

THIS IS THE STORY OF **KEN KURAGE**, WHO LIVES IN THE YEAR 2065... KEN IS A CAPTAIN IN THE POLICE FORCE OF THE EARTH GOVERNMENT.. IT IS HIS JOB TO TRACK DOWN SPIES AND PIRATES FROM OTHER PLANETS, SOME OF WHOM ARE PLOTTING WARS AGAINST THE EARTH.....

WHILE PATROLLING THE STRATOSPHERE IN HIS ROCKET SHIP, KEN'S RADIO MAN RECEIVES A STRANGE MESSAGE..

URGENT ORDER ON THE TRANSMITTER SIR... WILL YOU PICK IT UP?

CALLING SHIP 51... PROCEED TO FOLLOWING LOCATION... CITIZENS ALARMED BY STRANGE CRAFT..

PROBABLY NO CAUSE FOR ALARM BUT WE'LL HEAD OUT THERE ANYWAYS... I'LL SPEED 'ER UP TO FIVE KILLOWATTS PER LIGHT SECOND

IT IS INDEED A STRANGE LOOKING SHIP.. AHoy THERE! THEY DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND... AND WE'VE TRIED EVERY KNOWN LANGUAGE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM... HEAVE TO. I'M GOING TO BOARD HER

FUNNY - NO GYRO WINGS OR ROCKET CONTAINERS OF ANY KIND

AS THE PATROL SHIP PULLS ALONGSIDE THE INTRUDOR, A LARGE DOOR IS OPENED OPPOSITE KEN'S PLANE AND A PANEL SLIDES SILENTLY OUT.

WHO ARE YOU? YOU ARE FOREIGN TO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, ARE YOU NOT?

WE ARE THE TREE MEN OF URANIUS..WE ARE INTERESTED IN CERTAIN MINERALS FOUND ONLY ON YOUR EARTH AND WHICH OUR MUNITION MAKERS ARE SADLY IN NEED OF

I SEE...IF YOU WILL COME WITH ME YOU MAY QUESTION THE COMMANDER ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS - HEY! WHAT'S THE IDEA?!!

I'M AFRAID THAT IS NOW IMPOSSIBLE! WE ARE ALREADY THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM YOUR PLANET... ONE FALSE MOVE AND YOU'LL BE BLOWN TO DUST BY THIS DISINTREGATOR!!

THIS IS A THOUGHT TRANSMITTER IT ENABLES US TO CONVERSE, EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND EACH OTHERS LANGUAGE..

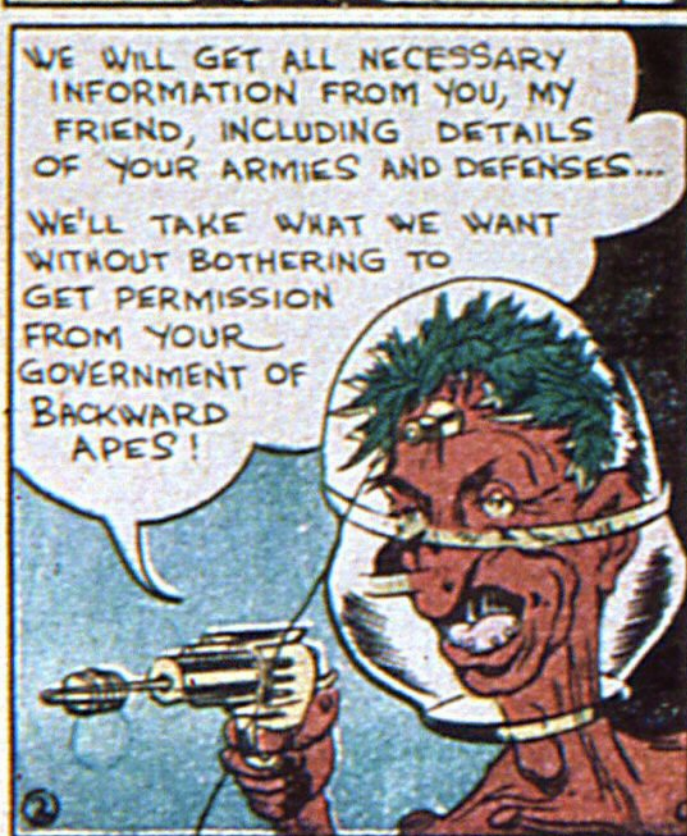
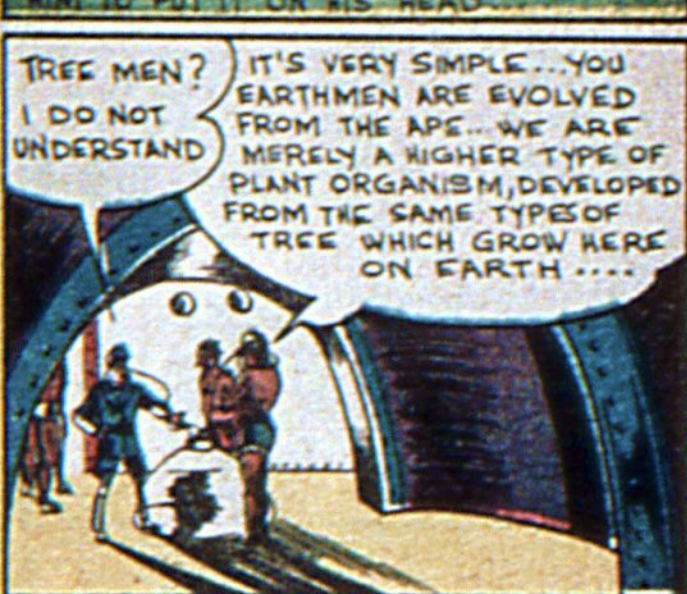
HE IS CONFRONTED BY THE STRANGEST LOOKING CREATURES HE EVER LAID EYES ON...THEY GIVE HIM A GLASS HELMET AND MOTION HIM TO PUT IT ON HIS HEAD.

TREE MEN? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND

IT'S VERY SIMPLE...YOU EARTHMEN ARE EVOLVED FROM THE APE..WE ARE MERELY A HIGHER TYPE OF PLANT ORGANISM, DEVELOPED FROM THE SAME TYPES OF TREE WHICH GROW HERE ON EARTH....

WE WILL GET ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION FROM YOU, MY FRIEND, INCLUDING DETAILS OF YOUR ARMIES AND DEFENSES...

WE'LL TAKE WHAT WE WANT WITHOUT BOTHERING TO GET PERMISSION FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT OF BACKWARD APES!





YOUR SHIP CANNOT
HELP YOU, EARTHMAN.
WE HAVE FIXED
IT IN PLACE
WITH OUR
PARALYZER
RAY... SO
RELAX.

REALIZING THAT HE IS TRAPPED, KEN LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW AND SEES THE EARTH IN THE FAR DISTANCE. HE FORGETS ABOUT THE THOUGHT TRANSMITTER AND WONDERS ABOUT HIS SHIP'S CREW, BUT THE TREE MAN READS HIS MIND.

I AM AN AMAZON
FROM MARS. THE
TREE MEN PLAN TO
CONQUER OUR
ENTIRE SOLAR
SYSTEM.

LUCKY THEY
DIDN'T FIND THIS
KNIFE ON ME...



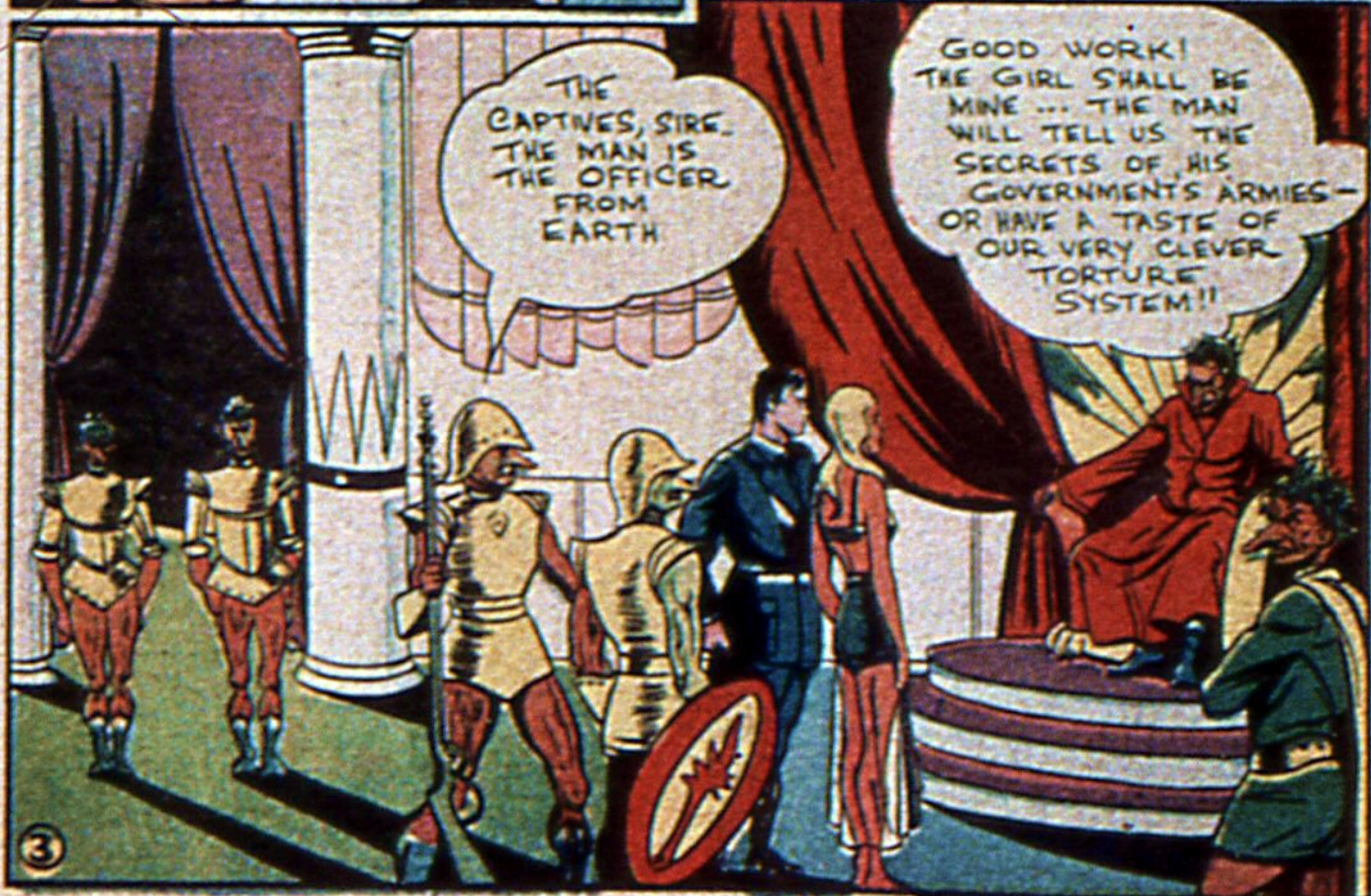
HE IS THROWN INTO A SPECIAL PRISON CELL...

WELL, HELLO
THERE... MIGHTY
NICE OF THESE
BARBARIANS TO
GIVE ME SUCH
LOVELY
COMPANY...



I'LL BE BACK FOR
YOU SOON'S I
CHOP DOWN A
FEW OF
THESE
FORESTS.

AFTER WHAT SEEMS LIKE WEEKS OF TRAVEL, KEN FEELS THE PLANE COME TO A JARRING HALT. HE IS WHISKED AWAY BY MORE TREE MEN.



THE
CAPTIVES, SIRE.
THE MAN IS
THE OFFICER
FROM
EARTH.

GOOD WORK!
THE GIRL SHALL BE
MINE... THE MAN
WILL TELL US THE
SECRETS OF HIS
GOVERNMENT'S ARMIES—
OR HAVE A TASTE OF
OUR VERY CLEVER
TORTURE
SYSTEM!!

YOUR TORTURES WOULD BE A MOST INTERESTING DEMONSTRATION...WE ARE NOT VERY FAR ADVANCED IN THAT FIELD ON MY PLANET.

TOO BAD YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL YOUR PEOPLE ABOUT IT... TAKE HIM TO THE DUNGEON!



THE FOOL HAS PASSED OUT! THEY MUST BE A HARD LOT TO RECKON WITH, THESE EARTHLINGS... NONE OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE FAILED TO TALK UNDER THE HEAT RAY... REVIVE HIM AND WE SHALL TRY THE ICE RAY... HE WILL NOT RELISH BEING FROZEN STIFF!



I'LL JUST BORROW THIS DISINTEGRATOR — IF YOU DON'T MIND...



SO! THEY LEFT A GUARD OUTSIDE! I AM FLATTERED



YOU ARE NOT SO BRAVE NOW, ARE YOU, EARTH-MAN?!
SPEAK NOW! WHERE ARE YOUR ARMAMENT CENTERS LOCATED? GIVE ME YOUR MILITARY SECRETS!!



KEN IS PLACED BEFORE A SCORCHING HEAT RAY... HIS ENTIRE BEING SEEMS TO BE AFLAME.

SO YOU THOUGHT MY FLESH AND BLOOD WOULD BURN AS SIMPLY AS YOUR POOR WOODEN SYSTEMS! THAT WAS YOUR FIRST MISTAKE!



NO SOONER IS KEN ALONE WITH THE GUARD THAN HE SPRINGS INTO ACTION

THE GRAVITY OF THIS PLANET IS SO SLIGHT THAT KEN MOVES OVER THE SURFACE IN APPARENTLY EFFORTLESS LEAPS...



TELL ME WHAT THEY'VE DONE WITH THE GIRL OR I'LL SNAP YOUR NECK LIKE IT WAS A DRY TWIG!

THEY ARE PREPARING HER FOR THE WEDDING... LET ME GO AND I WILL LEAD YOU TO HER!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS BUNCH!

NOW IF WE CAN GET THIS SHIP UP BEFORE THEY FIND THE RANGE!! IN A MINUTE THE WHOLE CITY WILL BE AROUSED!!

THEY'LL ATTACK OUR PLANETS! HOW CAN WE STOP THEM?

WE'RE DIRECTLY OVER THEIR ARMS BASE... —IF I CAN WORK THIS DISINTREGATOR.

THAT'S THE END OF THEIR WAR PLANS!

BACK ON EARTH! I'LL REPORT AND THEN ARRANGE FOR A CONVOY TO GET YOU HOME

CAPTAIN KURAGE, AT YOUR SERVICE, COMMANDER..

OH, BY THE WAY, CAPTAIN... I REALIZE IT'S PRETTY QUIET AROUND HERE, BUT —

TRY NOT TO LEAVE YOUR SHIP IN THE FUTURE... WE NEVER KNOW WHEN TROUBLE MAY SPRING UP... MAKE OUT A REPORT..