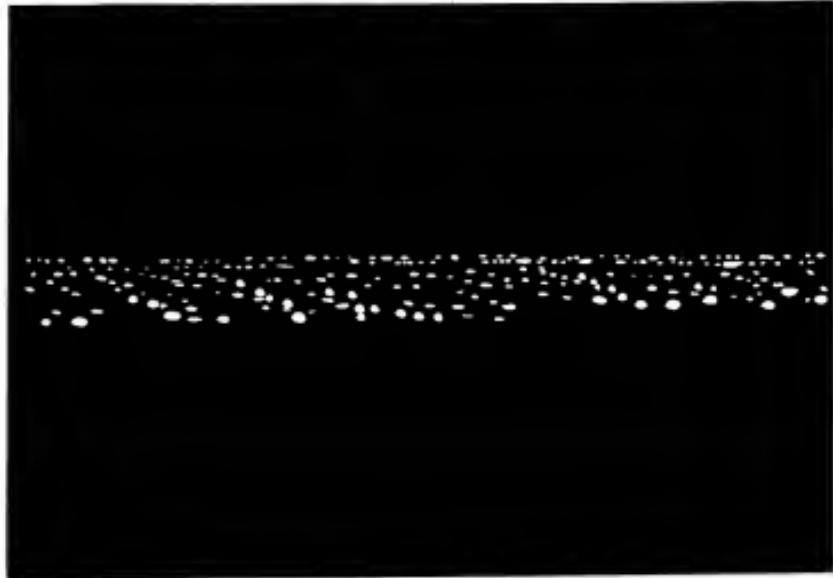


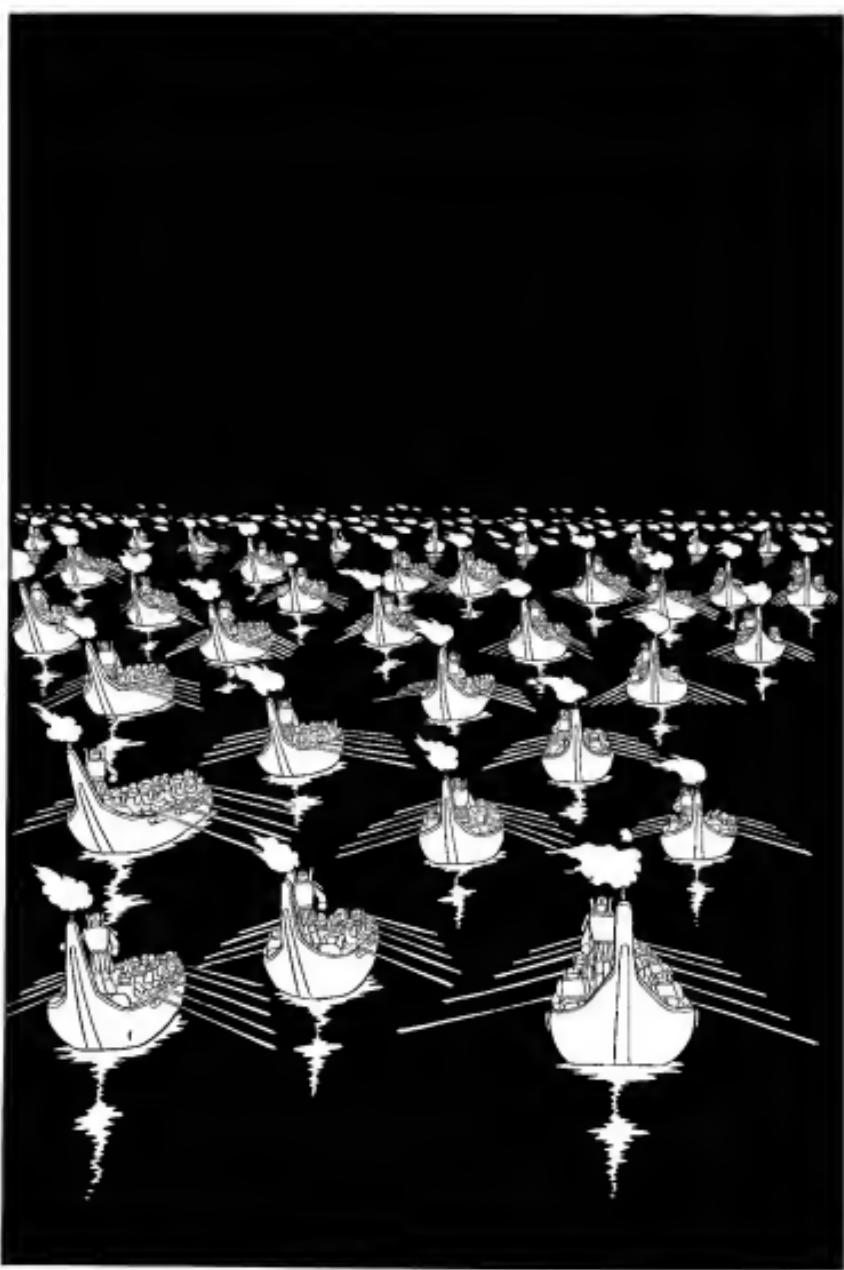


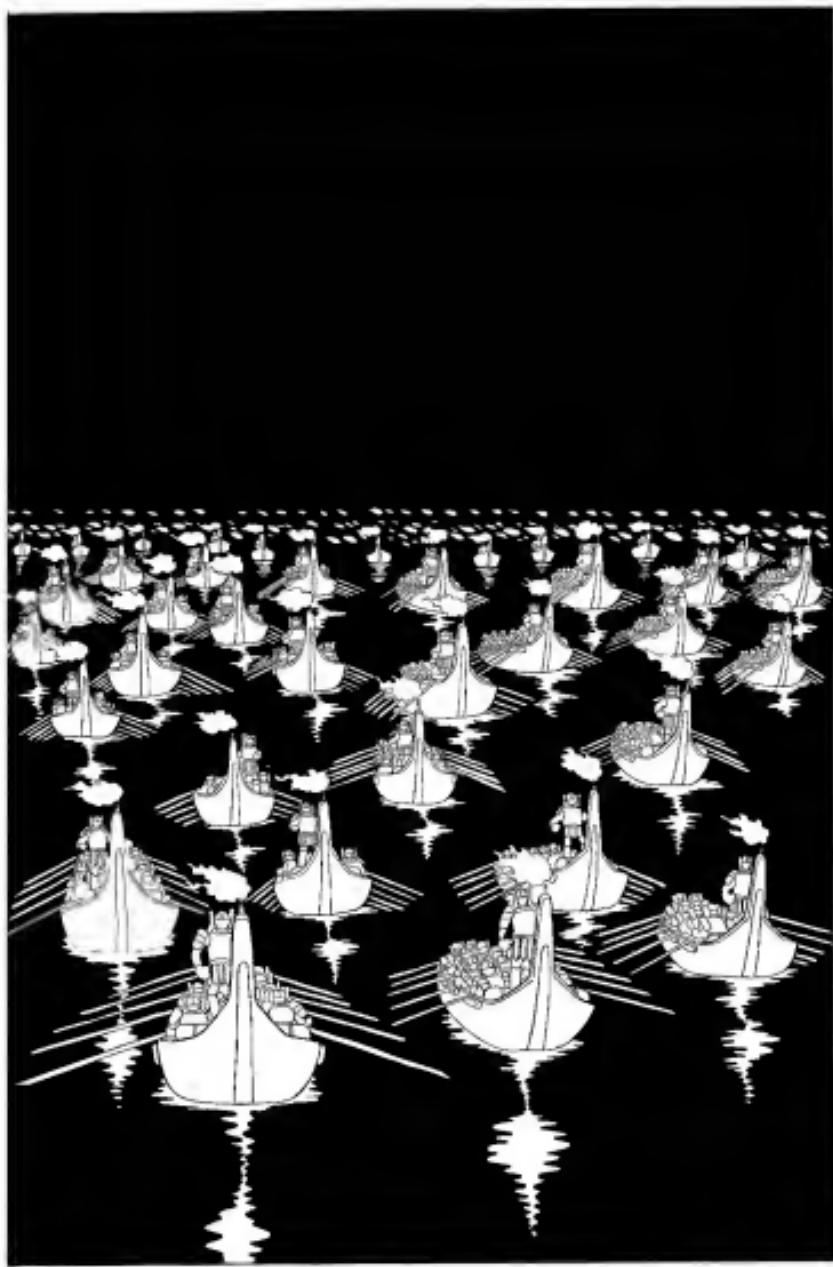




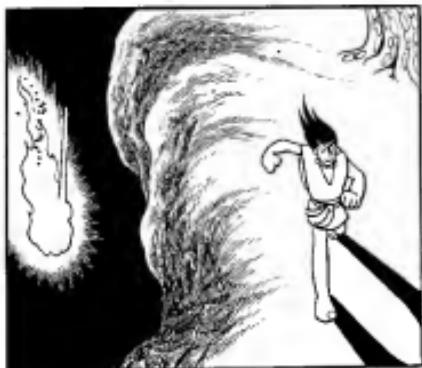


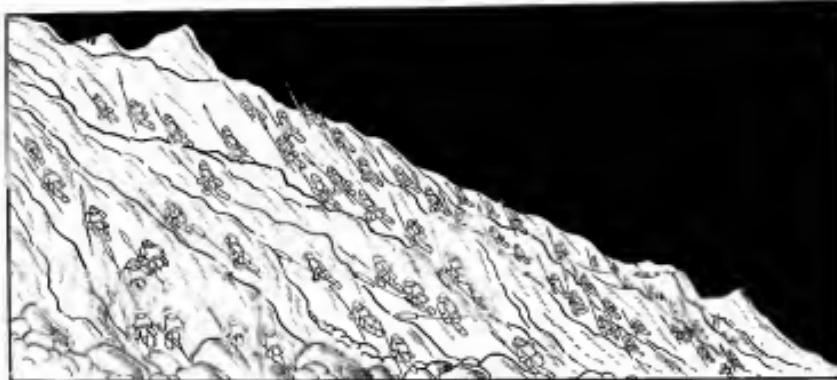


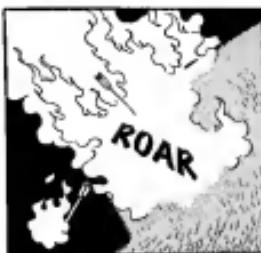
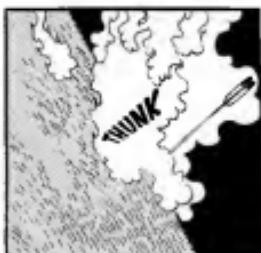
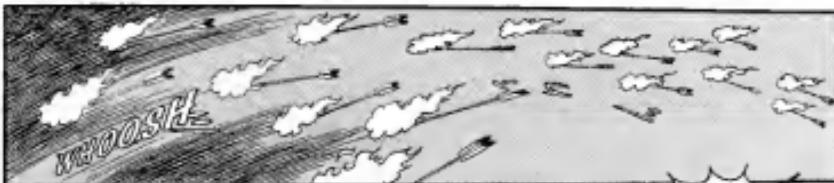






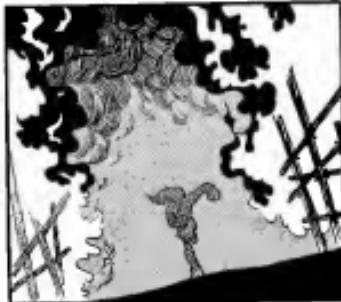




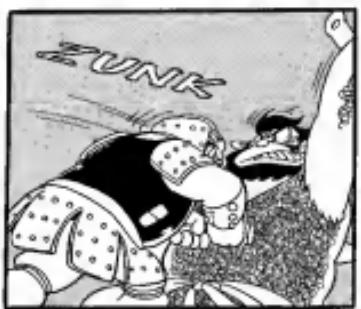
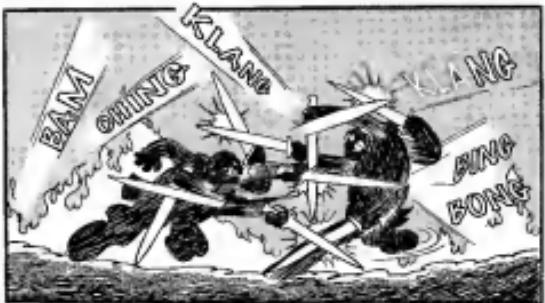


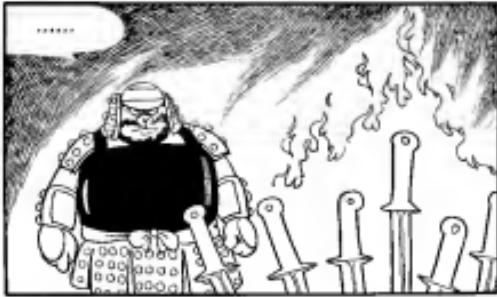


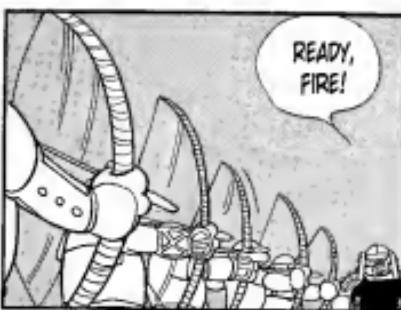




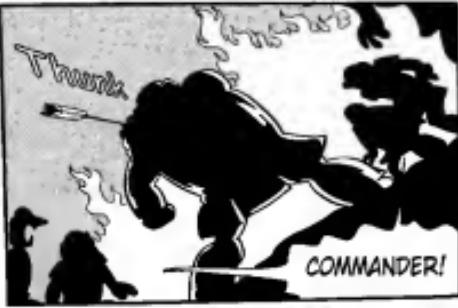


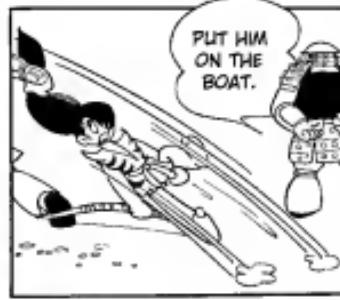






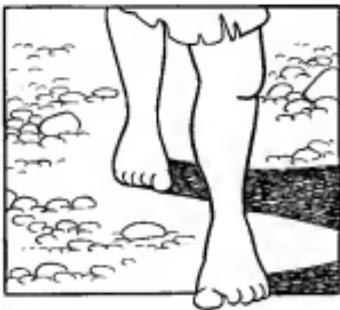




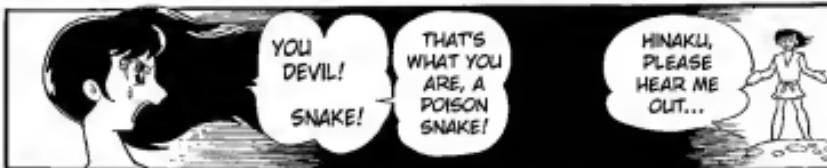


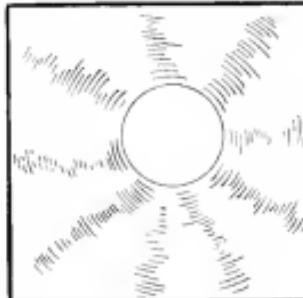
HEH HEH, HE DID ALL  
RIGHT FOR A SPY,  
DIDN'T HE? NEVER  
DID LIKE SPIES, BUT  
MAYBE I WAS  
WRONG.

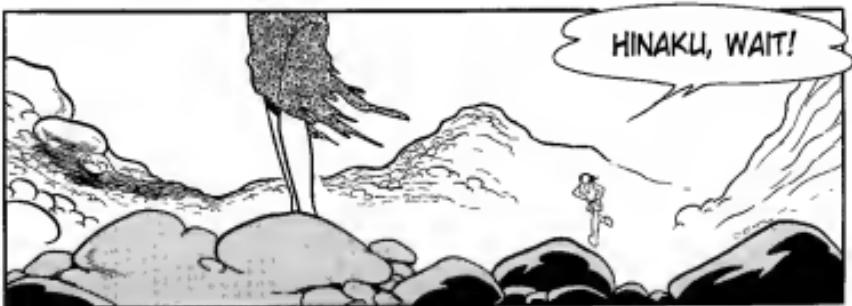




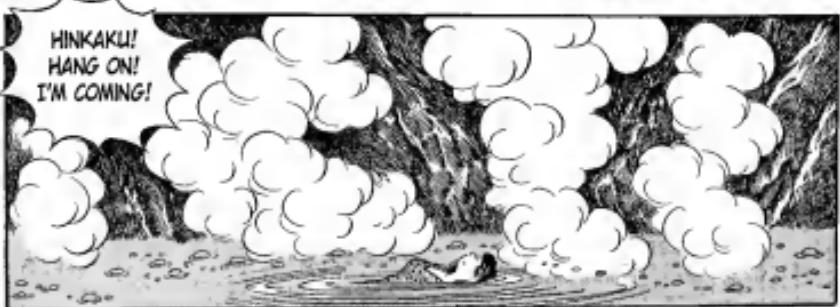
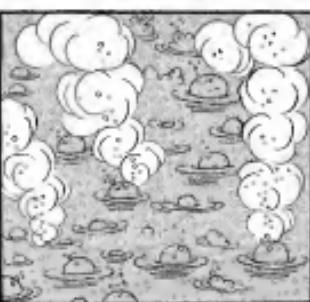




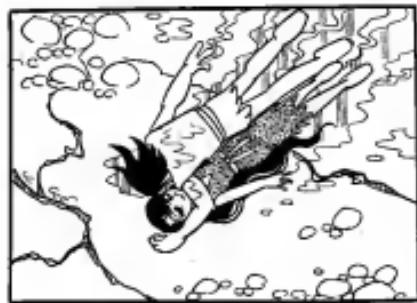
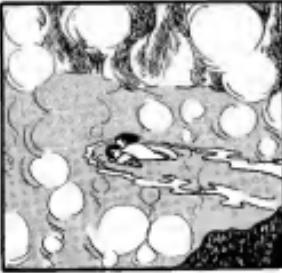
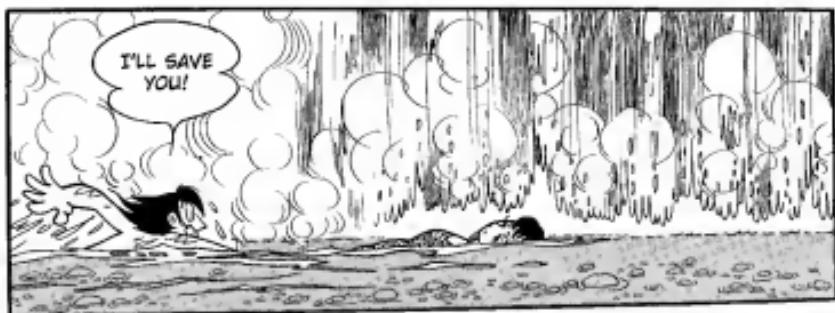










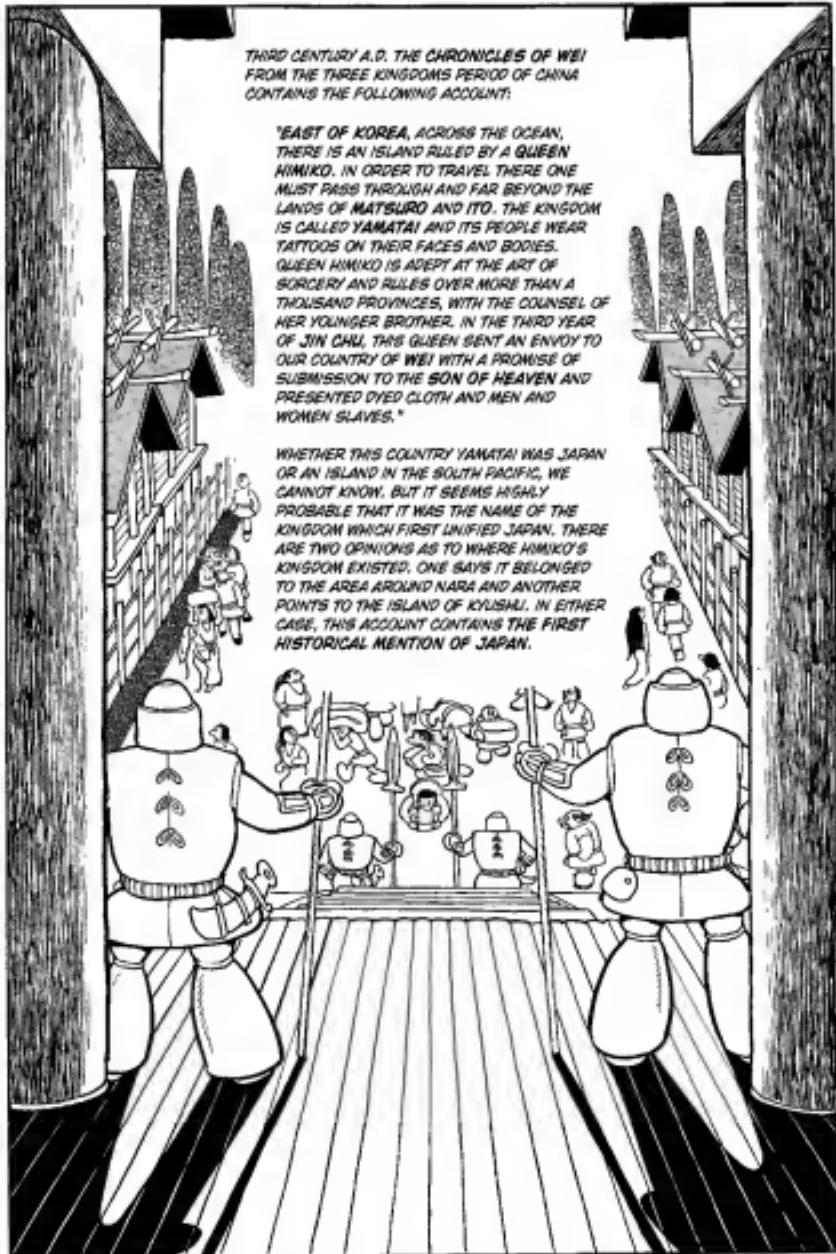


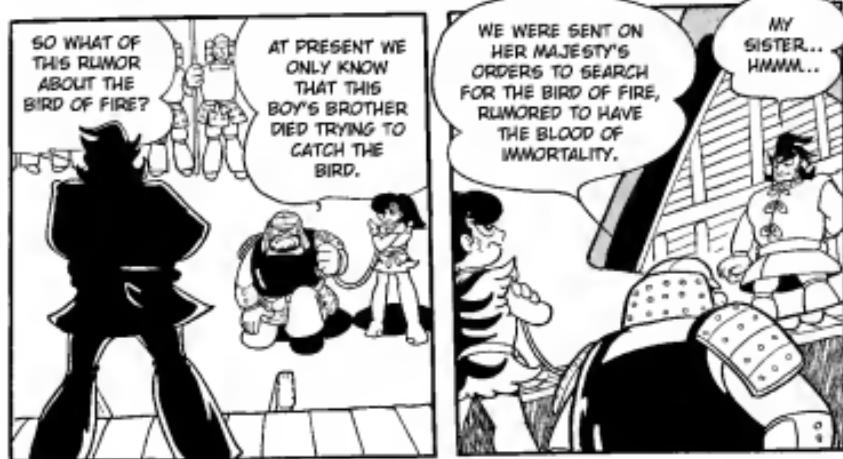


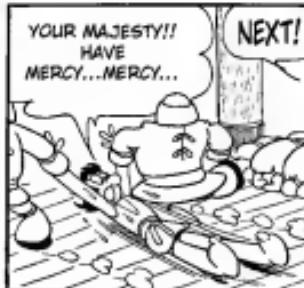
THIRD CENTURY A.D. THE CHRONICLES OF WEI  
FROM THE THREE KINGDOMS PERIOD OF CHINA  
CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT:

"EAST OF KOREA, ACROSS THE OCEAN,  
THERE IS AN ISLAND RULED BY A QUEEN  
HIMIKO. IN ORDER TO TRAVEL THERE ONE  
MUST PASS THROUGH AND FAR BEYOND THE  
LANDS OF MATSURO AND ITO. THE KINGDOM  
IS CALLED YAMATAI AND ITS PEOPLE WEAR  
TATTOOS ON THEIR FACES AND BODIES.  
QUEEN HIMIKO IS ADEPT AT THE ART OF  
SORCERY AND RULES OVER MORE THAN A  
THOUSAND PROVINCES, WITH THE COUNSEL OF  
HER YOUNGER BROTHER. IN THE THIRD YEAR  
OF JIN CHU, THIS QUEEN SENT AN ENVOY TO  
OUR COUNTRY OF WEI WITH A PROMISE OF  
SUBMISSION TO THE SON OF HEAVEN AND  
PRESENTED DYED CLOTH AND MEN AND  
WOMEN SLAVES."

WHETHER THIS COUNTRY YAMATAI WAS JAPAN  
OR AN ISLAND IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, WE  
CANNOT KNOW. BUT IT SEEMS HIGHLY  
PROBABLE THAT IT WAS THE NAME OF THE  
KINGDOM WHICH FIRST UNIFIED JAPAN. THERE  
ARE TWO OPINIONS AS TO WHERE HIMIKO'S  
KINGDOM EXISTED. ONE SAYS IT BELONGED  
TO THE AREA AROUND NARA AND ANOTHER  
POINTS TO THE ISLAND OF KYUSHU. IN EITHER  
CASE, THIS ACCOUNT CONTAINS THE FIRST  
HISTORICAL MENTION OF JAPAN.

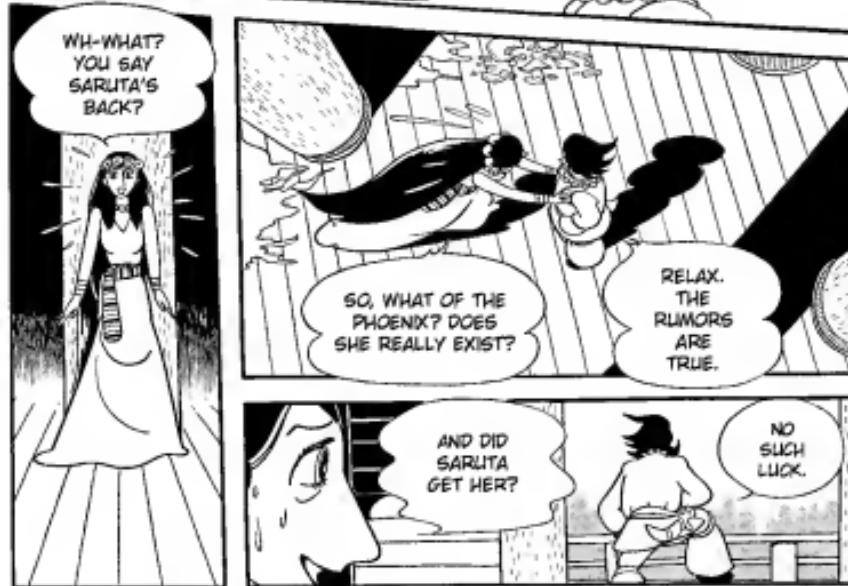










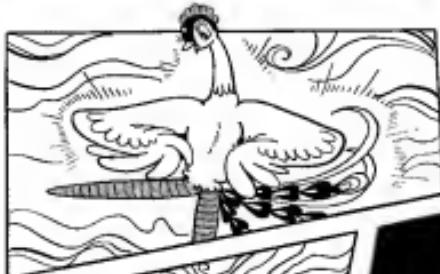


WITH AN  
ARROW OR  
SPEAR  
SHE CAN  
NEVER BE  
KILLED.

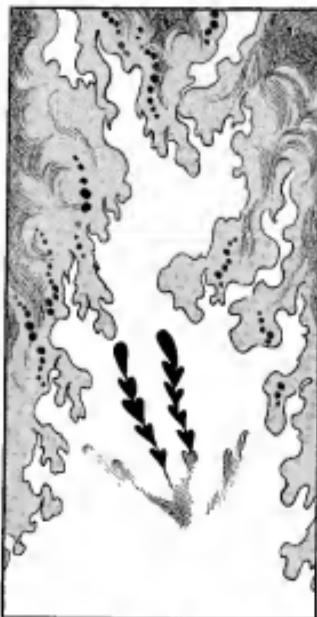
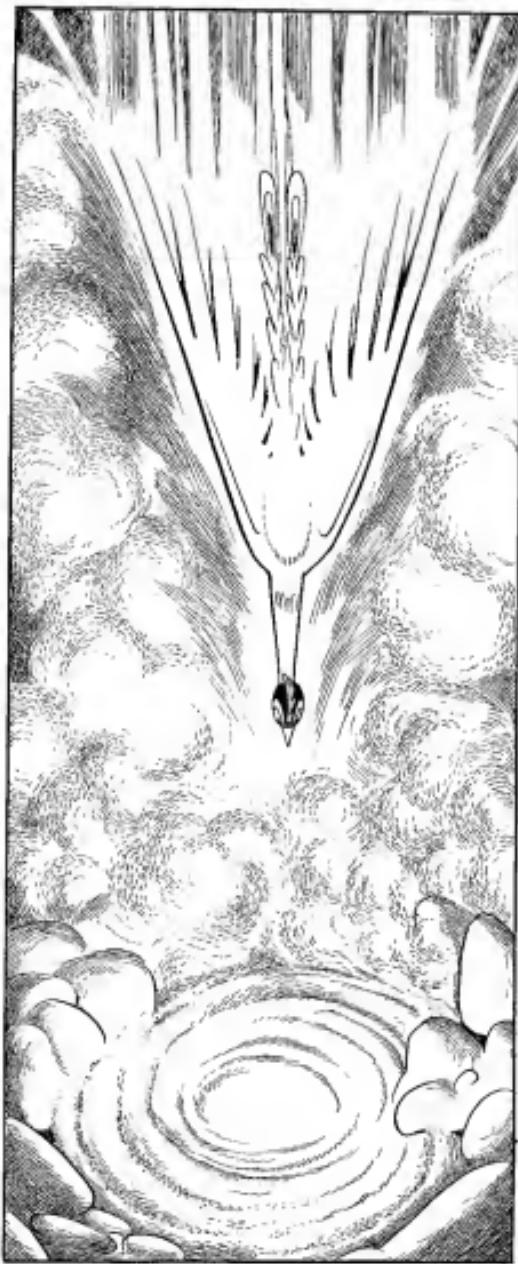
NO ONE  
KNOWS  
HOW MANY  
MILLIONS  
OF YEARS  
SHE HAS  
LIVED.



ACCORDING TO THE  
PRISONER FROM THE  
VILLAGE OF KUMASO,  
HIS GRANDFATHER  
WAS TOLD OF THE  
PHOENIX AS A CHILD  
BY HIS  
GRANDFATHER.



MOREOVER, THE  
PHOENIX IS CLEVER.  
SHE HAS MORE  
KNOWLEDGE THAN  
MAN AND CAN DANCE,  
SPEAK, AND EVEN  
WRITE THINGS THAT  
ARE DIFFICULT FOR  
US.

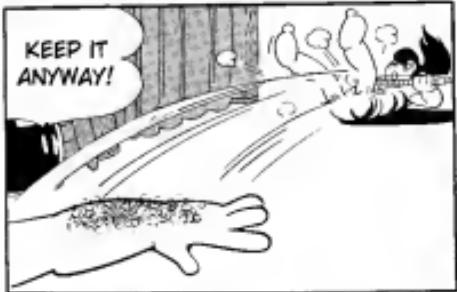


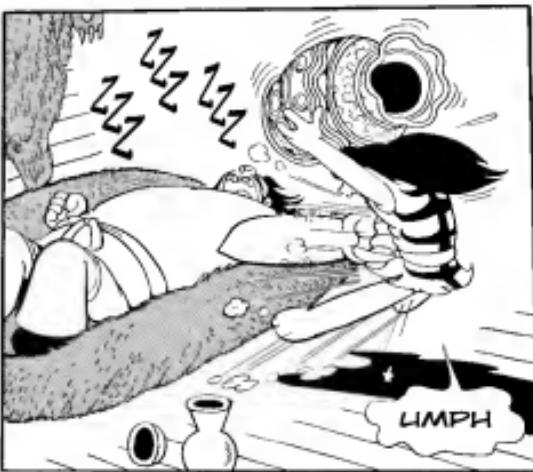


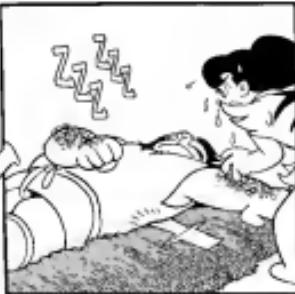








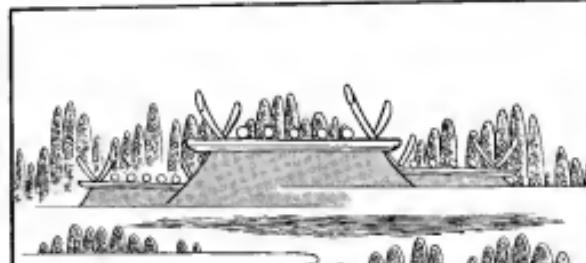




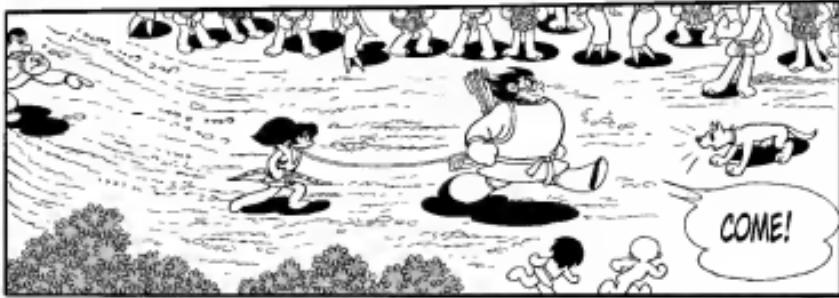
IF YOU'RE GOING  
TO PUT OUT THE  
LIGHT FOR ME,  
USE THAT SHELL  
TO SMOTHER THE  
FIRE.

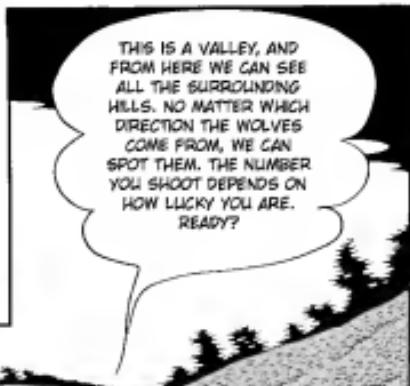


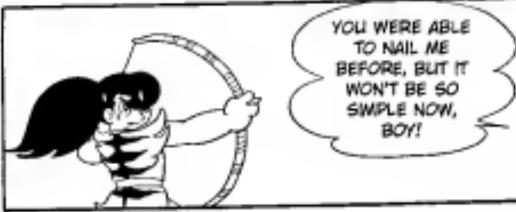


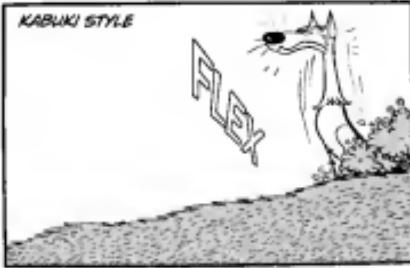
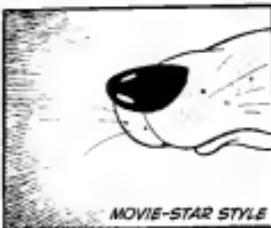
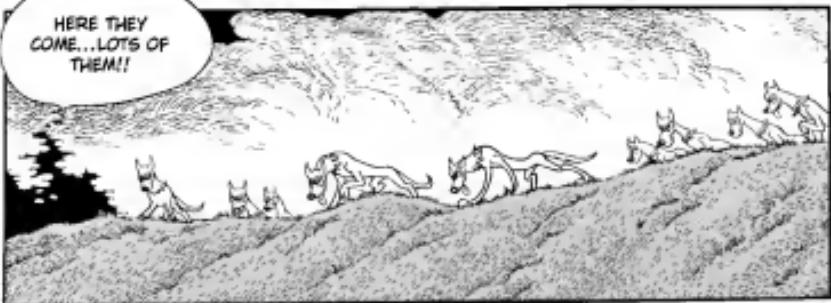
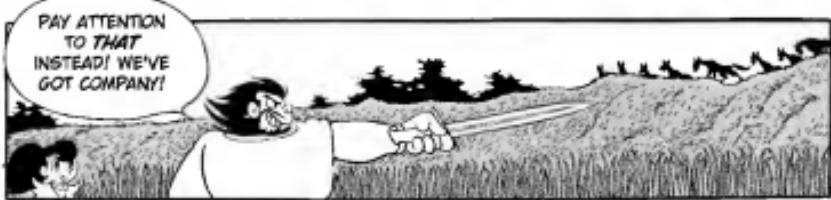


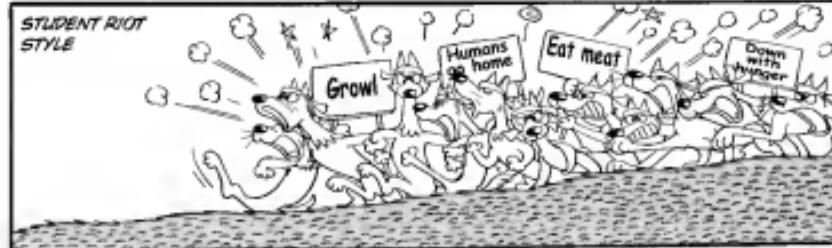
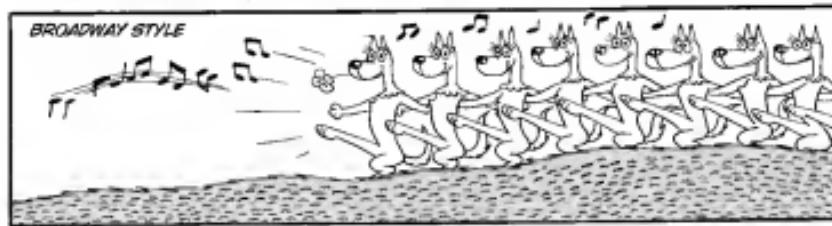
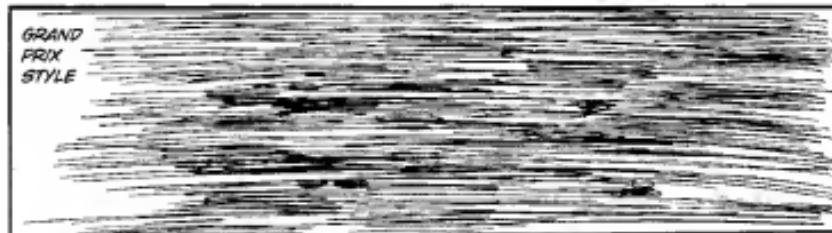


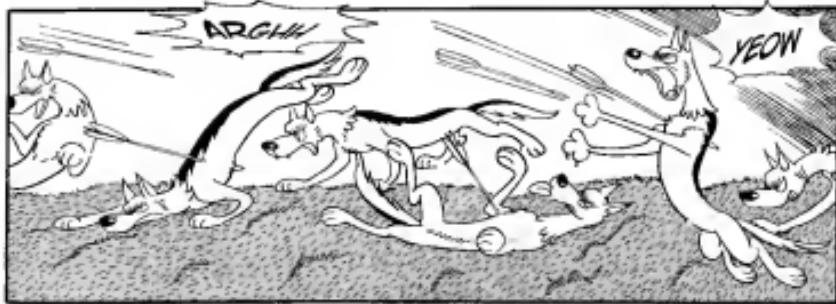




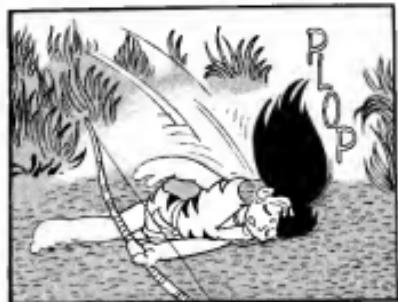


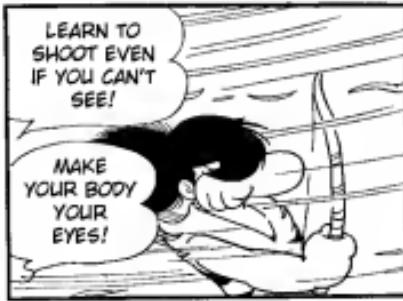


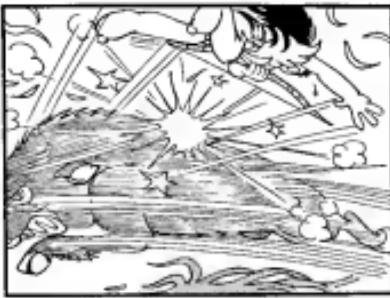
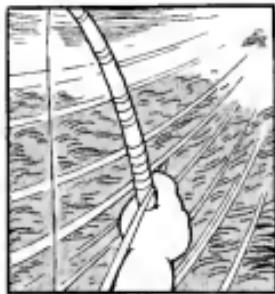
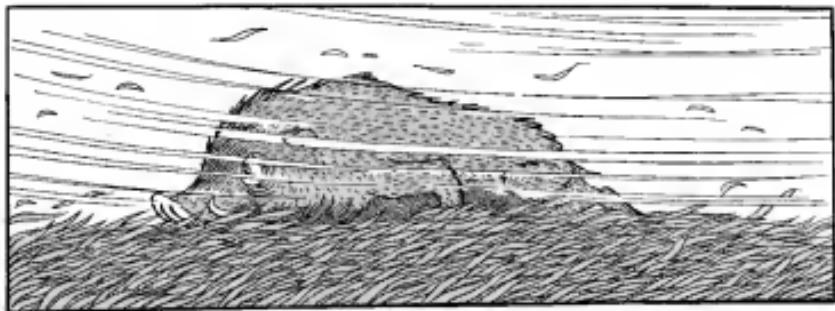




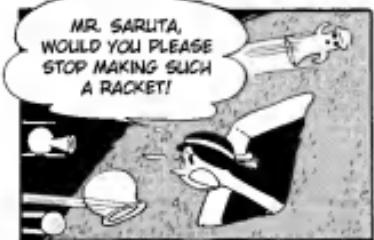


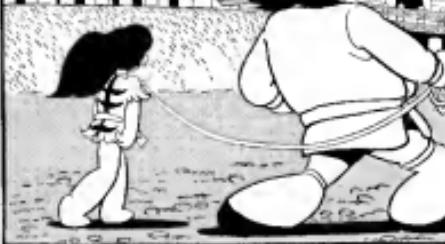










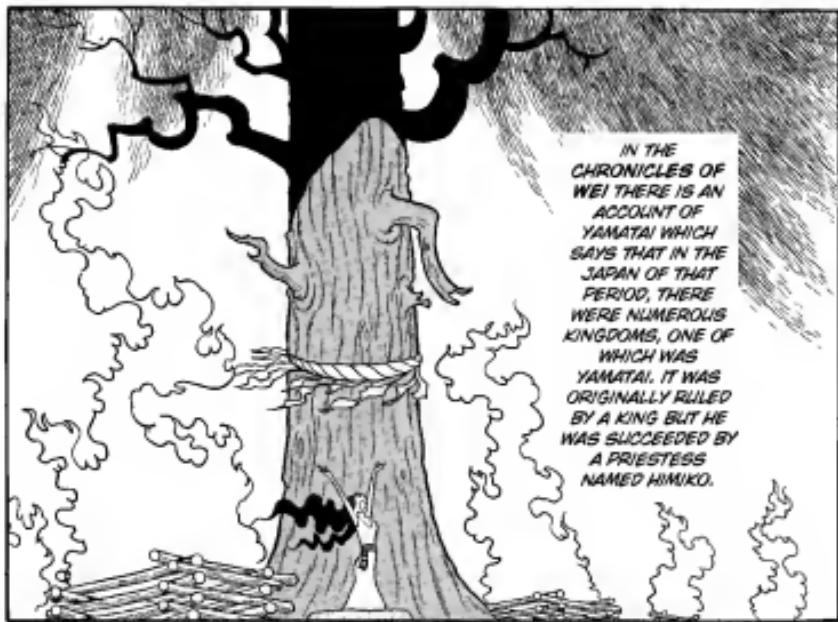




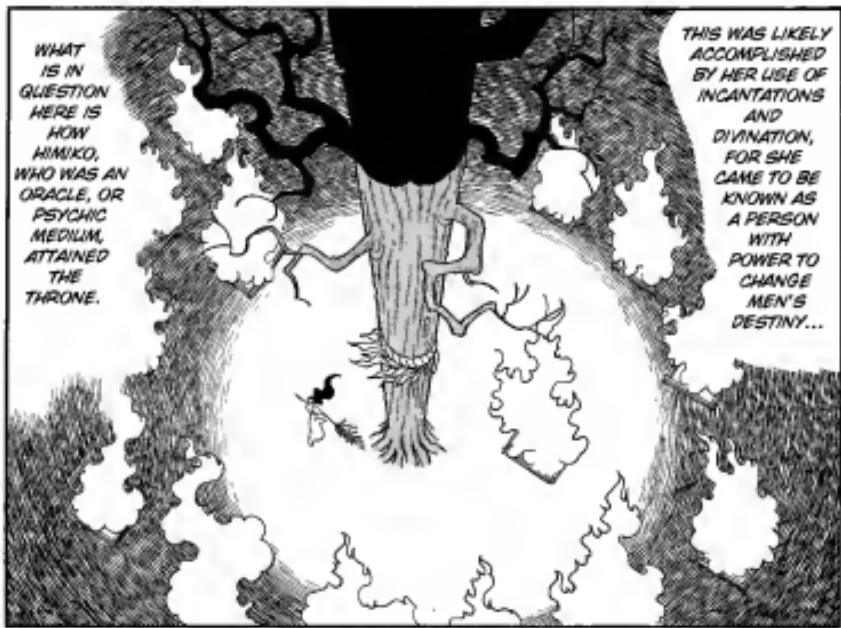
NO, NOT  
SARUTA.  
THE RUNIT  
CROUCH-  
ING BESIDE  
HIM!







IN THE CHRONICLES OF WEI THERE IS AN ACCOUNT OF YAMATAI WHICH SAYS THAT IN THE JAPAN OF THAT PERIOD THERE WERE NUMEROUS KINGDOMS, ONE OF WHICH WAS YAMATAI. IT WAS ORIGINALLY RULED BY A KING BUT HE WAS SUCCEEDED BY A PRIESTESS NAMED HIMIKO.



WHAT IS IN QUESTION HERE IS HOW HIMIKO, WHO WAS AN ORACLE, OR PSYCHIC MEDIUM, ATTAINED THE THRONE.

THIS WAS LIKELY ACCOMPLISHED BY HER USE OF INCANTATIONS AND DIVINATION, FOR SHE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS A PERSON WITH POWER TO CHANGE MEN'S DESTINY...

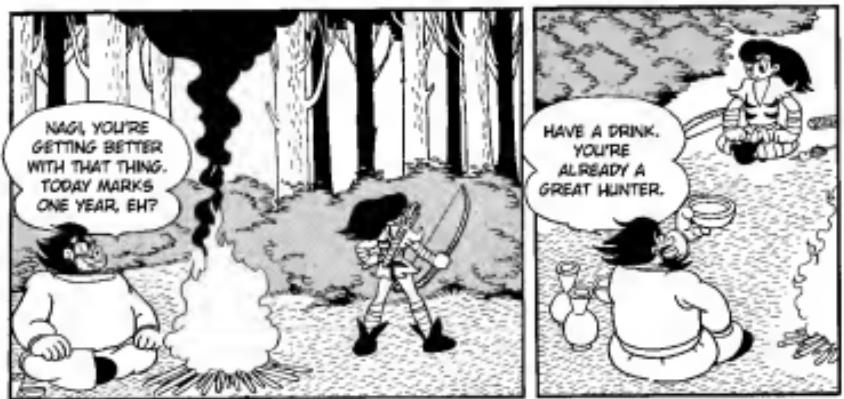
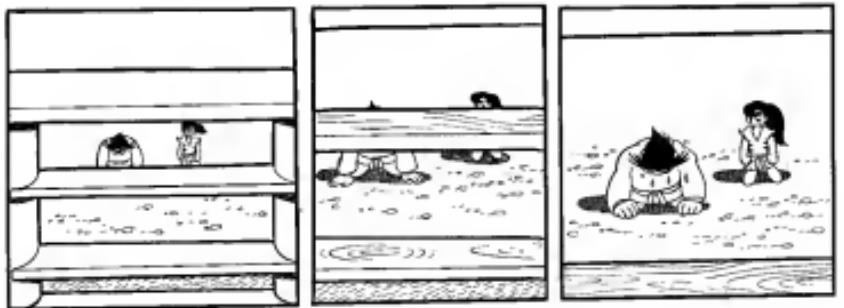




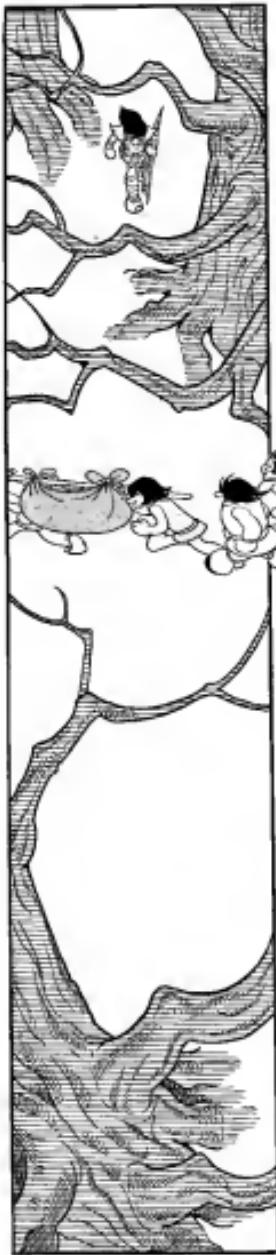


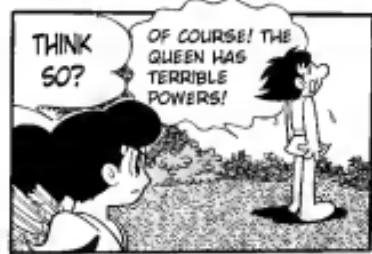
EVEN IF HE DOES, WHAT COULD HE DO TO YOU, THE QUEEN?



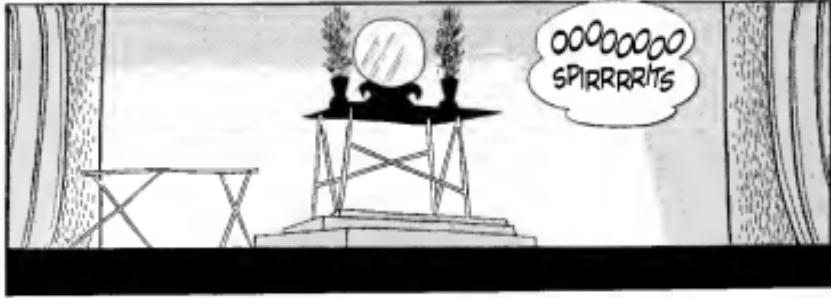


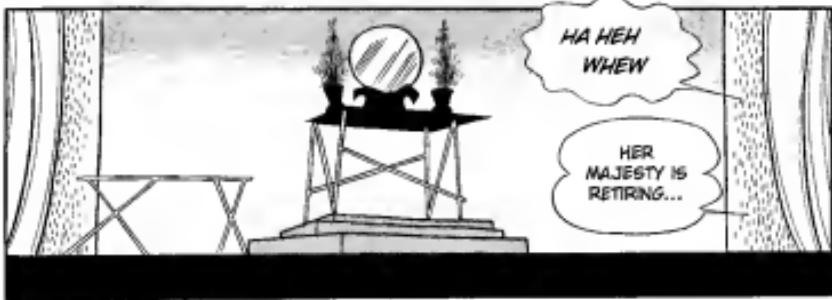




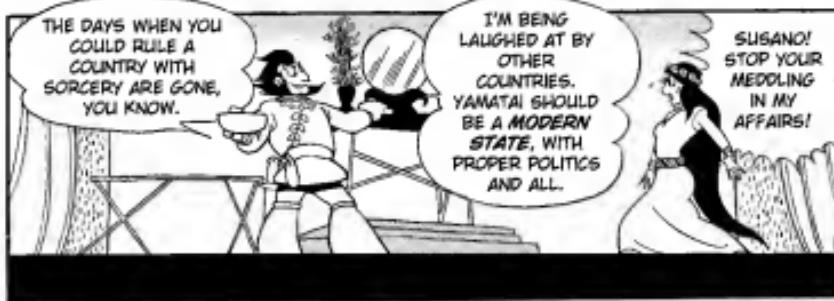






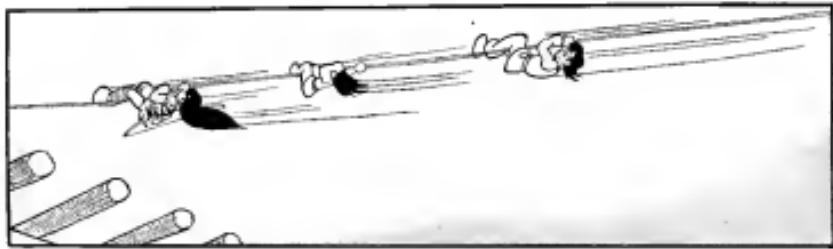
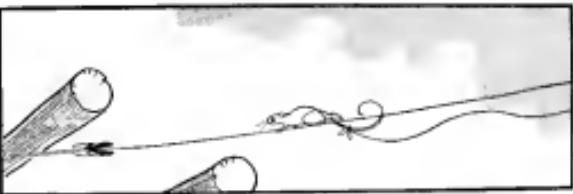
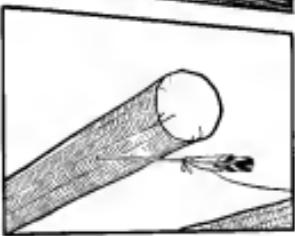


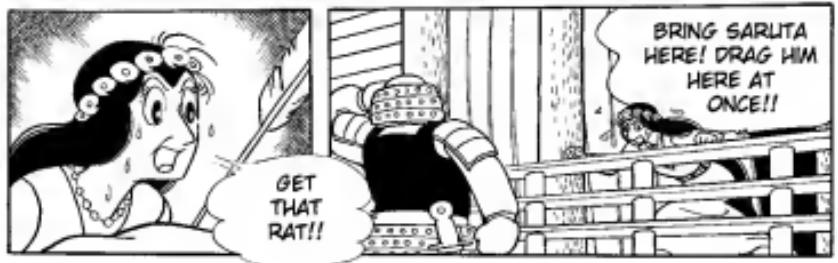


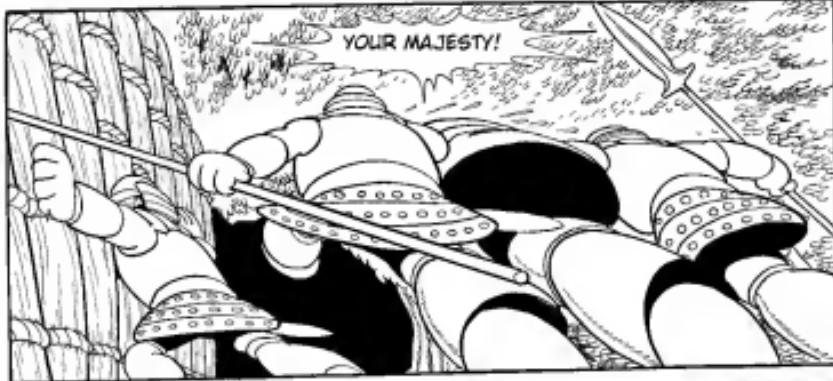
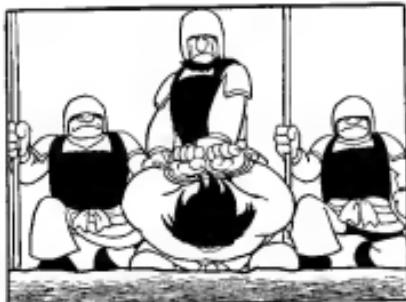


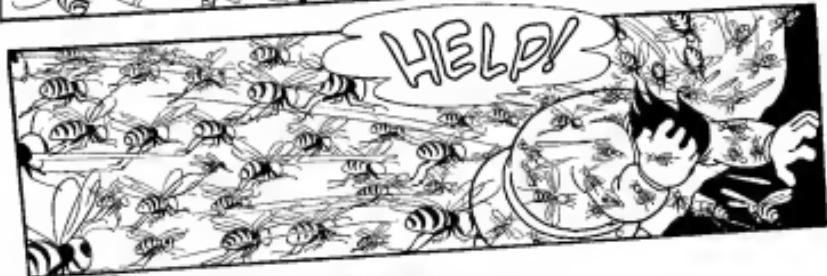




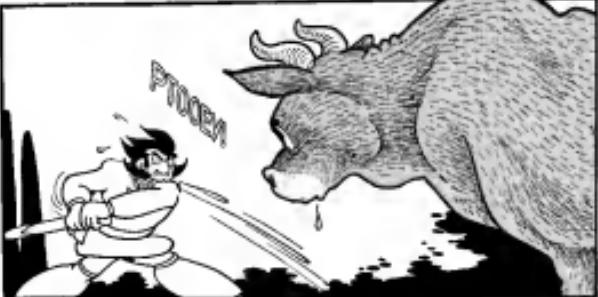
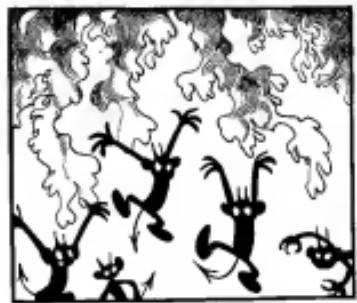


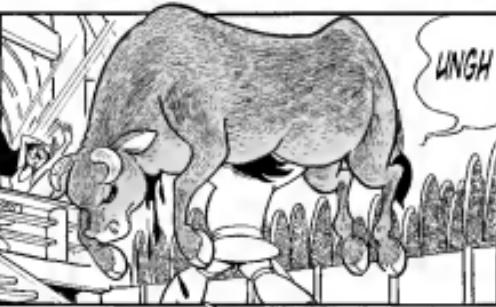
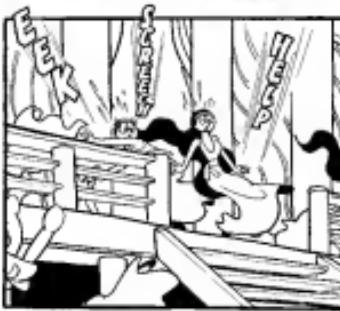




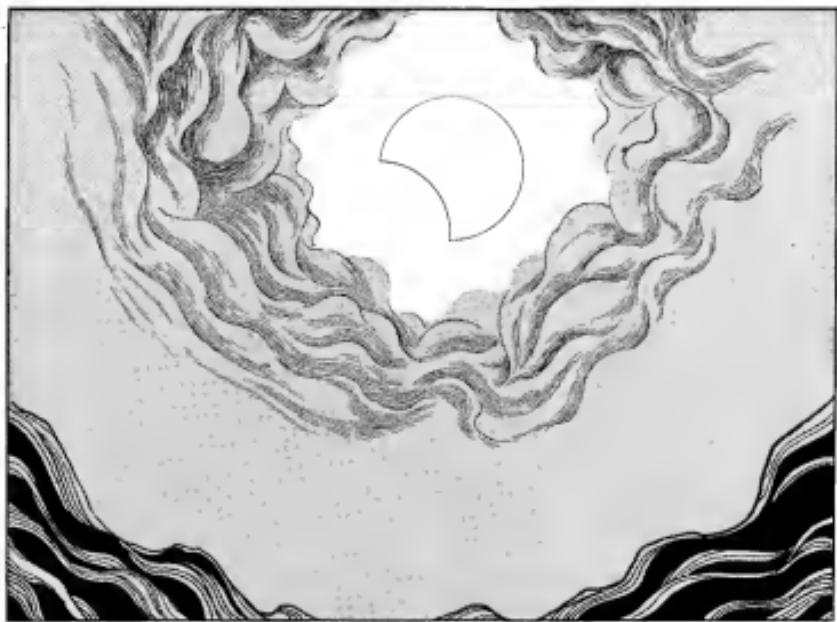








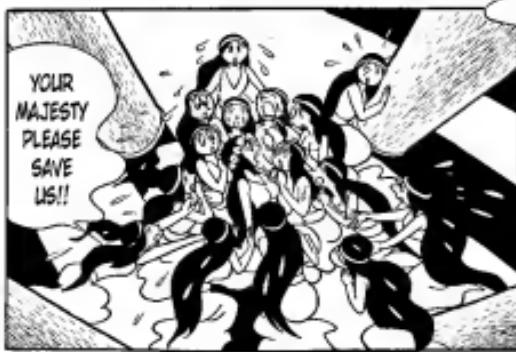




THE SUN'S  
BEING EATEN!  
IT'S THE END OF  
THE WORLD!

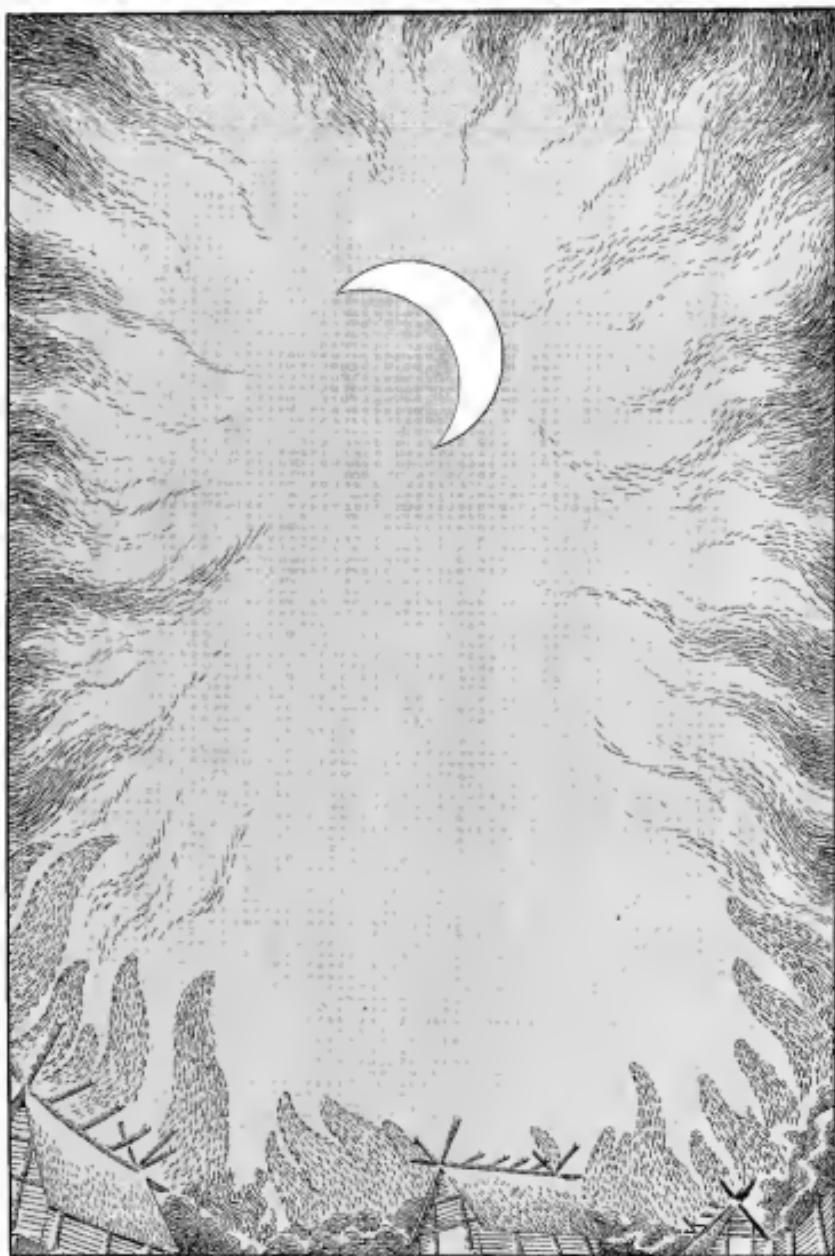
THE SUN  
IS DIS-  
APPEAR-  
ING!

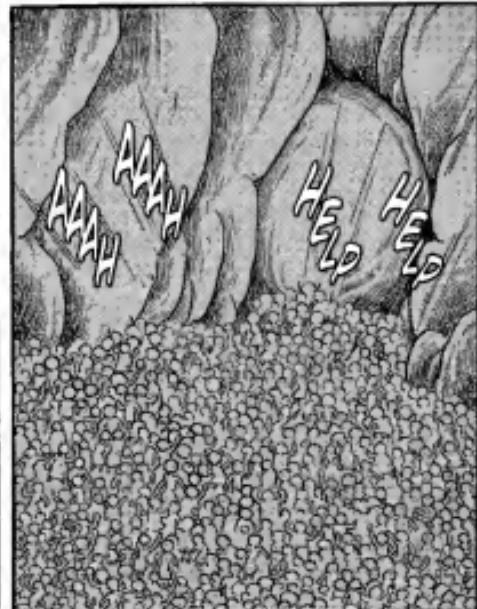
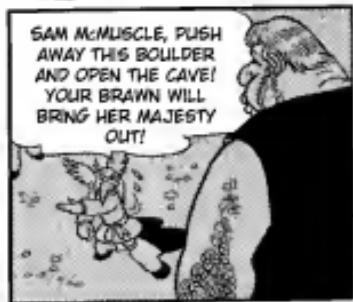


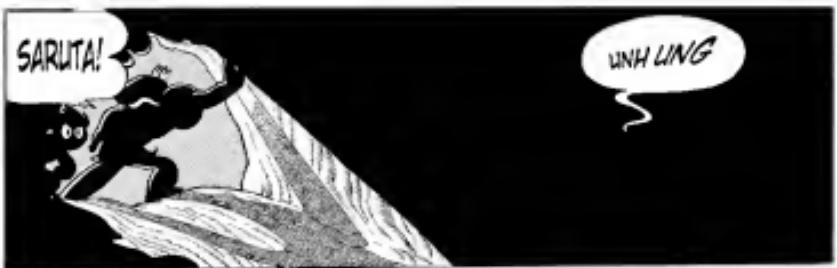


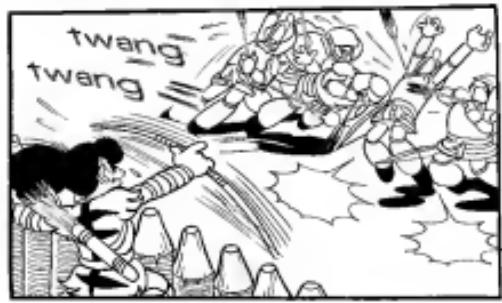
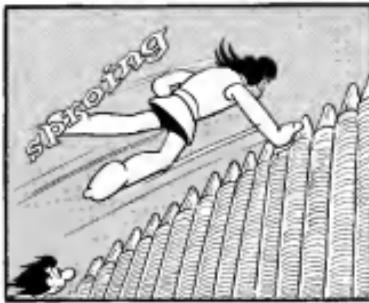
NO...NO...NO!



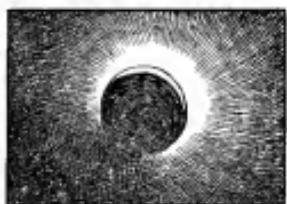






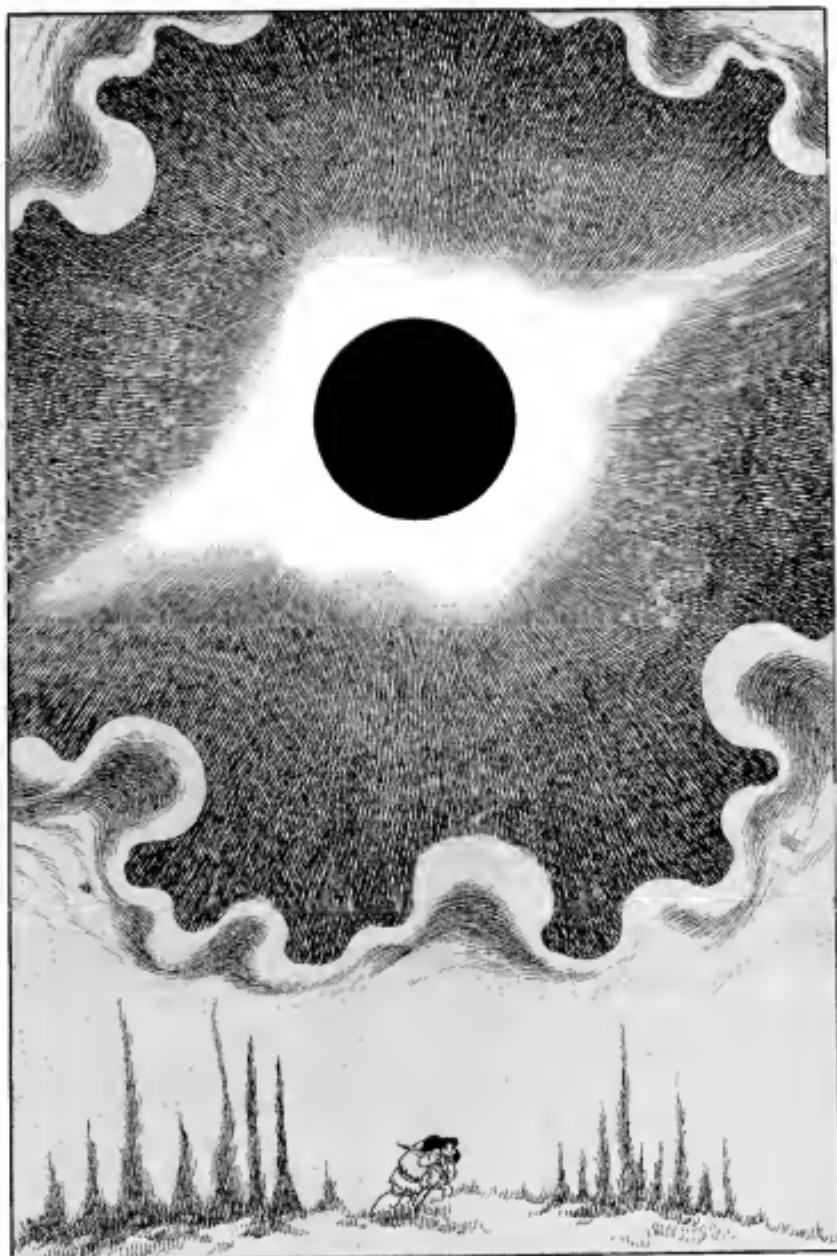






THE SUN BECAME SMALLER AND SMALLER, UNTIL IT APPEARED AS A TREMBLING SLIVER SHEDDING A DARK CRIMSON LIGHT ON THE EARTH. SHADOWS OF THE LIVING GRADUALLY WEAKENED AS NAGI WALKED THROUGH THE GRASS, TREES, MOUNTAINS, AND RIVERS FROZEN IN SLEEP.  
AS HE WALKED EVER NORTHWARD...

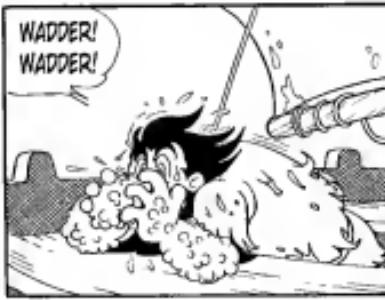






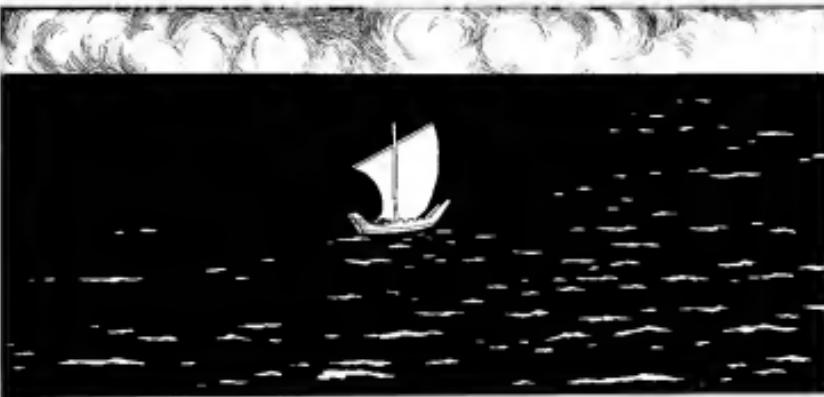






SARLIA'S  
PROBABLY  
ALL  
RIGHT.



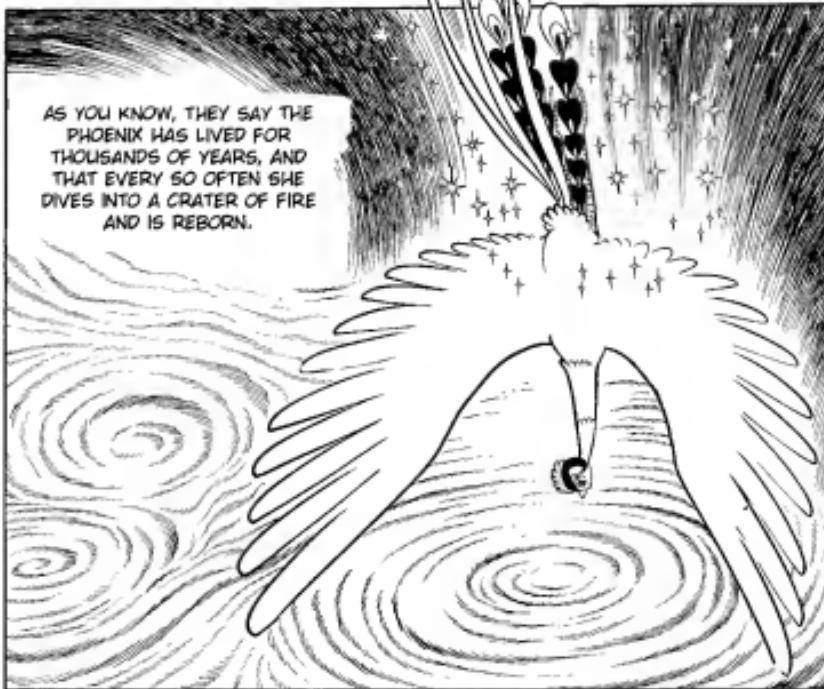






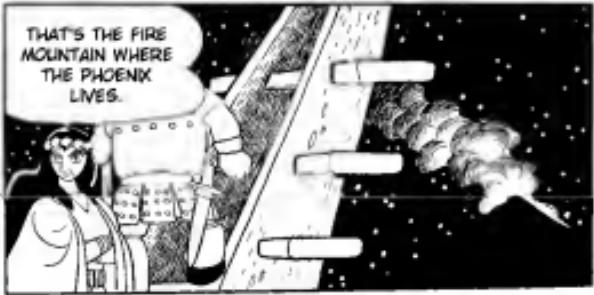












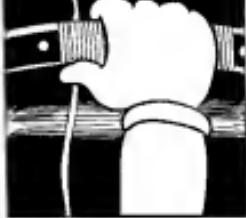




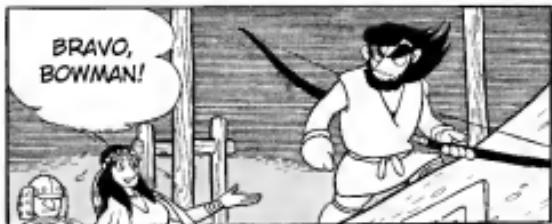
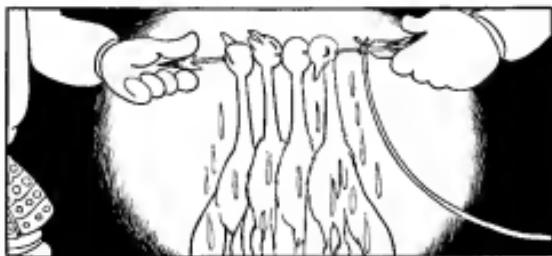
CHIRP  
CHEEP



WHOOSH



SPLASH



LOOK AT THE  
LIGHTS ON  
THE SEA,  
SARUTA.

THEY'VE  
FINALLY  
COME FOR  
US!

I'LL STAY  
HERE  
AND  
HOLD  
THEM  
OFF.

YOU ESCAPE  
TO THE  
MOUNTAIN.

NO,  
SARUTA,  
YOU'VE GOT  
TO COME  
TOO!

IT'S...  
HEE  
HEE  
HEE!

GO AHEAD  
AND  
LAUGH!

SOAKING IT IN  
WATER MADE THE  
PAIN GO AWAY, SO  
WHO CARES WHAT IT  
LOOKS LIKE!

ACCORDING TO JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY, AS THE GOD NINIGI NO MIKOTO DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN, HE MET THE STRANGE GOD SARUTA HIKO NO MIKOTO. SARUTA HIKO NO MIKOTO IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE ANCESTOR OF THE TENGU, A UNIQUE GOBLIN OF JAPAN WITH AN AWESOMELY LONG NOSE. IN PAINTINGS, THE TENGU IS OFTEN DEPICTED AS AN ASCETIC, AND ALTHOUGH HIS LONG-NOSED COUNTENANCE APPEARS VERY STERN, IT BEARS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO THAT OF THE PROBOSCIS MONKEY THAT LIVES IN BORNEO. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE ANCESTORS OF THE PRESENT JAPANESE, WHO IN ANCIENT TIMES MIGRATED FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC, MADE THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THIS MONKEY INTO THE TENGU.

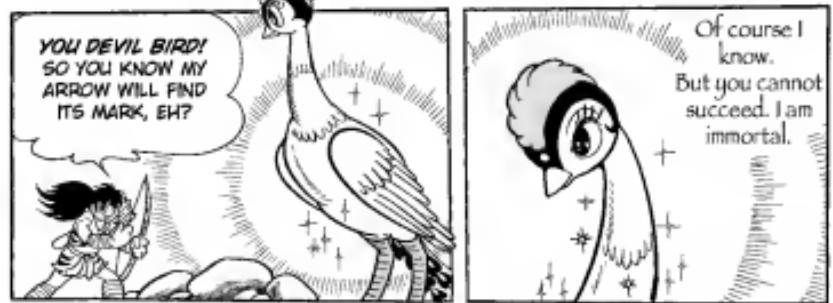
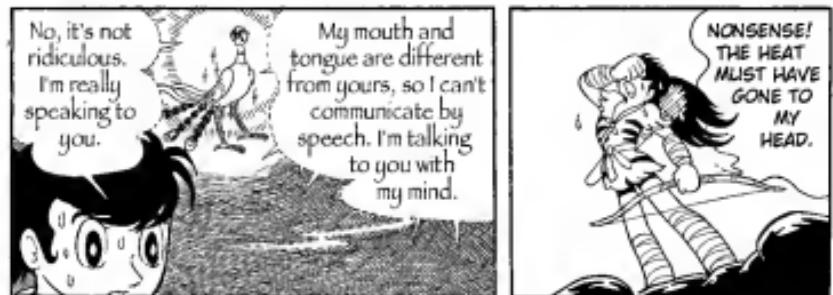


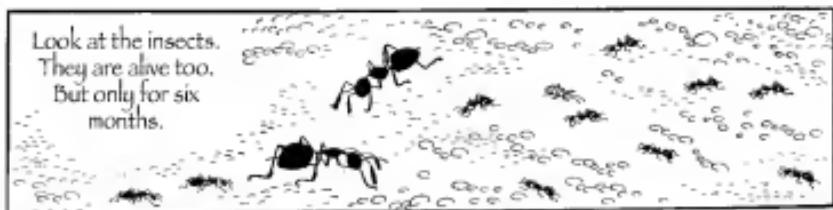












In the life  
bestowed them  
by nature...



...insects grow,  
eat, mate, lay  
eggs, and die  
satisfied.

Men live  
longer than  
the insects,  
dogs, cats,  
or monkeys.

If they  
realize the  
joy of living  
in the life  
they have...

...isn't that  
happiness?



I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE  
TALKING  
ABOUT...

BUT THIS I  
KNOW FOR  
SURE, I'M  
GOING TO  
SHOOT YOU!



Nagi, if you  
refuse to  
understand, you  
must die too!

I'LL DRINK  
YOUR  
BLOOD  
BEFORE I  
DO!

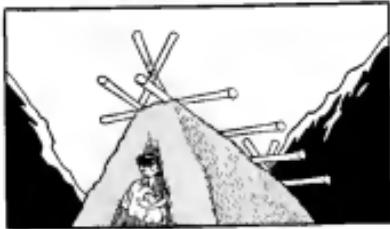
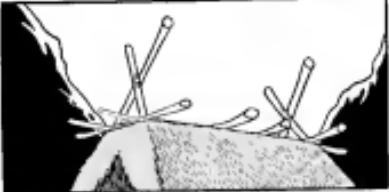


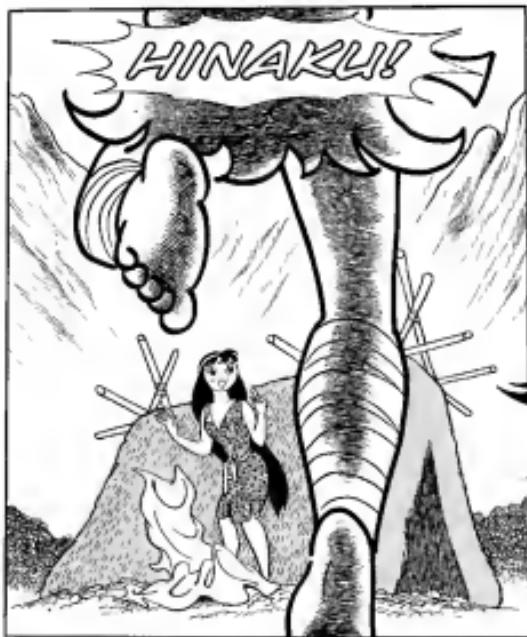










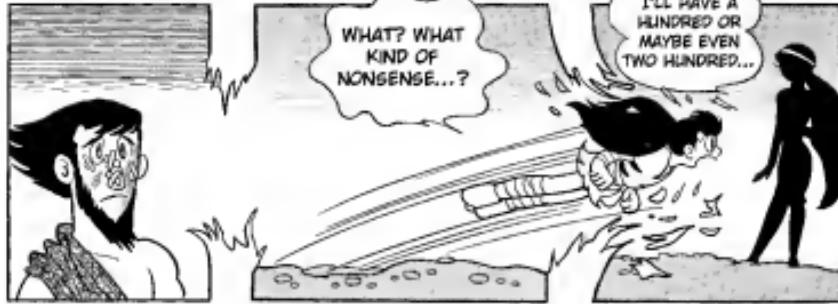


NAGI! YOU'RE...  
YOU'RE ALL  
RIGHT!



HINAKU, YOU'RE  
A FOOL! WHY  
ARE LIVING WITH  
EM DEE?





I DECIDED TO  
REMAKE THE  
VILLAGE BY HAVING  
AS MANY CHILDREN  
AS...AS IS  
POSSIBLE...

I'LL HAVE A  
HUNDRED OR  
MAYBE EVEN  
TWO HUNDRED...

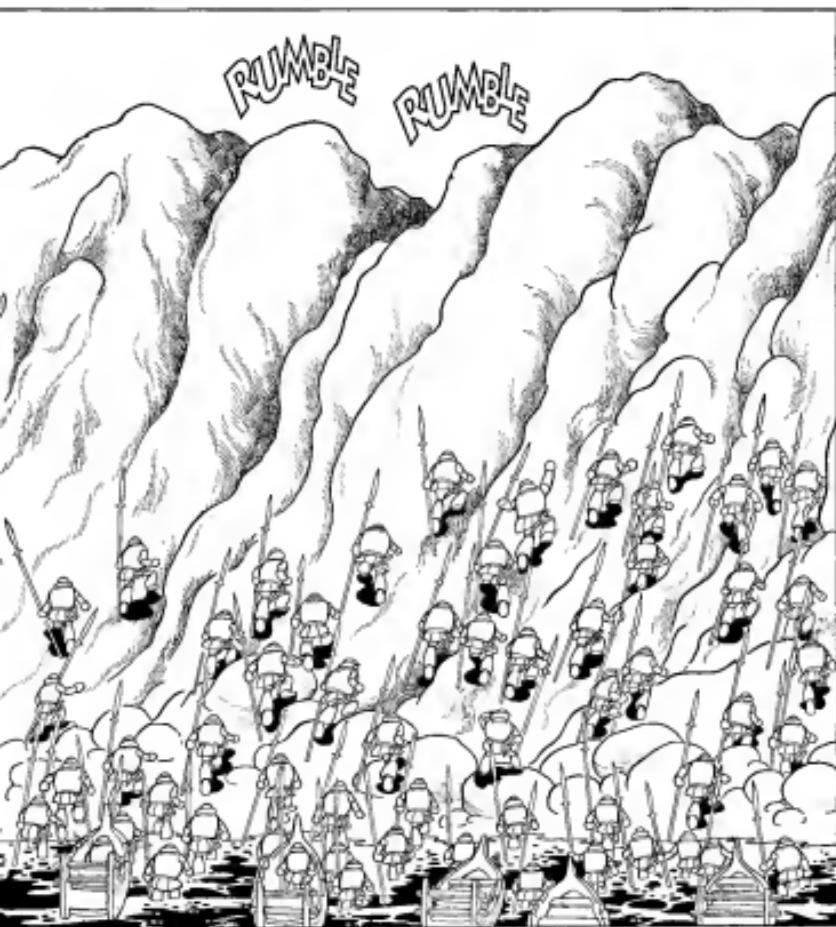


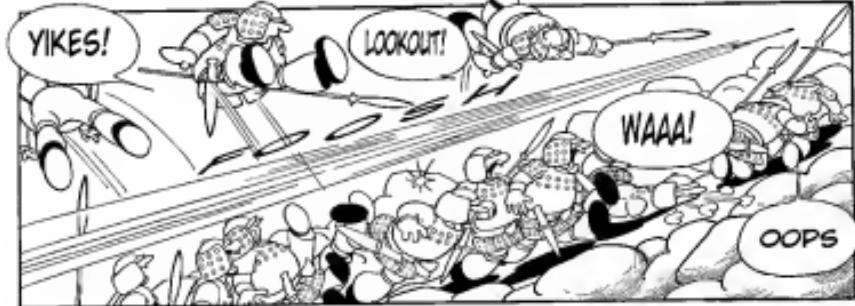


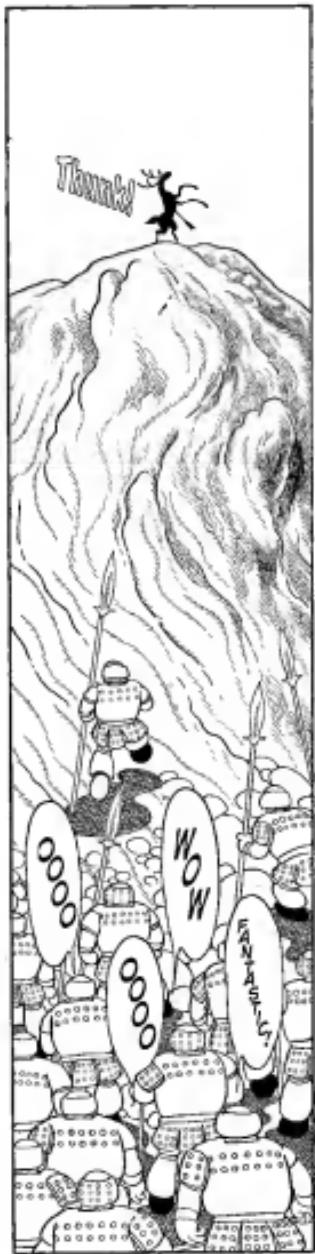


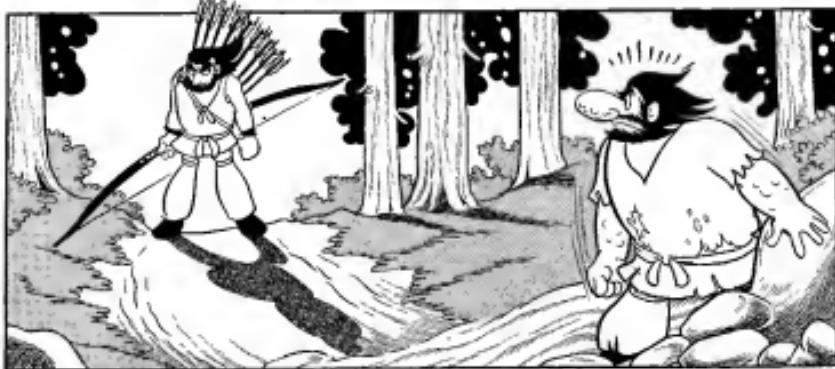
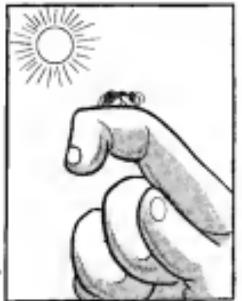








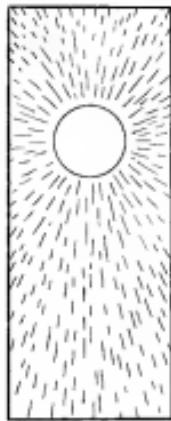
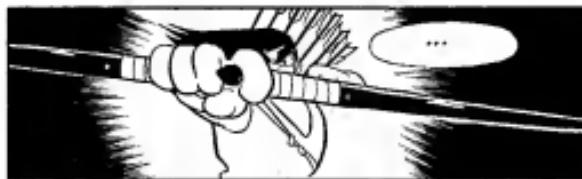














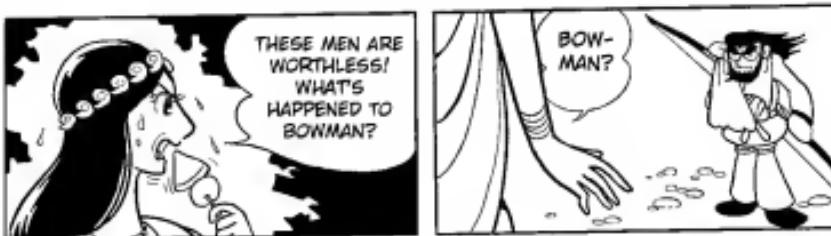
ZAP















So the humans have finally come.

How foolish they are! They don't even know this mountain is about to explode in fire!

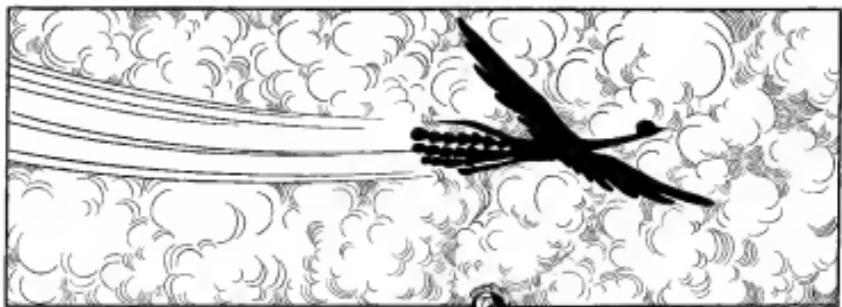


SO WHERE'S THE PHOENIX?

AHHH! THERE'S THE CRATER ALREADY!

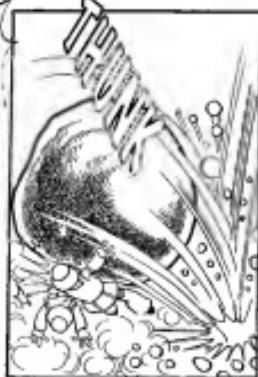


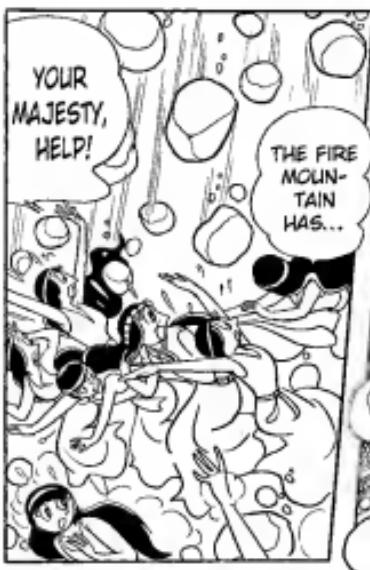
WATCH OUT! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!



**KA-BOOM**

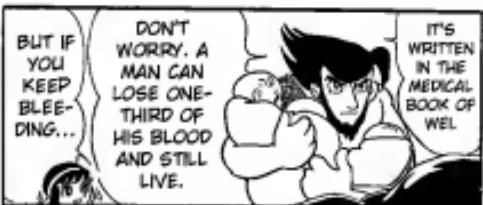






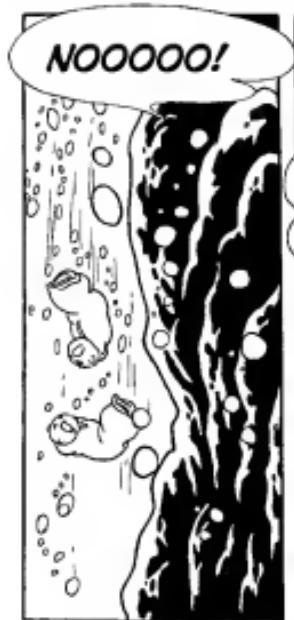


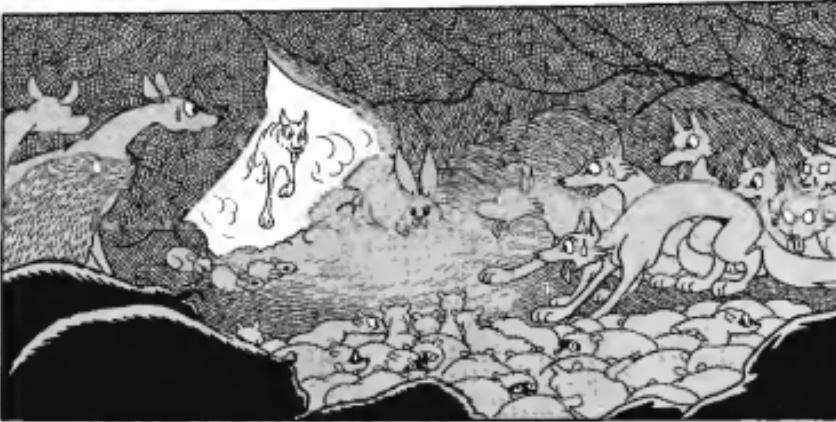
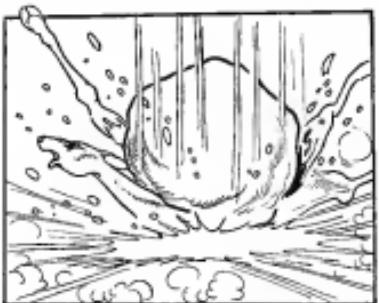


















AS SUPER-HEATED VOLCANO VAPORS ROSE INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, FORMING RAIN CLOUDS, THUNDER BOomed AND TORRENTIAL RAINS FELL, ONLY TO MEET THE BOILING LAVA AND BE SENT STEAMING SKYWARD AGAIN...A BATTLE BETWEEN FIRE AND WATER THAT HAS BEEN REPEATED FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS.....

SHAM

SHAM

HISS

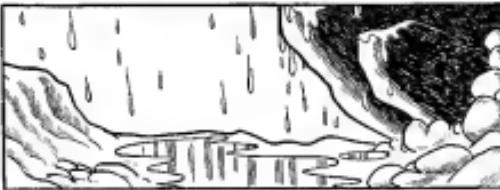


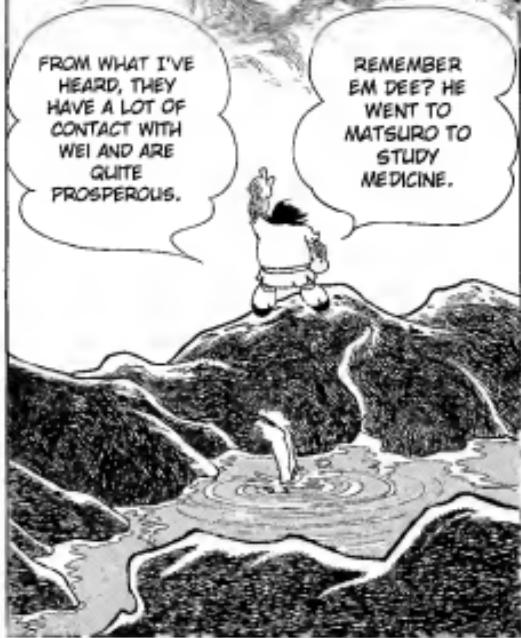




IF YOU'RE GOING  
TO CRY,  
SAVE YOUR  
STRENGTH TO  
MAKE MILK FOR  
THE BABIES.  
UNDERSTAND?





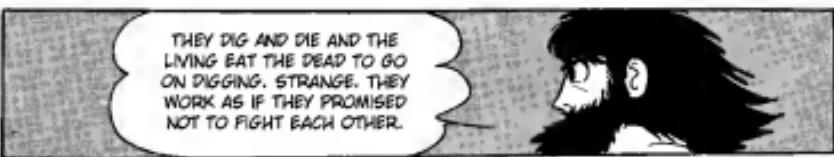






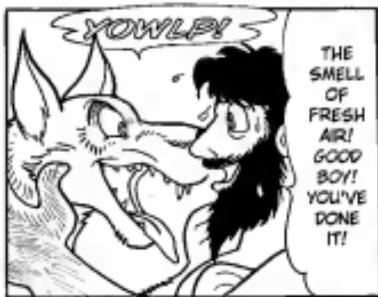




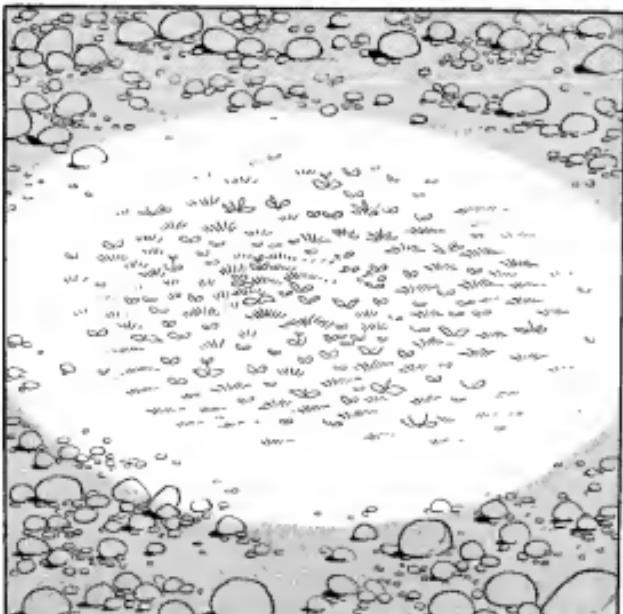
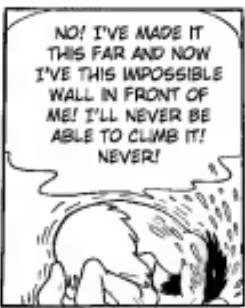


D. WHAT??











EM DEE STUFFED HIS MOUTH, CHEWED AND SWALLOWED, THEN REPEATED THE PROCESS AGAIN.

THE LIGHT SHONE THROUGH THE OPENING OVERHEAD, BATHING EM DEE AND THE CRATER FLOOR IN ITS WARM RAYS, AND SEEMED TO CALL FORTH A NEW STRENGTH, A NEW WILL TO SURVIVE.

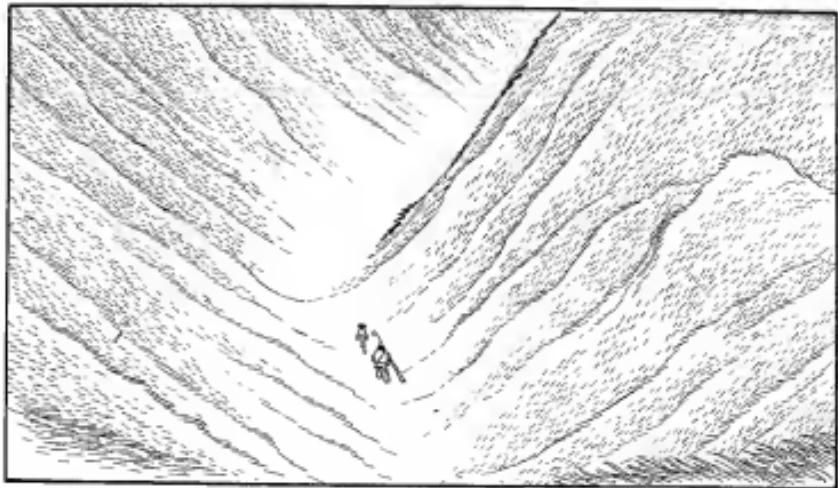




BY SOME STRANGE TWIST OF FATE, BOWMAN, IN SEARCH OF THE PHOENIX, SAT SILENTLY WAITING FOR DAYS ON END ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE PIT IN WHICH EM DEE WAS TRAPPED.

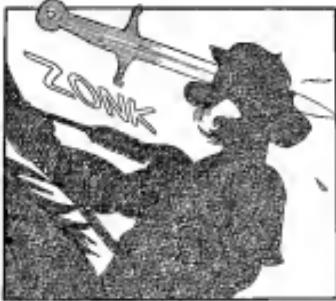


AND AT THE SAME TIME ANOTHER HUNTER OF THE PHOENIX WAS FLEEING FROM THE FIRE MOUNTAIN TO THE NORTH... NAGI.

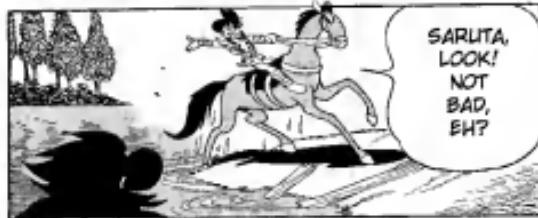




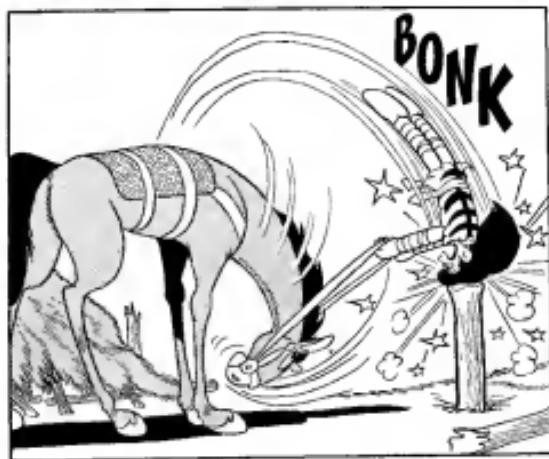




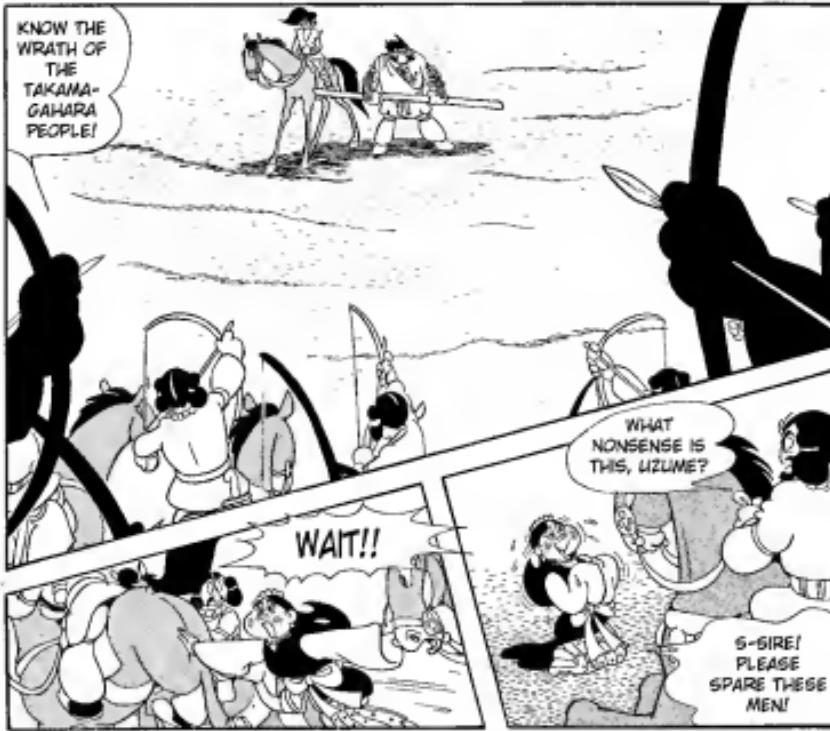


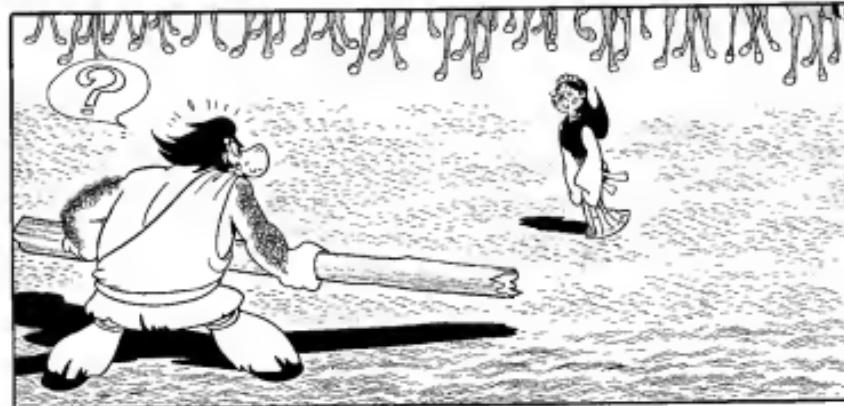


ORIGINALLY THERE WERE NO HORSES ON THE ISLANDS THAT COMPRIZE JAPAN. THEY WERE ANIMALS FROM THE CONTINENT AND WERE BROUGHT OVER LATER BY MEN—PROBABLY MONGOLS, WHO HAD USED THEM FOR THEIR MANY INVASIONS ON THE PLAINS OF ASIA. THESE HORSEMEN CROSSED OVER FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA TO THE TSUSHIMA SANI AND NORTHERN KYUSHU AREAS OF JAPAN.













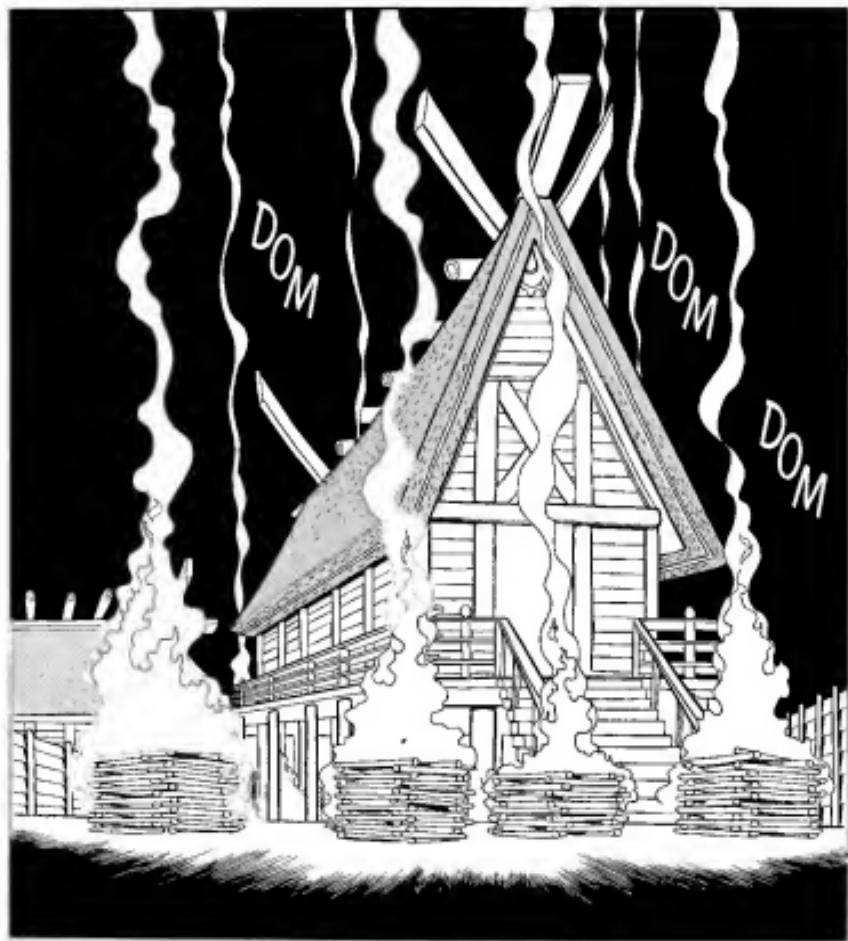


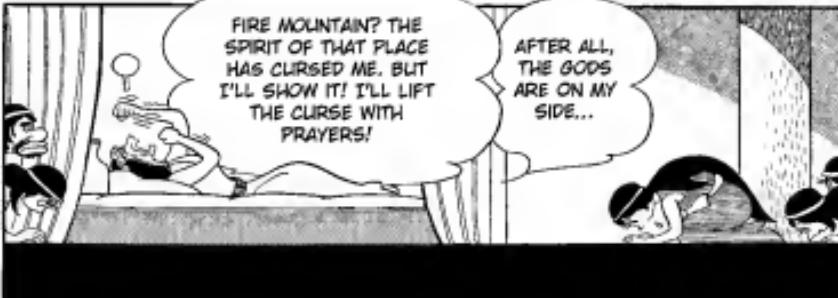
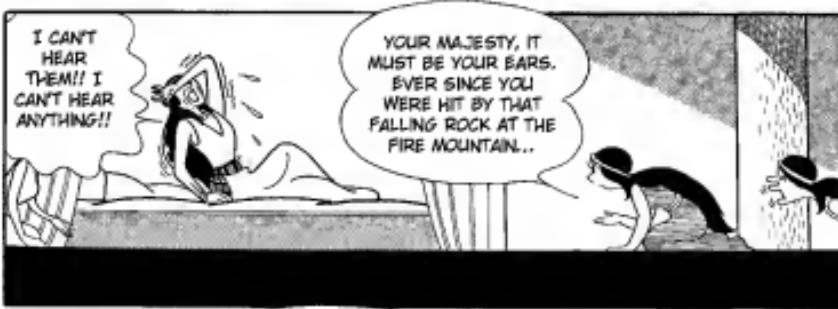
WHO WAS NINIGI AND HIS BAND?

SCHOLARS THEORIZE THAT THE TAKAMAGAHARA PEOPLE WERE A MOUNTED TRIBE—A HORSEBACK NATION—that was active in the regions of northern China and Mongolia from the third to the fifth century A.D., and that they came through the Korean Peninsula in large numbers to invade the islands of Japan. The native inhabitants were subdued one by one and eventually the state of Yamato was established with Emperor Jimmu as its head.

ACCORDING TO JAPANESE MYTHOLOGY, NINIGI WAS A GOD WHO DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN TO MOUNT TAKACHIHO, BUT IN REALITY HE WAS PROBABLY CHIEF OF A NOMADIC TRIBE.

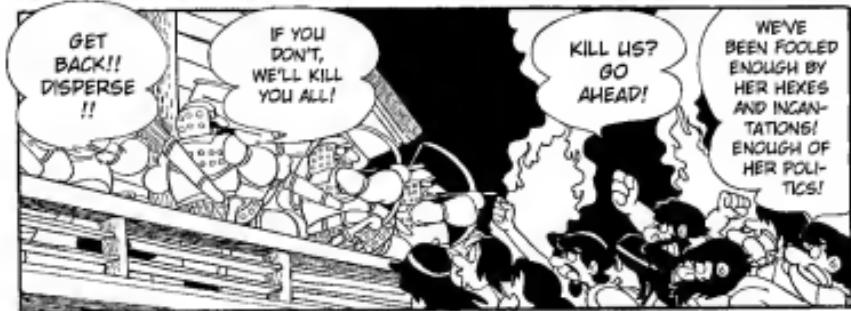
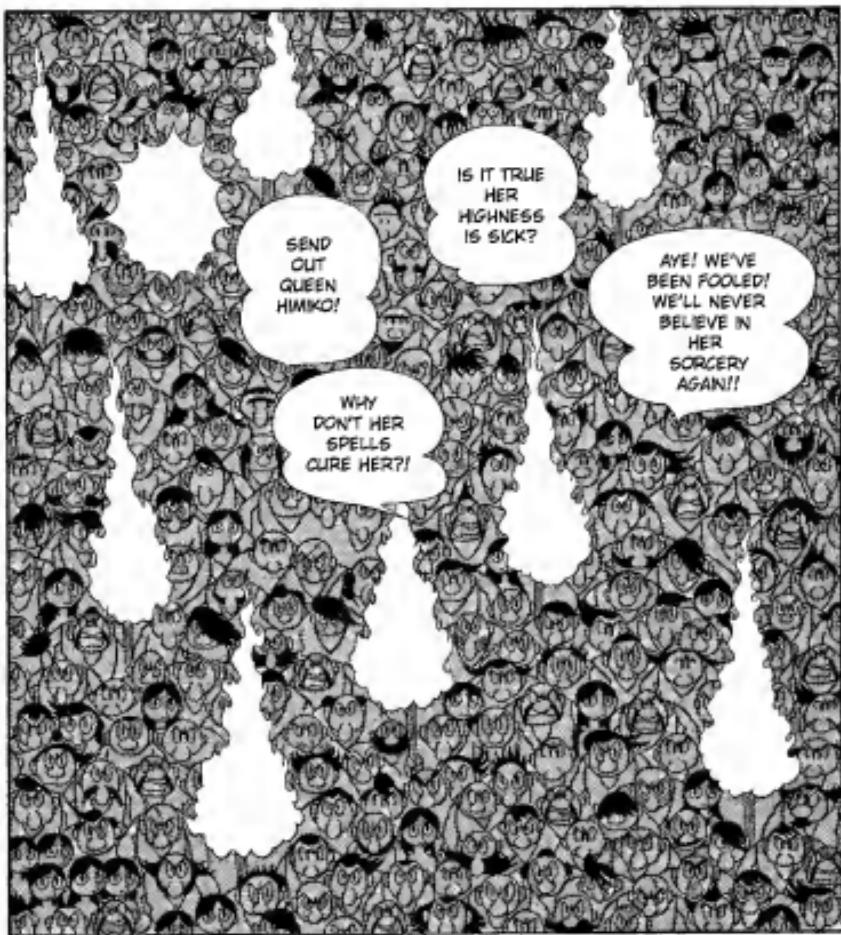


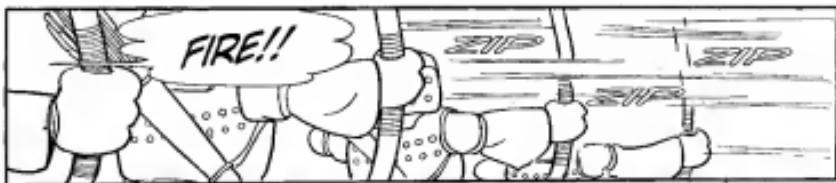


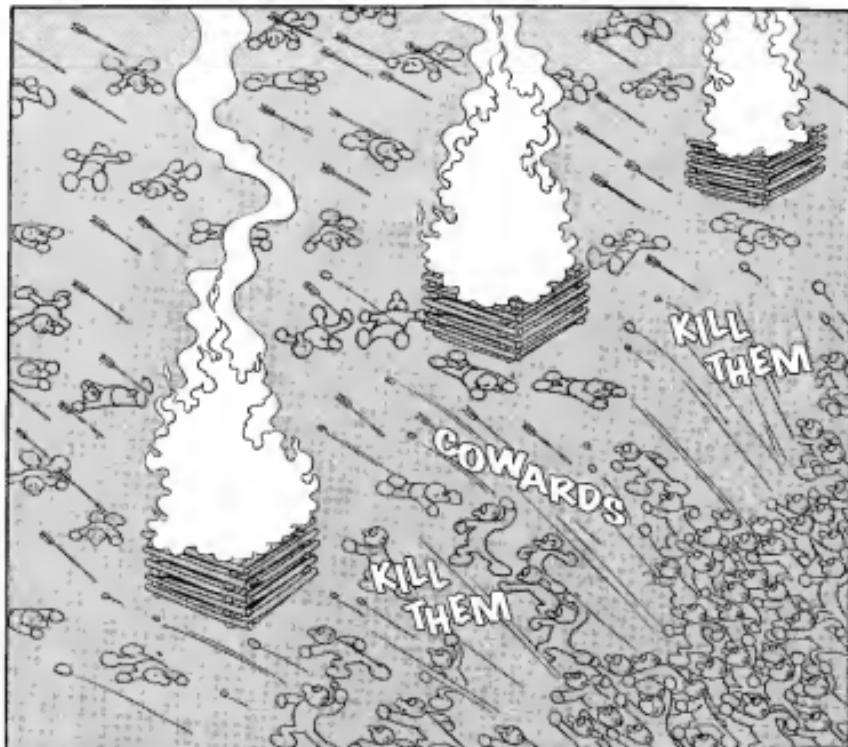














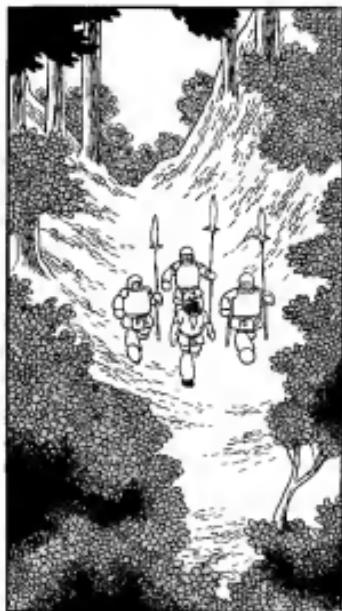






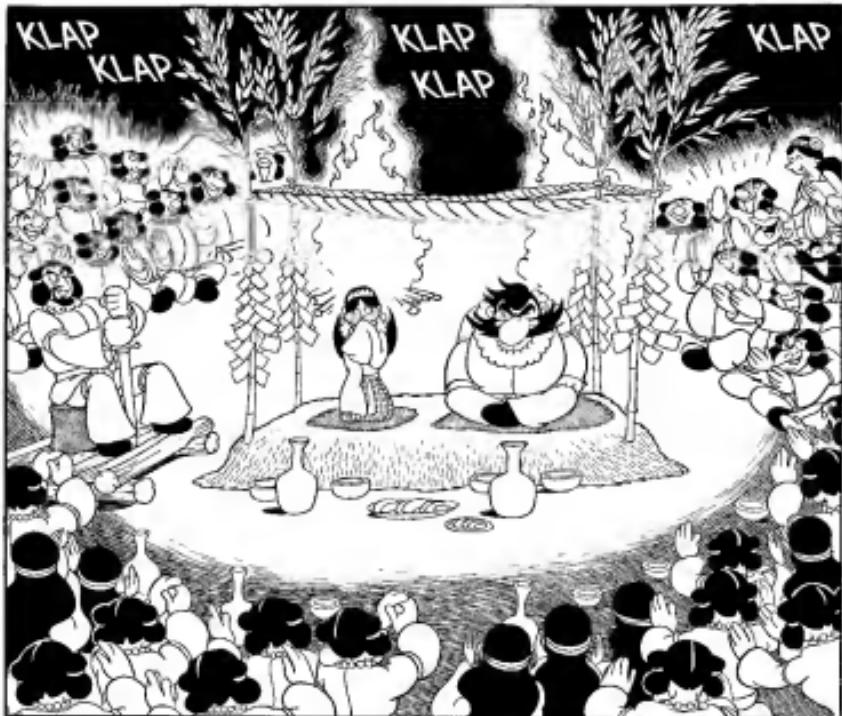






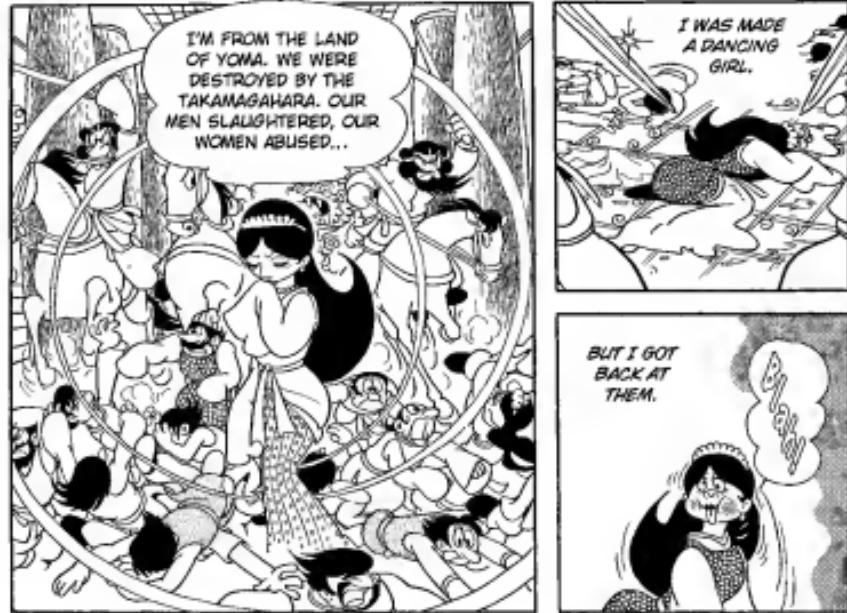










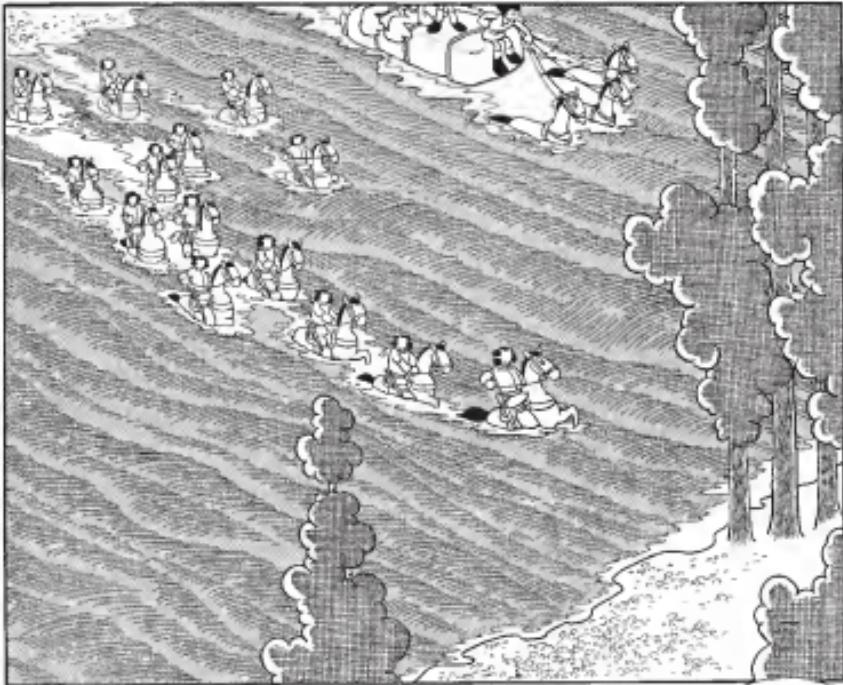




AS I TRAVELED WITH THEM, I HOPED I'D FIND SOME KIND OF HAPPINESS.



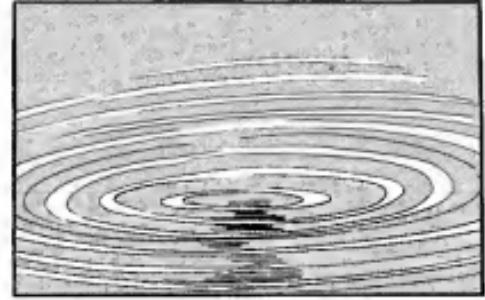
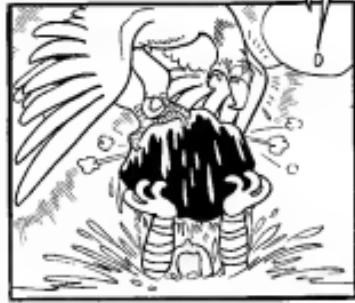
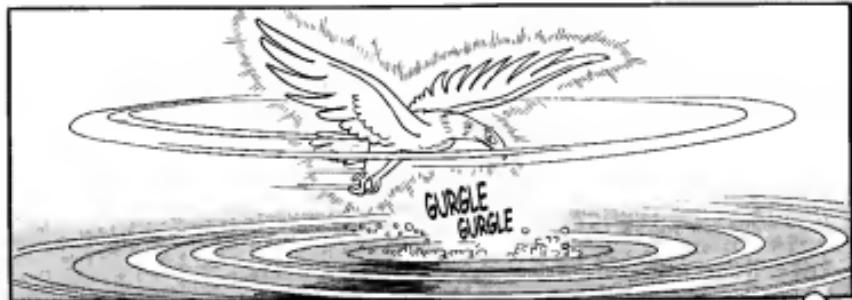








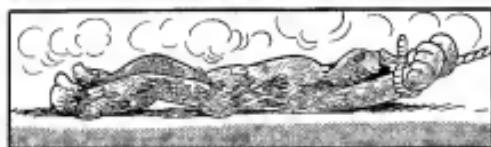




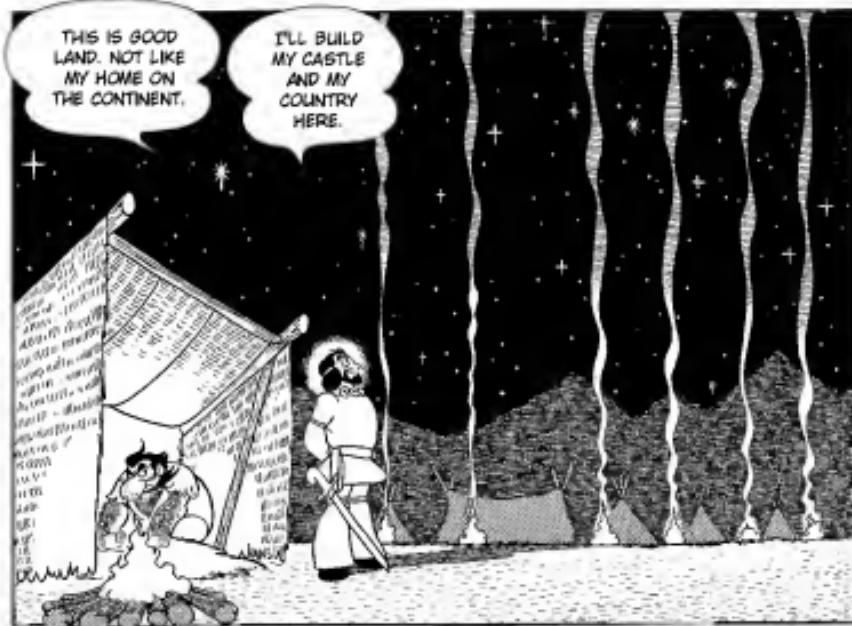


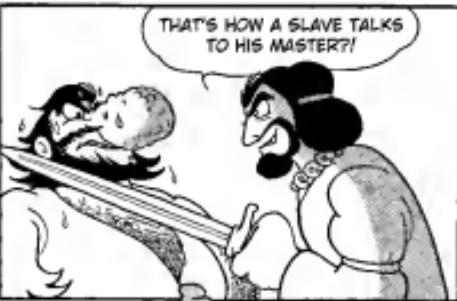






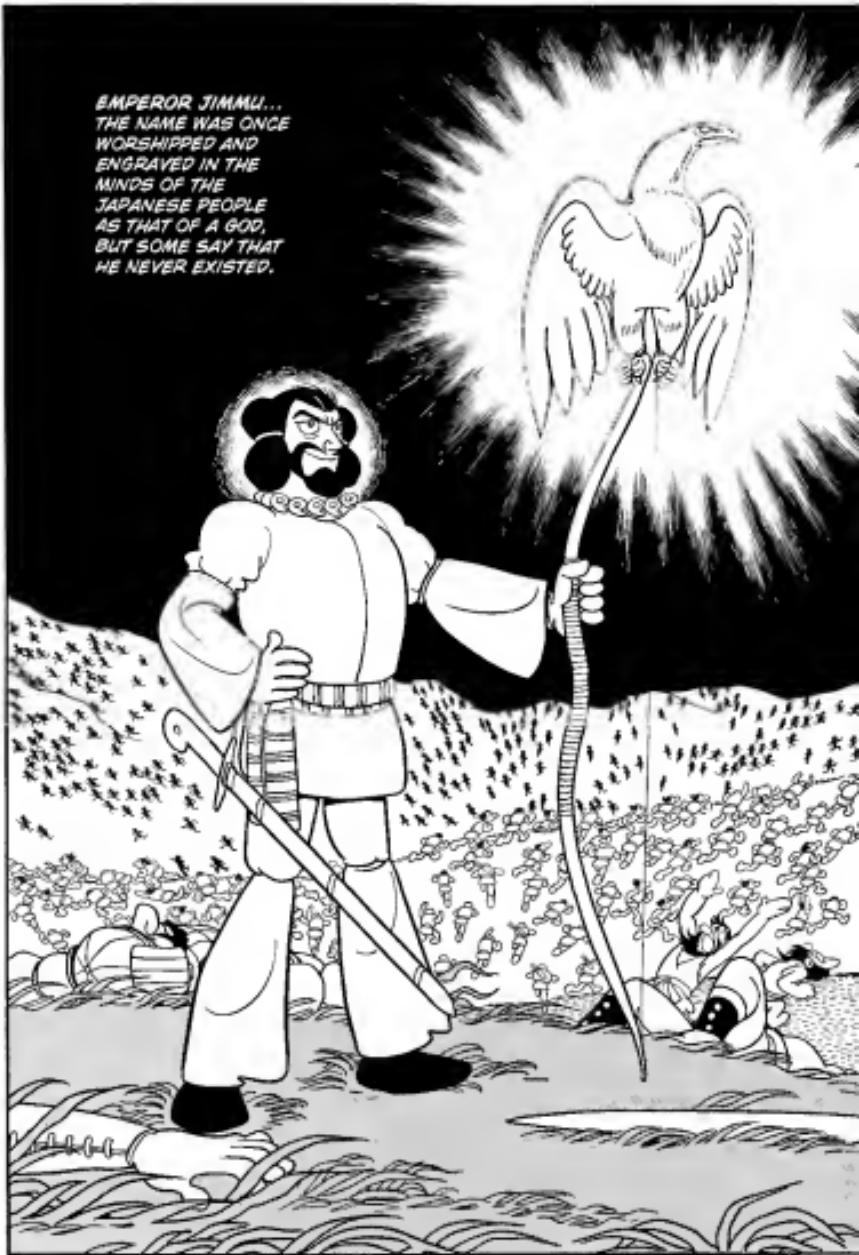








EMPEROR JIMMU...  
THE NAME WAS ONCE  
WORSHIPPED AND  
ENGRAVED IN THE  
MINDS OF THE  
JAPANESE PEOPLE  
AS THAT OF A GOD,  
BUT SOME SAY THAT  
HE NEVER EXISTED.

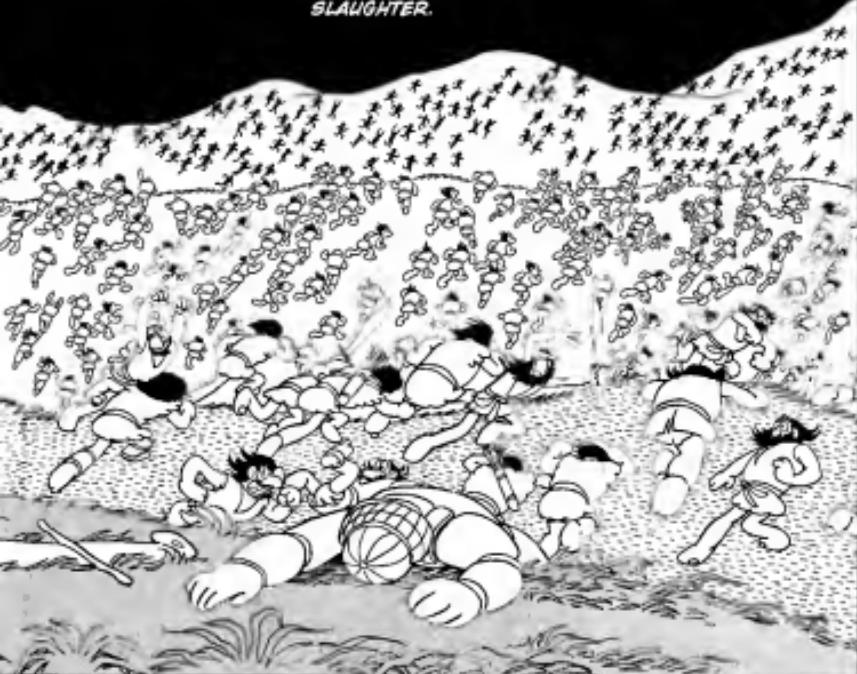


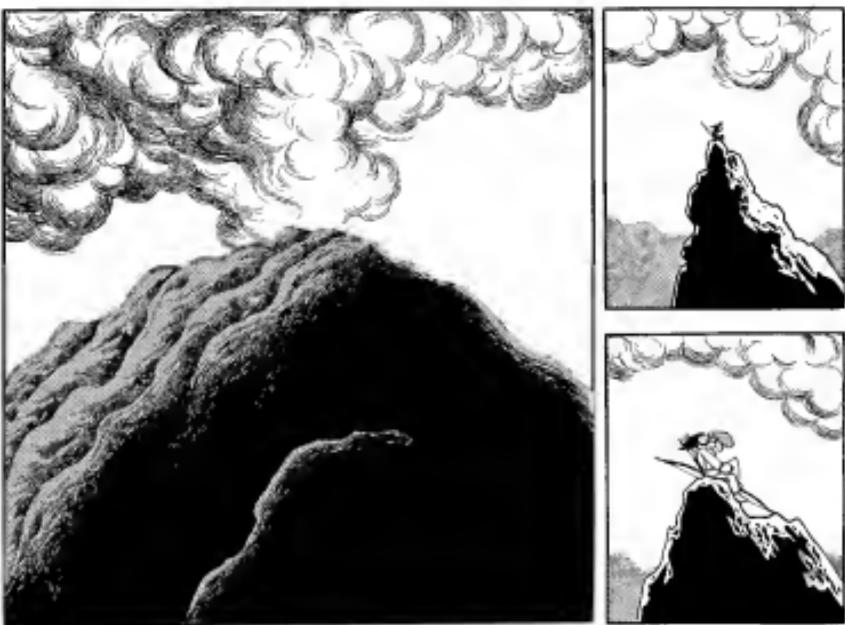
IT APPEARS THAT JIMMU AND THE TEN EMPERORS THAT FOLLOWED HIM WERE FICTIONAL, CREATED IN THE AGE OF EMPEROR SUJIN. ACCORDINGLY, CONSIDERABLE NONSENSE, SUCH AS AN AVERAGE LONGEVITY OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS, WAS ASCRIBED TO THEM.

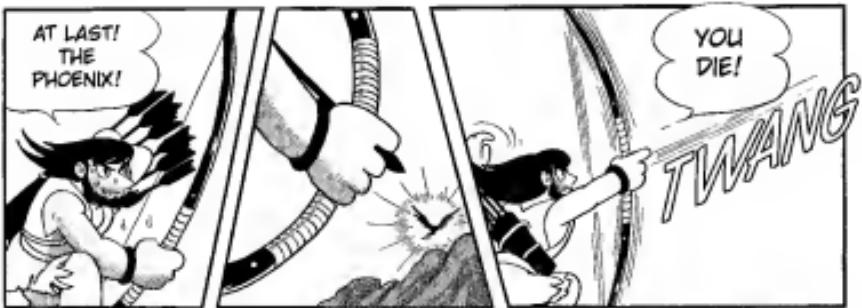
IT IS THEREFORE LOGICAL TO QUESTION WHETHER EMPEROR JIMMU IN REALITY USED A GOLDEN FALCON, SUBDUED HIS ENEMIES, AND CREATED THE FIRST GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IN YAMATO. BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE YAMATO COURT WAS ESTABLISHED BY SOMEONE.

ONE GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACADEMIC THEORY IS THAT A MEMBER OF A MOUNTED TRIBE FROM THE ASIAN CONTINENT DID CONQUER THE NATIVE INHABITANTS OF JAPAN AND BUILT A CAPITAL IN YAMATO.

IN THIS FASHION, JAPAN WAS FORMED AS A NATION THROUGH INVASION, WAR, AND SLAUGHTER.

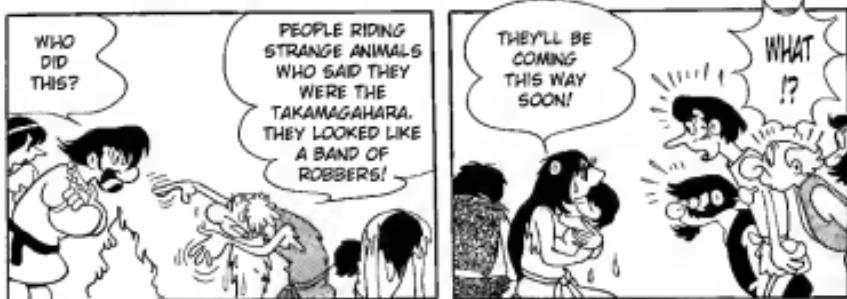




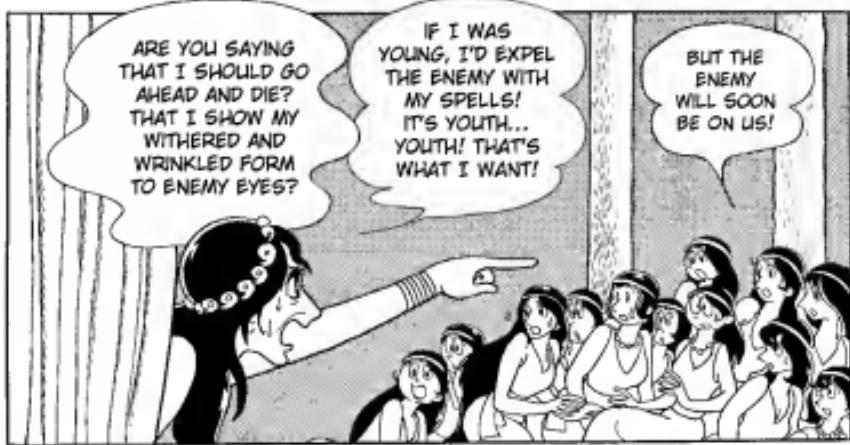


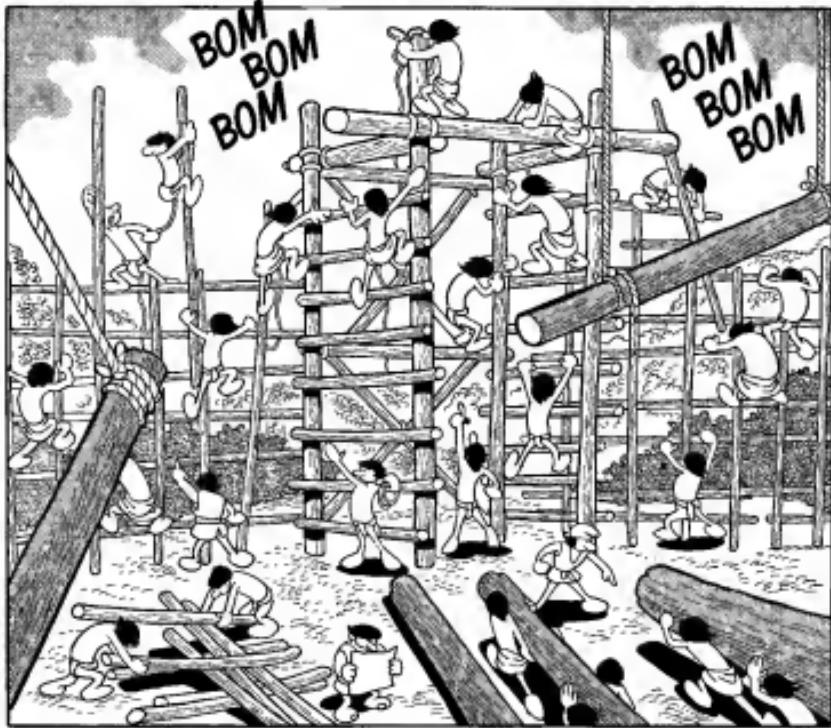








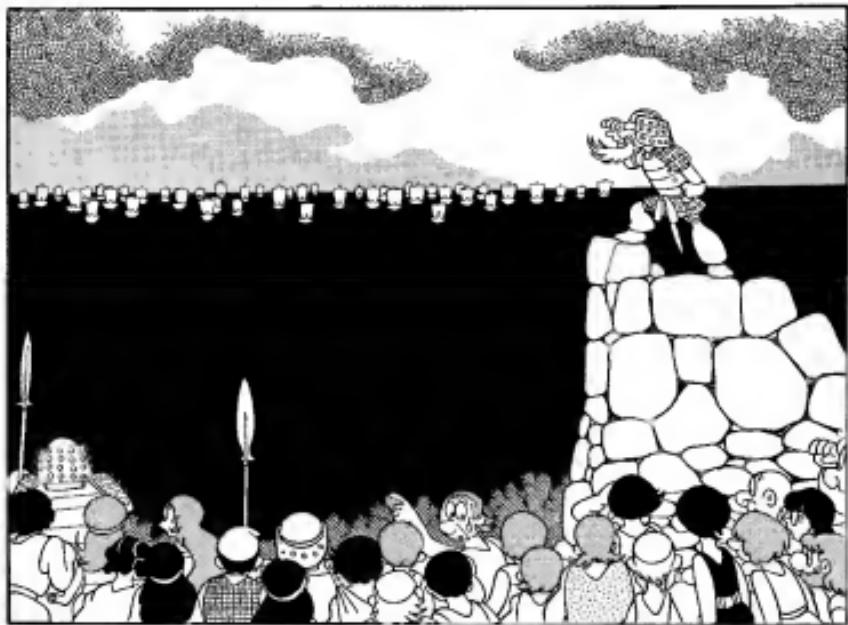


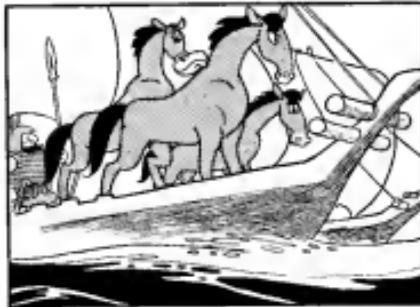


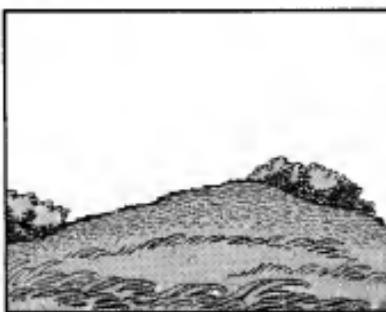
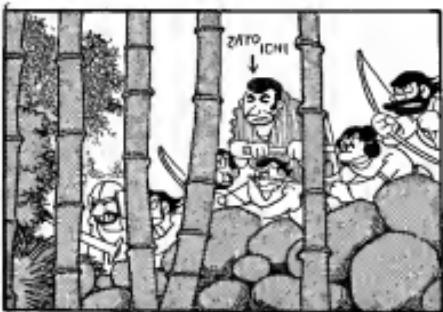
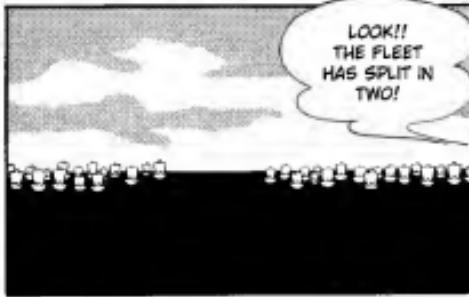


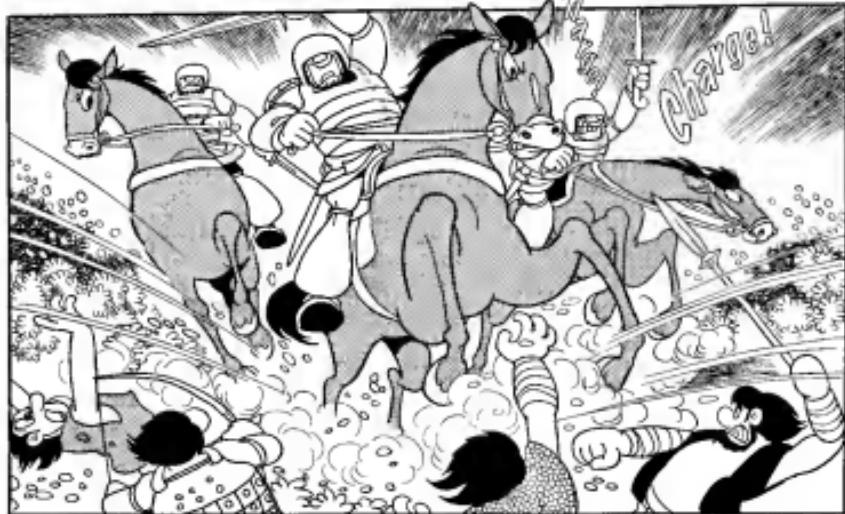
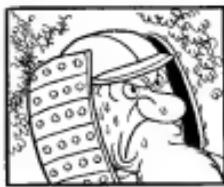


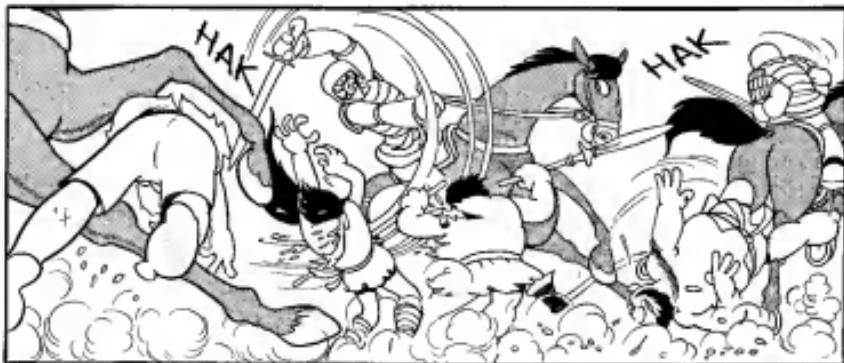




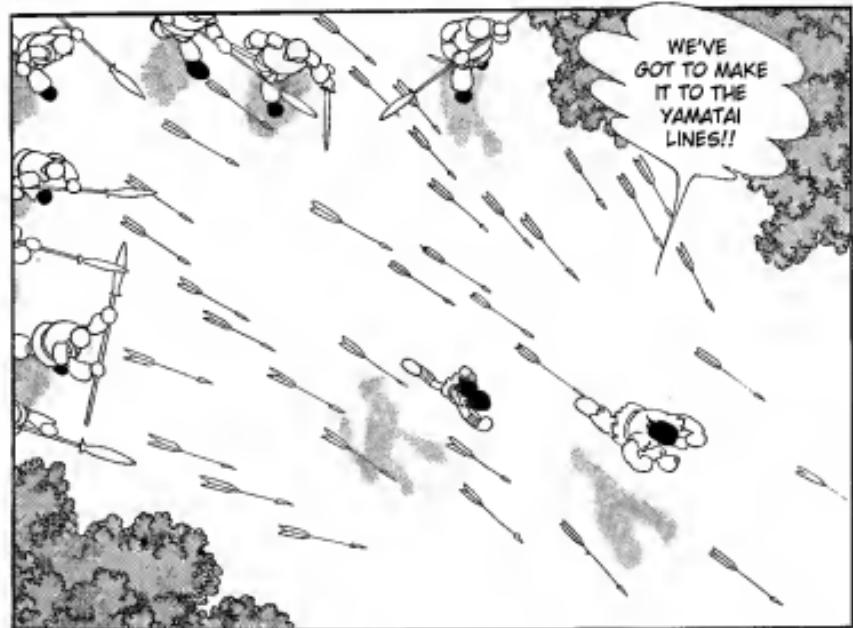


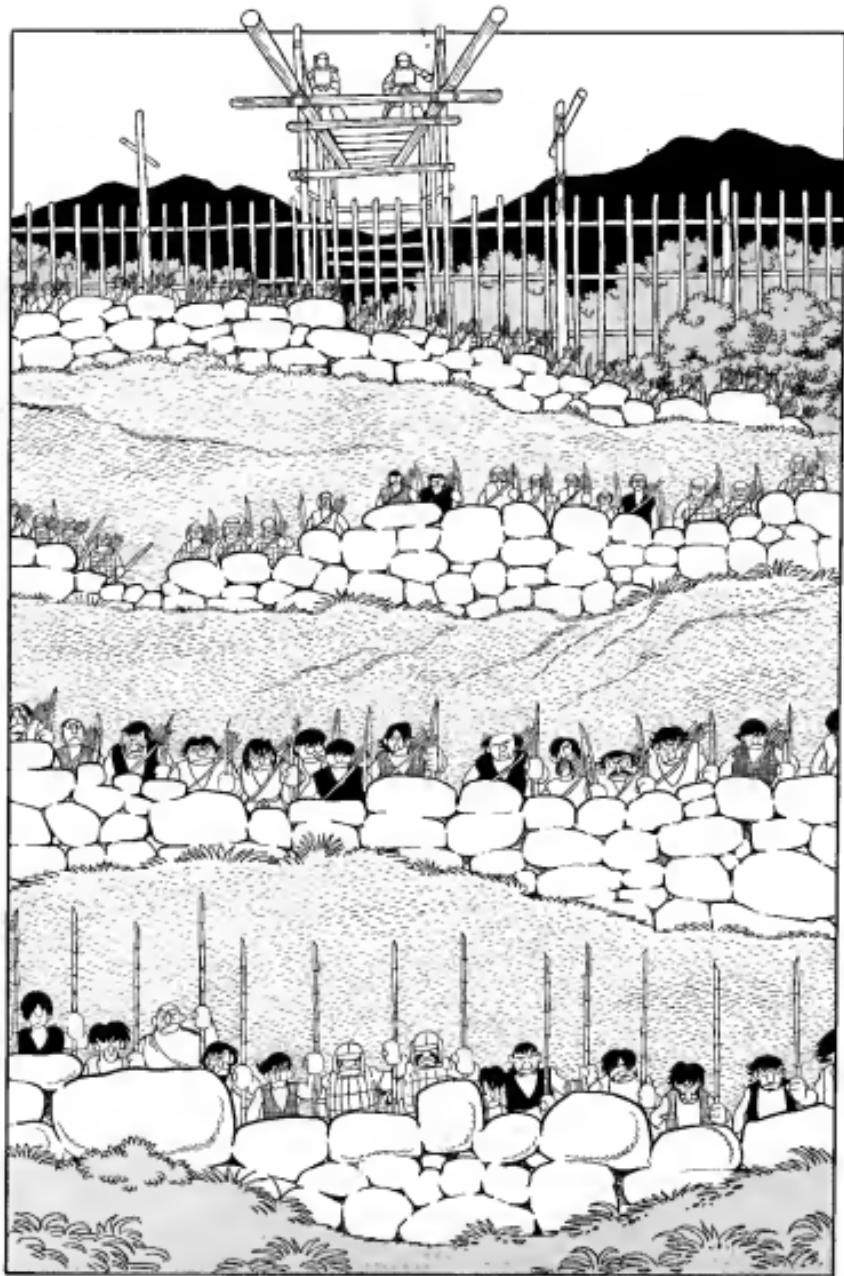


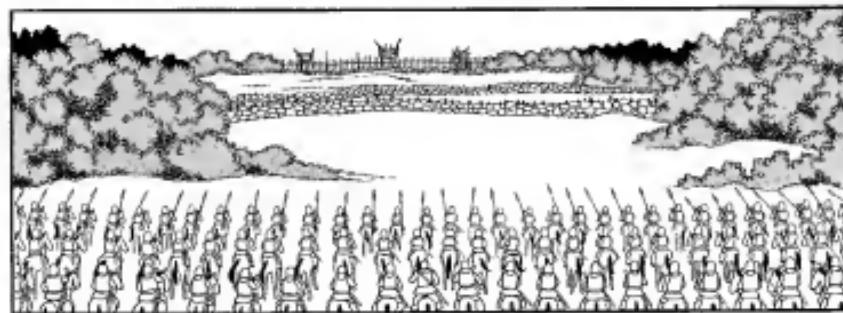
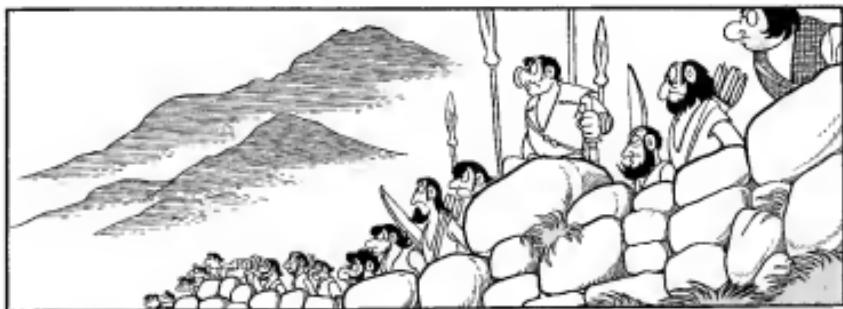


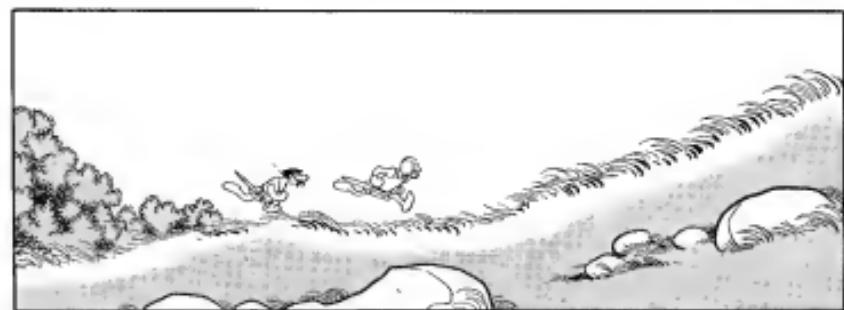
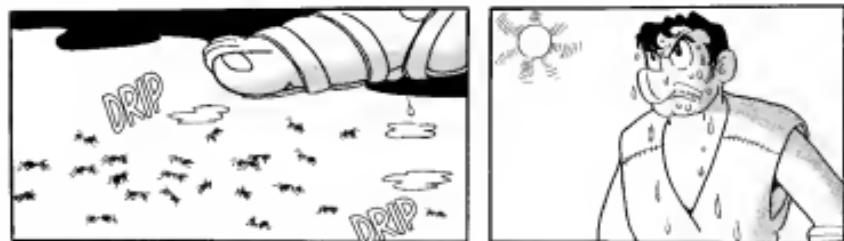






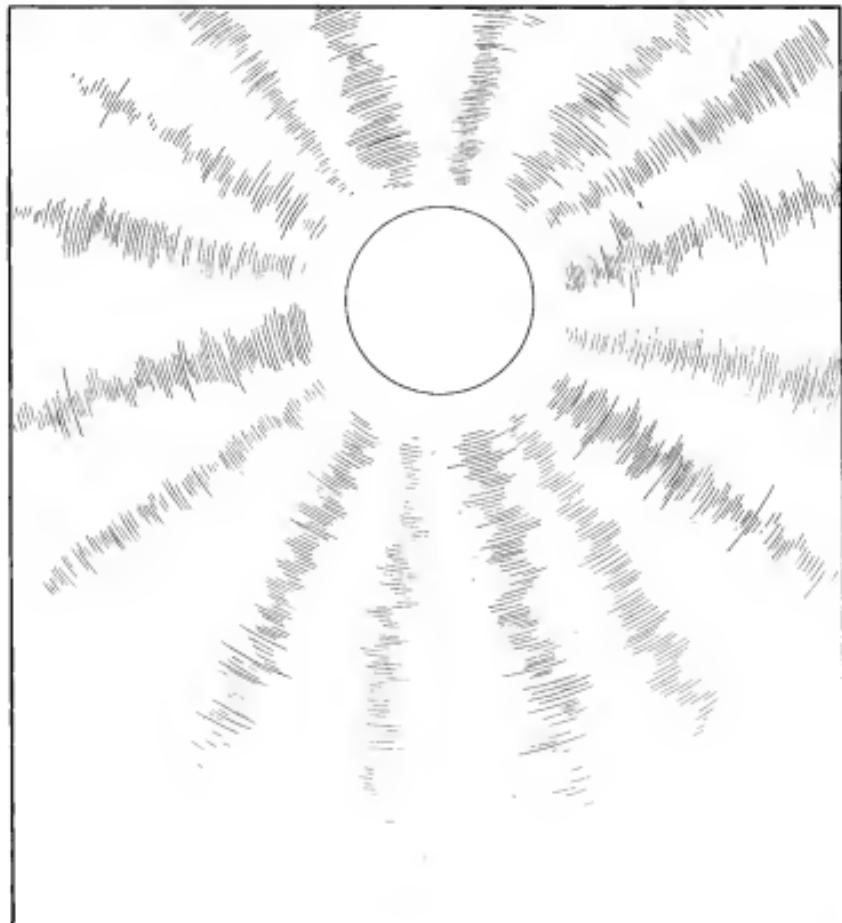






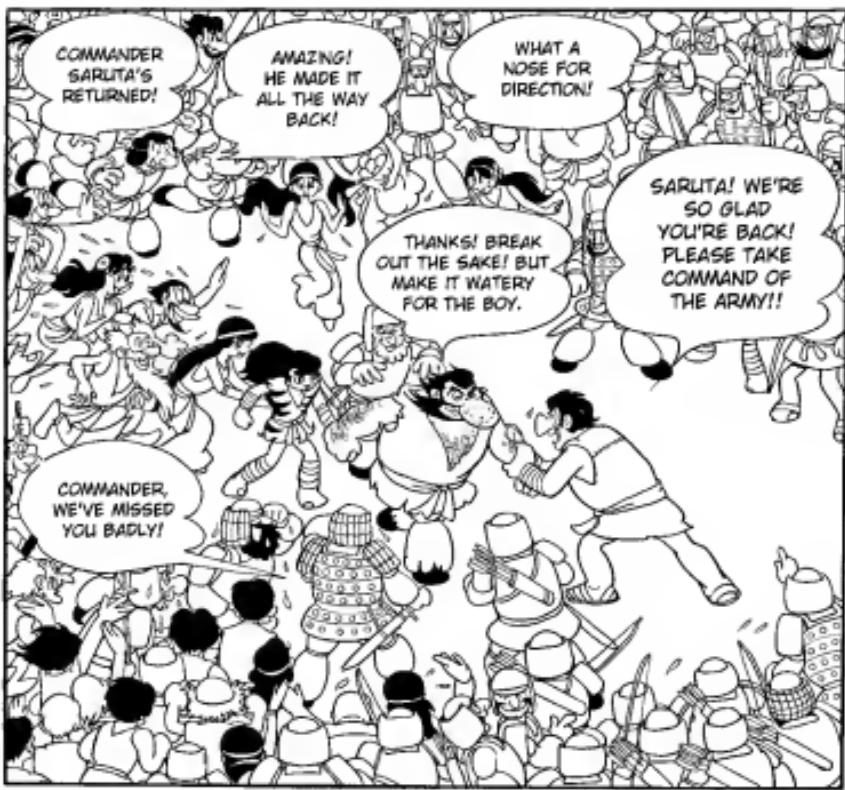


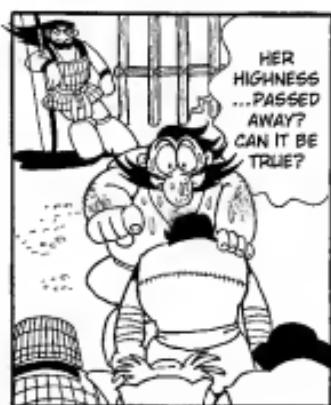
LOOKS  
LIKE  
THEY'LL  
ATTACK  
WHEN  
THE SUN'S  
OVERHEAD.



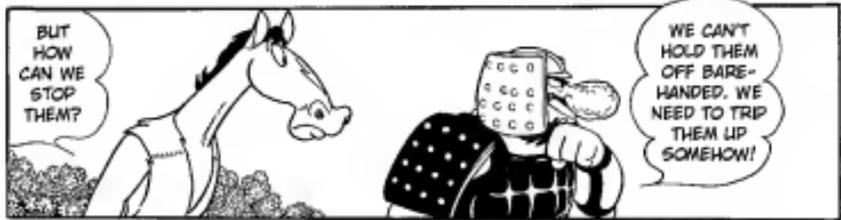








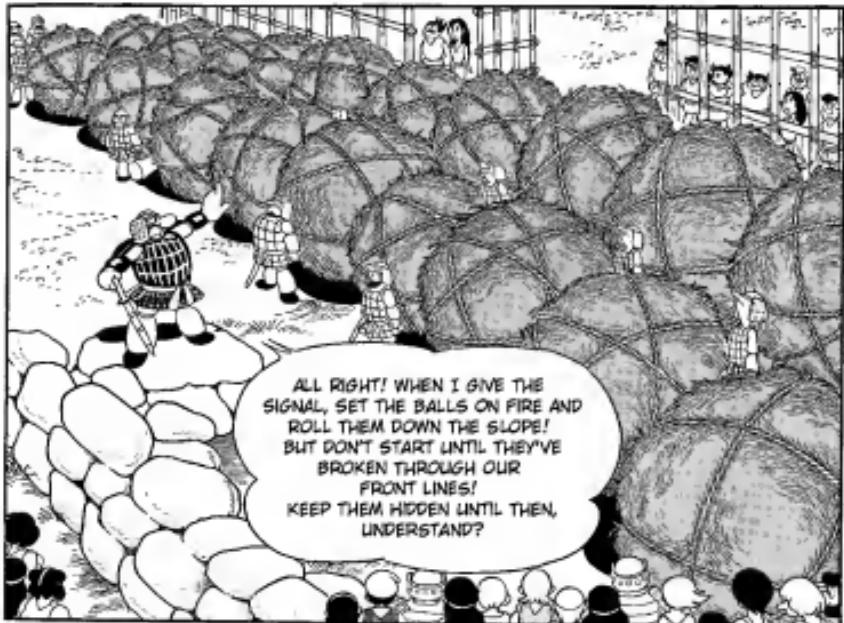
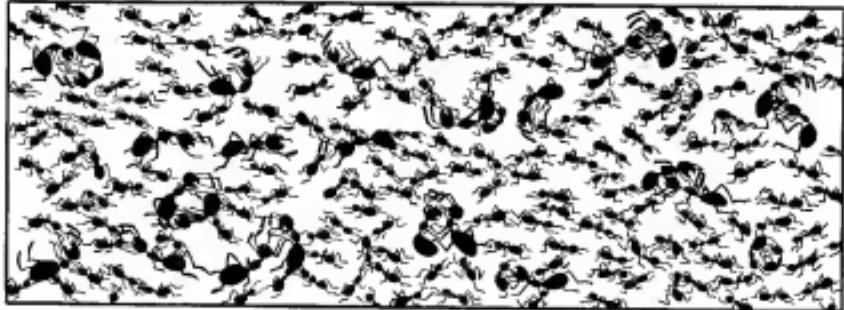


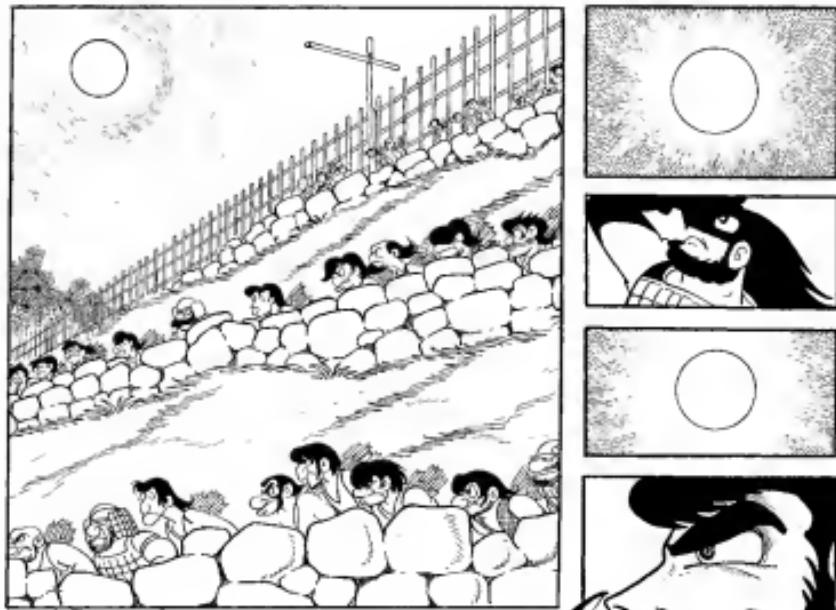










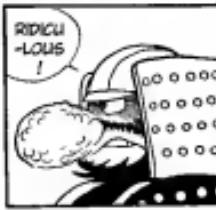




HOW'S IT GOING TO RAIN WITH THE SUN SHINING LIKE THAT?

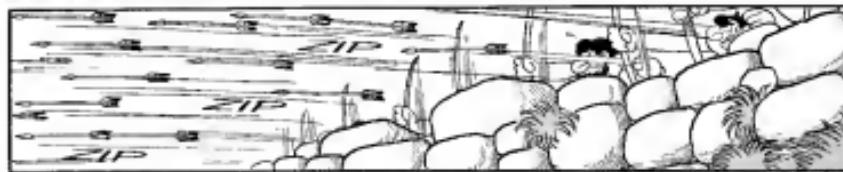


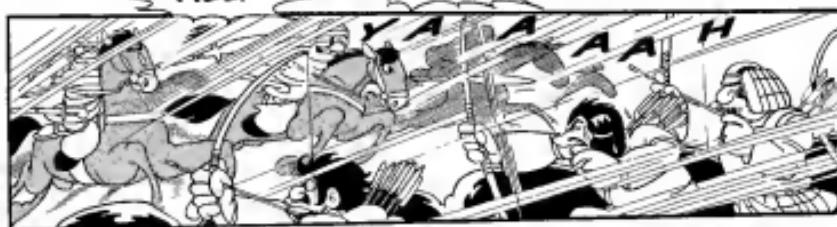
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I KNOW, IT'S WEATHER.



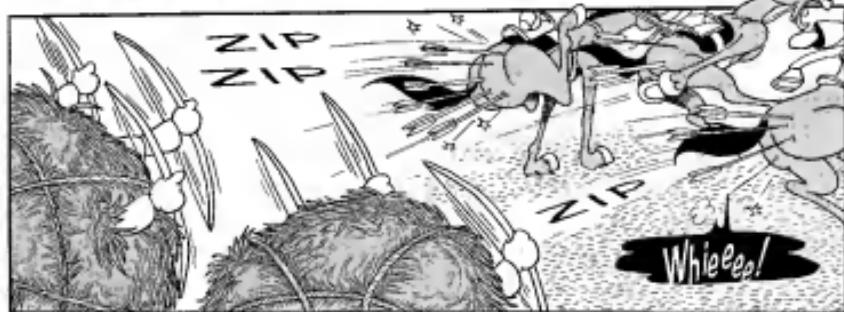
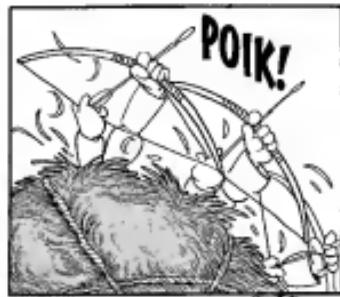


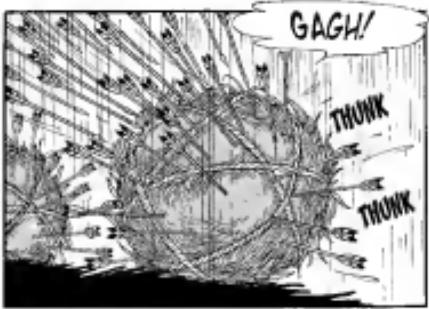


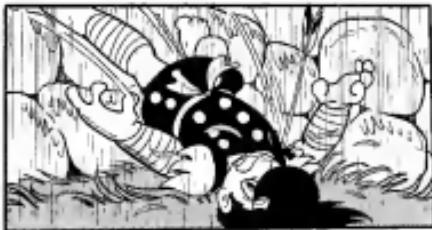


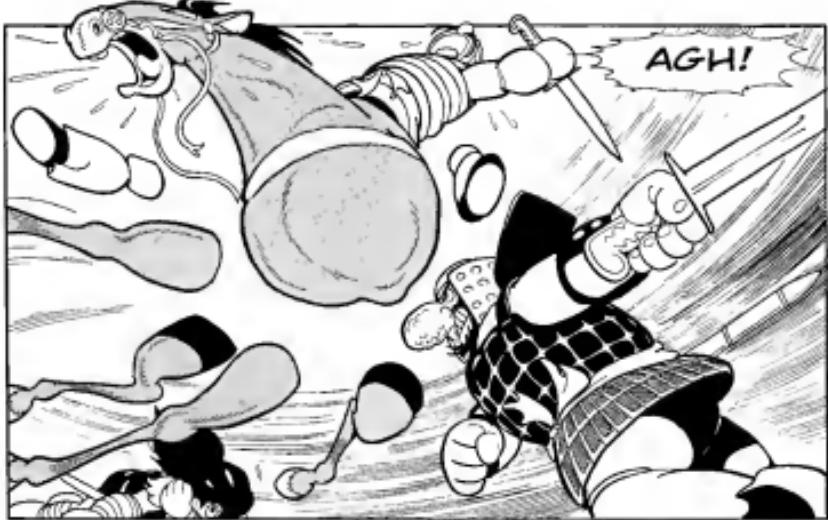






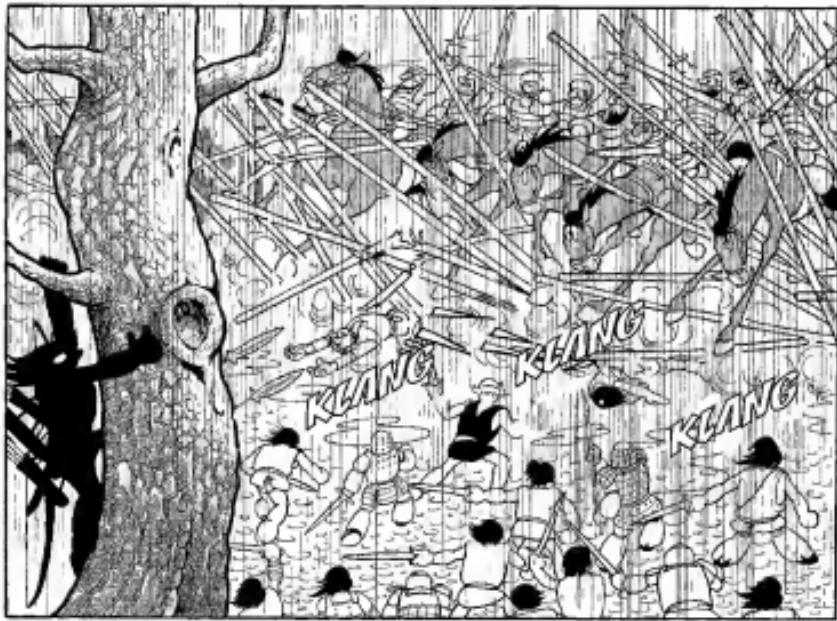


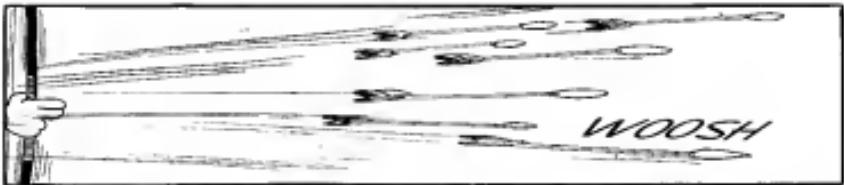






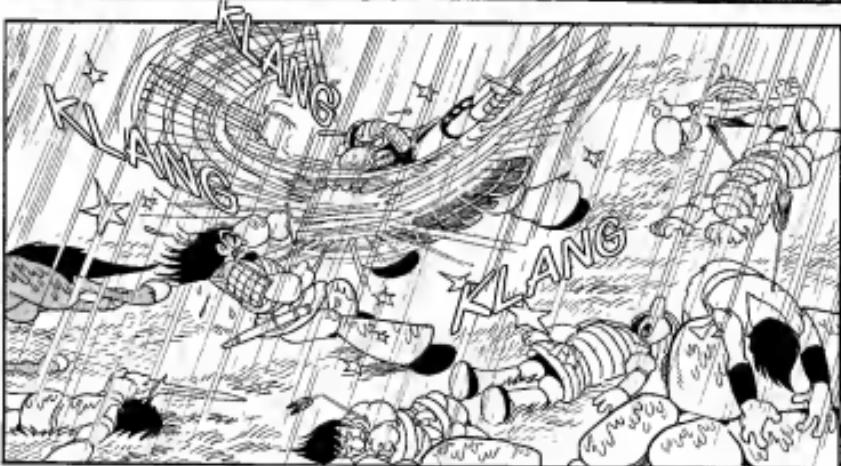


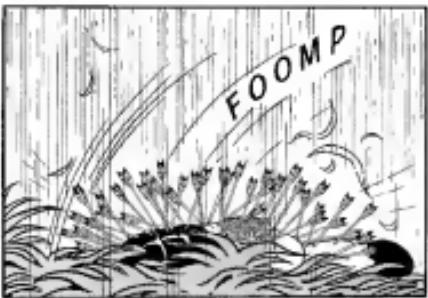
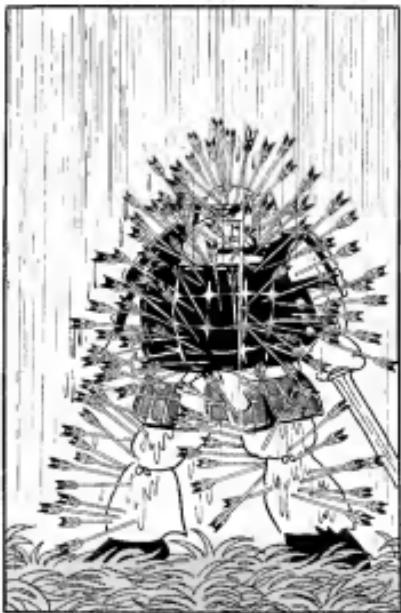




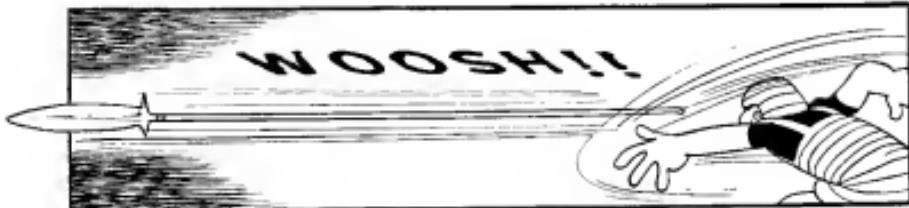






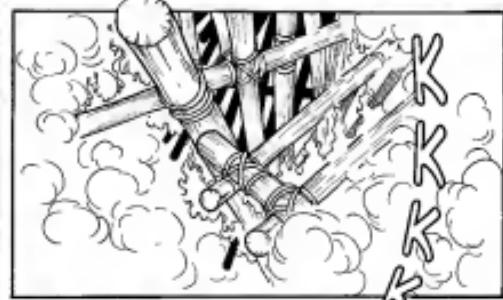


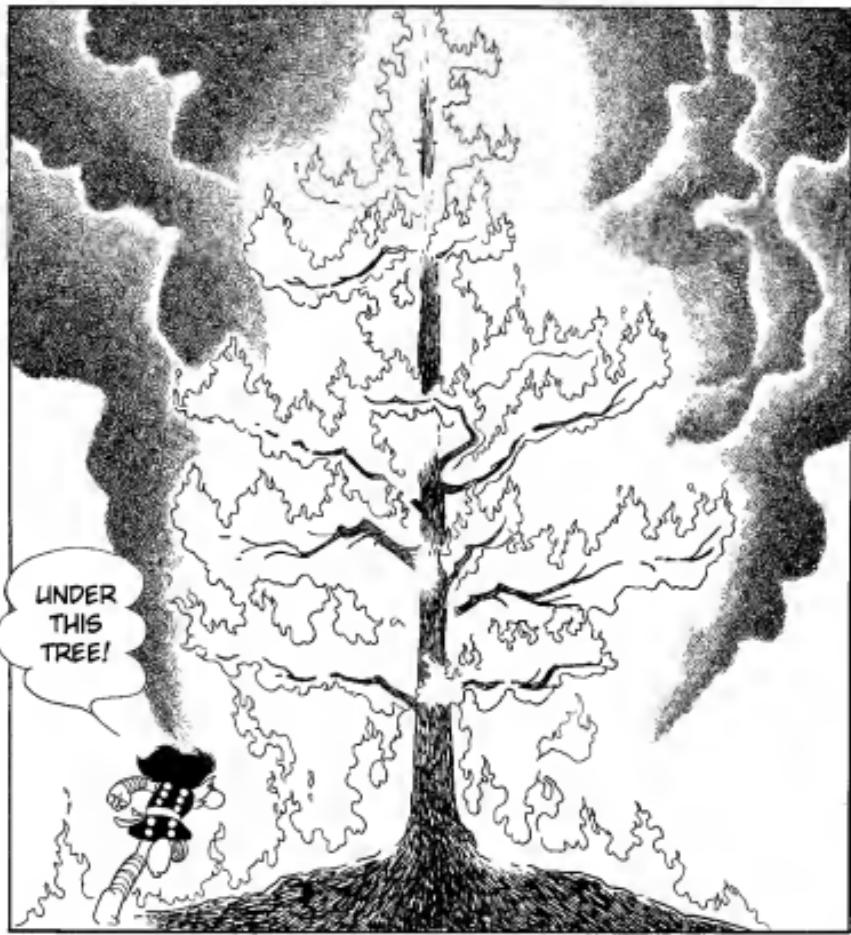


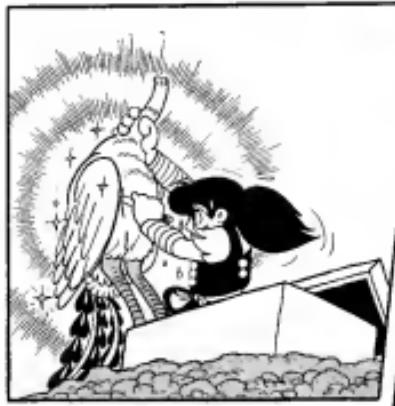


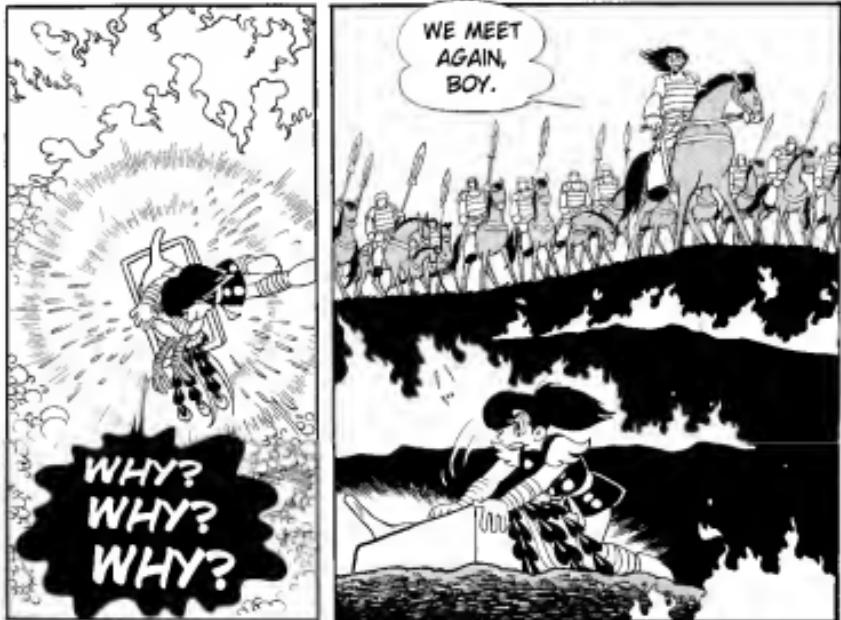


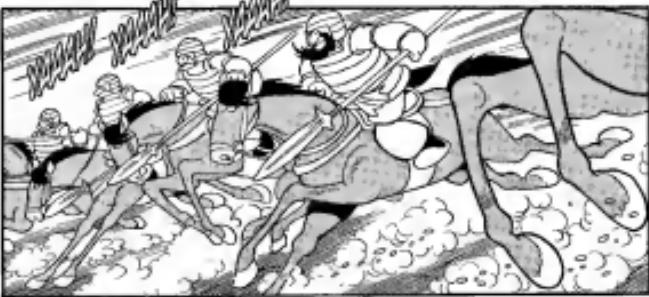




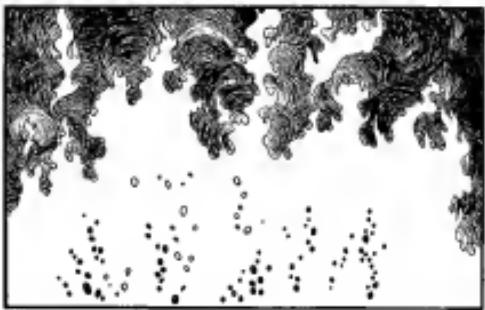


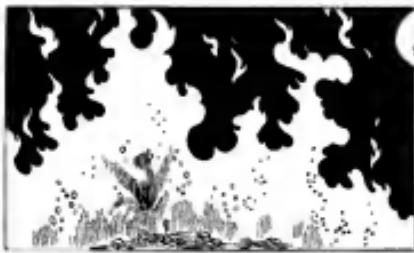




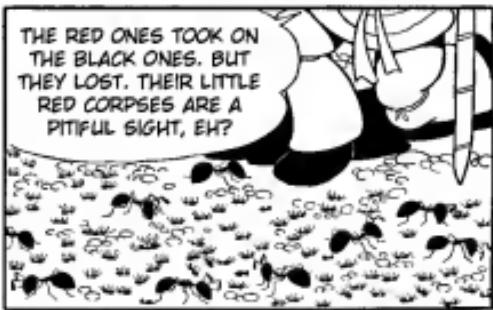
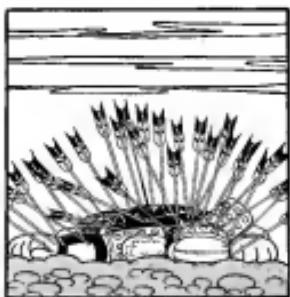


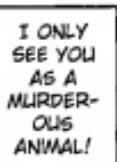




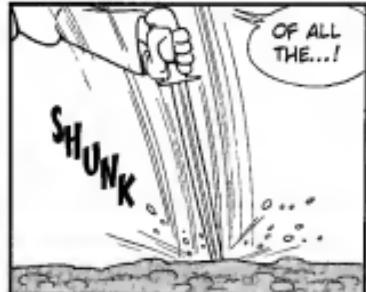
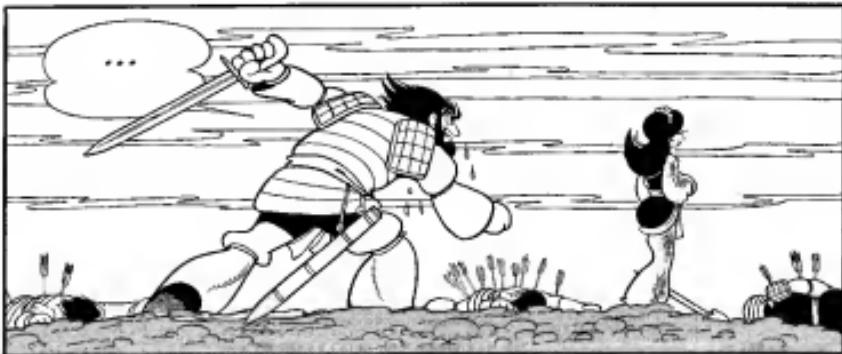
















HINAKU,  
LOOK! IT'S  
THE  
PHOENIX!!

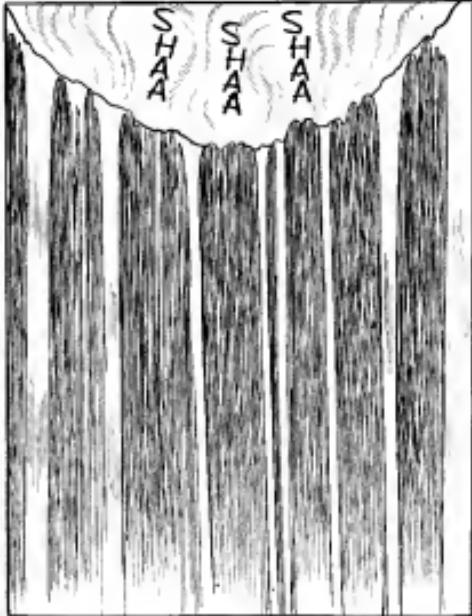
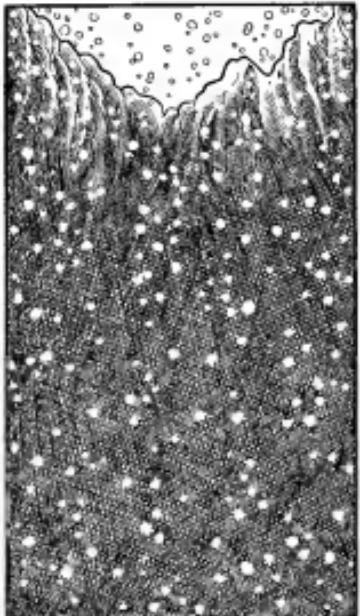


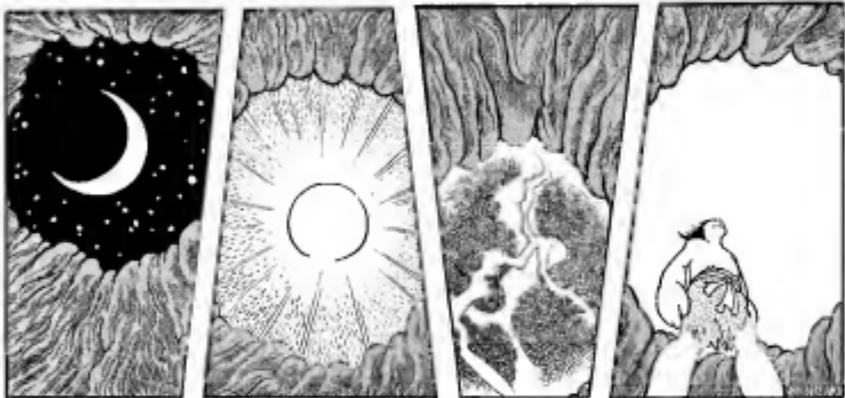


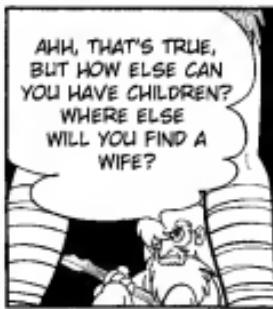


I SAW IT A LONG TIME AGO, BEFORE I CAME HERE WITH YOUR PAPA.



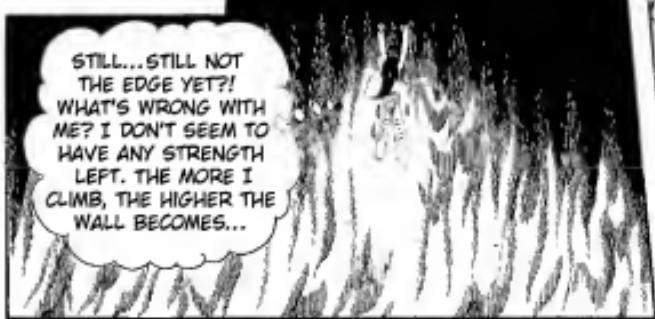


















There! Open your eyes and look up.  
The edge is right  
above you. Reach it  
and you've won!





I MADE IT!  
I MADE IT!  
WHEW! HA HA HA  
HA HA HA!





# ABOUT THIS EDITION OF PHOENIX: DAWN

The twelve self-contained yet interlinked stories that compose *Phoenix* (*Hi no tori* in Japanese, literally "Firebird") is considered by many to be the summit of Osamu Tezuka's artistic achievement. Tezuka himself referred to *Phoenix* as his "life work." Painstakingly composed over a span of decades (initial versions appeared as early as 1954), serialized in a number of venues, and left incomplete with Tezuka's death in 1989, *Phoenix* represents Tezuka's ambitious attempt to push all he knew about the comics medium to address fundamental questions about existence.

All twelve stories in *Phoenix* are linked by the presence of the mythical bird, an immortal guardian of the universal lifeforce. Read in order, the separate stories jump across time, alternating between a distant future and a distant past, converging on the present, with characters from one story being reincarnated in another. The existing twelve stories, totaling over three thousand pages of work, are sub-titled "Dawn," "Future," "Yamato," "Universe," "Hou-ou," "Resurrection," "Robe of Feathers," "Nostalgia," "Civil War," "Life," "Strange Beings," and "Sun."

This edition, *Phoenix: Dawn* (or in Japanese, *Reimeihen*), is an English translation of the first of the twelve *Phoenix* stories. "Dawn" was first serialized in 1967 in the monthly magazine *COM*, which was published by Tezuka as a venue to feature work too challenging or experimental for inclusion in mainstream manga magazines. The second volume of the series, *Phoenix: A Tale of the Future*, was published in English by Viz Comics. A 27-page excerpt from "Hou-ou" appears in English in Frederik L. Schodt's *Manga! The World of Japanese Comics*.

# A Journey through Time and Space: An Overview of the Complete *Phoenix* Saga

The complete *Phoenix* saga is a story about mankind that features a historical-narrative structure unlike anything that has come before it. The first volume depicts the dawn of civilization. The second volume jumps to the far future. The setting for the third story shifts back to early history, and so on, back and forth, from past to future; the amplitude decreases as past and future converge to meet in the present.

## Dawn (1967)

240-270 A.D.

The era of Queen Hemiko or the Yamato Koku. The work quotes from the accounts of the *Sashihawander*. Also uses accounts from the legend of Jirou Toushi.



The scene in the Amaterasu-Uzume myth where Hemiko compares herself to Amaterasu-Durikoma and a solar eclipse occurs.

## Yamato (1968-69)

320-360 A.D.

Based on the legend of Yamato-takao-no-mitake. The dates above were inferred from the account of Old Man Takeno, and from information in *Dawn*.



Dressed as a woman, Prince Yamato-Ogura approaches the Chieftain of the Kamado and steals him. As told in the Kiku myth the prince gets the name "Takao" from his opponent right before he dies.

## Hou-ou (1969-70)

720-752 A.D.

The complicated drama of the spirit of two Buddhist sculptors. Set in the Nara Period (710-794) during the national enterprise of the construction of the Great Buddha. Here, the Hou-ou (a Chinese myth) is the Phoenix.



Akonomaru, who has been ordered by the authorities to be in charge of the construction and design of the Great Buddha, is shocked when the statue shatters. The workers become frightened, and the boom phenomenon halts construction.

## Robe of Feathers

(1971) 937-941 A.D.



A sci-fi version of the Hagiwara Legend of Mijo no Matsubara in Echigo (modern day Niigata). Set during Taira no Masakado's rebellion which occurred during the Heian Period (938-1185).

The spirit of a woman swimming in the ocean is captured by the beauty of the white sand and green pine.

## Civil War (1978-80)

1172-1188 A.D.

The time of the Gengorō Kassen (War Between the Taira and the Sung) after the fall of the Heike (Bessho Clan). Using the Heike Monogatari and *Galaxy* as its backdrop, this story depicts "combat as the fate of living things".



Kiso Yoshimori defeats the Heike and takes control of the capital. He cuts down the famous frank Myouin. He comes to the capital because he is after the Phoenix.

## Strange Beings

(1981) 1468-1498 A.D.

The Sengoku Period (1482-1538). Sakonosuke, the heir of General Yagisawa, cuts down the nun, Yashikoma, who seems to be 900 years old. But she doesn't realize the true relationship between herself and the nun.



The former nun is saying that "now" is the beginning of the Sengoku Wars and they are in the middle of the Queen Rebirth. In other words they are in a time before Sakonosuke was born!

## Sun (1986-88)

663-672 A.D.

The story begins after the defeat of the Japan-Kudara alliance at Hakusankō and Japan's withdrawal from the Korean peninsula, and ends with the struggle for the imperial throne during the Jōshū Rebellion.



Emperor Kōtoku, more easily called Oshio no Mikko, is the cause of Tokachi no Mikio who is the son of Danjo no Miyo.

PAST

## Future (1967-68) 3404 A.D.-infinity

The end of the future. Mankind is in decline and has become very conservative. The earth is run down and faces devastation. Eventually a nuclear war breaks out causing the end of everything.

The Yonato Central Main Building Megalopolis Yonato is one of the few remaining underground cities of mankind.



# FUTURE

## Universe (1969) 2577 A.D.

In Orion, a sub-light speed rocket heading towards earth crashes into a meteorite. The ship becomes unstable to fly and four people manage to escape, including Santa and Nana.

Each of the passengers escapes in an individual escape pod. However the pods only have enough food for half a year and enough air for a year and a half. Possibilities of survival are...



## Resurrection (1970-71) 2482-3344 A.D.

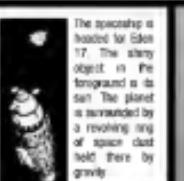
In the year 3344, Prof. Santa lands on the moon. He meets and acquires Robo in his final form. Spanning 860 years, the end of this episode goes beyond Universe and close to the beginning of Future.

Robo and this rocket also make appearances in Future where Robo stops Rock and then gets shot by him.



## Nostalgia (1976-78) Indeterminants (approx. 25th century)

A Japanese woman named Romy establishes a civilization and history for the formerly uninhabited planet Eden-17. Her husband dies an unnatural death, but the life she carries inside her...



## Life (1980) 2155-2170 A.D.

Human clones are being created. It's all for high ratings and a public-relating TV game show called "Clone Man Hunt".

Animal clones were created for food. Human clones are created for a TV show—the cloning company president speaks as a sponsor. A tampering plan for a TV show!



## Sun (1986-88) 2008 A.D.

The "Legal Tribe" acquired the Phoenix in space. However, they turn it into an icon and come to control society through religion. Non-believers are called "shadows" and are chased out to live underground.

The head temple of the "Light Tribe" A young shaman boy named Suguru embarks to climb the great tower and steal the Phoenix.



# ABOUT THE ARTIST



The Osaka-born Osamu Tezuka (1928-1989) has been long regarded in his native Japan as a cultural icon and the single artist most responsible for the creation of Japan's vast manga and anime culture. He began to draw shortly after WWII, working on short gag strips. In 1947 Tezuka had his first big hit, *Shintakarajima* (New Treasure Island), a 200-page comic drawn when Tezuka was still a medical student that revolutionized the "decompressed storytelling" style that is now the birthright of all Japanese comics.

Tezuka went on, in both short and long narratives, to master and/or invent virtually every genre of the comics form—sci-fi, fantasy, mystery, spy, humor, historical drama, political drama, transforming robots, Shakespearean adaptation, even sex-ed comics—including pioneering the *shojo* (girls') manga genre with *Ribon no Kishi* (aka Princess Knight, 1953-6). In 1952 Tezuka created his most beloved work, the robot-boy sci-fi series *Tetsuwan Atom* (aka Astro Boy). Other popular Tezuka works include the talking-animal saga *Jungle Taitei* (aka Kimba, the White Lion, 1950-4) and the outlaw-surgeon adventure series *Black Jack* (1973-84).

By the mid-sixties Tezuka was a pioneering animator as well as the most popular artist in history of Japanese comics, yet he continued to fervently reinvent manga forms. The early volumes of *Phoenix*, which began to be serialized in the pages of Tezuka's experimental *COM* magazine in 1967, were Tezuka's bold attempt to expand comics' artistic and demographic reach. Among Tezuka's finest works in this high literary mode are *Buddha* (1972-83), a biography of the religious teacher, and the complex and moving WWII saga *Adolf* (1983-5). In the West, Tezuka's reputation and renown continues to grow. The recent hit anime *Metropolis* (2001) is based on one of Tezuka's earliest works from 1949.