



No.190 Rs. 3.50

KANNAPPA

THE DEVOTEE WHO OFFERED HIS EYES
TO LORD SHIVA



An increasing number of kings in South India began to patronise Jainism after the fifth century A.D. In the North too, traditional Hinduism was on the decline, especially after Harsha embraced Buddhism. The revival of Hinduism was made possible not only by the great intellectual debates of Shankaracharya in the eighth century A.D., but also by the emotional content provided by the Bhakti (devotion) movement of the Nayanars, the Shaiva saints, and the Alvars, the Vaishnava saints.

Like Buddhism and Jainism, the Bhakti movement advocated an egalitarian outlook, teaching that all those who worship the Lord are equal in His eyes. Both the Nayanars and the Alvars were simple-hearted devotees. They expressed their feelings in songs which are easy to comprehend and yet deeply moving.

The story of Kannappa Nayanar is told in the *Periya Puranam* in Tamil. In preparing this Amar Chitra Katha, material has also been drawn from the Kannada prose work, *Ragale* by Harihara.

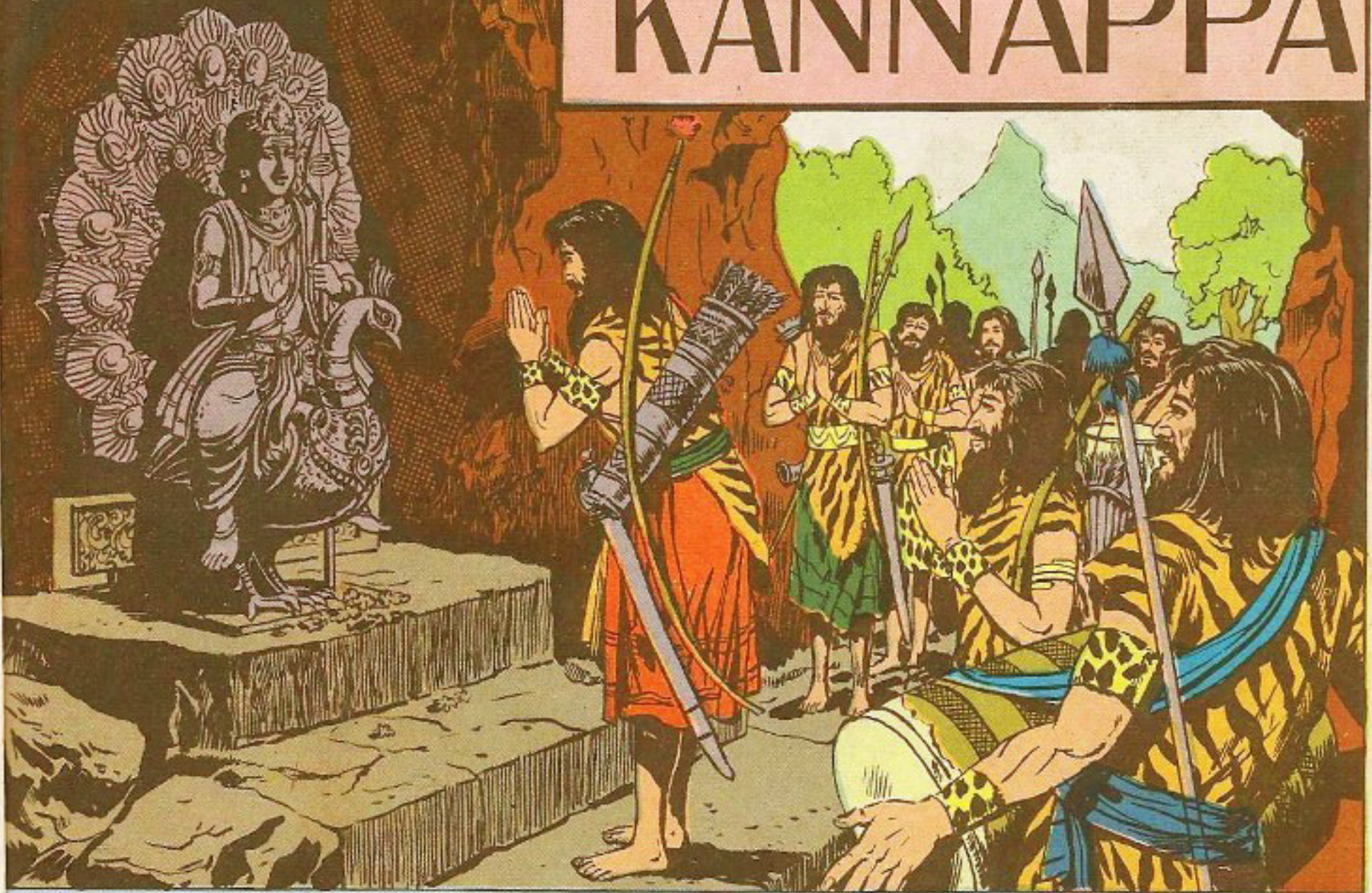
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KANNAPPA

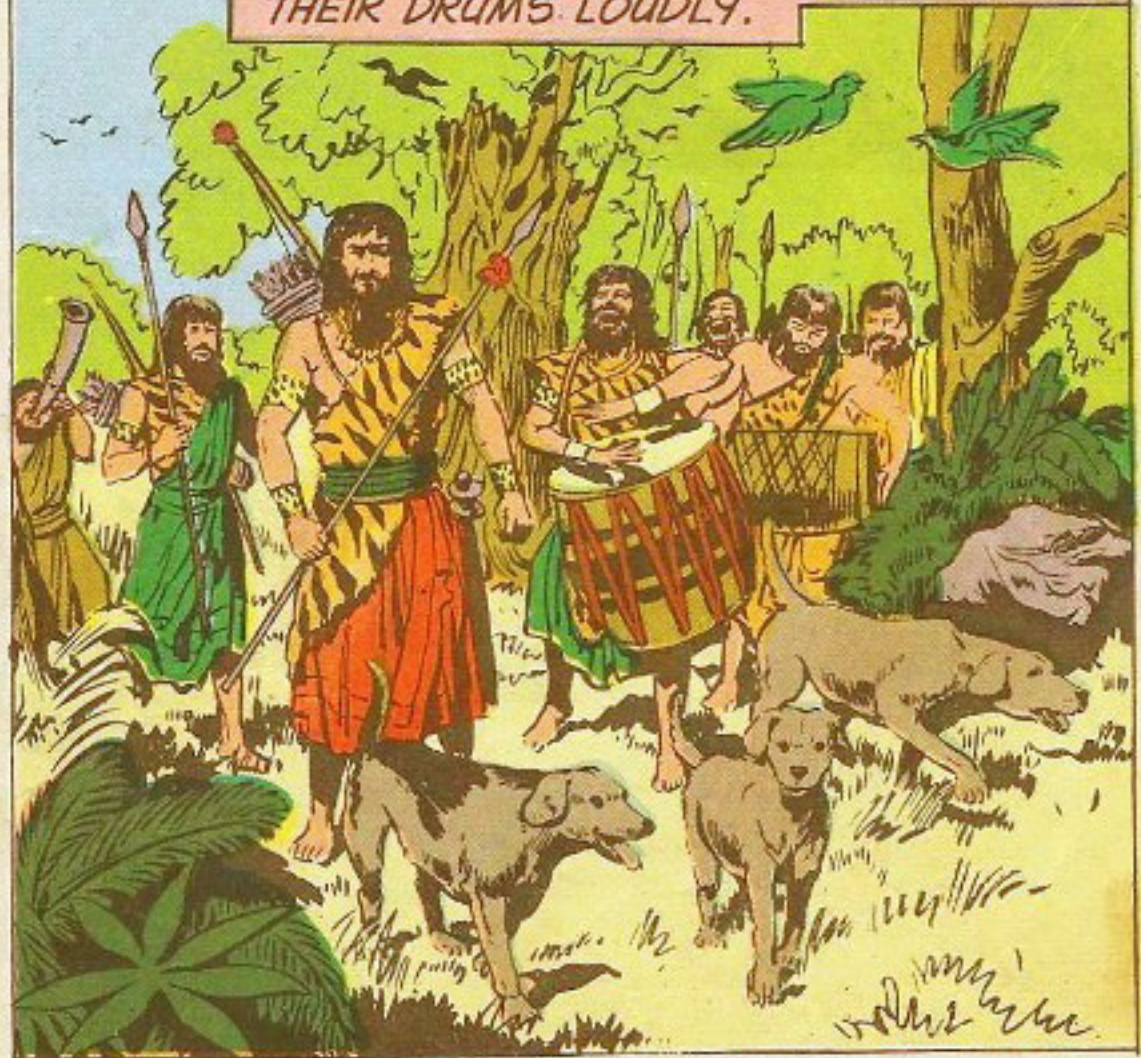


IT WAS THE CUSTOM OF THE HUNTERS OF UDUPPUR, IN ANCIENT TAMIL NADU, TO BEGIN THE DAY WITH PRAYERS TO LORD MURUGAN.*

EACH DAY, NAGAN, THEIR CHIEF, INVOKED THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD FOR HIS TRIBE.

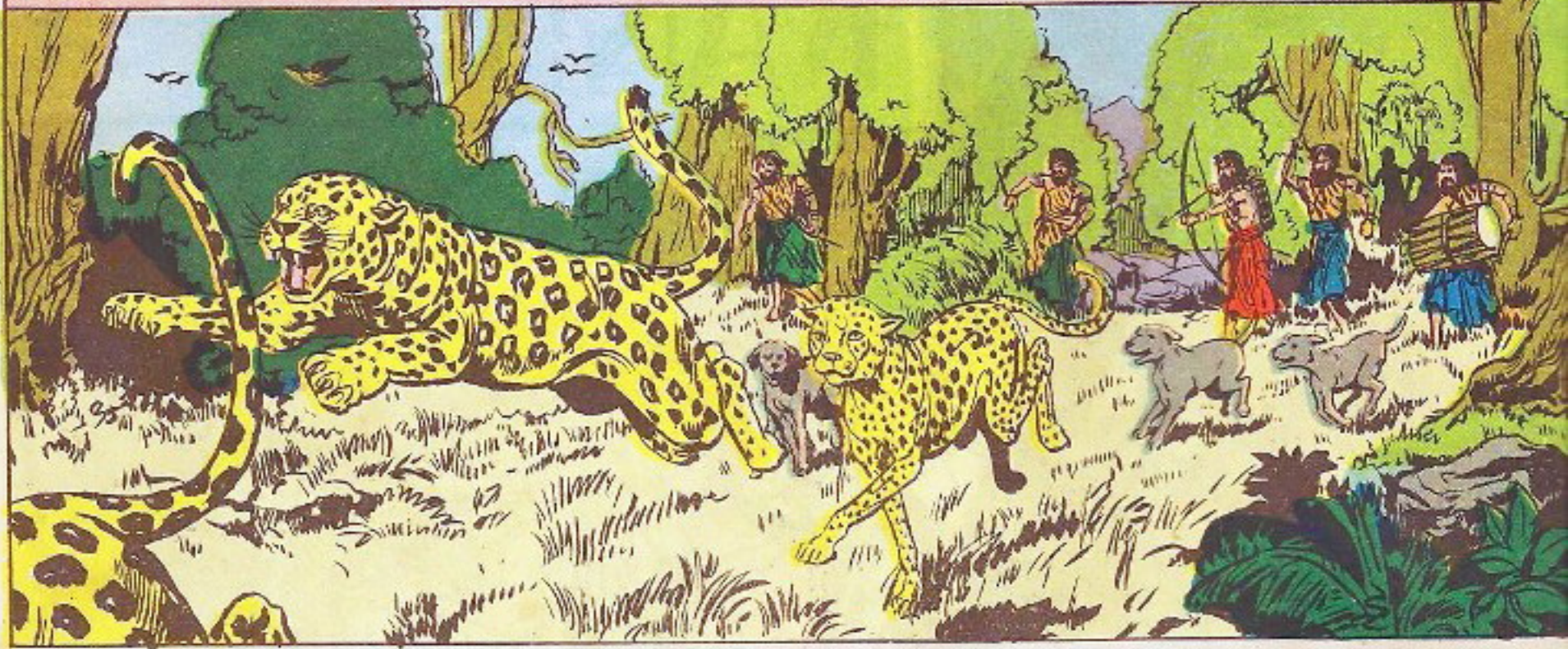
LORD, LET THE DAY'S TOIL PROVE REWARDING!
LET NO EVIL BEFALL US!

ONE DAY, THE HUNTERS, LED BY NAGAN, TOOK THE FOREST BY STORM, BEATING THEIR DRUMS LOUDLY.

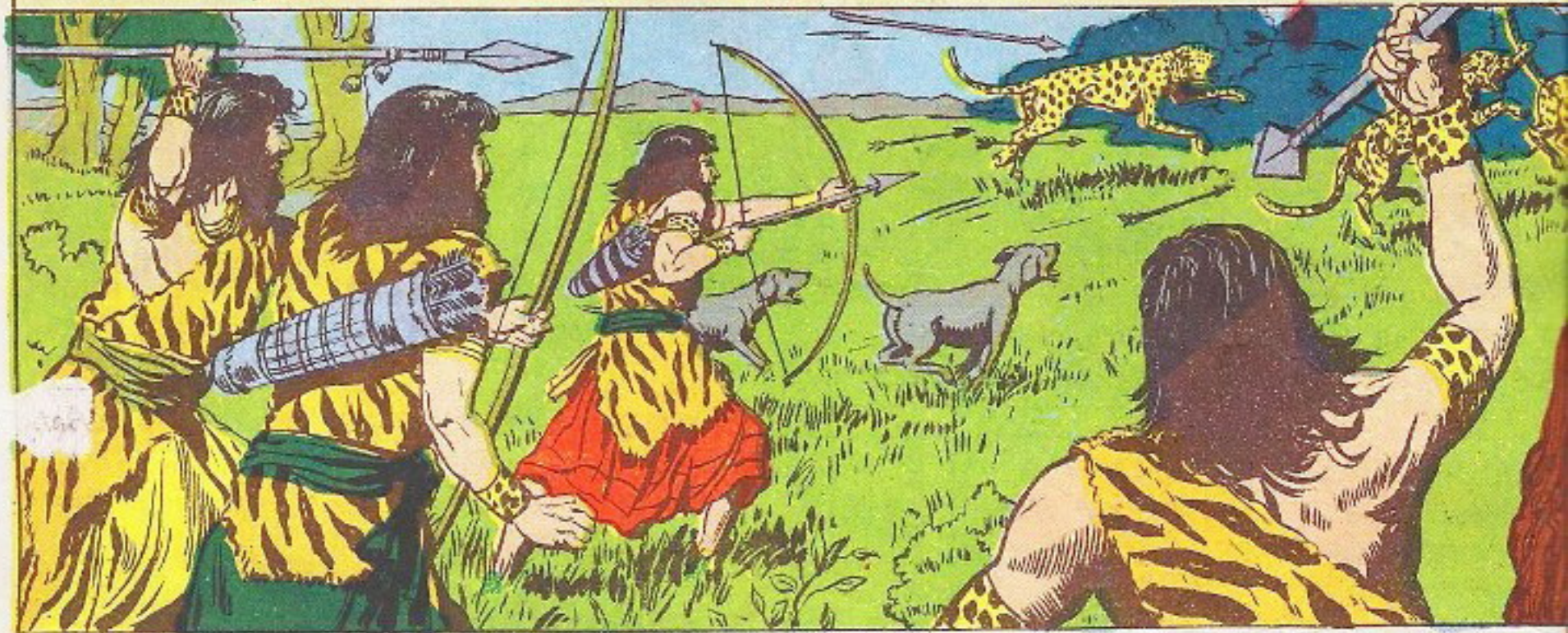


* ANOTHER NAME FOR LORD KARTTIKEYA (SON OF SHIVA) ALSO KNOWN AS SUBRAHMANYA

TERRIFIED BY THE DIN, THE ANIMALS CAME OUT OF HIDING AND BEGAN TO RUN...



...WHILE THE HUNTERS FOLLOWED, SHOOTING ARROWS AND HURLING SPEARS AT THEM.

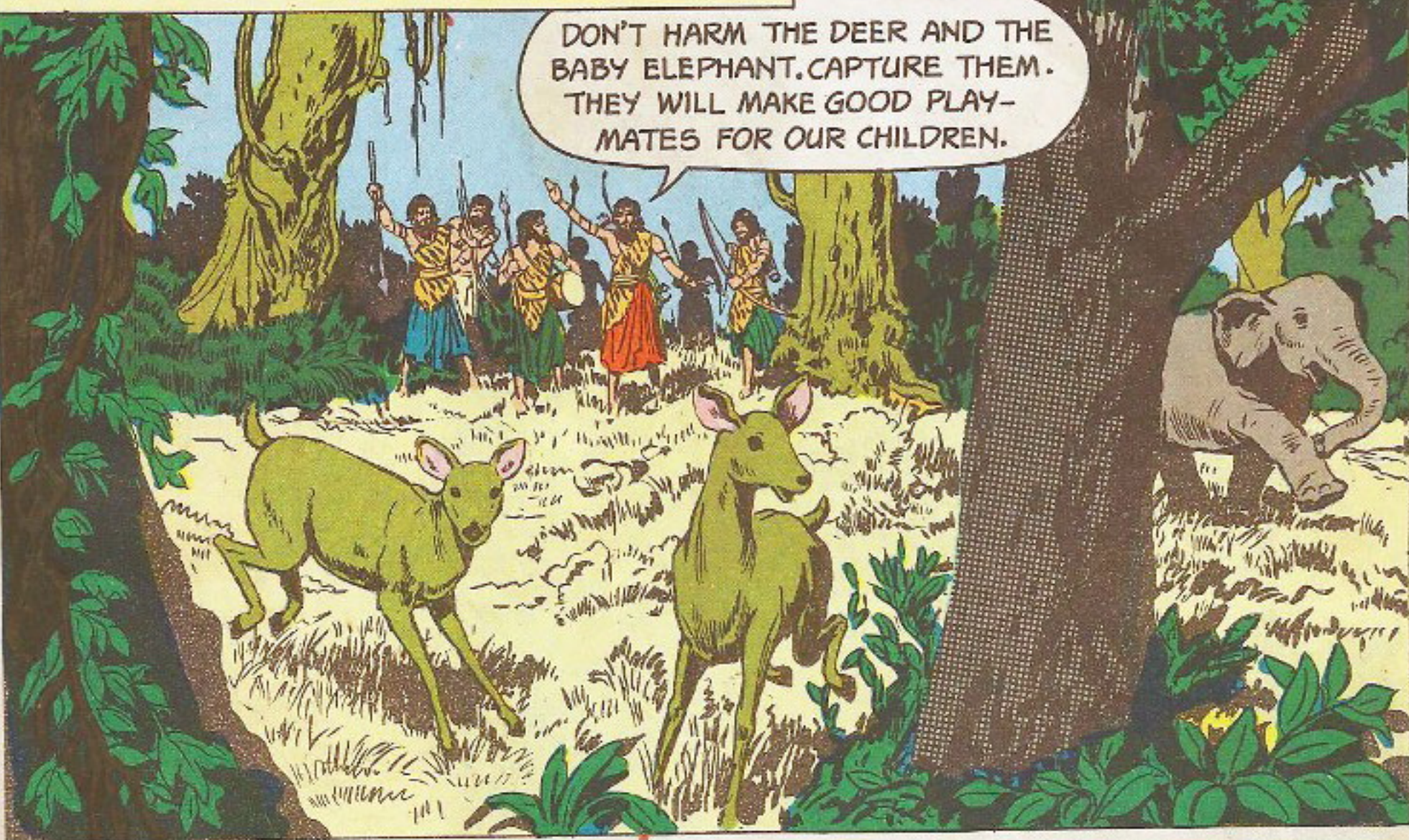


MANY ANIMALS FELL,
VICTIMS OF THE
WELL-AIMED ARROWS
AND SPEARS.



BUT SOME ANIMALS ESCAPED THIS CRUEL FATE.

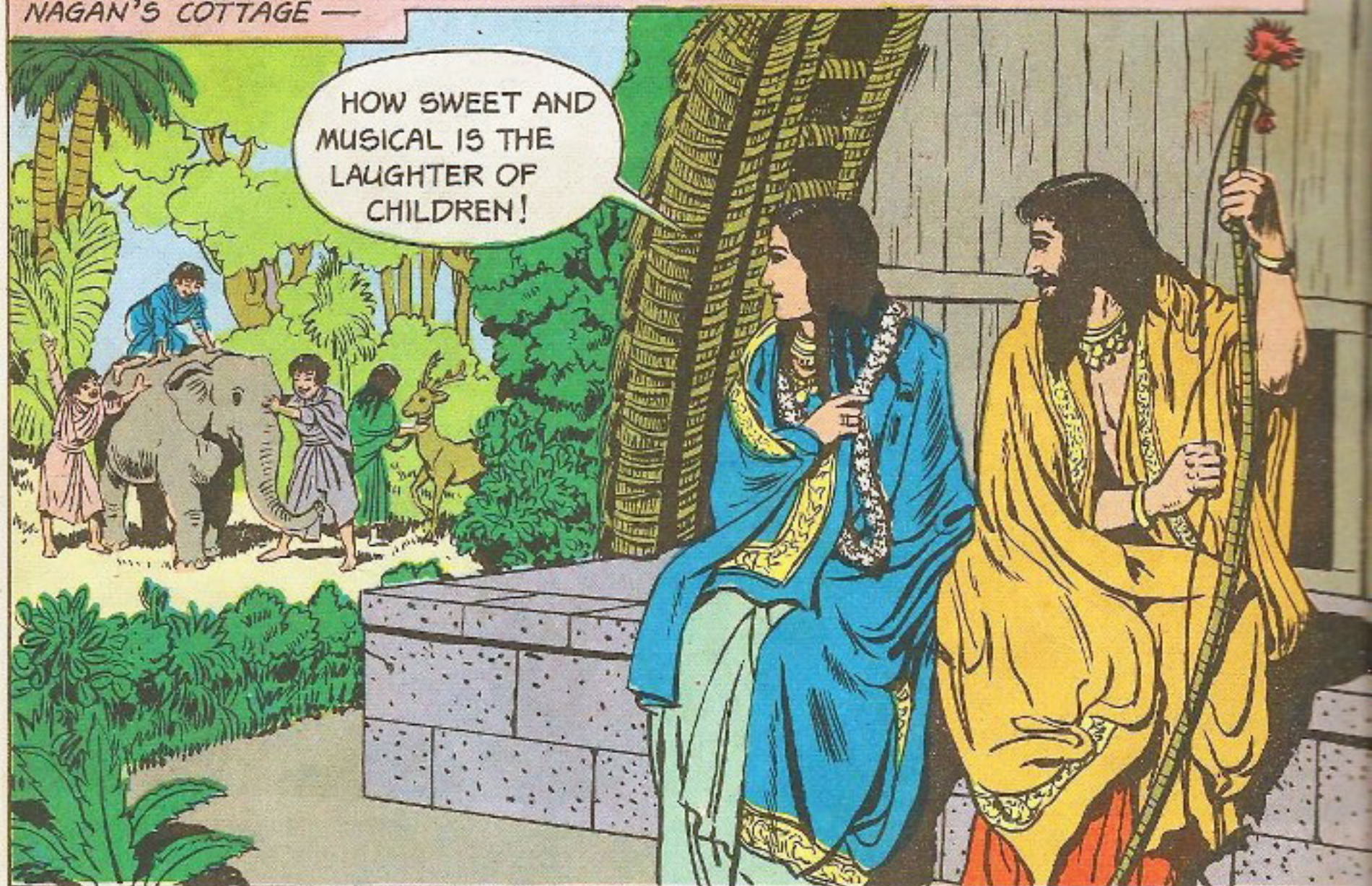
DON'T HARM THE DEER AND THE
BABY ELEPHANT. CAPTURE THEM.
THEY WILL MAKE GOOD PLAY-
MATES FOR OUR CHILDREN.



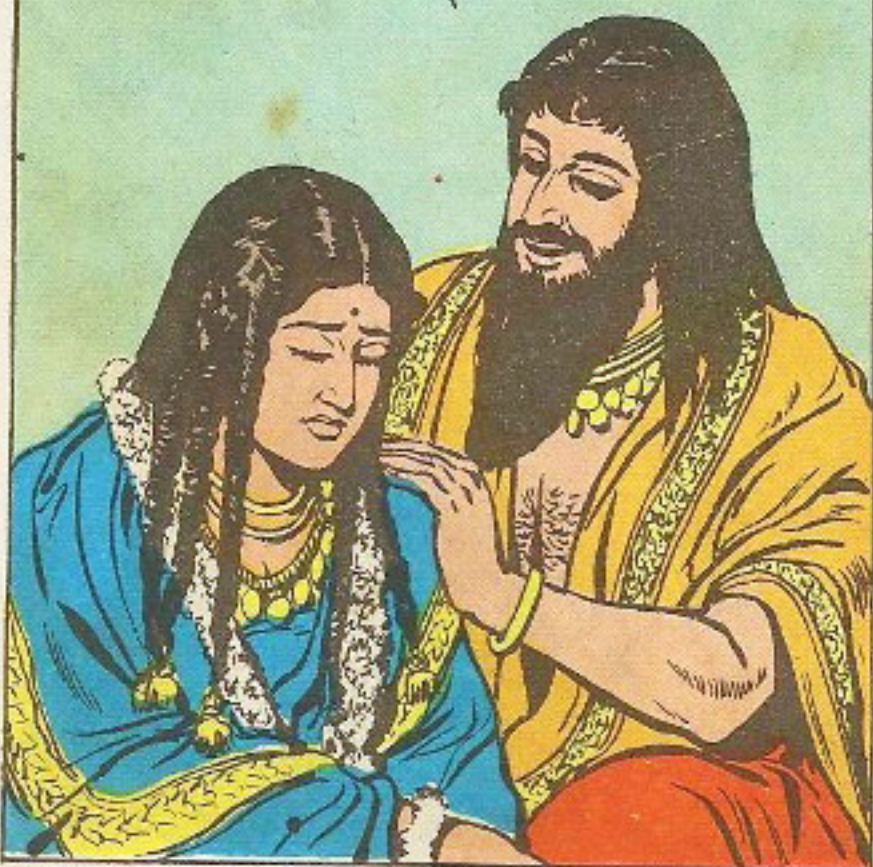
WHEN THE HUNTERS RETURNED HOME TRIUMPHANTLY, THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN RECEIVED THEM JOYFULLY.



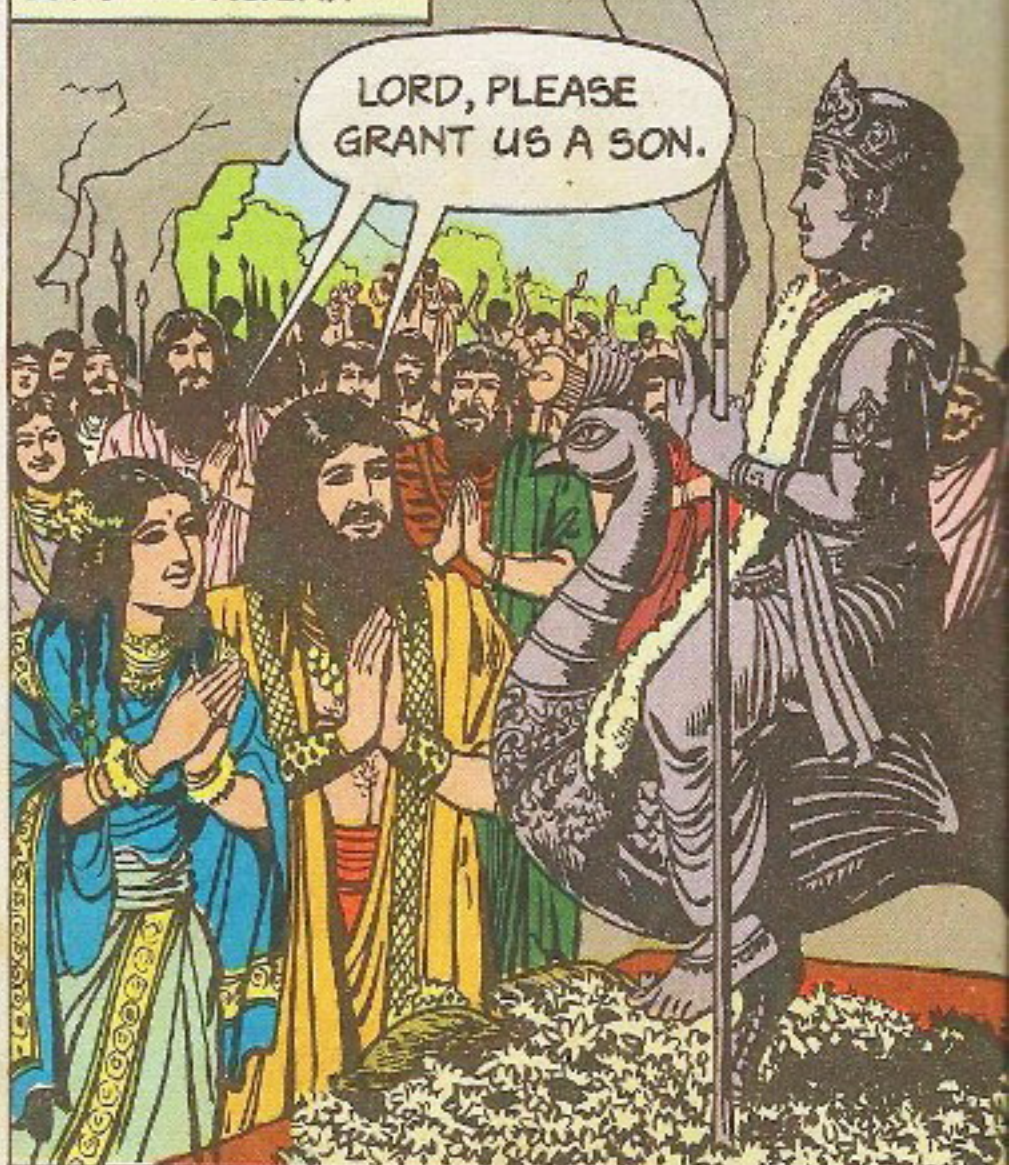
AS THE CHILDREN PLAYED WITH THE CAPTURED ANIMALS IN FRONT OF NAGAN'S COTTAGE —



TATTAI, HAVE FAITH
IN LORD MURUGAN.
YOU TOO WILL BE
A MOTHER ONE
DAY.



NAGAN ARRANGED A FESTIVAL TO PROPITIATE
LORD MURUGAN.



THEIR PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED. SOME
TIME LATER —

A SON HAS BEEN
BORN TO OUR
CHIEF!

ALL PRAISE
TO MURUGAN!

NAGAN WAS SHOWN HIS NEW-
BORN SON.

HERE, HOLD
YOUR LOVELY
SON.

HE IS
STRONG-LIMBED.
WE'LL NAME
HIM TINNAN.

THE BOY WAS NAMED TINNAN, BUT HE LATER CAME TO BE KNOWN AS KANNAPPA.

WITH GREAT JOY, THE HUNTERS CELEBRATED THE BIRTH OF THE CHIEF'S HEIR.
THEY DANCED WITH ABANDON, TO THE RHYTHMIC BEAT OF DRUMS.

TINNAN GREW UNDER THE LOVING CARE OF HIS PARENTS.

HIS STRENGTH IS
EXTRAORDINARY.



WHEN TINNAN WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD —

FATHER, TAKE ME
WITH YOU. I'LL
JOIN IN THE HUNT.

SON, YOU ARE STILL
TOO YOUNG. WAIT TILL
YOU GROW UP.



AS NAGAN AND THE OTHERS LEFT —

IF OUR FATHERS
DON'T TAKE US,
WE WILL HUNT
ON OUR OWN.

A GOOD
IDEA!

LET US
START AT
ONCE.



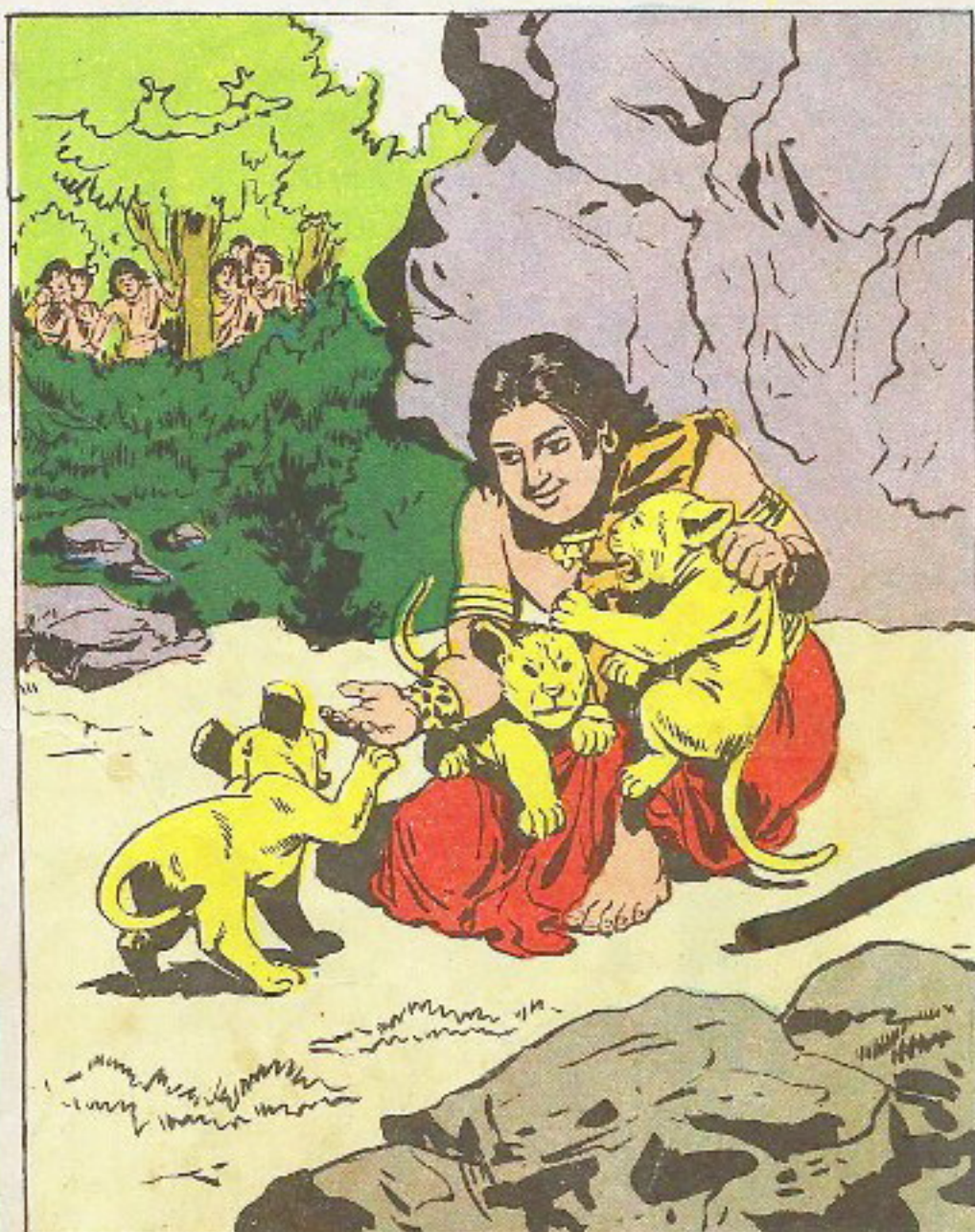
ARMED WITH STICKS AND STONES, THE BOYS SET OUT FOR THE FOREST —



THE BOYS WERE SHOCKED AT TINNAN'S SUGGESTION.

BUT THEIR MOTHER MUST BE AROUND SOMEWHERE. WE'LL BE DONE FOR, IF SHE RETURNS.

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I'LL FETCH THE CUBS.



WHEN NAGAN AND HIS MEN RETURNED THAT EVENING THEY WERE IN FOR A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

FATHER, YOU'VE BROUGHT BACK A DEAD TIGER. BUT, LOOK, WE'VE BROUGHT BACK LIVE ONES! THREE OF THEM!

YOU ARE A CLEVER LAD, MY SON. I AM PROUD OF YOU.

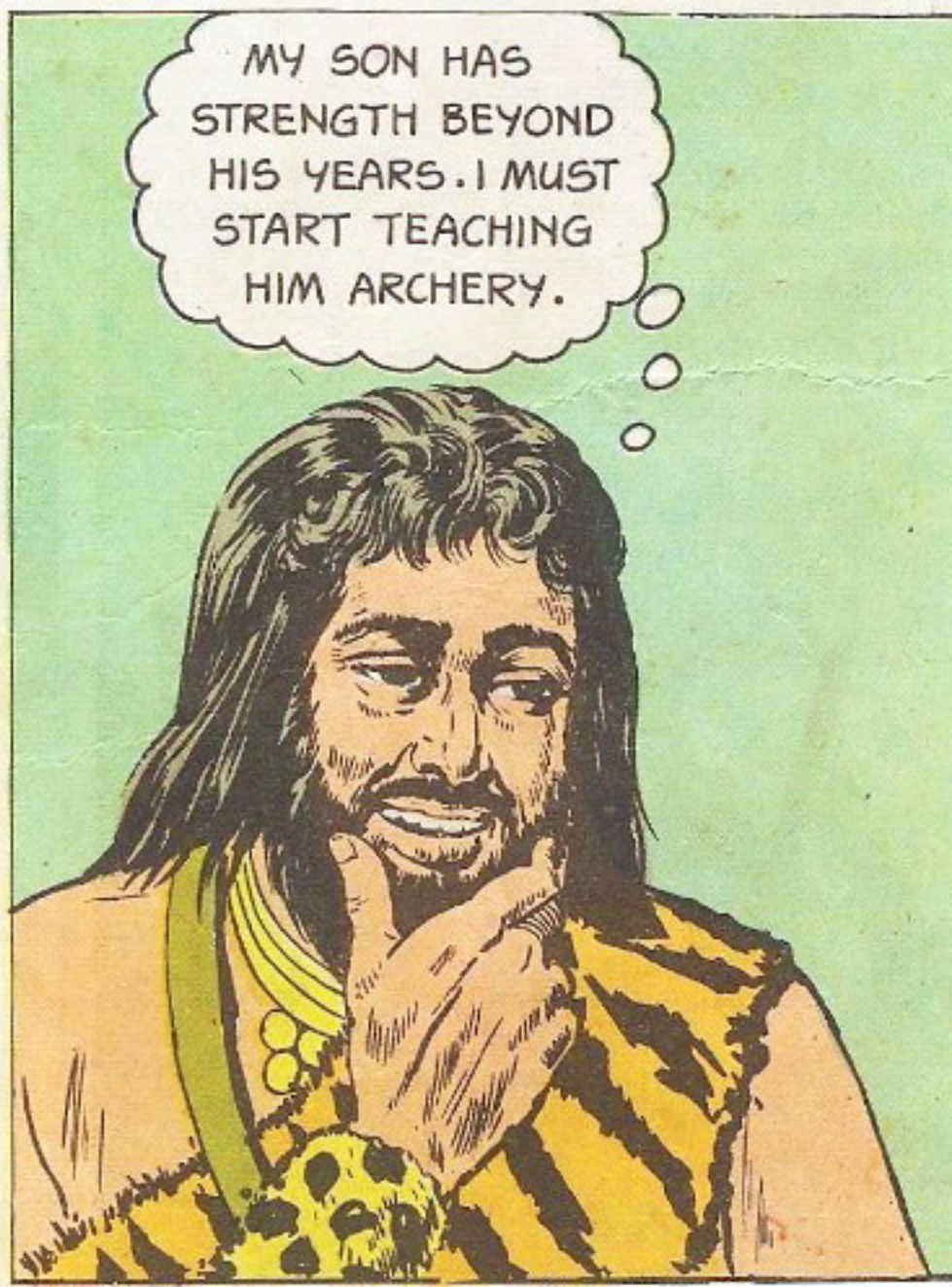


TINNAN WILL BE A GOOD AND EFFICIENT CHIEF WHEN HE GROWS UP.

YES, HE IS BRAVE AND FEARLESS.



MY SON HAS STRENGTH BEYOND HIS YEARS. I MUST START TEACHING HIM ARCHERY.



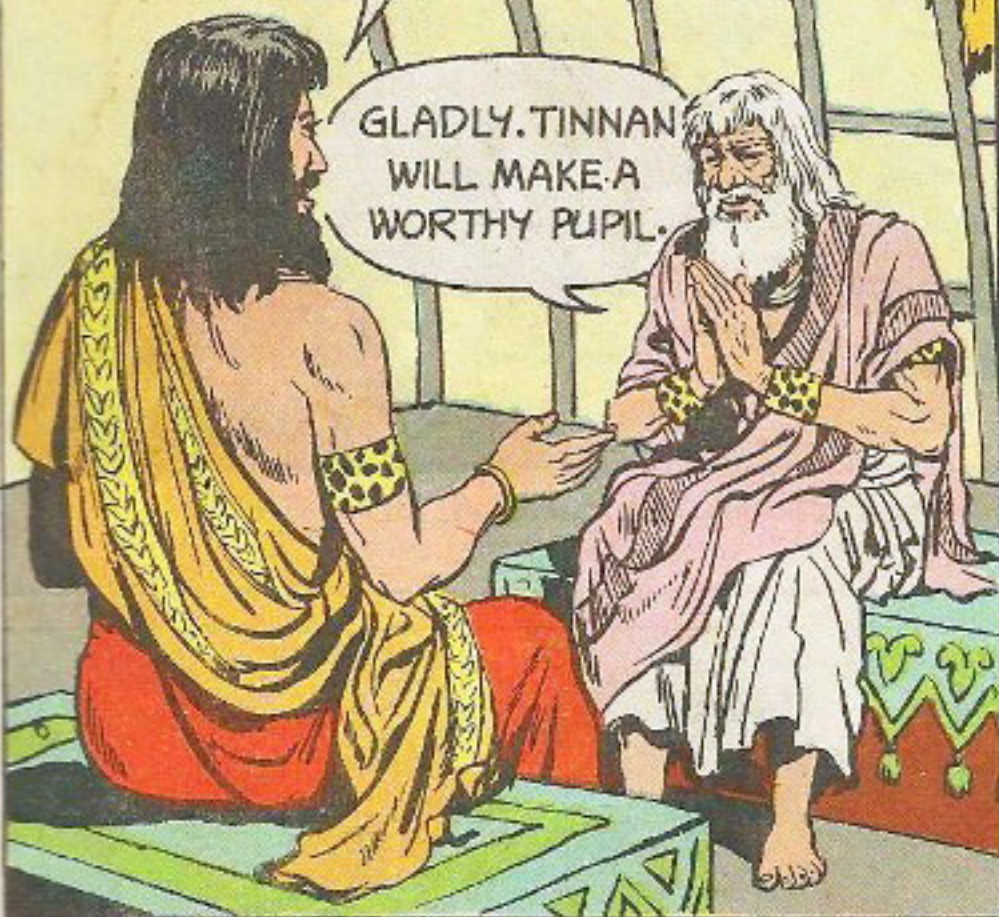
NAGAN SENT FOR AN OLD HUNTER.

YOU ARE OLD AND WISE, AND AN EXPERT IN ARCHERY. PLEASE TEACH MY SON.

GLADLY. TINNAN WILL MAKE A WORTHY PUPIL.

AFTER PRAYING TO LORD MURUGAN, TINNAN TOUCHED HIS GURU'S FEET.

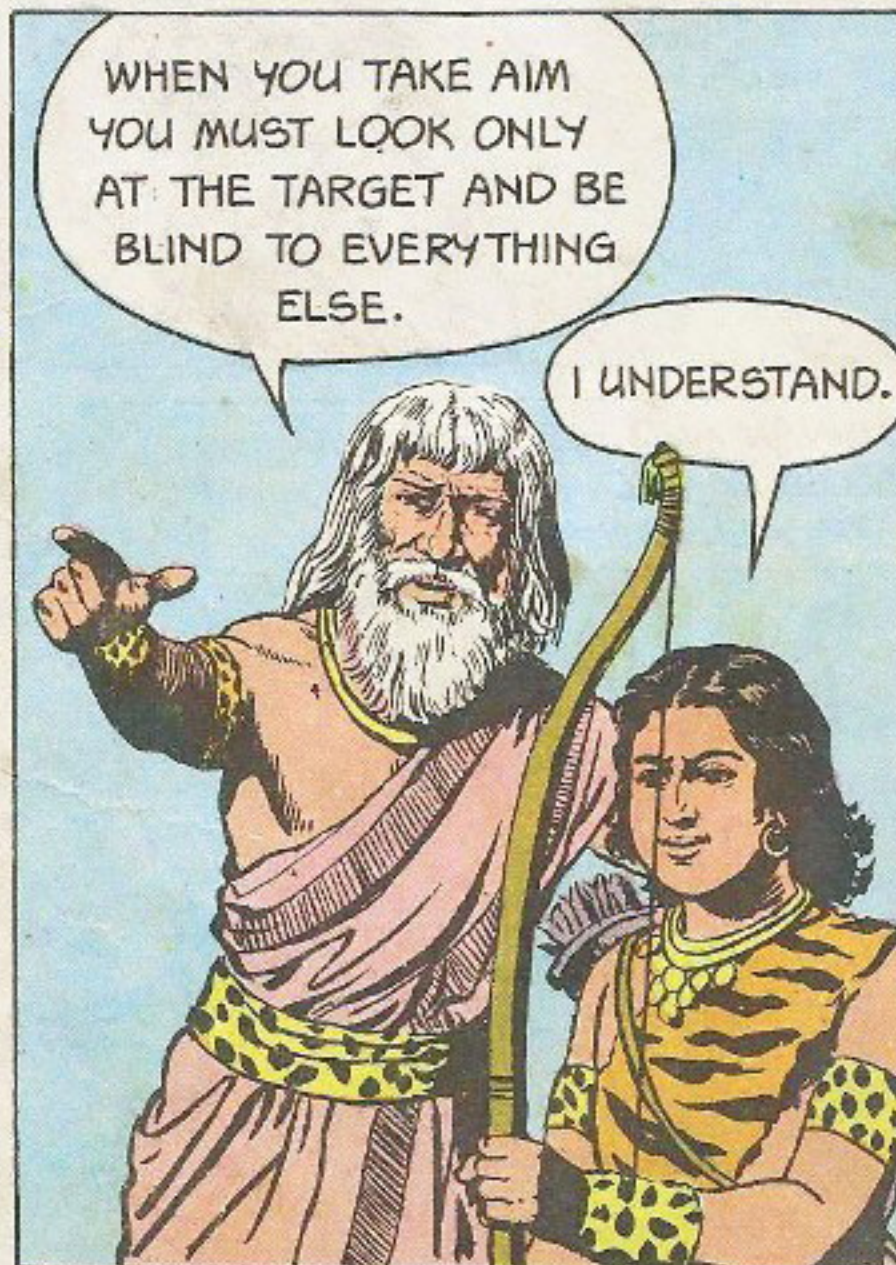
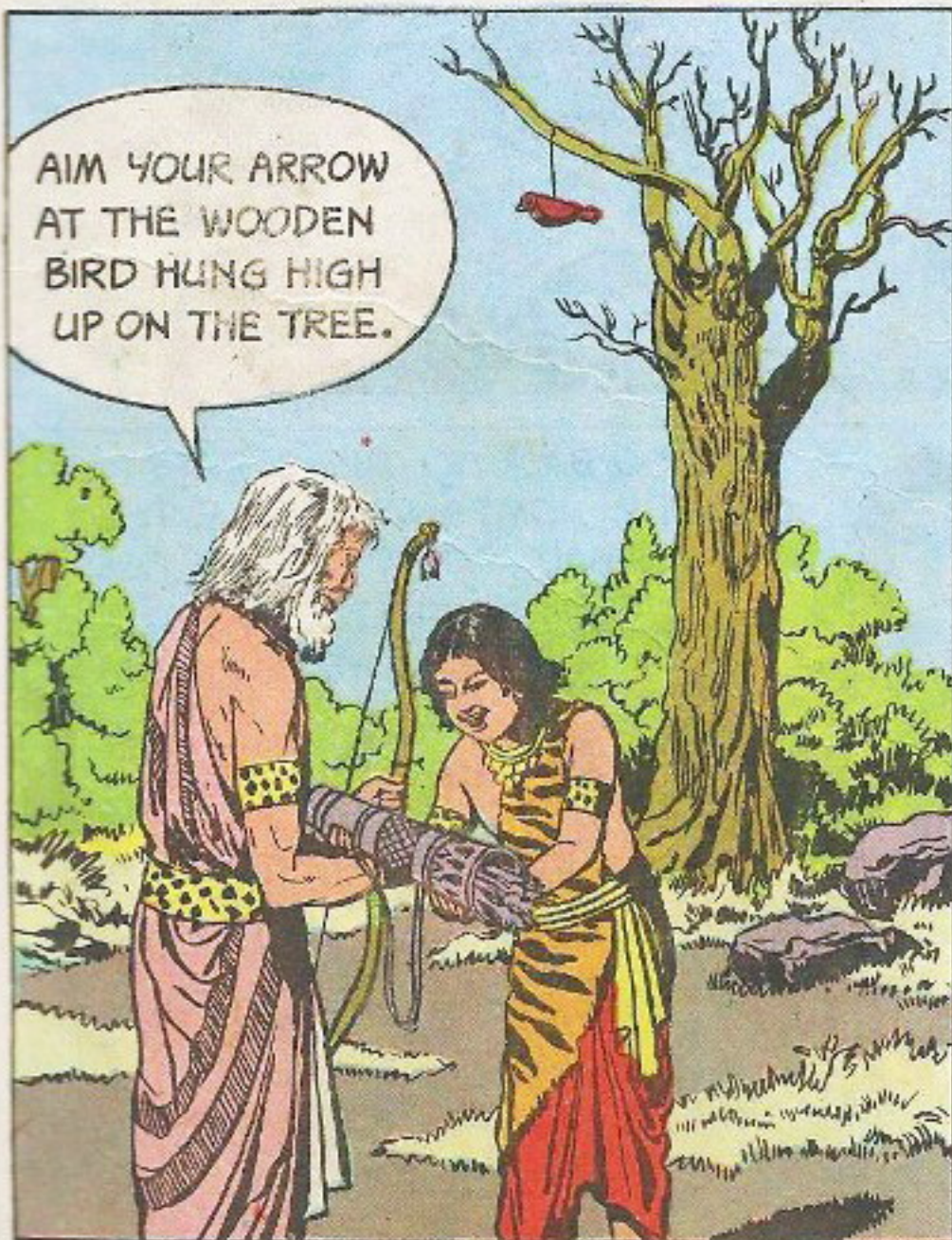
MAY YOU BRING HONOUR TO YOUR CLAN AND TO YOUR FATHER'S NAME.



AIM YOUR ARROW AT THE WOODEN BIRD HUNG HIGH UP ON THE TREE.

WHEN YOU TAKE AIM YOU MUST LOOK ONLY AT THE TARGET AND BE BLIND TO EVERYTHING ELSE.

I UNDERSTAND.





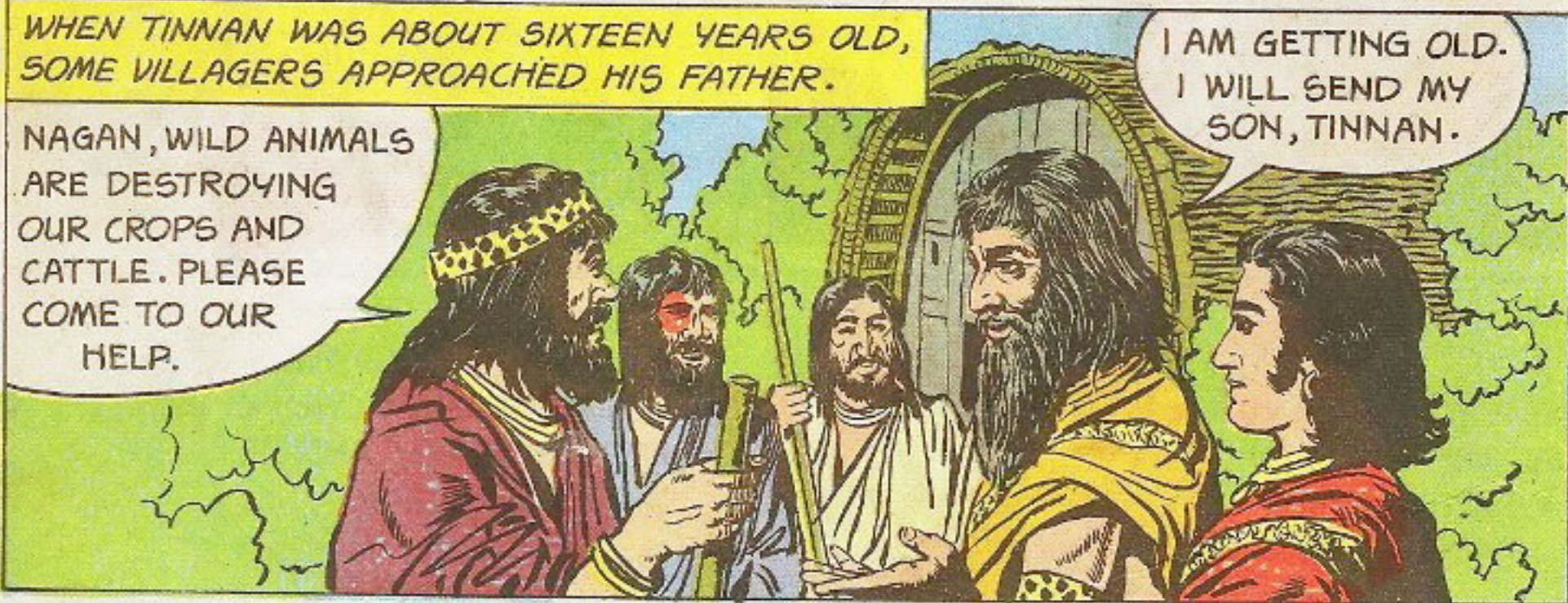
BRAVO, TINNAN! YOU HAVE SHARP EYES AND STEADY HANDS. YOU WILL BE A GOOD ARCHER.

TINNAN PRACTISED HARD AND BECAME AN EXPERT ARCHER. HE ALSO LEARNT HOW TO WIELD THE SPEAR AND THE SWORD.

WHEN TINNAN WAS ABOUT SIXTEEN YEARS OLD, SOME VILLAGERS APPROACHED HIS FATHER.

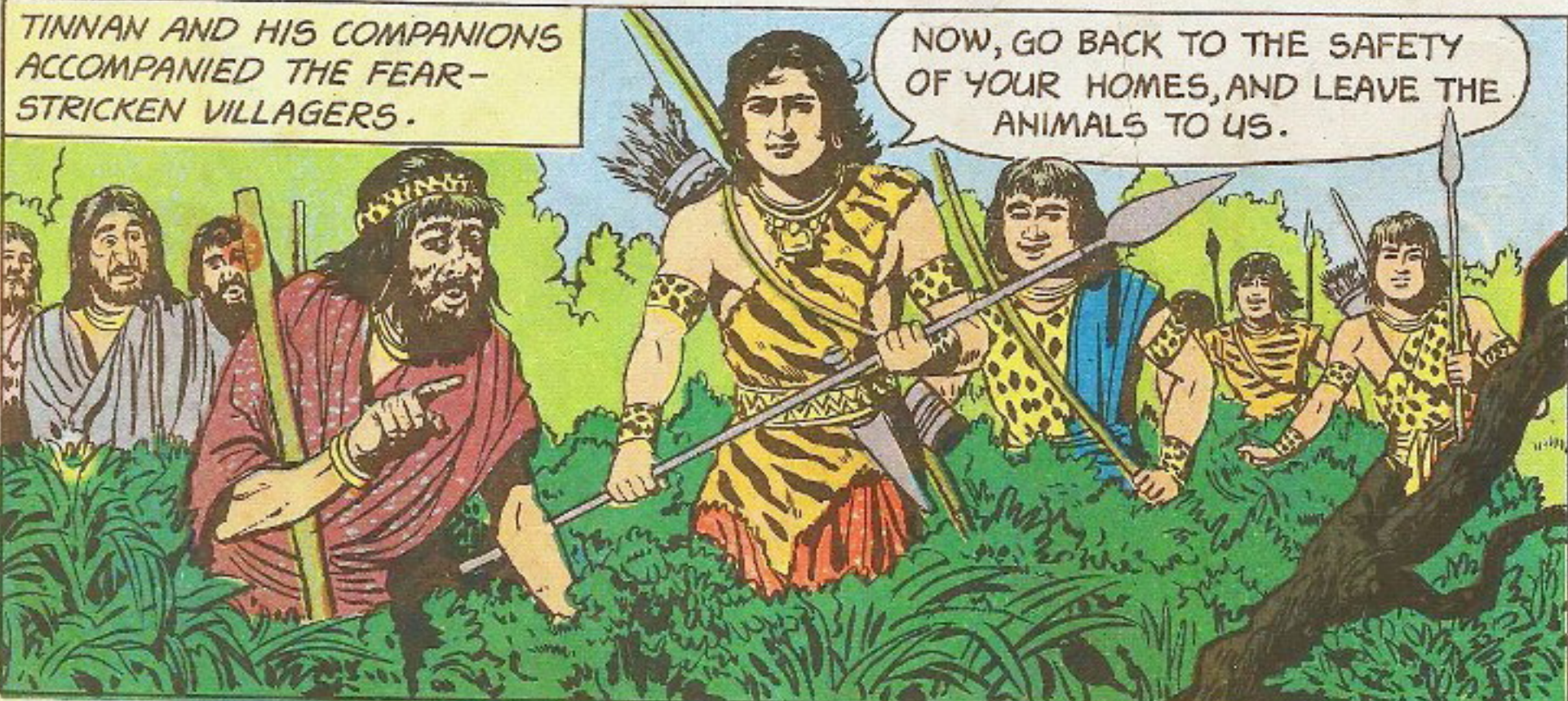
NAGAN, WILD ANIMALS ARE DESTROYING OUR CROPS AND CATTLE. PLEASE COME TO OUR HELP.

I AM GETTING OLD. I WILL SEND MY SON, TINNAN.



TINNAN AND HIS COMPANIONS ACCOMPANIED THE FEAR-STRICKEN VILLAGERS.

NOW, GO BACK TO THE SAFETY OF YOUR HOMES, AND LEAVE THE ANIMALS TO US.



SUDDENLY —

GR-RR-R



TINNAN HAS KILLED THE TIGER!



WELL DONE, TINNAN!

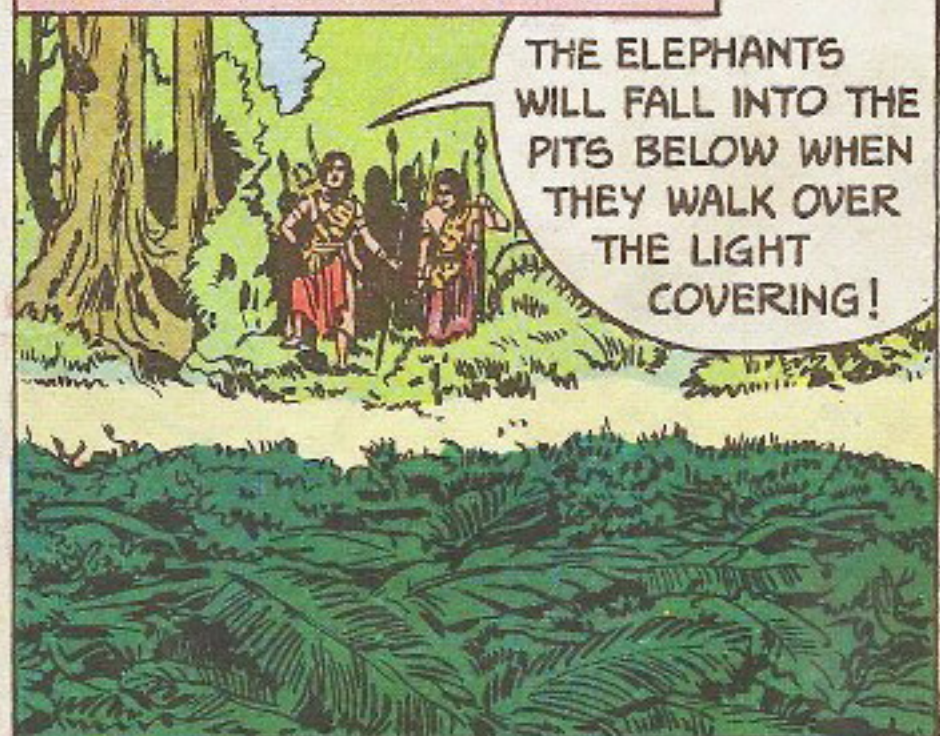
NOW WE MUST CAPTURE THE ELEPHANTS.



TINNAN'S COMPANIONS DUG LARGE PITS...



...AND COVERED THEM WITH TWIGS, GRASS AND BANANA LEAVES.

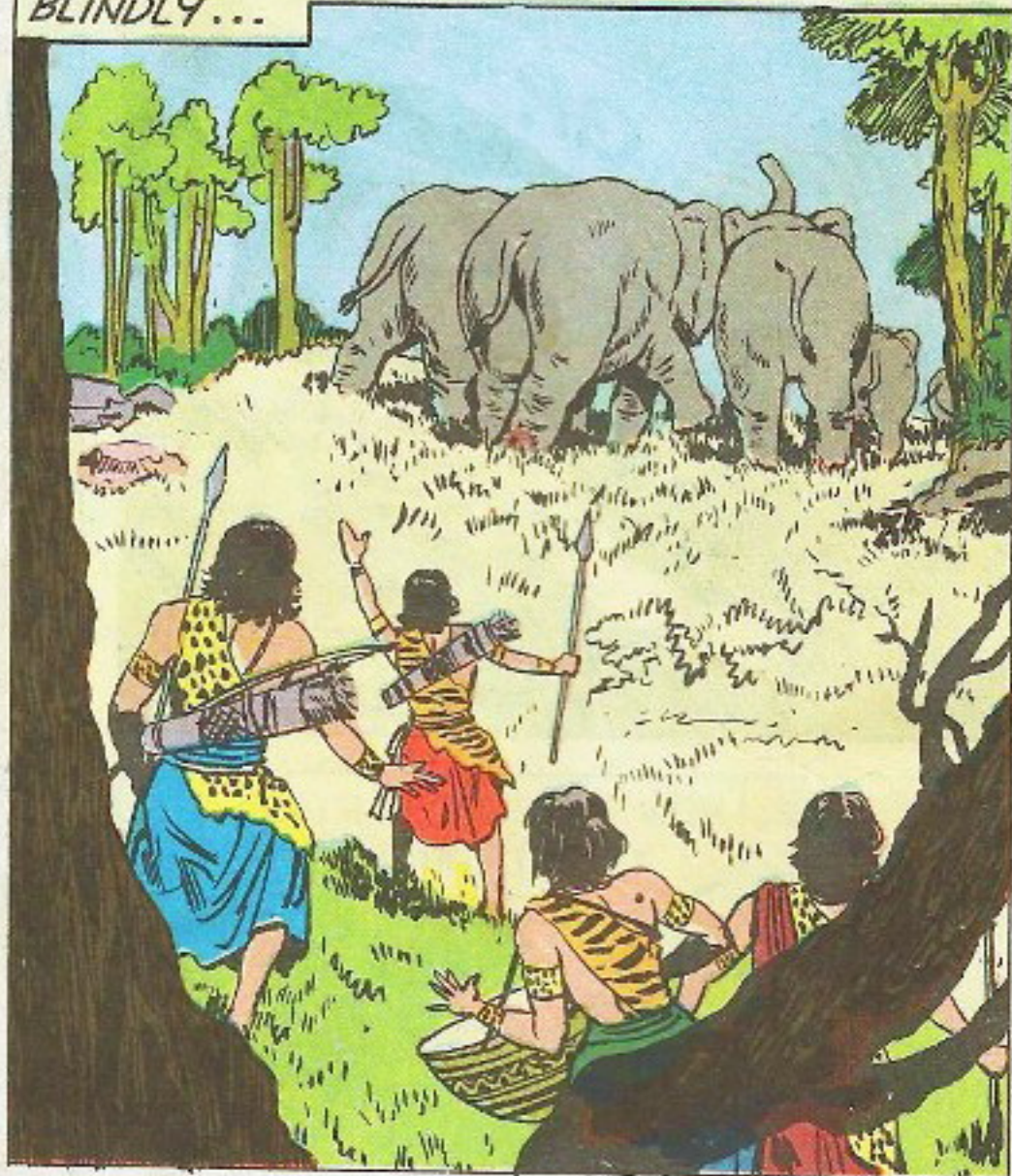


THE ELEPHANTS WILL FALL INTO THE PITS BELOW WHEN THEY WALK OVER THE LIGHT COVERING!

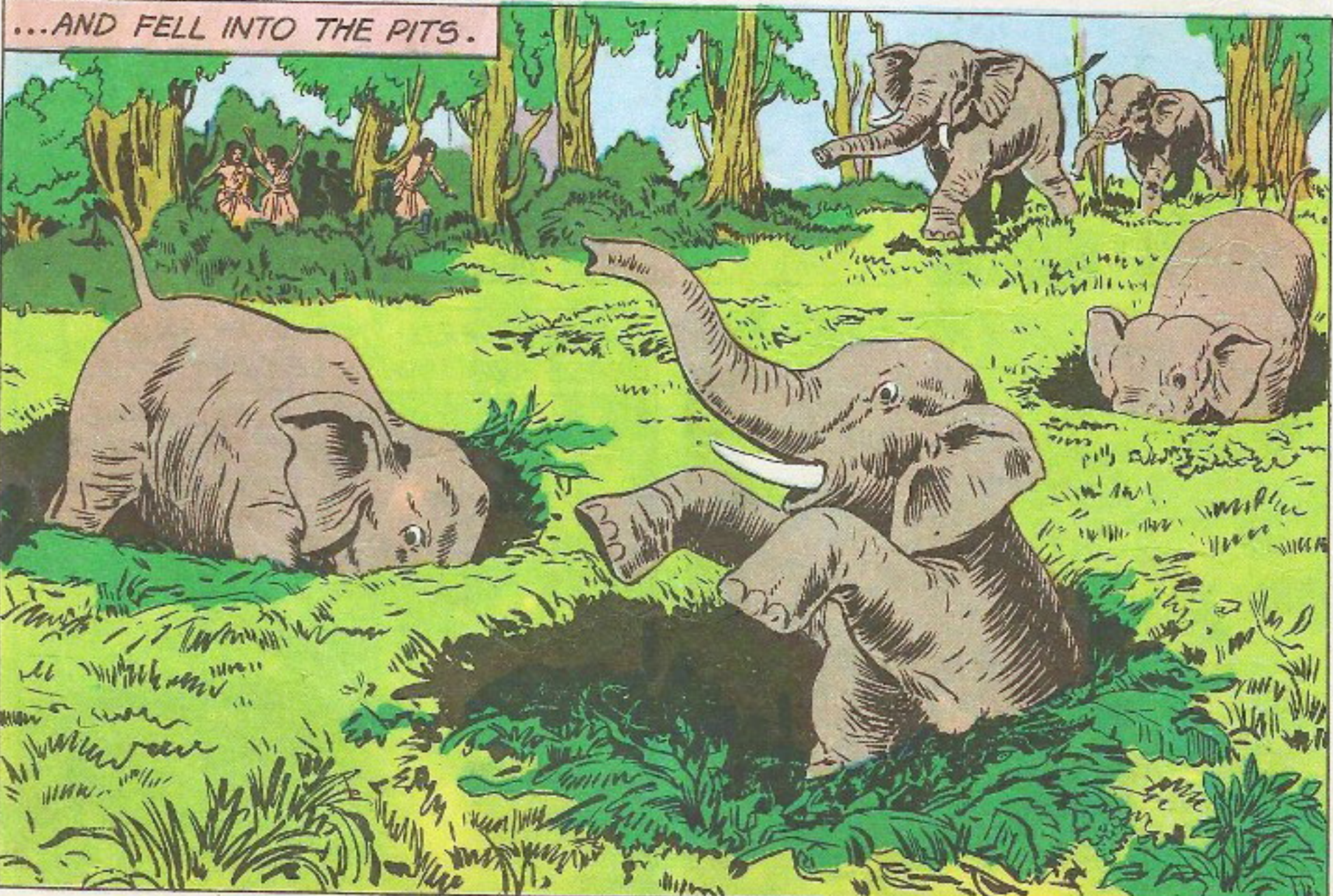
THEN THEY BLEW THEIR HORNS
AND BEAT THEIR DRUMS, MAKING
A TERRIBLE DIN.



THE FRIGHTENED ELEPHANTS RAN ABOUT
BLINDLY...



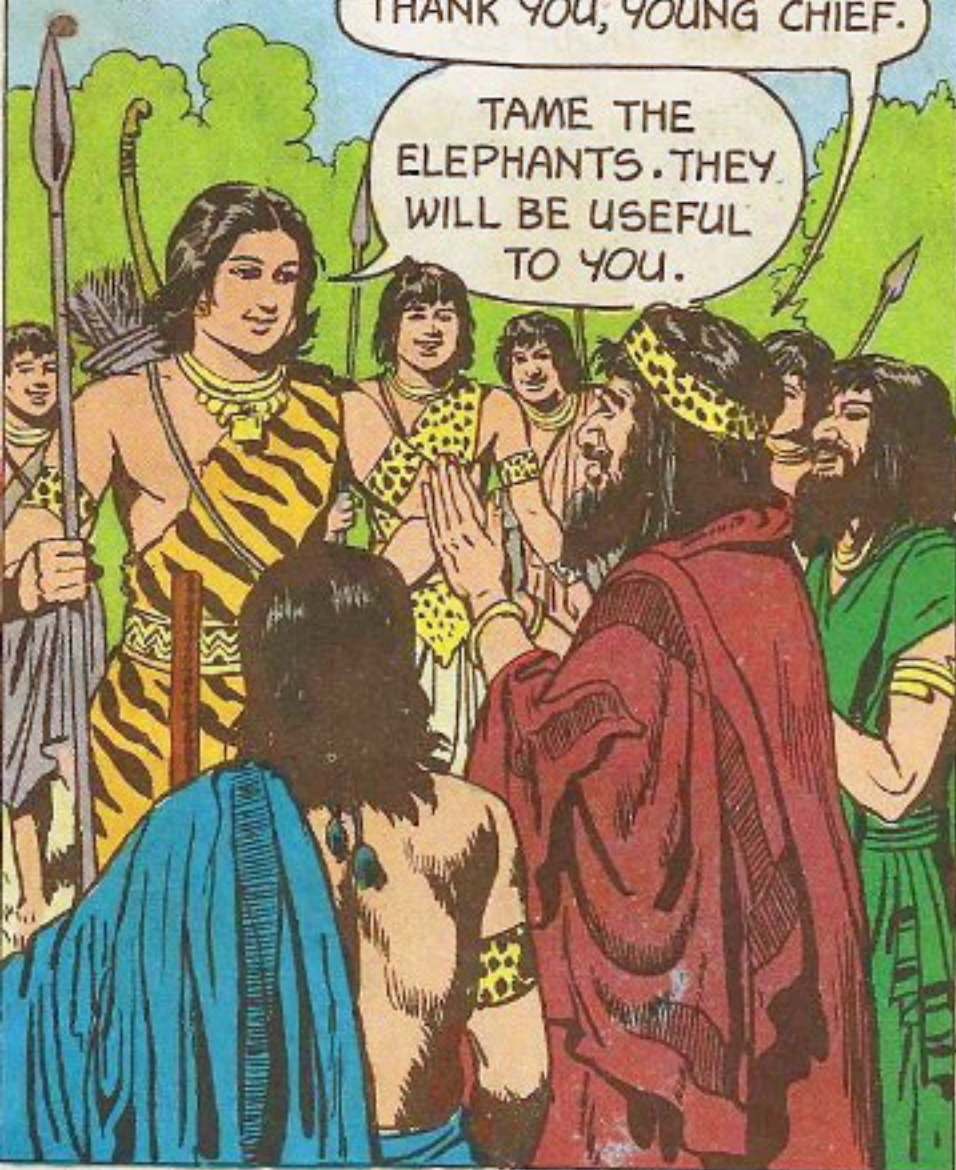
...AND FELL INTO THE PITS.



TINNAN AND HIS FRIENDS BADE THE GRATEFUL VILLAGERS FAREWELL ...

THANK YOU, YOUNG CHIEF.

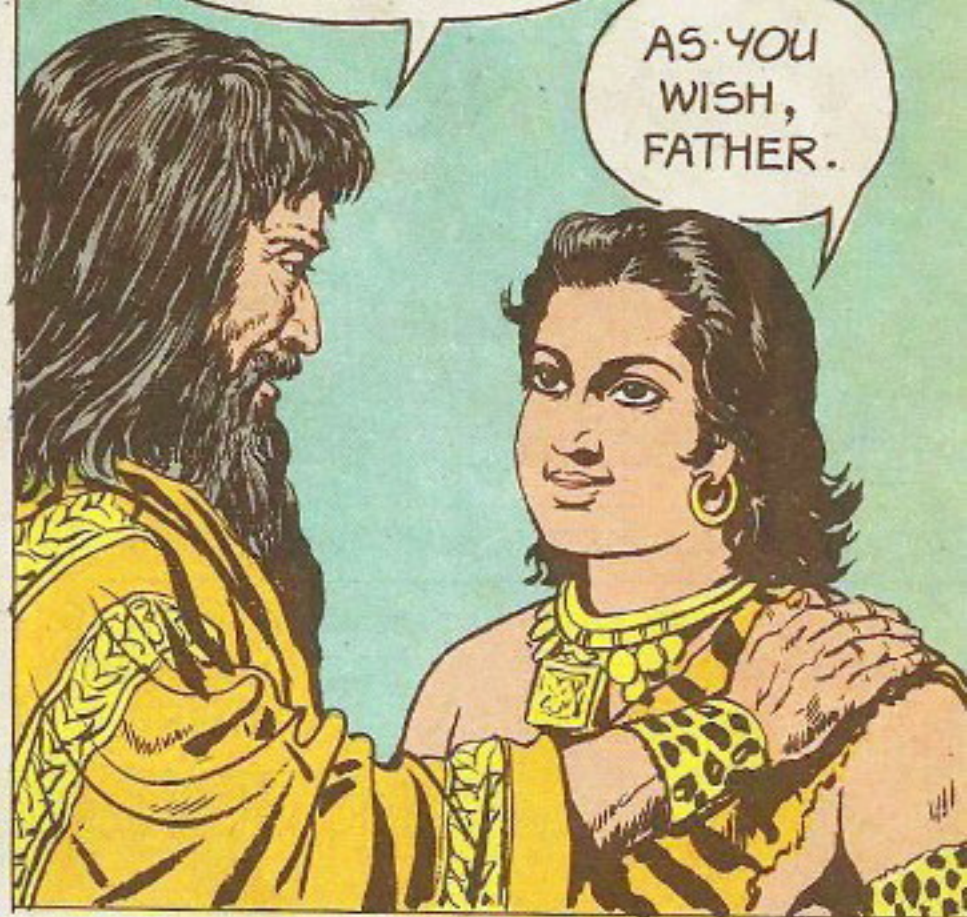
TAME THE ELEPHANTS. THEY WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU.



... AND RETURNED HOME. NAGAN WAS PLEASED WITH HIS SON.

TINNAN, YOU HAVE NOW PROVED YOURSELF. IT IS TIME TO APPOINT YOU MY SUCCESSOR.

AS YOU WISH, FATHER.



THE HUNTERS WERE HAPPY TO HAVE TINNNAN AS THEIR CHIEF.

VICTORY TO TINNNAN.

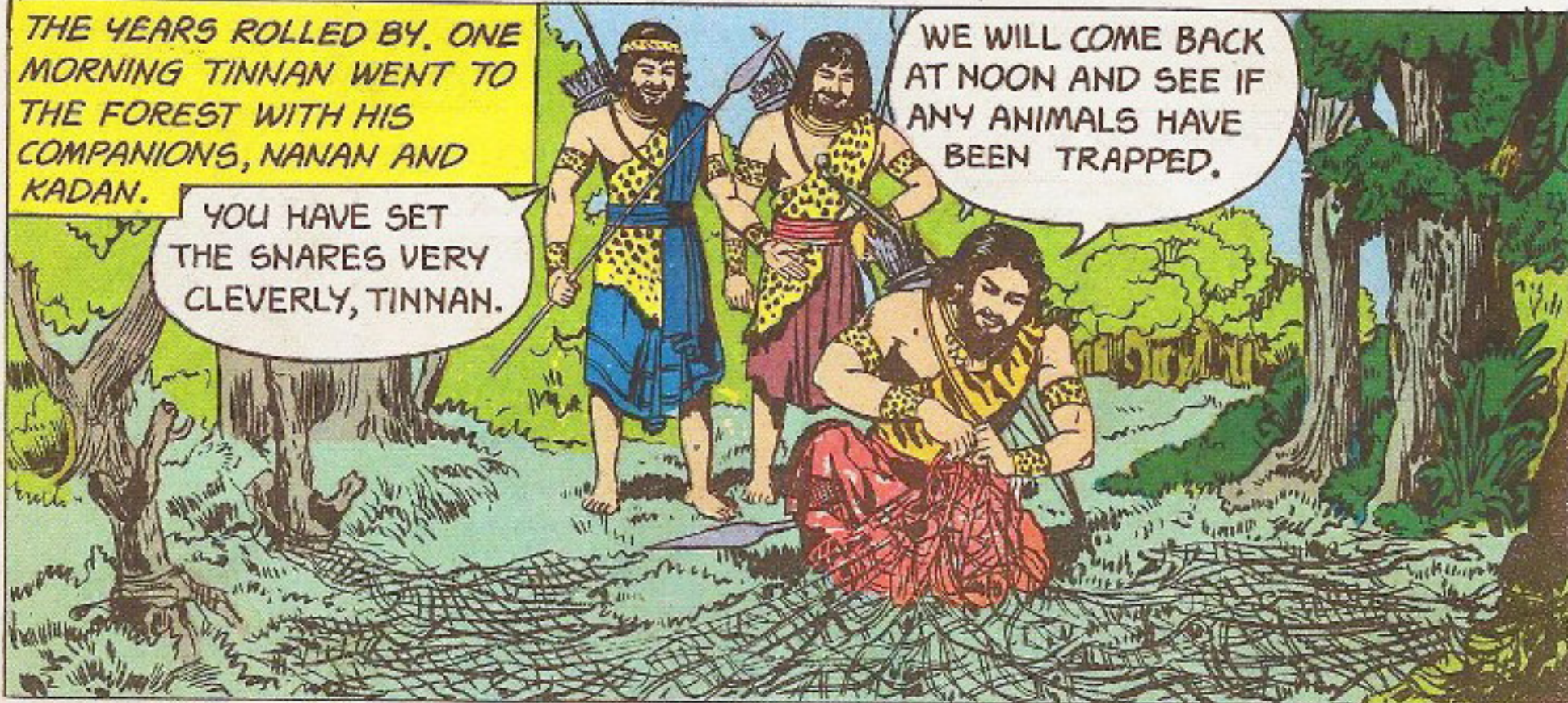
LONG LIVE TINNNAN!



THE YEARS ROLLED BY. ONE MORNING TINNAN WENT TO THE FOREST WITH HIS COMPANIONS, NANAN AND KADAN.

YOU HAVE SET THE SNARES VERY CLEVERLY, TINNAN.

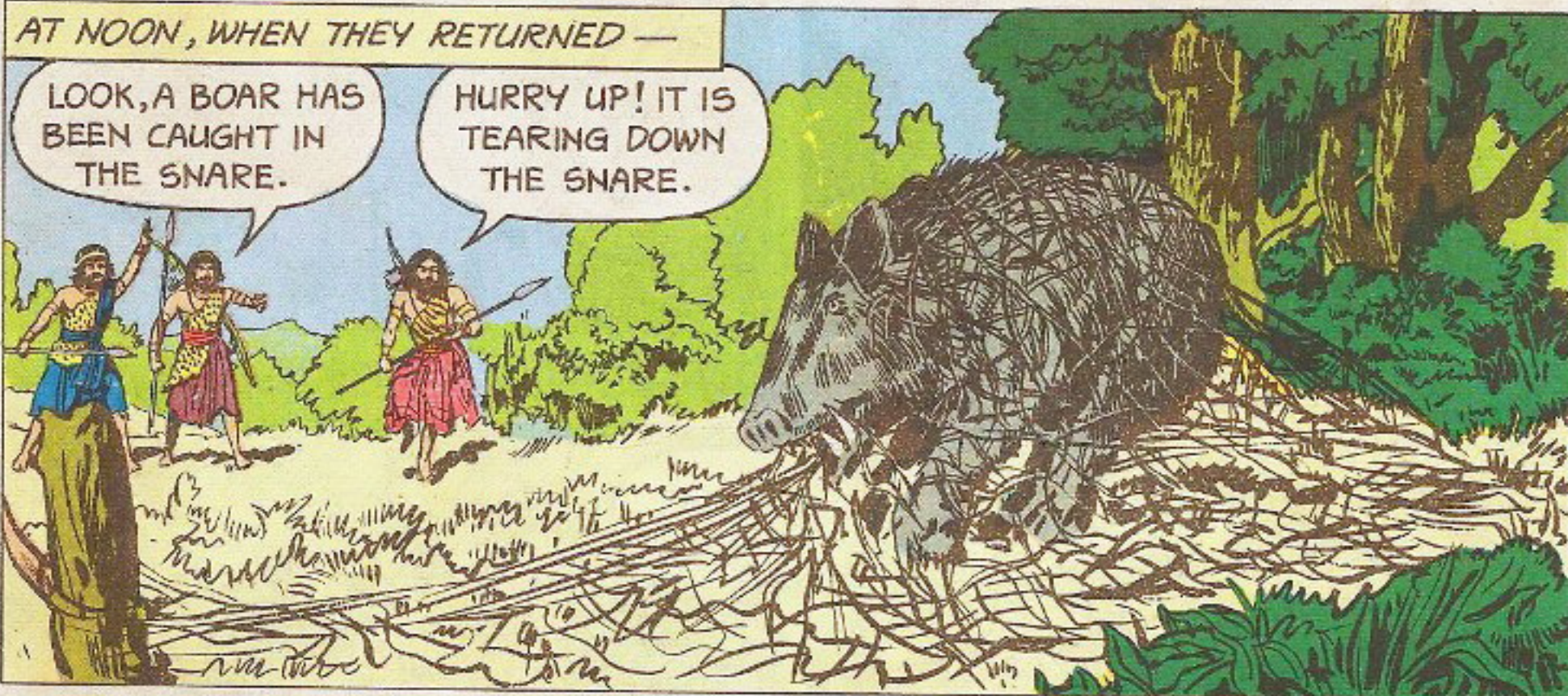
WE WILL COME BACK AT NOON AND SEE IF ANY ANIMALS HAVE BEEN TRAPPED.



AT NOON, WHEN THEY RETURNED —

LOOK, A BOAR HAS BEEN CAUGHT IN THE SNARE.

HURRY UP! IT IS TEARING DOWN THE SNARE.



BEFORE THEY COULD REACH HIM, THE BOAR HAD BROKEN LOOSE AND HAD ESCAPED. THE THREE HUNTERS FOLLOWED IN CLOSE PURSUIT.



TINNAN FINALLY OVERTOOK THE BOAR...



...AND KILLED IT.



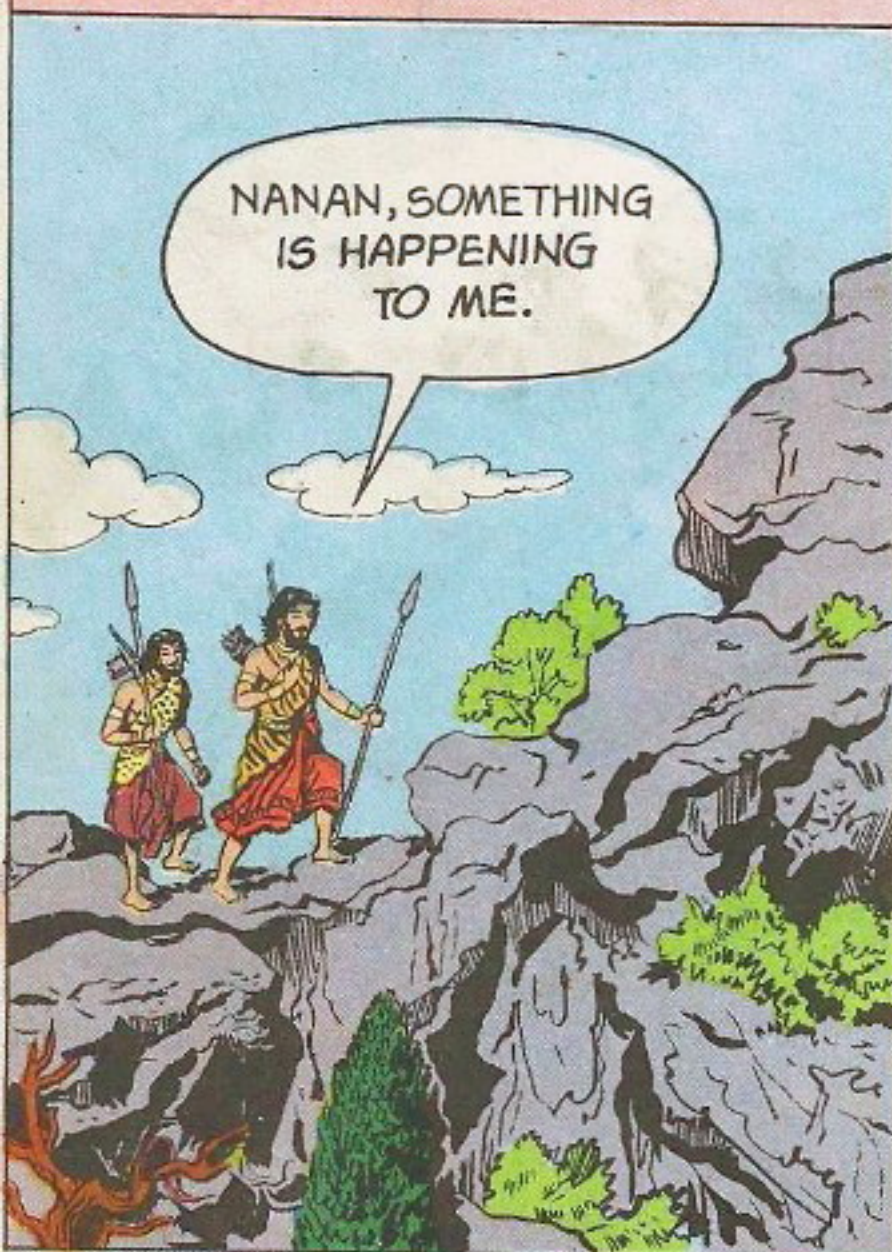
TINNAN AND HIS COMPANIONS STOPPED TO REST AT THE FOOT OF THE KALAHASTI HILL. KADAN LIT A FIRE TO ROAST THE BOAR.

I AM THIRSTY,
NANAN.

I'LL GO WITH
YOU TO FETCH
SOME WATER.



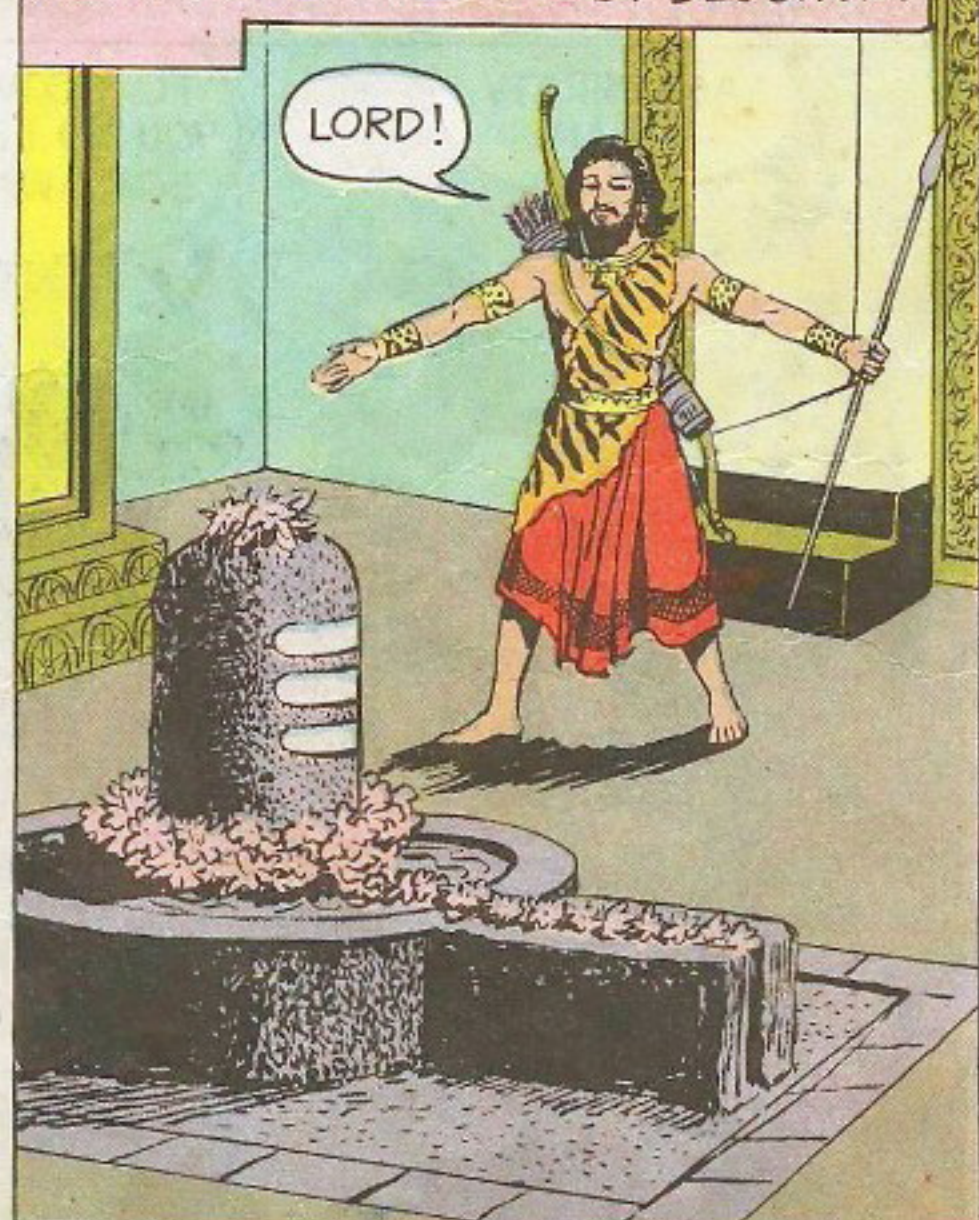
AS THE TWO CLIMBED THE HILL —



SUDDENLY HE BROKE INTO A RUN.

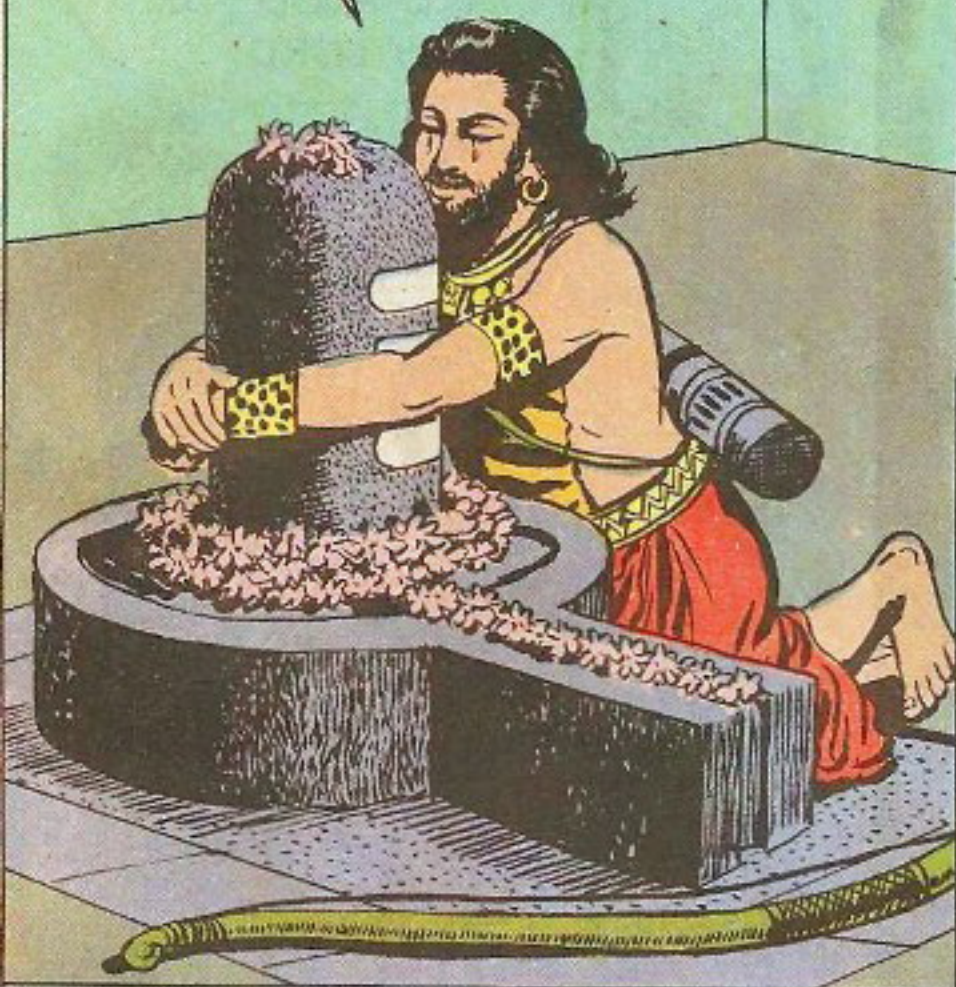


WHEN TINNAN ENTERED THE TEMPLE, HE WAS OVERWHELMED BY DEVOTION.



HE SHED TEARS OF JOY.

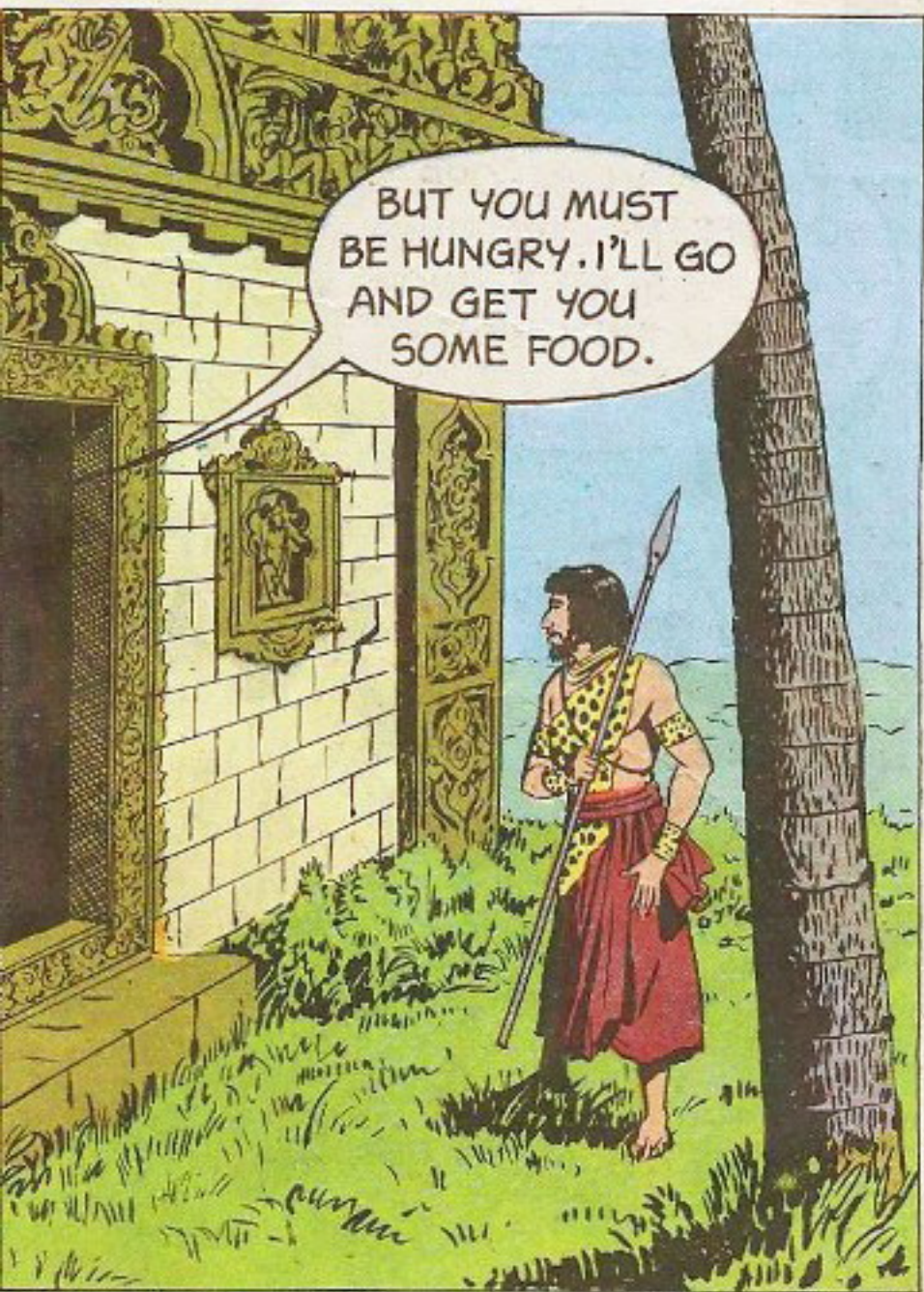
LORD, I HAVE
FOUND YOU.



LORD, HOW LONELY
YOU MUST BE! FROM
NOW ON, I'LL REMAIN
WITH YOU.

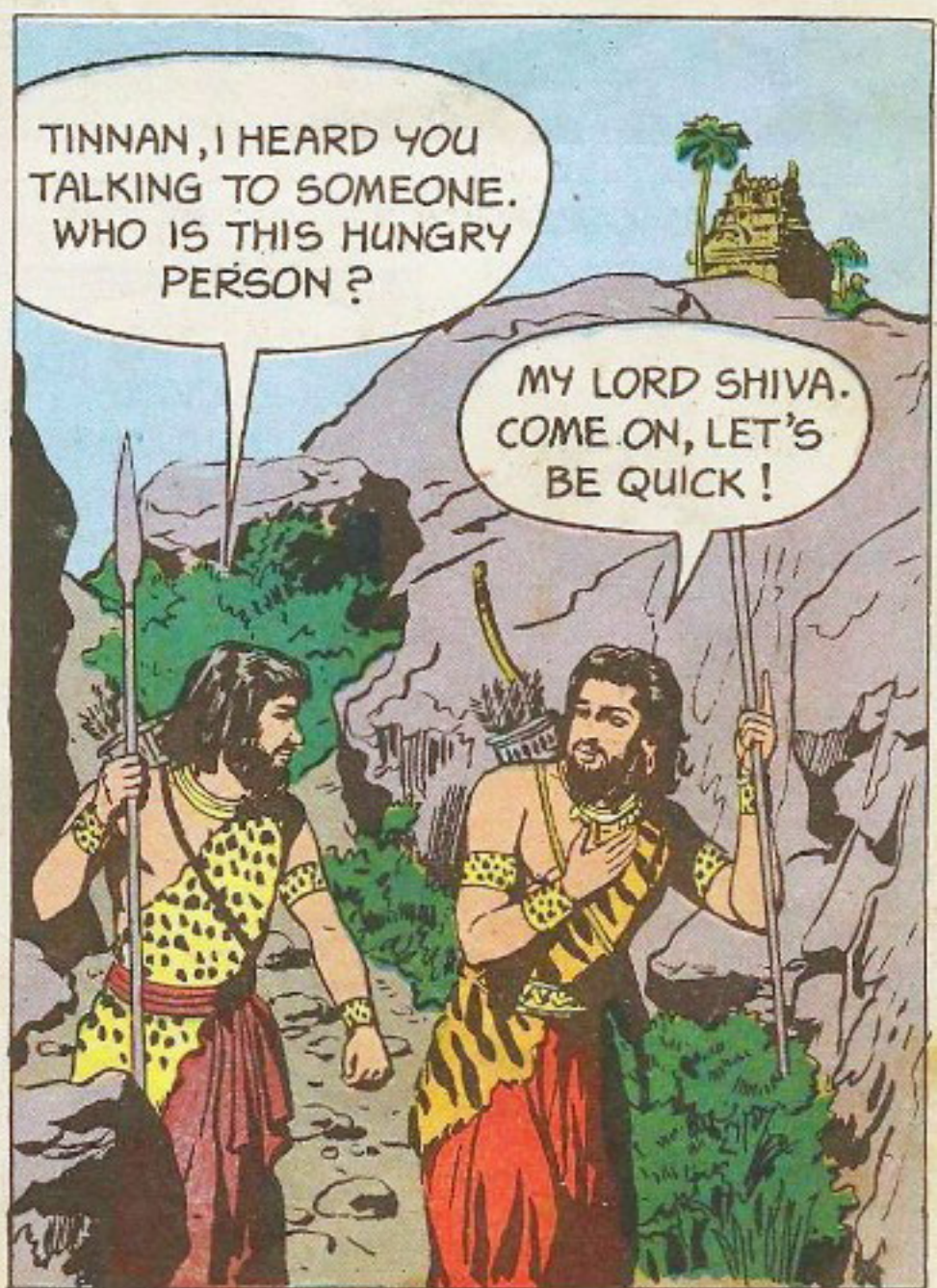


BUT YOU MUST
BE HUNGRY. I'LL GO
AND GET YOU
SOME FOOD.



TINNAN, I HEARD YOU
TALKING TO SOMEONE.
WHO IS THIS HUNGRY
PERSON?

MY LORD SHIVA.
COME ON, LET'S
BE QUICK!



WHEN THEY RETURNED TO THE FOOT OF THE HILL —

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. LET'S EAT.

GOOD! I'M HUNGRY.

YOU TWO MAY EAT. I HAVE TO TAKE FOOD FOR MY LORD.

TINNAN WAS CAREFUL IN CHOOSING THE MEAT FOR HIS LORD.

HMM. THIS IS DELICIOUS. MY LORD WILL LIKE IT.

AS HE LEFT FOR THE TEMPLE —

TINNAN, BEFORE YOU OFFER LORD SHIVA FOOD, HE MUST BE WORSHIPPED WITH WATER AND FLOWERS.

I WILL TAKE FLOWERS AND WATER, TOO.

TINNAN CARRIED THE CHOICEST
PIECE OF MEAT TO LORD SHIVA.
ON THE WAY —

BEAUTIFUL! THESE
FLOWERS WILL MAKE
MY LORD HAPPY.

HE SET THE MEAT DOWN AND GATHERED THE FLOWERS.

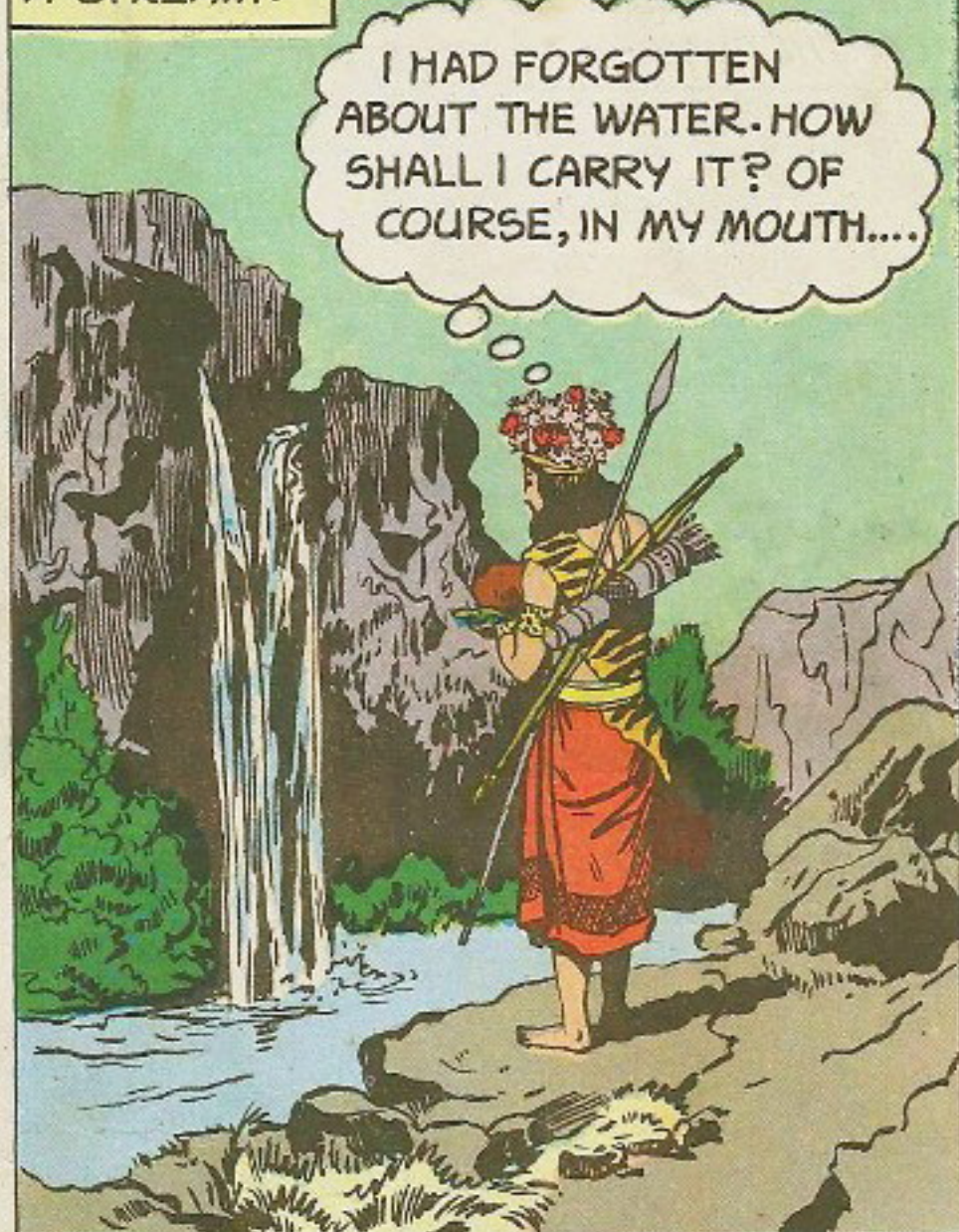
HOW CAN I CARRY
BOTH THESE
THINGS AT THE
SAME TIME? THE
FLOWERS WILL
GET SQUASHED!

OF COURSE!
IT IS
SIMPLE!

WITH THE MEAT IN HIS HANDS AND
FLOWERS IN HIS HAIR, HE WENT ON.

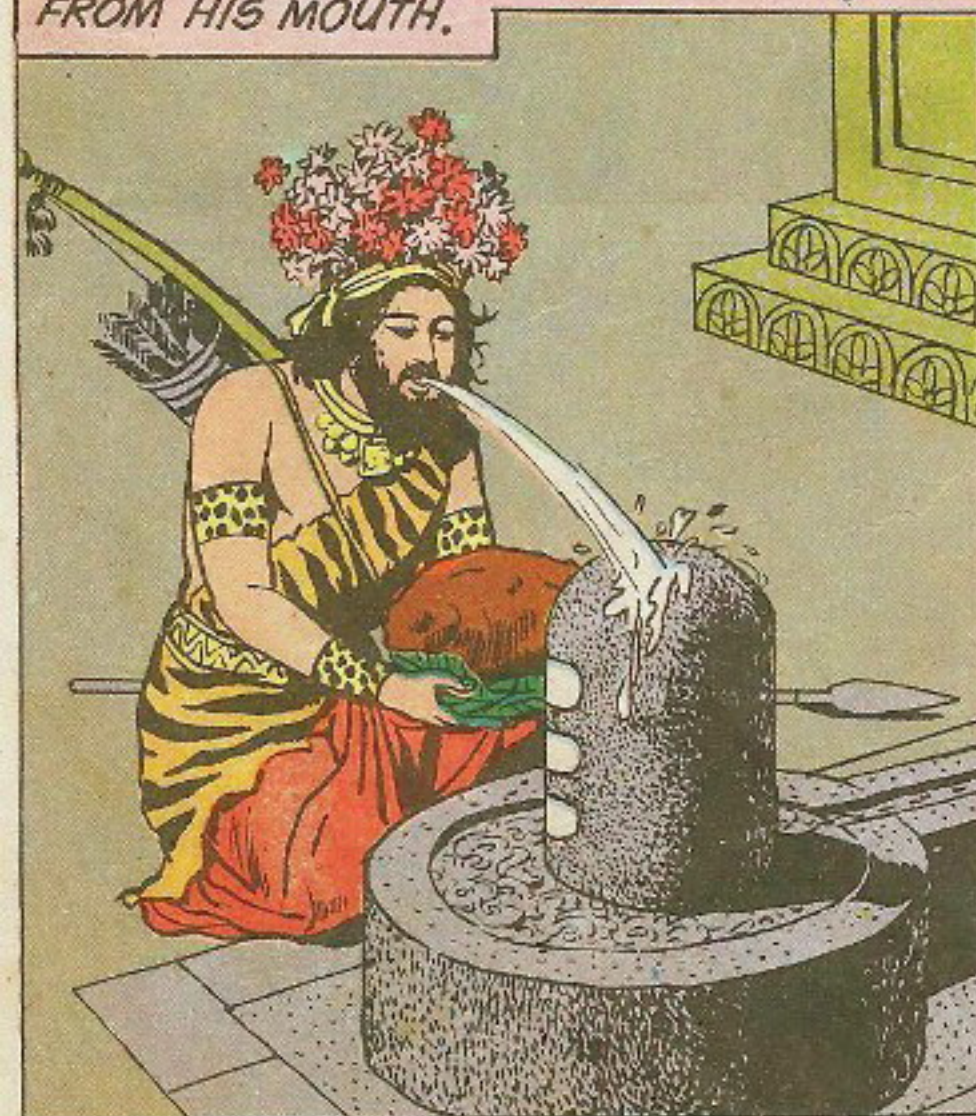


AGAIN HE STOPPED WHEN HE SAW
A STREAM.

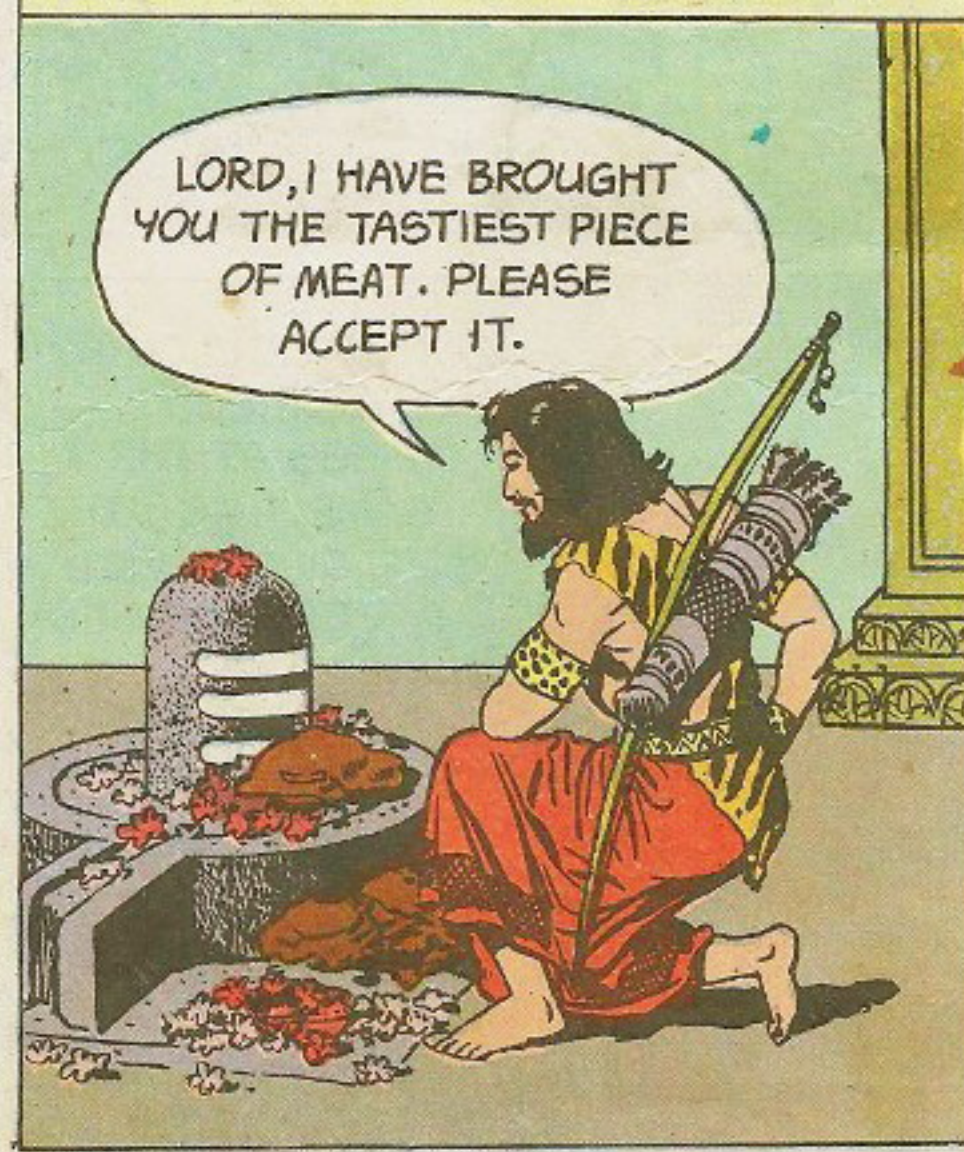


I HAD FORGOTTEN
ABOUT THE WATER. HOW
SHALL I CARRY IT? OF
COURSE, IN MY MOUTH....

WHEN HE REACHED THE TEMPLE, HE
BATHED THE LINGA WITH THE WATER
FROM HIS MOUTH.



THEN HE DECORATED THE LINGA WITH
THE FLOWERS FROM HIS HEAD AND
PLACED THE MEAT BEFORE THE LORD.



LORD, I HAVE BROUGHT
YOU THE TASTIEST PIECE
OF MEAT. PLEASE
ACCEPT IT.

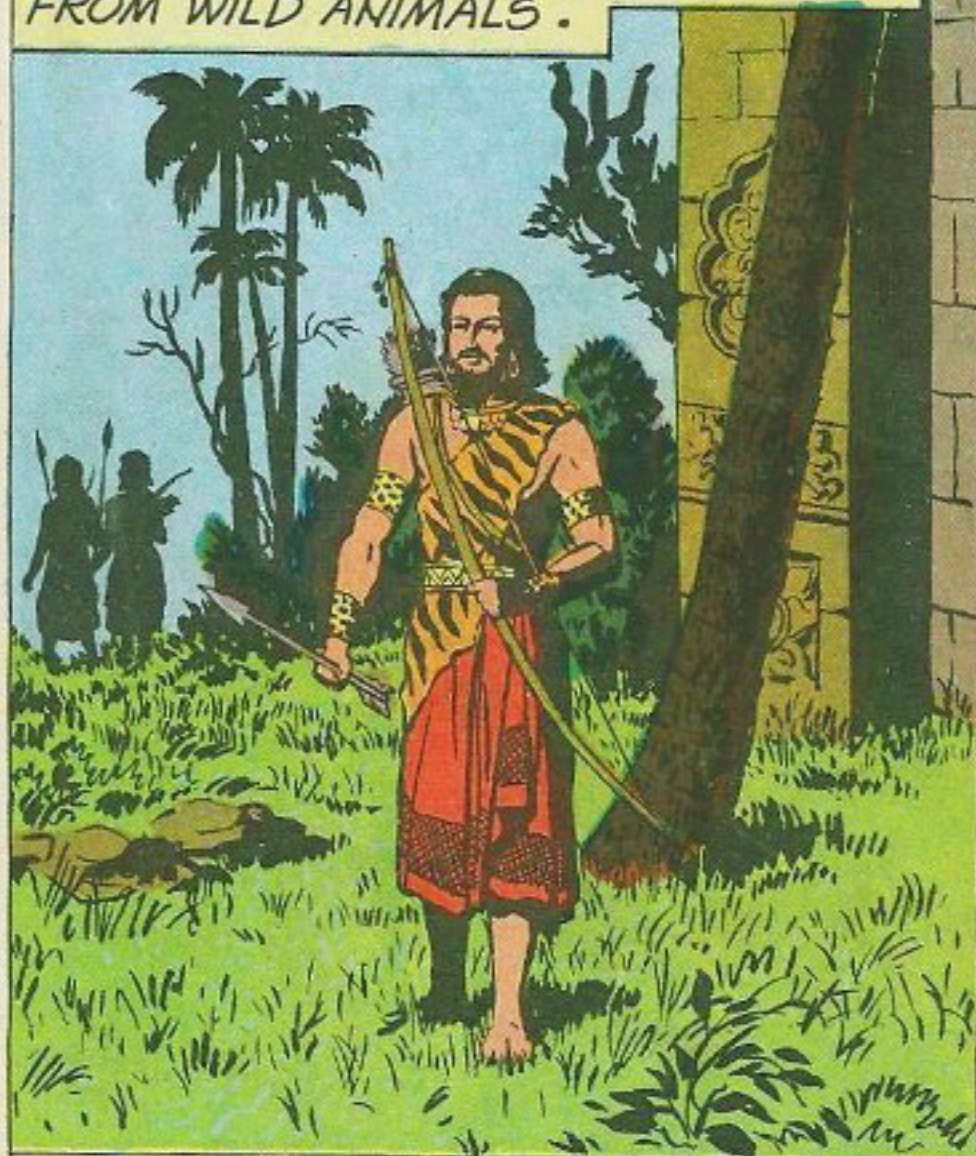
MEANWHILE, HIS FRIENDS WHO HAD FINISHED THEIR MEAL, JOINED HIM.

TINNAN, LET'S GO HOME. IT'S GETTING LATE.

I CANNOT LEAVE THE LORD HERE ALONE AND UNPROTECTED. YOU GO HOME. MY PLACE IS BY HIS SIDE.



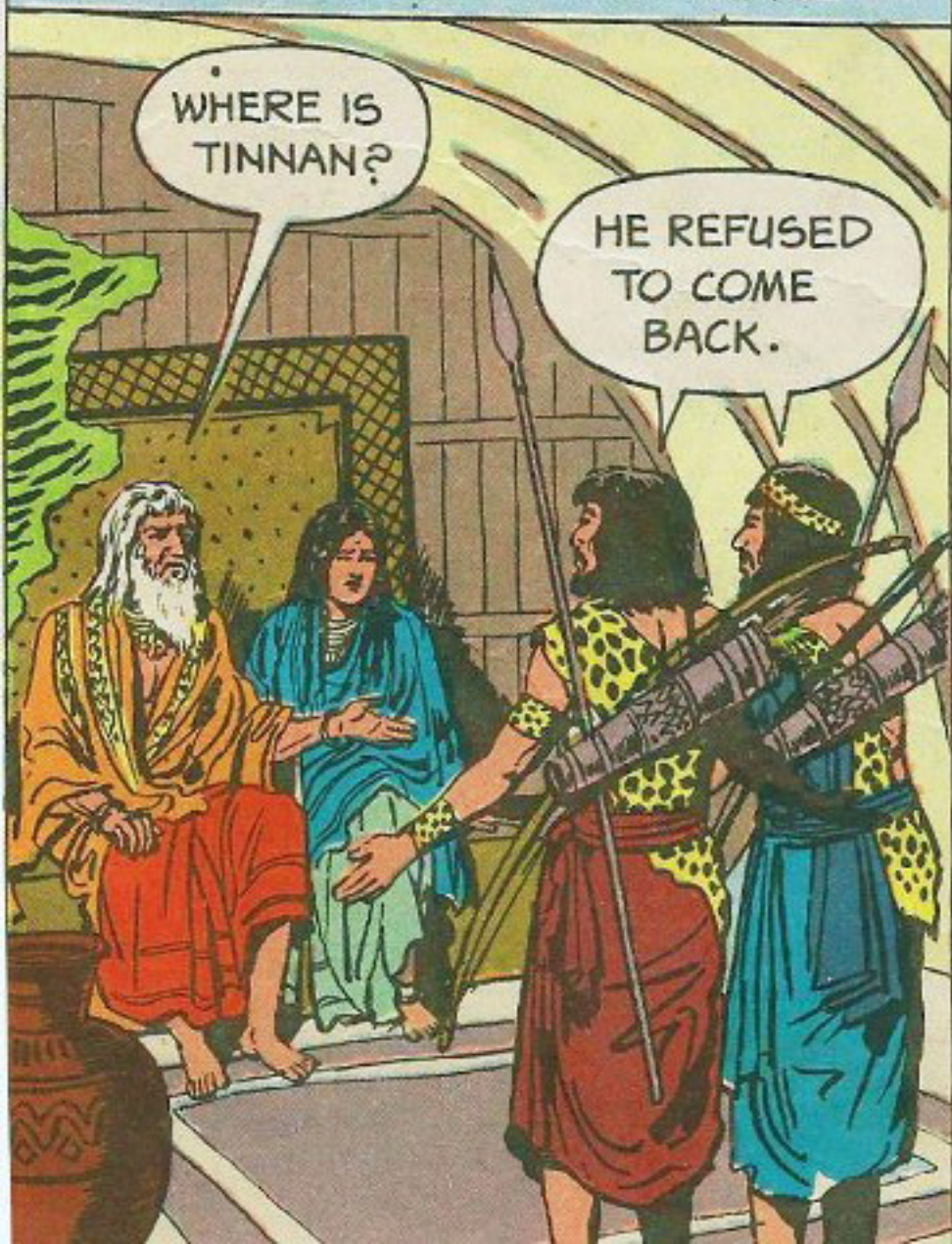
HIS FRIENDS HAD TO RETURN WITHOUT TINNAN WHO STOOD GUARD OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE TO PROTECT THE LORD FROM WILD ANIMALS.



WHEN THEY REACHED THEIR VILLAGE —

WHERE IS TINNAN?

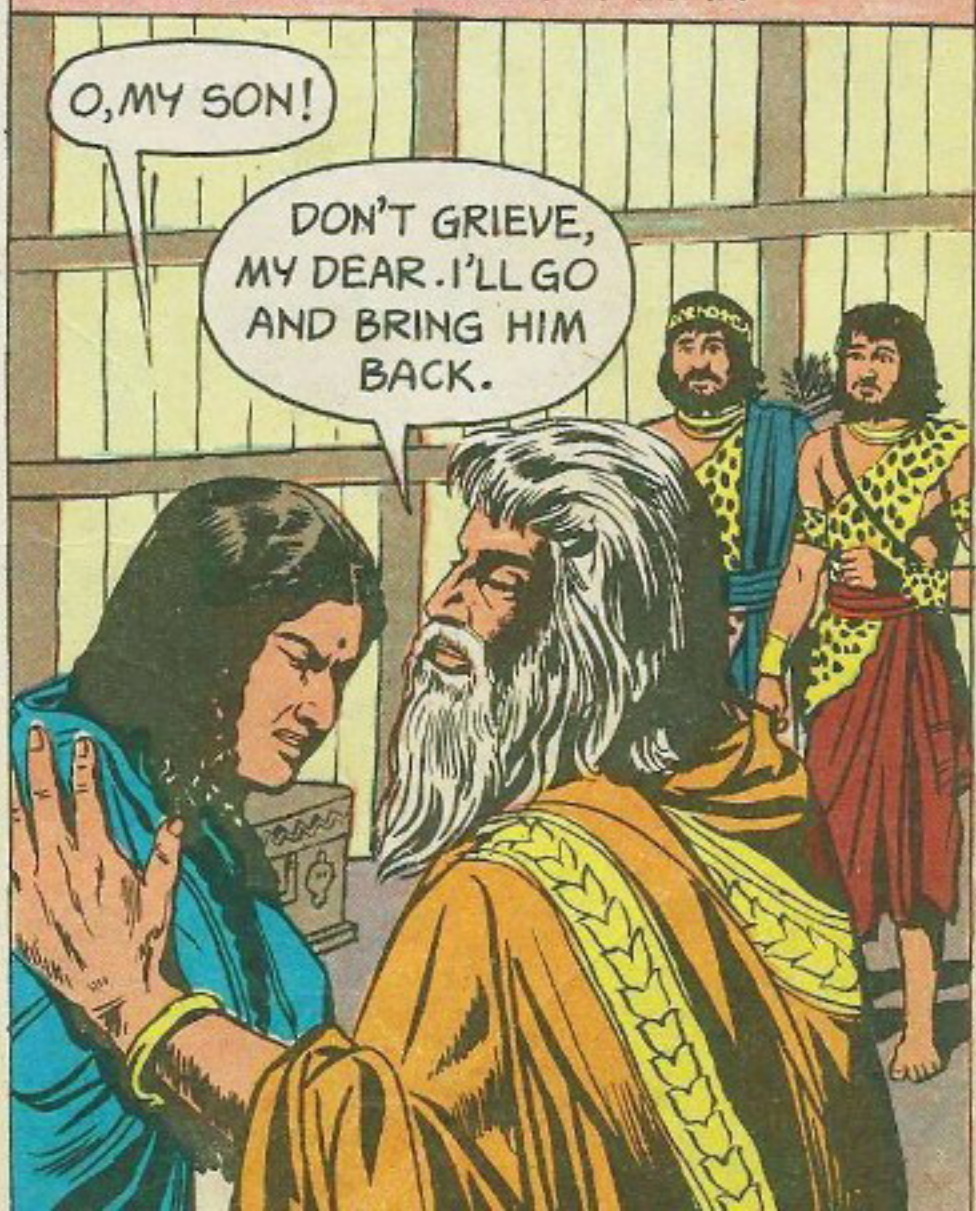
HE REFUSED TO COME BACK.

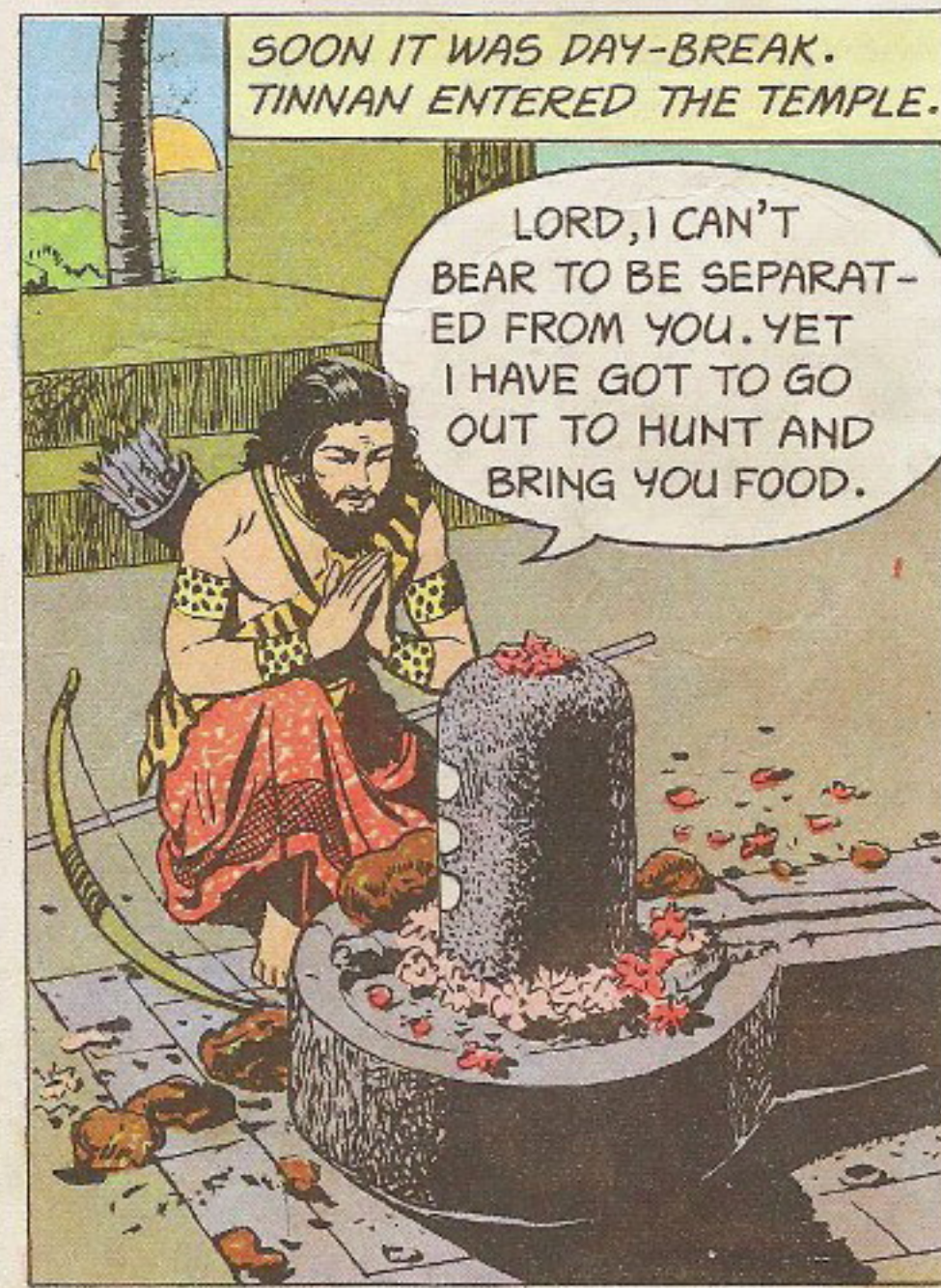
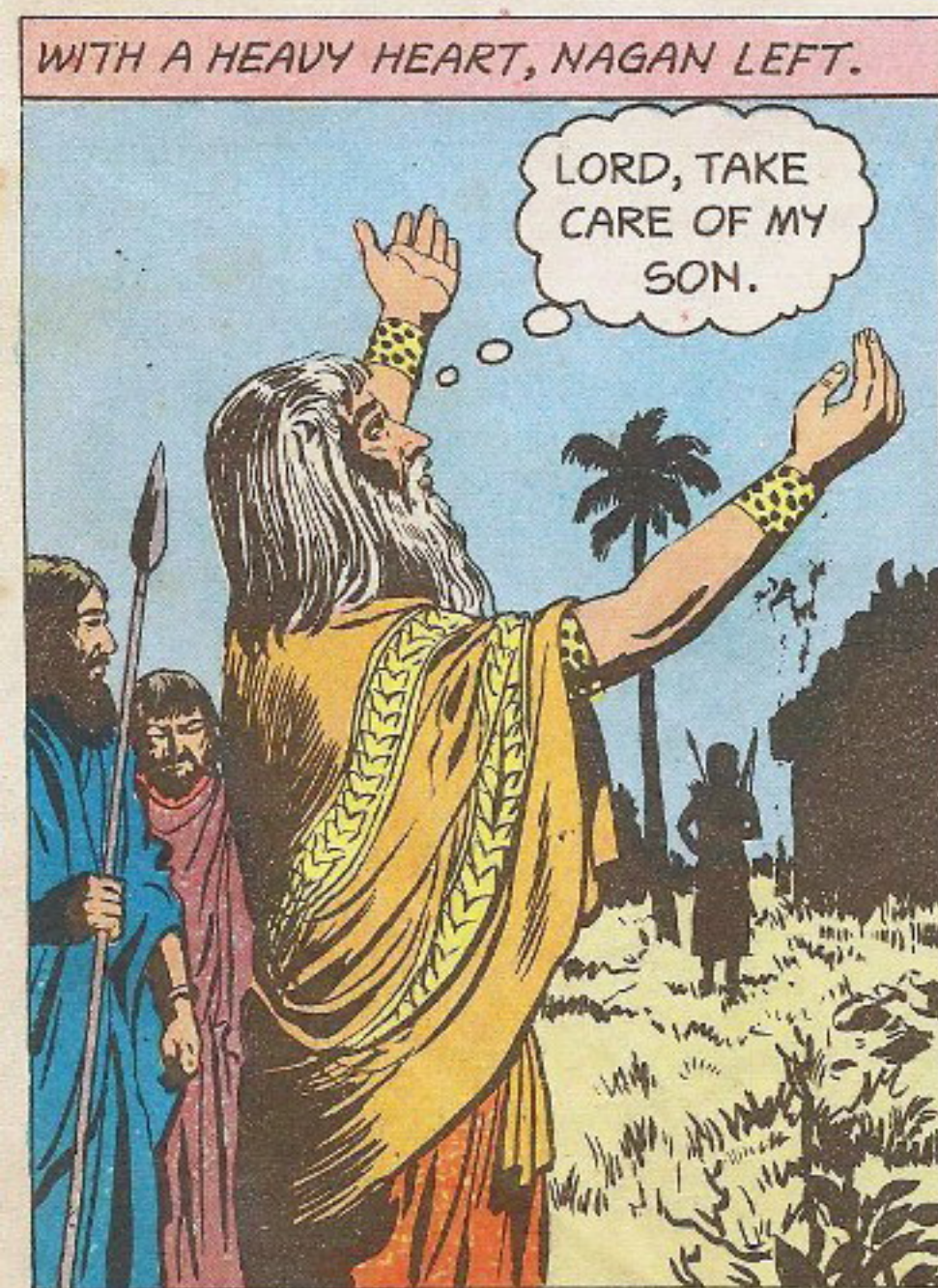


THEN THEY TOLD HIM OF THE CHANGE THAT HAD COME OVER TINNAN —

O, MY SON!

DON'T GRIEVE, MY DEAR. I'LL GO AND BRING HIM BACK.

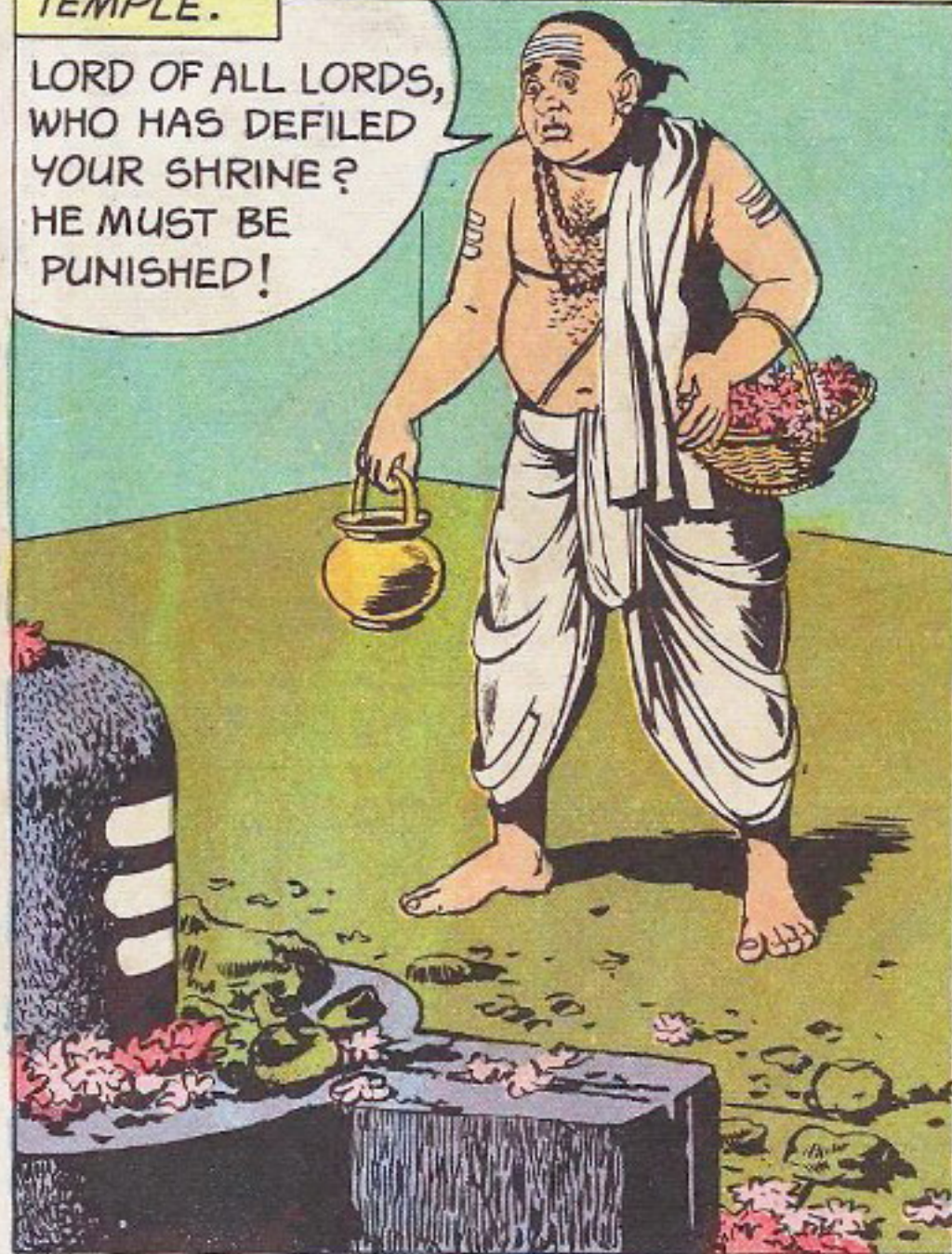




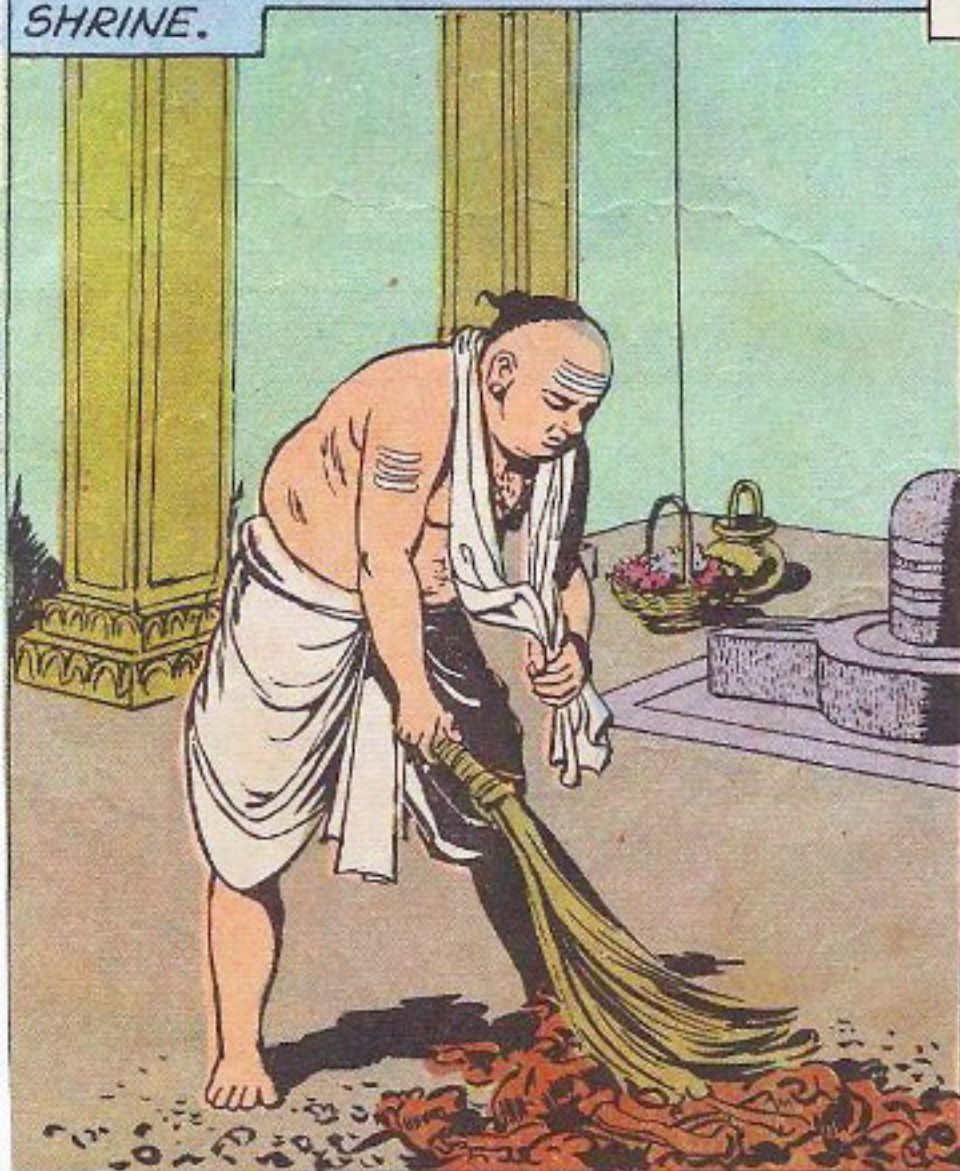


IN TINNAN'S ABSENCE THE PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE ARRIVED. HE WAS SHOCKED TO SEE THE OFFERINGS OF MEAT IN THE TEMPLE.

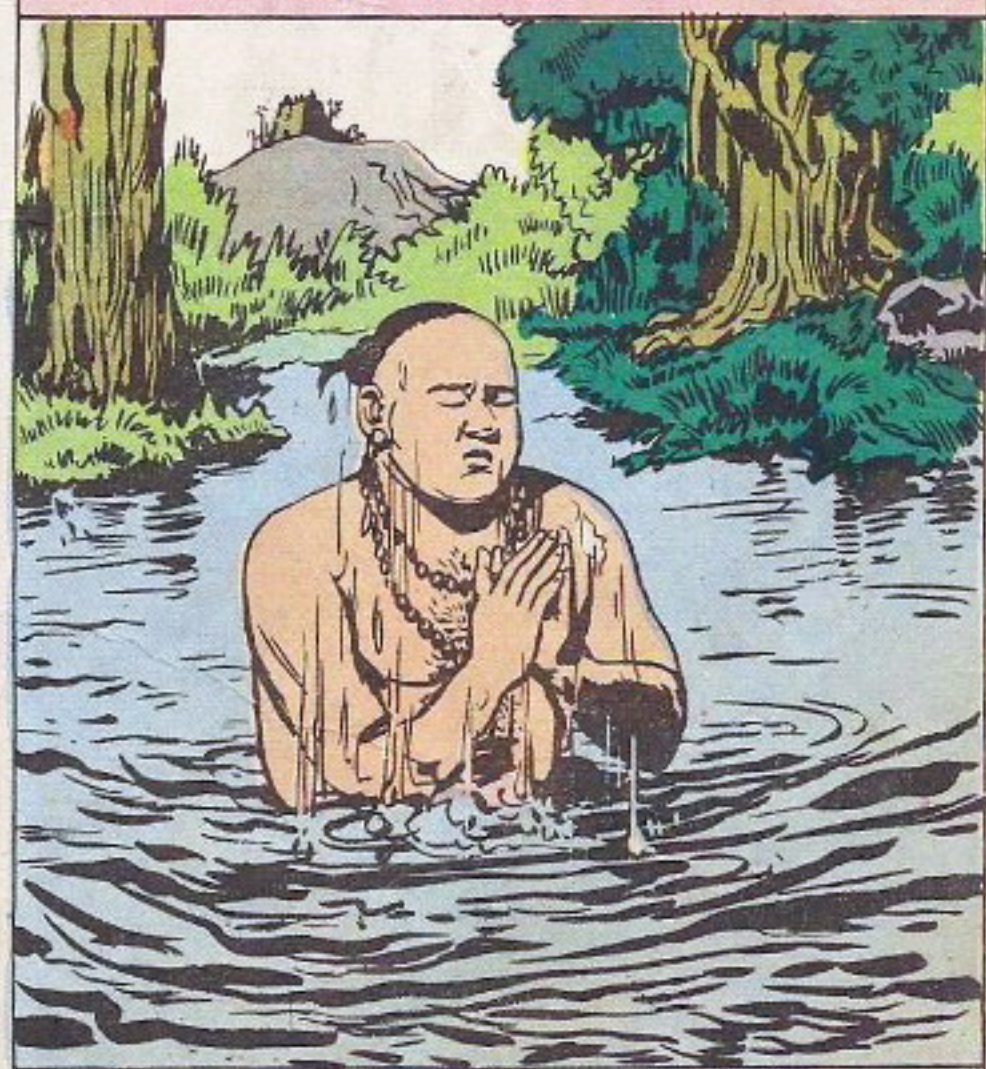
LORD OF ALL LORDS, WHO HAS DEFILED YOUR SHRINE? HE MUST BE PUNISHED!



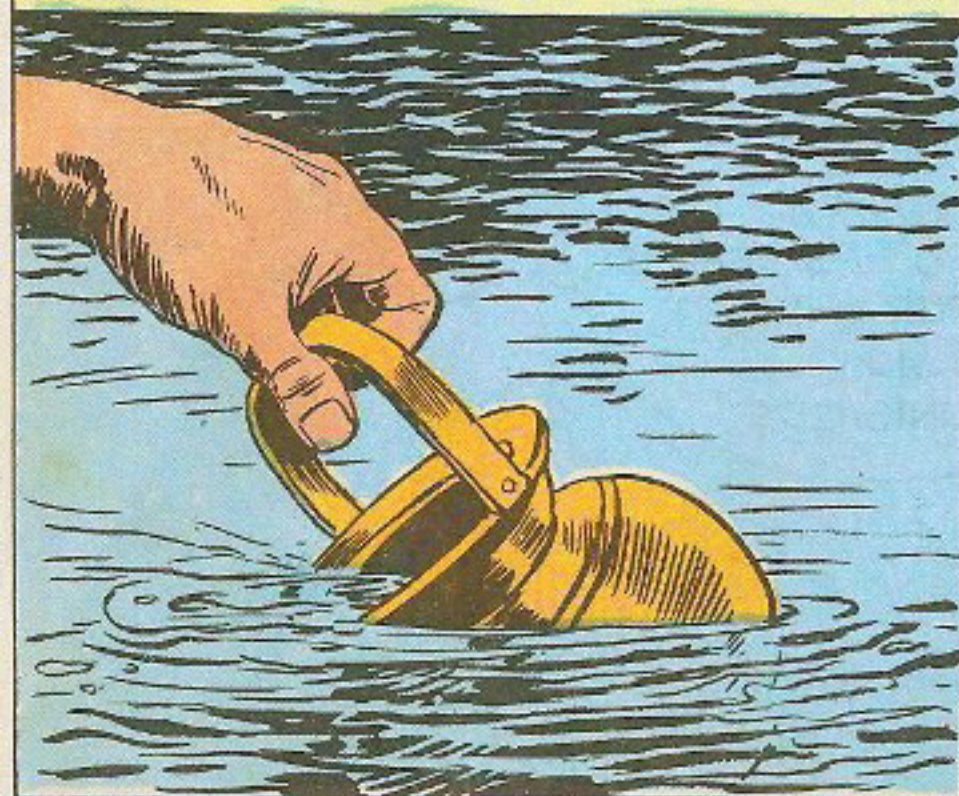
THE PRIEST STARTED CLEANING THE SHRINE.



THEN HE WENT TO THE LAKE TO BATHE.



HE FILLED HIS KAMANDALU* WITH WATER...



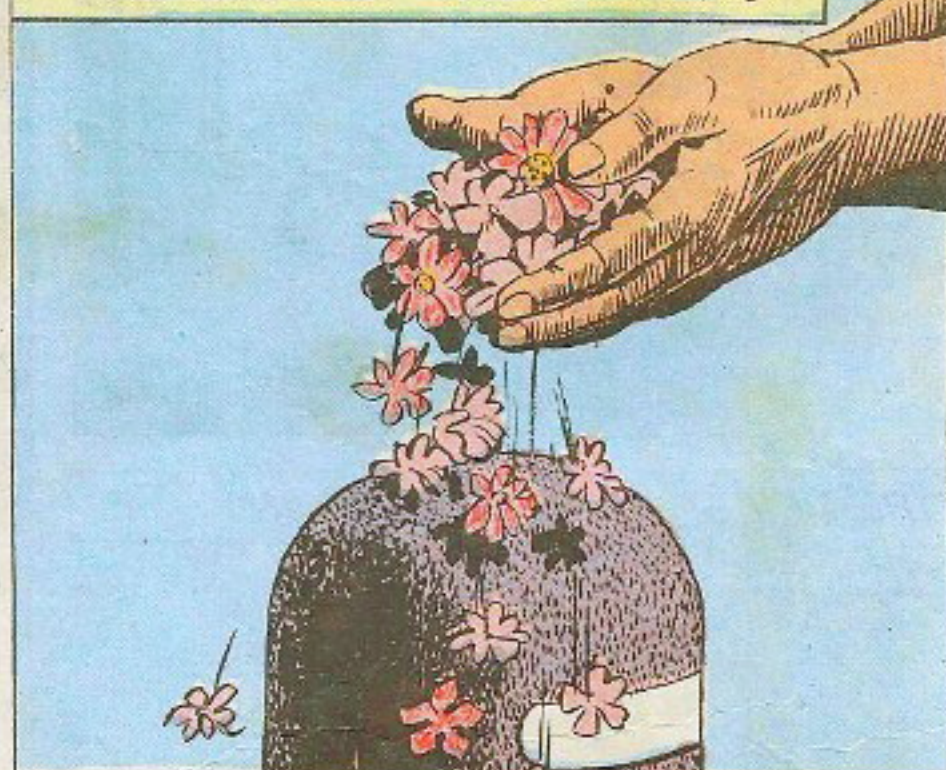
...AND GATHERED FLOWERS FOR HIS OFFERING.



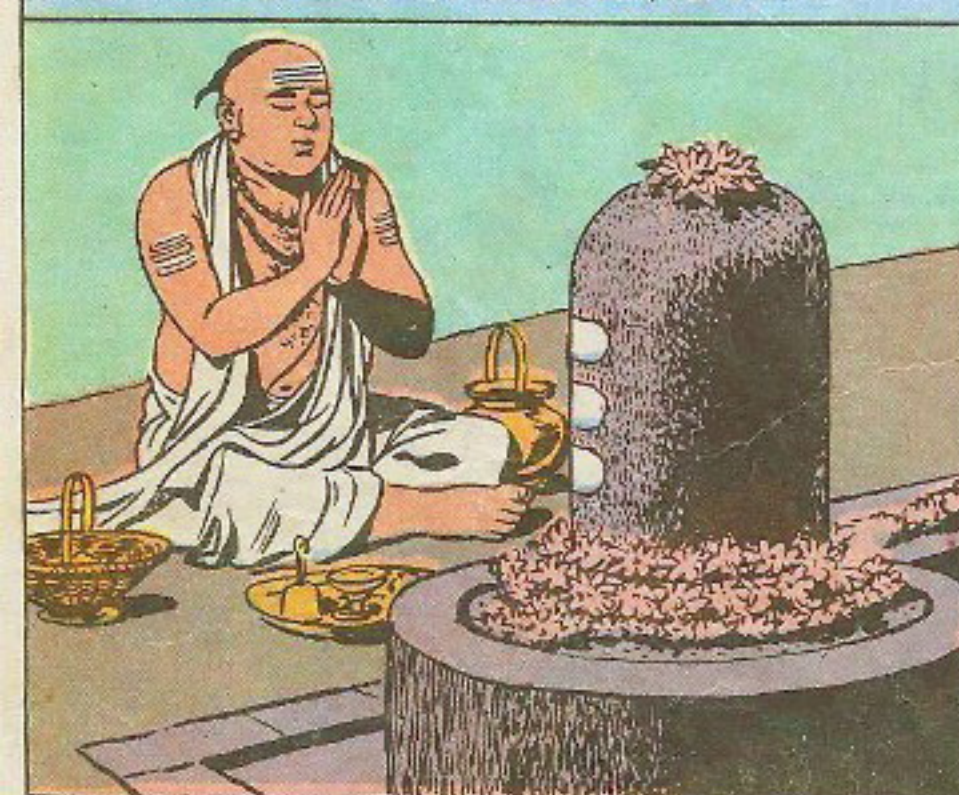
ON REACHING THE SHRINE HE GAVE THE DEITY A RITUAL BATH...



...AND OFFERED THE FLOWERS.



THE PRIEST SAT IN MEDITATION...

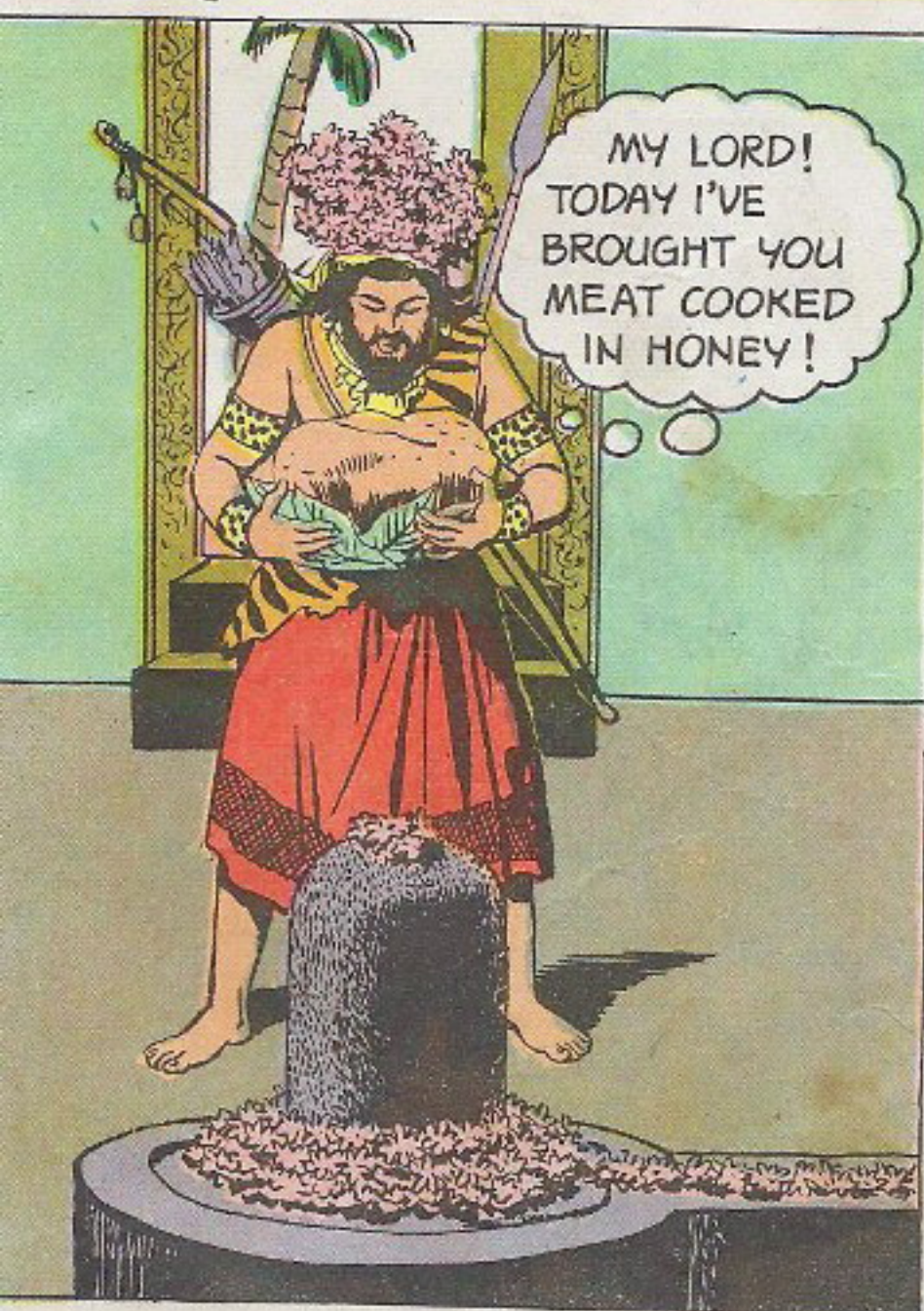
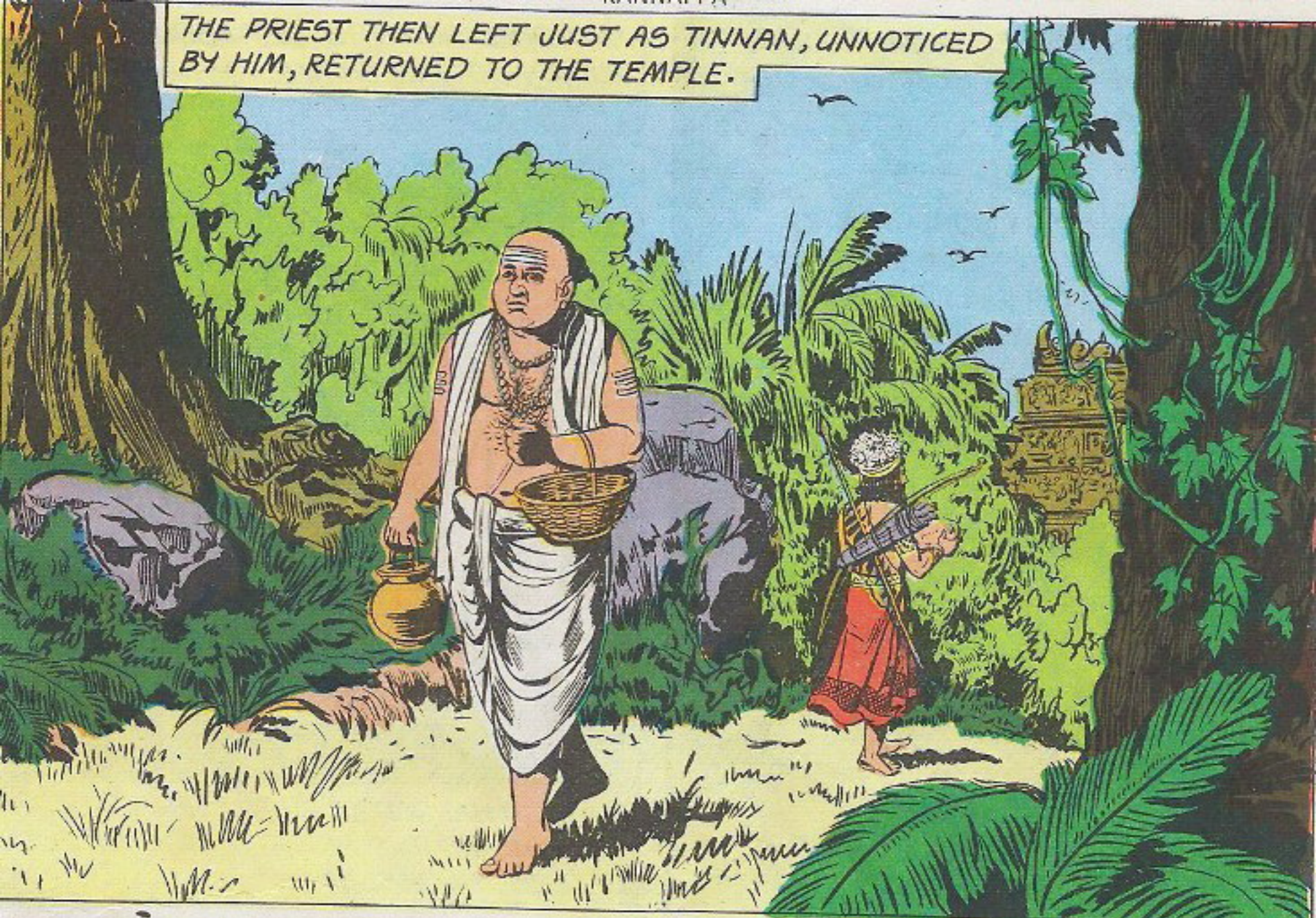


...AND COMPLETED HIS DEVOTIONS.

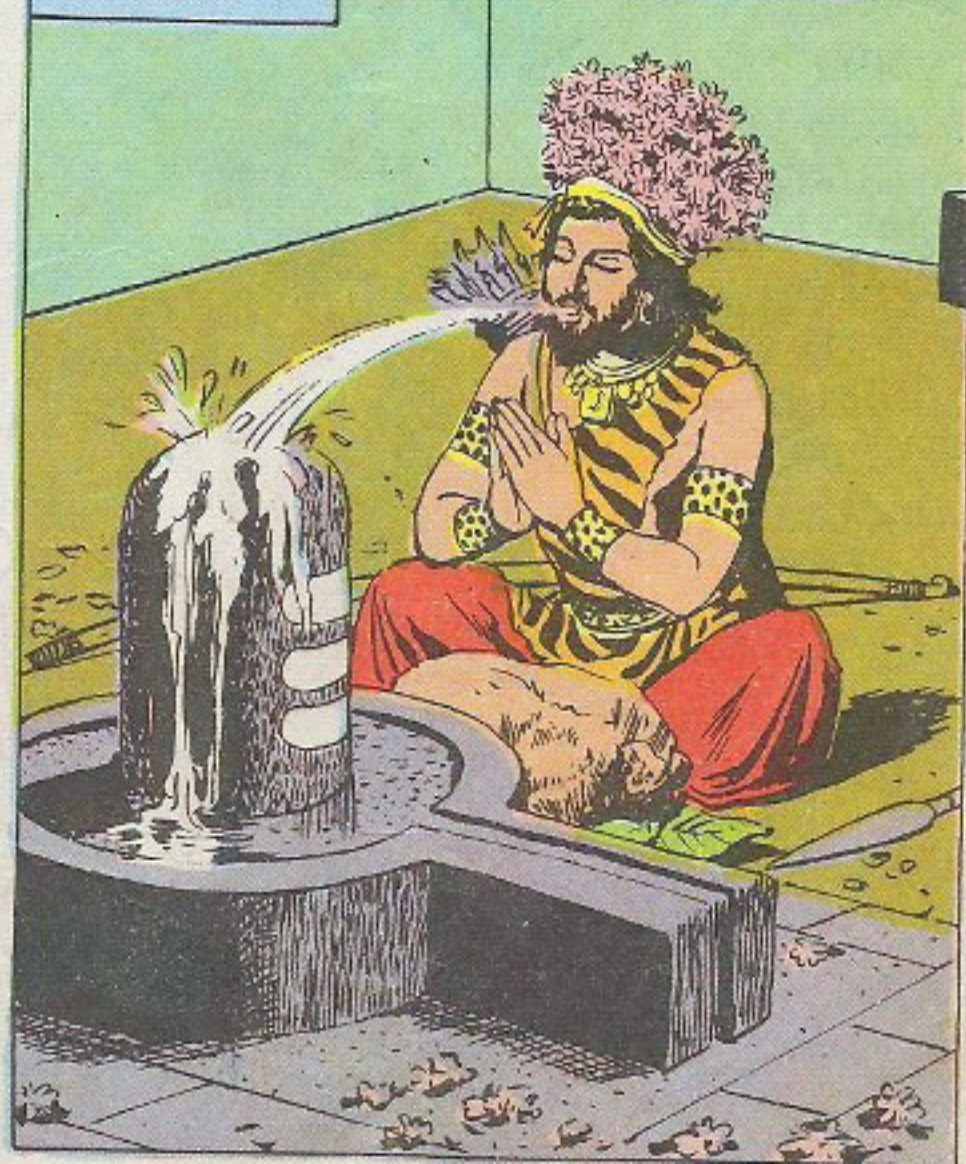


* A WATER POT

THE PRIEST THEN LEFT JUST AS TINNAN, UNNOTICED BY HIM, RETURNED TO THE TEMPLE.



HE REMOVED THE FLOWER OFFERING OF THE PRIEST AND STARTED HIS WORSHIP.



THE NEXT DAY, WHILE TINNAN WAS OUT HUNTING, THE PRIEST RETURNED TO THE TEMPLE.

I WONDER WHO THIS SINNER IS! HE DEFILES THE SHRINE AGAIN AND AGAIN! I WONDER WHY THE LORD DOES NOT OPEN HIS THIRD EYE AND BURN HIM TO ASHES!

AND ONCE AGAIN HE SET ABOUT PURIFYING THE SHRINE.

THUS IT HAPPENED THAT EVERY DAY, TINNAN AND THE PRIEST ALTERNATELY OFFERED WORSHIP.

MEANWHILE AT KAILAS, THE ABODE OF LORD SHIVA AND PARVATI —

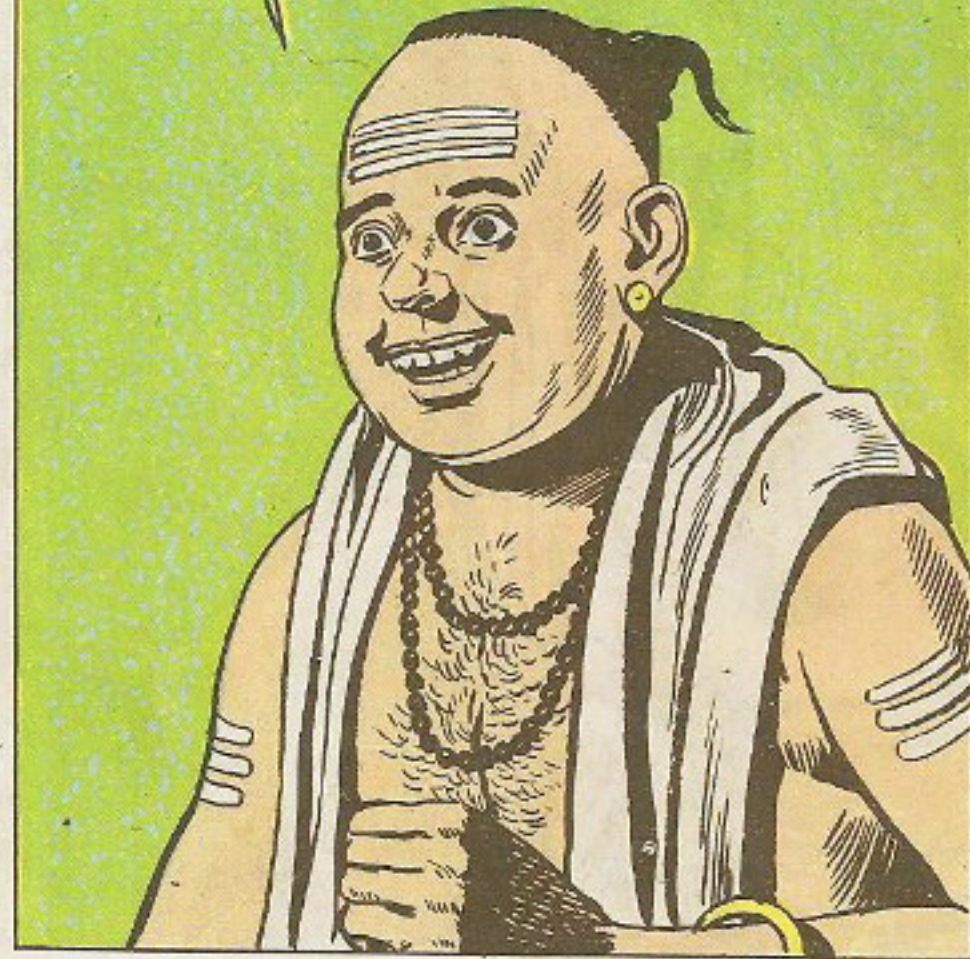
OF THE TWO, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE DEVOTEE, LORD? THE HOLY BRAHMAN WHO HAS FAITHFULLY WORSHIPPED YOU ALL HIS LIFE — OR THE UNCOUTH HUNTER?

WAIT AND SEE, DEAR.

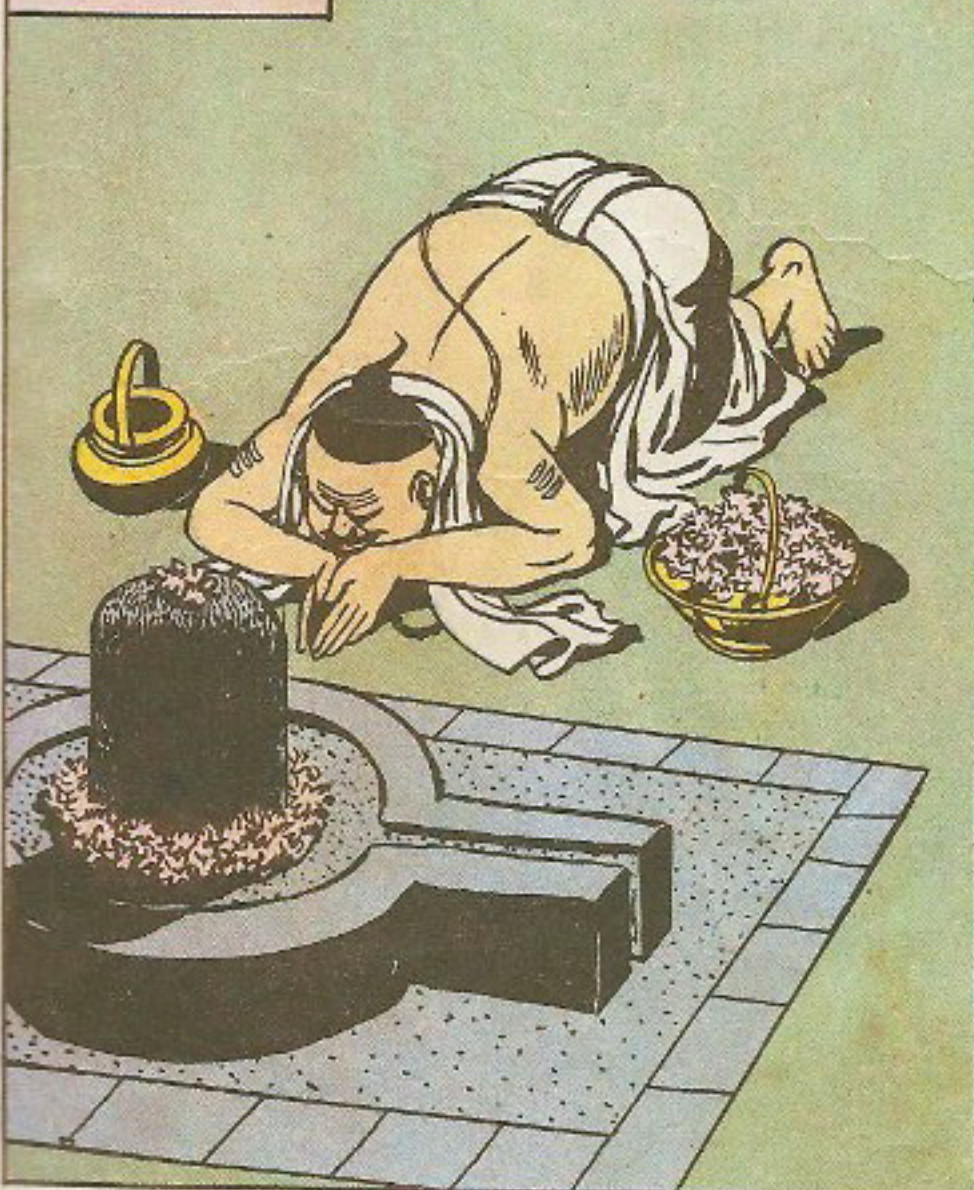
WHEN THE PRIEST CAME TO THE SHRINE
ON THE MORNING OF THE SIXTH DAY —



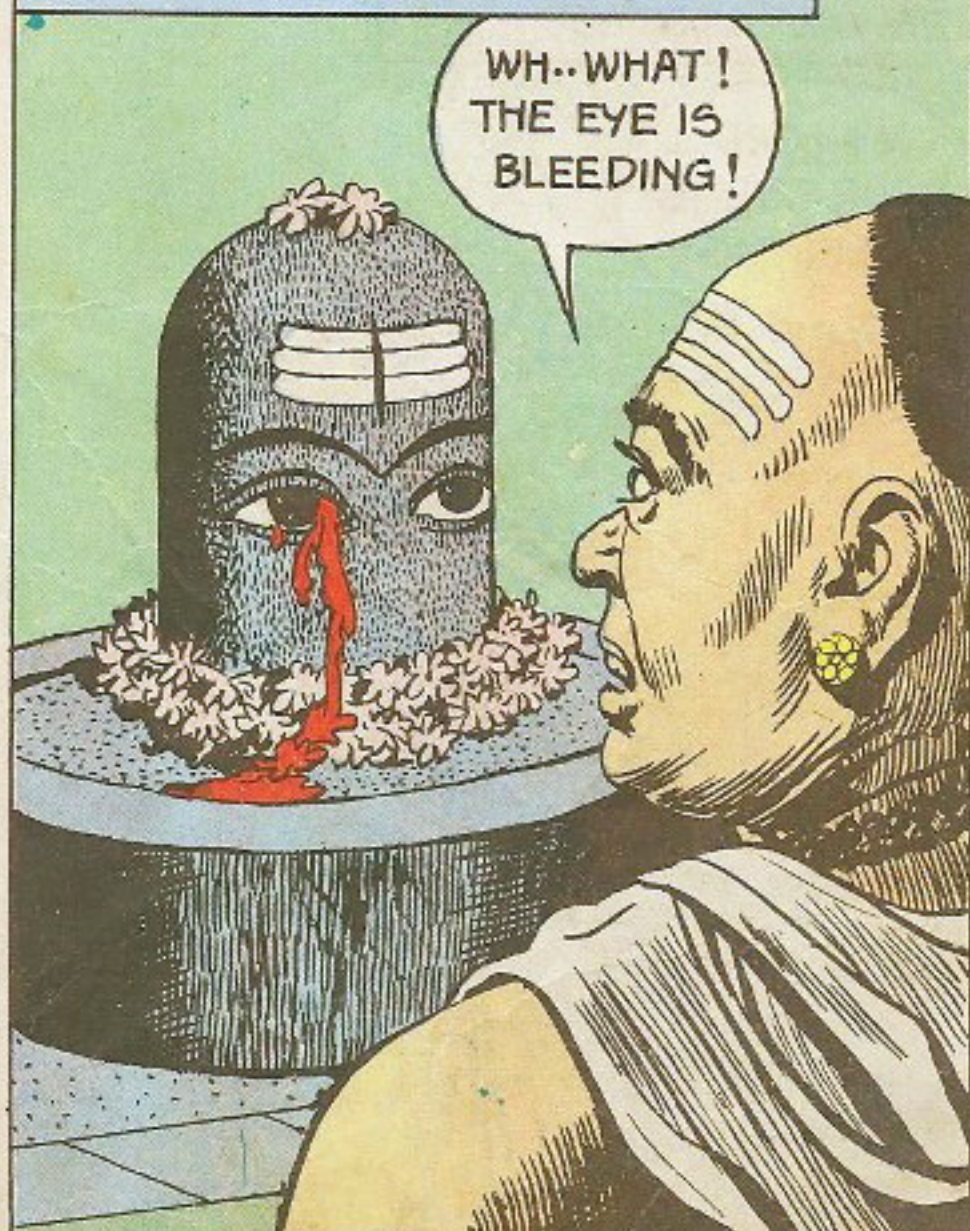
OR HAS THE BENEVOLENT
LORD OPENED HIS EYES IN
APPRECIATION OF MY
SERVICE?



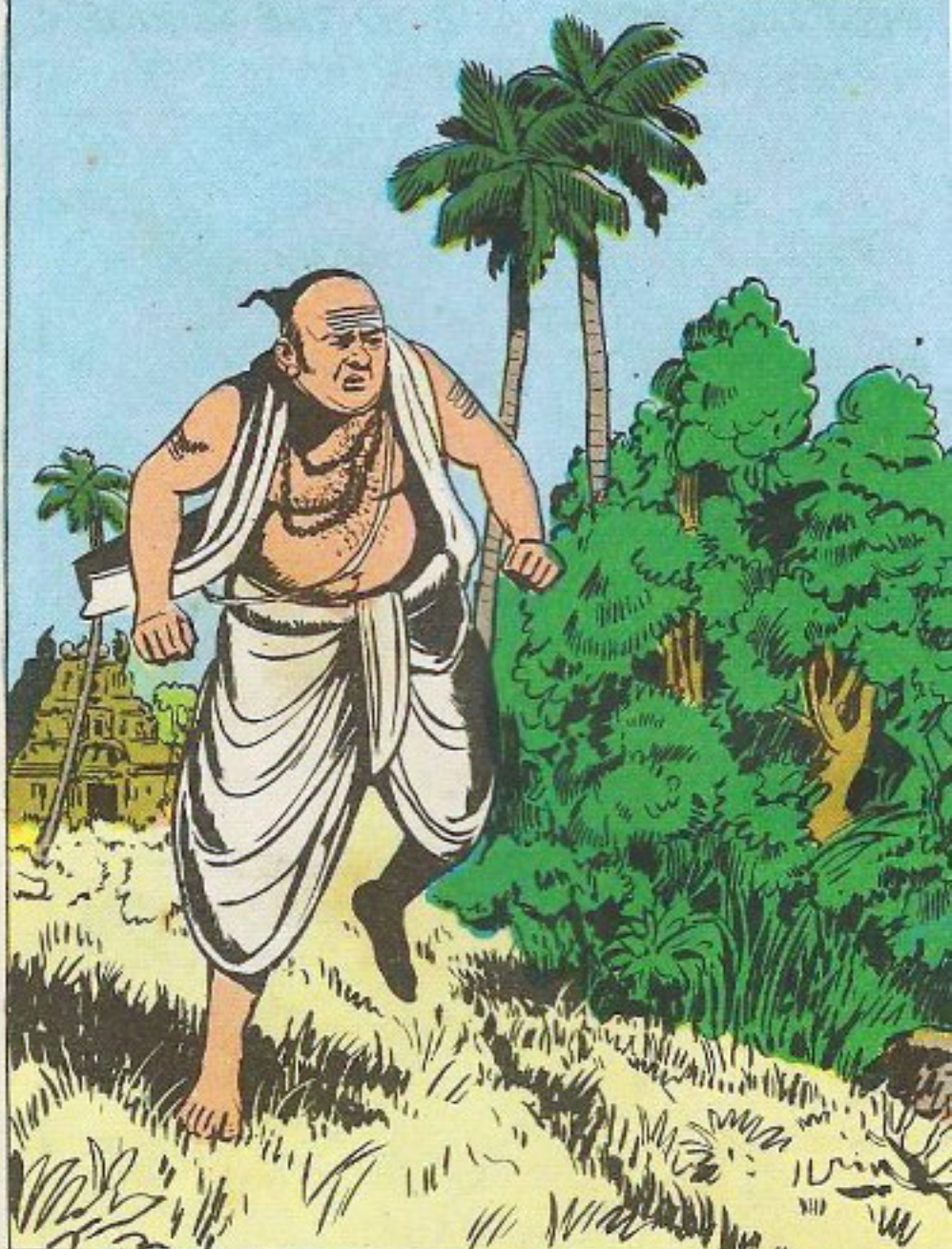
THE PRIEST BOWED LOW BEFORE
THE LORD.



WHEN HE RAISED HIMSELF —



THIS IS SOMETHING
UNHEARD OF! SOME
DISASTER IS
LIKELY TO
HAPPEN! I'D
BETTER GO.

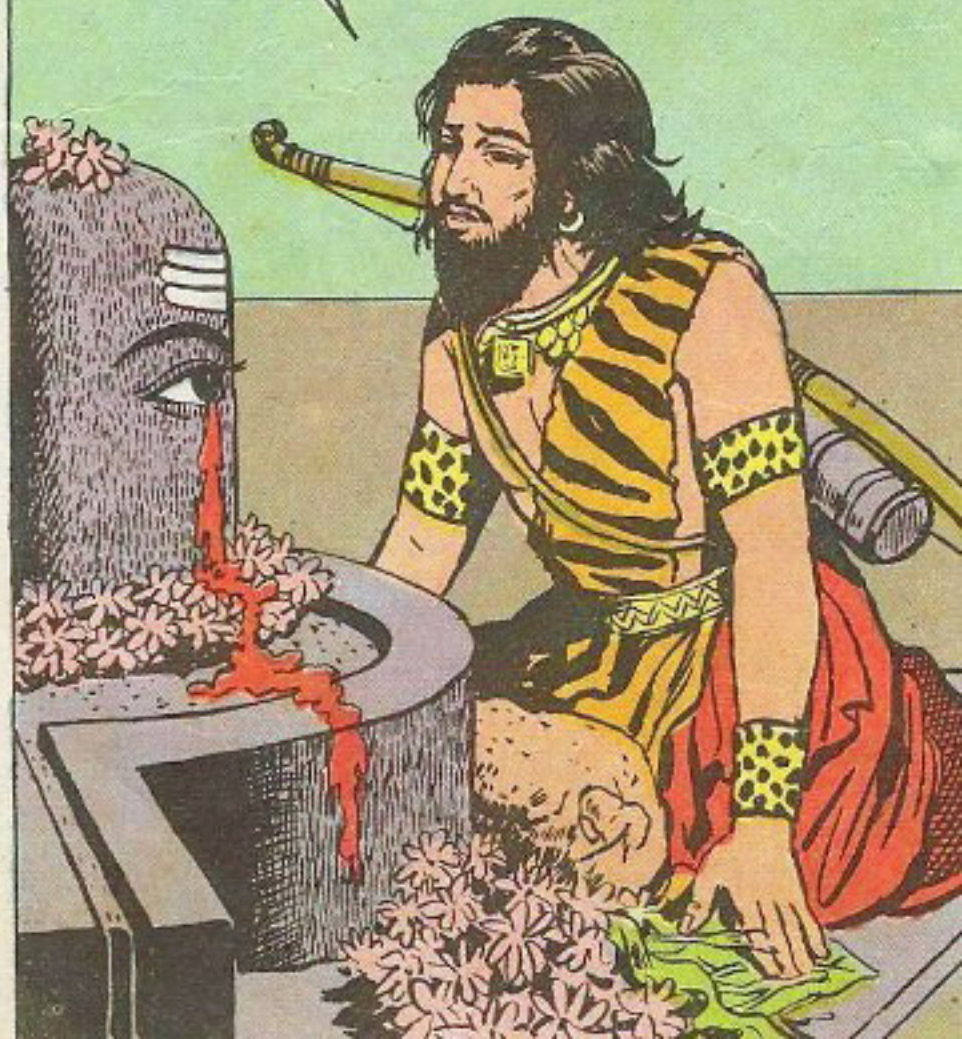


A FEW MINUTES LATER
TINNAN ARRIVED.

MY LORD,
YOUR EYE IS
BLEEDING!



WHO HAS HURT
YOU? YOU MUST
BE IN PAIN!



DON'T BE AFRAID,
LORD. BEAR THE PAIN
FOR A WHILE. I'LL BE
BACK SOON.



HE WENT OUT...

...AND RETURNED WITH HERBS, OF
WHICH HE PREPARED A PASTE. THIS
HE APPLIED TO THE AFFECTED EYE.



THERE, THIS WILL MAKE
YOU WELL AGAIN.

BUT —

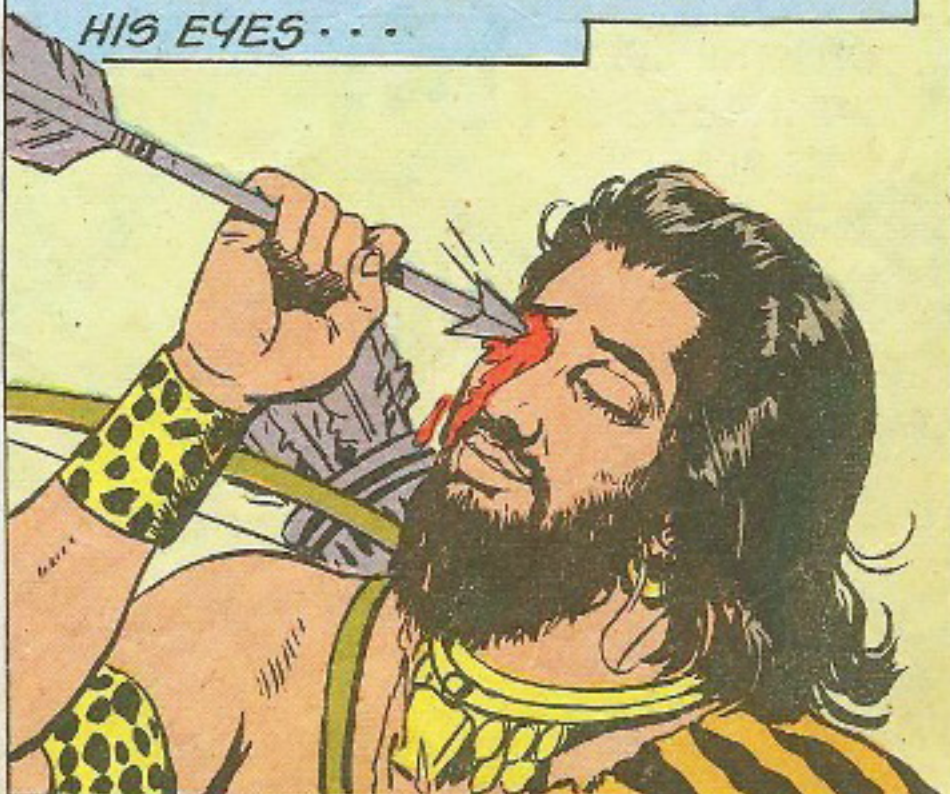


THE BLEEDING HASN'T
STOPPED. WHAT SHALL
I DO TO RELIEVE YOUR
SUFFERING, LORD?

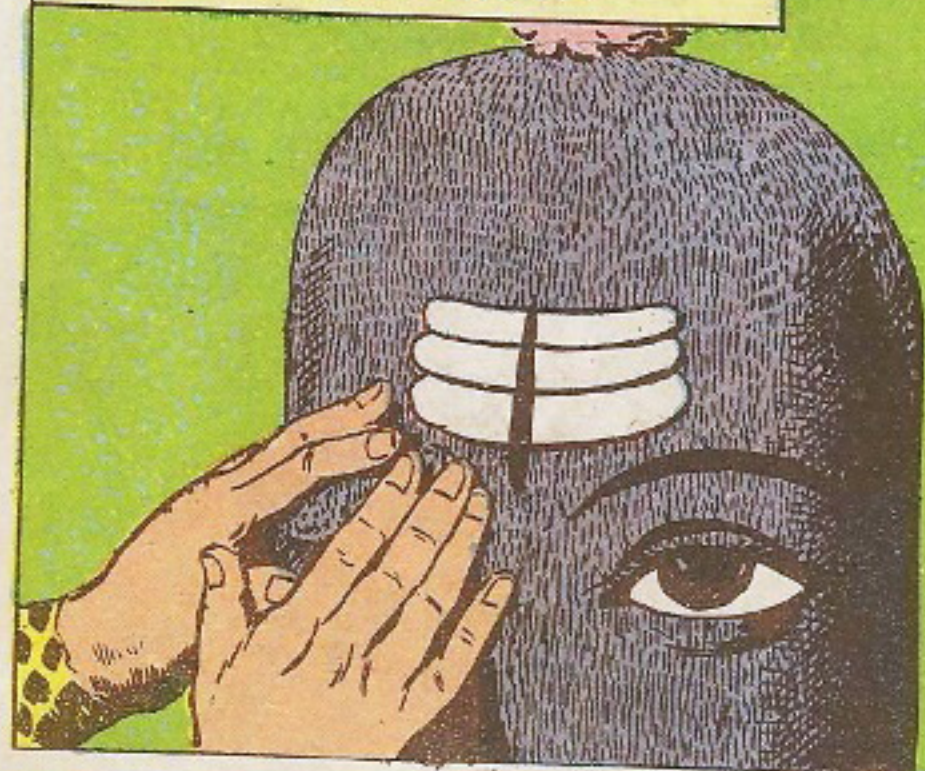
AH, MY EYE!
LORD, I WILL
GIVE YOU MY
EYE.



TINNAN GOUGED OUT ONE OF
HIS EYES...



... AND REPLACED THE LORD'S BLEEDING EYE WITH IT.



LORD, DO YOU
FEEL BETTER
NOW?

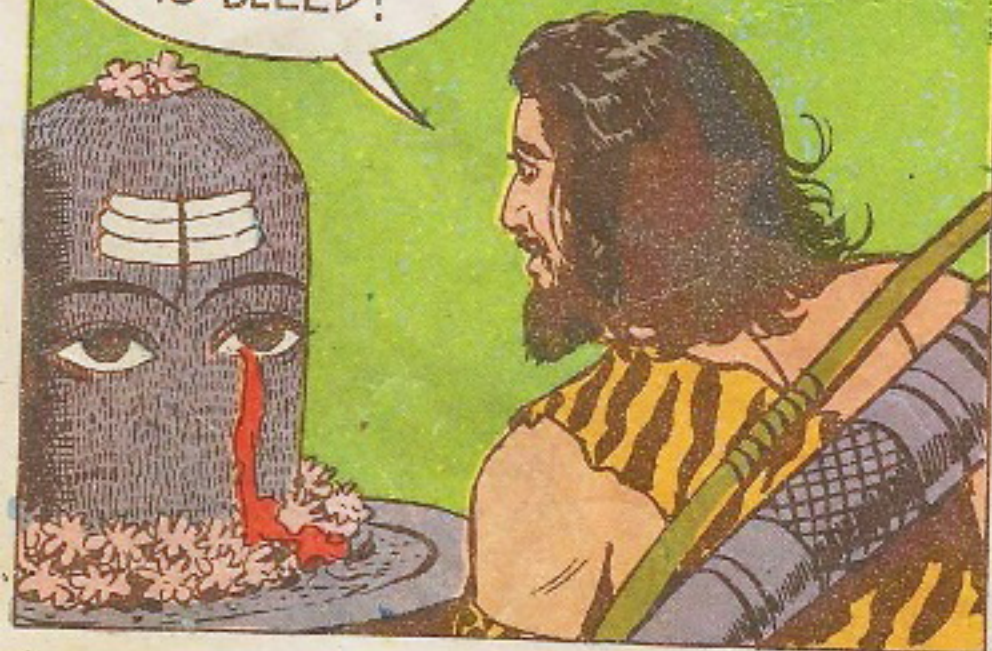


LORD YOU ARE
CURED! I AM SO
HAPPY.



BUT TINNAN'S JOY WAS SHORT-LIVED.

OH! THE LEFT
EYE HAS BEGUN
TO BLEED!

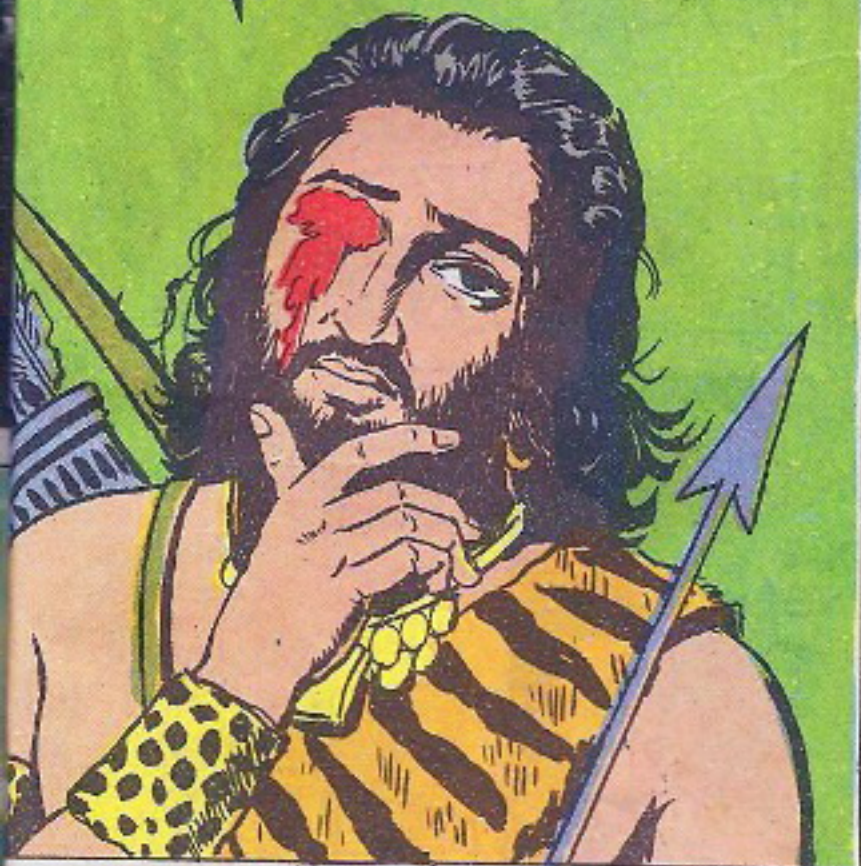


BUT I KNOW WHAT
TO DO NOW. I WILL
GIVE YOU MY
OTHER EYE,
LORD.



HE HESITATED FOR A MOMENT.

BUT, LORD; WHEN I TAKE OUT MY OTHER EYE, HOW WILL I KNOW WHERE TO PLACE IT?



TINNAN FOUND A WAY OUT. HE PLACED HIS FOOT ON THE LEFT EYE OF THE LORD, TO MARK THE PLACE.



AS HE GOT READY TO TAKE OUT THE OTHER EYE —

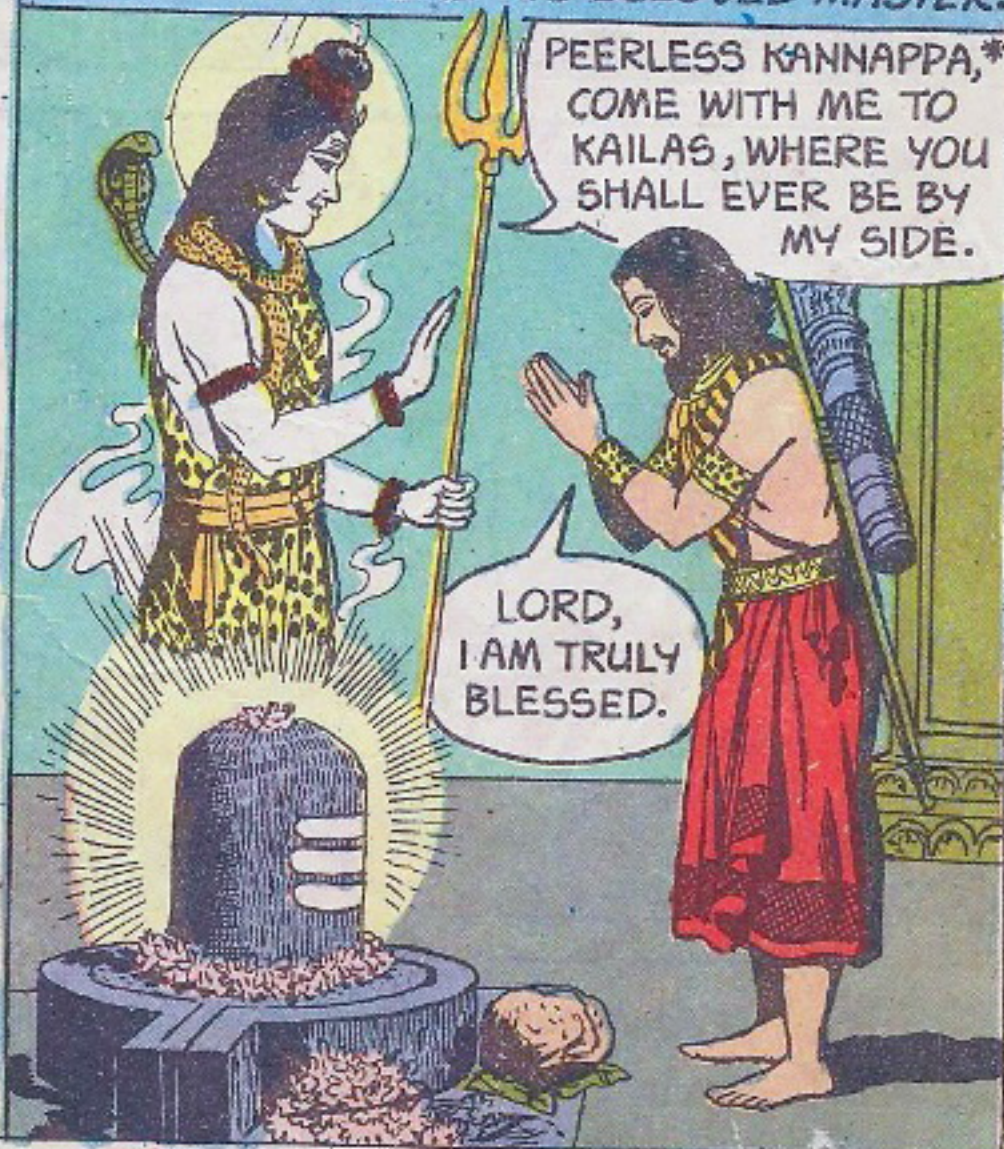
TINNAN, STOP! MANY HAVE PRAYED TO ME FOR SIGHT. BUT ONLY YOU HAVE OFFERED ME YOUR EYES.



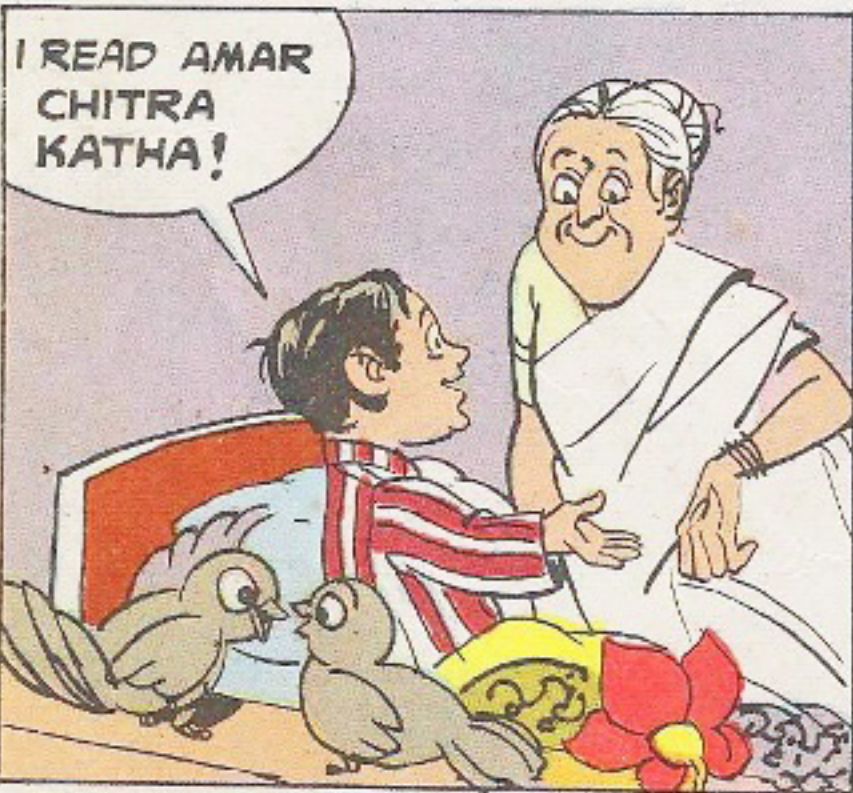
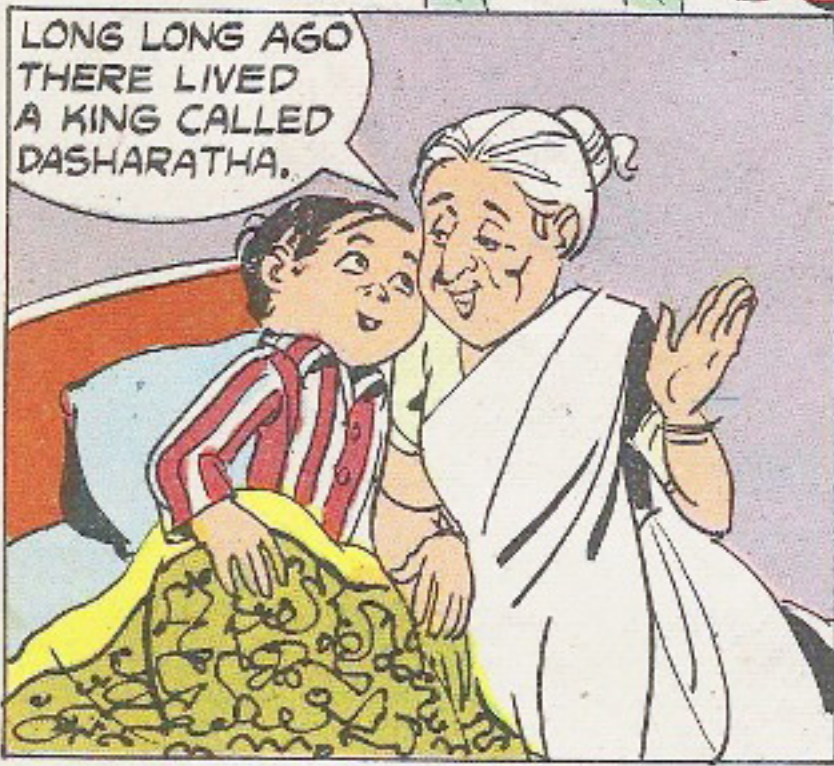
THE NEXT MOMENT, TINNNAN'S SIGHT WAS FULLY RESTORED. HE STOOD WITH FOLDED HANDS BEFORE HIS BELOVED MASTER.

PEERLESS KANNAPPA,* COME WITH ME TO KAILAS, WHERE YOU SHALL EVER BE BY MY SIDE.

LORD, I AM TRULY BLESSED.



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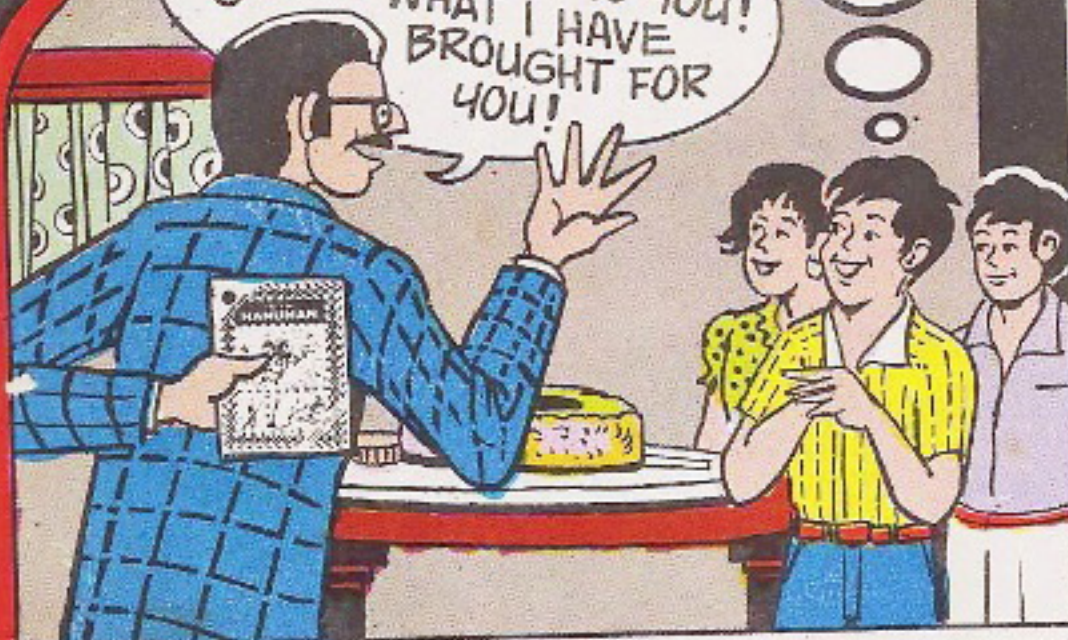
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GUESS WHAT I HAVE
BROUGHT FOR
YOU!



AMAR CHITRA
KATHA!



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