

JATAKA TALES
THE HIDDEN TREASURE



THE HIDDEN TREASURE

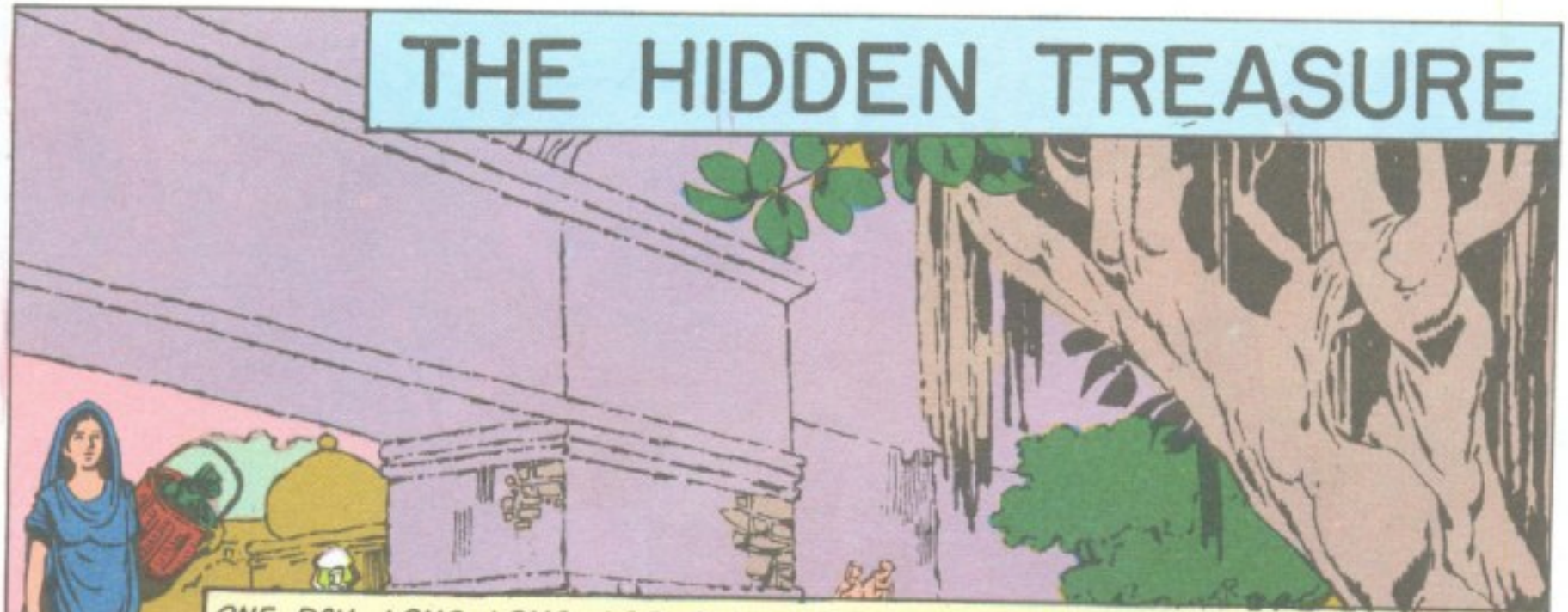
WISDOM WINS A WAR

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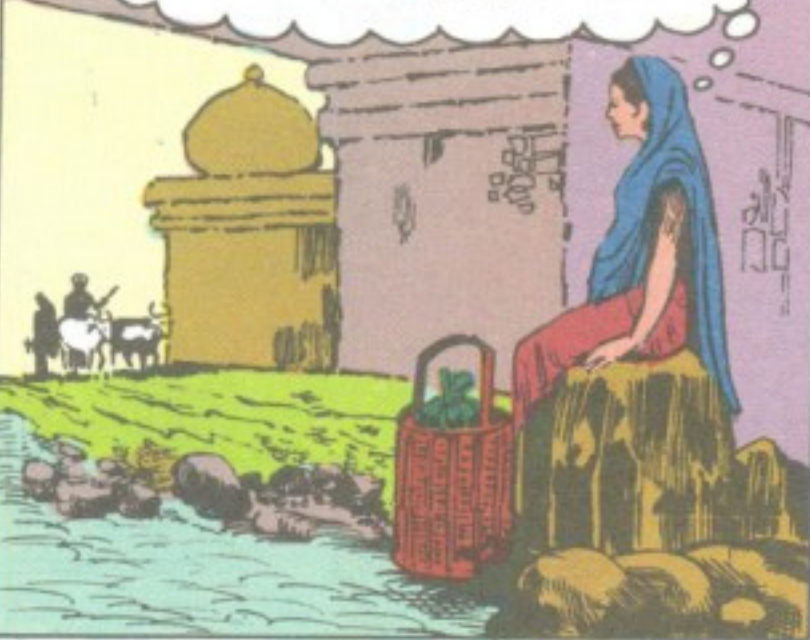
THE HIDDEN TREASURE



ONE DAY, LONG LONG AGO, A WOMAN CAME WALKING DEJECTEDLY DOWN THE ROAD THAT LED AWAY FROM THE CITY OF MITHILA. HER STEPS WERE SLOW AND HER FEET DRAGGED.

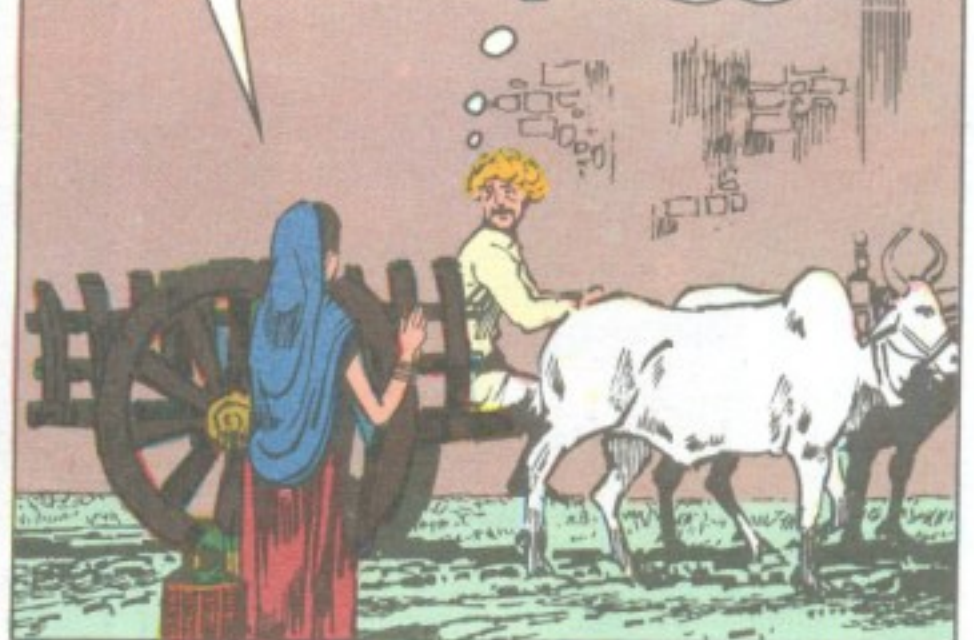
SHE WORE THE GARB OF A MAID BUT SEEMED TO BE OF NOBLE BIRTH.

I CANNOT WALK A STEP FARTHER. WHAT SHALL I DO? PERHAPS THAT CARTER WILL...



HOW FAR ARE YOU GOING, SIR? CAN YOU TAKE ME TO KALACHAMPA?

SHE LOOKS TIRED AND MISERABLE, POOR THING.



I'LL TAKE YOU THERE. PLEASE GET INTO MY CART.

YOU ARE VERY KIND, SIR! I... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU.



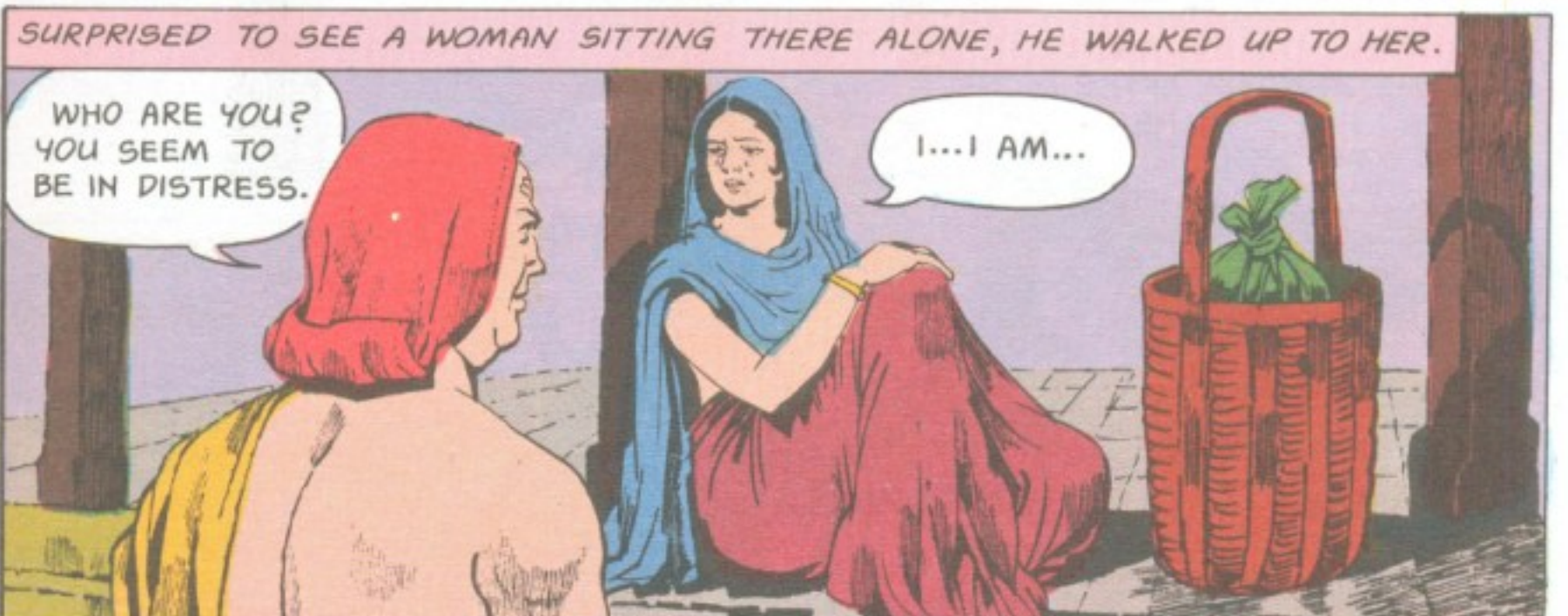
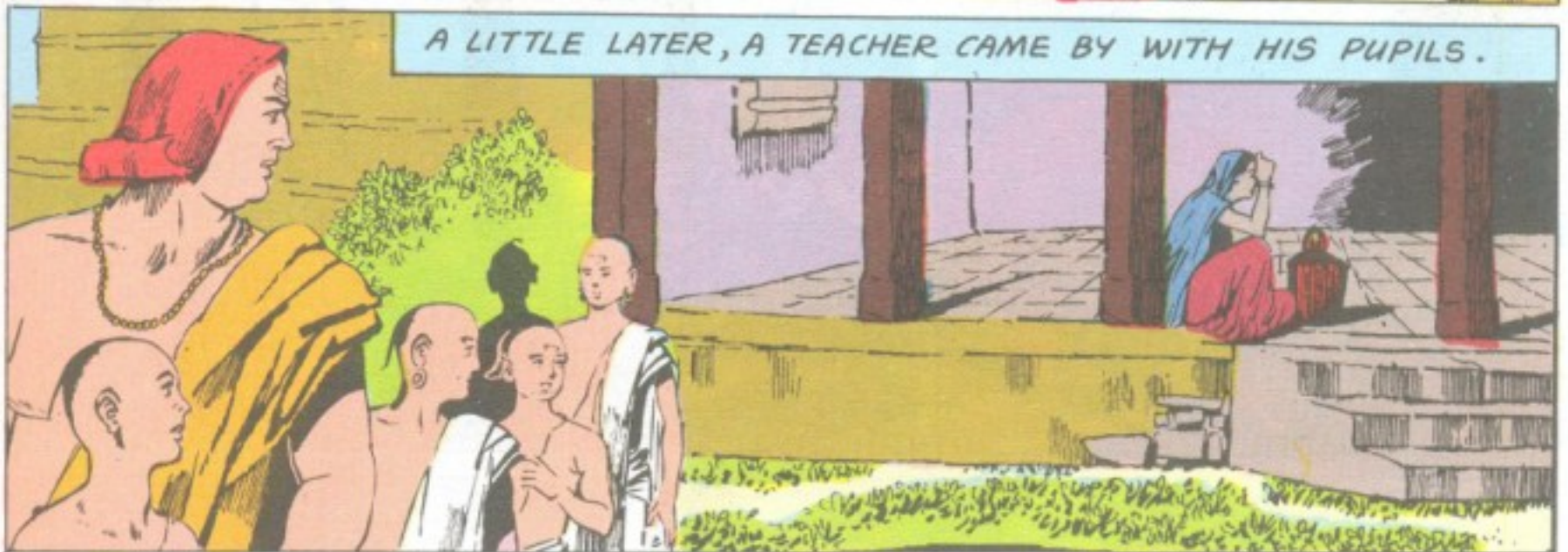
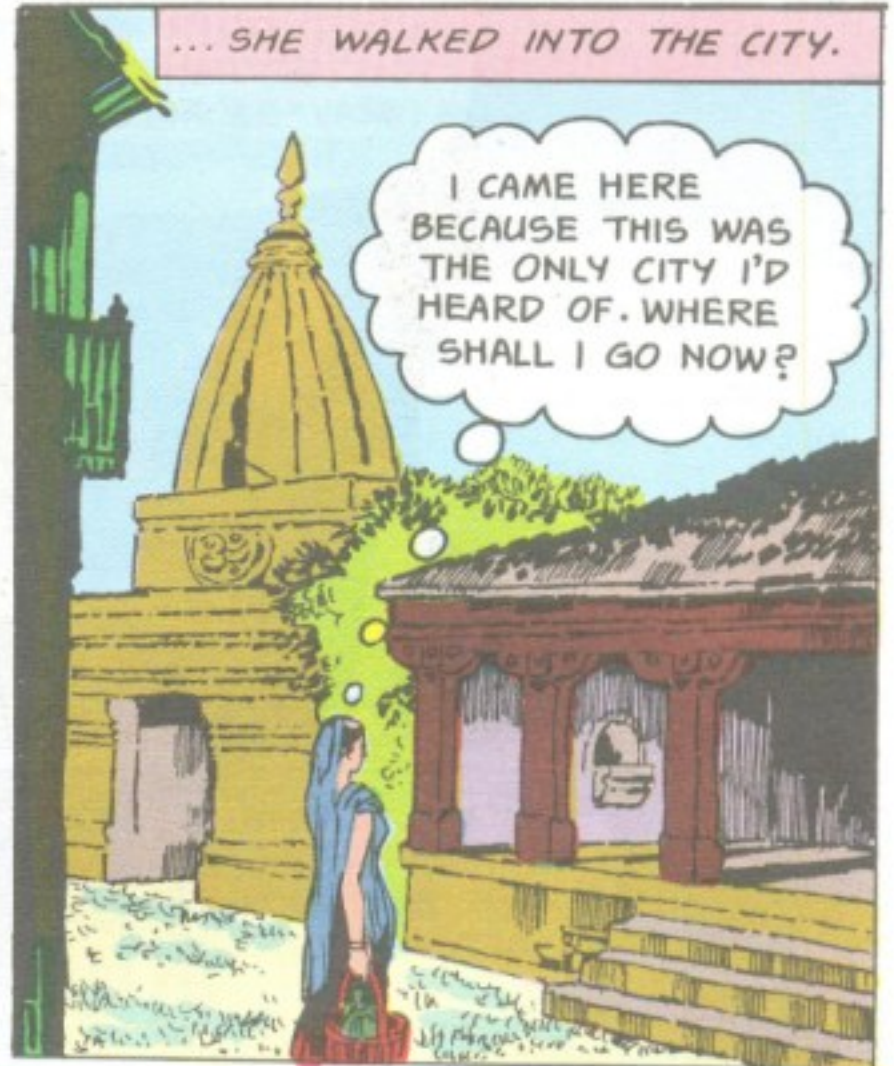


WHEN SHE WOKE UP IT WAS EVENING.



HE BROUGHT HIS CART TO A HALT AT THE SOUTHERN GATE OF THE CITY.







THE BRAHMANA TOOK HER TO HIS WIFE.

MY SISTER HAS COME TO LIVE WITH US. SHE'S GOING TO HAVE A BABY. PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HER.

WELCOME HOME, SISTER. I AM SO GLAD YOU HAVE COME TO US.



THE BRAHMANA AND HIS WIFE LOOKED AFTER HER WITH LOVE AND CARE. AFTER A FEW DAYS, A SON WAS BORN TO HER.

WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM, BROTHER?

WE'LL CALL HIM MAHAJANAKA.



THE QUEEN AND HER SON STAYED ON IN THE HOUSE OF THE KIND BRAHMANA AND HIS WIFE.

HOW HAPPY I AM THAT WE ARE STILL ALIVE AND WELL.



WHEN MAHAJANAKA GREW A LITTLE OLDER, HE MADE FRIENDS WITH THE BOYS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

COME ON, MAHAJANAKA. WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU.

I'M COMING!

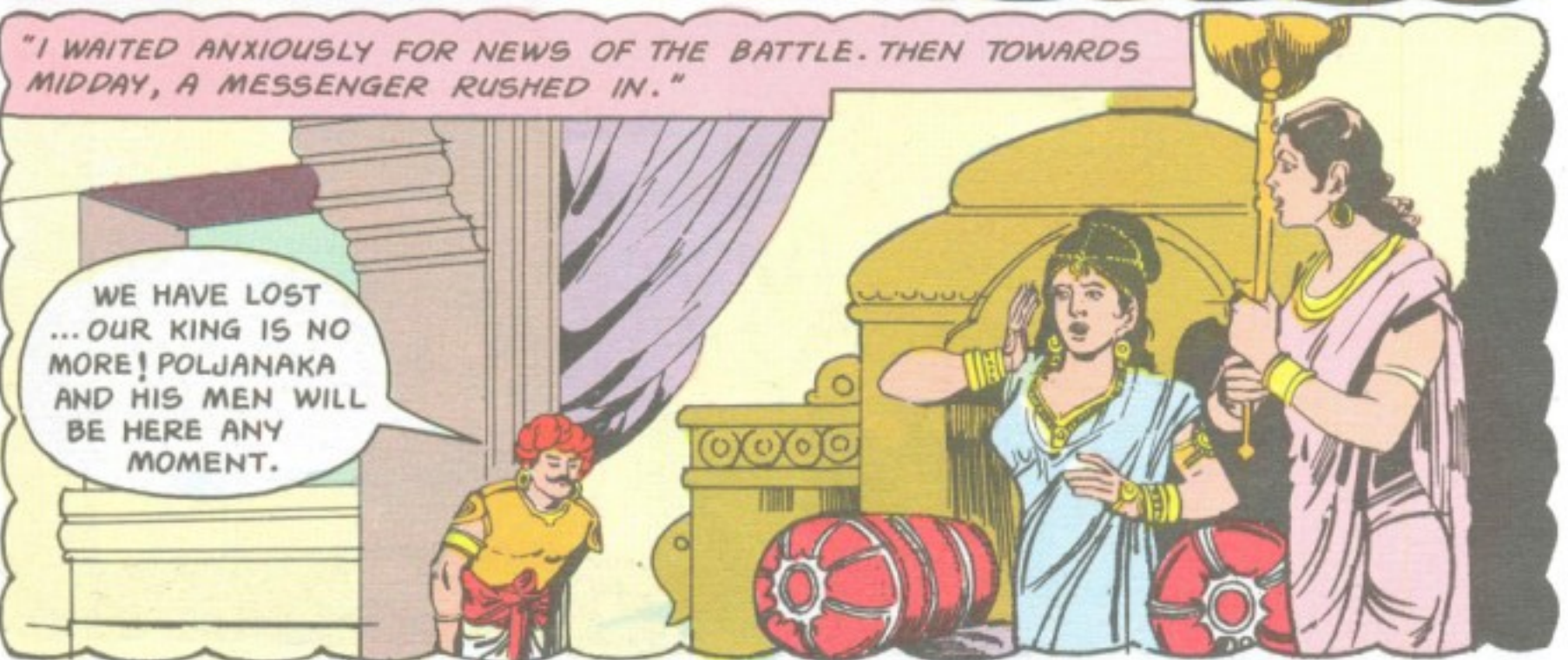
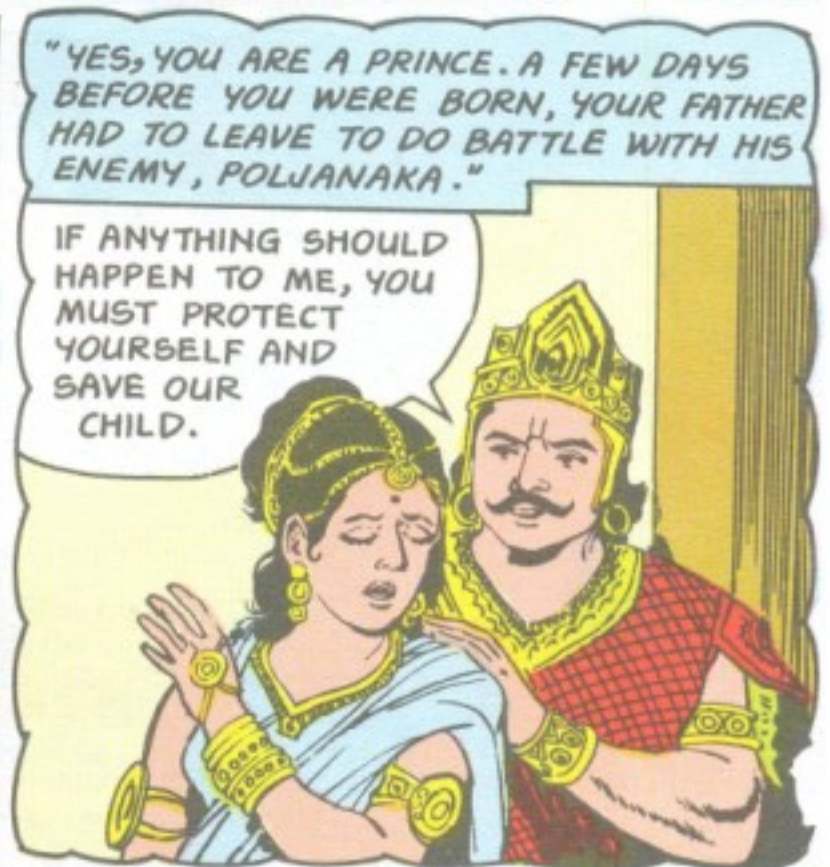
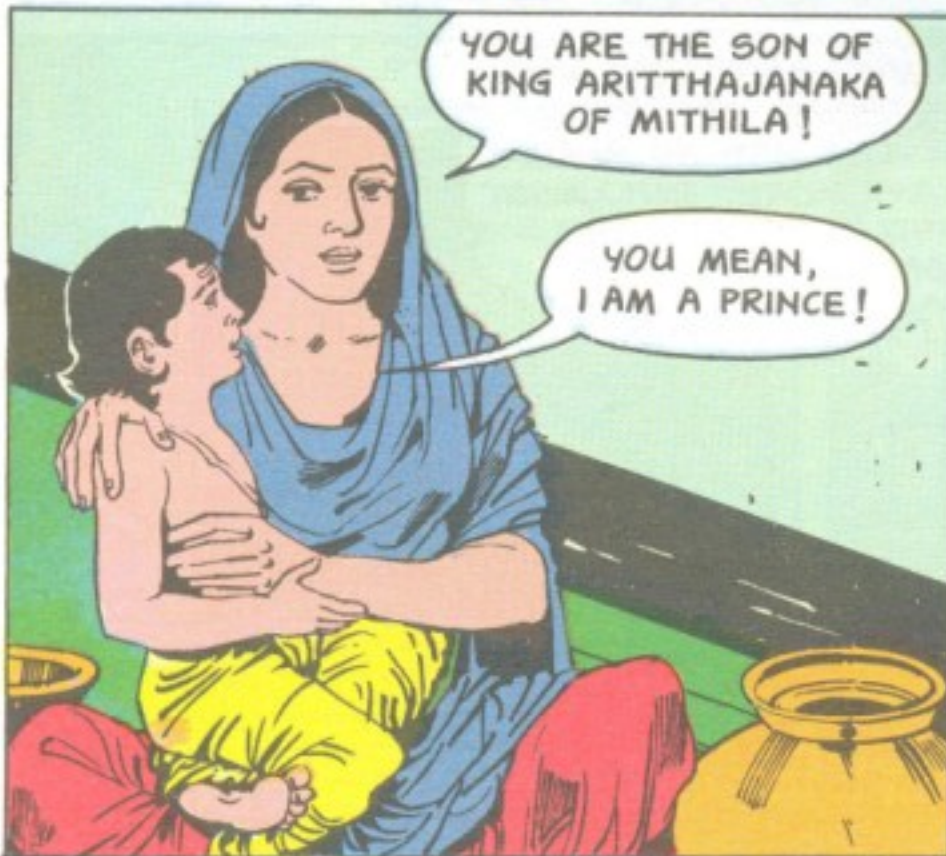


BUT THEY OFTEN QUARRELLED TOO. AND, THEN, MAHAJANAKA WHO WAS THE STRONGEST OF THEM ALL, WOULD BEAT UP THE OTHERS. ONE DAY, AFTER SUCH A QUARREL —



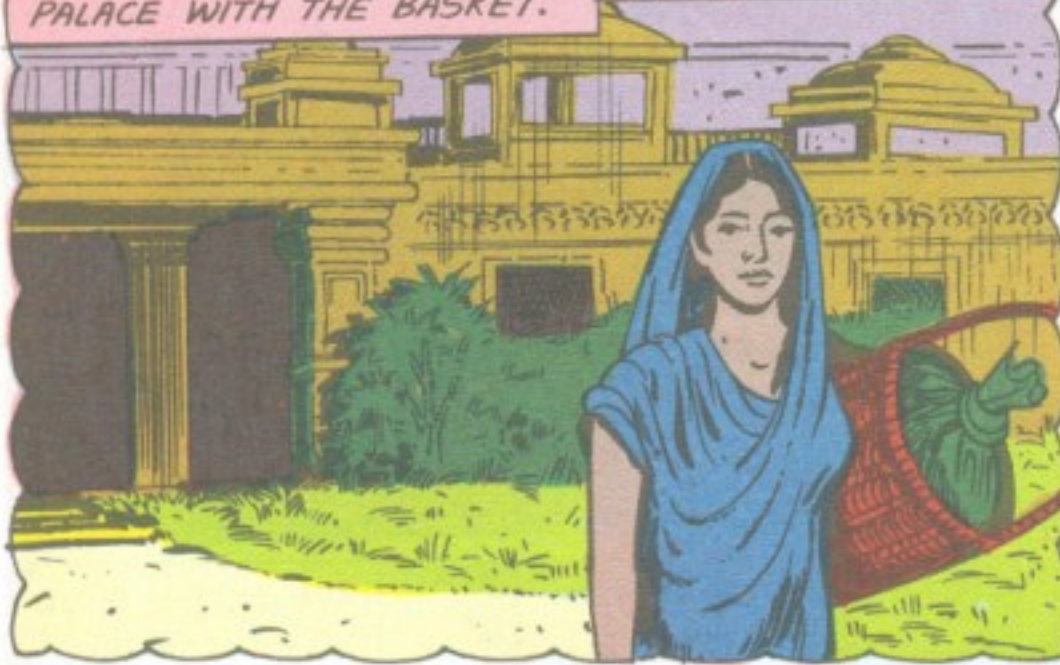
MAHAJANAKA RAN TO HIS MOTHER.



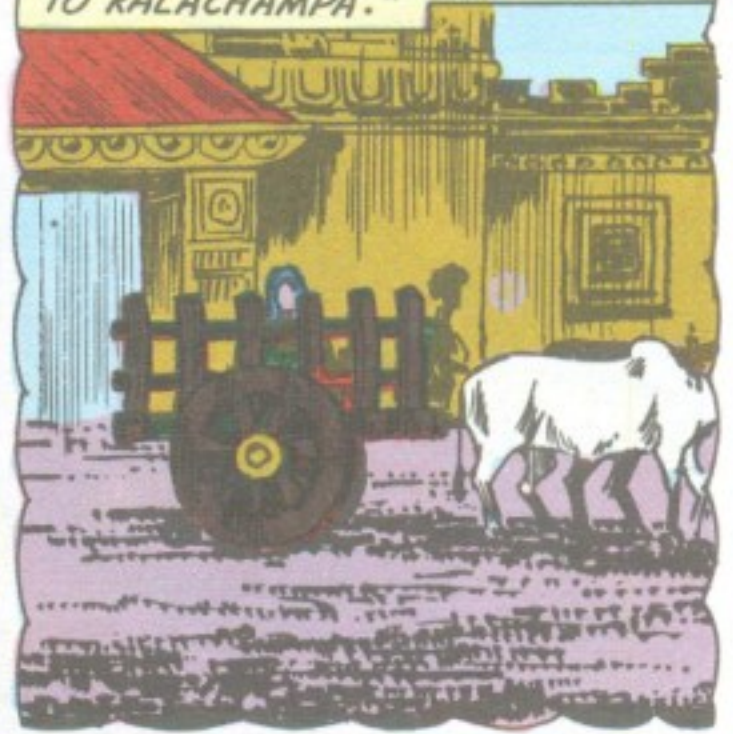




"AFTER THAT I CAST OFF MY ROYAL CLOTHES, DISGUISED MYSELF AS A MAID AND LEFT THE PALACE WITH THE BASKET."



"A CARTER BROUGHT ME HERE TO KALACHAMPA."



IF IT WERE NOT FOR OUR HOST AND HIS WIFE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME... AND LATER YOU.



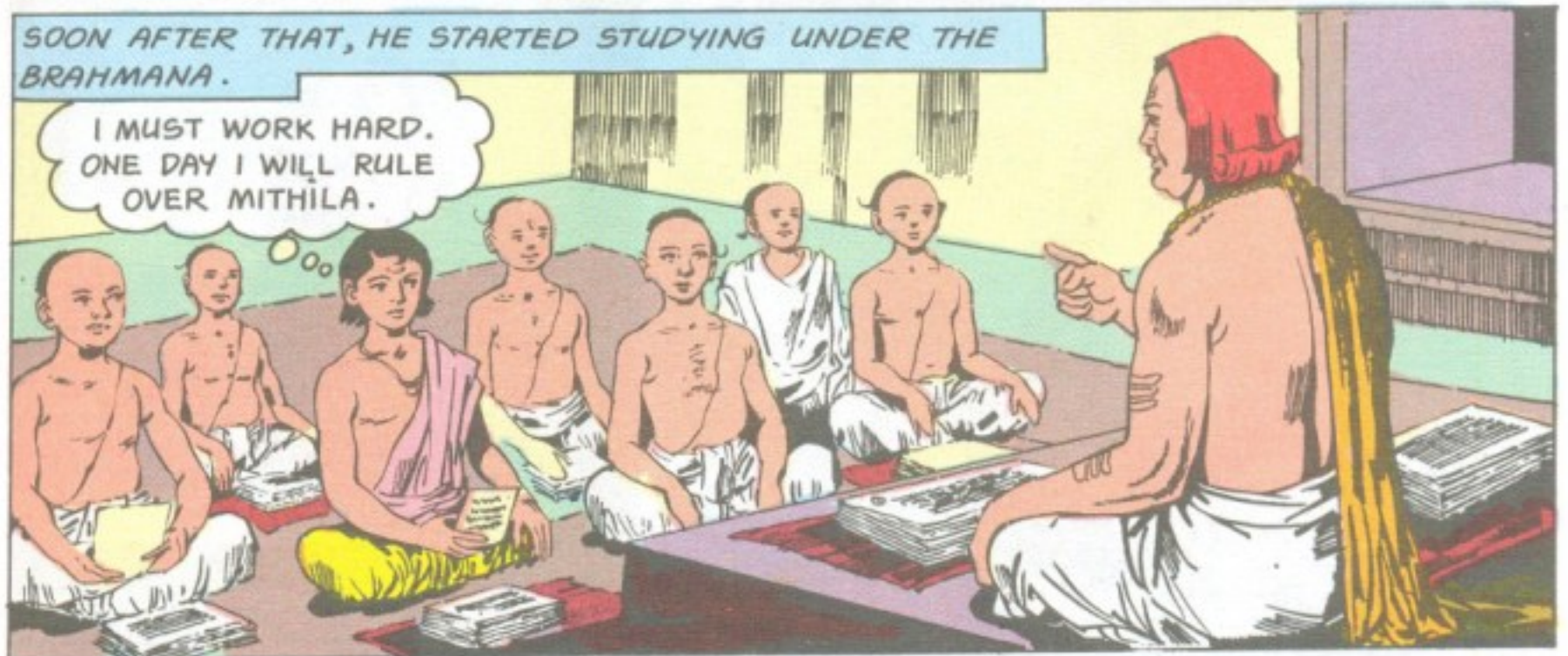
EVEN NOW I AM AFRAID OF OUR ENEMIES. NOBODY SHOULD KNOW WHO WE ARE.

DON'T WORRY, MOTHER. NO ONE WILL. I PROMISE.



SOON AFTER THAT, HE STARTED STUDYING UNDER THE BRAHMANA.

I MUST WORK HARD. ONE DAY I WILL RULE OVER MITHILA.



YEARS PASSED. MAHAJANAKA GREW UP TO BE A HANDSOME AND LEARNED MAN. ONE DAY —

MOTHER, DO YOU HAVE ANY MONEY WITH YOU?

I DID NOT COME AWAY FROM MITHILA, EMPTY-HANDED. BUT WHY DO YOU ASK, MY SON?

I WISH TO GO TO MITHILA TO CLAIM MY THRONE.

MY SON, I HAVE BEEN WAITING ALL THESE YEARS FOR THIS DAY!

I HAVE A FEW GOLD COINS AND ORNAMENTS. THEY ARE ALL YOURS.

NO, MOTHER, NOT ALL. I SHALL TAKE HALF. THE REST YOU MUST KEEP.

WITH MY HALF I SHALL BUY SOME MERCHANDISE, CARRY ON TRADE OVERSEAS AND EARN THE MONEY I'LL NEED, TO RAISE AN ARMY.

SOON THE DAY OF DEPARTURE DAWNED.

MOTHER, BLESS ME! AND DON'T WORRY.

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, MY SON.

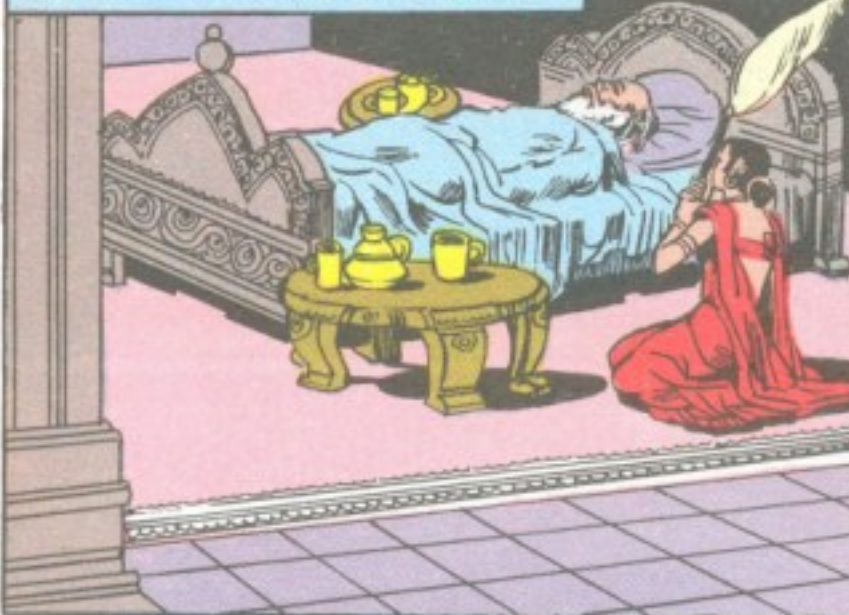


AS THE SHIP SET SAIL —

I WONDER IF POLJANAKA IS STILL ALIVE. WILL I HAVE TO FIGHT HIM OR HIS SON? I WONDER WHAT AWAITS ME AT MITHILA.



POLJANAKA WAS ALIVE BUT SERIOUSLY ILL AND HE HAD NO SON.



HIS MINISTERS WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM.

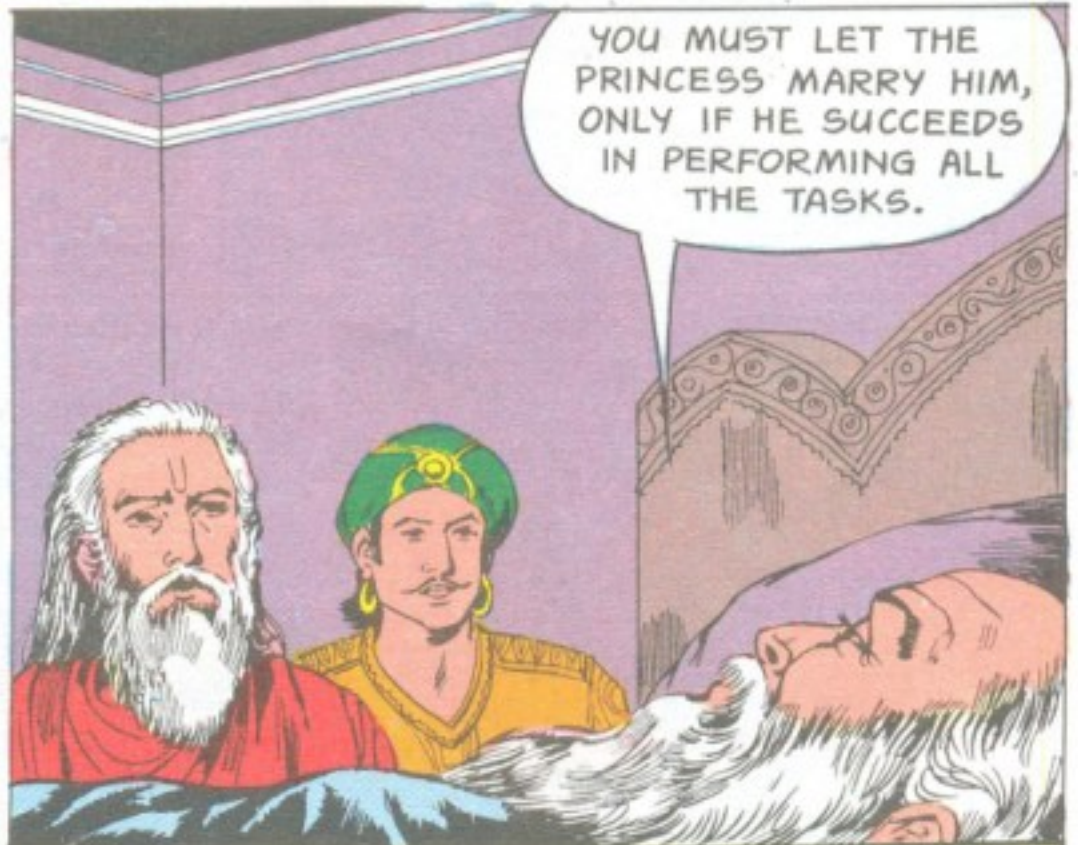
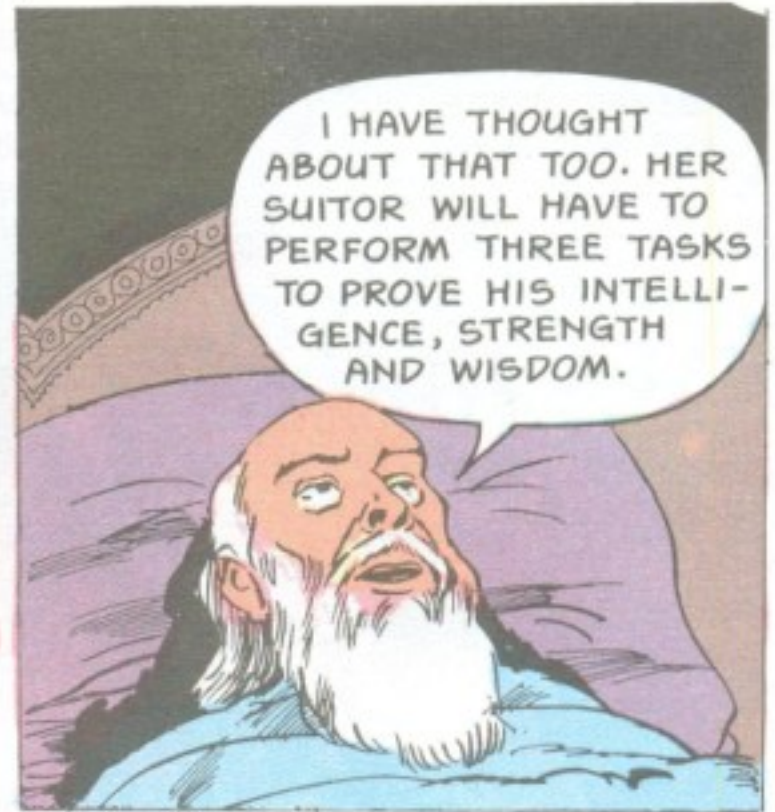
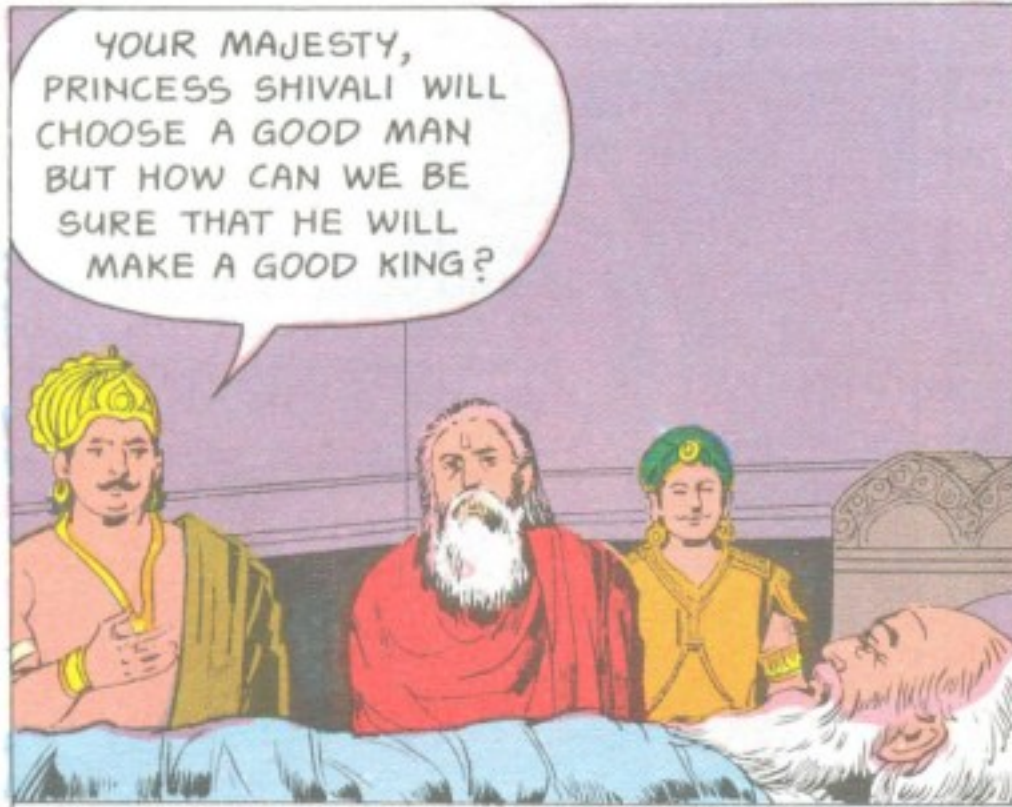
WHY DON'T WE ASK THE KING TO APPOINT A SUCCESSOR?



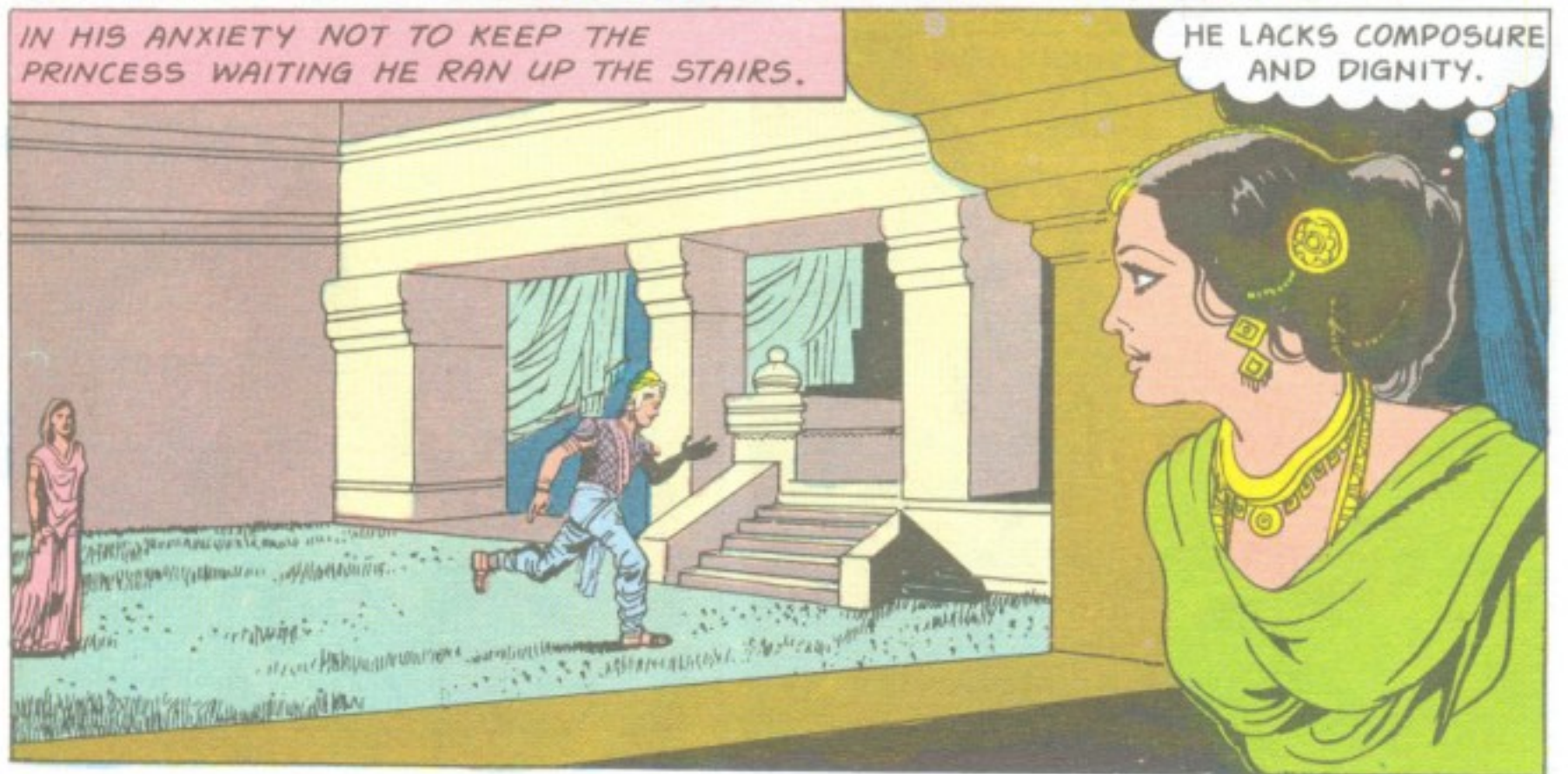
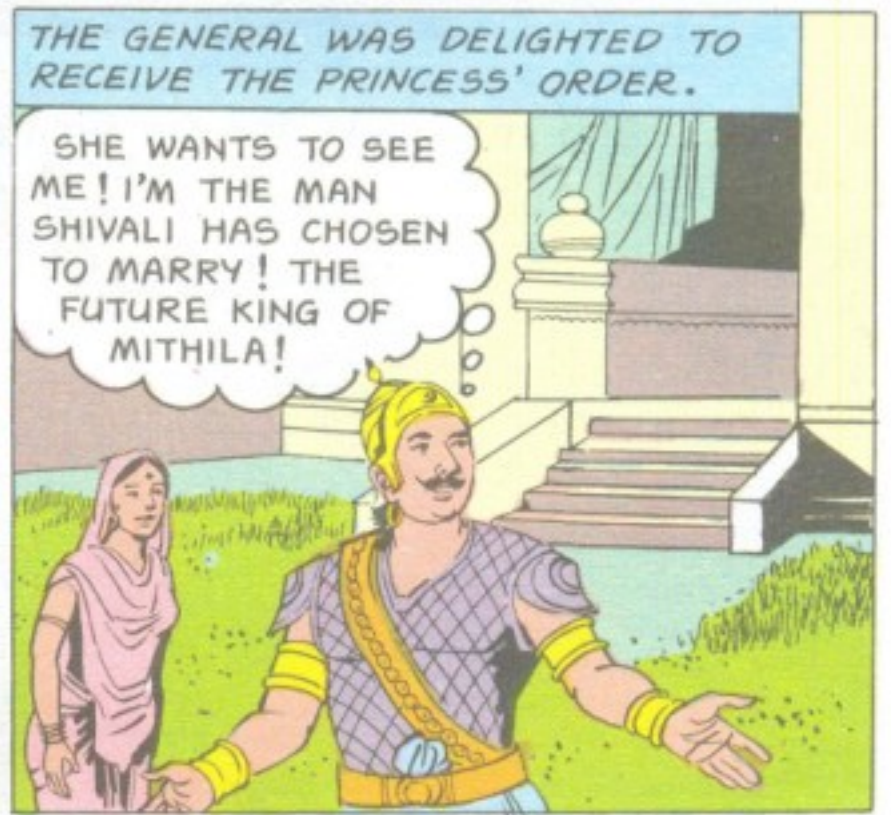
SO THEY WENT TO THE KING.

I HAVE GIVEN THE MATTER DEEP THOUGHT AND MADE MY DECISION. THE MAN MY DAUGHTER CHOOSES FOR A HUSBAND, SHALL BE THE KING.





A FEW DAYS LATER THE KING DIED.



SOON THE GENERAL STOOD BEFORE HER.

I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, PRINCESS.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ME?

OH! ANYTHING! YOUR WORD IS MY COMMAND!

AH! IS THAT SO?

YES... I'LL STRIVE TO SERVE YOU IN EVERY WAY—EVEN PRESS YOUR FEET OR FETCH YOUR SLIPPERS!

I COULD NEVER RESPECT THIS SERVILE CREATURE!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO MEEK! HAVE YOU NO SELF-RESPECT? YOU MAY GO NOW, GENERAL!

WHEN THE GENERAL RETURNED TO THE MINISTERS —

WHAT HAPPENED? YOU LOOK CREST-FALLEN!

THAT GIRL IS HARD TO PLEASE!



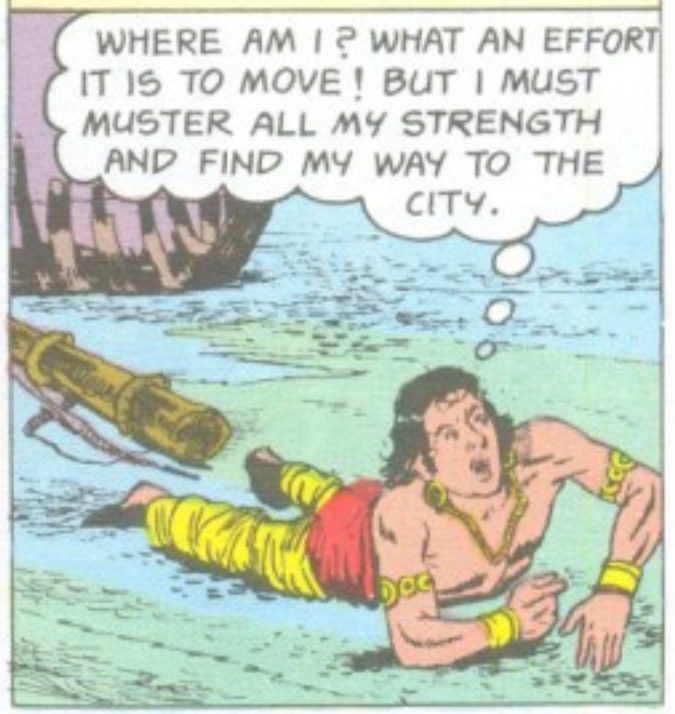
AS THE SHIP SANK UNDER THE ONSLAUGHT OF THE WAVES, MAHAJANAKA TIGHTENED HIS GRIP ON THE MAST.

I WON'T GIVE UP!
I WILL SURVIVE
THIS ORDEAL.
I MUST.



A FEW DAYS LATER, MAHA-JANAKA WAS WASHED ASHORE. WHEN HE OPENED HIS EYES —

WHERE AM I? WHAT AN EFFORT
IT IS TO MOVE! BUT I MUST
MUSTER ALL MY STRENGTH
AND FIND MY WAY TO THE
CITY.



LATER, IN A GARDEN OUTSIDE THE EASTERN GATE OF THE CITY, HE OVERHEARD TWO MEN TALKING.

WHAT'S
THIS
I HEAR!



...AND SO MITHILA
IS STILL WITHOUT
A KING!

I AM IN
MITHILA! AND
MITHILA IS
WITHOUT A
KING!



BUT I HAVE NEITHER
WEAPONS NOR MONEY.
I MUST MOVE
CAUTIOUSLY. I MUST
LIE DOWN AND
GET SOME REST
BEFORE I MAKE
ANY PLANS.



AT THE PALACE, MEANWHILE —

NOT A SINGLE MAN IN THE KINGDOM HAS BEEN ABLE TO PLEASE THE PRINCESS.

FOR HOW LONG CAN THE KINGDOM REMAIN WITHOUT A KING ?

PERHAPS, THE ROYAL PRIEST CAN HELP US.



WHEN THEY CONSULTED THE ROYAL PRIEST —

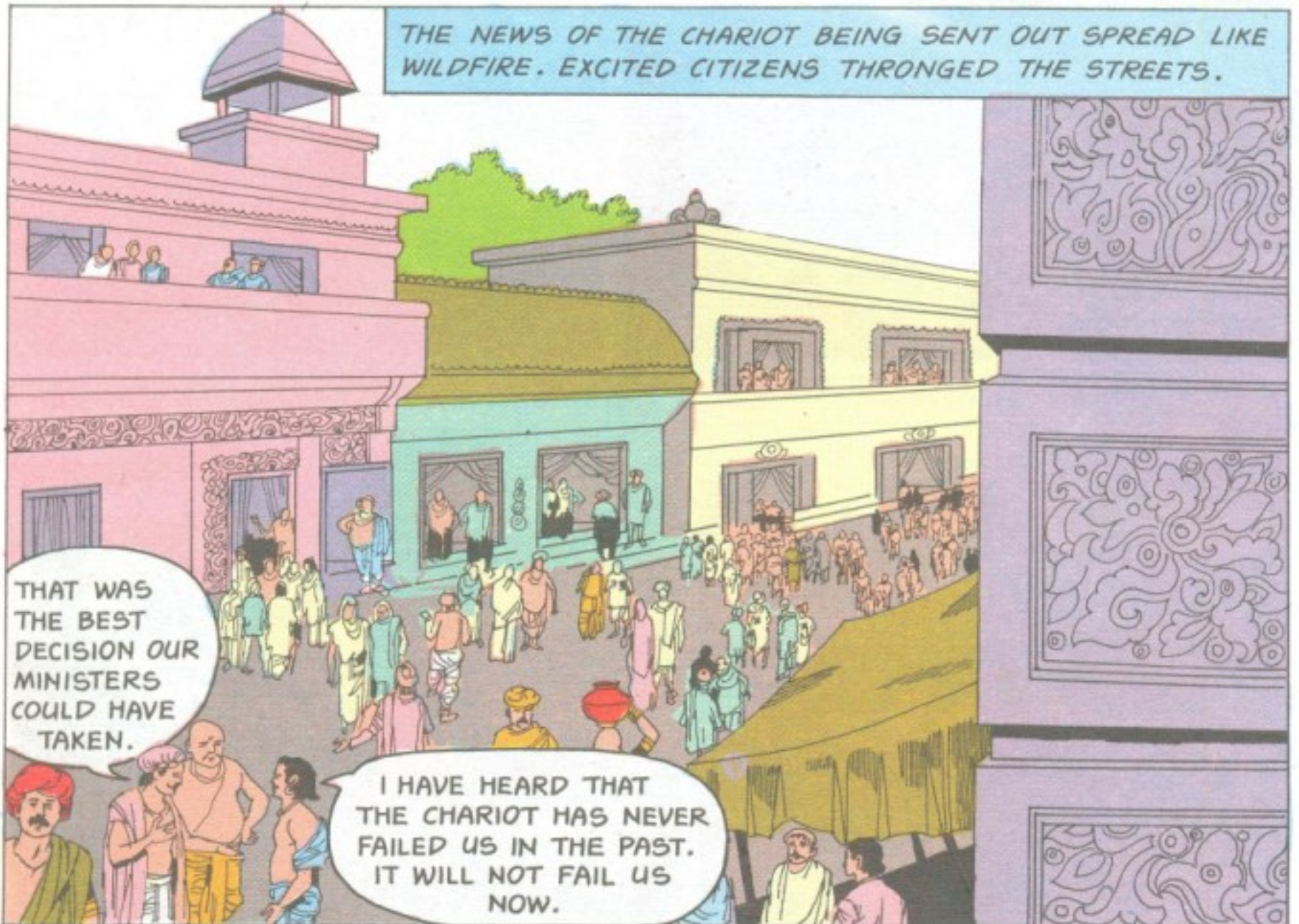
SEND OUT THE SACRED CHARIOT. IT WILL LEAD US TO THE RIGHT MAN.



THE NEWS OF THE CHARIOT BEING SENT OUT SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE. EXCITED CITIZENS THROGGED THE STREETS.

THAT WAS THE BEST DECISION OUR MINISTERS COULD HAVE TAKEN.

I HAVE HEARD THAT THE CHARIOT HAS NEVER FAILED US IN THE PAST. IT WILL NOT FAIL US NOW.

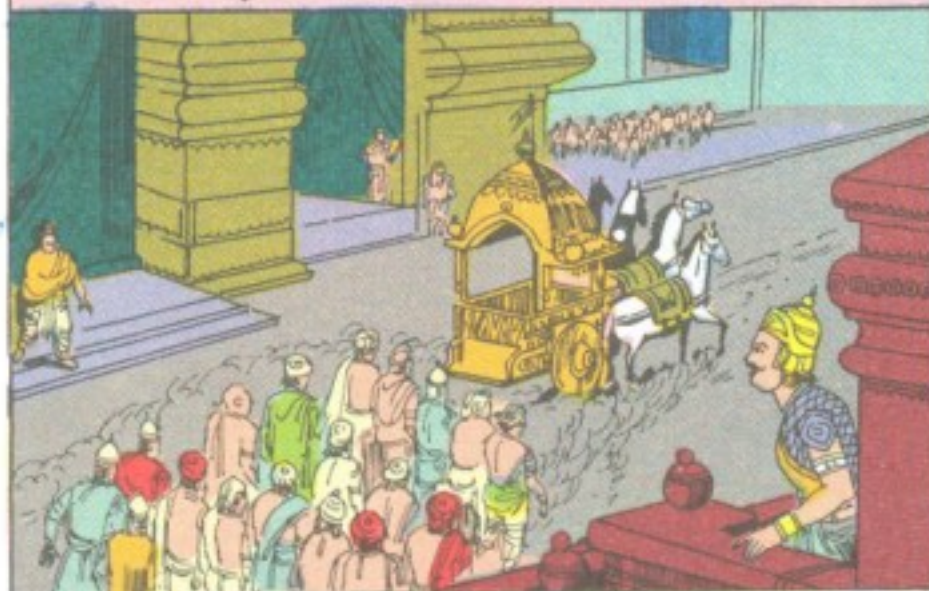


AT THE AUSPICIOUS HOUR THE ROYAL PRIEST STOOD BEFORE THE CHARIOT.

LEAD US TO HIM WHO WILL PLEASE SHIVALI AND WHO IS FIT TO RULE A KINGDOM.

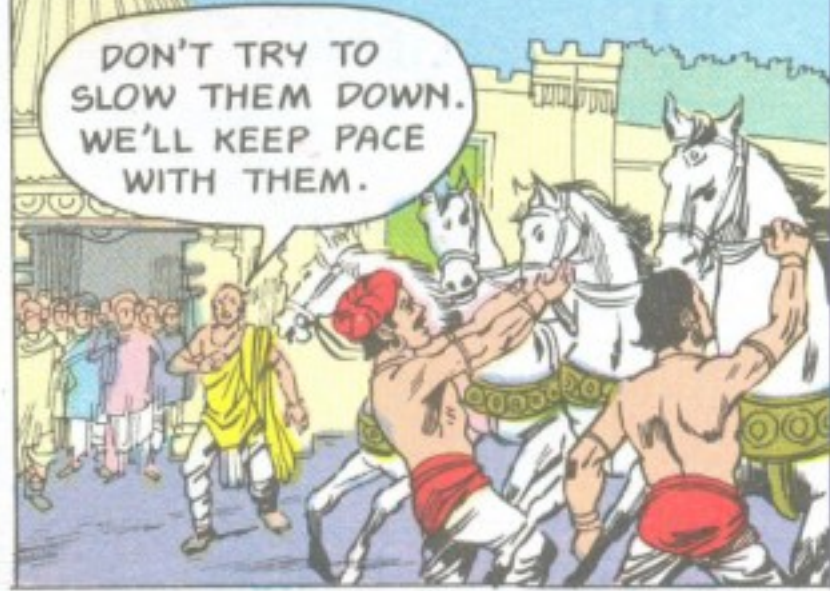


THE ROYAL PRIEST WITH THE MINISTERS WALKED BEHIND THE CHARIOT AS IT ROLLED PAST THE HOUSES OF THE GENERAL, THE TREASURER, AND ALL THE OTHER SUITORS.



SUDDENLY THE HORSES BROKE INTO A GALLOP.

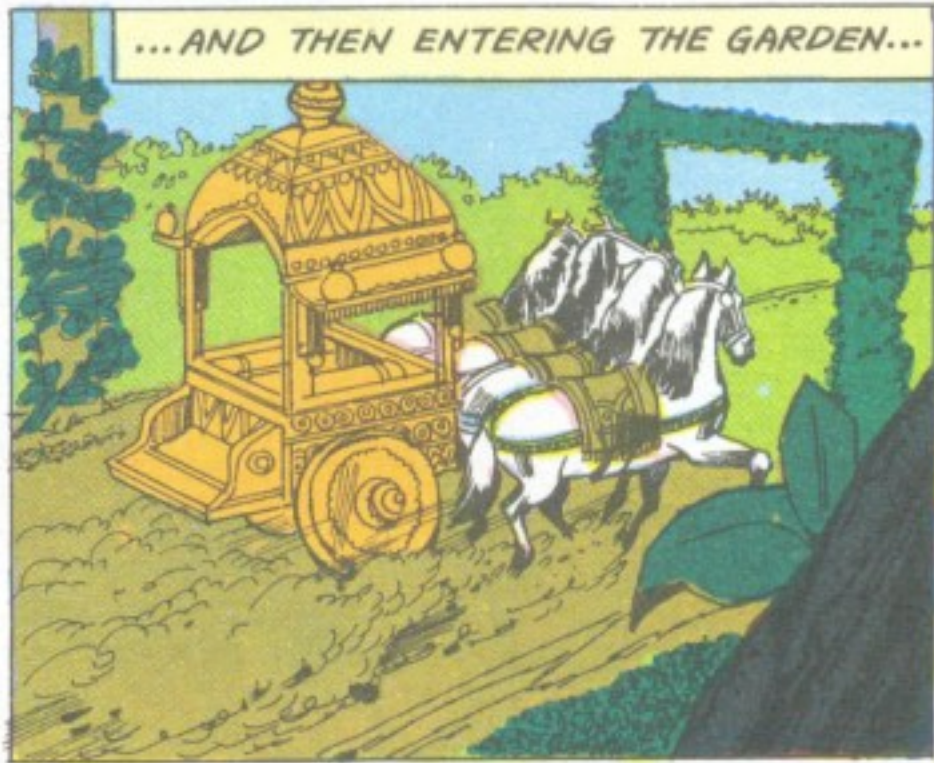
DON'T TRY TO SLOW THEM DOWN. WE'LL KEEP PACE WITH THEM.



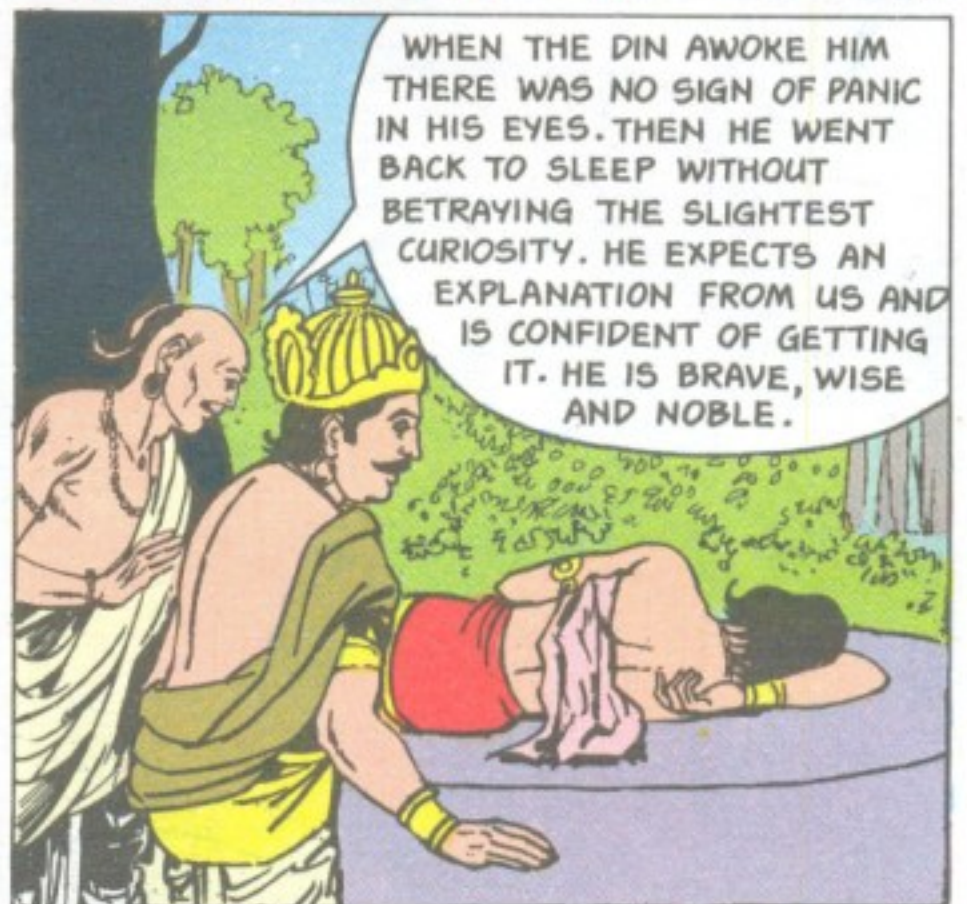
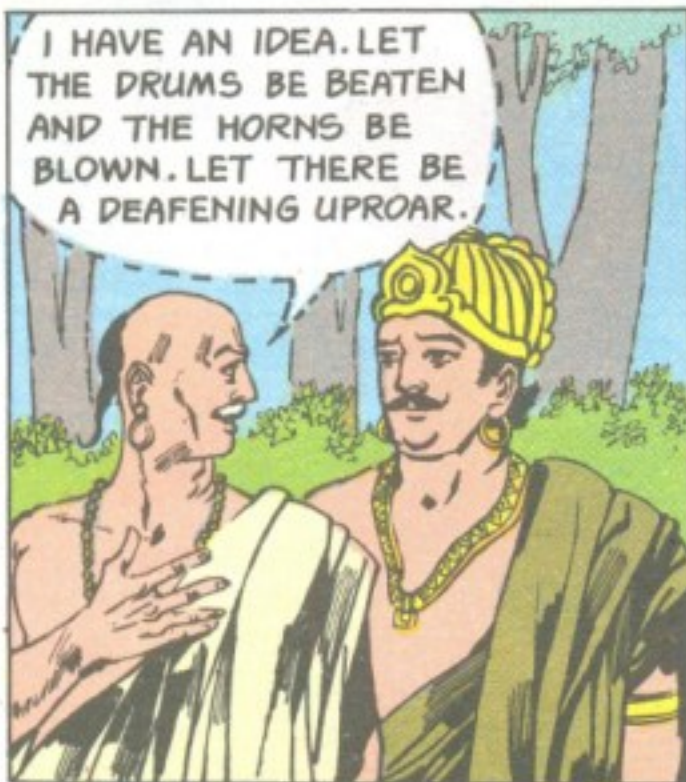
THE CHARIOT SPED ON TOWARDS THE EASTERN GATE OF THE CITY...



...AND THEN ENTERING THE GARDEN...



...CAME TO A HALT NEAR THE SPOT WHERE MAHAJANAKA LAY SLEEPING.



THE PRIEST CAME FORWARD.



RISE, O NOBLE ONE. THE KINGDOM AWAITS YOU!

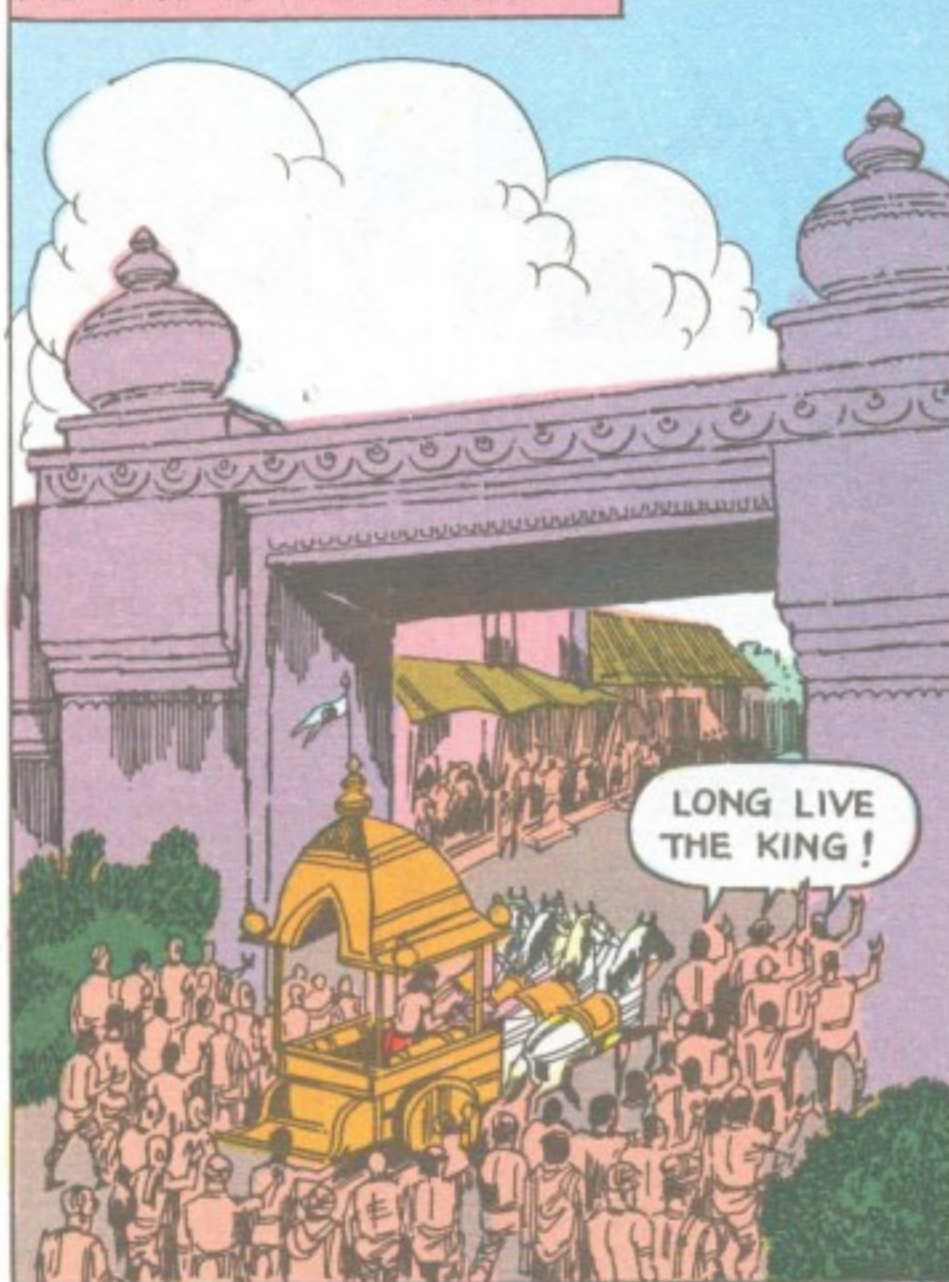
WHEN MAHAJANAKA SAT UP, THE PRIEST EXPLAINED ALL TO HIM.

ARE YOU WILLING TO WOO OUR PRINCESS AND ATTEMPT THE TASKS?



I AM. LET'S GO TO THE PALACE.

LED BY MAHAJANAKA WHO WAS SEATED IN THE CHARIOT, THE PROCESSION WENDED ITS WAY TO THE PALACE.



LONG LIVE THE KING!

WHEN PRINCESS SHIVALI WAS TOLD ABOUT MAHAJANAKA —



A TOTAL STRANGER? THE CHARIOT MAY HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE THE RIGHT MAN. BUT WILL I? ASK HIM TO SEE ME AT ONCE.

SHIVALI'S MAID DID AS SHE WAS TOLD.



THE PRINCESS WANTS TO SEE YOU.

BUT MAHAJANAKA DID NOT MOVE. SOON ANOTHER MAID CAME IN.



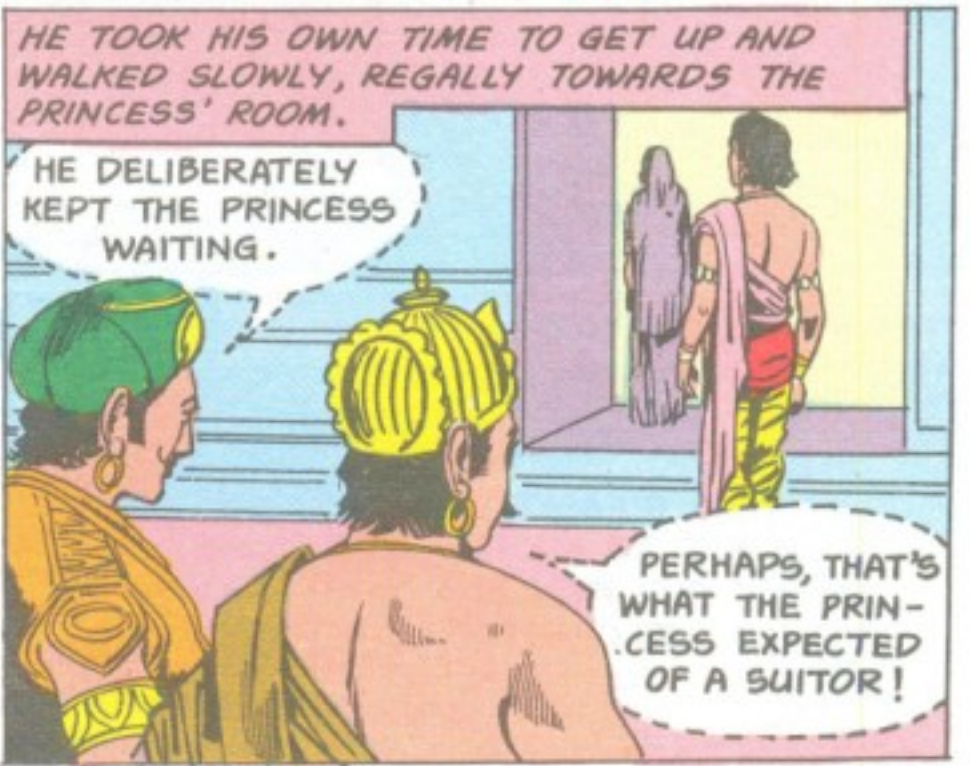
THE PRINCESS IS WAITING FOR YOU IN HER CHAMBER.

ONLY WHEN A THIRD MAID BROUGHT THE SAME MESSAGE DID HE RESPOND.



TELL HER I'LL COME IN A MOMENT. ONE OF YOU STAY WITH ME AND SHOW ME THE WAY.

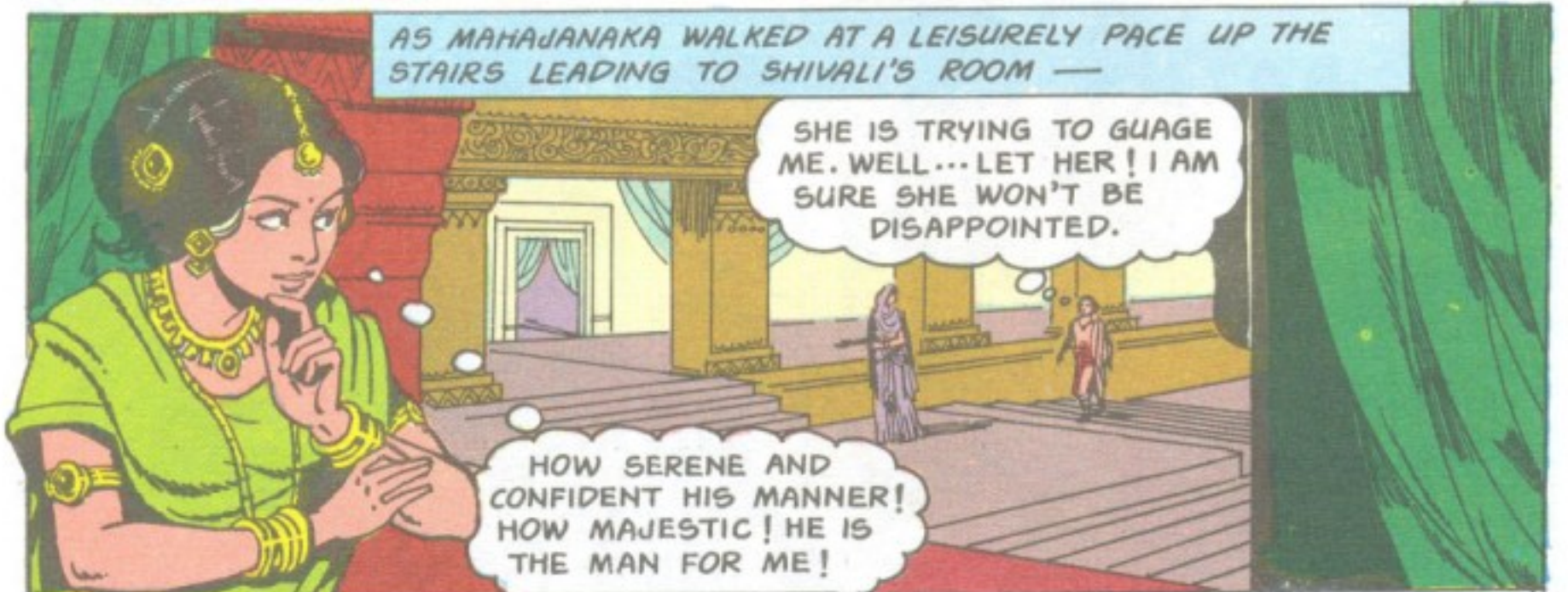
HE TOOK HIS OWN TIME TO GET UP AND WALKED SLOWLY, REGALLY TOWARDS THE PRINCESS' ROOM.



HE DELIBERATELY KEPT THE PRINCESS WAITING.

PERHAPS, THAT'S WHAT THE PRINCESS EXPECTED OF A SUITOR!

AS MAHAJANAKA WALKED AT A LEISURELY PACE UP THE STAIRS LEADING TO SHIVALI'S ROOM —



SHE IS TRYING TO GAUGE ME. WELL... LET HER! I AM SURE SHE WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.

HOW SERENE AND CONFIDENT HIS MANNER! HOW MAJESTIC! HE IS THE MAN FOR ME!

SHE CAME OUT TO GREET HIM.

WELCOME,
MY LORD!

LITTLE DID I DREAM
THAT TO REGAIN MITHILA,
I WOULD HAVE TO WIN
THE RESPECT OF A
PRINCESS AND NOT
A BATTLE!

WON'T YOU COME
IN? I'LL SEND FOR
THE MINISTERS.

WHEN THE MINISTERS CAME —

HOW PLEASED
WE ARE TO KNOW
THAT OUR PRINCESS
HAS WELCOMED
YOU.

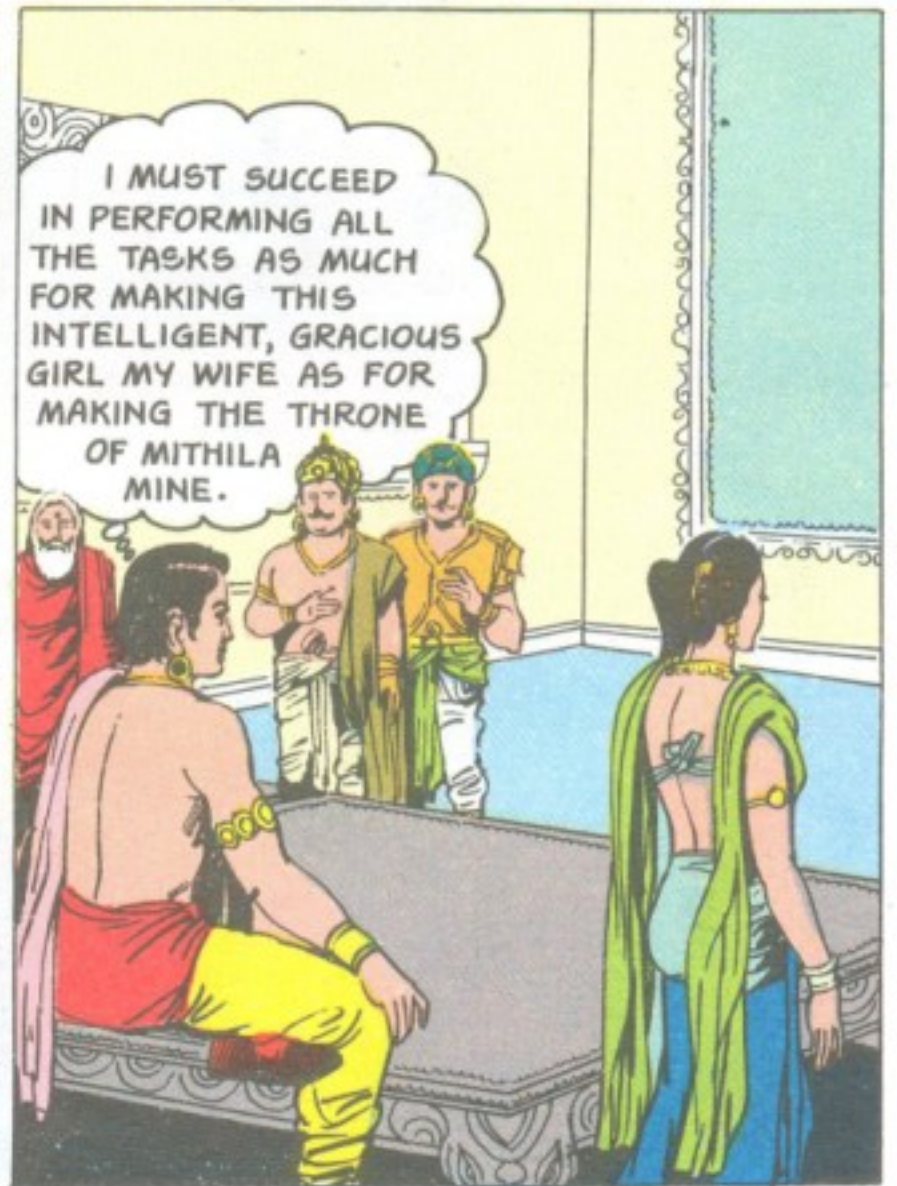
THE
CHARIOT WAS
RIGHT AS
USUAL.

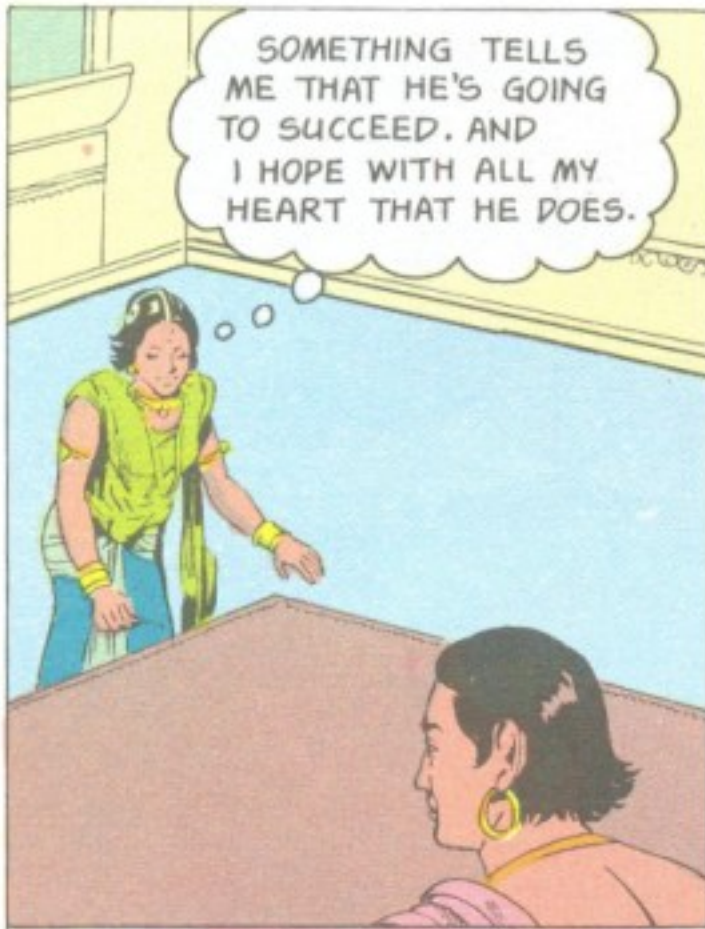
NOW FOR THE
TASKS. FIRST
YOU WILL HAVE
TO FIND THE
HEAD OF A
SQUARE BED.

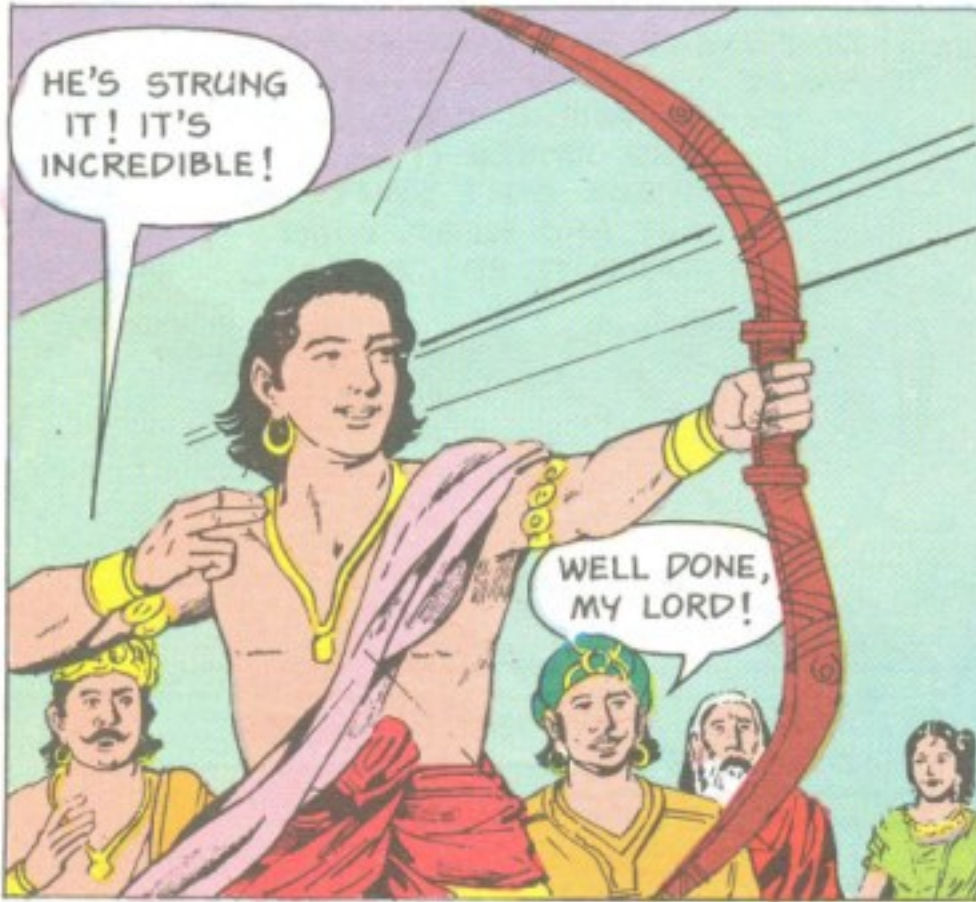
IS THAT
ALL?

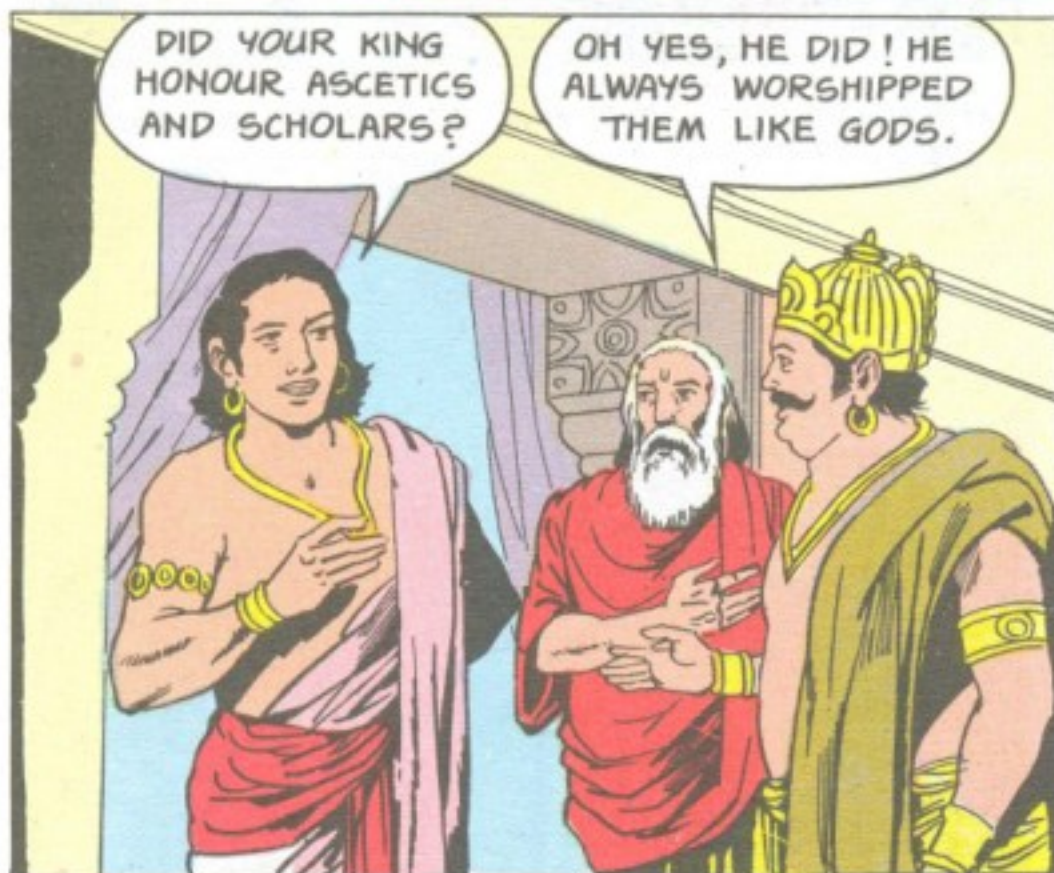


HE SAT DOWN ON THE BED AND HELD OUT A PIN.









THE MINISTERS TOOK HIM OUTSIDE THE PALACE.



THIS IS WHERE
THE KING RECEIVED
ASCETICS AND
SCHOLARS.

HAVE THIS
PLACE DUG UP
AND YOU WILL
FIND THE
FIRST POT.

THE PLACE WAS DUG UP. SOON —



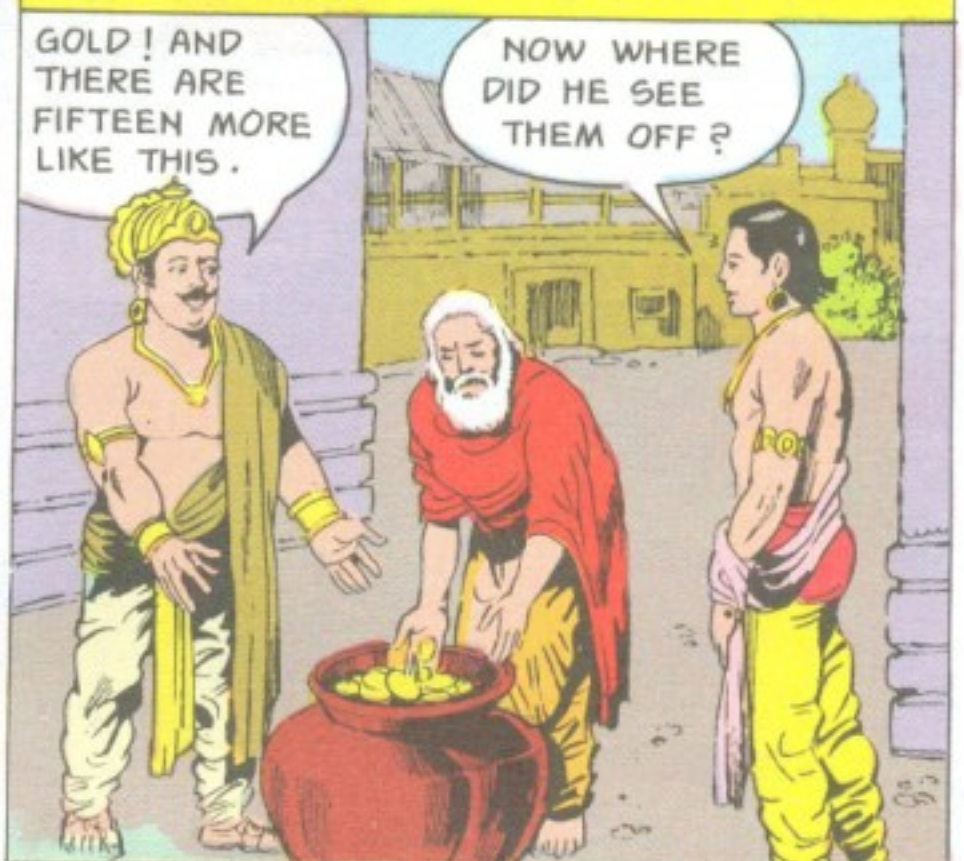
LOOK!
A HUGE
POT!

REALLY?
PULL IT UP
QUICKLY.

THE POT WAS LIFTED UP AND OPENED.

GOLD! AND
THERE ARE
FIFTEEN MORE
LIKE THIS.

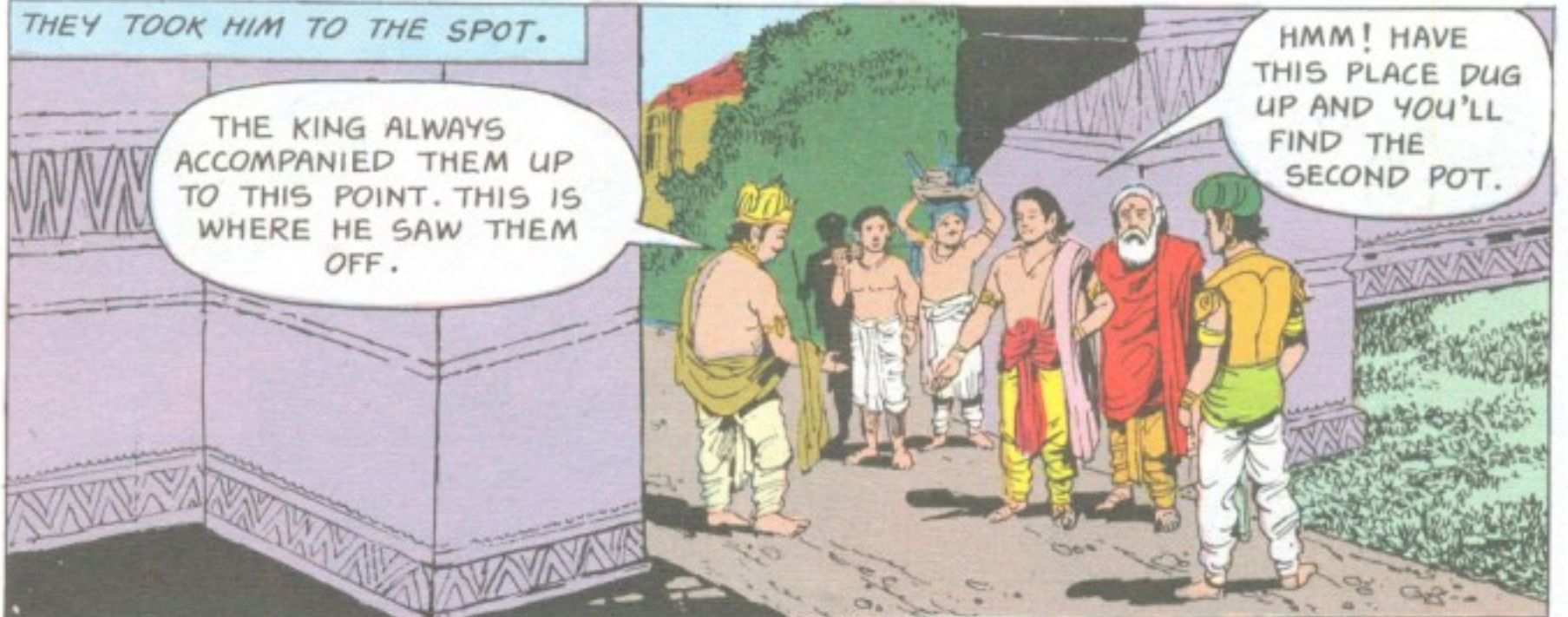
NOW WHERE
DID HE SEE
THEM OFF?



THEY TOOK HIM TO THE SPOT.

THE KING ALWAYS
ACCOMPANIED THEM UP
TO THIS POINT. THIS IS
WHERE HE SAW THEM
OFF.

HMM! HAVE
THIS PLACE DUG
UP AND YOU'LL
FIND THE
SECOND POT.



AND TRUE ENOUGH THEY DID.

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT THESE WERE THE SPOTS, MY LORD?

THE SUN MENTIONED BY THE KING IS NOT THE SUN WE KNOW. HE MEANT THE SUN OF KNOWLEDGE WITH WHICH SCHOLARS SHINE.

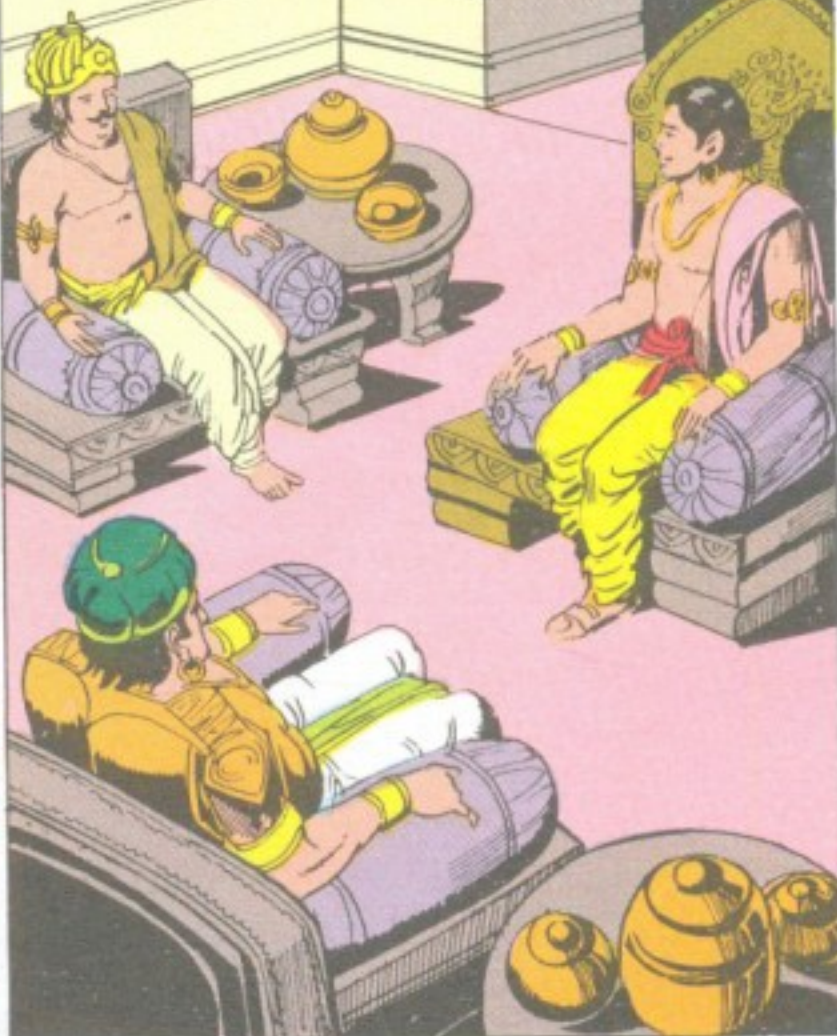


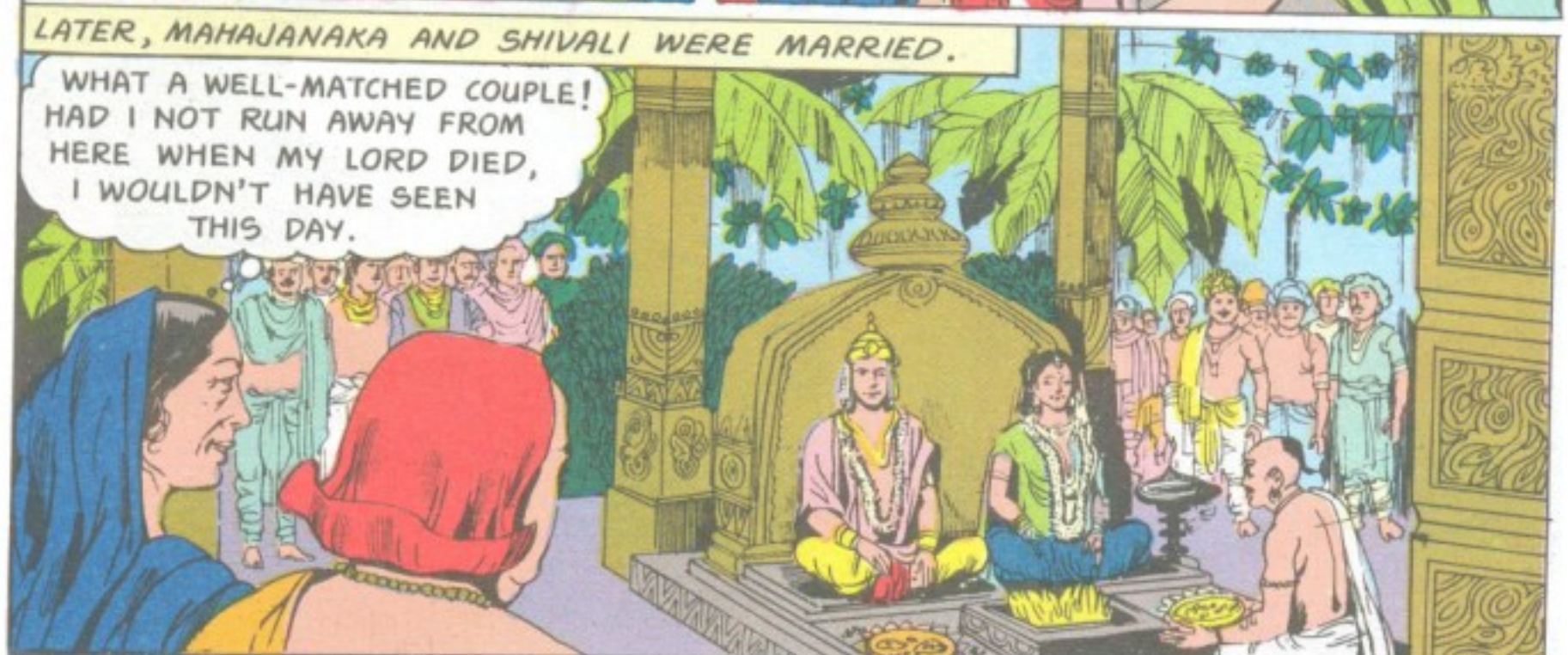
AFTER THIS MAHAJANAKA DECIPHERED THE REMAINING CLUES ONE AFTER THE OTHER AND ALL THE SIXTEEN POTS WERE FOUND.



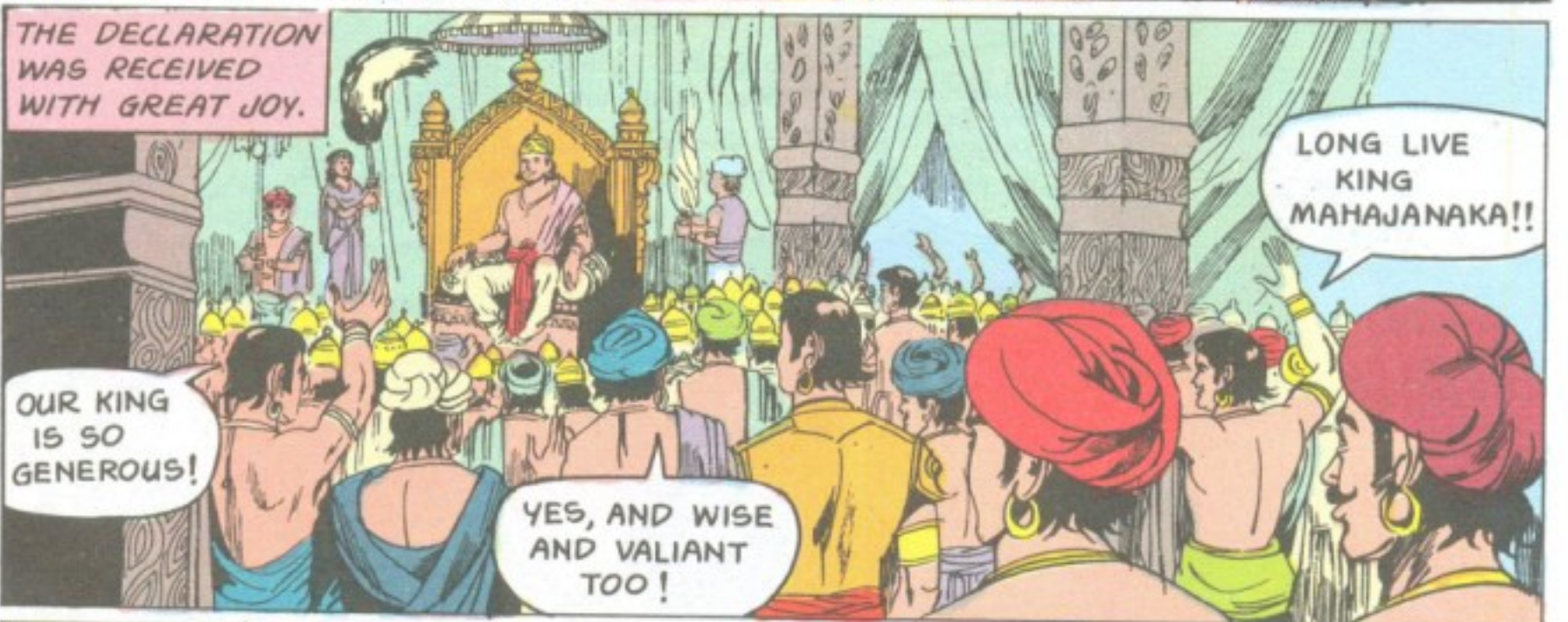
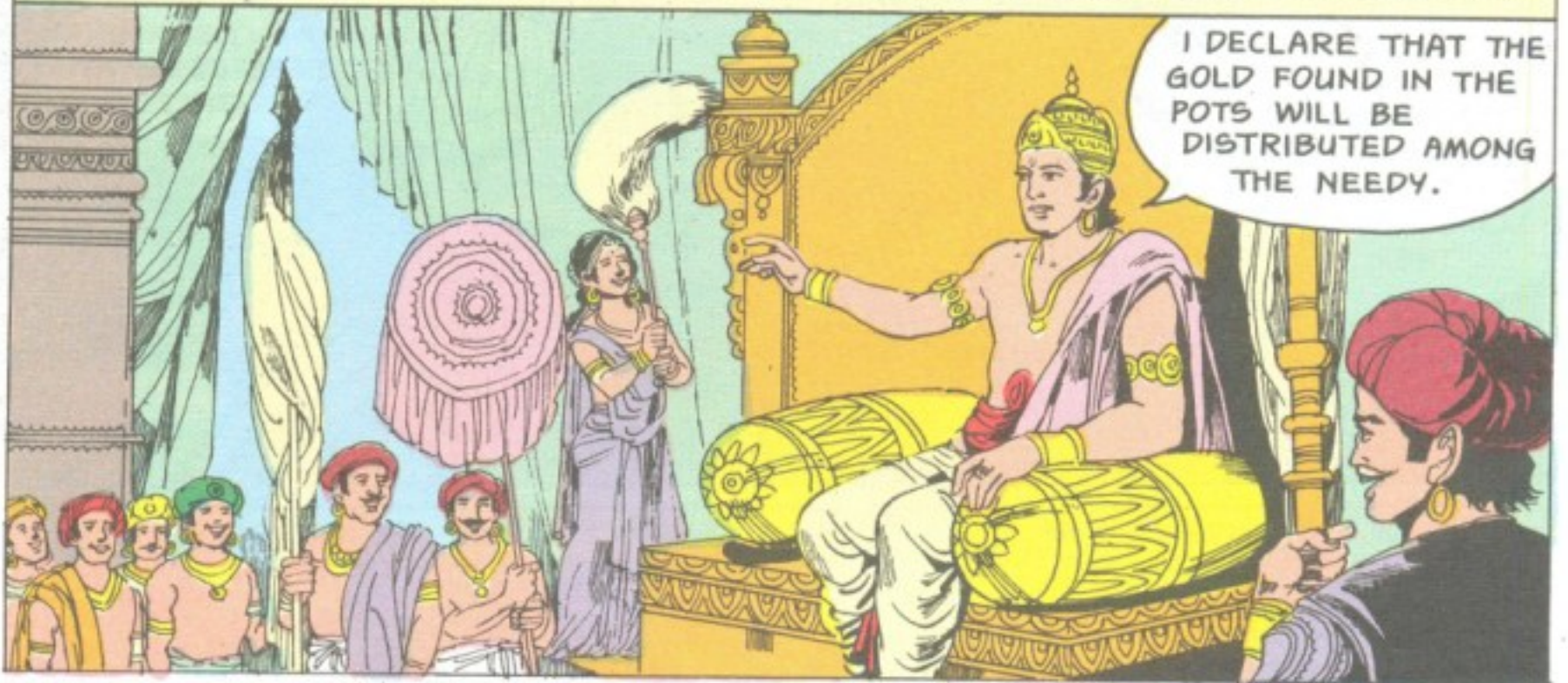
YOU HAVE PROVED YOURSELF ON EVERY SCORE, MY LORD. YOU MUST NOW MARRY THE PRINCESS, AND MAKE US HAPPY.

THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A WHILE.





WHEN MAHAJANAKA WAS CROWNED KING OF MITHILA, HE MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT—





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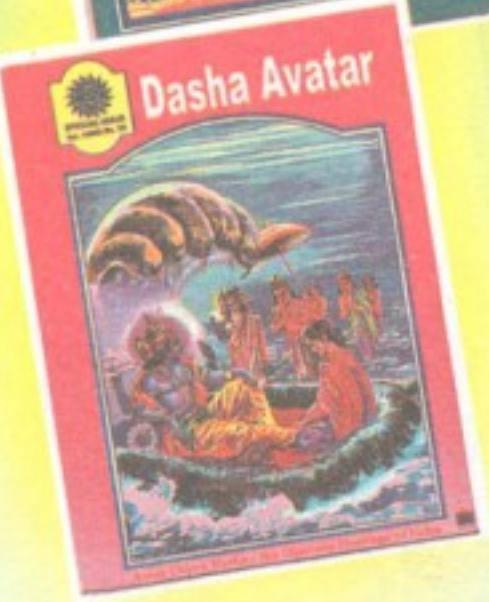
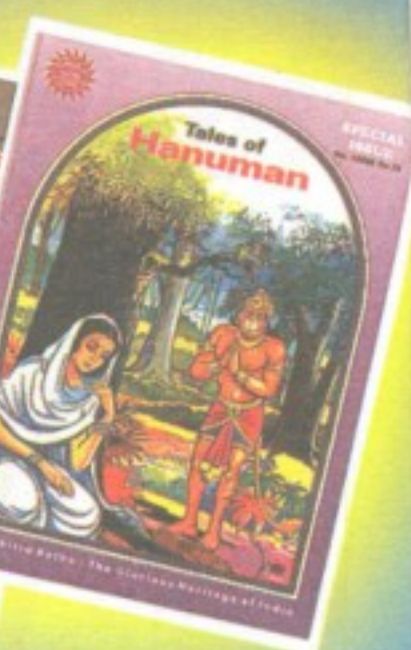
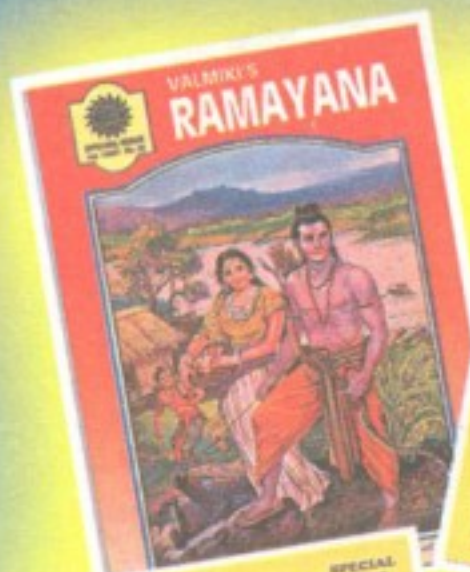
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