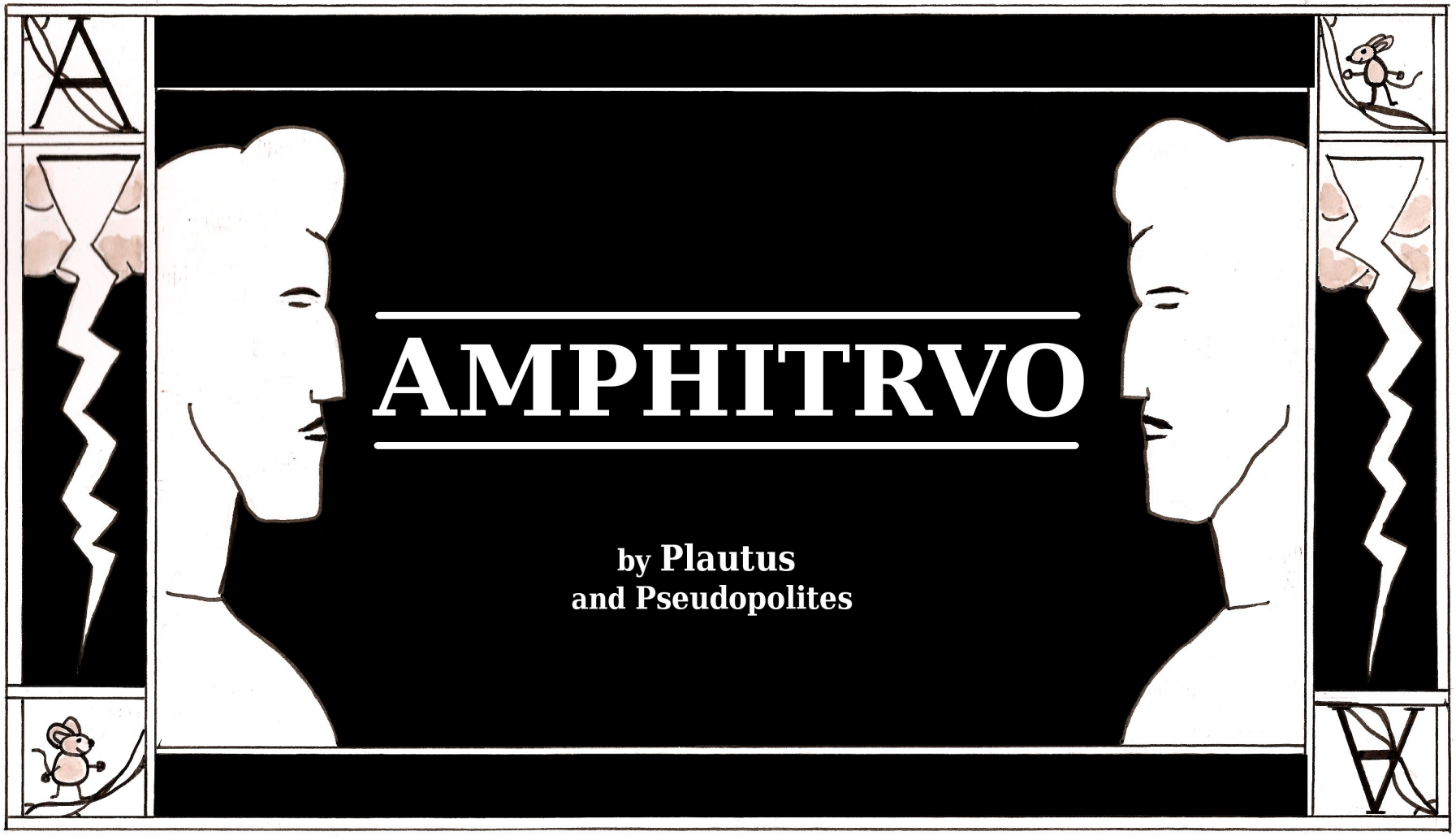
AMPHITRVO
by Plautus
and Pseudopolites

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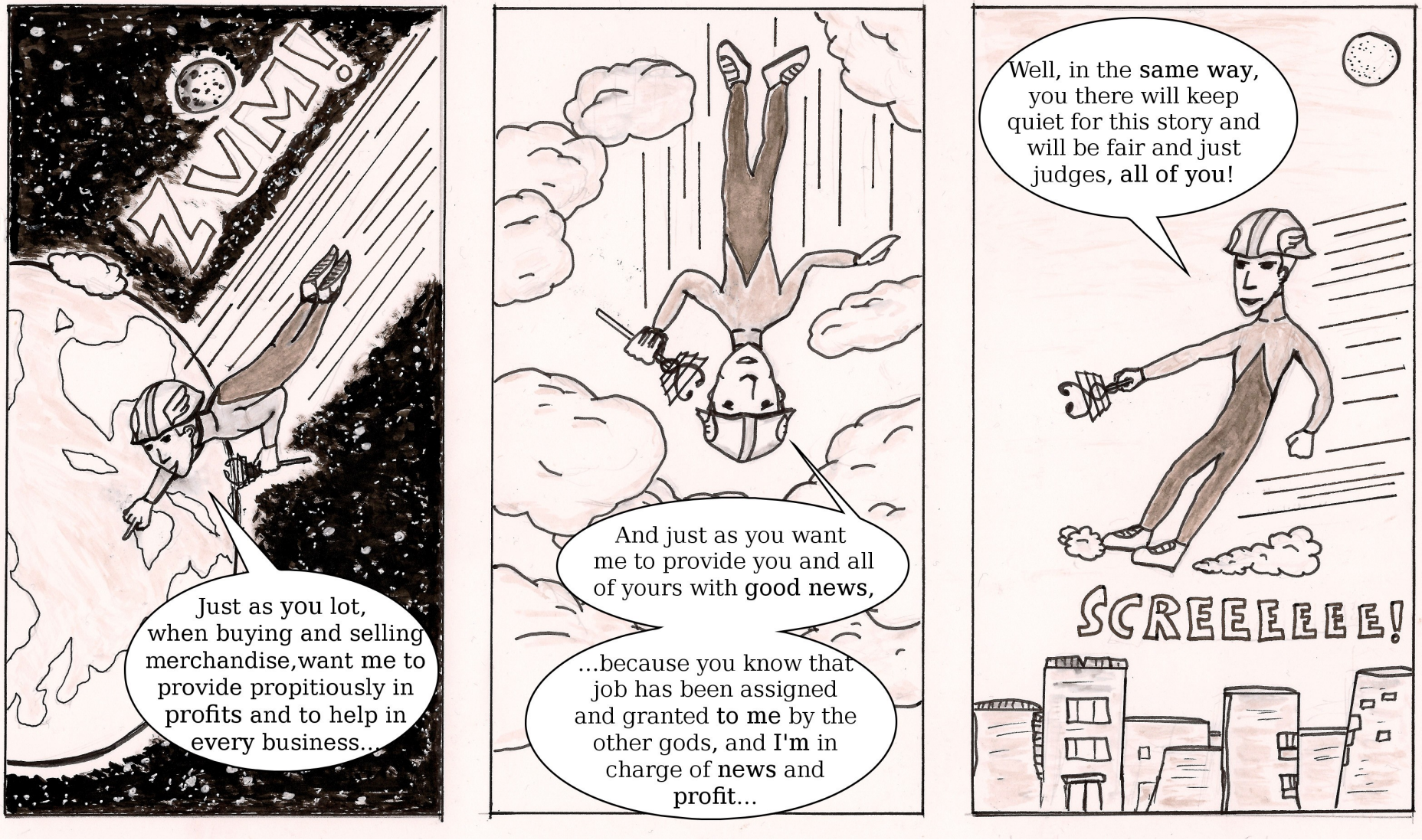
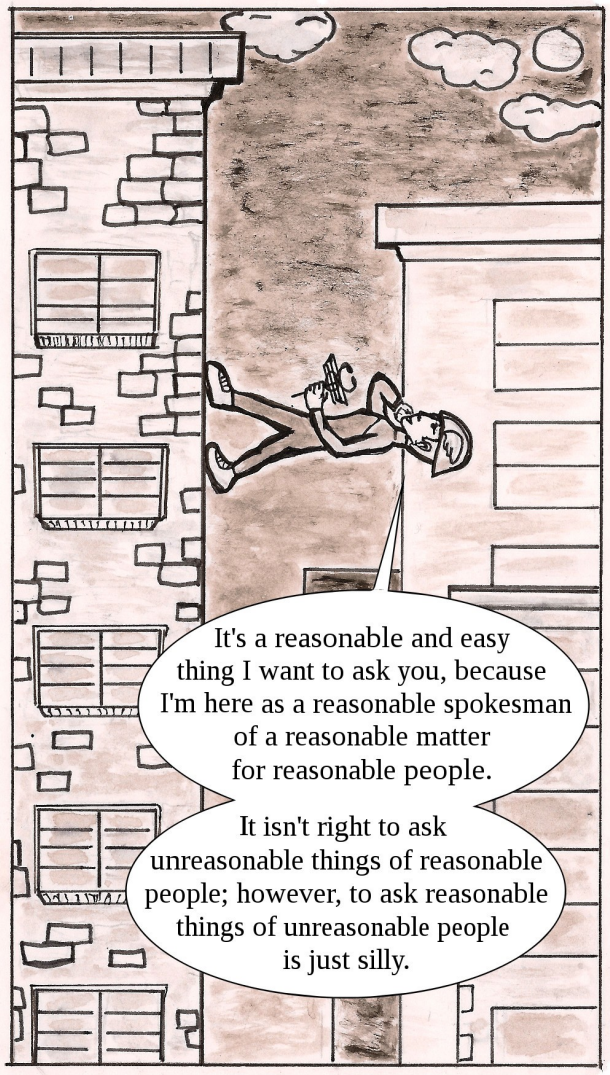
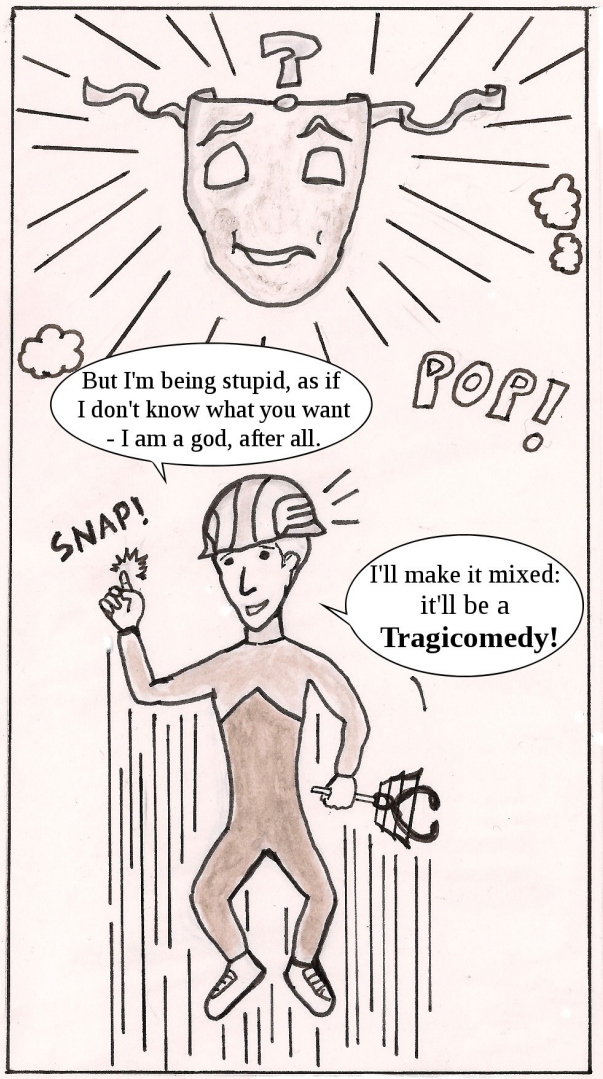
pseudopolites@subsidingsun.co.uk

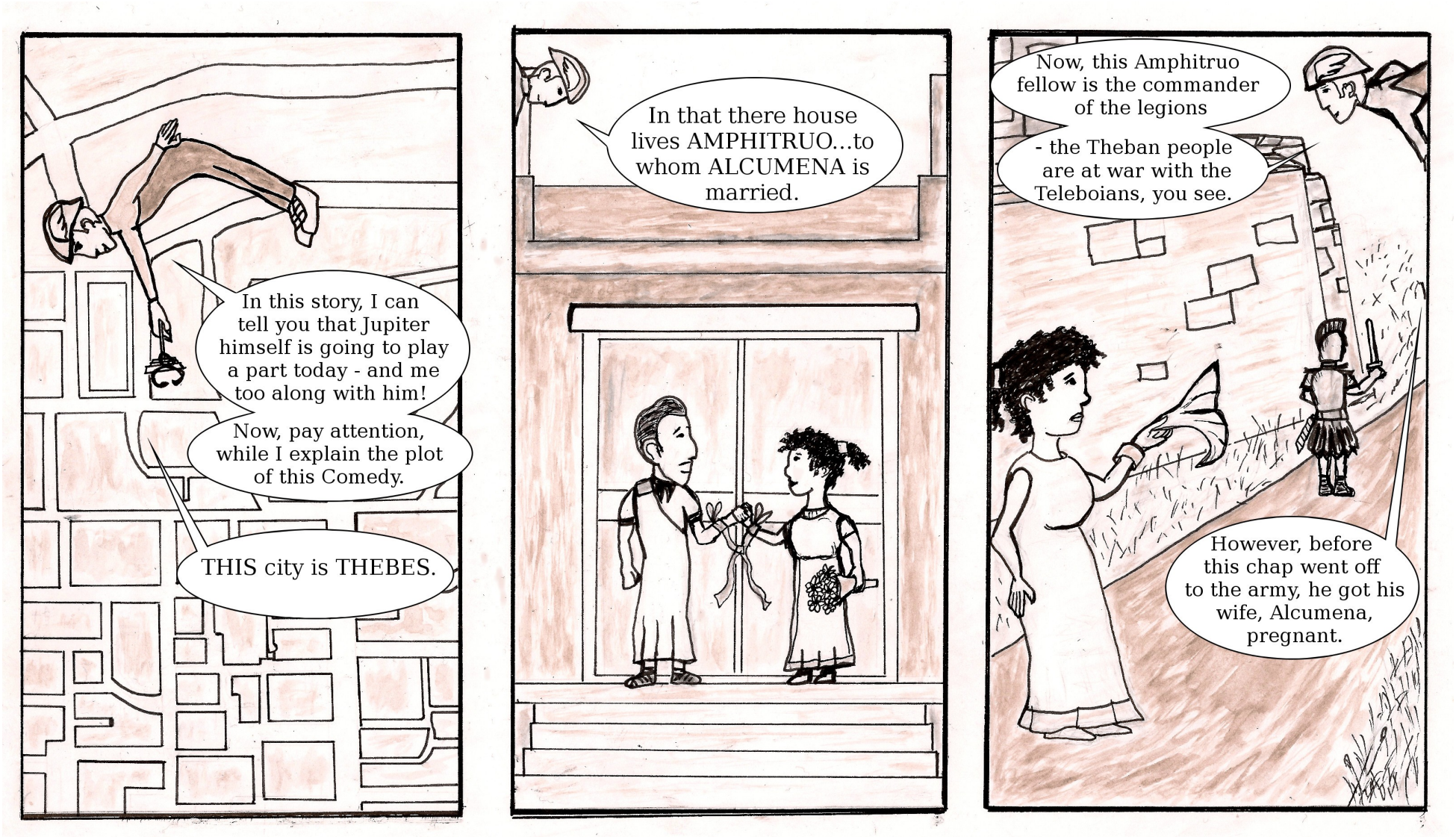

ZUM!
Just as you lot, when buying and selling merchandise,want me to provide propitiously in profits and to help in every business...
And just as you want me to provide you and all of yours with good news,
...because you know that job has been assigned and granted to me by the other gods, and I'm in charge of news and profit...
Well, in the same way, you there will keep quiet for this story and will be fair and just judges, all of you!
SCREEEEEEE!

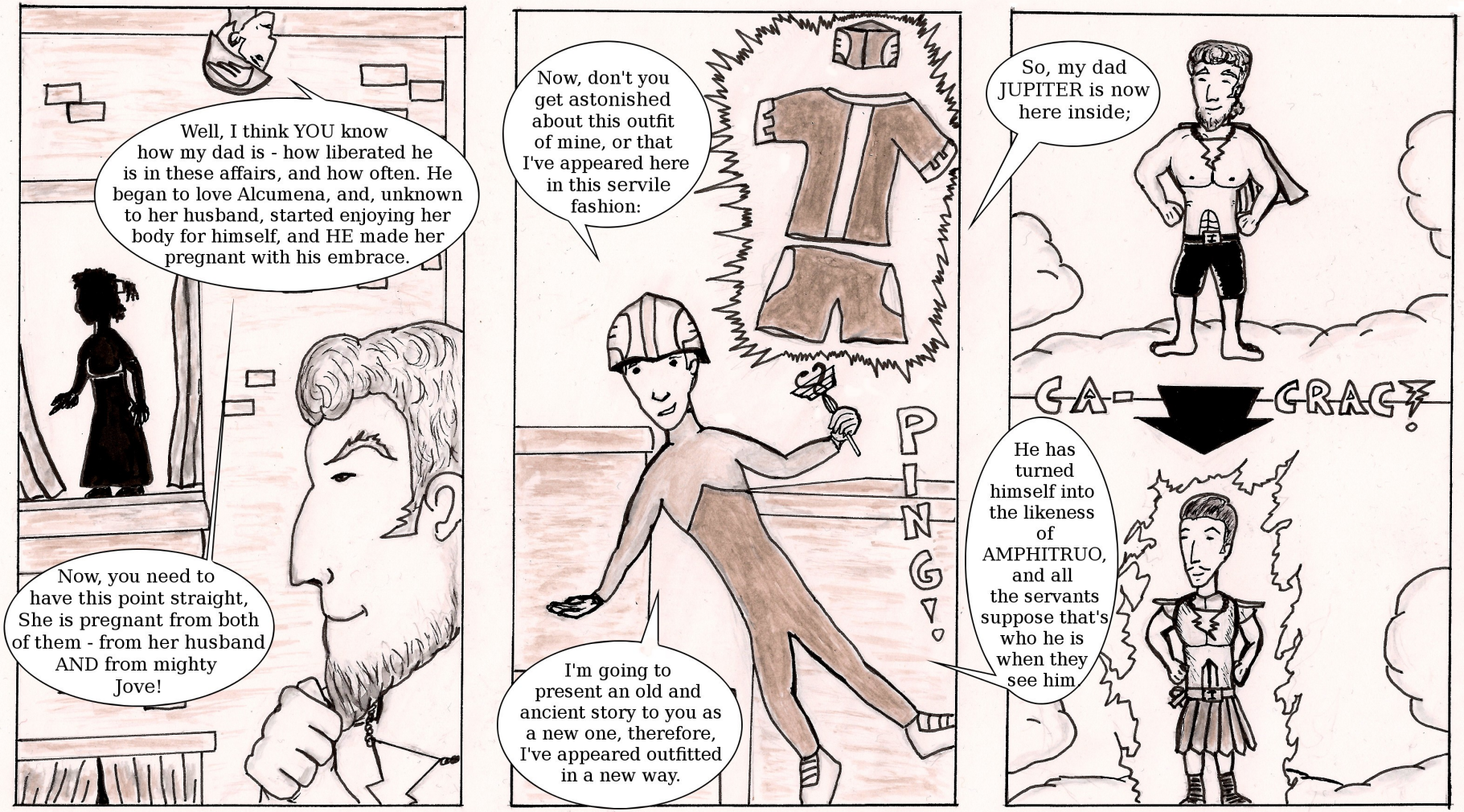

Now I'll tell you by whose order I have come and for what reason, and at the same time, I'll tell you my name.
I have come by the order of Jupiter,
TA DAH!
and my name is Mercury!
My father sent me here to entreat you. In fact, he ordered me to ask you with an appeal, gently, and with fine words.


It's a reasonable and easy thing I want to ask you, because I'm here as a reasonable spokesman of a reasonable matter for reasonable people.
It isn't right to ask unreasonable things of reasonable people; however, to ask reasonable things of unreasonable people is just silly.


PIF!
PAF!
Now then, first I'll talk about what I've come here to ask, then I'll explain the plot of this Tragedy.
What? Did you frown because I said this will be a Tragedy? I'm a god, I'll change the whole lot! If you want, I'll make a Comedy out of a Tragedy, so that all the lines will be the same!

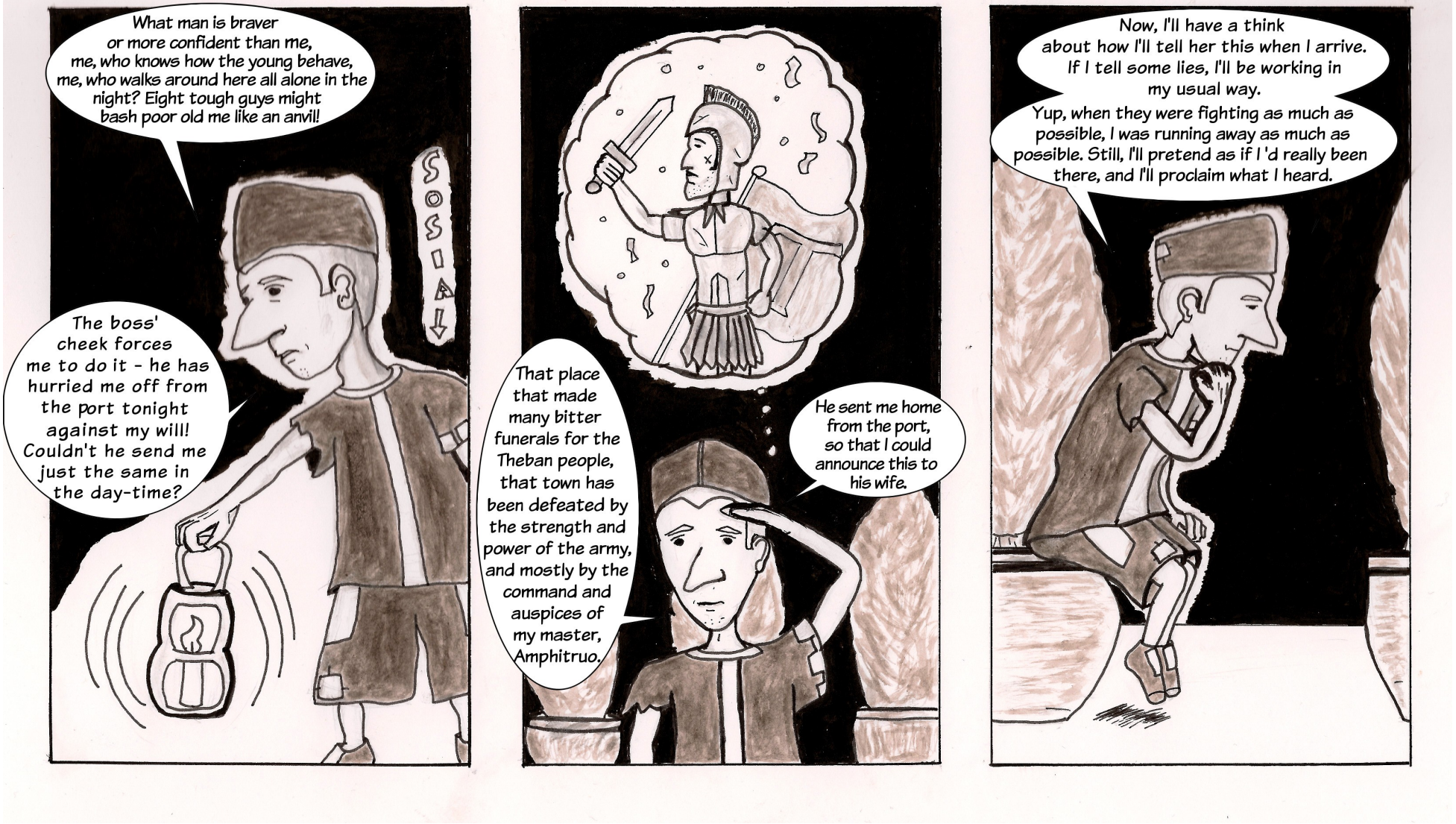

POP!
But I'm being stupid, as if I don't know what you want - I am a god, after all.
SNAP!
I'll make it mixed: it'll be a **Tragicomedy!**


In this story, I can tell you that Jupiter himself is going to play a part today - and me too along with him!
Now, pay attention, while I explain the plot of this Comedy.
THIS city is THEBES.
In that there house lives AMPHITRUO...to whom ALCUMENA is married.
Now, this Amphitruo fellow is the commander of the legions
- the Theban people are at war with the Teleboians, you see.
However, before this chap went off to the army, he got his wife, Alcumena, pregnant.

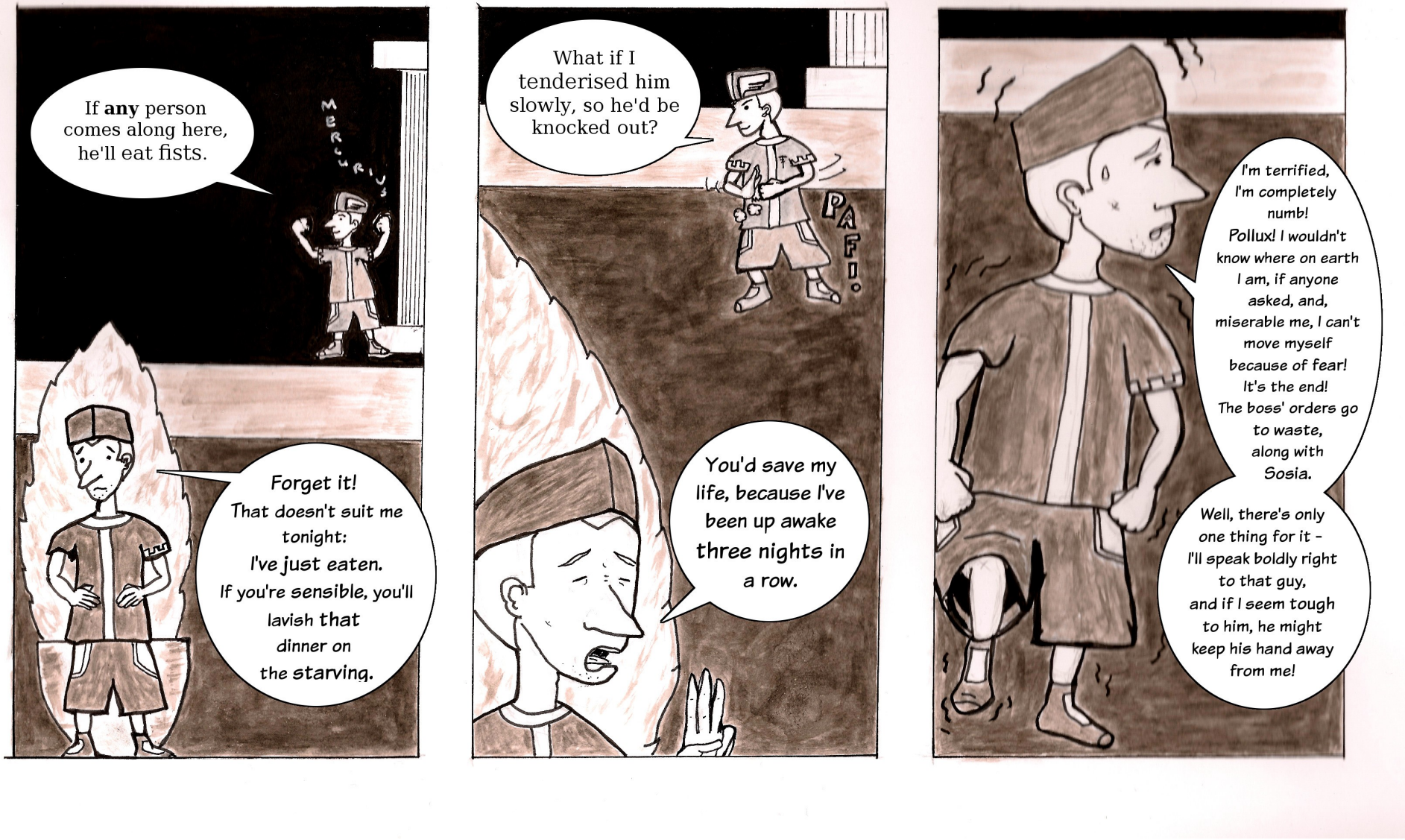

Well, I think YOU know how my dad is - how liberated he is in these affairs, and how often. He began to love Alcumena, and, unknown to her husband, started enjoying her body for himself, and HE made her pregnant with his embrace.
Now, you need to have this point straight, She is pregnant from both of them - from her husband AND from mighty Jove!
Now, don't you get astonished about this outfit of mine, or that I've appeared here in this servile fashion:
PING!
I'm going to present an old and ancient story to you as a new one, therefore, I've appeared outfitted in a new way.
So, my dad JUPITER is now here inside;
GA-
GRAC!
He has turned himself into the likeness of AMPHITRUO, and all the servants suppose that's who he is when they see him.

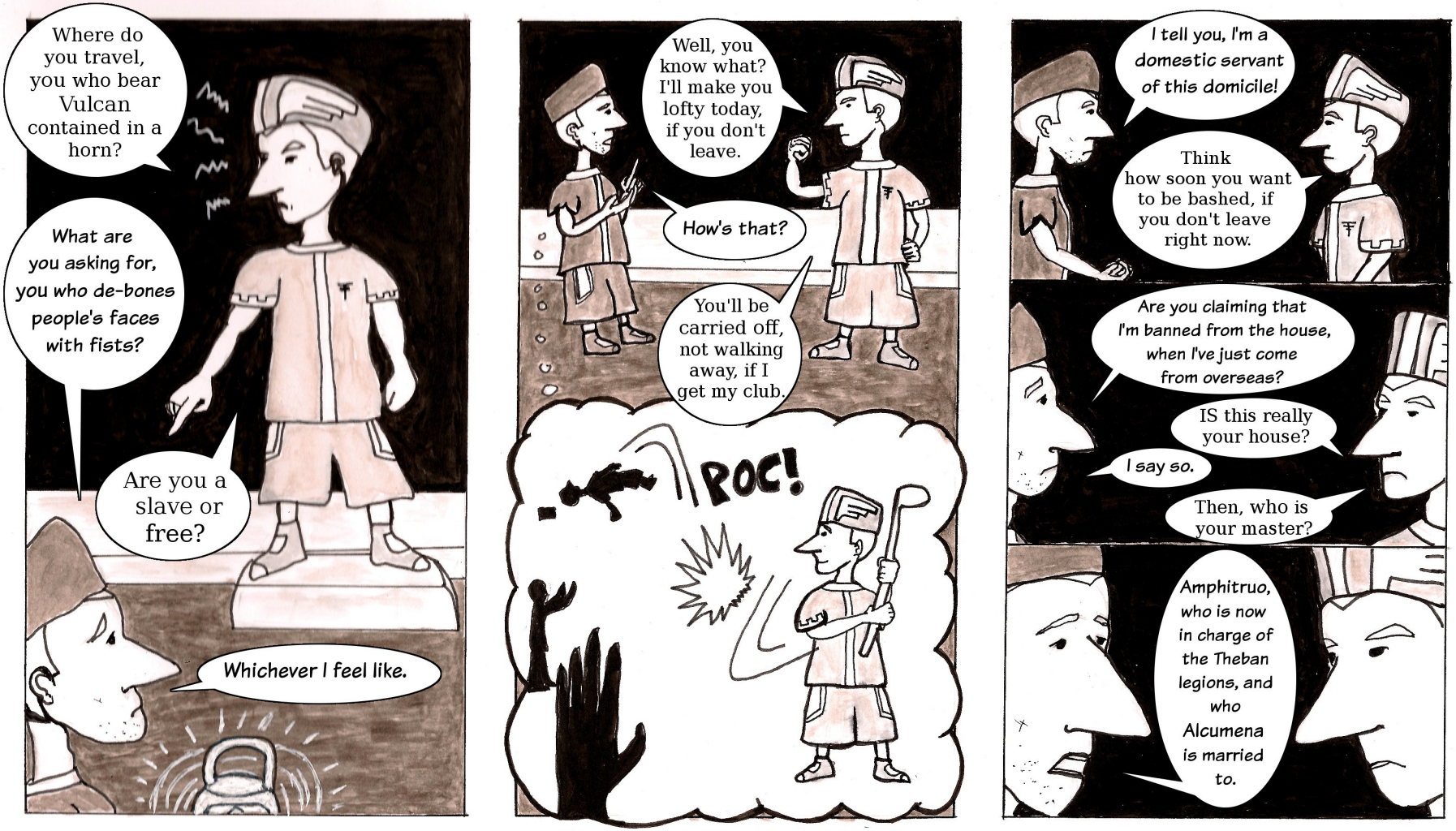

As for me, I've taken on the likeness of SOSIA - the servant who went off with Amphitruo to the army - so I can serve my father while he's doing his loving, and so the house-servants don't ask who I am when they see me all the time going about at home.
SOSIA!
Dad is inside now, gratifying his passion: He lies hugging the one he desires most. My dad is telling Alcumena what happened with the troops; she thinks he's her husband, when she's actually with an adulterer.
Now, Amphitruo will arrive today from the army, as well as the servant, whose appearance I have here.
But there's Sosia, Amphitruo's servant! He's coming now from the port with a lantern. I'll just drive him away from the house when he arrives. Pay attention: it'll be worth your while to see Jupiter and Mercury doing a bit of acting!


It's a sure thing, by Pollux - if there's anything I believe or know for sure - I believe that this night the God of Night has fallen asleep drunk, because the Northern Stars aren't moving themselves anywhere in the sky, and the Moon doesn't shift herself anywhere and is just as she first appeared.
Neither does Orion's belt, or the Evening Star, or the Pleiades set. They just stand firm there like signs, and the night doesn't retire for the day!
I don't think that I've seen a longer night than this, unless it was that similar one when I had been thrashed and I was left to hang the whole time. By Pollux! This night beats even that one in length!
I honestly believe, by Pollux, that the Sun is sleeping, and is properly sloshed. It'd be a wonder if he didn't give himself a whole lot of toasts to drink!

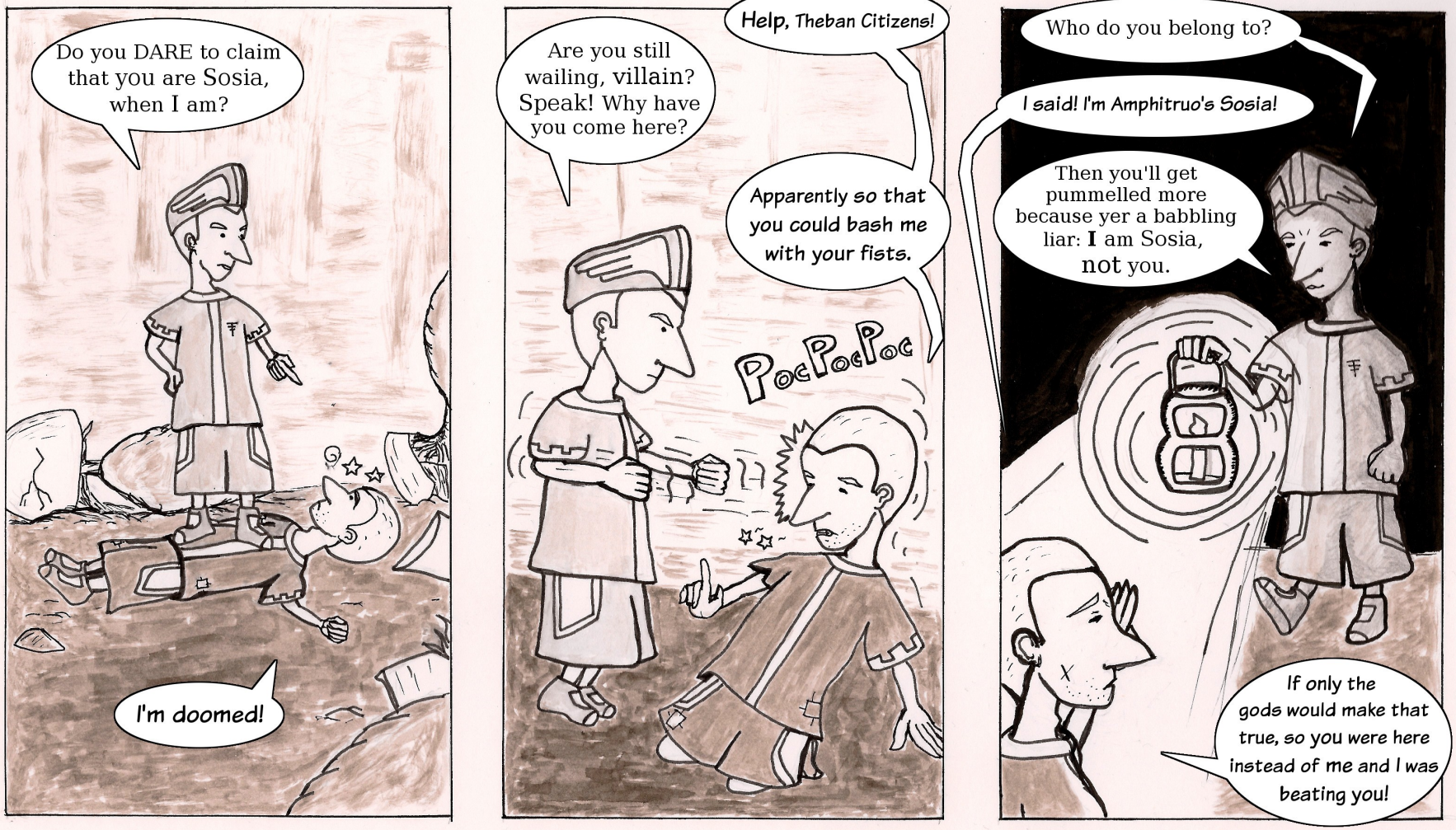

What man is braver or more confident than me, me, who knows how the young behave, me, who walks around here all alone in the night? Eight tough guys might bash poor old me like an anvil!
SOSIA
The boss' cheek forces me to do it - he has hurried me off from the port tonight against my will! Couldn't he send me just the same in the day-time?
That place that made many bitter funerals for the Theban people, that town has been defeated by the strength and power of the army, and mostly by the command and auspices of my master, Amphitruo.
He sent me home from the port, so that I could announce this to his wife.
Now, I'll have a think about how I'll tell her this when I arrive. If I tell some lies, I'll be working in my usual way.
Yup, when they were fighting as much as possible, I was running away as much as possible. Still, I'll pretend as if I 'd really been there, and I'll proclaim what I heard.

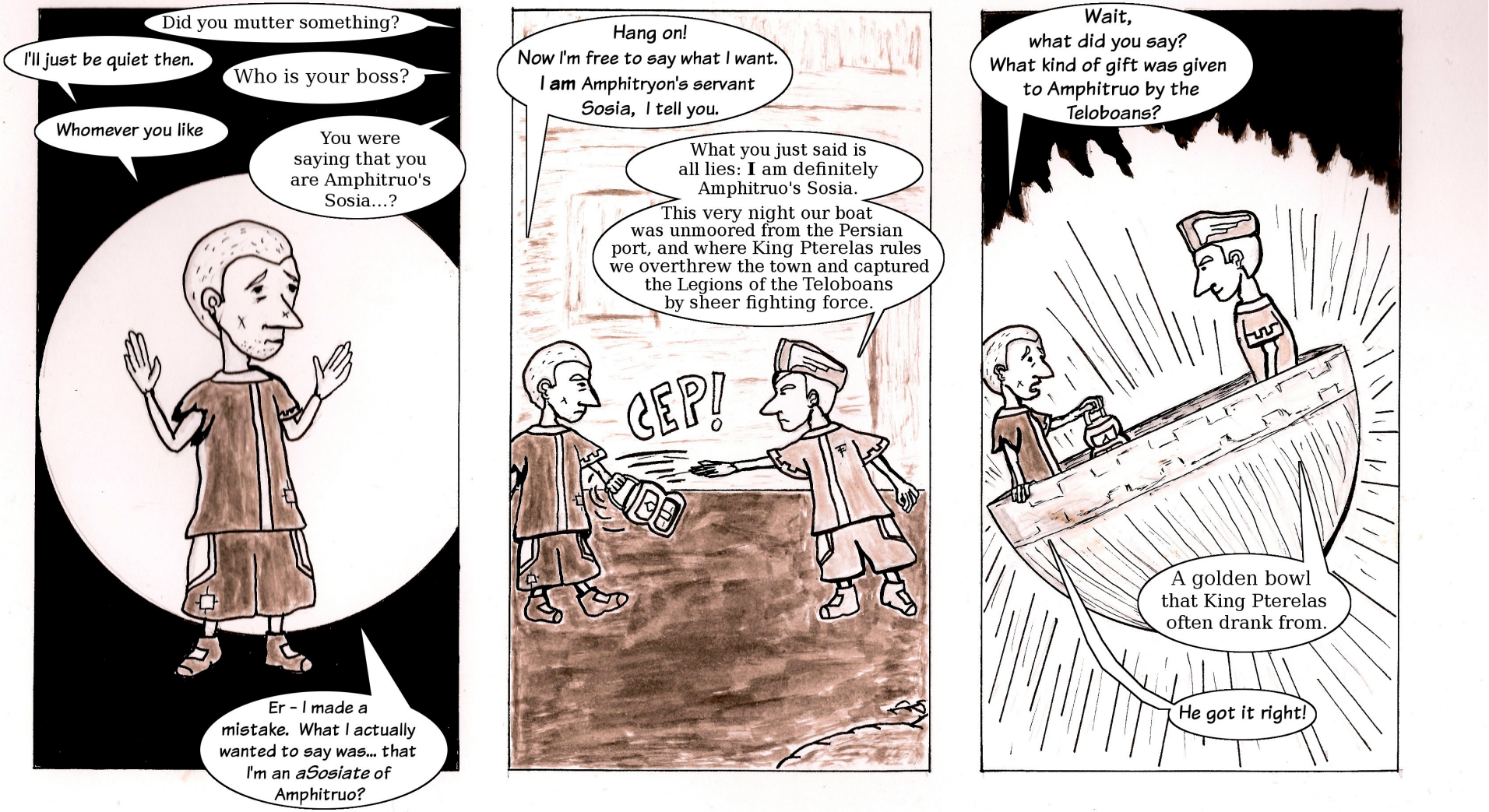

I'll go announce to Alcumena what the boss ordered. But hang on, who is that man I see in front of the house at this time of night? I don't like it.
?
I'm doomed! My teeth are tingling. For sure, when I arrive that fellow is going to welcome me with a hospitable punch. I'm totally dead! Oh for Hercules' sake, how huge and strong he is!
SOSIA
I'll chat at him loudly, so he can hear what I say; he'll soon be getting much more afraid.
Come on, fists, it's a while since you've provided food for my belly! It already seems long ago since yesterday, when you laid out four men into a stupor, stripped bare.
MERCURIUS

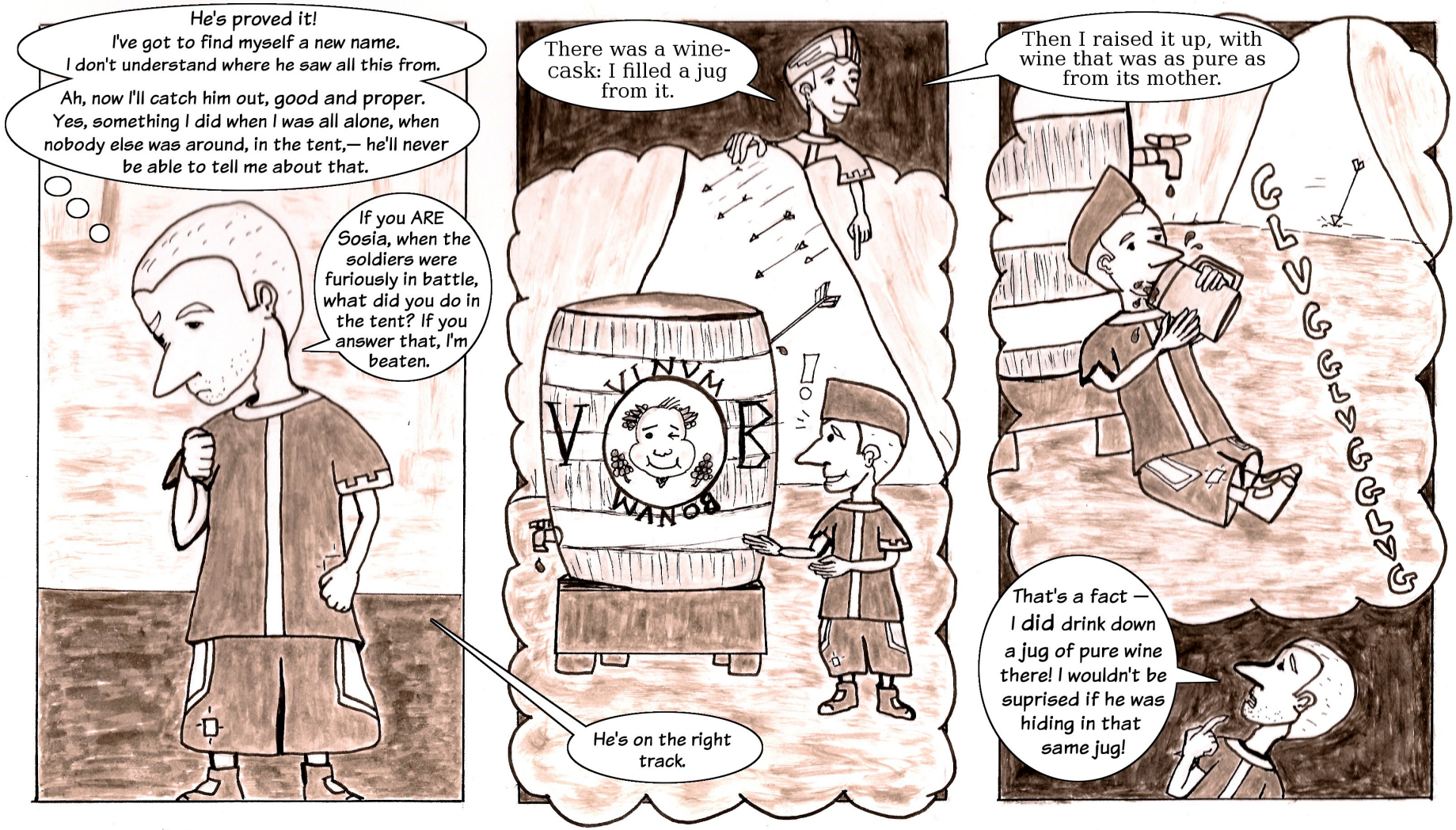

If **any** person comes along here, he'll eat fists.
MERCURIUS
Forget it! That doesn't suit me tonight: I've just eaten. If you're sensible, you'll lavish that dinner on the starving.
What if I tenderised him slowly, so he'd be knocked out?
PAF!
You'd save my life, because I've been up awake three nights in a row.
I'm terrified, I'm completely numb! Pollux! I wouldn't know where on earth I am, if anyone asked, and, miserable me, I can't move myself because of fear! It's the end! The boss' orders go to waste, along with Sosia.
Well, there's only one thing for it - I'll speak boldly right to that guy, and if I seem tough to him, he might keep his hand away from me!

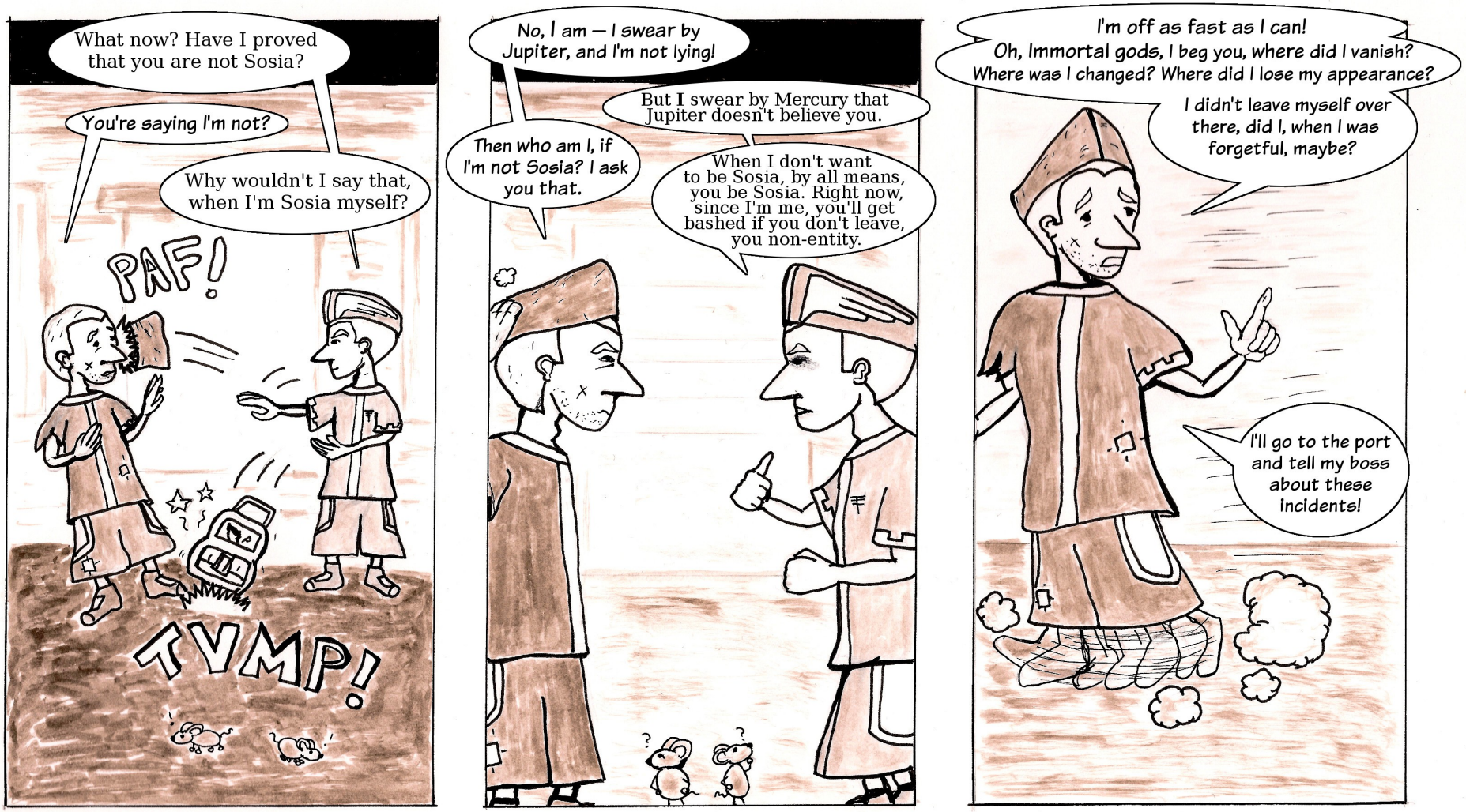

Where do you travel, you who bear Vulcan contained in a horn?
What are you asking for, you who de-bones people's faces with fists?
Are you a slave or free?
Whichever I feel like.
Well, you know what? I'll make you lofty today, if you don't leave.
How's that?
You'll be carried off, not walking away, if I get my club.
ROC!
I tell you, I'm a domestic servant of this domicile!
Think how soon you want to be bashed, if you don't leave right now.
Are you claiming that I'm banned from the house, when I've just come from overseas?
IS this really your house?
I say so.
Then, who is your master?
Amphitruo, who is now in charge of the Theban legions, and who Alcumena is married to.

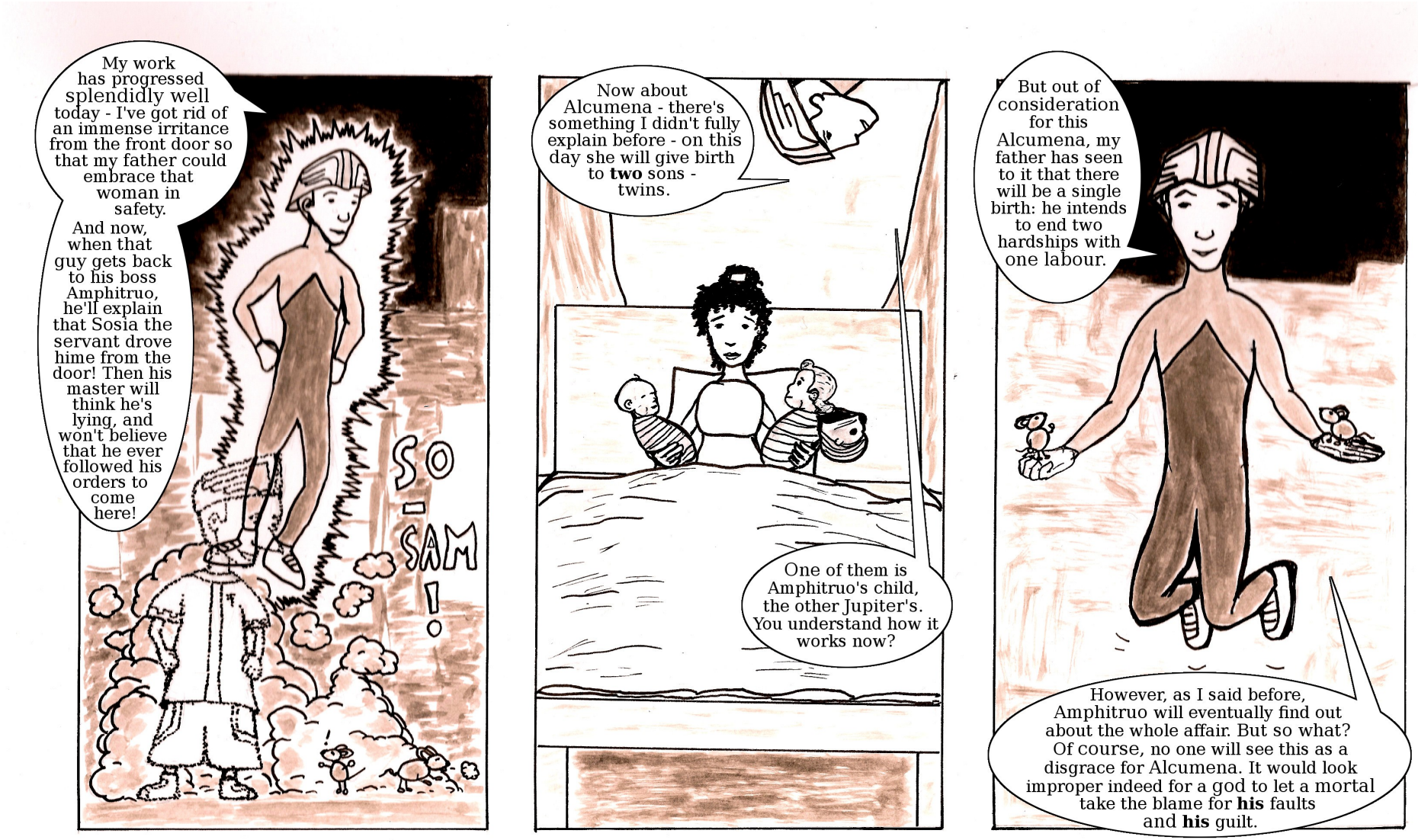

What are you saying? What's your name?
The Thebans call me Sosia, the child of Davus, my father.
You really came here for trouble today, with your lies arranged, your peak of arrogance, and your tricks all stiched-up.
Actually, I came with my shirt stitched-up, not my tricks.
Ah, you're lying: you definitely came with your feet, not with your shirt.
Yes, indeed.
Now, indeed, get bashed for your lies.
No, by Pollux, I don't want to, indeed.
But, Pollux, indeed, unwillingly. This 'indeed' is certain, not optional.
BAM!
BOP!

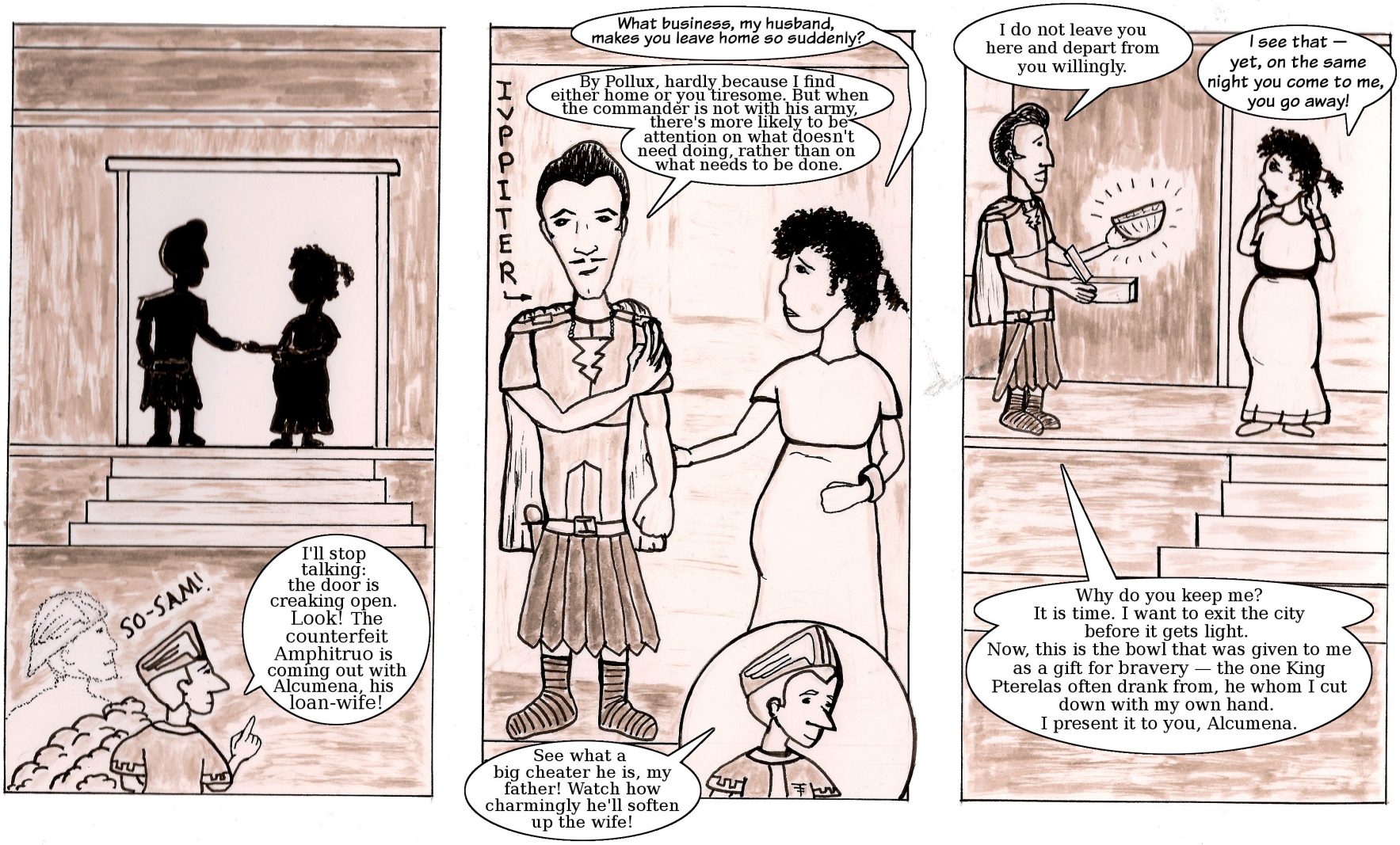

Do you DARE to claim that you are Sosia, when I am?
I'm doomed!
Are you still wailing, villain? Speak! Why have you come here?
Help, Theban Citizens!
Apparently so that you could bash me with your fists.
PocPocPoc
Who do you belong to?
I said! I'm Amphitruo's Sosia!
Then you'll get pummelled more because yer a babbling liar: I am Sosia, not you.
If only the gods would make that true, so you were here instead of me and I was beating you!


Did you mutter something?
I'll just be quiet then.
Who is your boss?
Whomever you like
You were saying that you are Amphitruo's Sosia...?
Er - I made a mistake. What I actually wanted to say was... that I'm an aSosiate of Amphitruo?
Hang on!
Now I'm free to say what I want.
I am Amphitryon's servant Sosia, I tell you.
What you just said is all lies: I am definitely Amphitruo's Sosia.
This very night our boat was unmoored from the Persian port, and where King Pterelas rules we overthrew the town and captured the Legions of the Teloboans by sheer fighting force.
CEP!
Wait, what did you say? What kind of gift was given to Amphitruo by the Teloboans?
A golden bowl that King Pterelas often drank from.
He got it right!

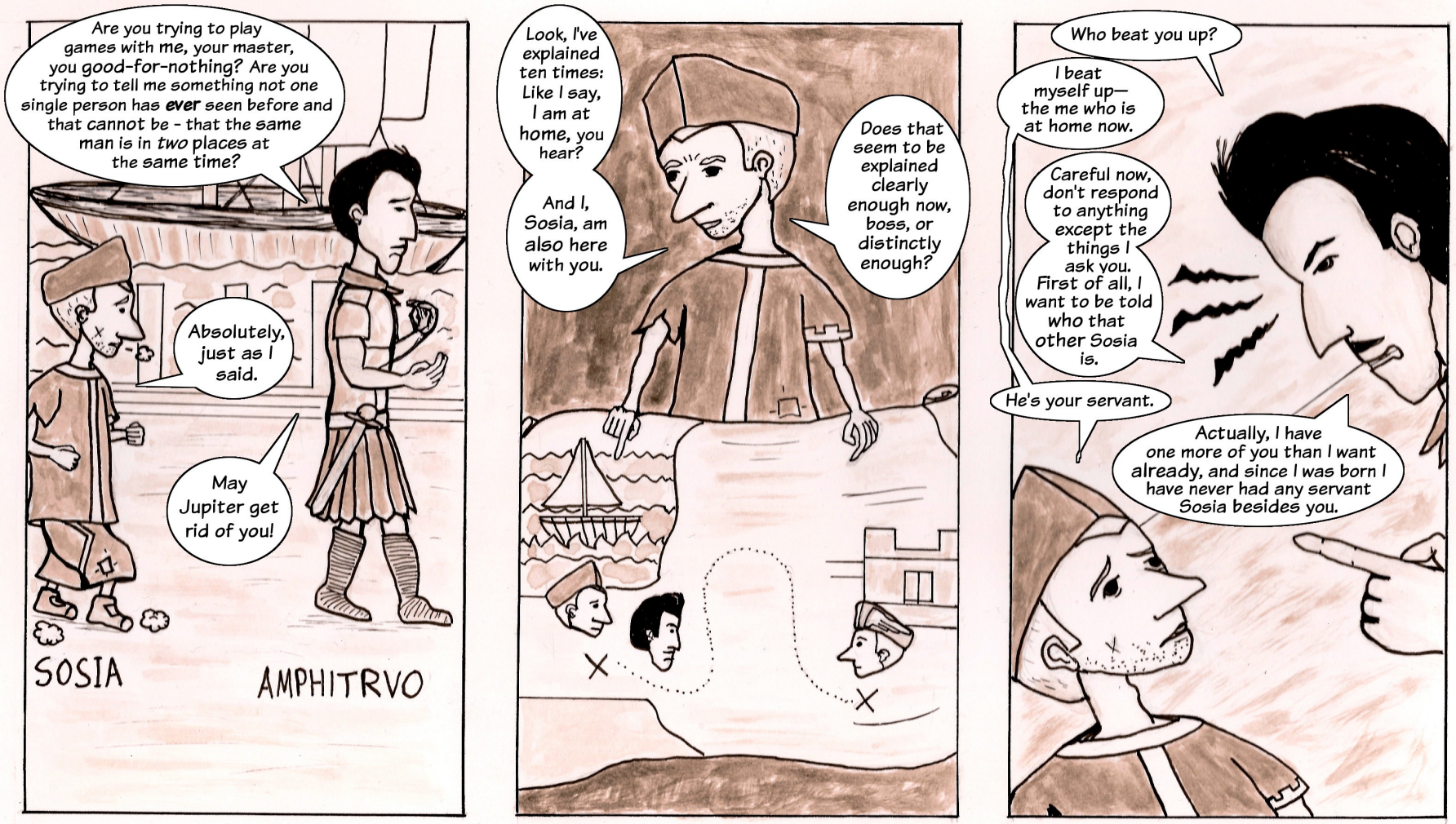

He's proved it!
I've got to find myself a new name.
I don't understand where he saw all this from.
Ah, now I'll catch him out, good and proper.
Yes, something I did when I was all alone, when nobody else was around, in the tent,— he'll never be able to tell me about that.
If you ARE Sosia, when the soldiers were furiously in battle, what did you do in the tent? If you answer that, I'm beaten.
There was a wine-cask: I filled a jug from it.
He's on the right track.
Then I raised it up, with wine that was as pure as from its mother.
That's a fact — I did drink down a jug of pure wine there! I wouldn't be suprised if he was hiding in that same jug!

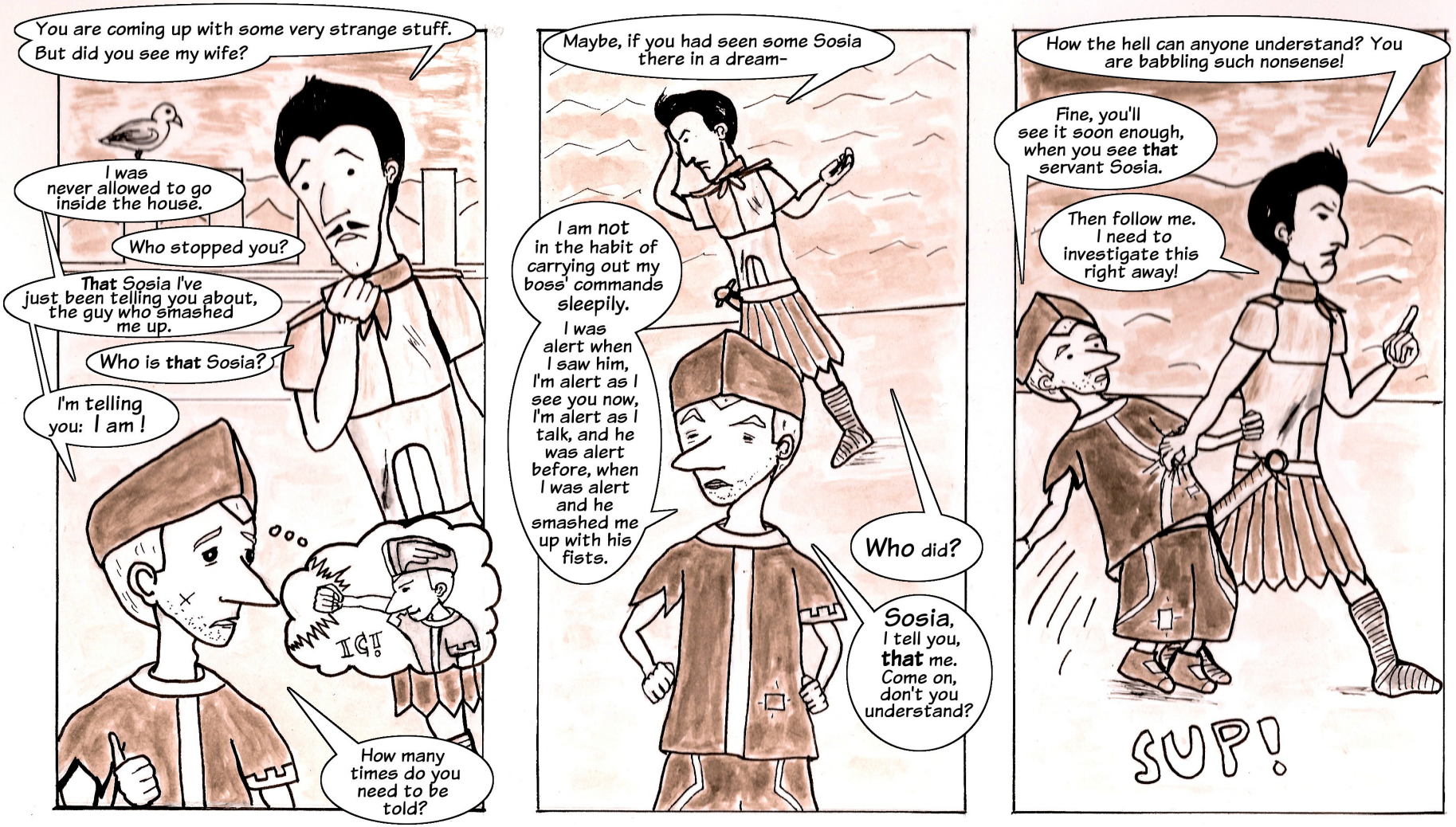

What now? Have I proved that you are not Sosia?
You're saying I'm not?
Why wouldn't I say that, when I'm Sosia myself?
PAF!
TVMP!
No, I am — I swear by Jupiter, and I'm not lying!
But I swear by Mercury that Jupiter doesn't believe you.
Then who am I, if I'm not Sosia? I ask you that.
When I don't want to be Sosia, by all means, you be Sosia. Right now, since I'm me, you'll get bashed if you don't leave, you non-entity.
I'm off as fast as I can!
Oh, Immortal gods, I beg you, where did I vanish? Where was I changed? Where did I lose my appearance?
I didn't leave myself over there, did I, when I was forgetful, maybe?
I'll go to the port and tell my boss about these incidents!


My work has progressed splendidly well today - I've got rid of an immense irritance from the front door so that my father could embrace that woman in safety.
And now, when that guy gets back to his boss Amphitruo, he'll explain that Sosia the servant drove hime from the door! Then his master will think he's lying, and won't believe that he ever followed his orders to come here!
SO-SAM!
Now about Alcumena - there's something I didn't fully explain before - on this day she will give birth to **two** sons - twins.
One of them is Amphitruo's child, the other Jupiter's. You understand how it works now?
But out of consideration for this Alcumena, my father has seen to it that there will be a single birth: he intends to end two hardships with one labour.
However, as I said before, Amphitruo will eventually find out about the whole affair. But so what? Of course, no one will see this as a disgrace for Alcumena. It would look improper indeed for a god to let a mortal take the blame for **his** faults and **his** guilt.


SO-SAM!
I'll stop talking: the door is creaking open. Look! The counterfeit Amphitruo is coming out with Alcumena, his loan-wife!
IVPPITER
What business, my husband, makes you leave home so suddenly?
By Pollux, hardly because I find either home or you tiresome. But when the commander is not with his army, there's more likely to be attention on what doesn't need doing, rather than on what needs to be done.
See what a big cheater he is, my father! Watch how charmingly he'll soften up the wife!
I do not leave you here and depart from you willingly.
I see that — yet, on the same night you come to me, you go away!
Why do you keep me? It is time. I want to exit the city before it gets light. Now, this is the bowl that was given to me as a gift for bravery — the one King Pterelas often drank from, he whom I cut down with my own hand. I present it to you, Alcumena.

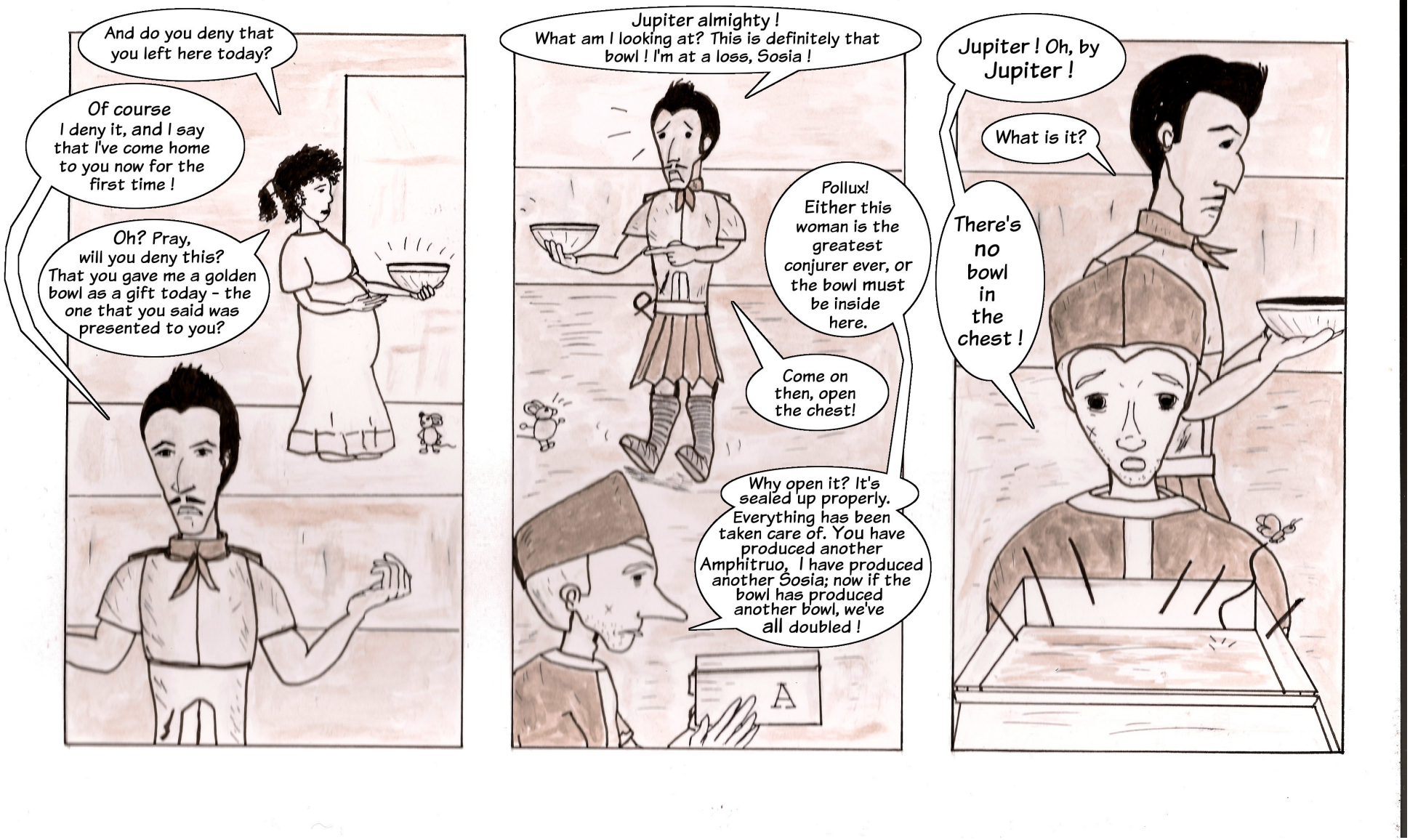

That's just as you always do! By Castor, the gift is very worthy, just like he who gave it.
To be precise: the gift is very worthy, just like the getter.
Are you still going on? Can't I get rid of you, reprobate?
I beg you, Amphitruo, please don't be angry with Sosia on my account.
I'll do just as you please.
He's a complete savage from love.
Go ahead, Sosia; I'll follow you soon.
Is there anything else?
Yes: come back quickly.
I'll be here before you think. Keep your spirits up!

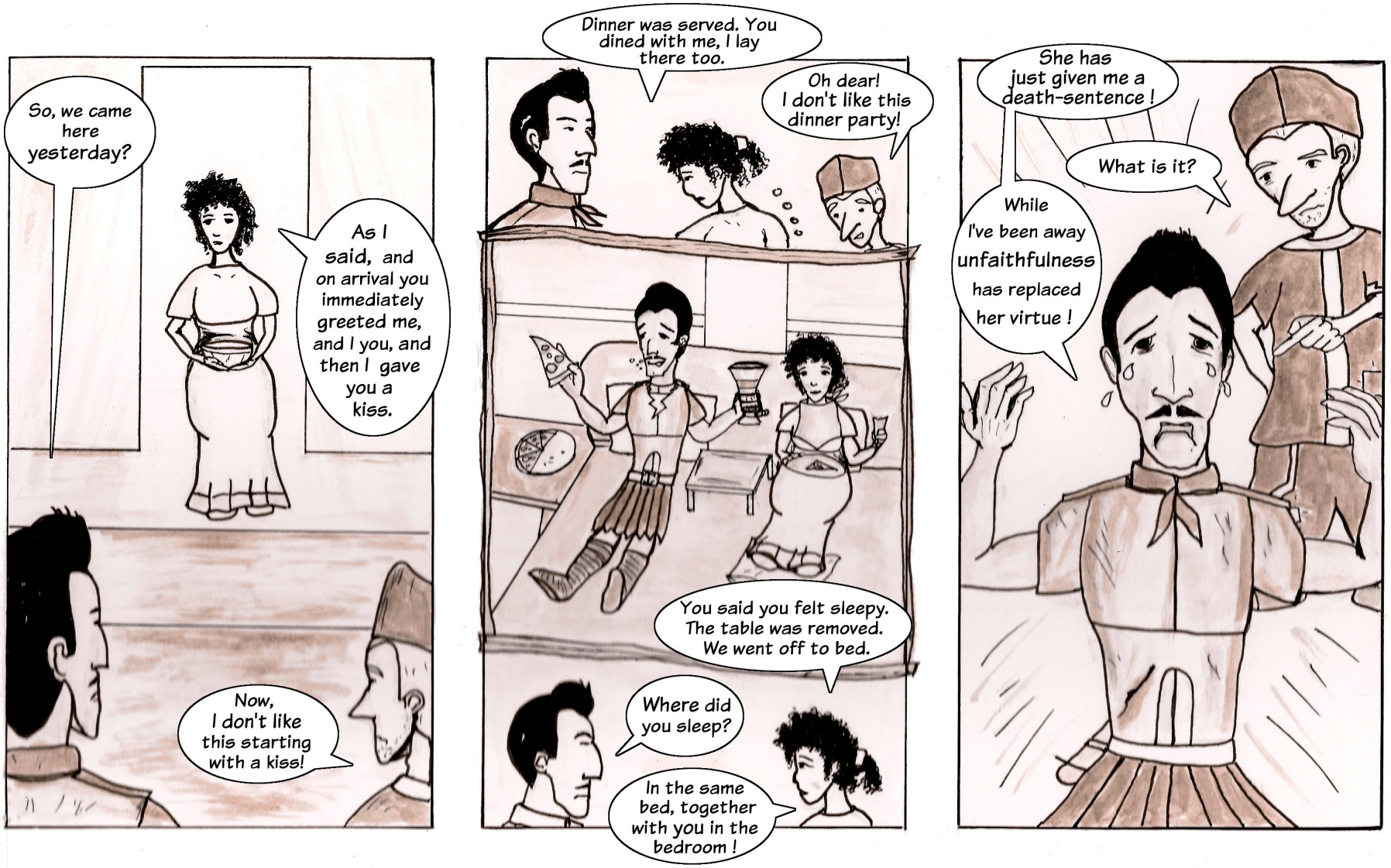

Are you trying to play games with me, your master, you good-for-nothing? Are you trying to tell me something not one single person has ever seen before and that cannot be - that the same man is in two places at the same time?
Absolutely, just as I said.
May Jupiter get rid of you!
SOSIA
AMPHITRVO
Look, I've explained ten times: Like I say, I am at home, you hear?
And I, Sosia, am also here with you.
Does that seem to be explained clearly enough now, boss, or distinctly enough?
Who beat you up?
I beat myself up— the me who is at home now.
Careful now, don't respond to anything except the things I ask you. First of all, I want to be told who that other Sosia is.
He's your servant.
Actually, I have one more of you than I want already, and since I was born I have never had any servant Sosia besides you.

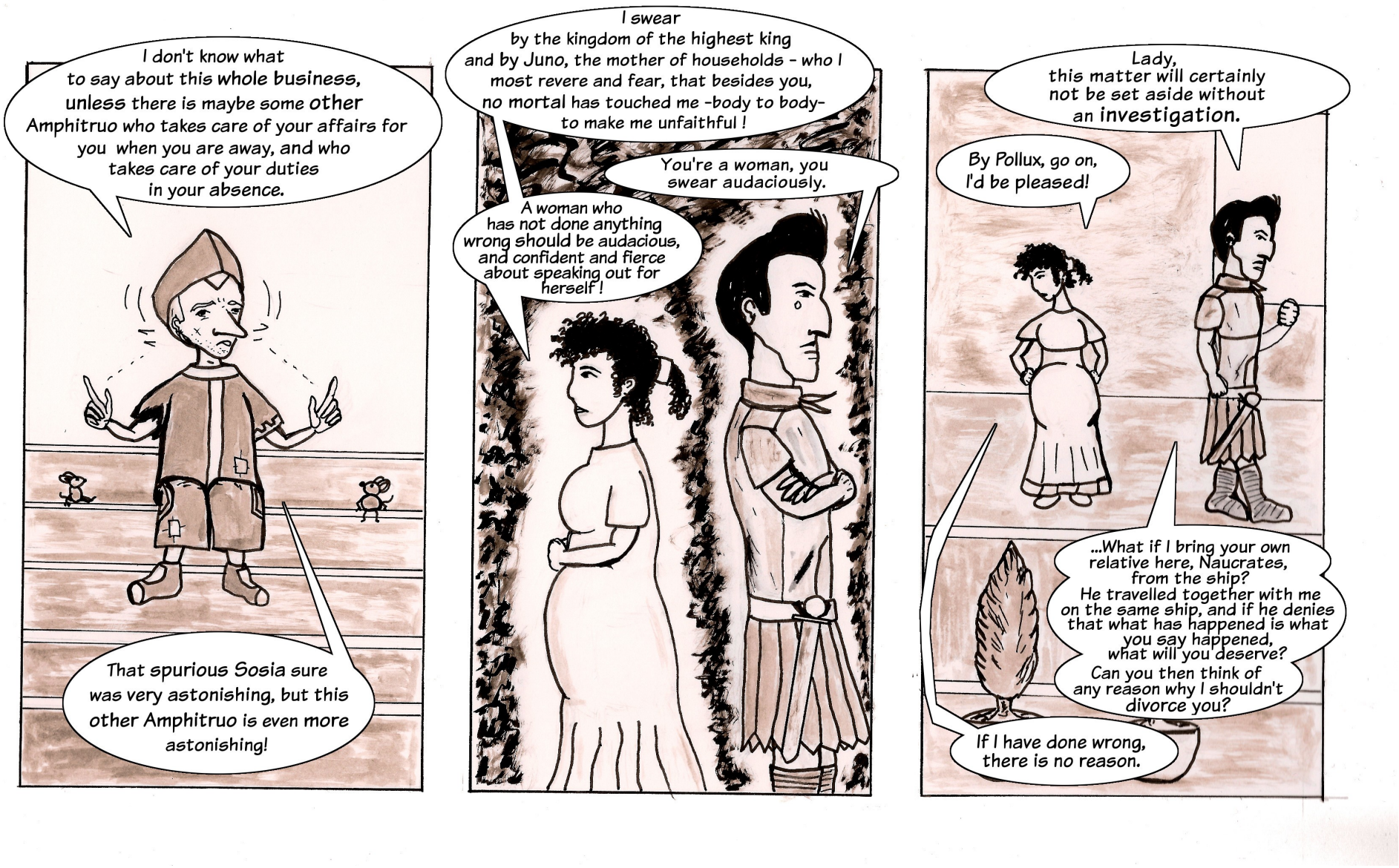

You are coming up with some very strange stuff.
But did you see my wife?
I was never allowed to go inside the house.
Who stopped you?
That Sosia I've just been telling you about, the guy who smashed me up.
Who is that Sosia?
I'm telling you: I am!
How many times do you need to be told?
Maybe, if you had seen some Sosia there in a dream-
I am not in the habit of carrying out my boss' commands sleepily.
I was alert when I saw him, I'm alert as I see you now, I'm alert as I talk, and he was alert before, when I was alert and he smashed me up with his fists.
Who did?
Sosia, I tell you, that me. Come on, don't you understand?
How the hell can anyone understand? You are babbling such nonsense!
Fine, you'll see it soon enough, when you see that servant Sosia.
Then follow me. I need to investigate this right away!
SUP!

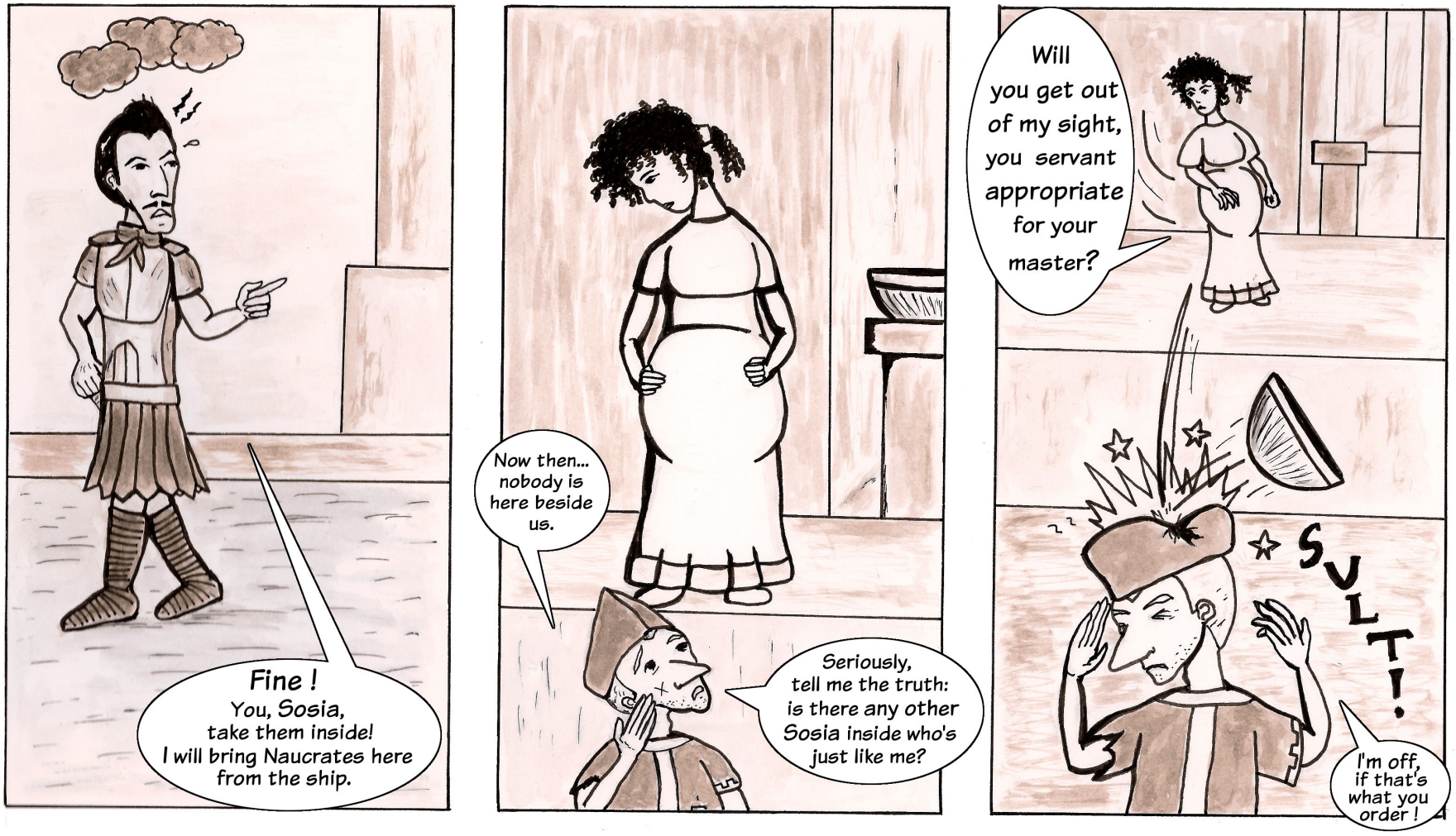

By Pollux, I do believe that my wife will look forward to my coming home - she loves me as much as I love her back ! Things have gone especially well - the enemy is defeated ! Yes, I know for sure that my awaited arrival will be just what she is hoping for!
What? Don't you think my girlfriend is waiting for me to arrive?
Oh, here is my husband! Why is he returning, when he was just saying that he had to rush off?
By Castor, I am not at all reluctant to have him at home again!
Amphitruo, we'd better go back to the ship.
Why's that?
Because there's nobody at home who is going to give us breakfast when we arrive.
What's that on your mind for?
I see Alcumena standing in front of the house and looking quite full.
When I departed, I left her here, pregnant !
Amphtiruo happily greets his longed-for wife, whom her husband has adjudged to be the best woman in all of Thebes, and most truly do the citizens of Thebes speak rumour of her virtue.
Have you been well? Did you look forward to my arrival?
?
By Castor, for heaven's sake ! Why are you making fun of me, greeting and addressing me as if you hadn't seen me just before - as if you were just now heading home from the enemy for the first time?

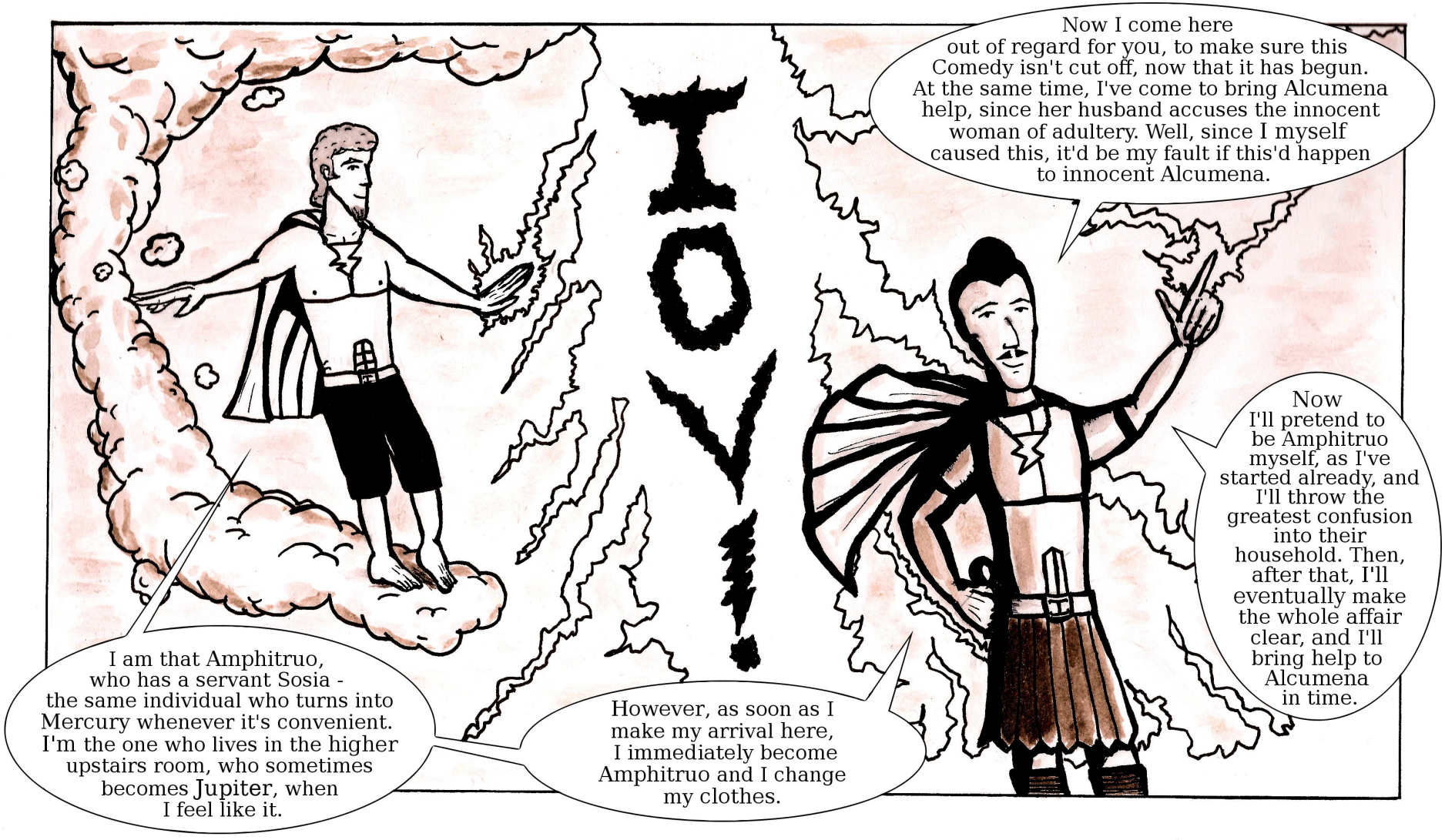

I definitely have not seen you anywhere at all today before now.
Why do you deny it?
Because I have learned to tell the truth.
You welcomed him yesterday, did you?
Yes, and you too, Sosia.
Amphitruo, I hoped that she was going to bear you a son, but it isn't a child she's got.
What is it then?
Craziness.


And do you deny that you left here today?
Of course I deny it, and I say that I've come home to you now for the first time !
Oh? Pray, will you deny this? That you gave me a golden bowl as a gift today - the one that you said was presented to you?
Jupiter almighty ! What am I looking at? This is definitely that bowl ! I'm at a loss, Sosia !
Pollux! Either this woman is the greatest conjurer ever, or the bowl must be inside here.
Come on then, open the chest!
Why open it? It's sealed up properly. Everything has been taken care of. You have produced another Amphitruo, I have produced another Sosia; now if the bowl has produced another bowl, we've all doubled !
A
Jupiter ! Oh, by Jupiter !
What is it?
There's no bowl in the chest !

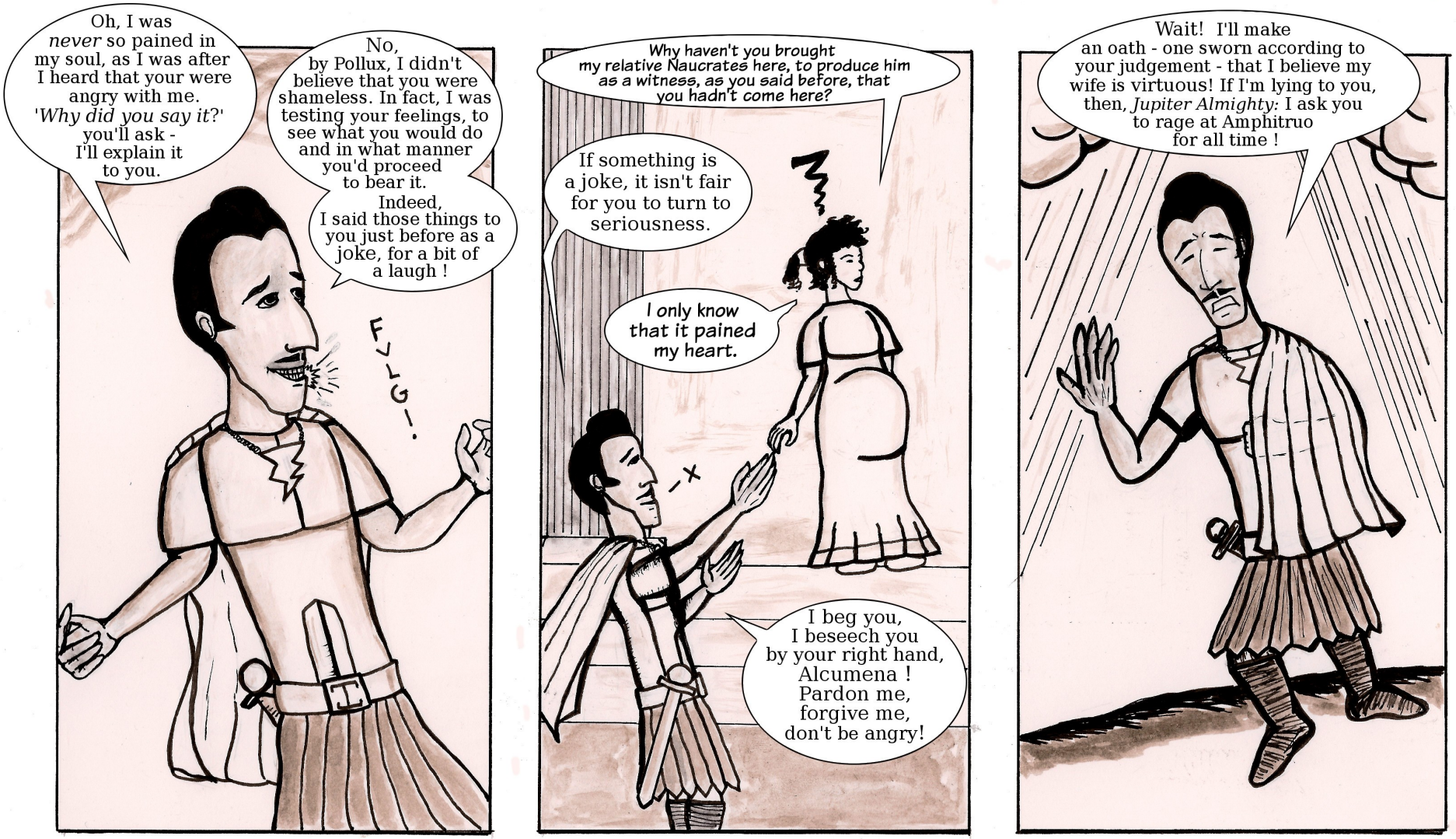

So, we came here yesterday?
As I said, and on arrival you immediately greeted me, and I you, and then I gave you a kiss.
Now, I don't like this starting with a kiss!
Dinner was served. You dined with me, I lay there too.
Oh dear! I don't like this dinner party!
You said you felt sleepy. The table was removed. We went off to bed.
Where did you sleep?
In the same bed, together with you in the bedroom !
She has just given me a death-sentence !
What is it?
While I've been away unfaithfulness has replaced her virtue !


I don't know what to say about this whole business, unless there is maybe some other Amphitruo who takes care of your affairs for you when you are away, and who takes care of your duties in your absence.
That spurious Sosia sure was very astonishing, but this other Amphitruo is even more astonishing!
I swear by the kingdom of the highest king and by Juno, the mother of households - who I most revere and fear, that besides you, no mortal has touched me -body to body- to make me unfaithful !
You're a woman, you swear audaciously.
A woman who has not done anything wrong should be audacious, and confident and fierce about speaking out for herself !
Lady, this matter will certainly not be set aside without an investigation.
By Pollux, go on, I'd be pleased!
...What if I bring your own relative here, Naucrates, from the ship? He travelled together with me on the same ship, and if he denies that what has happened is what you say happened, what will you deserve? Can you then think of any reason why I shouldn't divorce you?
If I have done wrong, there is no reason.


Fine !
You, Sosia,
take them inside!
I will bring Naucrates here
from the ship.
Now then...
nobody is
here beside
us.
Seriously,
tell me the truth:
is there any other
Sosia inside who's
just like me?
Will
you get out
of my sight,
you servant
appropriate
for your
master?
SULT!
I'm off,
if that's
what you
order !


I am that Amphitruo,
who has a servant Sosia -
the same individual who turns into
Mercury whenever it's convenient.
I'm the one who lives in the higher
upstairs room, who sometimes
becomes Jupiter, when
I feel like it.
However, as soon as I
make my arrival here,
I immediately become
Amphitruo and I change
my clothes.
IOVI!
Now I come here
out of regard for you, to make sure this
Comedy isn't cut off, now that it has begun.
At the same time, I've come to bring Alcumena
help, since her husband accuses the innocent
woman of adultery. Well, since I myself
caused this, it'd be my fault if this'd happen
to innocent Alcumena.
Now
I'll pretend to
be Amphitruo
myself, as I've
started already, and
I'll throw the
greatest confusion
into their
household. Then,
after that, I'll
eventually make
the whole affair
clear, and I'll
bring help to
Alcumena
in time.

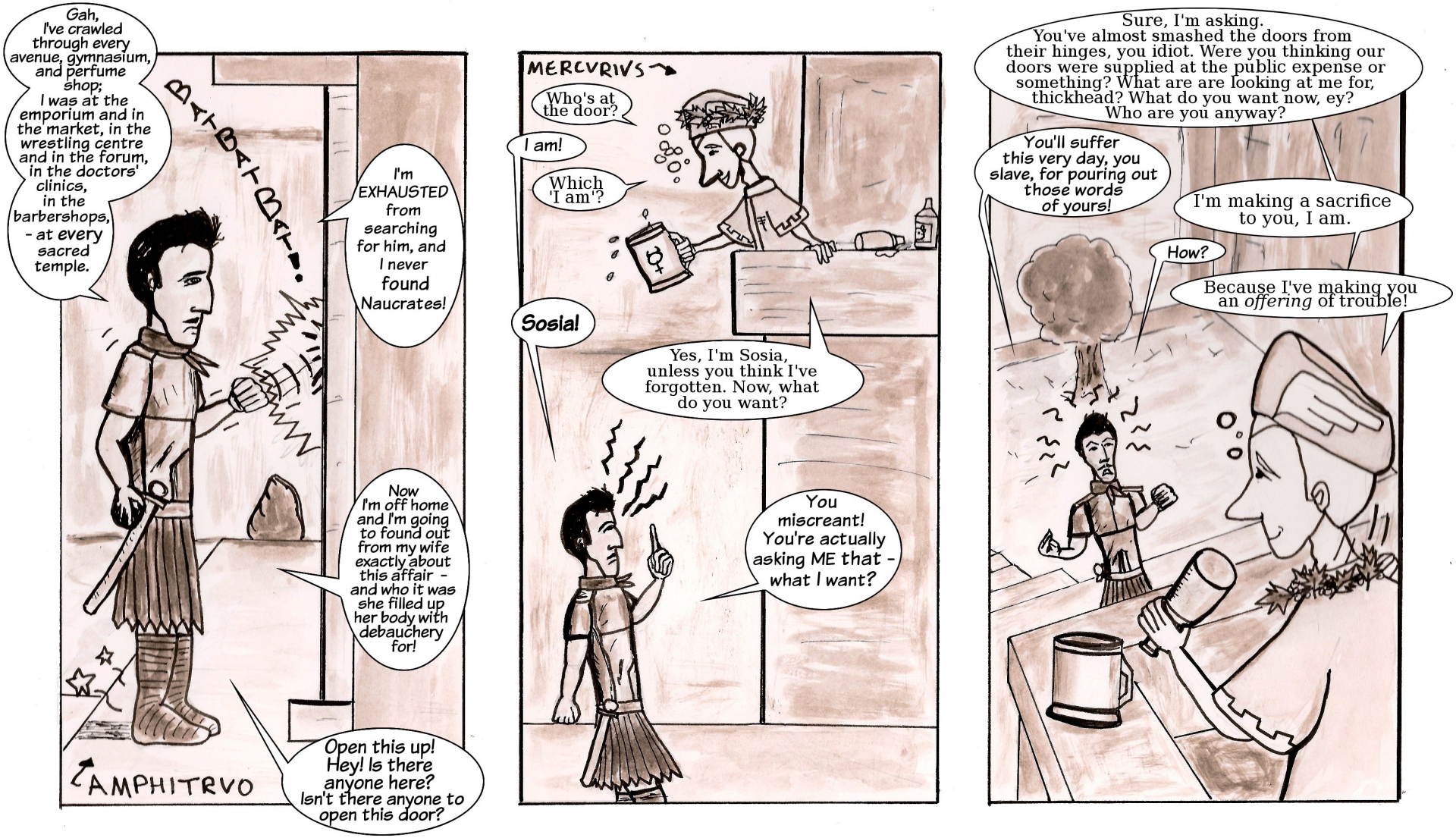

I've commanded Mercury to follow me closely, in case I should want to give him some orders. Now, I'll console the woman !
IVPPITER
I can't endure staying in the house! Accused of infidelity, of debauchery, of shame by my own husband !
No, by Pollux, I won't do it ! I won't put up with being convicted for a false disgrace !
Either I'll leave him, or else he must apologise to me, and swear on top that he didn't mean those words he uttered against me, when I am innocent !
BROMIAJ
I'd like to speak with you, my wife... Where are you turning?
It is my nature. I have always hated looking at those who are hostile.

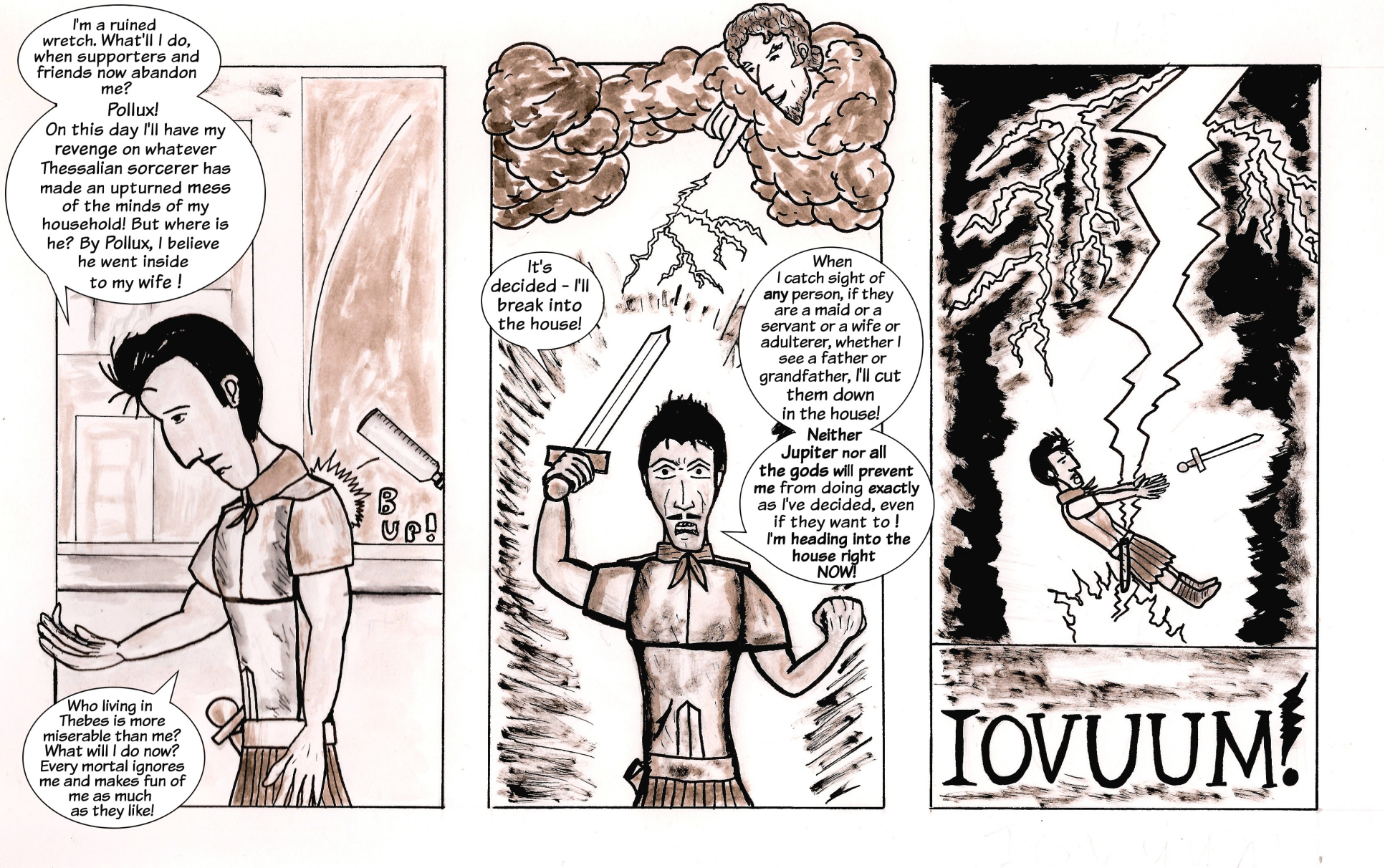

Oh, I was never so pained in my soul, as I was after I heard that your were angry with me. 'Why did you say it?' you'll ask - I'll explain it to you.
No, by Pollux, I didn't believe that you were shameless. In fact, I was testing your feelings, to see what you would do and in what manner you'd proceed to bear it.
Indeed, I said those things to you just before as a joke, for a bit of a laugh !
FJLG!
Why haven't you brought my relative Naucrates here, to produce him as a witness, as you said before, that you hadn't come here?
If something is a joke, it isn't fair for you to turn to seriousness.
I only know that it pained my heart.
I beg you, I beseech you by your right hand, Alcumena ! Pardon me, forgive me, don't be angry!
Wait! I'll make an oath - one sworn according to your judgement - that I believe my wife is virtuous! If I'm lying to you, then, Jupiter Almighty: I ask you to rage at Amphitruo for all time !

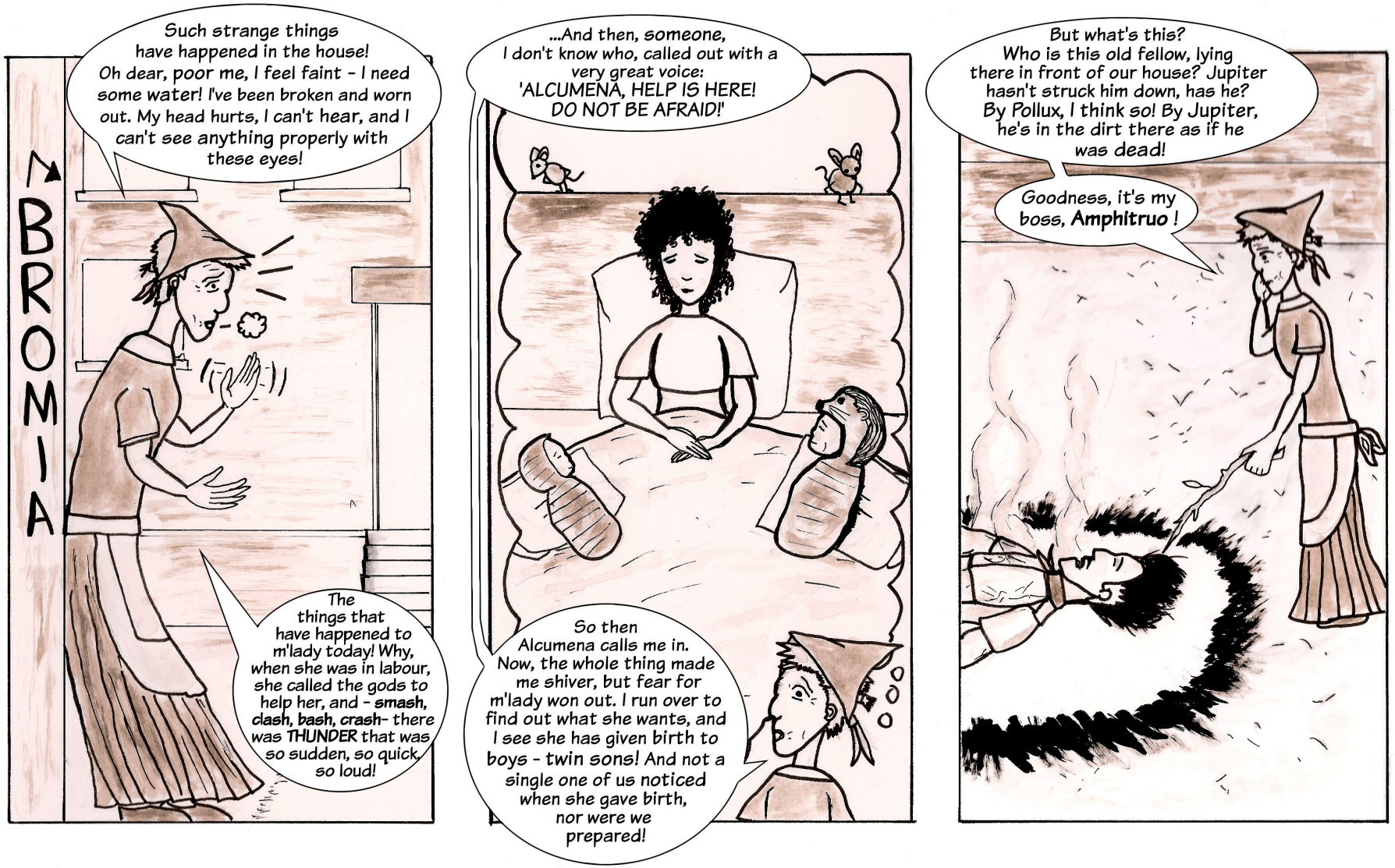

You **should've** been careful not to say it in the first place... *However...* if you make a clean breast of it to me, I'll have to put up with it.
Call Sosia out!
I'm here, Amphitruo! If anything needs doing, order it, and I'll carry out the order!
Is there peace now between you two? Because, well, I see you two are relaxed, and I'm overjoyed, ah me, it's a delight!
Indeed, it seems to me *proper* for a servant to make himself useful, so that however the bosses are, he'll be likewise. He'll arrange his face according to their face, he'll be sad, if the bosses are sad; he'll be happy, if they're glad.
But come on, tell me: have you two now come back into harmony?
You're making fun of us! You know that what I said before was a joke!
You said it as a joke, did you? Really? I thought it was serious and genuine.
PLOD!


You!
Summon Blepharo the pilot here by my invitation - to eat breakfast with me after the religious rites are done.
I'll be back here, by the time you think I'm there!
Is there anything else, or shall I go in now and see to the things you'll need?
Of course, go, and get everything ready as quickly as possible.
Then you'll come inside when you want? Il'll make sure that there's no delay.
There! The pair of them were fooled, both servant and mistress, and they believed that I'm Amphtiruo. They went splendidly wrong!
Now you, the divine Sosia, get over here!
Make sure that you drive Amphitruo away when he arrives - use whatever schemes you can think up.
I want him to be duped, while I have a pleasant time with my loan-wife.

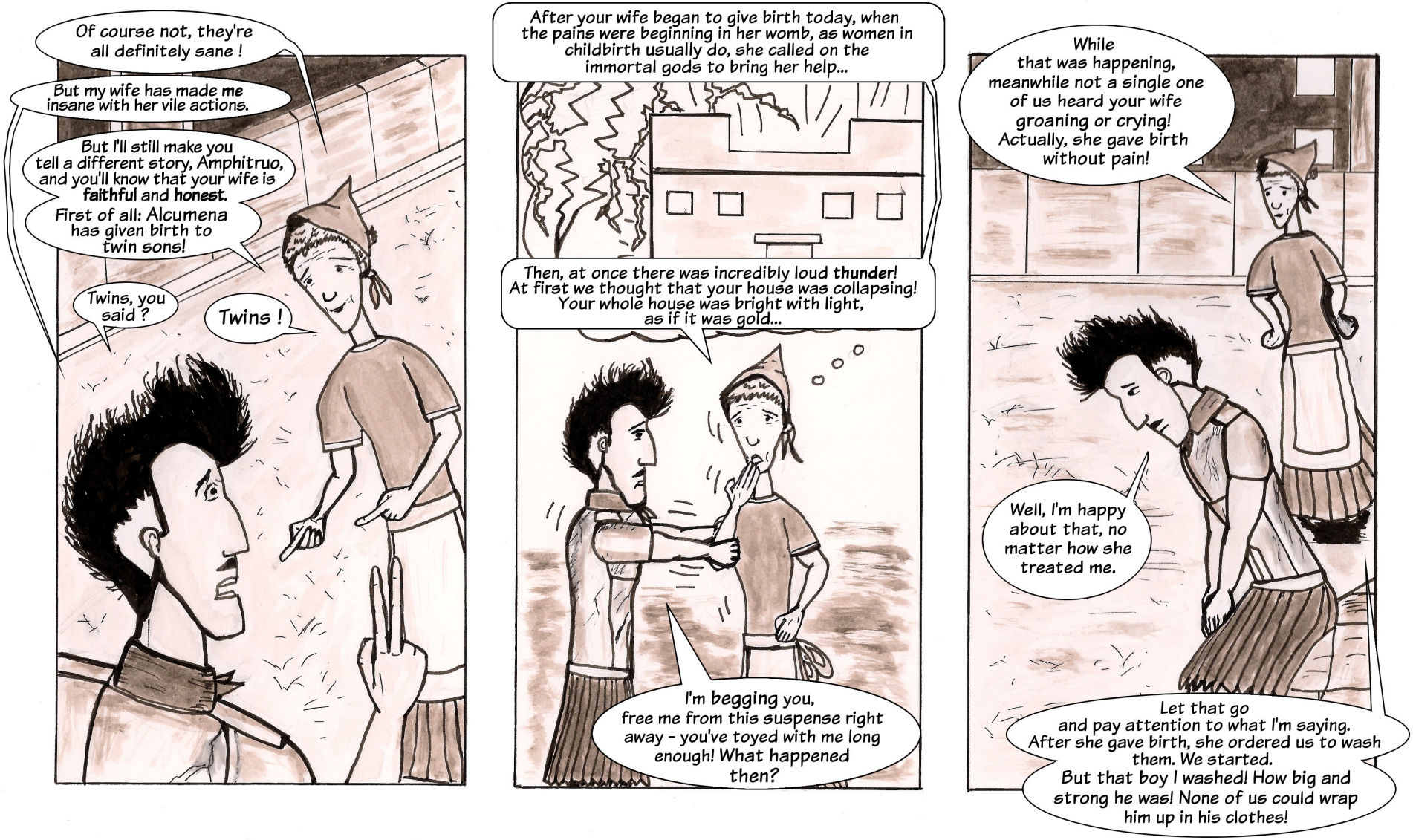

My dad calls me, I follow him - I'm attentive to the orders given by him. Just as a good son ought to behave to his dad, that's exactly how I am to my dad. I play the yes-man when he's in love, I encourage, I assist, I advise,I celebrate with him.
VELOOOOX!
SIM-SO-SAM!
Now my dad wants Amphitruo to be tricked. Right! I'll make sure that he is sincerely tricked, spectators, while you watch.
I'll whack a wreathe on my head, then I'll act like I'm drunk, and I'll climb out on the roof over there. Then I'll drive away the husband splendidly from higher ground when he comes here!
STRIIIG!

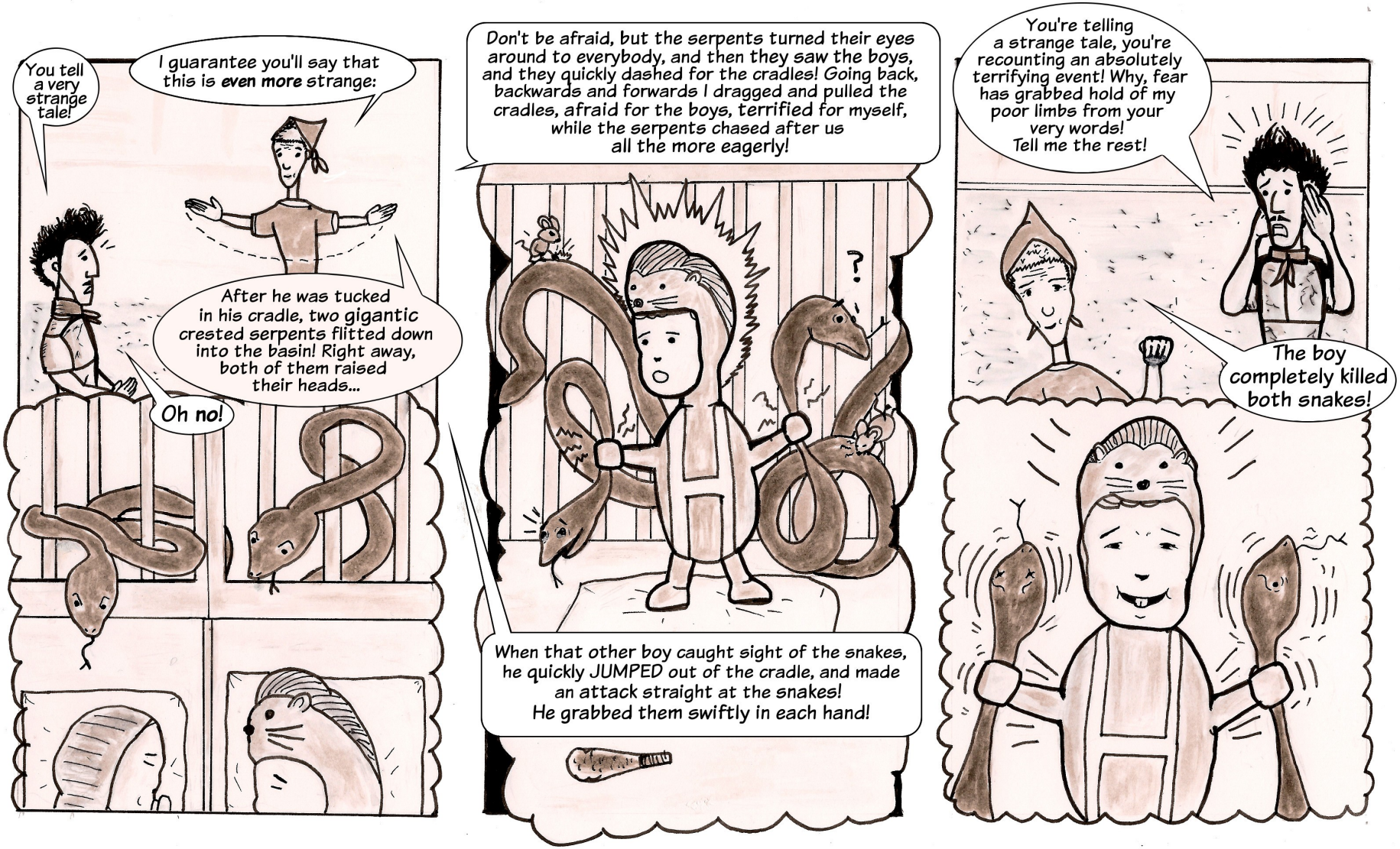

Gah, I've crawled through every avenue, gymnasium, and perfume shop; I was at the emporium and in the market, in the wrestling centre and in the forum, in the doctors' clinics, in the barbershops, - at every sacred temple.
BATBATBAT!
I'm EXHAUSTED from searching for him, and I never found Naucrates!
Now I'm off home and I'm going to found out from my wife exactly about this affair - and who it was she filled up her body with debauchery for!
Open this up! Hey! Is there anyone here? Isn't there anyone to open this door?
AMPHITRVO
MERCVRIVS
Who's at the door?
I am!
Which 'I am'?
Sosia!
Yes, I'm Sosia, unless you think I've forgotten. Now, what do you want?
You miscreant! You're actually asking ME that - what I want?
Sure, I'm asking. You've almost smashed the doors from their hinges, you idiot. Were you thinking our doors were supplied at the public expense or something? What are are looking at me for, thickhead? What do you want now, ey? Who are you anyway?
You'll suffer this very day, you slave, for pouring out those words of yours!
I'm making a sacrifice to you, I am.
How?
Because I've making you an *offering* of trouble!

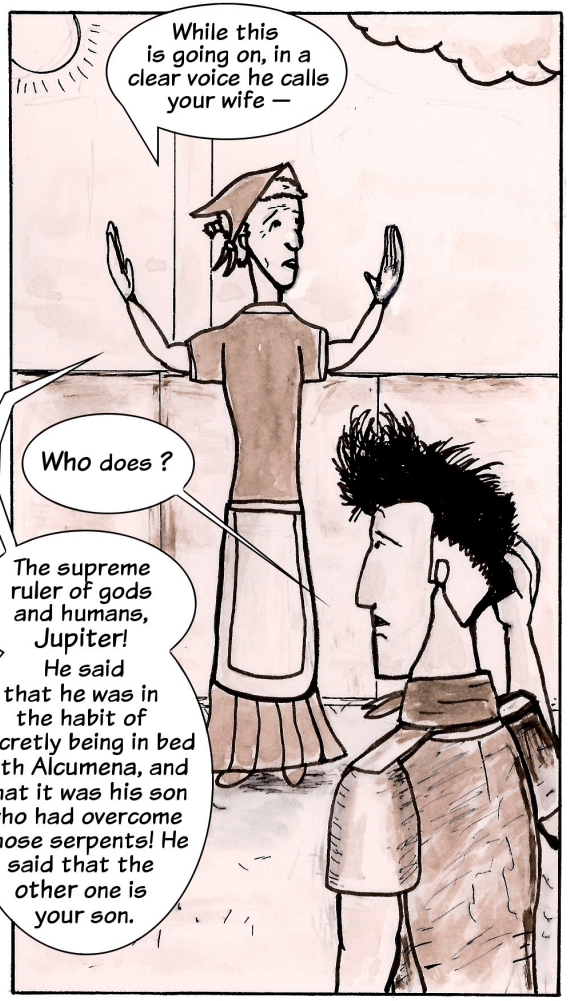

I'm a ruined wretch. What'll I do, when supporters and friends now abandon me?
Pollux! On this day I'll have my revenge on whatever Thessalian sorcerer has made an upturned mess of the minds of my household! But where is he? By Pollux, I believe he went inside to my wife !
BUP!
Who living in Thebes is more miserable than me? What will I do now? Every mortal ignores me and makes fun of me as much as they like!
It's decided - I'll break into the house!
When I catch sight of any person, if they are a maid or a servant or a wife or adulterer, whether I see a father or grandfather, I'll cut them down in the house!
Neither Jupiter nor all the gods will prevent me from doing exactly as I've decided, even if they want to ! I'm heading into the house right NOW!
IOVUUM!


BROMIA
Such strange things have happened in the house! Oh dear, poor me, I feel faint - I need some water! I've been broken and worn out. My head hurts, I can't hear, and I can't see anything properly with these eyes!
The things that have happened to m'lady today! Why, when she was in labour, she called the gods to help her, and - smash, clash, bash, crash- there was THUNDER that was so sudden, so quick, so loud!
...And then, someone, I don't know who, called out with a very great voice: 'ALCUMENA, HELP IS HERE! DO NOT BE AFRAID!'
So then Alcumena calls me in. Now, the whole thing made me shiver, but fear for m'lady won out. I run over to find out what she wants, and I see she has given birth to boys - twin sons! And not a single one of us noticed when she gave birth, nor were we prepared!
But what's this? Who is this old fellow, lying there in front of our house? Jupiter hasn't struck him down, has he? By Pollux, I think so! By Jupiter, he's in the dirt there as if he was dead!
Goodness, it's my boss, Amphitruo !

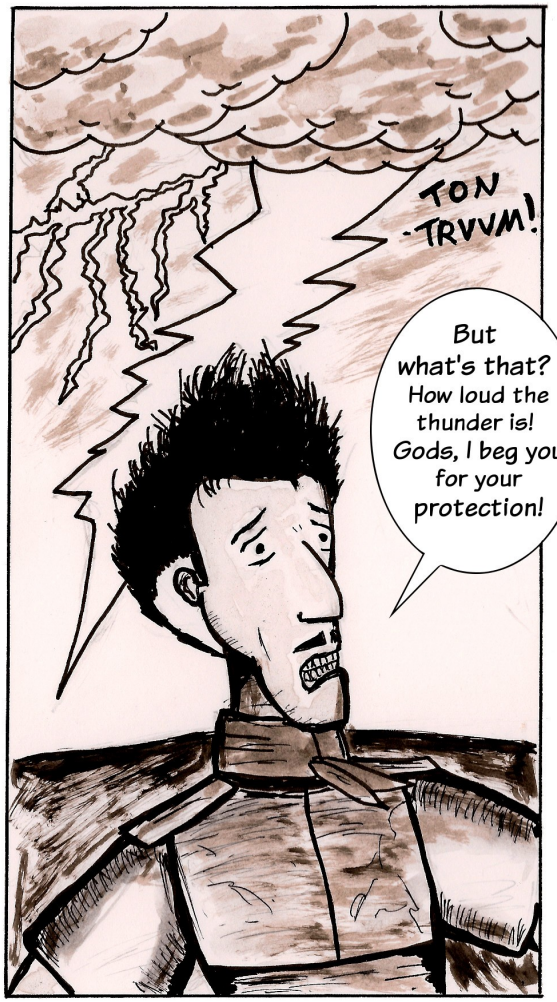

Amphitruo!
I'm dead.
Up you get.
I've perished.
Give me your hand.
Who holds me?
Your maid-servant, Bromia.
I'm completely terrified - that's how much Jupiter thundered at me! It doesn't feel very different from coming back from Acheron in the underworld.
Come on, tell me: do you know that I am your boss, Amphitruo?
Of course I know you.
Now, look again!
Of course I know you!
This woman is the only one of my household who has a sane mind !

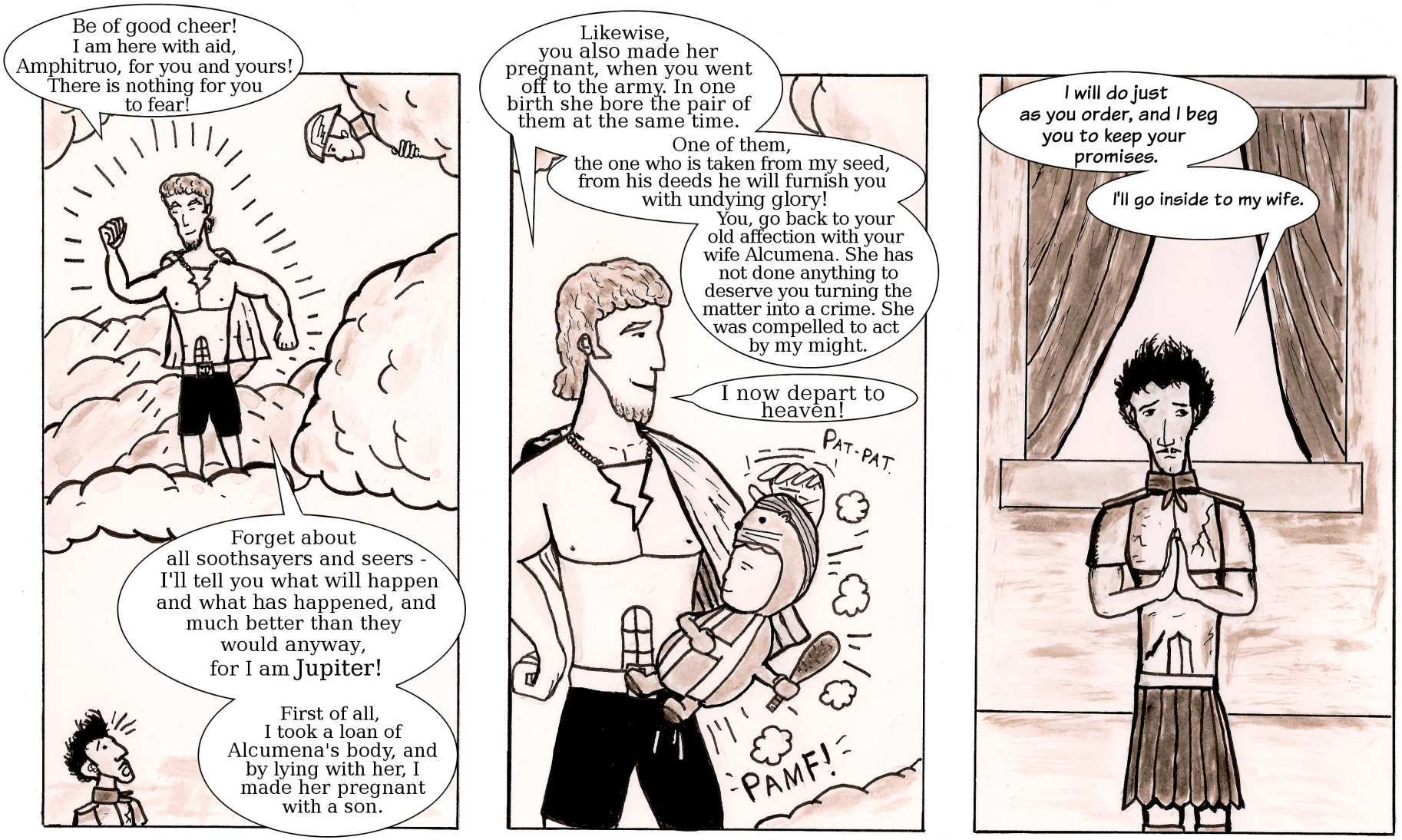

Of course not, they're all definitely sane !
But my wife has made me insane with her vile actions.
But I'll still make you tell a different story, Amphitruo, and you'll know that your wife is faithful and honest.
First of all: Alcumena has given birth to twin sons!
Twins, you said ?
Twins !
After your wife began to give birth today, when the pains were beginning in her womb, as women in childbirth usually do, she called on the immortal gods to bring her help...
Then, at once there was incredibly loud thunder! At first we thought that your house was collapsing! Your whole house was bright with light, as if it was gold...
I'm begging you, free me from this suspense right away - you've toyed with me long enough! What happened then?
While that was happening, meanwhile not a single one of us heard your wife groaning or crying! Actually, she gave birth without pain!
Well, I'm happy about that, no matter how she treated me.
Let that go and pay attention to what I'm saying. After she gave birth, she ordered us to wash them. We started. But that boy I washed! How big and strong he was! None of us could wrap him up in his clothes!


You tell a very strange tale!
I guarantee you'll say that this is **even more** strange:
After he was tucked in his cradle, two gigantic crested serpents flitted down into the basin! Right away, both of them raised their heads...
Oh no!
Don't be afraid, but the serpents turned their eyes around to everybody, and then they saw the boys, and they quickly dashed for the cradles! Going back, backwards and forwards I dragged and pulled the cradles, afraid for the boys, terrified for myself, while the serpents chased after us all the more eagerly!
?
When that other boy caught sight of the snakes, he quickly JUMPED out of the cradle, and made an attack straight at the snakes! He grabbed them swiftly in each hand!
You're telling a strange tale, you're recounting an absolutely terrifying event! Why, fear has grabbed hold of my poor limbs from your very words! Tell me the rest!
The boy completely killed both snakes!


While this is going on, in a clear voice he calls your wife —
Who does ?
The supreme ruler of gods and humans, Jupiter!
He said that he was in the habit of secretly being in bed with Alcumena, and that it was his son who had overcome those serpents! He said that the other one is your son.


Pollux! I can hardly take offence, if I'm allowed to divide half of my good luck with Jupiter...
Go home, give the order for purified vessels to be prepared, so that with many sacrifices I can ask for peace with almighty Jupiter.


TON-TRVVM!
But what's that? How loud the thunder is! Gods, I beg you for your protection!


Be of good cheer!
I am here with aid,
Amphitruo, for you and yours!
There is nothing for you
to fear!
Forget about
all soothsayers and seers -
I'll tell you what will happen
and what has happened, and
much better than they
would anyway,
for I am Jupiter!
First of all,
I took a loan of
Alcumena's body, and
by lying with her, I
made her pregnant
with a son.
Likewise,
you also made her
pregnant, when you went
off to the army. In one
birth she bore the pair of
them at the same time.
One of them,
the one who is taken from my seed,
from his deeds he will furnish you
with undying glory!
You, go back to your
old affection with your
wife Alcumena. She has
not done anything to
deserve you turning the
matter into a crime. She
was compelled to act
by my might.
I now depart to
heaven!
PAT-PAT
PAMF!
I will do just
as you order, and I beg
you to keep your
promises.
I'll go inside to my wife.


Now, spectators, for the sake of highest Jupiter, applaud conspicuously!