TANAR OF PELLUCIDAR

By EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

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SYNOPSIS

Tanar is a warrior of Sari, a country in Pellucidar, a strange world somewhere beneath the earth's crust. In an invasion of a horde of savages called Korsars, Tanar is carried away on one of their ships. Stellara, supposedly the daughter of the Korsar chieftain, The Old, makes friends with him. A terrific storm comes up. The Korsars abandon the vessel, leaving Tanar and Stellara behind. Tanar learns that Stellara is not the daughter of The Old. The Korsar chief had kindnaped her mother from the island of Amiocap previous to the birth of Stellara, but her mother had told her that her father was an Amiocapian chief.

The derelict ship drifts to the shores of Amiocap. Tanar and Stellara, thought at first to be Korsars, are made prisoners, but they later find Stellara's father, who protects them. A band of Korsars, survivors of the storm, come and carry Stellara away. Tanar, pursuing them, falls into a deep well and finds himself in the underground world of the Buried People or Coripies. These are repulsive creatures who live in dark grottoes underground and crave human flesh for food. Tanar is captured and thrown into a cavern with other prisoners, all being saved for a feast. There is only one other human captive, a man named Jude, from the island of Hime. The other prisoners are Coripies. Tanar makes friends with a Coripi named Mow, who shows him a hole in the ceiling through which they may escaped. Picking a moment when the guards are occupied, Tanar and Jude and Mow climb up the wall to a ledge beneath this opening. Tanar and Judge have pulled up into the shelf and are reaching down to help Mow up when the guards and other Coripies discover them.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN (Continued)

Bracing himself, he reached down and seized the hand of Jude, who was standing upon Mow's shoulders, and drew the Himean to the ledge beside him.

At that instant a great shouting arose below them, and glancing down, Tanar saw that one of the guards had discovered them and that now a general rush of both guards and prisoners was being made in their direction.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

EVEN as Tanar reached down to aid Mow to the safety of the shaft's mouth, some of the Coripies already were scaling the wall below them. Mow hesitated and turned to look at the enemies clambering rapidly toward him.

The ledge upon which Mow stood was narrow and the footing precarious. The surprise and shock of their discovery may have unnerved him, or, in turning to look downward, he may have lost his balance. Whatever it was, Tanar saw him reel, topple, and then lunge downward upon the ascending Coripies, scraping three of them from the wall in his descent as he crashed to the stone floor below, where he lay motionless.

Tanar turned to Jude. "We can not help him," he said. "Come, we had better get out of this as quickly as possible."

Feeling for each new handhold and foothold the two climbed slowly up the short shaft and presently found themselves in the tunnel, which Mow had described. Darkness was absolute.

"Do you know the way to the surface?" asked Jude.

"No," said Tanar. "I was depending upon Mow to lead us."

"Then we might as well be back in the cavern," said Jude.

"Not I," said Tanar, "for at least I am satisfied now that the Coripies will not eat me alive, if they eat me at all."

Groping his way through the darkness and followed closely by Judge, Tanar crept slowly through the Stygian darkness. The tunnel seemed interminable. They became very hungry and there was no food, though they would have relished even the filthy fragments of decayed fish that the Coripies had hurled them while they were prisoners.

"Almost,' said Tanar, "could I eat a toad.'

THEY became exhausted and slept, and then again they crawled and stumbled onward. There seemed no end to the interminable, inky corridor. For long distances the floor of the tunnel was quite level, but then again it would pitch downward, sometimes so steeply that they had difficulty in clinging to the sloping floor.

It turned and twisted as though its original excavators had been seldom of the same mind as to the direction in which they wished to proceed.

On and on the two went; again they slept, but whether that meant that they had covered a great distance, or that they were becoming weak from hunger, neither knew. When they awoke they went on again for a long time in silence, but the sleep did not seem to have refreshed them much, and Jude especially soon was exhausted again.

"I can not go much farther,' he said. "Why did you lure me into this crazy escapade?"

"You need not have come," Tanar reminded him, "and if you had not, you would by now be out of your misery, since doubtless all the prisoners long since have been torn to pieces and devoured by the Coripies of the grotto of Xax."

Jude shuddered. "I should not mind being dead," he said, "but I should hate to be torn to pieces by those horrible creatures."

"This is a much nicer death," said Tanar, "for when we are exhausted sufficiently we shall simply sleep and awake no more."

"I do not wish to die," wailed Jude.

"You never have seemed very happy," said Tanar. "I should think one as unhappy as you would be glad to die."

"I enjoy being unhappy," said Jude. "I know that I should be most miserable were I happy and, anyway, I should much rather be alive and unhappy than dead and unable to know that I was unhappy."

"TAKE heart," said Tanar. "It can not be much farther to the end of this long corridor. Mow came through it and he did not say that it was so great a length that he became either exhausted or hungry and he not only traversed it from end to end in one direction, but he had to turn around and retrace his steps after he reached the opening into the cavern which we left."

"The Coripies do not eat much; they are accustomed to starving." said Jude, "and they sleep less than we."

"Perhaps you are right," said Tanar, "but I am sure that we are nearing the end."

"I am," said Jude, "but not the end that I had wished."

Even as they discussed the matter they were moving slowly along, when far ahead Tanar discerned a slight luminosity.

"Look," he said, "there is light. We are nearing the end."

The discovery instilled new strength into the men, and with quickened steps they hastened along the tunnel in the direction of the promised escape. As they advanced, the light became more apparent, until finally they came to the point where the tunnel they had been traversing opened into a large corridor, filled with a subdued light from occasional patches of phosphorescent rock in walls and ceiling, but neither to the right nor the left could they see any sign of daylight.

"Which way now?" demanded Jude.

Tanar shook his head. "I do not know," he said.

"At least I shall not die in that awful blackness," wailed Jude, and perhaps that factor of their seemingly inevitable doom had weighed most heavily upon the two Pellucidarians, for, living as these people do beneath the brilliant rays of a perpetual noonday sun, darkness is a hideous and abhorrent thing to them, so unaccustomed are they to it.

"IN this light, however slight it may be," said Tanar, "I can no longer be depressed. I am sure that we shall escape."

"But which direction?" again demanded Jude.

"I shall turn to the right," said Tanar.

Jude shook his head. "That probably is the wrong direction," he said.

"If you know that the right direction lies to the left," said Tanar, "let us go to the left."

"I do not know," said Jude; "doubtless either direction is wrong."

"All right," said Tanar, with a laugh. "We shall go to the right," and turning, he set off at a brisk walk along the larger corridor.

"Do you notice anything, Jude?" asked Tanar.

"No. Why do you ask?" demanded the Himean.

"I smell fresh air from the upper world," said Tanar, "and if I am right we must be near the mouth of the tunnel."

Tanar was almost running now; exhaustion was forgotten in the unexpected hope of immediate deliverance. To be out in the fresh air and the light of day! To be free from the hideous darkness and the constant menace of recapture by the hideous monsters of the underworld! And across that bright hope, like a sinister shadow, came the numbing fear of disappointment.

What, if, after all, the breath of air which was now clear and fresh in their nostrils should prove to be entering the corrider through some unscalable shaft, such as the Well of Sounding Water into which he had fallen upon his entrance into the country of the Buried People, or what, if, at the moment of escape, they should meet a party of the Coripies?.

SO heavily did these thoughts weigh upon Tanar's mind that he slackened his speed until once again he moved at a slow walk.

"What is the matter?" demanded Jude. "A momen ago you were running and now you are barely crawling along. Do not tell me that you were mistaken and that, after all, we are not approaching the mouth of the corridor."

"I do not know," said Tanar. "We may be about to meet a terrible disappointment and if that is true I wish to delay it as long as possible. It would be a terrible thing to have hope crushed within our breasts now."

"I suppose it would," said Jude, "but that is precisely what I have been expecting."

"You, I presume, would derive some satisfaction from disappointment," said Tanar.

"Yes," said Jude, "I suppose I would. It is my nature."

"Then prepare to be unhappy," cried Tanar, suddenly, "for here indeed is the mouth of the tunnel.

He had spoken just as he had rounded a turn in the corridor, and when Jude came to his side the latter saw daylight creeping into the corridor through an opening just in front of them—an opening beyond which he saw the foliage of growing things and the blue sky of Pellucidar.

Emerging again to the light of the sun after their long incarceration in the bowels of the earth, the two men were compelled to cover their eyes with their hands, while they slowly accustomed themselves again to the brilliant light of the noonday sun of Pellucidar.

WHEN he was able to uncover his eyes and look about him, Tanar saw that the mouth of the tunnel was high upon the precipitous side of a lofty mountain. Below them wooded ravines ran down to a mighty forest, just beyond which lay the sparkling waters of a great ocean that, curving upward, merged in the haze of the distance.

Faintly discernible, in the mid-distance, an island raised its bulk out of the waters of the ocean.

"That," said Jude, pointing, "is the island of Hime."

"Ah, if I, too, could but see my home from here," sighed Tanar, "my happiness would almost be complete. I envy you, Jude."

"It gives me no happiness to see Hime," said Jude. "I hate the place."

"Then, you are not going to try to go back to it?" demanded Tanar.

"Certainly, I shall," said Jude.

"But, why?" asked Tanar.

"There is no other place where I may go," grumbled Jude. "At least, in Hime they will not kill me for no reason at all, as strangers would do if I went elsewhere."

Jude's attention suddenly was attracted by something below them, in a little glade that lay at the upper end of the ravine, which started a little distance below the mouth of the tunnel.

"Look!" he cried, "there are people!"

Tanar looked in the direction in which Jude was pointing, and when his eyes found the figures far below, they first went wide with incredulity and then narrowed with rage.

With a cry of fury, he leaped swiftly downward in the direction of the figures in the glade.

(To Be Continued)

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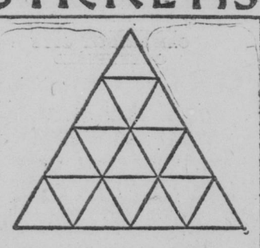
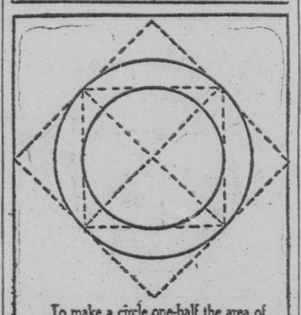
STICKERS

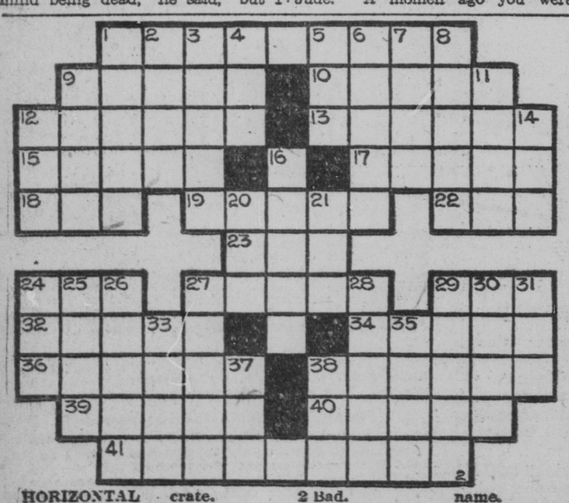


This equilateral triangle, which contains 16 smaller equilateral triangles, can be drawn in one continuous line, without lifting the pencil from the paper and without going over any line twice. Can you do it?

Answer for Saturday



To make a circle one-half the area of another circle, follow the plan shown by the dotted lines above. Draw a square inside the large circle and then a circle inside the square. The second circle will contain half the material of the first circle. Then, to prove it, draw a square around the big circle and it is obviously twice the size of the inner square—and the ratio of the circles is the same



HORIZONTAL
1 Consequent.
9 Competitor.
10 Fruit of an oak.
12 To reanimate.
13 Allotment.
15 White poplar.
17 To harass.
18 Nominal value.
19 To arrange cloth gracefully.
22 To permit.
23 Coin.
24 Chum.
27 Nuisances.
29 Joined.
32 Nimble.
34 Relish.
36 To consecrate.
38 Abolished.
39 To preclude.
40 To become exhausted.
41 Rescuer.

VERTICAL
1 Stream.
2 Bad.
3 Hoarded.
4 Rubber tree.
5 Sailor.
6 Dainty foods.
7 Short letter.
8 Ordeal.
9 Biblical name.
11 Organ of smell.
12 A knock.
14 Tennis fence.
16 Swamp.
20 Fishes' eggs.
21 Light stroking.
24 Tablet.
25 Grew old.
26 Dwelled.
27 Flower leaf.
28 Abstinent.
29 Gusset.
30 Always.
31 To scatter.
33 Rounded projection.
35 Tardy.
37 Silk worm.
38 Sal.

SATURDAY'S ANSWER

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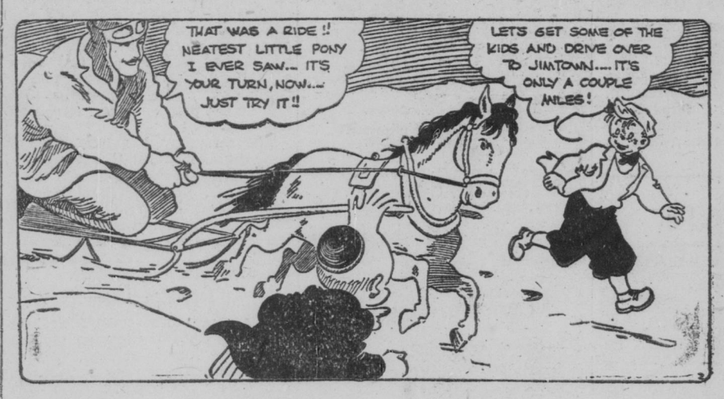
OUR BOARDING HOUSE —By Ahern

OUT OUR WAY —By Williams

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS —By Blosser



WASHINGTON TUBBS II —By Crane

SALESMAN SAM —By Small

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES —By Martin

TARZAN AND THE LOST EMPIRE —By Edgar Rice Burroughs

It all happened so quickly and was over so quickly that scarcely had Caesar's shriek rung through the Colosseum when he lay dead at the foot of the carved throne, and Gabula, the assassin, in a single leap had cleared the wall and was running across the sand to Von Harben.

"I have avenged you, Bwana!" cried the black man. "No matter what they do, you are avenged." A great groan arose from the audience and then a cheer as some one shouted "Caesar is dead!" A flash of hope came to the breast of Von Harben. "Now is our chance," he whispered.

"Follow me!" cried Mallius Lepus to the prisoners. The guards had been stunned by the murder of the emperor. Everything was in confusion. Mallius Lepus started on a run toward the gateway and the shouting prisoners fell in behind him. No effort was made to stop them.

The sudden rush of the escaping prisoners so upset the guards beneath the Colosseum that they were easily overpowered and a moment later the prisoners found themselves in the streets of Castrum Mare. Von Harben, Mallius Lepus and Gabula dashed off together to find a hiding place.