

JATAKA TALES
THE MAGIC CHANT



THE MAGIC CHANT

LESSONS IN LIVING FROM THE JATAKA TALES

Vol 574 |

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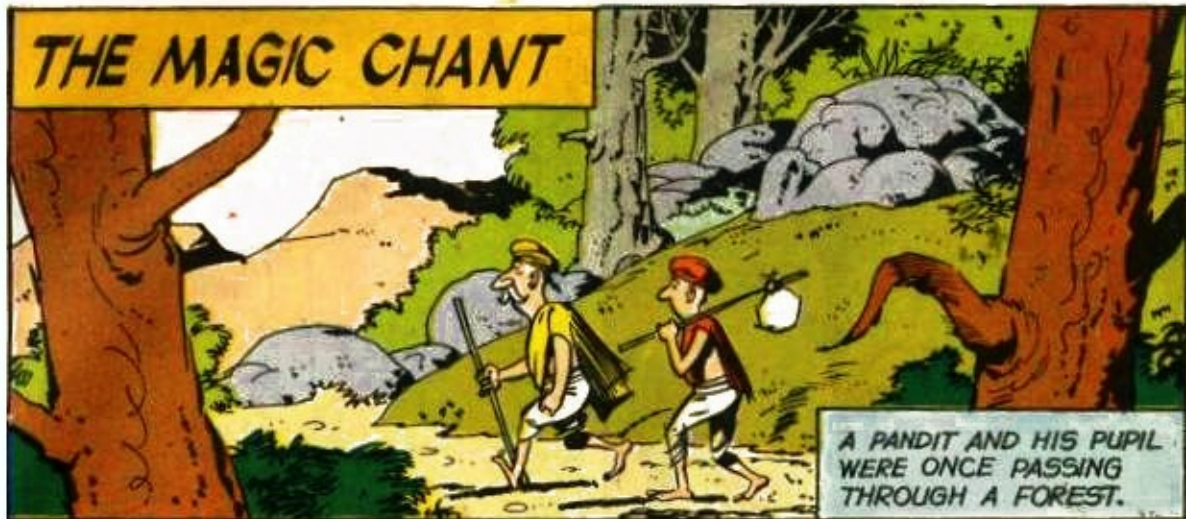
This book belongs to :

All living creatures die to be born again, so the Hindus believe. The Buddha was no exception. Legend has it that several lifetimes as a Bodhisattva went into the making of the Buddha, the Enlightened one.

The Bodhisattva came in many forms—man, monkey, deer, elephant, lion. Whatever his mortal body, he spread the message of justice and wisdom, tempered with compassion. This wisdom, the wisdom of right thinking and right living, is preserved in the Jataka tales.

These tales are based on the folklore, legends and ballads of ancient India. We cannot assign a definite date to the Jataka stories. Taking into account archaeological and literary evidence it appears that they were compiled in the period, third century B.C. to fifth century A.D. They give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

THE MAGIC CHANT



A PANDIT AND HIS PUPIL WERE ONCE PASSING THROUGH A FOREST.

SUDDENLY —



WE HAVE NO MONEY. PLEASE LET US GO.

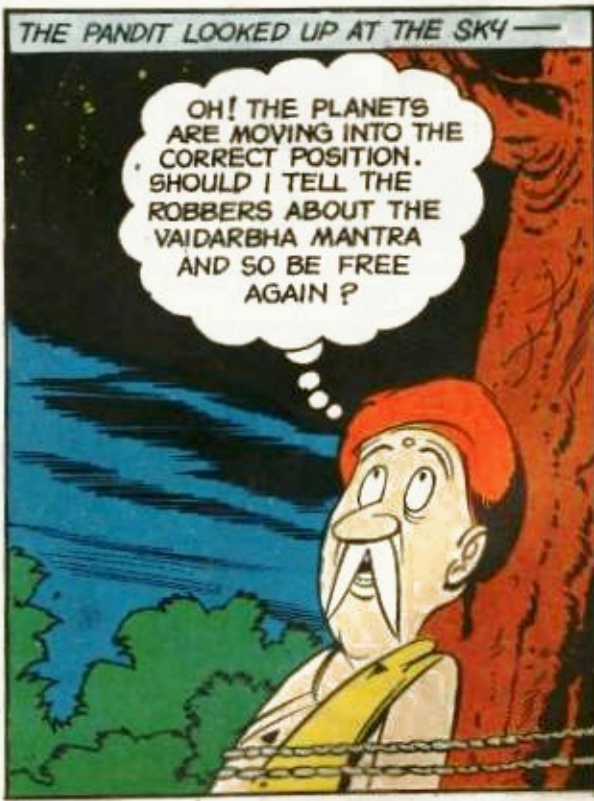
HA! HA! YOU CANNOT DECEIVE US WITH HUMBLE TALK AND SIMPLE CLOTHES! IF YOU ARE CARRYING NO MONEY, YOUR PUPIL CAN BRING IT FROM YOUR HOUSE.



THEY BOUND THE PANDIT TO A TREE.



RUN FAST AND BRING A THOUSAND GOLD COINS. ONLY THEN WILL YOUR GURU BE FREED!



REMEMBERING HIS PUPIL'S
ADVICE, HE HESITATED. BUT
FINALLY —

AFTER
ALL, WHAT
IS THE USE OF
KNOWLEDGE IF
ONE CANNOT
UTILISE IT IN
TIMES OF
CRISIS ?

HEY, CHIEF!
LISTEN ! I HAVE
SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
TO SAY !

IF I START A SHOWER
OF GEMS, WILL
YOU LET ME
GO ?

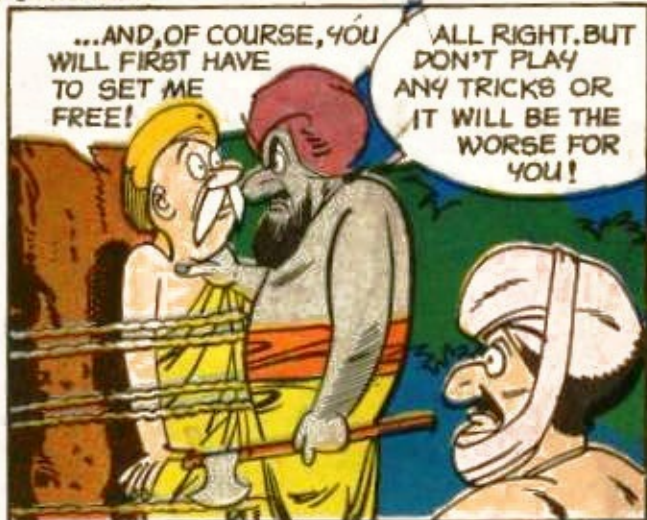
A SHOWER
OF GEMS ?
ARE YOU
JOKING ?

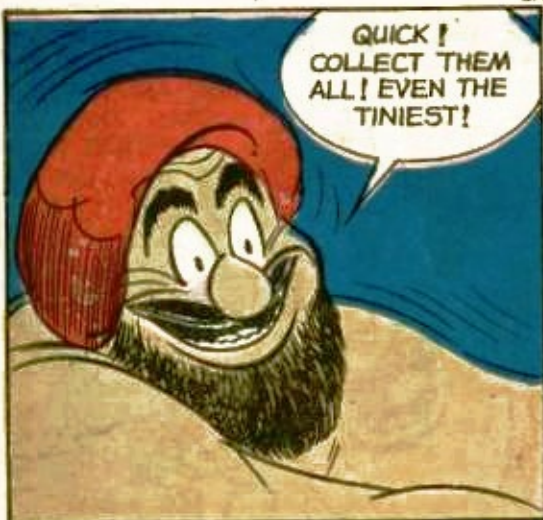
NO, I'M SERIOUS.
I CAN DO IT BY
MEANS OF A
MAGIC CHANT.

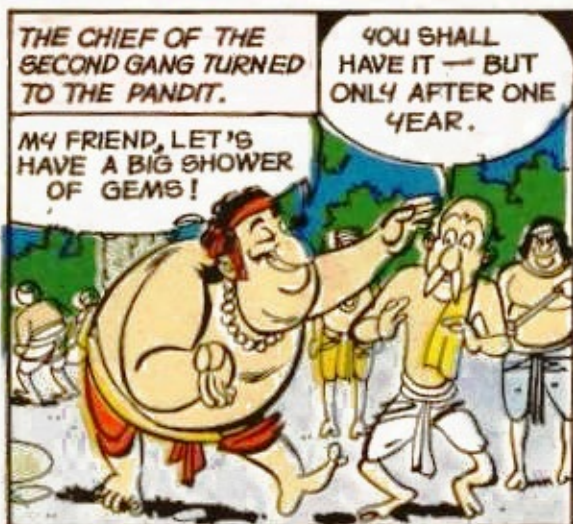
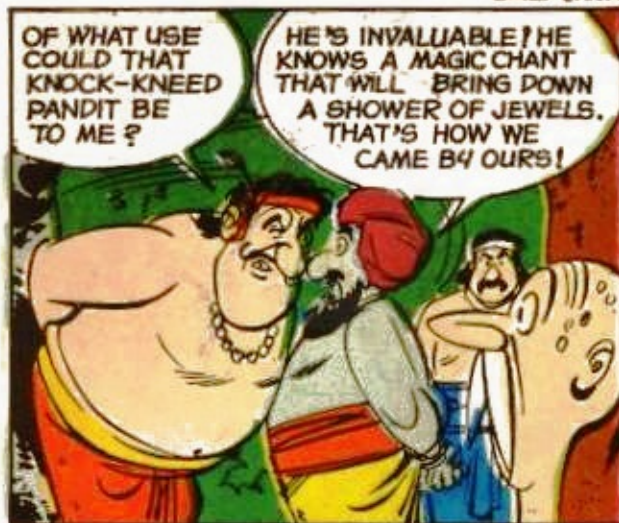
BUT...!

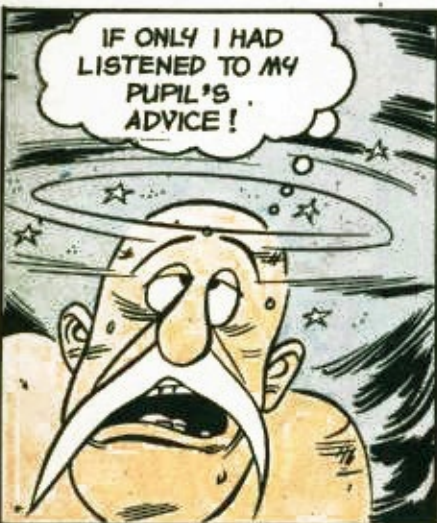
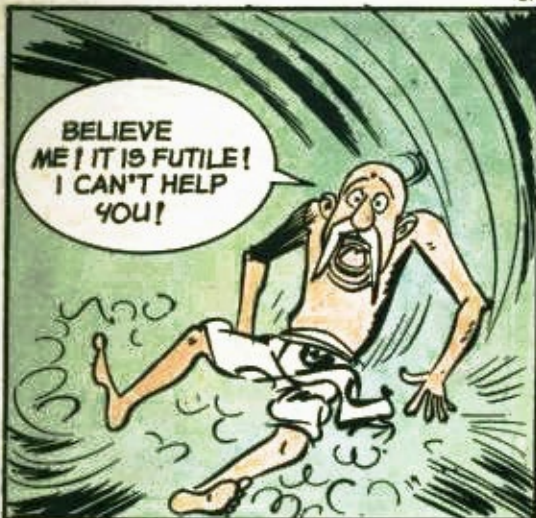
IN A FEW MOMENTS
THE PLANETS WILL BE
IN THE RIGHT POSITION.
THEN I CAN
BEGIN.

ALL RIGHT,
GO AHEAD !









A FIERCE FIGHT ENSUED...



... AND THE FIRST GANG WAS VANQUISHED —



NO,
MINE!

MINE!



YOU
RASCAL, TAKE
THAT!



SUDDENLY —

CHIEF! LOOK!
HE IS RIDING
AWAY WITH THE
GEMS!

HEY!
YOU!
STOP!







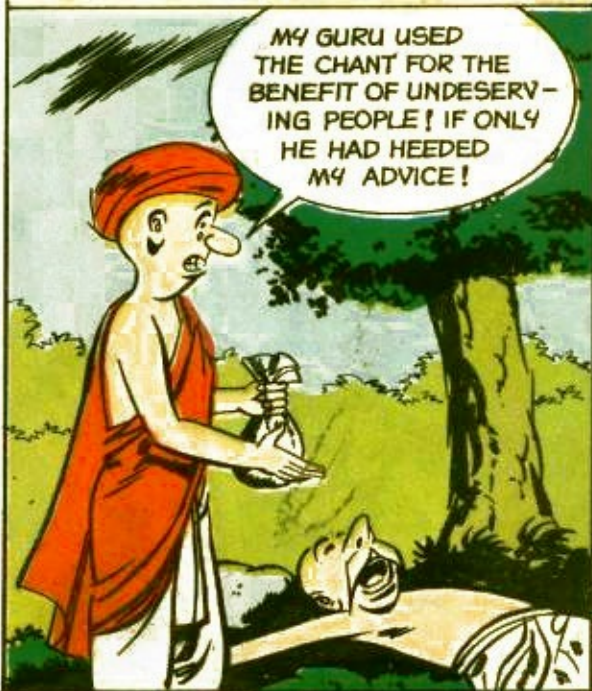
BUT WHEN HE ARRIVED —



BUT IT WAS ALL IN VAIN. FOR, HAVING EATEN THE POISONED FOOD, HE, TOO, FELL DEAD.



WHEN, TWO DAYS LATER, THE PUPIL RETURNED WITH THE MONEY, HE FOUND THE PLACE LITTERED WITH CORPSES.



THE DRUMMER



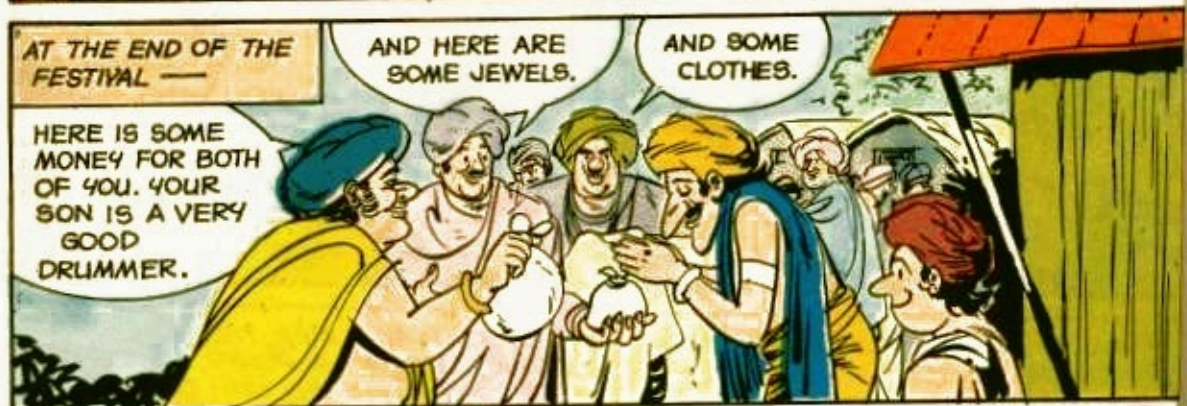
A DRUMMER AND HIS SON ONCE WENT TO VARANASI TO PLAY AT A FESTIVAL.

AT THE END OF THE FESTIVAL —

AND HERE ARE SOME JEWELS.

AND SOME CLOTHES.

HERE IS SOME MONEY FOR BOTH OF YOU. YOUR SON IS A VERY GOOD DRUMMER.



FATHER, I ENJOYED THE FESTIVAL VERY MUCH.

YOU GAVE A GOOD PERFORMANCE, SON.



THE NEXT MOMENT —

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

BEATING THE DRUM — WHAT ELSE ? I FEEL ON TOP OF THE WORLD TODAY, FATHER!





THE THIEVES QUICKLY SPOTTED THE DRUMMER AND HIS SON.

OH, YES!
THOSE TWO
CERTAINLY HAVE
SOME MONEY IN
THOSE HEAVY
BUNDLES!



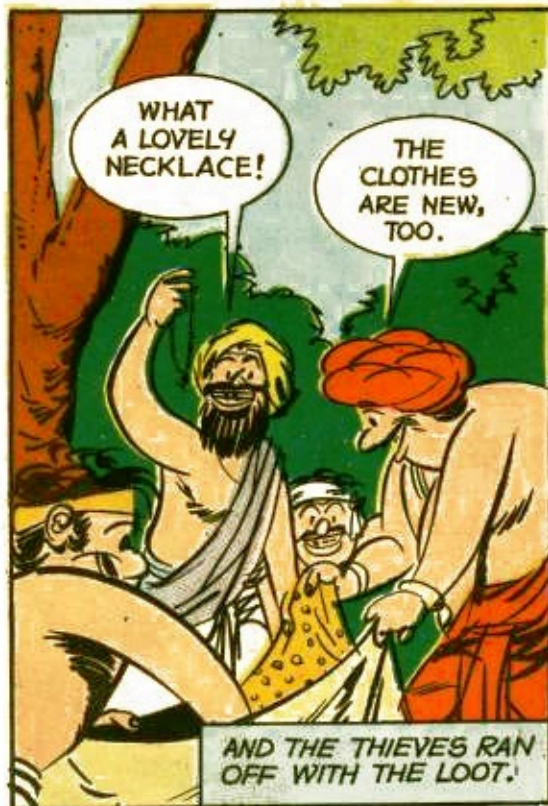
STOP!
DON'T
MOVE!



GIVE
US ALL
YOU
HAVE!

WHAT
A LOVELY
NECKLACE!

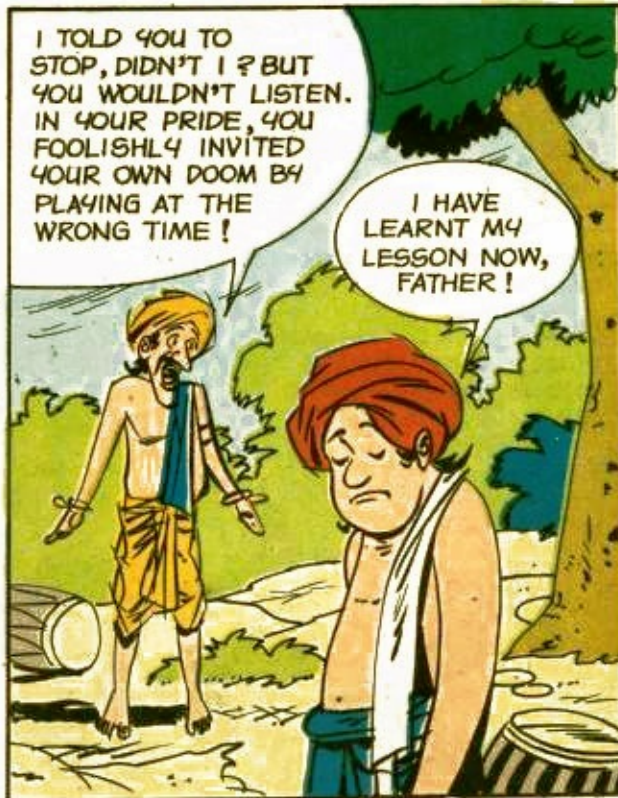
THE
CLOTHES
ARE NEW,
TOO.



AND THE THIEVES RAN
OFF WITH THE LOOT.

I TOLD YOU TO
STOP, DIDN'T I? BUT
YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN.
IN YOUR PRIDE, YOU
FOOLISHLY INVITED
YOUR OWN DOOM BY
PLAYING AT THE
WRONG TIME!

I HAVE
LEARNT MY
LESSON NOW,
FATHER!



THE SADHU AND THE RAM



ONE DAY, THERE WAS GREAT EXCITEMENT IN VARANASI. PEOPLE HAD GATHERED TO WATCH A RAM-FIGHT.

A SADHU HAPPENED TO PASS BY.

WHAT
IS GOING
ON ?

A RAM-FIGHT !
OH, WHAT FINE
BEASTS THEY
ARE !



THE SADHU PUSHED HIS WAY IN.



HE SAW A RAM RETREATING
WITH HIS HEAD BOWED LOW.

HE IS STEPPING
BACK ! HE IS
BOWING BEFORE
ME !



O, NOBLE BEAST !
ONLY YOU, IN THIS
WHOLE CROWD OF
PEOPLE, KNOW
A GREAT
SOUL WHEN
YOU SEE
ONE !



A MAN IN THE CROWD CALLED OUT
IN WARNING —

BE CAREFUL!
HE IS NOT
BOWING
BEFORE
YOU...!

...HE IS
PREPARING TO
ATTACK! PLEASE
STEP BACK!

NO, I WON'T! THE
POOR ANIMAL
WANTS ME TO
BLESS HIM!

A MOMENT LATER —

A-A-H!

I HAVE INVITED THIS
AGONY ON MYSELF!
I WAS FOOLISH AND
VAIN! NOW I HAVE
PAID THE
PRICE!

THE DAY THE EARTH BROKE INTO TWO



ONE DAY A RABBIT WAS RELAXING
UNDER A BILVA TREE ...

... WHEN A STRANGE
THOUGHT STRUCK
HIM —

I WONDER WHAT
WILL HAPPEN
IF THE
EARTH
BREAKS
INTO
TWO?



JUST THEN, A
BILVA FRUIT FELL
FROM THE TREE ...

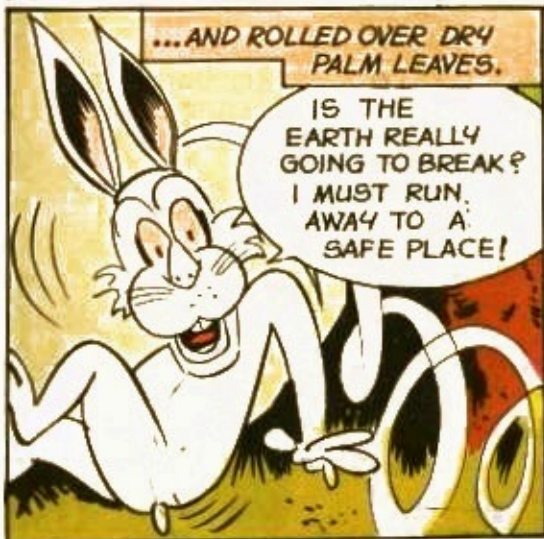
THUD

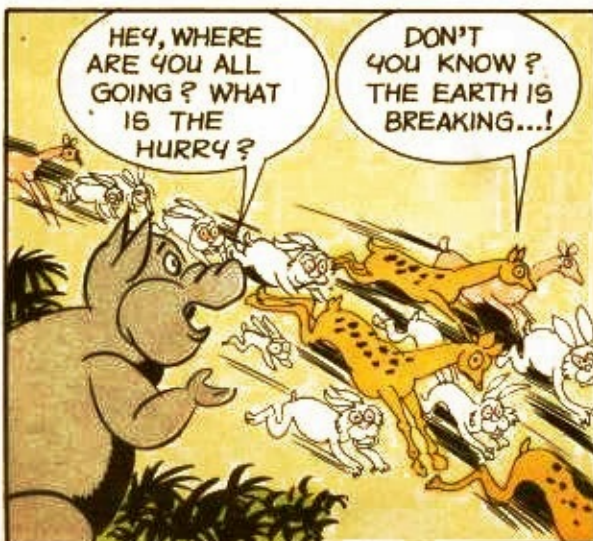
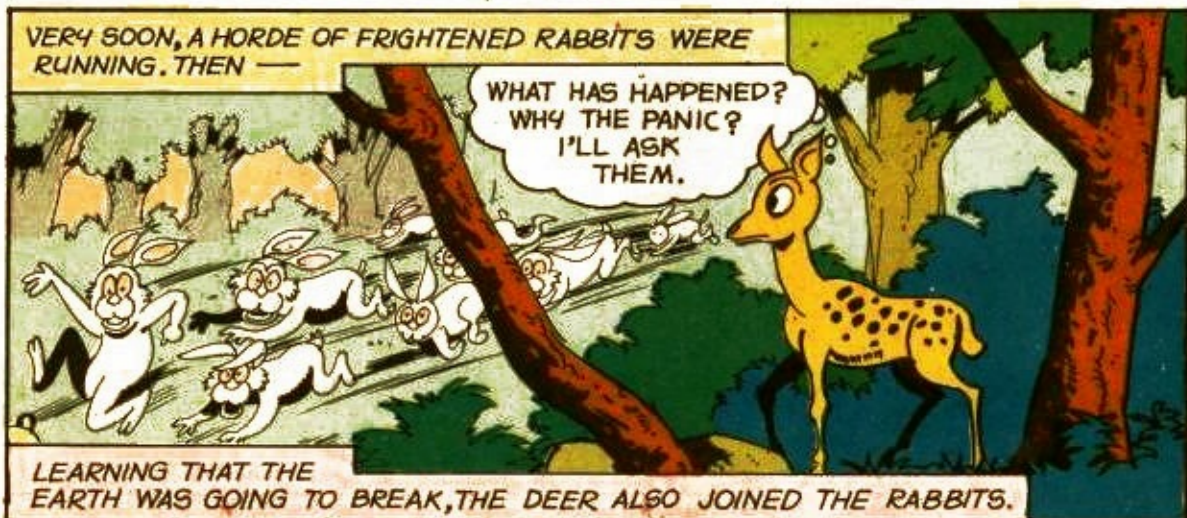
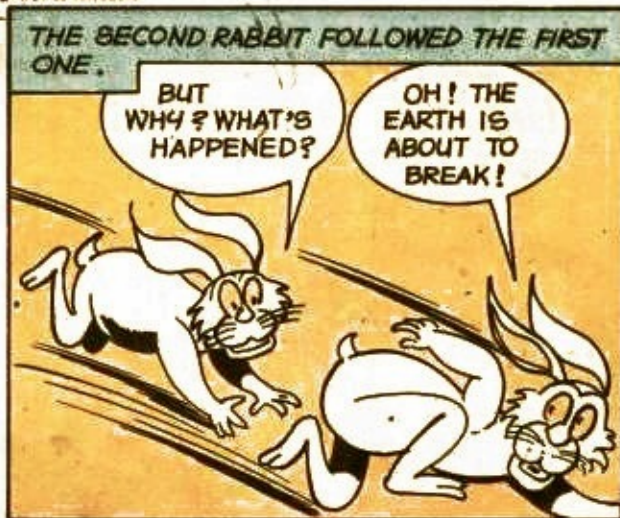
WH...
WHAT IS
THAT?



... AND ROLLED OVER DRY
PALM LEAVES.

IS THE
EARTH REALLY
GOING TO BREAK?
I MUST RUN
AWAY TO A
SAFE PLACE!

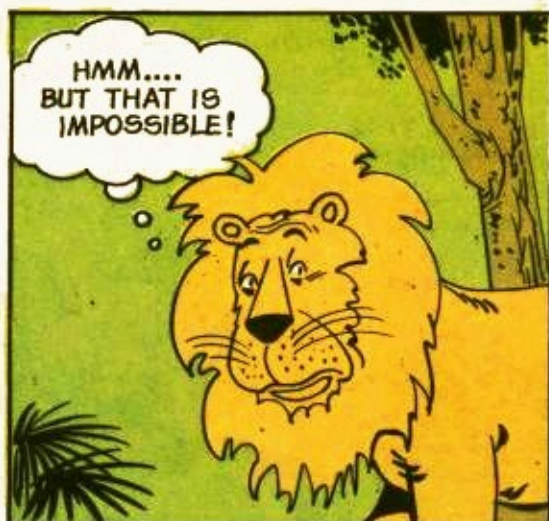




VERY SOON A PANIC-STRICKEN TROUPE WAS FLEEING THROUGH THE FOREST.



THEN A LION CAME BY —



HE CLIMBED TO THE TOP OF A HILL AND ROARED.



THE ANIMALS FROZE IN THEIR TRACKS.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?
WHAT IS THE MATTER?

THE EARTH IS BREAKING,
O MIGHTY ONE!

WE MUST GO AWAY FROM HERE!



WHO SAW THIS HAPPEN?

THE ELEPHANT.
ASK HIM!



NO, NO. NOT ME. ASK THE TIGER.

OH, NO! THE PANTHER REPORTED IT TO ME. ASK HIM!



FINALLY, THE RABBIT WAS BROUGHT TO THE LION.

DID YOU REALLY SEE THE EARTH BREAKING, LITTLE ONE?

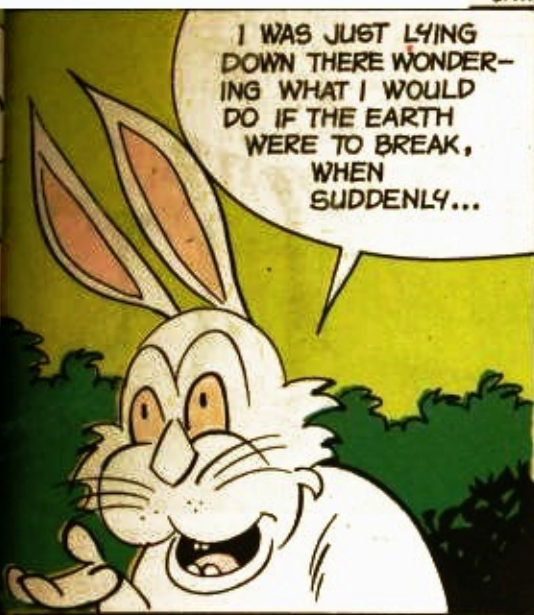
YES, MY LORD. I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.



TELL ME, WHERE WAS THIS?

IT WAS NEAR MY BURROW WHICH IS UNDER A BILVA TREE IN A PALM GROVE.





I WAS JUST LYING
DOWN THERE WONDER-
ING WHAT I WOULD
DO IF THE EARTH
WERE TO BREAK,
WHEN
SUDDENLY...



... IT HAPPENED!
I HEARD A
DEAFENING
NOISE AND
FLED.



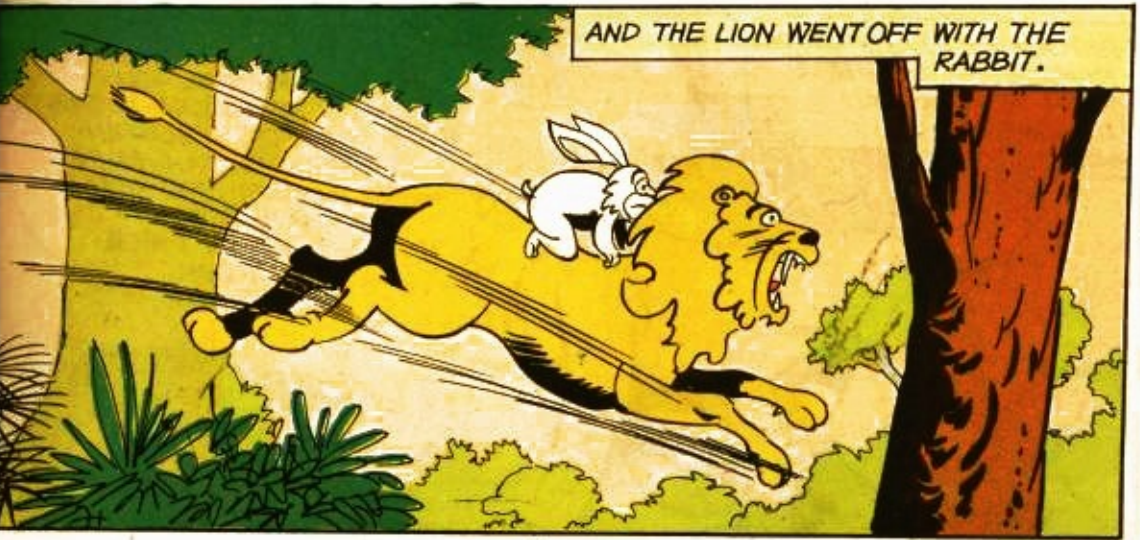
A PALM GROVE...
A BILVA TREE...
HMM.... I AM SURE
HE HAS MADE
A MISTAKE.



I'LL GO WITH THE
RABBIT AND FIND
OUT WHAT REALLY
HAPPENED. WAIT
HERE TILL
I COME
BACK.



VERY
WELL,
O MIGHTY
ONE!



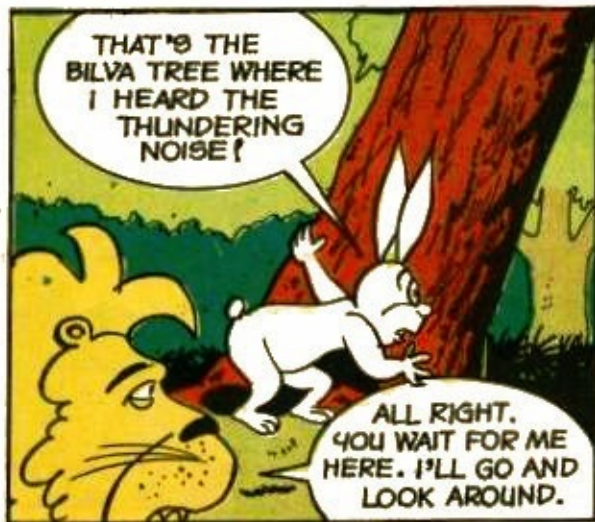
AND THE LION WENT OFF WITH THE
RABBIT.

WHEN THEY REACHED THE PALM GROVE —

SHOW ME THE PLACE WHERE YOU HEARD THE NOISE. DON'T BE AFRAID. I'M HERE TO PROTECT YOU.



THAT'S THE BILVA TREE WHERE I HEARD THE THUNDERING NOISE!



ALL RIGHT. YOU WAIT FOR ME HERE. I'LL GO AND LOOK AROUND.

THE LION LOOKED CLOSELY AT THE PALM LEAVES UNDERNEATH THE BILVA TREE.



AH! JUST AS I THOUGHT! THE SOUND OF THE FRUIT FALLING ON DRY LEAVES FRIGHTENED THE RABBIT AND HE THOUGHT THAT THE EARTH WAS BREAKING.

RETURNING TO THE WAITING ANIMALS, THE LION TOLD THEM WHAT HE HAD DISCOVERED.



FRIENDS, YOU DID NOT CHECK IF THIS WAS TRUE. BLINDLY RELYING ON A FALSE RUMOUR, YOU WOULD HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE TODAY.

THE FOOLISH TREE



LONG AGO, TWO TREES LIVED IN PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP IN A FOREST WHICH WAS FULL OF WILD BEASTS.

LIONS AND TIGERS ROAMED FREELY IN THE FOREST AND PREYED ON OTHER ANIMALS.



AFTER THEY HAD HAD THEIR FILL, THEY LEFT THE CARCASSES BEHIND...



...CAUSING A FOUL STENCH ALL ROUND. THE FOREST WAS REEKING WITH THE SMELL. ONE DAY —

FRIEND, THESE ANIMALS ARE SUCH A NUISANCE! I FEEL SUFFOCATED BY THE SMELL.

YES, IT IS BECOMING DIFFICULT TO LIVE HERE.





THE TREE SHOOK ITSELF VIGOROUSLY,
MAKING A LOUD NOISE...



... WHICH AWAKENED THE
ANIMALS SLEEPING BENEATH
IT.

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

LOOK
AT THAT
TREE!

HOW
IT IS
SWAYING!



THE
TREE IS
POSSESSED!

LET'S
RUN
AWAY!



YES, ALL
OF US HAD
BETTER
LEAVE!

HURRY!



THE NEXT MORNING —

AT LAST, I'VE GOT
RID OF THOSE ANIMALS!
ALREADY, THE AIR
SMELLS FRESHER!



MANY DAYS PASSED. QUIET AND PEACE REIGNED IN THE FOREST. THEN, ONE AFTERNOON, A COWHERD PASSED THAT WAY.



FOLLOWING THE CALF, THE BOY VENTURED INTO THE FOREST.



HE WENT HOME AND TOLD HIS FAMILY ABOUT THIS DISCOVERY. THE NEXT DAY —



YOU SEE WHAT THEY
ARE PLANNING? I HAD
TOLD YOU TO LET
THE WILD BEASTS
ALONE.

DON'T BE
SILLY. I CAN
FRIGHTEN THOSE
MEN AWAY, AS
I DID THE
BEASTS!

THE TREE SHOOK ITSELF VIOLENTLY,
MAKING A LOUD SOUND —



WHAT
IS THAT
AWFUL SOUND,
FATHER?

IT'S NOTHING, SON!
JUST THE BREEZE,
RUSTLING THROUGH
THE LEAVES!

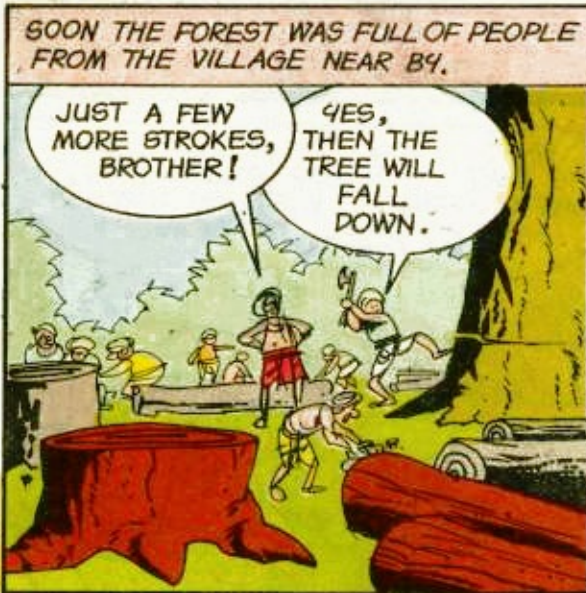


THE TREE TRIED AGAIN.



HEY!
WATCH
OUT!



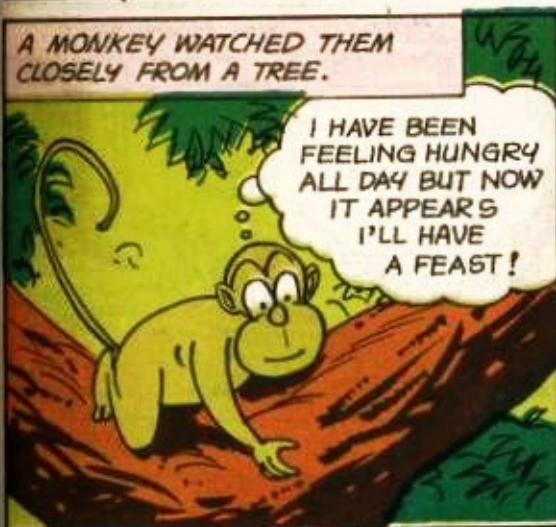


THE LOST GRAM



ONCE A KING AND HIS ARMY HAD ENCAMPED OUTSIDE A CITY.

A MONKEY WATCHED THEM CLOSELY FROM A TREE.



I HAVE BEEN FEELING HUNGRY ALL DAY BUT NOW IT APPEARS I'LL HAVE A FEAST!

A LITTLE LATER —



LET'S ROAST SOME GRAM FOR THE HORSES.

HA! JUST AS I EXPECTED. HOW LUCKY I AM!



WE'LL FEED THE HORSES WHEN THE GRAM GETS COLD.

THIS IS MY CHANCE!

AS THE SOLDIERS TURNED TO LEAVE, THE MONKEY SWOOPED DOWN FROM THE TREE...



... AND ATE A HANDFUL OF GRAM.

THIS IS
DELICIOUS!

BUT THOUGH HIS HUNGER WAS
SATISFIED, HIS GREED WAS NOT.

I MUST TAKE AWAY
AS MUCH AS
I CAN!

HE STUFFED HIS
MOUTH WITH
GRAM...

... AND GRABBED SOME MORE WITH
BOTH FRONT PAWS.

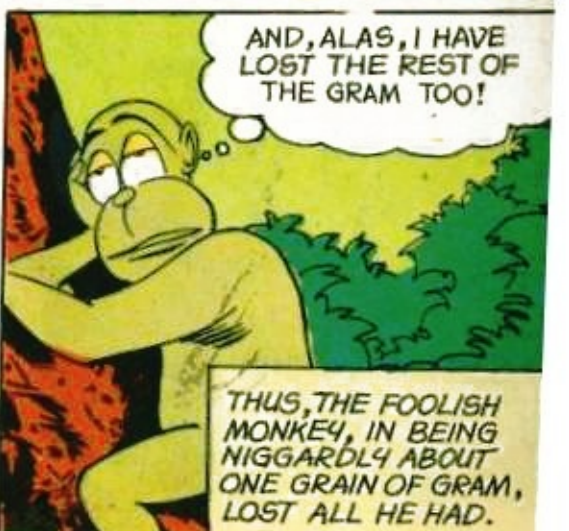
I'LL HAVE
ENOUGH FOR
MANY MORE
DAYS!

BUT ONE GRAIN
ROLLED OUT AND...

...FELL ON THE GROUND

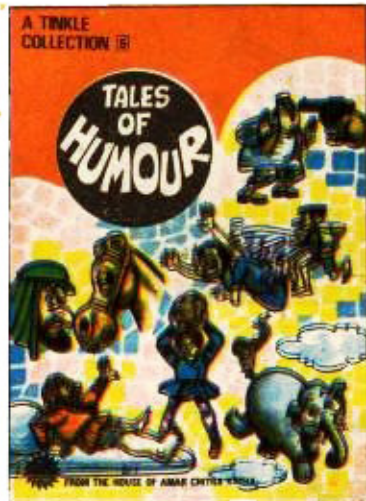
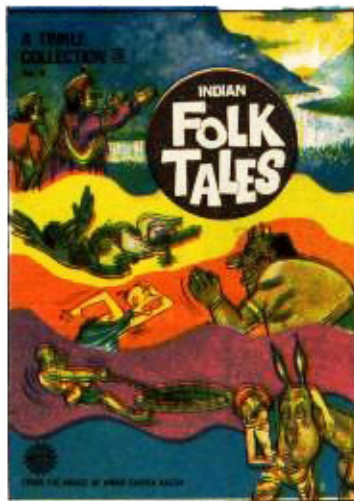
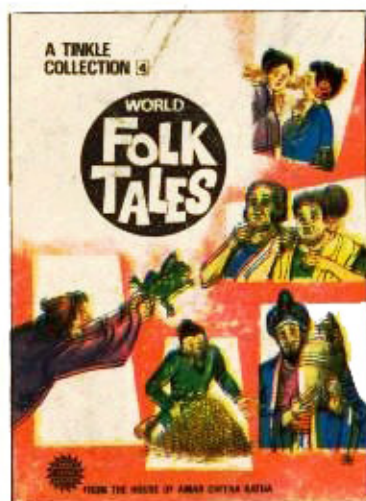
HA! NOW
I'LL EAT
SOME
MORE!

OH...
OH, MY
GRAM! IT'S
GONE!



THUS, THE FOOLISH
MONKEY, IN BEING
NIGGARDLY ABOUT
ONE GRAIN OF GRAM,
LOST ALL HE HAD.

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