

TRIGAN EMPIRE

The planet Yarna in the far distances of Outer Space. The greatest power on Elekton is the Trigan Empire, whose proud and adventurous people are ruled by their empire's founder, the Emperor Trigo.

The end of the third year of Ziss brought great dissension in the Trigan Empire. In the land of Tharv, there were riots and street battles.



Down with the Empire!

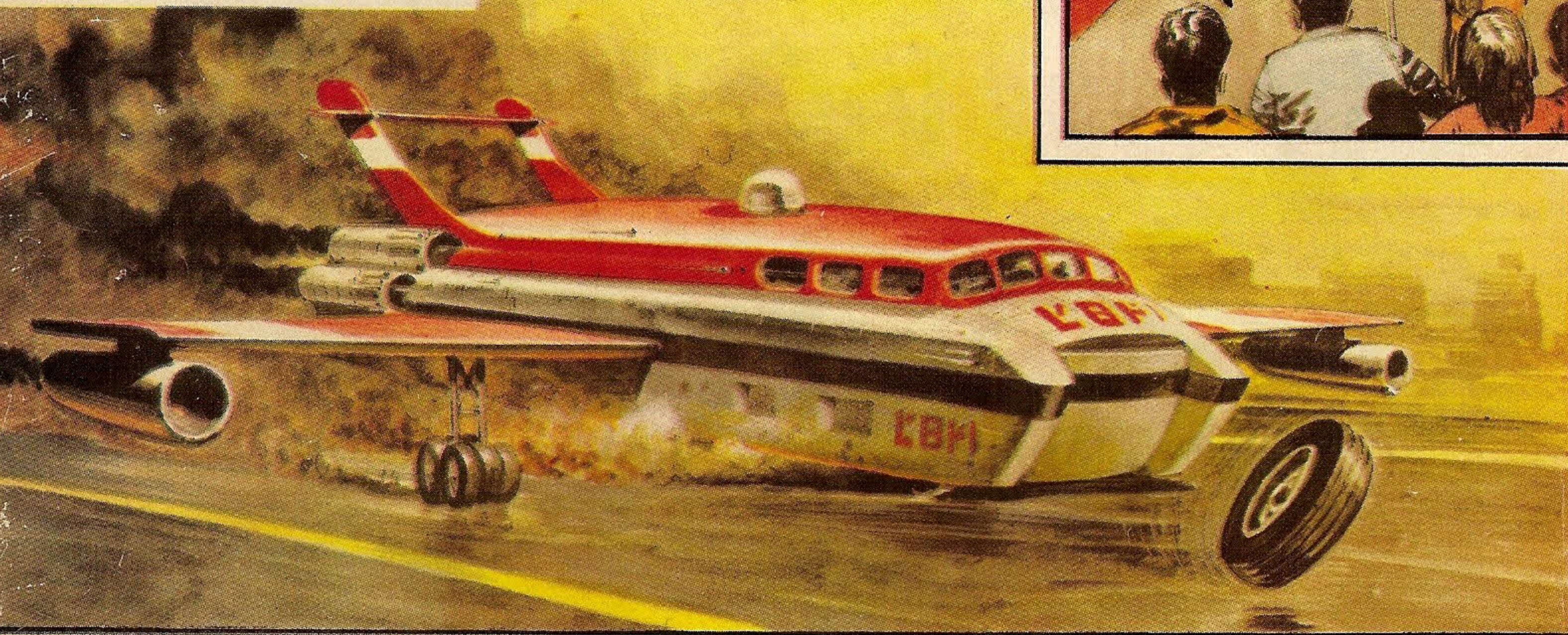
Freedom for Tharv!

Trigo himself prepared to leave for the trouble spot. As he boarded his aircraft at Trigan City Air Terminal...

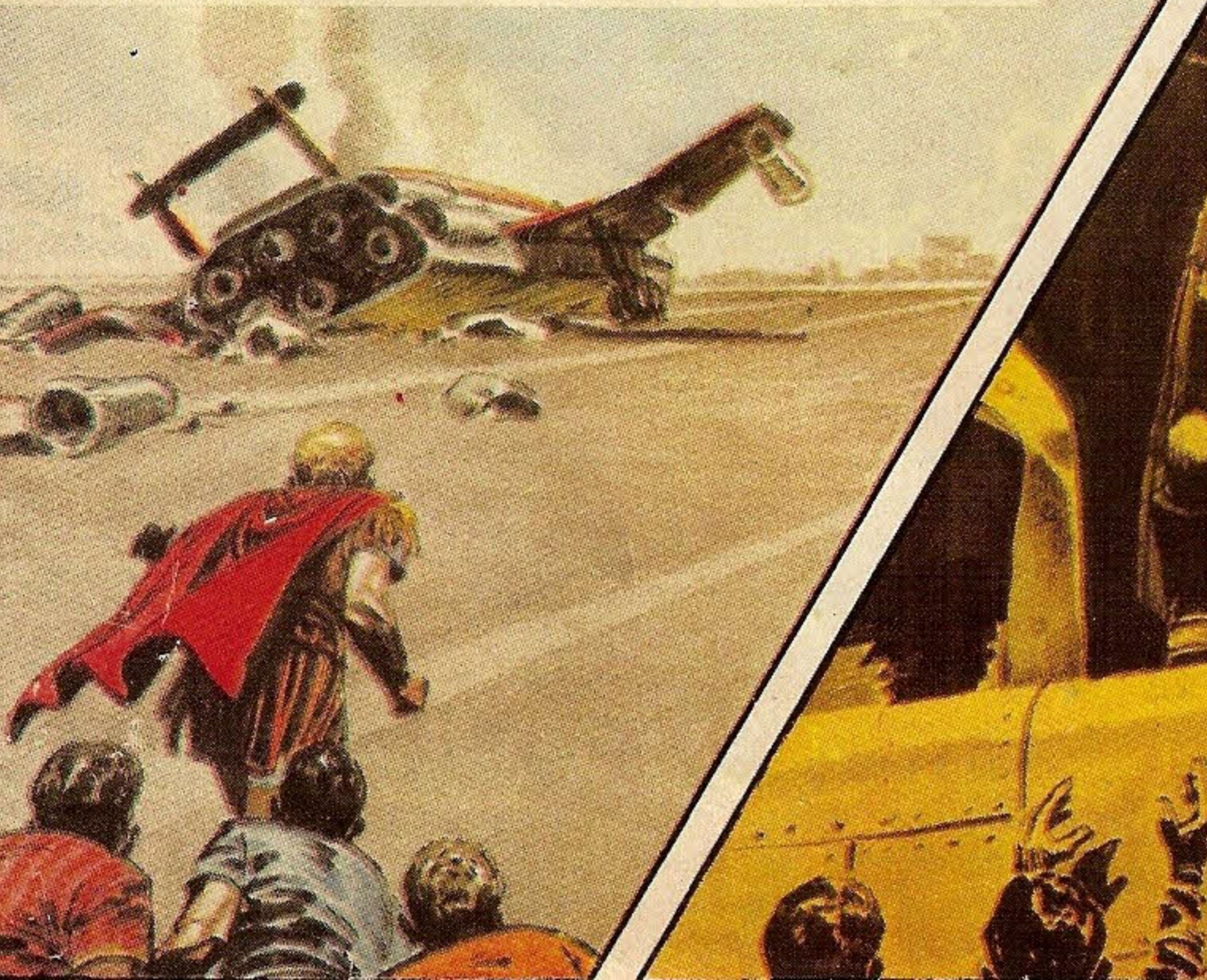


Good luck in your great mission, Imperial Majesty!

... A transporter craft began a disastrous take-off!



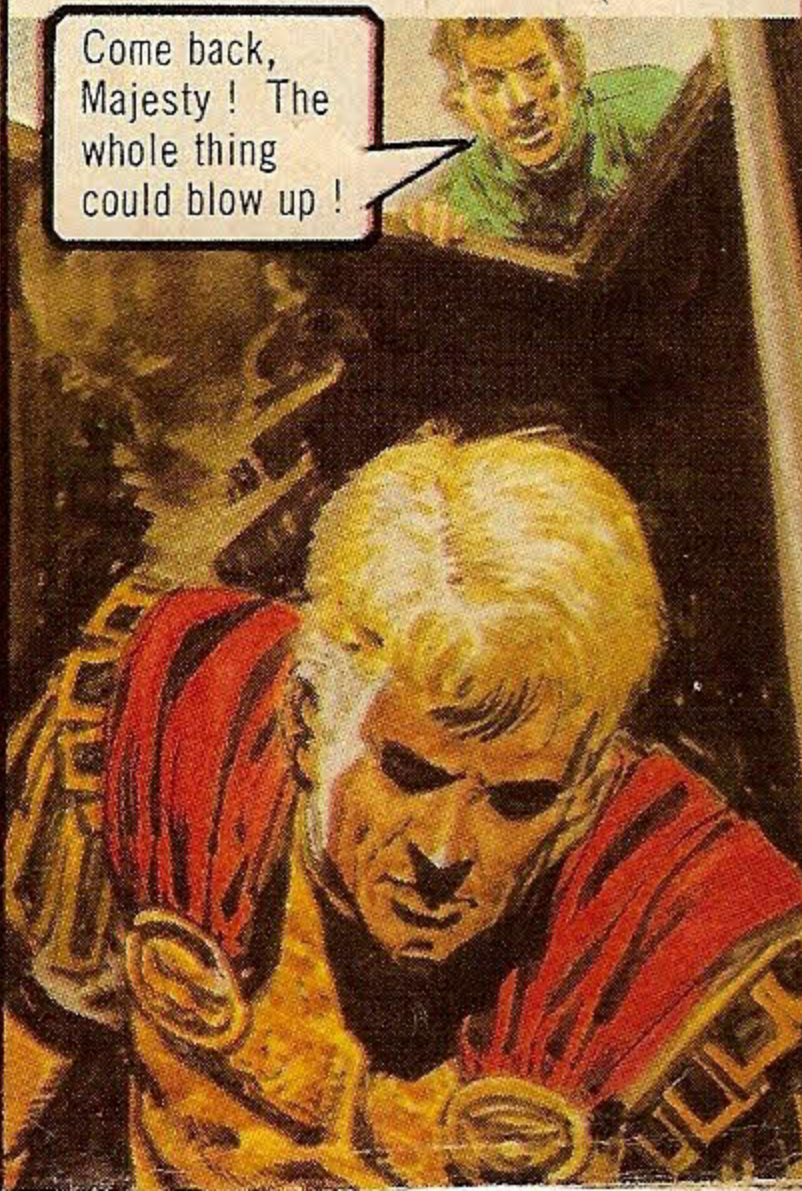
The Emperor himself was among the first to reach the scene of the crash.



Trigo inspired all by his self-sacrificing gallantry.

Take him carefully - there are more injured men inside!

Trigo lowered himself into the body of the giant craft.

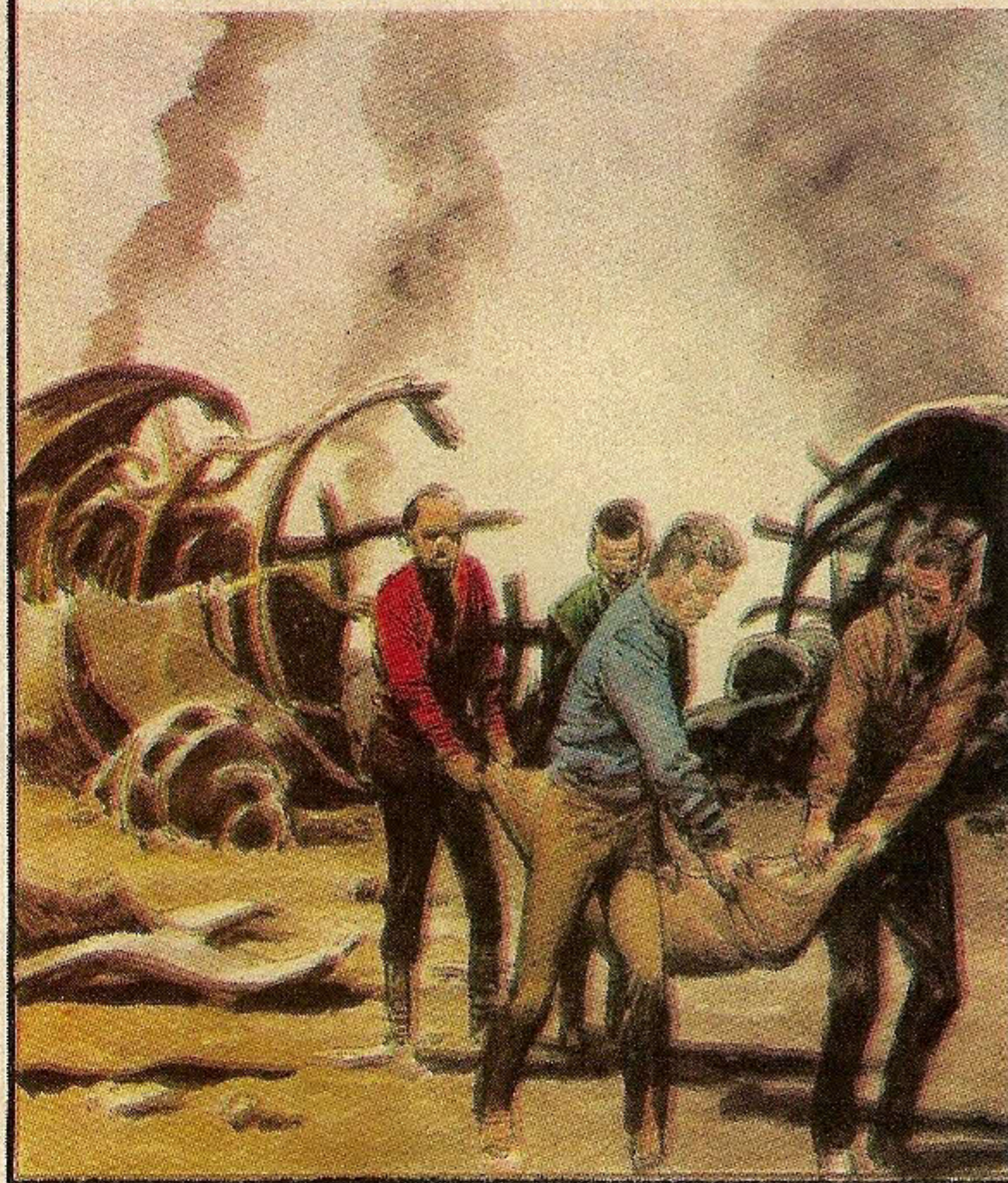


Come back, Majesty! The whole thing could blow up!

And then . . .



Later, much later, they found their Emperor and took him away.

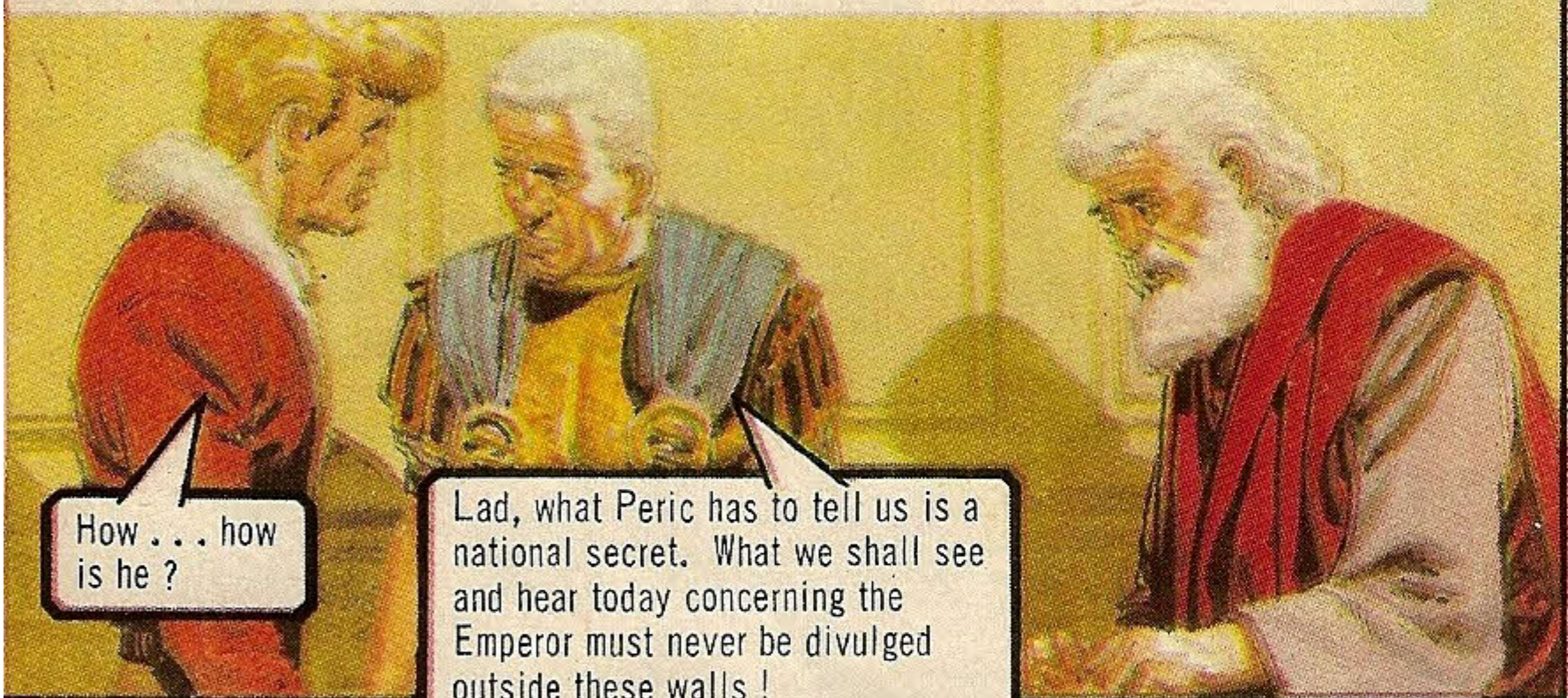


Peric – Elekton's greatest scientist – spoke the grave news.

That transporter craft contained a cargo of atomic waste. In the explosion, his Imperial Majesty absorbed enough of a special kind of radiation to upset the balance of his body structure . . . as I will show you . . .



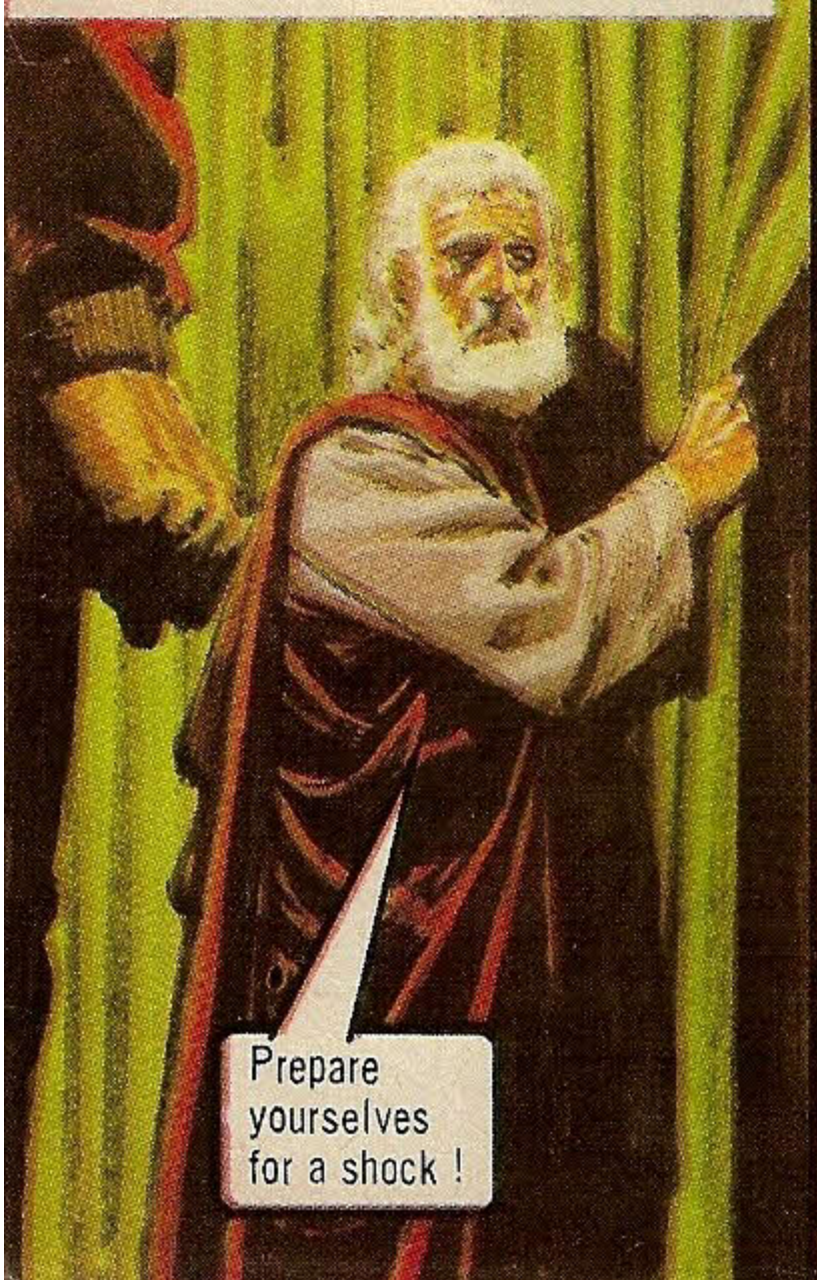
It was many days before young Janno was summoned to the Imperial Palace by his father, the Emperor's brother.



How . . . how is he ?

Lad, what Peric has to tell us is a national secret. What we shall see and hear today concerning the Emperor must never be divulged outside these walls !

Peric took them to his private laboratory in the Palace.



Prepare yourselves for a shock !

The Emperor of the Trigans lay under a small, transparent dome.



It's unbelievable !

Oh, no !

It is bad – but worse is to follow !

The Emperor's tissues are further reducing in size ! In a short time, he will be shrunk to microscopic proportions ! Later still, he will become a single, atomic particle, which will split and explode to nothing !



TRIGAN EMPIRE

While trying to rescue the crew of a crashed aircraft, Emperor Trigo absorbs a special kind of radiation that upsets his body structure. He is now reduced in size and doomed to get smaller until he becomes an atomic particle and explodes . . .

Janno, Brag and the great scientist Peric stared down at the diminutive figure under the transparent dome.



His Imperial Majesty is recovering consciousness!

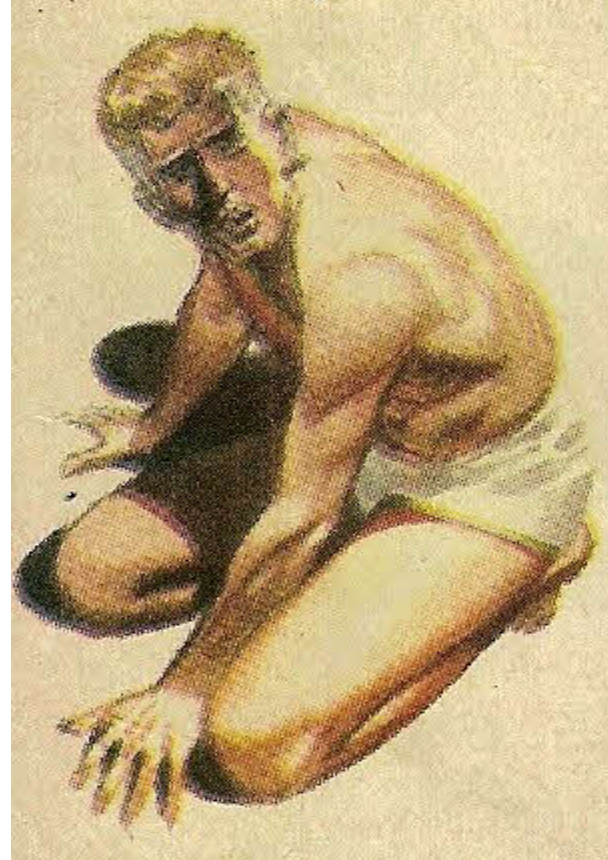
Trigo's eyes opened - to see the three giant heads looming above him!



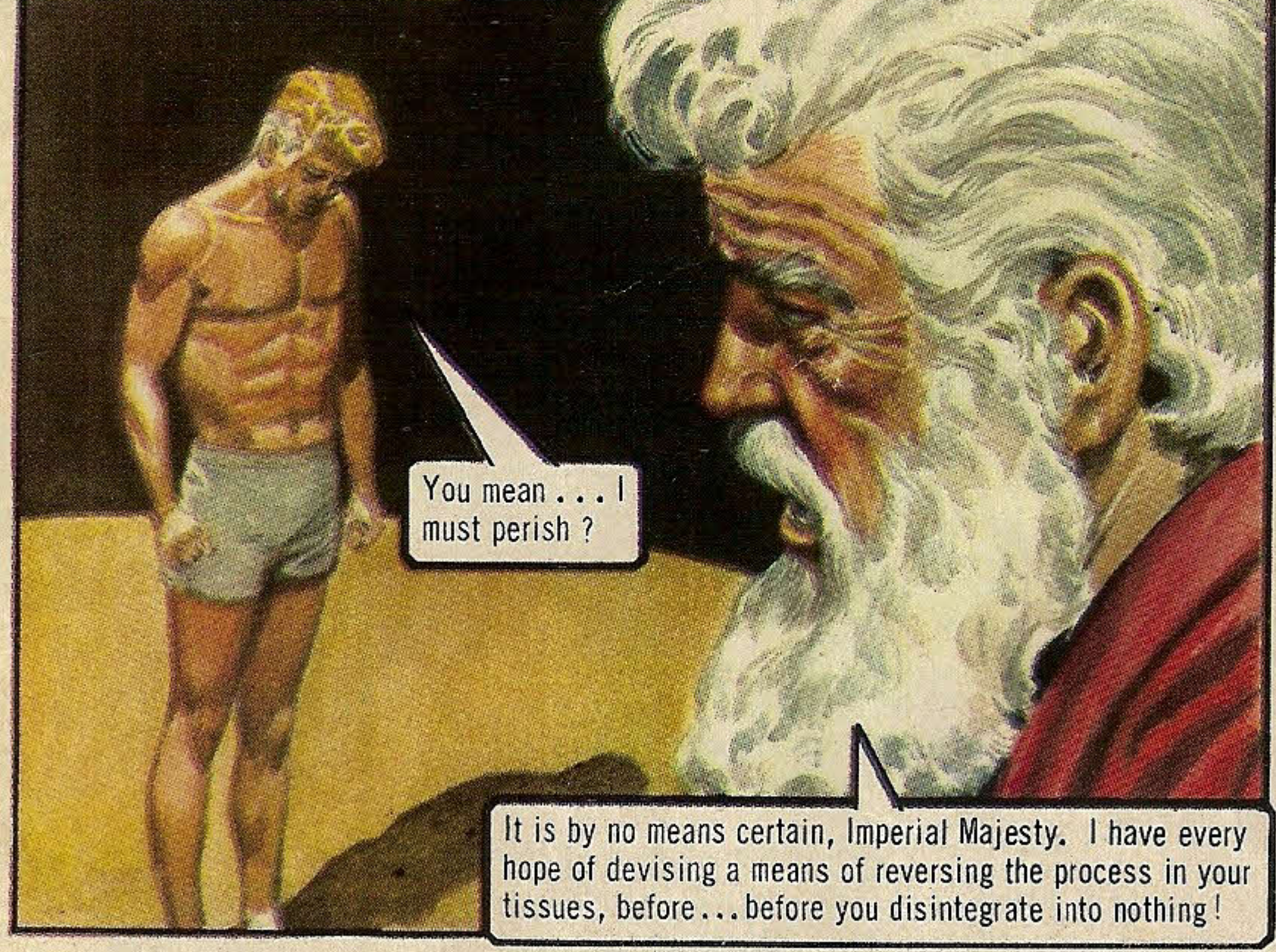
Aaaaaagh!

The initial shock over, Trigo remained every bit the Emperor of the Trigans.

What - what has happened to me?

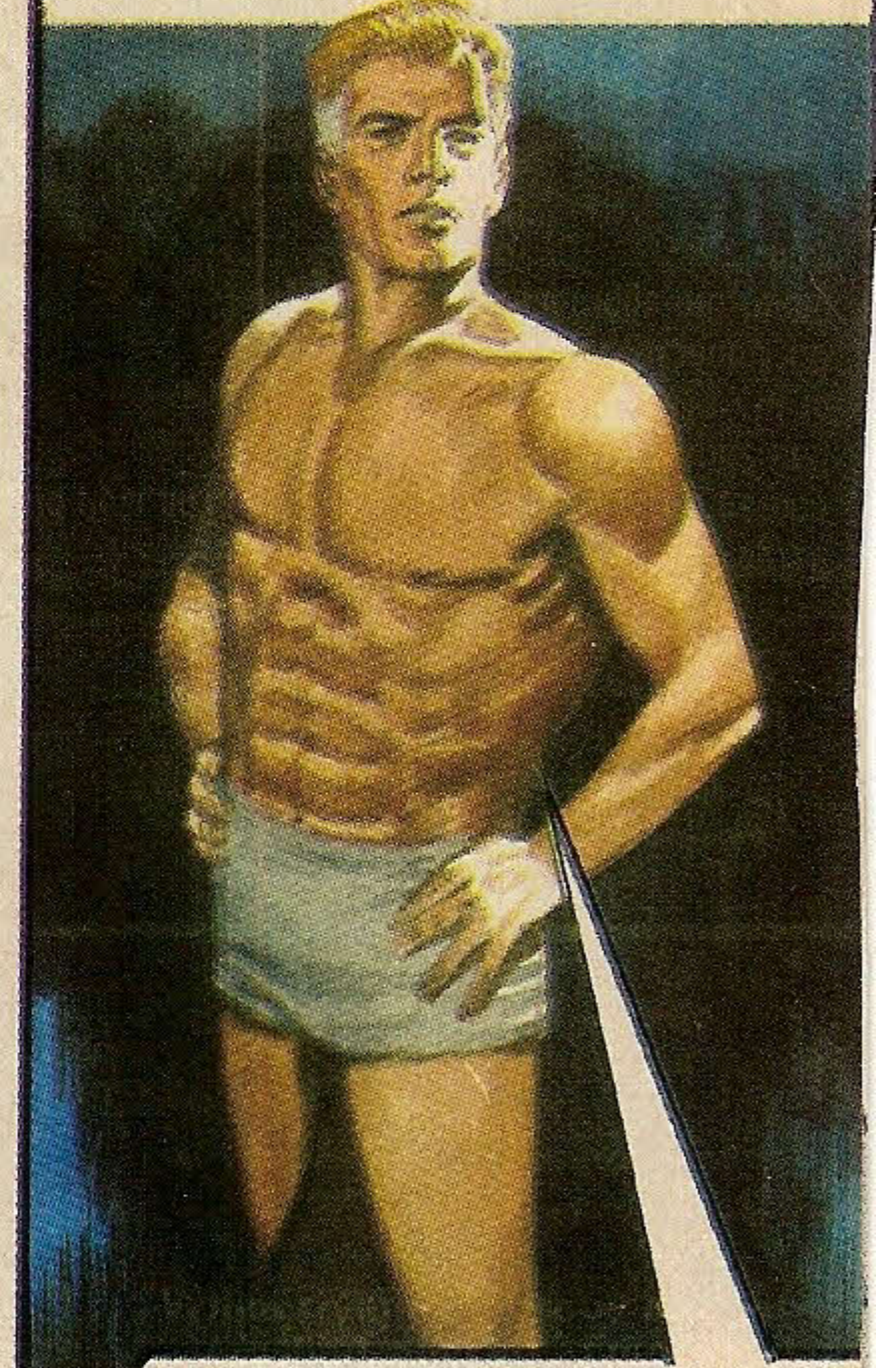


They told him . . . everything.



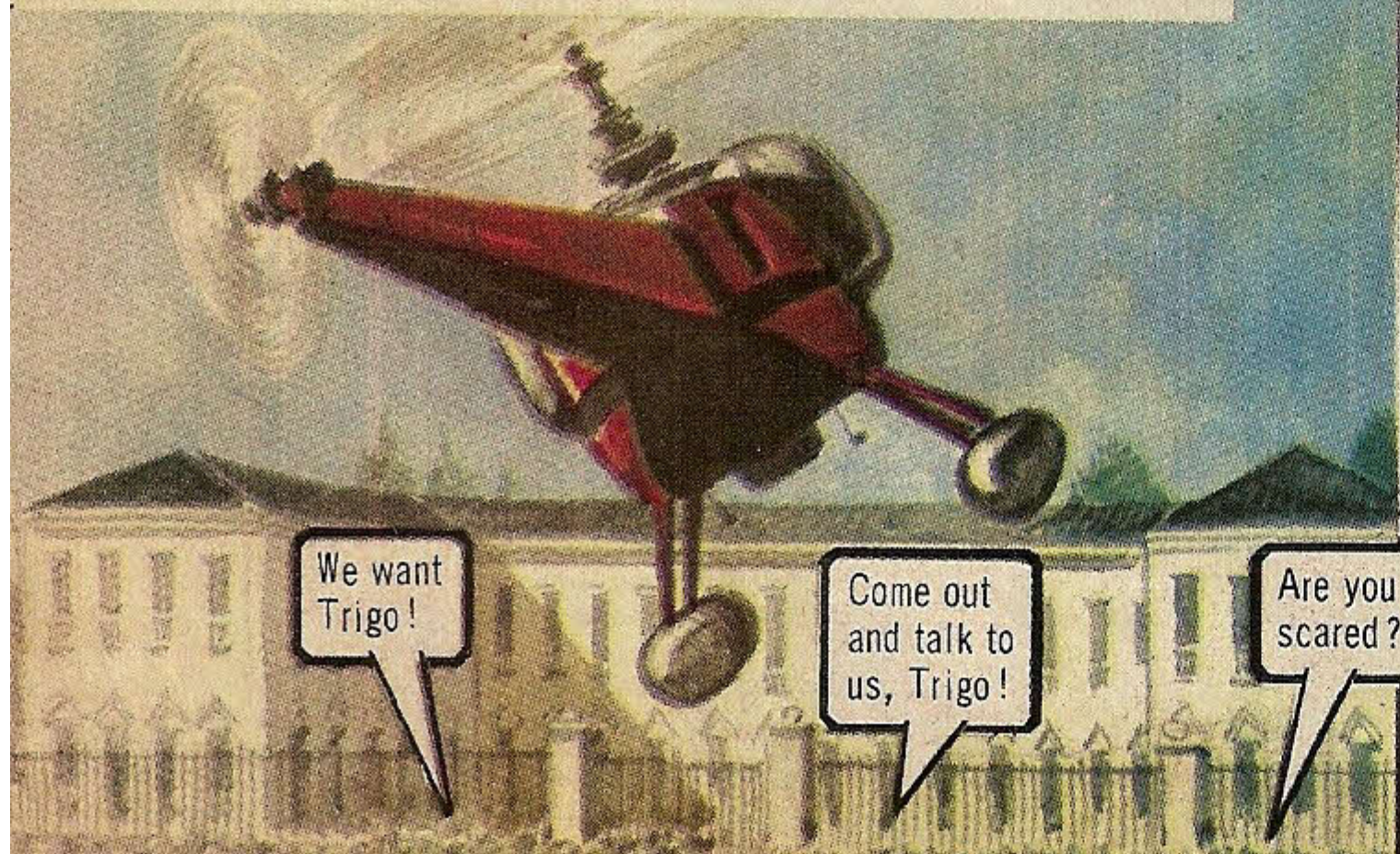
You mean . . . I must perish?

It is by no means certain, Imperial Majesty. I have every hope of devising a means of reversing the process in your tissues, before . . . before you disintegrate into nothing!



The people must not know of my condition, understand? The knowledge would provide the revolutionaries with the excuse they need to overthrow the Empire.

But revolutionary elements in the capital had already taken to the streets. Within days, they were massing at the Imperial Palace.



We want Trigo!

Come out and talk to us, Trigo!

Are you scared?

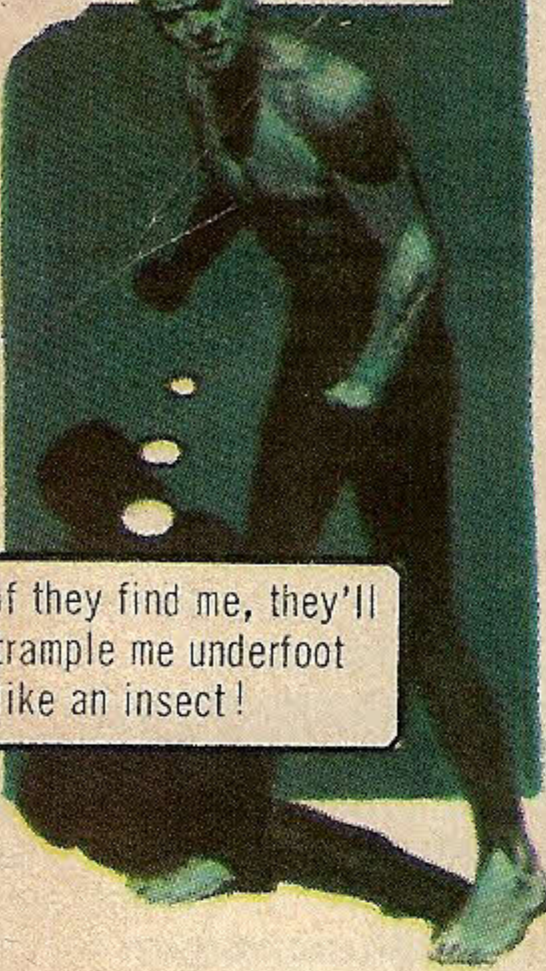
Furious that the Emperor would not come forth and hear their grievances, they resorted to violence!



Down with the Empire!

Burn the Palace!

Trigo - who, in the course of the few days, had shrunk to a third of his size on recovering consciousness - heard the approaching mob.



If they find me, they'll trample me underfoot like an insect!

The mob burst into the laboratory.



This is where that old fool Peric dabbles with his spells! Smash it up! Smash everything!

The Trigan Emperor was forced to cower, among the wreckage of Peric's laboratory, from his own people.

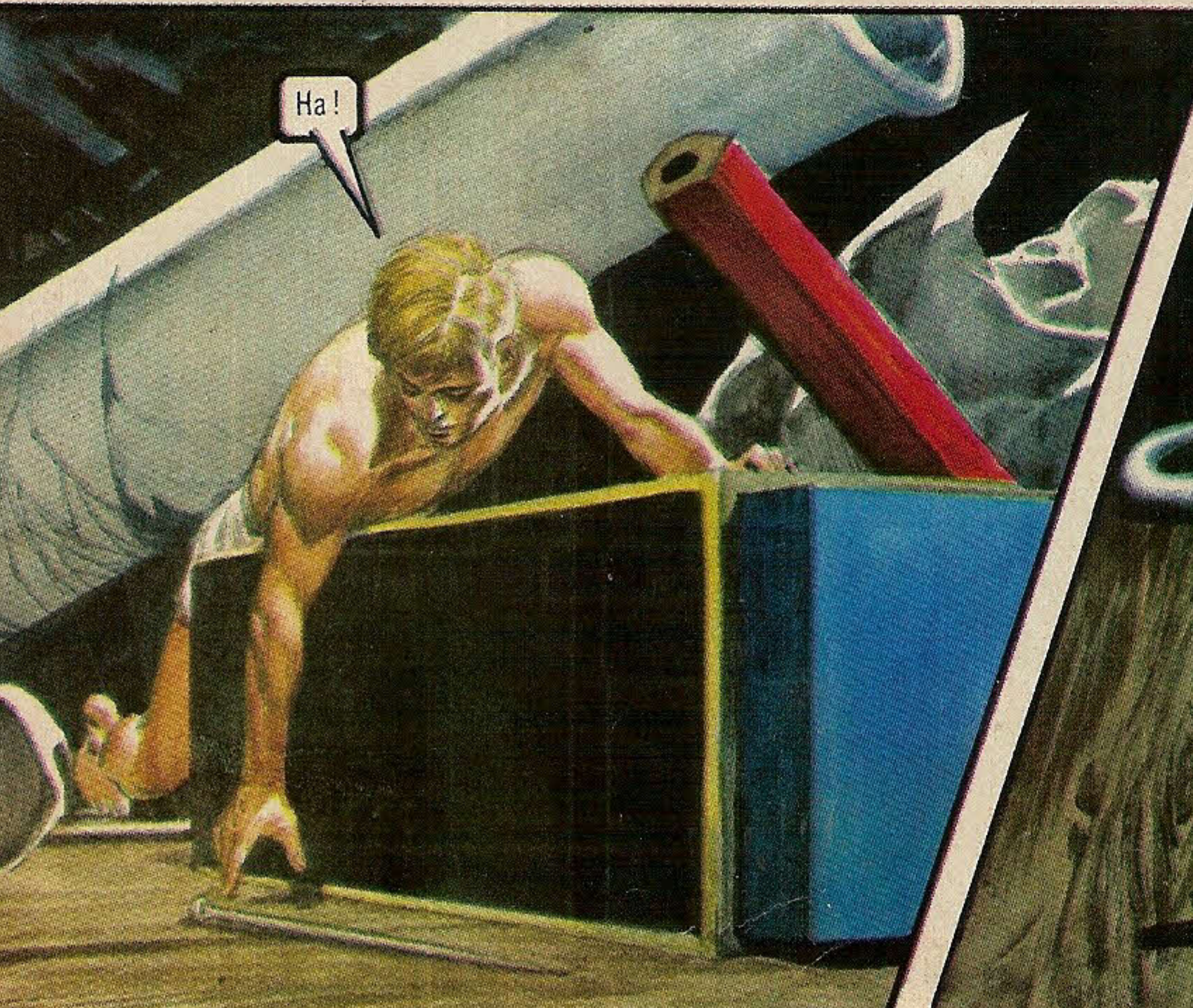


I am helpless... helpless!

No sooner had the mob gone on their way when he saw... it!



A weapon - I must have a weapon!



Ha!

With a sharp weapon in his hand, the Emperor felt good for the first time since his disaster!



Not so helpless after all!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

Revolution rages in the Trigan Empire and to add to the trouble the Emperor has absorbed enough of a special kind of radiation to upset the balance of his body structure. He has now shrunk in size and is being attacked.

Amid the ruins of the palace laboratory, Trigo was engaged in mortal combat with the predator.



He had just dispatched his fierce opponent when he heard the voice of Peric, the scientist.

Destroyed! Ruined! A lifetime's work! And what of the Emperor?



I'm here, Peric!

Thank the stars that you have been spared, Imperial Majesty. But much that has been destroyed in here is completely irreplaceable.

It can all be replaced - given time.

As far as your own condition is concerned, Imperial Majesty, time is one thing I do not have. I must find a way to reverse the process in your tissues before you disintegrate into nothing!

By nightfall, the revolutionaries' fury had spent itself. But the Imperial Palace lay in ruins.



A truce was declared. The Emperor's brother, Brag, met leaders of the revolt and the more moderate political groups.



Where is the Emperor? It's useless to talk of reforms, when the only man who can make them law refuses to show himself!

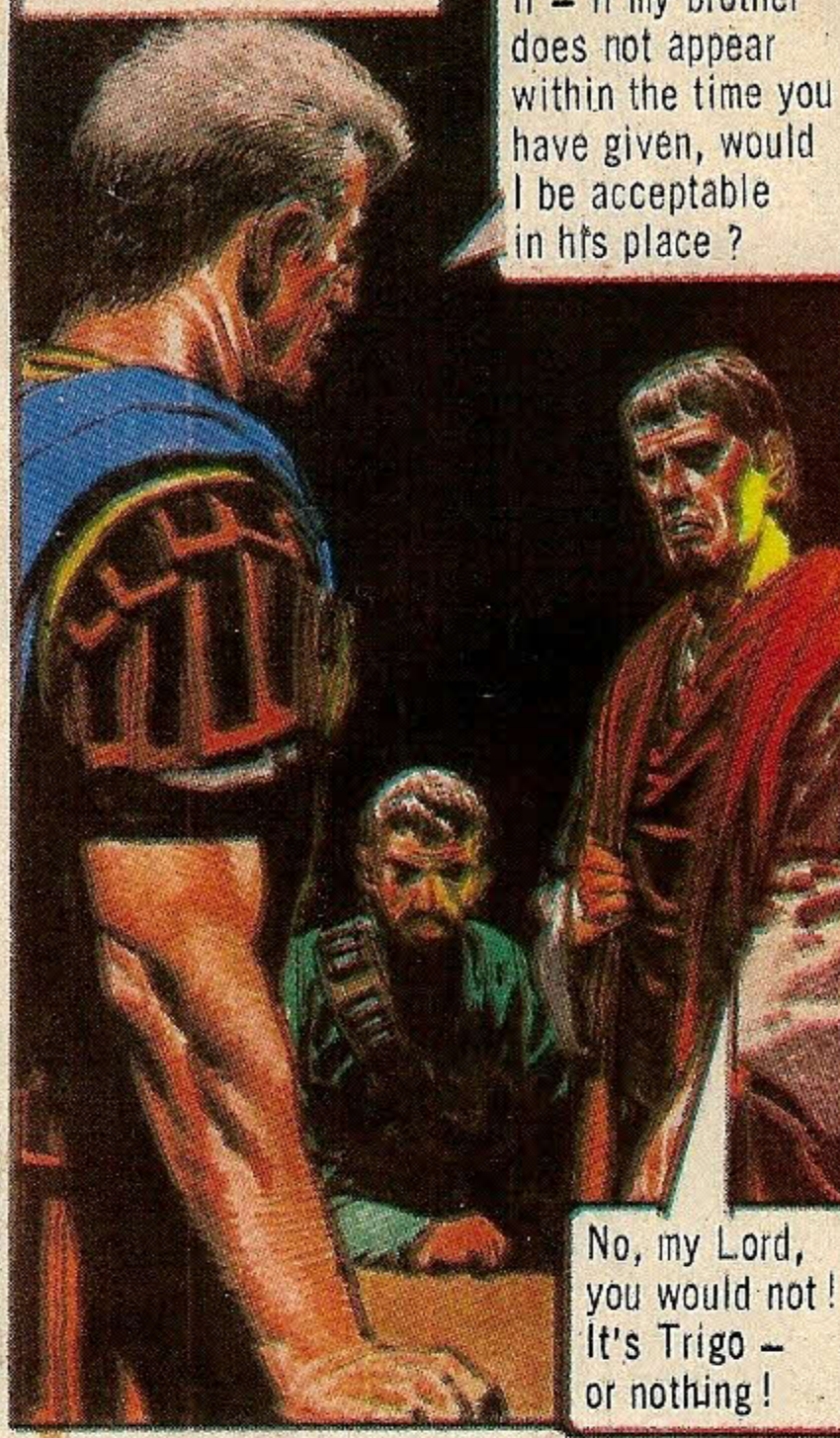
The Emperor will appear . . . in . . . in good time!

The leader of the moderates spoke up . . .



Lord Brag - you must produce the Emperor by the end of the lunar month, or we shall have no alternative but to agree to the declaration of a Republic!

Brag knew that Trigo was as good as doomed already.



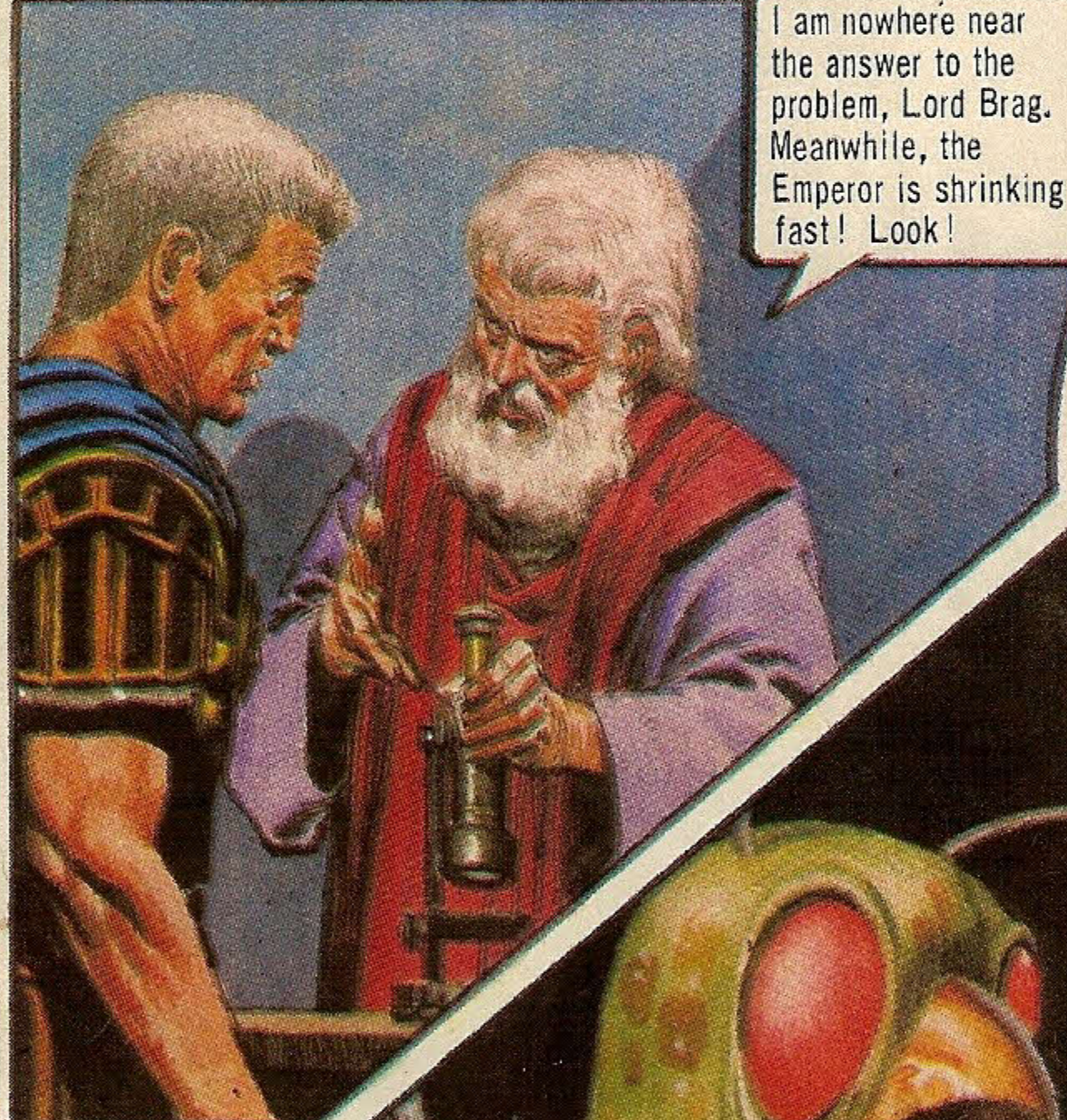
If - if my brother does not appear within the time you have given, would I be acceptable in his place?

No, my Lord, you would not! It's Trigo - or nothing!

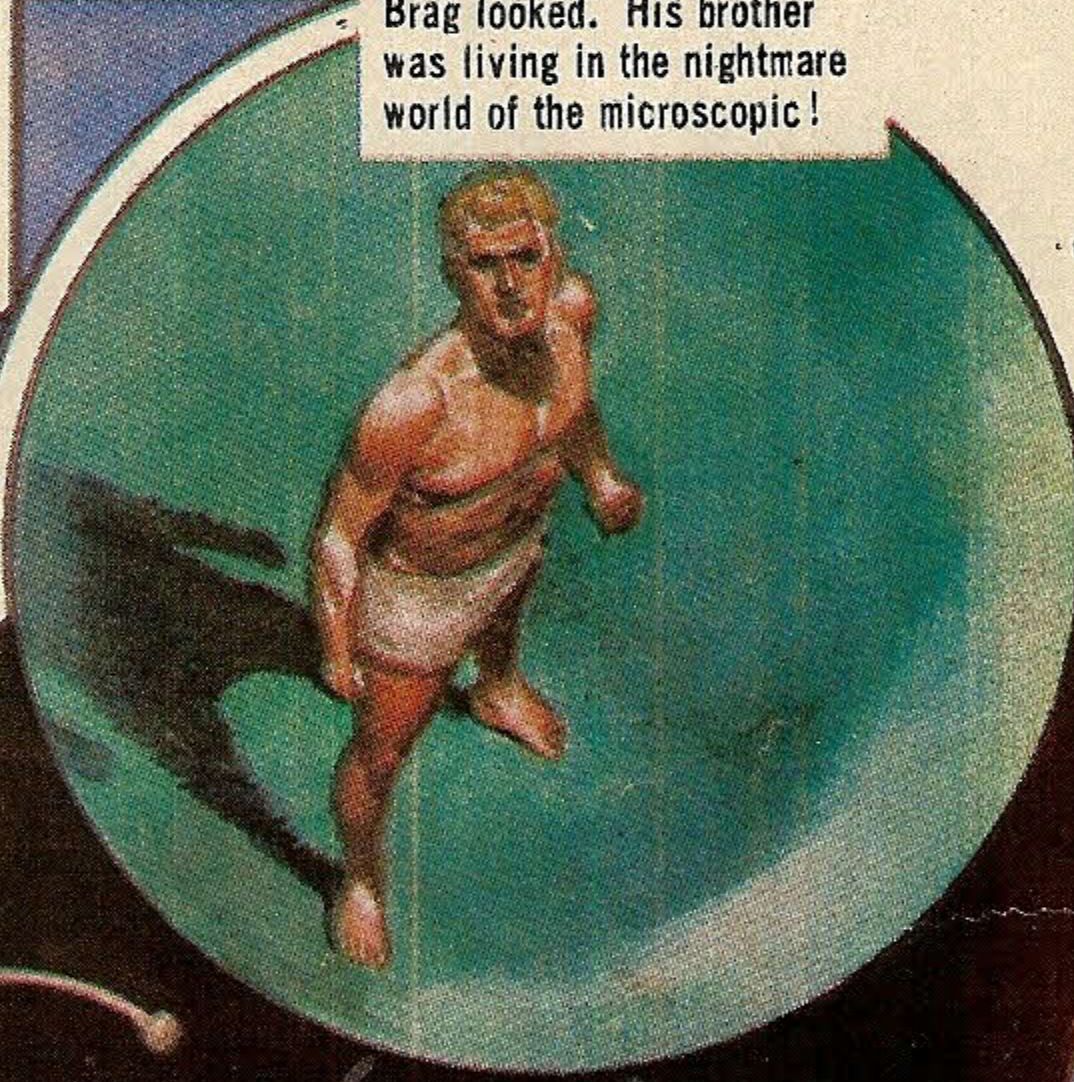
And so . . .



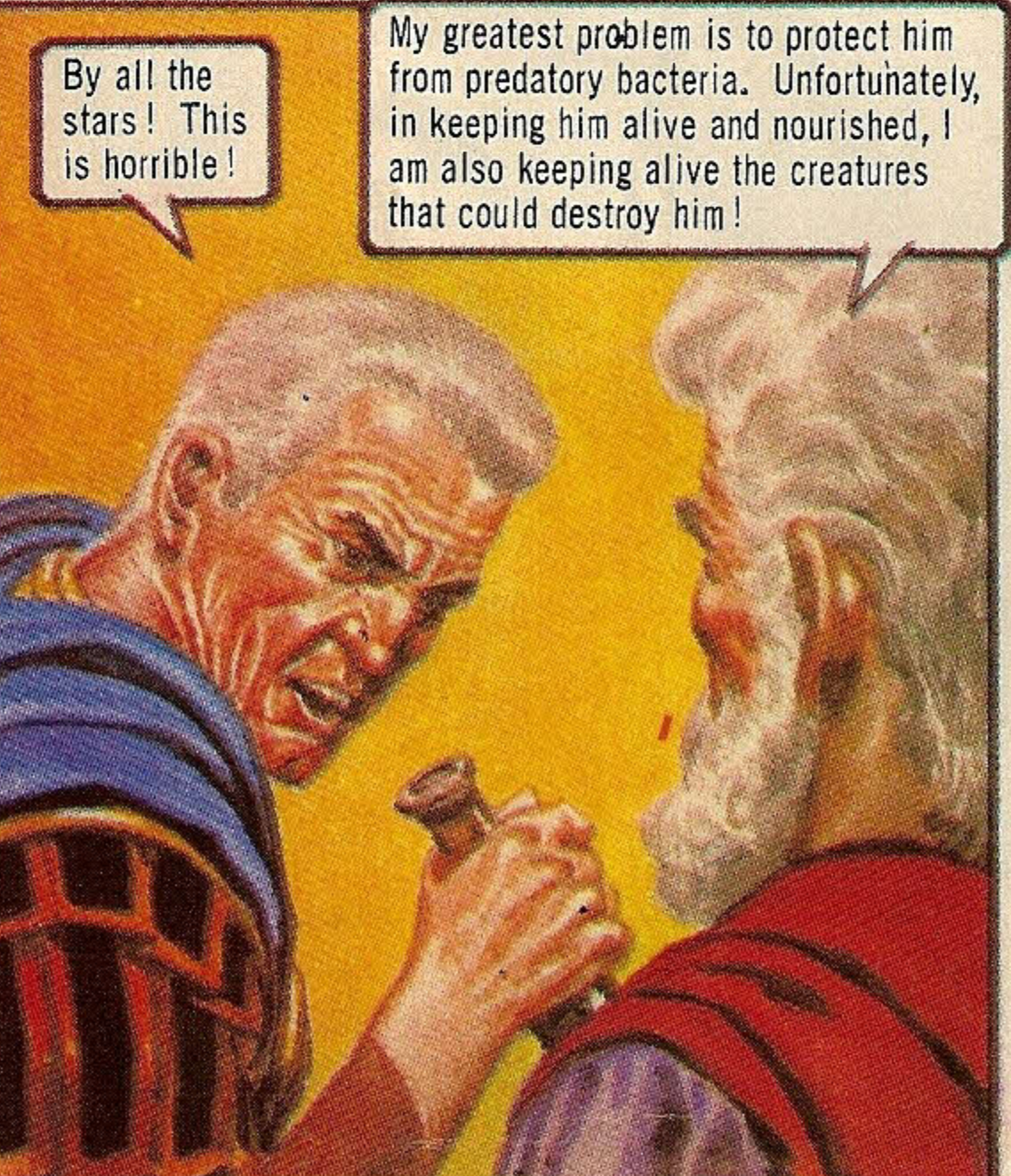
It's all up to you, Peric. You've got to restore the Emperor to his proper size by the end of the lunar month, or the Trigan Empire's finished!



I am nowhere near the answer to the problem, Lord Brag. Meanwhile, the Emperor is shrinking fast! Look!



Brag looked. His brother was living in the nightmare world of the microscopic!



By all the stars! This is horrible!

My greatest problem is to protect him from predatory bacteria. Unfortunately, in keeping him alive and nourished, I am also keeping alive the creatures that could destroy him!



Even at that moment, Trigo was in deadly peril!

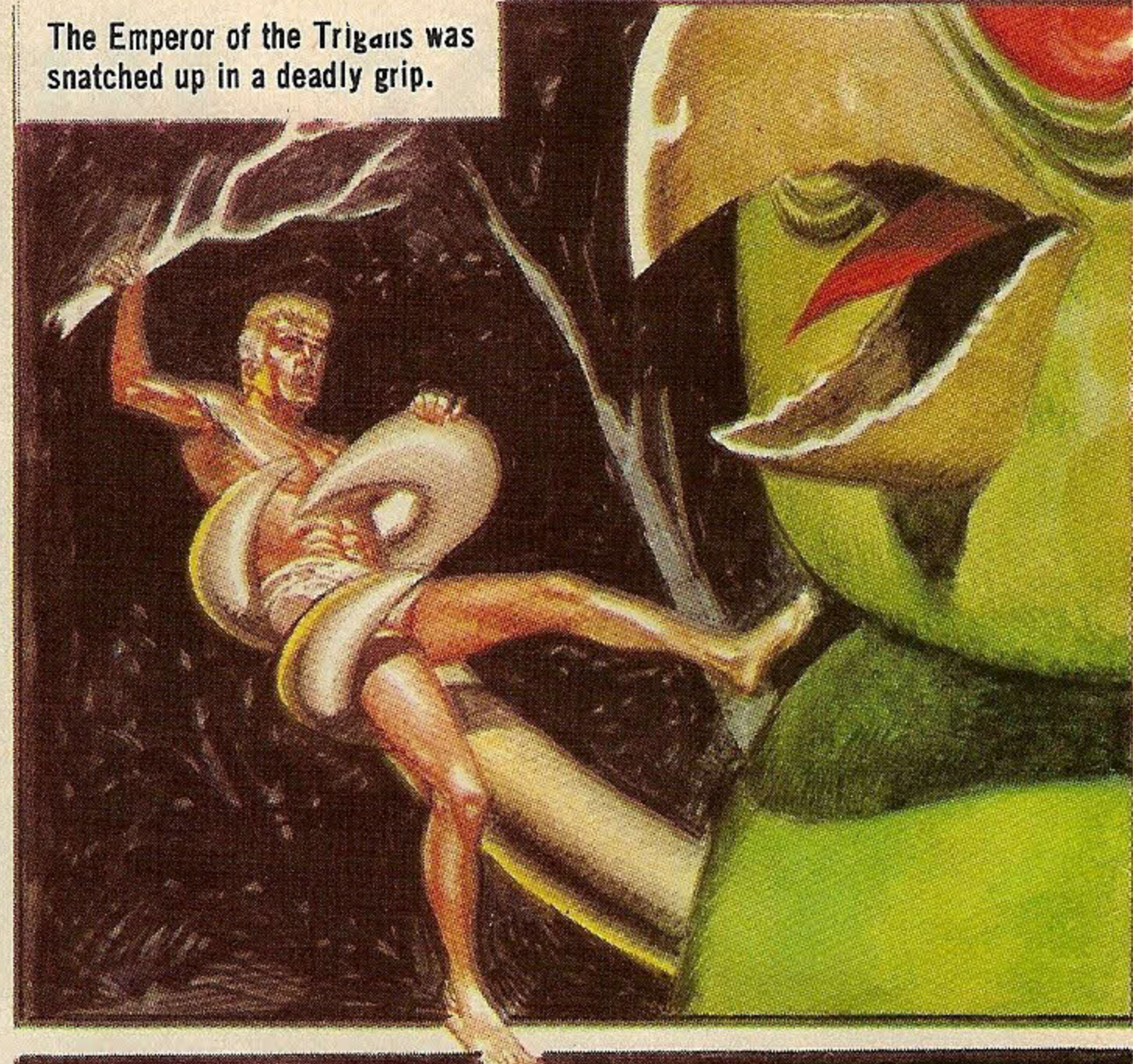
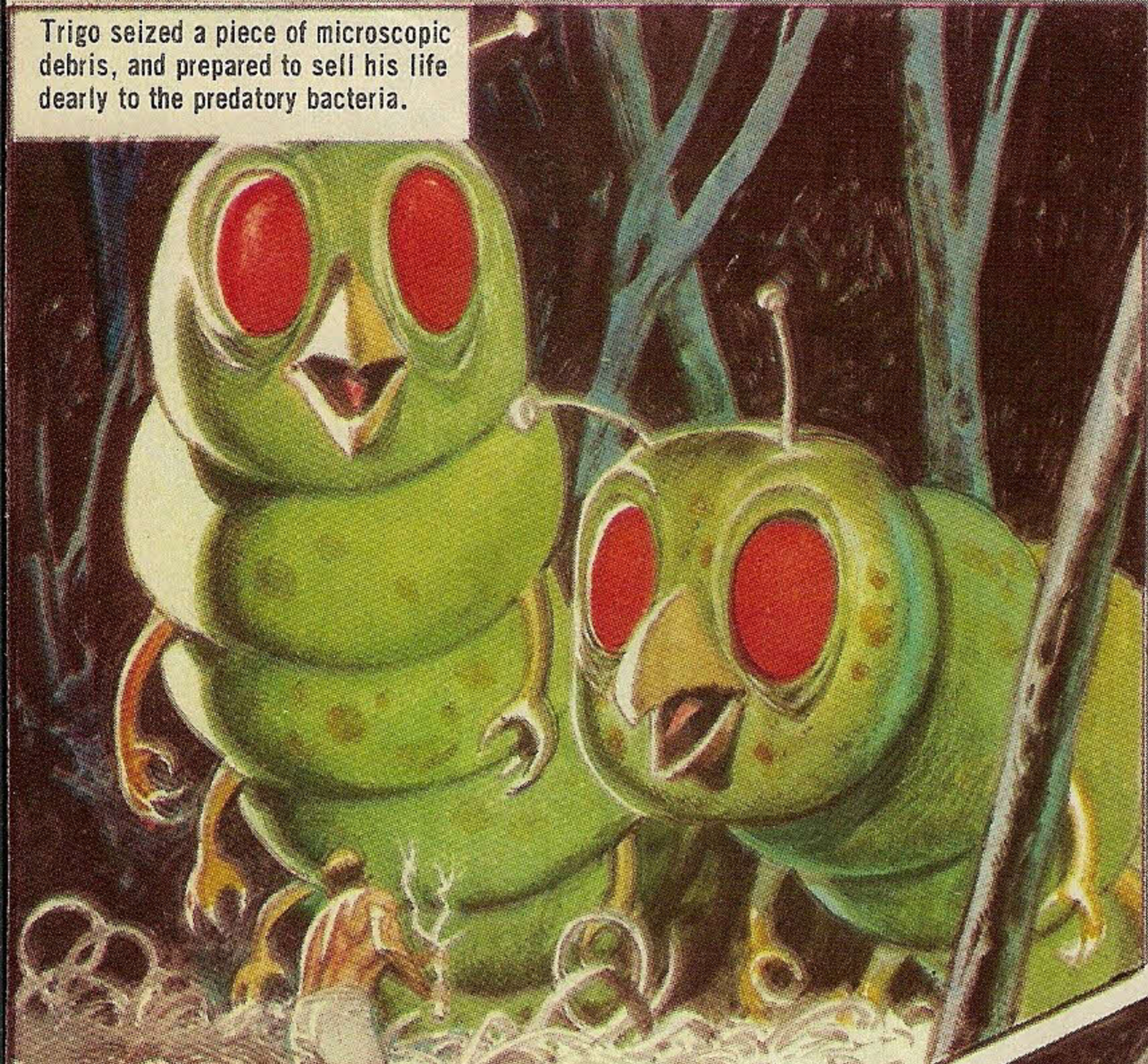
I am done for!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

Revolution threatens the Trigan Empire and only the Emperor Trigo can save the situation. But his body structure has been upset by radiation and he has shrunk into the nightmare world of the microscopic...

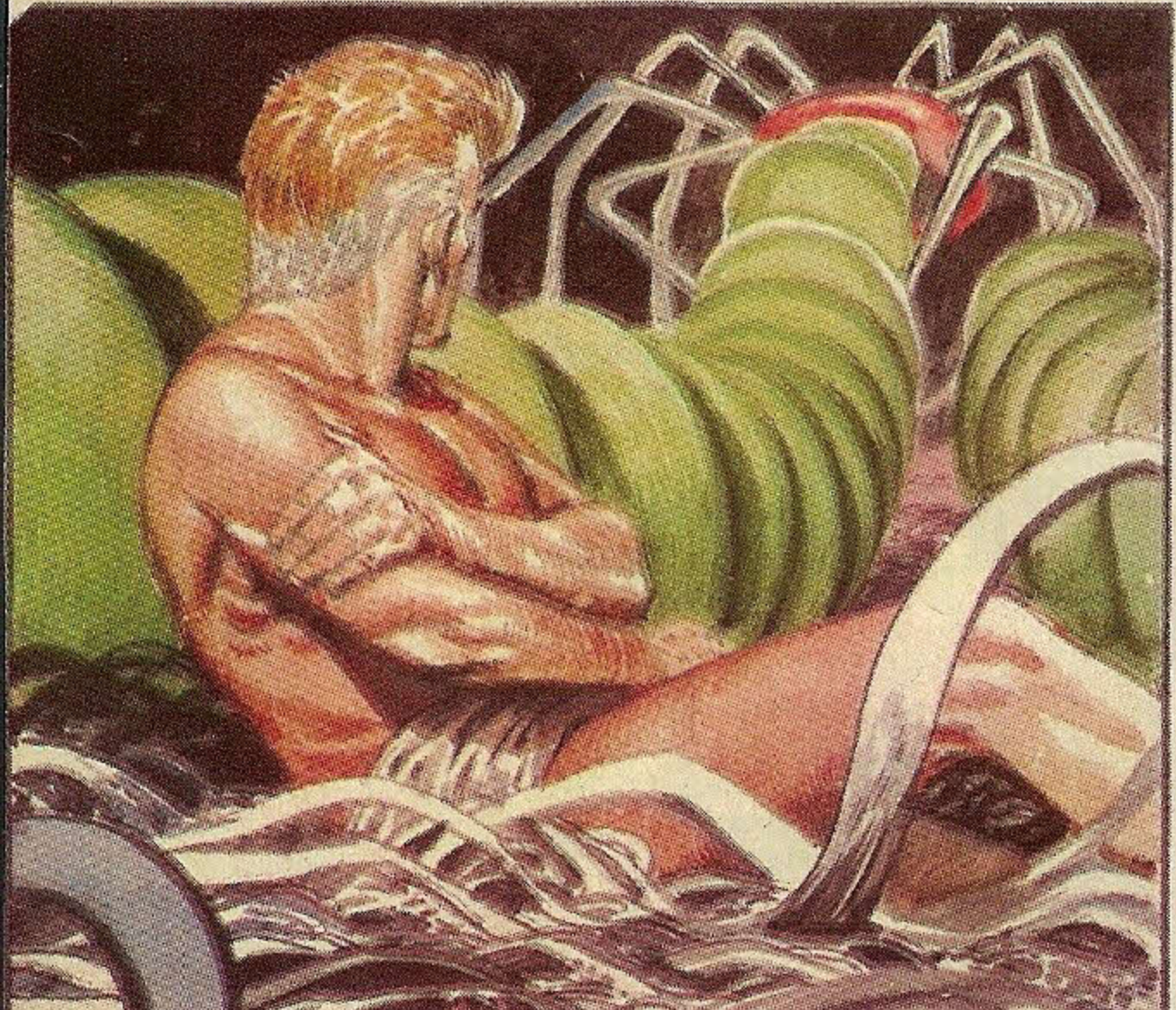
Trigo seized a piece of microscopic debris, and prepared to sell his life dearly to the predatory bacteria.

The Emperor of the Trigans was snatched up in a deadly grip.



Aaaaaaagh!

But in the process of being transferred to a gaping mouth, Trigo suddenly felt the claw release him.



He fell heavily and felt the bone of his right arm break asunder. And there he lay - helpless - while the monsters battled.

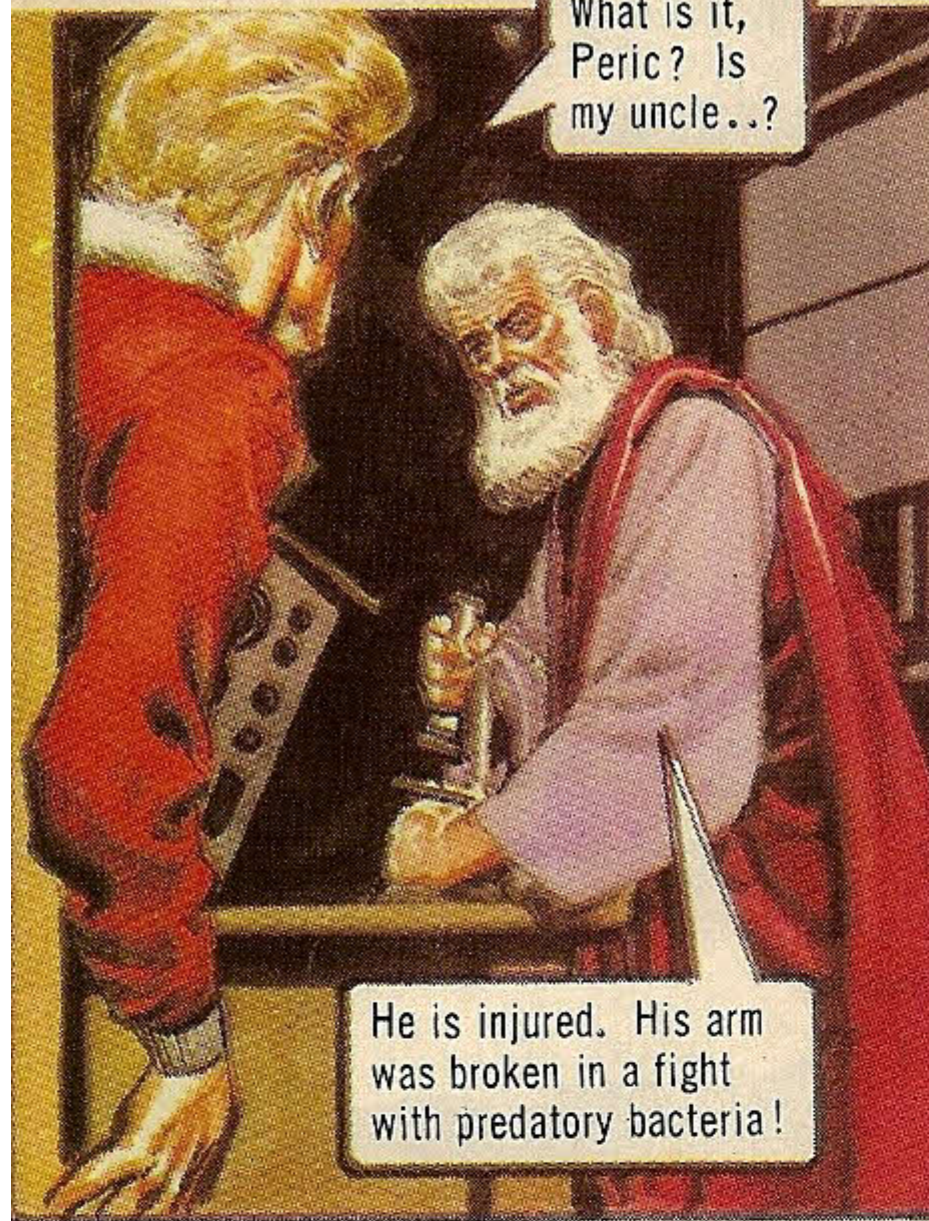
Some time later, in the normal world of Trigan, Janno landed his aircraft...

Message from Peric, Lieutenant.

It must be news of my Uncle Trigo!



It was a summons. And it took Janno rushing with all haste to the makeshift laboratory that Elekton's top scientist had constructed in the ruins of the Imperial Palace.



What is it, Peric? Is my uncle...?

He is injured. His arm was broken in a fight with predatory bacteria!



His chance of survival in the violent world of the microscopic is now almost nil – unless someone goes to his assistance!



You mean...?

I am as yet unable to reverse the process and restore the Emperor to the normal world – but I can reduce you to microscopic size and send you to help him!



Janno took a deep breath... and...

All right, Peric. I'll go. I'll take my chance in that nightmare world with my uncle!



Meanwhile, in the headquarters of the Trigan City Revolutionary Party...

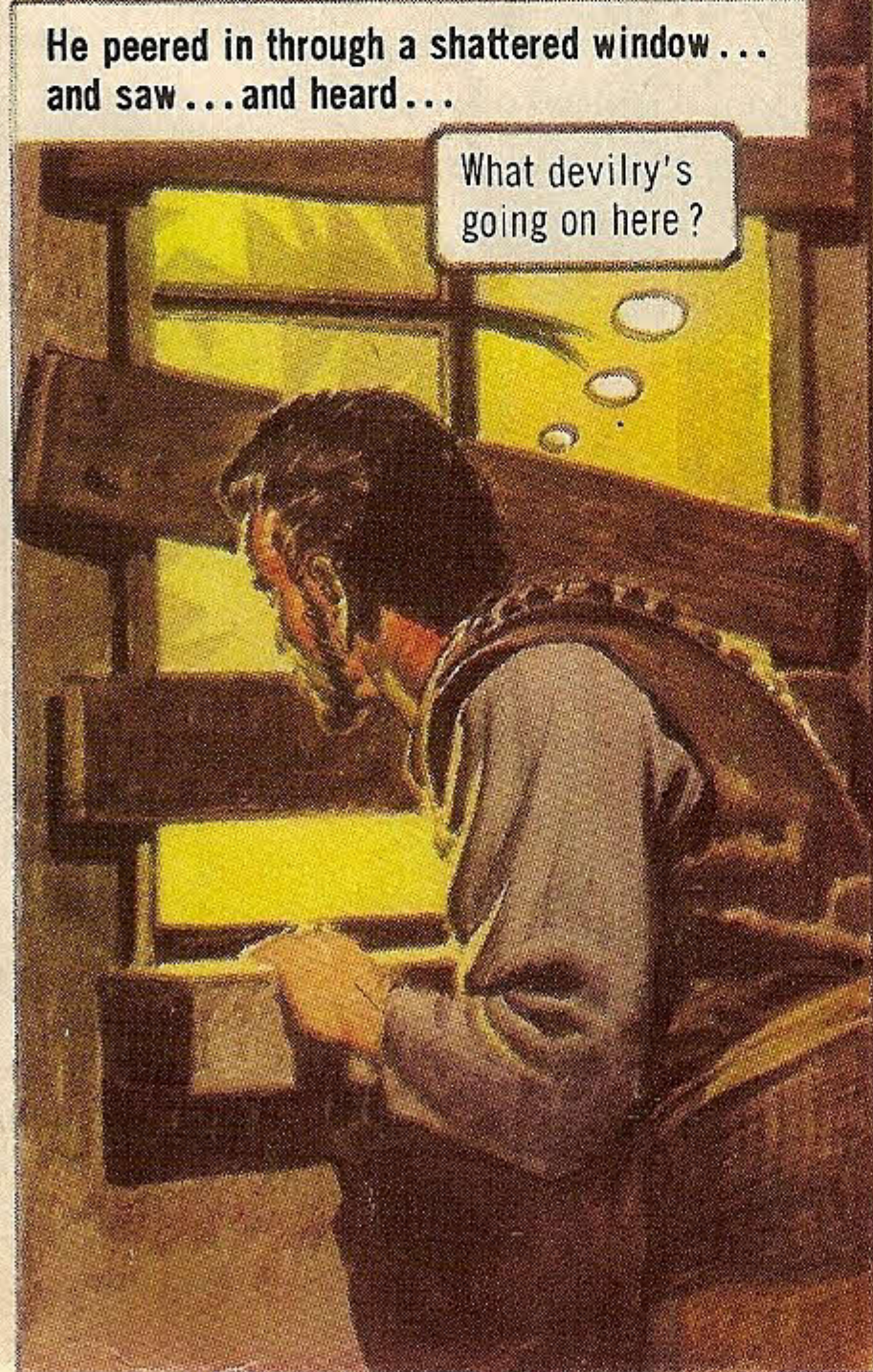
What's going on? Where is Trigo?

They've hidden him. It's some kind of trick, I tell you! If he's alive, why doesn't he come forward?



That night, one of the revolutionaries crept towards the ruins of the Imperial Palace.

They say that's where Peric dabbles with his accursed spells. If anyone knows where Trigo is, it's Peric!



He peered in through a shattered window... and saw... and heard...

What devilry's going on here?



Janno and Peric were in the laboratory.

Are you ready to descend into the nightmare world of the microscopic?

Yes, I am! Get it over with!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

Only Emperor Trigo can save the Empire from revolution but he has absorbed a special radiation that has shrunk his body until he is living in the nightmare world of the microscopic. Janno, his nephew, volunteers to join him.

Kra-a-akkk! Janno slumped, unconscious, as a massive shock wave passed through his body.



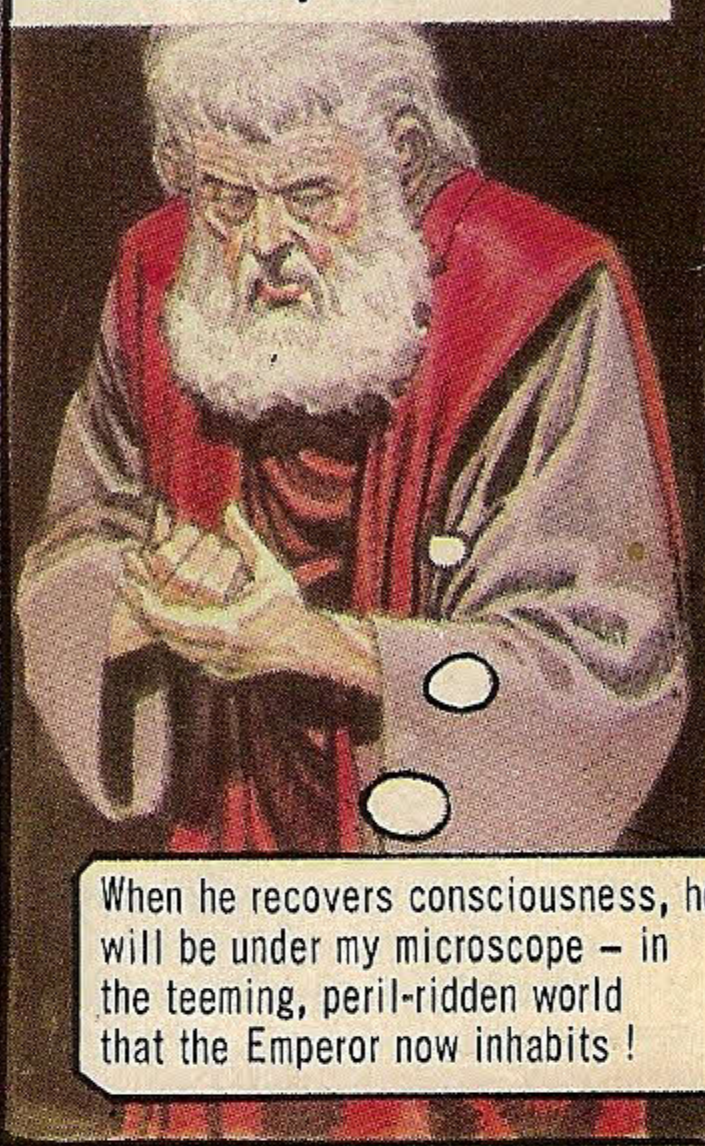
Uuuugghh...

Instantly, his body structure had completely changed!



I have accelerated the effect - in no time he will be reduced to microscopic size, like the Emperor!

Carefully, the great scientist Peric, carried the tiny, unconscious figure to the laboratory bench.



When he recovers consciousness, he will be under my microscope - in the teeming, peril-ridden world that the Emperor now inhabits!

Outside the window of the makeshift laboratory, the eavesdropper was rudely challenged!



Huh?

Who's that?

He reacted swiftly, and with violence!



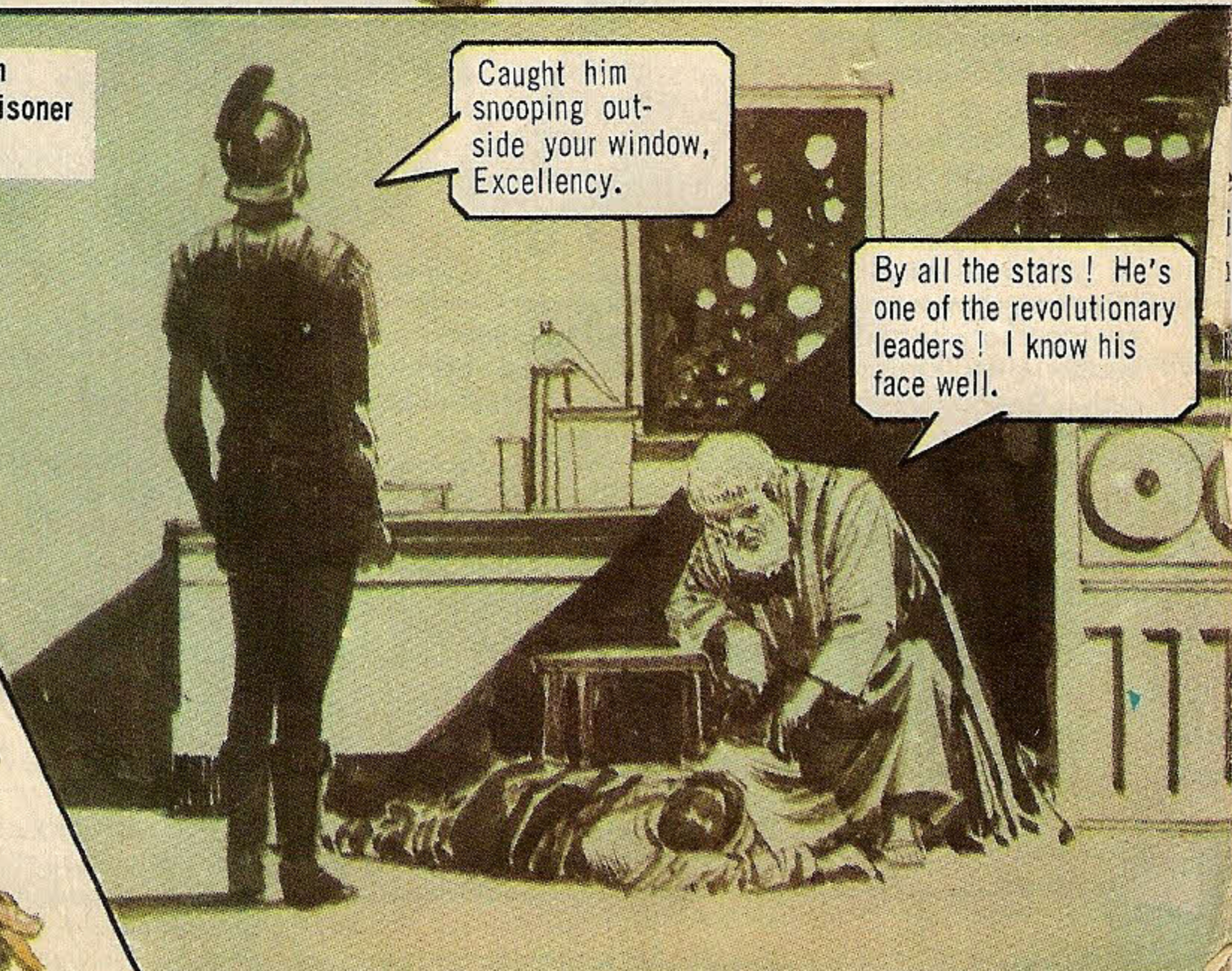
Hah!

... But the Imperial guardsman was quicker and more deadly!



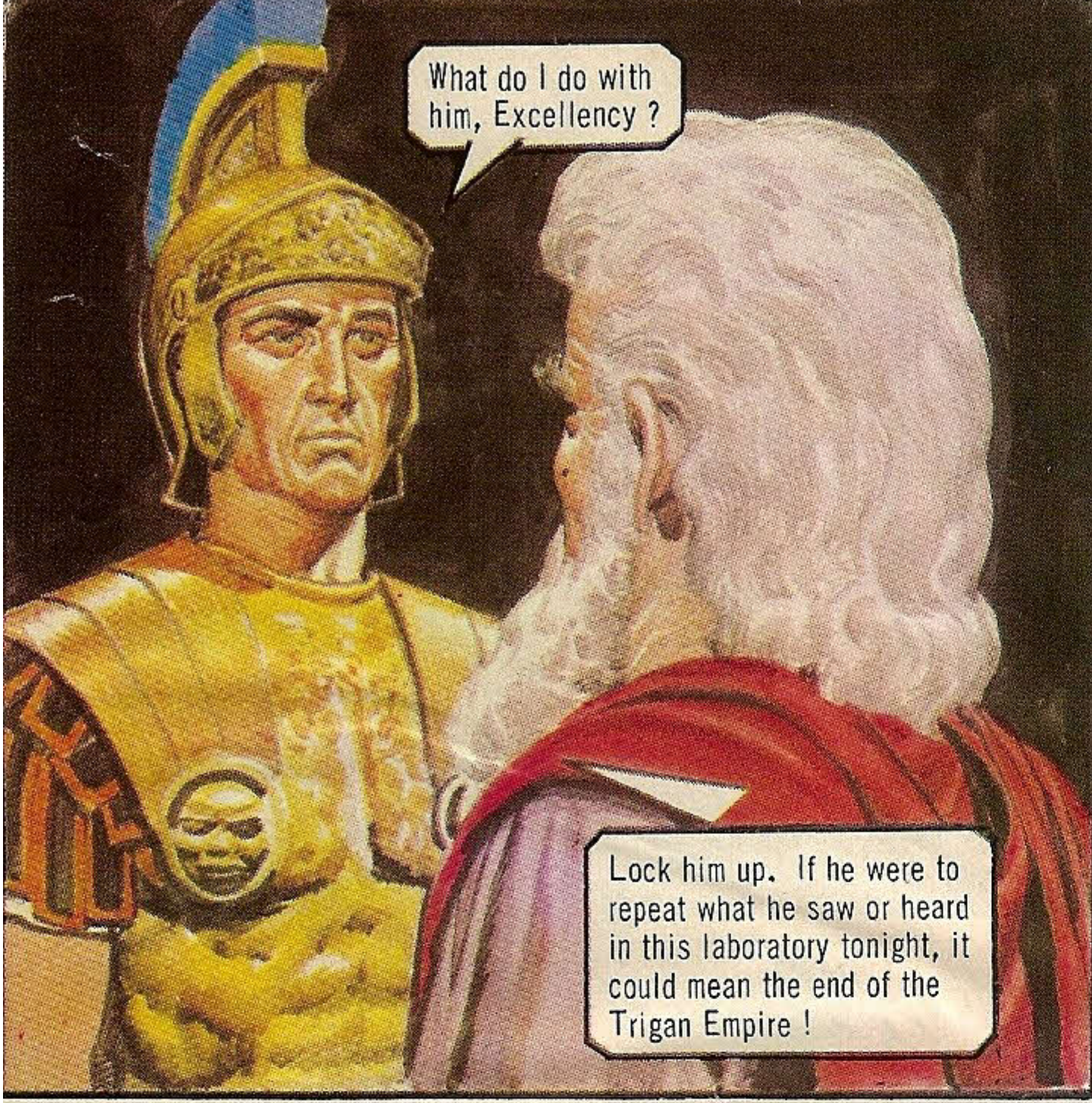
Yuuugh!

The guardsman dragged his prisoner in to Peric.



Caught him snooping outside your window, Excellency.

By all the stars! He's one of the revolutionary leaders! I know his face well.



What do I do with him, Excellency?

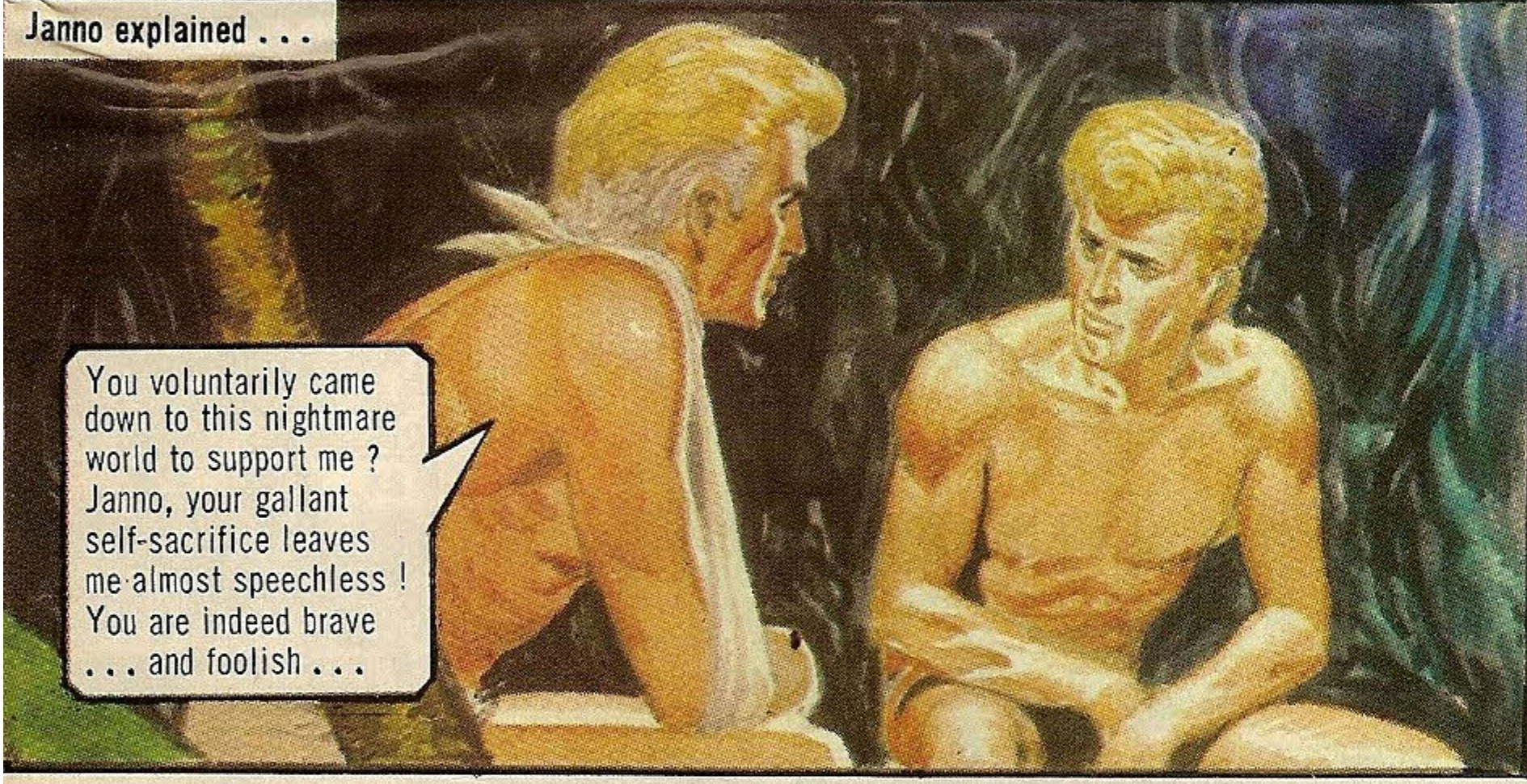
Lock him up. If he were to repeat what he saw or heard in this laboratory tonight, it could mean the end of the Trigan Empire!



Some time later, Janno recovered consciousness – and looked up into the face of the Emperor.

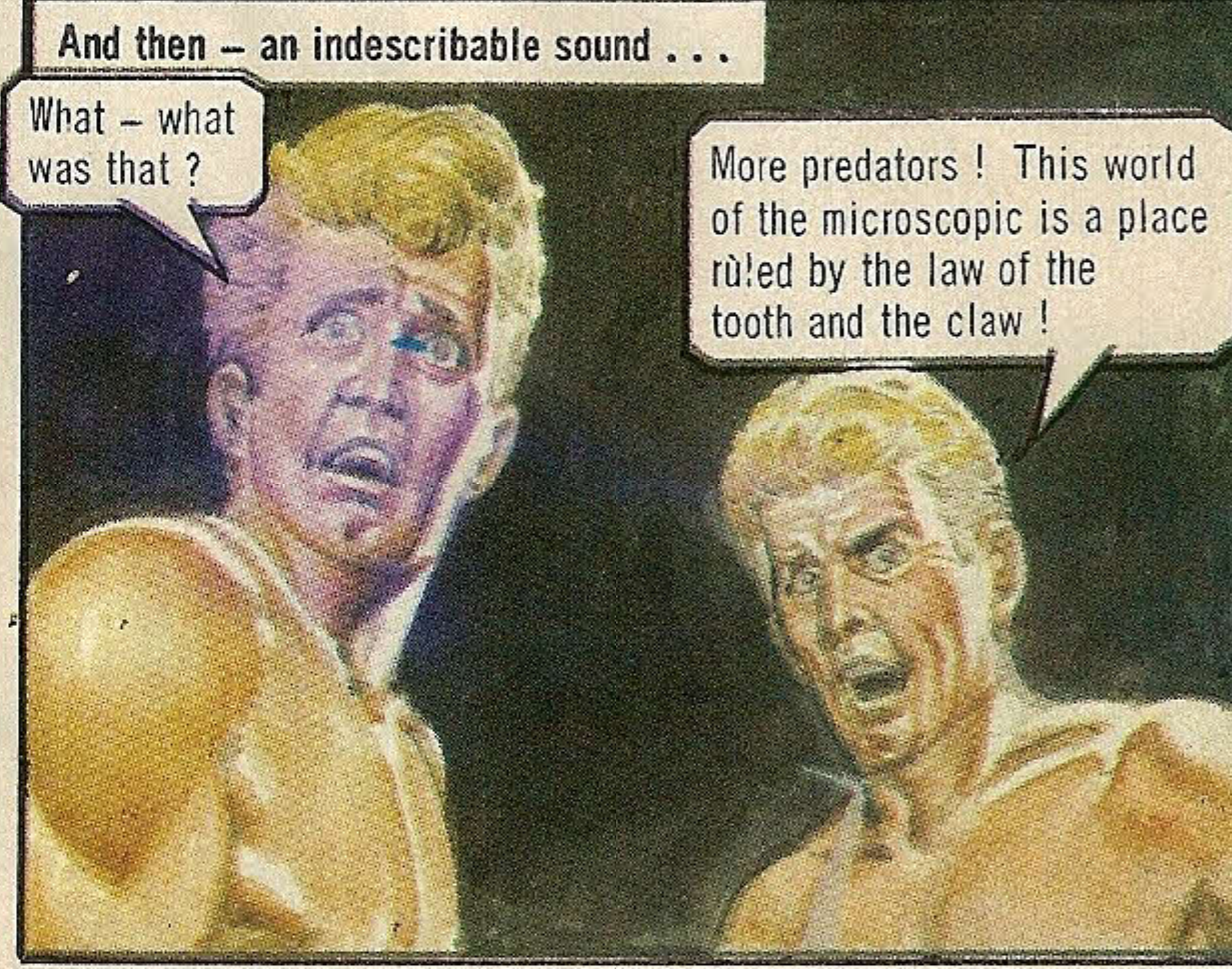
Uncle ...

Janno! What in Elekton are you doing in this infernal place?



Janno explained ...

You voluntarily came down to this nightmare world to support me? Janno, your gallant self-sacrifice leaves me almost speechless! You are indeed brave ... and foolish ...



And then – an indescribable sound ...

What – what was that?

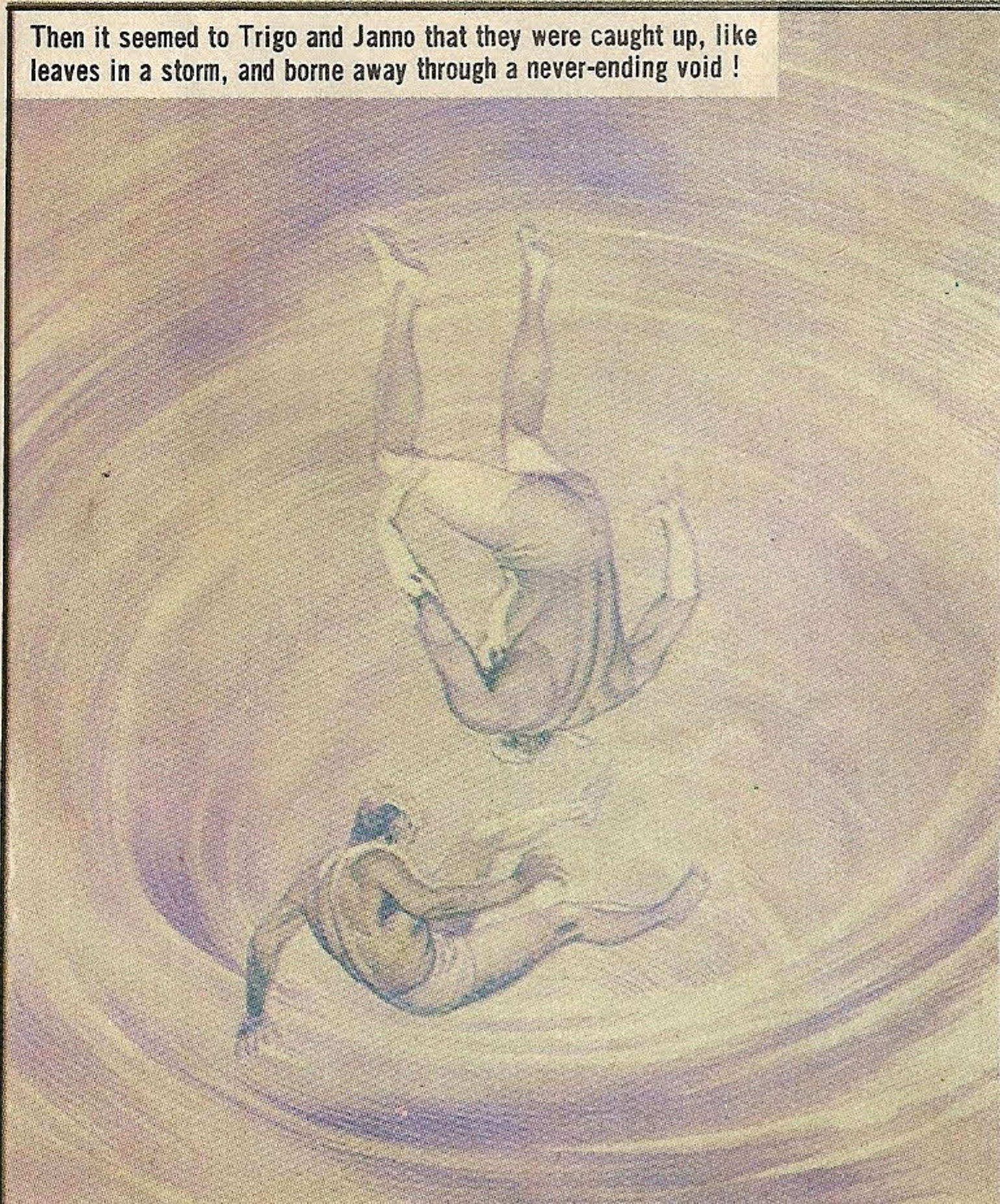
More predators! This world of the microscopic is a place ruled by the law of the tooth and the claw!



The ground shook beneath them, as a mountainous form moved past.

The size of the thing!

By all the demons! We have made a sudden and fantastic reduction in size!

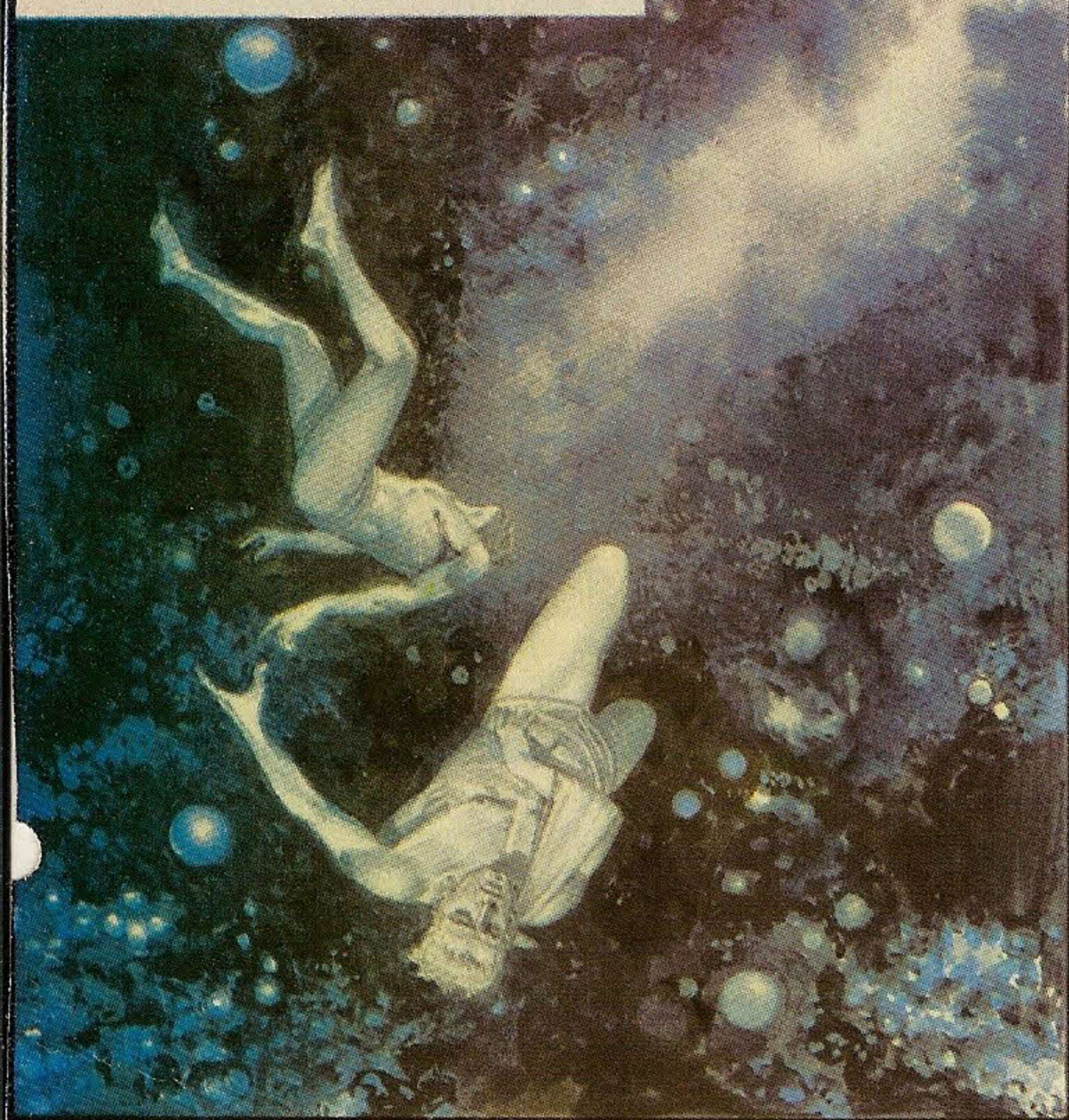


Then it seemed to Trigo and Janno that they were caught up, like leaves in a storm, and borne away through a never-ending void!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

with revolution. Only the Emperor can save things but an accident with a special kind of radiation has transported him into the world of the microscopic. Janno has now joined him and they have both experienced another staggering reduction in size . . .

Trigo and his nephew Janno were whirled through uncharted space, past unknown worlds.



After what seemed a lifetime, they recovered consciousness in bright sunlight.



Where . . . where are we ?

Not on Elekton, that's for sure ! I've circumnavigated our planet many times, but I've never seen this type of country !

Presently, they heard voices, and a craft glided into sight.



They were addressed – in the common language of their own planet.



Welcome to Orcadia. We have been expecting you.

The Trigans were too astounded to speak. Their wonder increased when they came to a fabulous city.



Their guide led them into a great hall.

The persons from the upper world, great one!

It is good. Please approach, my friends.

Then began the answers to the questions that teemed in the Trigans' minds.

We detected your approach. In the distant past, our people inhabited the perilous world that you call the microscopic. Indeed, we are even familiar with your native planet – which is why we speak your language.

Janno stared at his uncle in awe.

Meanwhile, in Trigan City, the revolutionary who had been caught outside Peric's laboratory was recovering his senses.

Give me a hand to carry th animal to the lock-up!

But... what is this planet? Where is Orcadia?

I... I don't understand!

Taking the scale of your native planet, Orcadia moves in space about the nucleus of a single atom!

Think of it this way, lad – under Peric's microscope in the palace laboratory in Trigan City is a microscopic world – this is made up of a teeming mass of atomic particles, worlds within worlds. We are now on one of those sub-microscopic worlds!

He zipped into action!

Aaaaagh!

Uuuugh!

Presently, he was back at his party's secret headquarters.

He told his fantastic story of what he had seen and heard, that night, in the laboratory at the palace.

Oh, it's you. What did you find out?

I tell you it's true! Trigo and that nephew of his are under Peric's microscope! We can destroy them as easily as snapping a finger – so!

Plenty!

TRIGAN EMPIRE

The Trigan Empire is on the brink of revolution. Emperor Trigo and his nephew Janno, whose bodies have been shrunk to minute proportions by a special kind of radiation, have passed into the sub-microscopic world of Orcadia.

The revolutionaries took new heart at the news of the Emperor's true fate. They swarmed into the streets.



Trigo is no more!

There is no Emperor!

Down with the Empire!

For the second time, they broke into Peric's laboratory.



Let's see what you've got under your microscope, Peric!

Aaaaaah!

The slide was ripped from under the microscope, and held aloft.

The slide was dashed to the floor, and ground under a heavy heel!



Farewell, Emperor! Farewell, Lord!

Behold! Inside this thing lies Trigo, former Emperor of all the Trigans, and his nephew, the high and mighty Lord Janno ...

The great scientist tried to shield his precious apparatus from them ... in vain.



No! No!

Oh, yes!

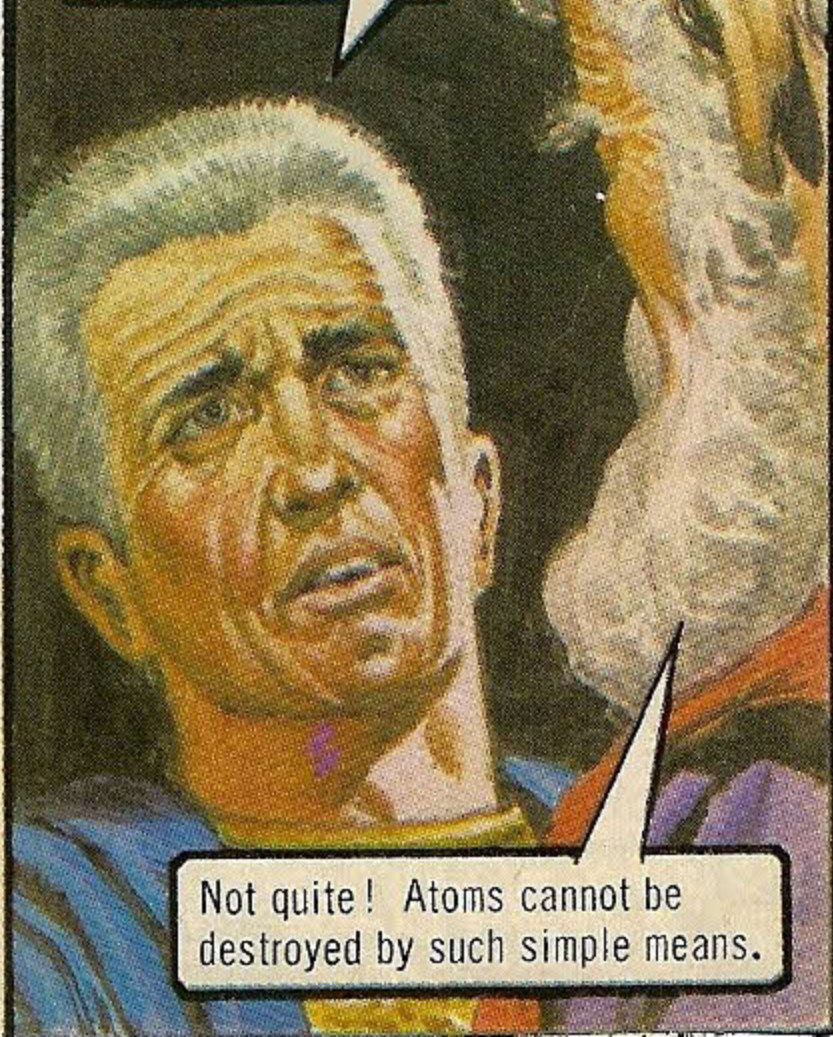
When the mob had departed, the Emperor's brother, Brag, found the great scientist on his knees.



Have they..?

They knew what they were coming for - and they have smashed the precious slide to pieces, and all that it contained!

They have slain my brother and my son, as surely as if they had struck off their heads!



Not quite! Atoms cannot be destroyed by such simple means.



But there is now nothing I can do to return them to the world of the normal - nothing! The atomic particle in which they are contained can never be found again - never!

Meanwhile, in the sub-microscopic world of Orcadia, Trigo and Janno were learning much from the splendid old man who ruled that planet.

This is the nerve centre of our science and technology, by means of which we are able to probe into universes beyond our own.

You said, Great One, that you are familiar with our native planet - Elekton?

Not only with your planet, but with the very streets of your capital city, Trigo. Behold...

They saw the familiar broad streets...heard an unfamiliar cry!

Trigo is dead!

Long live the Republic

The old man gazed at Trigo with compassion.

Janno stared at his uncle.

Will my uncle accept? Are we never to see Elekton again?

Do not grieve for your lost empire, Trigo. I know your great worth, and I will appoint you as my successor. When I am gone, you shall reign on Orcadia. What do you say?

TRIGAN EMPIRE

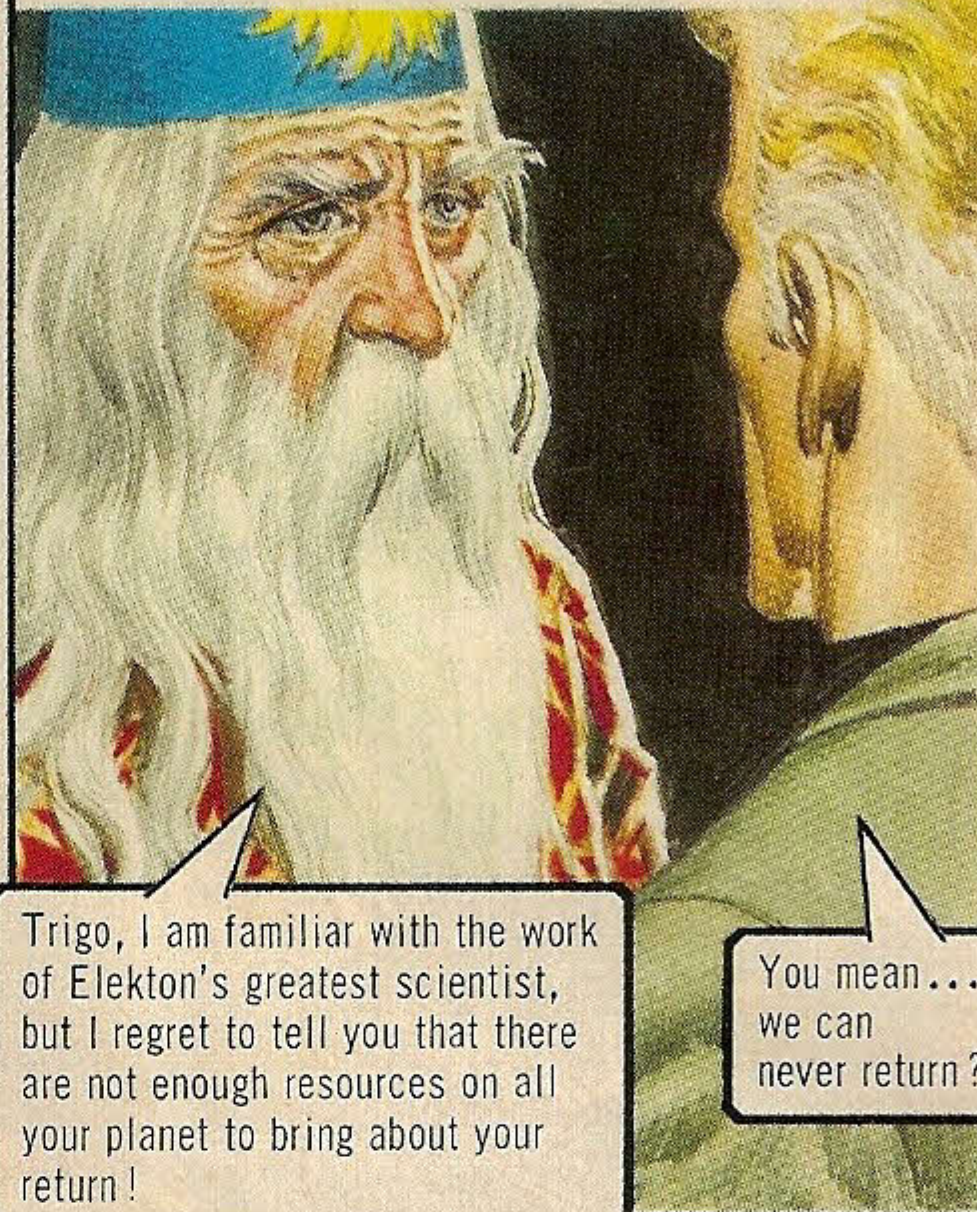
revolutionaries. Emperor Trigo and Janno, whose bodies have been shrunk by radiation, have passed into the sub-microscopic world of Orcadia. Its ruler has asked Trigo to be his heir and give up all hope of returning to Elekton. . . .

Trigo pointed to the flickering screen, and answered in ringing tones . . .



I thank you for the honour you offer me, Great One – but my country needs me, and I await Peric's science, to return us both to our normal state!

Orcadia's ancient ruler shook his head sadly.



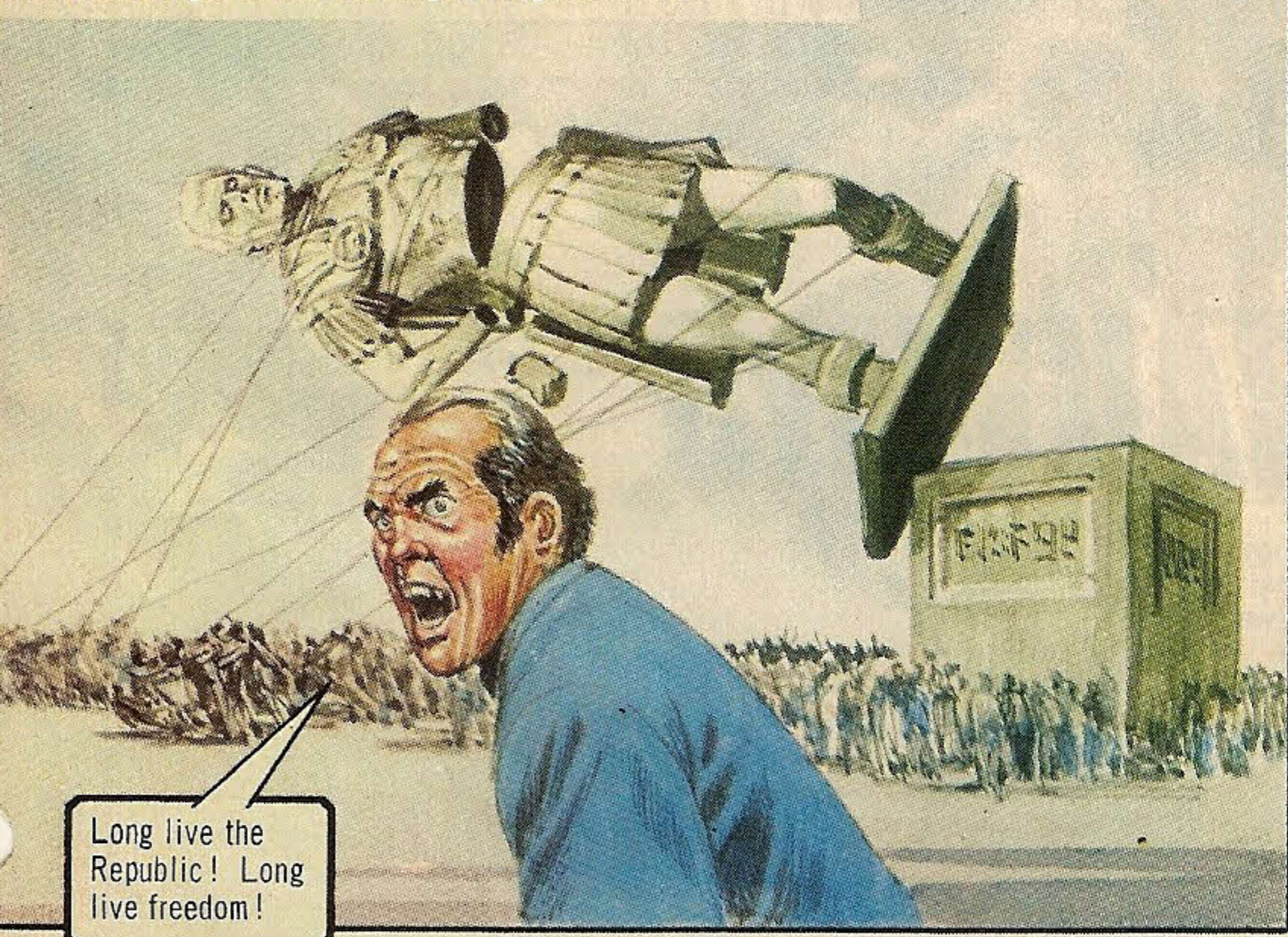
Trigo, I am familiar with the work of Elekton's greatest scientist, but I regret to tell you that there are not enough resources on all your planet to bring about your return!

You mean... we can never return?



However... it is within the power of the science and technology of Orcadia, to return you to Elekton.

Meanwhile, in Trigan City, the rebels were trampling underfoot the last vestiges of the once mighty Trigan Empire.



Long live the Republic! Long live freedom!

The revolutionary committee ordered mass arrests . . .



I demand to know what you want with me!

Your days of demanding are over, Brag! You're coming with us!

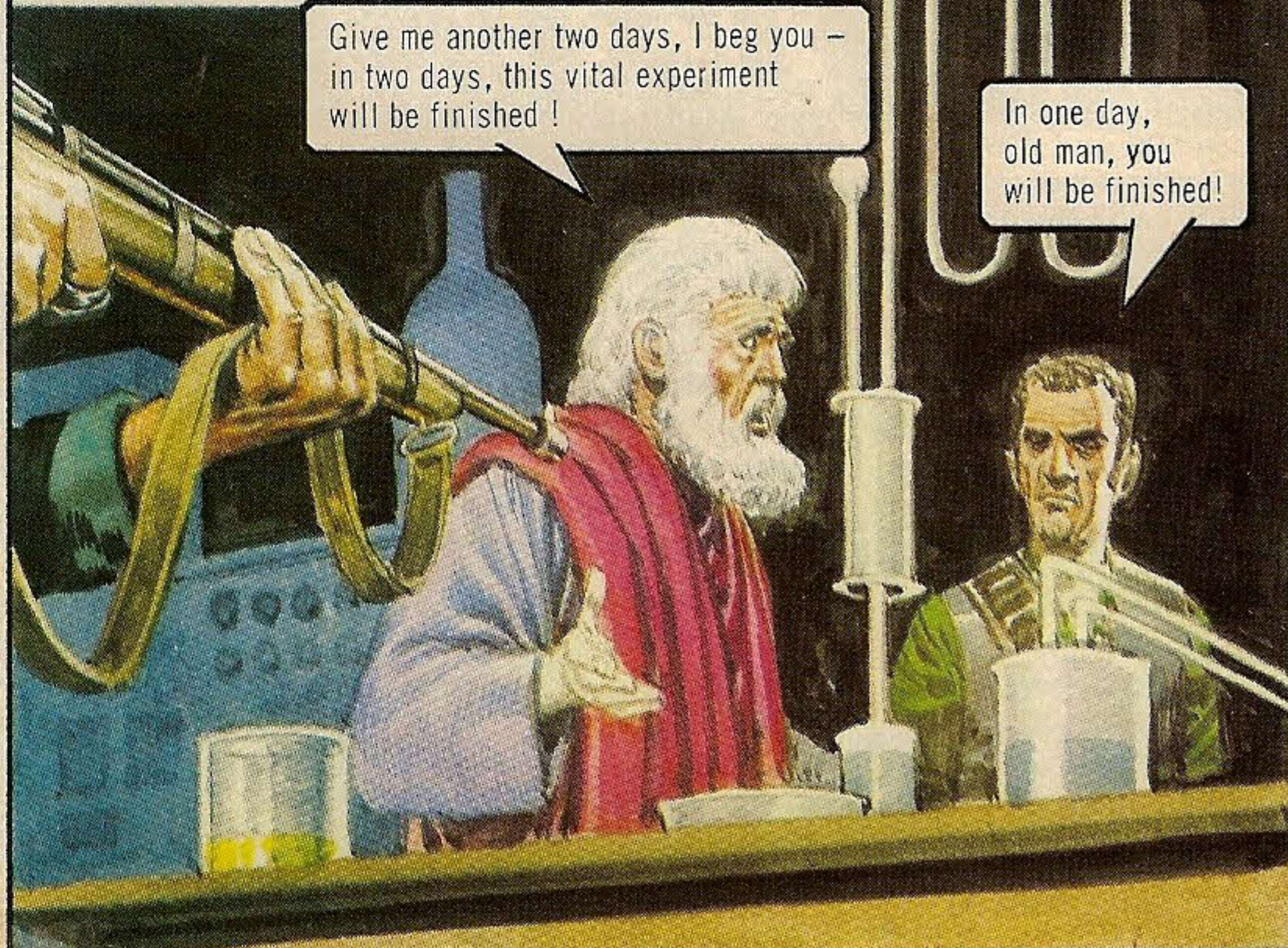
The innocent and the guilty alike... rich and poor...



My husband has done nothing! You can't take him!

He was once heard to shout "Long live the Emperor" – the penalty for that now is death!

Even Peric's great age and wisdom did not save him . . .



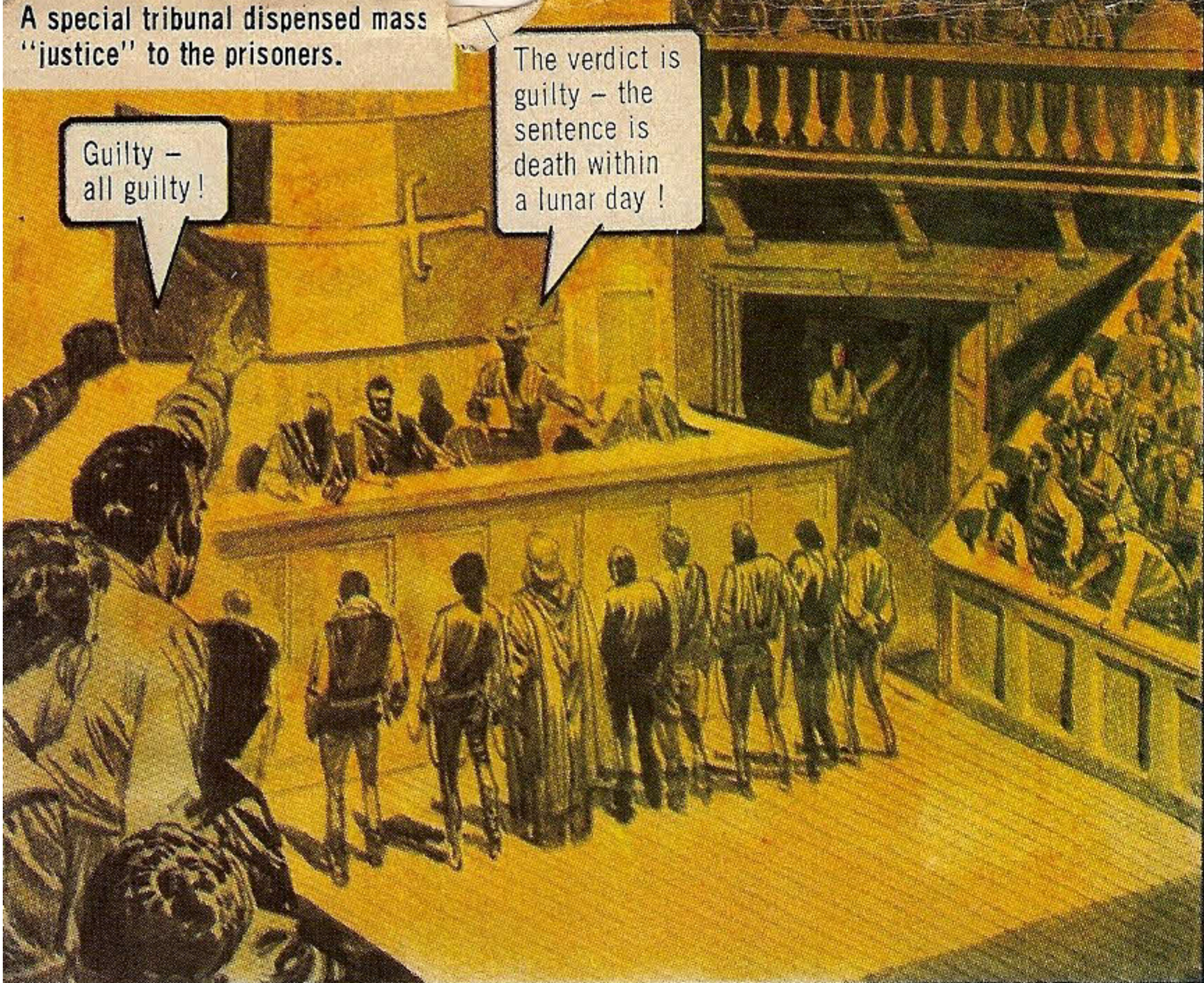
Give me another two days, I beg you – in two days, this vital experiment will be finished!

In one day, old man, you will be finished!

A special tribunal dispensed mass "justice" to the prisoners.

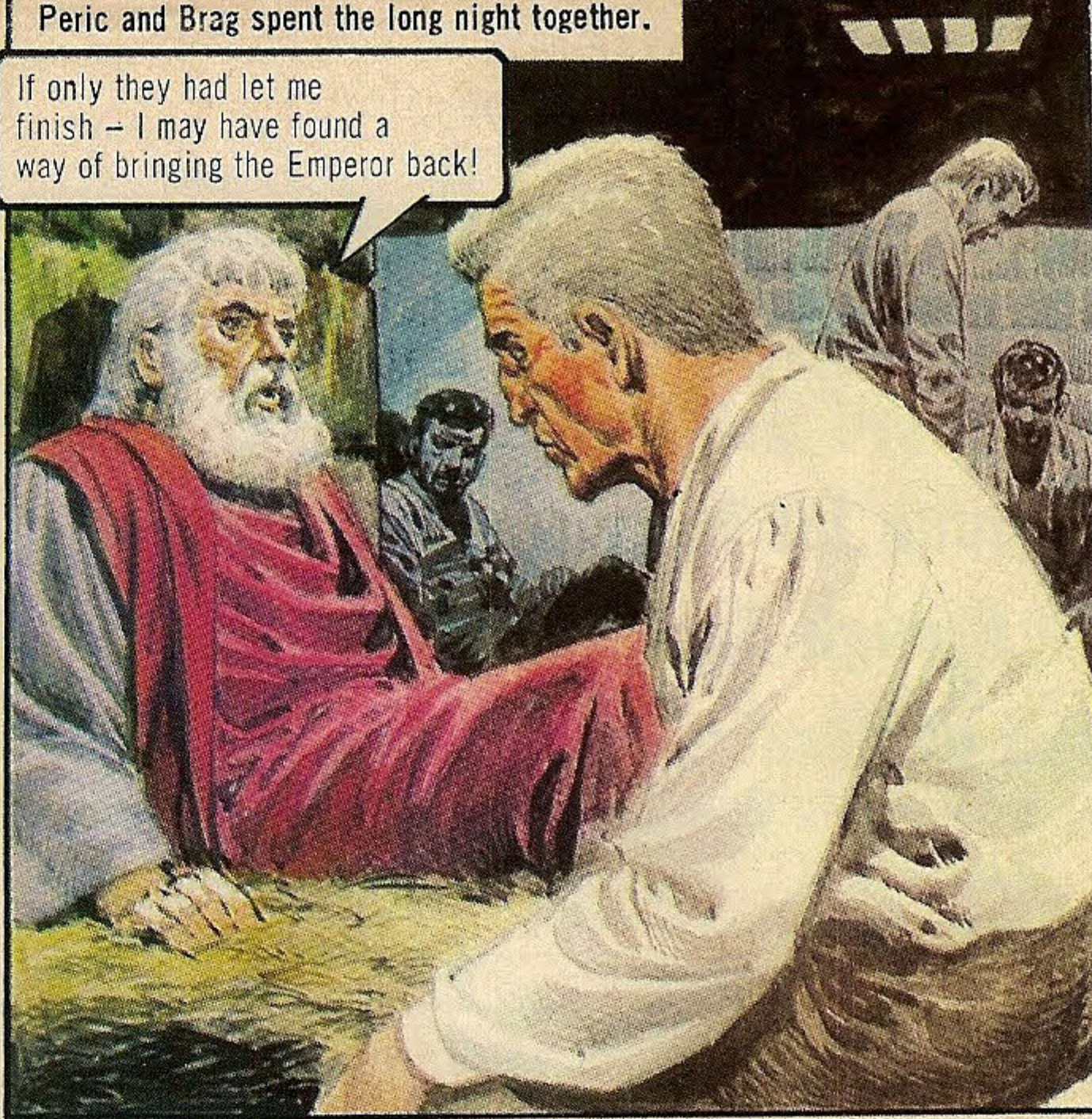
Guilty - all guilty!

The verdict is guilty - the sentence is death within a lunar day!



Peric and Brag spent the long night together.

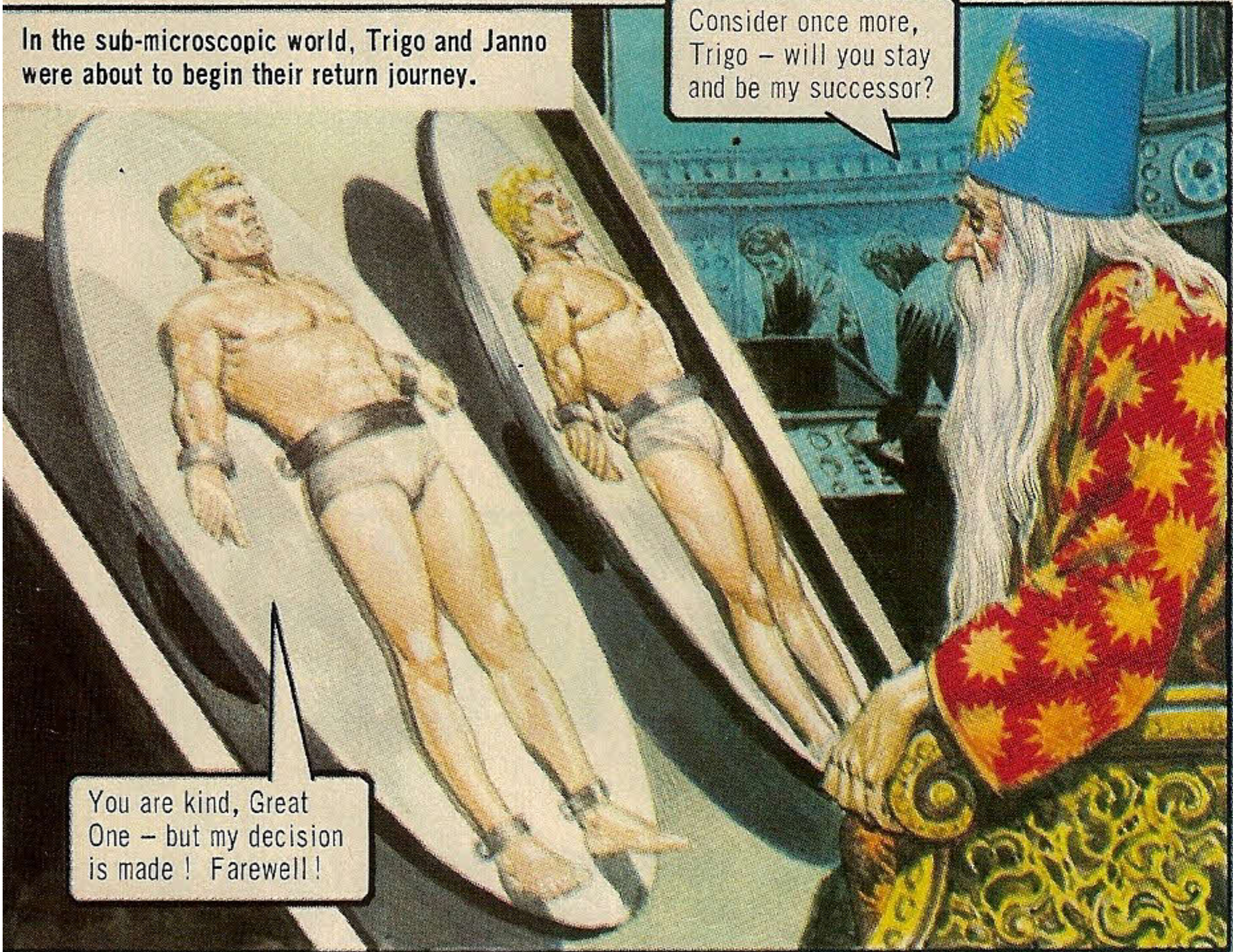
If only they had let me finish - I may have found a way of bringing the Emperor back!



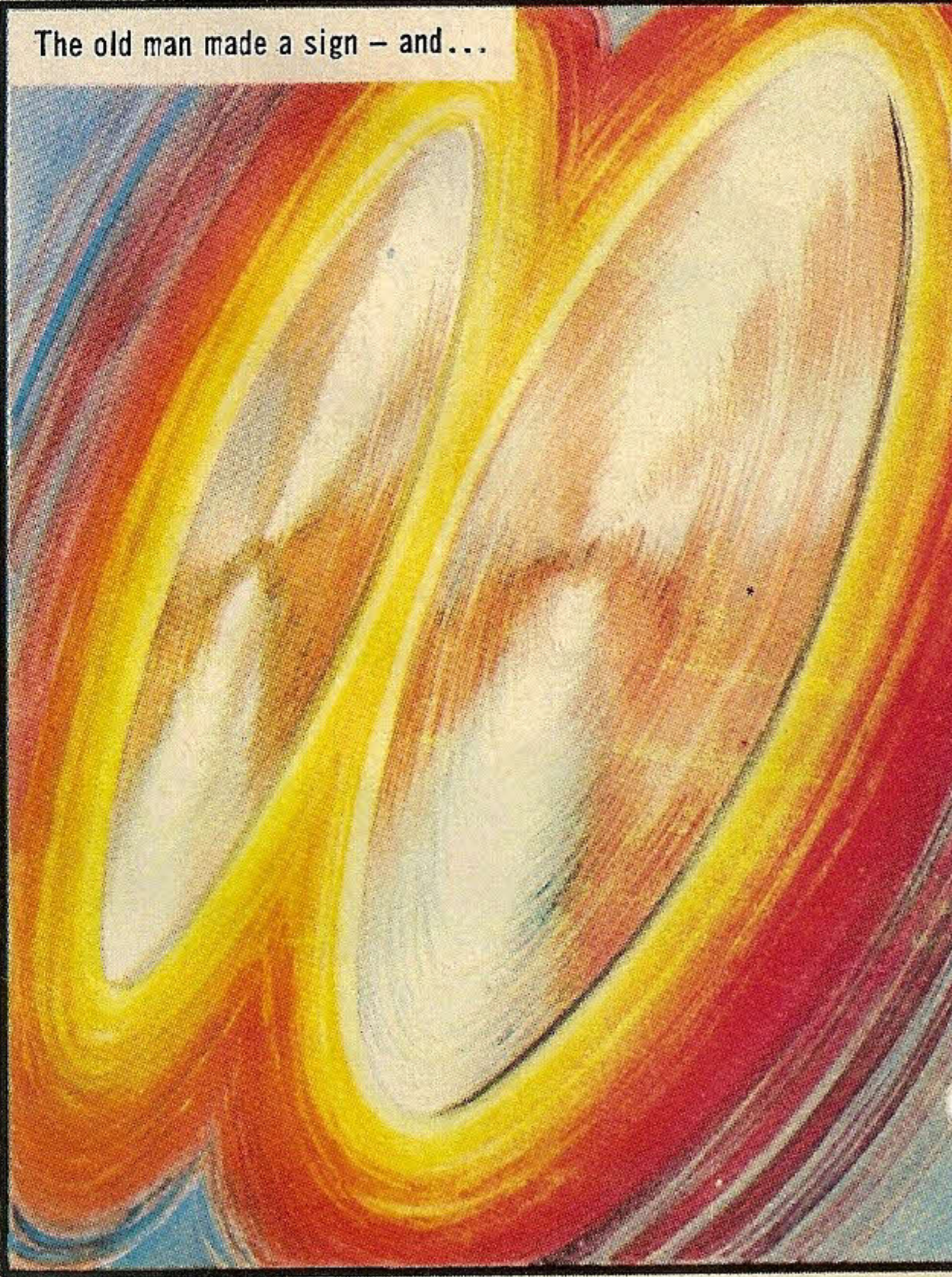
In the sub-microscopic world, Trigo and Janno were about to begin their return journey.

Consider once more, Trigo - will you stay and be my successor?

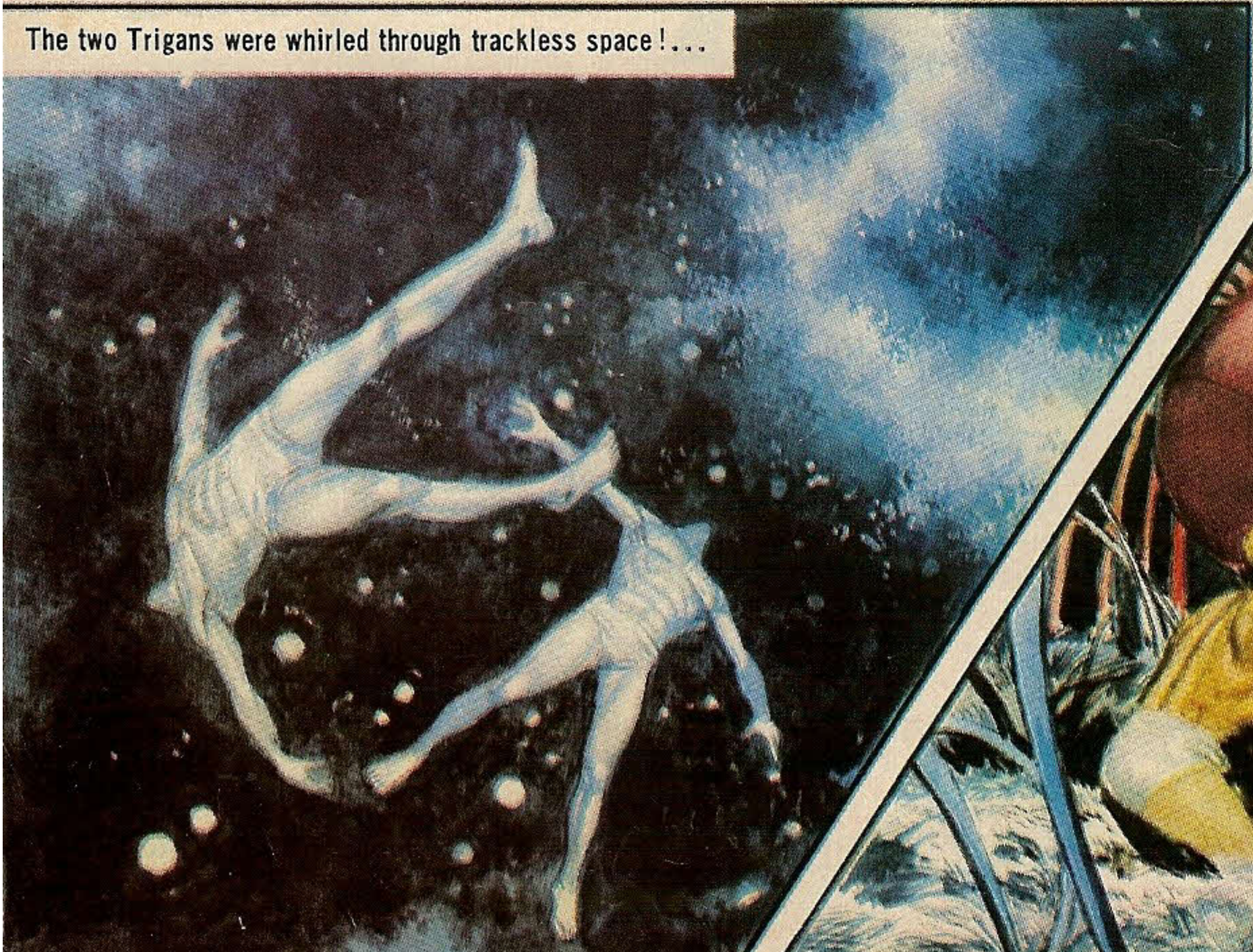
You are kind, Great One - but my decision is made! Farewell!



The old man made a sign - and...



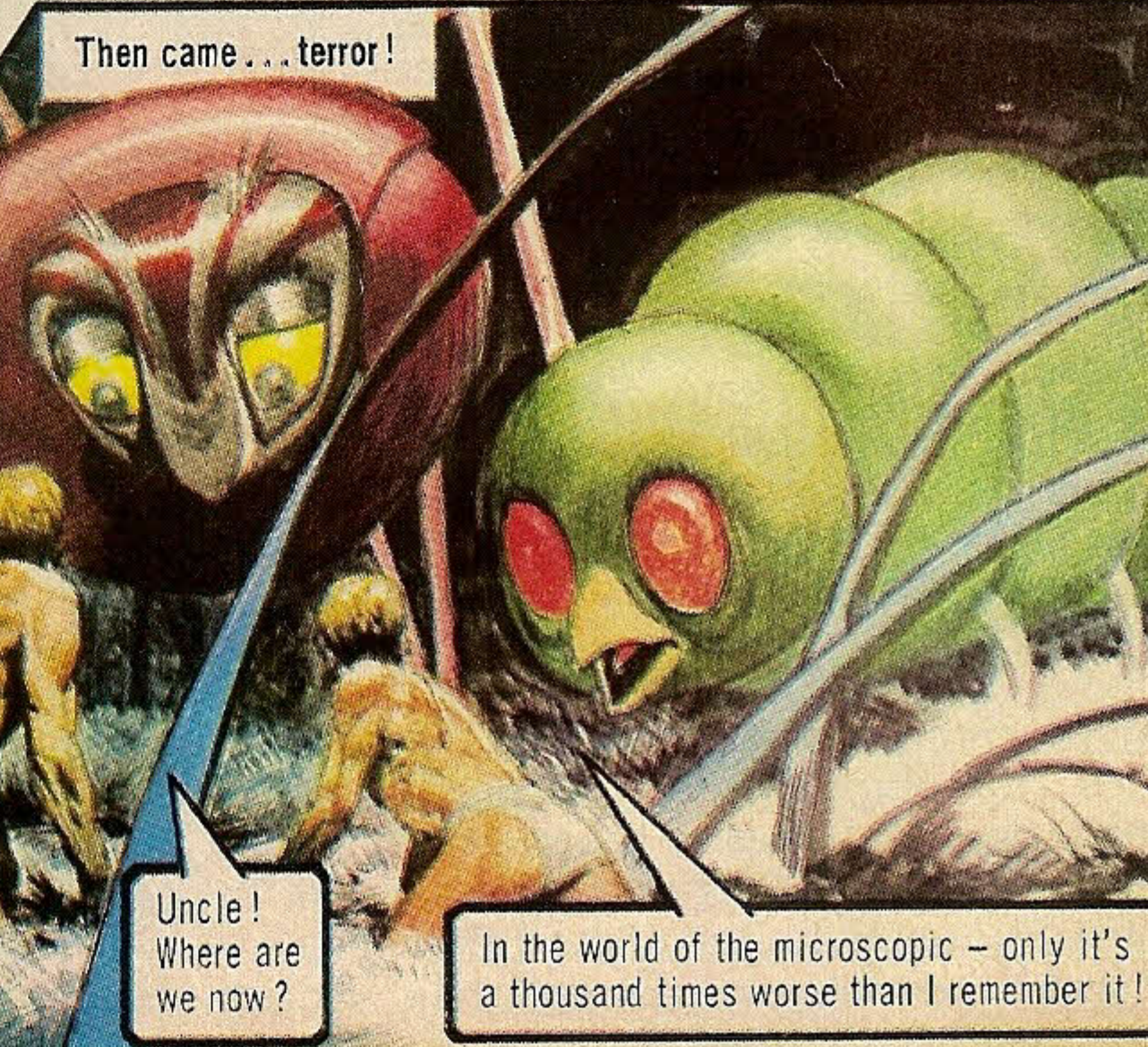
The two Trigans were whirled through trackless space!...



Then came... terror!

Uncle! Where are we now?

In the world of the microscopic - only it's a thousand times worse than I remember it!



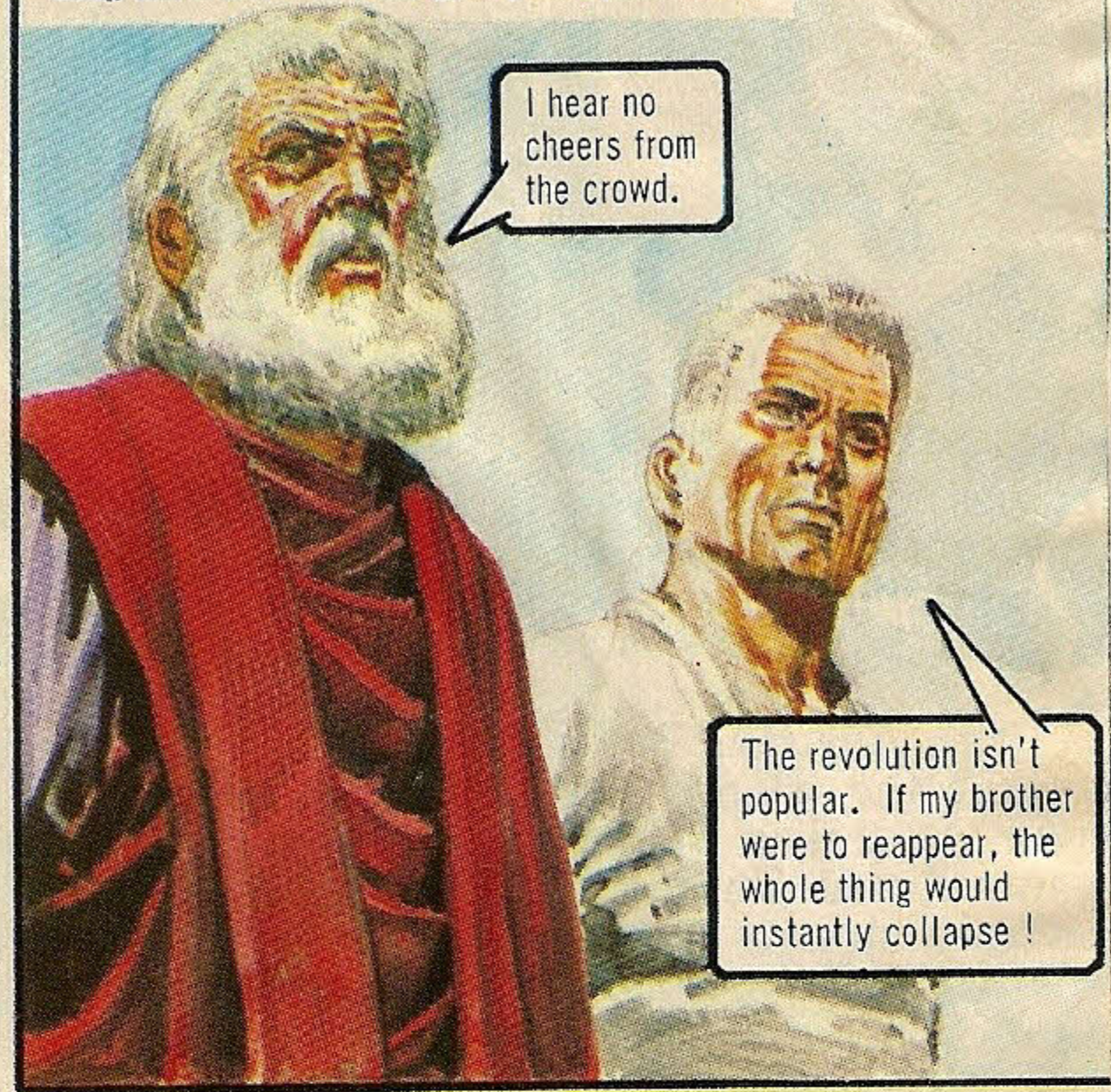
TRIGAN EMPIRE

The Trigan Empire has been overthrown by revolutionaries. Meanwhile, the emperor, Trigo, and his nephew, Janno, are making the hazardous journey back from their microscopic world.

At dawn, the condemned were taken through the silent streets of the capital to the place of execution.



Brag and Peric made the grim journey together.



I hear no cheers from the crowd.

The revolution isn't popular. If my brother were to reappear, the whole thing would instantly collapse!

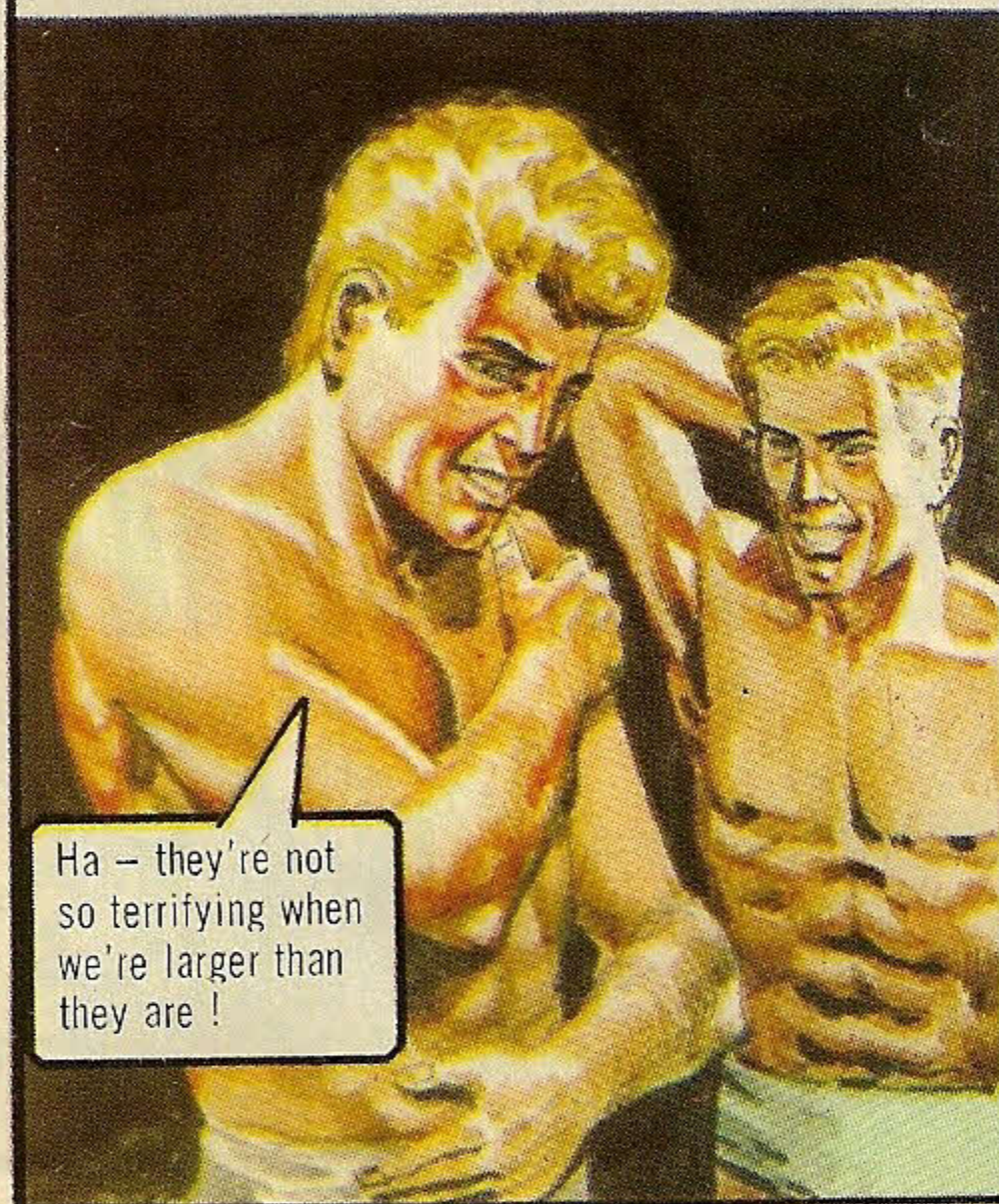
At that same instant, Trigo and Janno were wading for their lives through microscopic dust.



I... I can't go on much further, Uncle!

Keep going, Janno! We're growing all the time! Soon we'll be able to overpower those beasts!

Trigo was right. Their increase in size was so rapid that they were soon masters of the predatory microbes.



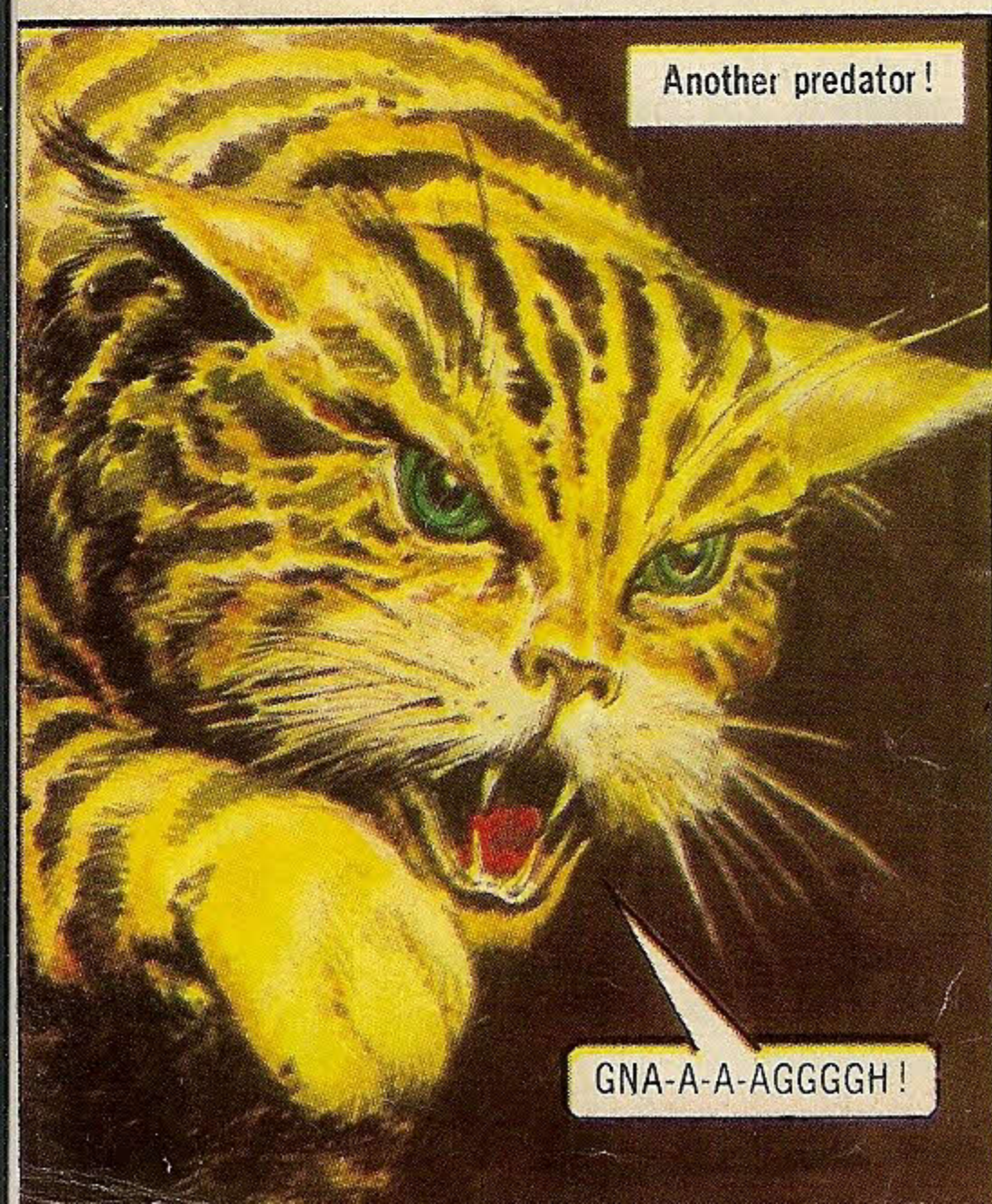
Ha - they're not so terrifying when we're larger than they are!

At a certain stage in their re-growth, they came out of the microscopic and into the world they knew.

We're no longer under Peric's microscope. That accounts for the great number of microbes we encountered.



Uncle - look!



Another predator!

Fortunately, their re-growth rate was too swift for their would-be killer - a household pet!



Sorry to disappoint you over a meal, old fellow!

Good. Now we'll go and find Peric.

When they got outside the laboratory, they met one of the old scientist's assistants.

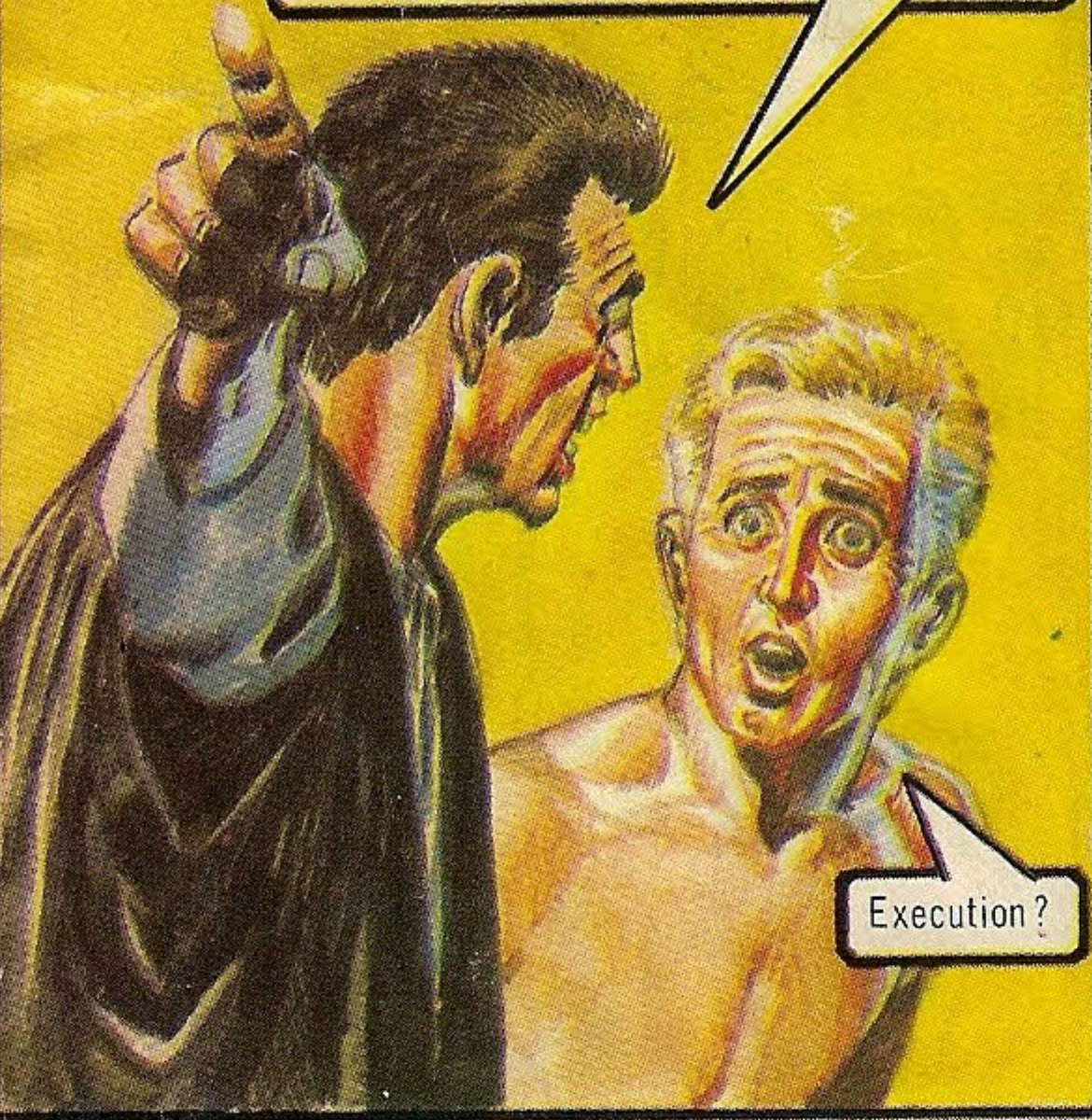


Imperial Majesty! Thank the stars - you live!

Where's your master - where's Peric?

GNA-A-A-AGGGGH!

The revolutionaries have declared a Republic! Even at this moment, Peric and your brother, Lord Brag, are being led to execution!



Execution?

In the great square of the city, Brag and Peric shook hands at the foot of the dread scaffold.

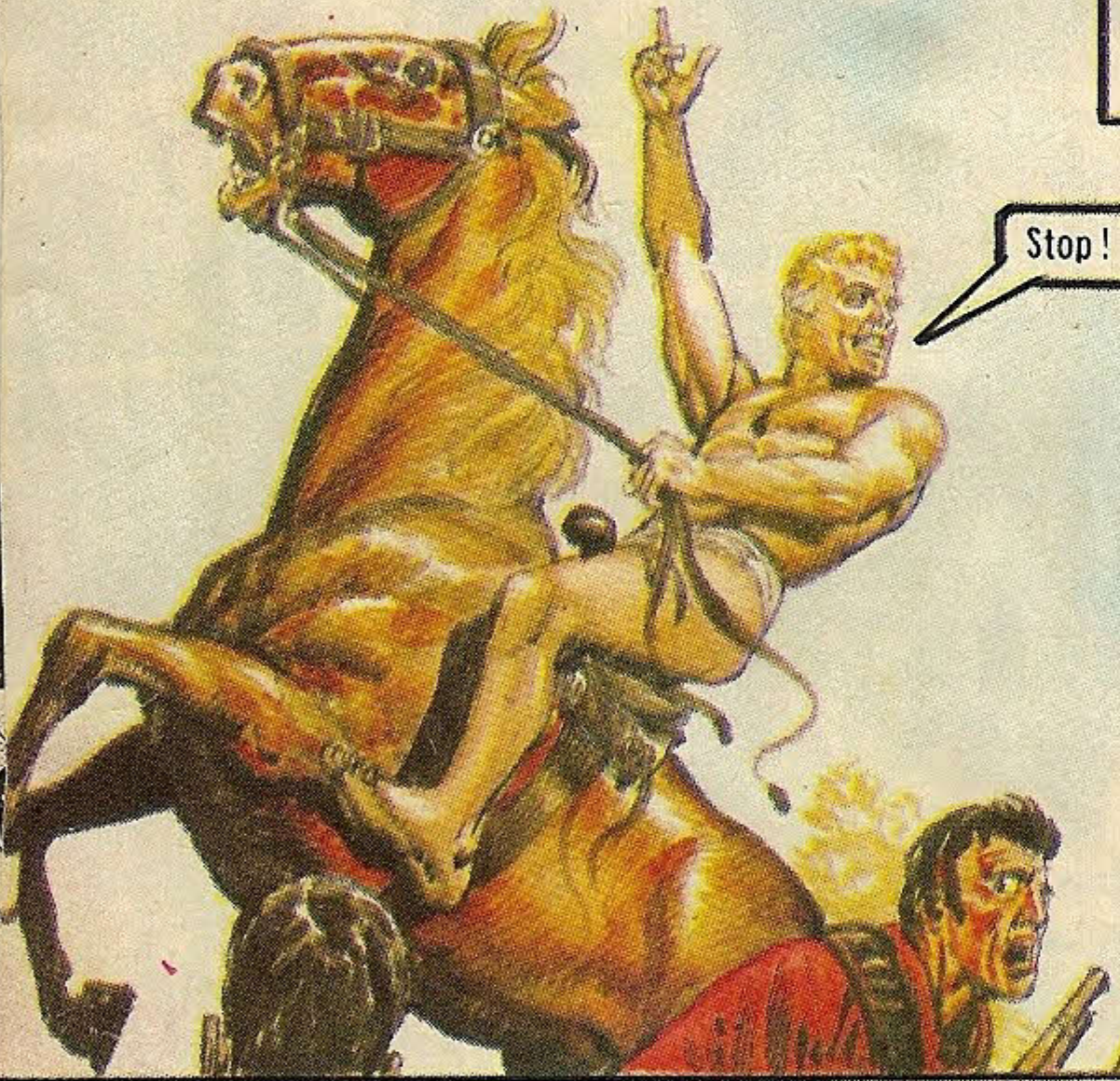


Farewell, old friend.

You first!

Farewell, my Lord.

And then... it happened!

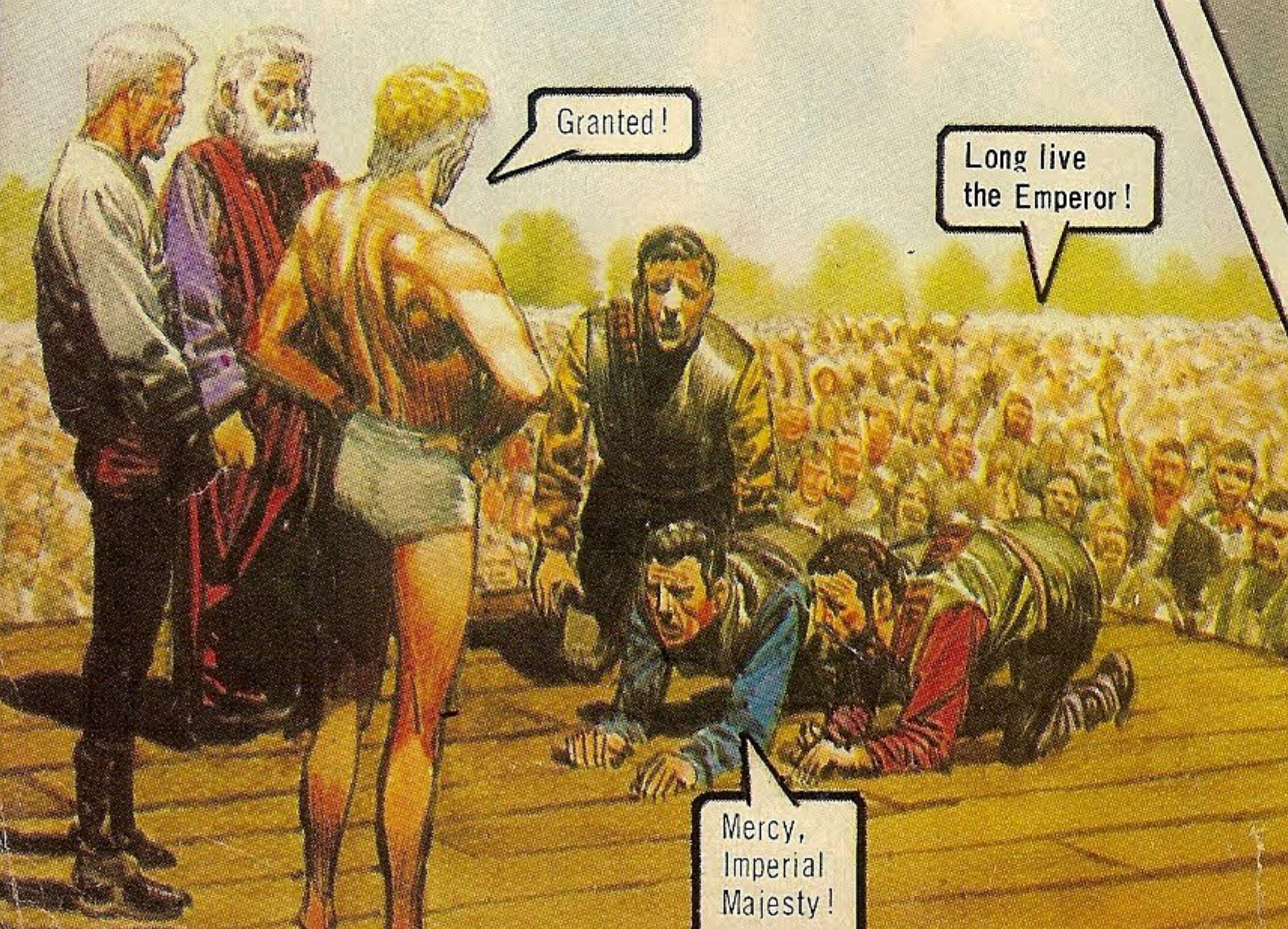


Stop!



Trigo!

With the sudden and dramatic appearance of the Emperor, the revolution - as Brag had predicted - instantly collapsed!

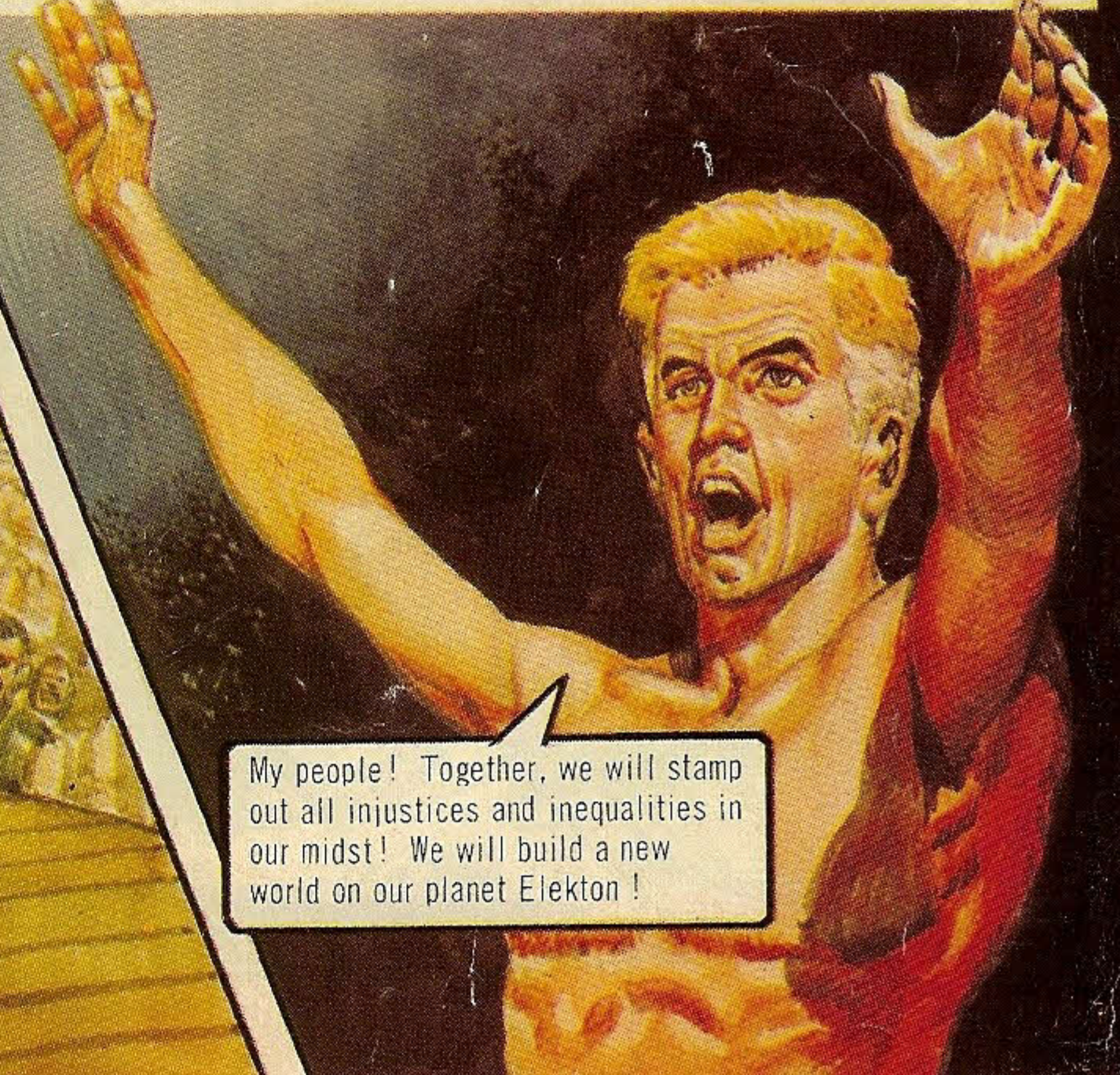


Granted!

Long live the Emperor!

Mercy, Imperial Majesty!

Trigo had journeyed from the world of the sub-microscopic - and saved his empire!



My people! Together, we will stamp out all injustices and inequalities in our midst! We will build a new world on our planet Elekton!