

HE STALKS THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS GAME

# MANHUNTER

NEPAL! IN THE SHADOW OF THE HIMALAYAS LIES ITS CAPITAL, KATMANDU. HERE, AT THE CITY'S GREAT NORTHERN GATE, WHERE IN OLDER, SIMPLER TIMES CARAVANS ARRIVED FROM TIBET, SITS HAJ THE ANCIENT. DAY BY DAY, YEAR AFTER YEAR, HE IS HERE, COLLECTING SIGHT AND SOUND, TALE AND RUMOR AS SOME MIGHT RARE COINS OR STAMPS. THOSE WHO WOULD KNOW OF ANOTHER'S PASSING THROUGH THE CITY COME SOONER, LATER, TO HAJ.



SO, ON THIS DAY COMES CHRISTINE ST. CLAIR OF INTERPOL TO ASK OF ONE CALLED...

MANHUNTER...?



AN UNUSUAL NAME, MEMSAHIB...

HEARD WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY AS EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO WEEKS BECOME KNOWN.



LAW AGENCIES ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE A GROWING INTEREST IN THIS MAN, HAJ...

WHATEVER YOU CAN TELL US WILL NOT GO UNAPPRECIATED.

THEN I SHALL HUMBLY STRIVE TO COOPERATE!

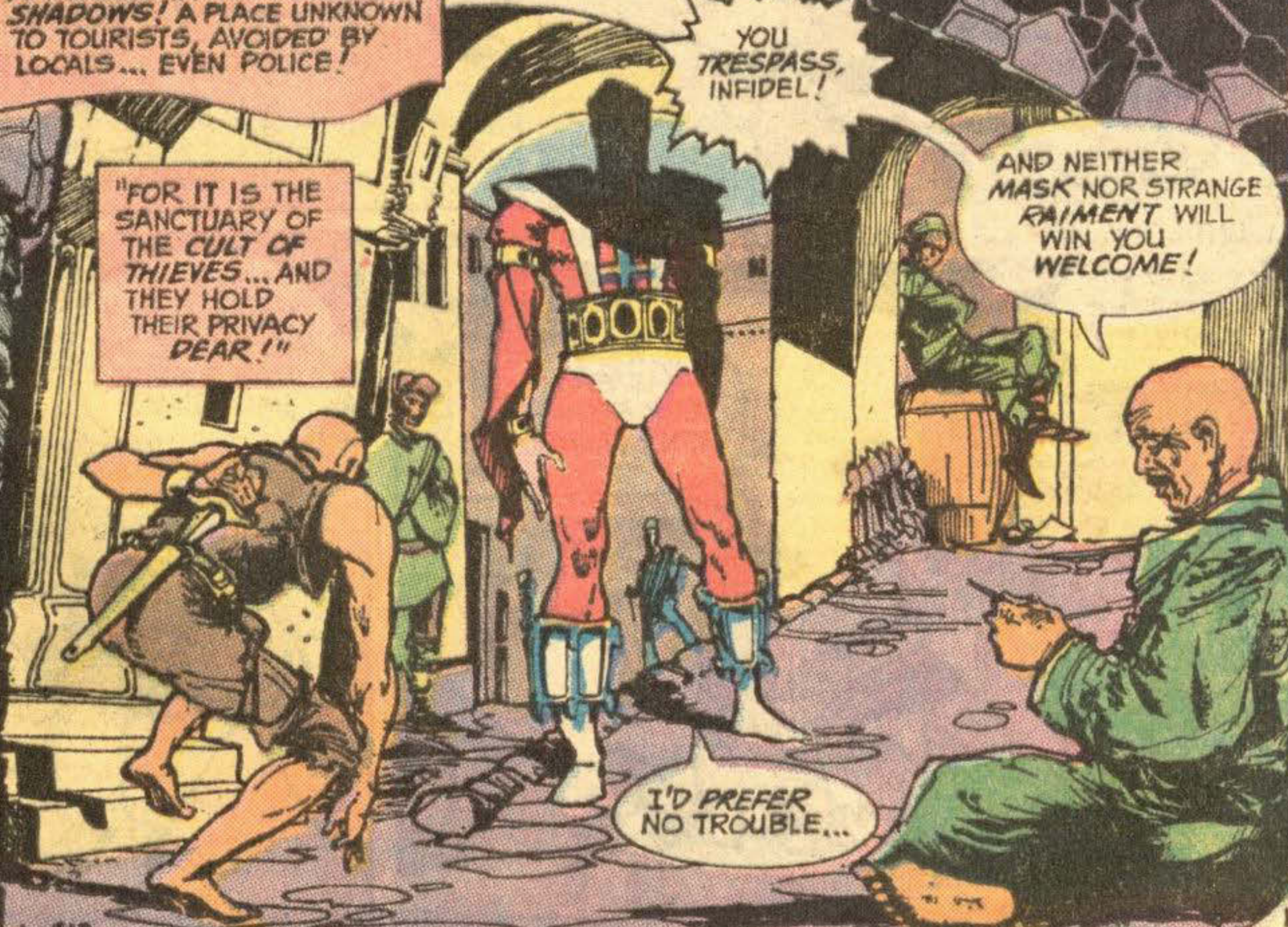
HOW HE CAME TO KATMANDU, NO ONE CAN SAY...

HE MERELY APPEARED... APPEARED IN THE ALLEY OF SHADOWS! A PLACE UNKNOWN TO TOURISTS, AVOIDED BY LOCALS... EVEN POLICE!

"FOR IT IS THE SANCTUARY OF THE CULT OF THIEVES... AND THEY HOLD THEIR PRIVACY DEAR!"

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CHAPTER 1  
THE HIMALAYAN INCIDENT

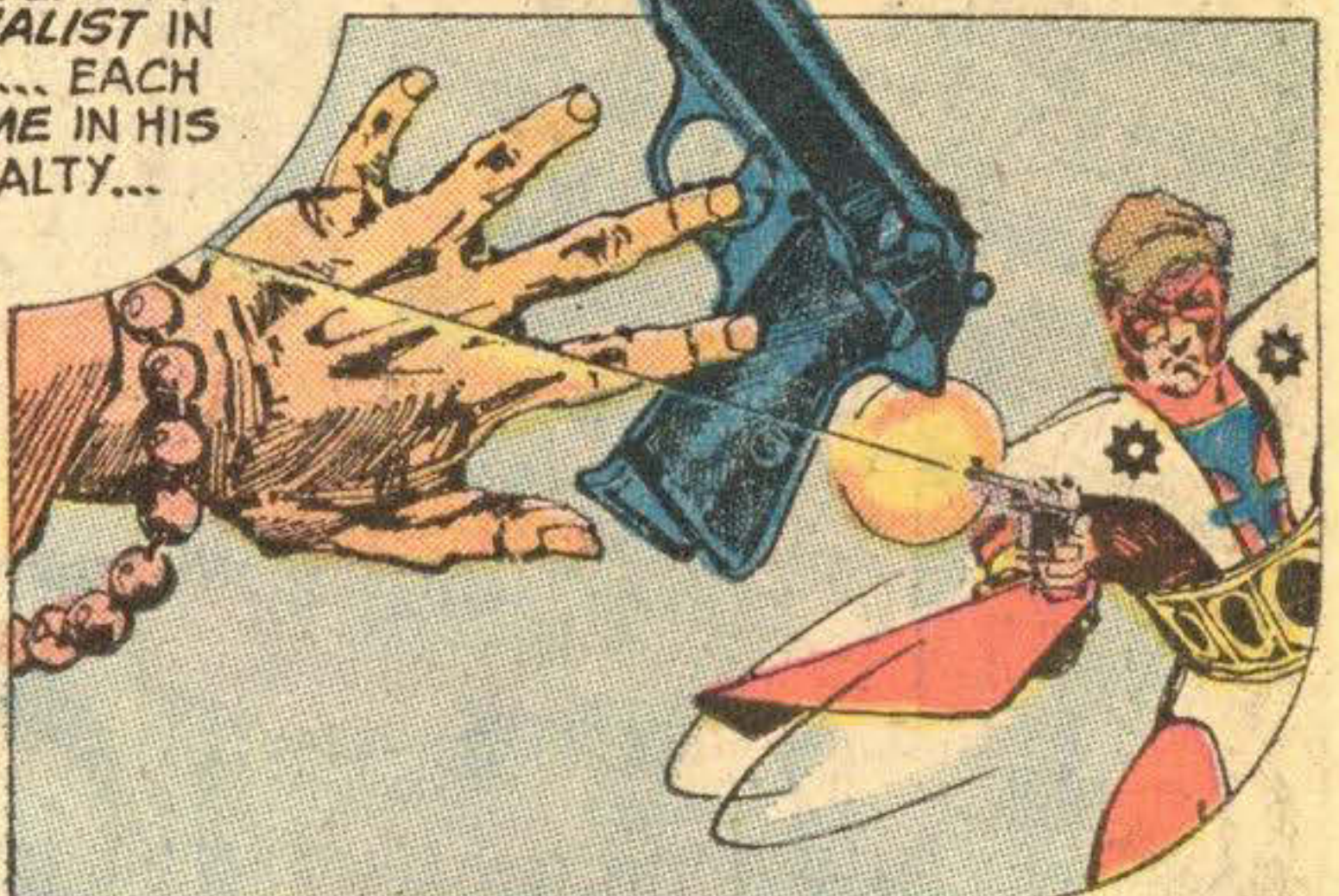
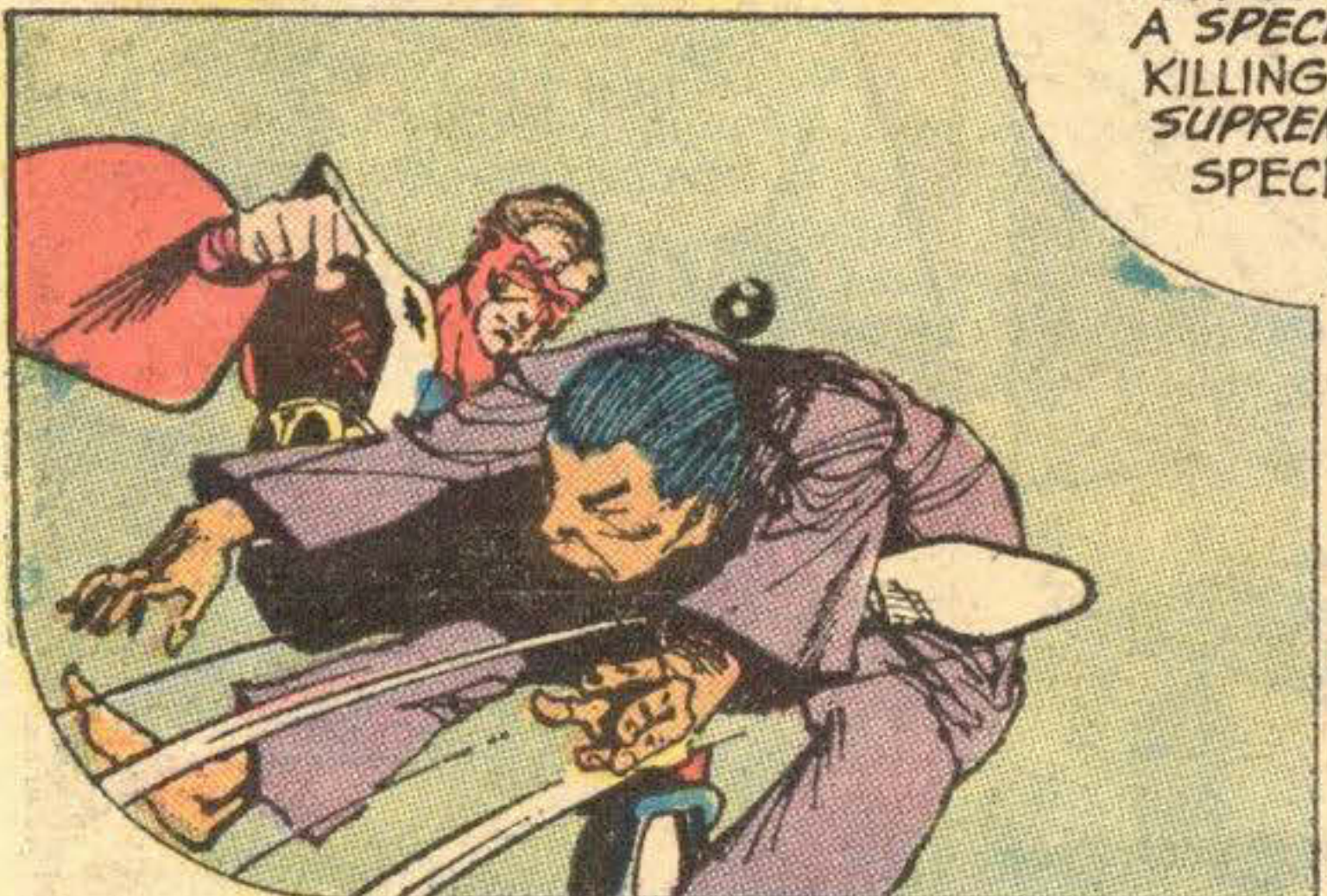
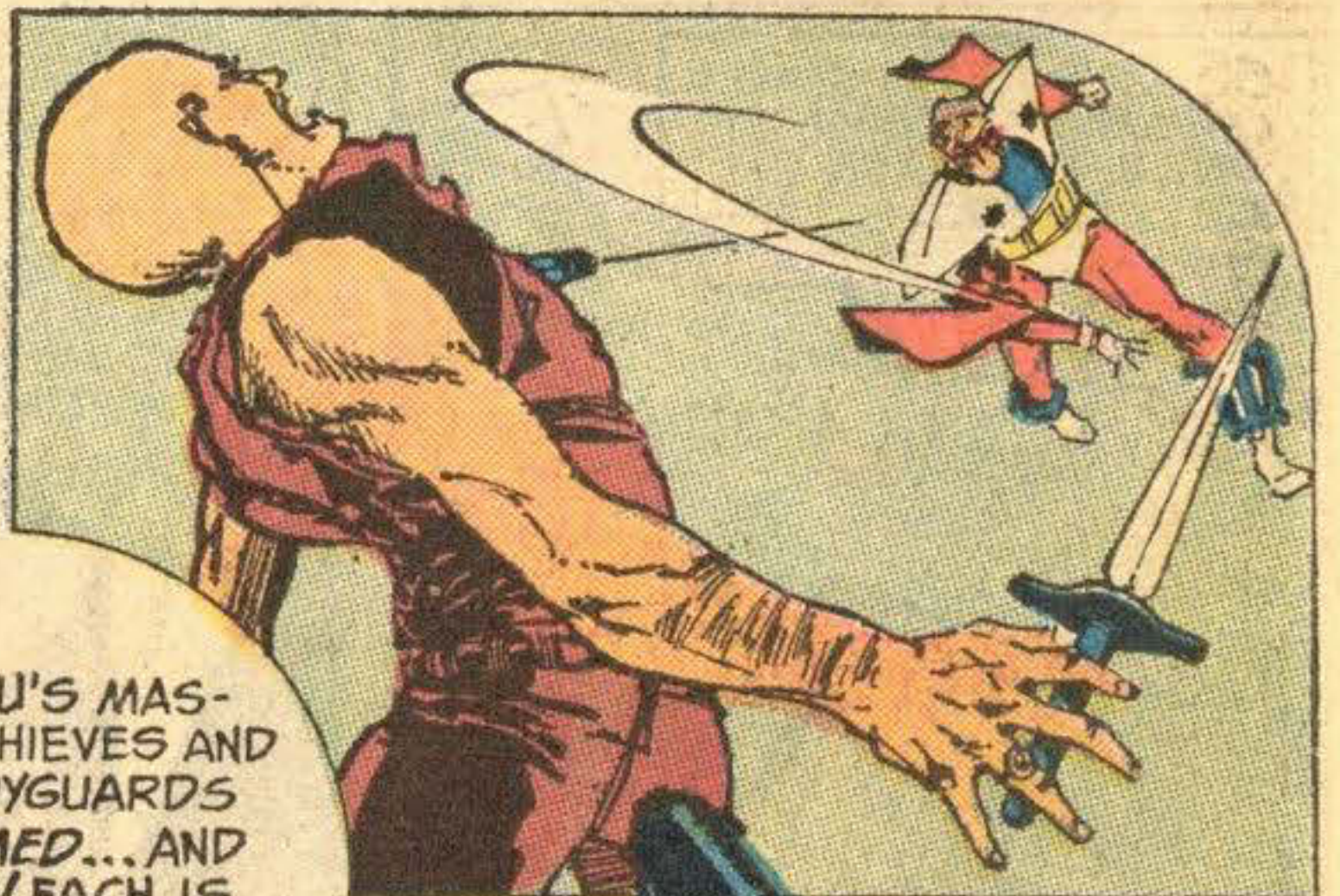
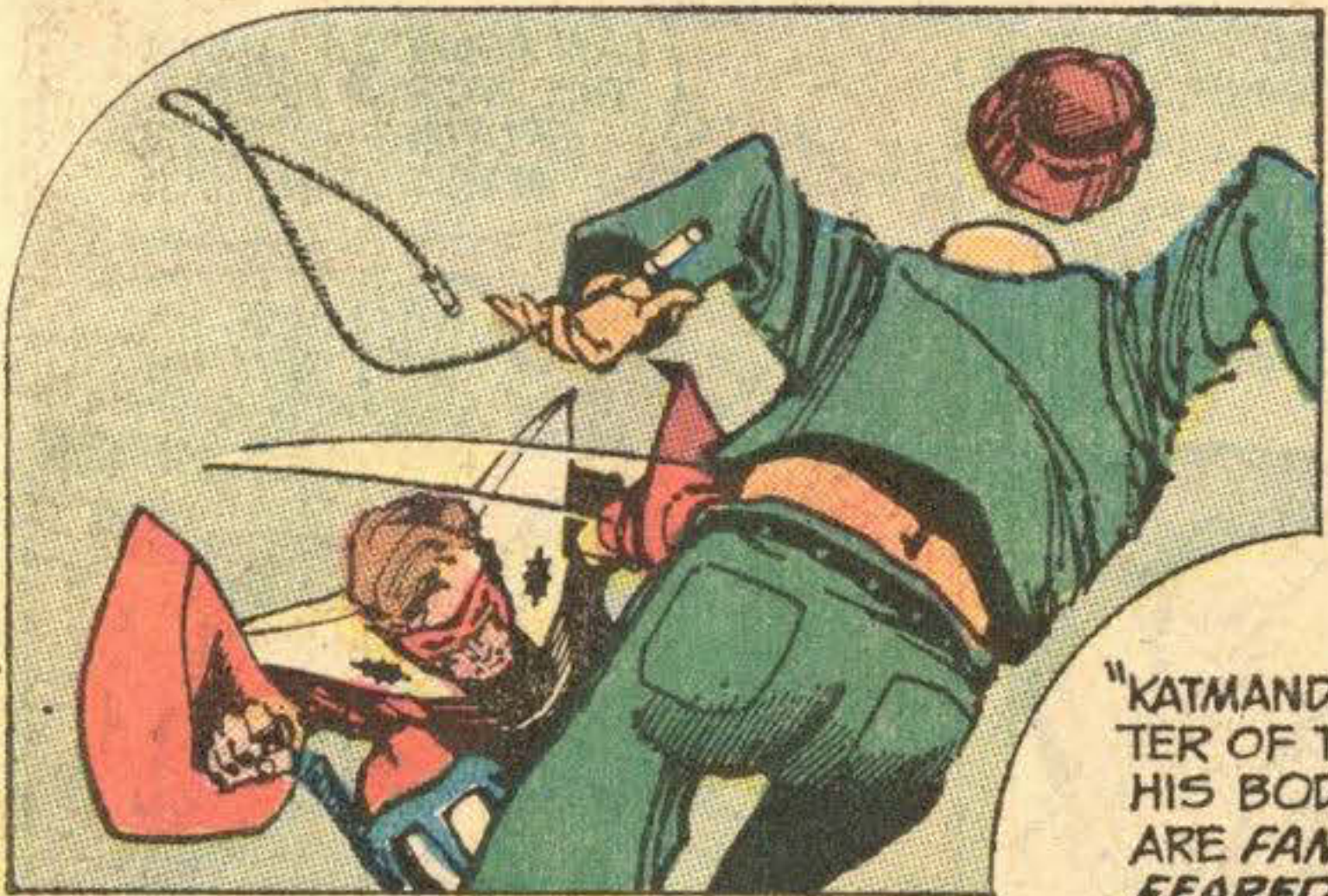


YOU TRESPASS, INFIDEL!

AND NEITHER MASK NOR STRANGE RAIMENT WILL WIN YOU WELCOME!

I'D PREFER NO TROUBLE...







HAI, THIS MAN IS CALLED PAUL KIRK.

COULD HE HAVE BEEN THE STRANGER IN THE ALLEY OF SHADOWS?

SURELY, MEMSAHIB, THAT IS A QUESTION FOR THE CULT OF THIEVES.

YET THIS PAUL KIRK APPEARS SIMILAR TO ANOTHER I HAVE HEARD ABOUT...

"...ONE WHO CAME TO A SHERPA VILLAGE IN THE HIMALAYAN FOOT-HILLS SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THE FIGHT IN THE ALLEY..."

"...AND SHOUTED OUT TO THE SHERPAS IN THEIR HUTS..."

SOMEONE FROM THIS VILLAGE GUIDED A CERTAIN MAN FROM KATMANDU INTO THE MOUNTAINS...

...TO THE PENDRANG MONASTERY! I SEEK THAT MAN!

WE'VE BEEN WARNED OF SUCH SEEKERS...

...AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM!

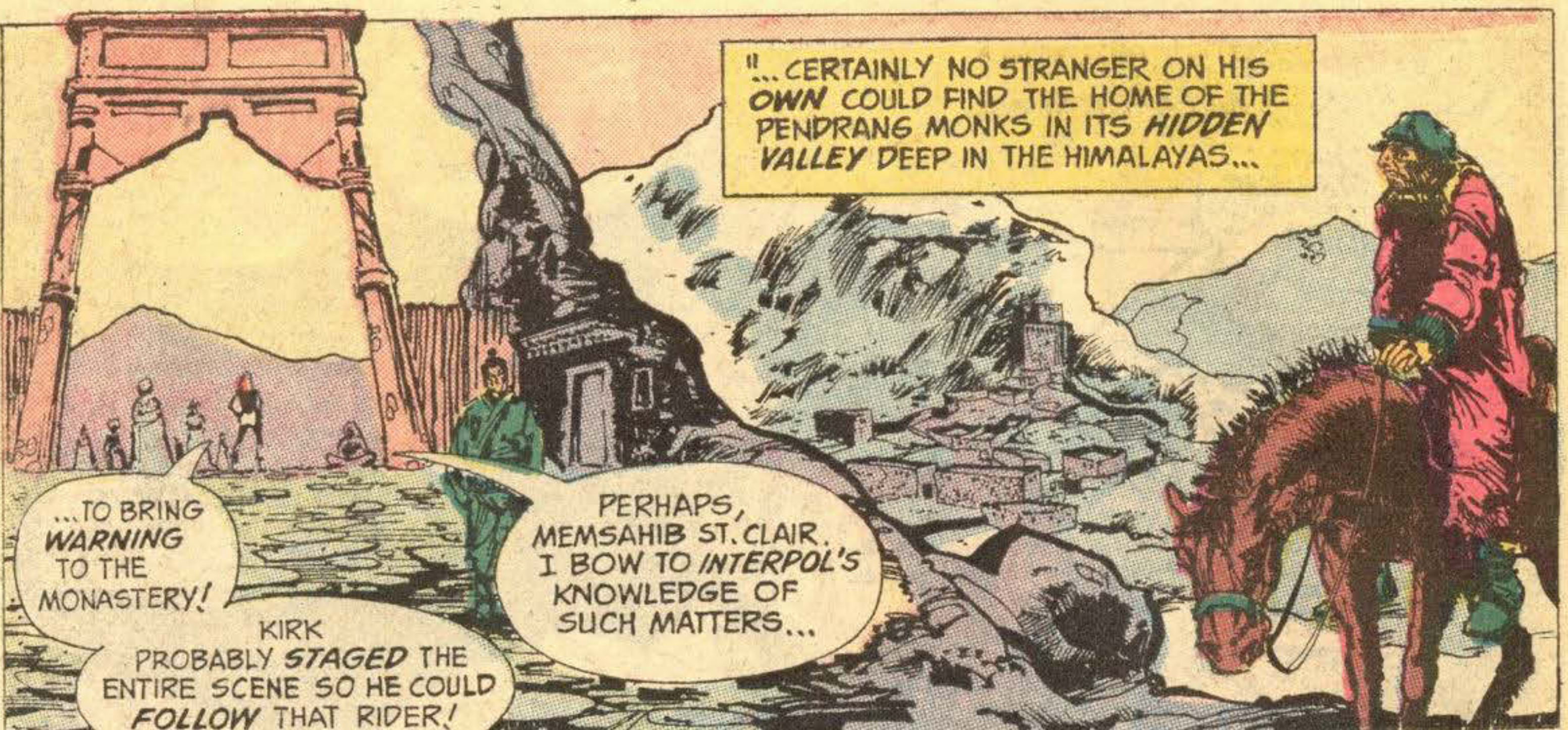
"YET WHEN THEY RUSHED FORTH TO DISPATCH THIS INTERLOPER..."

GONE!

"INDEED, GONE, AND AFTER SEARCH FAILED TO TURN UP THE STRANGER OR HIS TRACKS, A RIDER WAS SENT HURRYING INTO THE MOUNTAINS..."



"... CERTAINLY NO STRANGER ON HIS OWN COULD FIND THE HOME OF THE PENDRANG MONKS IN ITS HIDDEN VALLEY DEEP IN THE HIMALAYAS..."

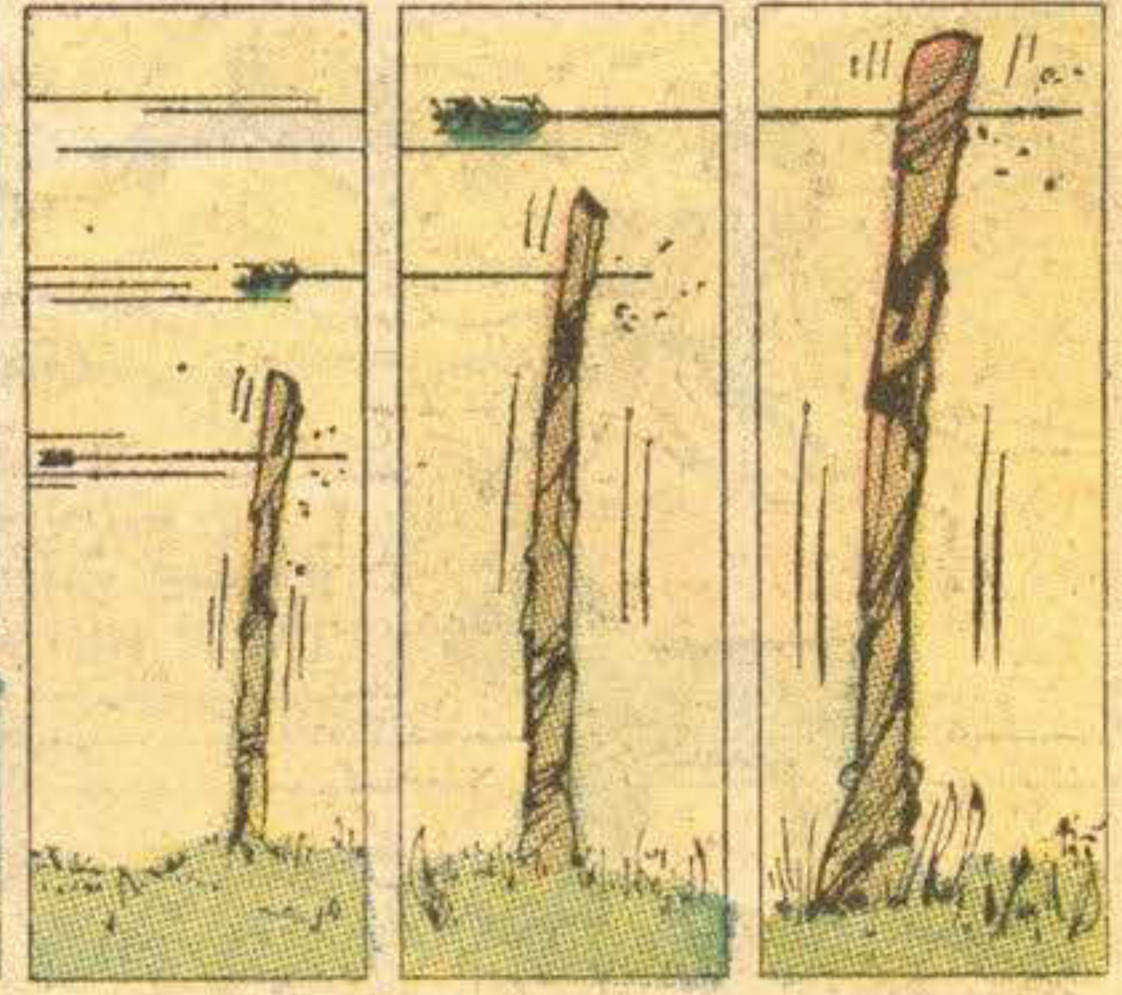
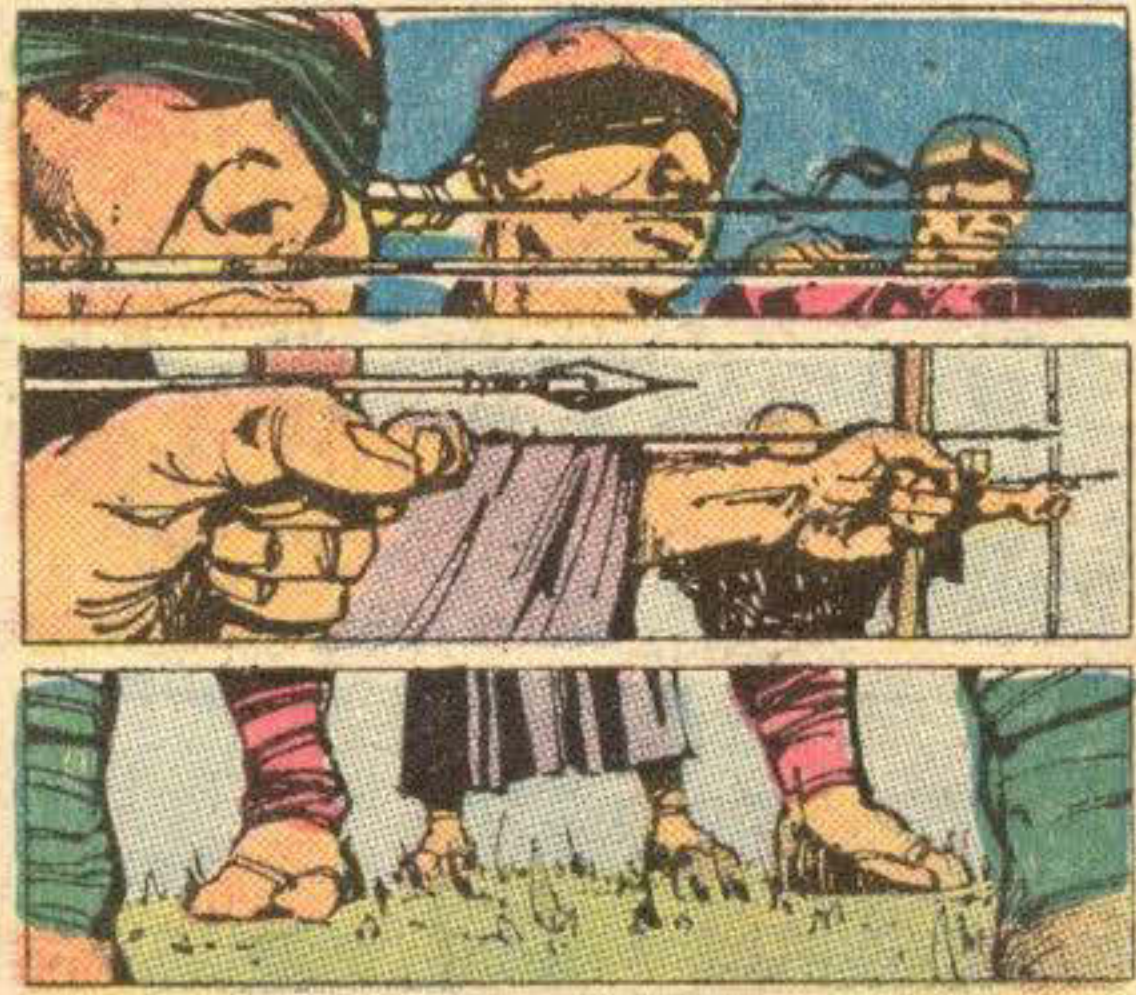


... TO BRING WARNING TO THE MONASTERY!

PERHAPS, MEMSAHIB ST. CLAIR, I BOW TO INTERPOL'S KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH MATTERS...

KIRK PROBABLY STAGED THE ENTIRE SCENE SO HE COULD FOLLOW THAT RIDER!

"... PROTECTED BY FORMIDABLE SURROUNDING PEAKS, BY WALLS MASSIVE AS ANY FORTRESS... AND BY THREE DEFENDERS TO WHOM THE FAINTEST SOUND, THE SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT CANNOT ESCAPE... WHOSE VERY WILL DIRECTS THEIR SHAFTS... THE LEGENDARY BLIND ZEN ARCHERS OF PENDRANG!"



"AND CERTAINLY, THE RIDER DID NOT REACH HIS DESTINATION...!"



"HE RETURNED TO HIS VILLAGE... TIED UPON HIS HORSE, UNCONSCIOUS; THE SLIGHTEST OF BRUISES NEAR A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE NERVE AT THE NECK'S BASE."

"AND THAT NIGHT..."

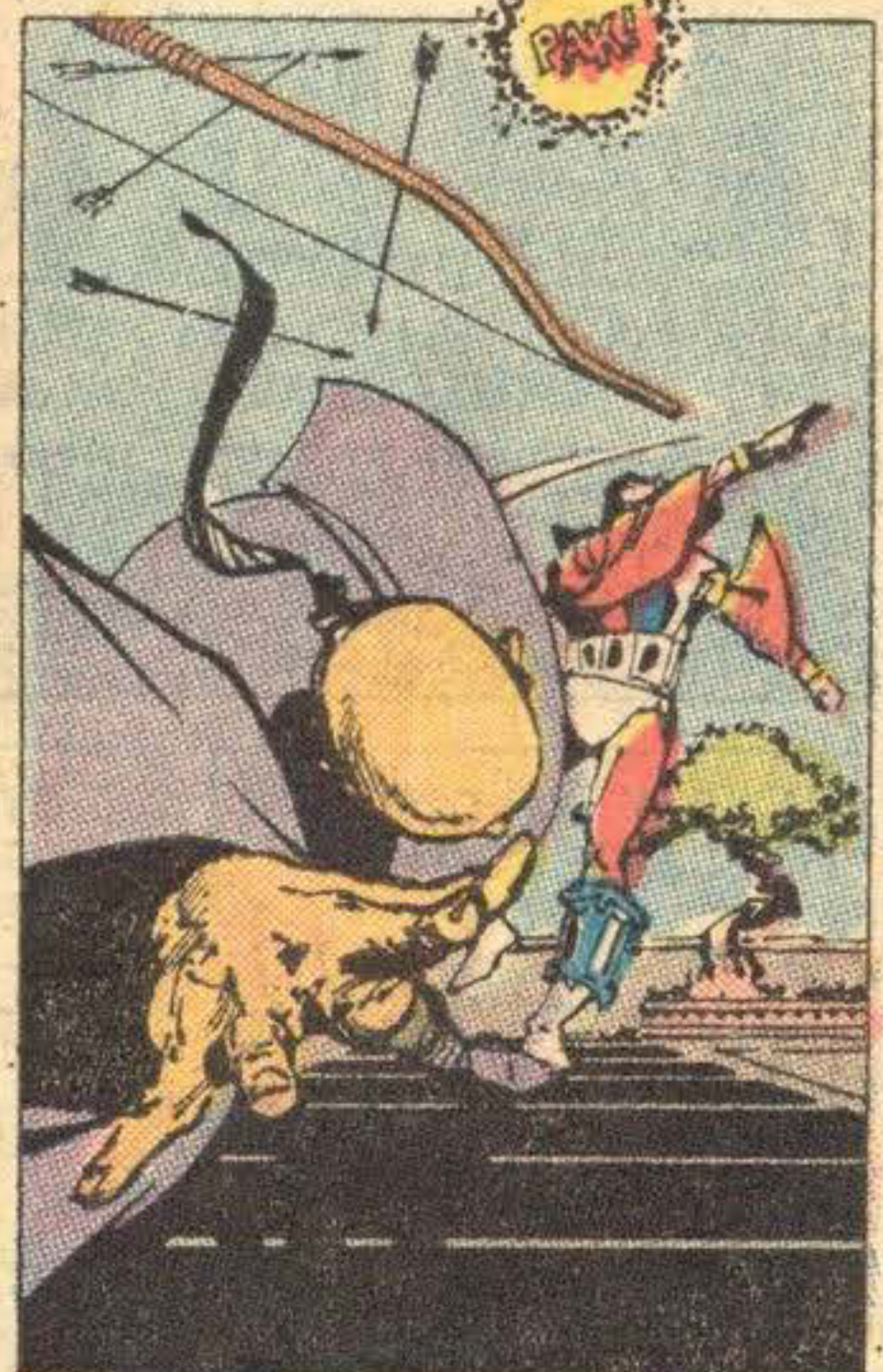
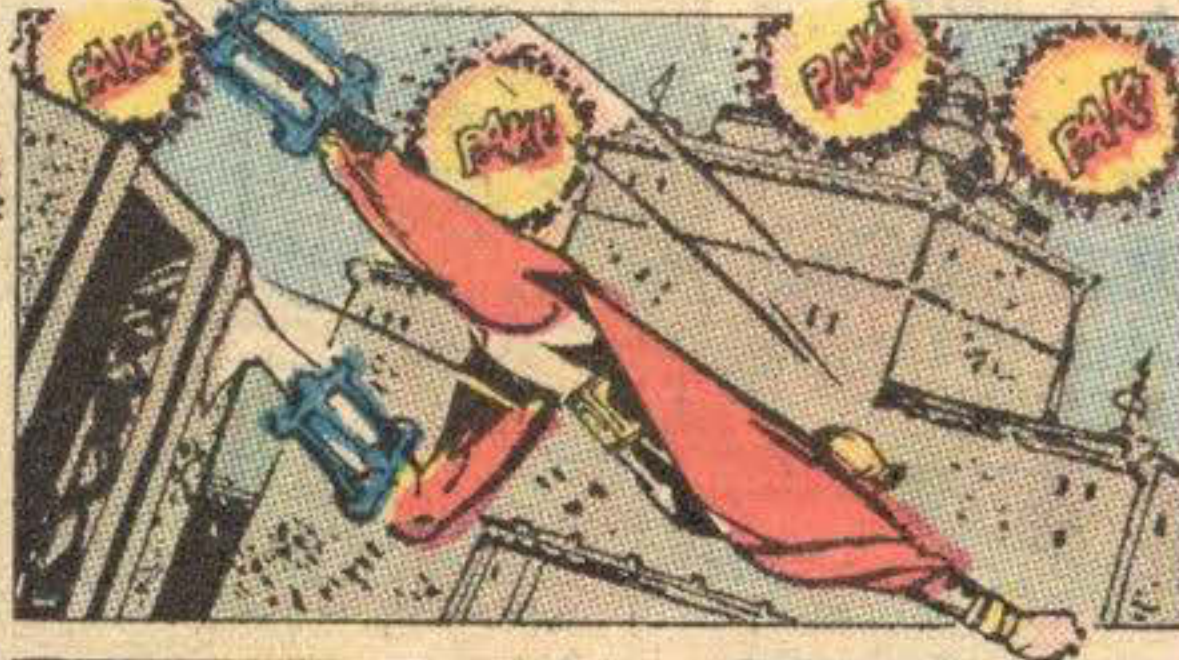
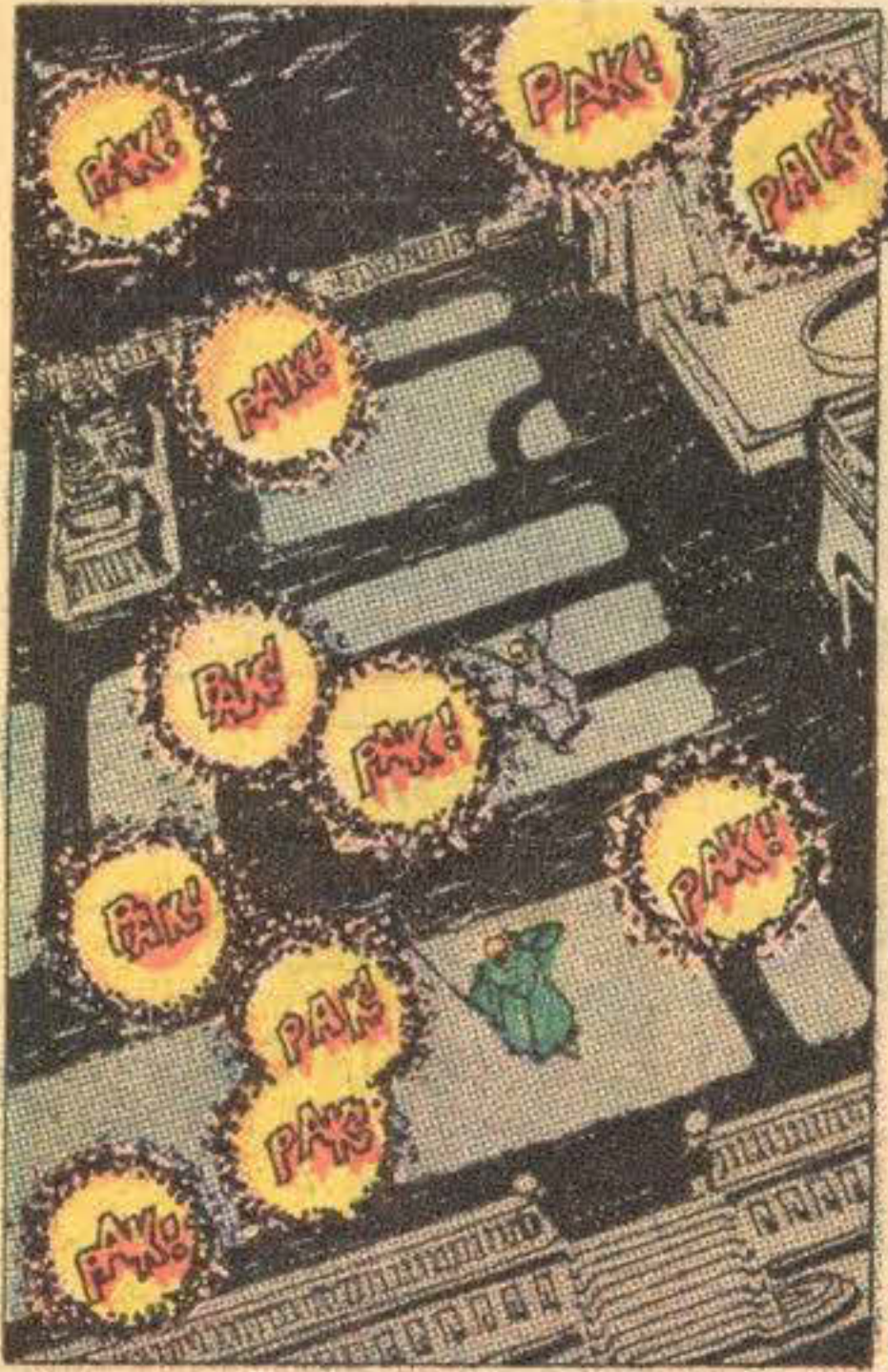


"... A VISITOR CAME TO THE PENDRANG MONASTERY..."

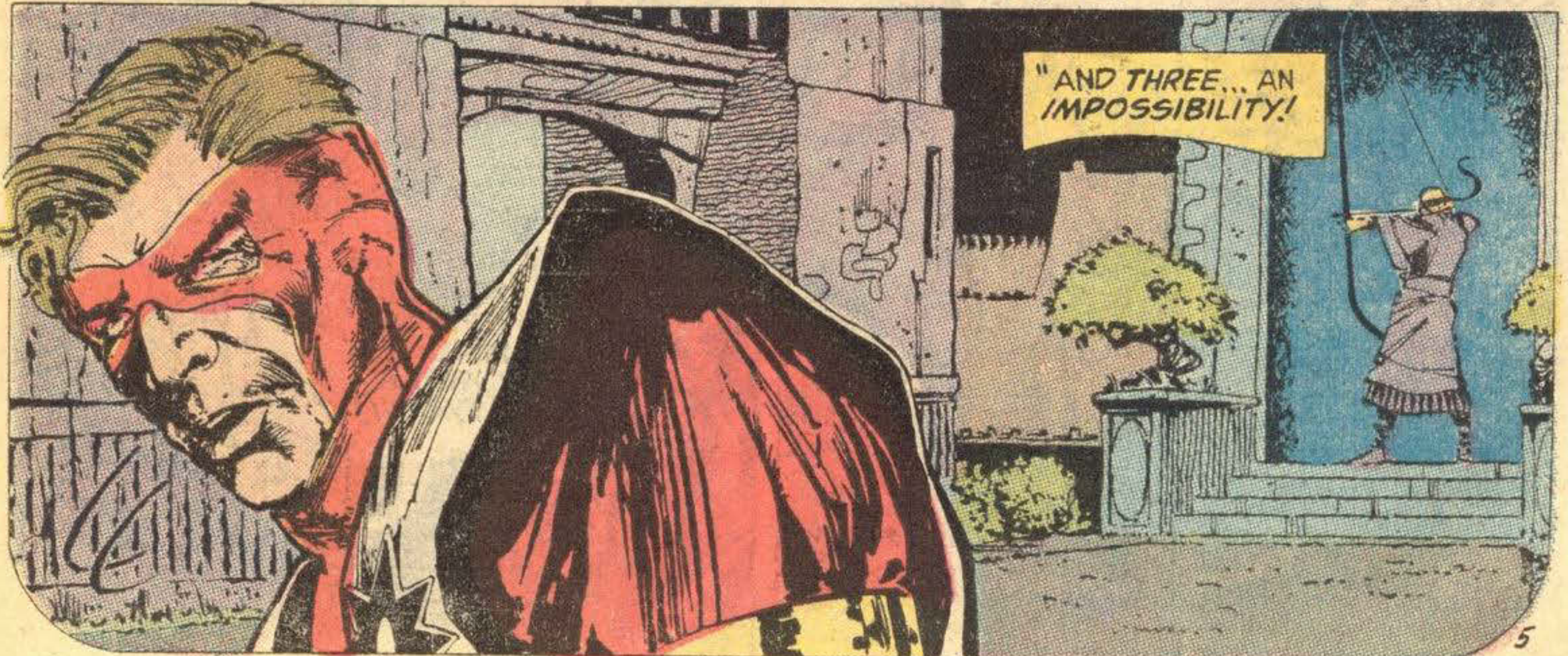


"... UNINVITED!"



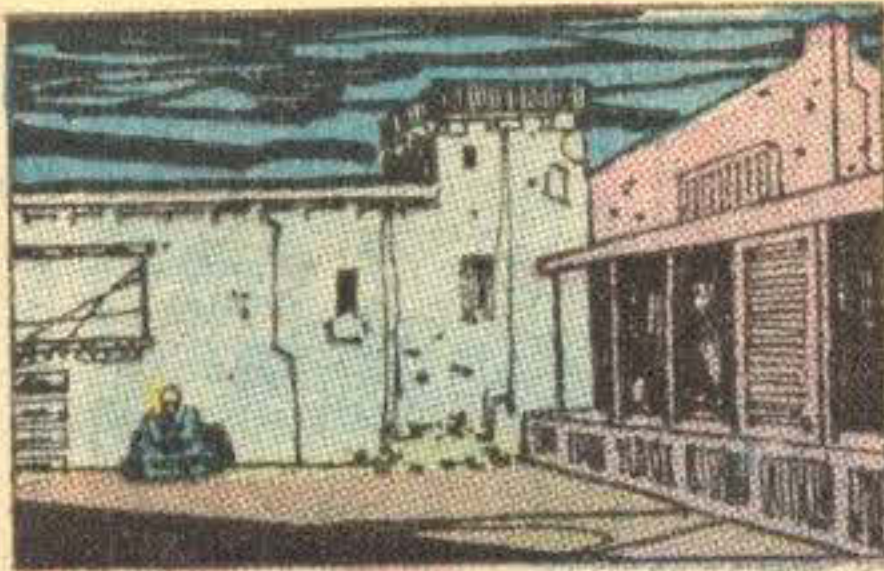


"THE ATTACK WAS WELL CONCEIVED... EXECUTED WITH SWIFTNES AND DEVASTATING ECONOMY. BUT THESE WERE THE ARCHERS OF PENDRANG! TO BEST ONE WAS A RARE VICTORY... TWO, A MIRACULOUS FEAT...





"MEANTIME,  
IN THOSE  
DARK HOURS,  
A MAN SAT  
IN THE  
COURTYARD  
GARDEN..."



"...MEDITATING,  
AWAITING THE  
DAWN. A MAN  
RAISED IN THE  
MONASTERY  
AS A YOUTH..."



"A MAN WHO'D  
GONE FORTH  
TO WANDER -  
AMONG  
PEOPLE... HIGH  
AND LOW...  
THIEVES TO  
PRINCES. A MAN  
WHO TOUCHED  
MANY IN HIS  
WANDERINGS..."



"A MAN WHO HAD NOW RETURNED TO THIS  
FORMER HOME... FOR SANCTUARY!"

**DHARMATA!**

FINALLY I'VE  
CAUGHT UP  
WITH YOU.



BUT AT THE COST OF  
YOUR LIFE, IT WOULD  
SEEM!



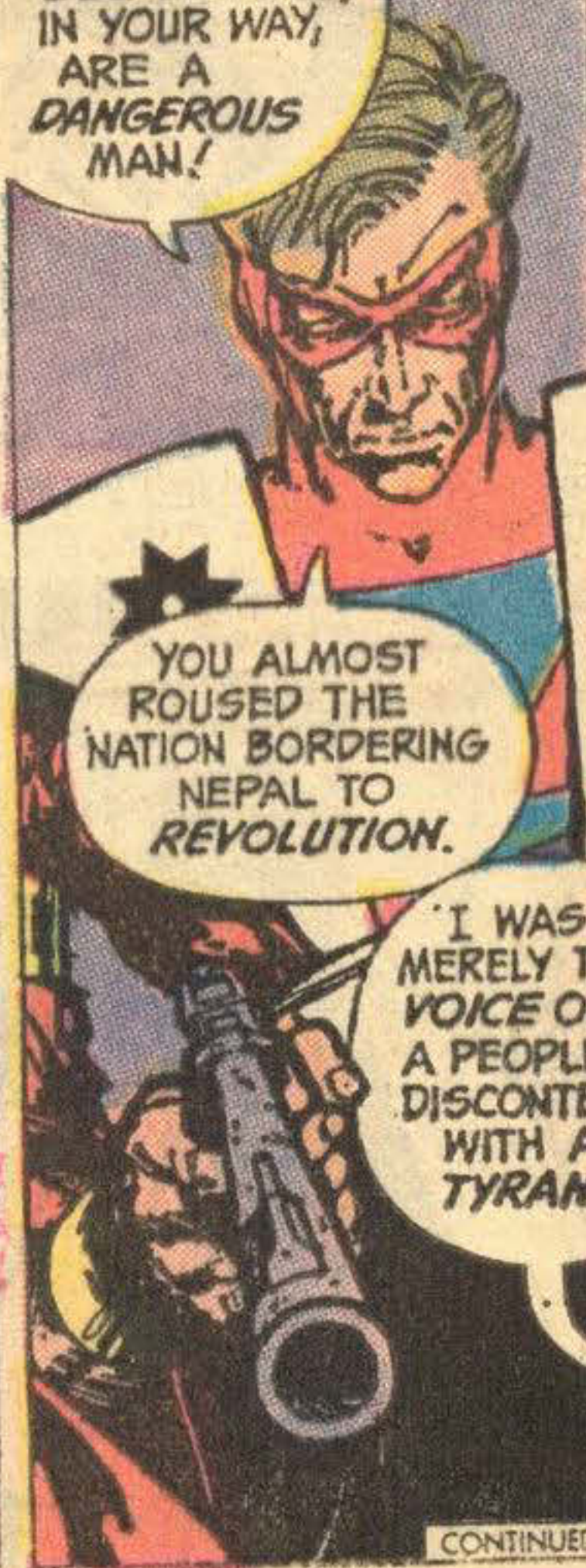
NO. IT ONLY COSTS  
THE MONASTERY  
THE SERVICES OF  
THREE GOOD MEN  
FOR SEVERAL  
DAYS TO COME!

I DIE A LITTLE LESS  
EASILY THAN MOST  
MEN, DHARMATA.

BUT WHY DOES  
ONE SO BLESSED  
PURSUE ME...?



BECAUSE YOU,  
IN YOUR WAY,  
ARE A  
DANGEROUS  
MAN!



YOU ALMOST  
ROUSED THE  
NATION BORDERING  
NEPAL TO  
REVOLUTION.

I WAS  
MERELY THE  
VOICE OF  
A PEOPLES'  
DISCONTENT  
WITH A  
TYRANT!

A DISTURBING VOICE  
...AN IDEALISTIC VOICE.  
A VOICE THAT MAKES  
WAVES...

WAVES THAT MIGHT  
POUND EVEN INDIA  
OR CHINA IF YOUR  
FOLLOWERS SHOULD  
TRY THEIR REVOLUTION  
AGAIN.

THERE ARE SOME  
WHO THINK IT BEST IF  
A CALMER VOICE  
REPLACED  
THE TYRANT...



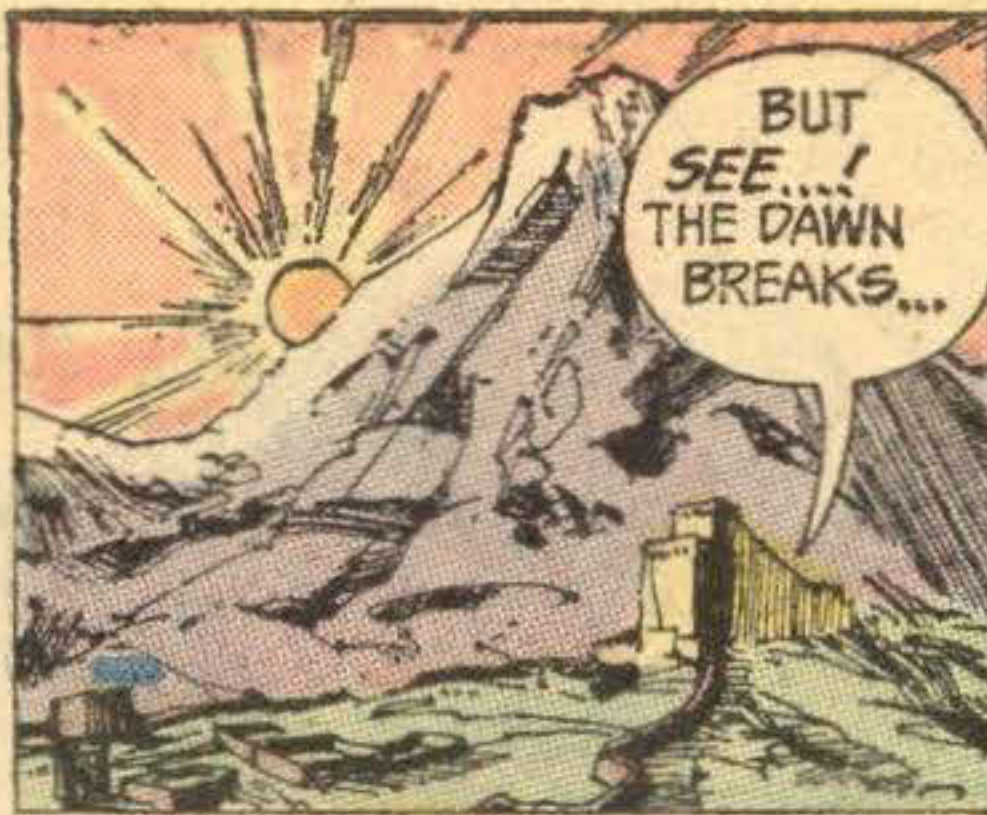
...AND  
YOU.





AND SO THESE "SOME" HAVE SENT YOU AFTER ME...

IF THAT IS MY FATE... SO BE IT!



BUT SEE...! THE DAWN BREAKS...



CREEEK!



...THE MONKS COME FOR MORNING MEDITATION. IT IS A MOMENT I GREATLY RESPONDED TO AS A YOUTH!...

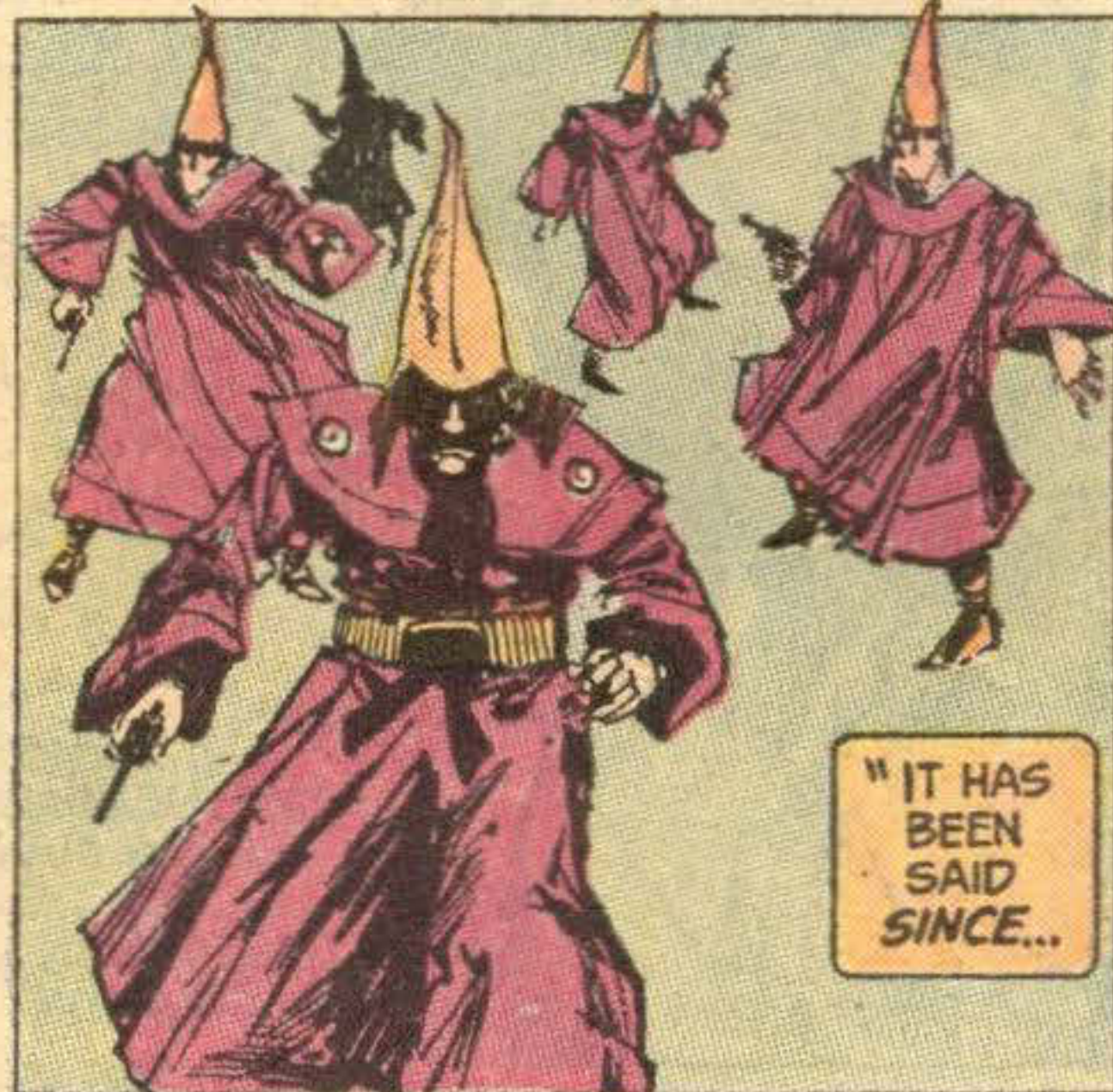
ALLOW ME THAT MOMENT ONE LAST TIME.



NO, DHARMATA...



...I'M AFRAID I CAN'T!



"IT HAS BEEN SAID SINCE..."



"IN THAT MOMENT, A STORM SEEMED TO BREAK!"

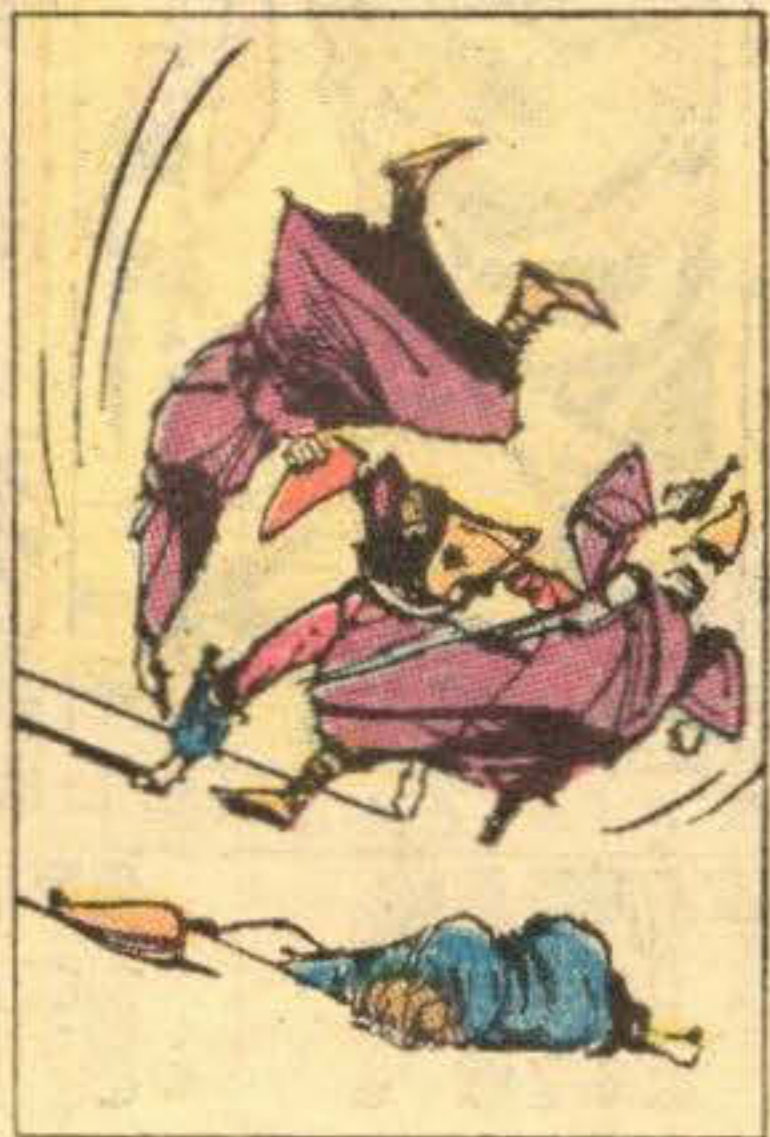


"A STORM OF VIOLENCE ...AND DEATH!"

"AND THAT THE EYE OF THAT STORM..."



ZING!



"...WAS THE ONE CALLED MANHUNTER!"



T-**THESE MEN...**  
THEY  
ARE **NOT**  
MONKS...!

THEY ARE  
ONES SENT  
TO **SLAY**  
ME! B-BUT...

THEIR **FACES!**  
EACH LOOKS  
EXACTLY LIKE...  
**Y-YOU!**

I UNDERSTAND  
**NONE OF THIS!**  
WHAT IS YOUR  
PART AND--

"AND ONLY  
FALLING  
BLOSSOMS..."

"THERE WAS  
THE SUDDEN  
**RUSTLE** OF  
A TREE  
BRANCH..."

...TO SHOW  
**MANHUNTER**  
HAD EVER  
BEEN THERE AT  
ALL, MEMSAHIB  
ST. CLAIR!

I MUST  
KNOW **MORE,**  
HAJ! WHO  
SENT THOSE  
ASSASSINS?

AND **MANHUNTER!**  
WHAT HAPPENED  
TO HIM? IS HE  
STILL IN **NEPAL?**  
IN **INDIA...**?

...IT COMES;  
IT GOES. WHO CAN  
SAY WHERE OR WHEN  
IT WILL **NEXT**  
APPEAR?

I CANNOT  
TELL, MEMSAHIB.  
SUCH A MAN  
IS LIKE THE  
**BREEZE** IN  
HOTTEST SUMMER...

VERY  
WELL,  
HAJ...

IF YOU LEARN  
ANYTHING **ELSE...**  
CONTACT ME CARE  
OF **INTERPOL.**

THE  
END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FOURTH WEEK IN SEPT. FEATURING:

# THE MANHUNTER FILE