

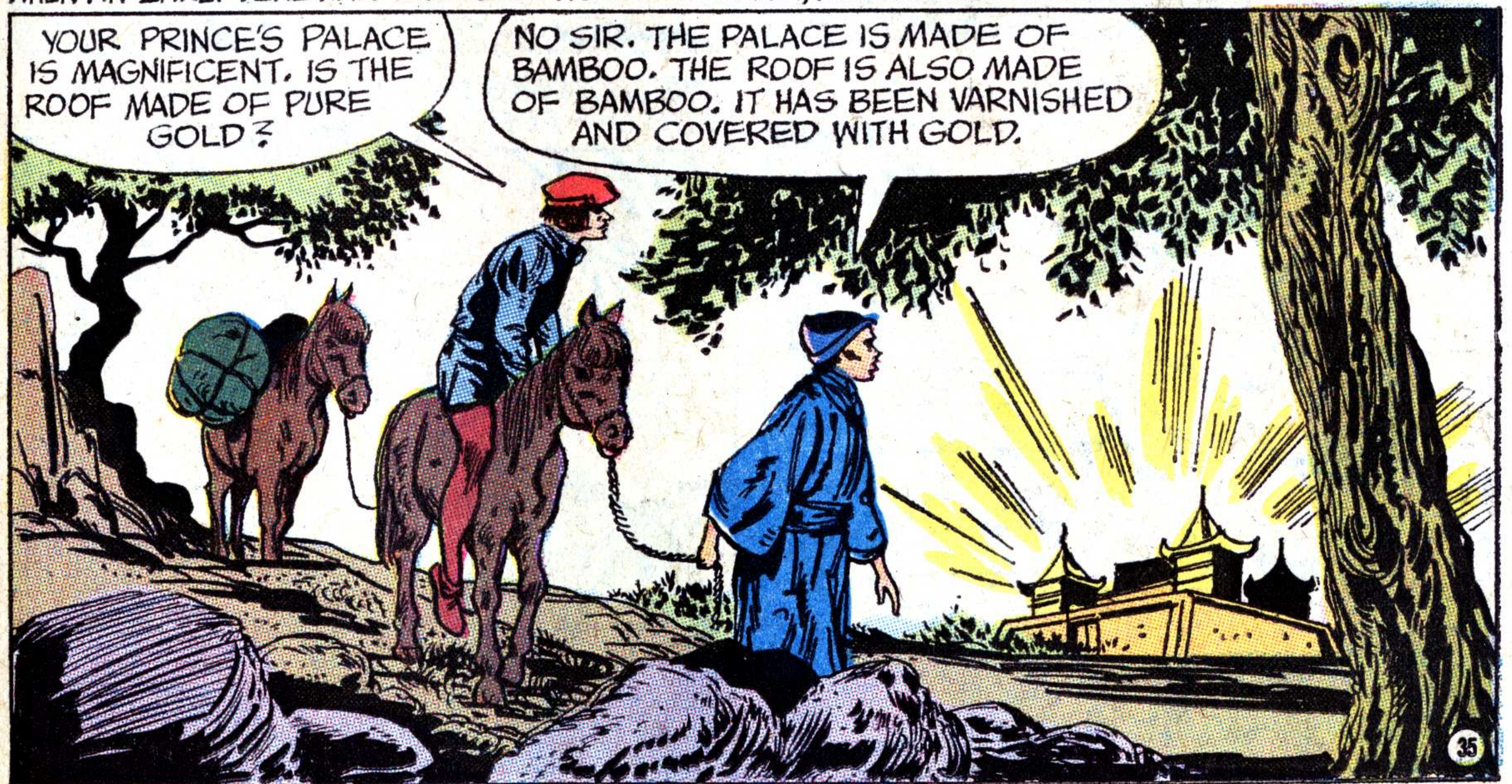
BAMBOO

WONDER GRASS

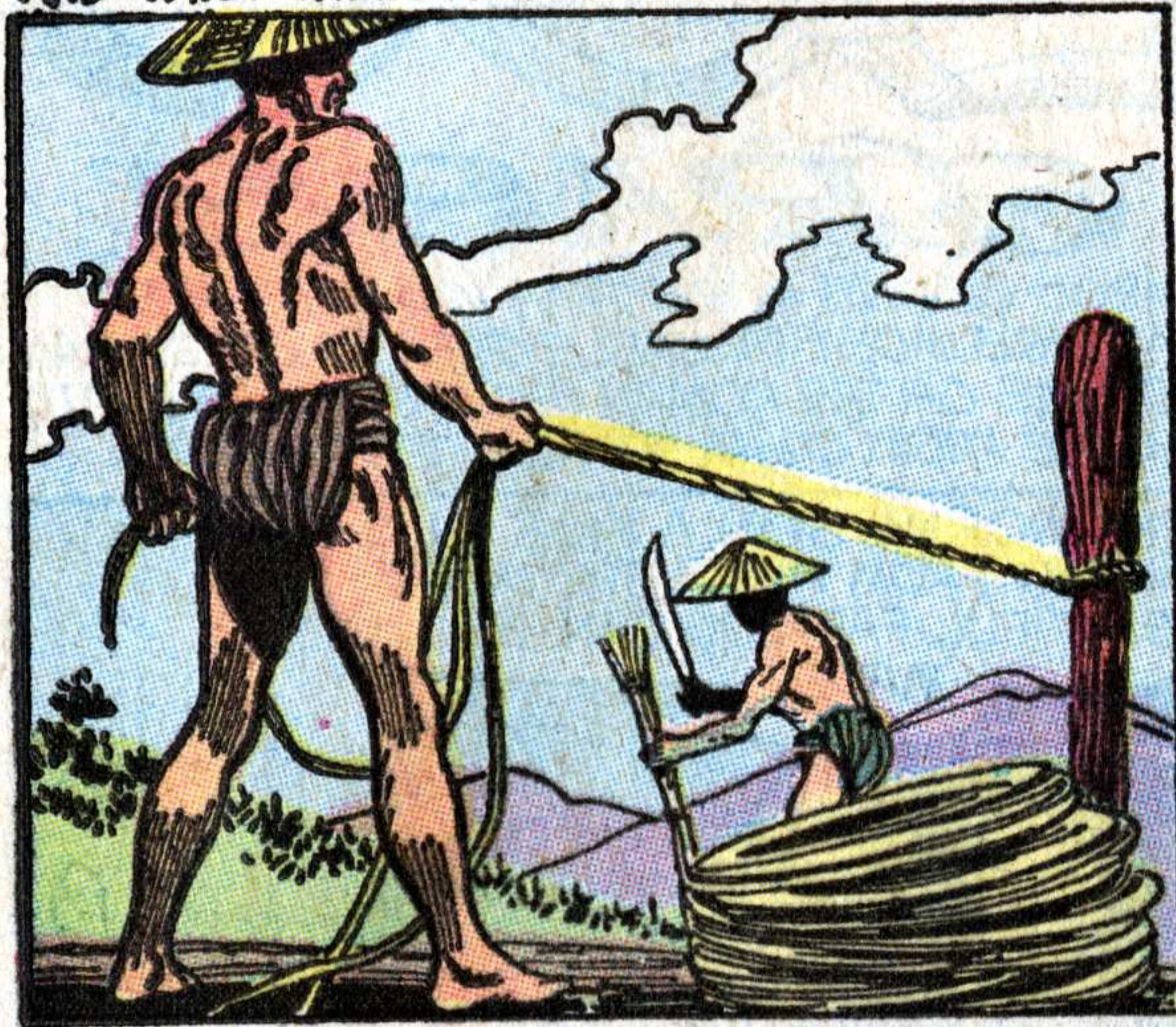
ALTHOUGH IT IS IN THE GRASS FAMILY, SOME BAMBOO GROWS MORE THAN 100 FEET HIGH AND IS AS THICK AROUND AS A SMALL TREE. NATURE'S MOST VALUABLE GIFT TO EARLY MAN, IT HAS BEEN PUT TO HUNDREDS OF USES. IN THE TIME OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR, JUSTINIAN, BAMBOO WAS USED TO TRANSPORT A RARE TREASURE FROM CHINA TO CONSTANTINOPLE.



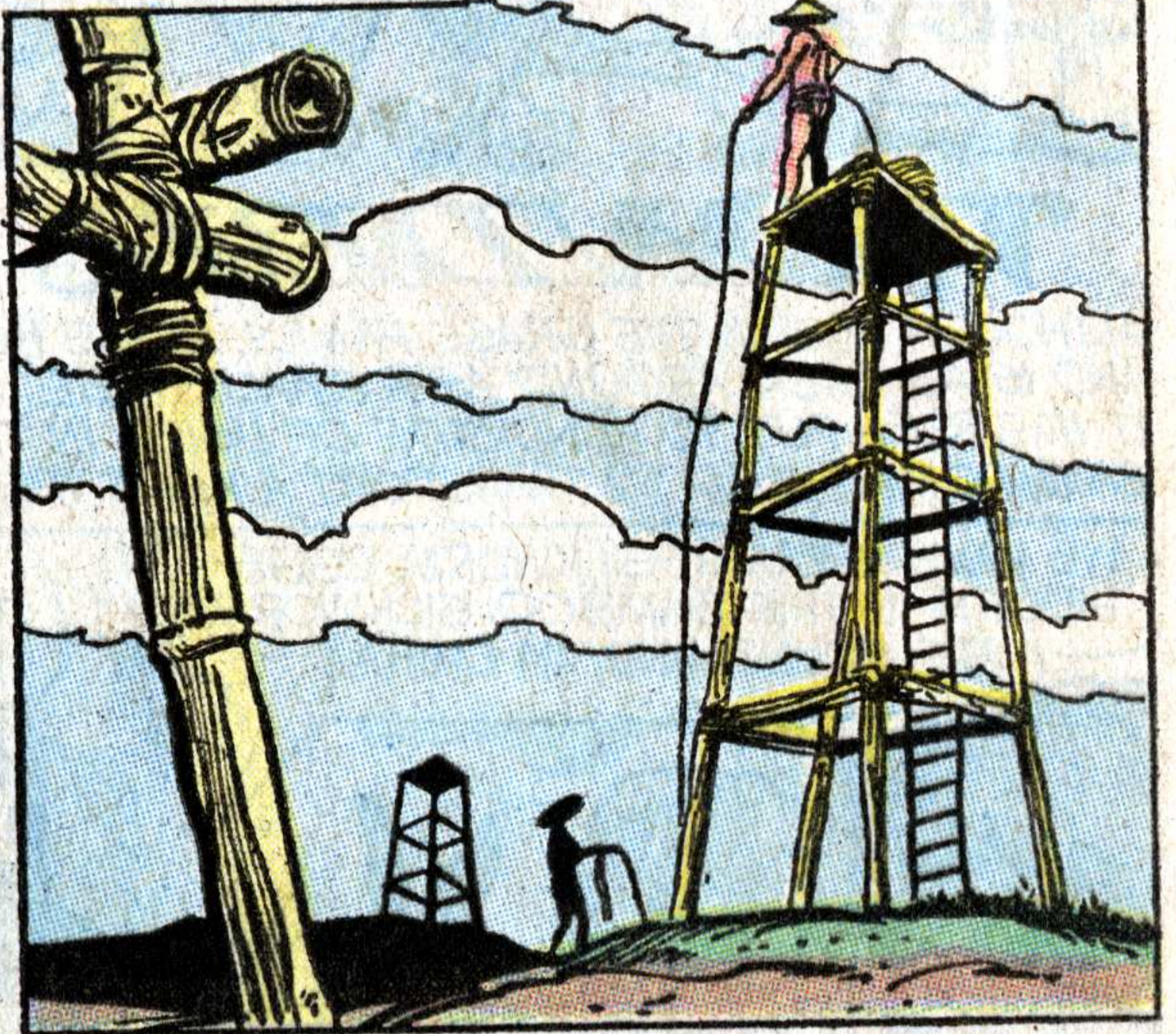
WHEN AN EARLY VENETIAN TRAVELER VISITED THE EAST, HE CAME UPON A MAGNIFICENT PALACE...



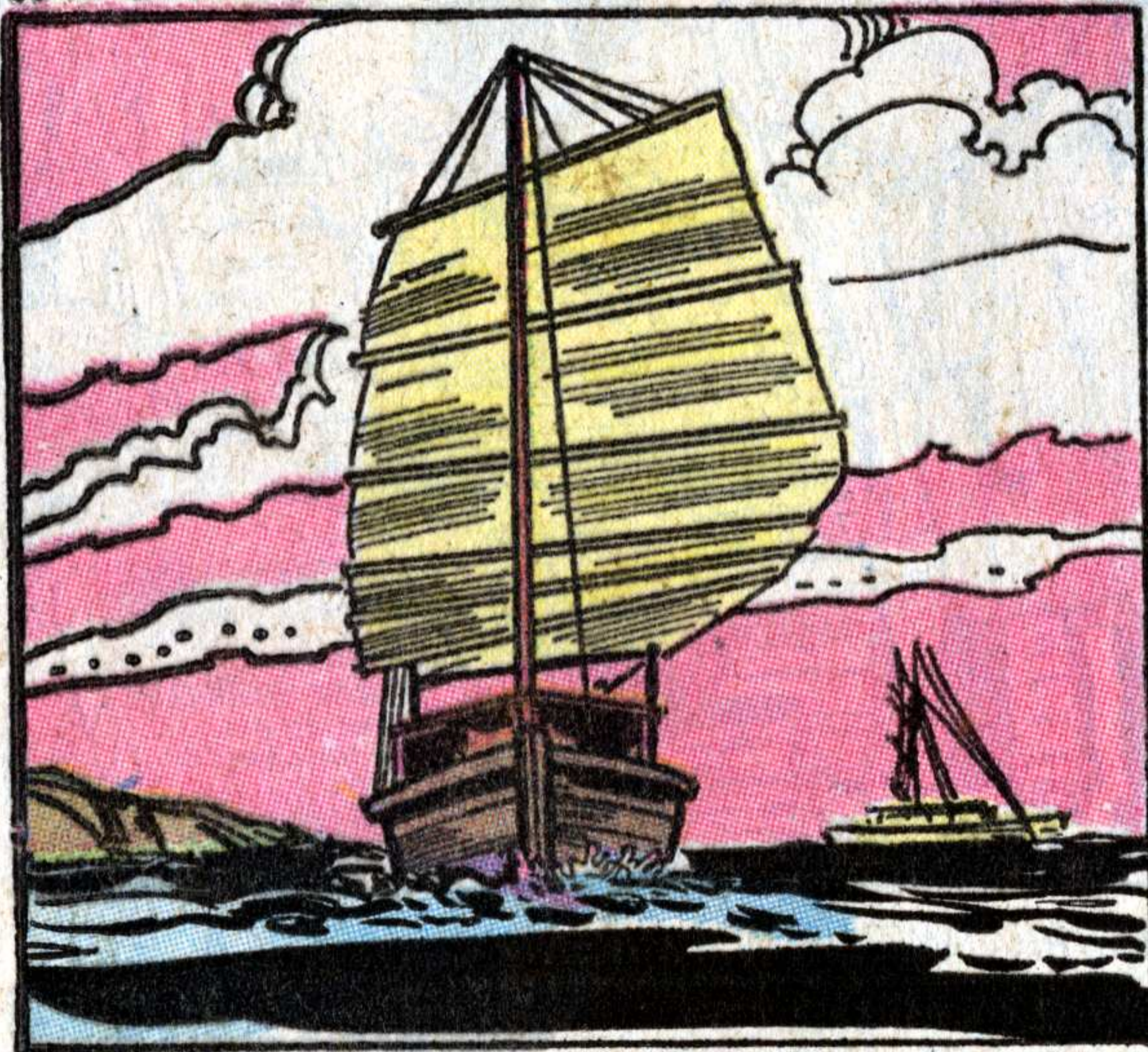
MARCO POLO TOLD HOW HE SAW EASTERN PEOPLE SPLIT LONG BAMBOO CANES INTO THIN STRIPS AND TWIST THEM TO MAKE ROPE.



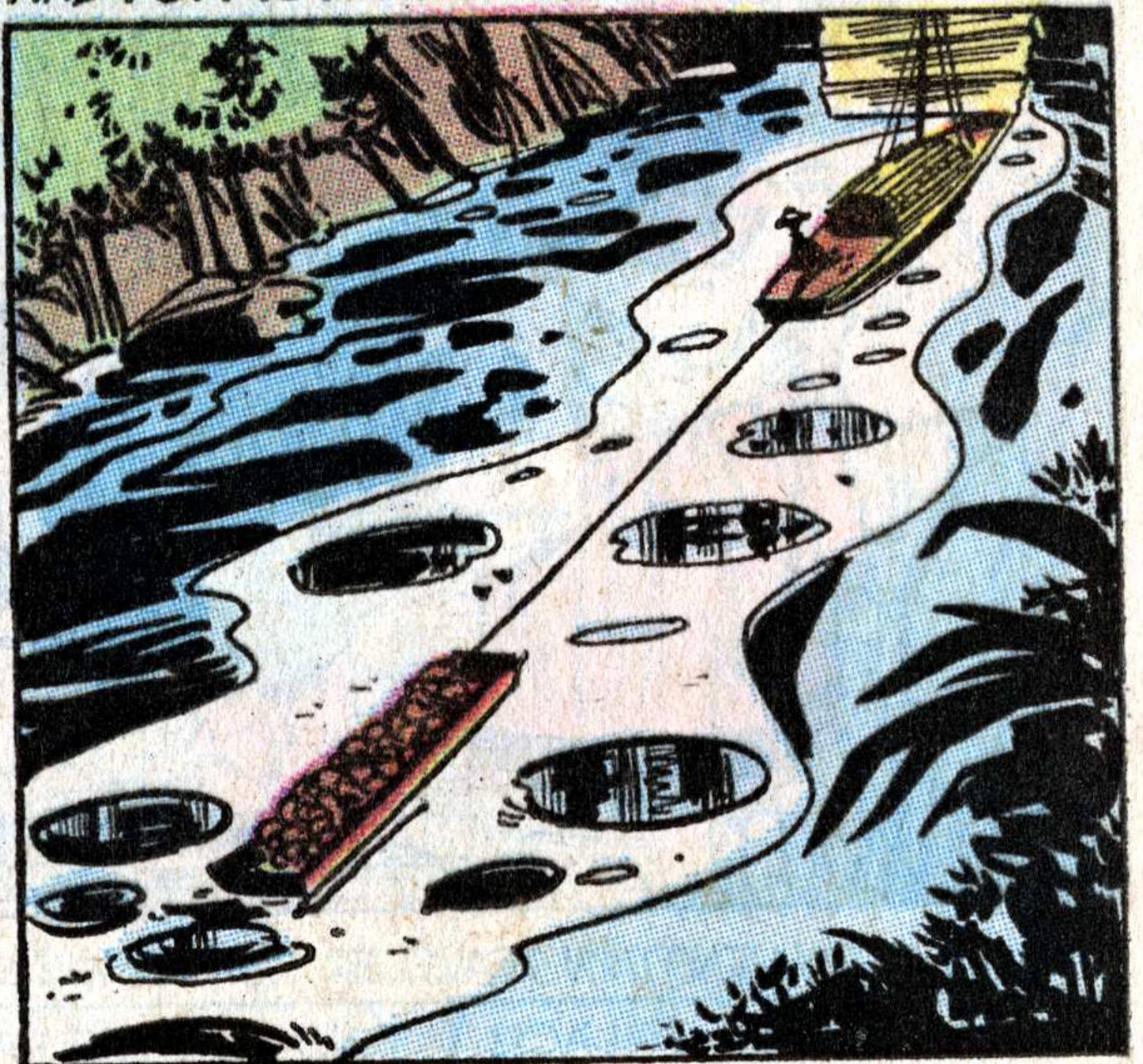
IN CHINA, THE BAMBOO ROPE-MAKERS WORKED ON A SCAFFOLD...



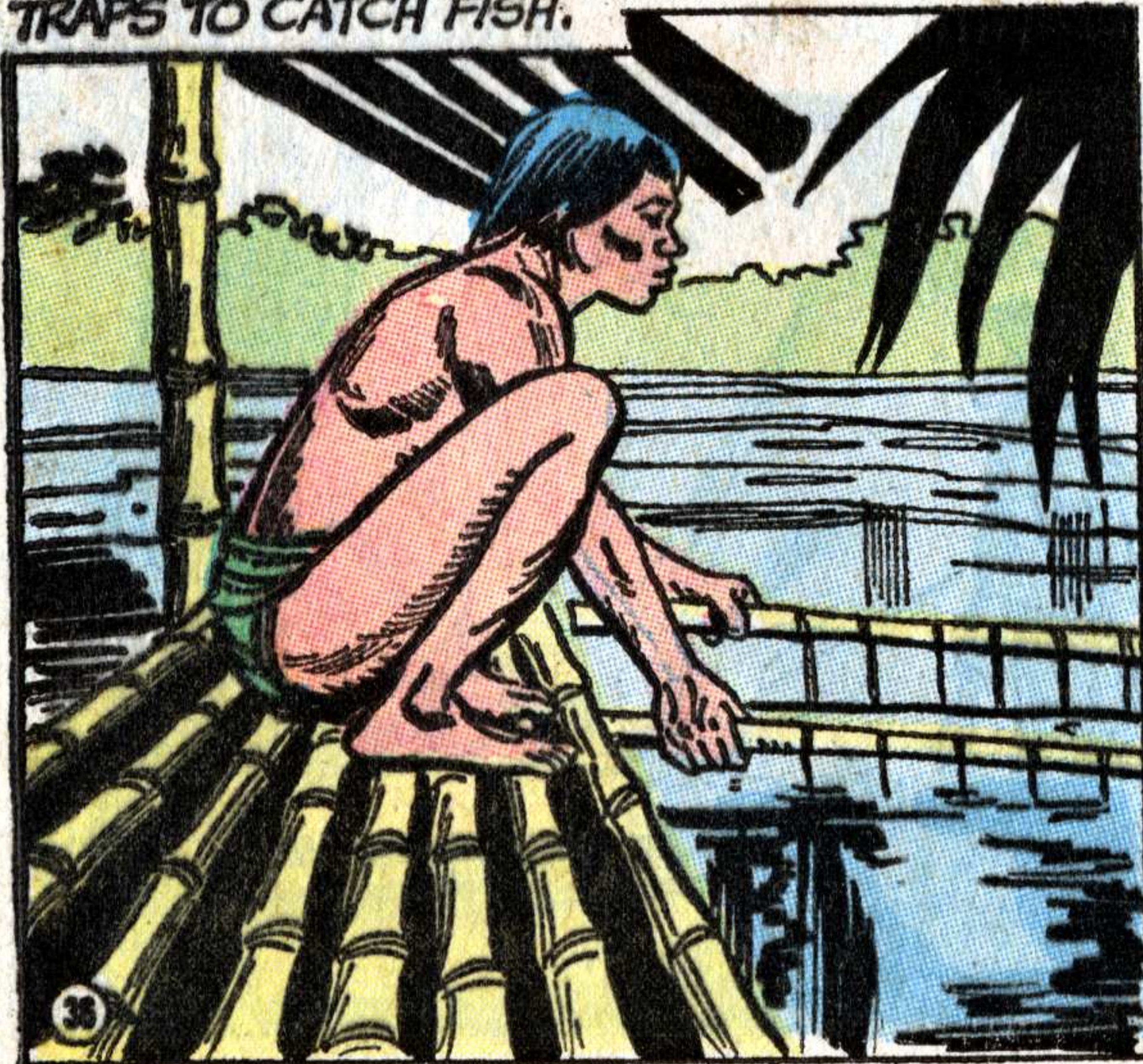
VERY STRONG, BUT VERY LIGHT, BAMBOO ROPE WAS USED TO MAKE SAILS....



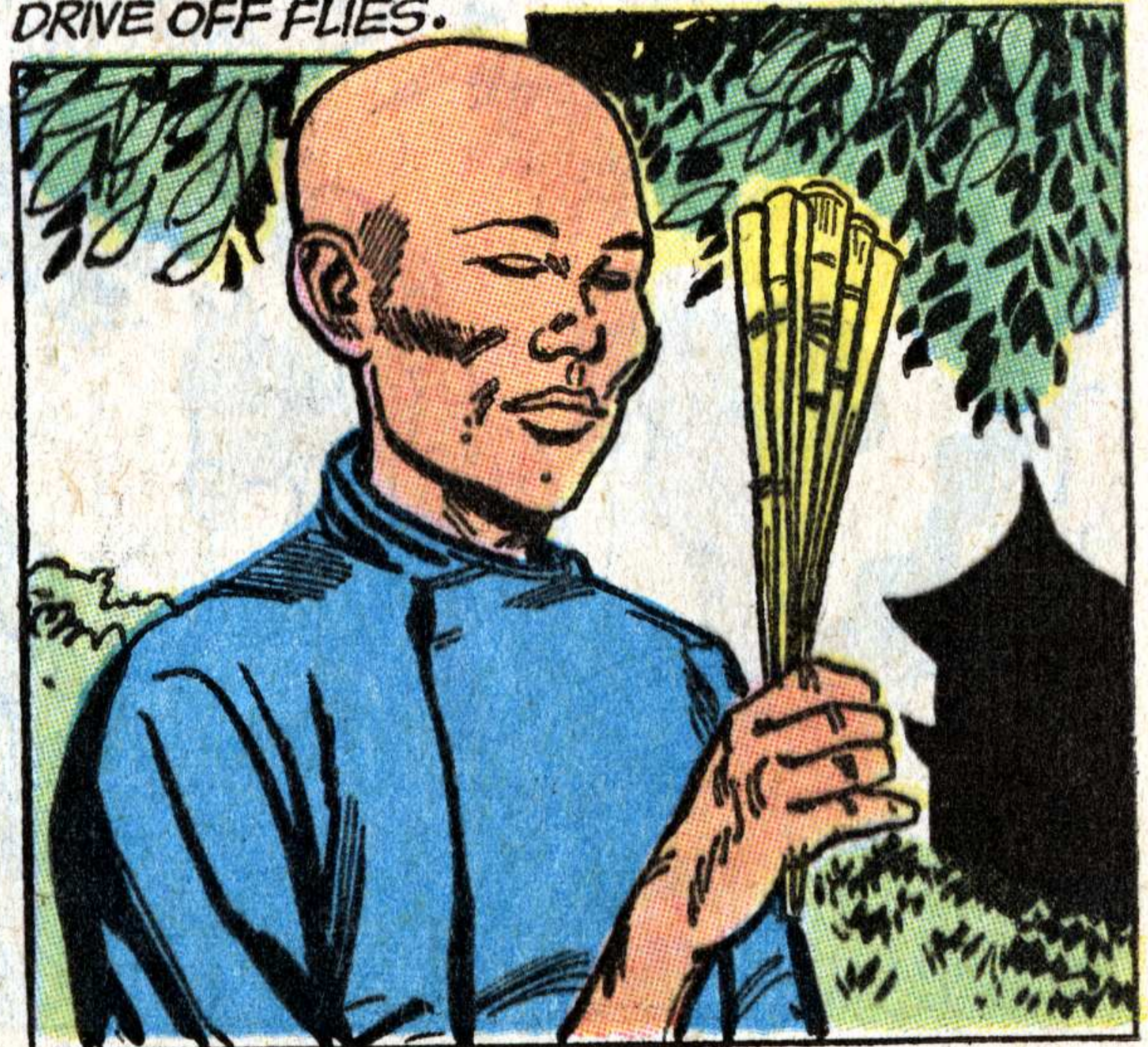
AND FOR TOW LINES...



NATIVE FISHERMEN USE BAMBOO TO MAKE TRAPS TO CATCH FISH.



CHINESE MONKS USED BAMBOO FANS TO DRIVE OFF FLIES.



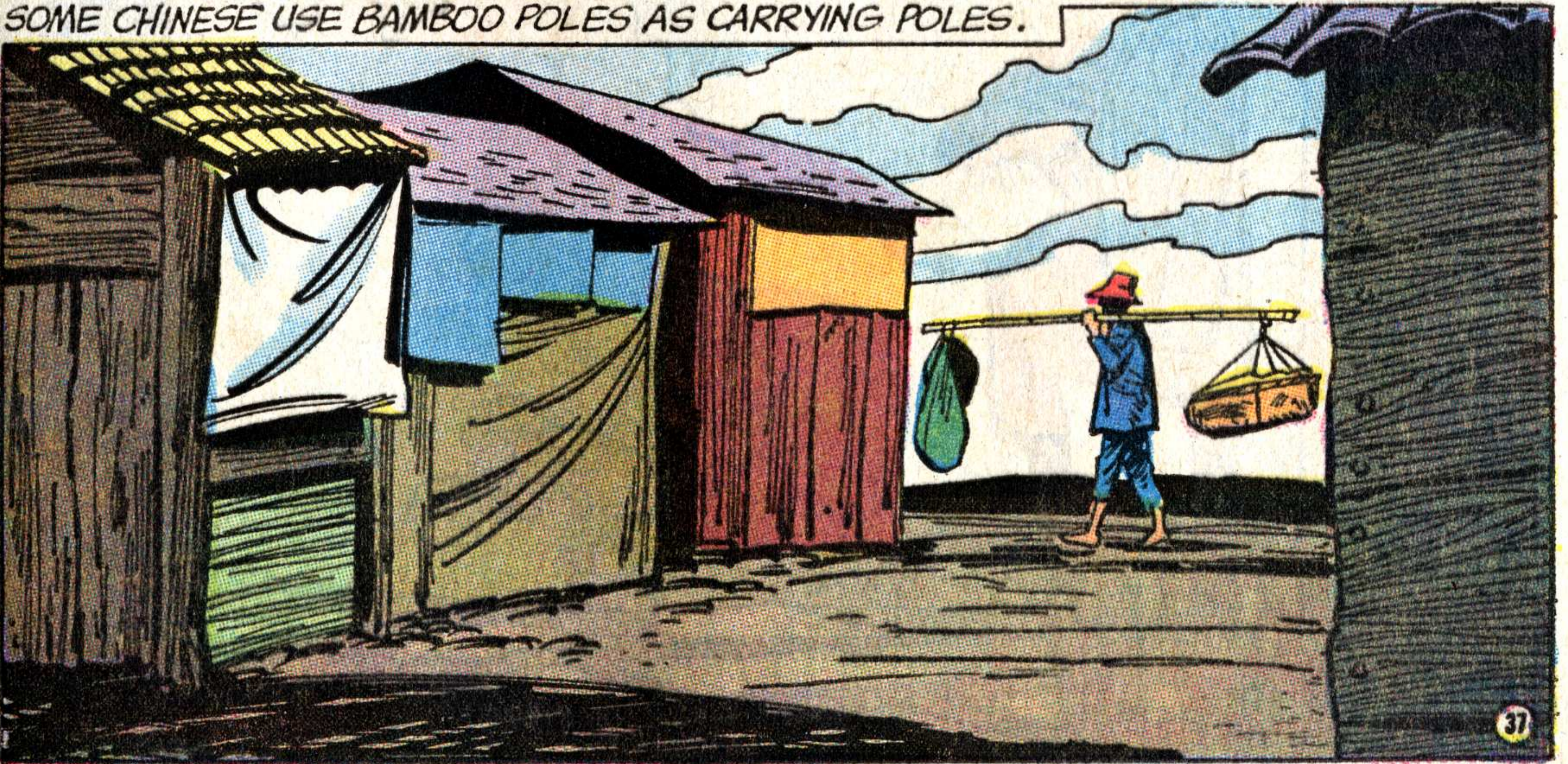
WATER IS CARRIED FROM A VILLAGE PUMP IN BAMBOO TUBES. HALF A DOZEN TUBES ARE CARRIED IN A BASKET.



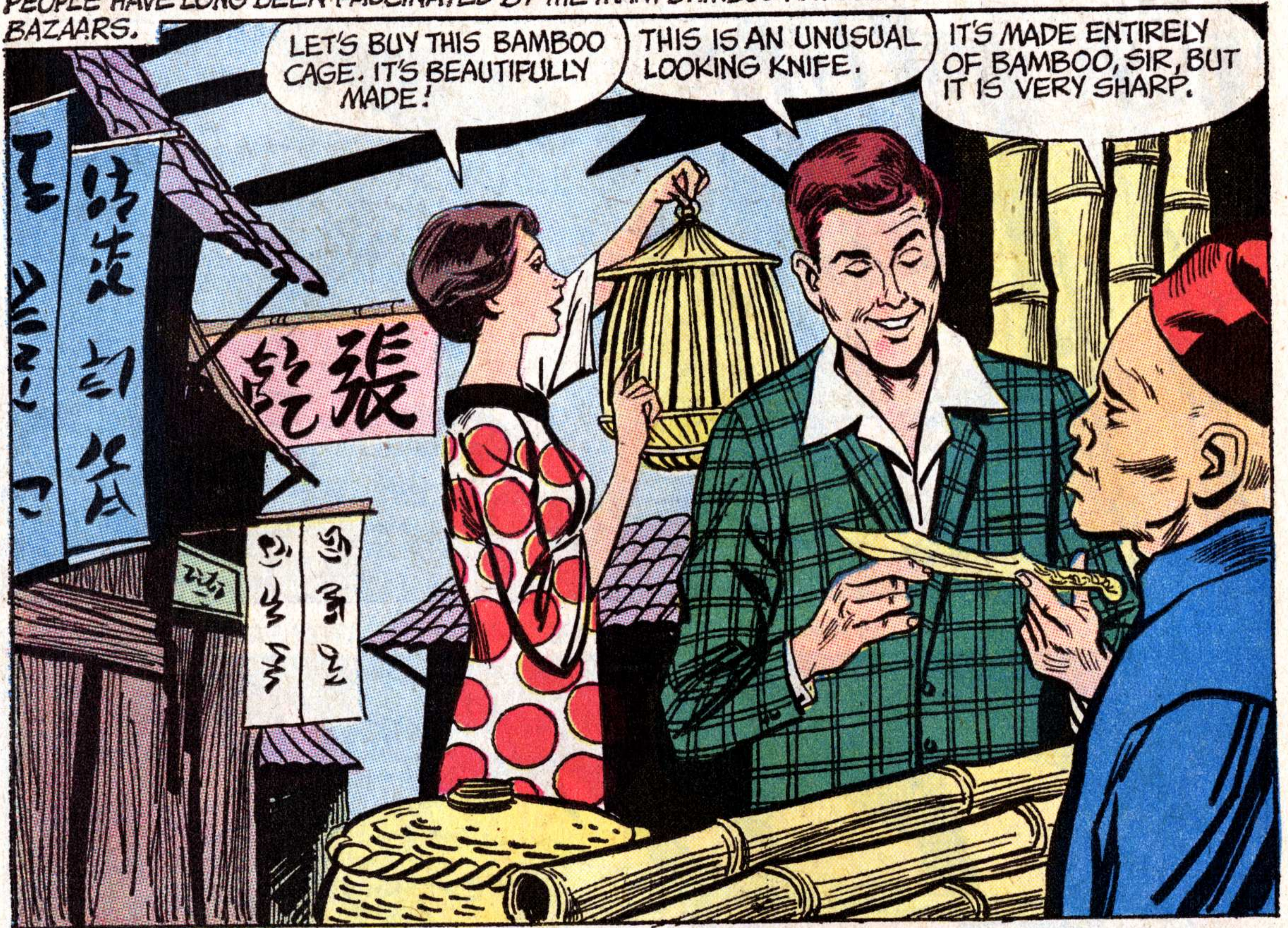
A WARRIOR PUTS HIS TRUST IN A BAMBOO BLOW-PIPE, ARROW AND QUIVER.



SOME CHINESE USE BAMBOO POLES AS CARRYING POLES.



PEOPLE HAVE LONG BEEN FASCINATED BY THE MANY BAMBOO ARTICLES ON SALE IN CHINESE BAZAARS.

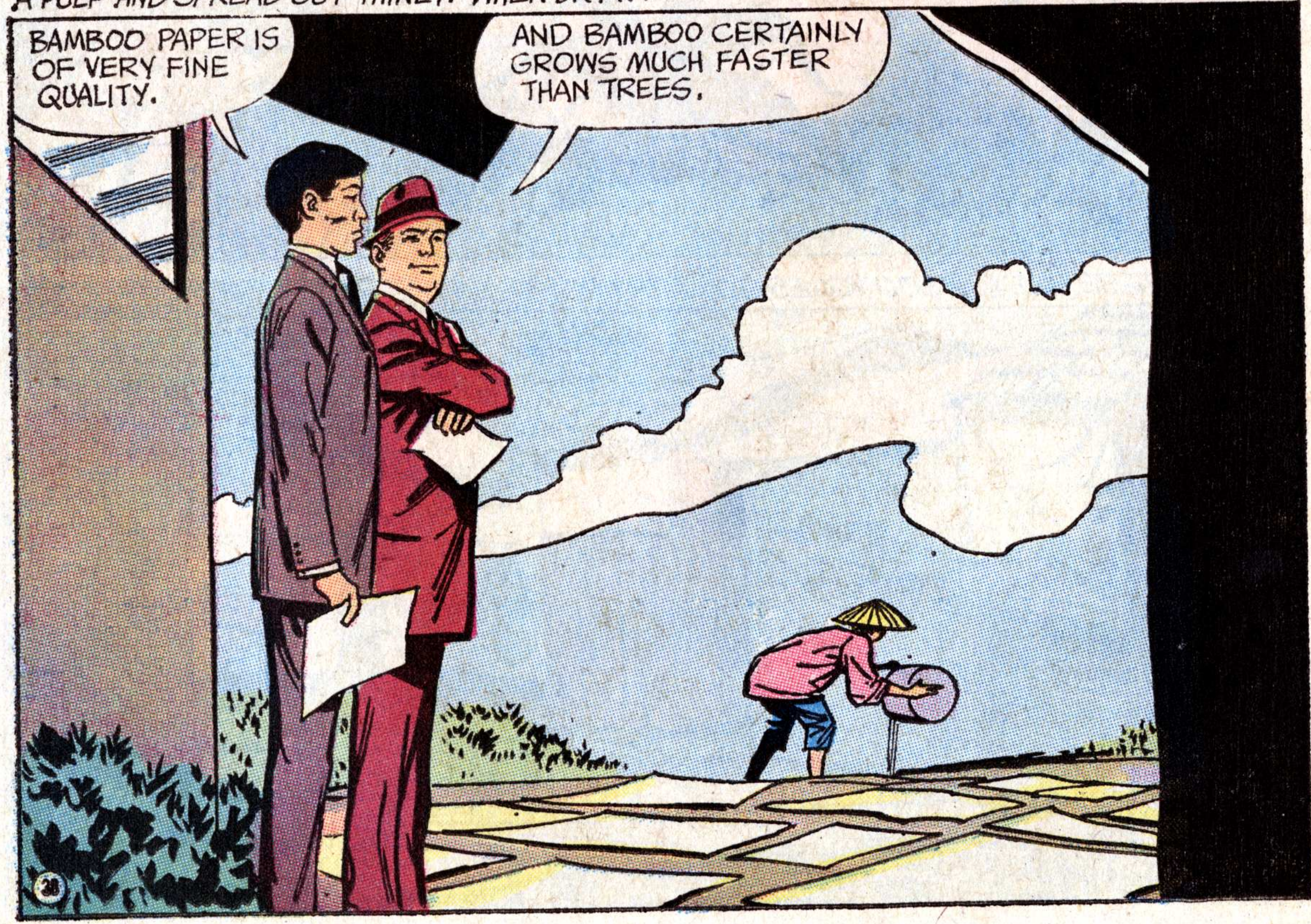


LET'S BUY THIS BAMBOO CAGE. IT'S BEAUTIFULLY MADE!

THIS IS AN UNUSUAL LOOKING KNIFE.

IT'S MADE ENTIRELY OF BAMBOO, SIR, BUT IT IS VERY SHARP.

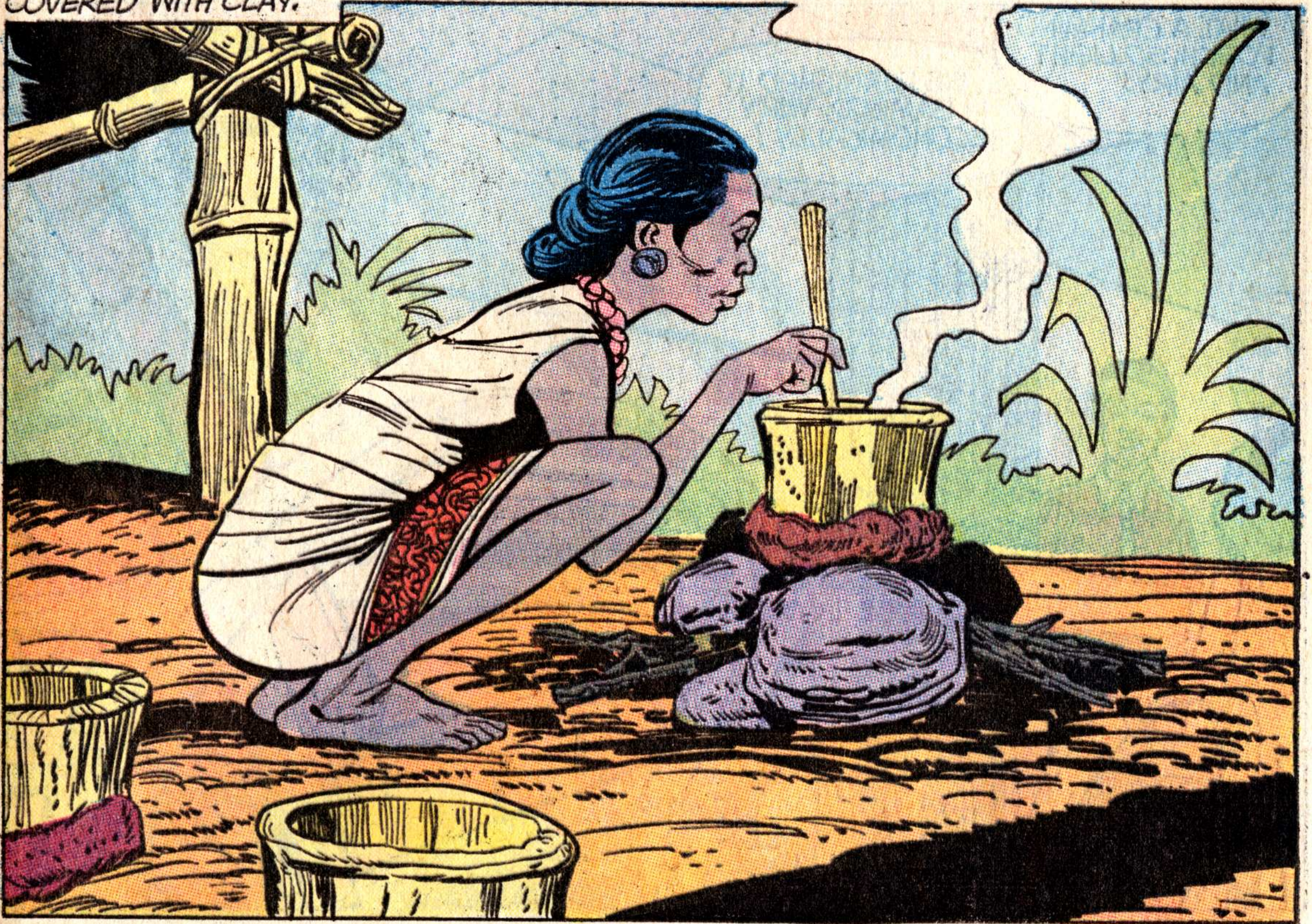
THE CHINESE MADE PAPER FROM BAMBOO. THE INSIDE PARTS OF THE STEM ARE BEATEN TO A PULP AND SPREAD OUT THINLY. WHEN DRY...



BAMBOO PAPER IS OF VERY FINE QUALITY.

AND BAMBOO CERTAINLY GROWS MUCH FASTER THAN TREES.

THE DYAKS OF BORNEO USE BAMBOO JOINTS FOR COOKING VESSELS. THE BOTTOMS ARE COVERED WITH CLAY.

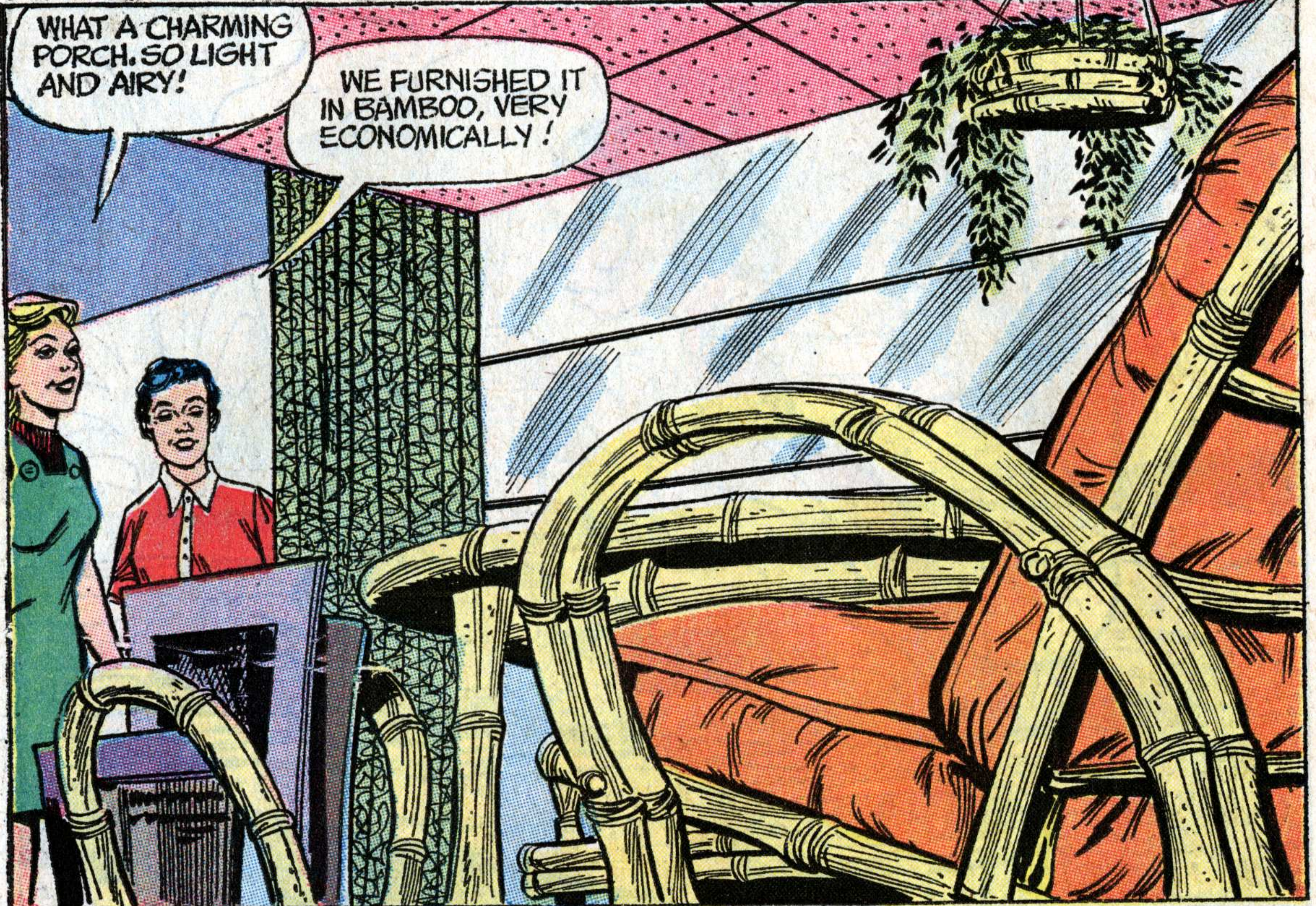


THE YOUNG SHOOTS AND SEEDS MAKE EXCELLENT FOOD. THE SHOOTS LOOK LIKE GIANT ASPARAGUS.

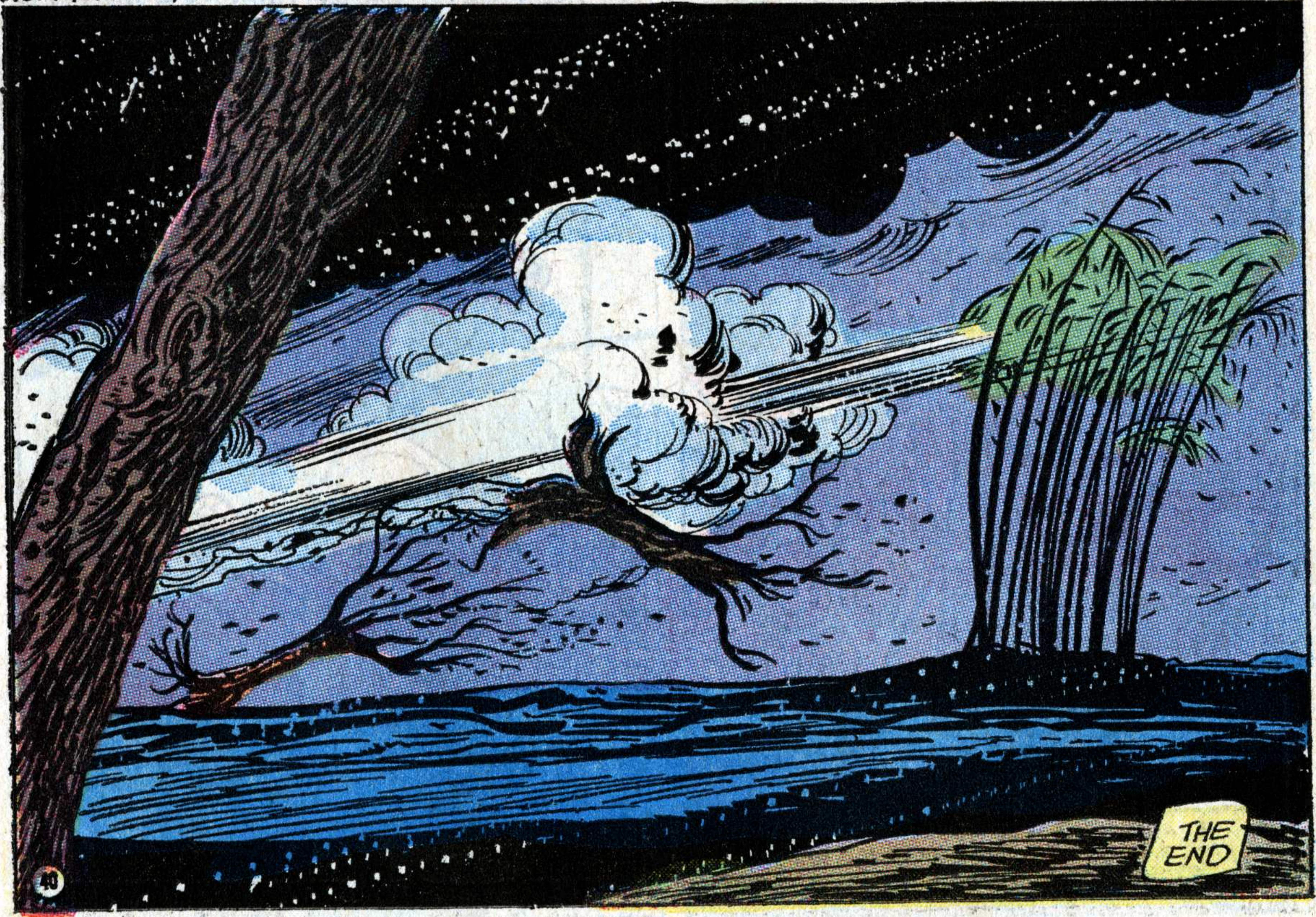
MUCH BAMBOO IS IMPORTED INTO EUROPE FOR THE USE OF BASKETMAKERS AND FOR UMBRELLAS AND WALKING-STICKS.



AMERICA USES BAMBOO FOR FISHING POLES, FENCES, CRATES, RECEPTACLES, AND MANY OTHER THINGS. CHEAP FURNITURE IS MADE FROM BAMBOO. IT IS LIGHT AND STRONG.



TWO SPECIES OF BAMBOO ARE NATIVE TO AMERICA. MORE ARE BEING INTRODUCED. IN HURRICANES, CLUMP BAMBOO STANDS UP MUCH BETTER THAN MOST OTHER TREES.



THE END