



He waited in a tree and watched the lion chase the others

# THE SCIENTISTS

Told by Lewis K. Hill

A YOUNG man was talking to his professor about "Operation Crossroads." He was excited about the impending drama of atomic energy.

"The Bikini experiment," said the young man with enthusiasm, "represents the triumph of scientific achievement. With science, everything is possible. Science is supreme."

"No doubt," said the old professor. "Science is indeed wonderful. And yet, let me tell you a story:

THERE were four Brahmans in India who attended the same university and remained friends after they went out into the world. One was a simple fellow, content in the performance of his temple duties. The other three, however, probed into the mysteries of life until they discovered the nature of matter and the particles that compose it. With this knowledge they could transform a human being into a beast (but not vice versa), and could make themselves vanish, to re-appear in an instant thousands of miles away.

Clearly the village in which they lived was too small to contain such vast knowledge, and they determined to travel and make known their science to the people in the cities. They debated among themselves whether to take along the simple priest, who knew no magic and could perform no miracles. Ultimately friendship prevailed. But all during their journey they bragged continually of their knowledge, and were irritated because the simple Brahman did not seem impressed.

"Let us show him," said one of the learned three. "Then he will appreciate the honor of being one of our company."

The opportunity presented itself when they came across the rotted carcass of a dead lion.

"See here," they said, "we shall make this carcass come to life."

"I should not advise it," answered their simple friend. But they ignored him.

"I can restore the framework of this beast, the skeleton and skin," said one, and he did so.

"I can restore the dead flesh," said the second Brahman, "make whole the damaged organs, the veins and nerves." He was as good as his word, and the lion's carcass needed only the breath of life.

"That I can supply," said the third.

"Do so," said the simple Brahman, "while I climb a tree."

BUT the third Brahman paid no heed to his words and whispered the magic incantation.

The lion stirred, rose to his feet, and seeing the Brahmans, emitted a great roar. Suddenly realizing their danger, the scientists fled, but the lion was faster. He pounced on them, and slew them all three.

The fourth Brahman, in the tree, waited until the lion was sated and had departed. Then he climbed down from the tree to return to his village and resume his temple duties.

## Sidelines

**THUMBS DOWN.** In light of recent history, President Truman may some day be remembered by school children as America's "Veto President." However, statistics show that he is still a long way from being our champ White House no-man. The late F.D.R. turned down nearly 10 times as many bills as Truman has — 631 in all. Grover Cleveland was runner-up with 584 vetoes. On the other hand, eight of our Presidents managed to sail serenely through their terms and sign every bill that reached their desks. They were: John Adams, Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Van Buren, Harrison, Taylor, Fillmore, Garfield.



**EXPOSE.** Apart from the bathing suits they wear, women are still reputed to be the modest, romantic sex, and men the practical, hard-headed sex. So it is with some alarm that we ponder a statement made by the fire department of a large West Coast city. After many years of experience, it has found that when a fire emergency arises, the first thing a man rushes for is his trousers — the first thing a woman rushes for is her purse.



**RETURN ENGAGEMENT.** Most ex-GI's will fondly remember the articles in "Yank" magazine that were written by Marion Hargrove and illustrated by Ralph Stein. Now the famous team is back again with funny words and pictures — see "Who Was That Lady . . . ?" on Page 10.

## This Week Magazine

FOR A BETTER AMERICA

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Cover by Michael Dolas

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