

HERGÉ

THE ADVENTURES OF JO, ZETTE AND JOCKO  
BY THE CREATOR OF TINTIN

# THE VALLEY OF THE COBRAS



MAGNET



# THE VALLEY OF THE COBRAS

## People and Places

The exclusive French ski resort Vargèse (Haute-Savoie) counts among its guests the Maharajah of Gopal, ruler of the tiny independent Himalayan state.

His Highness, an accomplished sportsman, is a master of the art of skiing. His style is the envy of all. Brimming with confidence, he attacks the slopes each morning and it

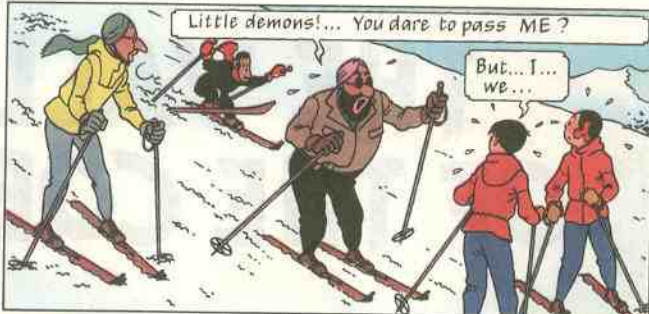
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By Kali!... Who are those upstarts?... The cheek of it! To go faster than me!... Stop!



Little demons!... You dare to pass ME?



But... I... we...

I order fifty strokes of the cane on the soles of their feet...  
But Your Highness...



What?... Are you by any chance questioning my orders?...



May the gods forbid, Highness!... I just wanted to remind you that we aren't in Gopal, we're in France, and the law here ...

By Kali! And have I no right to punish these rascals?



We'll see about that!... I shall punish them myself!



He's crazy!... What did we do to him?



I don't know... I don't understand.

You haven't hurt yourself, Highness?

Villains!



And you?... Well?... What are you waiting for?...



There, Your Highness...

Excellent!







They've gone! ...Let's get back home, quick!



It's a scandal! I shall complain! ... And I'm leaving the hotel!



Calm yourself, Highness, I beg of you!



Nothing we can do! He's in a towering rage...  
You don't say!



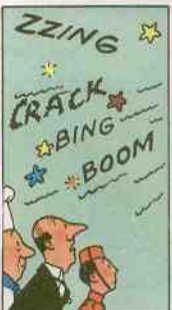
ZZING



BADALAH! BADALAH!! BADALAH!!!



Highness?  
Go and find some more vases and bowls... then you break them. I'm getting tired.



ZZING  
CRACK  
BING  
BOOM



Ah! It sounds as if he's calming down...



HELP!  
HELP! \*  
BURGLARS!



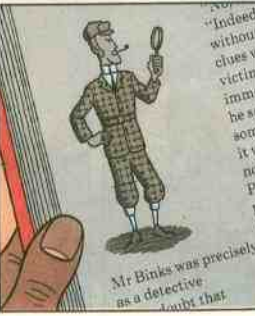
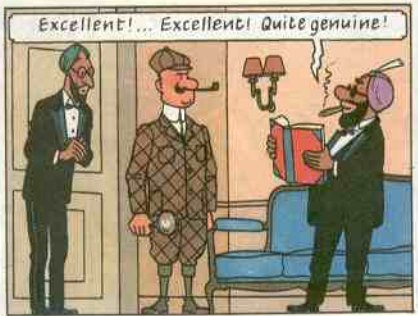
Hello... Toptecs Unlimited... Yes... yes... What? A pearl necklace... The Maharajah of Gopal?... I see... At the Hotel des Neiges... Very good... I'll be there at once...



Hercules Good-spy of Toptecs Unlimited.  
Badalah, His Highness's secretary.



We sent for you... You see, the Maharajah left his beautiful pearl necklace in the bathroom... a necklace worth millions... and now it's vanished...



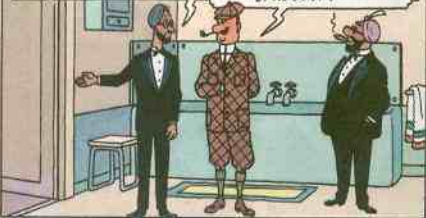
Good! ... Now since you're a detective, tell me who has stolen my pearl necklace.

First, if you'll allow me, I'll take a look in the bathroom, Your Highness ...



The door was closed. In the adjoining room were two of His Highness's servants. They saw and heard nothing ...

Hmm... Can they be trusted?



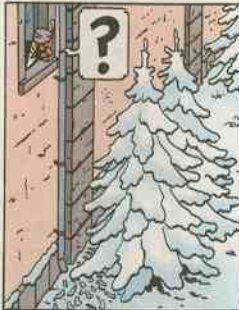
By Kali! You dare to suspect my servants?



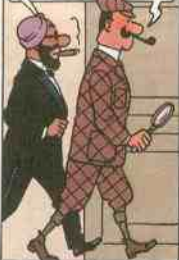
I... Certainly not, Your Highness... But in that case the thief can only have got in by the window, which seems to me too small to allow a man to enter...



Highness, it may well be that the thief used the window after all ... A small thief... A child, perhaps... There are footprints showing clearly in the snow...



I'll take a closer look...



There were three of them. Children, undoubtedly ...

They were hiding behind the fir-trees. One of them, with the help of this drainpipe, climbed into the bathroom.



In one hour, Highness, I shall identify the guilty parties!



That's them for sure!



What an odd-looking fellow!

What does he want with us?





So, Mr Badalah, His Highness's decision...  
... is irrevocable: to leave the hotel. The servants are already packing the trunks.



Your Highness, I found this casket in the bathroom cupboard, behind a pile of linen. What should I do with it?



A casket?... Reminds me of something; but what?



Let's have a look... I seem to remember putting something inside... What was it?



MY PEARL NECKLACE!!!



Badalah! Badalah!



Badalah! I found my pearl necklace!



Is that possible?

Yes, I thought I'd left it on the bathroom shelf, but I'd put it away in a casket in a cupboard. Just a little lapse of memory.



But Highness, the detective?...

Oh yes, the detective... tell him to come here at once.



I'm not quite sure where he is, Highness.

Not quite sure! I want to speak to him this instant, d'you hear?



He's just arrived, Your Highness!

I... Excuse me... I'm sorry I didn't have time to knock... Highness, I've identified the culprits!



There aren't any culprits, Mr Detective. My necklace has been found! You have tried to deceive me! I shall give orders to have you whipped!



Nevertheless, Highness, the fingerprints I followed led me to two children, and a monkey. They live in that chalet you can see from here.



By Kali! The two who overtook me... What a nerve!... And threw a snowball at me! I'll get them!



Badalah! Call Mogadir at once. We're going to teach those children the lesson they deserve!



Highness, I beseech you... think... the law of this country...



I am above the law!



More visitors?... Three of them this time...



Goodness! The one in front is the Maharajah of Gopal!



You're right!

Quick, Zette, let's go and hide!



No, we'll wait for them... We've done nothing to be ashamed of... Quite true, Jo!



They're the ones! I recognise them!



Ha ha, my little jokers!... Little monsters!... At last I've found you!... You will pay dearly for your insolence!



I assure you, Highness, it wasn't we who stole your necklace.

It's not a question of the necklace! You dared to insult me, and will be cased this instant!



Mogadir!... Administer the punishment!





Koushik Chakraborty





Mogadir, make me some snowballs! We're going to have fun!



That's... enough... I will show mercy...



Quickly, put your things on Highness... You'll catch cold...



You have paid one debt, Highness. Now there's just the skiing.

Thank you, Your Highness.



I... er... um... I will be merciful and... and... an... an... a... a... aaaaa...



AAAAAAA TCHOO!...

Won't you come in and get warm, Your Highness!



ATCHOO



AAAAAAA

Highness, may I present my wife?



How do you... you... you... tchooo!



Please sit down, Your Highness. Let me make you a hot drink.



AAAAA... TCHOO!...

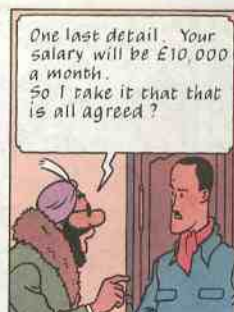


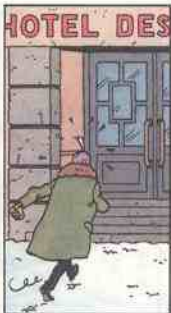
Your chalet has a fine outlook!

Yes, it's a beautiful view. And from my desk you can see the whole Mont Blanc range. You see...



There... We are looking at... at... er... ?

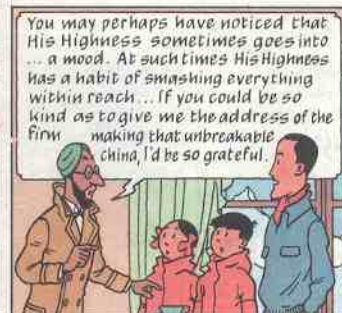




Oh my goodness! Here we go again! He's in a blazing temper...



Badalah! ... Badalah! ... BADALAH! Where's he gone to?



You may perhaps have noticed that His Highness sometimes goes into ... a mood. At such times His Highness has a habit of smashing everything within reach ... If you could be so kind as to give me the address of the firm making that unbreakable ching, I'd be so grateful.



The next morning ...

Which way shall we go today, Papa?

We'll set off down there ...



Oh Papa! ... Look!



I'm sure you've thought things over and agree to my plan. Here is £60,000 in advance ... I'd just remind you we leave next week.



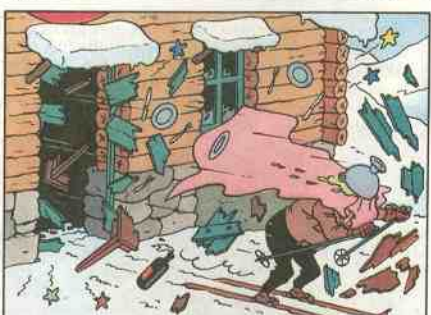
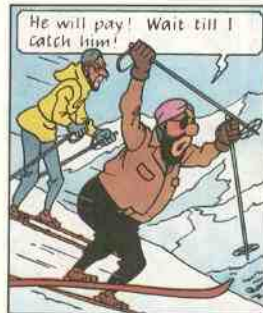
Highness, I hope I shan't have to repeat this again. As I said: no one dictates what I do. I bid you good-morning, Highness.



Badalah! My skis!



I'll bring him to heel! ...







Why? What do you mean?

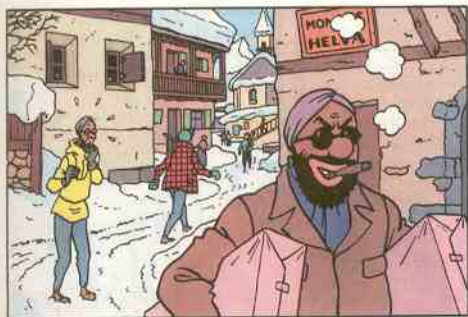
Well, as he left the hotel the Maharajah called me "my friend". And that isn't all: he gave me a hundred francs...



He called the page "my friend"... And gave him a hundred francs! More and more peculiar!



There he is!... But what are those parcels?



Just as I feared! He's heading towards the Legrand chalet...



By the gods!... Those parcels!... Heaven knows what sort of revenge he's cooking up! What can I do?...

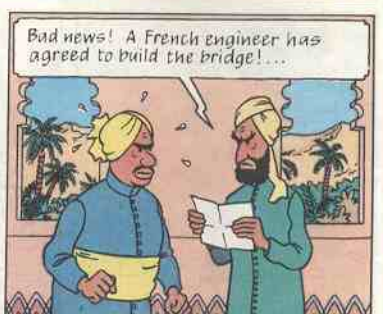


Saved!... Saved!... There's Monsieur Legrand.



Good morning, Monsieur Legrand... I... er... Excuse me, but... well... I've just seen His Highness going up the path towards your chalet... And after what happened yesterday... you understand... I'm worried...





Next morning ...

Well, Highness, what are your instructions?

You do as you wish. You have a free hand.

This is what I suggest. I go with you to have a look at the job on the spot. Then I come back to Europe to order materials and to hire the technicians ...

Agreed!

We leave the day after tomorrow. The arrangements are made.

Good Au revoir, Highness

Has he gone?



I simply can't remember where I put my catapult ...

Your catapult? ... But you gave it to the Maharajah yesterday ... He was so keen to have it ...

It's a complete mystery! ...

*The day of departure...*

So that's the plan: I'll be home in two months. Then we all go back together...



All aboard!



Goodbye, then! And you, Jo and Zette, you be good!

Goodbye, Papa... and watch out for the crocodiles!

Goodbye, Papa!



I'm sure you must be happy to be going home...

Of course... although I have no worries about the way the country has been governed in my absence.



The reports from my Prime Minister have been excellent. He's a very remarkable man, and I have absolute confidence in him!



*Meanwhile in Gopal...*

So, they are on the way...



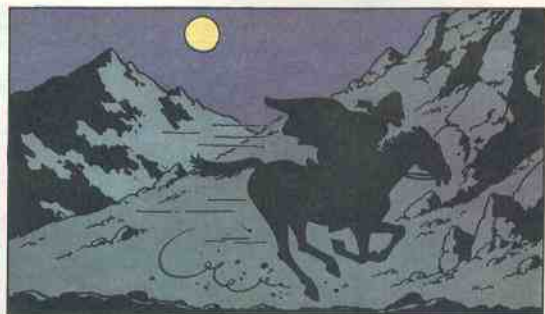
Soon I'll have to take orders again from that fat fool, and put up with his tantrums... I'm sick to death of it! ... I've had a taste of power while he's been away... and who's to stop me keeping it?



I've already exploited the unrest caused by the new taxes... very cleverly! ... I explained they were to pay for the Maharajah's gallivanting... The people grumble, but against the Maharajah!



And now this plan for the bridge... Ha ha! I must see Rabindah tonight...

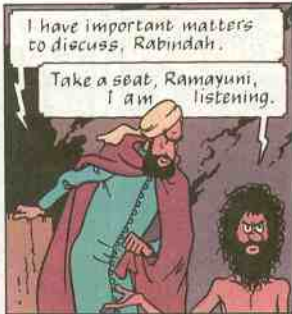




Ah, there he is in his cave.



Greetings, Rabinadah, mighty fakir!



I have important matters to discuss, Rabinadah.

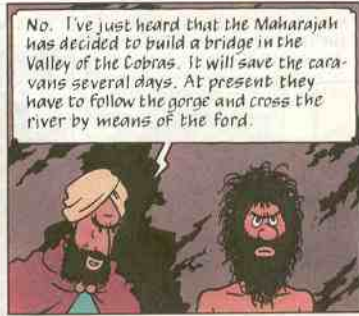
Take a seat, Ramayuni, I am listening.



YEOWWWW!



Is that all you wish to say?



No. I've just heard that the Maharajah has decided to build a bridge in the Valley of the Cobras. It will save the caravans several days. At present they have to follow the gorge and cross the river by means of the ford.

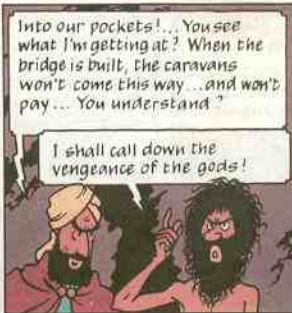


You realise what this means? Now, when the caravans come you demand money. You tell them it is to secure the blessing of the gods for a safe crossing...

As you know, the money allows me to offer sacrifices to the spirits of the valley...



A little bit goes to feed the cobras which infest the land by the ford. What about the rest, eh?



Into our pockets!... You see what I'm getting at? When the bridge is built, the caravans won't come this way... and won't pay... You understand?

I shall call down the vengeance of the gods!



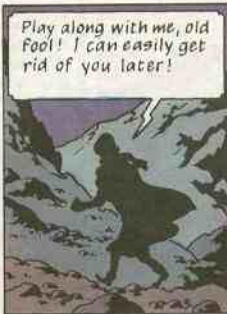
That won't prevent them from using the bridge, and it won't bring you any money either... as you very well know!



There's a better way, Rabinadah!... Stop the bridge from being built!... And I've thought how we can come to an arrangement about that...



I can count on you then?... I'll see you are well rewarded. When the time comes, I shall tell you what has to be done...



Play along with me, old fool! I can easily get rid of you later!



Yes, I'll help you, you traitor... But I'll be having the last laugh!



Next morning, M. Legrand returns from Gopal to a warm welcome from his family



What about the bridge, Papa? Where will it be built?



Well, picture a valley ...

... steep and narrow with a torrent at the bottom ...



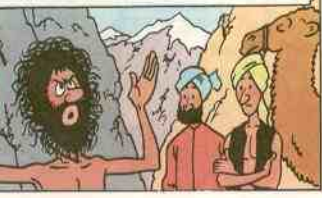
To reach Rankot, the capital of Gopal, the caravans have to keep to the line of the gorge, following the heights to a place where the valley widens out and allows them down to the river... to ford the stream.



But here a strange character appears.



Beside the ford lives a sort of fakir. In exchange for sums of money he invokes the river gods, and then he reveals to travellers the day and the hour when they may cross.



I'm told the caravans sometimes wait eight days before daring to cross the river. Each morning the fakirs say: "The gods are not willing!" And each day the travellers give him money so he will intercede with the spirits. The unfortunate people are convinced they will suffer harm if they disobey.



Eventually, when the fakir thinks they've waited long enough he lets the caravans go. They climb the opposite wall of the valley and follow that side of the gorge to Rankot. Building the bridge would cut six days off the journey for the caravans, quite apart from the time they lose waiting upon our Friend the fakir!



Now, I have to order the materials and choose the team of technicians. In a month's time I think we shall be ready to go. We'll all sail in the ship which will carry the equipment.

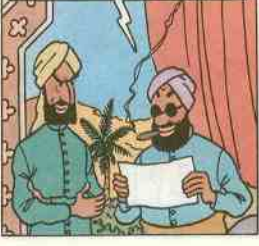


A month later...



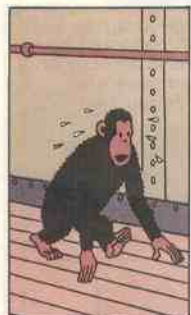
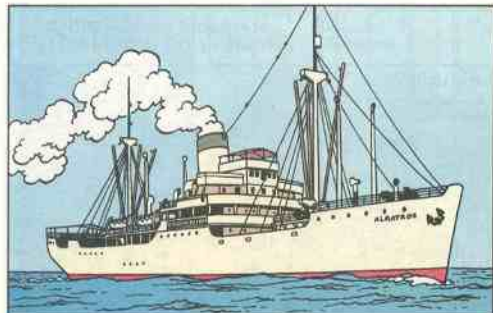
A telegram for Your Highness...

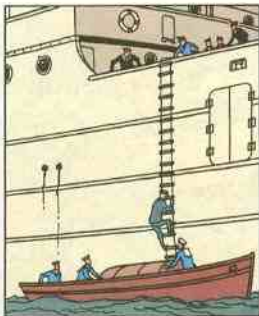
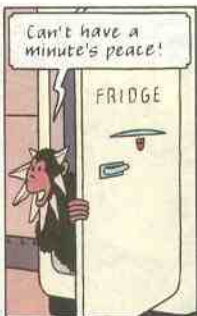
They're coming! The French boat "Albatros" left Marseilles yesterday...

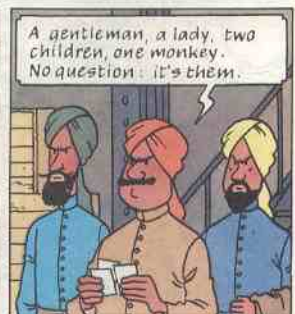
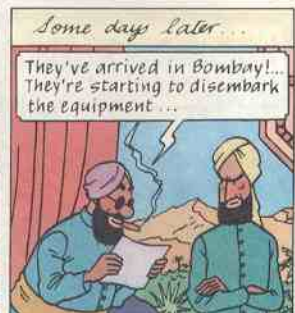


Let them come! They'll receive a warm welcome! HA! HA! HA!











Mr Legrand? ... His Excellency the Maharajah of Gopal has sent us. We are here to welcome you. Will you come this way? We are leaving by car for Simla.

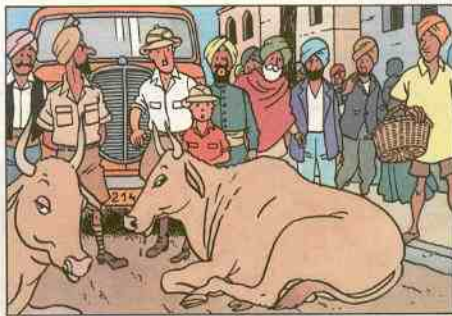


The equipment, Papa?  
It will be unloaded immediately...

From here it will be taken by rail as far as Simla, in the north.

Then by caravan to Rankot... Once there... Hello, What's going on?

A hold up of some kind... You stay here, Sahib, and I will see.  
We will come too.

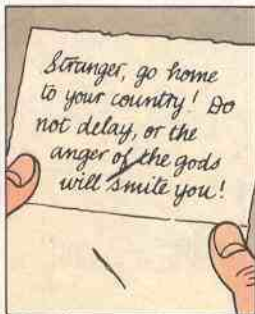


Nothing can be done, Sahib... We must wait until the cows get up.

Wait till they get up?... Someone can move them along!  
Indeed no, Sahib. They are sacred cows. One must be patient, until they move in their own good time!

How very strange!... Well let's go back to the car

Papa, look!





There he is! ...  
Now for it! ...



YEOWW!



The plan's failed! ...  
My horse! Quick!



I must warn Rabinah  
at once!



Hello, back  
so soon?  
I hope ...

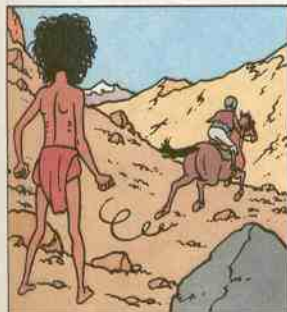


No, master... My mission's  
gone wrong... The caravan is  
coming. They'll be here before  
nightfall.



In that case, you know what you have to  
do... Remember, take no action unless  
you see me raise my arms.

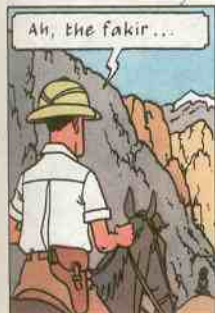
Yes, master.



Now I wait for  
them.



You see, the valley is opening out. And  
look there: that's the ford ...



Ah, the fakir ...



Stay, stranger! Do not try to  
cross the river today, or the  
gods will be displeased.

Noble fakir, I fully understand. But I simply must cross by the ford now. So I hope the gods will be forgiving, just this once.



Stranger, beware! You will bring their anger down upon yourself and your companions...



I'm sorry. That's enough talk. You are very kind, but we have no time to lose.



Er... excuse me, Sahib... but I... we prefer to wait for a more favourable time.

Oh? Well, I'll soon show you there's no danger... Jo and Zette, follow me.



By the tail of Hanuman!... On his own head be it! He asked for it!



Mighty gods! May your vengeance fall upon the blasphemers who dare to defy you!

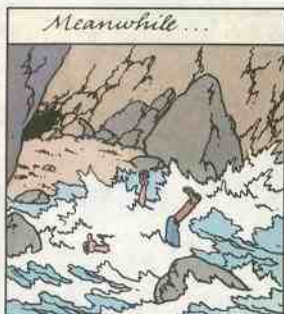


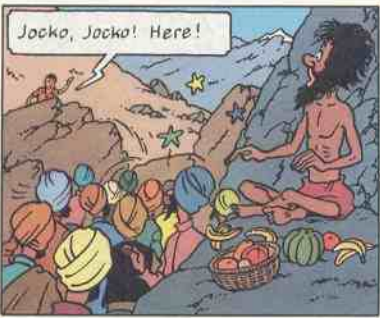
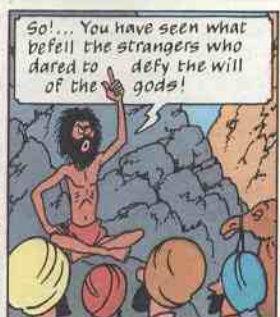
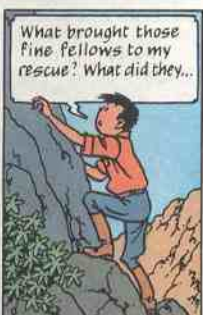
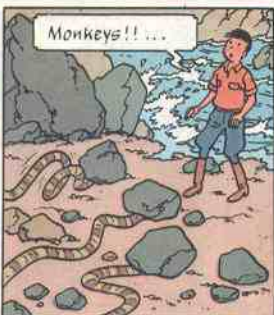
He's raised his arms! It's the signal!

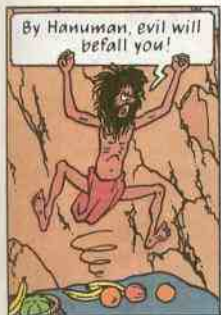
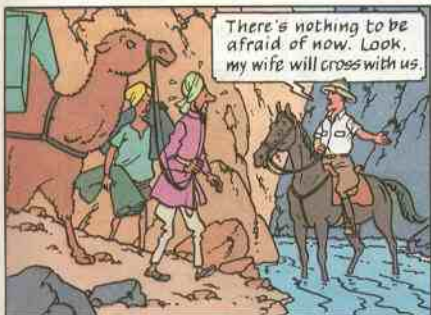
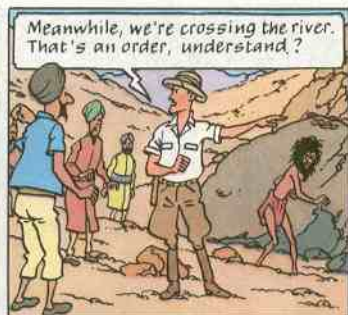
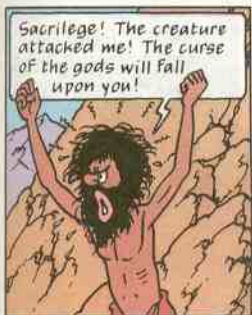
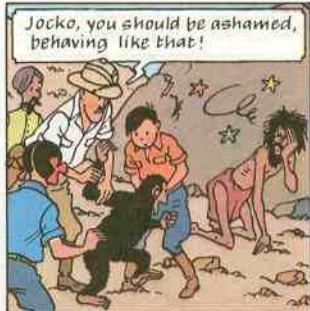


HA! HA! HA!

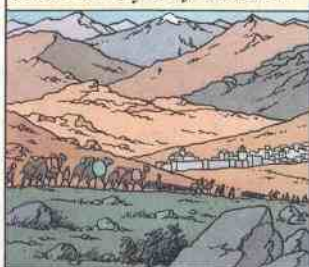








Next day, the caravan comes in sight of Rankoo...



There they are!  
No mistake!



His Highness must be  
informed without delay!



His Highness? Playing  
jokari, in the garden.



HIGHNESS! HIGHNESS!



What?... What is it?... Who  
dares to interrupt me?



Imbecile! Have him beaten,  
this instant!



BING



Your Highness's gracious  
pardon, but the caravan  
is in sight...



The caravan?... Hooray!  
I'll go at once! They  
must be welcomed  
with due ceremony!



If you would not mind waiting, Sahib. His Highness is just coming...



Ah, there you are!... I'm so happy to see you!... Now, you'll be starting work on the bridge at once, won't you?



At once?... Well, Highness... that is to say...

What's the meaning of this? You refuse...



Certainly not, Highness. But I must explain...

Oh, good! Badalah, have some refreshments brought in... and cigars.



Now, about the bridge... You see, when I get something on my mind, whatever it is...



IT'S A FROG!!



By Kali!... Someone get rid of that horrid creature this instant... How dare it...



Where's it gone? I command you to find that treasonable toad... NOW!



Calm yourself, Highness. Forget about it. Won't you present me to your friends, and propose a toast?



I am honoured, Monsieur Legrand. I am Ramayuni, His Highness's Prime Minister.

Your Excellency...



My friends, I drink to your health, and the success of our enterprise!



Highness, we very nearly didn't get here alive... When we came to the crossing on the Cobra River the fakir who controls the ford forbid our passage ...

What?! He dared...

You know this upstart, Ramayuni?

I have heard tell of him, Highness. But it is the first time anyone has advised me of such an occurrence. But evidently you crossed none the less?

Certainly, but at the risk of our lives. Just as we crossed the ford a tremendous wall of water hurtled down from the mountains. The children and I were swept away ...

... We managed to save ourselves, and here we are. But to come to the point, tomorrow while the workmen are making camp I'd like to go back to the river, and get to the bottom of this peculiar business.

You are right, Monsieur Legrand, and you have my approval, but on one condition: you do not go alone. Take someone with you who knows the area... Wait, I can recommend a guide, he will take good care of you ...

Next morning...

This is the guide I mentioned to you. You can trust him absolutely.

Have you ever heard talk of adam, a natural or man-made one?

No, Sahib, never.

Brrr... A fall here would be awful!

Take care, Sahib, it is difficult. I will go first. Then I will give you my hand and you can jump across.

There... Jump, Sahib!





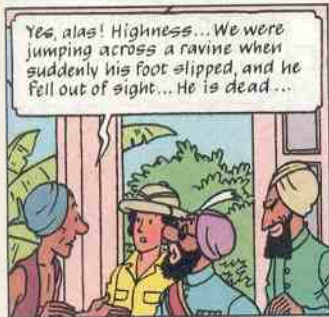
Perfect!... That will please the Prime Minister!



Back to the palace!



His Highness, quick!... I... The Sahib has had an accident... He's fallen down a precipice...



Yes, alas! Highness... We were jumping across a ravine when suddenly his foot slipped, and he fell out of sight... He is dead...



Wretch! His life was in your hands: you did not take care of him! You will die instantly!



I beg of you, Highness! This man cannot be held responsible for the accident... Please, please, don't let's waste time. We must go at once and search for my husband. Perhaps he is only injured...

You are right!



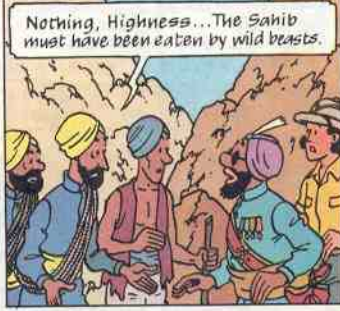
Hours later...

Ah, there are the men I sent ahead with the guide... What news?

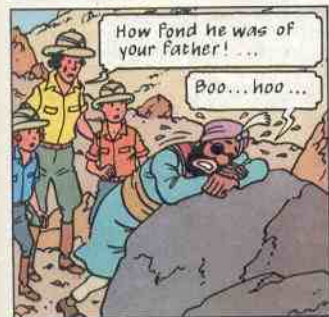


It's funny, Jo, but every time Jocko sees that guide he goes mad with rage!

Yes, it's very odd...



Nothing, Highness... The Sahib must have been eaten by wild beasts.



How fond he was of your father!...

Boo... hoo...



My bridge... My beautiful bridge... I want my bridge...



There... there... Look!



It's Papa!... But... but what a state he's in!



Oh, he can hardly stand!...



But Papa... PAPA!...



Quick, he's hurt... We need water dressings...



If I stay I'm done for! Get going, fast!



A few minutes later...

... Me? But I never slipped. It was the guide: he pushed me into the ravine.



The guide?... You say it was the guide?... By the ten heads of Ravana!... The vile wretch!...

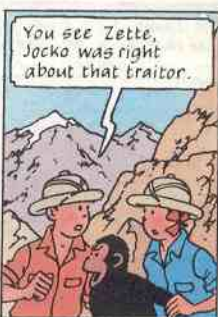


The guide!... Seize him at once! ... Where is he?



I do not know. Highness, he has disappeared. He was here a few minutes ago...

Go after him! I want him, dead or alive!



You see Zette, Jocko was right about that traitor.



We came to a difficult bit. As I said, instead of helping me the guide pushed me over the edge. Luckily, as I went down I grabbed some bushes which broke my fall. I must have hung there... Heaven knows how long.



... When I came to I managed to scramble down the rock face... It's lucky you found me, I was just about all in ...



I feel better now. We can go on ... Very well.



Jo? Zette? Where are you?... We're going ...



For goodness sake, they've disappeared!

YOORE?...  
JO?... ZETTE?...



Jo!... Jo!... Stop! Mama's  
calling us.

Yes, I know... But...



... we just can't let  
Jocko run off like that.  
We need to know  
why he bolted...



Beastly animal! I can't  
shake it off...



I know what I'll  
do... I'll hide!



CROOEE...  
CROOEE...



There, he didn't  
see me. Now  
I can go on.



Golly, where's he gone?  
I can't see him...



Hey!... Look!... The  
guide!... Now I  
understand why  
Jocko went off like  
a streak of lightning.



Let's follow, but  
make sure he  
doesn't see us!



He disappeared behind  
that rock. Quick, we  
musn't lose him.



Now what? -  
Where is he? He  
can't have  
vanished...



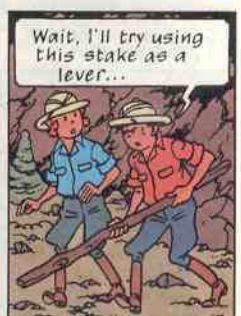
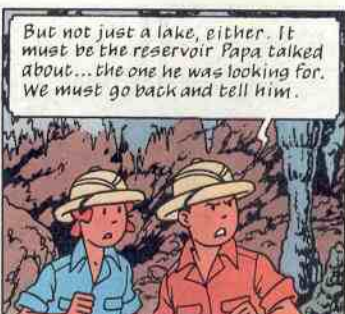
Oh, Zette! There!...  
A cave!... Let's see!



?

?





Jacko! ... He's managed to pick up our tracks...

No hope of squeezing out where he got in... Too narrow...

We simply must get out! But how?

That tree trunk... It'll make a battering ram...

All right ... Ready?

OK, Jo!

Look out, Jacko! ... Move!

Mind the shock, Zette!

Help! ... I'm going down!

Hey! The door is opening!

? !

CROOEE! CROOEE!

BING BONG BANG

Meanwhile...

... And anyone who splashes me will be in trouble!

SPLAT



Several months go by. Under the enthusiastic leadership of M. Zegrans, the construction of the bridge is well advanced...

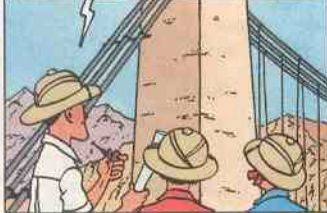


One evening...

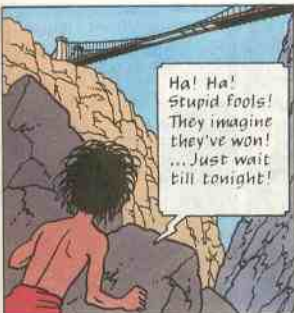
I'm very satisfied at the way the work is going...



Most of the reinforcing girders are fixed to the suspenders... Laying the roadway is only a matter of days...

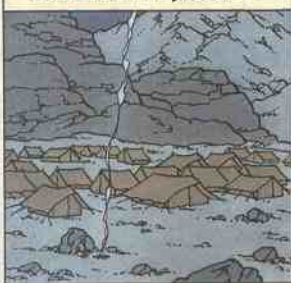


... then, when the load tests and the paintwork are finished, the bridge will be ready for the State opening by the Maharajah!



Ha! Ha! Stupid fools! They imagine they've won! ... Just wait till tonight!

Darkness has fallen...



Well, my dears, we'll soon be at the end of our labours, in spite of that rascally fakir...



Meanwhile...

By the gods, I'm sleepy! But this isn't the moment for forty winks ... when I'm the only guard on the camp.

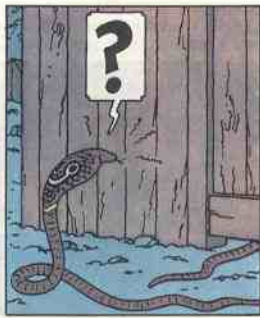
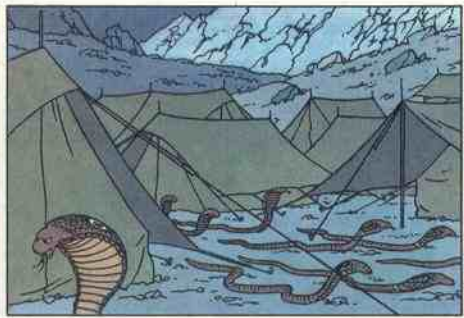


No, I can't go to sleep... No! I can't... No! ... No...





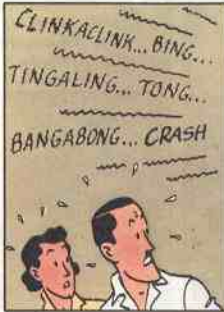
Off you go, my pets!... Strike hard! Bite!...



All is well. No one's raised the alarm... My cobras will accomplish their mission of death...



...Well, I think it's about time we all turned in. I'm half asleep, and I'm sure everyone else is too. A good night's rest is what we all need. A busy day tomorrow...



CLINKAELINK... BING...  
TINGALING... TONG...  
BANGBONG... CRASH



It's from the canteen...



You all surround the hut; I'll go and see what's happening.



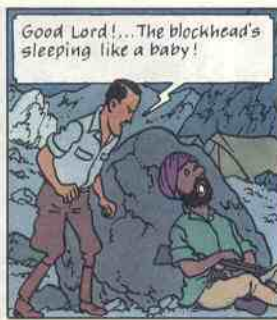
What in the...? Cobras! ... But they're absolutely drunk! Lucky for us they went after the bottles of wine... Otherwise...



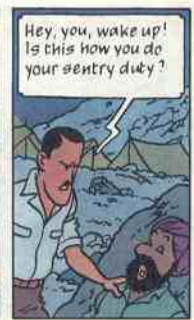
It's a marvellous chance to get rid of the brutes. Quickly now!



The guard!... I hope to heaven he wasn't bitten...



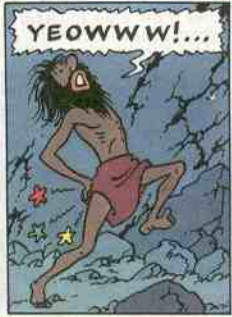
Good Lord!... The blockhead's sleeping like a baby!



Hey, you, wake up! Is this how you do your sentry duty?



WHO GOES THERE?... SOUND THE ALERT!...



Yes, I am glad you have come. What I have to tell you is of the utmost importance.

Speak, I am listening. We are alone.

Very well. The situation is grave, Hoonda. The bridge built by the European threatens us all...

*An hour later...*

Papa!... Papa!...

Now what is it?

It's terrible, Papa, terrible!... The camp, and the Maharajah's palace, are to be attacked tomorrow morning!

What nonsense is this?

It's true, Papa. It was raining, so we took shelter in a cave. We heard the sound of voices. There were two men talking in another part of the cave. One of them was called Hoonda...

And the other?

I don't know, except it was a voice I've heard before. But it's absolutely certain that the one called Hoonda will attack the camp tomorrow morning with his tribesmen and will destroy the bridge, while other tribesmen will attack the Maharajah's palace...

Good Lord!... How can we upset their plan?... Fight?... But then the blood will flow... and we can't have that at any price... What can we do?...

*Next day at dawn...*

You understand? Kill the foreigners, disarm the rest, and destroy the bridge.

Master... all our men are ready for action.

Good! Attack!

FORWARD... CHA-A-ARGE!

AYAAAA!

AYAAA!



AYAAAA!

AYAA!

YOHOH!



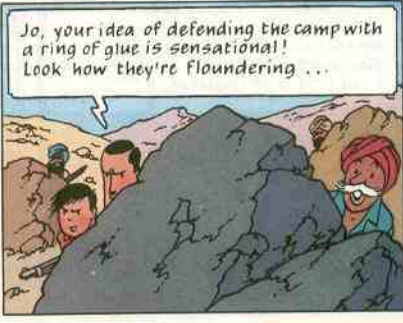
It is a total surprise!



?



By the three eyes of Sisupala!... What's happened to my feet?



Jo, your idea of defending the camp with a ring of glue is sensational! Look how they're floundering ...



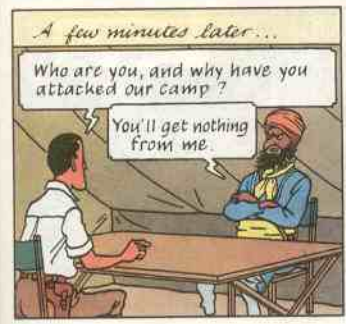
All right!... Throw down your arms and you won't be hurt... Which is your leader?



I am! ... What do you want?



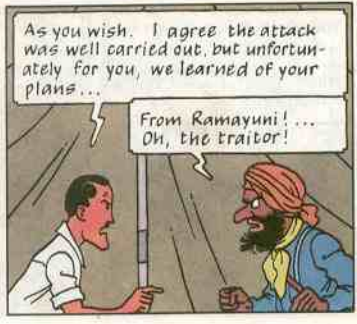
Release him and bring him to my tent.



A few minutes later...

Who are you, and why have you attacked our camp?

You'll get nothing from me.



As you wish. I agree the attack was well carried out, but unfortunately for you, we learned of your plans...

From Ramayuni! ... Oh, the traitor!



Ramayuni! The Prime Minister! So he was your accomplice!

What?! You didn't know that?!!!

Take it easy, friend! Put away your dagger, and don't force me to use violence...



Now sit down calmly and listen to me.



Ramayuni didn't sell you out... Quite by accident, my children overheard the conversation you had with him in the cave



But when you'd gone, and Ramayuni was alone, they heard him say: "You play along with me, old mountain goat. I can get rid of you later on!"...



Now do you understand?... And to prove my goodwill, you and your men are free to go. Return in peace to your homes.



Thank you for your generosity. Hoonda will not forget. If you need me, send word: I shall come!



A little later...

Now, all speed to the palace...



Ah, my dear friend. How happy I am to see you! Victory! Victory!



Everything went splendidly. Quite unaware we were waiting for them, the rebels fell into our trap. They were all taken prisoner.



Excellent... But do you know who's at the bottom of it all?... Your Prime Minister, Ramayuni!



WHAT?!!

By Kali!... Traitor!... Plotter!... Wretch!... To prison this very minute!!



You are right. He must be arrested at once.



What's that? Ramayuni?

Certainly not!... You, vile slanderer!... Guards, seize him!



Find the Prime Minister at once. Let him decide this villain's fate.



Highness, I assure you

Silence! You are nothing but a liar!



Highness!... Highness!...

Well? What is it this time?



His Excellency Ramayuni fled, taking your jewels with him, immediately after the tribesmen attacked!

By the gods!



So it was true!... The wretch!...



I... I... I am terribly upset... Forgive me!

Don't mention it, Highness...



Boo... hoo... My own Prime Minister!... Betraying me!...

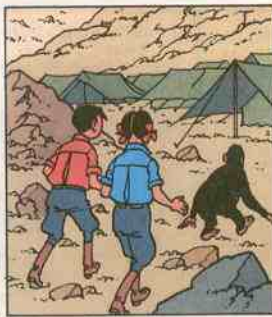
Never mind, Highness... There are other fish in the sea!



Some days later...

Jo and Zette, would you bring me the roll of plans out of the big tent!

Of course, Papa.



Ooh! A mongoose...



Jocko, come here, Jocko!

Jocko, leave that animal alone!



Jocko!



OH!





Careful, Zette!



That was a narrow squeak!... But...



Now I understand  
The case was empty! ...

Empty!?!



Yet I heard Papa say  
yesterday there was  
still one case of dynamite  
left.

That's odd!



Jacko!



Quick, Zette, take these plans  
to Papa and tell him about  
the case of dynamite. I'm  
going to try to catch Jacko.



Jacko! Jacko!  
Here, you scamp!



That's that! I  
just have time to  
take cover...



JOCKO ...  
JOCKO ...

?



Surely not! It  
sounds as if that  
confounded monkey  
is after me again...



This time there won't be  
any mistake. Come along,  
horrible animal, this way!  
... Ha! ha! ha!



Just a little closer... Like  
that... Good...

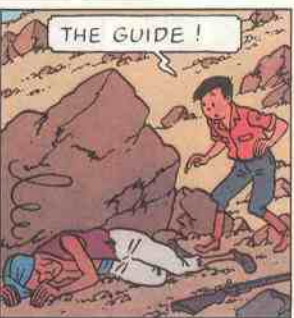


AAYOWW!!!

?



Who gave  
that awful  
cry?



THE GUIDE!



Yes it's me... Yes... I've  
been bitten... by a cobra...  
I...

Oh my  
gosh!... I  
must go for  
help...



No good... The cobra's bite  
is fatal... But you... go  
quickly... the bridge...  
will blow up!...

What?

Yes... I lit the fuse... The charge is against the anchor block... at this end... Run... quickly... quickly...



If only... I can get there in time...

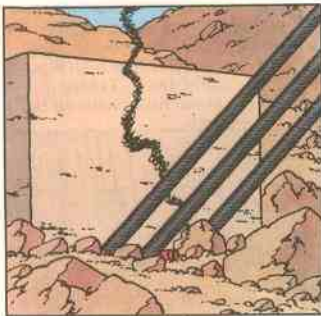


Meanwhile, in the cave...

Another couple of minutes and that infernal bridge will be blown to bits! Ha! ha! ha!



Against the anchor block, but whereabouts?...



I must... I simply must extinguish the fuse!



Nothing here... No smoke...



Quick, the other anchor block!



Hooray! Got it! We're saved!



At that moment...

A cigarette helps to calm my nerves!



A little more patience, Rabindrah!



Only a few more seconds to go...



It'll blow any moment now!



The day of the opening comes at last ...

Here we go, Zette!  
Time for the speeches!

Your Highness, ladies and  
gentlemen! ...



?



...Such a beautiful speech, Highness ...  
I've been practising for six months!..I'll...

No, no, that's enough chatter.  
Deeds speak louder than words!  
Give me the scissors!



I, the Maharajah of Gopal declare  
this bridge open to traffic!



Well, Highness, we're ending  
with a glass of champagne... But  
do you remember how it all began  
over a cup of tea?... I made it  
for you in our little chalet in the  
mountains.



Yes, Madame, and I bless the day  
your children overtook me on skis.  
Thanks to them I met your husband  
... And he built this bridge, from  
which my people will reap so much  
benefit ...



Oh, look, there's a  
caravan already, about  
to cross the bridge.

What? Already! There  
isn't a moment to lose!



Hurry, Balgar! Run! We simply  
must be there first!



TOLL CHARGES  
PEDESTRIANS: 1 RUPEE  
CAMELS: 2 RUPEES  
SOLDIERS: 4 RUPEES  
CHILDREN: 1/2 RUPEE



Now, my dears, our work here  
is finished. All we have to  
do is pack our bags... We  
are going back home!



THE END

