

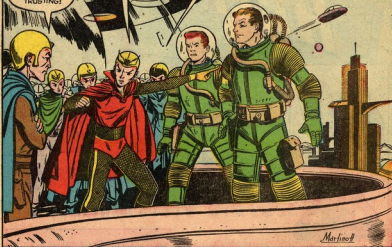
BUSTER CRABBE

IN "I COVER MARS"

DO NOT LET THESE EARTH MEN FOOL YOU! THEY POSE AS YOUR FRIENDS, BUT IT IS ALL LIES! EVEN NOW WHILE THEY ACCEPT OUR HOSPITALITY HERE ON MARS, THEY HAVE BEEN MURDERING OUR CITIZENS WITH OXYGEN POISON! SIX LIE DEAD ALREADY! HOW MANY MORE MUST DIE BEFORE YOU KILL THESE DEVILS?

TAKE THEIR OXYGEN FROM THEM! LET THEM DIE!

PERHAPS WE HAVE BEEN TOO TRUSTING!



THERE ARE THE MEN WHO ARE MAKING THE EXPEDITION TO EARTH! MAY THEY HAVE BETTER LUCK THAN THE LAST FOUR EXPEDITIONS!

THE TALLEST ONE IS ASTRON— THE DARING ONE! HE PERSUADED KING NEMONALLIS TO SEND OUT ONE MORE EXPEDITION! HE DREAMS OF REACHING THE PLANET EARTH!

THIS TIME WE WILL REACH EARTH! I AM CONVINCED OUR SCIENTISTS ARE RIGHT— THAT THERE IS LIFE ON THE EARTH— PERHAPS MEN LIKE OURSELVES!

WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE TO BELIEVE OUR SCIENTISTS! WE ARE THE ONLY INTELLIGENT BEINGS THAT EXIST! WE WILL FIND NOTHING ON EARTH BUT WATER AND VEGETATION!

AH, FERDS, WHERE IS YOUR SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE! WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE YOU WILL FIND SO LITTLE?

HAVEN'T OUR SCIENTISTS ADMITTED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF EARTH IS FILLED WITH DEADLY OXYGEN? HOW COULD ANY FORM OF LIFE EXIST IN SO POISONOUS AN ATMOSPHERE?



ALL ROCKETS WILL REMAIN IN FORMATION THROUGHOUT THE FLIGHT! UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL ANY PILOT LEAVE THE GROUP! DO YOU UNDERSTAND, ASTROTS?



DEMONDON HAS NOT FORGOTTEN HOW YOU LEFT FORMATION ON OUR TEST FLIGHT! YOU WILL BE WISE TO OBEY HIM UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE DROPPED FROM THE ROCKET SQUADRON!



HE IS TOO CAUTIOUS! WHY HAVE A SIX ROCKET FLIGHT IF WE DO NOT SEPARATE AND EXPLORE INDIVIDUALLY?

MUCH OF OUR PLANET IS WASTE-LAND! OUR SCIENTISTS SAY THAT EARTH IS RICH WITH MOISTURE!

EARTH IS A CRAZY PLANET... THERE IS MORE WATER THAN LAND! THE ONLY LIFE WE WILL FIND WILL BE CREATURES THAT LIVE IN THE WATER!



THE ROCKETS HURTLIED THROUGH MILLIONS OF MILES OF SPACE...

FEROS! THERE IT IS - EARTH! WE ARE LESS THAN SIX HUNDRED MILES OUTSIDE OF THE ATMOSPHERE THAT SURROUNDS IT! I AM NOT GOING TO WAIT FOR DEMONDON TO GIVE ORDERS! I KNOW TOO WELL WHAT HE WILL SAY! HE WILL WANT US TO CIRCLE ENDLESS HOURS BEFORE LANDING! WE ARE GOING **NOW!**



NO! I DEMAND THAT YOU WAIT! DEMONDON HAS GOOD REASON FOR HIS ACTIONS! WHAT IF EARTH'S GRAVITY IS SO STRONG IT WRENCHES US OUT OF THE SKY AND WE CRASH?

IMPOSSIBLE! OUR ROCKET HAS ENOUGH POWER TO COUNTERACT ANY GRAVITATIONAL PULL!



BUT THE ATMOSPHERE! WHAT IF TOO MUCH FRICTION DEVELOPS, AND OUR ROCKET IGNITES? WE'LL BURN TO A CINDER AS METEORS DO IN OUR ATMOSPHERE!

THE ROCKETS HAVE BEEN TREATED WITH CALAFRAM SO THAT NO AMOUNT OF HEAT OR FRICTION COULD MAKE THE ROCKET BURN! NOW WE MUST LAND!

WE WILL DIE! WE WILL DIE, I TELL YOU! REVERSE THE ROCKET WHILE THERE IS YET TIME!

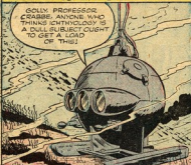
KEEP BACK FROM THOSE CONTROLS, FEROS! HERE WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF A GREAT DISCOVERY, AND YOU WOULD RUN FROM IT!

COME, FEROS! ANY INSTANT WE WILL BREAK THROUGH THESE CLOUDS AND SEE WHAT MARVELS LIE BELOW!

I HATE HIM! IF EVER I LIVE TO RETURN TO MARS, I WILL SEE THAT HE PAYS FOR THIS!



MEANWHILE, ON EARTH, BUSTER CRABBE, PROFESSOR OF ICHTHYOLOGY, IS DOING SOME MARINE RESEARCH IN A DIVING BELL OFF THE COAST OF MAINE WHILE VACATIONING WITH ONE OF HIS STUDENTS — JOHNNY PHELPS.



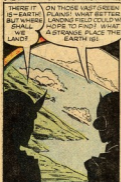
GOLLY, PROFESSOR CRABBE, ANYONE WHO THINKS ICHTHYOLOGY IS A DULL SUBJECT OUGHT TO GET A LOAD OF THIS!

I GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY, JOHNNY! LET'S SURFACE AND SEE WHAT'S GOING ON TOPSIDE! AND LET'S FORGET CLASSROOM TITLES NOW THAT WE'RE ON VACATION! I'M BUSTER... OKAY?



YOU BET, BUSTER!

WHILE UP IN THE SKY THE ROCKET BREAKS THROUGH THE STRATOSPHERE!



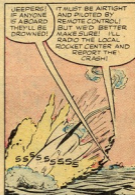
THERE IT IS—EARTH! BUT WHERE SHALL WE LAND?

ON THOSE VAST GREEN PLAINS! WHAT BETTER LANDING FIELD COULD WE HOPE TO FIND? WHAT A STRANGE PLACE THE EARTH IS!



LOOK!!

A ROCKET! IT MUST BE A TEST MODEL OF THE U.S. ROCKET EXPERIMENTAL STATION!



JEEPERS! IF ANYONE IS ABOARD THEY'LL BE DROWNED!

IT MUST BE AIRTIGHT AND PILOTED BY REMOTE CONTROL! BUT WE'D BETTER MAKE SURE! I'LL RADIO THE LOCAL ROCKET CENTER AND REPORT THE CRASH!



ROCKET YOU REPORT IS NOT ONE OF OURS! RADAR OBSERVER PICKED IT UP OUTSIDE OUR ATMOSPHERE, AND BELIEVE IT TO BE FROM ANOTHER PLANET!

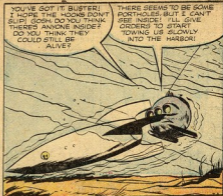
THEN SOMEONE MAY BE ABOARD! I HAVE A DIVING BELL AND WILL ATTEMPT A RESCUE!

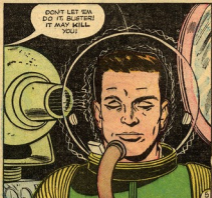


ADVISE GREAT CAUTION! ROCKET DOWN IN MAY BE RADIO—THE ACTIVE! DISPATCHING MOBILE SPACE ATTEMPT EXPERIMENTAL UNIT TO TOW IT INTO SCENE OF CRASH! HARBOR WHERE YOU EXPERTS CAN TAKE OVER!



THERE IS YOUR LIFE ON THIS PLANET! ARMLESS AND LEGLESS THINGS THAT SWIM AND CRAWL! WE WILL DIE, ENDED IN OUR ROCKET! I KNEW IT WAS MADNESS TO BELIEVE EARTH COULD BE INHABITED!





NOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME? THIS MACHINE TUNES YOUR THOUGHT WAVES TO A SIMILAR FREQUENCY AS THAT OF MARTIANS, SO THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND OUR SPEECH JUST AS I NOW CAN UNDERSTAND YOU!

IT...IT'S AMAZING! IT'S JUST AS IF YOU WERE SPEAKING MY LANGUAGE!

YOU MEAN YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIM NOW? GET HIM TO DO IT TO ME, TOO!

WILL YOU TREAT JOHNNY TOO, SO HE CAN UNDERSTAND YOU?

NO! IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS! IT CANNOT BE USED SAFELY ON ONE AS YOUNG AS HE!

AS THE ROCKET SPEEDS THROUGH SPACE, BUSTER LEARNS MUCH FROM ASTROS ABOUT MARS! HE TRUSTS ASTROS' PROMISE TO FIND A WAY TO RETURN BUSTER AND JOHNNY TO EARTH... BUT HE DISTRUSTS FEROS... ESPECIALLY WHEN HE OVERHEARS FEROS SEND A MESSAGE...



ROCKET COMMAND...ROCKET COMMAND...THIS IS FEROS OF ROCKET BX2...I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY MADE LANDING ON EARTH AND AM RETURNING WITH TWO EARTHMEN...I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT THAT ASTROS' COWARDLY AND TRAITOROUS CONDUCT MADE IT NECESSARY TO LEAVE BEFORE FULL EXPLORATION OF EARTH COULD BE MADE!

I RECOMMEND HIS DISMISSAL FROM THE ROCKET COMMAND AND COURT MARTIAL!

HE DELIBERATELY WAITED UNTIL ASTROS SLEPT SO HE COULD SEND THE MESSAGE SECRETLY! I WISH I KNEW WHAT HE WAS SAYING SO I COULD WARN ASTROS!

KING NEMONALLUS! I HAVE GREAT NEWS! FEROS OF ROCKET BX2 REPORTS HE HAS MADE A SUCCESSFUL LANDING ON EARTH AND IS RETURNING WITH TWO EARTHMEN!

PREPARE A GREAT CELEBRATION! NOTIFY ALL MARTIANS! HAVE A SPECIAL MEDAL DESIGNED TO HONOR HIS GREAT EXPLOIT!

HERE HE COMES! ALL HAIL TO THE GREAT FEROS!

DID YOU HEAR! ASTROS WHOM WE ALL BELIEVED TO BE SO GREAT WAS A COWARD! HE WILL BE PUNISHED FOR ENDANGERING THE SUCCESS OF THE EXPEDITION!

HERE WE ARE—MARS! SINCE WE USE A HIGHLY REFINED FORM OF OXYGEN AS ROCKET FUEL, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO KEEP YOU SAFELY SUPPLIED DURING YOUR STAY. BUT BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET ANY OF THE OXYGEN ESCAPE WHEN YOU ARE NEAR MY PEOPLE!

WHY?



TO US, OXYGEN IS A DEADLY POISON! A MICROSCOPIC AMOUNT IS ALL OUR BODIES NEED! EVEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF FREE OXYGEN COULD BE DISASTROUS TO A MARTIAN!

OXYGEN CAN HAVE SIMILAR EFFECTS ON EARTH-MEN! OF COURSE IT WOULD REQUIRE A HIGH CONCENTRATION!



HAIL TO FEROS—OUR GREAT HERO! SHOW US THE EARTH-MEN!

BRING THAT GREAT HERO, FEROS, BEFORE ME!



FEROS, YOU BROUGHT GREAT HONOR TO MARS BY YOUR DEEDS! YOU ARE THE GREATEST MAN ON MARS... GREATER EVEN THAN I, YOUR KING! WHAT GREATER HONOR THEN CAN I BESTOW ON YOU THAN TO GIVE OVER THE RULE OF ALL MARS TO YOU! HENCEFORTH, YOU, FEROS, SHALL BE KING!

HAIL TO FEROS, OUR KING!



THEN WHAT OF ASTROS?

ASTROS, YOU HAVE DISGRACED THE ROCKET COMMAND BY YOUR COWARDLY CONDUCT! FEROS TOLD US HOW YOU TRIED TO KEEP HIM FROM LANDING ON EARTH! I ORDER YOU TO BE IMPRISONED FOR LIFE! TAKE HIM AWAY, GUARDS!



IT IS NOT TRUE! FEROS LIES!

KING NEMONALUS, IT IS NOT SO! ASTROS IS FEARLESS! HE WOULD NEVER ...

I AM KING NOW! AND I SAY ASTROS IS A COWARD! HE MUST BE PUNISHED!



NOW THE MARTIANS FLOCK TO SIDE AND SPEAK TO THE EARTH-MEN! THEY LEARN OF EARTH FROM BUSTLE AND FEEL MORE AND MORE THEIR KINSHIP TO THESE STRANGERS FROM ANOTHER PLANET...

ON EARTH THERE ARE MANY RELIGIONS... EVERYONE FREE TO CHOOSE THE WAY HE WISHES TO WORSHIP AND WE LIVE IN FAMILY GROUPS...



THE WORLD IS MADE UP OF MANY RACES! EACH COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS, BUT THEY ALL SHARE THE SAME HOPES FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS!

THE PEOPLE ARE BECOMING TOO FOND OF THIS EARTH-MAN AND THE YOUNG ONE! HE COULD EASILY RUIN MY PLANS! I MUST TEACH MY PEOPLE TO HATE THE EARTH-MEN!

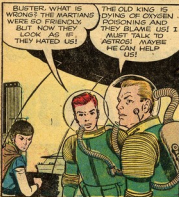


FIRST I MUST CONVINCE THEM THAT HE IS EVIL AND TREACHEROUS—THAT ALL EARTH-MEN ARE EVIL—THEN THEY WILL FOLLOW ME TO WAR AGAINST EARTH! WE CAN EASILY CONQUER THAT PLANET AND I WILL BE KING OF THE WHOLE UNIVERSE!

FEROS' PLAN INVOLVES THE DEATH OF MANY INNOCENT MARTIANS BUT LIKE ALL DICTATORS, FEROS IS HEEDLESS OF OTHERS...



IN RAPID SUCCESSION, SIX MORE MARTIANS DIED OF THE SAME MALADY A WAVE OF PANIC SPREAD! THIS WAS WHAT FEROS WANTED...





LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF
The Amazing Adventures
of **BUSTER CRABBE**

ON SALE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD--
NOVEMBER 30TH!