

MOEBIUS 9™

THE COLLECTED FANTASIES OF JEAN GIRAUD



◆ STEL ◆™

JEAN "MOEBIUS" GIRAUD
story & art

JEAN-MARC LOFFICIER
RANDY LOFFICIER
translators • editors Starwatcher Graphics

MARIE JAVINS
KEVIN SOMERS
editors • Epic Comics



MOEBIUS 9
STEL

ROBBIN BROSTERMAN
designer

FLORENCE BRETON
colors

MICHAEL HEISLER
JONATHAN BABCOCK
letterers

CARL POTTS
executive editor

with special thanks to Willy Fateur, Jean-Paul Mouglin,
Francois Breuillier, John Bligh, Steve Alexandrov,
Ashley Posella, Matt Maley, Jennifer O'Donnell,
Dan Carr & Joe Caponsacco.

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THE DROWSY, DARK CAVE OF THE MIND

... Is the place where, according to Rabindranath Tagore, dreams build their nest "with fragments dropped from the day caravan."

It is also the place where the battle for the planet Aedena is being waged, between Stel, Atan(a) and their mentor, the mysterious Master Burg, and the forces of the dark side of the Dream, embodied by the evil Paternum.

Moebius' **Aedena Cycle** is, in like fashion, an ever-growing dream, carefully assembled from the daily fragments of the artist's life and soul.

In its first chapter, **Upon A Star**, we were introduced to the characters of Stel and Atan, two galactic repairmen. Investigating the disappearance of the crew of a space station, captained by their friend Trollopen, they were drawn to the planet Pool Ball, where a mysterious Pyramid had been gathering specimens of all intelligent life forms in the galaxy. Thanks to Stel's uncanny powers with machinery, the Pyramid was activated and took its unwilling passengers on a journey towards the legendary paradise world, Aedena.

In the **Gardens of Aedena**, Stel and Atan found themselves alone in a vast and seemingly deserted garden. There, mysterious psychic and physical forces eventually transformed them, revealing their previously inhibited sexuality. This caused them to argue, fight and eventually separate.

In **The Goddess**, Atan, now Atana, stumbled upon an underground civilization called The Nest, led by the Paternum, the embodiment of the evil force which has plagued our heroes ever since they arrived on Aedena. Atana is revealed to be the "Goddess" whose coming had been prophesied long ago. Atana's astral body eventually becomes trapped in a psychic dimension; however, her presence inspired the Nest's rebels to rise and overthrow the Paternum.

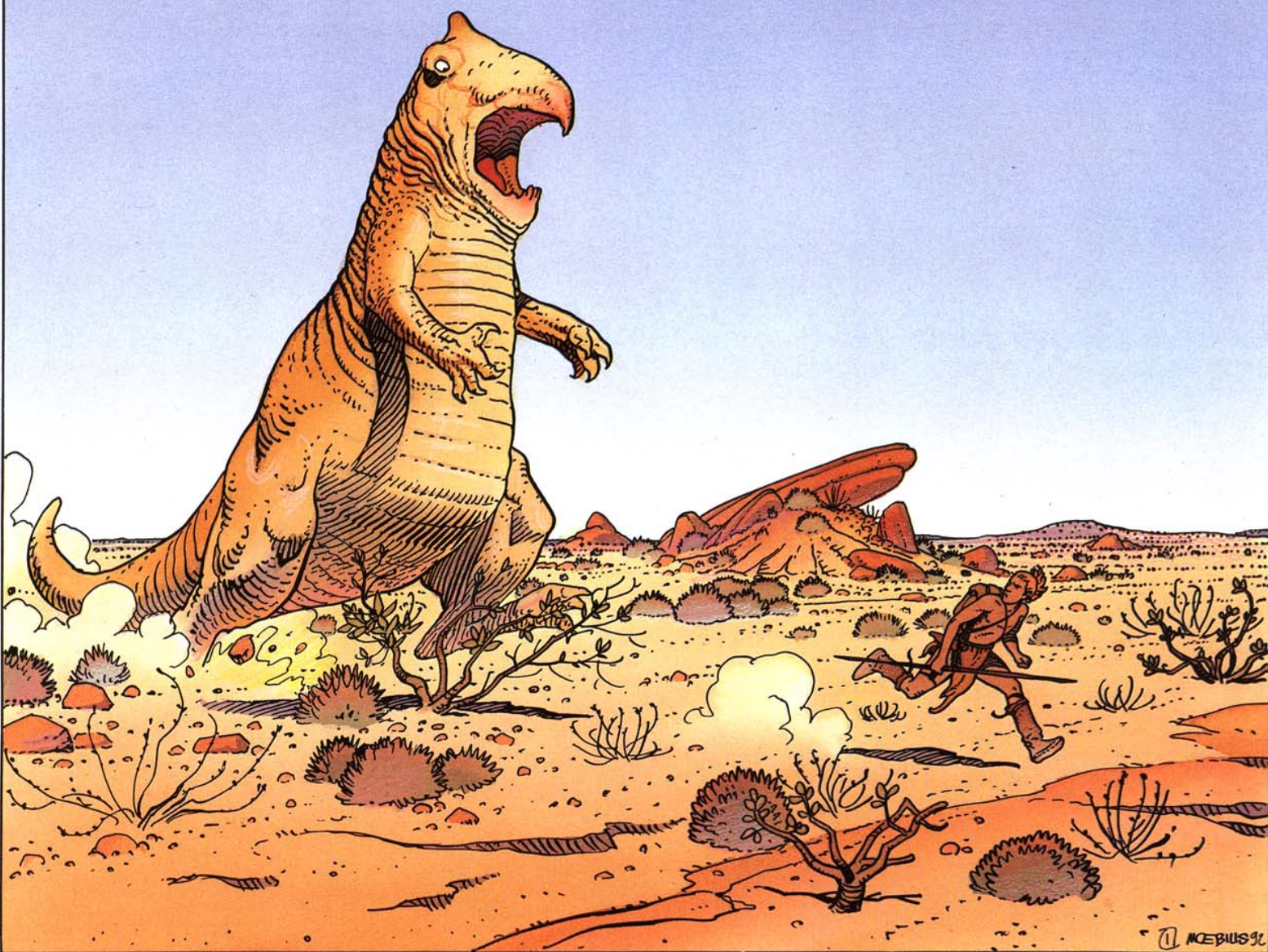
When the fourth chapter opens, Stel, who has been looking for his long-lost companion, has made an unfortunate encounter. . .

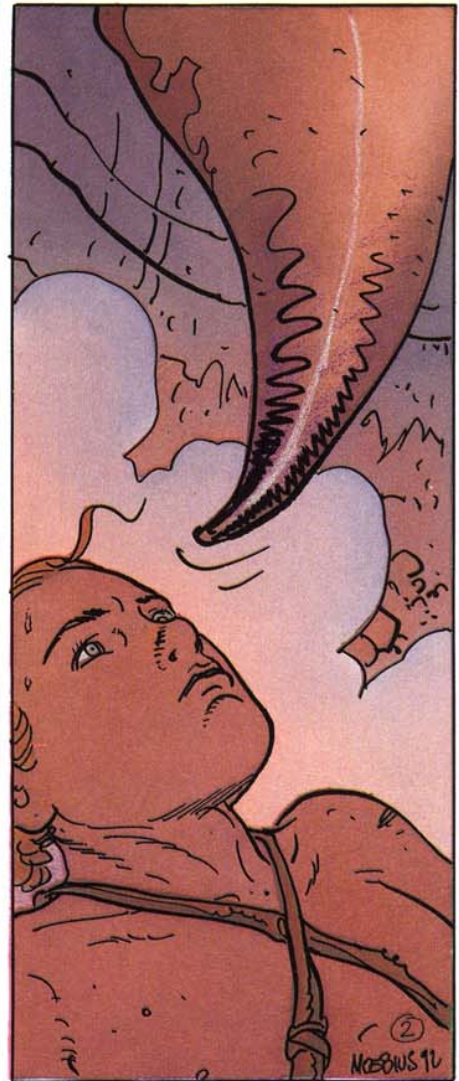
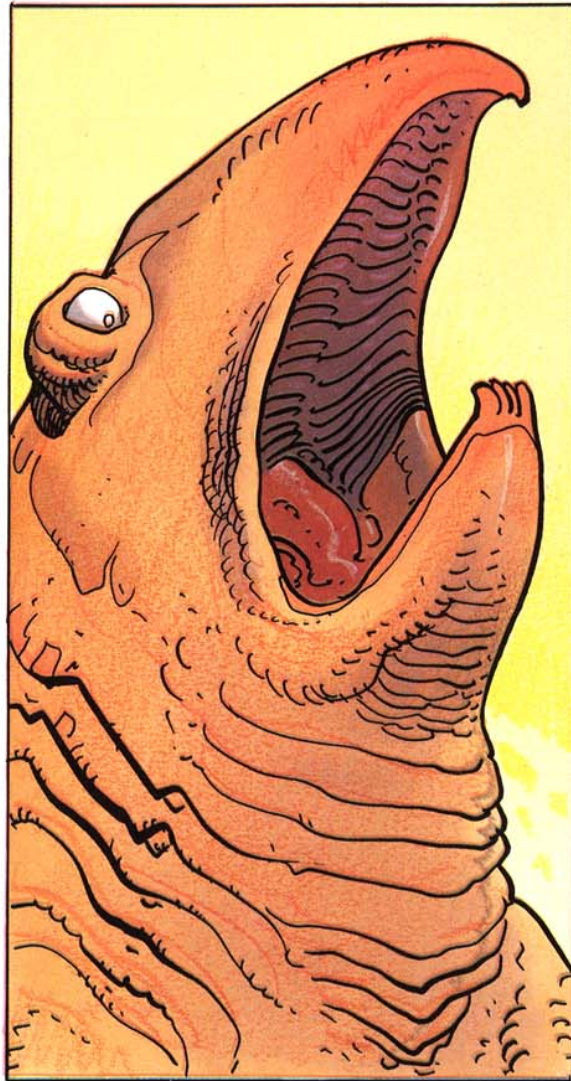
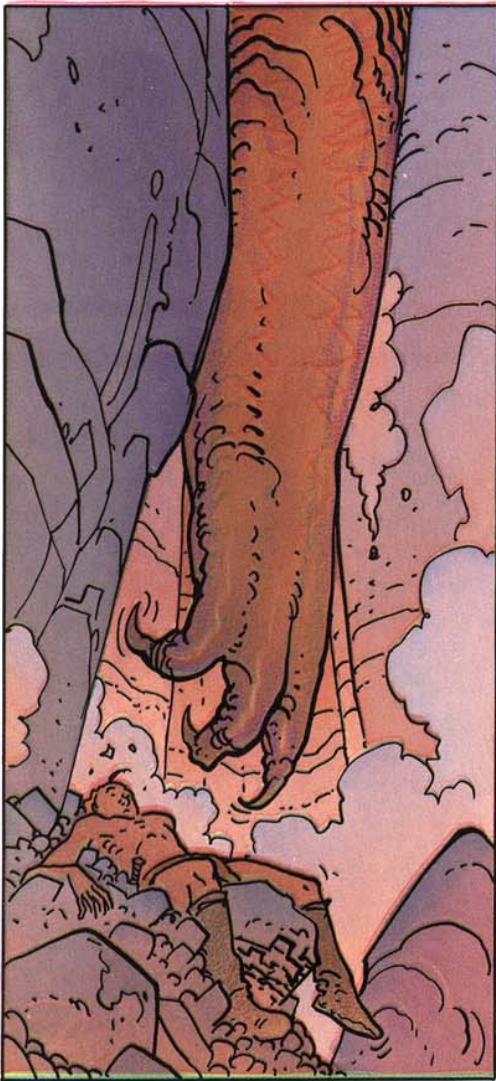
Jean-Marc a Randy Lofficier

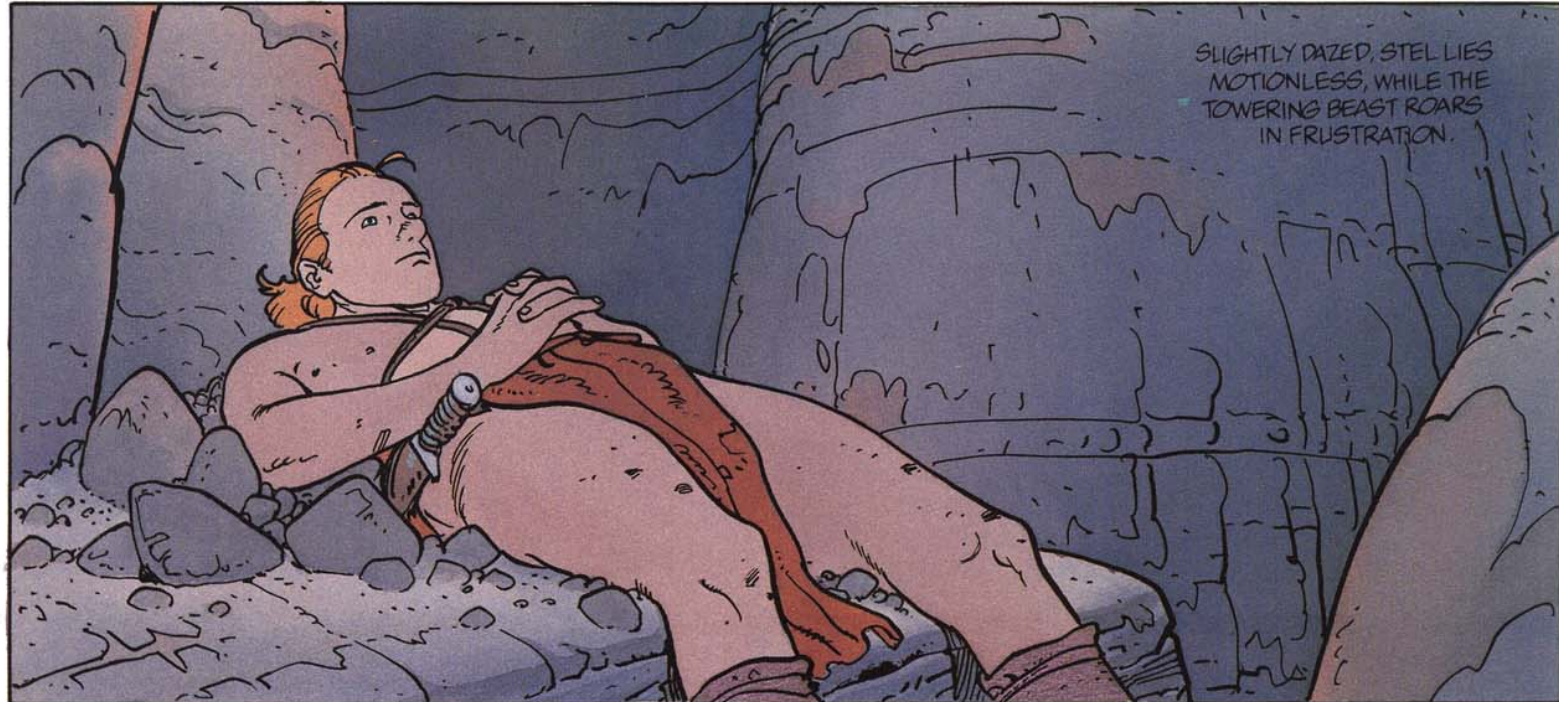
STEL



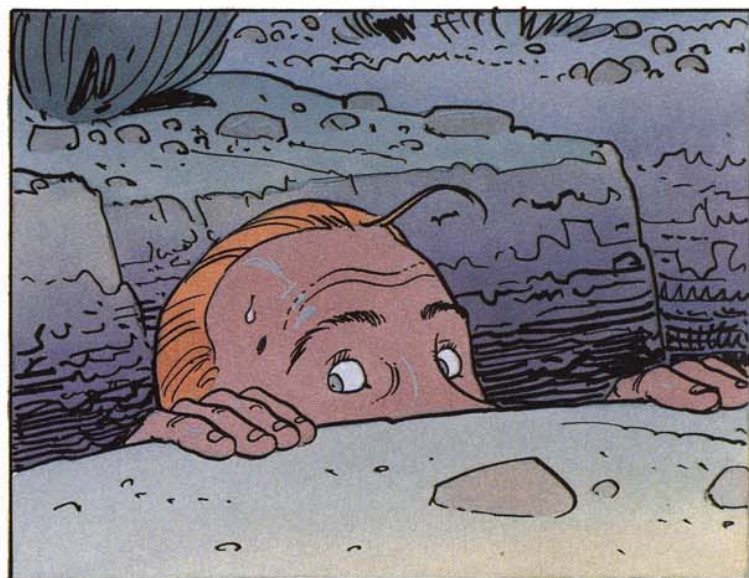
AFTER HIS BITTER SEPARATION
FROM ATANA, STEL IS ATTEMPTING
TO REACH THE SEA, CROSSING THE
VAST HINTERLANDS OF THE
ENIGMATIC PLANET AEDENA...



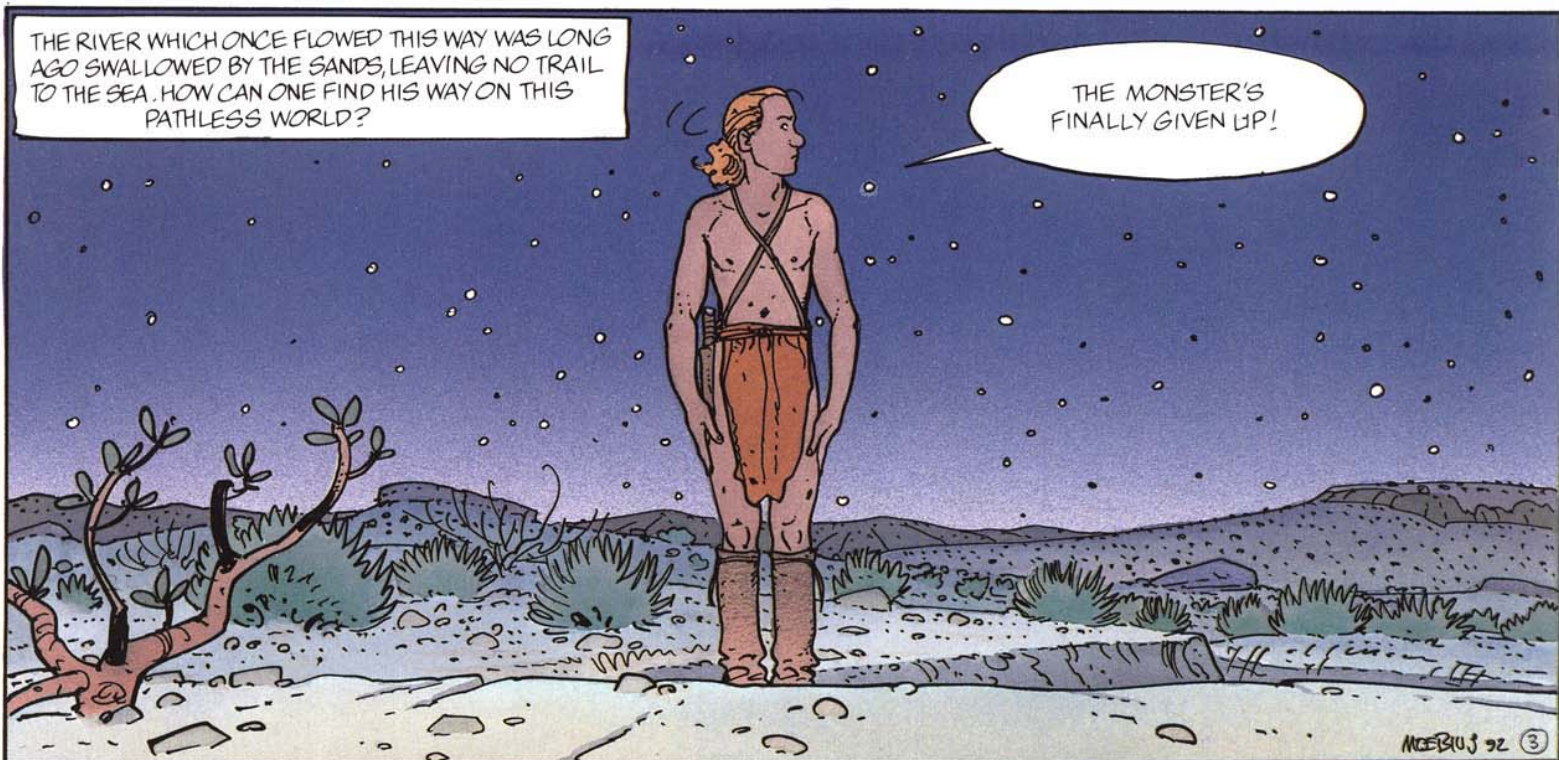




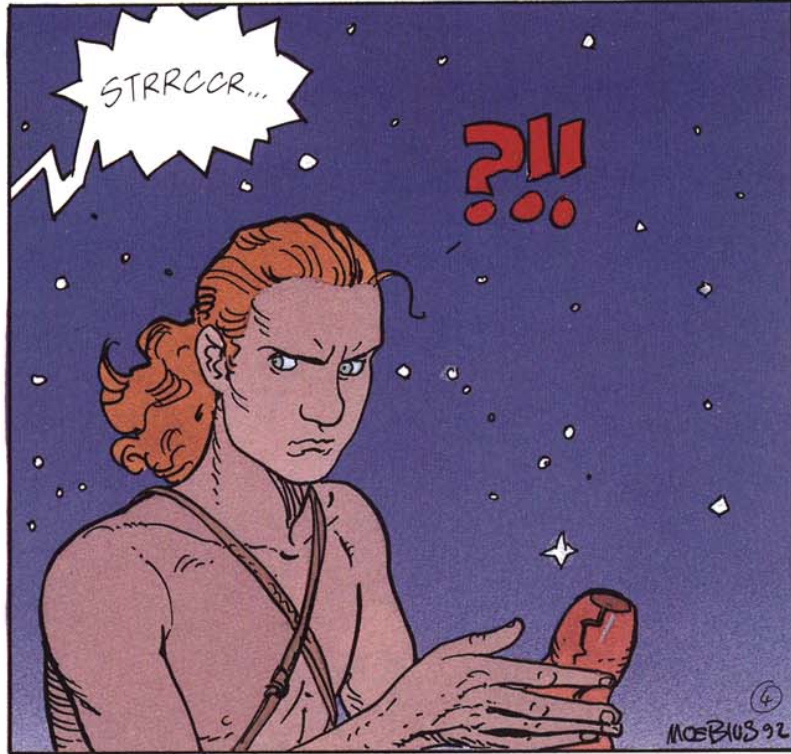
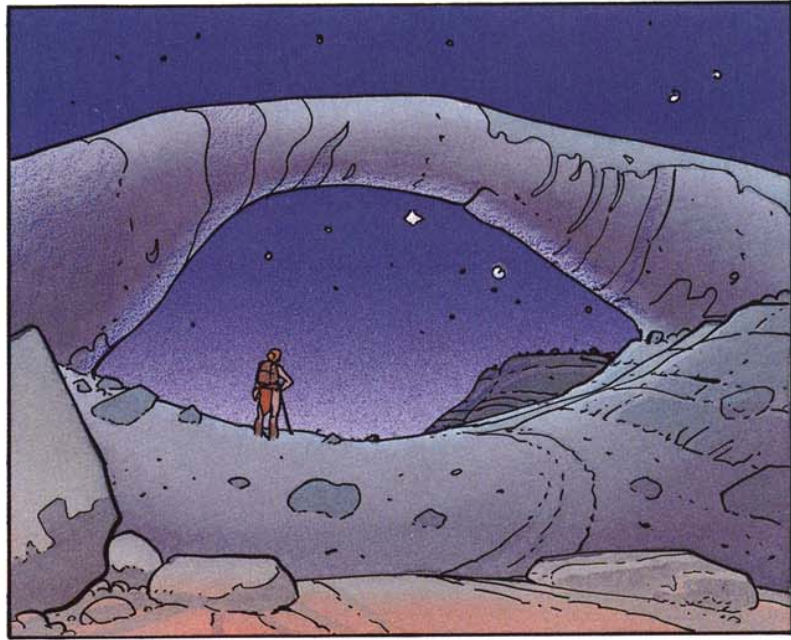
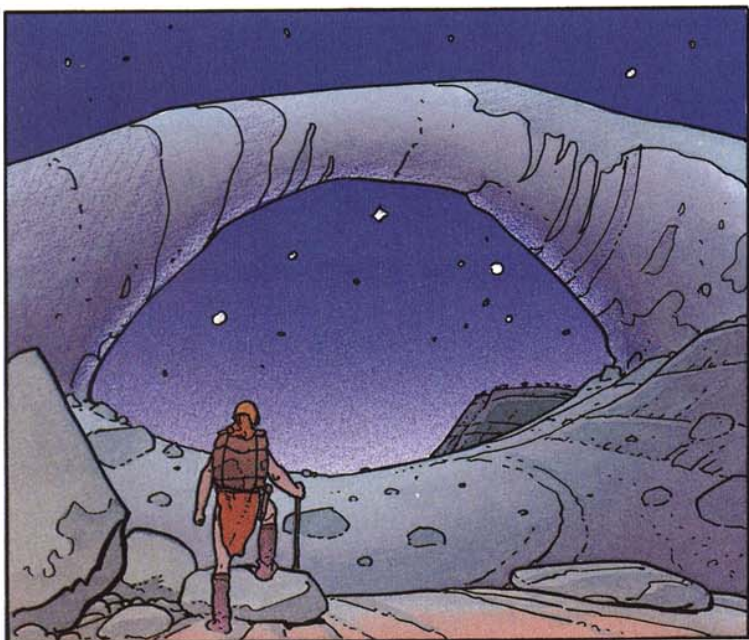
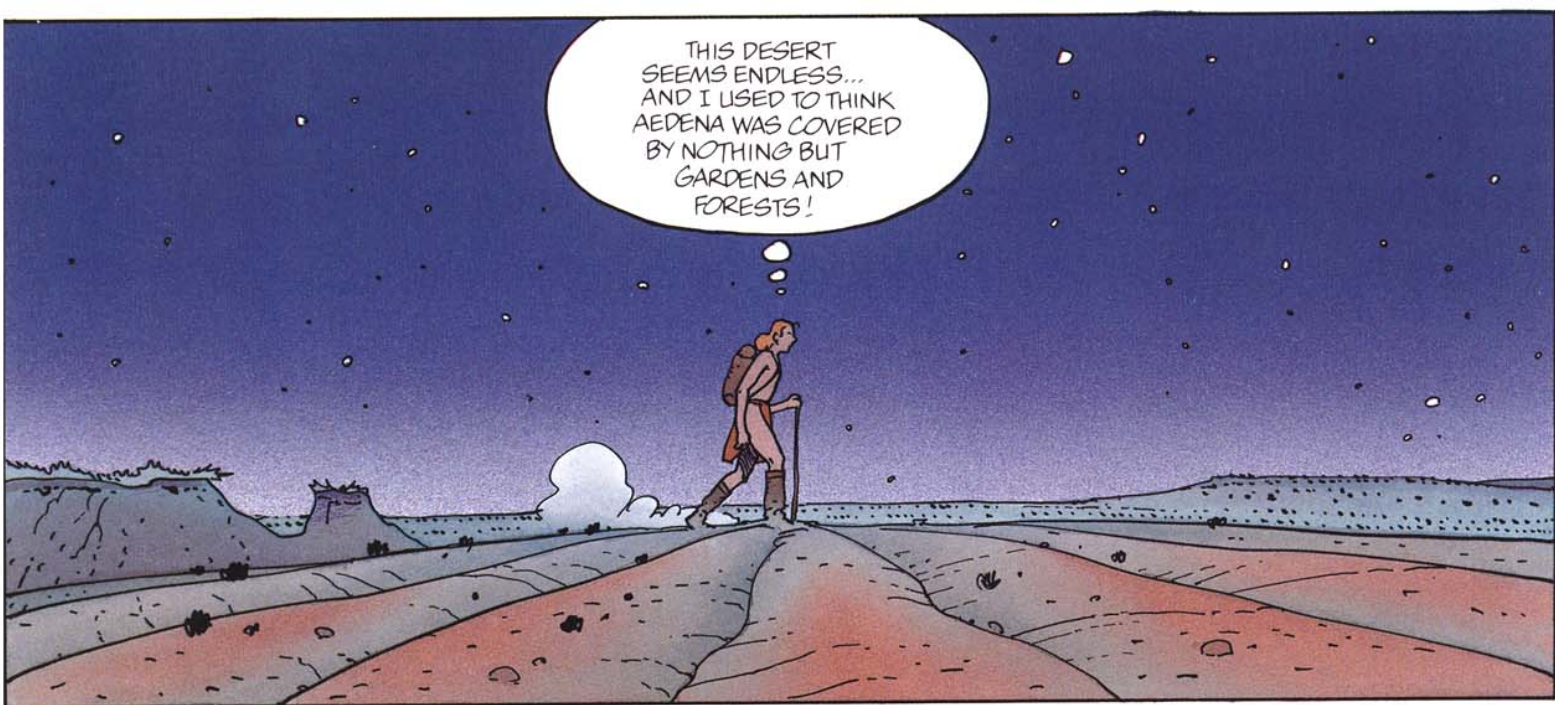
SLIGHTLY DAZED, STELLIES
MOTIONLESS, WHILE THE
TOWERING BEAST ROARS
IN FRUSTRATION.

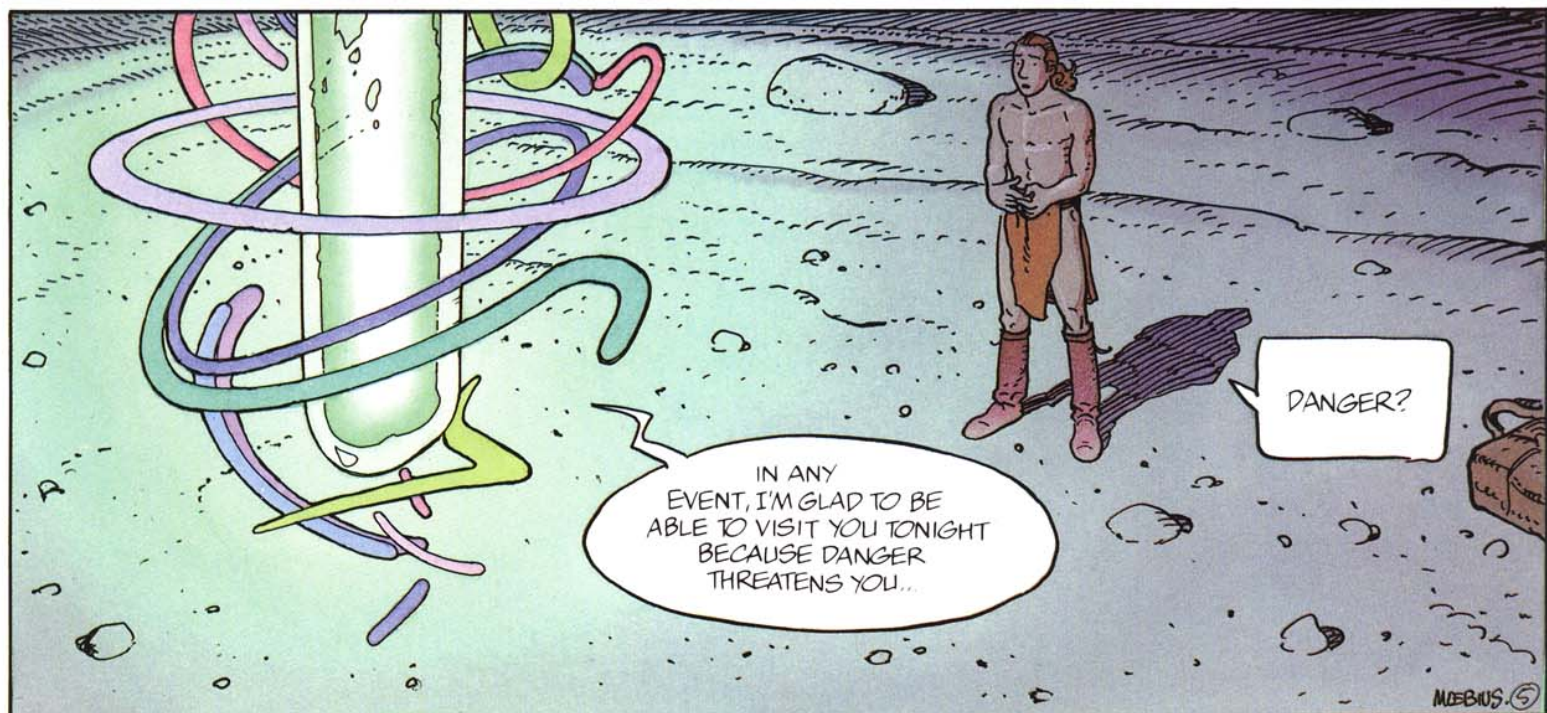
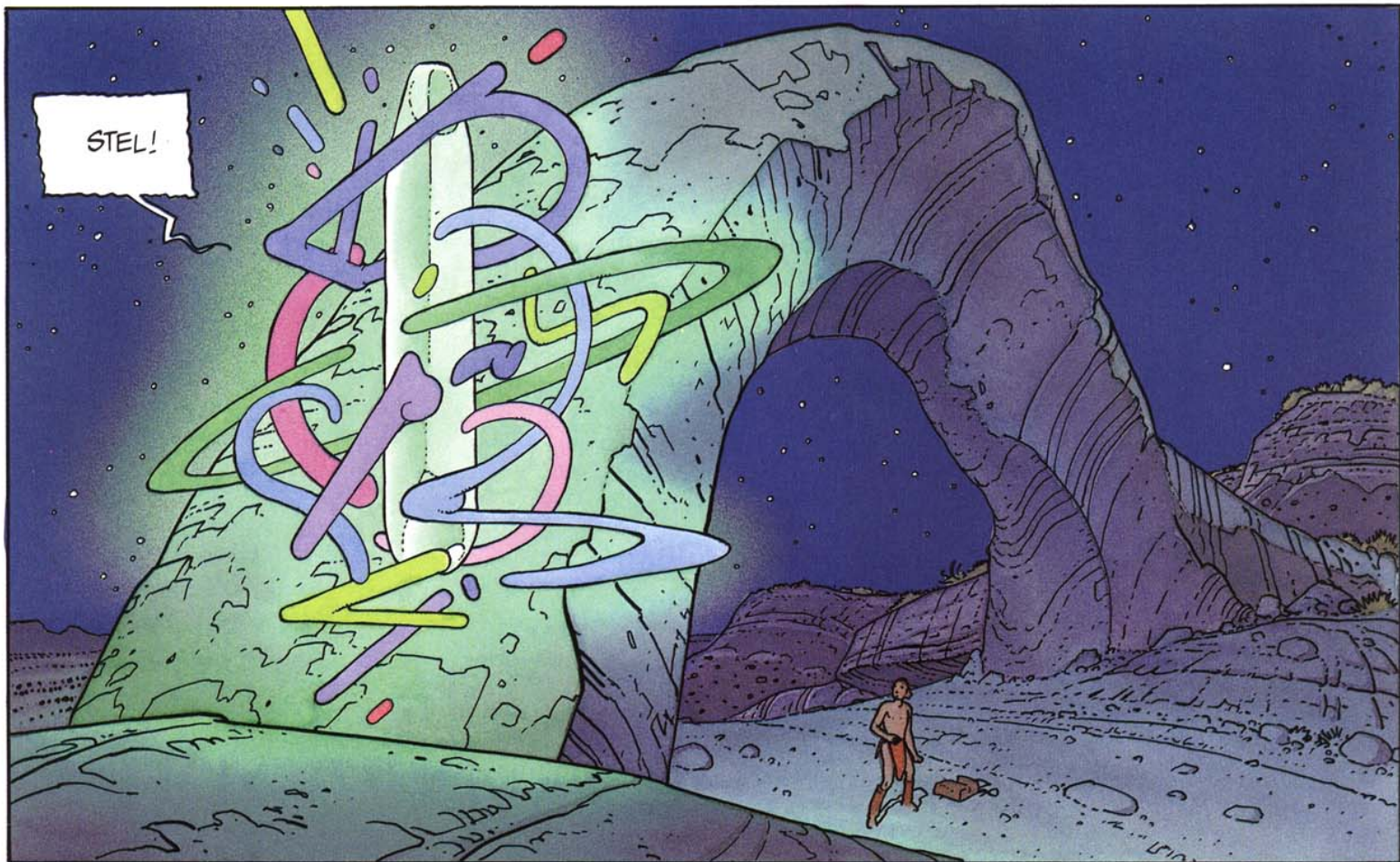


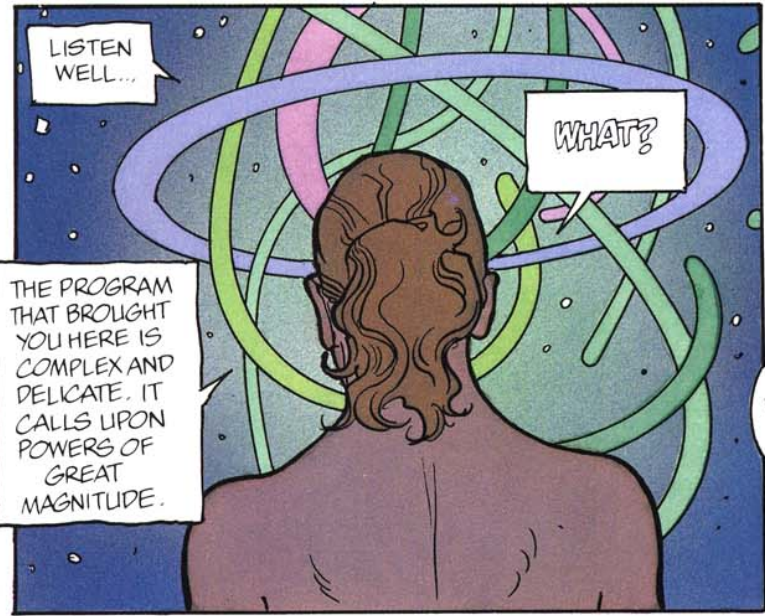
THE RIVER WHICH ONCE FLOWED THIS WAY WAS LONG
AGO SWALLOWED BY THE SANDS, LEAVING NO TRAIL
TO THE SEA. HOW CAN ONE FIND HIS WAY ON THIS
PATHLESS WORLD?



THE MONSTER'S
FINALLY GIVEN UP!



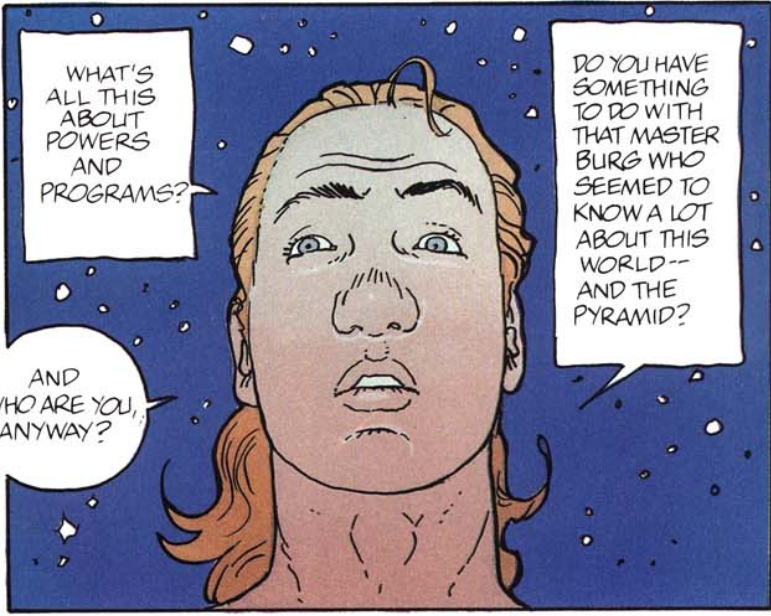




LISTEN WELL...

WHAT?

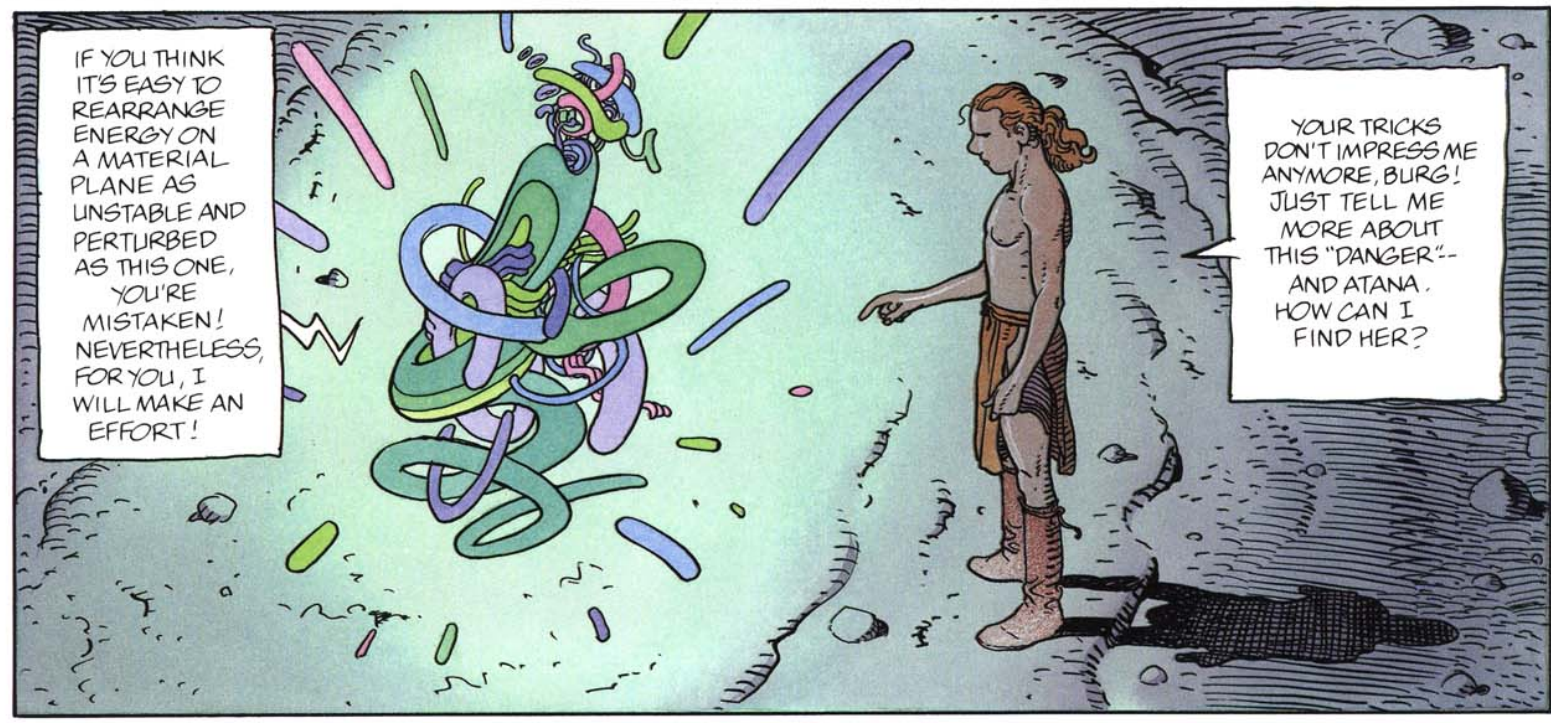
THE PROGRAM THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE IS COMPLEX AND DELICATE. IT CALLS UPON POWERS OF GREAT MAGNITUDE.



WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT POWERS AND PROGRAMS?

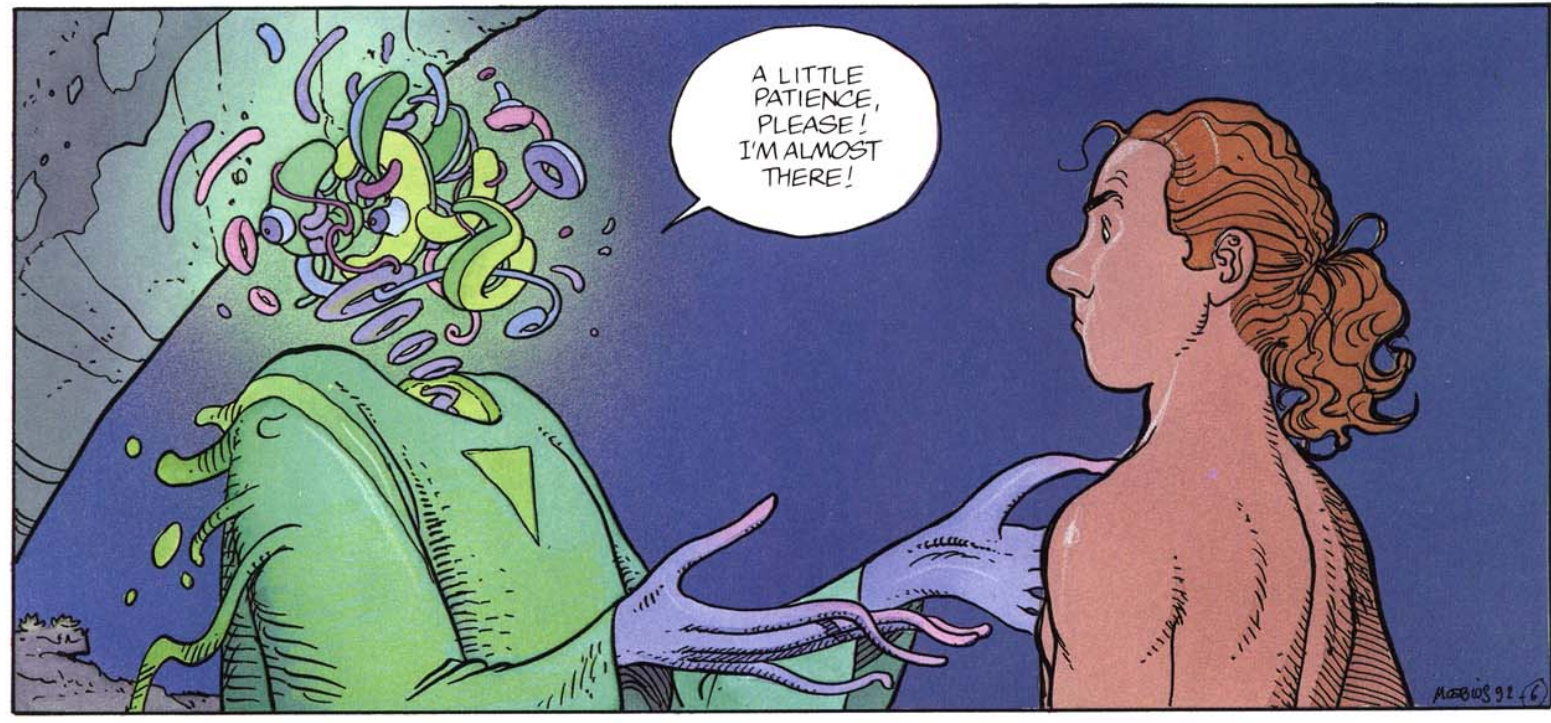
AND WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT MASTER BURG WHO SEEMED TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS WORLD-- AND THE PYRAMID?



IF YOU THINK IT'S EASY TO REARRANGE ENERGY ON A MATERIAL PLANE AS UNSTABLE AND PERTURBED AS THIS ONE, YOU'RE MISTAKEN! NEVERTHELESS, FOR YOU, I WILL MAKE AN EFFORT!

YOUR TRICKS DON'T IMPRESS ME ANYMORE, BURG! JUST TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS "DANGER"-- AND ATANA. HOW CAN I FIND HER?



A LITTLE PATIENCE, PLEASE! I'M ALMOST THERE!

MORRIS 91.6

ATANA FOUND THE NEST-CITY, WHICH WAS GOING NOWHERE IN THE MOST APPALLING MATRIXIANIST FASHION. NATURALLY, SHE SET THINGS RIGHT. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WAS A SMALL PROBLEM...

A SMALL PROBLEM?

YES. DURING HER FIGHT AGAINST THE PATERNUM-- THE ENTROPIC ENTITY THAT YOU YOURSELF FOUGHT WHEN LAST WE MET-- SHE FOUND HERSELF THROWN INTO THE MAZE OF THE SYNTHETIC ONEIRIVERSES...

THE WHAT?!

THAT SOUNDS AWFUL! WE HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF THERE! RIGHT NOW!

IT'S NOT THAT EASY.

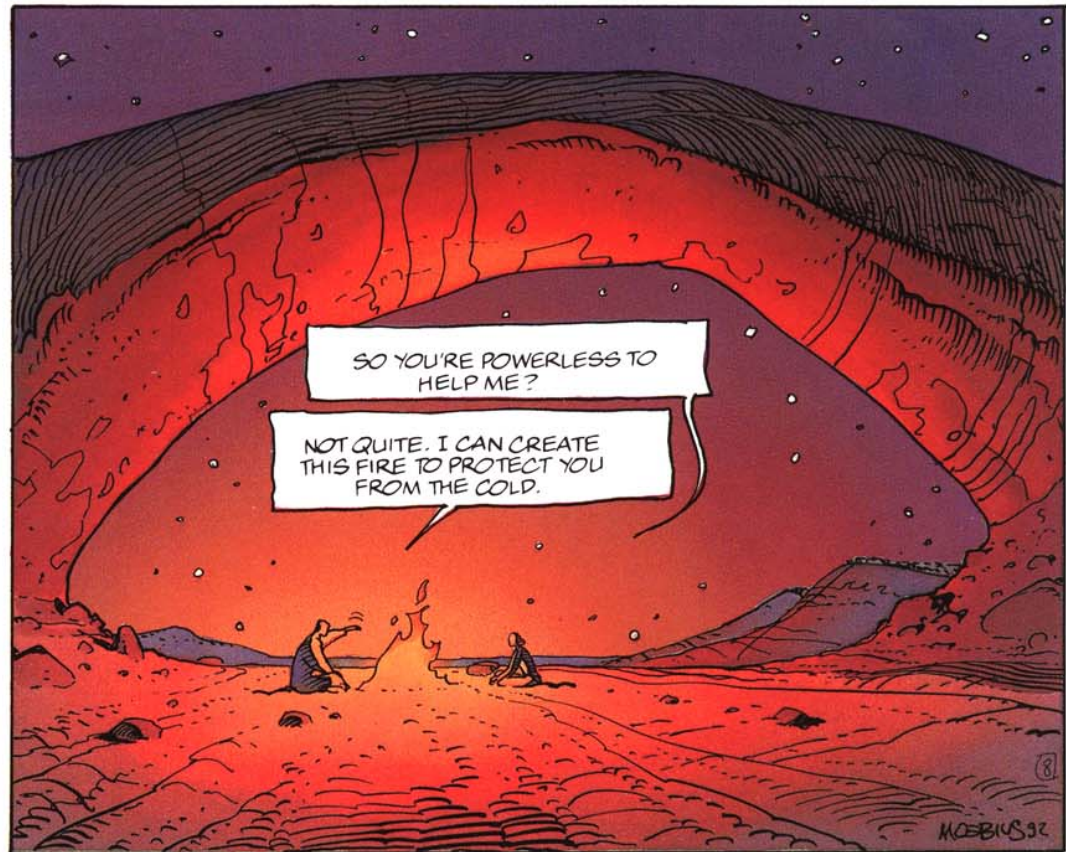
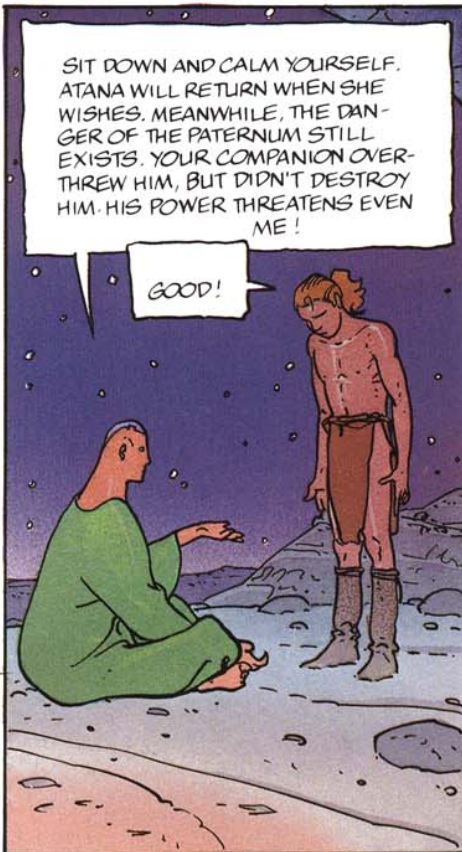
I'M FED UP WITH ALL YOUR GAMES! TELL ME HOW TO FIND ATANA AND HELP ME GET OUT OF HERE. I CAN'T SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE IN THIS DESERT!

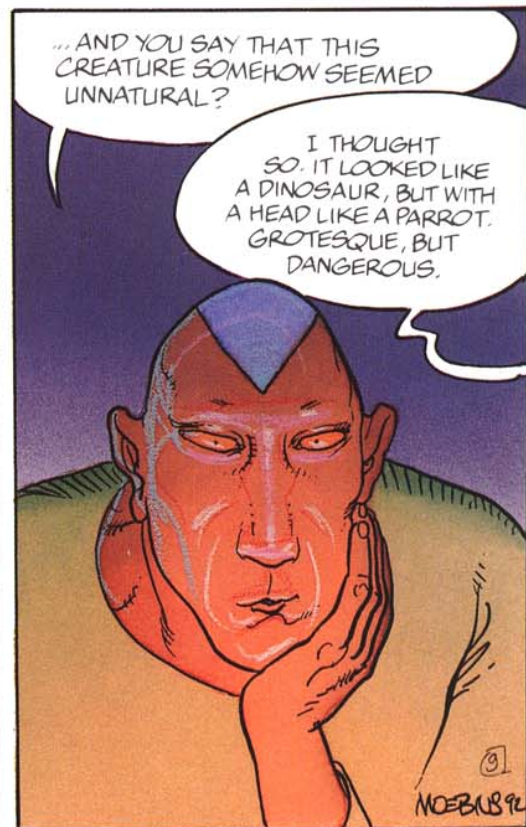
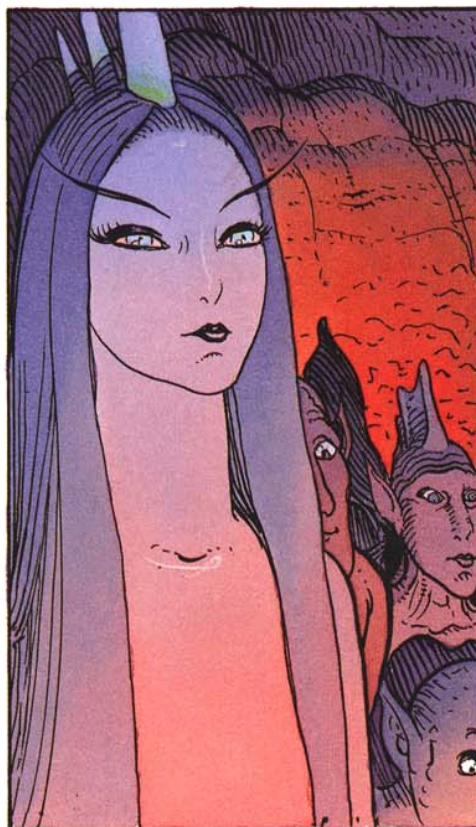
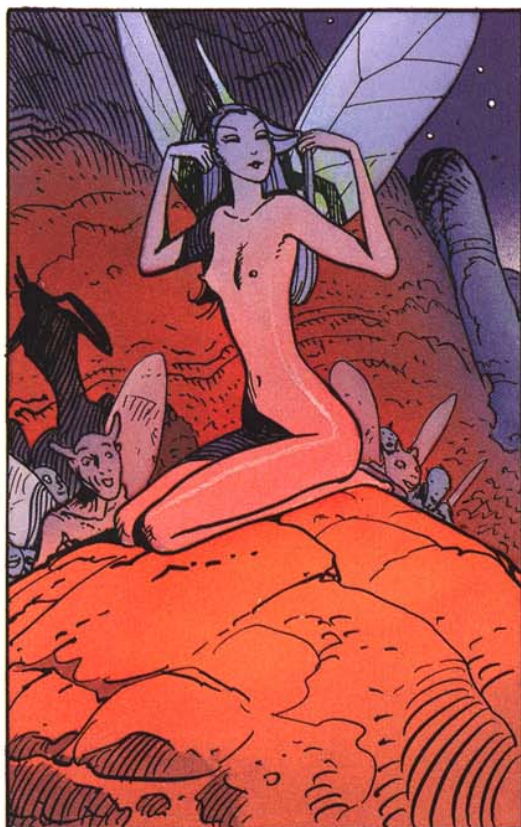
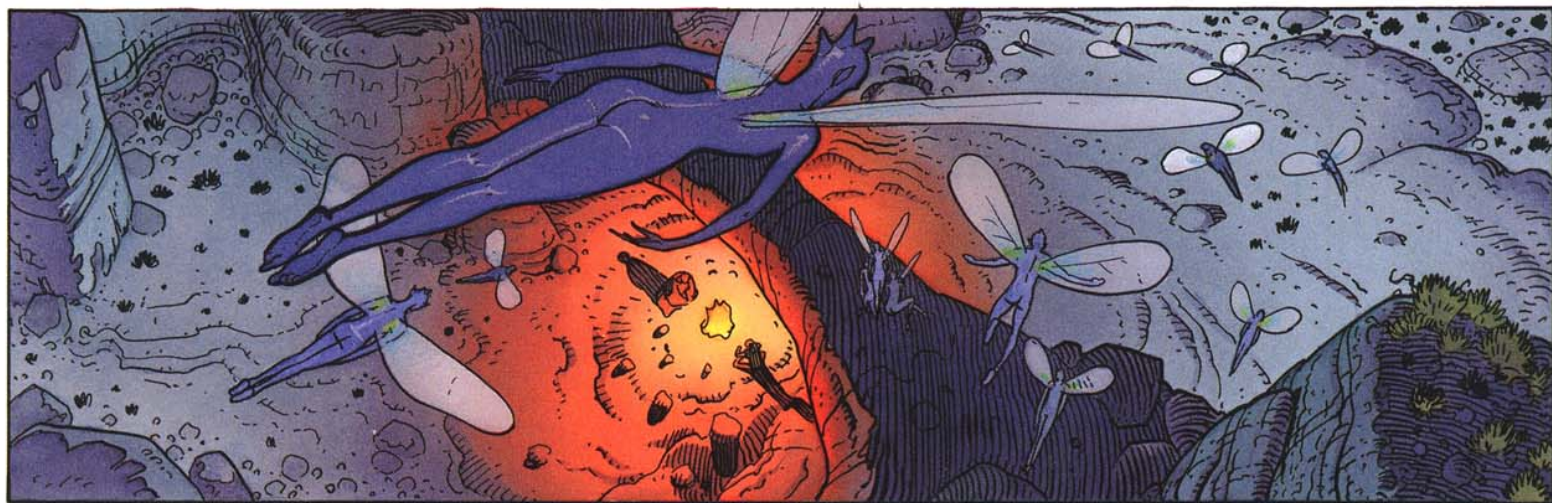
I UNDERSTAND, STEL, BUT AGAIN, IT'S NOT THAT EASY...

RESIDUAL TRACES OF THE PATERNUM CONTINUE TO INFEST AEDENA. I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF IT, AS YOU MUST FOLLOW YOUR PROGRAM.

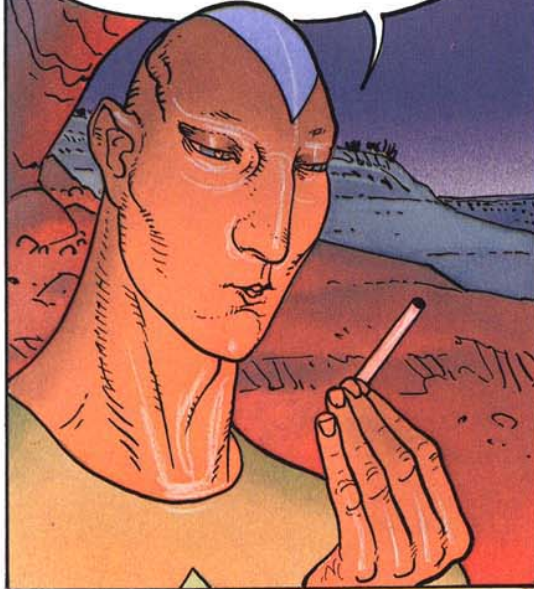
TO HELL WITH THE PROGRAM!

MOEBIUS32





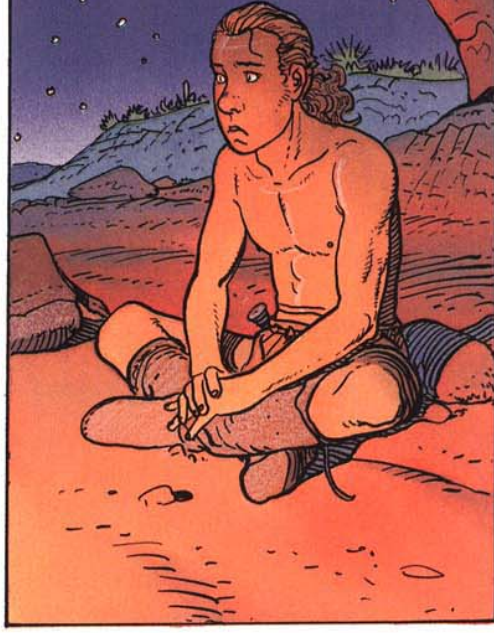
DANGEROUS INDEED. I THINK THAT WHAT YOU ENCOUNTERED WAS A MANIFESTATION OF THE PATERNUM. HE NO LONGER HAS ENOUGH POWER TO REACH YOU IN YOUR DREAMS, LIKE HE DID BEFORE...



... BUT HE CAN STILL INCORPORATE HIMSELF BY TAPPING INTO THE REMNANT WAVES OF THE PLANETARY PLASMA.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS...



BUT... YOU... YOU SMOKE?



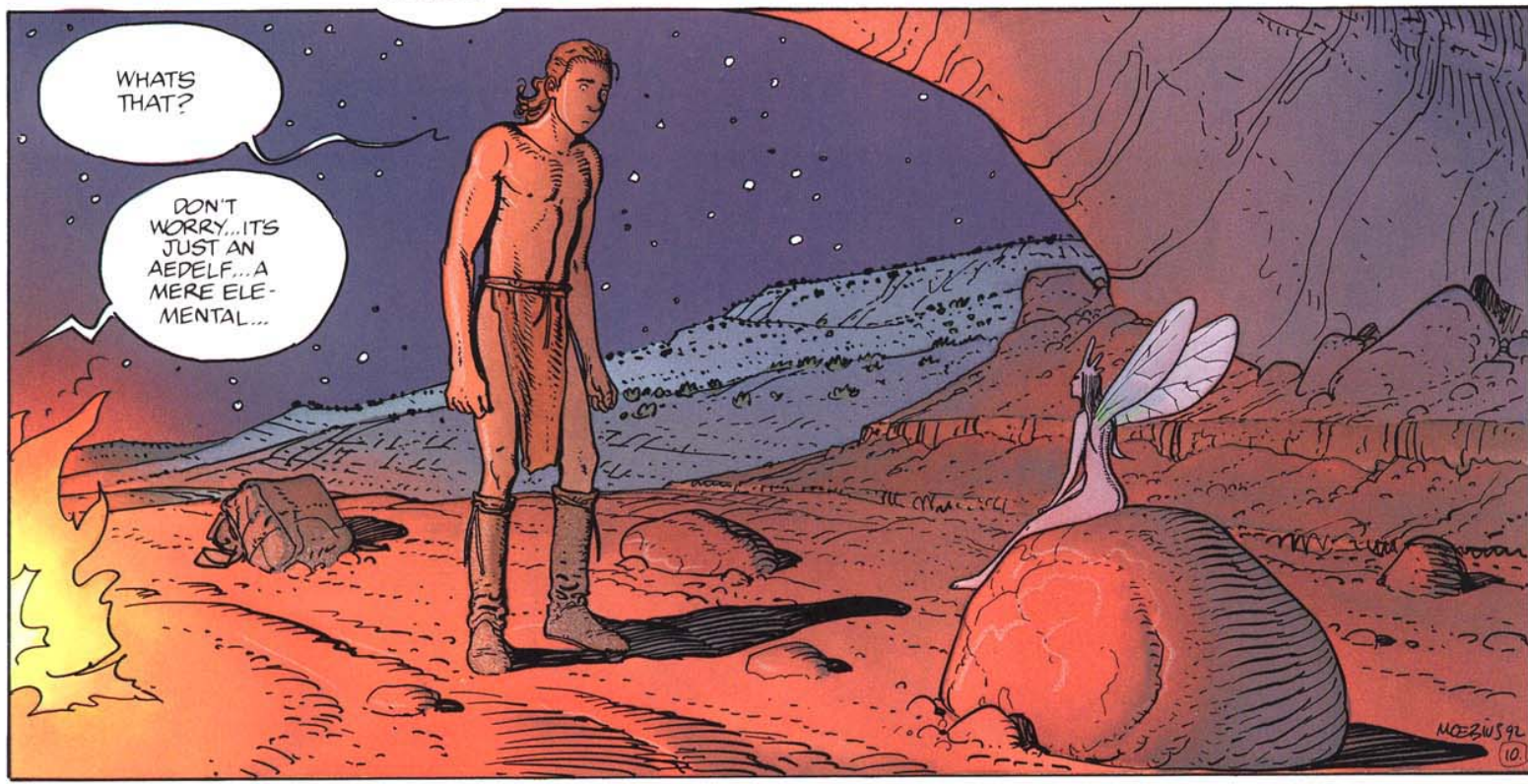
ONLY ON CERTAIN OCCASIONS, OF COURSE.

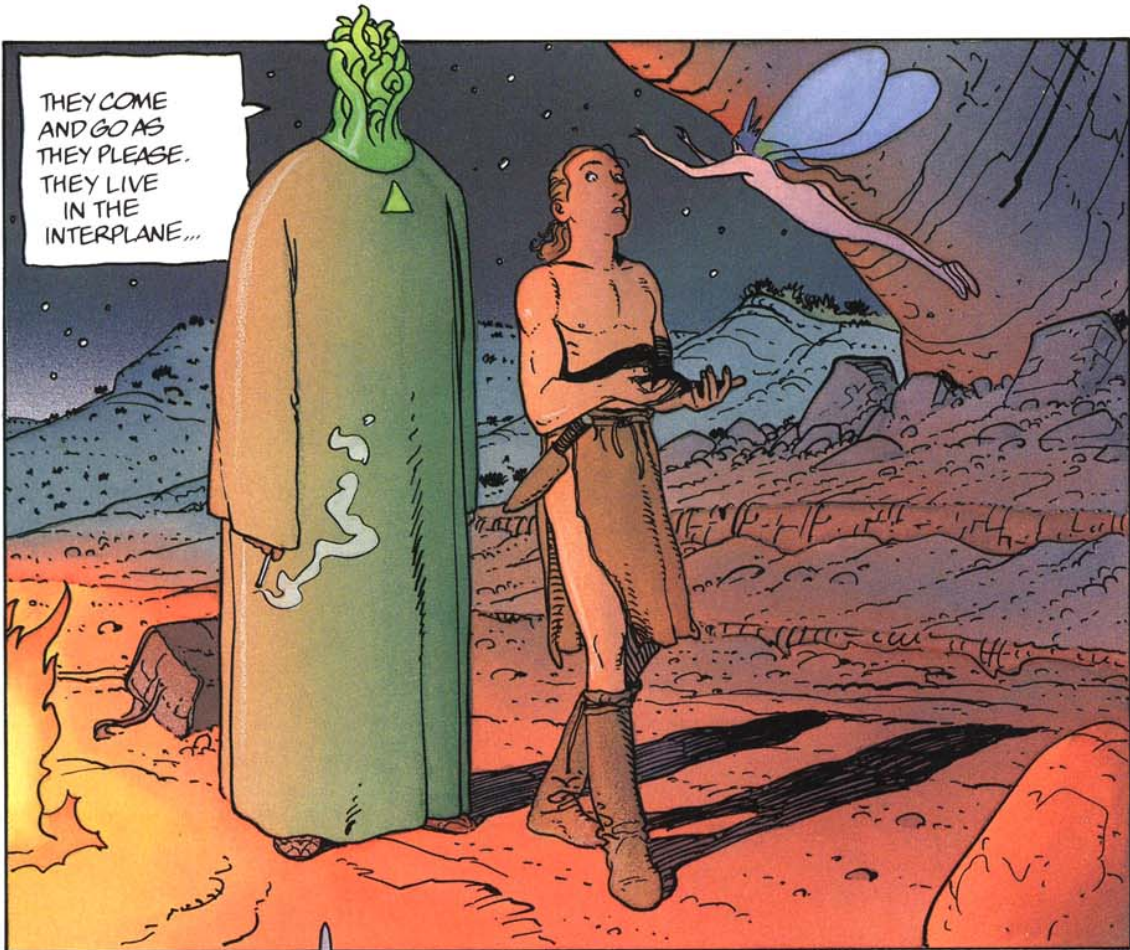
HUSH!



WHAT'S THAT?

DON'T WORRY... IT'S JUST AN AEDELF... A MERE ELEMENTAL...





THEY COME
AND GO AS
THEY PLEASE.
THEY LIVE
IN THE
INTERPLANE...



SWAMDADOOO

WHAT
DOES SHE
WANT?

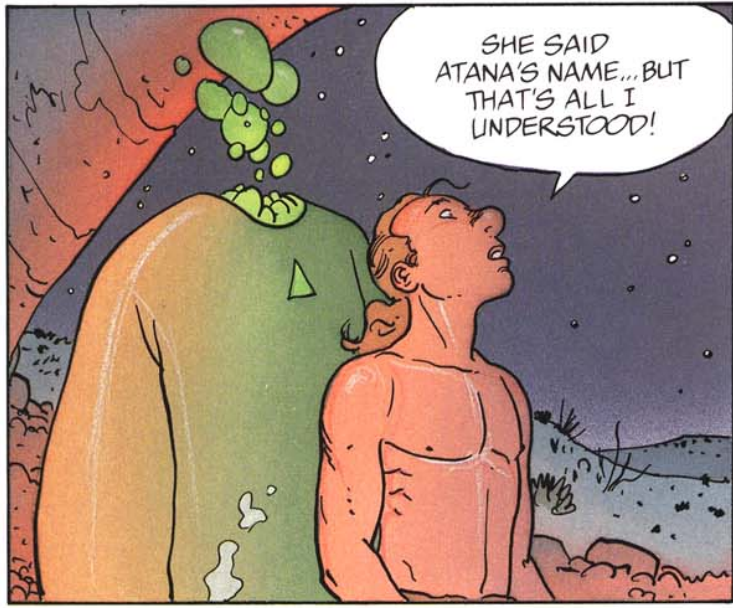


OCHANDAI!!
OLLU...

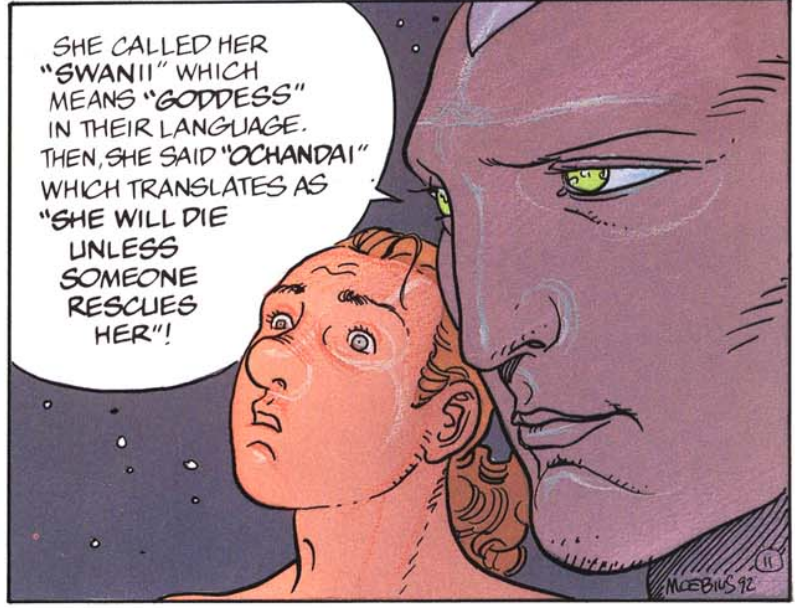
SWANII!!!
DOOLLL
DOOLLL



OCHANDAI
SWANII
ATANA!
TOOOO...
OH!



SHE SAID
ATANA'S NAME... BUT
THAT'S ALL I
UNDERSTOOD!



SHE CALLED HER
"SWANII" WHICH
MEANS "GODDESS"
IN THEIR LANGUAGE.
THEN, SHE SAID "OCHANDAI"
WHICH TRANSLATES AS
"SHE WILL DIE
UNLESS
SOMEONE
RESCUES
HER"!



ATANA WILL DIE...
WHAT'S GOING ON
HERE? SHOULD I
BELIEVE WHAT
THAT GNATGIRL
SAID? GREAT
UNIVERSE! IS
ATANA GOING
TO DIE...



...UNLESS SOMEONE
RESCUES HER?

FIRST, I'VE
GOT TO FIND
HER. BURG
MENTIONED
SOME KIND
OF "NEST-
CITY". MAYBE
...BURG,
WHERE'S
THAT...



HEY

VANISHED
AGAIN! AND
JUST WHEN
I NEEDED
HIM!

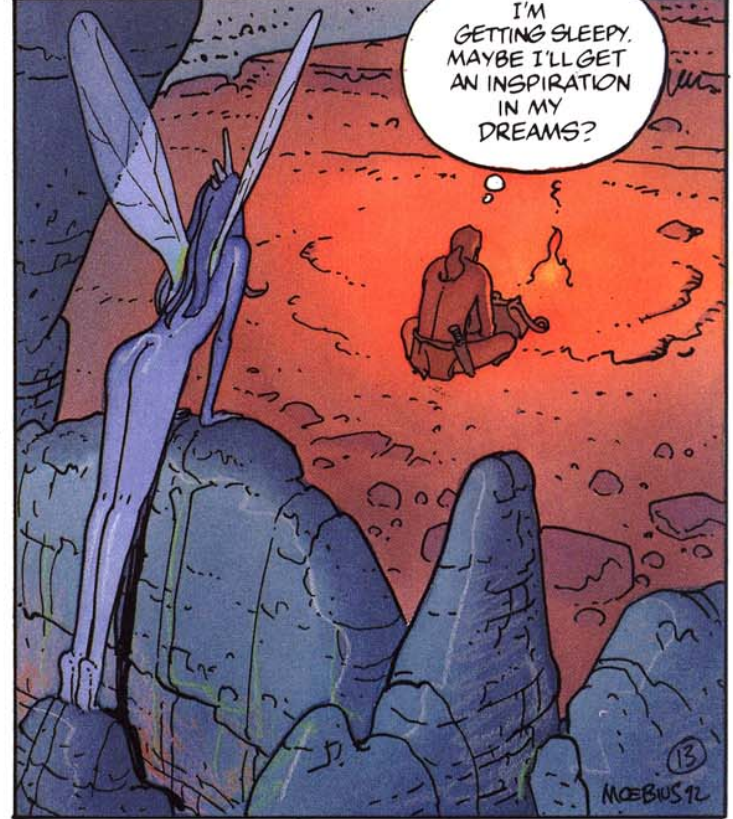
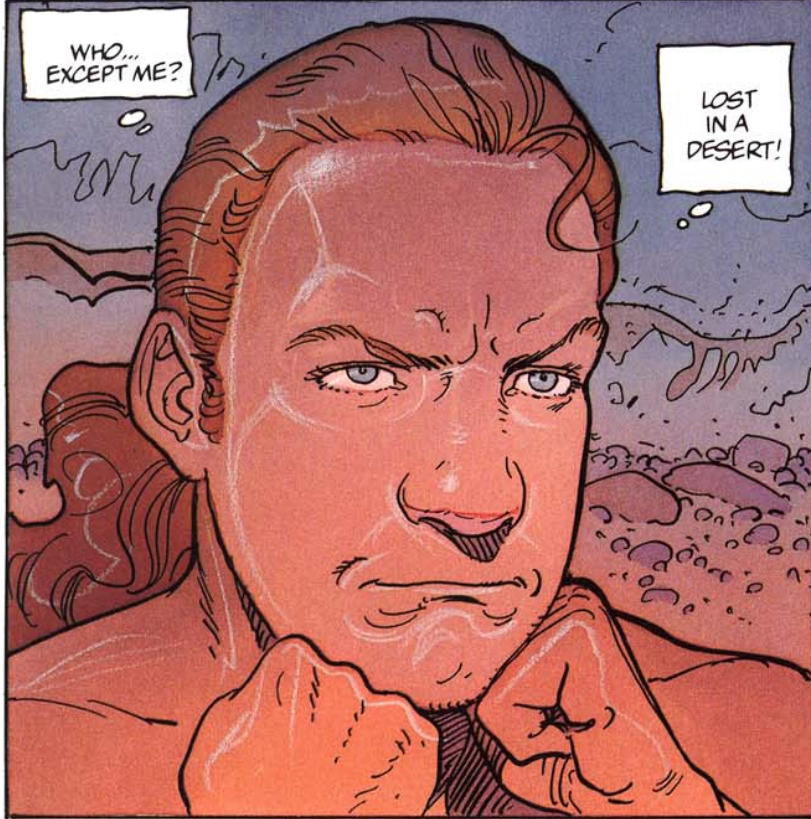
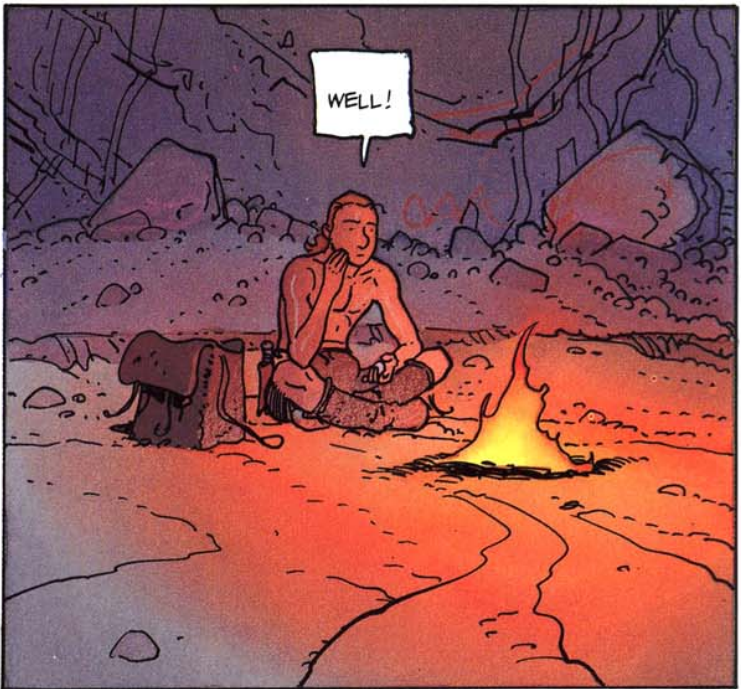
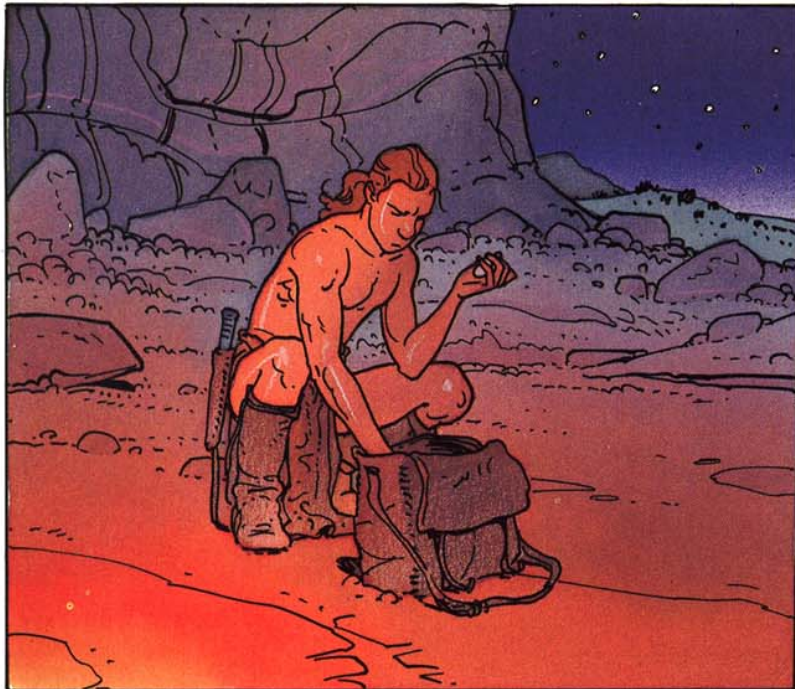


BASTARD!
I WAS RIGHT
NOT TO TRUST
HIM!

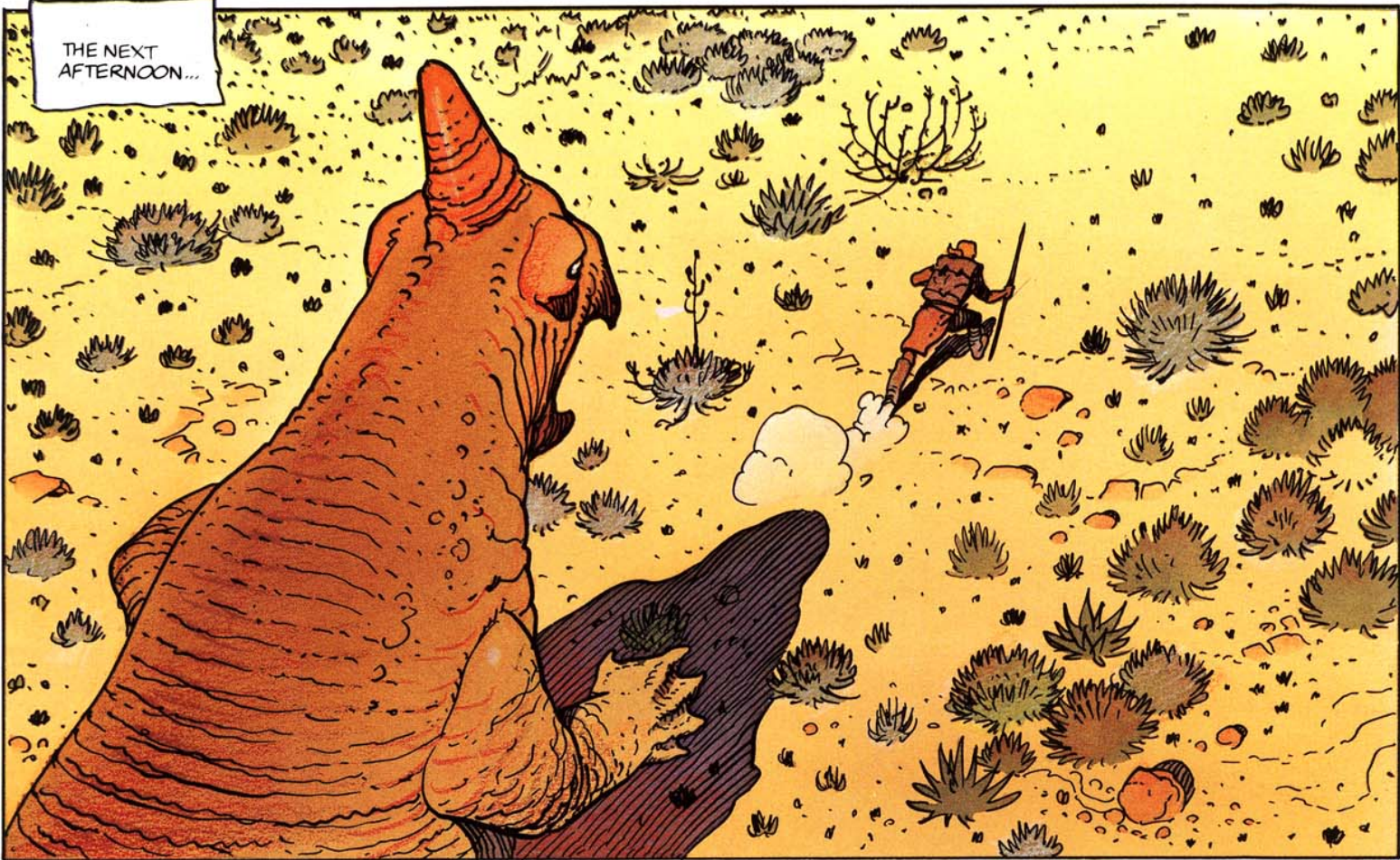
THE AEDELVES
ARE GONE TOO!
FLOWN AWAY!
DAMN GNATS!



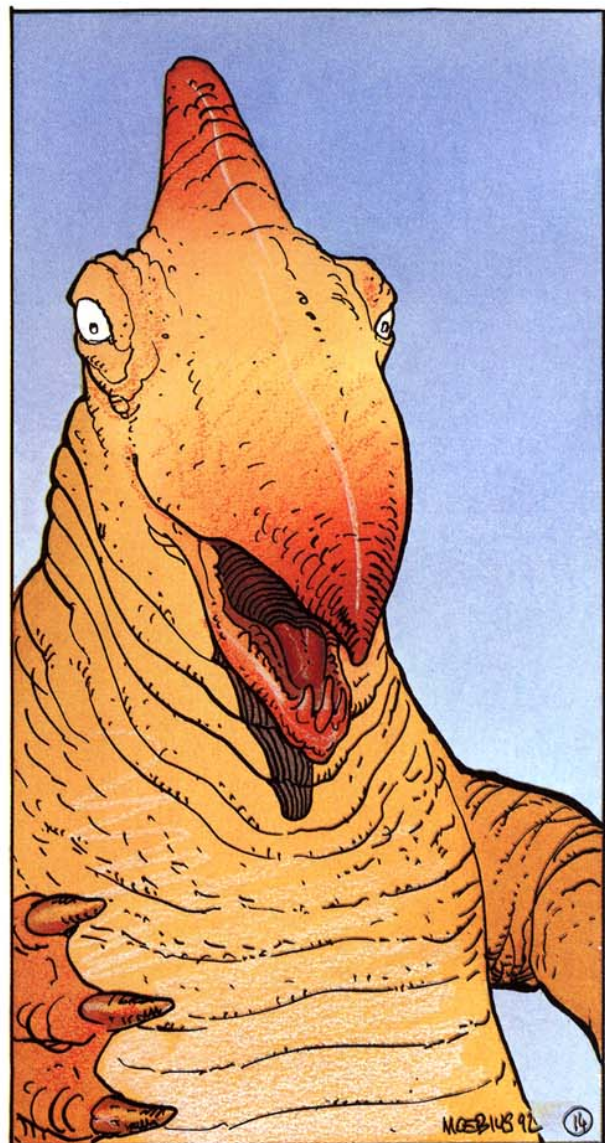
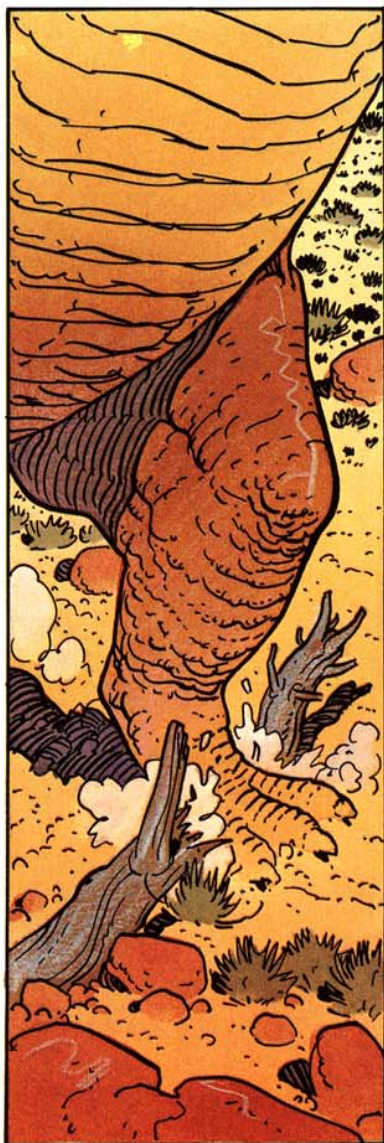
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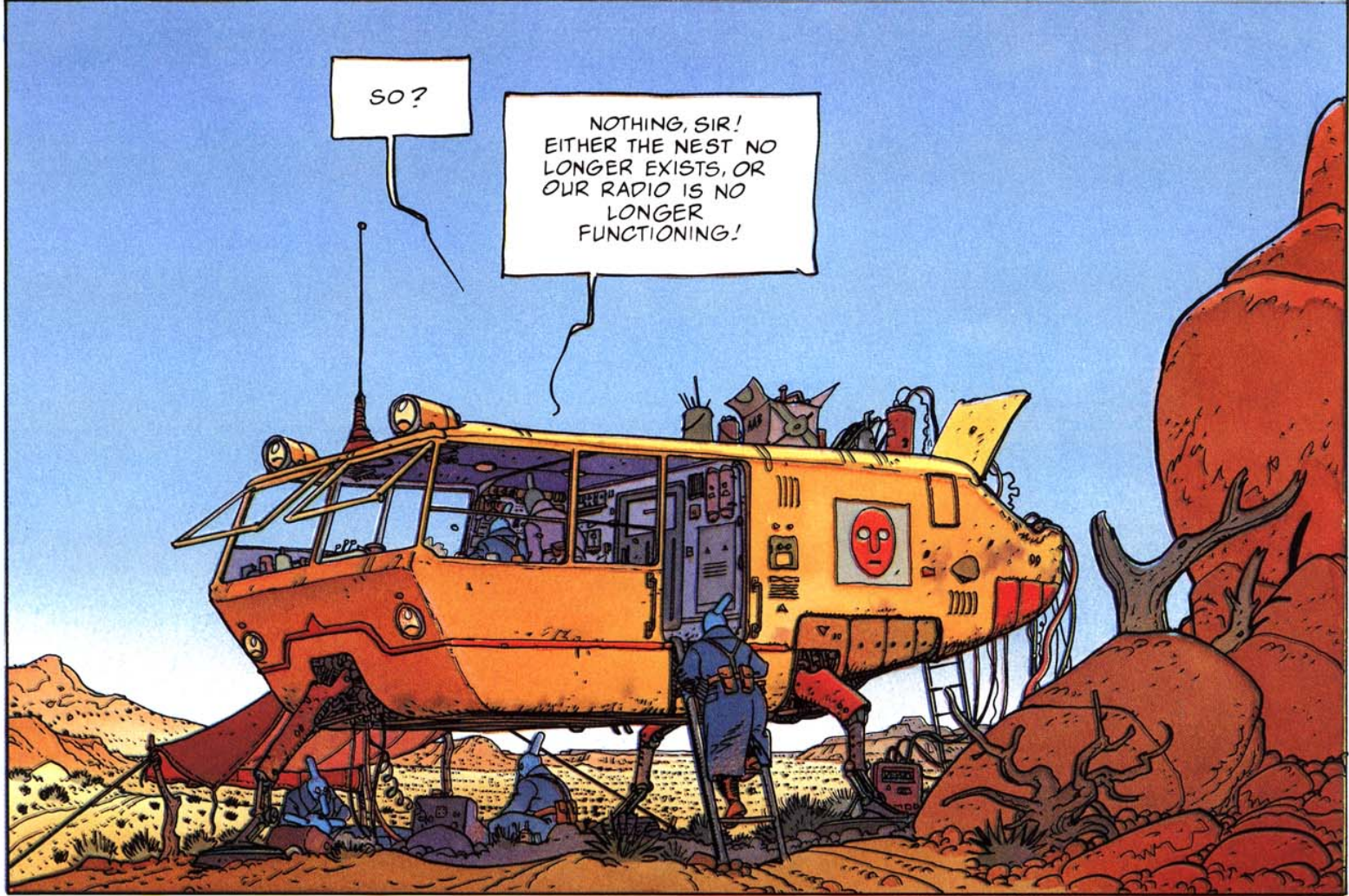


THE NEXT
AFTERNOON...



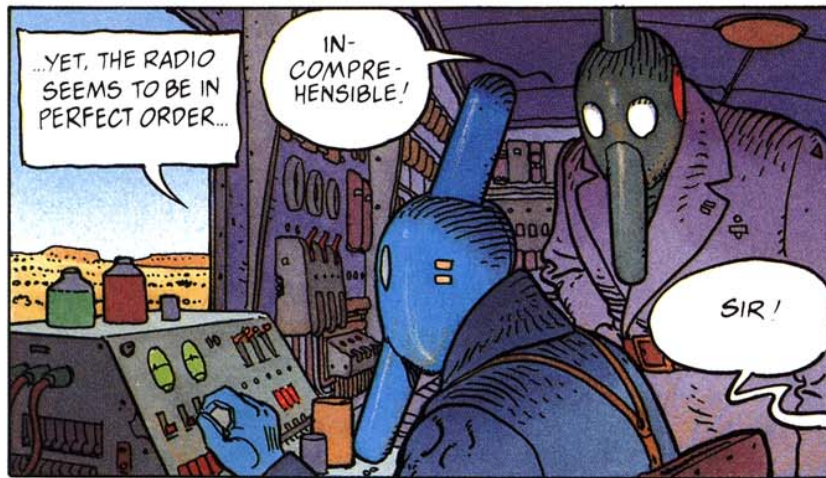
WON'T THAT THING EVER
LEAVE ME ALONE!?





SO?

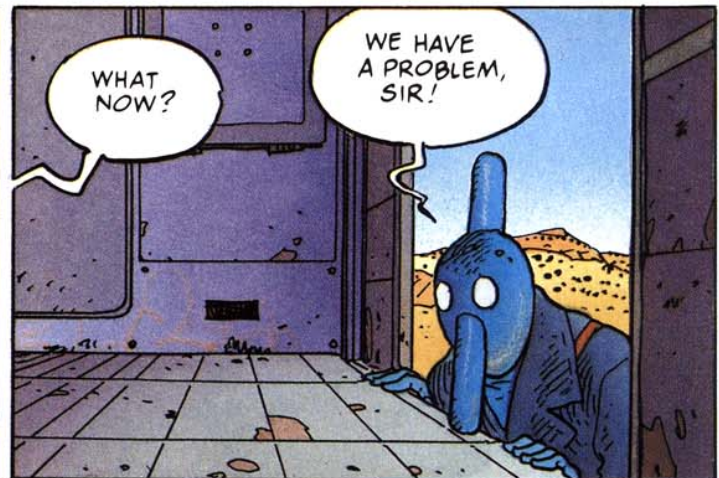
NOTHING, SIR!
EITHER THE NEST NO
LONGER EXISTS, OR
OUR RADIO IS NO
LONGER
FUNCTIONING!



...YET, THE RADIO
SEEMS TO BE IN
PERFECT ORDER...

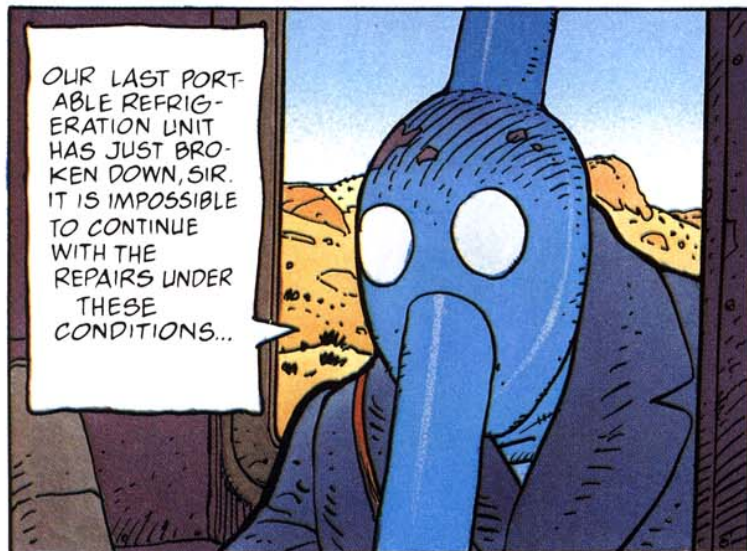
IN-
COMPRE-
HENSIBLE!

SIR!

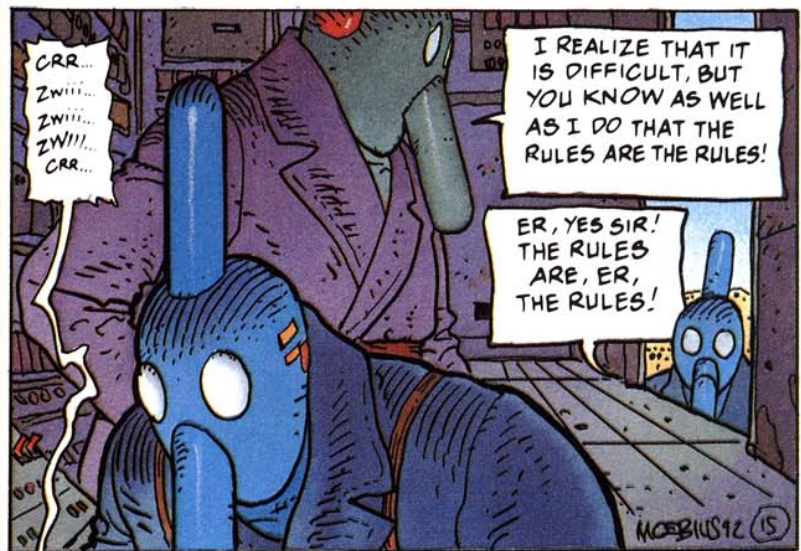


WHAT
NOW?

WE HAVE
A PROBLEM,
SIR!



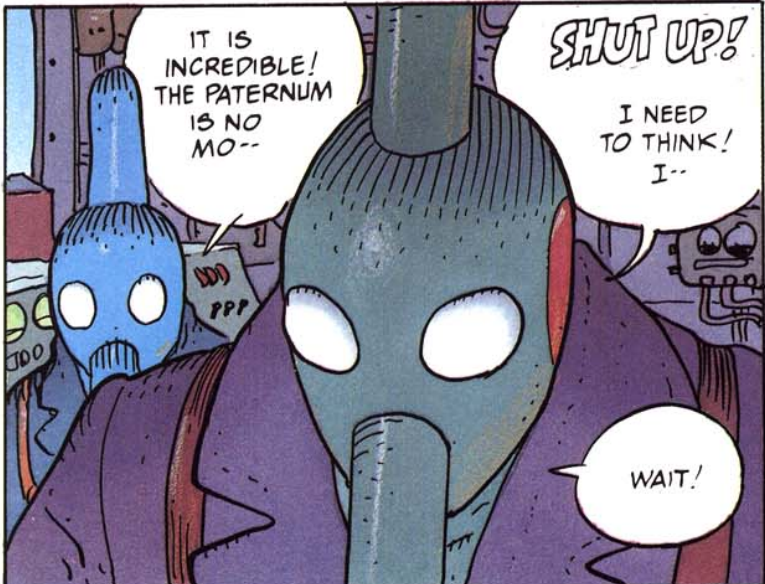
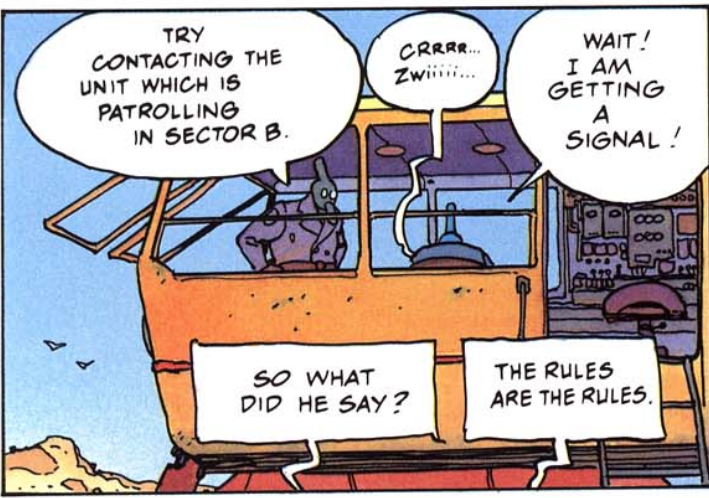
OUR LAST PORT-
ABLE REFRIG-
ERATION UNIT
HAS JUST BRO-
KEN DOWN, SIR.
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE
TO CONTINUE
WITH THE REPAIRS UNDER
THESE
CONDITIONS...

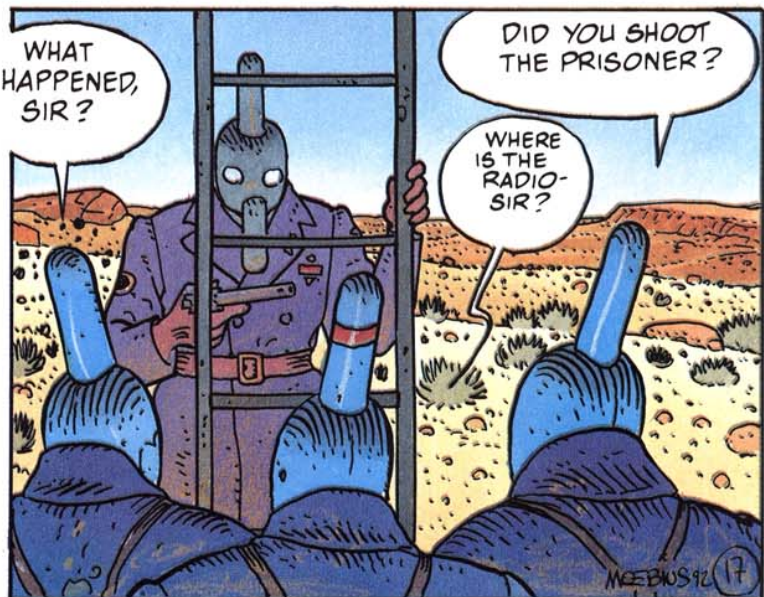
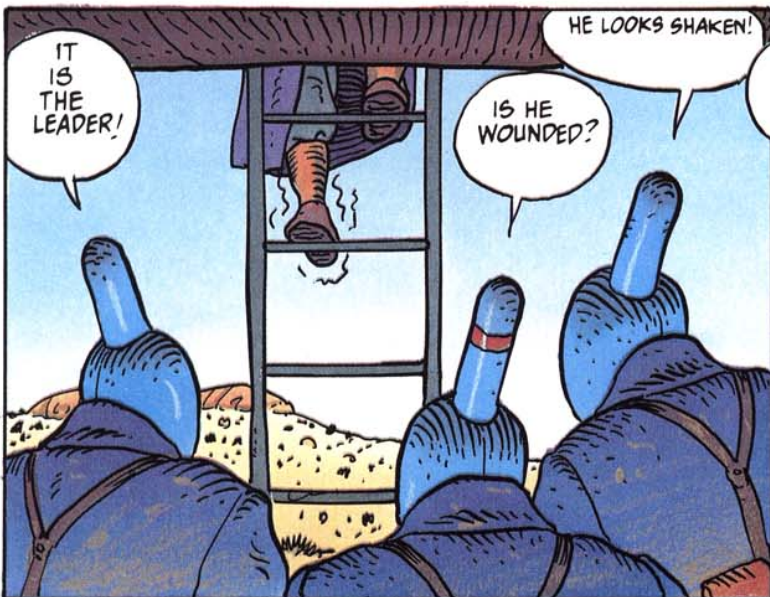
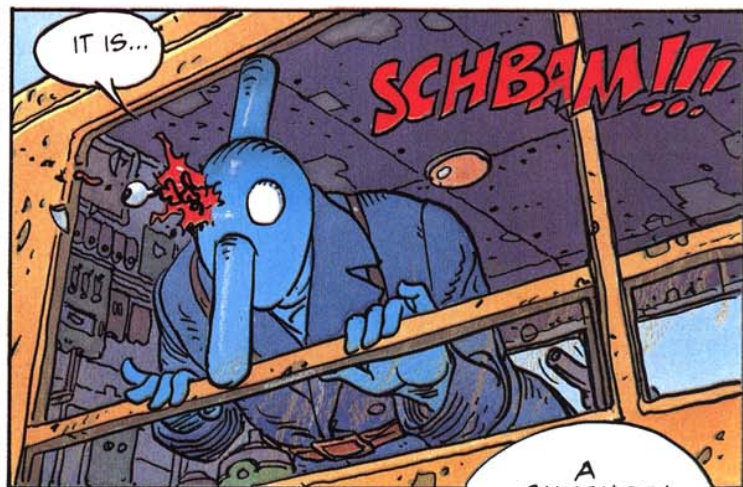
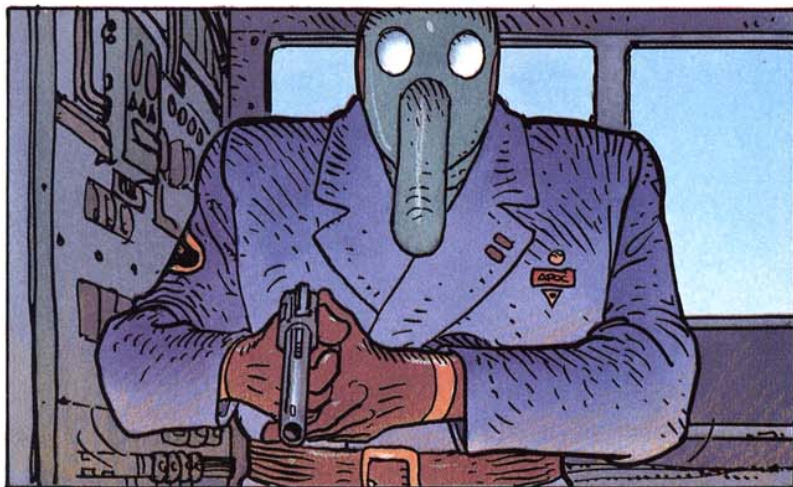
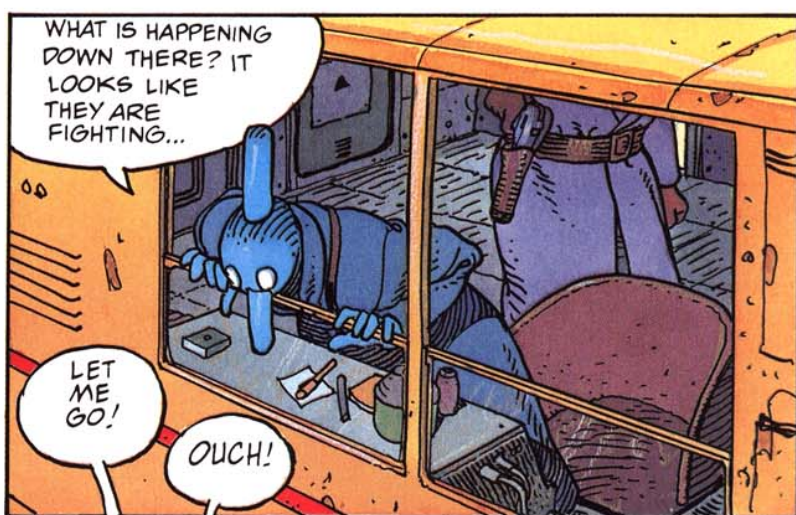
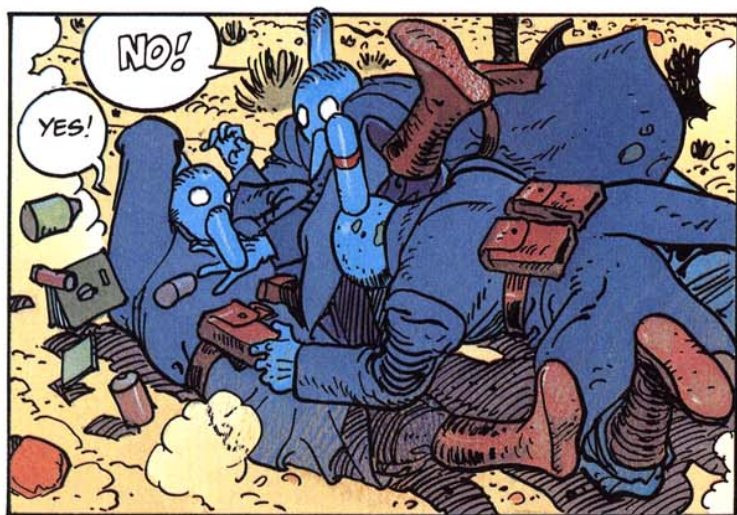


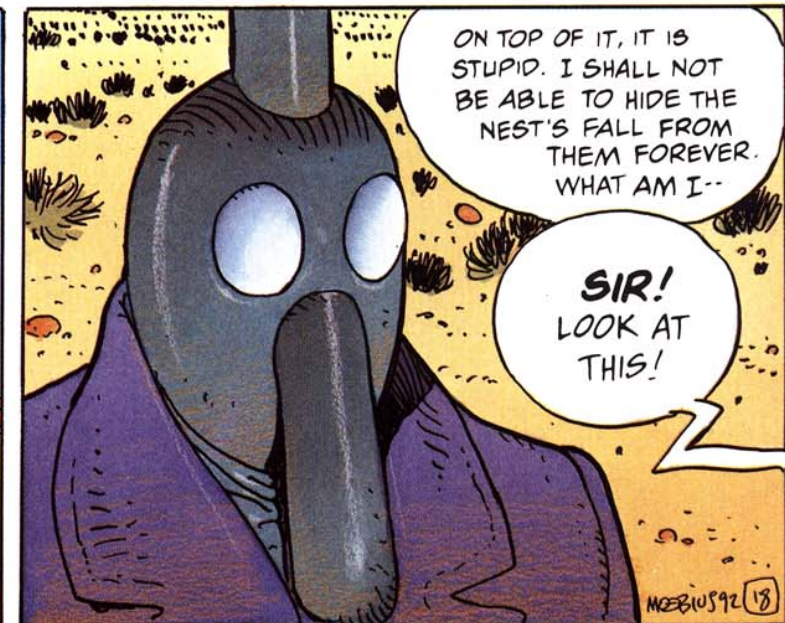
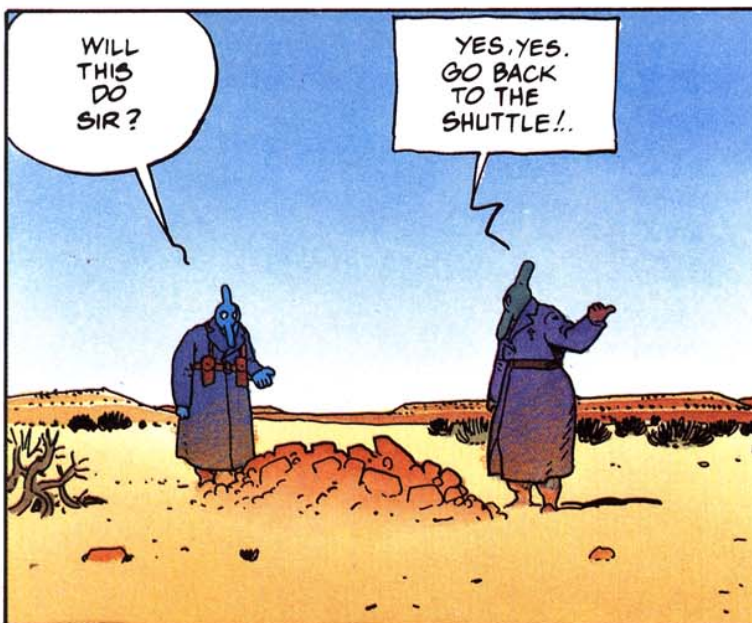
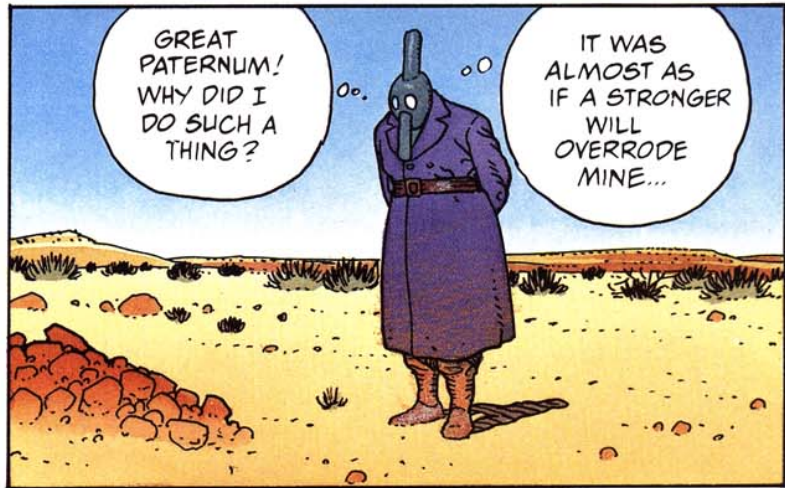
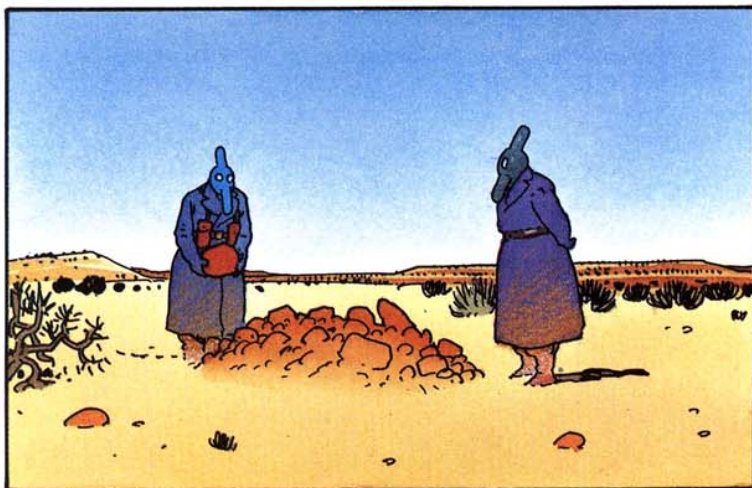
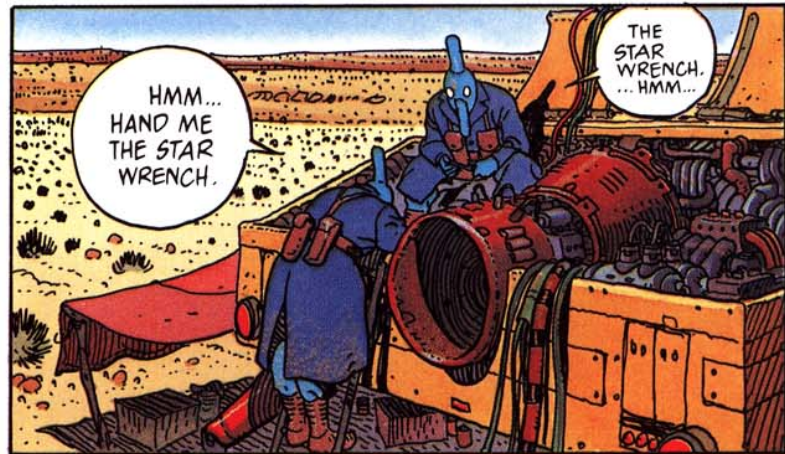
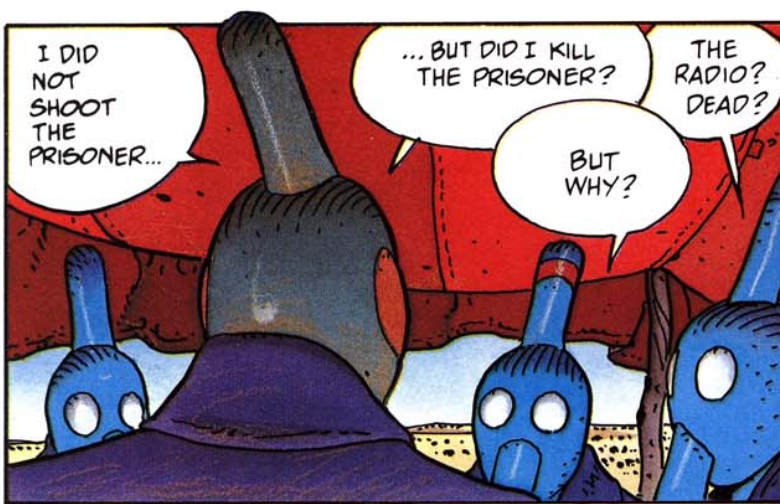
CRR...
ZWIII...
ZWIII...
ZWIII...
CRR...

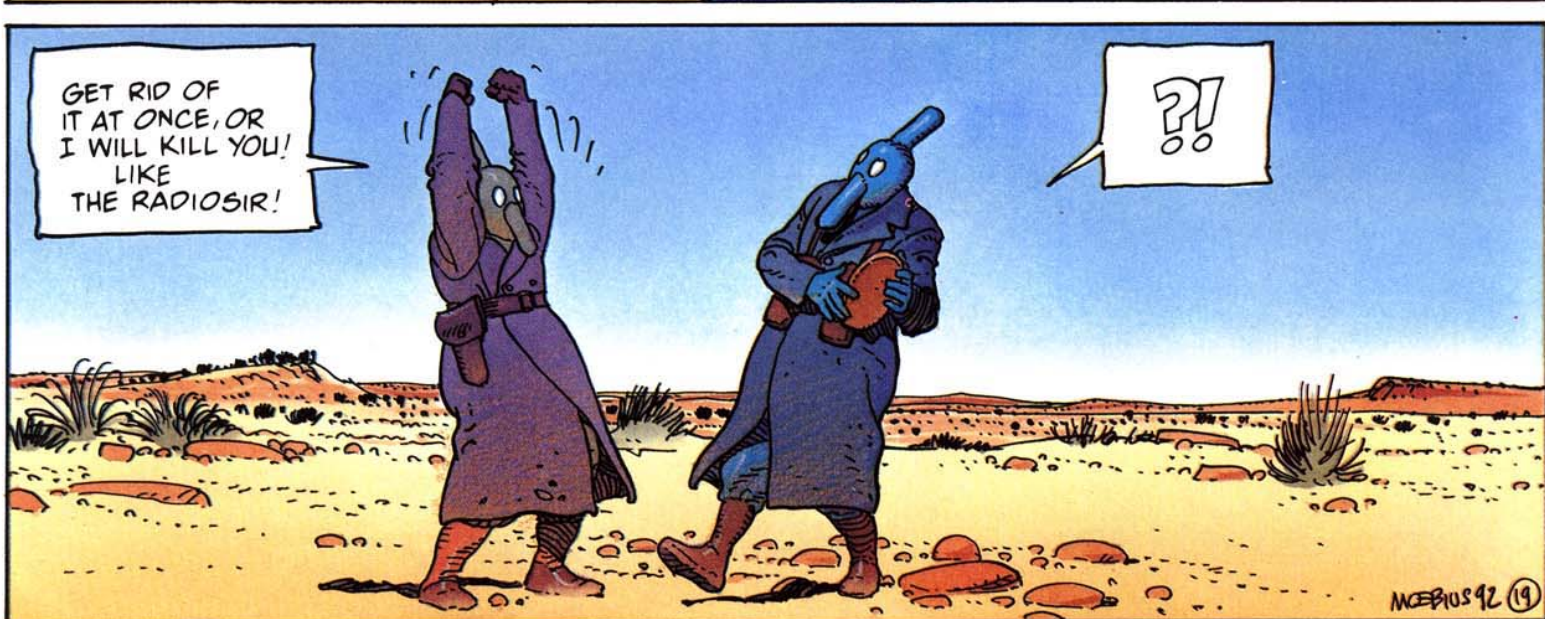
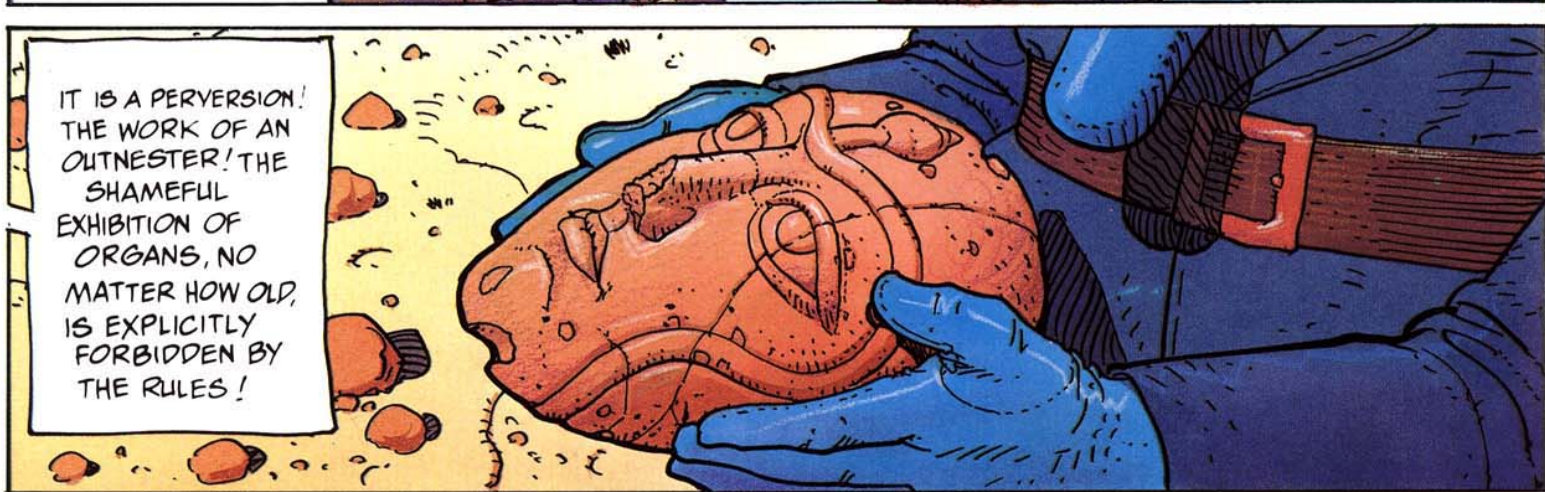
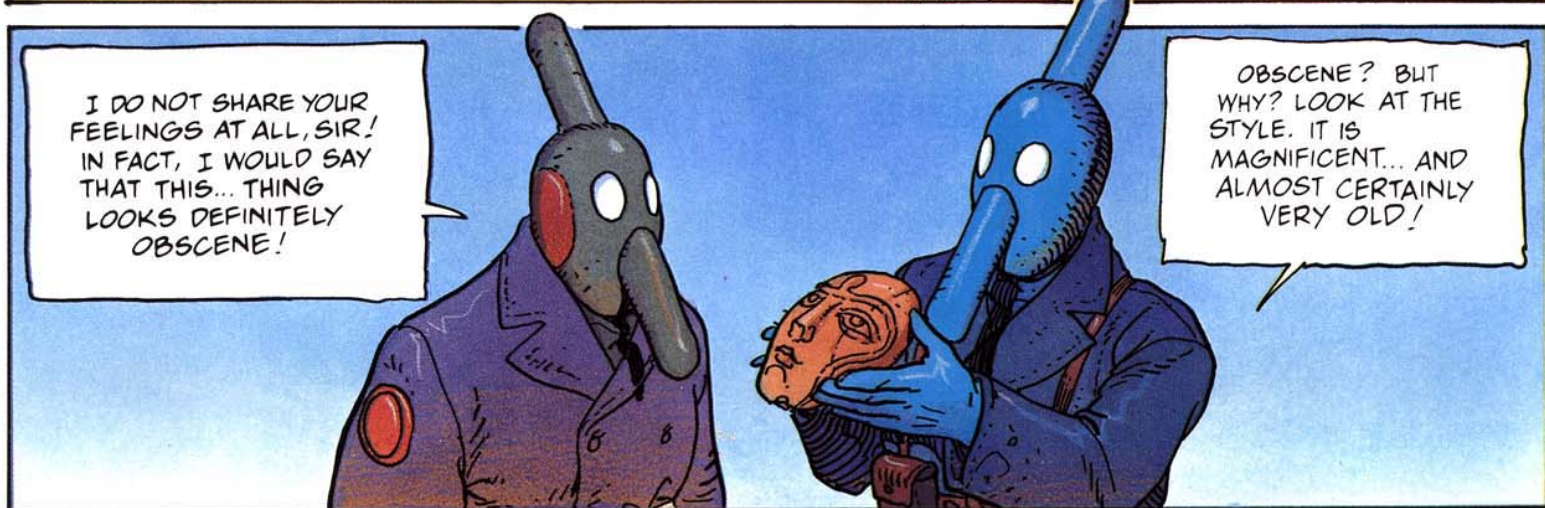
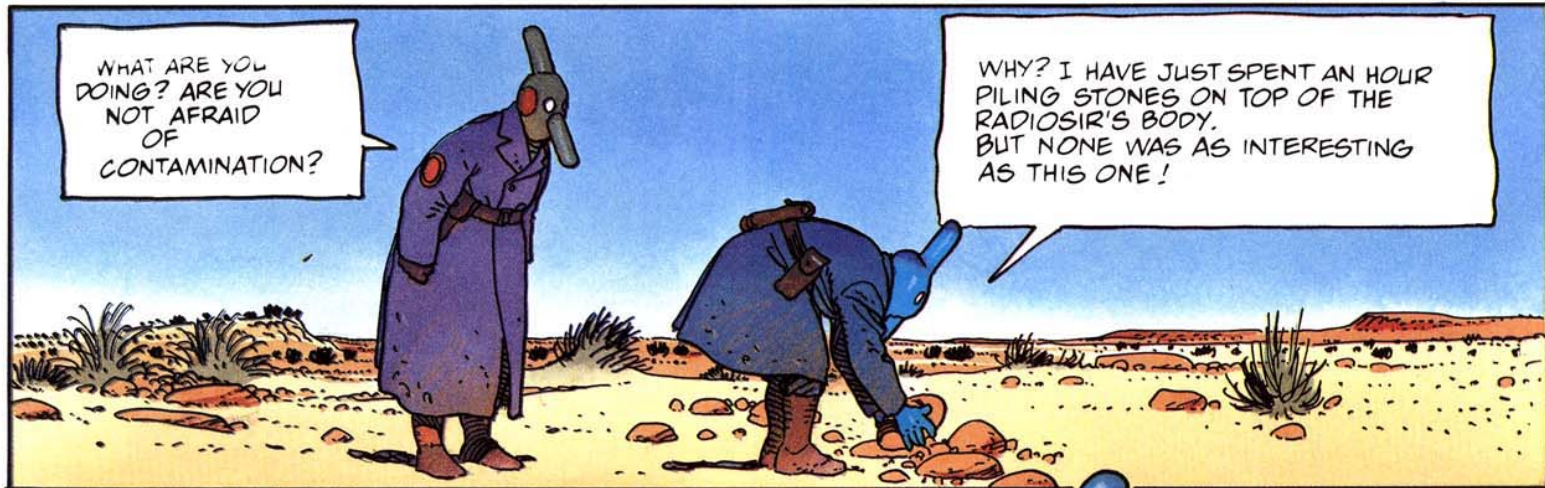
I REALIZE THAT IT
IS DIFFICULT, BUT
YOU KNOW AS WELL
AS I DO THAT THE
RULES ARE THE RULES!

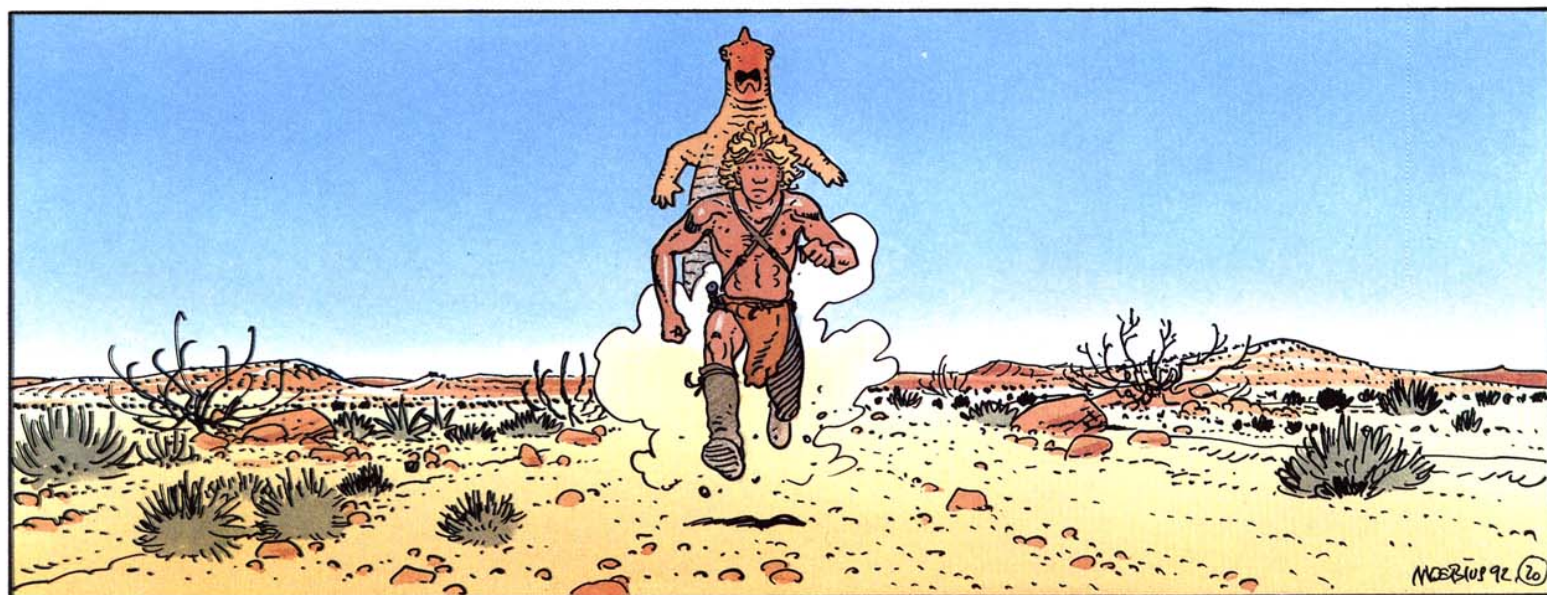
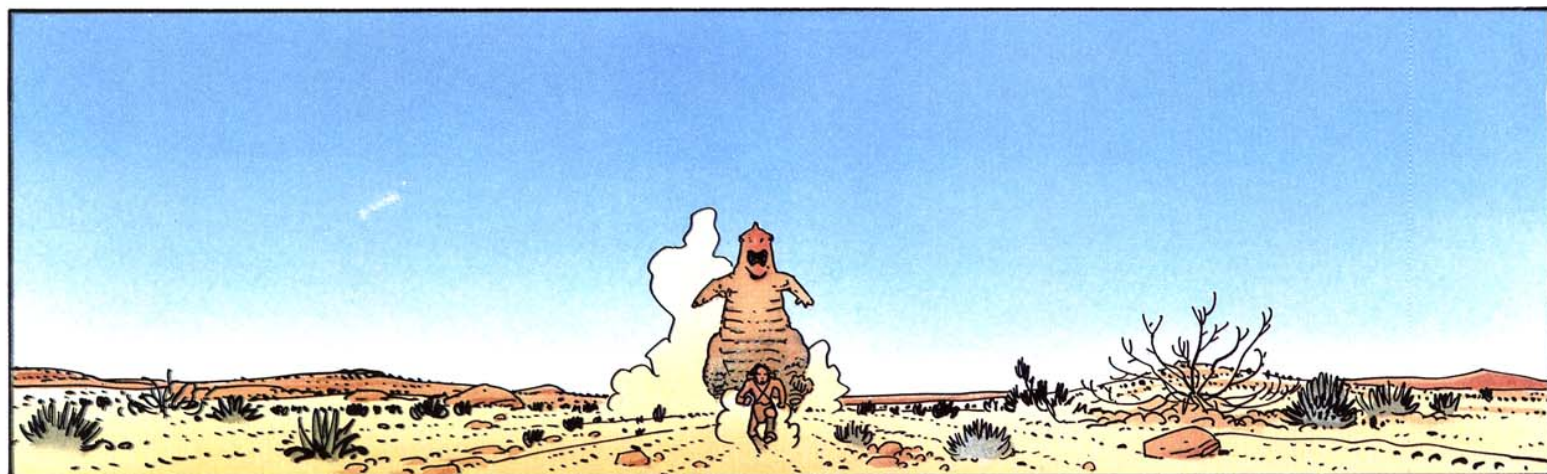
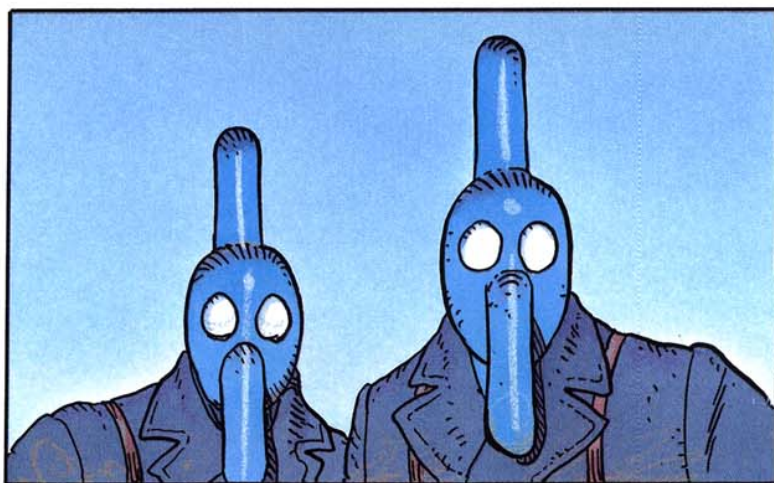
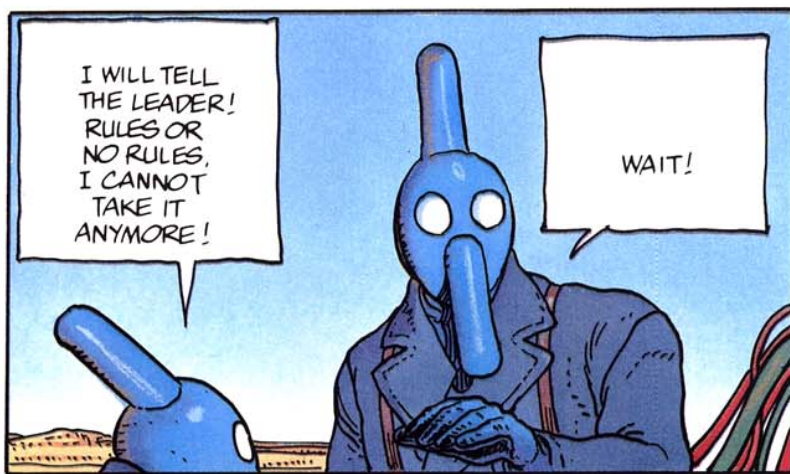
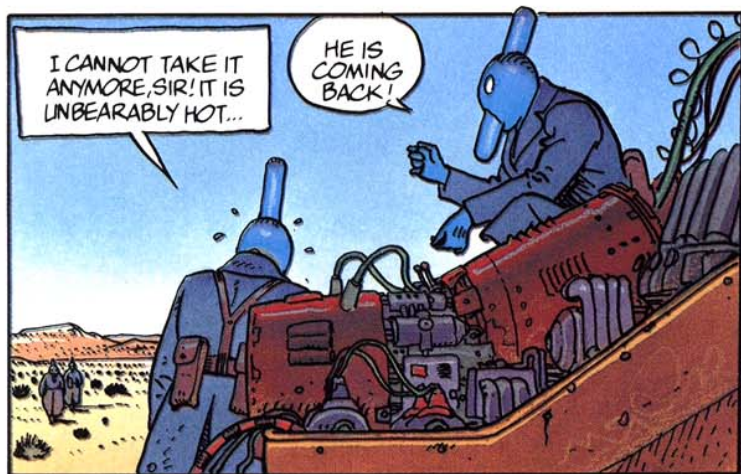
ER, YES SIR!
THE RULES
ARE, ER,
THE RULES!



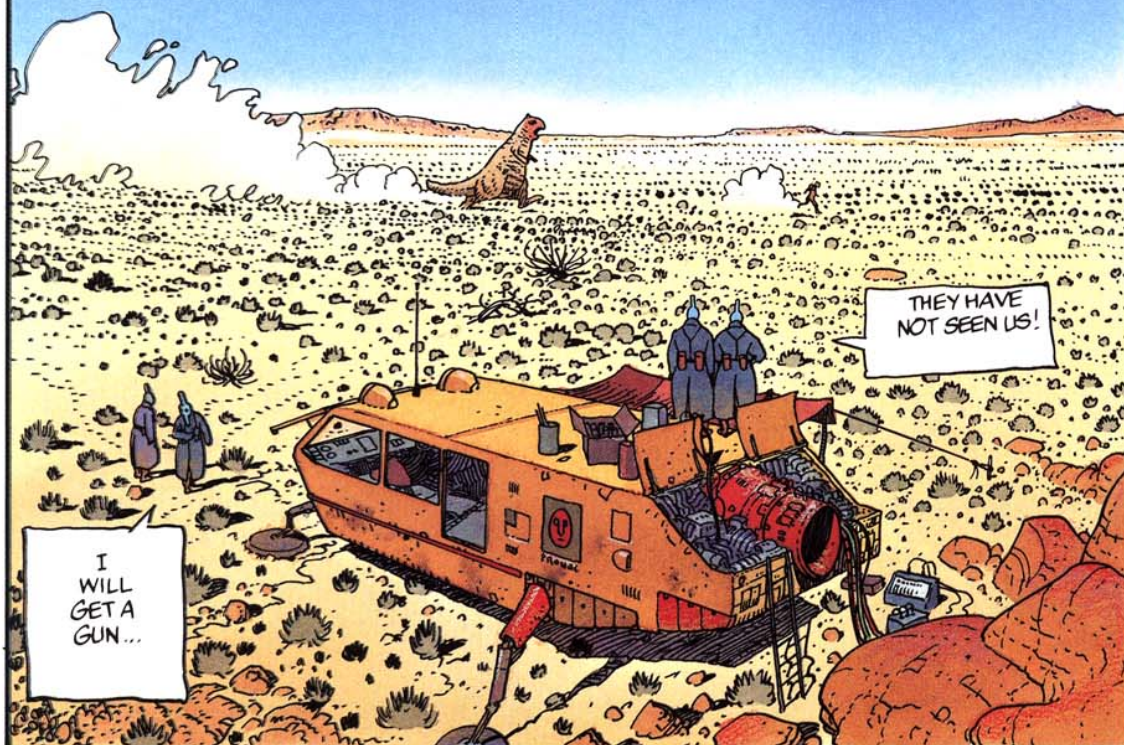








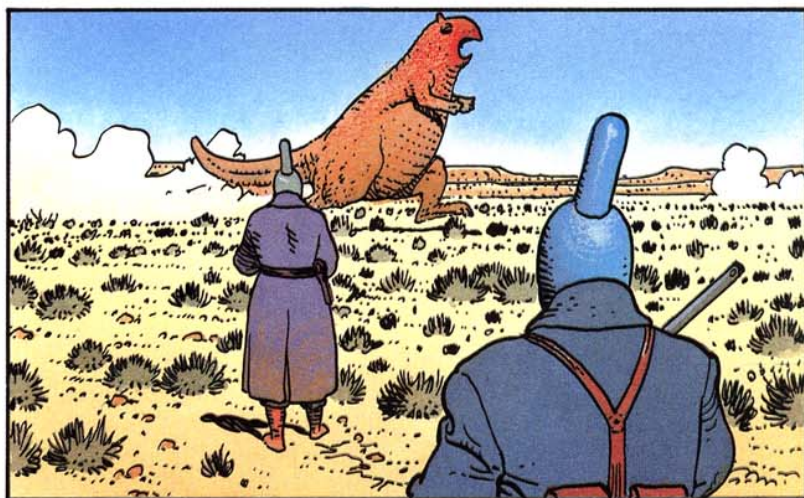
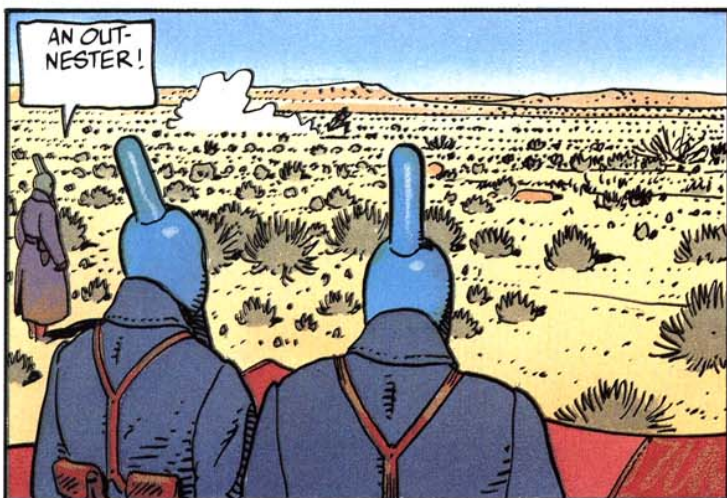
THE SEARING, MID-AFTERNOON HEAT
LIES HEAVILY UPON THE PLAIN,
DISTURBED ONLY BY THE CREATURE'S
FIERCE THUNDERING...



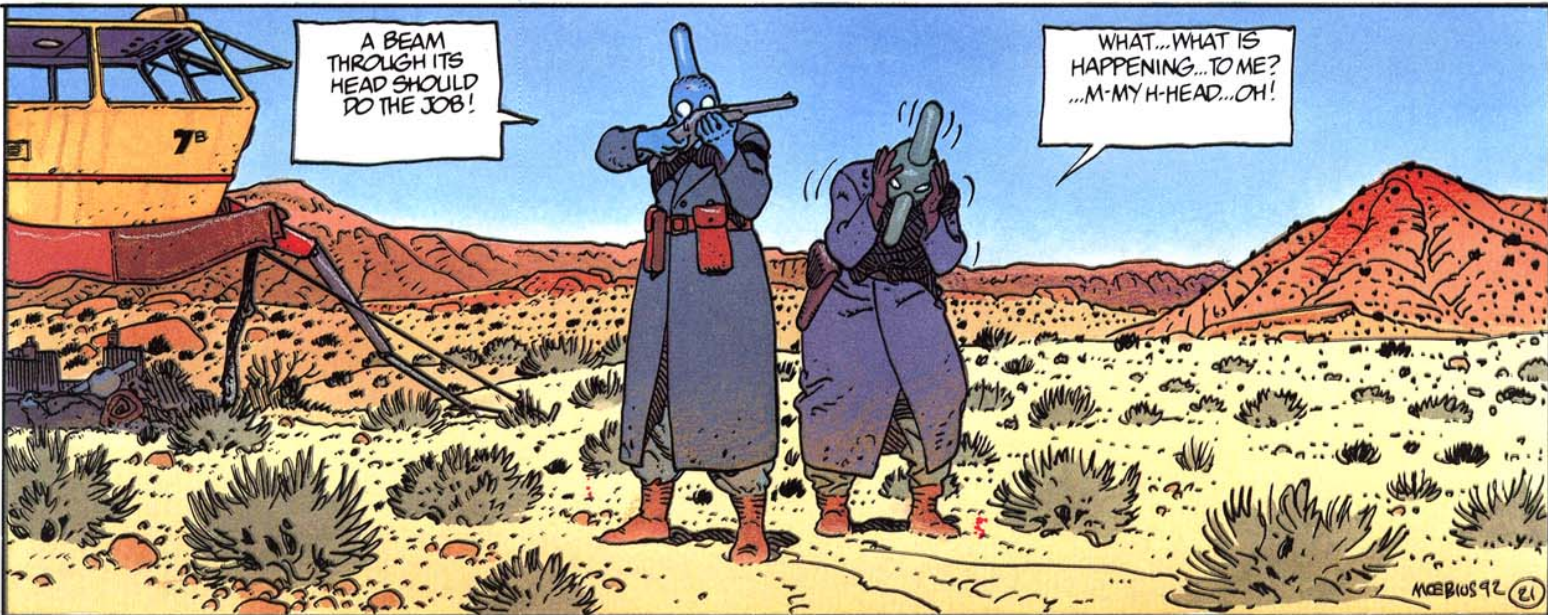
THEY HAVE
NOT SEEN US!



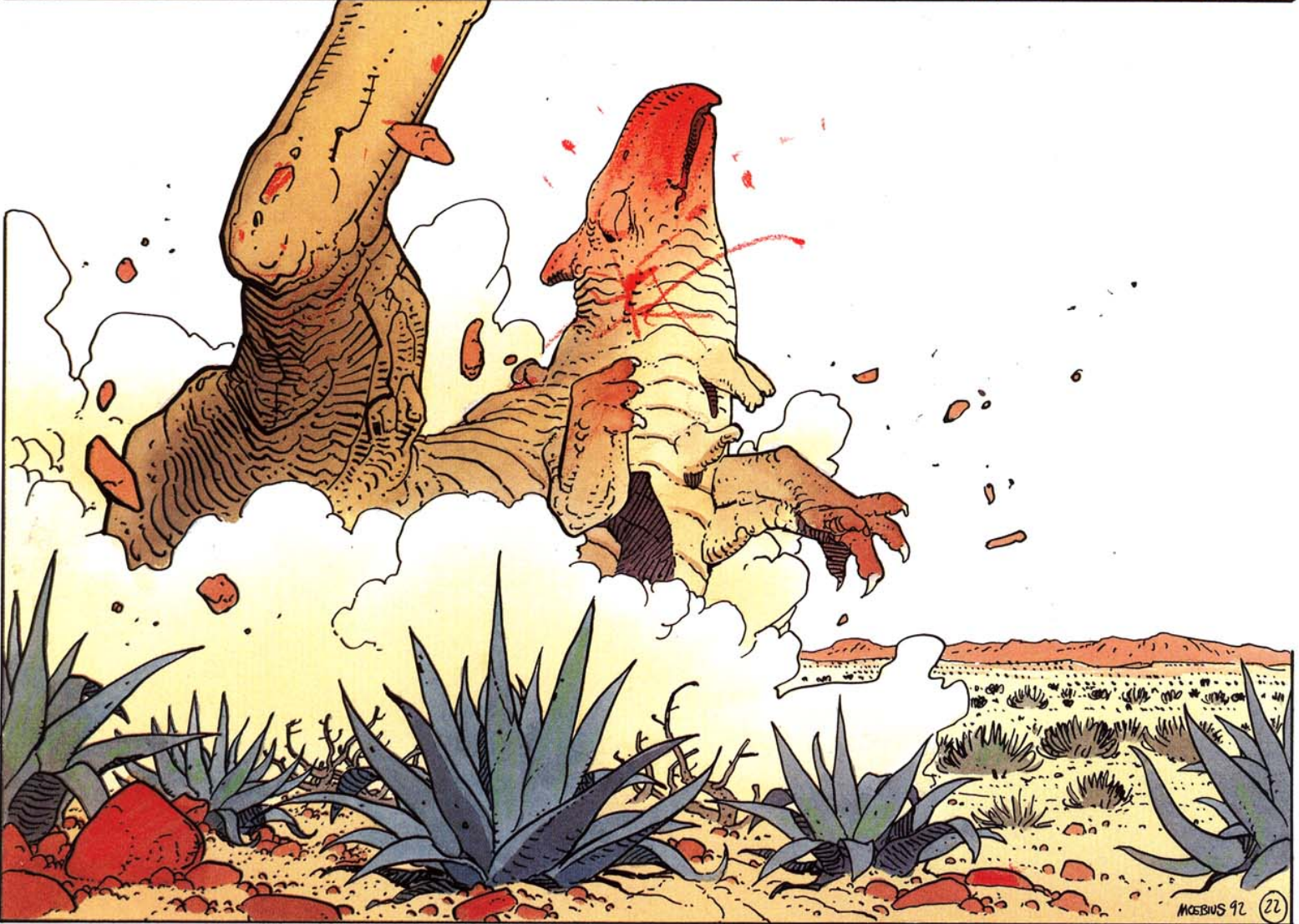
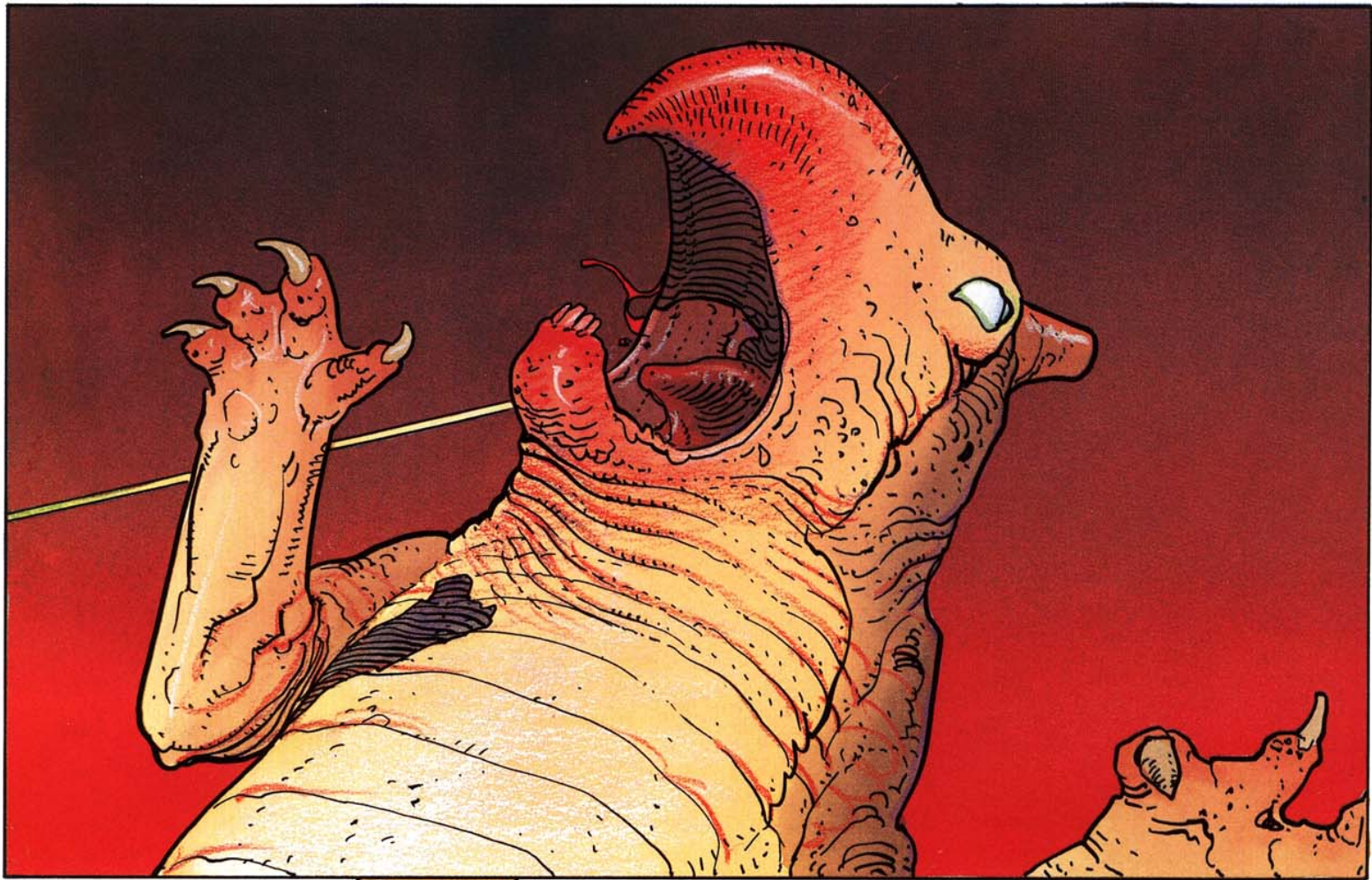
AN OUT-
NESTER!

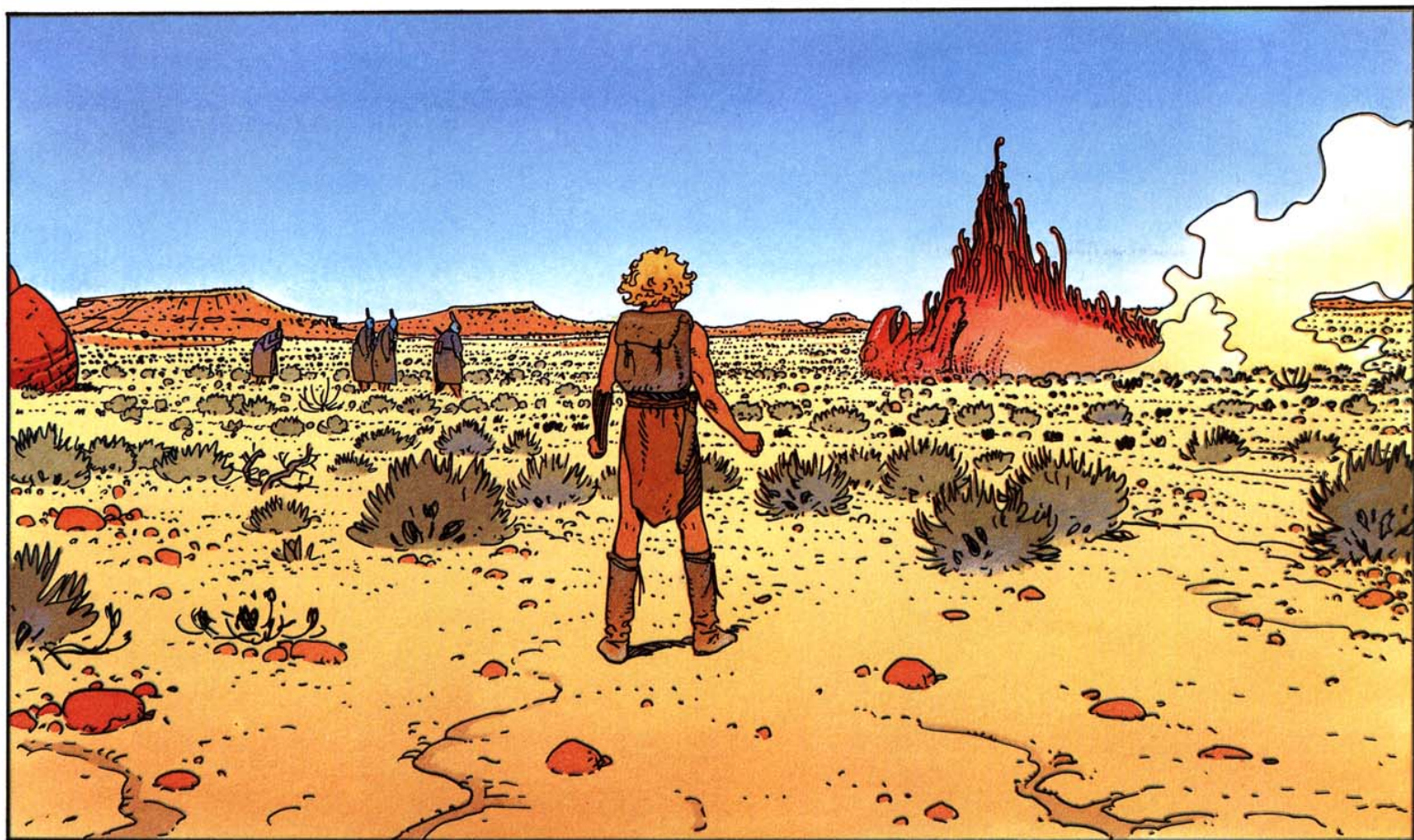
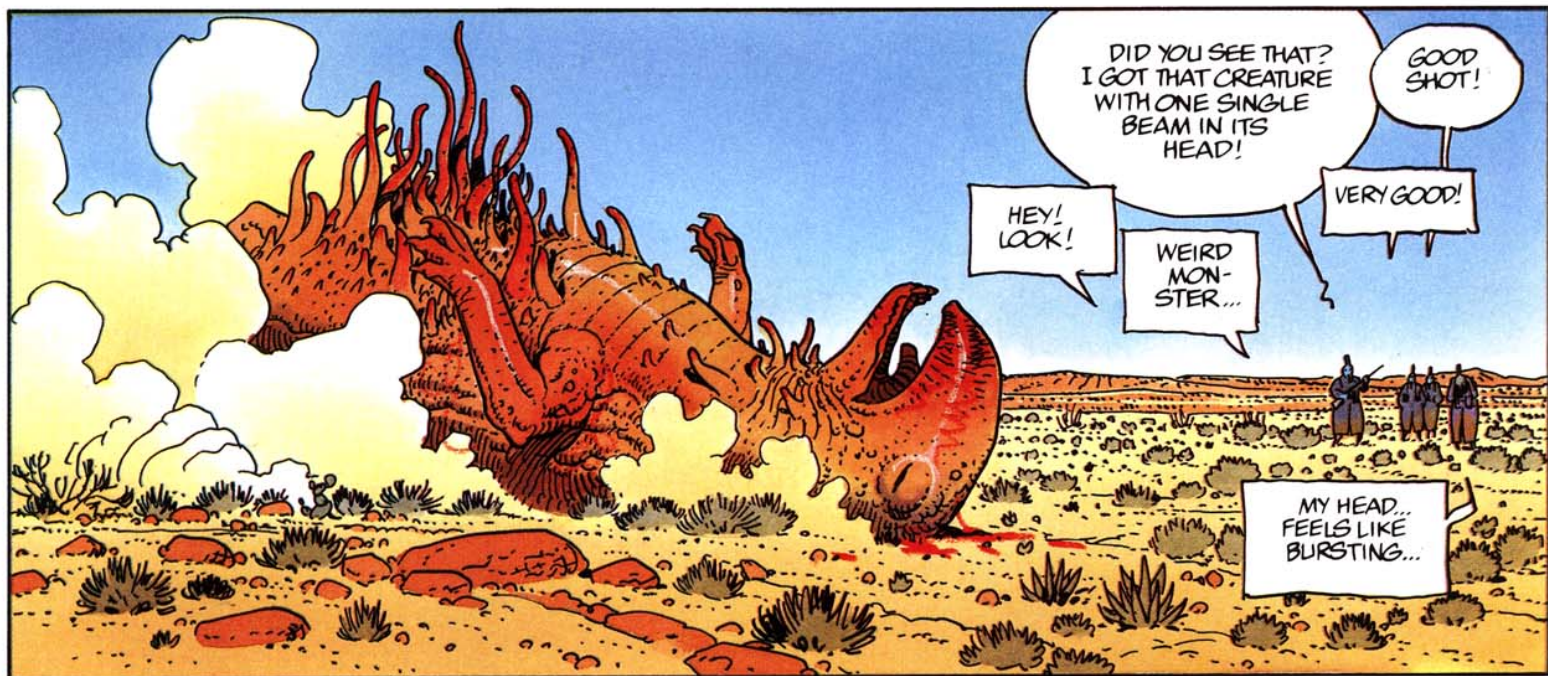


A BEAM
THROUGH ITS
HEAD SHOULD
DO THE JOB!

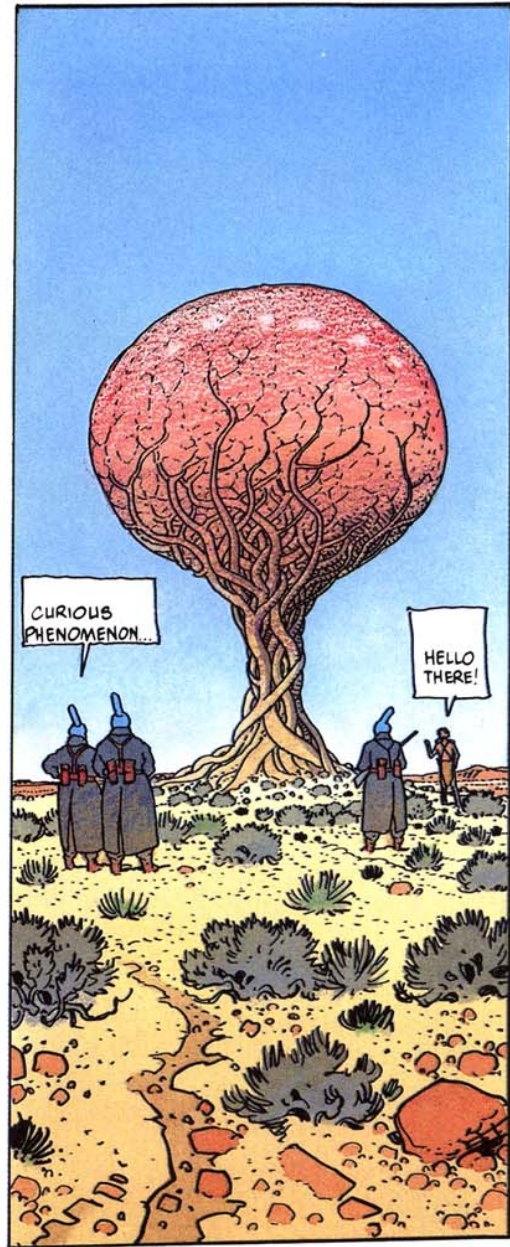
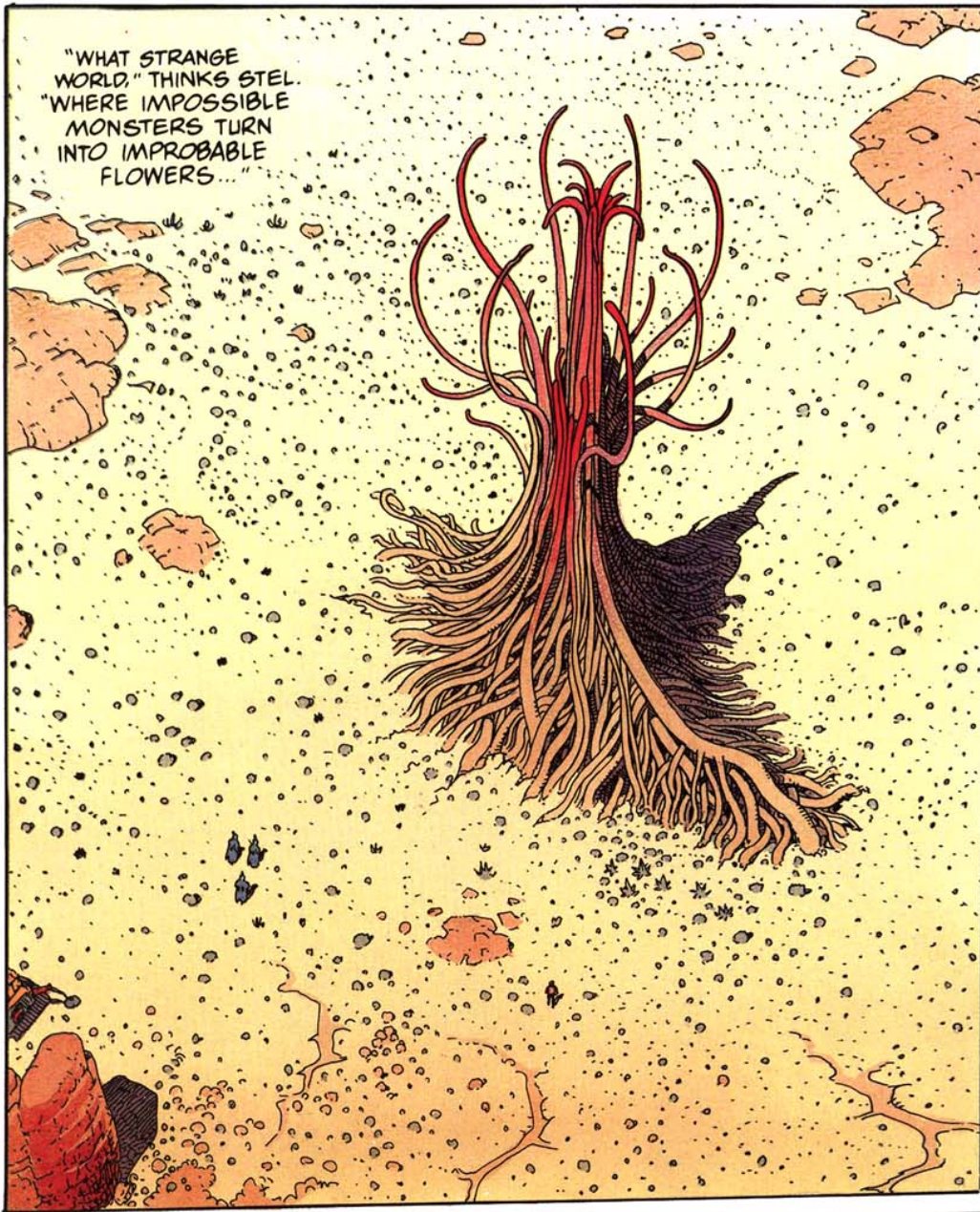


WHAT...WHAT IS
HAPPENING...TO ME?
...M-MY H-HEAD...OH!



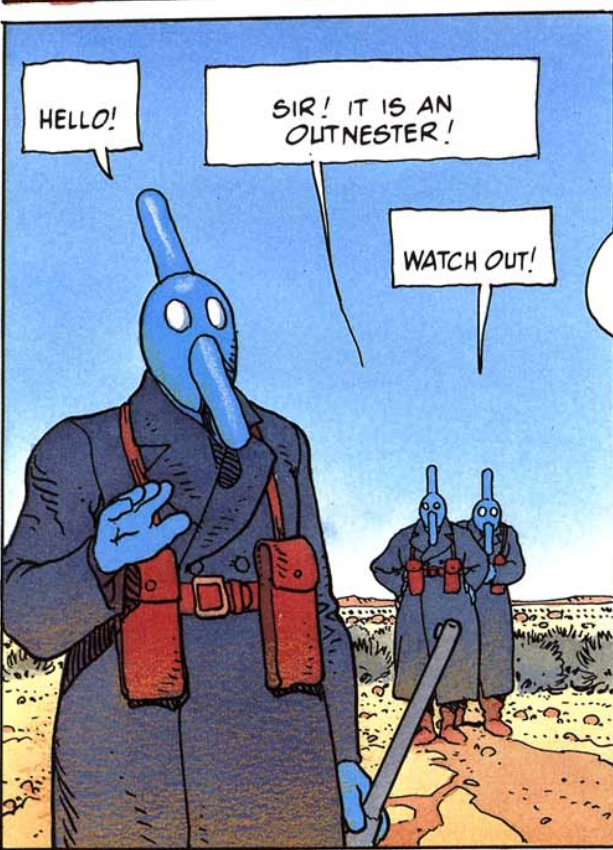


"WHAT STRANGE
WORLD," THINKS STEL.
"WHERE IMPOSSIBLE
MONSTERS TURN
INTO IMPROBABLE
FLOWERS..."



CURIOUS
PHENOMENON...

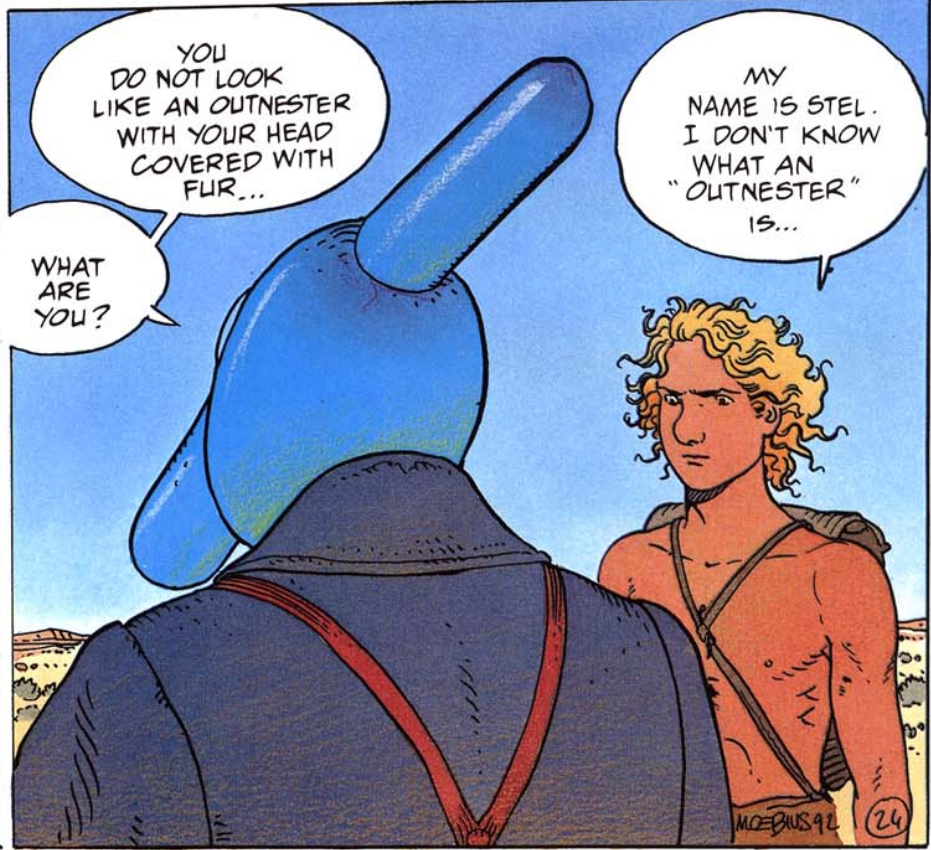
HELLO
THERE!



HELLO!

SIR! IT IS AN
OUTNESTER!

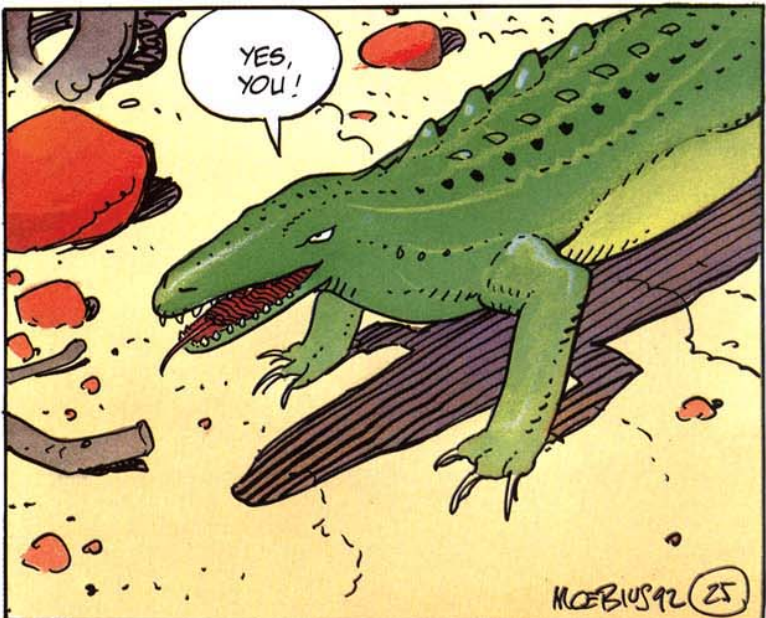
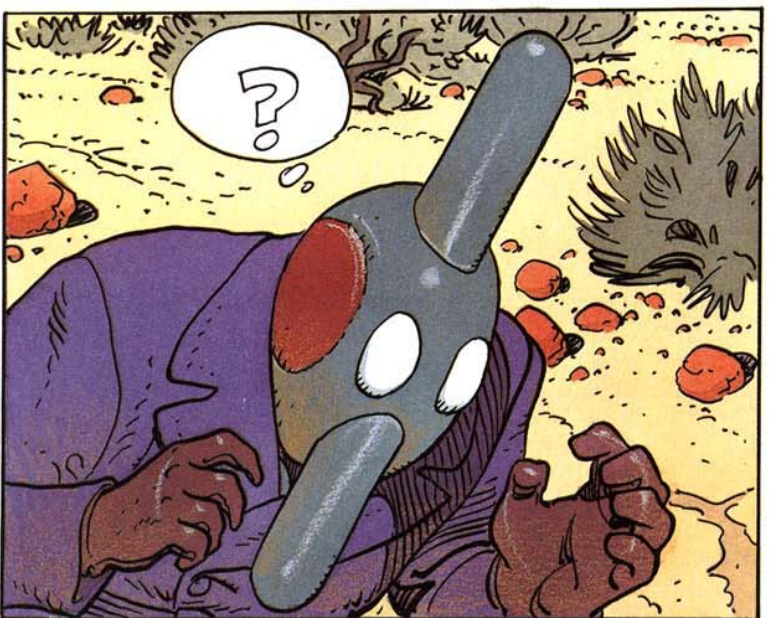
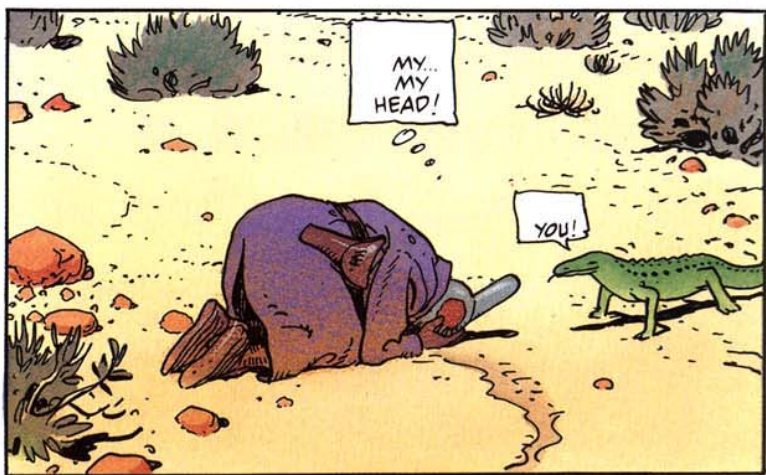
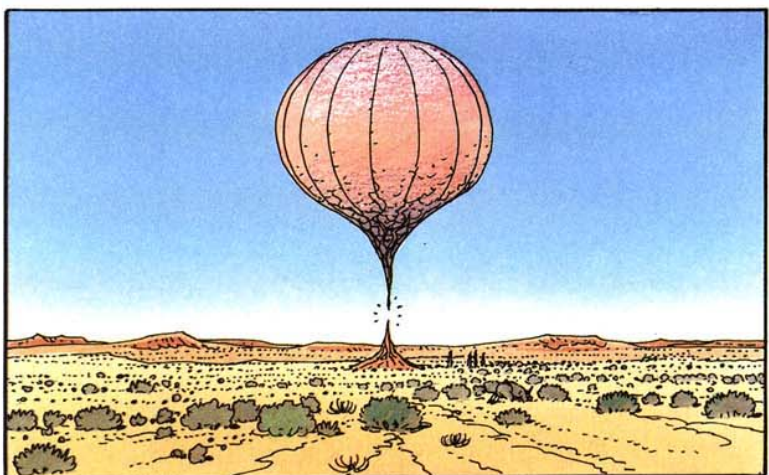
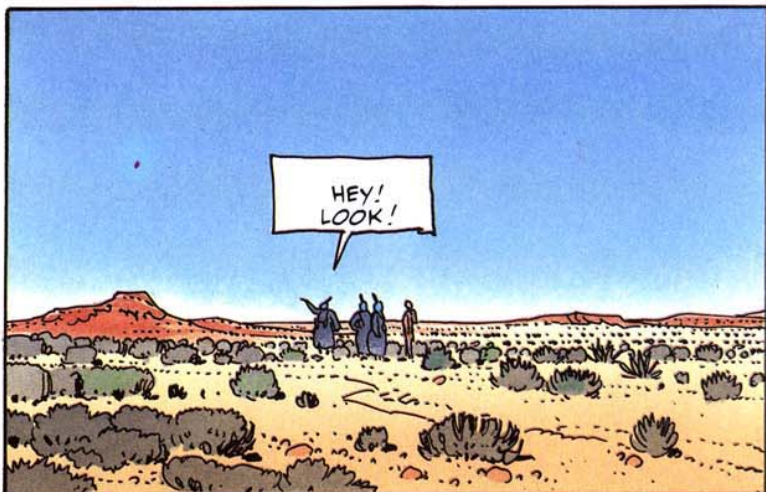
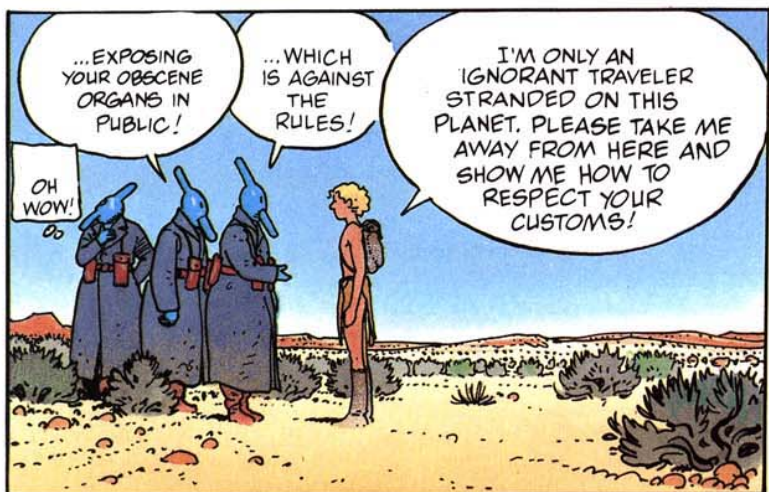
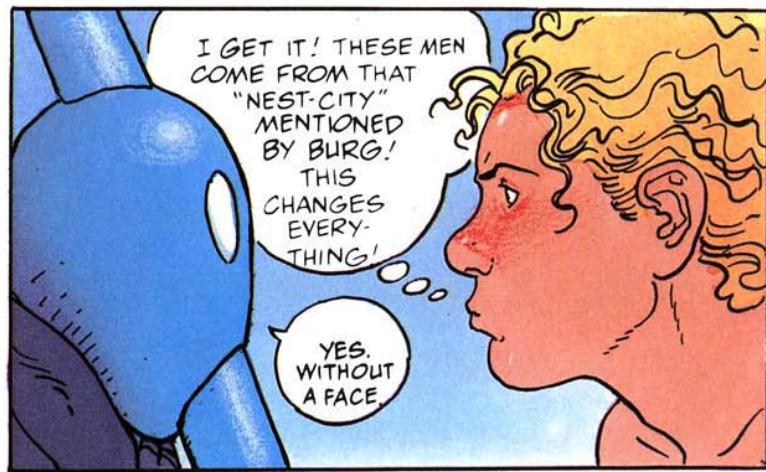
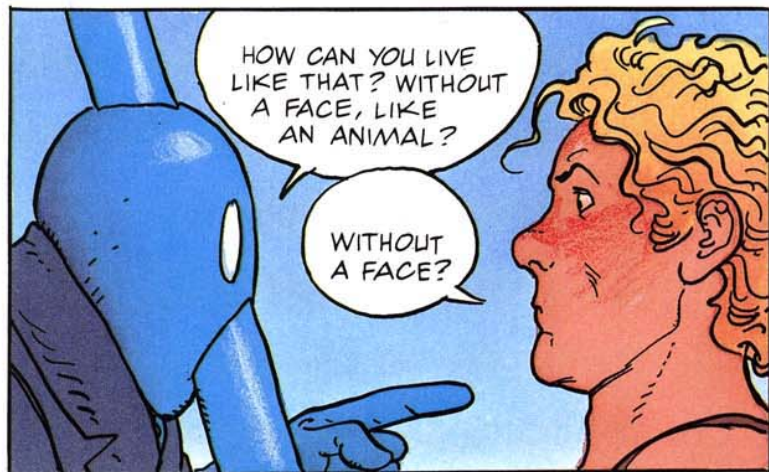
WATCH OUT!



YOU
DO NOT LOOK
LIKE AN OUTNESTER
WITH YOUR HEAD
COVERED WITH
FLUR...

WHAT
ARE
YOU?

MY
NAME IS STEL.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT AN
"OUTNESTER"
IS...



"GREAT UNIVERSE," THINKS
STEL, "THESE MASKED MEN ARE
SOLDIERS OF THE PATERNUM...
BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO KNOW
THAT THE NEST OVERTHREW
ITS FORMER GOD..."

HOLY
ONE!

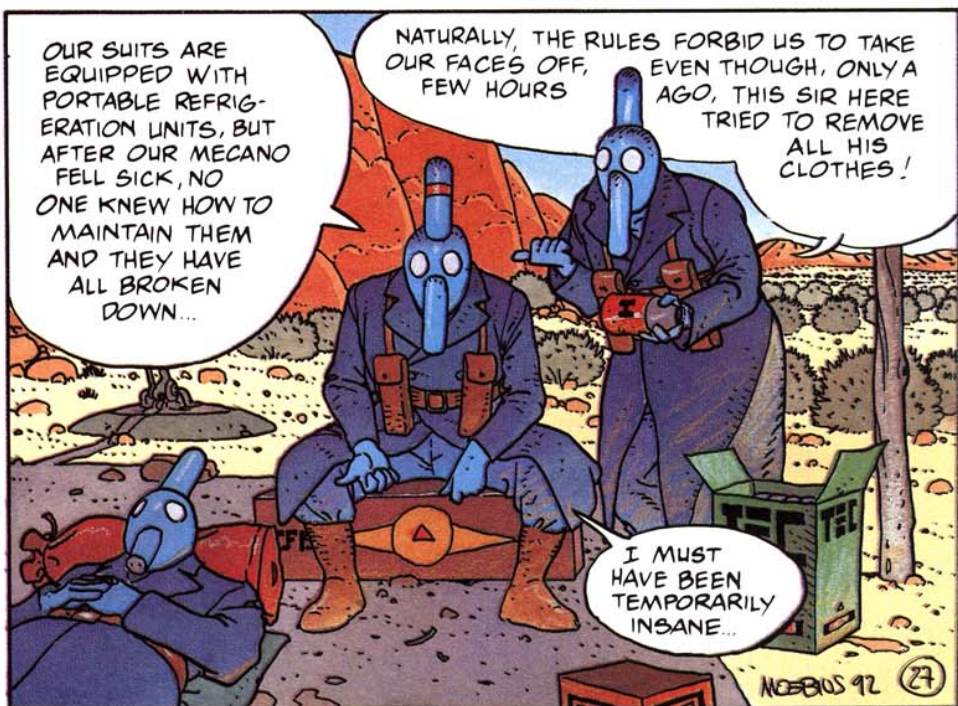
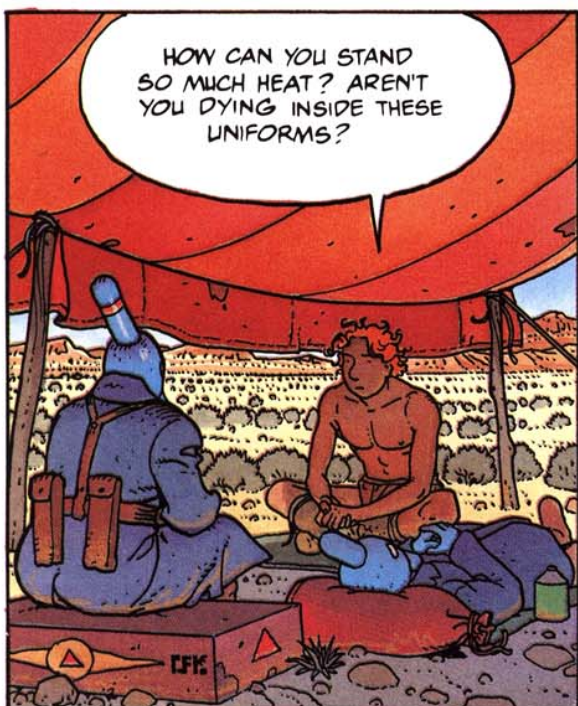
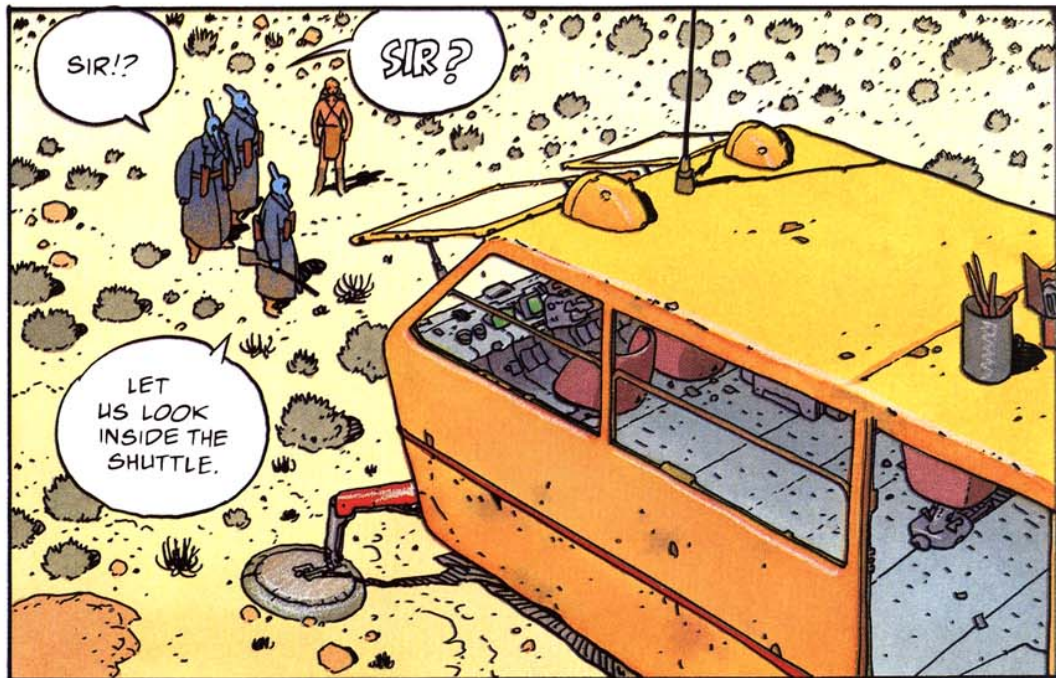
THE SILENCE
OF THE DESERT
GROWS
OPPRESSIVE...

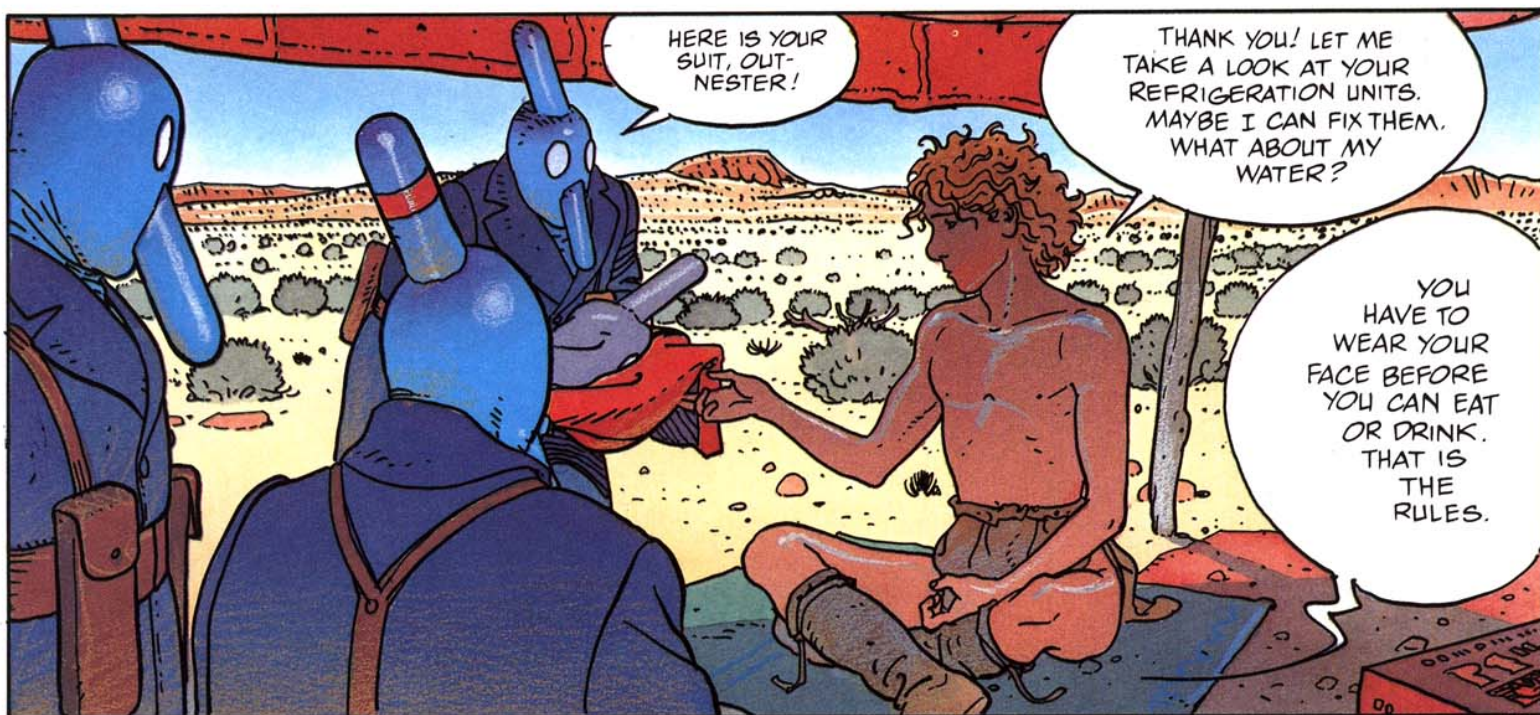
WE ALWAYS
CARRY TWO SPARE
BODYSUITS...

THANK YOU!
I'VE BEEN WANDERING
AROUND THIS DESERT LIKE
AN ANIMAL FOR TOO LONG.
WHAT PLEASURE TO FIND
CIVILIZATION
AGAIN!

I MAY BE
ABLE TO HELP. I USED
TO BE A REPAIRMAN. BUT
FIRST, I'D LOVE SOME
WATER, PLEASE.

YOU MAY
HAVE TO WAIT A
LITTLE LONGER. OUR
SHUTTLE HAS BROKEN
DOWN, AND OUR
MECANO IS
ILL.

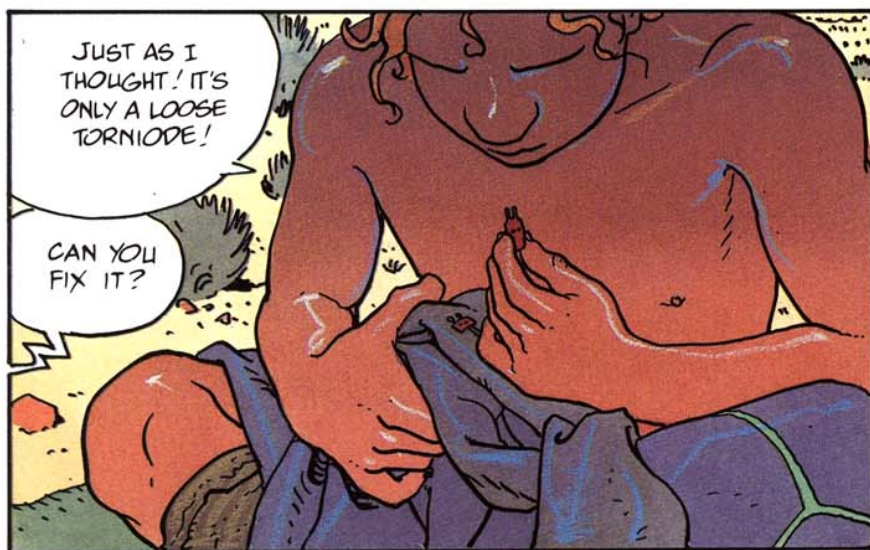




HERE IS YOUR
SUIT, OUT-
NESTER!

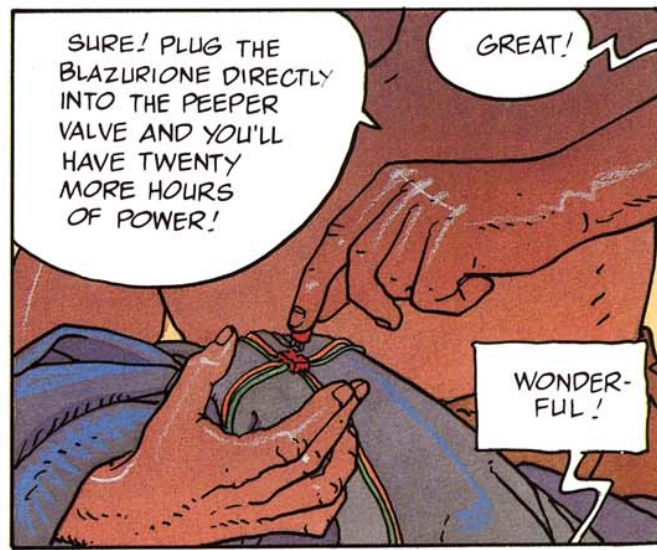
THANK YOU! LET ME
TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR
REFRIGERATION UNITS.
MAYBE I CAN FIX THEM.
WHAT ABOUT MY
WATER?

YOU
HAVE TO
WEAR YOUR
FACE BEFORE
YOU CAN EAT
OR DRINK.
THAT IS
THE
RULES.



JUST AS I
THOUGHT! IT'S
ONLY A LOOSE
TORNIODE!

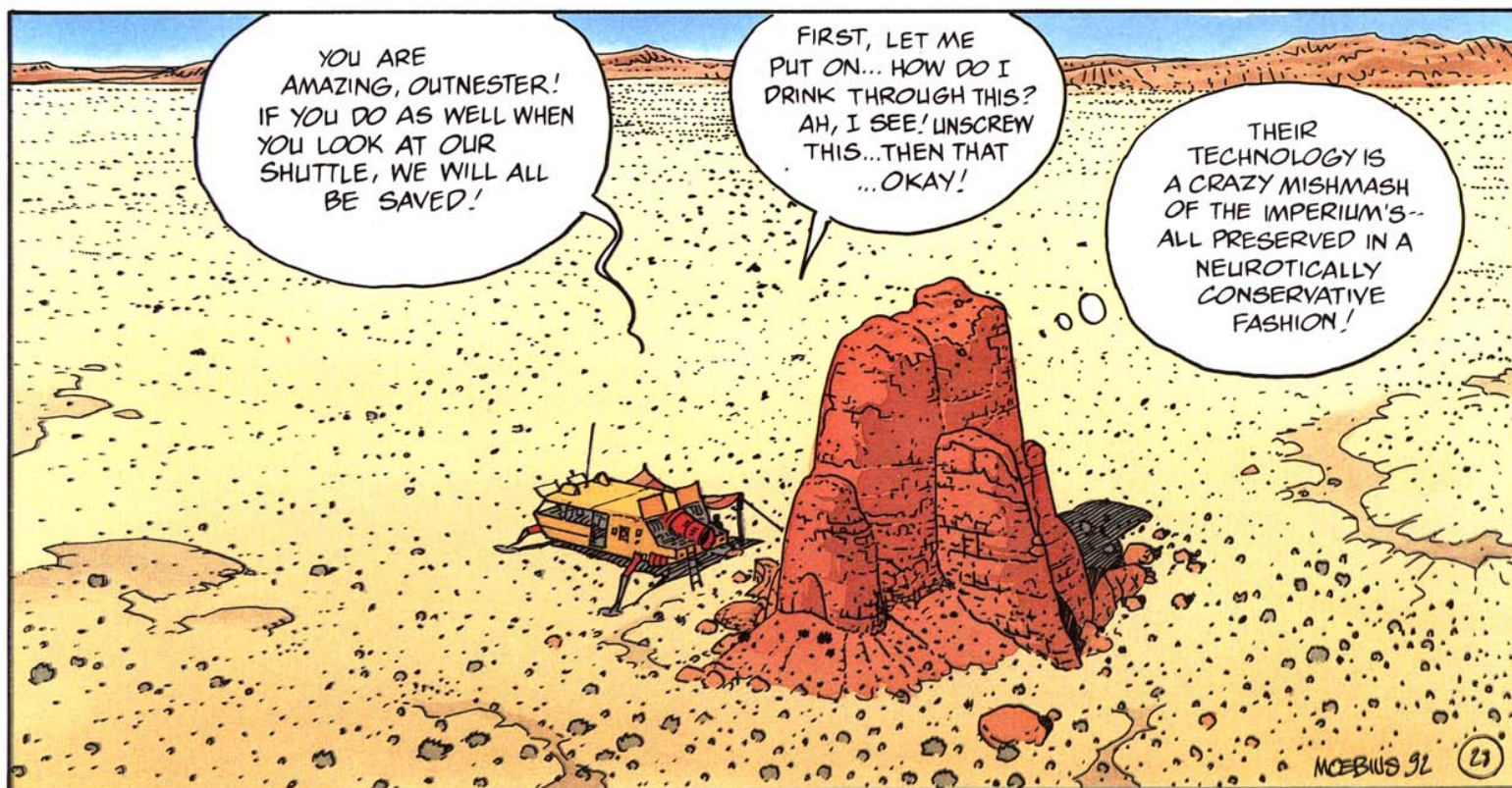
CAN YOU
FIX IT?



SURE! PLUG THE
BLAZURIONE DIRECTLY
INTO THE PEEPER
VALVE AND YOU'LL
HAVE TWENTY
MORE HOURS
OF POWER!

GREAT!

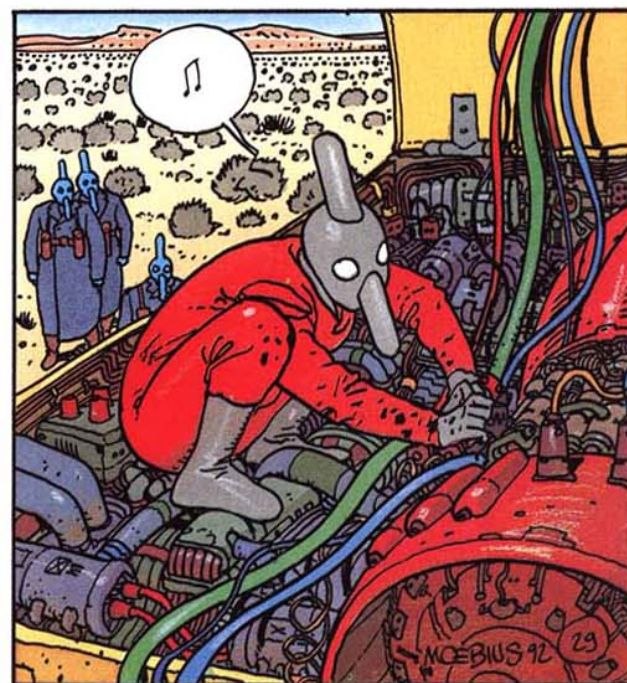
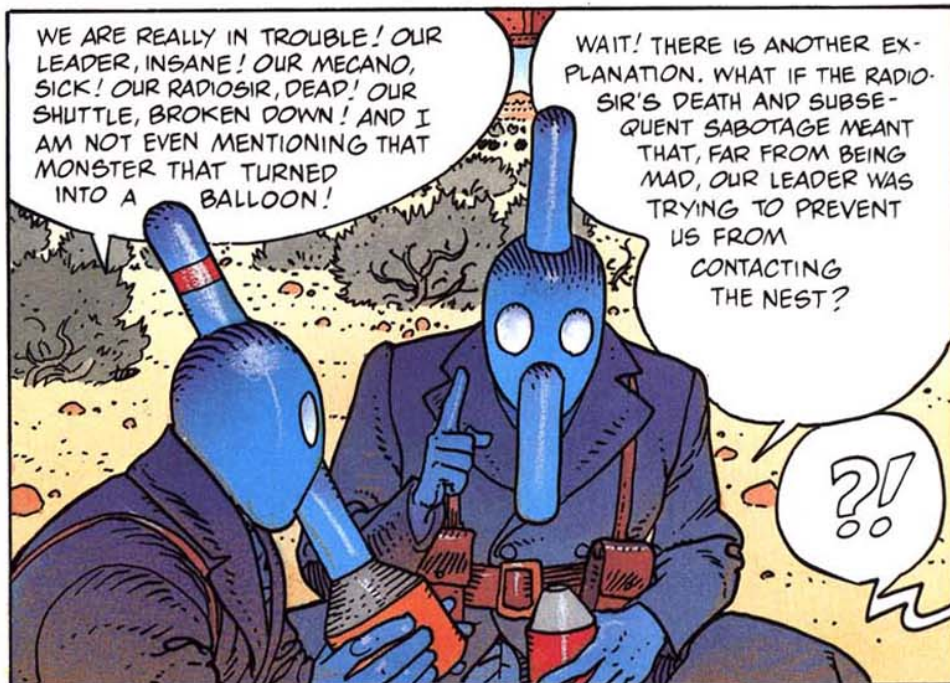
WONDER-
FUL!

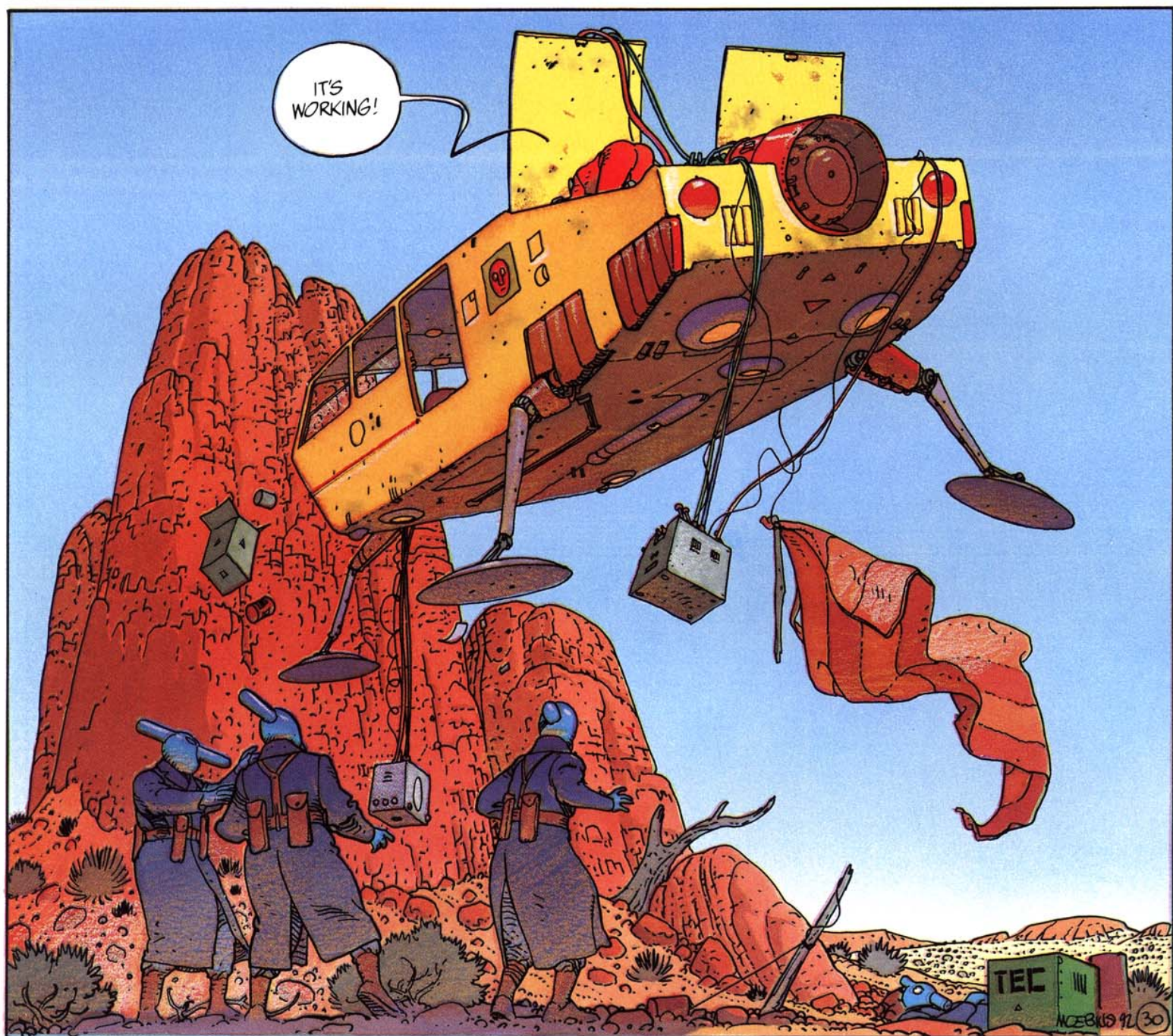


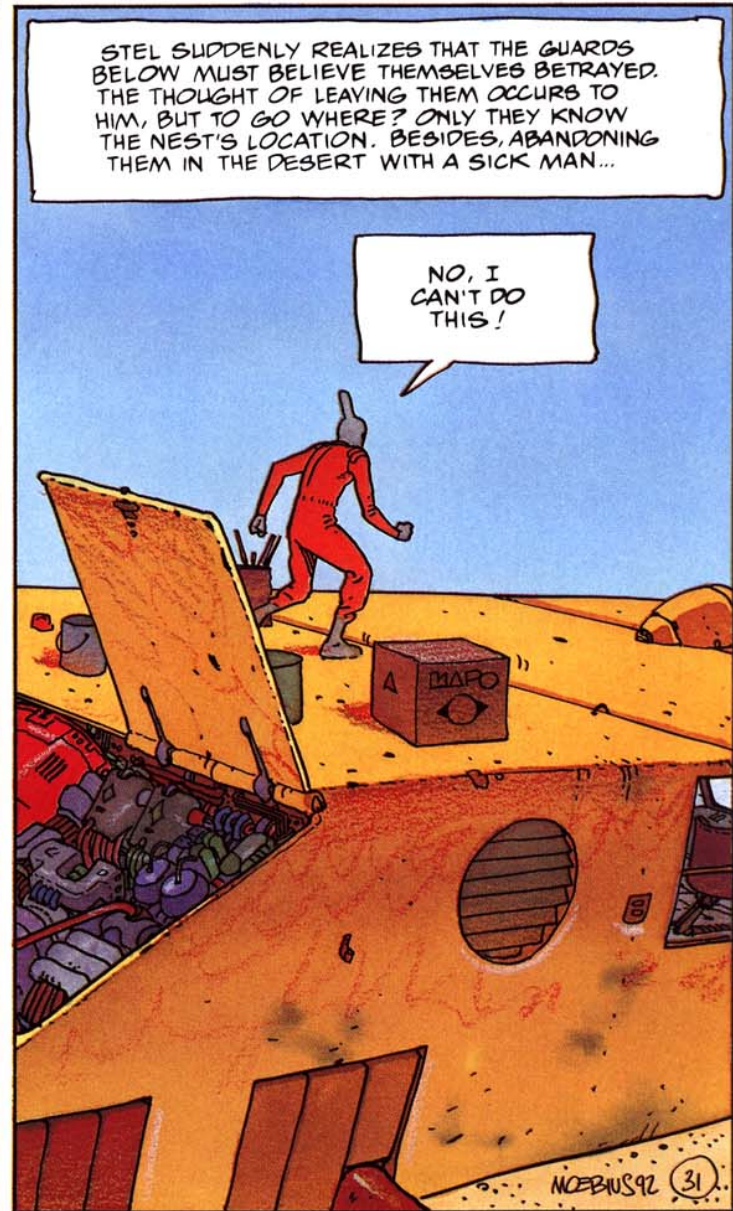
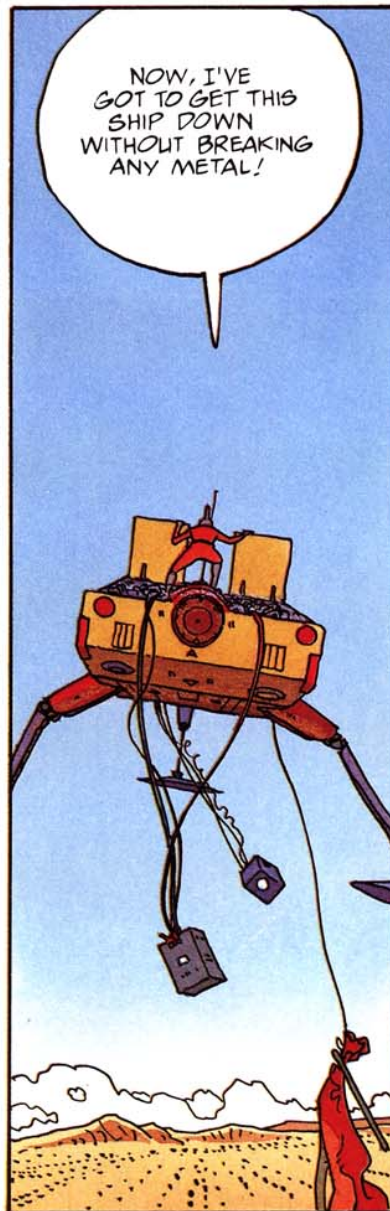
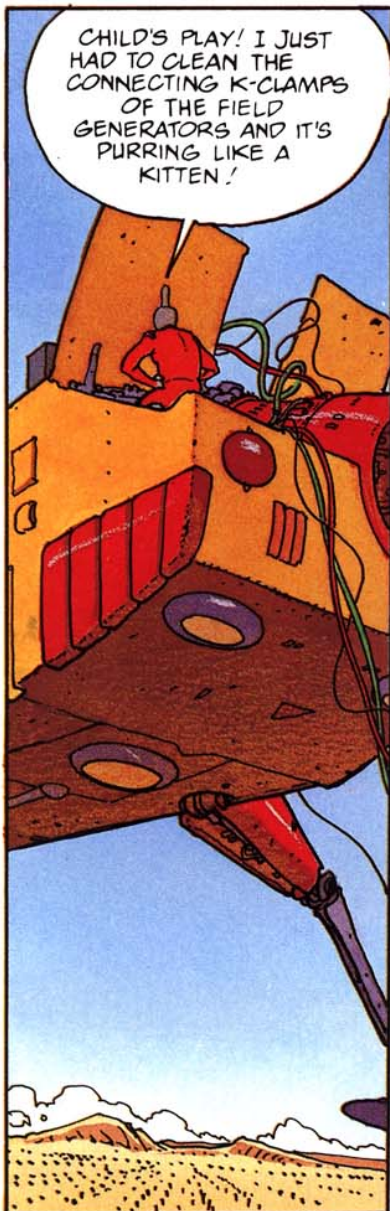
YOU ARE
AMAZING, OUTNESTER!
IF YOU DO AS WELL WHEN
YOU LOOK AT OUR
SHUTTLE, WE WILL ALL
BE SAVED!

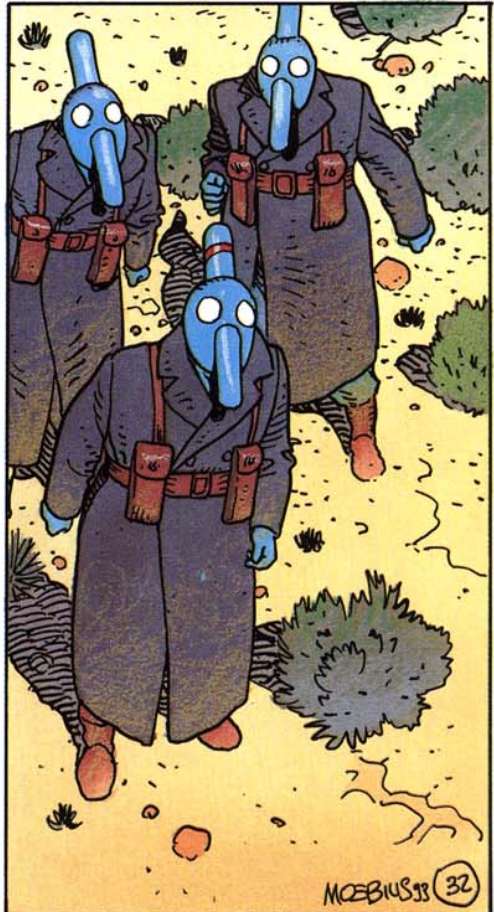
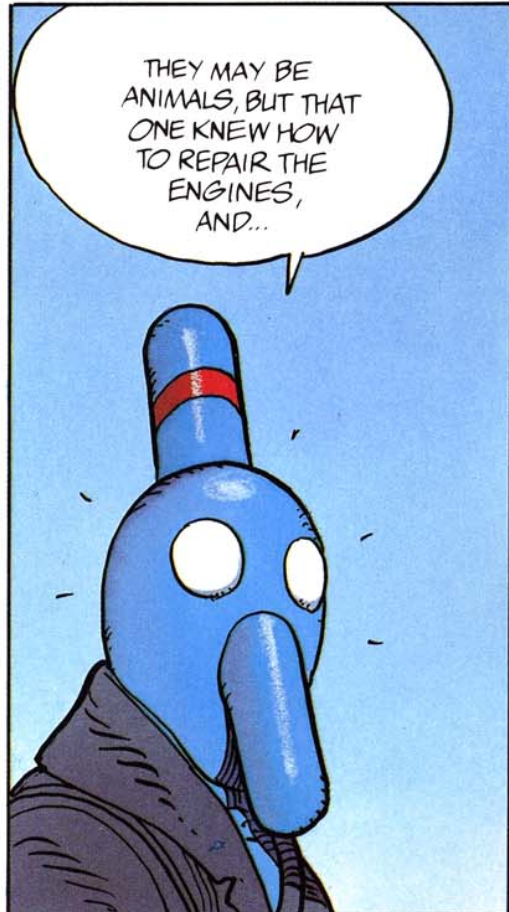
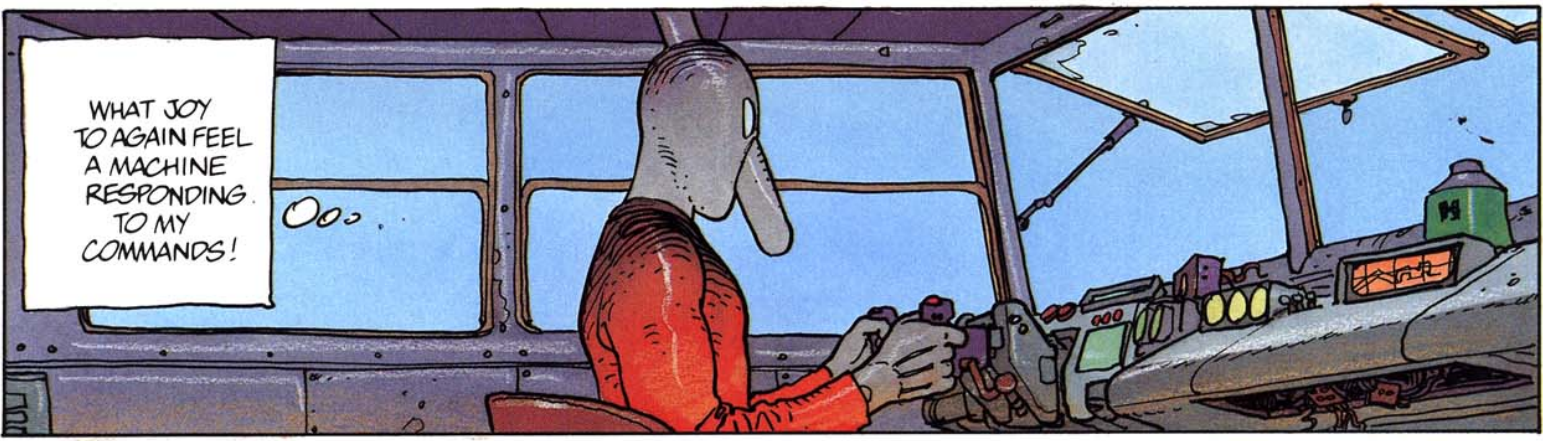
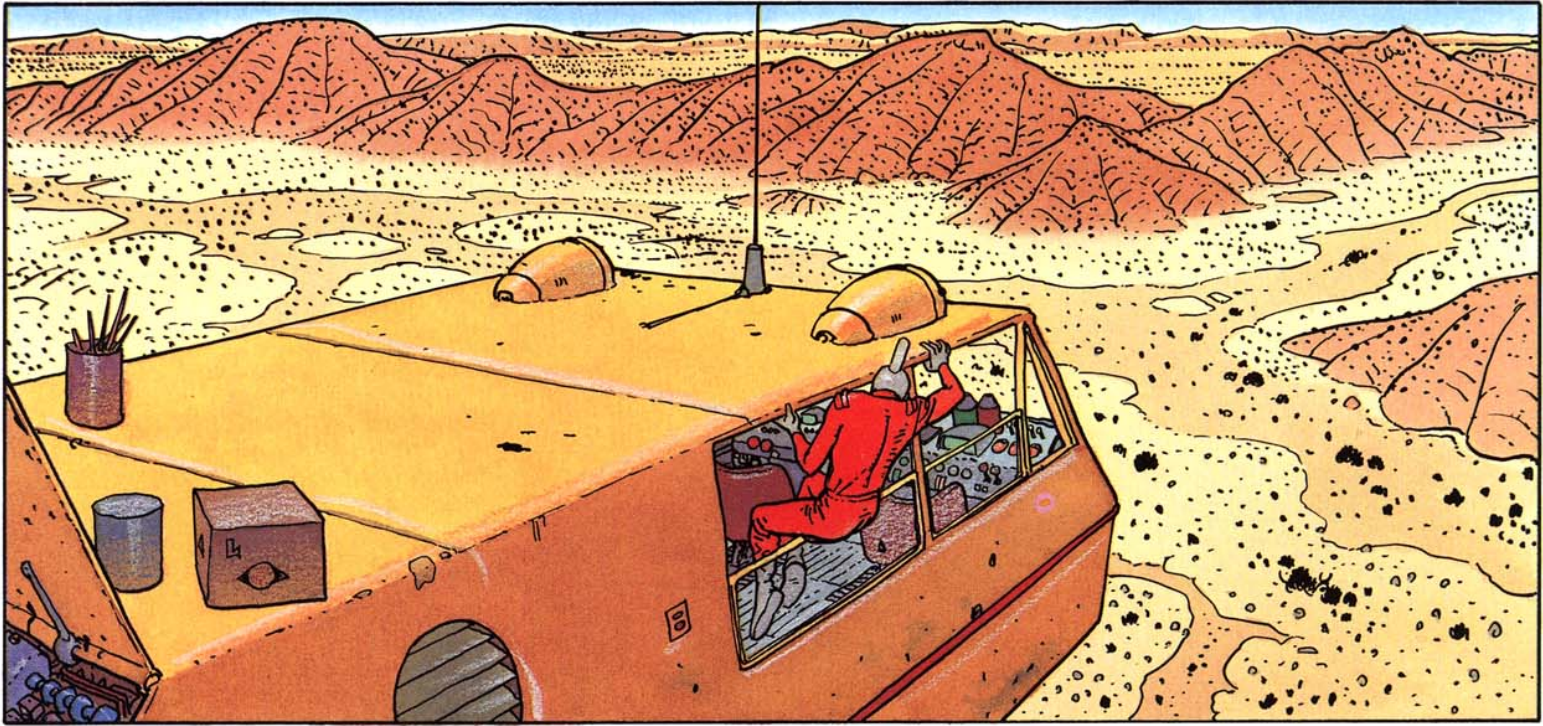
FIRST, LET ME
PUT ON... HOW DO I
DRINK THROUGH THIS?
AH, I SEE! UNSCREW
THIS... THEN THAT
...OKAY!

THEIR
TECHNOLOGY IS
A CRAZY MISHMASH
OF THE IMPERIUM'S--
ALL PRESERVED IN A
NEUROTICALLY
CONSERVATIVE
FASHION!

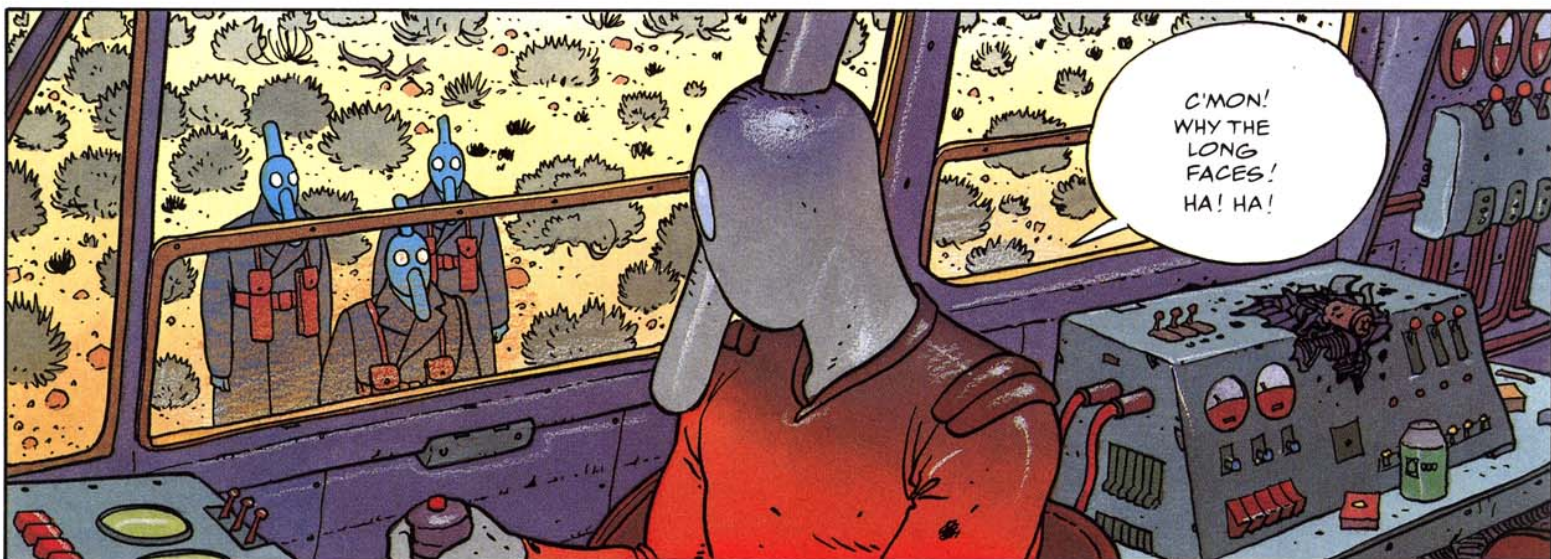
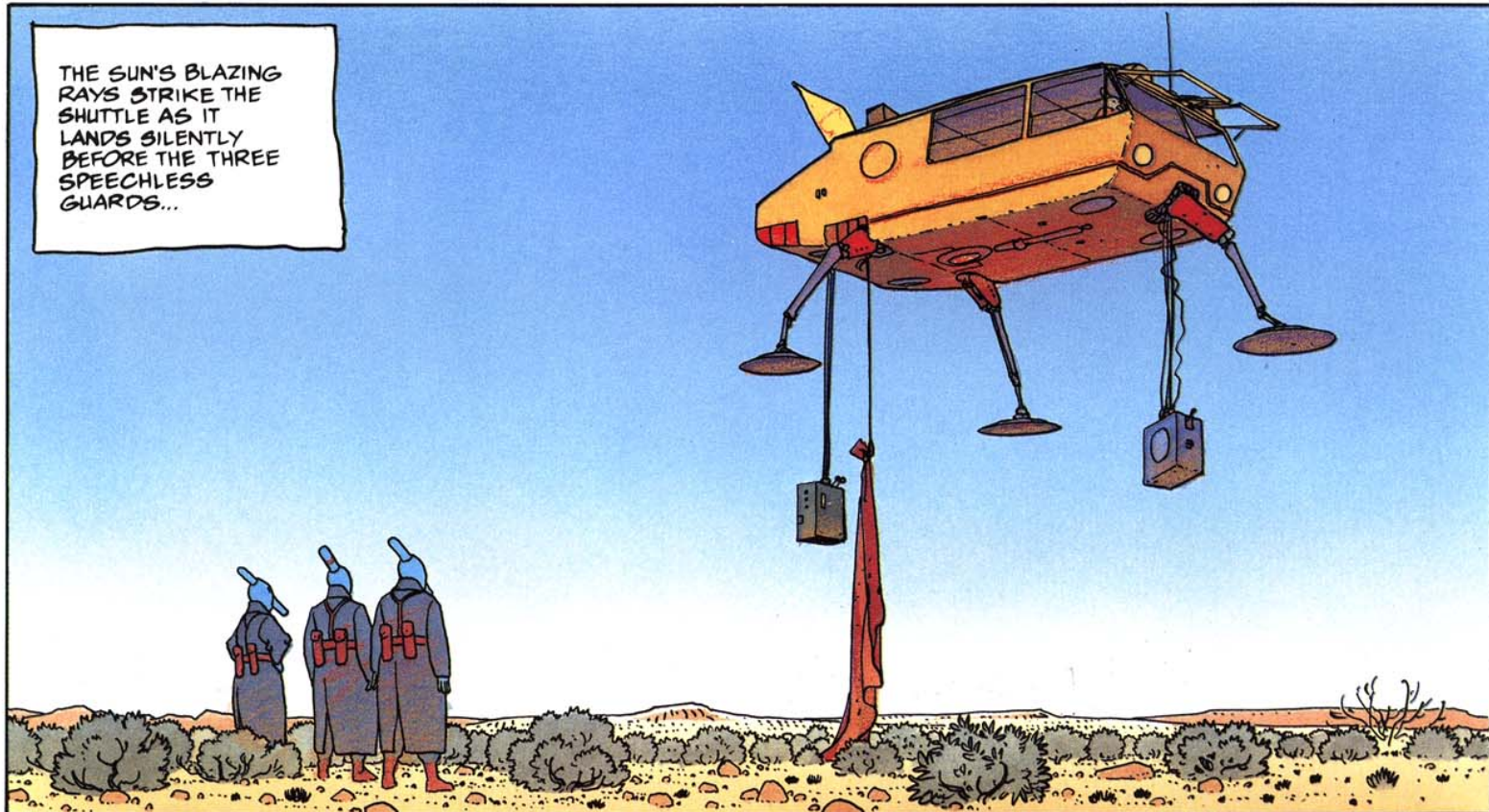








THE SUN'S BLAZING RAYS STRIKE THE SHUTTLE AS IT LANDS SILENTLY BEFORE THE THREE SPEECHLESS GUARDS...



C'MON!
WHY THE
LONG
FACES!
HA! HA!



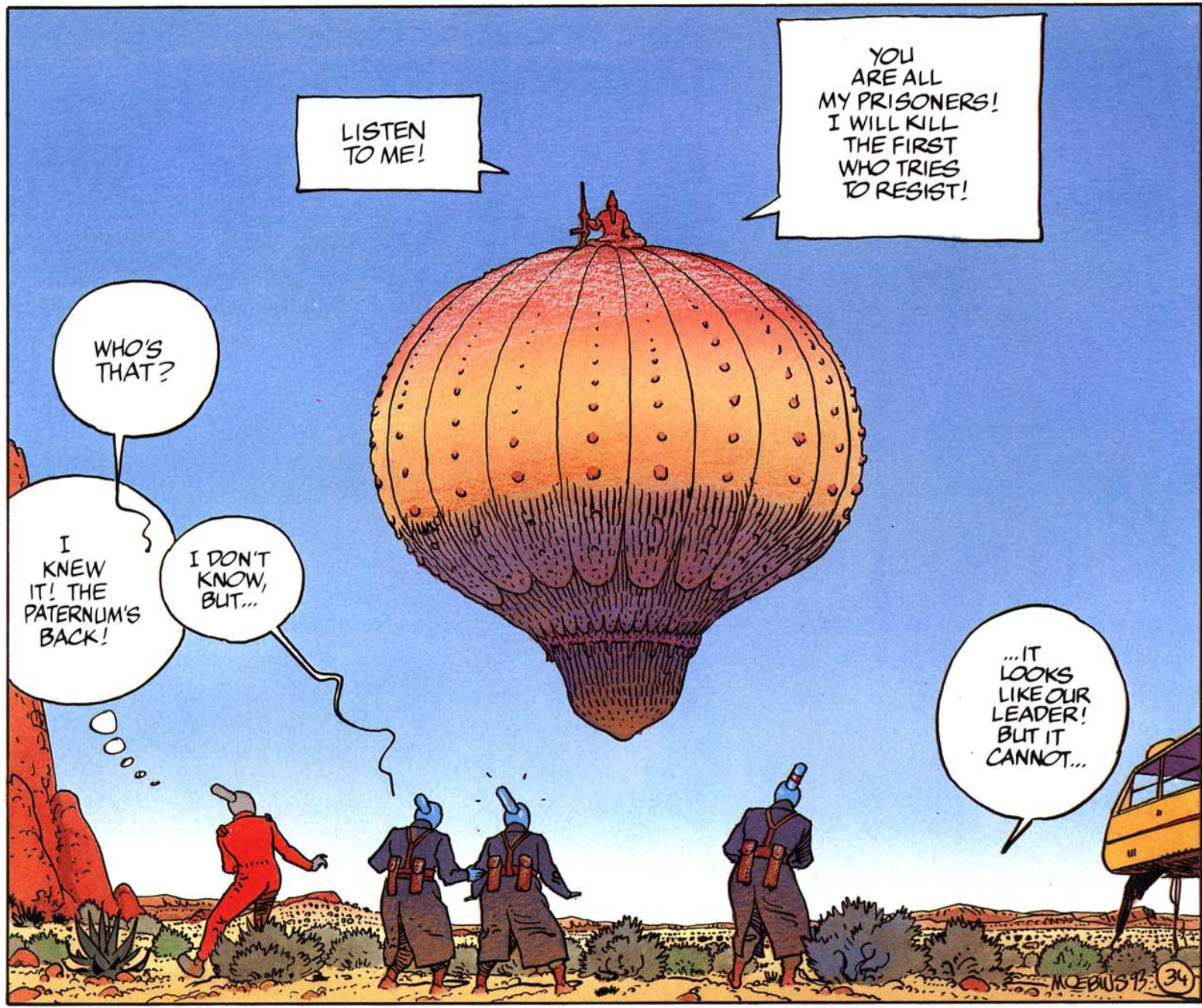
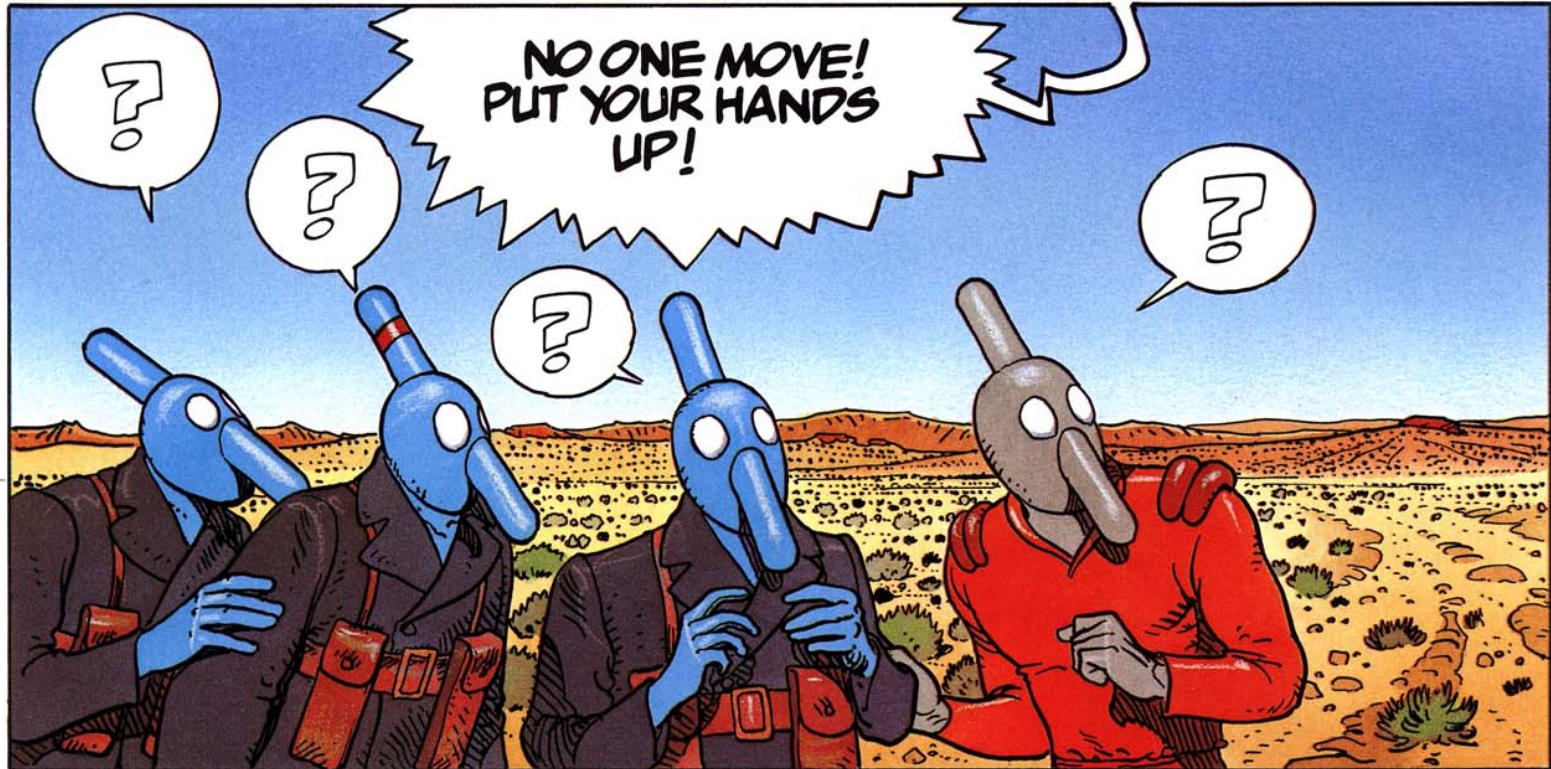
YOU SCARED US
HORRIBLY, SIR!

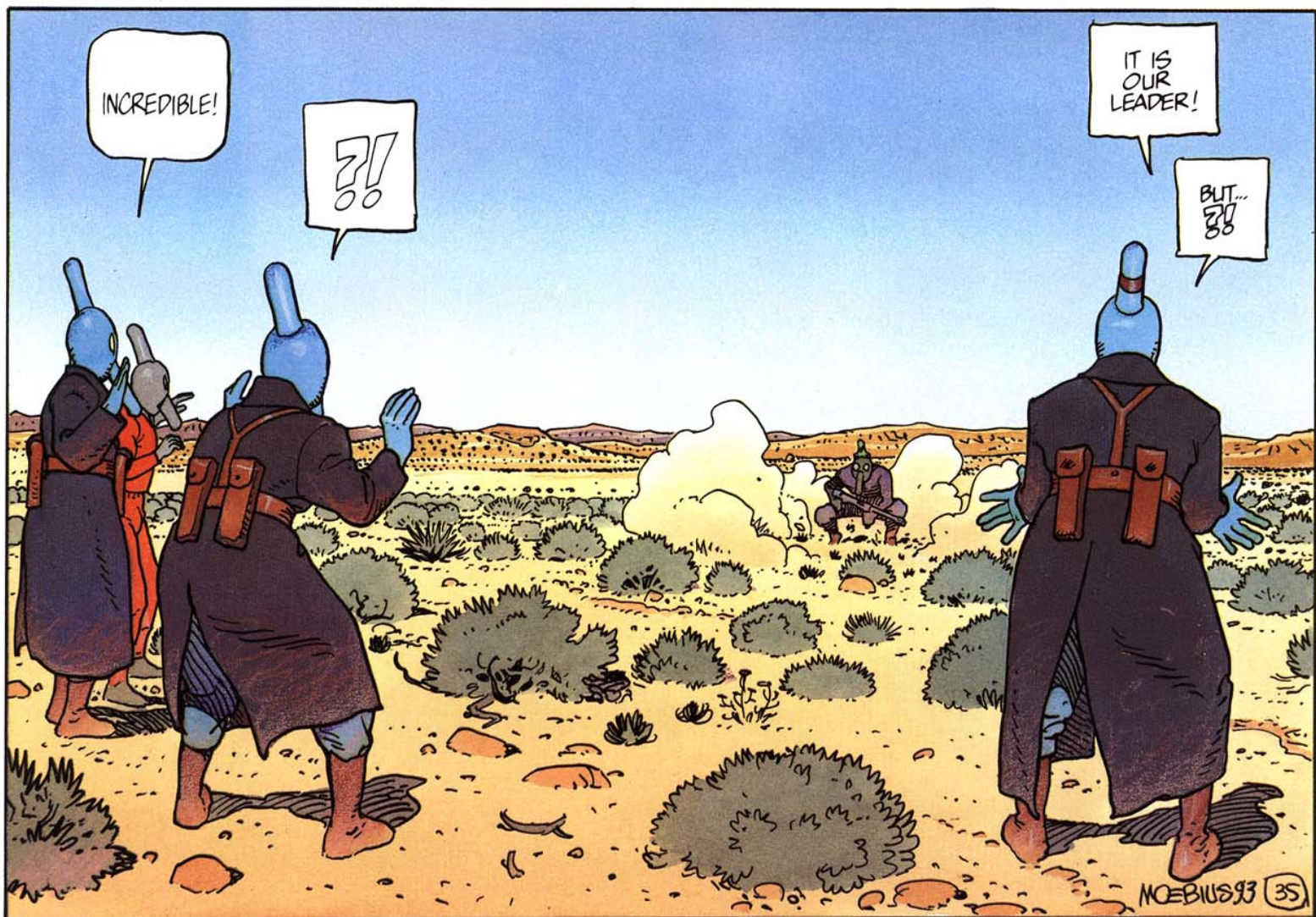
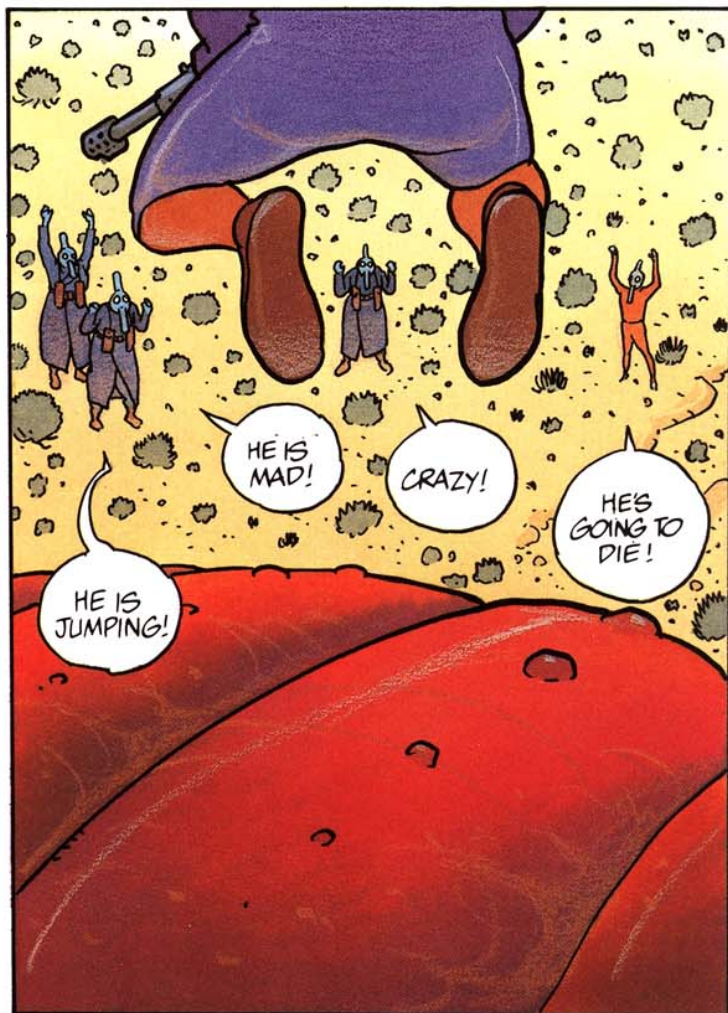
WE THOUGHT
YOU HAD
ABANDONED
US!

WE HAD LOST ALL
HOPE... THEN WE
SAW YOU COME
BACK!

I'M SORRY
TO HAVE GIVEN
YOU SUCH A FRIGHT,
BUT AS SOON AS I'D
FINISHED CLEANING
THE K-CLAMPS, THE
FIELD GENERATORS
KICKED IN AND THE
SHIP ROSE UP LIKE
A SOAP BUBBLE!

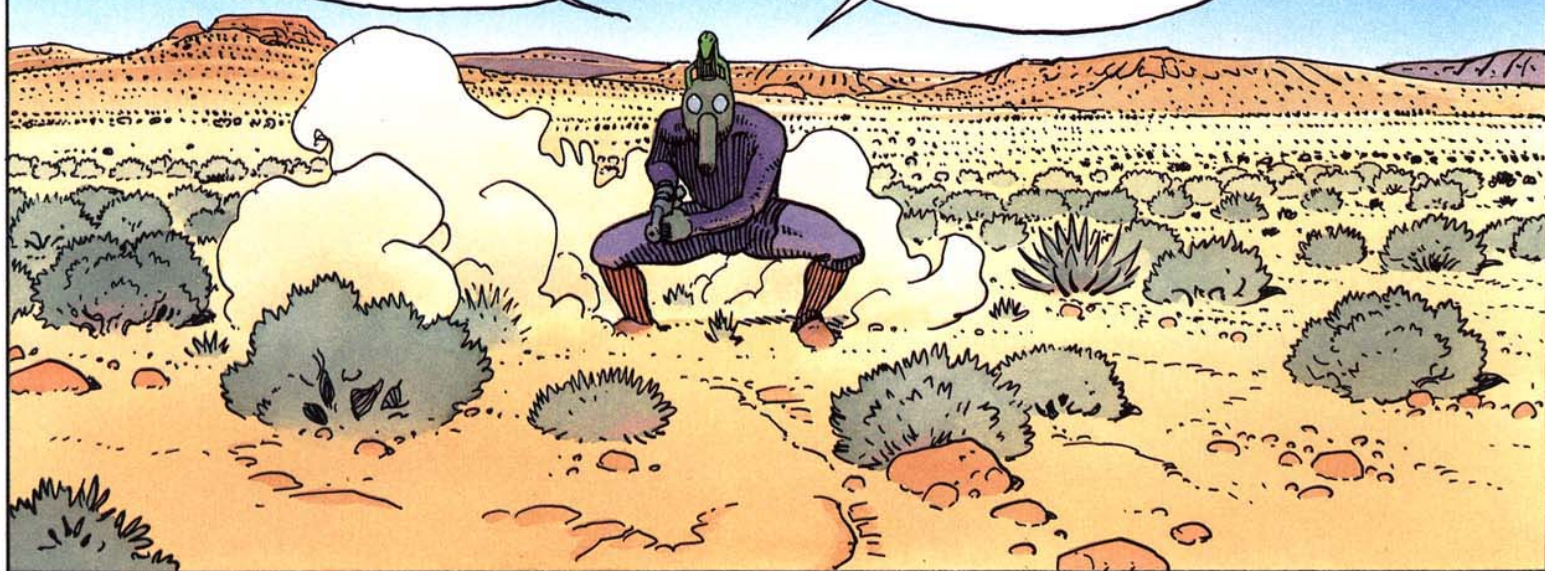
MOEBIUS 99 (33)





YES, IT IS ME... WITH
A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA!
HA! HA! HA!

LOCK THE OUTNESTER IN
THE DETENTION CELL, WITH
THE OTHER ONE!
AT ONCE!

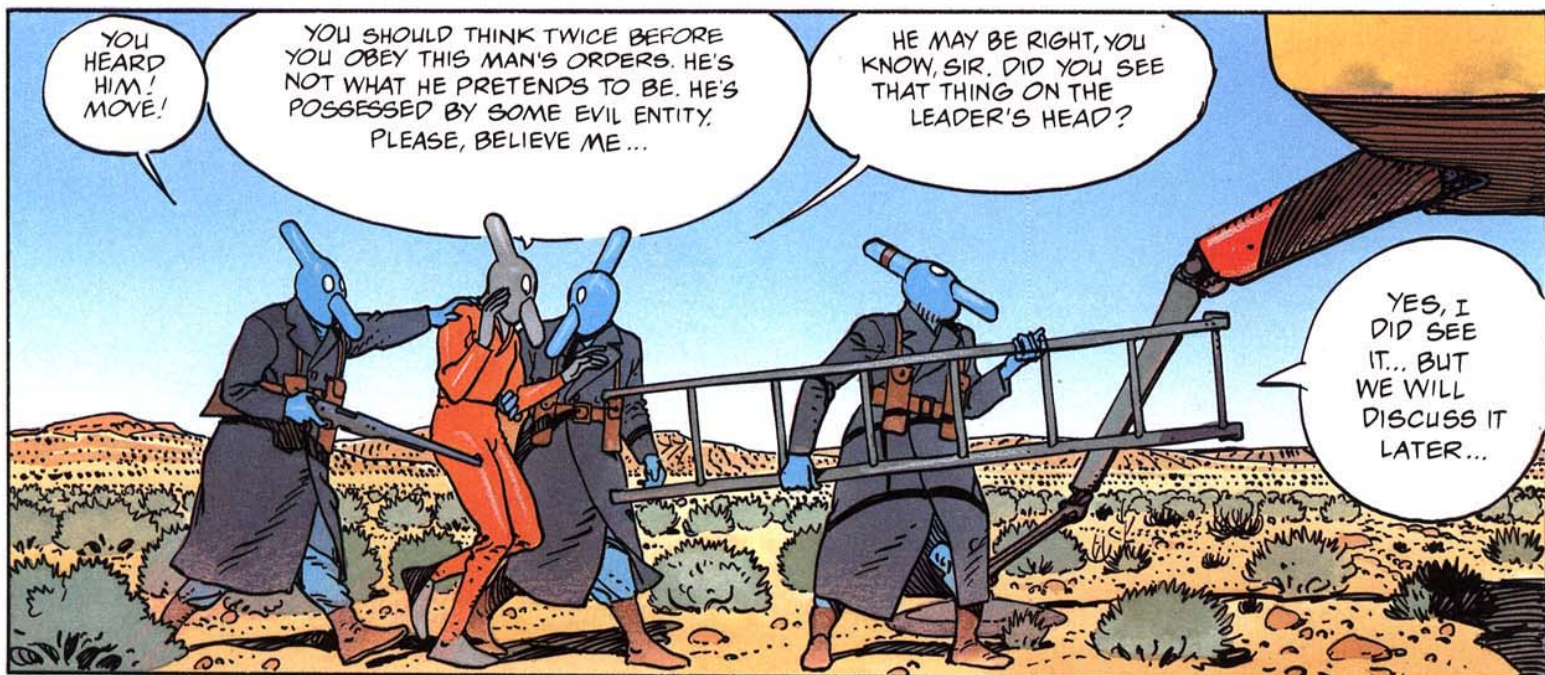


YOU
HEARD
HIM!
MOVE!

YOU SHOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE
YOU OBEY THIS MAN'S ORDERS. HE'S
NOT WHAT HE PRETENDS TO BE. HE'S
POSSESSED BY SOME EVIL ENTITY.
PLEASE, BELIEVE ME...

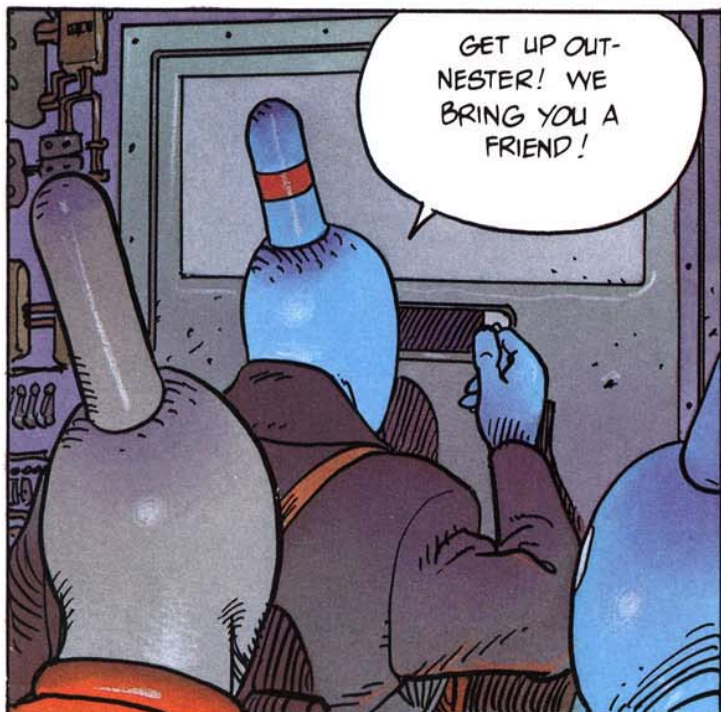
HE MAY BE RIGHT, YOU
KNOW, SIR. DID YOU SEE
THAT THING ON THE
LEADER'S HEAD?

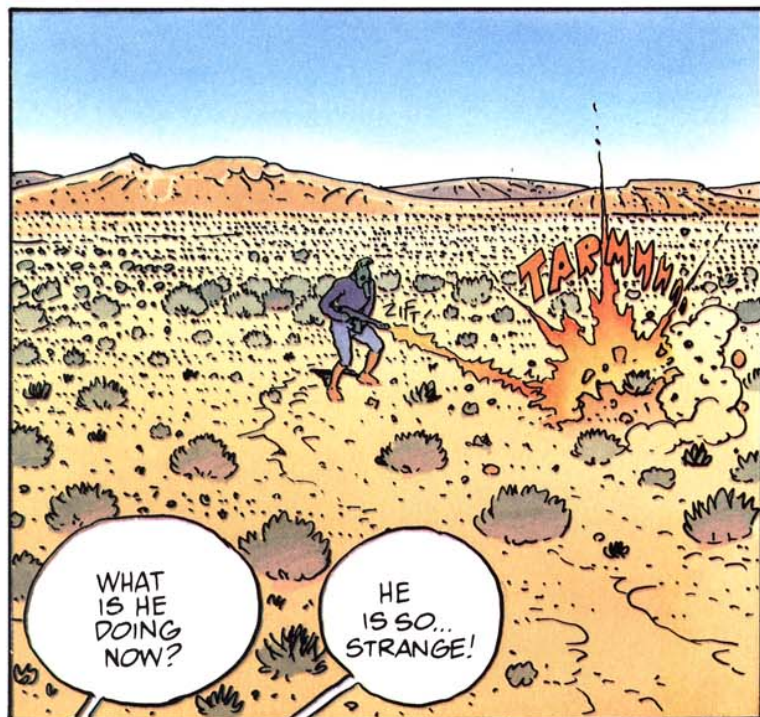
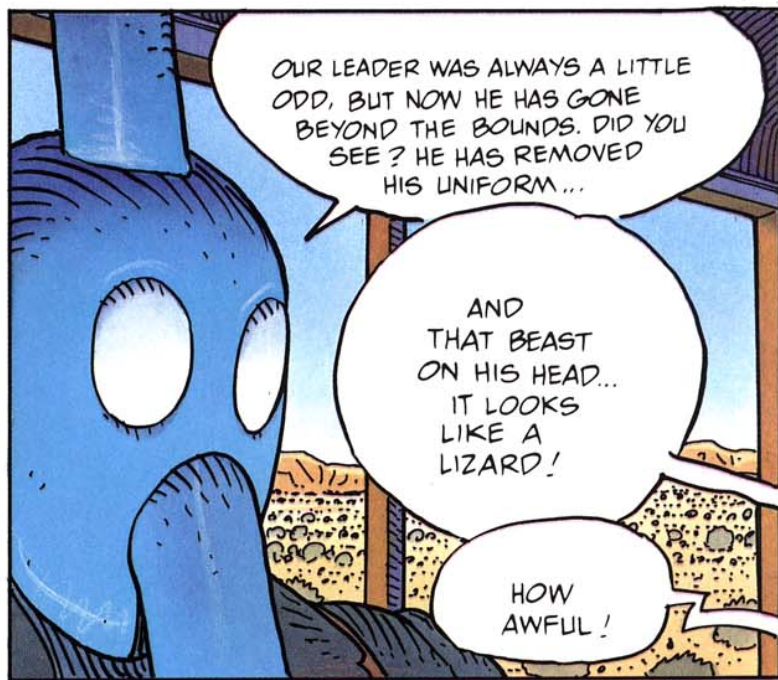
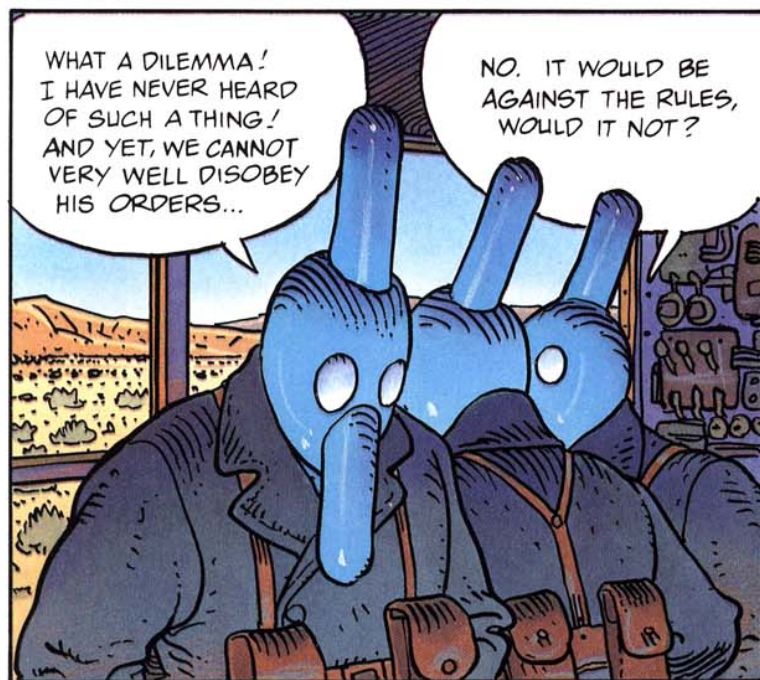
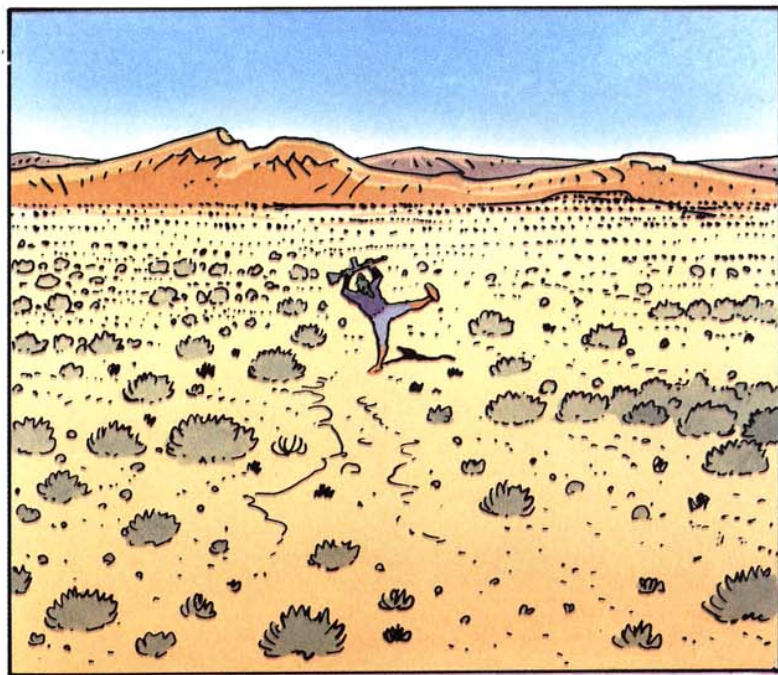
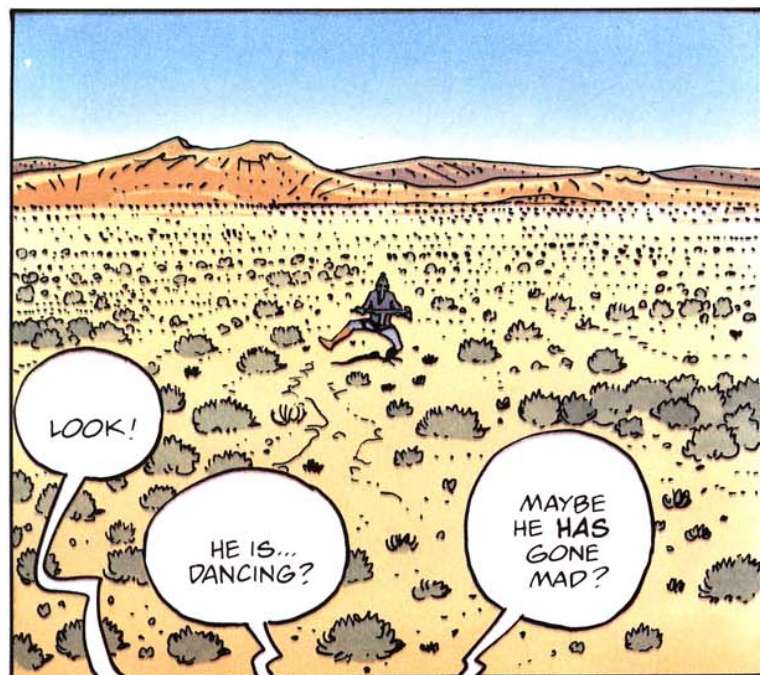
YES, I
DID SEE
IT... BUT
WE WILL
DISCUSS IT
LATER...

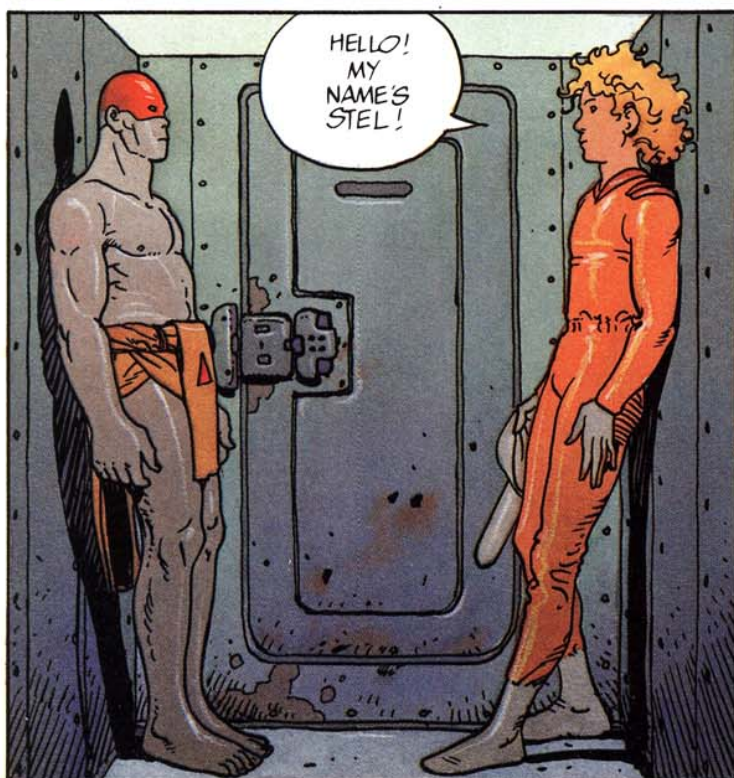
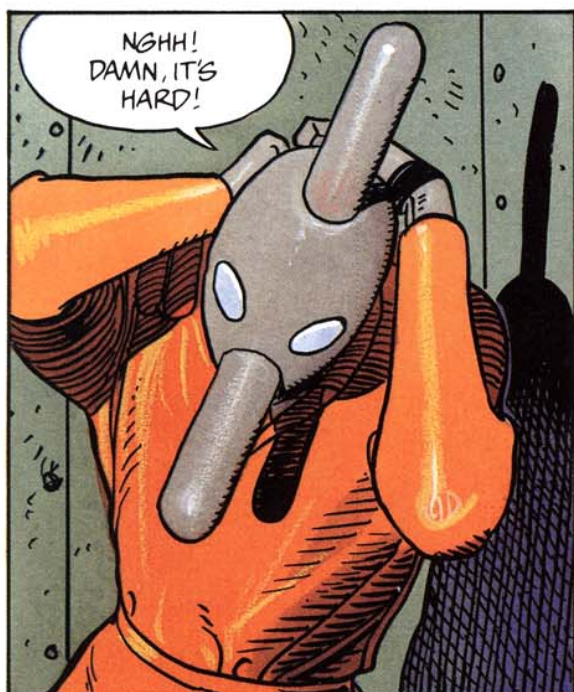
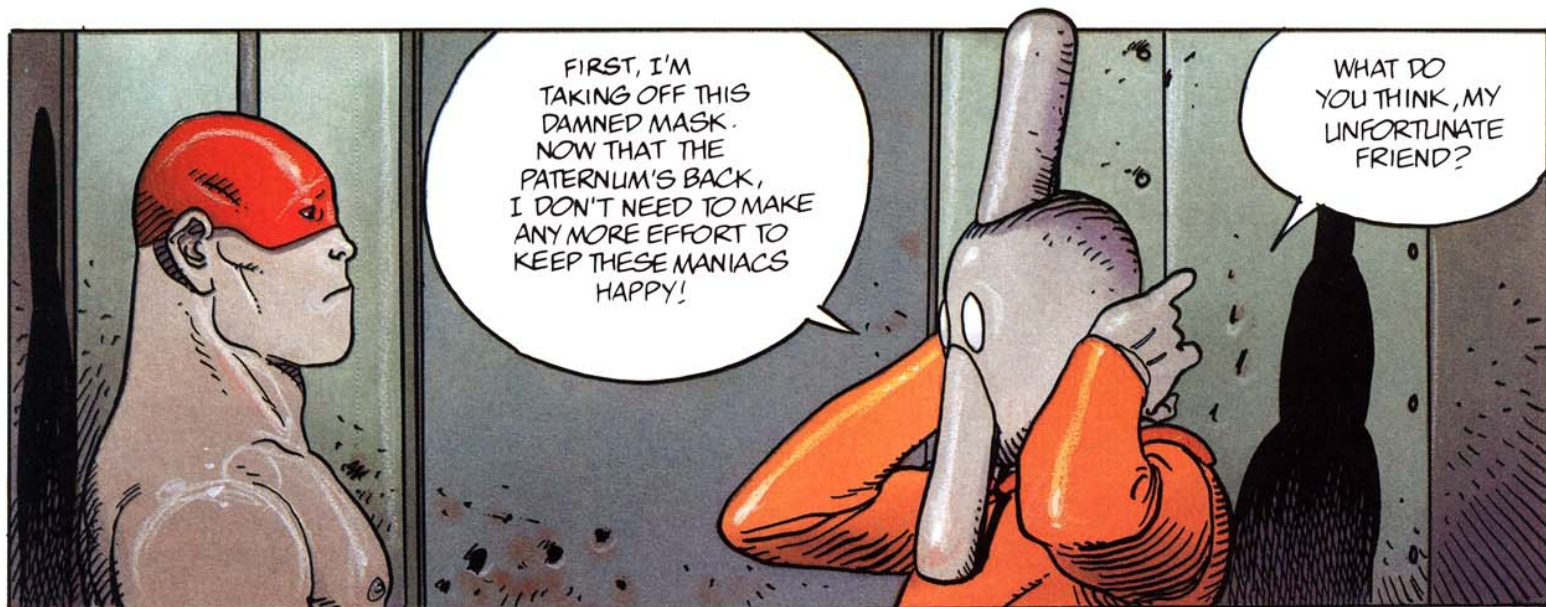


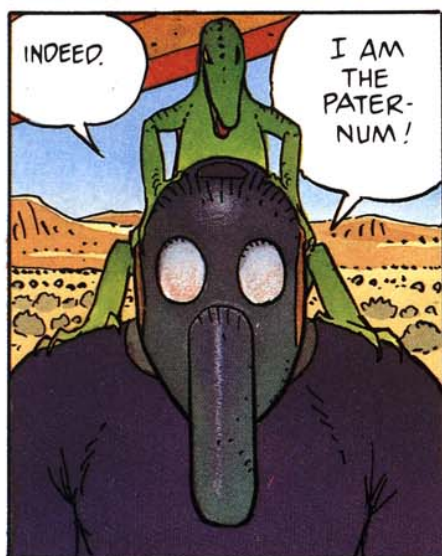
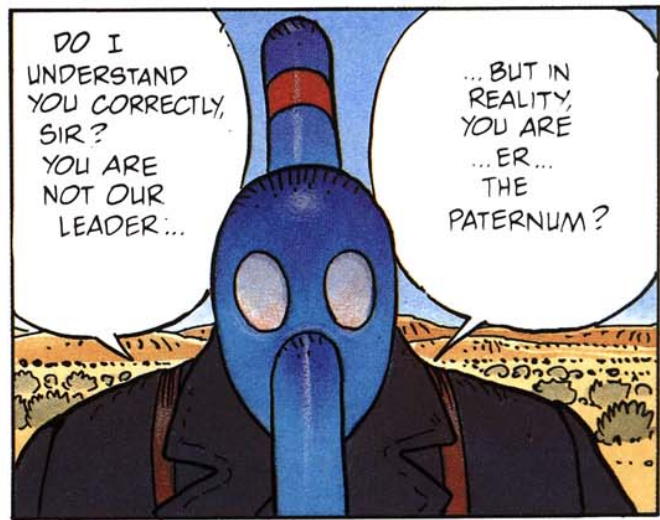
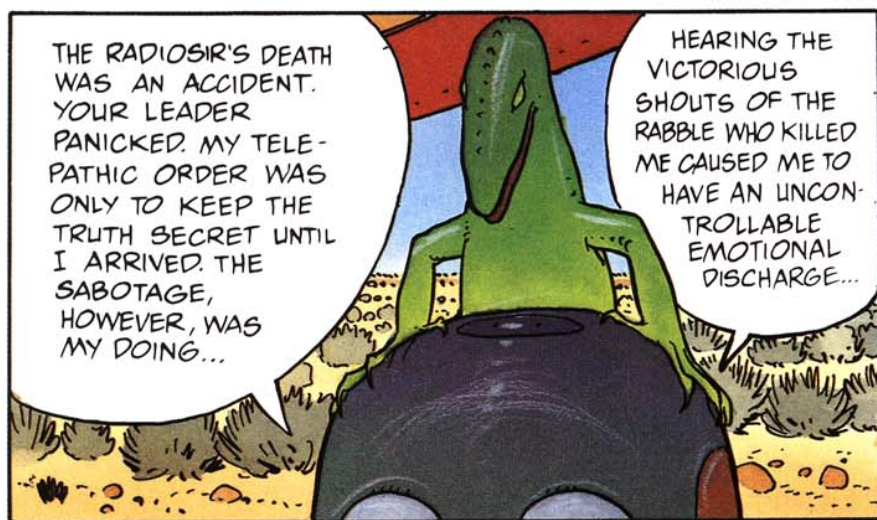
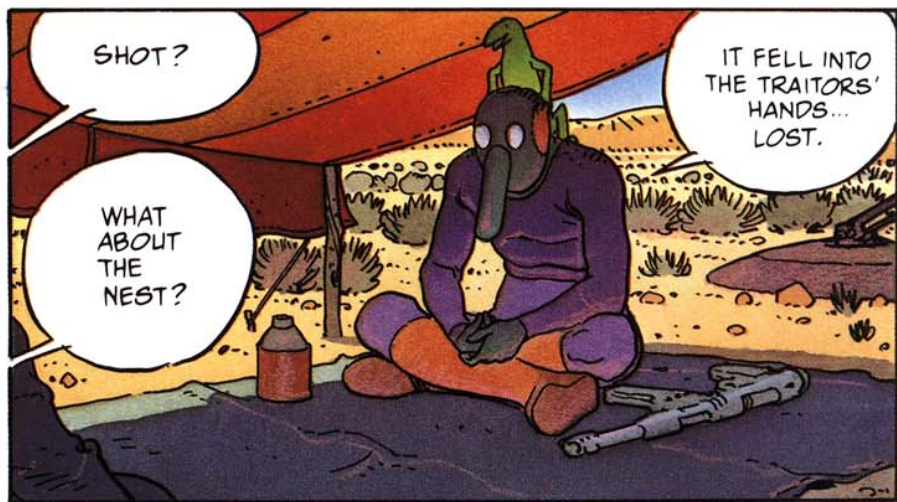
GET UP OUT-
NESTER! WE
BRING YOU A
FRIEND!

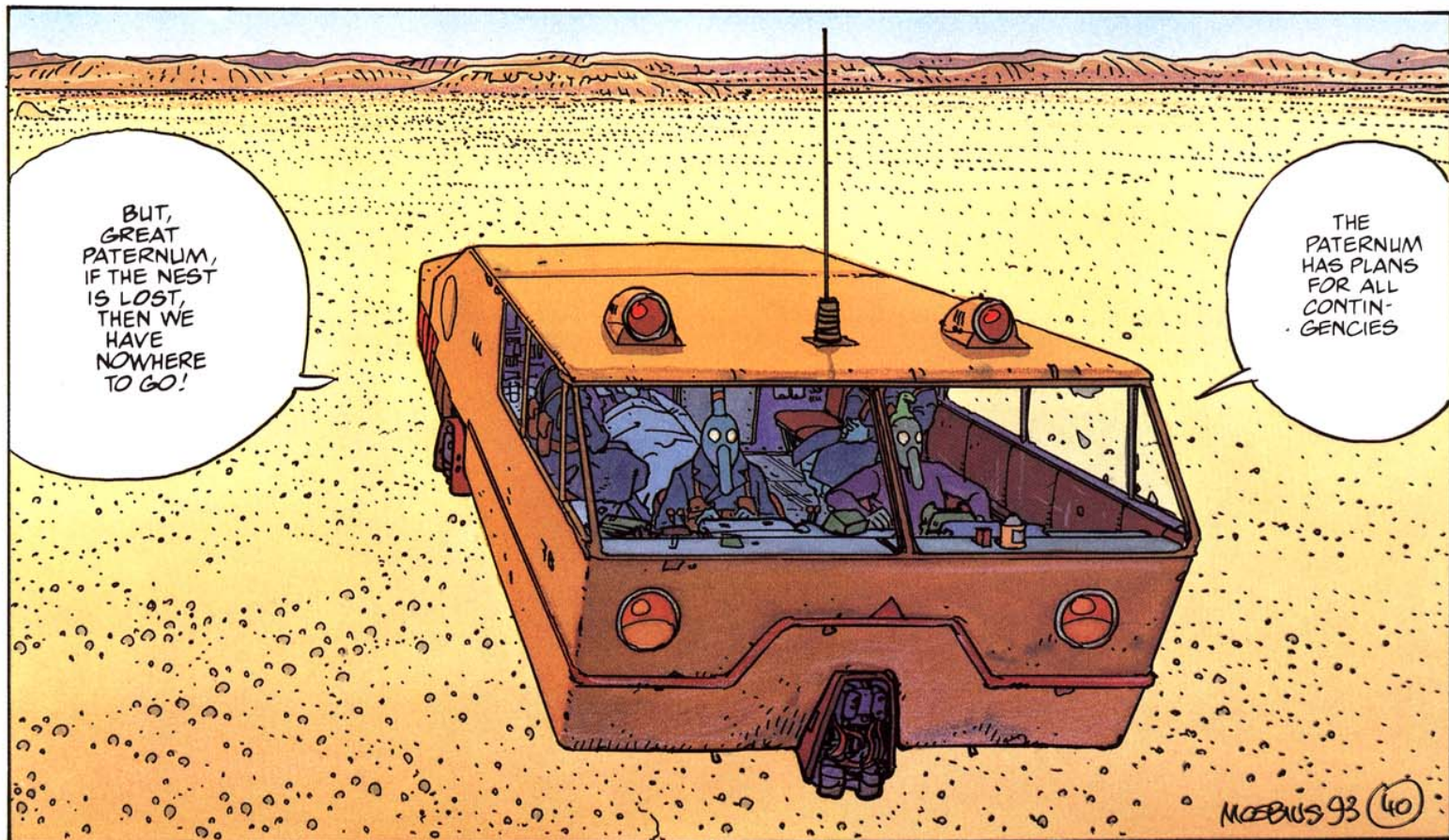
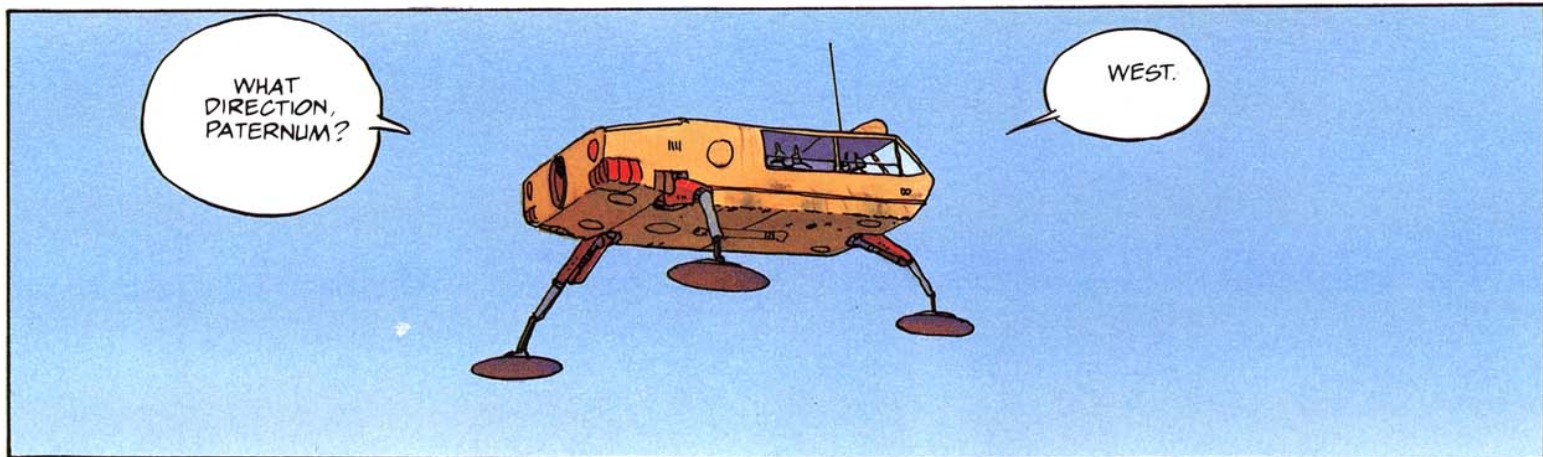
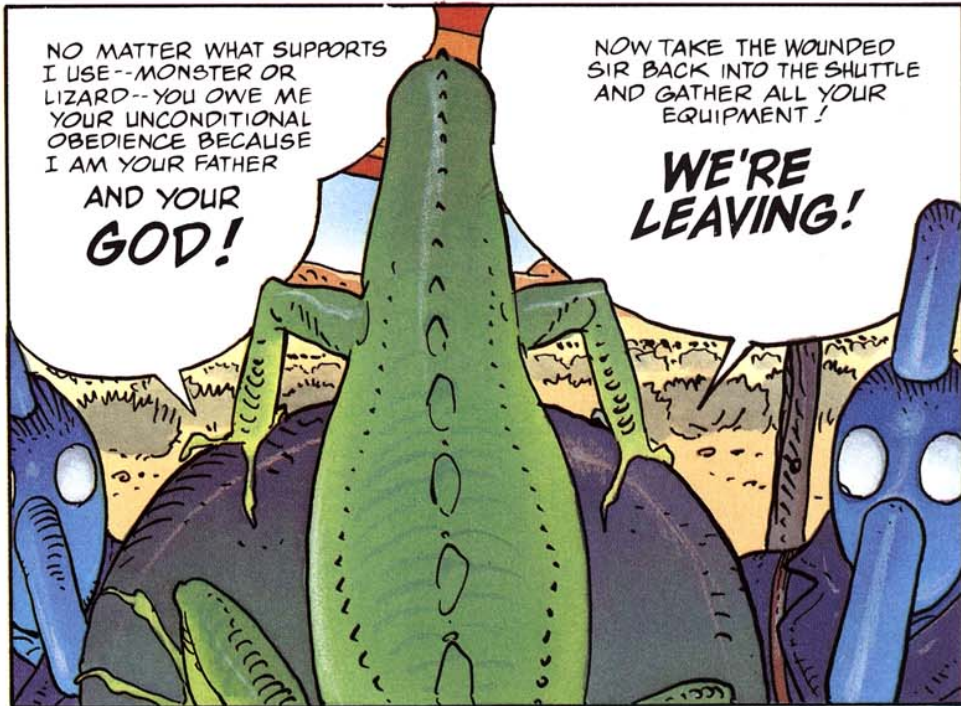
AND TRY
TO BEHAVE,
BOTH OF
YOU!

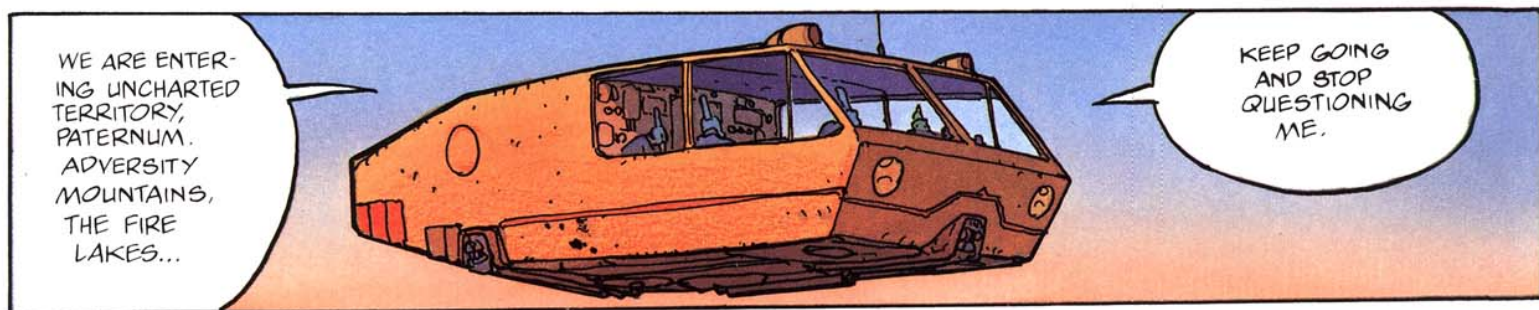
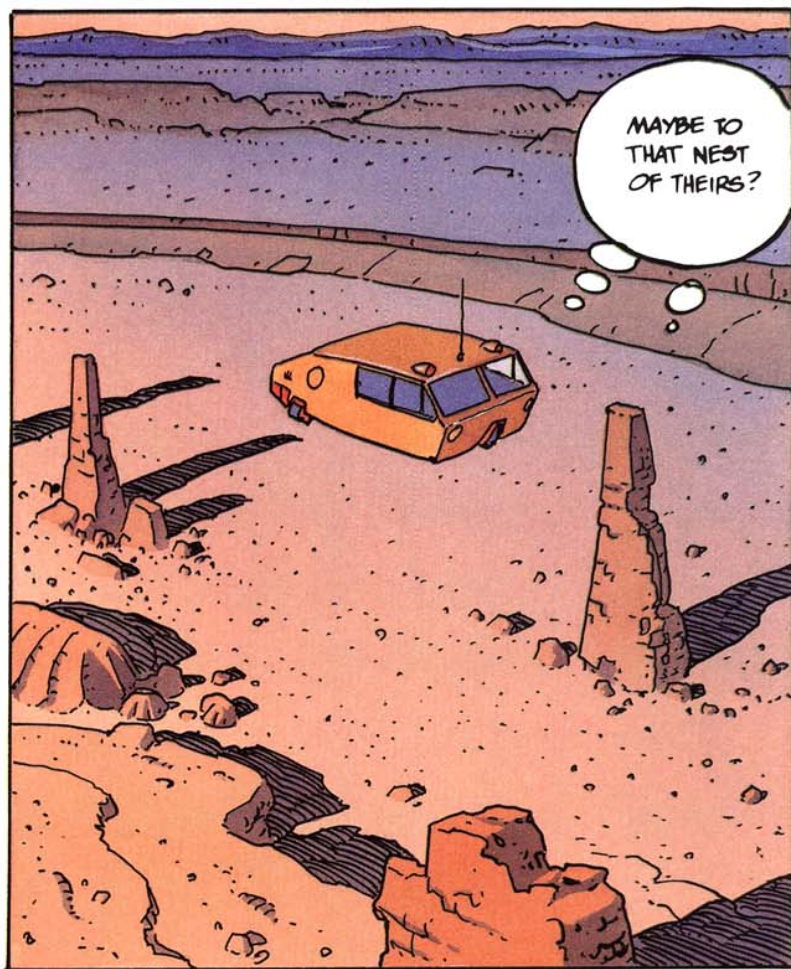












SUDDENLY, A
VIOLENT DRAFT...

ADVERSITY
MOUNTAINS! HANG
ON TIGHT!



WE
MUST
FLY
HIGHER!

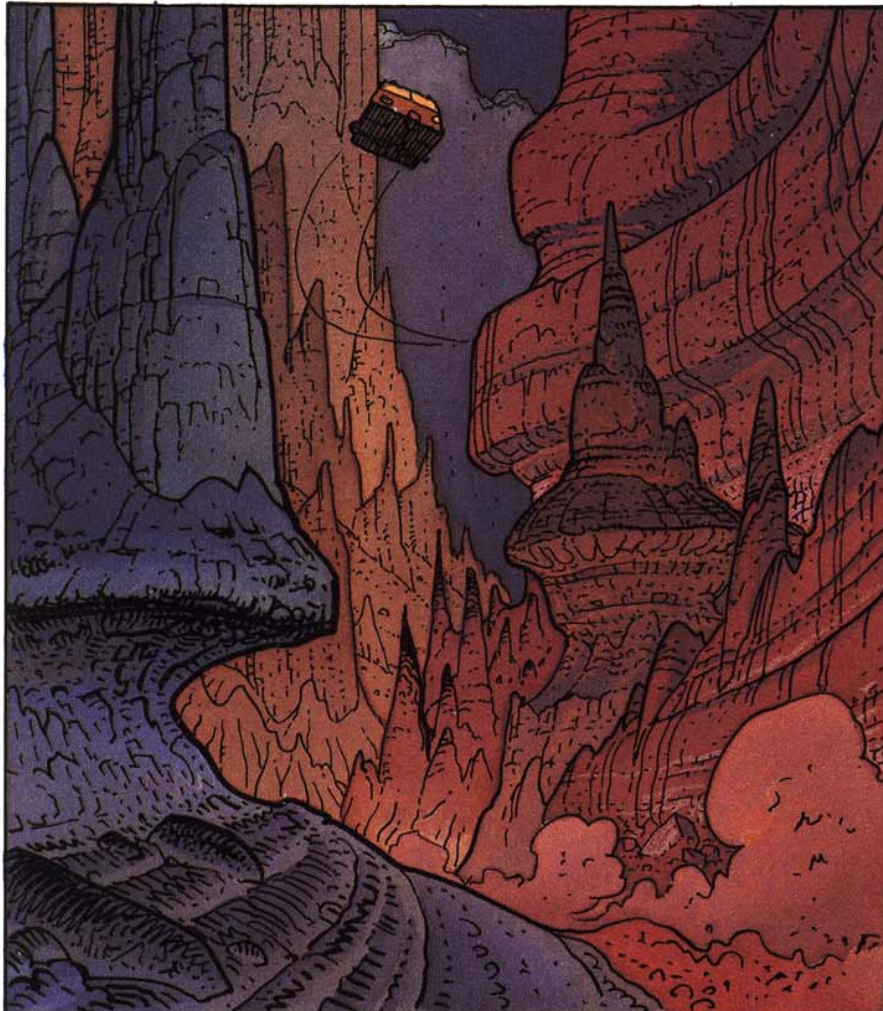
IMPOSSIBLE!

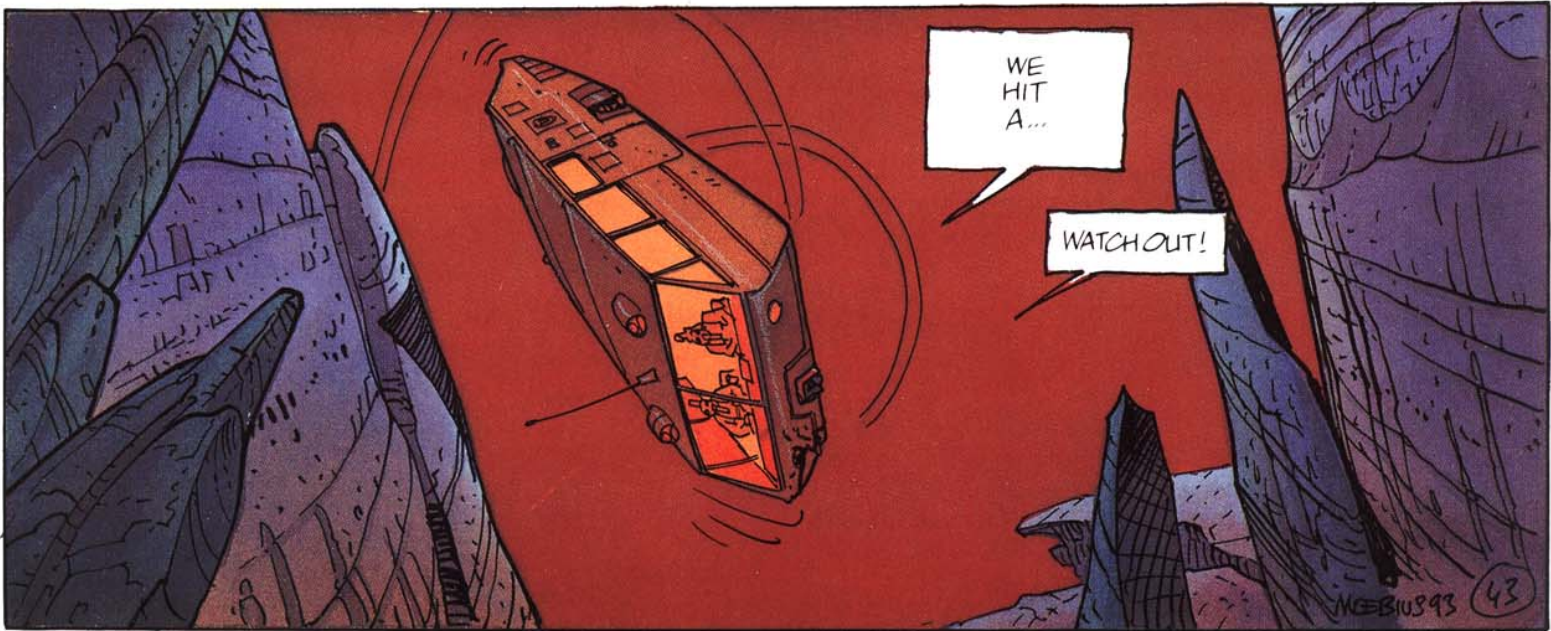
...SHAKES
THE
SMALL
SHIP
LIKE A
ZOUFIL
LEAF.

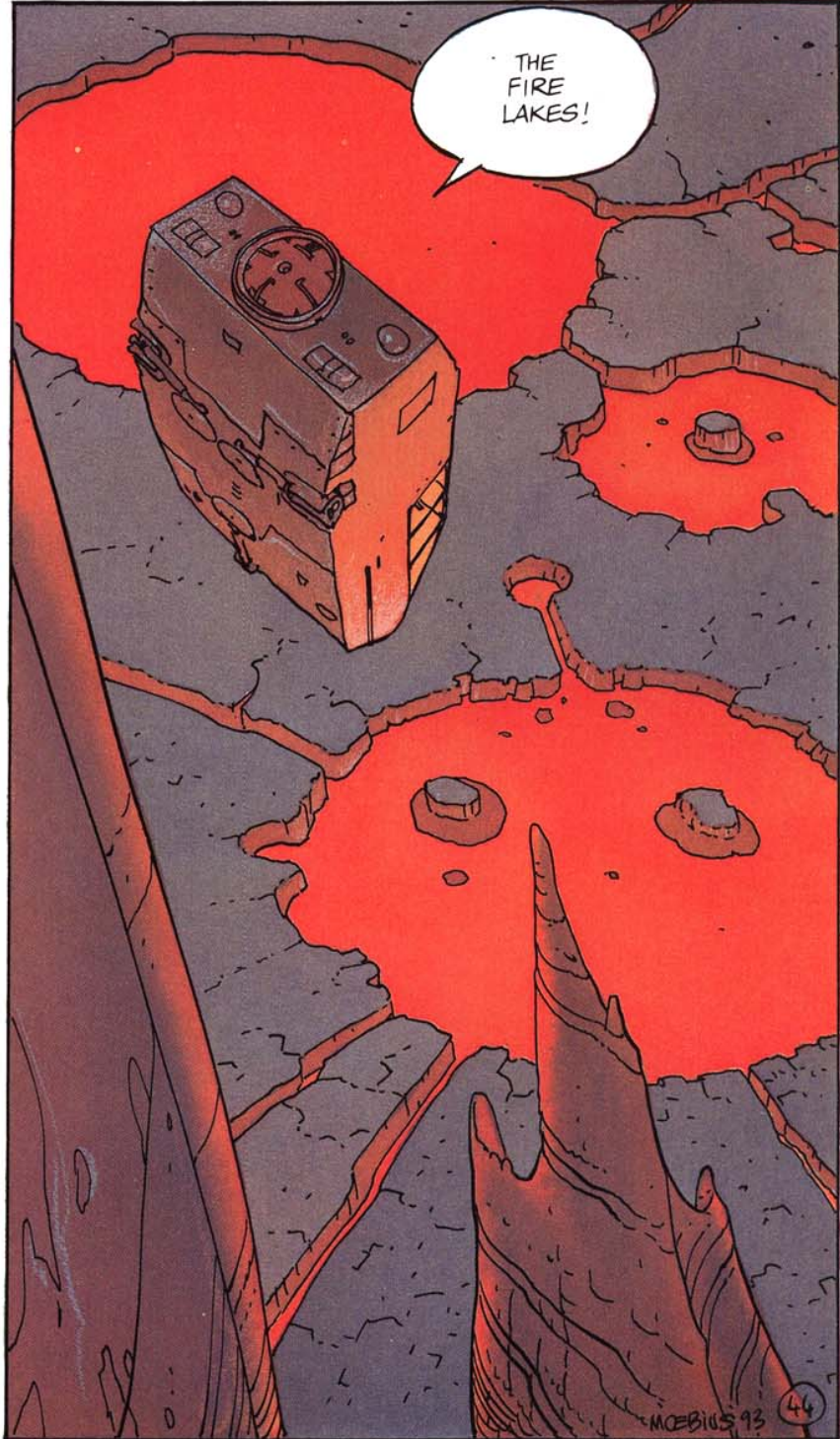
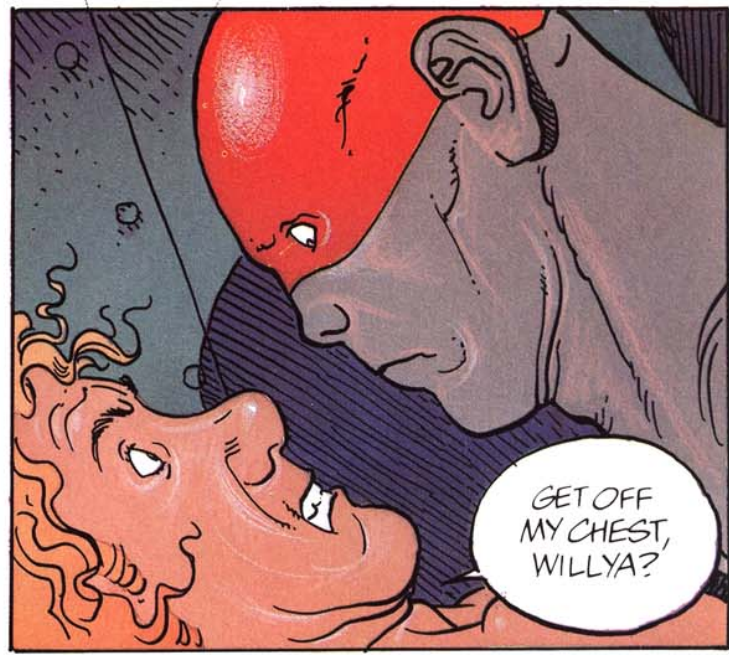


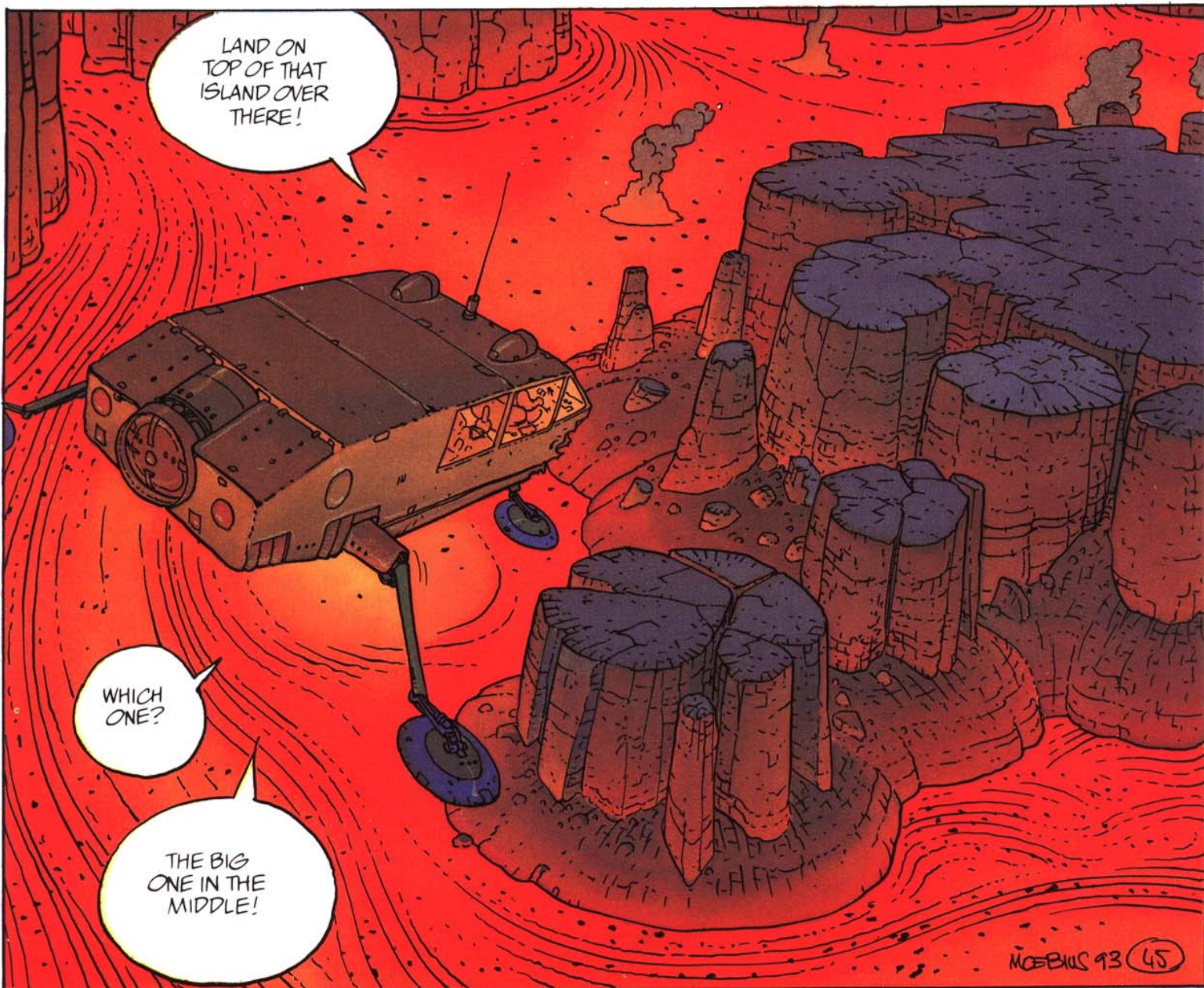
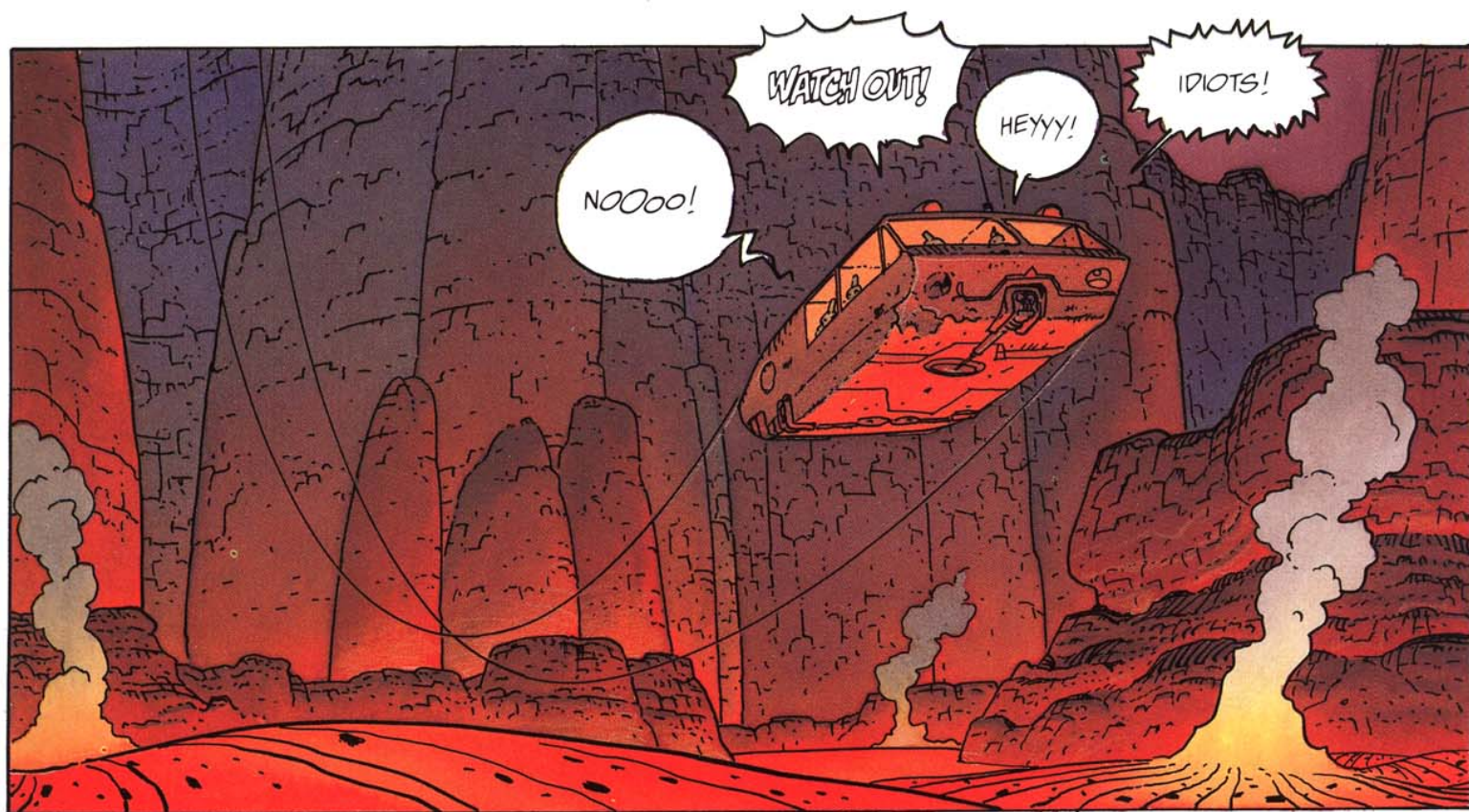
WATCH
OUT, IDIOT,
OR WE'LL
SMASH
INTO THE
CLIFFS!

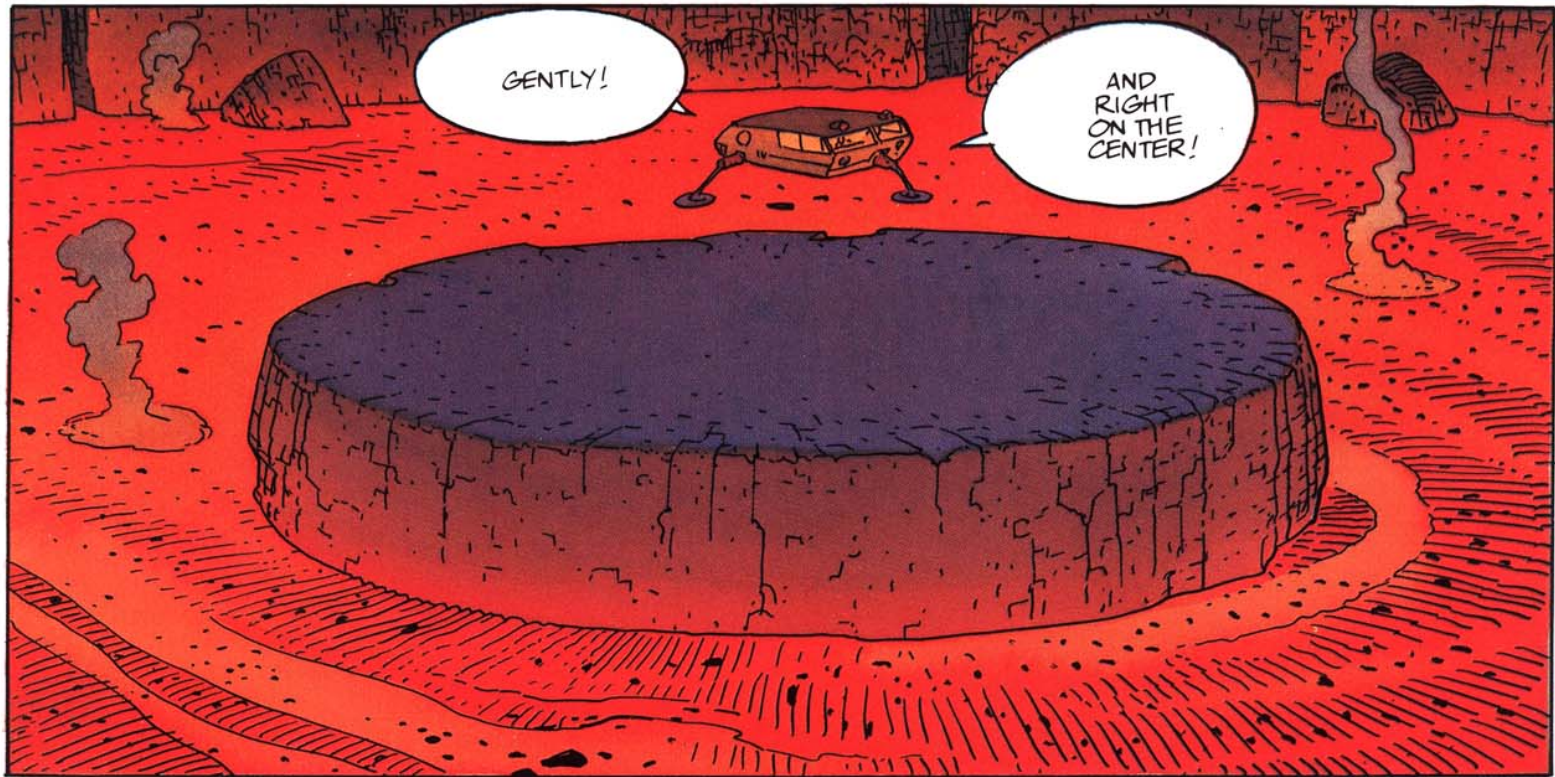
I AM DOING
THE BEST I CAN,
PATERNUM, BUT
THE SHUTTLE
DOES NOT HAVE
ENOUGH
POWER TO...











GENTLY!

AND
RIGHT
ON THE
CENTER!

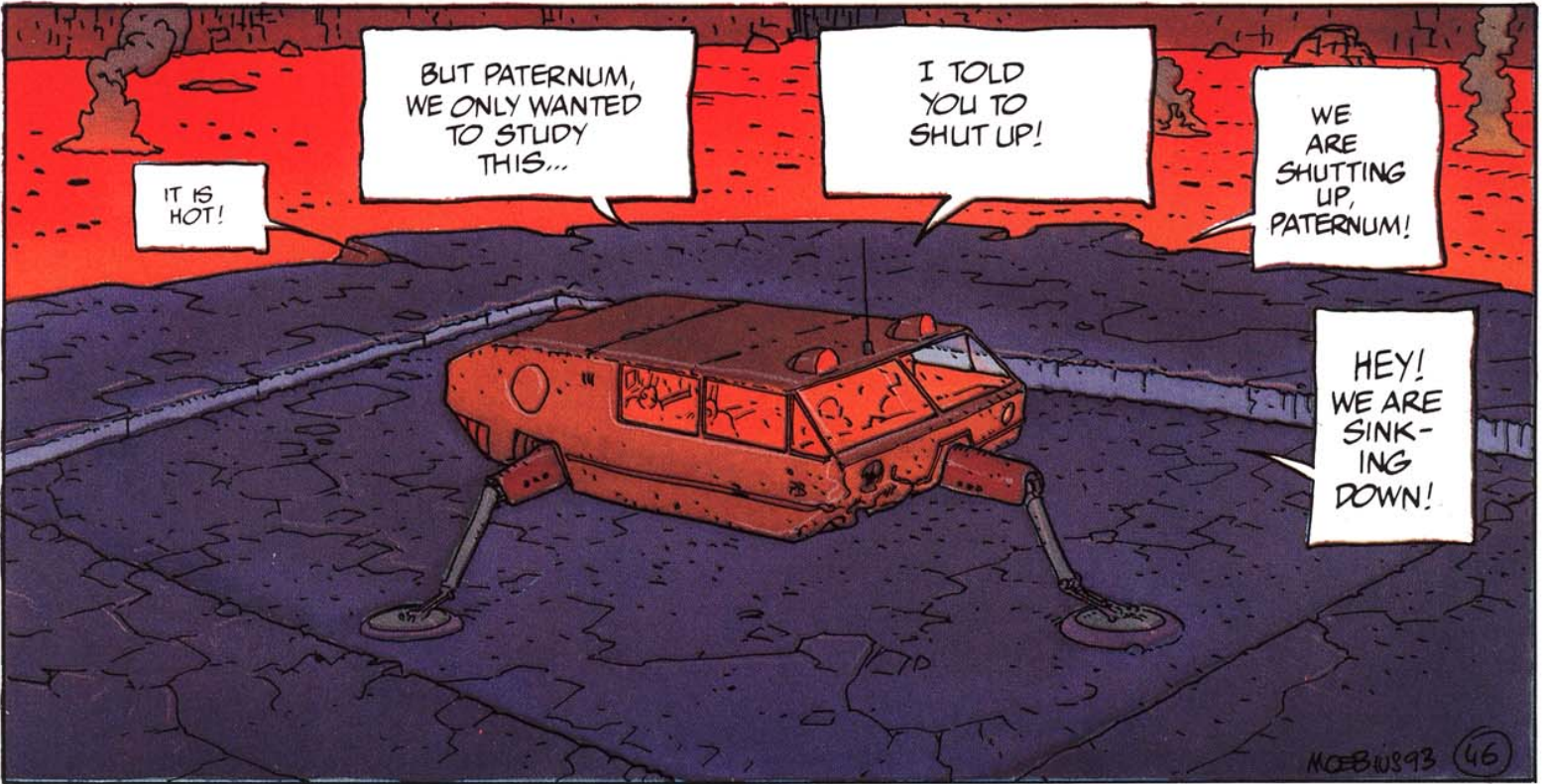


LOOK!
A
LAKE OF
MOLTEN
LAVA!

HOW
INTERESTING!
WE SHOULD
GET OUT
AND MAKE
SOME OBSER-
VATIONS!

AN
EXCELLENT
IDEA,
SIR!

**SHUT
UP
AND GO
TO YOUR
SEATS!**



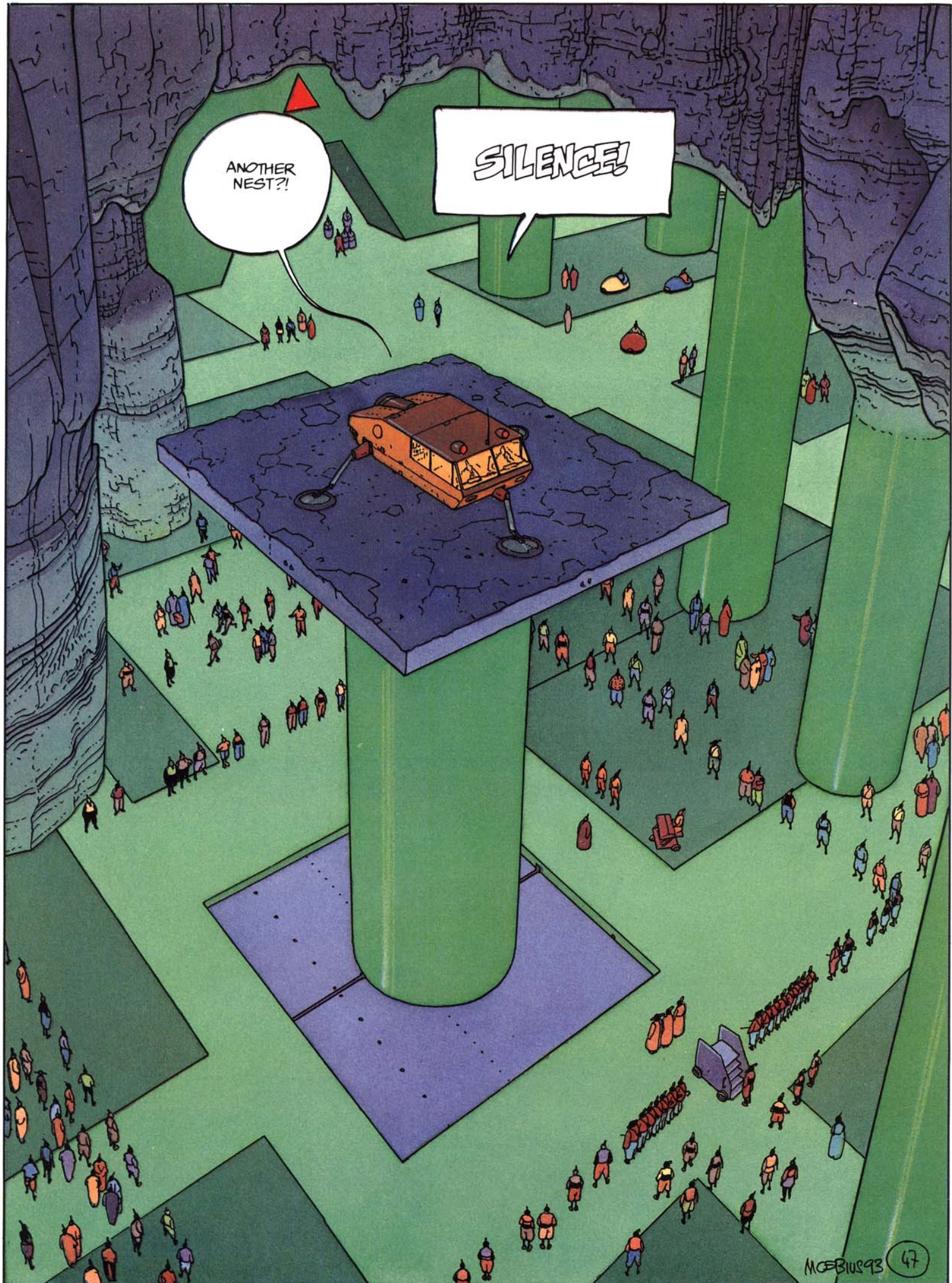
IT IS
HOT!

BUT PATERNUM,
WE ONLY WANTED
TO STUDY
THIS...

I TOLD
YOU TO
SHUT UP!

WE
ARE
SHUTTING
UP,
PATERNUM!

HEY!
WE ARE
SINK-
ING
DOWN!

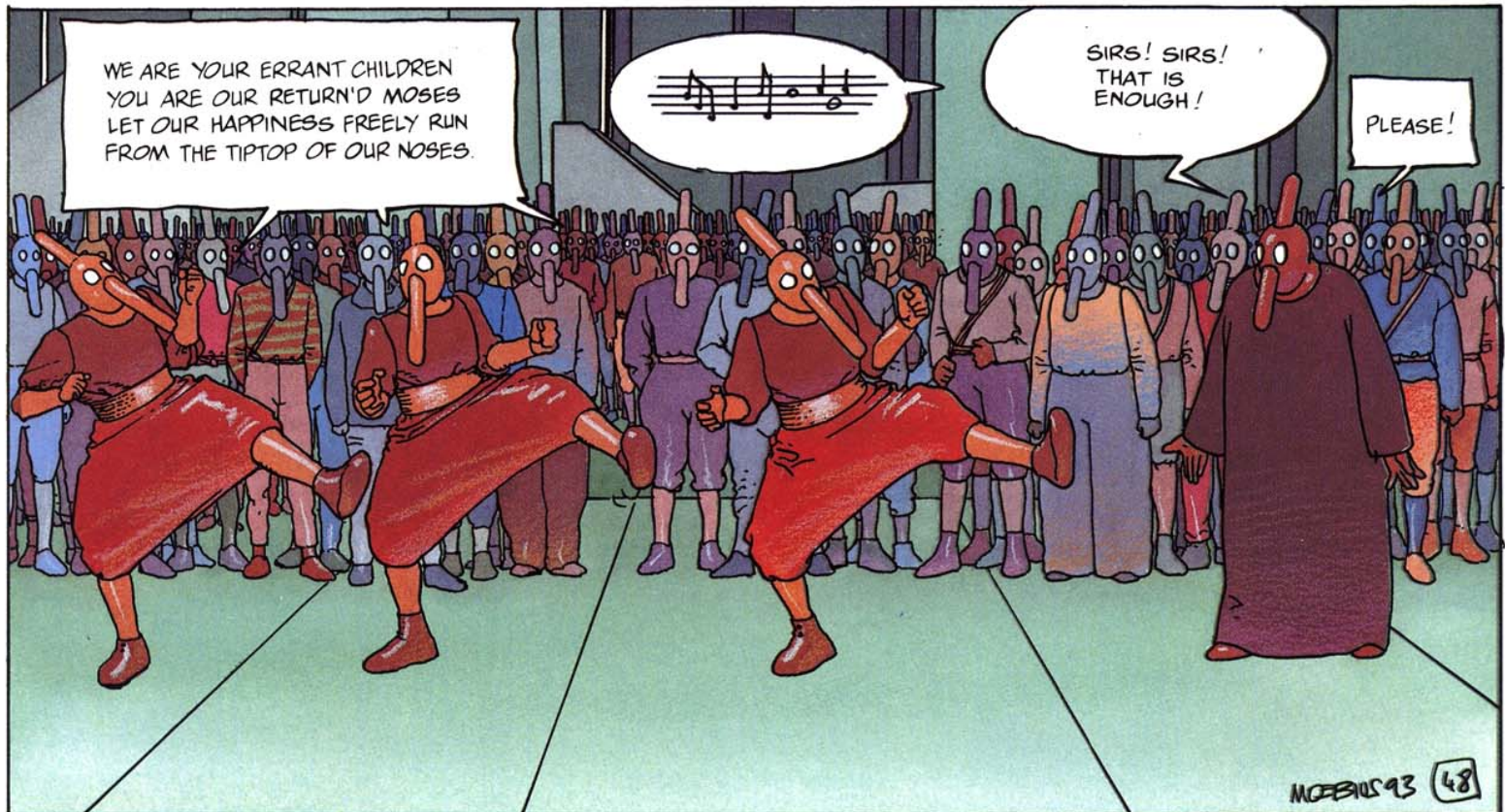
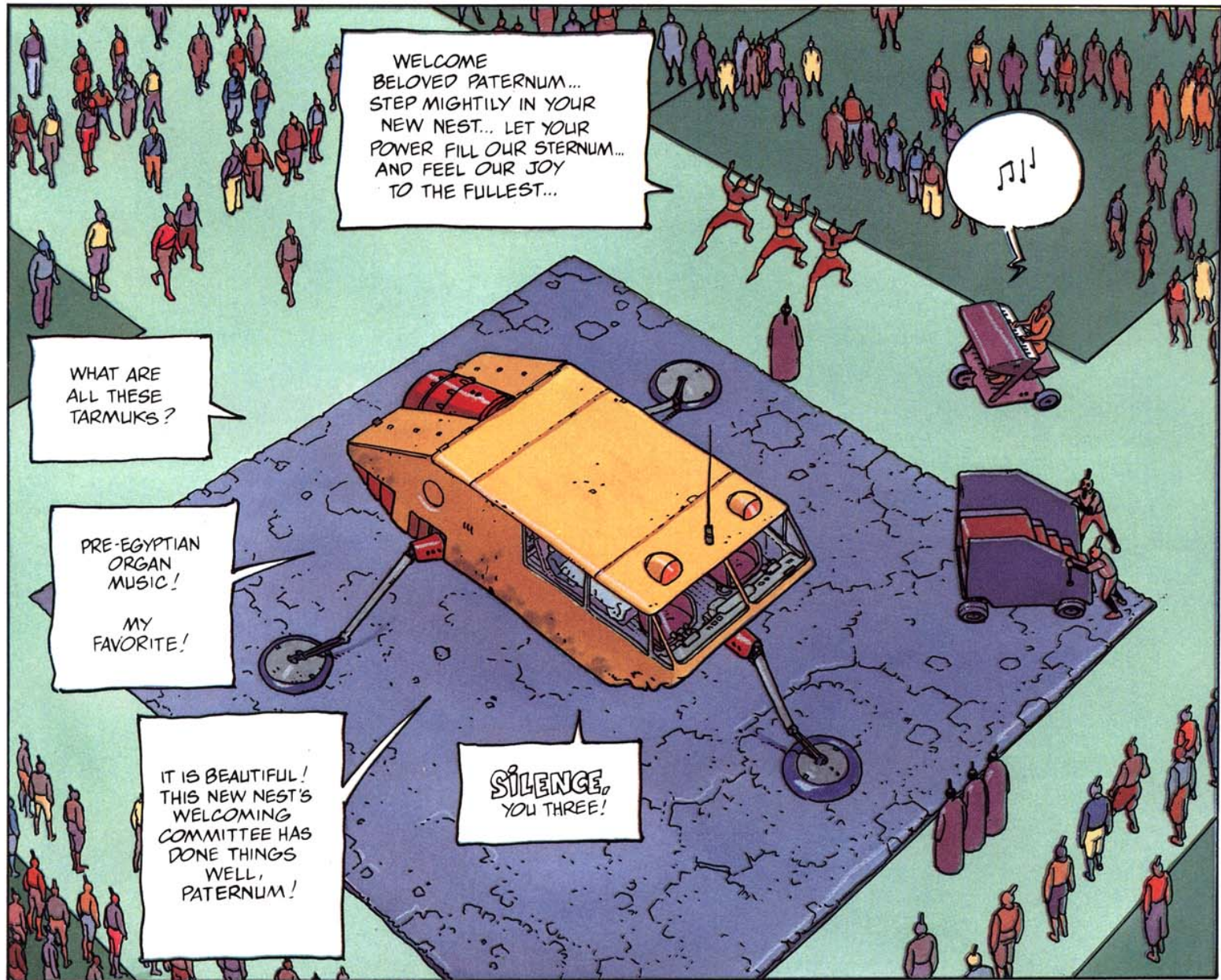


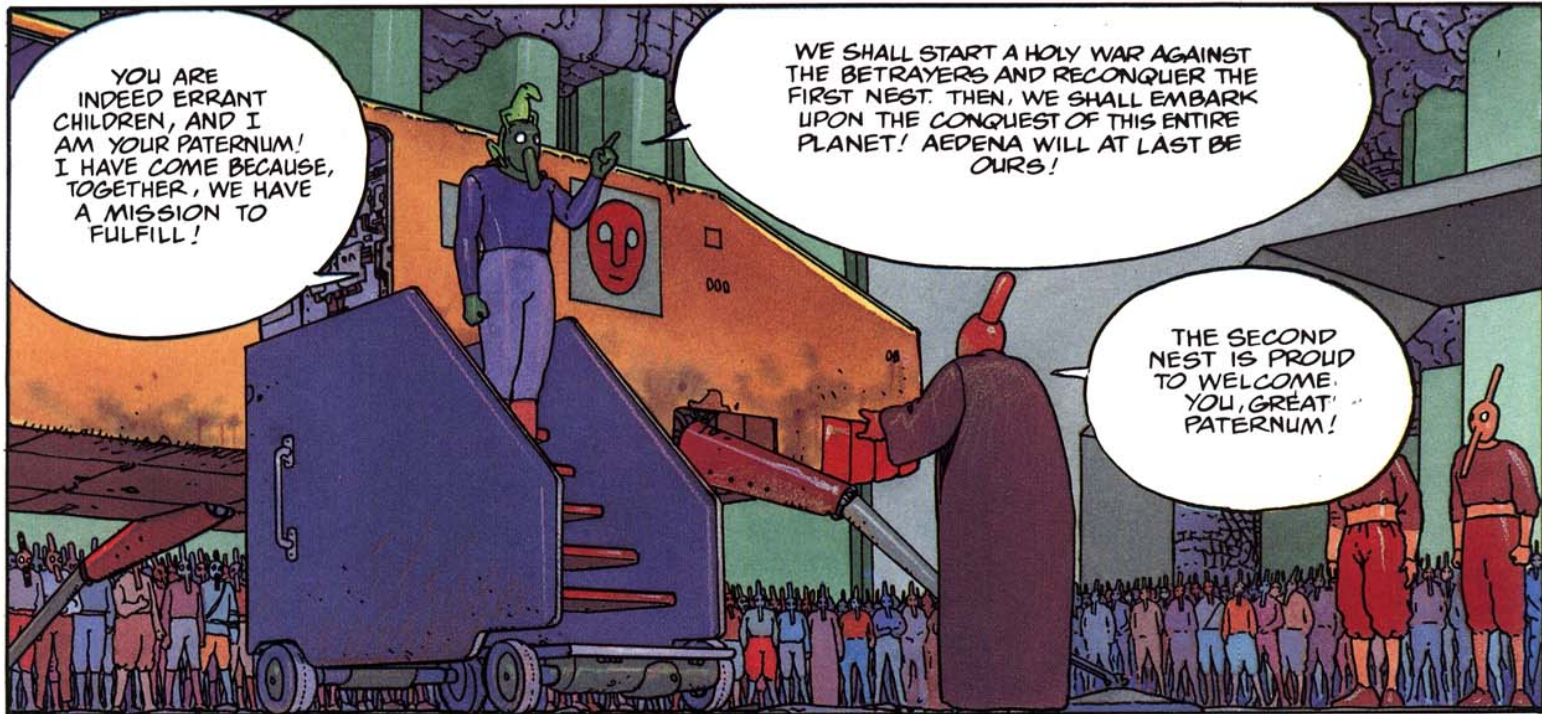
ANOTHER
NEST?!

SILENCE!

MOEBIUS93

47





YOU ARE
INDEED ERRANT
CHILDREN, AND I
AM YOUR PATERNUM!
I HAVE COME BECAUSE,
TOGETHER, WE HAVE
A MISSION TO
FULFILL!

WE SHALL START A HOLY WAR AGAINST
THE BETRAYERS AND RECONQUER THE
FIRST NEST. THEN, WE SHALL EMBARK
UPON THE CONQUEST OF THIS ENTIRE
PLANET! AEDENA WILL AT LAST BE
OURS!

THE SECOND
NEST IS PROUD
TO WELCOME
YOU, GREAT
PATERNUM!



PATERNUM!

YOU HAVE RETURNED
AT LAST!

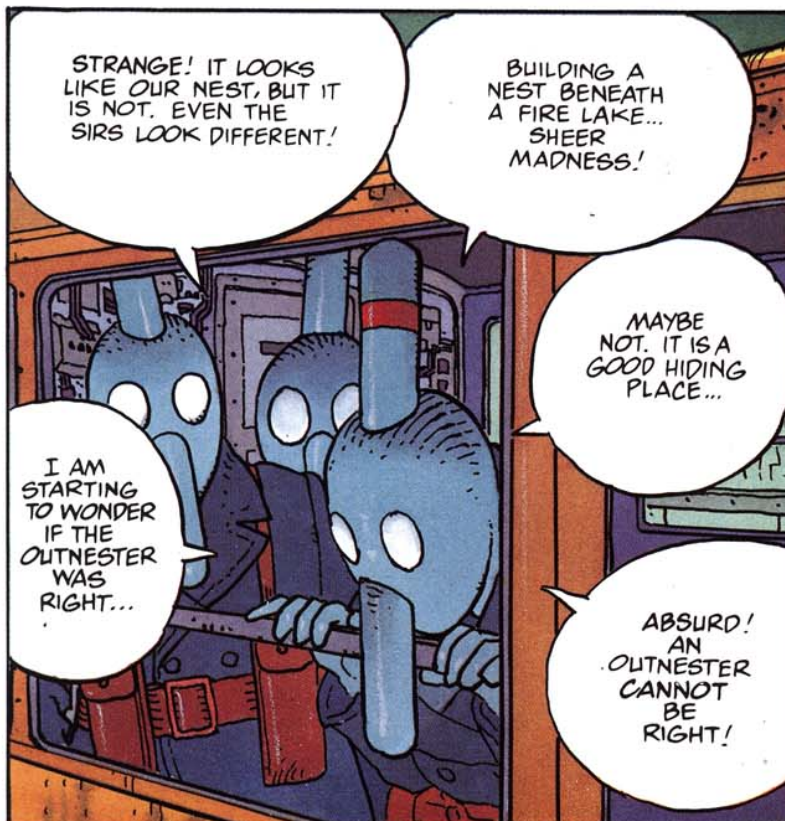
O,
PATERNUM!

PATERNUM!

FOLLOW ME,
PATERNUM. YOUR
APARTMENTS HAVE
BEEN
PREPARED.

ERNUM!
BE-
LOVED
PATERNUM!

WE WERE
EXPECTING
YOU SINCE
THE FIRST
NEST'S
FALL!



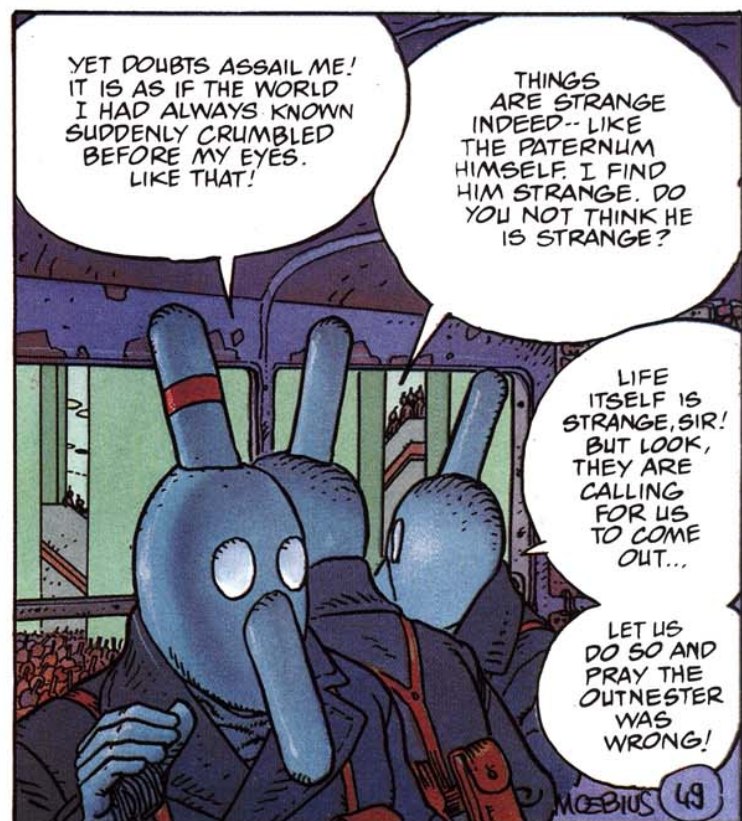
STRANGE! IT LOOKS
LIKE OUR NEST, BUT IT
IS NOT. EVEN THE
SIRS LOOK DIFFERENT!

BUILDING A
NEST BENEATH
A FIRE LAKE...
SHEER
MADNESS!

MAYBE
NOT. IT IS A
GOOD HIDING
PLACE...

ABSURD!
AN
OUTNESTER
CANNOT
BE
RIGHT!

I AM
STARTING
TO WONDER
IF THE
OUTNESTER
WAS
RIGHT...

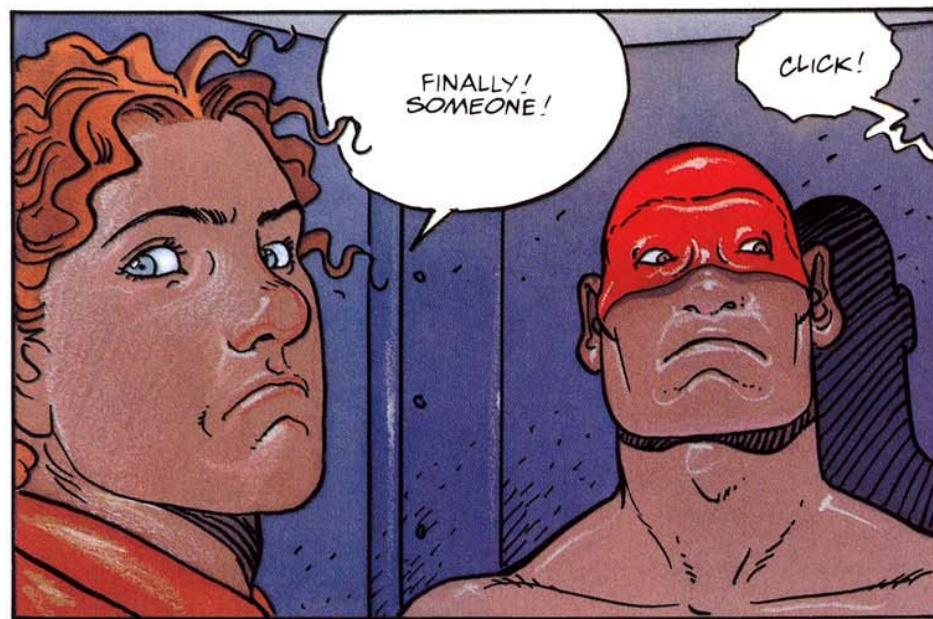


YET DOUBTS ASSAIL ME!
IT IS AS IF THE WORLD
I HAD ALWAYS KNOWN
SUDDENLY CRUMBLLED
BEFORE MY EYES.
LIKE THAT!

THINGS
ARE STRANGE
INDEED-- LIKE
THE PATERNUM
HIMSELF. I FIND
HIM STRANGE. DO
YOU NOT THINK HE
IS STRANGE?

LIFE
ITSELF IS
STRANGE, SIR!
BUT LOOK,
THEY ARE
CALLING
FOR US
TO COME
OUT...

LET US
DO SO AND
PRAY THE
OUTNESTER
WAS
WRONG!



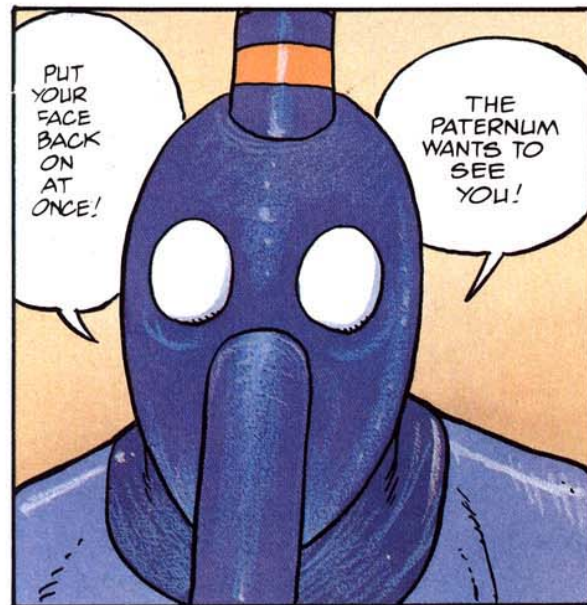
FINALLY!
SOMEONE!

CLICK!



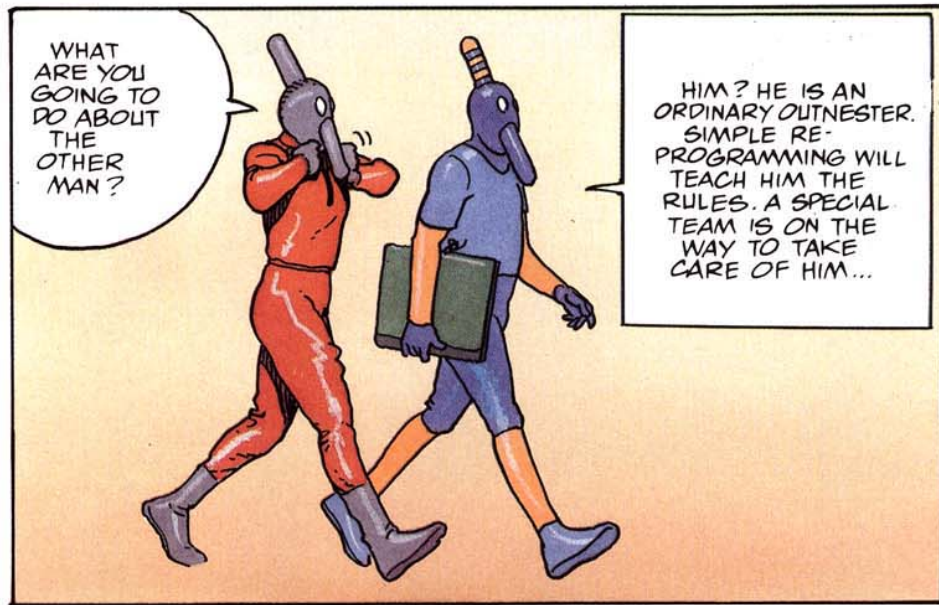
MY
FRIEND
AND I
WERE
STARTING TO
WONDER HOW
LONG IT'D BE
UNTIL YOU GOT
US OUT OF
THIS RAT'S
NEST!

PLEASE
FOLLOW ME,
SIR!



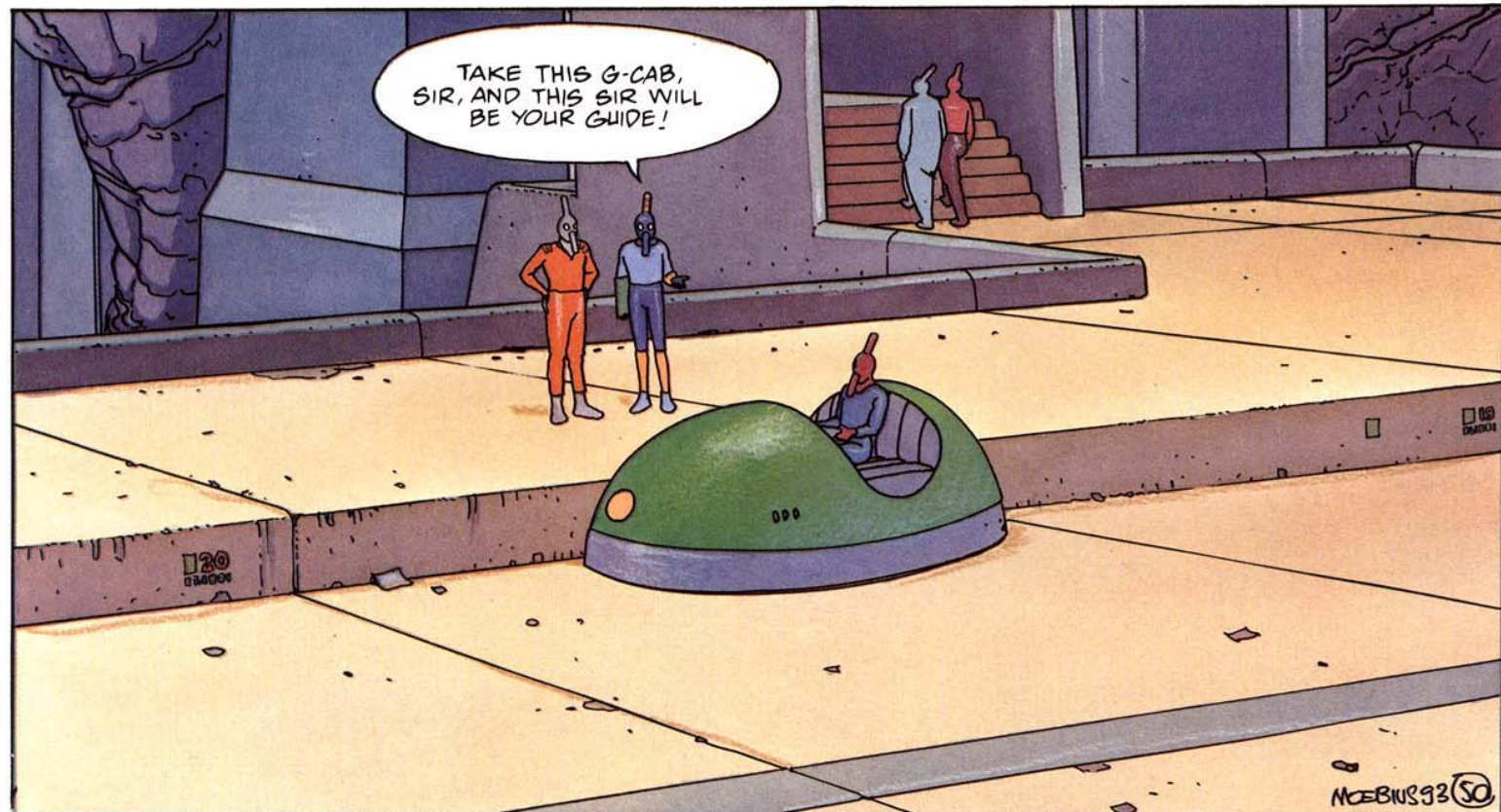
PUT
YOUR
FACE
BACK
ON
AT
ONCE!

THE
PATERNUM
WANTS TO
SEE
YOU!



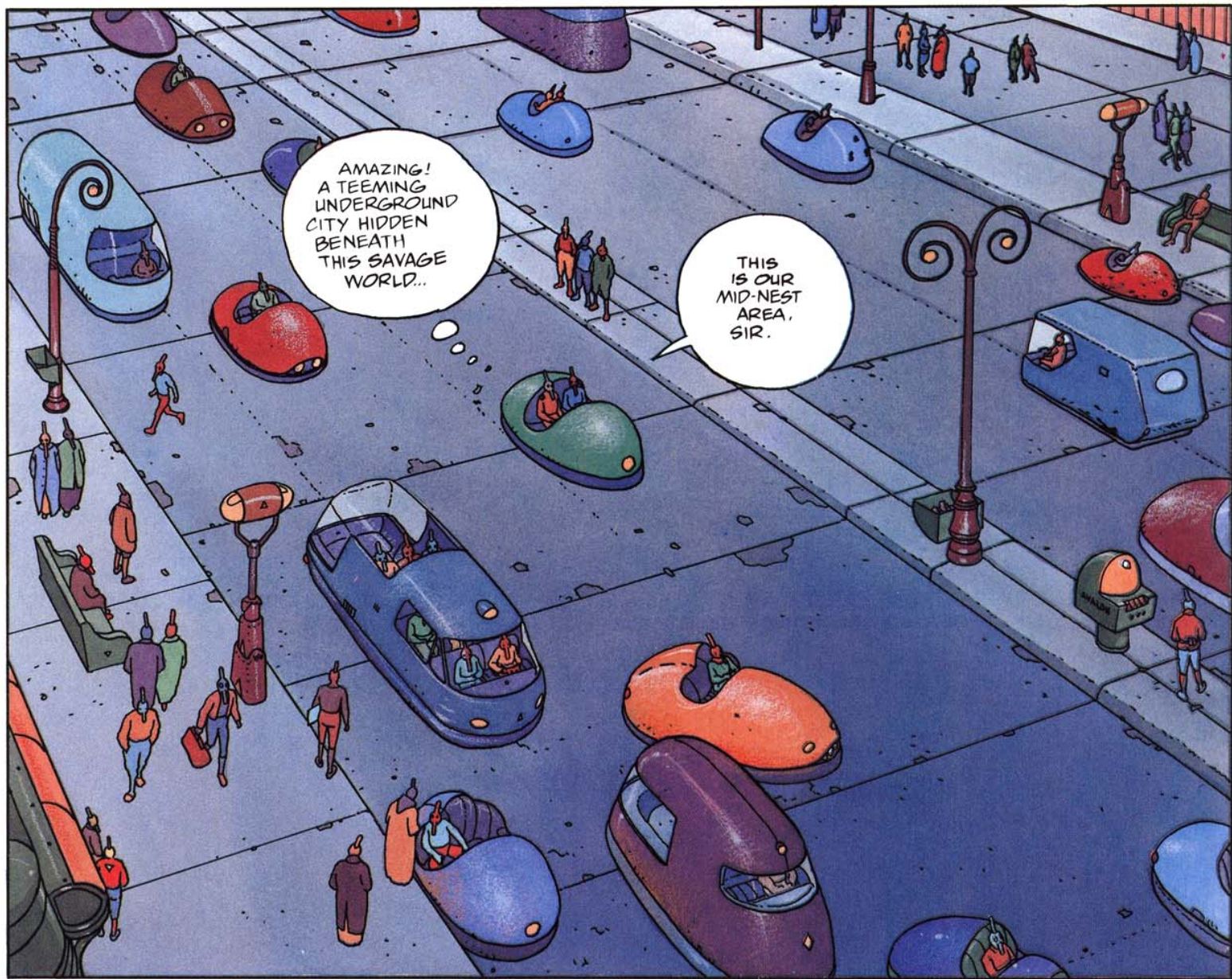
WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING TO
DO ABOUT
THE
OTHER
MAN?

HIM? HE IS AN
ORDINARY OUTNESTER.
SIMPLE RE-
PROGRAMMING WILL
TEACH HIM THE
RULES. A SPECIAL
TEAM IS ON THE
WAY TO TAKE
CARE OF HIM...



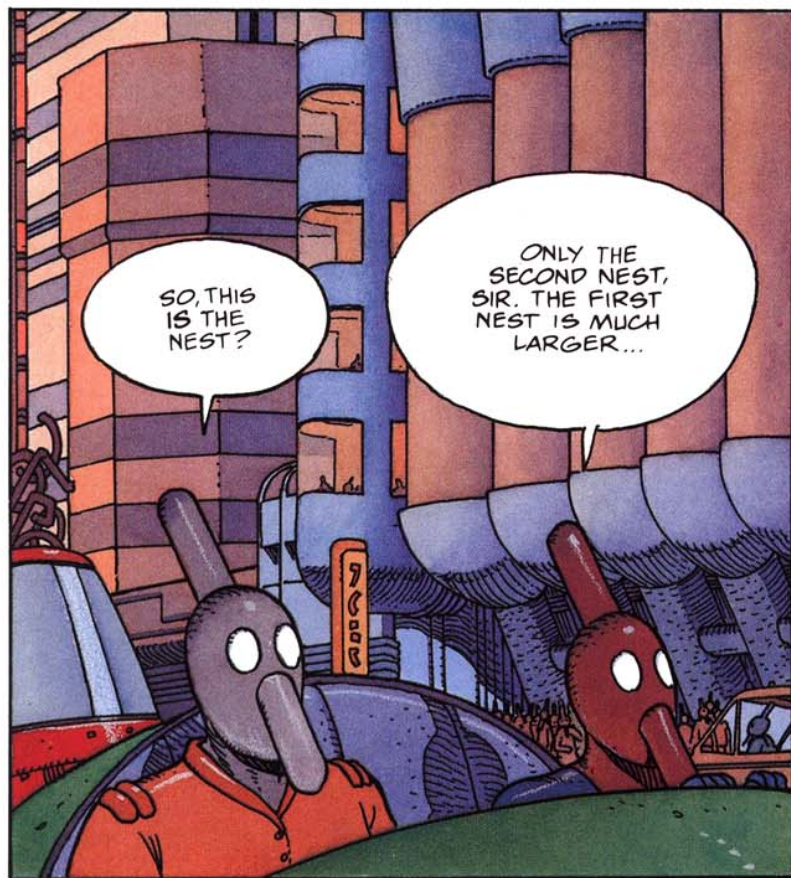
TAKE THIS G-CAB,
SIR, AND THIS SIR WILL
BE YOUR GUIDE!

MOEBIUS93 (S)



AMAZING!
A TEEMING
UNDERGROUND
CITY HIDDEN
BENEATH
THIS SAVAGE
WORLD...

THIS
IS OUR
MID-NEST
AREA,
SIR.



SO, THIS
IS THE
NEST?

ONLY THE
SECOND NEST,
SIR. THE FIRST
NEST IS MUCH
LARGER...



DRATS!
IF I WANT
TO FIND ATANA,
I'VE GOT TO
FIND A WAY TO
GET OUT OF
HERE!

WE ARE APPROACHING
NEST-HALL, SIR. A VERY
BEAUTIFUL BUILDING IN
CLASSIC FCNS STYLE,
OF WHICH WE ARE
VERY PROUD. THE
PATERNUM IS WAIT-
ING FOR YOU THERE.

NEST-
HALL.

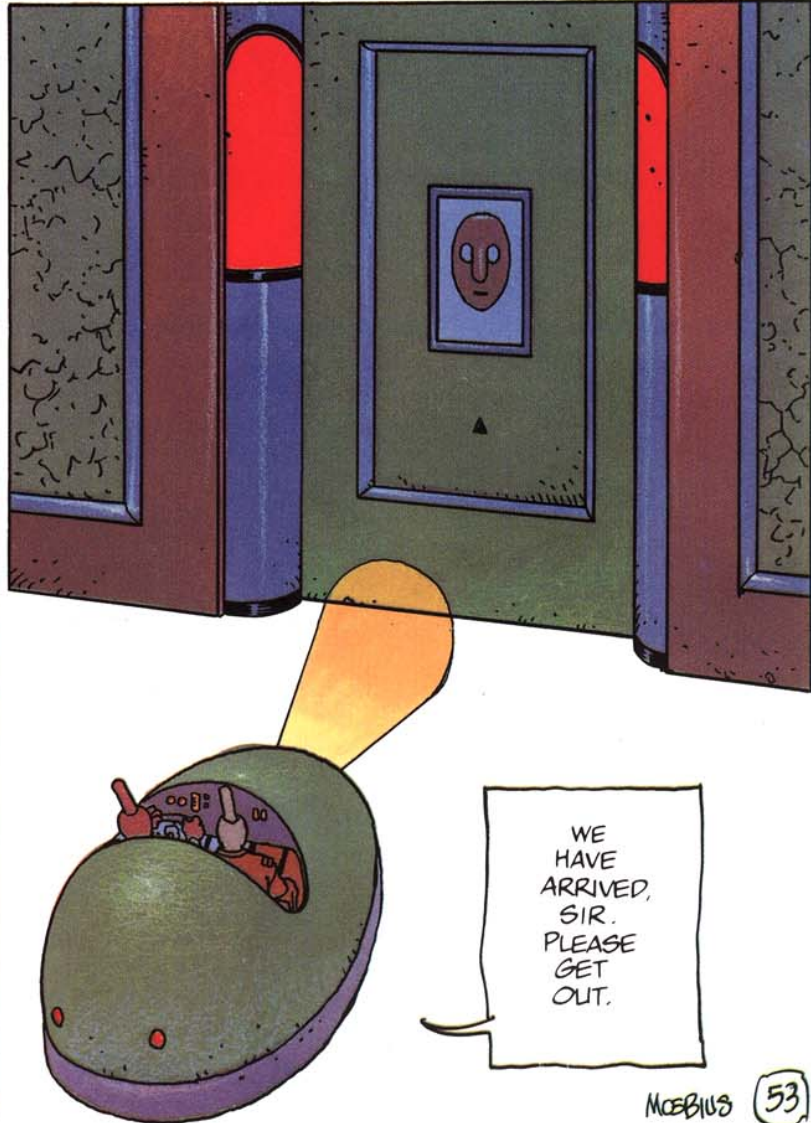
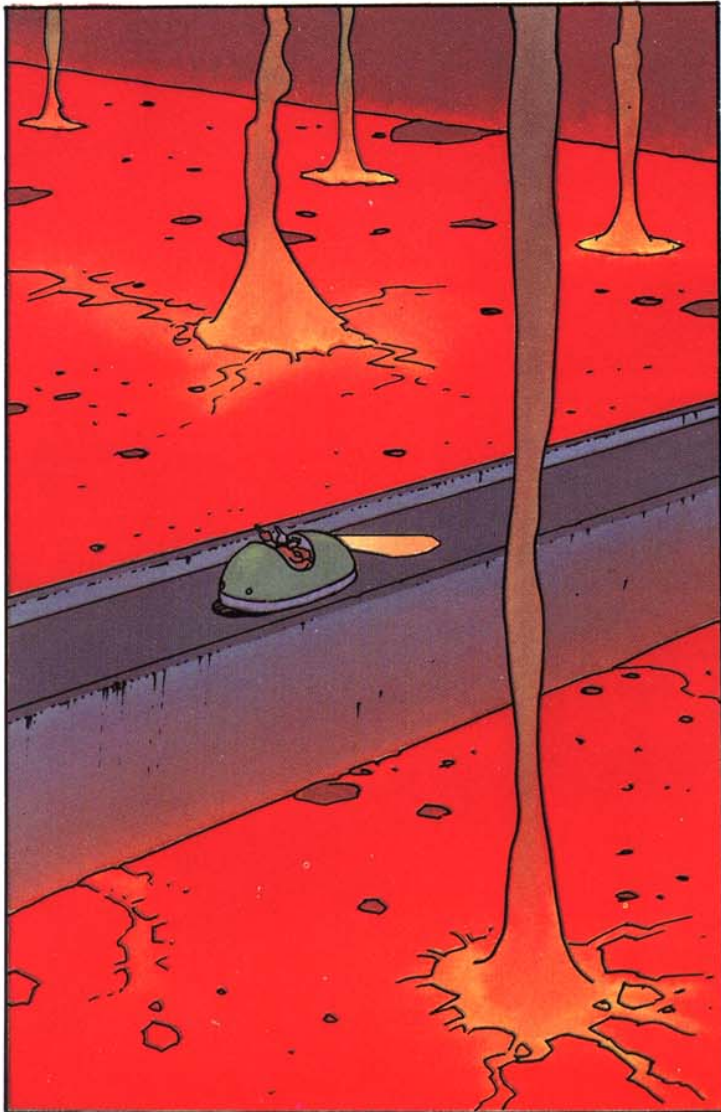
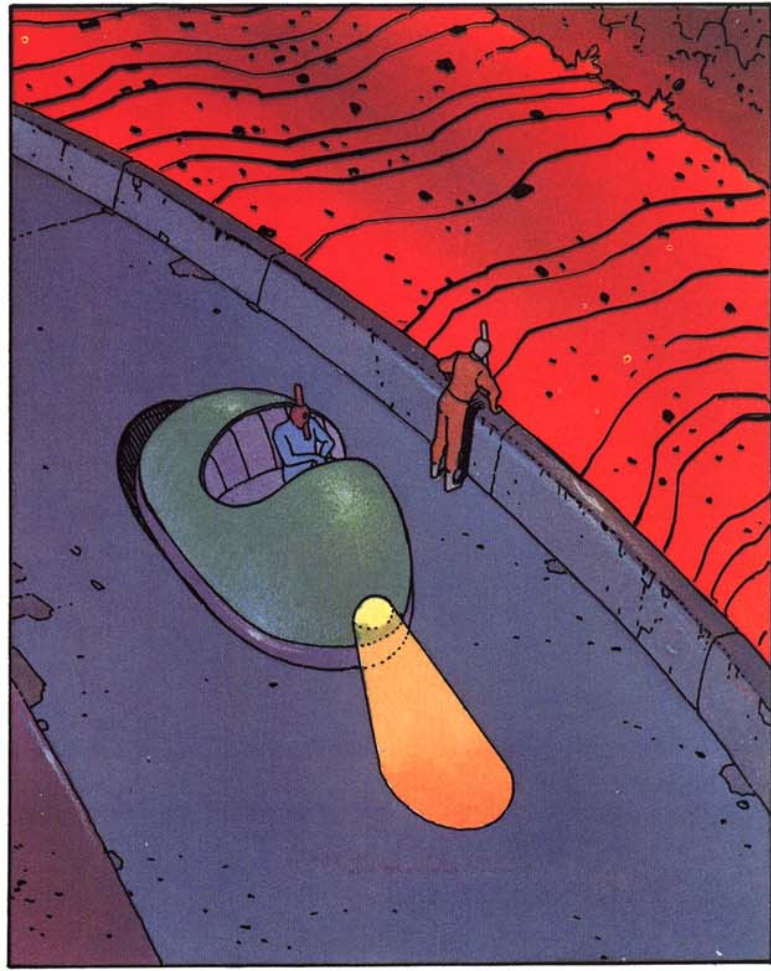
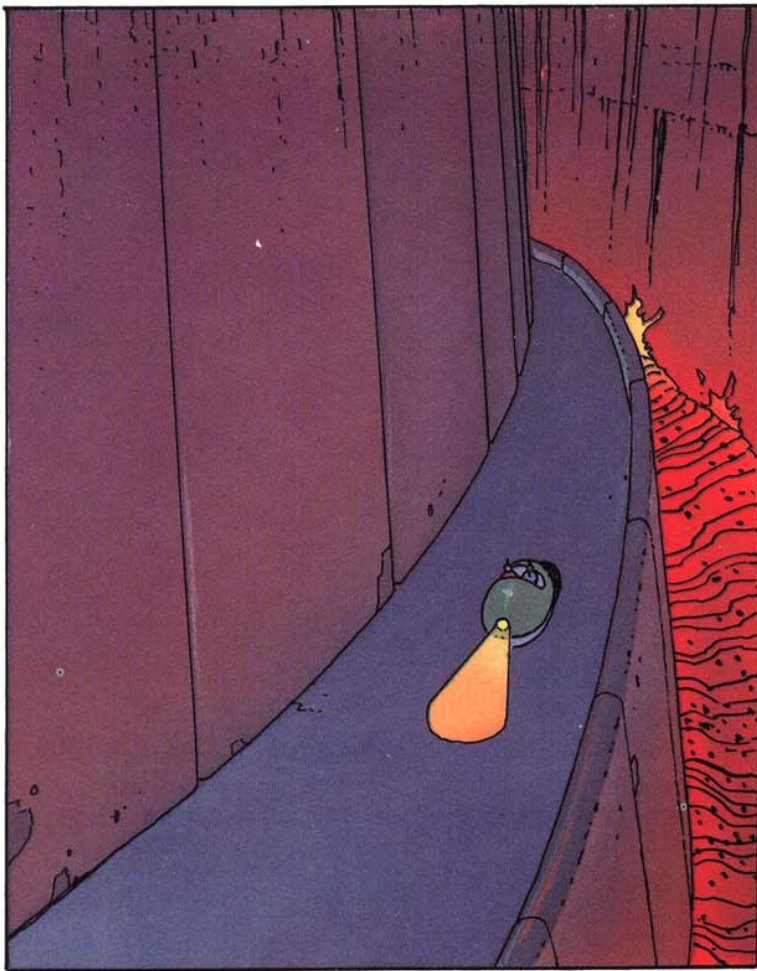
IT IS
NOT COMPLETELY
FINISHED YET...

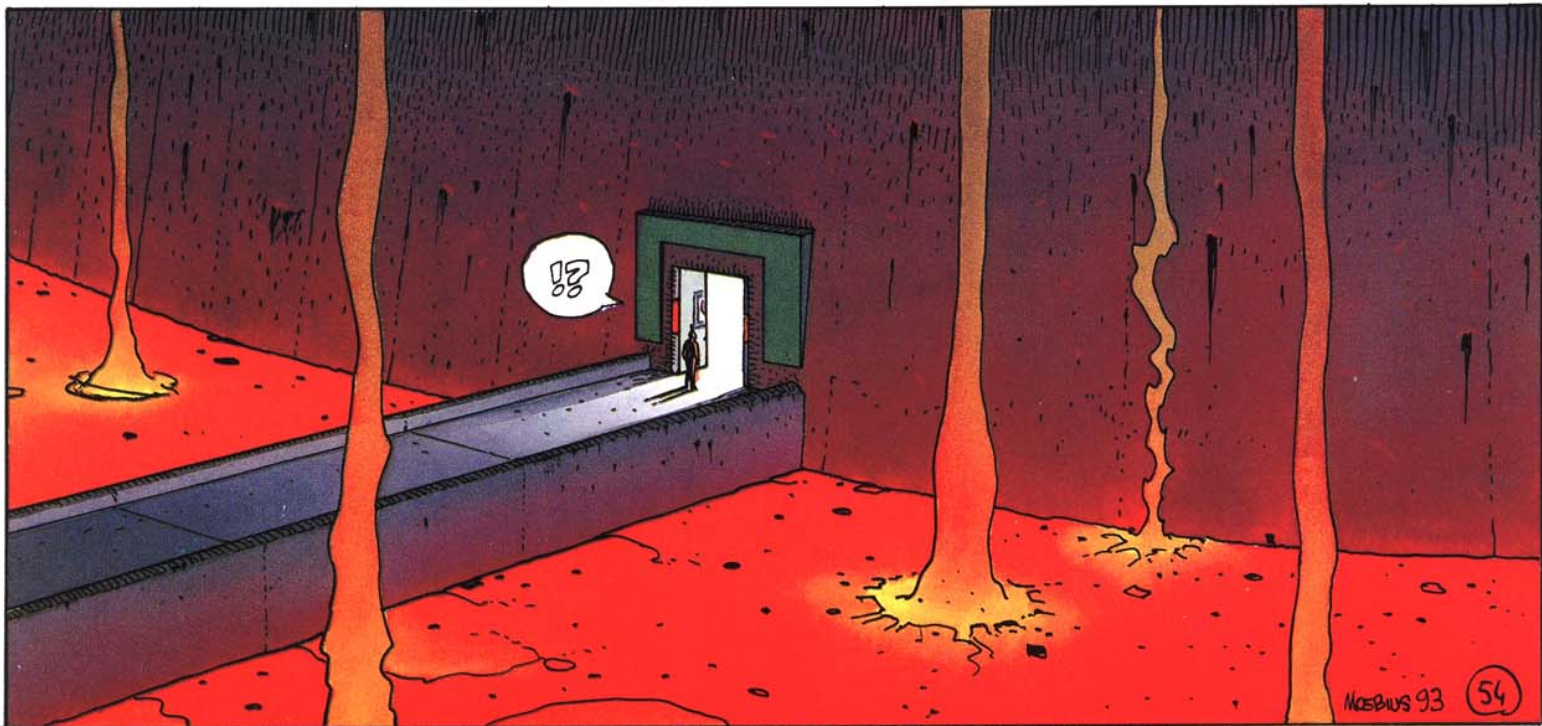
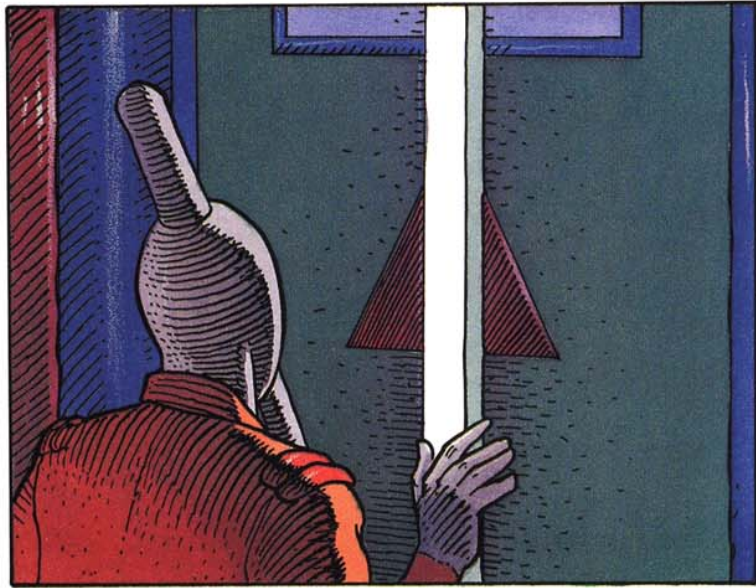
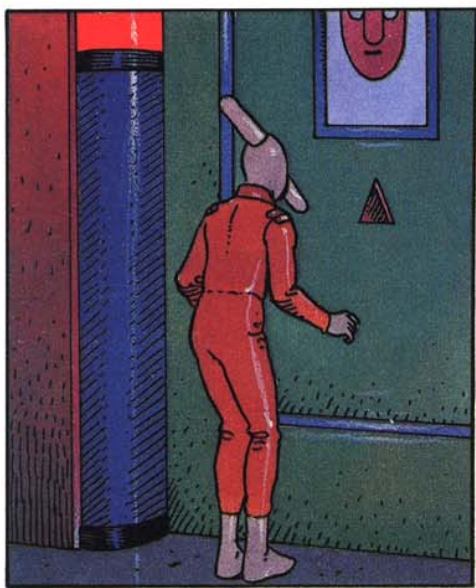
I'D CHECKS, CONTROLS, GUARDS...

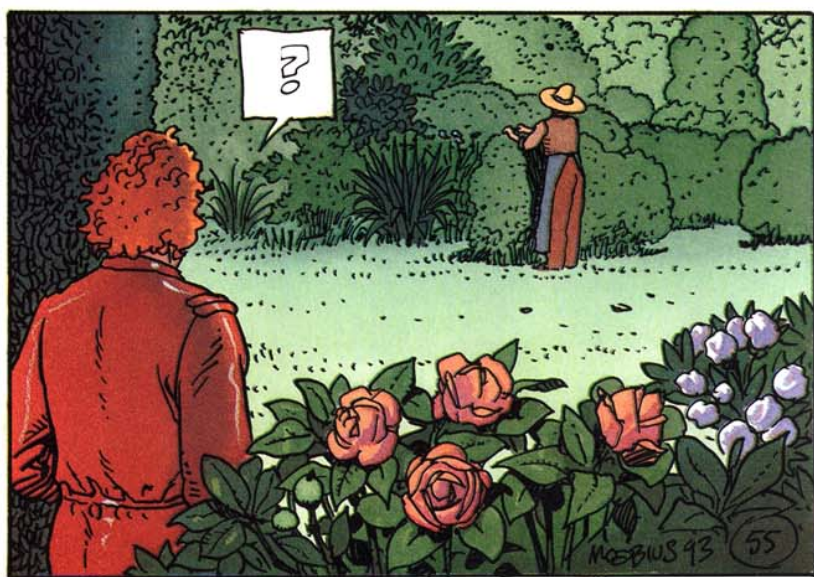
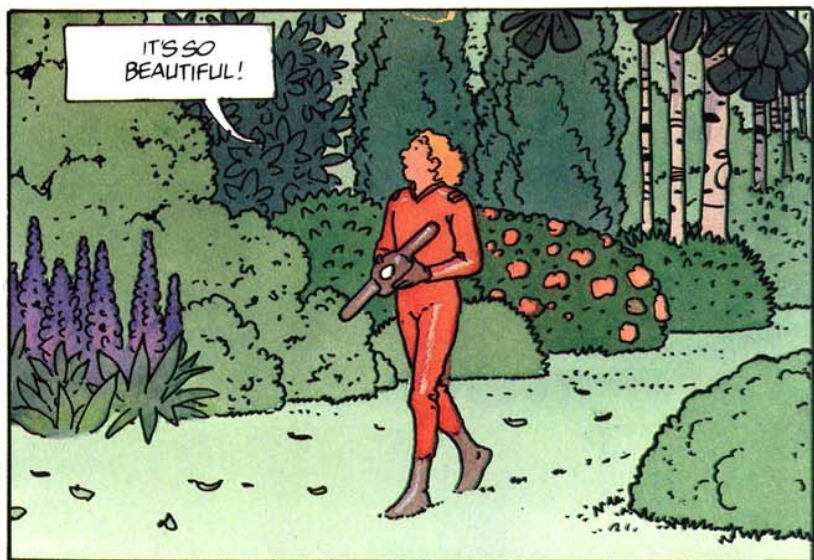
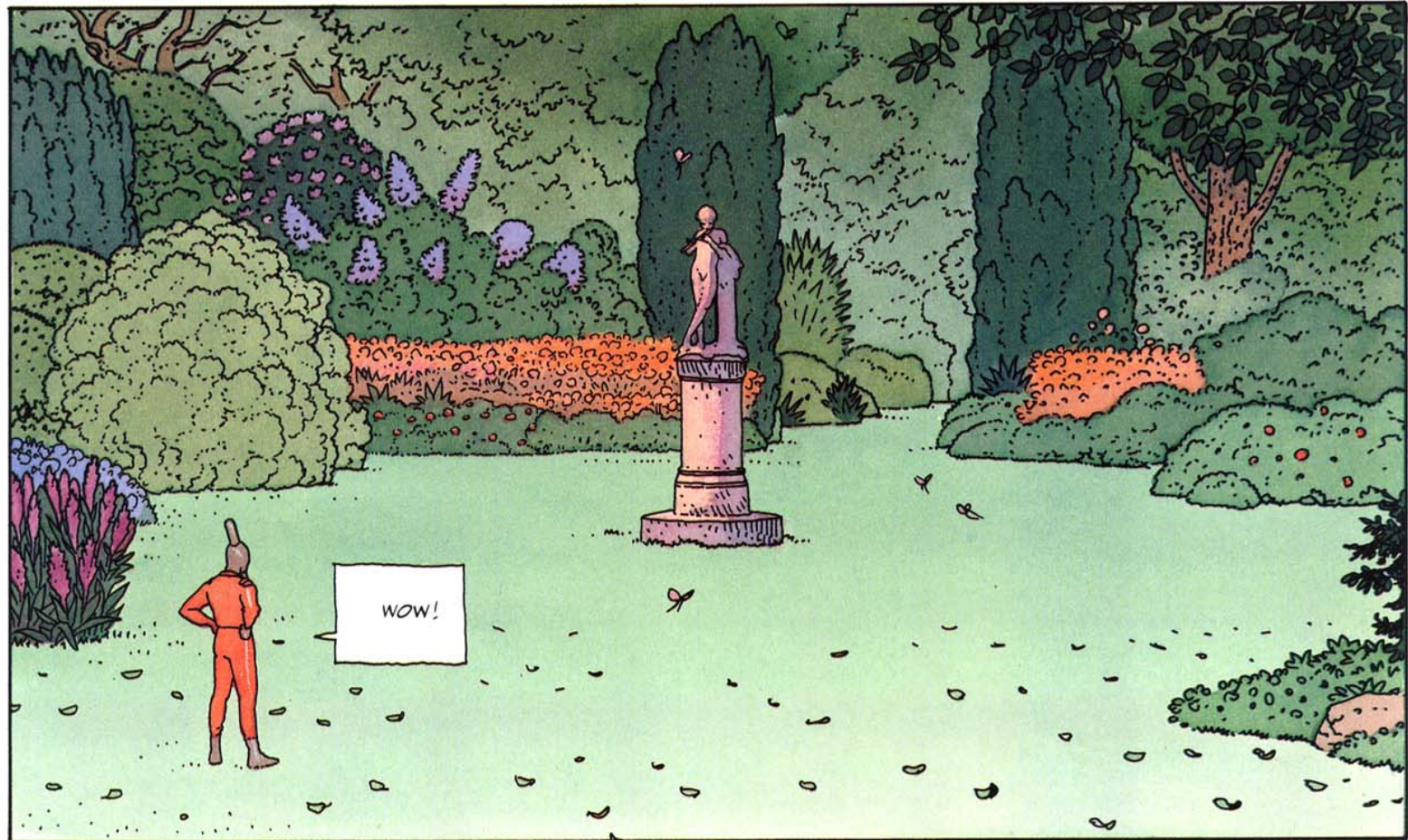
VERY
IM-
PRES-
SIVE!

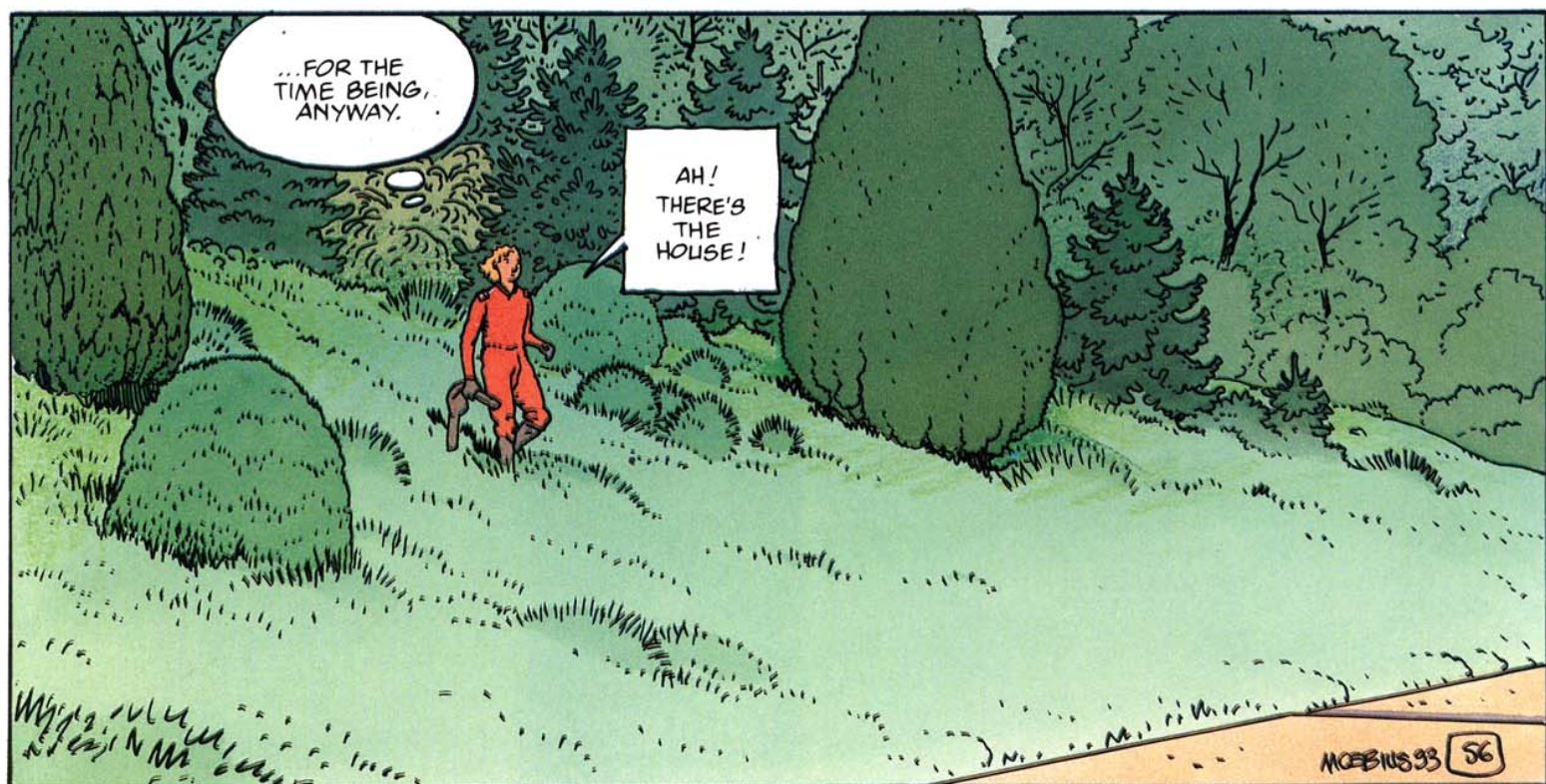
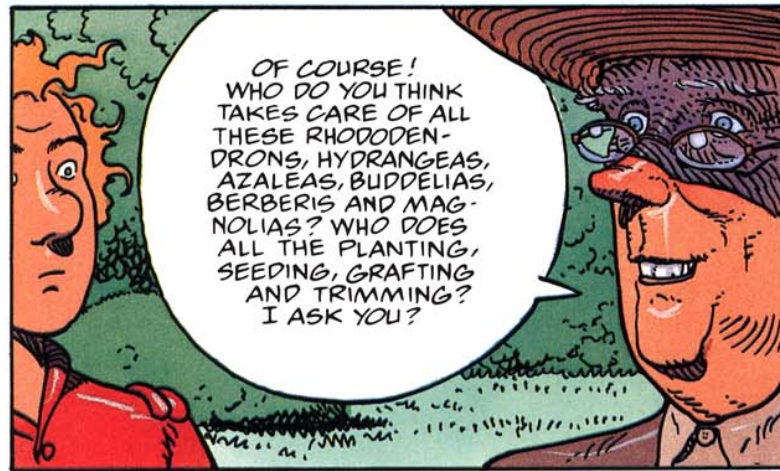
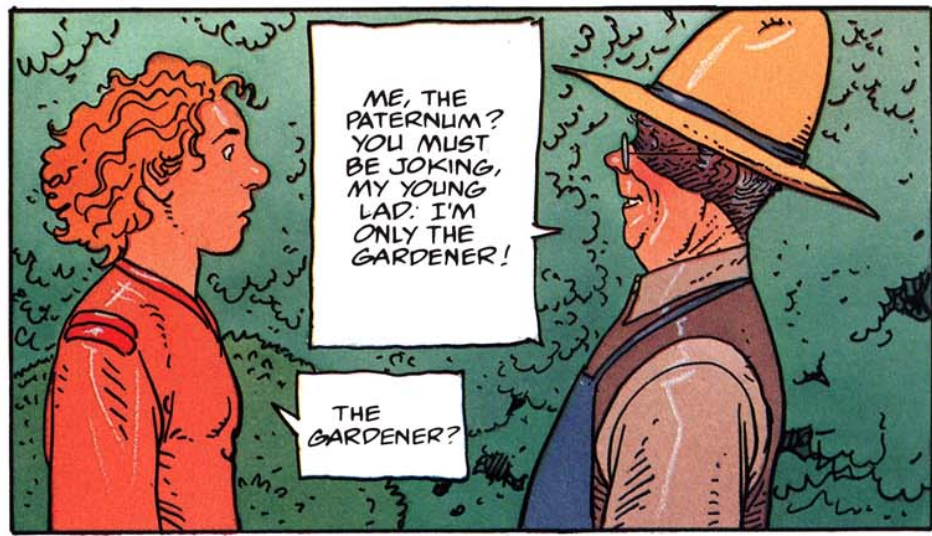
IS IT NOT?
FROM NOW ON,
WE ARE ENTERING
THE PATERNUM'S
PRIVATE APART-
MENTS, HIS PER-
SONAL QUARTERS,
IF YOU
WISH...

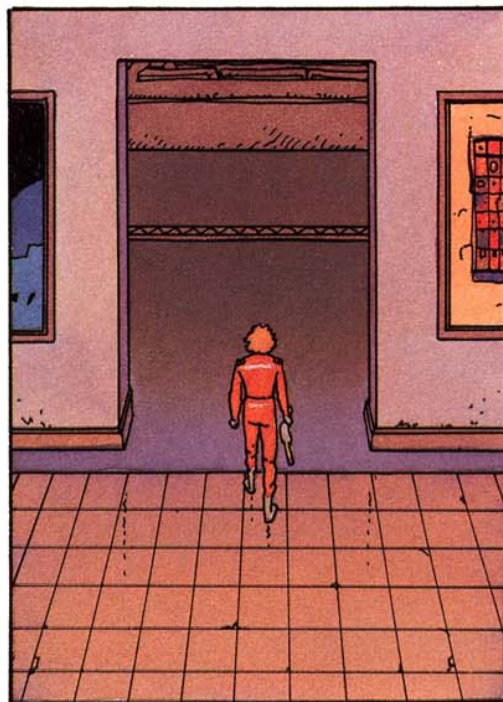
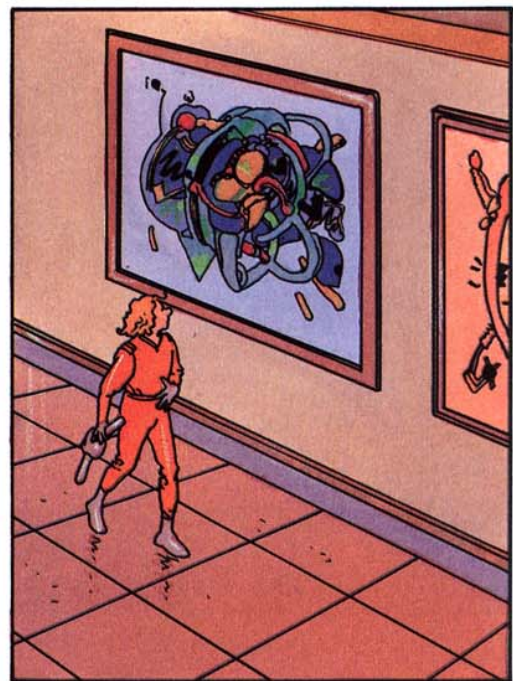
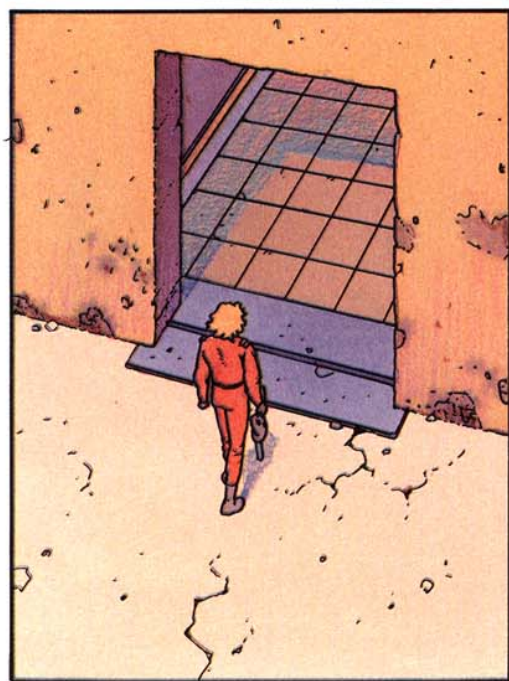
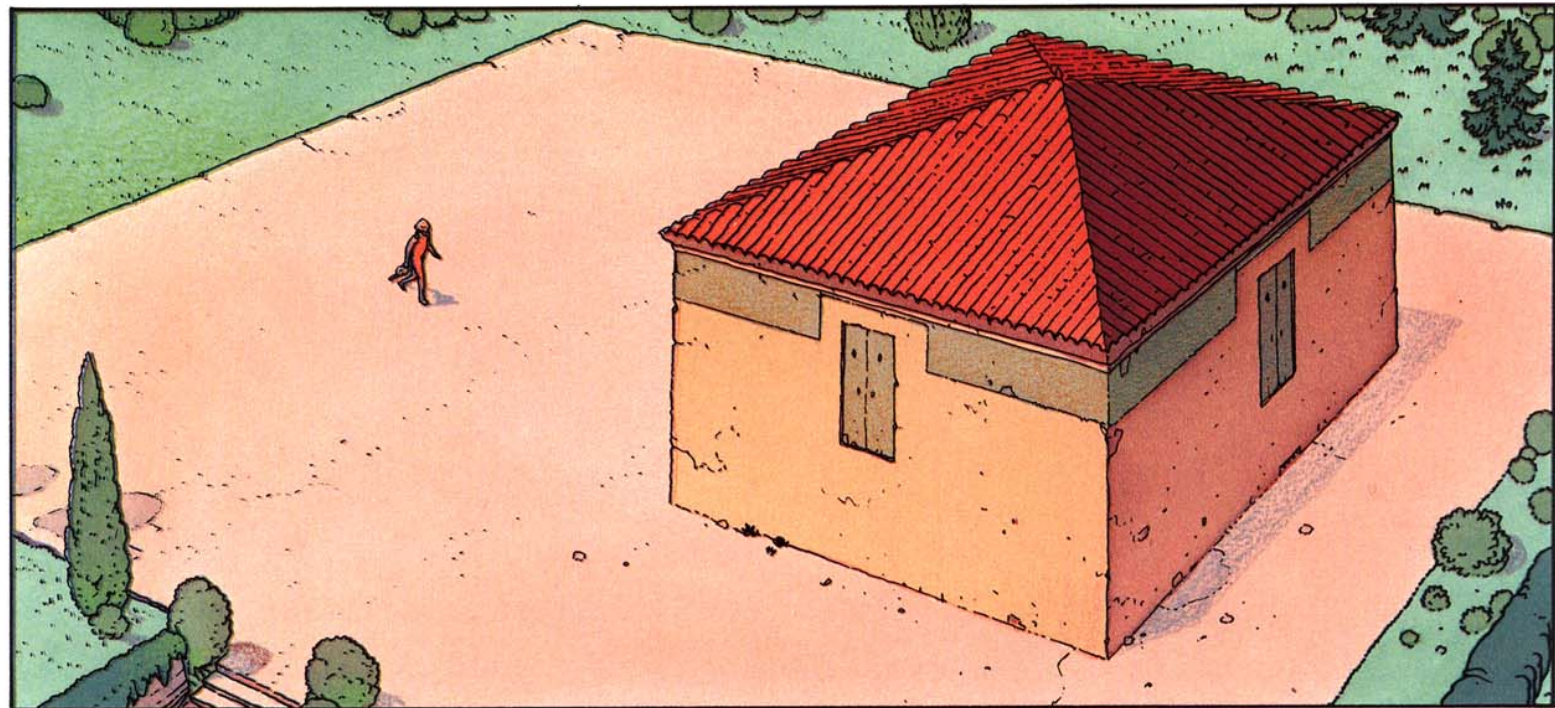
MOEBIUS 93 (52)

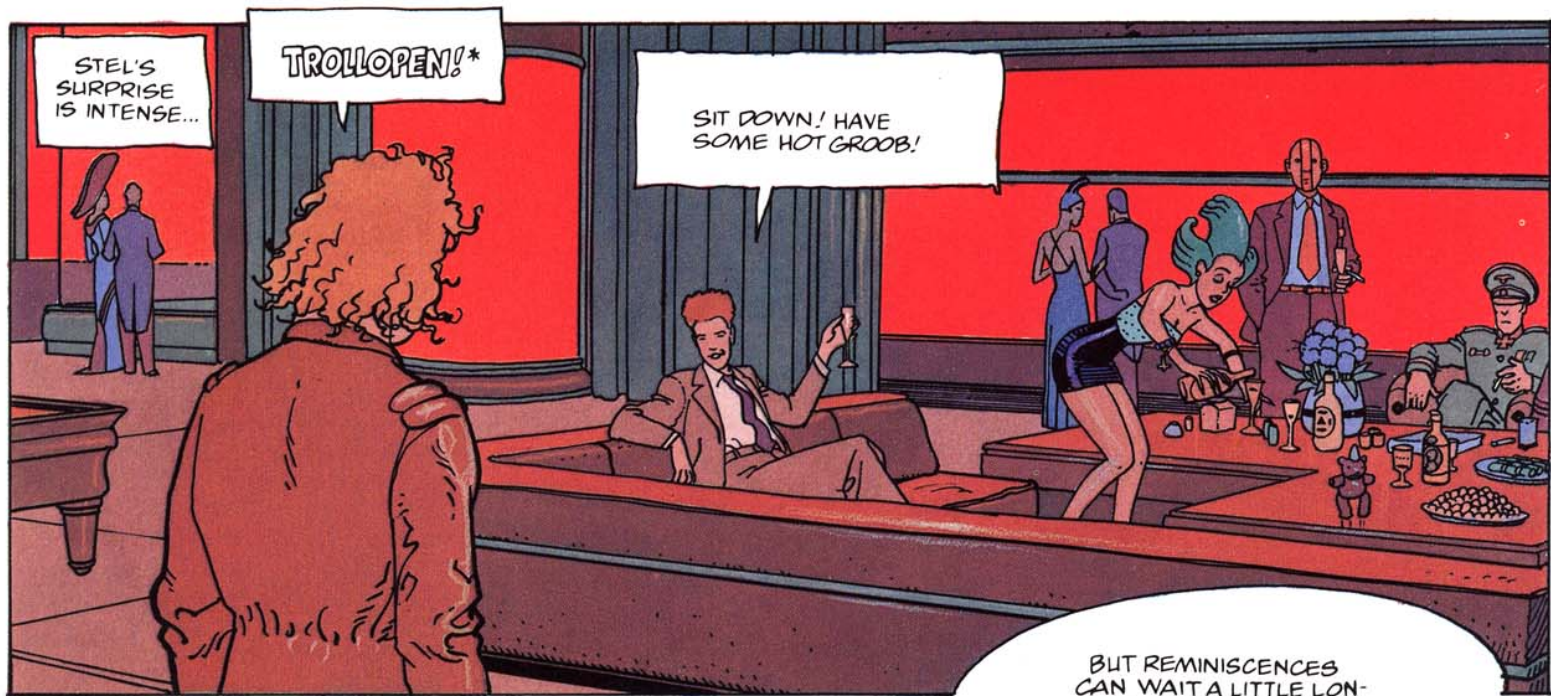












STEL'S SURPRISE IS INTENSE...

TROLLOPEN!*

SIT DOWN! HAVE SOME HOT GROOB!

BUT REMINISCENCES CAN WAIT A LITTLE LONGER. NICOLE IS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU. YOU MUST BE ABSOLUTELY EXHAUSTED!



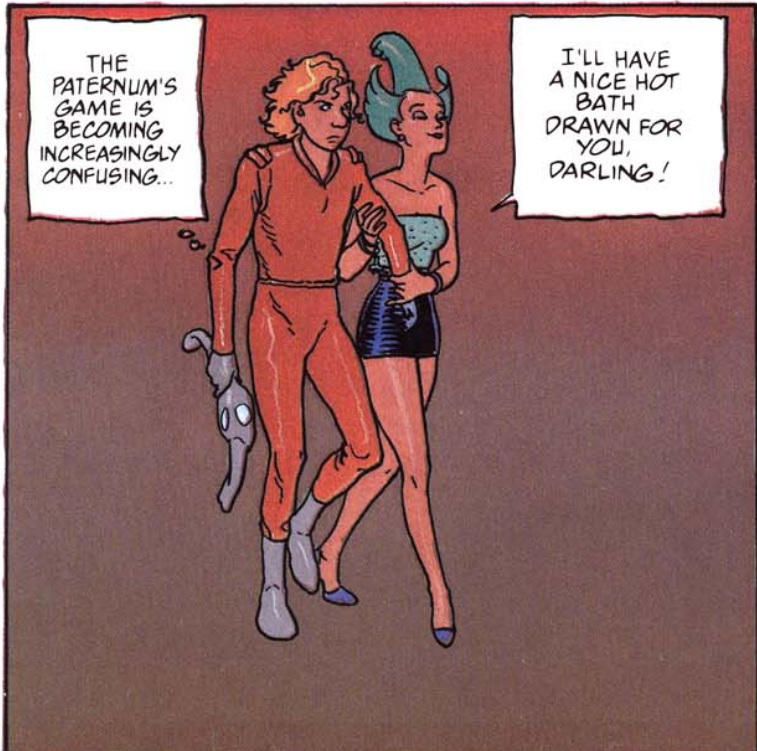
TROLLOPEN! HOW CAN IT BE? THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU, WE WERE ON "POOL BALL", AND WE WERE ALL ABOUT TO ENTER INSIDE THE PYRAMID?*



CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE AN EXCELLENT MEMORY, STEL!



I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...



THE PATERNUM'S GAME IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONFUSING...

I'LL HAVE A NICE HOT BATH DRAWN FOR YOU, DARLING!

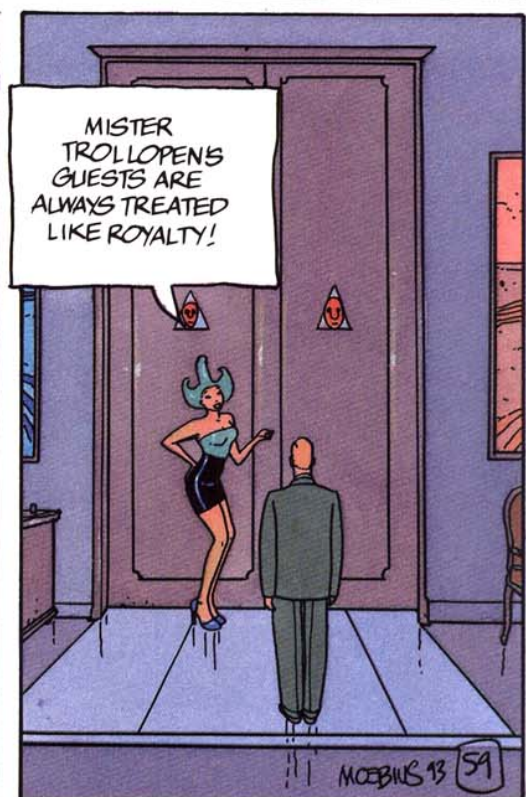
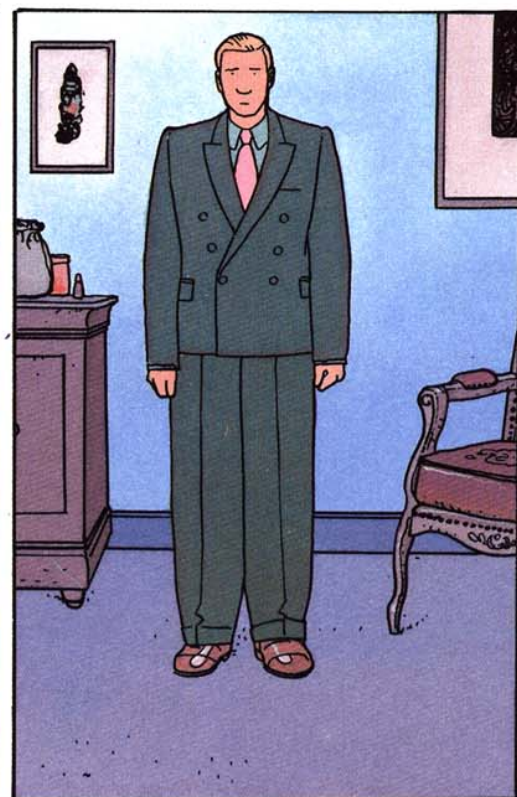
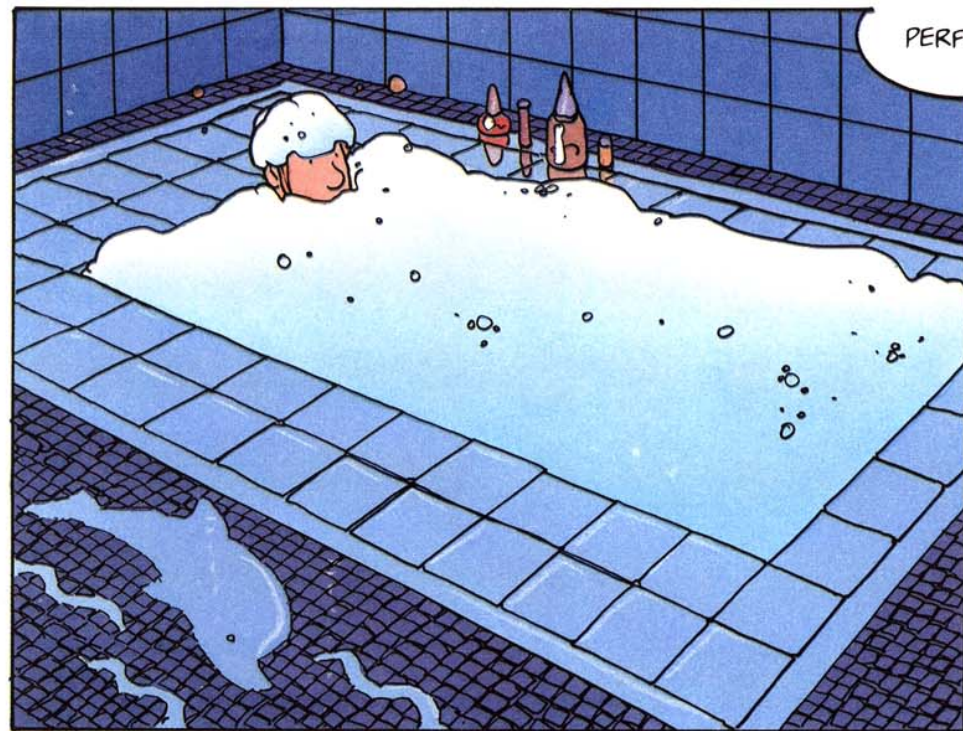


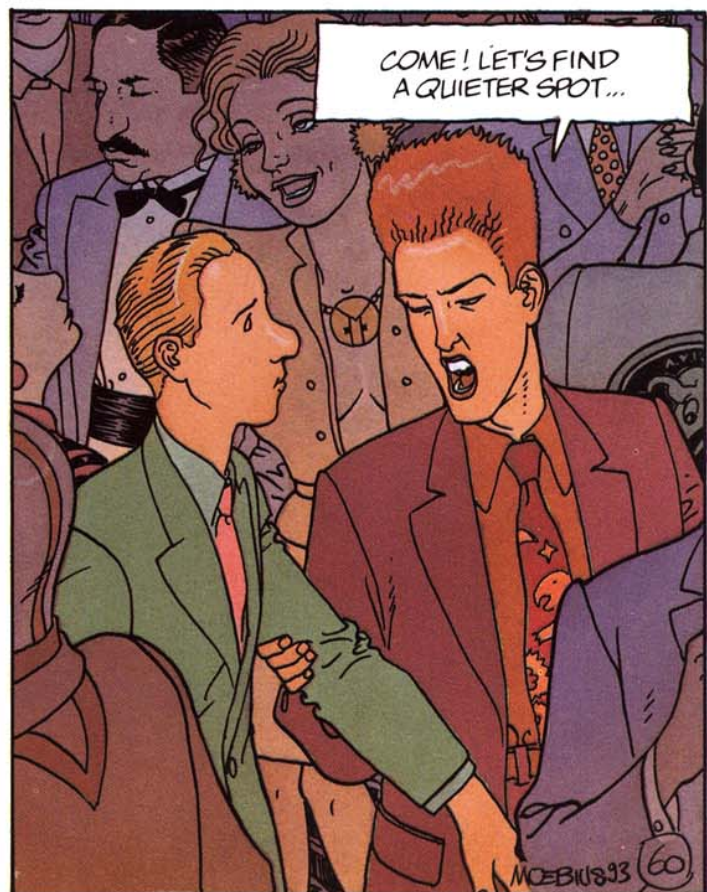
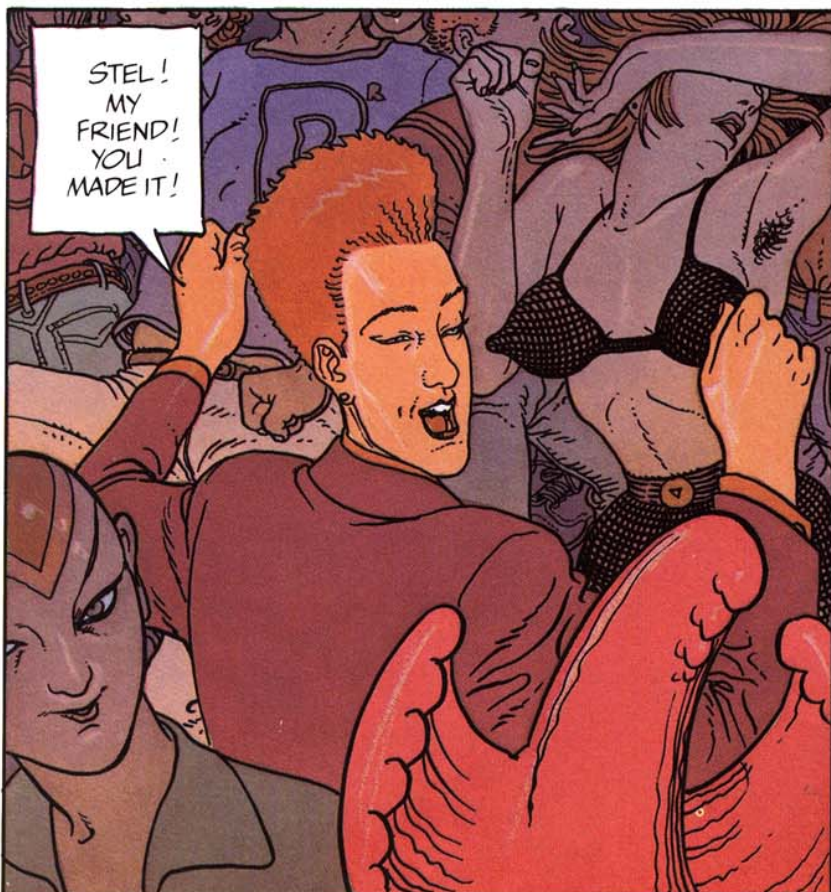
A BATH?!

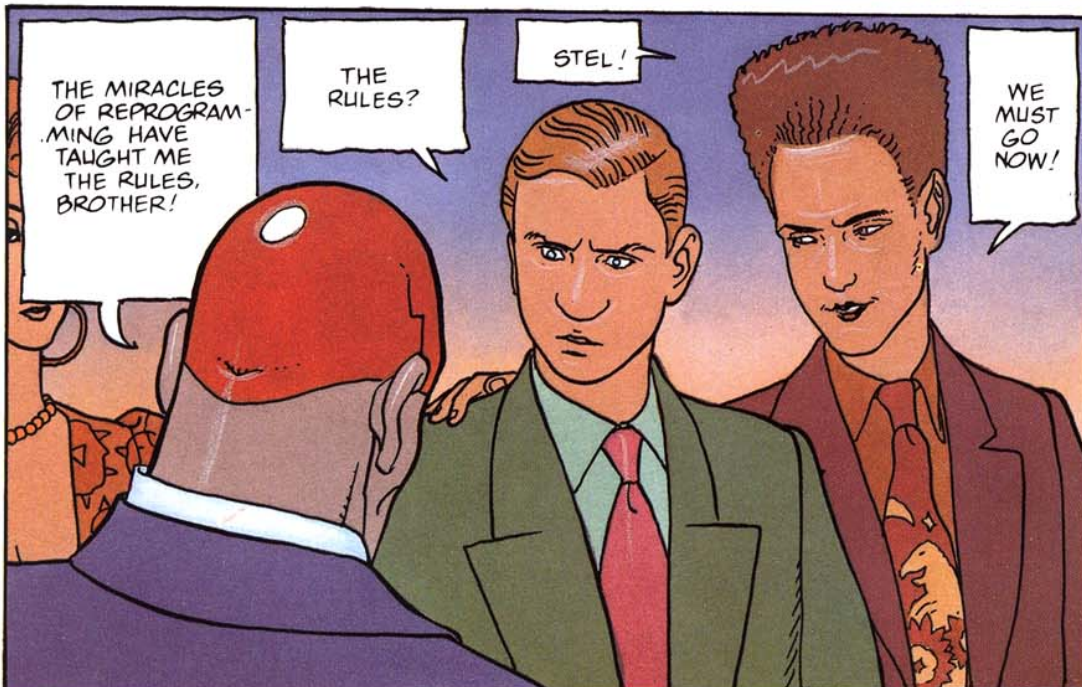
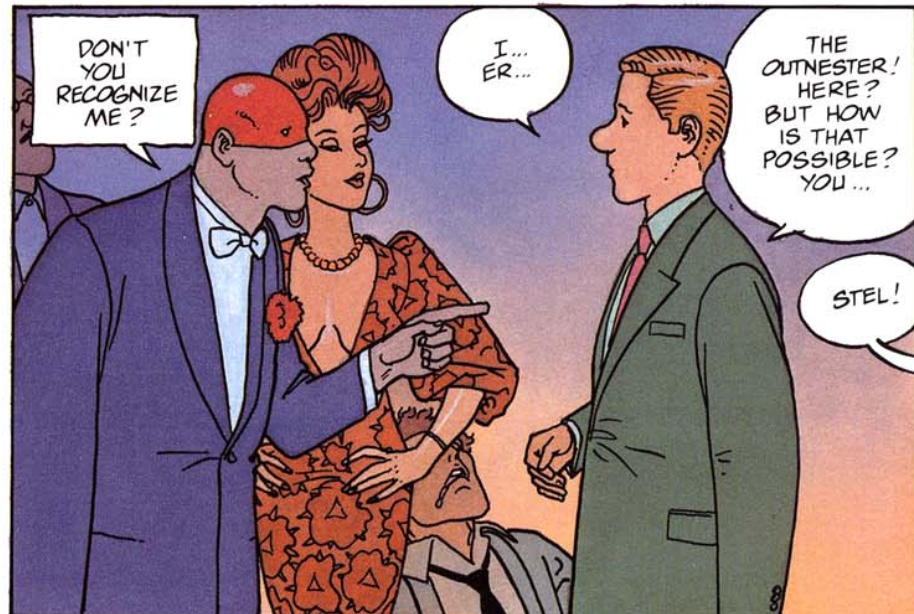
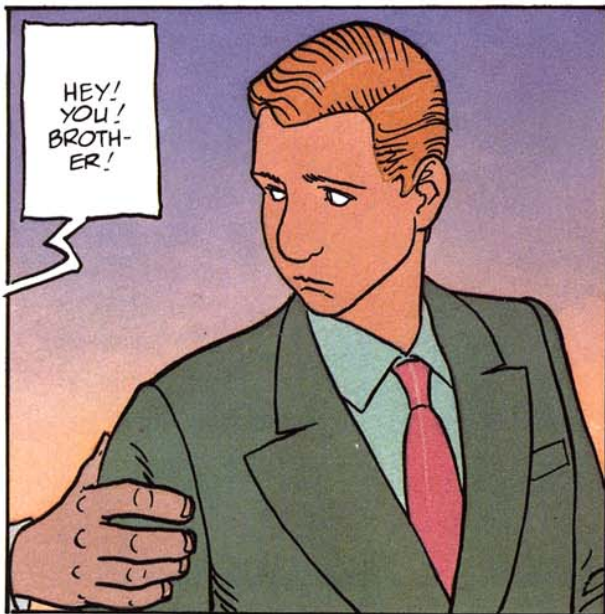
NOT A LUXURY. TRUST ME DARLING, YOU STINK LIKE A SKUNK!

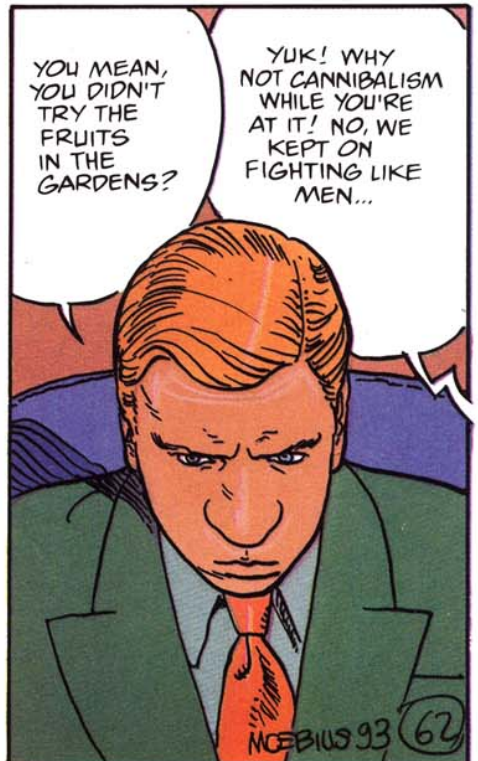
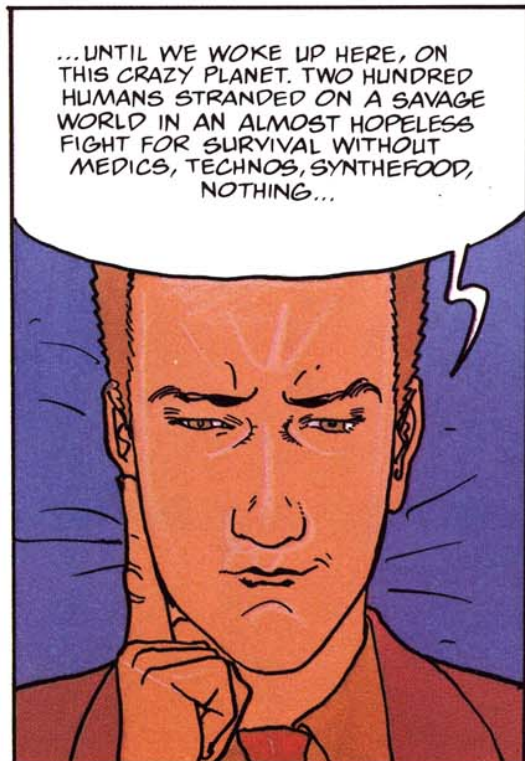
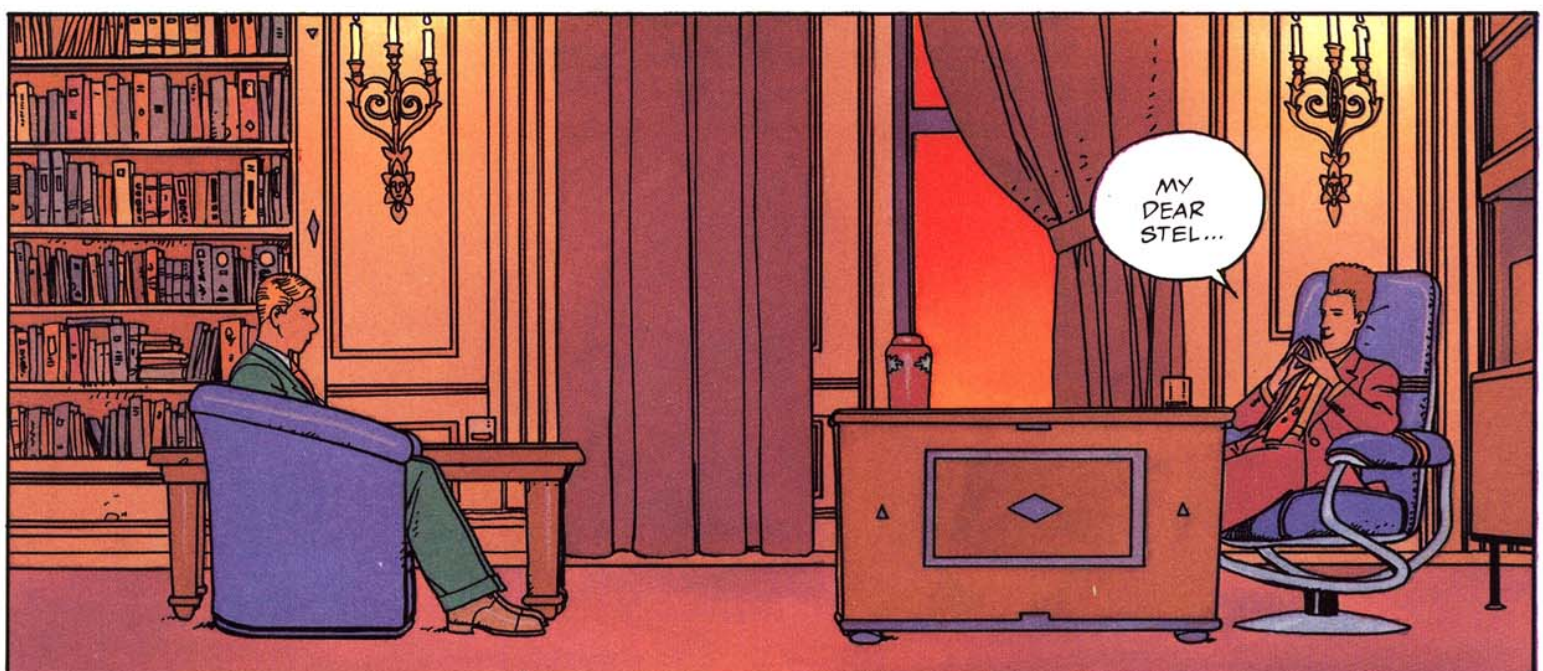
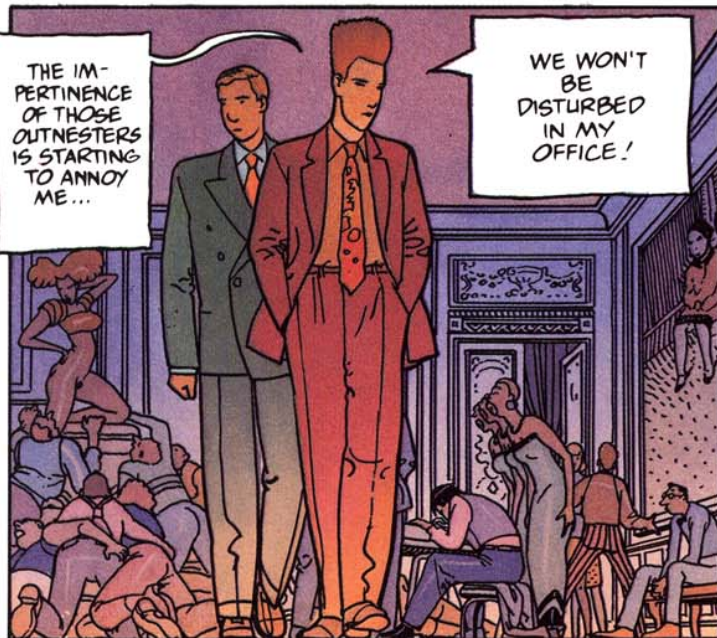
MOEBIUS 93 58

* SEE MOEBIUS N°1: UPON A STAR.









...UNTIL, ONE DAY, WE FOUND THE FIRST NEST. DON'T ASK ME ABOUT ITS ORIGINS. LIKE THE PYRAMIDS, THEY REMAIN A MYSTERY. BUT WE MOVED IN AND, SOON, THANKS TO ITS RESOURCES, WE WERE ABLE TO CREATE NEW FOOD SYNTHESIZERS AND EVEN CLONE VATS TO START A NEW COLONY...

TOO BAD YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE FIRST NEST... A BEAUTIFUL PLACE..

BUT THEN HOW COULD YOU BE HERE? HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED SINCE THEN?

A THOUSAND YEARS...

THIS IS WHERE MY STORY BECOMES SOMEWHAT STRANGE. AS THE YEARS WENT BY, OUR ORIGINAL CREW OF TWO HUNDRED BEGAN TO DIE, ONE BY ONE, UNTIL THERE WERE ONLY TWO OF US LEFT...

MYSELF, AND LITTLE ORAN SILVERBERG, IN CHARGE OF MAINTENANCE ON THE ASTERO. AFTER ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS, WE REALIZED THAT WE'D MYSTERIOUSLY BECOME IMMORTAL. THEN, THE NIGHTMARES CAME, SOON FOLLOWED BY THAT BASTARD BURG...

YOU KNOW HIM?

YOU BET! HE'S SOME KIND OF GHOST. HE KEPT PESTERING US WITH HIS STUPID PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE RETURN OF THE "GOD" STEL AND THE "GODDESS" ATANA ...

SO YOU'VE MET HIM TOO?

ER, YES. IN A DREAM...

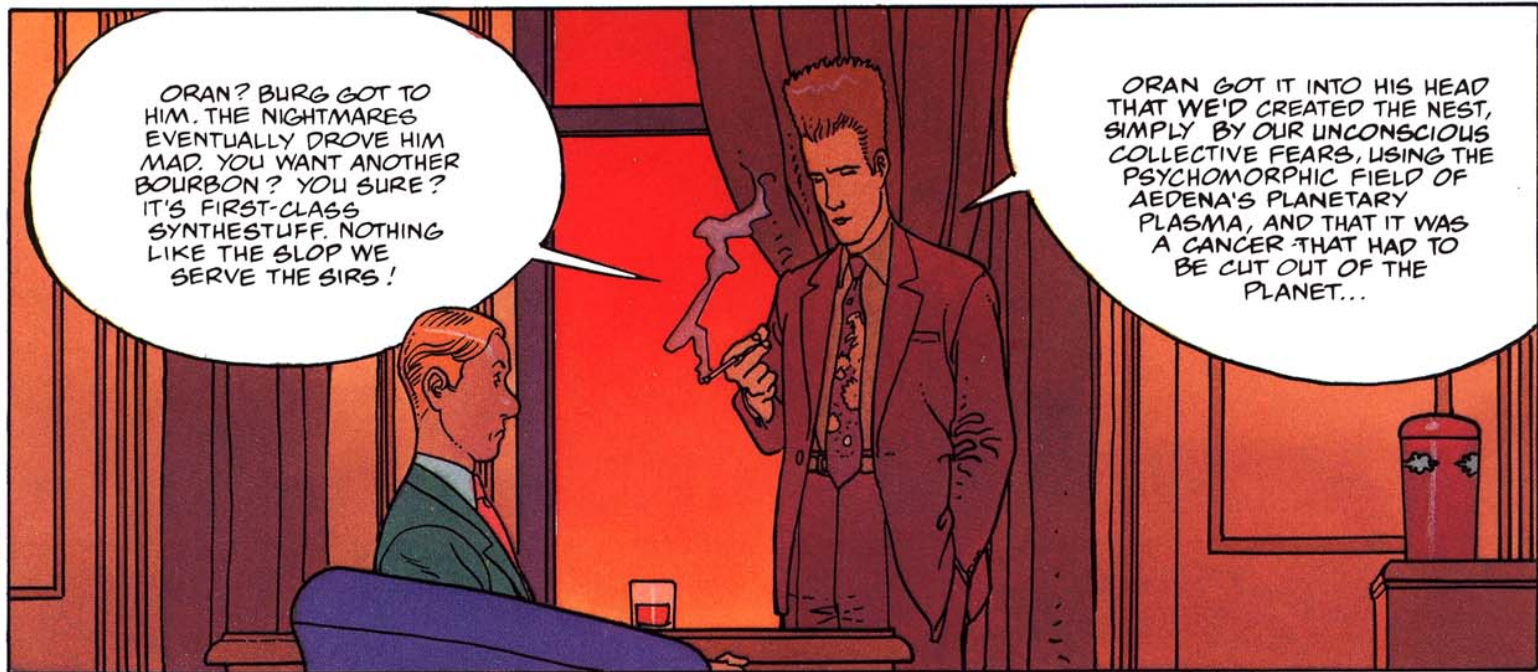
THAT BASTARD ALMOST DROVE ME INSANE!

FORTUNATELY, MY TEAM OF MEDICLONES EVENTUALLY FOUND AN ANSWER BY PLACING ME IN A SYNTHETIC ONEIRIC STASIS FROM WHICH I COULD CONTINUE TO SUPERVISE THE NEST AND MY BEAUTIFULLY-CONTROLLED SOCIETY. I WASN'T GOING TO LET BURG RUIN ETERNITY FOR ME!

WHAT ABOUT ORAN?

MOEBIUS 93

63



ORAN? BURG GOT TO HIM. THE NIGHTMARES EVENTUALLY DROVE HIM MAD. YOU WANT ANOTHER BOURBON? YOU SURE? IT'S FIRST-CLASS SYNTHESTUFF. NOTHING LIKE THE SLOP WE SERVE THE SIRS!

ORAN GOT IT INTO HIS HEAD THAT WE'D CREATED THE NEST, SIMPLY BY OUR UNCONSCIOUS COLLECTIVE FEARS, USING THE PSYCHOMORPHIC FIELD OF AEDENA'S PLANETARY PLASMA, AND THAT IT WAS A CANCER THAT HAD TO BE CUT OUT OF THE PLANET...

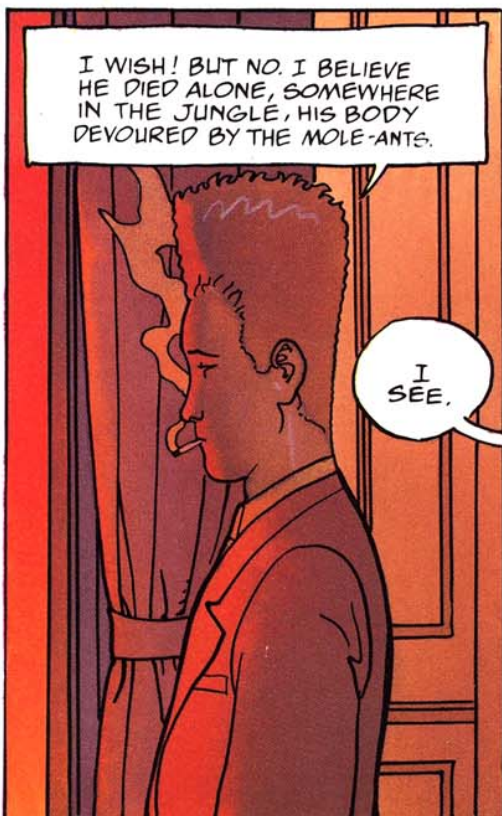


SO? WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT COULD I DO? I TRIED TO HAVE HIM CURED. I EVEN OFFERED TO SHARE MY STASIS WITH HIM. ALL IN VAIN. THAT MADMAN WROTE A PRETENTIOUS, MYSTICO-PHILOSOPHICAL TREATISE, THE BOOK OF THE PYRAMID, THEN LEFT, THUS BECOMING THE FIRST "OUTNESTER" IN AEDENA'S HISTORY.



YOU KILLED HIM...



I WISH! BUT NO. I BELIEVE HE DIED ALONE, SOMEWHERE IN THE JUNGLE, HIS BODY DEVoured BY THE MOLE-ANTS.

I SEE.



TROLLOPEN!



YES, STEL. WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? WHY ALL THESE GAMES? WHY THIS BOGUS PARTY?

MCEBIUS 93 64



YOU'RE RIGHT, OLD FRIEND. THE PARTY IS BOGUS...

...SOME RE-PROGRAMMED OUT-NESTERS...



...SOME RECON-DITIONED SIRRS...

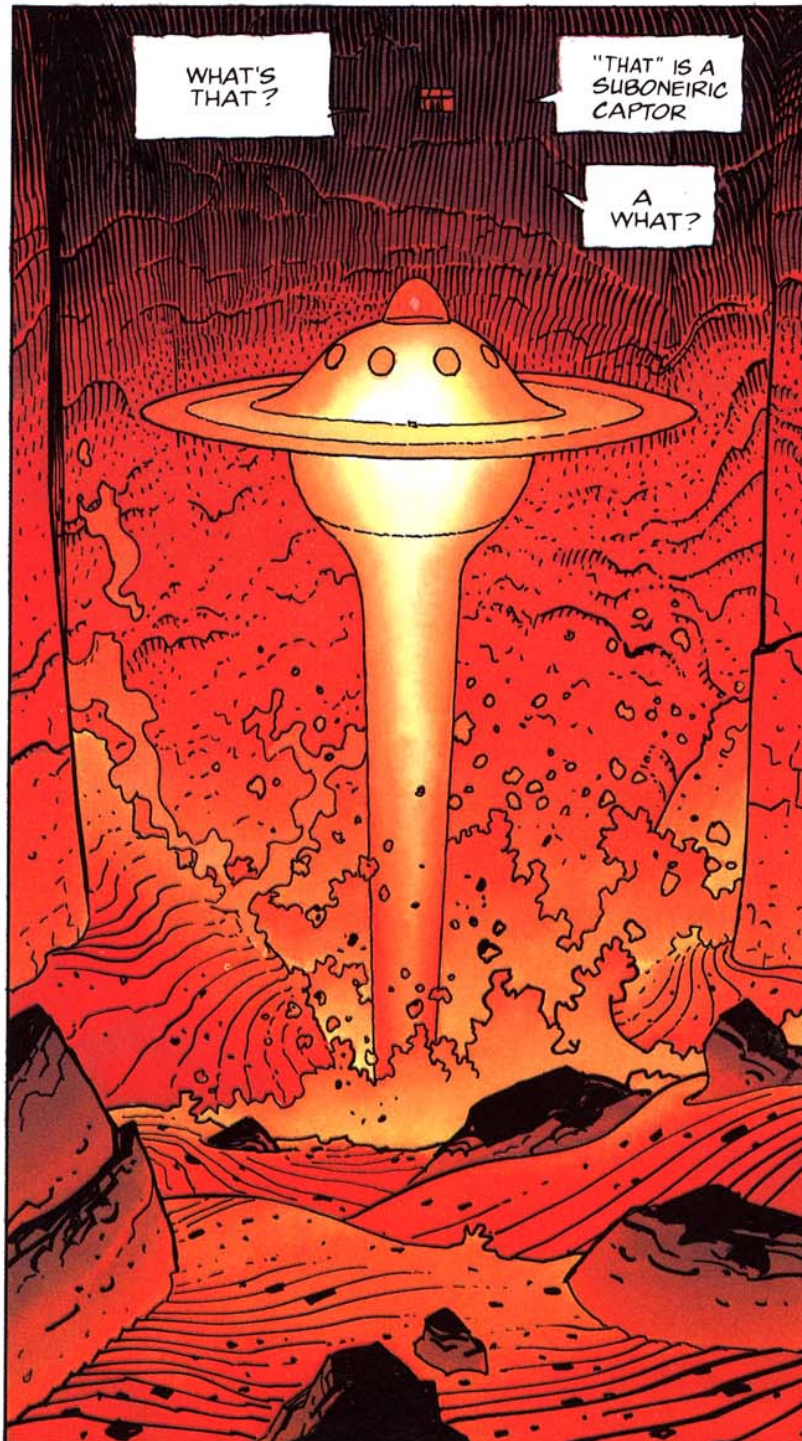
I WAS ALWAYS IN LOVE WITH OUR PRESFACE AGE!



I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I REALLY WANT FROM YOU, OLD FRIEND, BUT FIRST...



...I MUST SHOW YOU SOMETHING. COME HERE!



WHAT'S THAT?

"THAT" IS A SUBONEIRIC CAPTOR

A WHAT?



A PROBE PLUNGING DEEP INSIDE AEDENA'S SEETHING BOWELS!



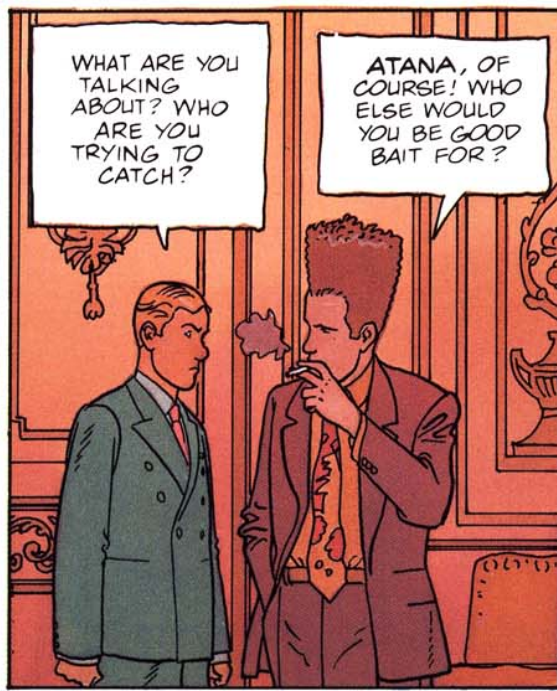
"AEDENA'S SEETHING BOWELS" ...GREAT FUSION! AND WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?



YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE THE BAIT!

?

THE BAIT?



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO CATCH?

ATANA, OF COURSE! WHO ELSE WOULD YOU BE GOOD BAIT FOR?



YOU BASTARD!

TUT-TUT.



I FIRST DESIGNED THIS ELABORATE TRAP FOR OUR FRIEND BURG, BUT ATANA'S RETURN FORCED ME TO REORDER MY PRIORITIES. NOW, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO BRING HER HERE...

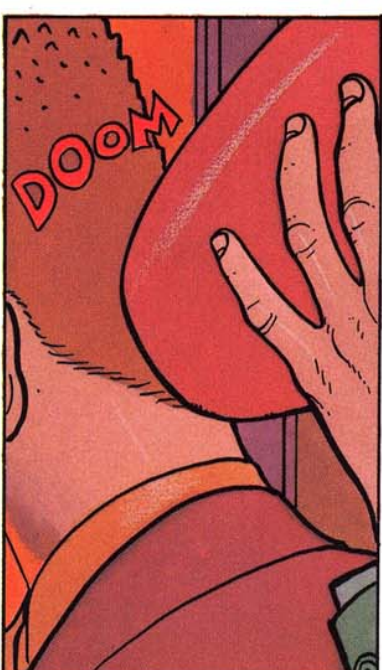
TROLLOPEN, PATERNUM, WHOEVER, YOU'RE MAD IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO HELP YOU DO THIS!



BUT YOU WILL.



HAVE NO FEAR. YOU WON'T HAVE MUCH TO DO!

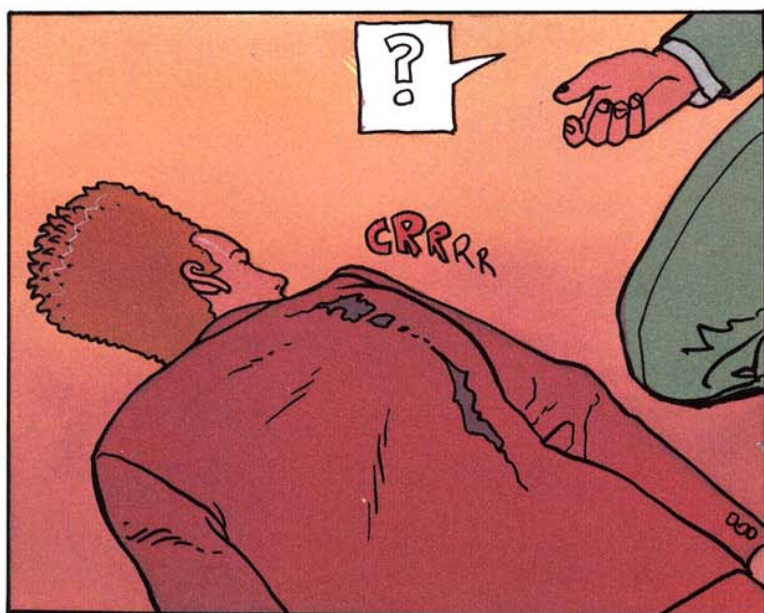


DOOM



GREAT UNIVERSE! I'VE KILLED HIM!

MOEBIUS 93 (66)

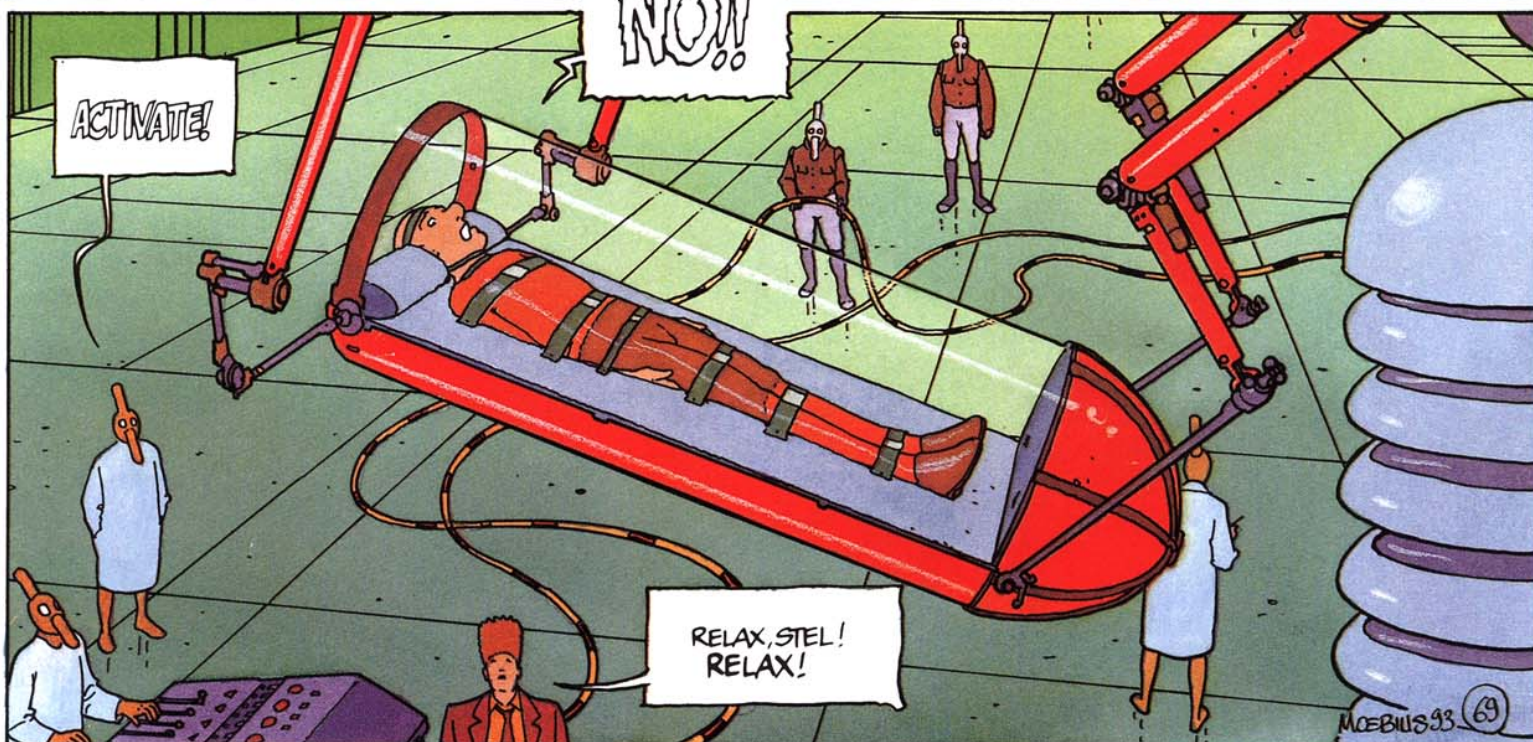
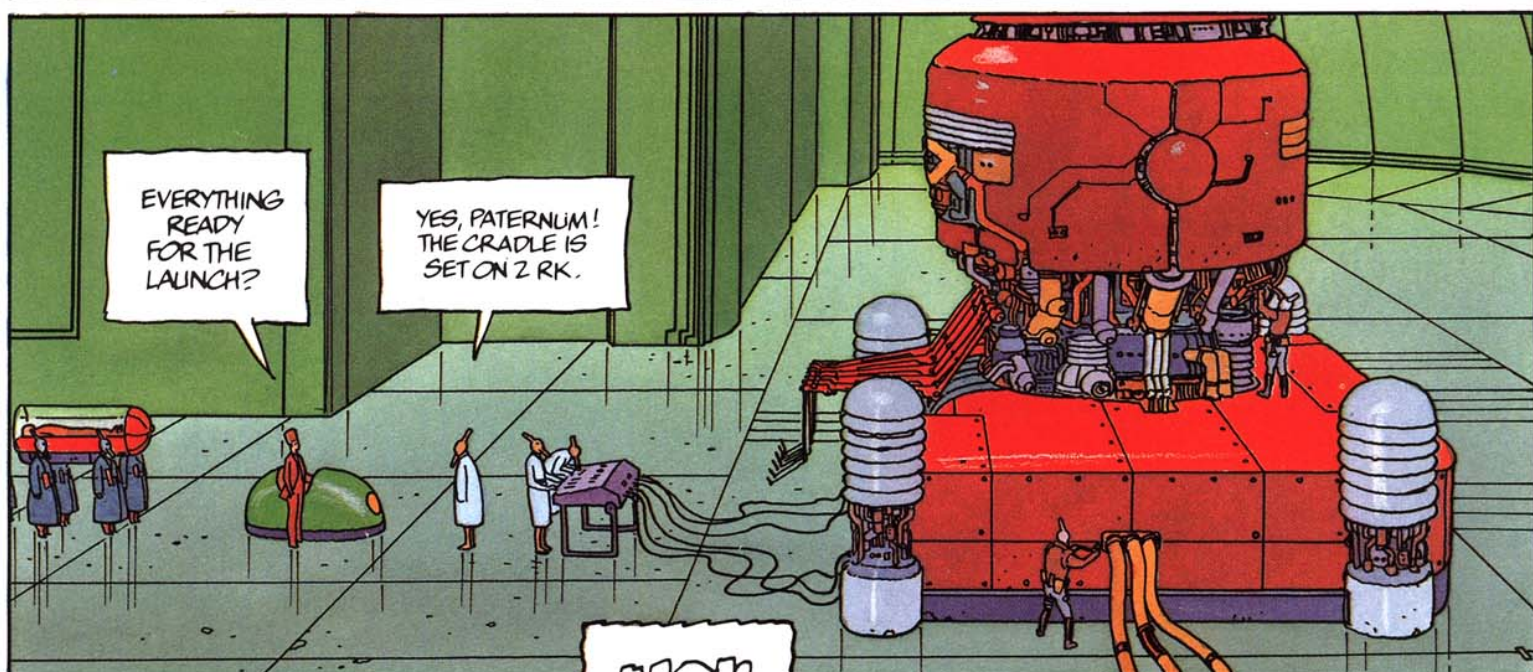
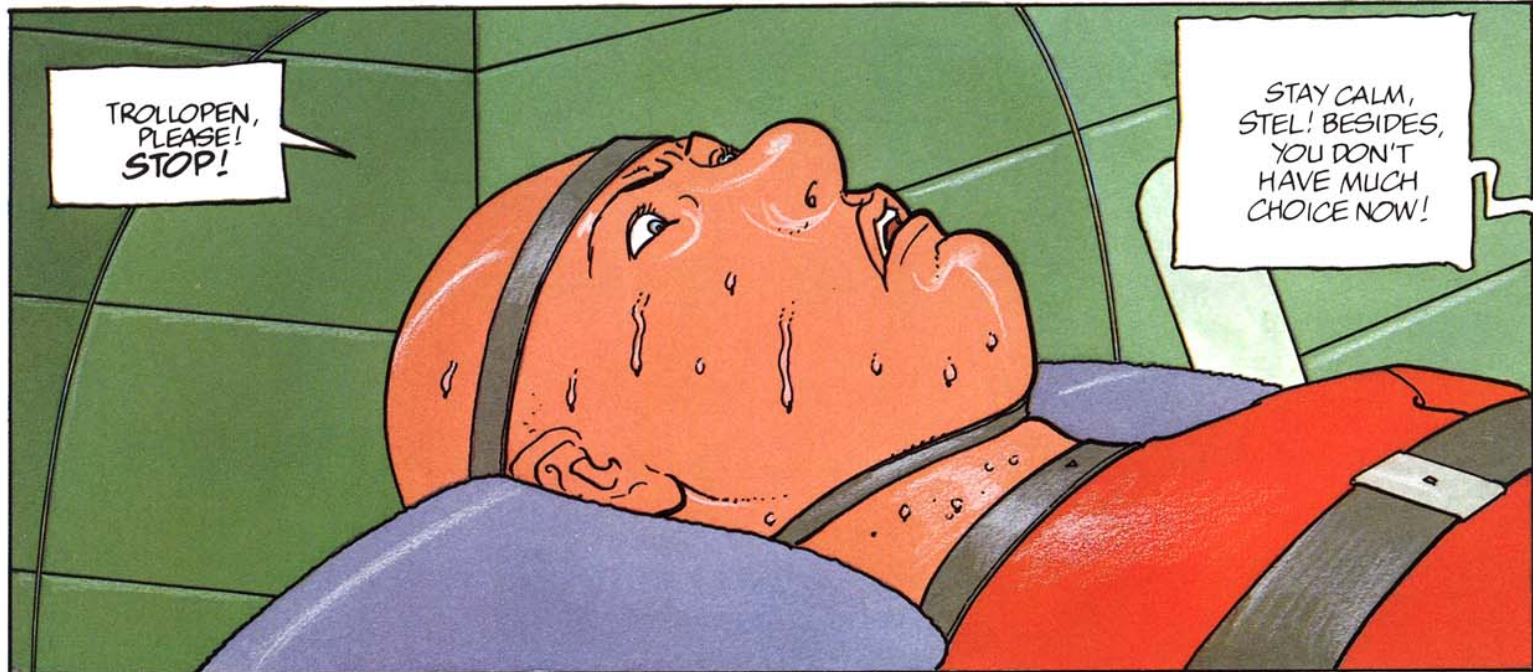


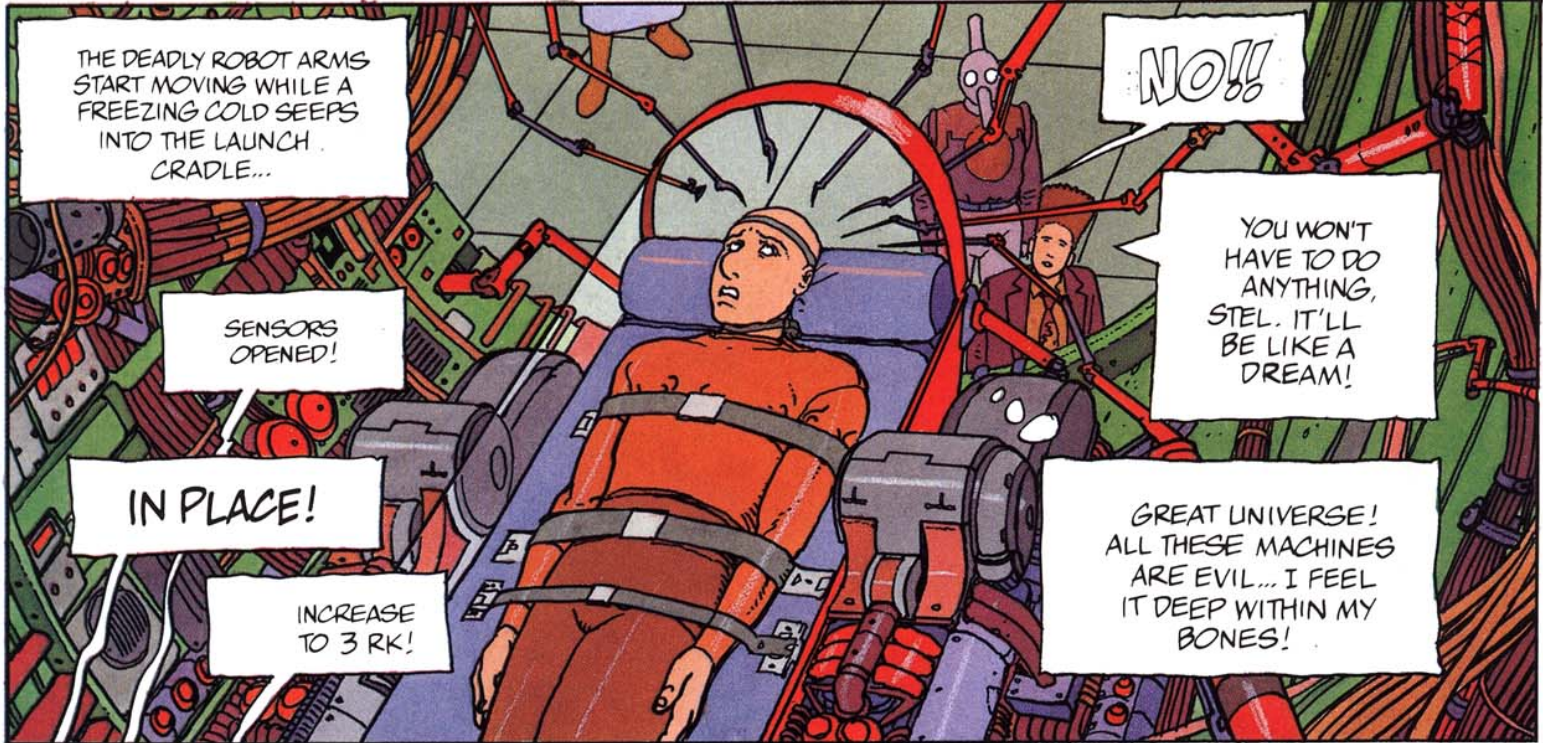
LATER, IN THE DEPTHS
OF THE NEST...

LET ME
GO!

TROLLOPEN!

DON'T WORRY, STEL.
I'M HERE. ALL WILL
BE FINE!





THE DEADLY ROBOT ARMS
START MOVING WHILE A
FREEZING COLD SEEPS
INTO THE LAUNCH
CRADLE...

NO!!

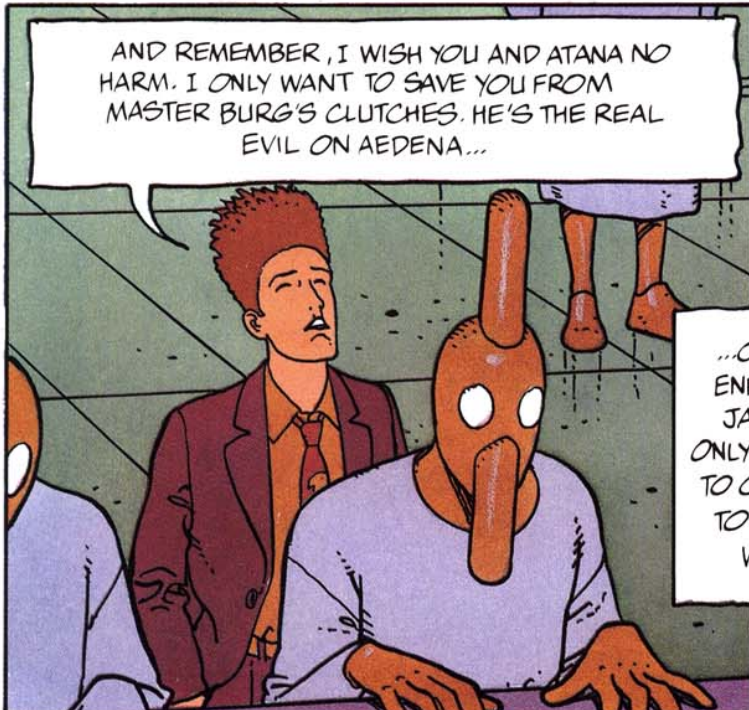
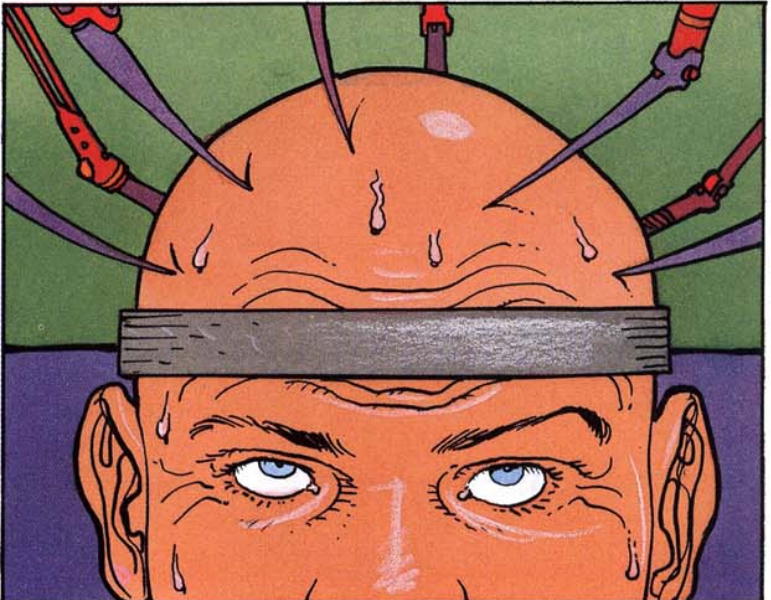
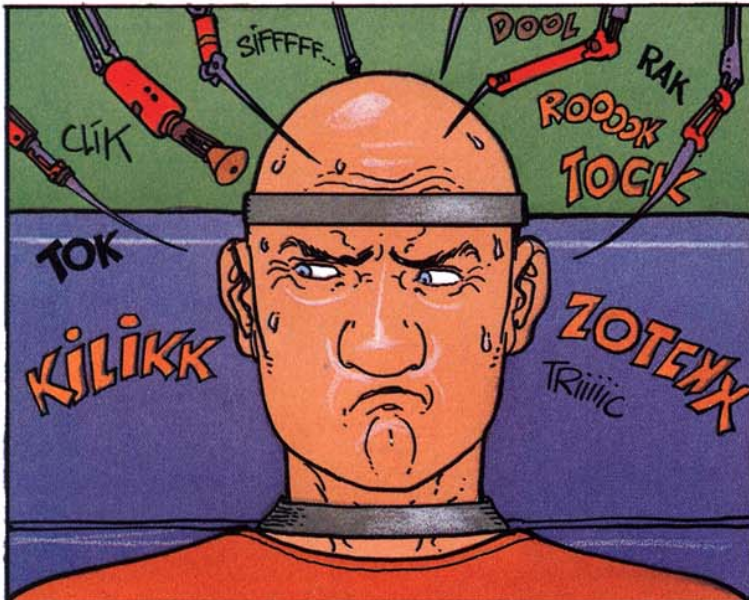
SENSORS
OPENED!

YOU WON'T
HAVE TO DO
ANYTHING,
STEL. IT'LL
BE LIKE A
DREAM!

IN PLACE!

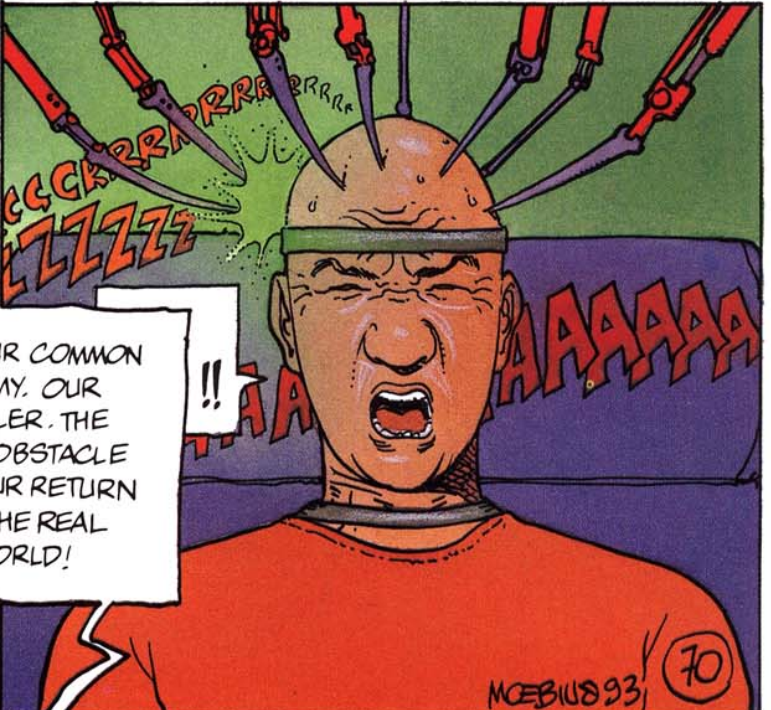
INCREASE
TO 3 RK!

GREAT UNIVERSE!
ALL THESE MACHINES
ARE EVIL... I FEEL
IT DEEP WITHIN MY
BONES!

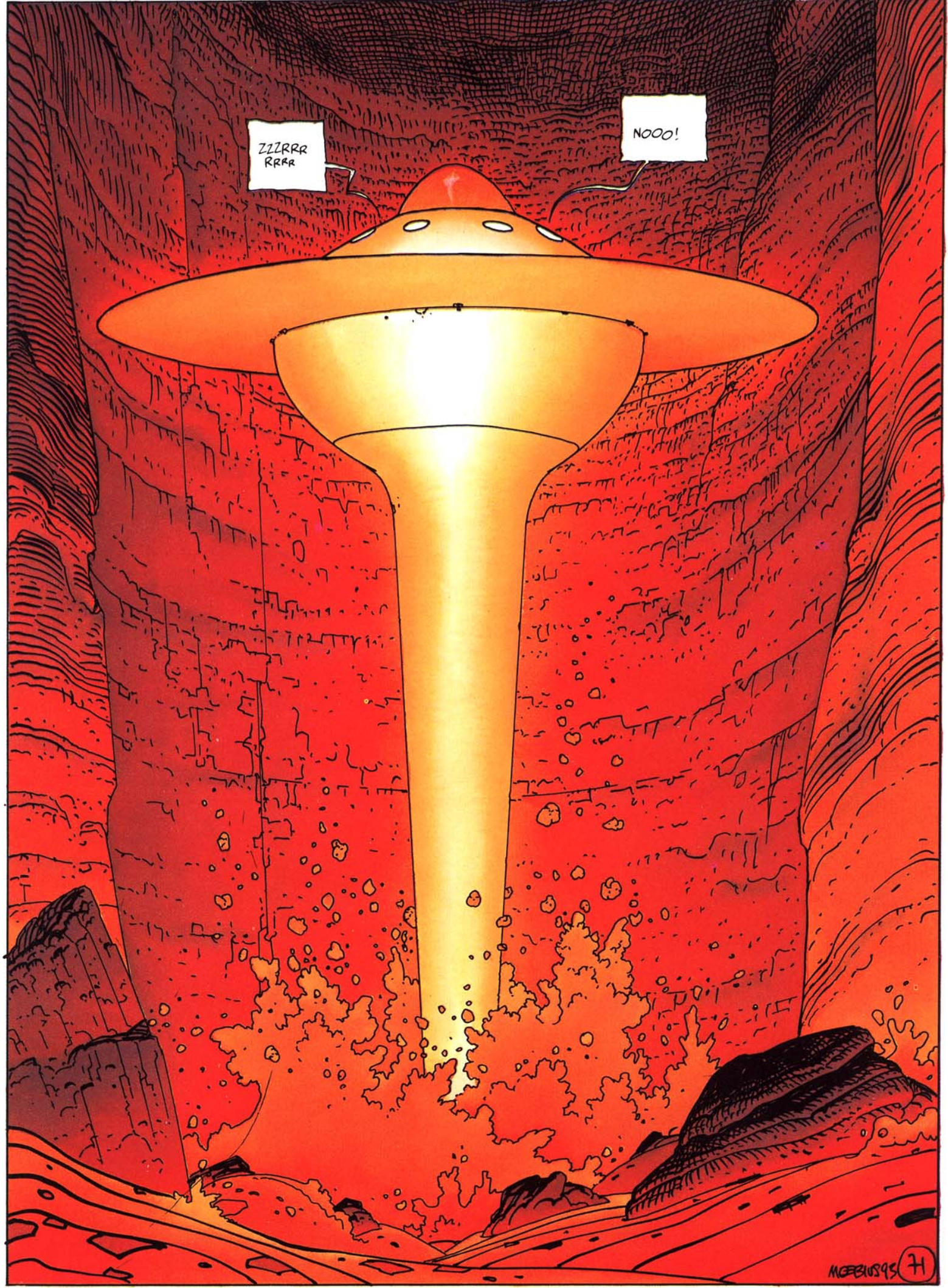


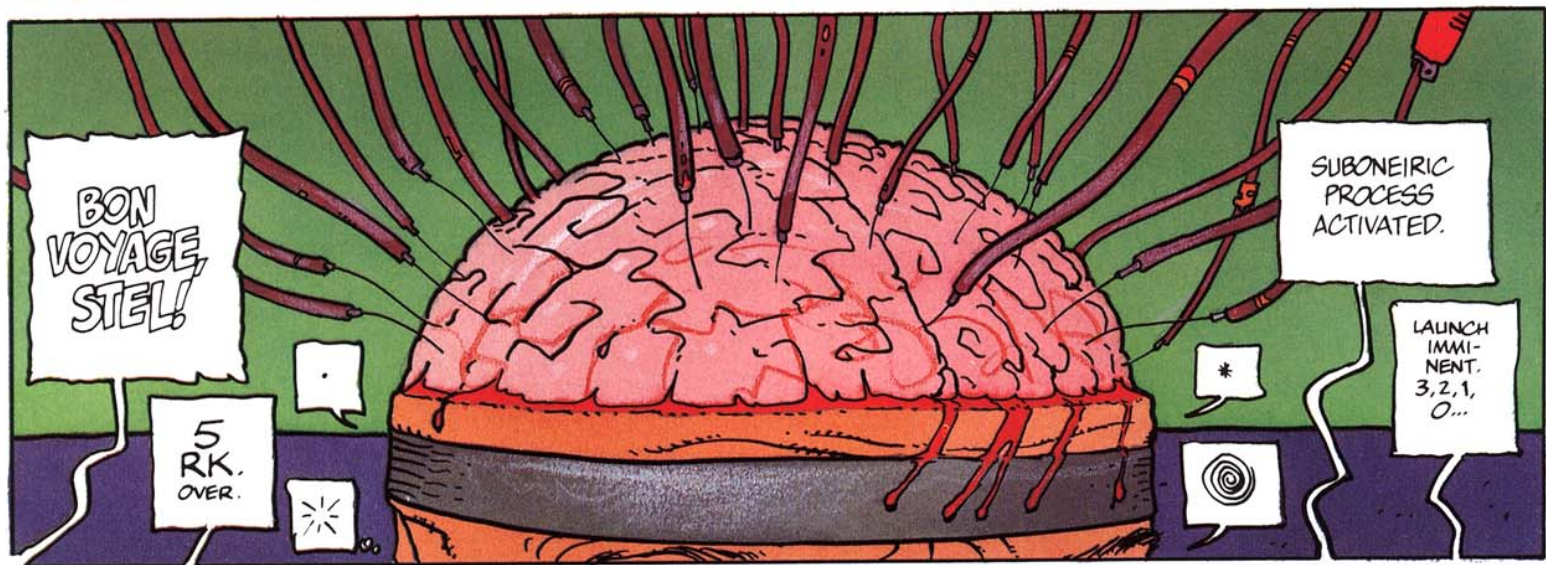
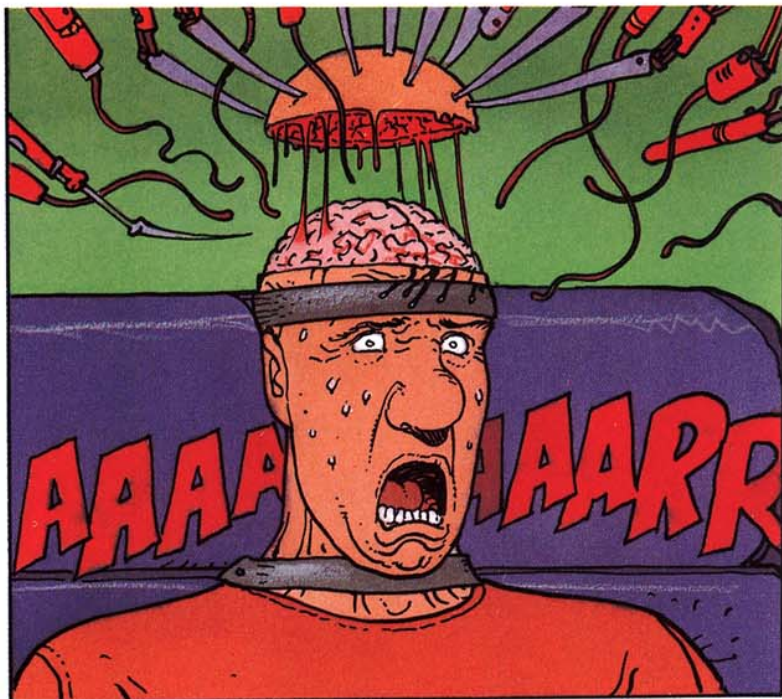
AND REMEMBER, I WISH YOU AND ATANA NO
HARM. I ONLY WANT TO SAVE YOU FROM
MASTER BURG'S CLUTCHES. HE'S THE REAL
EVIL ON AEDENA...

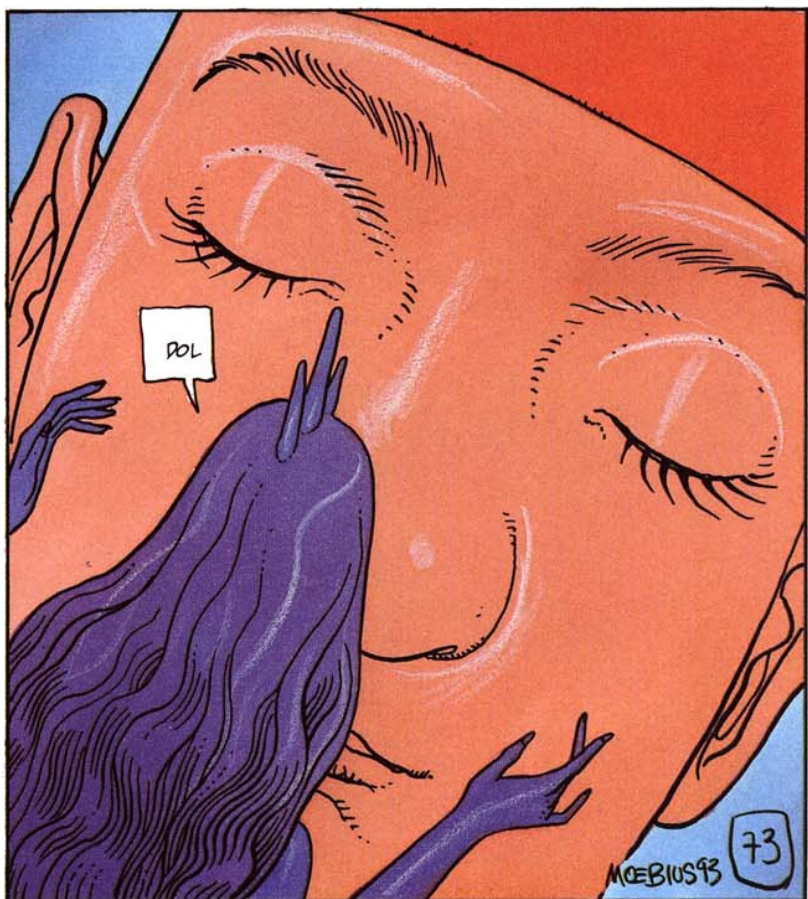
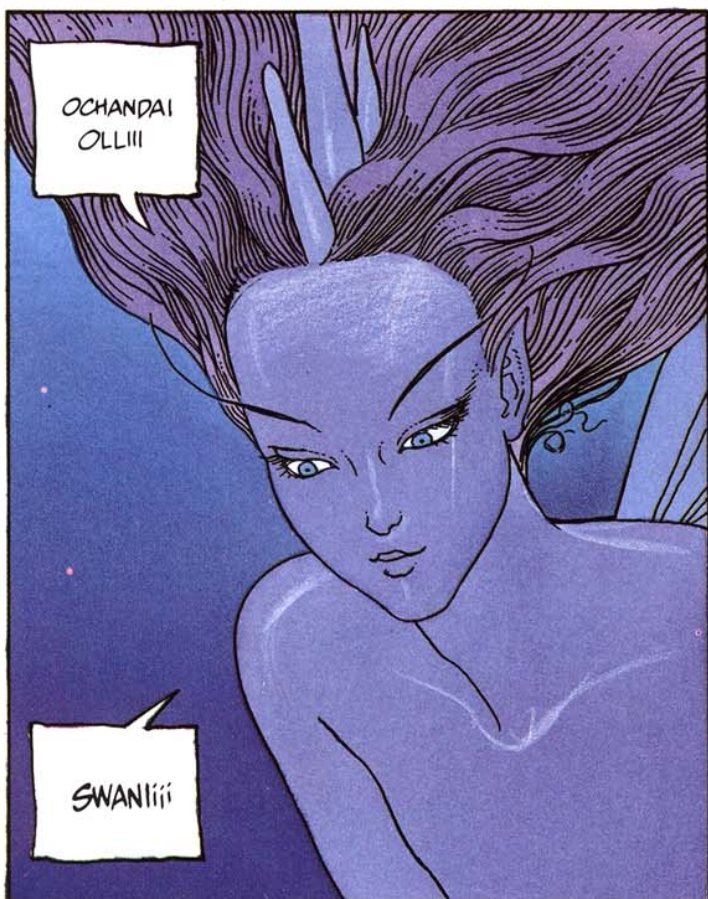
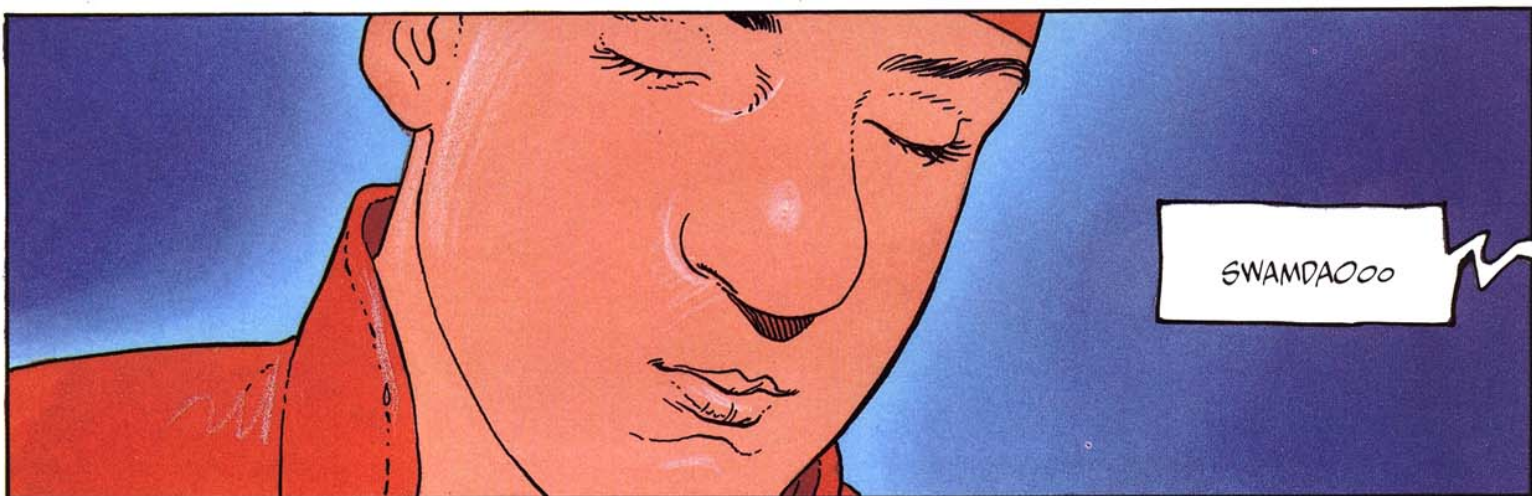
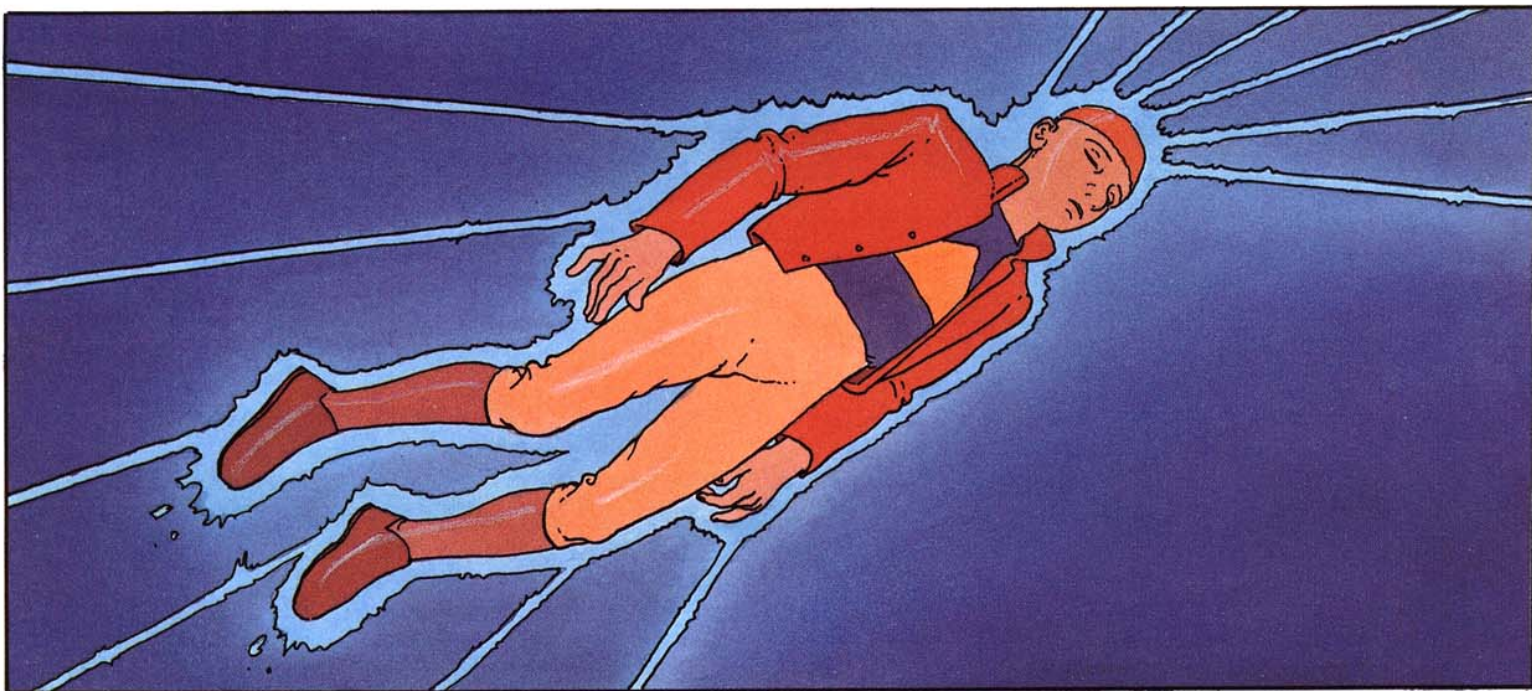
...OUR COMMON
ENEMY. OUR
JAILER. THE
ONLY OBSTACLE
TO OUR RETURN
TO THE REAL
WORLD!

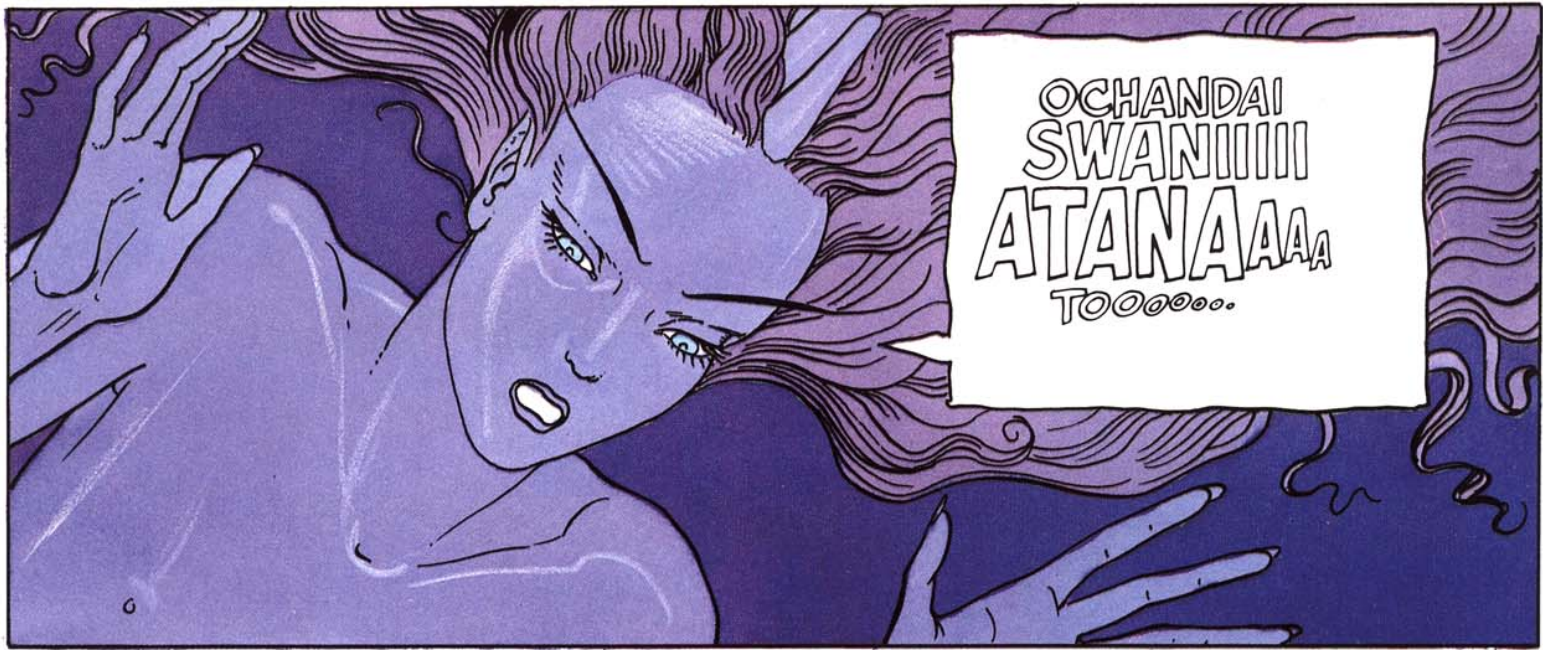


MCEBIUS93 (70)

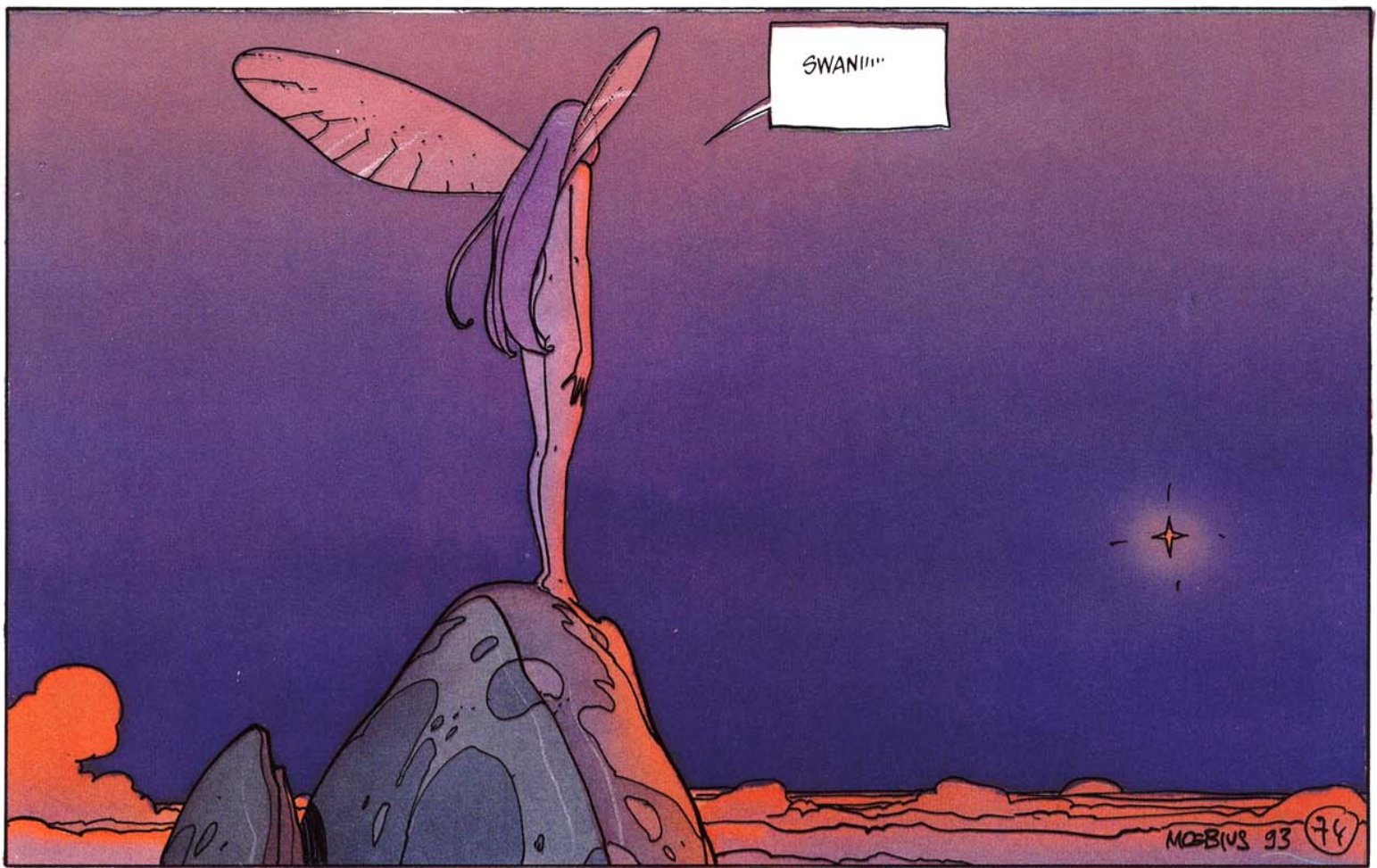








OCHANDAI
SWANIIIIII
ATANAAAA
TOOOOOO..



SWANIIII

MOEBIUS 93 (74)

T H E E N D



Stel is a logical sequel to **The**

Goddess. Since the previous graphic novel told the story of Atana searching for Stel, it was natural now to tell the story of Stel's own search for his companion. I toyed with the idea of calling this story **The God**, to provide a parallel with **The Goddess**, but it was not really justified by the events in the story. It would seem that, somewhere in my psyche, I feel the need to deify women. It's my own way of justifying the love I feel for them.

I purposefully left several points obscure in the story. First, I think it gives the reader a freedom of interpretation which increases his involvement, because he is forced to ask himself questions, and provide his own answers. Also, these obscure areas are like reservoirs of imagination that my unconscious mind creates now for me to explore later. When I try to find my own interpretations, I feel a little like a witch doctor reading the future in the entrails of an animal.

The character of Trolloppen, for example, was introduced in **Upon A Star**, but I had no inkling at the time that he was going to play the role that he has now assumed. It is only when I began plotting **The Gardens of Aedena** that I remembered Trolloppen's existence and planned to bring him back.

Trolloppen has followed a path diametrically opposed to that taken by Stel and Atana. While they slept in the Pyramid, he and the other colonists tried to rebuild their machine-oriented civilization. For me, he represents the absurd refusal to accept the natural cycles, the desire to stick with outdated mental patterns that no longer need to exist because the factors which created them are long gone. He is trapped by his own cultural blind side and, as a result, has created evil on this Eden-like world. Trolloppen represents the difficulty we all have in evolving towards a saner and more holistic behavior.

OTHER MOEBIUS GRAPHIC NOVELS

MOEBIUS 0: THE HORNY GOOF
MOEBIUS 1/2: THE EARLY MOEBIUS
MOEBIUS 1: UPON A STAR
MOEBIUS 2: ARZACH
MOEBIUS 3: THE AIRTIGHT GARAGE
MOEBIUS 4: THE LONG TOMMOROW
MOEBIUS 5: THE GARDENS OF AEDENA
MOEBIUS 6: PHARAGONESIA
MOEBIUS 7: THE GODDESS
THE ART OF MOEBIUS
CHAOS
METALLIC MEMORIES
VISIONS OF ARZACH

WITH MARC BATI
THE MAGIC CRYSTAL
THE MAGIC CRYSTAL 2: ISLAND OF THE UNICORN
THE MAGIC CRYSTAL 3: AURELYS'S SECRET

WITH JERRY BINGHAM & R. & J.M. LOFFICIER
ONYX OVERLORD

WITH JEAN-MICHEL CHARLIER
MOEBIUS 8: MISSISSIPPI RIVER
YOUNG BLUEBERRY 1: BLUEBERRY'S SECRET
YOUNG BLUEBERRY 2: A YANKEE NAMED BLUEBERRY
YOUNG BLUEBERRY 3: THE BLUE COATS
IT. BLUEBERRY 1: THE IRON HORSE
IT. BLUEBERRY 2: STEELFINGERS
IT. BLUEBERRY 3: GENERAL GOLDEN MANE
MARSHAL BLUEBERRY: THE LOST DUTCHMAN'S MINE
BLUEBERRY 1: CHIHUAHUA PEARL
BLUEBERRY 2: BALLAD FOR A COFFIN
BLUEBERRY 3: ANGEL FACE
BLUEBERRY 4: THE GHOST TRIBE
BLUEBERRY 5: THE END OF THE TRAIL
ARIZONA LOVE

WITH ALEXANDRO JODOROWSKY
THE INCAL 1-3
EYES OF THE CAT
THE MADWOMAN OF THE SACRED-HEART

WITH STAN LEE
THE SILVER SURFER : PARABLE

WITH JEAN-MARC & RANDY LOFFICIER
THE LEGENDS OF ARZACH

WITH ERIC SHANOWER & R. & J.M. LOFFICIER
THE ELSEWHERE PRINCE

