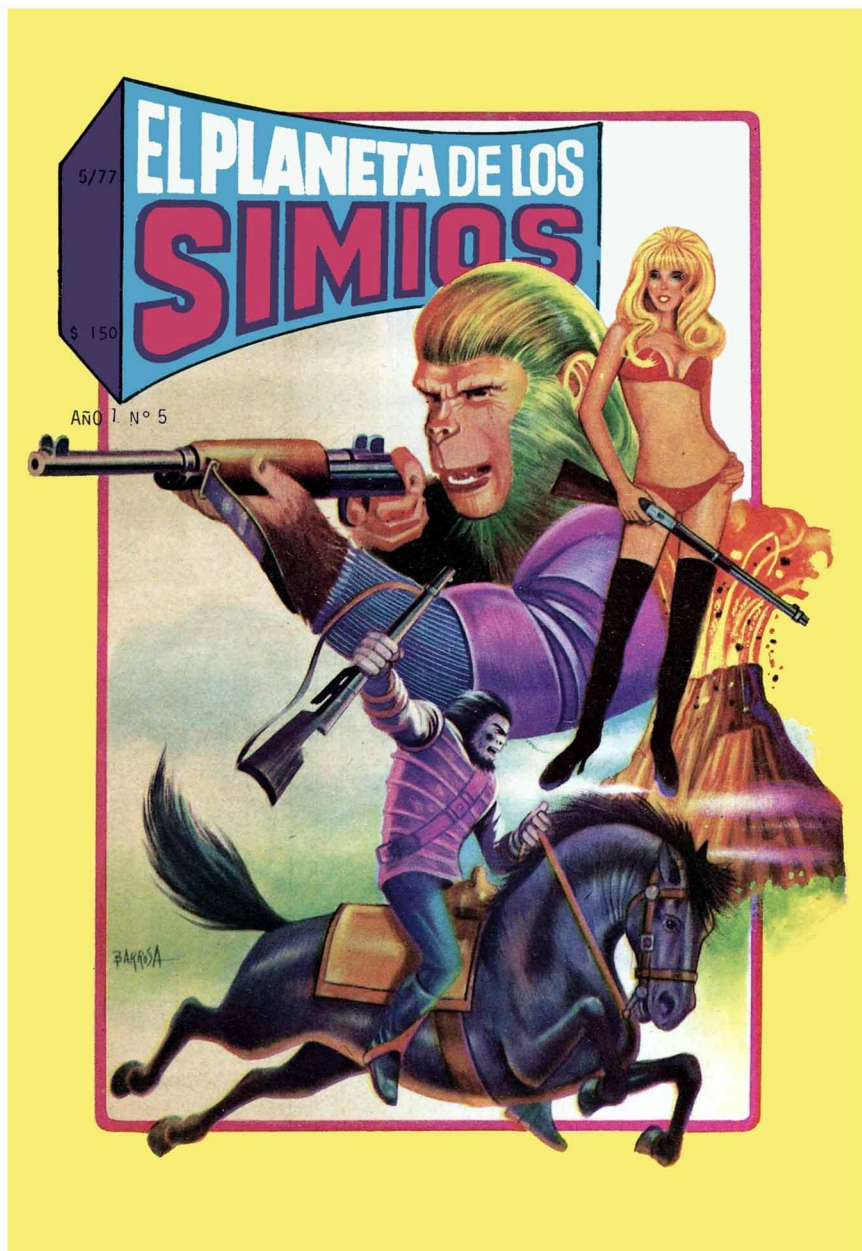


PLANET ^{OF} THE APES

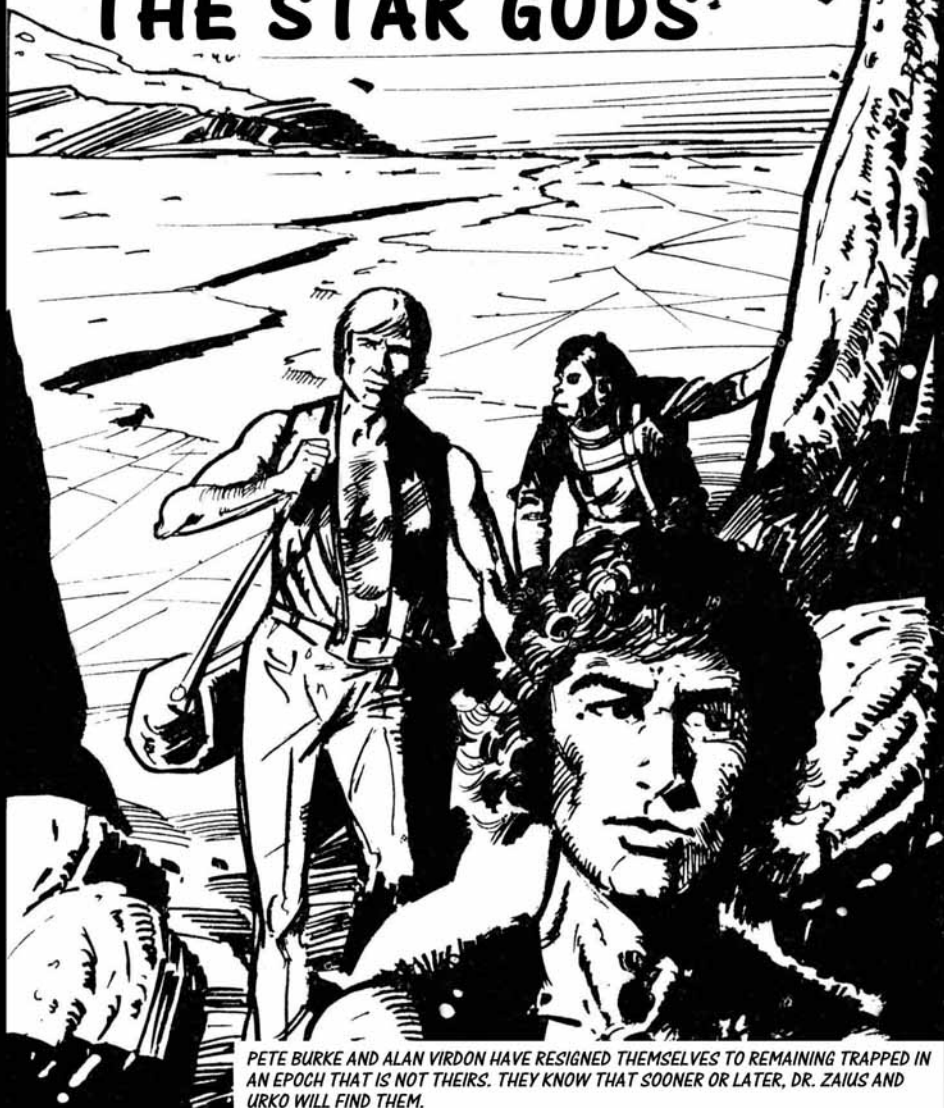


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#5

PLANET OF THE APES

THE STAR GODS



PETE BURKE AND ALAN VIRDON HAVE RESIGNED THEMSELVES TO REMAINING TRAPPED IN AN EPOCH THAT IS NOT THEIRS. THEY KNOW THAT SOONER OR LATER, DR. ZAIUS AND URKO WILL FIND THEM.

HELPED BY THE FUGITIVE GALEN, THEY SEARCH FOR WAYS TO RETURN TO THEIR TIME.

YOU'RE SURE, GALEN, THAT THIS IS NOT JUST SOME NONSENSICAL LEGEND?

NO, I'M NOT, BUT YOUR CHANCES OF FINDING ANOTHER SPACESHIP THAT CAN TAKE YOU HOME AREN'T VERY GOOD.

GALEN'S RIGHT. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE CHOOSEY.

GALEN HAD HEARD A TALE OF A SHIP THAT HAD COME FROM THE STARS. IT HAD CRASHED IN A VILLAGE OF APES WHO WERE LIVING BEYOND THE DESERT IN THE MOUNTAINS.

THE SHIP HAD HIT THE MOUNTAIN CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE AT A FURIOUS SPEED, KILLING ITS CREW ON IMPACT.

APPARENTLY ARPO, THE PRIEST WHO GOVERNS THE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE, USES THE SHIP AS AN OBJECT OF WORSHIP AND TO DOMINATE HIS SUBJECTS.

WHAT'S HIS MOTIVE?

SO THAT THEY'LL WORK HARD AND MAKE HIM WEALTHY. IN THE MOUNTAINS, THERE ARE FAR FEWER HUMAN SLAVES TO DO ALL THE HEAVY TASKS.

THIS ARPO CAN NOT BE MUCH LIKED BY HIS PEOPLE.

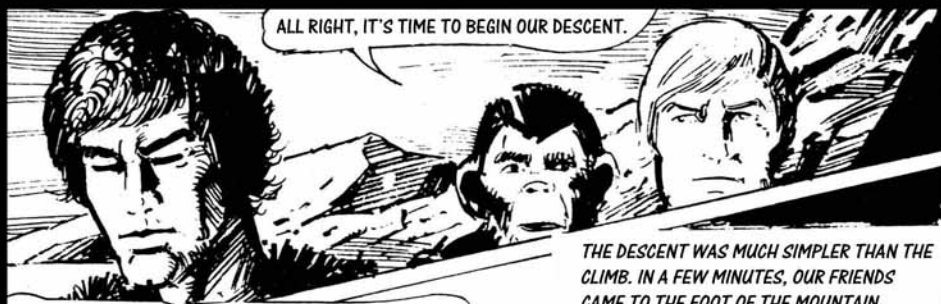
YES, ARPO IS AS HATED AS HE IS POWERFUL.

WHEN THE TWO HUMANS AND THE APE ARRIVED AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN CHAIN, ALREADY THE SUN HAD BEGUN TO SET IN THE WEST.

THE TOWN, RULED BY THE IRON FIST OF ARPO, WAS IN A SMALL AND FERTILE VALLEY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAIN CHAIN.

THE INACCESSIBILITY OF THE PLACE ALLOWED ARPO A REAL AUTONOMY FROM ALL OTHER APE VILLAGES.

LOOK, THERE'S ARPO'S VILLAGE.



ALL RIGHT, IT'S TIME TO BEGIN OUR DESCENT.

FROM NOW ON, IT'S BEST THAT WE PROCEED CAREFULLY.
ARPO'S APES ARE VERY CRAFTY.

THE DESCENT WAS MUCH SIMPLER THAN THE CLIMB. IN A FEW MINUTES, OUR FRIENDS CAME TO THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN.



THE SETTLEMENT WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE MOUNTAIN CHAIN... PERHAPS FIFTEEN MINUTES BY FOOT.



I SEE YOU'VE NOTICED THE WALL...

ARPO IS AFRAID THAT SOME DAY ZAIUS WILL TIRE OF HIS ANTICS AND SEND URKO TO INVADE THE VILLAGE.



WHO APPROACHES?

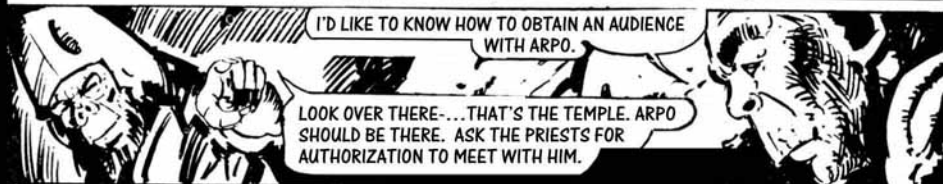
GALEN, FROM CENTRAL CITY. I AM ON A VOYAGE OF PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES WITH MY TWO HUMAN SLAVES.

ENTER! ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAIUS IS WELCOME IN ARPO'S VILLAGE.



EXCUSE US FOR CHECKING YOUR BELONGINGS, BUT WE HAVE EXPRESS ORDERS FROM ARPO THAT NO CIVILIANS MAY WALK AROUND TOWN ARMED.

I UNDERSTAND. IT'S A LOGICAL PRECAUTION.



I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW TO OBTAIN AN AUDIENCE WITH ARPO.

LOOK OVER THERE--...THAT'S THE TEMPLE. ARPO SHOULD BE THERE. ASK THE PRIESTS FOR AUTHORIZATION TO MEET WITH HIM.



I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ARPO WILL REFUSE OUR REQUEST FOR AN AUDIENCE. HE THINKS WE ARE SPIES OF ZAIUS AND HE'LL WANT TO KEEP US IN HIS SIGHTS.



IF HE THINKS WE'RE SPIES, WON'T HE TRY TO GET RID OF US?

NO. ARPO KNOWS HE DOESN'T YET HAVE SUFFICIENT POWER TO CHALLENGE ZAIUS. HE WON'T PROVOKE ANYTHING THAT COULD ELIMINATE HIS OWN PEOPLE.



WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, BROTHER?

I AM AN EXPERT ON THEOLOGY FROM CENTRAL CITY. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH ARPO ABOUT HIS UNIQUE VIEWS ON WORSHIP AND HISTORY.

WAIT HERE, BROTHER. I, THE SUPREME PRIEST, WILL COMMUNICATE YOUR REQUEST TO ARPO, BUT YOUR HUMAN SLAVES WILL HAVE TO WAIT OUTSIDE. LOWLY ANIMALS CANNOT TREAD ON THE SOIL IN THE TEMPLE OF THE STAR GODS.

FORGIVE MY IGNORANCE, FATHER. YOU, SERVANTS...-WAIT FOR ME IN THE TEMPLE ENTRANCE!

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN GALEN PRETENDS SO WELL AT BEING OUR MASTER THAT I'D LIKE TO KICK HIS ASS.

BROTHER...

COME WITH ME. THE NOBLE ARPO IS READY TO RECEIVE YOU.

WELCOME, STRANGER! I AM HAPPY TO RECEIVE A VISIT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NOBLE ZAIUS. HE IS, AFTER ALL, MY OLD FRIEND...

THE NOBLE ZAIUS IS IN PERFECT HEALTH. BUT I SHOULD INFORM YOU THAT MY VISIT IS NOT OF AN OFFICIAL NATURE. RATHER, MY MOTIVES ARE STRICTLY PERSONAL. THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF MY SOUL.

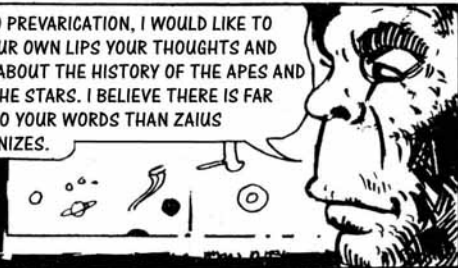


WISE WORDS, BROTHER. YOUR SINCERITY SATISFIES ME GREATLY.



IN MY VILLAGE, ZAIUS IS STILL VERY ATTACHED TO THE OLD DOGMAS. YOUR NEW IDEAS ARE KNOWN THERE, BUT IN A RATHER CONFUSED FORM.

ARPO, WITH NO PREVARICATION, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOUR OWN LIPS YOUR THOUGHTS AND CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE APES AND THE GODS OF THE STARS. I BELIEVE THERE IS FAR MORE TRUTH TO YOUR WORDS THAN ZAIUS RECOGNIZES.



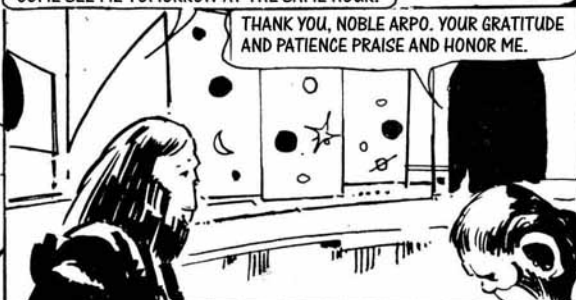
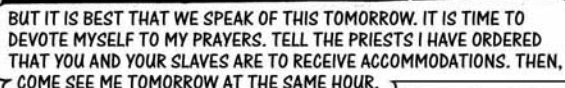
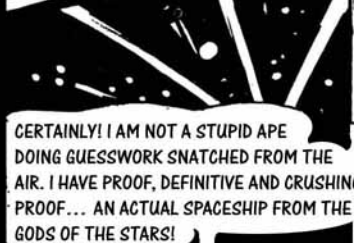
ZAIUS IS A VERY WISE APE INDEED, BUT AS YOU RIGHTLY POINT OUT, HE IS TOO TIED TO OLD DOGMAS. IN EFFECT, I HAVE LEARNED THAT THE STARS ARE MORE THAN MERE TORCHES SHINING IN THE NEARBY FIRMAMENT.



RATHER, THEY LIGHT ENORMOUS WORLDS, PROBABLY EVEN BIGGER THAN OURS, YET SO DISTANT THAT THE IMMENSE INFINITY OF THE SKY MAKES THEM SMALL TO OUR EYES.

THESE WORLDS ARE INHABITED BY BEINGS INFINITELY SUPERIOR TO US...IN ESSENCE, GODS- WHO HAVE VISITED OUR WORLD LONG AGO IN FANTASTIC SHIPS TO HELP THE APE IN HIS EVOLUTION.





THE FOLLOWING MORNING, GALEN RELAYED TO ALAN AND PETE ALL THE CRAFTY ARPO HAD TOLD HIM...

WAY TO GO... HE SEEMS TO TRUST YOU!

NOW, GALEN, YOU GOTTA CONVINCE HIM WE CAME HERE TO LEARN ABOUT THE "FAMOUS" SPACESHIP OF THE STAR GODS.

LATER ON, GALEN ONCE AGAIN FOUND HIMSELF IN THE BEDROOM OF THE TEMPLE, CONVERSING WITH ARPO.

AND NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER THAN TO SEE THE WONDERFUL SHIP THAT TRAVELED FROM THE DISTANT STARS OF THE GODS TO OUR WORLD!

YOUR THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE WILL BE SATISFIED, GALEN. TONIGHT I WILL TAKE YOU TO THE PLACE WHERE THE SPACESHIP DESCENDED.

WOULD IT BE TOO MUCH AN ABUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY TO ASK IF MY TWO HUMAN SERVANTS CAN COME ALONG? THEY ARE VERY WELL-TRAINED IN THE ART OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR THE EXCAVATIONS I HOPE TO DO TO COMPLETE MY STUDIES CONCERNING THE SPACESHIP.

EXCAVATIONS? FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

IF THE SHIP SUFFERED A VIOLENT CRASH, SOME REMAINS MAY HAVE BEEN BURIED IN THE VICINITY UPON IMPACT.

WISE WORDS, GALEN. YOU MAY BRING YOUR TWO SLAVES. I BELIEVE THEY WILL BE VERY USEFUL TO US.

AND SO, THAT SAME NIGHT, AFTER MARCHING FOR SCARCELY AN HOUR, OUR FRIENDS AND ARPO, ACCOMPANIED BY CRAOR AND GARD (TWO OF HIS MOST COMPETENT OFFICIALS), CAME TO THE PLACE WHERE THE SHIP HAD CRASHED.



THERE YOU HAVE IT-
THE SHIP OF THE GODS!



IT'S THE BLUE STAR, A SPACESHIP THAT DISAPPEARED TWO MONTHS BEFORE OUR LAUNCH.

YEAH, IT MUST HAVE HAD AN ACCIDENT SIMILAR TO OURS. BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CREW?

COME WITH US, GALEN. YOU CAN TELL
YOUR SLAVES TO ACCOMPANY YOU. I'D
LIKE TO SEE HOW THEY REACT UPON
SEEING SUCH A DIVINE PRODIGY.



ALL RIGHT, THIS FARCE HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH, GALEN. YOUR HUMAN
COMPANIONS HAD BETTER REVEAL THE SECRET OF THE SPACESHIP IF
THEY DON'T WANT TO BE ELIMINATED WHERE THEY STAND.



BUT-?

IT'S USELESS TO LIE TO ME, GALEN. I HAVE SPIES IN CENTRAL CITY WHO KNOW WHO YOUR SERVANTS REALLY ARE AND WHY THEY'RE SO HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER... BECAUSE THEY TRAVELED TO OUR WORLD IN A SPACESHIP SIMILAR TO THIS ONE.



WHEN I DISCOVERED THE SHIP, THE SKELETONS OF THE CREW WERE INSIDE IT. THEY WERE NEITHER APES NOR ALIEN BEINGS. THE BONES WERE HUMAN. WITH THE SECRETS OF THIS SHIP, I COULD BE THE MOST POWERFUL APE IN THE WORLD!



NOBODY, NOT EVEN ZAIUS OR HIS LACKEY URKO, WOULD BE ABLE TO OPPOSE ME! I'D BE KING OF ALL THE APES!



TAKING GALEN AND PETE AS HOSTAGES, ARPO FORCED ALAN TO REPAIR THE SHIP, AND TO TRAIN HIM IN ITS CONTROLS.



THE SHIP HAD SUFFERED LITTLE DAMAGE, AND AFTER ONLY ONE WEEK, IT WAS TIME FOR THE FIRST FLIGHT TEST.



HE DID IT! THE SPACESHIP IS TAKING OFF!



ARPO WAS AS INTELLIGENT AS HE WAS MALIGNANT, AND IT DIDN'T TAKE HIM LONG TO UNDERSTAND ALAN'S INSTRUCTIONS.



AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS, ARPO BEGAN TO GUIDE THE SPACESHIP LIKE AN EXPERT.

WITH THIS LEVER, YOU LOWER THE UNDERCARRIAGE.

I HOPE THAT YOUR TEACHINGS CONTAIN NO TREACHERY. I WOULD HATE TO ELIMINATE YOUR FRIENDS BECAUSE YOU LIED TO ME.

EVERY DAY AFTER PRACTICE, ALAN WAS LED BACK TO THE CELL WHERE HIS FRIENDS WERE HELD.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. IF I TRY SOMETHING IN THE SPACESHIP AND FAIL, ARPO WILL KILL US.

AND ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU ESCAPE WITH THE SHIP, WE'RE DEAD.

BUT WE CAN'T ALLOW A MADMAN LIKE ARPO TO ATTACK CENTRAL CITY IN THE SPACESHIP!

I KNOW, GALEN. TOMORROW, I'M TO EXPLAIN HOW THE ON-BOARD WEAPONS FUNCTION. IF I COULD TRY SOMETHING THEN...

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

AND NOW, TELL ME WHAT ARMAMENTS THE SHIP HAS AND HOW THEY WORK.

THE ARMAMENTS ARE SIMPLE... A LASER CANNON IN THE COCKPIT FIRES ROCKET PROPELLED BULLETS. LET'S GO TO THE COCKPIT AND CHECK OUT THE LASER.

OVER IN THE COCKPIT..

SHOW IT TO GARD. HE WILL BE THE GUNNER OF THE SHIP.

WHATEVER YOU SAY.

FIRST, WE HAVE TO RISE UP FROM THE FUSELAGE WITH THIS LEVER TO THE FIRING CABIN.

OKAY, WE'RE OUT. TO SHOOT, CENTER THE TARGET IN THIS SIGHT AND THEN PRESS THIS BUTTON.

THE ROCKETS ARE LAUNCHED FROM THIS CONSOLE. HMMMM... SOME HAVE ALREADY BEEN USED...

WAIT, DON'T SHOOT ANY OTHERS IF THEY'RE SCARCE. WE'LL NEED ALL OF THEM TO ATTACK CENTRAL CITY. JUST EXPLAIN TO ME HOW TO LAUNCH THEM.

IT'S SIMPLE. THAT THING TO THE SIDE IS A SIGHT FOR THE CANNON. EACH OF THESE BUTTONS SHOOTS A ROCKET.

I UNDERSTAND. NOW LET'S GO SEE ARPO AND PUT THESE INNOVATIONS TO USE.

IN THE CONTROL CABIN, GARD EXPLAINED EVERYTHING ALAN TAUGHT HIM TO ARPO.

PERFECT! THIS EVENING, WE WILL CONQUER CENTRAL CITY. BUT FIRST, WE'LL TEST ONE OF THESE ROCKETS ON YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. ONE LESS ROCKET WON'T MAKE MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE.

LATER, IN THE MAIN SQUARE, ARPO BRIEFED HIS SOLDIERS BEFORE HEADING OUT ON THEIR FIRST MISSION OF WAR.

TODAY WILL BE A GLORIOUS DAY! THE APES OF CENTRAL CITY WILL BE DESTROYED! WITH ZAIUS DEAD, ALL THE VILLAGES WILL FEAR ME AND PAY TRIBUTE. HOWEVER, BEFORE ATTACKING ZAIUS, I WANT YOU ALL TO SEE THE GREAT MIGHT OF OUR WEAPON.

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE VILLAGE, PETE, ALAN AND GALEN WERE TIED TO POSTS AS THE SPACESHIP TOOK FLIGHT, PILOTED BY ARPO.

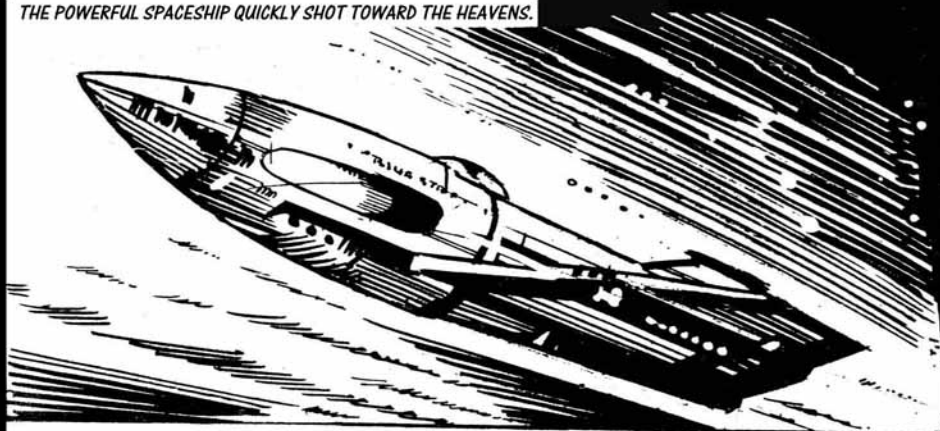
WE CAN'T SAVE OURSELVES THIS TIME.

DON'T WORRY. EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL.

ARE YOU NUTS, ALAN?!

LOOK, HERE COMES THE SHIP!

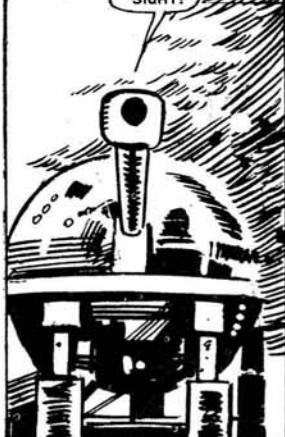
THE POWERFUL SPACESHIP QUICKLY SHOT TOWARD THE HEAVENS.



GARD, PREPARE TO SHOOT THE ROCKET!



READY...I HAVE THEM IN MY SIGHT!



BETTER START PRAYING. REAL HARD.

BAH!



NOW, FIRE!



BUT ...!

DIDN'T I SAY EVERYTHING WAS UNDER CONTROL? I EXPLAINED TO GARD HOW TO FIRE THE ROCKETS, BUT I DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT OPENING THE FLOODGATES TO THE PIPES. THE ROCKET WENT OFF, BUT IT NEVER LEFT THE SHIP. IT EXPLODED INSIDE IT.

LATER ON, A GROUP OF APES RETURNED TO WHERE THEY FIRST ENCOUNTERED OUR FRIENDS.

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE ONES RESPONSIBLE. THE TYRANT ARPO AND ALL HIS INSANE CABINET WERE TRAVELING IN THAT SHIP. I WILL SET YOU FREE, IN GRATITUDE FOR BRINGING ABOUT OUR OWN FREEDOM.

THIS CART IS FOR YOU. YOU CAN LEAVE WHEN YOU WANT. SO LONG... AND THANK YOU.

AND IN THE END, ANOTHER POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING HOME GOES UP IN SMOKE...

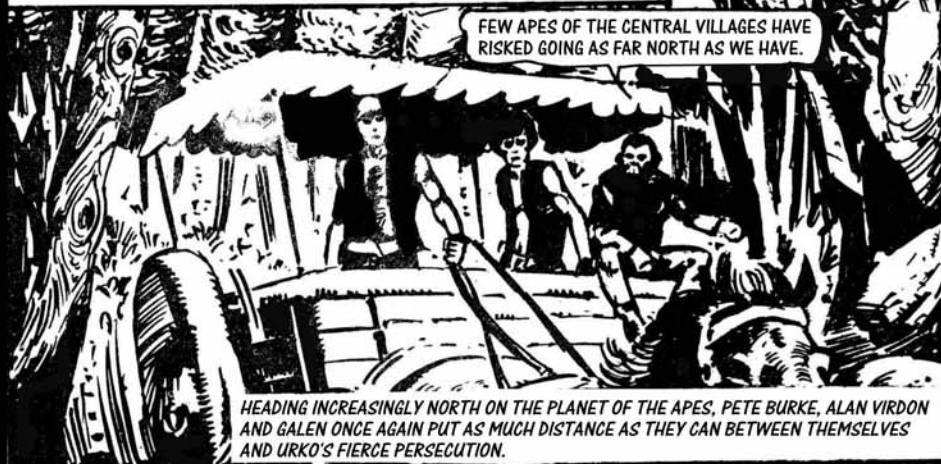
ONE LESS POSSIBILITY FOR PETE BURKE AND ALAN VIRDON, BUT THERE WILL BE OTHERS... FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES IS FULL OF POSSIBILITIES AND SURPRISES.

BARREIRO - TOLEDO

PLANET OF THE APES

THE MASTER OF THE FORESTS

ELIÖN: BARREIRO.
DIBUJOS: TOLEDO.





GET GALEN. I'LL DISTRACT THE BEAR.



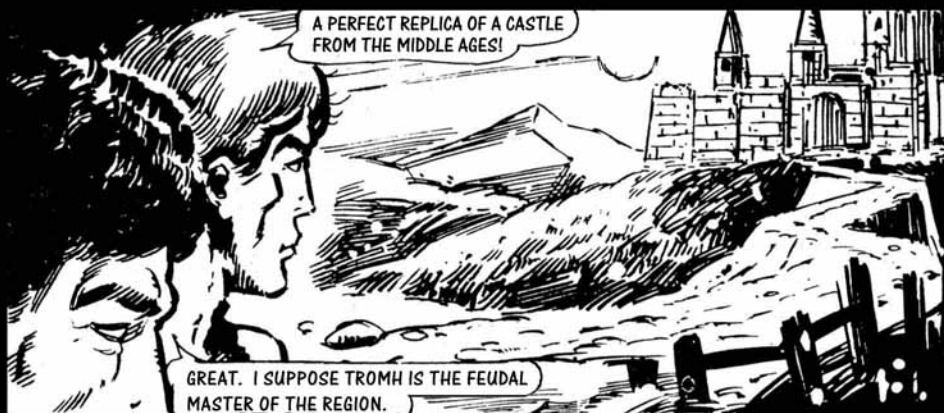
HURRY, GALEN. GET IN THE CARRIAGE!













WERE IT NOT FOR THE MASTER'S ORDERS TO TREAT YOU WELL, I'D GIVE YOU A HUNDRED LASHINGS FOR DOING THAT!

IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU NOT TO IRRITATE VARLO. HE HAS A GOOD TIME WHENEVER HE PUNISHES A HUMAN. IN FACT, HE'S THE BEST MAN HUNTER THE MASTER OF THE FOREST HAS.

MANHUNTER?

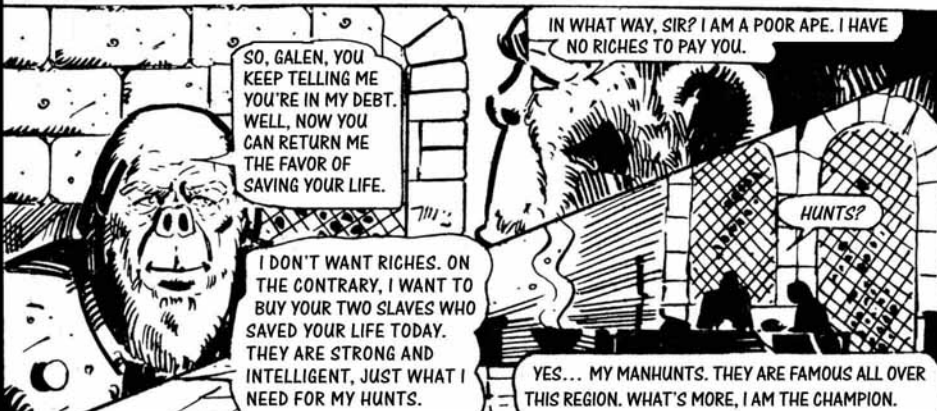


YES. WHENEVER TROMH ORGANIZES A MANHUNT, VARLO IS AMONG THOSE WHO CAPTURE THE MOST PREY. OF COURSE, HE'S BEHIND TROMH, WHO'S ALWAYS THE WINNER.

GALEN SAT AT AN ENORMOUS TABLE WITH TROMH, EATING AN EXQUISITE MEAL OF WILD BOAR IN ONE OF THE MOST LUXURIOUS DINING ROOMS OF THE CASTLE.



THIS IS DELIGHTFUL!



SO, GALEN, YOU KEEP TELLING ME YOU'RE IN MY DEBT. WELL, NOW YOU CAN RETURN ME THE FAVOR OF SAVING YOUR LIFE.

IN WHAT WAY, SIR? I AM A POOR APE. I HAVE NO RICHES TO PAY YOU.

I DON'T WANT RICHES. ON THE CONTRARY, I WANT TO BUY YOUR TWO SLAVES WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE TODAY. THEY ARE STRONG AND INTELLIGENT, JUST WHAT I NEED FOR MY HUNTS.

HUNTS?

YES... MY MANHUNTS. THEY ARE FAMOUS ALL OVER THIS REGION. WHAT'S MORE, I AM THE CHAMPION.



DO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT YOU WOULD BUY MY HUMANS JUST TO HUNT THEM DOWN?

EXACTLY. I BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE THE CRAFTIEST PREY I HAVE EVER MEASURED MYSELF AGAINST.



I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT I WOULD NOT SELL YOU MY SLAVES, ESPECIALLY KNOWING YOUR INTENTIONS!

IDIOT! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT WHEN TROMH, MASTER OF THE FOREST, ASKS FOR SOMETHING, IT IS AN ORDER?



I REPEAT— MY SLAVES ARE NOT FOR SALE.

GUARD! DETAIN THIS TRAITOR AND LEAD HIM TO THE CELL WITH HIS HUMANS!



SINCE YOU LOVE YOUR SLAVES SO MUCH, TOMORROW YOU WILL BE WITH THEM DURING THE HUNT.

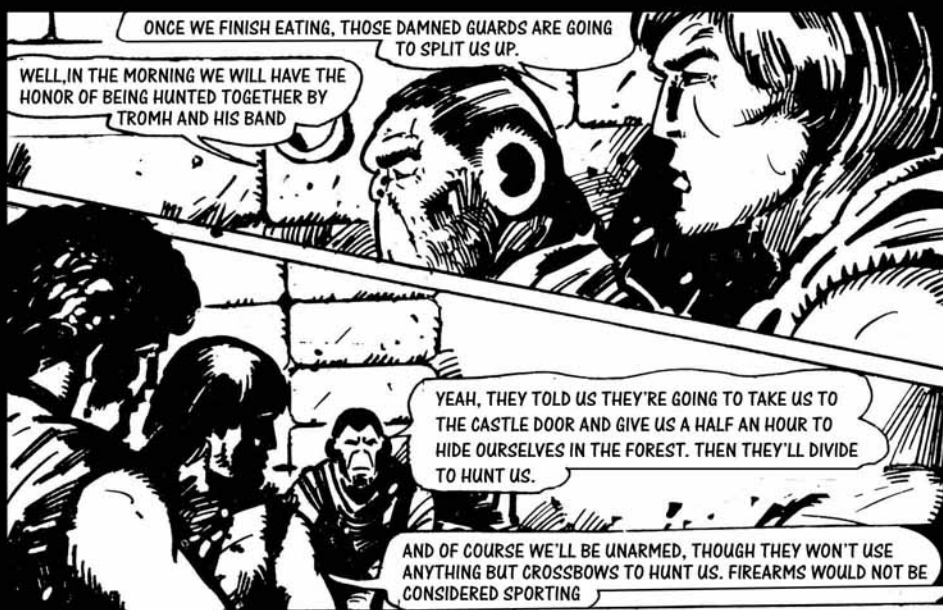
SAVAGE!

WITH NO CONSIDERATION AT ALL, GALEN WAS LED BY THE GUARDS TO THE CELLARS OF THE CASTLE AND THROWN INSIDE A HUMID, DIRTY CELL.



HELLO, GALEN. WE FIGURED WE'D SEE YOU SOON.

IT SEEMS TROMH GOT TIRED OF ME.

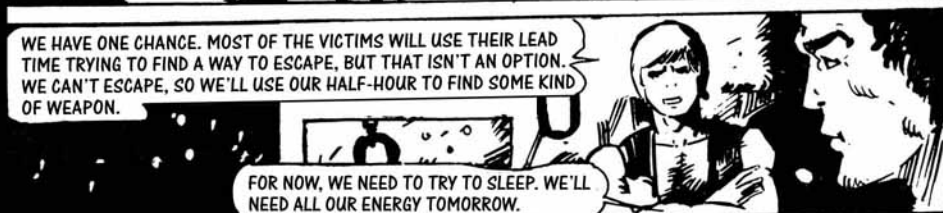


ONCE WE FINISH EATING, THOSE DAMNED GUARDS ARE GOING TO SPLIT US UP.

WELL, IN THE MORNING WE WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING HUNTED TOGETHER BY TROMH AND HIS BAND

YEAH, THEY TOLD US THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE US TO THE CASTLE DOOR AND GIVE US A HALF AN HOUR TO HIDE OURSELVES IN THE FOREST. THEN THEY'LL DIVIDE TO HUNT US.

AND OF COURSE WE'LL BE UNARMED, THOUGH THEY WON'T USE ANYTHING BUT CROSSBOWS TO HUNT US. FIREARMS WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED SPORTING



WE HAVE ONE CHANCE. MOST OF THE VICTIMS WILL USE THEIR LEAD TIME TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE, BUT THAT ISN'T AN OPTION. WE CAN'T ESCAPE, SO WE'LL USE OUR HALF-HOUR TO FIND SOME KIND OF WEAPON.

FOR NOW, WE NEED TO TRY TO SLEEP. WE'LL NEED ALL OUR ENERGY TOMORROW.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, TROMH PREPARED TO INITIATE THE HUNT.



STARTING NOW, YOU HAVE HALF AN HOUR TO TRY TO ESCAPE.

QUICKLY, THE TWO HUMANS AND THE APE
CROSSED THE CASTLE DRAWBRIDGE AND
HEADED TOWARD THE DENSE PINE FOREST.



WE'LL SPLIT UP WHEN WE ENTER THE FOREST, SO EACH OF US CAN
TRY TO FIND A WEAPON. GOOD LUCK!



ONCE INSIDE THE FOREST, EACH CHOSE A DIFFERENT PATH.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, THE BEAR THAT ATTACKED
TROMH WAS IN THAT DIRECTION.



THANKS TO TROMH MAKING
US RUN ALL THE WAY BACK,
I REMEMBER THE PATH.



THERE'S THE BEAR, AND...




THERE'S MY
WEAPON.




A black and white comic panel showing a man named Alan in a tree. He is using a long wooden pole and a piece of cloth to create a primitive sling. He is looking down at his work with a focused expression.

ALAN, MEANWHILE, UP IN A TREE, MADE A PRIMITIVE SLING WITH THE DRAWSTRINGS OF HIS JACKET AND A PIECE OF CLOTH.

I HOPE THIS WORKS AS WELL AS IT DID FOR DAVID AGAINST GOLIATH.

A close-up of two hands holding a large, irregularly shaped rock. The hands are positioned as if about to throw the rock.


PERFECT....THIS ROCK IS JUST RIGHT. I DON'T BELIEVE ANY APE'S HEAD IS HARD ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THIS.

A black and white comic panel showing a man named Galen in a forest. He is using a long wooden pole and a piece of cloth to create a primitive weapon. He is looking down at his work with a focused expression.

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST, GALEN WAS ALSO PUTTING TOGETHER A WEAPON...

NOW TO TIE THIS BRANCH HERE AND WAIT.

ANYONE WHO COMES UNDER THIS WILL GET HIT RIGHT IN THE FACE.

A black and white comic panel showing a group of hunters on horseback. They are galloping through a forest, looking towards a castle in the distance. The hunters are wearing armor and carrying weapons. The castle is a large, multi-towered structure.

BACK AT THE CASTLE, THE HALF-HOUR HEAD-START WAS OVER AND THE TRUMPETS ANNOUNCED THAT THE HUNT HAD BEGUN.

GALLOPING, THE HUNTERS ENTERED THE FOREST, DETERMINED TO FINISH THEIR PREY OFF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.





GALEN WAS NOT SO LUCKY, AS HE FACED OFF AGAINST A PAIR OF ENEMIES.



AHHH! WHAT THE--? IT'S THE APE TRAITOR! AIM FOR HIS SLAVES!





WATCH OUT!

BUT ONLY ONE APE REMAINED CONSCIOUS FROM THE IMPACT OF THE BRANCH.

DAMMIT! I'M GOING TO FINISH YOU OFF LIKE YOU WERE A HUMAN!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE JUST IN TIME. ONE MORE SECOND AND YOU'D HAVE LEFT US PEONS BEHIND, BOUND FOR A HIGHER PLANE.

GET ON THE HORSE AND LET'S GET OUT HERE. TROMH IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THE HUNTERS AND HE STILL HASN'T SHOWN UP.

AAAAHHHH!

THANK YOU, PETE. IF NOT FOR YOU, I
WOULD BE--

C'MON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...
YOU CAN BE GRATEFUL LATER!

NONE OF YOU ARE GOING TO BE GRATEFUL ABOUT ANYTHING... NOW,
DON'T MOVE OR I'LL SHOOT!

SO YOU DON'T EVEN RESPECT YOUR OWN RULES.

I'VE NEVER HAD ANY USE FOR RULES. I HUNT ALL HUMANS
WITH FIREARMS. IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE A TRIUMPH
IN THE TOURNAMENT. I HIDE THE GUNSHOT WOUNDS BY
AFFIXING A DART WHERE THE BULLET ENTERED.

HUH--?

WE'LL, I'LL BET YOUR TWO COMPANIONS BEHIND
YOU THERE AREN'T TOO HAPPY TO HEAR YOU'VE
BEEN CHEATING TO WIN.

IDIOT.

ITUNG!



ONCE AGAIN, OUR FRIENDS HAVE SAVED THEIR OWN LIVES. THIS TIME, DEATH WAS CLOSER THAN EVER...



...BUT LADY LUCK KEEPS HELPING THEM IN THEIR ETERNAL FLIGHT ON...
THE PLANET OF THE APES.

FIN!

R. BALLOON P. TOLEDO

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