



MONKEY

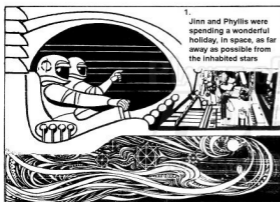
PLANET

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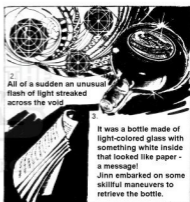
MONKEY PLANET

Written & Drawn by ERNŐ ZÓRÁD

Based on the Novel by PIERRE BOULLE

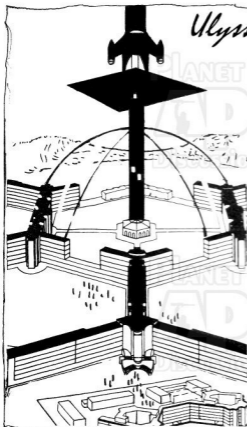


1. Jinn and Phyllis were spending a wonderful holiday, in space, as far away as possible from the inhabited stars



2. All of a sudden an unusual flash of light streaked across the void

3. It was a bottle made of light-colored glass with something white inside that looked like paper - a message! Jinn embarked on some skillful maneuvers to retrieve the bottle.



Ulysse Mérou: My Story

4. I am confiding this manuscript to space, not with the intention of saving myself, but to help, perhaps, to avert the appalling scourge that is menacing the human race. Lord have pity on us! Here, faithfully reported, is the account of my adventure

5. It was in the year 2500 that I embarked in the cosmic ship with the intention of reaching the region of space where the super gigantic star Betelgeuse reigns supreme. Our craft, which was big enough to accommodate several families, had only three passengers.

6. Professor Antelle, the principal organizer of the enterprise.

7. His disciple Arthur Levain, a young physician with a great future...

8. ...and myself, Ulysse Mérou, a journalist.



English Adaptation by Neil T. Foster

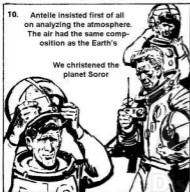


9. The craft was not equipped for a landing, but this eventuality had been provided for. We had at our disposal three much smaller rocket machines, which we called launches. It was in one of these that we embarked. Then, two years after leaving our Earth, we came down gently and landed without a jolt in the middle of a plateau, on green grass reminiscent of our meadows in Normandy. We landed without a hitch on a planet that contained, as ours did, oceans, mountains, forests, cultivated fields, towns, and certainly inhabitants. The forest surrounded the clearing like the walls of a fortress. Not a sound, not a movement disturbed it.



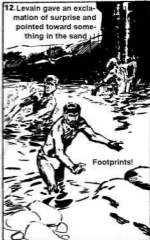
10. Antelle insisted first of all on analyzing the atmosphere. The air had the same composition as the Earth's

We christened the planet Soror



12. Levain gave an exclamation of surprise and pointed toward something in the sand

Footprints!



13.

It's a woman's footprint!





14.
I saw her just above us, perched on a rocky ledge



15.
As I told you, it's a woman!



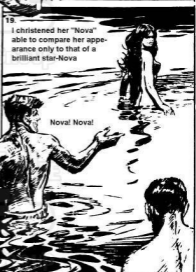
16. The sound of Levalin's voice produced a strange effect on her. She recoiled like a frightened animal.



17.
Antelle motioned us to keep quiet and appear to pay no attention to her. She soon showed a visible interest in our movements



18.
She watched us a few seconds longer, then swam toward us.



19.
I christened her "Nova" able to compare her appearance only to that of a brilliant star-Nova

Nova! Nova!



20. Then her lips curled back and she uttered a shrill cry. I was unprepared for the strange sound that came out of her throat for neither mouth nor tongue played any part in it



"A female savage," I said "belonging to some backward race?"

"Even the most primitive people on our planet have a language," Antelle said. "This girl cannot talk."

21. She fled into the forest and in a few seconds she had disappeared into the undergrowth



22. We searched for the stranger around the region of the stream, but unable to find the slightest trace of her, made our way back to our launch in the clearing.



23. The next day we decided to return to the waterfall. The entire way we had the impression of being followed and watched.



24.

Novak

This time she was not alone, there were many others.



25.

They attacked us as we came within sight, with an abruptness that precluded all defense.

The men of Soror were upon us before we could lift our weapons to our shoulders.



26.
A mass of probing hands
stripped us of our weapons
and ammunition pouches
and threw these aside, while
others peeled off our clothes
and tore them to shreds.
Presently we found our-
selves stark naked in the
midst of a group of men
and women encircling us
too tightly for us to escape.



27.

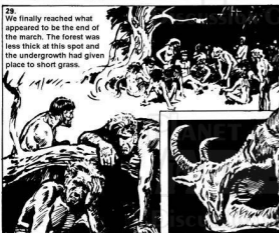


Powerless, we
witnessed the
sacking of our
launch!

28.
We were jostled, pulled
this way and that, and
finally dragged off into
the depths of the jungle.

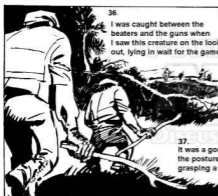
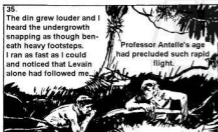
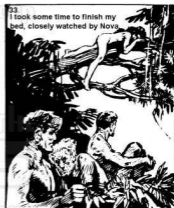


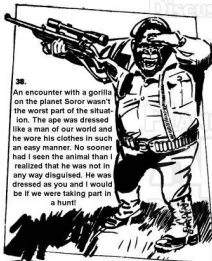
29.
We finally reached what
appeared to be the end
of the march. The forest was
less thick at this spot and
the undergrowth had given
place to short grass.



30.

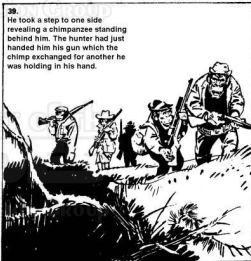






38.

An encounter with a gorilla on the planet Soror wasn't the worst part of the situation. The ape was dressed like a man of our world and he wore his clothes in such an easy manner. No sooner had I seen the animal than I realized that he was not in any way disguised. He was dressed as you and I would be if we were taking part in a hunt!



39.

He took a step to one side revealing a chimpanzee standing behind him. The hunter had just handed him his gun which the chimp exchanged for another he was holding in his hand.



40.



41. Levalin had gone completely out of his mind. He got up and came into full view of the hunters.



42.

The shot seemed to snap him in two.



43.

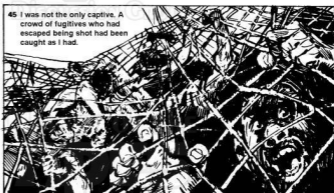
I waited for the gorilla to hand his gun to his servant and as he did I raced across the alley.



44.
I stumbled head first into
a wide-meshed net stretched
across the ground.



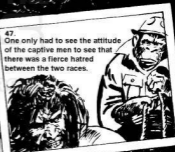
45 I was not the only captive. A
crowd of fugitives who had
escaped being shot had been
caught as I had.



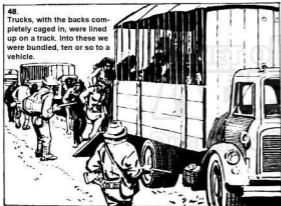
46.
The apes chatted together
happily in an articulate lan-
guage, and each moment
their faces expressed human
sentiments, not a trace of
which I had found in Nova.
Alas! What had become of
Nova?



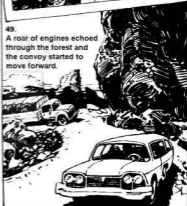
47.
One only had to see the attitude
of the captive men to see that
there was a fierce hatred
between the two races.

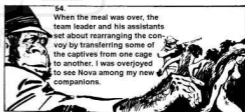
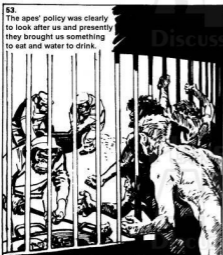
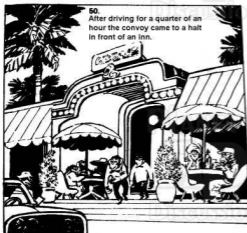


48.
Trucks, with the backs com-
pletely caged in, were lined
up on a track. Into these we
were bundled, ten or so to a
vehicle.



49.
A roar of engines echoed
through the forest and
the convoy started to
move forward.





56.

A tarpaulin was stretched over our cage and fastened halfway down the sides, letting in some light. Orders were issued; the engines started. I found myself traveling at high speed toward an unknown destination, terrified by the thought of the fresh horrors that awaited me on the planet Soror. I reviewed all that I had observed: these apes, male and female, gorillas and chimpanzees, were not in any way ridiculous. They had never struck me as being animals in disguise. And for the first time since my capture I thought of Professor Antelle. What had become of him? Was he among the captives?



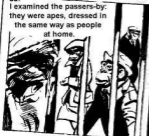
57. Our vehicle slowed down and I saw we were entering a town.

58.



59.

I examined the passers-by: they were apes, dressed in the same way as people at home.



60.

We came to a halt in a hospital courtyard.



61.



62.

I had decided to do all I could to establish contact with these apes who seemed to be the only rational and civilized beings on the planet.

How do you do? I am a man from Earth.



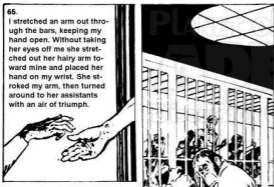
63. I saw a new figure enter the room accompanied by the two warders. It was a female chimpanzee. She came to a halt in front of my cage and began to scrutinize me.



64. Good day to you, I am sorry to present myself to you in this state of undress...



65. I stretched an arm out through the bars, keeping my hand open. Without taking her eyes off me she stretched out her hairy arm toward mine and placed her hand on my wrist. She stroked my arm, then turned around to her assistants with an air of triumph.



67. He was an orangutan, the first I had seen on the planet Soror.



66. Zira was the she-ape's name, as I presently learned. She was the head of the department to which I had been brought. A while later my attention was diverted by the arrival of some new visitors, one of whom was plainly in a high position.



68. Zira showed every sign of respect for this superior of hers and they made straight for my cage.



69. I had noticed that all the underlings addressed him with the two words- Mi Zalus. Stretching my arms out toward him, I spoke to the best of my ability...



70.



71.

The apes were flabbergasted. As for Zalus, he was completely flustered and started pacing up and down the corridor, shaking his head with an air of incredulity.



72.

An avalanche of tests descended upon us. I distinguished myself in many but above all, by listening carefully, I managed to retain a few simple words of the simian language and to understand their meaning.

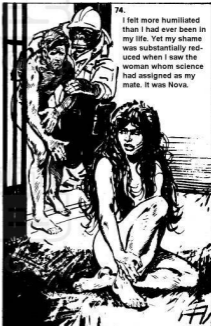


73. Zalus gave instructions to study the amorous practices of men, the methods of approach of the male and the female, the manner in which they copulate. Doubtless they also intended to experiment with sexual selectivity?

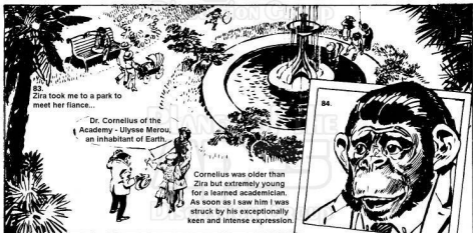


74.

I felt more humiliated than I had ever been in my life. Yet my shame was substantially reduced when I saw the woman whom science had assigned as my mate. It was Nova.







88.

I shuddered at the condition to which this learned man had been reduced. His behavior was identical to the other men's. I could not doubt the evidence of my own eyes.



90.

There is nothing you can do for him at the moment.

After the congress when you have been recognized and accepted as a rational being, we will see about him.



91.

During the week preceding the congress Zaius paid me several visits, multiplying the ridiculous tests, while his secretary filled several notebooks with observations and conclusions concerning me.



92.

The long-awaited date finally arrived, but it was only on the third day of the congress that they came to fetch me, the first two having been devoted to theoretical debates. I was kept informed of the proceedings by Zira. Zaius had already read a long report about me, presenting me as a man with particularly sharp instincts but totally devoid of the capacity for thought.



93. Zalus summarized his report and ended by declaring that, like certain birds, I was also capable of repeating a few words. I approached the microphone and addressed the president.

Illustrious President I beg permission to make an announcement that, I swear, will astonish this learned assembly.

I protest!

94. Zalus stopped short, overwhelmed by the ridiculousness of a discussion with a man. I took advantage of this to go on with my speech.

I insist that this favor be granted me.

Err... I think that, in view of the exceptional nature of the case, the congress is entitled to listen to you.

95.

Illustrious President, Noble Gorillas, Learned Orangutans, Wise Chimpanzees, I a man, beg leave to address you.

I can think, I can talk...

96.

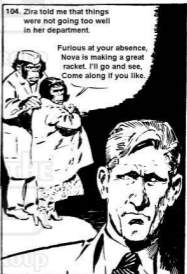
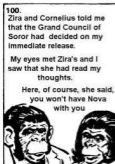
This produced an amazing effect and was the signal for an absolute uproar.

97.

I then embarked on the account of my own adventures. I described the means by which I had reached the world of Betelgeuse and landed on the planet Soror, how I had been captured and locked up in a cage. Lastly I mentioned Zira's valuable assistance and that of Dr. Cornelius.

98.

Zalus had just risen from his seat in fury and was striding up and down the platform. As though in a dream, I saw the vacant chair and collapsed into it. A fresh burst of applause, which I barely heard before fainting dead away, greeted this gesture.





105.



106.

Together we entered the room with the cages. The captives recognized me in spite of my clothes



108.



109.

For a moment I had the impression she was about to answer me.



107.

Trembling with emotion, I walked over to Nova's cage.

Nova! It's me!



110.

She accepted a lump of sugar that I handed to her and ate it while I made my way out of the room with a heavy heart.



114.
I shall not dwell on the sensation caused by my presence among them. I was the focus of all eyes. I had to give my autograph to a number of fans, and a swarm of she-apes competed for the honor of having a drink or dancing with me.

111.
At a smart night club Cornellus had decided to launch me forthwith into simian society, since in any case I was now destined to live in it.

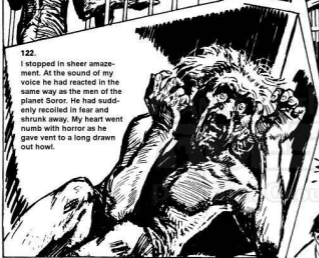
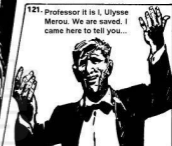
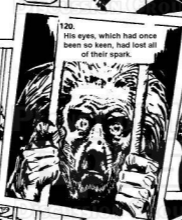
115. As dawn approached...

Why are you looking so sad?

I was just thinking of Professor Antelle

116.
There will be no opposition now to his being released.

I can not wait a minute longer to tell him the good news.

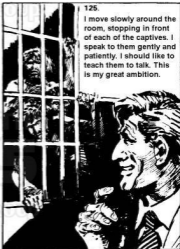


124. Cornelius was now the scientific head of the institute. Zalus had been dismissed and given another post. I now took part in the scientist's research work, no longer as a guinea pig but as a collaborator.



125.

I move slowly around the room, stopping in front of each of the captives. I speak to them gently and patiently. I should like to teach them to talk. This is my great ambition.



126.

Nova is an exceptional subject. With her I obtain better results than with the others. Even before I have opened my mouth she tries to pronounce the three or four syllables she has learned.



127.



128.

A week later...

Would you like to go on a little archeological trip with me, Ulysse?

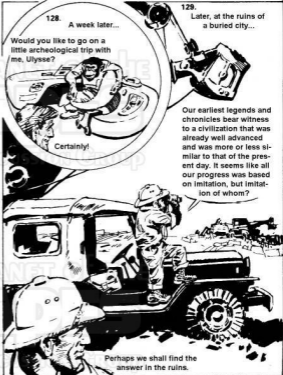


Certainly!

129.

Later, at the ruins of a buried city...

Our earliest legends and chronicles bear witness to a civilization that was already well advanced and was more or less similar to that of the present day. It seems like all our progress was based on imitation, but imitation of whom?



Perhaps we shall find the answer in the ruins.



130.
The archeologists have laid bare a whole city, buried in the sands of a desert, a city of which nothing remains, but ruins. Ruins which, I am convinced, hold an extraordinary secret!



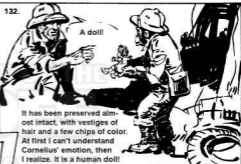
The city is very, very old.
Much more than ten thousand years old.

131. Later that day...



Ulysses! Ulysses!

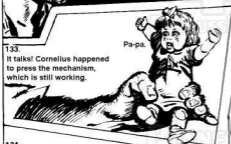
132.



A doll!

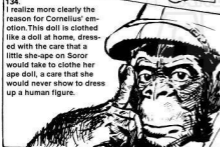
It has been preserved almost intact, with vestiges of hair and a few chips of color. At first I can't understand Cornelius' emotion, then I realize. It is a human doll!

133.
It talks! Cornelius happened to press the mechanism, which is still working.

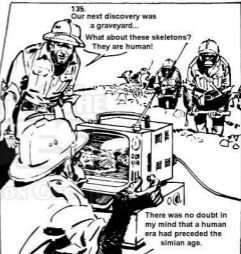


Pa-pa.

134.
I realize more clearly the reason for Cornelius' emotion. This doll is clothed like a doll at home, dressed with the care that a little she-ape on Soror would take to clothe her ape doll, a care that she would never show to dress up a human figure.



135.
Our next discovery was a graveyard...



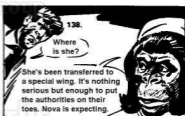
What about these skeletons? They are human!

There was no doubt in my mind that a human era had preceded the simian age.



136.

It is now two months since I visited my former companions in captivity, my fellow humans. It is time for me to pay a visit. Here I am again in the room with the cages. A strange emotion makes me pause on the threshold. I now see these creatures in a new light.



138.

Where is she?

She's been transferred to a special wing. It's nothing serious but enough to put the authorities on their toes. Nova is expecting.



137. Nova's cage is empty.



139. I am to become a father in the system of Betelgeuse. I am going to have a child on the planet Soror by a woman for whom I feel a great physical attraction and sometimes even compassion but who has the mind of an animal.

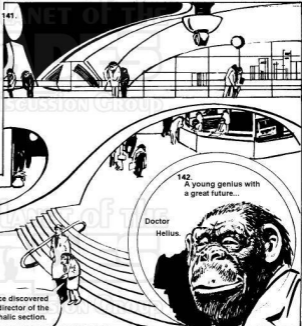
When?

She is due in three or four months



140. Cornelius greets me. I ask him about the end of his stay among the ruins.

I am now certain, he admits, that there once existed on our planet a race of human beings that has degenerated and reverted to an animal state. Furthermore, since my return here I have been given additional evidence to support this hypothesis.



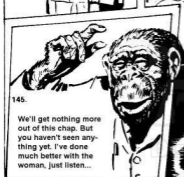
141.

142. A young genius with a great future...

Doctor Hellus.

Evidence discovered by the director of the encephalic section.





147.

This woman also talks but she doesn't merely repeat the words she has heard in captivity. Her talk has an exceptional significance. By a combination of physico-chemical processes I have succeeded in awakening in her not only her own individual memory but the memory of the species. Under electrical impulse her recollections go back to an extremely distant line of ancestors: atavistic memories reviving a past several thousands of years old.





149. The long-awaited event has taken place. I was overwhelmed with joy but trembled at the new danger it represents. Nova has given birth to a boy.

Cornelius has many enemies. He dares not proclaim his discovery. Zalus is in league against him. They talk about a conspiracy against the simian race and point me out as one of the factionists.



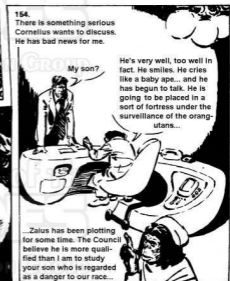
150. Late one night...



151.



153. It is time to go. It would be dangerous for all of us if you were to be found here.



154. There is something serious Cornelius wants to discuss. He has bad news for me.

My son?

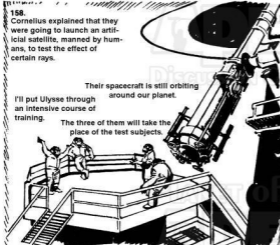
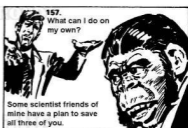
He's very well, too well in fact. He smiles. He cries like a baby ape... and he has begun to talk. He is going to be placed in a sort of fortress under the surveillance of the orangutans...

...Zalus has been plotting for some time. The Council believe he is more qualified than I am to study your son who is regarded as a danger to our race...



152. He's a splendid baby. He was lying on the straw nuzzling against his mother's breast. He looks like me, but he also has Nova's beauty.



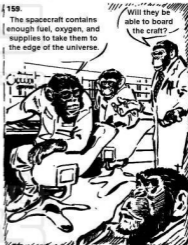


158.
Cornelius explained that they were going to launch an artificial satellite, manned by humans, to test the effect of certain rays.

Their spacecraft is still orbiting around our planet.

I'll put Ulysse through an intensive course of training.

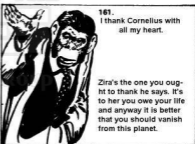
The three of them will take the place of the test subjects.



159.
The spacecraft contains enough fuel, oxygen, and supplies to take them to the edge of the universe.



160.
It shouldn't be too difficult. The satellite will be placed on the trajectory of the craft and will be navigable within certain limits.



161.
I thank Cornelius with all my heart.

Zira's the one you ought to thank he says. It's to her you owe your life and anyway it is better that you should vanish from this planet.

162.
Comelius' plan was carried out to the letter. I am once again traveling through space aboard the cosmic craft, with Nova and our son Sirius.



163
We have been traveling for more than a year and a half of our own time. We have reached almost the speed of light, crossing an immense space in a very short time.



164.
Nova is bearing the voyage extremely well. She is becoming more and more rational. Her motherhood has transformed her.



165.
Through the telescope I can see Jupiter, Saturn, Mars, and...





167.



168.

We embark in the vessel's second launch, with a view to landing not far from Paris.



169.
I land at Orly, at the end of the airfield fairly far from the airport buildings. They must have noticed me, so all I need do is wait.



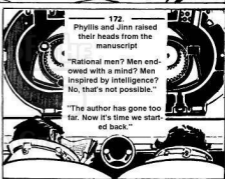
170.
A vehicle moves off from the buildings, heading in our direction.

The truck stops fifty yards from us...



171.

The driver gets out of the vehicle... He is a gorilla!

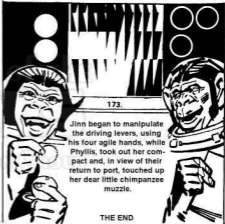


172.

Phyllis and Jinn raised their heads from the manuscript

"Rational men? Men endowed with a mind? Men inspired by intelligence? No, that's not possible."

"The author has gone too far. Now it's time we started back."



173.

Jinn began to manipulate the driving levers, using his four agile hands, while Phyllis, took out her compact and, in view of their return to port, touched up her dear little chimpanzee muzzle.

THE END