

written 40 B.C.

THE AENEID

by VIRGIL*

ABOUT 1200 B.C., THE GREEKS DEFEATED THE TROJANS AFTER TEN LONG YEARS OF WAR. THE CITY OF TROY, IN WESTERN ASIA MINOR, WAS BURNED.



A GOOD NUMBER OF TROJANS ESCAPED. UNDER THEIR LEADER AENEAS, THEY SAILED FORTH IN SEARCH OF A NEW LAND IN WHICH THEY COULD SETTLE. FOR SEVEN YEARS, THEY WANDERED IN THEIR SHIPS FROM PLACE TO PLACE ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

JOVE, KING OF THE GODS, HAD DECREED THAT THEY WERE TO FOUND A NEW CITY-STATE IN ITALY, BUT THE GODDESS JUNO WAS OPPOSED TO AENEAS AND THE TROJANS.



** Adapted from John Dryden's English translation.*

CHAPTER I

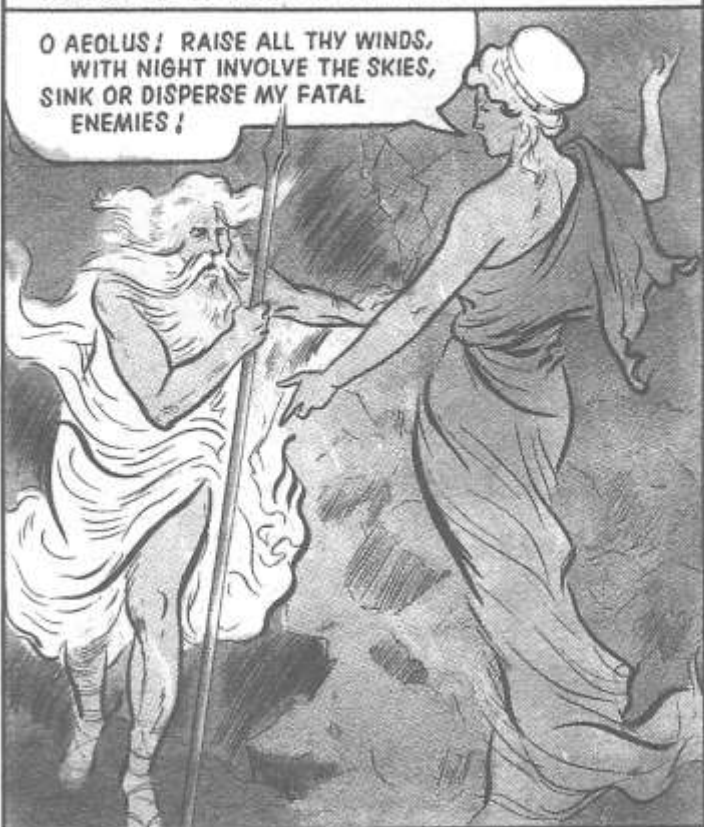
ARMS, AND THE MAN I SING, WHO, FORCED BY FATE,
AND HAUGHTY JUNO'S UNRELENTING HATE,
EXPELLED AND EXILED, LEFT THE TROJAN SHORE.

O MUSE! THE CAUSES AND THE CRIMES RELATE;
FOR WHAT OFFENCE THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN BEGAN
TO PERSECUTE SO BRAVE, SO JUST A MAN,



THE TROJAN SHIPS HAD JUST LEFT THE ISLAND OF
SICILY. THE GODDESS JUNO WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN
CAVE OF AEOLUS, GOD OF THE WINDS.

O AEOLUS! RAISE ALL THY WINDS,
WITH NIGHT INVOLVE THE SKIES,
SINK OR DISPERSE MY FATAL
ENEMIES!



AEOLUS HURLED HIS SPEAR AT THE
CAVE WALL. IT STRUCK A HOLE IN THE
MOUNTAINSIDE, AND THE WINDS
RUSHED FORTH.



THEY SETTLED ON THE SEA. ROARING IN CONFUSION, THEY RAISED GIGANTIC WAVES, CRACKED THE CABLES AND TORE THE SAILSHEETS OF THE BATTERED TROJAN SHIPS.



THREE OF THE SHIPS WERE BLOWN AGAINST HIDDEN ROCKS. THREE MORE, SEPARATED FROM THE OTHERS WERE DASHED ON REEFS. FROM ONE SHIP, WHICH WAS DESTROYED, WEAPONS, PICTURES, PRECIOUS GOODS AND MEN BOBBED ON THE STORMY SEA.



WHEN THE WINDS CALMED, THE WEARY TROJANS MADE FOR THE NEAREST SHORE, THE NORTH AFRICAN COAST. HERE, AENEAS ADDRESSED THE MEN WHO WERE WITH HIM.

RESUME YOUR COURAGE AND DISMISS YOUR CARE. ENDURE THE HARDSHIPS OF YOUR PRESENT STATE, LIVE, AND RESERVE YOURSELVES FOR BETTER FATE.



MEANWHILE, JOVE, KING OF THE GODS, AND HIS DAUGHTER VENUS, THE GODDESS OF LOVE, LOOKED DOWN UPON THE WANDERERS. VENUS WAS THE MOTHER OF AENEAS. AS SHE TOOK PITY ON THE TROJANS, SHE APPEALED TO JOVE.

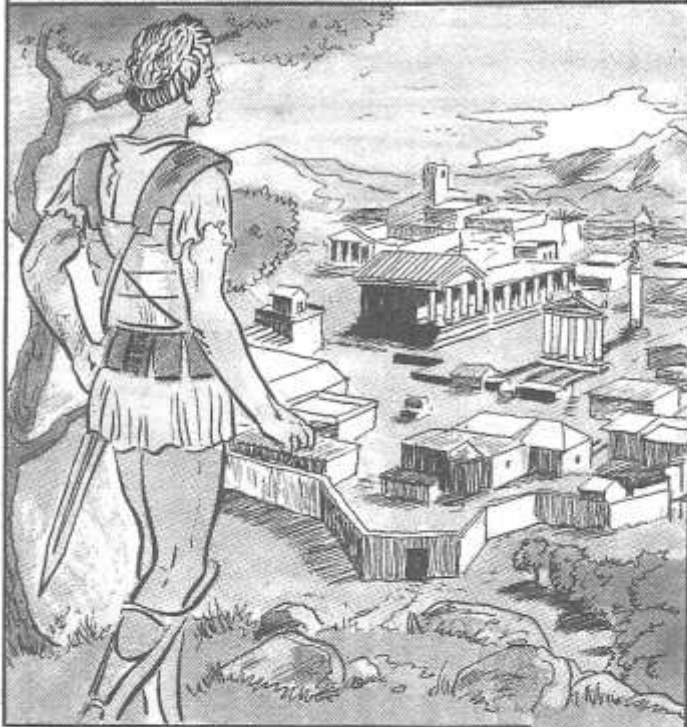
OH KING OF GODS AND MEN ! YOU PROMISED ONCE, A RACE OF MEN DIVINE OF ROMANS, RISING FROM THE TROJAN LINE. IS IT THUS THAT JOVE HIS PLIGHTED FAITH REGARDS ?



DAUGHTER, DISMISS YOUR FEARS. YOUR SON IN ITALY, SHALL WAGE SUCCESSFUL WAR, SHALL TAME FIERCE NATIONS IN THE BLOODY FIELD AND SOVEREIGN LAWS IMPOSE AND CITIES BUILD.



JOVE SENT A MESSENGER TO DIDO, QUEEN OF CARTHAGE* IN WHOSE TERRITORY THE TROJANS HAD LANDED. HE TOLD HER TO TREAT THE EXILES KINDLY. NEXT DAY AENEAS SAW FROM A HILLTOP THE STATELY TOWERS OF CARTHAGE.



* A North African city-state across from Sicily.

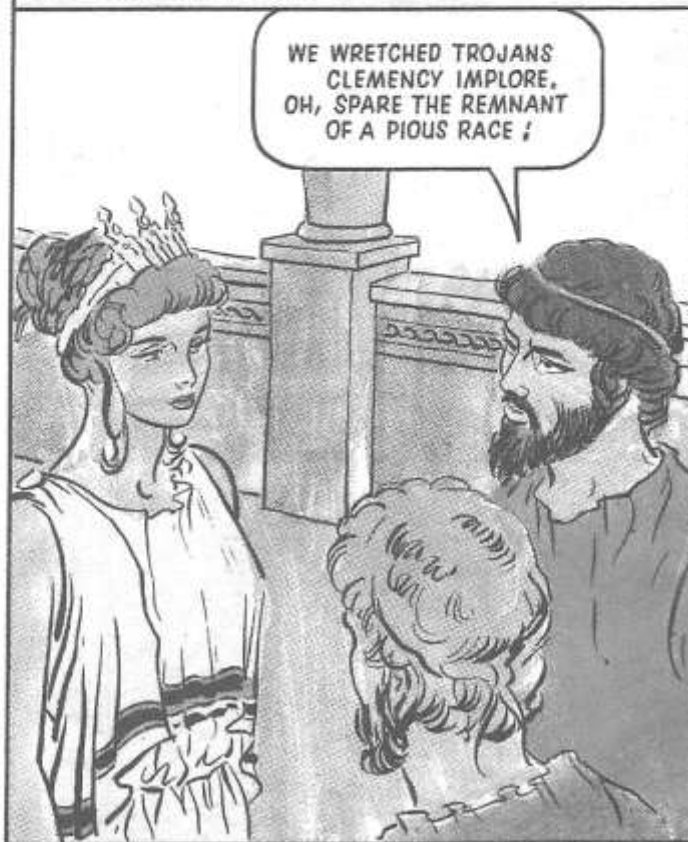
AENEAS ENTERED THE CITY UNOBSERVED. HE WENT INTO A TEMPLE DEDICATED TO JUNO. PAINTED ON THE WALLS WERE SCENES FROM THE TROJAN WAR.



AS HE WAS LOOKING ABOUT, QUEEN DIDO ENTERED WITH HER COURT TO HEAR PETITIONS AND JUDGE DISPUTES. AENEAS HID HIMSELF.



AMONG THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING DIDO, AENEAS SAW SOME OF HIS FRIENDS WHO HAD BEEN SHIPWRECKED BY THE STORM AT SEA.

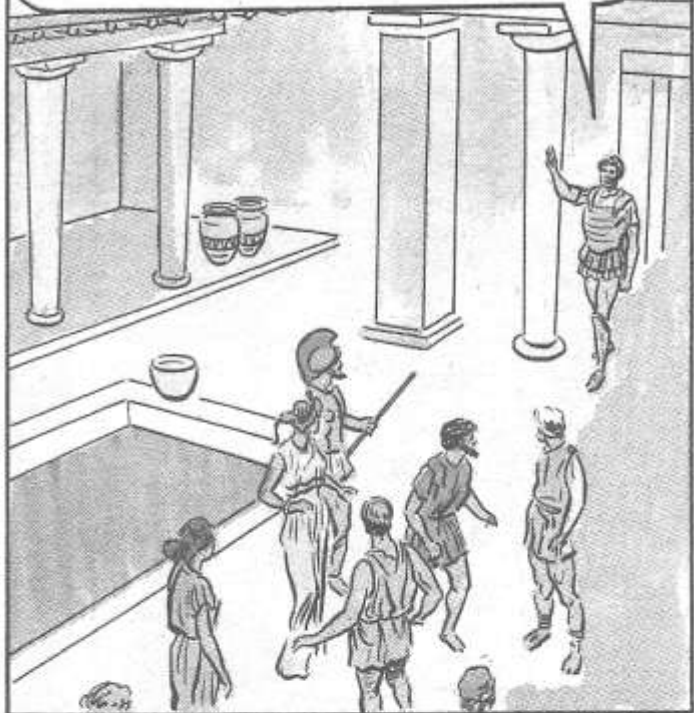


AENEAS WAS OUR PRINCE ! A JUSTER LORD,
OR NOBLER WARRIOR, NEVER DREW A SWORD.
IF NOW OUR PRINCE BE SAFE, WE MAY RENEW
OUR DESTINED COURSE, AND ITALY PURSUE .



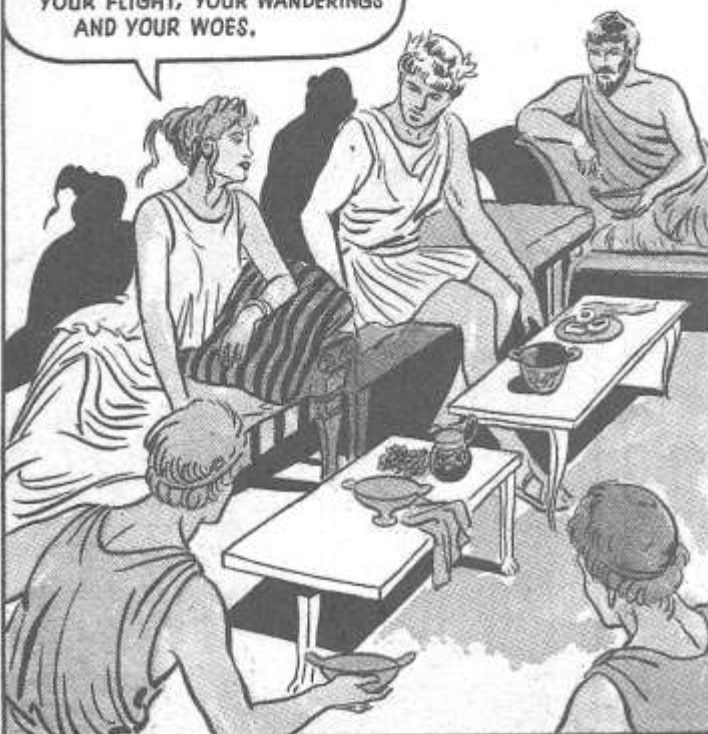
AS QUEEN DIDO WAS KIND, AENEAS DECIDED TO REVEAL
HIMSELF.

HE WHOM YOU SEEK AM I, BY TEMPESTS TOSSED,
A PRINCE THAT OWES HIS LIFE TO YOU ALONE .
RECEIVE THE SHIPWRECKED ON YOUR FRIENDLY SHORE,
WITH HOSPITABLE RITES RELIEVE THE POOR.



AENEAS IMPRESSED DIDO WITH HIS MANLY BEARING. SHE
HONOURED THE TROJANS WITH A BANQUET AND THEN
ASKED AENEAS ABOUT THE TROJAN WAR .

RELATE AT LARGE, MY
GODLIKE GUEST,
YOUR FLIGHT, YOUR WANDERINGS
AND YOUR WOES.



ALL WERE ATTENTIVE AS AENEAS BEGAN.

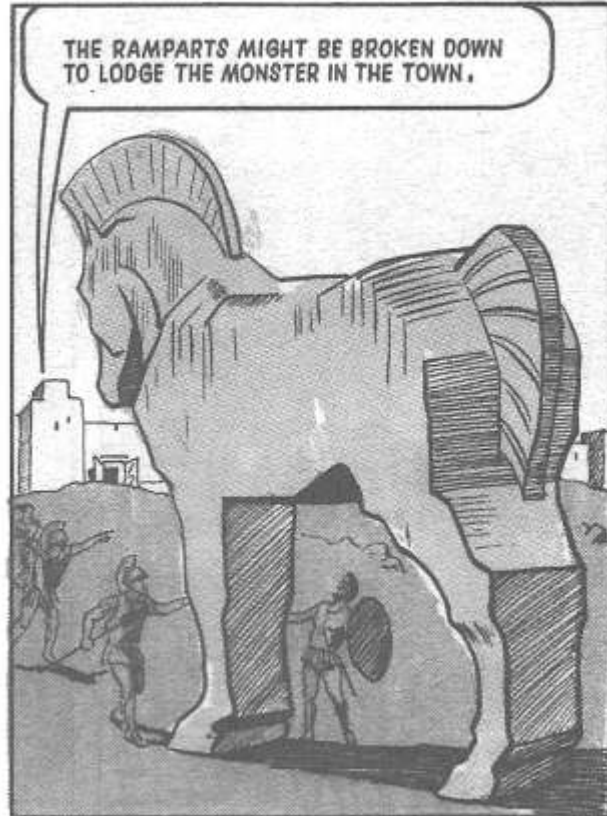
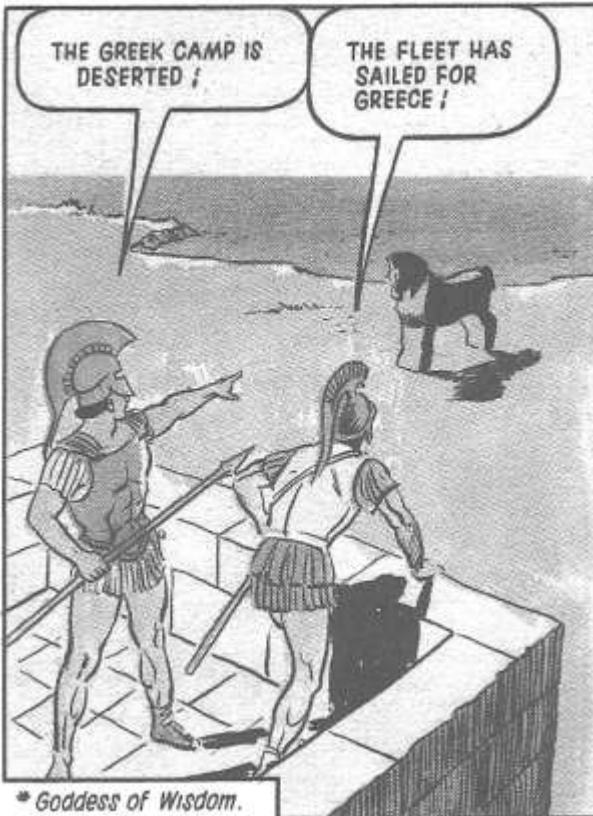
GREAT QUEEN,
SINCE YOU TAKE SUCH AN INTEREST
IN OUR WOE,
I WILL RESTRAIN MY TEARS AND
BRIEFLY TELL
WHAT IN OUR LAST AND FATAL
NIGHT BEFELL .



CHAPTER 11

" THE GREEKS GREW TIRED OF THE WAR AND WITH MINERVA'S* AID, BUILT A HUGE WOODEN HORSE. WITHIN IT THEY HID ARMED SOLDIERS.

" ALL THE TROJANS RAN OUT OF THE CITY, DEBATING ABOUT ABOUT THE GIGANTIC HORSE. SOME THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD OMEN.



" BUT A PRIEST, LAOCOON*, CAME RUNNING TO THE SHORE WITH A WARNING.

" LAOCOON THREW HIS SPEAR INTO THE SIDE OF THE HOLLOW HORSE. A GROAN ESCAPED FROM IT.

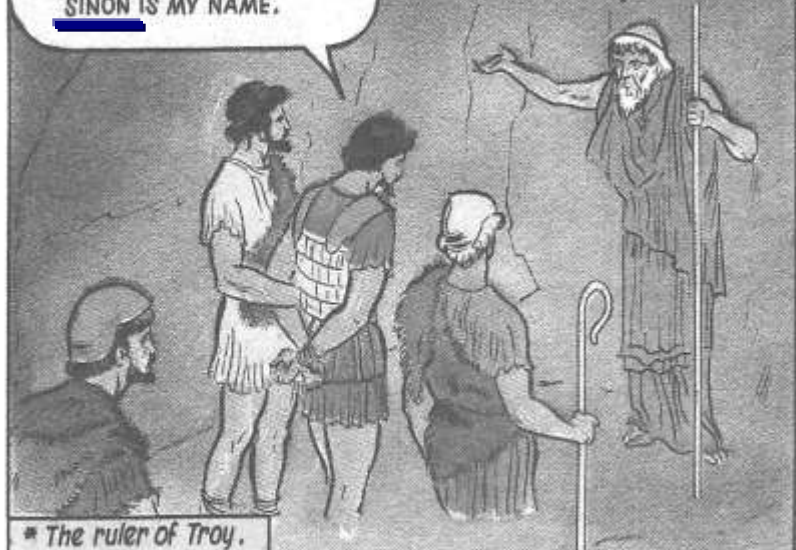


"AT THAT MOMENT, A BAND OF SHEPHERDS BROUGHT A CAPTURED GREEK BEFORE KING PRIAM.*

I NEITHER CAN NOR DARE MY BIRTH DISCLAIM. GREECE IS MY COUNTRY, SINON IS MY NAME.

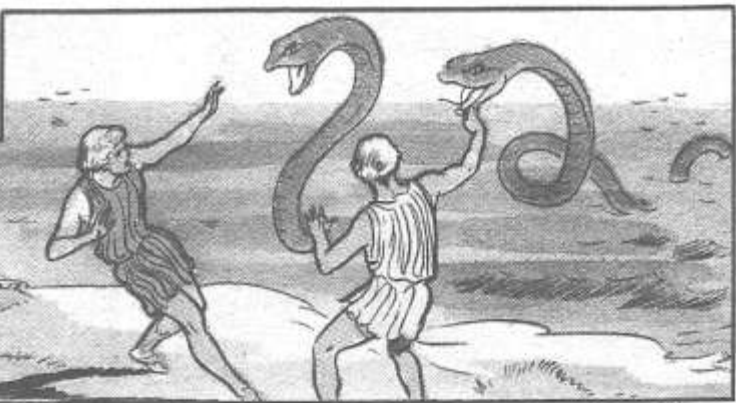
BUT TRULY TELL, WAS IT FOR FORCE AND GUILF, OR SOME RELIGIOUS END, YOU RAISED THIS PILE ?

TO GAIN MINERVA'S AID WE RAISED THIS FRAME, FOR SO RELIGION AND THE GODS ORDAIN THAT, IF YOU VIOLATE WITH HANDS PROFANE MINERVA'S GIFT, YOUR TOWN SHALL BURN IN FLAMES.



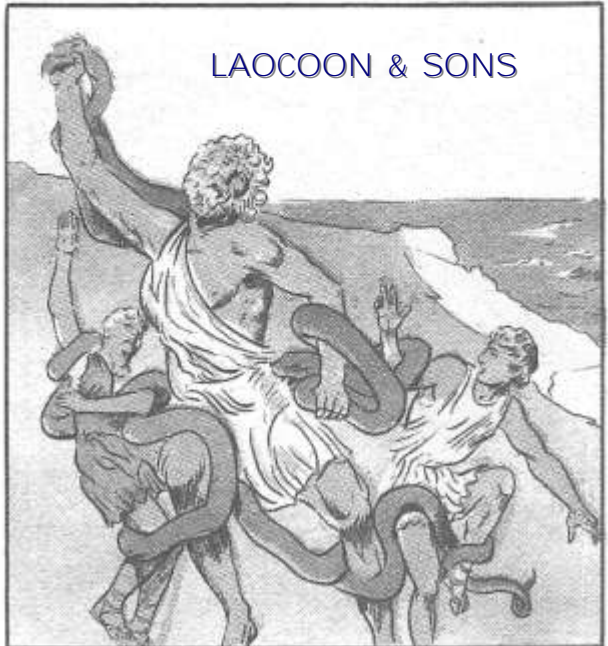
* The ruler of Troy.

"SO, WITH FALSE TEARS AND FLATTERING WORDS, SINON DECEIVED THE PEOPLE. SUDDENLY, TWO GREAT SERPENTS ROSE FROM THE SEA AND THREATENED THE SONS OF LAOCOON.

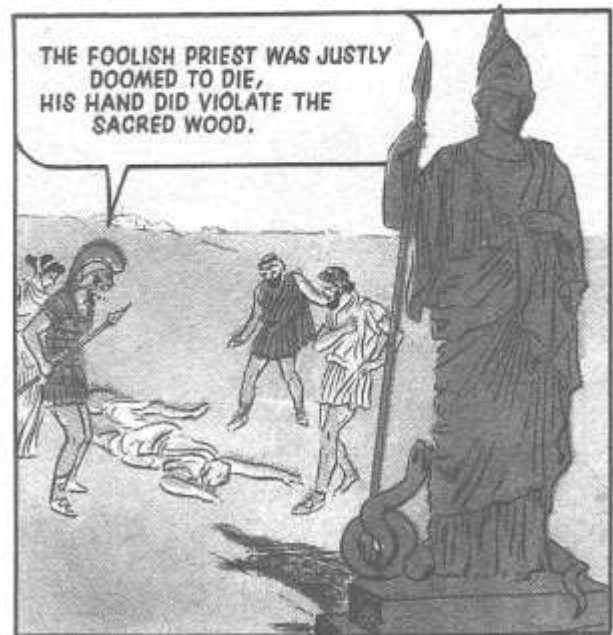


"AS THE PRIEST TRIED TO HELP HIS CHILDREN, HE TOO WAS CAUGHT IN THE SERPENTS' COILS.

"AFTER KILLING LAOCOON AND HIS SONS, THE TWO SERPENTS GLIDED TO A STATUE OF MINERVA. THE PEOPLE GREW AFRAID.

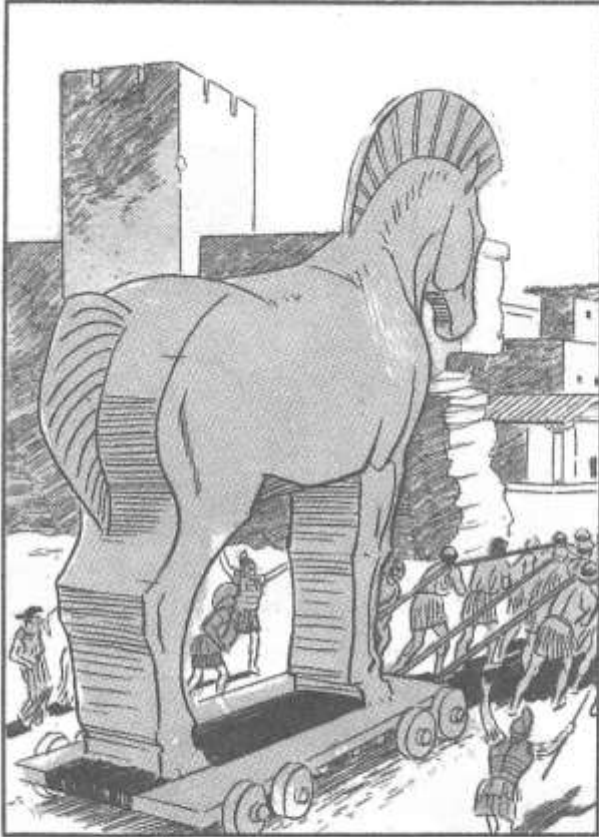


LAOCOON & SONS



THE FOOLISH PRIEST WAS JUSTLY DOOMED TO DIE, HIS HAND DID VIOLATE THE SACRED WOOD.

" THEN A BREACH WAS MADE IN THE WALLS. WITH SONGS AND DANCES TO THE GODDESS MINERVA, THE PEOPLE BROUGHT THE FATAL HORSE INTO THE CITY.



" THEY SLEW THE FEW GUARDS, OPENED THE GATES AND ADMITTED THE MAIN GREEK FORCE, WHICH HAD BEEN CONCEALED ON A NEARBY ISLAND.



" THAT NIGHT NO TROJAN SENTRIES KEPT THE WATCH. THE TREACHEROUS SINON UNLOCKED THE HOLLOW HORSE AND FREED OUR HIDDEN ENEMIES.

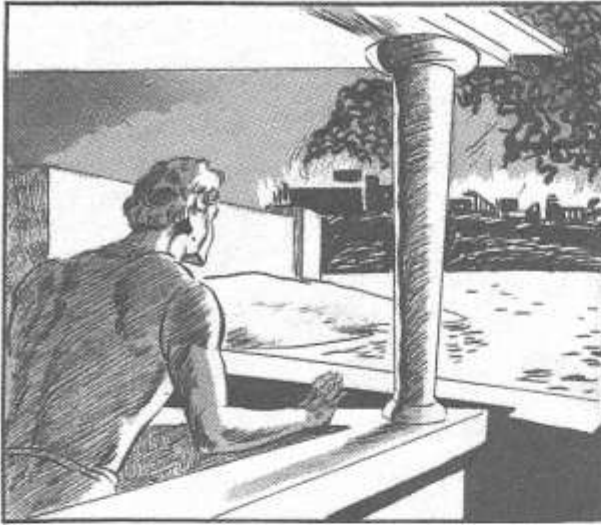


" IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT THE GHOST OF HECTOR" CAME TO ME. HIS BODY WAS BLACK WITH DUST. HIS HAIR AND BEARD WERE STIFF WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.



♦ The greatest Trojan hero.

"PEALS OF SHOUTS AND CRIES CAME FROM AFAR. FEARFULLY, I ROSE AND WENT OUT ON THE TERRACE. THE SEAS WERE BRIGHT WITH THE LIGHT OF TROY IN FLAMES.



"A PRIEST WHO HAD ESCAPED THE FIRES CAME RUNNING BY.

TROY IS NO MORE. THE FIRE CONSUMES THE TOWN, THE FOE COMMANDS. WHO FIGHTS FINDS DEATH, AND DEATH FINDS HIM WHO FLIES.



"ENRAGED, I AND MY COMPANIONS RUSHED FORTH, RESOLVED TO DIE IN ARMS. NIGHT WAS OUR FRIEND, OUR LEADER WAS DESPAIR. WHAT TONGUE CAN TELL THE SLAUGHTER OF THAT NIGHT ?



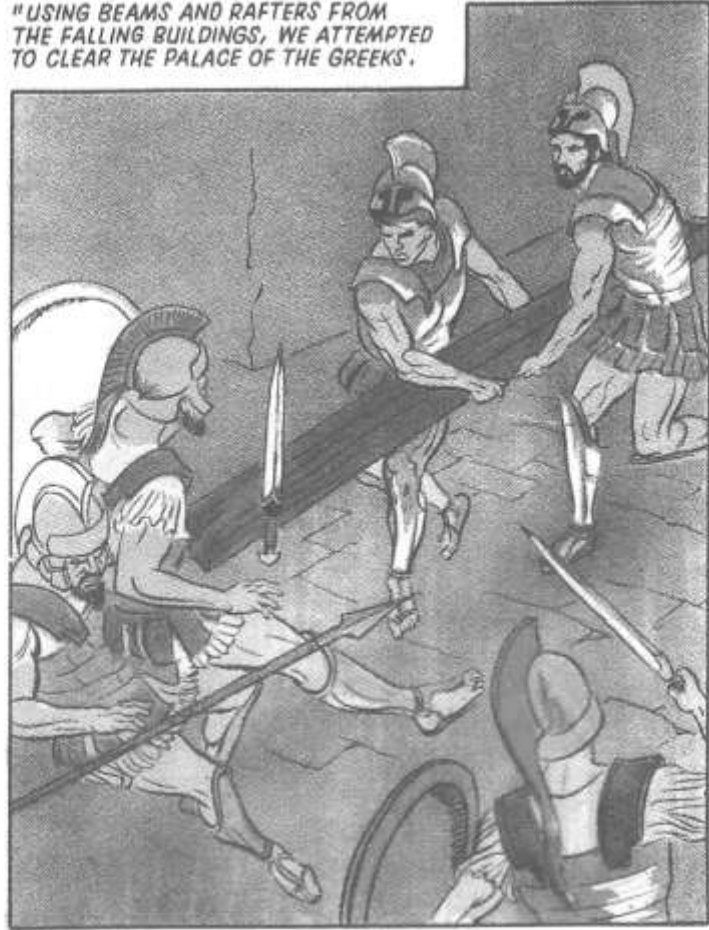
"WE DONNED THE ARMOUR OF THE FIRST GREEKS WE SLEW AND STREWED THE STREET WITH ENEMY CARCASSES.



" FROM THE BROKEN TOWERS, THE TROJANS THREW HUGE STONES ON THEIR ENEMIES.



" USING BEAMS AND RAFTERS FROM THE FALLING BUILDINGS, WE ATTEMPTED TO CLEAR THE PALACE OF THE GREEKS.



" KING PRIAM, AGED AND FEEBLE AS HE WAS, HAD DIED IN ARMS.



" THE SIGHT OF THE DEAD OLD MAN CURLED MY BLOOD. VENUS, MY MOTHER, APPEARED BEFORE ME IN A VISION.

MY SON, RECALL TO MIND WHOM YOU FORSAKE, WHAT PLEDGES LEAVE BEHIND. LOOK IF YOUR HELPLESS FATHER YET SURVIVE, OR IF ASCANIUS OR CREUSA LIVE.



" SHE TOLD ME THAT OUR FIGHTING WAS IN VAIN, THE GODS THEMSELVES WERE AIDING IN THE DESTRUCTION OF TROY. I LEFT THE FIGHTING AND WENT HOME.



ANCHISES

CREUSA

AENEAS

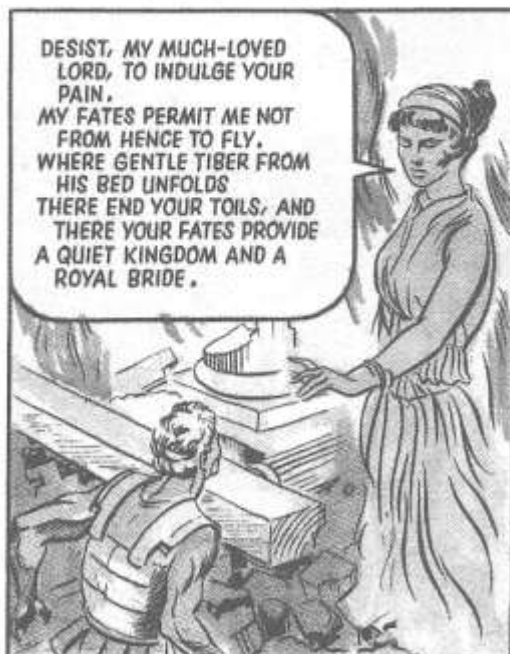
ASCANIUS (IULUS)

" NOW I WHO HAD BEEN SO BRAVE BECAME FEARFUL BECAUSE OF MY LOVED ONES. BUT IN THE WINDING WAYS I TOOK, ALAS, I LOST MY WIFE, RAVING WITH DESPAIR, I LEFT MY FATHER AND SON, ASCANIUS, AND WENT BACK OVER MY STEPS.

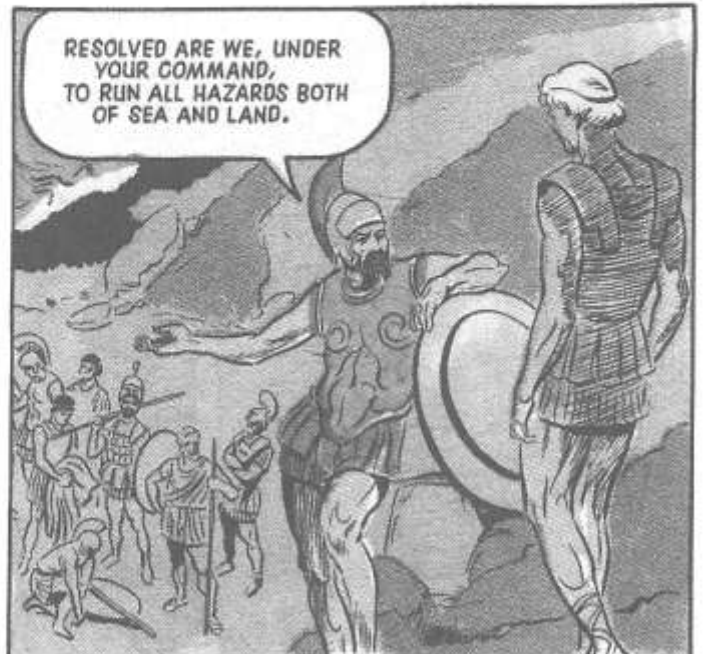


" THROUGH ALL THE RUINED CITY I LOOKED FOR HER. AT LENGTH SHE MET ME, NO LONGER MY WIFE, BUT A PALE GHOST, LARGER THAN LIFE.

" LIGHT AS AN EMPTY DREAM SHE RUSHED AWAY. I RETURNED TO MY FAMILY AND FOUND A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME,



DESIST, MY MUCH-LOVED LORD, TO INDULGE YOUR PAIN. MY FATES PERMIT ME NOT FROM HENCE TO FLY. WHERE GENTLE TIBER FROM HIS BED UNFOLDS THERE END YOUR TOILS, AND THERE YOUR FATES PROVIDE A QUIET KINGDOM AND A ROYAL BRIDE.



RESOLVED ARE WE, UNDER YOUR COMMAND, TO RUN ALL HAZARDS BOTH OF SEA AND LAND.

CHAPTER III

" WE TOOK TO SEA, FORSAKING OUR NATIVE LAND. WE ARRIVED AT THRACE. THERE I PULLED OUT ROOTS OF A SAPLING TREE. BLOOD POURED FROM THE ROOTS UPON THE GROUND, FROM WHICH A GHOSTLY VOICE AROSE.

" POLYDORUS' SPIRIT WARNED US NOT TO BUILD A CITY IN THRACE, SO WE LEFT. AT THE ISLAND OF DELOS, WE SOUGHT THE ORACLE OF APOLLO. SUDDENLY THERE WAS AN EARTHQUAKE. THE GOD SPOKE TO US.

" MY FATHER ANCHISES* THOUGHT THAT THE TROJAN RACE CAME FROM CRETE, SO WE SAILED THERE. THE SAILORS STRETCHED THEIR CANVAS AND PLIED THEIR OARS.

O FLY FROM THIS UNHOSPITABLE SHORE, WARNED BY MY FATE; FOR I AM POLYDORUS!



* Polydorus was a Trojan sent to Thrace, where the wicked King murdered him and left him unburied

UNDAUNTED YOUTHS, GO, SEEK THAT MOTHER EARTH FROM WHICH YOUR ANCESTORS DERIVE THEIR BIRTH.



* Pronounced An-ki-ssez

" BUT A PLAGUE INFECTED THE TOWN WE BUILT THERE. MY FATHER REALIZED HE MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD APOLLO'S PROPHECY. ONE NIGHT, THE STATUES OF THE GODS THAT I RESCUED FROM TROY SPOKE TO ME.

" WE SAILED AWAY. CAUGHT IN A FOG FOR THREE DAYS, WE LANDED AT AN ISLAND WHERE FAT HERDS OF OXEN GRAZED WITHOUT A KEEPER. BUT WHEN WE SLEW SOME TO EAT THEM, A HIDEOUS CRY FILLED THE AIR.



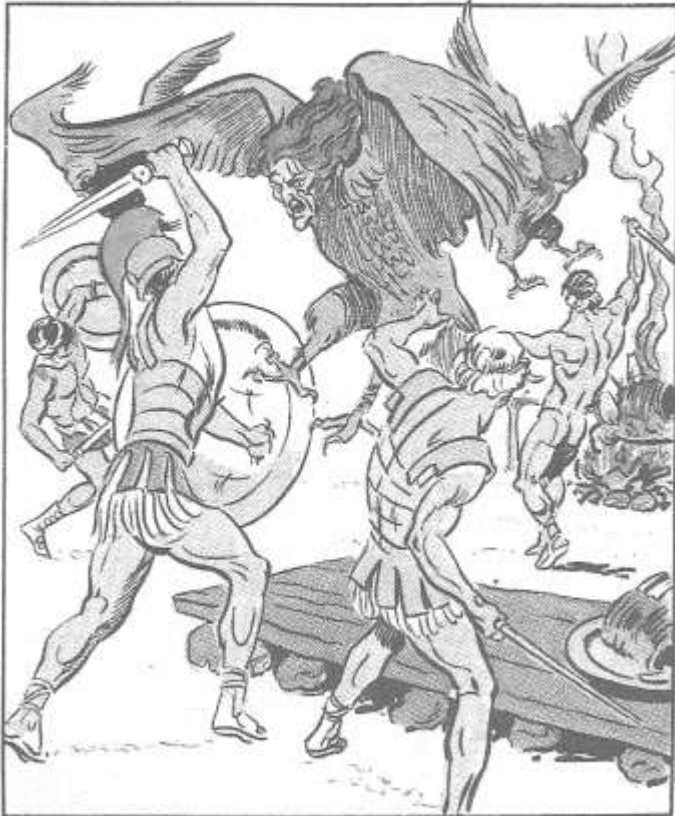
RISE, AND THY SIRE WITH THESE GLAD TIDINGS GREET, SEARCH ITALY, FOR JOVE DENIES THEE CRETE.



THE HARPIES!

" WE TRIED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE HELLISH CREATURES, HALF BIRDS, HALF WOMEN, BUT OUR SWORDS BOUNCED OFF THEIR SKINS.

" THEY POUNCED ON THE SLAUGHTERED CATTLE WITH THEIR FILTHY CLAWS.



HARPIES

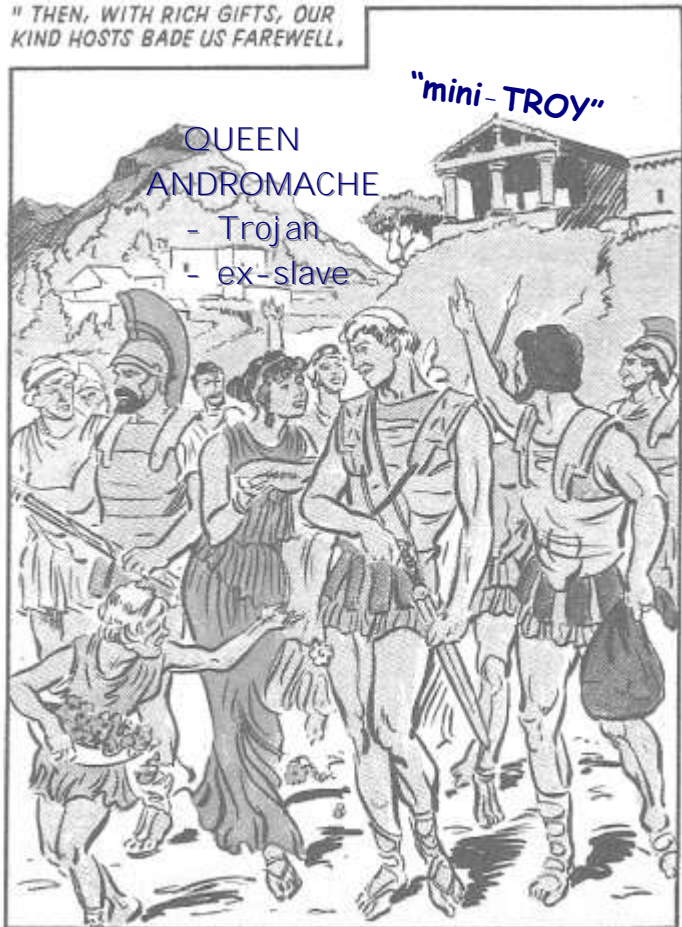
" AT LAST, THEY FLEW AWAY. WE SAILED ON, STOPPING SEVERAL TIMES. ONE CITY WE REACHED WAS RULED BY A SMALL BAND OF EXILES FROM TROY. HERE, AN ORACLE TOLD US OF THE DANGERS THAT LAY AHEAD.

" THEN, WITH RICH GIFTS, OUR KIND HOSTS BADE US FAREWELL.



LONG TRACTS OF SEAS DIVIDE YOUR HOPES FROM ITALY, FOR YOU MUST CRUISE ALONG SICILIAN SHORES, THEN ROUND THE ITALIAN COAST YOUR NAVY STEER.

KING HELENUS - Trojan



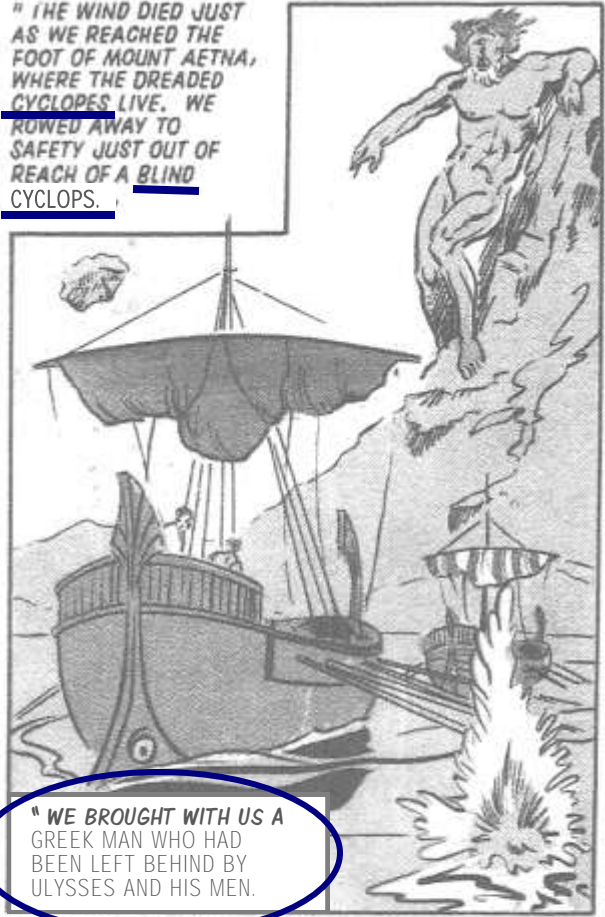
"mini-TROY"

QUEEN ANDROMACHE - Trojan - ex-slave

" WE PASSED MANY DANGERS TOO WONDROUS TO RELATE.



" THE WIND DIED JUST AS WE REACHED THE FOOT OF MOUNT AETNA, WHERE THE DREADED CYCLOPES LIVE. WE ROWED AWAY TO SAFETY JUST OUT OF REACH OF A BLIND CYCLOPS.



" WE SAILED ON AND MADE PORT AT SICILY. HERE, AFTER SURVIVING ENDLESS LABOURS AND PAIN, MY DEAR FATHER ANCHISES DIED.



THUS, AENEAS CONCLUDED HIS STORY TO DIDO, QUEEN OF CARTHAGE.

