ALEXANDRIA, CAPITAL OF EGYPT, THE PALACE OF THE FABULOUS QUEEN, CLEOPATRA, OF WHOM IT WAS SAID THAT IF HER NOSE HAD BEEN SHORTER IT WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE WHOLE COURSE OF HISTORY...

THAT'S AN INFAMOUS SUGGESTION, O CAESAR!

YOU HAVE TO FACE FACTS, O QUEEN! YOURS IS A DECADENT NATION, ONLY FIT TO LIVE IN SEMI-SLAVERY UNDER THE ROMANS.

MY PEOPLE BUILT THE PYRAMIDS! THE TOWER OF PHAROS! THE TEMPLES! THE OBELISKS!

THAT'S OLD HAT! ALL THEY CAN DO NOW IS WAIT FOR THE ANNUAL FLOODING OF THE NILE!

THAT WILL DO!

CRASH!

CLEOPATRA, I WILL PROVE TO YOU, O CAESAR, THAT MY PEOPLE ARE AS BRILLIANT AS EVER, IN THREE MONTHS' TIME I'LL HAVE A MAGNIFICENT PALACE BUILT HERE FOR YOU IN ALEXANDRIA!

WELL, IF YOU CAN DO THAT, O QUEEN, I'LL ADMIT THAT THE EGYPTIANS ARE STILL A GREAT NATION...

BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS!

SHE'S A NICE GIRL. ONLY HER NOSE IS SO EASILY PUT OUT OF JOINT...

... PRETTY NOSE TOO!

CRASH!
Peace reigns in the village of the indomitable Gauls. But it is soon to be disturbed...

I'm going to train this little dog to carry messages. Are you? Meanwhile, why not lay the table for us to eat this big bear?

By the arrival of a strange stranger...

Could you tell me where to find Getafix, the Druid, please?

Up that tree, picking mistletoe.

Getafix?

What a delightful surprise!

My dear old Getafix, I hope I find you well?

An Alexandrine...

Meet my friend Edris. He's an architect. I got to know him on my travels.

Getafix, I've come all this way because I need your help...

I have to build Caesar a palace within three months. If I don't Cleopatra will throw me to the crocodiles...

...and unless you use your magic powers to help me I'll never do it, boohoo!

Are crocodiles nice to eat?

Shut up, Obelix!

Don't worry, Edris; it so happens I wanted to go to Alexandria to look a few things up in the library there...

This is my chance! I'll go back to Egypt with you.

Us too!

By Osiris! Will you really?
MY SHIP IS WAITING OFFSHORE
JUST GIVE US TIME TO PACK AND SAY GOODBYE, AND WE'LL BE WITH YOU!

COME ALONG DOWMATRIX, WE'RE GOING ON A NICE SEA VOYAGE.
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO TAKE HIM?
AND WHY NOT, MAY I ASK, MR ASTERIX?
BECAUSE HE'S TOO SMALL FOR SUCH A LONG JOURNEY, THAT'S WHY NOT MR JURELIX!

WHAT'S MORE, THERE ARE CATS IN EGYPT, NO, NOT ANOTHER WORD! YOU GO AND PACK
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME! I'M JUST AN EXTRA, A MAKEREIGHT, NO ONE EVER LISTENS TO ME!

YOU, MY FRIENDS, ARE TO REPRESENT THE SPIRIT OF GAIL ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE! SHOW YOURSELVES TRUE-BORN GAULS BY YOUR TOWARDS, AND MAY THE SKY NEVER FALL ON YOUR HEADS!
GOODBYE, THEN, AND THANKS, CHIEF VIDALSTATIX!

NO, CACOFONIX, YOU ARE NOT, REPEAT NOT, GOING TO SING!

BUT I WASN'T GOING TO SING! I ONLY WANTED TO TELL HIM HE WAS TREADING ON MY TOE!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

WOOF!

JUST ME BARKING? I CAN BARK, CAN'T I, EVEN IF I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TALK?

THAT'S MY SHIP, THE NAUTRIPSET
We can cast off now, Sethsbakup.

Honestly, Asterix, I swear I don't know how he got into my bag!

No, no, of course not! Hurry up or we'll miss the tide.

In Egypt we shall have to contend with labour troubles, the time factor, the Romans... won't we need to win Cleopatra's bet...

And above all, with Asterix, a rival architect... he's always got it in for me. He has a lot of talents...

Clever is he?

No, rich. He has a lot of gold talents - that's the money we use in Egypt.

And then there's always the danger of pirates on the way.

Oh, we'll take care of that, right, Obelix?

Sure enough, not far away...

Right, boys! We're steering clear of all Gauls this time! Avoid Roman and Phoenician vessels, too - they sometimes use those. I'm playing safe... I had to leave my son Erix on deposit to buy this ship.

Next instalment coming up, Sir! Egyptian ship to starboard.

Splendid! We'll make our fortunes! Well, do it yet? Get ready to board her!
He says there's a pirate ship to port... Honest? You're not joking? It's them, Asterix! It's them! Yoo-hoo! Yoo-hoo! Coming!

It isn't true! Can't be true! 'Tis them! Get out of here, fast! Quick, scuttle!

Too late, Cap'n! They're scuttling faster!

Scuttle the ship, I mean! Saves us a few knocks and comes to the same thing in the end.

Soon afterwards. Well, you said we'd do it, and here we are. Done! Alea jacta est!

One more classical remark from you and I'll make you eat your wooden leg!

Offside! Foul! Unsporting! Amazing! Those pirates took one look at you and sank their own ship rather than fight!

Oh, we're old friends. We often go sailing together.

One night, after a long, peaceful voyage...

What's that light on the horizon, Edifi? It's the Tower of Pharos, Asterix. Its light guides ships into the harbour...

We'll reach Alexandria tomorrow. A tower to guide ships? These Egyptians are crazy!

This, my dear Obelix, is one of the Seven Wonders of the World!
NEXT MORNING...

AS SOON AS WE LAND I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE PALACE TO MEET THE QUEEN

AND IN HER PALACE THE LUXURY-LOVING CLEOPATRA IS SITTING DOWN TO HER FAVOURITE SNACK: PEARLS DISSOVED IN VINEGAR

WHERE ARE THE PEARL TONGS, FOR OSES'S SAKE?

HERE, TASTER! GET ON WITH YOUR JOB!

HERE, TASTER! GET ON WITH YOUR JOB!

VERY WELL, O QUEEN!

THE GREEDY PIG! SHE'S TAKEN FOUR PEARLS AGAIN!

UGH! I DO HATE TOO MUCH PEARL IN MY VINEGAR!

ERAS THE ARCHITECT CRAWLS THE HONOUR OF AN AUDIENCE!

SHOW HIM IN....

MEET MY FRIENDS FROM GAUL, O QUEEN—A POWERFUL MAGICIAN AND TWO BRAVE WARRIORS WHO HAVE COME TO HELP ME

DOGMAITX!

VERY WELL, BUT GET ON WITH IT! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT, AND CAESAR KEEPS NEEDLING ME. IF YOU SUCCEED, THERE'LL BE GOLD ALL ROUND, IF NOT THE CROCODILES!

AND I WARN YOU, ERAS, YOUR RIVAL ARTIST IS NOT PLEASED THAT I CHOSE YOU AND NOT HIM TO BUILD CAESAR'S PALACE. HE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE. YOU MAY GO.

SHE LOOKS BAD TEMPERED, BUT SHE HAS A PRETTY NOSE...

VERY PRETTY!
COME HOME TO MY HOUSE...

THE DOOR'S JAMMED AGAIN... I MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE IN MY PLANS SOMEWHERE.

I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND.

CRASH! OBELEIX, NO!

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A SCRIBE?

OH, IT'S VERY COMFORTABLE! I'M SITTING PRETTY—SQUATTING, RATHER!

I TOOK A COURSE... A VERY GOOD COLLEGE...

THE ADVERTISEMENT SAID, ANYONE WHO COULD DRAW COULD WRITE!

NO, REALLY, IT'S COOL ALL RIGHT! IT'S MORE USE THIS WAY!

THIS IS WHERE I WORK... MEET MY FAITHFUL SCRIBE EXLIBRIS. HE SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE FLUENTLY. HE SPEAKS ALL MODERN LANGUAGES—LATIN, GREEK, CELTIC, ETC...

ER... WATCH OUT FOR THE STEPS!

I GET THE IMPRESSION YOU REALLY DID NEED OUR HELP EDITING.

IS IT A GOOD POSITION BEING A SCRIBE?
Here's the building site. I've already had top-quality stone brought from the quarries out in the country...

Are those slaves?

No, there's a slave shortage. You're so emancipated you just can't get hold of them. Those are free labourers.

But why the whips?

We Egyptians always have whipping while we work. Anyway, they take it in turns...

Watch this...

BOUOUOUOU!

Peculiar methods you have here!

No! This way everyone's happy! Nothing like a little nip to get you going in the morning!

BOUOUOUOU!

That's the lunch break... come over to my tent and see the plans for the palace!

But why aren't those two stopping?

They're doing overtime.

CLACK!
During the lentil break, the labourers have an unexpected visitor...

A very popular ancient Egyptian dish...

...whose remarks are evidently of absorbing interest.

And at the end of the lentil break...

...the labourers make it perfectly clear...

...that they are not going back to work.

Master! The labourers don't want to do the job. I think someone's been stirring them up against you!

All these worries are positively blood-curdling! By the time the crocodiles get me, I'll be quite unpalatable!

All the better! Are you so keen to make them a good meal?

But those are sacred crocodiles! You can't just feed them any old thing!

These Egyptians are crazy!
LET'S SEE WHAT'S UP!

JUST AS I THOUGHT, THEY'RE ASKING FOR LESS AGAIN.

YOU MEAN THEY'RE ASKING FOR MORE.

NO, IT'S NOTHING TO DO WITH WAGES; THEY'RE VERY WELL PAID. THEY WANT LESS WHIPPING... AND IF I REDUCE THE WHIPPING, THEY WON'T WORK SO FAST AND THE PALACE WILL NEVER BE FINISHED IN TIME.

YOU AND YOUR WHIPPING! IT'S GETTING ME DOWN. THIS IS NO WAY TO TREAT PEOPLE! ASTERIX, LIGHT A GOOD FIRE UNDER THAT CAULDRON!

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO MAKE MEN WORK!

NO, NOT YOU!

OH, ALL RIGHT.

GIVE THEM A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION, ASTERIX!
THAT'S RIGHT! I TELL YOUR MEN TO QUEUE UP AND I'LL GIVE EVERYONE A DOSE OF MY MAGIC POTION.

NO!

OH, ALL RIGHT.

NO!

HOWEVER, DID HE MANAGE TO PENETRATE MY DISGUISE?

AND NOW THE WORK GOES HAPPILY FORWARD, TO AN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SINGING, JOKER AND DRUMS, UNFORTUNATELY UNTRANSLATABLE...

GETTING ON NICELY!

GRRRRRRRRR

ASAKAS!
Krukut! What is it, Arties? My master?

I know Edify is expecting a consignment of stone to come down the Nile from the country. That stone must never reach the building site... Here's gold to settle the business!

These amazing foreign wizards will end up helping Edify to win! Must do something!

Krukut meets the fleet bringing stone for the palace, and his gold quickly overcomes the captain's scruples...

Unload those stones!

The labourers, natives of the rural districts of Egypt, obey without question.

Not on the bank! The other side!

Bonk!

Paint no use arguing with him!

Oi reck'n' gaffer be crazy!
Why have the labourers stopped working?

There's no more stone, and I'm worried. The fleet that's supposed to bring it from the quarries in the south is late.

O'Baris, here comes the captain of the fleet. With the stone for the building...

At last!

He says the quarries are working out, and this is all he could bring. He wants his travelling expenses.

Don't think he's telling the truth!

Can't make him talk. Can do let me make him talk!

All right, but not too hard.

Biff! Biff! Biff! Biff!

How do you say? Talk?

Well, go to fetch the stone tank, just to be on the safe side.

Yes, but hurry! Don't get it short!

He says Arétés paid him to throw his cargo in the Nile, and there's still stone in the quarry. Lots of stone. And he'll be happy to go and get it, and please don't hit quite so hard. And he swears by Isis, Osiris, and Serapis never to do it again.
WE SHALL BE JOINING THE NILE AND THEN FOLLOWING THE RIVER SOUTH

MEANWHILE, IN THE HOUSE OF THE INFAMOUS ARIPHS...

WE LEARNED THAT THESE MIRACLE-WORKING FOREIGNERS HAVE GONE OFF TO GET MORE STONE, KRUNKH! THEY MUST NOT RETURN! THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO...

THE SUELT GLIDES SLOWLY DOWN THE MAJESTIC AND SACRED RIVER NILE...

THIS IS SLOW!

VERY SLOW!

TOO SLOW!

ALL MOVE TO THE BANK! PASTON THE BOATS FIRMLY TOGETHER WITH ROPES!

A BIT OF EXERCISE AT LAST!

BY TOUATSH, THAT BOY NEVER CEASES TO SURPRISE ME, EVEN THOUGH I DO KNOW HE FELL INTO A CALDRON FULL OF MAGIC POTION WHEN HE WAS A BABY!

AT NIGHT, THEY CAMP ON THE RIVER BANK...

TOMORROW WE WILL VISIT THE SPHINX AND THE PYRAMIDS. IT'S NOT FAR, AHAY, AND THEY'RE WORTH SEEING!

TENTILS AGAIN! NOT A SINGLE SLICE OF ROAST LAMB! AND THEN THEY'LL WORRY WHY I'VE COME OVER WEAK!

BUT UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS A CUNNING SPY IS WATCHING AND WAITING

THE HEH HEH

HEH HEH

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COME ON, LAZYBONES! THE SUN'S UP! WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE SPHINX AND THE PYRAMIDS!

MMFH... JUST A BIT LONGER...

MMFH...

SOON... AFTERWARDS

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW? WASN'T IT WORTH COMING?

STUPENDOUS, BY BELISARIA!

A NOBLE TOURIST, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A SOUVENIR PORTRAIT OF YOURSELF WITH THE SPHINX?

WHY NOT? IT WILL LOOK GOOD IN MY HUT

WELL, HAVE A LOOK ROUND

THAT'S RIGHT

KINDLY PRESENT YOUR PROFILE, SHOULDERS FACING FORWARDS, AND PLEASE DON'T MOVE

THERE MUST BE A GOOD VIEW UP THERE

NO OBEXIX, I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO

OH, BUTNER, ASTERIX, HE'S ALWAYS BOSSING ME ABOUT!

CRACK!

?

!
So now you know why the Sphinx has no nose, which is a pity, for the Sphinx's nose, lost to this day, was a very fine specimen, or a nose, if not so beautiful as Cleopatra's, which, as we believe we mentioned before, was a very pretty nose indeed.
These pyramids built by the Egyptians as tombs for their pharaohs constitute one of the wonders of the world!

Magnificent!

Humph! Give me a menhir any day.

From the summit of these pyramids, Felix, twenty centuries look down upon us!

Would you care to see round inside the pyramids?

Oh, I thought it was impossible to get into the tombs...

Thevess have already broken in... though very few got out again.

Inside the pyramid

That's no place for little dogs... you wait here for us! If you're good, you'll get a nice bone!

Don't lose sight of me, you'd never get out of this labyrinth alive.

Come along in... this room boasts some magnificent hieroglyphics...

Slam!

??

You will never get out of here alive, foreign devils! This tomb will be yours!
INSIDE THE PYRAMID...

MY POWERS ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO GET US OUT OF HERE... I'M VERY MUCH AFRAID THIS MAY BE THE END OF OUR ADVENTURES, BY BELENDS!

I'M ONLY SORRY FOR EDIFIS... WITHOUT OUR HELP HE'LL END UP INSIDE A CROCODILE!

WELL, I'M SORRY FOR MY POOR LITTLE DOGMATIX... AREN'T I DOGMATIX?

DOGMATIX?!

YES, DOGMATIX! WHAT ABOUT IT? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE CROSS WITH ME FOR BRINGING HIM? ANYWAY, I DIDN'T BRING HIM, HE CAME ALL BY HIMSELF!

EXACTLY! HE'S FOUND US THANKS TO HIS NOSE... IN WHICH CASE HE CAN FIND HIS WAY BACK AGAIN AND SHOW US THE WAY OUT!

BY BELENDS, YOU'RE RIGHT!

DOGMATIX, IF YOU HELP US OUT OF HERE YOU'LL GET A VERY BIG BONE OUTSIDE!

YOU'LL GET TWO BIG BONES!

HEADS OF BIG BONES!

OBLIX, I APOLOGIZE! YOU WERE QUITE RIGHT TO BRING YOUR DOGGIE!

SOMETIMES I FEEL HE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING I SAY!
IT'S MAGIC! YOU'RE WIZARDS! ONLY A SUPERMAN COULD EVER FIND HIS WAY OUT OF...

THE BOATS SET OFF AGAIN AND SAIL PEACEFULLY ON UP THE NILE...

...STOPPING OFF TO SEE THE BIG-TOES AT INTERESTING SPOTS SUCH AS LUXOR...

NO, NO, AND FOR THE THIRD TIME, NO, DELUXE! THAT THING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE, IT WOULD JUST LOOK SPLASH!

WE SHALL NEVER BE IN CONCORD OVER THIS!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT ALEXANDRIA...

ARTIES, MY MASTER, THEY'RE WIZARDS! THEY HAVE SUPERHUMAN POWERS!

THEY'VE MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE LABYRINTH OF THE GREAT PYRAMID!

FANTASTIC! THEY'RE JUST FANTASTIC!

ALL THE MORE REASON TO FIND SOME WAY OF STOPPING THEM! EDUARDO MUST NOT BUILD THAT PALACE, KRUGHUT!
TAKE THIS PARCEL TO QUEEN CLEOPATRA!
YES, MASTER

A CAKE! AND THERE'S A NOTE WITH IT!

IN HOMAGE TO THE QUEEN OF QUEENS FROM THE THREE GAULS

SHE REALLY DOES HAVE A PRETTY NOSE!

I'LL HAVE THIS CAKE FOR PUDDING TONIGHT...

AND THAT EVENING, ON EDIFIS'S BUILDING SITE...

SUPPER'S READY! THERE'S WILD BOAR! IT'S JUST ARRIVED BY GALLEY!

WE'VE COME TO ARREST THE THREE GAULS, BY ORDER OF THE QUEEN!

A QUIET LITTLE SUPPER... I'LL BE ON MY OWN JUST 10 DANCERS AND DANCING GIRLS, 30 MUSICIANS AND 300 SIMPLE DISHES...

HOW SWEET OF THEM! YOU MAY GO!
What do we do now? shall we bash them?

Don't do anything! if you resist Cleopatra you'll be heading for disaster!

Soon afterwards...

Ha, Gauls! you tried to poison me with this cake! you'll pay for this with your lives!

Cake? what cake?

Bring in my taster!

C'est une machine à calculer.

He tasted a bit of that cake, and now look at him!

It's all a mistake, by tohaturas! we're innocent!

I don't want to hear another word!

But... if the queen doesn't want to hear another word it's no good saying another word, Asterix... for now!

Oh, ooh, ooh!

Take them away! and give the sacred crocodiles their aperitif!

But why wouldn't you let us explain?

I have an idea...

Besides, you can't argue with Cleopatra... she's got a foul temper, but such a pretty nose!
TO THINK THAT THERE WAS WILD BOAR FOR SUPPER...

ASTÉRIX, HAND ME THAT JUG OF WATER...

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING, GÉRÔME?

AN ANTIDOTE, LUCKILY I ALWAYS CARRY THIS LITTLE BAG WITH ME...

DRINK THIS! WHAT IS AN ANTIDOTE?

OBEIX, OPEN THE DUNGEON DOOR

STAND BACK! WE'RE COMING OUT!

CRASH!

THese EGYPTIANS ARE CRAZY! YOU TELL THEM TO GET OUT OF THE WAY, AND THEY JUST...

AND NOW TO VISIT CLEOPATRA!

NOT BAD... BUT I'M TIRED OF SEEING MYSELF IN PROFILE. COULDN'T YOU DO ME THREE-QUARTER FACE FOR ONCE?

OH, WELL... YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF MODERN ART...
BY OSIRIS, CAUSE, SINCE YOU HAVE SWORN TO DESTROY ME, I SHALL SHOW YOU HOW A QUEEN CAN DIE!

NO, NO, BY TOUTATIS, JUST LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY FOR ONCE!

I'M SURE THAT CAKE'S NOT POISONED! I THOUGHT IT LOOKED A VERY NICE CAKE!

OH, DID YOU? VERY WELL, THEN, YOU CAN EAT IT. BRING IN THE CAKE!

JUST WHAT WE WERE GOING TO SUGGEST, O QUEEN...

THERE'S ONE OVER THERE

OBELOX, HAVE YOU GOT A KNIFE OR A CAKE SLICE ABOUT YOU?

MAY I?

CUT THREE PIECES OF THIS CAKE

CONVING, CONVING!

HE SAID THREE PIECES, OBELOX!

WELL, I HAVE CUT THREE PIECES, HAVEN'T I?

YOU GREEDY PIG!

I SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!

IT'S GOT ALMONDS IN IT! SHLURP! YUMMY! I LOVE ALMONDS!

THERE, QUEEN! YOU CAN SEE THAT CAKE ISN'T POISONED!

THEN WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MY TASTER?

OBELOX! THERE ARE STILL A FEW ALMONDS LEFT...

SEND FOR THIS TASTER! I'LL CURE HIM!

WHENEVER I WANT TO DO ANYTHING MR. ASTERIX WON'T LET ME!

BECAUSE MR. OBELOX DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE IN FRONT OF A QUEEN! THAT'S WHY!!!
OH, SO THUMPING THEM IS ALL RIGHT BUT EATING ALMONDS ISN'T?

THERE'S A TIME FOR THUMPING PEOPLE AND A TIME FOR EATING ALMONDS! THAT'S GOOD MANNERS!

I FEEL BETTER... MUCH BETTER...

WHY I FEEL FINE! I'M HUNGRY!

THAT CAKE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR TASTERS ILLNESS, O QUEEN! HE JUST HAD A DELICATE STOMACH FROM EATING TOO MUCH RICH FOOD!

I HAVE TREATED YOU UNJUSTLY, O GAULS! YOU SHALL GO FREE! AS FOR THIS TASTER WHOSE STOMACH HAS CAUSED ME THE QUEEN OF QUEENS TO MAKE A MISTAKE, I DISMISS HIM!

THERE WAS ENOUGH POISON IN THAT CAKE FOR A WHOLE CONVICT OF LEGIONARIES. IT'S A GOOD THING WE DRANK MY ANTIDOTE...

I SAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH! I FOUND THE JOB OF TASTER VERY DISTASTEFUL... IT WAS POISONING MY LIFE.

LET'S GET BACK TO THE BUILDING SITE WE MUST FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE!

ASTERIX, WHAT IS AN ANTIDOTE?

AND AT THE BUILDING SITE... DOGMATIX! YOU NEARLY KNOCKED ME OVER!

THANK RA YOU'RE BACK! MY MASTER EDIPS DISAPPEARED IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU WERE ARRESTED!

!!!
OBEY, WERE GOING TO SEE ARTTHI, IM SURE HE KNOW WHERE EDHIS IS!

OPEN UP, BY BELENO, IF YOU VALUE YOUR DOOR!

BOSE! SOMEONE TO SEE YOU...

YOU? DIDN'T CLEOPATRA THROW YOU TO THE CROCODIL?

THATS A CONFESSION!

SO IT WAS YOU WHO SENT CLEOPATRA THE POISONED CAKE?

CAKE? WHAT CAKE? NO, NO, NO LIT THE ALL A MISTAKE, JUST A MISTAKE! OH RA!

THE GAU...

THE GAUGAUS

YES, THE GAUS, AND WE WANT TO SEE YOUR MASTER ARTHIES

... I'LL GO AND SEE IF HE'S IN...

GOOD IDEA! WELL COME WITH YOU!

WHAT'S ALL...

THIS NOISE, BY...

DAILY NILE

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YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US WHERE TO FIND EDIFE!

NEVER! NOTHING IN THE WORLD WILL EVER MAKE US TALK, EH, KUKHUT?

NO, I'D RATHER TALK! EDIFE IS DOWN IN THE CELLAR HIDDEN IN A SARCOPHAGUS

Coward!

Yes, boss!

I'll guard these two, Obelix, while you go down to find the sarcophagus.

O.K. Asterix

Asterix, what is a sarcophagus?

It's a big, heavy box... very heavy!

Oh, thanks

Soon afterwards... Would this be it, Asterix? It's the only big box I could find, but it's not at all heavy!

That must be it, Obelix!

All we have to do is unwrap it

Let me have a go! It's just like passing the parcel!
I'VE PUT ON A WORKER'S DINGO CLOTH. NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE ME IN THIS CLEVER DISGUISE!

I'M ONLY A LIGHT LABOURER, BUT I DON'T MIND HEAVY WORK. WILL YOU TAKE ME ON?

OH, YES, WE CAN ALWAYS USE WORKMEN. GET IN THAT QUEUE OVER THERE.

NO MAGIC POTION FOR ARTHUR AND KRUKHUT, OF COURSE.

OF COURSE NOT.

STRANGE! NO FOREMEN, NO WHIPS, AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!

WEIRD CONSTRUCTION... AND THAT'S THE SIGNAL TO START WORK...

BIOHOUND!

NO!?

I WONDER WHETHER THAT STRANGE DRINK... LET'S HAVE A GO...

NEVER MIND! THERE ARE PLENTY MORE WHERE HE CAME FROM!

BY APIS!!!

HEY—WHERE'S HE OFF TO?

NEVER MIND! COME ON, BUS!
I’VE SEEN AMAZING THINGS GOING ON AT THAT SITE, O CAESAR! THE LABOURERS DRANK A MAGIC POTION WHICH GAVE THEM ENORMOUS STRENGTH AND LET’S THEM PICK UP VERY HEAVY LOADS QUITE EASILY. I DRANK SOME OF IT.

IT OCCURS TO ME, MINTJULEP THAT YOU MAY HAVE DRUNK SOMETHING ELSE TOO...

HERE, SUPERFLUOUS, COME AND PUT THIS FELLOW IN HIS PLACE.

SNAP!

HMM... ALL RIGHT, SUPERFLUOUS, YOU MAY GO, THANK YOU!

HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA!

HA! HA! HA!

I SAY!

SO YOU WERENT LYING... YET I ONLY KNOW ONE MAN WHO CAN BREW SUCH A POTION...

AND HE’S A LONG WAY AWAY... A GAULISH DRUID!

A GAULISH DRUID??

WHAT? AN OLD DRUID WITH A WHITE BEARD, A CUNNING LITTLE ONE AND A STUPID GREAT OAF!

THAT’S THEM, O CAESAR. ASTERIX, OBELIX AND GETARIX, THE INVINCIBLE SAILORS. THEY CAN PERFORM ANY MIRACLE... I MUST DO SOMETHING!
NEXT DAY, IN THE
PALE LIGHT OF
Dawn...

SOON AFTERWARDS,
AT THE BUILDING SITE...

MASTER! MASTER!
COME AND TAKE A LOOK.
THERE ARE SOME STRANGE
GOINGS-ON!!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER,
EXLIBRIS?

THE LABOURERS
HAVEN'T
ARRIVED ON THE SITE, THERE'S NO ONE
HERE BUT OUR PRISONERS,
ARTEMS AND KRAKHUT!

??

GO AND FIND
OUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING.

YES, MASTER!

THE SITE IS SURROUNDED
BY ROMAN BEAKERS,
THEY'RE NOT LETTING
OUR WORKMEN
THROUGH!

IN THE NAME OF CAESAR!
WE HEAR SOME GALLOISH
TROUBLEMAKERS ARE HIDING
ON THIS BUILDING SITE. WE
ORDER THEM TO SURRENDER,
OR WE ATTACK!

???

NEVER! WE DON'T
WANT TO FIGHT, BUT BY
TOUTATIS, IF WE DO, WE'VE
GOT THE STONES. WE'VE
GOT THE MEN, WE'VE
GOT THE DRUID TOO!

YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR
THIS, BY JUPITER!

WHAT DO WE
DO NOW, BY YMBLIS?

WE BUILD OUR
FORTIFICATIONS, BY
BLENHENS!

YOU'RE
RIGHT, BY
BELISANA!

COULD WE GO HOME NOW,
BY ANY CHANCE?

*ANCIENT GALLOISH WARSONG*
HURRY UP WITH THOSE BLOCKS OF STONE, OBELIX!

COMING!

GOOD, THAT COMPLETES OUR FORTIFICATIONS.
ER... DO YOU THINK THEY'RE ENOUGH TO KEEP OUT THE ROMANS?

HERE THEY COME!

IN ATTACK THE LEGIONNAIRES EMPLOY THE FORTIFICATION CALLED MANGUDEVRE KNOWN AS THE TORTOISE!

BONNNG!
BONNNG!
BONNNG!

OH, DO BE SERIOUS, OBELIX!

IN RETREAT THE LEGIONNAIRES EMPLOY THE USEFUL MANGUDEVRE KNOWN AS THE HARE!

HMM... THAT DIDN'T WORK! RIGHT, WE'LL ATTACK FROM ALL SIDES AT ONCE. ADVANCE!

BUT WE'VE ONLY JUST RETREATED!

IF WE ADVANCE, WE'LL BE DRIVEN INTO THE NILE!

ONE MORE FUN LIKE THAT AND I DESERT!!!

GOODY! HERE THEY COME AGAIN!

WOOF! WOOF!
LET GO! CAN'T YOU SEE I'VE ALREADY BEEN DRIVEN BACK?

WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

SOUTH SIDE...

NORTH SIDE... HERES ONE THAT'S GOT IN!

I'M GOING! I'M GOING! I'M GOING!

WE'RE THE ONES WHO MANAGED TO GET IN, BUT THEY WERE VERY NICE, THEY LET US OUT AGAIN WITHOUT HITTING TOO HARD...

IF THAT'S THE WAY THEY WANT IT, WE'LL BOMBARD THEM. SO THERE!!!

VICTORY! TA DIS PLAGUET!

AFTER THE ONSLAUGHT...

THEY DROVE US OFF, BUT A FEW OF US MANAGED TO GET INSIDE THE FORTIFICATIONS...

LOOK! GUIDED MISSILES!

HMM... IF THEY MISS I'LL BE SURPRISED!
SURE ENOUGH, SOUR AFTERTHOUS...

**WHAM!**  **BOING!**  **MY PALACE!**

WE'LL HAVE TO LET CLEOPATRA KNOW, SHE MUST HAVE ENOUGH INFLUENCE OVER CAESAR TO GET THIS ATTACK STOPPED.

GOOD IDEA! EXPRESSLY WROTE THE QUEEN A MESSAGE.

NOW THEN... NO SPELLING MISTAKES... BEFORE EXCEPT AFTER.

**BAONK!**

DOGMATIX WILL CARRY THE MESSAGE TO CLEOPATRA!

BUT DOGMATIX IS ONLY A PUPPY!

MAYBE, BUT HE'S VERY INTELLIGENT!

HERE'S THE MESSAGE!

YOU'LL SEE!

SEEK, DOGMATIX! CLEOPATRA! SEEK!

I TOLD YOU HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND!

TOO YOUNG! A LITTLE DOG WHO CAN BE SO NICE, AND SO ON...

THERE, THERE, ONCE DAIN'T BE CROSS! I WAS ONLY TEASING. I'LL SHOW HIM THE RIGHT WAY MYSELF!

FANCY SAYING MY DOG'S NO GOOD!

QUICK, GETAFIX, WHILE SEELUX ISN'T LOOKING! GIVE ME A GOOD SWIG OF MAGIC POTION!

SOON AFTHEROUS...

OFF WE GO, DOGMATIX!
WATCH OUT! ONE OF THE BESIEGED MEN IS TRYING TO BREAK OUT!!

WHOOSH!

REady?

REady!

Kerplonk!

BOING!

HE WENT THE SAME WAY HE CAME...

JUST PASSING THROUGH...

SOON AFTERWARDS IN CLEOPATRA'S PALACE

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, O GAUL?

YES, O CLEOPATRA, MY LITTLE DOG HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU

THIS WILL NEVER DO! JULIUS CAESAR ISN'T PLAYING FAIR, BY ISIS! YOU MAY GET GAUL! BY ANNIHIL AND BY HELPS, I'LL SEE TO THIS!

ISN'T HE SWEET! BRING A BONE FOR THIS LITTLE DOG!

KEEP STILL, DOGMATIX! WAIT TILL THE QUEEN'S NEW TRUSTER HAS TASTED YOUR BONE.
Watch out! One of the besieged men is trying to break in again!

Whoosh!

Here you are, Obelix! Dogmatix has just got back! He did his job perfectly.

There you are, Obelix! Let’s hope the queen acts quickly. The Roman missiles are destroying the palace!

Sure enough, in the camp of the besieging army...

Excellent, Operchorus, excellent...

Hve, Caesar... er... Someone wants to speak to you...

Who is it?

Zing! Boom!

Tantantara!!!

?!?
ER... QUEEN... MY DEAR QUEEN...

THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT! WHEN I HEARD WHAT WAS HAPPENING I HURRIED OUT OF THE PALACE AT ONCE! I DIDN'T EVEN STOP TO CHANGE!

WHEN YOU MAKE A BET YOU MUST PLAY FAIR AND I HAD A RIGHT TO CALL IN THE GAUS AND I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT EGYPTIANS CAN BUILD BEAUTIFUL PALACES...

...AND I ABSOLUTELY INSIST THAT THE ROMANS LEAVE THE BUILDERS IN PEACE AND REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE THEY'VE DONE BEFORE LEAVING AND IT'S A CRYING SHAME...

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! DON'T GO ON! I'M SORRY AND I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT...

ZING!
BOOM!
TANTANTARA!

WELL... ER... NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

RAISE THE SIEGE AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE YOU'VE DONE, IDIOT!

AFTER ALL I WOULDN'T WANT CLEOPATRA TO TURN HER NOSE UP AT ME!

A VERY PRETTY NOSE, IN CASE WE DIDN'T MENTION IT BEFORE...

LOOK! THE ROMANS ARE RAISING THE SIEGE, BY BELENO!

AND ALL THANKS TO WHO?

VICTORY, BY TOUTATIS!
FIRST THEY KNOCK IT DOWN... NOW THEY'RE HELPING REPAIR IT...

THOSE ROMANS ARE CRAZY!

NO, EDIFIS, DEFINITELY NOT!

BUT I THOUGHT A POINTED ROOF WOULD LOOK Nicer...

AT LAST, ONE FINE DAY...

THERE, IT'S FINISHED! WE CAN GO AND TELL CLEOPATRA!

O QUEEN, THE PALACE IS FINISHED BY THE AGREED DATE! *

YOU HAVE KEPT YOUR PROMISE, EDIFIS, AND BY 1913, I SHALL KEEP MINE!

* A RARE OCCURRENCE IN THE BUILDING TRADE AT THAT TIME.

COVER HIM WITH GOLD!

THERE'S STILL A BIT STICKING OUT HERE!

I'M COMING BACK!

TOMORROW I SHALL INVITE CAESAR ON BOARD MY STATE BARGE...

WE SHALL GO DOWN THE SACRED RIVER TO THE PALACE, WHICH I SHALL OFFER CAESAR AS PROOF THAT MY PEOPLE ARE NOT DECADENT!

 SO THERE!
NEXT DAY...

FOR YOU TO CUT THE RIBBON, O CAESAR!

NOT WHO KNOWS BEST!

THAT'S A PRETTY KNOWS!

DON'T A BAD PALACE, IS IT?

HERE THEY ARE!

WHERE?

YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE, AND TAUGHT ME MY JOB... MY GOLD IS YOURS!

AT A BANQUET FOR 14,000 GUESTS (IT HAD BEEN PLANNED TO INVITE 18,000, BUT EGYPTIANS ARE SUPERSTITIOUS)...

O LOVELIEST OF QUEENS, YOURS IS THE HONOUR OF CUTTING THE RIBBON WHICH PROVES THAT I HAVE LOST MY BET, BY JUPITER! I YIELD WITH A GOOD GRACE BEFORE SO MUCH GRACE.

THE CROWD ACCLAIM THEIR QUEEN, INVOKING THE SUN-GOD OF EGYPT...

RA! RA! RA! RA! RA!

YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE, AND TAUGHT ME MY JOB... MY GOLD IS YOURS!

NO NO! IT WAS A PLEASURE. WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING NOW?

I'M FRIENDS WITH ARTIPS AGAIN...

... TOGETHER WE'LL BUILD THE FINEST PYRAMIDS WITH THE SHARPEST POINTS IN EGYPT!
LATER IN CLEOPATRA'S PALACE...

OUR WORK IS FINISHED. WE HAVE COME TO SAY GOODBYE TO THE QUEEN.

YOU HAVE PERFORMED MIRACLES, GAULS. AND YOU ARE ENTITLED TO ALL THE GRATITUDE OF THE QUEEN OF ABYDUS.

I AM MAKING YOU A PRESENT OF THESE PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPTS FROM THE LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA. O DRUID...

YOUR NOSE... ER... YOUR MAJESTY IS TOO CHARMING, BY SELEUCAS...

WHAT A NOSE!

IT SEEMS VERY LITTLE FOR ALL THE HELP YOU HAVE GIVEN ME. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...

ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE... AND IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING ELSE BUILT IN EGYPT—SAY A CANAL BETWEEN THE RED SEA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN....

...WELL, CALL ON SOMEONE FROM OUR COUNTRY, BY TOUTATIS!

SOON AFTERWARDS... NICE OF CLEOPATRA TO SEND US HER OWN BARGE TO TAKE US BACK TO GAUL....

AND THE CAPTAIN GIVES THE ORDER TO GO....

DO YOU THINK WE'LL MEET THOSE PIRATES AGAIN, ASTERIX?

I DON'T KNOW, OBELIX, BUT I GET THE FEELING THEY'RE NOT FAR AWAY!

SURE ENOUGH, DOWN IN THE HOLD...

I HAD TO TAKE THIS JOB TO PAY FOR MY LAST BOAT, BUT AS SOON AS I CAN, PUT A DEPOSIT DOWN ON ANOTHER. I'LL LOOK FOR THOSE CONFOUNDED GAULS!

FULL SPEED AHEAD!
A SAIL! A SAIL! ASTERIX, OBEIX AND GETAFIX ARE BACK!

I WILL NOW COMPOSE A LITTLE SONG...

AND FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS EVERYONE IS HAPPY... AT LEAST, NEARLY EVERYONE...

NO, OBEIX NO!

I DON'T LIKE THE DINER OR YOUR NEW MENHIRS! LET'S KEEP IT GALLISH!

THE GALIISH VILLAGE WELCOME HOME ITS HEROES WITH ITS USUAL ENTHUSIASM AND FEASTS...

AND IT WAS ALL THANKS TO DOGNATH!

A NOSE, MY DEAR FELLOW WHAT A NOSE!