

24

FLASH
GORDON
GOLD

90148-907

40¢

FLASH GORDON



Flash can't resist fighting
his way into Ming's trap!

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Stranded in an alien world, Flash Gordon, Dale Arden and Dr. Hans Zarkov struggle against the evil emperor, Ming the Merciless, who seeks to enslave an entire planet....


FLASH GORDON ON THE PLANET MONGO

The CORONATION of MING the MERCILESS


MINGO CITY--THE LARGEST CITY ON MONGO, HELD TIGHT IN THE IRON GRASP OF MING THE MERCILESS! TODAY IT IS A CITY OF CELEBRATION, BY ROYAL DECREE...

BUT SOON IT MAY BECOME THE BACKGROUND TO A GRAND CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MING AND THE EARTHMAN SWORN TO END MING'S TYRANNY--FLASH GORDON!

STORY BY: JOHN WARNER
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CREATED BY: ALEX RAYMOND



HEAR ONE! HEAR ALL! LET REVELRY FILL THE STREETS!

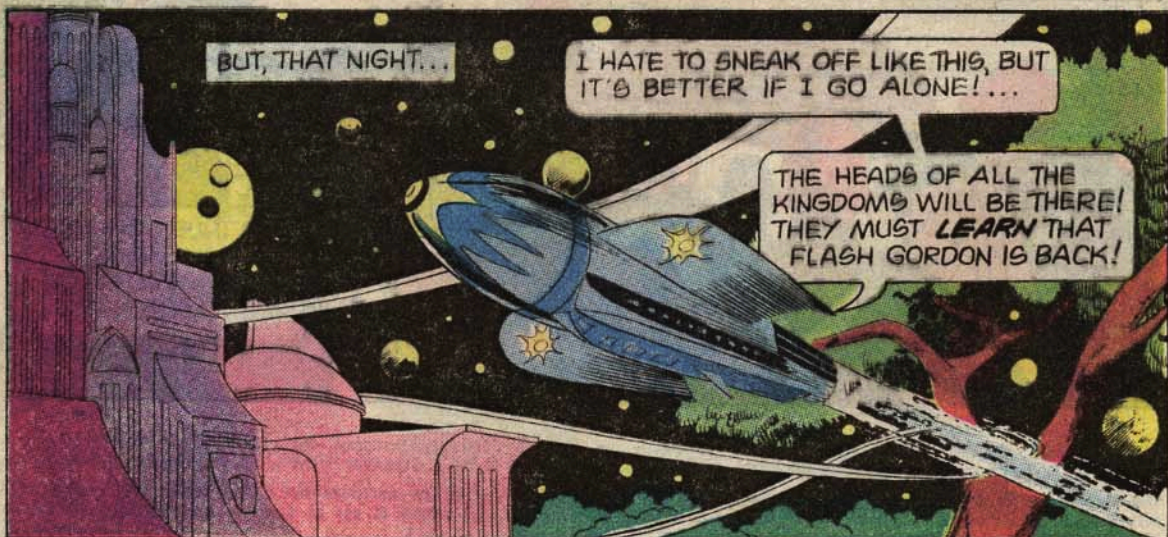


OUR TRUE EMPEROR SHALL BE SO RECOGNIZED IN THE RITE OF CORONATION!

90148-907
FLASH GORDON #24-795

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THE NEXT MORNING...

I must do
this... Not just
for us, but for
all of Mingo.
And remember
I love you.
Flash.

FLASH HAS GONE TO MINGO
CITY! THAT THICK-HEADED--!
IF I DIDN'T LOVE HIM--

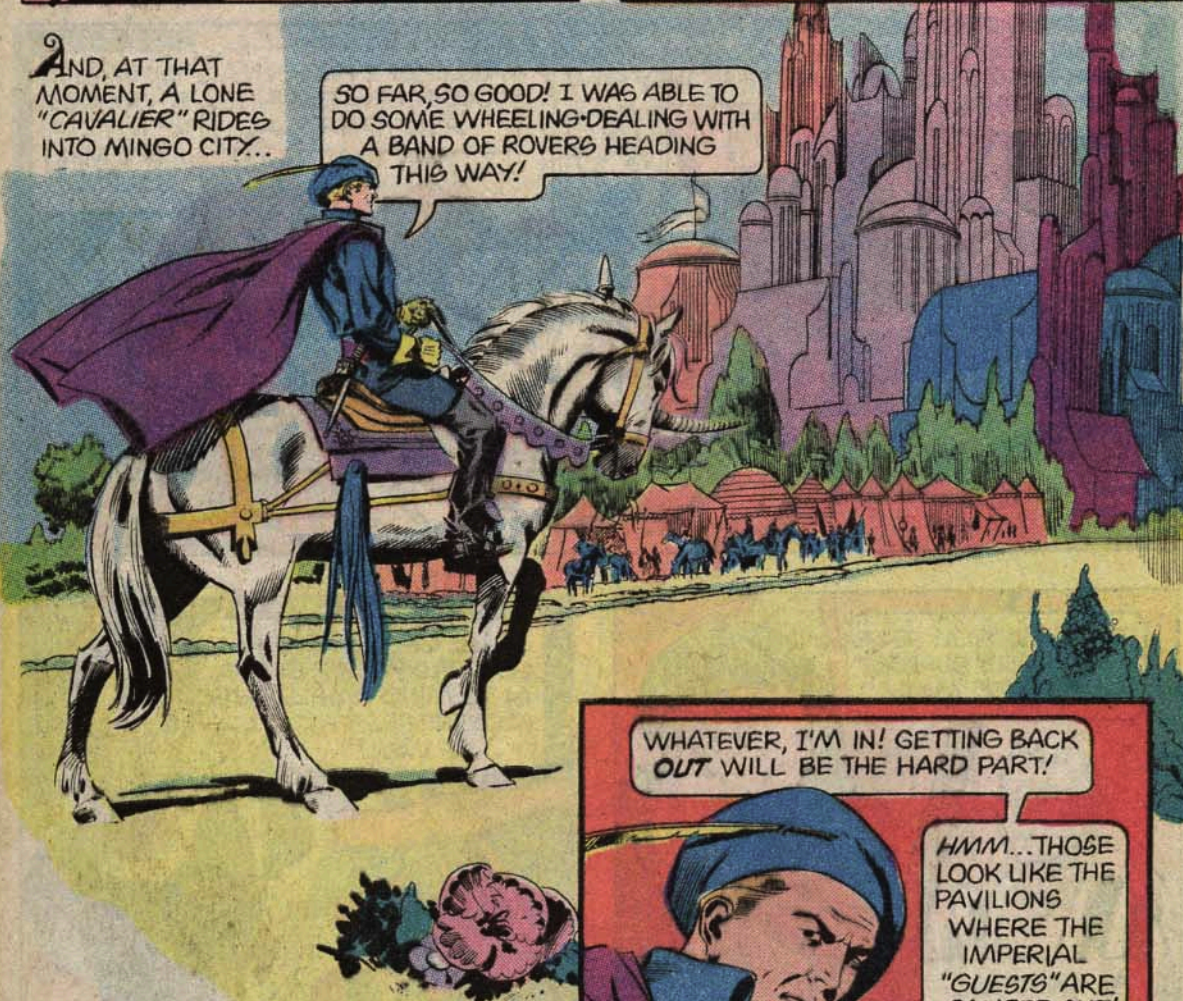


THERE, NOW! YOU KNOW ONCE
FLASH MAKES UP HIS MIND--

BUT HE
KNOWS I
WOULD HAVE GONE
WITH HIM!

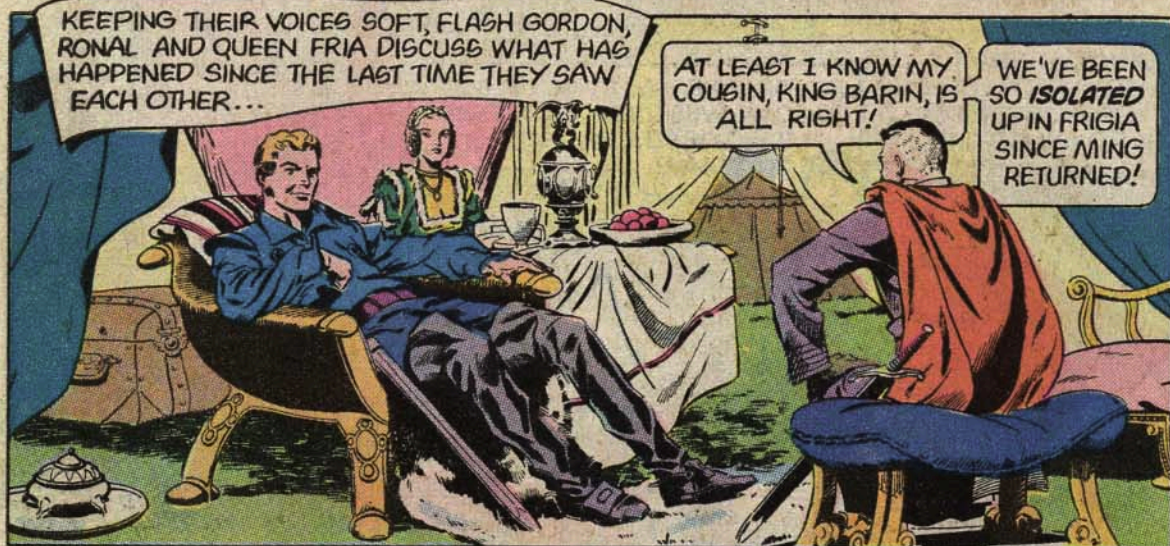
AND, AT THAT
MOMENT, A LONE
"CAVALIER" RIDES
INTO MINGO CITY..

SO FAR, SO GOOD! I WAS ABLE TO
DO SOME WHEELING-DEALING WITH
A BAND OF ROVERS HEADING
THIS WAY!



WHATEVER, I'M IN! GETTING BACK
OUT WILL BE THE HARD PART!

HMM...THOSE
LOOK LIKE THE
PAVILIONS
WHERE THE
IMPERIAL
"GUESTS" ARE
CAMPED OUT!



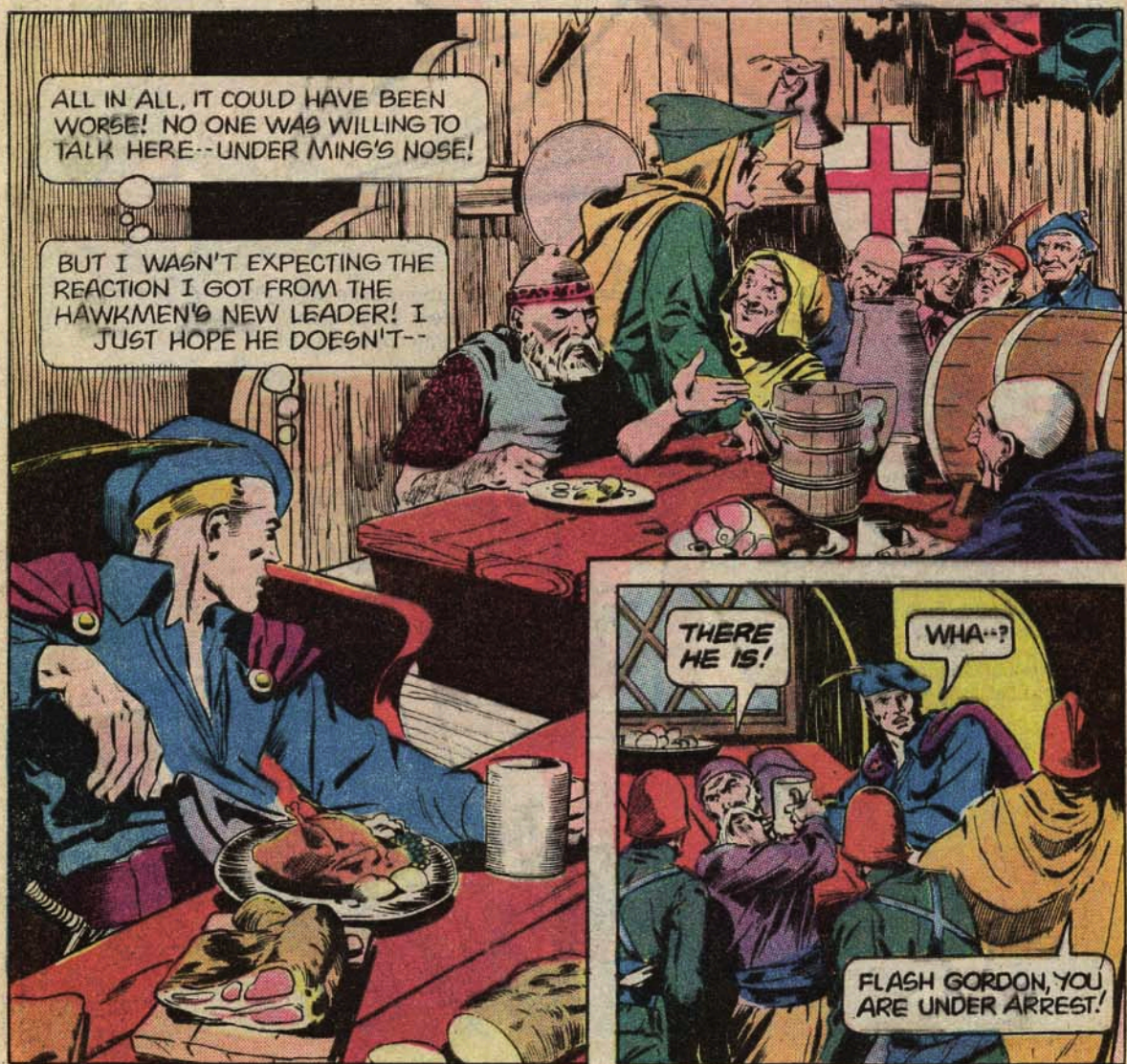


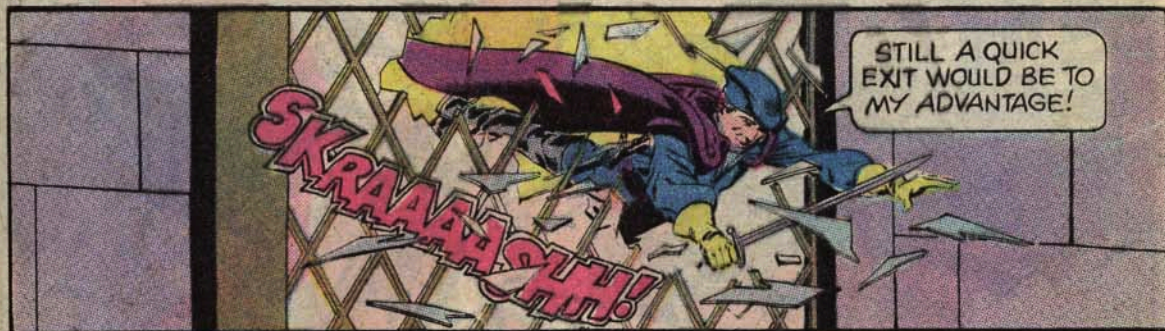
IN HIS GUISE AS CAVALIER, FLASH GORDON SLIPS FROM PAVILION TO PAVILION TO PAVILION...

MANY REACTIONS ARE SUPPORTIVE, BUT CAUTIOUS. SOME, THOUGH, ARE UNEXPECTEDLY HOSTILE...

ALL IN ALL, IT COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE! NO ONE WAS WILLING TO TALK HERE--UNDER MING'S NOSE!

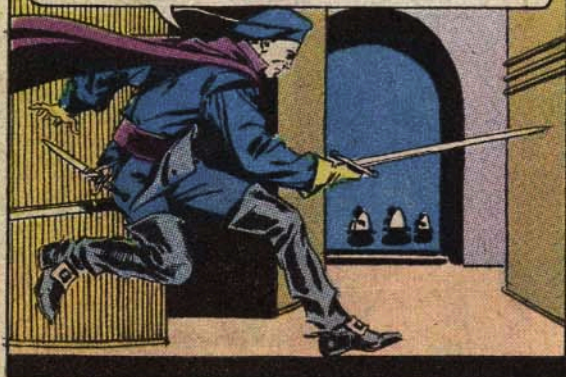
BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING THE REACTION I GOT FROM THE HAWKMEN'S NEW LEADER! I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T--





BUT AS FLASH HEADS DOWN THE STREET...

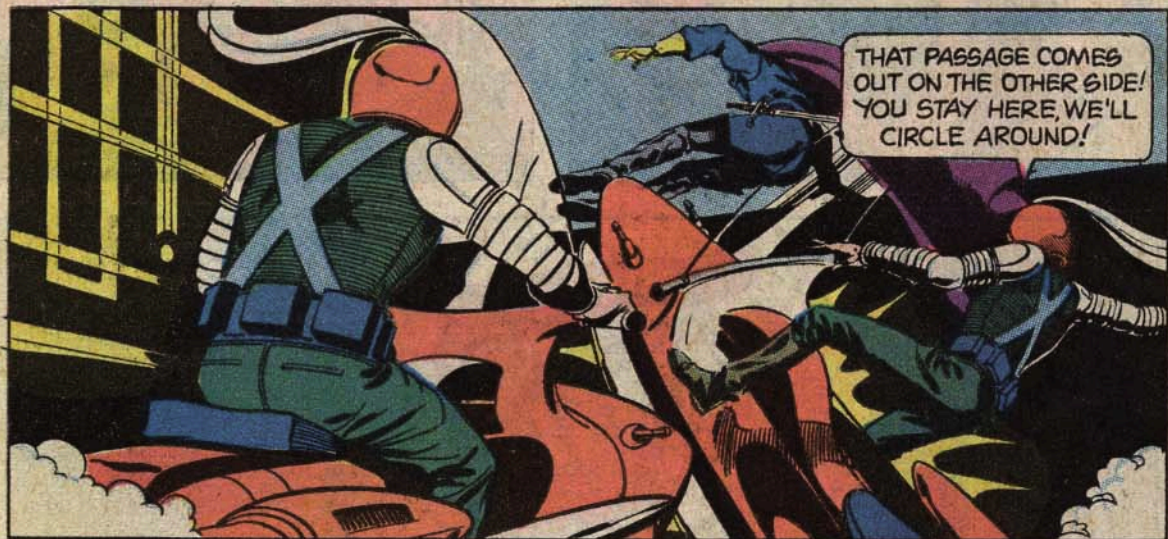
UH-OH! BACKUPS ARE WAITING ON ROCKET-CYCLES! THEY WANT ME PRETTY BAD!



I THINK I HAVE A PLAN! LET'S JUST HOPE MING'S LACKEYS ARE AS PREDICTABLE AS USUAL!

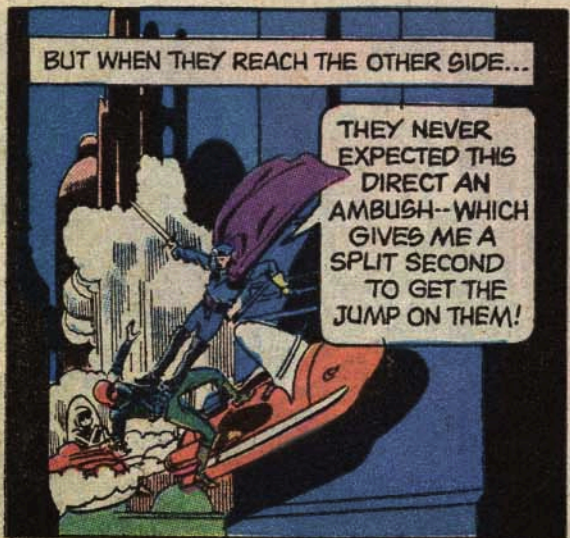


THAT PASSAGE COMES OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE! YOU STAY HERE, WE'LL CIRCLE AROUND!



BUT WHEN THEY REACH THE OTHER SIDE...


THEY NEVER EXPECTED THIS DIRECT AN AMBUSH--WHICH GIVES ME A SPLIT SECOND TO GET THE JUMP ON THEM!




WHOO! THAT WAS CLOSE! AND IT LOOKS AS IF...

...THEY'RE GETTING LESS GUN-SHY!





I GUESS THERE'S NO
NEED TO KEEP MY RAY
GUN CONCEALED! BE-
SIDES, I HAVE A GOOD
USE FOR IT!




THAT WON'T STOP THEM, BUT IT
WILL CERTAINLY SLOW THEM DOWN!




SOON...

GOOD! THEY LOST MY
TRAIL! NOW, IF I CAN FIND
SOME ROUTE TO SNEAK
BACK INTO THE CITY--



THIS IS AN OLD
PLACE--PROBABLY
DATES BACK TO
MING'S FATHER!



WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S SOME KIND
OF OPENING,
BUT IT'S NOT PART
OF THE BUILDING!

FLASH USES HIS RAY GUN TO MAKE A TORCH...

WELL, I'LL BE! I'LL
BET THIS IS A PART
OF THE OLD FREEMAN
NETWORK OF CAVES!

THEY WERE USED TO SMUGGLE POLITICAL
PRISONERS OUT OF MING'S JAILS!

SNEK!

EH? DID I HEAR
SOMETHING?

THAT YOU MOST
CERTAINLY DID!

I SHOULD
LIKE TO KNOW
WHO IS TRESPASS-
ING--AND WHETHER
HE SERVES OUR
EMPEROR, MING!

I HAVE NO
EMPEROR! I AM
A FREE MAN!

COME DOWN, IF YOU
THINK YOU CAN TAKE
ME, AND I'LL SHOW
YOU HOW A FREE
MAN FIGHTS!

HO! HO! WITH
PLEASURE!

CLANG!

I WILL ADMIT YOU HAVE
QUITE A BIT OF SKILL! WHO
ARE YOU, FREE MAN?



YES, I AM!
ARE YOU--
A FRIEND?



MY NAME
IS-- **OOPS!**

COULD YOU POSSIBLY
BE-- FLASH GORDON?

FRIEND, INDEED! WE HAVE WAITED
AND HOPED FOR A LONG TIME!
I, KORLO, WELCOME YOU!

MEANWHILE, IN ALANIA...

DALE, I'VE GOT SOME-
THING ON THAT MINGO CITY
CHANNEL I WAS ABLE
TO PATCH IN!

IT SOUNDS LIKE MING!



...FLASH GORDON IS NOW MY PRISONER!
HIS EXECUTION SHALL TAKE PLACE IN
THE PUBLIC DOME IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING MY CORONATION!



FLASH GORDON ON THE PLANET MONGO

The CORONATION of MING the MERCILESS

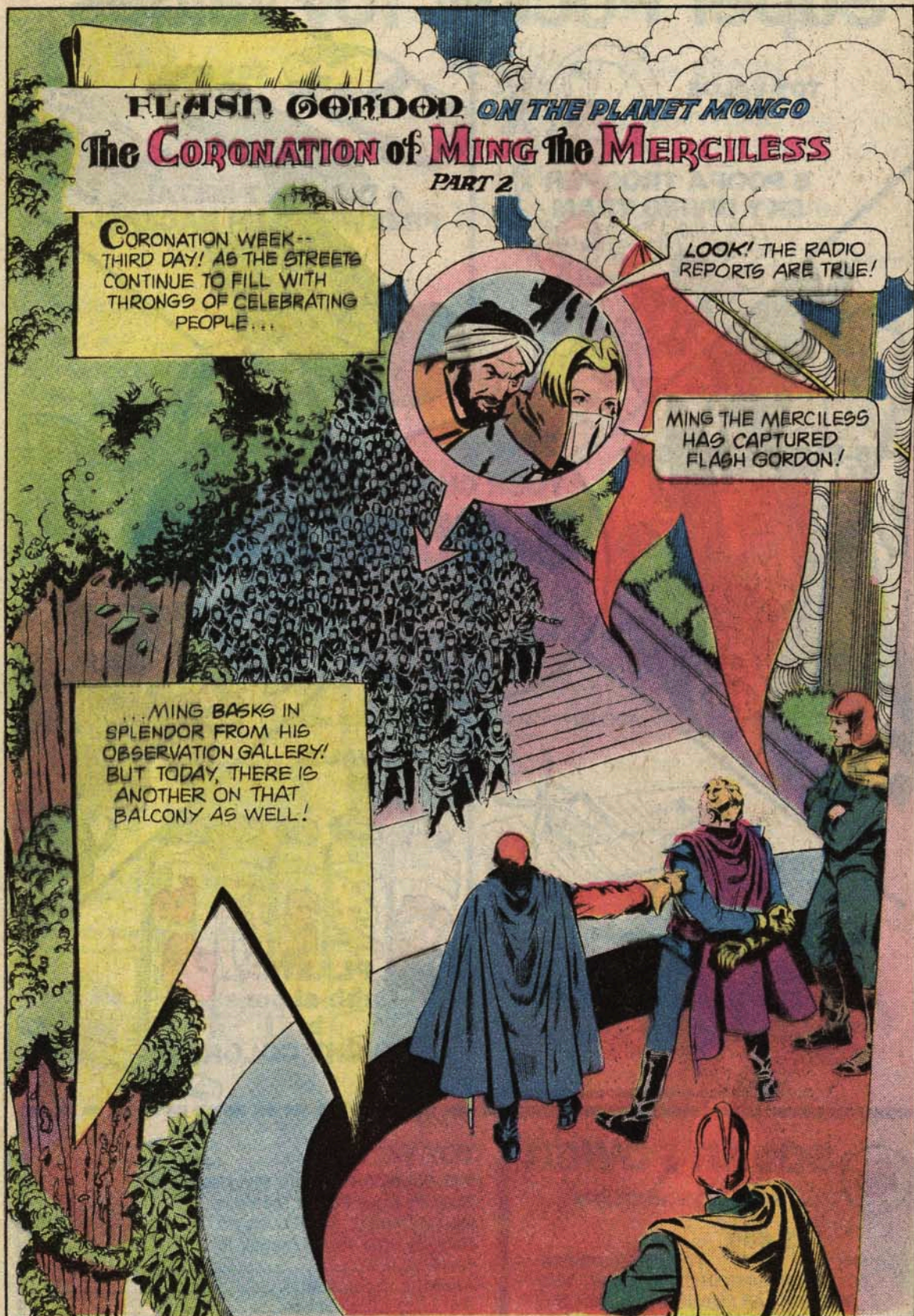
PART 2


CORONATION WEEK--
THIRD DAY! AS THE STREETS
CONTINUE TO FILL WITH
THROGS OF CELEBRATING
PEOPLE...

LOOK! THE RADIO
REPORTS ARE TRUE!

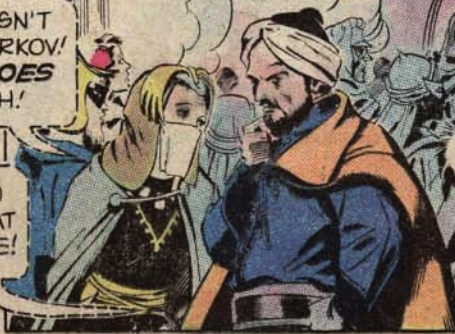
MING THE MERCILESS
HAS CAPTURED
FLASH GORDON!

...MING BASKS IN
SPLENDOR FROM HIS
OBSERVATION GALLERY!
BUT TODAY, THERE IS
ANOTHER ON THAT
BALCONY AS WELL!






TWO PEOPLE IN THE GATHERED CROWD ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED...




THEN MING ISN'T BLUFFING, ZARKOV! HE REALLY *DOES* HAVE FLASH!

WE HAVE TO GET INTO THAT PALACE, DALE!




I DON'T LIKE IT--GETTING IN HAS BEEN TOO EASY! IT'S AS IF MING WERE SETTING A TRAP!

WHY SHOULD HE BOTHER? HE HAS ALREADY CAPTURED FLASH!



MAYBE WE SHOULD SNEAK OVER TO THE PAVILIONS AND SEE IF WE CAN MAKE CONTACT WITH RONAL AND FRIA!



NO! SEE ALL THOSE IMPERIAL TROOPS THAT JUST "HAPPEN" TO BE WANDERING AROUND?

THAT IS THE ONE THING MING EXPECTS US TO DO! LET'S STICK TO OUR PLAN!



WHAT HE WON'T EXPECT IS FOR US TO COME TO HIM--I HOPE!

WELL, HERE COME THE GUARDS!



AND HERE GO A COUPLE OF IMPERIAL GUARDS!

MMPH...



I'M GLAD TO SAY MING'S SECURITY ISN'T ALL IT SHOULD BE!

I GUESS THE GUARD IS GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE CELEBRATION!



SHORTLY...

FLASH! WE FOUND HIM!

DON'T WORRY, FLASH! WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE GUARDS DISCOVER US!



HA HA HA! FOOLS! DID YOU THINK IT WOULD BE THIS EASY?

COME! MING IS WAITING!

AND, SOMEWHERE
BELOW MINGO CITY...

SO WE ARE THE NEW FREE-
MEN, I SUPPOSE! WE LIVE
DOWN IN THESE CAVES AND
HAVE CREATED
NEW ONES!

ARE YOU ALL
FROM MINGO CITY?



MOSTLY! A
FEW OF US
ARE DESERT
TRIBESMEN!
GOOD MEN,
BUT THEIR
STAKE IS
"ADVENTURE!"



THE DESERT TRIBES
LIKE US--OUR CAVES
COME OUT IN THEIR
TERRITORY! BUT...

...THEY WON'T
INVOLVE THEMSELVES
IN POLITICS!



WELL, I'VE GOT TO GO BACK AND
PUT AN END TO THIS RUMOR THAT
MING--

KORLO--

KORLO, WE JUST PICKED UP A
MESSAGE! MING HAS CAPTURED
ZARKOV AND DALE! HE DEMANDS
FLASH'S SURRENDER!

THIS TIME MING
ISN'T BLUFFING!





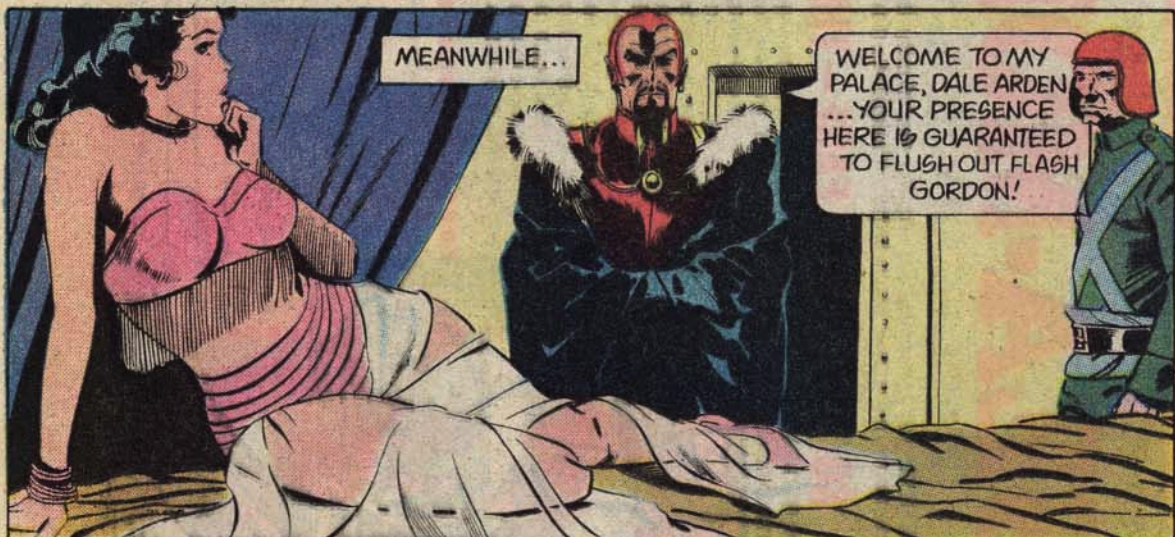
THAT BLASTED LITTLE PIG EMPEROR!
BY TAO, THIS TIME HE'S GONE TOO FAR!

FLASH--WAIT!
YOU CAN'T GO
CHARGING IN
BLINDLY!



OH, NO! JUST
WATCH ME!

LISTEN! YOU'LL JUST BE CAPTURED--OR
WORSE! DON'T YOU SEE, WE NEED A PLAN!



MEANWHILE...

WELCOME TO MY
PALACE, DALE ARDEN
...YOUR PRESENCE
HERE IS GUARANTEED
TO FLUSH OUT FLASH
GORDON!



WITH YOU MY PRISONER, IT WILL
ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME!

YOU'LL FLUSH
HIM OUT, ALL
RIGHT-- HE'LL
BRING THIS
PALACE DOWN
AROUND YOUR
HEAD!



CHARMING! YOU
STILL HAVE
SPIRIT! BY THE
WAY, YOU
NEEDN'T WORRY...

...YOU WILL
LIVE--AS MY
EMPRESS!
ONLY ZARKOV
WILL BE
EXECUTED
TOMORROW!

SHORTLY IN THE
LOWER CELL
CHAMBER...

HA HA! I HEARD ABOUT HIM! HE'S
SUPPOSED TO BE SOME SORT OF BIG BRAIN!

ATTEN-HUT! HIS
IMPERIAL MAJESTY!



ALL THE
WHILE, FLASH
AND KORLO
ARE HARD
AT WORK...

IT'S NO GOOD! YOUR
IDEAS ARE SOUND, BUT
WE ALWAYS END UP
WITH TOO MANY
CASUALTIES!



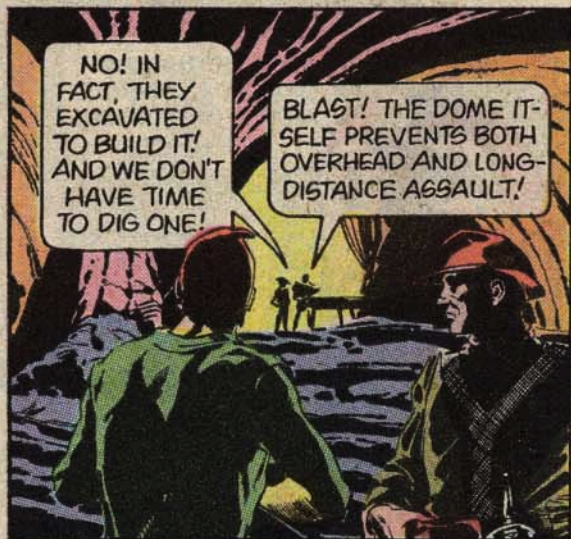
I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER WAY! WE
HAVE TO SET DALE AND ZARKOV FREE!

AREN'T THERE
ANY TUNNELS THAT GO
TO THE PUBLIC DOME?



NO! IN
FACT, THEY
EXCAVATED
TO BUILD IT!
AND WE DON'T
HAVE TIME
TO DIG ONE!

BLAST! THE DOME IT-
SELF PREVENTS BOTH
OVERHEAD AND LONG-
DISTANCE ASSAULT!



IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY WAY
YOU CAN GET TO THEM IS SURRENDER!

WAIT A MINUTE...



...THAT'S IT! KORLO, HOW MANY
MEN AND GUNS CAN YOU RAISE?

OH, THREE DOZEN MEN, MAYBE!
GUNS, DEFINITELY! WHAT--?

I HAVE
A PLAN!



CORONATION WEEK--FOURTH DAY! THIS IS THE MAIN EVENT! IN THIS CEREMONY, ADAPTED FROM OLD MONGO TRADITION, MINGO HAS REASSERTED HIS DESPOTIC AUTHORITY AS "SERPENT OF THE SUN, VIPER OF THE MOON"...

CROWDS GATHER AS THEY HAVE ALL WEEK! BUT, UNLIKE BEFORE, THEY ARE QUIET, ALMOST CEREMONIOUS! SOME OUT OF AWE, SOME OUT OF RESPECT-- MANY OUT OF FEAR...

AND NOW THAT MY
RULERSHIP HAS
BEEN PROPERLY
CONSECrated...

...LET THE EXECUTION
OF ZARKOV, ENEMY OF
THE STATE, COMMENCE!







DALE, JOIN KORLO! YOU!
GET ZARKOV FREE, AND
MAKE IT SNAPPY!

KORLO, TAKE THEM AND
GET YOUR PEOPLE OUT
OF HERE!



WHAT?!
WE CAN'T
LEAVE YOU
HERE
ALONE!

KORLO, I SAID
THERE WOULDN'T
BE ANY
CASUALTIES
AMONG YOUR
PEOPLE! I MEAN
IT-- GO!



YOU'RE A FOOL,
GORDON! A
DEAD FOOL!

YES, I AM-- FOR NOT KILLING
YOU! BUT SOMEHOW I CAN'T
GET MYSELF TO DO IT...



...BUT I
OWE YOU *THIS*--
AT LEAST!

POW!



EVERYONE'S TOO CONFUSED
TO DO MUCH! AND THE
GUARDS ARE HESITANT
ABOUT FIRING
INTO THE
CROWD!

STOP
HIM!

SHORTLY, UNDERGROUND...



WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?

OH, YOU KNOW! MING AND I HAD A LOT OF GREAT OLD TIMES TO TALK ABOUT!



IN FACT, WE HAD SUCH A GOOD TIME HE SENT SOME OF HIS BOYS TO FETCH ME BACK!

TOO BAD I HAVE TO DISAPPOINT THEM, BUT I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SHOW YOU SOME OF OUR EXPLOSIVES!



LOOK OUT!

KA-BOOOOM!



NOT BAD--BUT I THINK WE'D BETTER CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

DON'T WORRY! WE SENT WORD TO THE DESERT TRIBES LAST NIGHT!



LET'S HOPE THEY GOT WORD TO KING BARIN! HE SHOULD BE WAITING!

HE WILL--IF THE DESERT TRIBES DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE TOO "POLITICAL"!

BUT MUCH LATER...

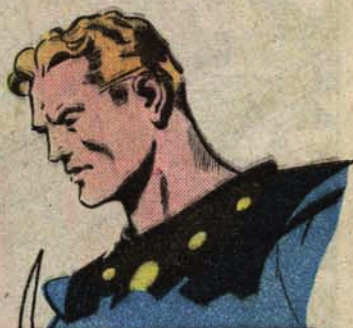
WE ARE HONORED TO AID THE GREAT HERO, FLASH GORDON!

THANK HEAVEN, IT'S OVER!



WELL, NOW WE CAN GET BACK TO ALANIA! WE--

NO, BARIN! I APPRECIATE ALL YOU'VE DONE, BUT WE HAVE WORK TO DO!



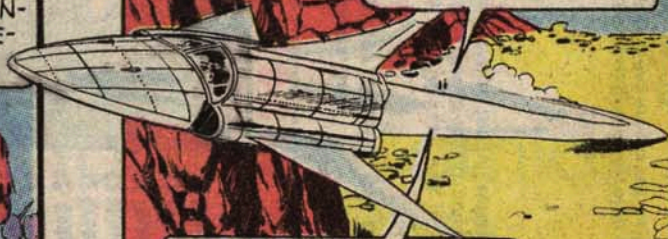
I MADE IMPORTANT CONTACT WITH HEADS OF CERTAIN KINGDOMS! WE'VE GOT TO MAINTAIN THAT CONTACT, TO RALLY SUPPORT!

I UNDERSTAND! PLEASE, TAKE ONE OF MY ROCKETS TO CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY!

THANK YOU, BARIN... AND KORLO! WITHOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU, THE FIGHT WOULD INDEED BE HOPELESS!



I PRAY THE GREAT TAO WATCHES OVER THEM! MING'S ANGER WILL BE BOUNDLESS!



AND SO IS THEIR COURAGE! I'LL WAGER THE ODDS ARE STACKED IN **THEIR** FAVOR!