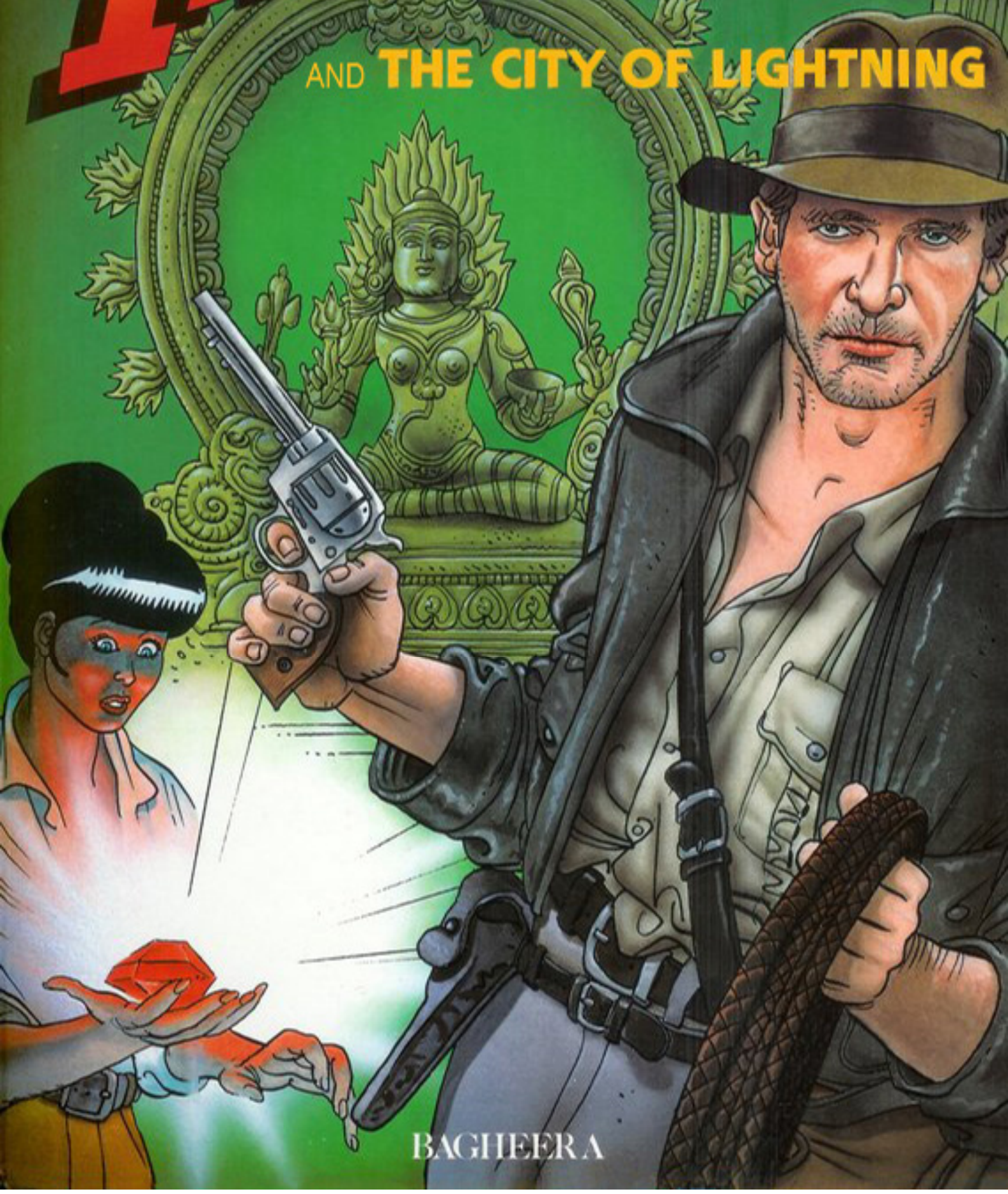


INDIANA JONES

TM

AND THE CITY OF LIGHTNING



BAGHEERA

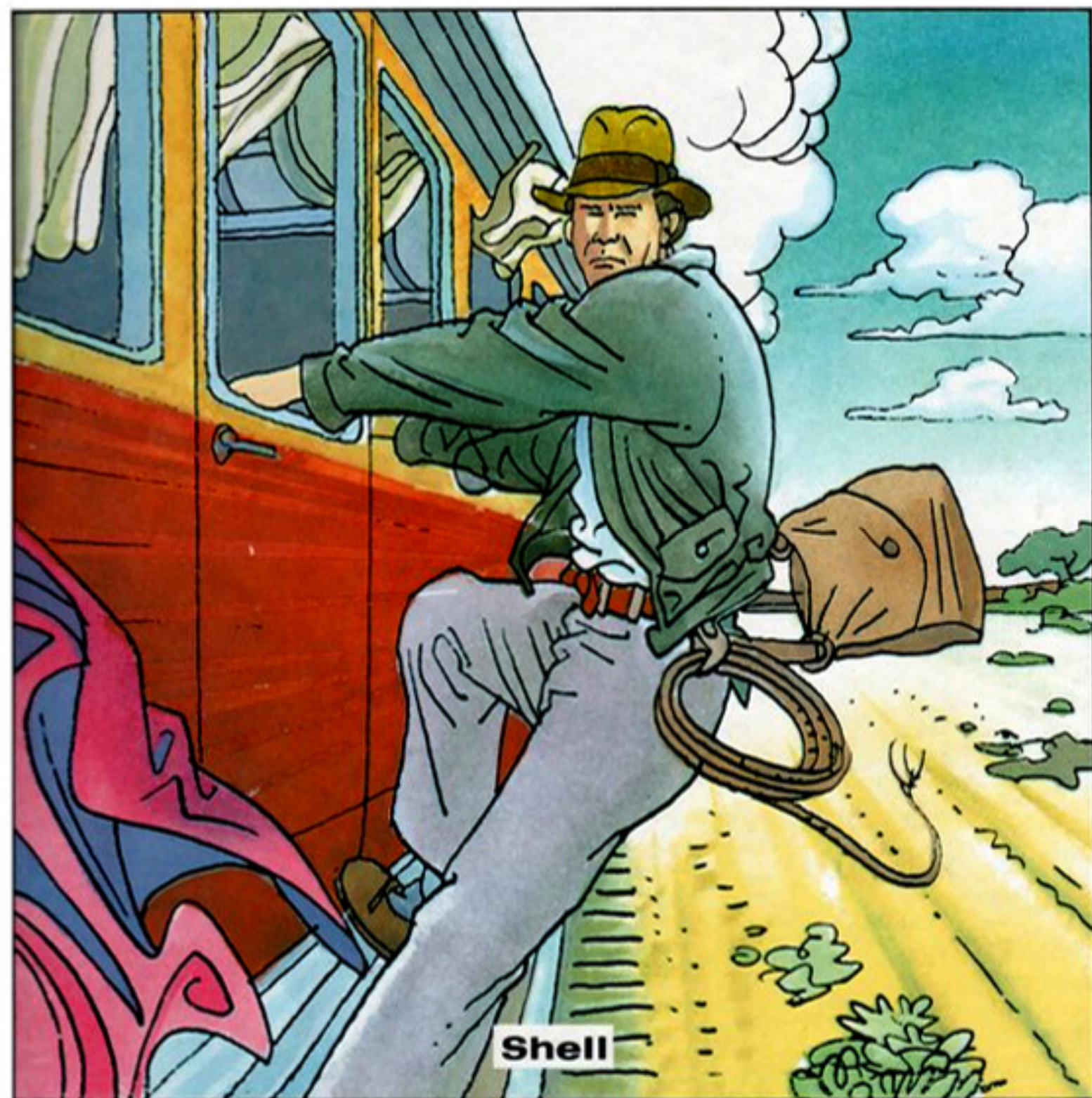
**THE SUMMER
OF COMICS!!**

A SHELL COLLECTION

C. Moliterni – G. Alessandrini

INDIANA JONES™

AND THE CITY OF LIGHTNING



C. Moliterni – G. Alessandrini

INDIANA JONES™

AND THE CITY OF LIGHTNING



INDIANA JONES™

One can instantly remember Indiana Jones. His hat has become legendary, as well as his leather jacket and whip. Indiana Jones is an adventuring archaeologist who throws himself into far-flung corners, searching for fabulous, lost objects which are coveted by villains who, by their occult and subversive means, seek to ruin his plans and seize the magical treasures. Indiana Jones is the hero-type of the 1930s, created by cinema and comic strips. Indy is a mix of Tintin, Jungle Jim and James Bond. He is always ready to throw himself on the trail of mythical treasures, in the company of a pretty girl, equipped with a sacred temperament, or a young, savvy boy, in the tradition created by the popular literature of the 1920s. The villains quite naturally come from the "pulp", those American magazines which, each week,



told the adventures such as those of Doc Savage, The Shadow, Nick Carter, etc. It's the comic strip's own duty to show the adventures of Indy and thus join the tradition born from comic strips at the start of the 1930s with Jungle Jim, drawn by Alex Raymond and hero of a serial played by Johnny Weissmuller. Thus, one finds Indiana Jones in Egypt in search of the mummy of Kheops (Indiana Jones and the Secret of the Pyramid), in India battling against a sect of stranglers, the Thugs (Indiana Jones and the City of Lightning) or searching for the secret to the philosopher's stone of Nicolas Flamel (Indiana Jones and the Black Book), Indy's next adventure.

Indiana Jones, at a much younger age, was an intrepid scout, even though he had a deep fear of snakes. He travelled the globe meeting, in his adventures, famous men such as Lawrence of Arabia, Churchill, Gandhi, etc. Used to adventure, Indiana Jones continues his studies nevertheless and, thanks to his father who communicated his passion for archaeology to him, became one of the best specialists in his discipline, recognized by his fellow-members all over the world.





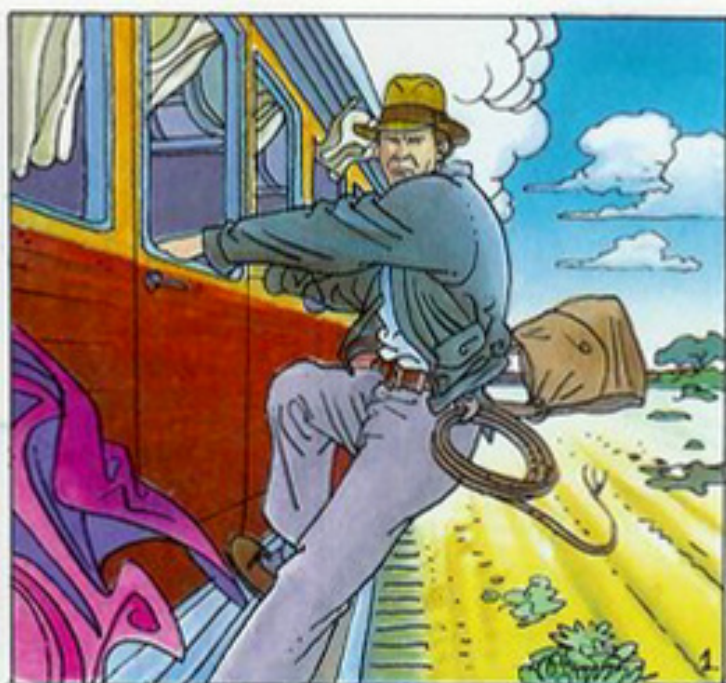
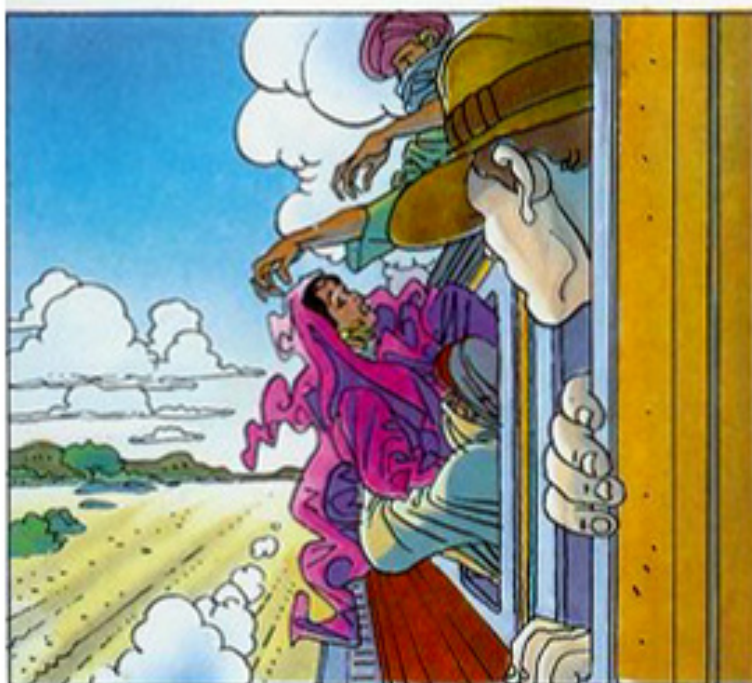
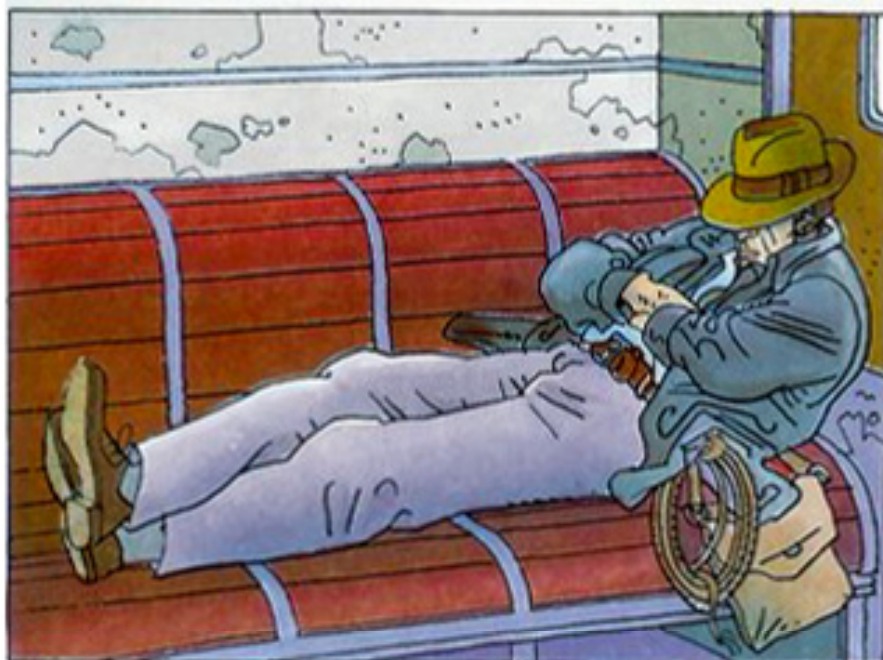
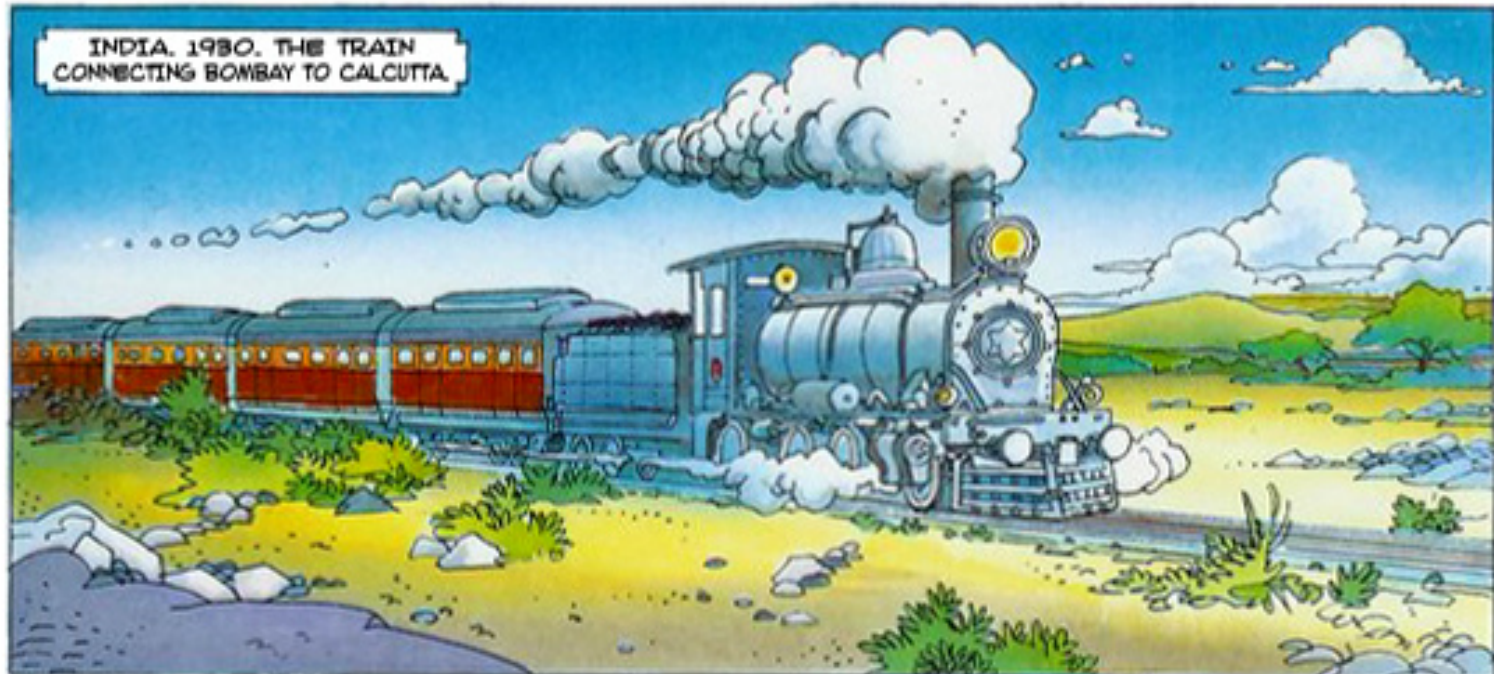
Man with gold does what he
can. God with wants does
what he wants!

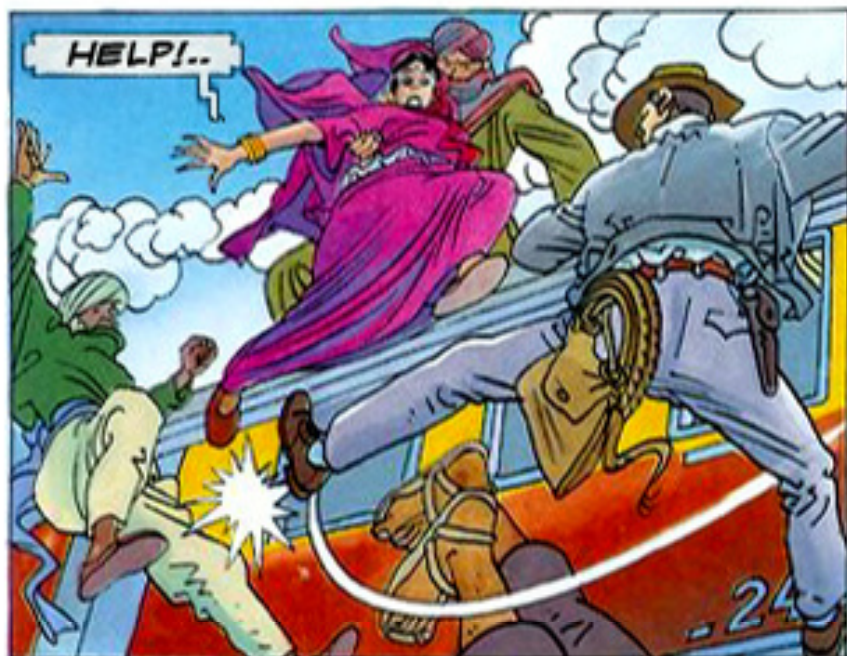
Indiana Jones -
October 1938.

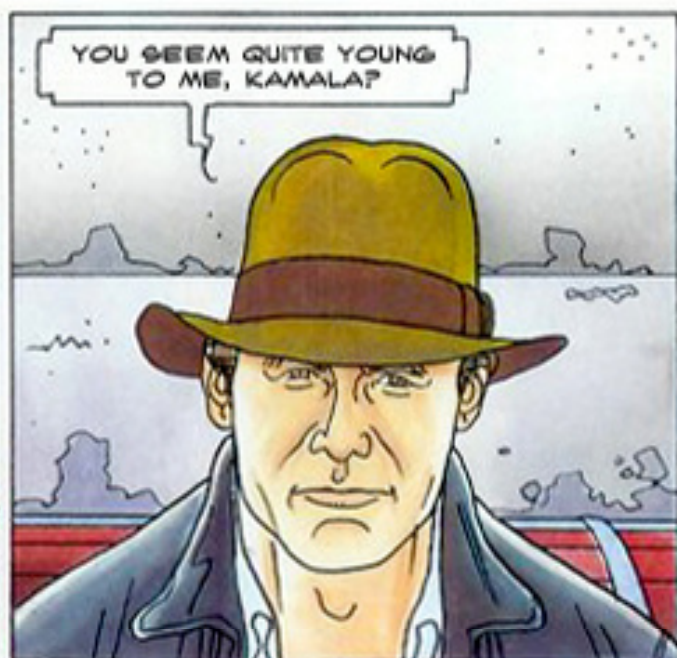
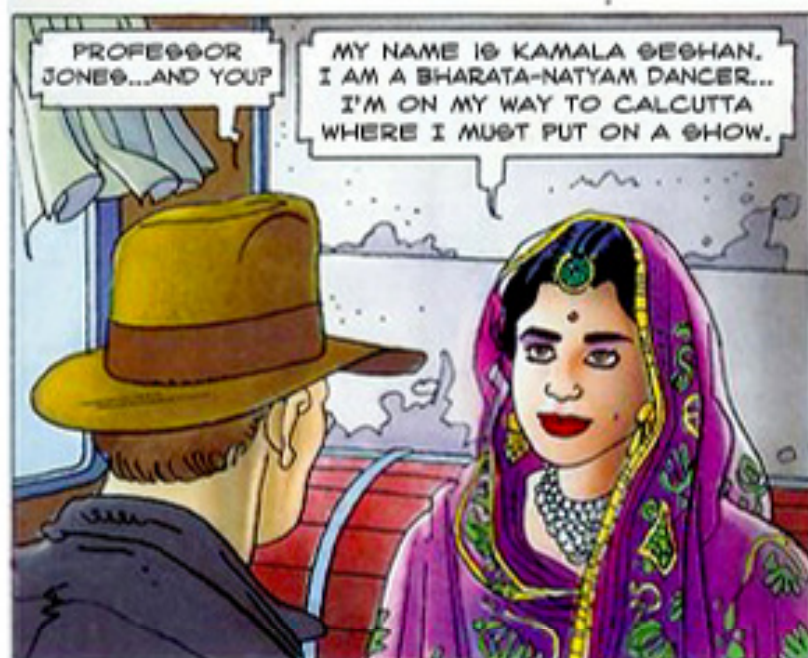
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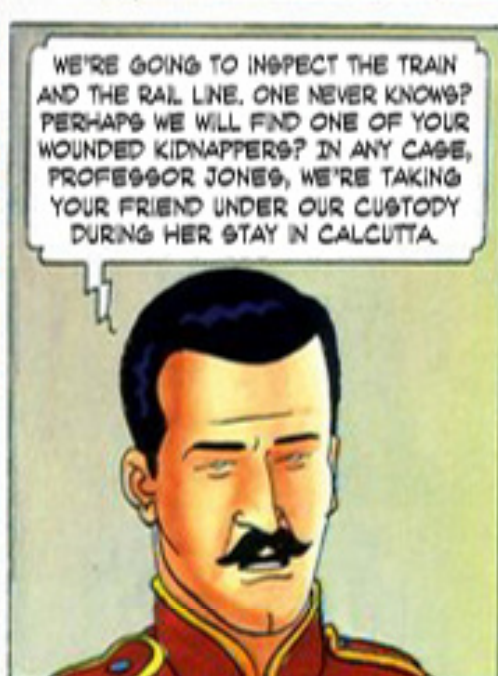
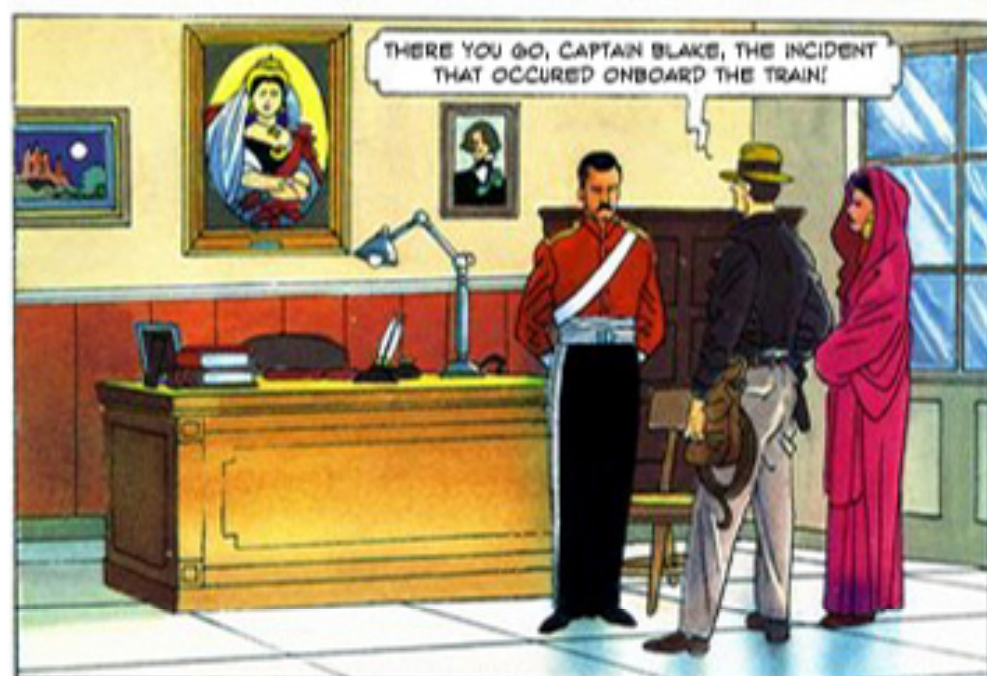
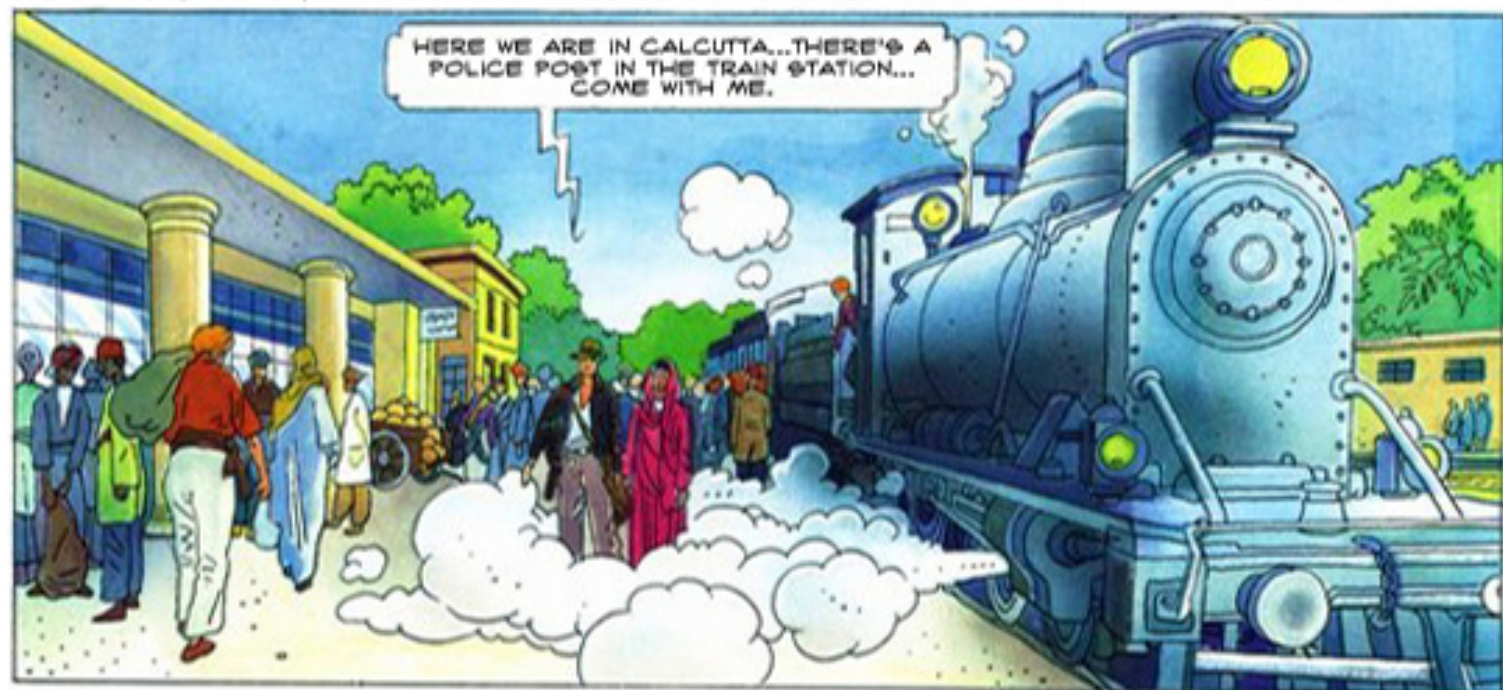
INDIA, 1980. THE TRAIN
CONNECTING BOMBAY TO CALCUTTA.



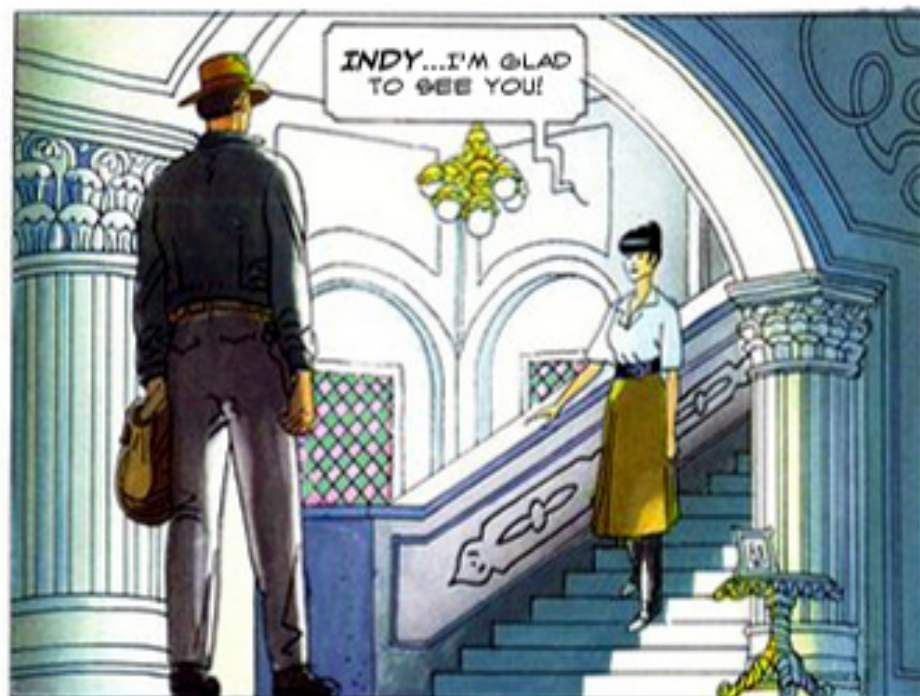




INDIA -- CALCUTTA - 1930* - CENTRAL STATION...
THE DANCER, KAMALA, HAS JUST BEEN SAVED BY INDIANA JONES FROM THE HANDS OF MASKED MEN...



*1933 IN THE FRENCH-CANADIAN SHELL VERSION (CHANGED FOR HISTORICAL ACCURACY.)



INDY...I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!



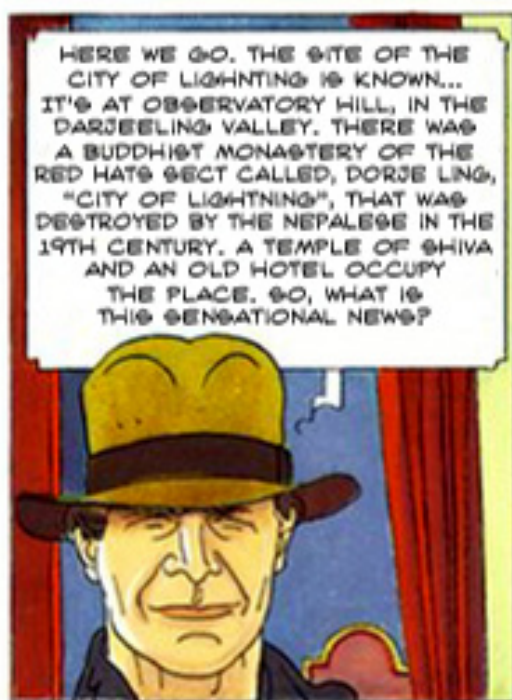
ME TOO...I'M ANXIOUS TO SPEAK WITH YOU! C'MON, LET'S GO SIT DOWN!



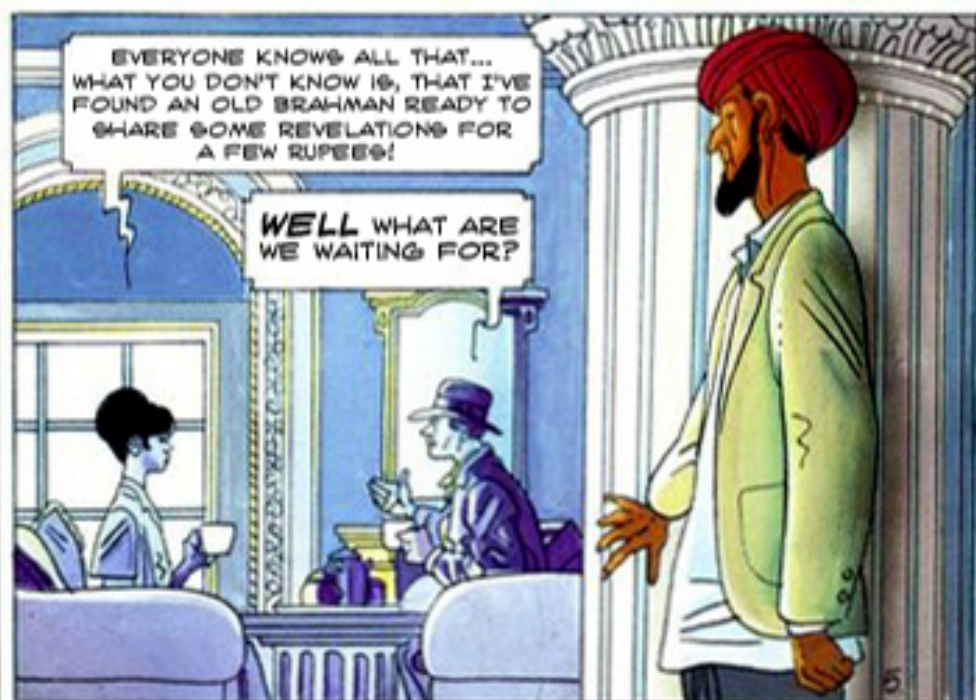
AS SOON AS I RECEIVED YOUR CABLE, I TOOK THE PLANE...MORE THAN 5 STOP-OVERS FROM NEW YORK...THEN THE BOMBAY-CALCUTTA TRAIN...THE TRIP WASN'T TOO BAD! BUT TELL ME...



WELL, I DISCOVERED, LIKE I SAID IN MY CABLE, THE EXACT SITE OF THE CITY OF LIGHTNING!

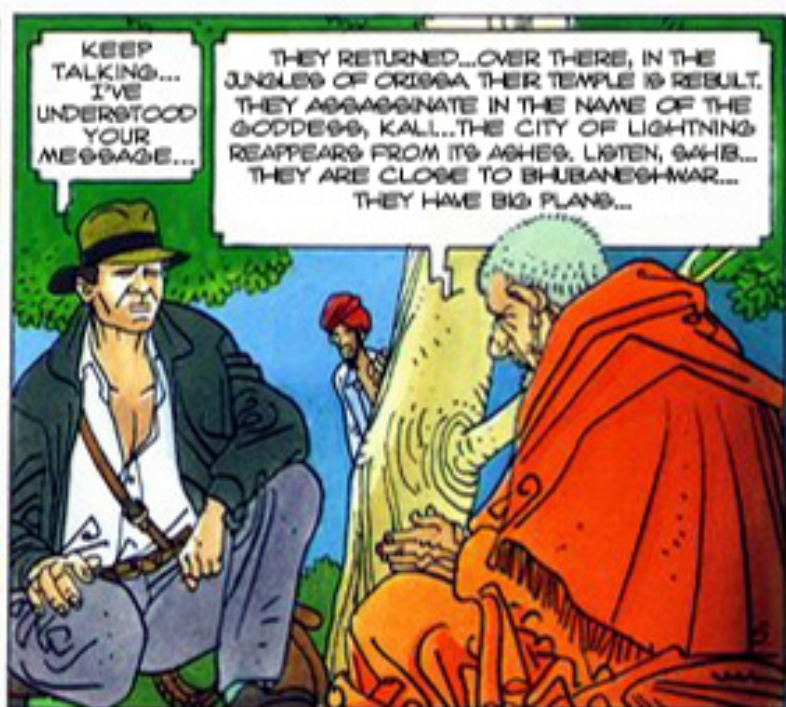
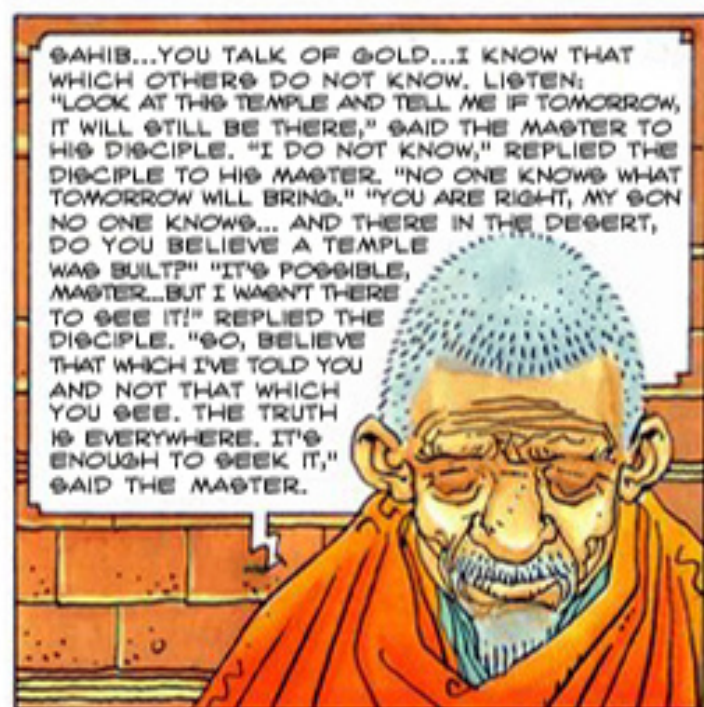
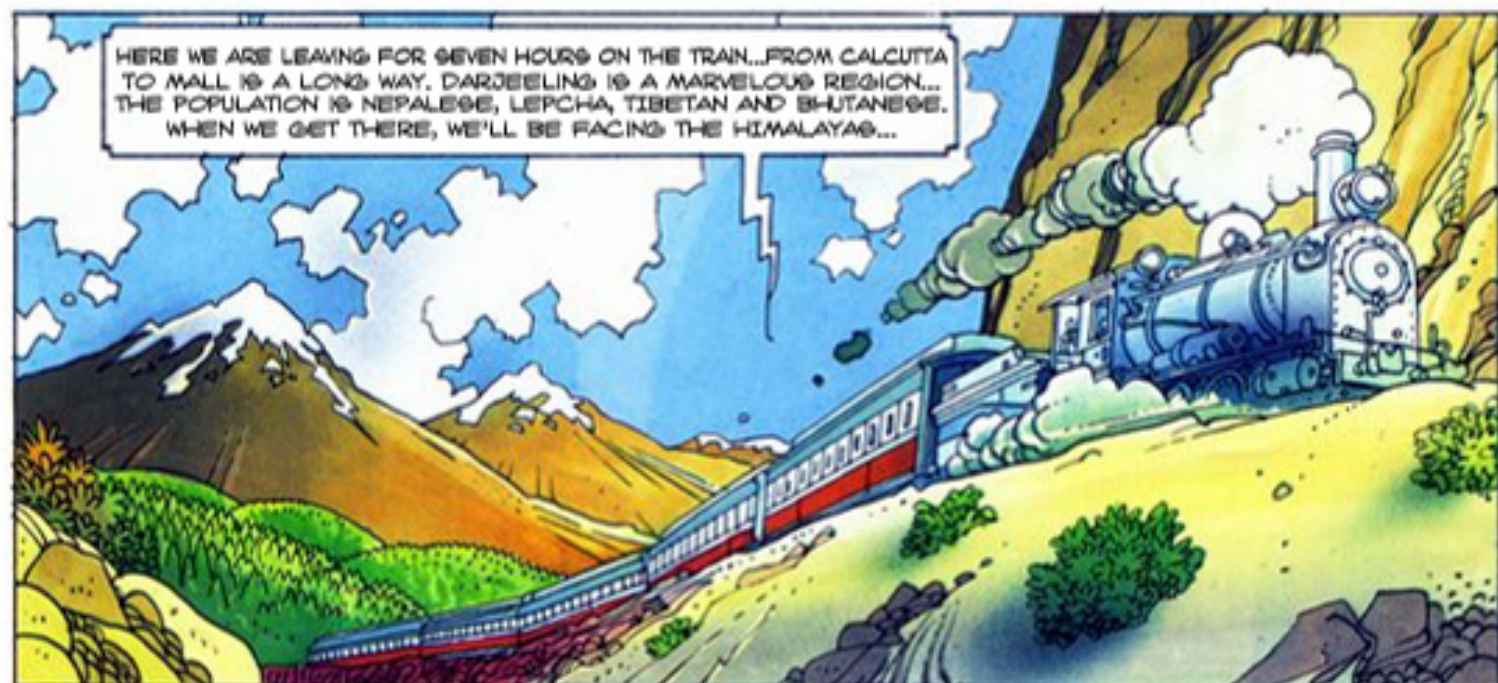


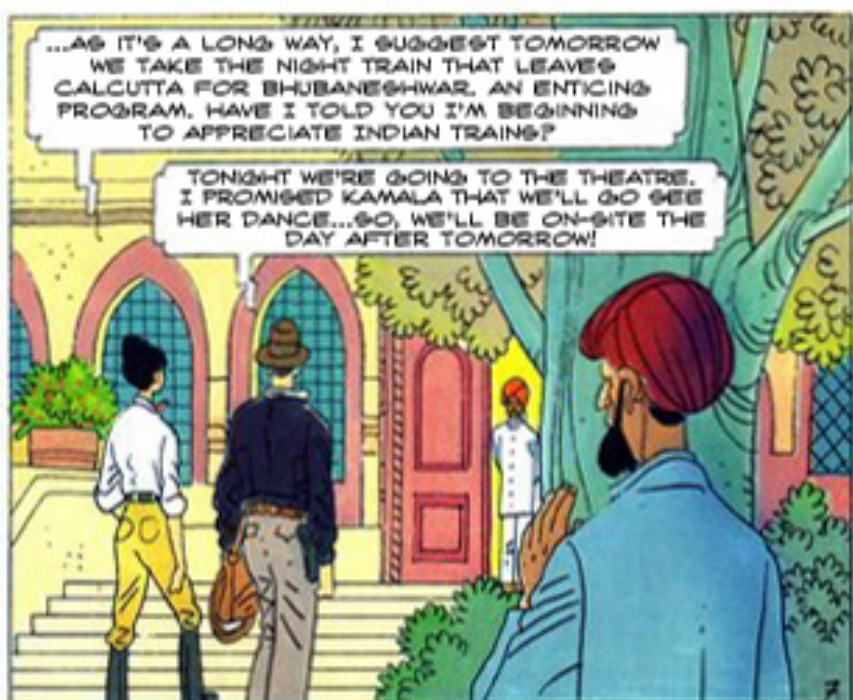
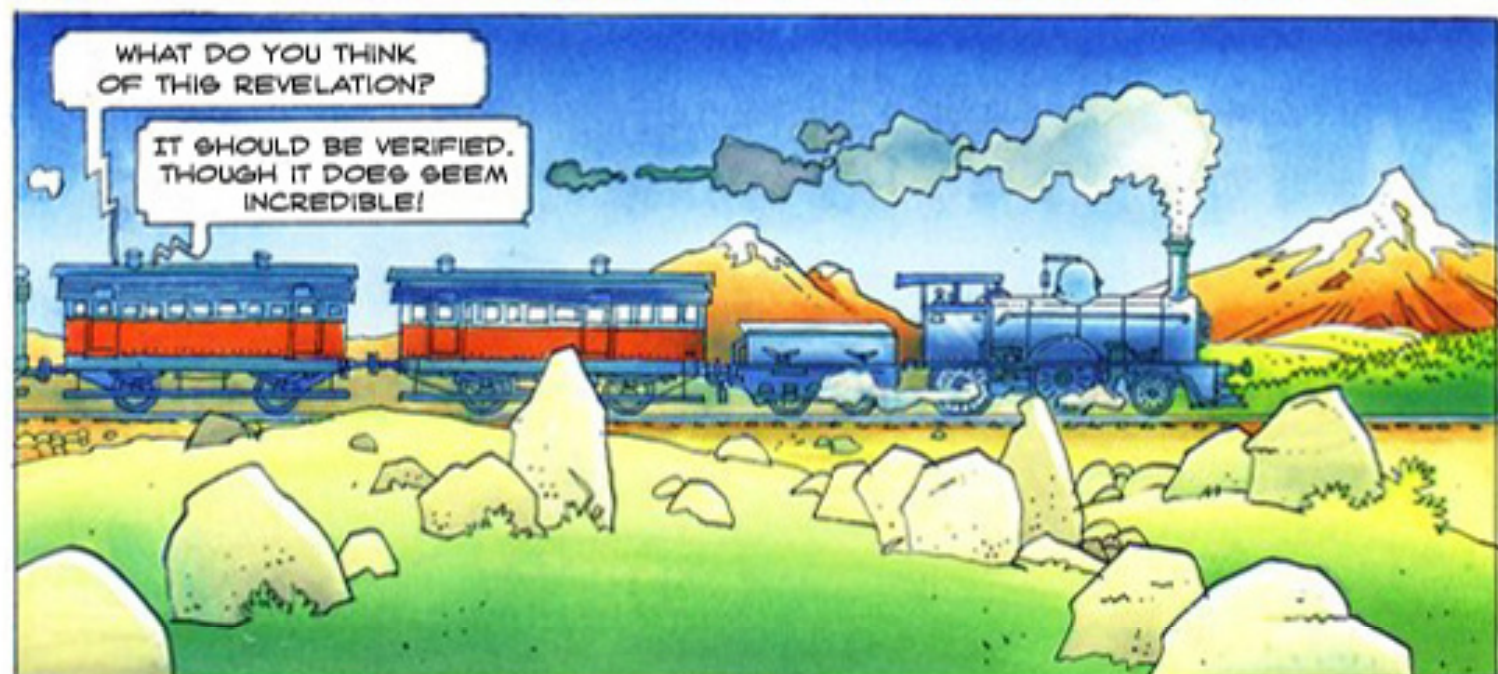
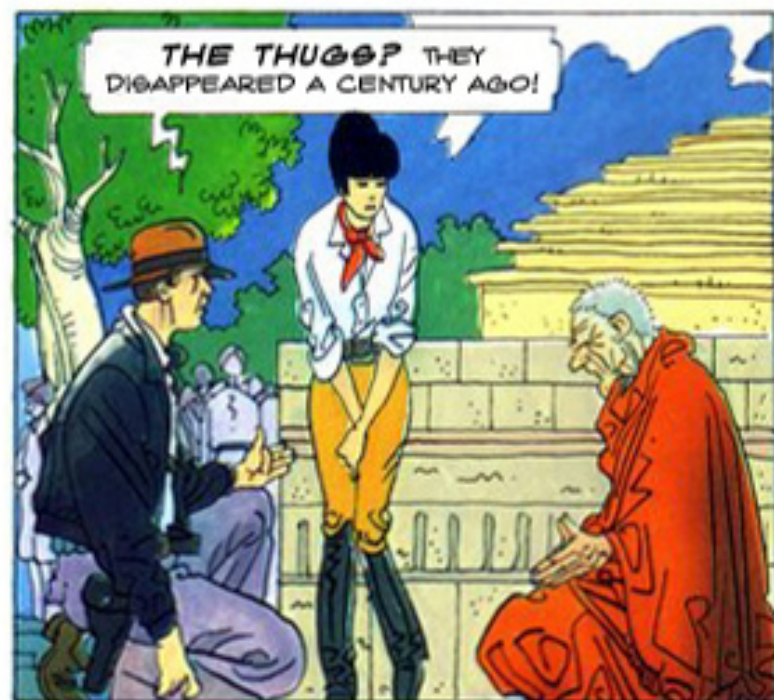
HERE WE GO. THE SITE OF THE CITY OF LIGHTNING IS KNOWN... IT'S AT OBSERVATORY HILL, IN THE DARJEELING VALLEY. THERE WAS A BUDDHIST MONASTERY OF THE RED HATS SECT CALLED, DORJE LING, "CITY OF LIGHTNING", THAT WAS DESTROYED BY THE NEPALESE IN THE 19TH CENTURY. A TEMPLE OF SHIVA AND AN OLD HOTEL OCCUPY THE PLACE. SO, WHAT IS THIS SENSATIONAL NEWS?

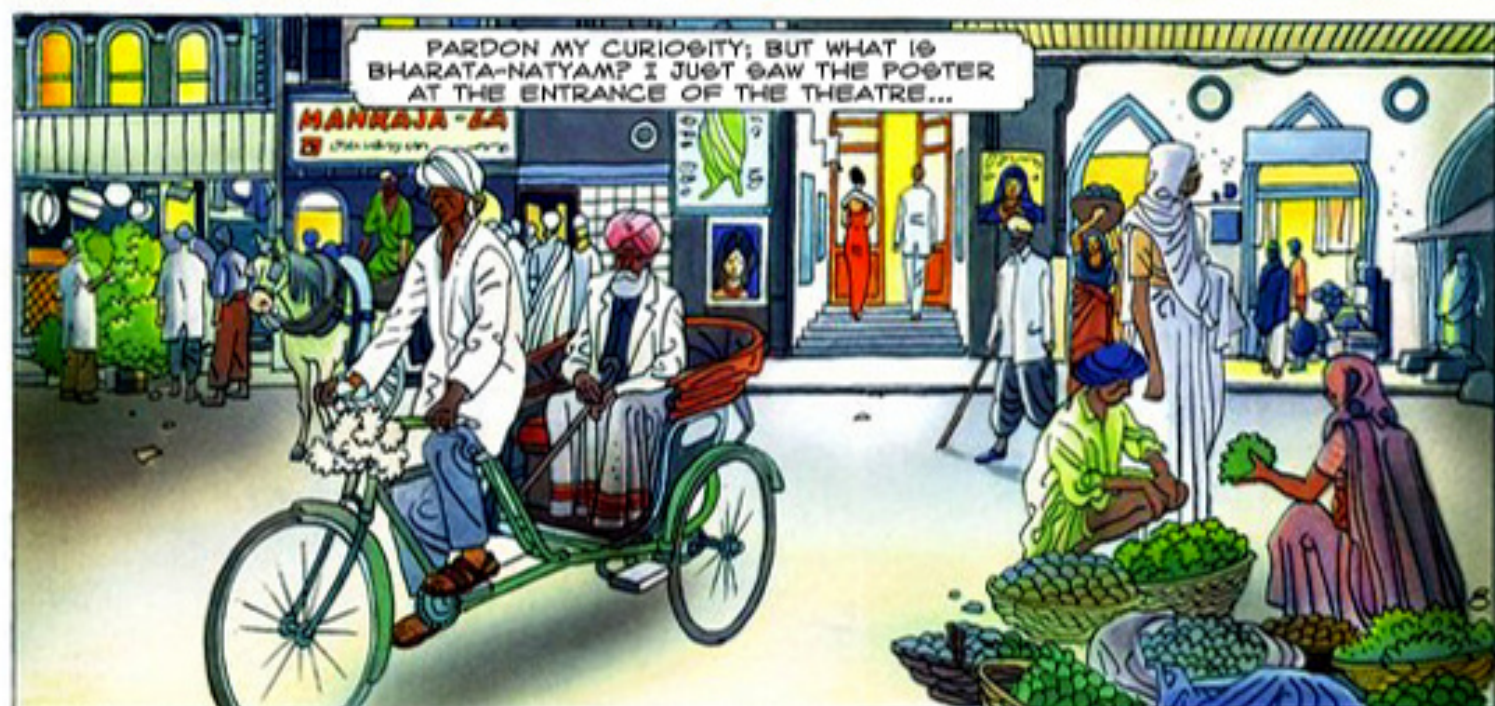


EVERYONE KNOWS ALL THAT... WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW IS, THAT I'VE FOUND AN OLD BRAHMAN READY TO SHARE SOME REVELATIONS FOR A FEW RUPEES!

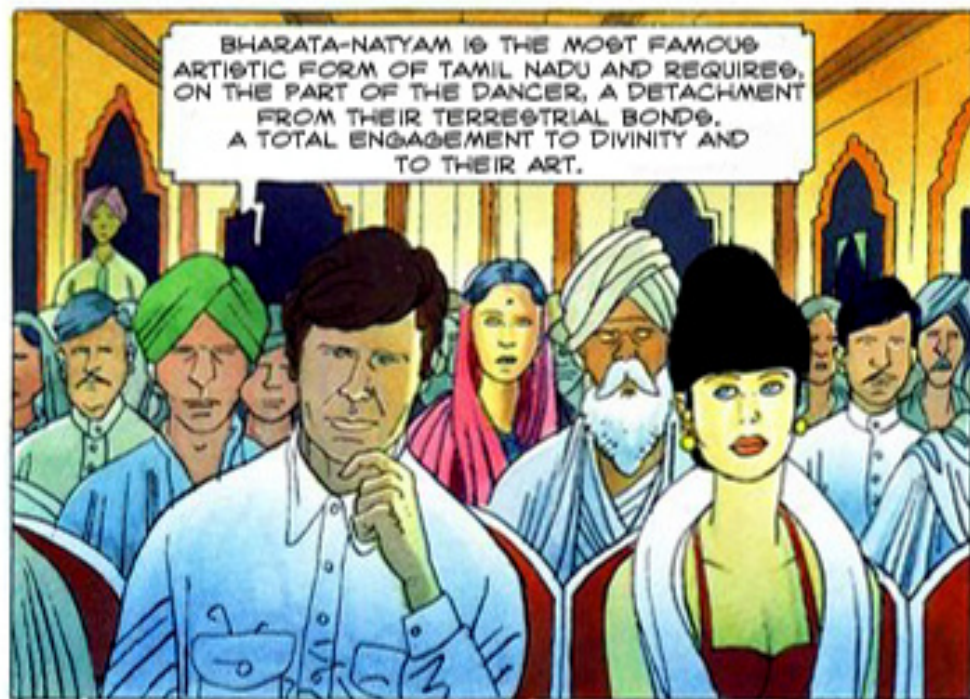
WELL WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?



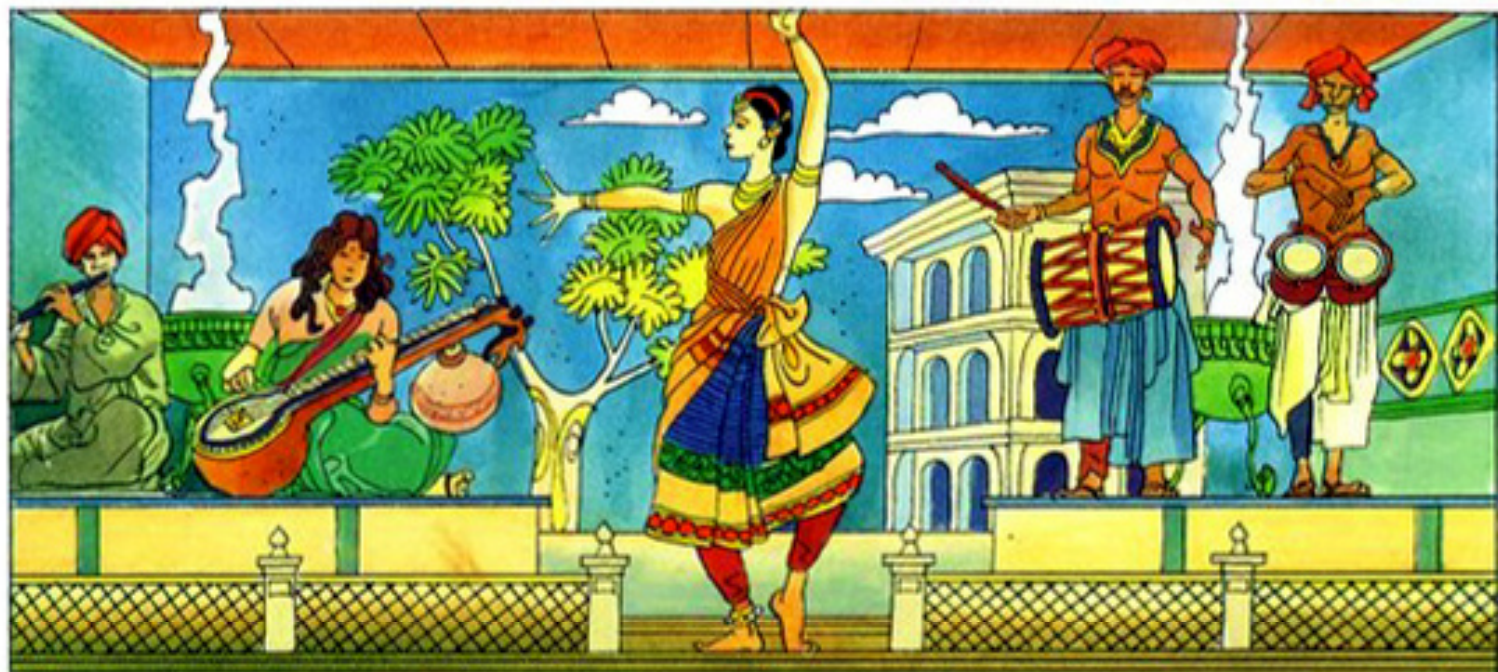




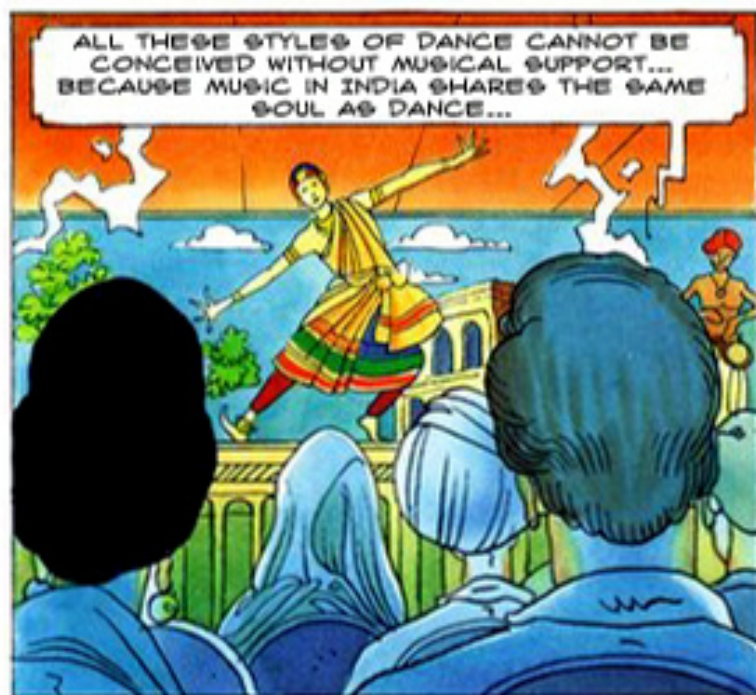
BHARATA-NATYAM IS THE MOST FAMOUS ARTISTIC FORM OF TAMIL NADU AND REQUIRES, ON THE PART OF THE DANCER, A DETACHMENT FROM THEIR TERRESTRIAL BONDS. A TOTAL ENGAGEMENT TO DIVINITY AND TO THEIR ART.



THE DANCERS USED TO BE CALLED "DEVADASI" OR SERVANTS OF GOD. THEREAFTER, OVER THE YEARS, THE ARISTOCRACY MADE COURTESANS OF THEM. IT'S AN EXTREMELY DYNAMIC STYLE OF DANCE, A WHOLE ART. SINCE CHILDHOOD, THE DANCERS ARE TRAINED IN THE BALANCE DISTRIBUTION OF BODY WEIGHT AND IN THE WELL ENSURED POSITIONS OF THE LOWER LIMBS. AH! THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO START!



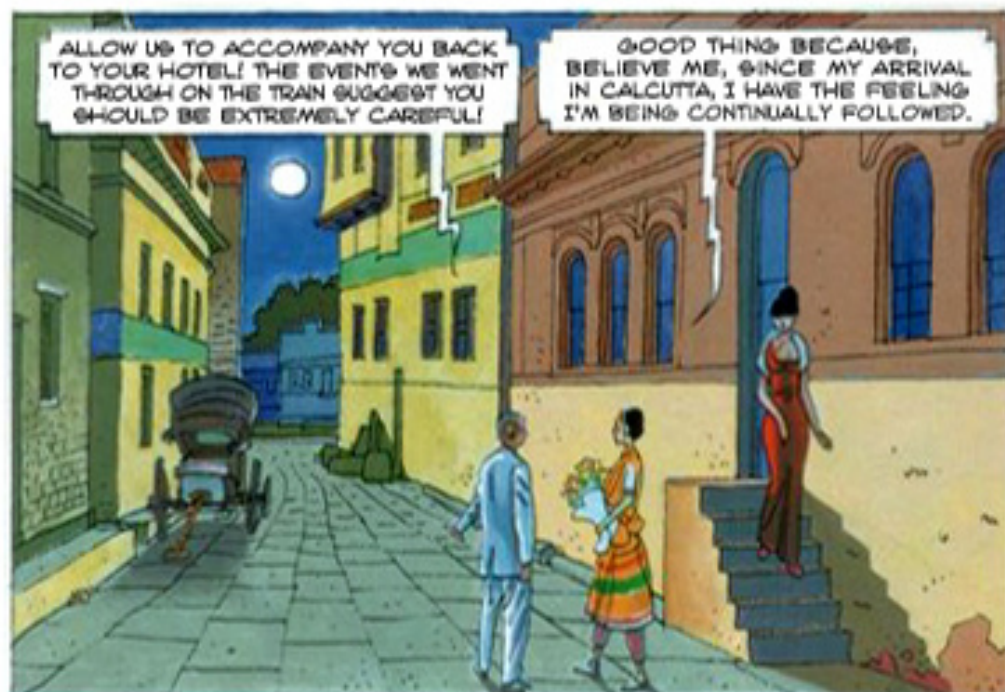
ALL THESE STYLES OF DANCE CANNOT BE CONCEIVED WITHOUT MUSICAL SUPPORT... BECAUSE MUSIC IN INDIA SHARES THE SAME SOUL AS DANCE...



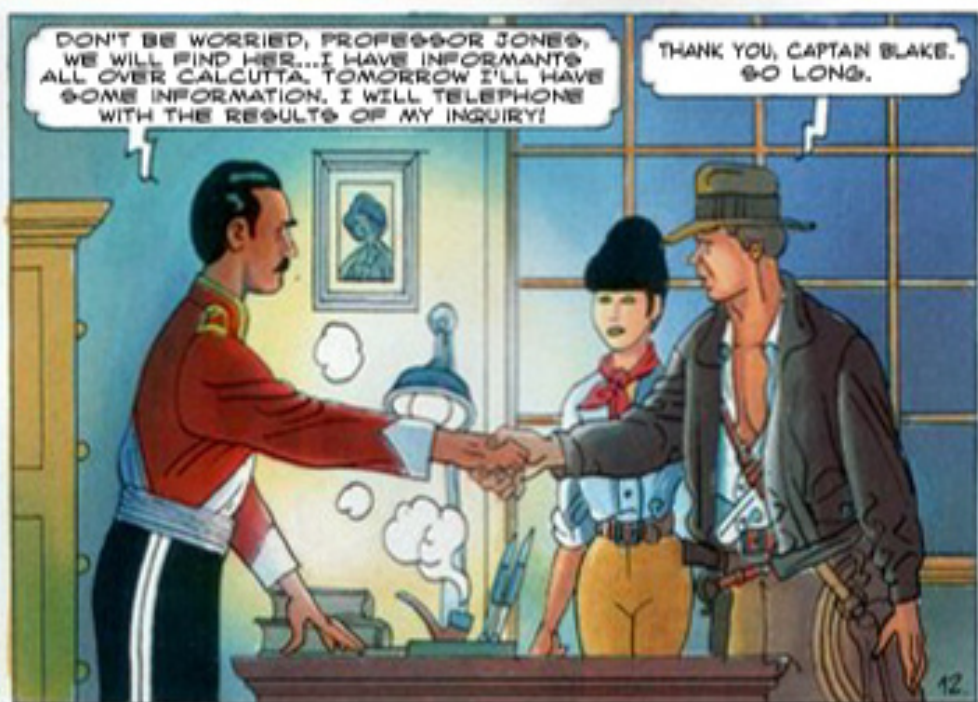
YOU CAME, PROFESSOR JONES... WHAT AN HONOUR FOR ME...

THAT WAS A REAL PLEASURE. I ADORE BHARATA-NATYAM. ALLOW ME TO PRESENT TO YOU, AN AMERICAN FRIEND, JOURNALIST AT THE NEW YORK GLOBE, MARYA SMIRNOVA...









THANK YOU, CAPTAIN BLAKE.
SO LONG.

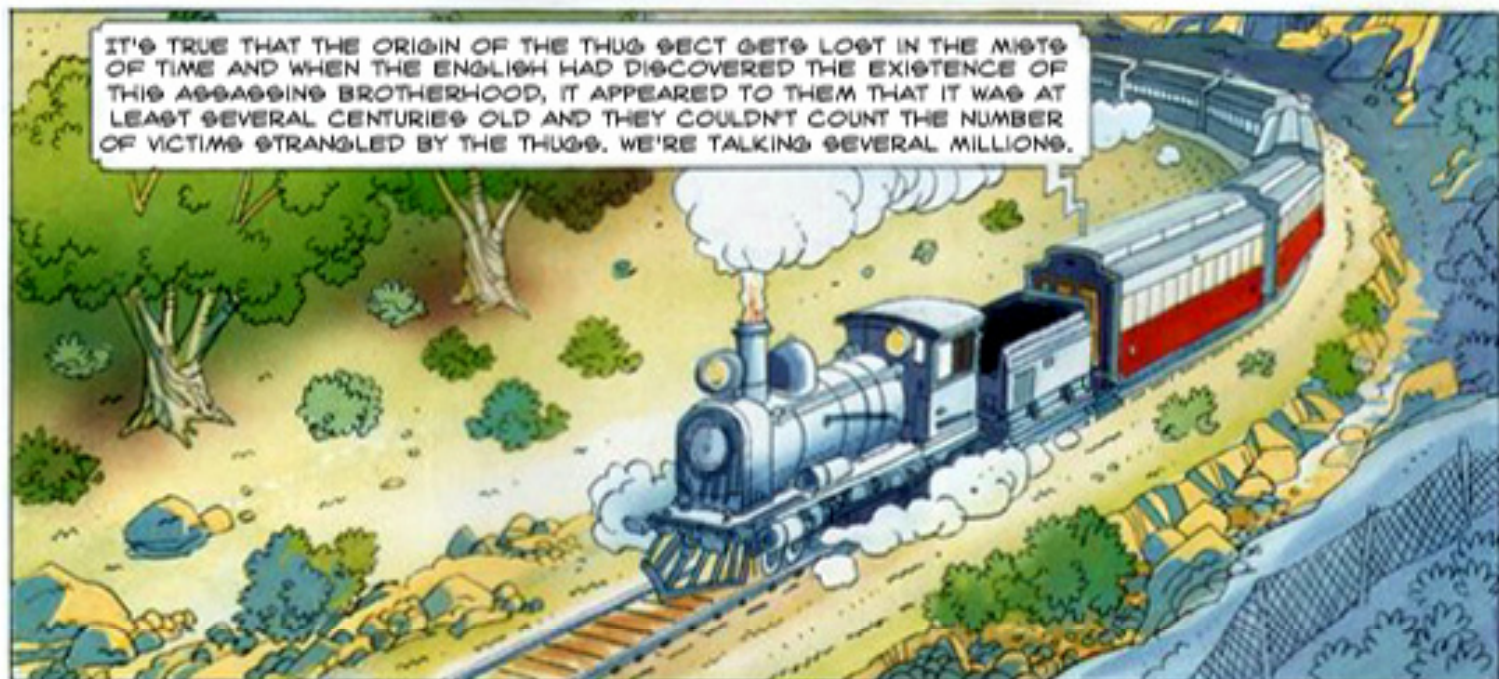
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT THUGS! THE LEGEND SAYS THAT IN THE PAST, LONG AGO, A GIANTIC DEMON LIVED ON THE EARTH, DEVOURING HUMANS THAT THE GODS WERE CREATING. THE GODDESS, KALI, FACED THE MONSTER WITH BLOWS FROM A SWORD, BUT EACH DROP OF BLOOD GENERATED ANOTHER MONSTER. THEN KALI CREATED TWO MEN TO WHOM SHE GAVE TWO FABRIC BANDS, TAKEN FROM HER CLOTHING AND ORDERED THEM TO STRANGLE THE DEMONS WITHOUT SPILLING ONE DROP OF BLOOD. THOSE TWO MEN PERFECTLY EXECUTED THEIR MISSION...



...KALI THEN GAVE THEM THE ORDER TO TEACH THEIR DESCENDANTS THE USAGE OF THE RUHMAL, THE FABRIC BAND WITH WHICH THEY'D STRANGLE VICTIMS THAT THE GODDESS WOULD PUT IN THEIR WAY.



IT'S TRUE THAT THE ORIGIN OF THE THUG SECT GETS LOST IN THE MISTS OF TIME AND WHEN THE ENGLISH HAD DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF THIS ASSASSIN BROTHERHOOD, IT APPEARED TO THEM THAT IT WAS AT LEAST SEVERAL CENTURIES OLD AND THEY COULDN'T COUNT THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS STRANGLED BY THE THUGS. WE'RE TALKING SEVERAL MILLIONS.

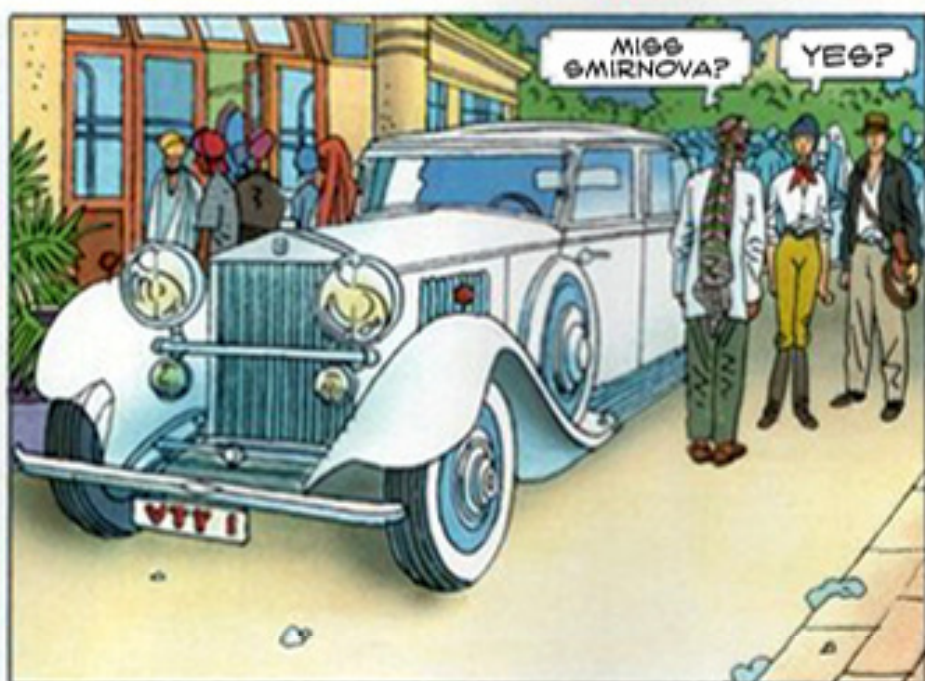
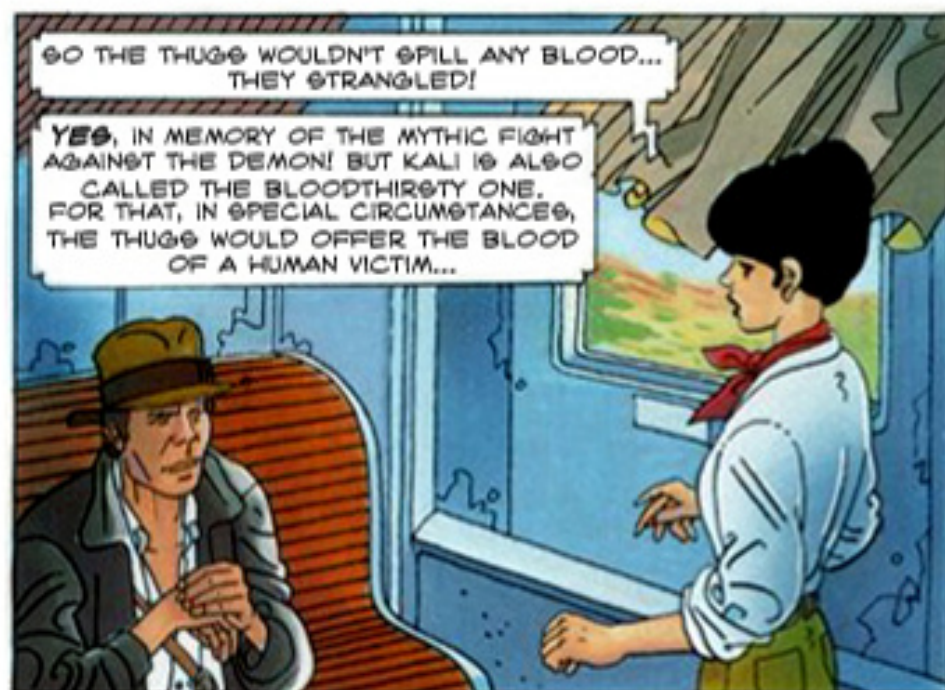


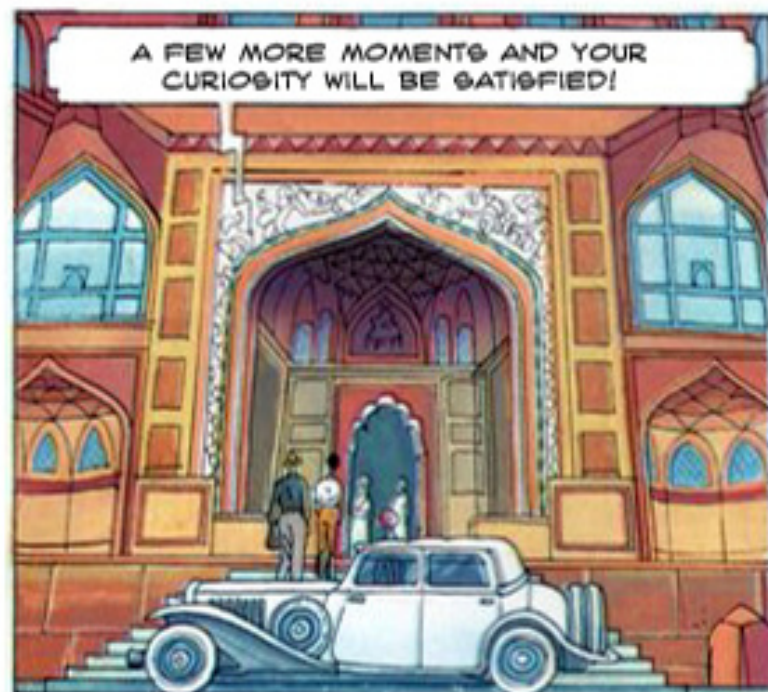
THUGS WERE OMNIPRESENT IN ALL OF INDIA BUT MOST PARTICULARLY IN BENGAL. IN CALCUTTA, THERE WAS EVEN A TEMPLE DEDICATED TO THE GODDESS, KALI. THIS SECT STRICTLY OBSERVED THEIR RITES, THE MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH WAS HANDED DOWN FROM FATHER TO SON AND THE YOUNG MAN WAS TO CROSS SEVERAL STAGES TO ARRIVE AT THE HONOR OF SUPREME POWER: **TO STRANGLE**...THEIR CHIEF, THE JEMADAR, ALONE DECIDED THE MOMENT TO ORGANIZE EXPEDITIONS AGAINST TRAVELERS.



WHEN THEY WEREN'T ON A MISSION, THE THUGS PRESENTED THEMSELVES AS HONORABLE PEOPLE PRACTICING THEIR TRADE. WHEN THE JEMADAR DECIDED ON AN EXPEDITION, THE MEN WOULD ALWAYS FIND A PLAUSIBLE EXCUSE TO GO TO THE RALLYING POINT, WHICH WOULD BE FOUND, GENERALLY, VERY FAR FROM THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE.



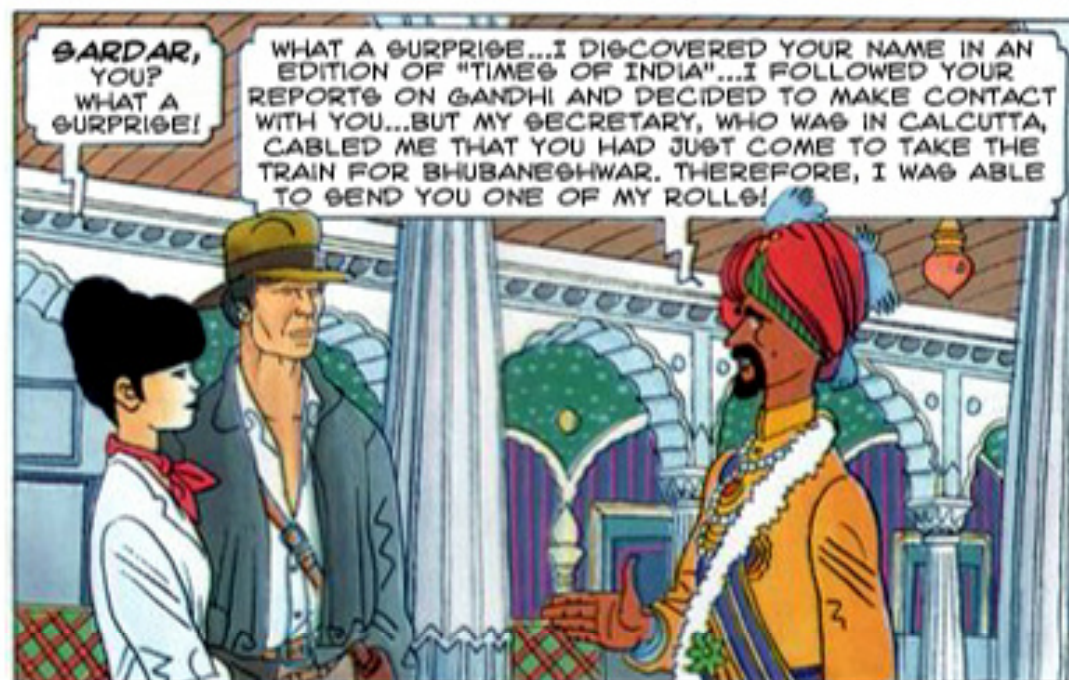




A FEW MORE MOMENTS AND YOUR CURIOSITY WILL BE SATISFIED!



MARYA! WHAT A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN...APPROACH, MY FRIENDS!..



SARDAR, YOU? WHAT A SURPRISE!

WHAT A SURPRISE...I DISCOVERED YOUR NAME IN AN EDITION OF "TIMES OF INDIA"...I FOLLOWED YOUR REPORTS ON GANDHI AND DECIDED TO MAKE CONTACT WITH YOU...BUT MY SECRETARY, WHO WAS IN CALCUTTA, CABLED ME THAT YOU HAD JUST COME TO TAKE THE TRAIN FOR BHUBANESHWAR. THEREFORE, I WAS ABLE TO SEND YOU ONE OF MY ROLLS!



YOU...YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?



SARDAR, ALLOW ME TO PRESENT PROFESSOR JONES. YSEE, INDY, I KNEW SARDAR AT THE FACULTY IN THE UNITED STATES! WE WERE VERY GOOD FRIENDS...

PROFESSOR JONES, THE FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGIST? WHAT AN HONOR TO RECEIVE YOU IN MY PALACE. TONIGHT, I'M GIVING A BIG CELEBRATION IN MARYA'S HONOR... WILL YOU DO ME THE PLEASURE OF JOINING US?



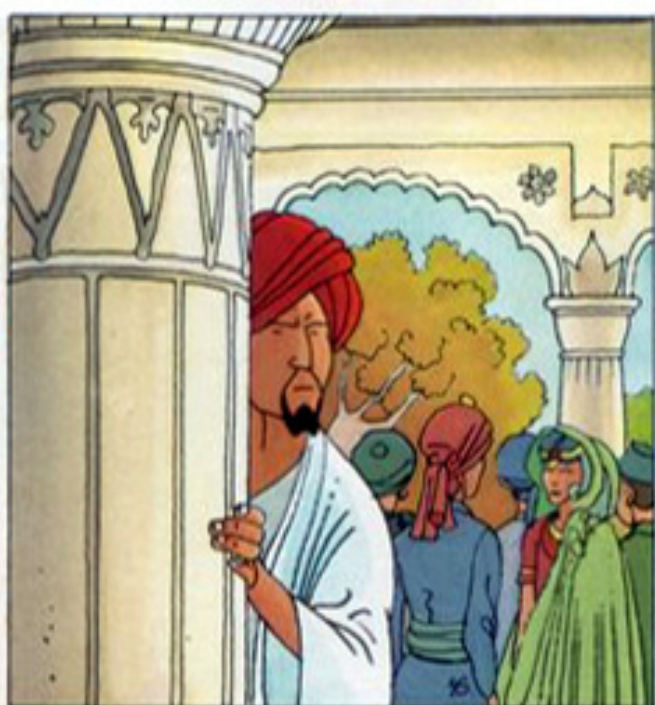
WITH PLEASURE, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE CLOTHES TO GO THIS EVENING. I ONLY KNOW THAT...

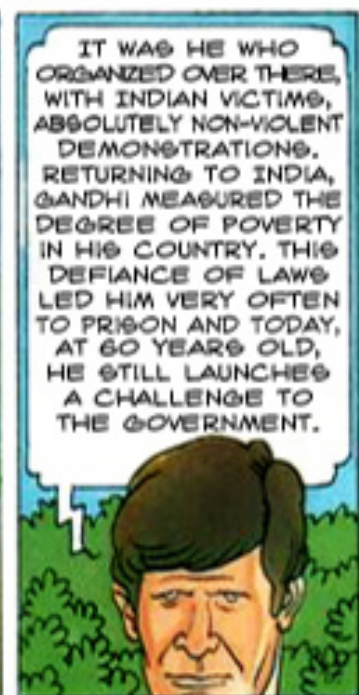
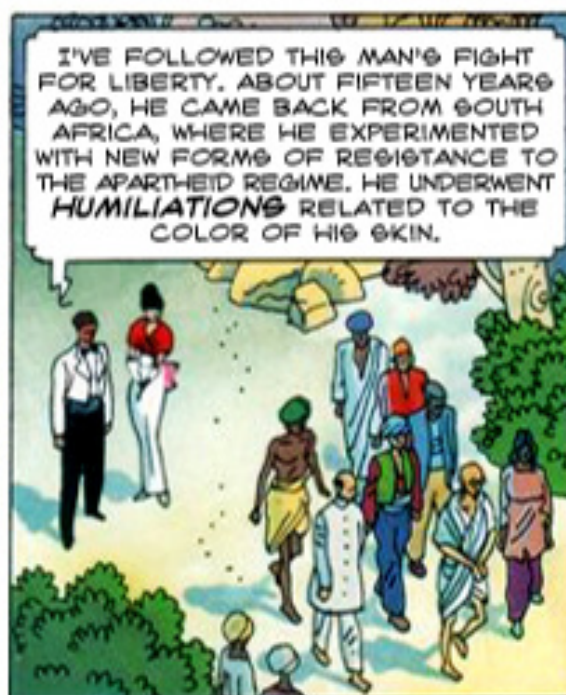
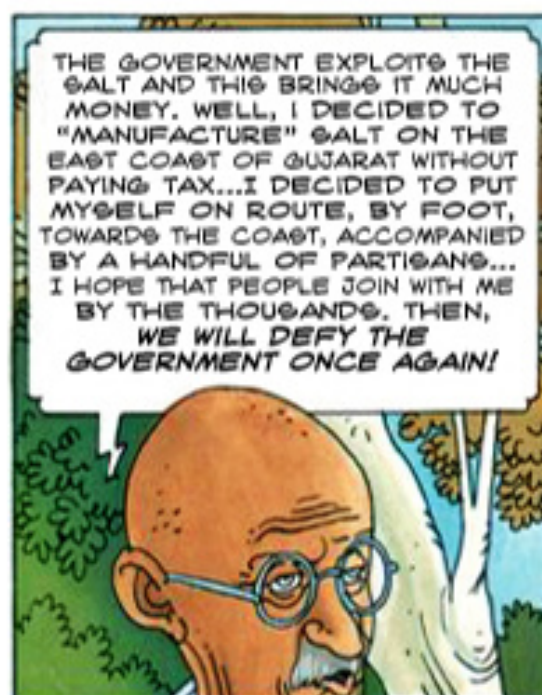
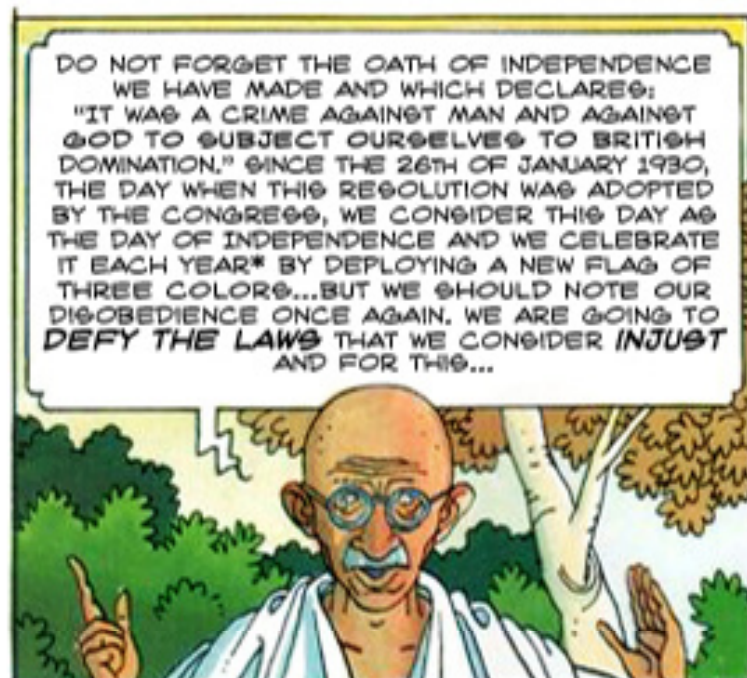
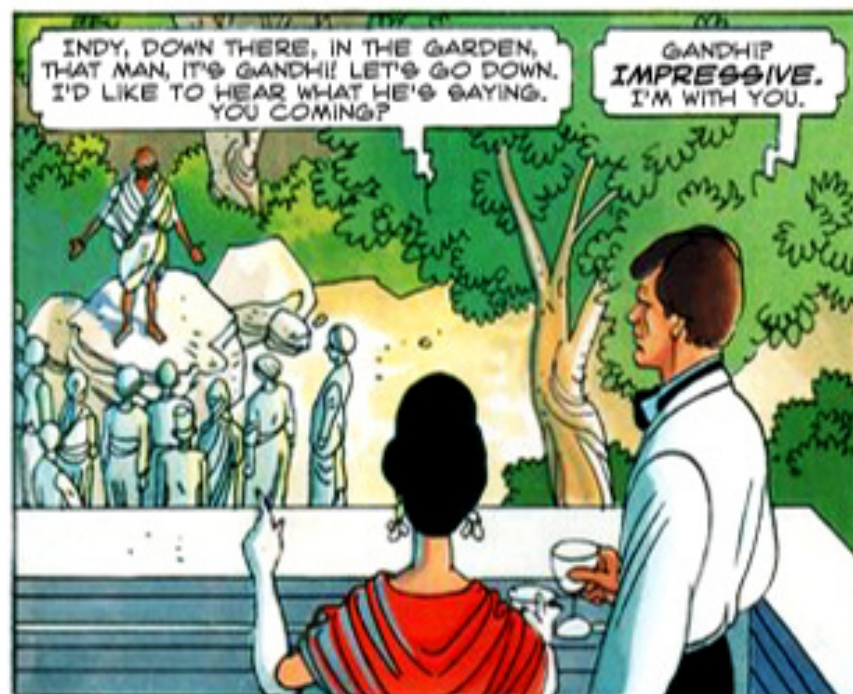
NO PROBLEMS, PROFESSOR JONES...YOUR ROOMS ARE READY... YOUR CLOTHES ALONG WITH THEM... WE WILL FIND OURSELVES AT DINNER... WHAT A JOY TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MARYA.



SEE YOU WITHIN THE HOUR, INDY. A GOOD BATH SHOULD PUT ME BACK IN SHAPE...THIS TRIP WORE ME OUT.

UNTIL TONIGHT!







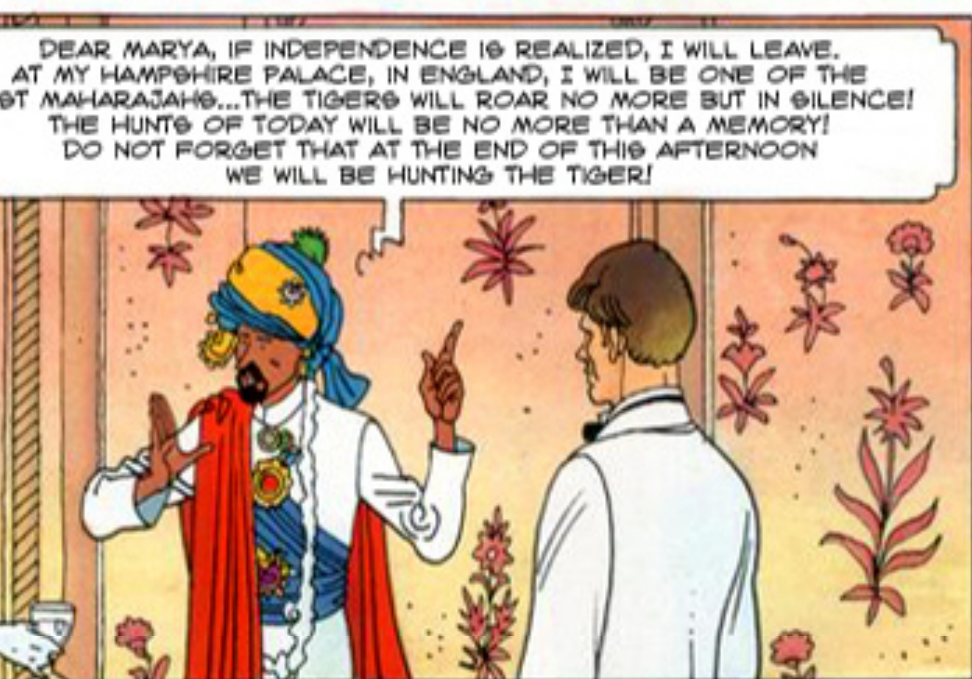
OUR HOST MUST BE WORRYING
OVER OUR ABSENCE.
LET'S JOIN HIM!



DEAR FRIENDS, I SAW YOU. YOU WENT TO LISTEN TO THAT OLD
UTOPIAN, GANDHI. FOR MANY WEEKS HE PREACHES, FROM
VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, FOR THIS MARCH OF SALT...I FEAR THAT THE
RESPONSE WILL BE TERRIBLE...THIS WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TIME...
COME TO THE BUFFET. THE CHAMPAGNE FLOWS IN FLOODS FOR
THE PRESENCE OF MARYA AMONG US!



WHAT IS THE FUTURE
OF INDIA, GARDAR?



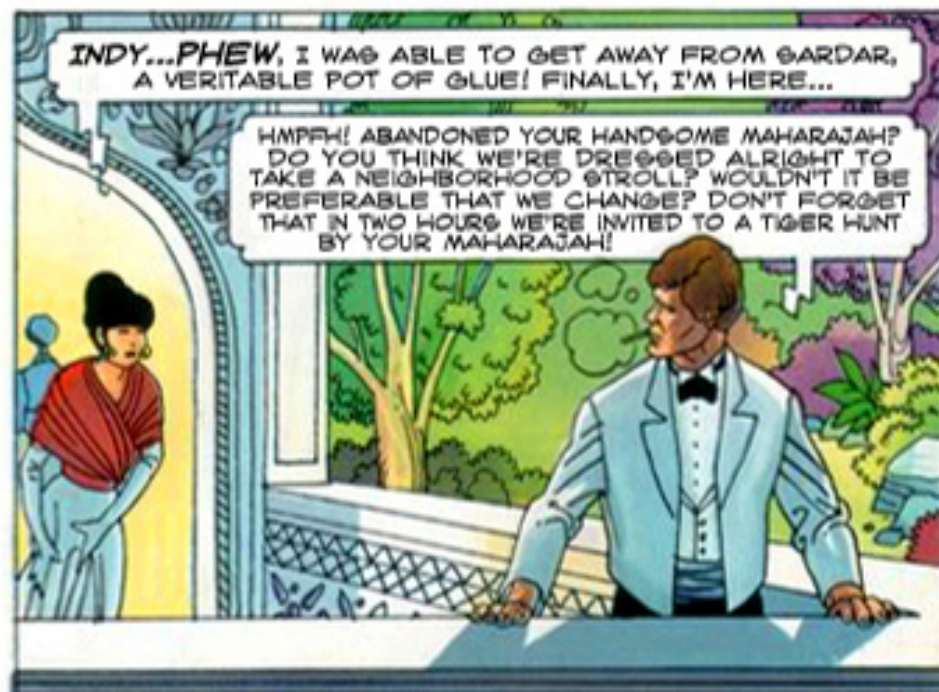
DEAR MARYA, IF INDEPENDENCE IS REALIZED, I WILL LEAVE.
AT MY HAMPSHIRE PALACE, IN ENGLAND, I WILL BE ONE OF THE
LAST MAHARAJAS...THE TIGERS WILL ROAR NO MORE BUT IN SILENCE!
THE HUNTS OF TODAY WILL BE NO MORE THAN A MEMORY!
DO NOT FORGET THAT AT THE END OF THIS AFTERNOON
WE WILL BE HUNTING THE TIGER!



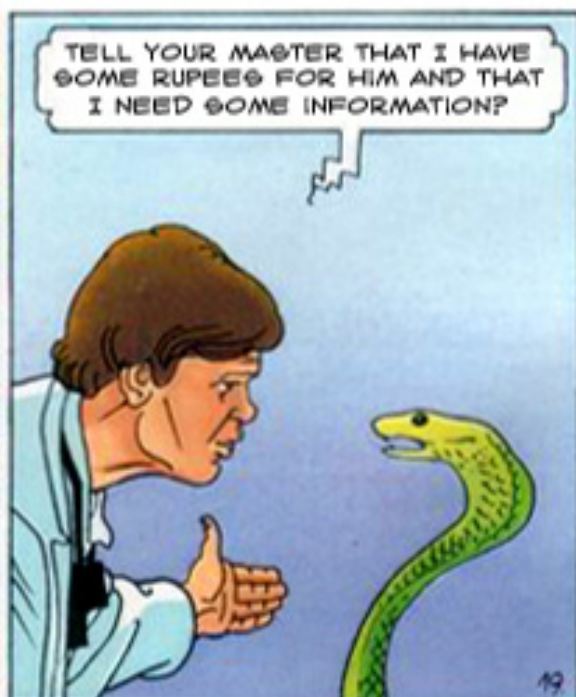
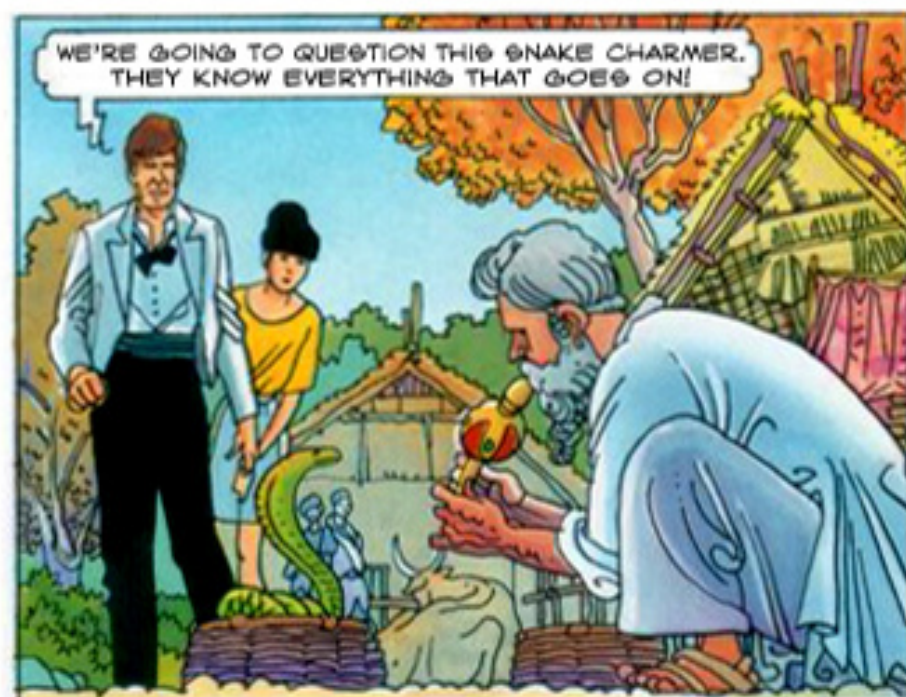
LET US FORGET ALL OF THAT AND AMUSE
OURSELVES! TODAY IS A CELEBRATION!

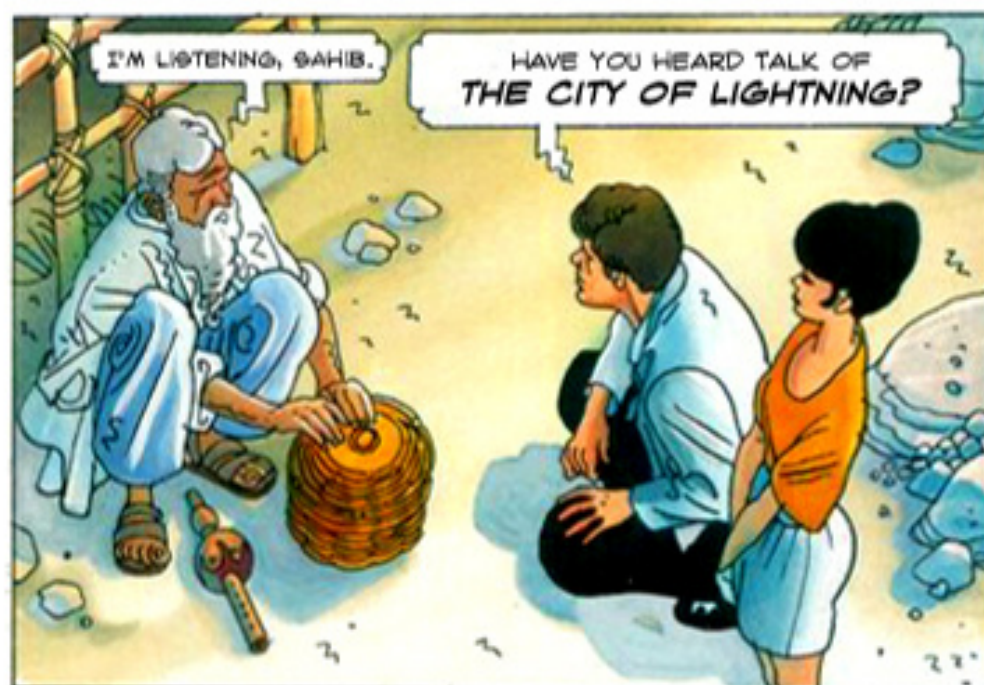


IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GO
VISIT THE SURROUNDINGS!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER...





I'M LISTENING, SAHIB.

HAVE YOU HEARD TALK OF
THE CITY OF LIGHTNING?



NO...I CANNOT SPEAK
OF IT. BEWARE THE
GREAT KHAN, SAHIB!



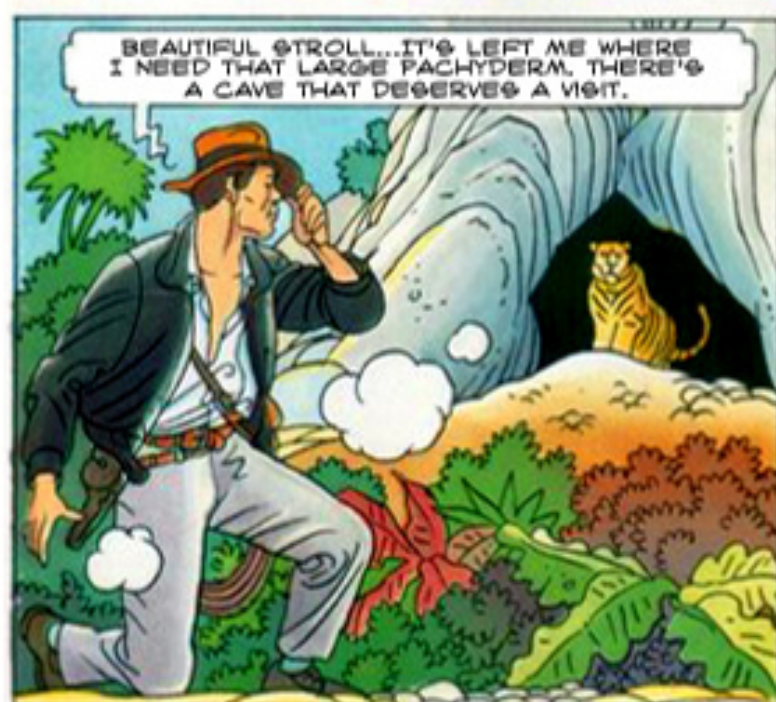
**BEWARE THE
GREAT KHAN...**

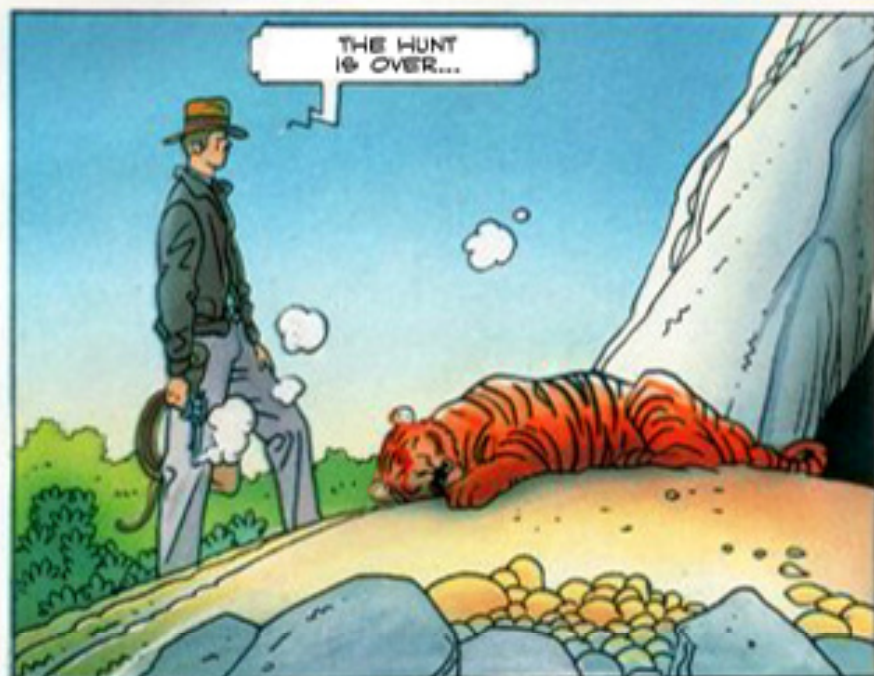


WHAT IS IT,
THE GREAT KHAN...?



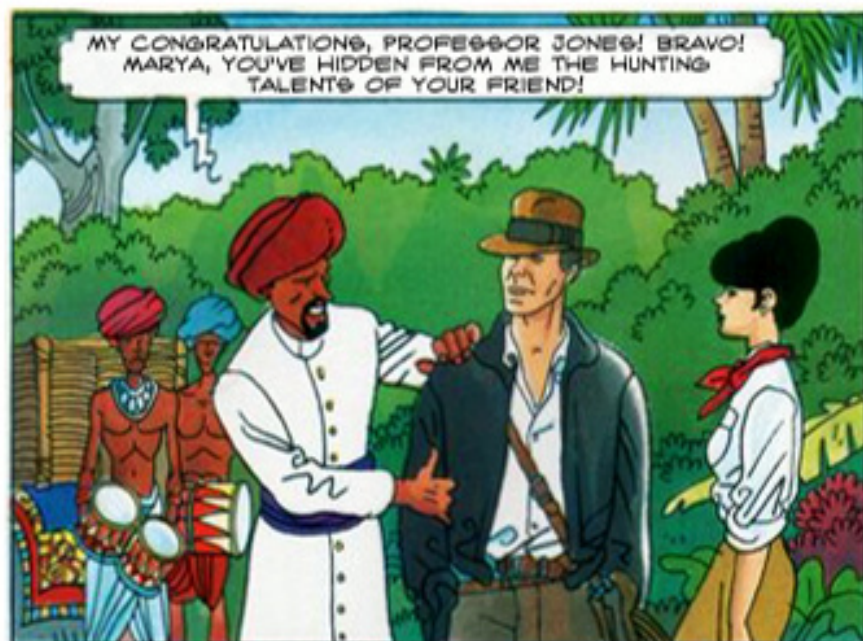
NO IDEA! LET'S RETURN TO THE PALACE.
MAYBE IN QUESTIONING PEOPLE ON THE
SPOT, WE'LL GET SOME INFORMATION ABOUT
THIS GREAT KHAN! LET'S GO PREPARE
FOR THE TIGER HUNT!











MY CONGRATULATIONS, PROFESSOR JONES! BRAVO! MARYA, YOU'VE HIDDEN FROM ME THE HUNTING TALENTS OF YOUR FRIEND!



MY SADDLE CAME LOOSE AND I FOUND MYSELF ON THE GROUND IN FRONT OF THE TIGER... I FIRED WHEN HE JUMPED ABOVE ME AND I LODGED A BULLET RIGHT IN HIS HEAD!



WE RETURN. WE ARE GOING TO MAKE A BIG CELEBRATION IN YOUR HONOR!

TOO MUCH! **HEY MARYA!** Y'SEE, THERE ISN'T ONLY YOU.



AS FOR YOUR FRIEND, ALL THIS IS PRETEXT TO HAVE A CELEBRATION! I HAVE TWO IMPORTANT THINGS TO TELL YOU. FIRSTLY, THE GREAT KHAN WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE TIGER THAT I KILLED AND SOMETHING **MUCH MORE IMPORTANT:** I DISCOVERED, THANKS TO GREAT KHAN, WHERE THE **TEMPLE OF THE GODDESS KALI** IS SITUATED!

NO! THEN THE CITY OF LIGHTNING EXISTS!



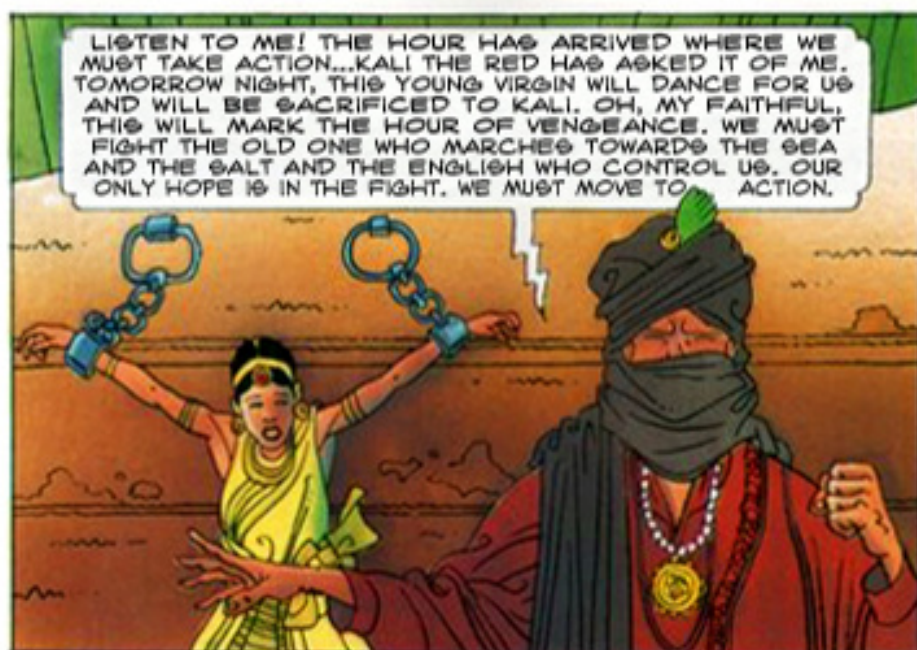
WHEN THE PARTY IS OVER, WE'LL SLIP AWAY DISCREETLY AND WE'RE GONNA TAKE A PEEK AT THIS TEMPLE AND IT'S UNDERGROUND. AGREED?

IF WE CAN LEAVE RIGHT AWAY.



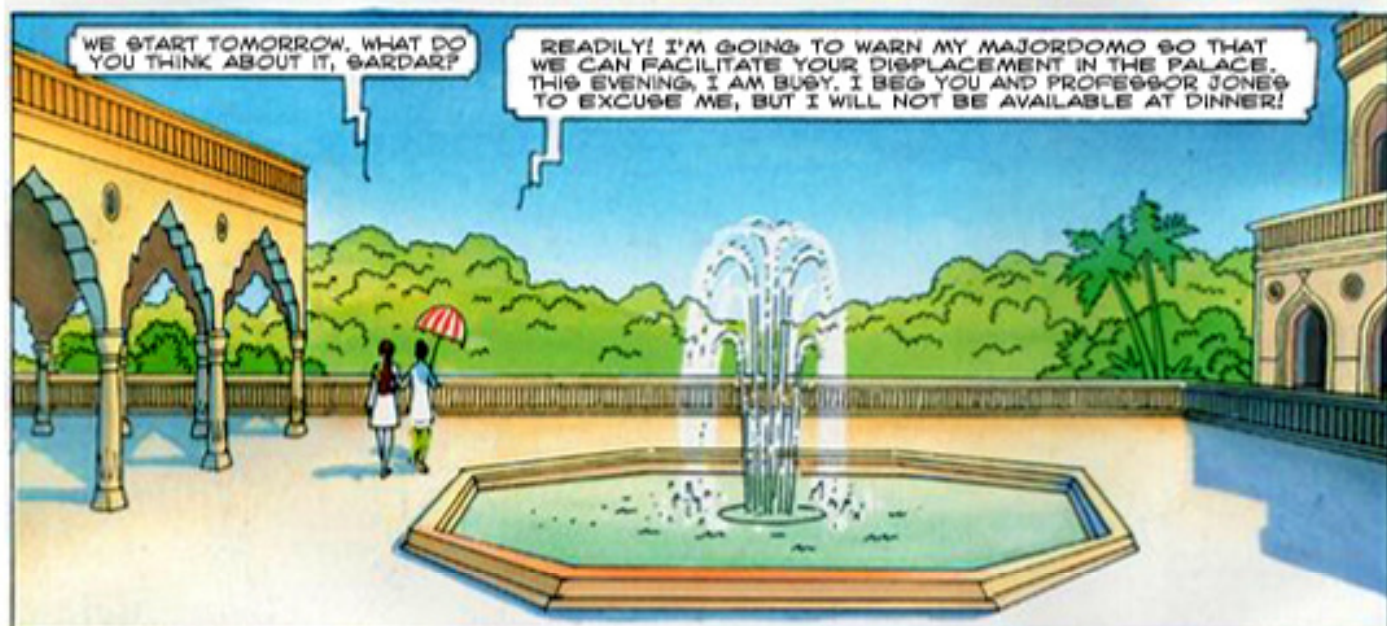
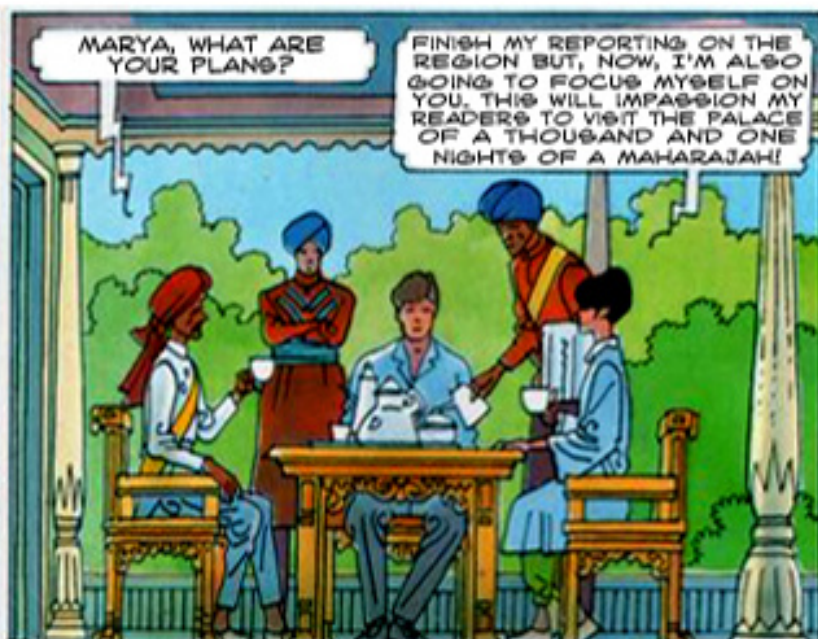
LET'S WAIT...WE'LL LEAVE AT NIGHT.

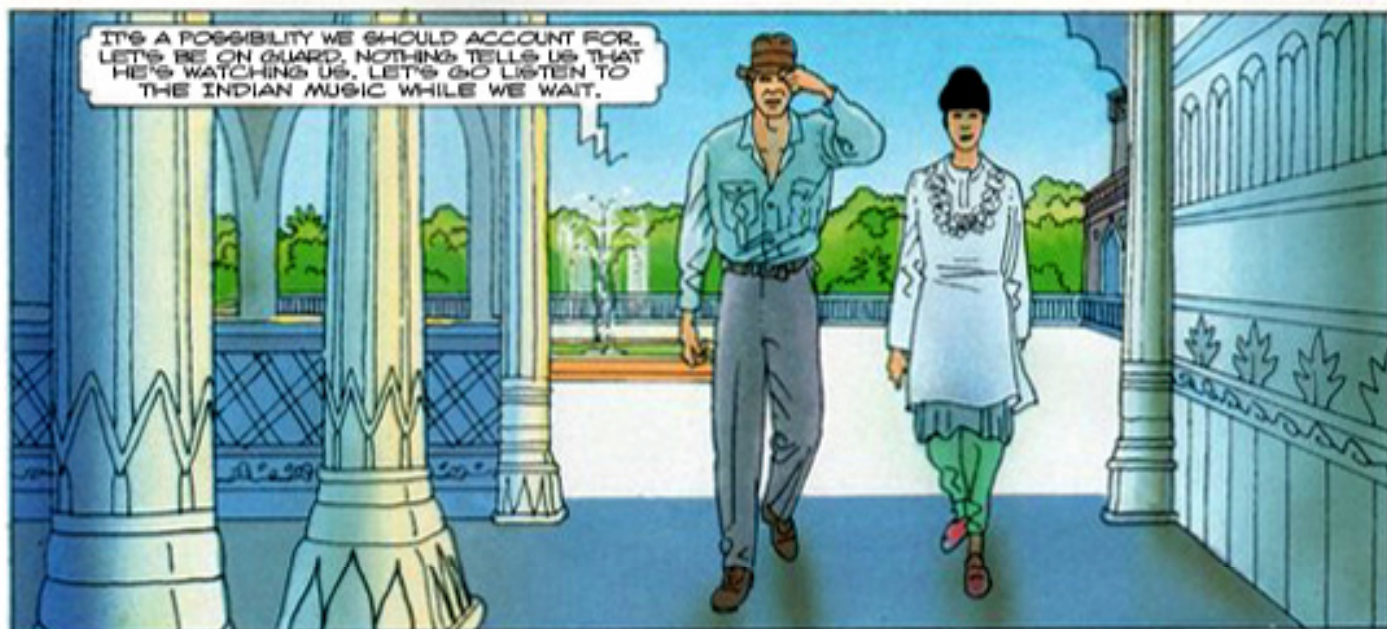
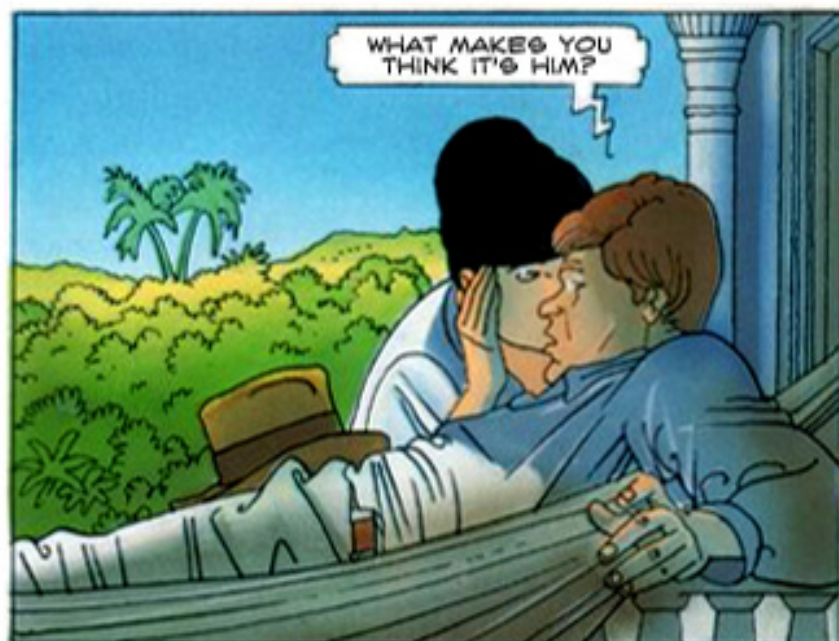


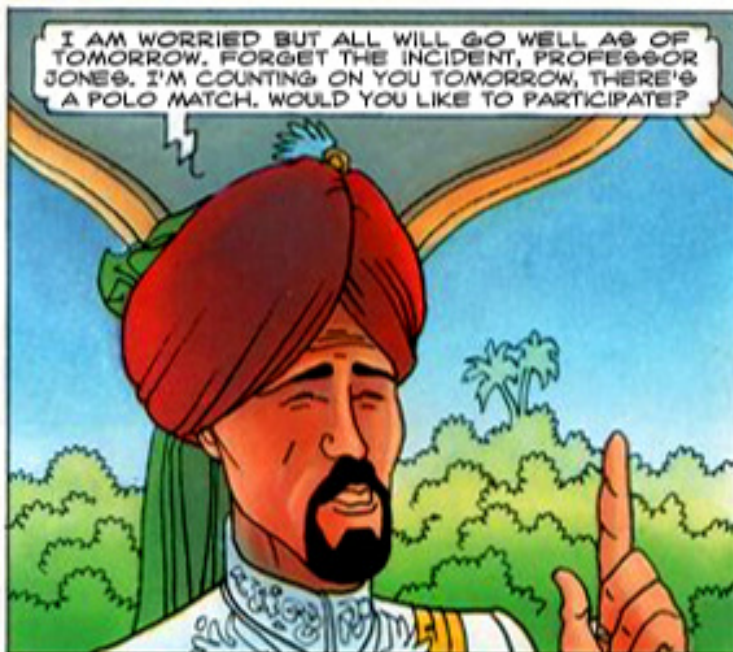
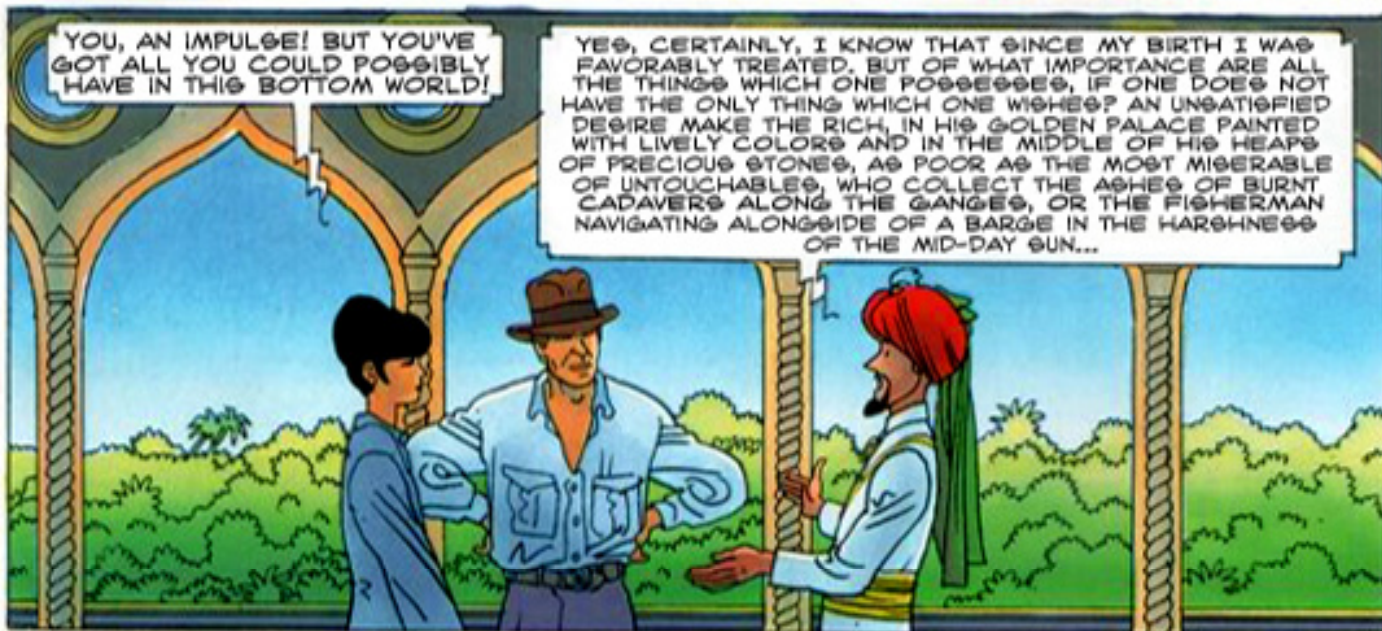
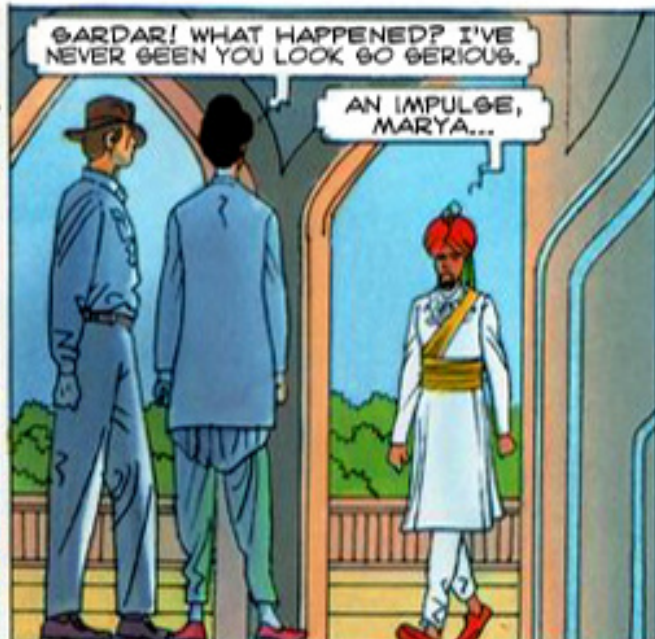
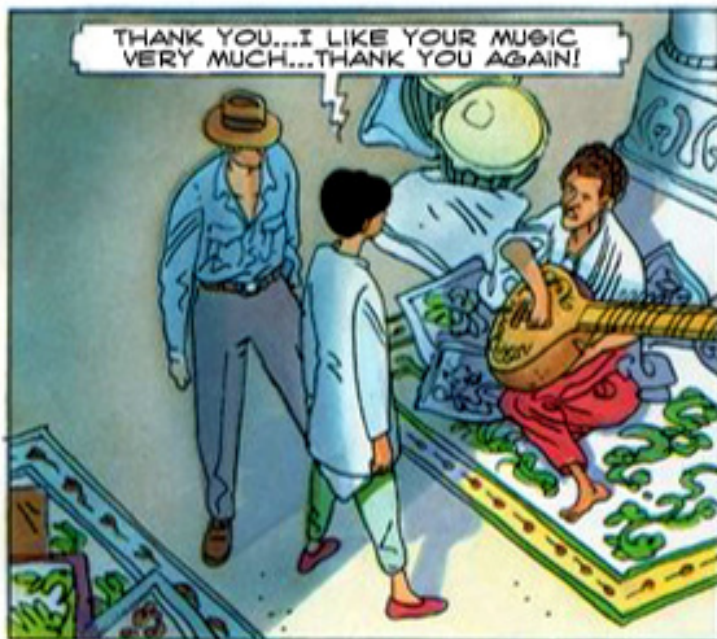


















...YOU HAVE PLACED YOUR SIGN, WE WILL OFFER HER BLOOD TO YOUR GLORY!



BUT BEFORE, SHE WILL DANCE FOR YOU, O, BLACK GODDESS...GODDESS OF DEATH. ME, THE JEMADAR, I WILL EXECUTE YOUR ORDERS... WE WILL STRANGLE WITH THE RHUMAL, THE VICTIMS THAT YOU HAVE DESIGNATED.



DANCE!



LOOK AT THE MUSICIAN ON THE RIGHT. IT'S THE ONE FROM THIS AFTERNOON... THE CHIEF WILL WELL BE...



SILENCE!...



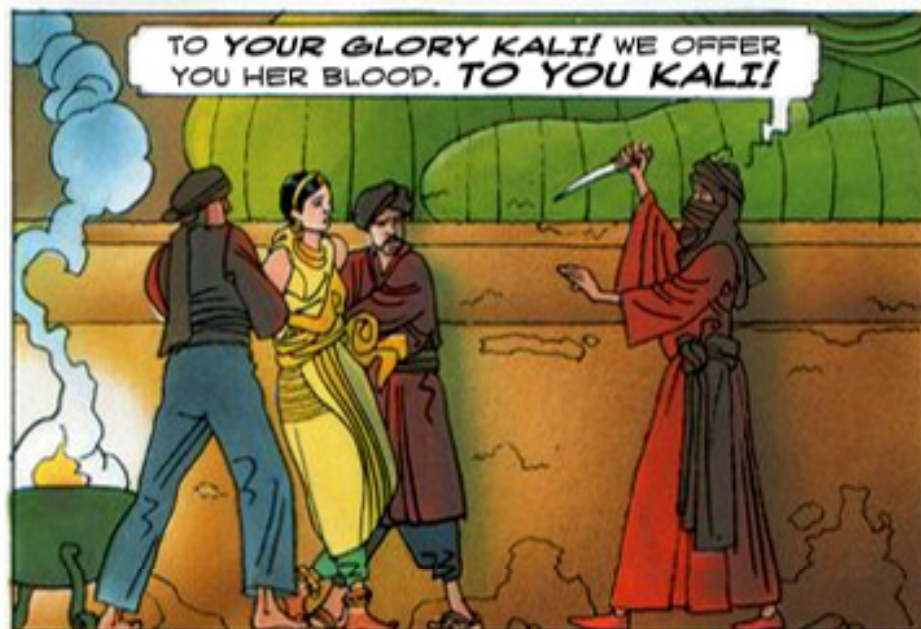
THE BELE* HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY KALL OUR BLACK MOTHER! DANCE!

* PLACE CHOSEN BEFOREHAND TO EXECUTE THE VICTIMS.



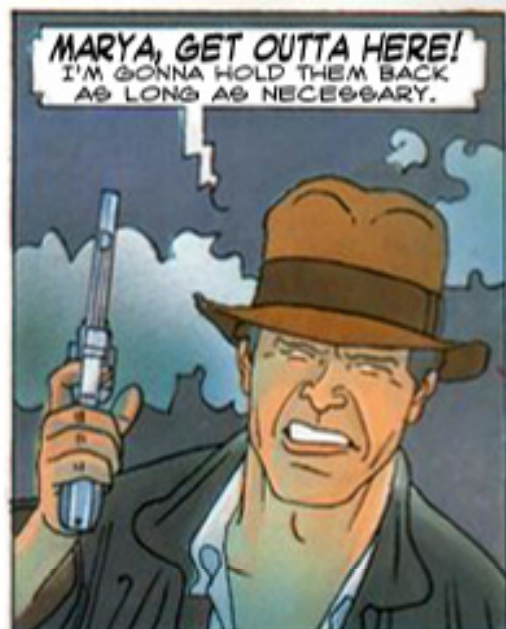
LET'S SLIDE INTO THE FRONT ROW. ME, I'LL TAKE KAMALA, YOU TEAR OFF THE RUBY AND CLIMB THE STAIRCASE UP ON THE RIGHT... I LEFT THE DOOR WIDE OPEN. LET'S GO!

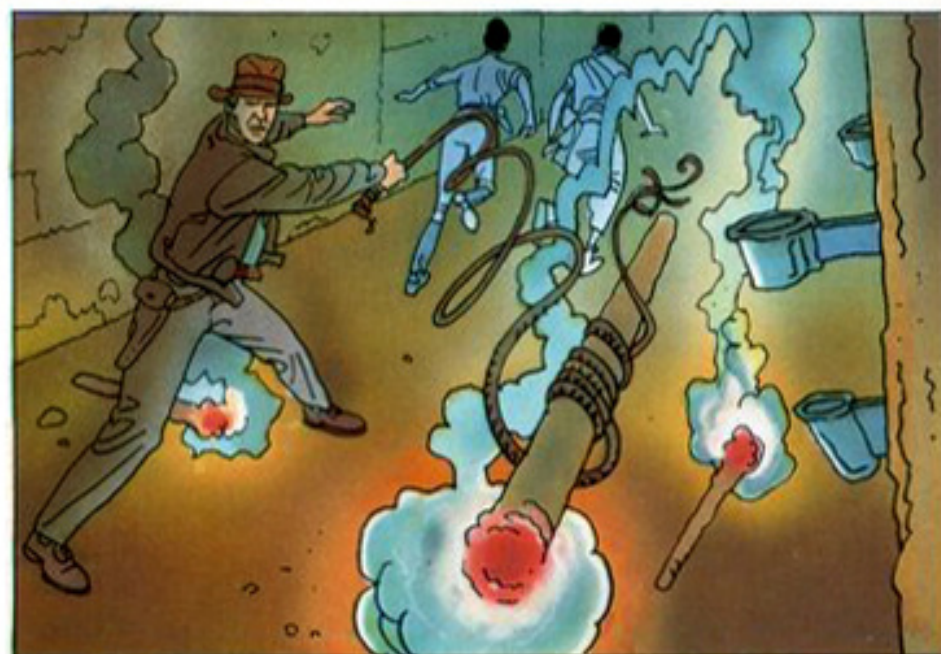




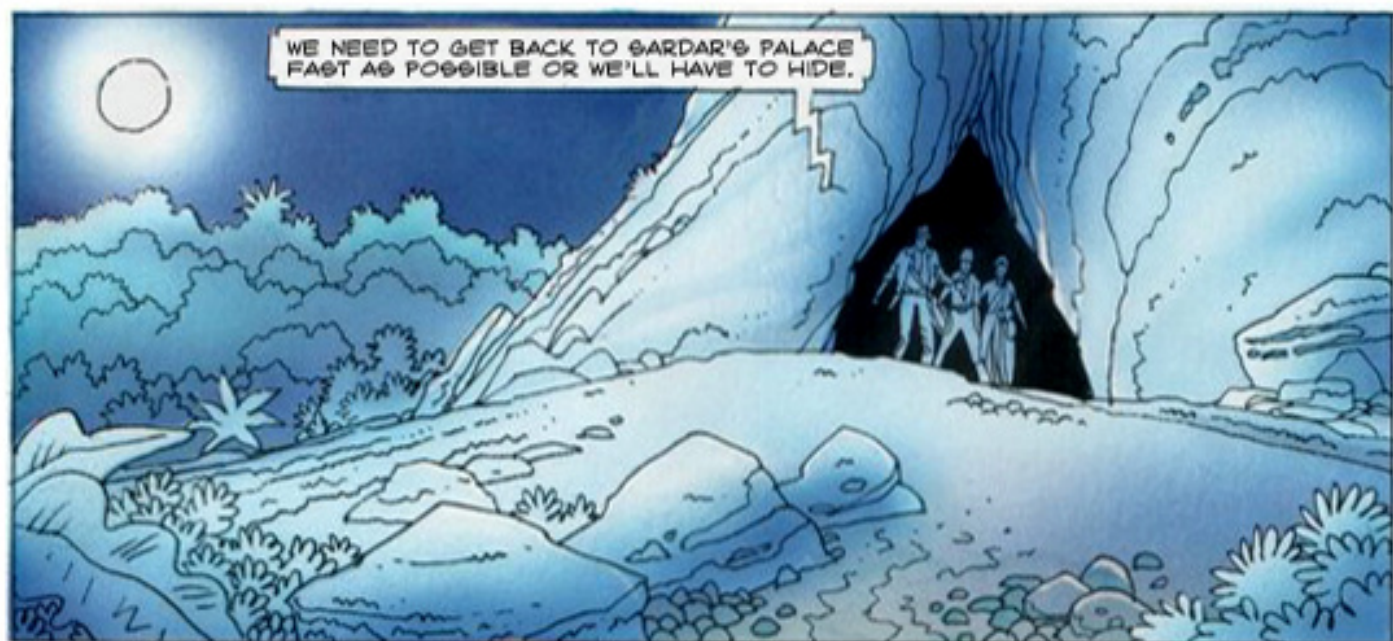
















WHAT DID YOU DO?



IT HAD TO BE DONE. THE RUBY OF KALI, GODDESS OF DEATH, HOLDS IN ITS BREST THE SOUL OF THE GRAND KHAN, AND I WAS THE PRIESTESS OF KALI.



WHAT?

YOU WERE
THE
PRIESTESS?

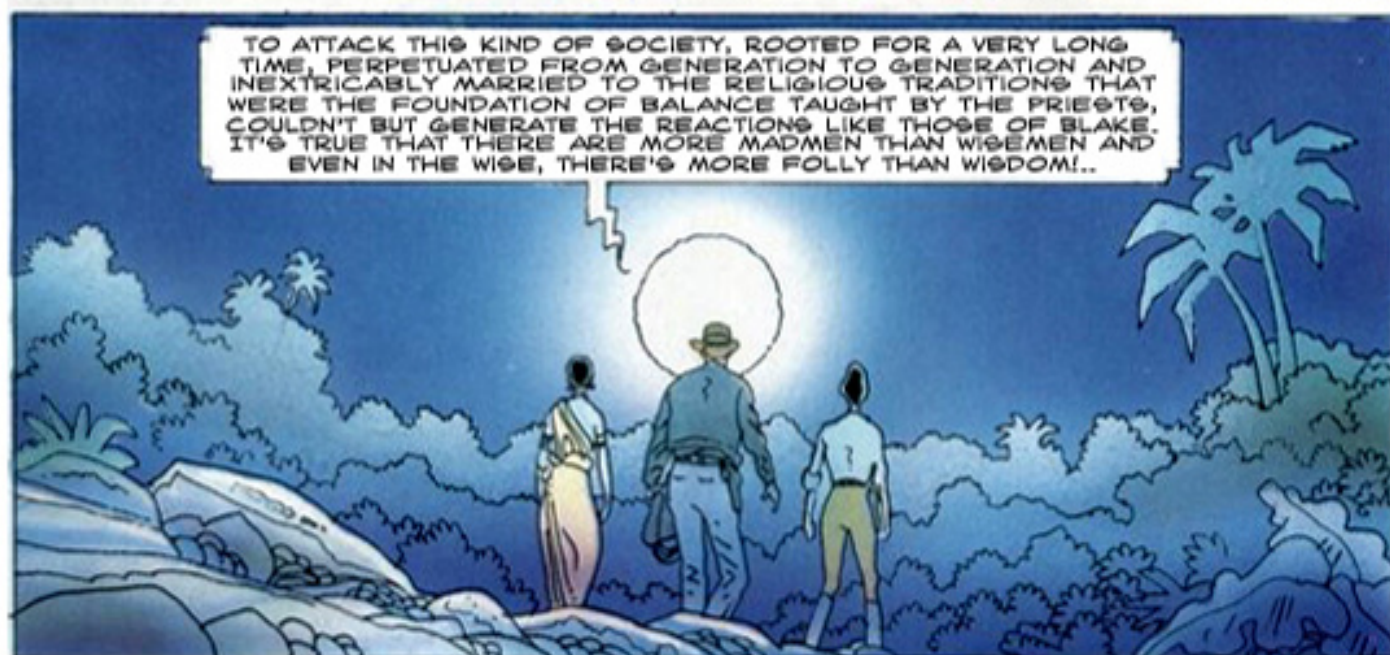
YES, SINCE MY BIRTH. I WAS CHOSEN BY THE THUGS THE MOMENT WHERE THERE MUST BE AN UNLEASHING OF A GREAT CRUSADE AGAINST THE ENGLISH INVADER, DESTINED TO ABORT THE PLANS OF GANDHI WHO PREACHES NON-VIOLENCE. I HAD FLED THE CITY OF LIGHTNING AND WENT BACK TO CALCUTTA, BUT BLAKE FOUND ME!



BUT,
**CAPTAIN
BLAKE?**



CAPTAIN BLAKE WAS THE SON OF AN ENGLISHMAN AND AN INDIAN. REJECTED BY THE TWO COMMUNITIES, HE HAD SWORN VENGEANCE IN RECREATING HERE, FOR SOME TWENTY YEARS, THE CULT OF THE THUGS!



TO ATTACK THIS KIND OF SOCIETY, ROOTED FOR A VERY LONG TIME, PERPETUATED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION AND INEXTRICABLY MARRIED TO THE RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS THAT WERE THE FOUNDATION OF BALANCE TAUGHT BY THE PRIESTS, COULDN'T BUT GENERATE THE REACTIONS LIKE THOSE OF BLAKE. IT'S TRUE THAT THERE ARE MORE MADMEN THAN WISEMEN AND EVEN IN THE WISE, THERE'S MORE FOLLY THAN WISDOM!..