

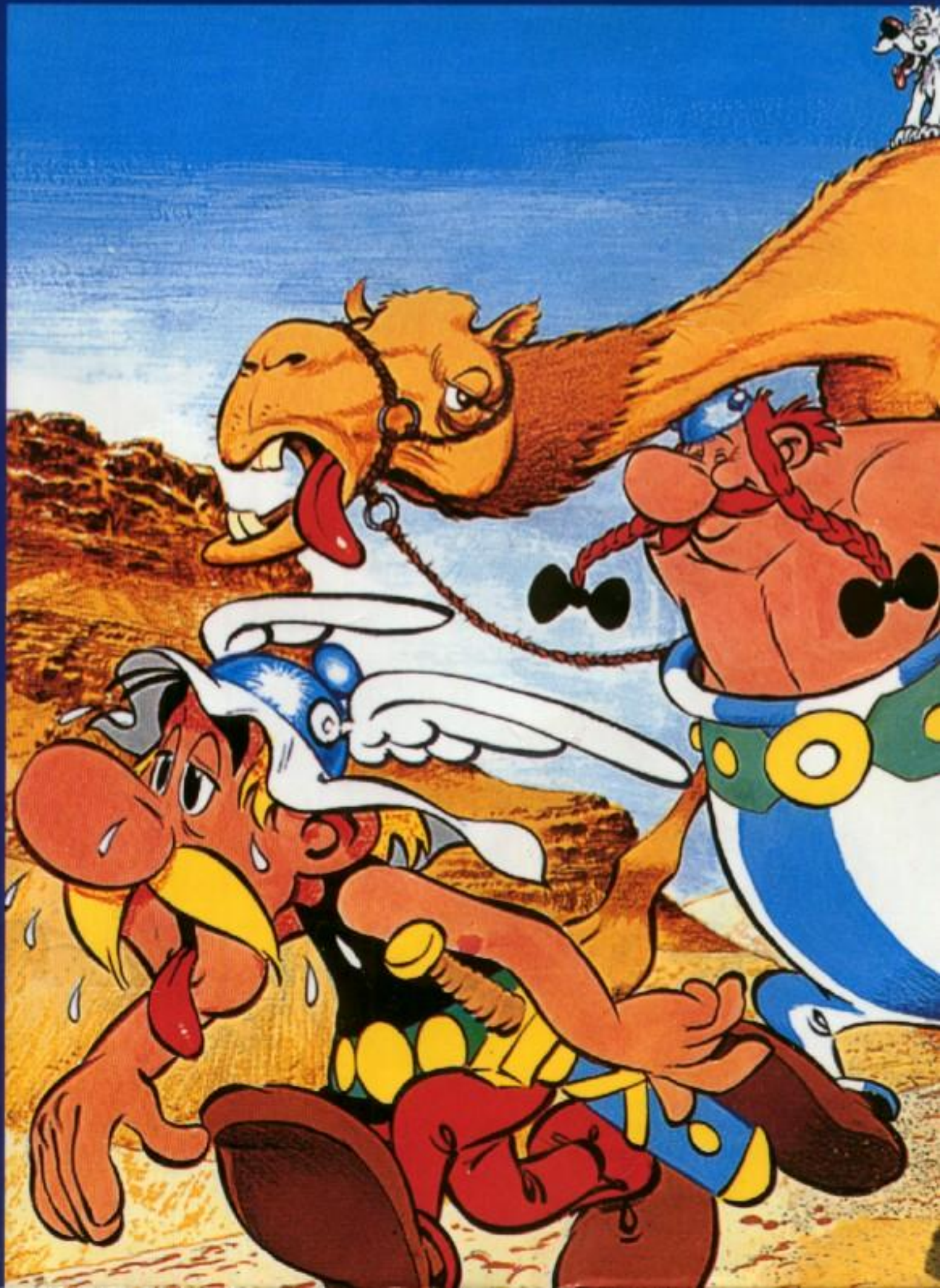
BOOK 27

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

Asterix

AND THE BLACK GOLD

ASTRIX



IN THE QUIET, PEACEFUL DEPTHS OF THE GAULISH FOREST, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT IT IS DINNER TIME...



... BUT SOME OF THE FOREST DWELLERS HAVE LOST THEIR APPETITES.



OINK! GRUNT!
OINK! OINK!

GRUNT! OINK!
OINK OINK!

MUNCH!
MUNCH!

(AUTHOR'S NOTE: WITH APOLOGIES TO PURISTS, WE PROVIDE A DUBBED VERSION TO FACILITATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DIALOGUE.)



ARE YOU QUITE SURE WE AREN'T GOING TO MEET ANY OF THOSE CRAZY GAULS FROM THE VILLAGE?

I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE QUITE SAFE WITH ME. WHY ARE YOU SCARED?

MUNCH!
MUNCH!

BECAUSE THEY'VE WOLFED DOWN, SCRUNCHED, CRUNCHED AND GOBBLED UP MY WHOLE HERD, AND I AM THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF A LARGE FAMILY, THAT'S WHY!!!



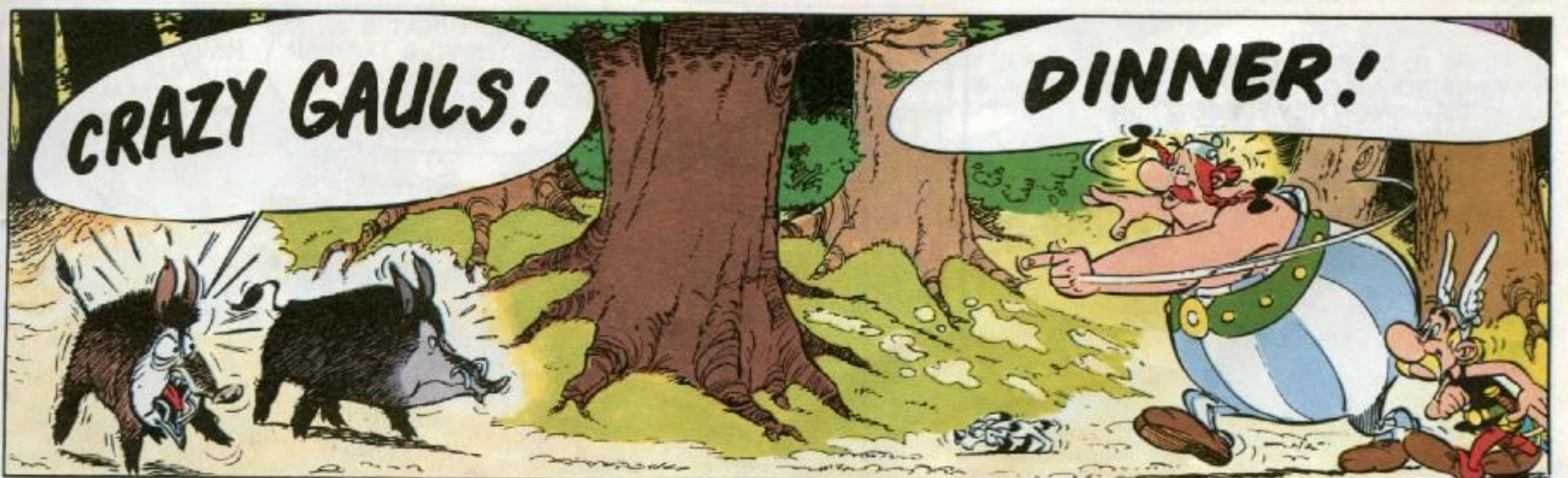
CALM DOWN! NO NEED TO GO RANTING LIKE A BARNSTORMER*! I ADMIT THEY'RE GOOD AT BRINGING HOME THE BACON...

*HAM ACTOR



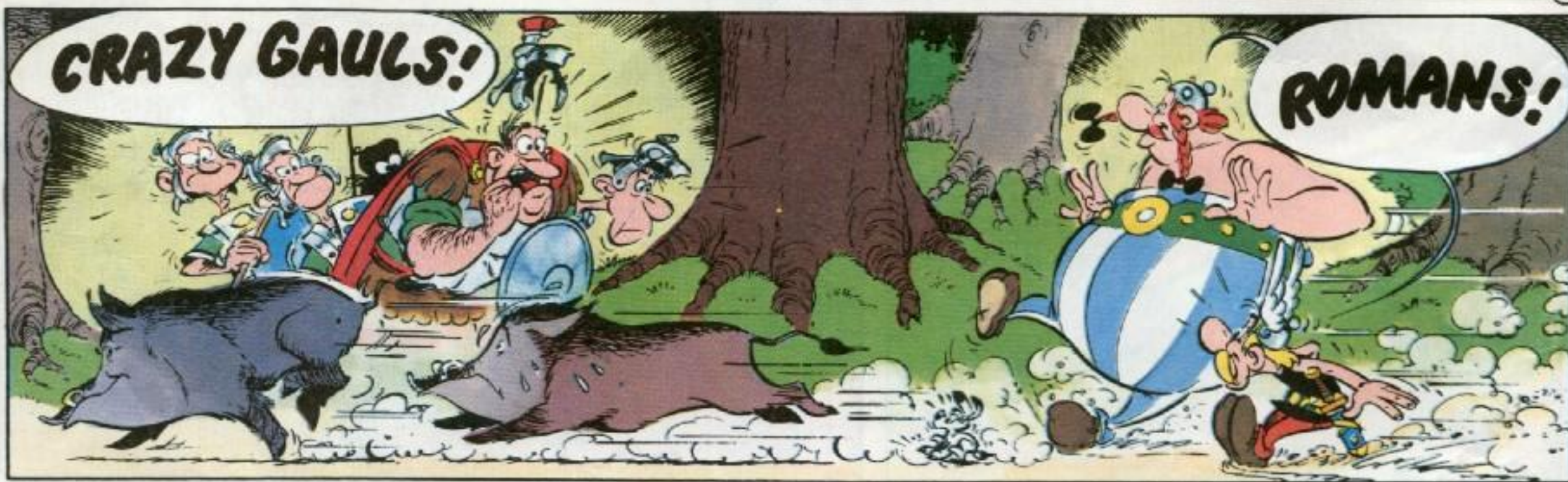
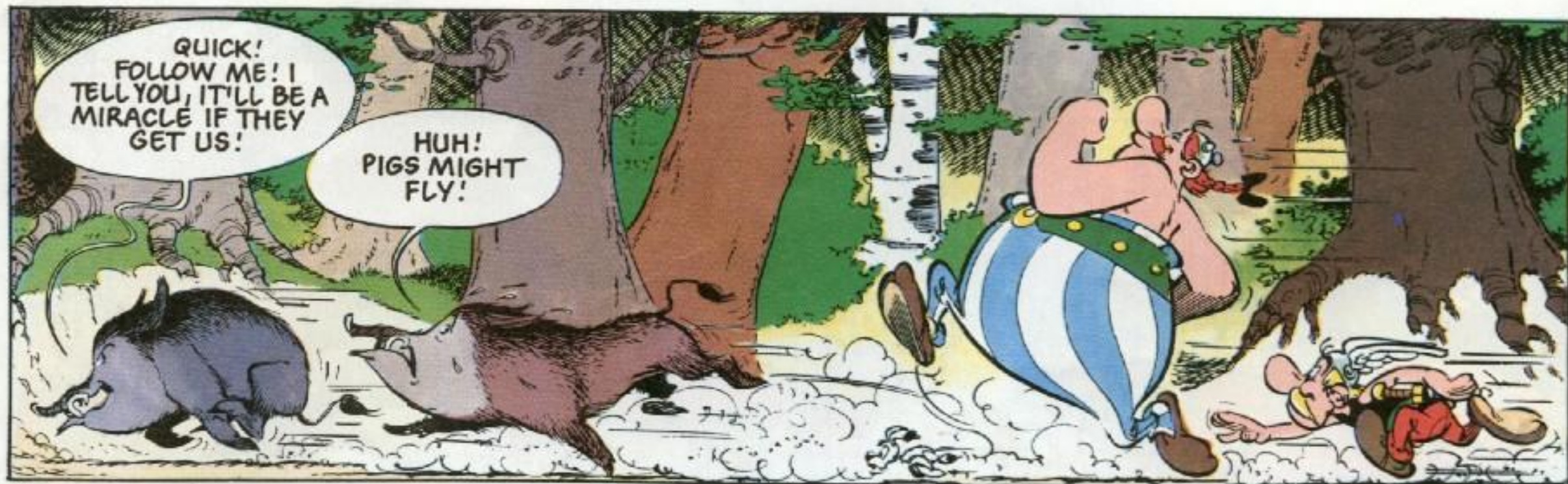
... BUT AS WHAT MUST BE CURED CAN'T BE ENDURED, I'VE WORKED OUT AN INFALLIBLE SYSTEM! I'LL BET YOU ~~WE~~ NEVER FEATURE ON THE GAULS' MENU!

AND WHO WINS IF YOU LOSE YOUR BET?



CRAZY GAULS!

DINNER!



IN ROME...



NO, WE MOST CERTAINLY CAN'T HAVE THIS!!!



THAT ARMORICAN VILLAGE IS STILL HOLDING THE MIGHT OF ROME UP TO RIDICULE!



AND I HEAR THAT MY LEGIONS NOW HAVE TO FACE HORDES OF WILD BEASTS!



THE MORALE OF MY TROOPS IS AT ROCK BOTTOM, AND I AM THE LAUGHING STOCK OF MY ENEMIES IN THE SENATE!



AS WE ALL KNOW, WE HAVE FAILED TO CONQUER THOSE INDOMITABLE GAULS BY FORCE, CORRUPTION, OR EVEN KIDNAPPING, AND YET...



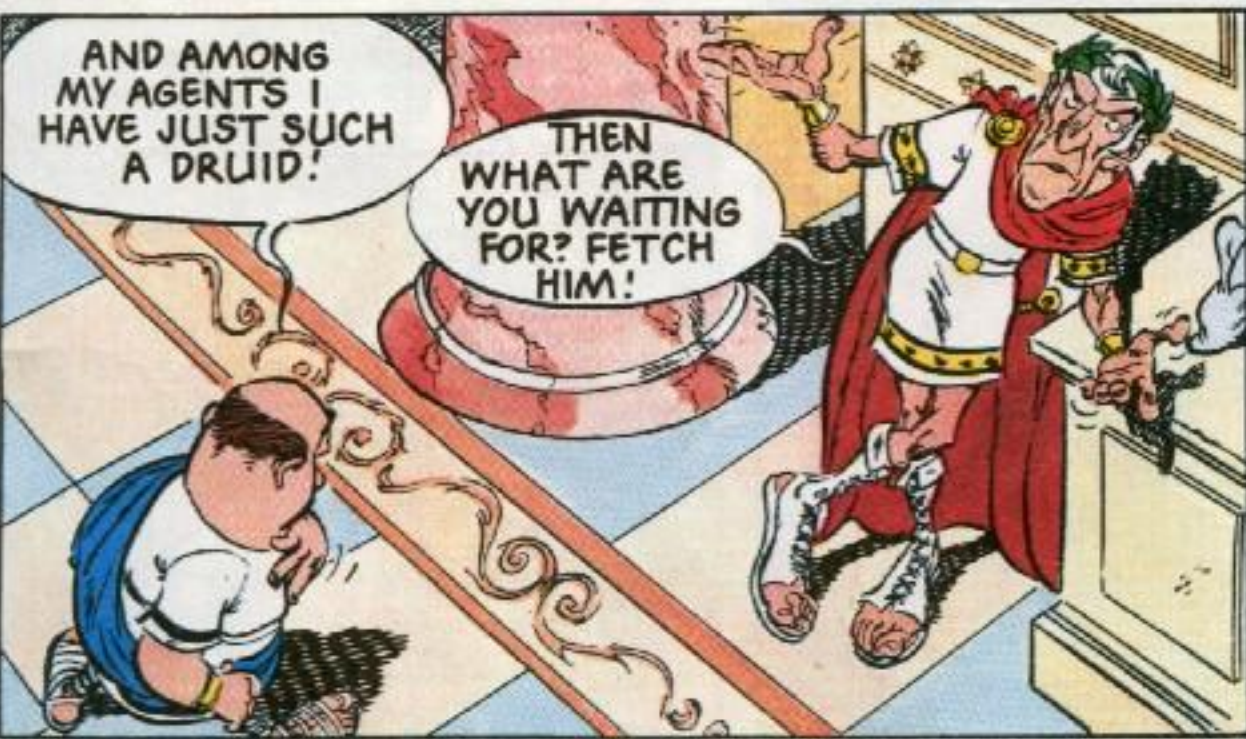
M. DEVIUS SURREPTITIUS, YOU'RE CHIEF OF MY SECRET SERVICE, M.I.VI. IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA, BY JUPITER, LET'S HEAR IT!

O CAESAR, THE SECRETS OF THE DRUIDS ARE PASSED ON ONLY FROM DRUID TO DRUID BY WORD OF MOUTH!



WHAT ABOUT IT?

SIMPLE! NO ONE BUT A DRUID WHO IS ALSO SPYING FOR US CAN OBTAIN AND PASS ON THE RECIPE OF THAT MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES THE GAULS INVINCIBLE!



AND AMONG MY AGENTS I HAVE JUST SUCH A DRUID!

THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? FETCH HIM!



HE'S ALREADY HERE, CAESAR, QUITE CLOSE TO YOU!

?!?

YOU CAN COME DOWN FROM YOUR PEDESTAL NOW, DUBBELSIX!

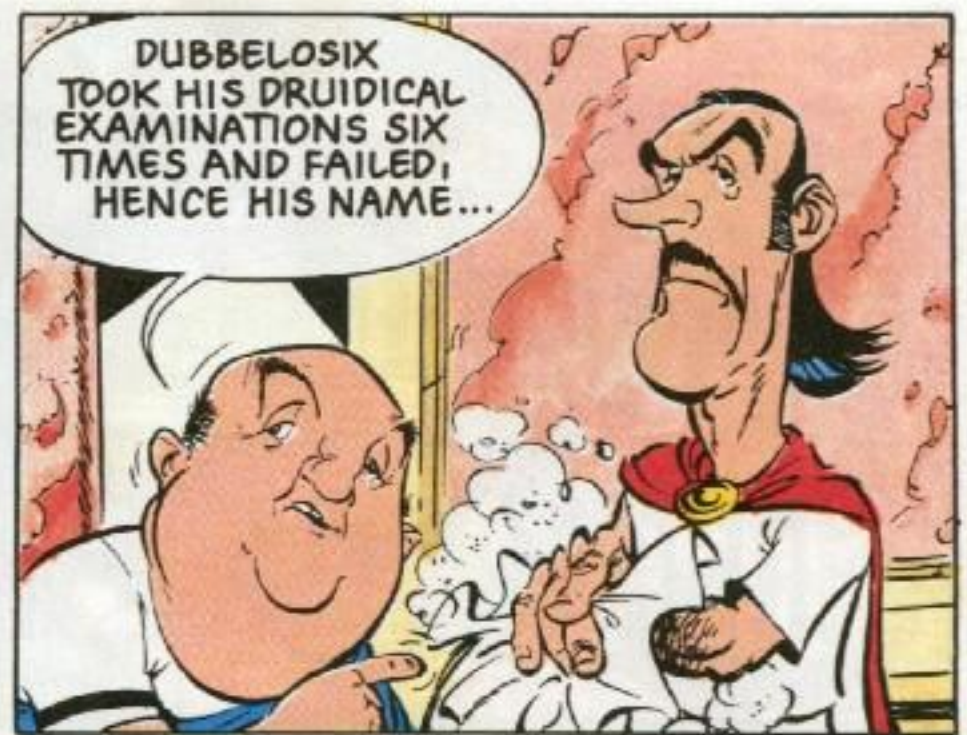
3A

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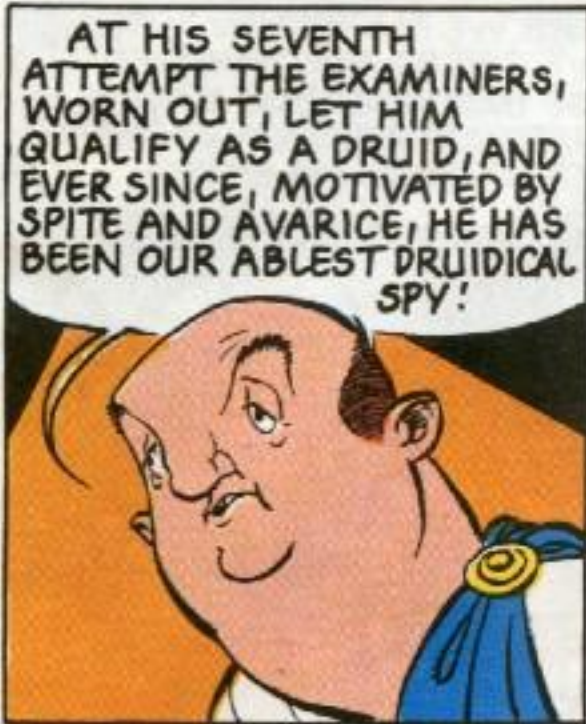


WHAT'S THE IDEA? A SPY, IN MY APARTMENTS?

JUST A LITTLE EXPERIMENT, O CAESAR, TO DEMONSTRATE MY BEST SECRET AGENT'S INVENTIVE GENIUS!



DUBBELOSIX TOOK HIS DRUIDICAL EXAMINATIONS SIX TIMES AND FAILED, HENCE HIS NAME...



AT HIS SEVENTH ATTEMPT THE EXAMINERS, WORN OUT, LET HIM QUALIFY AS A DRUID, AND EVER SINCE, MOTIVATED BY SPITE AND AVARICE, HE HAS BEEN OUR ABLEST DRUIDICAL SPY!



EXCELLENT! BRING ME BACK THE SECRET OF THE MIRACULOUS POTION AND I SHALL FIRE THAT TRYING TRIUMVIRATE, BECOME DICTATOR OF THE WHOLE ROMAN EMPIRE, AND MAKE YOUR FORTUNES!



AVE CAESAR, LUCRATORI TE SALUTANT!*

*HAIL CAESAR, THOSE ABOUT TO GET RICH QUICK SALUTE YOU. (A)



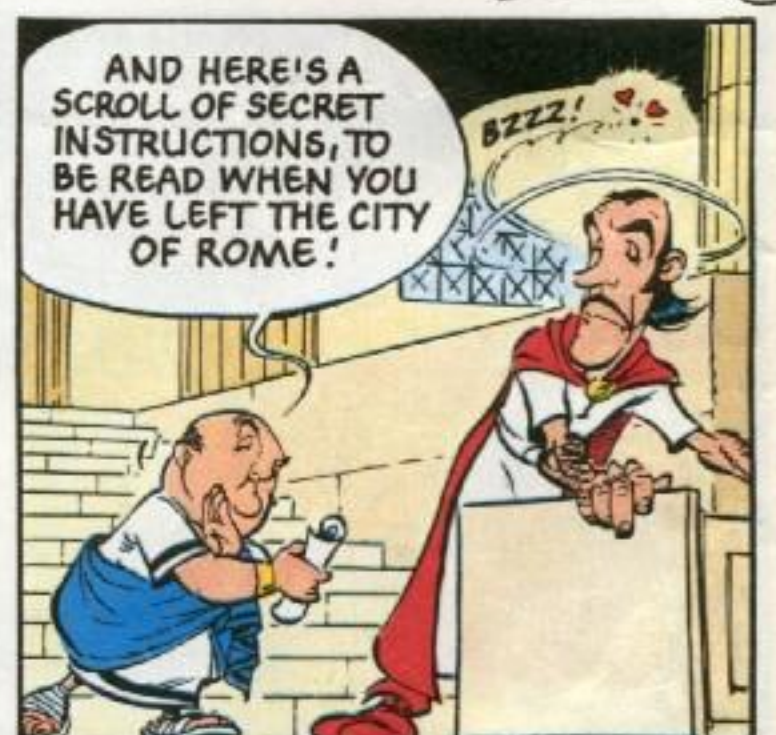
YOU'RE TO SET OFF FOR GAUL AT ONCE. HERE, TAKE THIS...

?



A CARRIER FLY. SHE'S TRAINED TO TAKE MESSAGES, AND IF NEED BE SHE WILL BRING ME INFORMATION BY MICRO-PAPYRUS IN RECORD TIME!*

*THE EARLIEST KNOWN USE OF A BUG IN ESPIONAGE.



AND HERE'S A SCROLL OF SECRET INSTRUCTIONS, TO BE READ WHEN YOU HAVE LEFT THE CITY OF ROME!

BZZZ!



HOW ARE YOU PLANNING TO TRAVEL?

THAT'S TAKEN CARE OF. WATCH THIS!

CLICK!



CLINK!
CLONK!
CLICK!
CLACK!



CLANG!



I HAVEN'T MANAGED TO FOLD UP THE HORSES UP IN IT YET, THOUGH!

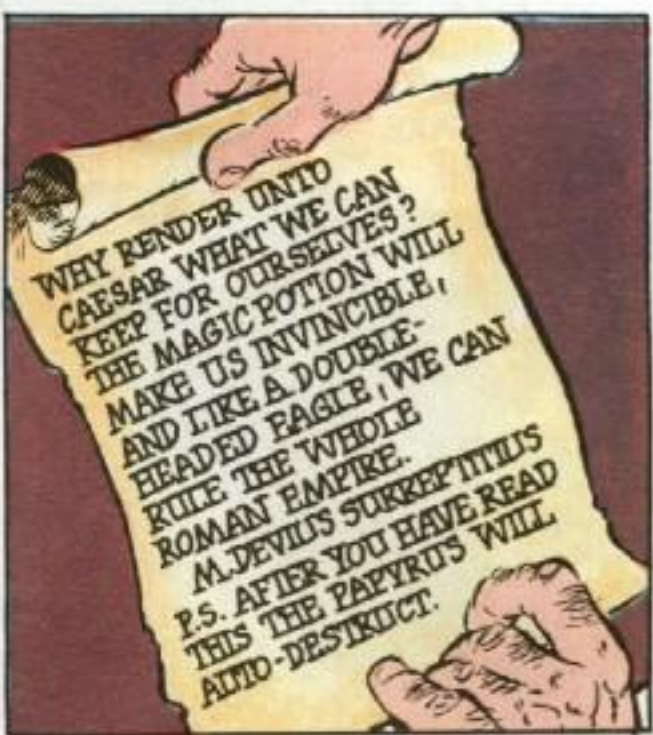
(B)



LATER...

WHOA!

TIME TO READ SURREPTITIUS'S SECRET INSTRUCTIONS!



WHY RENDER UNTO CAESAR WHAT WE CAN KEEP FOR OURSELVES? THE MAGIC POTION WILL MAKE US INVINCIBLE, AND LIKE A DOUBLE-HEADED EAGLE, WE CAN RULE THE WHOLE ROMAN EMPIRE. P.S. AFTER YOU HAVE READ THIS THE Papyrus WILL AUTO-DESTRUCT.



?!?

PSSCHCHCH...



HO, HO! CAESAR AND SURREPTITIUS ARE A COUPLE OF FOOLS! I PLAN TO BE A VULTURE RULING THE GALLO-ROMAN EMPIRE ALONE!

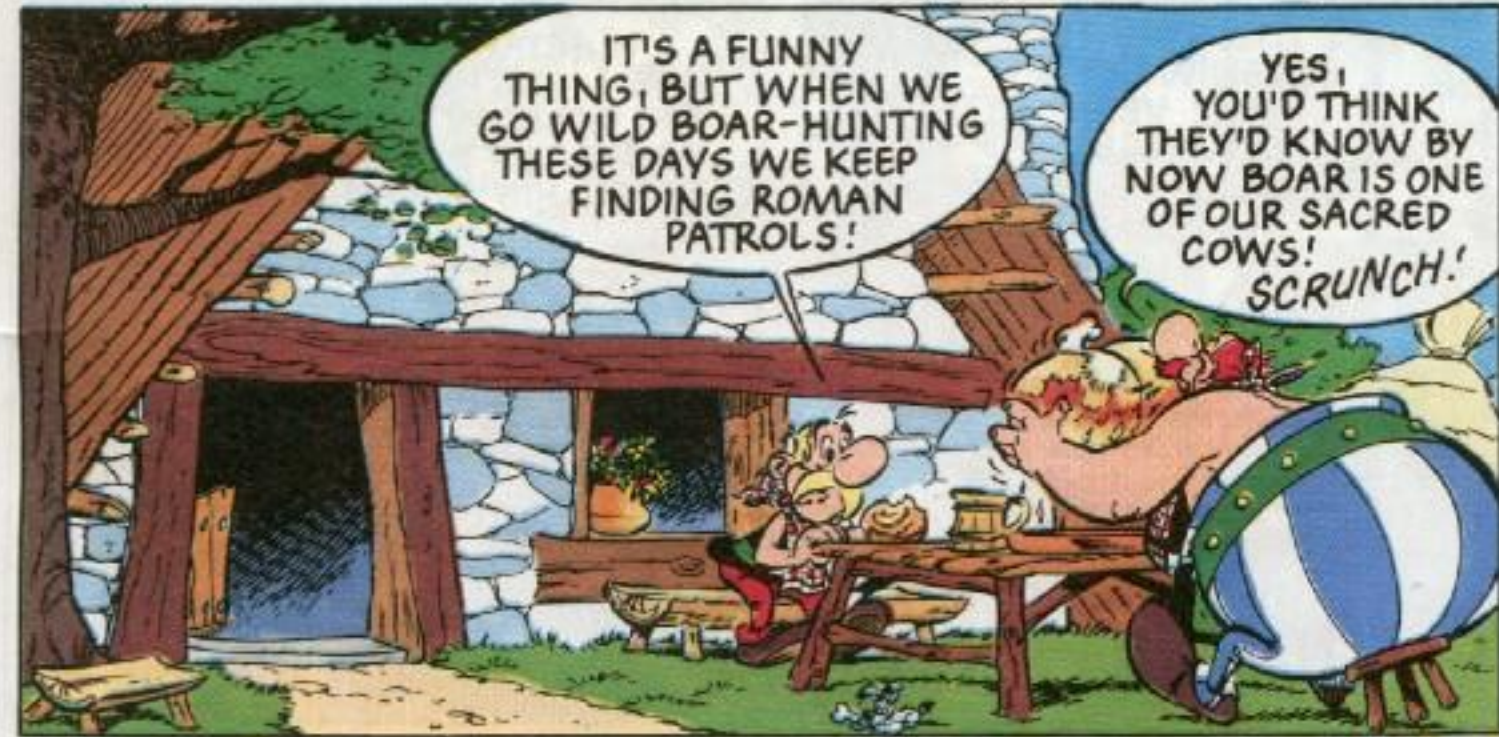
62222
KISS!



OH LEAVE ME ALONE, YOU WRETCHED CREATURE!



MEANWHILE, ON THE ARMORICAN COAST, ALL IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE WHERE ASTERIX AND HIS FRIENDS LIVE.



IT'S A FUNNY THING, BUT WHEN WE GO WILD BOAR-HUNTING THESE DAYS WE KEEP FINDING ROMAN PATROLS!

YES, YOU'D THINK THEY'D KNOW BY NOW BOAR IS ONE OF OUR SACRED COWS! SCRUNCH!

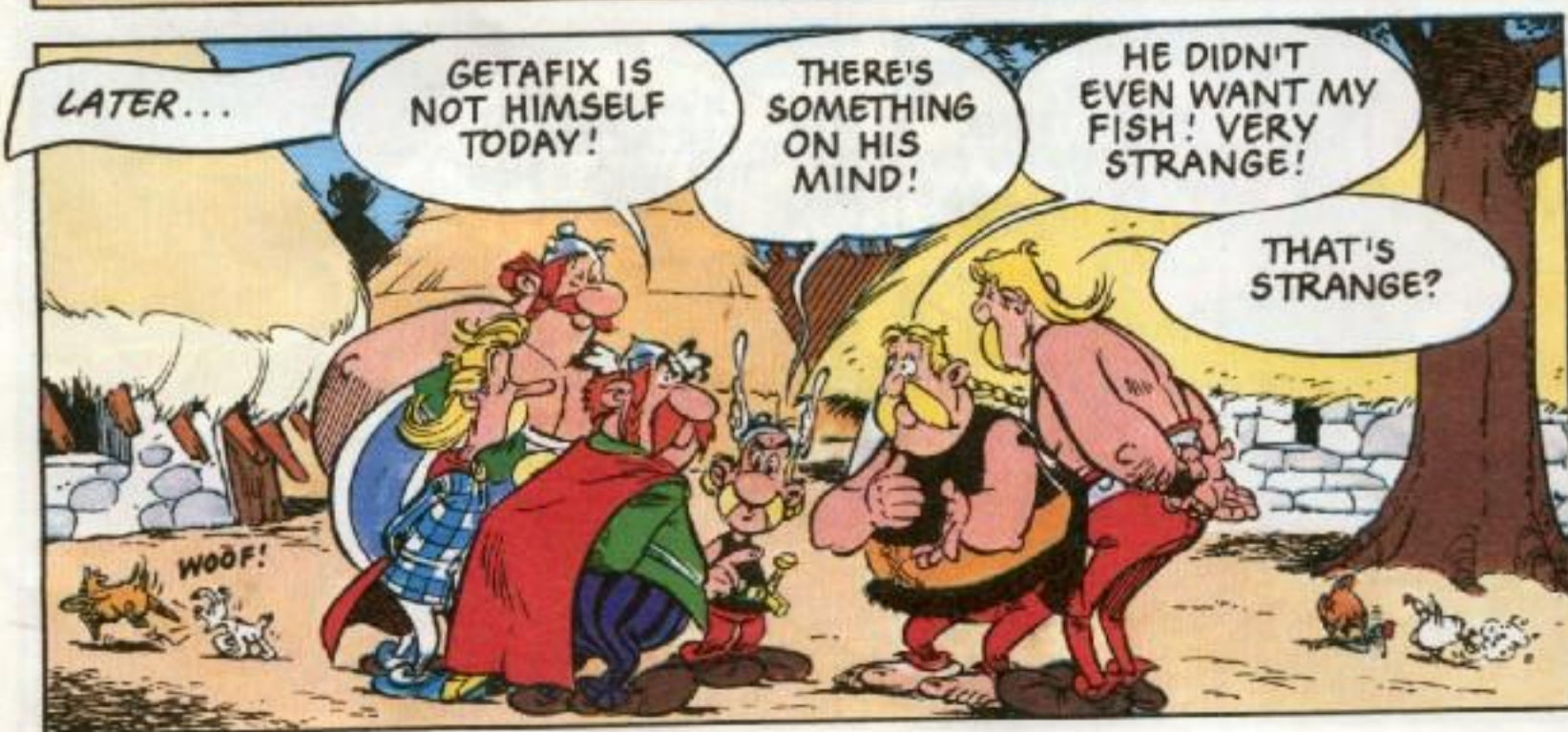
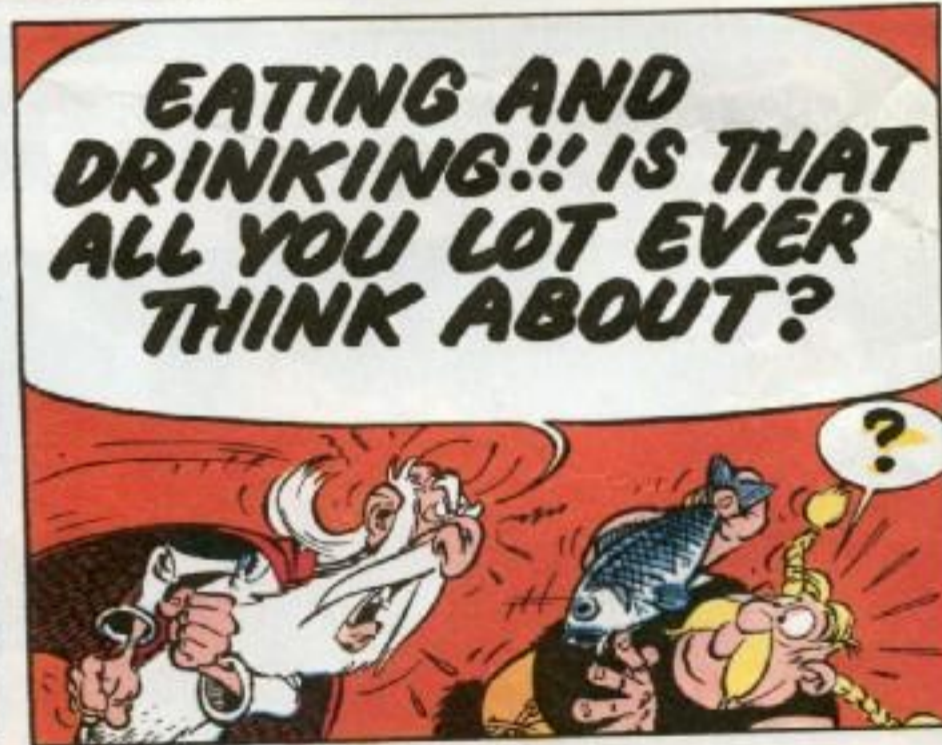
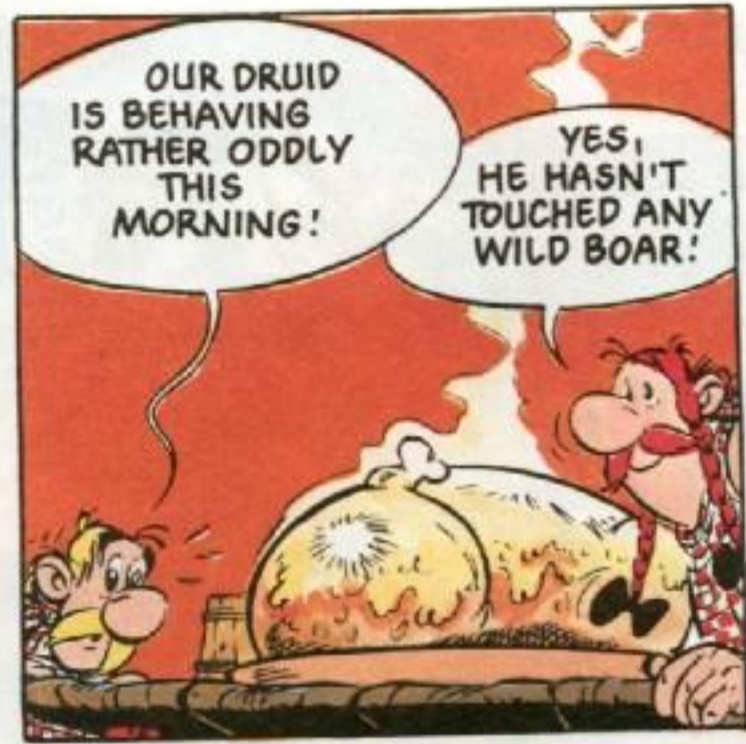


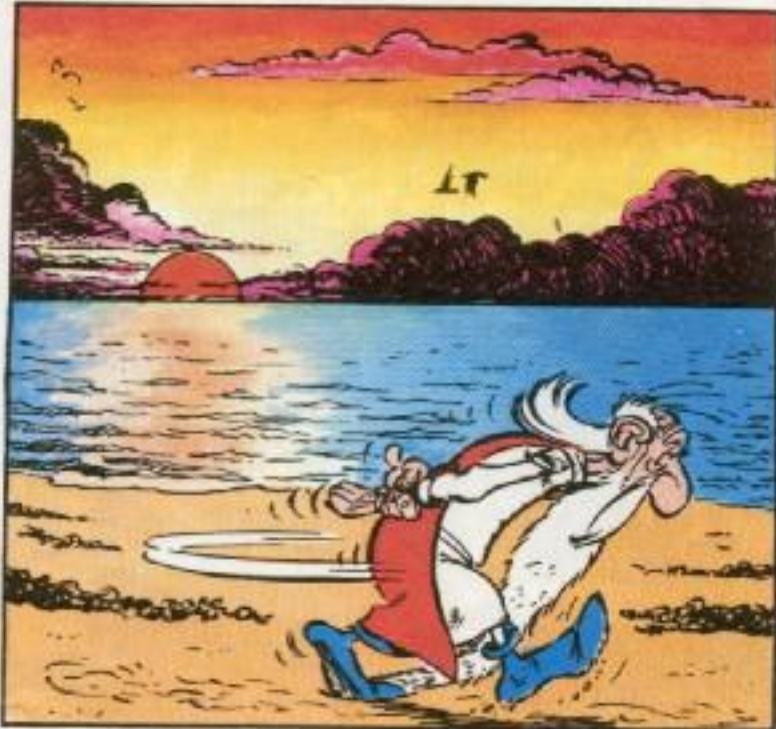
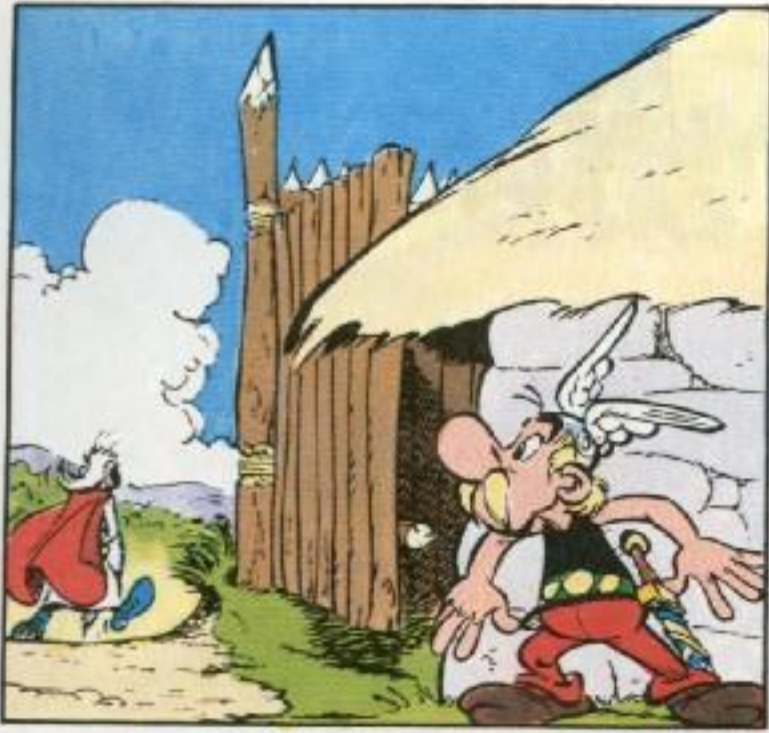
AND YOU CERTAINLY GO THE WHOLE HOG EATING IT!

SCRUNCH!
MUNCH!
SCRUNCH!

5A

5B





BUT NEXT MORNING...

COME QUICKLY!
EKONOMIKRISIS THE
PHOENICIAN MERCHANT
HAS LANDED ON
THE BEACH!!!

HE'S
HERE! AT
LAST!!

HULLO,
ASTERIX!
NICE DAY,
ISN'T IT?

?!

I WOULDN'T MIND
TASTING YOUR NEW BARREL
OF BEER, VITALSTATISTIX!
DON'T FORGET!

?!

MMM! YOUR
FISH HAS A REALLY
INTERESTING AROMA,
UNHYGIENIX!

?!?

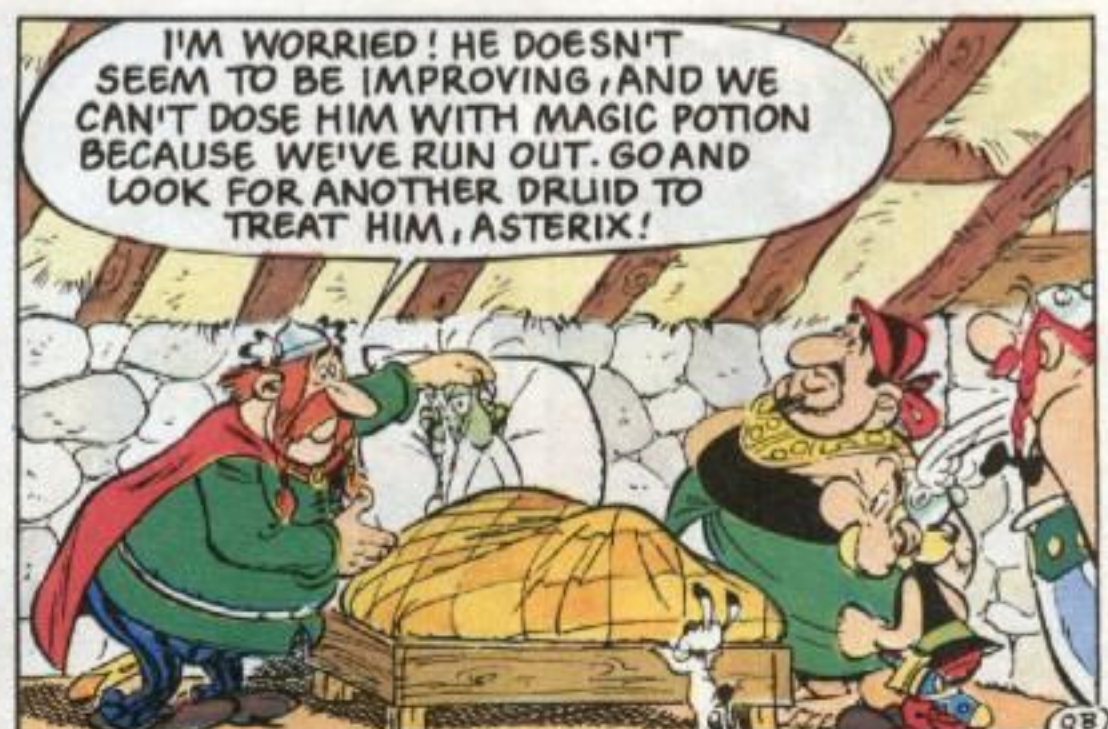
SO GETAFIX
WAS WAITING FOR
EKONOMIKRISIS
AND HIS CARGO!

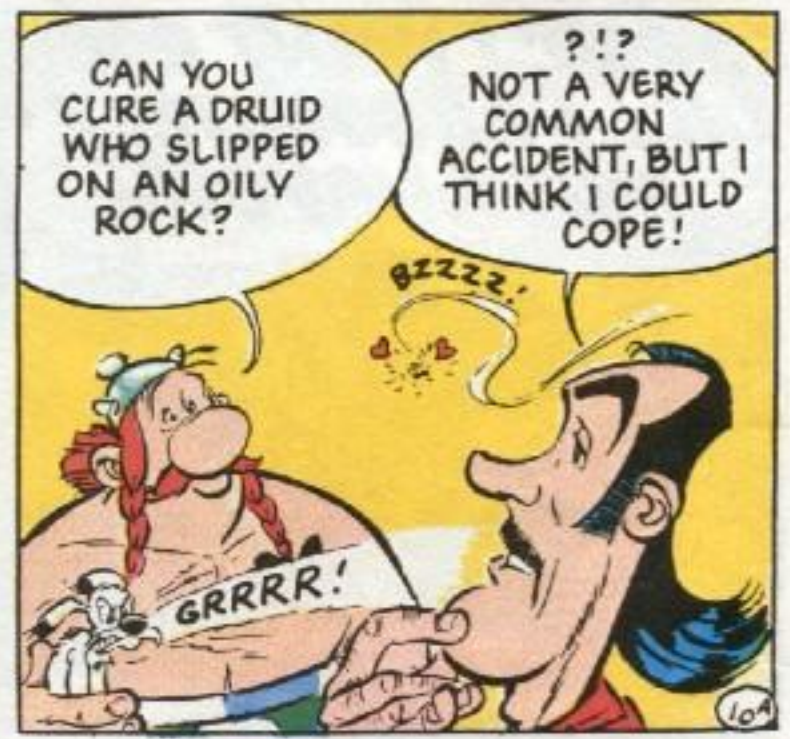
AND HE
APPRECIATED
MY FISH, SO
THERE!

THAT'S
WHAT WORRIES
ME. ANYONE IN THAT
STATE MUST BE ON
THE BRINK OF
SUICIDE!

HERE YOU ARE AT LAST,
EKONOMIKRISIS, OLD CHAP!

HULLO THERE, GETAFIX! I'VE
BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN EVER SINCE
MY LAST VOYAGE! LOOK WHAT
I'VE BROUGHT FROM TYRE,
SPECIALLY FOR YOU!









DON'T BE FRIGHTENED! IT'S ALL TAKEN CARE OF!

HIS INSINUATIONS ARE GETTING ME DOWN!



SPLOSH!



SOMETHING SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED WHEN I PRESSED THAT BUTTON!!!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

WELL, WE WERE MORE FRIGHTENED THAN HURT!



HEY YOU, HOLD YOUR HORSES!!! NOW JUST LISTEN HERE, YOU!!!



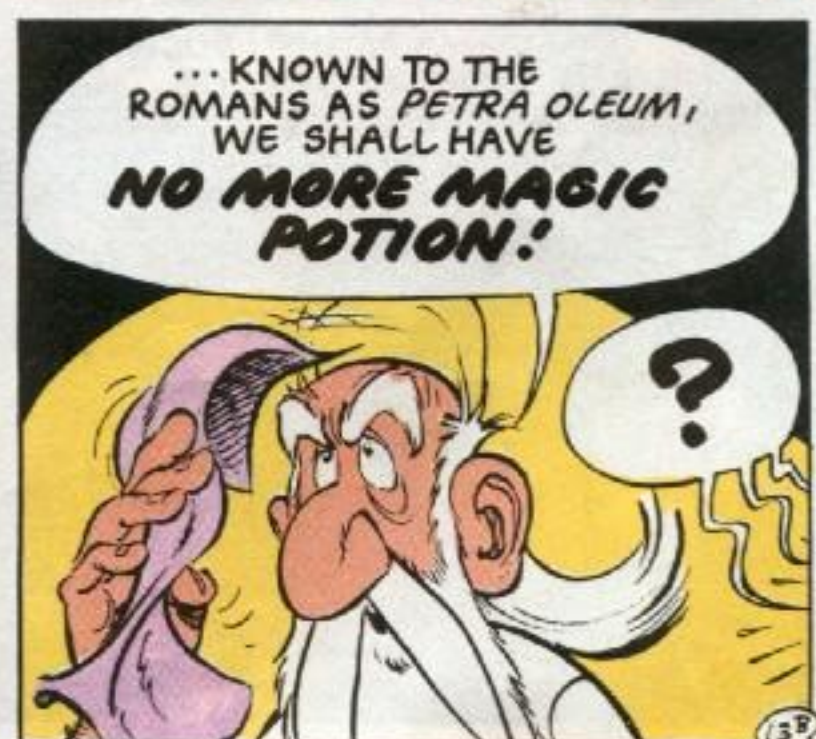
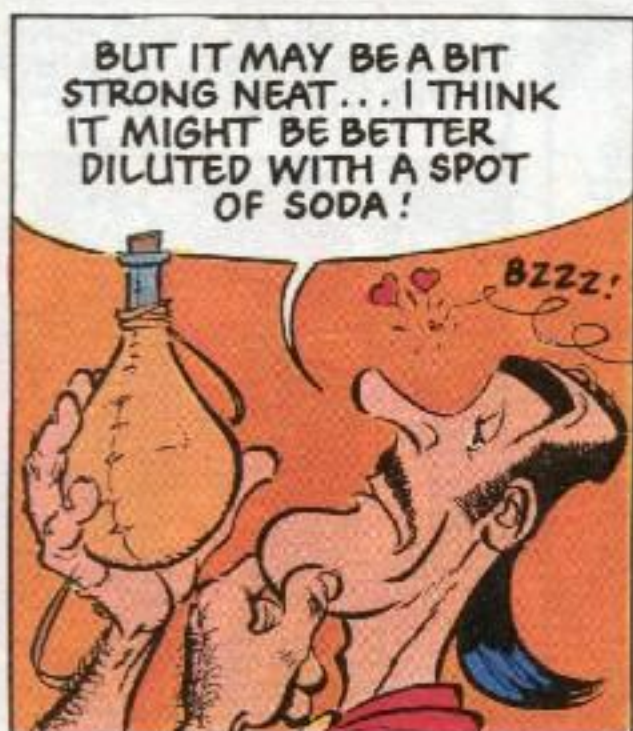
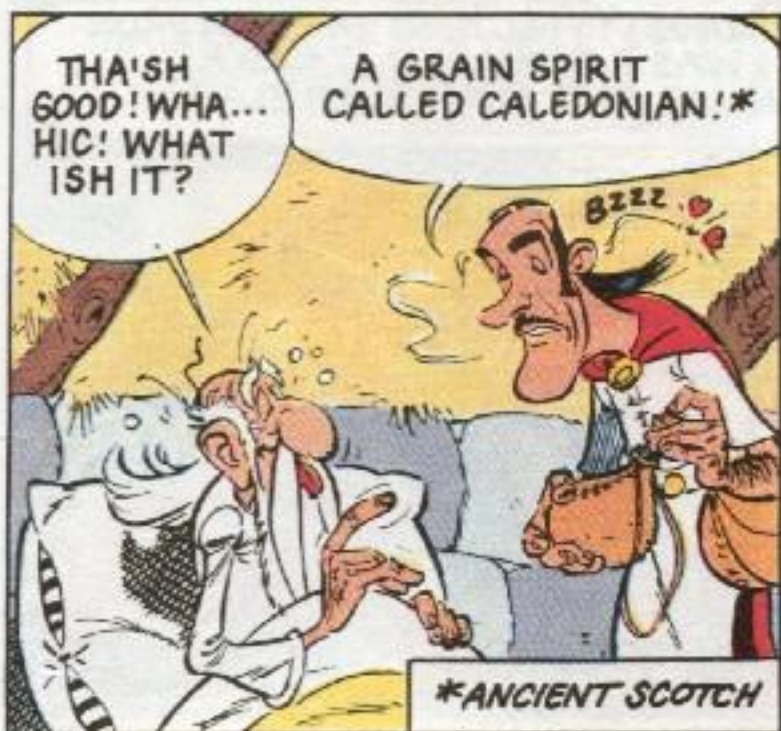
YOUR FRIEND QUITE FRIGHTENS ME SOMETIMES!

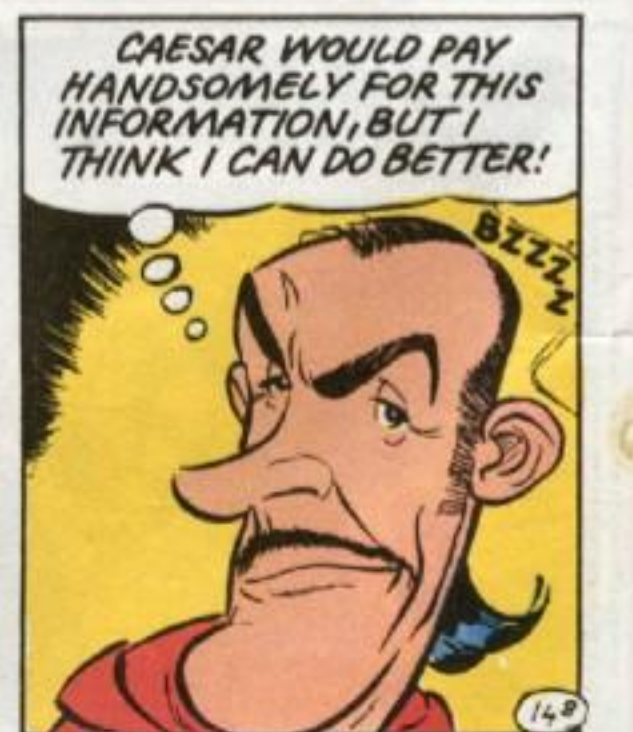
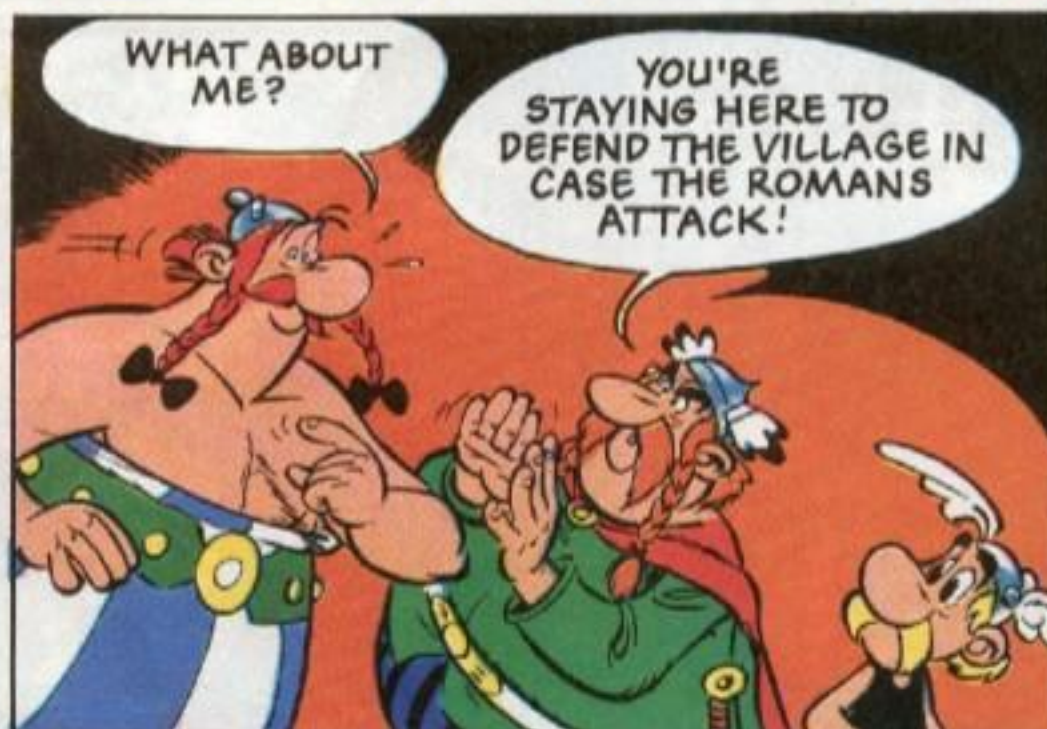
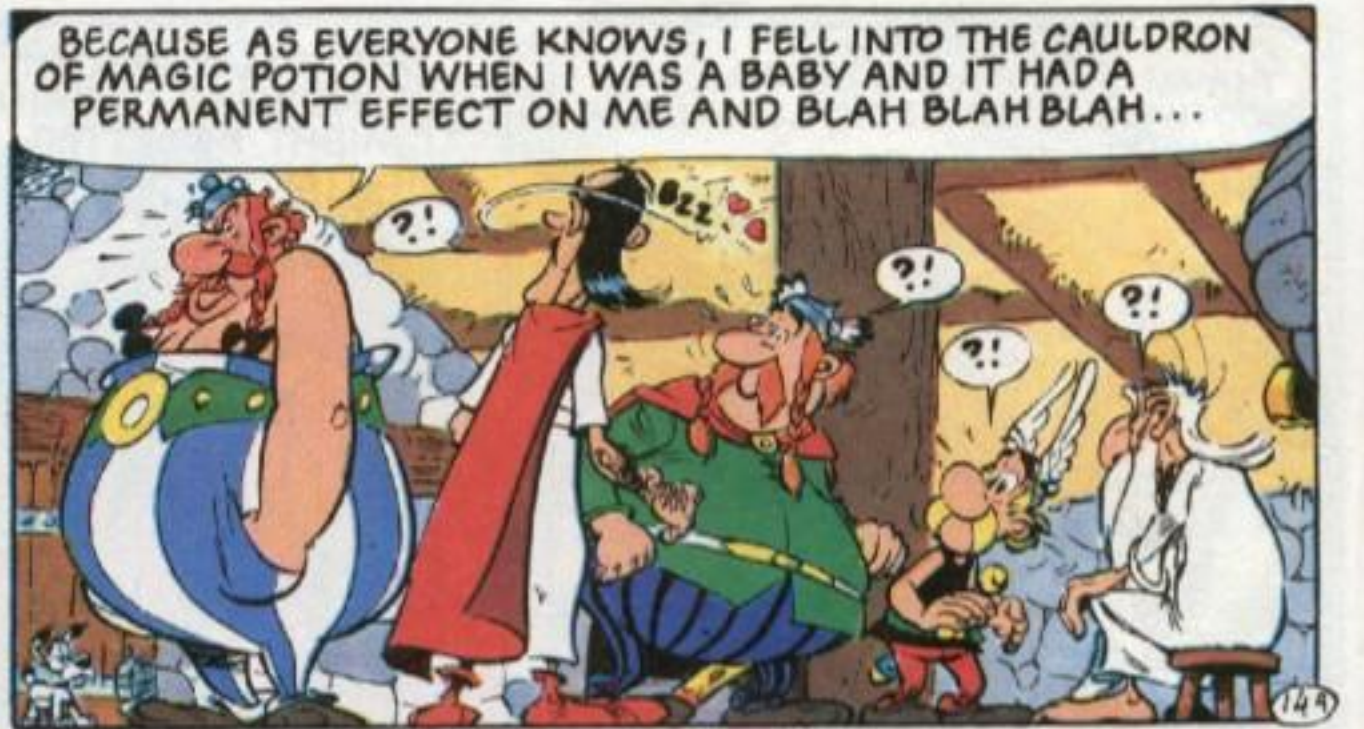
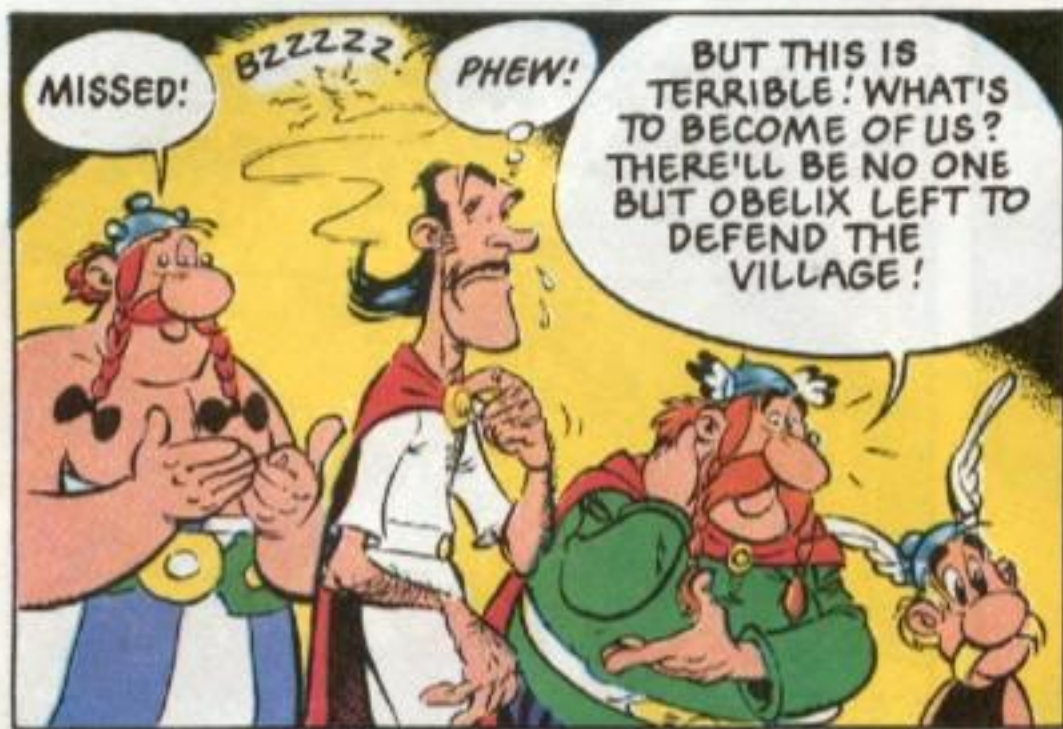
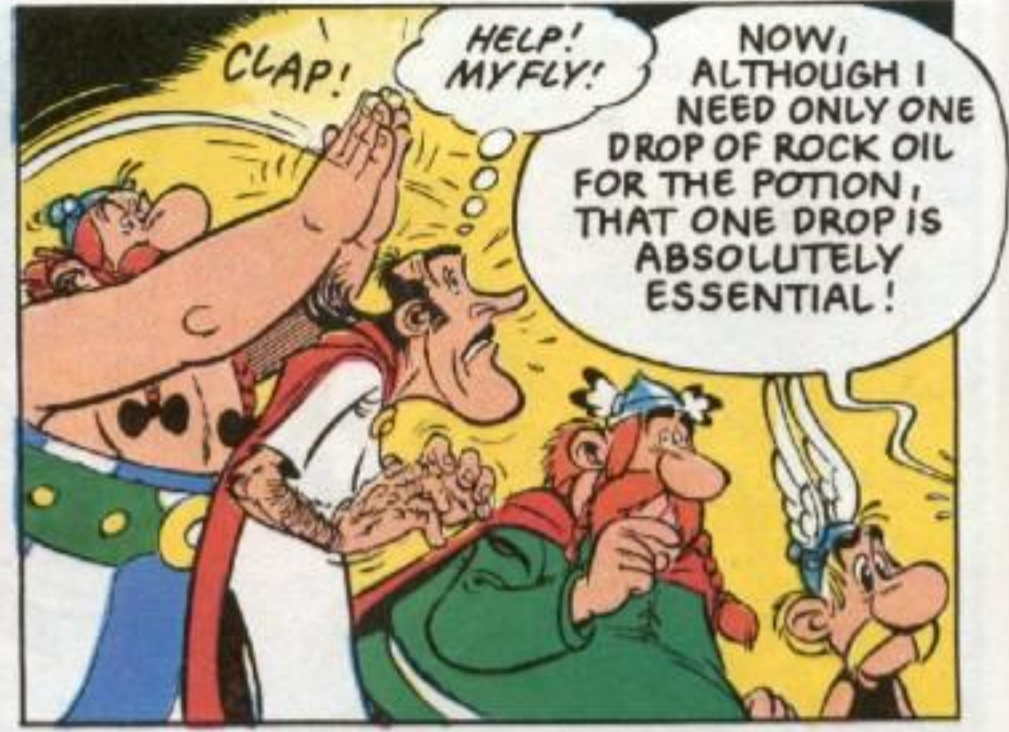
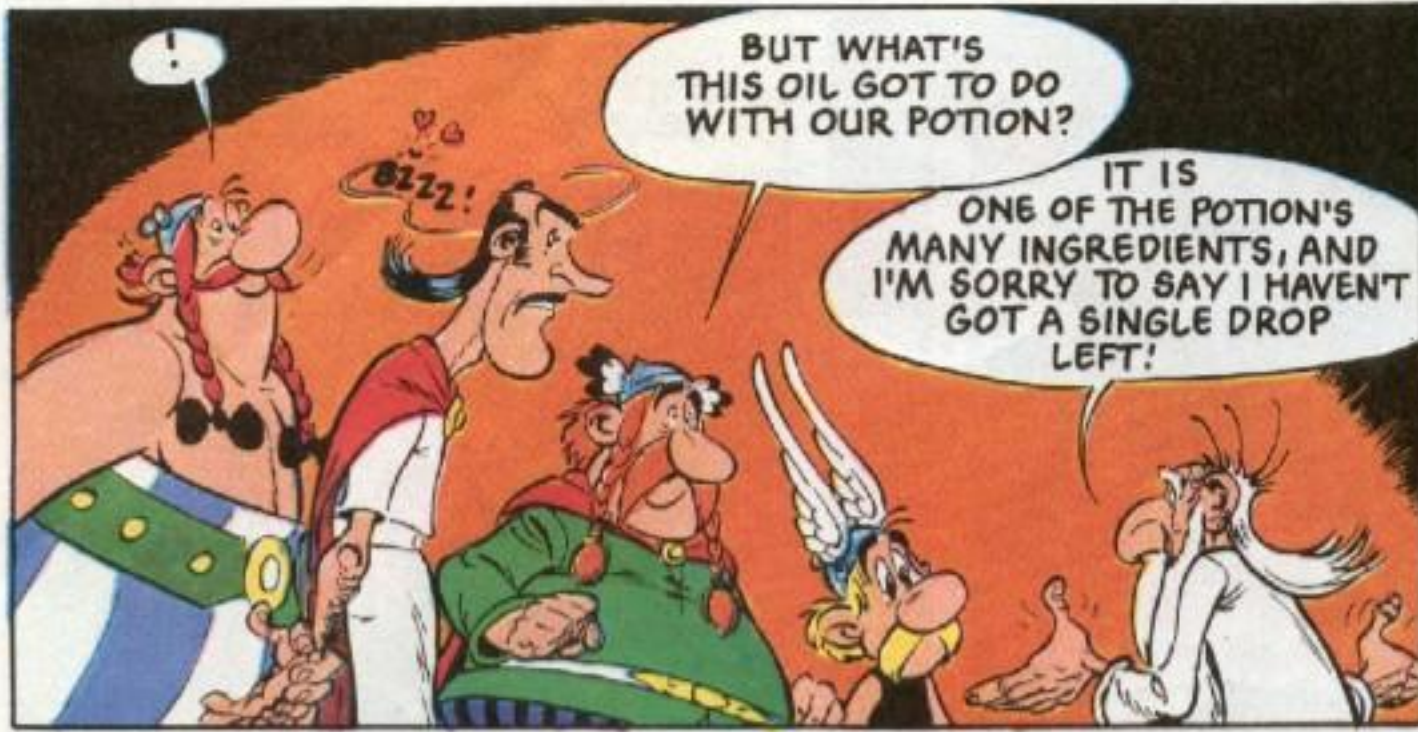
HE'S A BIT TOUCHY, BUT HE'S GOT A HEART OF GOLD!

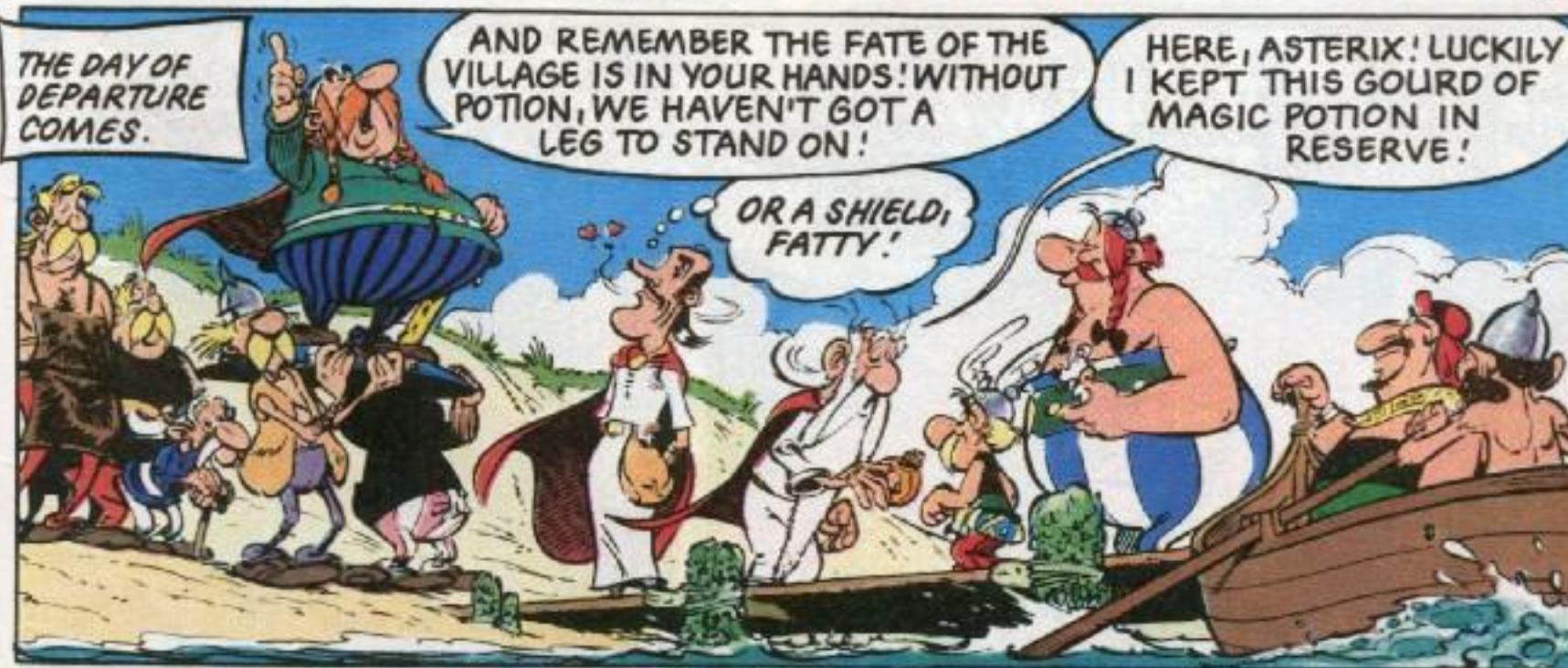
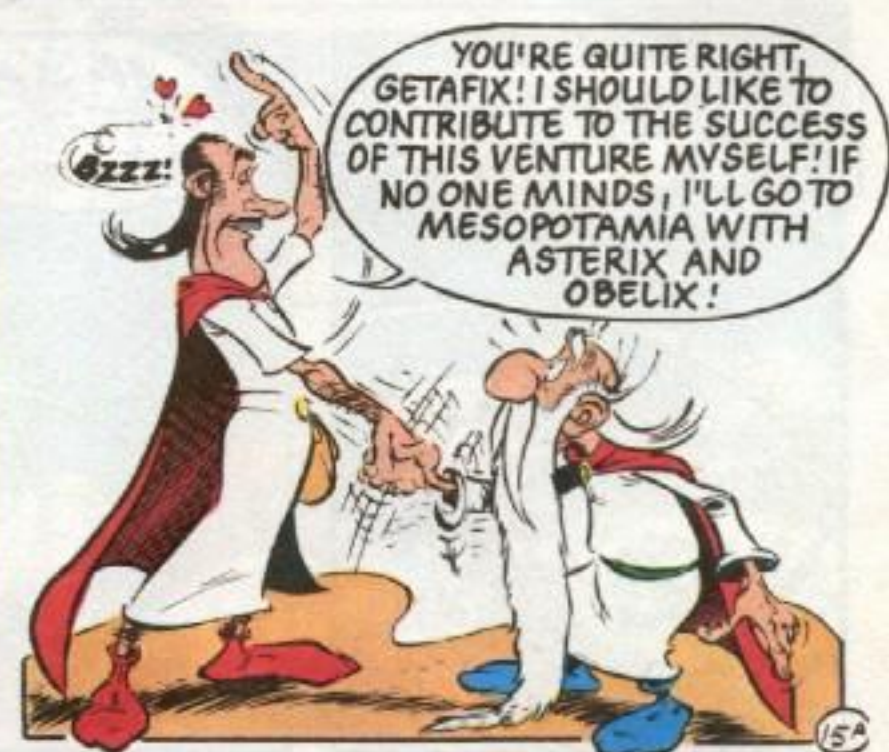
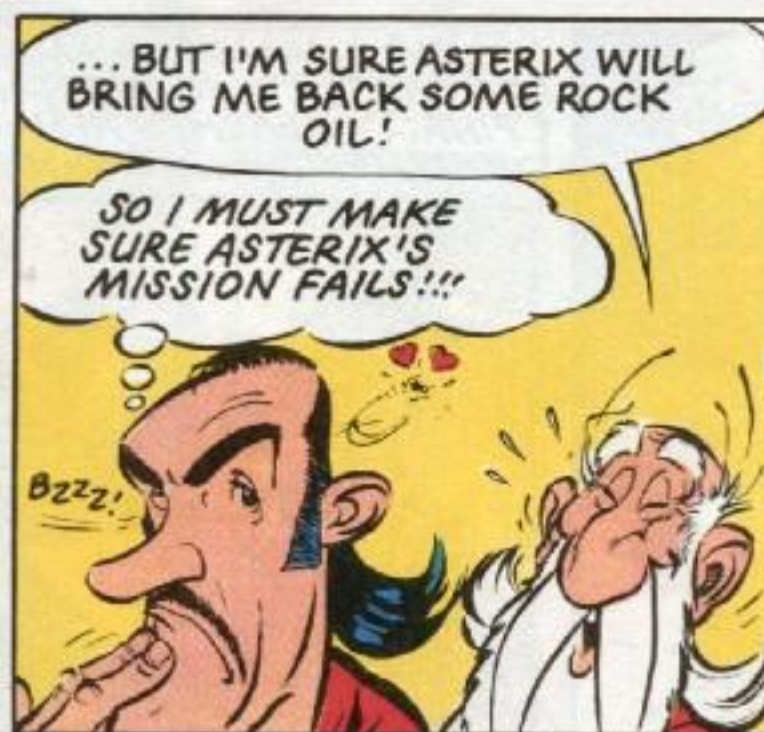
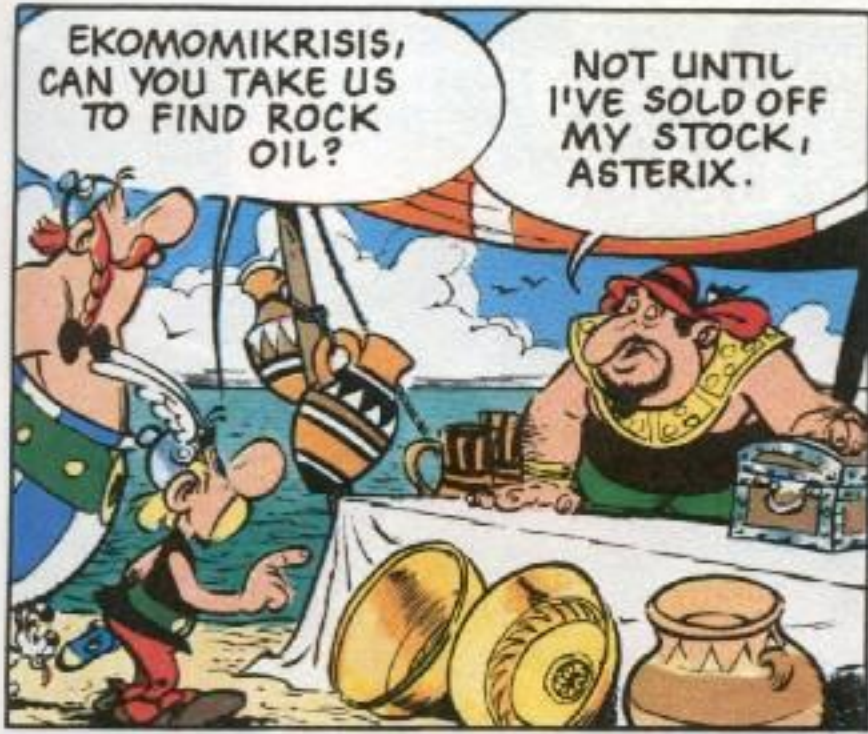


I'M REALLY WORRIED! GETAFIX HASN'T COME ROUND YET!

THIS IS THE TONIC HE NEEDS TO BUCK HIM UP!









NOW, TAKE MY MESSAGE TO SURREPTITIUS!



NO DAWDLING ON THE WAY! IT'S URGENT!



AND SO THE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS MISSION OF THE CARRIER FLY BEGINS. FACING STORMS...



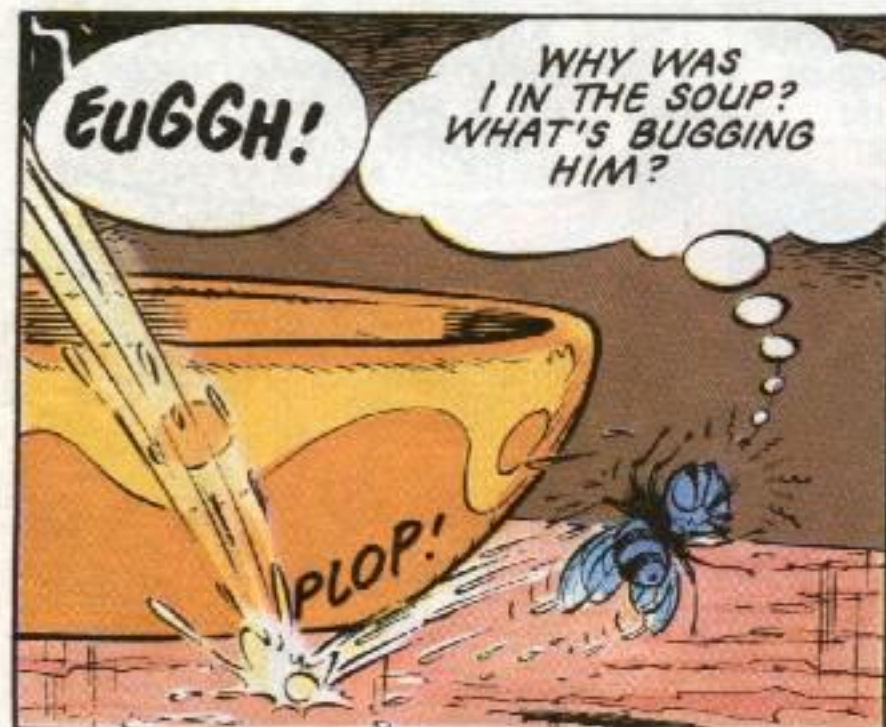
...AND MANY OTHER PERILS...



...THE SMALLEST MEMBER OF CAESAR'S SECRET SERVICE FINALLY REACHES HER JOURNEY'S END, WORN OUT.



YUK! A FLY IN MY SOUP!! HOW REVOLTING!!!

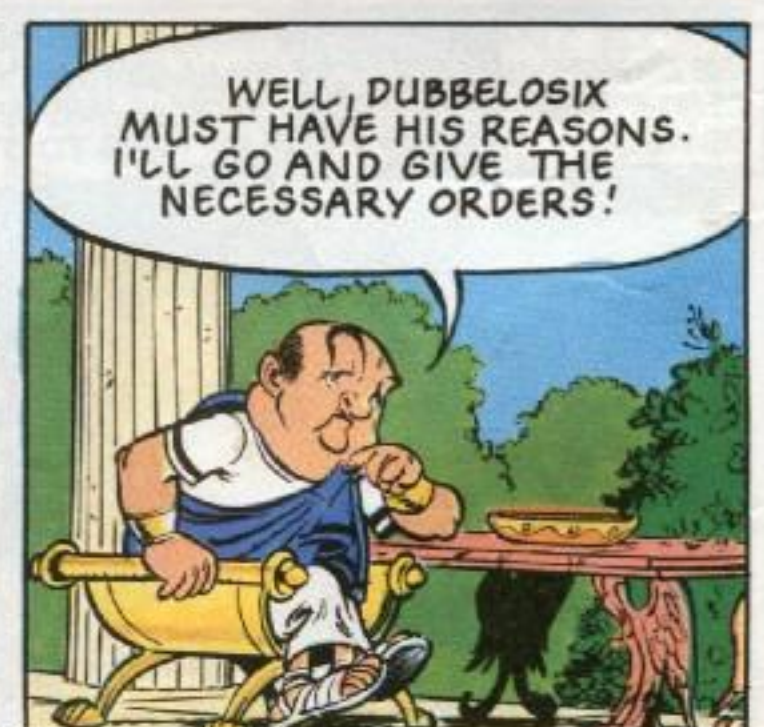


EUGGH!

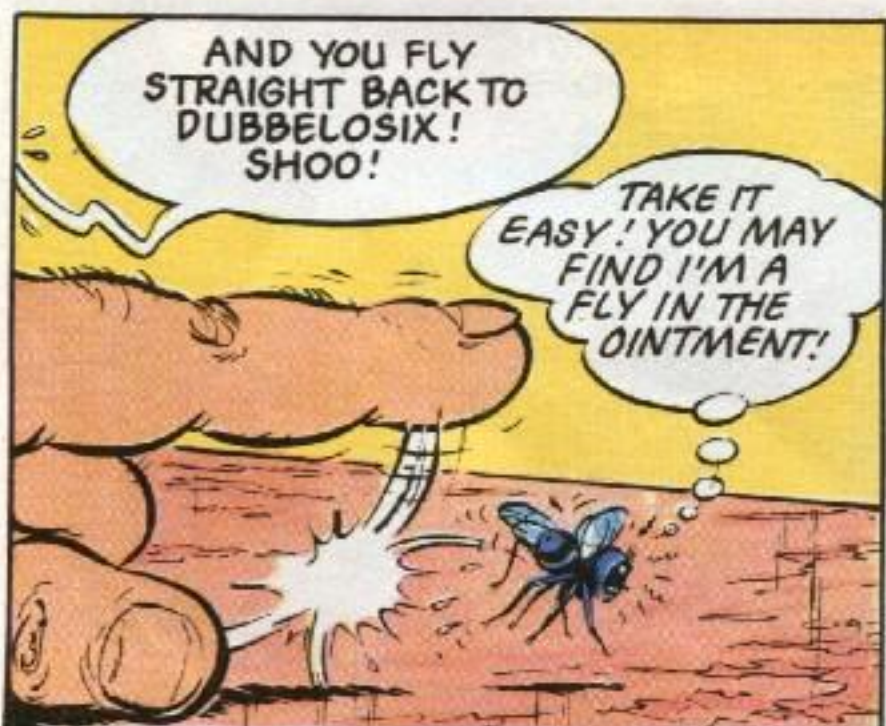
WHY WAS I IN THE SOUP? WHAT'S BUGGING HIM?



LET'S SEE WHAT DUBBELOSIX HAS TO SAY. "AM ON PHOENICIAN SHIP BOUND FOR MESOPOTAMIA, WITH INDOMITABLE GAULS. AT ALL COSTS PREVENT LANDING."



WELL, DUBBELOSIX MUST HAVE HIS REASONS. I'LL GO AND GIVE THE NECESSARY ORDERS!



AND YOU FLY STRAIGHT BACK TO DUBBELOSIX! SHOO!

TAKE IT EASY! YOU MAY FIND I'M A FLY IN THE OINTMENT!



MEANWHILE, SAILING THE HIGH SEAS...

IT'S A FUNNY THING, ASTERIX, DUBBELOSIX HASN'T BEEN ATTRACTING INSECTS LATELY!

NO, I FANCY THERE ARE NO FLIES ON HIM!





THEY SEEM A BIT SOFT, ASTERIX, IN SPITE OF THE BRACING SEA BREEZES!

YES, THEY'RE ALL AT SEA, OBELIX!

BOING!

SMACK!



BY ESUS! WE'LL HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT TO STOP THOSE TWO LANDING SAFELY!



WELL, HOLIDAYMAKERS, DIDN'T I PROMISE YOU GOOD CLEAN FUN ON THIS VOYAGE?

IT'S THE FUNNIEST THING I EVER SAW!

YES, A PITCHED SEA BATTLE ISN'T A BAD NOTION!



SOON AFTERWARDS...

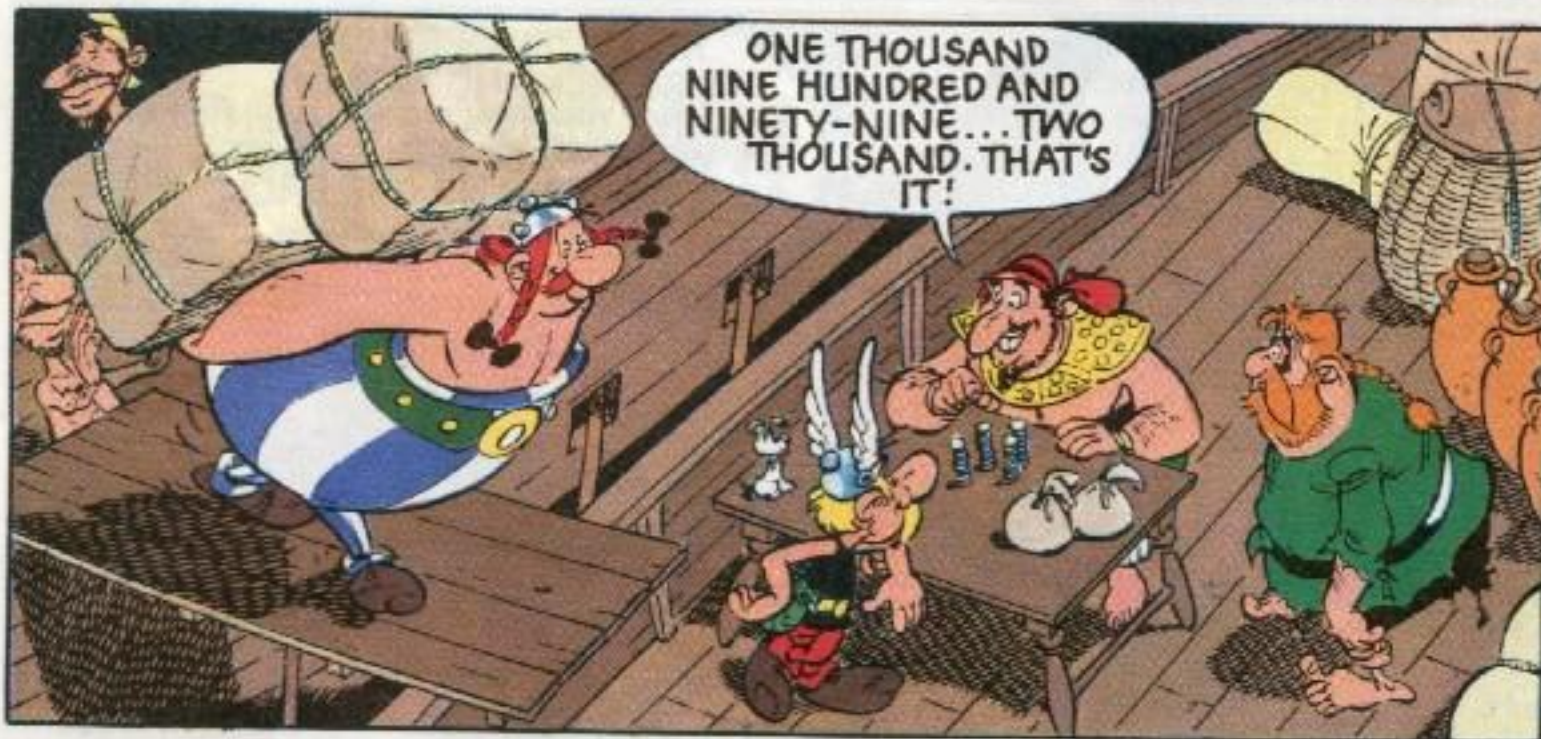
PLEASE SPARE MY SHIP! I HAVEN'T FINISHED PAYING FOR HER YET!



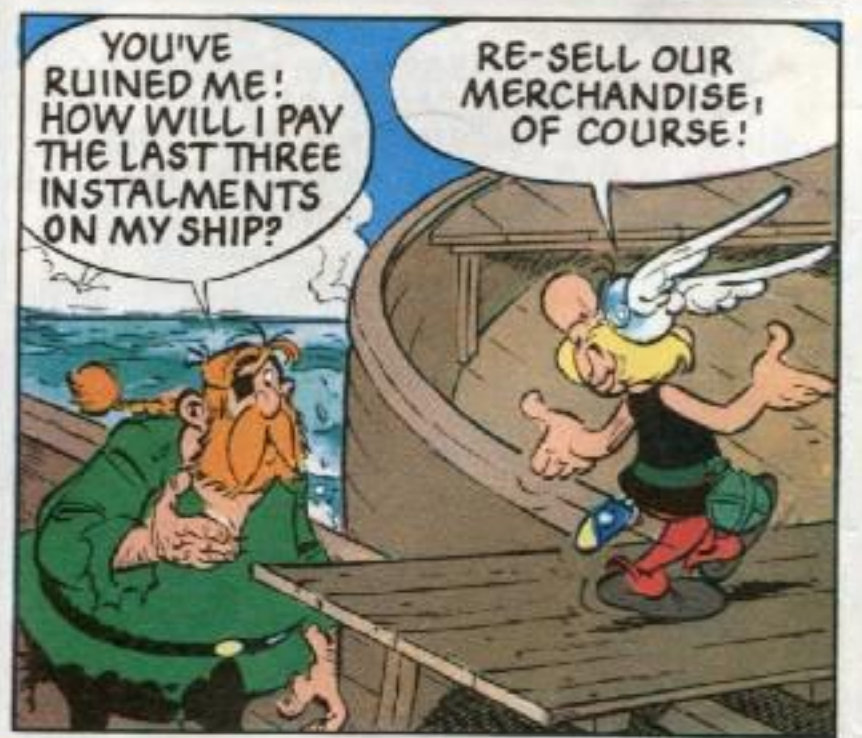
DO WE SINK HER AND MAKE SAIL, ASTERIX?

NO, WE DON'T SINK HER, WE MAKE A SALE, OBELIX! YOU'D LIKE TO BUY UP OUR ENTIRE STOCK, WOULDN'T YOU?

WHO, ME?



ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE... TWO THOUSAND. THAT'S IT!



YOU'VE RUINED ME! HOW WILL I PAY THE LAST THREE INSTALMENTS ON MY SHIP?

RE-SELL OUR MERCHANDISE, OF COURSE!



NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES!

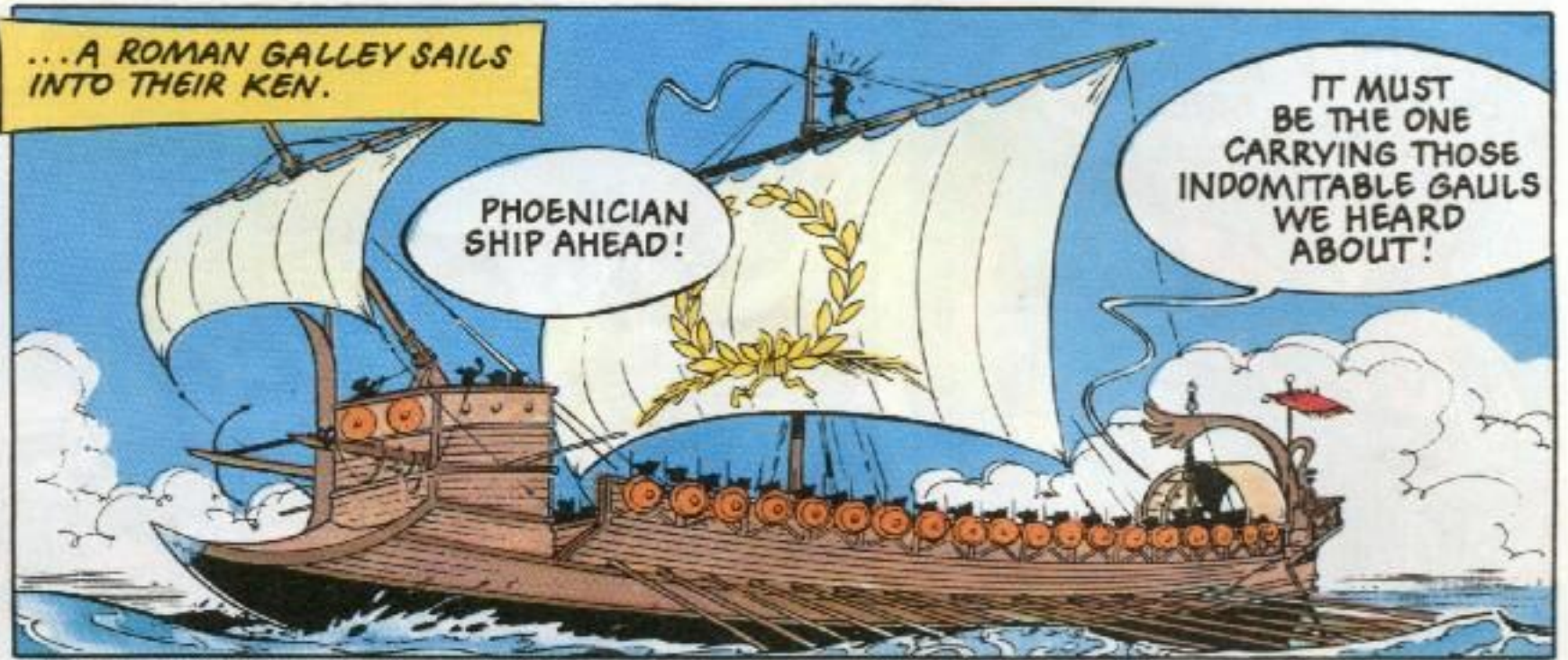
WELL? I SAVED THE SHIP, DIDN'T I?

WHATEVER HE MEANS, I VOTE WE PLAY POSSUM NEXT TIME!

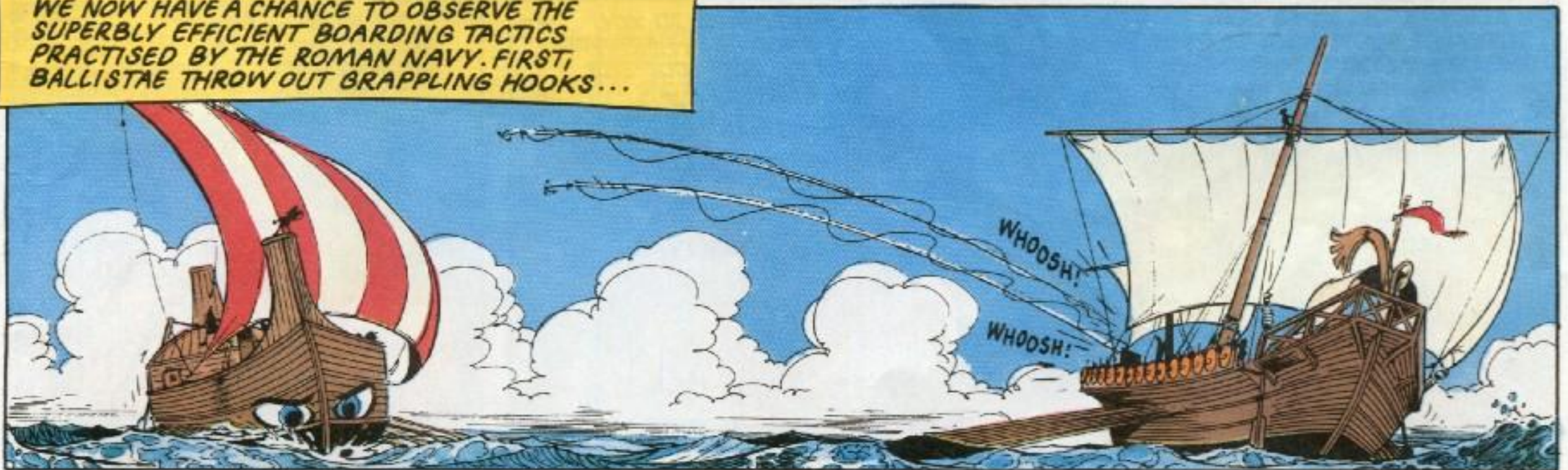
WELL DONE, FRIENDS! AS SALESMEN, YOU CERTAINLY PACK PLENTY OF PUNCH!

THEY SHOULD WIN A FREE HOLIDAY!

I JUST HOPE THE ROMANS CAN DO BETTER THAN THOSE FOOLS!

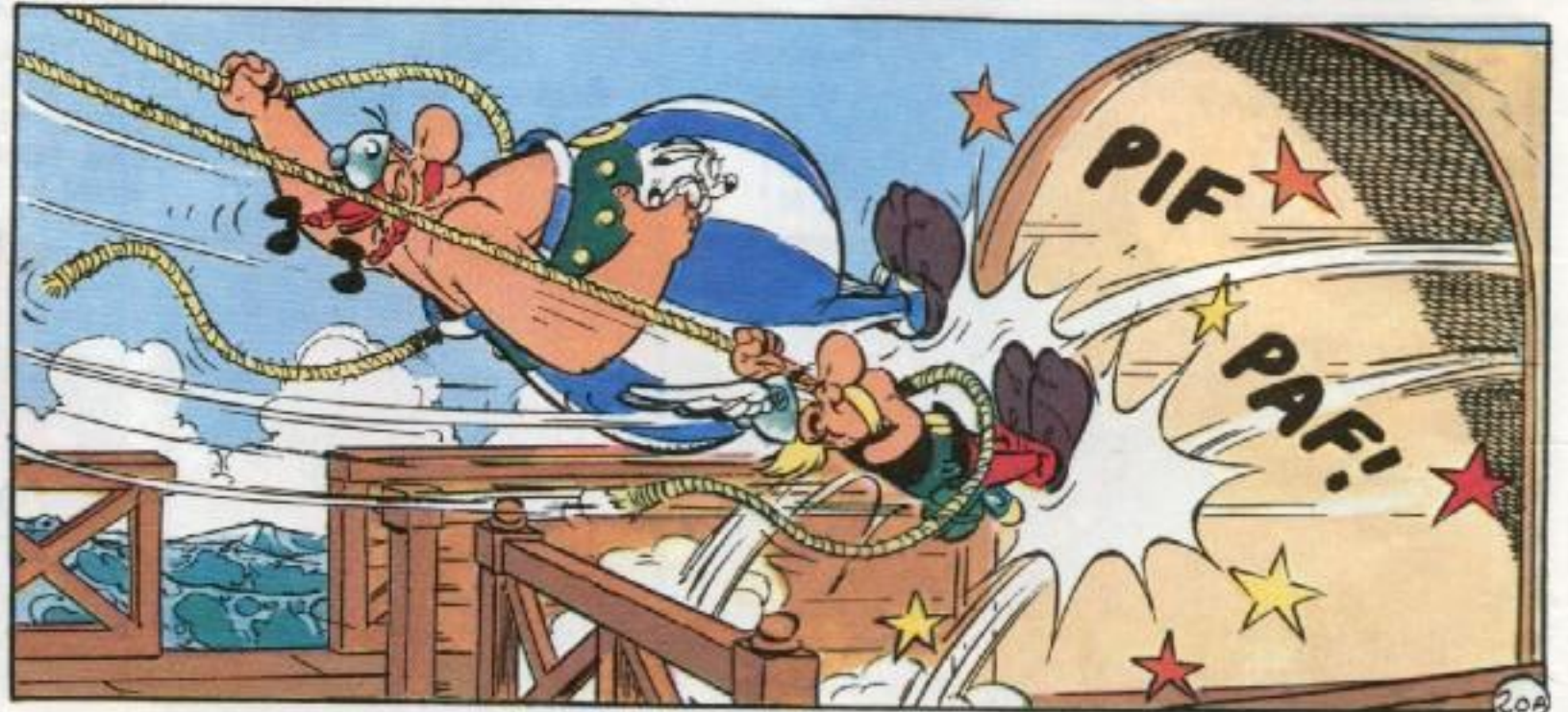
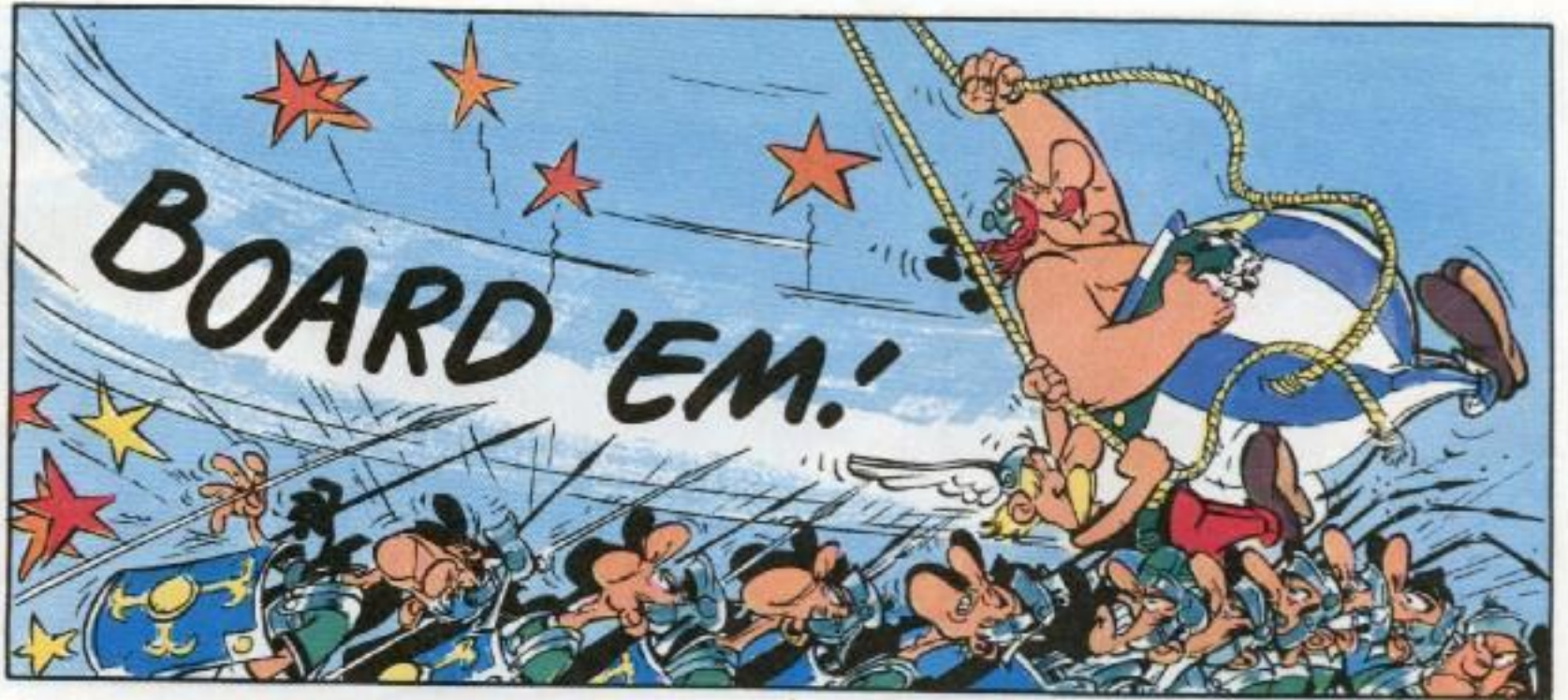


WE NOW HAVE A CHANCE TO OBSERVE THE SUPERBLY EFFICIENT BOARDING TACTICS PRACTISED BY THE ROMAN NAVY. FIRST, BALLISTAE THROW OUT GRAPPLING HOOKS...



THEN THE ROMANS SIMPLY PULL, AND THE ENEMY'S FAT IS IN THE FIRE!







AND ONCE AGAIN...

ROMAN GALLEY AHoy, MR OPERATOR.



... THE NOW CLASSIC BOARDING TACTICS...

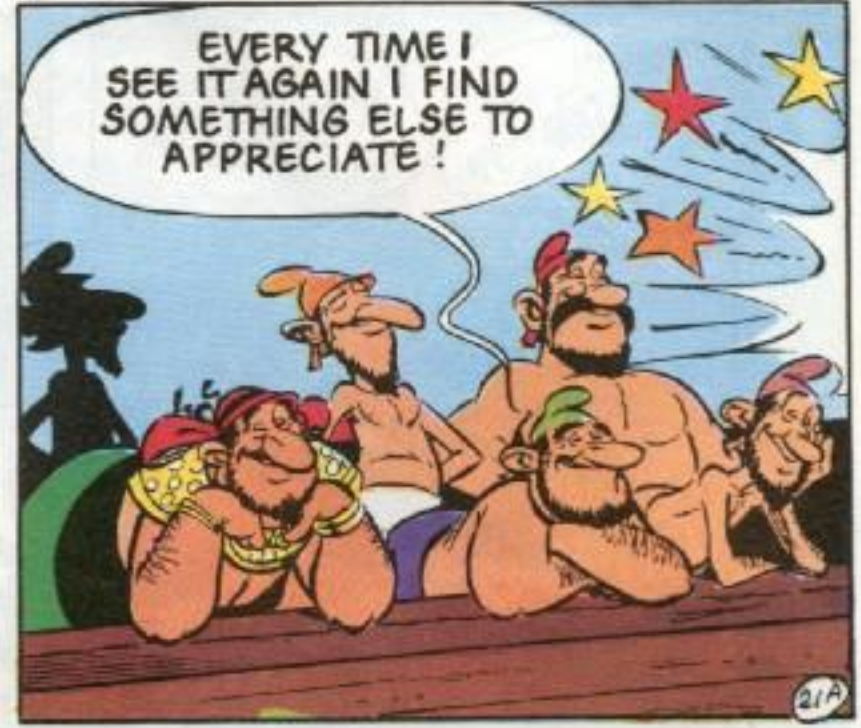
BONG!



... ARE FOLLOWED BY AN EQUALLY TRADITIONAL FIGHT AND ITS AFTERMATH.

WE'RE HAVING FUN, AREN'T WE, ASTERIX?

YES, BUT IT SEEMS ODD FOR THE ROMANS TO BE SO KEEN ON FIGHTING US, OBELIX!



EVERY TIME I SEE IT AGAIN I FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO APPRECIATE!



BUT IN ROME...

BY JUPITER, THEY SHALL FEEL THE ANGER OF CAESAR! I'LL HAVE ALL THE MEDITERRANEAN PORTS BLOCKADED!



AND LOOK SHARP! I DON'T EXPECT MY NAVAL COMMANDERS TO STOP AND CONTEMPLATE ANY NAVELS! *

*POPULAR MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT



I WANT TO MAKE SURE NOT EVEN A FLY COULD GET THROUGH THE NET!

HM... AND THINKING OF FLIES...



SURREPTITIUS!



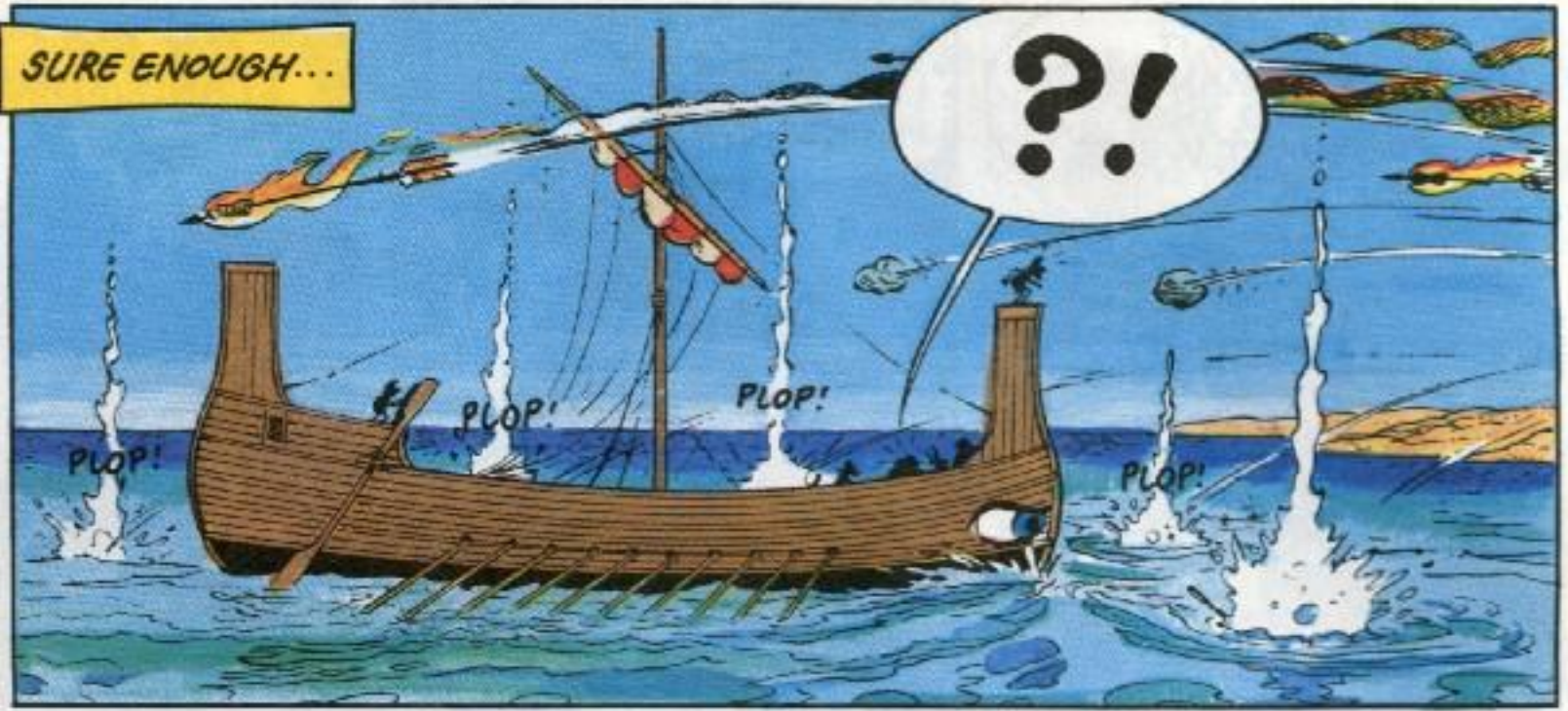
ANY NEWS OF YOUR AGENT DUBBEL... DUBBEL SOMETHING?

I'M AFRAID WE HAVE A COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM, O CAESAR!



I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY WARSHIPS BEFORE! WHAT'S IT ALL IN AID OF?

I RATHER THINK WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT!



SURE ENOUGH...

?!



ALL HANDS TO THE OARS! FULL SPEED ASTERN!



TEEHEE! JULIUS CAESAR'S NOT SUCH A SILLY OLD GEEZER!

WELL, WE CAN ALWAYS LAND AT SIDON, BYBLOS OR ARAD WITH A LITTLE CRAFT!*

*BUT NOT A BIG GALLEY...

23*



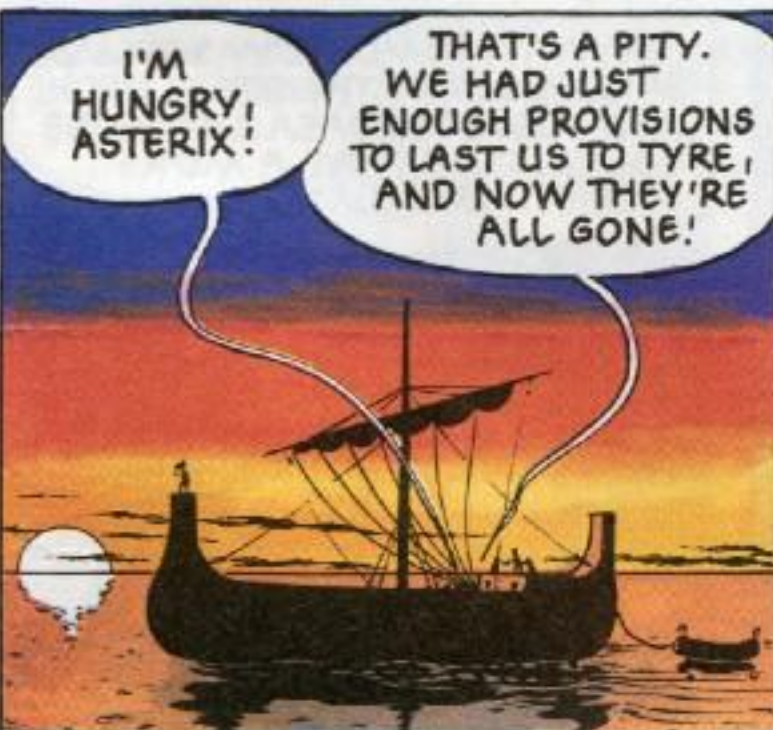
...FOR OUTSIDE SIDON...



...BYBLOS...

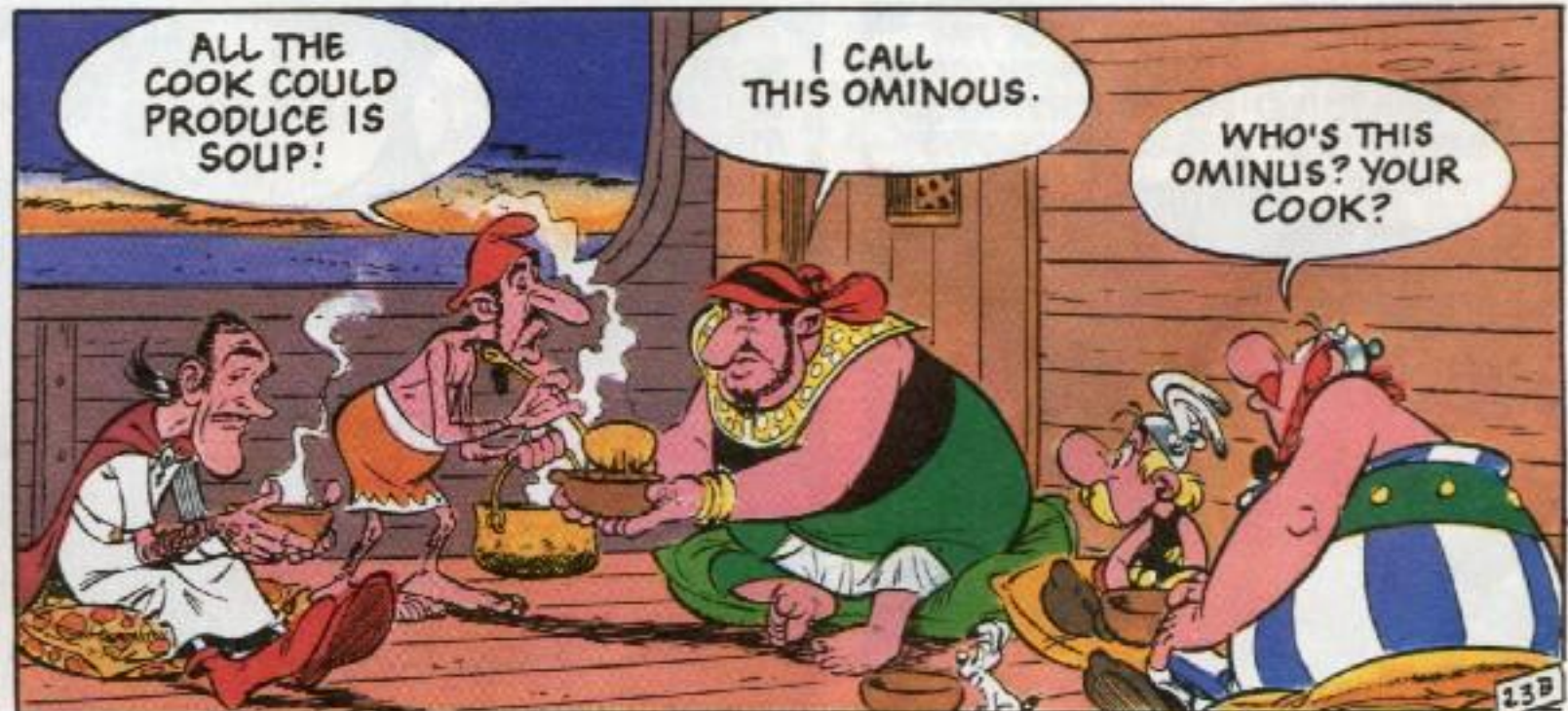


...AND ARAD, THINGS ARE JUST THE SAME.



I'M HUNGRY, ASTERIX!

THAT'S A PITY. WE HAD JUST ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO LAST US TO TYRE, AND NOW THEY'RE ALL GONE!



ALL THE COOK COULD PRODUCE IS SOUP!

I CALL THIS OMINOUS.

WHO'S THIS OMINUS? YOUR COOK?

23B

NEXT MORNING...

THERE'S THE PROMISED LAND, ASTERIX!



GO TO JERUSALEM AND TELL SAMSON ALIUS I SENT YOU. HE'S MY SUPPLIER: YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET ROCK OIL FROM HIM.



THANKS, EKONOMI-KRISIS! SEE YOU SOON, MAYBE!

I HOPE SO! TRAVELLING WITH YOU IS AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE!



AND I'M STILL HUNGRY! DO YOU THINK THERE ARE ANY WILD BOARS HERE?

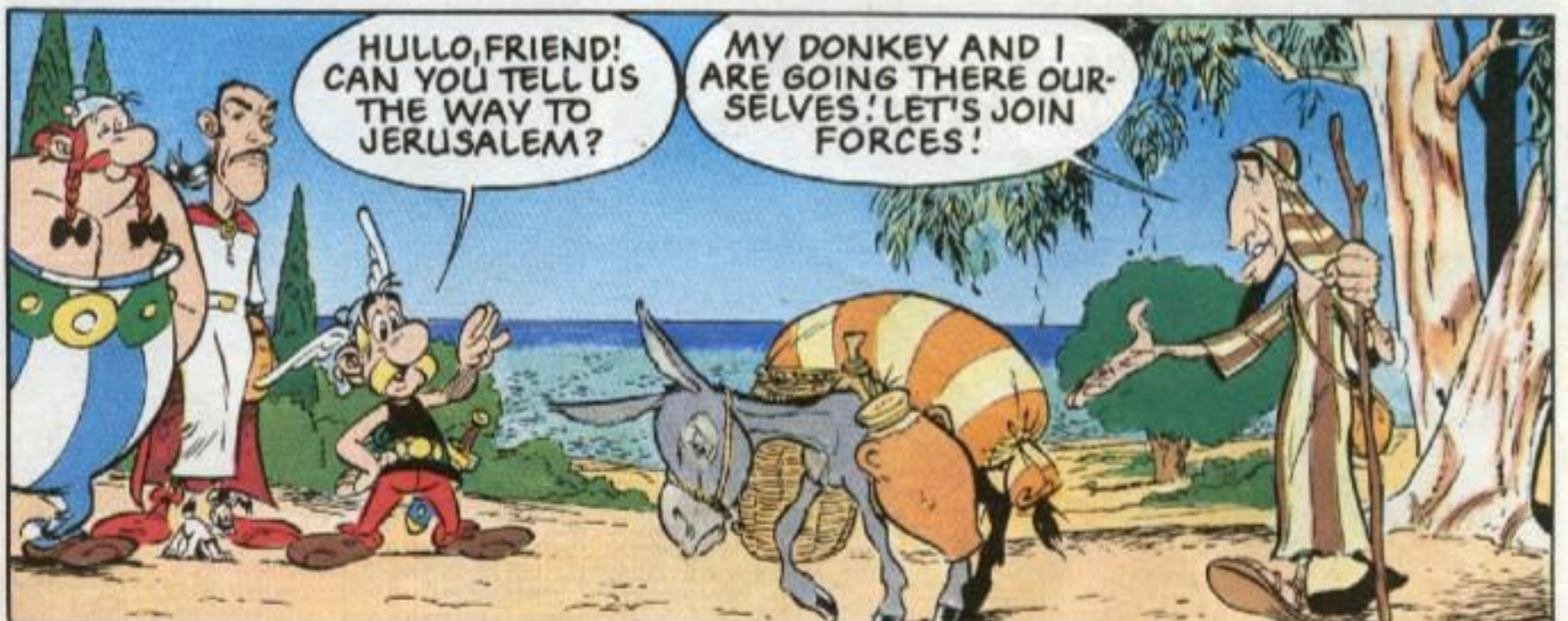
NEVER MIND THAT. WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUR WAY!



THERE'S SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US!

HULLO, FRIEND! CAN YOU TELL US THE WAY TO JERUSALEM?

MY DONKEY AND I ARE GOING THERE OURSELVES! LET'S JOIN FORCES!



MY NAME'S JOSHUA BEN ZEDRIN.

I'M ASTERIX. MEET OBELIX, DOGMATIX, AND DUBBELOSIX THE DRUID!

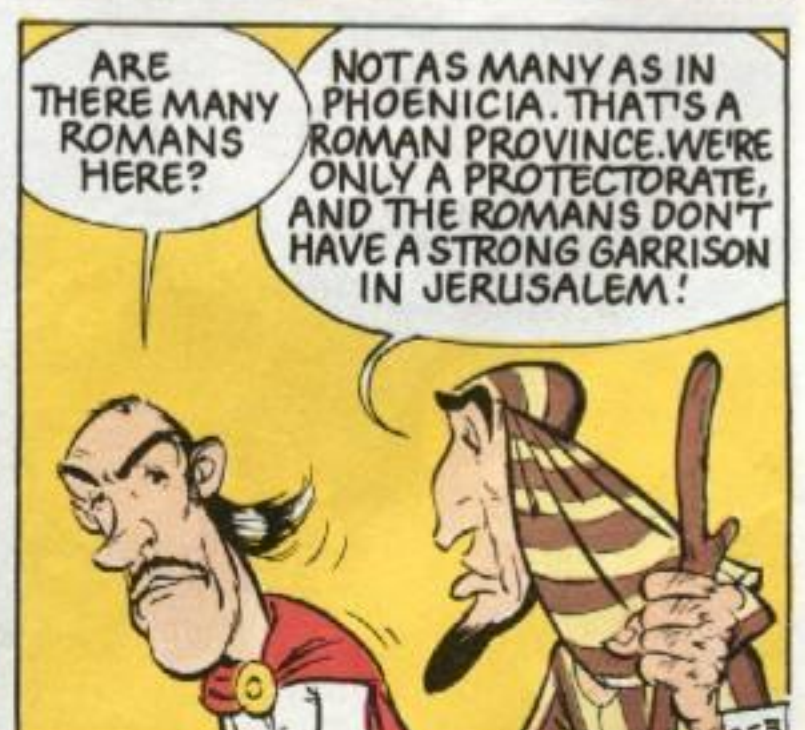
WE'VE COME FROM GAUL TO BUY ROCK OIL FROM THE MERCHANT SAMSON ALIUS.

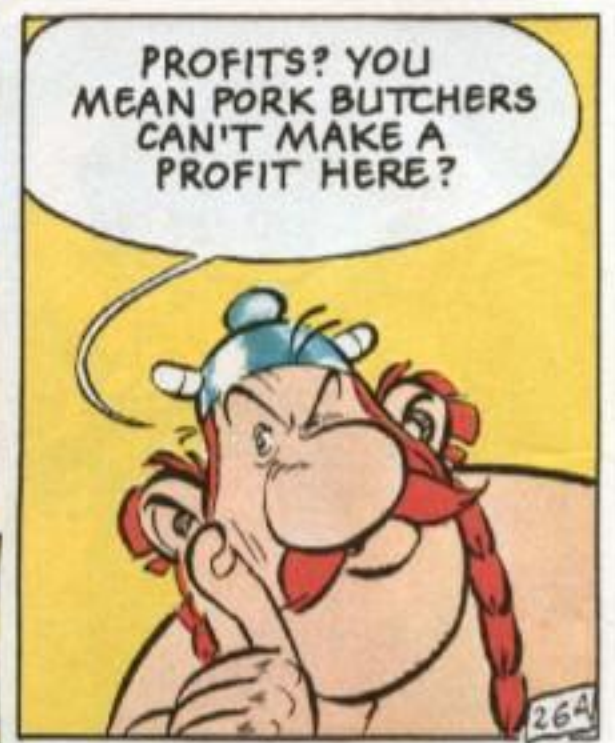
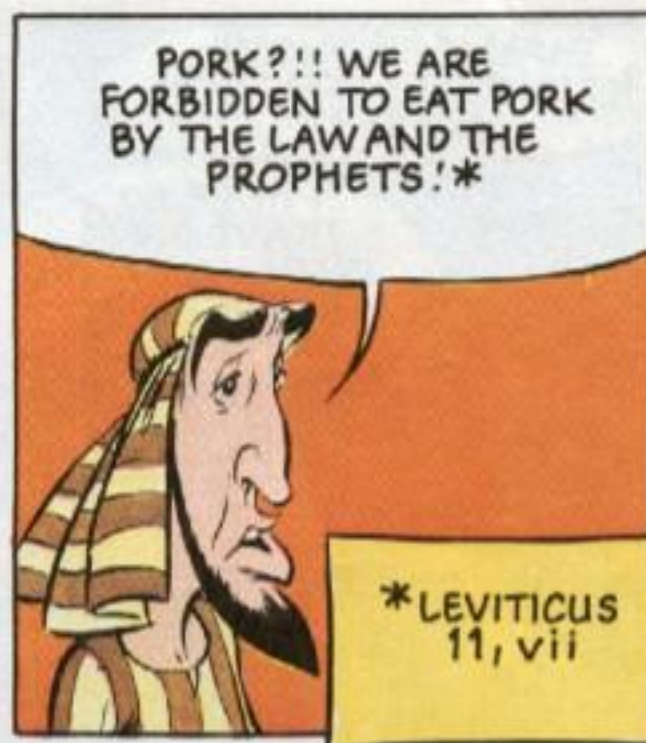
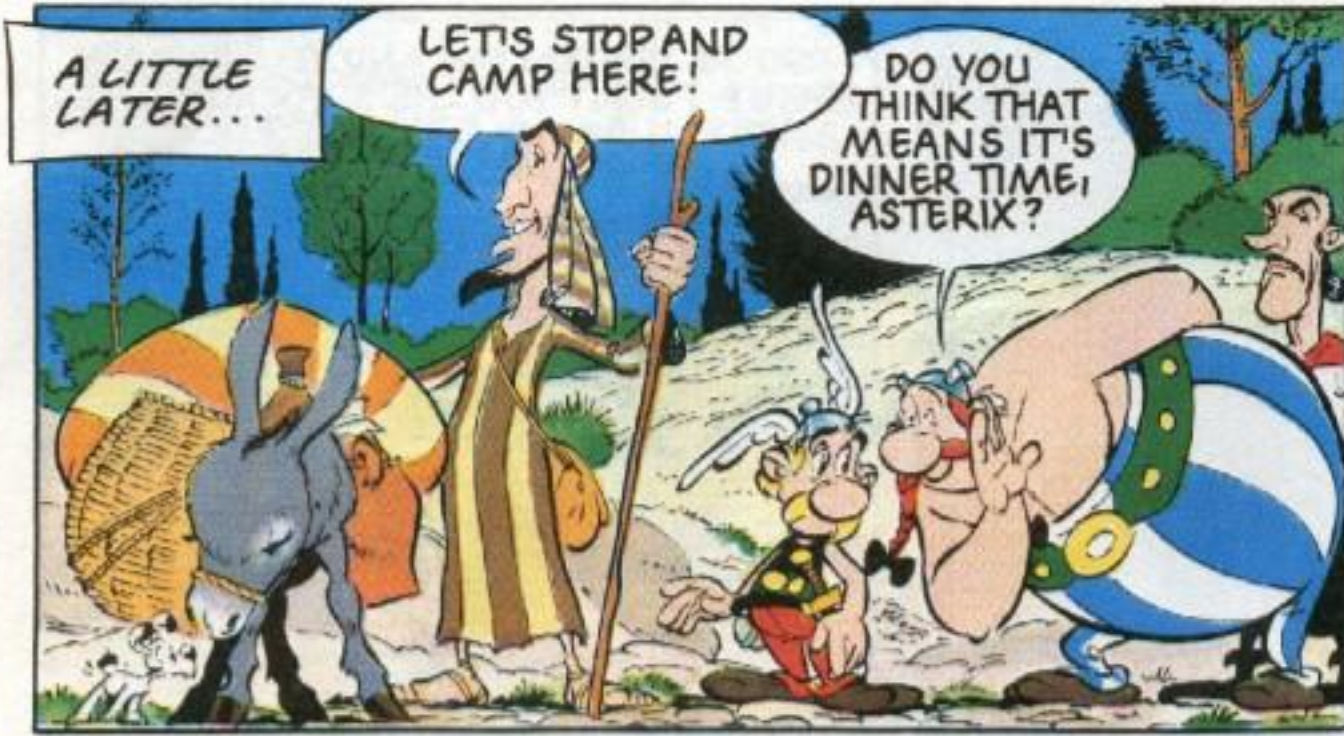
I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT ANYONE WOULD COME SO FAR FOR THAT!



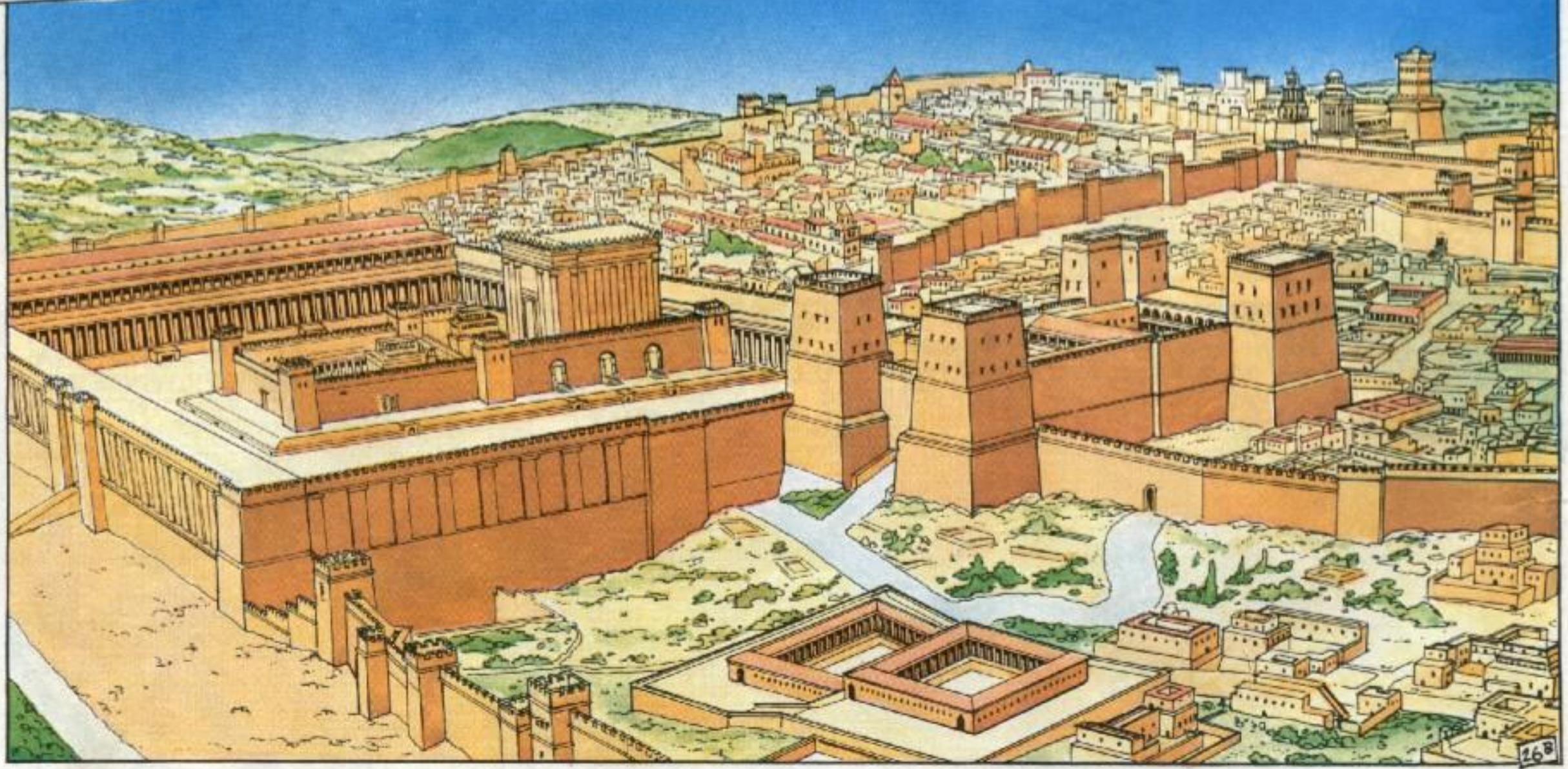
ARE THERE MANY ROMANS HERE?

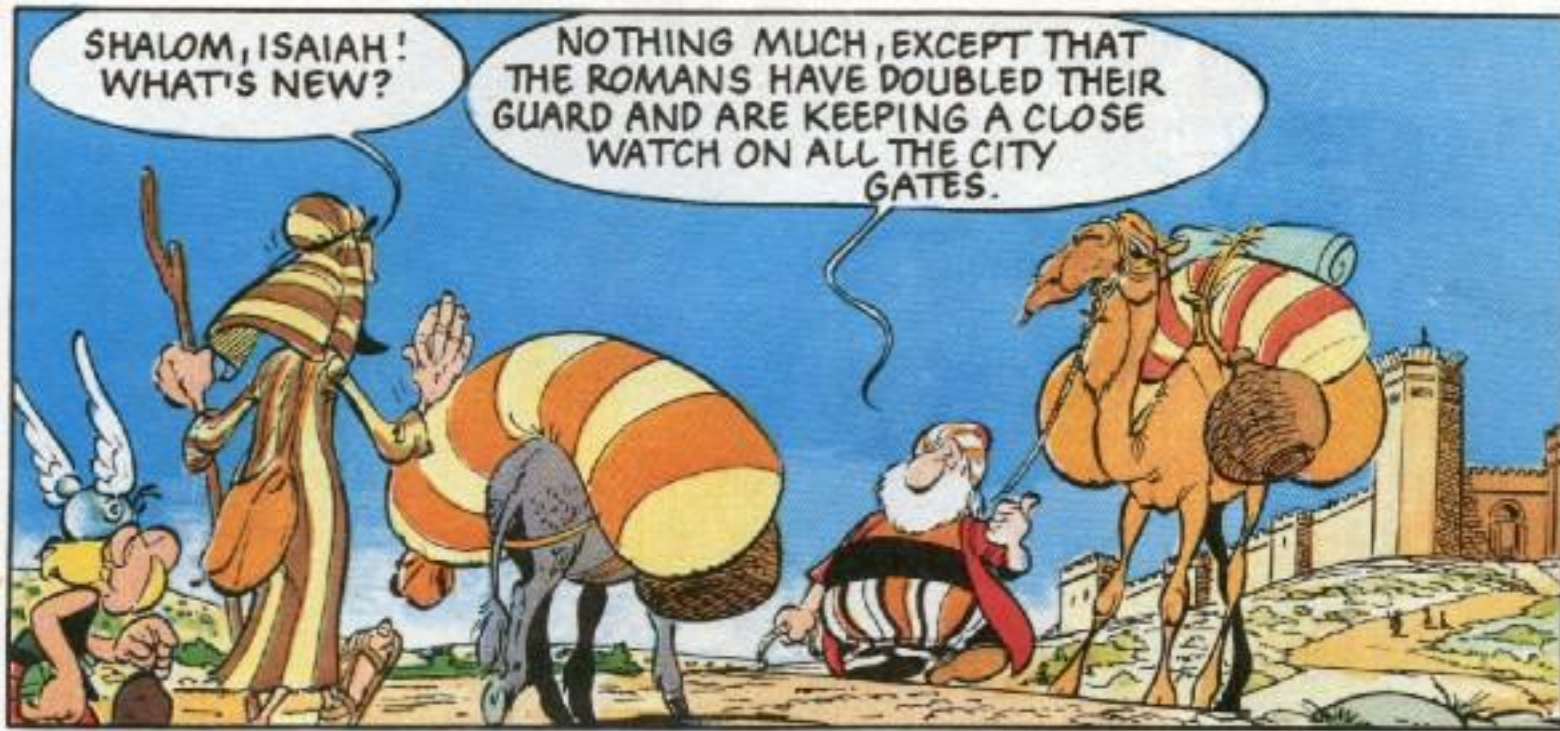
NOT AS MANY AS IN PHOENICIA. THAT'S A ROMAN PROVINCE. WE'RE ONLY A PROTECTORATE, AND THE ROMANS DON'T HAVE A STRONG GARRISON IN JERUSALEM!





AT LAST, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS ON THE ROAD, OUR FRIENDS ARRIVE IN JERUSALEM, THE GREAT ROYAL CITY BEHIND ITS HIGH WALLS, LATER TO OPEN ITS GATES TO ALL THE FAITHS OF THE WORLD.





SHALOM, ISAIAH!
WHAT'S NEW?

NOTHING MUCH, EXCEPT THAT
THE ROMANS HAVE DOUBLED THEIR
GUARD AND ARE KEEPING A CLOSE
WATCH ON ALL THE CITY
GATES.



WHAT
ARE THEY
LOOKING
FOR?

THREE GAULS AND
A DOG, AND IF I WERE
YOUR FRIENDS I'D
WATCH MY STEP!



GOOD,
SO THE FLY
GOT THROUGH
AGAIN!

WE'LL SAY
GOODBYE. WE
DON'T WANT TO
BRING YOU
TROUBLE!

BUT
WHY ARE
THE ROMANS
AFTER
YOU?



THEY'RE
TRYING TO STOP
US BUYING
SOME ROCK
OIL TO TAKE
BACK TO
GAUL!

SO NOW
THEY'RE
PLANNING TO
PUT SMALL
TRADERS OUT
OF BUSINESS!



FOLLOW ME! I'LL TAKE
YOU TO A FRIEND OF MINE
IN A VILLAGE NEAR
JERUSALEM. THE ROMANS
WILL NEVER THINK OF
LOOKING FOR YOU
THERE!



AND TONIGHT WE'LL FIND
SOME WAY TO GET YOU IN OVER
THE WALLS!

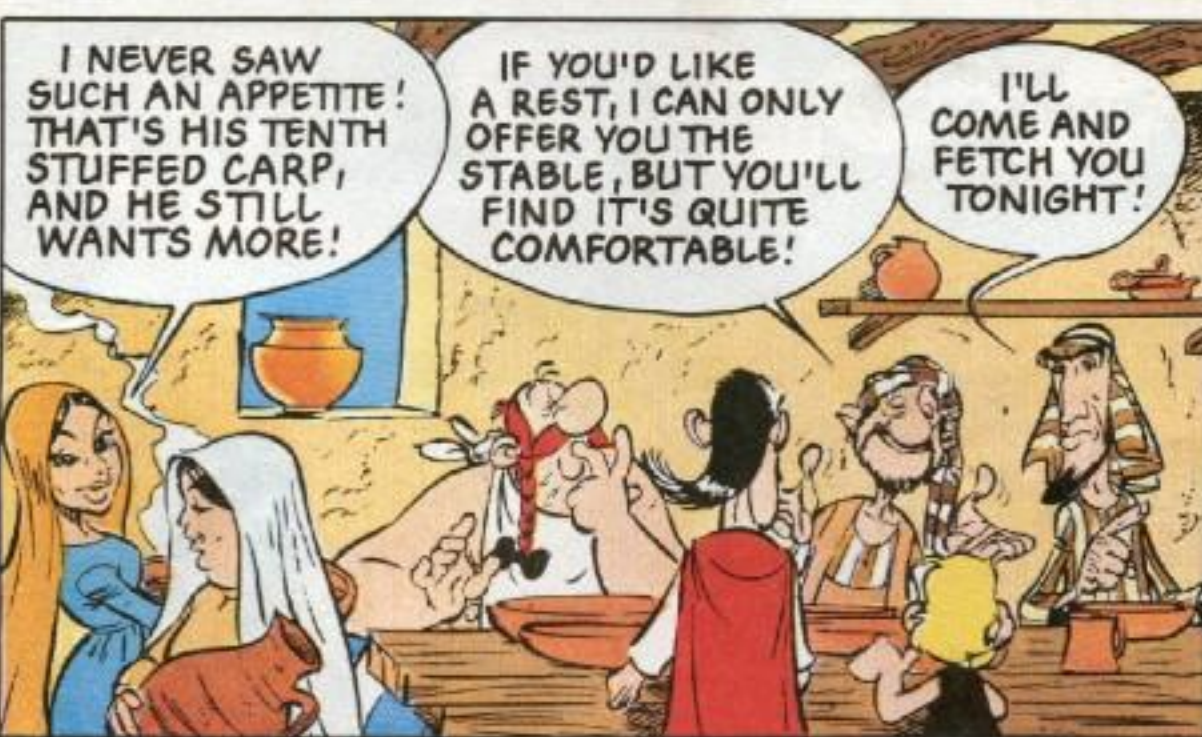
WHY ARE YOU
TAKING THE RISK
OF HELPING US,
JOSHUA?



ALL THE HEBREWS
DISTRUST THE
POWER OF ROME.
WE MUST HELP
THOSE WHO
OPPOSE IT!



HERE WE ARE!



I NEVER SAW
SUCH AN APPETITE!
THAT'S HIS TENTH
STUFFED CARP,
AND HE STILL
WANTS MORE!

IF YOU'D LIKE
A REST, I CAN ONLY
OFFER YOU THE
STABLE, BUT YOU'LL
FIND IT'S QUITE
COMFORTABLE!

I'LL
COME AND
FETCH YOU
TONIGHT!



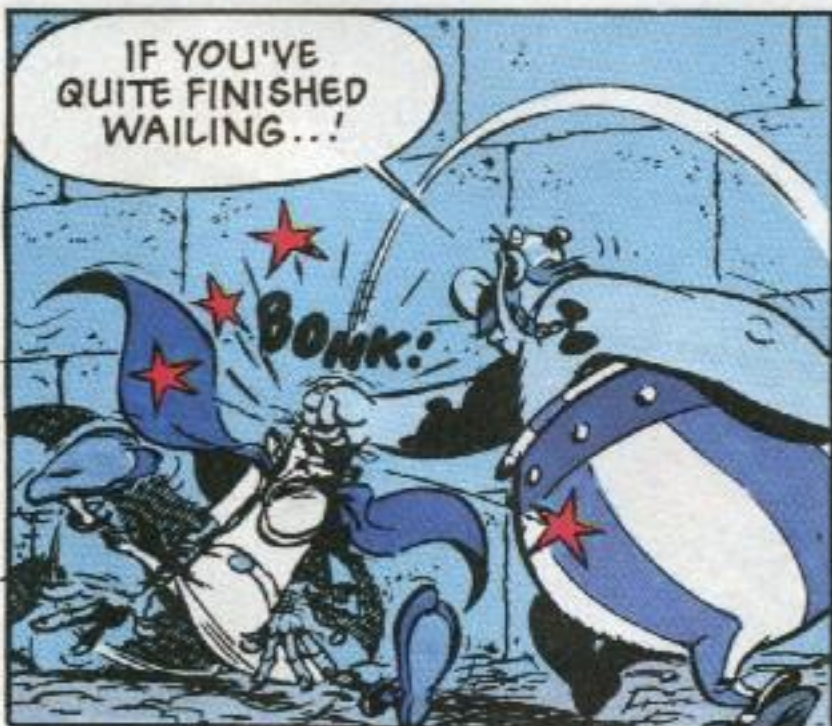
LATER, AT
NIGHT...

HE WAS RIGHT,
IT IS COMFORTABLE.
WHAT'S THIS VILLAGE
CALLED?

BETHLEHEM,
I THINK.



I MUST TIP OFF THE SENTRIES SOMEHOW... SUPPOSE I TIP MYSELF OFF?



WOOF!



THESE ROMANS ARE CRAZY! I'M AT MY BEST WITH MY BACK TO THE WALL!

I'M COMING, OBELIX!

WHOOOSH!

GRRRR!

GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!



BADA BLAM!



QUICK, OVER THE WALL! THE ROMANS ARE ON THE ALERT NOW!

I WOULDN'T CALL THIS LOT VERY ALERT AT THE MOMENT.

YES, THEY SEEM A BIT SOFT ON TERRA FIRMA!

29A



BY YAHVEH! YOU AND THOSE ROMANS... IT WAS LIKE DAVID FACING GOLIATH, BUT WHAT A BEATING THEY TOOK!

YES, AND I'M NOT SORRY TO BE RID OF THAT SPYING DRUID EITHER!



THIS IS WHERE SAMSON ALIAS THE MERCHANT LIVES.



CUSTOMERS FROM VERY FAR AWAY, SAMSON!

WE'D LIKE SOME ROCK OIL, AND WE'RE IN A GREAT HURRY!

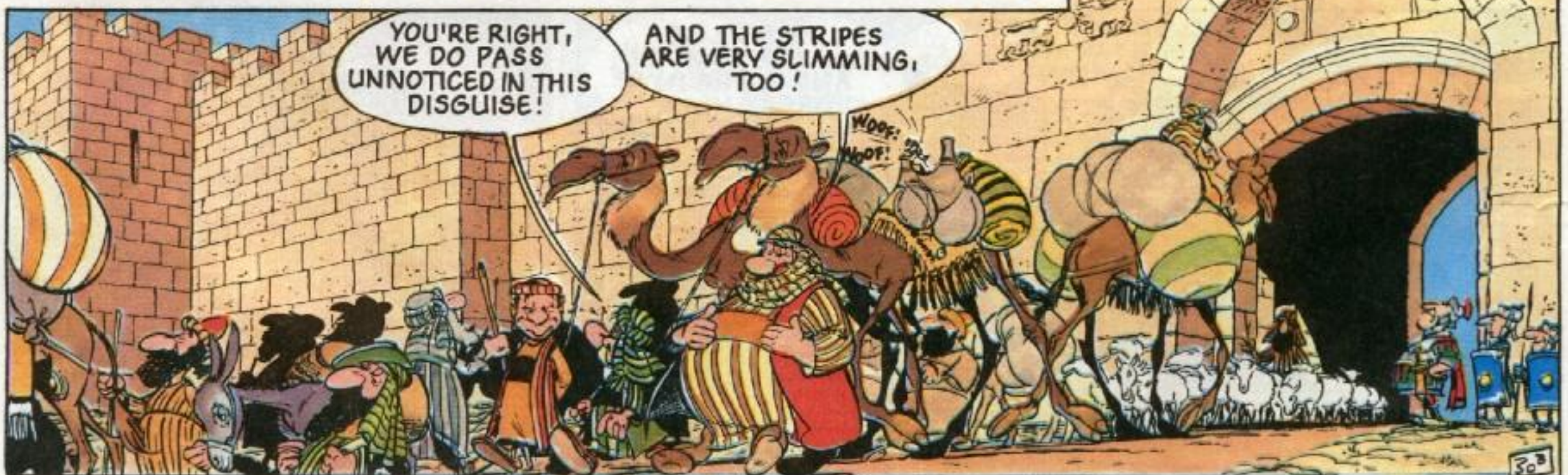
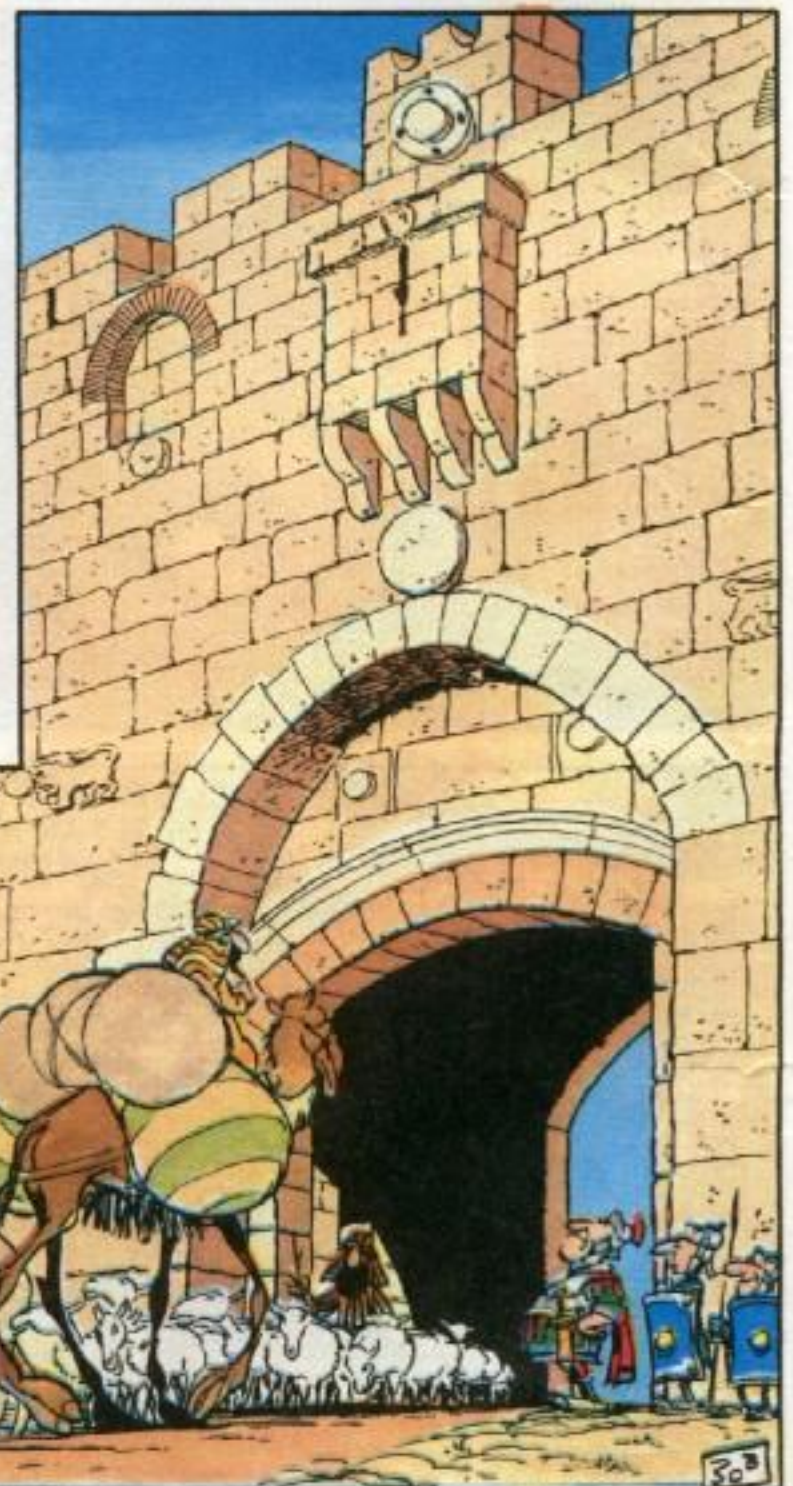
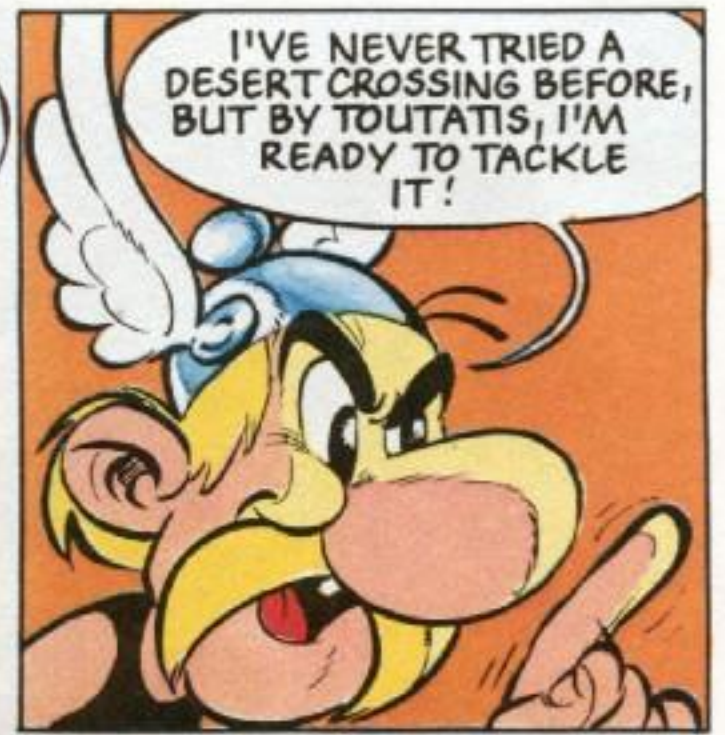
OYOYOY! OH DEAR!



THE ROMANS HAVE JUST BURNT ALL OUR STOCKS, AND I VERY MUCH FEAR YOU WON'T FIND A SINGLE DROP IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY!

?!

29B



AT THE ROMAN PROCURATOR'S PALACE...

AVE, O PONTIUS PIRATE! THE GAULS GOT AWAY, AND WE FEAR THEY'VE MADE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE NOW!

ONCE THEY'RE OUTSIDE MY TERRITORY, MY DEAR DUBBEL-OSIX, I COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT THEY DO!

I WISH HE'D STOP WASHING HIS HANDS THE WHOLE TIME!

WELL, NEVER MIND! ASTERIX AND OBELIX ARE BOUND TO GO BACK ON BOARD SHIP, AND WHEN THEY DO WE'LL BE WAITING, WITH QUITE A RECEPTION COMMITTEE!



MEANWHILE...

WE'RE COMING TO THE DEAD SEA!

IT MAKES ME SICK, ASTERIX!

I HAVE TO ADMIT THESE MOUNTS ARE RATHER BUMPY!



I DIDN'T MEAN THAT! IT MAKES ME SICK TO THINK OF THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION PRACTISED AGAINST BOARS IN THIS COUNTRY!

?!?



THE SEA! YIPPEE!!!



IT'S SO HOT, I COULD DO WITH A NICE DIP!

HEY, WAIT!



HERE GOES!



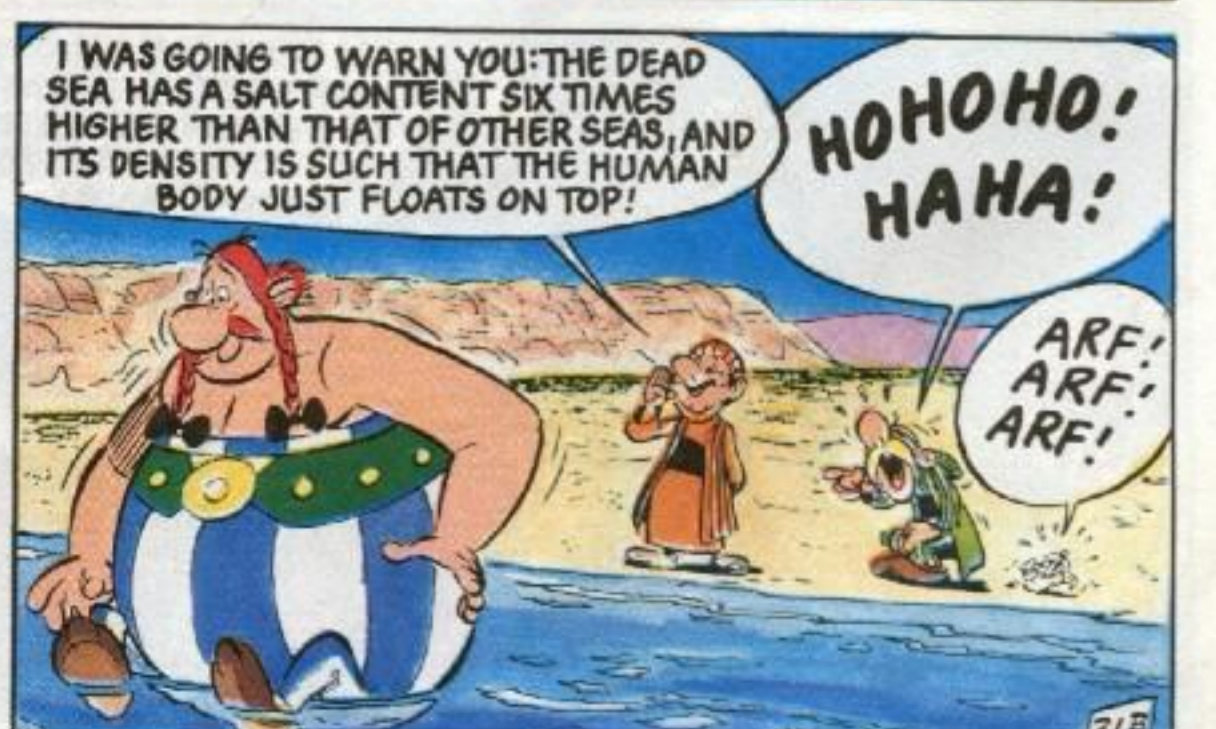
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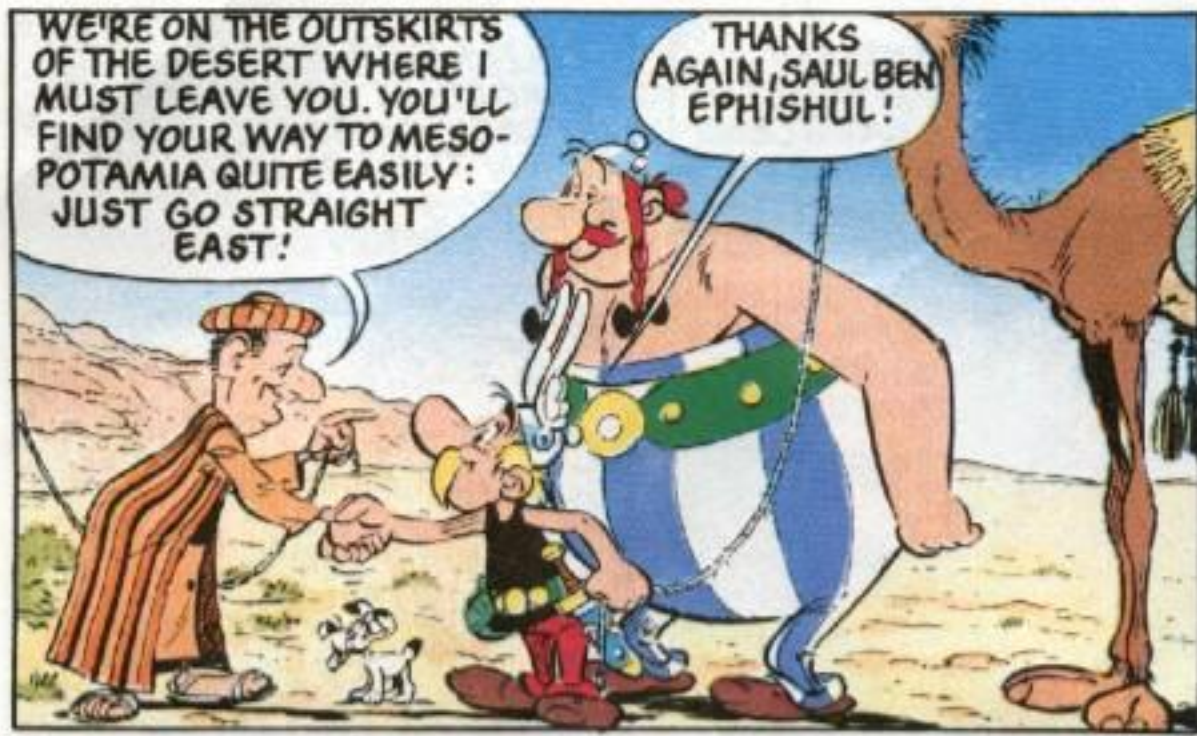


I WAS GOING TO WARN YOU: THE DEAD SEA HAS A SALT CONTENT SIX TIMES HIGHER THAN THAT OF OTHER SEAS, AND ITS DENSITY IS SUCH THAT THE HUMAN BODY JUST FLOATS ON TOP!

HOHOHO! HAHA!

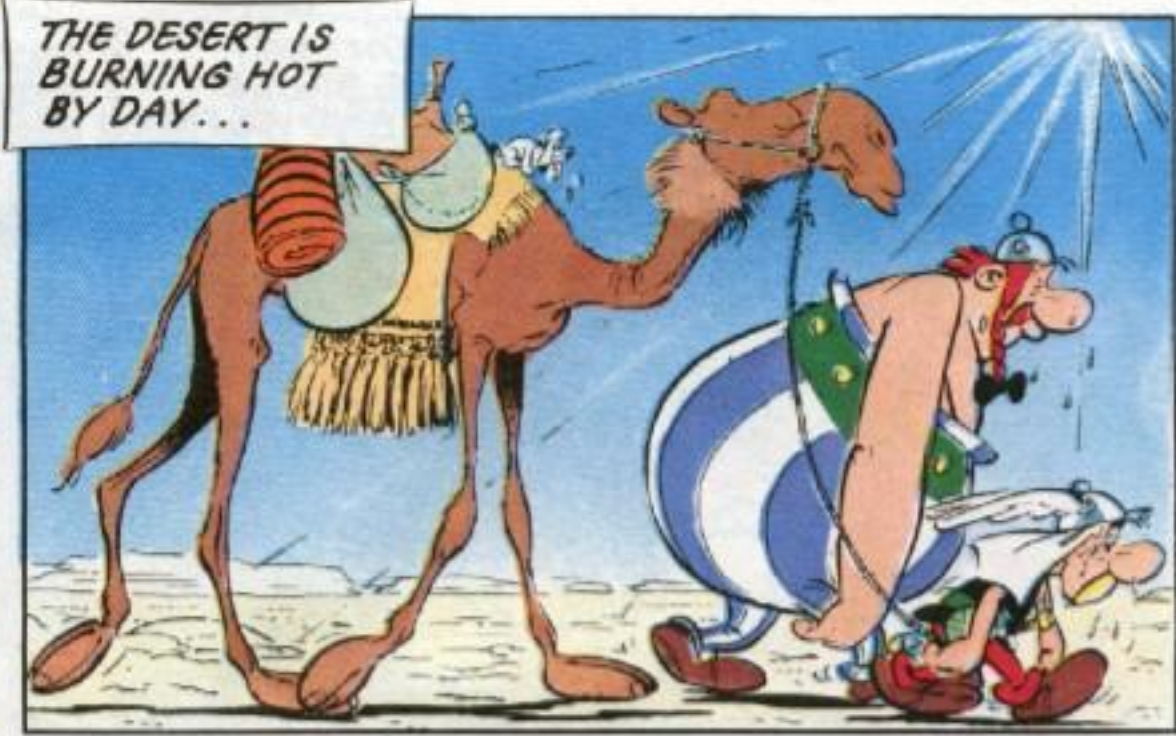
ARF! ARF! ARF!





WE'RE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE DESERT WHERE I MUST LEAVE YOU. YOU'LL FIND YOUR WAY TO MESOPOTAMIA QUITE EASILY: JUST GO STRAIGHT EAST!

THANKS AGAIN, SAUL BEN EPHISHUL!

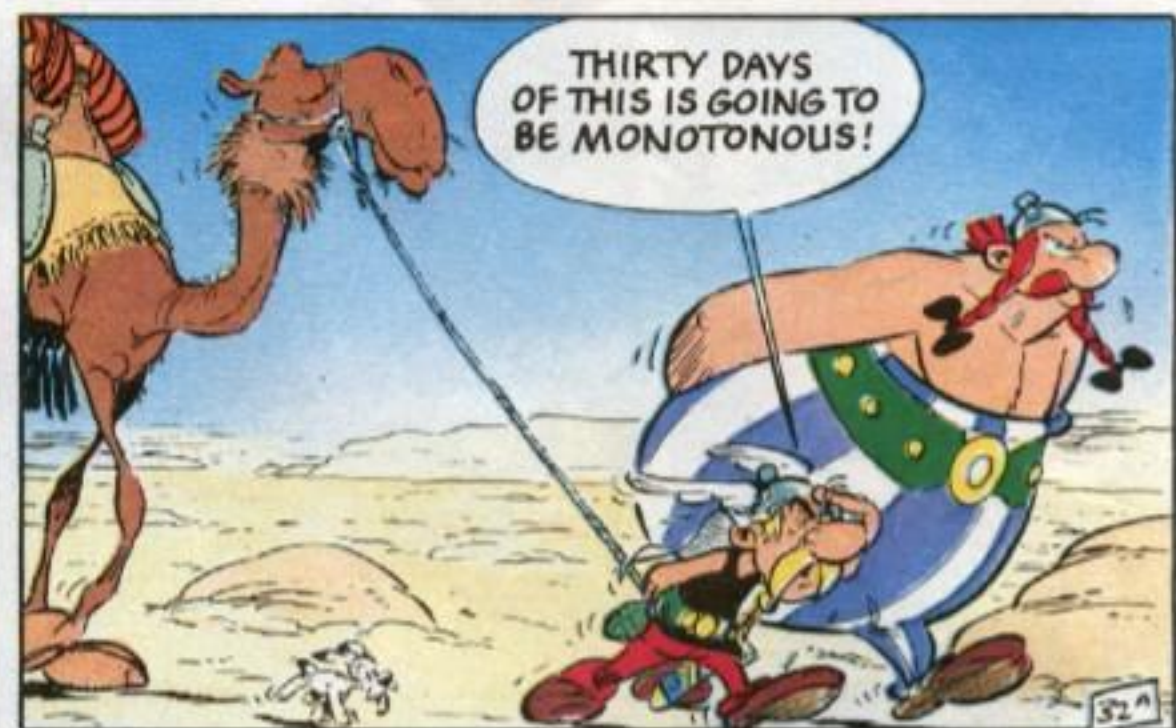


THE DESERT IS BURNING HOT BY DAY...



...AND FREEZING COLD BY NIGHT.

THIS DESERT IS CRAZY!



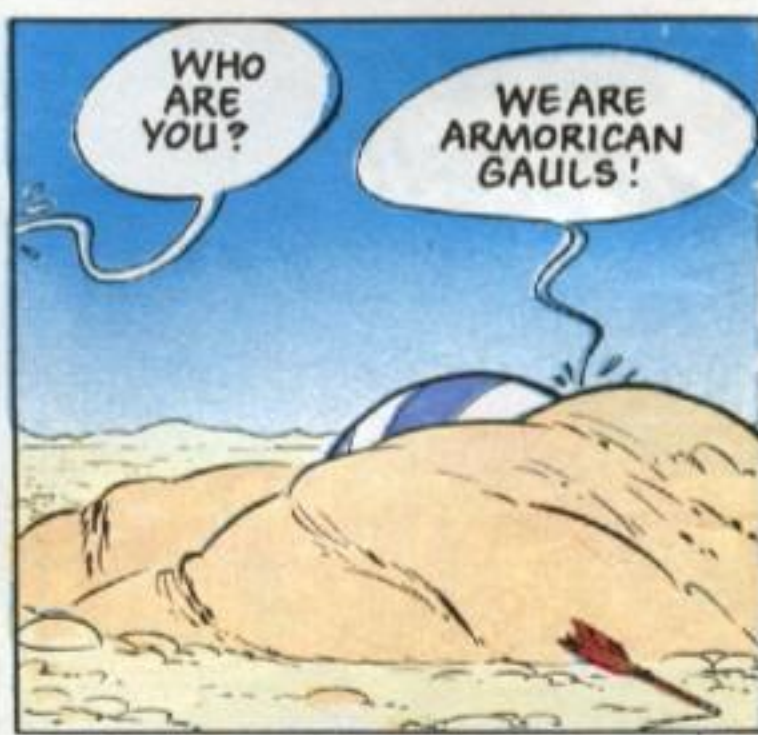
THIRTY DAYS OF THIS IS GOING TO BE MONOTONOUS!



?!



QUICK, LET'S TAKE COVER!



WHO ARE YOU?

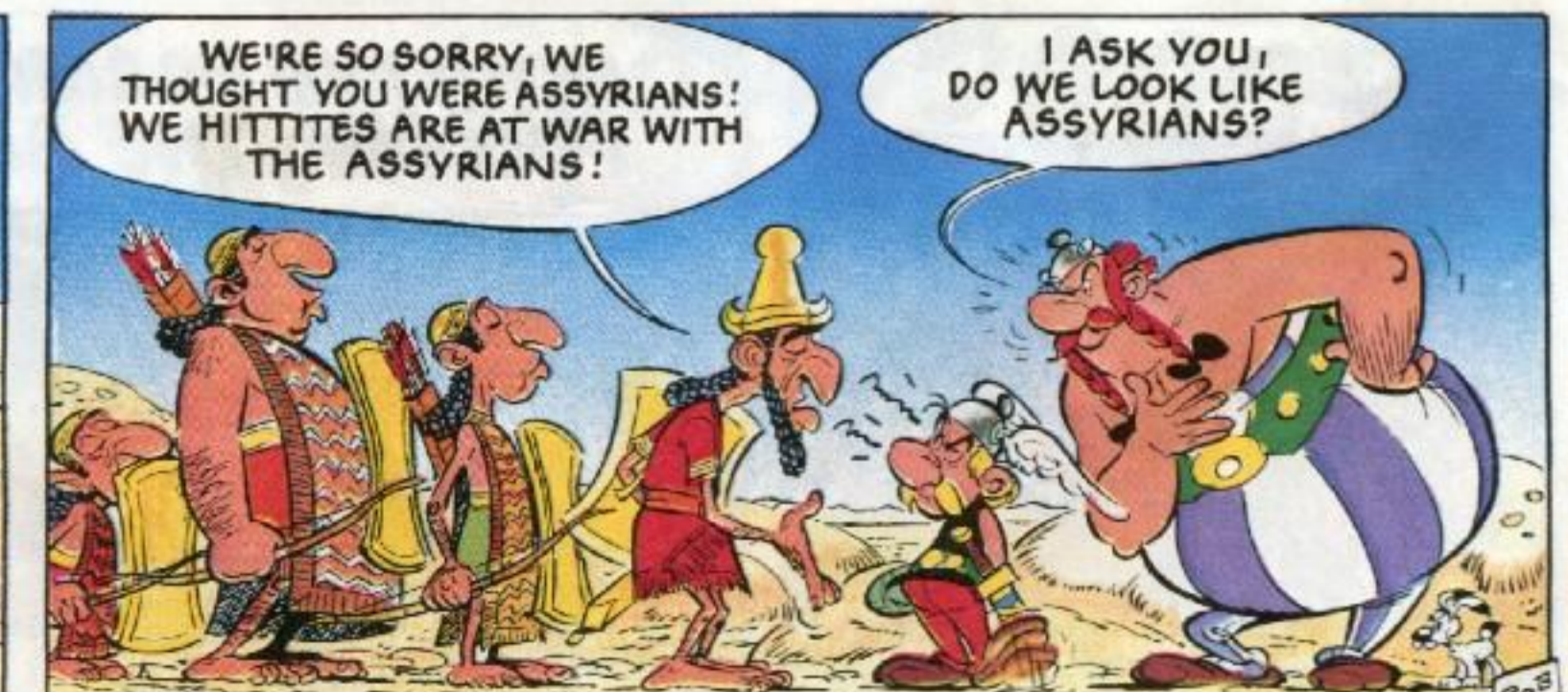
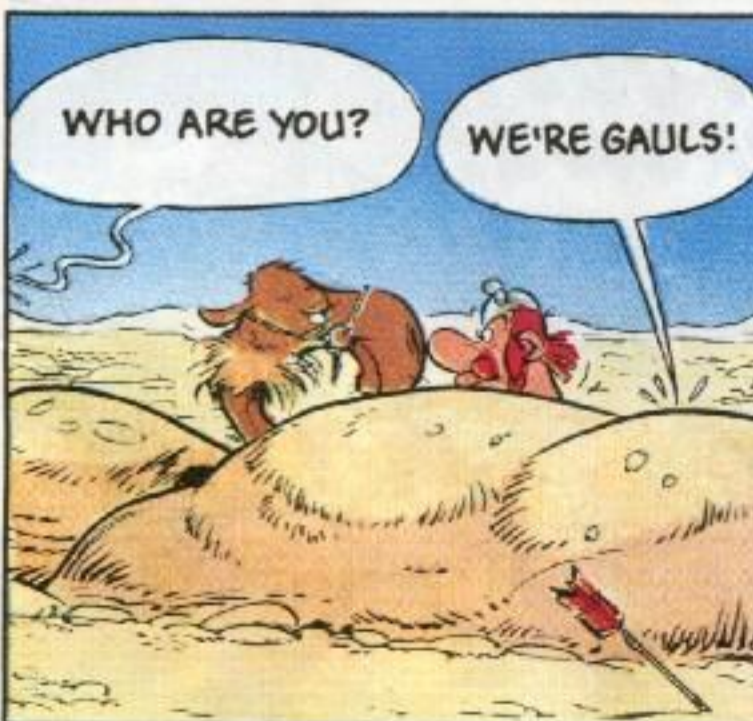
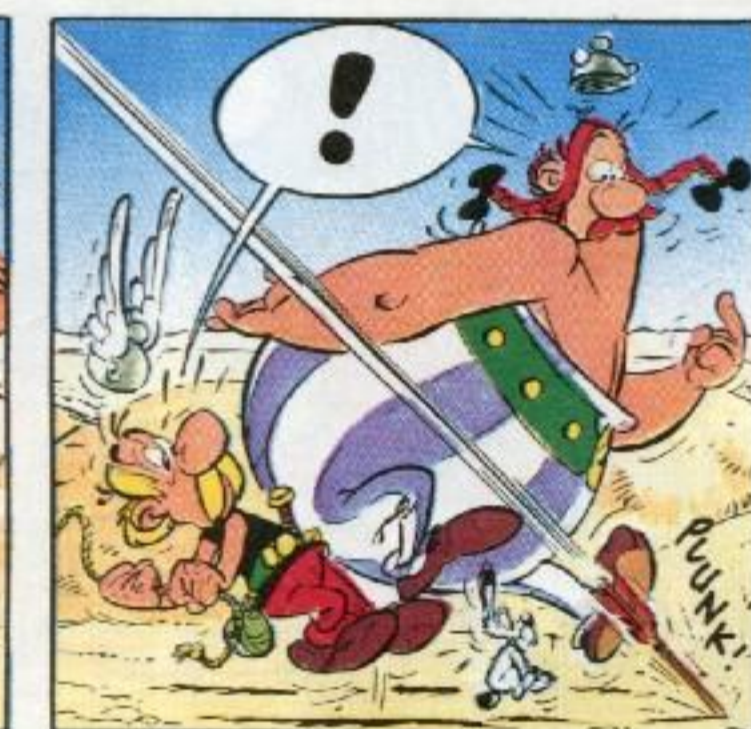
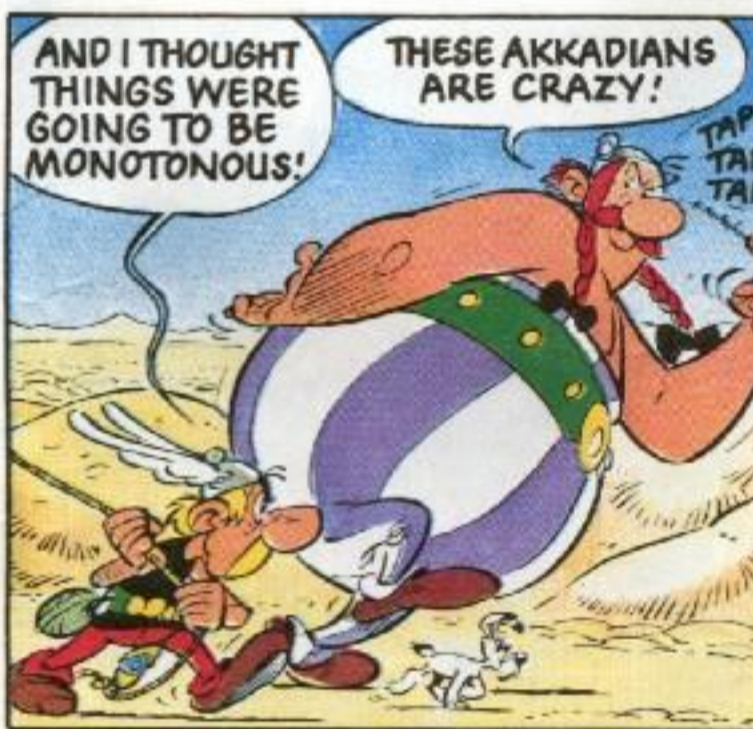
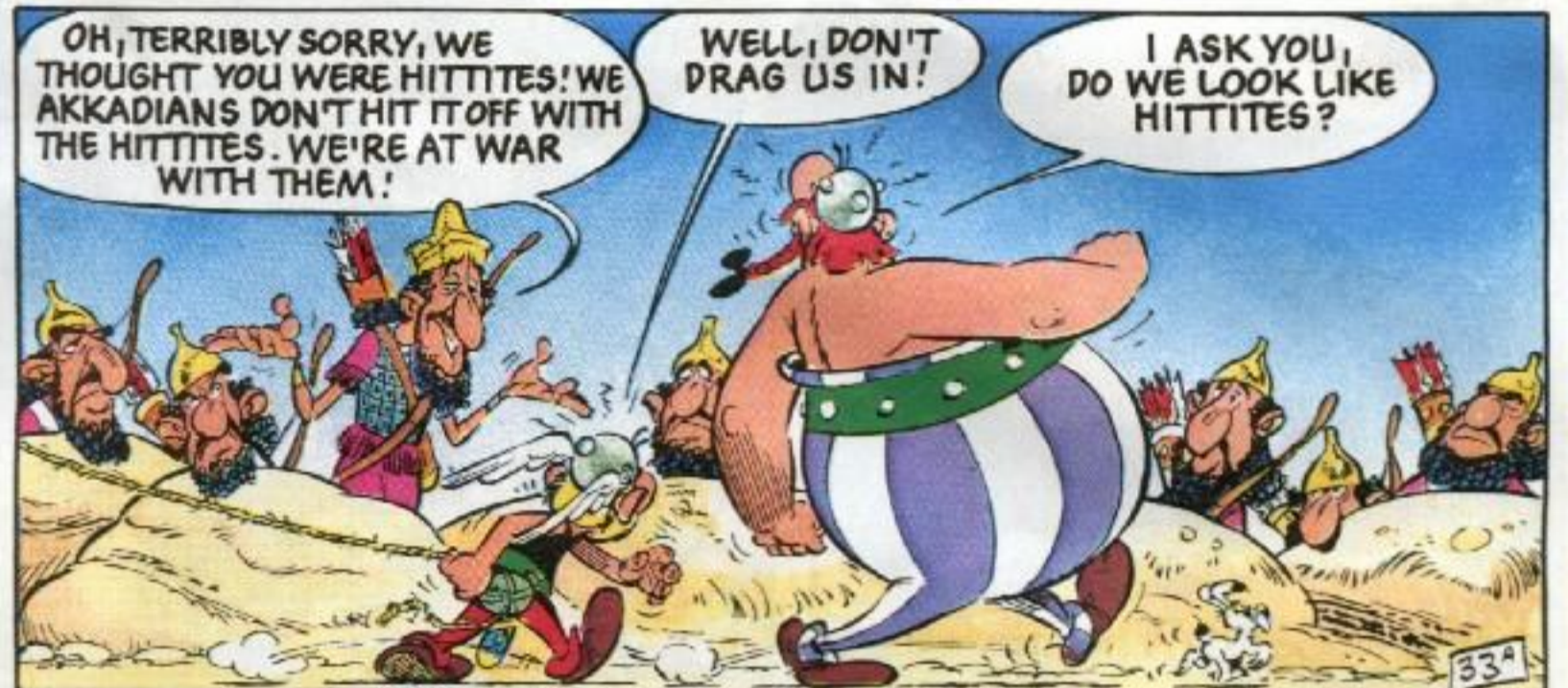
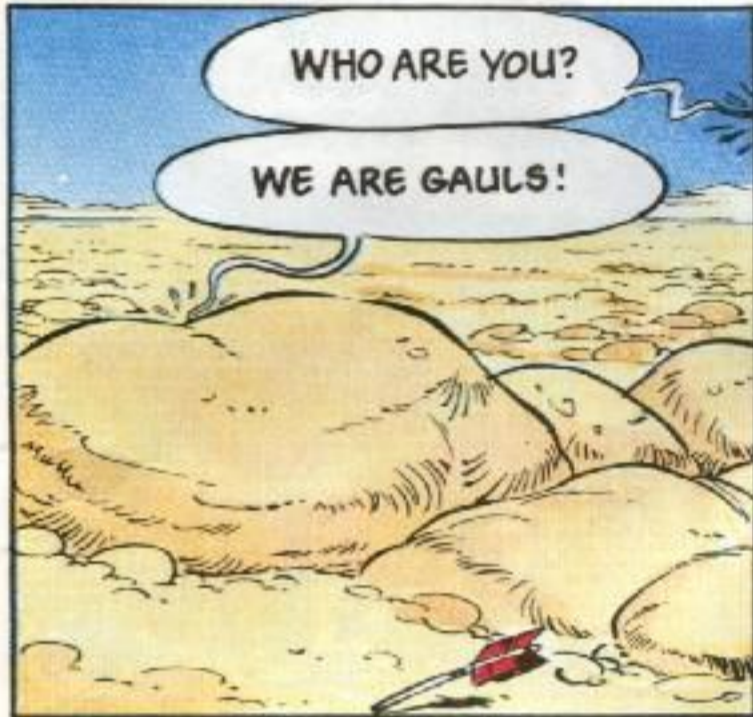
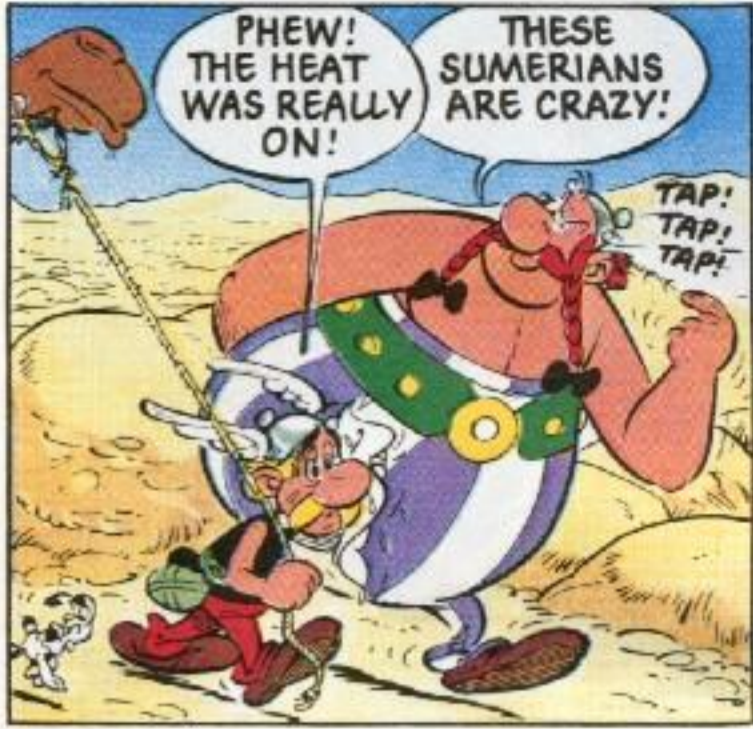
WE ARE ARMERICAN GAULS!

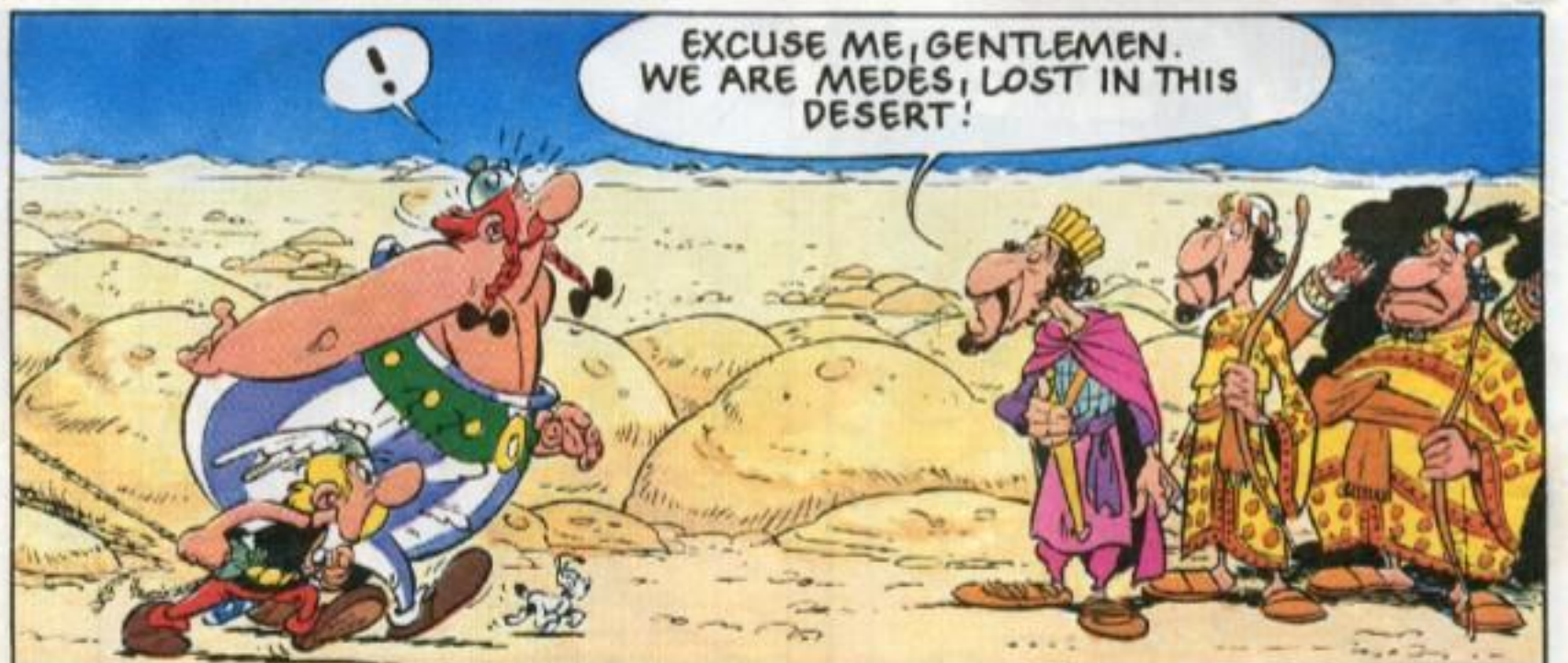
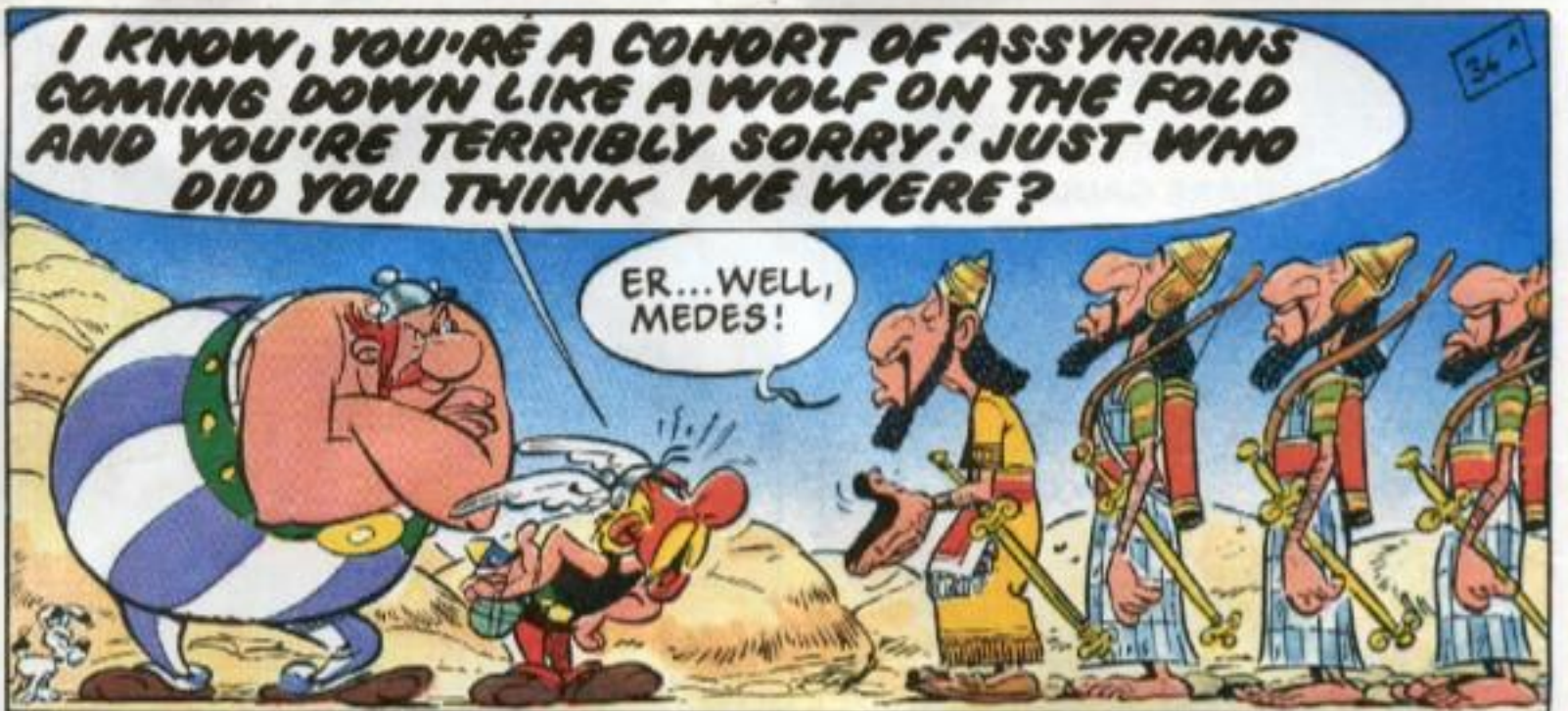
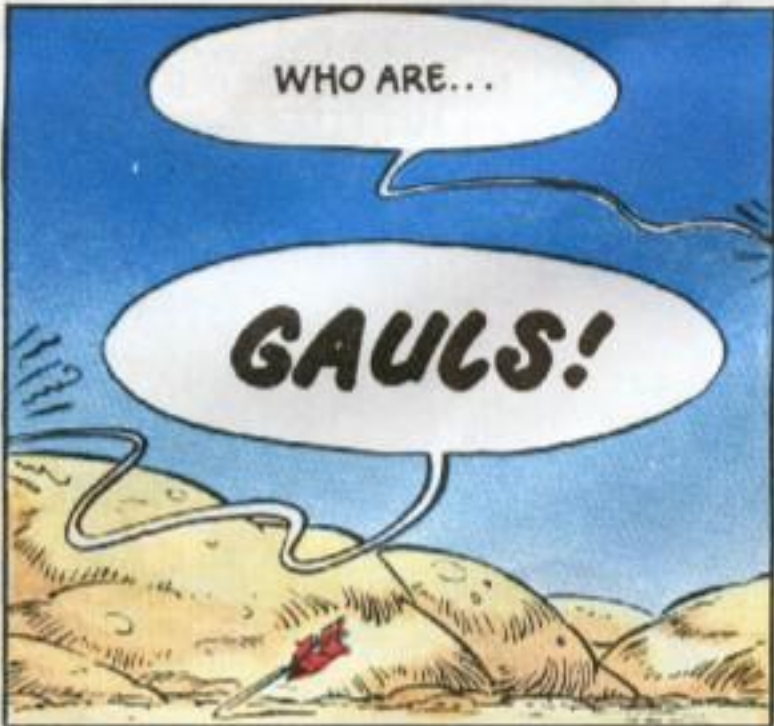
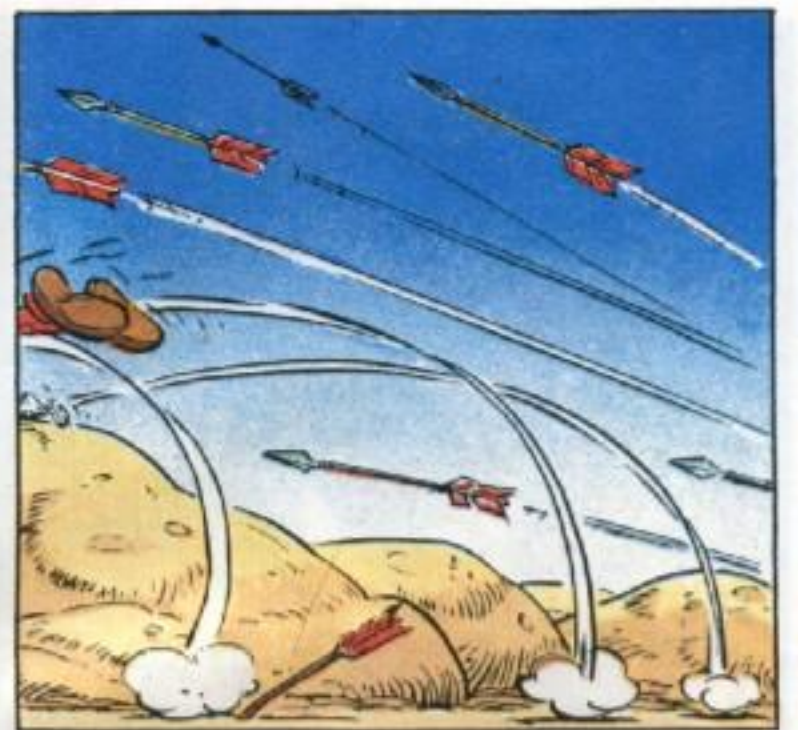
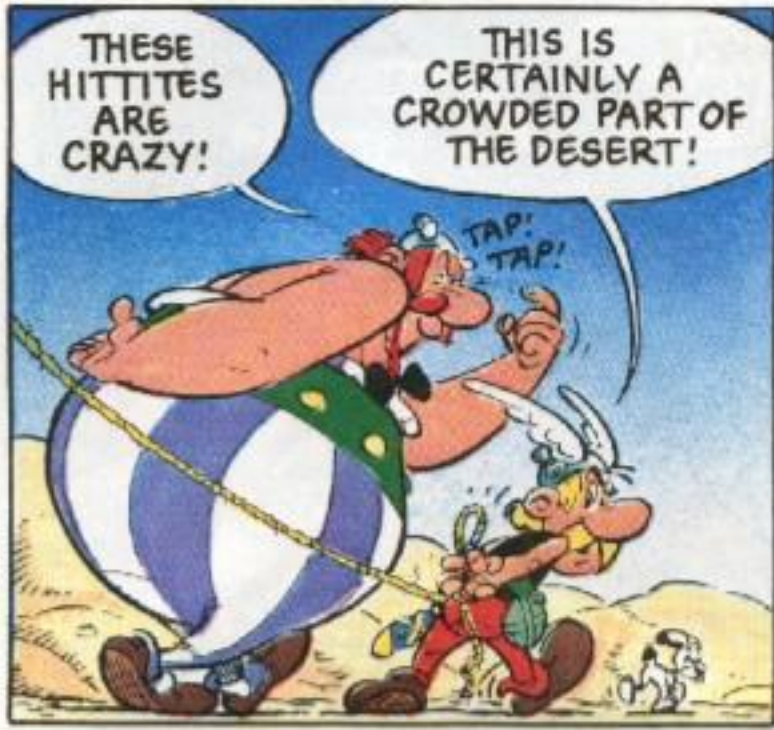


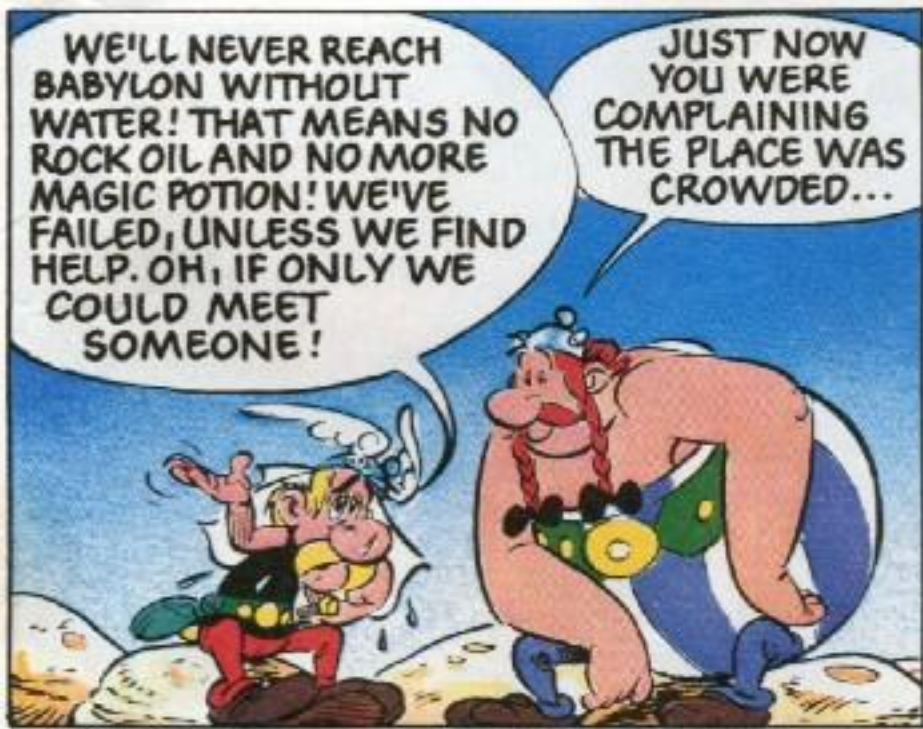
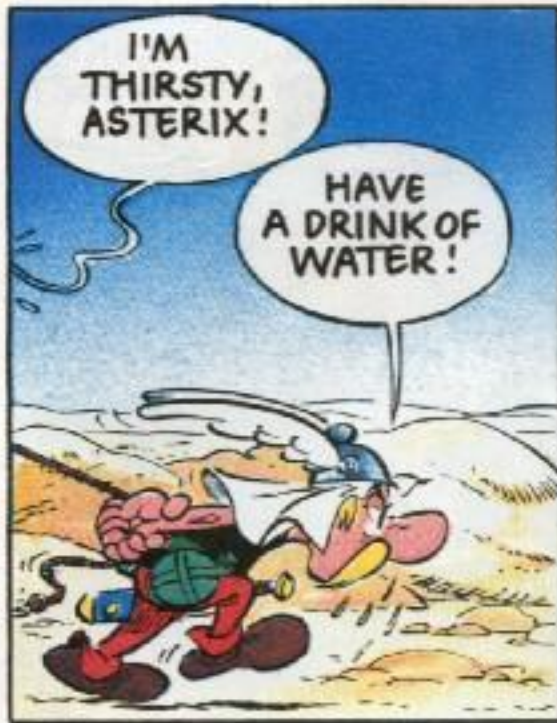
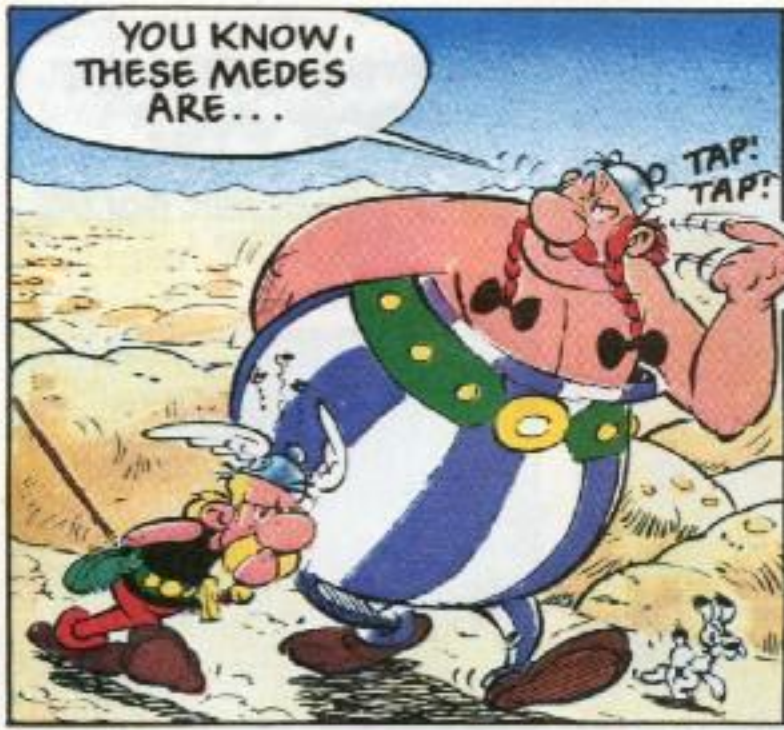
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, WE THOUGHT YOU WERE AKKADIANS. WE'RE SUMERIANS, AND WE'RE AT WAR WITH THE AKKADIANS!

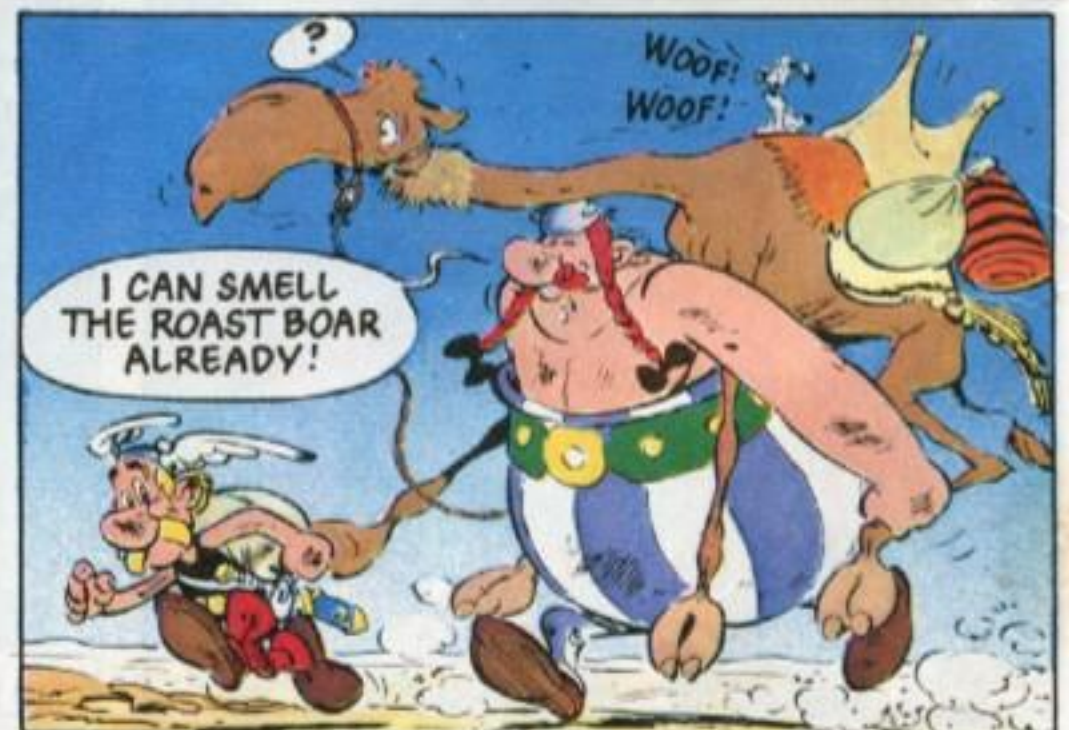
WELL, GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT FIRST ANOTHER TIME!

I ASK YOU, DO WE LOOK LIKE AKKADIANS?









AFTER A TIRING JOURNEY WITH THE SHIP OF THE DESERT...



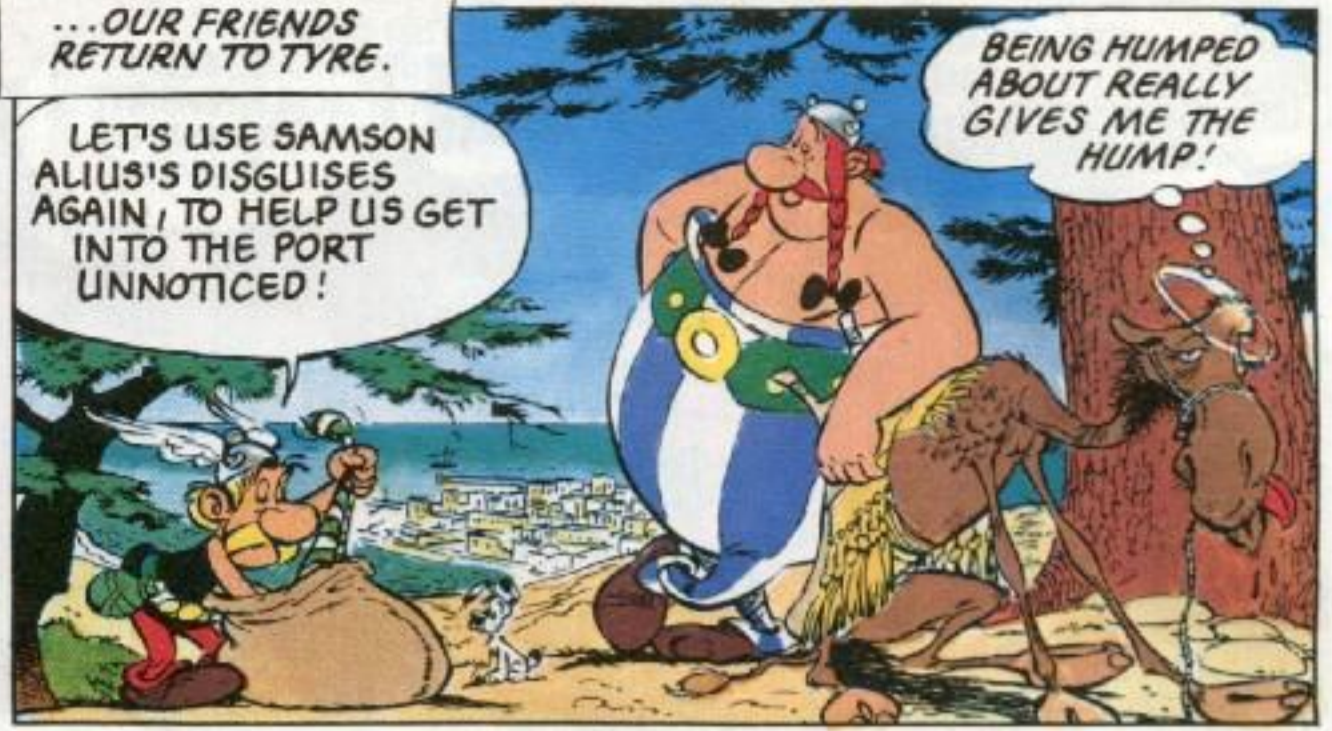
ALL RIGHT, OBELIX?

ME? YES, WHY?

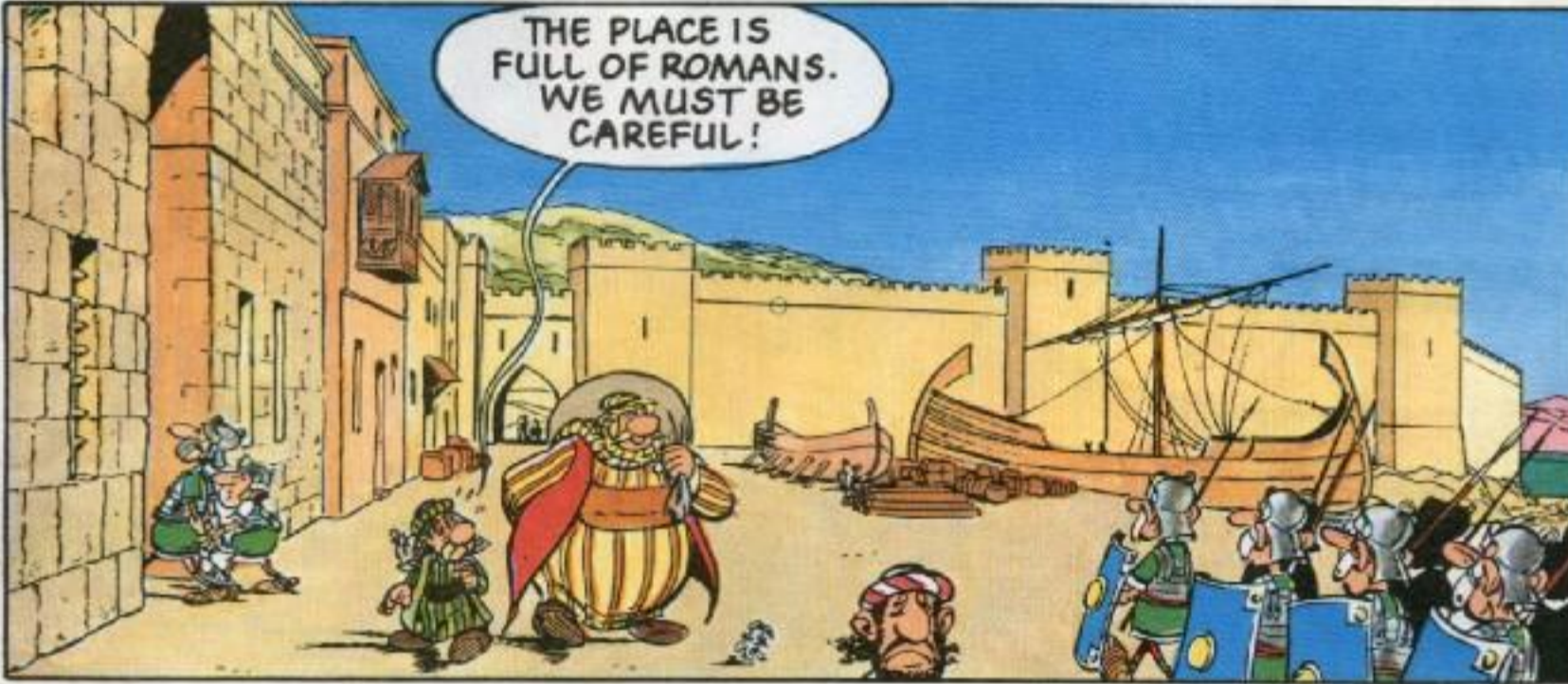
YUK! I FEEL SEA-SICK!

...OUR FRIENDS RETURN TO TYRE.

LET'S USE SAMSON ALIUS'S DISGUISES AGAIN, TO HELP US GET INTO THE PORT UNNOTICED!



BEING HUMPED ABOUT REALLY GIVES ME THE HUMP!



THE PLACE IS FULL OF ROMANS. WE MUST BE CAREFUL!



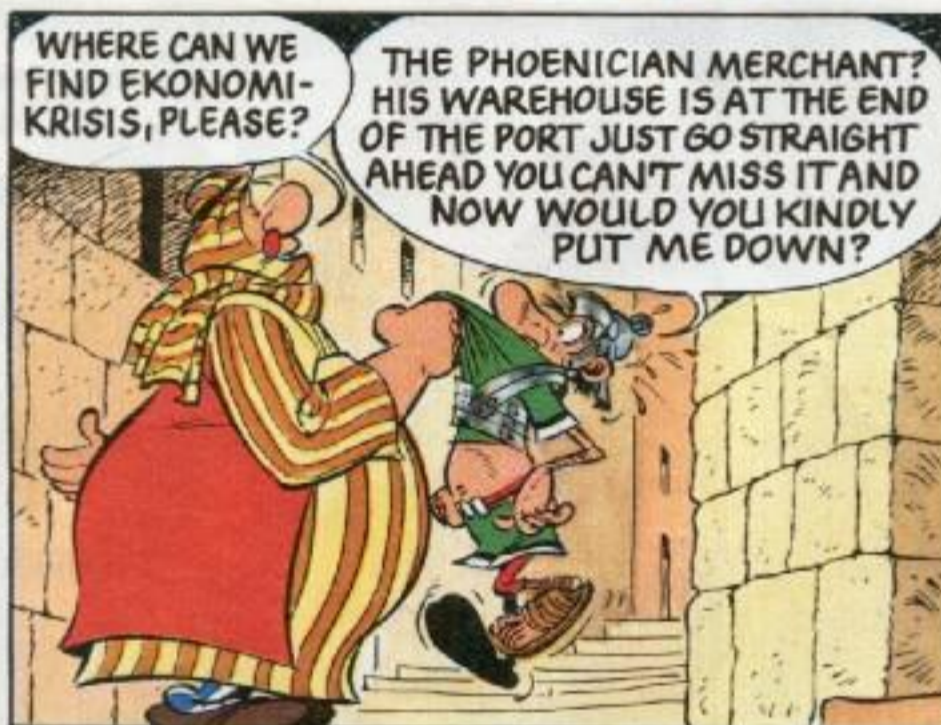
HOW SHALL WE EVER FIND EKONOMIKRISIS IN ALL THIS?

I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



'SCUSE ME, SOLDIER...

MPH?



WHERE CAN WE FIND EKONOMIKRISIS, PLEASE?

THE PHOENICIAN MERCHANT? HIS WAREHOUSE IS AT THE END OF THE PORT JUST GO STRAIGHT AHEAD YOU CAN'T MISS IT AND NOW WOULD YOU KINDLY PUT ME DOWN?



BLING!



YOU SEE? GOOD MANNERS WILL GET YOU ANYWHERE!

OH, WHAT A BRILLIANTLY STRIKING IDEA! YOU'LL BRING THE WHOLE ROMAN GARRISON OF TYRE DOWN ON US!



EKONOMIKRISIS IMPORT-EXPORT

OF COURSE, WHEN IT'S NOT MISTER ASTERIX'S IDEA...

HERE WE ARE!

THERE THEY ARE. AFTER THEM!



QUICK, EKONOMIKRISIS, WE MUST WEIGH ANCHOR! WHERE'S YOUR SHIP?

GONE! I HAVEN'T GOT A SHIP NOW!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, GONE?

THE ROMANS SANK MY SHIP ON JULIUS CAESAR'S ORDERS. YOU FIND ME SUNK IN GLOOM: MY BIGGEST ASSET'S BEEN LIQUIDATED!



I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN DUBBELOSIX WOULD WARN THE ROMANS TO STOP US SETTING SAIL FOR GAUL AGAIN!



THEY'RE IN HERE!!! SEARCH THIS WAREHOUSE!

HERE! FOLLOW ME!



WHEN THE ROMANS STARTED TAXING ME I BUILT THIS TUNNEL. IT LEADS TO A CELLAR...



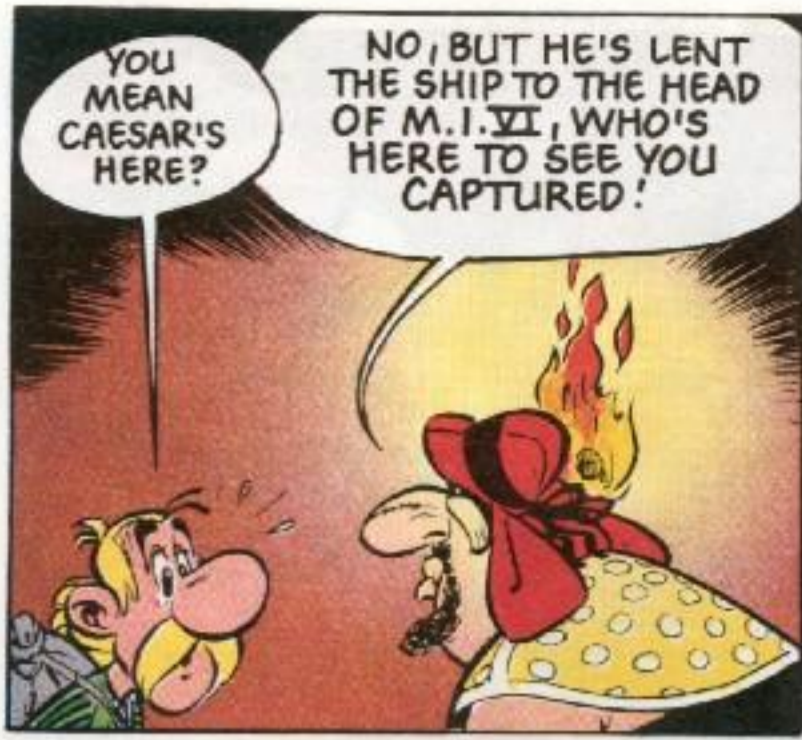
... WHERE I HIDE MOST OF MY STOCK. THAT WAY I'M ALWAYS IN A SELLER'S MARKET!



WE'RE JUST BELOW THE MAIN QUAY...

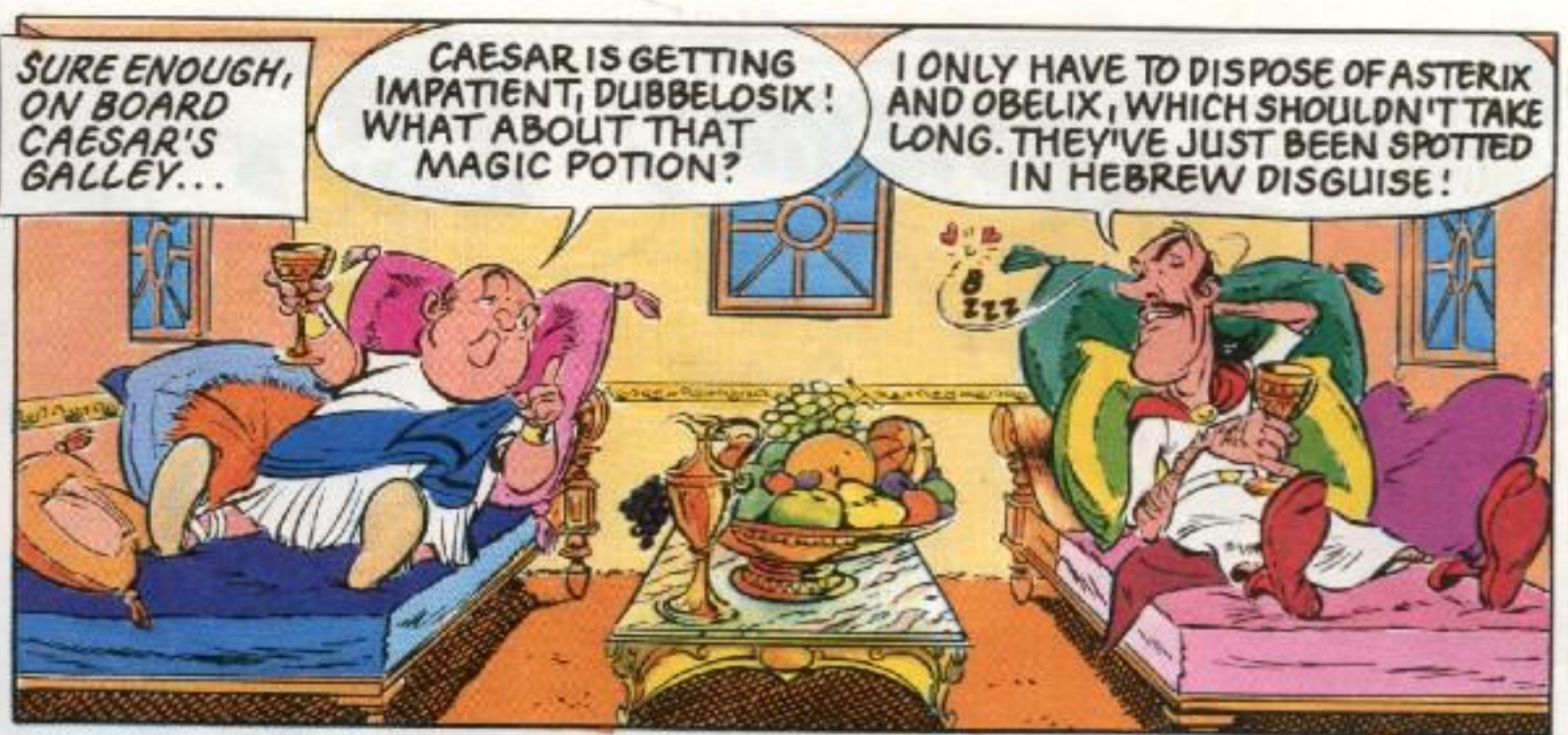


... AND IRONICALLY, OPPOSITE JULIUS CAESAR'S FLAGSHIP!



YOU MEAN CAESAR'S HERE?

NO, BUT HE'S LENT THE SHIP TO THE HEAD OF M.I.VI, WHO'S HERE TO SEE YOU CAPTURED!



SURE ENOUGH, ON BOARD CAESAR'S GALLEY...

CAESAR IS GETTING IMPATIENT, DUBBELSIX! WHAT ABOUT THAT MAGIC POTION?

I ONLY HAVE TO DISPOSE OF ASTERIX AND OBELIX, WHICH SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG. THEY'VE JUST BEEN SPOTTED IN HEBREW DISGUISE!



I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

HUH! COPYCAT!



IS YOUR CREW STILL AROUND, EKONOMI-KRISIS?

YES, BUT THEY'RE NOT PACKAGE TOURISTS NOW. THEY'RE THE WINNERS OF A COMPETITION... ALL THE PRIZES WERE A SEA CRUISE EXCLUSIVE OF EXPENSES. I'M THEIR C.O.: COMPETITION ORGANISER.



THEN GET THEM HERE! NOW, THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO...



AT NIGHT-FALL...



EVENING, SOLDIER!

HALT!!! WHO GOES THERE?



YOU'RE IN LUCK, GAUL: FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN HEBREW DISGUI...



BING!



QUICK, LET'S GET THE CARGO ON BOARD!

