



EGYPT



A LREADY EGYPT'S CIVILIZATION WAS AS ANCIENT AS SUMER'S...

DID YOU EVER GET THE FEELING YOU WERE BEING WATCHED?

Mediterranean Sea

A 750-MILE RIBBON OF GREEN CUTTING THROUGH THE NORTH AFRICAN DESERT, THE NILE VALLEY IS ONE OF HUMANITY'S EARLIEST HOMELANDS.

THE AIR IS DRY...

THE SOIL IS MOIST...

THE STONE IS GOOD AND PLENTIFUL...

IN SHORT, PARADISE!!



IN EGYPT, EVEN THE FLOODS WERE PLEASANT. EVERY SPRING, THE NILE GENTLY ROSE AND DEPOSITED A FRESH LAYER OF FERTILE SILT OVER EVERYTHING.

AAAH...



THANKS TO THIS FERTILIZING ACTION, THERE WAS ALWAYS PLENTY FOR PEOPLE TO EAT.

AND PLENTY OF PEOPLE TO EAT, TOO!



AS IN ASIA, WHEN EGYPTIANS BEGAN FARMING, POPULATION GREW, AND LOCAL KINGS CONTENDED FOR CONTROL. FOR MANY YEARS THERE WERE **TWO KINGDOMS**: **LOWER EGYPT**, AT THE **UPPER** END OF THE MAP, AND **UPPER EGYPT**, THE LONG VALLEY UPSTREAM. AROUND 3000 B.C., KING **MENES**, OF ABYDOS IN UPPER EGYPT, CONQUERED LOWER EGYPT, AND THE **DYNASTIC AGE** BEGAN.

Lower Egypt

Memphis

Upper Egypt

Akhetaton

Egypt

Abydos

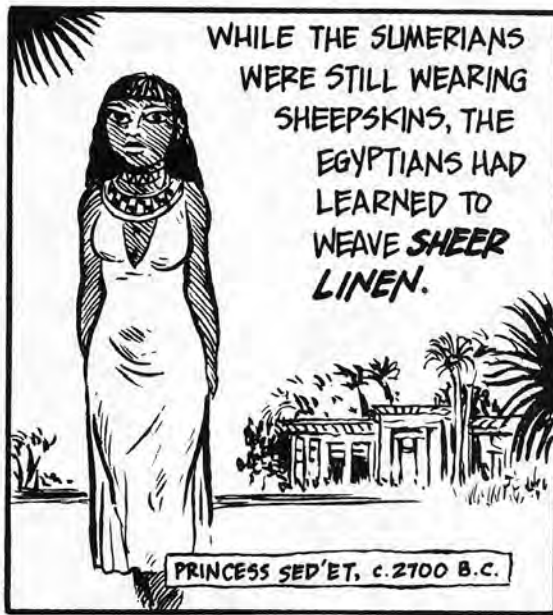
Thebes

Abu Simbel

Red Sea

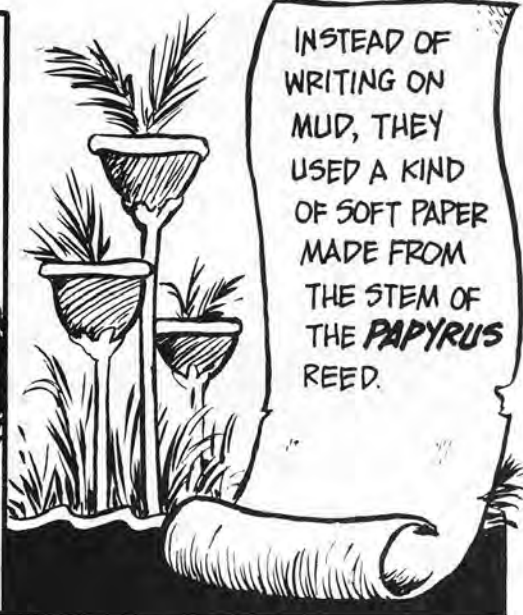
THE EASY LIFE IN EGYPT GAVE ITS PEOPLE A LOVE OF LUXURY AND LEISURE QUITE FOREIGN TO THEIR STERN SUMERIAN CONTEMPORARIES.

LOOSEN UP, TURKEY!

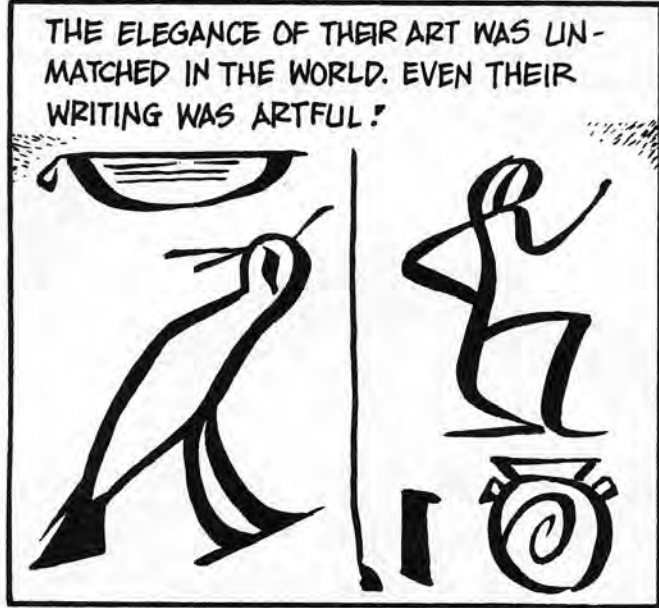


PRINCESS SED'ET, c. 2700 B.C.

WHILE THE SUMERIANS WERE STILL WEARING SHEEPSKINS, THE EGYPTIANS HAD LEARNED TO WEAVE **SHEER LINEN**.



INSTEAD OF WRITING ON MUD, THEY USED A KIND OF SOFT PAPER MADE FROM THE STEM OF THE **PAPYRUS** REED.



THE ELEGANCE OF THEIR ART WAS UNMATCHED IN THE WORLD. EVEN THEIR WRITING WAS ARTFUL!



THEY ARE STILL FAMOUS FOR THEIR COSMETICS, HAIR DYES, WIGS, AND OTHER ADORNMENTS.

PERHAPS IT WAS THE SWEETNESS OF THEIR LIVES THAT MADE THE EGYPTIANS SO CONCERNED WITH **DEATH...**



SIGH...

AMONG EGYPTIAN BEAUTY SECRETS WERE MANY FORMULAS FOR **HAIR CARE**: POMADES, DYES, ETC. THEN, IF NONE OF THEM WORKED, THERE WAS ALSO A FORMULA TO MAKE YOUR **ENEMY'S HAIR FALL OUT**. (MAX FACTOR, TAKE NOTE.)

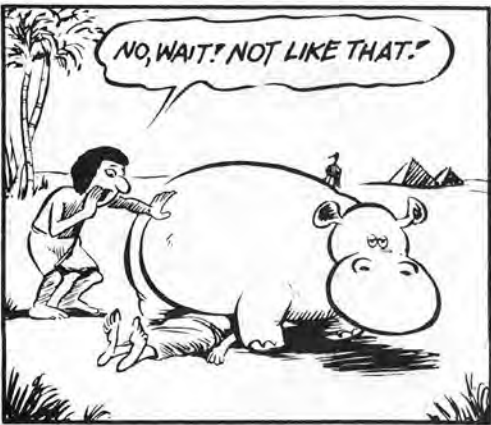


ON ADVICE OF MY BEAUTICIAN—

SPAZ!

WORMS BOILED IN OIL

IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST THIS DREADED TRICK, SAID THE BEAUTICIANS, IT WAS NECESSARY TO PUT **HIPPOPOTAMUS LARD** ON THE HEAD "VERY VERY OFTEN."



NO, WAIT! NOT LIKE THAT!

PILE ON THE NILE

IN PRE-DYNASTIC DAYS, THE KING WAS PUT TO DEATH WHEN HE GREW TOO FEEBLE TO RULE.



HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN HE'S TOO FEEBLE TO RULE?

WHEN HE CAN'T STOP US FROM KILLING HIM!

THE PRIESTS COMFORTED THE MONARCH WITH THE THOUGHT THAT HE WOULD **LIVE AFTER DEATH.**

JUST THINK! YOU'LL SEE YOUR OWN FUNERAL!

YOU'LL LOVE IT!



TO EASE THE TRANSITION OF POWER, THEY ALSO KILLED ALL OF HIS **SERVANTS.**

EVEN AFTER DEATH, YOU'LL LIVE LIKE A KING!

YOU'RE ALL HEART!



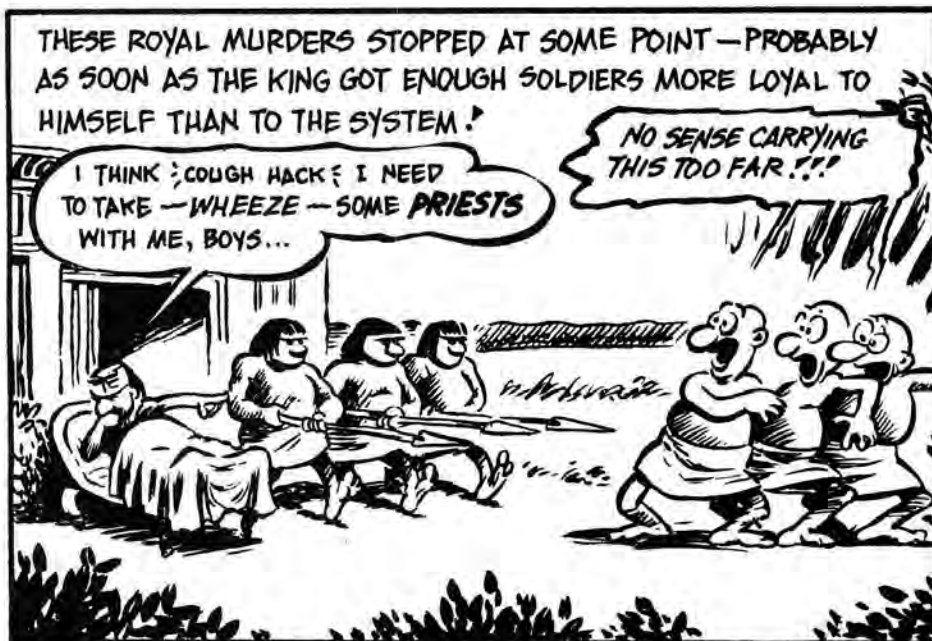
HIS TOMB WAS DESIGNED TO LOOK LIKE A **HOUSE**, AND EVEN CALLED A "HOUSE OF ETERNITY."



THESE ROYAL MURDERS STOPPED AT SOME POINT — PROBABLY AS SOON AS THE KING GOT ENOUGH SOLDIERS MORE LOYAL TO HIMSELF THAN TO THE SYSTEM!

I THINK I COUGH HACK I NEED TO TAKE — WHEEZE — SOME **PRIESTS** WITH ME, BOYS...

NO SENSE CARRYING THIS TOO FAR!!!



THE PRIESTS REPLACED THE **REAL** MURDER WITH A **RITUAL** CALLED THE HEB-SED. THEN, WHEN THE KING FINALLY DIED, THEY FILLED HIS GRAVE WITH **PAINTINGS** AND **STATUES** OF **SERVANTS**, INSTEAD OF THE REAL THING.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT'LL DO!



AS THE KINGS GREW RICH, THEY COMMISSIONED LAVISH WORKS OF ART...



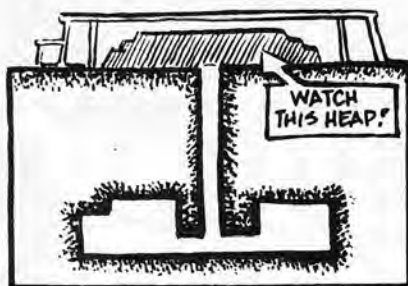
... ONLY TO **BURY** THE MASTERPIECES FOREVER!



WELL, NOT REALLY FOREVER... AS SOON AS THE PICKINGS GOT FANCY ENOUGH, **TOMB ROBBERS** WENT TO WORK...



TO PROTECT THE RICHES, KING AND ART WERE SUNK DEEPER INTO THE EARTH, AND THE SHAFT WAS COVERED WITH A HEAP OF STONES, WHICH IN TURN WAS COVERED BY THE "HOUSE."



UNFORTUNATELY, THE BODY **ROTTED** FASTER IN A DANK PIT — SO EGYPTIAN CHEMISTS INVENTED THE **MUMMY** — AN EARLY USE OF **ARTIFICIAL PRESERVATIVES**.



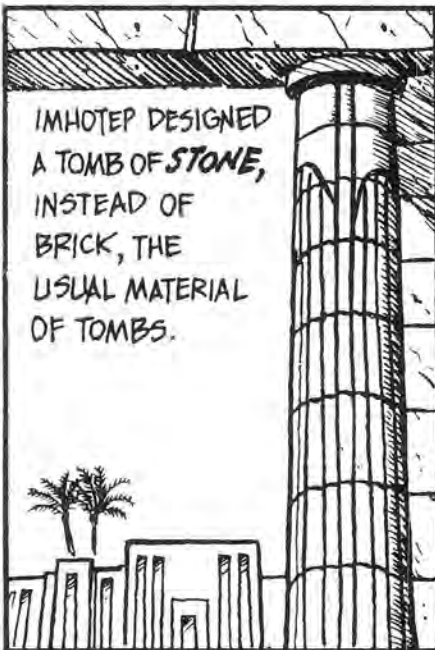
MEANWHILE, ABOVE GROUND, THE KING'S ADMINISTRATORS WERE ALSO GETTING RICH AND FURNISHING FINE TOMBS FOR THEIR FAMILIES.



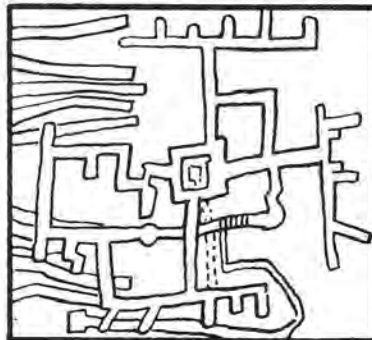
AROUND 2700 B.C., KING **ZOSER** ASKED HIS ARCHITECT, **IMHOTEP**, FOR A TOMB WHICH WOULD DISPLAY HIS SUPERIOR STATUS.



IMHOTEP DESIGNED A TOMB OF **STONE**, INSTEAD OF BRICK, THE USUAL MATERIAL OF TOMBS.



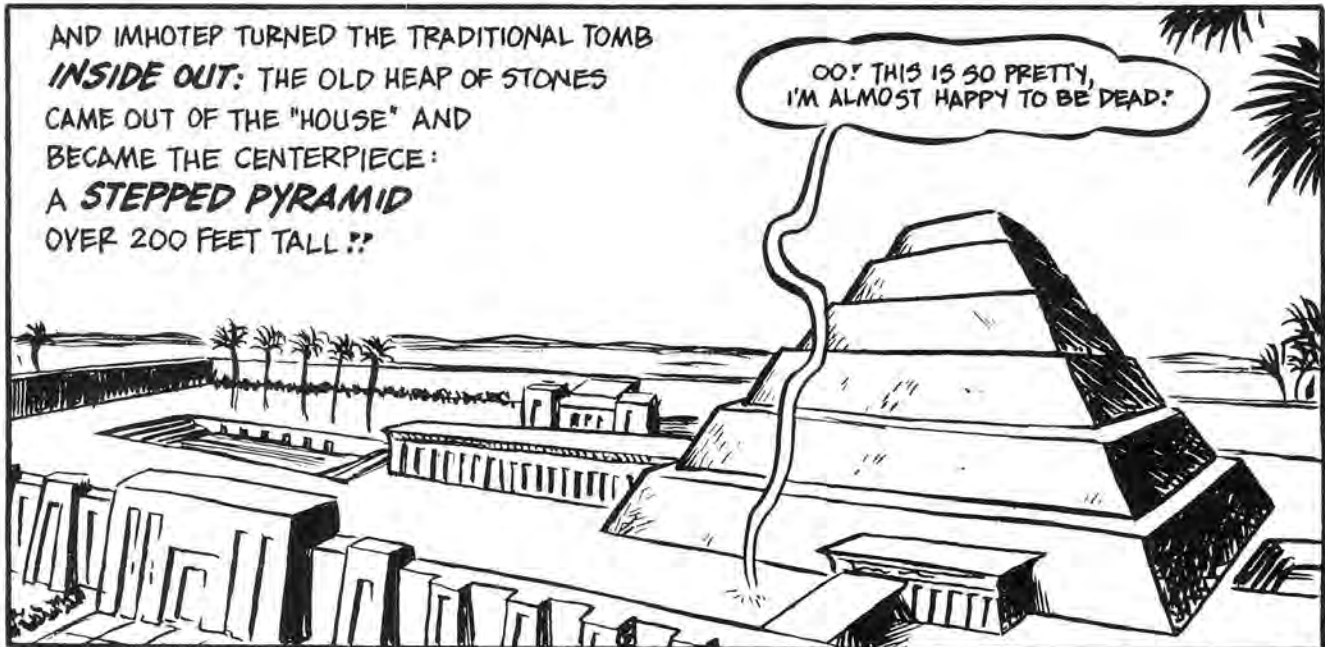
BENEATH THE TOMB AND ITS TEMPLES, HE PLANNED ONE OF THE MOST COMPLICATED NETWORKS OF UNDERGROUND TUNNELS EVER BUILT.



HE DRAFTED THOUSANDS OF WORKERS DURING THE **FLOOD SEASON**, NORMALLY THEIR VACATION TIME.



AND IMHOTEP TURNED THE TRADITIONAL TOMB **INSIDE OUT**: THE OLD HEAP OF STONES CAME OUT OF THE "HOUSE" AND BECAME THE CENTERPIECE: A **STEPPED PYRAMID** OVER 200 FEET TALL !?!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE SOMEONE HAD THE OBVIOUS IDEA.



A PERIOD OF TRIAL AND ERROR FOLLOWED.

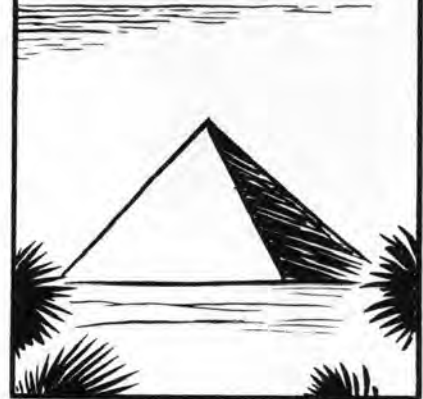
ONE PYRAMID COLLAPSED...



ANOTHER WAS CHANGED HALF-WAY THROUGH...



...UNTIL, FINALLY, A TRUE PYRAMID WAS BUILT, PROBABLY FOR KING SNEFERU, AROUND 2600 B.C.



IT WAS SNEFERU'S SON **KHUFU** WHO DECIDED TO IMMORTALIZE HIS NAME WITH A **GIANT** PYRAMID.

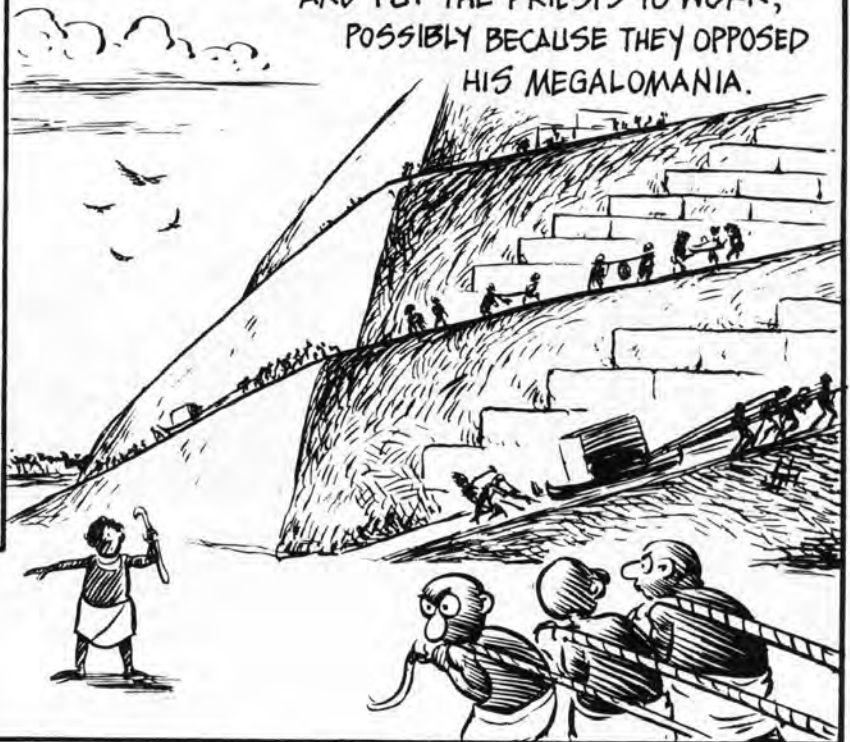
KHUFU - IT'S SUCH A LOVELY NAME - ISN'T IT?

YES

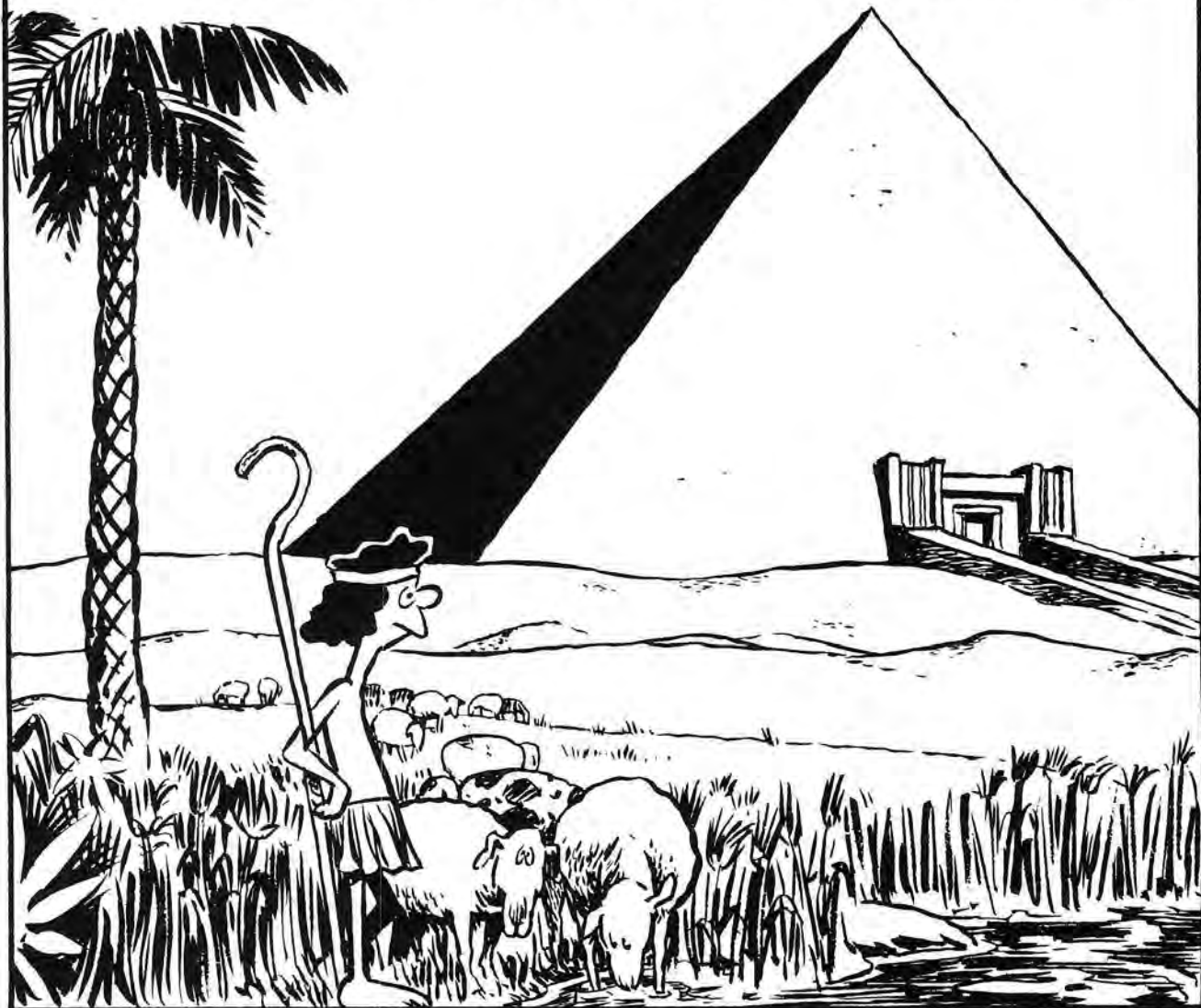
LOVELY



IN ALL, 100,000 PEOPLE SPENT 20 YEARS BUILDING KHUFU'S TOMB. HE EVEN CLOSED THE TEMPLES AND PUT THE PRIESTS TO WORK, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THEY OPPOSED HIS MEGALOMANIA.



JUST AS KHUFU HOPED, HIS NAME AND HIS TOMB BOTH SURVIVED — THOUGH WE REMEMBER HIM AS *CHEOPS*, IN THE GREEK STYLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES TRIED TO FORGET THE HATED PHAROAH BY CALLING HIS TOMB THE PYRAMID OF *PHILITIS*, AFTER A LOCAL SHEPHERD.



THE 300-YEAR ERA OF ALL-POWERFUL PHARAOHS ("PER-O" = "GREAT HOUSE") BEGINNING WITH ZOSER, IS KNOWN AS THE **OLD KINGDOM**. DURING THE OLD KINGDOM, EGYPTIAN LIFE TOOK ON ITS FAMOUS **TIMELESS RHYTHM...**

FLOW-HUP-PLANT-HO-WEAVE-HUH-REAP-LINK-FLOOD-YEAH-BUILD PYRAMID-HEY!-FLOW-ETC.



MEANWHILE, AS ALREADY NOTED, LOCAL GOVERNORS WERE COMPETING WITH PHARAOH FOR A SHARE OF THE COMMON PEOPLE'S LABOR. (IN EGYPT THE WORD FOR "TAXES" MEANT "LABOR.") AROUND 2200 B.C., A REVOLUTION TOPPLED THE KING AND INTRODUCED THE **FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD**.



AFTER SOME 150 YEARS WITHOUT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAD PASSED, THE THEBAN **MENTUHOTEP** RECONQUERED EGYPT. TO DO SO, HE HAD TO SHARE POWER AND LAND WITH THE OTHER BARONS, SO THE **MIDDLE KINGDOM** IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE **FEUDAL AGE**. FOR ANOTHER 300 YEARS THE COUNTRY HAD THAT **RHYTHM** — UNTIL —

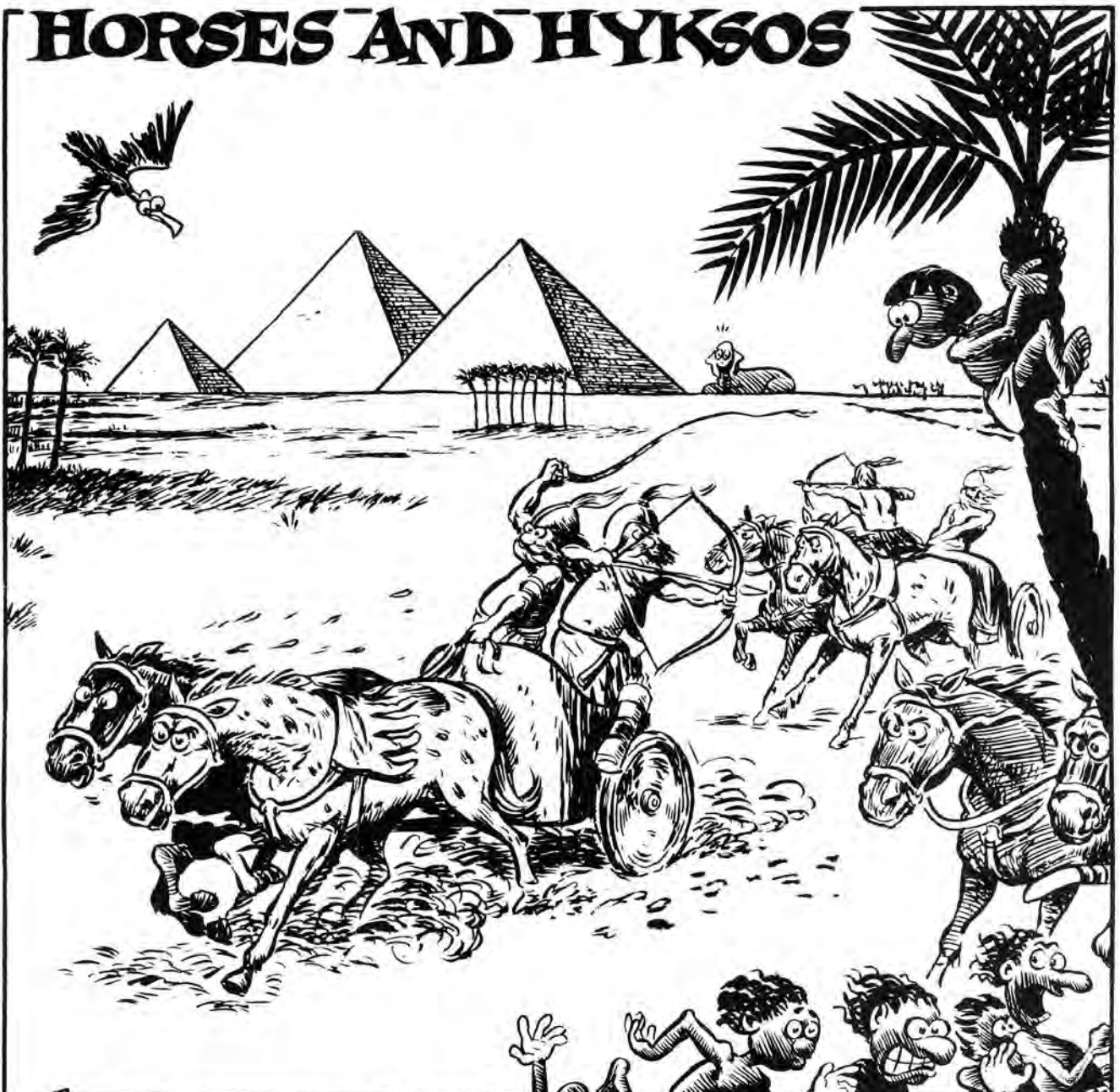
ISIS PRESERVE US!!

OOF!

WEAVE-HUH-REAP-HO-FLOOD-YEAH-HAUL GIANT STATUE-HEY- WOULD YOU SHUT UP?



HORSES AND HYKSOS

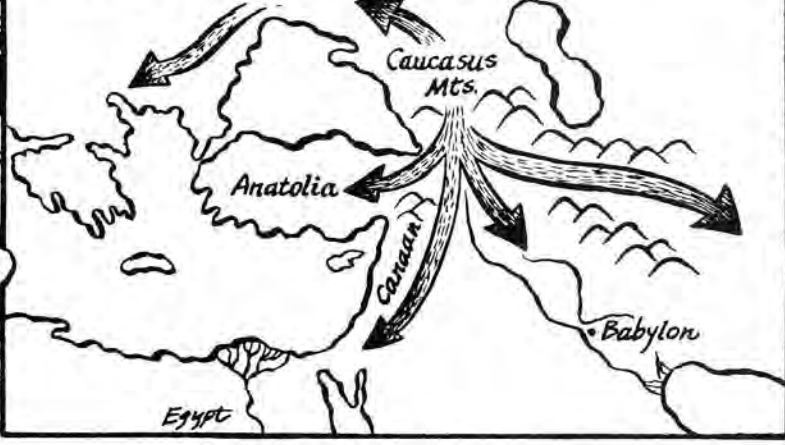


LATE IN THE MIDDLE KINGDOM, AT A TIME WHEN THE BARONS WERE SQUABBLING AGAIN, LOWER EGYPT WAS INVADIED BY A STRANGE PEOPLE DRIVING HORSE-DRAWN CHARIOTS.

PEOPLE WITH RED HAIR, WHITE SKIN, AND FEROCIOUS JACKASSES!
GROTESQUE



THESE BARBARIC BEASTS — HORSES AND RED-HEADS — CAME ORIGINALLY FROM BEYOND THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS. SOMETIME BEFORE 2000 B.C., THEY HAD BEGUN MIGRATING TO THE MORE CIVILIZED LANDS TO THE SOUTH.





WITH THE AID OF THEIR WARHORSES, ONE GROUP HAD SET THEMSELVES UP AS LORDS OF CANAAN, AND AROUND 1780 B.C., THEY MOVED INTO EGYPT.



THE EGYPTIANS, DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES AND COWED BY THE HORSES, GAVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT TO THESE "HYKSOS," OR "FOREIGN KINGS," WHOSE RULE WAS BITTERLY RESENTED.

IT'S UNHEARD OF!

IT CAN'T LAST!



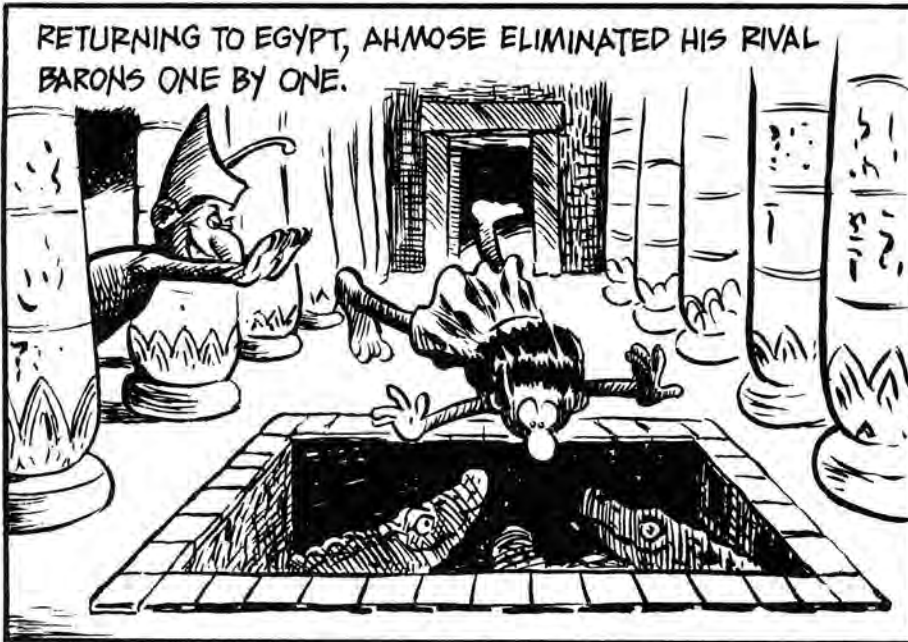
TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF HYKSOS RULE TAUGHT THE EGYPTIANS A VALUABLE LESSON.



MASTERING THE CHARIOT HIMSELF, **AHMOSE**, A BARON OF THEBES, ATTACKED THE HYKSOS WITH THEIR OWN WEAPON. AFTER A LONG SEIGE, AHMOSE'S ARMY DROVE THE FOREIGNERS ALL THE WAY TO THE FAR END OF CANAAN.



RETURNING TO EGYPT, AHMOSE ELIMINATED HIS RIVAL BARONS ONE BY ONE.

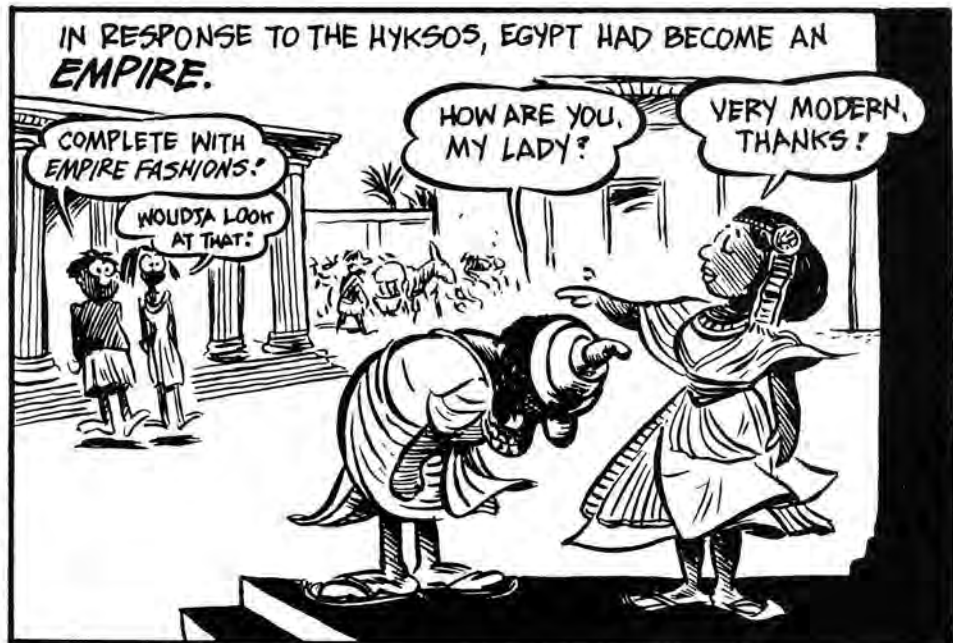


AT THIS POINT, APPARENTLY, OCCURRED AN EPISODE OF **ANTI-SEMITISM**, DURING WHICH THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL—AND PROBABLY OTHER SEMITES IN EGYPT—WERE ENSLAVED AS FELLOW-TRAVELLERS OF THE HYKSOS.

AHMOSE AND HIS SUCCESSOR, AMENHOTEP I, BUILT UP THEBES, ESTABLISHED A STATE RELIGION, AND TRAINED A MODERN STANDING ARMY TO MAINTAIN PHARAOH'S POWER AT HOME AND ABROAD.



IN RESPONSE TO THE HYKSOS, EGYPT HAD BECOME AN **EMPIRE**.



NASTY DYNASTY

THE NEXT PHARAOH, THUTMOSE I, CARRIED ON THE IMPERIAL TRADITION OF HIS FOREFATHERS.



BETWEEN BATTLES, HE JUST **CARRIED ON**, FATHERING MANY CHILDREN WHO INHERITED HIS SHORT STATURE AND LONG NOSE.



BUT THE KING'S **CHIEF WIFE** BORE ONLY **DAUGHTERS**— AND BY EGYPTIAN CUSTOM, ONE OF THEM MUST WED THE NEXT PHARAOH.

YOU WIN— BY A NOSE...

THANK, SIS!



WHEN THUTMOSE DIED, HIS DAUGHTER **HATSHEPSUT** MARRIED HER SICKLY AND LESS ROYAL HALF-BROTHER, WHO BECAME KING **THUTMOSE II**.

AH-AH-



AFTER A SHORT REIGN, THUTMOSE II DIED.



LIKE HER MOTHER, HATSHEPSUT HAD ONLY DAUGHTERS, SO AGAIN THE HEIR APPARENT WAS A JUNIOR WIFE'S SON, AGAIN NAMED **THUTMOSE**— BUT THIS THUTMOSE WAS STILL LITTLE.

EXCEPT FOR THE NOSE...



SO **HATSHEPSUT HERSELF** BECAME "KING"—EVEN THOUGH IT MEANT DRESSING IN DRAG AND MANGLING THE LANGUAGE.

HOW DO I LOOK?

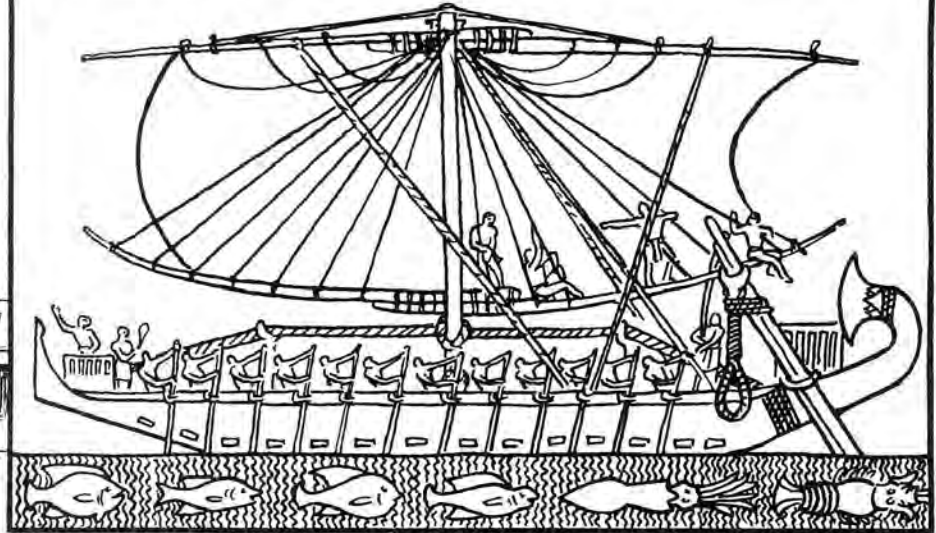
FINE, YOUR THRONEPERSONSHIP!



IN A MILITARY AGE, "KING" HATSHEPSUT BROUGHT EGYPT 20 YEARS OF PEACE. SHE DEVOTED HERSELF TO COMMERCE AND REBUILDING THE MONUMENTS DESTROYED BY THE HYKSOS.



HER SHIPS SAILED TO THE SOUTH, TRADING EGYPTIAN GOODS FOR IVORY, APES, AND AROMATIC TREES.



THE VOYAGE WAS CHISELLED IN STONE ON THE WALLS OF HER TEMPLE, ONE OF EGYPT'S MOST ELEGANT (IN PICTURES, ANYWAY?).



MEANWHILE, SHE SENT THE YOUNG THUTMOSE OFF TO TRAIN FOR THE **PRIESTHOOD**.



EVEN AFTER HE GREW UP, HATSHEPSUT MADE NO MOVE TO GIVE THUTMOSE "HIS" THRONE.

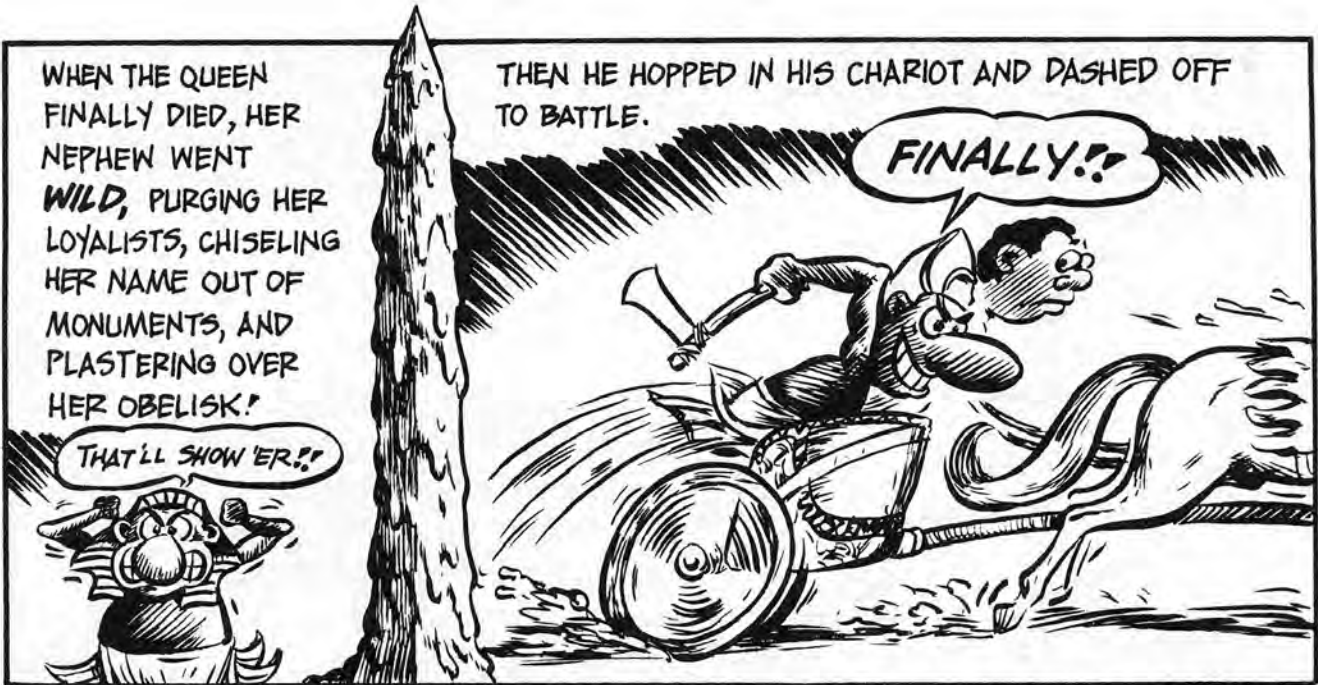


WHEN THE QUEEN FINALLY DIED, HER NEPHEW WENT **WILD**, PURGING HER LOYALISTS, CHISELING HER NAME OUT OF MONUMENTS, AND PLASTERING OVER HER OBELISK!

THAT'LL SHOW 'ER!?!

THEN HE HOPPED IN HIS CHARIOT AND DASHED OFF TO BATTLE.

FINALLY!?!



TRUE TO HIS GRANDFATHER'S MEMORY, THUTMOSE III SPENT HIS REMAINING 30 YEARS AT **WAR**, ESPECIALLY AGAINST HIS ARCH ENEMY, THE KING OF KADESH (A CITY IN CANAAN)✱.

WHEE! WHEE!



TO HIS CREDIT, THUTMOSE SHOWED MORE MERCY TO VANQUISHED KINGS THAN TO HIS LATE AUNT. INSTEAD OF KILLING HIS VICTIMS, HE EDUCATED THEIR **SONS** IN EGYPTIAN WAYS.

FATHER! I WANT TO MARRY MY SISTER!

YOU CALL THIS MERCY?



MOST HISTORIANS, PREFERRING EXCITING, WARLIKE KINGS TO DULL, PEACEFUL ONES, REFER TO THE LITTLE IMPERIALIST AS "THUTMOSE THE GREAT," BUT I'D RATHER THINK OF HIM AS **THUTMOSE, THE NASTIEST OF A NASTY DYNASTY.**



1500 B.C., OR SO, THE HEIGHT OF EGYPT'S EMPIRE,

WAS A TIME OF ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTACT AND COMMERCE, WHEN MANY CIVILIZATIONS TRADED AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH THE MORE BACKWARD TRIBES TO THE NORTH AND WEST. ❁



BY 1500 B.C., MEDITERRANEAN METALLURGISTS KNEW THAT TIN, WHEN ALLOYED WITH COPPER, MADE A MUCH HARDER METAL, **BRONZE**. THE BRONZE-WORKERS TRAVELLED AS FAR AS BRITAIN AND SCANDINAVIA TO TRADE THEIR WARES FOR AMBER AND SLAVES.



THEY WERE ALSO LOOKING FOR NEW SOURCES OF **TIN**, A FAIRLY RARE METAL. WHEN THEY FOUND IT, ONE PRESUMES, THEY DID THEIR BEST TO GET THE ORE **DIRT CHEAP...**



FROM THE NORTHERN STEPPE,
THE ORIGINAL HORSE-TRAINERS
KEPT MIGRATING IN ALL DIRECTIONS,
BRINGING ALONG THEIR ANIMALS AND



THEIR **LANGUAGE**, ANCESTOR
OF THE ENTIRE **INDO-EUROPEAN**
FAMILY (GREEK, LATIN, FRENCH, ENGLISH, GERMAN,
SANSKRIT, PARS, URDU, HINDI, ETC ETC. ETC.).

THE **HITTITES**, A
CHARIOTEER ELITE, RULED
ANATOLIA. THEY HAD
FOUND A METHOD OF
SMELTING **IRON**,
BUT WERE KEEPING
IT A SECRET!



C'MON!
TEACH ME IRON!
YOU CAN TRUST YOUR
COUSIN! PLEASE?

BORDERING THE
HITTITES WAS ANOTHER
KINGDOM RULED BY A
HORSEY SET, THE **MITANNI**,
AND DOWNRIVER FROM
THEM WAS
BABYLONIA, STILL
GOING STRONG.

VA!

NOW RULED BY EGYPT,
CANAAN ALSO BORDERED THE
HITTITES, THE MITANNI, AND THE
SEA. THE CANAANITES HAD SO MUCH
BUSINESS THEY HAD TO **INVENT**
THE ALPHABET JUST TO SPEED UP
THEIR BOOKKEEPING!



THE EGYPTIANS WERE RULED BY THE NASTY DYNASTY...



AND FAR OFF THE MAP TO THE EAST,
SOME OTHER CHARIOTEERS, THE **ARYANS**,
WERE NOW DESTROYING THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION
OF **INDIA** — BUT THAT'S A STORY FOR LATER...

TUTANKH-WHO?

THE EMPIRE RAN SMOOTHLY UNDER THREE MORE PHARAOKS, WHO KEPT PEACE WITH FOREIGN KINGS BY RESPECTING THEIR GODS AND MARRYING THEIR DAUGHTERS.

MAY AMON AND ISHTAR BLESS THIS UNION."



THEN, AROUND 1370 B.C., THE NEW PHARAOK, AMENHOTEP IV, MADE A SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT:

THERE IS BUT **ONE GOD!**

ONE!

AND GUESS WHO HIS PROPHET IS?



THIS WAS UNHEARD OF! EVERYONE KNEW THERE WERE COUNTLESS GODS IN EGYPT ALONE!

IT IS GOOD TO HAVE MANY GODS!

YEAH... THE COMPETITION KEEPS THEM HONEST!



WHEN AHMOSE I HAD FIRST CONQUERED THE EMPIRE, HOWEVER, HE HAD PUT ALL GODS UNDER THE TEMPLE OF AMON, A THEBAN DEITY. SUBSIDIZED BY THE KINGS, AMON'S TEMPLES GREW RICH, AND HIS PRIESTS INVENTED NEW WAYS TO MAKE THEM RICHER, LIKE SELLING FAVORS IN THE AFTERLIFE...

FOR A GOOD SHOW THEY EVEN HAD STATUES OF AMON, OPERATED BY HIDDEN GIZMOS, WHICH MOVED AND SPOKE. PERHAPS SUCH FRAUDS DISGUSTED THE NEW PHARAOK.

GIVE... ME... MONEY...

CLUNK

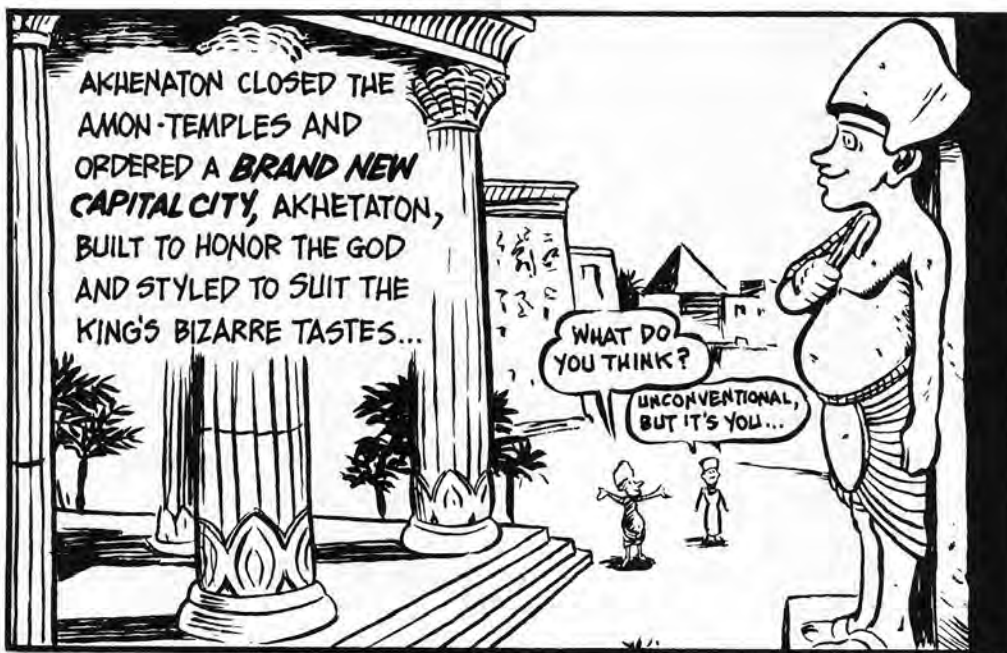


FROM NOW ON, HE SAID, THE ONE AND ONLY GOD WAS THE SUN'S DISC. AMENHOTEP NAMED THIS GOD ATON AND RENAMED HIMSELF AKHENATON, "USEFUL TO ATON."

THE FIRST ADVOCATE OF SOLAR POWER!

MAKES ME PROUD TO BE AN EGYPTIAN!





AKHENATON CLOSED THE AMON-TEMPLES AND ORDERED A **BRAND NEW CAPITAL CITY**, AKHETATON, BUILT TO HONOR THE GOD AND STYLED TO SUIT THE KING'S BIZARRE TASTES...

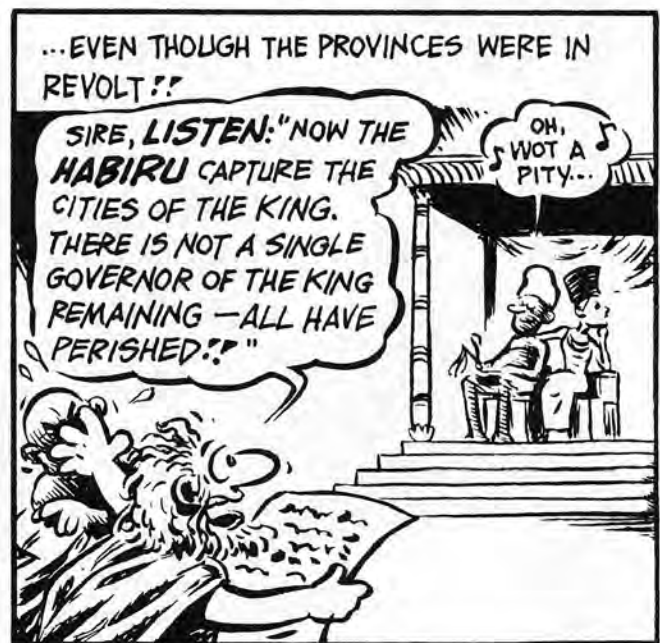
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
UNCONVENTIONAL, BUT IT'S YOU...

DESPITE THE CITY'S MEANING, THE **CONSTRUCTION WORKERS** BROUGHT ALONG STATUES OF THEIR FAVORITE GODS, JUST IN CASE...



IN THEIR VAST PALACE (ITS CORONATION HALL LONGER THAN A FOOTBALL FIELD) THE KING AND HIS QUEEN **NEFERTITI** DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO SUN-WORSHIP...

"THY DAWNING IS BEAUTIFUL IN THE HORIZON OF HEAVEN, O LIVING ATON, BEGINNING OF LIFE!"



...EVEN THOUGH THE PROVINCES WERE IN REVOLT!?

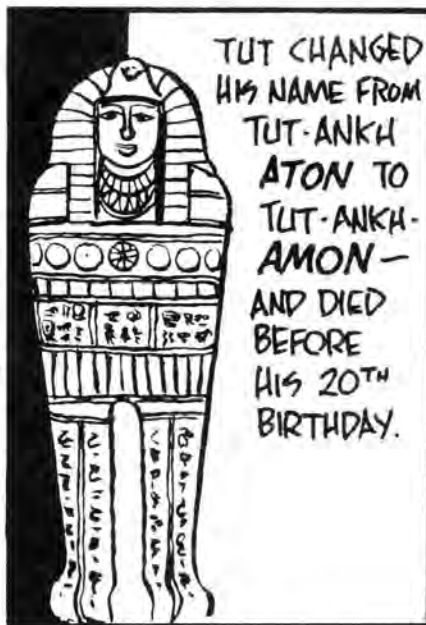
SIRE, LISTEN: "NOW THE **HABIRU** CAPTURE THE CITIES OF THE KING. THERE IS NOT A SINGLE GOVERNOR OF THE KING REMAINING - ALL HAVE PERISHED!?"

OH, 'WOT A PITY..

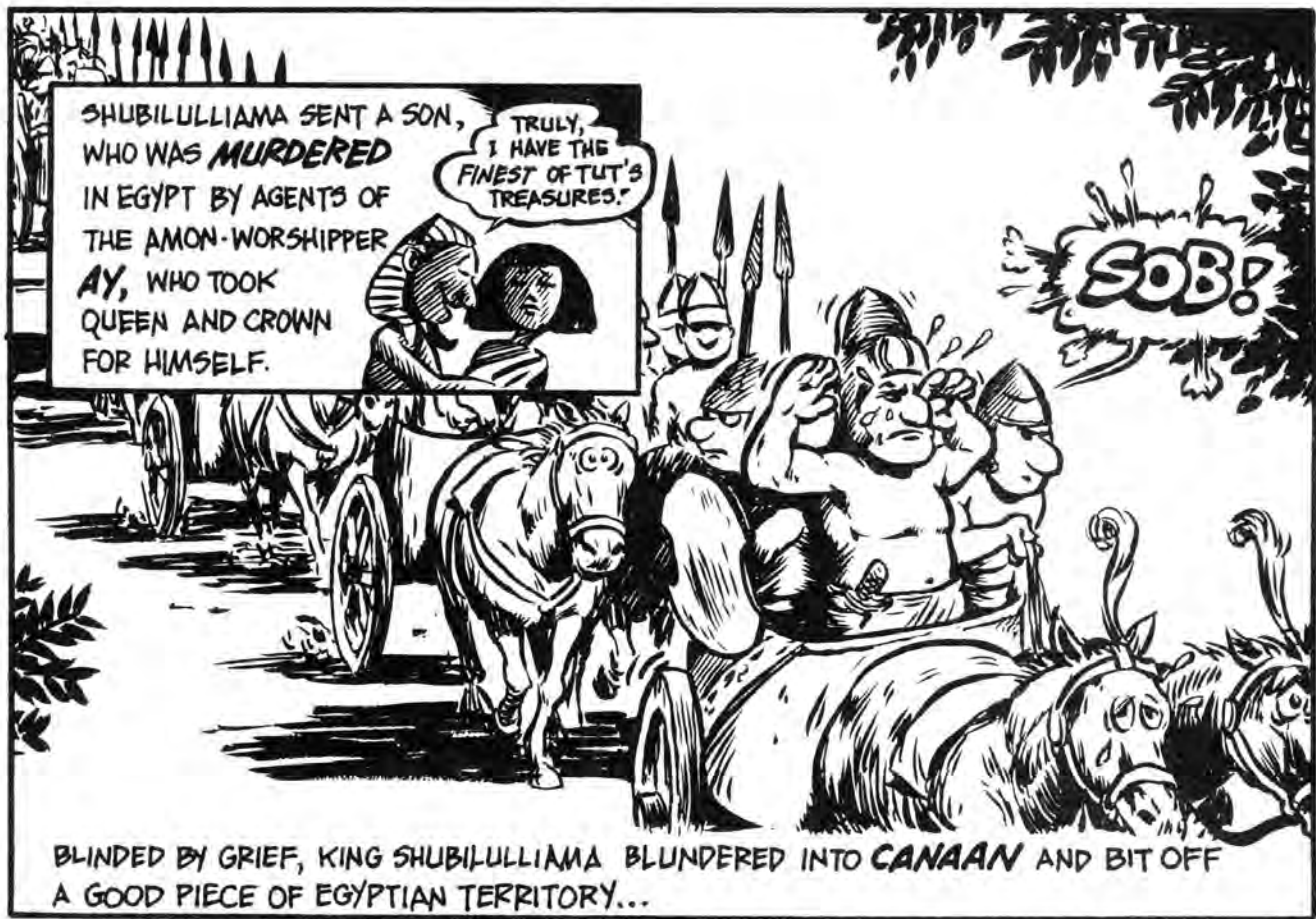
THE KING DIED.
NEFERTITI GAVE HER DAUGHTER AND THE CROWN TO A LITTLE BOY, **TUT-ANKH-ATON**.



THE FAMOUS BOY-KING BECAME A PAWN OF THE OLD GUARD, AND AMON WAS RESTORED.



THEN, AN AMAZING THING—TUT'S WIDOW, QUEEN ANKH-ESEN-AMON, SECRETLY WROTE TO THE HITTITE KING SHUBILULLIAMA, OFFERING TO MARRY ONE OF HIS SONS, MAKING A HITTITE PHARAOH. DOESN'T THIS HINT THAT ONE OF ANKH'S PARENTS, NEFERTITI, OR AKHENATON, MAY HAVE BEEN HITTITE... THAT THE ATON RELIGION WAS A WAY OF RECONCILING THE GODS OF TWO EMPIRES ???



"I AM THE GREATEST"

"RAMSES THE MODEST?" IT JUST DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT!

AT THAT TIME, CANAAN WAS IN CHAOS, AND THE HITTITES EASILY ADVANCED THEIR FRONTIER TO **KADESH**, ON THE ORONTES RIVER.



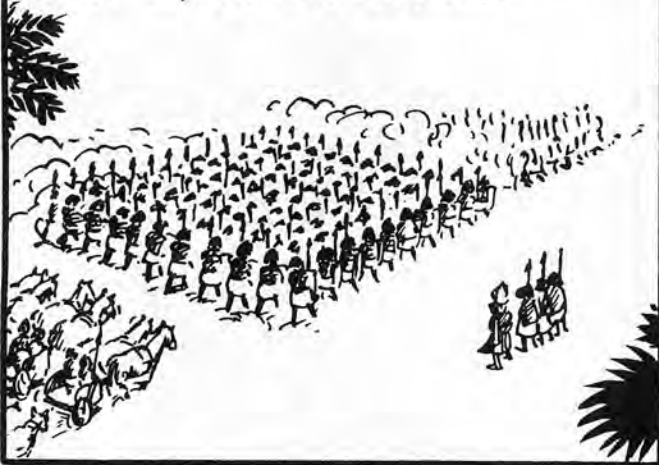
FOR 60 YEARS THE EGYPTIANS VAINLY TRIED TO EXPEL THEM.



THEN, IN 1290 B.C., A BRASH YOUNG PHARAOH DECIDED TO FINISH OFF THE HITTITES FOR GOOD. THIS KING CALLED HIMSELF **RAMSES THE GREAT**.



RAMSES SPENT A COUPLE OF YEARS SECURING SUPPLY DEPOTS ALONG THE COAST AND BUILDING AN ARMY OF MERCENARIES, PIRATES, AND ALLIES, AS WELL AS EGYPTIANS.



THE HITTITE KING, **MUWATALLIS**, HEARING ABOUT THE EGYPTIAN MOVES, GATHERED HIS OWN ARMY, 3000 HEAVY CHARIOTS AND 8000 FOOT-SOLDIERS.



IN APRIL, 1288 B.C., FOUR EGYPTIAN DIVISIONS LEFT EGYPT. FIRST CAME THE DIVISION OF **AMON**, LED BY RAMSES HIMSELF, FOLLOWED BY THE DIVISIONS OF **RE**, **PTAH**, AND **SUTEKH**. BY LATE MAY, RAMSES EMERGED FROM THE WOODED HILLS ABOVE KADESH WITHOUT HAVING LOCATED THE HITTITES.



AS IT HAPPENED, MUWATALLIS' HORSES AND MEN WERE **RIGHT BEHIND THE CITY.**



PHARAOH WAS FURTHER FOOLED BY SOME NOMADS WHO WERE FRIENDLY WITH THE FOE.

HITTITES? NEVER HEARD OF 'EM!!

WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY SURELY AREN'T HIDING RIGHT BEHIND THE CITY AT THIS VERY MOMENT!

GREAT!
ALMOST AS GREAT AS RAMSES HIMSELF!



ALTHOUGH THEY'D BEEN MARCHING ALL DAY, RAMSES AND THE **AMON** DIVISION HURRIED ON TOWARD KADESH, LEAVING THE REST OF THE ARMY BEHIND.

SIRE, IS THIS WISE?

SILENCE!
INTUITION IS ONE OF RAMSES' **GREATEST** QUALITIES!



AS THE COLUMN ADVANCED, THE HITTITES CIRCLED AROUND KADESH, KEEPING THE CITY BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE EGYPTIANS.



EVEN WHEN RAMSES REACHED THE WALLS, HE STILL HAD NO IDEA HIS ENEMY HAD BEEN THERE, THOUGH THERE **MUST** HAVE BEEN **EVIDENCE.**

SNIF!
THIS SMELLS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO MAKE CAMP!



AS THE HITTITES MASSED FOR THE ATTACK, THE DIVISION OF AMON WAS MAKING CAMP, AND THE DIVISION OF **RE** WAS STRAGGLING UP THE ROAD BEHIND.



TWO THOUSAND HITTITE CHARIOTS CHARGED
DIRECTLY ACROSS THE EGYPTIAN LINE OF MARCH!



AFTER CHOPPING THE
DIVISION OF RE TO
BITS, THE HITTITES
SURROUNDED THE
CAMP OF RAMSES,
WHO FINALLY
REALIZED WHAT WAS
HAPPENING!



A DRASTIC
FAILURE OF OUR
INTELLIGENCE-
GATHERING
CAPABILITY!



SOB! MY GREAT CAREER -
ABOUT TO BE NIPPED IN THE BUD -
POOR EGYPT! POOR ME...

GATHERING HIS PERSONAL GUARDS, RAMSES DESPERATELY CHARGED THE THINNEST POINT IN THE ENEMY LINE, DRIVING SOME OF THE CHIEF HITTITES INTO THE RIVER.



LUCKILY FOR RAMSES, THE HITTITES **BEHIND** HIM HAD LEAPT FROM THEIR CHARIOTS AND WERE BUSY LOOTING THE EGYPTIAN CAMP.



AT THIS POINT, EGYPTIAN REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED AND BEGAN TO BUTCHER THE LOOTERS.



AS MUWATALLIS SENT IN THE REST OF HIS CHARIOTS, THE DIVISION OF **PTAH** MOVED UP, AND THE ARMIES BATTLED UNTIL DUSK.



AFTER A HORRIBLE SLAUGHTER, THE HITTITES RETIRED INTO KADESH, LEAVING THE FIELD, AND TECHNICALLY THE VICTORY, TO RAMSES.





ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY MORE "VICTORIES," RAMSES AND HIS MEN SPED BACK TO EGYPT, WHERE HIS GREATNESS IN BATTLE WAS COMMEMORATED IN SONG AND STONE.

THE HITTITES, MEANWHILE, TOOK EVEN **MORE** TERRITORY AND ENCOURAGED REVOLUTIONS IN CITIES RIGHT UP TO THE EGYPTIAN BORDER!

RAMSES SPENT THE NEXT 15 YEARS FIGHTING JUST TO HOLD ON TO WHAT HE WAS ALREADY SUPPOSED TO HAVE.



PHARAOH RETIRED FROM WARFARE AND DEVOTED THE REST OF HIS 67-YEAR REIGN TO AN **ARMY** OF WIVES AND LITTLE RAMSESES...



1200 B.C., OR SO, BEGAN A DARK AGE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN WORLD.

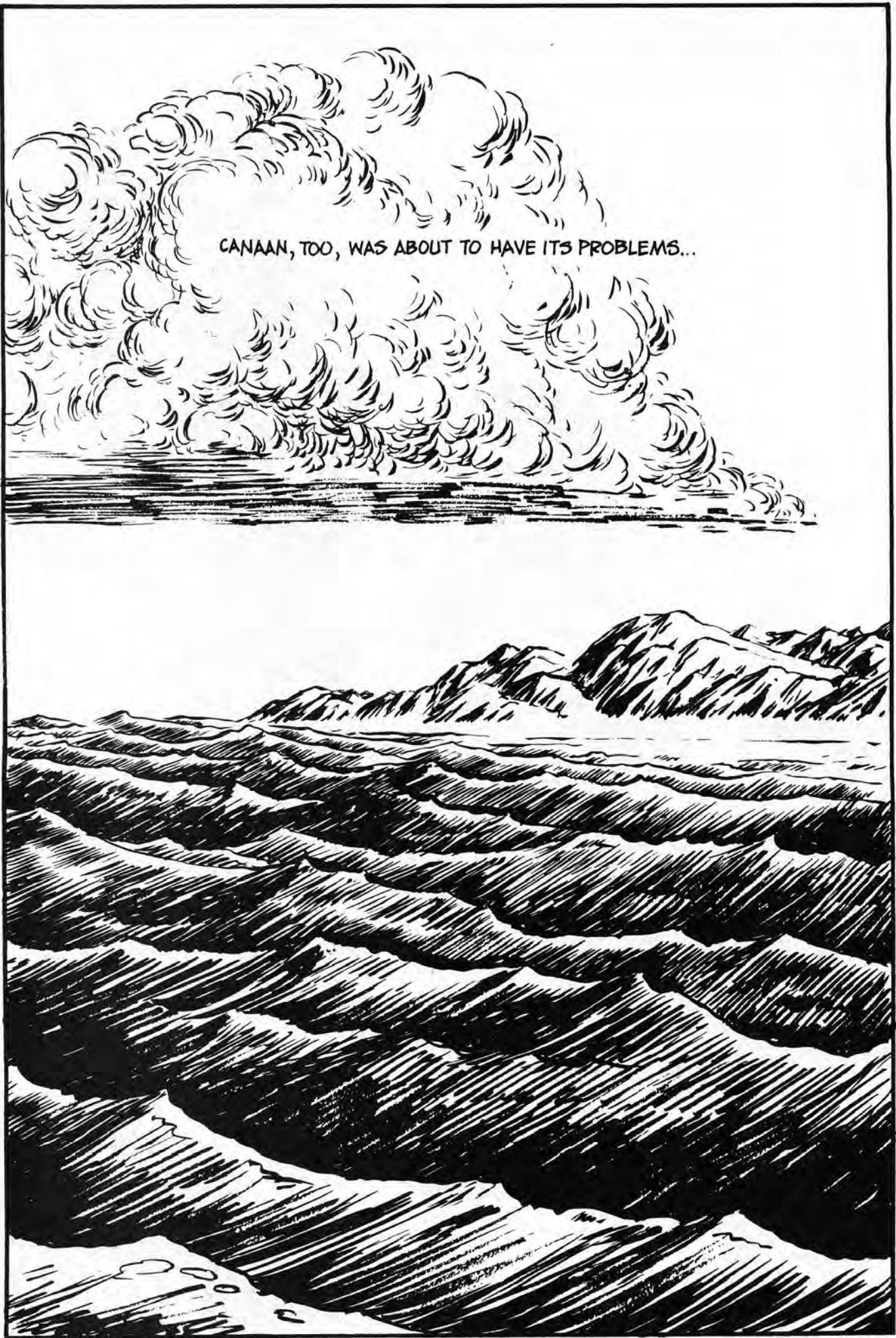
WITH THE DEATH OF RAMSES IN 1225, THE PHARAOHS RETREATED FROM INTERNATIONAL POLITICS INTO SPLENDID SELF-ABSORPTION. WITHIN 300 YEARS, EGYPT FELL TO FOREIGN RULE. (THESE DECLINES CAN TAKE TIME!)

BEYOND THE EUPHRATES, THE MITANNI WERE UNDER ATTACK BY AN UPSTART KINGDOM CALLED **ASSYRIA**, AND THE MULTI-SIDED STRUGGLE FOR POWER CONTINUED AS USUAL.

THE HITTITE EMPIRE, WEAKENED BY FIGHTING WITH EGYPT, COLLAPSED WITHIN 50 YEARS OF THE PEACE TREATY, AS HOSTILE TRIBES ATTACKED FROM ALL SIDES AT ONCE.

TO THE WEST, THE GREEKS WERE BESEIGING THE CITY OF **TROY** IN A LONG WAR THAT WOULD SEND REFUGEES SAILING ALL OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN.





CANAAN, TOO, WAS ABOUT TO HAVE ITS PROBLEMS...

AN ARMY OF SLAVES HAD ESCAPED FROM EGYPT!▶



NEXT: THE MORAL BASIS OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION!