



NO!

IGNATIUS, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO EXECUTE THIS HUMAN!



NO RIGHT? I AM THE PREFECT OF POLICE!

MORE, I AM THE FATHER OF THE YOUNG APE WHO DIED AT HIS HAND!

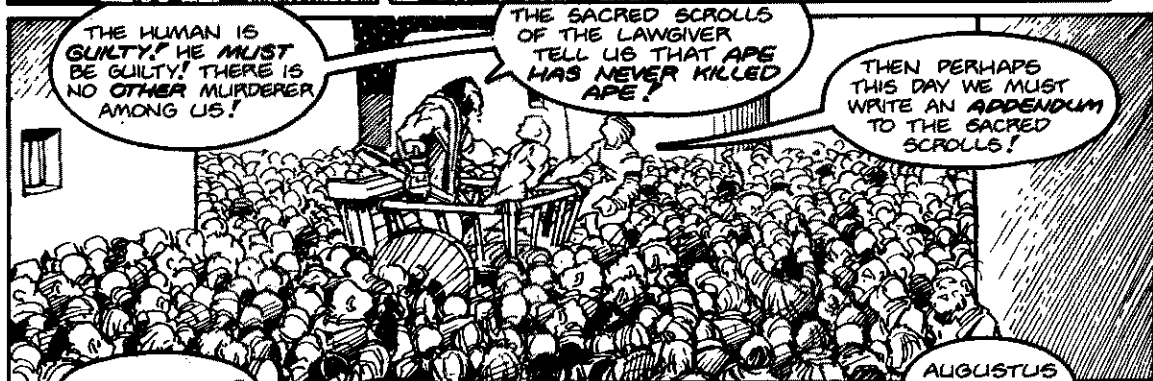
WHO, AUGUSTUS, HAS MORE RIGHT?



AS A FATHER MYSELF, I AM NOT INSENSITIVE TO YOUR THIRST FOR JUSTICE.

AND WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT YOU ARE THE PREFECT OF POLICE, YOUR JURISDICTION IS OVER APES, NOT HUMANS!

AS MINISTER OF SCIENCE, I MUST CLAIM THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THIS HUMAN'S GUILT OR INNOCENCE!



THE HUMAN IS GUILTY! HE MUST BE GUILTY! THERE IS NO OTHER MURDERER AMONG US!

THE SACRED SCROLLS OF THE LAWGIVER TELL US THAT APE HAS NEVER KILLED APE!

THEN PERHAPS THIS DAY WE MUST WRITE AN APPENDUM TO THE SACRED SCROLLS!



BLASPHEMY!

HERESY!

AUGUSTUS HAS GONE MAD!

IGNATIUS, ARREST HIM!



I WILL ACCEPT AUGUSTUS' BRAZEN CHALLENGE TO MY AUTHORITY! IF HE WILL ACCEPT ONE FROM ME!

AUGUSTUS, I GIVE YOU SIX HOURS, SIX HOURS TO PROVE TO ALL OF APE CITY THAT OUR LAWGIVER IS WRONG!

AND IF, AT THE END OF THOSE SIX HOURS, YOU HAVE NOT PRODUCED THE APE WHO KILLED MY DAUGHTER, I WILL EXECUTE YOU ALONG WITH THIS HUMAN.

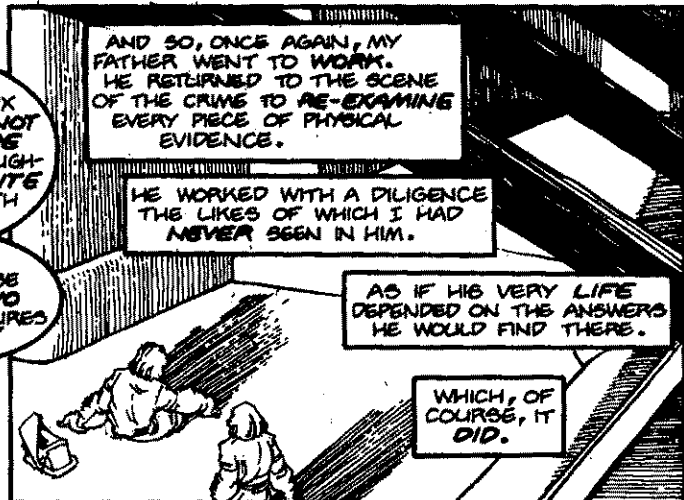
THEN, APE CITY WILL BE RID OF TWO MAD CREATURES THIS DAY!



CHALLENGE ACCEPTED! I WILL NAME THE MURDERER WITHIN SIX HOURS!

FATHER, I DON'T UNDERSTAND! IN THE LABORATORY, YOU SAID--

NOT NOW, SON!



AND SO, ONCE AGAIN, MY FATHER WENT TO WORK. HE RETURNED TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME TO RE-EXAMINE EVERY PIECE OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE.

HE WORKED WITH A DILIGENCE THE LIKES OF WHICH I HAD NEVER SEEN IN HIM.

AS IF HIS VERY LIFE DEPENDED ON THE ANSWERS HE WOULD FIND THERE.

WHICH, OF COURSE, IT DID.



HE NEVER UTTERED A WORD, EVEN AFTER WE RETURNED TO THE LABORATORY. HE REFUSED TO ANSWER MY MANY QUESTIONS.

WHY HAD HE DENIED HIS EARLIER FINDINGS THAT THE HUMAN HAD COMMITTED THE MURDER?

WHY WAS IT SO VERY IMPORTANT TO PROVE-- DESPITE HIS OWN CONCLUSIONS--THAT AN APE WAS GUILTY?

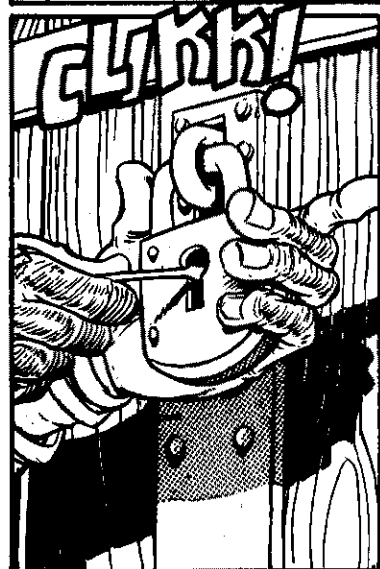
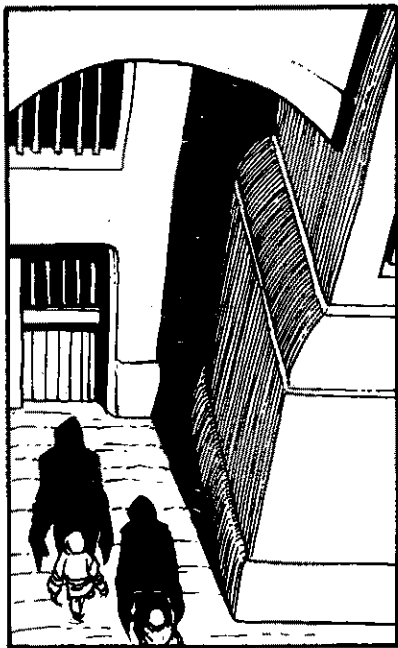
WHAT GREATER PURPOSE COULD POSSIBLY BE SERVED BY DENYING THE UNDENIABLE TRUTH?



ONLY ONE HOUR LEFT, SON.

BUT THERE'S STILL ONE STONE LEFT UNTURNED.

SHALL WE TURN IT OVER AND SEE WHAT CRAWLS OUT?







FOR BY ACCUSING
THIS HUMAN OF MURDER,
YOU ARE CATEGORIZING ALL
HUMANS AS CALCULATING,
THINKING CREATURES!

AND THE SACRED
SCROLLS HAVE DECREED
THAT MAN IS NOTHING
MORE THAN AN UNINTELLI-
GENT BEAST!

YOU WOULD
SPEAK TO ME OF
THEOLOGY WHEN
APE-BLOOD HAS
BEEN SPILLED AT
THE HANDS OF A
HUMAN?

FOR ALL WE KNOW,
MY DAUGHTER'S MURDER
MIGHT BE BUT THE FIRST
SLAYED IN A FATAL WAR
BETWEEN HUMANS
AND APES!

DON'T BE A FOOL,
IGNATIUS! YOUR DAUGHTER'S
DEATH DIDN'T COME
AT THE HANDS OF A
REVOLUTIONARY.

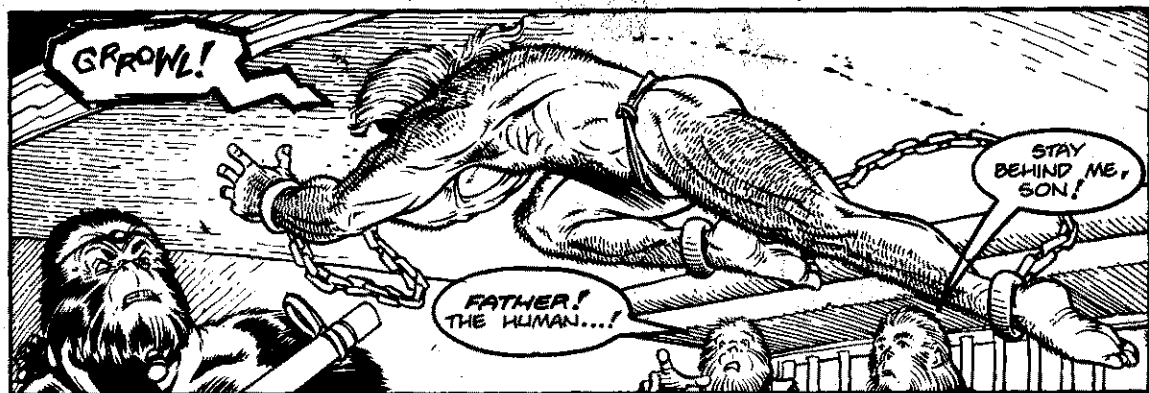
IT CAME AT THE
HANDS OF AN
ABUSED CREATURE
WHO DECIDED THAT IT
WOULD NO LONGER PAR-
TICIPATE IN ITS OWN
BRUTALIZATION.

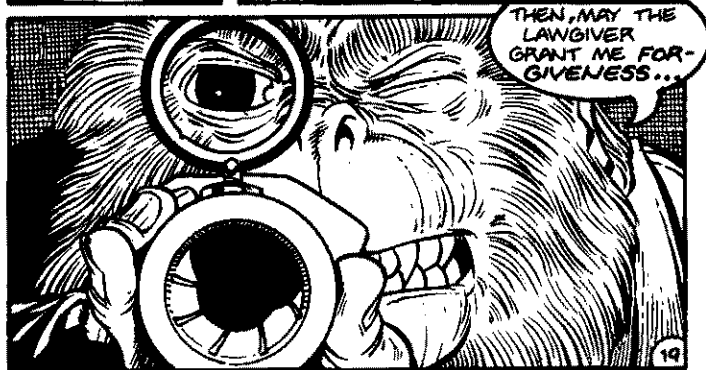
TELL ME, MINISTER
OF SCIENCE, WHO
IS SPEAKING
BLASPHEMY
NOW?

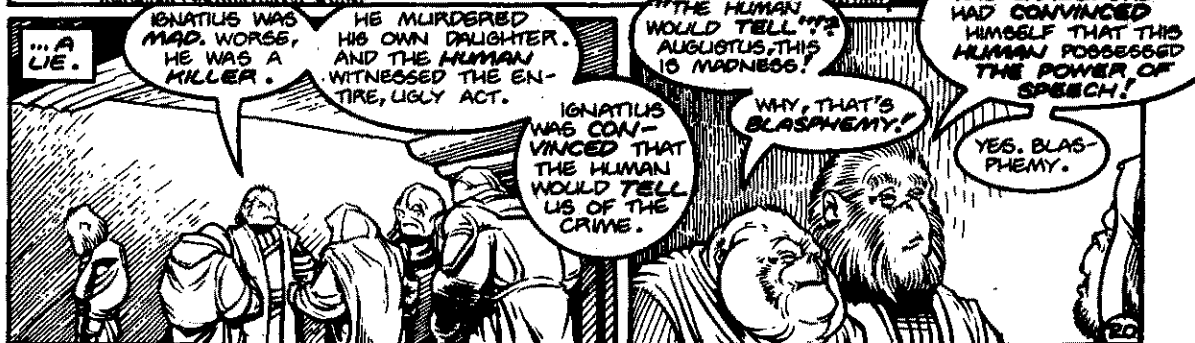
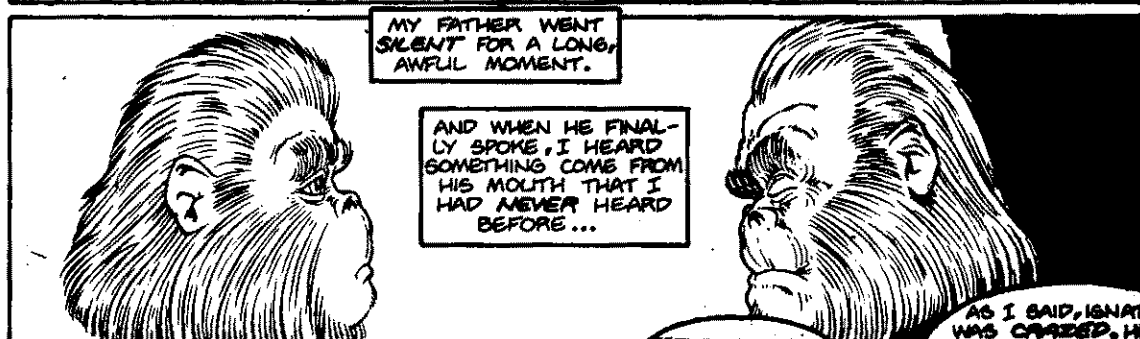
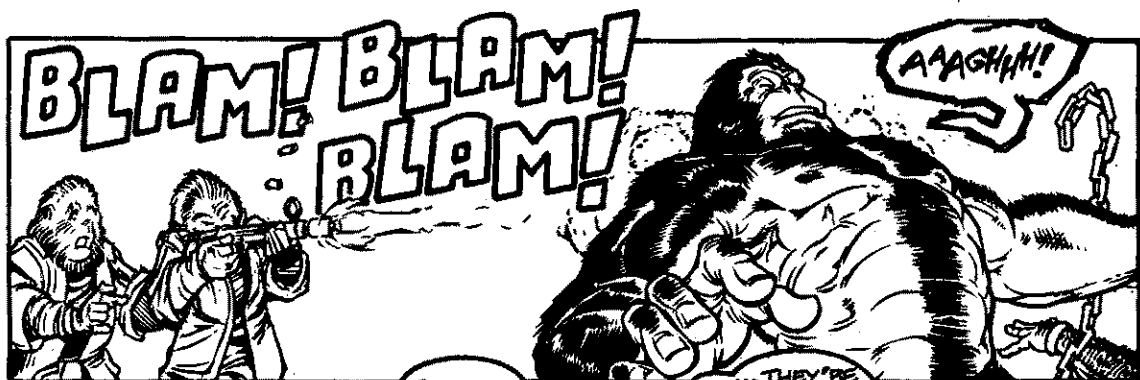
NOT BLAS-
PHEMY, IGNATIUS.
THE LAW OF THE
JUNGLE. CORNER
A WILD ANIMAL
AND IT WILL
ATTACK.

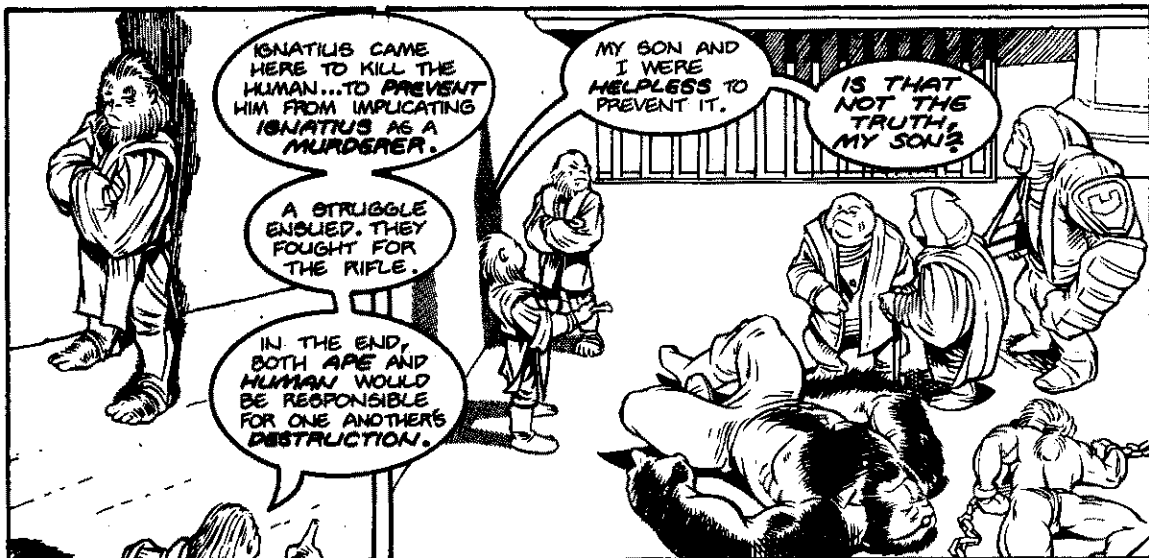
BOTH YOU AND YOUR
DAUGHTER, DEVOID OF
EITHER COMPASSION
OR CONSCIENCE, ABUSED
THIS ANIMAL UNTIL IT
HAD NO CHOICE
BUT TO FIGHT
BACK.

CAMILLE'S
DEATH WAS NOT
AN ACT OF MUR-
DER, IGNATIUS.
IT WAS AN ACT
OF SELF-
PRESERVATION.









IGNATIUS CAME HERE TO KILL THE HUMAN...TO PREVENT HIM FROM IMPLICATING IGNATIUS AS A MURDERER.

A STRUGGLE ENSUED. THEY FOUGHT FOR THE RIFLE.

IN THE END, BOTH APE AND HUMAN WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE ANOTHER'S DESTRUCTION.

MY SON AND I WERE HELPLESS TO PREVENT IT.

IS THAT NOT THE TRUTH, MY SON?



YES, FATHER...

...IT ALL HAPPENED JUST AS YOU SAY...



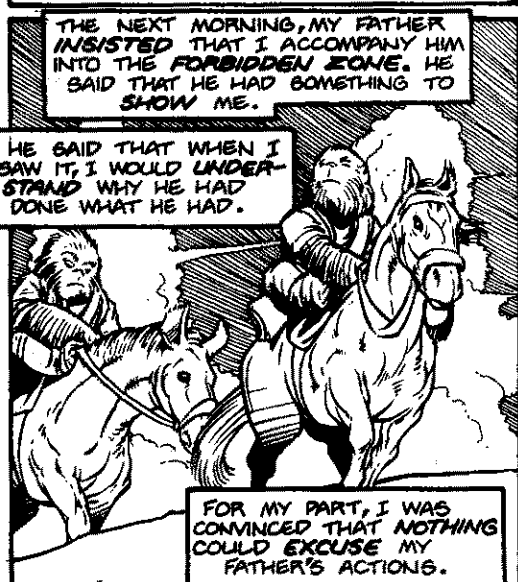
AS MINISTER OF SCIENCE, THERE WAS NO APE MORE RESPECTED THAN MY FATHER. AND, AS SUCH, THEY TOOK HIM AT HIS WORD.

AFTER ALL, WHAT POSSIBLE REASON WOULD HE HAVE TO LIE ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED?



THE NEXT MORNING, MY FATHER INSISTED THAT I ACCOMPANY HIM INTO THE FORBIDDEN ZONE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SOMETHING TO SHOW ME.

HE SAID THAT WHEN I SAW IT, I WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY HE HAD DONE WHAT HE HAD.



FOR MY PART, I WAS CONVINCED THAT NOTHING COULD EXCUSE MY FATHER'S ACTIONS.

I WAS WRONG.

BEHOLD, MY SON...

...THE ONLY THING ON OUR PLANET THAT COULD MAKE A FATHER DISGRACE HIMSELF IN FRONT OF HIS SON...

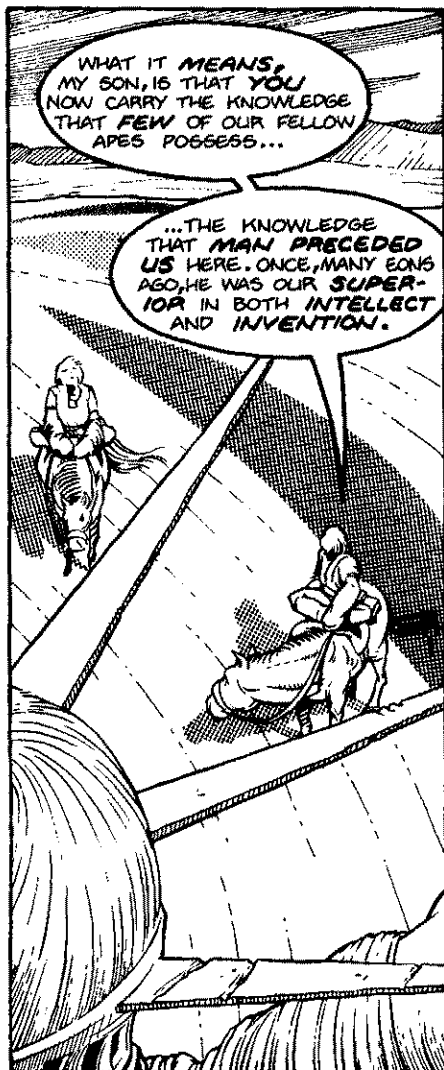




BY THE
LAWGIVER,
FATHER...

...WHAT
DOES THIS
MEAN?





WHAT IT MEANS, MY SON, IS THAT YOU NOW CARRY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT FEW OF OUR FELLOW APES POSSESS...

...THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MAN PRECEDED US HERE. ONCE, MANY EONS AGO, HE WAS OUR SUPERIOR IN BOTH INTELLECT AND INVENTION.



BUT MAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CREATURE FOR WHOM WISDOM WAS ALWAYS WALKED HAND IN HAND WITH IDIOCY.

ALL THAT YOU SEE HERE NOW THAT IS THE FORBIDDEN ZONE WAS ONCE A PARADISE.

MAN MADE A DESERT OF IT.

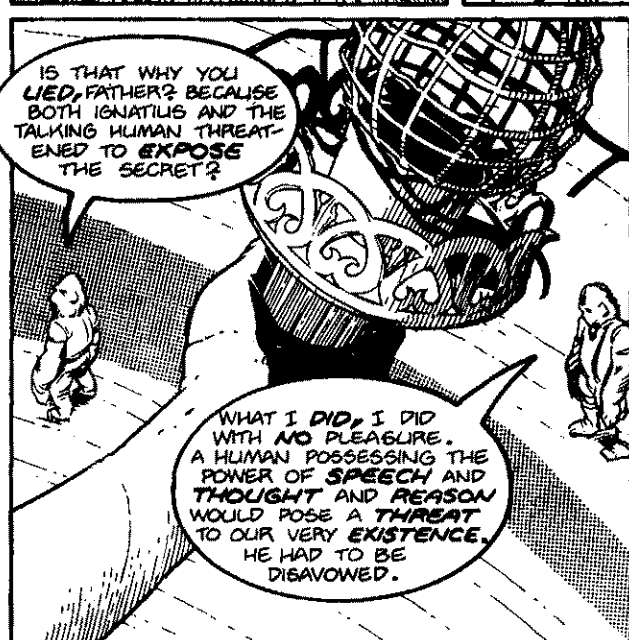


THERE ARE BUT A HANDFUL OF US WHO KNOW THE TRUTH. ONLY A FEW WHO POSSESS THE SECRET.

AS THE GUARDIANS OF THIS KNOWLEDGE, IT IS OUR DUTY TO SAFEGUARD IT FROM ANYONE WHO WOULD FINISH THE JOB MAN BEGAN, WHETHER BY ACCIDENT OR DESIGN.

WE APES INHERITED THIS PLANET FROM MAN.

WHETHER HE BE APE OR MAN.



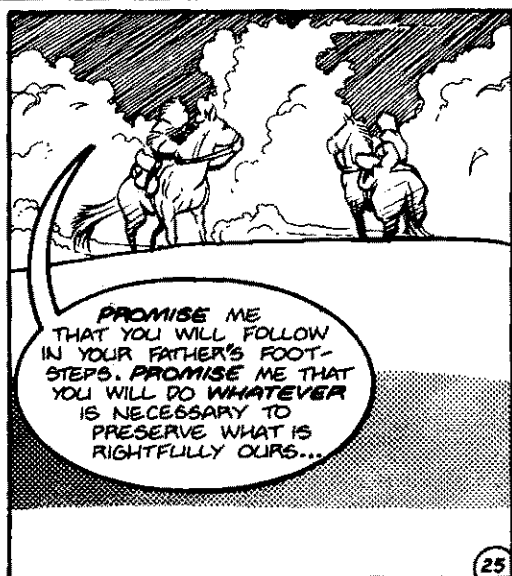
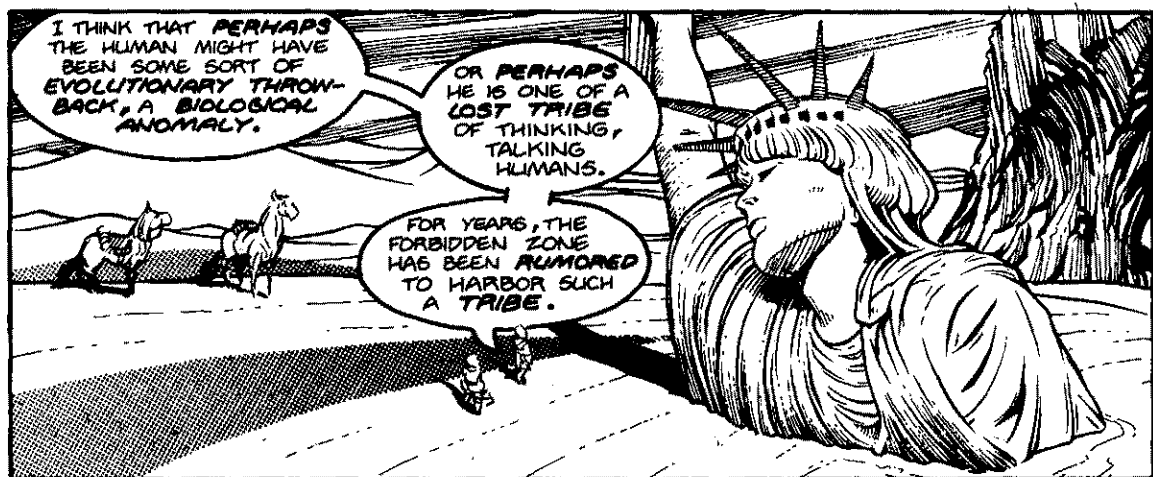
IS THAT WHY YOU LIED, FATHER? BECAUSE BOTH IGNATIUS AND THE TALKING HUMAN THREATENED TO EXPOSE THE SECRET?


WHAT I DID, I DID WITH NO PLEASURE. A HUMAN POSSESSING THE POWER OF SPEECH AND THOUGHT AND REASON WOULD POSE A THREAT TO OUR VERY EXISTENCE. HE HAD TO BE DISAVOWED.



BUT WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

IT WAS MY INTENT TO FIND THAT OUT. BUT IGNATIUS SAW THAT IT WAS NOT TO BE.





YOU HAVE MY
WORD, FATHER.
YOU CAN COUNT
ON ME.

THANK
YOU,
ZAIUS...

...I KNEW
THAT I
COULD.

IT HAS BEEN THIRTY
YEARS SINCE MY FATHER
ALLOWED ME TO SHARE
THE SECRET WITH HIM.

AND IT HAS BEEN THREE
DAYS SINCE I ALLOWED THE
TALKING HUMAN NAMED TAYLOR
TO SHARE IT AS WELL.

NOW, AS I WRITE THESE
WORDS, MY FATHER'S EERIE
LAMENT FROM YEARS AGO
STILL ECHOES IN MY HEAD.

"WHERE ONE INTELLIGENT
HUMAN WALKS, OTHERS
SOON WILL FOLLOW.

"AND WHAT WILL BECOME
OF US THEN? THOSE OF
US WHO INHABIT THE
PLANET OF THE APES?"

THE
END