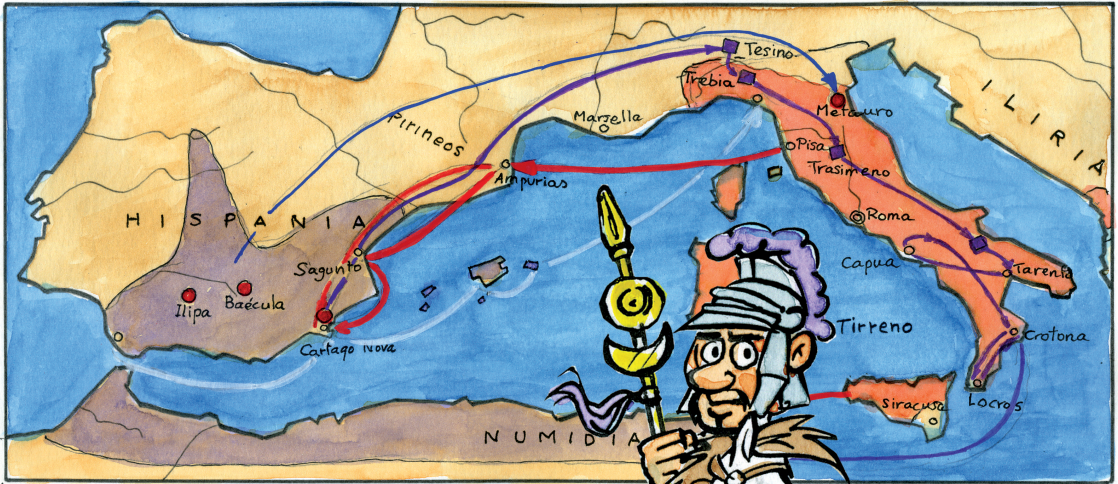


HANNIBAL

THE EUROPEAN FEAT



THE SECOND PUNIC WAR AND HANNIBAL CHALLENGED ROME





EDITION. "BUILDING EUROPE ON THE STEPS OF HANNIBAL "

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HI! THEY CALL ME ICUE,
THOUGH IN THIS
ADVENTURE I AM SCIPIO
AS A CHILD.

THE SECOND PUNIC-
ROMAN WAR BEGAN IN
219 BC WITH HANNIBAL'S
CAPTURE OF SAGUNTUM,
AN ALLIED CITY OF ROME,
WHICH LED ROME TO
DECLARING WAR ON
CARTHAGE.

STARTED LIKE THIS
THE SECOND
PUNIC WAR

AH, A DETAIL! THE DATES
THAT APPEAR IN THE
TEXTS ARE B.C.

THEY CALL ME
RASCASOTE AND IN THIS
EXCITING ADVENTURE I
AM HANNIBAL AS A
CHILD.

FAR FROM BEING
INTIMIDATED,
HANNIBAL RAISED A
HUGE ARMY OF
CARTHAGINIANS,
NUMIDIANS AND
IBERIANS AND
BEGAN HIS EPIC MARCH
TOWARDS ROME. EVEN
TODAY THE FEAT OF
CROSSING GAUL FACING
HOSTILE TRIBES,
CROSSING THE RHÔNE
AND THE IMPASSABLE
ALPINE MOUNTAIN
RANGE CONTINUES TO
SURPRISE US.

MY NAME IS FLORI,
BUT IN THIS STORY I
PLAY THE ROLE OF
HIMILCE AS
A CHILD.

WHEN CROSSING GAUL,
HANNIBAL'S ARMY
LOST ALMOST HALF OF
ITS MEN, HORSES AND
ELEPHANTS. HOWEVER,
IN NORTHERN ITALY
HE WAS ABLE TO
INCREASE HIS ARMY
WITH TROOPS FROM
SOME TRIBES HOSTILE
TO THE ROMANS WITH
WHOM HE AGREED OR
SUBDUED.

I'M CARI, THOUGH
HERE I PLAY THE ROLE
OF EMILIA PAULA AS A
CHILD.

HANNIBAL FOUGHT IN
ITALY FROM 218 TO
203, DEFEATING THE
ROMANS IN NUMEROUS
BATTLES, CANNAE
BEING THE MOST
RENOWNED.
THE ADVENTURE ENDED
IN 202, THE YEAR IN
WHICH THE ROMAN
ARMY, COMMANDED BY
SCIPIO, DEFEATED
HANNIBAL'S
CARTHAGINIAN ARMY
AT THE BATTLE OF
ZAMA IN NORTH
AFRICA.

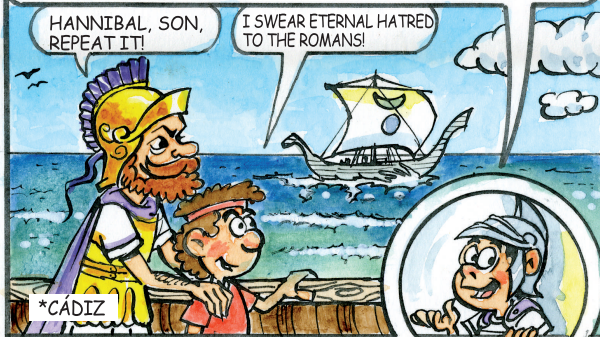


IN MID-THIRD CENTURY BC THE TWO MAJOR MEDITERRANEAN POWERS, ROME AND CARTHAGE, CLASHED IN WHAT WAS CALLED THE FIRST PUNIC WAR. THE WAR ENDED WITH THE DEFEAT OF THE POWERFUL CARTHAGINIAN FLEET AT THE AEGADIAN ISLANDS (241).



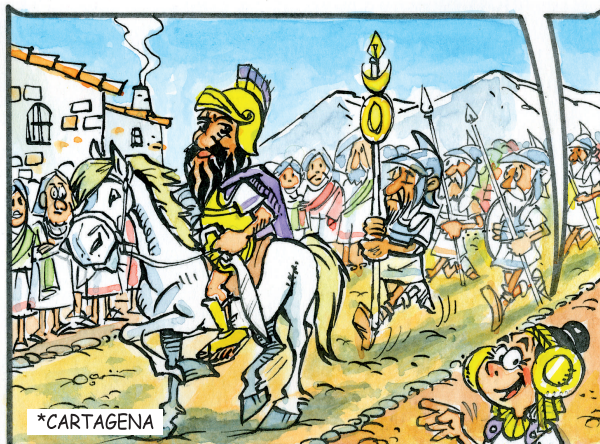
AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY, THE TREATY OF LUTATIUS WAS SIGNED, IN WHICH THE CARTHAGINIANS, IN ADDITION TO LOSING THE ISLAND OF SICILY, HAD TO PAY HEAVY SANCTIONS TO ROME

THE CARTHAGINIANS DECIDED TO GO TO THE IBERIAN PENINSULA TO FIND THE RESOURCES TO PAY THE SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY ROME. CARTHAGINIAN SHIPS, COMMANDED BY HAMILCAR BARCA, ARRIVED AT GADIR (*), MARKING THE START OF THE CARTHAGINIAN PRESENCE IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA.

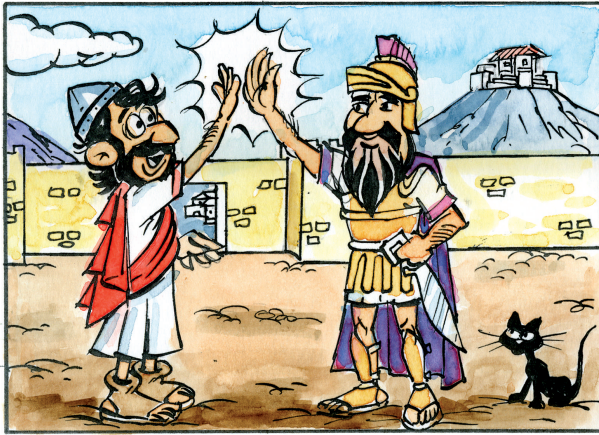


THROUGH BATTLES AND AGREEMENTS, THE CARTHAGINIANS SUBDUED THE PEOPLES OF THE SOUTH. WHEN HAMILCAR TRIED TO TAKE HELIKE (*), HE WAS DEFEATED AT THE "BATTLE OF THE CRAZY BULLS" WHERE HE LOST HIS LIFE.

HE WAS SUCCEEDED AT THE HEAD OF THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY BY GENERAL HASDRUBAL, WHO, AFTER PACIFYING THE REBEL PEOPLES, ENTERED MASTIA WITH HIS TROOPS (*) IN 228



HASDRUBAL NAMED THE CITY QART HADASHT. INSTEAD OF FIGHTING, HE PREFERRED TO ESTABLISH ALLIANCES WITH THE IBERIAN PEOPLES, EVEN MARRYING AN IBERIAN PRINCESS. HE WAS KILLED BY A SLAVE IN 221.



HANNIBAL, BORN IN CARTHAGE IN 247, SON OF HAMILCAR BARCA, RESUMED HIS FATHER'S POLICY OF CONQUESTS, EXTENDING CARTHAGINIAN RULE NORTHWARDS, REACHING THE EBRO VALLEY.



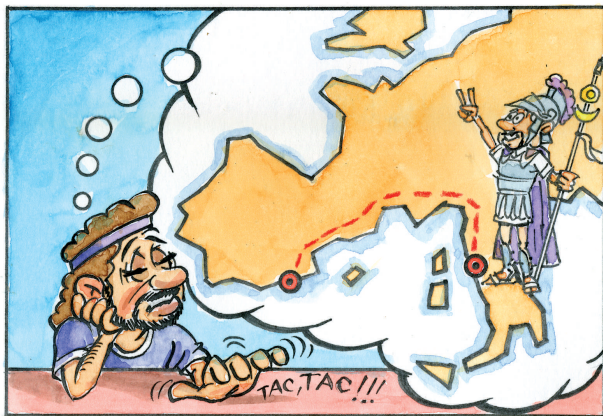
BEFORE HIS DEATH, HASDRUBAL HAD ENTRUSTED THE YOUNG AND BRAVE GENERAL HANNIBAL WITH THE PACIFICATION OF THE IBERIAN PEOPLES. HANNIBAL, SUPPORTED BY THE ARMY AND RATIFIED BY CARTHAGE, WAS CHOSEN AS HASDRUBAL'S SUCCESSOR.



THE BLOODIEST BATTLE FOUGHT BY HANNIBAL IN HISPANIA WAS THE CAPTURE OF SAGUNTUM, AN ALLIED CITY OF ROME, WHICH MEANT THE END OF PEACE WITH THE ROMANS. AFTER THIS EPISODE AND FRUITLESS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, ROME DECLARED WAR ON CARTHAGE.



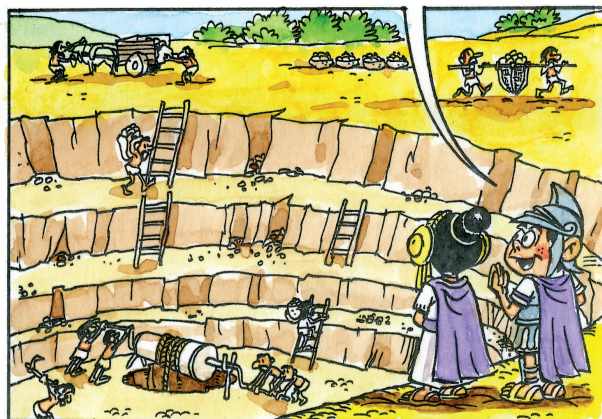
WHEN HANNIBAL HEARD ABOUT THE DECLARATION OF WAR, FAR FROM BEING INTIMIDATED, HE DECIDED TO MARCH AGAINST ROME. BEFORE LEAVING, IN ORDER TO SECURE LOYALTIES, HE SENT TROOPS FROM IBERIA TO NORTH AFRICA, MAURITANIA AND NUMIDIA, AND TROOPS FROM THESE PLACES TO IBERIA, USING THEM AS HOSTAGES AND SOLDIERS.



MANY COINS WERE ALSO MINTED, AND THANKS TO THEIR DESIGNS WE KNOW ASPECTS ABOUT CARTHAGINIAN HISTORY AS WELL AS HAVING THE PORTRAITS OF SOME OF THEIR GENERALS LIKE HASDRUBAL AND HANNIBAL.



WHILE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR INTENSIFIED, MINING ACTIVITY WAS REVIVED AT QART HADASHT TO PAY FOR HANNIBAL'S COSTLY CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE ROMANS. LEAD AND SILVER ORE WAS EXTRACTED FROM OPEN-PIT AND UNDERGROUND MINES.

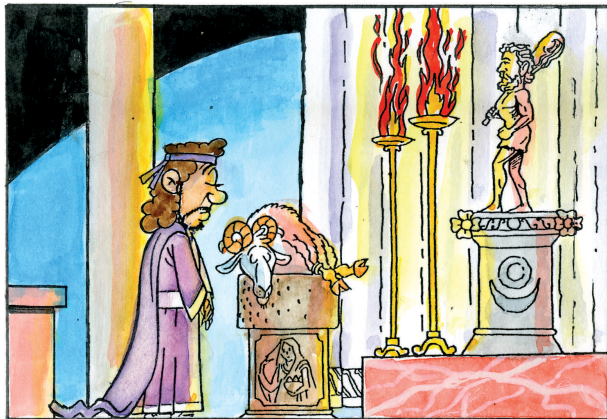


HANNIBAL, TOGETHER WITH HIS GENERALS, PLANNED IN DETAIL BOTH THE DEFENCE OF THE CARTHAGINIAN TERRITORIES IN IBERIA, AND THE OBSTACLES AND RISKS OF THE MARCH ON ROME. THEY DECIDED TO USE THE RENOWNED VIA HERAKLEA.

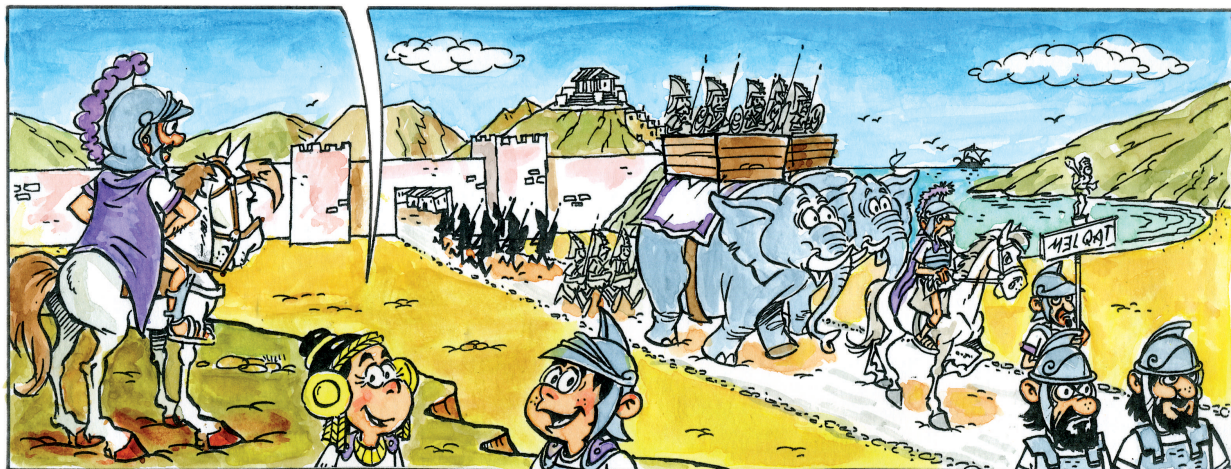


WHILE PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE FOR A LIGHTNING WAR, HANNIBAL SENT DELEGATES TO THE IBERIANS AND GAULS TO ESTABLISH ALLIANCES. HE OFFERED SACRIFICES TO THE GOD MELQART AND TOOK CARE TO PROTECT HIS WIFE HIMILCE AND SON ASPAR.

HANNIBAL GATHERED HIS TROOPS IN SPRING 218, HARANGUING THEM AND INSISTING ROME WANTED HIS HEAD WHILE PROMISING THEM RICH BOOTY AND FERTILE LANDS.



IN SPRING 218, ANTIQUITY'S GREATEST AND MOST HETEROGENEOUS ARMY, LED BY HANNIBAL, EMBARKED IN QART HADASHT ON ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE AND RISKY MARCHES AND CAMPAIGNS IN HISTORY.



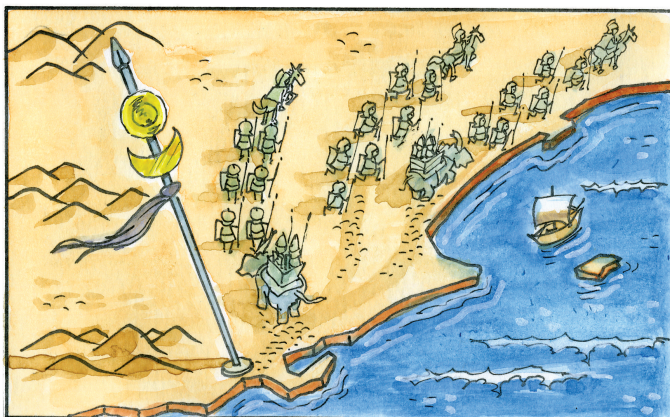
AN ARMY OF 90,000 INFANTRY, 12,000 HORSEMEN, 37 ELEPHANTS AND THOUSANDS OF PACK ANIMALS UNDERTOOK, IN THE LATE SPRING OF 218, THE MARCH TOWARDS ROME. THE SECOND PUNIC WAR HAD BEGUN.

THE HETEROGENEOUS ARMY WAS MADE UP OF CARTHAGINIAN TROOPS, INCLUDING NORTH AFRICAN PEOPLES SUCH AS MAURITANIAN NUMIDIANS, AND LIBYANS, AS WELL AS PEOPLES FROM IBERIA: MASTBIANS, TURDETANI, CANTABRIAN ASTURES, GALLAECI AND BALEARIC SLINGERS, AMONG OTHERS.



HANNIBAL ENTRUSTED HIS BROTHER HASDRUBAL WITH THE DEFENCE OF THE CARTHAGINIAN TERRITORIES IN THE PENINSULA, LEAVING ABOUT 20,000 MEN BETWEEN INFANTRY AND HORSEMEN AS WELL AS SHIPS, HORSES, ELEPHANTS AND WAR MATERIAL.

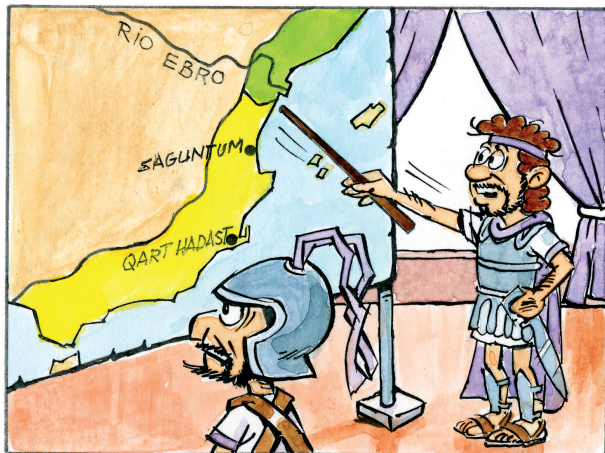
THE HUGE ARMY MARCHED OPEN IN SEVERAL COLUMNS IN ORDER TO AVOID CONGESTING ROADS AND FACILITATE PROVISIONING. AS HANNIBAL KNEW ROME'S MARITIME POWER, HE AVOIDED MARCHING NEAR THE COAST, MOVING HIS TROOPS FURTHER INLAND.



NO SERIOUS SETBACKS WERE MET UNTIL THE EXPEDITION REACHED THE EBRO RIVER, AS THEY WERE TERRITORIES UNDER CARTHAGINIAN INFLUENCE. JUST A FEW SKIRMISHES WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES THAT BARELY SLOWED THEM DOWN.



IN ORDER TO CONTROL THE TERRITORIES SOUTH OF THE PYRENEES HE LEFT HIS BROTHER HANNO IN COMMAND OF 10,000 INFANTRY AND 1,000 HORSEMEN.



HOWEVER, DURING THE FOLLOWING STAGES TO THE PYRENEES, THE CARTHAGINIANS ENCOUNTERED MORE DIFFICULTIES. THEY HAD TO CROSS THE EBRO RIVER AND FACE ILERGETES, CELTIBERIANS AND OTHER PRE-ROMAN PEOPLES, WITH WHOM THEY FINALLY SIGNED AGREEMENTS.



BEFORE STARTING TO CROSS THE PYRENEES, ANOTHER OF HANNIBAL'S PRECAUTIONS WAS TO RESTRUCTURE HIS ARMY BY SENDING SEVERAL THOUSAND SOLDIERS, WHOSE LOYALTY HE DOUBTED, BACK TO THEIR VILLAGES. THE EXPEDITION HAD ALREADY COVERED 750 KM.



THE CROSSING OF THE PYRENEES IN THE MONTH OF JULY WAS NOT PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT, IN SPITE OF RESOURCES HAVING FALLEN TO 60,000 INFANTRY, 1,000 HORSEMEN AND THIRTY ELEPHANTS. REASONS: THE TROOPS HE LEFT TO HIS BROTHER HANNO, THOSE SENT HOME BY HANNIBAL, DESERTIONS AND DEATHS.



THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY, AIDED BY ITS GALIC ALLIES, SET OUT TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY MEANS TO CROSS THE WIDE RIVER. HANNIBAL SENT HANNO, BOMILCAR'S SON, FURTHER NORTH WITH PART OF HIS ARMY TO FORD THE RIVER THROUGH A MORE ACCESSIBLE AREA AND FACE THE CAVARI, A WARLIKE TRIBE LOCATED ON THE OTHER BANK OF THE RHÔNE.



AFTER CROSSING THE PYRENEES, HANNIBAL CONTINUED HIS MARCH THROUGH GAUL ALONG THE VIA HERAKLEA. AS A SKILLED NEGOTIATOR, HE ESTABLISHED AGREEMENTS WITH SOUTHERN TRIBES, INCLUDING THE VOLCAE TO FACILITATE THE ARMY'S MARCH TO THE RHÔNE VALLEY.



THE CARTHAGINIANS BOUGHT ALL THE EQUIPMENT THAT COULD BE USEFUL TO CROSS THE WIDE RIVER FROM THE VOLCAE. THEY BUILT RUDIMENTARY BOATS, WINESKINS TO USE AS FLOATS AND HUGE RAFTS WITH LOGS AND ROPES TO MAKE THE CROSSING OF THE RIVER EASIER FOR THE HORSES AND ELEPHANTS.



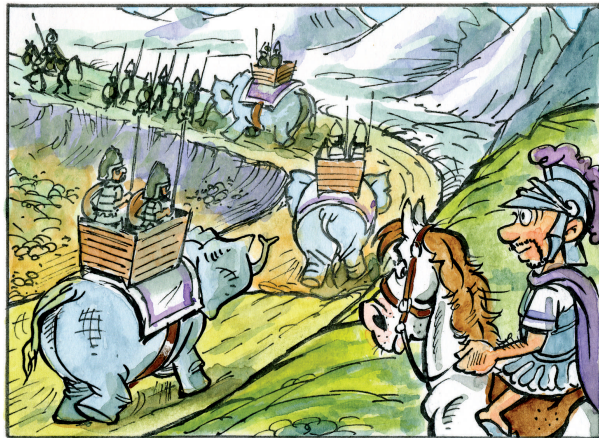
ONE OF THE GREAT FEATS OF THE LEGENDARY VOYAGE WAS THE CROSSING OF THE RHÔNE RIVER BY THE CARTHAGINIAN TROOPS, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT ON THE OTHER BANK THE MIGHTY CAVARI WERE WAITING. MOST OF THE HORSES SWAM ACROSS THE RIVER AT THE SIDE OF EACH BOAT, ALTHOUGH SOME CROSSED ON RAFTS OR IN BOATS, SADDLED, AND READY TO ENTER COMBAT. THE ELEPHANTS DID SO ON LARGE RAFTS AND THE INFANTRY BY BOAT, RAFT OR SWIMMING CLINGING ONTO WINESKINS.



HANNIBAL'S STRATEGY TO DEFEAT THE CAVARI PAID OFF, AS HANNO, WITH HIS SMALL CONTINGENT, ATTACKED THEM BY SURPRISE, WHILE HIS SOLDIERS SET FIRE TO THEIR CAMP. HANNO'S TROOPS WERE JOINED BY HANNIBAL AND THE SOLDIERS WHO HAD MANAGED TO CROSS THE RIVER.



AT THE END OF AUGUST 218, THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY HAD ADVANCED ANOTHER 750 KM FROM THE PYRENEES TO THE RHÔNE AND WAS NOW REDUCED TO ABOUT 38,000 INFANTRY, 8,000 HORSEMEN AND AROUND THIRTY ELEPHANTS.



THE CONSUL PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO TRIED, UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO INTERCEPT HANNIBAL. HE ANCHORED HIS FLEET IN MASSALIA (*), A GREEK COLONY ALLIED WITH ROME. AFTER FINDING OUT THAT HANNIBAL'S TROOPS WERE SEVERAL DAYS AHEAD OF HIM, HE DECIDED TO MOVE HIS TROOPS TO THE PO VALLEY AND WAIT THERE FOR THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY.

ANOTHER OF THE ROMAN CONSUL'S DECISIONS WAS TO SEND PART OF THE FLEET UNDER THE COMMAND OF HIS BROTHER GNAEUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO TO THE IBERIAN COAST WITH THE MISSION OF CUTTING OFF COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPLIES TO THE CARTHAGINIAN TROOPS. THIS MARKED THE START OF THE ROMAN PRESENCE IN IBERIA.

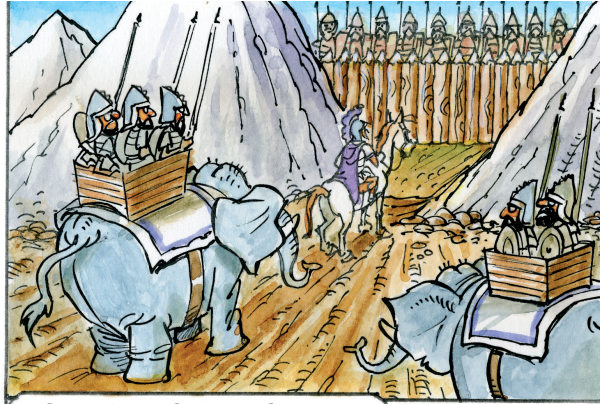


HAVING PASSED THE RHÔNE, HANNIBAL LED HIS ARMY TOWARDS THE ALPS. ON THE WAY, HE ENCOUNTERED AN ALLOBROGES TRIBE IN THE MIDST OF CIVIL CONFLICT, WITH TWO BROTHERS VYING FOR POWER. HANNIBAL SUPPORTED THE ELDEST OF THE WARLORDS, BRANCUS, FROM WHOM HE RECEIVED SUPPLIES, SUPPORT, AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE ALPS.

WITH THIS INFORMATION, HANNIBAL DREW UP THE PLAN AND POSSIBLE ROUTES TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE OROGRAPHIC AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OF THE ALPS. TO AVOID EXCESSIVE COLD AND SNOW, THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY BEGAN THE ASCENT BEFORE THE WINTER.



ON THE ASCENT, THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY FOUND THAT THE PASSES WERE FORTIFIED AND BLOCKED BY ALLOBROGIAN TRIBES. HANNIBAL TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE NIGHT TO CLEAR THE WAY, AND, AFTER FIGHTING AND DEFEATING THEM, CONTINUED HIS MARCH.



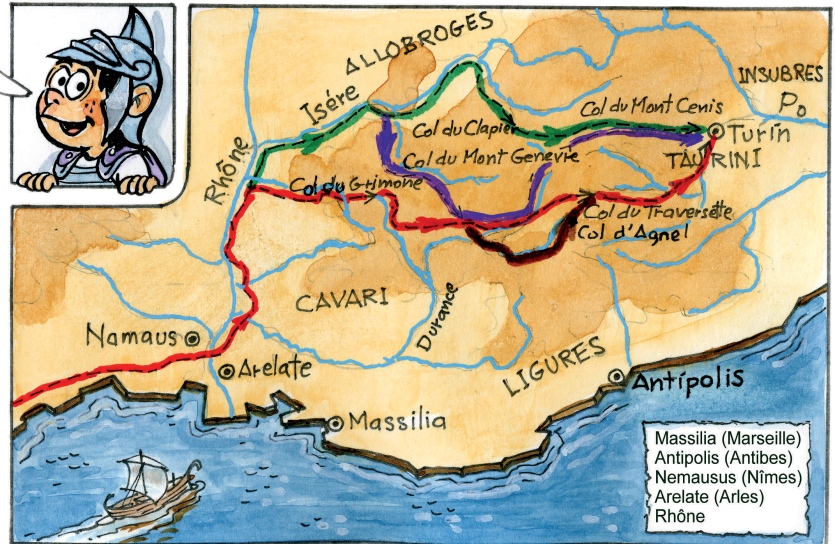
THE DATA PROVIDED BY ANCIENT ROMAN HISTORIANS REGARDING THE ROUTE FOLLOWED BY HANNIBAL'S ARMY IN CROSSING THE ALPS ARE VERY GENERIC AND IMPRECISE.

SOME CONTEMPORARY HISTORIANS HAVE ELABORATED THEORIES ABOUT THE ITINERARY FOLLOWED. SO FAR, THERE IS NO CERTAINTY. THE DEBATE IS THEREFORE STILL OPEN.

THE MAP SHOWS FOUR OF THE MOUNTAIN PASSES SUGGESTED BY RENOWNED HISTORIANS.

- Col du Clavier and Col du Mont Cenis pass, defended by John Francis Lazenby.
- Col de la Traversette pass, defended by G. de Beer and William C. Mahaney
- Col du Mont Genève pass defended by Peter Connolly
- Col Agnel pass, defended by Jean S. Morabito.

WHEN HANNIBAL WON OR MADE A PACT WITH A PEOPLE, HE WOULD STOCK UP ON PROVISIONS, HORSES, BEASTS OF BURDEN AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO FEED AND STRENGTHEN HIS ARMY. HE ALSO SENT EMISSARIES AHEAD TO MAKE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER TRIBES AND GET INFORMATION.

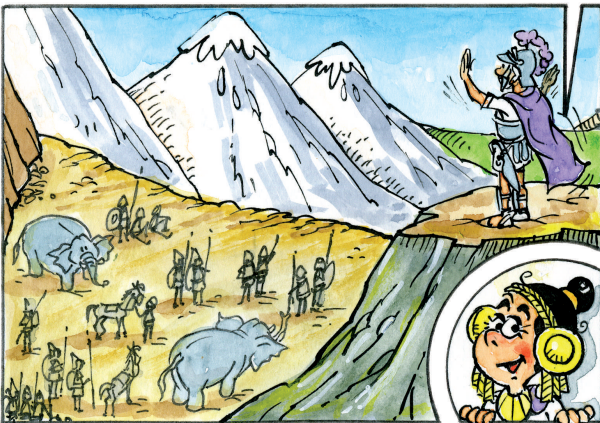


Massilia (Marseille)
Antipolis (Antibes)
Nemausus (Nîmes)
Arelate (Arles)
Rhône

AN ALPINE TRIBE, ALLIED WITH THE CENTRONES, OFFERED HOSTAGES AND CATTLE TO HANNIBAL TO GAIN HIS TRUST. SUSPICIOUS, AND TO AVOID BEING SURPRISED, HANNIBAL PLACED THE CAVALRY AT THE FOREFRONT OF HIS ARMY AND THE HEAVY INFANTRY, LED BY HIM, AT THE REAR.



ONCE THE SUMMIT WAS REACHED, HANNIBAL LET HIS TROOPS REST FOR A FEW DAYS. THE DESCENT WAS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE ASCENT DUE TO THE STEEP TERRAIN, SOME VERY NARROW PLACES, THE COLD AND SNOW, SO HANNIBAL HARANGUED THEM AND MOTIVATED THEM BY SHOWING THEM FROM THE SUMMITS THE PLAINS IRRIGATED BY THE PO.



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CARTHAGINIANS PASSING THROUGH A GORGE, THE ALPINE TRIBE AMBUSHED THEM, THROWING ROCKS FROM ABOVE. HANNIBAL, WITH THE REARGUARD, WHO HAD NOT YET ENTERED THE GORGE, ATTACKED AND DECIMATED THE ATTACKERS.



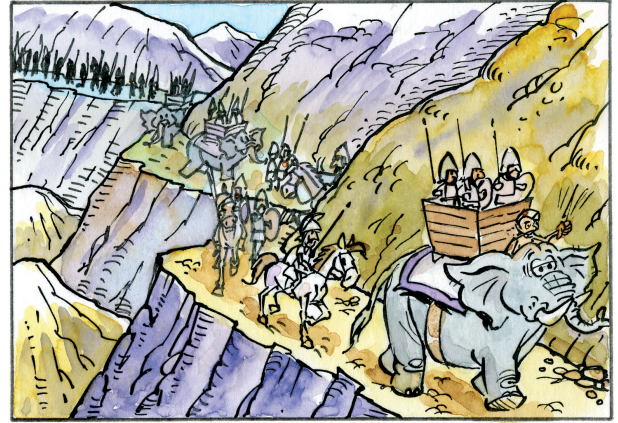
SOME PASSES WERE BLOCKED BY STONE AVALANCHES THAT TOOK SEVERAL DAYS TO CLEAR. SOME PATHS ALONG THE CLIFFS WERE SO NARROW THAT MEN AND BEASTS SLIPPED AND FELL DOWN INTO THE ABYSS. MORE TROOPS WERE LOST ON THE DESCENT THAN ON THE ASCENT.



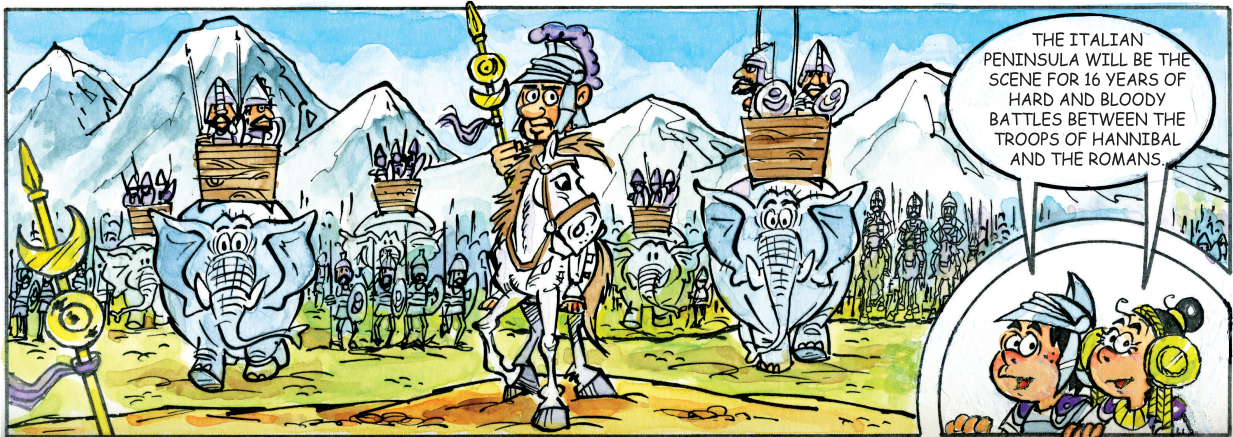
ONE OF THE PASSES WAS CUT OFF BY A LARGE ROCK IMPOSSIBLE TO BREAK WITH HAMMERS. SO HANNIBAL ORDERED TO HEAT IT AND POUR VINEGARED WINE OVER IT. THE HIGH TEMPERATURE AND VINEGAR SOFTENED AND CRACKED THE CALCIUM CARBONATE ROCK THAT COULD FINALLY BE DESTROYED WITH HAMMERS.



THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE TERRAIN AND THE NARROWNESS OF THE PASSES MADE THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY MARCH IN SINGLE FILE, MAKING THE PROCESSION EXTEND SEVERAL DOZENS OF KILOMETRES.



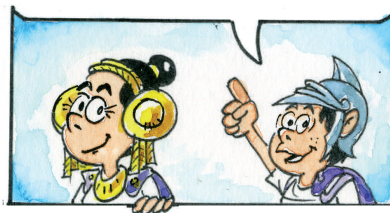
FINALLY, AFTER FIVE MONTHS OF HARDSHIP AND MORE THAN 1,800 KM, THE CARTHAGINIAN ARMY REACHED THE PLAIN, THE PO VALLEY. HANNIBAL HAD ACHIEVED HIS FIRST GREAT GOAL: REACH THE ITALIAN PENINSULA. THE ARMY HAD NOW BEEN REDUCED TO ABOUT 20,000 INFANTRYMEN, 6,000 HORSEMEN AND 21 ELEPHANTS. NOW A LONG CAMPAIGN OF FIGHTING AGAINST THE ROMANS WOULD BEGIN.



ONCE ON THE PO PLAIN, HANNIBAL GAVE HIS TROOPS A WELL-DESERVED REST. HE SOON BECAME AWARE OF THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS PEOPLES OF NORTHERN ITALY (GAULS, CELTS, INSUBRI, TAURINI...), AND, AS A GOOD STRATEGIST, HE DECIDED TO USE THIS CIRCUMSTANCE TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE.



THE CARTHAGINIAN GENERAL FACED A COMPLEX SCENARIO. THE ROMANS MIGHT HAVE ALMOST UNLIMITED RESOURCES BOTH IN MEN AND IN TERMS OF LOGISTICS WHILE HANNIBAL WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM CARTHAGE, SO HE WOULD BE FORCED TO SUPPLY AND RECRUIT FROM THE GALLIC TRIBES, EITHER BY SUBJUGATING THEM OR THROUGH ALLIANCES. ON THE OTHER HAND, ROME HAD VERY CONSOLIDATED INSTITUTIONS COMPARED TO THE PUNICS.



THE GALLIC TRIBES OF NORTHERN ITALY, NOT VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ROMANS, HARDLY BOTHERED HANNIBAL, WHO BESIEGED AND TOOK TAURINIUM (*), THUS GETTING THE OTHER TRIBES TO OFFER HIM VASSALAGE.



(*) Turin.

THE ROMAN CONSUL PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO LED HIS ARMY TO MEET THE CARTHAGINIAN ONE, BEING DEFEATED AT THE BATTLE OF TICINUS. SCIPIO WAS WOUNDED AND SAVED BY HIS SON PUBLIUS, WHO ELEVEN YEARS LATER WOULD CONQUER QART HADASHT (*).



(*) Cartagena

HANNIBAL STRENGTHENED HIS ARMY WITH GAULISH TRIBES. AT THE END OF 218 THE CONSUL SEMPRONIUS JOINED HIS ARMY TO SCIPIO'S AND MARCHED TO THE TREBIA RIVER. THANKS TO HANNIBAL'S STRATEGY AND THE NUMIDIAN CAVALRY, THE ROMANS WERE DEFEATED AT THE **BATTLE OF TREBIA (217)**. THAT WINTER, MOST OF THE ELEPHANTS DIED.



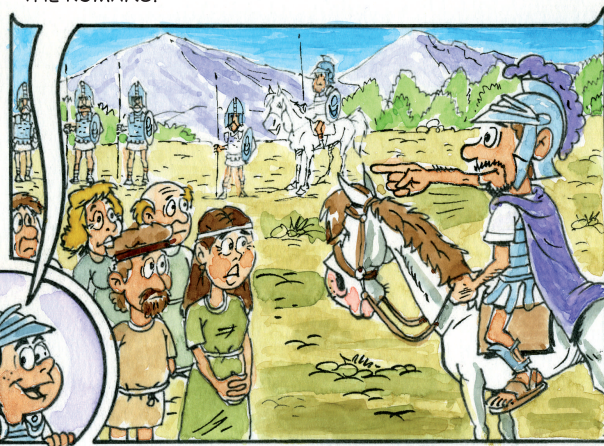
IN SPRING, HANNIBAL HEADED SOUTH, CROSSED THE APENNINES AND MARSHY AREAS WHERE HE LOST THE VISION OF HIS RIGHT EYE AND SURUS, HIS BRAVE AND LAST ELEPHANT. IN HIS ADVANCE HE MADE PACTS OR RAZED VILLAGES WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO RECRUIT FORCES AND PROVISIONS.



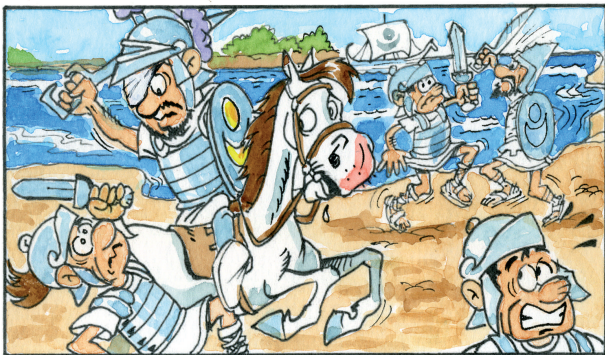
WHILE HANNIBAL WAS WINNING HIS FIRST BATTLES, THE ROMAN SQUADRON COMMANDED BY GNAEUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO, PUBLIUS'S BROTHER, HAD ARRIVED AT EMPORIUM (*) IN ORDER TO CUT OFF SUPPLIES TO HANNIBAL. THROUGH PACTS AND COMBATS THE ROMANS WON SOME TOWNS OVER TO THEIR CAUSE.



TO ATTRACT THE ITALIC PEOPLES, HE FREED THE PRISONERS AND LET THEM RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGES AFTER EXPLAINING THAT THEIR ENEMIES WERE NOT THEM BUT THE ROMANS.



IN MID-217, THE CONSUL FLAMINIUS LED HIS ARMY TOWARDS LAKE TRASIMENE. HANNIBAL AMBUSHED HIM IN A NARROW PASS BETWEEN THE HILLS AND THE LAKE. THE CARTHAGINIANS ATTACKED FROM THE FRONT AND SIDES, THE ROMANS WERE DEFEATED AT THE **BATTLE OF TRASIMENE**. ABOUT 15,000 ROMANS DIED AS WELL AS THE CONSUL.



HANNIBAL TRIED TO ATTRACT THE PEOPLES OF CENTRAL ITALY, BUT THEY WERE MORE LOYAL TO ROME THAN THOSE OF THE NORTH. INSTEAD OF HEADING FOR ROME, HE DECIDED TO GO TO THE REGION OF APULIA BY THE ADRIATIC SEA. HE HAD SOME CLASHES WITH THE TROOPS OF THE DICTATOR FABIUS AND HIS GENERAL MINUCIUS FROM WHICH HANNIBAL EMERGED VICTORIOUS.



THE NEWS OF THE GREAT DEFEAT SPREAD PANIC IN ROME. THE SENATE ORDERED THE DESTRUCTION OF BRIDGES TO THE CITY AND TOOK AN EXCEPTIONAL MEASURE TO COMBAT HANNIBAL: HE CONCENTRATED ALL THE POWER IN A DICTATOR: FABIUS MAXIMUS.



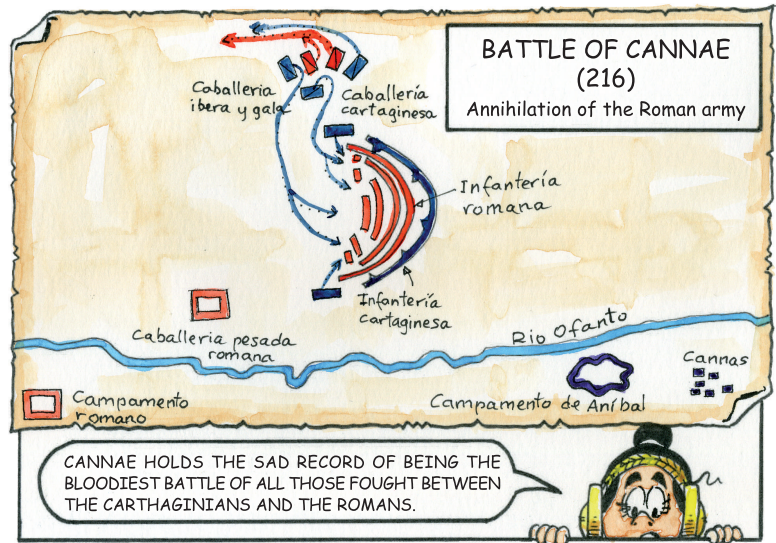
DESPITE FABIUS MAXIMUS'S FAILURE, ROME STOOD FIRM AND DECIDED TO STAND UP TO HANNIBAL. TWO NEW CONSULS, AEMILIUS PAULLUS AND TERENCE VARRO, WERE SENT WITH 8 LEGIONS, MORE THAN 80,000 INFANTRY AND ABOUT 6,500 HORSEMEN, TO FIGHT AGAINST THE CARTHAGINIANS IN APULIA IN THE OPEN FIELD.



HANNIBAL SET UP CAMP AT CANNAE, NEAR THE ADRIATIC SEA AND THE OFANTO RIVER, HIS TROOPS BEING HALF AS NUMEROUS AS THE ROMANS.

ON AUGUST 2, 216, THE BATTLE TOOK PLACE.

THE CARTHAGINIAN INFANTRY MADE A STAND IN FRONT OF THE ROMANS. WHEN THE ROMAN INFANTRY ADVANCED, THE CARTHAGINIANS RETREATED FORMING AN ARC THAT SURROUNDED THE ROMANS THUS HINDERING THEIR ABILITY TO MOVE. THE CARTHAGINIAN CAVALRY, BETTER EQUIPPED THAN THE ROMANS, ATTACKED FROM THE FLANKS AND FROM THE REAR, TRAPPING THE ROMAN ARMY.



IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN 50,000 ROMANS LOST THEIR LIVES, INCLUDING THE CONSUL EMILIUS PAULUS AND SEVERAL SENATORS, AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER ROMANS WERE TAKEN PRISONER. THE CARTHAGINIANS LOST ABOUT 6,000 MEN.

THE BATTLE OF CANNAE WAS ROME'S GREATEST DEFEAT AND THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF HANNIBAL'S MILITARY GENIUS.

CANNAE ALSO MEANT THAT SOME CITIES ALLIES OF ROME PASSED OVER TO THE CARTHAGINIAN SIDE AS WAS THE CASE OF CAPUA, THE SECOND CITY OF ITALY. SYRACUSE, THE MOST IMPORTANT CITY IN SICILY, FOLLOWED THE EXAMPLE OF CAPUA.



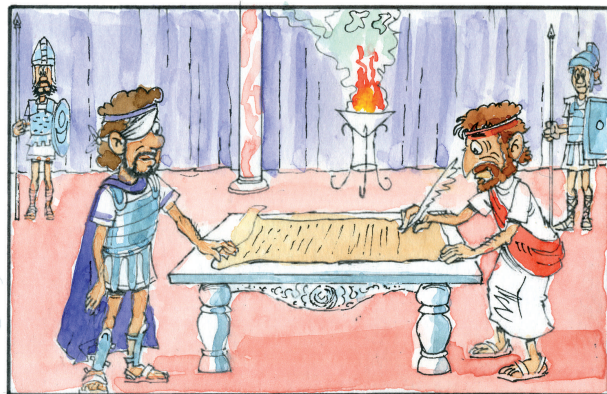
AFTER CANNAE, BOTH ROMANS AND CARTHAGINIANS EXPECTED HANNIBAL WOULD MARCH TO ROME, BUT HIS AIM WAS NOT SO MUCH TO RAZE ROME AS TO WEAKEN IT AND CONFINE ITS POWER TO CENTRAL ITALY. MAHARBAL, HIS CAVALRY CHIEF, OBSERVING HIS HESITATION SAID TO HIM,



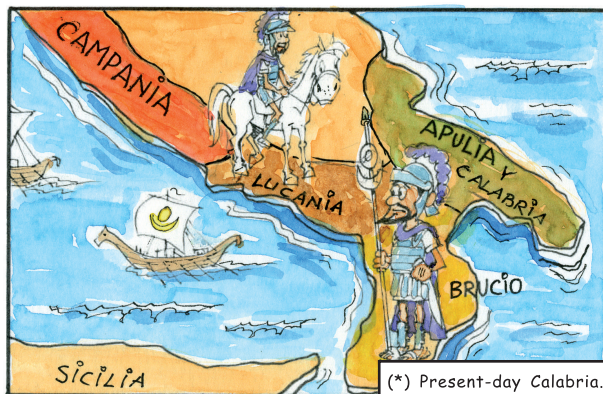
HANNIBAL WAS FORCED TO INCREASE HIS ARMY WITH ITALIC ALLIES, SINCE CARTHAGE DIDN'T SEND REINFORCEMENTS AS THEY WERE GOING TO IBERIA WHERE THE SCIPIOS, GNAEUS AND PUBLIUS, WERE GAINING GROUND ON THE CARTHAGINIANS AND CARTHAGE FEARED LOSING CONTROL OF THIS RICH COUNTRY.



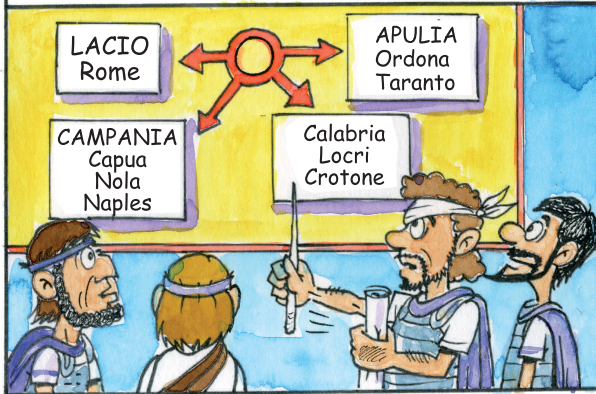
AFTER THE DISASTER OF CANNAE, THE ROMANS AVOIDED A HEAD-ON BATTLE WITH HANNIBAL. IN 215, THE LATTER SIGNED A TREATY WITH KING PHILIP V OF MACEDONIA, BUT THE ROMANS, ALLIED WITH THE KING OF PERGAMON, KEPT THE MACEDONIANS AT BAY FOR TWO DECADES, SO HANNIBAL COULD NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS ALLIANCE.



HANNIBAL HEADED FOR SOUTHERN ITALY SUBDUING VILLAGES THROUGH PACTS, FIGHTS OR SIEGES. HE SET UP CAMPS IN BRUTTIUM (*) AND ON THE COAST OF CAMPANIA, THUS FACILITATING COMMUNICATION WITH CARTHAGE. HE LEFT CONTROL OF THE BRUTTIUM REGION TO HIS BROTHER MAGON.



HANNIBAL'S FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT HAD BEEN LIMITED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES. NOW HE WAS FORCED TO DISPERSE HIS FORCES TO DEAL WITH DIFFERENT POINTS OF CONFLICT OR ANSWER CRIES FOR HELP FROM ALLIED CITIES BEING ATTACKED BY ROME.



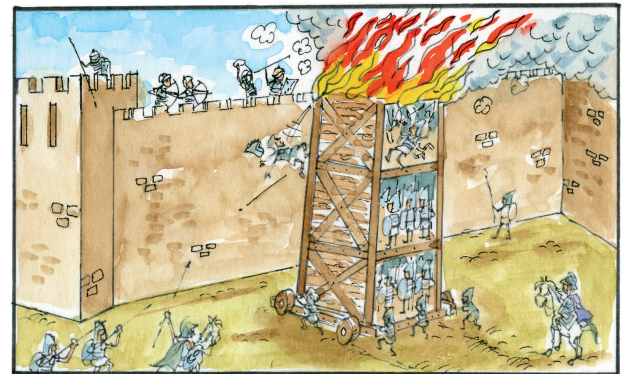
IN 215, AFTER TAKING CAPUA AND LEAVING REINFORCEMENTS THERE, HANNIBAL WENT TO THE CITY OF NOLA, DEFENDED BY ROMAN TROOPS UNDER THE PRAETOR CLAUDIUS MARCELLUS. HANNIBAL COULD NOT CAPTURE IT, LOSING AROUND 2,500 MEN. IT WAS THE FIRST ROMAN VICTORY IN ITALY. DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS HE UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO CAPTURE NOLA.



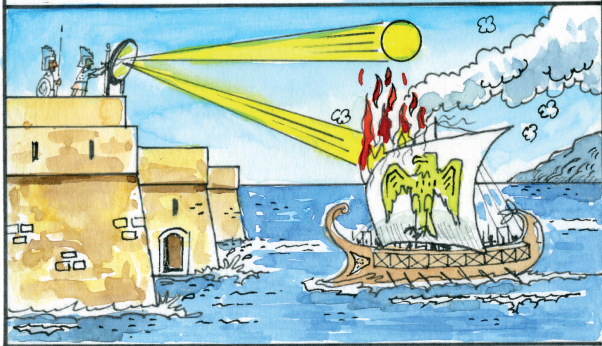
HANNIBAL WAS NOW AT A DISADVANTAGE WITH ROME. HE ONLY HAD HIS ARMY OF CARTHAGINIANS, NUMIDIANS, IBERIANS AND GAULS, INCREASINGLY DEPLETED. THE REST WERE RECRUITED ITALICS, SOMETIMES AGAINST THEIR WILL. WHILE ROME EVERY YEAR HAD 20 LEGIONS..



IN THE SOUTH, HANNIBAL OCCUPIED THE SMALL PORTS OF LOCRI AND CROTONE WHERE HE RECEIVED HELP FROM CARTHAGE. HE SET HIS SIGHTS ON THE PORT OF CUMAE NEAR NAPLES. THE CITY, DEFENDED BY THE CONSUL SEMPRONIUS GRACCHUS, COULDN'T BE TAKEN AS THE DEFENDERS BURNED DOWN ONE OF THE CARTHAGINIANS' LARGE SIEGE TOWERS.



IN 214, THE ROMAN SENATE DECIDED TO OCCUPY THE RICH ISLAND OF SICILY. THE CONSUL MARCELLUS WAS INSTRUCTED TO CONQUER SYRACUSE, WHICH RESISTED THE ROMAN SIEGE FOR THREE YEARS THANKS TO THE WAR MACHINES AND THE CONCAVE MIRRORS THAT SET FIRE TO ROMAN SHIPS, INVENTIONS OF ARCHIMEDES WHO WAS KILLED BY A SOLDIER WHILE HE WAS DRAWING GEOMETRICAL FIGURES IN THE SAND.

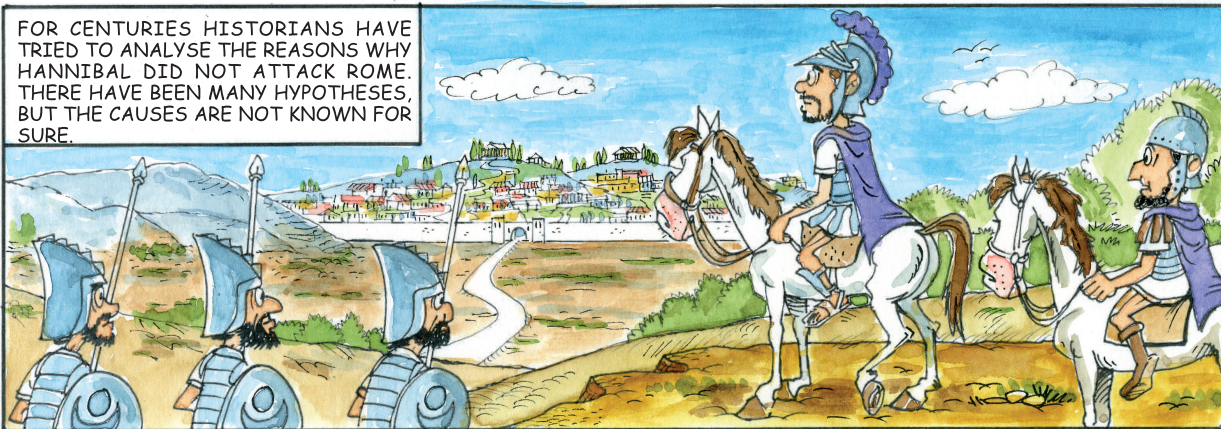


IN 212, AFTER TAKING SYRACUSE, AND AS THE CARTHAGINIANS WERE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH, THE ROMANS DECIDED TO RECONQUER CAPUA. WHEN HANNIBAL CAME TO THE CITY'S AID, IT HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN BY THE ROMANS. THE CARTHAGINIAN ATTEMPTS TO RECONQUER IT FAILED.



IN 211, HANNIBAL DECIDED TO MARCH TOWARDS ROME THINKING THE ROMAN ARMY WOULD FOLLOW HIM FROM CAPUA, THUS ACHIEVING THE DOUBLE OBJECTIVE OF RECONQUERING CAPUA AND FIGHTING THE ROMANS IN A PITCHED BATTLE. WITH THE CARTHAGINIANS CLOSE TO THE WALLS OF ROME, THE POPULATION WAS OVERWHELMED AND EVERYWHERE, BETWEEN LAMENTS, THE CRY "HANNIBAL AD PORTAS" (*) WAS HEARD. THE STRATEGY DID NOT WORK: THE ROMANS STAYED IN CAPUA.

FOR CENTURIES HISTORIANS HAVE TRIED TO ANALYSE THE REASONS WHY HANNIBAL DID NOT ATTACK ROME. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY HYPOTHESES, BUT THE CAUSES ARE NOT KNOWN FOR SURE.

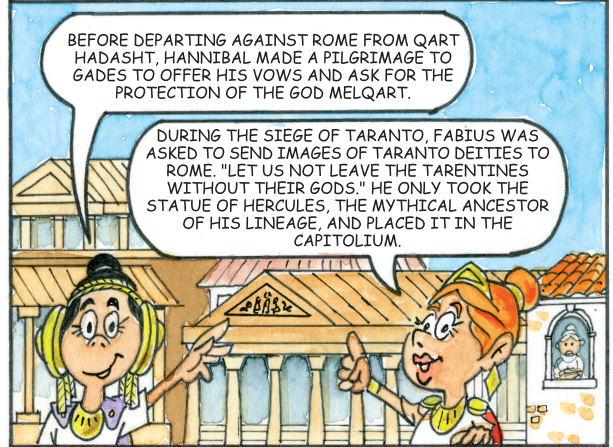


(*) HANNIBAL AT THE GATES.

WITH THE FAILED STRATEGY TO RECOVER CAPUA AND A WEAKENED ARMY, HANNIBAL WANTED TO GAIN STRENGTH IN THE SOUTH. IN 212, A COMMISSION FROM TARANTO OFFERED TO HELP HIM TAKE THE CITY FROM INSIDE. AFTER 2 YEARS, TARANTO FINALLY CAME UNDER CARTHAGINIAN RULE.



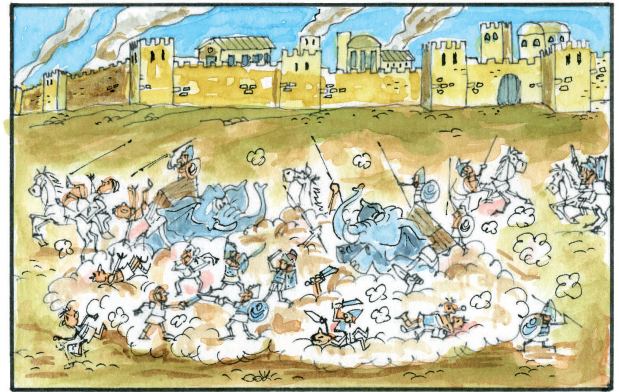
THE RELIGION AND WORSHIP OF THE GODS OF THE CONTENDERS WERE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE CAMPAIGN. AS WE CAN SEE IN TWO EXAMPLES.



THE ARMIES CLASHED IN HERDONIA, REGION OF APULIA, ON TWO OCCASIONS (212 AND 210) WITH CARTHAGINIAN VICTORIES AND THOUSANDS OF ROMAN CASUALTIES. AFTER THE SECOND BATTLE, HANNIBAL ORDERED THE CITY TO BE DESTROYED.



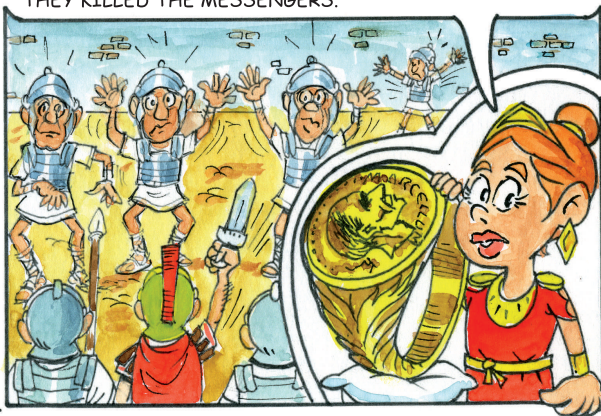
IN 209, HANNIBAL CONTROLLED THE SOUTH, BUT WAS RELUCTANT TO LOSE INFLUENCE IN THE REGION OF APULIA, WHICH LED TO HEAVY FIGHTING IN CANUSIUM WITH THE ROMAN TROOPS COMMANDED BY MARCELLUS. IN THESE FIGHTS KNOWN AS THE **BATTLE OF ASCULUM**, HANNIBAL ONCE AGAIN USED ELEPHANTS SENT FROM CARTHAGE.



ONCE HANNIBAL KNEW THE ROMANS WERE BESIEGING TARANTO, HE DECIDED TO MOVE ON, REINFORCE HIS ARMY, AND DEPART FOR TARANTO. WHEN HE ARRIVED, THE CITY HAD ALREADY BEEN TAKEN BY THE ROMANS. FACED WITH THE DIFFICULTY OF RETAKING IT, HE LIFTED THE SIEGE AND RETURNED TO THE BRUTTIUM.



HANNIBAL, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HAVING MARCELLUS' CONSULAR RING, ATTEMPTED TO TAKE THE CITY OF SALAPIA WITH A TRICK. HE SENT 600 ITALIC ALLIES DISGUISED AS ROMANS WITH A LETTER FROM MARCELLUS ANNOUNCING HIS ARRIVAL IN THE CITY, BUT AS THE INHABITANTS ALREADY KNEW ABOUT MARCELLUS' DEATH, THEY KILLED THE MESSENGERS.



IN 208 THE CONSULS MARCELLUS AND CRISPINUS HEADED SOUTH TO FIGHT HANNIBAL. KNOWING THAT HANNIBAL WAS IN APULIA, THEY JOINED THEIR ARMIES, BUT, FACED WITH THE SUPERIORITY OF THE ROMAN ARMY, HANNIBAL REFUSED TO FIGHT. THE CONSULS, CONFIDENT, MADE A RAID WITH FEW TROOPS. THE CARTHAGINIANS AMBUSHED THEM, KILLING MARCELLUS AND CRISPINUS FROM HIS WOUNDS SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.

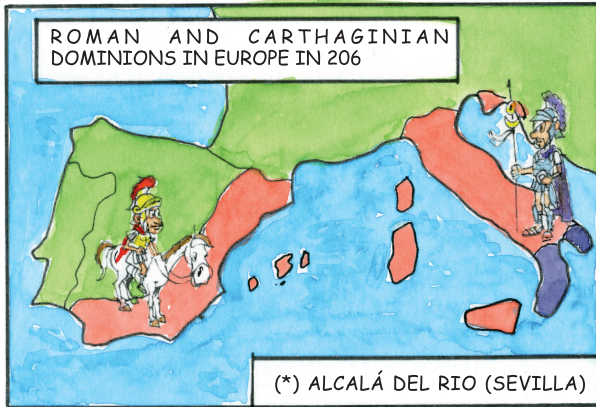


MEANWHILE IN IBERIA THE ROMANS WERE GAINING GROUND. IN 209, PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO CONQUERED QART HADAST, THE CARTHAGINIAN CAPITAL ON THE PENINSULA, AND DEFEATED THEM IN SUCCESSIVE BATTLES. CAPITAL OF THE CARTHAGINIANS IN THE PENINSULA AND DEFEATED THEM IN SUCCESSIVE BATTLES. HASDRUBAL, AFTER BEING DEFEATED AT THE **BATTLE OF BAECULA (*)**, DECIDES TO MARCH TO ITALY TO JOIN HIS ARMY WITH THAT OF HIS BROTHER HANNIBAL, BUT IS DEFEATED AND KILLED AT THE **BATTLE OF THE METAURUS RIVER**.



(*) Near Bailén.

PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO, AFTER THE BATTLE OF ILIPA (*) AND THE CAPTURE OF CADIZ IN 206, HAD PUT AN END TO THE CARTHAGINIAN POSSESSIONS IN IBERIA. SICILY WAS ALSO NOW ROMAN. THE TIME HAD COME TO DEFEAT AND EXPEL HANNIBAL WHO STILL CONTROLLED THE BRUTTIAN REGION IN SOUTHERN ITALY.



CARTHAGE HAD PROMISED HANNIBAL LOGISTICAL HELP AND SENT A HUNDRED SHIPS WITH SOLDIERS, MONEY AND SUPPLIES, BUT THE CONVOY WAS DIVERTED FROM ITS ROUTE BY STRONG WINDS AND DEFEATED BY THE ROMAN FLEET. HANNIBAL WAS FORCED TO RECRUIT FROM AMONG HIS ALLIES WHICH UNDERMINED HIS POPULARITY.



HANNIBAL STILL CONTROLLED THE PORTS OF LOCRI AND CROTONE IN SOUTHERN ITALY. LOCRI WAS TAKEN BY THE ROMANS WITH THE HELP OF TRAITORS IN 205. HANNIBAL TRIED TO RECOVER IT. ONCE THE CONSUL PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO WAS INFORMED, HE LEFT SICILY TO DEFEND THE CITY AND PUT AN END TO HANNIBAL, WHO, AWARE OF THE MANOEUVRE, SUSPENDED THE SIEGE AND LEFT.



THE ROMAN AND CARTHAGINIAN ARMIES WERE DECIMATED IN 204 BY AN OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE. THE LAST MAJOR CLASHES BETWEEN ROMANS AND CARTHAGINIANS TOOK PLACE IN 204 AND 203 IN THE PORT OF CROTONE AND VICINITY WITH A ROMAN TRIUMPH. HANNIBAL LOST ABOUT 5,000 MEN IN THESE BATTLES.



HANNIBAL'S BROTHER MAGON, DEFEATED IN THE PO VALLEY, DIED FROM HIS INJURIES. THE CARTHAGINIAN INFLUENCE IN ITALY HAVING BEEN LOST, AND, FACED WITH THE ROMAN THREAT IN NORTH AFRICA, THE CARTHAGINIAN SENATE SENT HANNIBAL A FLEET TO BRING BACK THE ARMY. HANNIBAL WAS FORCED TO BUILD MORE SHIPS TO BE ABLE TO EMBARK ALL HIS VETERANS.



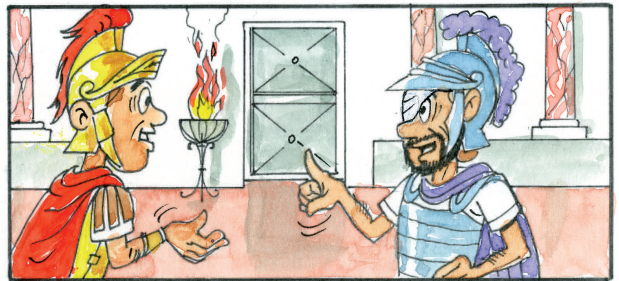
AS REGARDS THE SECOND PUNIC WAR, HISTORIOGRAPHY HAS DONE JUSTICE TO HANNIBAL, THE MAN WHO GAVE THE CONFLICT UNITY AND MEANING. NEITHER HIS FATHER AMILCAR, NOR HIS BROTHERS HASDRUBAL AND MAGON, NOR THE NAVIGATORS BOMILCAR AND HIMILCO, HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ECLIPSE HIS FIGURE, NOR THE IMPORTANT CONSULS WHO FOUGHT AGAINST HIM. SERVILIUS, MINUCIUS, MARCELLUS, FABIUS MAXIMUS, OR EVEN HIS VICTOR PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO.



HANNIBAL RETURNED TO CARTHAGE AND RAISED AN ARMY OF ABOUT 40,000 INFANTRYMEN, 3,000 HORSEMEN AND 80 ELEPHANTS, HIS OPPONENT, PUBLIUS CORNELIUS SCIPIO, HAD ABOUT 30,000 INFANTRY AND 6,000 HORSEMEN. BOTH ARMIES CLASHED AT THE END OF OCTOBER 202 AT THE FAMOUS **BATTLE OF ZAMA**.... BUT... THAT'S ANOTHER STORY!



ANECDOTE: TITUS LIVIUS (LIVY) TELLS US THAT SCIPIO AND HANNIBAL MET IN EPHEBUS IN 193. SCIPIO, IN THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS, ASKED HANNIBAL WHO HE THOUGHT WAS THE BEST GENERAL IN HISTORY. HANNIBAL REPLIED ALEXANDER THE GREAT AND SECONDLY PYRRHUS OF EPIRUS. SCIPIO URGED HIM TO SAY THE THIRD AND HANNIBAL SAID "ME", LISTING SOME OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS. SCIPIO SAID TO HIM "WHERE WOULD YOU STAND IF YOU HADN'T BEEN DEFEATED BY ME?" HANNIBAL REPLIED "I WOULD PUT MYSELF AHEAD OF ALEXANDER" THE ANSWER ALSO HONOURED SCIPIO SINCE HE HAD DEFEATED SOMEONE GREATER THAN ALEXANDER THE GREAT.



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