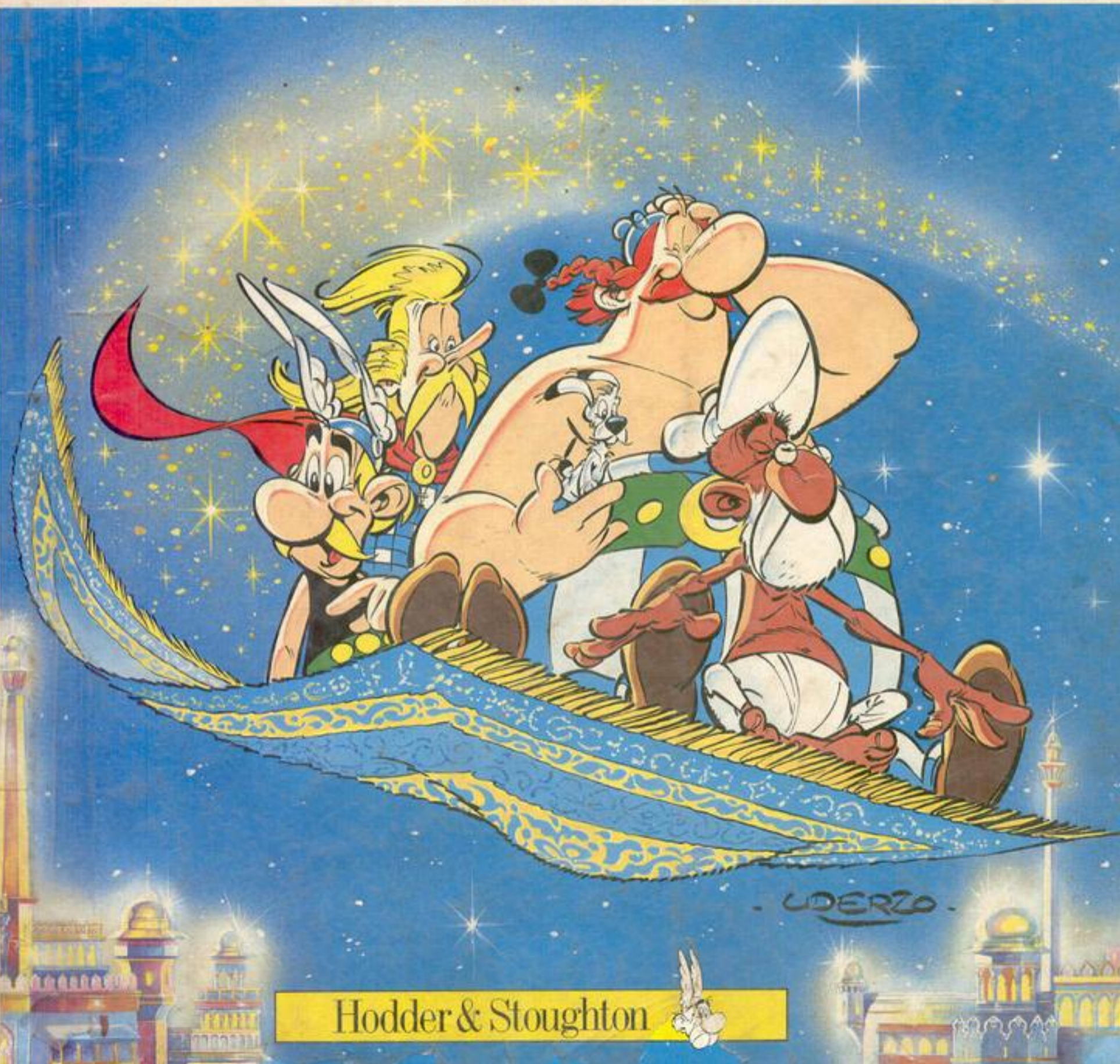


R. GOSCINNY - A. UDERZO

Asterix and the Magic Carpet

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UDERZO

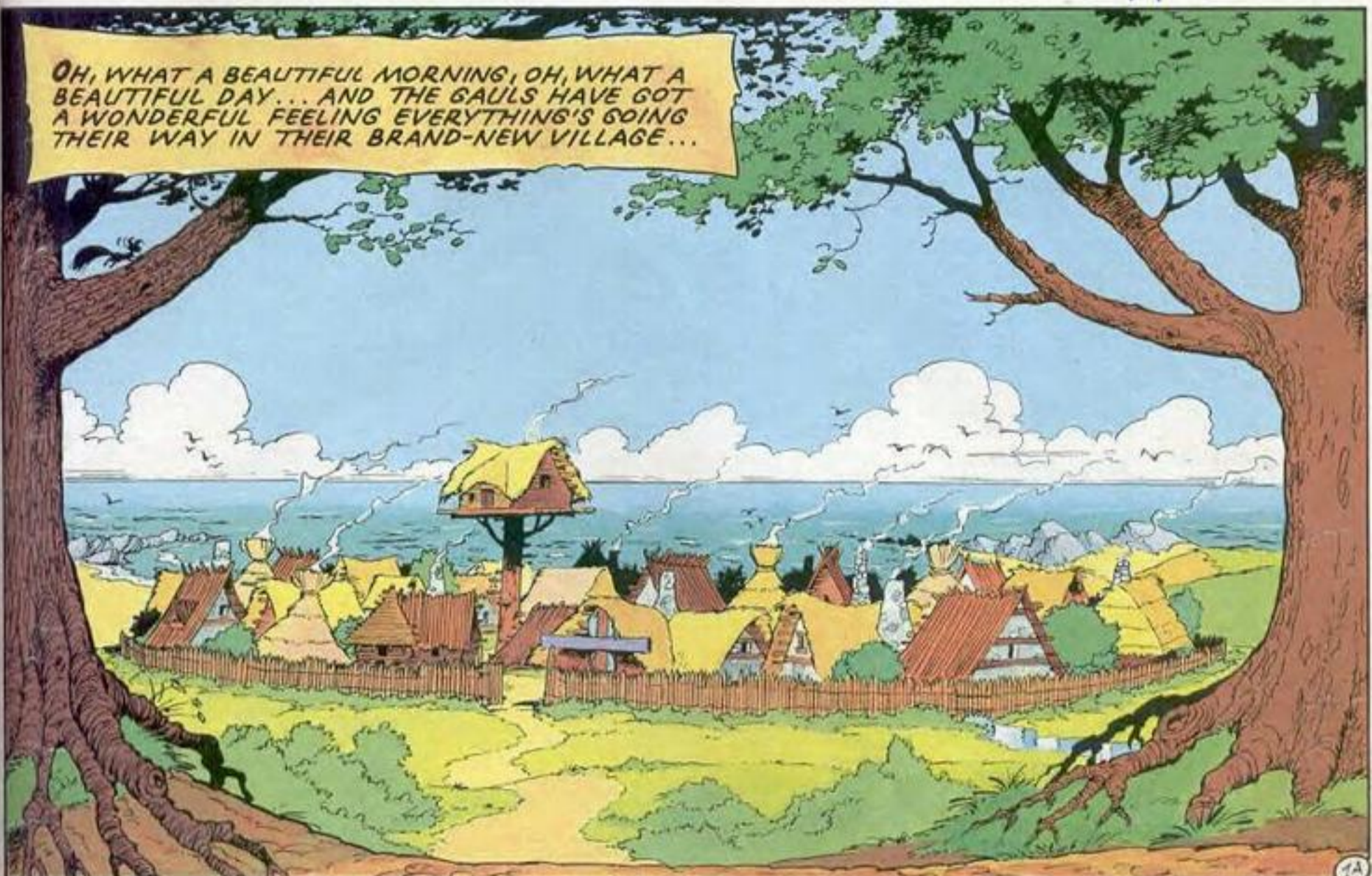


Hodder & Stoughton



ASTÉRIX AND THE MAGIC CARPET
8
HODDER AND STOUGHTON

OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING, OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY... AND THE GAULS HAVE GOT A WONDERFUL FEELING EVERYTHING'S GOING THEIR WAY IN THEIR BRAND-NEW VILLAGE...



FOR AS YOU MAY REMEMBER...

THE ROMANS BURNED OUR VILLAGE TO THE GROUND* CAESAR, ASHAMED OF WHAT THEY HAD DONE, TOLD HIS MEN TO REBUILD IT... FAIR ENOUGH, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE ALL SQUARE. AND SO, DEAR FRIENDS...

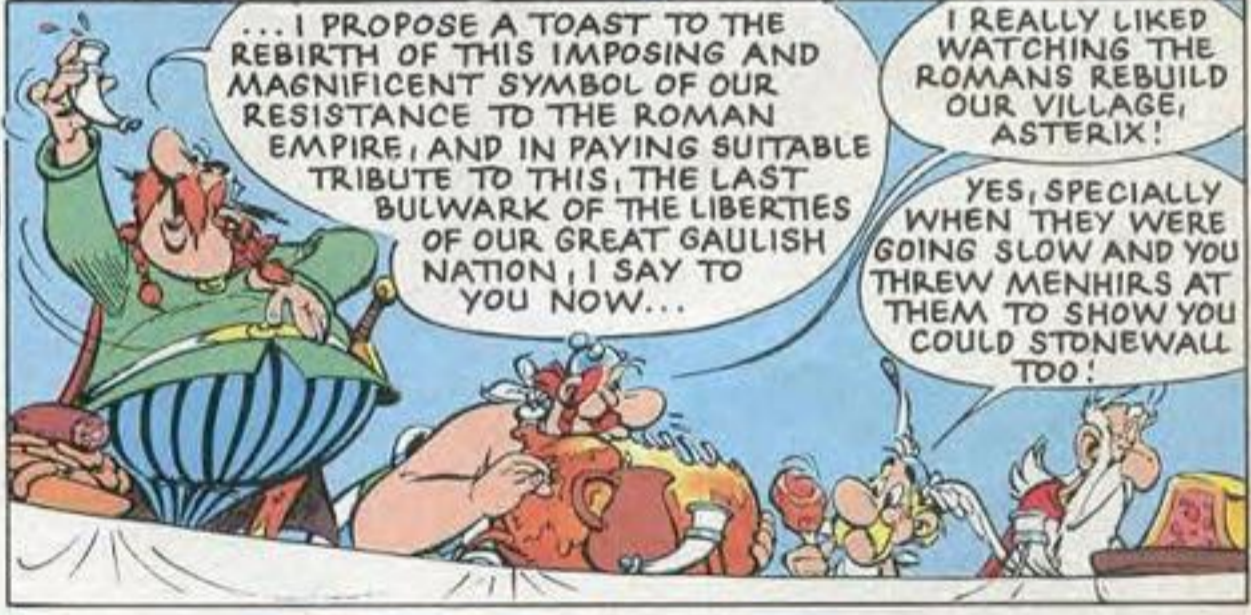
*SEE ASTERIX AND SON



... I PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE REBIRTH OF THIS IMPOSING AND MAGNIFICENT SYMBOL OF OUR RESISTANCE TO THE ROMAN EMPIRE, AND IN PAYING SUITABLE TRIBUTE TO THIS, THE LAST BULWARK OF THE LIBERTIES OF OUR GREAT GAULISH NATION, I SAY TO YOU NOW...

I REALLY LIKED WATCHING THE ROMANS REBUILD OUR VILLAGE, ASTERIX!

YES, SPECIALLY WHEN THEY WERE GOING SLOW AND YOU THREW MENHIRS AT THEM TO SHOW YOU COULD STONEWALL TOO!



... I SAY TO YOU NOW...

WELL, THEY DID GET THE JOB DONE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!

FEAR IS SOMETIMES A REMARKABLE STIMULUS, OBELIX!

HOW NICE TO HAVE BRAND-NEW HUTS TO LIVE IN!

YES, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED A SPOT OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE WHILE THEY WERE ABOUT IT. FOR INSTANCE, VILLAS IN THE GALLO-ROMAN STYLE!

ROMAN COLUMNS ARE A TERRIBLE PRICE... SIMPLY RUINOUS!

THAT'S FUNNY... I DON'T SEEM TO SEE CACOFONIX THE BARD ANYWHERE!





SILENCE WHILE I PROPOSE A HEALTH! AND HE THAT WOULD THIS HEALTH DENY...



DOWN AMONG THE LEGIONARIES LET HIM LIE...



WITH A HEY DOWN DERRY DOWN DOWN!

AND DOWN'S THE WORD! YOU JUST PIPE DOWN... OR YOU COME DOWN!



OH, SO I CAN'T EVEN TRY THE ACOUSTICS OF MY NEW HUT?

THIS WOULD TRY THE PATIENCE OF TOUTATIS HIMSELF! RIGHT! I SAID, YOU COME DOWN!

CHOP! CHOP!



?

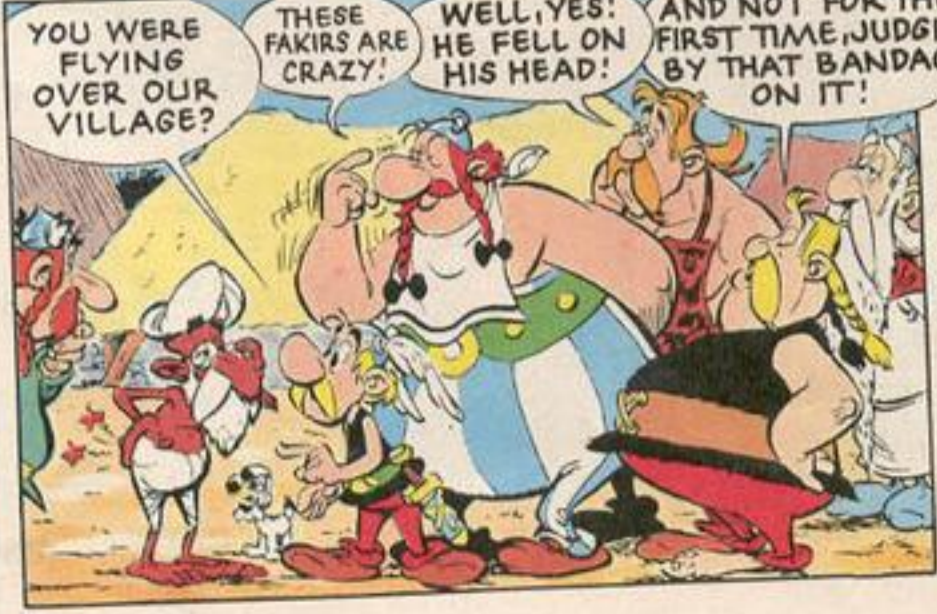
?

PAP



WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

I'M WATZIZNEHM THE FAKIR. I WAS FLYING OVER WHEN I HEARD INHUMAN NOISES, BECAME UNBALANCED AND HAD TO CRASH YOUR PARTY.



YOU WERE FLYING OVER OUR VILLAGE?

THESE FAKIRS ARE CRAZY!

WELL, YES! HE FELL ON HIS HEAD!

AND NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, JUDGING BY THAT BANDAGE ON IT!

OH, PIGGYWIGGY LOOK WHAT I'VE JUST FOUND OUT SIDE OUR DOOR





MY CARPET! THANK YOU, MADAM!

WHO'S THIS? WHAT'S HIS NAME?

WATZIZ-NEHM!



I DON'T SEE WHY IMPEDIMENTA SHOULD HAVE THAT CARPET. IT WAS AS CLOSE TO OUR HUT AS HERS!



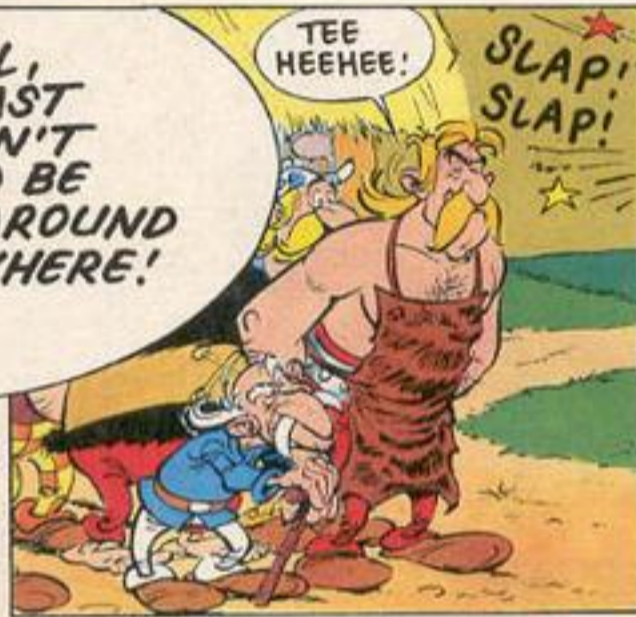
OH NO, IT WASN'T! AND ANYWAY, I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE!

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I SAY TO THE CHIEF'S WIFE?

NOW LISTEN, LADIES...



YOU AND YOUR SENILE OLD HUSBAND!!!



WELL, AT LEAST HE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE CARRIED AROUND EVERYWHERE!

TEE HEEHEE!

SLAP! SLAP!



YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY, DO YOU?

OUCH!

WHAM!



PAF!



QUICK, BACTERIA! FETCH ME OUR RESERVE STOCKS OF LAST YEAR'S FISH!



RAINDROPS...



♪ ... KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD... ♪

THE GODS ARE WITH ME! I'VE DROPPED IN ON THE VERY VILLAGE I WAS LOOKING FOR... THE VILLAGE OF MADMEN WHERE A VOICE MAKES RAIN!

?

WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR OUR VILLAGE IN PARTICULAR?

PAF!

SLAP!

I COME FROM A DISTANT EASTERN COUNTRY, WHERE AN EX-LEGIONARY WHO IS NOW A MERCHANT TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR FAMOUS DEEDS. SO I'VE COME ALL THIS WAY TO ASK YOU FOR HELP. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!

BUT BEFORE I TELL YOU ANY MORE, I'LL JUST RETRIEVE MY CARPET, IF I MAY.

PAF!

PIF!

LADIES, THAT CARPET IS MINE, AND I CAN PROVE IT.

THIS CARPET'S MINE, AND I'M NOT BUDGING!

IF YOU SAY SO!

?

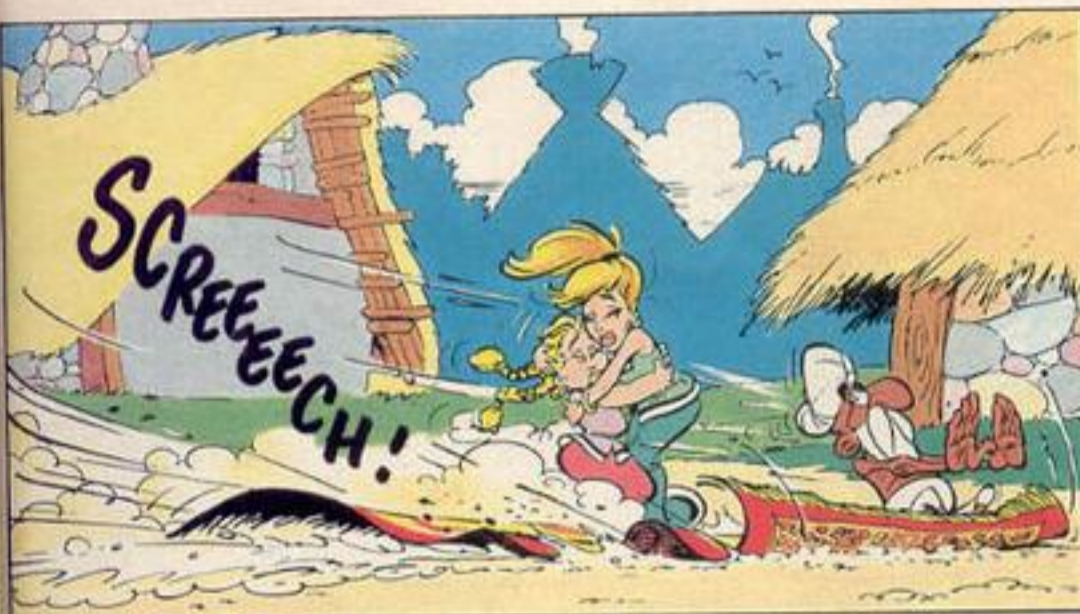
?

?

MUMMYyyy!!!

HOW DID HE DO THAT, GETAFIX?

I'VE HEARD TELL OF THE STRANGE POWERS OF THESE BEFORE. THEY CAN CONCENTRATE HARD ENOUGH TO LEVITATE WHATEVER THEY LIKE.



SCREEECH!



OO-ER!

OO-ER!



THAT'S AN AMAZING TRICK WITH YOUR CARPET!

OH, IT'S ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK FOR A FAKIR!

OOH, GIVE ME A RIDE! WE COULD HAVE A BOAR HUNTING PARTY! HOW'S THAT FOR AN OFFER?



A STOUT PARTY FOR MY CARPET, BUT MAYBE I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON IT...

OBELIX, CALM DOWN!



I'M CALLING A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT MY HOUSE. OUR GUEST CAN TELL US WHY HE HAS COME TO OUR VILLAGE!



STOUT I MAY BE, BUT LOOK HOW THIN HE IS! MAYBE WE OUGHT TO FEED HIM A FEW BOARS?

YOU'RE RIGHT, OBELIX! WE'RE FORGETTING OUR DUTY AS HOSTS!



PERHAPS YOU'RE HUNGRY... WOULD YOU CARE FOR A BITE TO EAT?

NO, THANKS. I HAD A BITE TO EAT JUST BEFORE I LEFT.



AND WHEN DID YOU LEAVE?

OH, ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO!



BONG!



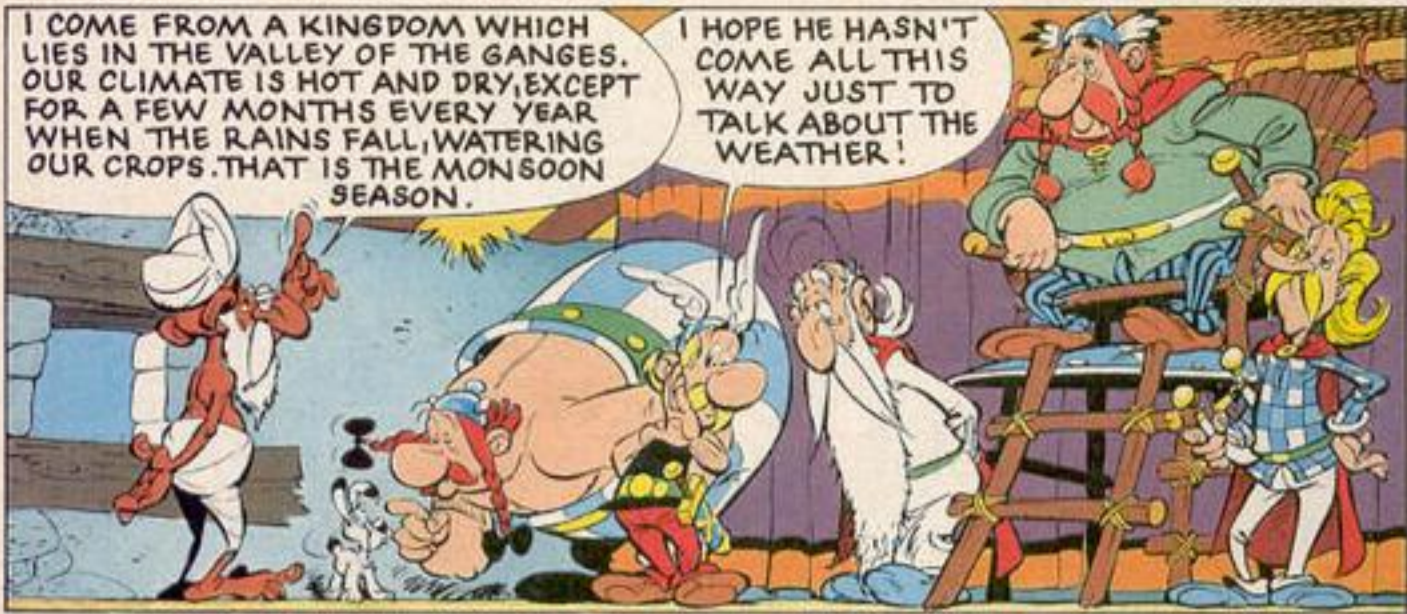
IS YOUR FRIEND UNWELL?

JUST OVER-COME BY THE THOUGHT OF GOING THREE WEEKS WITHOUT FOOD, I EXPECT!

I COME FROM A KINGDOM WHICH LIES IN THE VALLEY OF THE GANGES. OUR CLIMATE IS HOT AND DRY, EXCEPT FOR A FEW MONTHS EVERY YEAR WHEN THE RAINS FALL, WATERING OUR CROPS. THAT IS THE MONSOON SEASON.

I HOPE HE HASN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER!

BUT WE MUST HAVE OFFENDED THE GOD INDRA*, BECAUSE THE MONSOON SEASON WILL SOON BE OVER, AND WE HAVEN'T HAD A DROP OF RAIN YET. THE DRY SEASON WILL BE BACK, BRINGING WITH IT FAMINE AND HARD-SHIP FOR OUR PEOPLE.



*GOD OF THE WATERS

OUR GOOD KING, RAJAH WATZIT, HAS A DAUGHTER, THE SWEET AND LOVELY PRINCESS ORINJADE...

AND THE GURU* WHO SPEAKS WITH THE GODS, HOODUNNIT, DECREED THAT IF NO RAIN FELL BEFORE THE END OF THE MONSOON, IN A THOUSAND AND ONE HOURS' TIME, PRINCESS ORINJADE MUST BE SACRIFICED TO APPEASE THE WRATH OF THE GODS!

TEE HEE HEE!

BUT IF EVEN YOUR RAJAH DOESN'T HOLD THE RAINS OF POWER, I DON'T QUITE SEE HOW WE CAN HELP YOU!



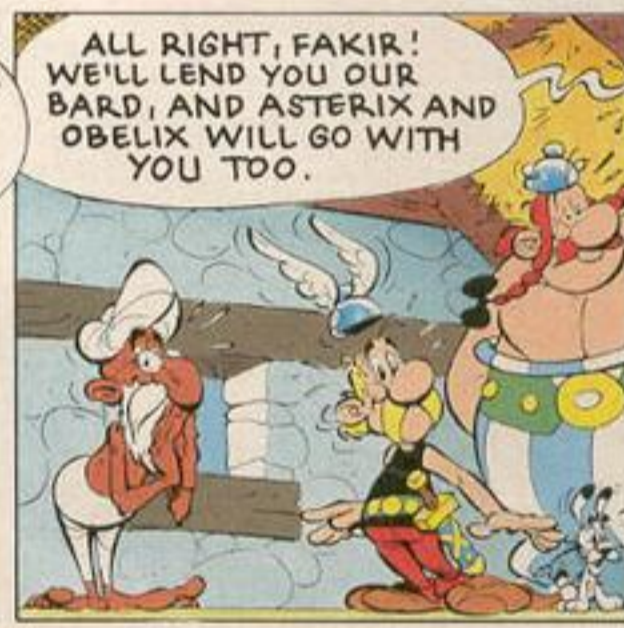
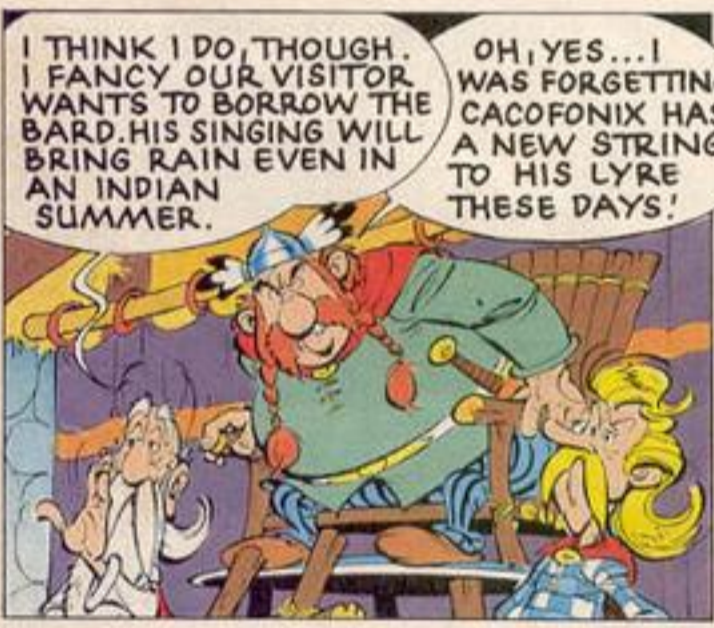
*LEADER OF A RELIGIOUS SECT

I THINK I DO, THOUGH. I FANCY OUR VISITOR WANTS TO BORROW THE BARD. HIS SINGING WILL BRING RAIN EVEN IN AN INDIAN SUMMER.

OH, YES... I WAS FORGETTING CACOFONIX HAS A NEW STRING TO HIS LYRE THESE DAYS!

ALL RIGHT, FAKIR! WE'LL LEND YOU OUR BARD, AND ASTERIX AND OBELIX WILL GO WITH YOU TOO.

HOW DARE YOU SAY I MAKE IT RAIN? IT'S NOT TRUE! LISTEN TO THIS!



THE RAIN ♪ IN GAUL... ♪

♪ ... FALLS ♪ MAINLY DOWN THE WALL... ♪

HEY! IT'S RAINING DOWN THE INSIDE OF THE WALL!





EVERYBODY OUT! I SAID, EVERYBODY OUT!

CACOFONIX, YOU'VE GOT WATER ON THE BRAIN...

IT'S NOT EVERY GAULISH HUT THAT HAS RUNNING WATER LAID ON!

BUT, 'PEDIMENTA ... OUCH!

BANG!
PAF!
BING!



AND LATER...

I PROMISE TO BRING YOUR BARD BACK VERY SOON!

OH, THERE'S NO HURRY.

YOUR SINGING WILL TAKE THEM BY STORM, CACOFONIX!

YOU THINK SO?

IT'LL BE A SMASH HIT, AS USUAL!

HERE, ASTERIX, TAKE THIS GOURD OF MAGIC POTION. IT MAY COME IN USEFUL.

THANKS, GETAFIX. ANY IDEA WHERE OBELIX IS?



MAKE WAY THERE!

?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THOSE?

JUST LAYING IN A FEW IN-FLIGHT PROVISIONS ...

WOOF!
WOOF!



MY CARPET WILL NEVER CARRY ALL THAT! BUT WE CAN STOP OFF TO EAT WHENEVER YOU WANT, OBELIX.



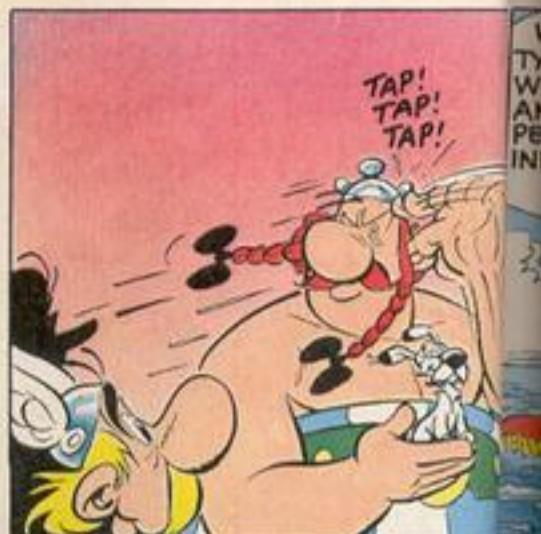
LATER...

I ALREADY FEEL THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING!

HIS

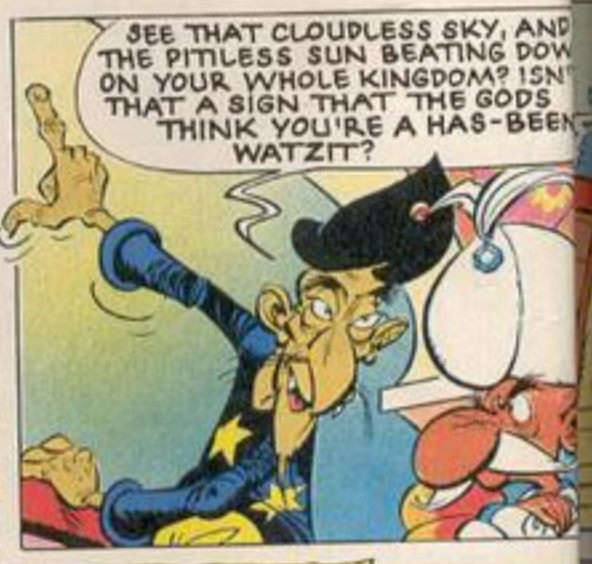
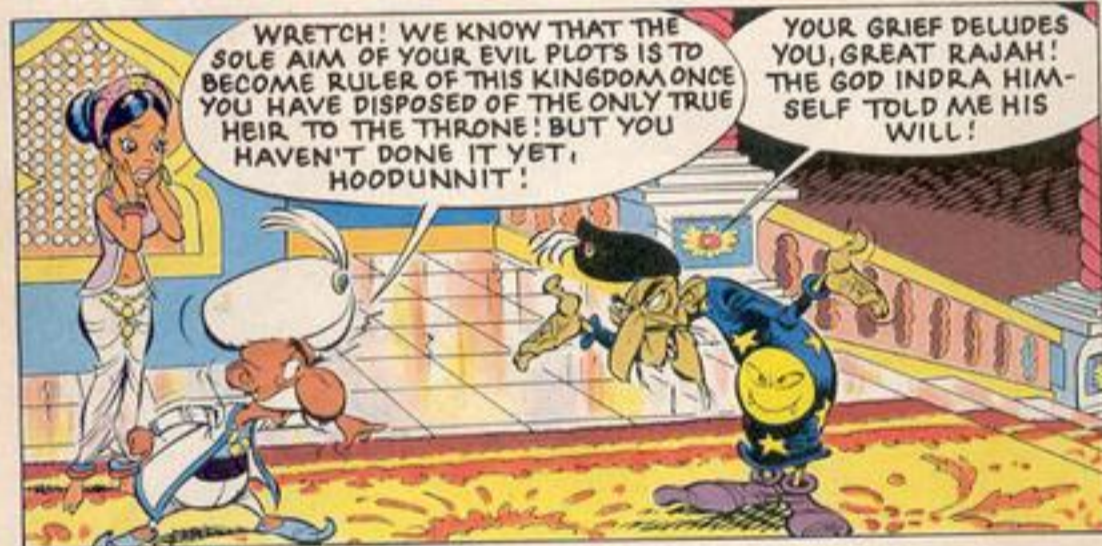
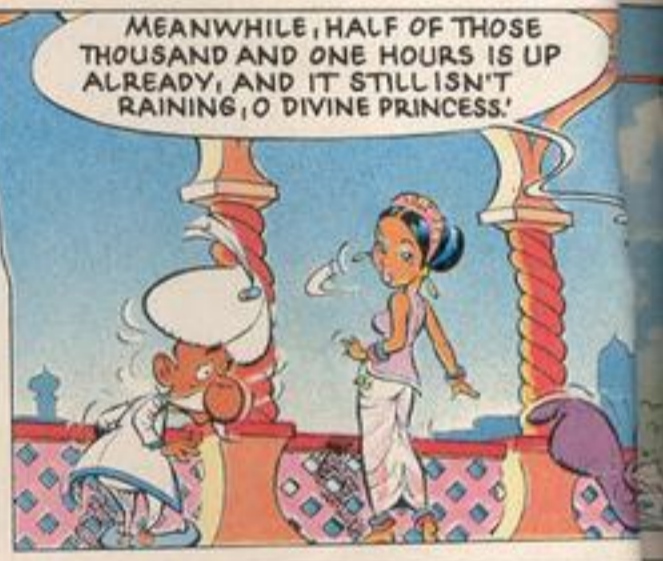
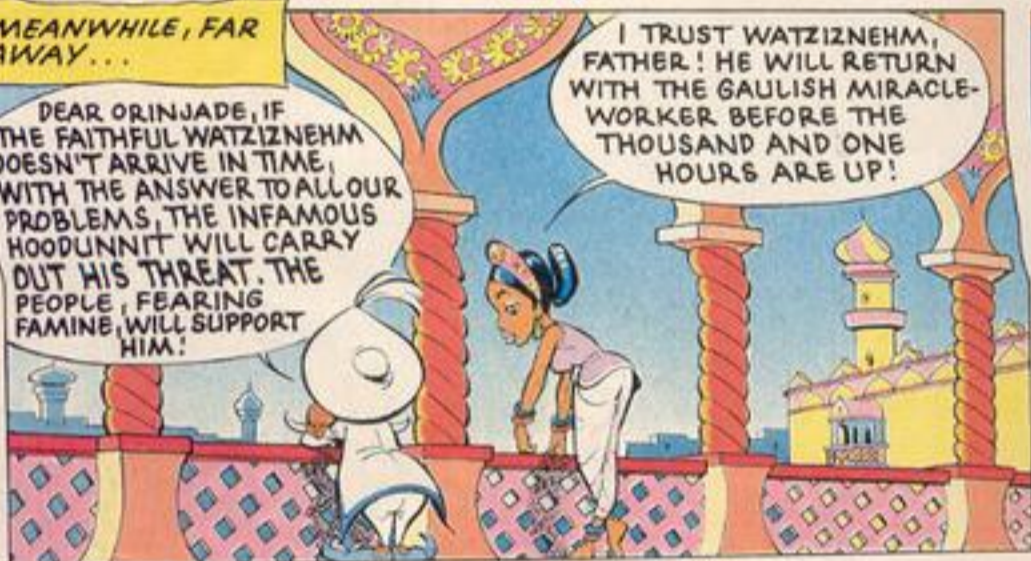


*ONE *EIGHT



MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY...

DEAR ORINJADE, IF THE FAITHFUL WATZIZNEHM DOESN'T ARRIVE IN TIME, WITH THE ANSWER TO ALL OUR PROBLEMS, THE INFAMOUS HOODUNNIT WILL CARRY OUT HIS THREAT. THE PEOPLE, FEARING FAMINE, WILL SUPPORT HIM!



THE GODS ARE NOT AS CRUEL AS YOU SAY. THEY WILL GUIDE THE SAVIOURS OF THE PEOPLE SAFELY TO US. THEY MUST BE ON THEIR WAY NOW!



JUST AT THE MOMENT, THE SAVIOURS OF THE PEOPLE ARE PREPARING FOR THEIR FIRST NIGHT IN THE AIR.



SOON AFTERWARDS...



WE ARE NOW ABOVE THE TYRRHENIAN SEA*. SOON WE'LL BE FLYING OVER ITALY, AND THEN GREECE, MESOPOTAMIA, PERSIA, THE VALLEY OF THE INDUS, AND FINALLY WE SHALL REACH THE GANGES.

HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO FIND YOUR WAY SO EASILY?

SIMPLE! I JUST DO AS THE CARRIER PIGEONS DO!

A LITTLE BOW-WOW WANTS HIS DIN-DINS, DIDDUMS THEN, DOGMATIX?

I SEE A SHIP! MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE DIN-DINS FOR A BIG CHUBBYCHOPS ON BOARD TOO!



YOU IN THE CROW'S NEST! SEE ANY SAILS AT SEA?



NOT A BLESSED SAIL, CAP'N...



... IT'S A VACANT SEE!

GOOD! SPLENDID!



HO, HO, HO! RIGHT, ME HEARTIES, BRING UP ALL THE LOOT FROM THIS SEASON'S PIRACY, AND WE'LL HAVE A NICE QUIET GLOAT!



I...I... I SEE A SKY PILOT!

YOU SEE WHAT?



FLYING A CARPET! STRAIGHT AHEAD!

WHY, IF IT ISN'T OUR DEAR OLD FRIENDS!



WHAT THE...!?!?

THERE'S NOTHING TO EAT ON THIS SHIP, ASTERIX! ONLY A LOAD OF OLD JUNK!

SPLASH!

SPLASH!



PLEASE! SINK THIS OLD JUNK IF YOU LIKE, BUT TELL YOUR FRIEND TO STOP THROWING OUR MONEY OVERBOARD!

HE'S HUNGRY, AND WHEN HE'S HUNGRY THERE'S NO HOLDING HIM!



QUICK! TURN OUT THE GALLEY! BRING EVERYTHING EDIBLE UP ON DECK!!!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

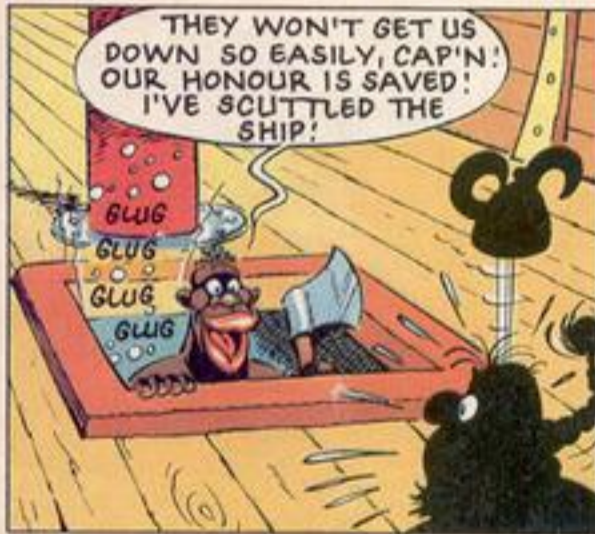
WE'RE HONEST MEN. HERE'S PAYMENT FOR OUR MEAL.



FLICK!



OH, WELL, BETTER THAN NOTHING! AFTER ALL, THEY MIGHT HAVE SCUTTLED THE SHIP!



THEY WON'T GET US DOWN SO EASILY, CAP'N! OUR HONOUR IS SAVED! I'VE SCUTTLED THE SHIP!

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG



THEY SOAKED US AGAIN! ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SICK!

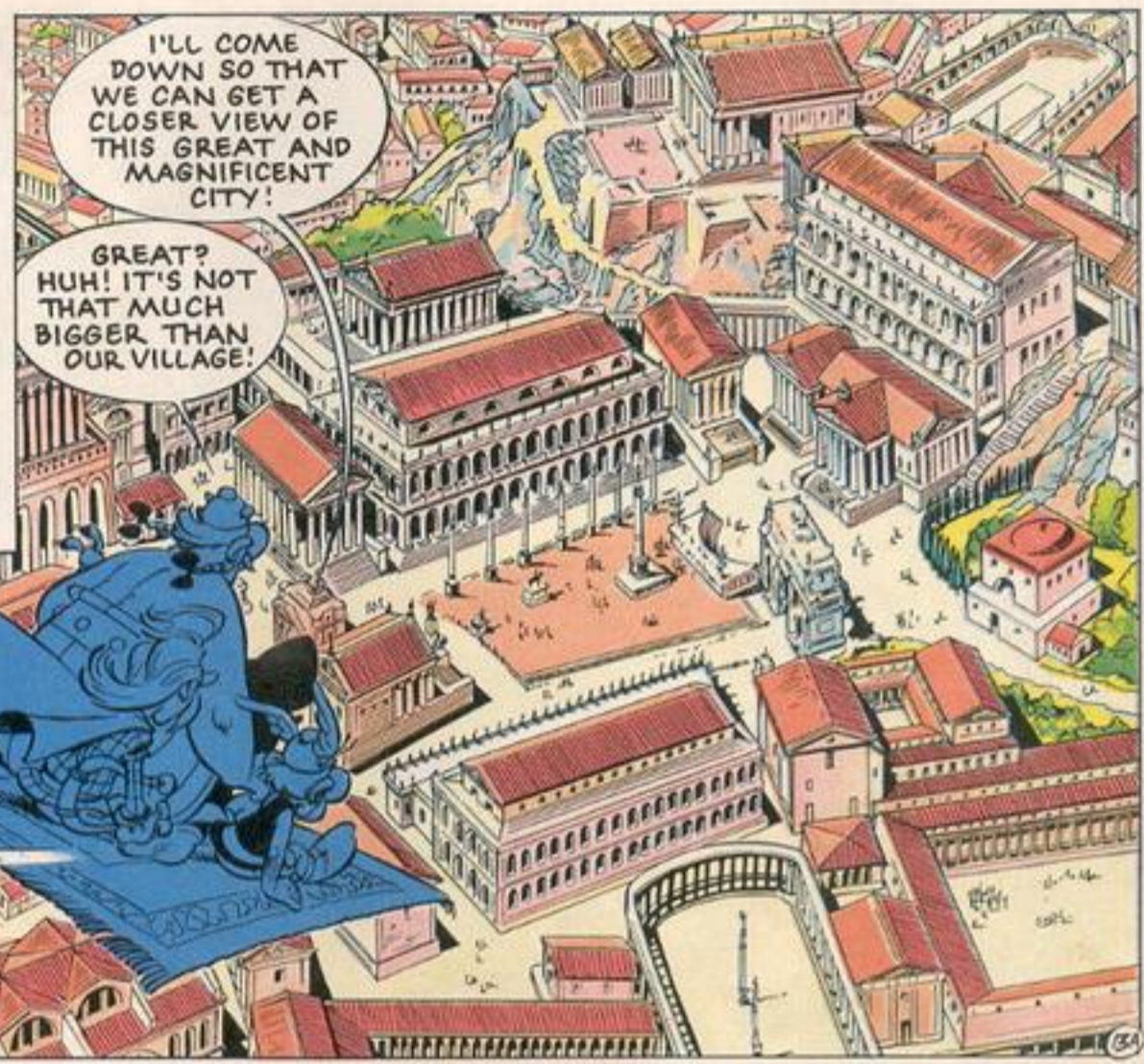
SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI.

AFTER NINETY-SIX HOURS' FLYING TIME...

WE ARE NOW APPROACHING ROME!

I'LL COME DOWN SO THAT WE CAN GET A CLOSER VIEW OF THIS GREAT AND MAGNIFICENT CITY!

GREAT? HUH! IT'S NOT THAT MUCH BIGGER THAN OUR VILLAGE!

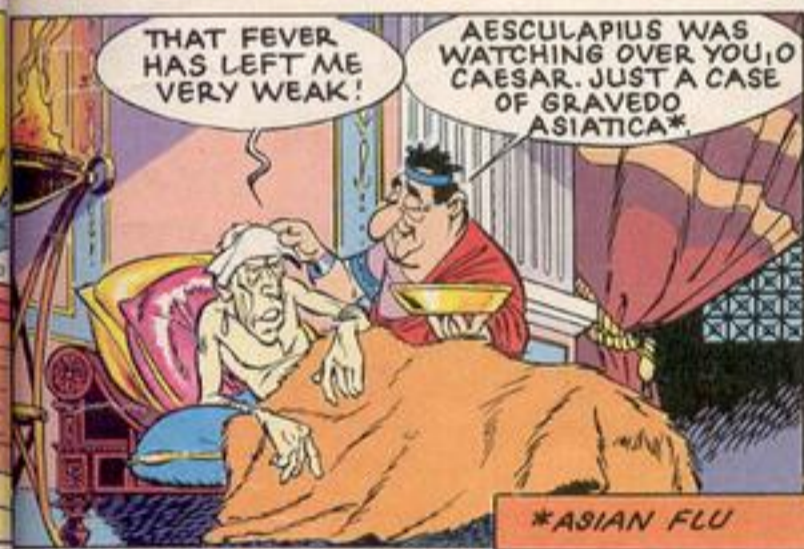


THAT FEVER HAS LEFT ME VERY WEAK!

AESCULAPIUS WAS WATCHING OVER YOU, O CAESAR. JUST A CASE OF GRAVEDO ASIATICA*

COME OUT ON THE TERRACE AND BREATHE THE FRESH AIR WAFTING OVER ROME, AND YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!

IN MY FEVERED DELIRIUM, I KEPT SEEING THOSE INDOMITABLE GAULS FROM ARMORICA. ALL OVER THE PLACE! IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE!



*ASIAN FLU

WELL, I NEVER! HI, JULIUS, OLD CHAP!

?!

CAESAR AND HIS DOCTOR HAVE GONE TO BED. IN THEIR FEVERED DELIRIUM, THEY KEEP SAYING THEY SAW INDOMITABLE GAULS AND AN ASIAN FAKIR!

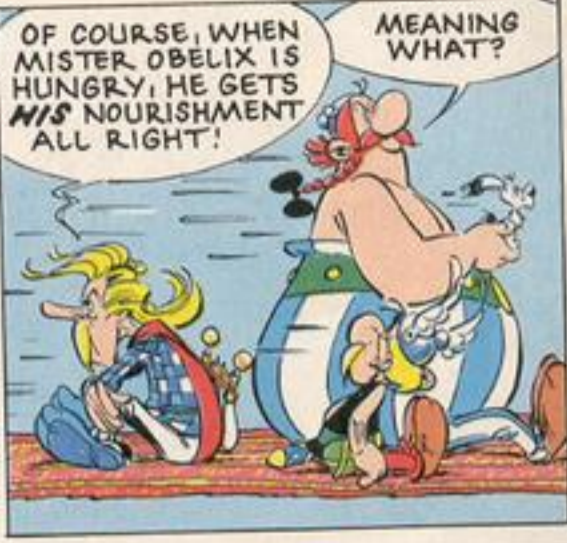
AND THE GAULS AND THE ASIAN FLEW!





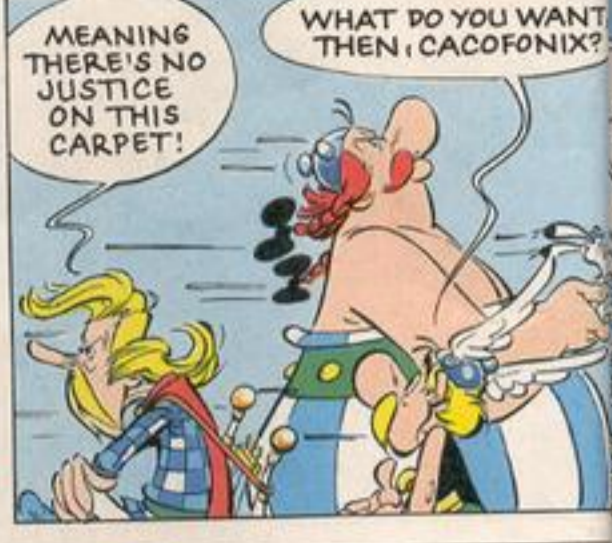
I'M HUNGRY!

WE'LL SOON BE FLYING OVER GREECE. WE'LL TOUCH DOWN THERE.



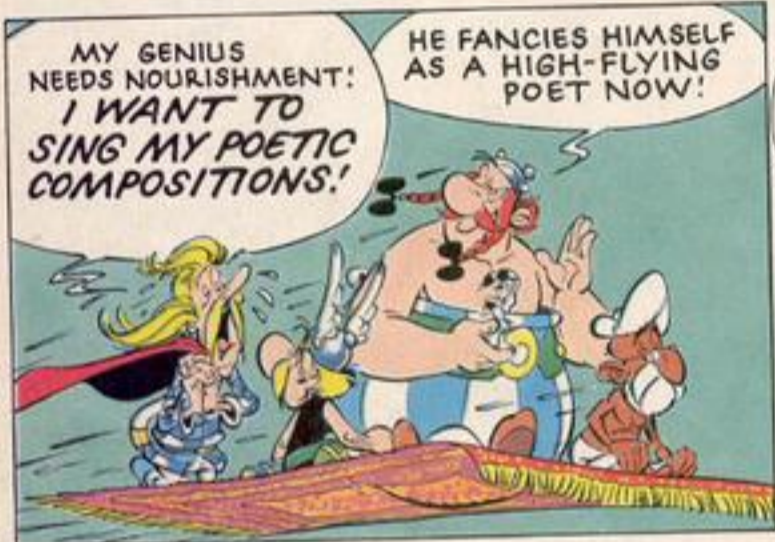
OF COURSE, WHEN MISTER OBELIX IS HUNGRY, HE GETS HIS NOURISHMENT ALL RIGHT!

MEANING WHAT?



MEANING THERE'S NO JUSTICE ON THIS CARPET!

WHAT DO YOU WANT THEN, CACOFONIX?



MY GENIUS NEEDS NOURISHMENT! I WANT TO SING MY POETIC COMPOSITIONS!

HE FANCIES HIMSELF AS A HIGH-FLYING POET NOW!



INSULT A BARD, WOULD YOU? HOW COULD YOU SINK SO LOW?

SING AND YOU'LL FIND OUT... WE'LL BE NEEDING A HIRE-CARPET THEN!

DO PLEASE KEEP CALM!

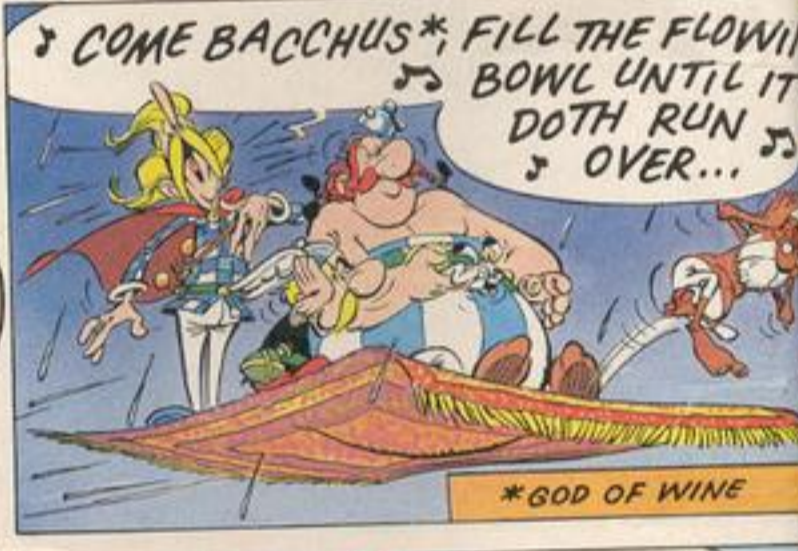


I AM ABOUT TO LOSE MY TEMPER!!!

...OUR BARD IS AS HIGH AS AN ELEPHANT'S THIGH, AND I THINK HE IS GOING RIGHT UP TO THE SKY...

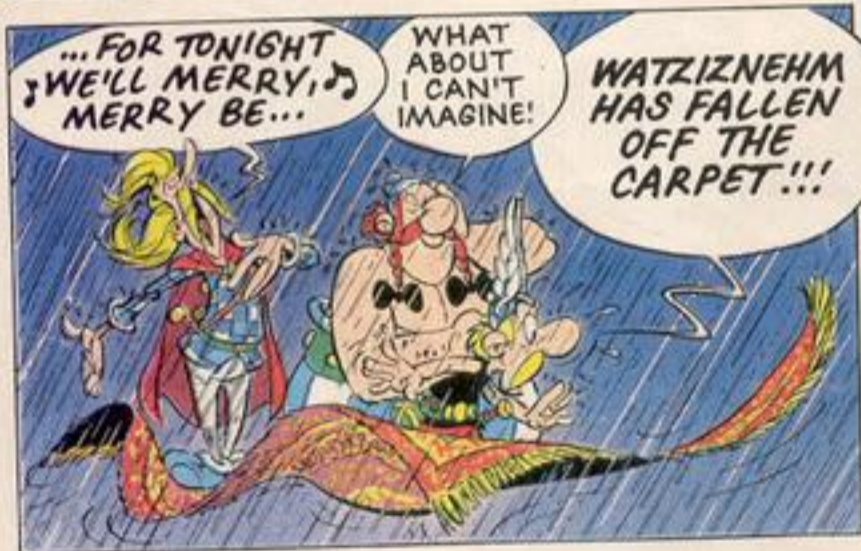
HOOOWWWL!

STOP IT, WILL YOU? YOU MAKE ME FEEL READY TO DROP!!!



♪ COME BACCHUS*, FILL THE FLOWING BOWL UNTIL IT DOETH RUN OVER... ♪

*GOD OF WINE



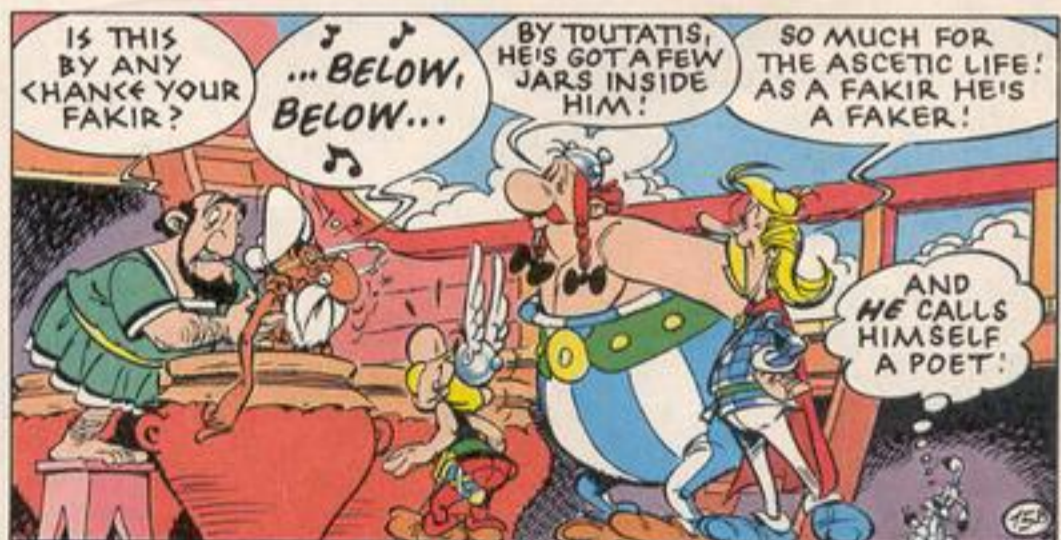
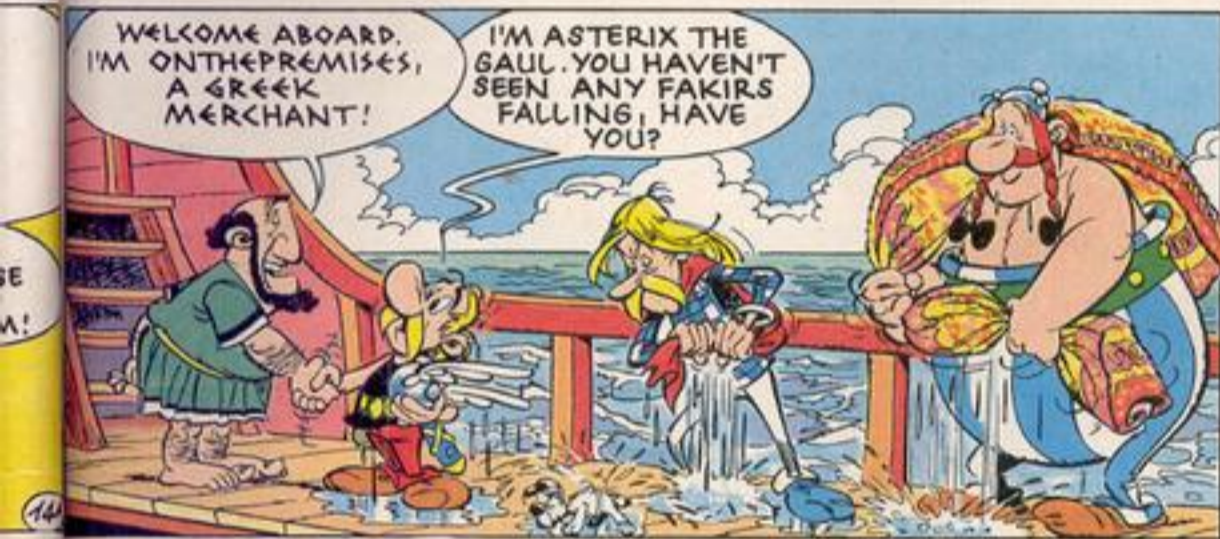
...FOR TONIGHT WE'LL MERRY, MERRY BE...

WHAT ABOUT I CAN'T IMAGINE!

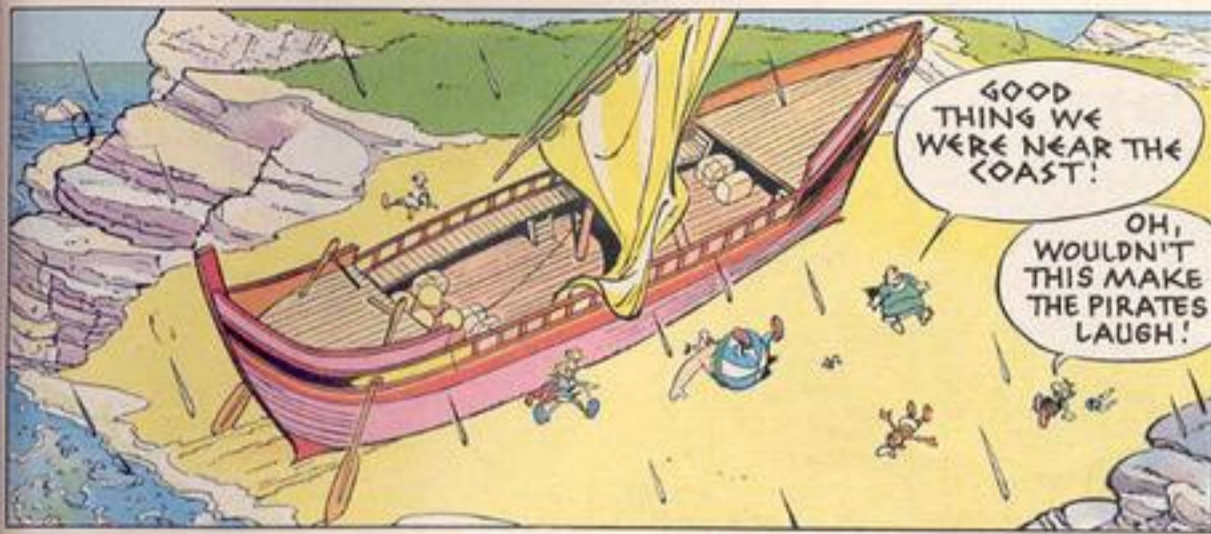
WATZIZNEHM HAS FALLEN OFF THE CARPET!!!



I KNEW THIS ADVENTURE WOULD COME TO A BAD END!





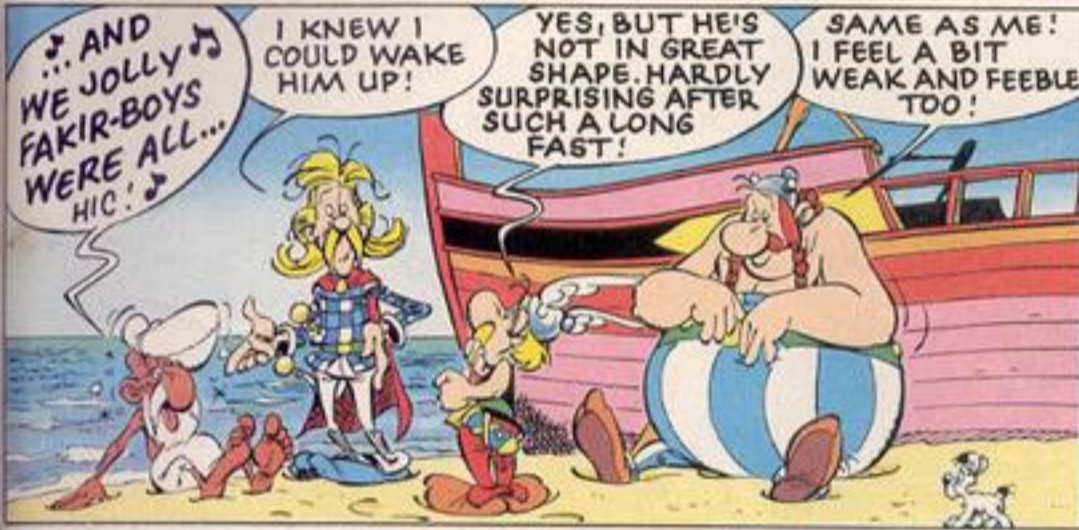


GOOD THING WE WERE NEAR THE COAST!

OH, WOULDN'T THIS MAKE THE PIRATES LAUGH!



TO THINK OF THE SONG AND DANCE ODYSSEUS MADE ABOUT THE SIRENS!



...AND WE JOLLY WE FAKIR-BOYS WERE ALL... HIC!

I KNEW I COULD WAKE HIM UP!

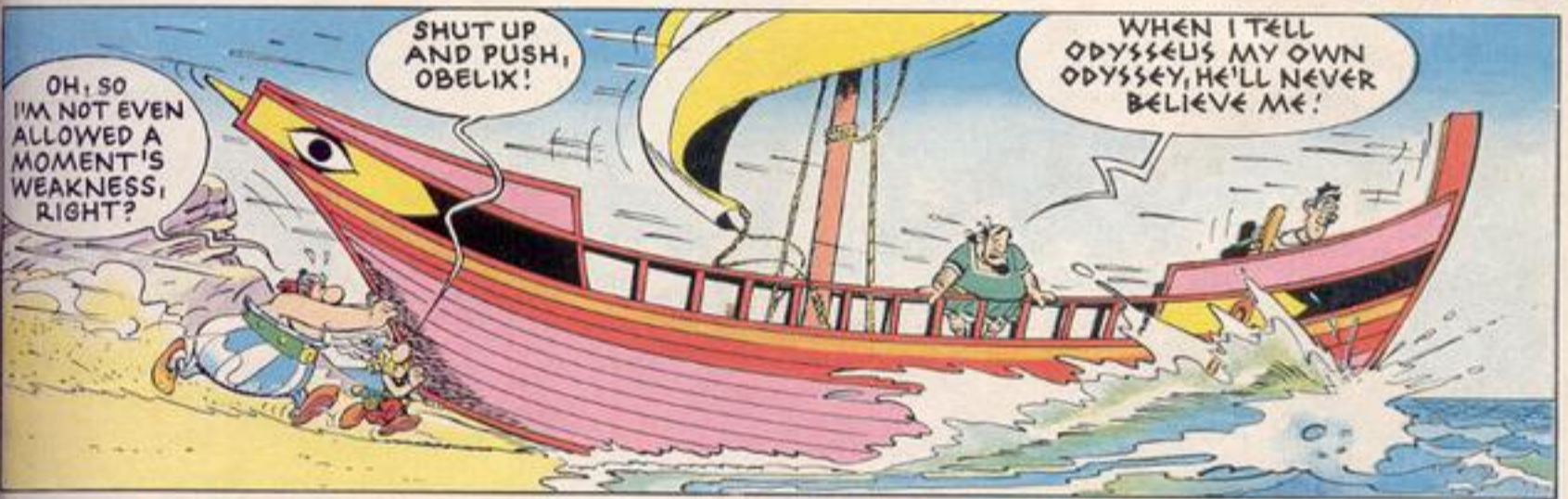
YES, BUT HE'S NOT IN GREAT SHAPE. HARDLY SURPRISING AFTER SUCH A LONG FAST!

SAME AS ME! I FEEL A BIT WEAK AND FEEBLE TOO!



AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT MY SHIP?

WEAK AND FEEBLE AS HE MAY BE, OBELIX IS GOING TO HELP ME RE-FLOAT IT, ON THE PREMISES!



OH, SO I'M NOT EVEN ALLOWED A MOMENT'S WEAKNESS, RIGHT?

SHUT UP AND PUSH, OBELIX!

WHEN I TELL ODYSSEUS MY OWN ODYSSEY, HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME!



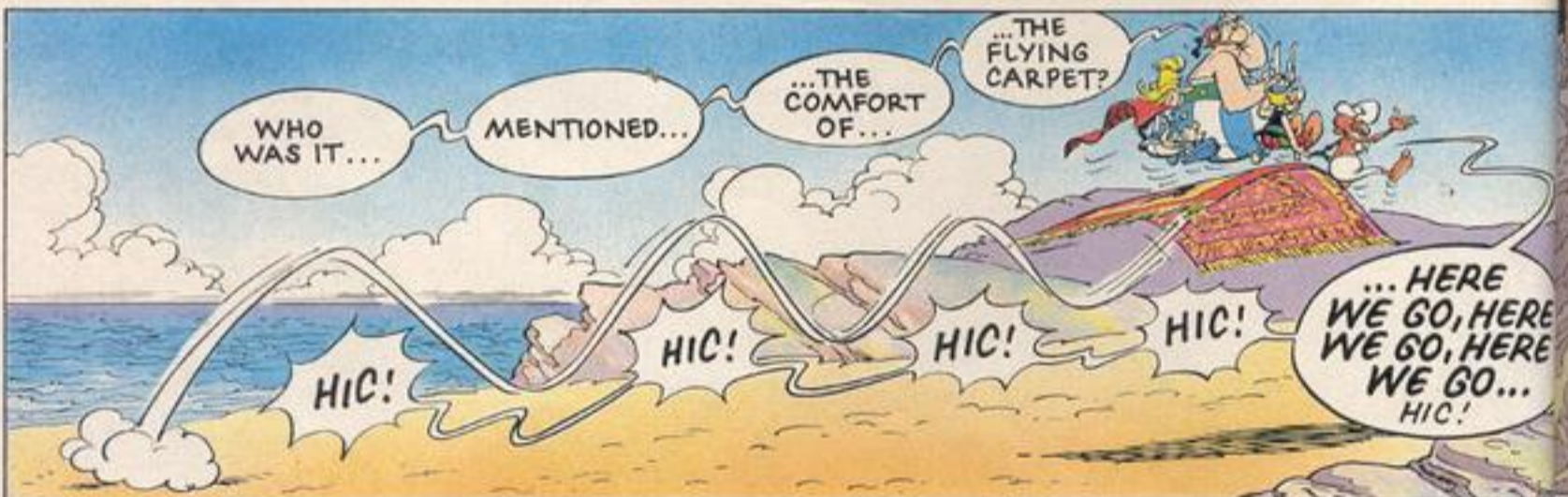
...HIC! ...LYING DOWN BELOW! TUT, TUT!

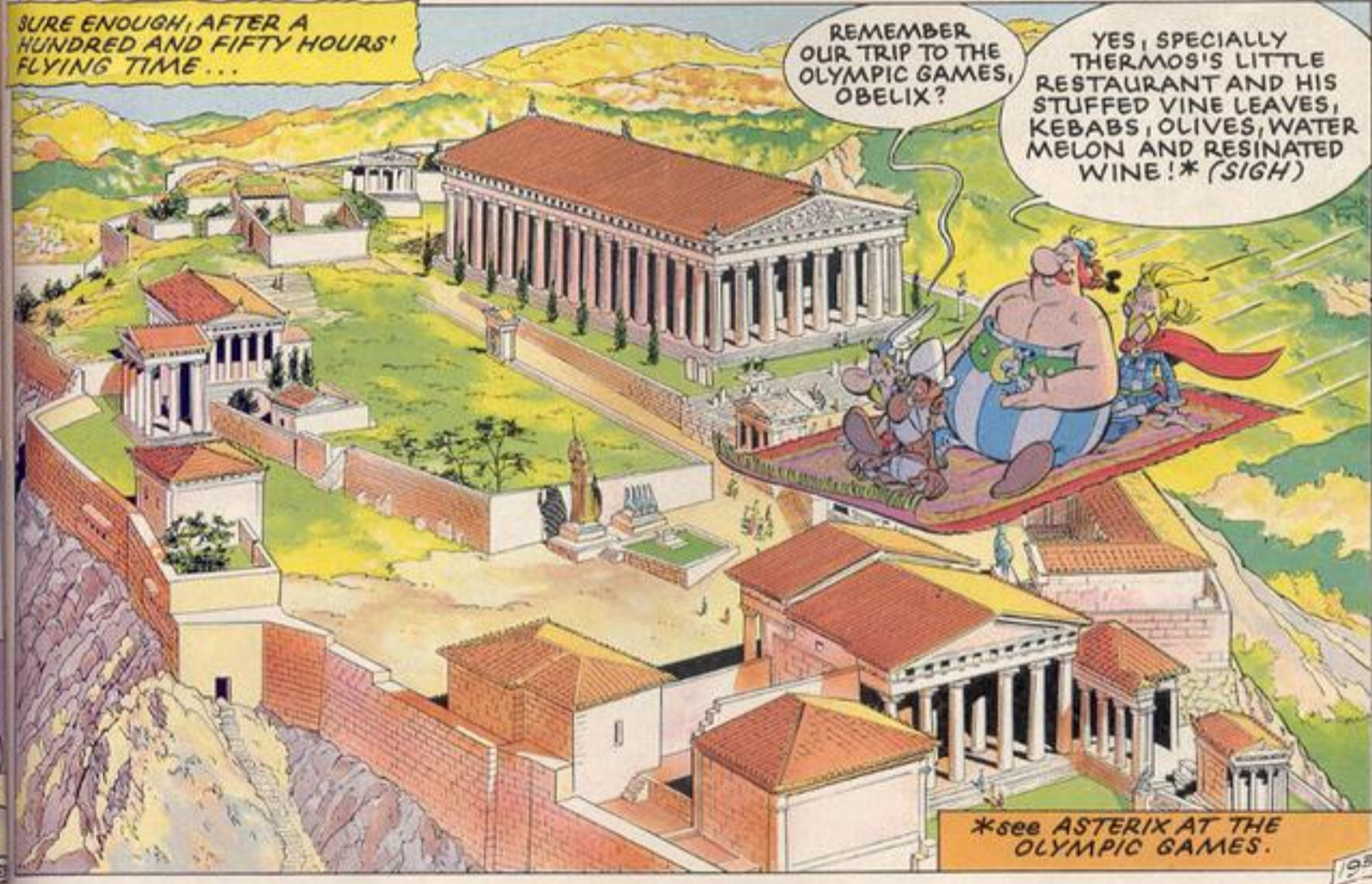
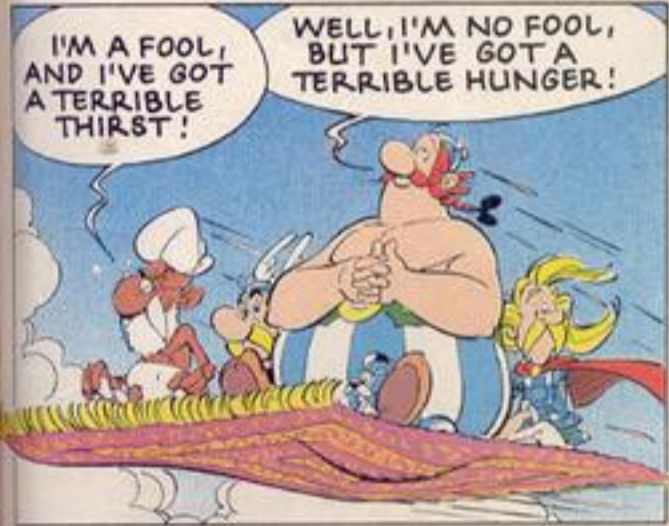
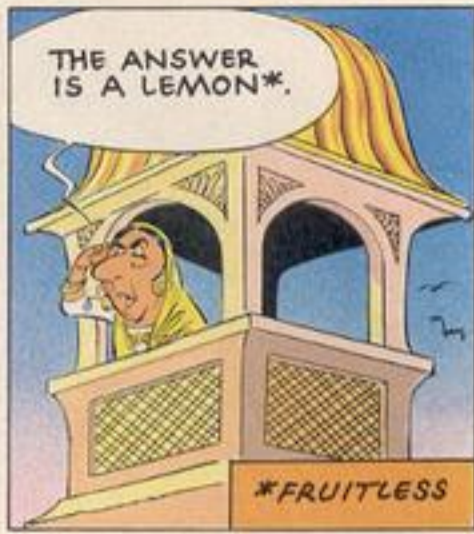
WELL, I'LL BE GLAD TO BE BACK ON THE COMFORT OF THE FLYING CARPET!

YES... WHERE IS IT?



THE CARPET!! WE'VE LOST THE CARPET!!!





THE HOURS PASS INEXORABLY BY... THEREBY HANGS MANY A TALE.



WE SHALL SOON BE LEAVING THE SEA FOR THE LAST TIME AND FLYING OVER THE LANDS OF THE ORIENT!

GOOD! WE CAN COME DOWN AND HAVE SOME DINNER AT LAST!



*PHOENICIAN PORT, see ASTERIX AND THE BLACK GOLD



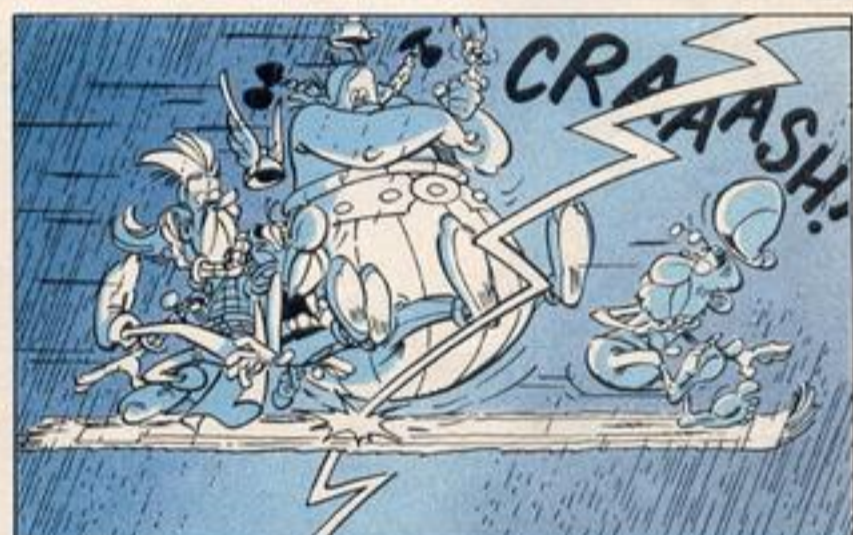
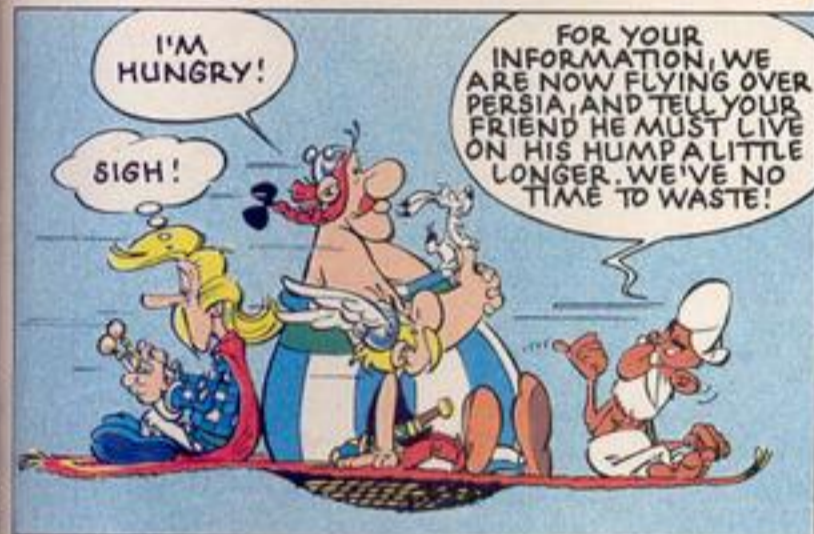
THE SKY OVER RAJAH WATZIT'S KINGDOM IS STILL RELENTLESSLY CLEAR, AND WE ARE NOW ONLY THREE HUNDRED HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR, THE TIME SET FOR THE SACRIFICE OF PRINCESS ORINJADE.

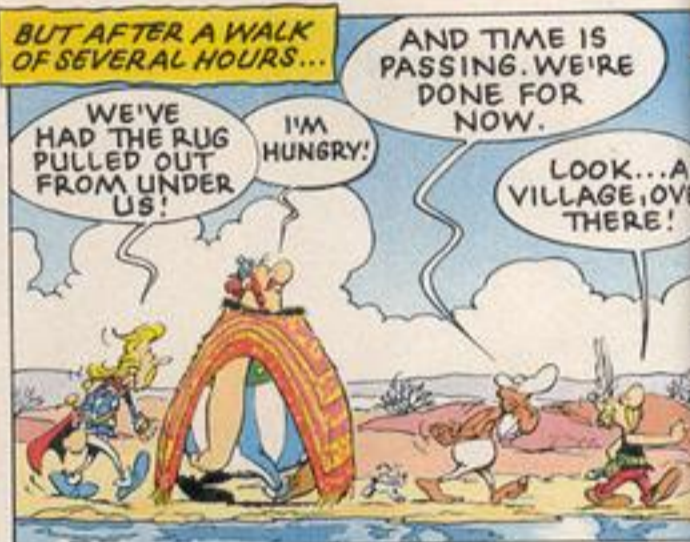
LEMUHNADÉ, LEMUHNADÉ, DO YOU SEE ANYONE COMING?

THE ANSWER'S STILL A LEMON...

YOUR WEATHER FORECASTS HAVE BEEN ACCURATE SO FAR, OWZAT! NOT A CLOUD ON THE HORIZON, BUT SUPPOSE WATZIZNEHM BRINGS THAT GAUL BACK IN TIME TO MAKE IT RAIN?

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT KIND OF MIRACLE, O DIVINE MASTER. FLYING CARPETS ARE ONE THING, BUT RAIN-MAKING IS SHEER SCIENCE FICTION!





NG
RE
AT



LEMUHNADÉ,
LEMUHNADÉ,
DO YOU SEE
ANYONE
COMING?



THE
ANSWER'S STILL
A LEM...

OH,
FORGET
IT!



TEEHEE! IF THE CLEPSYDRA* IS
KEEPING GOOD TIME, WE'RE
ONLY A HUNDRED AND EIGHTY
HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR!

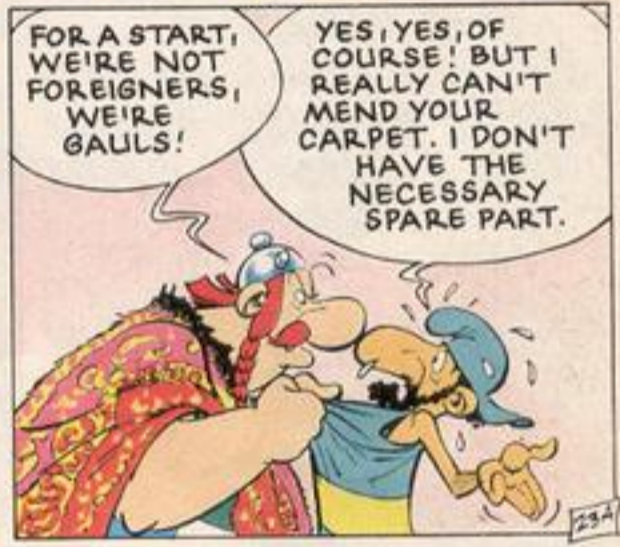
WHEN YOU
CAN ZERO IN ON
THE THRONE, O
DIVINE MASTER
...TEEHEE!

*ANCIENT WATER
CLOCK.

MEANWHILE...

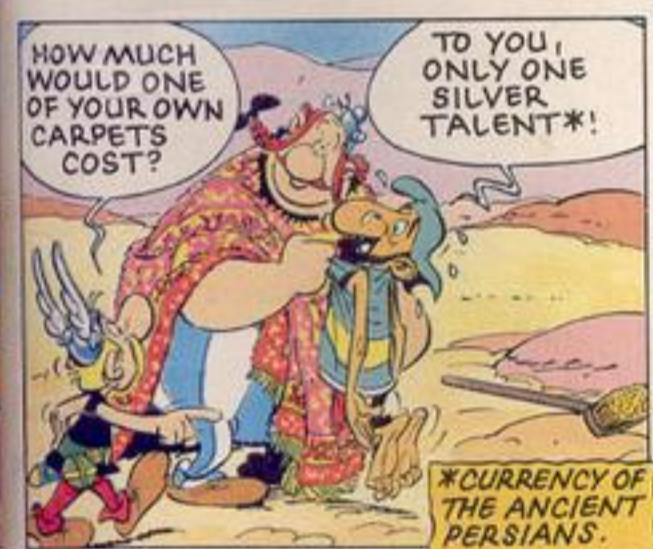


OH, SO YOU
CAN'T MEND
FOREIGN HOLES,
IS THAT
IT?



FOR A START,
WE'RE NOT
FOREIGNERS,
WE'RE
GAULS!

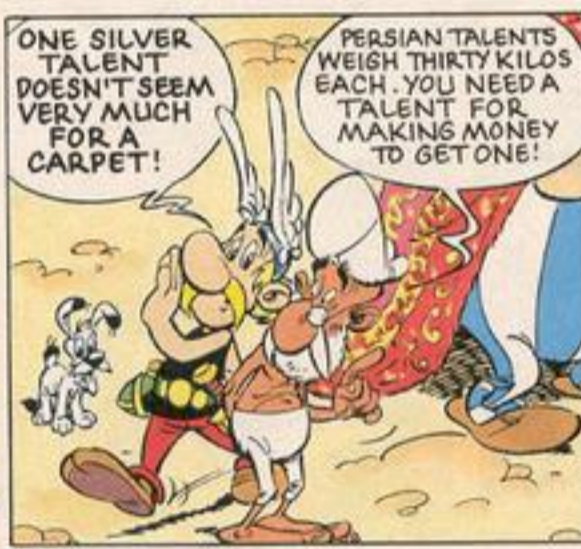
YES, YES, OF
COURSE! BUT I
REALLY CAN'T
MEND YOUR
CARPET. I DON'T
HAVE THE
NECESSARY
SPARE PART.



HOW MUCH
WOULD ONE
OF YOUR OWN
CARPETS
COST?

TO YOU,
ONLY ONE
SILVER
TALENT*!

*CURRENCY OF
THE ANCIENT
PERSIANS.



ONE SILVER
TALENT
DOESN'T SEEM
VERY MUCH
FOR A
CARPET!

PERSIAN TALENTS
WEIGH THIRTY KILOS
EACH. YOU NEED A
TALENT FOR
MAKING MONEY
TO GET ONE!



TAP!
TAP!
TAP!

THESE
PERSIANS
ARE
CRAZY!



OUR
CARPET'S IN
HOLES, AND WE
DON'T HAVE ANY
TALENT FOR
GETTING ANOTHER.
ALL IS
LOST!

OH, I DON'T
KNOW. WE COULD
HELP OURSELVES
TO ONE.

OBELIX IS RIGHT!
NO USE BEING
HOLIER THAN THOU
IN A HOLE
LIKE THIS.

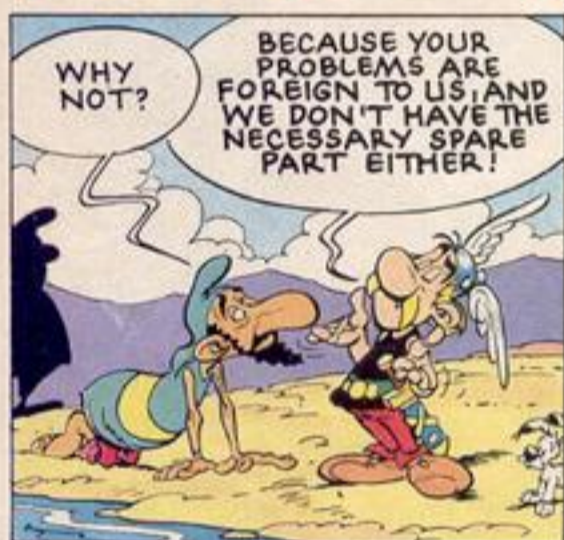
NO! WE CAN'T STEAL
AWAY ON A STOLEN
CARPET!

WELL, I'LL
JUST GO ON
BRUSHING MY
CARPETS.



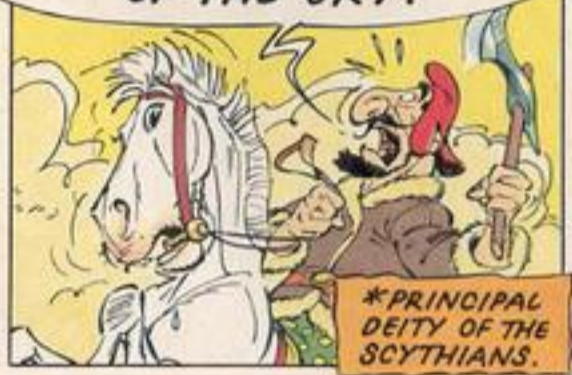
THE SCYTHIANS*!!!
THE SCYTHIAN
PIRATES ARE
COMING!!!

*PEOPLE
ORIGINATING FROM
THE CRIMEA.



CRASH!
BANG!
WALLOP!

BY THE GREAT GODDESS*! WE MUST FLY FROM THESE DEMONS OF THE SKY!



*PRINCIPAL DEITY OF THE SCYTHIANS.



LONG LIVE OUR HEROES!

LONG LIVE OUR RESCUERS!

AND THEY DID IT WITH MY CARPET, TOO!

WOOF!
WOOF!
WOOF!



WE OWE YOU A LOT! WHAT CAN WE GIVE YOU, BESIDES THE CARPET?

SOMETHING TO EAT!



AND SO, A LITTLE LATER...

THESE LITTLE GREY THINGS ARE VERY NICE!

ONLY POOR MAN'S FARE! FISH EGGS... WE CALL THEM KHAVIAR! THEY'RE VERY NOURISHING, THOUGH!

ONE EGG WILL DO FOR ME, THEN!

WHAT'S THAT?

ROAST CAMEL! AS GOOD AS DROMEDARY, BUT A BETTER BUY, BECAUSE IT HAS TWO HUMPS!

SCRUNCH!
SCRUNCH!



A ROAST CAMEL MAY BE A GOOD BUY, BUT IT'S NOT UP TO A GOOD ROAST BOAR!

NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW, SEEING THE AMOUNT YOU ATE!



RIGHT... NOW WE'VE FILLED UP AGAIN, WE MUST MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME AND FLY STRAIGHT TO RAJAH WATZIT'S KINGDOM!



I WILL NOT SEE YOU DIE, DEAR ORINJADE! I'D RATHER ABDICATE IN FAVOUR OF HOODUNNIT.

DON'T WORRY, FATHER! WATZITNEHM ISN'T JUST ANYONE!



NO KNIGHTS IN SHINING ARMOUR RIDING TO WATZIT'S AID AS THE THOUSAND AND ONE HOURS TICK BY, OWZAT!

NO, IT WOULD TAKE A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS TO SAVE HIM AND THE PRINCESS NOW!



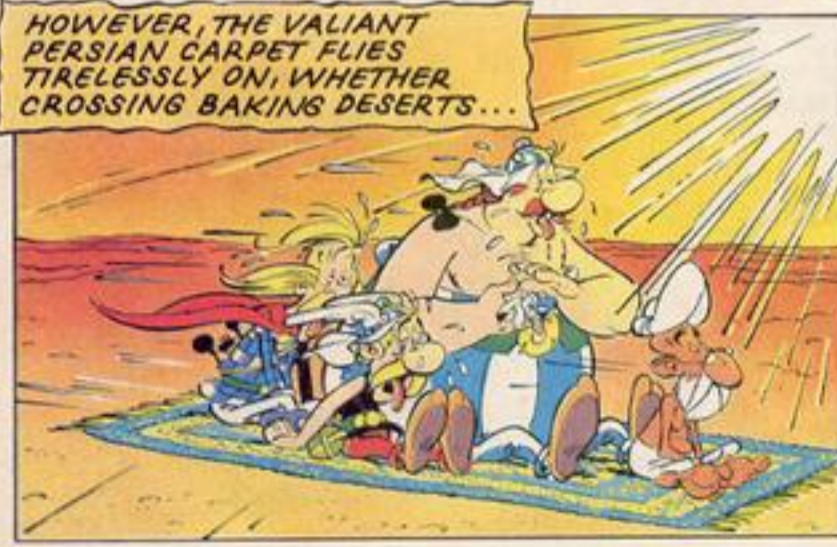
O HOODUNNIT, DIVINE MASTER, SUPPOSE THERE'S STILL NO RAIN WHEN YOU'VE EXECUTED THE PRINCESS?

INDRA WILL CALL FOR MORE ROYAL BLOOD... AND IT'LL BE OFF WITH THE RAJAH'S HEAD!

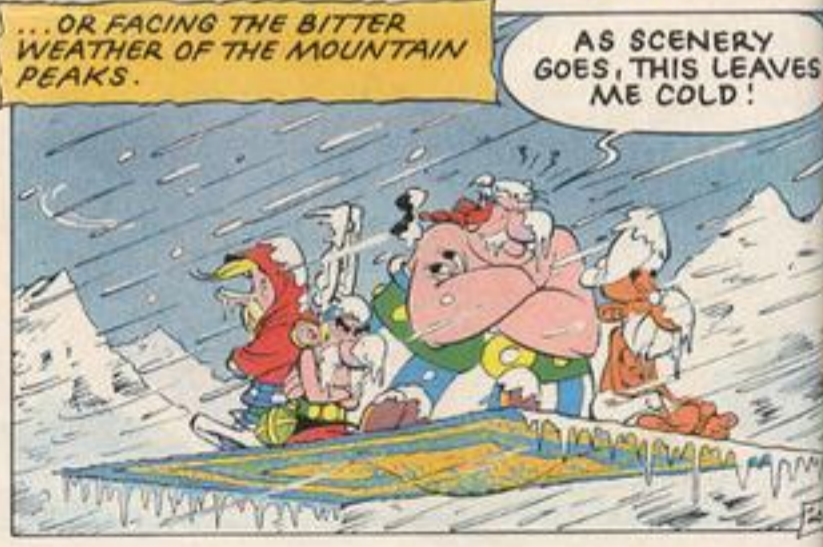


BUT SUPPOSE IT STILL DOESN'T RAIN?

IT WON'T MATTER A BIT, BECAUSE BY THEN I'LL BE RAJAH MYSELF. HO, HO, HO!



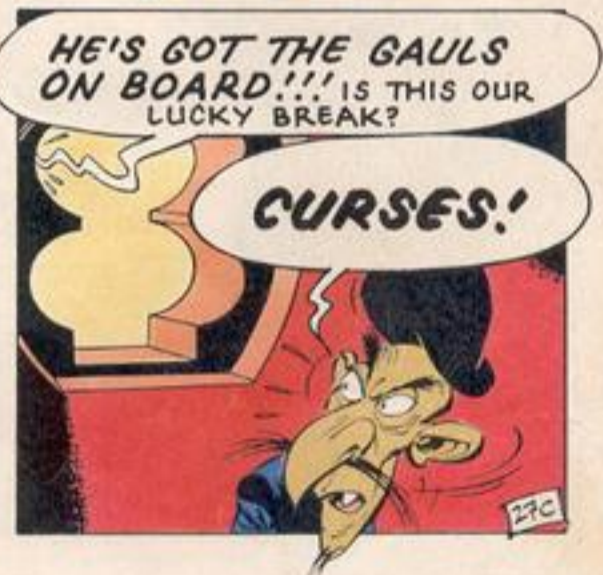
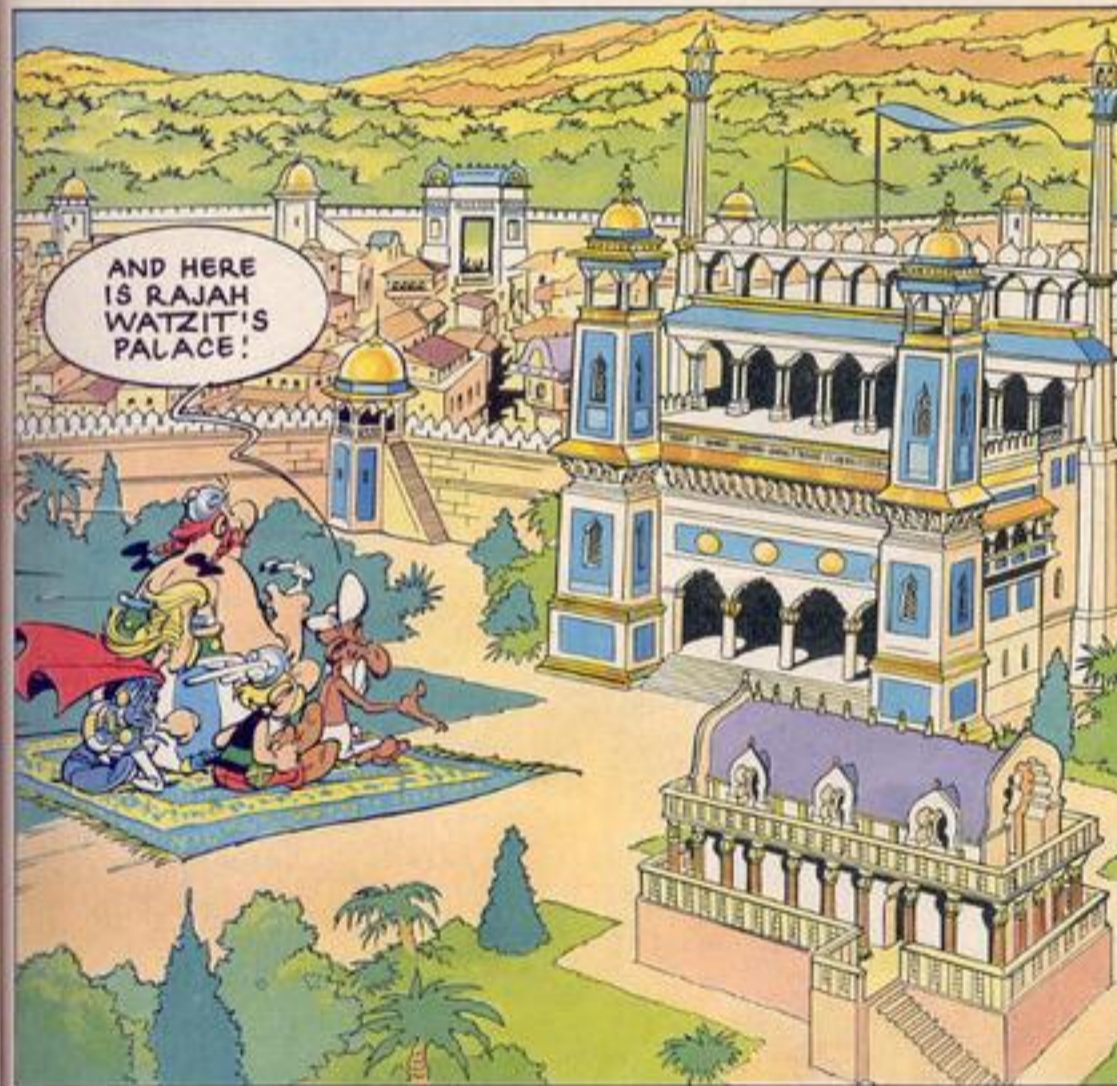
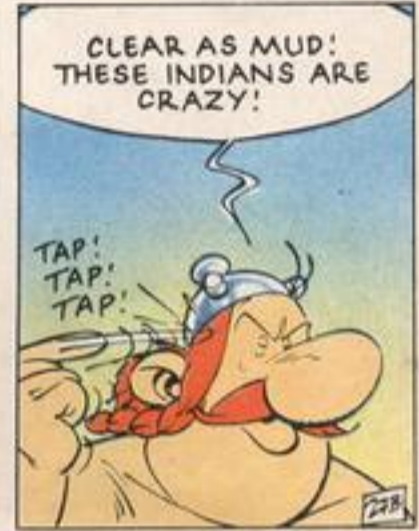
HOWEVER, THE VALIANT PERSIAN CARPET FLIES TIRELESSLY ON, WHETHER CROSSING BAKING DESERTS...



... OR FACING THE BITTER WEATHER OF THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS.

AS SCENERY GOES, THIS LEAVES ME COLD!

AT LAST, 30 HOURS, 30 MINUTES
AND 30 SECONDS FROM ZERO HOUR...





THERE, FATHER, WASN'T I RIGHT TO TRUST THE FAITHFUL WATZIZNEHM?



SPLATCH!

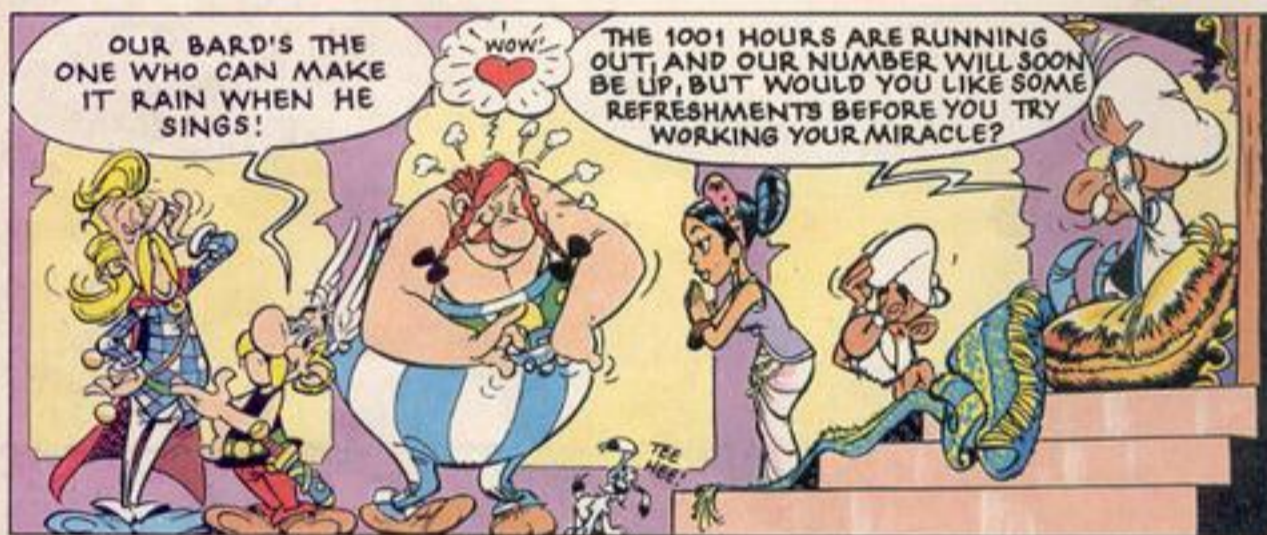
OUCH! I SHOULD HAVE WATCHED MY STEP!



AS PROMISED, GREAT RAJAH, I BRING YOU THE GAULS WHO CAN MAKE IT RAIN!

MAY THE THIRTY MILLION VEDIC GODS CARRY THEM TO NIRVANA* FOR THE MIRACLE THEY ARE ABOUT TO WORK!

*INDIAN PARADISE



OUR BARD'S THE ONE WHO CAN MAKE IT RAIN WHEN HE SINGS!

WOW!

THE 1001 HOURS ARE RUNNING OUT, AND OUR NUMBER WILL SOON BE UP, BUT WOULD YOU LIKE SOME REFRESHMENTS BEFORE YOU TRY WORKING YOUR MIRACLE?



A MIRACULOUSLY REFRESHING IDEA!



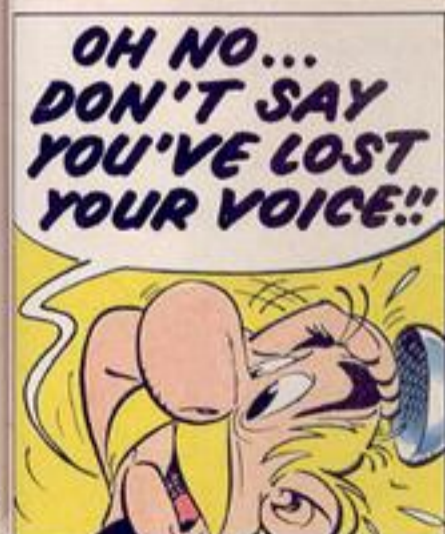
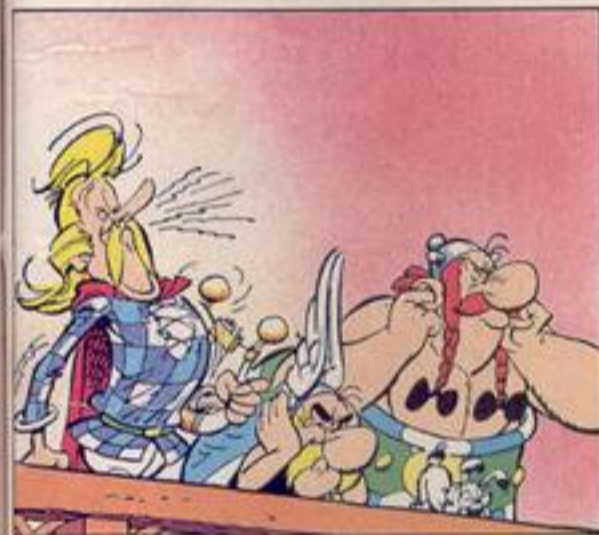
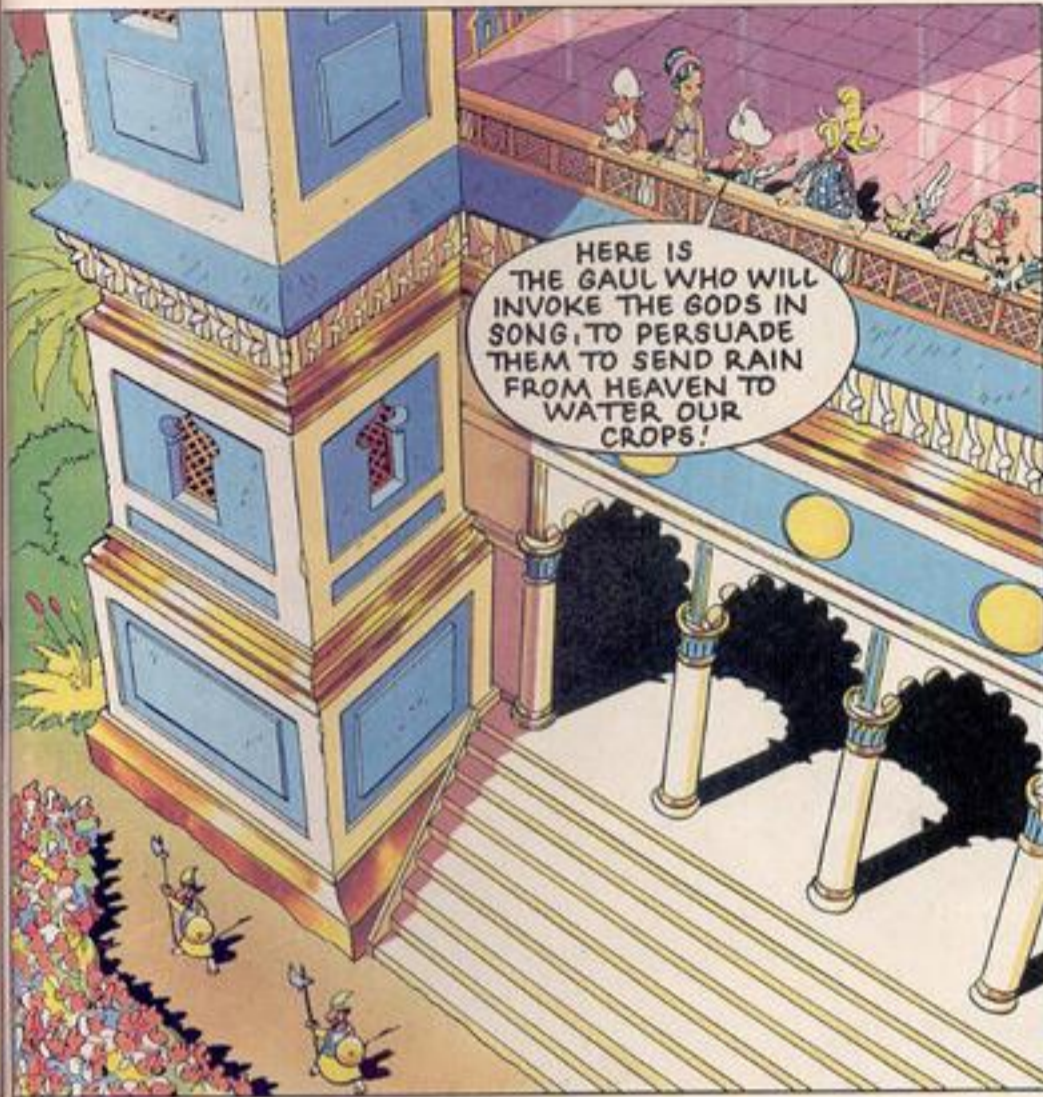
THE GAULISH MIRACLE-WORKER WILL MAKE IT RAIN THIS AFTERNOON. ALL THE RAJAH'S SUBJECTS ARE SUMMONED TO THE PALACE TO WITNESS THE MIRACLE.

MAKING HEAVY WEATHER OF IT AS USUAL! THEY'RE ALWAYS PROMISING RAIN, AND IT ALWAYS TURNS OUT FINE!

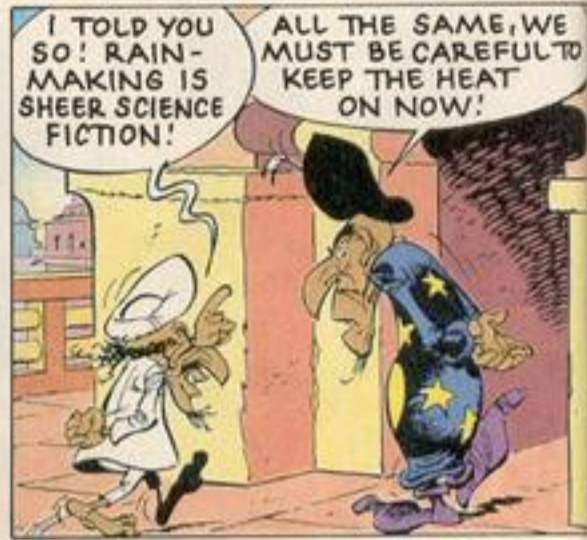
OH, FOR A PATCH OF GREY SKY AGAIN! OH, TO WASH IN RAIN, NOT MUD!

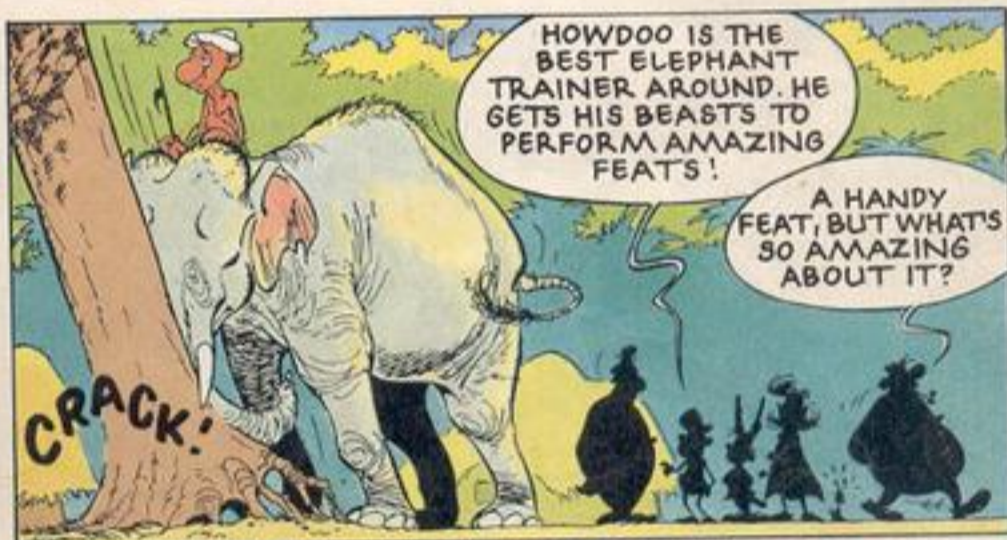
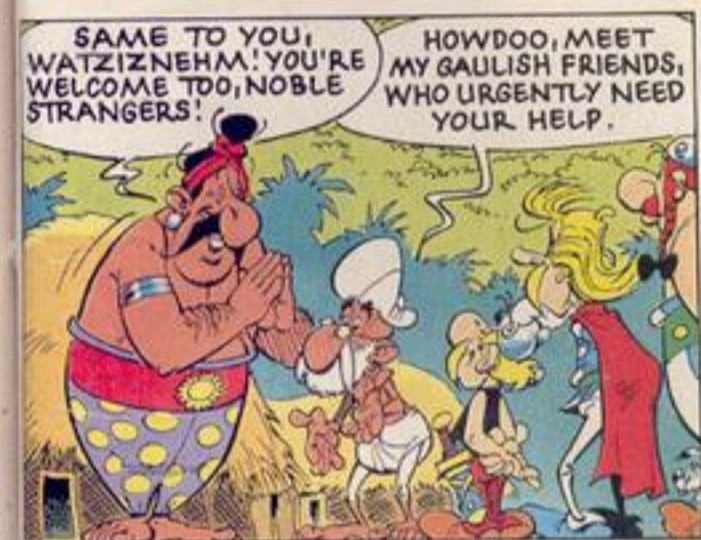
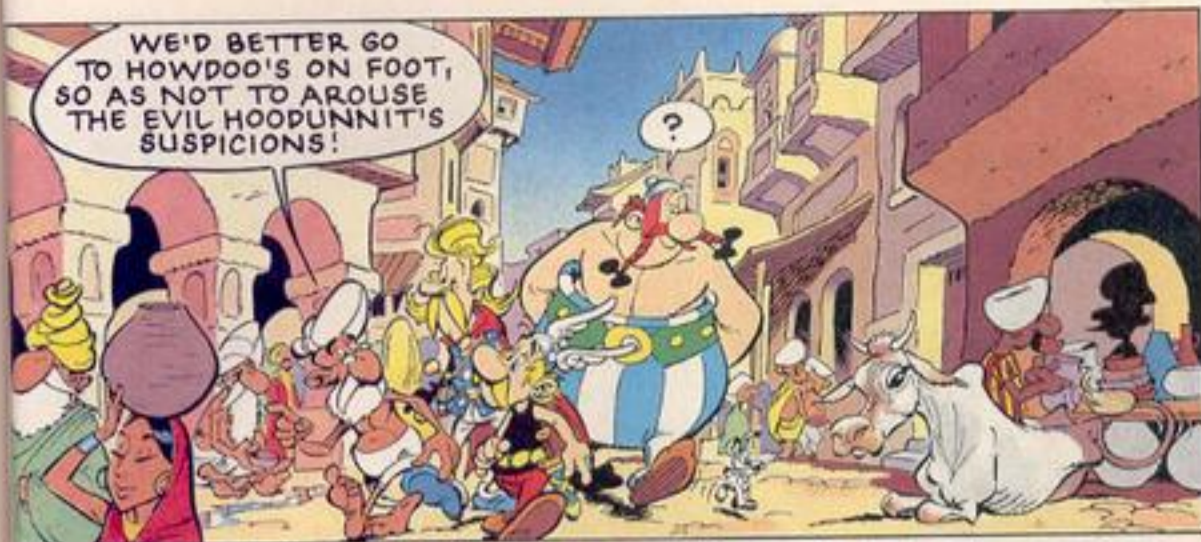


IF WATZIZNEHM IS RIGHT, THOSE GAULS WILL PUT A DAMPER ON OUR PLANS!



*INCARNATIONS AND METAMORPHOSES OF THE INDIAN GODS.





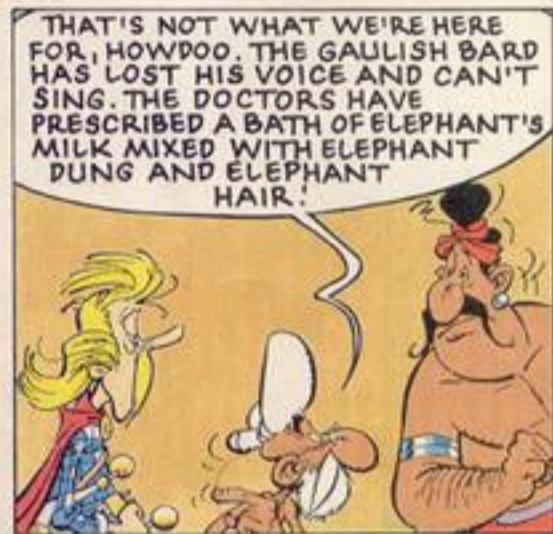


?!
YOU ASKED ME WHAT A PACHYDERM WAS, OBELIX. THAT IS!

HUH! NOT MUCH LIKE ME, IS IT?



YOU'RE VERY WELL TRAINED, STRANGER! I CAN GIVE YOU A JOB IF YOU LIKE!



THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR, HOWDOO. THE GAULISH BARD HAS LOST HIS VOICE AND CAN'T SING. THE DOCTORS HAVE PRESCRIBED A BATH OF ELEPHANT'S MILK MIXED WITH ELEPHANT DUNG AND ELEPHANT HAIR!



BOTHER THAT! I KNOW A MUCH QUICKER CURE! I HAD AN ELEPHANT WHO COULDN'T TRUMPET BECAUSE HIS TRUNK WAS STUFFED UP. I ONLY HAD TO BLOW DOWN IT VERY HARD!



SINCE WHEN HE'S TENDED TO GET WIND, BUT HE CAN BLOW HIS OWN TRUMPET NOW!



... I CAN DO THE SAME FOR HIM IF YOU LIKE?



NO, THANKS... I THINK HE'D PREFER THE FIRST PRESCRIPTION!

WHAT A SHAME... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY WITH A NOSE LIKE THAT!



LATER...

WE'LL LEAVE YOU NOW, CACOFONIX, BUT WE'LL BE BACK TOMORROW MORNINGS!

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO WORK MIRACLES AGAIN!



THE GAULISH BARD IS AT HOWDOO'S. HE'LL BE ON HIS OWN TONIGHT!

EXCELLENT! NOW THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO...

WHEN NIGHT HAS FALLEN, EIGHTEEN HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR...

WHAT A PONG! IT MAKES ME GAG!

WELL, WE NEEDN'T WASTE TIME GAGGING HIM, SINCE HE CAN'T SPEAK.



I CAN STAND MOST THINGS... THE NIGHT, THE JUNGLE, THE JUNGLE BY NIGHT, BUT THIS STINK IS TOO MUCH FOR ME!

THE SOONER WE GET THERE, THE BETTER FOR US!



BY NOW OUR MEN WILL BE TAKING THE GAUL TO THE SACRED SANCTUARY OF THE ELEPHANTS' GRAVEYARD, IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE!

TEEHEHEE! WHEN HE'S FOUND, THE FURIOUS ELEPHANTS WILL HAVE TRAMPLED HIM TO THE THICKNESS OF A DRACHMA*

NEXT MORNING, WITH TEN HOURS TO GO TO ZERO HOUR...

TIME TO GO AND GET CACOFONIX! IT'LL BE QUICKER BY CARPET!

WHAT ABOUT MY BREAKFAST?

THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING!



*GREEK COIN USED IN INDIA.



33A

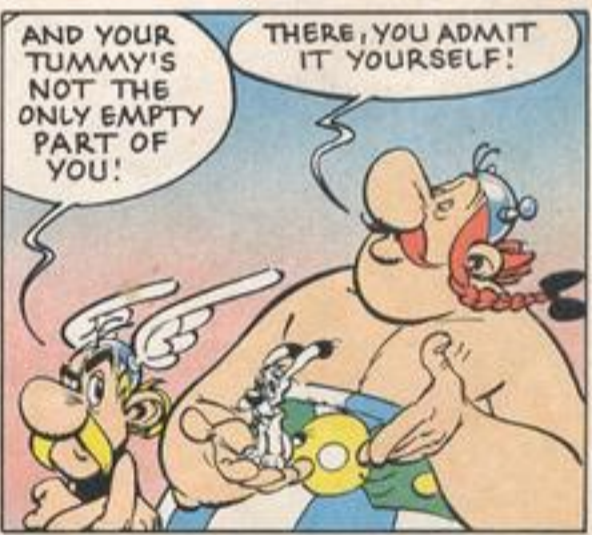
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IF THE CURE HAS WORKED!

I CAN'T WAIT TO KNOW WHEN IT'LL BE THE TIME AND THE PLACE FOR MY BREAKFAST. I FEEL SO FLAT WHEN MY TUMMY'S EMPTY!



AND YOUR TUMMY'S NOT THE ONLY EMPTY PART OF YOU!

THERE, YOU ADMIT IT YOURSELF!



THEY'RE OFF TO FETCH THE BARD! TRY TO DELAY THEM, OWZAT!

THAT'S EASY...MY CARPET'S PARKED QUITE CLOSE!



NOW FOR THE SHOWDOWN, WATZIZNEHM!



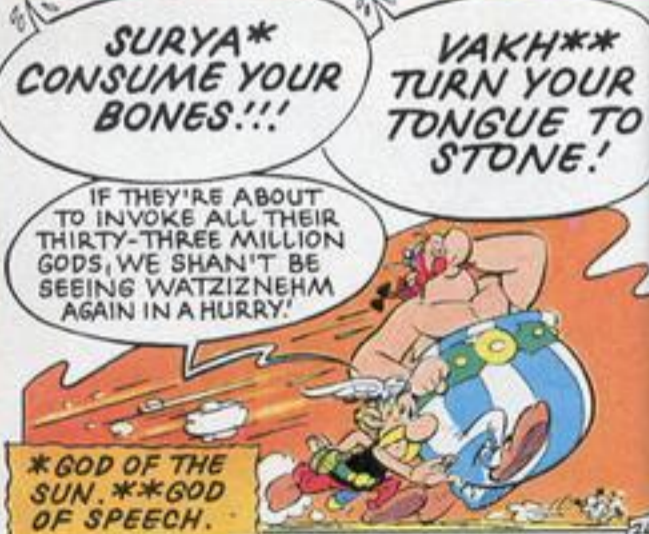
33B



* GREAT VEDIC DEITY OF INDIA.



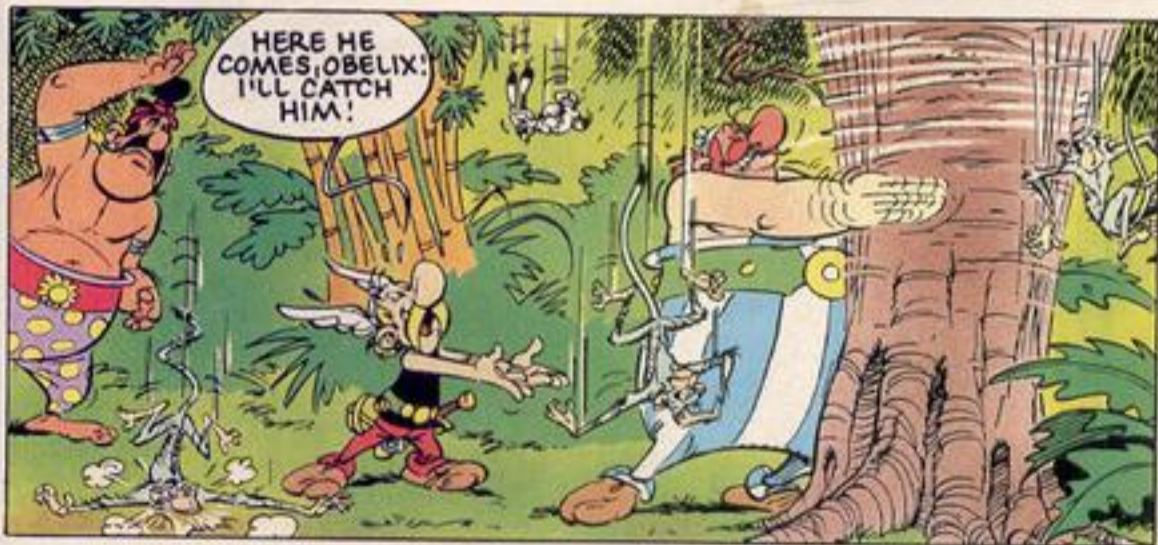
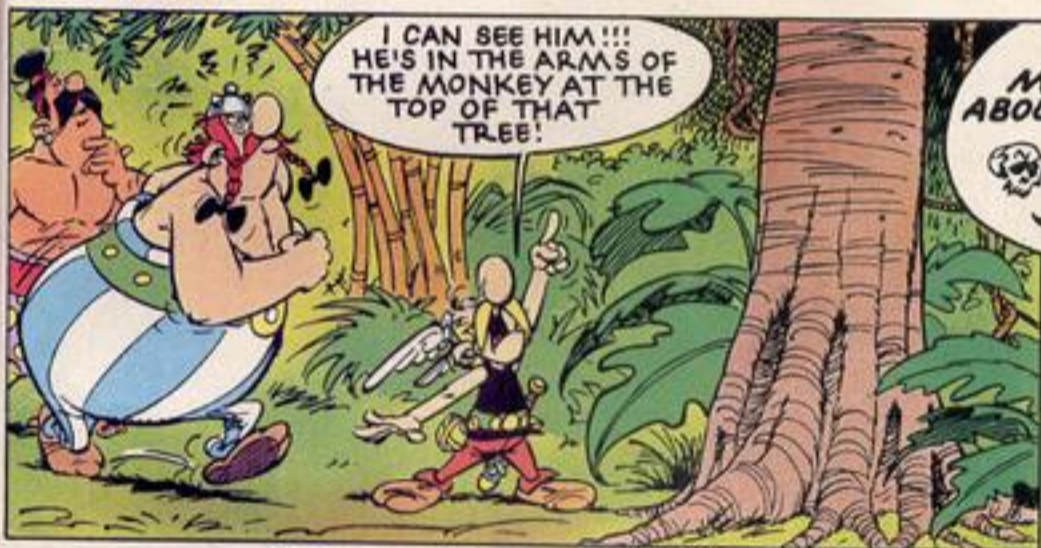
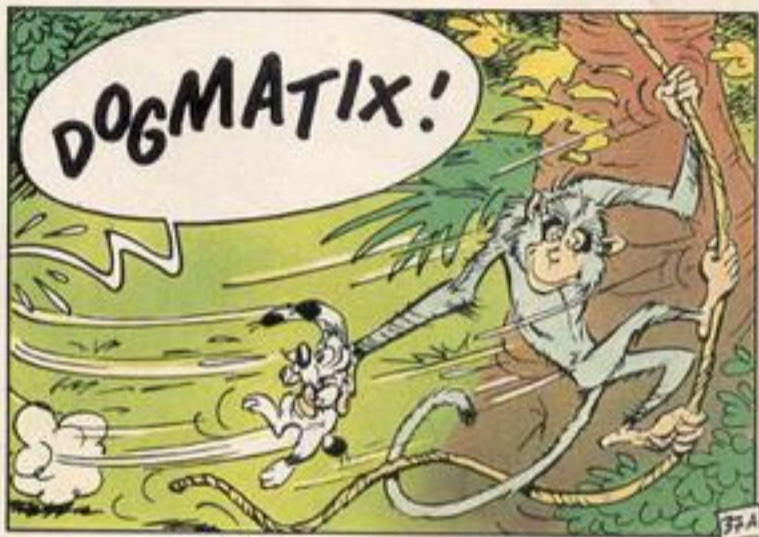
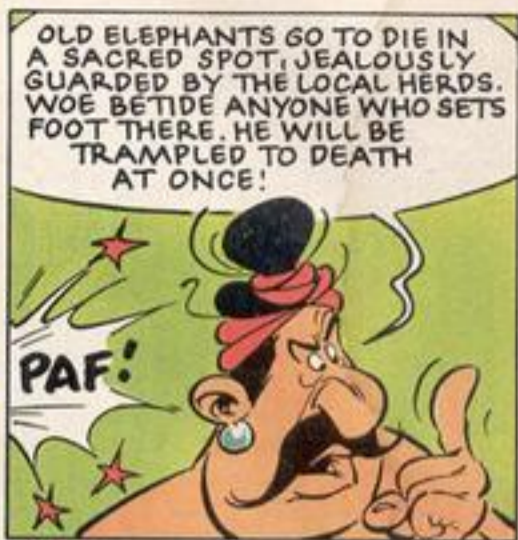
* GOD OF FIRE.
** GOD OF TIME.

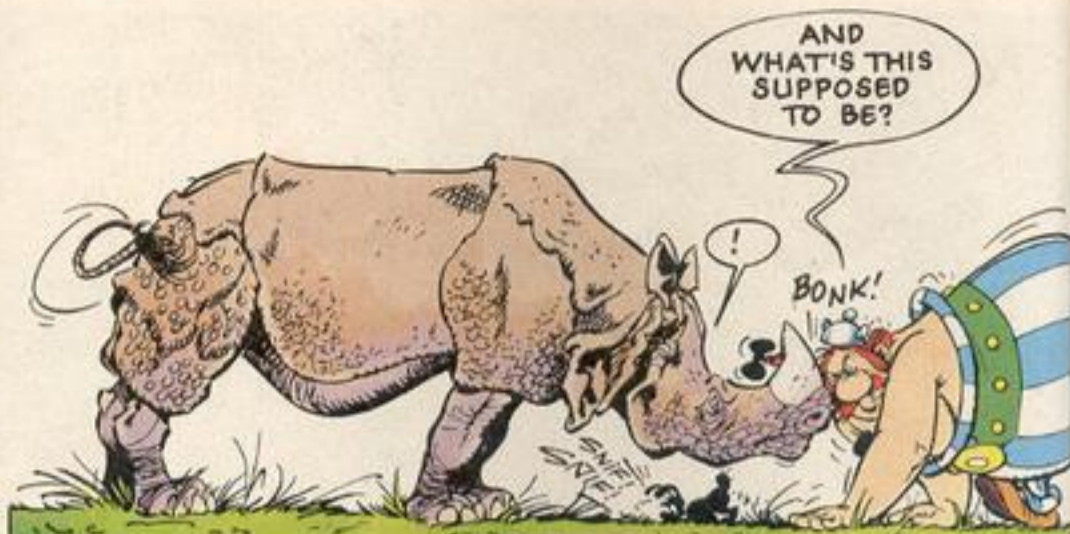


* GOD OF THE SUN. ** GOD OF SPEECH.











TRUMPETING NICELY NOW, ISN'T HE?

THE ELEPHANTS ARE MOVING ASIDE!



THANK TOUTATIS, HE'S SAFE AND SOUND!!!



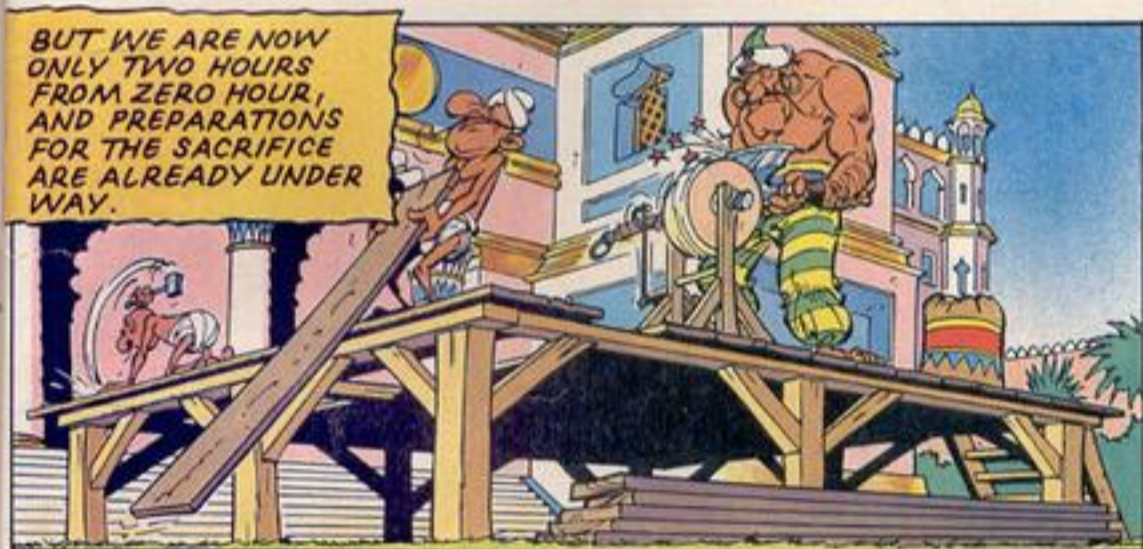
THANKS TO THE SMELL LINGING TO HIM, THE ELEPHANTS THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THEM! WHAT LUCK FOR HIM!

I KNEW I HAD NOTHING IN COMMON WITH THOSE PACHYDERMS!

YOU'VE STILL LOST YOUR VOICE, BUT YOU'RE ALIVE, THAT'S THE MAIN THING!

TANTANTARAAAA!

39A



BUT WE ARE NOW ONLY TWO HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR, AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE SACRIFICE ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY.



I SHALL DISPOSE OF THE DAUGHTER FIRST, THEN THE FATHER, AND THEN, LIKE MY COUSIN IZNOGOLD, I SHALL BE RAJAH INSTEAD OF THE RAJAH!



WHAT CAN THE GAULS BE DOING? WHERE IS WATZIZNEHM?

WATZIZNEHM IS STILL BUSY WITH HIS SUMMIT MEETING. WHICH OF THE TWO FAKIRS WILL WIN? WATZIZNEHM? OWZAT? IT'S ALL STILL IN THE AIR...

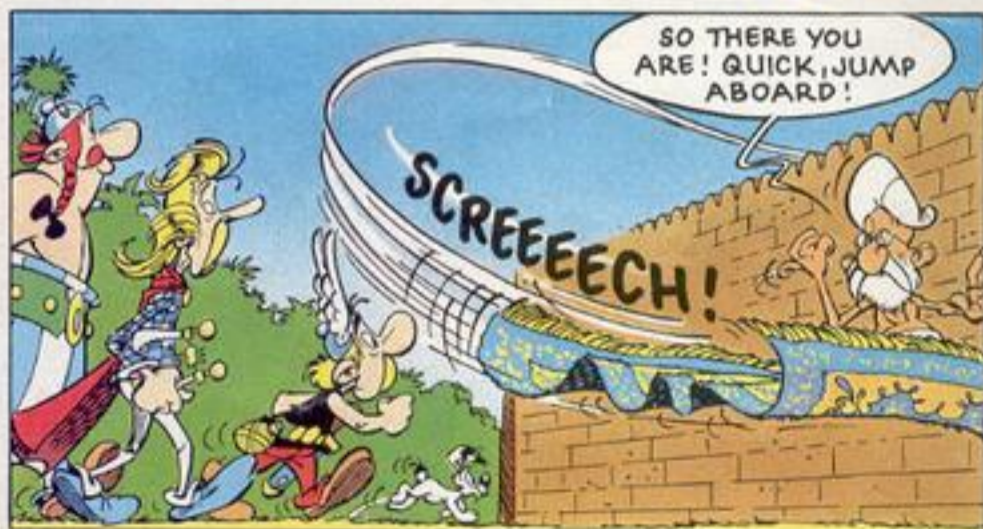
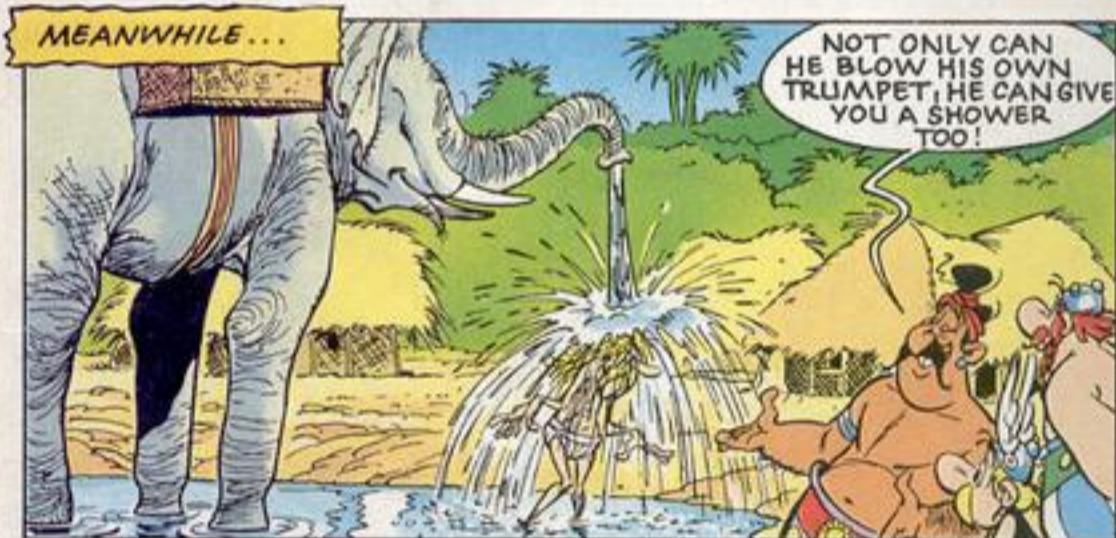
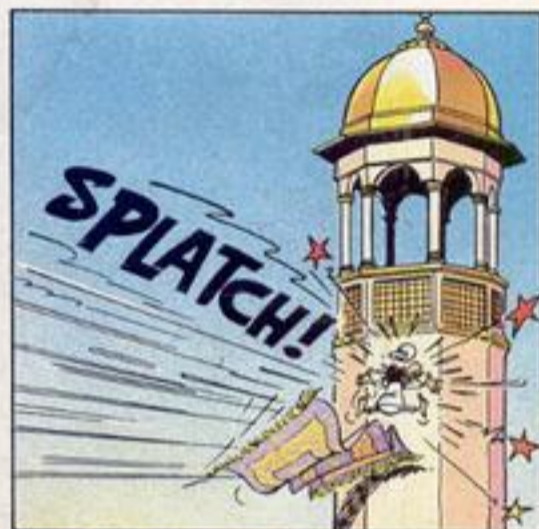
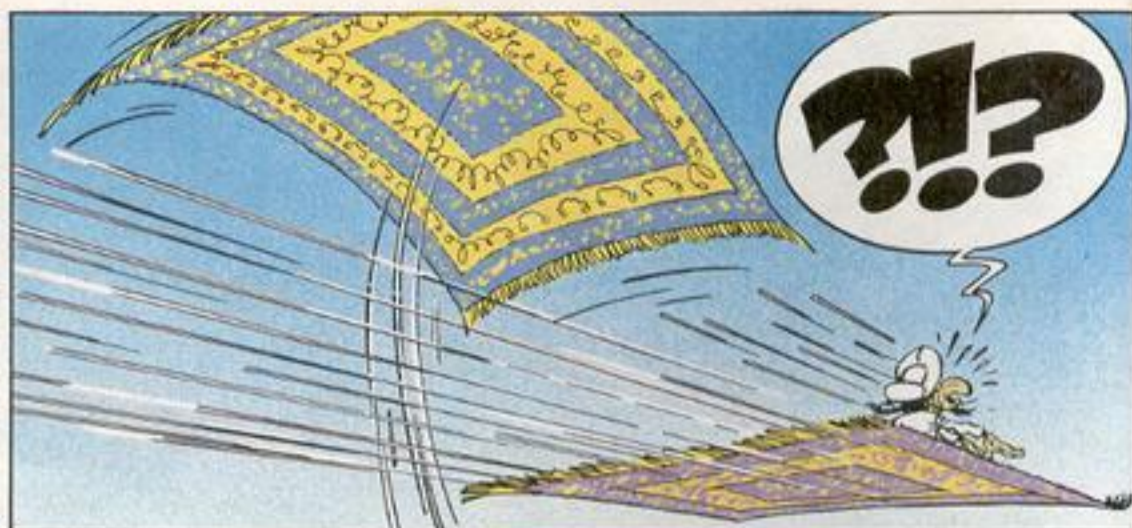
SKAMBHA* BRING THE SKY DOWN ON YOUR HEAD!!

PUSHAN** TURN YOU INTO AN OLD GOAT!



39B

*COSMIC PILLAR GOD HOLDING UP THE SKY. ** GOD OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

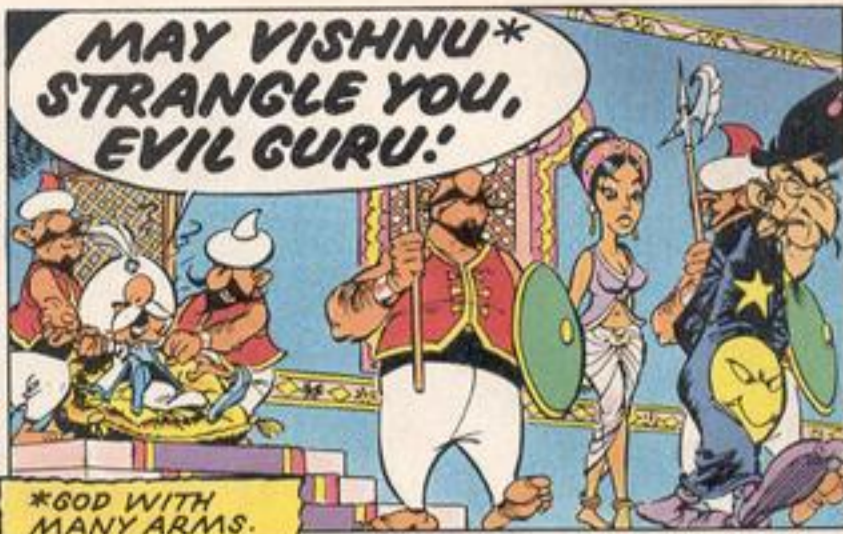


AT FIVE MINUTES TO ZERO HOUR...

BETTER RESIGN YOURSELF, PRINCESS! STILL NO RAIN! YOUR LAST HOUR HAS COME!



MAY VISHNU* STRANGLE YOU, EVIL GURU!



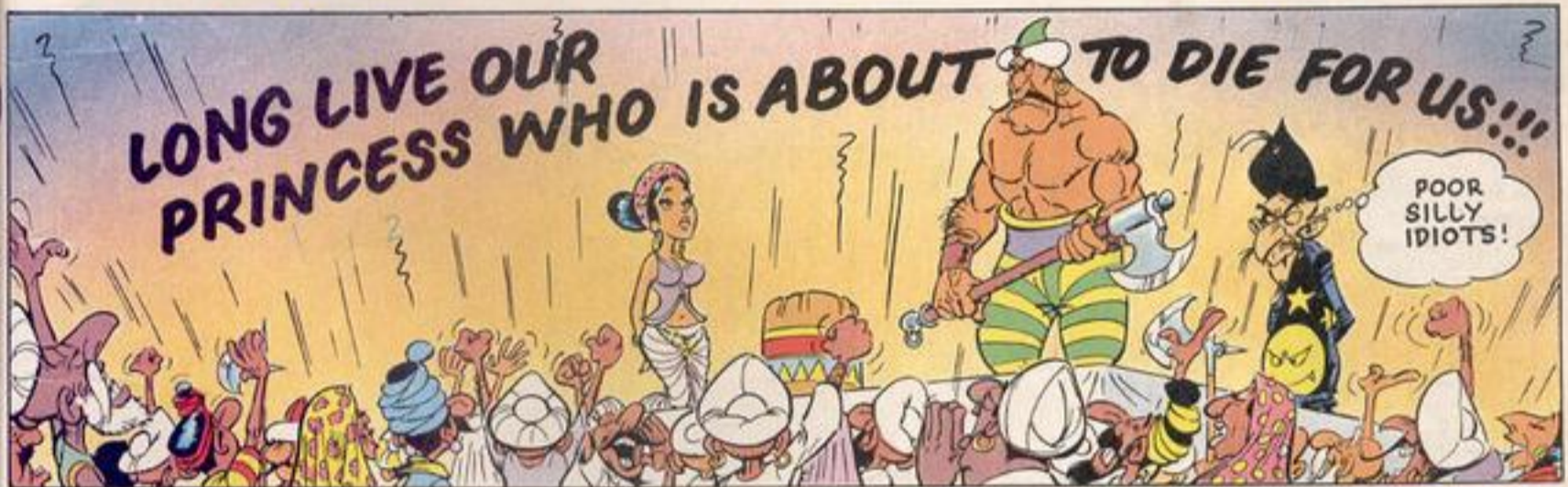
*GOD WITH MANY ARMS.

MAY MY SACRIFICE PERSUADE HEAVEN TO SHOWER ITS BLESSINGS ON YOU ONCE AGAIN! IF IT DOES NOT, BEWARE OF THOSE SERPENTS WHO ARE TRICKING YOU FOR THEIR OWN EVIL ENDS!



LONG LIVE OUR PRINCESS WHO IS ABOUT TO DIE FOR US!!!

POOR SILLY IDIOTS!



FIVE...
FOUR...
THREE...



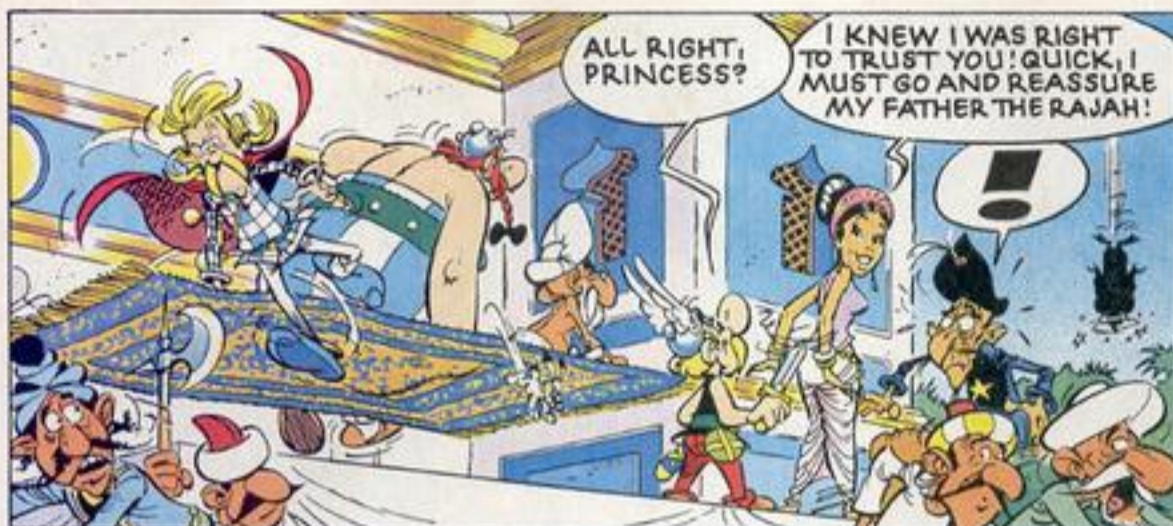
TWO...
ONE...



ZERO!

TCHAC!





ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS?

I KNEW I WAS RIGHT TO TRUST YOU! QUICK, I MUST GO AND REASSURE MY FATHER THE RAJAH!



GUARDS!
SEIZE THOSE
BLASPHEMOUS
MEN!!!



?



LET ME GO!
I ORDER YOU TO
LET ME GO!



JUST
WHAT I WAS
PLANNING
TO DO!



RAH!



THE MAGIC POTION
REALLY DOES WORK
WONDERS, ASTERIX!

YOU
SAID IT!



WAIT
A MINUTE...
SO YOU DID!
YOU'RE
TALKING!!!

SO I AM!
AND IF I'M
TALKING, I CAN
SING TOO!



PHEW! AND TO
THINK IT ONLY
TOOK A LITTLE
MAGIC
POTION!!!

WITH A HEY,
HO, THE WIND AND
THE RAIN...*

*SONG BY A
FAMOUS
BRITISH BARD.

FOR THE RAIN IT
RAINETH EVERY
DAY...



DON'T BE
SO WET!!!



THE
GAULISH
MIRACLE!



AND THE GAULISH MIRACLE
HAS BROUGHT THE
MONSOON ON AT LAST. THE
CROPS ARE SAVED, THE
WATERS OF THE GANGES
HAVE RISEN AGAIN, AND ALL
THE INDIANS ARE HAPPY...



...WITH A FEW
EXCEPTIONS!

SHEER
SCIENCE FICTION,
THAT IDIOT
SAID!

GOING
TO BE RAJAH
INSTEAD OF THE
RAJAH, THAT
CROOK SAID!



YOU HAVE
GIVEN US SO
MUCH! WHAT
CAN WE EVER
GIVE YOU IN
RETURN?



SOMETHING
TO EAT!!!



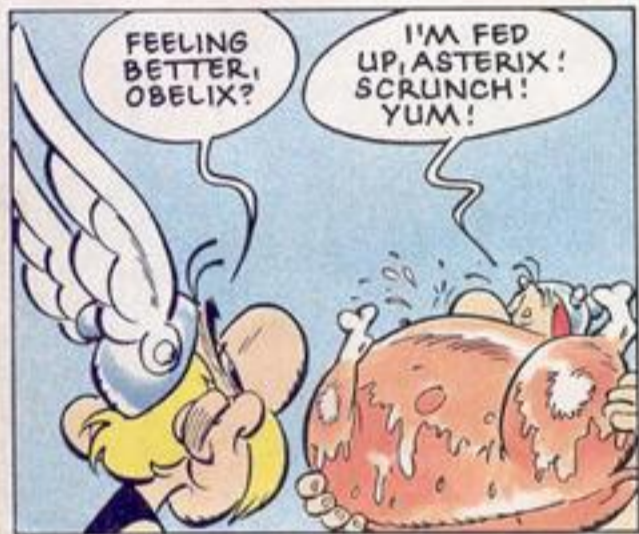


YOU'LL BE GLAD THE BOAR IS NOT A HOLY AND INEDIBLE ANIMAL TO US, OBELIX!

YUM! SCRUNCH! IT'S A WHOLLY EDIBLE ANIMAL TO ME!

I COULD HEAR YOU SING FOR EVER, GAUL!

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, PRINCESS! YOU MIGHT GET FLOODS AS BAD AS THE DROUGHT!



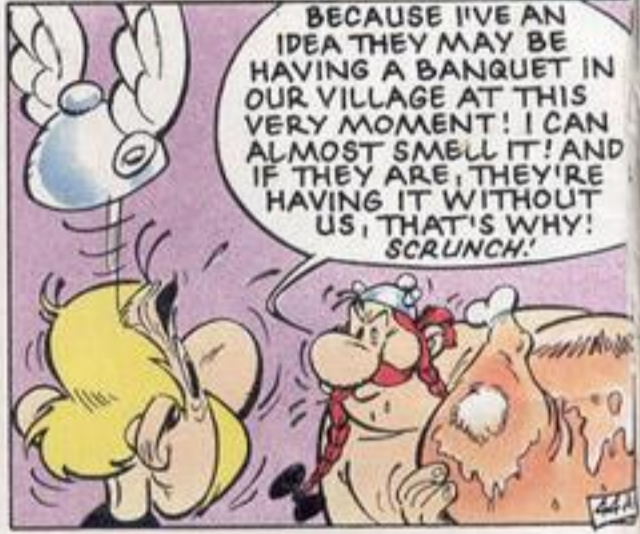
FEELING BETTER, OBELIX?

I'M FED UP, ASTERIX! SCRUNCH! YUM!

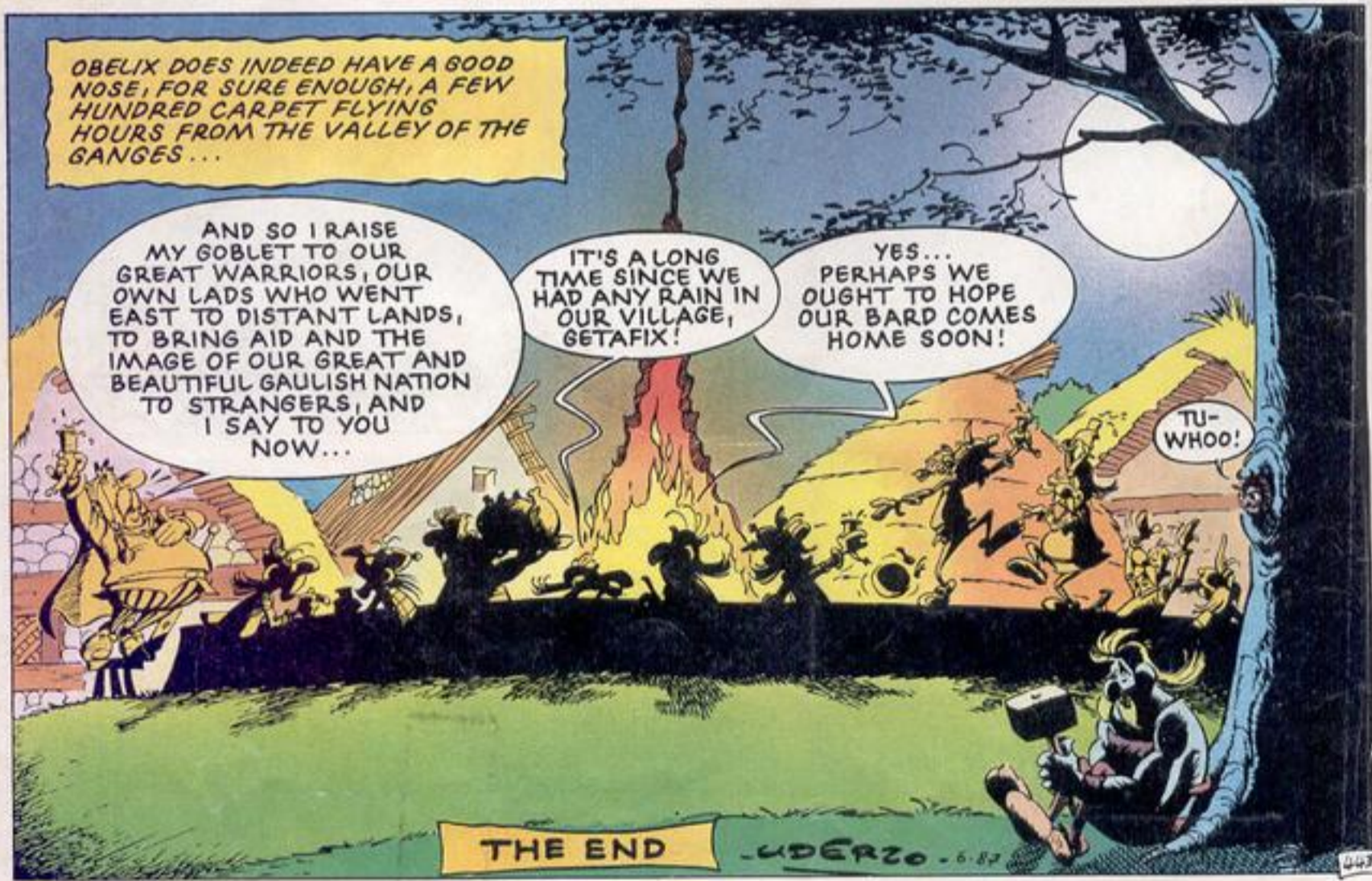


FED UP? WHY?

SCRUNCH! GUG!



BECAUSE I'VE AN IDEA THEY MAY BE HAVING A BANQUET IN OUR VILLAGE AT THIS VERY MOMENT! I CAN ALMOST SMELL IT! AND IF THEY ARE, THEY'RE HAVING IT WITHOUT US, THAT'S WHY! SCRUNCH!



OBELIX DOES INDEED HAVE A GOOD NOSE, FOR SURE ENOUGH, A FEW HUNDRED CARPET FLYING HOURS FROM THE VALLEY OF THE GANGES...

AND SO I RAISE MY GOBLET TO OUR GREAT WARRIORS, OUR OWN LADS WHO WENT EAST TO DISTANT LANDS, TO BRING AID AND THE IMAGE OF OUR GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL GAULISH NATION TO STRANGERS, AND I SAY TO YOU NOW...

IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD ANY RAIN IN OUR VILLAGE, GETAFIX!

YES... PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO HOPE OUR BARD COMES HOME SOON!

TU-WHO!

THE END

UDERZO - 6.87

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