

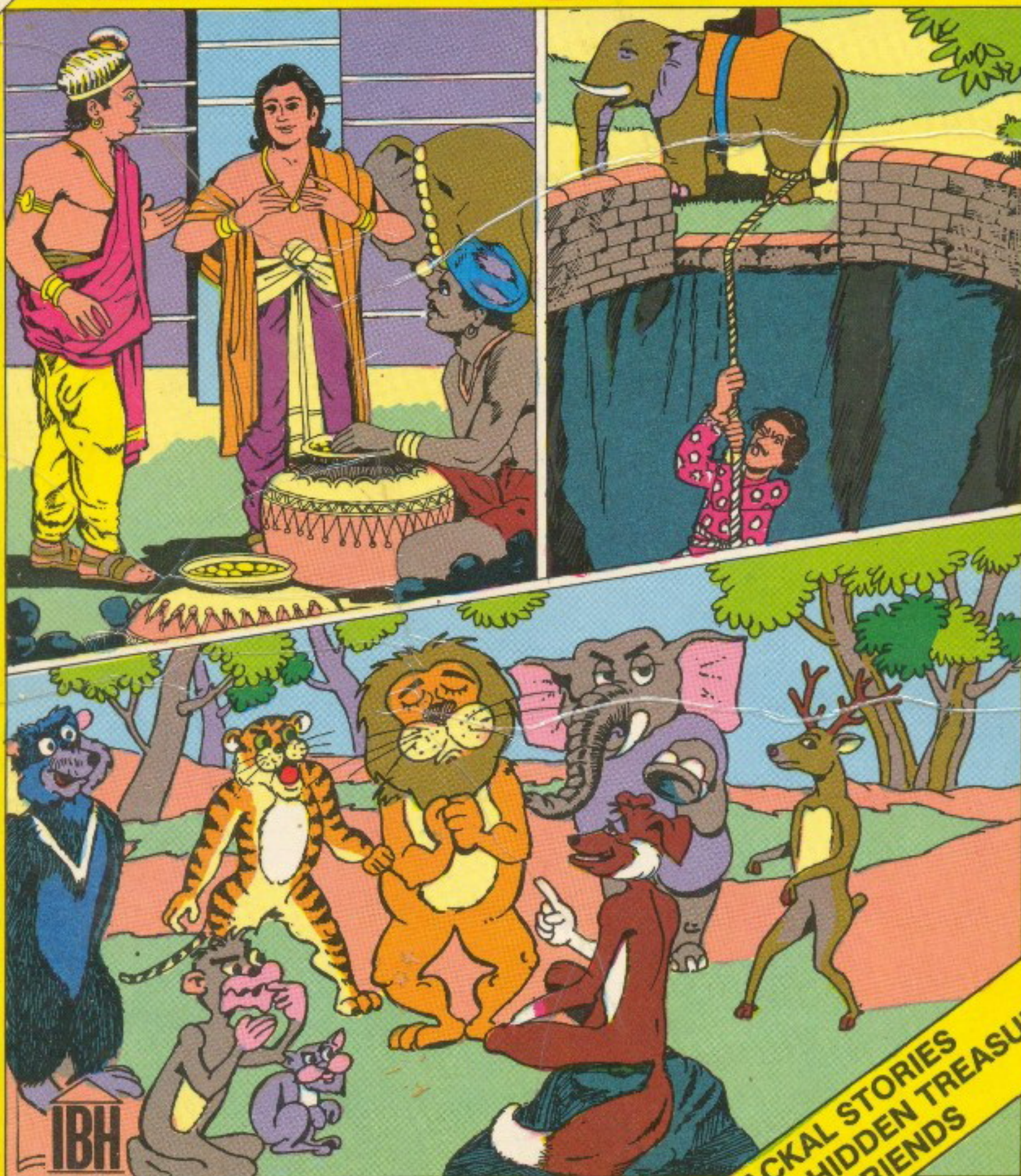
AMAR  
CHITRA  
KATHA

BUMPER ISSUE

No. 30 Rs. 20

# JATAKA TALES

THE RIGHTFUL KING AND OTHER STORIES



JACKAL STORIES  
THE HIDDEN TREASURE  
TRUE FRIENDS

IBH



# JATAKA TALES

## The Rightful King and other stories

The Jataka Tales are a veritable treasure of Indian folklore, legend and fable. Each time these popular stories are told, they acquire a new colour and fresh dimension. Besides being entertaining, the Jataka tales give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

The Jataka tales recount the stories of the previous incarnations of the Bodhisattva before he became the Buddha, or the enlightened one. The Bodhisattva came in many forms – man, monkey, elephant, lion, deer etc. Whatever his mortal form, in each story, the Bodhisattva spread the message of justice and wisdom. The present collection includes a selection of these fascinating folktales.

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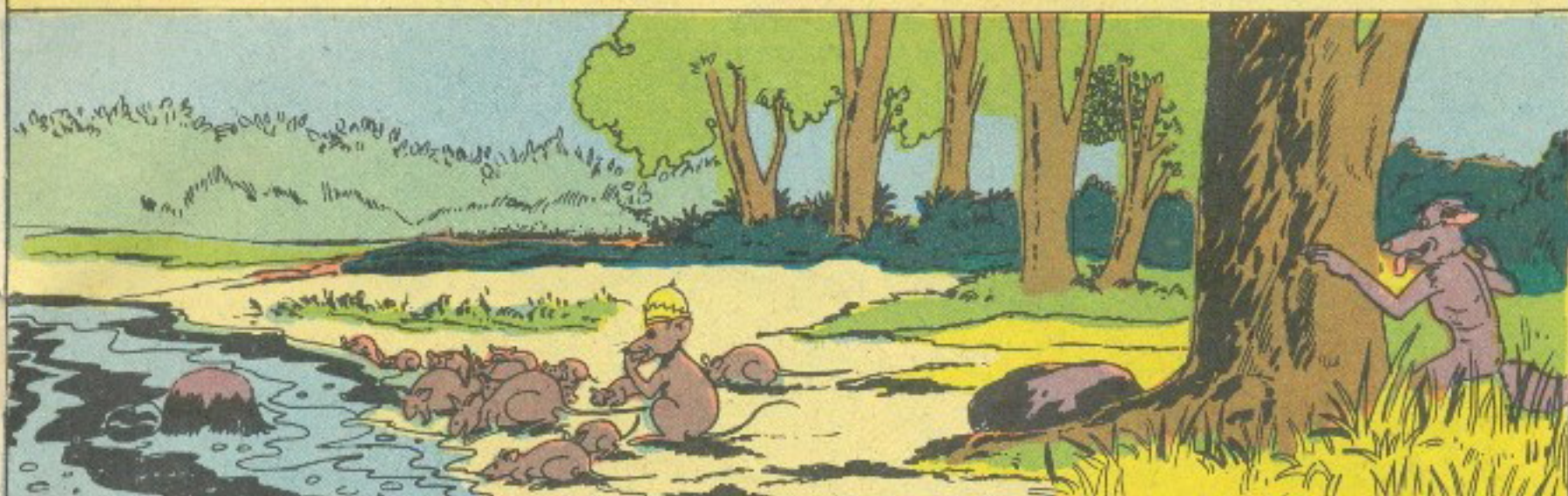
Editor:  
**ANANT PAI**

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| HIDDEN TREASURE | Script : Meera Ugra<br>Artworks : M.N. Nangare             |
| TRUE FRIENDS    | Script : Margie Sastry<br>Artworks : V.B. Halbe            |





# THE JACKAL AND THE RATS



ONE DAY, WHILE ROAMING IN THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF FOOD, A JACKAL SUDDENLY SPIED A TROOP OF RATS. THEIR KING WAS A HUGE BANDICOOT.



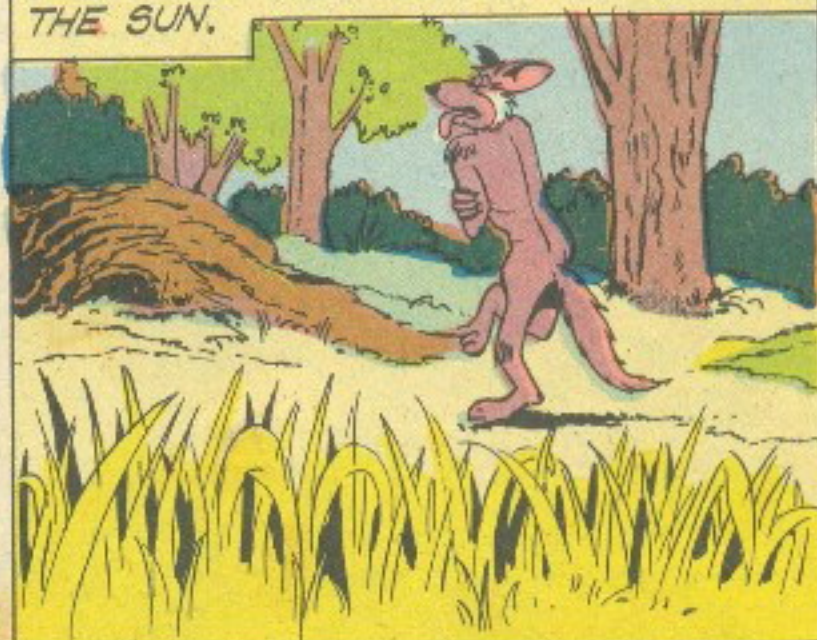
IF I'M CLEVER, HOWEVER, THESE RATS COULD PROVIDE ME WITH FOOD FOR MANY DAYS.



SO HE FOLLOWED THEM TO THEIR HOLE.

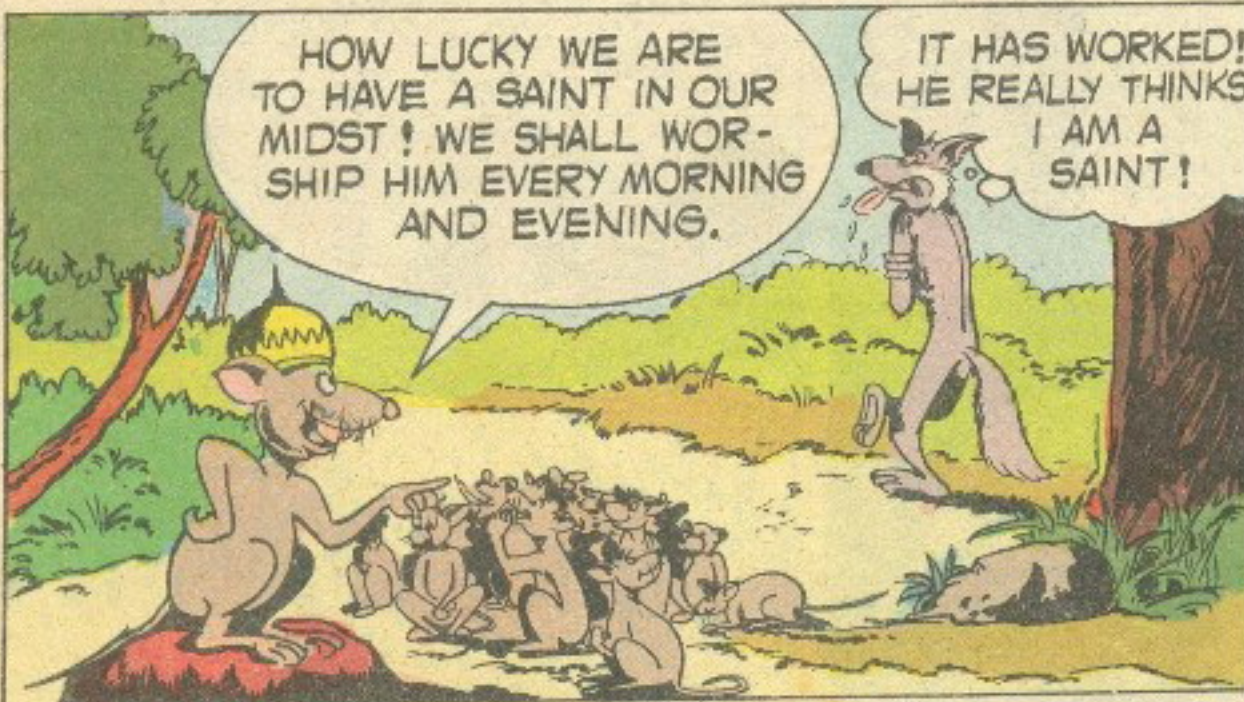


WHEN THE LAST OF THEM HAD GONE INTO THE HOLE, THE JACKAL STOOD OUTSIDE ON ONE LEG, HIS MOUTH OPEN AND HIS FACE TURNED TOWARDS THE SUN.





A LITTLE LATER, WHEN THE RATS CAME OUT AGAIN —



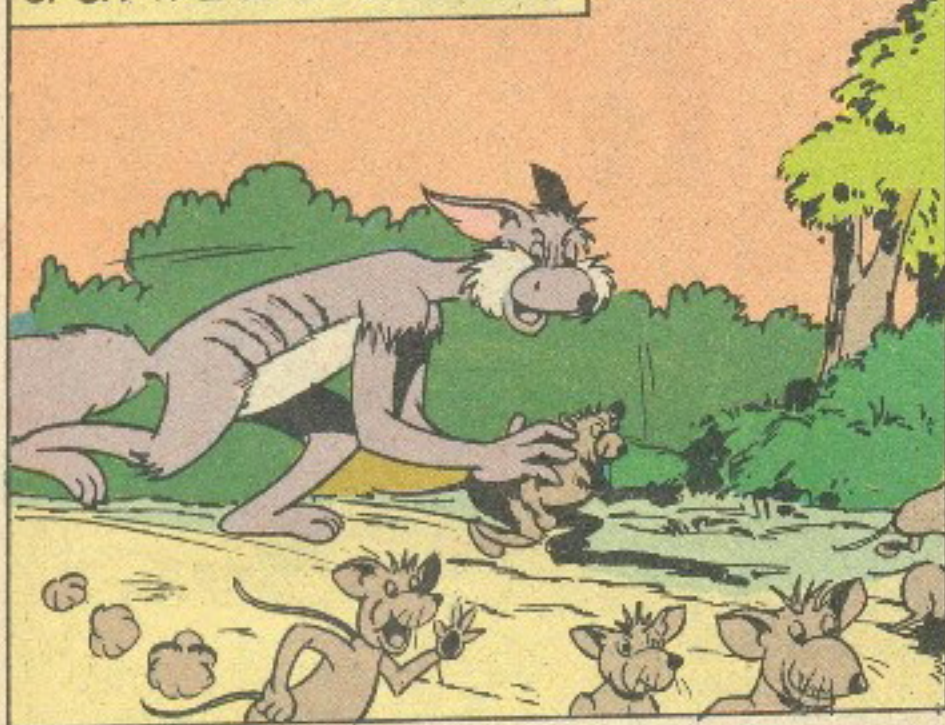




THEIR WORSHIP OVER, THE RATS TROOPED AWAY...



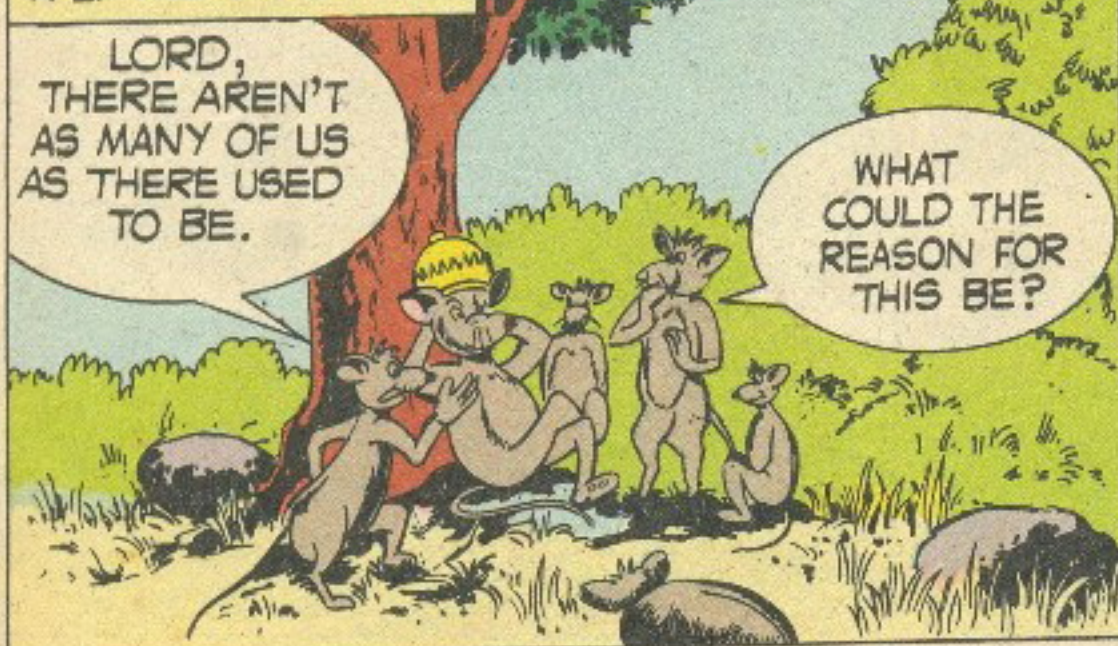
...WHILE THE JACKAL SWIFTLY SWOOPED UPON THE LAST OF THEM.



THIS WENT ON FOR MANY DAYS. THEN THE BANDICOOT NOTICED SOMETHING.



A LITTLE LATER—



THE JACKAL HAS GROWN PLUMPER AND MY SUBJECTS FEWER! COULD THE JACKAL...? I'LL FIND OUT.





SO THAT EVENING AS THE RATS WERE READY TO SET OUT —

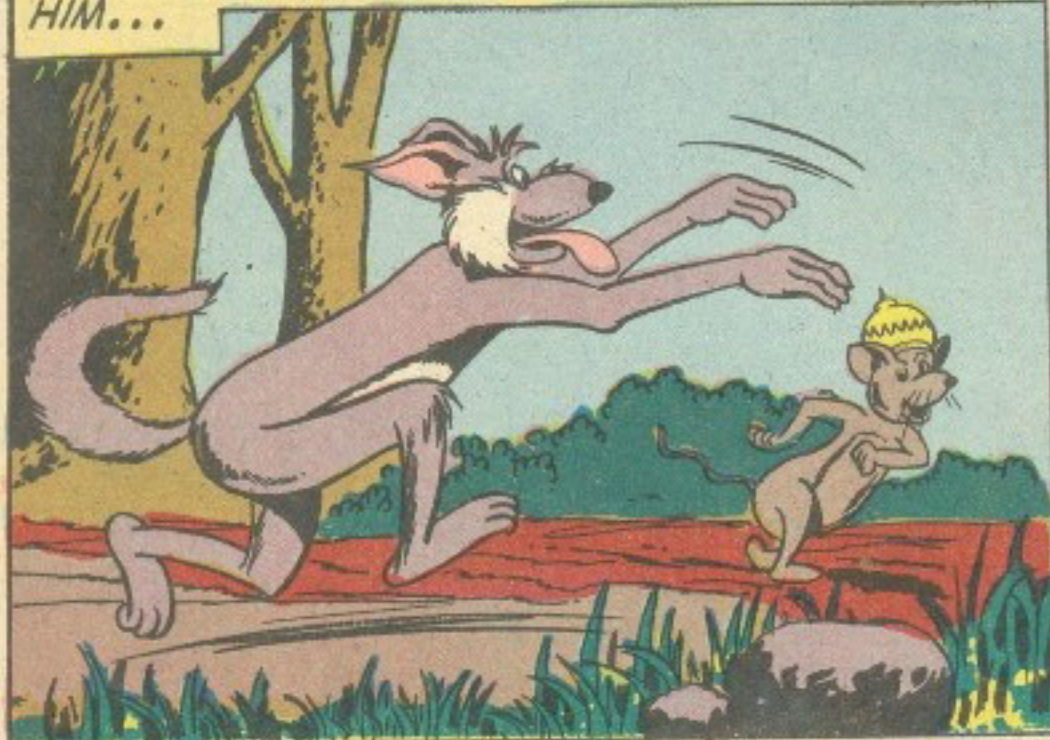
TODAY ALL OF YOU GO AHEAD. I'LL COME OUT LAST.



IF MY GUESS IS CORRECT, HE'LL POUNCE ON ME. I MUST BE READY.



THE NEXT MOMENT THE JACKAL SPRANG AT HIM...

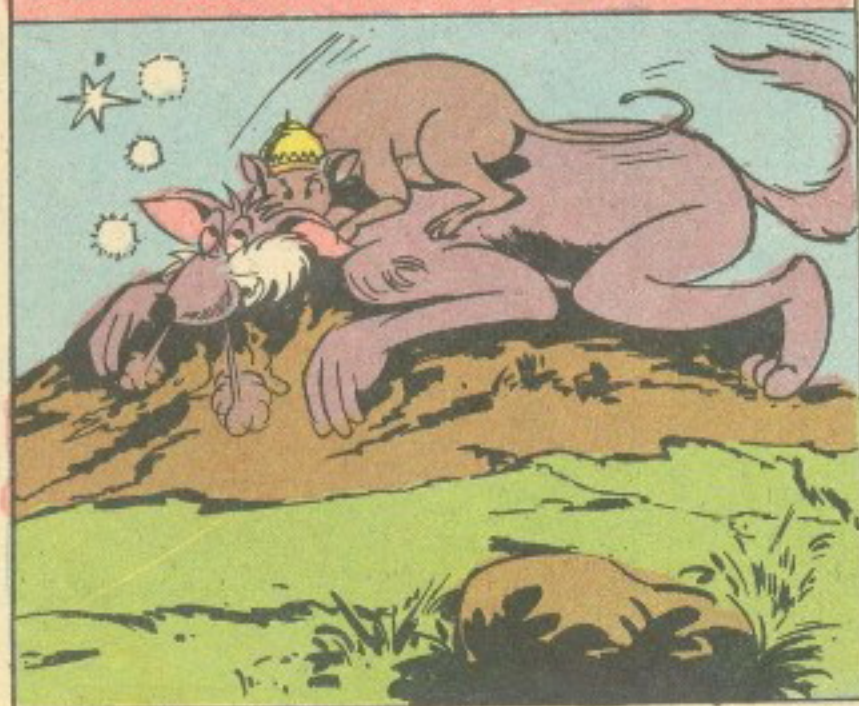


... BUT MISSED.

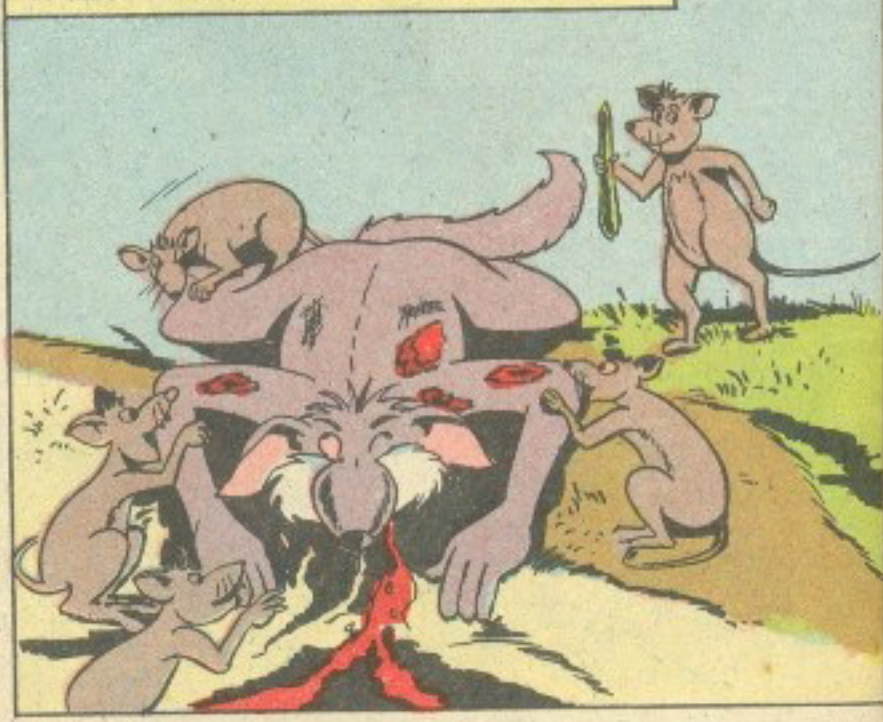
SO THIS IS YOUR GAME! YOU RASCAL!



THE BANDICOOT DUG HIS TEETH INTO THE JACKAL'S THROAT AND KILLED HIM.



BACK CAME ALL THE OTHER RATS AND THEY HAD A GRAND FEAST.

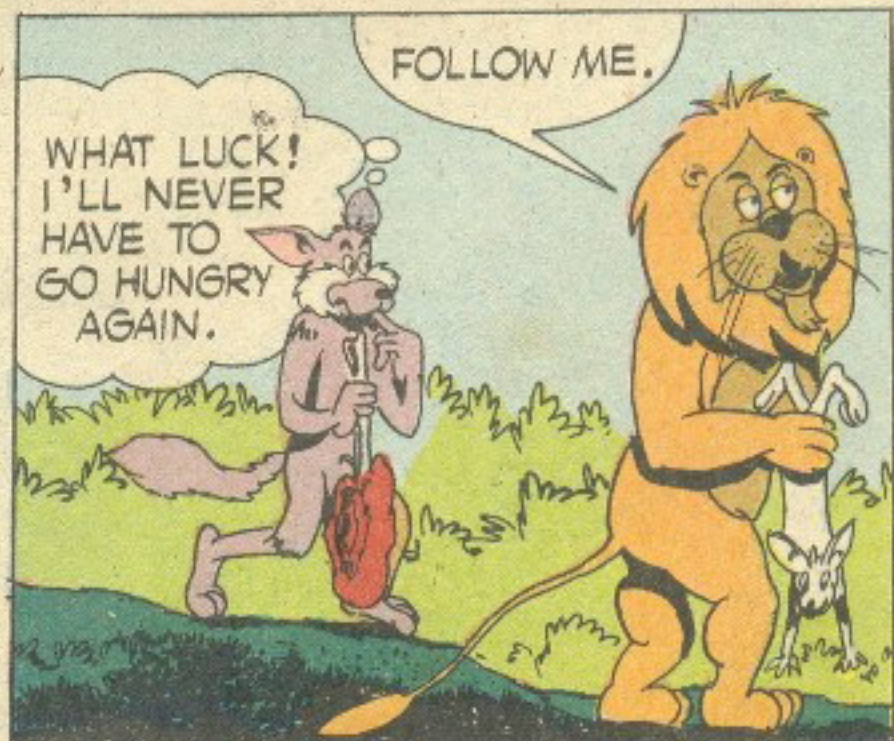




# THE JACKAL AND THE LION

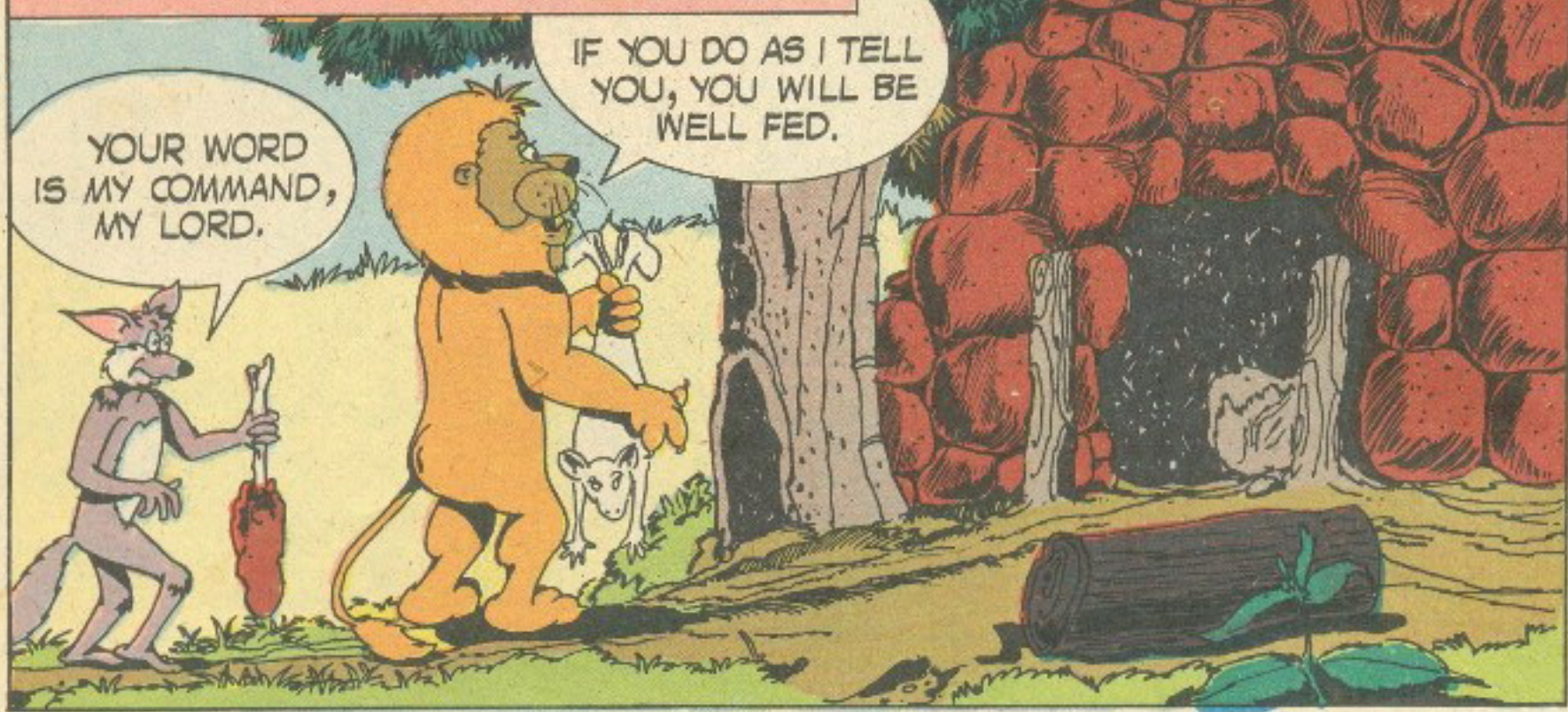


A HUNGRY JACKAL ONCE SUDDENLY CAME ACROSS A LION WHO WAS ON HIS WAY HOME.





WHEN THEY REACHED THE LION'S DEN —

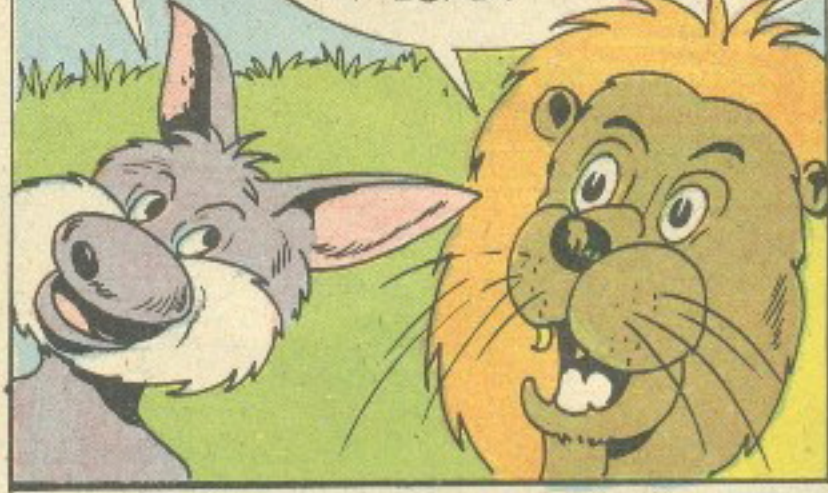


YOU WILL GO TO THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN EACH DAY AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY ANIMALS ROAMING IN THE VALLEY BELOW.



AND IF I SEE ONE, MY LORD?

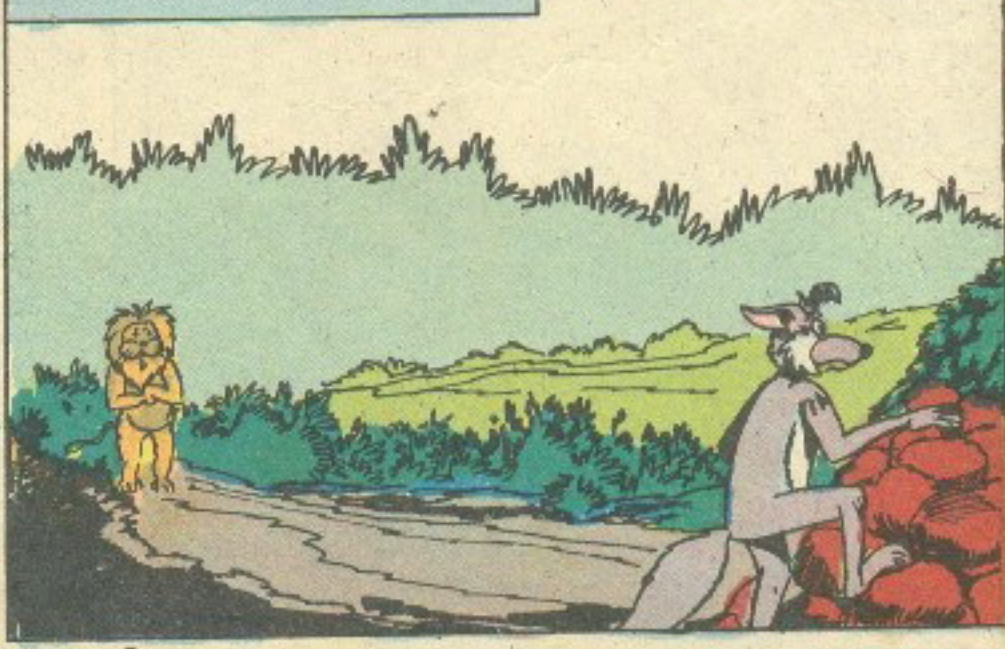
YOU WILL COME AND TELL ME ABOUT IT. THEN YOU WILL SAY: "SHINE FORTH IN ALL YOUR MIGHT, MY LORD."



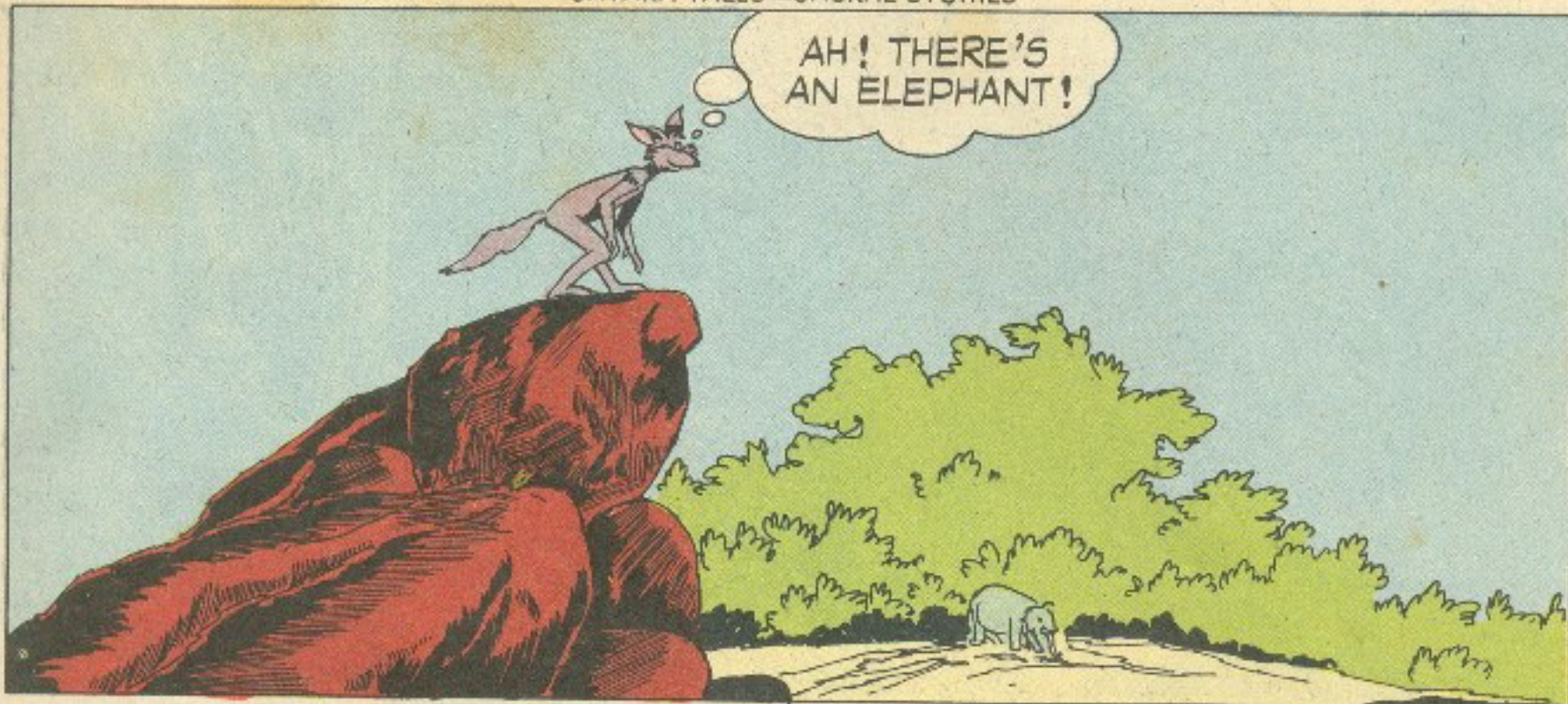
THEN, AFTER I'VE KILLED THE ANIMAL AND EATEN MY FILL, YOU MAY TAKE WHAT'S LEFT.



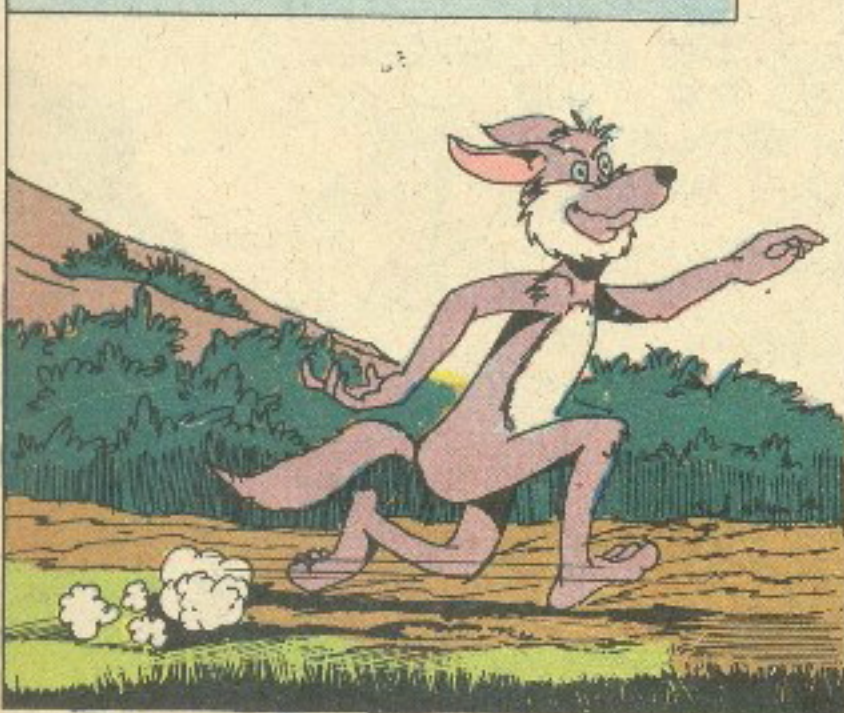
SO THE NEXT DAY THE JACKAL WENT TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP.







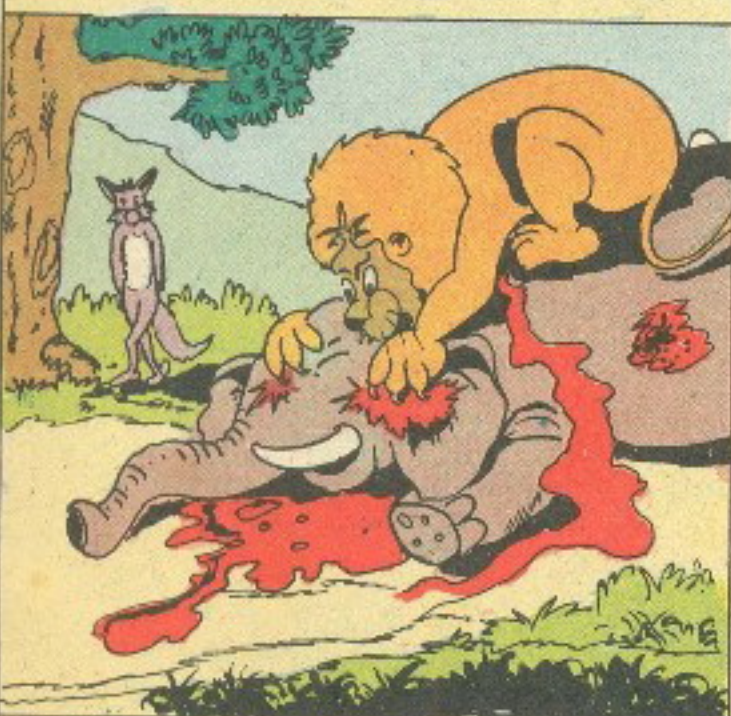
HE SPED BACK TO THE LION...



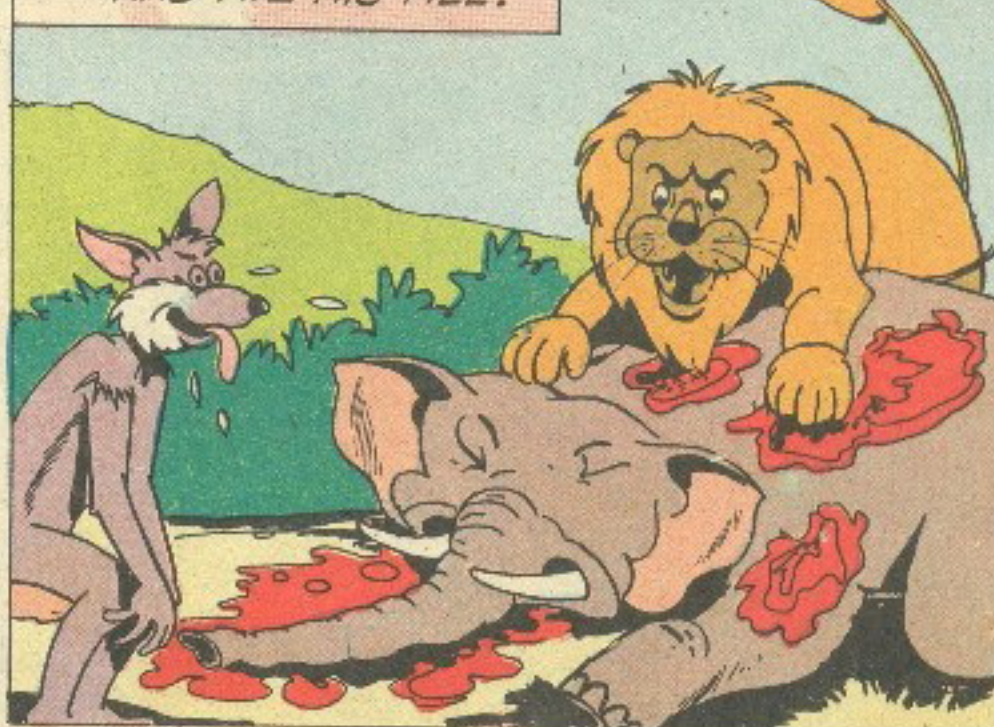
...AND FELL AT HIS FEET.



THE LION KILLED THE ELEPHANT...



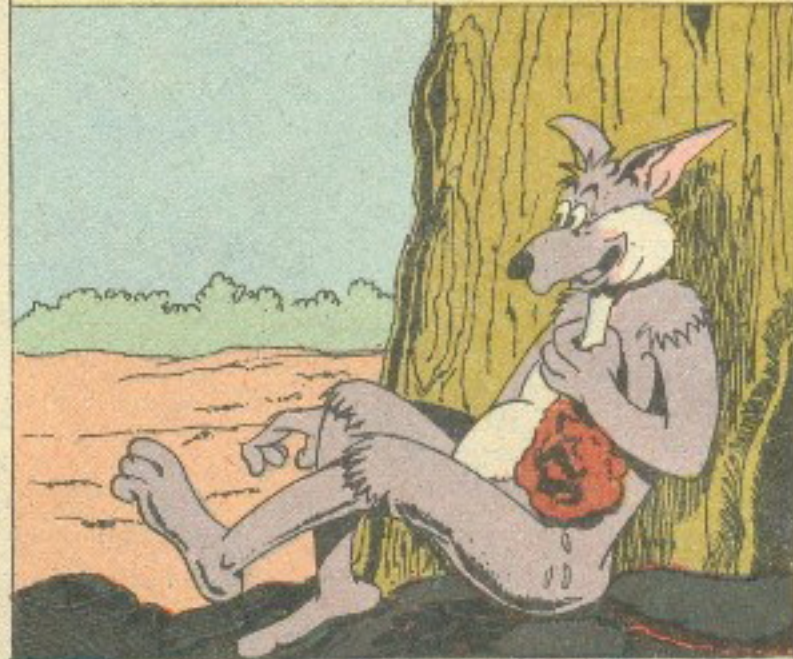
...AND ATE HIS FILL.





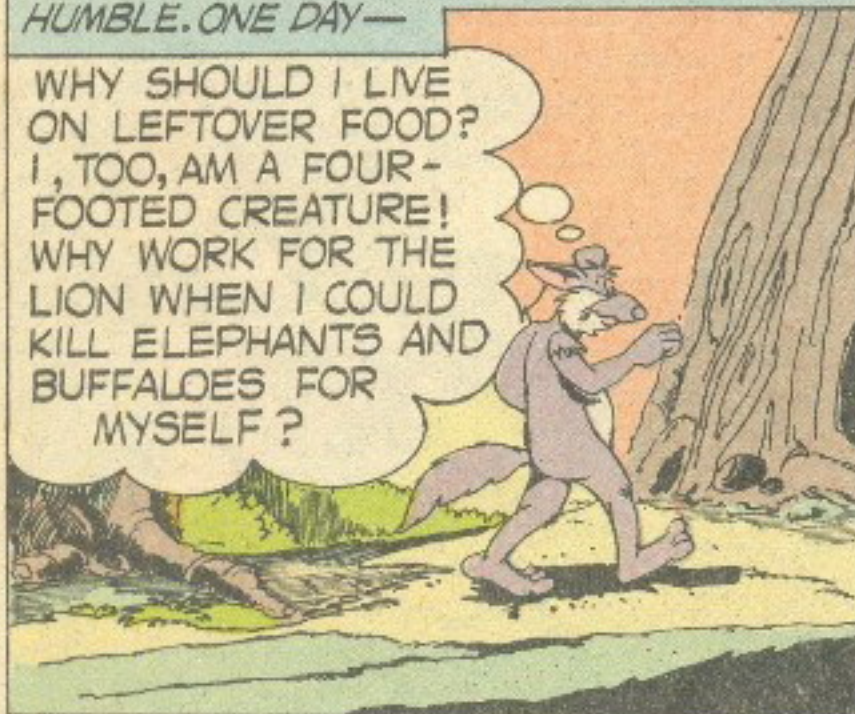


AS THE DAYS WENT BY, THE JACKAL GREW FATTER AND FATTER.



BUT, ALAS! HE GREW LESS AND LESS HUMBLE. ONE DAY—

WHY SHOULD I LIVE ON LEFTOVER FOOD? I, TOO, AM A FOUR-FOOTED CREATURE! WHY WORK FOR THE LION WHEN I COULD KILL ELEPHANTS AND BUFFALOES FOR MYSELF?



AFTER ALL, THE LION ONLY GETS HIS STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC PHRASE, "GO FORTH AND SHINE IN ALL YOUR MIGHT".



HE APPEALED TO THE LION.

MY LORD, I HAVE LIVED FOR TOO LONG ON WHAT YOU KILL. I WOULD LIKE TO EAT AN ELEPHANT I HAVE KILLED MYSELF.



THE LION WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE.

WHAT A FOOLISH IDEA! HE'LL BE KILLED HIMSELF!





O JACKAL, ONLY LIONS  
CAN KILL ELEPHANTS.  
GIVE UP THIS SILLY IDEA.  
AND BE HAPPY TO  
EAT WHAT I KILL.

PLEASE, MY LORD. DON'T  
DENY ME THIS CHANCE. I'LL  
WAIT HERE, WHILE YOU  
GO TO THE MOUNTAIN-  
TOP.

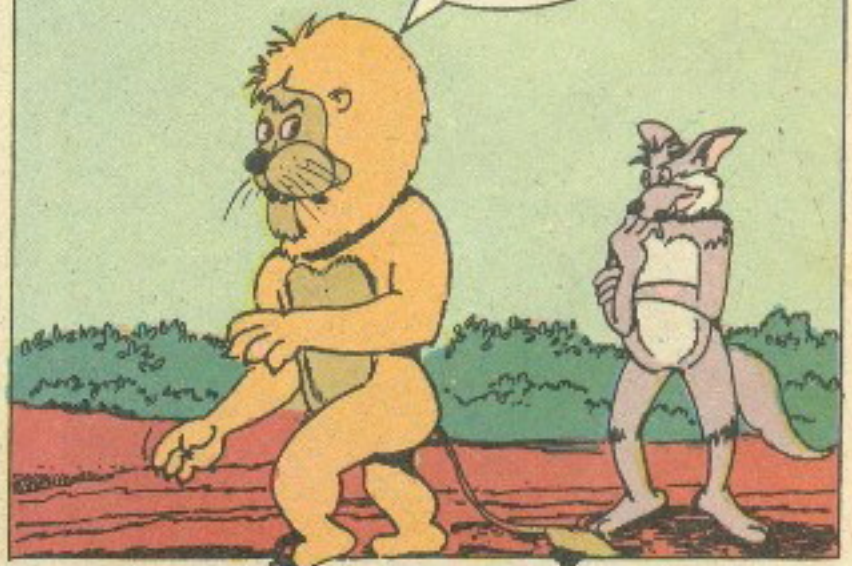


WHEN YOU SEE AN  
ELEPHANT, COME TO ME  
AND SAY, "SHINE FORTH  
IN ALL YOUR MIGHT, JACKAL,"  
AND I'M SURE TO  
KILL IT.



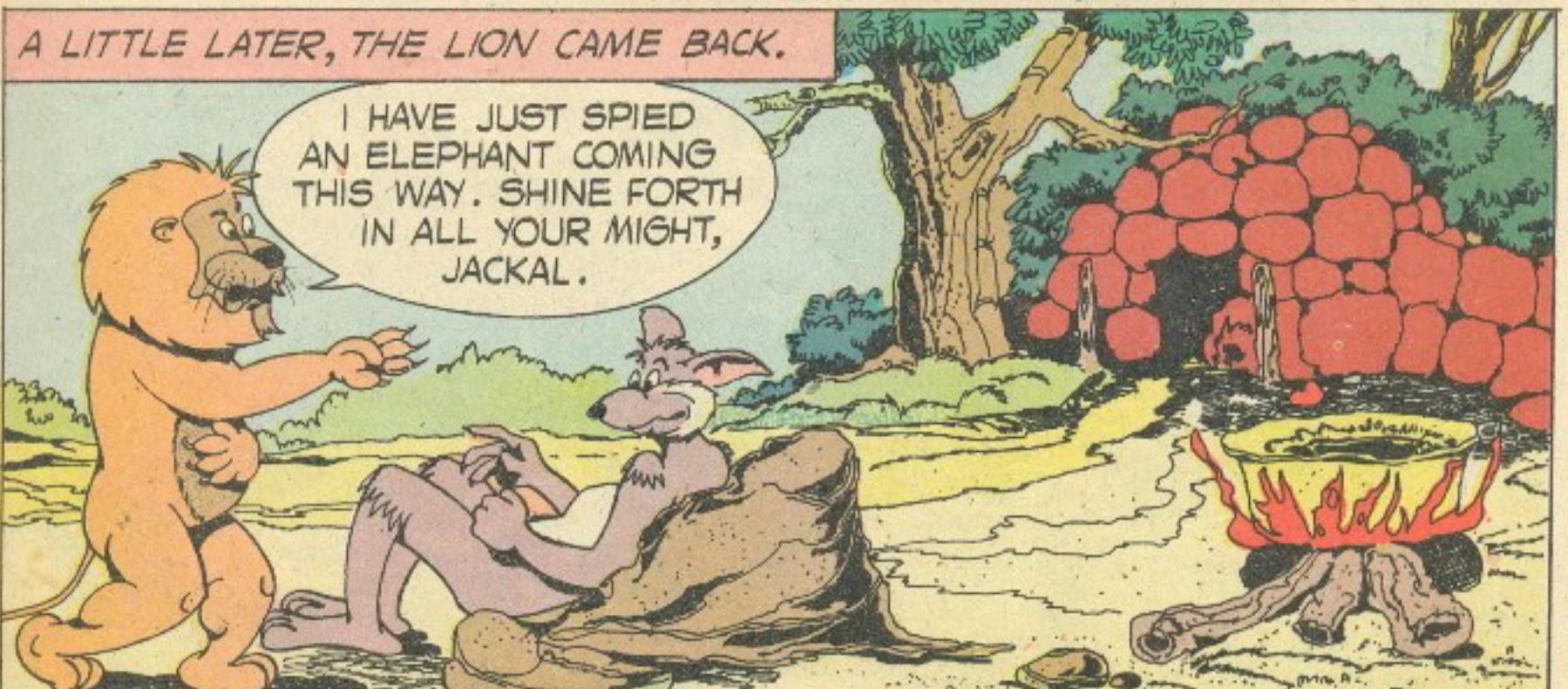
AT LAST THE LION GAVE IN.

ALL RIGHT.  
I'LL DO IT.



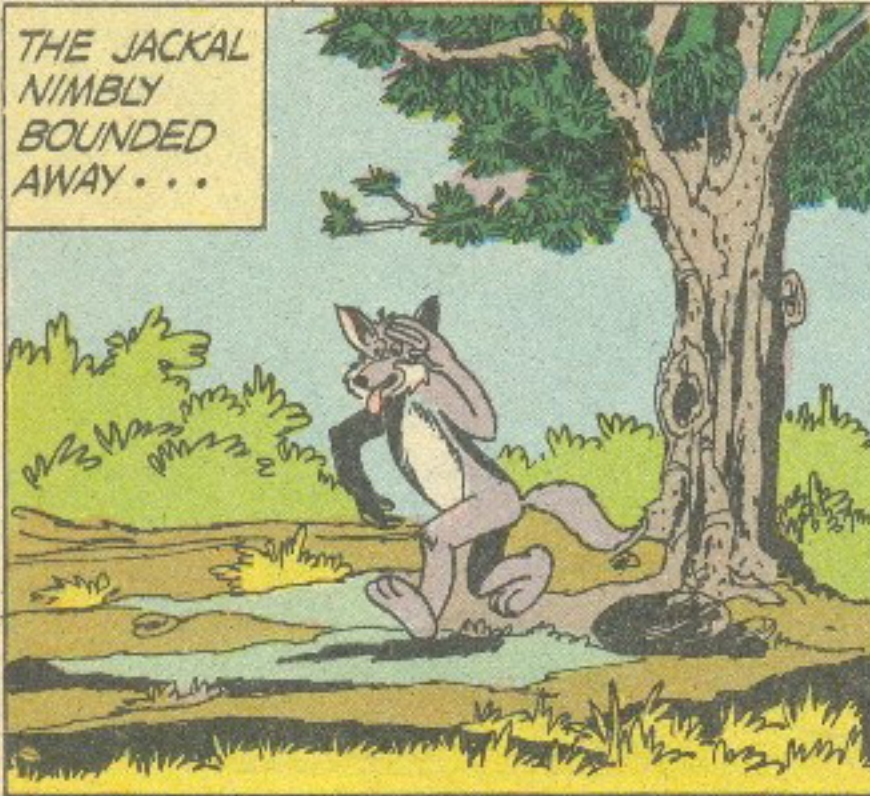
A LITTLE LATER, THE LION CAME BACK.

I HAVE JUST SPIED  
AN ELEPHANT COMING  
THIS WAY. SHINE FORTH  
IN ALL YOUR MIGHT,  
JACKAL.

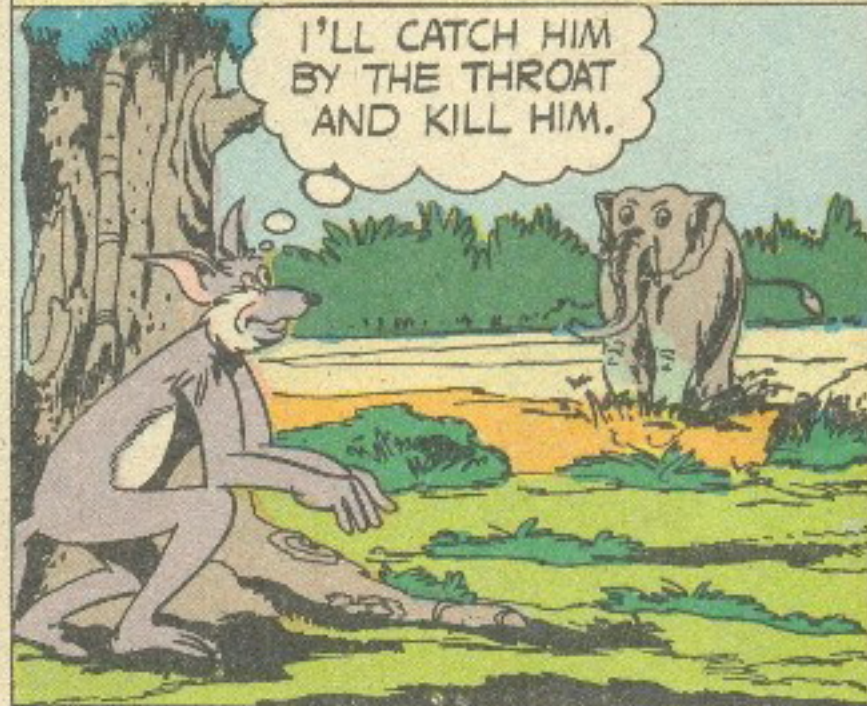




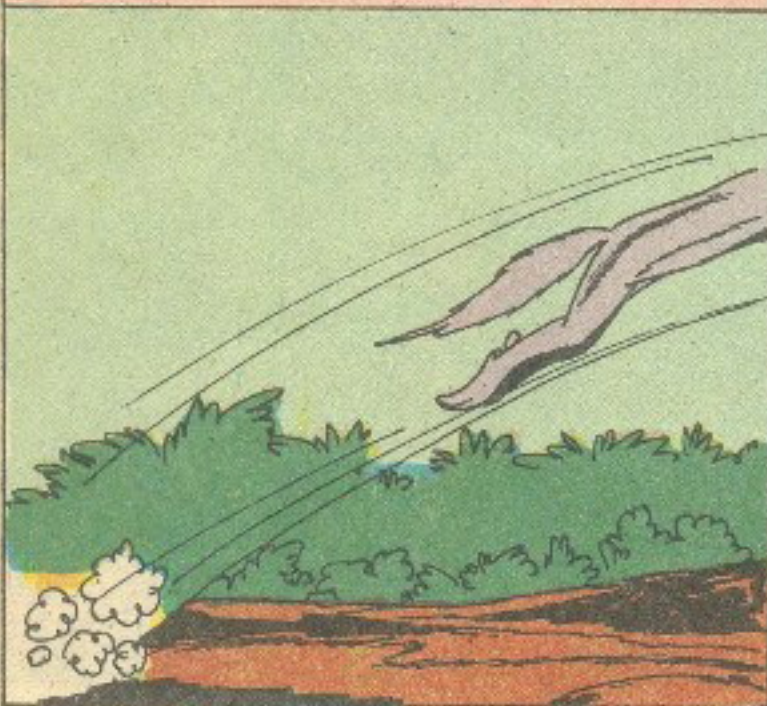
THE JACKAL  
NIMBLY  
BOUNDED  
AWAY...



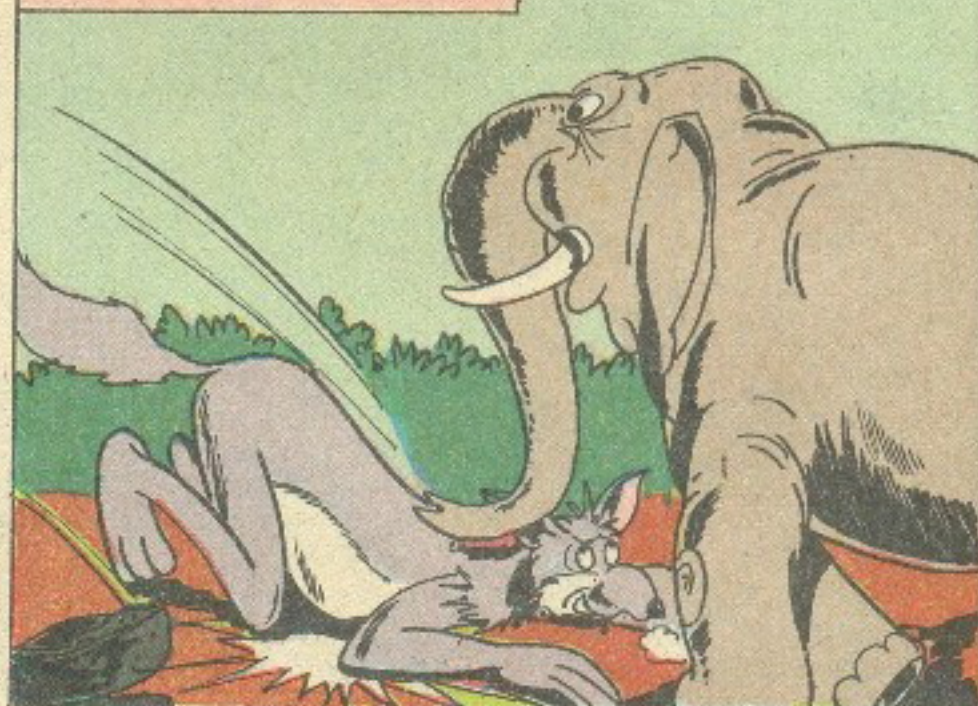
... ON THE TRAIL OF THE ELEPHANT.



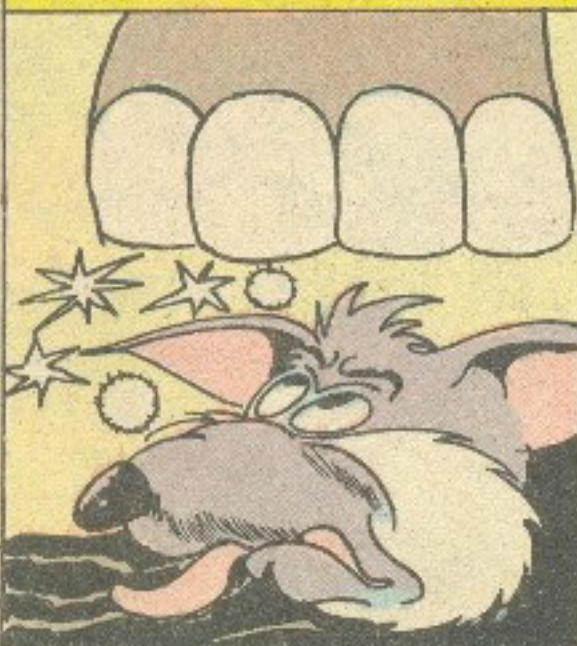
HE SPRANG AT THE ELEPHANT...



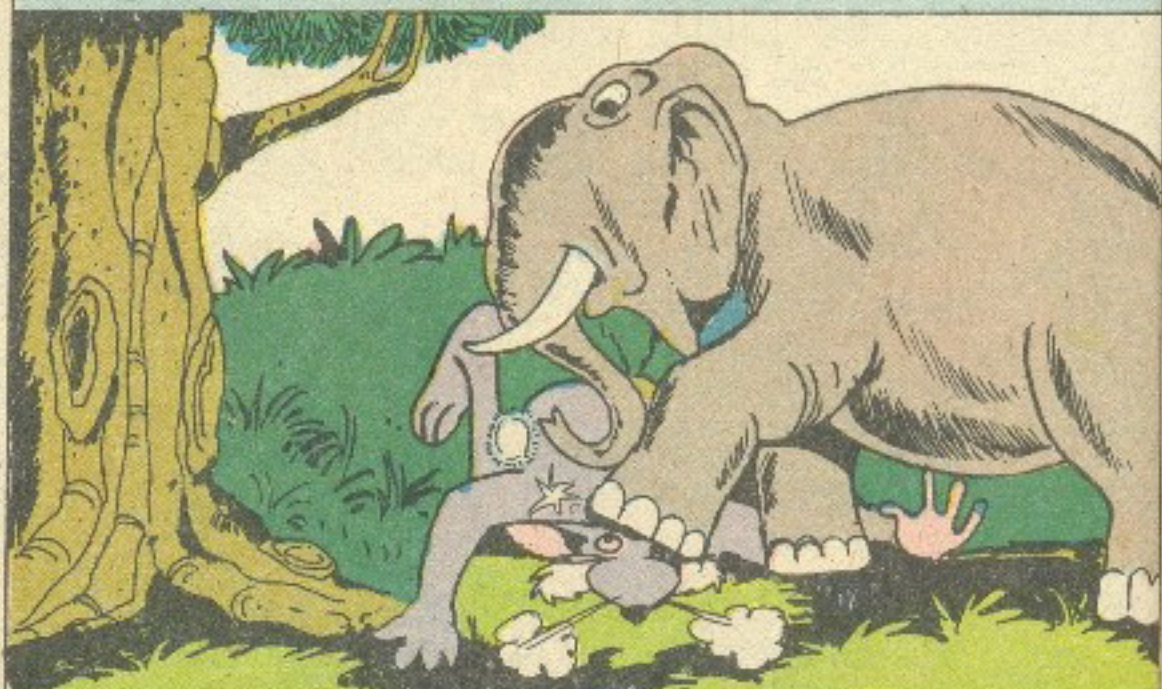
... BUT MISSED HIM.



THE PUZZLED ELEPHANT  
JUST WALKED OVER HIM...



... AND THAT WAS THE END OF THE FOOLHARDY JACKAL.





# THE CLEVER JACKAL

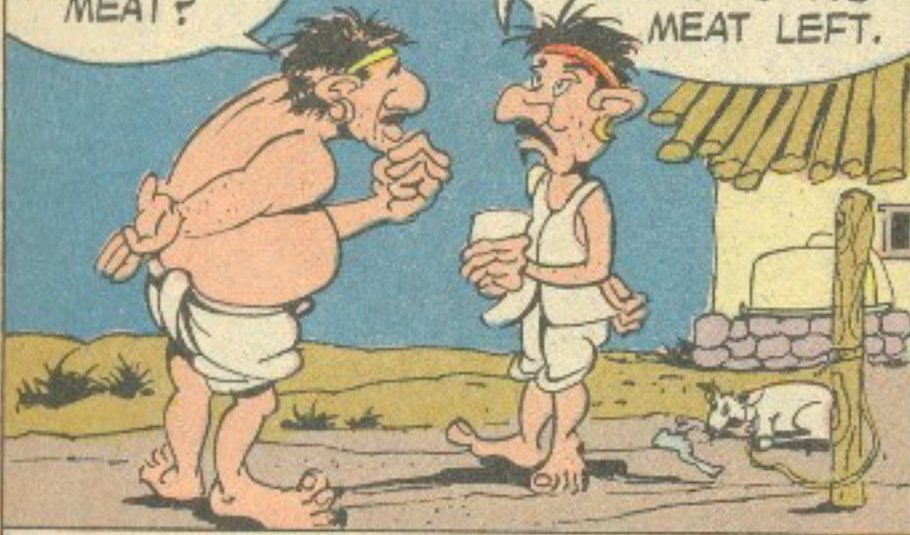


A GROUP OF ROGUES WERE ONCE HAVING A GRAND PARTY.

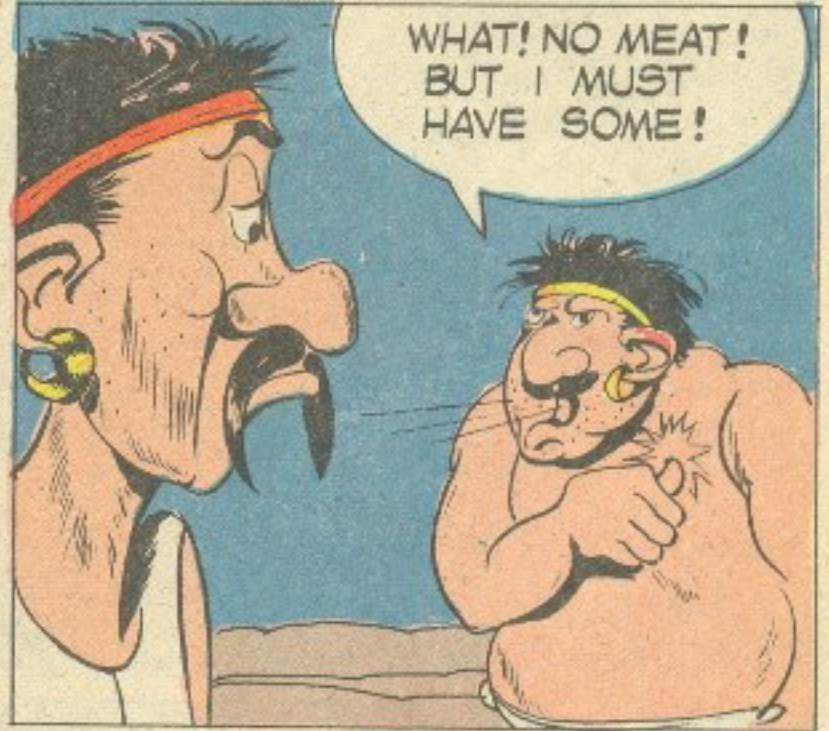
TOWARDS MIDNIGHT—

CAN I HAVE SOME MORE MEAT?

YOU CAN HAVE MORE WINE IF YOU LIKE, BUT THERE'S NO MEAT LEFT.



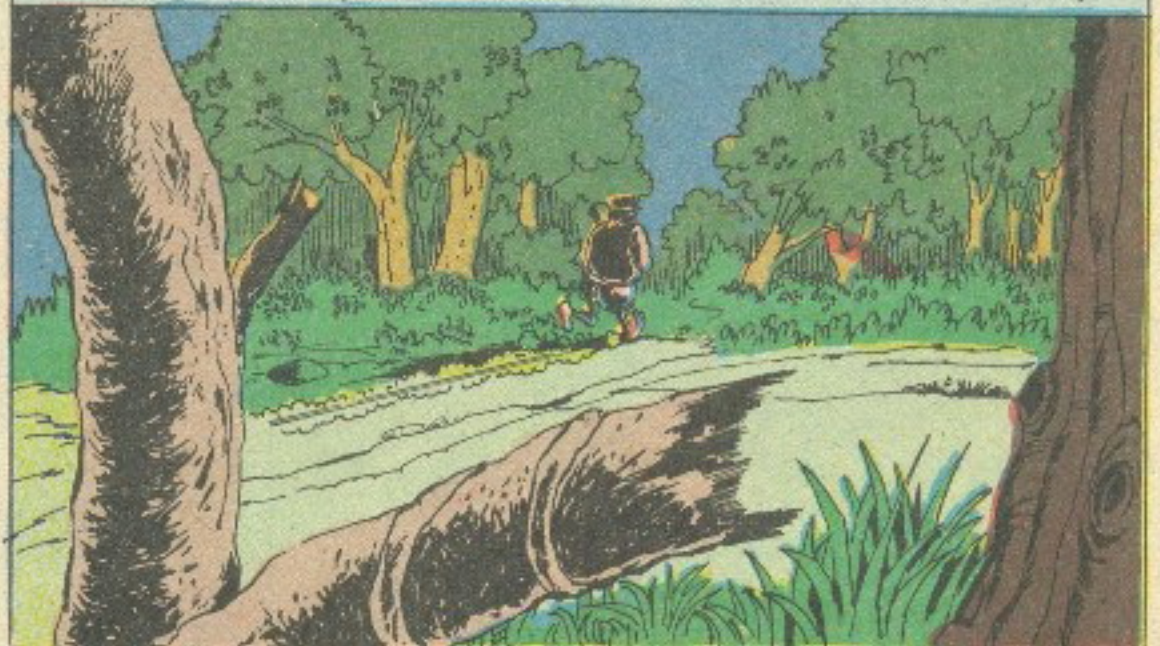
WHAT! NO MEAT! BUT I MUST HAVE SOME!



I'LL GO TO THE CHARNEL-GROVE, KILL A PROWLING JACKAL, AND BRING YOU ITS MEAT.



CLUB IN HAND, THE BRAGGART SWAGGERED OFF.





WHEN HE REACHED  
THE GROVE —

I'LL PRETEND  
I'M A CORPSE. THAT  
WILL ATTRACT JACKALS  
AND KEEP AWAY LIONS  
AND TIGERS.

WHEN A JACKAL  
COMES NEAR, I'LL  
KILL HIM WITH  
MY CLUB.

A LITTLE LATER, A PACK OF JACKALS CAME BY.

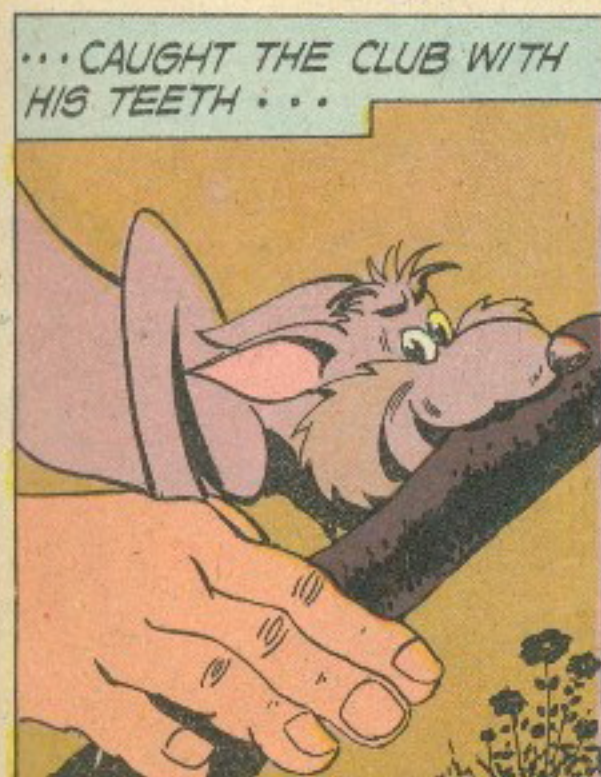
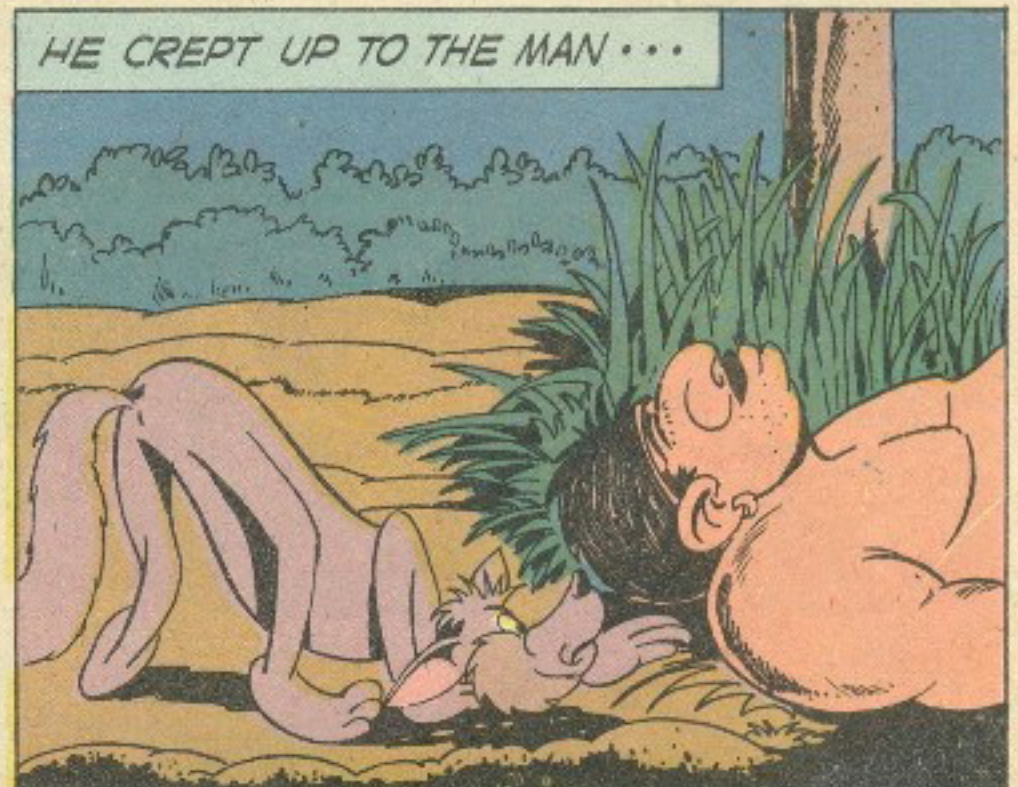
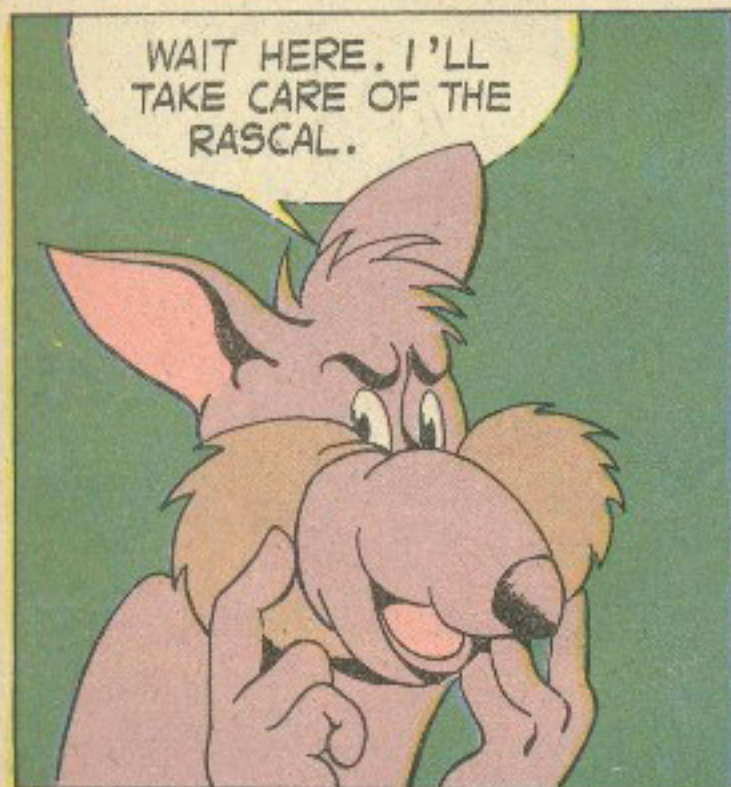
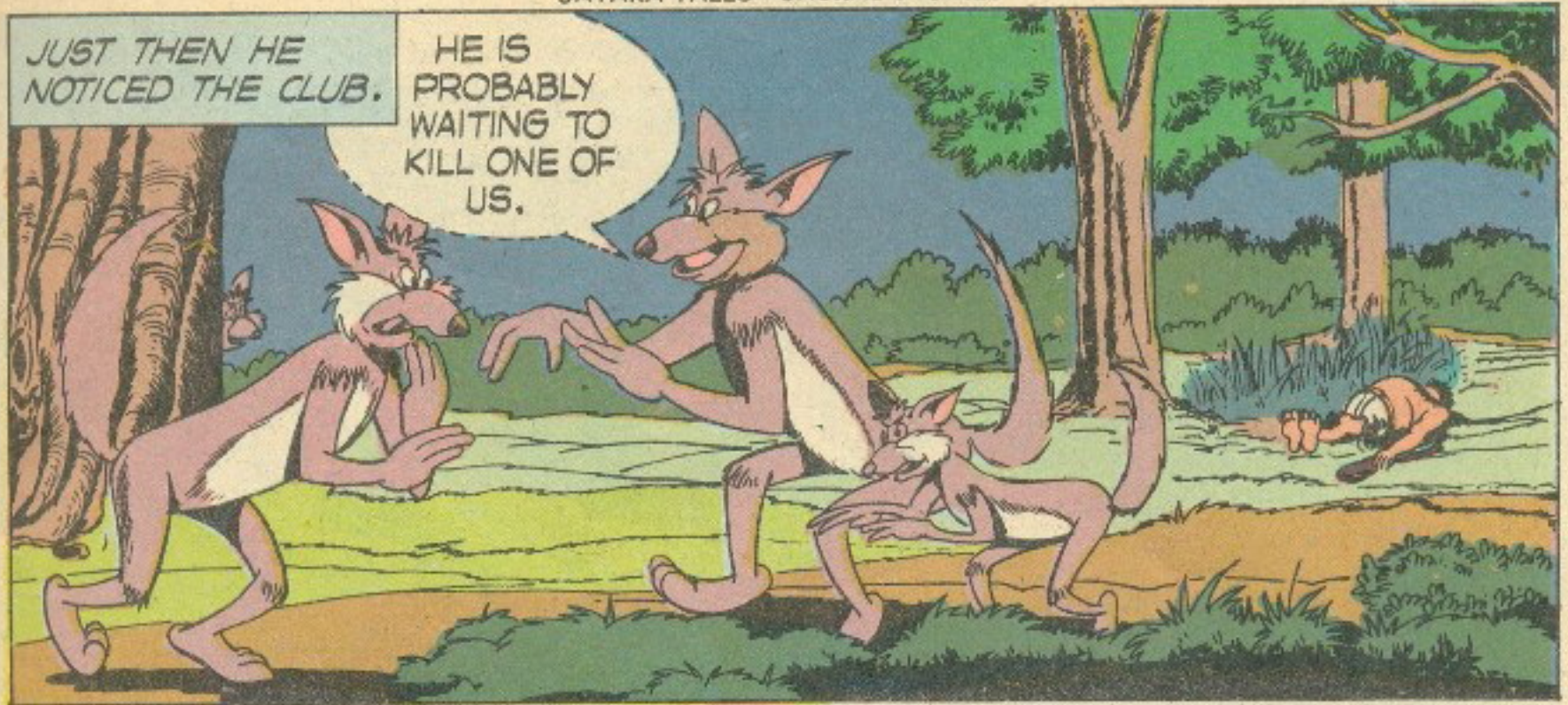
LOOK, THERE'S  
A CORPSE.  
COME ON!

WAIT! LET ME  
MAKE SURE WE'RE  
SAFE.

SNIFF!  
SNIFF!

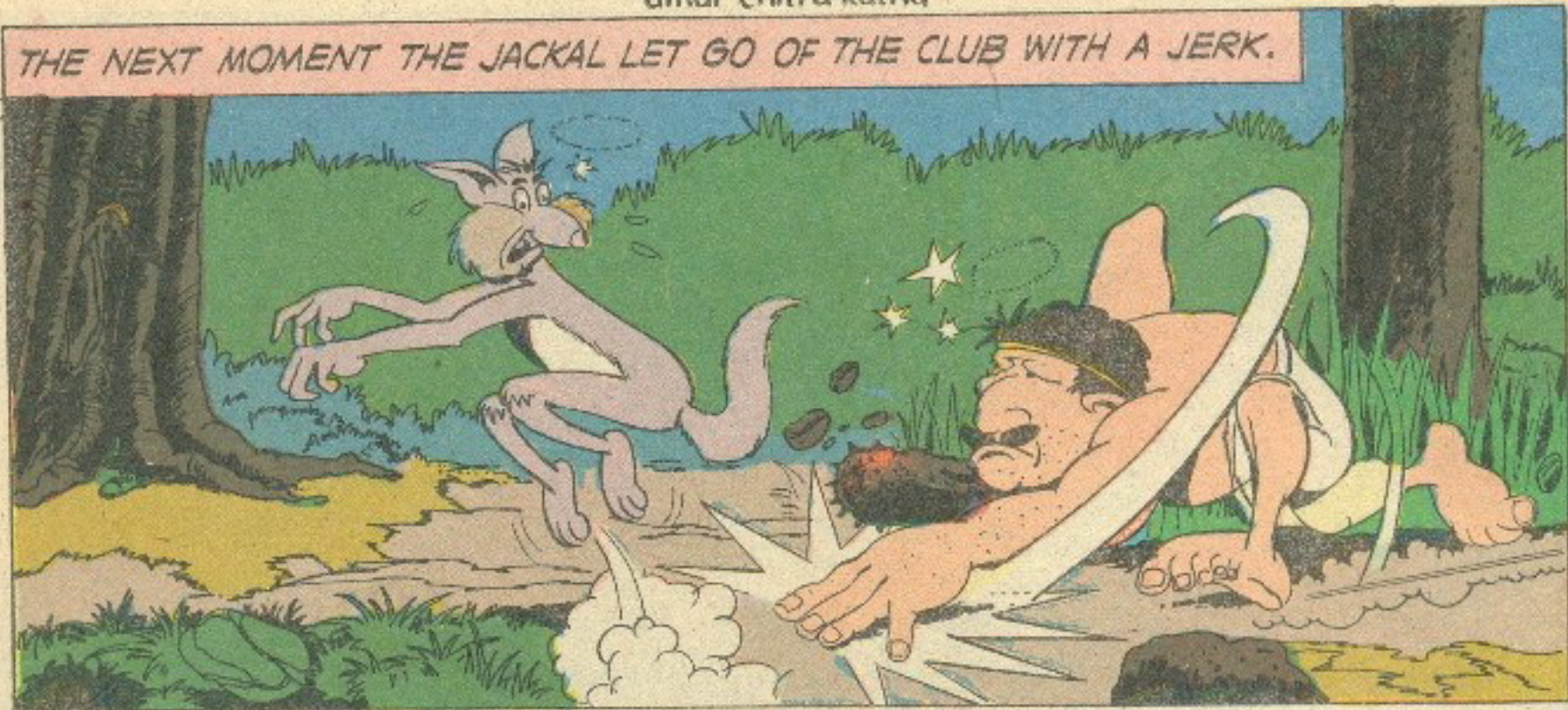
THE SMELL  
OF A LIVING  
MAN! JUST AS  
I THOUGHT! HE IS  
ONLY PRETENDING  
TO BE DEAD.



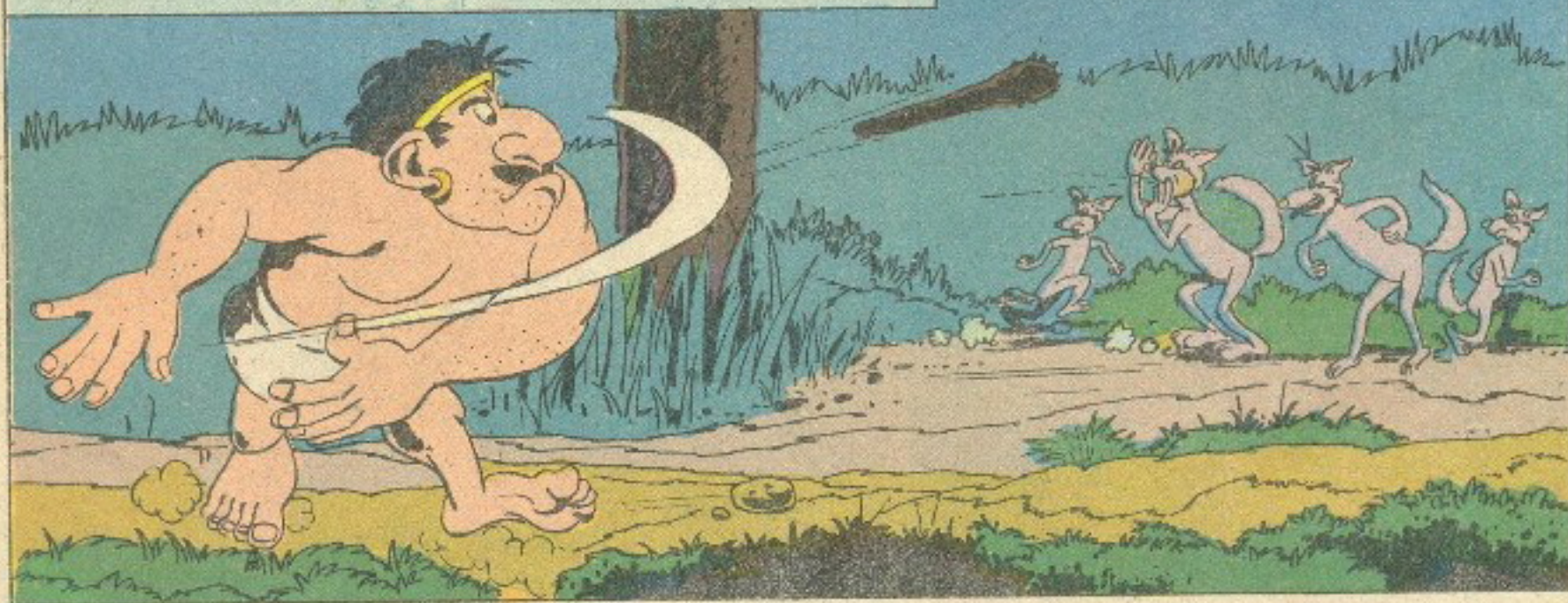




THE NEXT MOMENT THE JACKAL LET GO OF THE CLUB WITH A JERK.



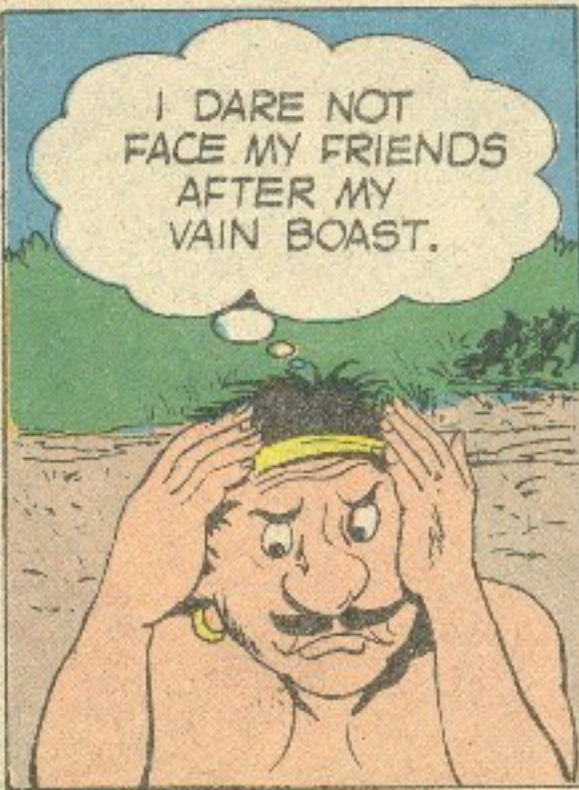
THE STARTLED ROGUE JUMPED TO HIS FEET, FLUNG HIS CLUB AT THE JACKAL...



... AND MISSED !



I DARE NOT  
FACE MY FRIENDS  
AFTER MY  
VAIN BOAST.

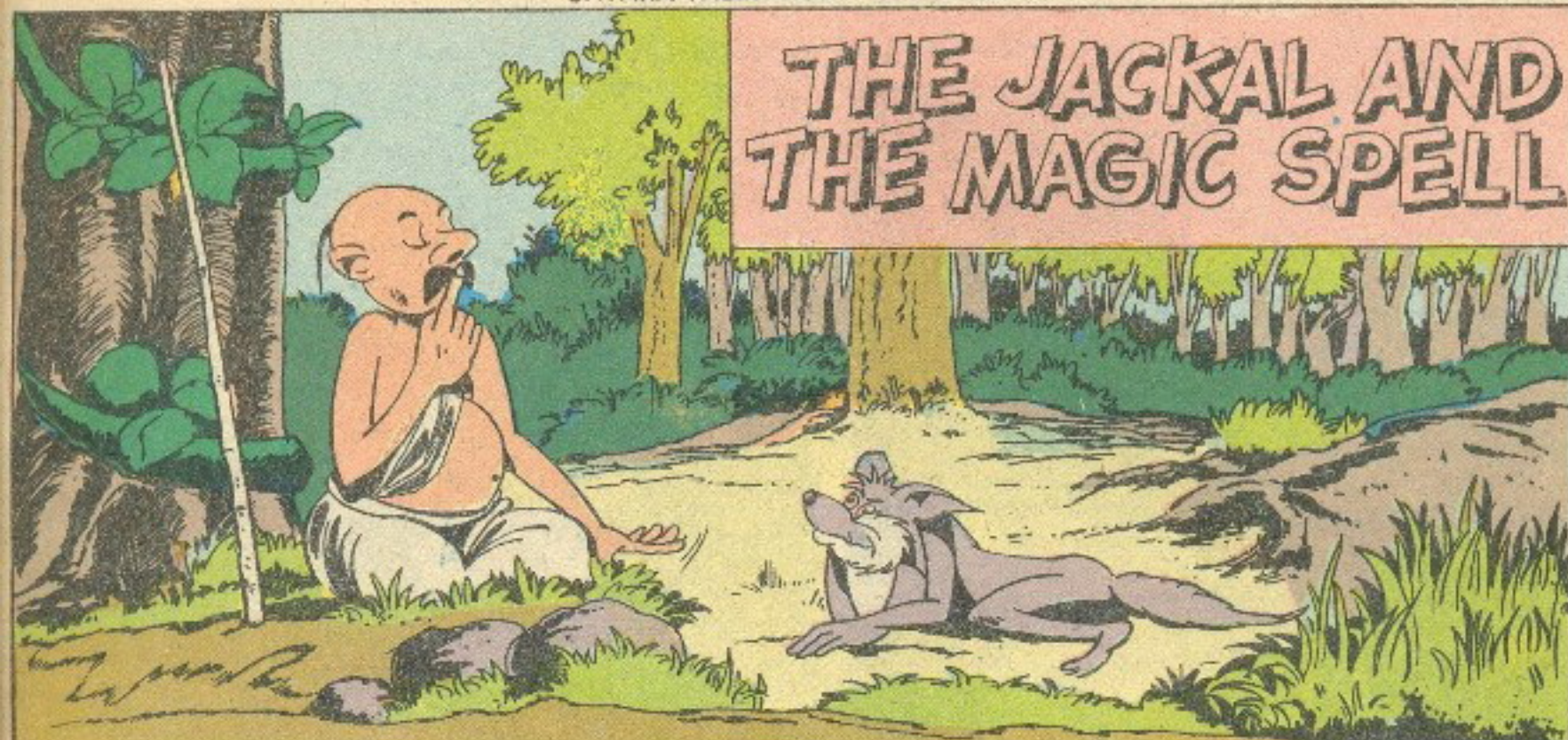


I'D BETTER  
GO HOME AND  
SLEEP.

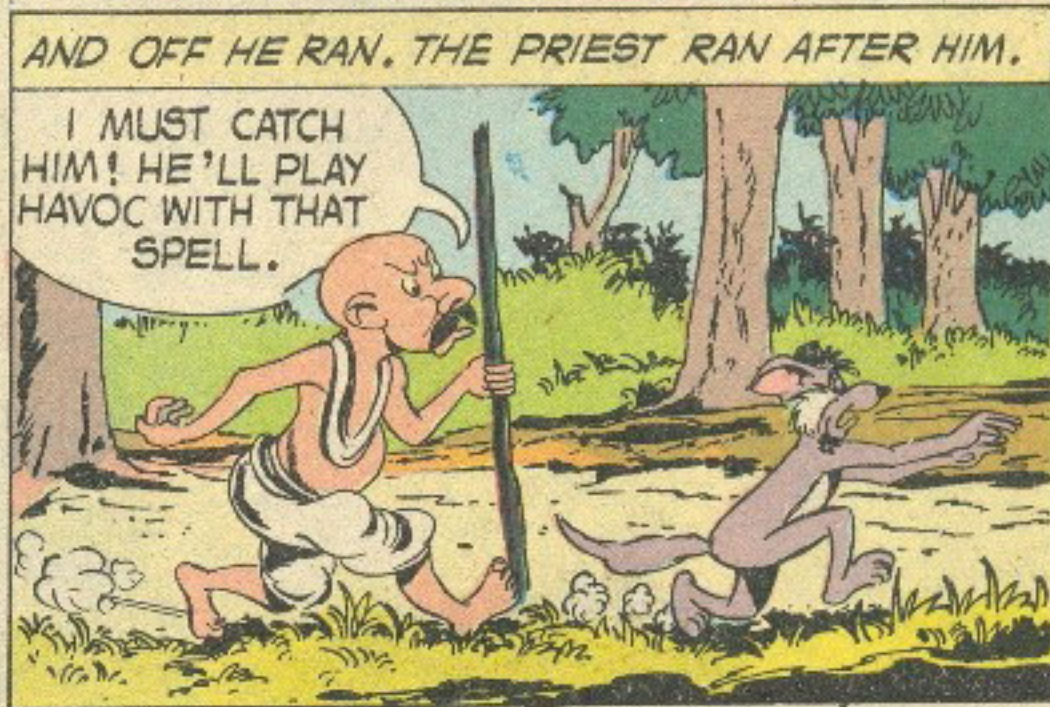




# THE JACKAL AND THE MAGIC SPELL



IN A SECLUDED SPOT IN A FOREST, THE FAMILY PRIEST OF BRAHMADATTA, KING OF VARANASI, WAS ONCE REPEATING A SECRET SPELL.





BUT THE JACKAL ESCAPED DEEP INTO THE FOREST.

I'LL FIRST GET MARRIED AND THEN, USING THE SPELL, I'LL BRING ALL THE FOUR-FOOTED CREATURES OF THE FOREST UNDER MY SWAY.



HE SOON FOUND HIMSELF A SHE-JACKAL.

IF YOU BECOME MY WIFE YOU SHALL BE QUEEN OF ALL THE ANIMALS OF THE FOREST.

I'M WILLING.



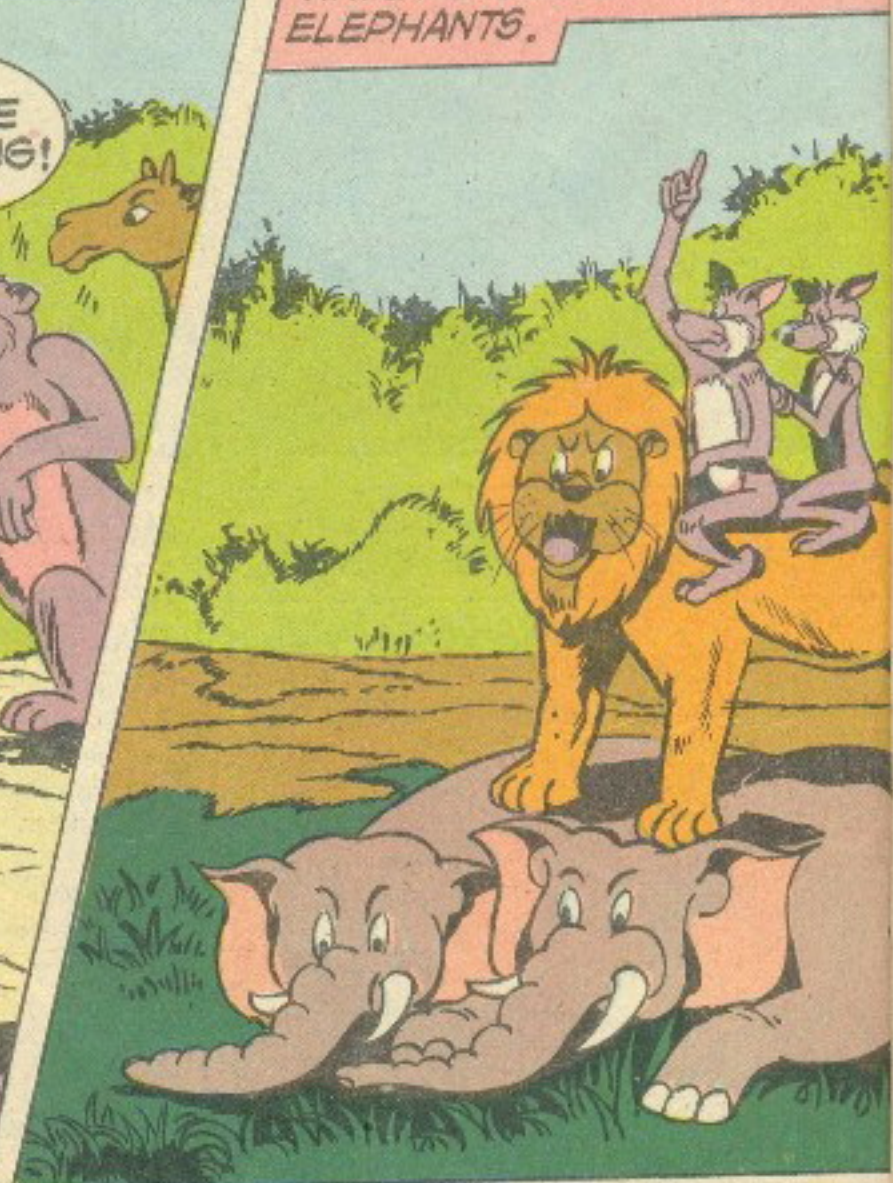
LATER HE UTTERED THE SPELL AND ALL THE ANIMALS BEGAN TO FLOCK TOWARDS HIM.

YOU ARE OUR MASTER, O MIGHTY ONE!

YOU ARE OUR KING!

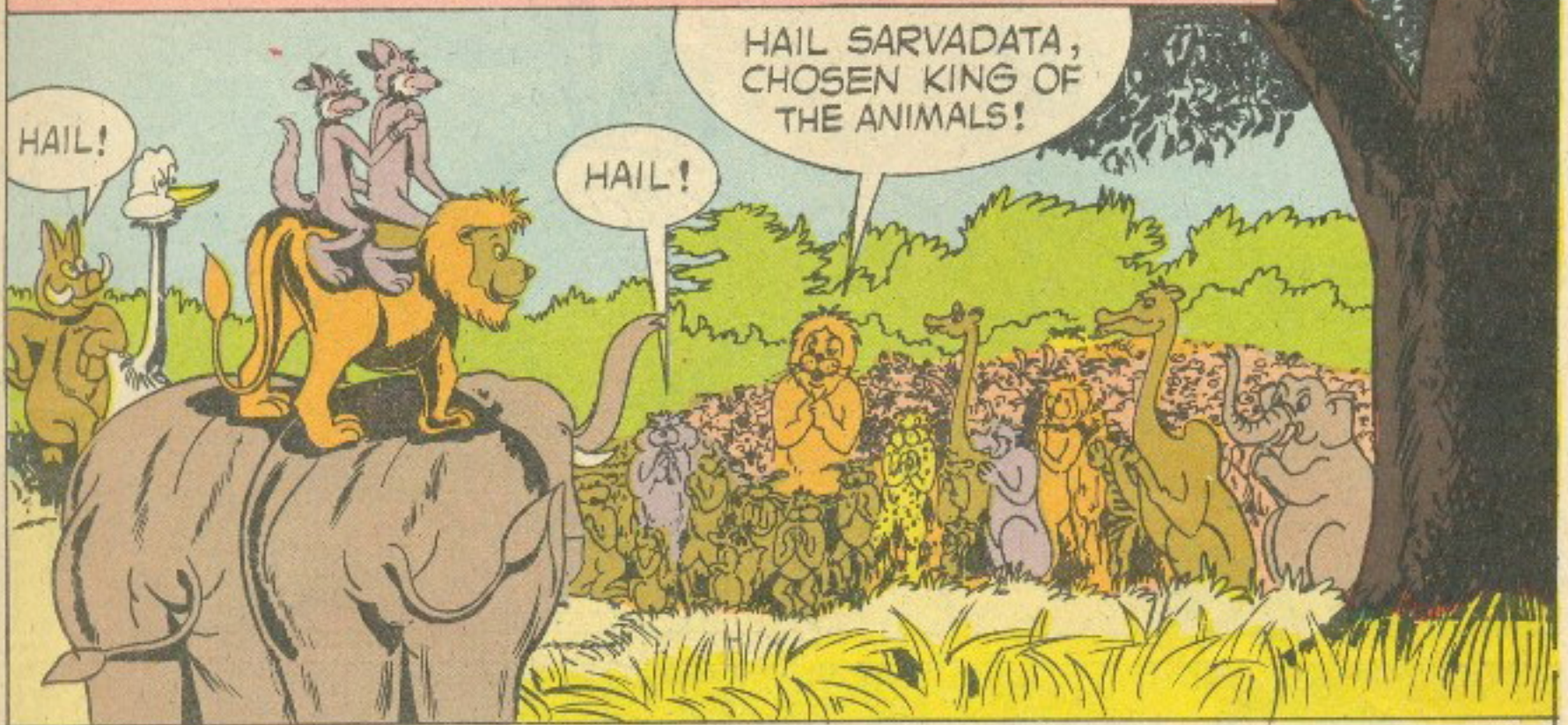


THEY SEATED THE JACKAL AND HIS WIFE ON A LION WHICH STOOD ON TWO ELEPHANTS.

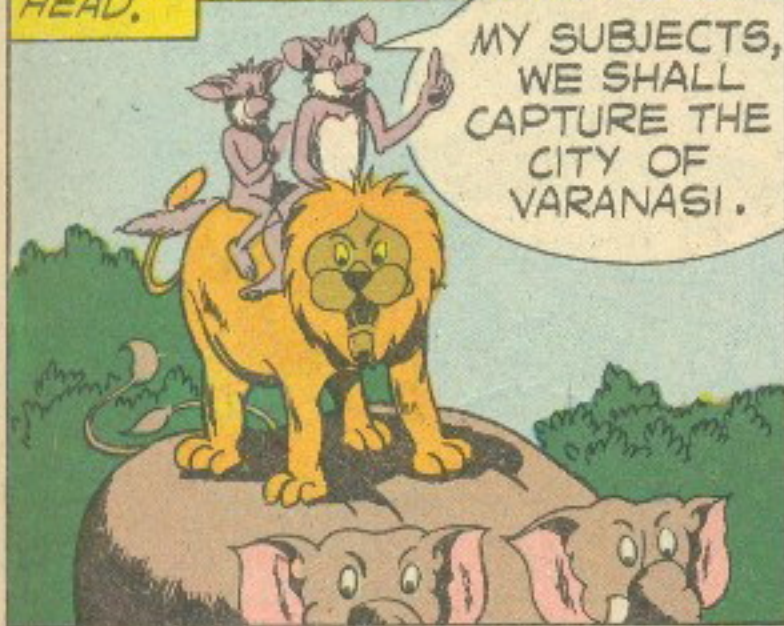




THEY CONFERRED A TITLE ON THE JACKAL AND BOWED TO HIM.



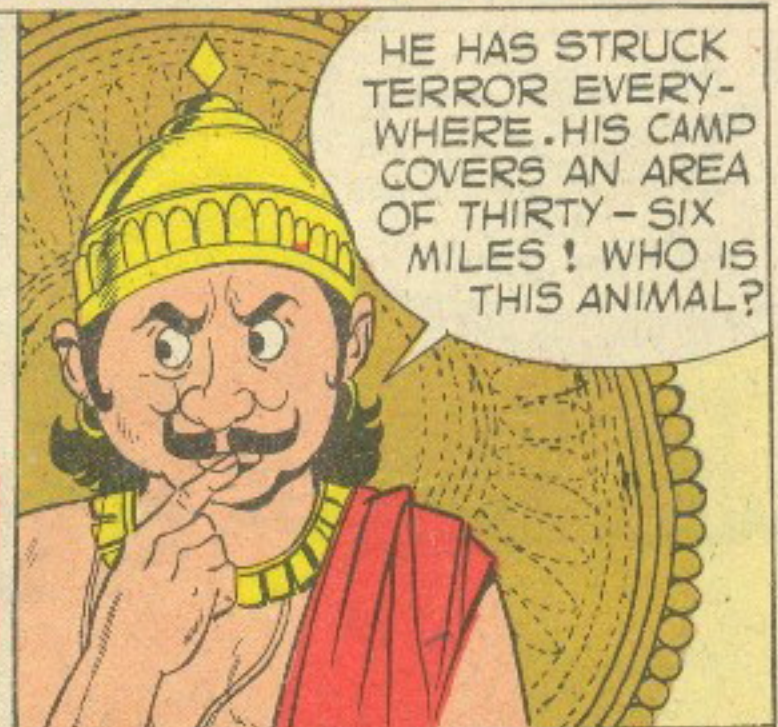
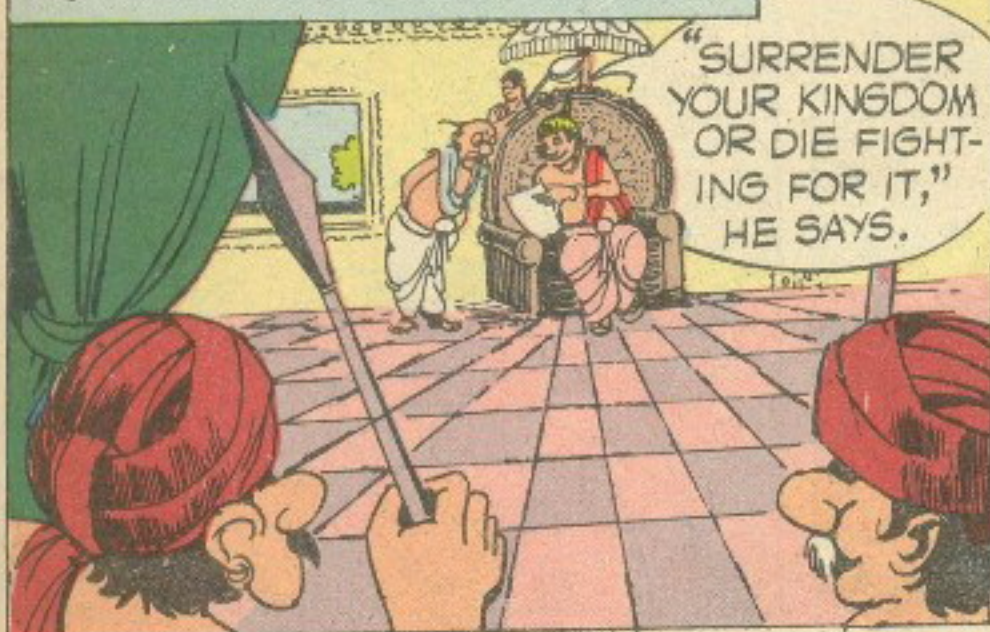
ALL THIS WENT TO THE JACKAL'S HEAD.



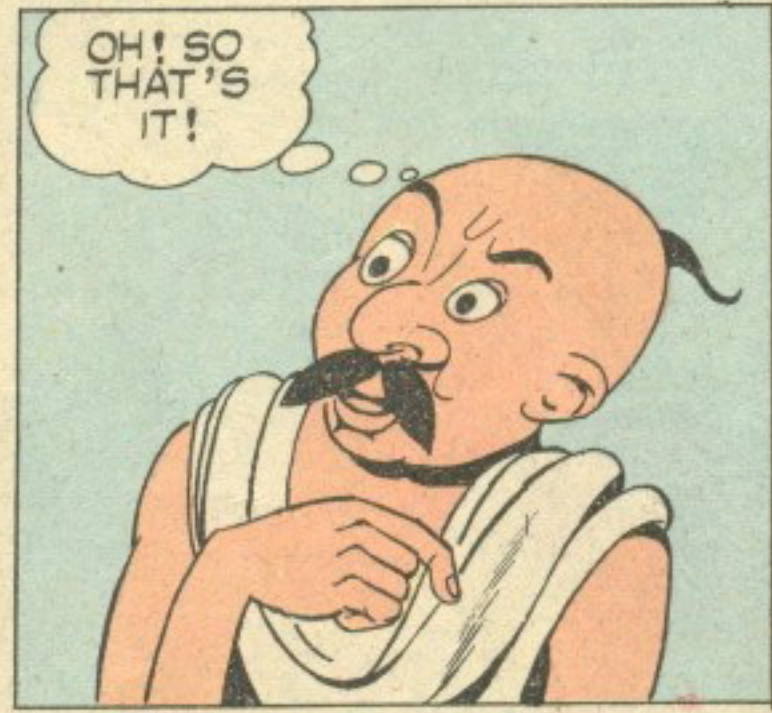
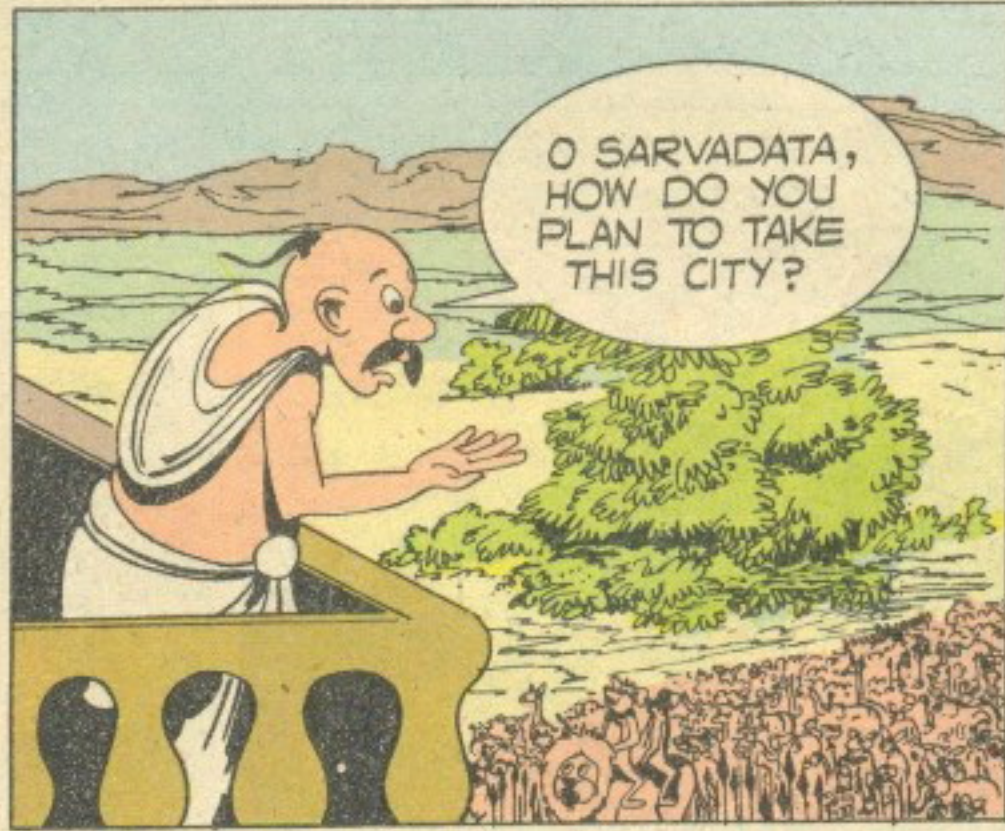
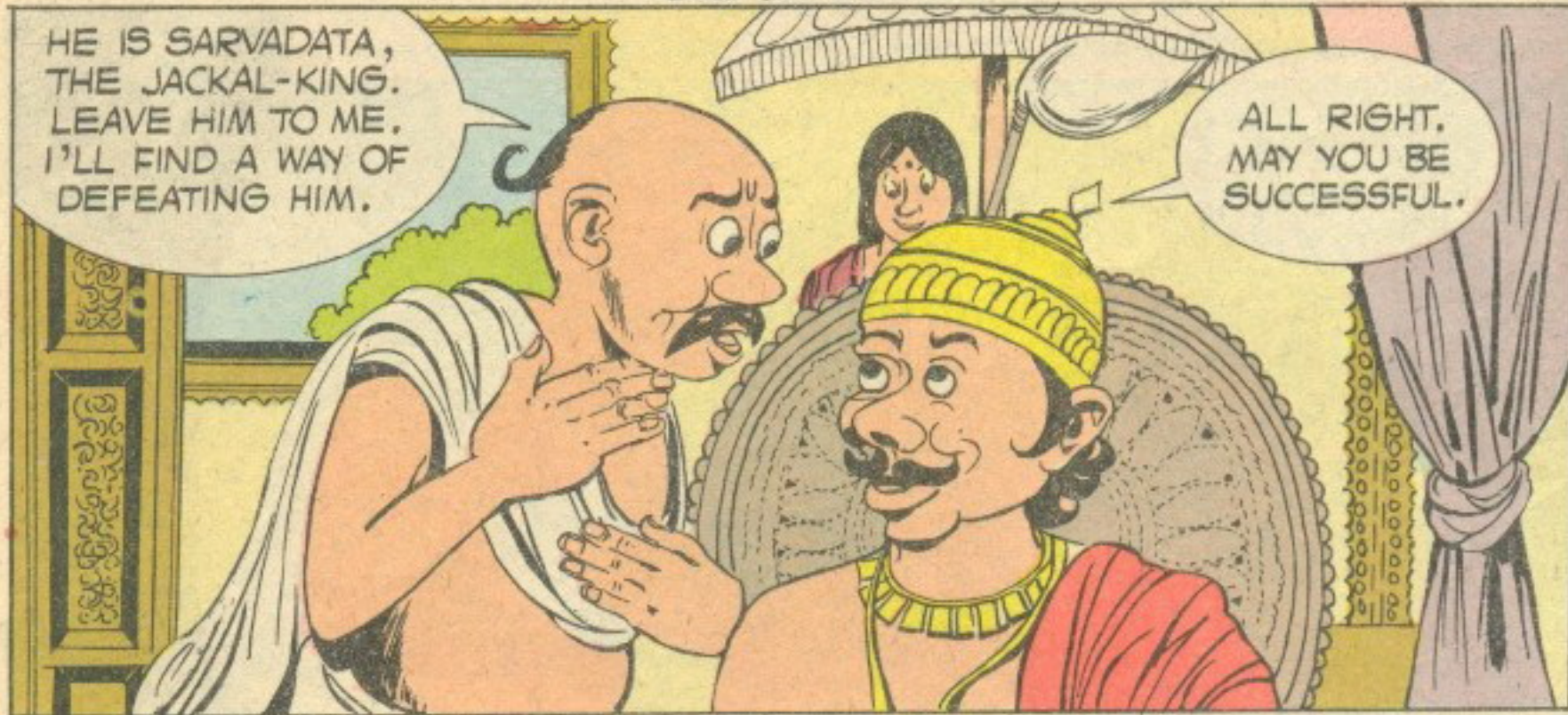
SO, WITH HIS GREAT FOLLOWING, HE MARCHED TO VARANASI.



WHEN THE KING RECEIVED THE MESSAGE, HIS FAMILY PRIEST WAS WITH HIM.









IMPOSSIBLE! THESE  
NOBLE CREATURES  
WILL NEVER OBEY A  
COMMON JACKAL.



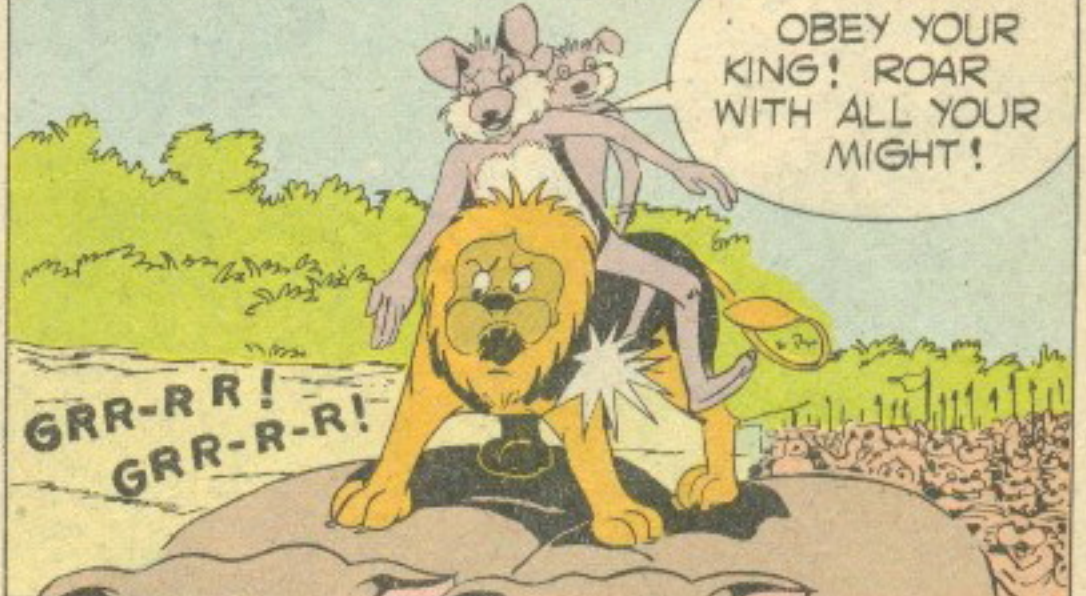
THAT'S WHAT  
YOU THINK! THE  
LIONS WILL ALL  
OBEY ME. EVEN  
THIS LION ON  
WHOSE BACK  
I SIT WILL  
ROAR.



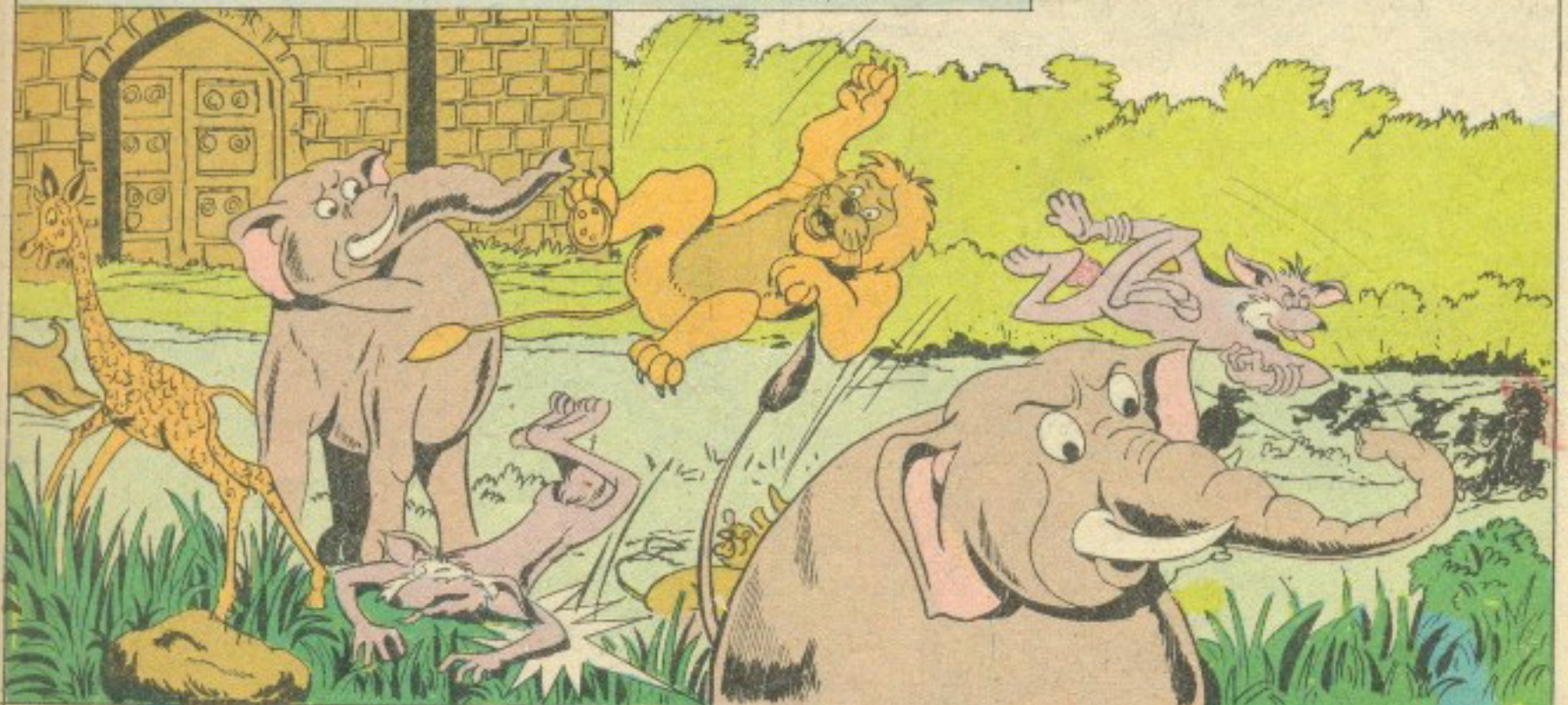
DON'T BRAG.  
GET HIM TO  
ROAR—IF YOU  
CAN.



OBEY YOUR  
KING! ROAR  
WITH ALL YOUR  
MIGHT!



THE LION ROARED AND ROARED. TERRIFIED, THE ELEPHANTS SHOOK OFF THE LION. THE JACKALS CRASHED TO THE GROUND.

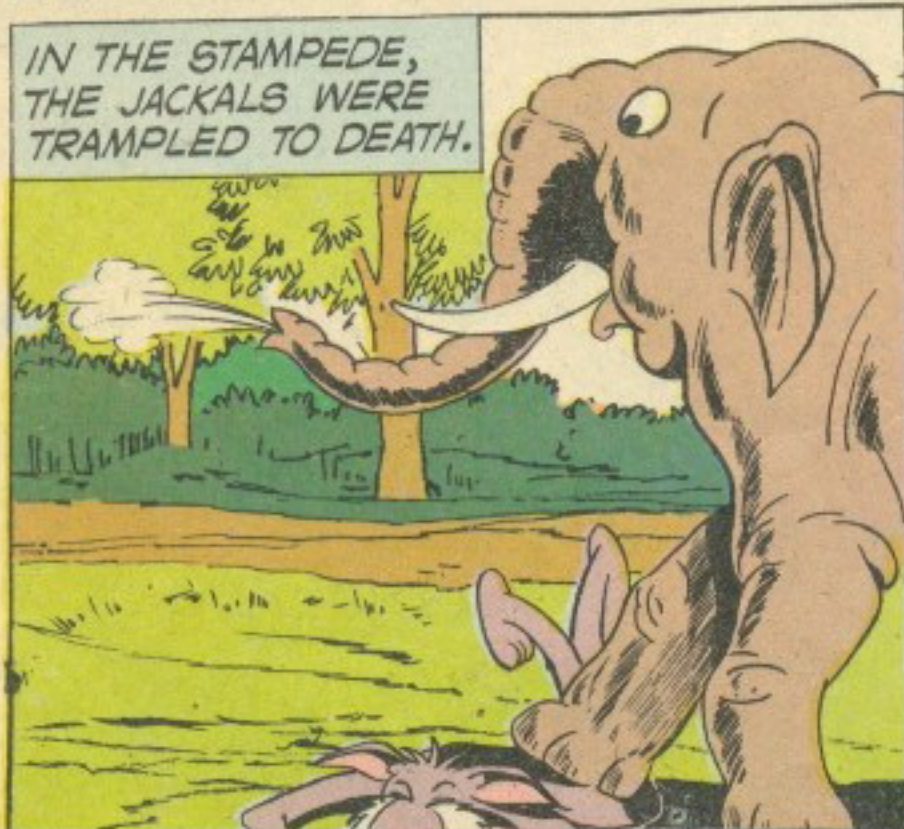




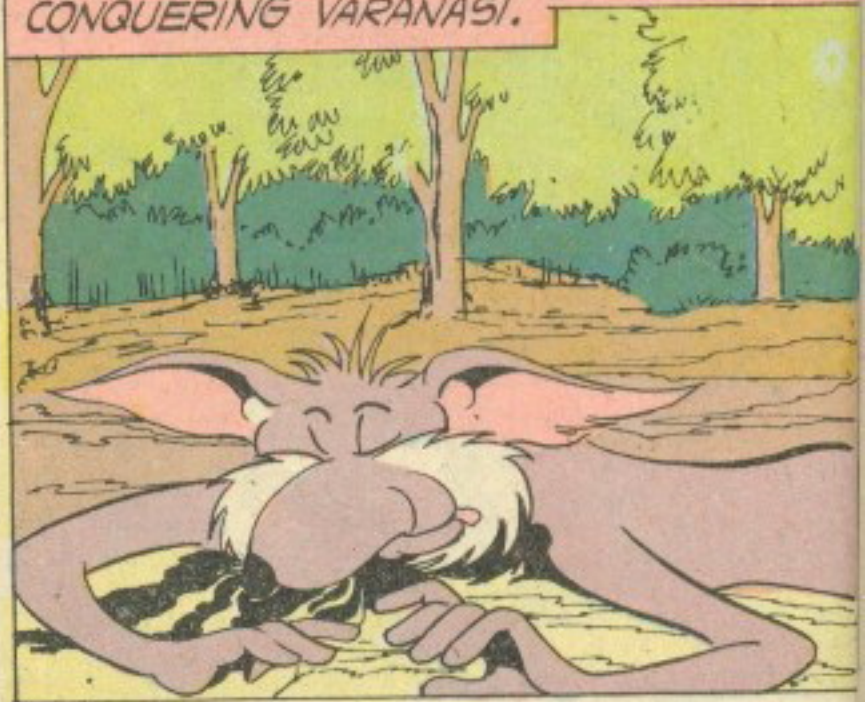
SEEING THE ELEPHANTS RUN AMUCK, ALL THE ANIMALS BROKE INTO A STAMPEDE AND RAN HELTER SKELTER.



IN THE STAMPEDE,  
THE JACKALS WERE  
TRAMPLED TO DEATH.



THAT WAS THE END OF KING SARVADATA  
WHO HAD DARED TO DREAM OF  
CONQUERING VARANASI.





# THE JACKAL AND THE OTTERS



A JACKAL'S WIFE ONCE WANTED TO EAT SOME FRESH ROHITA FISH. PROMISING TO BRING IT FOR HER, THE JACKAL WENT TO THE RIVER.



JUST THEN HE SAW TWO OTTERS DRAGGING ALONG A HUGE ROHITA FISH.



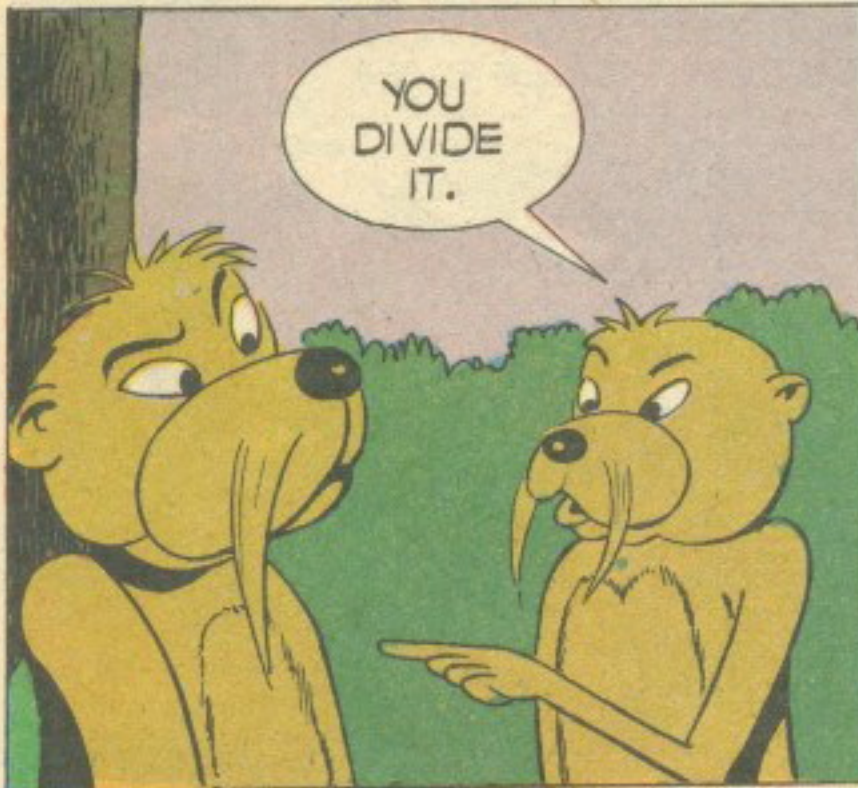


THE JACKAL DREW NEARER.



YES, BUT HOW SHALL WE DIVIDE IT?

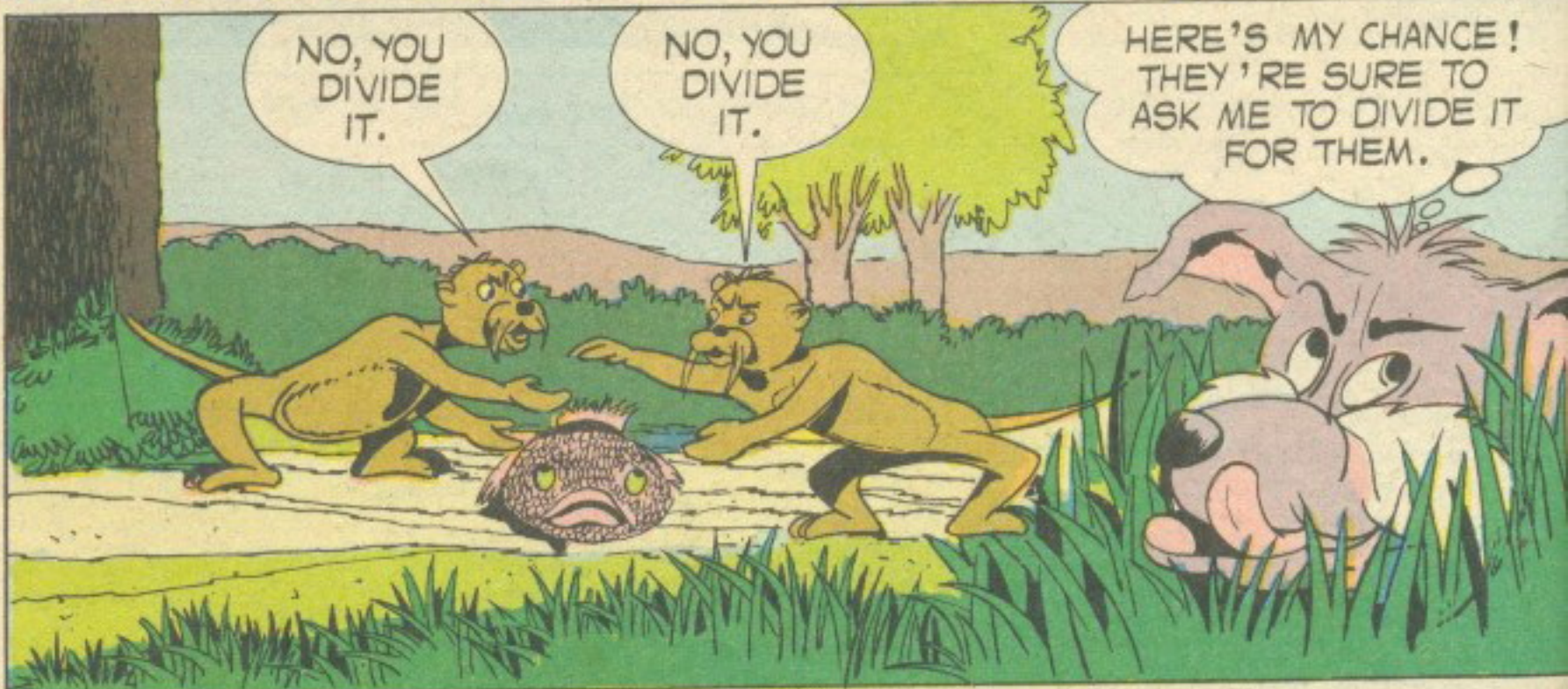
IF I DIVIDE IT, I'LL HAVE TO GIVE HIM THE LARGER SHARE.



YOU DIVIDE IT.



IF I DIVIDE IT, I'LL HAVE TO GIVE HIM THE BEST BITS.

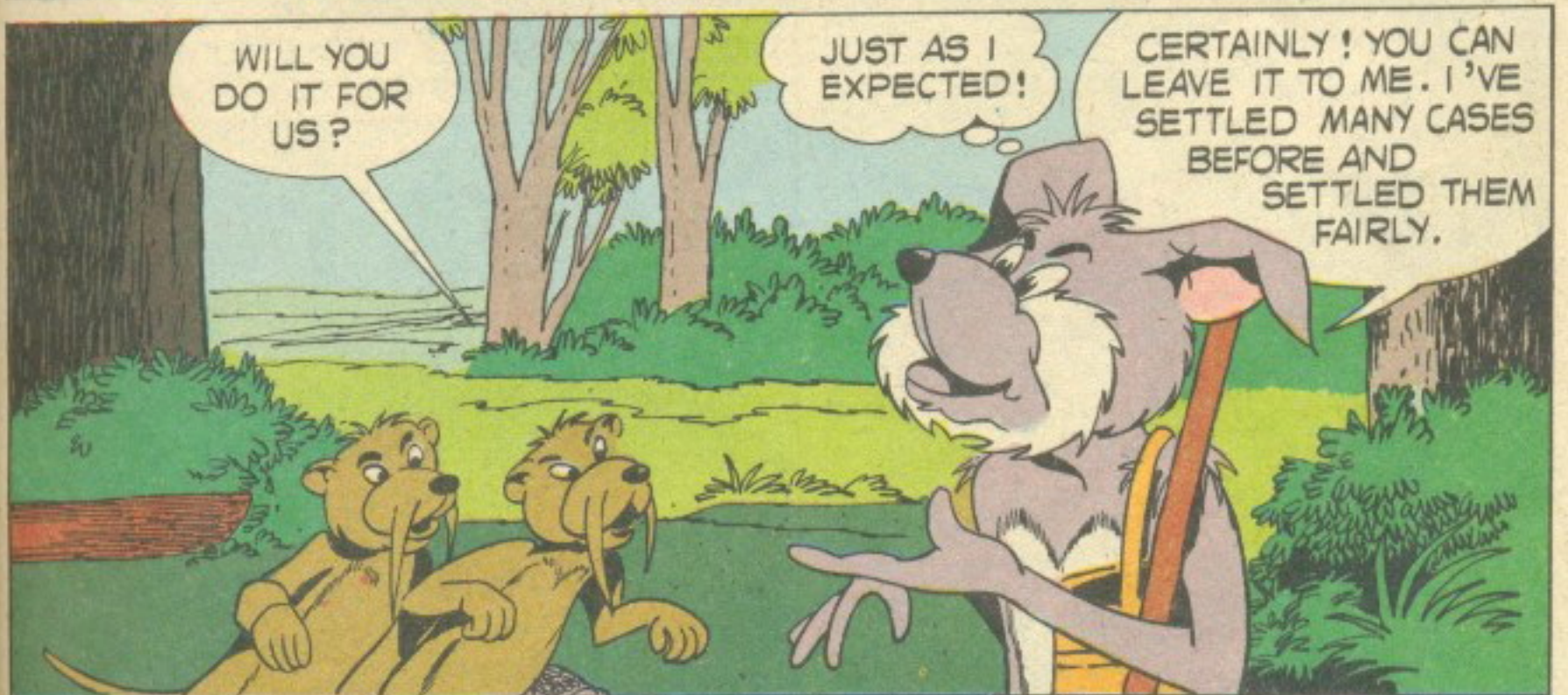


NO, YOU DIVIDE IT.

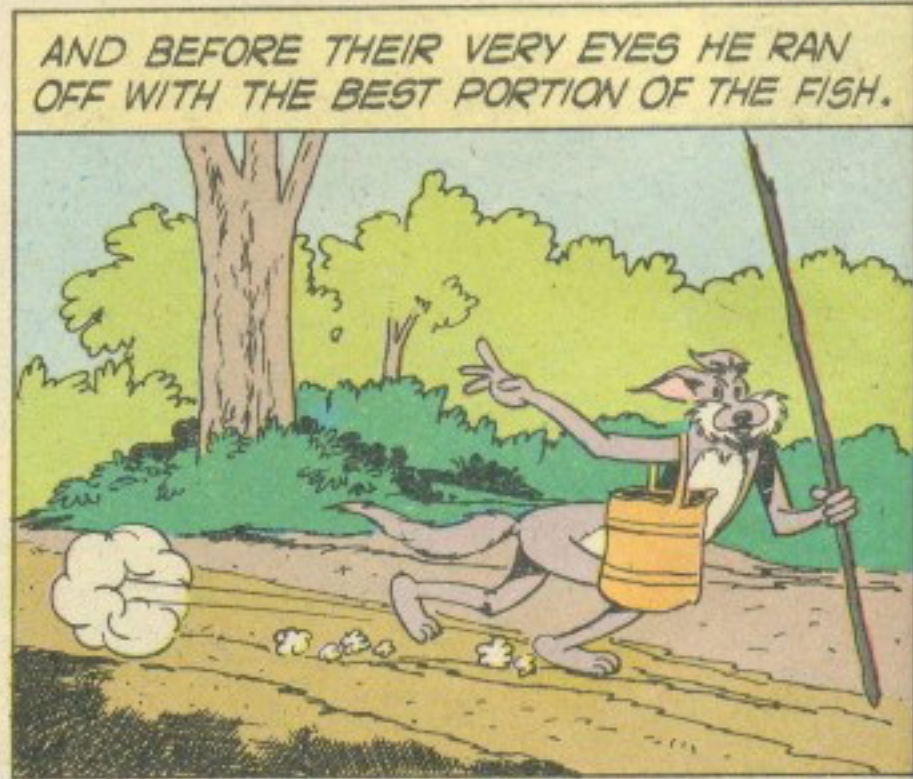
NO, YOU DIVIDE IT.

HERE'S MY CHANCE! THEY'RE SURE TO ASK ME TO DIVIDE IT FOR THEM.



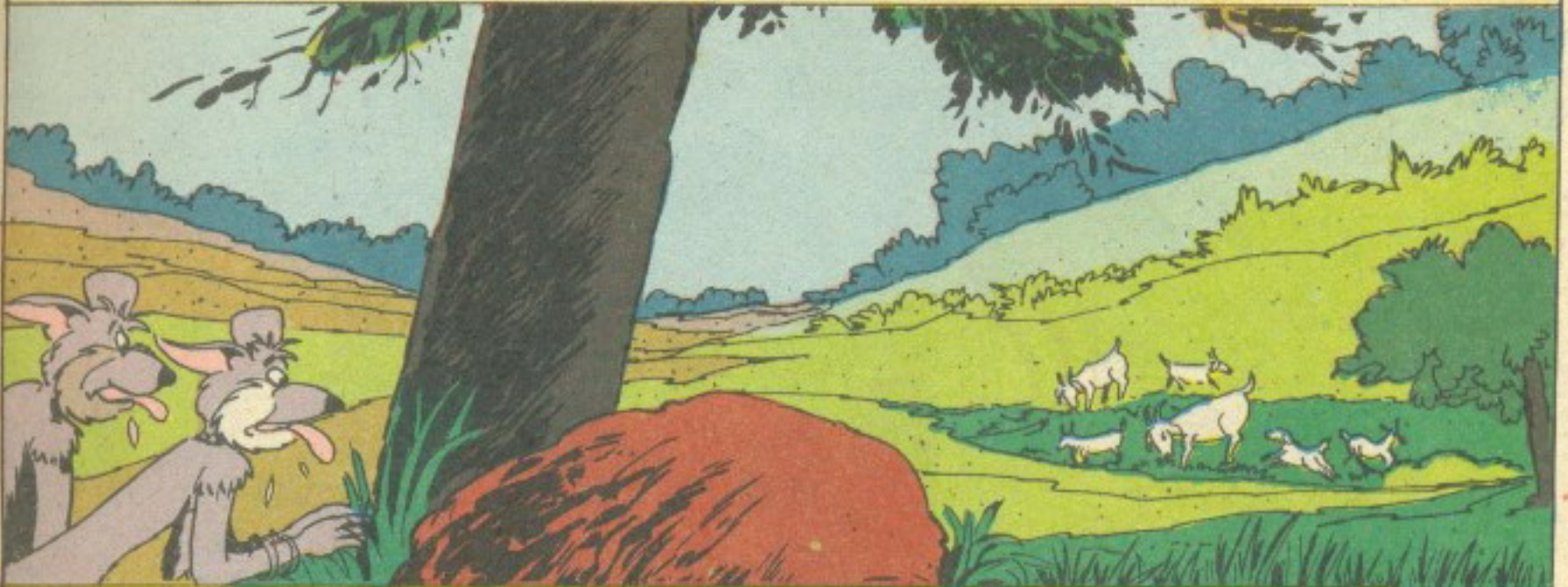








# THE JACKAL AND THE SHE-GOAT



LONG AGO, IN A CAVE ON THE SLOPES OF THE HIMALAYAS, THERE LIVED A HERD OF WILD GOATS. ONE DAY, AS A JACKAL AND HIS MATE WERE PROWLING ABOUT FOR FOOD, THEY SAW THE GOATS GRAZING.



COME! LET US KILL ONE OF THEM.

WAIT! IF WE ARE CLEVER, WE'LL HAVE FOOD ENOUGH FOR MANY MONTHS.

THEY WAITED TILL THE GOATS BEGAN TO WANDER APART AS THEY GRAZED.



LET'S FOLLOW THAT ONE TILL HE IS FAR AWAY FROM THE OTHERS.

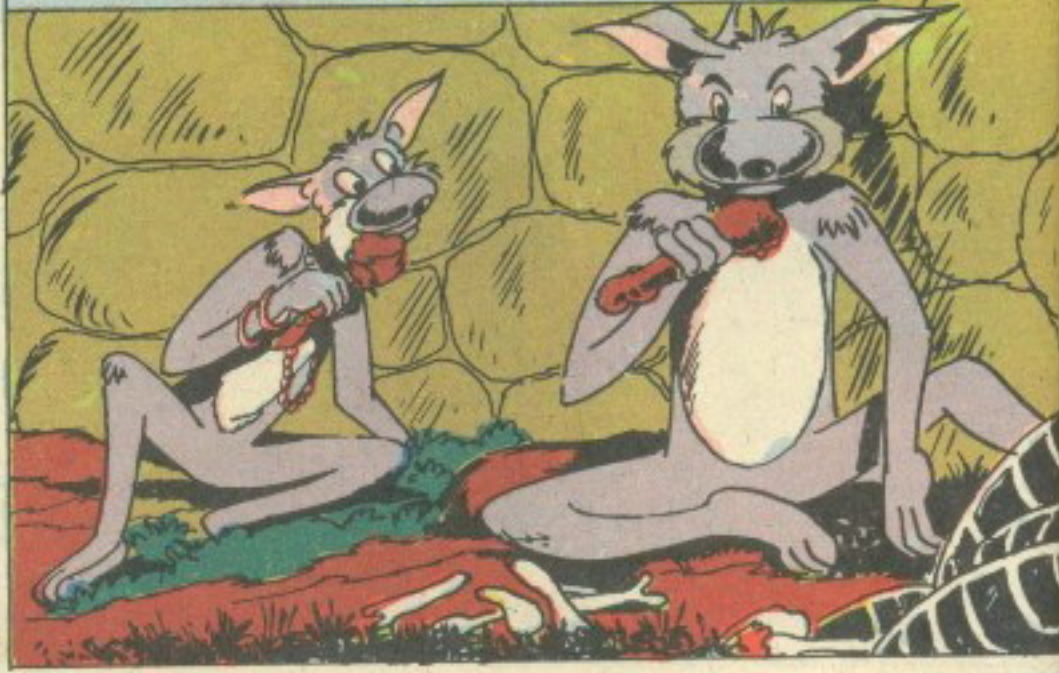


A FEW HOURS LATER —

THERE! I'VE  
KILLED HIM. NOW  
HELP ME DRAG  
HIM TO OUR  
CAVE.



MANY MONTHS PASSED AND, ONE BY ONE, THE  
GOATS WERE EATEN BY THE JACKALS.

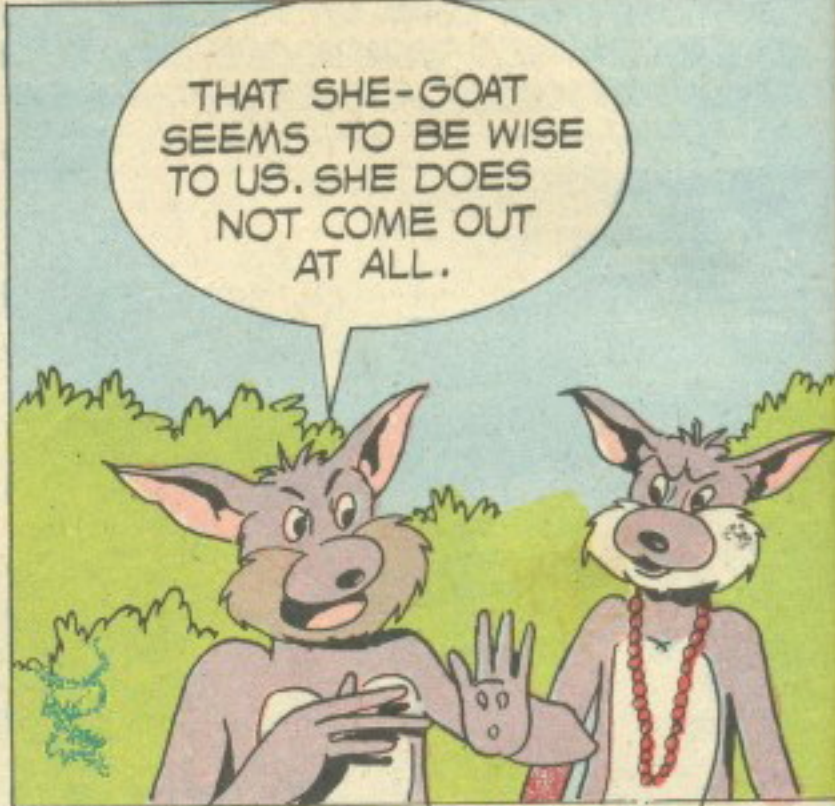


THE ONLY ONE LEFT  
WAS A WISE SHE-  
GOAT.

I DARE NOT  
GO OUT. THE  
JACKALS ARE  
ABOUT AGAIN!

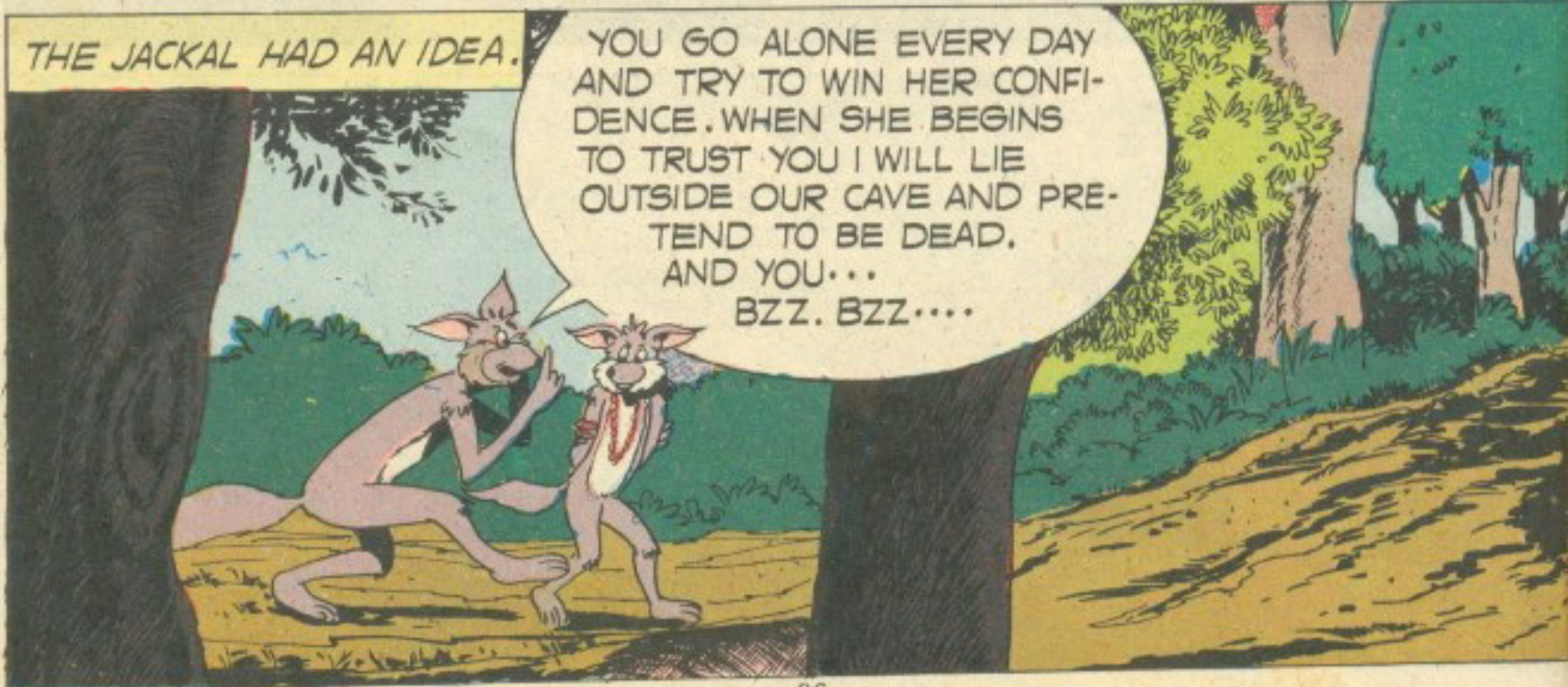


THAT SHE-GOAT  
SEEMS TO BE WISE  
TO US. SHE DOES  
NOT COME OUT  
AT ALL.



THE JACKAL HAD AN IDEA.

YOU GO ALONE EVERY DAY  
AND TRY TO WIN HER CONFI-  
DENCE. WHEN SHE BEGINS  
TO TRUST YOU I WILL LIE  
OUTSIDE OUR CAVE AND PRE-  
TEND TO BE DEAD.  
AND YOU...  
BZZ. BZZ....





EAGER TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN, THE SHE-JACKAL HASTENED TO THE GOAT'S CAVE.

O WISE GOAT,  
DO YOU LIVE  
HERE ALL  
ALONE?

IT'S THE  
WIFE OF THE  
JACKAL!

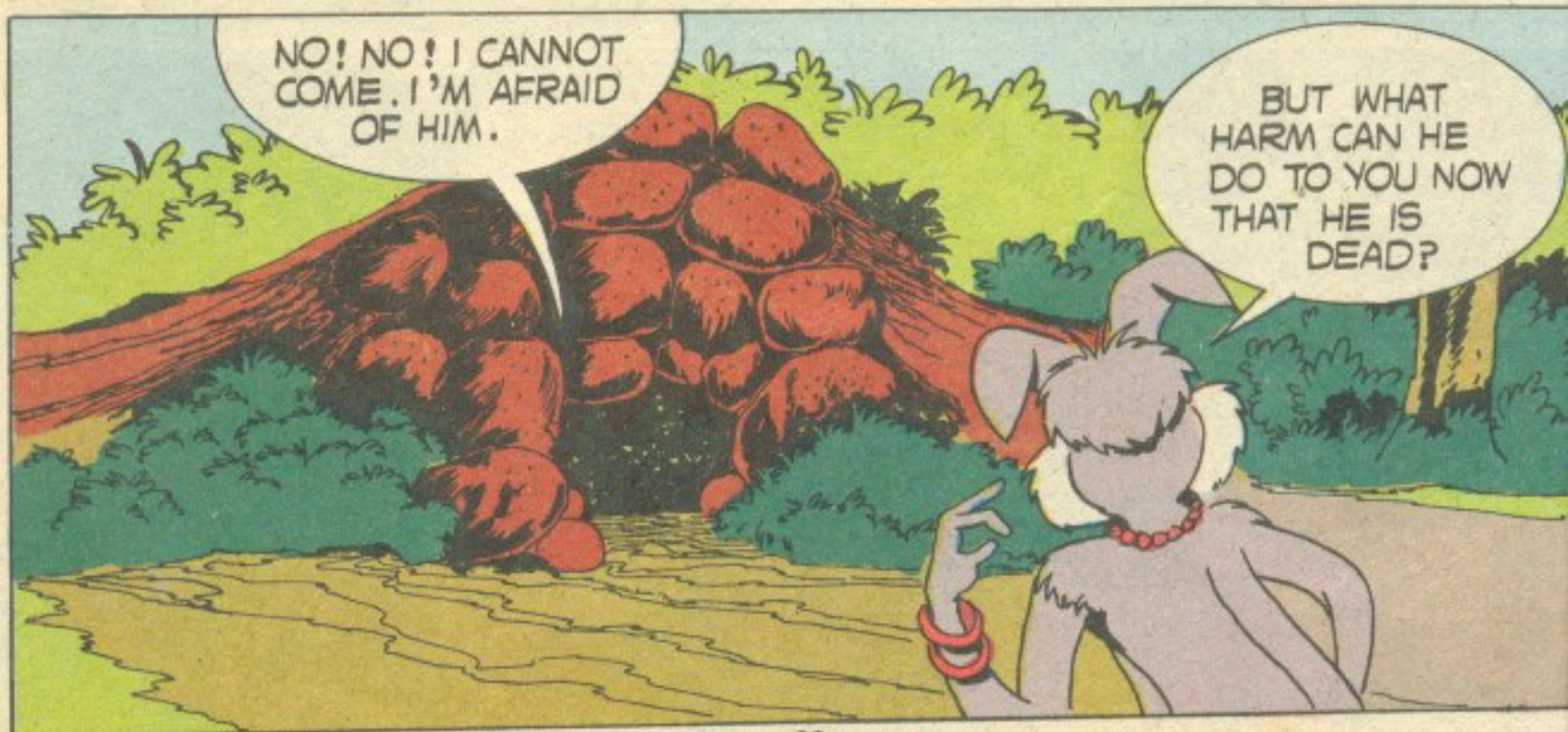
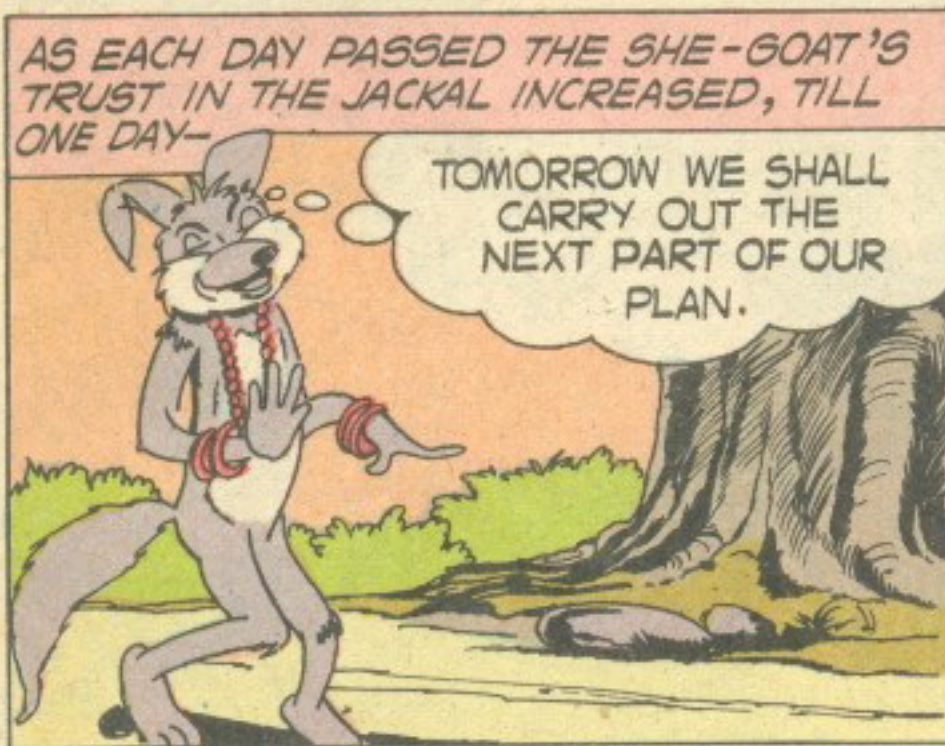
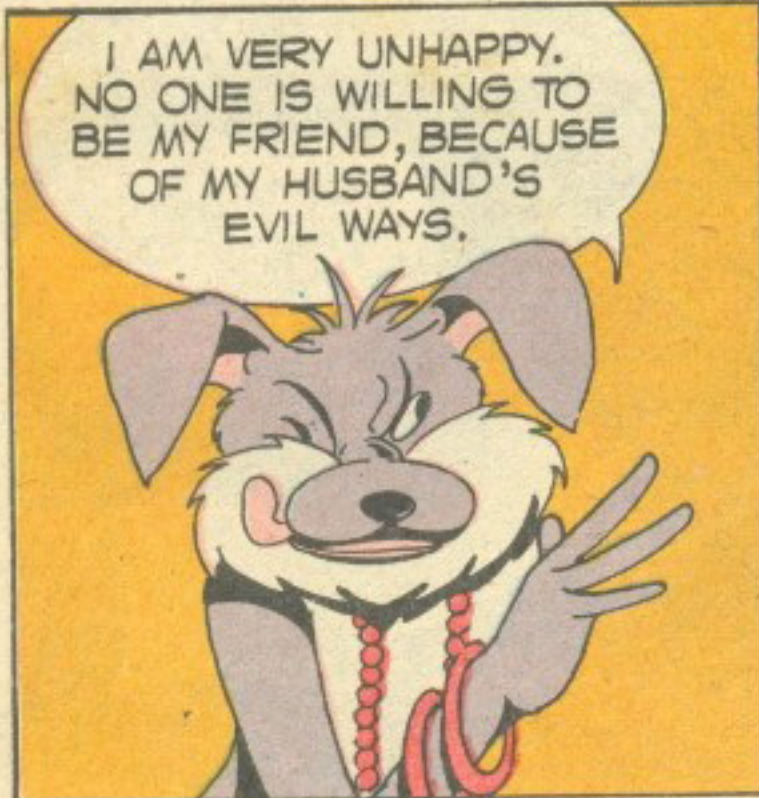
PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID.  
I'VE COME TO MAKE  
FRIENDS WITH YOU.  
PLEASE COME  
OUT.

NO! I DON'T  
TRUST YOU. GO  
AWAY. YOU  
KILLED ALL MY  
RELATIVES.

IT WAS MY HUSBAND, NOT ME.  
IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME,  
YOU NEEDN'T COME OUT.  
BUT, PLEASE, DON'T  
REFUSE TO TALK  
TO ME.

THERE'S  
NO HARM IN SPEAK-  
ING TO HER FROM  
INSIDE. SHE MAY  
BE INNOCENT.







DEAD OR ALIVE, HE'S  
CRUEL AND I'M  
AFRAID TO COME  
OUT.

AND I HAD  
THOUGHT YOU WERE  
MY FRIEND! HOW  
UNFORTUNATE I AM  
THAT I MUST BURY  
MY HUSBAND ALL  
BY MYSELF!

SHE CAN'T BE  
LYING. HE MUST  
REALLY BE  
DEAD.

DON'T WEEP,  
MY FRIEND.  
I'LL COME  
WITH YOU.

AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO SET OUT,  
HOWEVER, THE SHE-GOAT SUDDENLY  
BECAME DOUBTFUL AGAIN.

FRIEND, YOU WALK AHEAD  
AND SHOW ME THE WAY.  
I'LL FOLLOW.

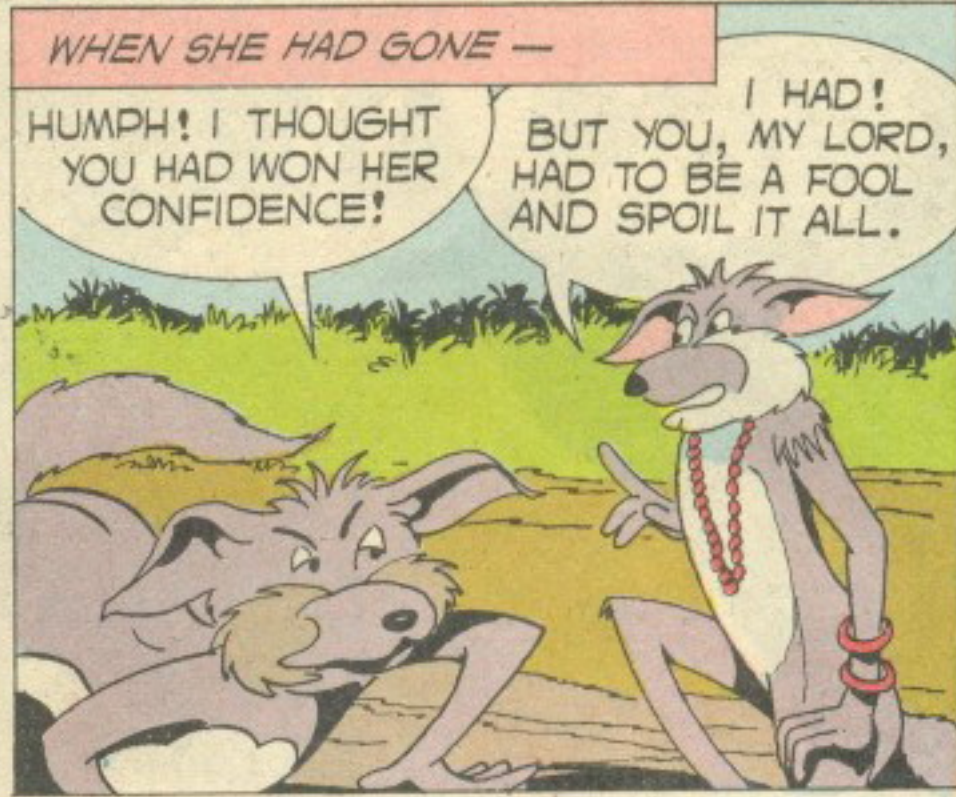
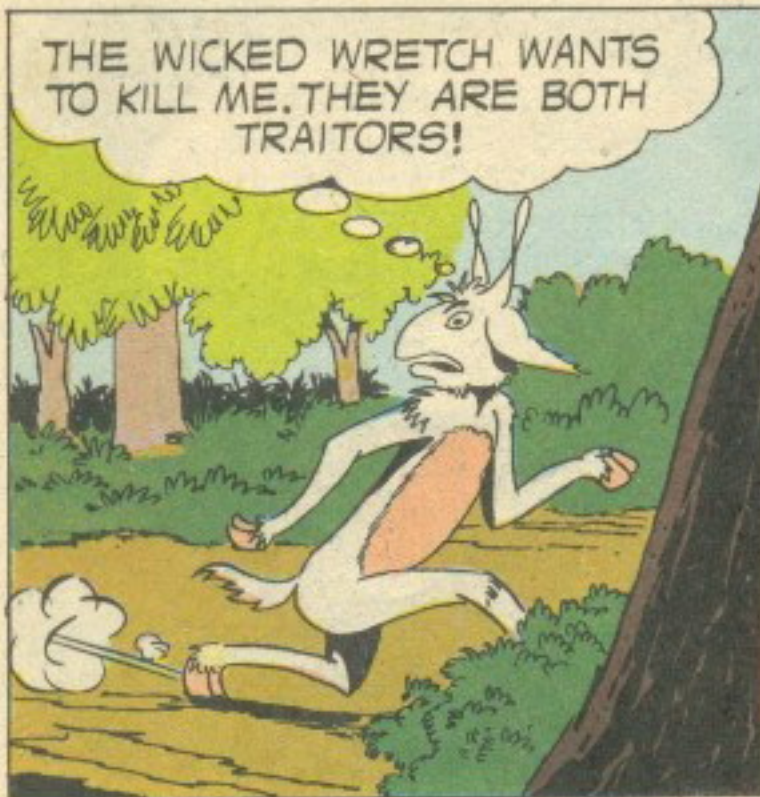
A LITTLE LATER—

AH, FOOTSTEPS!  
HERE THEY  
COME.

HE FORGOT THAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO PLAY  
DEAD, AND OPENED HIS EYES TO LOOK AT THE  
PLUMP GOAT.

HE'S  
ALIVE!







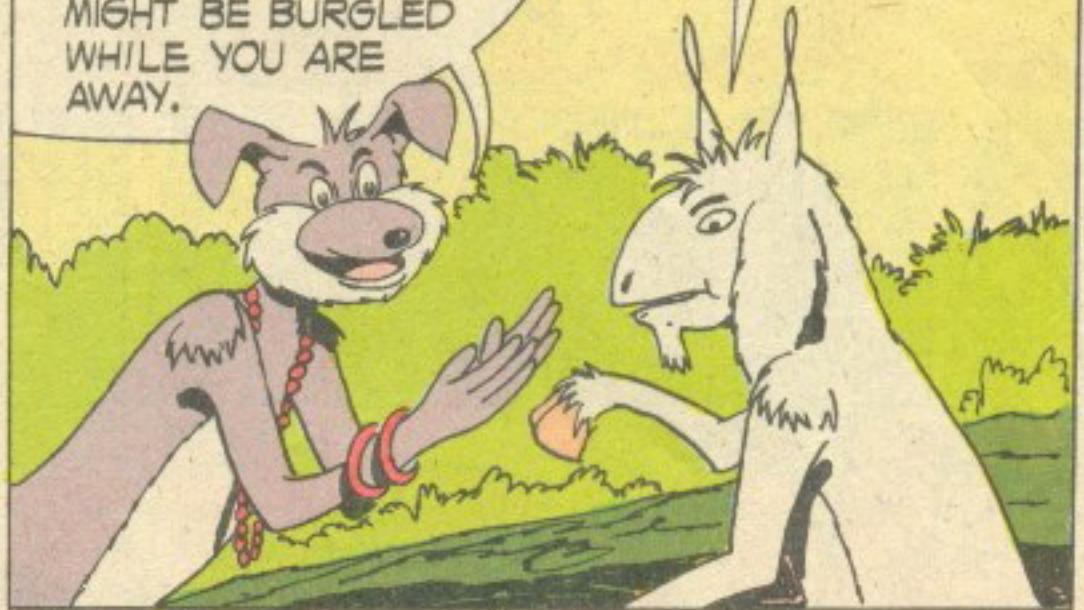
THE RUSE WORKED.

TWO THOUSAND DOGS! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS GOAT.



DEAR FRIEND, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. YOU'D BETTER NOT COME. YOUR CAVE MIGHT BE BURGLED WHILE YOU ARE AWAY.

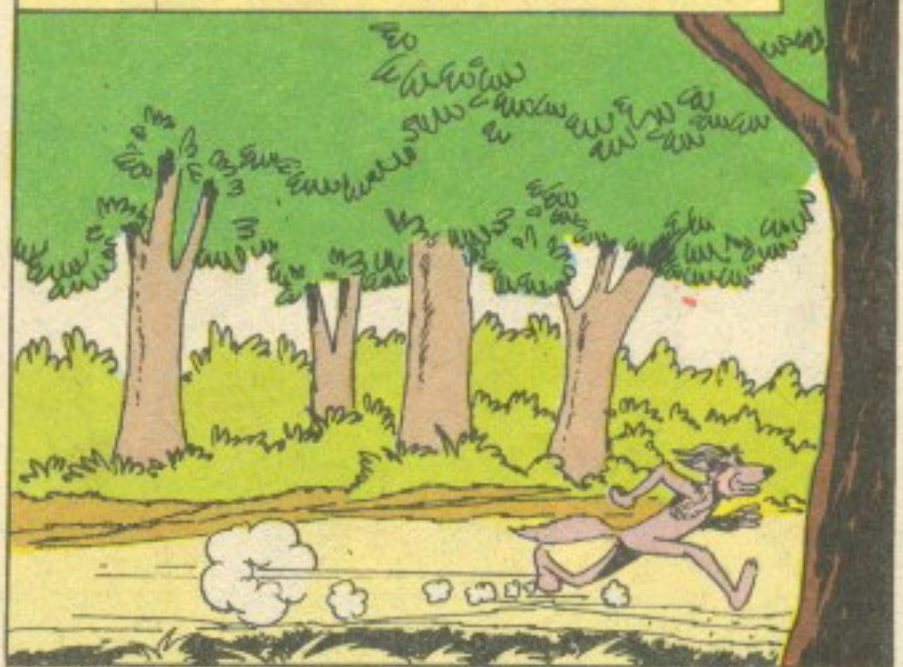
BUT I WANT TO COME AND....



NO! PLEASE DON'T BOTHER. SOME OTHER TIME, PERHAPS.



THEN SHE RAN FOR HER LIFE...



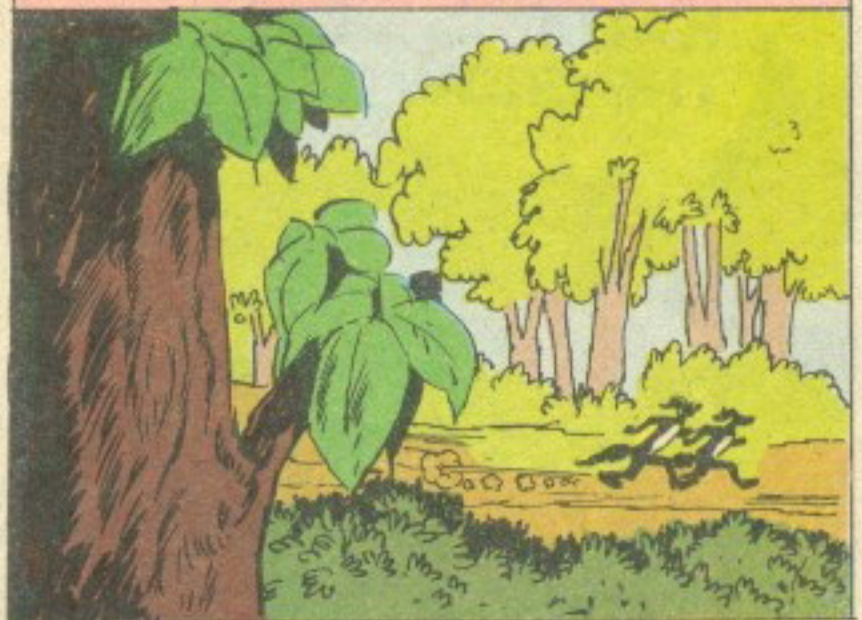
...TILL SHE REACHED HER MATE.

QUICK! WE MUST RUN. OR ELSE WE'LL MAKE A MEAL FOR TWO THOUSAND DOGS!

TWO THOUSAND DOGS!

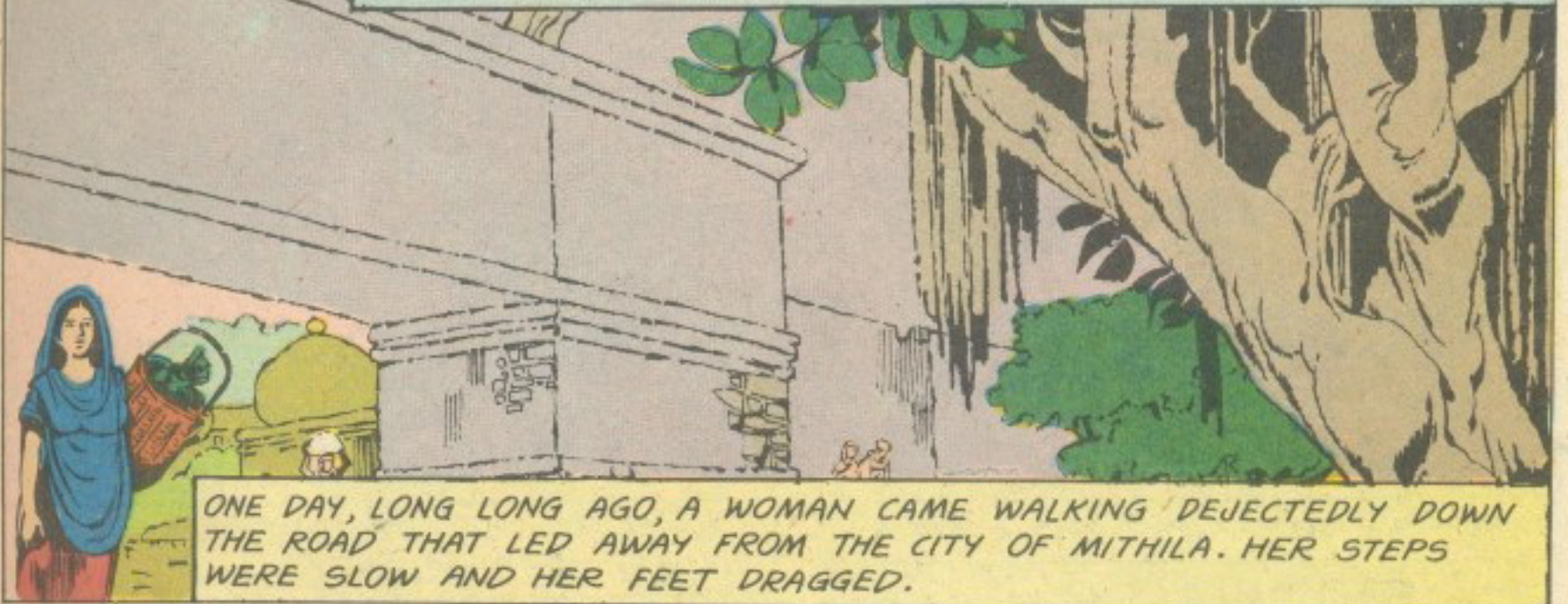


THE JACKAL AND HIS MATE TOOK TO THEIR HEELS, AND THEY WERE NOT SEEN OR HEARD OF EVER AGAIN.





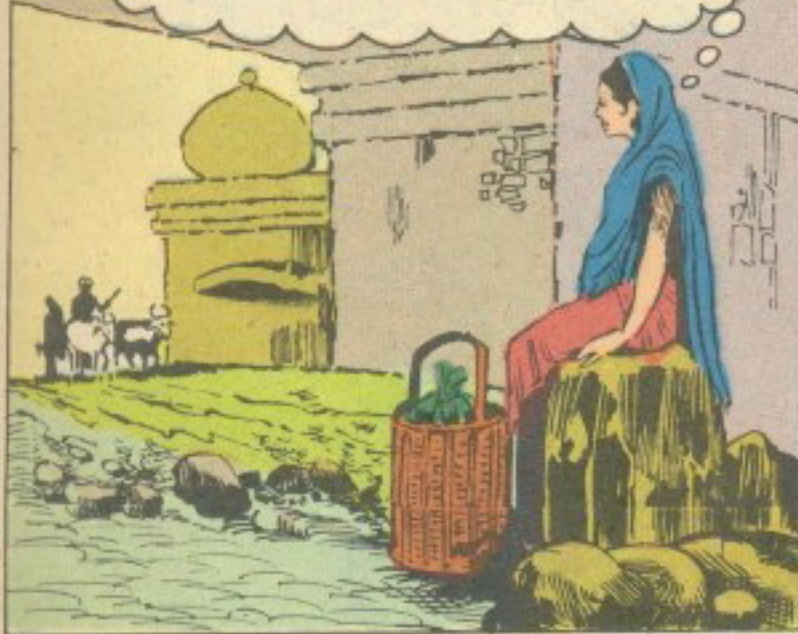
# THE HIDDEN TREASURE



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.



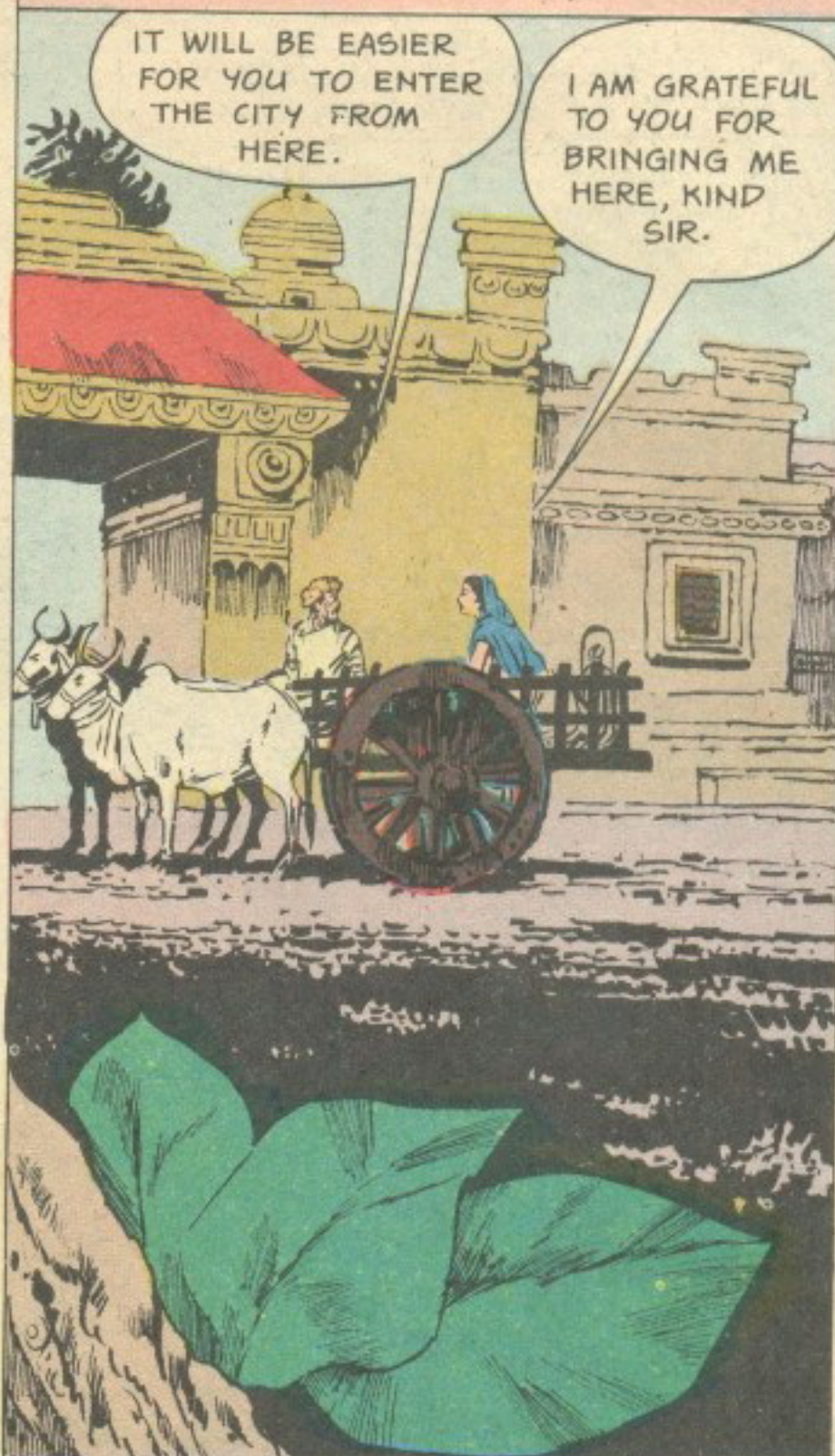




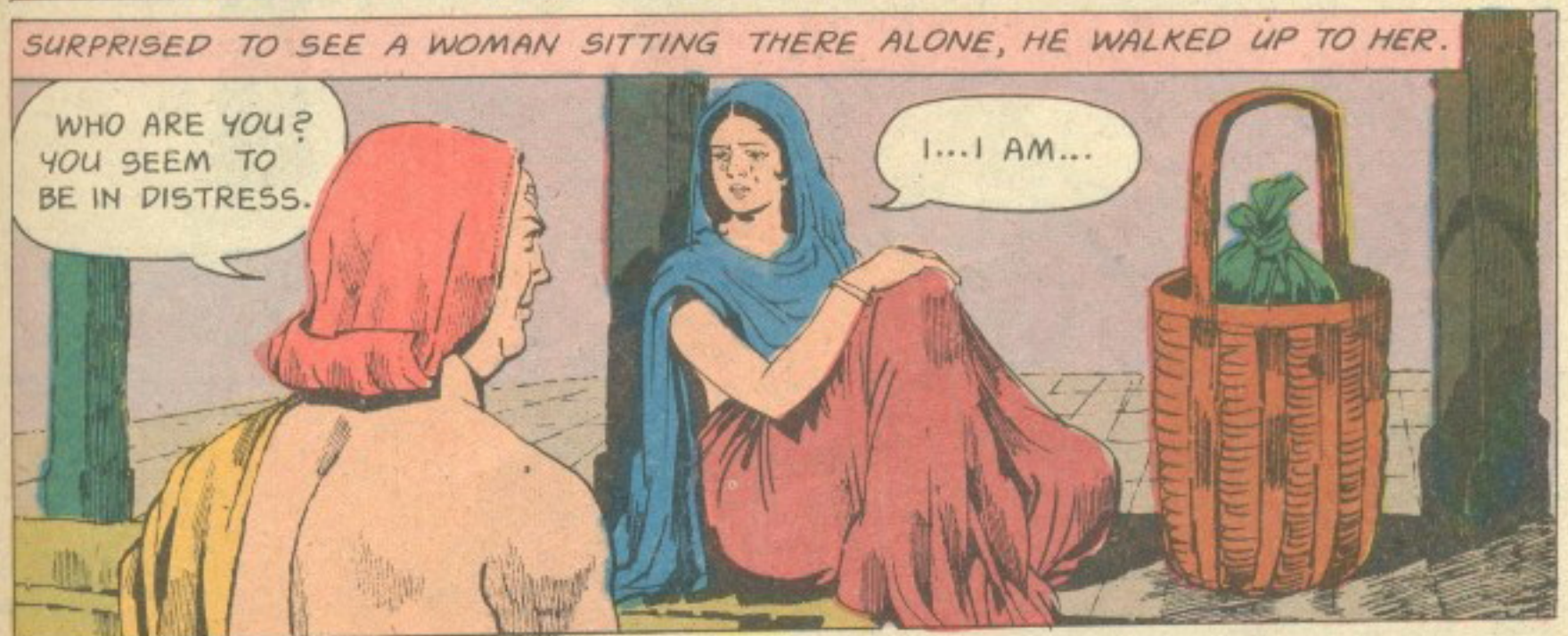
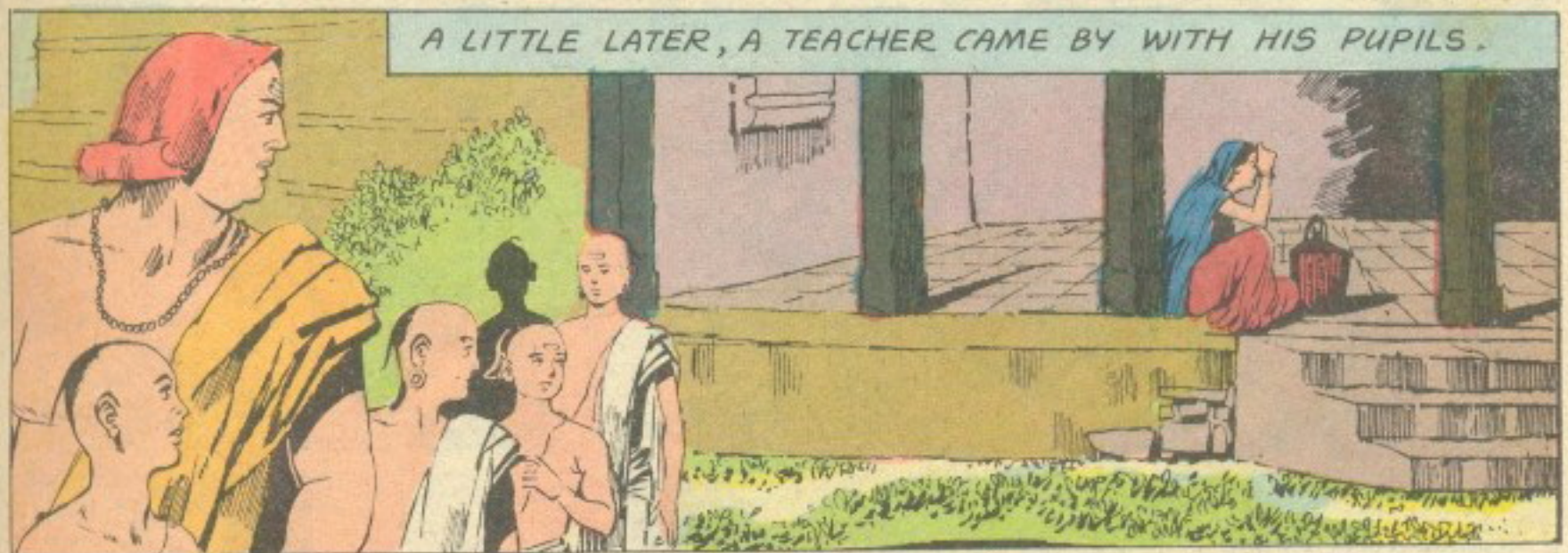
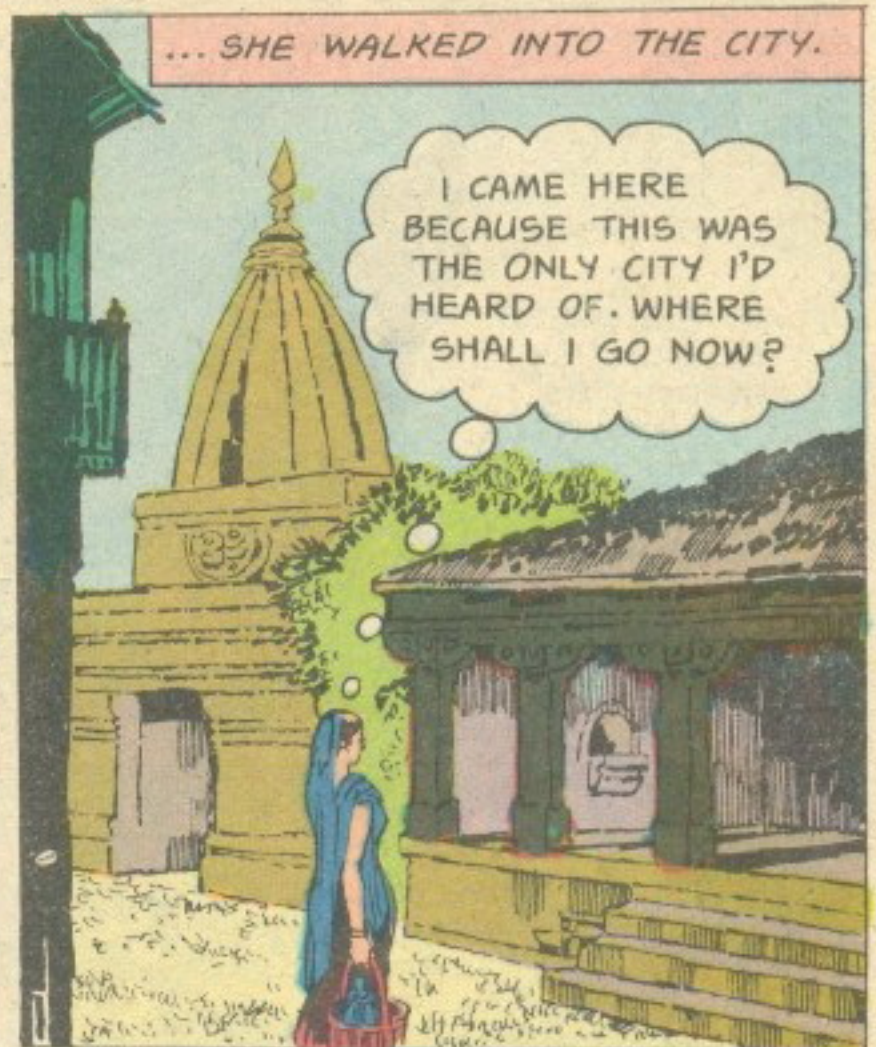
WHEN SHE WOKE UP IT WAS EVENING.



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.

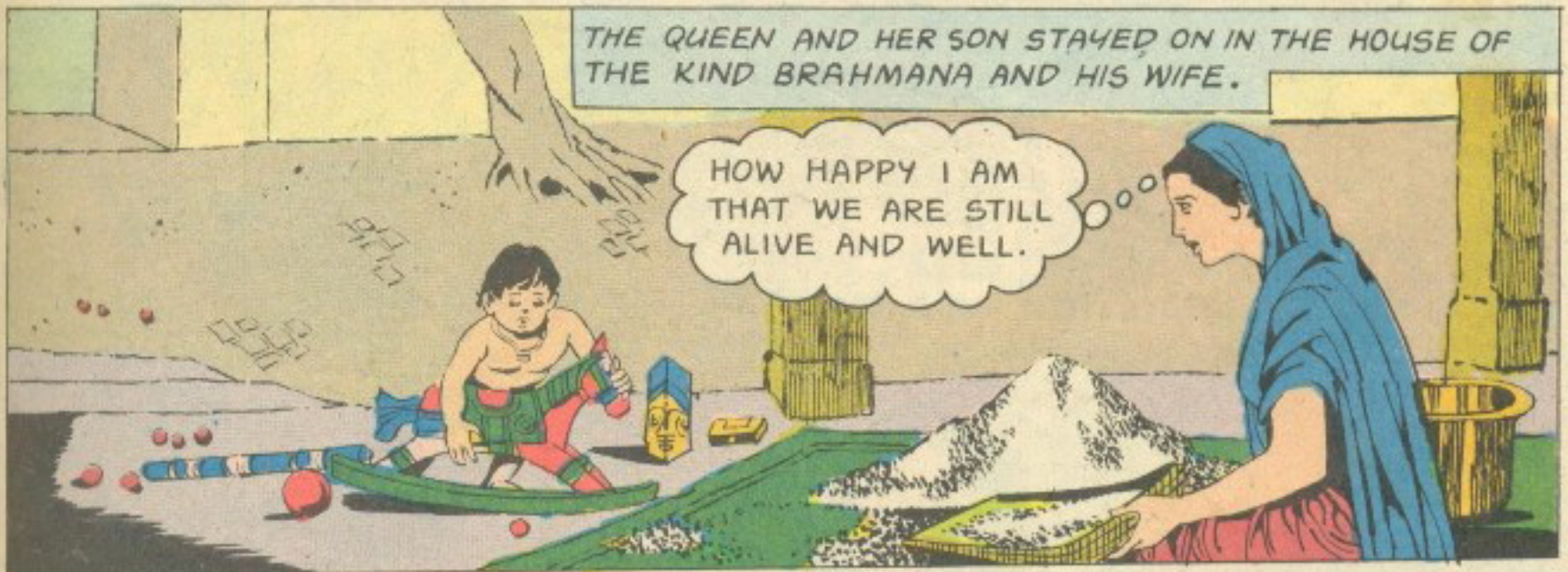
WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM, BROTHER?

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.

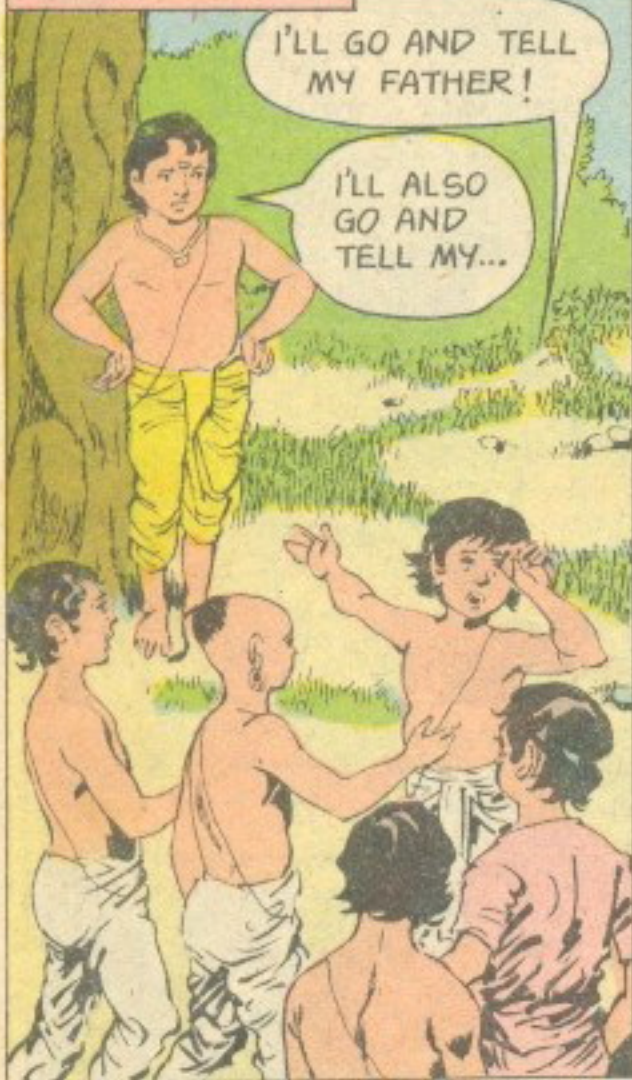
COME ON, MAHAJANAKA. WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU.

I'M COMING!





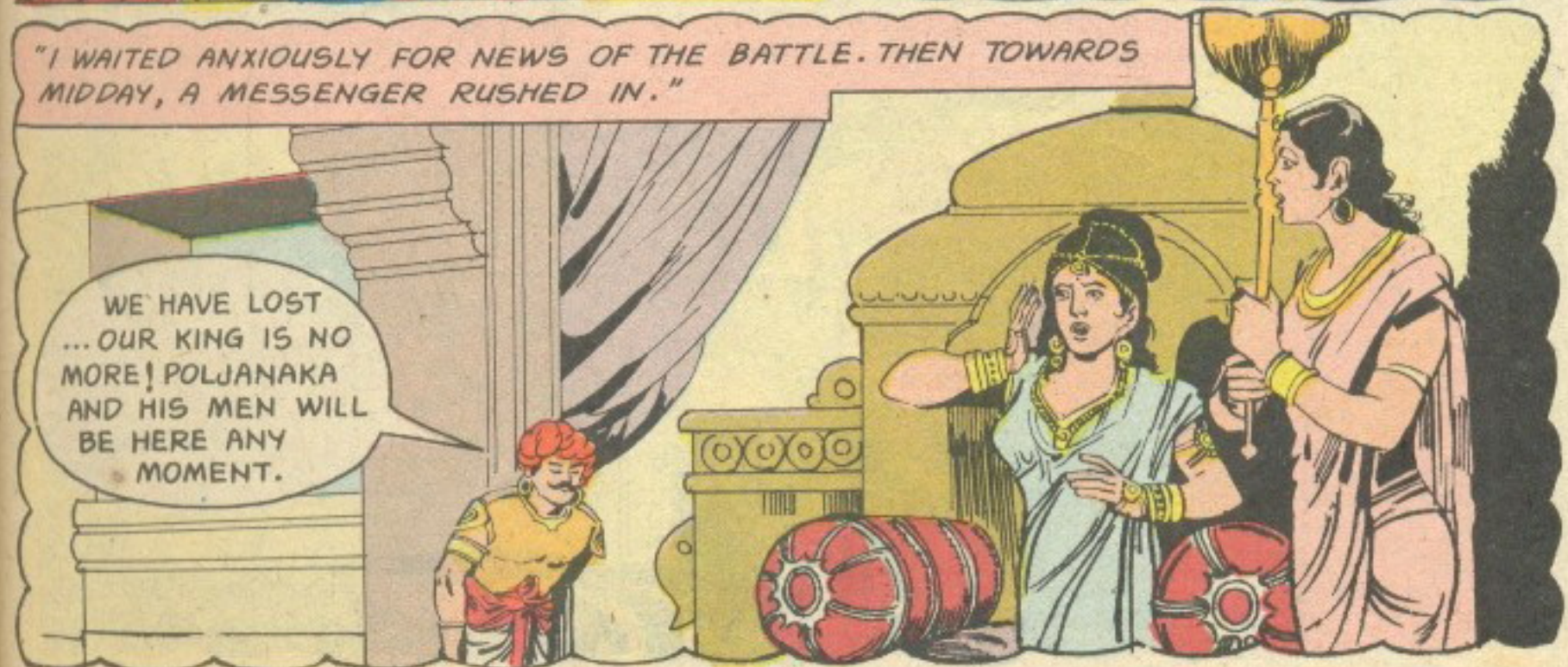
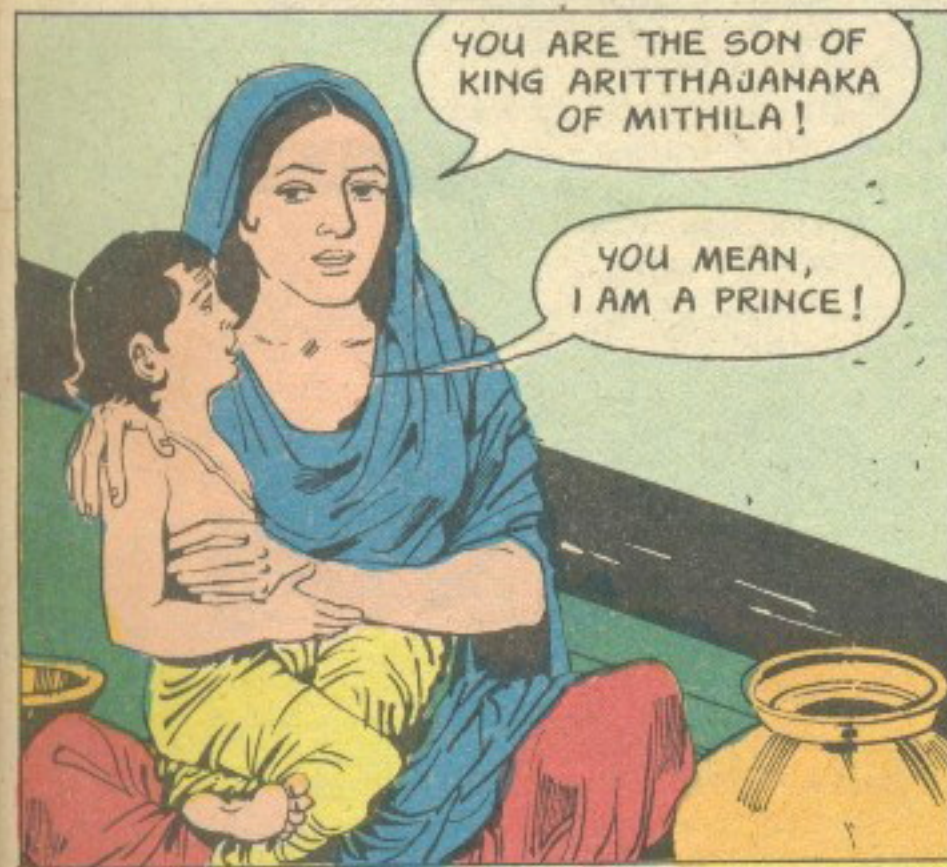
BUT THEY OFTEN QUARRELLED TOO. AND, THEN, MAHAJANAKA WHO WAS THE STRONGEST OF THEM ALL, WOULD BEAT UP THE OTHERS. ONE DAY, AFTER SUCH A QUARREL —



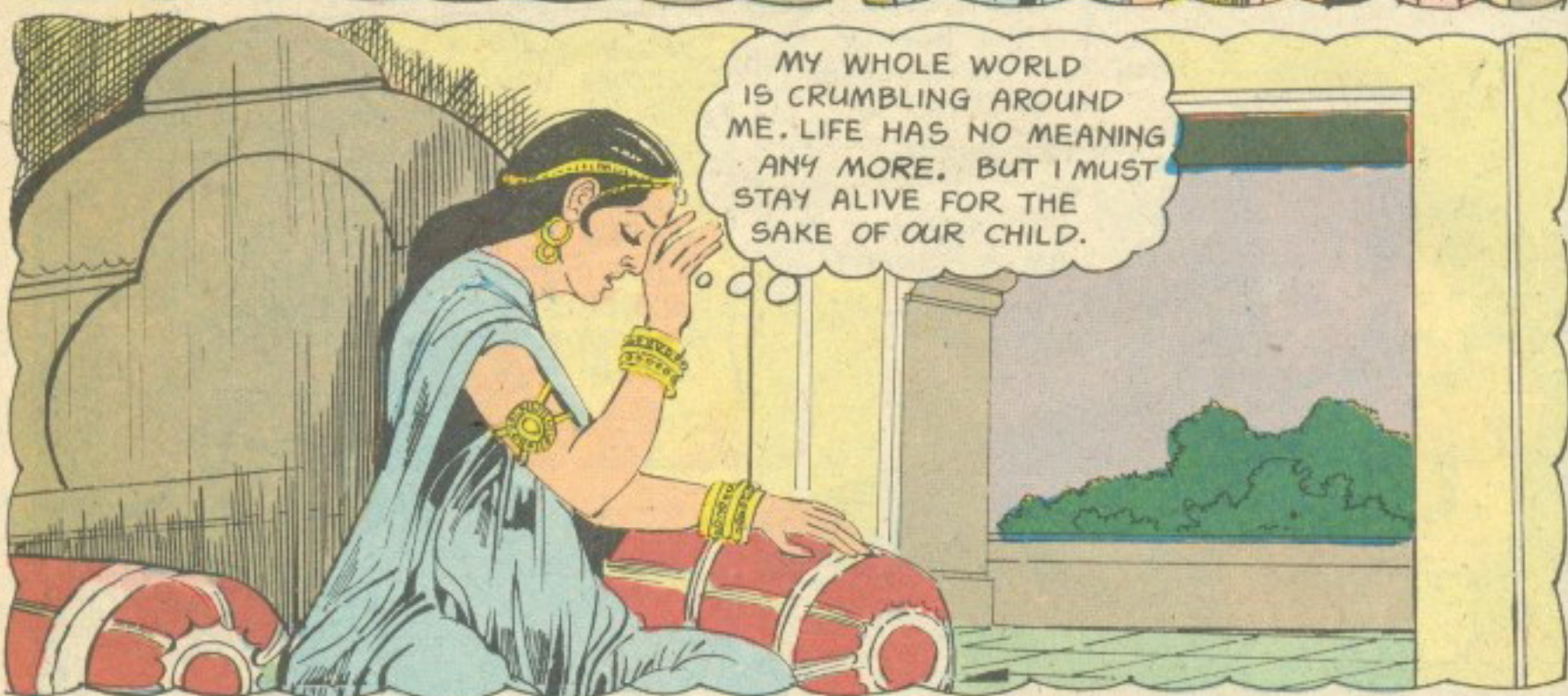
MAHAJANAKA RAN TO HIS MOTHER.









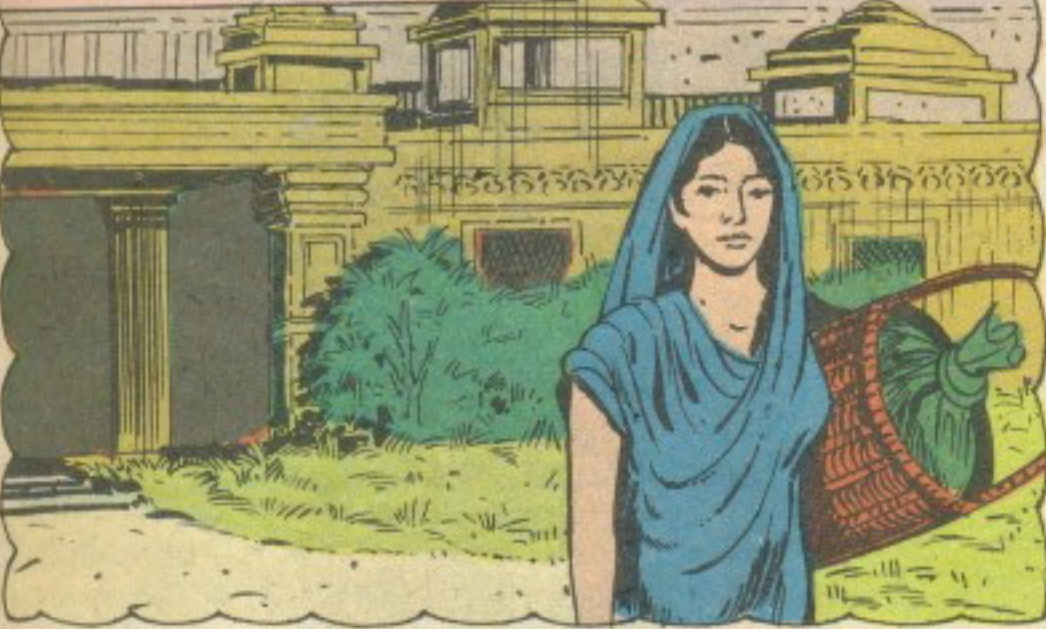


"I TIED TOGETHER SOME GOLD COINS AND JEWELS AND PUT THE BUNDLE IN AN OLD BASKET."

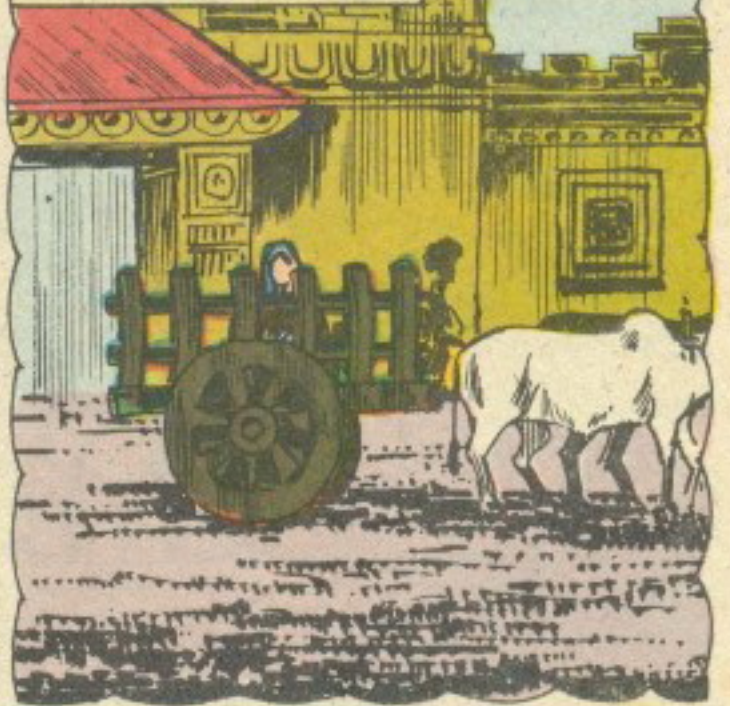




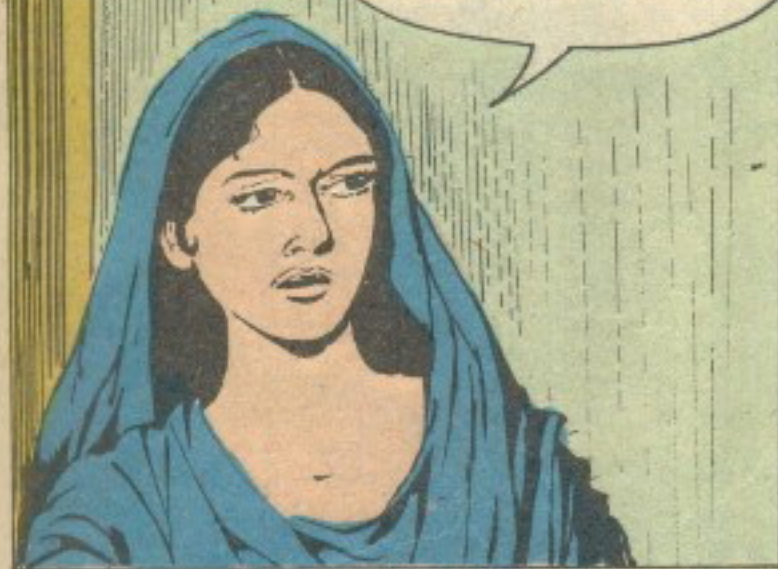
"AFTER THAT I CAST OFF MY ROYAL CLOTHES, DISGUISED MYSELF AS A MAID AND LEFT THE PALACE WITH THE BASKET."



"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.



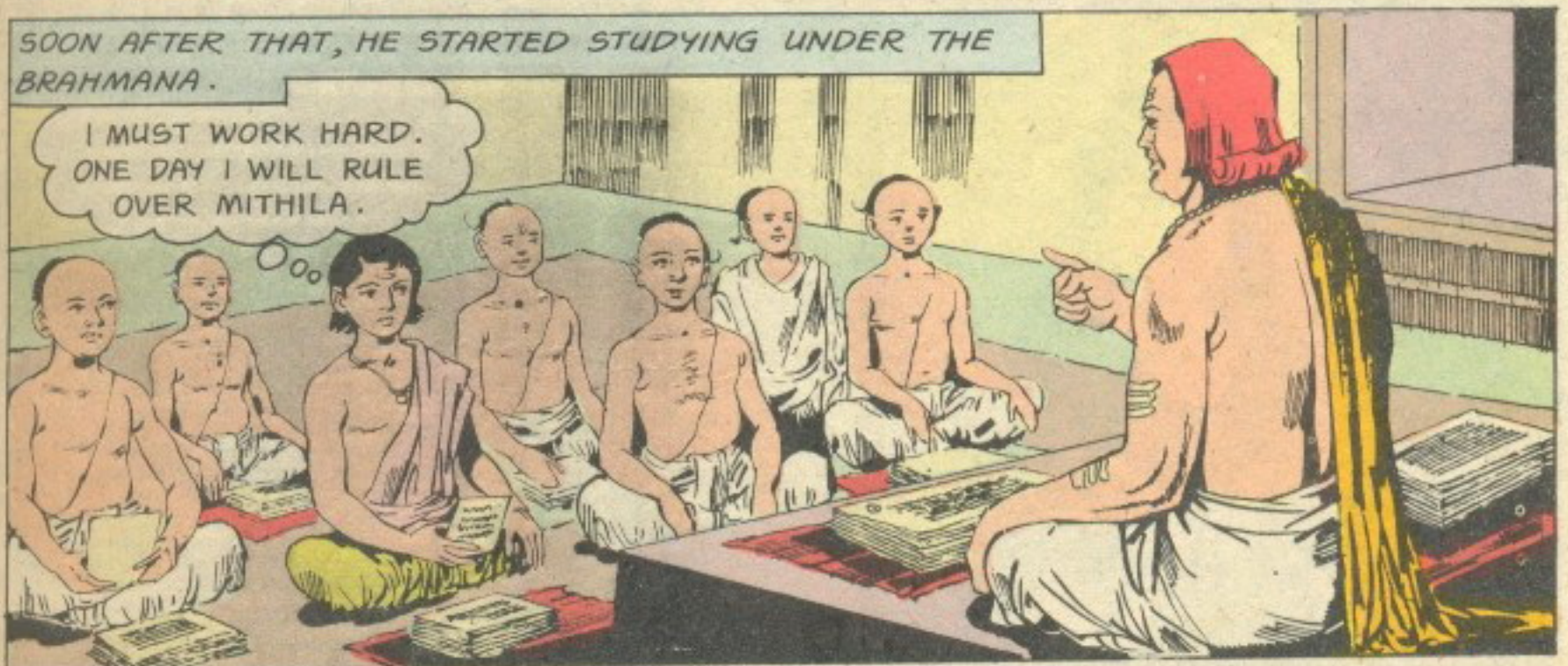
EVEN NOW I AM AFRAID OF OUR ENEMIES. NOBODY SHOULD KNOW WHO WE ARE.

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.

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

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

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

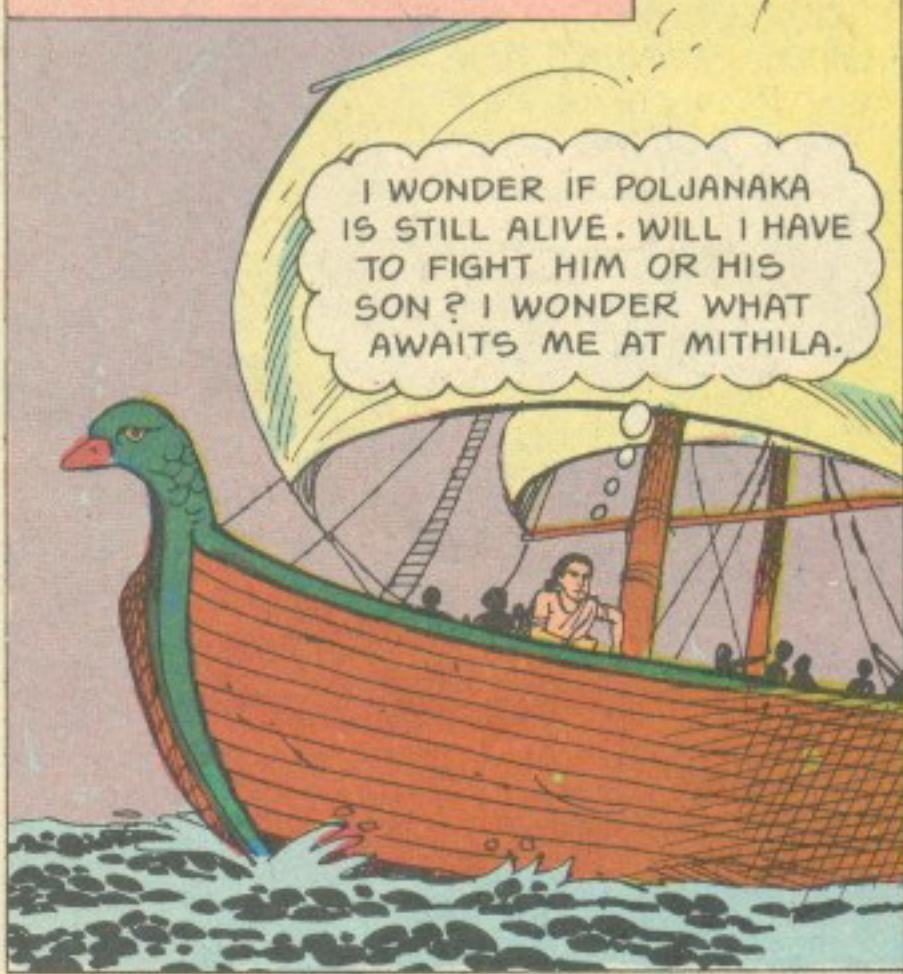
WITH MY HALF I SHALL BUY SOME MERCHANDISE, CARRY ON TRADE OVERSEAS AND EARN THE MONEY I'LL NEED, TO RAISE AN ARMY.



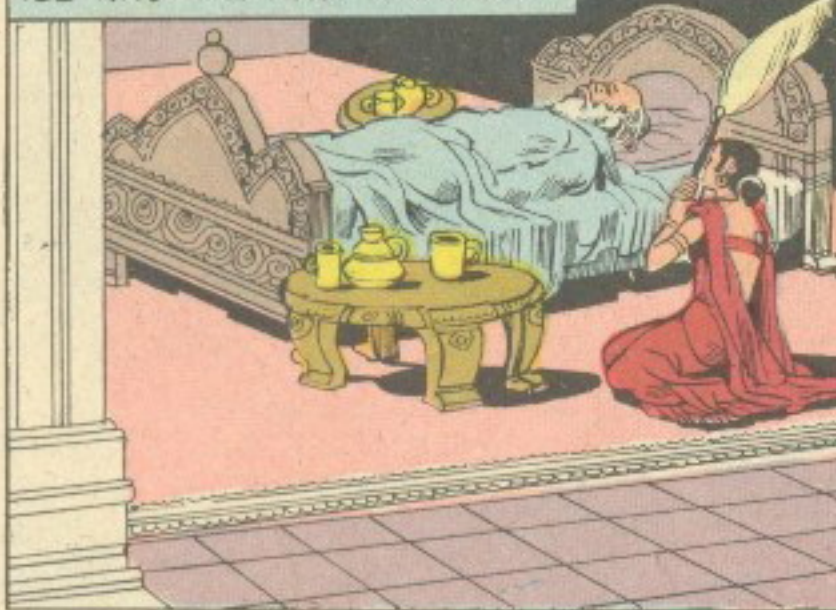
SOON THE DAY OF DEPARTURE DAWNED.



AS THE SHIP SET SAIL —



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



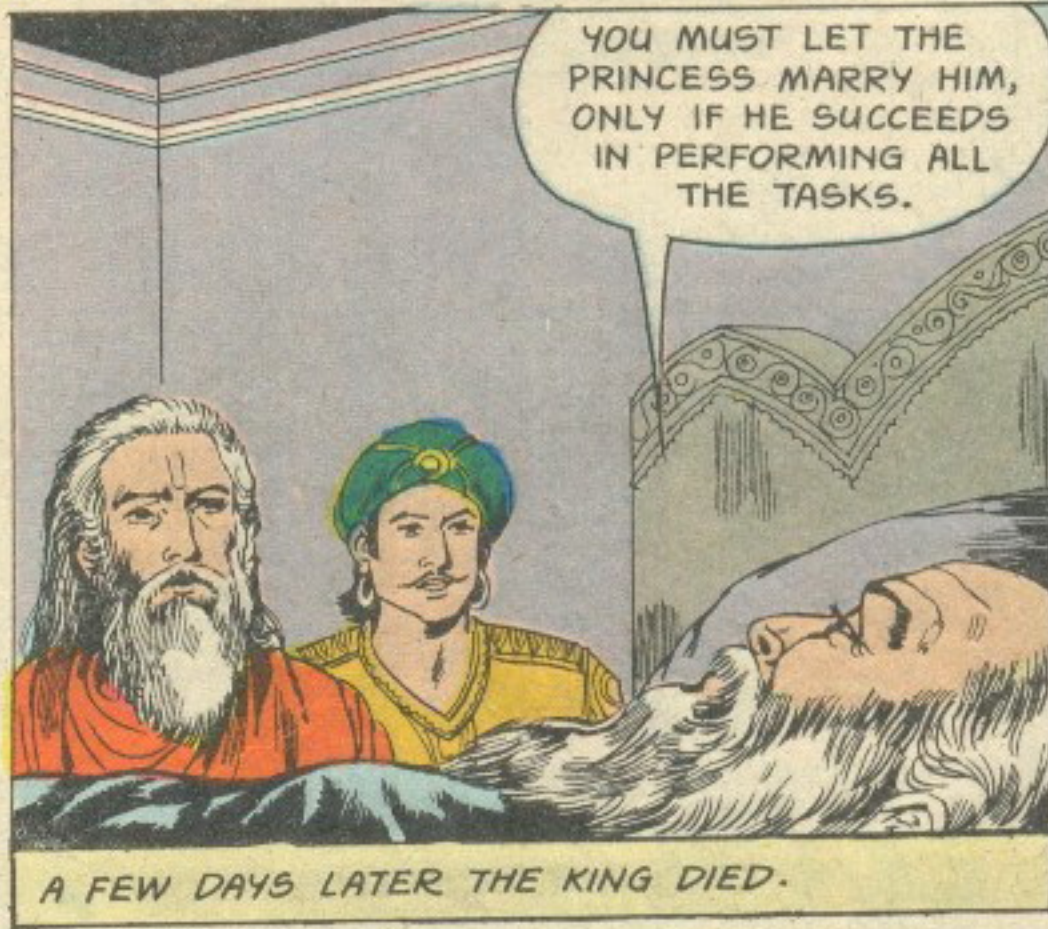
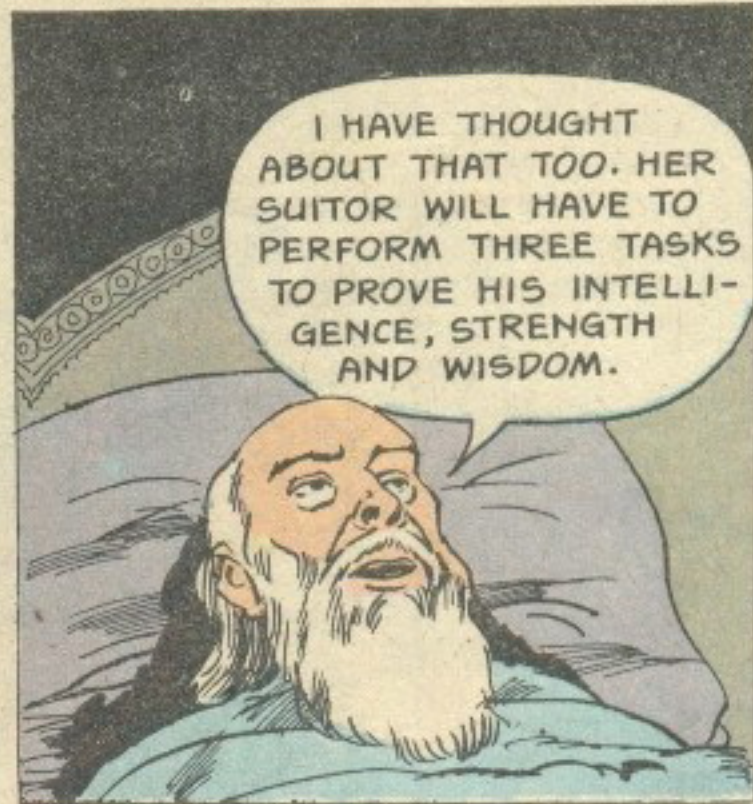
HIS MINISTERS WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM.



SO THEY WENT TO THE KING.











SOME TIME LATER —

O PRINCESS, YOUR FATHER LIKED THE GENERAL VERY MUCH. THE MINISTERS WANT YOU TO...

ASK THE GENERAL TO SEE ME AT ONCE.



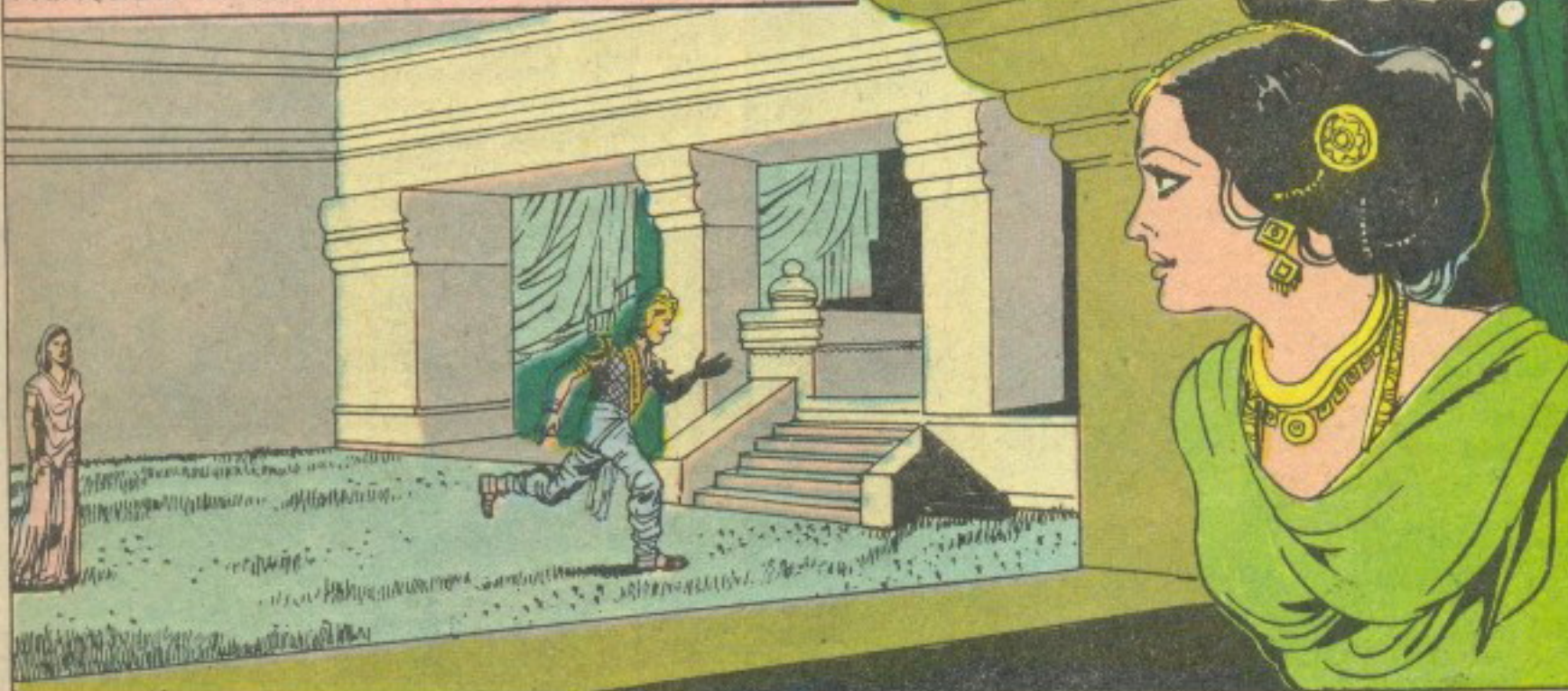
THE GENERAL WAS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE THE PRINCESS' ORDER.

SHE WANTS TO SEE ME! I'M THE MAN SHIVALI HAS CHOSEN TO MARRY! THE FUTURE KING OF MITHILA!



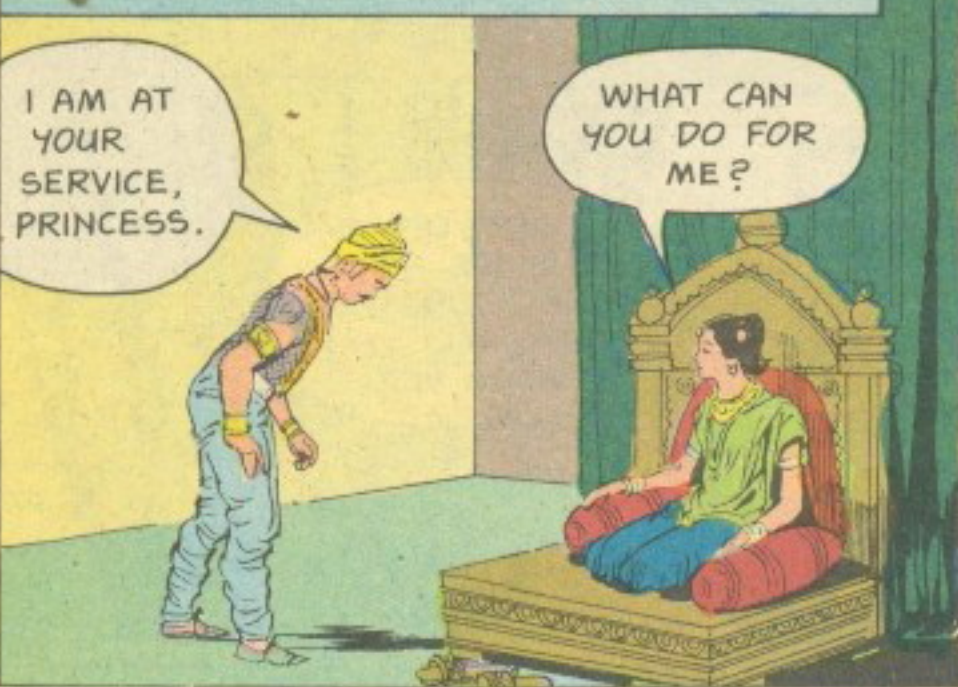
IN HIS ANXIETY NOT TO KEEP THE PRINCESS WAITING HE RAN UP THE STAIRS.

HE LACKS COMPOSURE AND DIGNITY.





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?



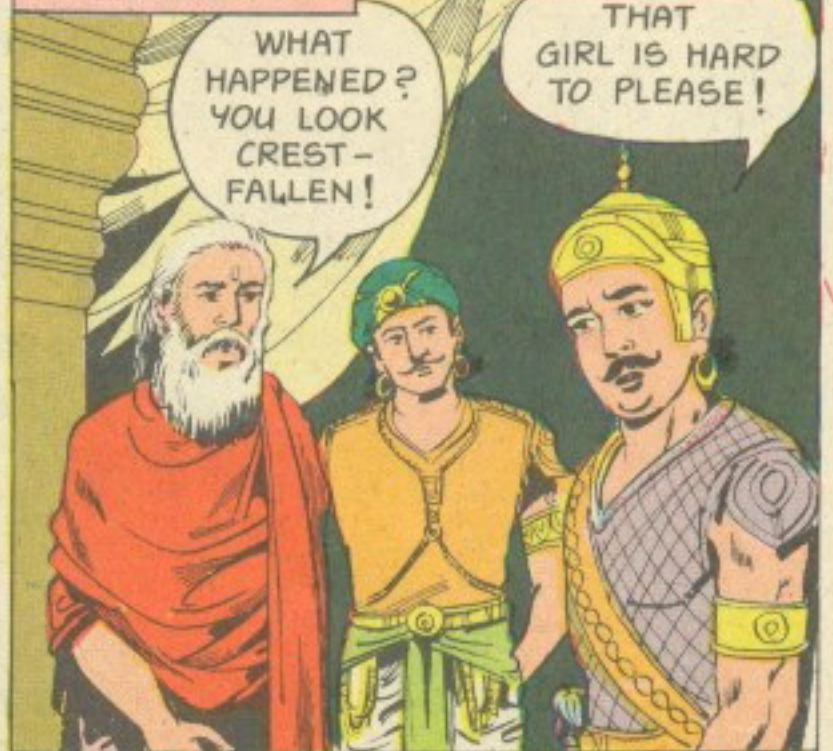
YES... I'LL STRIVE TO SERVE YOU IN EVERY WAY—EVEN PRESS YOUR FEET OR FETCH YOUR SLIPPERS!

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 —



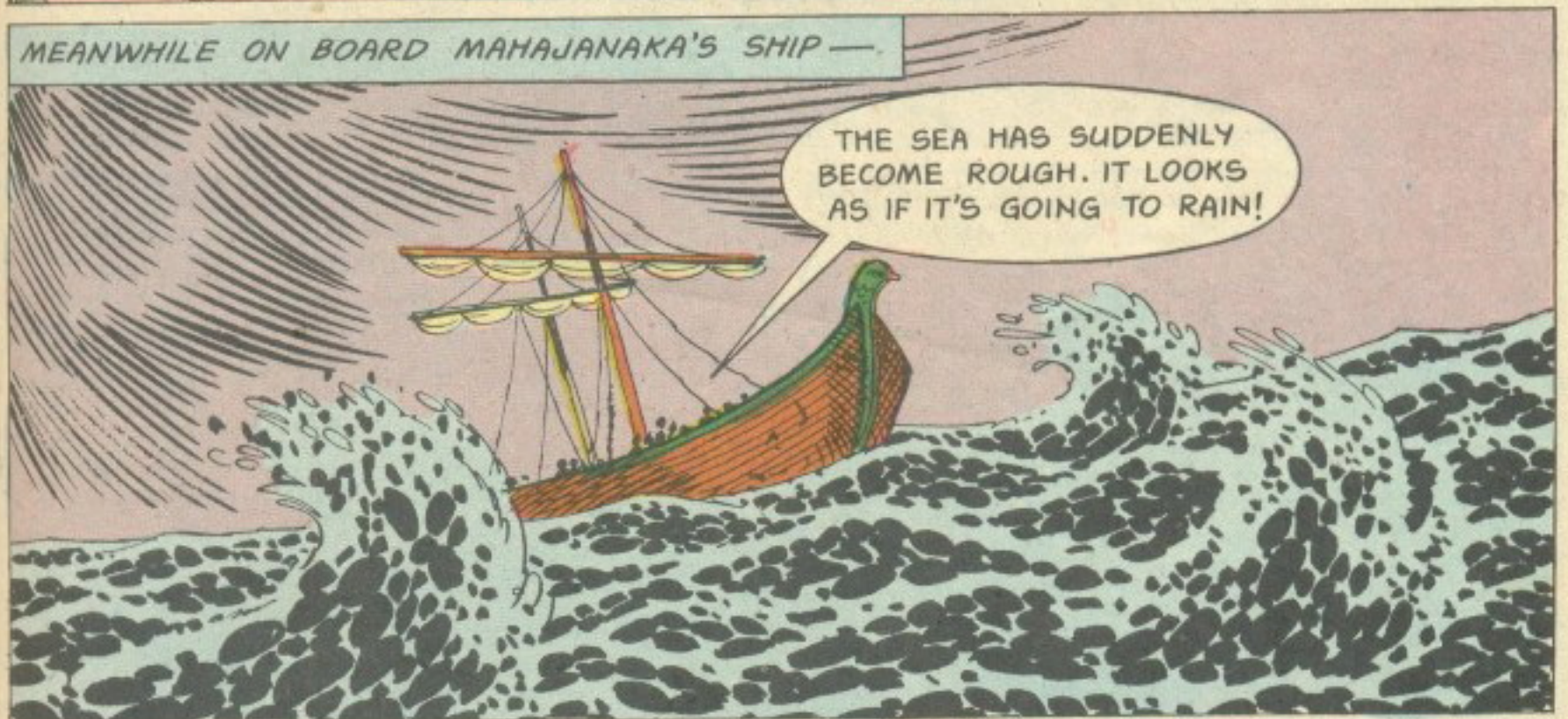
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU LOOK CREST-FALLEN!

THAT GIRL IS HARD TO PLEASE!





MEANWHILE ON BOARD MAHAJANAKA'S SHIP —



SOON, A STORM BROKE. WAVE AFTER MIGHTY WAVE LASHED AT THE SHIP.



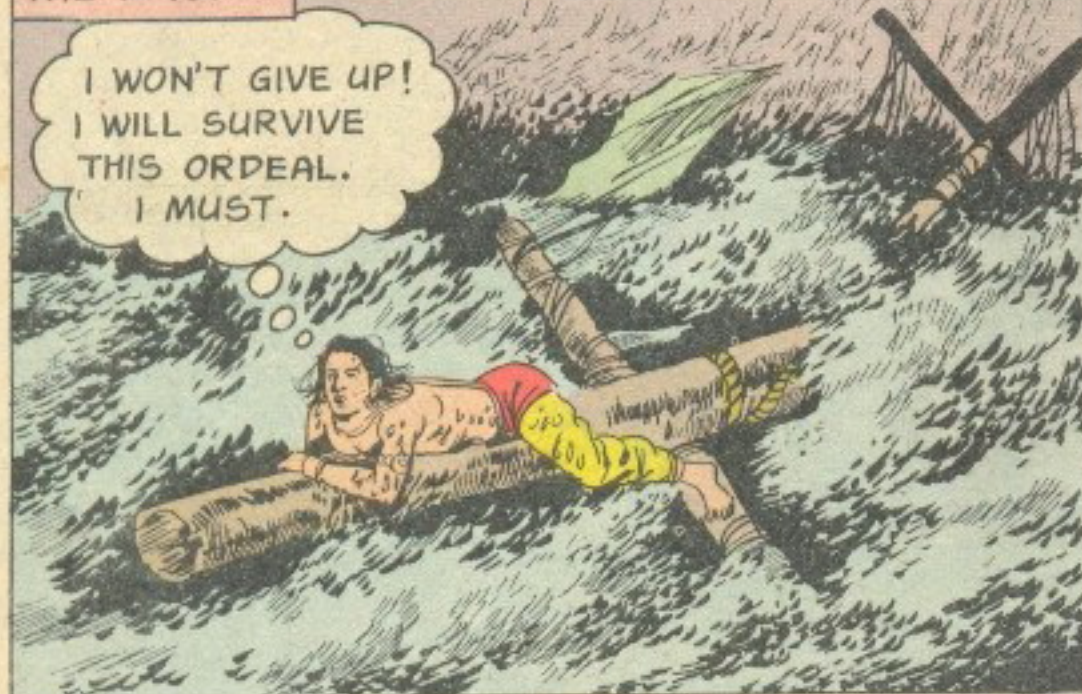
HE MOVED NEARER THE MAST AND HELD ON TO IT WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH.

I HAVE A MISSION TO ACCOMPLISH. I MUST NOT LET DEATH ROB ME OF THE CHANCE TO REGAIN THE THRONE OF MITHILA.





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



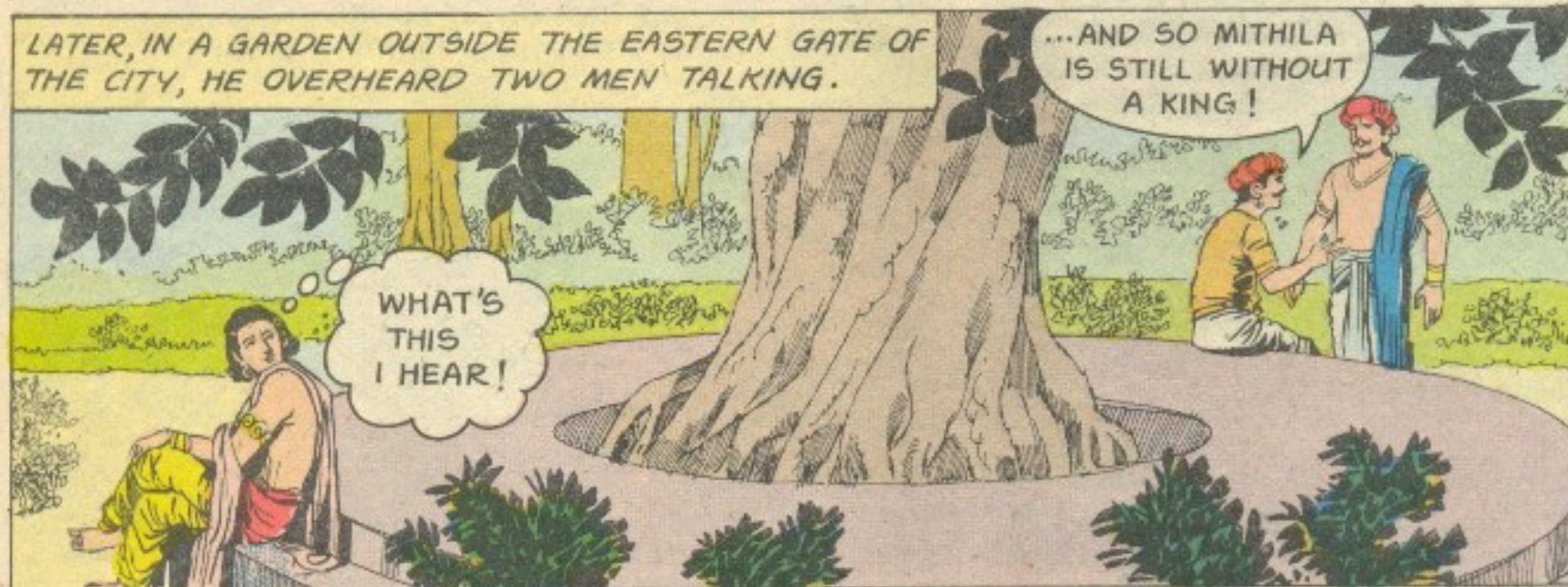
I WON'T GIVE UP!  
I WILL SURVIVE  
THIS ORDEAL.  
I MUST.

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.

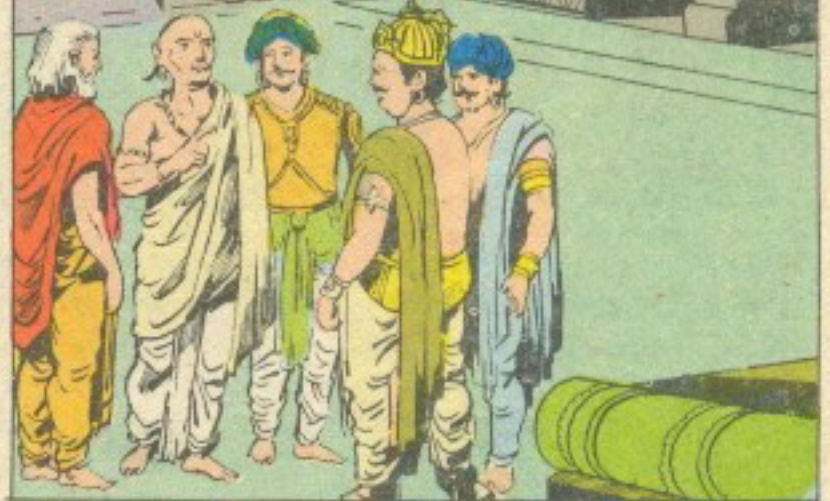
FOR HOW LONG CAN THE KINGDOM REMAIN WITHOUT A KING?

PERHAPS, THE ROYAL PRIEST CAN HELP US.



WHEN THEY CONSULTED THE ROYAL PRIEST —

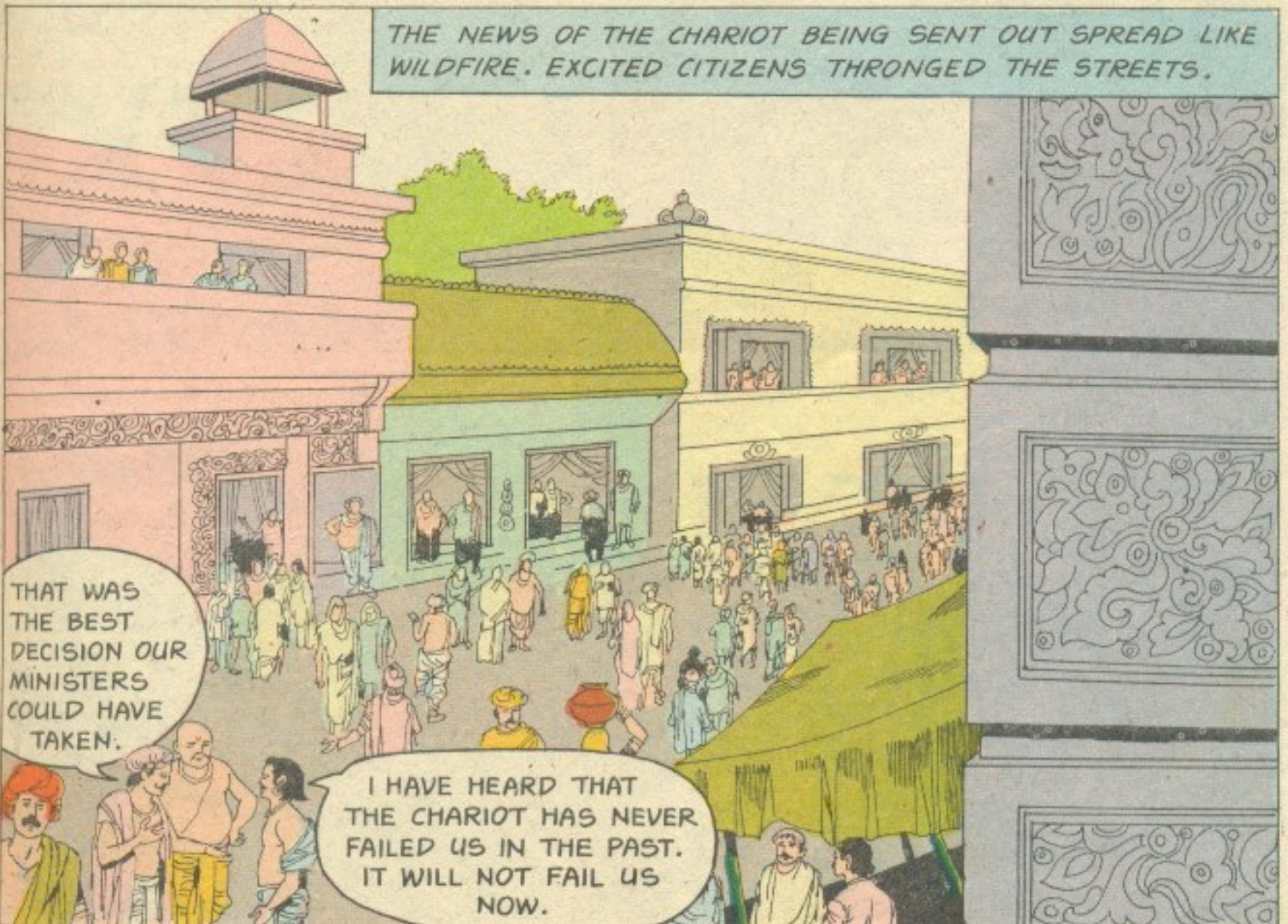
SEND OUT THE SACRED CHARIOT. IT WILL LEAD US TO THE RIGHT MAN.



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.

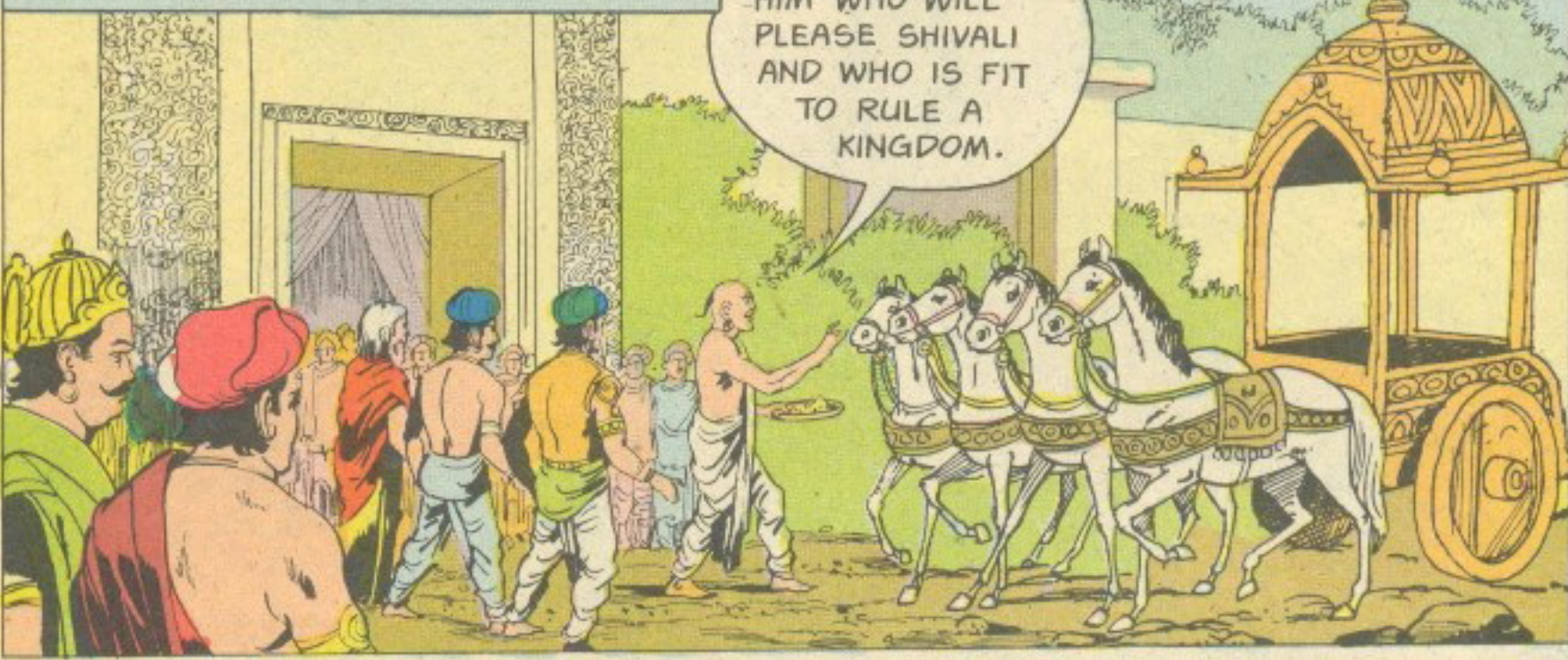
I HAVE HEARD THAT THE CHARIOT HAS NEVER FAILED US IN THE PAST. IT WILL NOT FAIL US NOW.



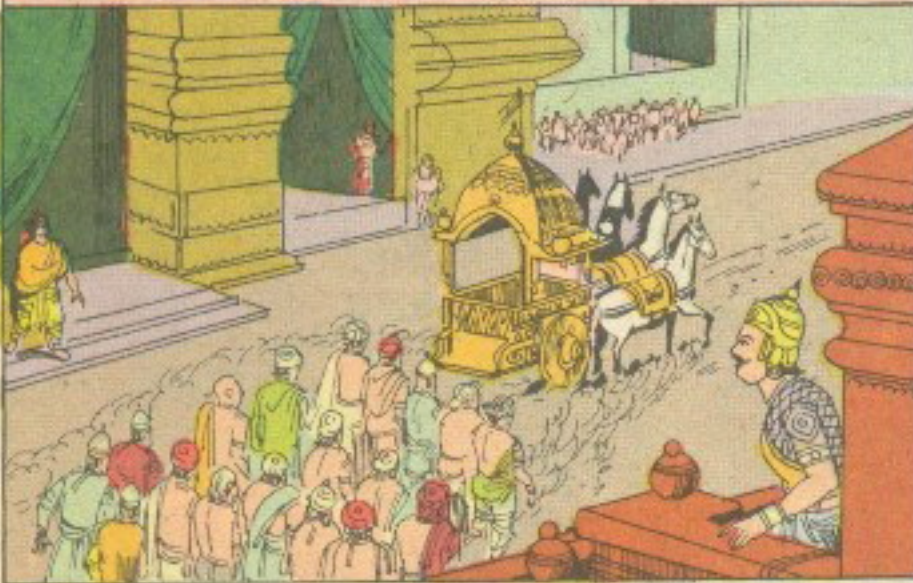


AT THE AUSPICIOUS HOUR THE ROYAL PRIEST STOOD BEFORE THE CHARIOT.

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.

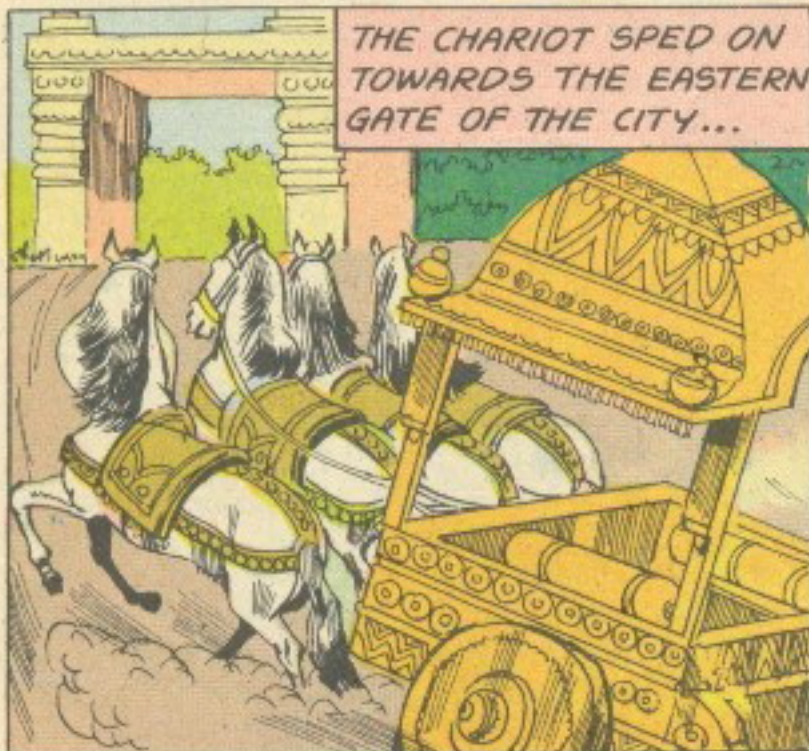


SUDDENLY THE HORSES BROKE INTO A GALLOP.

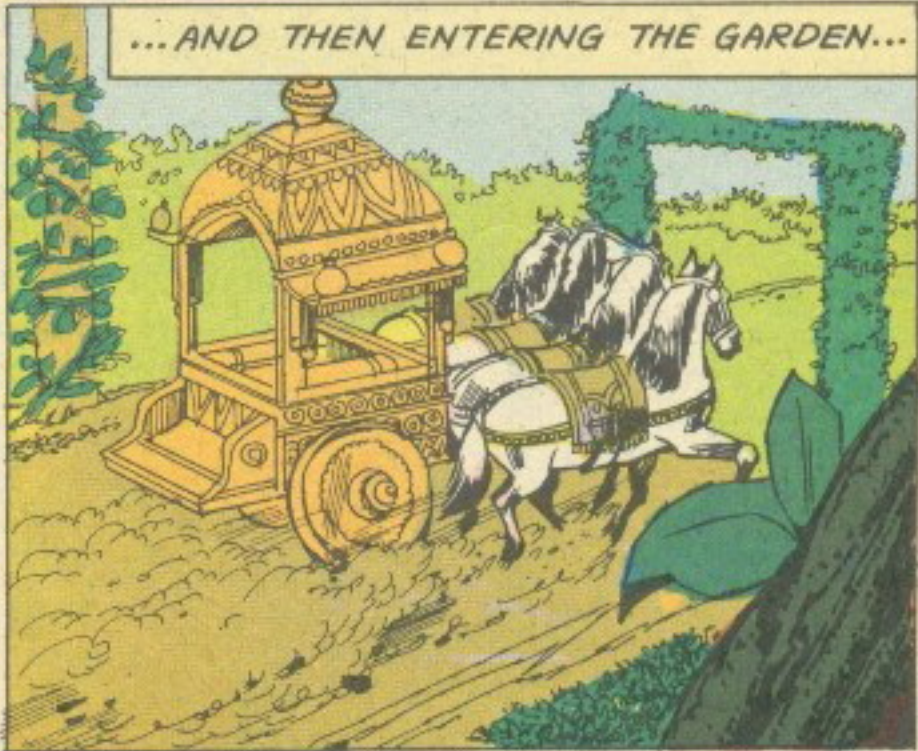
DON'T TRY TO SLOW THEM DOWN. WE'LL KEEP PACE WITH THEM.



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.

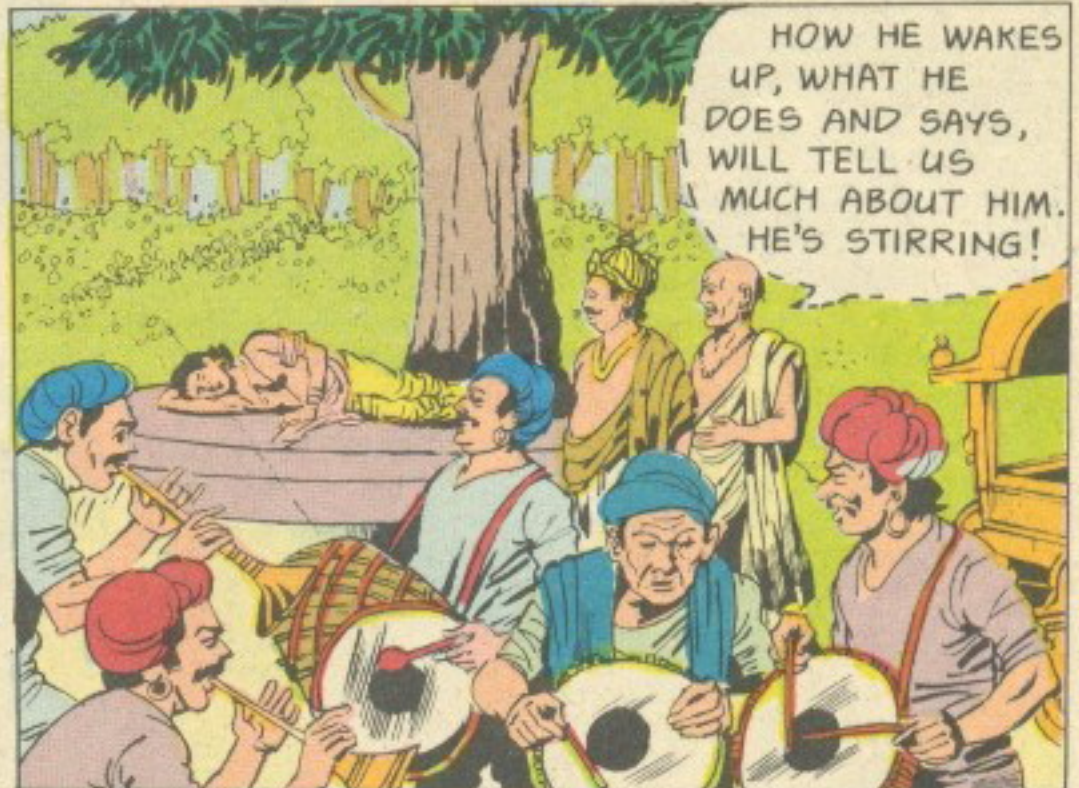
THE CHARIOT HAS NEVER FAILED US... BUT... HE'S A TOTAL STRANGER.



I HAVE AN IDEA. LET THE DRUMS BE BEATEN AND THE HORNS BE BLOWN. LET THERE BE A DEAFENING UPROAR.

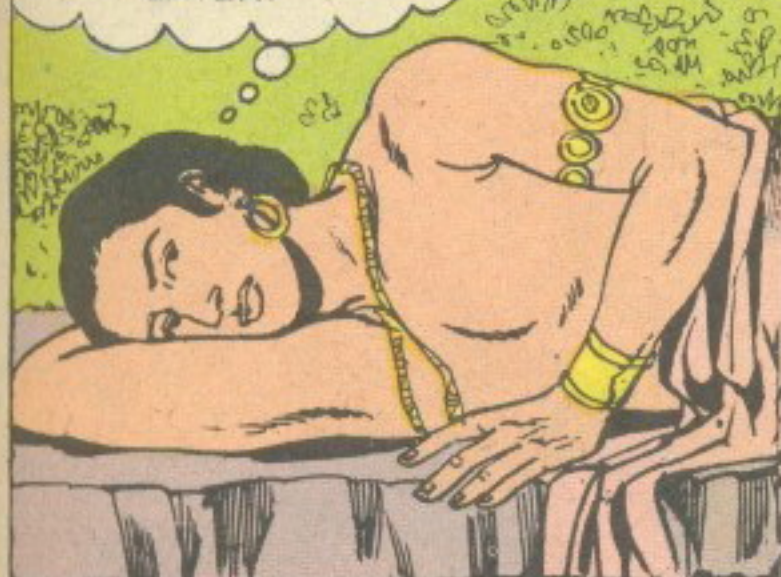


HOW HE WAKES UP, WHAT HE DOES AND SAYS, WILL TELL US MUCH ABOUT HIM. HE'S STIRRING!

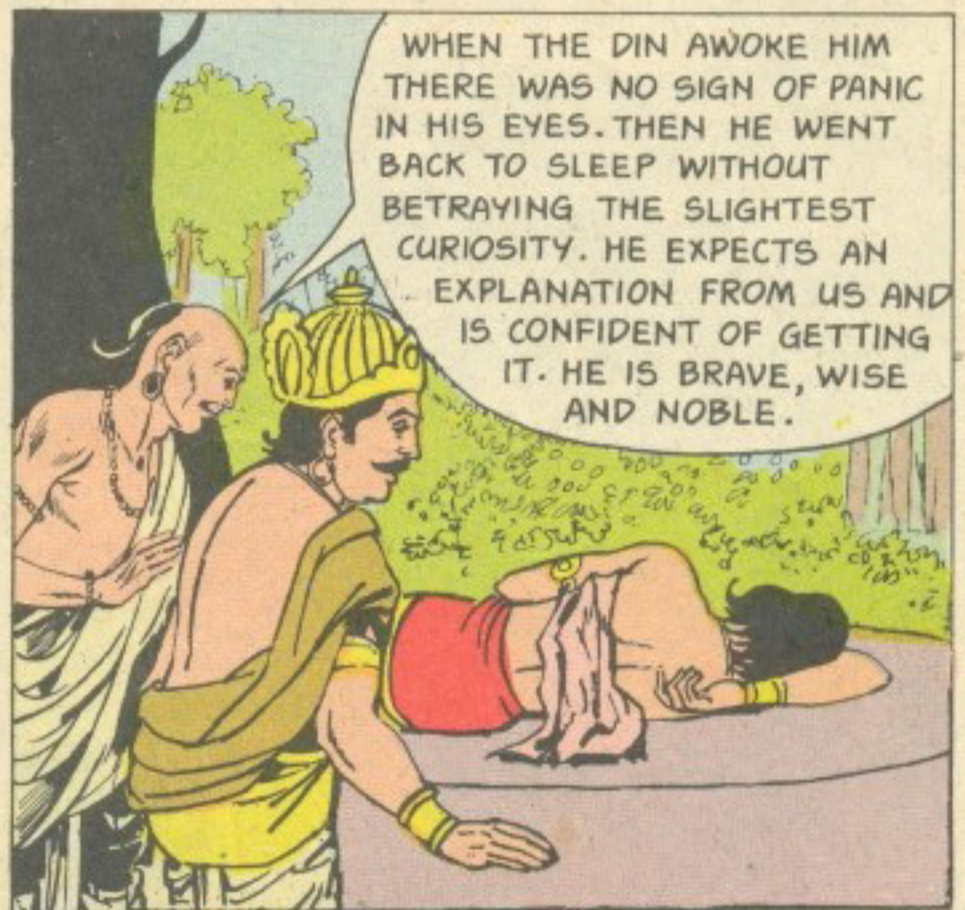


THE NOISE AROUND HIM AWOKE MAHAJANAKA.

WHAT A TERRIBLE DIN! WHY ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE? HM.M.M. I'LL KNOW SOONER OR LATER.



WHEN THE DIN AWOKE HIM THERE WAS NO SIGN OF PANIC IN HIS EYES. THEN HE WENT BACK TO SLEEP WITHOUT BETRAYING THE SLIGHTEST CURIOSITY. HE EXPECTS AN EXPLANATION FROM US AND IS CONFIDENT OF GETTING IT. HE IS BRAVE, WISE AND NOBLE.





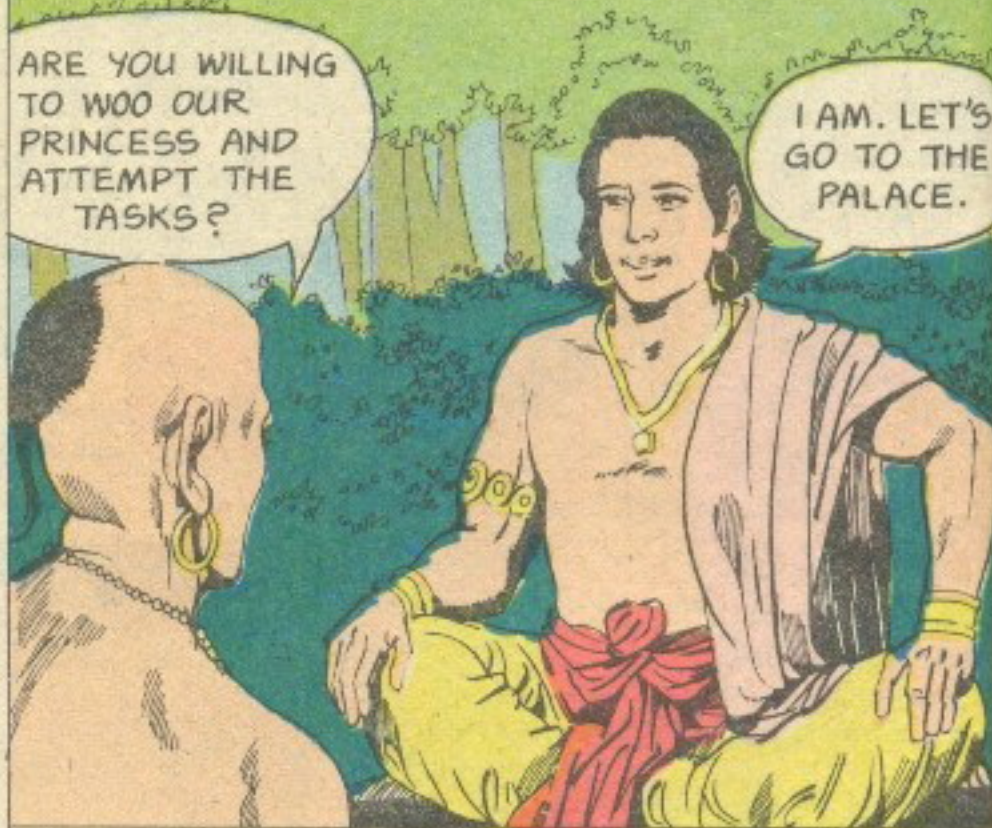
THE PRIEST CAME FORWARD.



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.



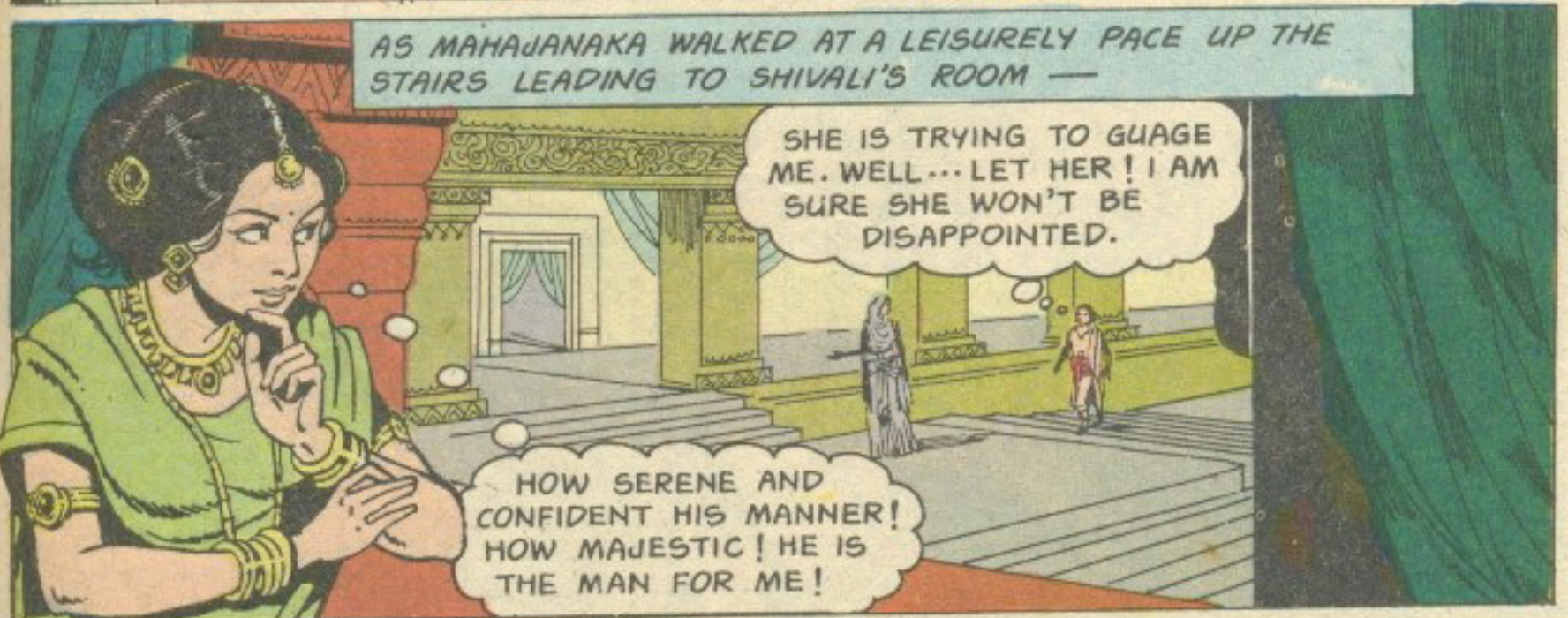
HE TOOK HIS OWN TIME TO GET UP AND WALKED SLOWLY, REGALLY TOWARDS THE PRINCESS' ROOM.

HE DELIBERATELY KEPT THE PRINCESS WAITING.



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

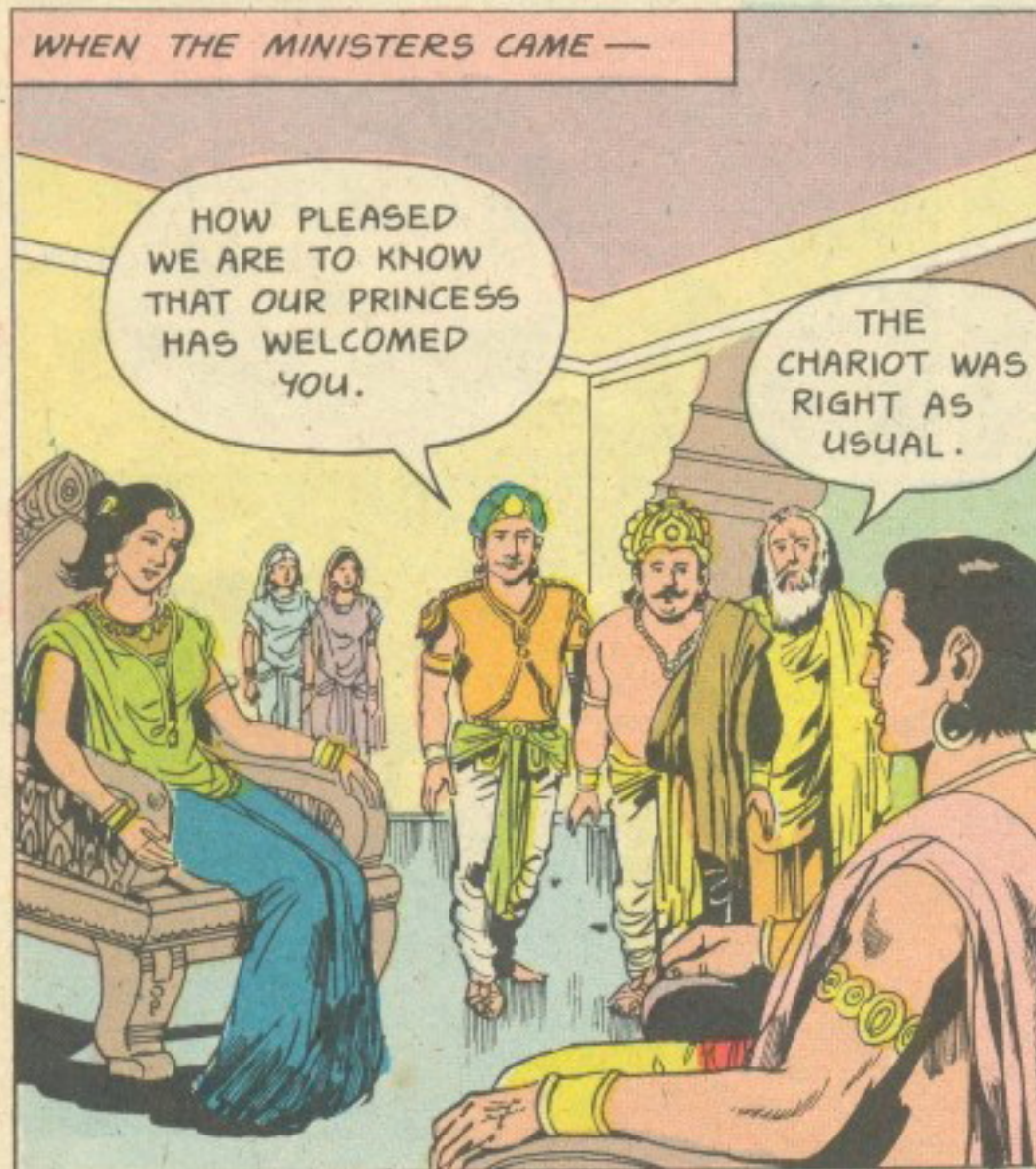
AS MAHAJANAKA WALKED AT A LEISURELY PACE UP THE STAIRS LEADING TO SHIVALI'S ROOM —



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!

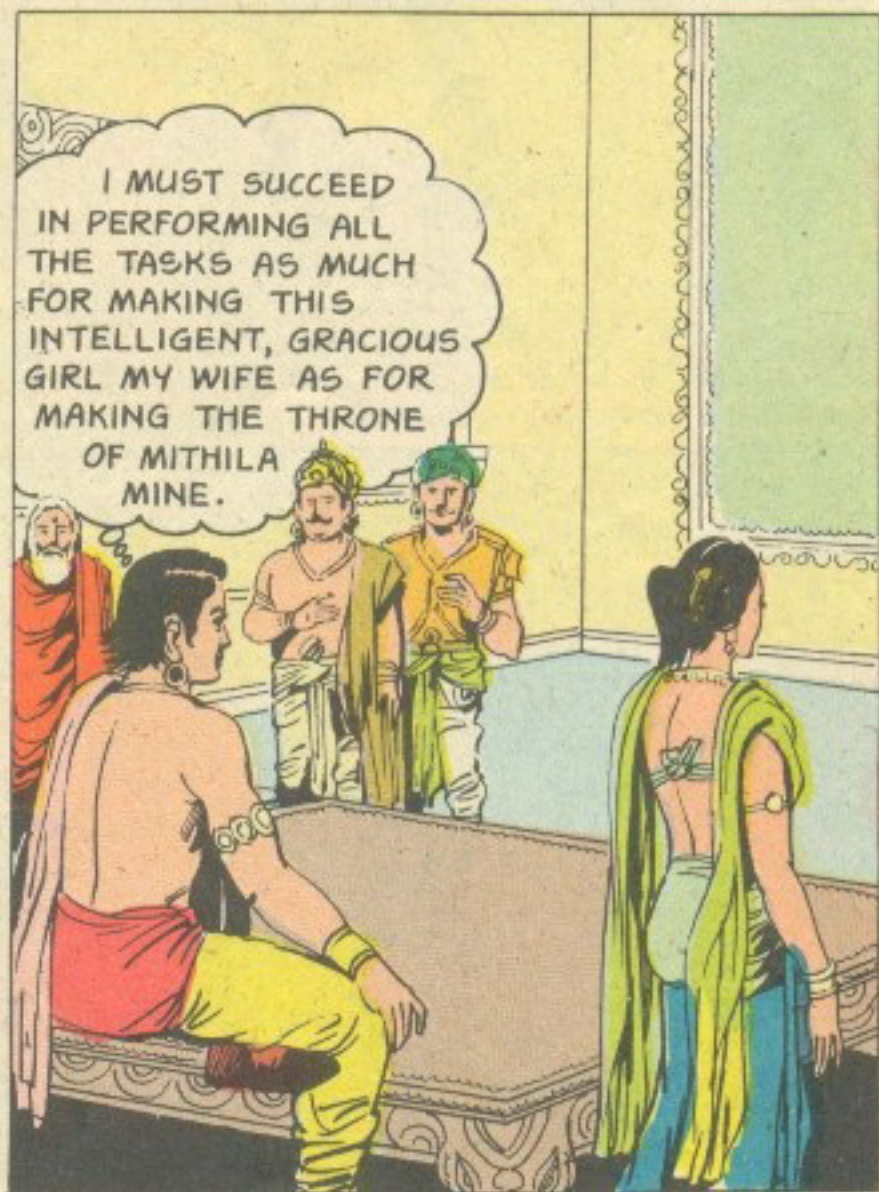








HE SAT DOWN ON THE BED AND HELD OUT A PIN.







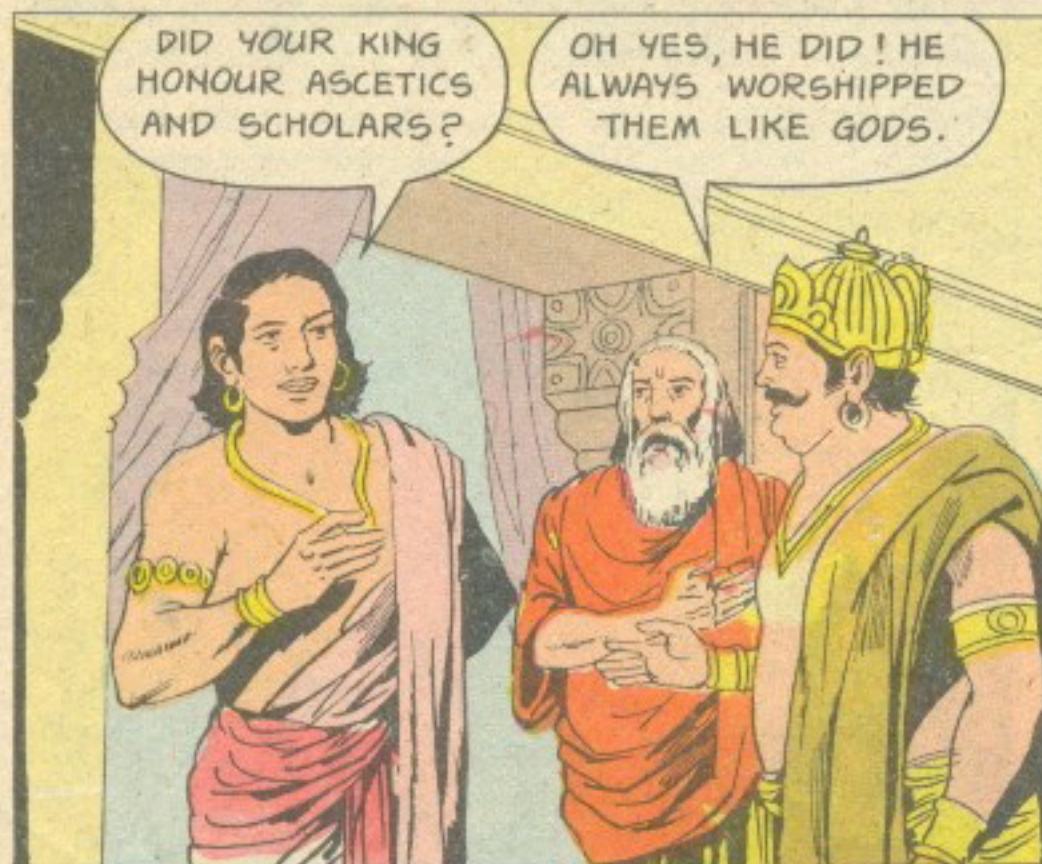
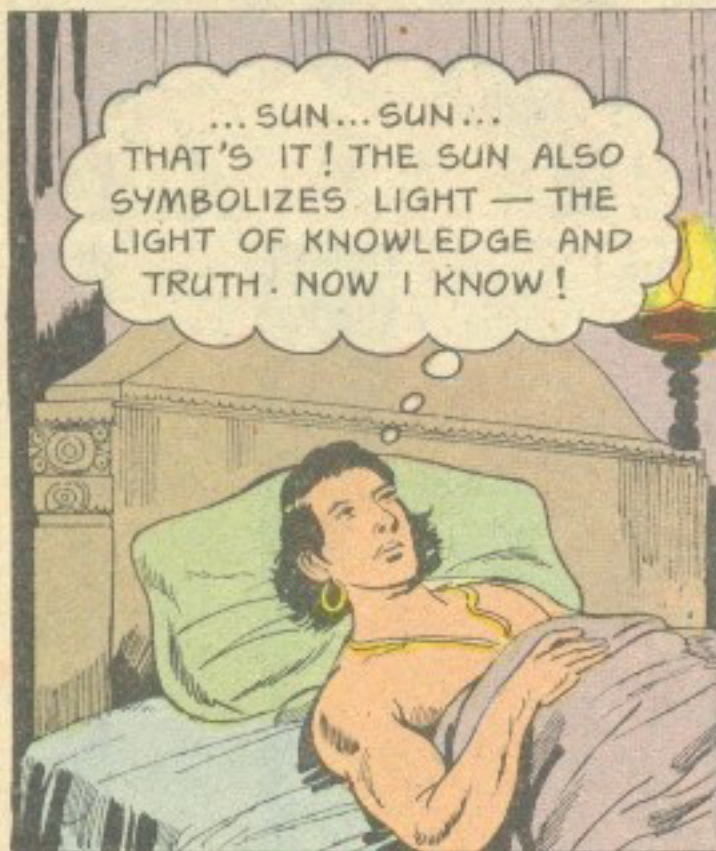
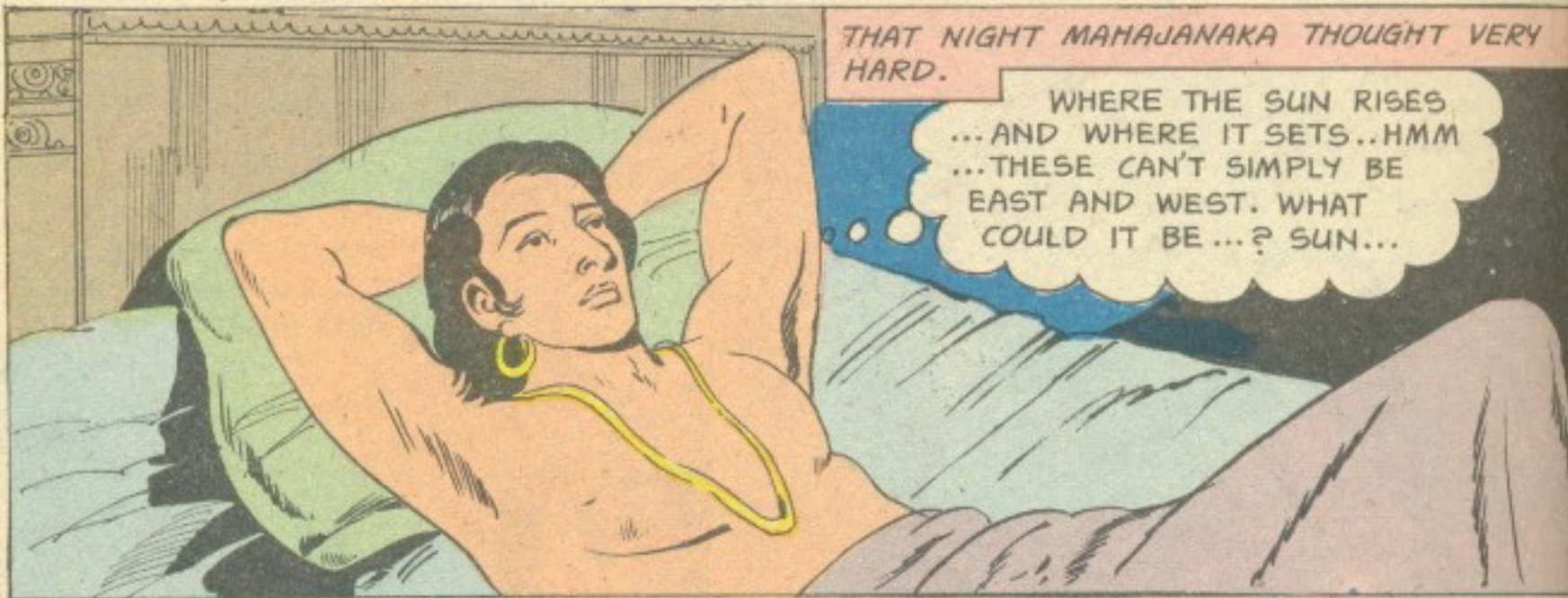
THEY WENT TO THE ARMOURY. THERE MAHAJANAKA WAS SHOWN THE BOW. HE LIFTED IT UP WITH EASE.













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.

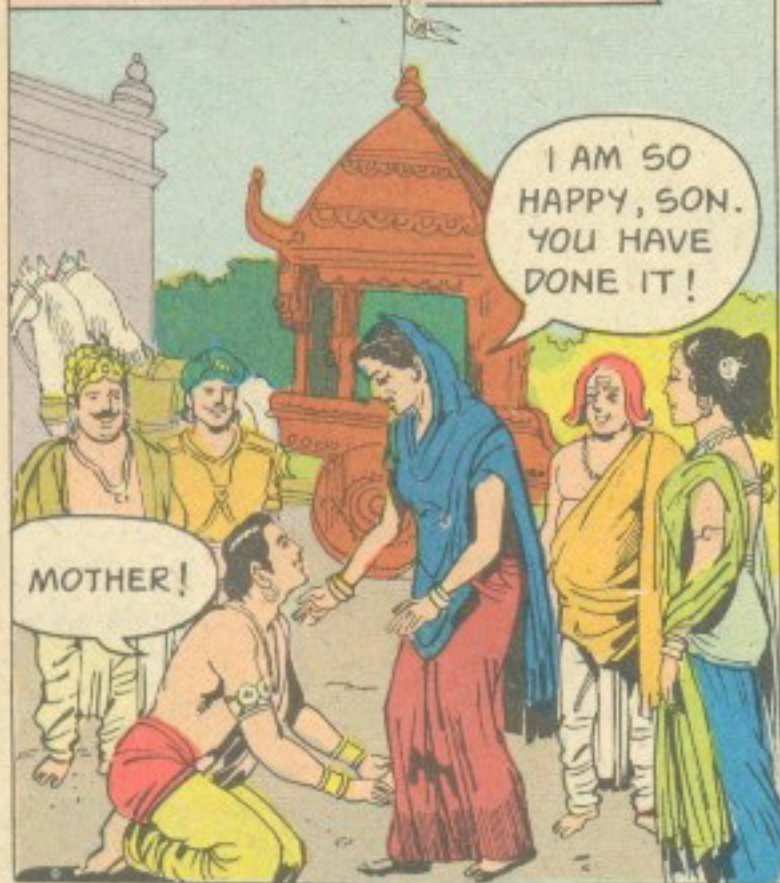
THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A WHILE.



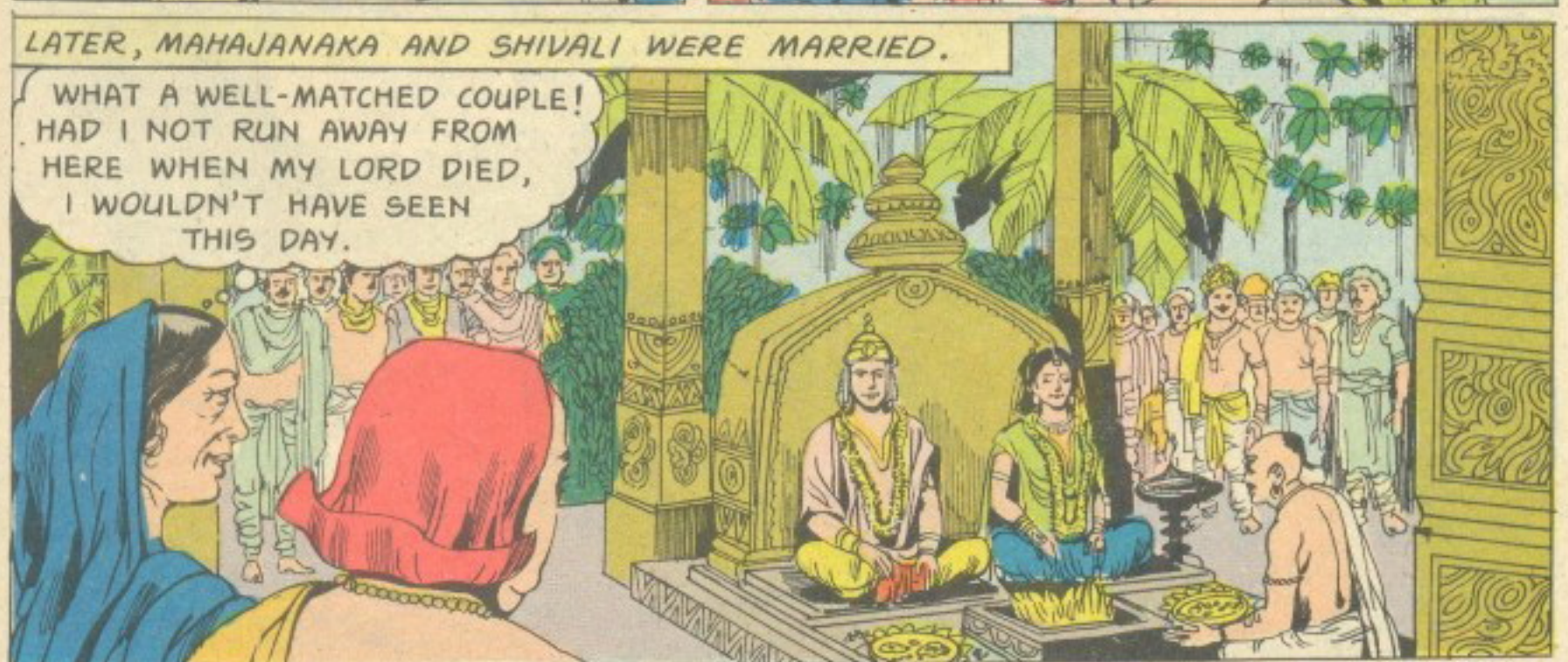
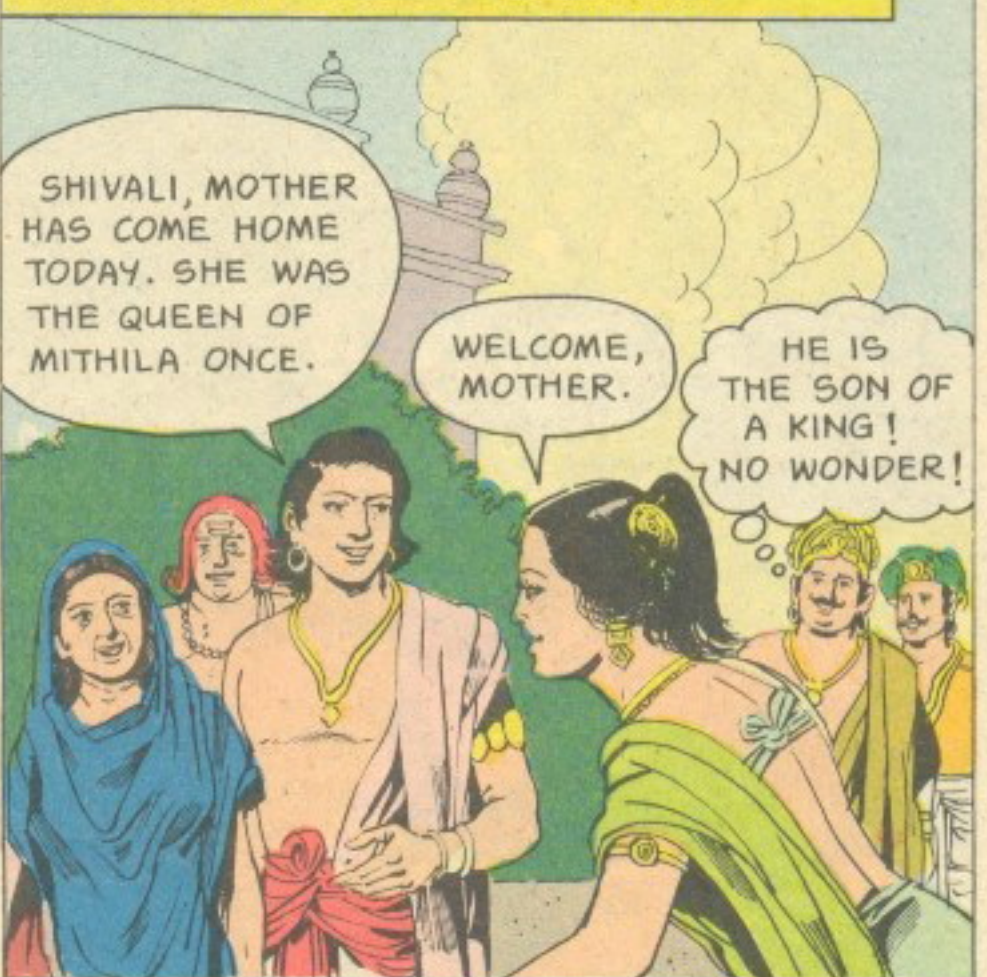




AFTER A FEW WEEKS THE BRAHMANA ARRIVED WITH MAHAJANAKA'S MOTHER.

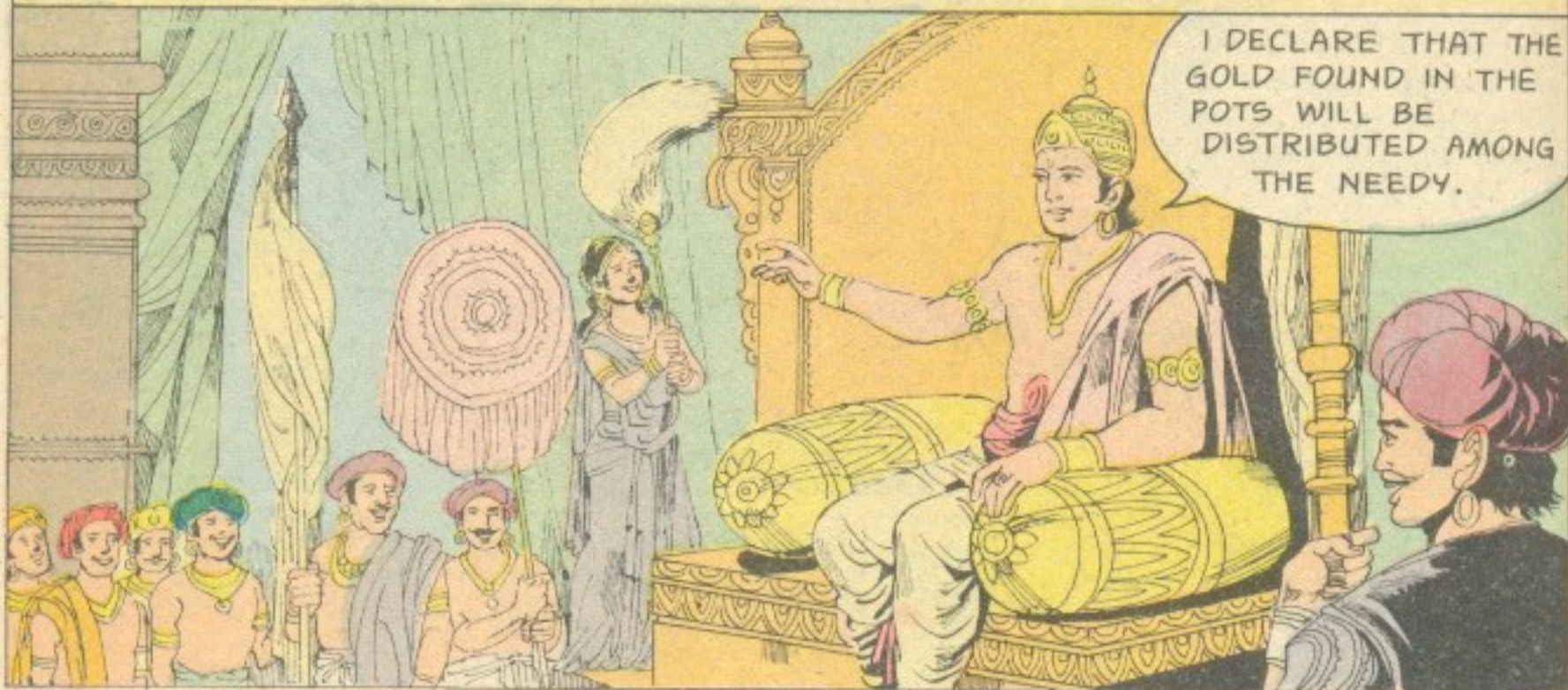


MAHAJANAKA TURNED TO SHIVALI —





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



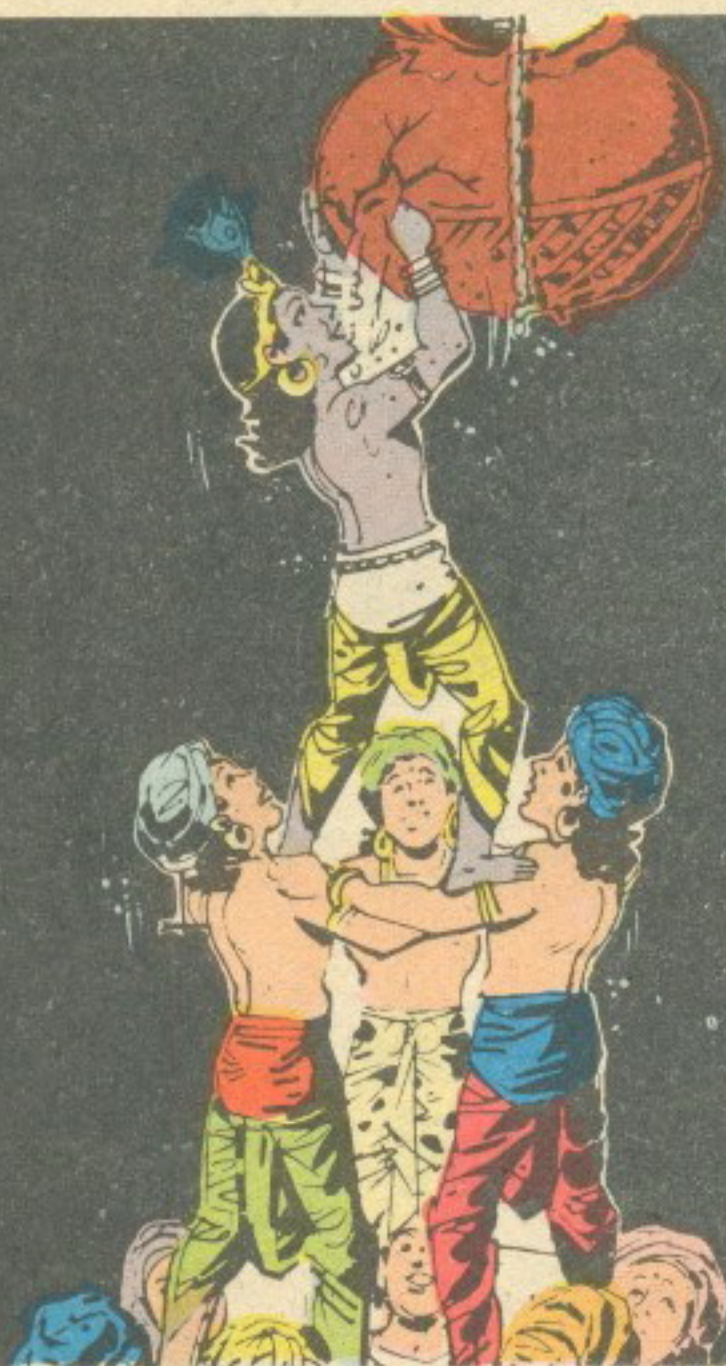
THE DECLARATION WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT JOY.



LATER —







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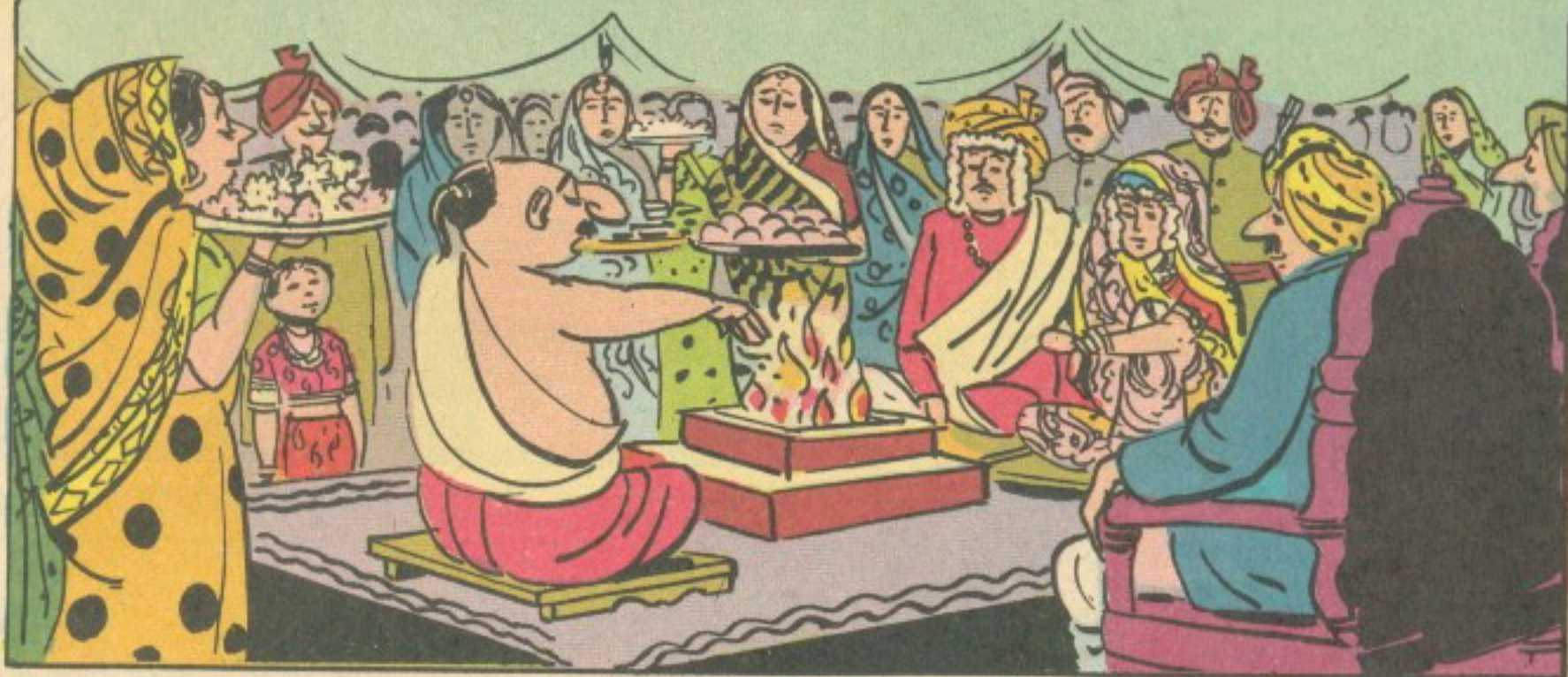
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# TRUE FRIENDS

LONG LONG AGO, DURING THE REIGN OF KING MAGADHA, A WEDDING WAS BEING CELEBRATED IN RAJAGRIHA.



WHAT A SUMPTUOUS FEAST!

AND SUCH POMP AND CEREMONY!

AND WHY NOT? AFTER ALL THE GROOM'S FATHER IS THE RICHEST MERCHANT IN TOWN.

THE BRIDE WAS DEMURE AND BEAUTIFUL.

HOW LOVELY SHE LOOKS!

THE SETH OF JANAPAD HAS GIVEN SUCH GENEROUS GIFTS TO HIS DAUGHTER.

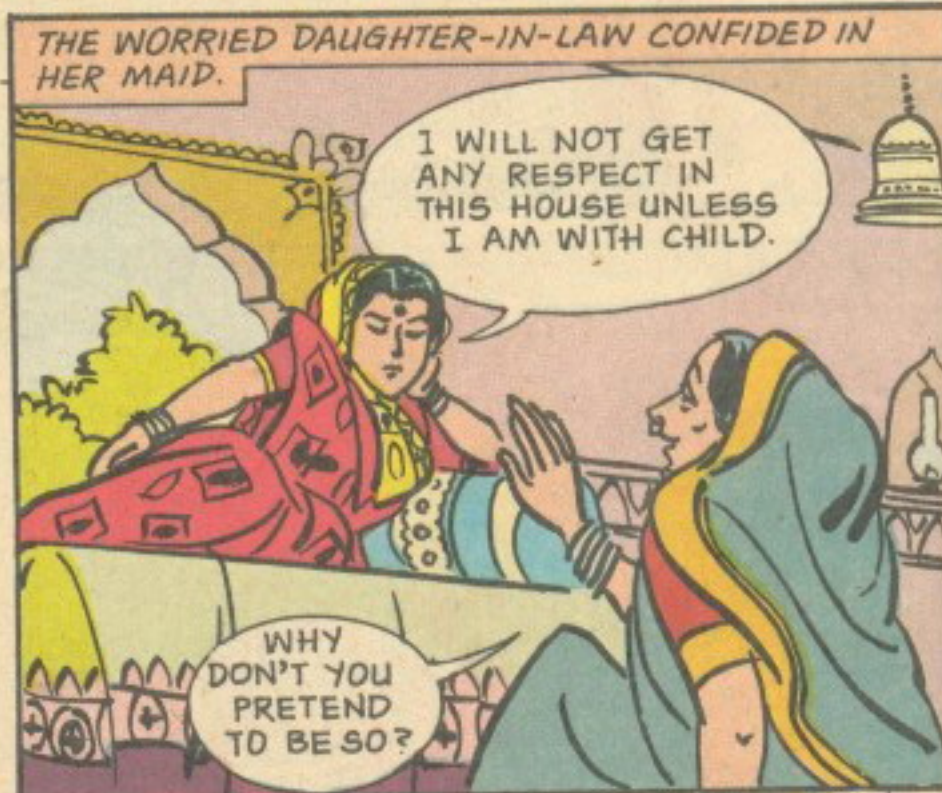
AT FIRST, THE BRIDE WAS TREATED WITH TENDERNESS.

NO! DON'T DO ANY WORK. YOUR LOVELY HANDS WILL BE SPOILT.

BUT A FEW MONTHS LATER—

DON'T SIT THERE DREAMING. CAN'T YOU LEND A HAND IN THE HOUSEWORK?







SHE SET OUT ON HER JOURNEY WITH HER PERSONAL MAID AND AN ATTENDANT.

THERE'S A CARAVAN AHEAD OF US!

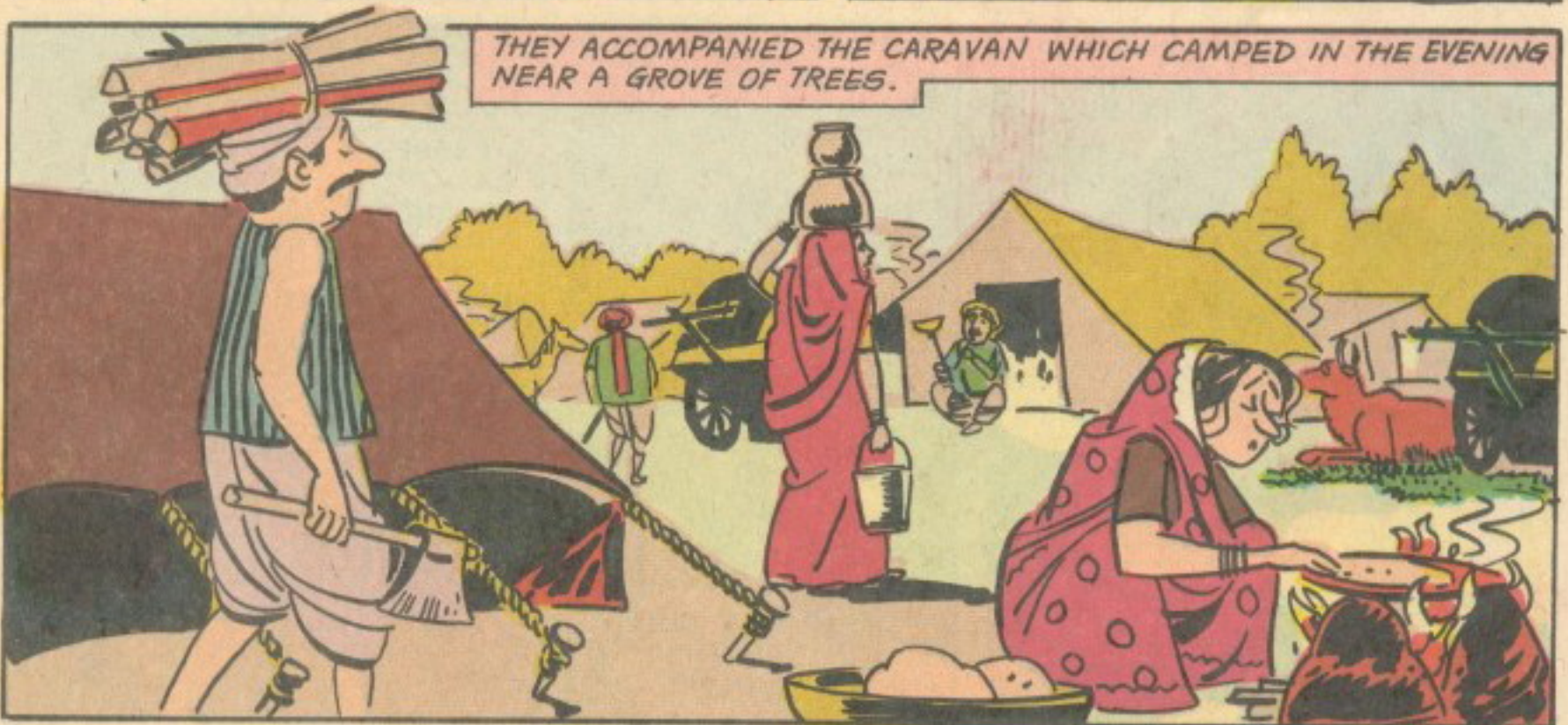


LET'S TRY TO GO WITH THEM.

YES, IT IS SAFER TO TRAVEL WITH A GROUP.

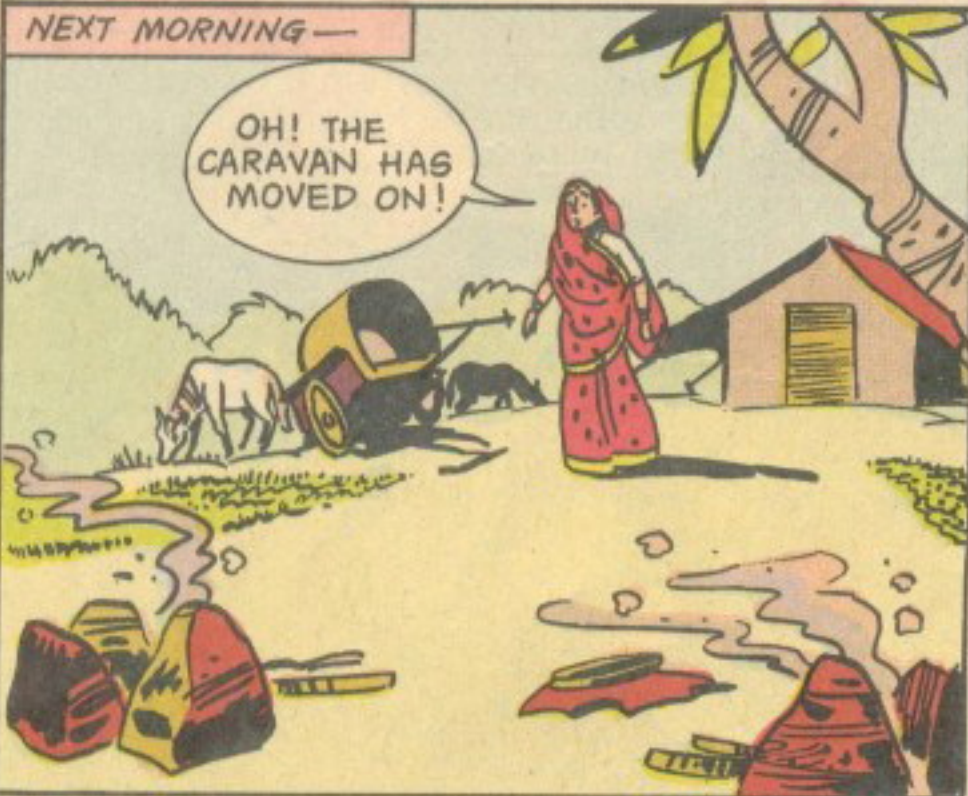


THEY ACCOMPANIED THE CARAVAN WHICH CAMPED IN THE EVENING NEAR A GROVE OF TREES.



NEXT MORNING —

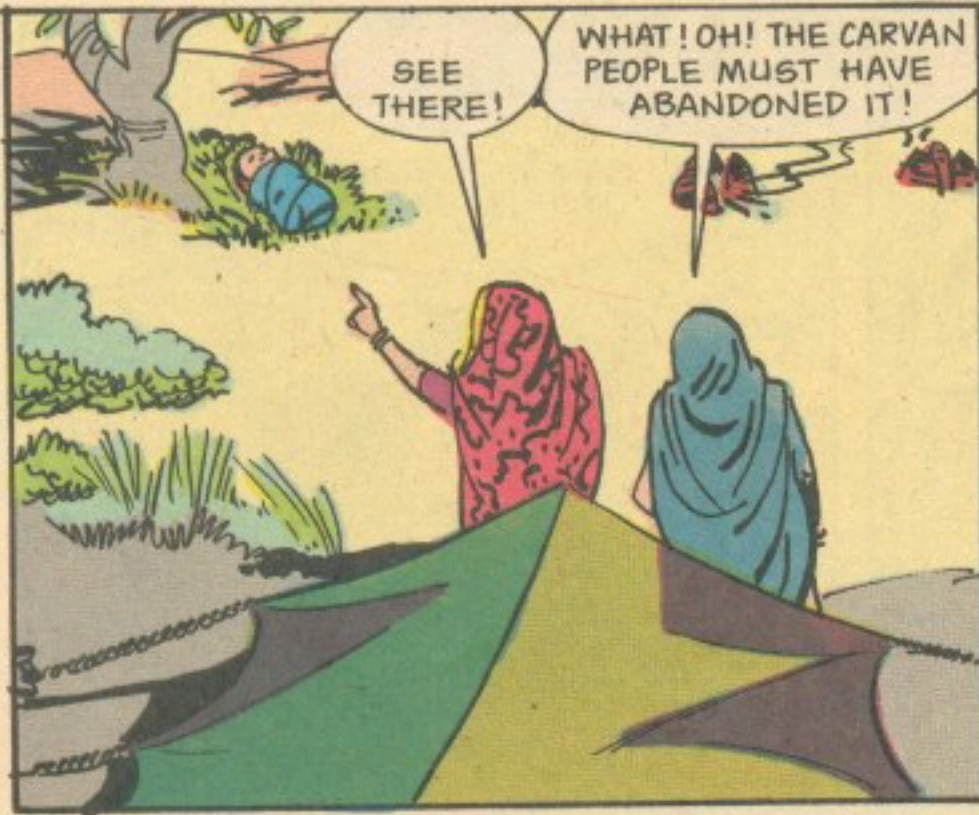
OH! THE CARAVAN HAS MOVED ON!



WHAT'S THIS? A NEW-BORN BABY!



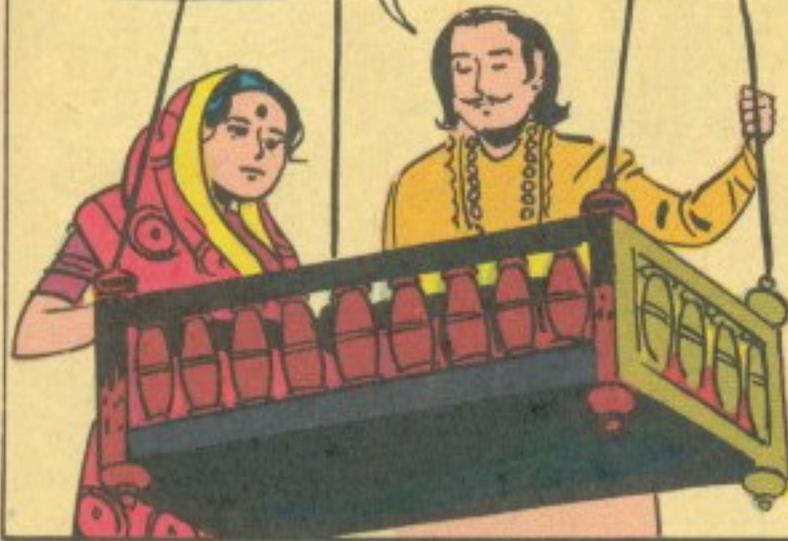






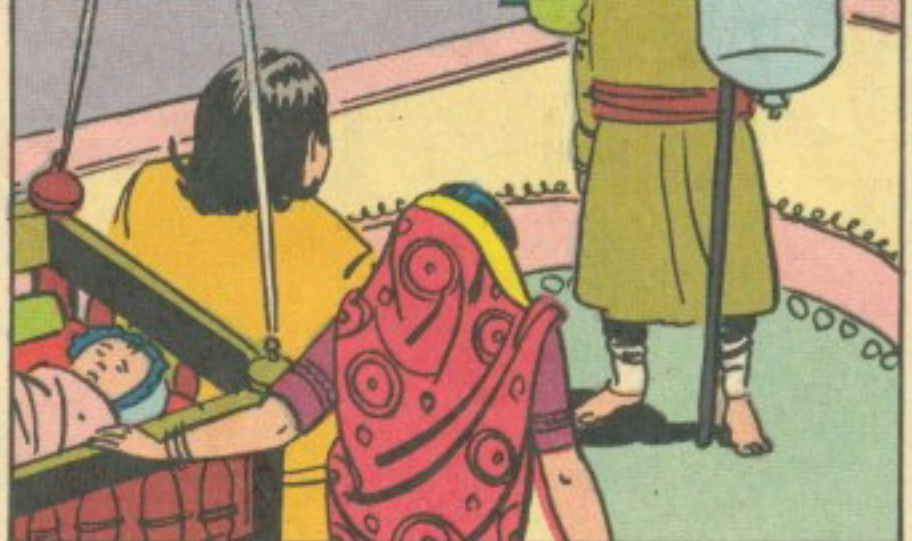
AT THE NAMING CEREMONY—

SINCE THE BOY WAS BORN UNDER A NIGRODHA\* TREE, WE SHALL CALL HIM NIGRODHA KUMAR.



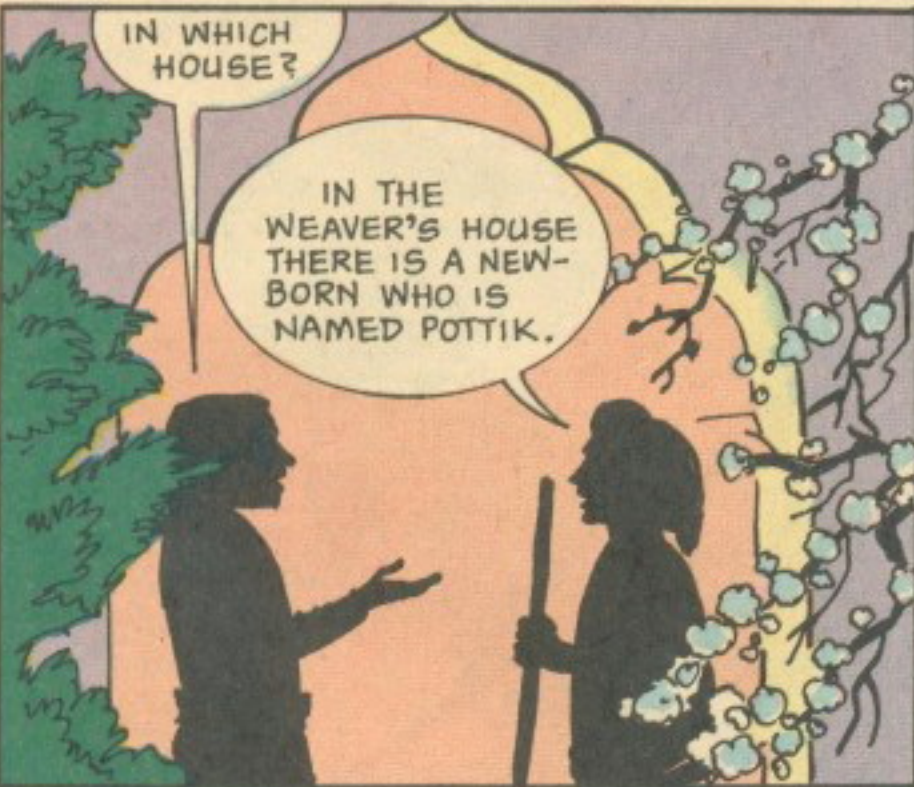
JUST THEN—

OH, SIR, TWO MORE BOYS WERE BORN IN OUR CITY ON THE SAME DAY AS OUR YOUNG MASTER.

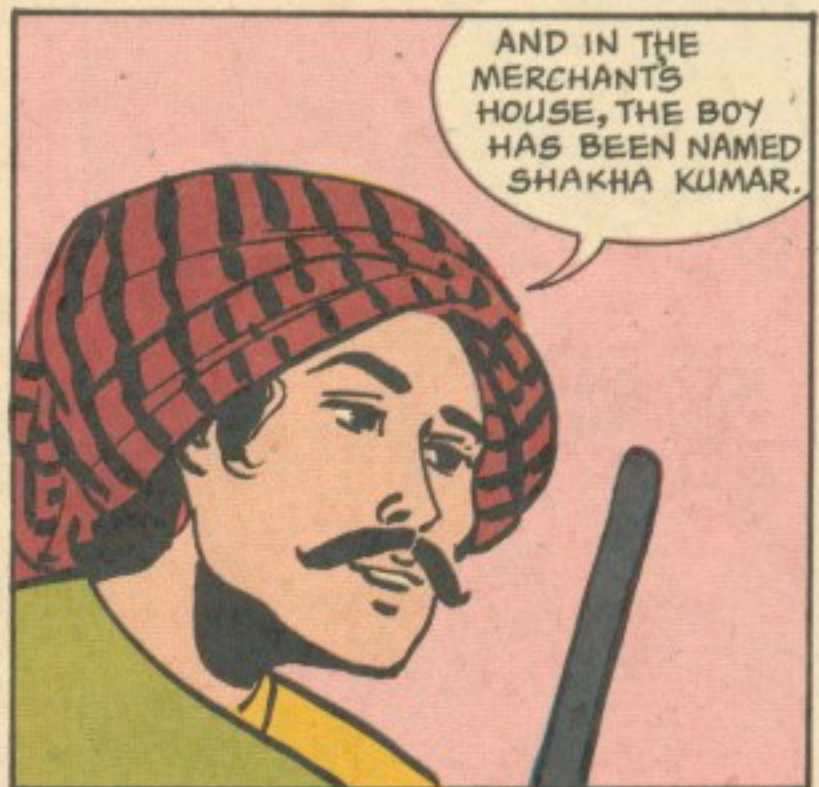


IN WHICH HOUSE?

IN THE WEAVER'S HOUSE THERE IS A NEW-BORN WHO IS NAMED POTTIK.



AND IN THE MERCHANT'S HOUSE, THE BOY HAS BEEN NAMED SHAKHA KUMAR.

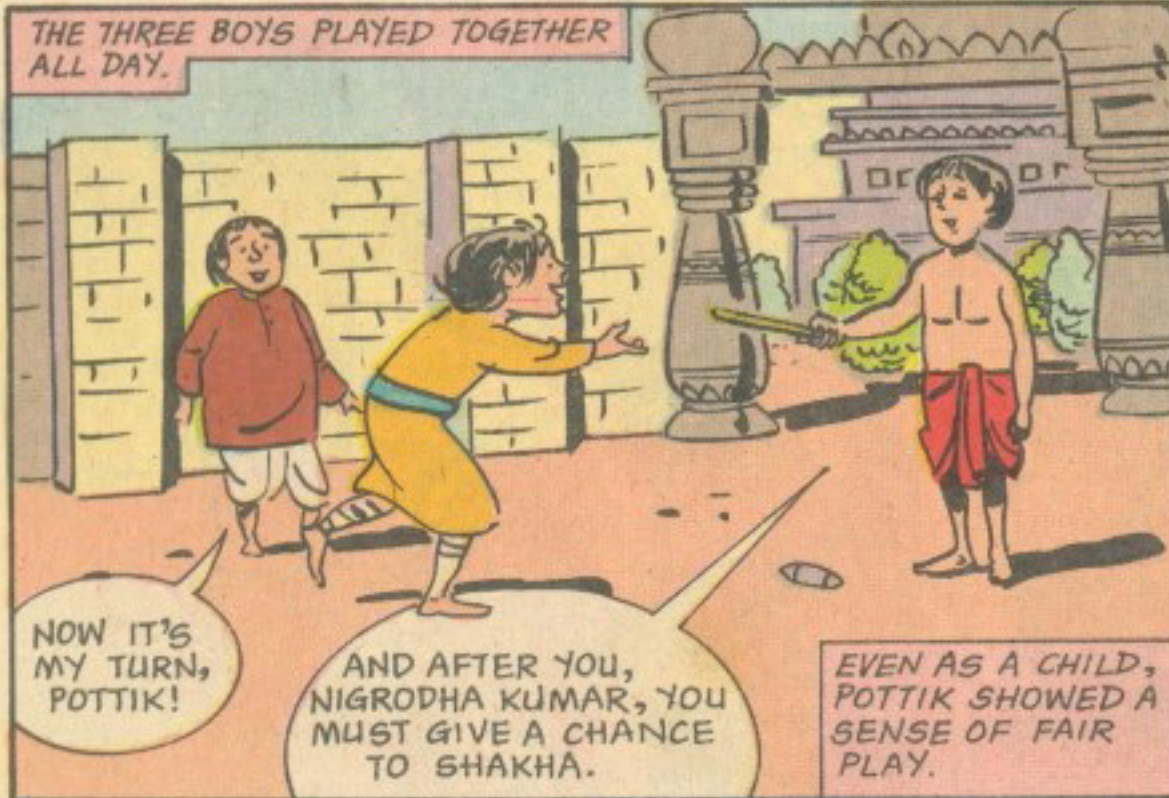


LET THEM BE BROUGHT HERE! THEY WILL BE GOOD COMPANY FOR MY SON.





THE THREE BOYS PLAYED TOGETHER ALL DAY.



NOW IT'S MY TURN, POTTIK!

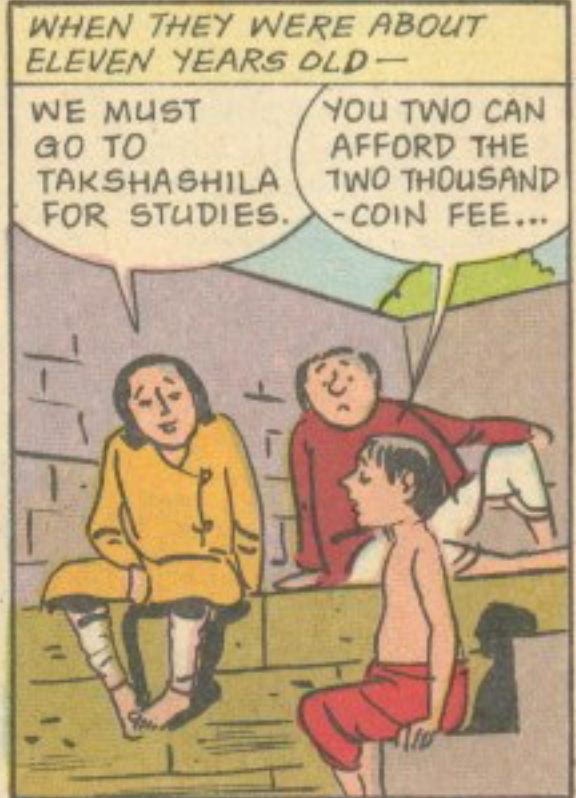
AND AFTER YOU, NIGRODHA KUMAR, YOU MUST GIVE A CHANCE TO SHAKHA.

EVEN AS A CHILD, POTTIK SHOWED A SENSE OF FAIR PLAY.

WHEN THEY WERE ABOUT ELEVEN YEARS OLD—

WE MUST GO TO TAKSHASHILA FOR STUDIES.

YOU TWO CAN AFFORD THE TWO THOUSAND-COIN FEE...



... BUT MY POOR FATHER IS JUST A WEAVER. I CANNOT GO WITH YOU.

YES, YOU CAN



I SPOKE TO MY FATHER AND HE HAS AGREED TO PAY FOR YOUR STUDIES TOO.

HOW GOOD OF HIM.



WHILE STUDYING TOGETHER AT TAKSHASHILA—

HOW TIME HAS FLOWN!

OUR STUDIES ARE OVER!

WE CAN GO HOME.



NO! I THINK WE SHOULD TRAVEL A WHILE.

HMM... A GOOD IDEA!

YES, TRAVEL WILL BROADEN OUR MINDS.

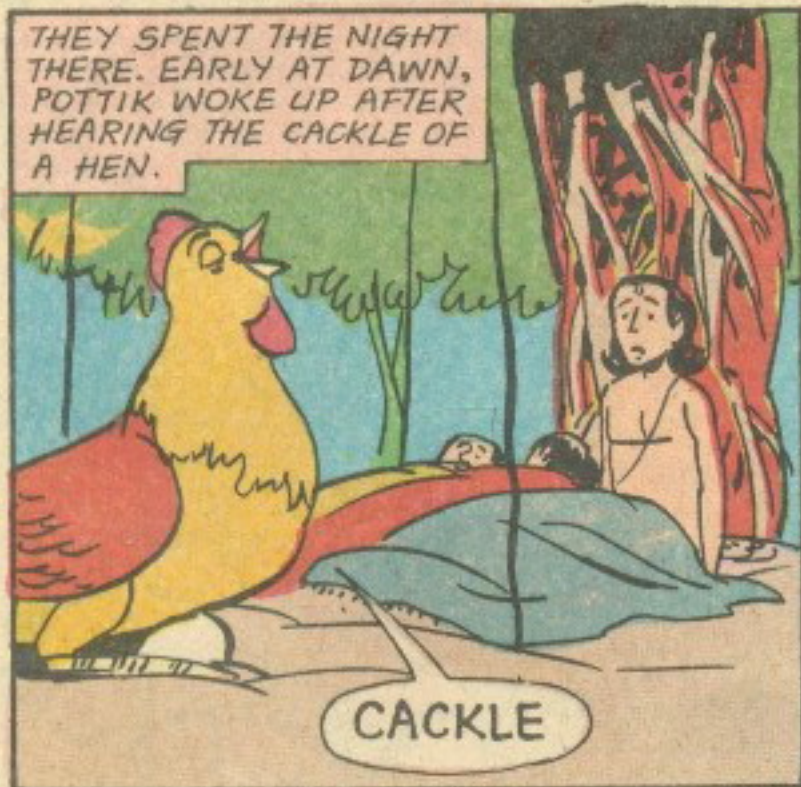




WHILE ROAMING FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER, THEY REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF VARANASI.



THEY SPENT THE NIGHT THERE. EARLY AT DAWN, POTTIK WOKE UP AFTER HEARING THE CACKLE OF A HEN.



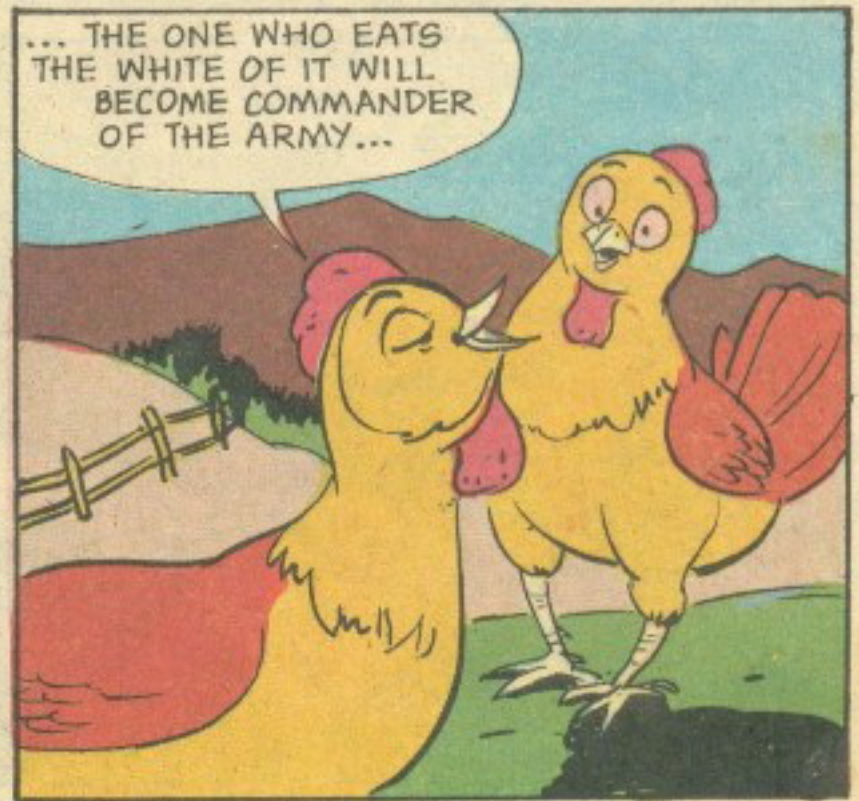
WHY ARE YOU CACKLING SO LOUDLY OVER AN EGG?



BECAUSE THIS ONE IS NOT AN ORDINARY EGG. THE ONE WHO EATS THE YOLK OF IT IS DESTINED TO BE A KING...



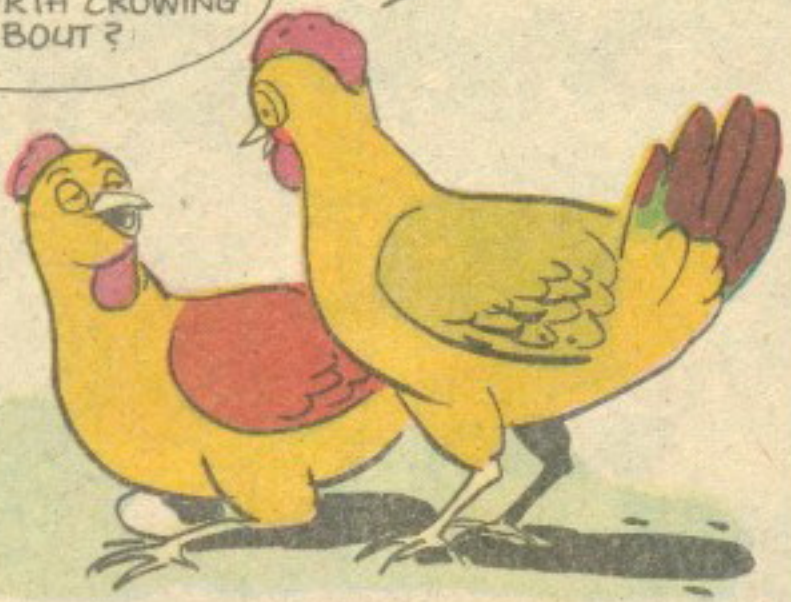
... THE ONE WHO EATS THE WHITE OF IT WILL BECOME COMMANDER OF THE ARMY...





... AND THE ONE WHO EATS THE SHELL WILL BECOME A TREASURER. WELL, ISN'T SUCH AN EGG WORTH CROWING ABOUT?

YES, I AGREE.



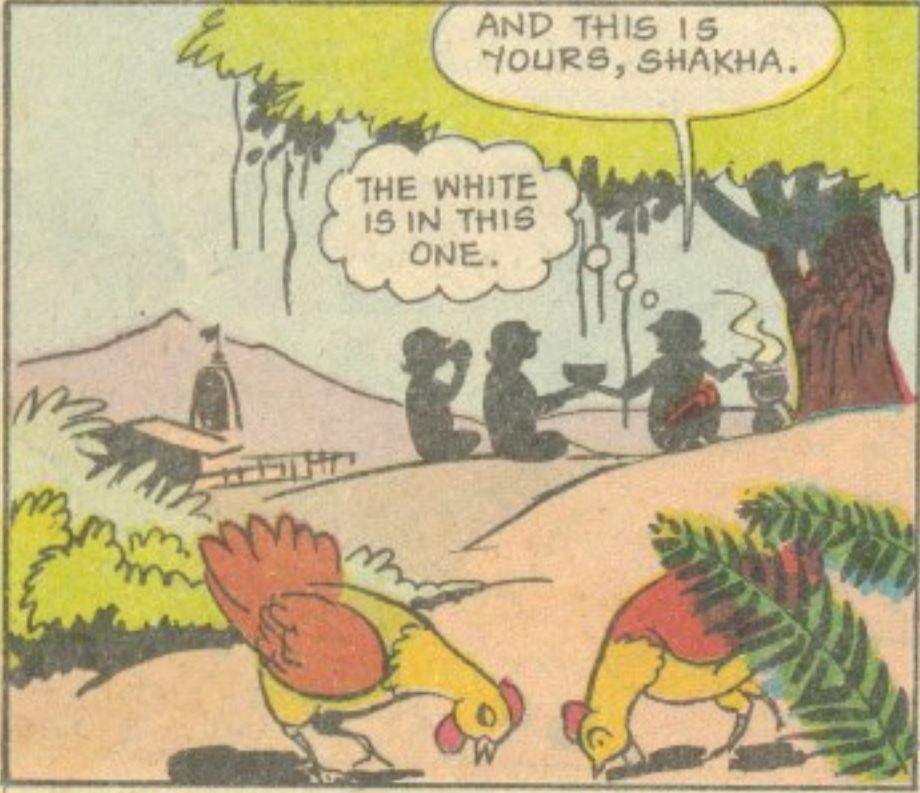
I MUST TRY TO FIND OUT WHETHER THERE IS ANY TRUTH IN WHAT THE HEN SAID.



WHEN THE HENS MOVED AWAY, POTTIK QUIETLY PICKED UP THE EGG.



CAREFULLY HE SEPARATED THE PARTS OF THE EGG AND MIXED THEM IN THE BREAKFAST PORRIDGE.





WHEN THEY HAD FINISHED EATING—

NOW IF WHAT THE HEN SAID IS TRUE, YOU WILL BECOME A KING SOON, NIGRODHA. SHAKHA WILL BECOME THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY AND I THE TREASURER.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I HEARD THE HEN THAT LAID THIS EGG SAY TO ANOTHER HEN THAT THIS EGG HAS MIRACULOUS EFFECTS.

POTTIK REPEATED WHAT HE HAD HEARD.

BUT WE HAVEN'T EATEN ANY PART OF THE EGG.

YES, YOU HAVE. I SEPARATED THE PARTS AND SERVED THEM TO EACH OF YOU.

I GAVE THE YOLK TO NIGRODHA, THE WHITE TO SHAKHA AND I ATE THE SHELL MYSELF.

SHAKHA WAS UNHAPPY BUT KEPT SILENT.

WHO IS HE TO DECIDE? HE SHOULD HAVE GIVEN THE YOLK TO ME. I'LL TEACH HIM A LESSON ONE DAY.

HE PRETENDED THAT HE WAS NOT HURT.

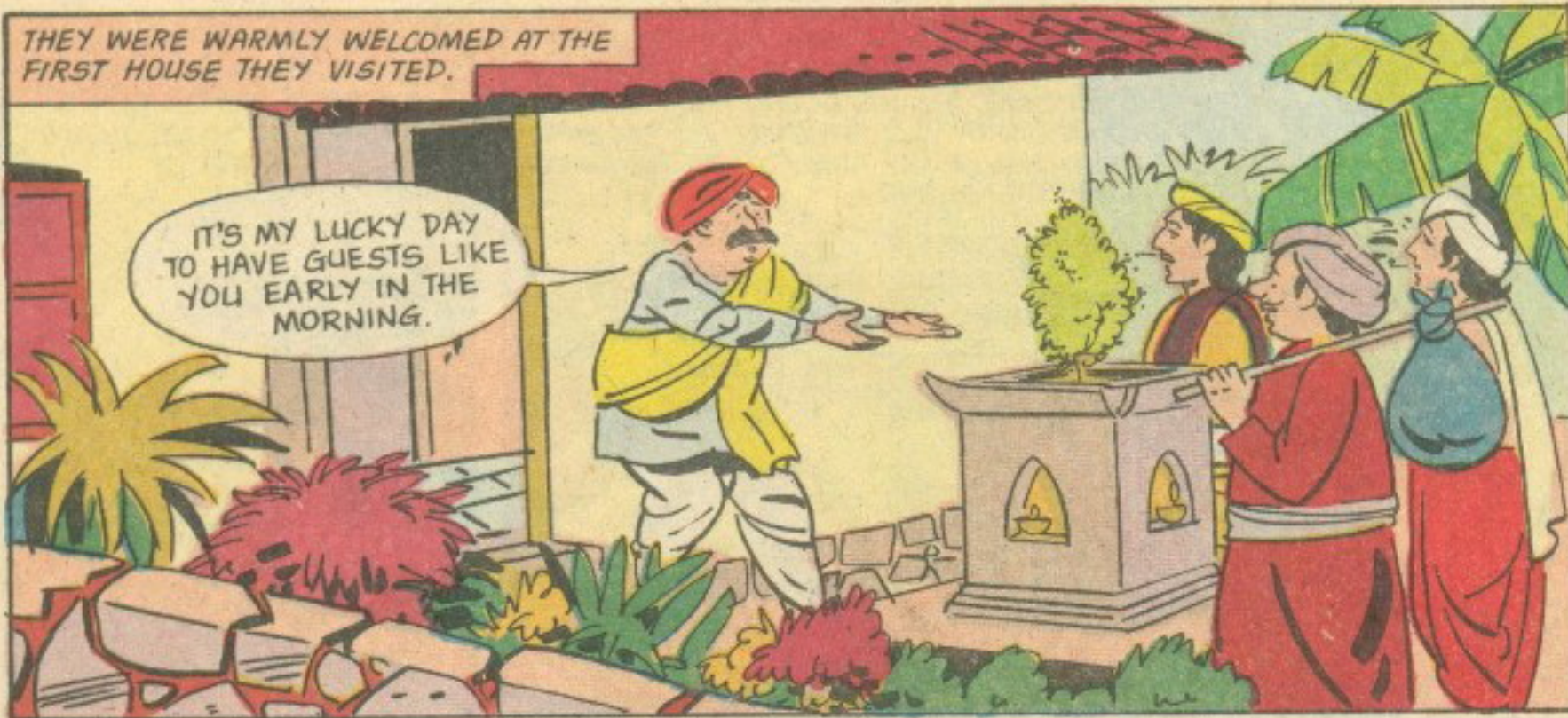
WELL, LET'S SEE WHAT THE FUTURE BRINGS US.

LET'S GO INTO THE TOWN OF VARANASI.





THEY WERE WARMLY WELCOMED AT THE FIRST HOUSE THEY VISITED.

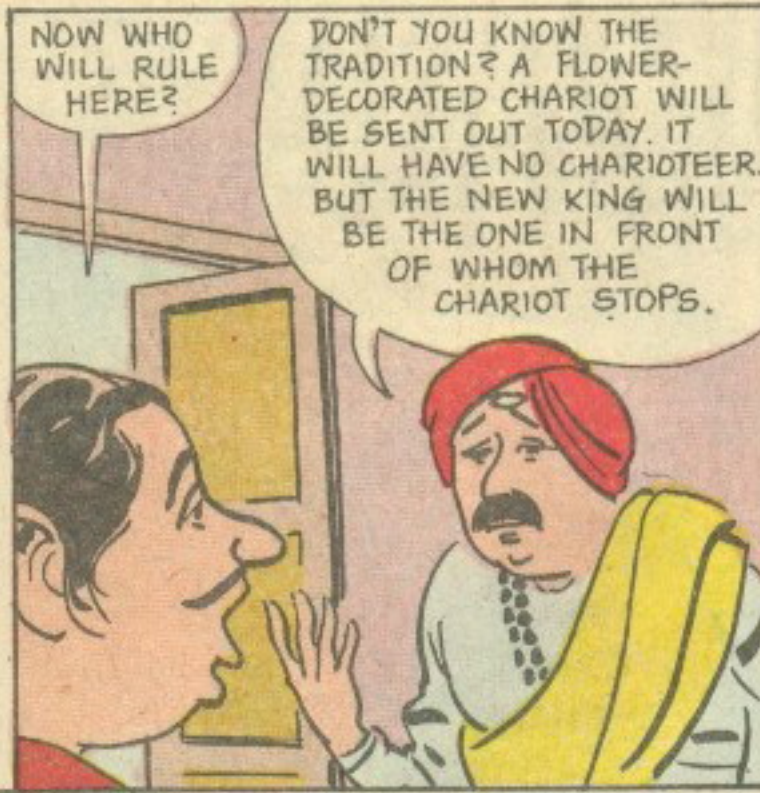


IT'S BEEN SEVEN DAYS SINCE OUR CHILDLESS KING DIED.



NOW WHO WILL RULE HERE?

DON'T YOU KNOW THE TRADITION? A FLOWER-DECORATED CHARIOT WILL BE SENT OUT TODAY. IT WILL HAVE NO CHARIOTEER. BUT THE NEW KING WILL BE THE ONE IN FRONT OF WHOM THE CHARIOT STOPS.



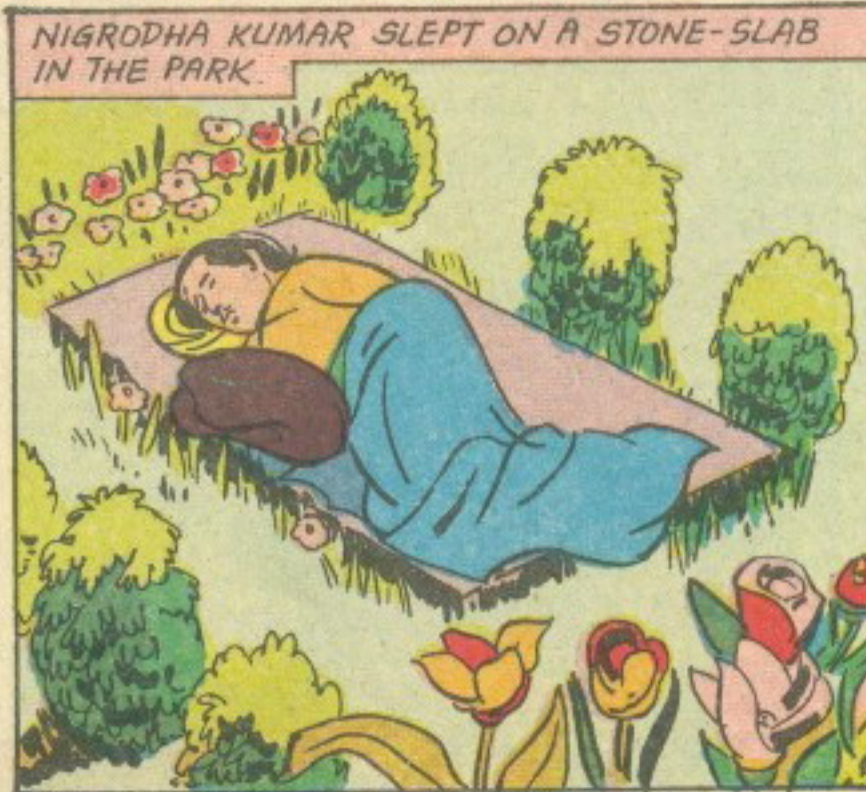
THE THREE YOUNG MEN THANKED THEIR HOST FOR THE MEAL AND SET OUT. AFTER ROAMING FOR A WHILE —

LET'S REST IN THE PARK.

IT'S COOL THERE.



NIGRODHA KUMAR SLEPT ON A STONE-SLAB IN THE PARK.





THE OTHER TWO SLEPT  
ON THE BROAD STEPS  
OUTSIDE THE PARK.



THEY DID NOT EVEN HEAR THE APPROACHING  
HUBBUB.

HURRAY! THE  
FLORAL CHARIOT  
IS HERE!

LET'S FOLLOW  
IT AND SEE WHERE  
IT STOPS.



AN EXCITED MOB FOLLOWED THE  
DECORATED CHARIOT.



AT THE  
ENTRANCE  
OF THE  
PARK—

LOOK! THE HORSE  
WANTS TO ASCEND  
THOSE STEPS.

THE HORSE  
HAS STOPPED!

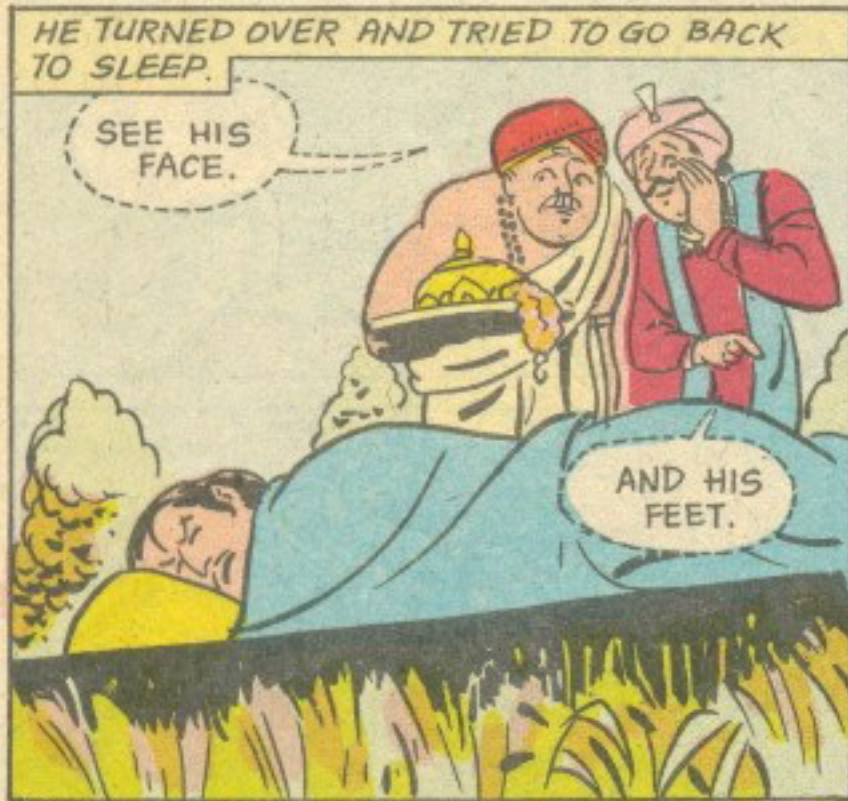


THERE MUST BE SOME  
WORTHY SOUL IN THE  
PARK. LET ME SEE.

AH! WHAT  
A NOBLE  
FACE THIS  
YOUNG MAN  
HAS.

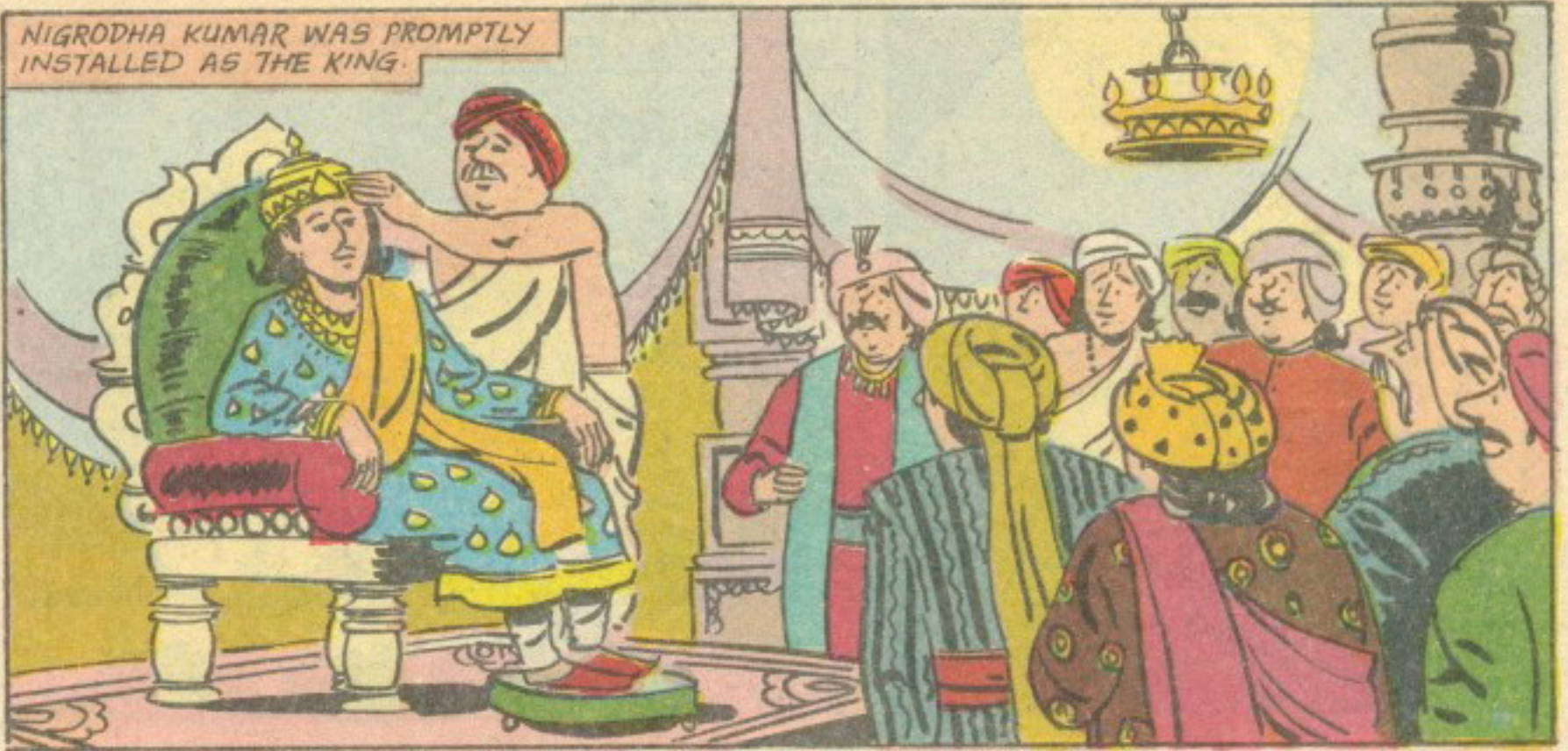








NIGRODHA KUMAR WAS PROMPTLY  
INSTALLED AS THE KING.



I NAME SHAKHA  
KUMAR AS MY  
COMMANDER-IN-  
CHIEF.

POTTIK, YOU MUST  
STAY WITH ME AS  
MY CONSTANT  
COMPANION.

VERY WELL,  
O KING!



THE THREE FRIENDS BEGAN TO LIVE IN  
LUXURY IN THE PALACE. ONE DAY —

I MISS  
MY FATHER  
AND MOTHER.



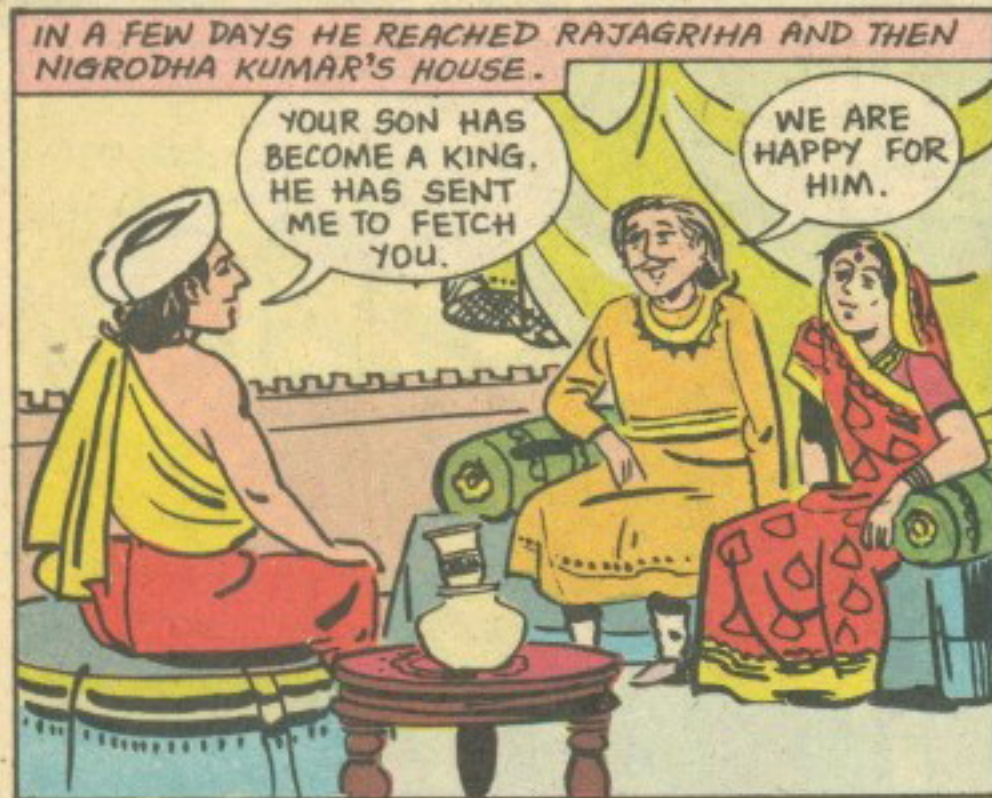
HE TURNED TO  
SHAKHA —

WILL YOU  
GO AND  
FETCH THEM  
HERE?

NO, I CANNOT LEAVE  
MY SOLDIERS NOW.  
I'M NEEDED HERE.









POTTIK THEN WENT TO HIS OWN HOUSE.

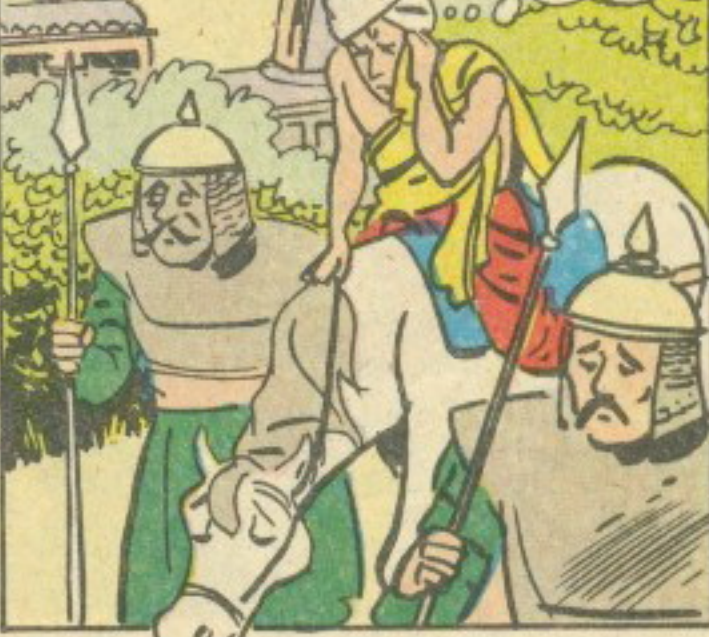
COME WITH ME TO VARANASI.

NO, SON! OUR PLACE IS HERE.

WE CANNOT COME WITH YOU.

WITH A HEAVY HEART POTTIK RETURNED TO VARANASI.

OH! WHAT A JOURNEY. I AM SO TIRED.



POTTIK HAD SPENT ALL HIS MONEY BY THEN.

HERE'S SHAKHA'S HOUSE. I'LL REST HERE AND REFRESH MYSELF BEFORE GOING TO THE PALACE.

TELL YOUR MASTER THAT HIS FRIEND POTTIK IS HERE.



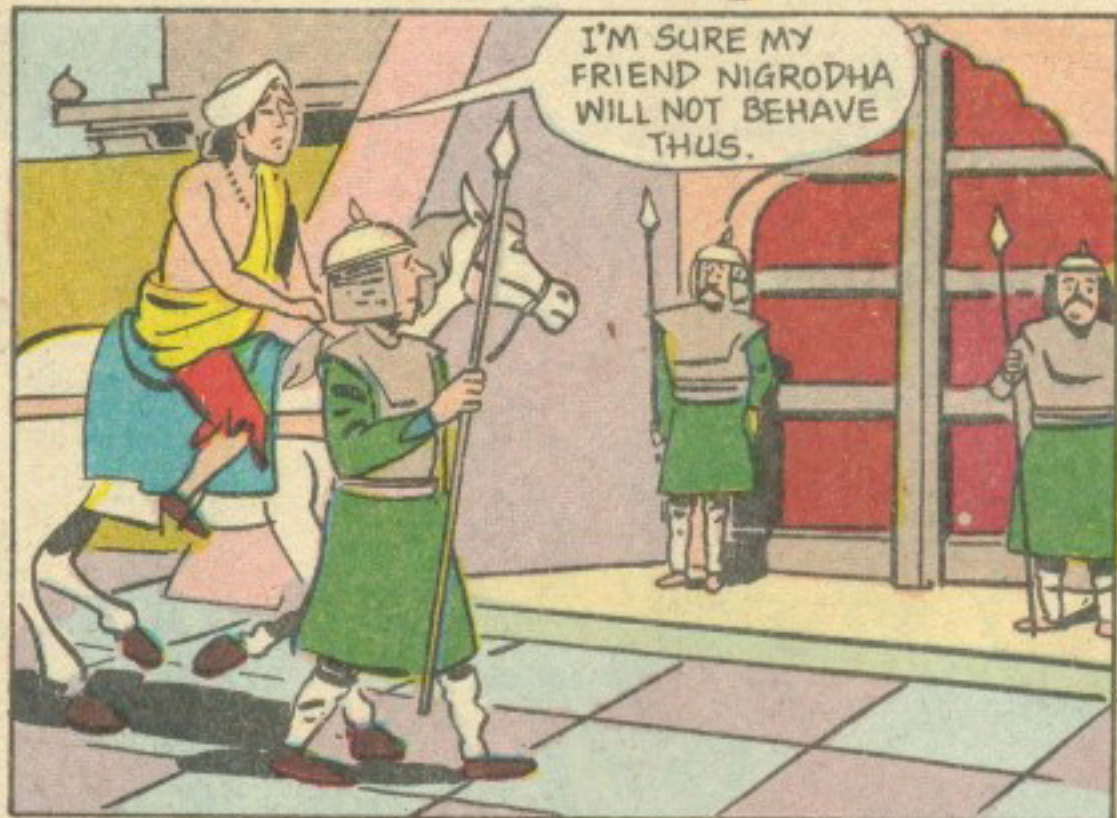
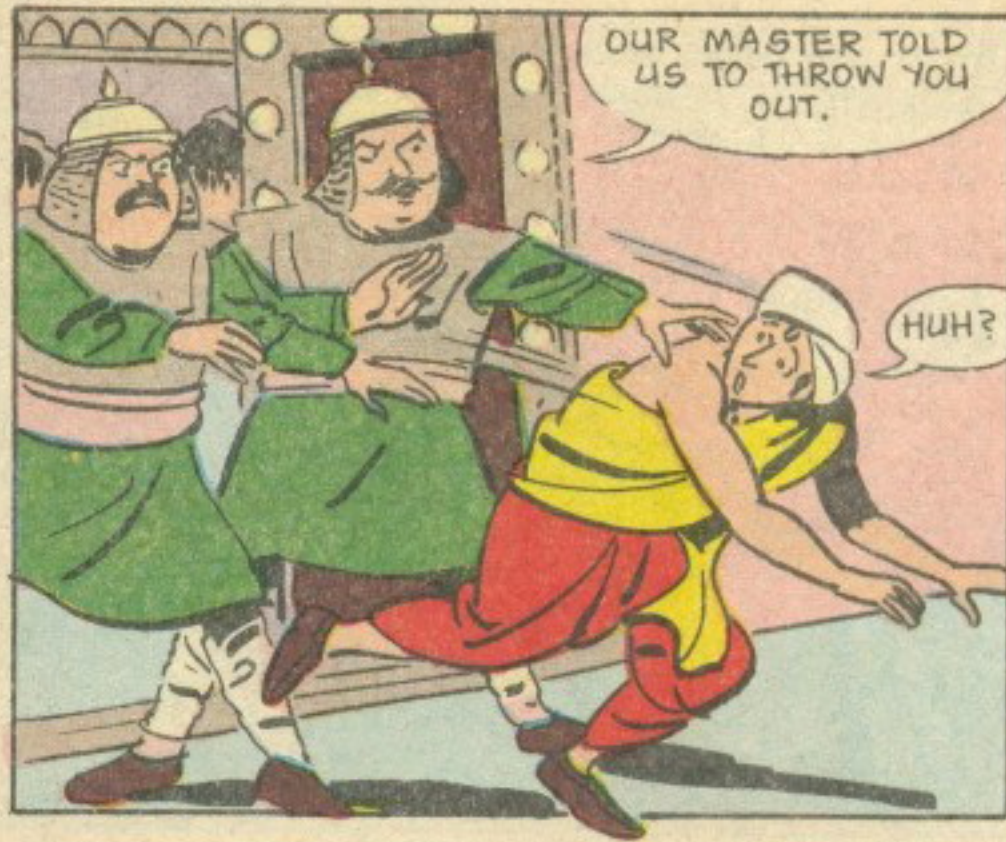
SIR, YOUR FRIEND POTTIK IS HERE.

AH! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO TAKE REVENGE!

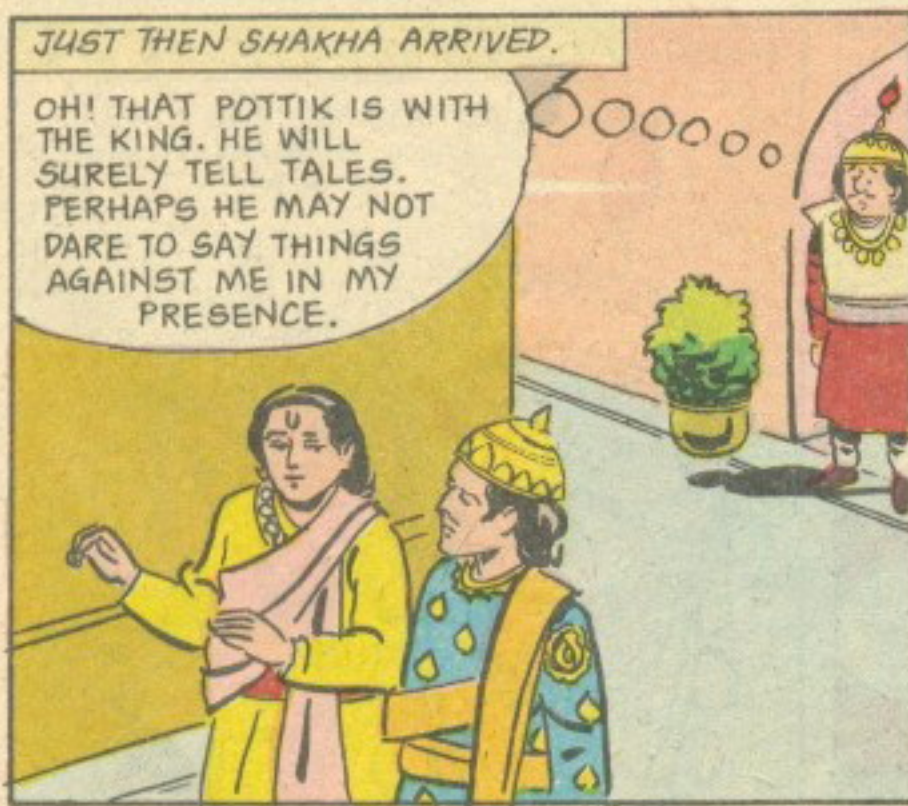
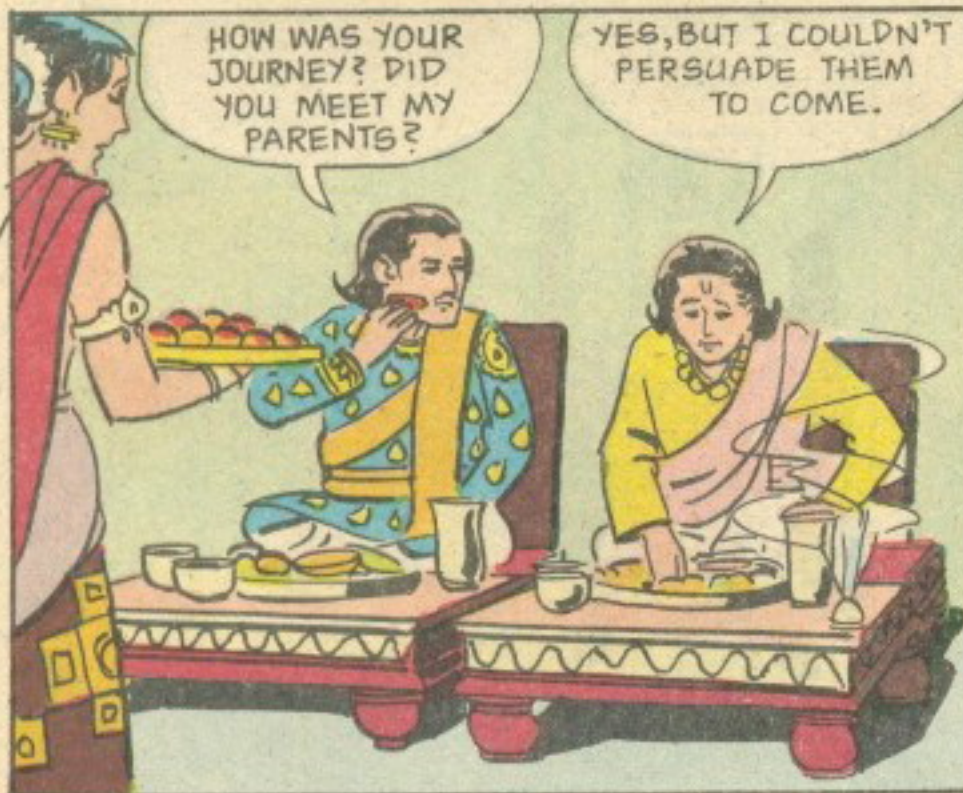
HAD HE GIVEN ME THE YOLK, I WOULD HAVE BECOME THE KING.



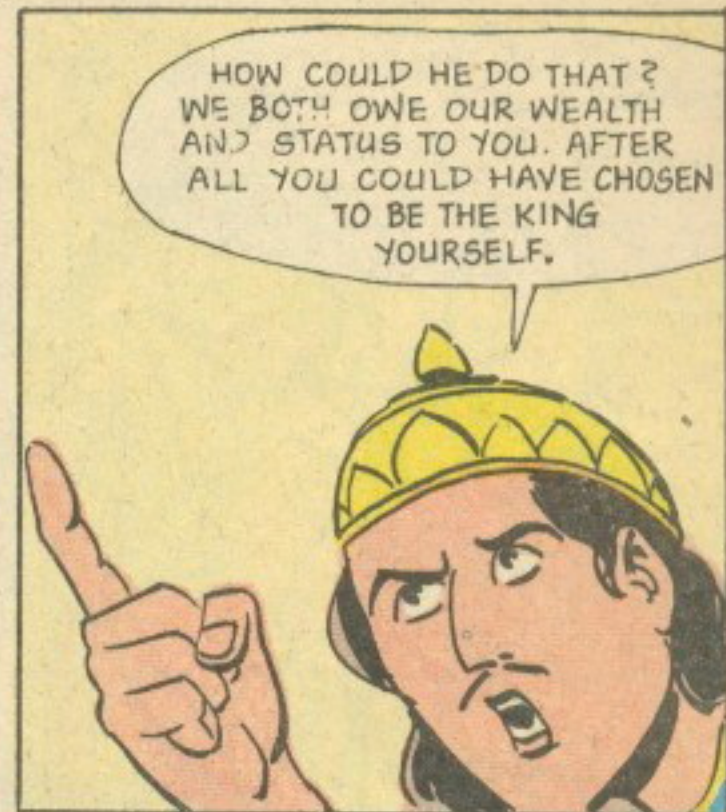


















# KANNI, THE UNLUCKY \*

DURING THE REIGN OF BRAHMADATTA IN VARANASI, THERE LIVED A PROSPEROUS MERCHANT CALLED ANATHAPINDIKA.



ONE DAY—

SIR! A MAN CALLED KALAKANNI \*\* IS HERE TO SEE YOU!



SHOW HIM IN!

BUT, SIR! HE LOOKS VERY POOR AND WRETCHED!



NEVER MIND! IT MUST BE MY OLD FRIEND. AFTER ALL, NOT MANY PEOPLE HAVE A NAME LIKE HIS!

AS YOU WISH, SIR.

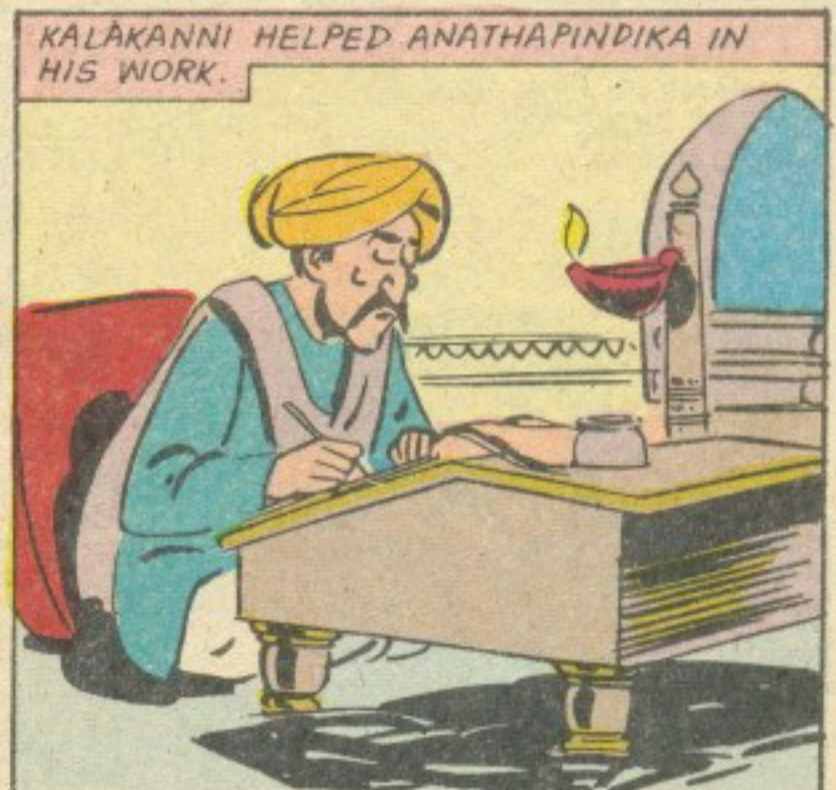


KALAKANNI WALKED IN HESITANTLY. AH! IT IS YOU. HOW GOOD TO MEET YOU AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!

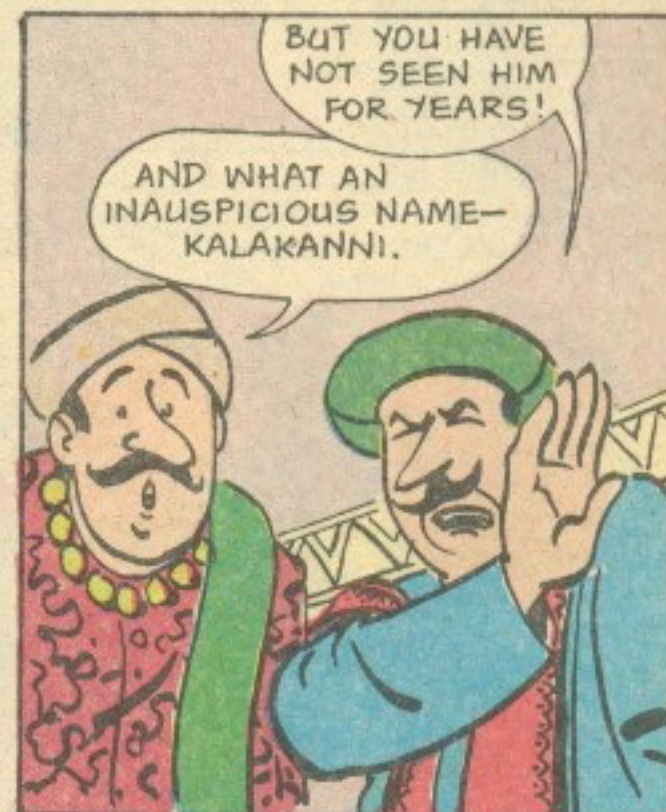
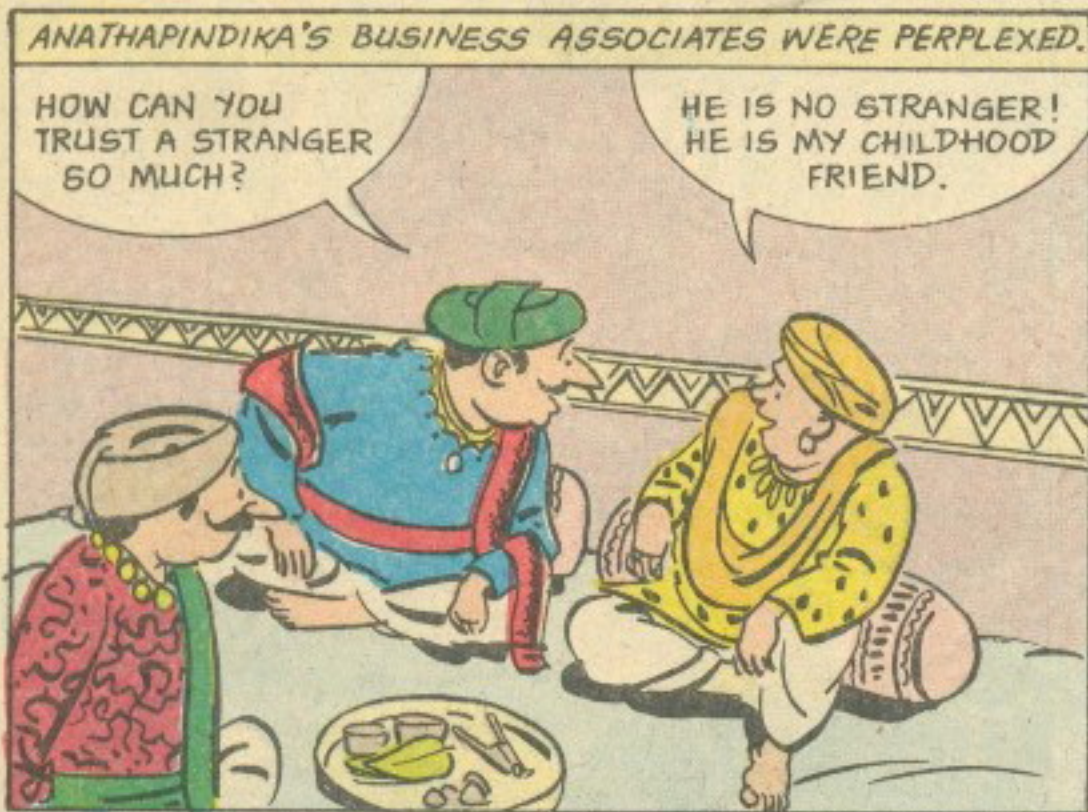
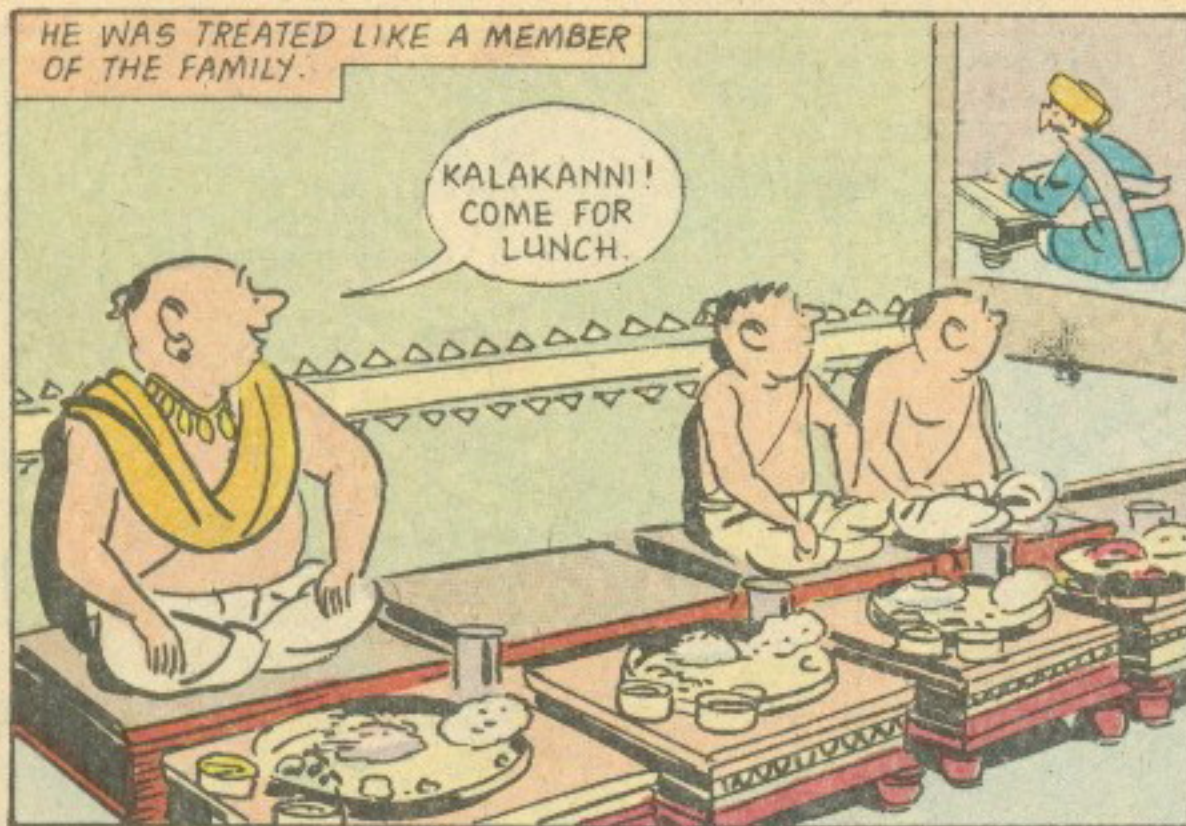
YES! IT IS.



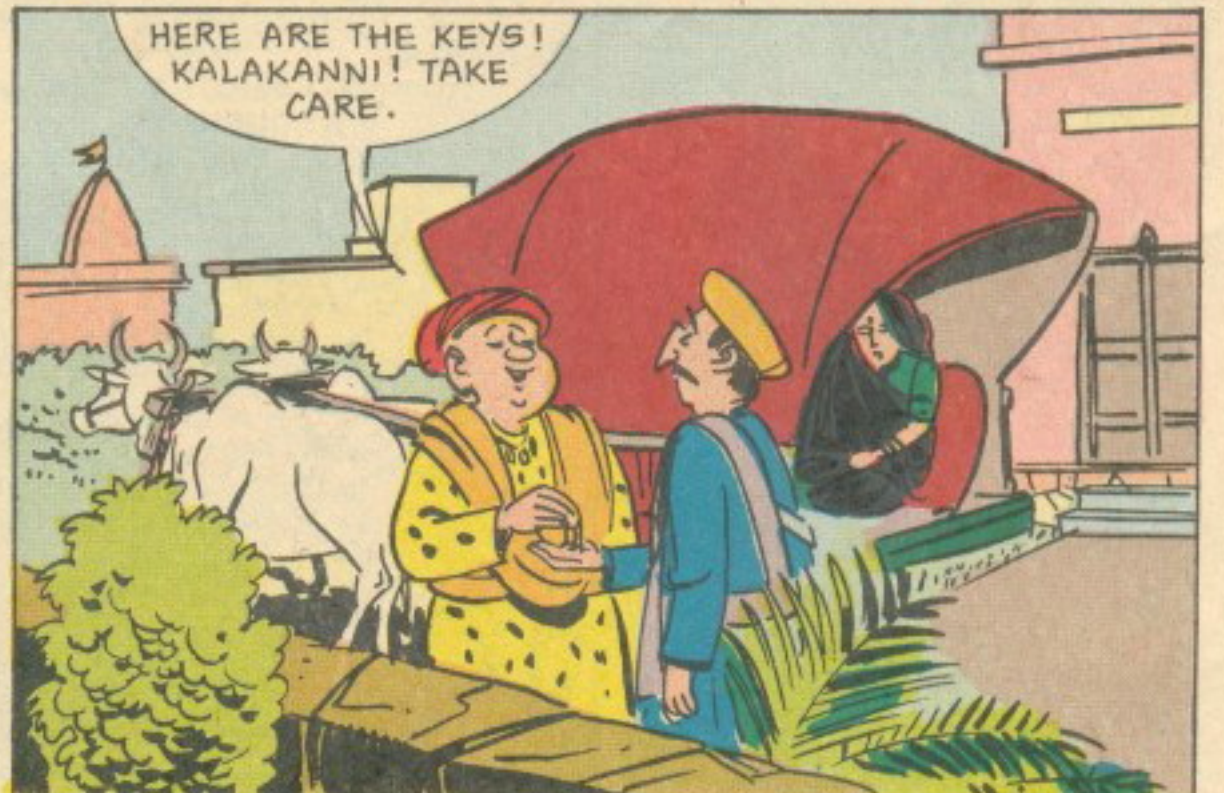




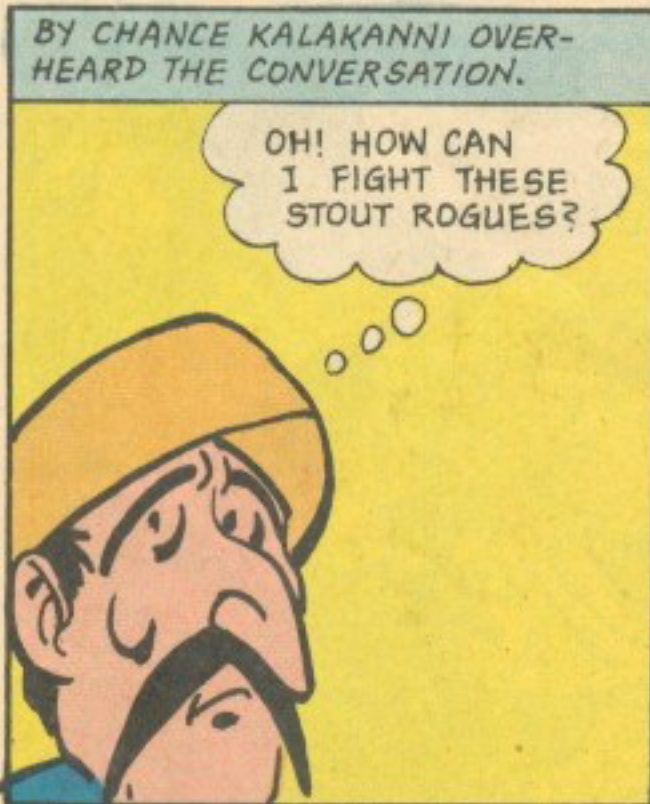




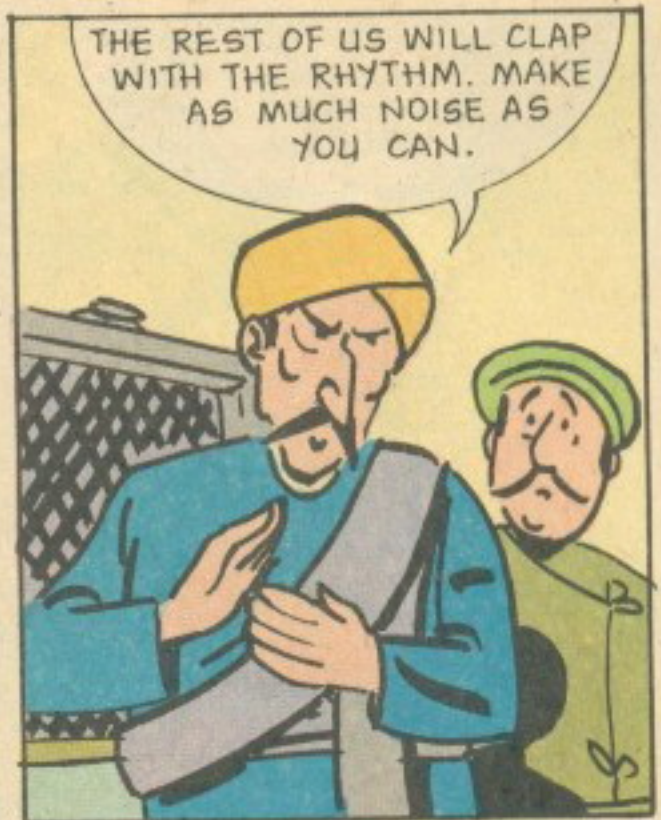


















# A MONK IN NEED\* IS A FRIEND INDEED

ONE DAY KING BRAHMA-DATTA OF VARANASI AND HIS SON WERE BUSY DISCUSSING MATTERS OF STATE.

WE MUST SEND MORE SOLDIERS OF OUR ARMY TO THE PROVINCES.

YES, I HAVE DISCUSSED RECRUITING NEW SOLDIERS WITH THE COMMANDER.

JUST THEN—

OH! THAT IS THE MONK TIRITAVACHCHHA! I MUST GO AND RECEIVE HIM.

BUT, FATHER, YOU DON'T NEED TO GO. HE'LL BE GIVEN ALMS LIKE THE OTHER MONKS.

BUT THE KING RUSHED OUT TO WELCOME THE MONK.

COME, YOU MUST SIT HERE.

ON THE THRONE?

HOW ODD!

SOON—

YOUR MAJESTY, THE LUNCH HAS BEEN SERVED FOR ROYAL GUESTS. SHALL I TAKE YOUR GUEST THERE?

NO. HE WILL EAT WITH ME HERE IN MY PRIVATE CHAMBER.

AFTER LUNCH, THE CHIEF MINISTER WAS SUMMONED.

SEND FOR THE ARCHITECT. I WANT HIM TO BUILD A SUITABLE DWELLING FOR TIRITAVACHCHHA IN THE COMPOUND. IT SHOULD BE SPACIOUS AND COMFORTABLE.

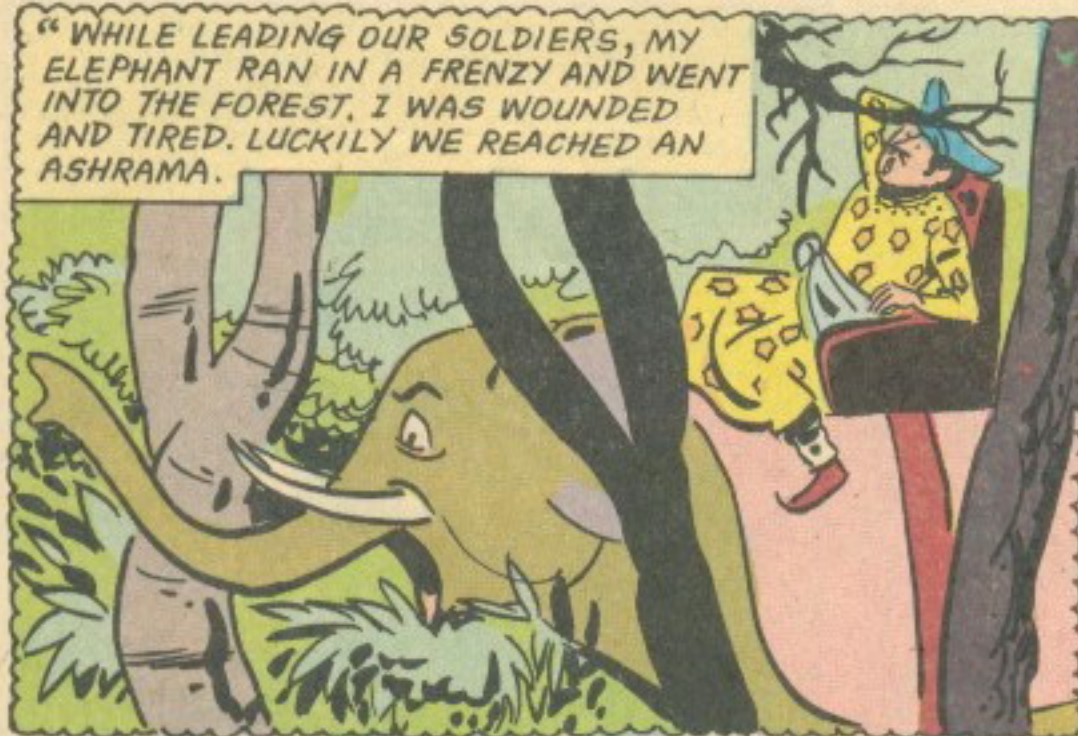
AS YOU WISH, YOUR MAJESTY.

THE SPECIAL TREATMENT GIVEN TO TIRITAVACHCHHA DID NOT GO UNNOTICED.

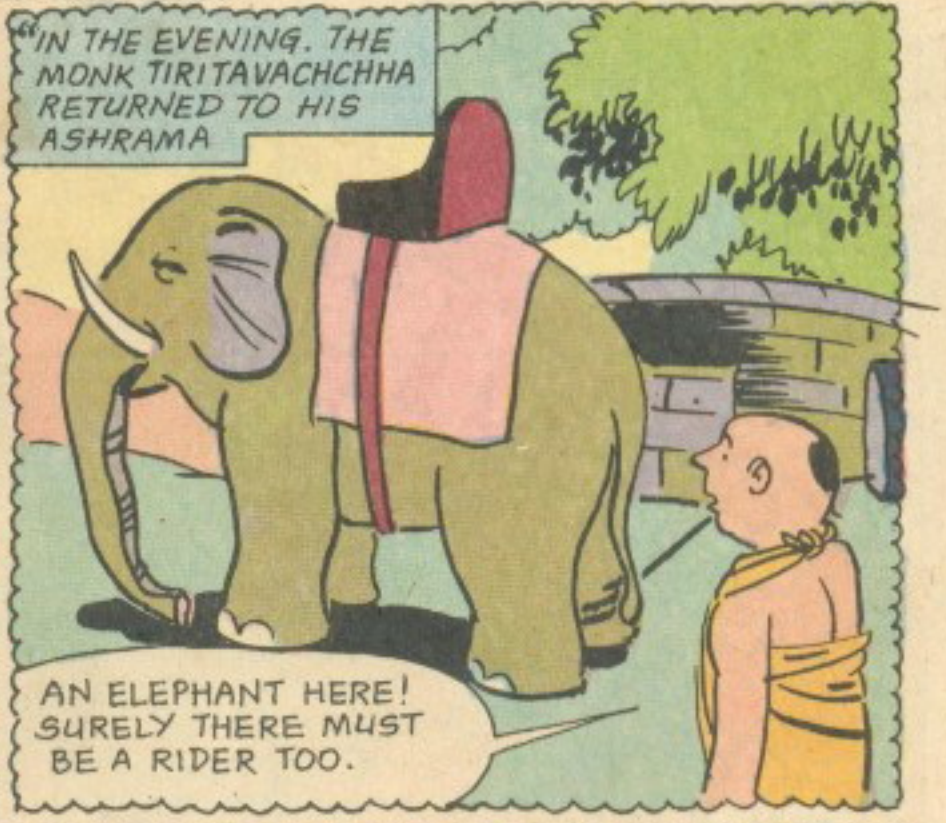
WHAT A FUSS OVER AN ORDINARY MONK.

OUR KING TREATS HIM AS IF HE WERE A BRAVE WARRIOR WHO HAS MADE A GREAT CONQUEST.













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forever—the gift of his own heritage  
in these specially designed

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