

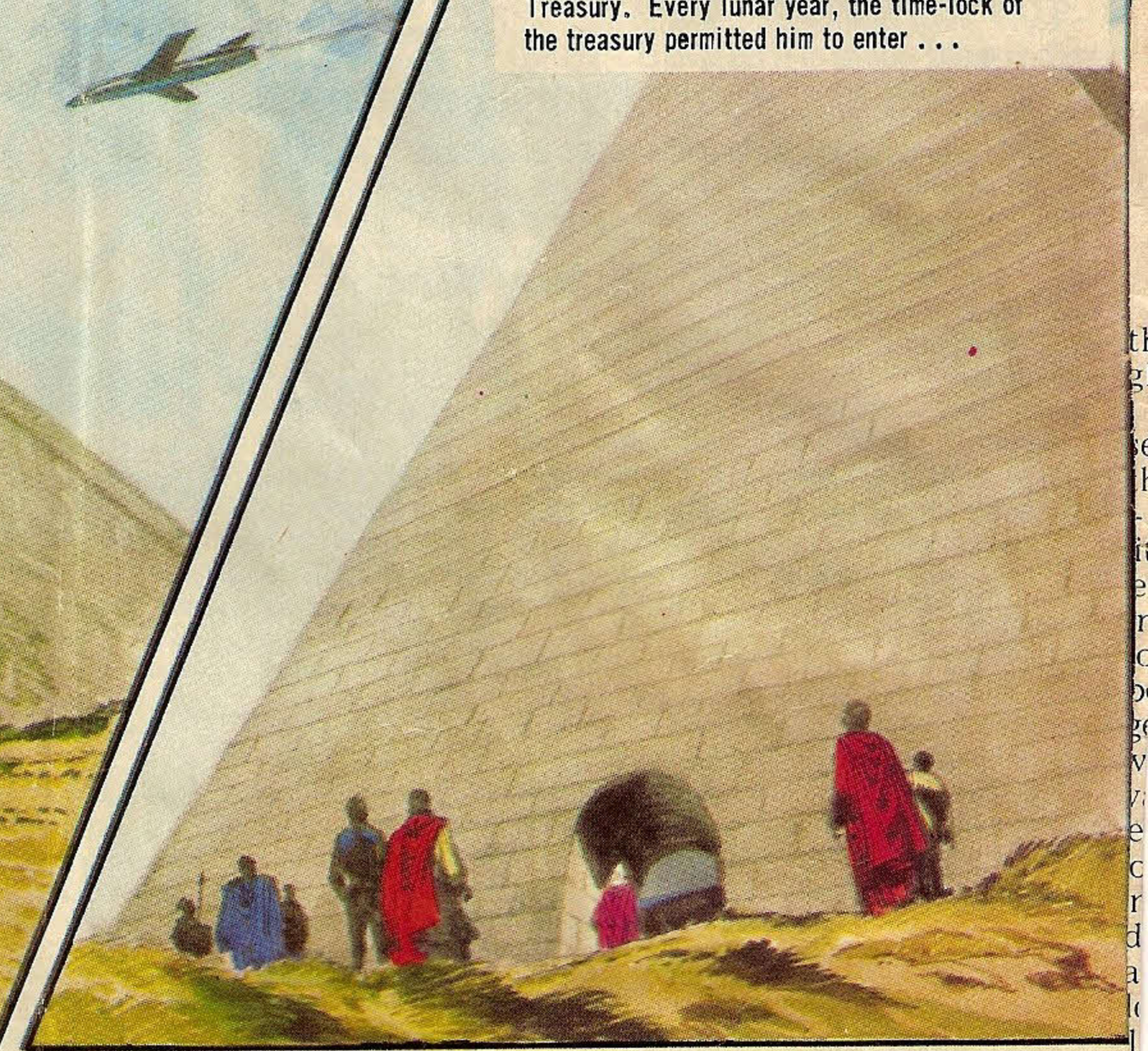
TRIGAN EMPIRE

The planet Elekton lies in the galaxy of Yama, and the greatest power on Elekton is the Trigan Empire, ruled over by its founder, the Emperor Trigo.

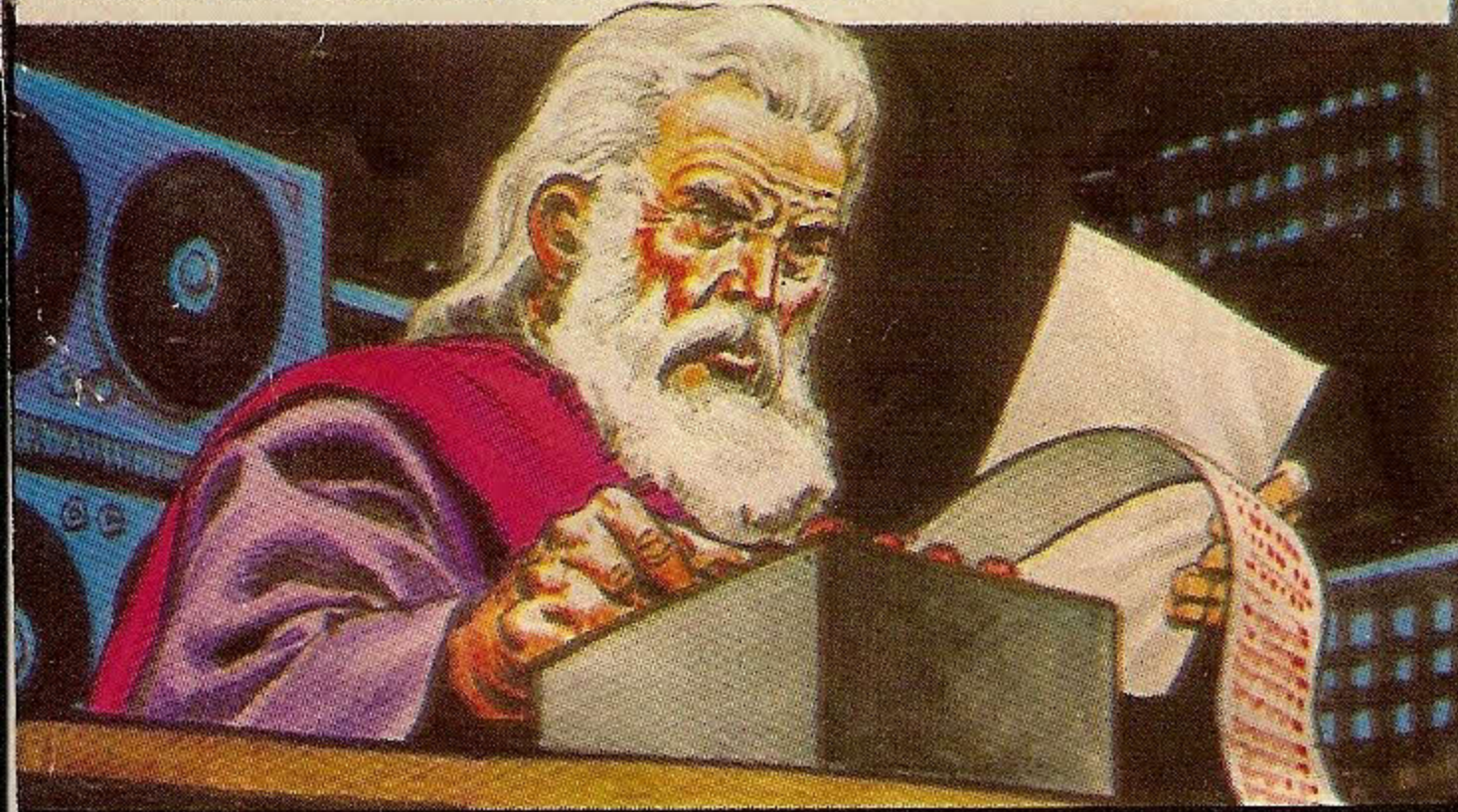
The empire grew in greatness. Every day, by land, sea and atmosphere, the riches of Elekton poured into Trigan City.



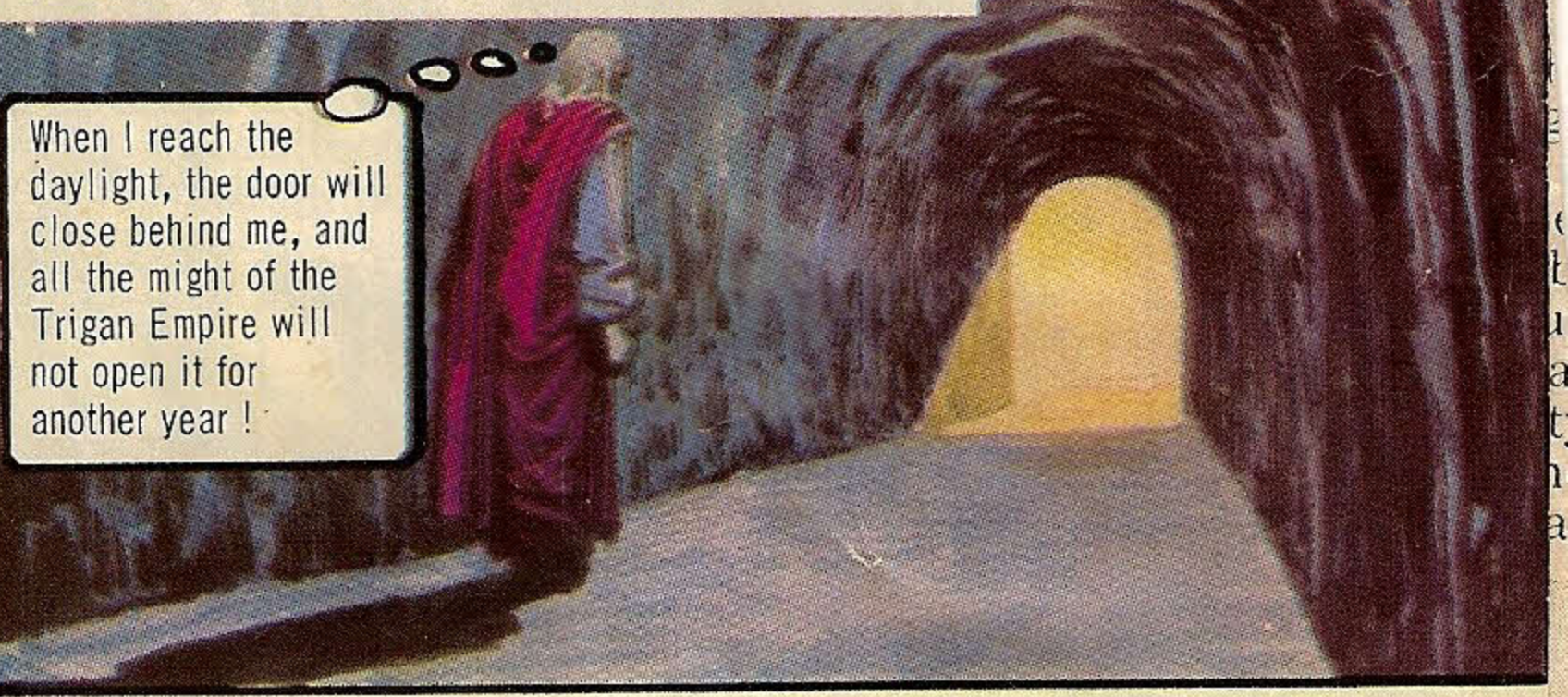
Peric, in addition to being Elekton's top scientist, was also Comptroller-General of the Imperial Treasury. Every lunar year, the time-lock of the treasury permitted him to enter . . .



Alone in the massive, bomb-proof building, Peric had exactly six lunar days in which to take an inventory of the year's riches.



As his time came to an end, the electronic machinery that closed the massive portals stirred into life.



When I reach the daylight, the door will close behind me, and all the might of the Trigan Empire will not open it for another year!

A few paces from the great door, the old scientist was taken by a sudden seizure!



Aaaah...
Aaaahhh ...

The Emperor was fencing with his nephew Janno when a frantic messenger sought him out.



Well struck, Janno!

Ha!

Imperial Majesty!

Peric was Trigo's oldest and most valued friend.

Sire! Peric is locked inside the Imperial Treasury!

Wha-a-a-at?

By all the stars! He's as good as dead! The time-lock can't be broken!

By evening, they made radio-visual contact with the old scientist, who had by then recovered from his attack.

How are things with you, old comrade?

Well, Sire, I have food and drink to last me, perhaps, thirty days. But atmosphere enough to last me only twenty-five days!

The council of the empire met to discuss what was indeed a national emergency.

No power on Elekton could blast open – or pierce through – that door within twenty-five days!

Peric is already doomed! I move that we declare a day of national mourning!

One voice was raised in dissent – the voice of an obscure councillor from Daveli.

There is one who could open that door! His name is known to you all ... Nargaz!

NARGAZ! The very name of Elekton's super-bandit had gone down in the folk-lore of the planet. They called him "The Man Without A Face". It was he who had tunneled into the vaults of the Bank of Cato ...

Single-handed, he had hi-jacked an air-transport carrying the crown jewels of Tharv!

Nice and slowly, please! Let us have no... unpleasantness!

Nargaz!

And now his name was being raised in the solemn council of the empire.

But, surely, Nargaz is dead!

Not dead! But he has gone to a place from which there has never been, nor ever can be, any return!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

Trigan Empire — Peric, the great scientist is locked in the Imperial Treasury, and is doomed to perish in 25 days unless means can be found to defeat the time-lock. Only one man alive is able to do this — the arch-criminal Nargaz . . .

The time — the first hour of the night.
The place — Imperial Air Fleet Headquarters.
A masked intruder removed vital plans from a safe!



At dawn next day, Janno climbed aboard his fighting craft.



Somewhere near the Caton border, he was intercepted by a trio of his own squadron-mates! Warning shots were fired across his bow!

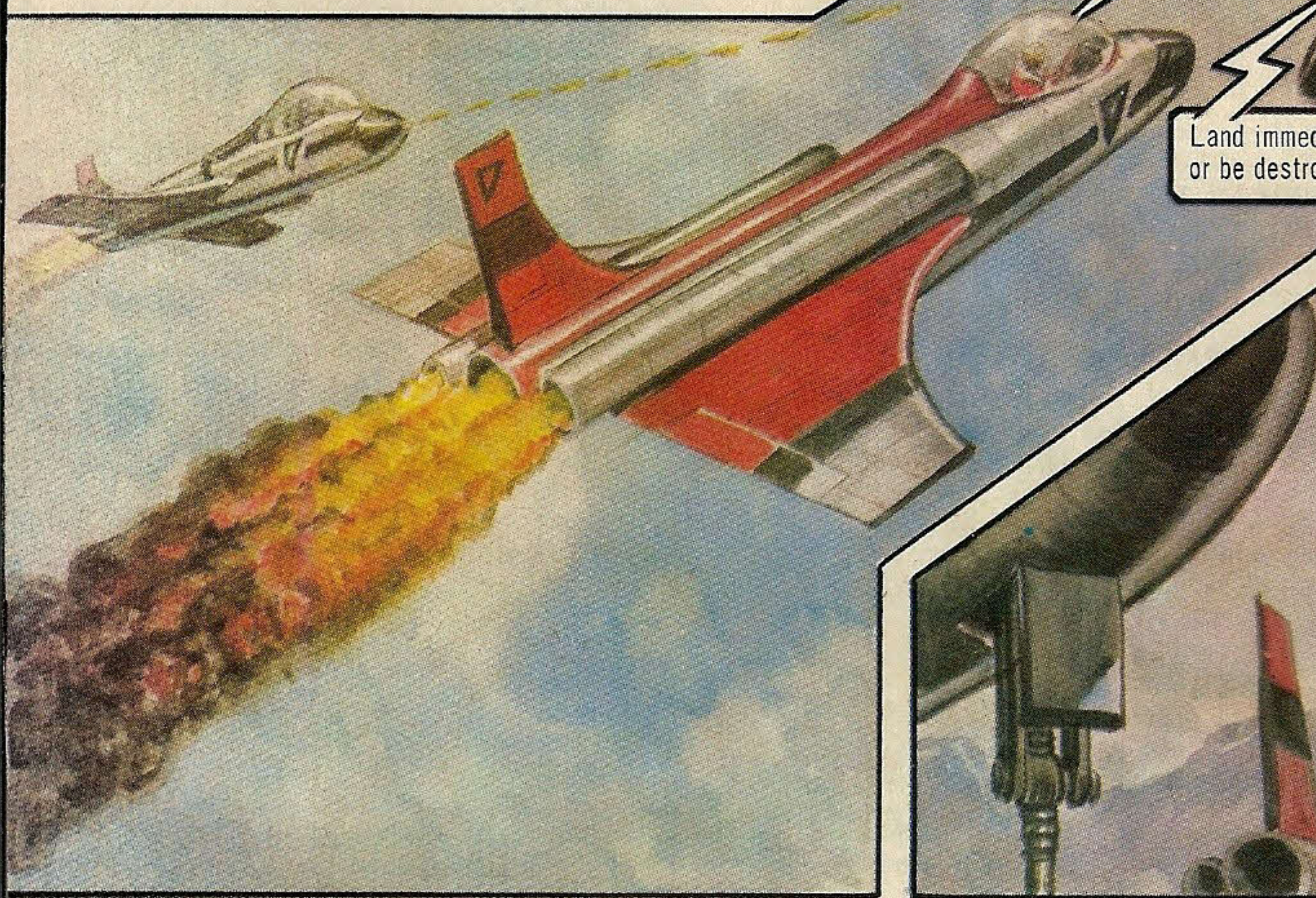
What is this?

Land immediately — or be destroyed!

Janno obeyed . . . and . . .

Now, see here . . .!

Stand aside! And put your hands on your head! We're going to search your craft!



The search was swift — and decisive!

The stolen plans!

Treacherous animal! Take that!

Uuuugh!

Justice was swift and harsh for the nephew of the Emperor.

You plotted to deliver the plans to the Empire's enemies. For that — despite your high birth — you will be banished for life to The Outlaw Planet!

No — not that! Send me to the mines — anything! But don't send me to the Outlaw Planet!

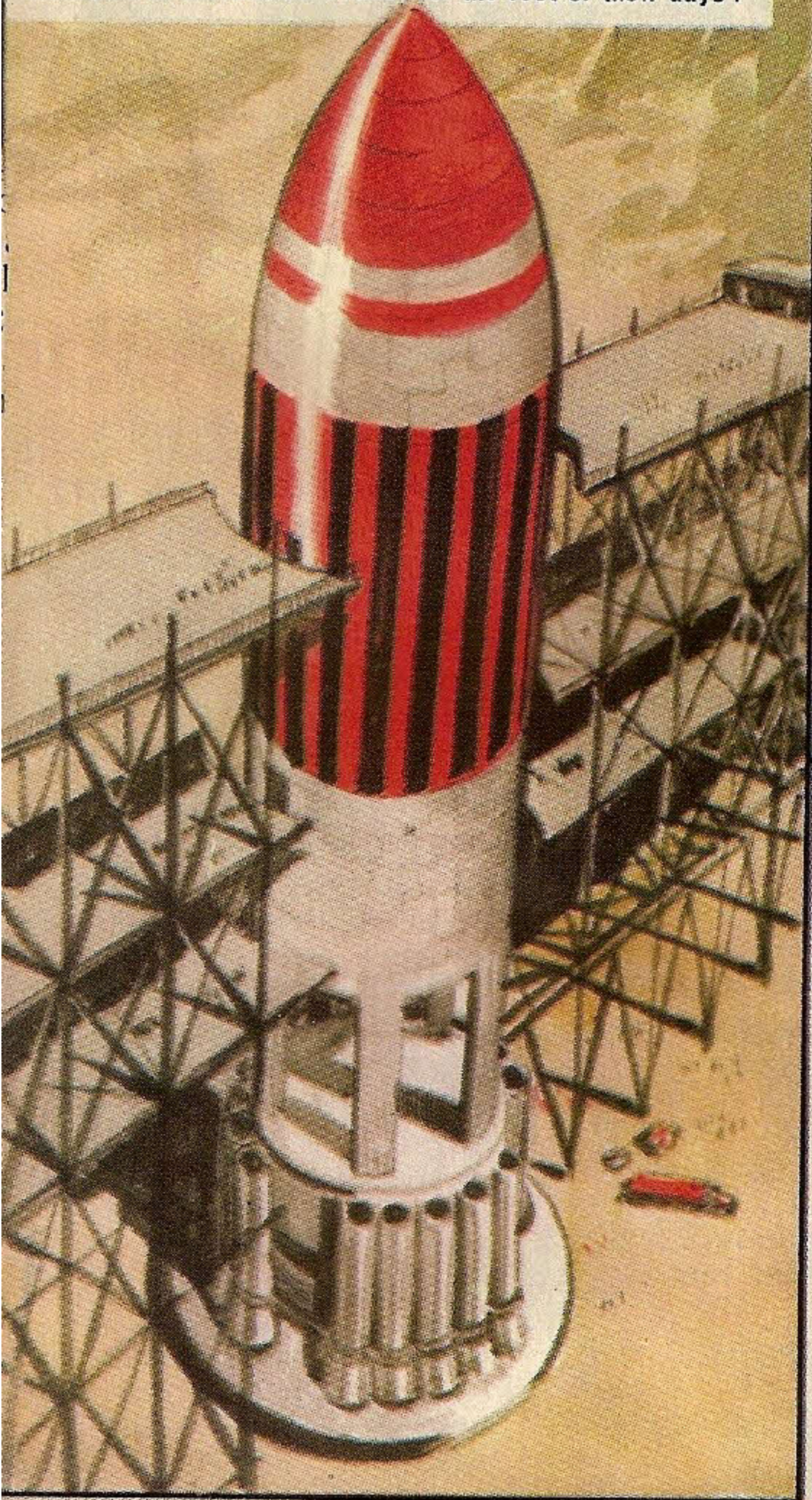


The Outlaw Planet! The very name struck terror to the hearts of all Elektons. Every five lunar years, this alien planet came within the orbit of Elekton.

The usual five-yearly batch of Elekton's worst criminals were being loaded aboard an outer-atmosphere craft...for transport to the Outlaw Planet for the rest of their days!

On this occasion, the condemned traitor Janno was one of their number!

Blast off! And the prison-craft rose skywards.



The Emperor of all the Trigans watched it go. With him was his brother Brag - the father of Janno.



Good fortune go with you, Lad!

Trigo! We're sending him to his death!

Was there no other way, Trigo?

You know full well that it would take an army to go up to the Outlaw Planet, secure Nargaz, and bring him back to break into the Treasury and rescue Peric...

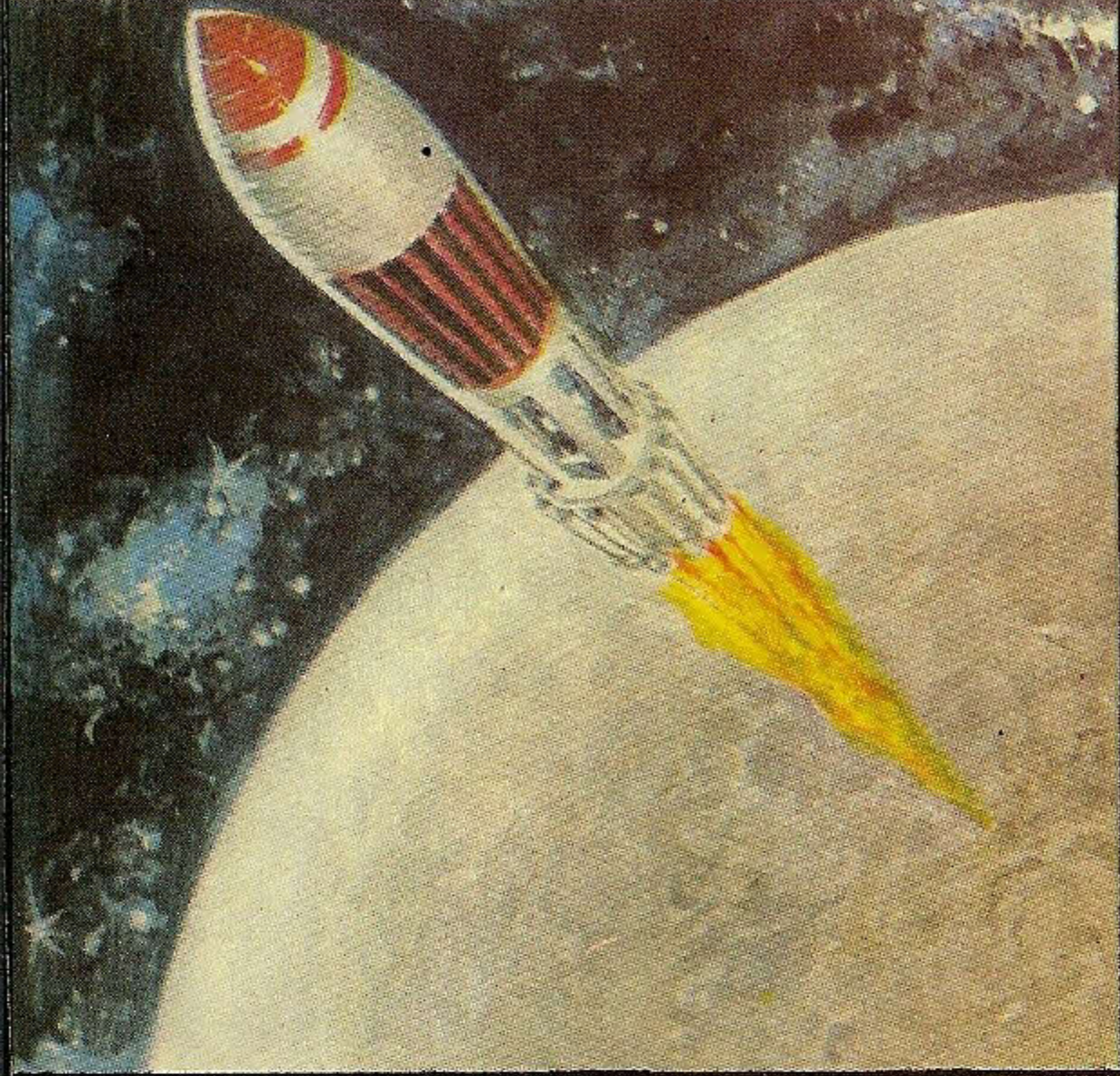
Where an army would fail, one brave youth can succeed! Given luck, Janno will be back here in time, with Nargaz!

But neither Trigo, nor his brother, could guess one hundredth part of the perils lying ahead of Janno!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

Janno has been sent to The Outlaw Planet which serves as a prison for the worst criminals of Elekton. His job is to bring back the super-bandit, Nargaz, the only man who can open the Imperial Treasury in which the great scientist Peric has been accidentally locked.

Two lunar days later, the prison-craft entered the orbit of The Outlaw Planet and began its descent.



Once on the alien ground, the craft's doors opened automatically to release the panic-stricken convicts.



Got to get away from here before it goes up!

They said it explodes almost at once!

Janno flung himself down and shielded his head. Instants later – BRUUUMPH! A self-destructive charge ensured that there would be no return to Elekton for any of them!



Thank the stars I have other arrangements for getting back!



Soon after that, the convict-transportees were surrounded by a band of armed and merciless-looking ruffians.

Greetings, you sweepings of the Trigan City gutters! Welcome to The Outlaw Planet, where you will spend the rest of your days – which will certainly be few in number!



Since it's we who've found you, you are all now members of the Green Faction. From now on, your lives will be devoted to fighting our accursed enemies the Blue Faction! Got that?

Later, the newcomers were interrogated. Janno knew that his life would be worth nothing if the convicts found that he had come to their planet on false pretences.



Next?

Name – Janno!
Background – pilot in the Trigan Air Fleet!
Crime – treason!

You look like promising material, Janno. I assign you to one of our ace killer-squads! It's a good life in the killer-squads – short and sweet! Heh!



What will be my duties?

A thrill ran through Janno's veins at the mention of the name of the man for whom he had come to The Outlaw Planet!

He was issued with rough clothing of skins and green headband and sash. He then met the other two members of his squad.

The leader of the accursed Blues is that double-dealing scoundrel Nargaz. Day and night, you will strain every nerve and sinew to eliminate him!

Ah, you're the replacement for old Braddi. A good killer was Braddi!

What happened to him?

The Blues got him on our last raid! We raid again tomorrow!

Next day, Janno and his new comrades stood at the foot of a towering mountain range.

The Blues' stronghold lies beyond the mountain crest. First we climb the mountain!

All day, they toiled up the vertical ice wall.

Suddenly...

... Janno saw the reason for his comrade's fall!

Aaaaaaaagh! !

Oh, no!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

Janno has journeyed to the Outlaw Planet to take back to Elekton the super-criminal Nargaz. He is forced to join a killer-squad that climbs a mountain with the intention of eliminating the selfsame Nargaz. But the killer-squad is itself in deadly danger.

The air was filled with the beating of mighty wings – and another fearsome creature came to save the killer-squad from the menace of the first!



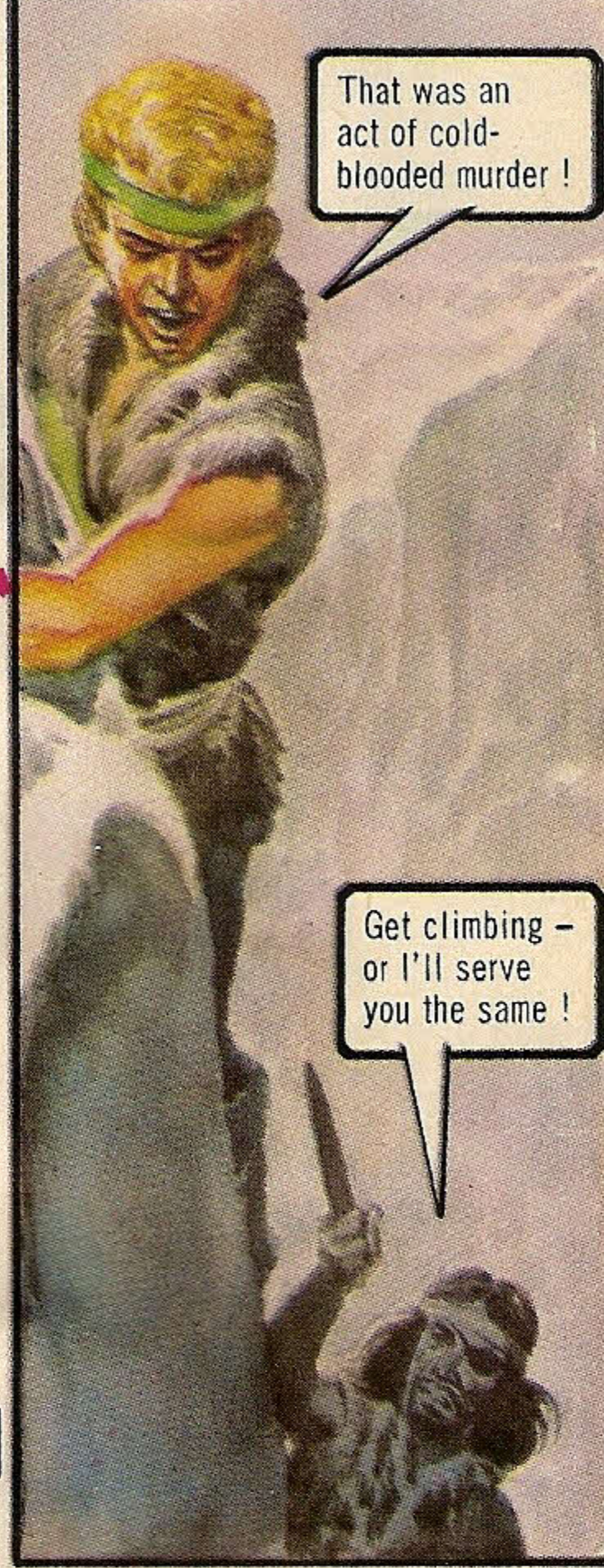
A slash of a knife – and Janno felt himself relieved of the burden of the companion who had been roped to him.

You can't do that!

I've done it!

E-e-e-e-ehh!

Janno learned what it was to be a member of a green faction killer-squad!



That was an act of cold-blooded murder!

Get climbing – or I'll serve you the same!

Later – much later – they came to a snow bridge.

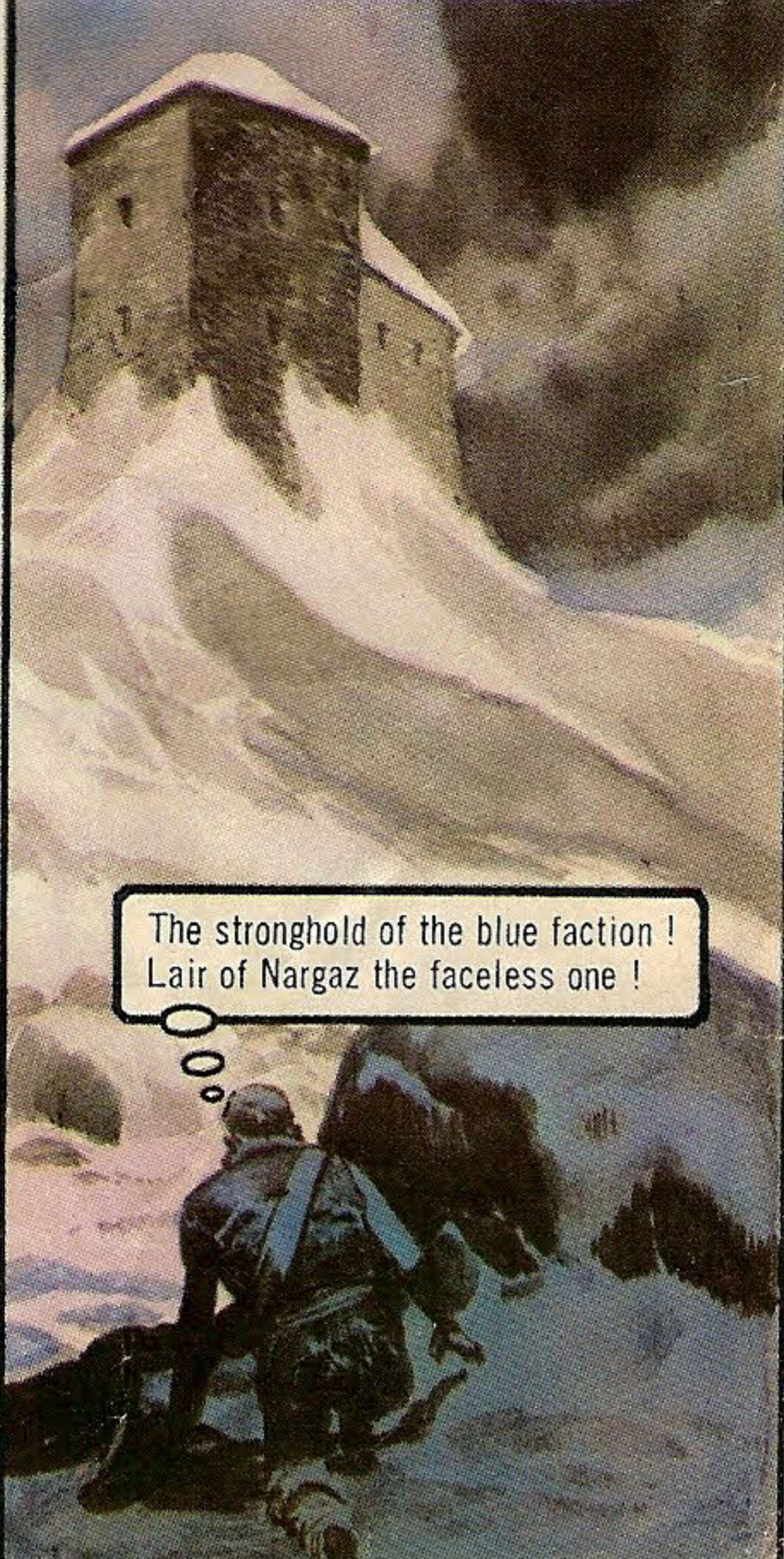


Janno's merciless companion fared badly at the bridge!



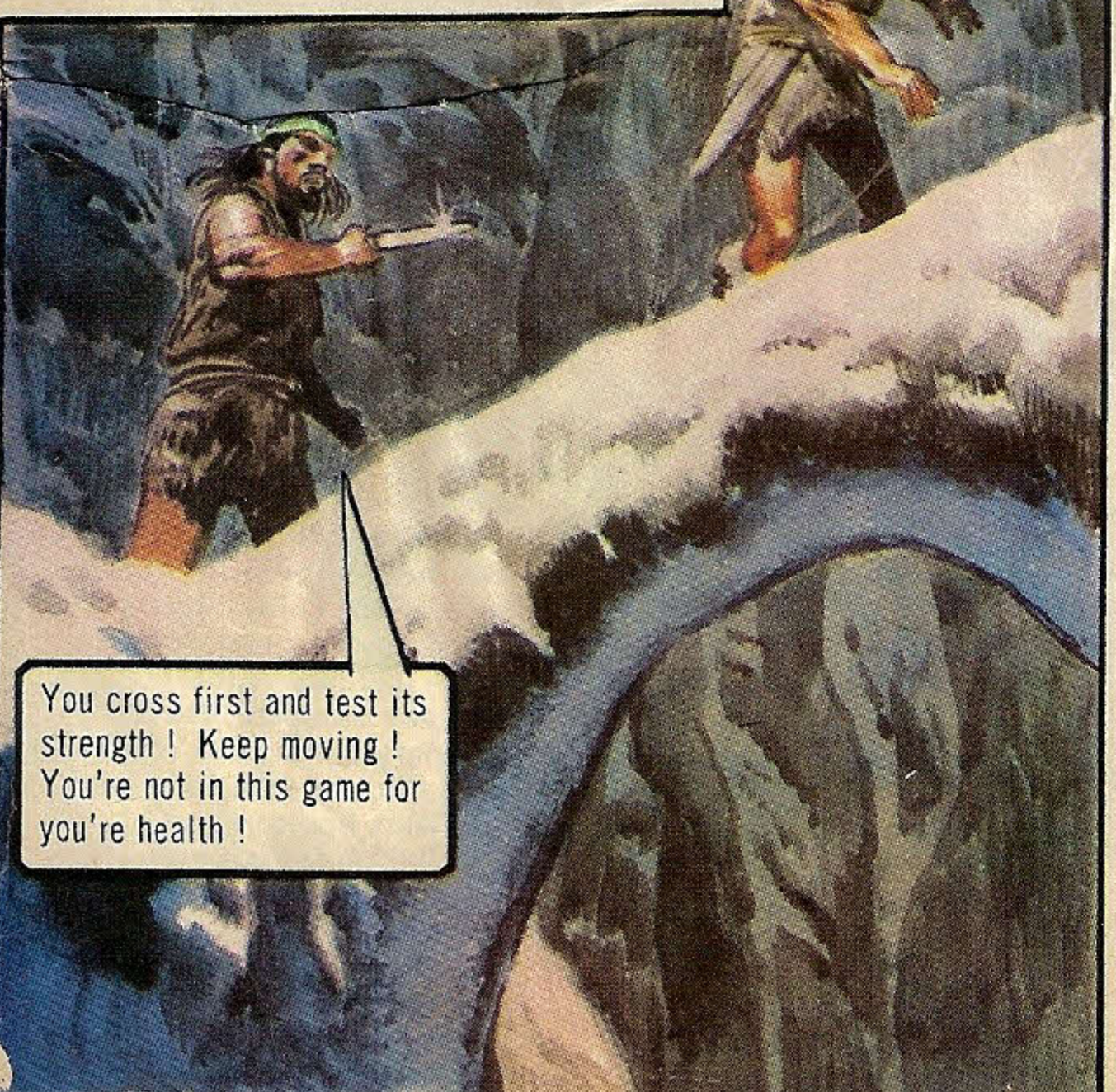
Aaaaaaaa-aaaahh!

The young Trigan battled his lone way to the summit, where he saw . . .



The stronghold of the blue faction! Lair of Nargaz the faceless one!

You cross first and test its strength! Keep moving! You're not in this game for you're health!



Creeping closer, he heard voices – and a name that sent a shock through him.

Well ?

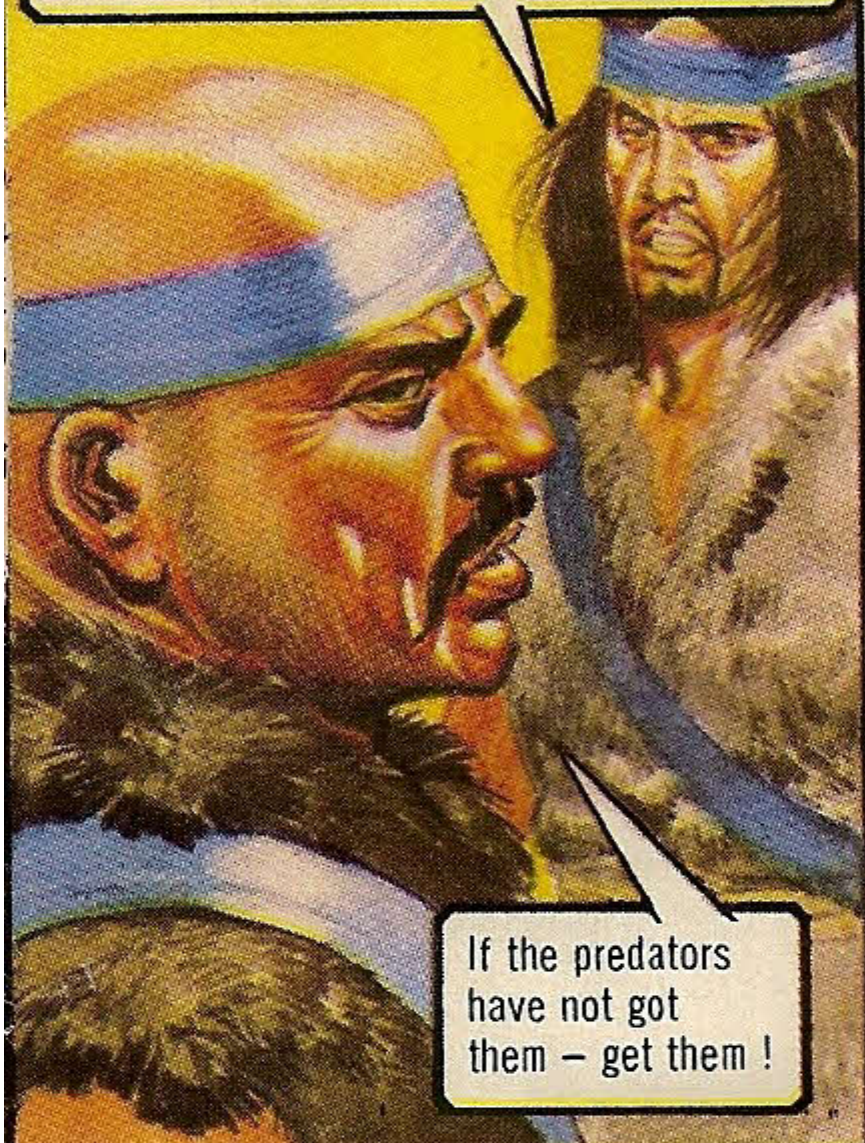
Nargaz ! It's him !

Nargaz ! There's a green killer-squad somewhere on the mountain !



A moment later, Janno looked upon the face of the man whom he had crossed the wilderness of outer space to meet.

One of our sentries sighted them – but they may have fallen prey to predators !



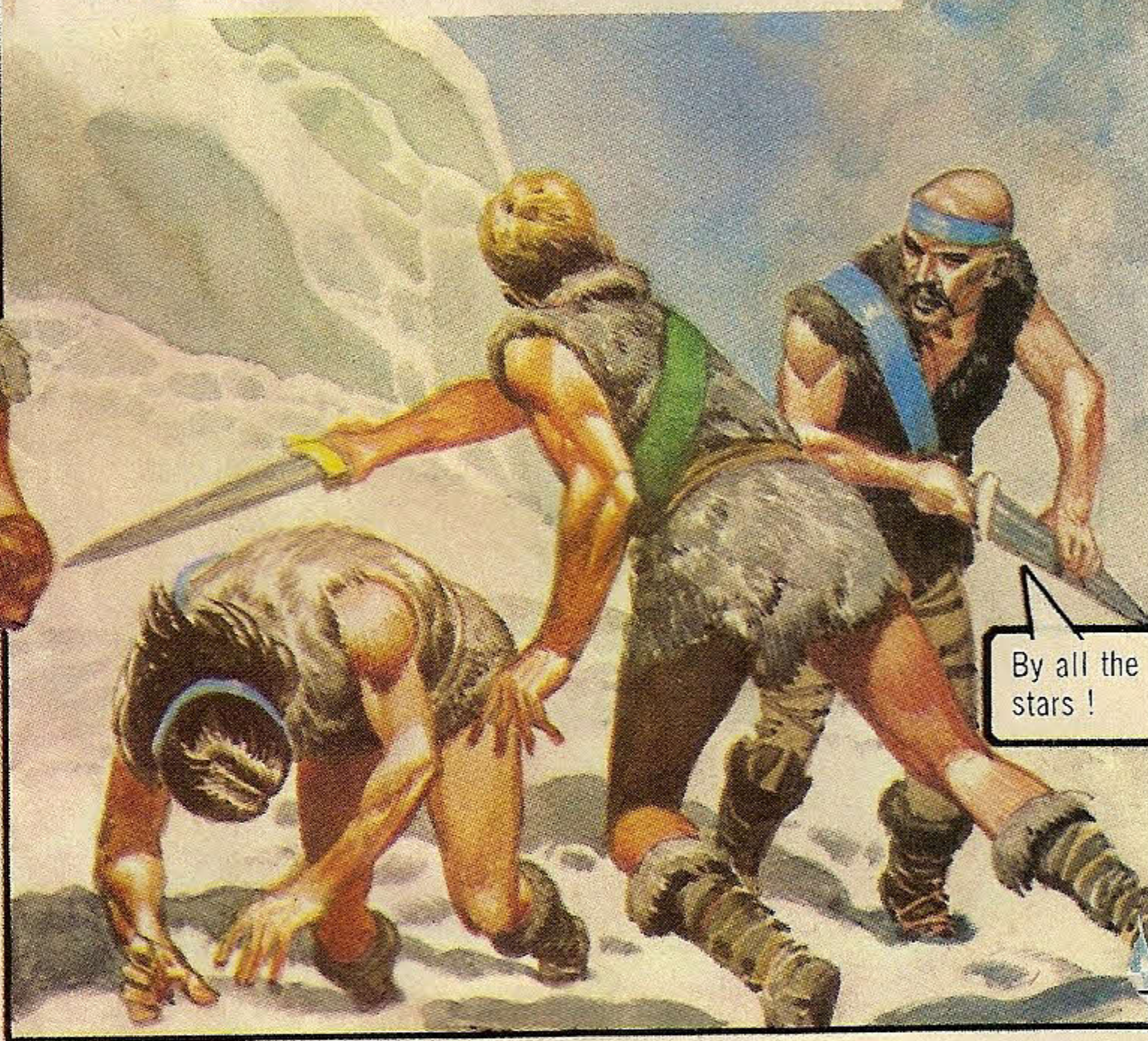
If the predators have not got them – get them !

Then – Janno acted !

Hah !



Nargaz's companion was sent spinning by the flat of the blade !



By all the stars !

Janno pointed to a sledge, roped to a stake . . .



Get in there, Nargaz !

Who are you ?

If we both get off this mountain alive, I'll tell you ! Get in !

Janno's blade slashed down on the rope . . .



Here we go !

. . . and they began the plummeting descent !



TRIGAN EMPIRE

Janno has come to the "Outlaw Planet" to bring back to Elekton the super-criminal Nargaz. He has snatched Nargaz from his mountain-top lair and is bringing him down the steep, snow-clad slopes on a sledge . . .



Half-way down the mountain, they came to a dizzy bend !

You've lost control ! We're going over !

There were sounds of pursuit from higher up the mountain. Janno knew his time was running short.

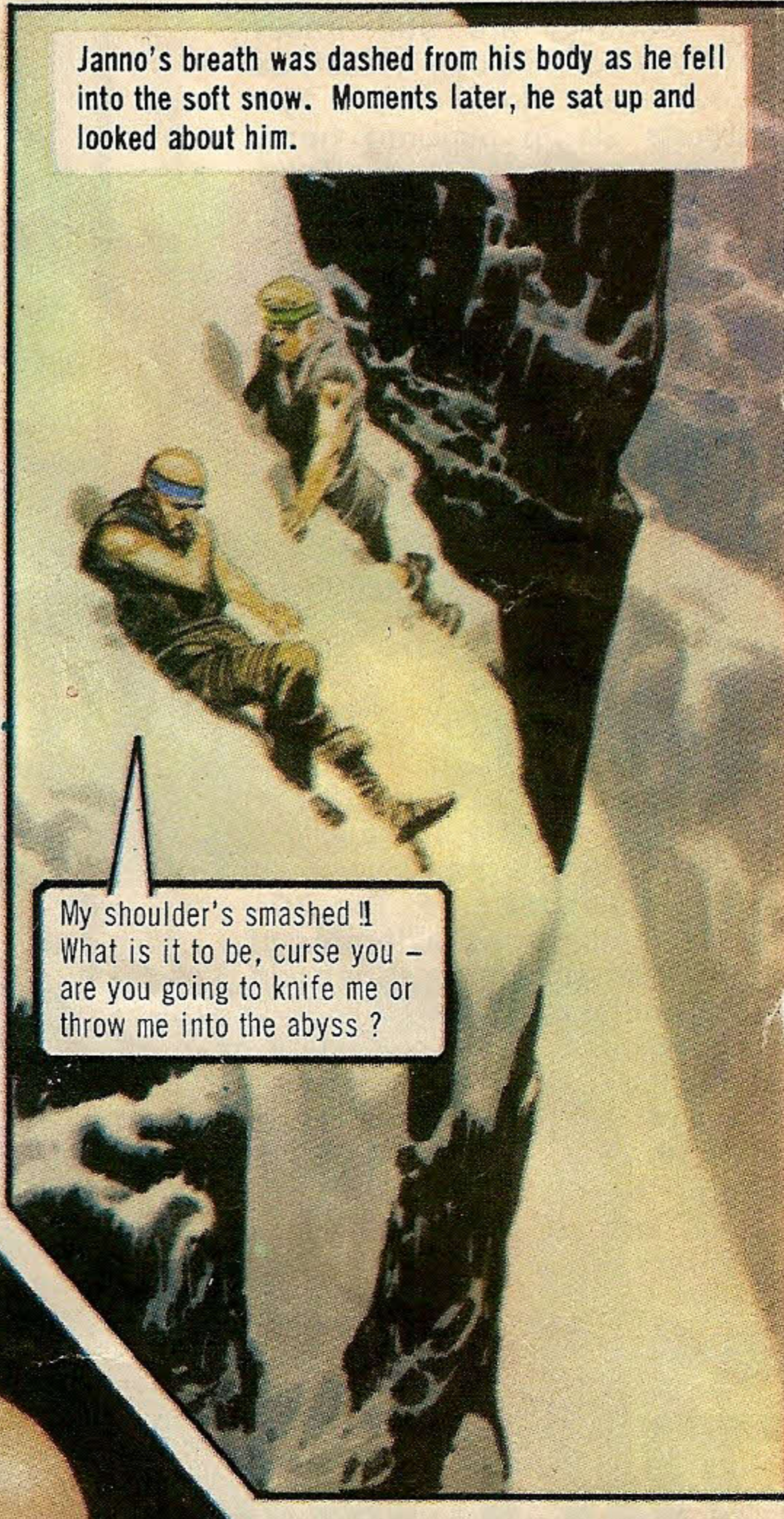
Keep your life, Nargaz ! I want you alive or not at all. I'll come back and get you another time. We'll meet again ! Farewell !

No ! . . . Wait ! . . .



Eeeeeegh !

Aaaaaaghhh !

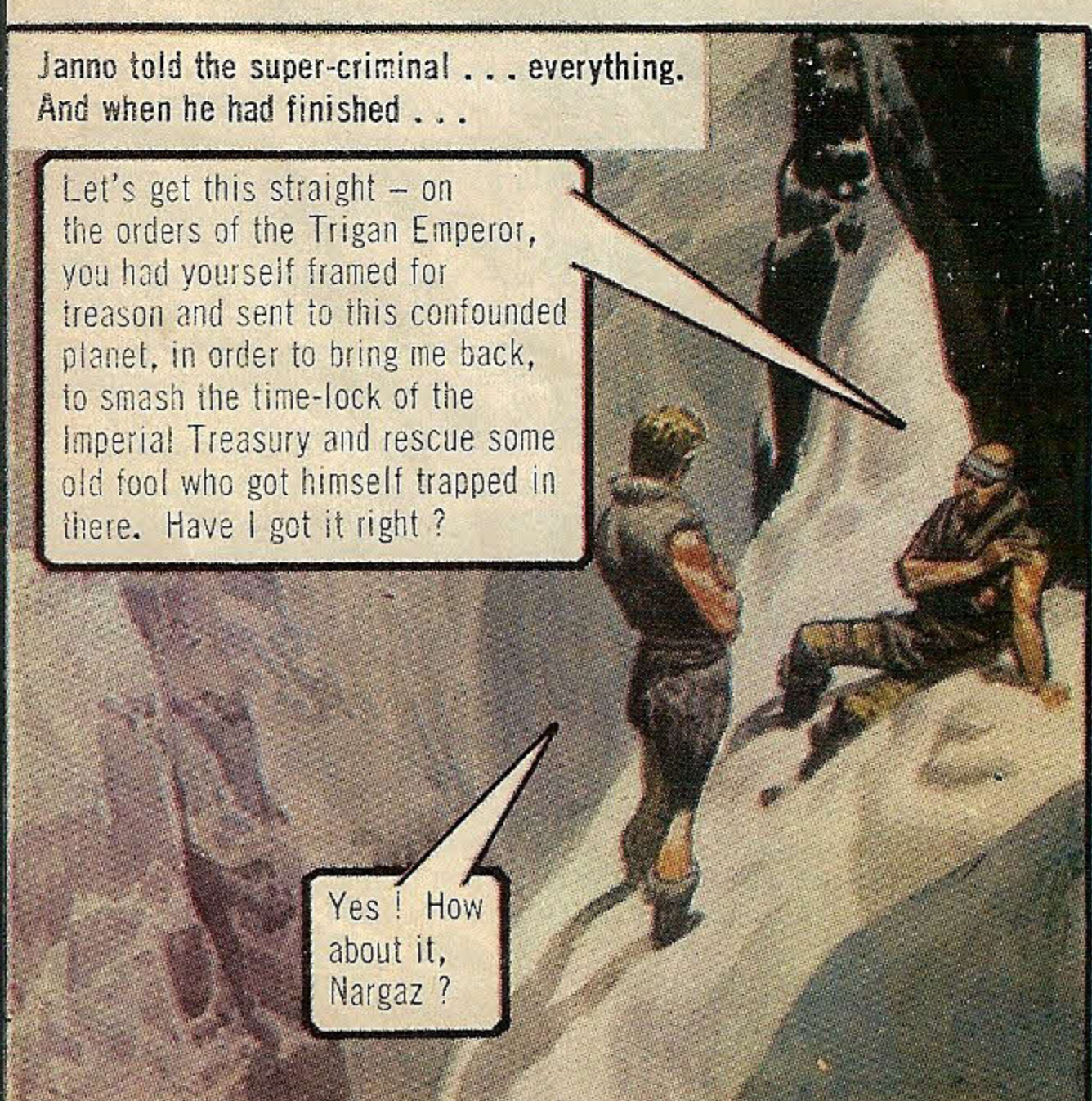


Janno's breath was dashed from his body as he fell into the soft snow. Moments later, he sat up and looked about him.

My shoulder's smashed !! What is it to be, curse you - are you going to knife me or throw me into the abyss ?



Who are you . . . and what do you want of me ?



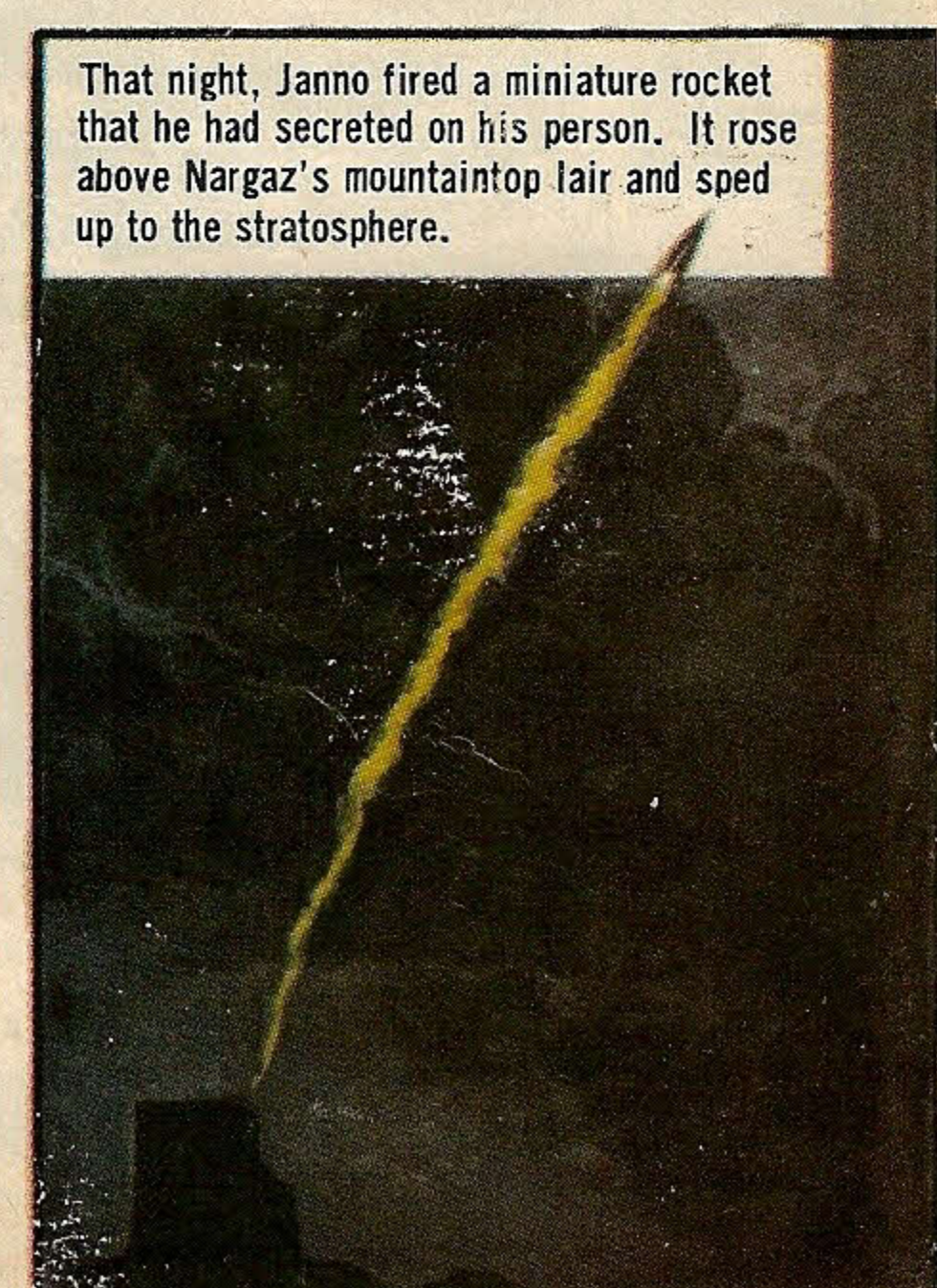
Janno told the super-criminal . . . everything. And when he had finished . . .

Let's get this straight - on the orders of the Trigan Emperor, you had yourself framed for treason and sent to this confounded planet, in order to bring me back, to smash the time-lock of the Imperial Treasury and rescue some old fool who got himself trapped in there. Have I got it right ?

Yes ! How about it, Nargaz ?

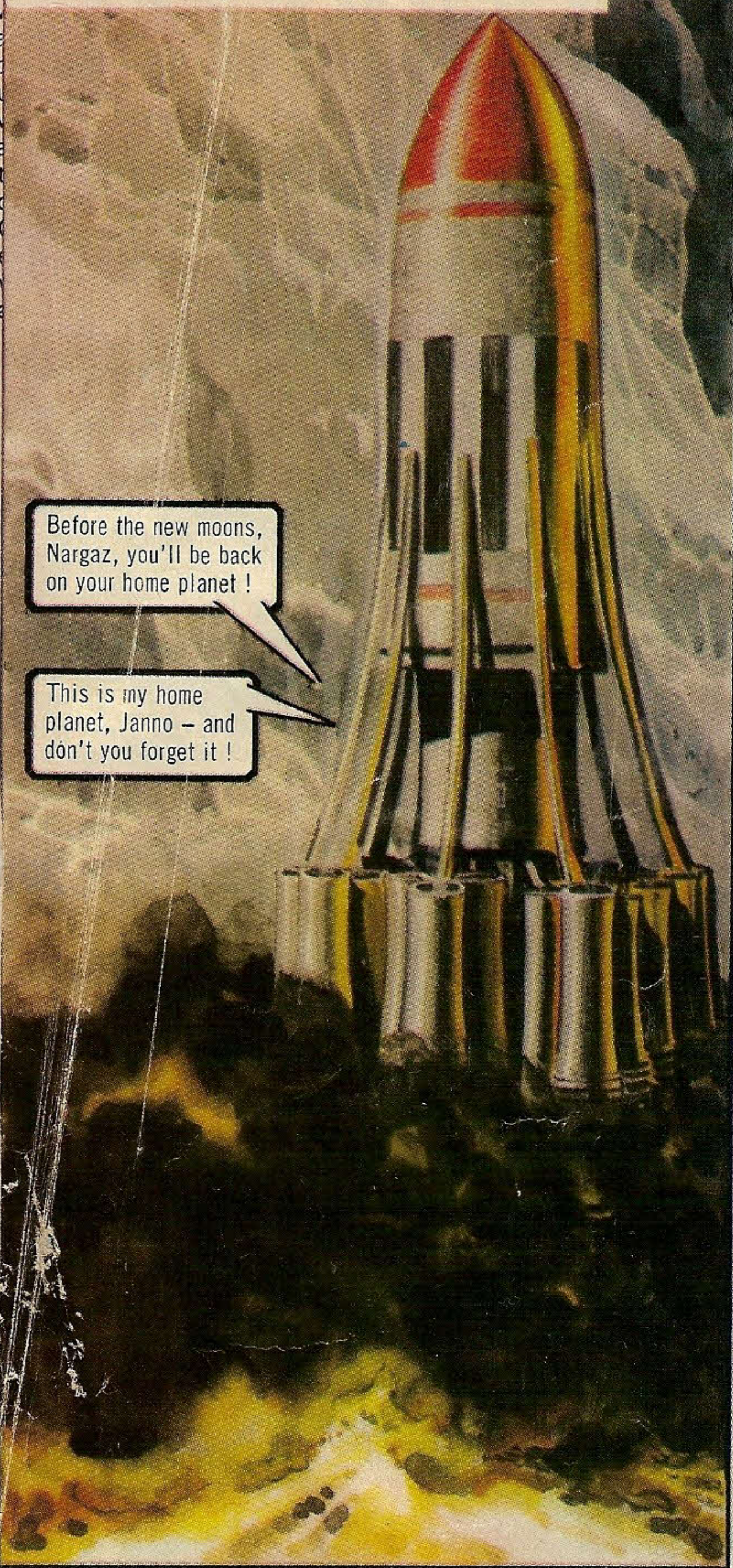


My vanity is touched. I am also grateful to you for sparing my life. How do we get back to Elekton ?



That night, Janno fired a miniature rocket that he had secreted on his person. It rose above Nargaz's mountaintop lair and sped up to the stratosphere.

The signal brought down an Elekton outer-atmosphere craft that had been orbiting the outlaw planet . . .



Before the new moons, Nargaz, you'll be back on your home planet !

This is my home planet, Janno - and don't you forget it !

So it was that Nargaz the super-criminal came back to Elekton, from which he had been banished for life. And, by a wry twist of fate, he was greeted like a returning hero.



The hand of the Emperor ! I must be dreaming !

Rescue my old and valued friend from that living death, Nargaz, and you will earn an Emperor's undying gratitude !

Many people assembled to watch the legendary Nargaz get to work on the time-lock of the treasury.



Hum ! This is quite a lock you've got here. If they'd been as good as this in my young days, I'd have had to give up crime !

Nevertheless, after three days' work, Nargaz was able to defeat the lock - and Peric stumbled forth !



Old friend ! I never thought to see you alive again !

I can tell you - confidentially - it was a close thing !

For his reward, Nargaz only asked one favour - to be transported back to his inhospitable outlaw planet. As he explained to his new friend Janno . . .



Here on Elekton, I'd just be a retired thief. Up there, I'm boss of half the planet - a somebody !