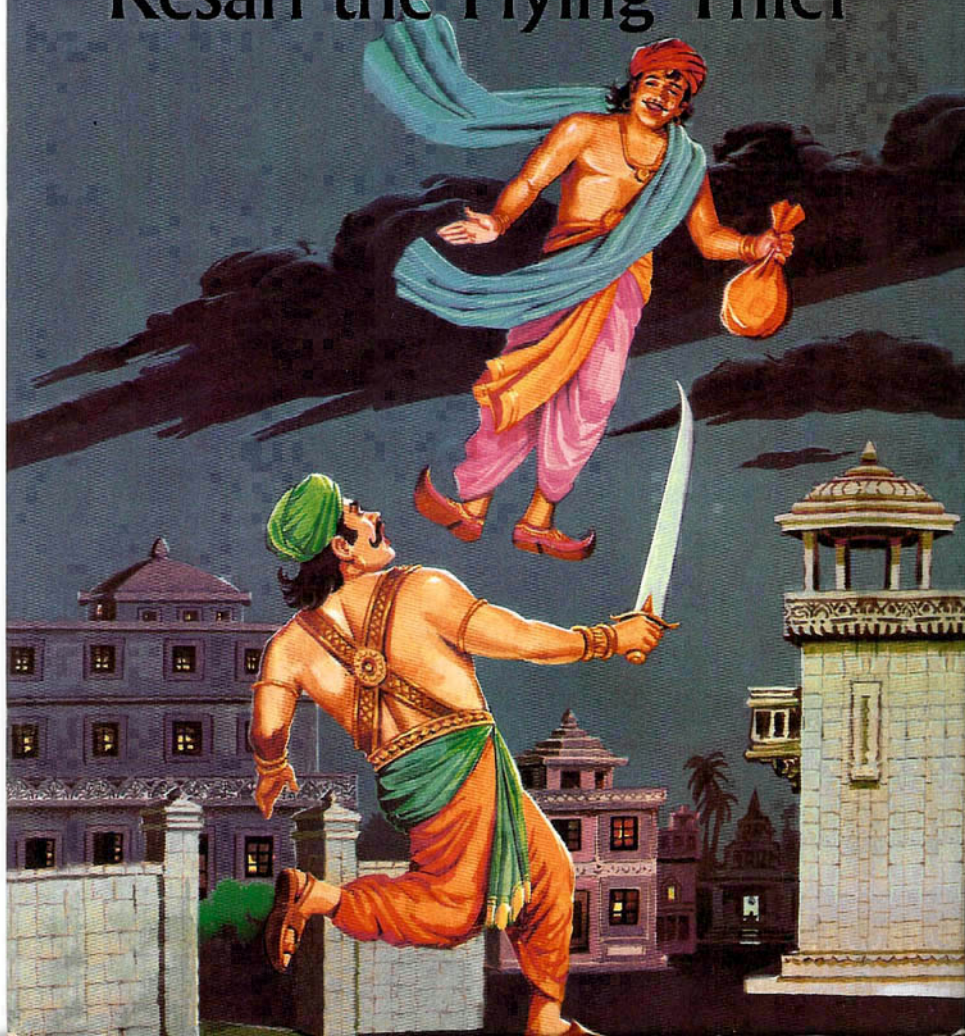




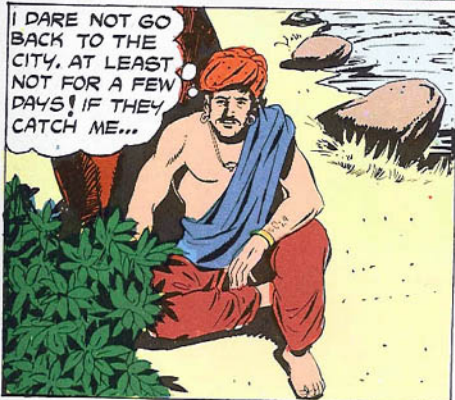
Kesari the Flying Thief



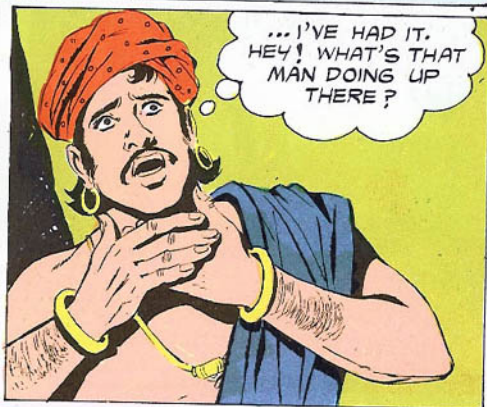
KESARI THE FLYING THIEF



KESARI, THE INCORRIGIBLE THIEF, HAD BEEN BANISHED FROM THE CITY WITH THE WARNING THAT IF HE RETURNED AND WAS CAUGHT, HE WOULD BE HANGED.



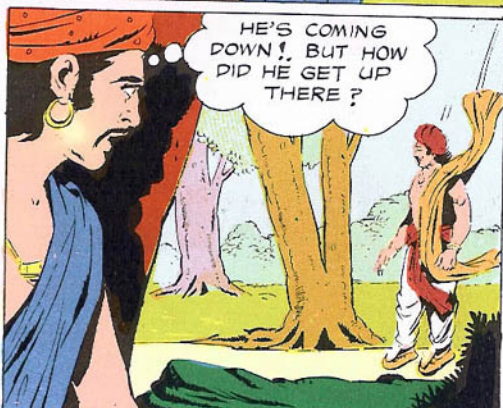
I DARE NOT GO BACK TO THE CITY. AT LEAST NOT FOR A FEW DAYS! IF THEY CATCH ME...



...I'VE HAD IT. HEY! WHAT'S THAT MAN DOING UP THERE?



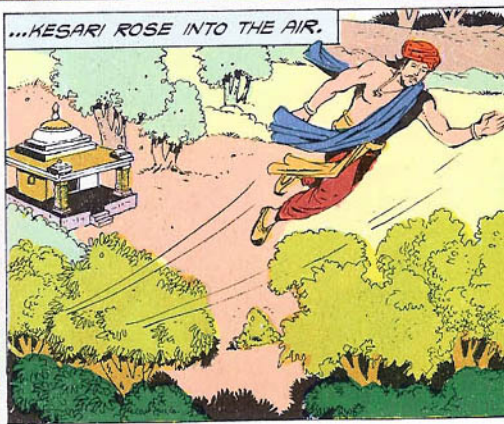
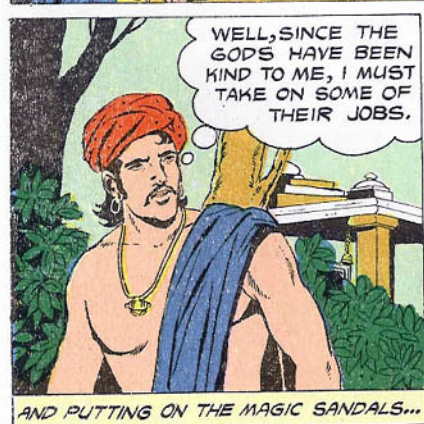
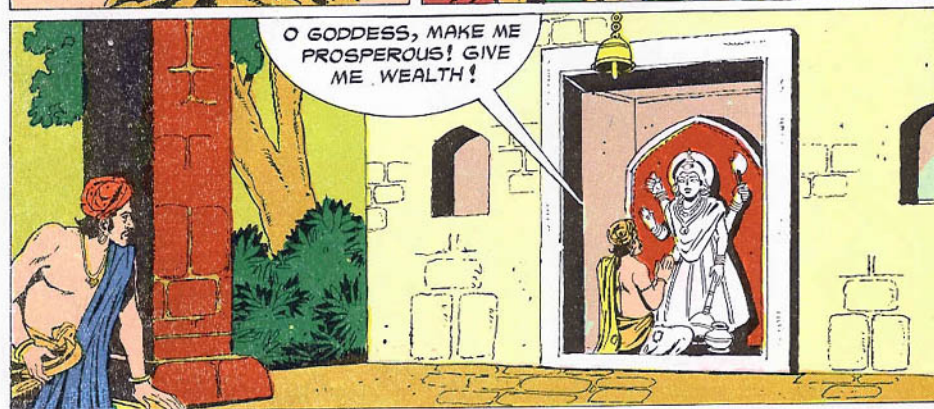
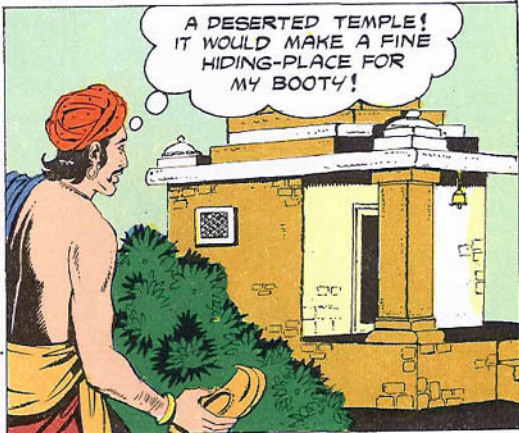
COULD THE KING HAVE SENT HIM AFTER ME?



HE'S COMING DOWN!, BUT HOW DID HE GET UP THERE?





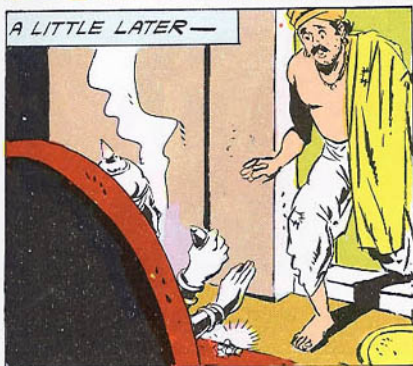


BEFORE DAWN THE NEXT DAY —

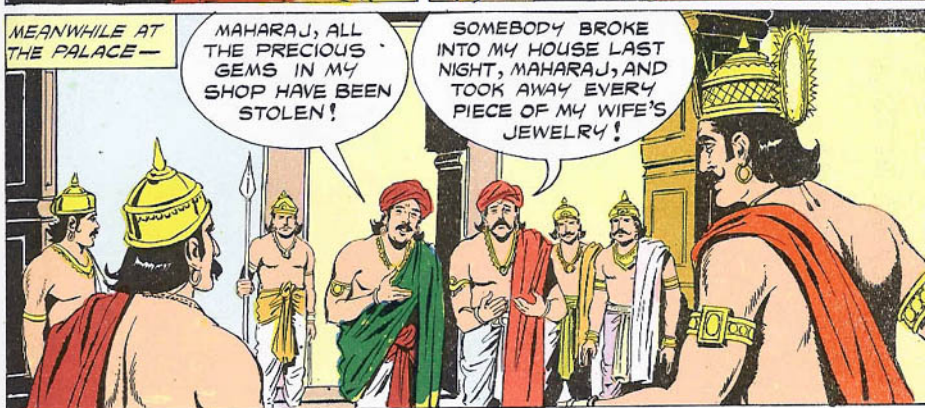


AND KESARI LEFT.

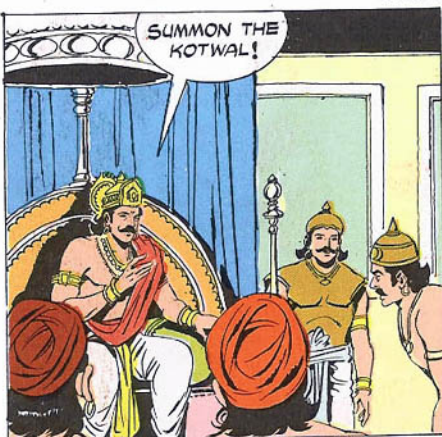
A LITTLE LATER —



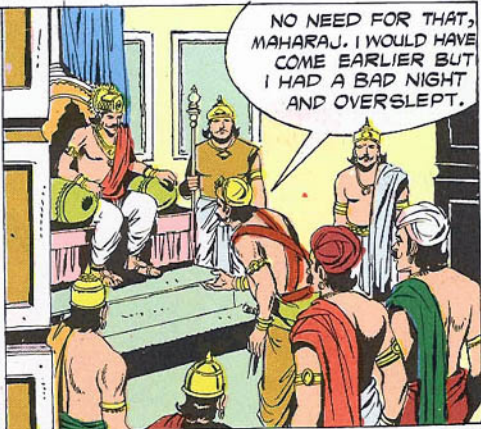
MEANWHILE AT THE PALACE —



SUMMON THE
KOTWAL!



NO NEED FOR THAT,
MAHARAJ. I WOULD HAVE
COME EARLIER BUT
I HAD A BAD NIGHT
AND OVERSLEPT.



THE THIEF LED ME
A MERRY DANCE.

THE
THIEF? HAVE
YOU CAUGHT
HIM?



I'D HAVE TO HAVE
WINGS FOR THAT,
MAHARAJ!

WINGS?
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?



"I SAW A MAN PROWLING IN
THE JEWELLER'S SHOP.



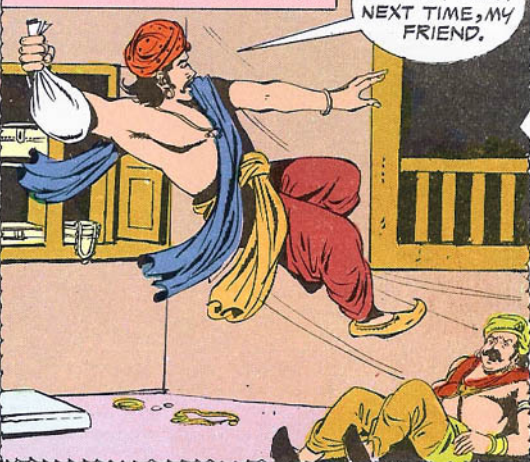
"I ENTERED THE SHOP. IT
WAS DARK AND I COULD SEE
ONLY HIS FORM NOT HIS FACE.



"I WAS ABOUT TO GRAB HIM WHEN BEFORE MY VERY EYES..."



"...HE ROSE INTO THE AIR..."

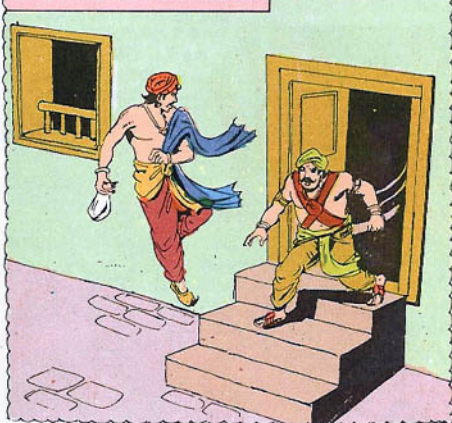


BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, MY FRIEND.

I RAN OUT OF THE SHOP AND TRIED TO CHASE HIM.

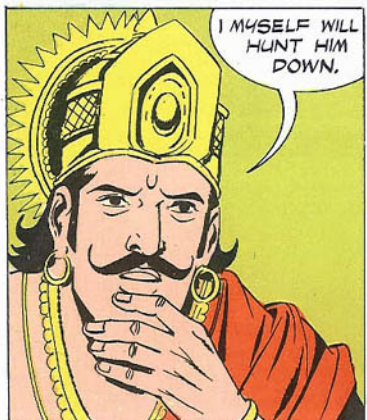


"BUT HE HOVERED ABOUT FOR A WHILE, JUST TO TEASE ME..."



"...AND THEN ROSE HIGH INTO THE SKY..."





FOR DAYS THEY SEARCHED EVERY NOOK AND CORNER OF THE CITY BUT IN VAIN.



THEN EARLY ONE MORNING THEY ENTERED THE FOREST.



AFTER THE KING HAD GONE A LITTLE WAY HE DECIDED TO REST FOR A WHILE.

MM-M-M! THE FRAGRANCE OF MUSK AND... SANDALWOOD?



IT'S COMING FROM THAT DIRECTION. THERE MUST BE A TEMPLE SOMEWHERE THERE.



AH! I WAS RIGHT.



THERE'S SOMEBODY WORSHIPPING THE GODDESS!



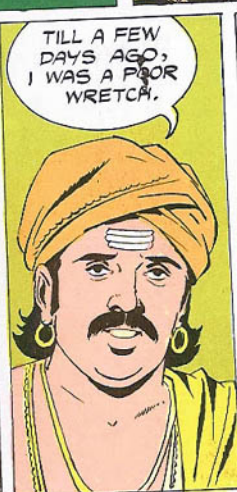
THE MAN'S WORSHIP WAS SOON OVER. AS HE TURNED TO LEAVE—

ARE YOU A PRIEST, MY GOOD MAN?

I AM A MERCHANT BY PROFESSION.

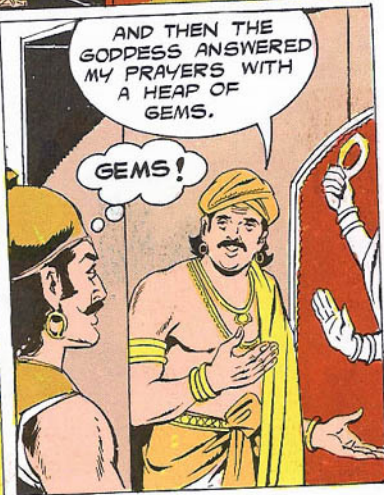


TILL A FEW DAYS AGO, I WAS A POOR WRETCH.



AND THEN THE GODDESS ANSWERED MY PRAYERS WITH A HEAP OF GEMS.

GEMS!



NOW IN MY GRATITUDE I COME TO WORSHIP HER EVERY MORNING AND LEAVE OFFERINGS OF FOOD FOR HER WHICH SHE HONOURS ME BY ACCEPTING.



HOW DO YOU KNOW SHE ACCEPTS THEM?

BECAUSE WHEN I COME THE NEXT DAY THEY ARE GONE.



HMM-M-M. OH! I SEE.

WELL, SIR, I MUST BE GOING NOW. I HAVE MY WORK TO ATTEND TO.



THANKS TO YOU, MY GOOD MAN, I DON'T THINK I'LL NEED TO SEARCH ANY MORE. I THINK I'VE FOUND MY THIEF.



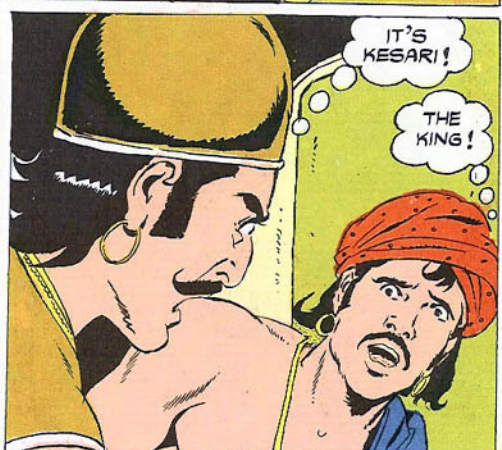
AND THE KING HID HIMSELF INSIDE THE DARK TEMPLE AND WAITED. SOON—

FOOTSTEPS! HE'S COMING!



I'LL GRAB HIM AS HE GOES OUT.

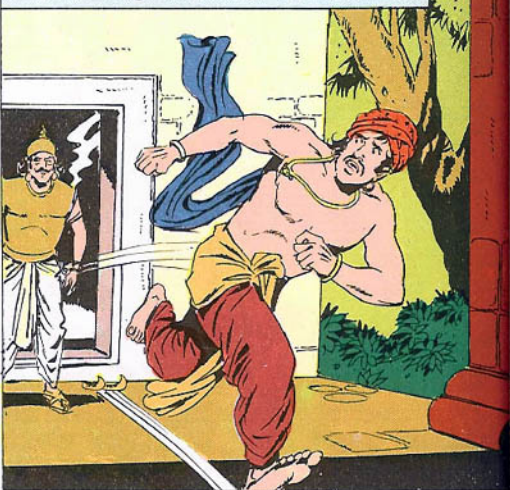




THE KING WAS AS STARTLED BY HIS DISCOVERY AS KESARI WAS AT BEING CAUGHT.



KESARI WAS THE FIRST TO RECOVER.



I DON'T HAVE THE SANDALS AND THE KING WON'T GIVE UP TILL HE'S CAUGHT ME.



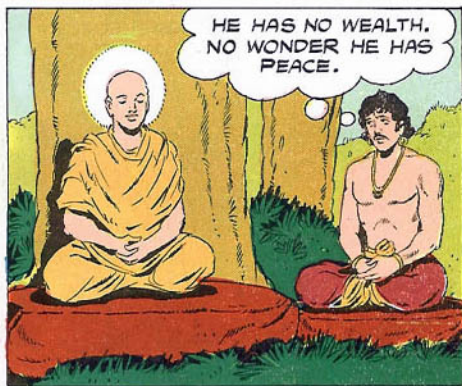
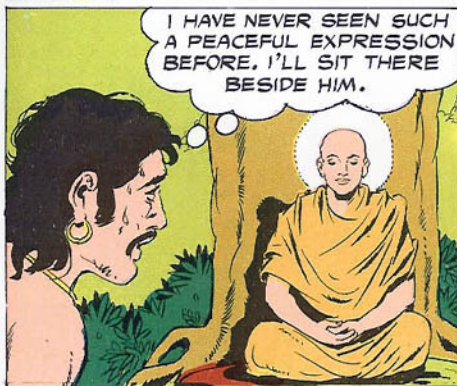
IF HE CATCHES ME, I'LL BE HANGED.



OF WHAT USE WILL ALL THE WEALTH I'VE STOLEN BE THEN?



WILL IT GIVE ME MY LIFE?



THE KING'S MEN MEANWHILE HAD
JOINED HIM AND ALL OF THEM
CAME IN PURSUIT OF KESARI.



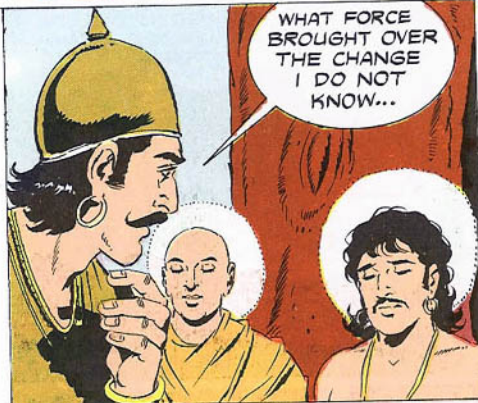
BUT WHEN HE CAME NEARER...



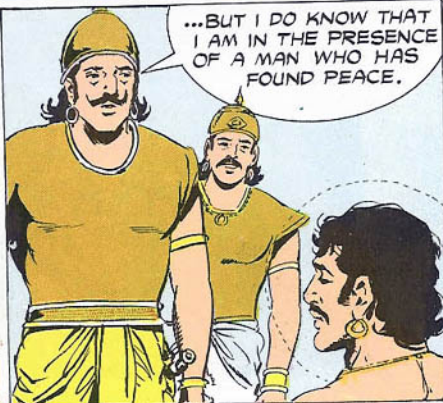
...THE KING WHO HAD COME TO CAPTURE WAS HIMSELF CAPTURED.



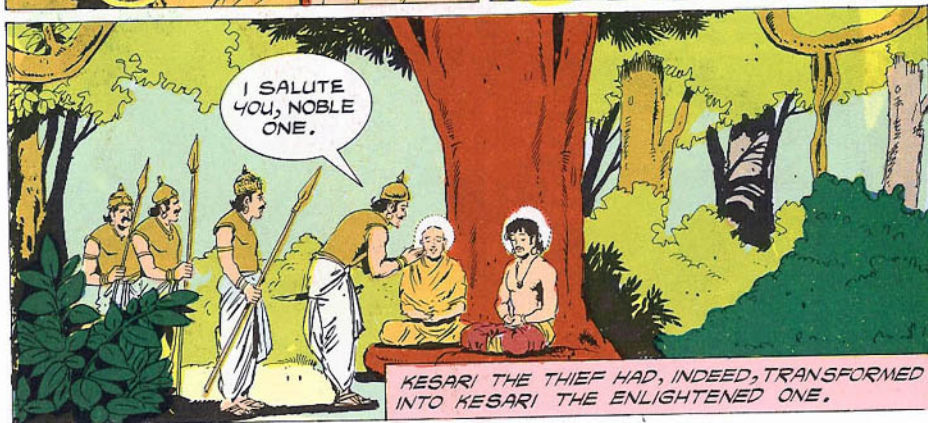
WHAT FORCE BROUGHT OVER THE CHANGE I DO NOT KNOW...



...BUT I DO KNOW THAT I AM IN THE PRESENCE OF A MAN WHO HAS FOUND PEACE.

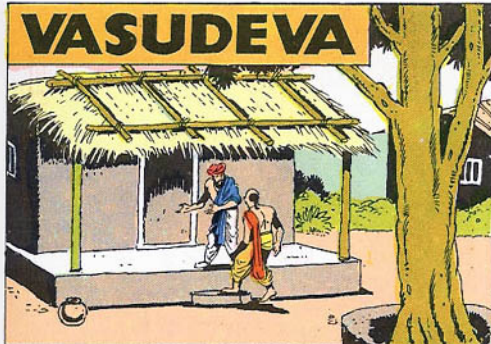


I SALUTE YOU, NOBLE ONE.

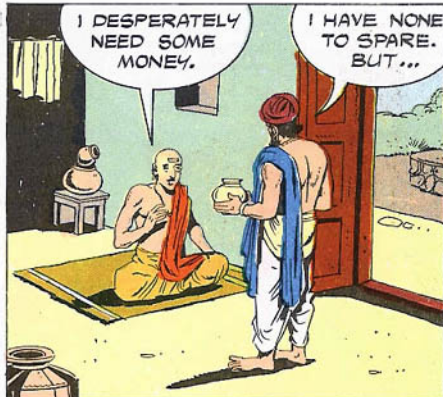


KESARI THE THIEF HAD, INDEED, TRANSFORMED INTO KESARI THE ENLIGHTENED ONE.

VASUDEVA



VASUDEVA CAME TO MEET HIS FRIEND IN THE CITY OF SHRIPURA TO ASK HIM FOR A LOAN.



I DESPERATELY NEED SOME MONEY.

I HAVE NONE TO SPARE. BUT...



...OUR KING GIVES TWO GOLD COINS TO THE FIRST BRAHMANA HE MEETS IN THE MORNING.

TWO GOLD COINS!

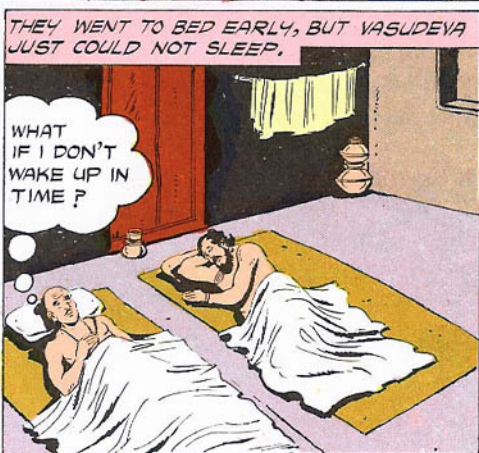


WHY, THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I NEED!



I'LL SPEND THE NIGHT HERE AND GO TO THE PALACE A LITTLE BEFORE DAWN.

THEN WE'D BETTER GO TO BED EARLY.



THEY WENT TO BED EARLY, BUT VASUDEVA JUST COULD NOT SLEEP.

WHAT IF I DON'T WAKE UP IN TIME?

WHAT IF ANOTHER
BRAHMANA GETS
THERE BEFORE I DO
AND RECEIVES
THE MONEY?

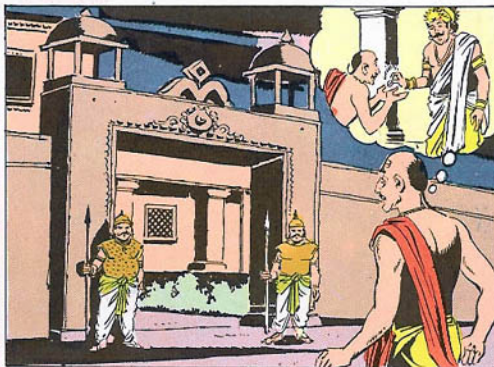
ZZZ...

THE BEST THING
WOULD BE NOT
TO SLEEP AT
ALL!

ZZZ...

I'LL GO TO
THE PALACE
RIGHT AWAY AND
WAIT OUTSIDE.
THEN I'M SURE
TO BE THE
FIRST.

Z...
Z...
Z...

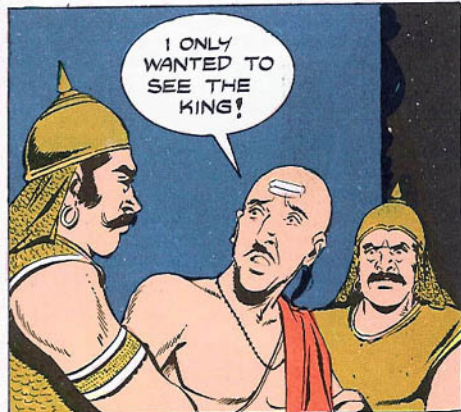


SUDDENLY—

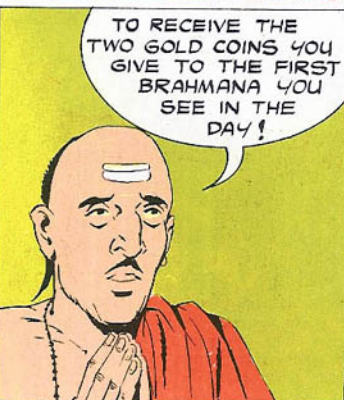
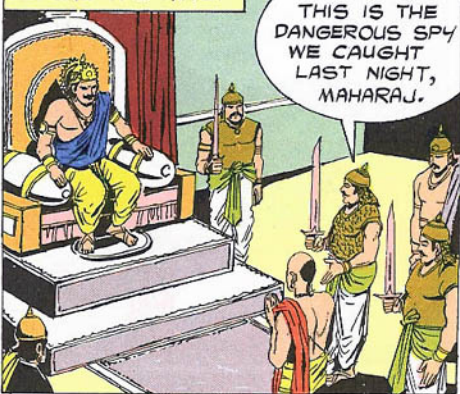
DON'T TRY TO
STRUGGLE!

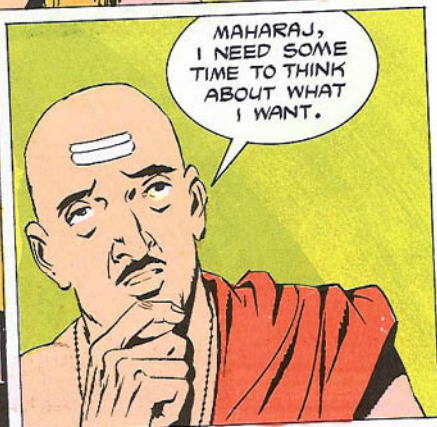
HEY!
WHAT...

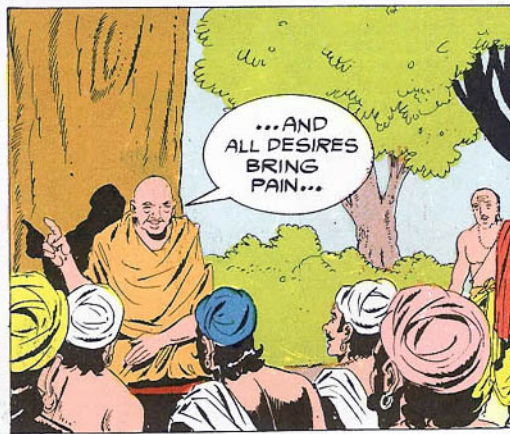
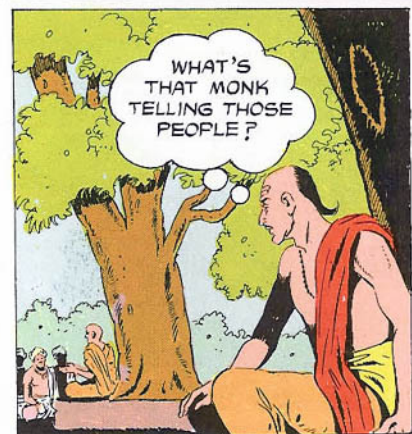
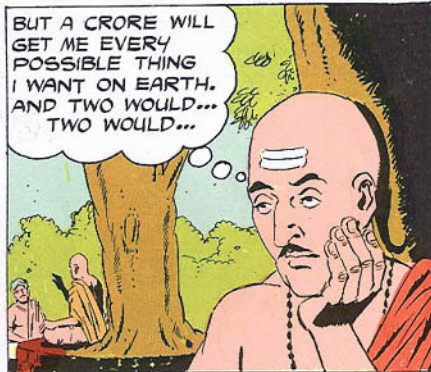
LET ME
GO!

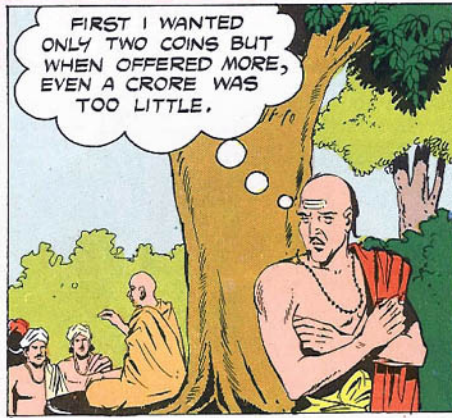
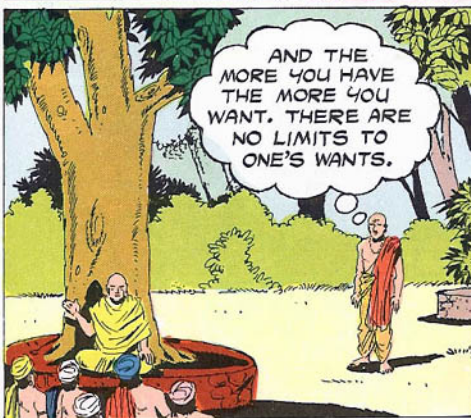
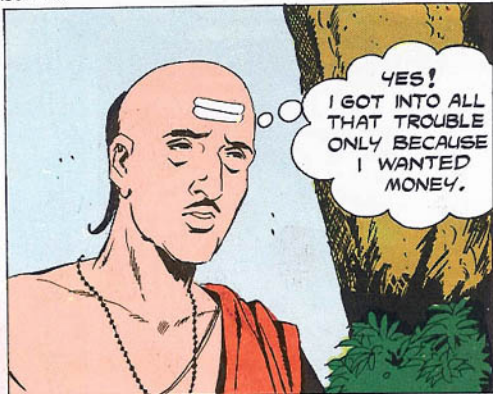
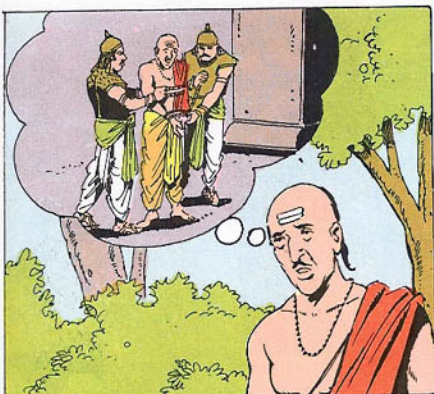


THE NEXT MORNING HE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING.

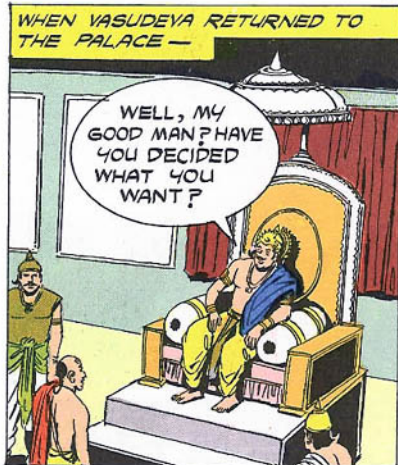




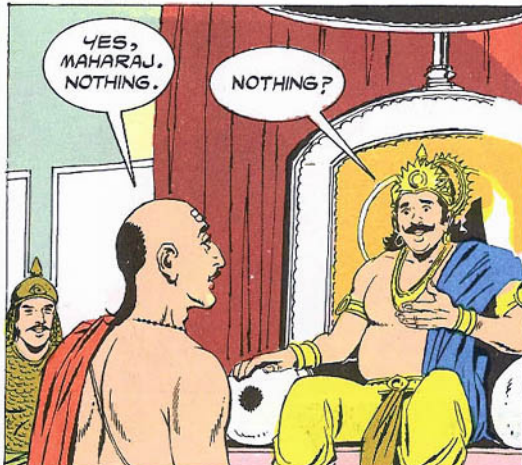




WHEN VASUDEVA RETURNED TO THE PALACE —

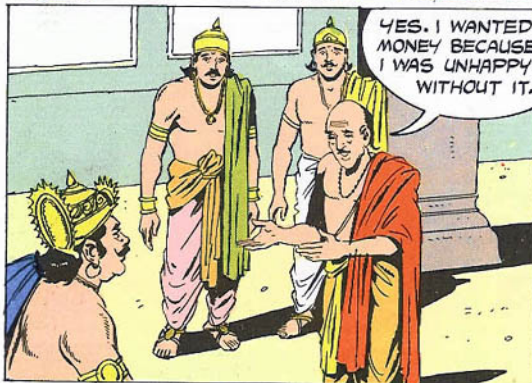


WELL, MY GOOD MAN? HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU WANT?



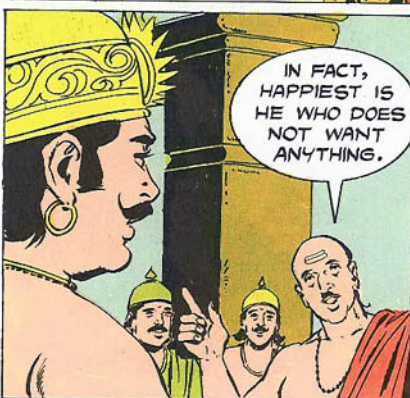
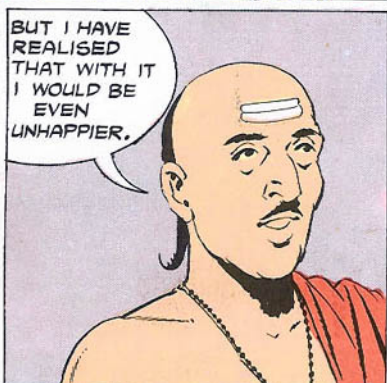
YES, MAHARAJ. NOTHING.

NOTHING?

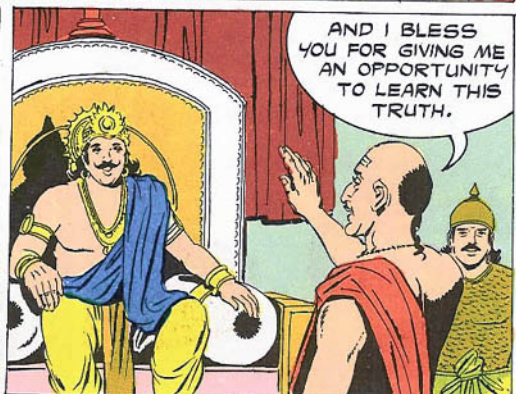


YES. I WANTED MONEY BECAUSE I WAS UNHAPPY WITHOUT IT.

BUT I HAVE REALISED THAT WITH IT I WOULD BE EVEN UNHAPPY.

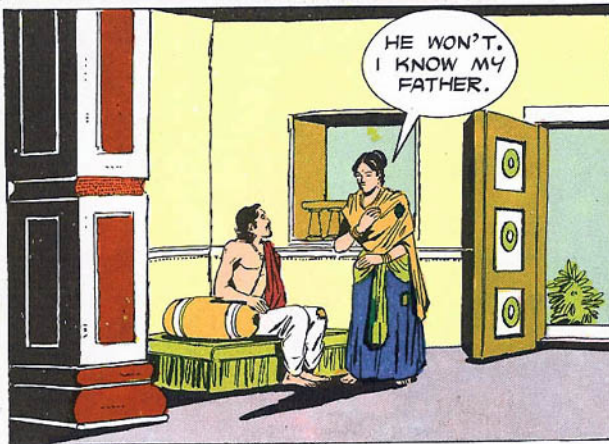
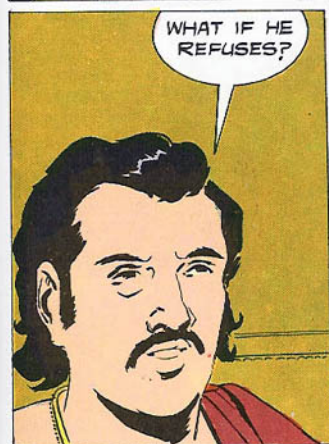
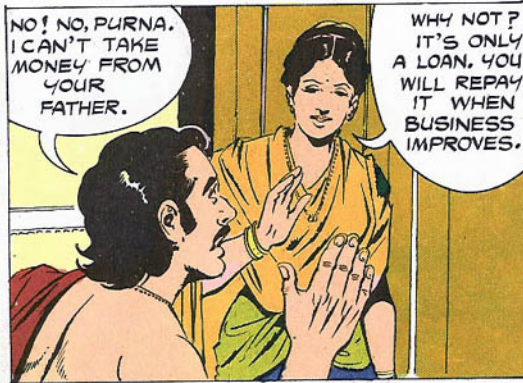
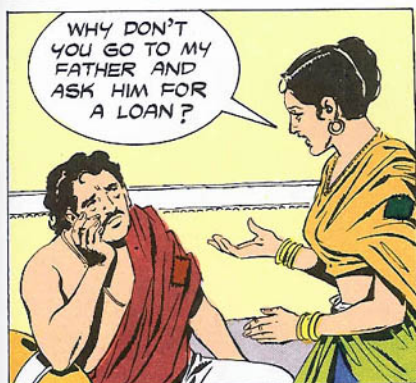
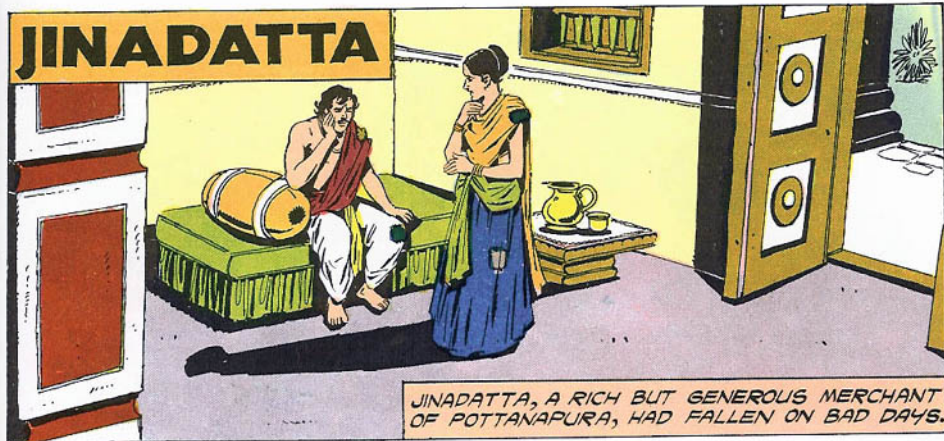


IN FACT, HAPPIEST IS HE WHO DOES NOT WANT ANYTHING.



AND I BLESS YOU FOR GIVING ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THIS TRUTH.

JINADATTA



IF YOU ARE SO CONFIDENT... WELL... ALL RIGHT... I'LL GO.

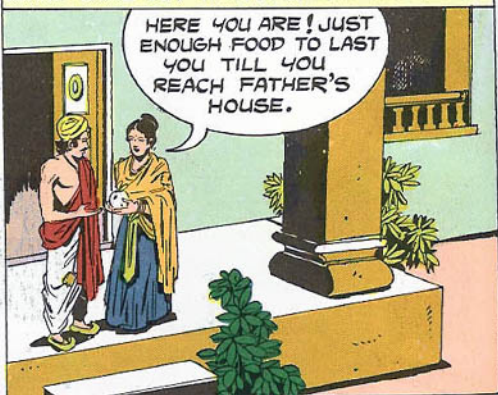
YOU MUST GO TODAY! I'LL GET SOME FOOD READY FOR THE JOURNEY.



PURNA WENT INTO THE KITCHEN...

...AND CAME OUT WITH A SMALL PACKET.

HERE YOU ARE! JUST ENOUGH FOOD TO LAST YOU TILL YOU REACH FATHER'S HOUSE.

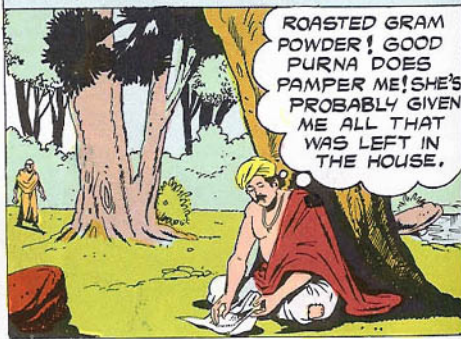


AND SO JINADATTA SET OUT.



TOWARDS NOON HE SAT UNDER A TREE BY A TANK AND OPENED HIS LUNCH PACKET.

ROASTED GRAM POWDER! GOOD PURNA DOES PAMPER ME! SHE'S PROBABLY GIVEN ME ALL THAT WAS LEFT IN THE HOUSE.



A MONK! HOW LEAN AND FEEBLE HE LOOKS. HE MUST HAVE BEEN FASTING.



HOLY SIR, PLEASE HONOUR ME BY ACCEPTING A PORTION OF MY MEAL.



THE MONK ACCEPTED AND THE TWO SHARED THE MEAGRE MEAL.



WHEN THEY FINISHED...

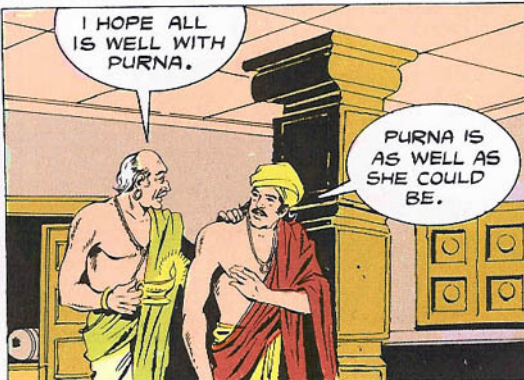
... THE MONK WENT HIS WAY AND JINADATTA CONTINUED HIS JOURNEY.



WHEN HE REACHED HIS FATHER-IN-LAW'S HOUSE —



WHY IT'S JINADATTA! COME IN, COME IN.

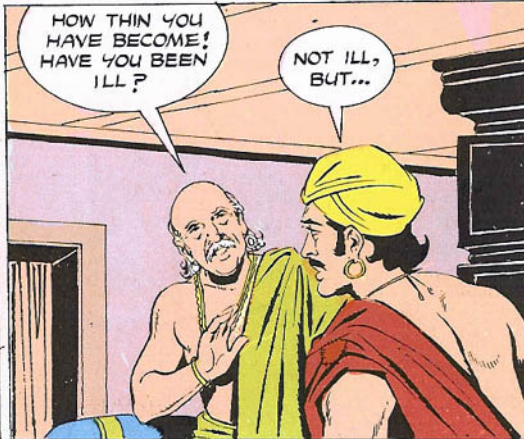


I HOPE ALL IS WELL WITH PURNA.

PURNA IS AS WELL AS SHE COULD BE.

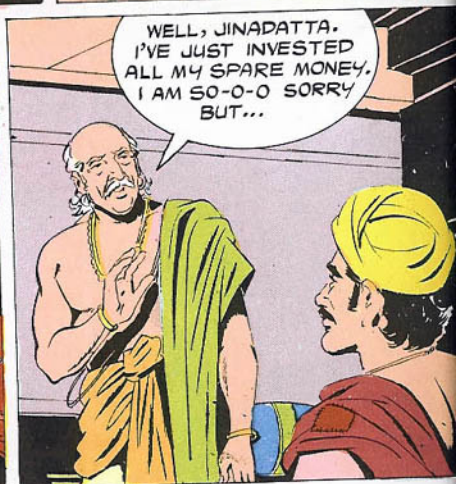
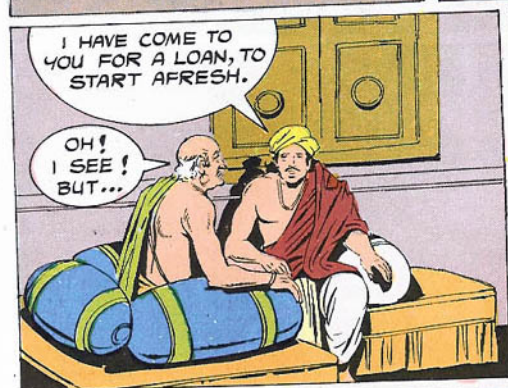
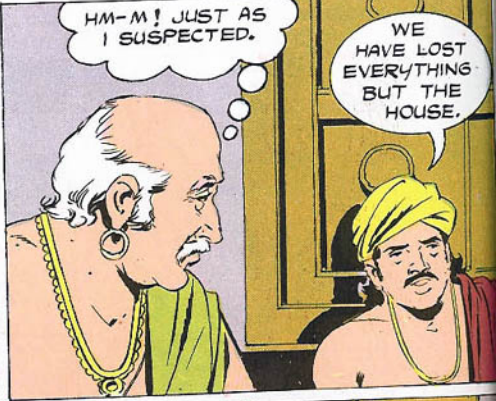


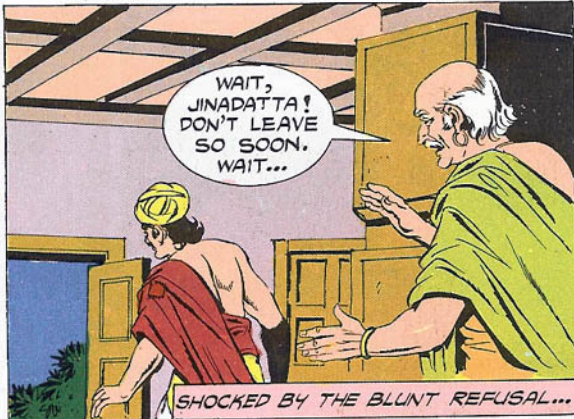
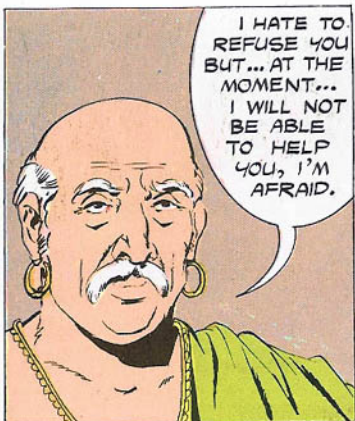
BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE FALLEN ON BAD DAYS. THESE SHABBY CLOTHES...

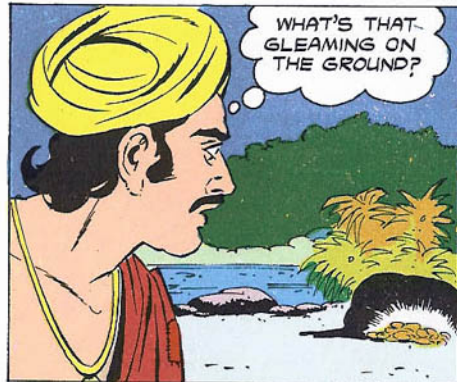


HOW THIN YOU HAVE BECOME! HAVE YOU BEEN ILL?

NOT ILL, BUT...

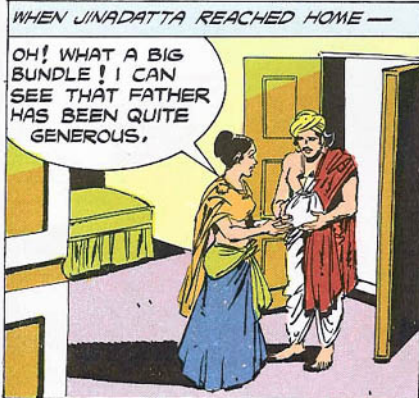






WHEN JINADATTA REACHED HOME —

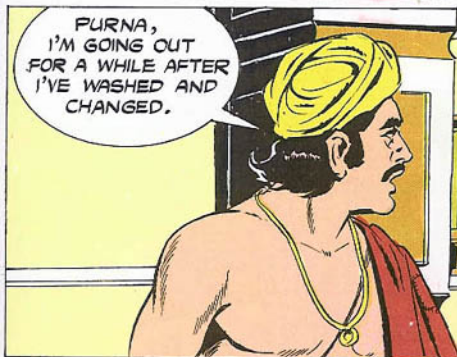
OH! WHAT A BIG BUNDLE! I CAN SEE THAT FATHER HAS BEEN QUITE GENEROUS.



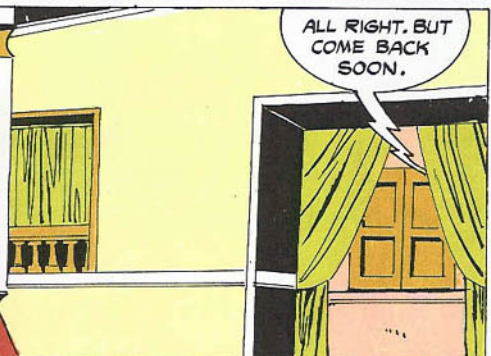
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? MY FATHER IS MORE GENEROUS THAN HE APPEARS.



PURNA, I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE AFTER I'VE WASHED AND CHANGED.



ALL RIGHT. BUT COME BACK SOON.



WHEN JINADATTA, WHO HAD GONE OUT TO PACIFY HIS CREDITORS, RETURNED —

WH— WHAT'S ALL THIS?

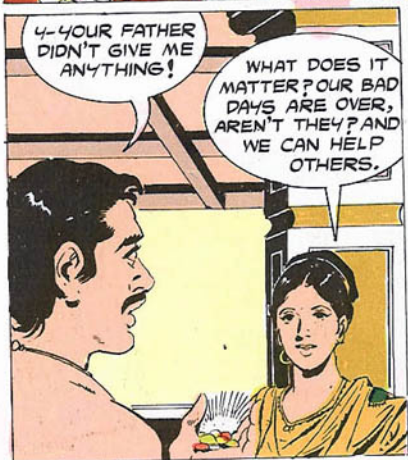
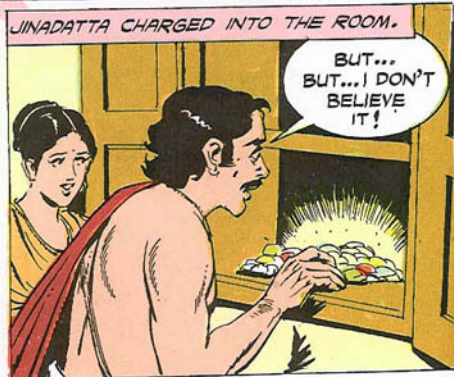
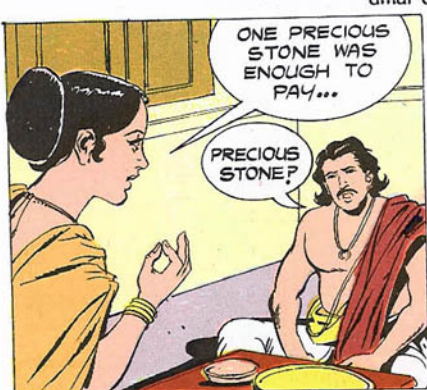
YOUR FAVOURITE DISHES!



YOU KNOW WE ALREADY OWE THE GROCER A LOT OF MONEY. WHY DID YOU BORROW...

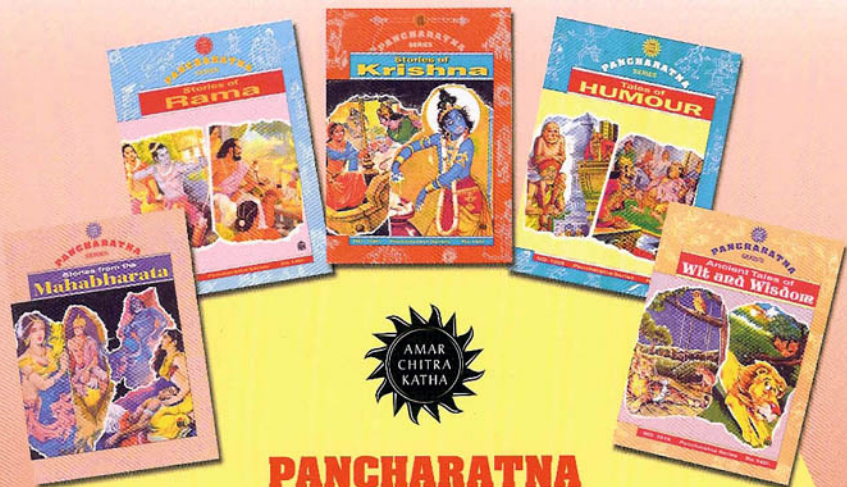
BORROW? WHY SHOULD I BORROW?





YES, JINADATTA'S BAD DAYS WERE CERTAINLY OVER. NOW WHETHER IT WAS HIS GENEROSITY TO THE MONK OR HIS KIND HEART OR PURNA'S FAITH IN HER FATHER'S GOODNESS THAT TURNED MERE PEBBLES INTO PRECIOUS STONES, IS NOT KNOWN. BUT JINADATTA NEVER AGAIN SAT TO A MEAL WITHOUT FIRST OFFERING SOME OF IT TO A MENDICANT.





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