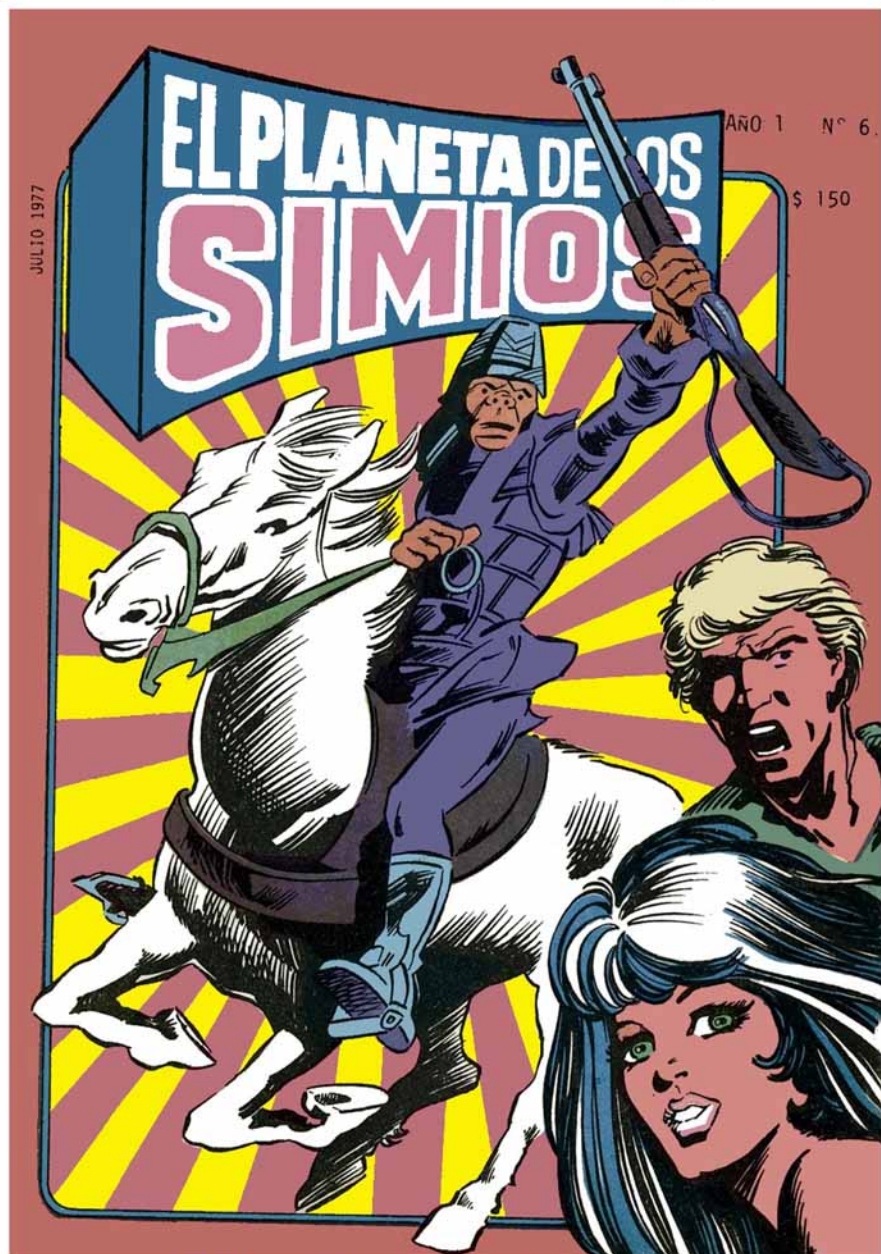


# PLANET <sup>OF THE</sup> APES



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#6

# PLANET OF THE APES

The Zombies



THE SHOTS SEEMED TO MULTIPLY IN THE INFINITE MAZE OF STONE.

THIS WAS A BAD  
WAY FOR US TO GO,  
PETE!

THE PROBLEM IS, WE CAN'T  
GO BACK THE OTHER WAY!

YEAH... URKO AND HIS DAMNED APES  
ARE BEHIND US... THIS WAS THE ONLY  
WAY OUT...

WHAT A STRANGE PLACE... WHAT  
ARE ALL THESE THINGS?

THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN. THE RAVINE, SOME TWENTY  
METERS HIGH, SEEMS TO BE THE DRY BED OF A CANAL. THE  
GARBAGE OF AN ENTIRE CIVILIZATION DECORATES ITS WALLS.

THANKFULLY, THE HORSES HAVE ENOUGH ROOM TO MOVE  
THROUGH THE REMAINS OF CARS AND REFRIGERATORS  
IN AN ABSURD GAME OF CHASE, PAST GIANT SIGNS  
WITH MESSAGES THAT FADED LONG AGO...

THERE'S NO TIME  
TO LOOK AROUND...  
LET'S GO!

WHAT THE - HOW DO  
THESE HUMANS MOVE  
SO QUICKLY?

IT'S BETTER THIS  
WAY, URKO... IT'S  
MORE SPORTING.

HMMM...I DON'T KNOW. I STILL  
PREFER THE IDEA OF KILLING  
CLEANLY, AND ALL AT ONCE,  
KENIO.

BUT CHIEF ADVISOR KALUS  
THINKS DIFFERENTLY, AND YOU  
KNOW--



THERE THEY ARE!

FIRE!



SUDDENLY, A NOISE FILLED THE AIR... A DEEP,  
HORRIFYING NOISE, LIKE AN EARTHQUAKE...

BY THE GODS...  
WHAT WAS THAT?

THIS IS FANTASTIC! AN  
AVALANCHE SAVED US FROM  
URKO AND HIS SOLDIERS!

HMMM... THAT IS  
HOW IT LOOKS...



THE NOISE SUBSIDED AND SILENCE FELL AS THEY MOVED FORWARD.



LET'S GO. IT'S POSSIBLE THEY'LL FIND THE PATH WE TOOK.

LOOK! A VILLAGE!



A HUMAN VILLAGE... ONE THAT LOOKED UNTOUCHED BY THE GREAT CATASTROPHE, BEFORE THE NIGHTMARE OF THE APES.




I DON'T SEE ANY APES.

NO? I'M AN APE...



HEY THERE, OLDTIMER! WHERE ARE YOUR OWNERS?

OWNERS?



THERE ARE NO OWNERS IN FANDOMVILLE. WE HAVE A COUNCIL OF ELDERS, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FRIEND? WHY DOES HE HAVE SO MUCH HAIR?

WHY DOES HE HAVE SO MUCH HAIR? HE'S AN APE! WAIT A MINUTE... YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE APES?

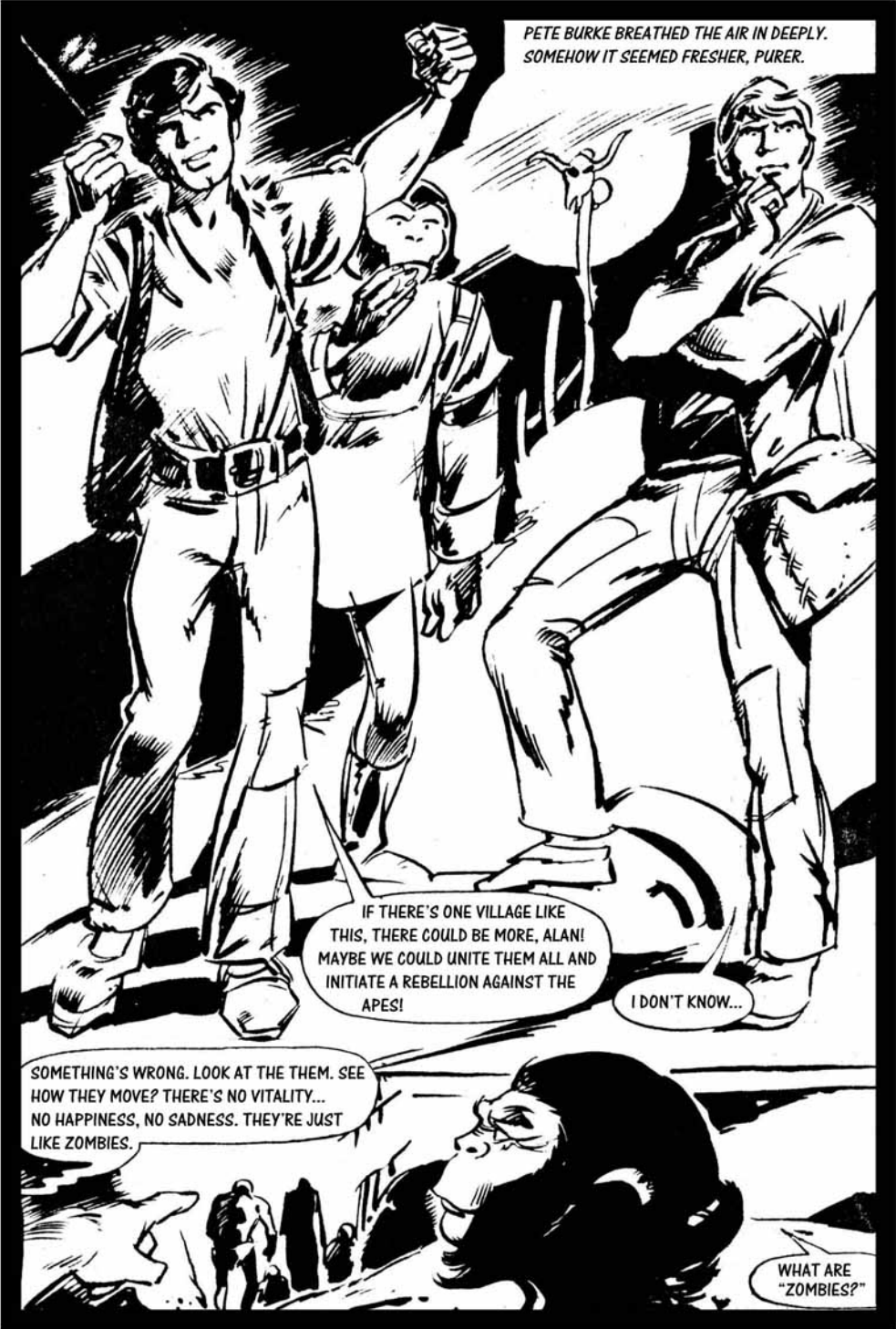
APES? NO... WE HAVE SO FEW STRANGERS IN THIS VALLEY..

HOLY COW, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! AN ENTIRE VILLAGE THAT'S NEVER SEEN AN APE?

WILL YOU BE STAYING IN THE VILLAGE?

YES, FOR THE TIME BEING. WE WANT TO HELP. IS THERE SOME WORK WE CAN DO, IN EXCHANGE FOR FOOD AND A PLACE TO SLEEP?

GO TO THE RIVER. YOU CAN HELP BRING WATER UP TO THE TOWN.



PETE BURKE BREATHED THE AIR IN DEEPLY.  
SOMEHOW IT SEEMED FRESHER, PURER.

IF THERE'S ONE VILLAGE LIKE  
THIS, THERE COULD BE MORE, ALAN!  
MAYBE WE COULD UNITE THEM ALL AND  
INITIATE A REBELLION AGAINST THE  
APES!

I DON'T KNOW...

SOMETHING'S WRONG. LOOK AT THE THEM. SEE  
HOW THEY MOVE? THERE'S NO VITALITY...  
NO HAPPINESS, NO SADNESS. THEY'RE JUST  
LIKE ZOMBIES.

WHAT ARE  
"ZOMBIES?"



THE LIVING DEAD... A LEGEND FROM A CARIBBEAN COUNTRY, GALEN. IN OUR ERA, IT WAS SAID THAT SOME PEOPLE HAD THE POWER TO MAKE THE DEAD RISE FROM THEIR GRAVES AND DO THEIR BIDDING. THEY WERE CALLED ZOMBIES.

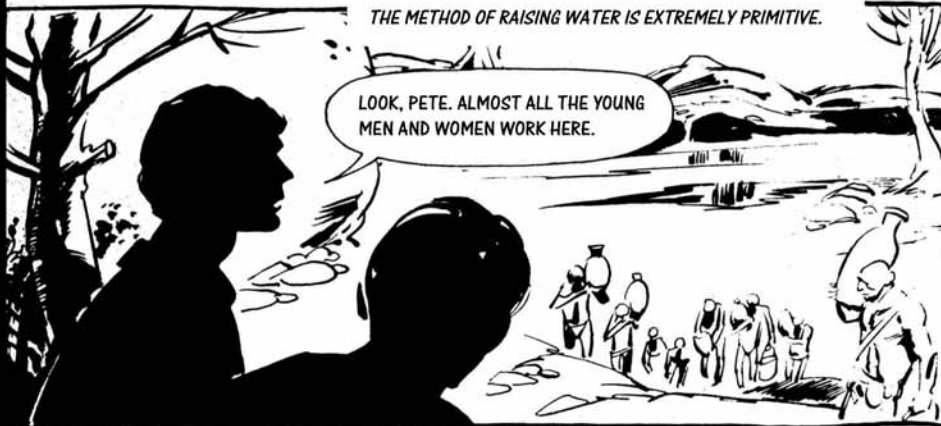


AMAZING... TRULY THEY ARE AMAZING! WHAT POWER OF DEDUCTION! WHAT PSYCHOLOGICAL PENETRATION!



THE METHOD OF RAISING WATER IS EXTREMELY PRIMITIVE.

LOOK, PETE. ALMOST ALL THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WORK HERE.



WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH A QUICKER WAY TO GET THEIR WATER, OR WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THEM FOR ANYTHING.

*DURING AN EATING BREAK, ALAN EXPLAINS HIS IDEA.*

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO STOP TRANSPORTING WATER DURING THE NIGHT. CUT DOWN SOME WOOD AND VINES. THE MACHINE WILL BE READY, AND THERE WILL BE WATER IN YOUR HOUSES TONIGHT.

HOW? THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OF DOING IT. THE WATER IS DOWN THERE, AND THE VILLAGE IS UP HERE.



WHAT DO YOU THINK, ELDER?

IF WE DON'T TRANSPORT WATER TONIGHT, TOMORROW MORNING THE CHILDREN WILL BE THIRSTY. THE PLANTS WILL DRY OUT. THE CATTLE WILL GIVE LITTLE MILK. BUT IF IT WORKS, WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF WATER. LET'S DO IT.

THANK YOU, ELDER.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE GET TO WORK, SHOWING EXTRAORDINARY VITALITY. THEY BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN THE MAIN SQUARE, THE ONLY FLAT AND WIDE PLACE IN THE AREA.



AMAZING. THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THEIR USUAL TASKS. THEY'RE BUILDING SOMETHING



IT'S PROBABLY A MACHINE OF WAR!

WE'LL FIND OUT WHEN THEY'RE DONE.

THE GREAT WHEEL IS READY BY EARLY EVENING, COMPLETE WITH AXES, STRAPS AND PULLEYS...

MAGNIFICENT WORK! HALF OF YOU, COME WITH ME TO THE RIVER TO MOUNT IT IN PLACE! THE REST, CONTINUE MAKING LEATHER WINESKINS WITH PETE.



THEY TOW THE GREAT WHEEL TO THE RIVER, TIED WITH CABLES AND LINES.

THE CURRENT IS STRONG.  
THAT'LL HELP US TO ROLL IT  
IN THE RIVER AND RAISE THE  
WATER...



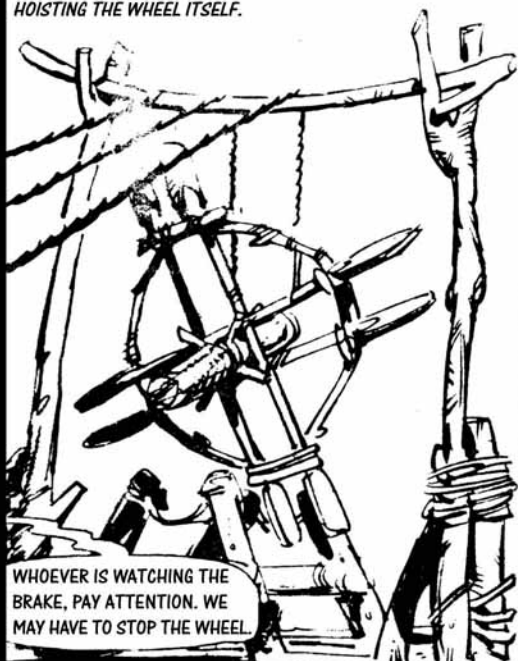
LISTEN! KEEP THE CHILDREN FAR BACK  
FROM THE WATER! THIS WORK IS FOR  
ADULTS ONLY!

THERE! SUPPORT THE MAST!

TIE THE STRAPS WELL!



THE WORK IS ARDUOUS. THE STRONGEST MEN HOLD UP LOGS  
THAT WILL BE USED FOR THE WHEEL AXES. THEN THEY BEGIN  
HOISTING THE WHEEL ITSELF.



WHOEVER IS WATCHING THE  
BRAKE, PAY ATTENTION. WE  
MAY HAVE TO STOP THE WHEEL.

AND THEN... TRAGEDY!



MILLI!



HE REACHES THE GIRL A SPLIT-SECOND BEFORE SHE SINKS BENEATH THE WAVES!



THEN STRUGGLES TO SHORE WITH THE LIMP FORM OF THE GIRL.



TWO DESPERATE ATTEMPTS... THEN ALAN CATCHES THE ROPE.





I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE!  
HELP ME - DON'T JUST  
STAND THERE!



WHAT DO YOU EXPECT,  
PETE? THEY'RE ONLY  
HUMAN...

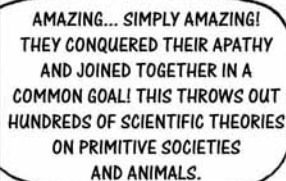


THE STRONG CURRENT PULLS ALAN DOWN. PETE AND GALEN  
PLANT THEIR FEET IN THE GROUND, RESISTING THE DRAG OF THE  
WATER.

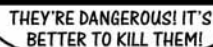


WE MUST HELP THEM!  
WE HAVE TO SAVE MILLI!





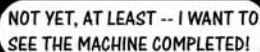
AMAZING... SIMPLY AMAZING!  
THEY CONQUERED THEIR APATHY  
AND JOINED TOGETHER IN A  
COMMON GOAL! THIS THROWS OUT  
HUNDREDS OF SCIENTIFIC THEORIES  
ON PRIMITIVE SOCIETIES  
AND ANIMALS.



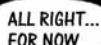
THEY'RE DANGEROUS! IT'S  
BETTER TO KILL THEM!



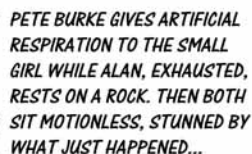
NO!



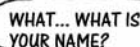
NOT YET, AT LEAST -- I WANT TO  
SEE THE MACHINE COMPLETED!



ALL RIGHT...  
FOR NOW



PETE BURKE GIVES ARTIFICIAL  
RESPIRATION TO THE SMALL  
GIRL WHILE ALAN, EXHAUSTED,  
RESTS ON A ROCK. THEN BOTH  
SIT MOTIONLESS, STUNNED BY  
WHAT JUST HAPPENED...



WHAT... WHAT IS  
YOUR NAME?



ALAN... ALAN VIRDON.

I AM MAIA, MILL'S MOTHER. HERE, DRINK THIS - IT'S WINE, MADE FROM BERRIES. MY HUSBAND USED TO MAKE IT BEFORE... WELL...

WHOEVER MADE IT, MAIA, I THANK YOU.

THERE ARE VERY FEW MEN WHO KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT.

SHE IS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL, APATHETIC LIKE THE OTHERS. BUT A SMALL LIGHT SEEMS TO GLOW FROM DEEP WITHIN HER EYES.

ISN'T THIS WHAT I'VE SEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE DRINK WHILE THEY WORK?

THAT'S NOT BERRY WINE...

THAT WINE IS WHAT THE GODS LEAVE US NEAR THE FORBIDDEN RAVINE.

NEAR THE WHAT?

THE GIRL REACTS, SITTING DOWN AND SMILING. THE CHILDREN SURROUND HER, SINGING, BUT... NOT THE ADULTS.

AT DARK, THE MEN IGNITE TORCHES, BUT IT'S BARELY ENOUGH TO FINISH THE TASK.

WELL, FRIENDS -- LET'S GET TO WORK, OR TOMORROW THERE'LL BE NO WATER FOR ANYBODY!

THERE'S JUST ENOUGH LIGHT TO FINISH.

FANTASTIC!

THIS MACHINE MERITS  
MORE OBSERVATION- IT'S  
AMAZING! IT COULD  
SERVE ALL OUR  
VILLAGES!

IT MUST BE BURNT!



BURNT.. BUT - WHY ...?

BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS!  
MACHINES BRING DESTRUC-  
TION! THEY MUST BE  
DESTROYED!

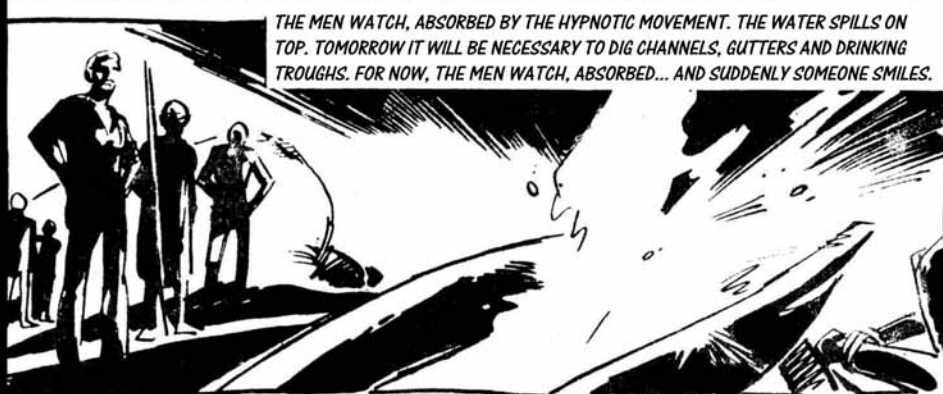


LOOSEN THE BRAKE!



A MAN, ELEVATED ON ONE OF THE WHEELS,  
REMOVES THE POLE WEDGED INTO THE AXIS.  
THE MILL BEGINS ITS PERPETUAL ROTATION. THE  
CURRENT OF THE RIVER POWERS THE PADDLES,  
FILLING THE WINESKINS WITH WATER...





IT IS NIGHTTIME. A NIGHT OF WEARINESS  
AND OF FEVERISH SLEEP.

ALAN...

I WAS WAITING  
FOR YOU, MAIA.



I'VE SEEN THE GODS, THOSE WHO BRING THE WINE. THAT'S WHY I KNOW YOU'RE A GOD. YOU AND YOUR FRIEND -- OR, AT LEAST, THAT THE GODS HAVE SENT YOU.

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

BECAUSE I HAVE SEEN THE GODS, AND I KNOW YOU'RE A SERVANT TO ONE OF THEM. YOU SERVE THE GOD GALEN.

I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND...

BUT - WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO LOOK FOR PETE AND GALEN. DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THAT WINE?

ALAN PICKS UP THE WINE OF THE GODS.

JUST AS I THOUGHT -- OPIUM.  
THE APES GIVE THEM WINE WITH  
OPIUM, EXTRACTED FROM  
POPPIES. BUT, WHY--?

PERHAPS FOR EXPERIMENTS.

WHEN I WAS IN THE CITY, I HEARD  
TALK OF EXPERIMENTS THAT THE  
APES WERE DOING IN CERTAIN VIL-  
LAGES. THIS MUST BE ONE OF THEM.

I BELIEVE IT, ALAN. THE APES  
PUSHED US TO THIS SPECIAL  
VILLAGE OF THEIRS... DO YOU  
REMEMBER THE RAVINE WITH-  
OUT ANY WAY OUT? THE AVAL-  
ANCHE? THEY WANTED TO  
STUDY WHAT WOULD HAPPEN  
IF TWO "REVOLUTIONARIES"  
LIKE US WERE TO PENETRATE  
THIS DRUGGED AMBIENCE.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE INTRO-  
DUCED A CHIMPANZEE TRAINED TO  
REMEMBER A MAZE IN A CAGE OF  
WILD APES? WOULD IT TEACH THEM  
TO SOLVE THE MAZE... OR WOULD  
THE WILD APES CAUSE THE CHIMP  
TO REGRESS?

WHAT DO YOU  
THINK, PETE?

THAT SIMILAR  
EXPERIMENTS WERE  
DONE IN OUR TIME,  
BUT WITH... ANIMALS.

ALAN VIRDON AND PETER BURKE ARE ASTRONAUTS. DAMAGE TO THEIR SPACESHIP FORCED THEM TO LAND ON AN UNKNOWN PLANET WHERE THE RULERS WERE APES AND THE MEN WERE... ANIMALS, SLAVES, INFERIOR. THERE, THEY BECAME FRIENDS WITH GALEN, A STUDIOUS APE, AND REALIZED THAT THE UNKNOWN PLANET WAS EARTH, IN THE YEAR 3085. A TERRIBLE ATOMIC WAR HAD ANNIHILATED ALMOST ALL HUMAN BEINGS AND FAVORED THE EVOLUTION OF SIMIANS. THIS IS THE BASE OF OUR HISTORY, FOR NEW READERSHIP.





LISTEN, MAIA! YOU  
MUST STOP TAKING  
THAT WINE!

NO... WE CAN'T! THE  
GODS WOULD PUNISH US!

WE ARE NOT GODS, MAIA! WE ARE  
INTELLIGENT MAMMALS, LIKE YOU! WE'RE  
MORTALS, NOT GODS -- YOUR PEOPLE  
NEED TO KNOW THIS!

BUT... NO!

MAIA, PLEASE DO ME A  
FAVOR, WOULD YOU?  
TAKE HIS ADVICE!

TELL HER, GALEN!

AN APE COMES TO THE ENCAMPMENT, OVERLOOKING  
THE CLIFF.

URKO! URKO!

WHAT-?

THERE HAD BETTER BE A GOOD REASON  
TO WAKE ME AT THIS HOUR OF THE NIGHT.  
WHY AREN'T YOU MONITORING THE  
SECRET OBSERVATORIES OF THE VILLAGE?



THE HUMANS... THEY ARE ASSEMBLED  
IN THE SQUARE! BURKE AND VIRDON  
ARE LEADING THEM!

I KNEW IT! YOU, SOLDIERS, UP  
THERE - READY YOUR WEAPONS!  
WE'RE GOING TO FLUSH  
THEM OUT!



THESE TWO HUMANS  
KNOW SOME AMAZING  
THINGS, URKO! WE  
CANNOT KILL THEM!

THESE TWO HUMANS ARE  
INCITING OTHERS OF THEIR KIND  
TO TURN AGAINST US! IT'S TIME  
TO ERADICATE THIS EVIL!



URKO! KALUS HAS  
AUTHORIZED ME --!

TO HELL WITH YOU  
AND KALUS!



I HAVE TO STOP HIM! I HAVE  
TO PREVENT THIS!

CHARGE!

KENIO DOESN'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES HE HAS FALLEN DOWN.  
HE WILL NEVER KNOW BECAUSE HE HAS DETACHED HIMSELF FROM  
THE PAIN OF THE IMPACT. PERHAPS BECAUSE HE IS AN APE...

YOU NEED TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! SEEK  
SHELTER IN THE MOUNTAINS! THE APES ARE  
COMING! THEY ARE YOUR ENEMIES! HARASS  
THEM AND SPREAD THE IDEA OF FREEDOM TO  
OTHER HUMANS!

I HAVE TO SAVE THEM!  
I NEED TO SAVE THEM!

IT AIN'T GONNA  
HAPPEN, ALAN.  
THIS IS USELESS!



THE IMPASSIVE FACES OF THE HUMANS TURN TO THE APPROACHING APE... THE RUINED CLOTHES... THE PANTING.





KILL THOSE MEN!  
SHOOT THEM!

THERE IS NO PLACE TO ESCAPE. THEY ARE SURROUNDED.  
THE APES STAND AMONG THE HUMANS OF THE VILLAGE...  
THE IMPASSIVE HUMANS OF THE VILLAGE. TWO APES  
PREPARE THEIR RIFLES.



DON'T LET THEM  
KILL THEM!









WE UNDERSTAND NOW, ALAN. WE WILL NOT DRINK ANY MORE OF THE WINE... EVEN THOUGH IT WILL COST US GREATLY. WE HAVE SEEN THAT THE GODS ARE WICKED. THAT THEY ARE MERE MORTALS. NOW, WE GO AWAY... TO THE MOUNTAIN. WILL YOU COME WITH US?



NO, ELDER. THIS IS NOT OUR ERA, AND WE HAVEN'T YET LOST ALL HOPE OF RETURNING BACK TO THE PAST.

YOU SAY MANY STRANGE THINGS, ALAN, BUT YOU ARE EQUAL TO US. EQUAL TO OUR MEN... EQUALLY LOVING. STAY WITH ME.



I CAN'T, MAIA. BACK HOME... I HAVE A WIFE... AND A CHILD. FAREWELL.



GOODBYE!

BYE, ALAN!

SO LONG!



BELOW, IN THE RIVER, NEAR THE MACHINE THAT CONTINUES LIFTING WATER IMPASSIVELY, A DARK FIGURE STANDS.

THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR YOU!  
THERE NEVER WILL BE... AS LONG  
AS I LIVE!

URKO, THE CHIEF OF THE GUARD,  
HAS SURVIVED AFTER ALL...

FIN

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