

# LI'L ABNER *Paradise Lost* — by AL CAPP



## Prince Valiant IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY HAROLD R. FOSTER

**The Grail Quest:** THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROUND TABLE HAS BROUGHT A MEASURE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE TO BRITAIN, BUT EACH YEAR SEES MORE AND MORE KNIGHTS TAKE UP THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL, AND ALL TOO FEW OF THESE BRAVE WARRIORS RETURN. THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE FELLOWSHIP IS THREATENED. THEN KING ARTHUR CALLS ON PRINCE VALIANT TO SEEK OUT THE FACTS; IF THE GRAIL BE FACT OR MYTH. FOR HE KNOWS VAL WILL NOT BE SWAYED BY UNQUESTIONING FAITH OR SUPERSTITION.



VAL HAS TRACED THE GRAIL LEGEND TO GLASTONBURY ON THE ISLAND OF AVALON. THERE HE SEEKS OUT THE PRIOR TO LEARN THE TRUE FACTS THAT WILL BRING HIS MISSION TO A SUCCESSFUL END.



BUT THE PRIOR HAS BEEN SENT FROM ROME TO SUPERINTEND THE BUILDING OF AN ABBEY ON THIS SACRED SPOT, AND IS NOT INTERESTED. "IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO ASK QUESTIONS," HE SAYS STERNLY. "I WILL ASSIGN A LAY BROTHER TO INSTRUCT YOU IN THESE MATTERS."



BUT THIS KINDLY OLD TEACHER HAS SUCH A PROFOUND FAITH THAT HE NEVER QUESTIONS ANYTHING. HE HAS HEARD THE GRAIL MENTIONED, BUT HAS NOT SOUGHT FURTHER INFORMATION.



IN GROWING DESPAIR VAL WALKS AMONG THE MANY HERMITS, ANCHORITES AND PILGRIMS WHO LIVE ABOUT THE TOR IN ANY SHELTER THEY CAN BUILD. MANY LEGENDS HE HEARS OF A CHALICE BROUGHT TO AVALON BY AN APOSTLE, JOSEPH, BUT ALL DIFFER. THERE IS NOTHING DEFINITE.



VAL HAS TWICE BEEN TO JERUSALEM AND HAS MADE THE PILGRIMAGE FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THE LANDMARKS THAT WERE EVIDENCE TO HIS FAITH STOOD CLEARLY AND DEFINITELY BEFORE HIS EYES. HERE HE MEETS ONLY UNSWERVING FAITH THAT NEEDS NO PROOF.



HE CLIMBS TO THE TOP OF THE TOR AND AMONG THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT CHAPEL HE PONDERS HIS FAILURE AS DAY ENDS.



THEN, FAR ACROSS THE LAKE, HE SEES THE LAST RAYS OF THE SUN FLASH ON POLISHED STEEL! NO FARMER'S SCYTHE OR WOODSMAN'S AXE WOULD BE IN THE MARSH. ARMED MEN! NEXT WEEK—*Dimera the Terrible.*