



**Our Story:** HERE ON THE SHORES OF THE DEAD SEA THE SIM CAN BE AN EVIL THING. ARN SWAYS, FAINTING IN HIS SADDLE AND WOULD HAVE FALLEN HAD NOT PRINCE VALIANT CAUGHT HIM.



HE HAD BEEN SO PROUD OF HIS NEW SWORD, SHIELD, COIF OF CHAIN MAIL AND HELMET THAT HE HAD INSISTED ON WEARING THEM. THE HELMET BURNS VAL'S FINGERS AS HE REMOVES IT.



IT IS BUT A SHORT DISTANCE TO THE RIVER JORDAN AND THERE THEY PUT THE LAD TO SOAK IN THE COOL WATER.



TOWARD EVENING A CARAVAN APPROACHES. A RICH MERCHANT IS TAKING RUGS, INCENSE AND SLAVES TO THE MARKET. THEY SET UP THEIR TENTS IN THE GROVE NEARBY.



PRINCE VALIANT, KNIGHT, NOW SALESMAN, ENTERTAINS THE MERCHANT AND CONVINCES HIM THAT HE SHOULD TRADE THROUGH ALETA'S AGENTS IN JAFFA. DURING THIS TIME VAL BECOMES INTERESTED IN SOME OF THE MERCHANDISE.



... A SLAVE, UNSHACKLED BUT WEARING A SLAVE COLLAR. HE IS KEEPING ACCOUNTS FOR THE MERCHANT AND HIS DARK EYES ARE FILLED WITH DESPAIR.



THE MERCHANT WOULD SELL ANYTHING FOR A PRICE, BUT IT IS NEAR MIDNIGHT WHEN THE HAGGLING ENDS AND THE PRICE IS PAID.



VAL AWAKES LATE. THE NEW SLAVE IS APPLYING A COOL COMPRESS TO ARN'S FOREHEAD.  
NEXT WEEK - **Ohmed, the Slave.**

## Dennis the Menace

by Hank Ketchum

