

AQUAMAN

EVER SINCE THE TELESCOPE WAS INVENTED, THE BAF-FLING CANALS OF MARS HAVE BEEN A MYSTERY TO EARTHLY IMAGINATION! ARE THEY THE SUPERB ENGINEERING FEAT OF A VALIANT PEOPLE, STAVING OFF THE EXTINCTION THREATENED BY DWINDLING WATER SUPPLIES? NOBODY KNOWS! BUT AQUAMAN, KING OF THE SEAS, FINDS A STRANGE PARALLEL HERE ON EARTH ITSELF, WHEN HE INVESTIGATES THE AMAZING CANALS OF EARTH, AND PLUNGES INTO...

"A MARTIAN ADVENTURE!"

CANALS ON MARS

ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST, A GIANT COASTAL GUN SHOOTS A SHELL FAR OUT AT SEA, BUT ITS TARGET IS NOT AN ENEMY WARSHIP!

THE FBI URGENTLY NEEDS AQUAMAN! BUT WE HAVE NO WAY OF CONTACTING HIM EXCEPT BY A MESSAGE CONTAINED IN THAT HOLLOW SHELL!

I'M SURE AQUAMAN WILL FIND THAT SHELL! THE ARMY WAS GLAD TO COOPERATE!



AND FAR OUT OVER THE WAVES...



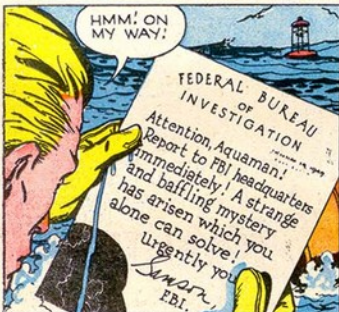
NOTIFIED BY HIS MARINE FRIENDS

OF THE
STRANGE
FLOATING
OBJECT, THE
KING OF THE
SEAS ARRIVES!

THE AUTHORITIES ON
LAND EVIDENTLY NEED
ME! BUT WHAT CAN
BE SO IMPORTANT?



HMM! ON
MY WAY!



FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
Attention, Aquaman!
Report to FBI headquarters
immediately! A strange
and baffling mystery
has arisen which you
alone can solve!
Urgently yours,
Sims
FBI.

SOON, AT THE FBI OFFICE...



A FEW HOURS AGO, AQUAMAN, ONE OF
OUR JET-PLANES RETURNED FROM AN
EXPERIMENTAL FLIGHT OVER THE HIMAL-
AYA MOUNTAINS OF ASIA! THIS REMARK-
ABLE PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN OF
A HITHERTO UNKNOWN VALLEY
BELOW!

AMAZING! IT
LOOKS LIKE A
PORTION OF MARS
AND ITS
CANALS!

EXACTLY! AND NOTE
THE HUGE FLARE
BURNING IN THE
FORM OF A DISTRESS
CALL—SOS!



NO PLANE COULD LAND
IN THAT RUGGED
VALLEY WITHOUT
AN AIRFIELD! AND
WORSE, STRONG AIR
CURRENTS MAKE EVEN
A PARACHUTE JUMP
IMPOSSIBLE!

BUT YOU FIGURED
I MIGHT BE ABLE
TO DIVE DOWN
INTO ONE OF
THE CANALS?
OKAY, I'LL TRY
IT!



HOURS LATER, THE SPEEDY JET-PLANE DELIVERS AQUAMAN OVER THE WEIRD UNEARTHLY VALLEY WITH ITS STRANGE MARTIAN-LIKE CANALS!



HAPPY LANDING, AQUAMAN!

I FEEL AS IF I WERE DROPPING DOWN TO MARS FROM A SPACE SHIP!

THE LONGEST DIVE IN HISTORY — AND AT THE MOMENT OF LANDING, AQUAMAN FACES UNEXPECTED DANGER!

ULP! THIS CANAL IS ALMOST DRIED UP! THERE'S BARELY ENOUGH FOR A SAFE LANDING!



A SHALLOW DIVE SAVED ME, BUT I COULDN'T AVOID THIS MUD—
GLUB!



WHY DIDN'T SOMEBODY TELL ME?



BUT I WONDER WHY THESE CANALS ARE DRIED? IS THAT THE REASON FOR THE SOS? AH, HERE ARE THE LOCAL INHABITANTS NOW!

HAIL, STRANGER FROM THE OUTER WORLD.



I AM THINGAR, PATRIARCH OF THE VALLEY PEOPLE. DID THEY SEND BUT **ONE MAN** IN ANSWER TO OUR DISTRESS CALL?

I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU. BUT TELL ME ABOUT THESE STRANGE CANALS, SO MUCH LIKE THOSE OF MARS!

THE PATRIARCH UNFOLDS A THRILLING SAGA OF HIS PEOPLE!

A CENTURY AGO, THIS HIDDEN VALLEY WAS A HAPPY PLACE OF PEACE AND PLENTY, UNTOUCHED BY THE TROUBLES OF THE OUTER WORLD!

"BUT DUE TO SOME MAJOR SHIFT IN CLIMATE, OUR VALLEY SUDDENLY DRIED OUT AND BECAME ALMOST A DESERT, AND WOE SPREAD THROUGH THE LAND."

THERE IS NOT ENOUGH WATER FOR US OR FOR OUR CROPS. WE WILL ALL DIE SOON! AHHH!

"BUT OUR ASTRONOMERS HAD STUDIED THE HEAVENS WITH TELESCOPES, AND FROM ACROSS SPACE ITSELF CAME THE ANSWER TO OUR DILEMMA!"

THE CANALS OF MARS! IF WE DUPLICATE THAT GREAT ENGINEERING FEAT, WE MAY YET SURVIVE AND DEFEAT OUR DOOM!

"WE DID! WE DUG CANALS AND TAPPED A GLACIER AT THE END OF THE VALLEY, AND ONCE MORE OUR LAND SPRANG OUT IN BEAUTY AND PLENTY!"

AS LONG AS THAT GLACIER LASTS, WE ARE SAFE.

AH, BUT THE GLACIER LASTED ONLY A CENTURY! NOW, TODAY, OUR CANALS ARE DRY AND EXTINCTION AGAIN FACES US!

IT'S A BIG JOB, BUT I'LL TRY TO **REFILL** YOUR CANALS!

WAIT! FOR AGES, WE HAVE AVOIDED CONTACT WITH THE OUTER WORLD AND ITS SAVAGE WARS! I MUST WARN YOU THAT EVEN IF YOU HELP US, YOU CAN NEVER AGAIN LEAVE THIS VALLEY! IT IS OUR LAW!

SO AQUAMAN BEGINS HIS GIGANTIC JOB WITH A HEAVY THREAT HANGING OVER HIM!

THEY FEAR THAT ANY ONE TELLING OF THIS VALLEY WILL BRING A HORDE OF EXPLORERS, SETTLERS, AND ALIEN RULE! SO I'M EXILED FROM THE OUTER WORLD! WELL, I'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.

WHAT?



THIS FISH! IT'S A SPECIES KNOWN TO EXIST ONLY IN THE ARCTIC SEA! HOW DID IT GET INTO THESE CANALS, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY? THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER—AN UNDERGROUND SEA ROUTE!

AFTER LONG HOURS OF PATIENT SEARCH UP AND DOWN THE COMPLEX SYSTEM OF CANALS...

AND HERE IT IS! THIS MUST LEAD TO A SUBTERRANEAN RIVER THAT CONNECTS WITH THE DISTANT ARCTIC SEA!



SURE ENOUGH! EVEN ARCTIC WHALES CRUISE THIS RIVER! AND IT IS BLOCKED OFF FROM THE VALLEY BY ONLY A THIN WALL OF ROCK!

COMMANDING ALL DENIZENS OF THE SEA, THE MONARCH OF THE WAVES ENLISTS THEIR AID!

SO DOWN GOES THE WALL! FIRST, ALL YOU HARD-SHELLED CREATURES SCRAPE AWAY AT THE ROCK, PITTING AND WEAKENING IT!



FINALLY, A TEAM OF WHALES SERVES AS A MIGHTY BATTERING RAM.

ALL TOGETHER NOW!

KERSMASH!



AND ONCE MORE THE CANALS ARE FLOODED WITH LIFE-GIVING WATERS!

WATER! WE ARE SAVED!

AND THE SUPPLY FROM THE GREAT ARCTIC OCEAN WILL LAST YOU FOR AGES AHEAD!

MY PEOPLE WILL HONOR YOU FOREVER! BUT AS I WARNED YOU, NO MAN CAN LEAVE THIS VALLEY!

NO MAN! BUT WHAT IF I AM NOT A MAN—A HUMAN BEING?



YOU SAW ME DROP FROM THE SKIES! LOOK AT ME CLOSELY! AM I LIKE OTHER MEN?

(GASP!) YOU—YOU MUST BE A MARTIAN! IN THAT CASE, WE CANNOT HOLD YOU! GO IN PEACE, NOBLE SIR!

MUCH LATER...

SO AS A MARTIAN, THEY LET ME GO, AND I SWAM TO THE ARCTIC SEA AND HOME. BUT I'M GOING TO SWEAR THE FBI TO SECRECY ON THIS WHOLE MATTER! LET THAT SIMPLE VALLEY OF PEACE AND PLenty LIVE ON WITHOUT MOLESTATION BY THE OUTER WORLD!

HEADQUARTERS
FBI



THE END