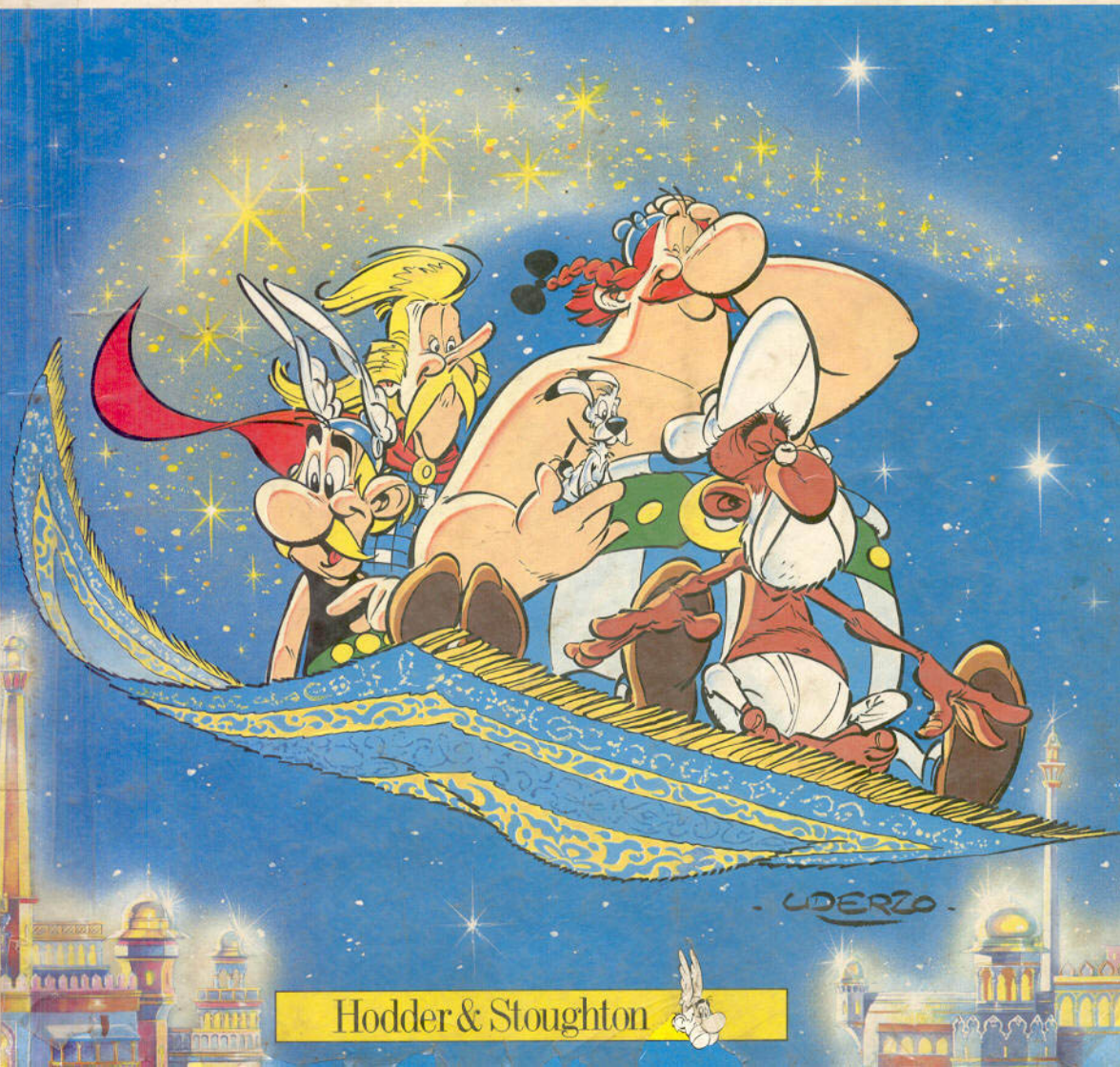


R. GOSCINNY - A. UDERZO

Asterix and the Magic Carpet

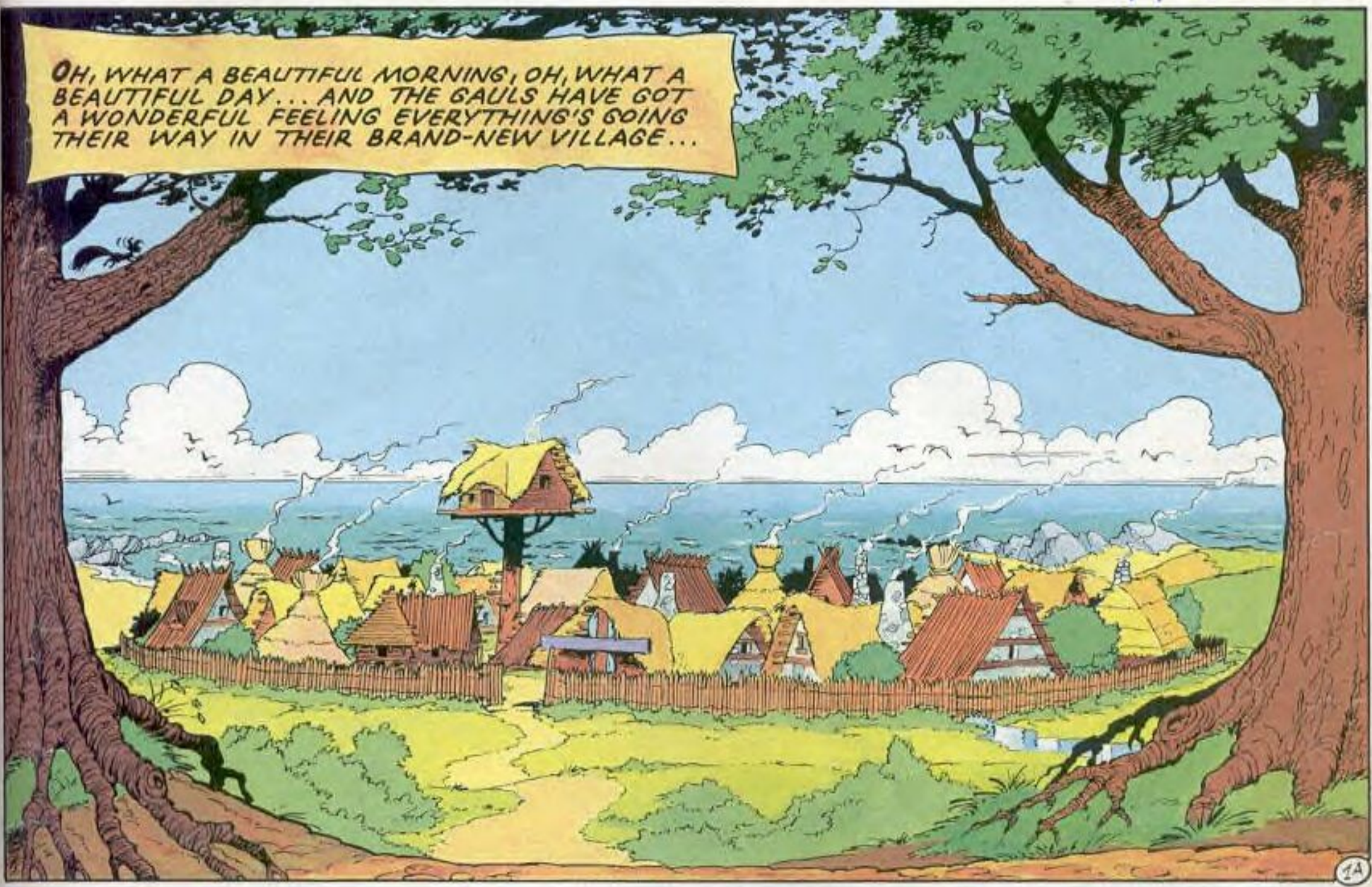
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UDERZO



Hodder & Stoughton



OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING, OH, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY... AND THE GAULS HAVE GOT A WONDERFUL FEELING EVERYTHING'S GOING THEIR WAY IN THEIR BRAND-NEW VILLAGE...



1A

FOR AS YOU MAY REMEMBER...

THE ROMANS BURNED OUR VILLAGE TO THE GROUND*. CAESAR, ASHAMED OF WHAT THEY HAD DONE, TOLD HIS MEN TO REBUILD IT... FAIR ENOUGH, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE ALL SQUARE. AND SO, DEAR FRIENDS...

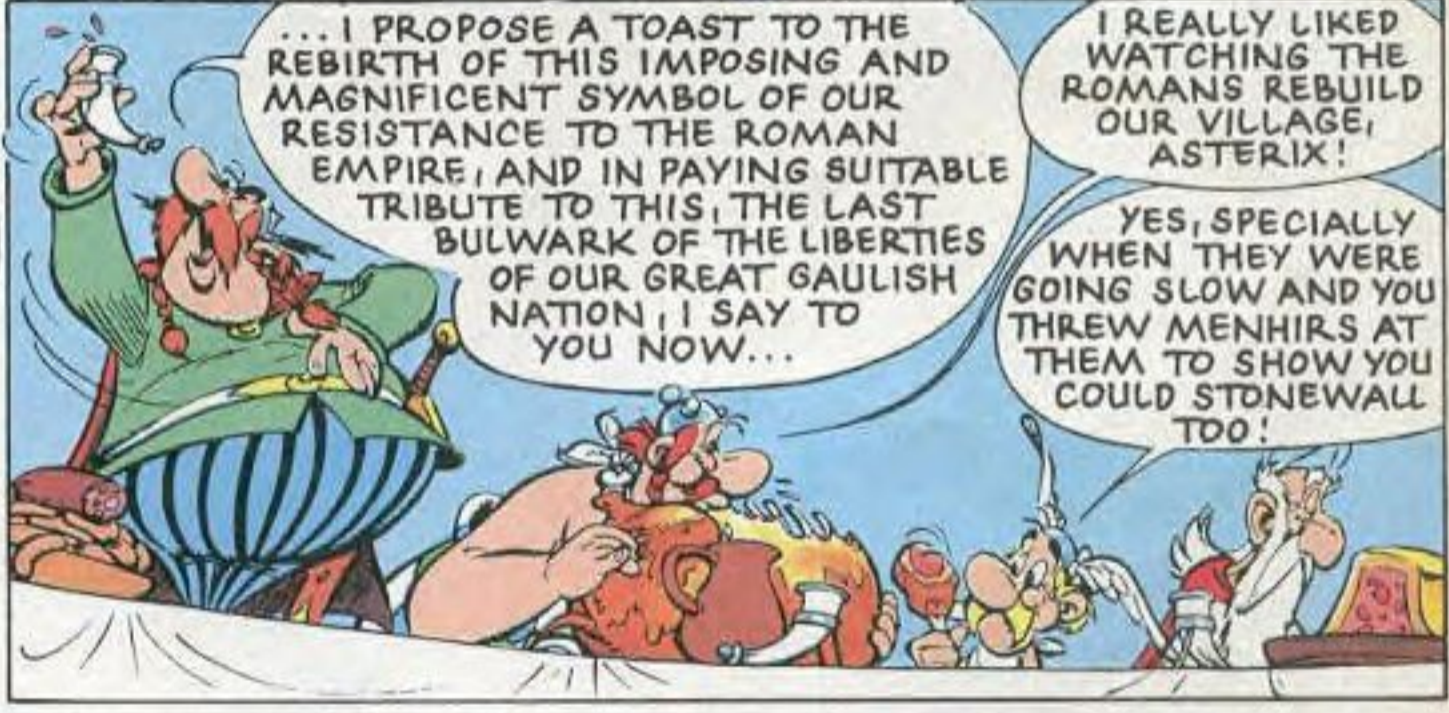
*SEE ASTERIX AND SON



... I PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE REBIRTH OF THIS IMPOSING AND MAGNIFICENT SYMBOL OF OUR RESISTANCE TO THE ROMAN EMPIRE, AND IN PAYING SUITABLE TRIBUTE TO THIS, THE LAST BULWARK OF THE LIBERTIES OF OUR GREAT GAULISH NATION, I SAY TO YOU NOW...

I REALLY LIKED WATCHING THE ROMANS REBUILD OUR VILLAGE, ASTERIX!

YES, SPECIALLY WHEN THEY WERE GOING SLOW AND YOU THREW MENHIRS AT THEM TO SHOW YOU COULD STONEWALL TOO!



... I SAY TO YOU NOW...

WELL, THEY DID GET THE JOB DONE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE!

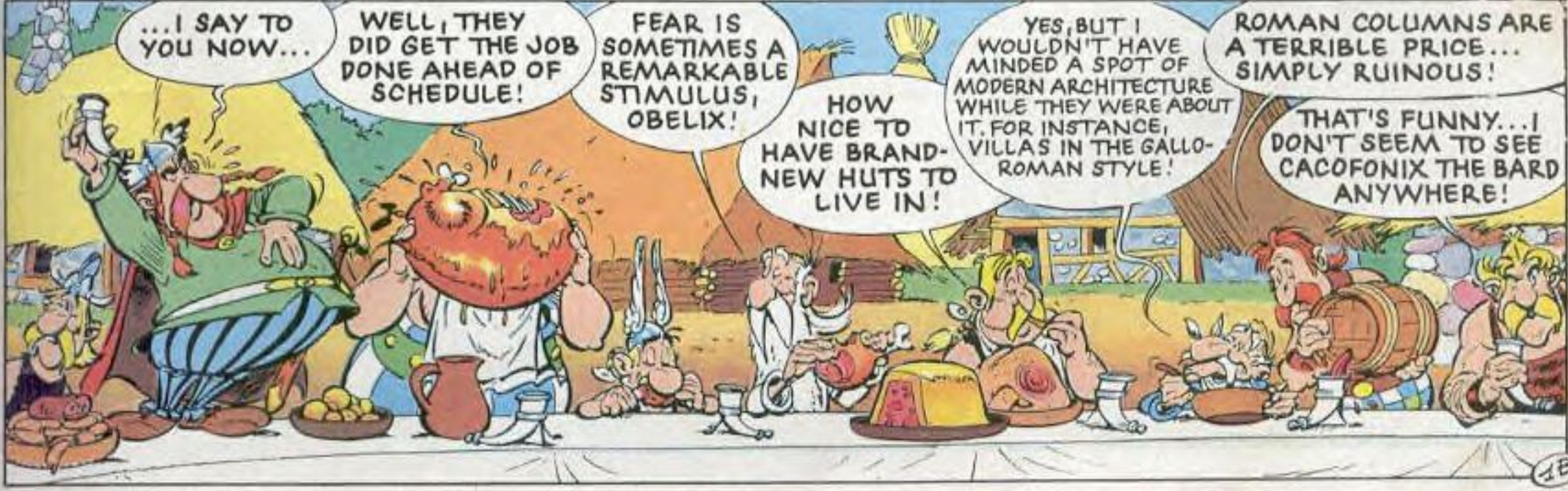
FEAR IS SOMETIMES A REMARKABLE STIMULUS, OBELIX!

HOW NICE TO HAVE BRAND-NEW HUTS TO LIVE IN!


YES, BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED A SPOT OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE WHILE THEY WERE ABOUT IT. FOR INSTANCE, VILLAS IN THE GALLO-ROMAN STYLE!

ROMAN COLUMNS ARE A TERRIBLE PRICE... SIMPLY RUINOUS!


THAT'S FUNNY... I DON'T SEEM TO SEE CACOFONIX THE BARD ANYWHERE!



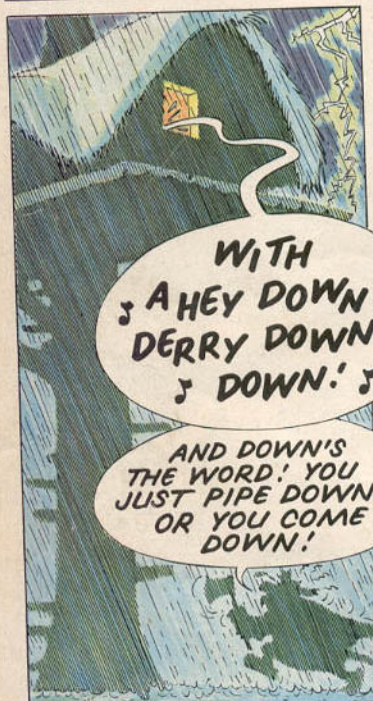
1B



**SILENCE WHILE
I PROPOSE A
HEALTH!** AND HE
THAT WOULD THIS
HEALTH DENY...




**♪ DOWN AMONG
THE LEGIONARIES
LET HIM LIE...
♪**



**♪ A HEY DOWN ♪
DERRY DOWN
♪ DOWN! ♪**

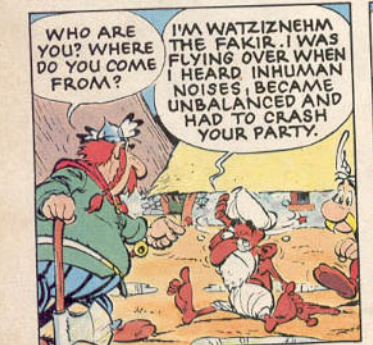
**AND DOWN'S
THE WORD! YOU
JUST PIPE DOWN...
OR YOU COME
DOWN!**



**OH, SO
I CAN'T EVEN
TRY THE ACOUSTICS
OF MY NEW HUT?**

**THIS
WOULD TRY THE
PATIENCE
OF TOUTATIS
HIMSELF!
RIGHT! I SAID,
YOU COME
DOWN!**

**CHOP!
CHOP!**



**WHO ARE
YOU? WHERE
DO YOU COME
FROM?**

**I'M WATZIZNEHM
THE FAKIR. I WAS
FLYING OVER WHEN
I HEARD INHUMAN
NOISES, BECAME
UNBALANCED AND
HAD TO CRASH
YOUR PARTY.**

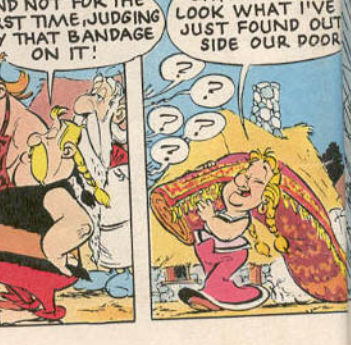


**YOU WERE
FLYING
OVER OUR
VILLAGE?**

**THESE
FAKIRS ARE
CRAZY!**

**WELL, YES!
HE FELL ON
HIS HEAD!**

**AND NOT FOR THE
FIRST TIME, JUDGING
BY THAT BANDAGE
ON IT!**



**OH, PIGGYWIGGY
LOOK WHAT I'VE
JUST FOUND OUT
SIDE OUR DOOR**



MY CARPET! THANK YOU, MADAM!

WHO'S THIS? WHAT'S HIS NAME?

WATZIZ-NEHM!



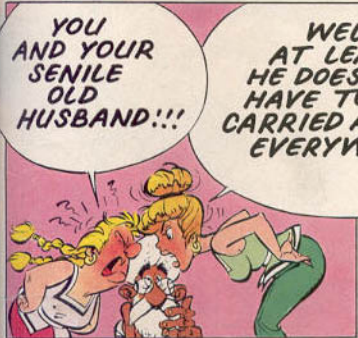
I DON'T SEE WHY IMPEDIMENTA SHOULD HAVE THAT CARPET. IT WAS AS CLOSE TO OUR HUT AS HERS!



OH NO, IT WASN'T! AND ANYWAY, I'M THE CHIEF'S WIFE!

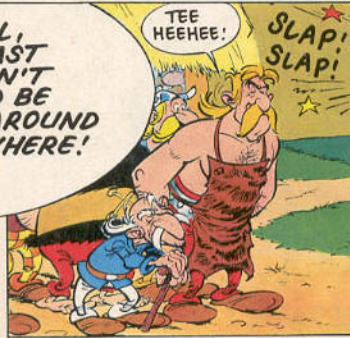
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I SAY TO THE CHIEF'S WIFE?

NOW LISTEN, LADIES...



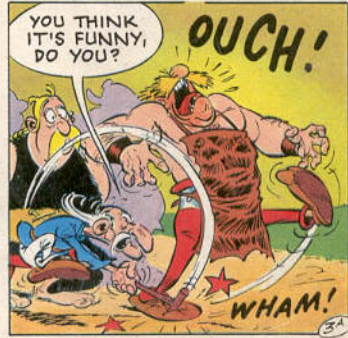
YOU AND YOUR SENILE OLD HUSBAND!!!

WELL, AT LEAST HE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE CARRIED AROUND EVERYWHERE!



TEE HEEHEE!

SLAP! SLAP!



YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY, DO YOU?

OUCH!

WHAM!



PAF!

QUICK, BACTERIA! FETCH ME OUR RESERVE STOCKS OF LAST YEAR'S FISH!



RAINDROPS...



♪ ... KEEP FALLING ON MY HEAD...

THE GODS ARE WITH ME! I'VE DROPPED IN ON THE VERY VILLAGE I WAS LOOKING FOR ... THE VILLAGE OF MADMEN WHERE A VOICE MAKES RAIN!

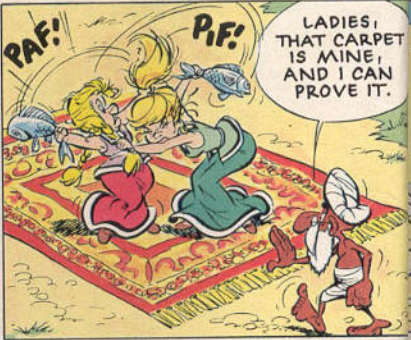
?

WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR OUR VILLAGE IN PARTICULAR?

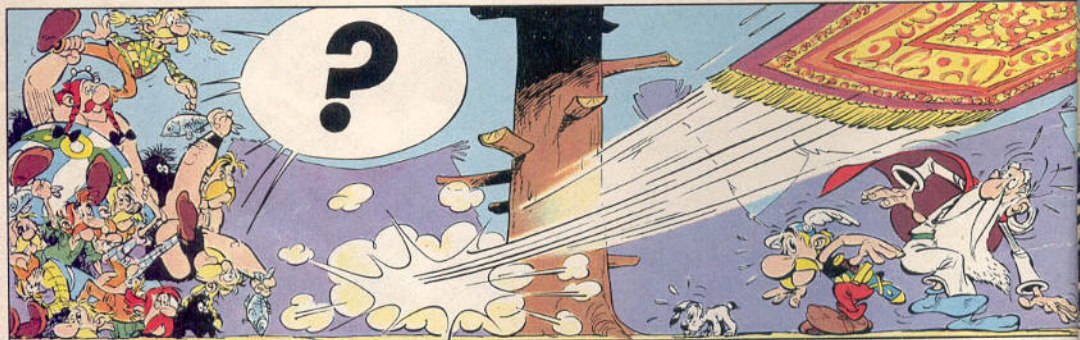
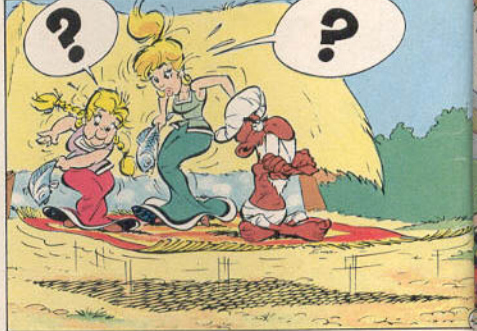
I COME FROM A DISTANT EASTERN COUNTRY, WHERE AN EX-LEGIONARY WHO IS NOW A MERCHANT TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR FAMOUS DEEDS. SO I'VE COME ALL THIS WAY TO ASK YOU FOR HELP. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!

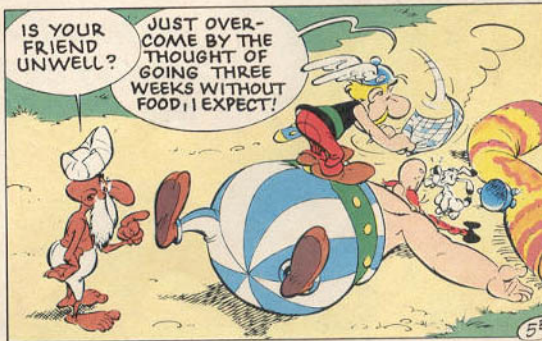
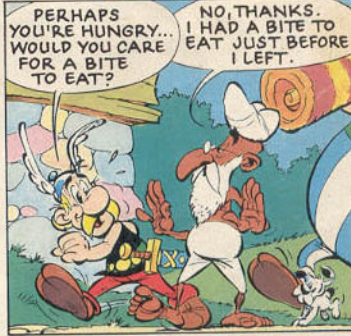
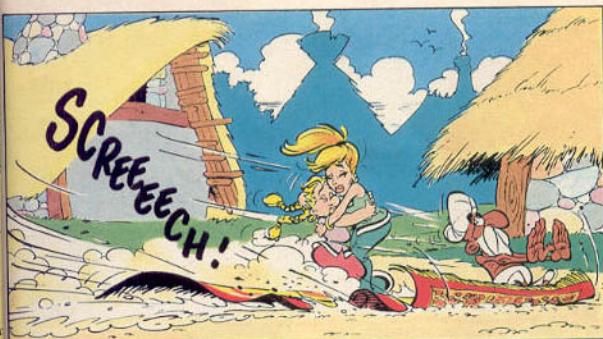
BUT BEFORE I TELL YOU ANY MORE, I'LL JUST RETRIEVE MY CARPET, IF I MAY.

LADIES, THAT CARPET IS MINE, AND I CAN PROVE IT.



IF YOU SAY SO!





I COME FROM A KINGDOM WHICH LIES IN THE VALLEY OF THE GANGES. OUR CLIMATE IS HOT AND DRY, EXCEPT FOR A FEW MONTHS EVERY YEAR WHEN THE RAINS FALL, WATERING OUR CROPS. THAT IS THE MONSOON SEASON.

I HOPE HE HASN'T COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER!

BUT WE MUST HAVE OFFENDED THE GOD INDRA*, BECAUSE THE MONSOON SEASON WILL SOON BE OVER, AND WE HAVEN'T HAD A DROP OF RAIN YET. THE DRY SEASON WILL BE BACK, BRINGING WITH IT FAMINE AND HARD-SHIP FOR OUR PEOPLE.

*GOD OF THE WATERS

OUR GOOD KING, RAJAH WATZIT, HAS A DAUGHTER, THE SWEET AND LOVELY PRINCESS ORINJADE...

AND THE GURU* WHO SPEAKS WITH THE GODS, HOODNUNNIT, DECREED THAT IF NO RAIN FELL BEFORE THE END OF THE MONSOON, IN A THOUSAND AND ONE HOURS' TIME, PRINCESS ORINJADE MUST BE SACRIFICED TO APPEASE THE WRATH OF THE GODS!

TEE HEE HEE!

BUT IF EVEN YOUR RAJAH DOESN'T HOLD THE RAINS OF POWER, I DON'T QUITE SEE HOW WE CAN HELP YOU!

*LEADER OF A RELIGIOUS SECT

I THINK I DO, THOUGH. I FANCY OUR VISITOR WANTS TO BORROW THE BARD. HIS SINGING WILL BRING RAIN EVEN IN AN INDIAN SUMMER.

OH, YES... I WAS FORGETTING CACOFONIA HAS A NEW STRING TO HIS LYRE THESE DAYS!

ALL RIGHT, FAKIR! WE'LL LEND YOU OUR BARD, AND ASTERIX AND OBELIX WILL GO WITH YOU TOO.

HOW DARE YOU SAY I MAKE IT RAIN? IT'S NOT TRUE! LISTEN TO THIS!

THE RAIN
IN GAUL...

♪...FALLS
MAINLY DOWN
THE WALL...

HEY! IT'S
RAINING DOWN
THE INSIDE OF
THE WALL!

EVERYBODY OUT! I SAID, EVERYBODY OUT!

CACOFONIX, YOU'VE GOT WATER ON THE BRAIN...

IT'S NOT EVERY GAULISH HUT THAT HAS RUNNING WATER LAID ON!

BUT, 'PEDIMENTA ... OUCH!

**BANG!
PAF!
BING!**

AND LATER...

I PROMISE TO BRING YOUR BARD BACK VERY SOON!

OH, THERE'S NO HURRY.

YOUR SINGING WILL TAKE THEM BY STORM, CACOFONIX!

YOU THINK SO?

IT'LL BE A SMASH HIT, AS USUAL!

HERE, ASTERIX, TAKE THIS GOURD OF MAGIC POTION. IT MAY COME IN USEFUL.

THANKS, GETAFIX. ANY IDEA WHERE OBELIX IS?

MAKE WAY THERE!

?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THOSE?

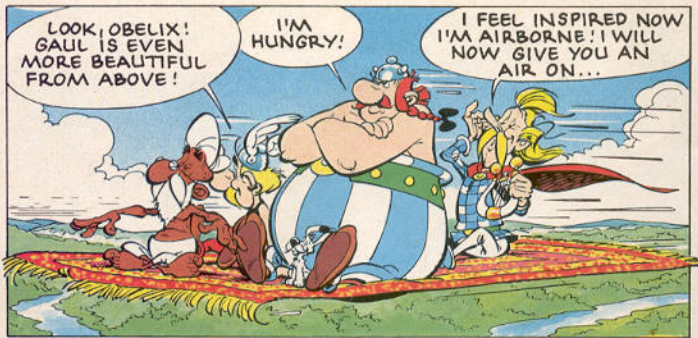
JUST LAYING IN A FEW IN-FLIGHT PROVISIONS...

WOOF!
WOOF!

MY CARPET WILL NEVER CARRY ALL THAT! BUT WE CAN STOP OFF TO EAT WHENEVER YOU WANT, OBELIX.

LATER...

I ALREADY FEEL THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING!



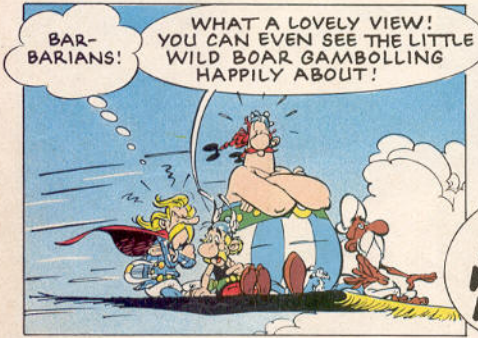
LOOK, OBELIX! GAUL IS EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL FROM ABOVE!

I'M HUNGRY!

I FEEL INSPIRED NOW I'M AIRBORNE! I WILL NOW GIVE YOU AN AIR ON...

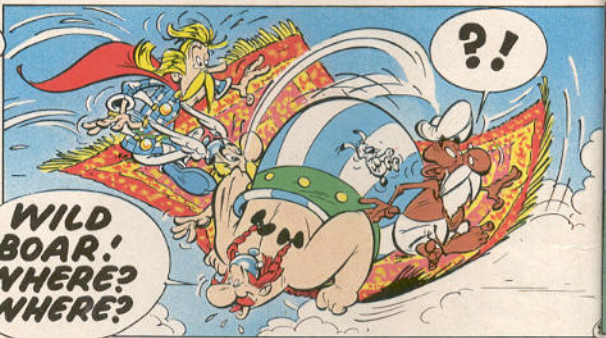


NO, CACOFONIX, DON'T! THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO SING! IF THE CARPET GETS UNBALANCED IT MIGHT LET US ALL DOWN!



BAR-BARIANS!

WHAT A LOVELY VIEW! YOU CAN EVEN SEE THE LITTLE WILD BOAR GAMBOLLING HAPPILY ABOUT!



?!

WILD BOAR! WHERE? WHERE?



TELL THAT GREAT FAT PACHYDERM TO STOP IT, OR ELSE!!!



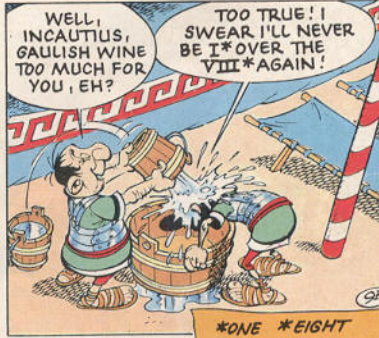
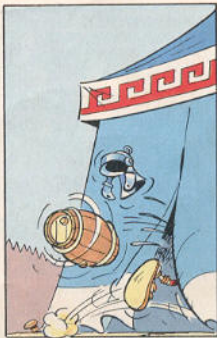
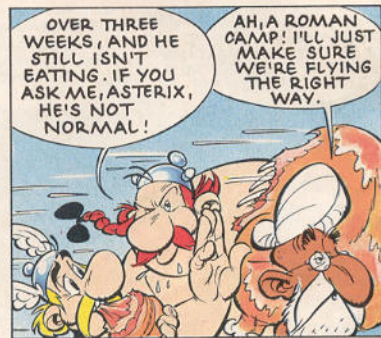
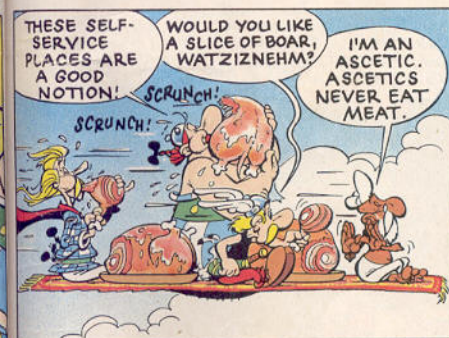
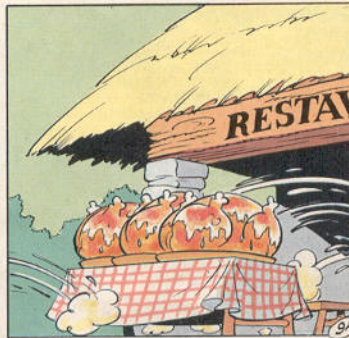
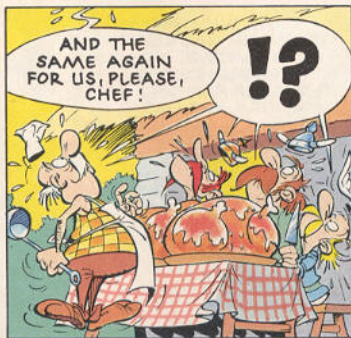
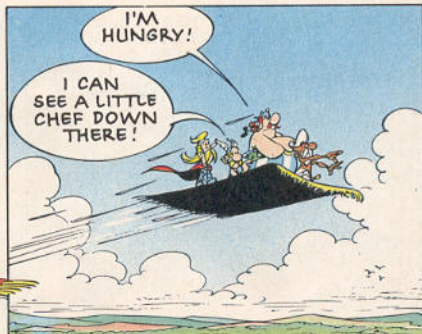
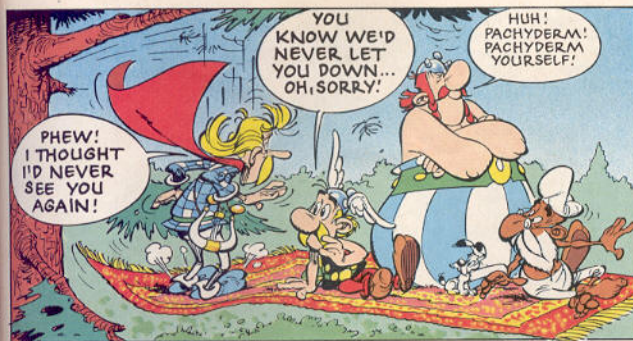
PACHYDERM I MAY BE, BUT I AM NOT FAT!

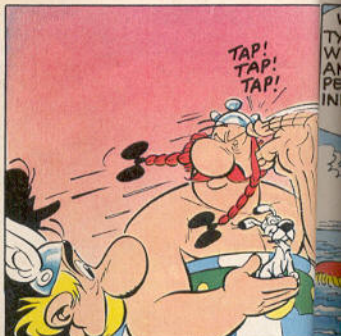
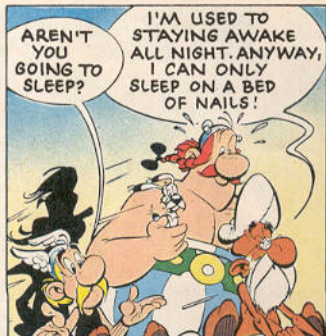
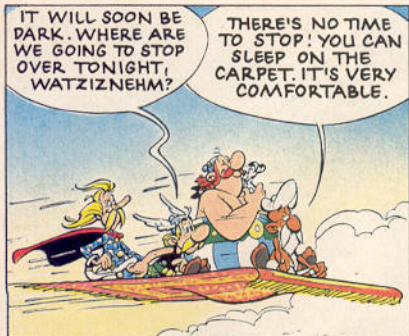
MAN OVERBOARD! WE'VE LOST CACOFONIX!



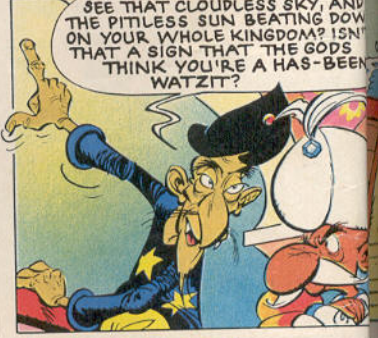
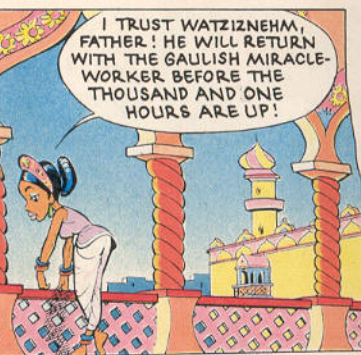
I CAN SEE HIM! DOWN THERE!

IF THE CARPET GETS UNBALANCED, HE SAID...





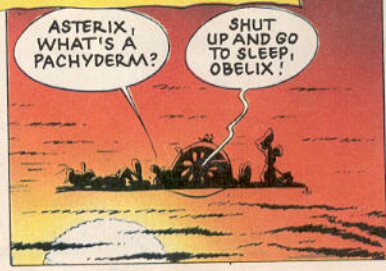
MEANWHILE, FAR AWAY...



THE GODS ARE NOT AS CRUEL AS YOU SAY. THEY WILL GUIDE THE SAVIOURS OF THE PEOPLE SAFELY TO US. THEY MUST BE ON THEIR WAY NOW!



JUST AT THE MOMENT, THE SAVIOURS OF THE PEOPLE ARE PREPARING FOR THEIR FIRST NIGHT IN THE AIR.



SOON AFTERWARDS...



WE ARE NOW ABOVE THE TYRRHENIAN SEA* SOON WE'LL BE FLYING OVER ITALY, AND THEN GREECE, MESOPOTAMIA, PERSIA, THE VALLEY OF THE INDUS, AND FINALLY WE SHALL REACH THE GANGES.

HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO FIND YOUR WAY SO EASILY?

*PART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

SIMPLE! I JUST DO AS THE CARRIER PIGEONS DO!

A LITTLE BOW-WOW WANTS HIS DIN-DINS, DIDDUMS THEN, DOGMATIX?

I SEE A SHIP! MAYBE THEY'LL HAVE DIN-DINS FOR A BIG CHUBBYCHOPS ON BOARD TOO!

YOU IN THE CROW'S NEST! SEE ANY SAILS AT SEA?

NOT A BLESSED SAIL, CAP'N...

... IT'S A VACANT SEE!

GOOD! SPLENDID!

HO, HO, HO! RIGHT, ME HEARTIES, BRING UP ALL THE LOOT FROM THIS SEASON'S PIRACY, AND WE'LL HAVE A NICE QUIET GLOAT!

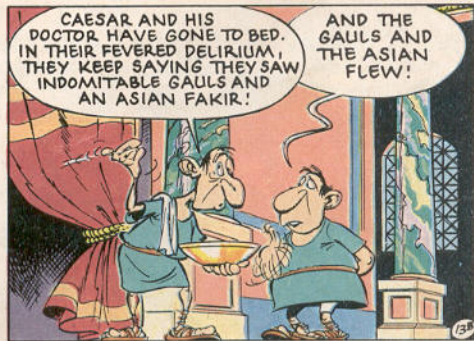
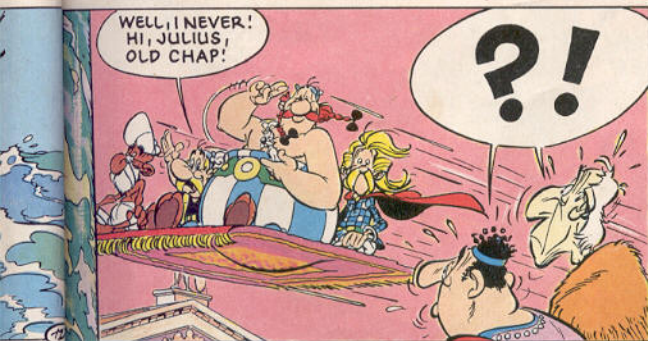
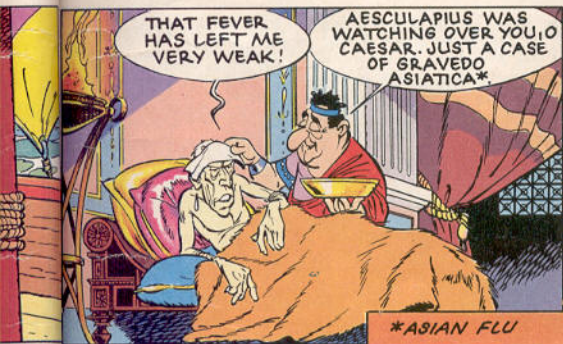
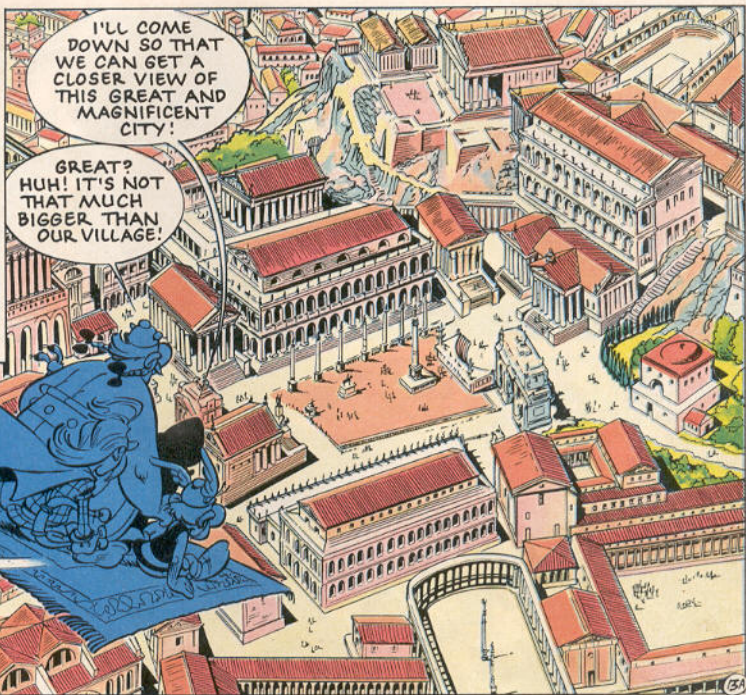
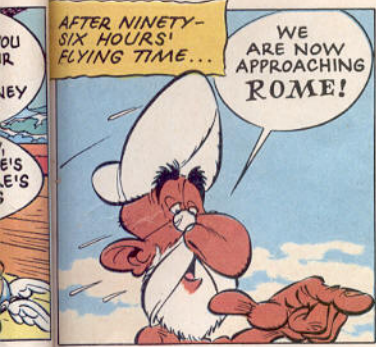
I... I... I SEE A SKY PILOT!

YOU SEE WHAT?

FLYING A CARPET! STRAIGHT AHEAD!

WHY, IF IT ISN'T OUR DEAR OLD FRIENDS!

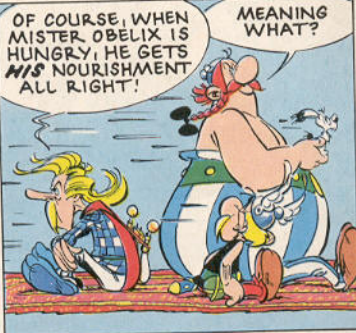






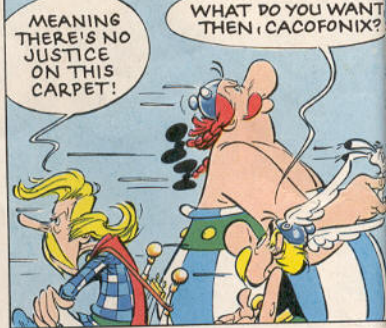
I'M HUNGRY!

WE'LL SOON BE FLYING OVER GREECE. WE'LL TOUCH DOWN THERE.



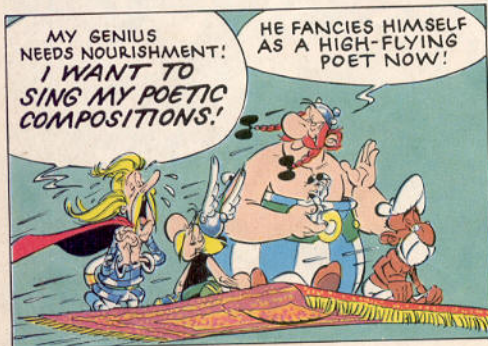
OF COURSE, WHEN MISTER OBELIX IS HUNGRY, HE GETS HIS NOURISHMENT ALL RIGHT!

MEANING WHAT?



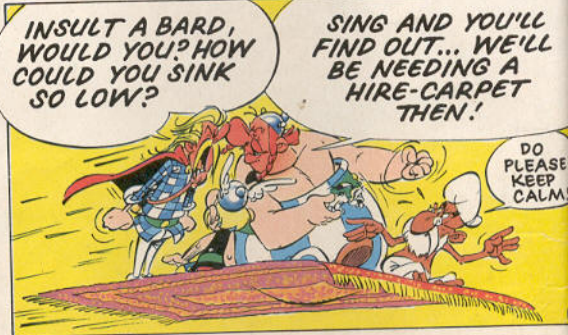
MEANING THERE'S NO JUSTICE ON THIS CARPET!

WHAT DO YOU WANT THEN, CACOFONIX?



MY GENIUS NEEDS NOURISHMENT! I WANT TO SING MY POETIC COMPOSITIONS!

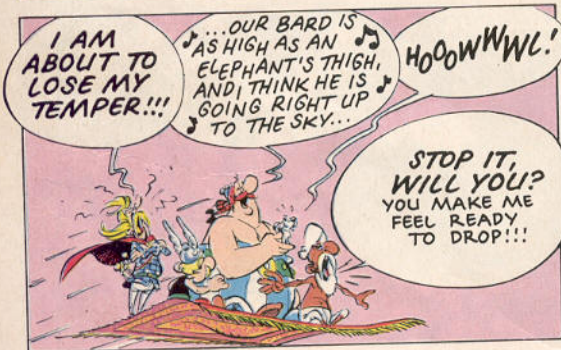
HE FANCIES HIMSELF AS A HIGH-FLYING POET NOW!



INSULT A BARD, WOULD YOU? HOW COULD YOU SINK SO LOW?

SING AND YOU'LL FIND OUT... WE'LL BE NEEDING A HIRE-CARPET THEN!

DO PLEASE KEEP CALM

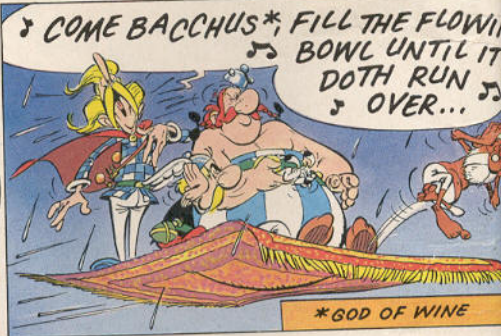


I AM ABOUT TO LOSE MY TEMPER!!!

...OUR BARD IS AS HIGH AS AN ELEPHANT'S THIGH, AND I THINK HE IS GOING RIGHT UP TO THE SKY...

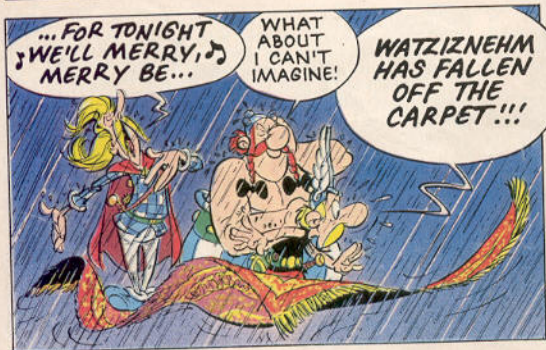
HOOWWWL!

STOP IT, WILL YOU? YOU MAKE ME FEEL READY TO DROP!!!



♪ COME BACCHUS*, FILL THE FLOWING BOWL UNTIL IT DOETH RUN OVER... ♪

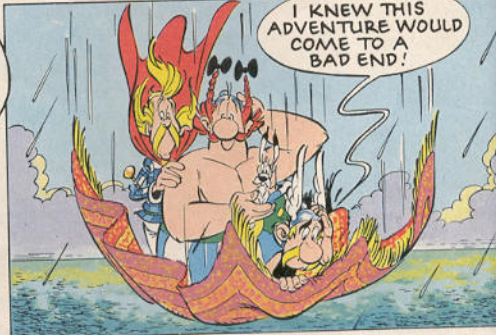
*GOD OF WINE



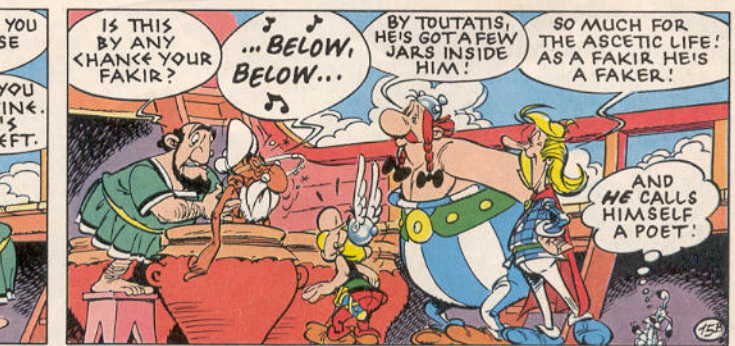
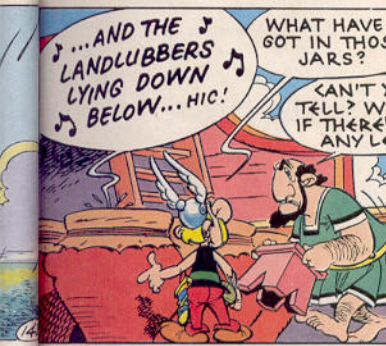
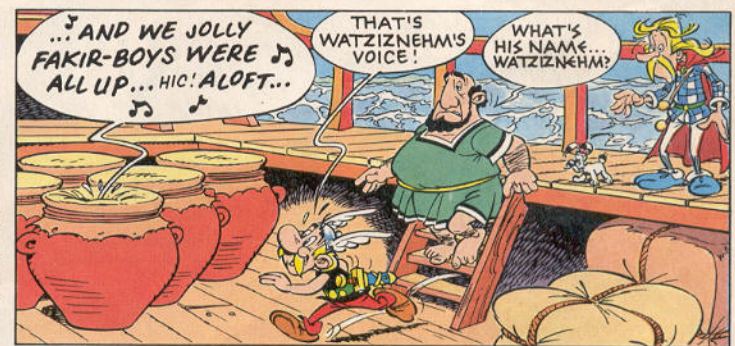
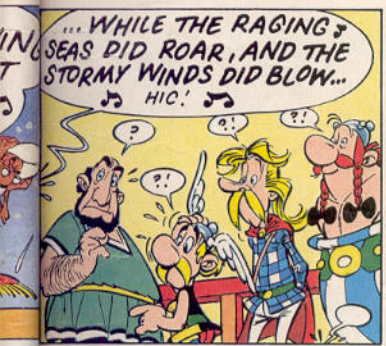
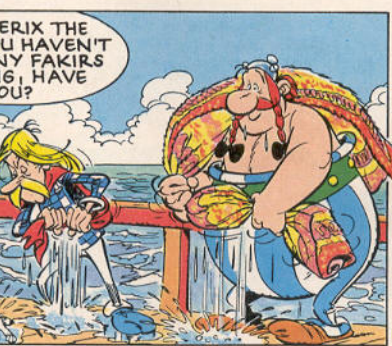
...FOR TONIGHT WE'LL MERRY, MERRY BE...

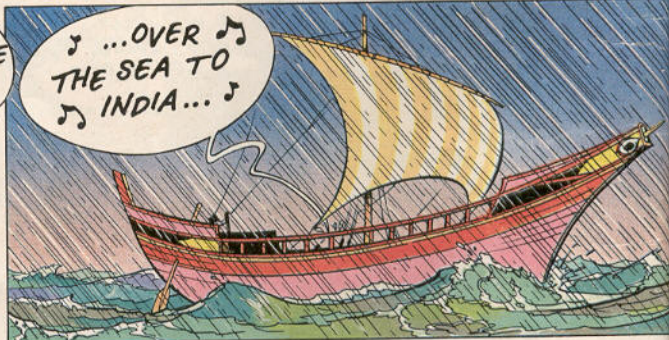
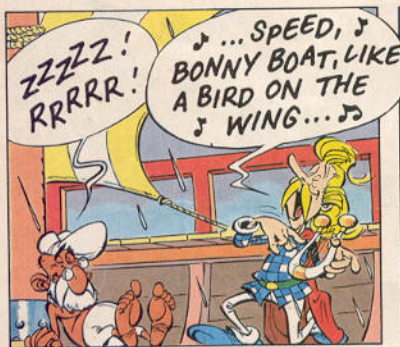
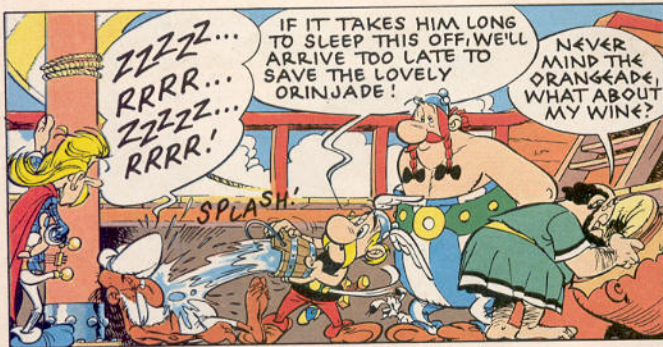
WHAT ABOUT I CAN'T IMAGINE!

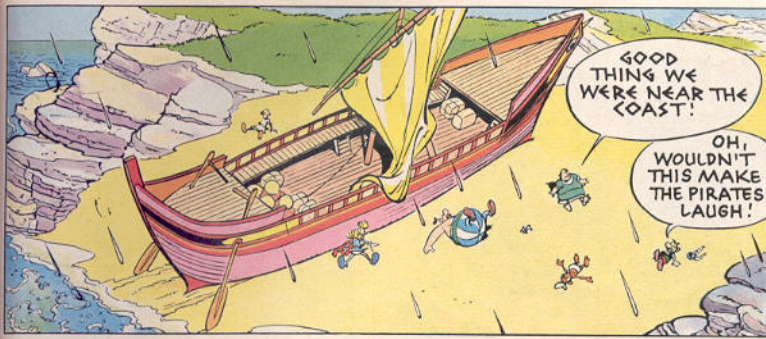
WATZIZNEHM HAS FALLEN OFF THE CARPET!!!



I KNEW THIS ADVENTURE WOULD COME TO A BAD END!





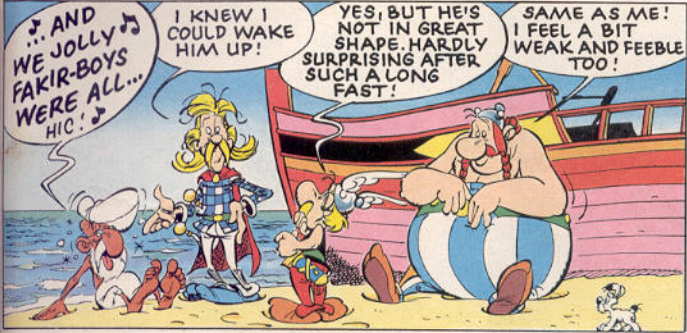


GOOD THING WE WERE NEAR THE COAST!

OH, WOULDN'T THIS MAKE THE PIRATES LAUGH!



TO THINK OF THE SONG AND DANCE ODYSSEUS MADE ABOUT THE SIRENS!

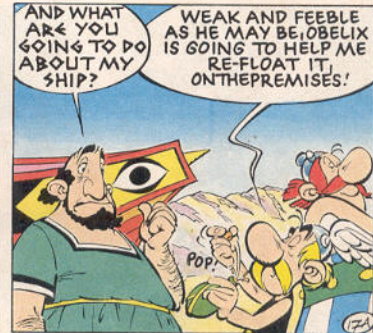


... AND WE JOLLY FAKIR-BOYS WERE ALL... HIC!

I KNEW I COULD WAKE HIM UP!

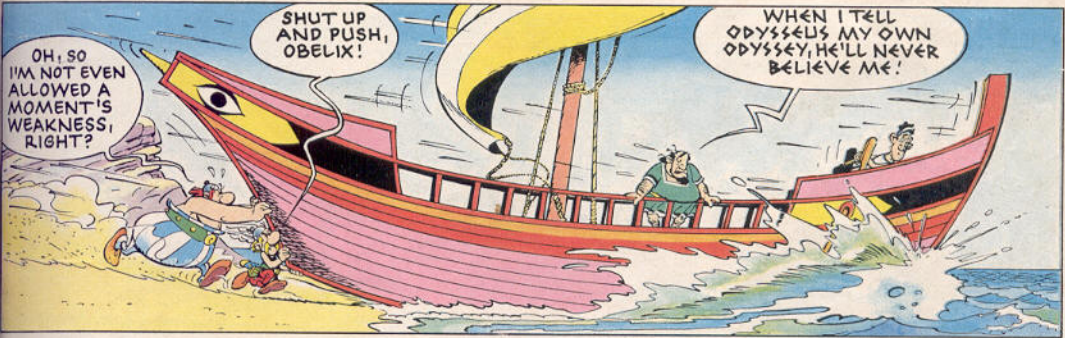
YES, BUT HE'S NOT IN GREAT SHAPE. HARDLY SURPRISING AFTER SUCH A LONG FAST!

SAME AS ME! I FEEL A BIT WEAK AND FEEBLE TOO!



AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT MY SHIP?

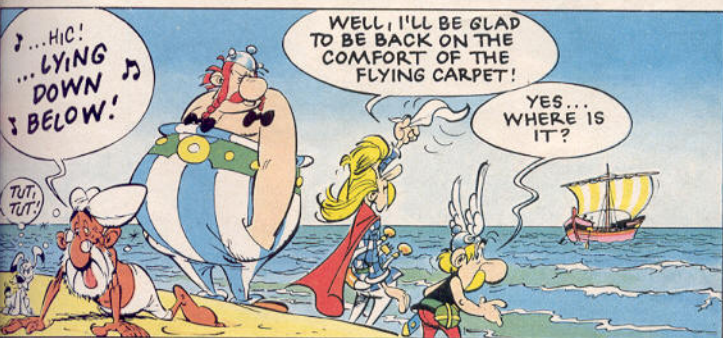
WEAK AND FEEBLE AS HE MAY BE, OBELIX IS GOING TO HELP ME RE-FLOAT IT, ON THE PREMISES!



OH, SO I'M NOT EVEN ALLOWED A MOMENT'S WEAKNESS, RIGHT?

SHUT UP AND PUSH, OBELIX!

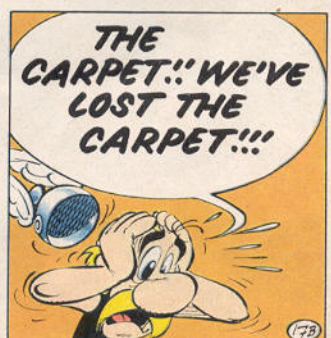
WHEN I TELL ODYSSEUS MY OWN ODYSSEY, HE'LL NEVER BELIEVE ME!



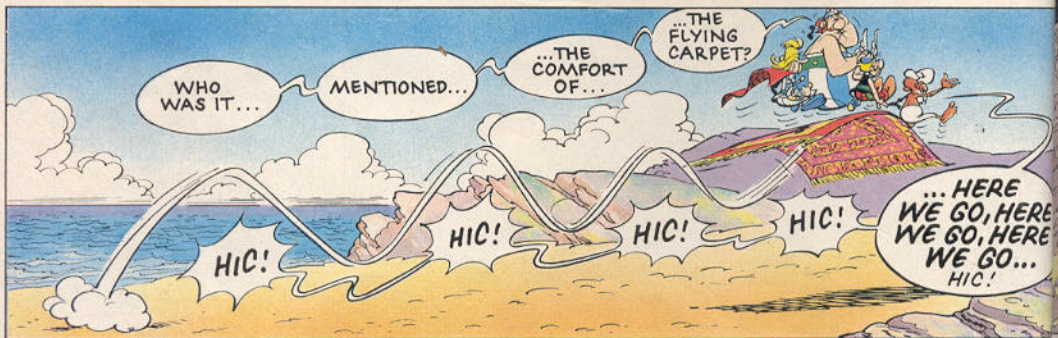
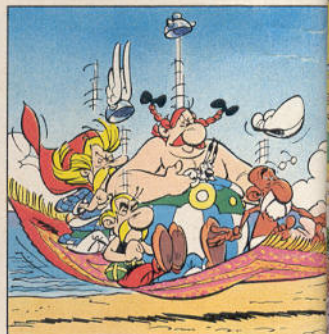
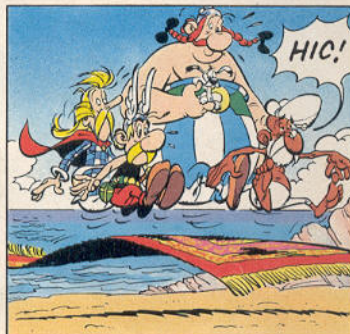
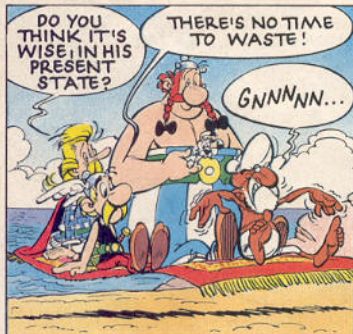
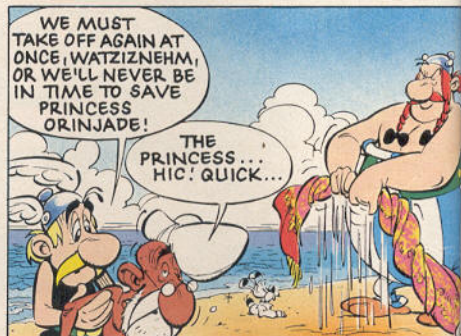
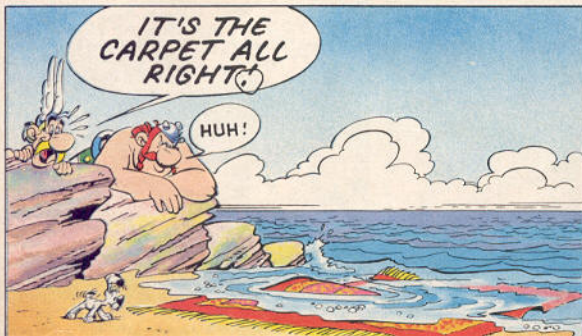
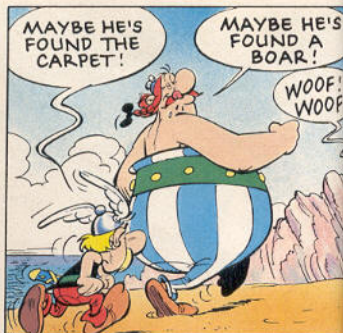
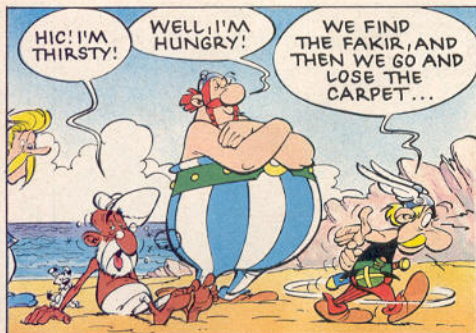
... HIC! ... LYING DOWN BELOW! TUT, TUT!

WELL, I'LL BE GLAD TO BE BACK ON THE COMFORT OF THE FLYING CARPET!

YES... WHERE IS IT?



THE CARPET!! WE'VE LOST THE CARPET!!!



MEANWHILE, VERY FAR AWAY...

LEMUHNADÉ,
MY FAITHFUL
LEMUHNADÉ,
DO YOU SEE
ANYONE
COMING?

THE ANSWER
IS A LEMON*.

*FRUITLESS

WELL, OWZAT, MY WICKED
HENCHMAN, THE HEIR OF THIS
KINGDOM WILL SOON BREATHE
HER LAST OF THE AIR OF THIS
KINGDOM! RATHER DRY, EH?
HERE'S TO THE SUCCESS
OF OUR PLANS!

YOU ALWAYS DID
HAVE A DRY WIT, O
DIVINE MASTER.
CHEERS! AND MAY
THE FORCES OF EVIL
MAKE THAT TALKATIVE
FOOL WATZINEHM
DRY UP FOR
EVER!

I'M A FOOL,
AND I'VE GOT
A TERRIBLE
THIRST!

WELL, I'M NO FOOL,
BUT I'VE GOT A
TERRIBLE HUNGER!

WHY BLAME
YOURSELF?
IT'S NOT
YOUR
FAULT!

I HAVE
COMMITTED THE
SIN OF GLUTTONY!
NET RESULT: A
SPLITTING HEAD-
ACHE AND A FRIGHT-
FUL WASTE OF
TIME!

WELL, WE'LL SOON BE
FLYING OVER ATHENS, AND
THEN WE LEAVE GREECE
BEHIND!

SURE ENOUGH, AFTER A
HUNDRED AND FIFTY HOURS'
FLYING TIME...

REMEMBER
OUR TRIP TO THE
OLYMPIC GAMES,
OBELIX?

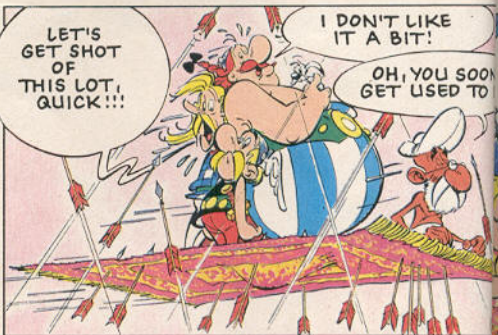
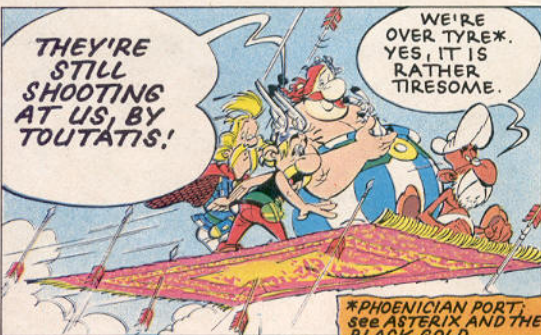
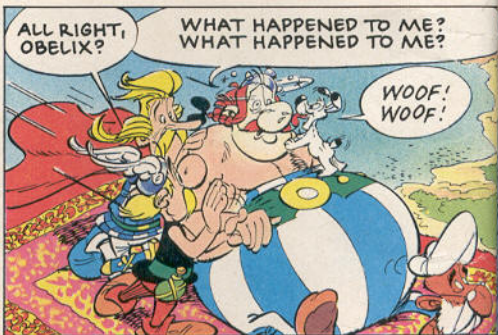
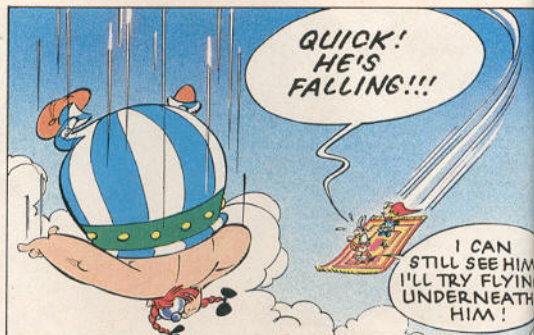
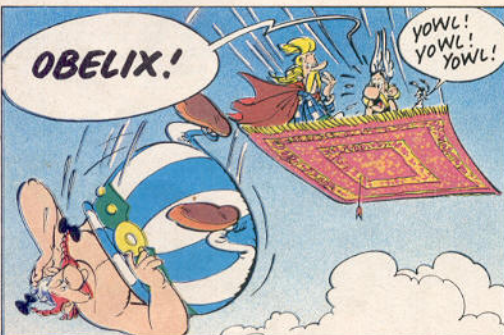
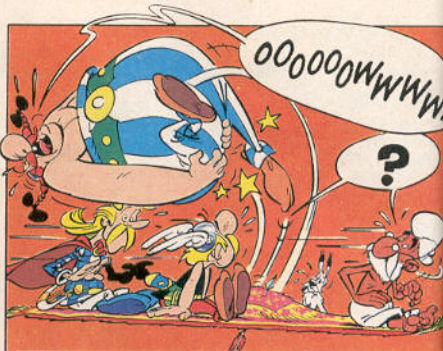
YES, SPECIALLY
THERMOSIS'S LITTLE
RESTAURANT AND HIS
STUFFED VINE LEAVES,
KEBABS, OLIVES, WATER
MELON AND RESINATED
WINE! * (SIGH)

*see ASTERIX AT THE
OLYMPIC GAMES.

THE HOURS
PASS
INEXORABLY
BY... THEREBY
HANGS MANY
A TALE.

WE SHALL
SOON BE LEAVING
THE SEA FOR THE
LAST TIME AND
FLYING OVER THE
LANDS OF THE
ORIENT!

GOOD! WE
CAN COME
DOWN AND HAVE
SOME DINNER
AT LAST!



*PHOENICIAN PORT, see ASTERIX AND THE BLACK GOLD

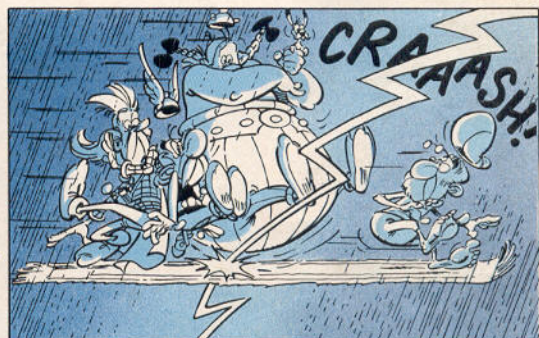
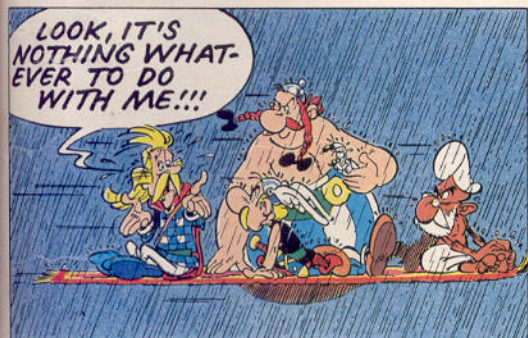
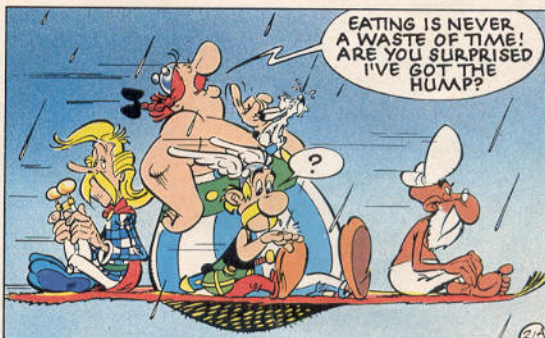
THE SKY OVER RAJAH WATZIT'S KINGDOM IS STILL RELENTLESSLY CLEAR, AND WE ARE NOW ONLY THREE HUNDRED HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR, THE TIME SET FOR THE SACRIFICE OF PRINCESS ORINJADE.

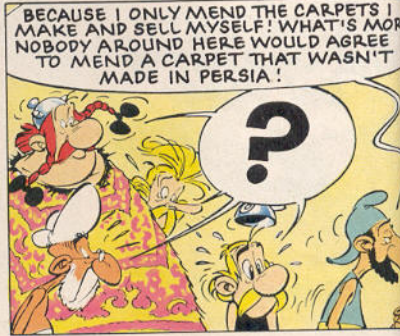
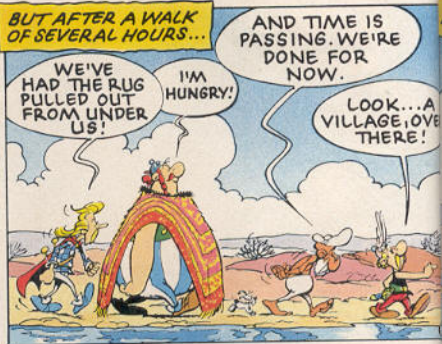
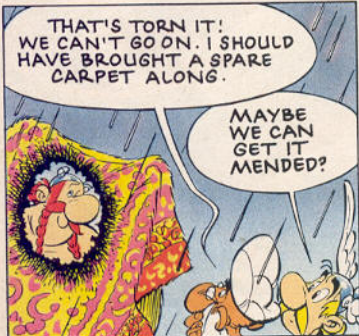
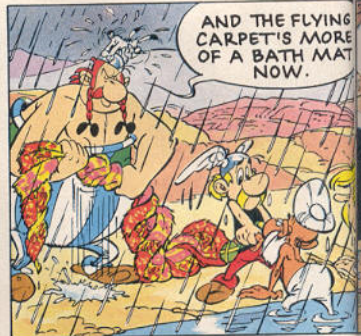
LEMUHNADÉ, LEMUHNADÉ, DO YOU SEE ANYONE COMING?

THE ANSWER'S STILL A LEMON...

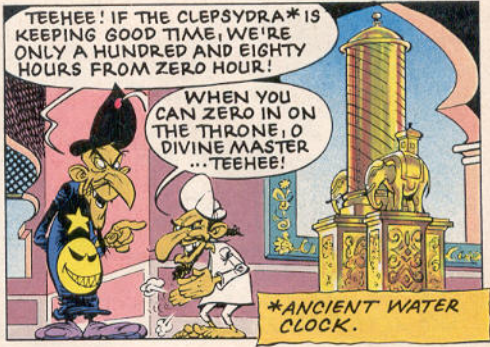
YOUR WEATHER FORECASTS HAVE BEEN ACCURATE SO FAR, LOWZAT! NOT A CLOUD ON THE HORIZON. BUT SUPPOSE WATZITNEHA BRINGS THAT GAUL BACK IN TIME TO MAKE IT RAIN?

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT KIND OF MIRACLE, O DIVINE MASTER. FLYING CARPETS ARE ONE THING, BUT RAIN-MAKING IS SHEER SCIENCE FICTION!

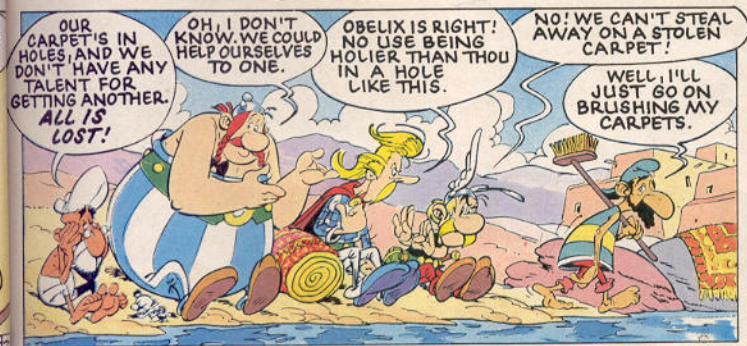
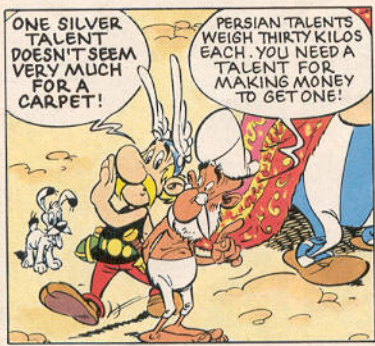
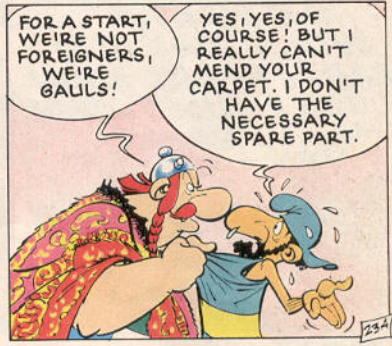




NG
RE
AT



MEANWHILE ...



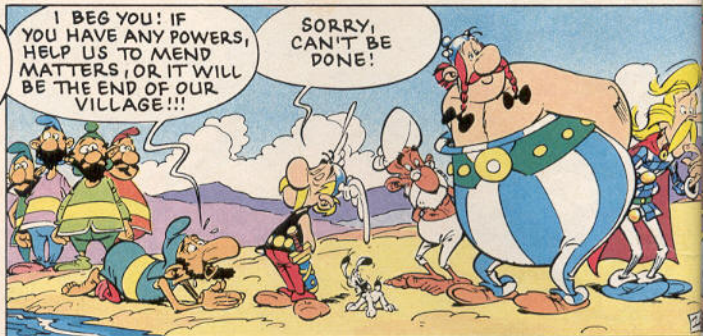


**THE PIRATES
WILL STEAL OUR
CARPETS AND BURN
OUR HOUSES DOWN
AGAIN!!!**



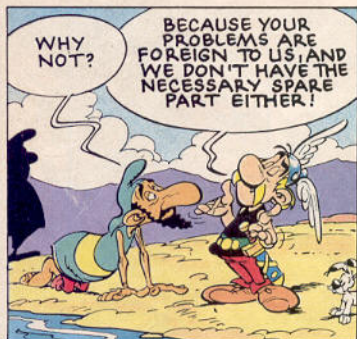
I BEG YOU! IF YOU HAVE ANY POWERS, HELP US TO MEND MATTERS, OR IT WILL BE THE END OF OUR VILLAGE!!!

SORRY, CAN'T BE DONE!



WHY NOT?

BECAUSE YOUR PROBLEMS ARE FOREIGN TO US, AND WE DON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY SPARE PART EITHER!



WHAT'S THAT?

A CARPET!



TAKE THIS ONE, BY AHURA MAZDA*

DONE, BY TOUTATIS



*GOD OF THE ANCIENT PERSIANS.

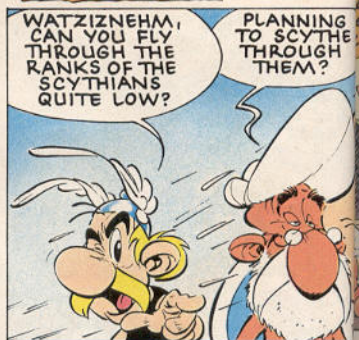
CACOFONIX, YOU WAIT HERE WITH DOGMATIX. THIS WON'T TAKE LONG!

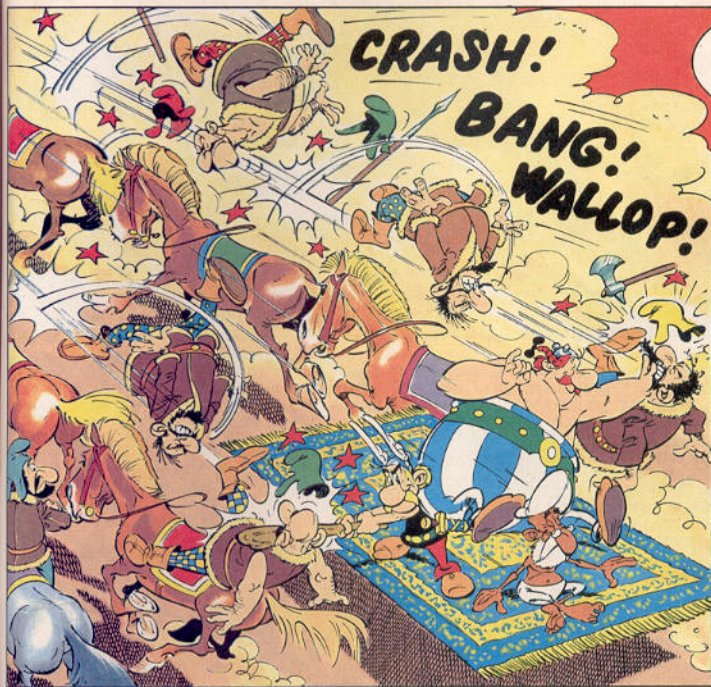
A BIT OF ACTION AT LAST!



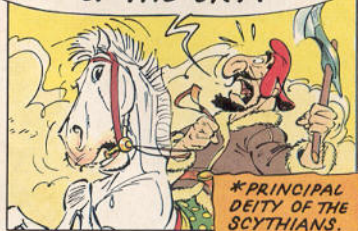
WATZIZNEHM, CAN YOU FLY THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE SCYTHIANS QUITE LOW?

PLANNING TO SCYTHE THROUGH THEM?





BY THE GREAT GODDESS*! WE MUST FLY FROM THESE DEMONS OF THE SKY!



*PRINCIPAL DEITY OF THE SCYTHIANS.



OVER ALREADY? I PREFER ROMANS. THEY LAST LONGER!



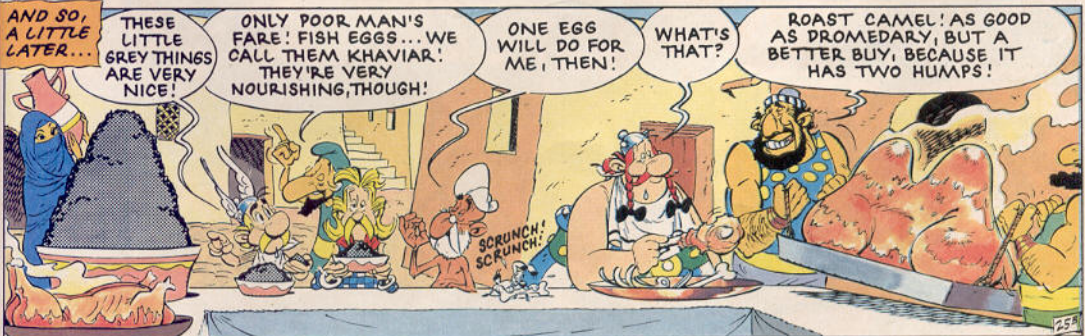
LONG LIVE OUR RESCUERS!

AND THEY DID IT WITH MY CARPET, TOO!



WE OWE YOU A LOT! WHAT CAN WE GIVE YOU, BESIDES THE CARPET?

SOMETHING TO EAT!



AND SO, A LITTLE LATER...

THESE LITTLE GREY THINGS ARE VERY NICE!

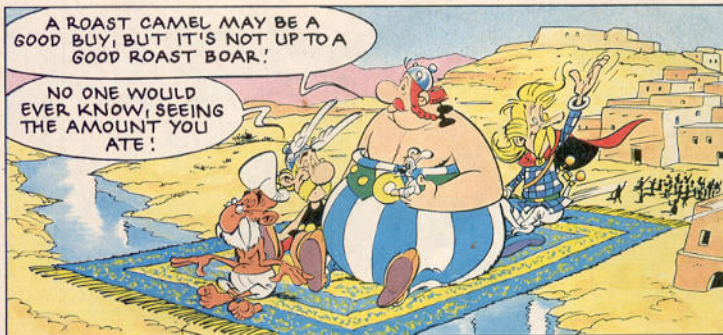
ONLY POOR MAN'S FARE! FISH EGGS... WE CALL THEM KHAVIAR! THEY'RE VERY NOURISHING, THOUGH!

ONE EGG WILL DO FOR ME, THEN!

WHAT'S THAT?

ROAST CAMEL! AS GOOD AS DROMEDARY, BUT A BETTER BUY, BECAUSE IT HAS TWO HUMPS!

SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!



A ROAST CAMEL MAY BE A GOOD BUY, BUT IT'S NOT UP TO A GOOD ROAST BOAR!

NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW, SEEING THE AMOUNT YOU ATE!



RIGHT... NOW WE'VE FILLED UP AGAIN, WE MUST MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME AND FLY STRAIGHT TO RAJAH WATZIT'S KINGDOM!



I WILL NOT SEE YOU DIE, DEAR ORINJADE! I'D RATHER ABDICATE IN FAVOUR OF HOODUNNIT.

DON'T WORRY, FATHER! WATZITNEHM ISN'T JUST ANYONE!



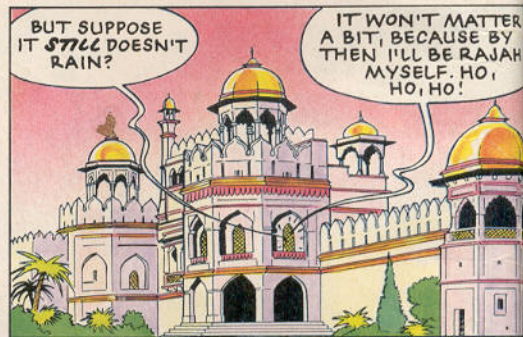
NO KNIGHTS IN SHINING ARMOUR RIDING TO WATZIT'S AID AS THE THOUSAND AND ONE HOURS TICK BY, OWZAT!

NO, IT WOULD TAKE A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS TO SAVE HIM AND THE PRINCESS NOW!



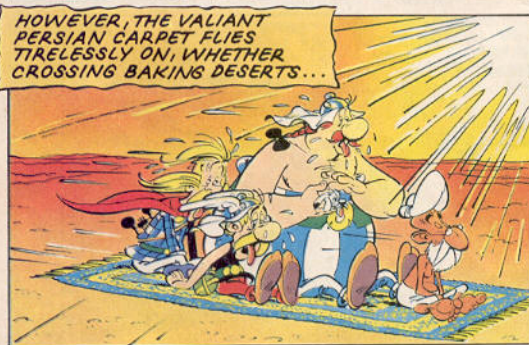
O HOODUNNIT, DIVINE MASTER, SUPPOSE THERE'S STILL NO RAIN WHEN YOU'VE EXECUTED THE PRINCESS?

INDRA WILL CALL FOR MORE ROYAL BLOOD... AND IT'LL BE OFF WITH THE RAJAH'S HEAD!

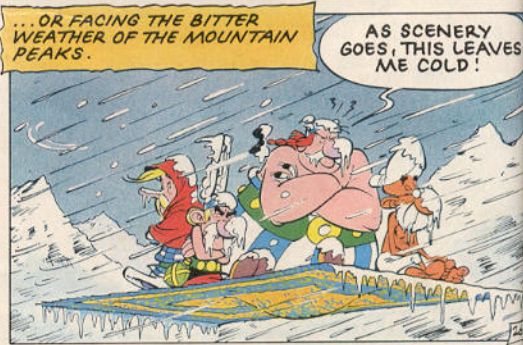


BUT SUPPOSE IT *STILL* DOESN'T RAIN?

IT WON'T MATTER A BIT, BECAUSE BY THEN I'LL BE RAJAH MYSELF. HO, HO, HO!



HOWEVER, THE VALIANT PERSIAN CARPET FLIES TIRELESSLY ON, WHETHER CROSSING BAKING DESERTS...



...OR FACING THE BITTER WEATHER OF THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS.

AS SCENERY GOES, THIS LEAVES ME COLD!

AT LAST, 30 HOURS, 30 MINUTES
AND 30 SECONDS FROM ZERO HOUR...



**HERE WE ARE! THE
RIVER GANGES!**



LOOKS A
BIT GUNGY, AS
RIVERS GO!

WHAT ARE ALL
THOSE PEOPLE
DOING, SQUELCHING
ABOUT IN THE
MUD?

THE GANGES IS A SACRED
RIVER. EVEN IN THIS
DROUGHT, THE PEOPLE STILL
COME HERE TO WASH, THUS
PURIFYING THEIR SOULS
AND BODIES. SEE?



CLEAR AS MUD!
THESE INDIANS ARE
CRAZY!

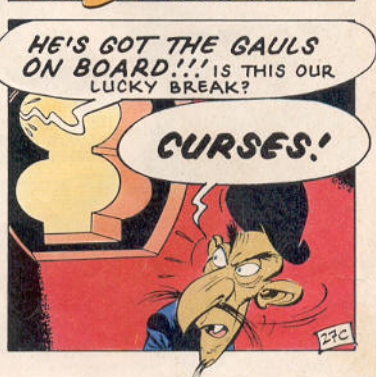
TAP!
TAP!
TAP!



AND HERE
IS RAJAH
WATZIT'S
PALACE!

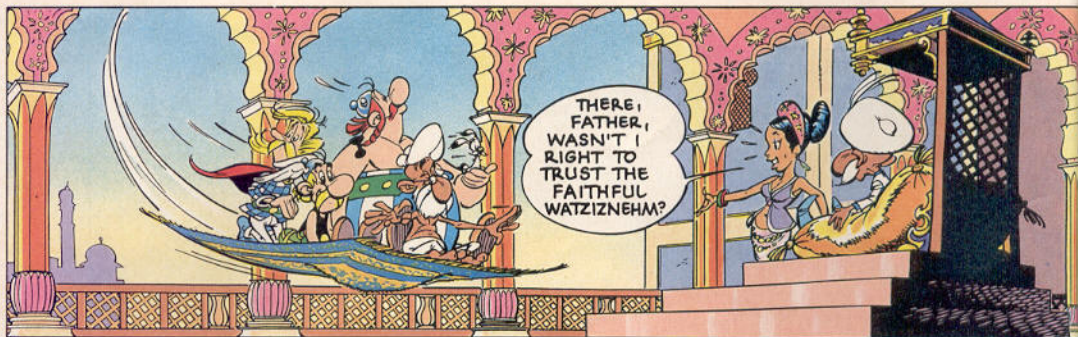


I SEE
WATZIZNEHM'S
CARPET COMING IN
... HE'S ABOUT TO
BRAKE...

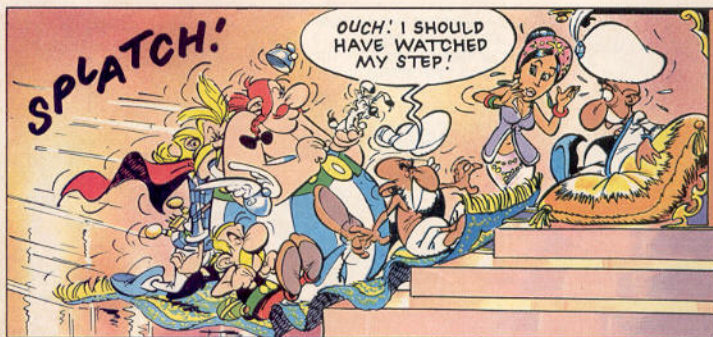


HE'S GOT THE GAULS
ON BOARD!!! IS THIS OUR
LUCKY BREAK?

CURSES!



THERE, FATHER, WASN'T I RIGHT TO TRUST THE FAITHFUL WATZIZNEHM?



SPLATCH!

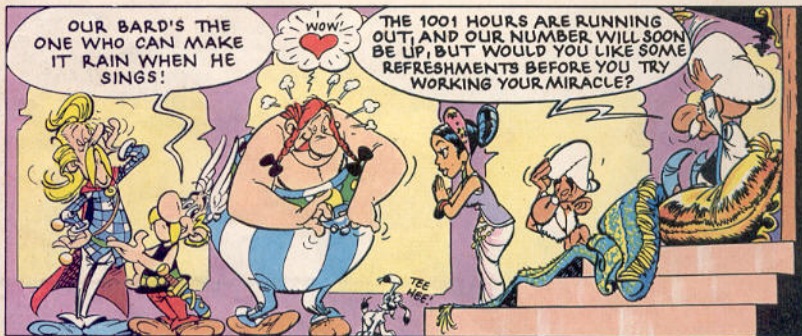
OUCH! I SHOULD HAVE WATCHED MY STEP!



AS PROMISED, GREAT RAJAH, I BRING YOU THE GAULS WHO CAN MAKE IT RAIN!

MAY THE THIRTY MILLION VEDIC GODS CARRY THEM TO NIRVANA* FOR THE MIRACLE THEY ARE ABOUT TO WORK!

*INDIAN PARADISE

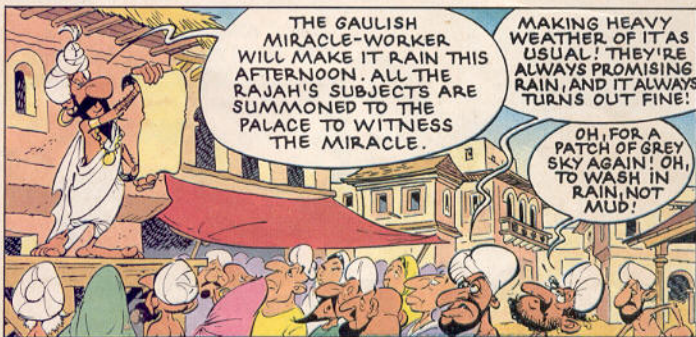


OUR BARD'S THE ONE WHO CAN MAKE IT RAIN WHEN HE SINGS!

WOW! THE 1001 HOURS ARE RUNNING OUT, AND OUR NUMBER WILL SOON BE UP, BUT WOULD YOU LIKE SOME REFRESHMENTS BEFORE YOU TRY WORKING YOUR MIRACLE?



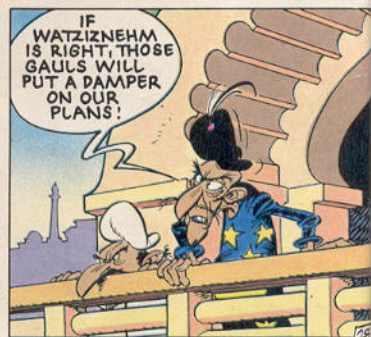
A MIRACULOUSLY REFRESHING IDEA!



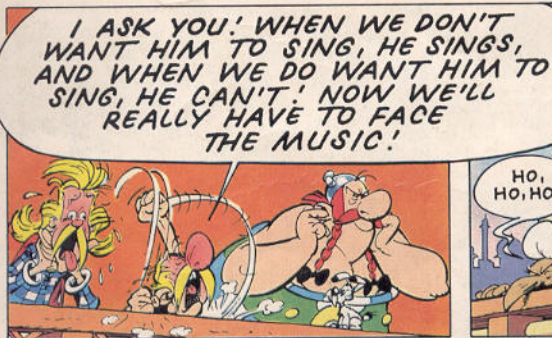
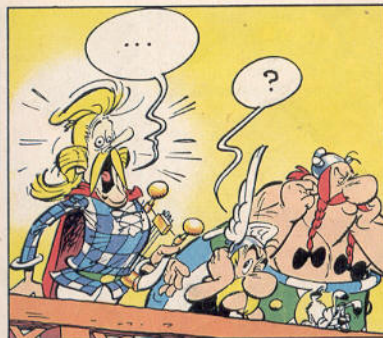
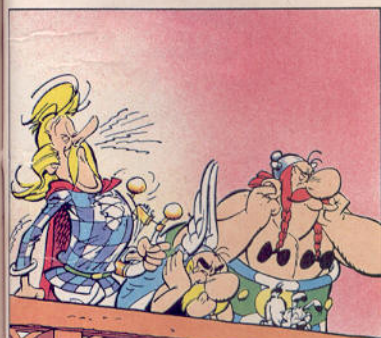
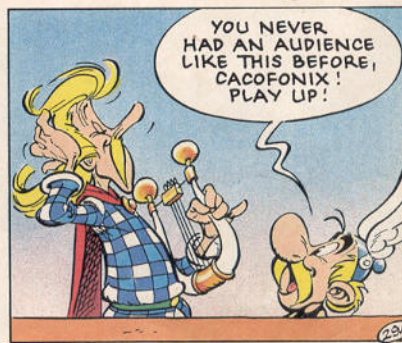
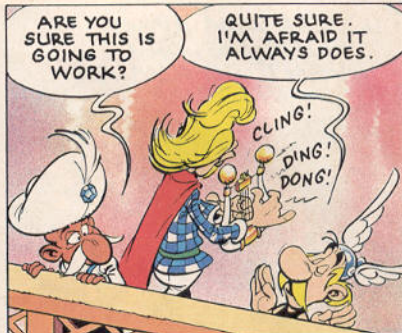
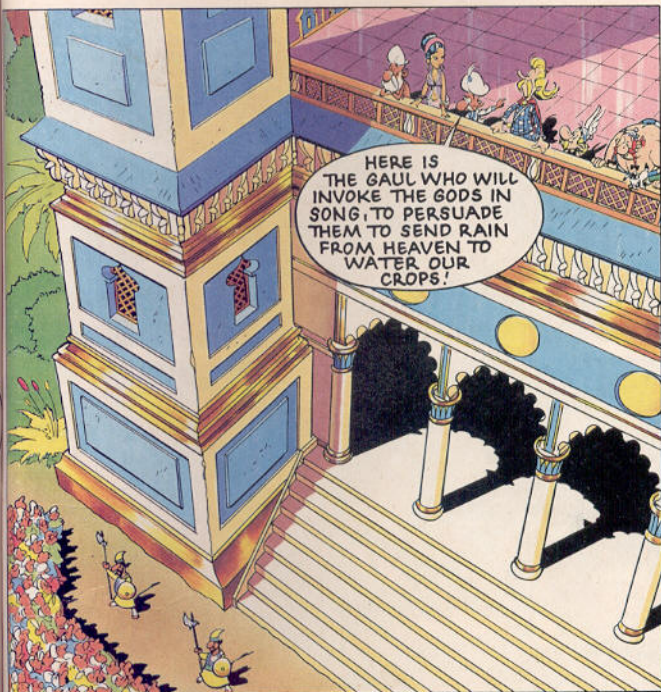
THE GAULISH MIRACLE-WORKER WILL MAKE IT RAIN THIS AFTERNOON. ALL THE RAJAH'S SUBJECTS ARE SUMMONED TO THE PALACE TO WITNESS THE MIRACLE.

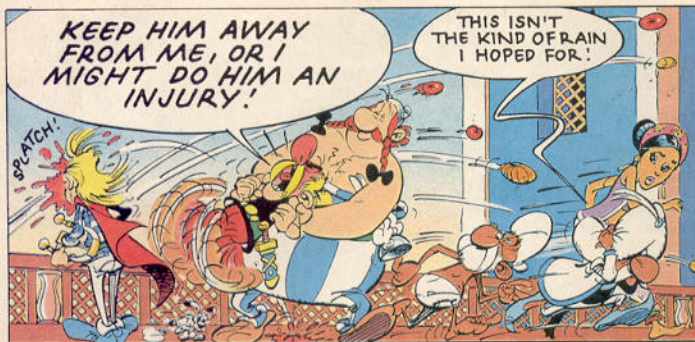
MAKING HEAVY WEATHER OF IT AS USUAL! THEY'RE ALWAYS PROMISING RAIN, AND IT ALWAYS TURNS OUT FINE!

OH, FOR A PATCH OF GREY SKY AGAIN! OH, TO WASH IN RAIN, NOT MUD!



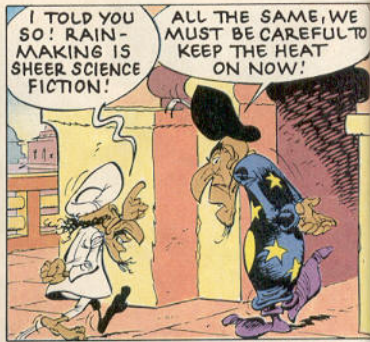
IF WATZIZNEHM IS RIGHT, THOSE GAULS WILL PUT A DAMPER ON OUR PLANS!





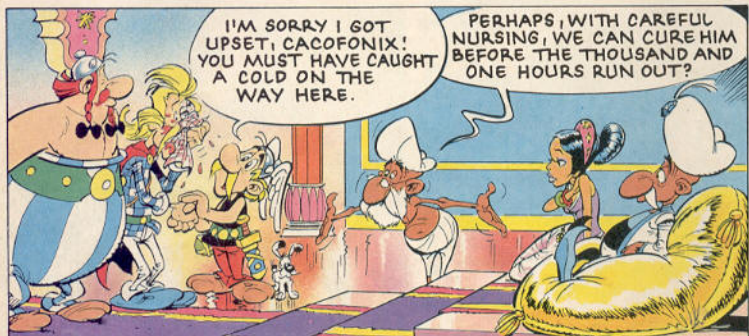
KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME, OR I MIGHT DO HIM AN INJURY!

THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF RAIN I HOPED FOR!



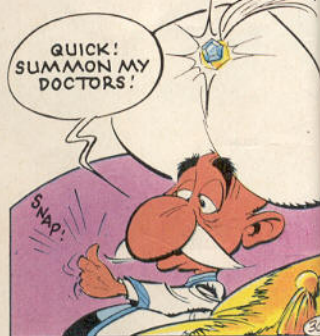
I TOLD YOU SO! RAIN-MAAKING IS SHEER SCIENCE FICTION!

ALL THE SAME, WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO KEEP THE HEAT ON NOW!



I'M SORRY I GOT UPSET, CACOFONIX! YOU MUST HAVE CAUGHT A COLD ON THE WAY HERE.

PERHAPS, WITH CAREFUL NURSING, WE CAN CURE HIM BEFORE THE THOUSAND AND ONE HOURS RUN OUT?



QUICK! SUMMON MY DOCTORS!



A LITTLE LATER...

A PURELY PSYCHOSOMATIC CASE, ARISING FROM THE CONFLICT OF HIS EGO WITH HIS INTROVERT INSTINCTS, WHICH THIS FORM A SYNDROME TO BE DESCRIBED AS "PARANOIA VULGARIS", WHICH I WILL DEMONSTRATE AD NAUSEAM!

CONTRARIA CONTRARIIS CURANTUR!

QUOT CAPITA, TOT SENSUS!

HEY, CHAPS, HAVE YOU SEEN THIS? NOTHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT, EH?

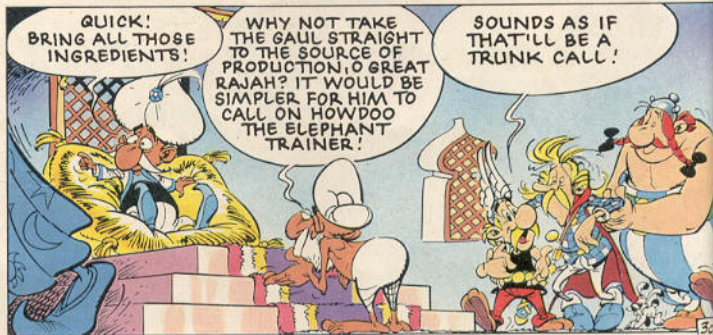
I SEE ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE HIM TALK: TAKE HIS TONGUE OUT!



JABBERJABBERJABBER...



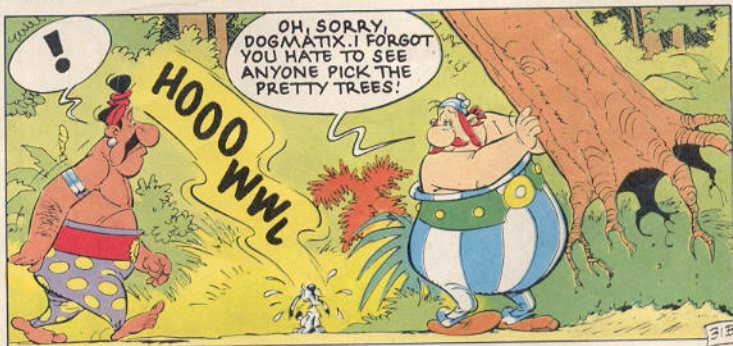
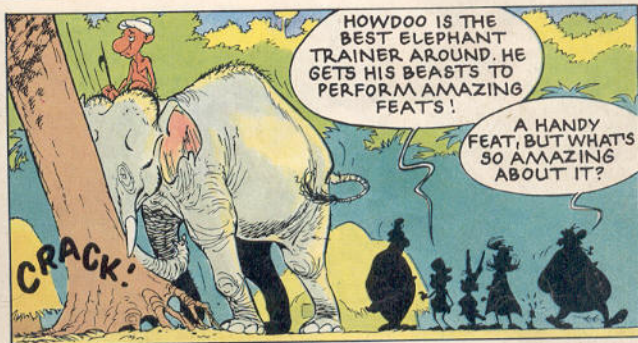
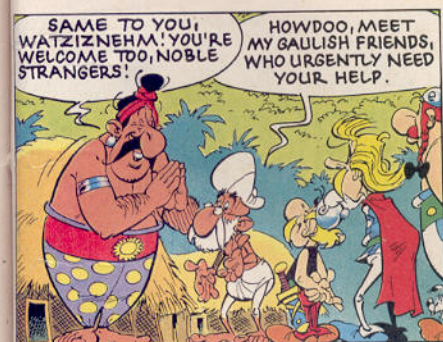
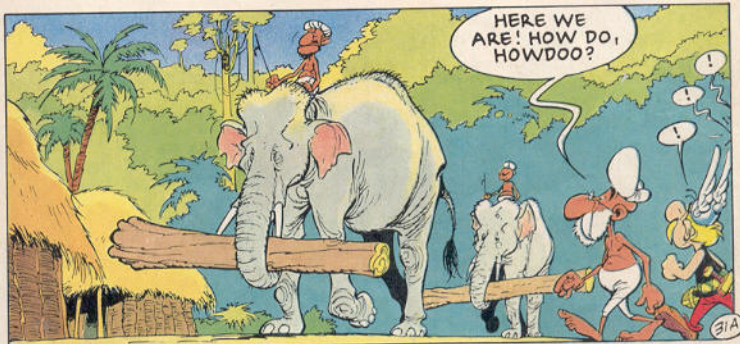
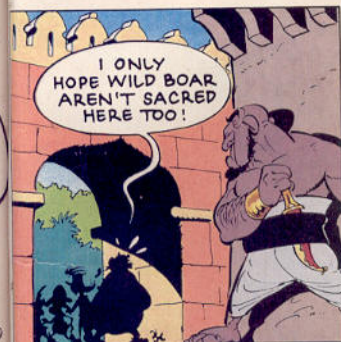
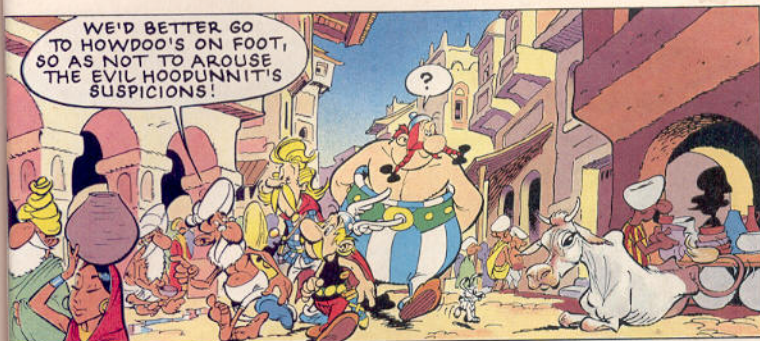
WE HAVE DIAGNOSED THE TROUBLE, O GREAT RAJAH. THE PATIENT MUST SOAK ALL NIGHT IN A BATH OF MILK FROM A MOTHER ELEPHANT, MIXED WITH THE FRESH DUNG OF AN ELEPHANT CALF AND THE GROUND HAIR OF AN OLD BULL ELEPHANT. ITA EST!

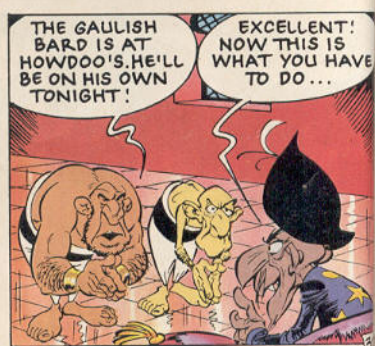
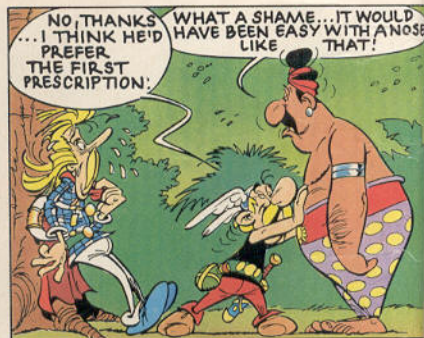
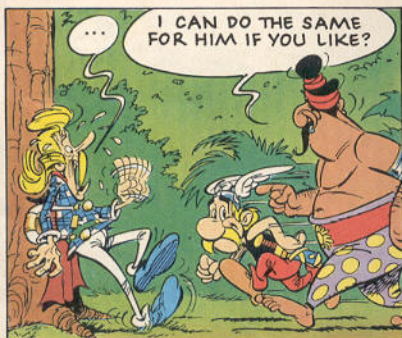
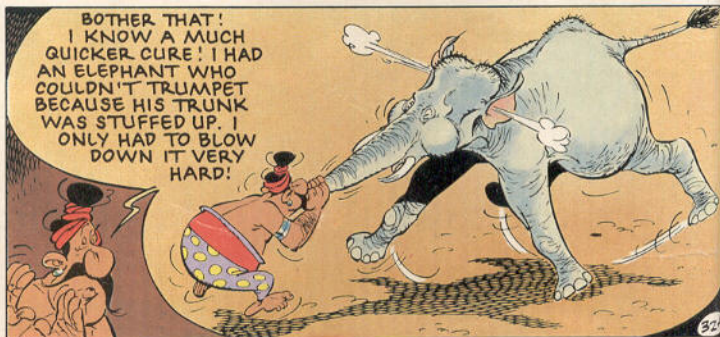
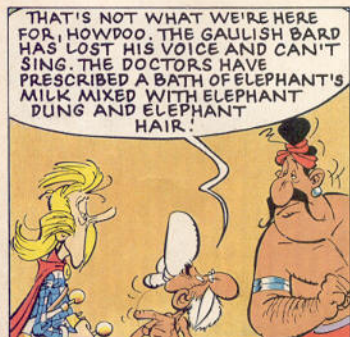
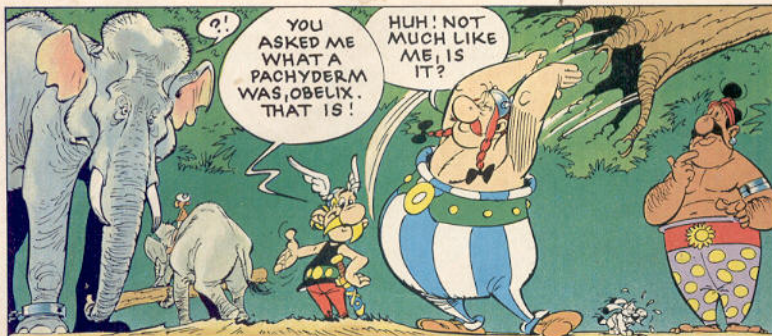


QUICK! BRING ALL THOSE INGREDIENTS!

WHY NOT TAKE THE GAUL STRAIGHT TO THE SOURCE OF PRODUCTION, O GREAT RAJAH? IT WOULD BE SIMPLER FOR HIM TO CALL ON HOWDPOO THE ELEPHANT TRAINER!

SOUNDS AS IF THAT'LL BE A TRUNK CALL!





WHEN NIGHT HAS FALLEN, EIGHTEEN HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR...

WHAT A PONG! IT MAKES ME GAG!

WELL, WE NEEDN'T WASTE TIME GAGGING HIM, SINCE HE CAN'T SPEAK.



I CAN STAND MOST THINGS... THE NIGHT, THE JUNGLE, THE JUNGLE BY NIGHT, BUT THIS STINK IS TOO MUCH FOR ME!

THE SOONER WE GET THERE, THE BETTER FOR US!



BY NOW OUR MEN WILL BE TAKING THE GAUL TO THE SACRED SANCTUARY OF THE ELEPHANTS' GRAVEYARD, IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE!

TEEHEEHEE! WHEN HE'S FOUND, THE FURIOUS ELEPHANTS WILL HAVE TRAMPLED HIM TO THE THICKNESS OF A DRACHMA!

NEXT MORNINGS, WITH TEN HOURS TO GO TO ZERO HOUR...

TIME TO GO AND GET CACOFONIX! IT'LL BE QUICKER BY CARPET!

WHAT ABOUT MY BREAKFAST?

THERE'S A TIME AND A PLACE FOR EVERY THING!

* GREEK COIN USED IN INDIA.



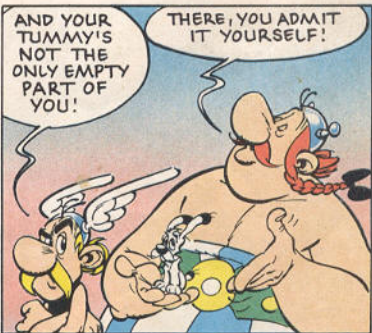
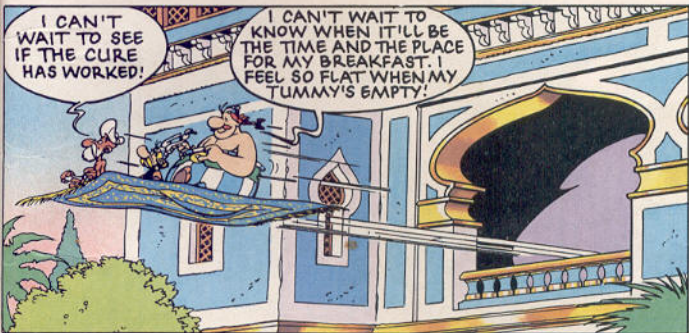
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I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IF THE CURE HAS WORKED!

I CAN'T WAIT TO KNOW WHEN IT'LL BE THE TIME AND THE PLACE FOR MY BREAKFAST. I FEEL SO FLAT WHEN MY TUMMY'S EMPTY!

AND YOUR TUMMY'S NOT THE ONLY EMPTY PART OF YOU!

THERE, YOU ADMIT IT YOURSELF!

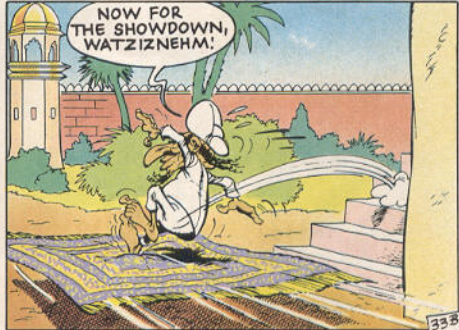


THEY'RE OFF TO FETCH THE BARD! TRY TO DELAY THEM, OWZAT!

THAT'S EASY... MY CARPET'S PARKED QUITE CLOSE!



NOW FOR THE SHOWDOWN, WATZISNEHM!



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YOU SHALL NOT PASS, WATZIZNEHM!!

BY VAYU*!!! OWZAT*!!!

!!

NOT OUT, I'M AFRAID.

SCREEECH!

***GREAT VEDIC DEITY OF INDIA.**



AGNI* CONSUME YOU IN THE FIRE OF HELL!!!

KALA TURN YOU TO STONE TILL THE END OF TIME!!!**

TOUTATIS HELP US! THIS CARPET'S TOO HIGH FOR US TO JUMP OFF!

***GOD OF FIRE. **GOD OF TIME.**

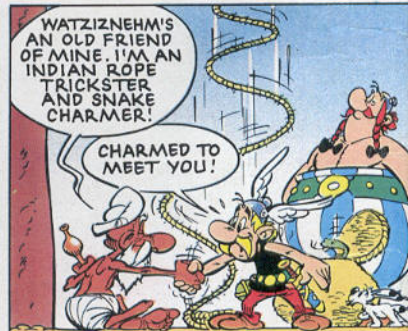


GETAFIX WAS RIGHT... THESE PEOPLE DO HAVE STRANGE POWERS!

DO THEY? IT'S ONLY A ROPE HANGING UP!



THANKS FOR THROWING US A ROPE!



WATZIZNEHM'S AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE. I'M AN INDIAN ROPE TRICKSTER AND SNAKE CHARMER!

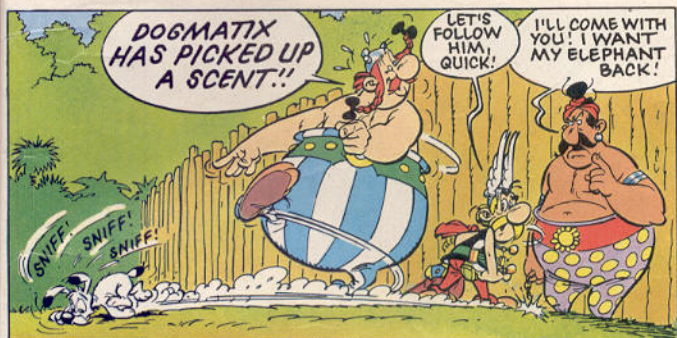
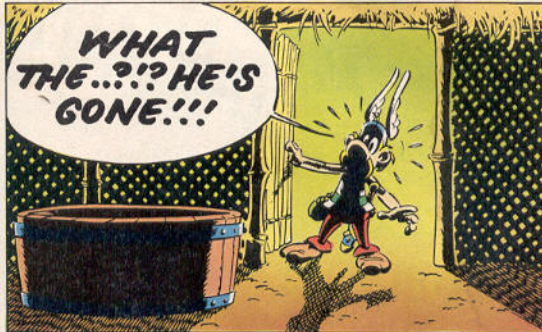
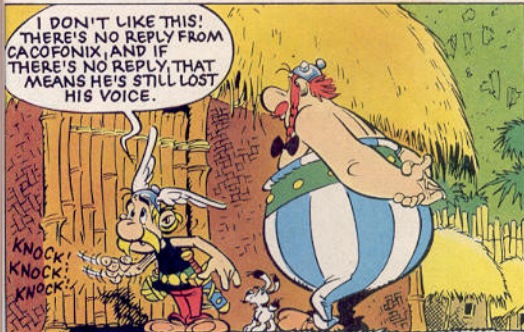
CHARMED TO MEET YOU!

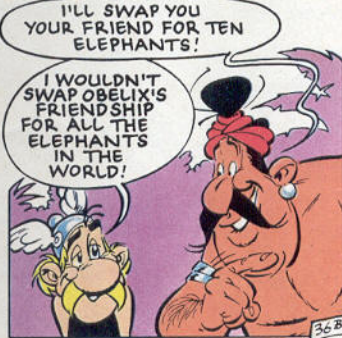
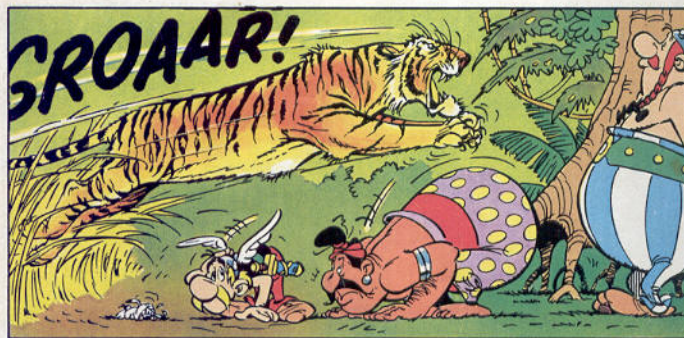
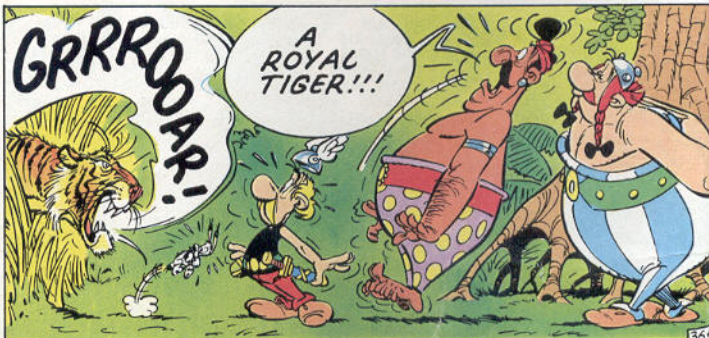
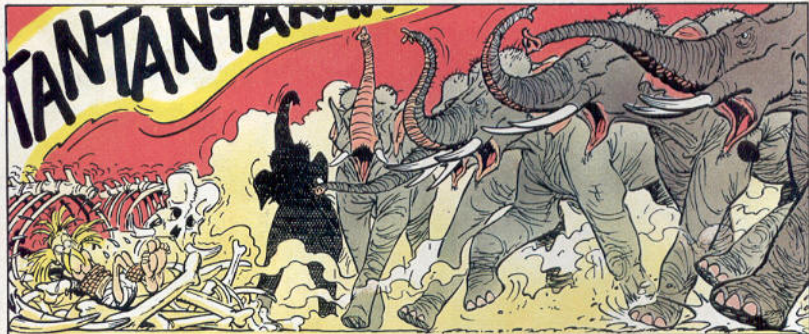
SURYA* CONSUME YOUR BONES!!!

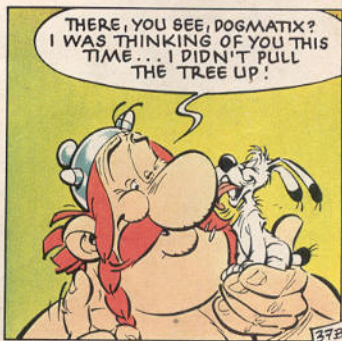
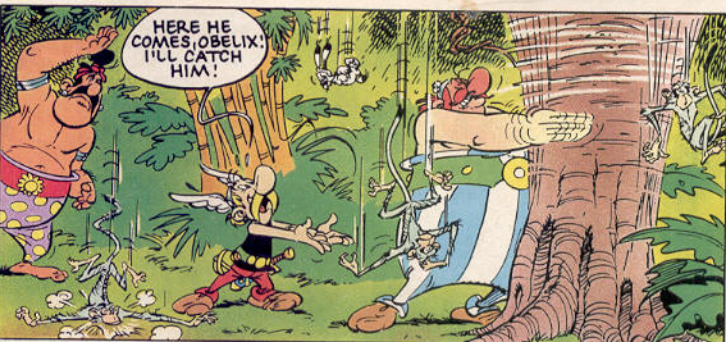
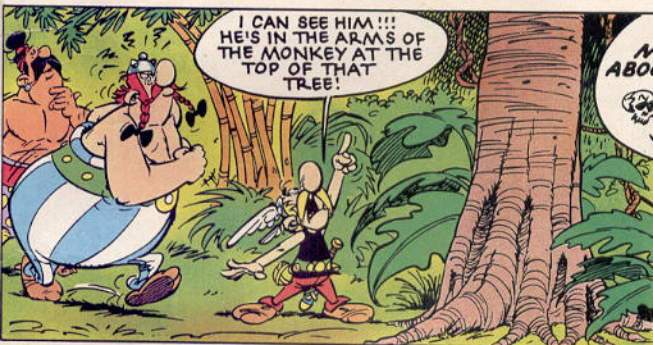
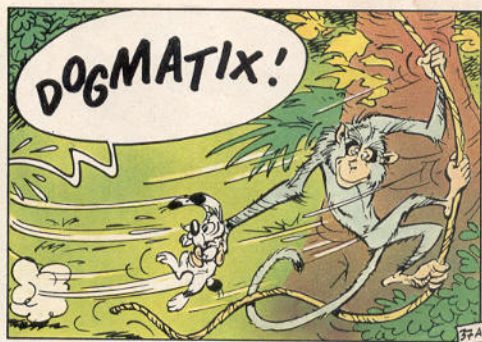
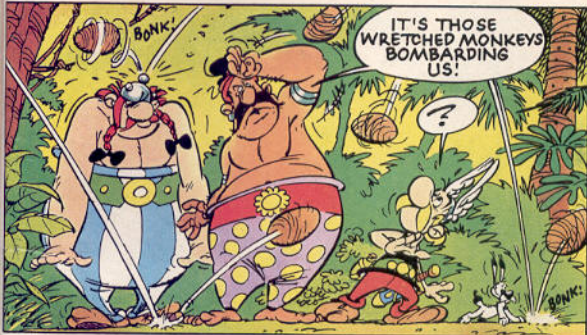
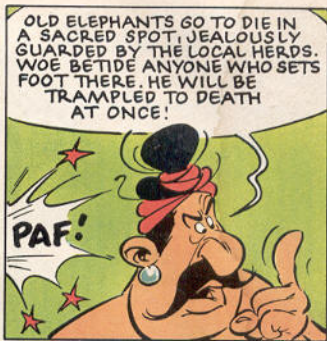
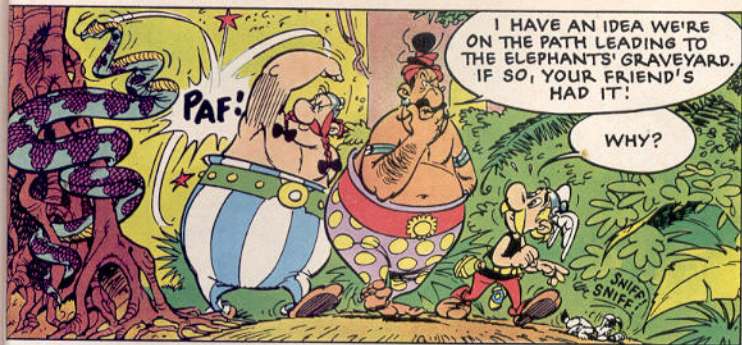
VAKH TURN YOUR TONGUE TO STONE!**

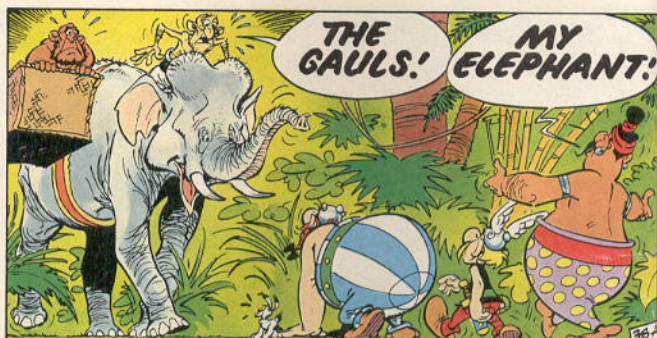
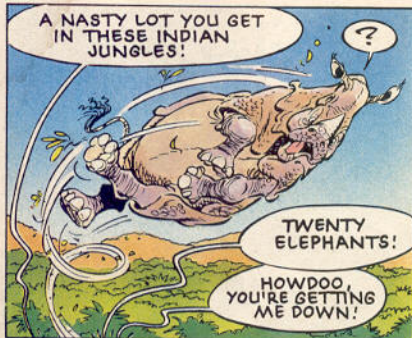
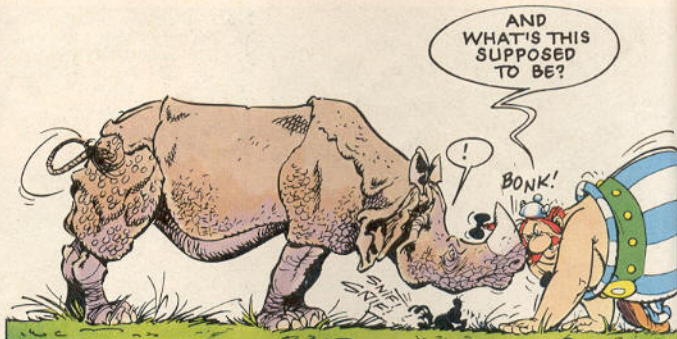
IF THEY'RE ABOUT TO INVOKE ALL THEIR THIRTY-THREE MILLION GODS, WE SHAN'T BE SEEING WATZIZNEHM AGAIN IN A HURRY!

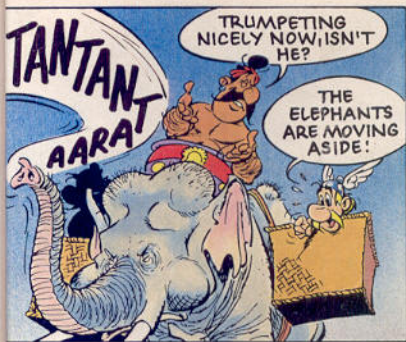
***GOD OF THE SUN. **GOD OF SPEECH.**











TRUMPETING NICELY NOW, ISN'T HE?

THE ELEPHANTS ARE MOVING ASIDE!



THANK TOUTATIS, HE'S SAFE AND SOUND!!!

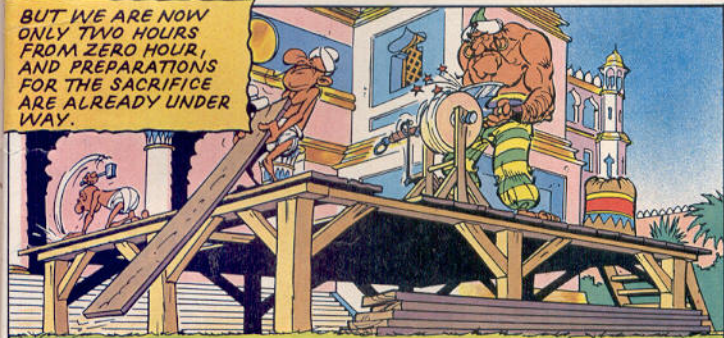


THANKS TO THE SMELLING TO HIM, THE ELEPHANTS THOUGHT HE WAS ONE OF THEM! WHAT LUCK FOR HIM!

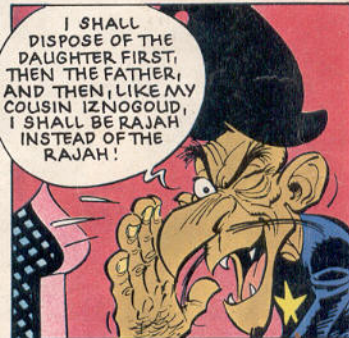
I KNEW I HAD NOTHING IN COMMON WITH THOSE PACHYDERMS!

YOU'VE STILL LOST YOUR VOICE, BUT YOU'RE ALIVE, THAT'S THE MAIN THING!

TANTANTARAAAA!



BUT WE ARE NOW ONLY TWO HOURS FROM ZERO HOUR, AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE SACRIFICE ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY.



I SHALL DISPOSE OF THE DAUGHTER FIRST, THEN THE FATHER, AND THEN, LIKE MY COUSIN IZNOGOLD, I SHALL BE RAJAH INSTEAD OF THE RAJAH!



WHAT CAN THE GAULS BE DOING? WHERE IS WATZIZNEHM?

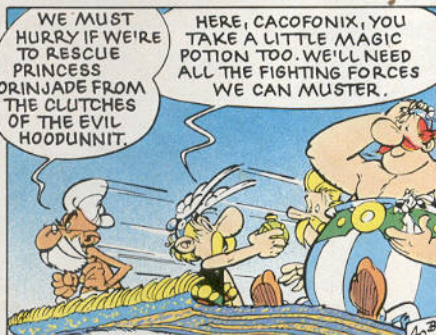
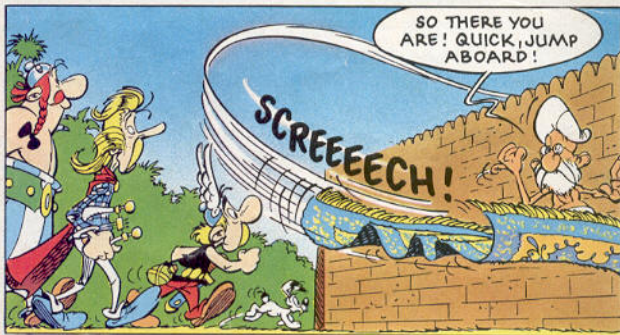
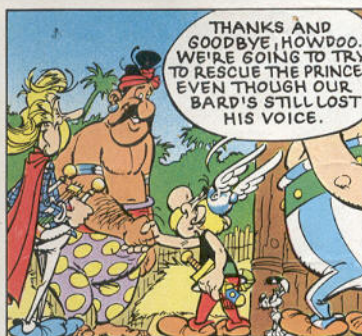
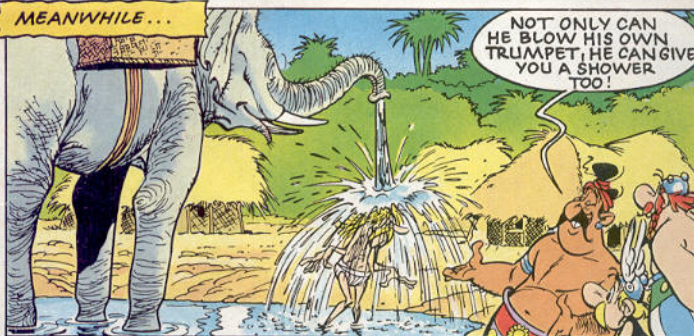
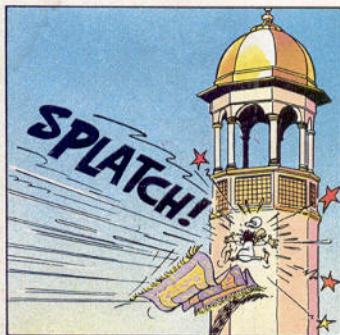
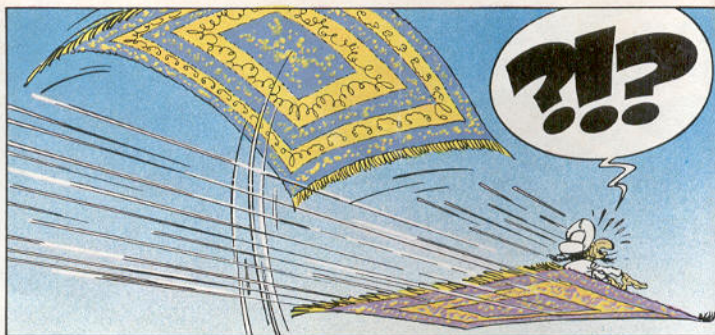
WATZIZNEHM IS STILL BUSY WITH HIS SUMMIT MEETINGS, WHICH OF THE TWO FAKIRS WILL WIN? WATZIZNEHM? OWZAT? IT'S ALL STILL IN THE AIR...



SKAMBHA* BRING THE SKY DOWN ON YOUR HEAD!!

PUSHAN** TURN YOU INTO AN OLD GOAT!

*COSMIC PILLAR GOD HOLDING UP THE SKY. ** GOD OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS.



AT FIVE MINUTES TO ZERO HOUR...

BETTER RESIGN YOURSELF, PRINCESS! STILL NO RAIN! YOUR LAST HOUR HAS COME!

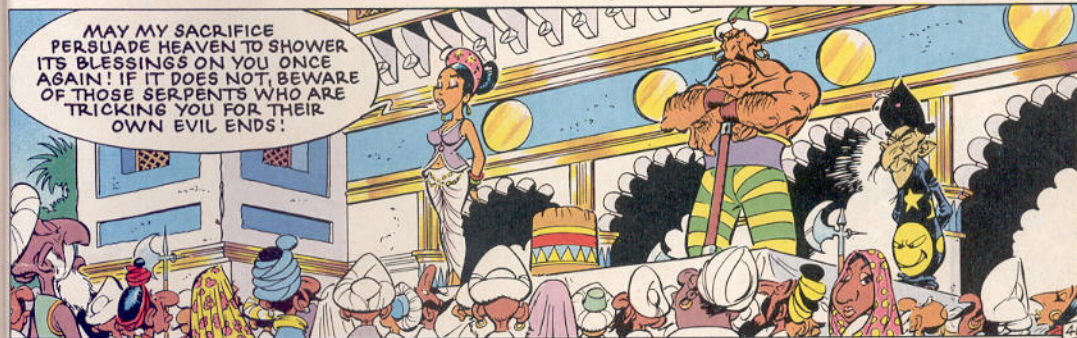


MAY VISHNU* STRANGLE YOU, EVIL GURU!

*GOD WITH MANY ARMS.



MAY MY SACRIFICE PERSUADE HEAVEN TO SHOWER ITS BLESSINGS ON YOU ONCE AGAIN! IF IT DOES NOT, BEWARE OF THOSE SERPENTS WHO ARE TRICKING YOU FOR THEIR OWN EVIL ENDS!



LONG LIVE OUR PRINCESS WHO IS ABOUT TO DIE FOR US!!!

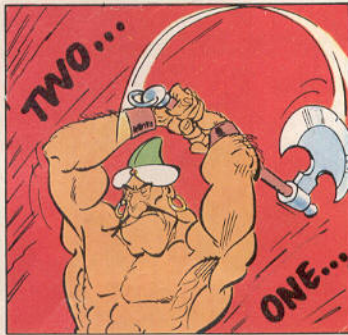
POOR SILLY IDIOTS!



FIVE...
FOUR...
THREE...



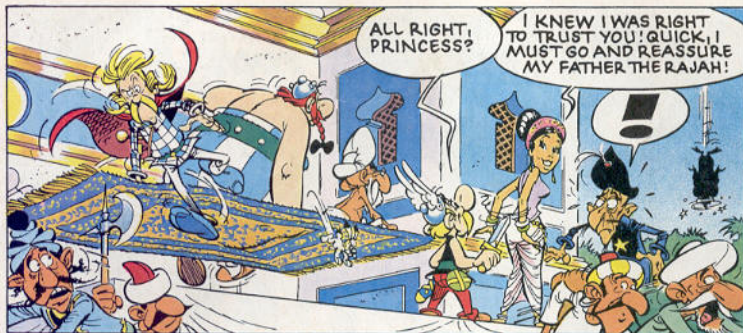
TWO...



ONE...

ZERO!

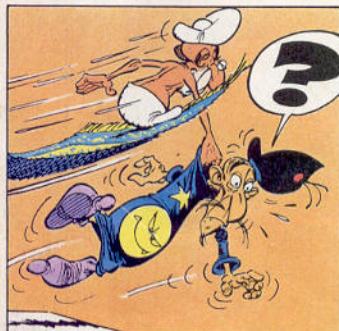




ALL RIGHT, PRINCESS?

I KNEW I WAS RIGHT TO TRUST YOU! QUICK, I MUST GO AND REASSURE MY FATHER THE RAJAH!

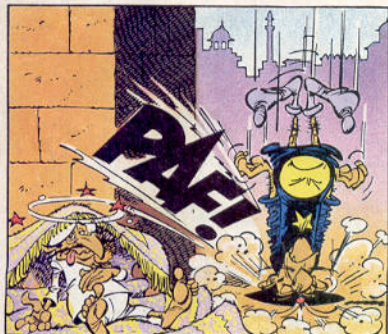
**GUARDS!
SEIZE THOSE
BLASPHEMOUS
MEN!!!**



LET ME GO!
I ORDER YOU TO
LET ME GO!



JUST
WHAT I WAS
PLANNING
TO DO!



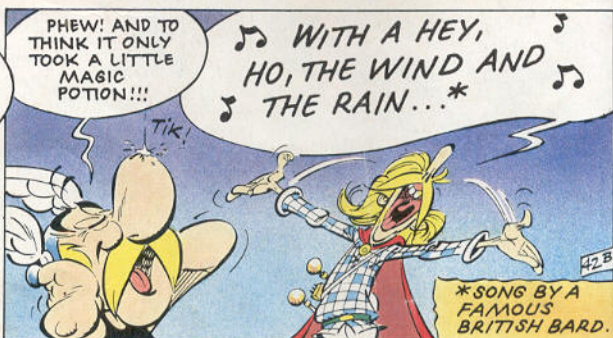
THE MAGIC POTION
REALLY DOES WORK
WONDERS, ASTERIX!

YOU
SAID IT!



WAIT
A MINUTE...
SO YOU DID!
YOU'RE
TALKING!!!

SO I AM!
AND IF I'M
TALKING, I CAN
SING TOO!



PHEW! AND TO
THINK IT ONLY
TOOK A LITTLE
MAGIC
POTION!!!

♪ WITH A HEY,
HO, THE WIND AND
♪ THE RAIN...*

*SONG BY A
FAMOUS
BRITISH
BARD.



♪ FOR THE RAIN IT
RAINETH EVERY
DAY... ♪



DON'T BE
SO WET!!!



THE
GAULISH
MIRACLE!



AND THE GAULISH MIRACLE
HAS BROUGHT THE
MONSOON ON AT LAST. THE
CROPS ARE SAVED, THE
WATERS OF THE GANGES
HAVE RISEN AGAIN, AND ALL
THE INDIANS ARE HAPPY...



...WITH A FEW
EXCEPTIONS!

SHEER
SCIENCE FICTION,
THAT IDIOT
SAID!

GOING
TO BE RAJAH
INSTEAD OF THE
RAJAH, THAT
CROOK SAID!

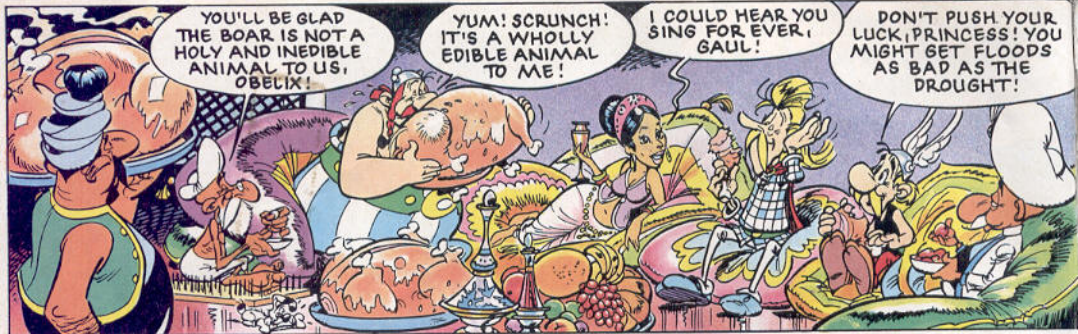


YOU HAVE
GIVEN US SO
MUCH! WHAT
CAN WE EVER
GIVE YOU IN
RETURN?



SOMETHING
TO EAT!!!

!!

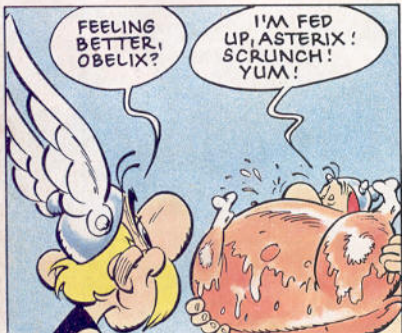


YOU'LL BE GLAD THE BOAR IS NOT A HOLY AND INEDIBLE ANIMAL TO US, OBELIX!

YUM! SCRUNCH! IT'S A WHOLLY EDIBLE ANIMAL TO ME!

I COULD HEAR YOU SING FOR EVER, GAUL!

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, PRINCESS! YOU MIGHT GET FLOODS AS BAD AS THE DROUGHT!



FEELING BETTER, OBELIX?

I'M FED UP, ASTERIX! SCRUNCH! YUM!



FED UP? WHY?

SCRUNCH! GUG!



BECAUSE I'VE AN IDEA THEY MAY BE HAVING A BANQUET IN OUR VILLAGE AT THIS VERY MOMENT! I CAN ALMOST SMELL IT! AND IF THEY ARE, THEY'RE HAVING IT WITHOUT US, THAT'S WHY! SCRUNCH!

OBELIX DOES INDEED HAVE A GOOD NOSE, FOR SURE ENOUGH, A FEW HUNDRED CARPET FLYING HOURS FROM THE VALLEY OF THE GANGES ...

AND SO I RAISE MY GOBLET TO OUR GREAT WARRIORS, OUR OWN LADS WHO WENT EAST TO DISTANT LANDS, TO BRING AID AND THE IMAGE OF OUR GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL GAULISH NATION TO STRANGERS, AND I SAY TO YOU NOW...

IT'S A LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD ANY RAIN IN OUR VILLAGE, GETAFIX!

YES... PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO HOPE OUR BARD COMES HOME SOON!

TU-WHOO!

THE END

UDERZO - 6-87

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