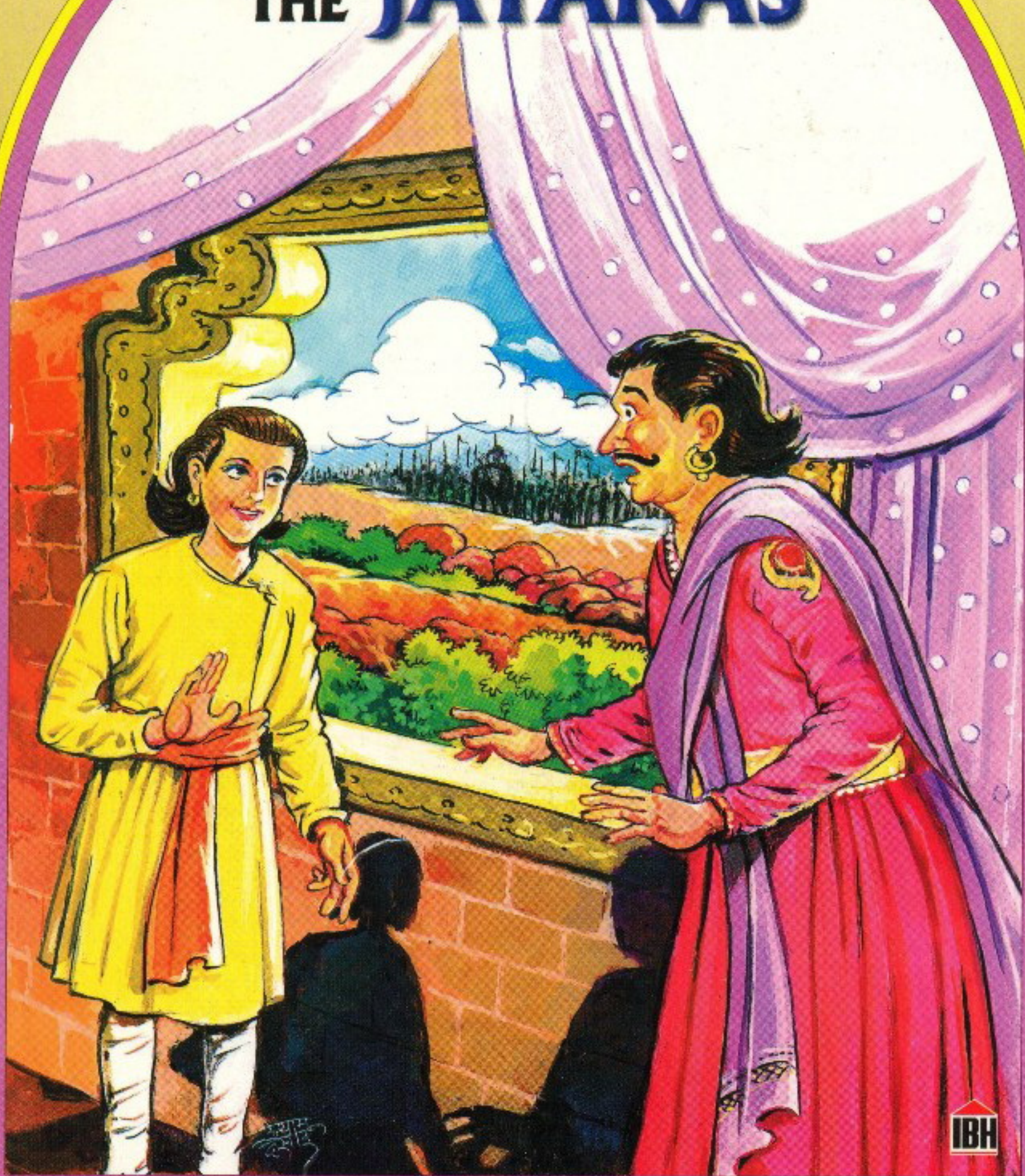




**SPECIAL
ISSUE**

No. 10017 Rs 70

MORE TALES FROM THE **JATAKAS**



IBH

MORE TALES FROM THE JATAKAS

All living creatures die to be born again, according to Hindu belief. 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 frame, he spread the message of justice and wisdom, tempered with compassion. This wisdom of right thinking and right living is preserved in the Jataka Tales.

We cannot assign a definite date to the Jataka Tales. Taking into account archaeological and literary evidence, it appears that they were compiled between 300 B. C. and A. D. 500. They give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and thought.

According to Matha Ummagga Jataka, the Bodhisattva was once born as Aushadha Kumar, the son of Seth Shrivardhana of Yavamajjhaka.

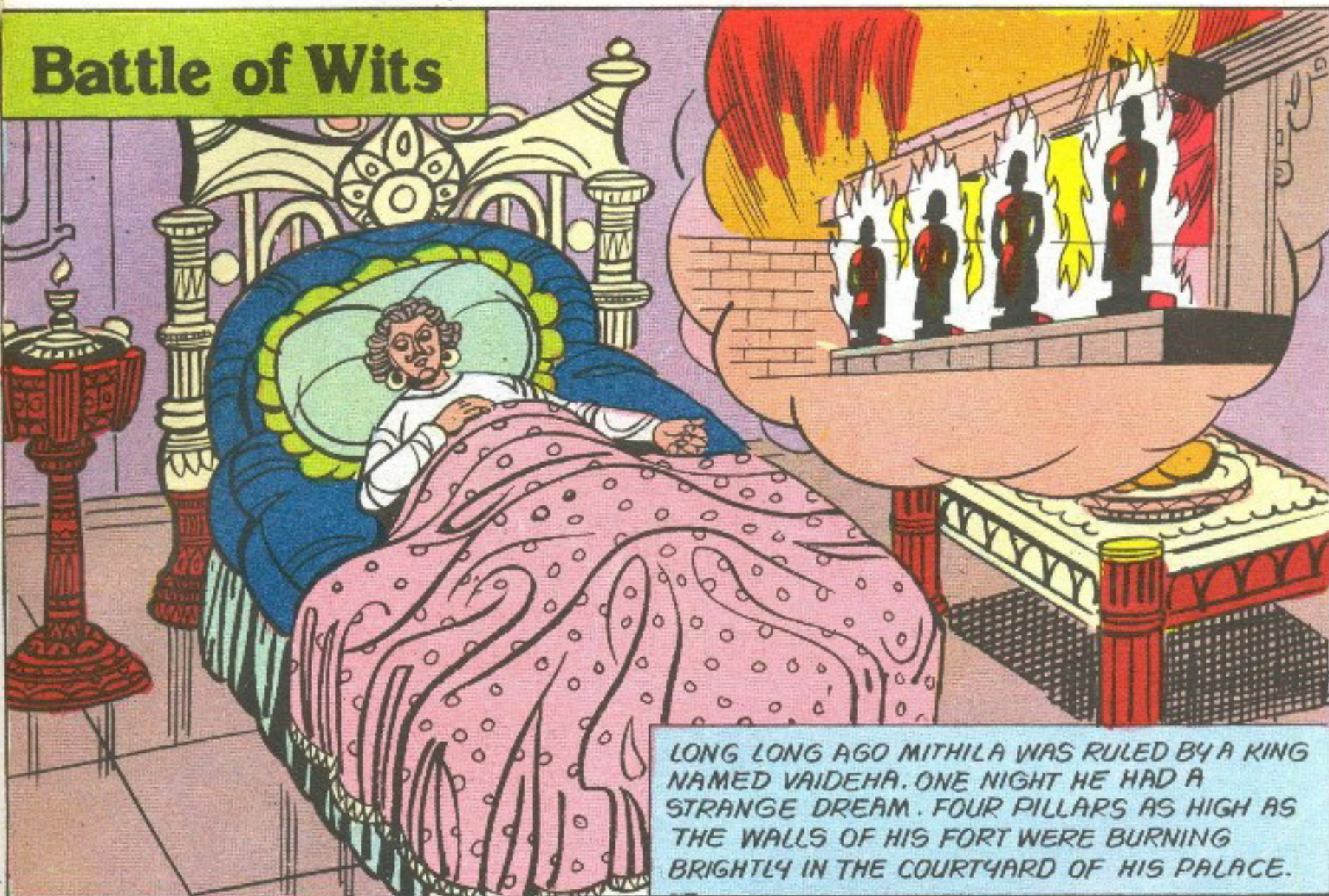
The first two tales in this special issue recount the incidents in the life of Aushadha Kumar. The third tale is about the Queen of Mithila. She takes refuge in Kalachampa after her husband is killed in battle, and grooms her son to be a prince.

Editor : Anant Pai

<i>Title</i>	<i>Script</i>	<i>Illustrations</i>
Battle of Wits	Yagya Sharma	Ram Waeerkar
The Deadly Feast	Yagya Sharma	Ram Waeerkar
The Hidden Treasure	Meera Ugra	M. N. Nangare

Editor : Anant Pai

Battle of Wits



LONG LONG AGO MITHILA WAS RULED BY A KING NAMED VAIDEHA. ONE NIGHT HE HAD A STRANGE DREAM. FOUR PILLARS AS HIGH AS THE WALLS OF HIS FORT WERE BURNING BRIGHTLY IN THE COURTYARD OF HIS PALACE.

SUDDENLY A TINY FLAME APPEARED AMIDST THE BURNING PILLARS AND...



... GREW TALLER AND TALLER TILL IT DWARFED THEM, THE FORT, THE PALACE AND ALL.



THE KING WOKE UP TREMBLING.



THE NEXT MORNING HE CONSULTED SENAK, PUKKUS, KAVIND AND DEVIND, THE FOUR PANDITS OF HIS COURT.



THE FOUR BURNING PILLARS YOU SAW IN YOUR DREAM REPRESENT PUKKUS, KAVIND, DEVIND AND ME. AND...



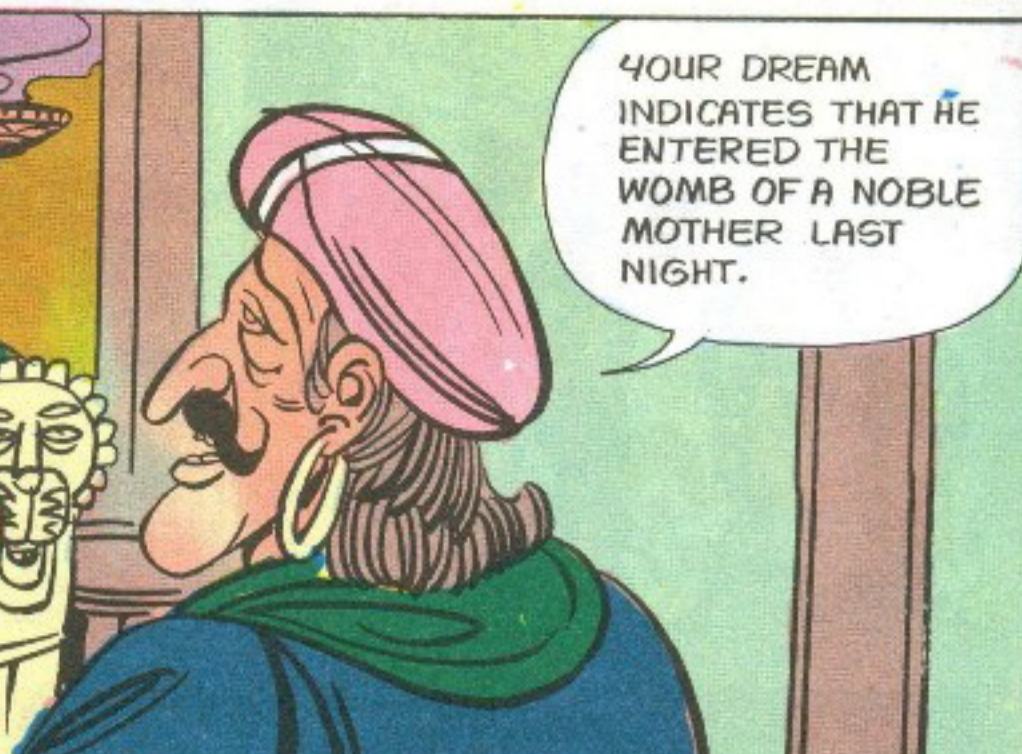
... THE BRIGHT FLAME FORETELLS THE ADVENT OF A GREAT SOUL WHOSE WISDOM WILL SURPASS OUR COMBINED KNOWLEDGE.



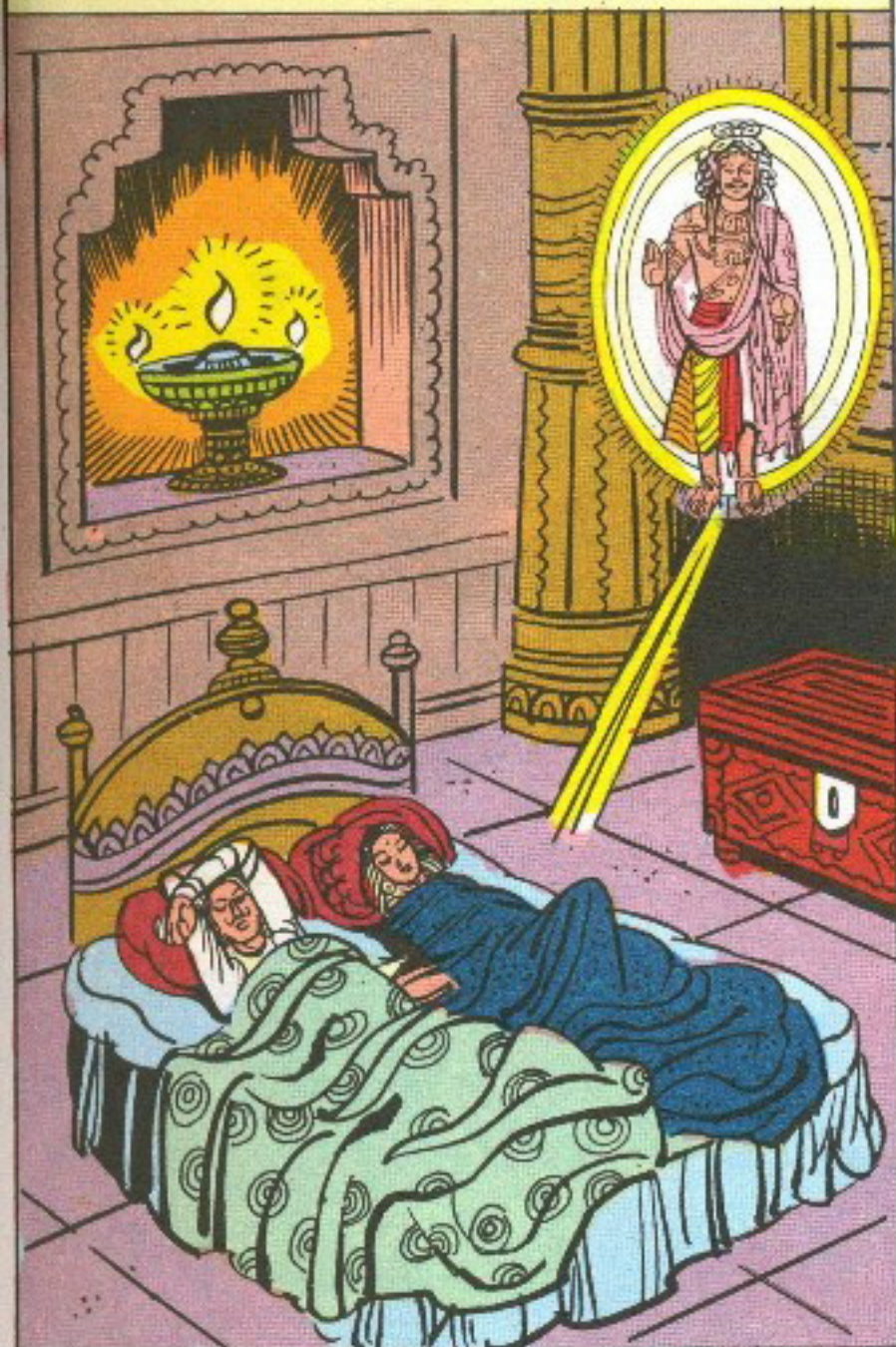
WHEN WILL THIS GREAT SOUL BE BORN?



YOUR DREAM INDICATES THAT HE ENTERED THE WOMB OF A NOBLE MOTHER LAST NIGHT.



SENAK WAS RIGHT. THE BODHISATTVA* HAD ENTERED THE WOMB OF SUMANA DEVI, WIFE OF SHRIVARDHANA, A WEALTHY RESIDENT OF YAVAMAJJHAKA VILLAGE.



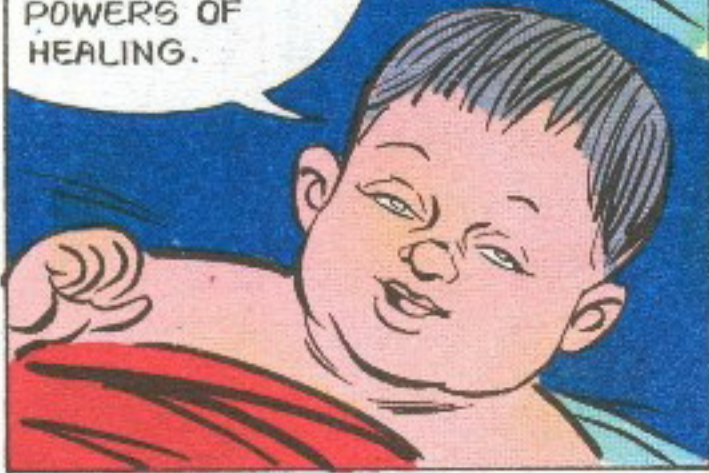
TEN MONTHS LATER, SUMANA DEVI GAVE BIRTH TO A RADIANT SON.



* SEE INTRODUCTION

SUDDENLY, THE NEWBORN BABY SPOKE IN A CLEAR, MELODIOUS VOICE.

THIS PIECE OF WOOD POSSESSES MYSTERIOUS POWERS OF HEALING.



FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, SETH SHRIVARDHANA HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM FREQUENT BOUTS OF HEADACHE.

THE NEXT TIME I HAVE A HEADACHE I'LL TRY THIS OUT.



THE VERY NEXT DAY HE HAD ONE. HE QUICKLY BROUGHT OUT THE PIECE OF WOOD, RUBBED IT ON A GRINDING-STONE...

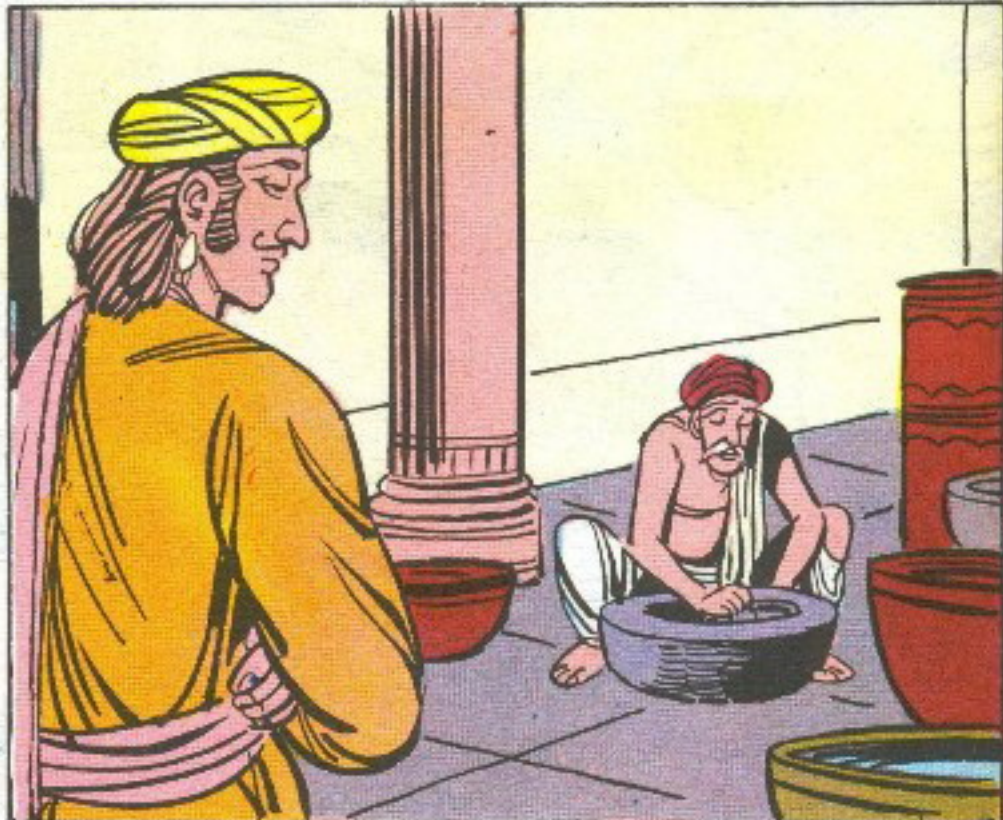


... AND APPLIED THE PASTE TO HIS FOREHEAD. AND LO!

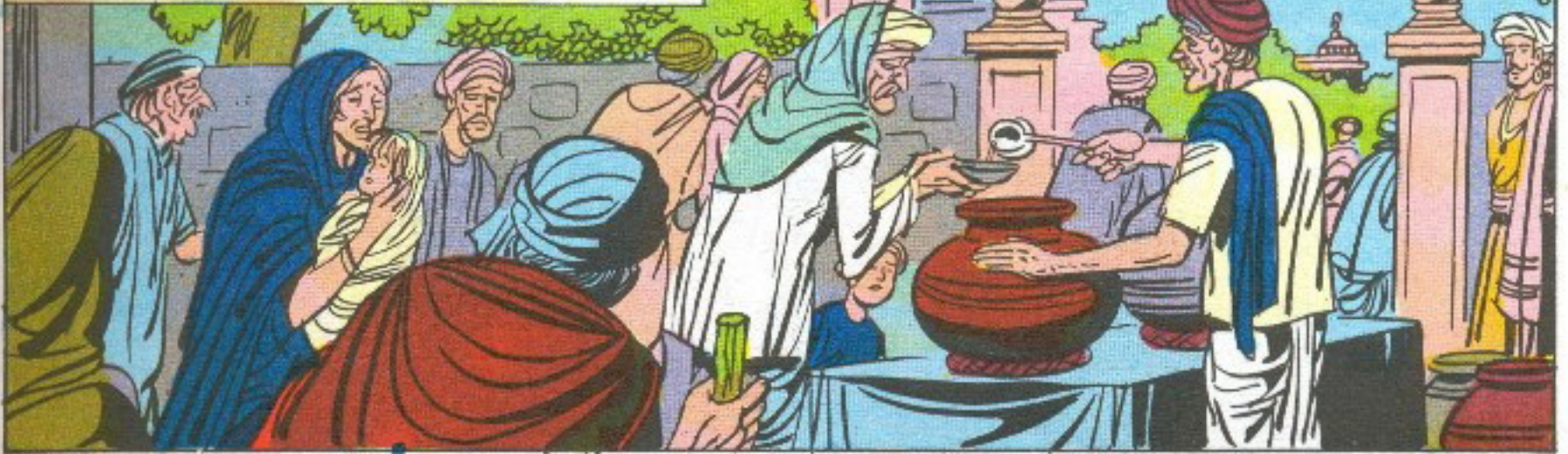
IT'S GONE!
MY HEADACHE
HAS GONE!



I'LL MIX THIS IN WATER AND DISTRIBUTE THE MIXTURE TO THE AILING.

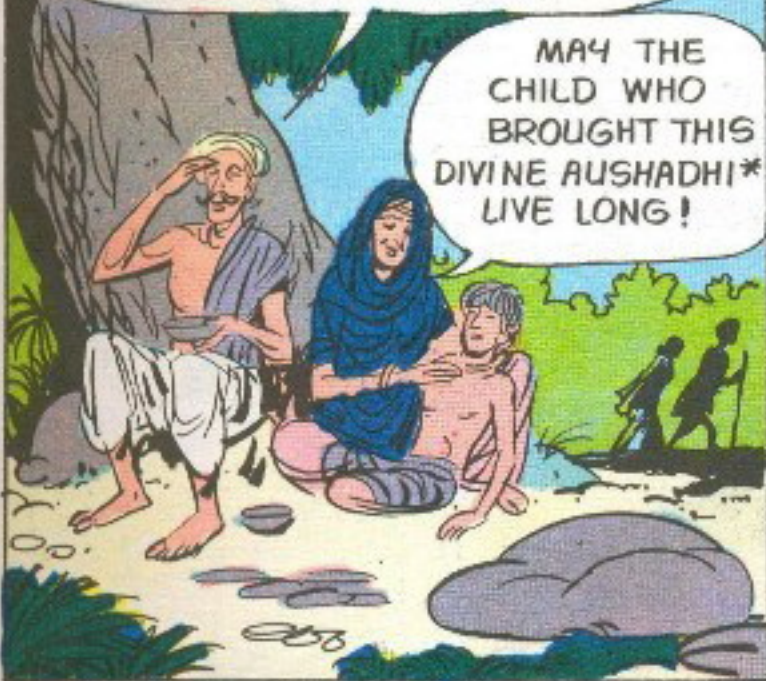


FAME OF THE HERB SPREAD, AND AILING PEOPLE FROM NEAR AND FAR FLOCKED TO SHRIVARDHANA'S HOUSE.

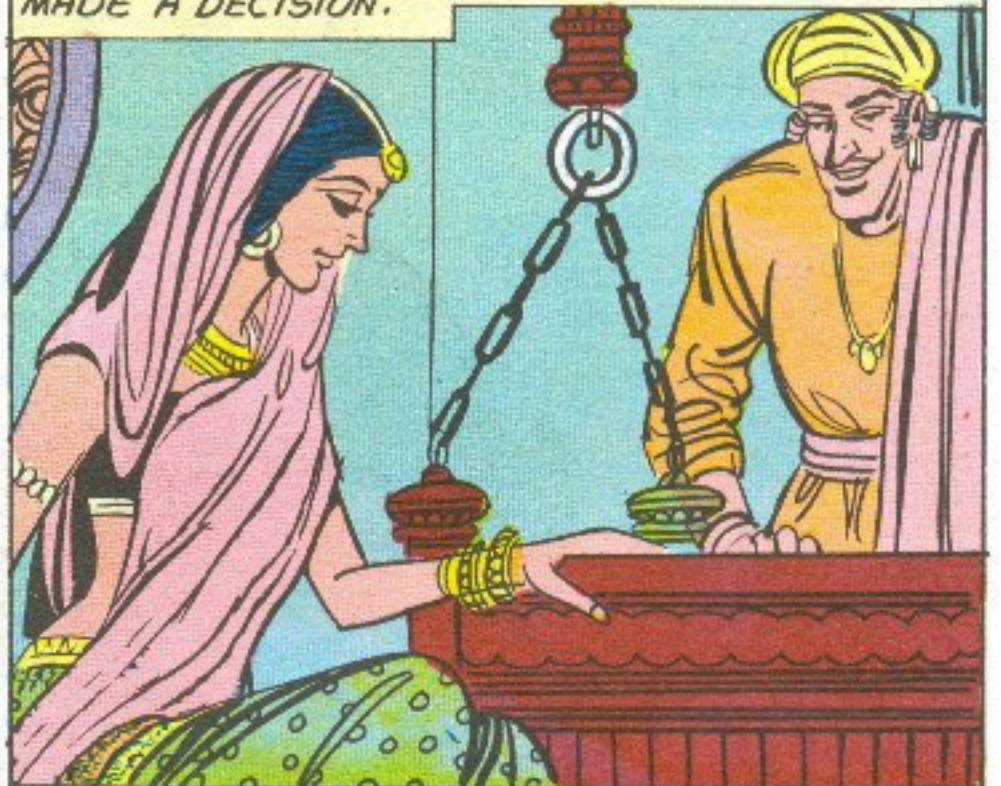


THE PAIN AND AGONY THAT TORTURED ME FOR FIVE LONG YEARS VANISHES WITH JUST ONE DOSE OF MEDICINE! I MUST BE DREAMING.

MAY THE CHILD WHO BROUGHT THIS DIVINE AUSHADHI* LIVE LONG!

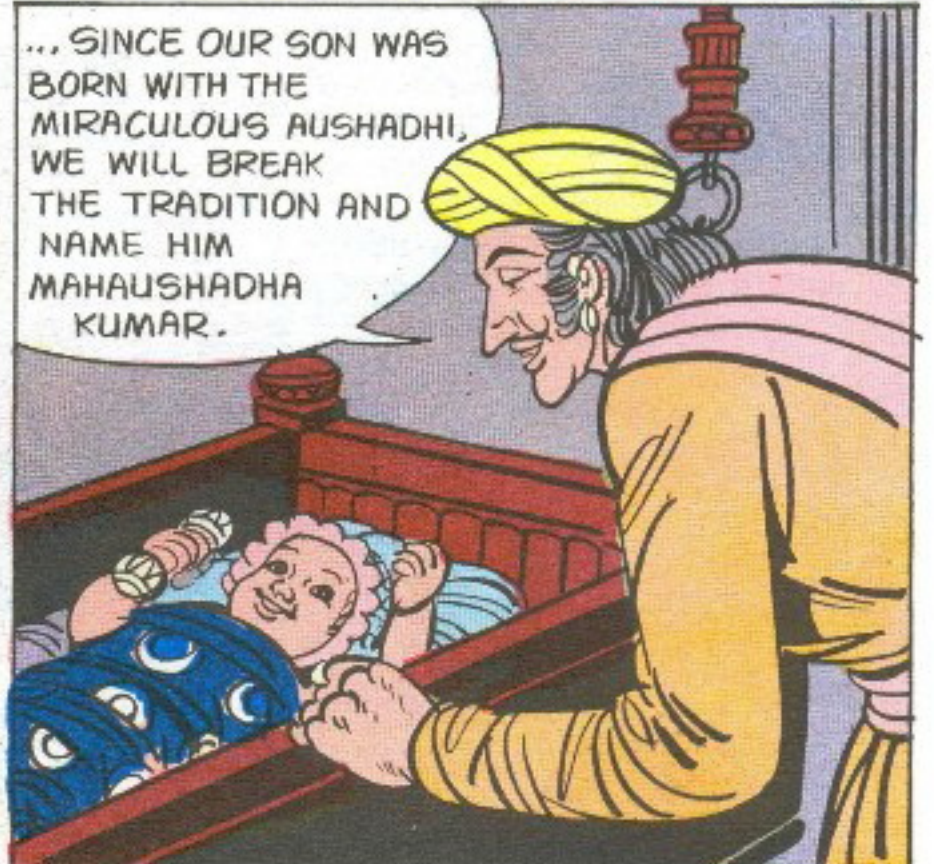


WHEN THE CHILD HAD TO BE NAMED, SHRIVARDHANA MADE A DECISION.



IT IS A TRADITION IN OUR FAMILY FOR THE ELDEST SON TO BE NAMED AFTER HIS GRANDFATHER, BUT...

... SINCE OUR SON WAS BORN WITH THE MIRACULOUS AUSHADHI, WE WILL BREAK THE TRADITION AND NAME HIM MAHAUSHADHA KUMAR.



MAHAUSHADHA KUMAR GREW UP HAPPILY IN THE COMPANY OF THE CHILDREN OF HIS VILLAGE. BUT HE WAS FAR MORE INTELLIGENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE THAN ANY OF THEM. ONE DAY, WHEN HE WAS BARELY SEVEN YEARS OLD—

AUSHADHA, THE STREETS ARE TOO CROWDED. HOW CAN WE PLAY HERE? LET'S GO INDOORS.

BUT THE RAINS WILL SOON BE HERE AND THEN WE WILL HAVE TO PLAY INDOORS ALL THE TIME.

NO, WE WILL NOT. WE'LL HAVE A NEW TOWN WITH A SHELTERED PLAYGROUND. WE'LL ASK OUR PARENTS TO DONATE THE MONEY FOR IT.

AUSHADHA KUMAR ASSEMBLED ALL THE LOCAL ARTISANS AND SPOKE TO THEM OF HIS PLANS.

I WANT TO RAISE A TOWNSHIP WHICH WILL HAVE A STADIUM FOR CHILDREN, A HOME FOR HOMELESS WOMEN...

... REST-HOUSES FOR TRAVELLERS AND MENDICANTS, AND PUBLIC HALLS FOR PRAYERS AND SETTLING DISPUTES.

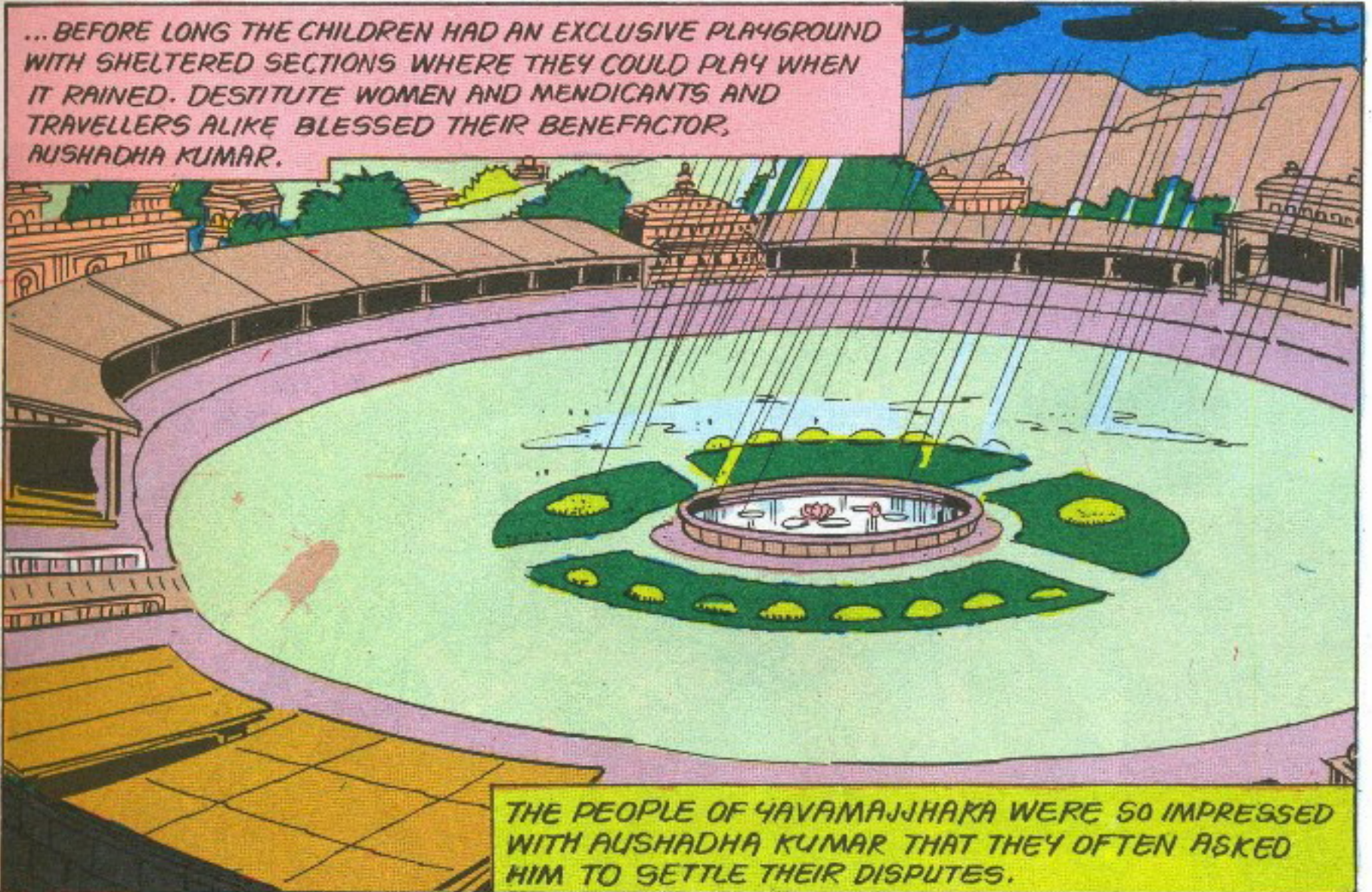
THE SIMPLE ARTISANS OF YAVAMAJJHAKA VILLAGE WERE UNABLE TO VISUALIZE AUSHADHA KUMAR'S IDEAS. SO HE MADE A PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR THEM. AND...



...WORK BEGAN AND PROGRESSED QUICKLY YET SMOOTHLY UNDER HIS SUPERVISION. AND...

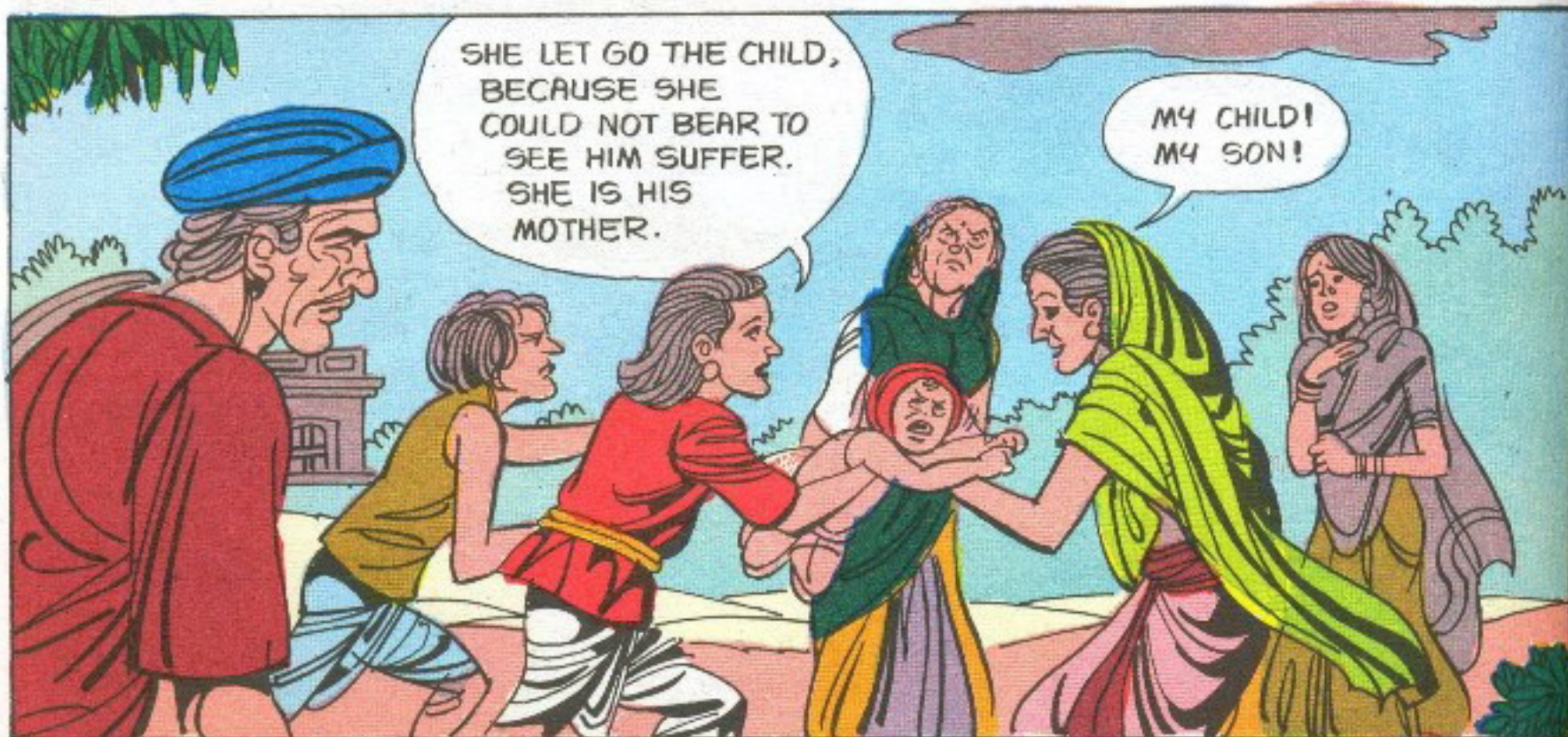
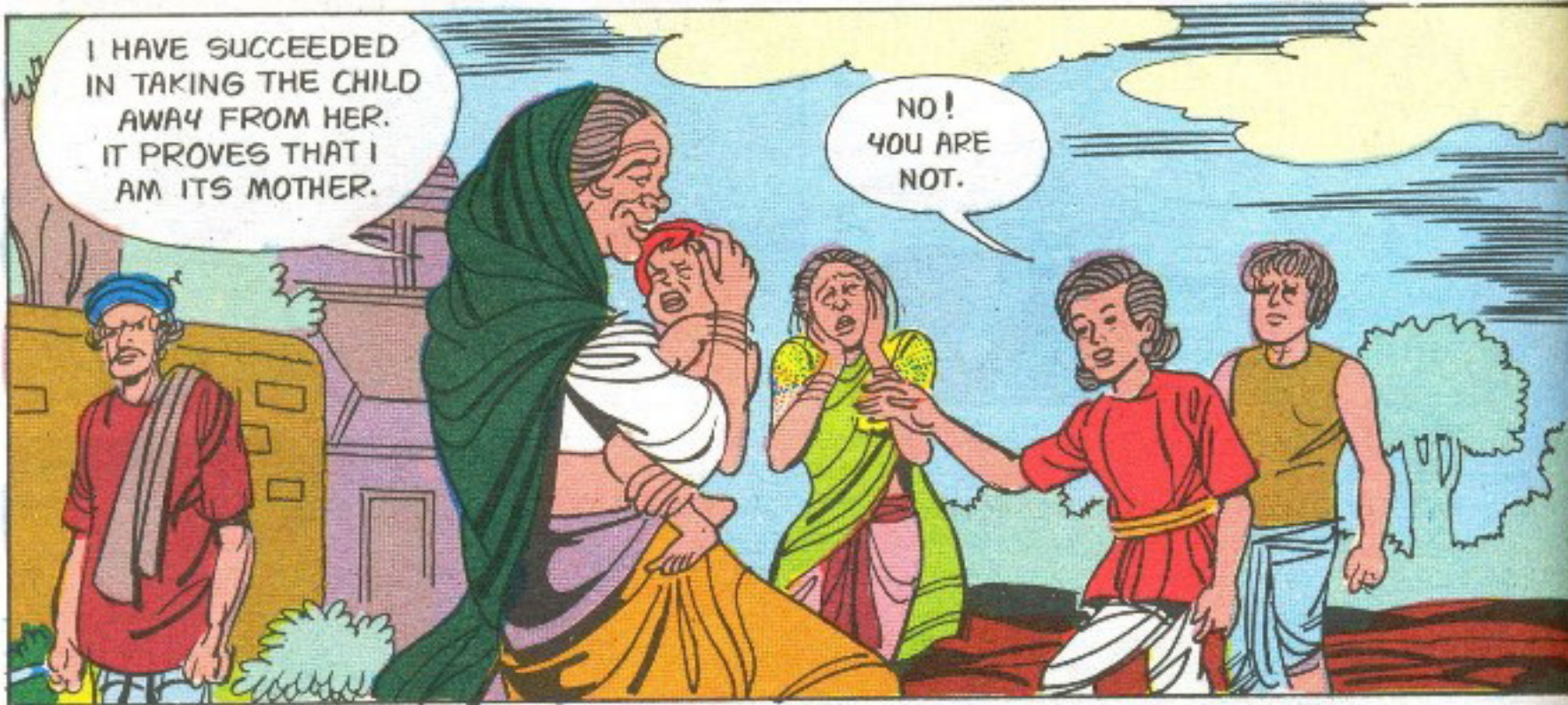


...BEFORE LONG THE CHILDREN HAD AN EXCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND WITH SHELTERED SECTIONS WHERE THEY COULD PLAY WHEN IT RAINED. DESITUTE WOMEN AND MENDICANTS AND TRAVELLERS ALIKE BLESSED THEIR BENEFACTOR, AUSHADHA KUMAR.



THE PEOPLE OF YAVAMAJJHAKA WERE SO IMPRESSED WITH AUSHADHA KUMAR THAT THEY OFTEN ASKED HIM TO SETTLE THEIR DISPUTES.

ONE DAY —



MEANWHILE, AS SEVERAL YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE GREAT PANDIT WAS PREDICTED, KING VAIDEHA DECIDED TO SEEK HIM OUT.

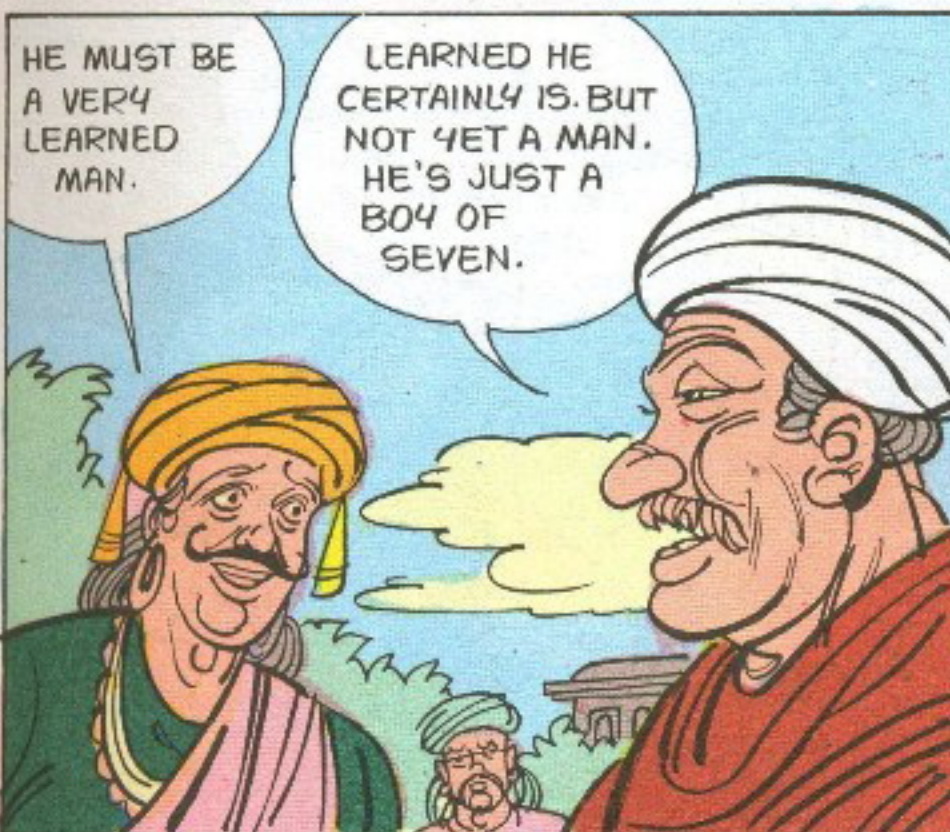


... CAME TO YAVAMAJHAKA.

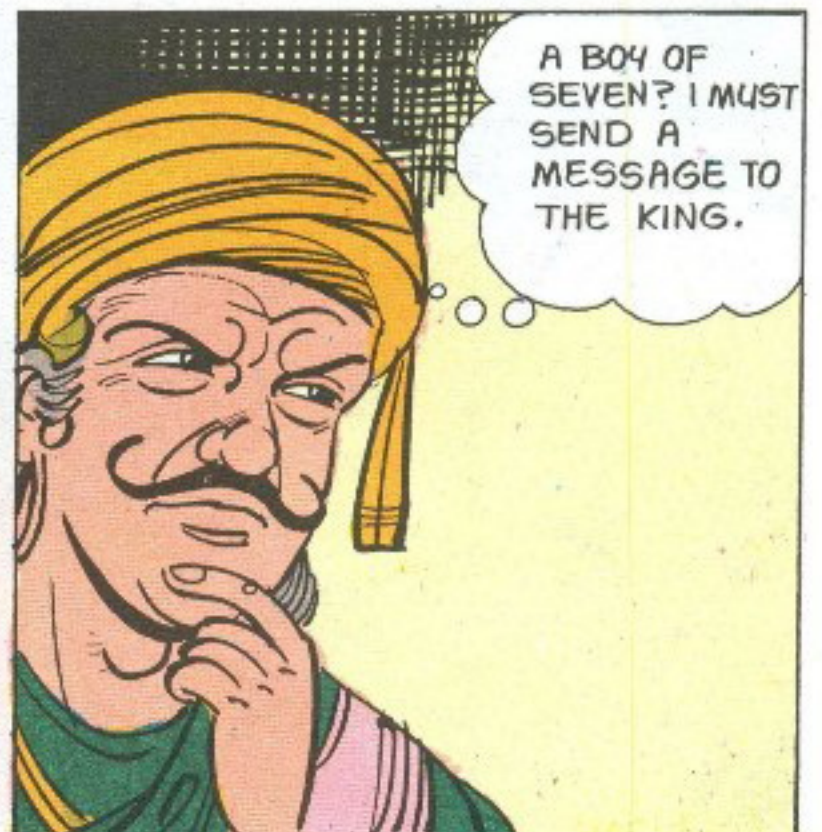


HE MUST BE A VERY LEARNED MAN.

LEARNED HE CERTAINLY IS. BUT NOT YET A MAN. HE'S JUST A BOY OF SEVEN.



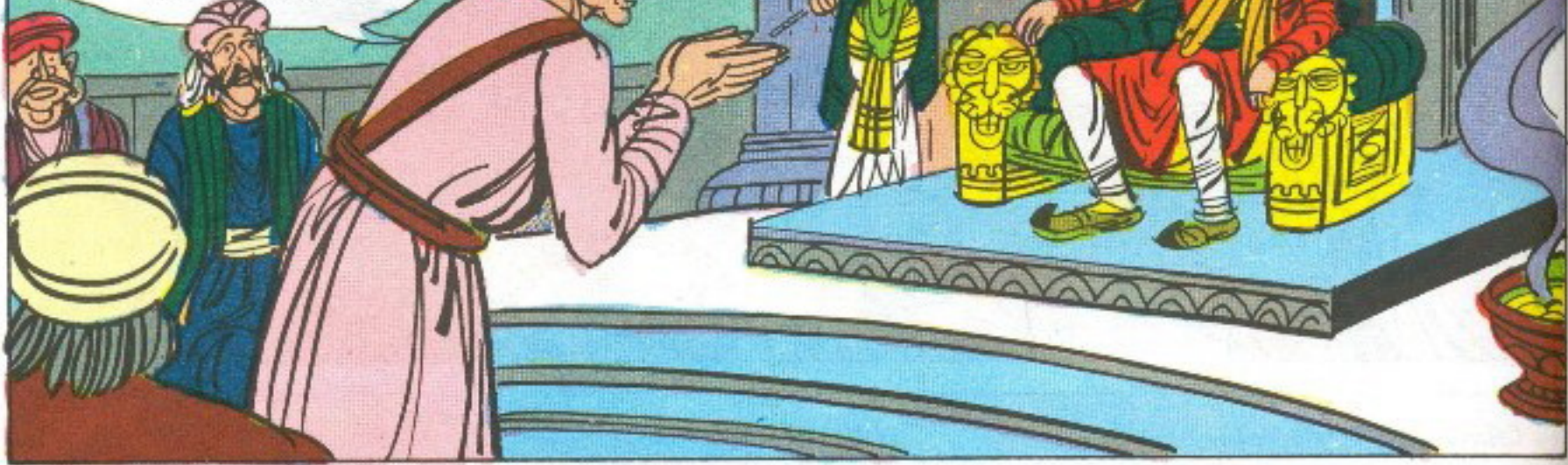
A BOY OF SEVEN? I MUST SEND A MESSAGE TO THE KING.



THE MINISTER'S MESSENGER SPED TO MITHILA.

MAHARAJ, THE MINISTER IS CONVINCED THAT SEVEN-YEAR-OLD AUSHADHA KUMAR OF YAVAMAJJHAKA IS THE CHILD YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.

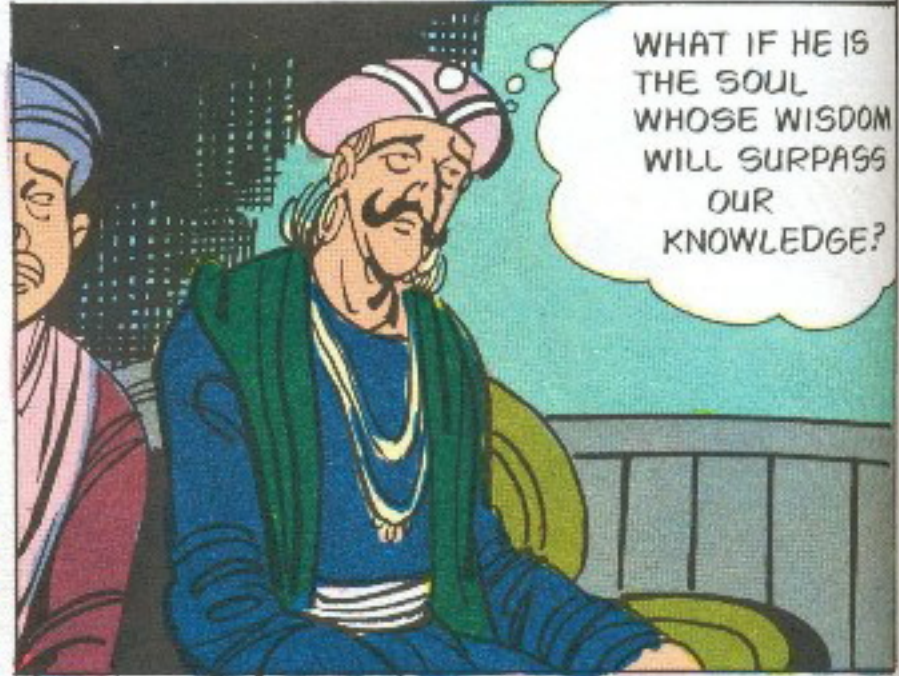
I HAD MY DREAM ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AGO!



SENAK PANDIT, I THINK WE SHOULD INVITE AUSHADHA KUMAR TO MITHILA.



WHAT IF HE IS THE SOUL WHOSE WISDOM WILL SURPASS OUR KNOWLEDGE?



I AM NOT SO SURE, MAHARAJ. PLANNING A TOWNSHIP IS NO CRITERION OF WISDOM OR OF THE GREATNESS OF A SOUL.

YOU ARE RIGHT.

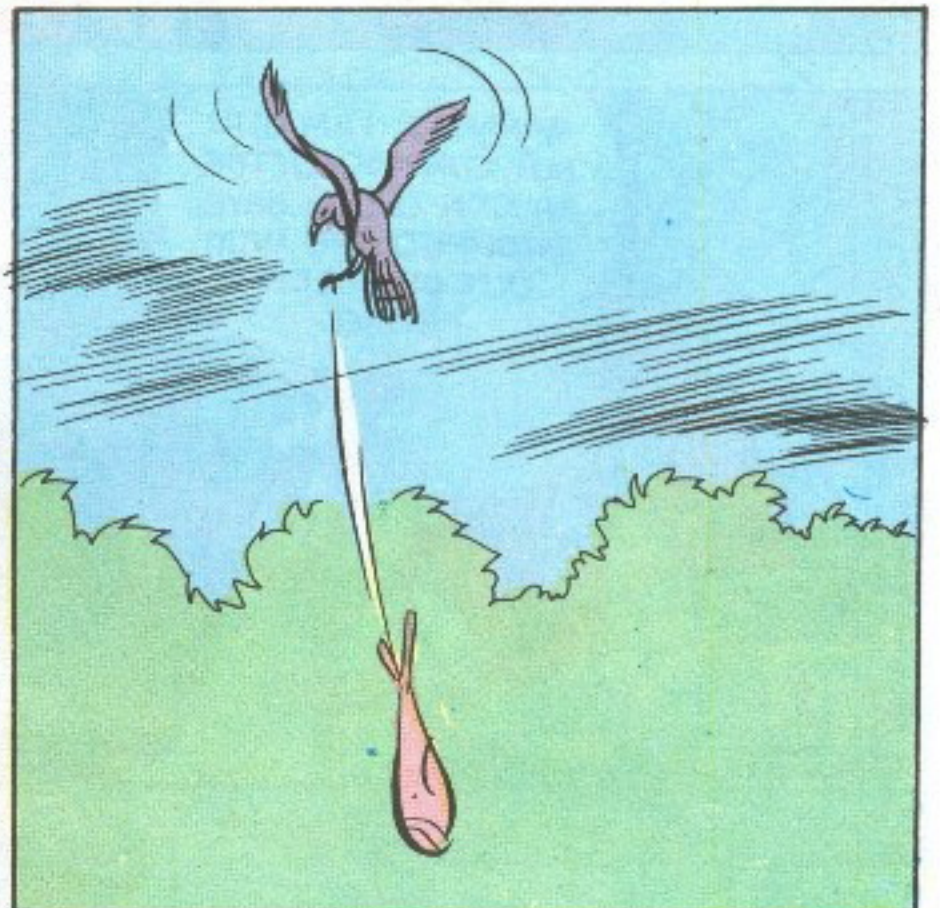
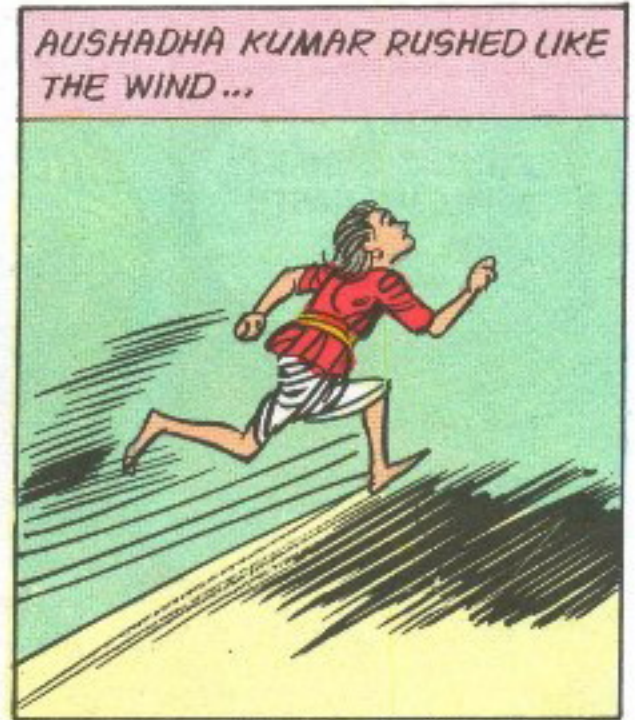
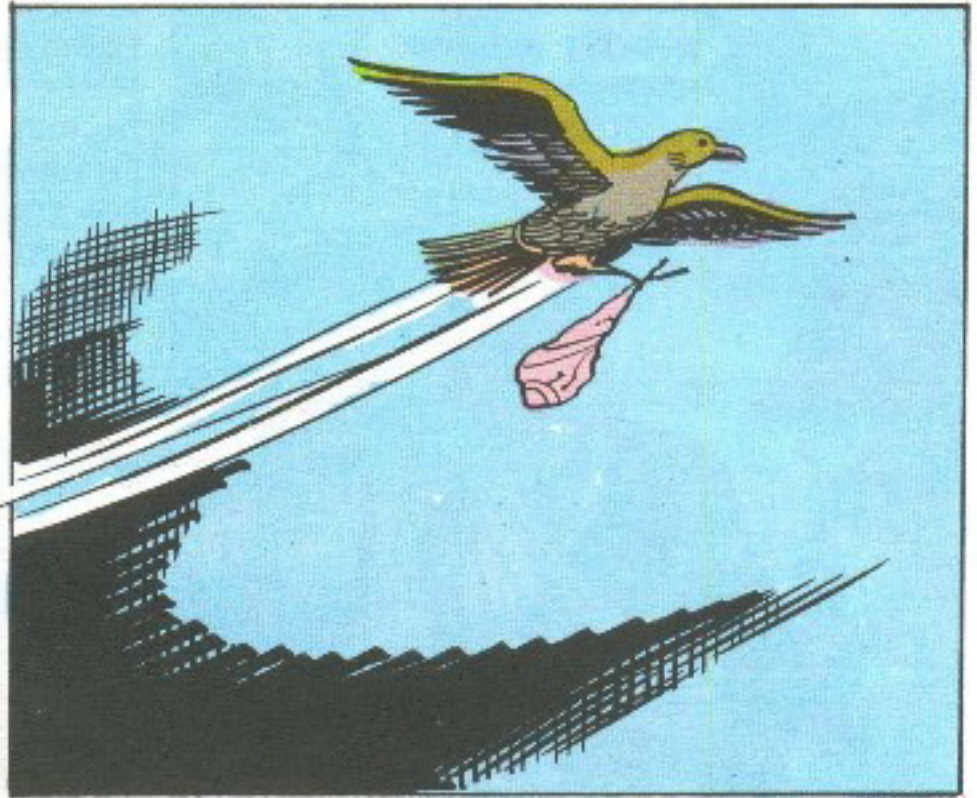


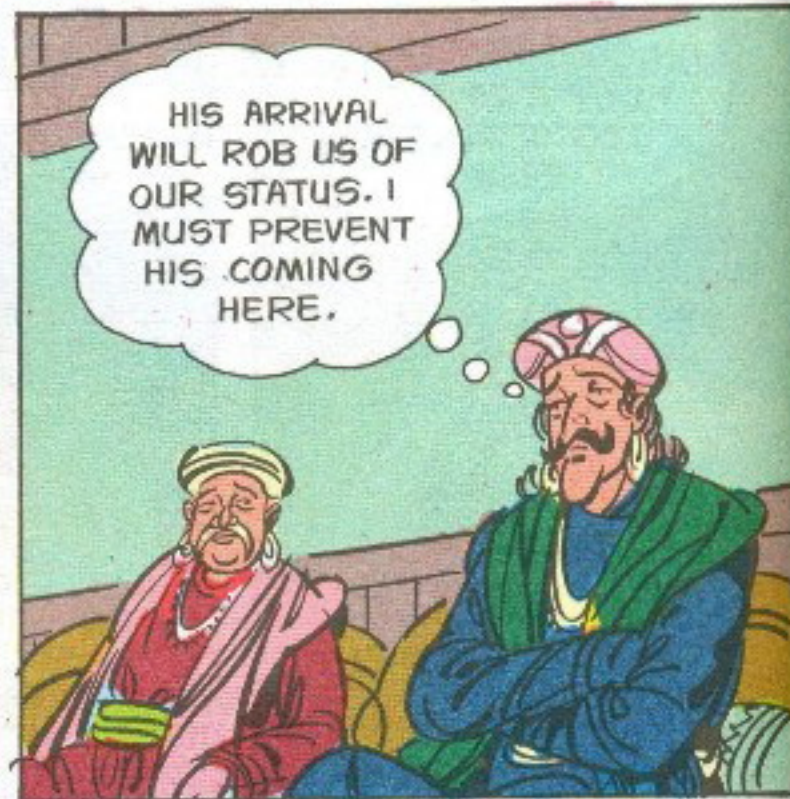
ASK THE MINISTER TO OBSERVE AUSHADHA KUMAR FOR A FEW MORE DAYS AND TO REPORT ANYTHING UNUSUAL HE SEES.

AS YOU COMMAND, MAHARAJ.

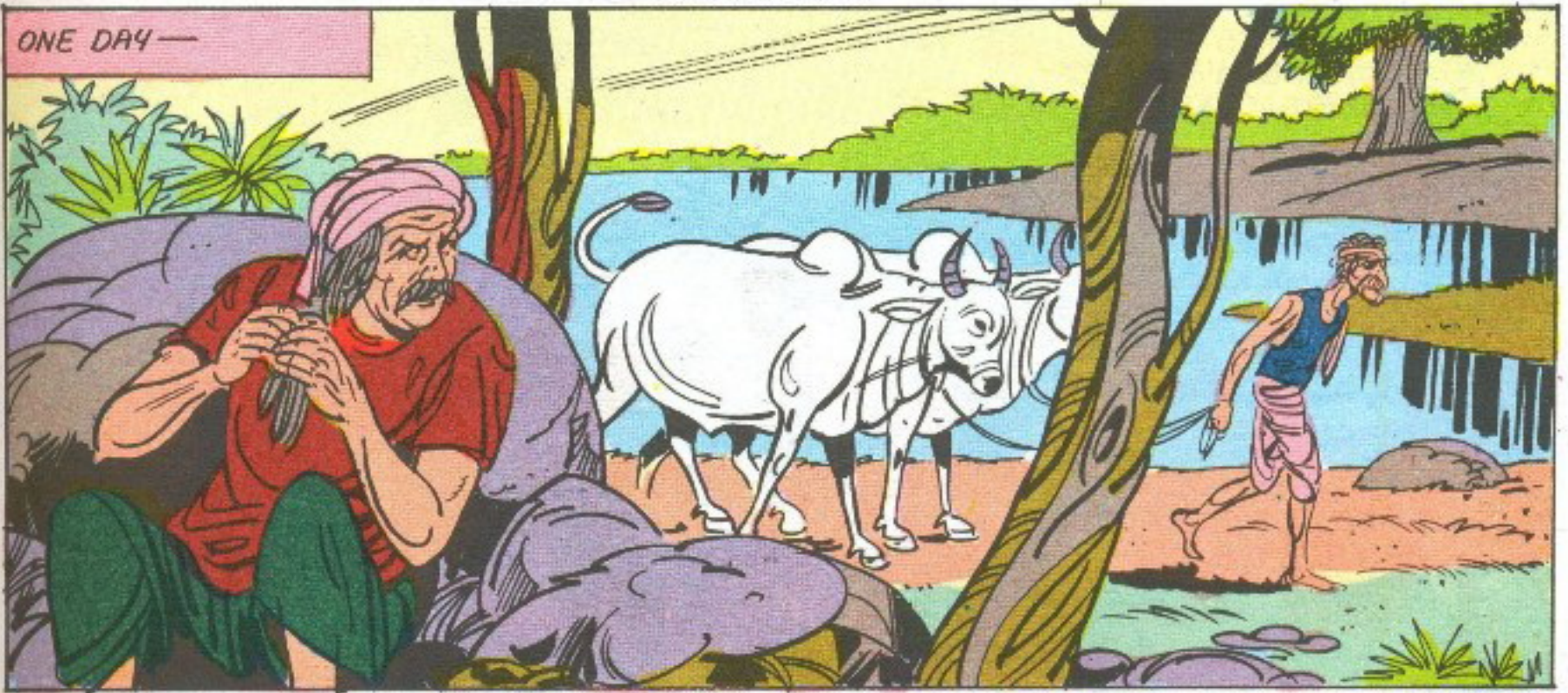


THE MINISTER DID AS HE WAS ORDERED.
THEN ONE DAY—



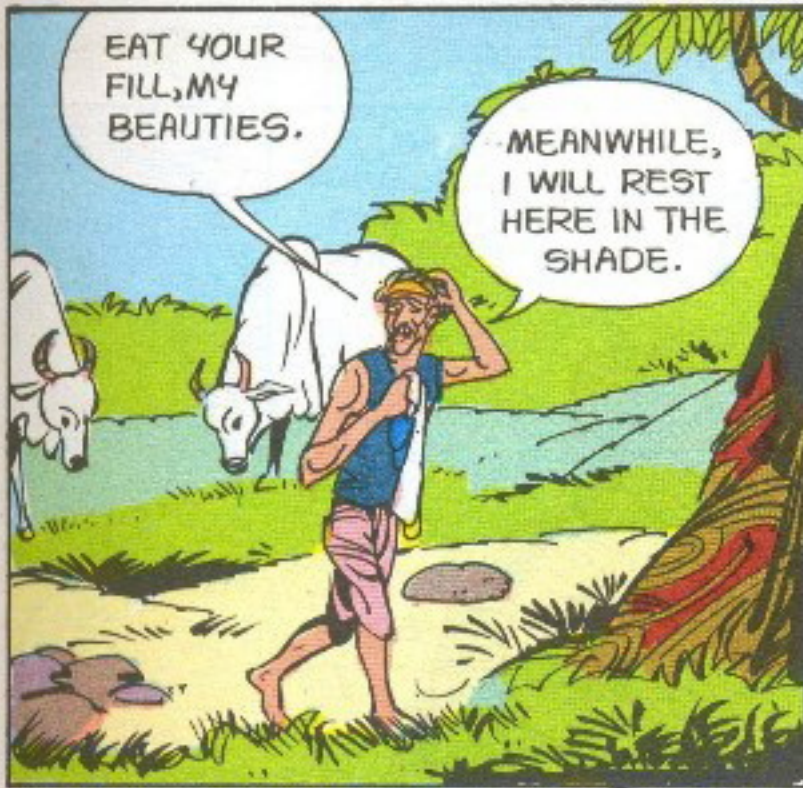


ONE DAY —



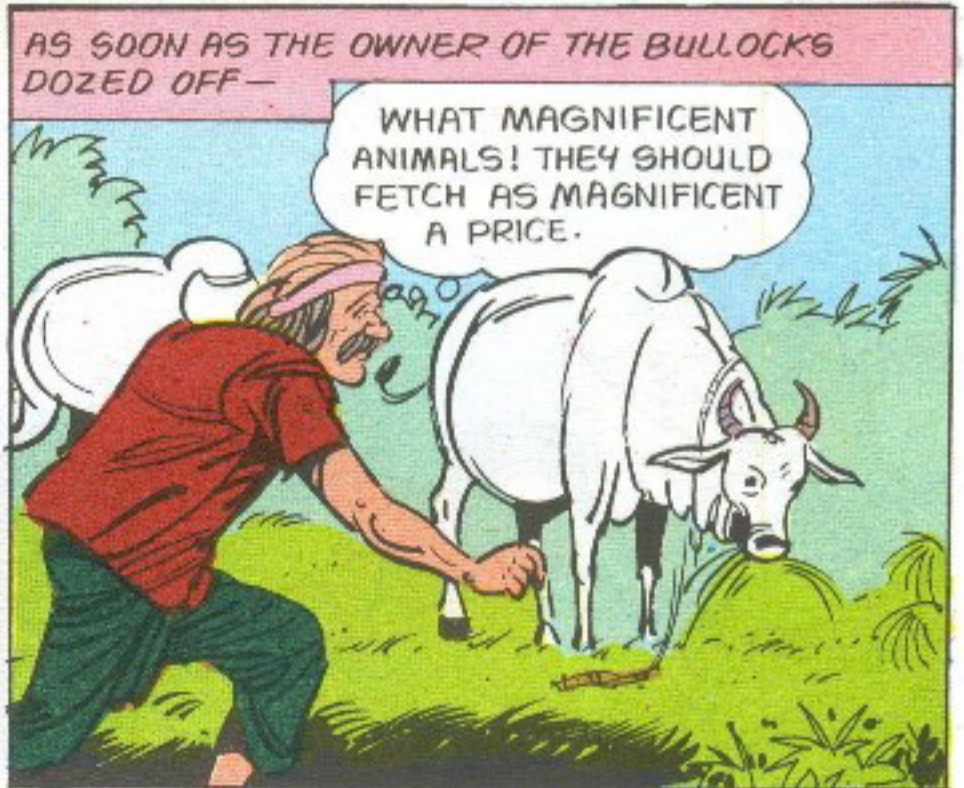
EAT YOUR
FILL, MY
BEAUTIES.

MEANWHILE,
I WILL REST
HERE IN THE
SHADE.



AS SOON AS THE OWNER OF THE BULLOCKS
DOZED OFF —

WHAT MAGNIFICENT
ANIMALS! THEY SHOULD
FETCH AS MAGNIFICENT
A PRICE.

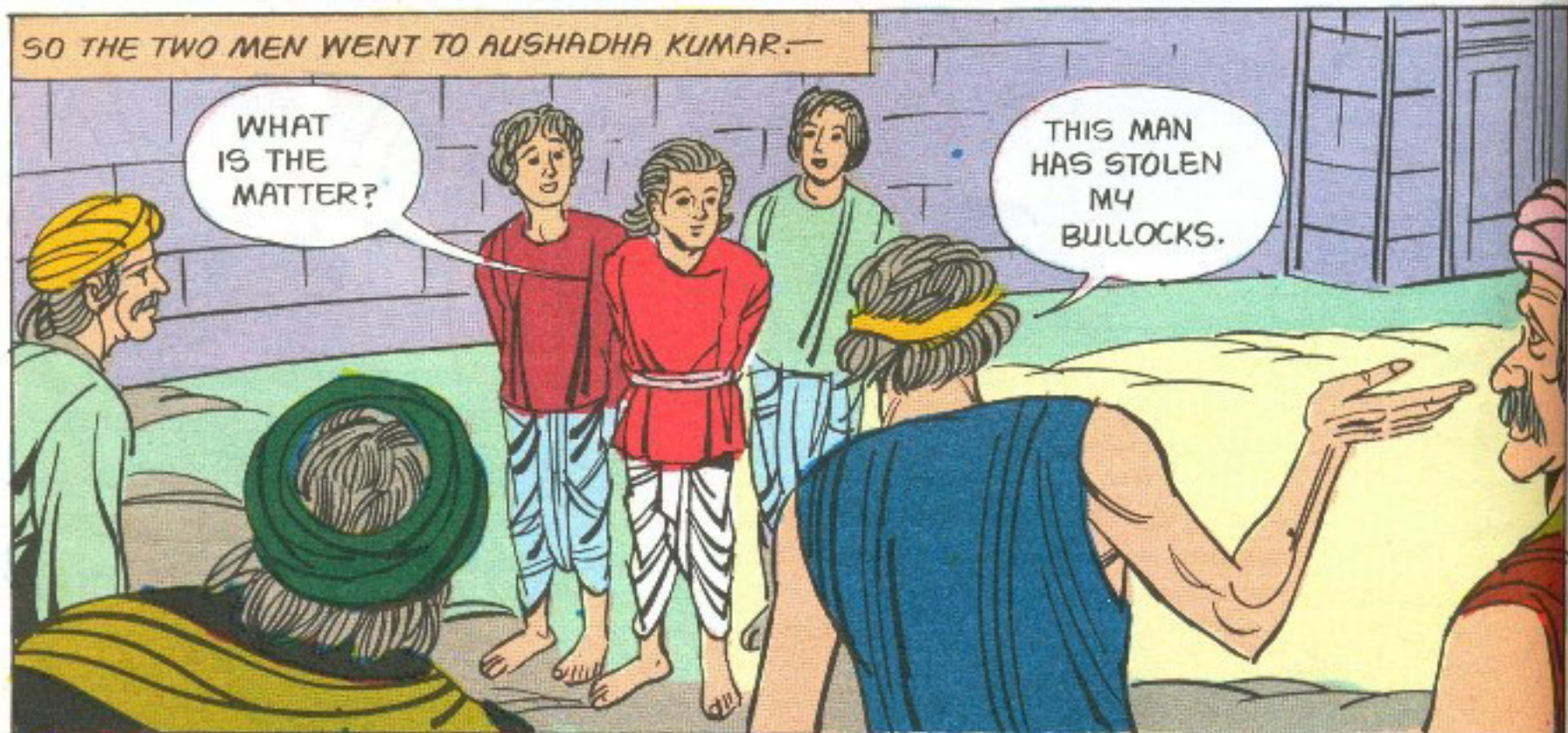
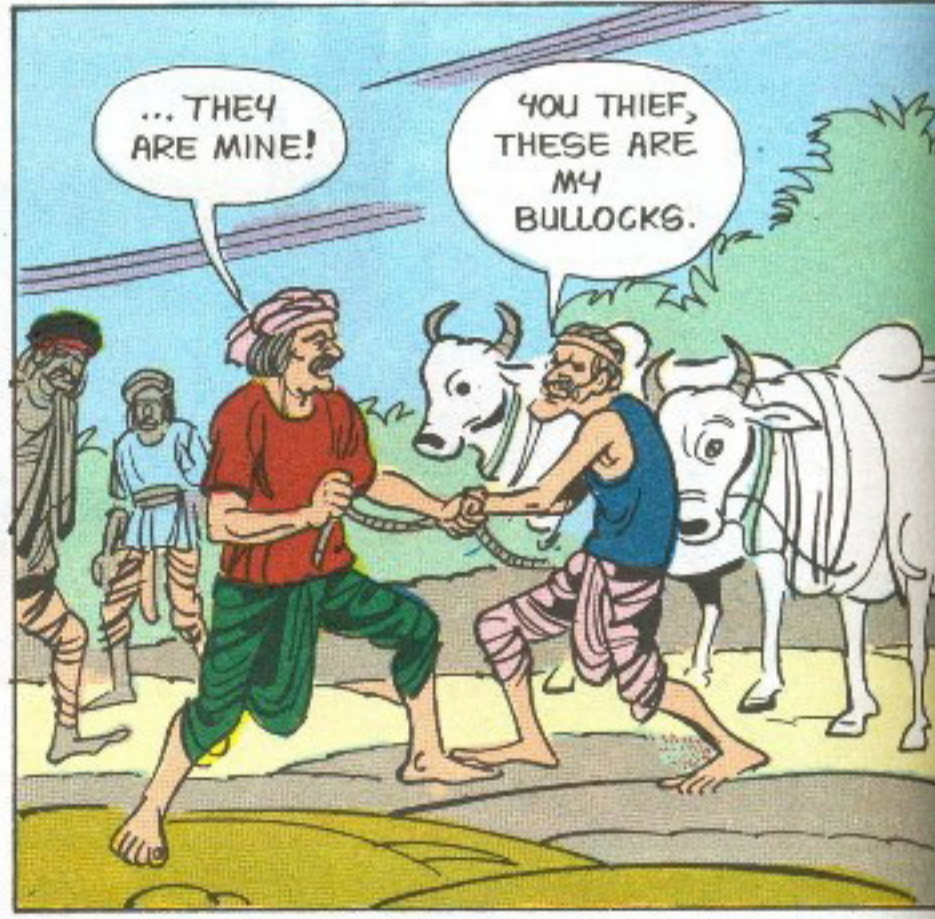
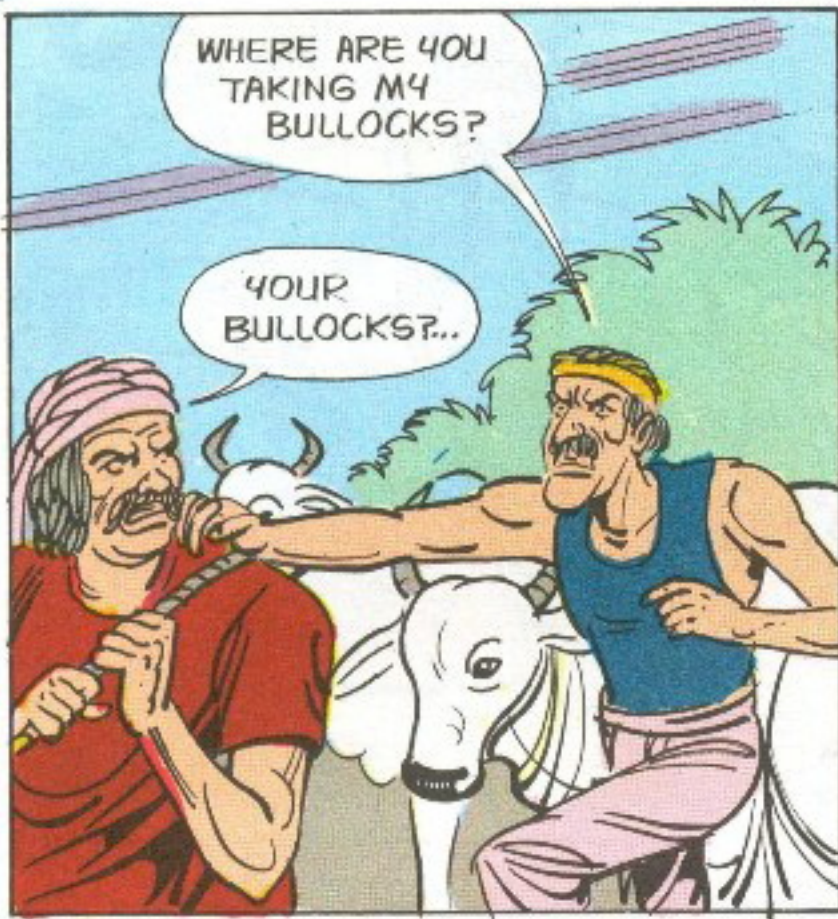


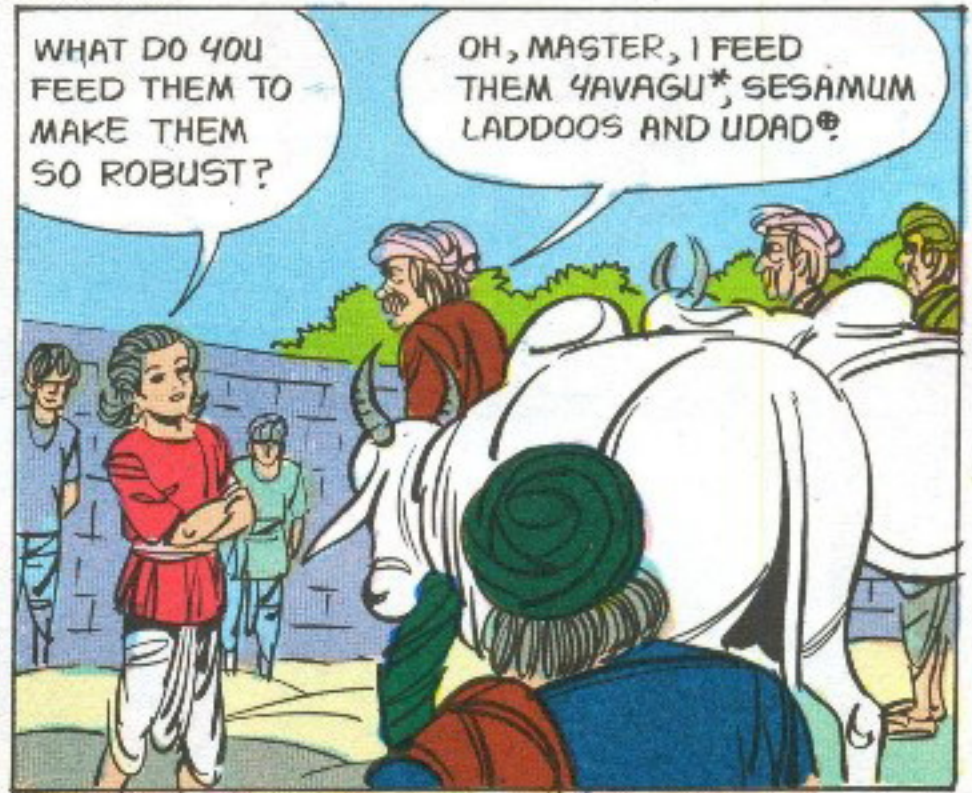
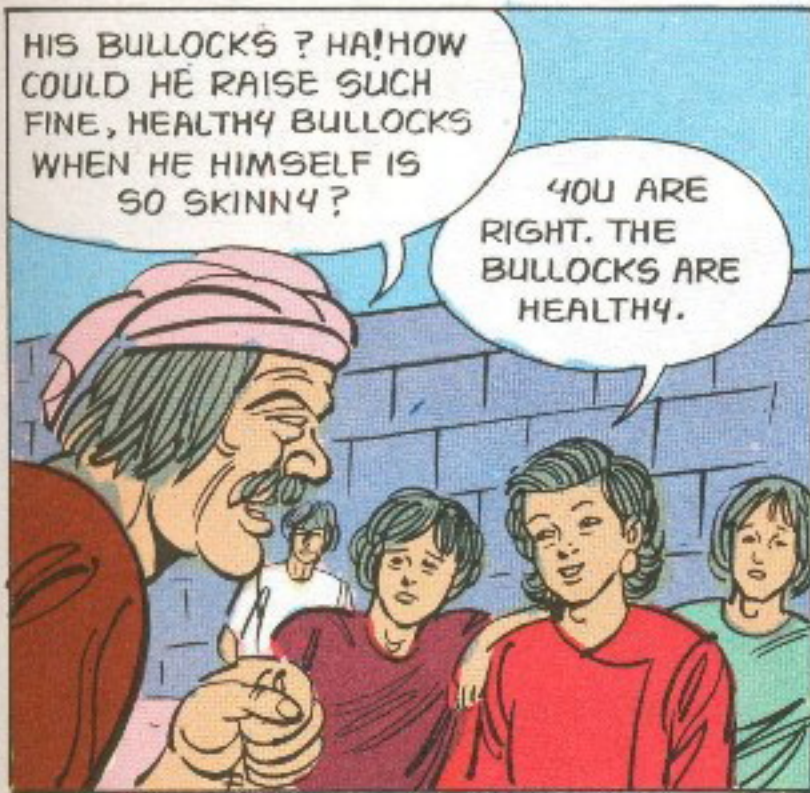
ONE WHO
SLEEPS IS
ONE WHO
LOSES.



HEY!



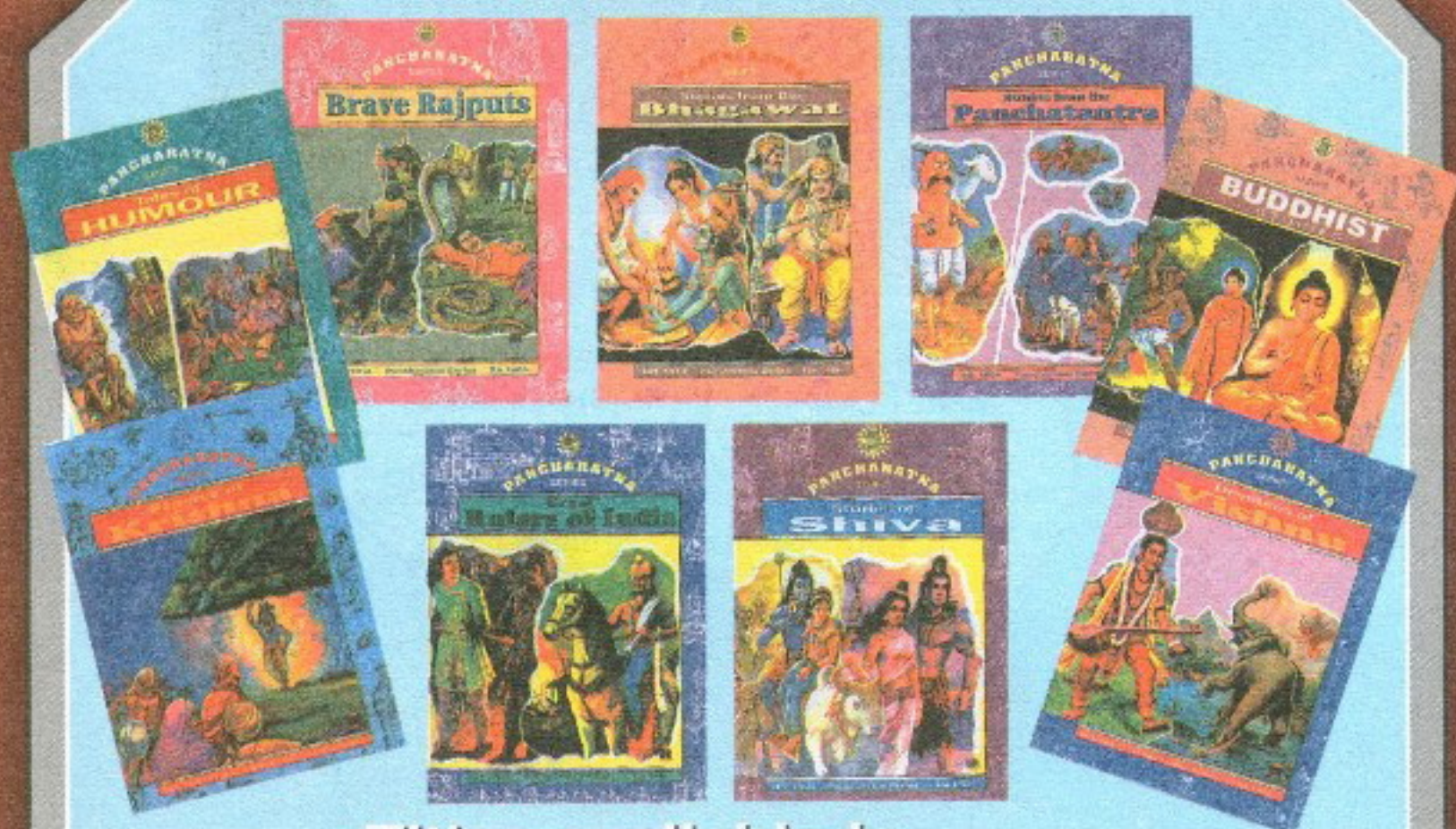




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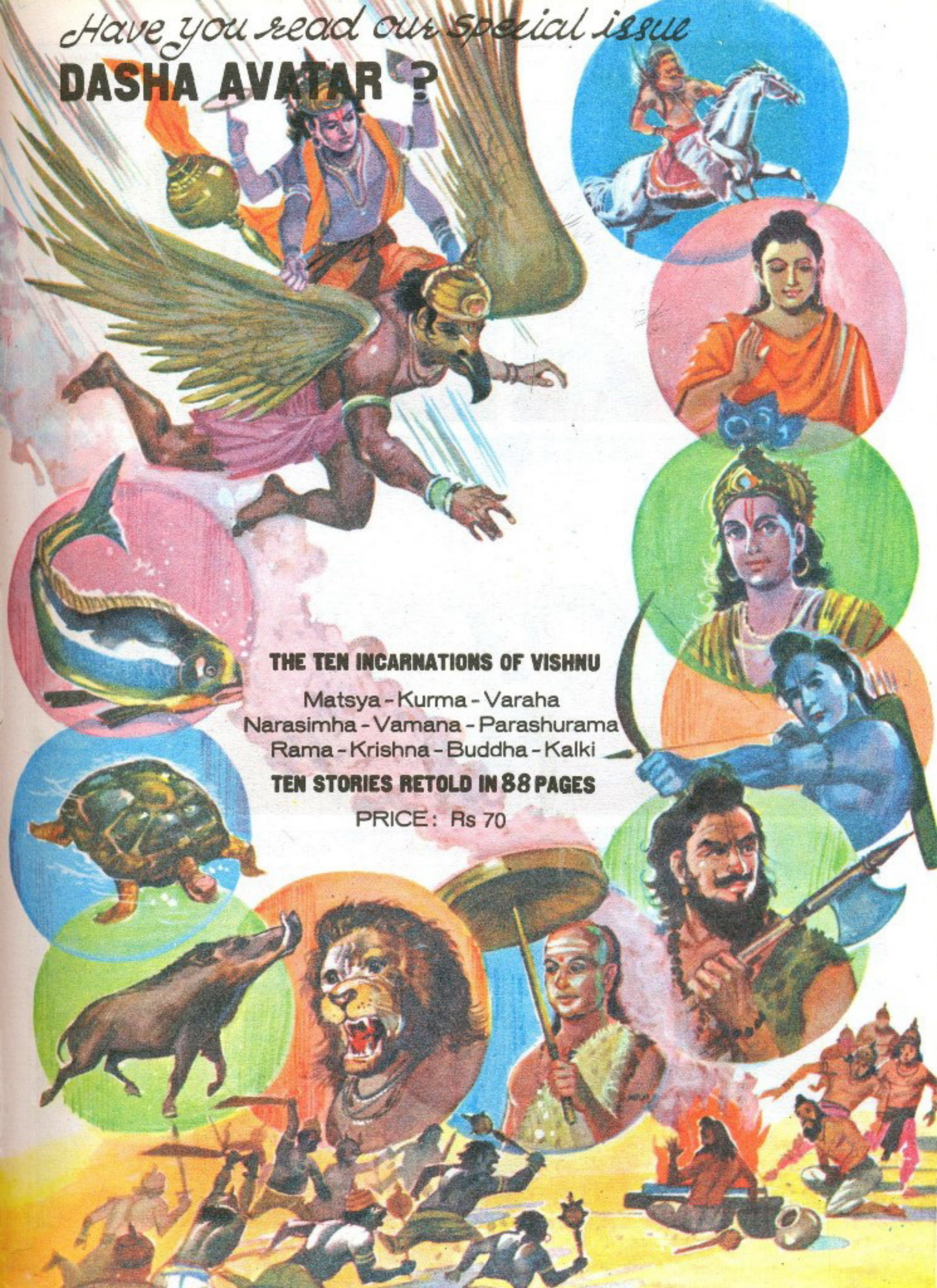
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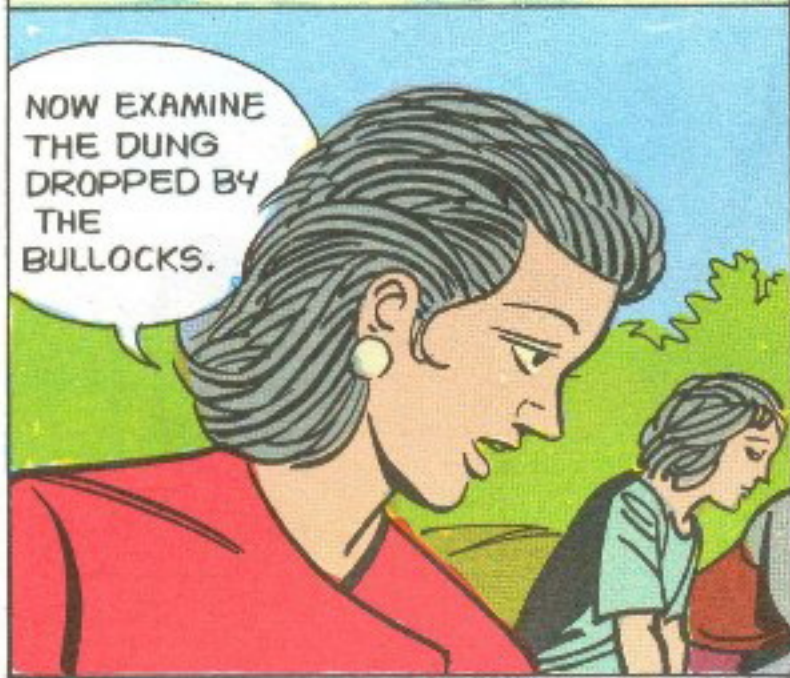
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THE PASTE OF MUSTARD LEAVES HAD THE DESIRED LAXATIVE EFFECT.

NOW EXAMINE THE DUNG DROPPED BY THE BULLOCKS.



...DO YOU FIND ANY GRAINS OF BARLEY, SESAMUM OR UDAD?

NO! NOT A SINGLE ONE.



SO, YOU FEED YAVAGU AND UDAD TO THE BULLOCKS. DO YOU?

YOU ARE A THIEF!

4-YES... I MEAN NO, MASTER.

NO... NO... YES...

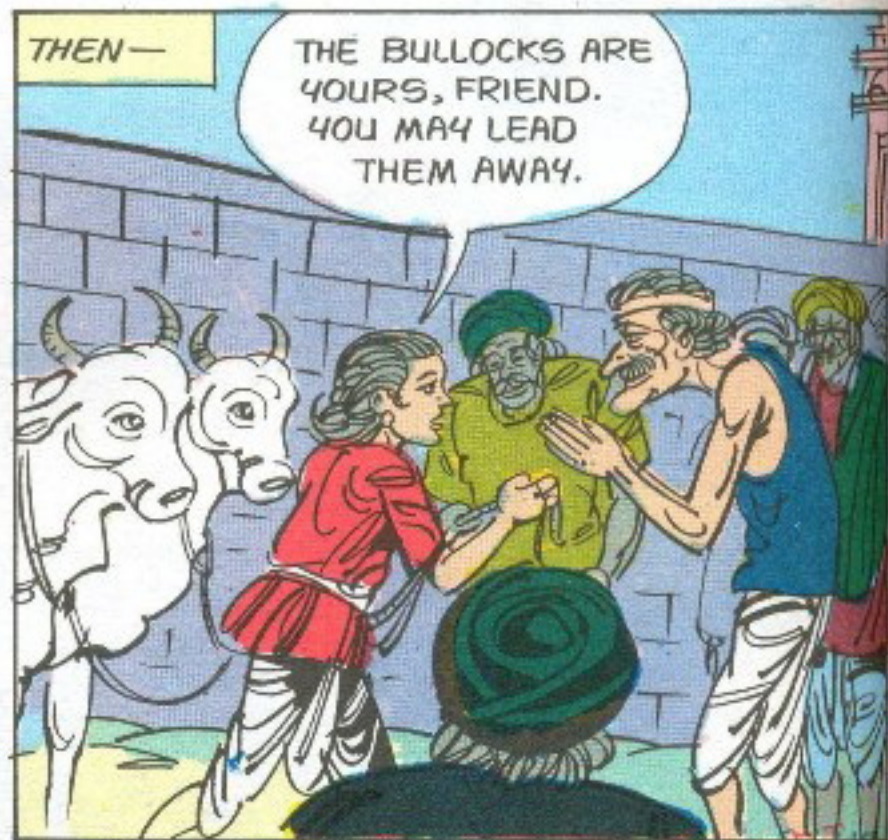


ENRAGED BY SUCH RANK DECEIT, AUSHADHA KUMAR'S FRIENDS BEAT UP THE MAN.



THEN—

THE BULLOCKS ARE YOURS, FRIEND. YOU MAY LEAD THEM AWAY.



BUT WHEN THE TALE OF THE BULLOCKS WAS NARRATED IN THE COURT OF VAIDEHA —

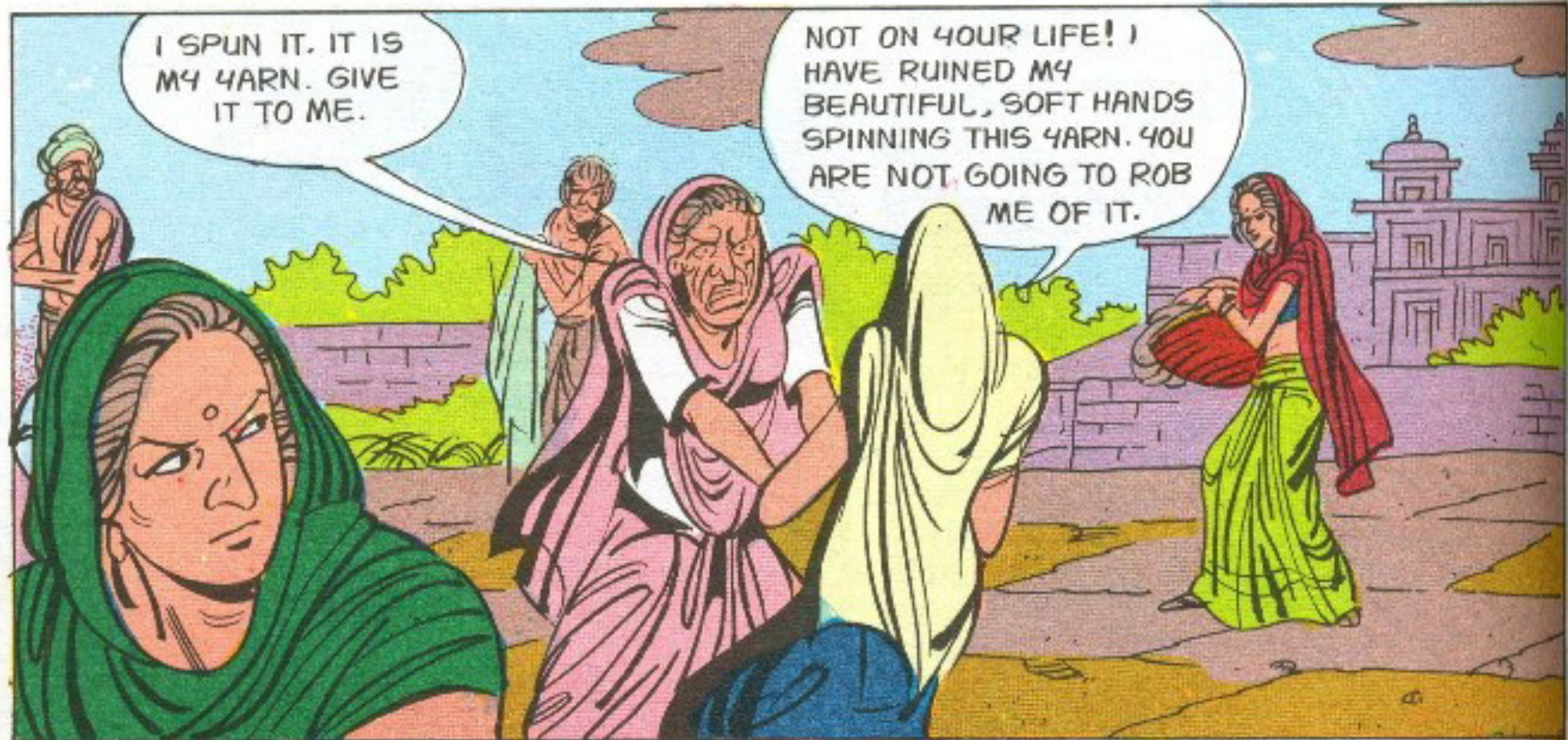
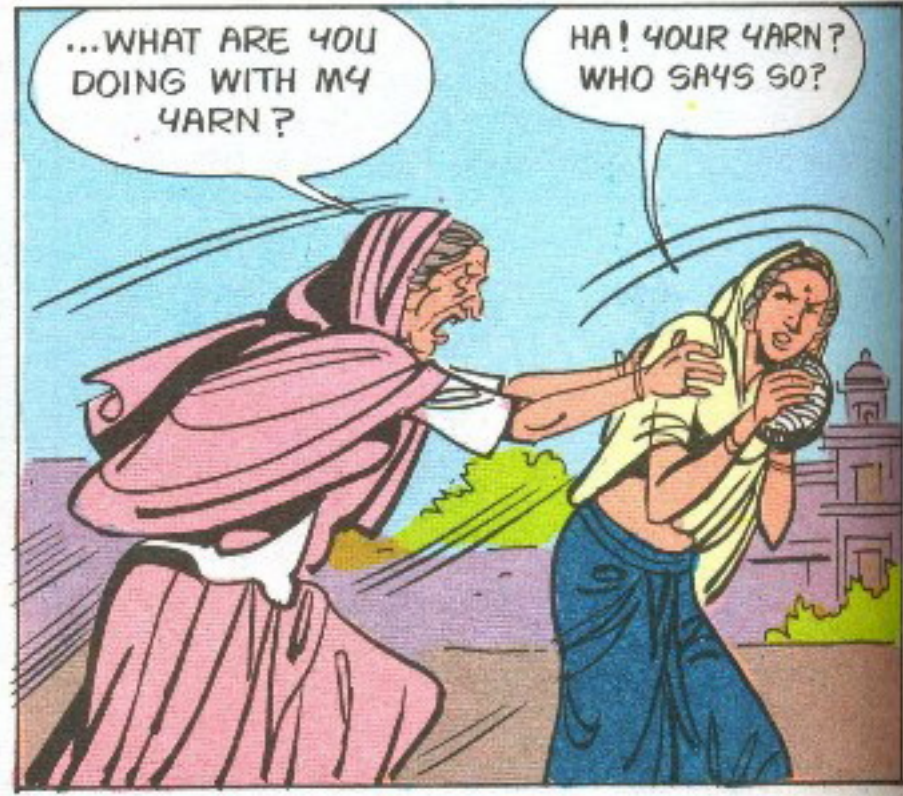
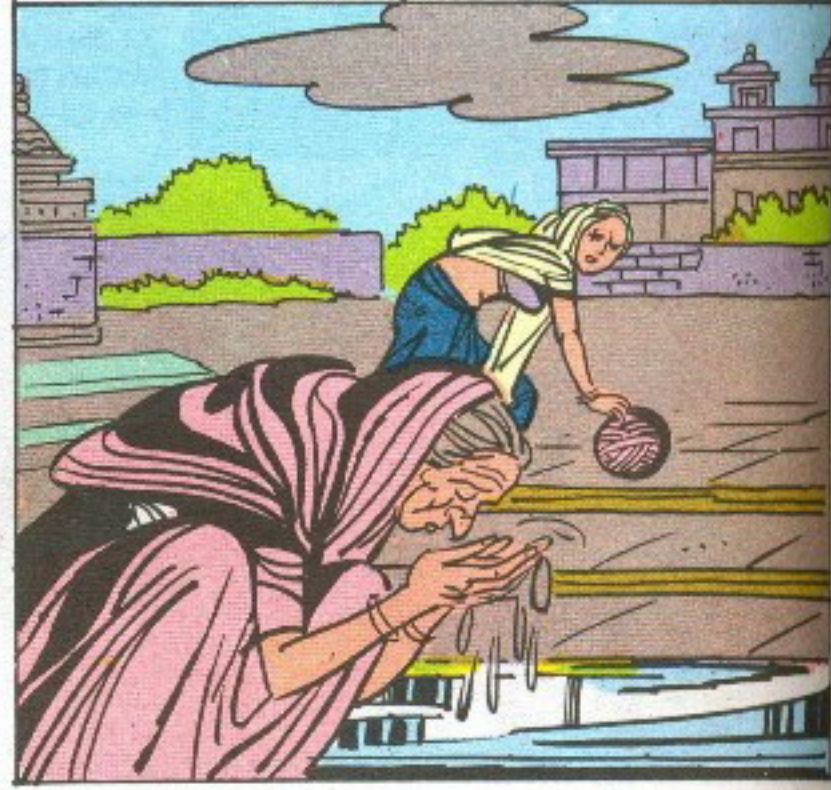
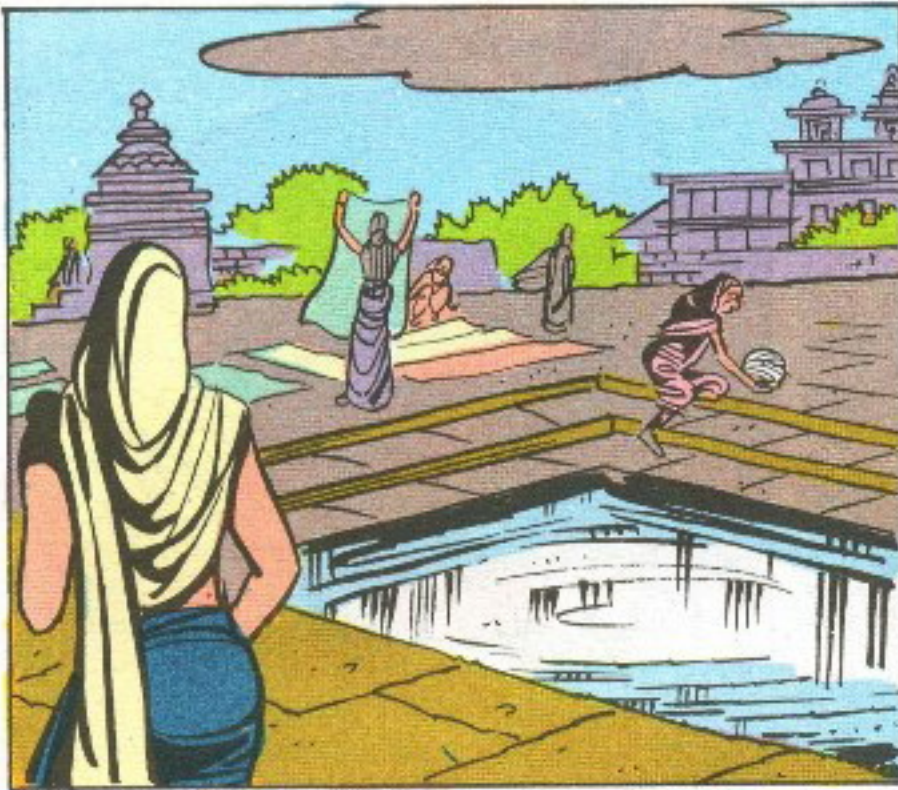
MAHARAJ, ANYONE WITH COMMON SENSE CAN SOLVE SUCH A PROBLEM.



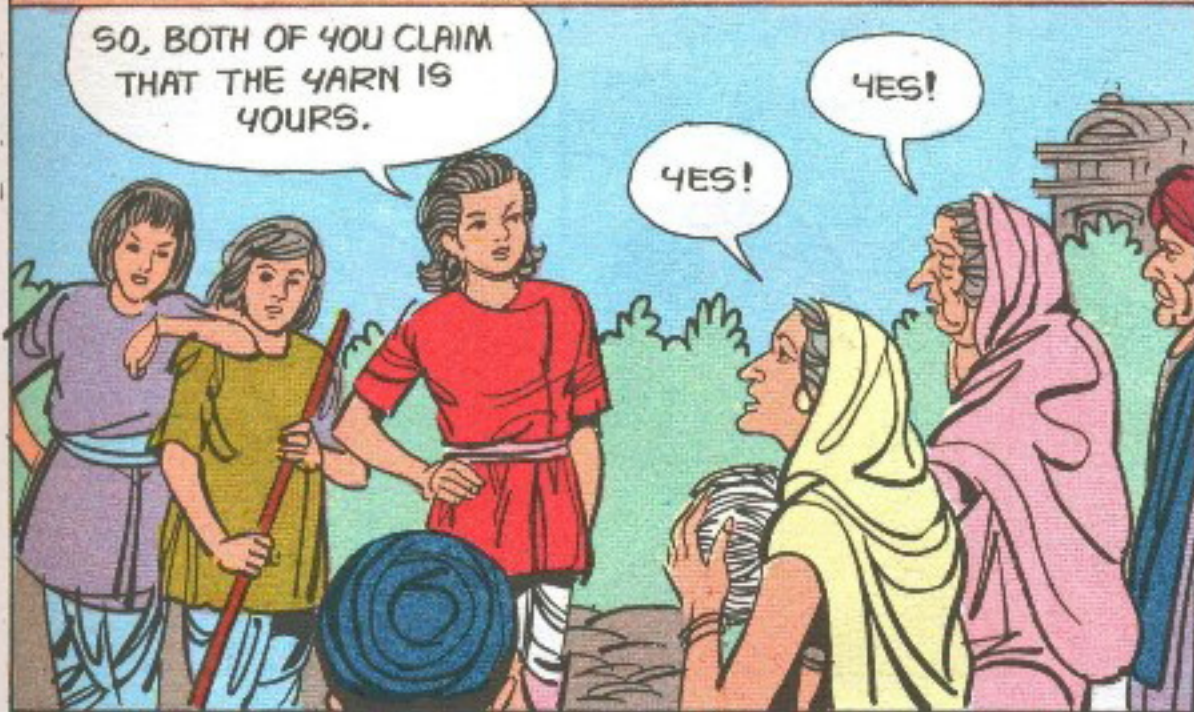
AND THE MINISTER WAS ASKED TO CONTINUE HIS VIGIL AT CHAYAMAJHAKA.

A FEW DAYS LATER, THE CASE OF AN OLD WOMAN WORKING IN A COTTON FIELD PRESENTED THE MINISTER WITH YET ANOTHER INSTANCE OF AUSHADHA KUMAR'S WISDOM.





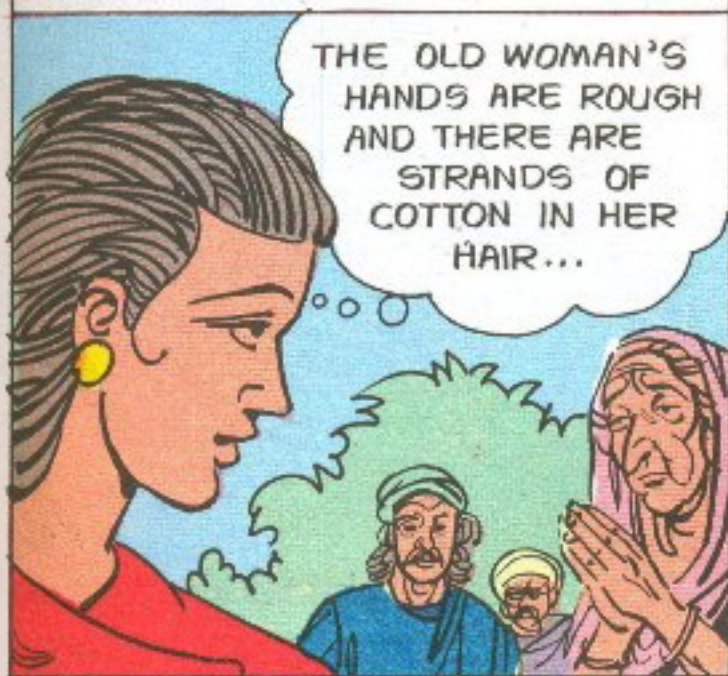
THE TWO WOMEN WERE BROUGHT TO AUSHADHA KUMAR.



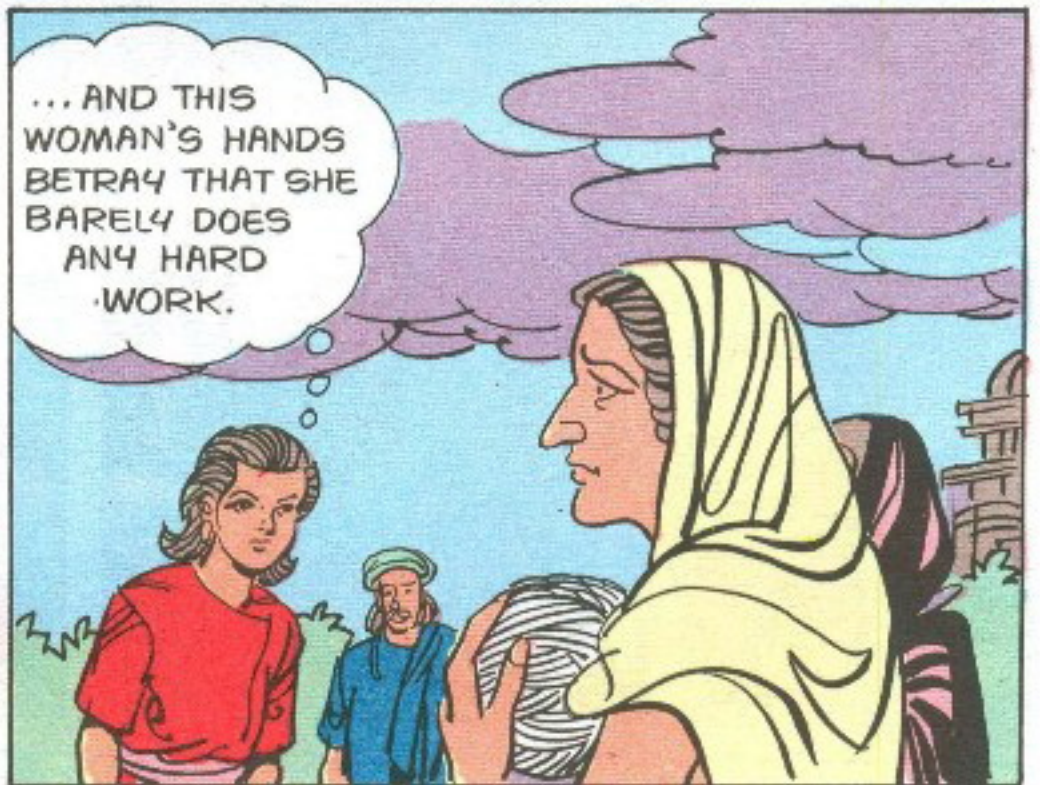
THE EVER ALERT MINISTER WATCHED THE PROCEEDINGS.



AUSHADHA KUMAR STUDIED THE WOMEN CAREFULLY.



... AND THIS WOMAN'S HANDS BETRAY THAT SHE BARELY DOES ANY HARD WORK.



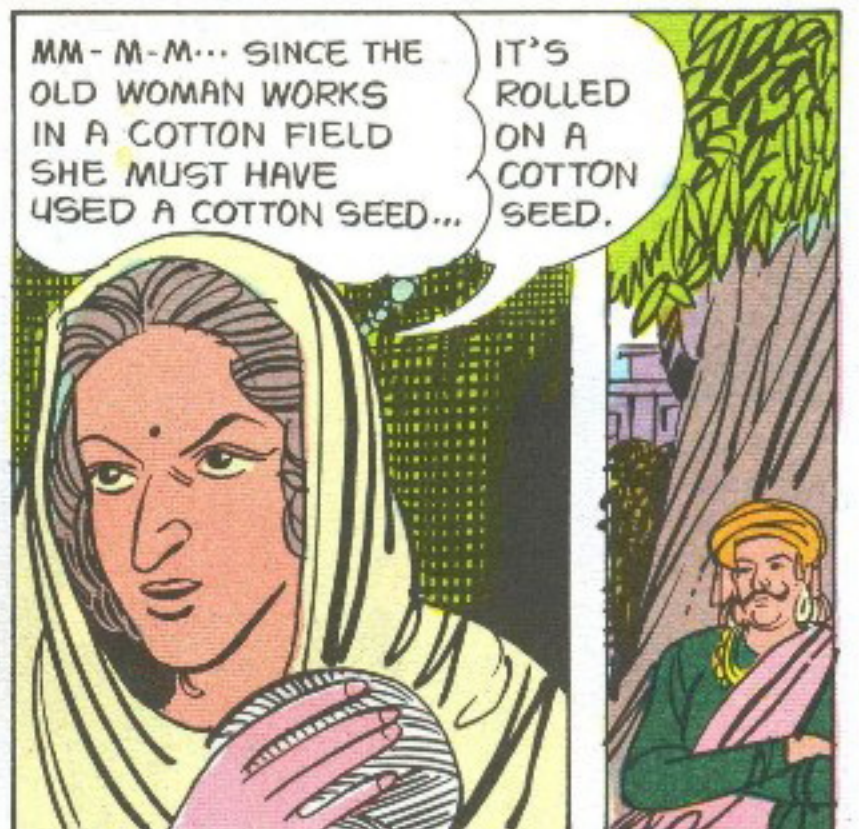
WHAT HAVE YOU ROLLED THE YARN ON?

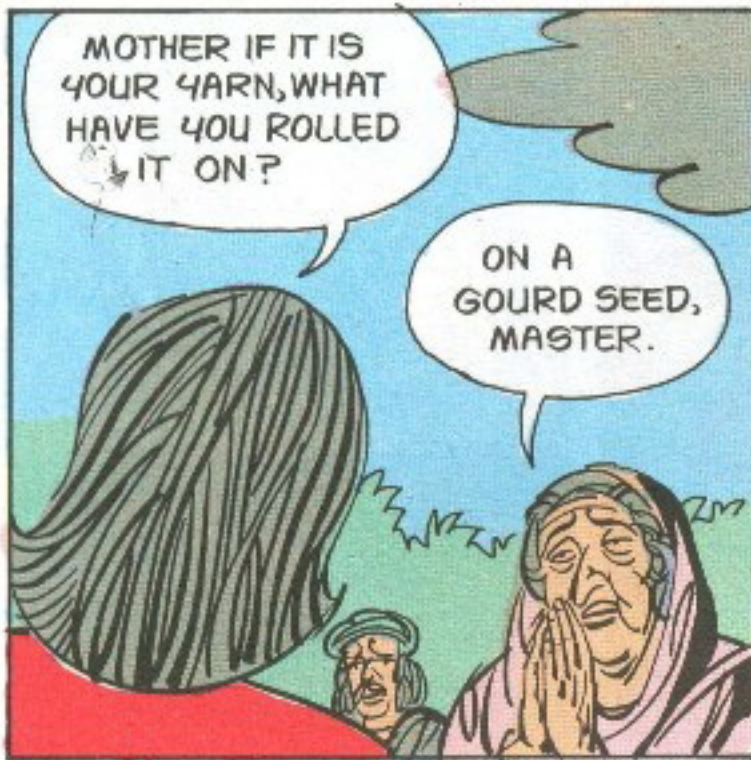
NOW THAT'S AN UNFAIR QUESTION. WHAT SHOULD I SAY?



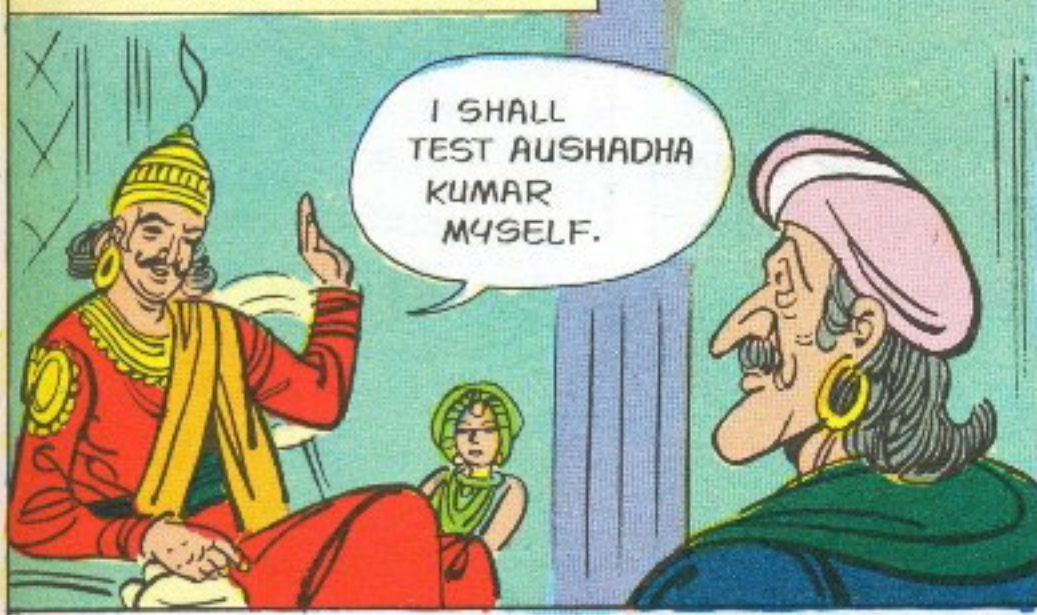
MM-M-M... SINCE THE OLD WOMAN WORKS IN A COTTON FIELD SHE MUST HAVE USED A COTTON SEED...

IT'S ROLLED ON A COTTON SEED.





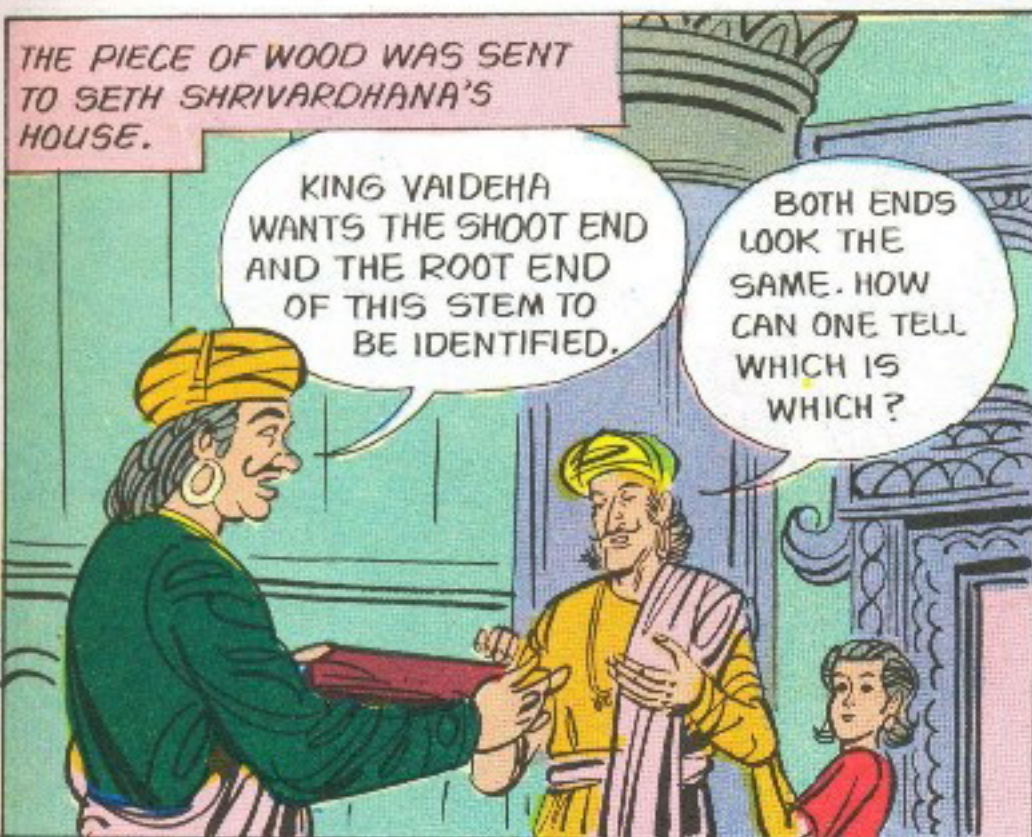
IN THIS MANNER ON SEVEN OCCASIONS DID THE PANDITS OF MITHILA DISPUTE THE WISDOM OF AUSHADHA KUMAR TO STALL HIS INDUCTION INTO THE COURT. BUT VAIDEHA WAS TENACIOUS.



HE HAD THE TAPERING STEM OF A SAPLING CUT AND SHAPED INTO A PERFECT CYLINDER.

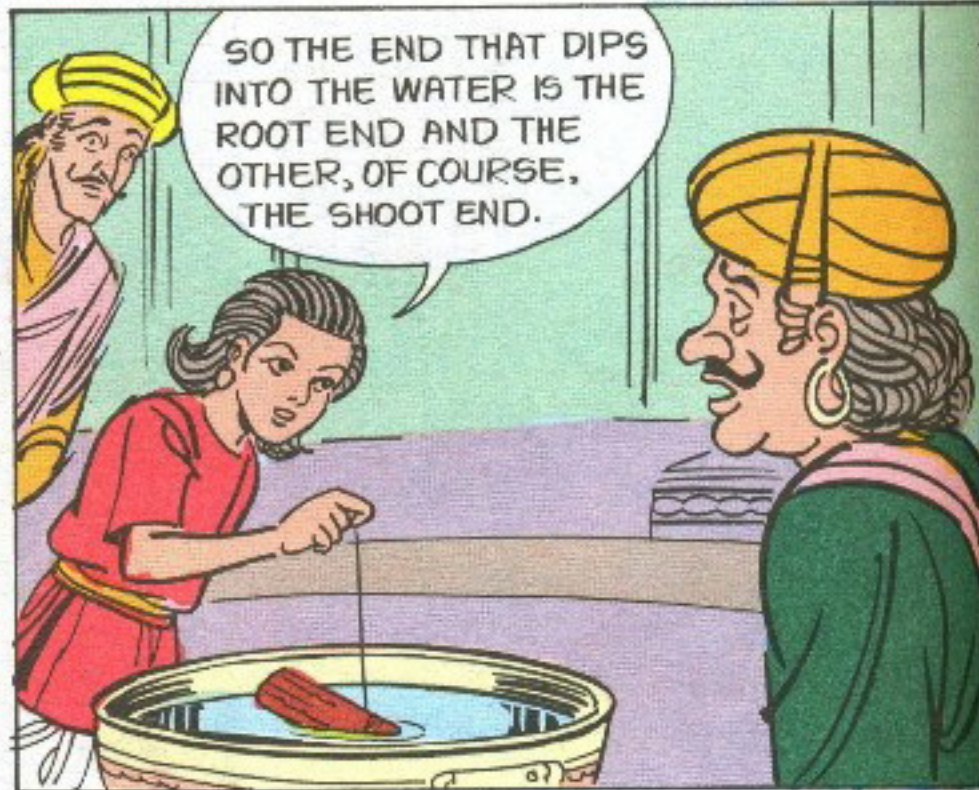


THE PIECE OF WOOD WAS SENT TO SETH SHRIVARDHANA'S HOUSE.



LET ME TRY.

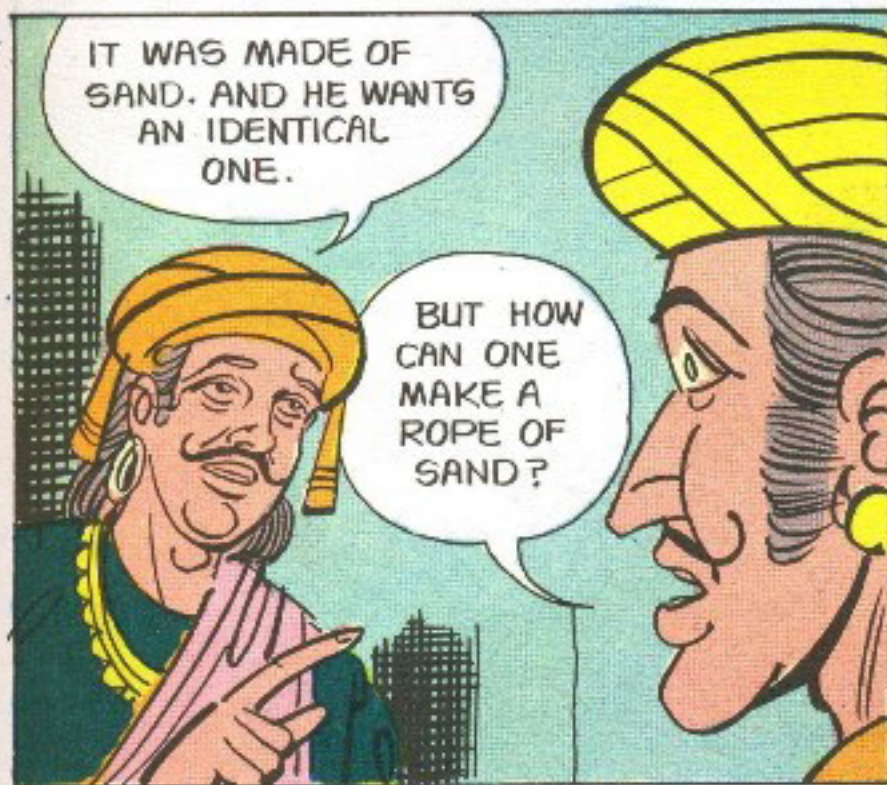
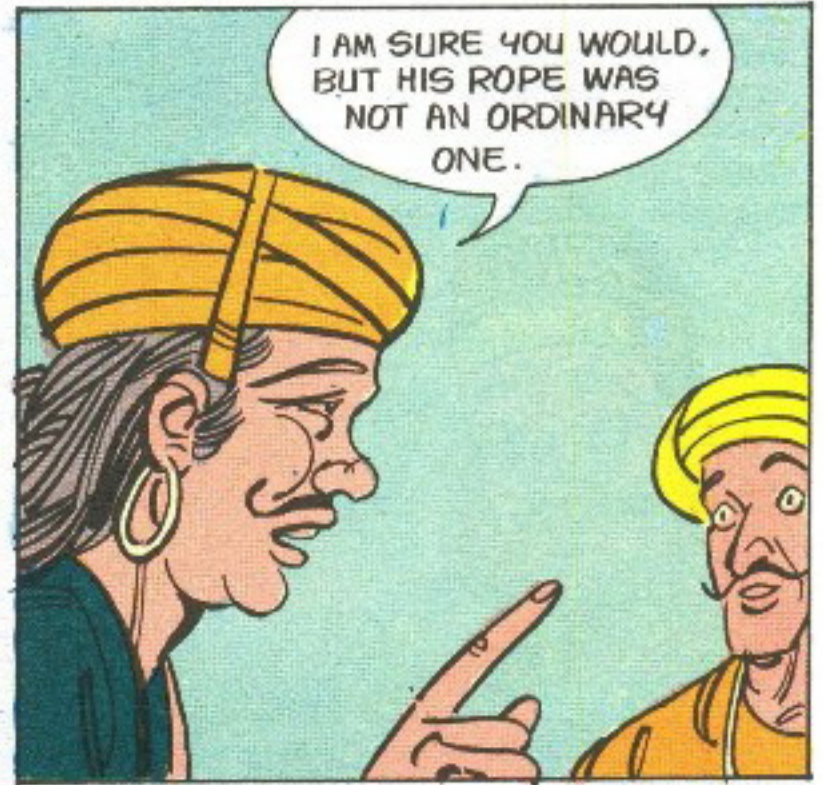




WHILE THE FOUR PANDITS
WERE DOWNCAST BY THE
RESULTS OF THE FIRST
TEST, THE KING WAS
DELIGHTED. AUSHADHA HAD
WON THE FIRST ROUND WITH
FULL MARKS.

HE IS CERTAINLY
KNOWLEDGEABLE AND
OBSERVANT. NOW LET
ME SEE IF HE IS
CLEVER AND HAS HIS
WITS ABOUT HIM.





WHEN THE KING HEARD THE COUNTER DEMAND —



REMARKABLE!
THE BOY IS
EXTRAORDINARY!

KING VAIDEHA POSED SEVERAL SUCH COMPLEX PROBLEMS WHICH PUT AUSHADHA KUMAR'S WITS SEVERELY TO THE TEST. FINALLY —

AUSHADHA KUMAR IS BEYOND DOUBT A GREAT SOUL, I SHALL NOW INVITE HIM TO JOIN MY COURT.

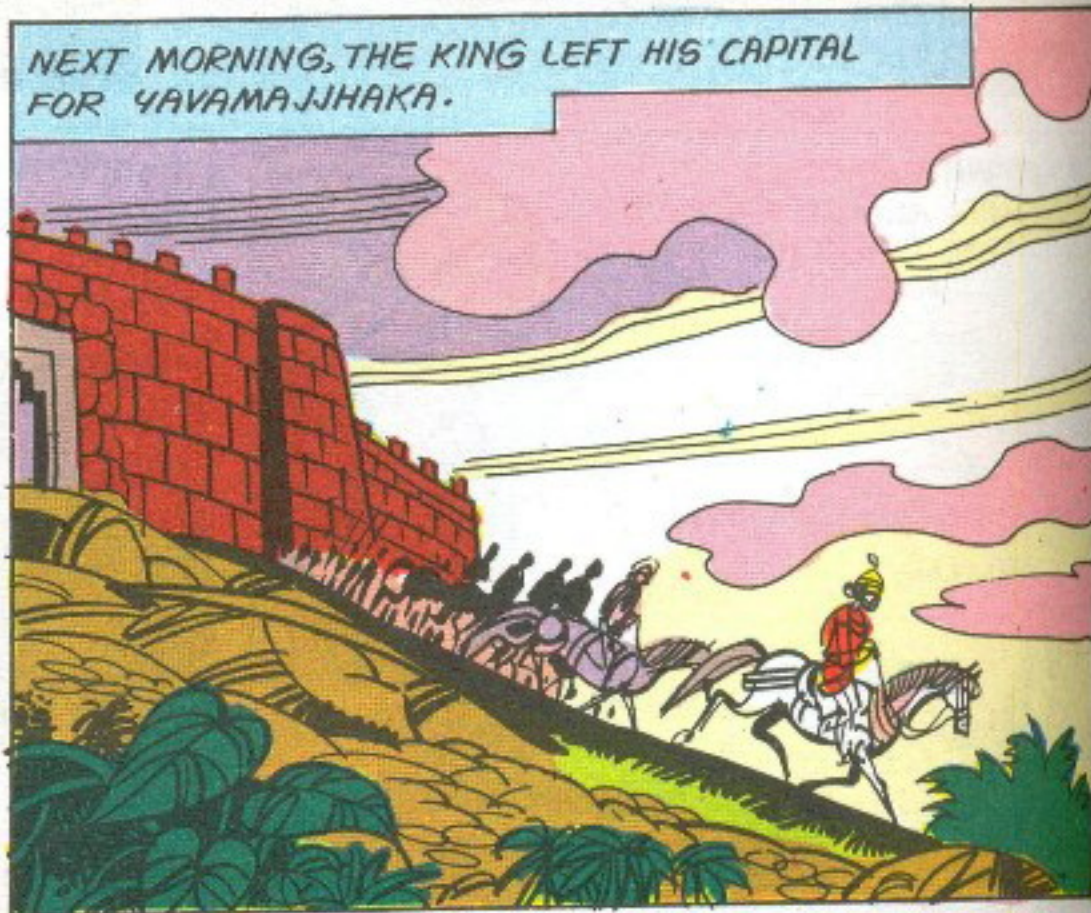


BUT, MAHARAJ...

NOW I SHALL GO AND FETCH THE GREAT PANDIT HERE MYSELF.



NEXT MORNING, THE KING LEFT HIS CAPITAL FOR YAVAMAJHAKA.

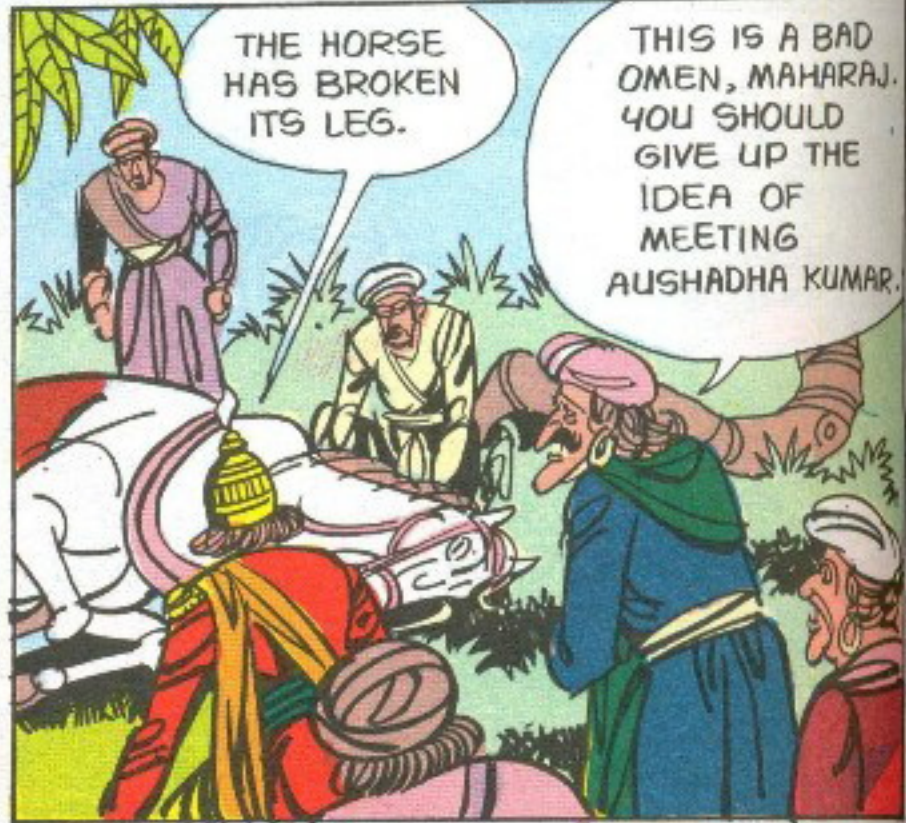


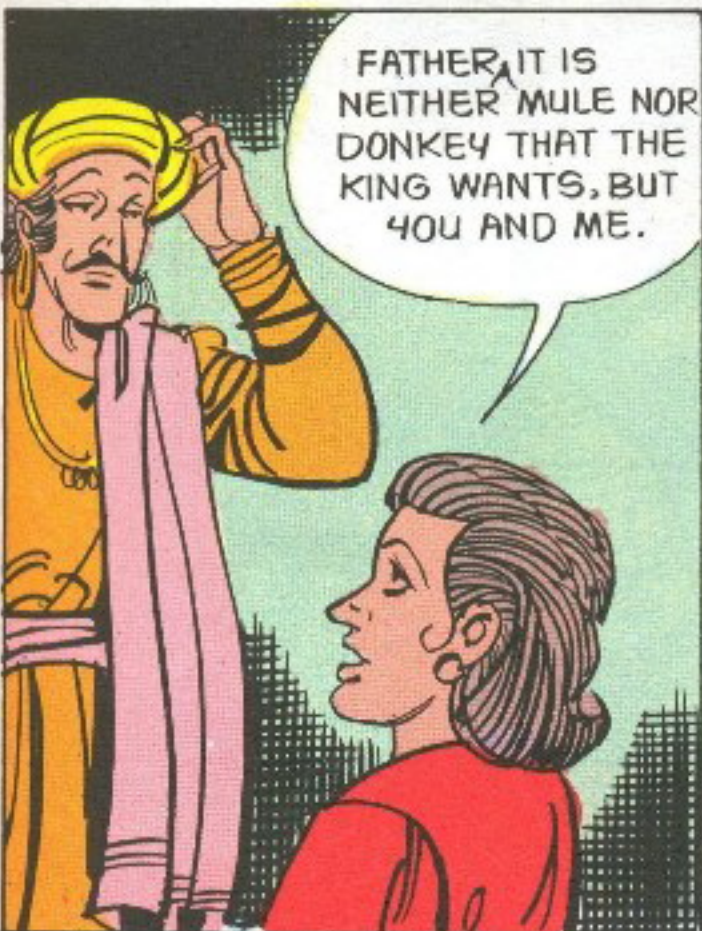
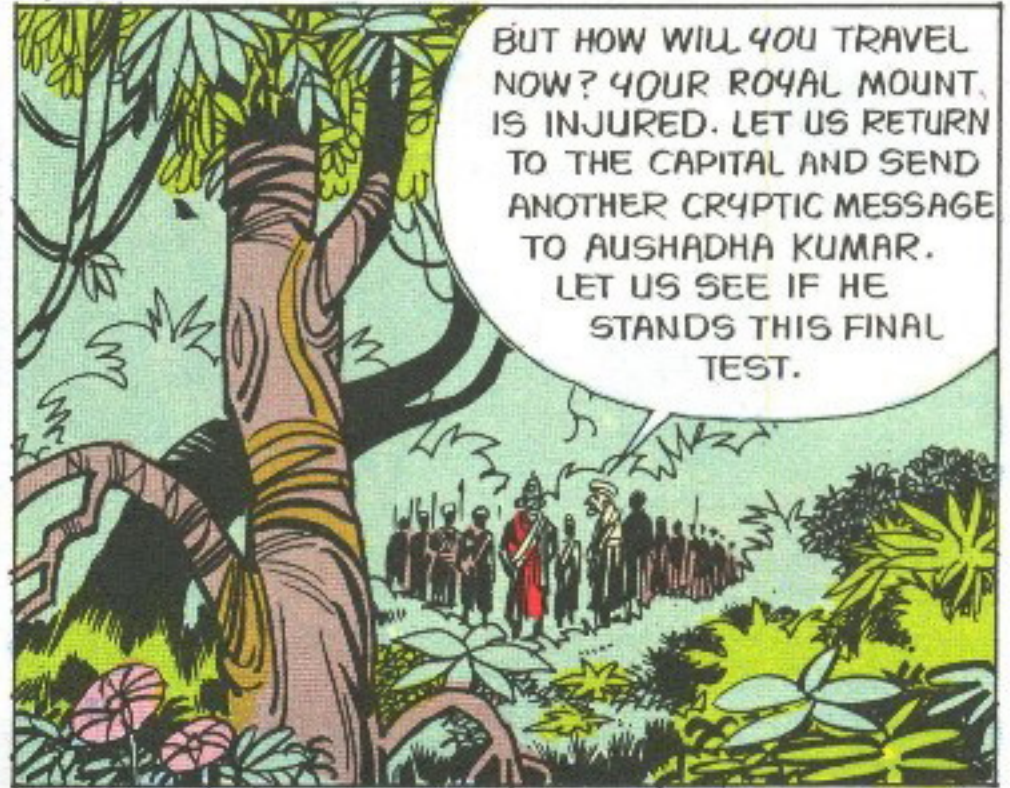
HOWEVER ON THE WAY —



THE HORSE HAS BROKEN ITS LEG.

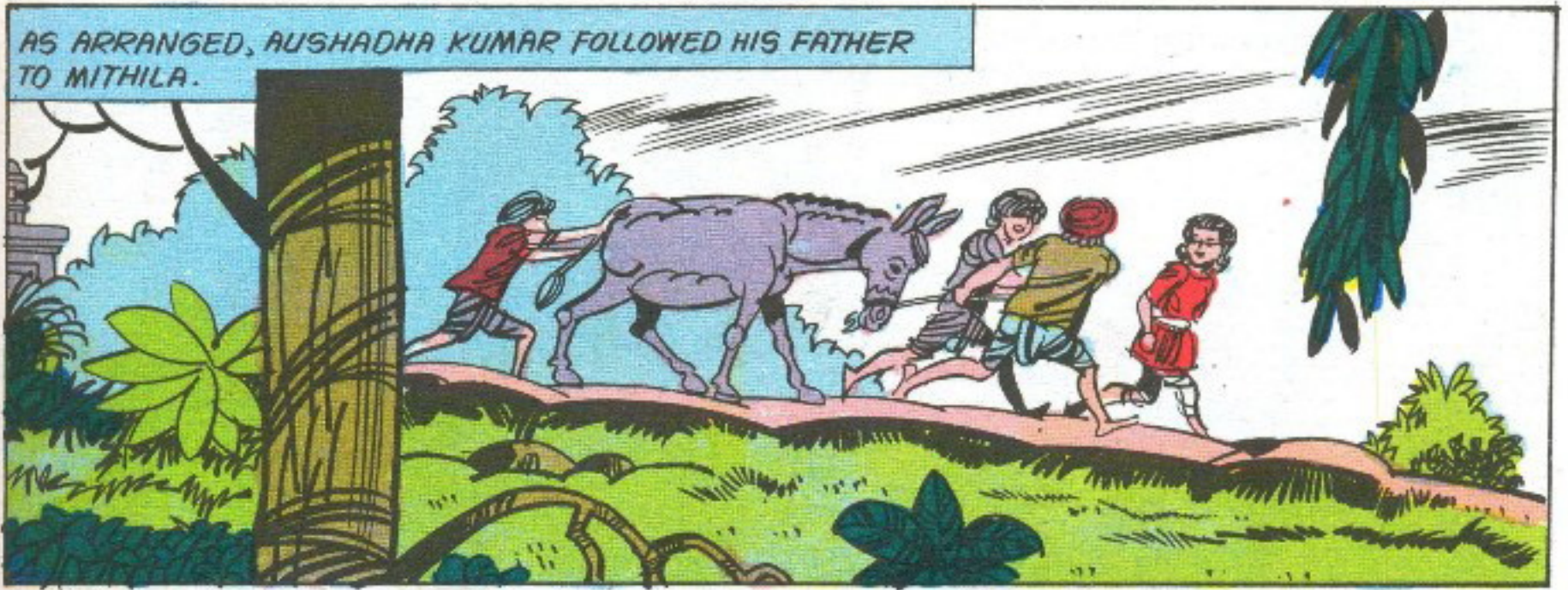
THIS IS A BAD OMEN, MAHARAJ. YOU SHOULD GIVE UP THE IDEA OF MEETING AUSHADHA KUMAR.



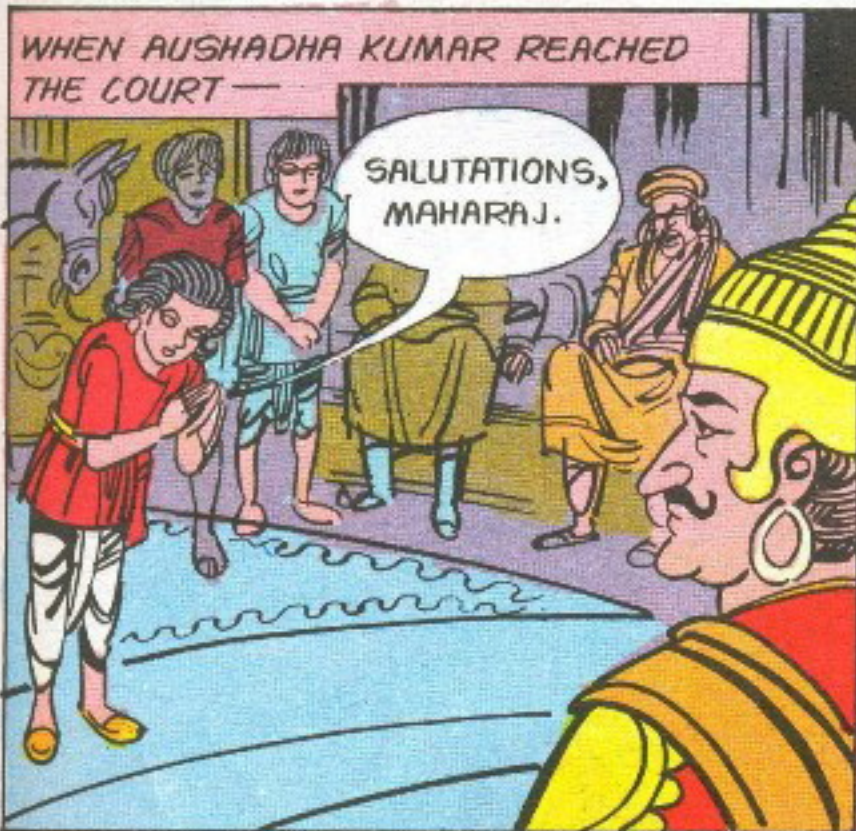


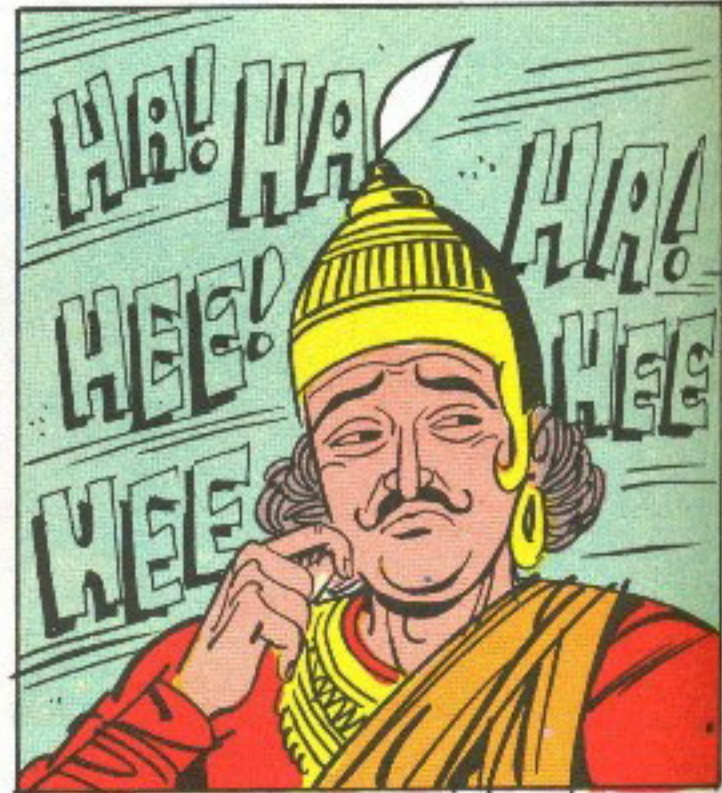


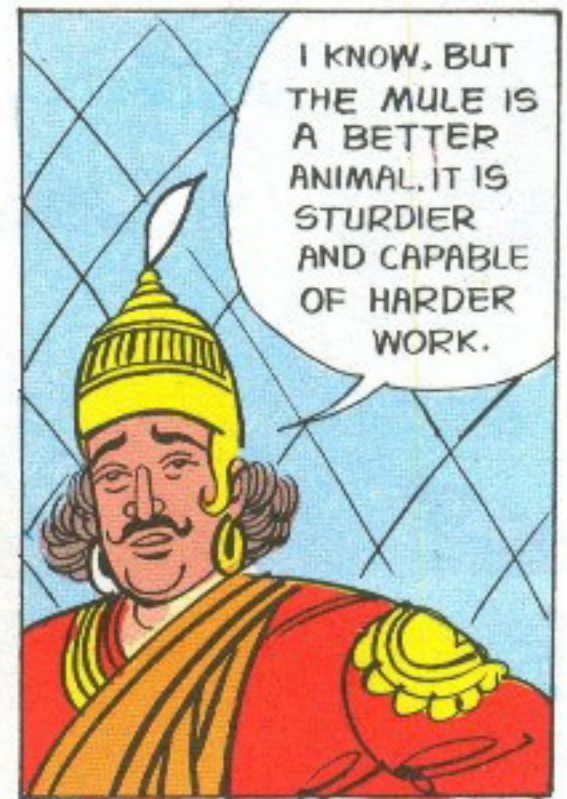
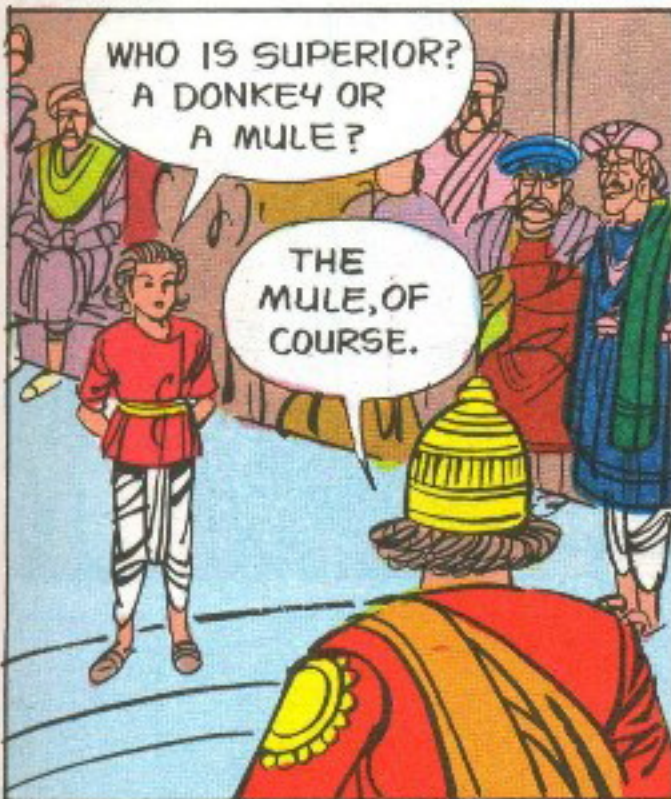
AS ARRANGED, AUSHADHA KUMAR FOLLOWED HIS FATHER TO MITHILA.

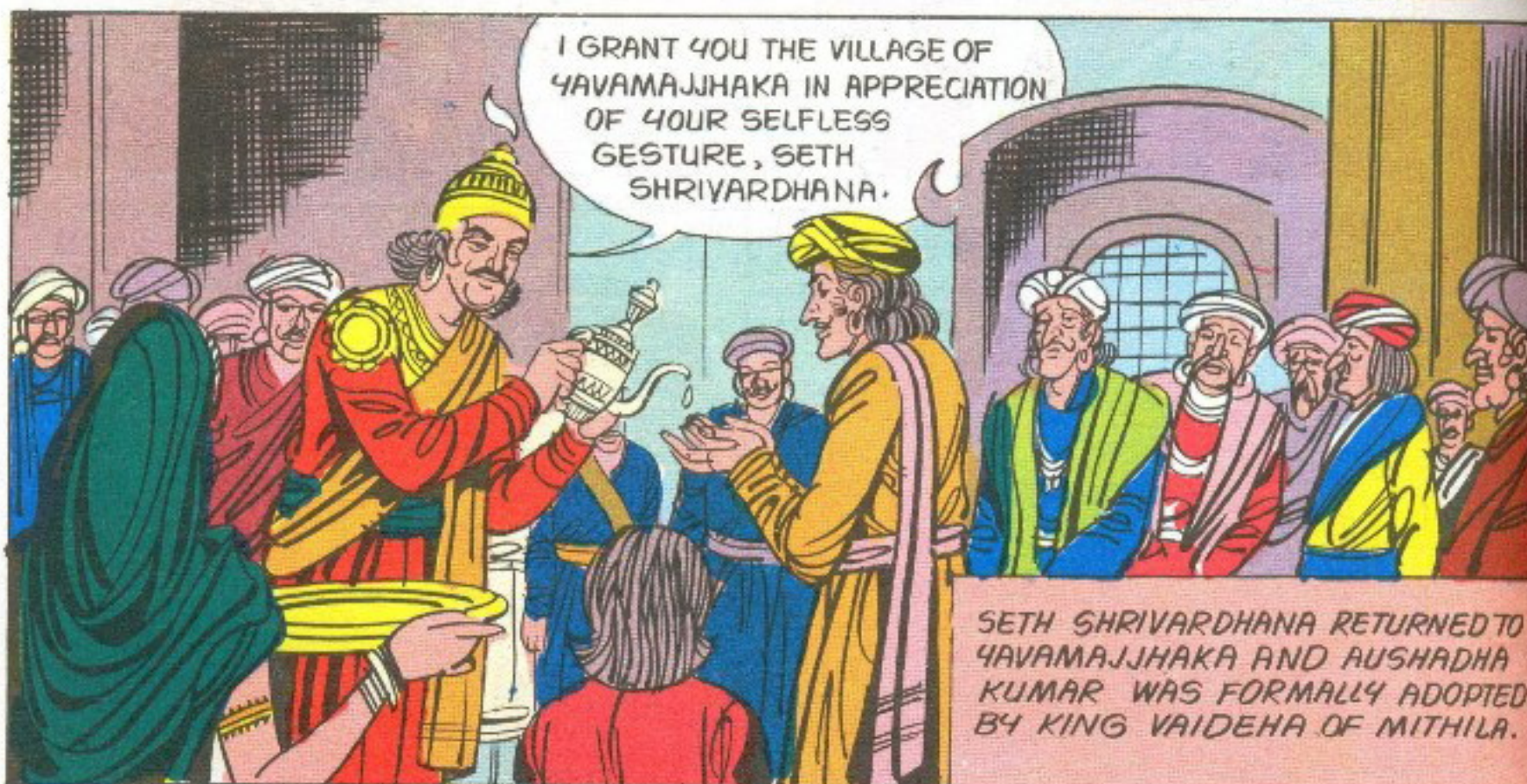
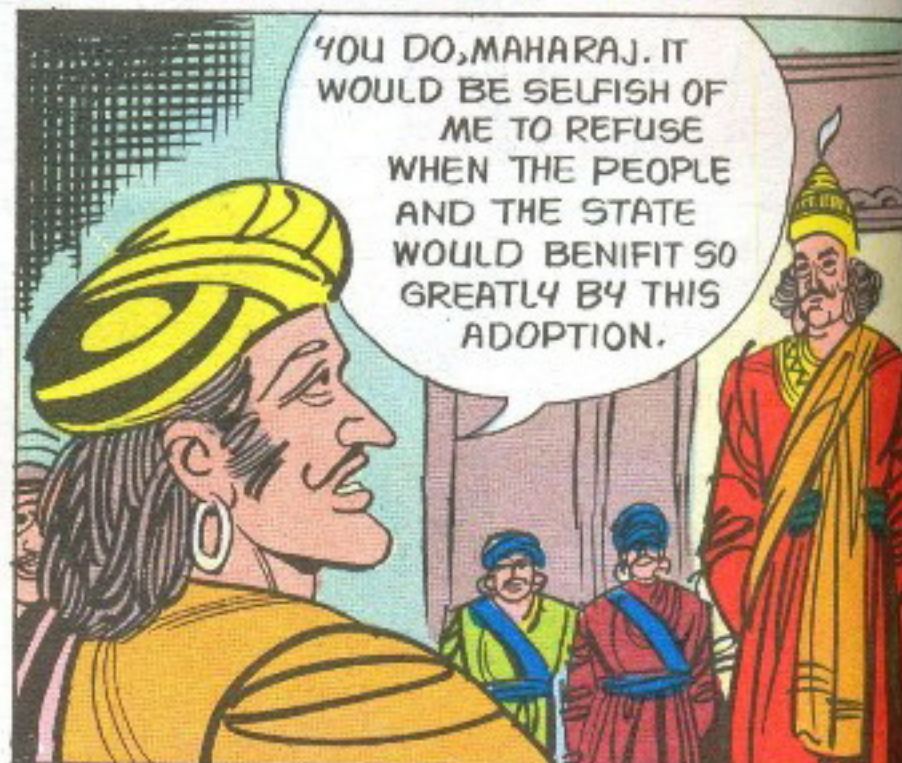


WHEN AUSHADHA KUMAR REACHED THE COURT —









THE DEADLY FEAST

AUSHADHA KUMAR WAS A REINCARNATION OF BODHISATTVA. DAZZLED BY HIS INTELLECTUAL FEATS, VAIDEHA, KING OF VIDEHA ADOPTED HIM AND BROUGHT HIM UP.



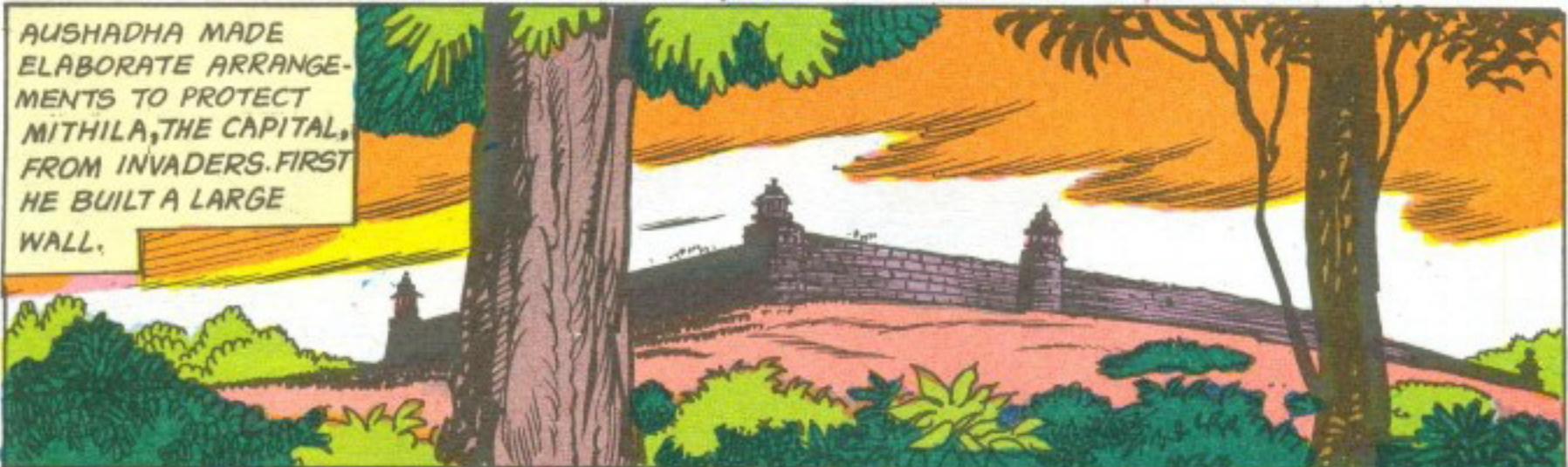
SOON THE KING WAS SO IMPRESSED BY AUSHADHA KUMAR'S WISDOM THAT HE APPOINTED HIM HIS CHIEF MINISTER.

MAHARAJ VAIDEHA, WE MUST FORTIFY OUR CAPITAL TO PREPARE FOR ANY EMERGENCY.

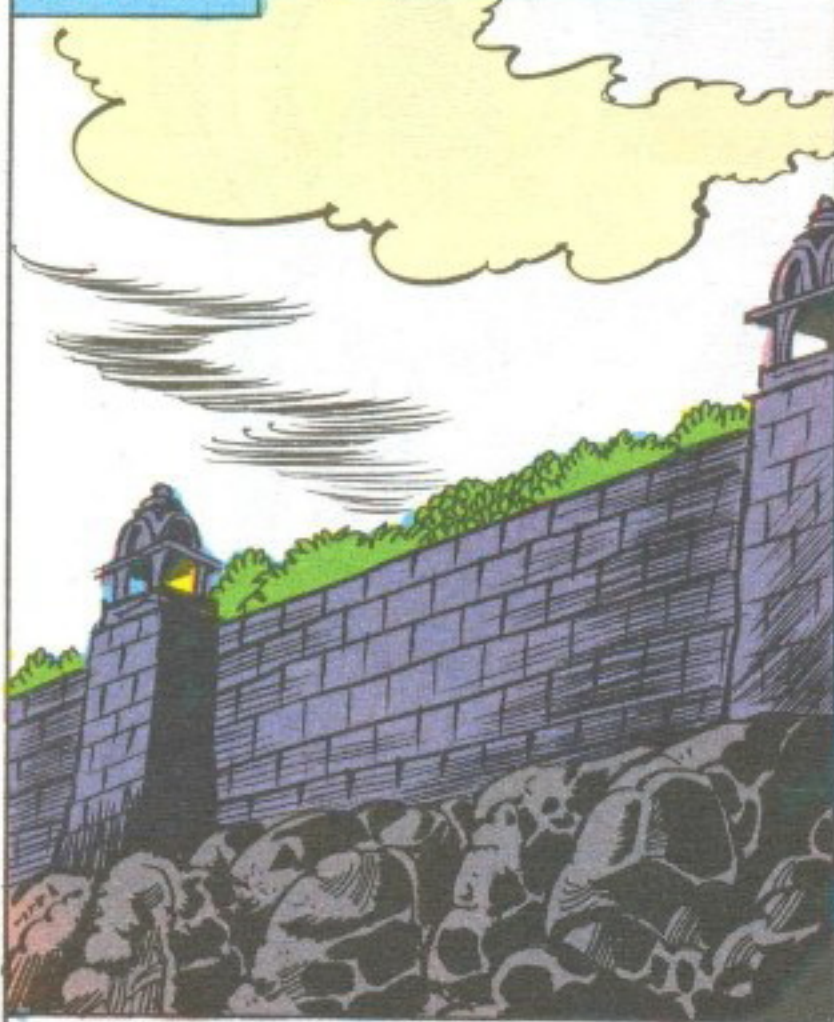
DO WHAT YOU THINK APPROPRIATE, AUSHADHA.



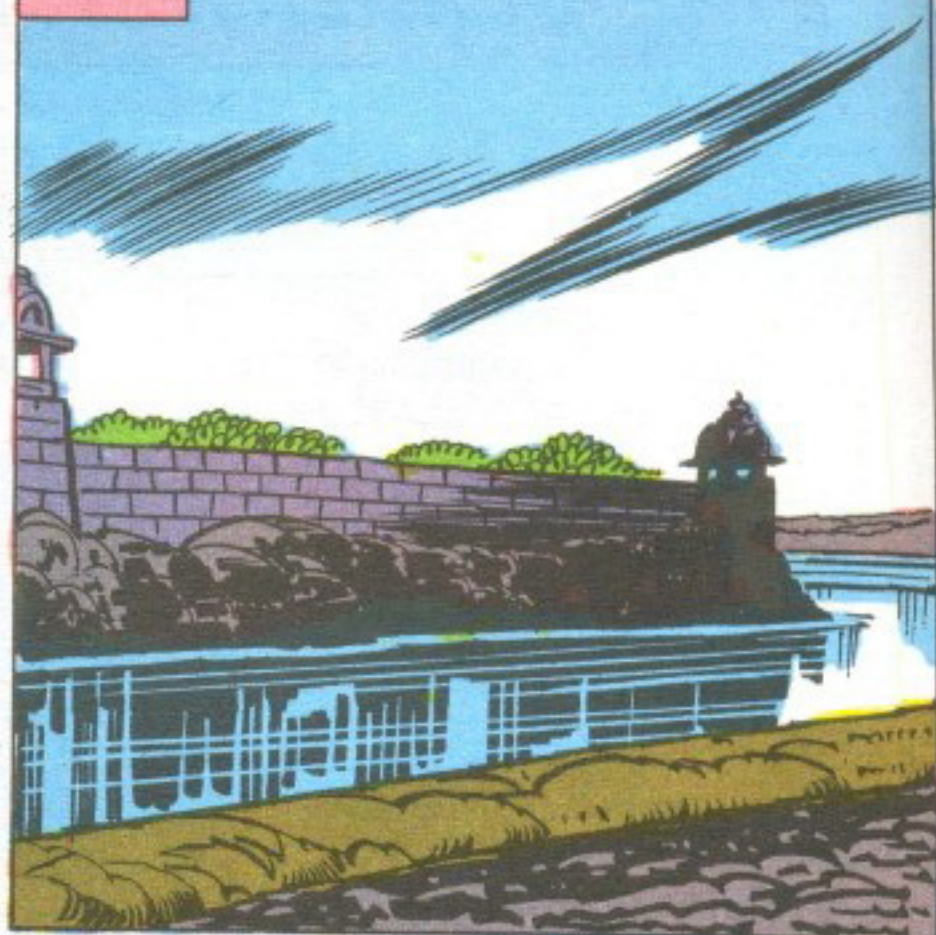
AUSHADHA MADE ELABORATE ARRANGEMENTS TO PROTECT MITHILA, THE CAPITAL, FROM INVADERS. FIRST HE BUILT A LARGE WALL.



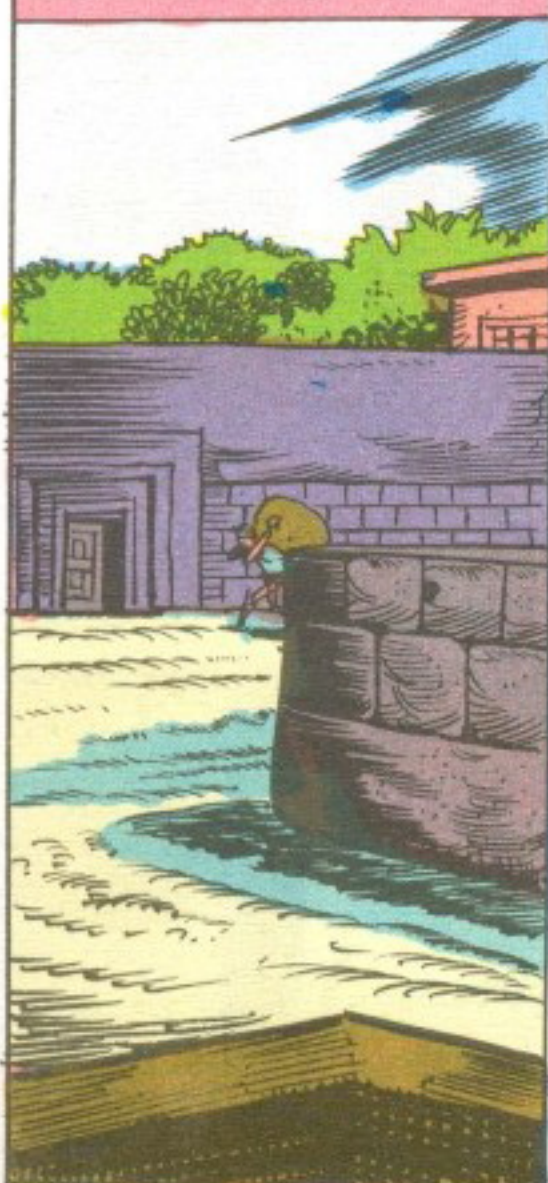
THE WALL HAD WATCHTOWERS FOR SENTRIES.



THEN HE BUILT THREE MOATS AROUND THE WALL. THE FIRST HE FILLED WITH WATER AND THE SECOND WITH SLUSH. THE THIRD WAS LEFT DRY.

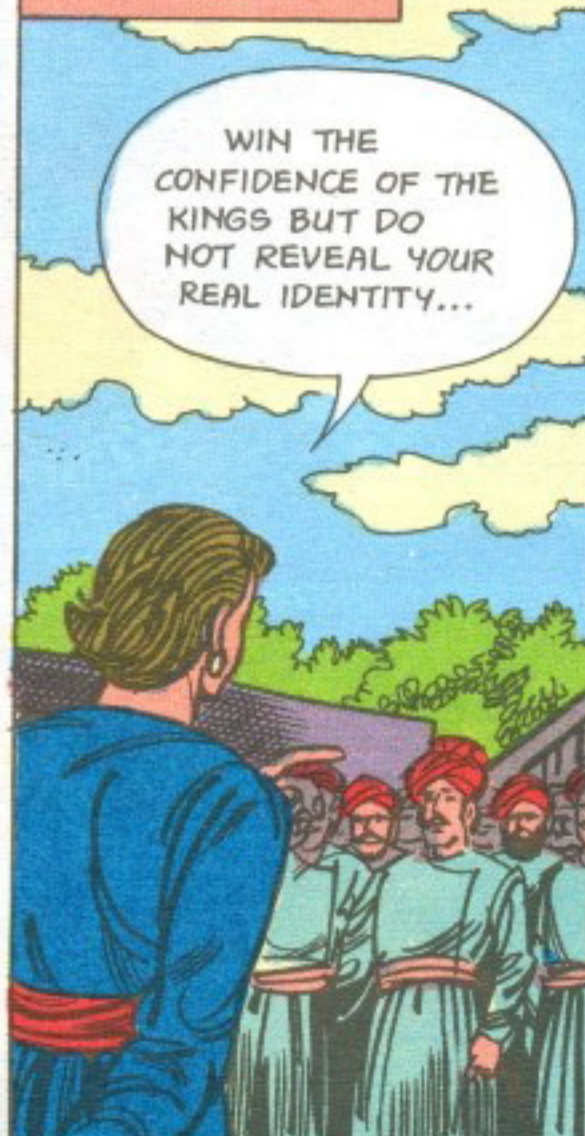


IN THE FORTIFIED CITY HE CONSTRUCTED LARGE TANKS OF WATER AND STOCKED SUFFICIENT FOOD GRAINS.



THEN HE SELECTED A HUNDRED FAITHFUL WARRIORS AND SENT THEM TO THE HUNDRED KINGDOMS OF JAMBUDVEEPA *

WIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE KINGS BUT DO NOT REVEAL YOUR REAL IDENTITY...



...AND SEND ME REGULAR REPORTS OF THEIR PLANS.



THE MEN CARRIED OUT AUSHADHA'S BIDDING.

WHILE AUSHADHA WAS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO PROTECT THE KINGDOM OF VIDEHA, KEVATTA, THE MINISTER OF PANCHALA WAS PLANNING TO EXPAND THE DOMAIN OF HIS KING, BRAHMADATTA.



AND SO, KEVATTA WORKED OUT A PLAN.

MAHARAJ BRAHMADATTA, WE MUST INCREASE OUR FORCES.



ONE OF AUSHADHA KUMAR'S SPIES WAS PRESENT IN THE COURT OF BRAHMADATTA.

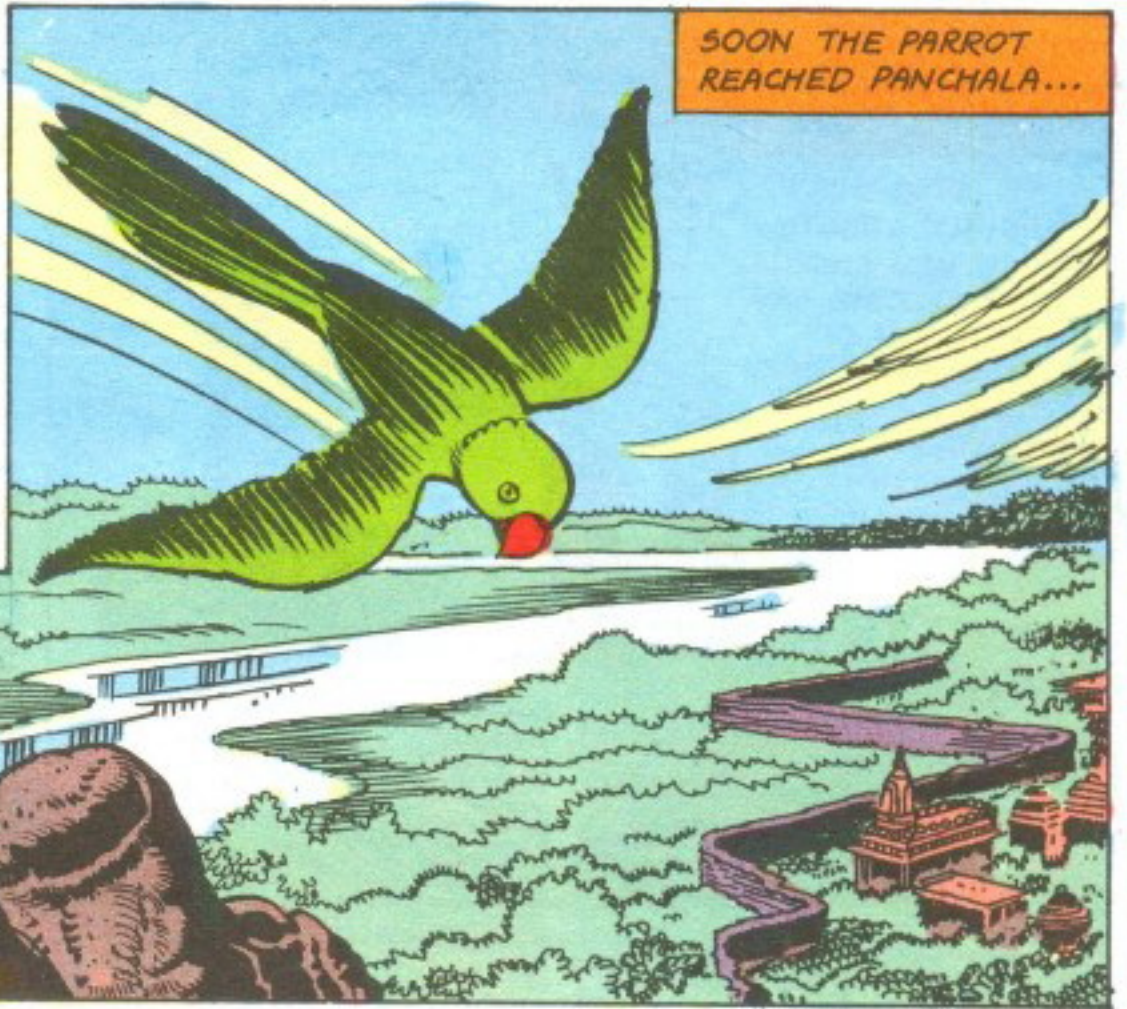
KING BRAHMADATTA IS BUSY BUILDING A LARGE ARMY. I MUST INFORM PANDIT AUSHADHA KUMAR.







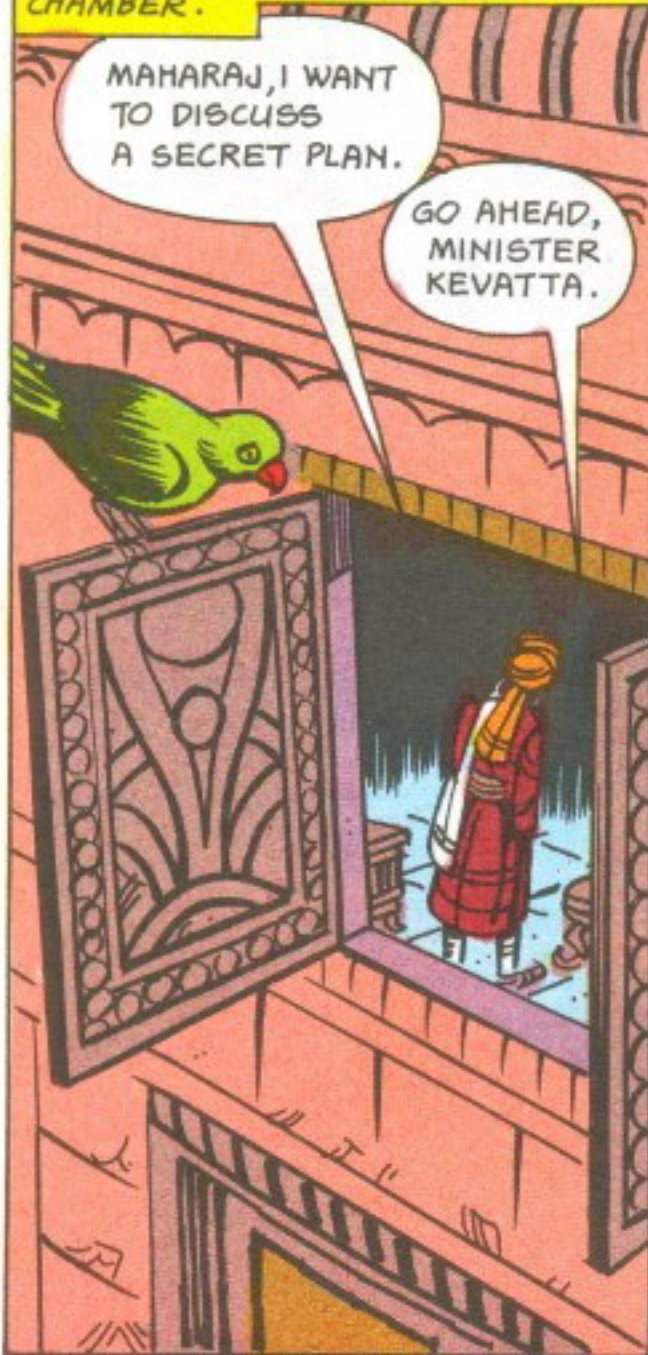
SOON THE PARROT
REACHED PANCHALA...



...AND ALIGHTED ON THE WINDOW-
SILL OF KING BRAHMADATTA'S
CHAMBER.

MAHARAJ, I WANT
TO DISCUSS
A SECRET PLAN.

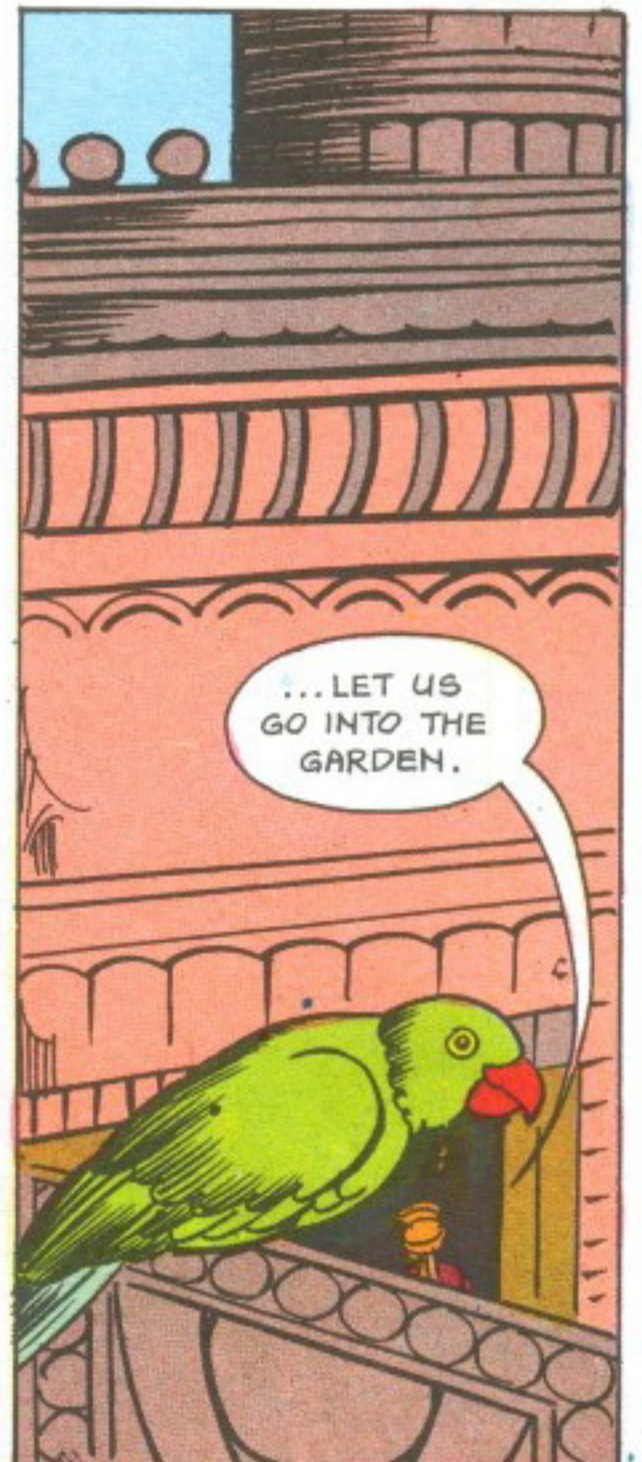
GO AHEAD,
MINISTER
KEVATTA.

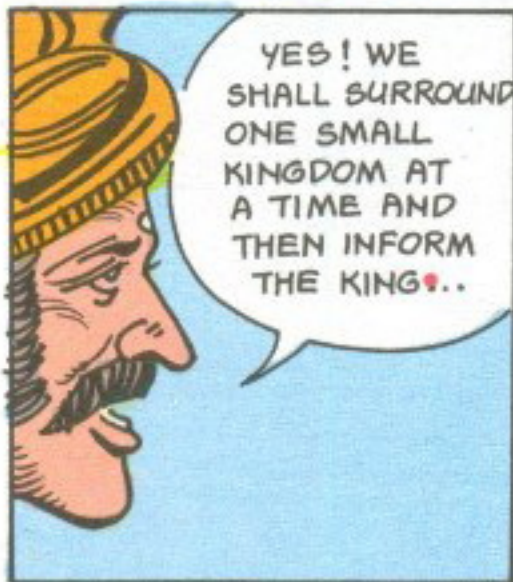
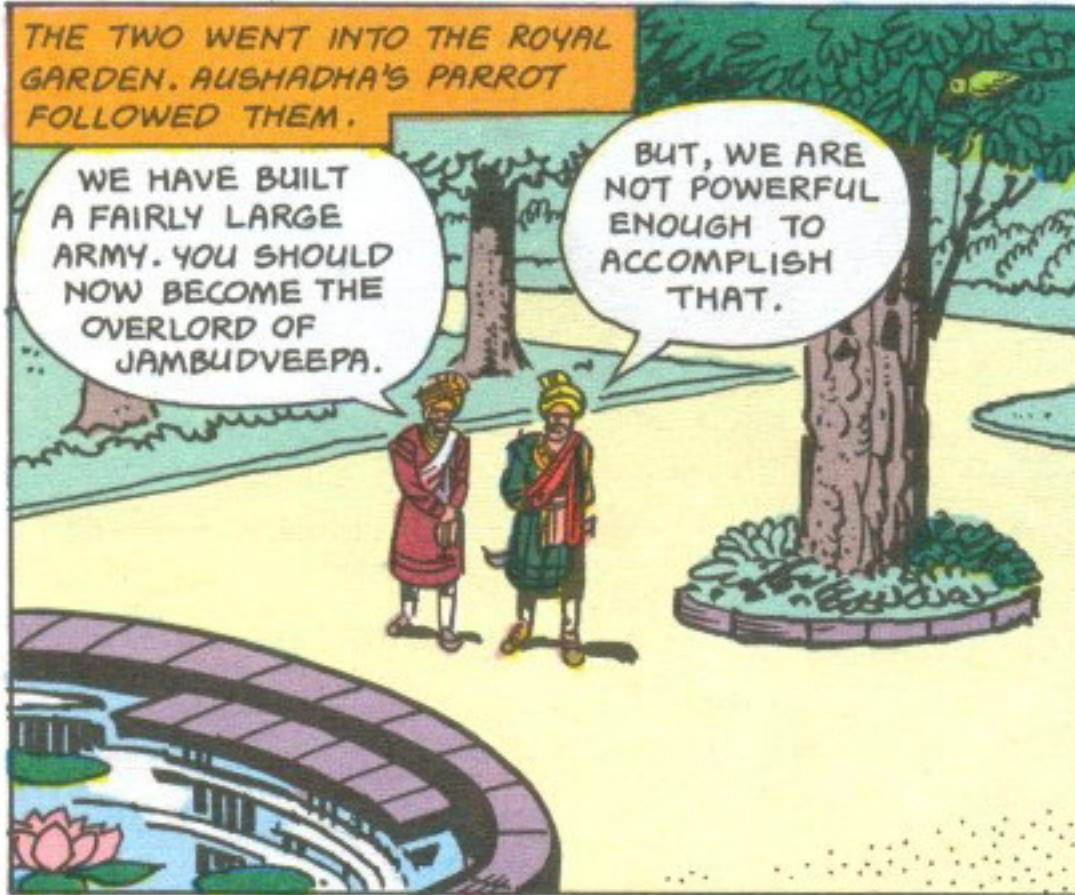


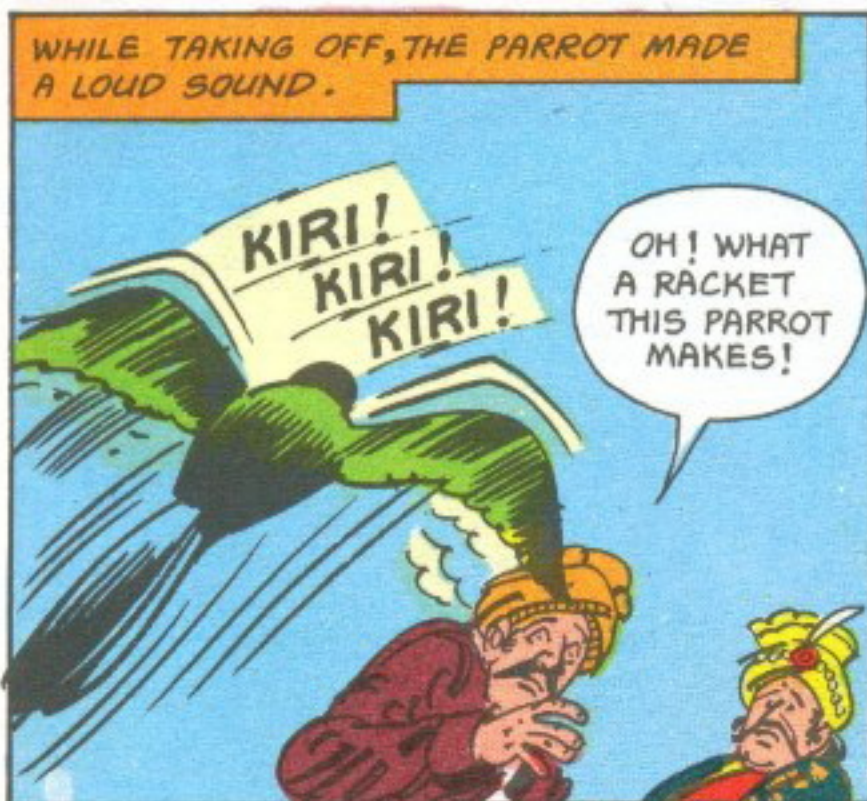
NOT HERE,
MAHARAJ! EVEN
WALLS ARE
SAID TO HAVE
EARS...



...LET US
GO INTO THE
GARDEN.

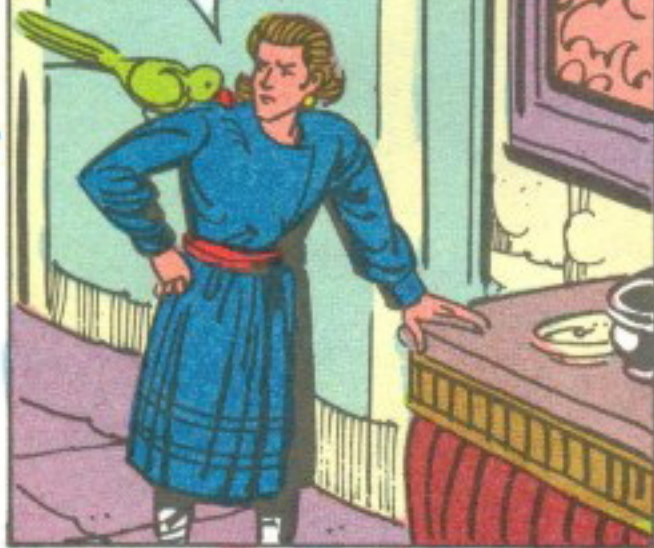






THE PARROT FLEW STRAIGHT TO AUSHADHA KUMAR. AUSHADHA WAS PERTURBED BY THE INFORMATION.

I CANNOT ALLOW SO MANY KINGS TO DIE...



...I SHALL PROTECT THEM FROM UNTIMELY DEATH. BUT...



... BEFORE THAT I MUST ARRANGE TO PROTECT MY OWN PEOPLE.



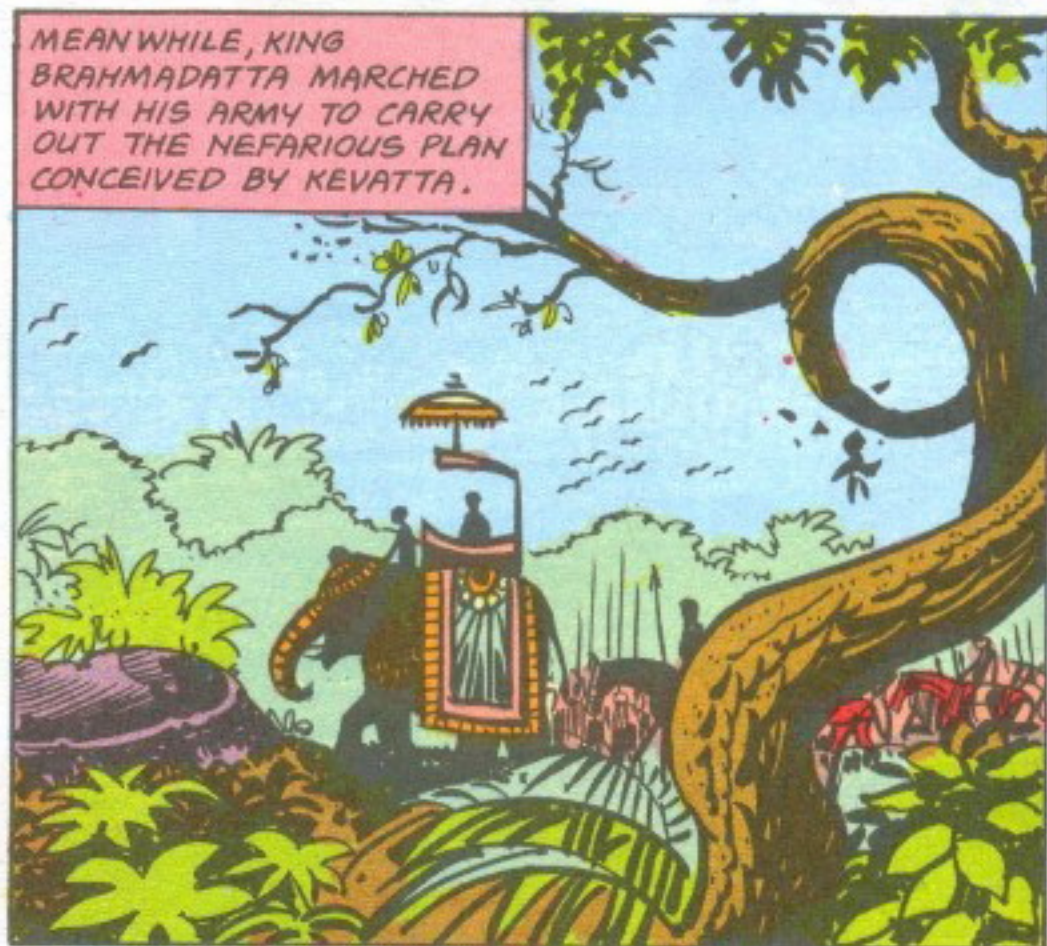
AUSHADHA KUMAR MOVED THE CITIZENS FROM THE OUTSKIRTS INTO THE FORTIFIED CITY.



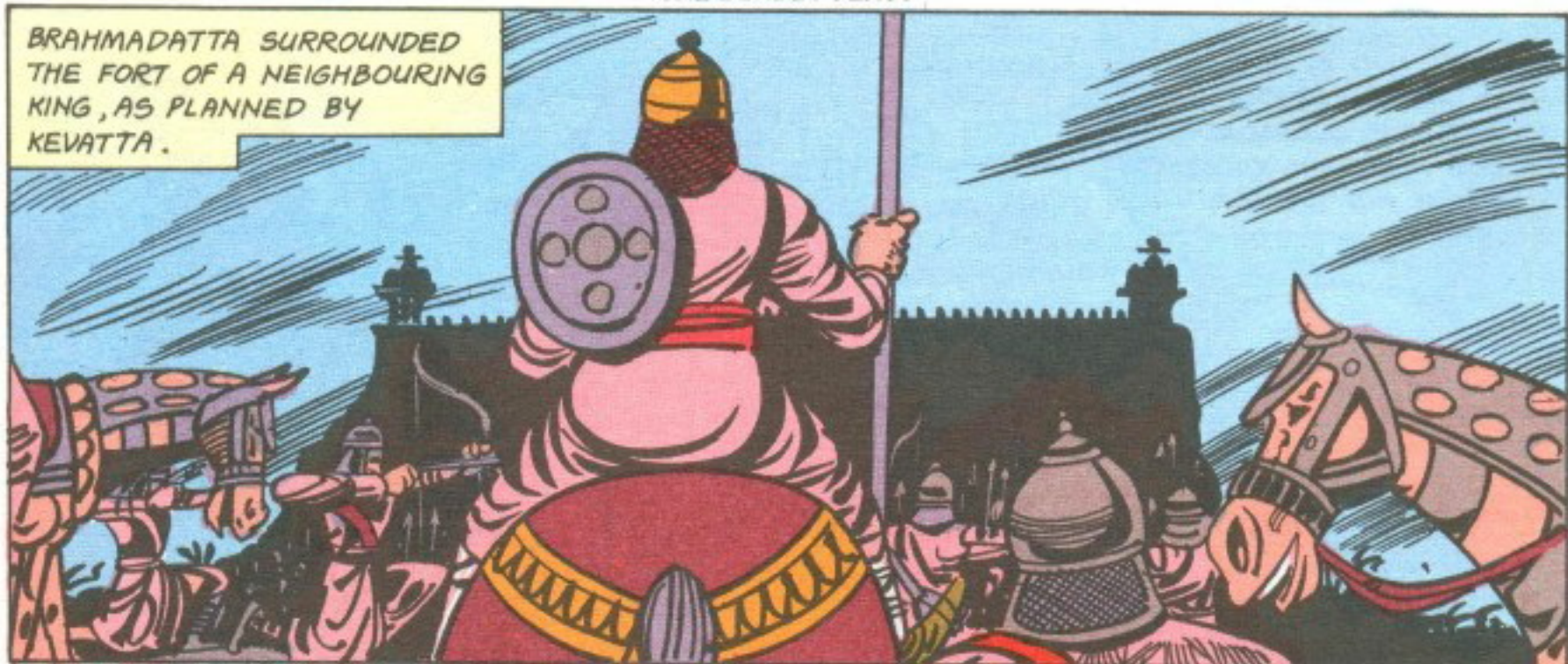
THEN HE STOCKED THE GRANARIES WITH AMPLE QUANTITIES OF FOOD GRAINS.



MEANWHILE, KING BRAHMADATTA MARCHED WITH HIS ARMY TO CARRY OUT THE NEFARIOUS PLAN CONCEIVED BY KEVATTA.



BRAHMADATTA SURROUNDED THE FORT OF A NEIGHBOURING KING, AS PLANNED BY KEVATTA.



NOW WE SHOULD SEND OUR MESSAGE OF PEACE!

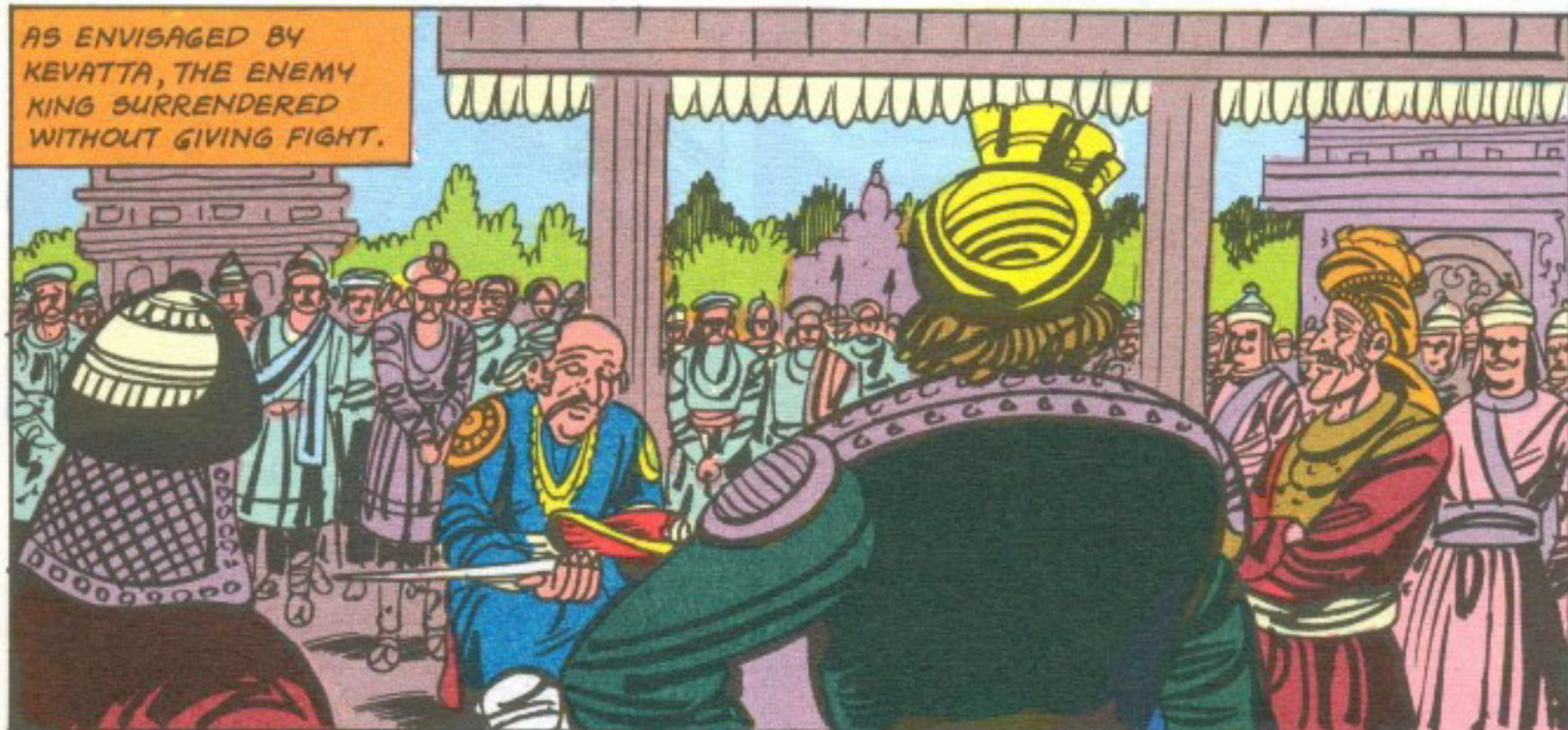


SOON, THE MESSENGER REACHED THE ENEMY KING.

ACCEPT OUR FRIENDSHIP AND PROSPER OR INVITE OUR WRATH AND PERISH.



AS ENVISAGED BY KEVATTA, THE ENEMY KING SURRENDERED WITHOUT GIVING FIGHT.





THE HUNDRED KINGS RECEIVED IDENTICAL MESSAGES.



WHEN AUSHADHA KUMAR LEARNT THAT THE DEADLY FEAST HAD BEEN FIXED, HE DECIDED TO ACT.



SO, AUSHADHA KUMAR'S MEN DESTROYED THE POISONED FOOD...



...AND ESCAPED ON SWIFT HORSES.



BRAHMADATTA WAS FURIOUS.



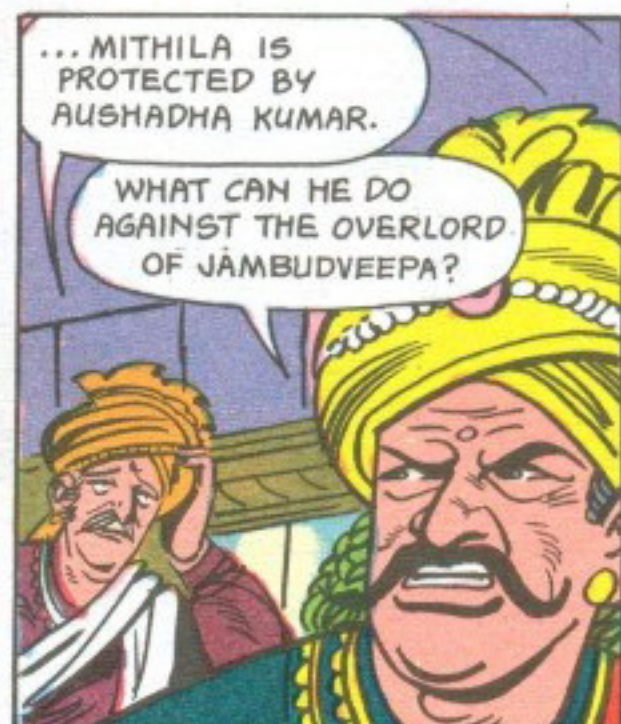
RASCALS! THEY HAVE RUINED MY PLANS.

I SHALL ATTACK MITHILA AND BEHEAD VAIDEHA.



MAHARAJ, IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK...

... MITHILA IS PROTECTED BY AUSHADHA KUMAR.

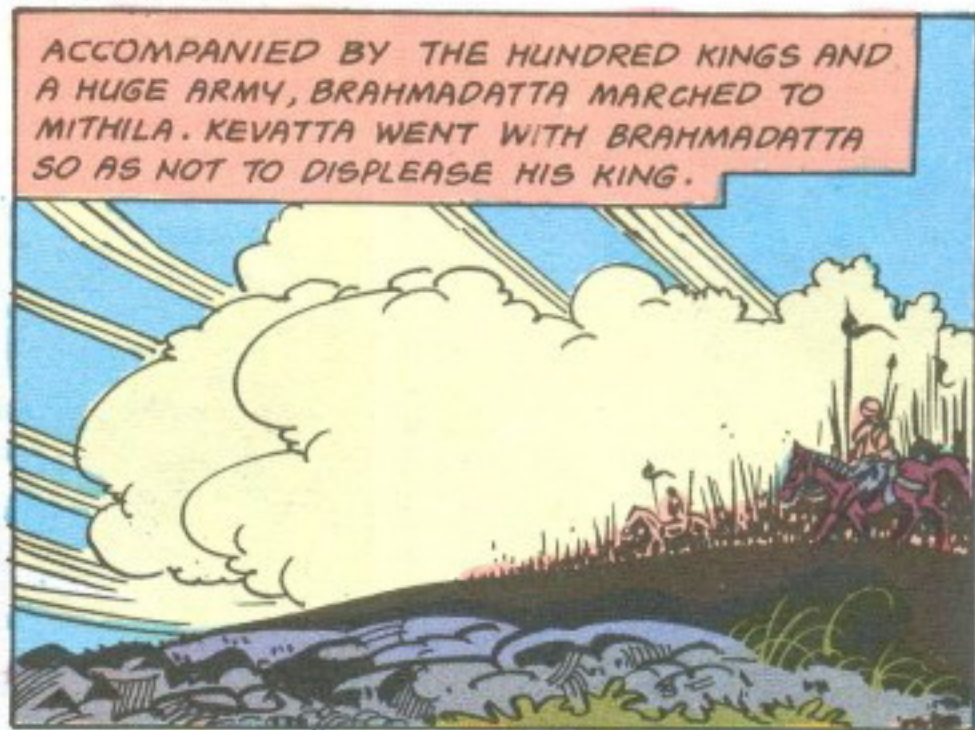


WHAT CAN HE DO AGAINST THE OVERLORD OF JAMBUDVEEPA?

SO BRAHMADATTA INCITED THE HUNDRED KINGS —

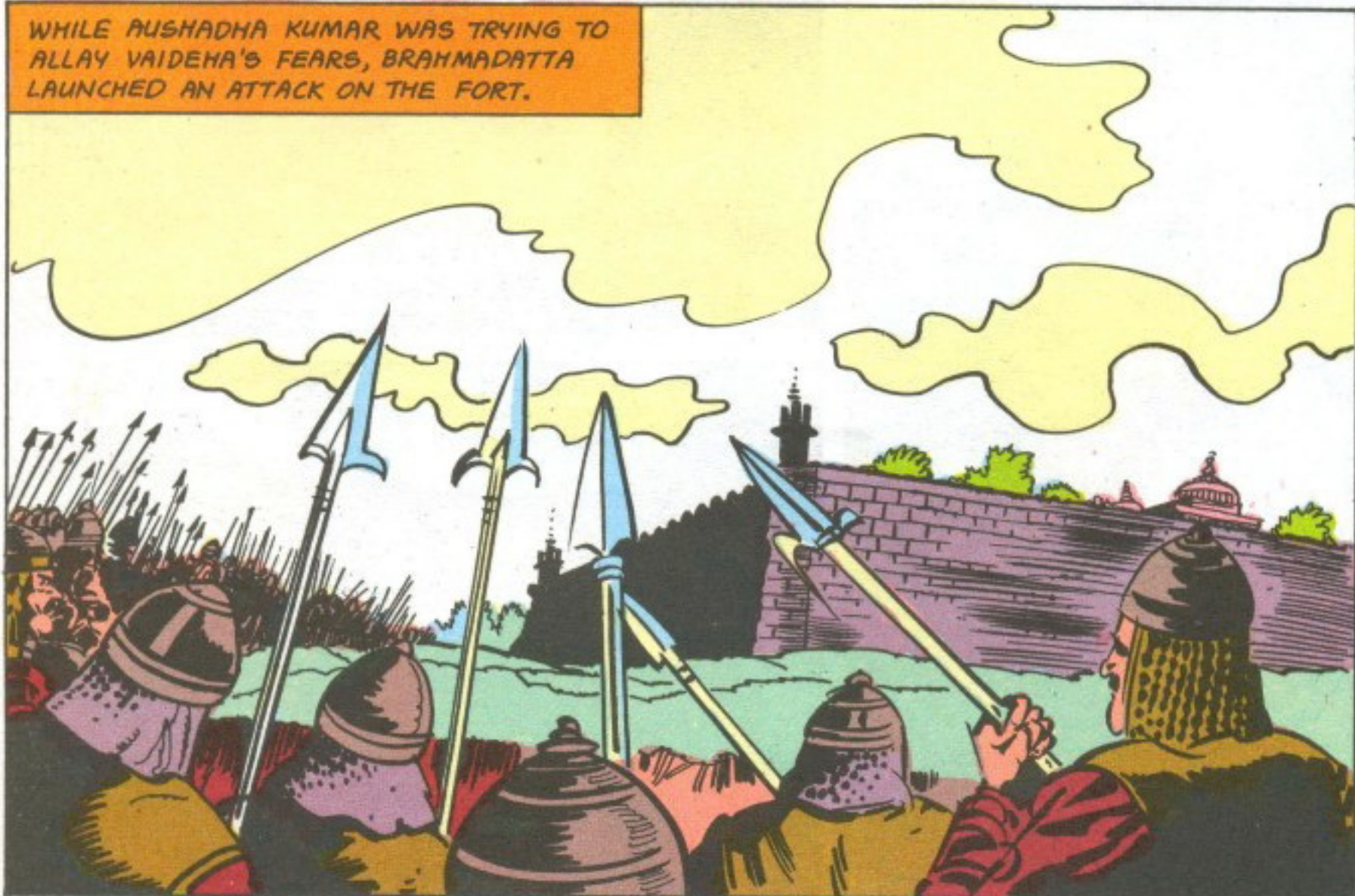


THE KING OF MITHILA HAS INSULTED ALL OF US BY RUINING OUR FEAST.

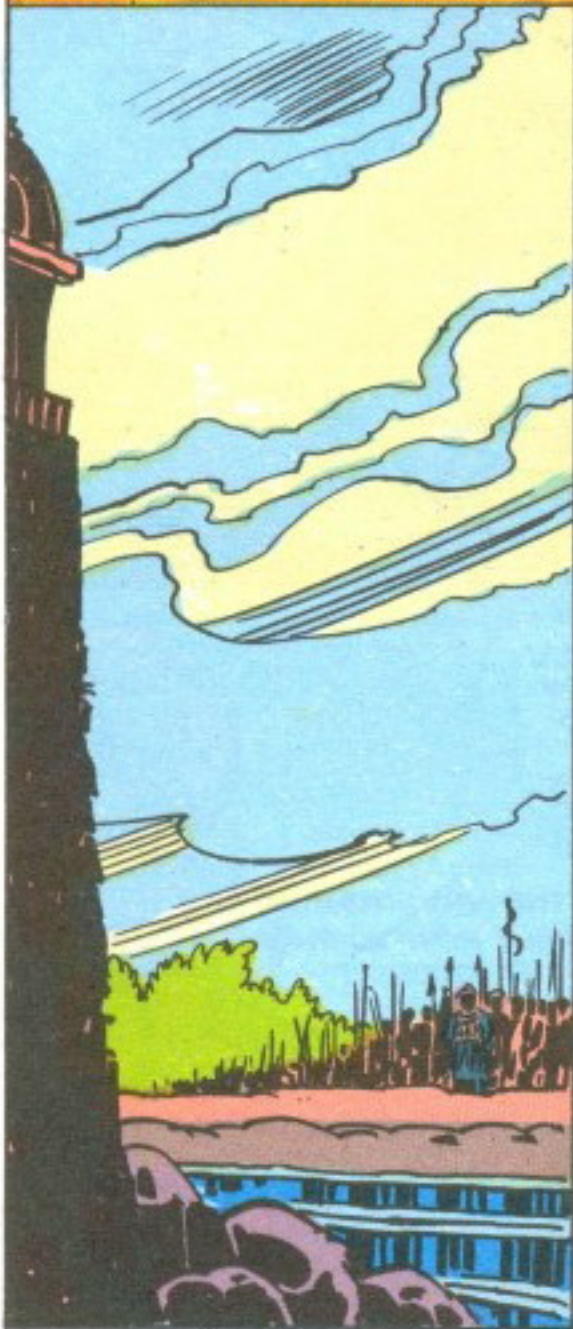




WHILE PUSHADHA KUMAR WAS TRYING TO ALLAY VAIDEHA'S FEARS, BRAHMADATTA LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON THE FORT.



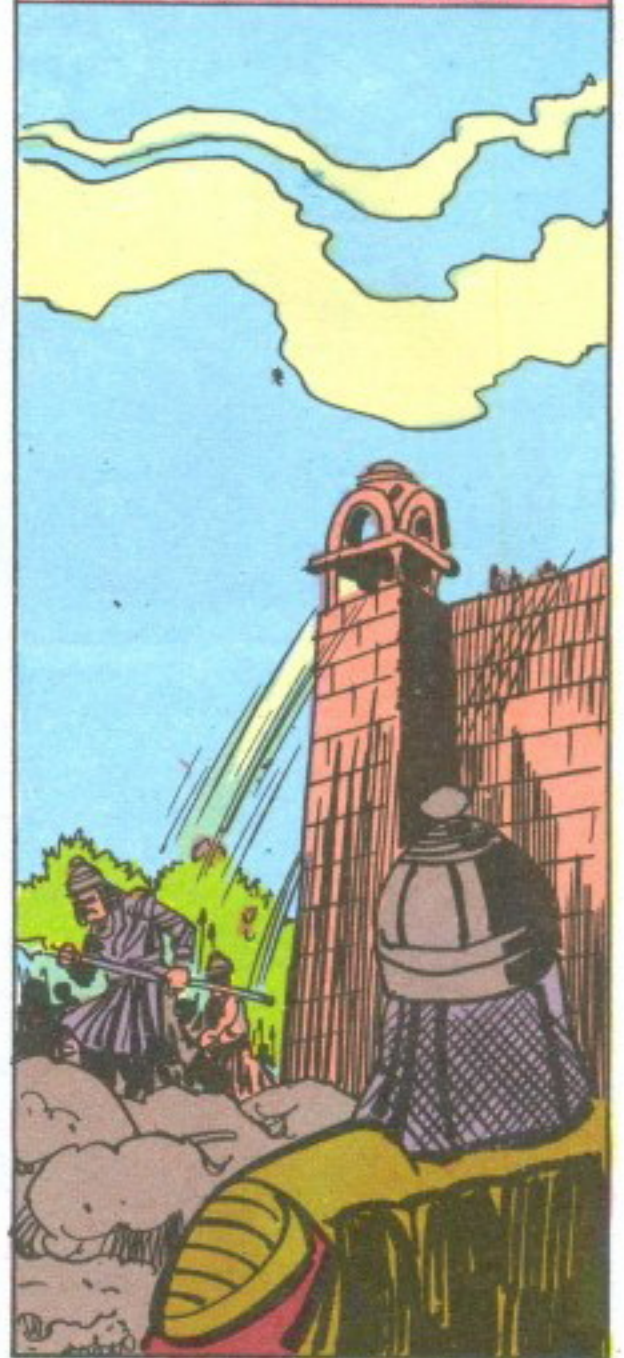
THE APPROACH TO THE FORT WAS MADE DIFFICULT BY THE THREE MOATS AROUND IT.



WHEN THE ENEMY SOLDIERS CAME NEAR THE FORT, VAIDEHA AND SOLDIERS SHOWERED THEM WITH STONES AND OTHER MISSILES...



...AND BRAHMADATTA'S ATTACK FAILED MISERABLY.



WHAT SHALL WE DO? SHALL WE LIFT THE SIEGE AND GO BACK?

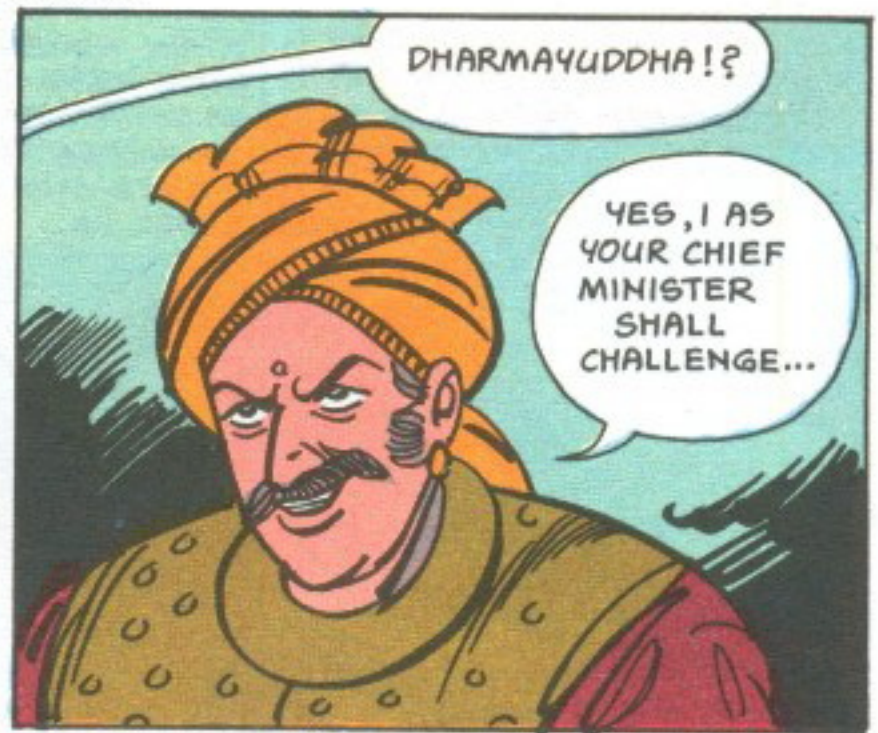
NO, THAT WILL MEAN A LOSS OF FACE. YOU CANNOT AFFORD THAT AS THE OVERLORD OF JAMBU-DVEEPA.



BUT HOW CAN I SAVE MY FACE?

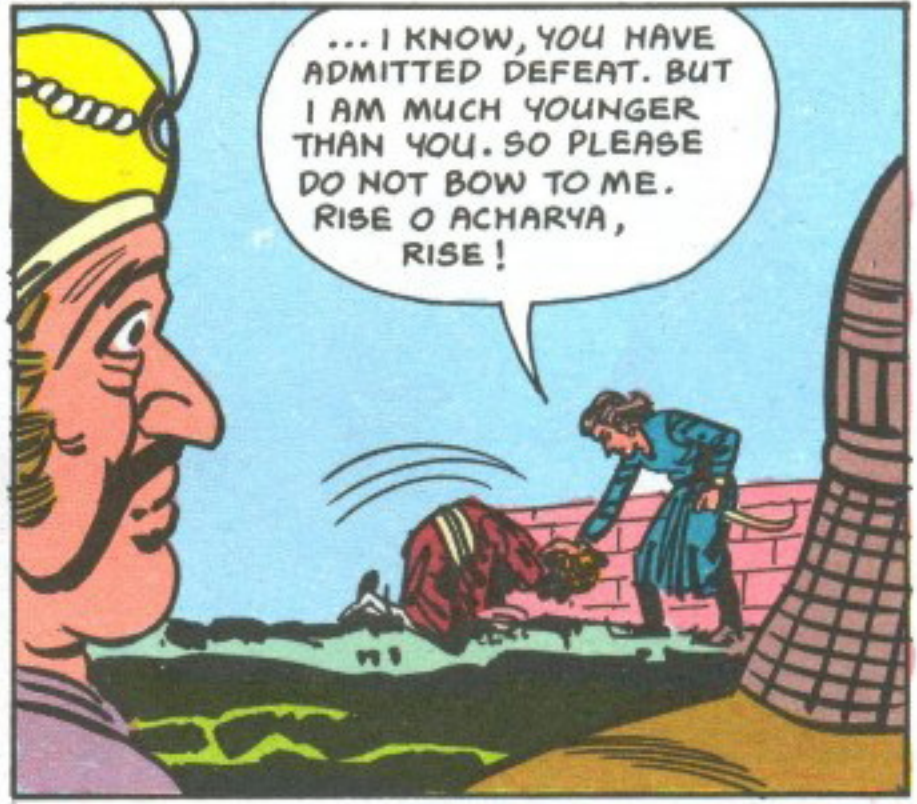
I SHALL USE A TRICK TO GAIN A TOKEN VICTORY.







AS SOON AS KEVATTA BENT DOWN, RUSHADHA-KUMAR PLACED HIS HANDS ON KEVATTA'S SHOULDERS AND PRESSED HIS HEAD DOWN ON THE EARTH. THE HEAD STRUCK WITH FORCE AND A DEEP GASH APPEARED ON KEVATTA'S FOREHEAD



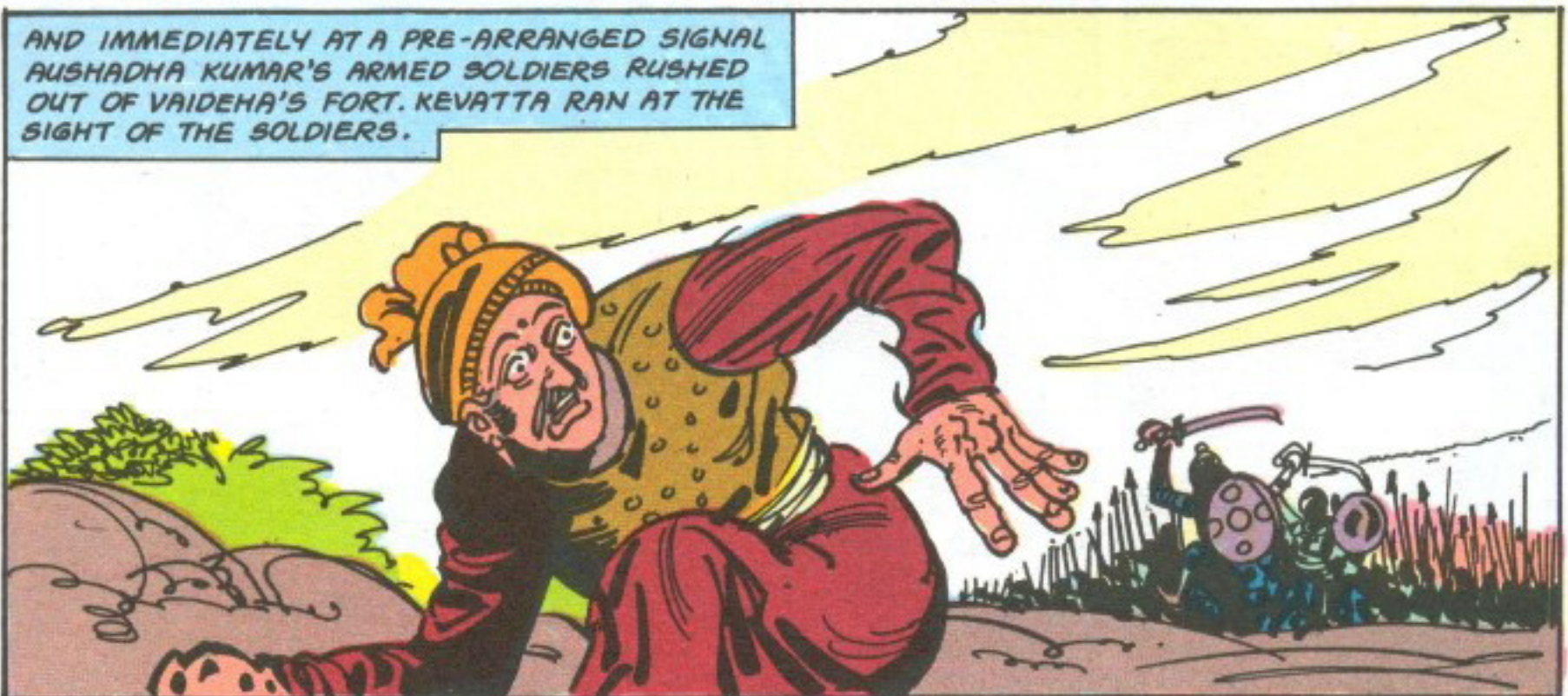
THEN RUSHADHA WHISPERED TO KEVATTA —



AND THEN HE PUSHED KEVATTA AWAY WITH SUCH FORCE THAT KEVATTA FELL DOWN AT A DISTANCE.



AND IMMEDIATELY AT A PRE-ARRANGED SIGNAL RUSHADHA KUMAR'S ARMED SOLDIERS RUSHED OUT OF VAIDEHA'S FORT. KEVATTA RAN AT THE SIGHT OF THE SOLDIERS.



AND SO DID BRAHMADATTA, THE HUNDRED PANIC STRICKEN KINGS AND THEIR SOLDIERS.

AS AUSHADHA KUMAR HAD FORETOLD, THE TERRIFIED ENEMY RAN AWAY LEAVING EVEN THEIR WEAPONS BEHIND.

KEVATTA HAS BEEN DEFEATED! RUN! RUN!

THE WOUND ON KEVATTA'S FOREHEAD LEFT A MARK. THE MARK CONSTANTLY REMINDED KEVATTA OF HIS HUMILIATION.

OH, AUSHADHA KUMAR, I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS.

FINALLY, KEVATTA HATCHED A SCHEME.

MAHARAJ, I HAVE A PLAN TO AVENGE OUR INSULT.

YOUR PLAN DID NOT WORK OUT LAST TIME, KEVATTA.

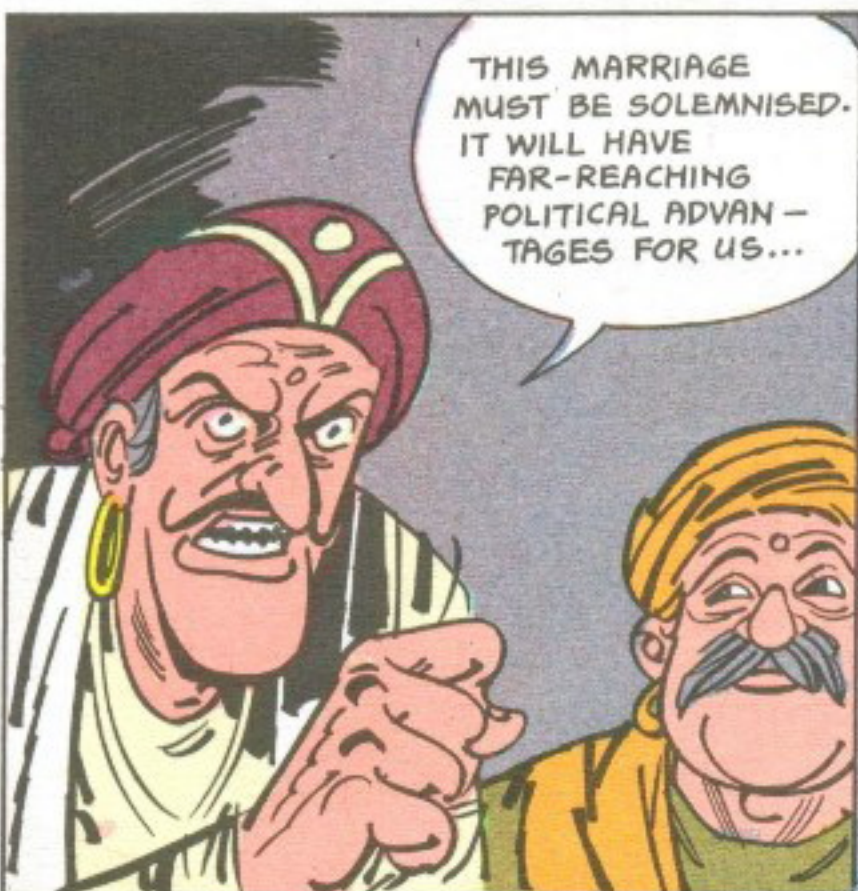
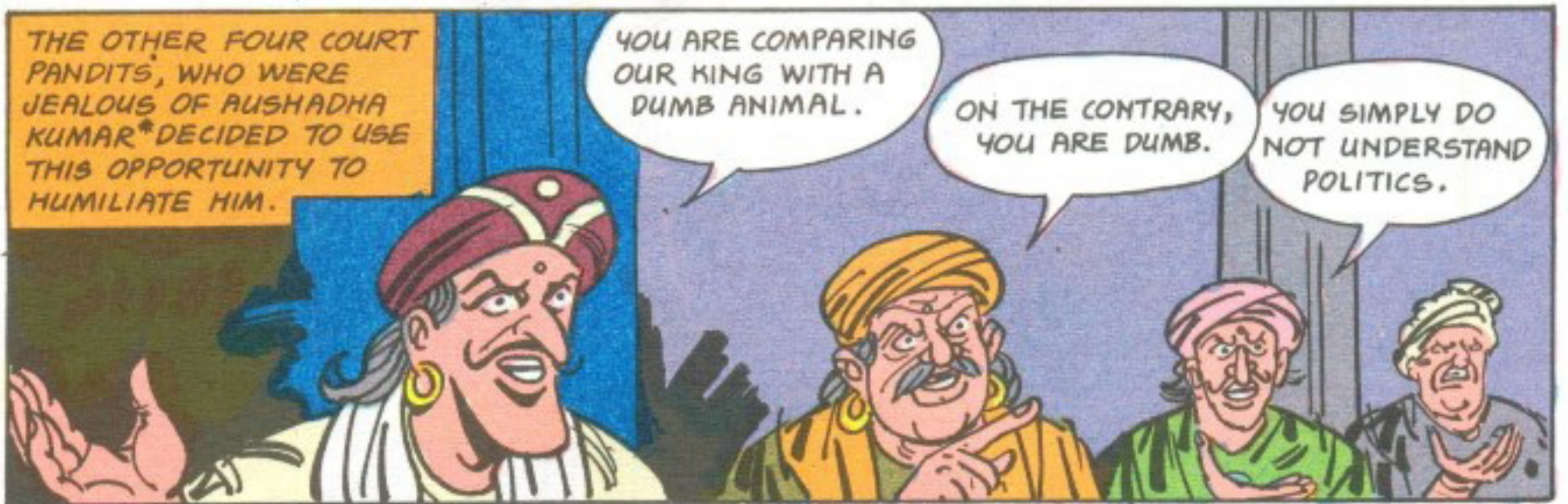
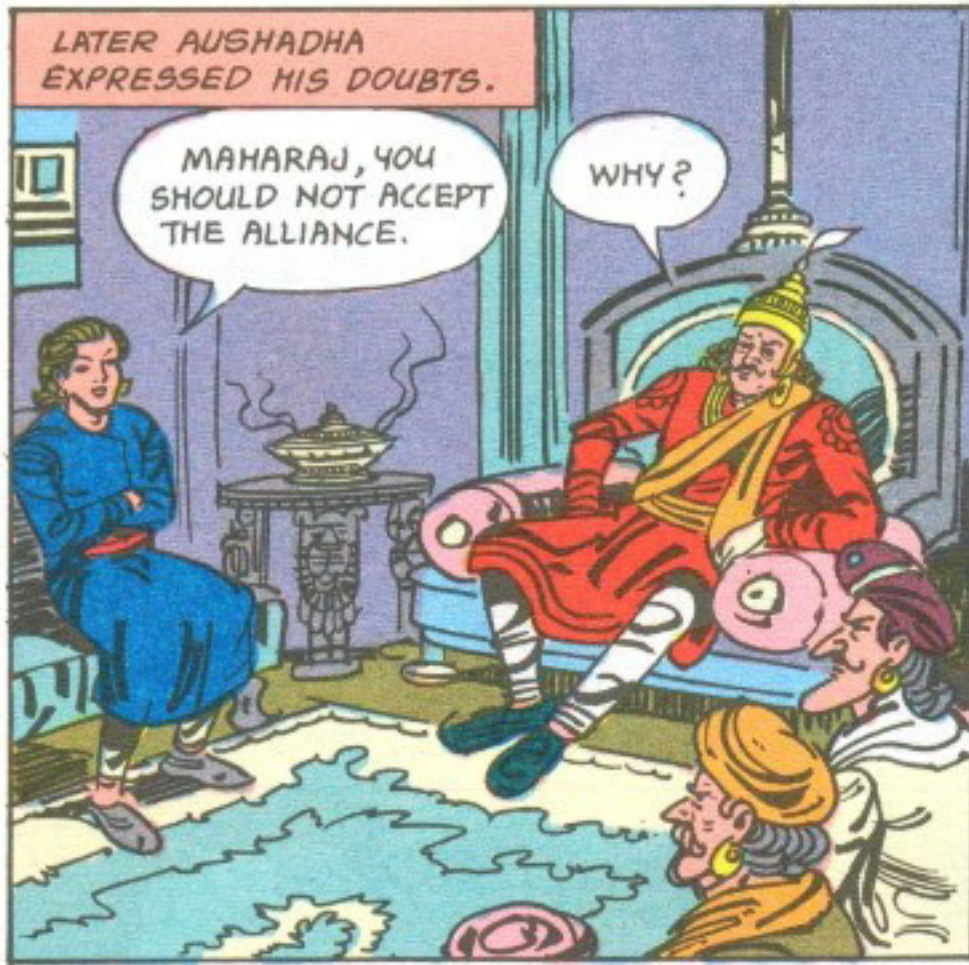
THIS TIME IT WILL. FOR YOU SHALL OFFER YOUR DAUGHTER TO VAIDEHA.

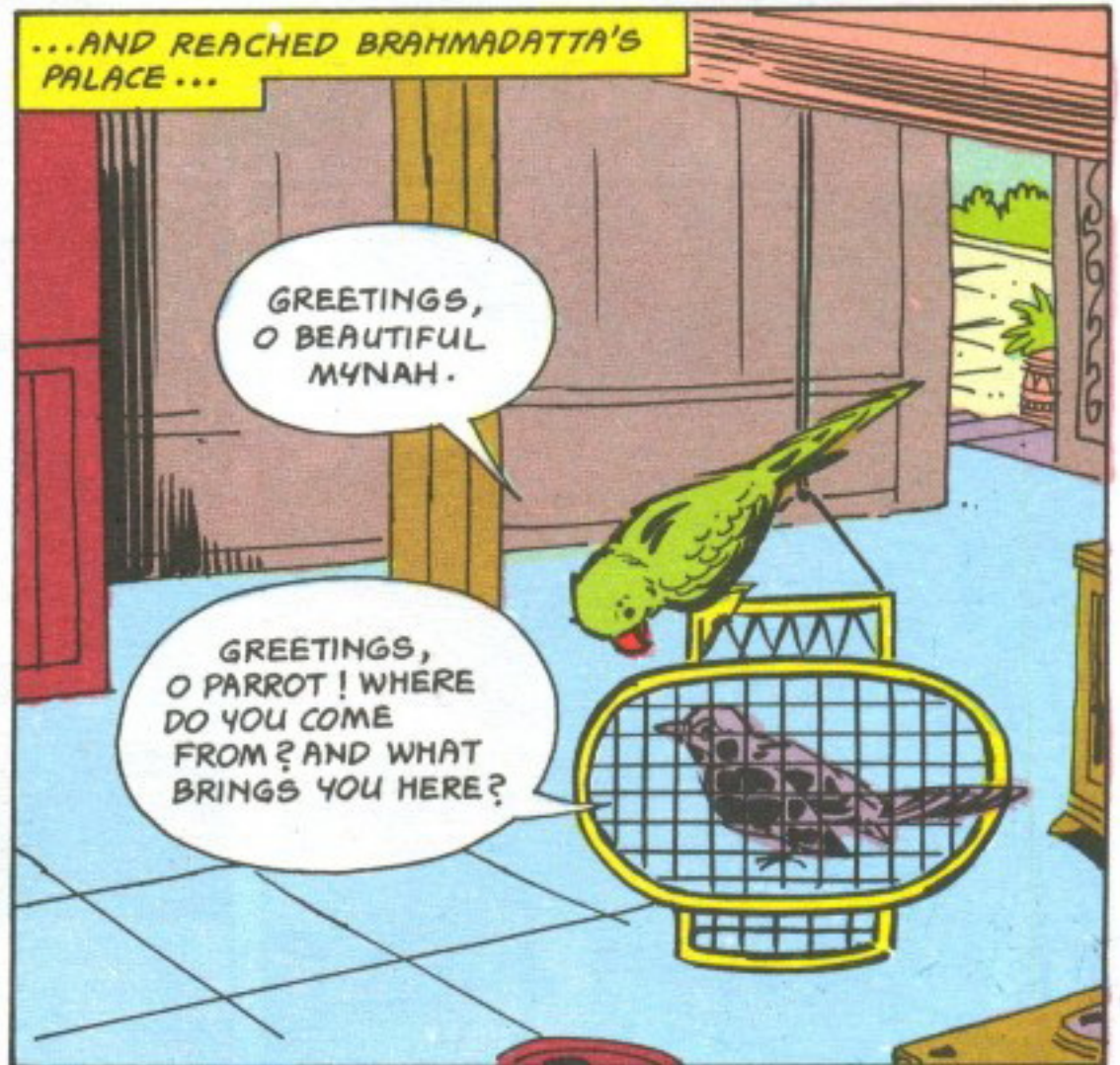
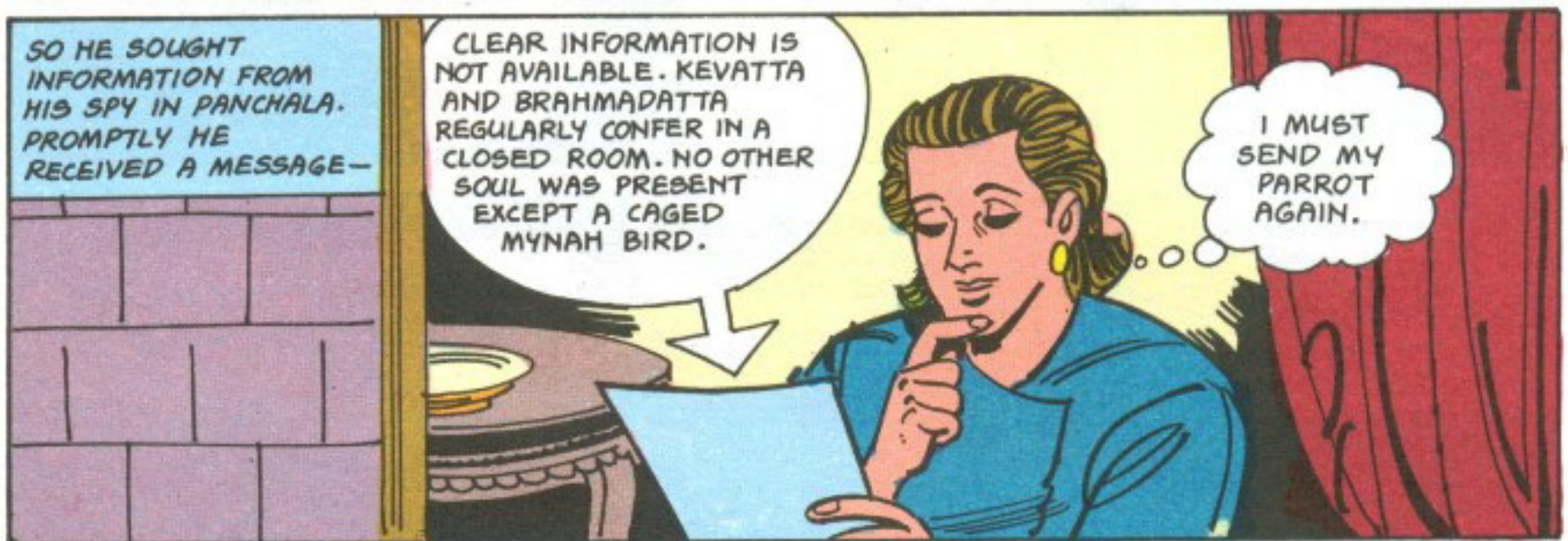
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?

NO, MAHARAJ. THIS SCHEME WILL WORK. BECAUSE...

...YOUR DAUGHTER PANCHALA CHANDI IS THE MOST CHARMING MAIDEN IN JAMBUDVEEPA.







TO EXTRACT THE VITAL INFORMATION, THE PARROT LIED TO THE MAINAH —

I AM THE ROYAL PARROT OF SHIVI*. I'M LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE BRIDE FOR MYSELF.

WELL, HAVE YOU FOUND ONE?

YES, IF YOU AGREE THEN I HAVE...

WHY SHOULD I AGREE?

BECAUSE MARRIAGE LEADS TO ETERNAL HAPPINESS.

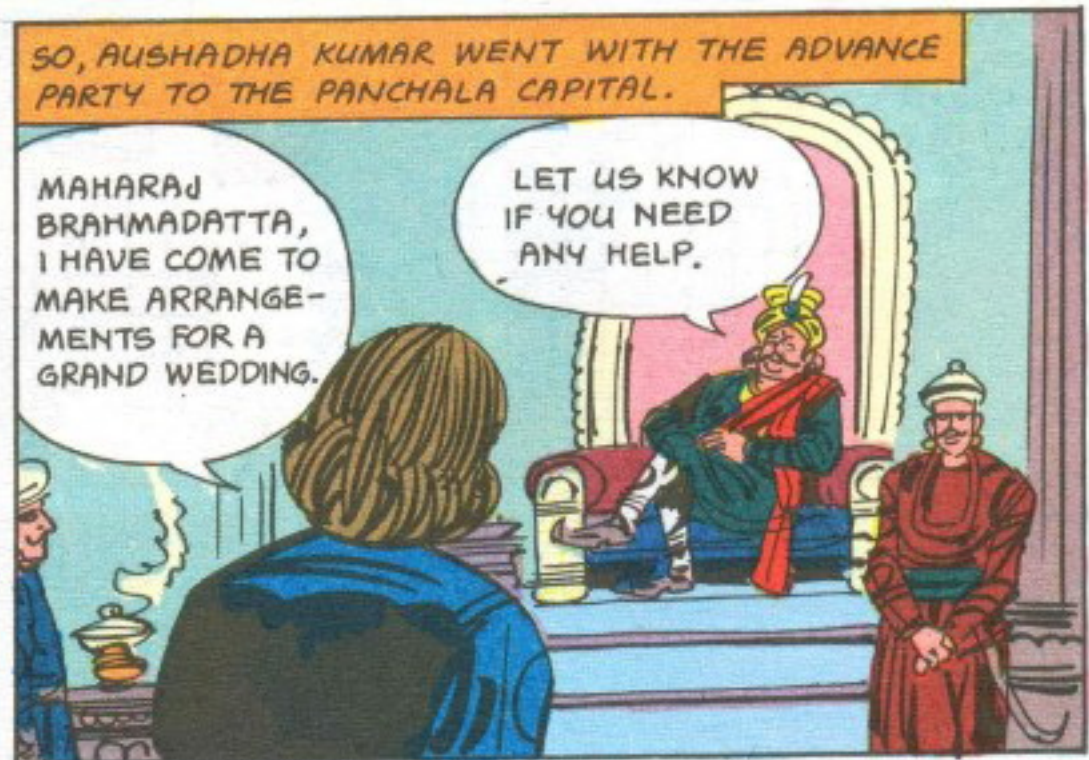
NOT ALWAYS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

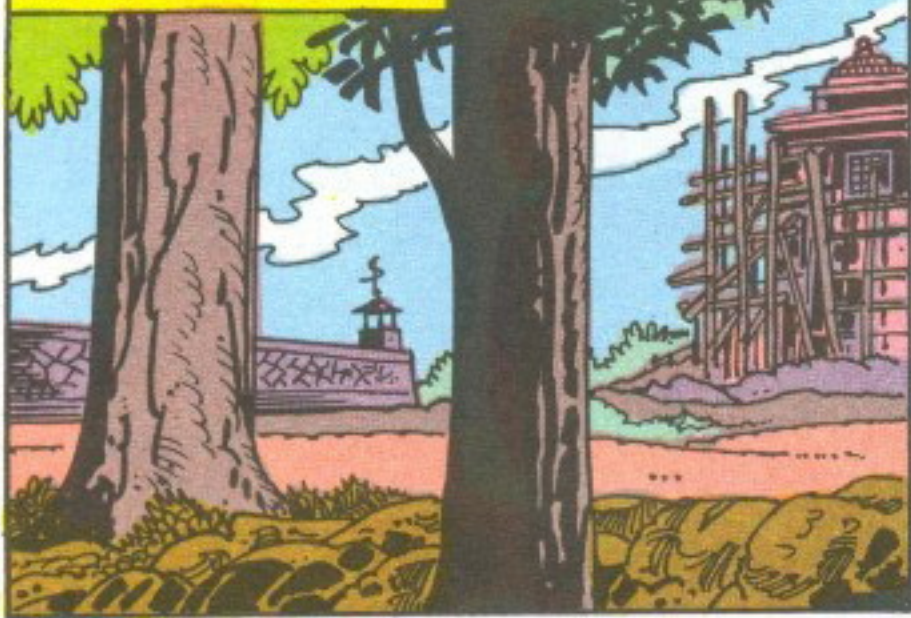
THE MARRIAGE OF THE PANCHALA PRINCESS TO KING VAIDEHA, IS GOING TO CAUSE UTTER MISERY.

HOW?

VAIDEHA WILL BE KILLED, WHEN HE COMES FOR THE WEDDING.



ONCE AUSHADHA WAS SETTLED, HE STARTED TWO WORKS SIMULTANEOUSLY—THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PALATIAL HOUSE OUTSIDE THE CITY...



...AND THE DIGGING OF A TUNNEL FROM THE HOUSE WHERE HE WAS STAYING.



...AND THE OTHER NEAR THE RIVER.



SOON, ONE END OF THE TUNNEL OPENED IN THE NEW HOUSE...



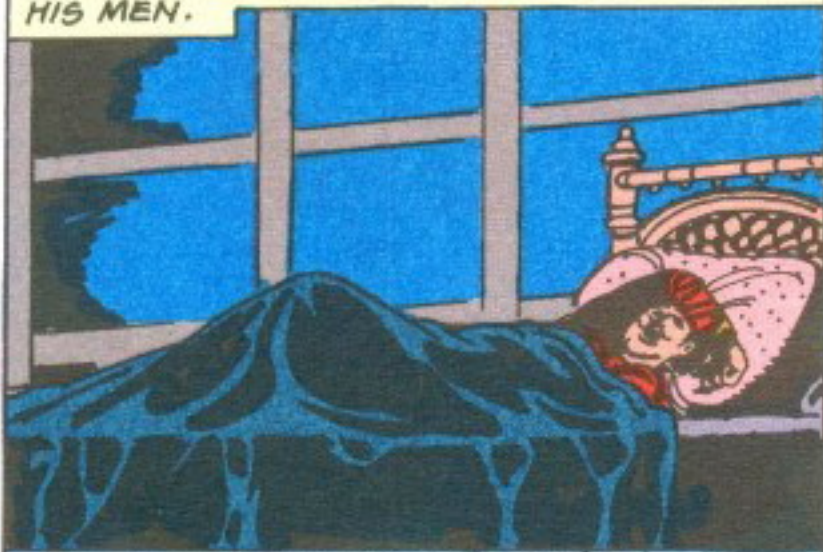
...AND THE OTHER IN THICK BUSHES NEAR THE RIVER.





WHEN ALL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE, KING VAIDEHA WAS SUMMONED TO PANCHALA.

SOON AFTER VAIDEHA ARRIVED, HIS HOUSE WAS SURROUNDED BY BRAHMADATTA AND HIS MEN.



UNAWARE OF THE TREACHERY, AND TIRED FROM THE JOURNEY, VAIDEHA WAS SLEEPING.

BUT AUSHADHA KUMAR WAS ALERT. HE PUT THE NEXT PART OF HIS SCHEME INTO OPERATION.

DISGUISE A FEW MEN AS PANCHALA SOLDIERS AND GO TO BRAHMADATTA'S PALACE THROUGH THE TUNNEL.



AS INSTRUCTED THE MEN WENT TO BRAHMADATTA'S PALACE AND ADDRESSED HIS QUEEN.

O QUEEN! VAIDEHA HAS BEEN KILLED...



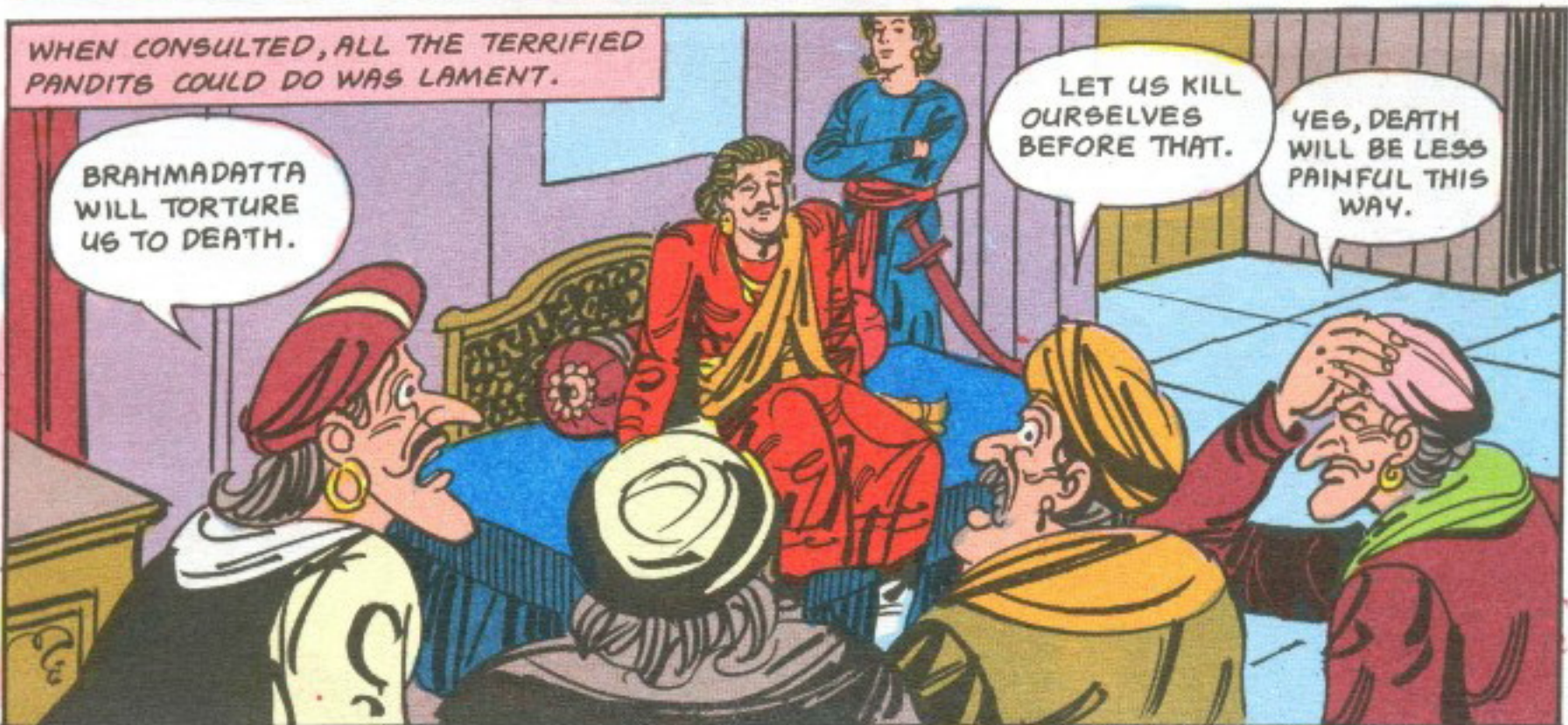
...KING BRAHMADATTA HAS ASKED ALL OF YOU TO JOIN HIM IN THE FEAST CELEBRATING THIS VICTORY.



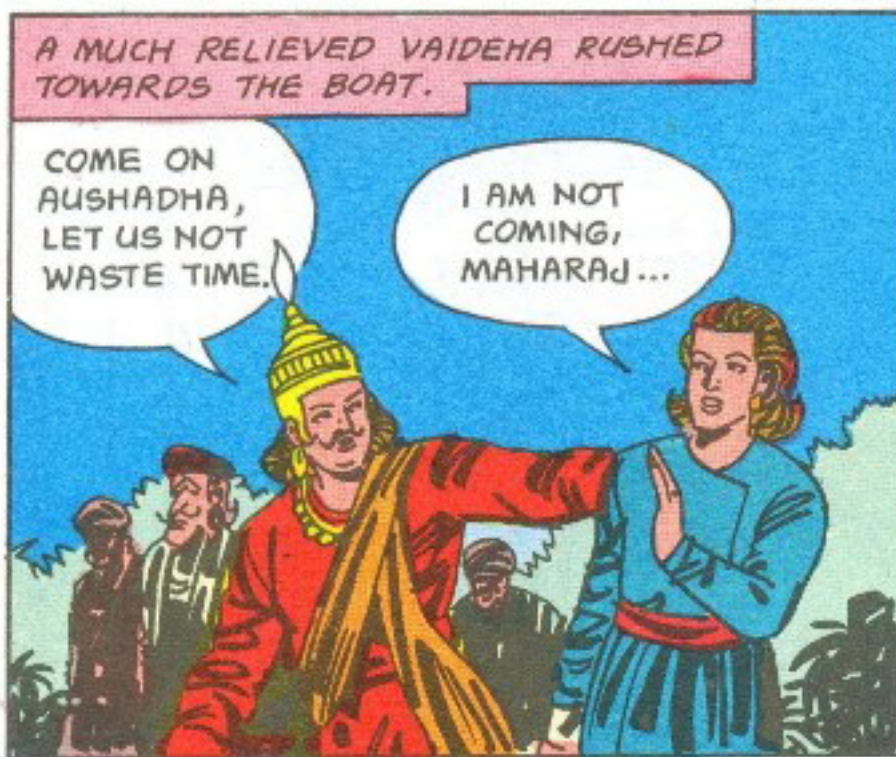
THUS THE PANCHALA QUEEN AND THE PRINCESS WERE TRICKED INTO ACCOMPANYING AUSHADHA KUMAR'S SOLDIERS.



MEANWHILE, VAIDEHA WAS AWAKENED BY THE NOISE MADE BY THE PANCHALA ARMY.









BUT BRAHMADATTA DID NOT DARE TO PUNISH AUSHADHA AT THE RISK OF HIS WIFE'S LIFE.

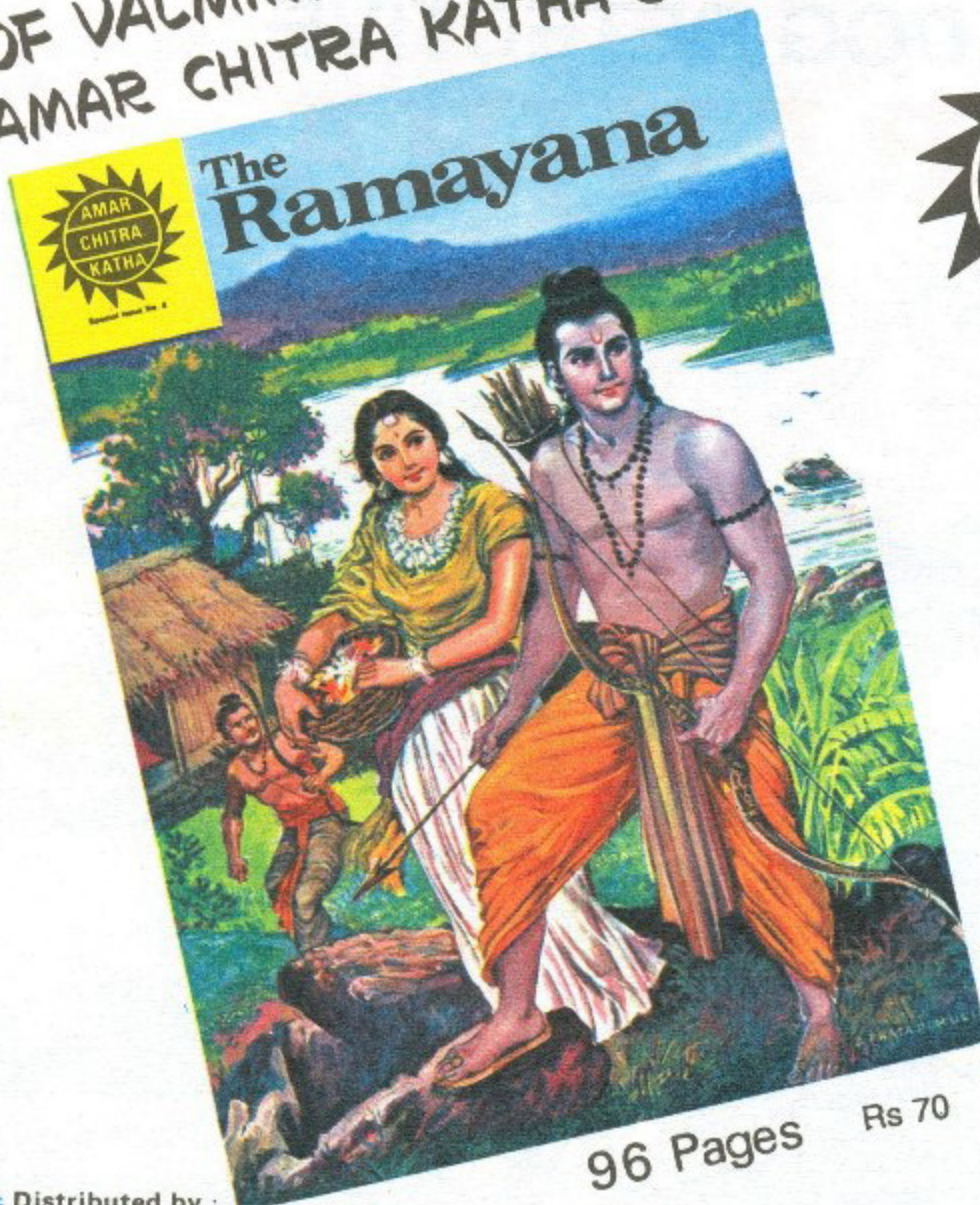
SOON, AUSHADHA RETURNED SAFELY TO MITHILA WITH ALL HIS MEN.



THE END.

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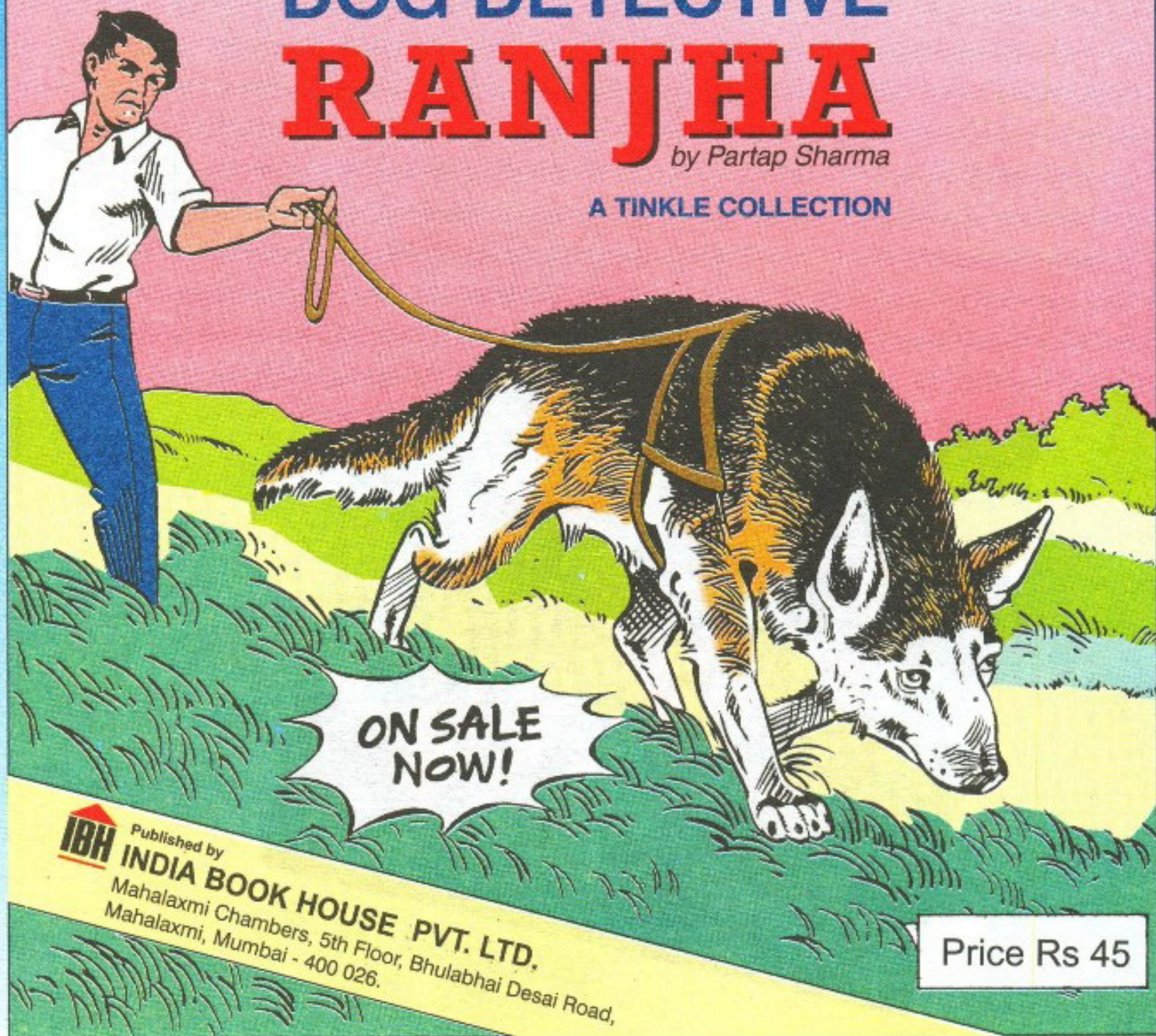
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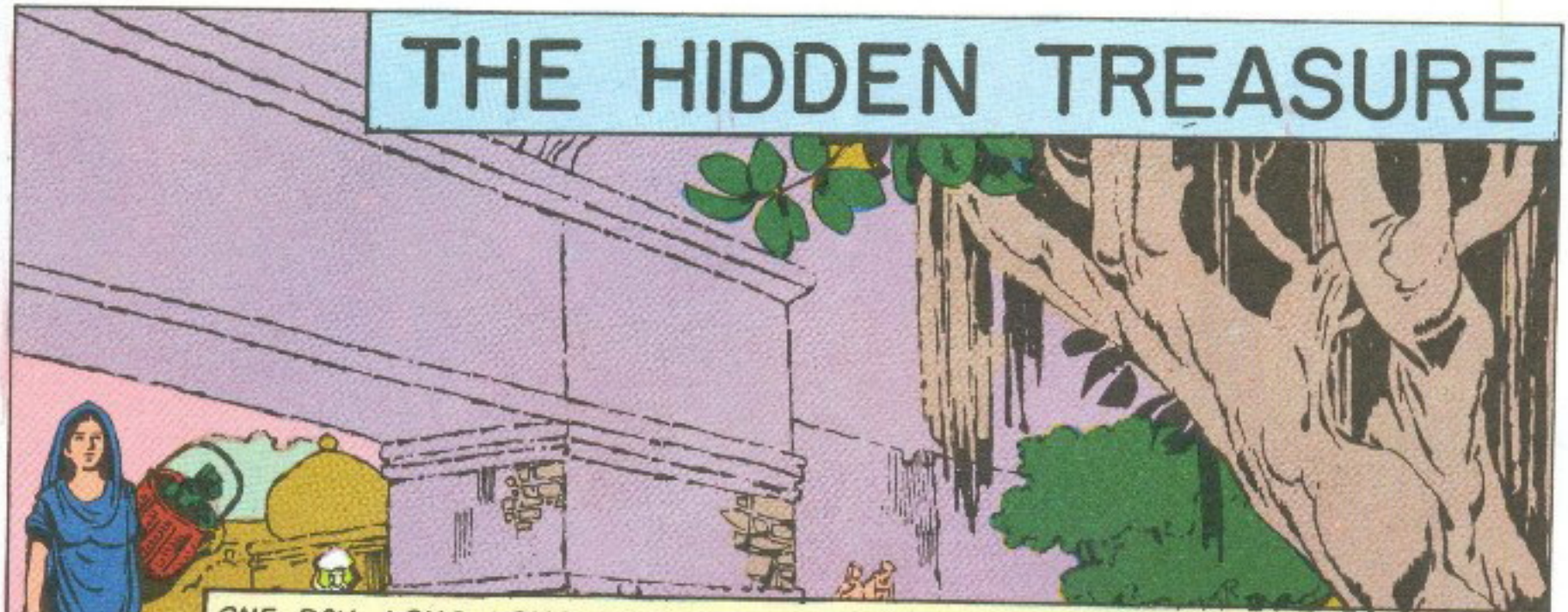
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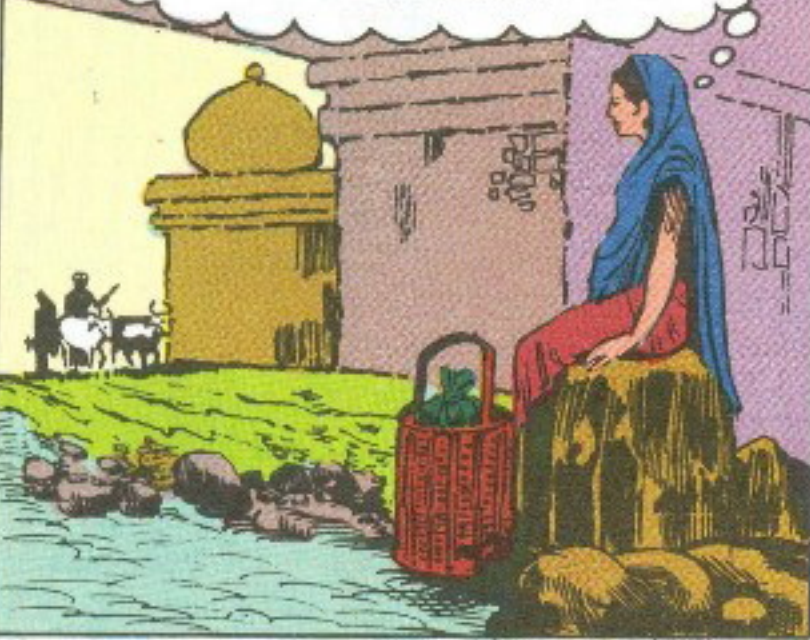
THE HIDDEN TREASURE



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

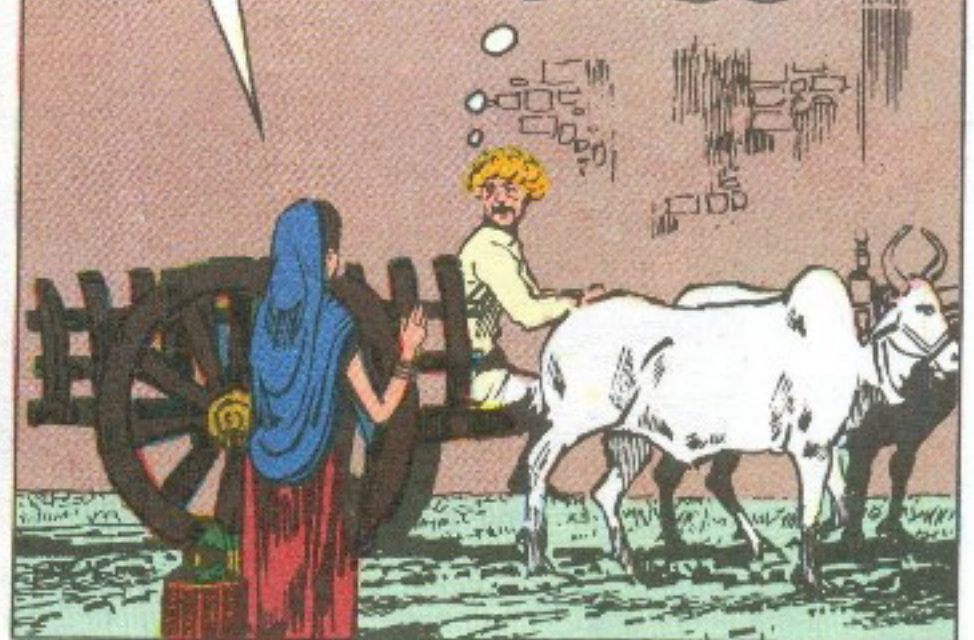
SHE WORE THE GARB OF A MAID BUT SEEMED TO BE OF NOBLE BIRTH.

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



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

SHE LOOKS TIRED AND MISERABLE, POOR THING.



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

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



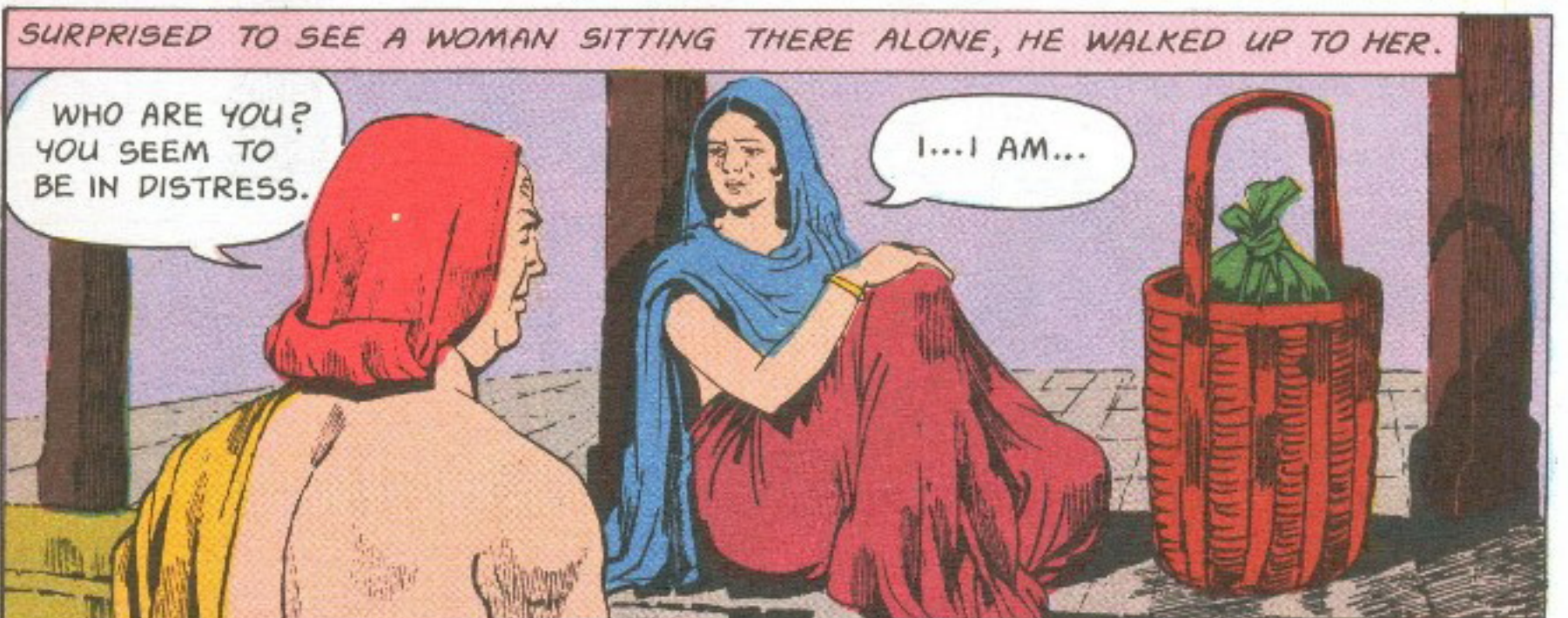
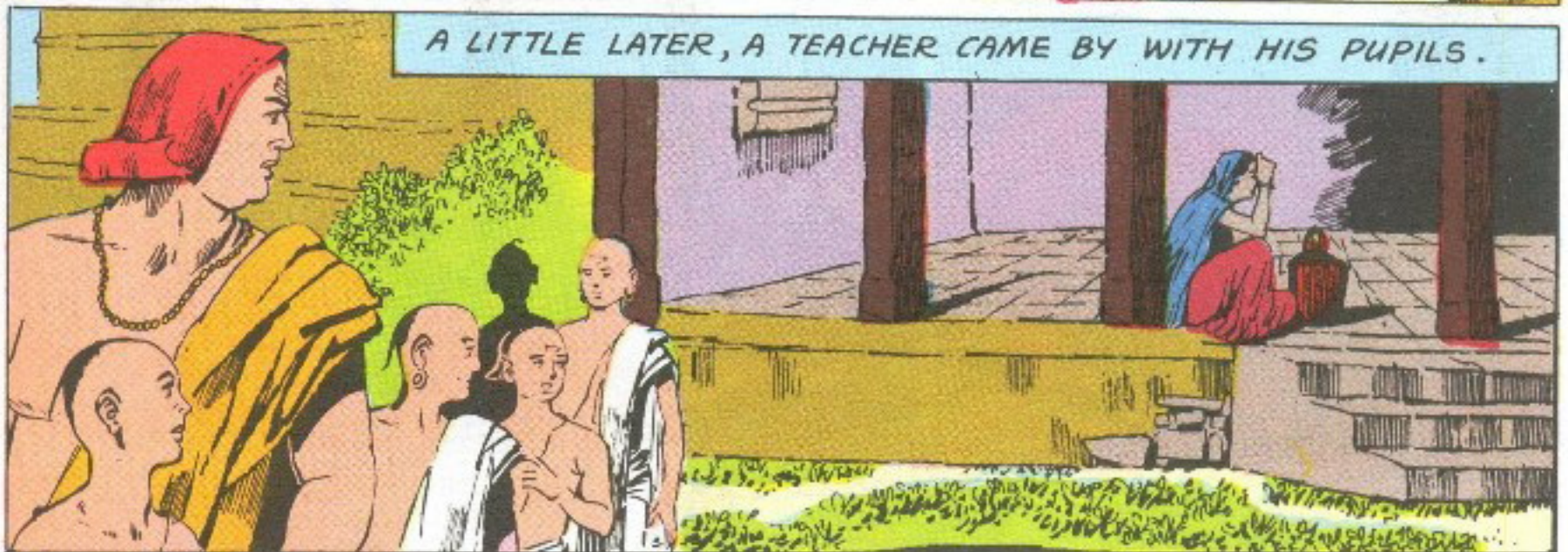
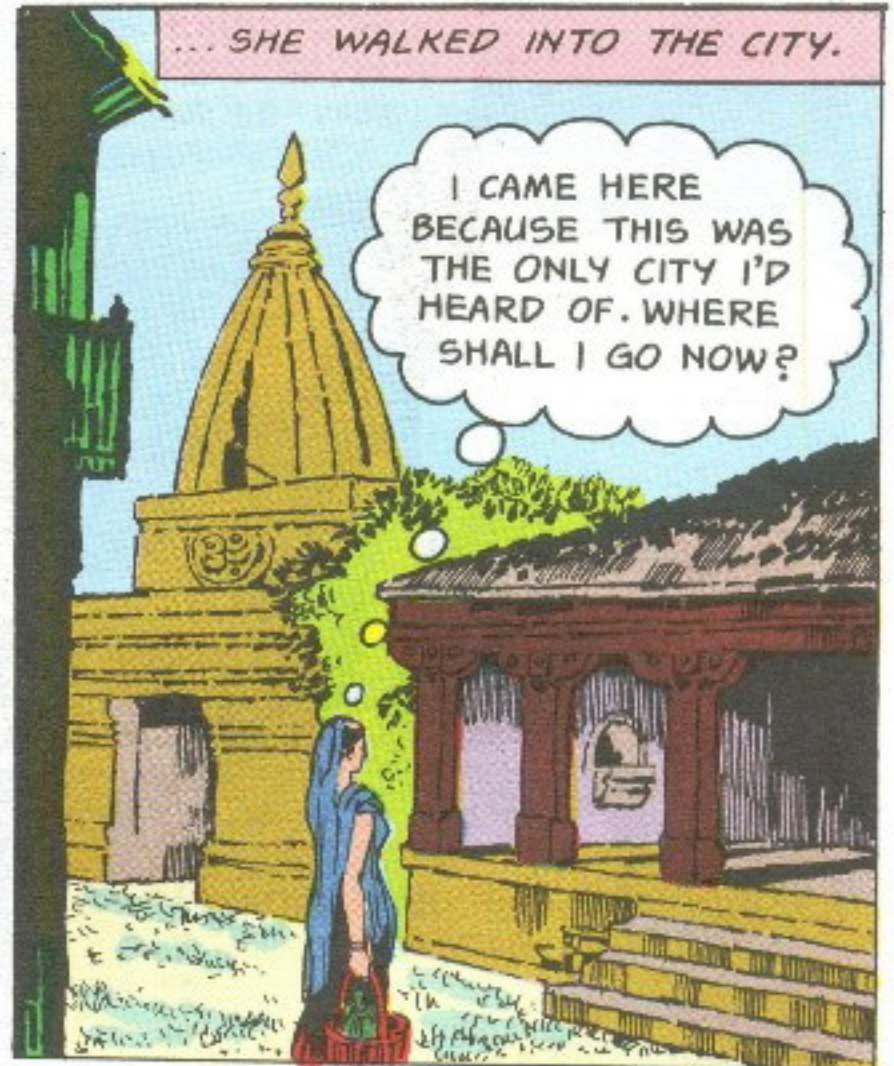
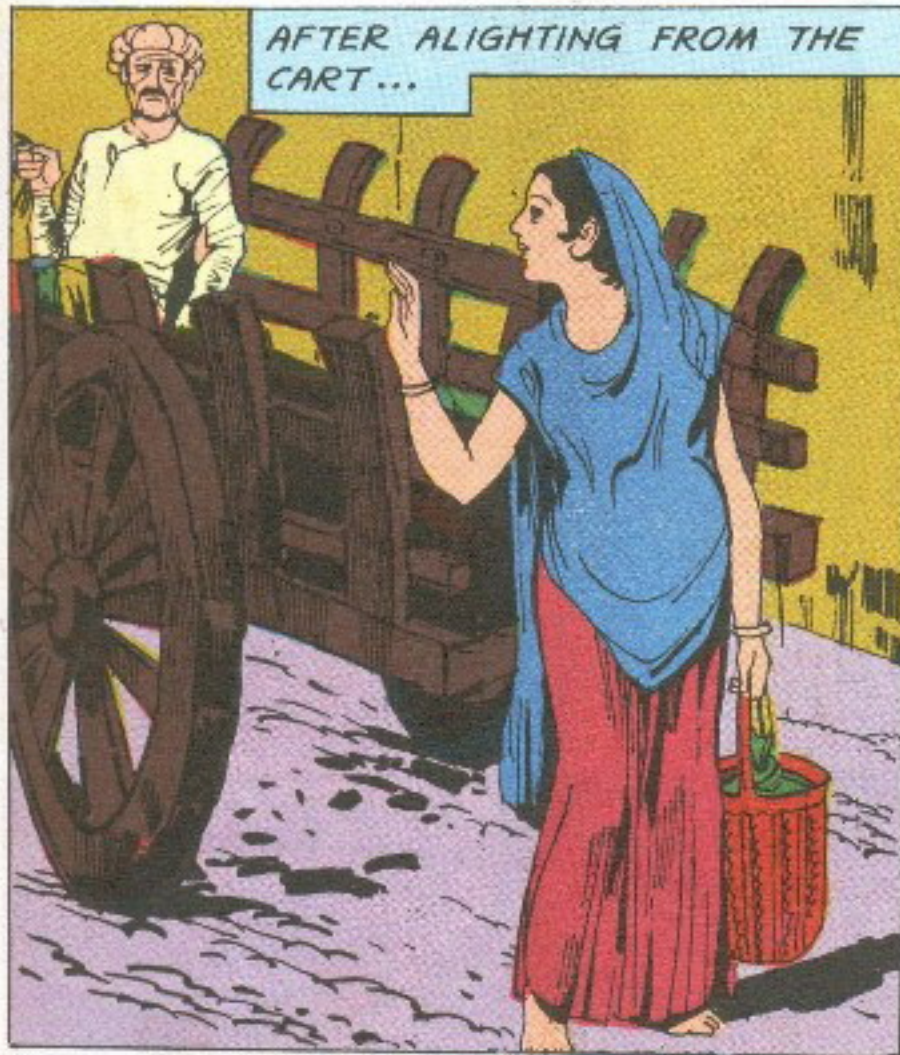


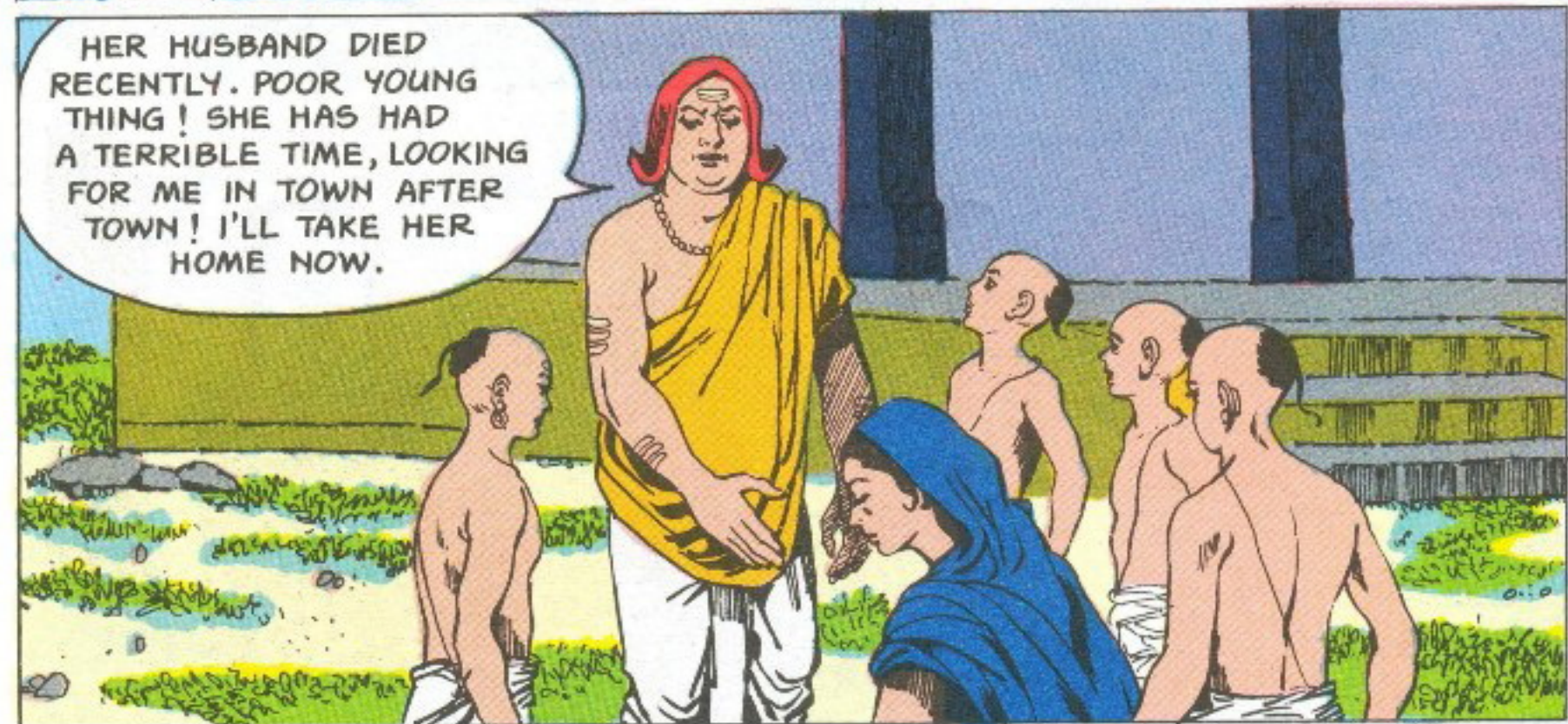
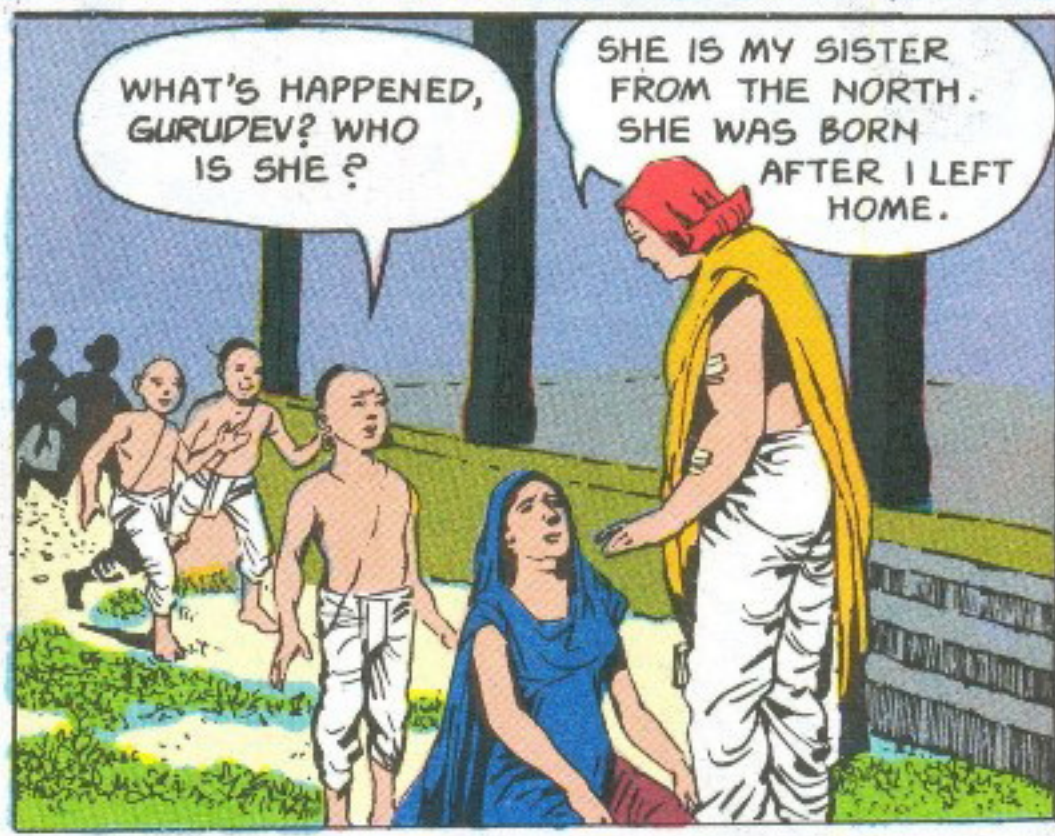
WHEN SHE WOKE UP IT WAS EVENING.



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







THE BRAHMANA TOOK HER TO HIS WIFE.

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

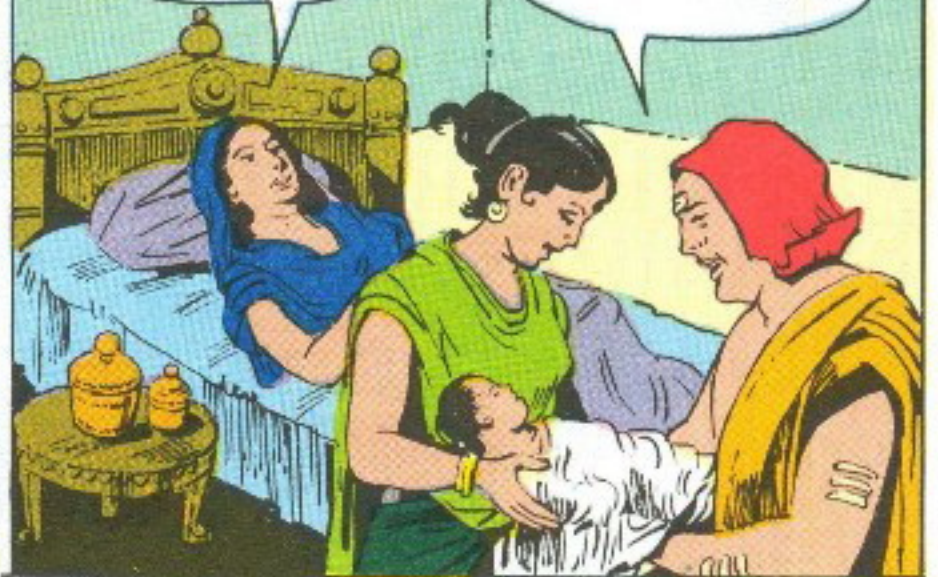
WELCOME HOME, SISTER. I AM SO GLAD YOU HAVE COME TO US.



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

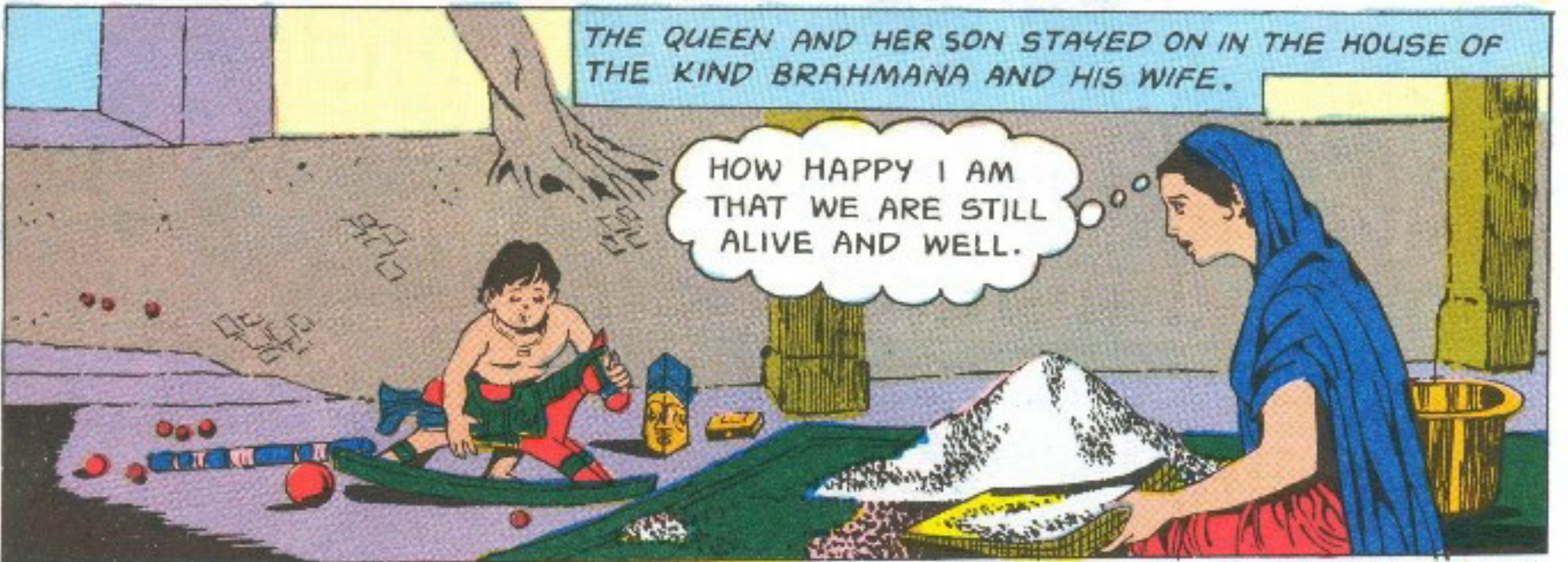
WHAT SHALL WE CALL HIM, BROTHER?

WE'LL CALL HIM MAHAJANAKA.



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

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



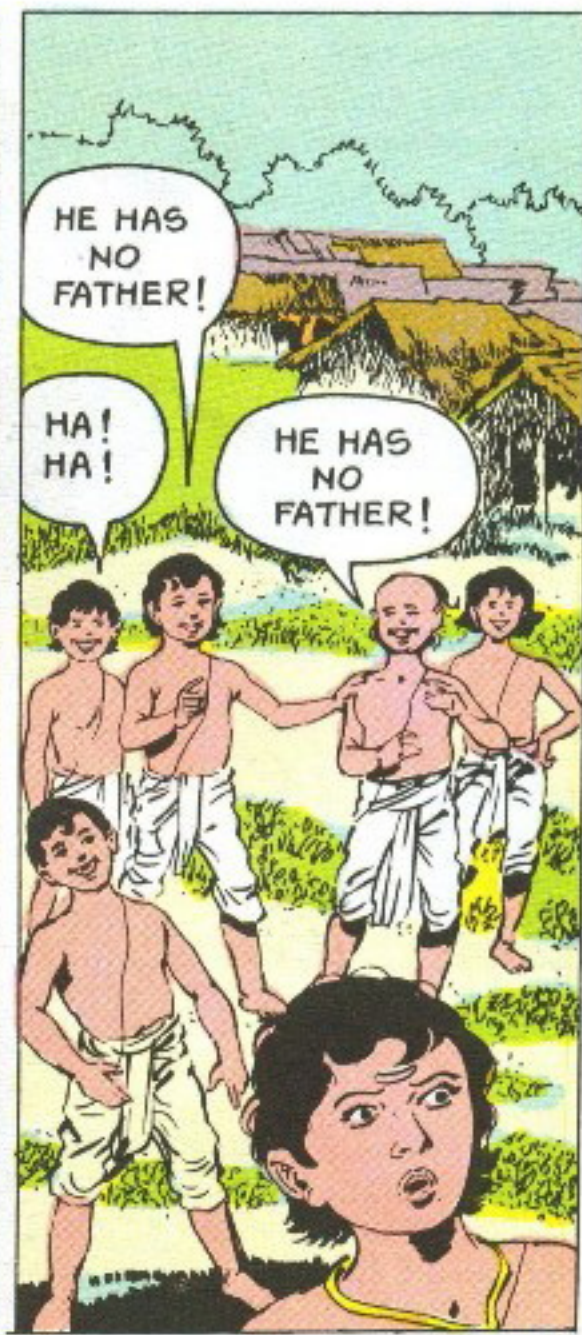
WHEN MAHAJANAKA GREW A LITTLE OLDER, HE MADE FRIENDS WITH THE BOYS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

COME ON, MAHAJANAKA. WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU.

I'M COMING!

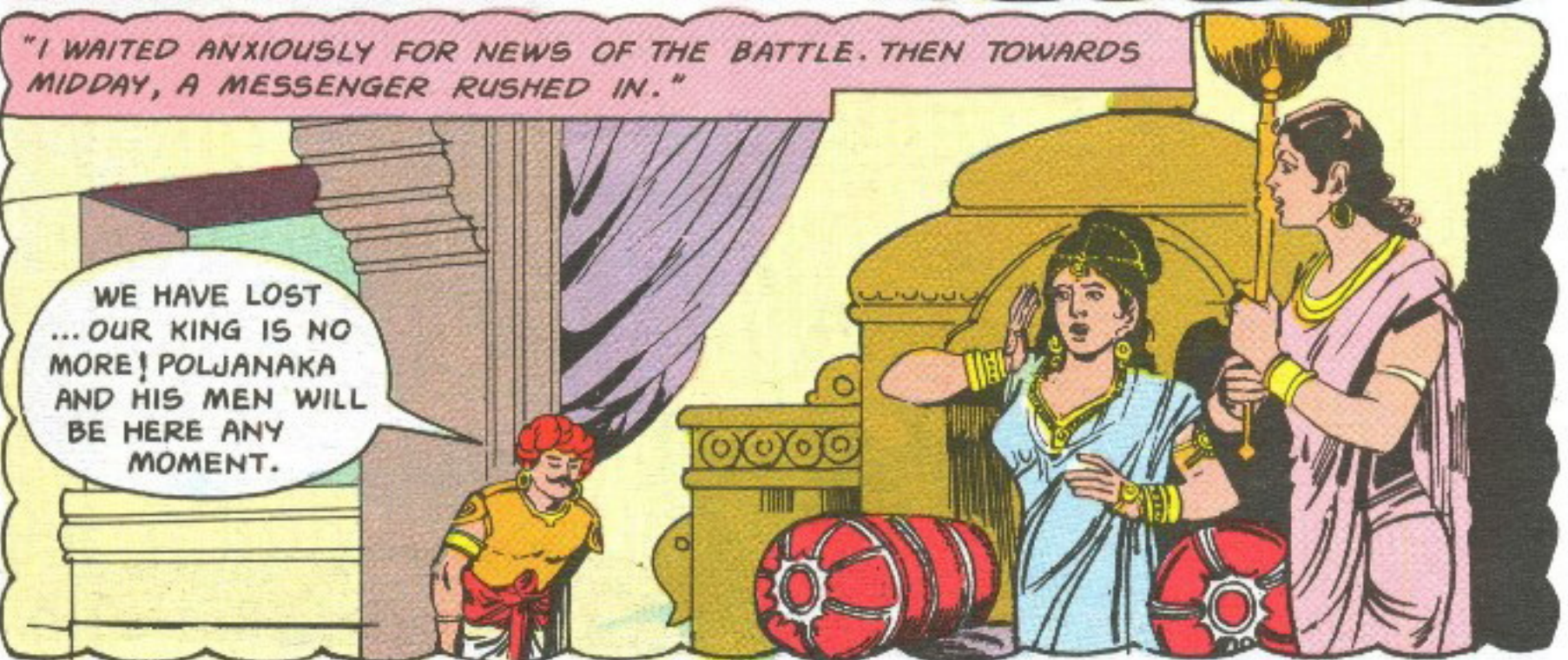
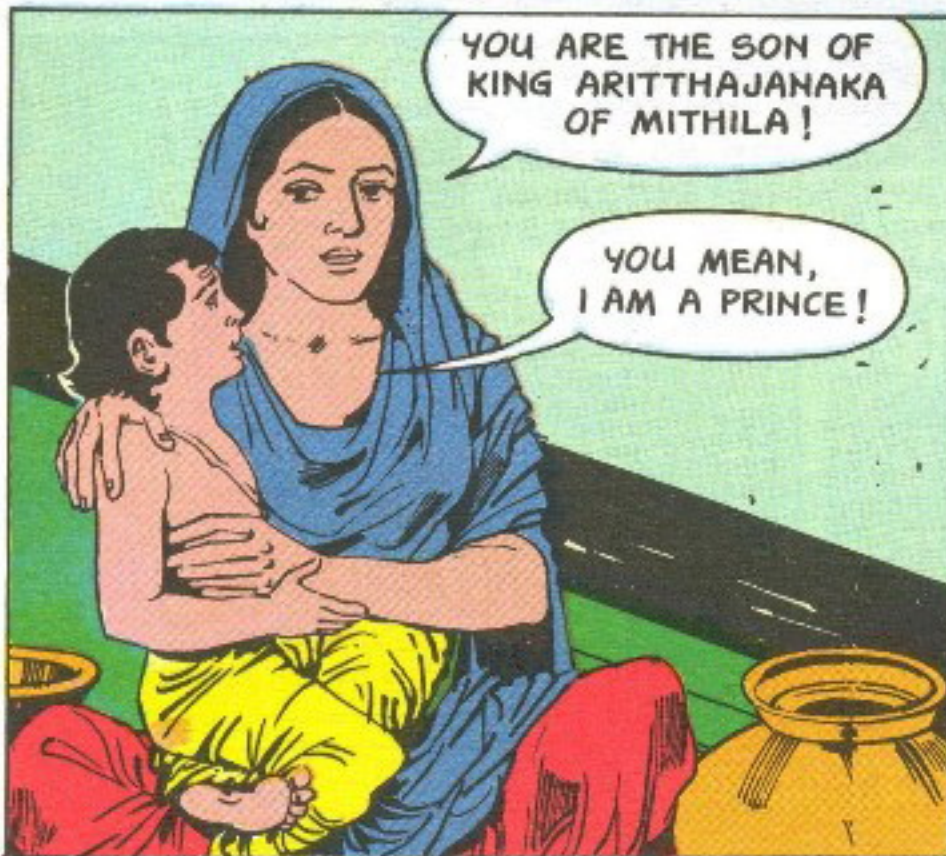
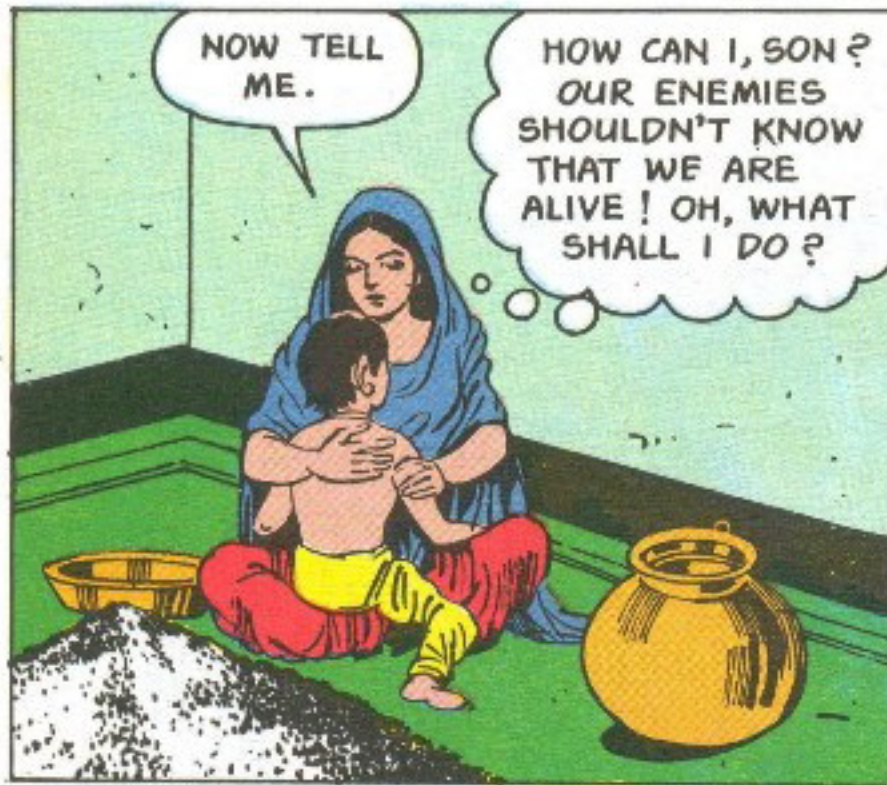


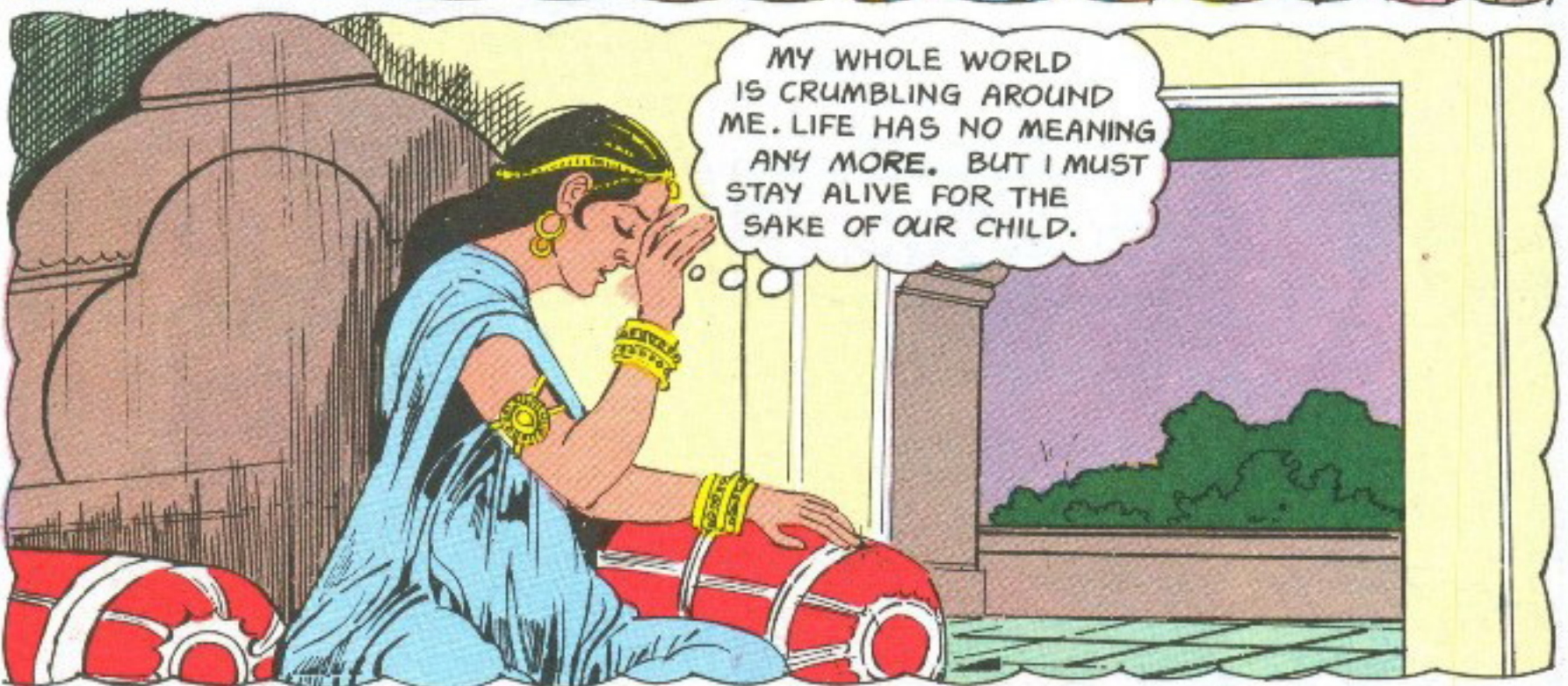
BUT THEY OFTEN QUARRELLED TOO. AND, THEN, MAHAJANAKA WHO WAS THE STRONGEST OF THEM ALL, WOULD BEAT UP THE OTHERS. ONE DAY, AFTER SUCH A QUARREL —



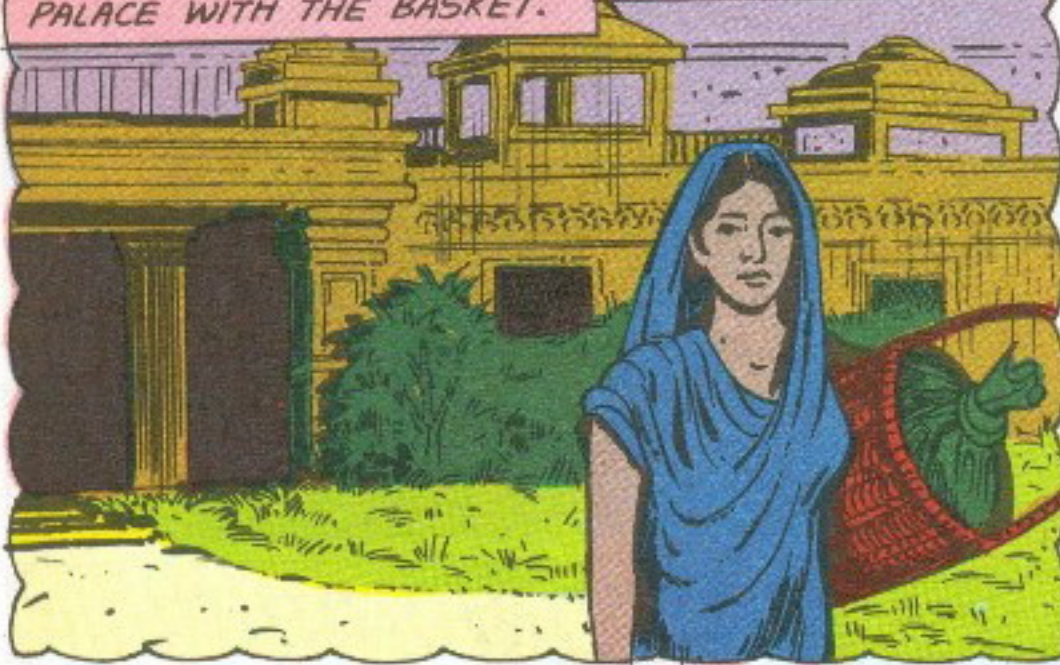
MAHAJANAKA RAN TO HIS MOTHER.



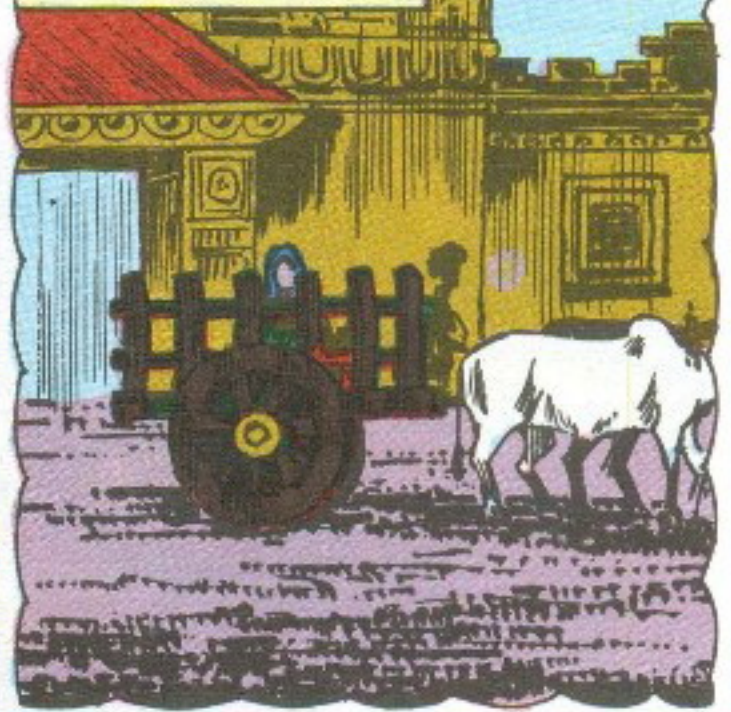




"AFTER THAT I CAST OFF MY ROYAL CLOTHES, DISGUISED MYSELF AS A MAID AND LEFT THE PALACE WITH THE BASKET."



"A CARTER BROUGHT ME HERE TO KALACHAMPA."



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



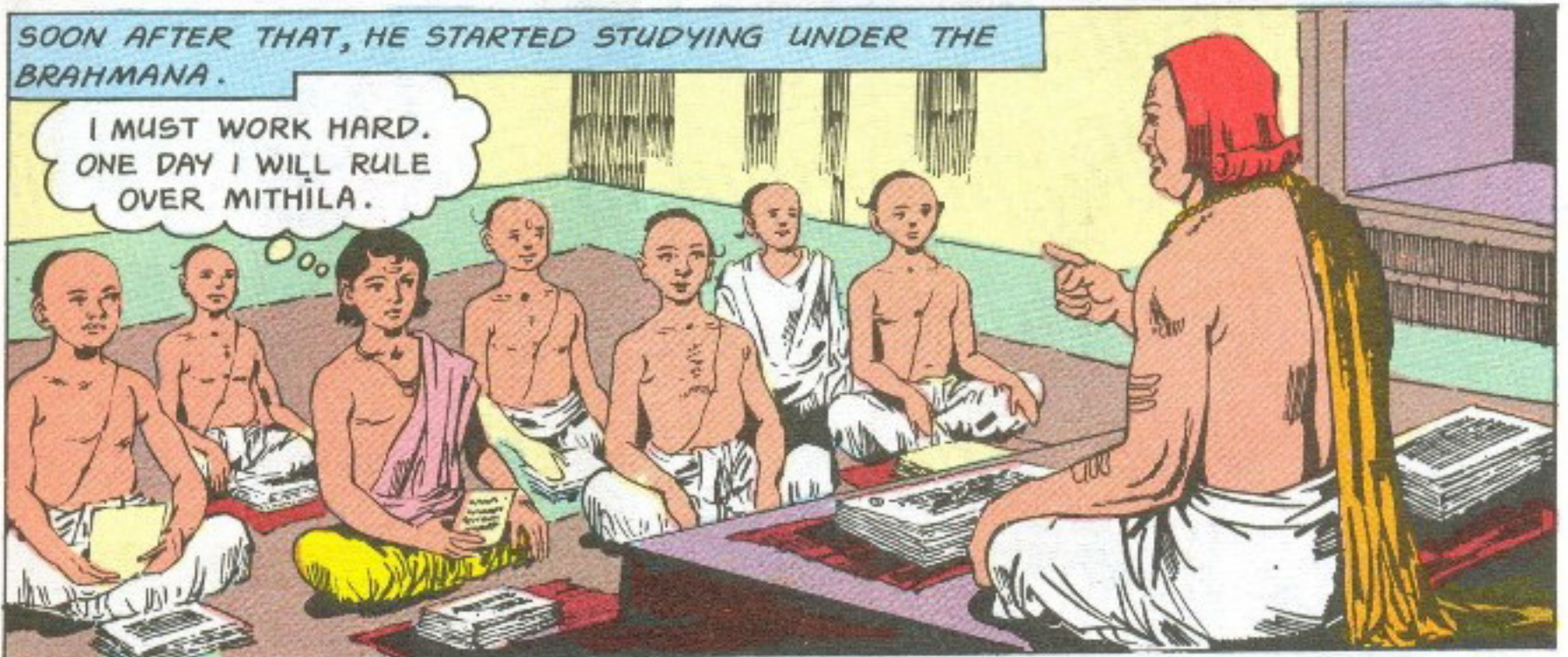
EVEN NOW I AM AFRAID OF OUR ENEMIES. NOBODY SHOULD KNOW WHO WE ARE.

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



SOON AFTER THAT, HE STARTED STUDYING UNDER THE BRAHMANA.

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



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

MOTHER, DO YOU HAVE ANY MONEY WITH YOU?

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

I WISH TO GO TO MITHILA TO CLAIM MY THRONE.

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

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

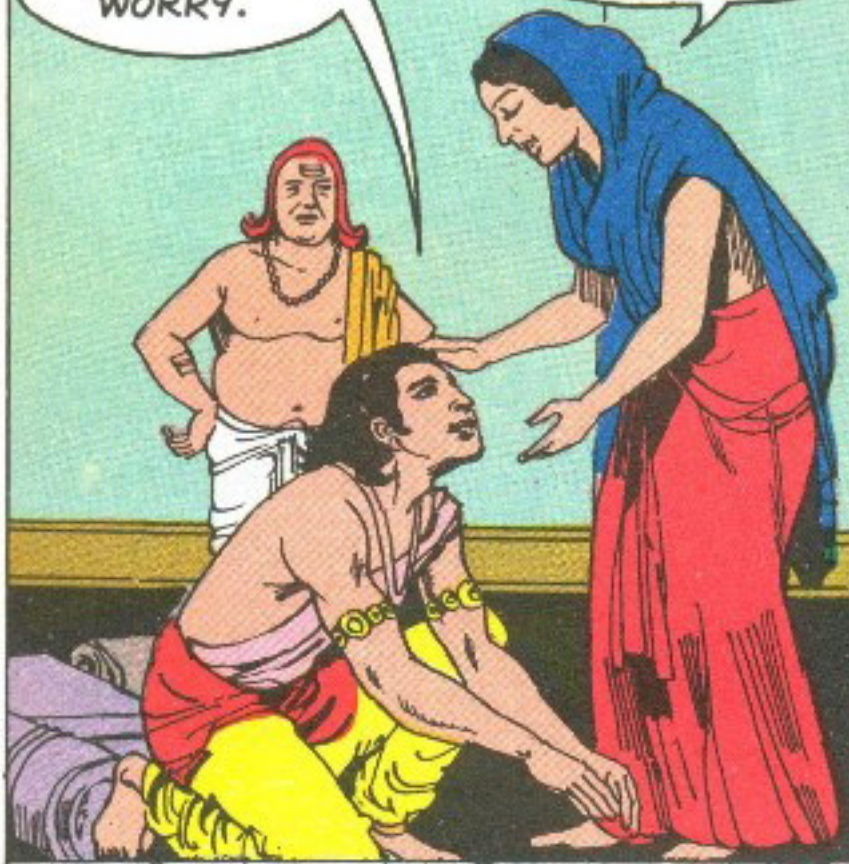
NO, MOTHER, NOT ALL. I SHALL TAKE HALF. THE REST YOU MUST KEEP.

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

SOON THE DAY OF DEPARTURE DAWNED.

MOTHER, BLESS ME! AND DON'T WORRY.

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, MY SON.

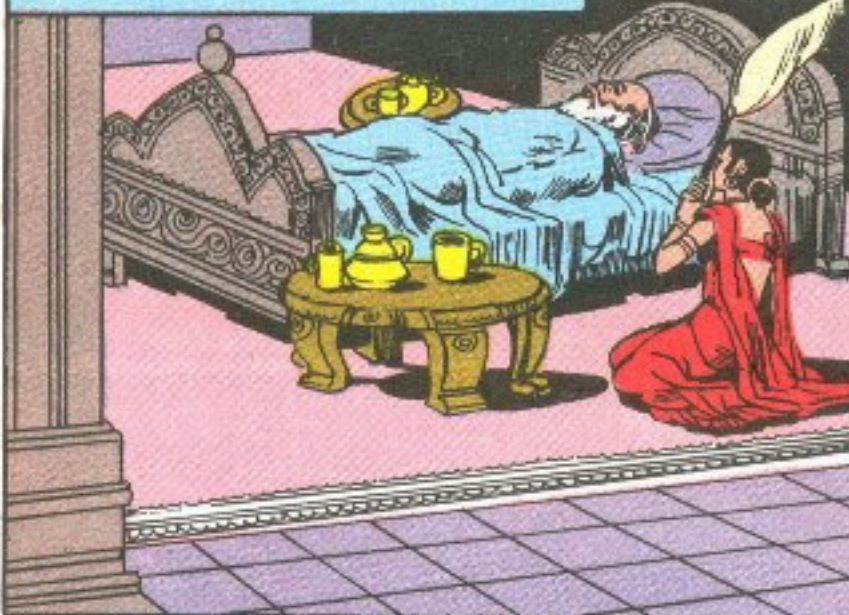


AS THE SHIP SET SAIL —

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



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



HIS MINISTERS WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM.

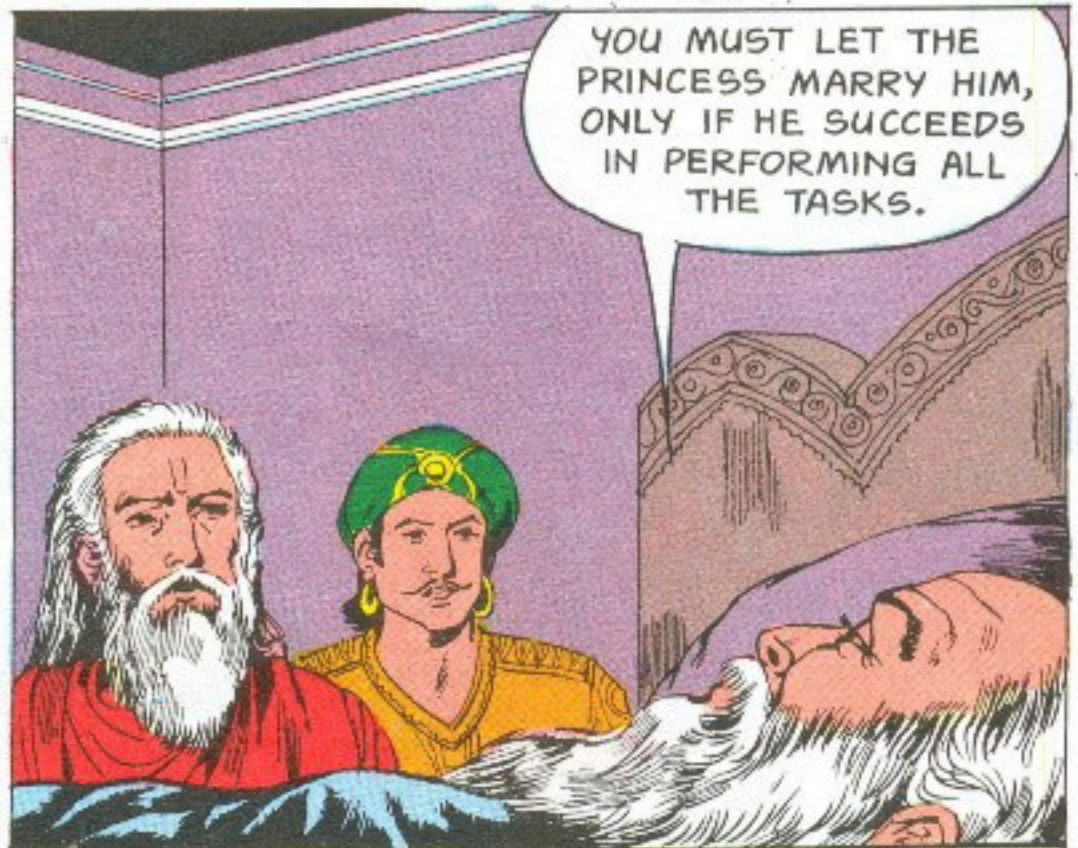
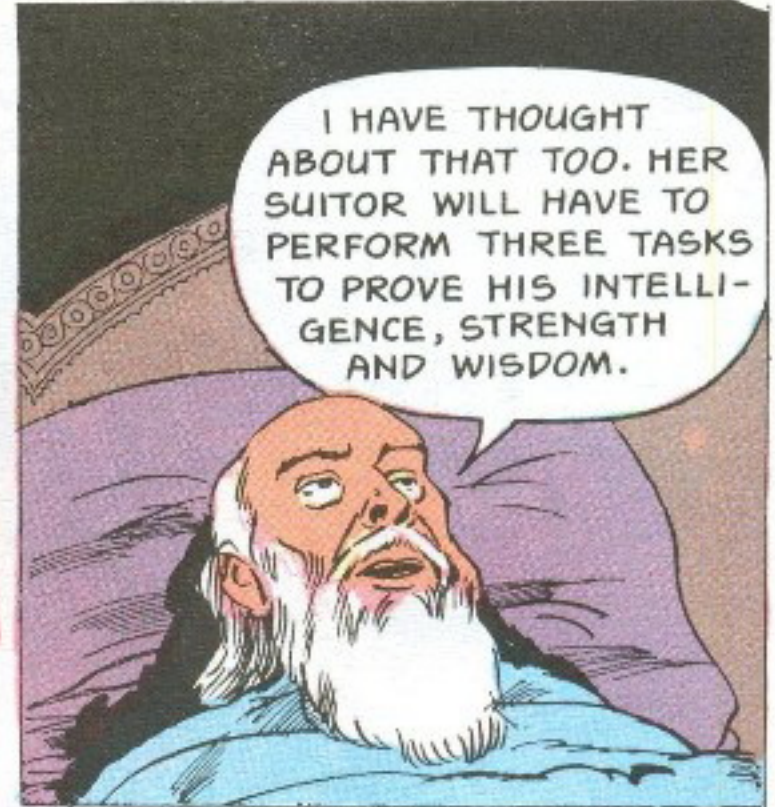
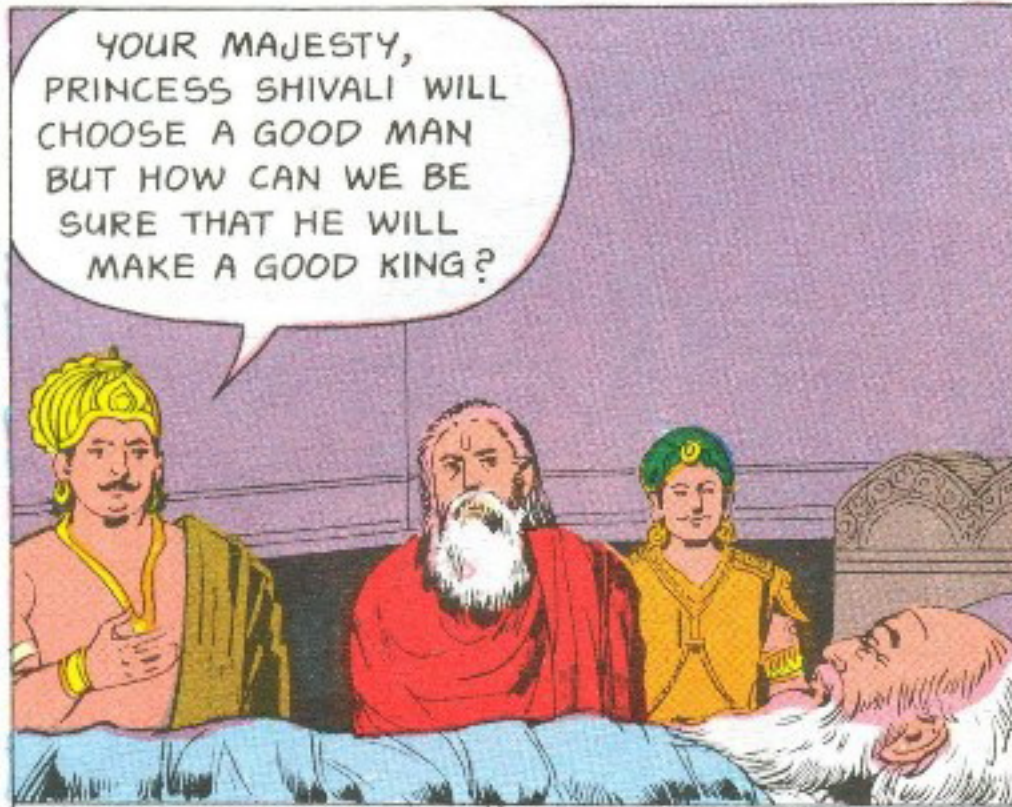
WHY DON'T WE ASK THE KING TO APPOINT A SUCCESSOR?



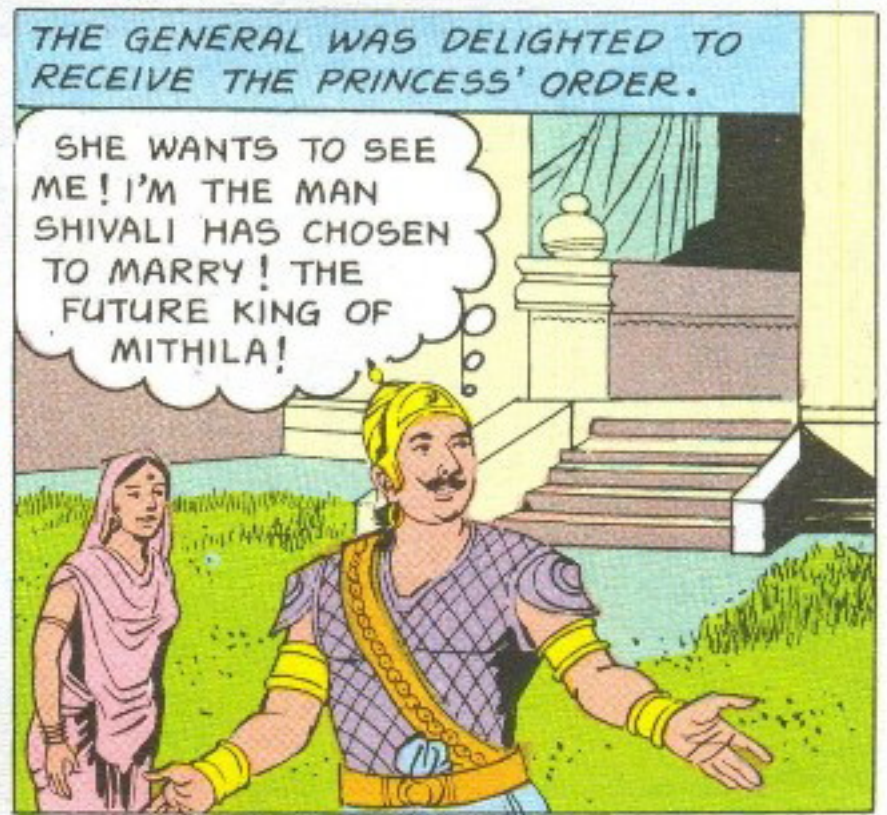
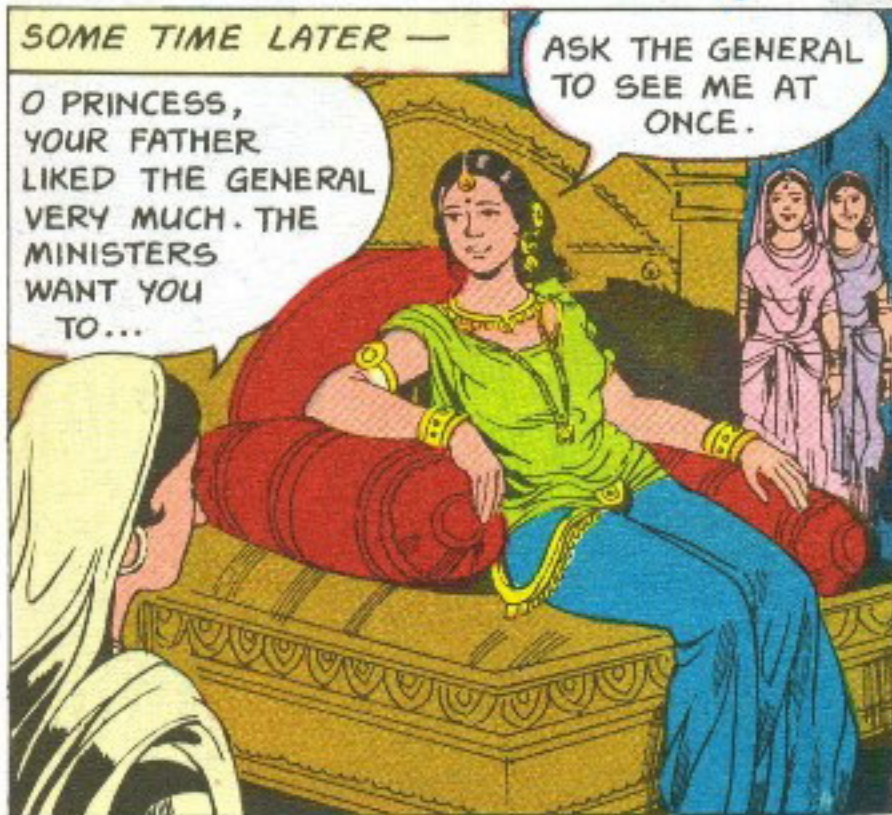
SO THEY WENT TO THE KING.

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





A FEW DAYS LATER THE KING DIED.



SOON THE GENERAL STOOD BEFORE HER.

I AM AT YOUR SERVICE, PRINCESS.

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ME?

OH! ANYTHING! YOUR WORD IS MY COMMAND!

AH! IS THAT SO?

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

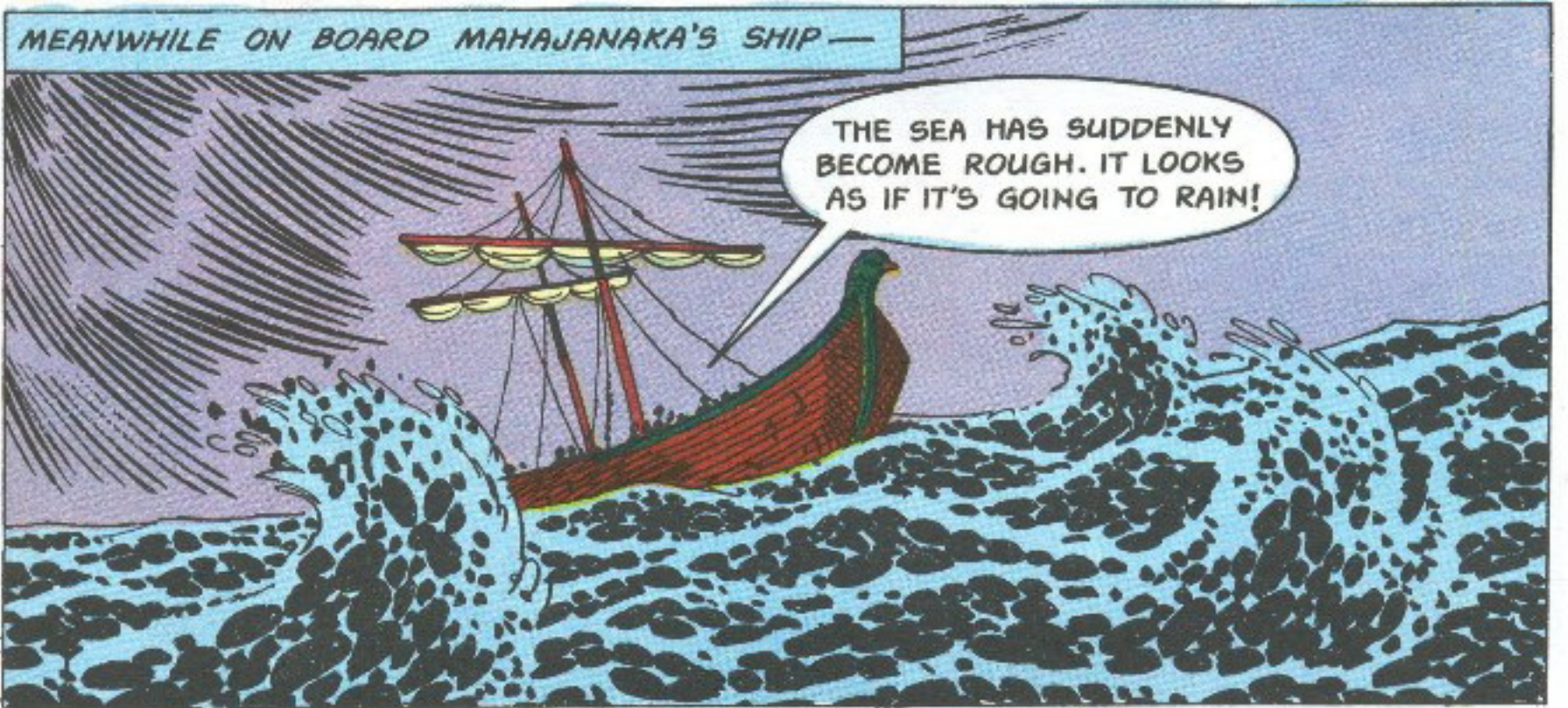
I COULD NEVER RESPECT THIS SERVILE CREATURE!

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

WHEN THE GENERAL RETURNED TO THE MINISTERS —

WHAT HAPPENED? YOU LOOK CREST-FALLEN!

THAT GIRL IS HARD TO PLEASE!



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

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



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

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



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

WHAT'S
THIS
I HEAR!

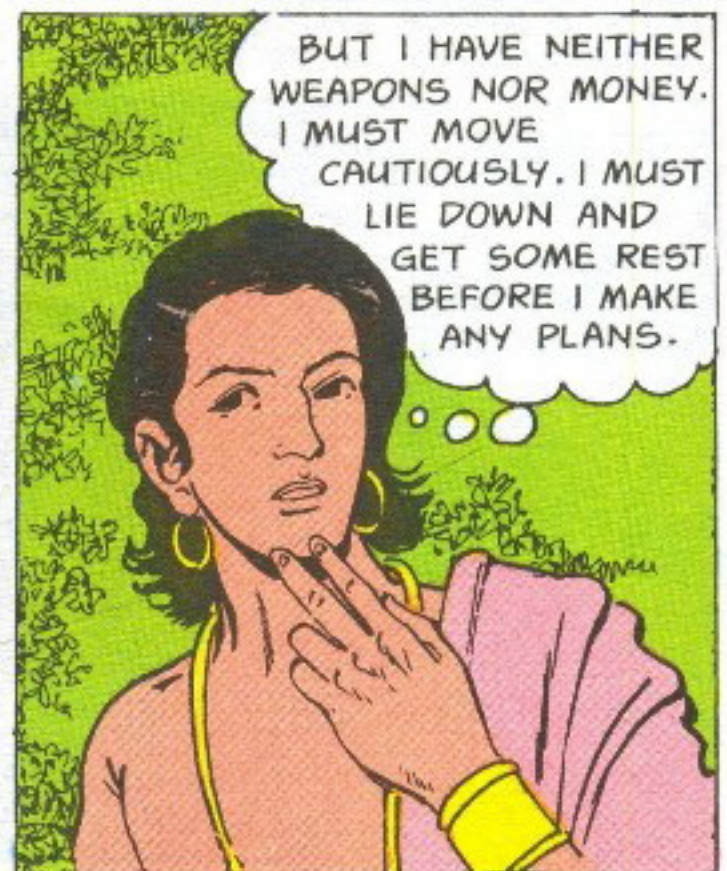


...AND SO MITHILA
IS STILL WITHOUT
A KING!

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



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



AT THE PALACE, MEANWHILE —

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

FOR HOW LONG CAN THE KINGDOM REMAIN WITHOUT A KING ?

PERHAPS, THE ROYAL PRIEST CAN HELP US.



WHEN THEY CONSULTED THE ROYAL PRIEST —

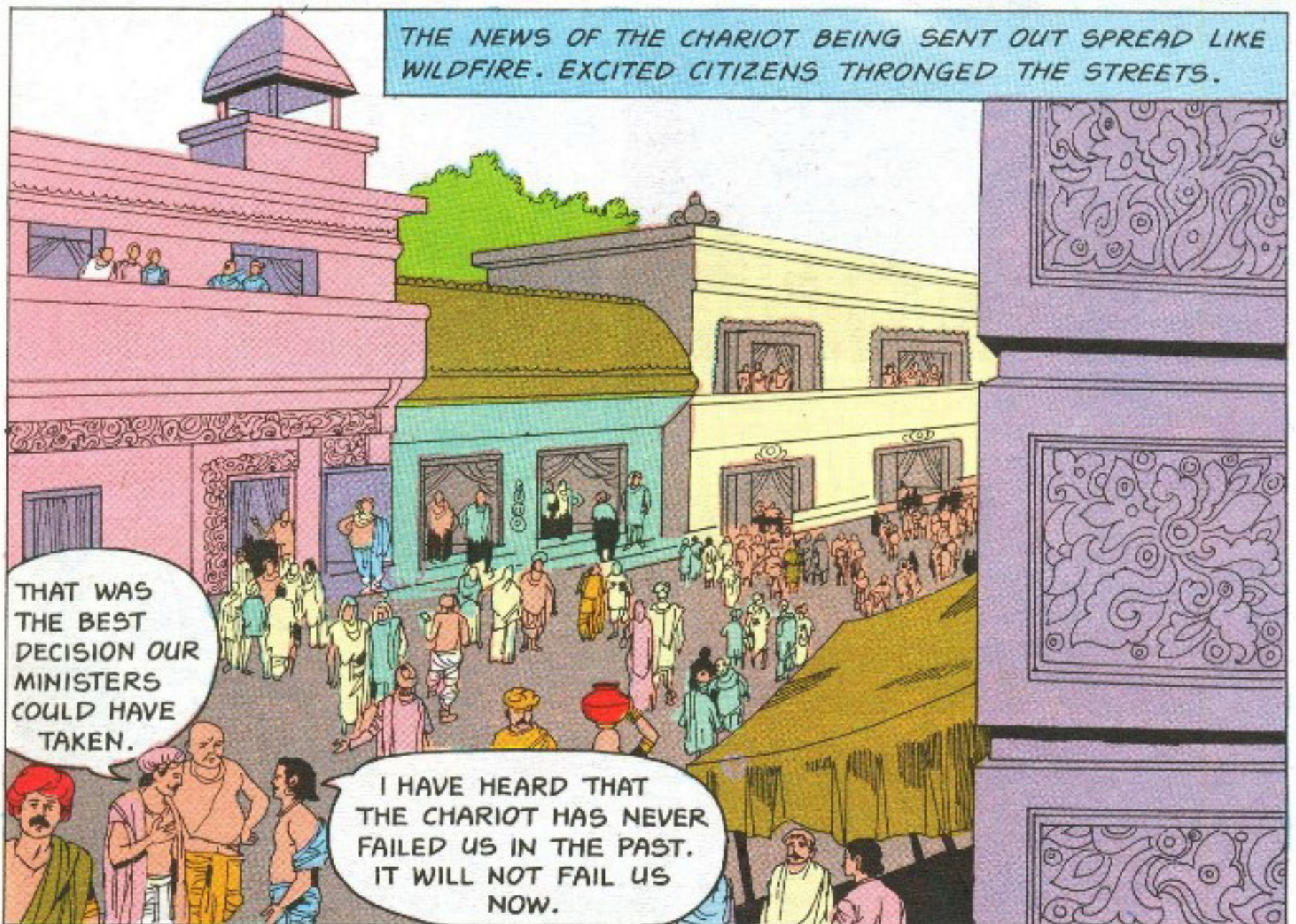
SEND OUT THE SACRED CHARIOT. IT WILL LEAD US TO THE RIGHT MAN.



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

THAT WAS THE BEST DECISION OUR MINISTERS COULD HAVE TAKEN.

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

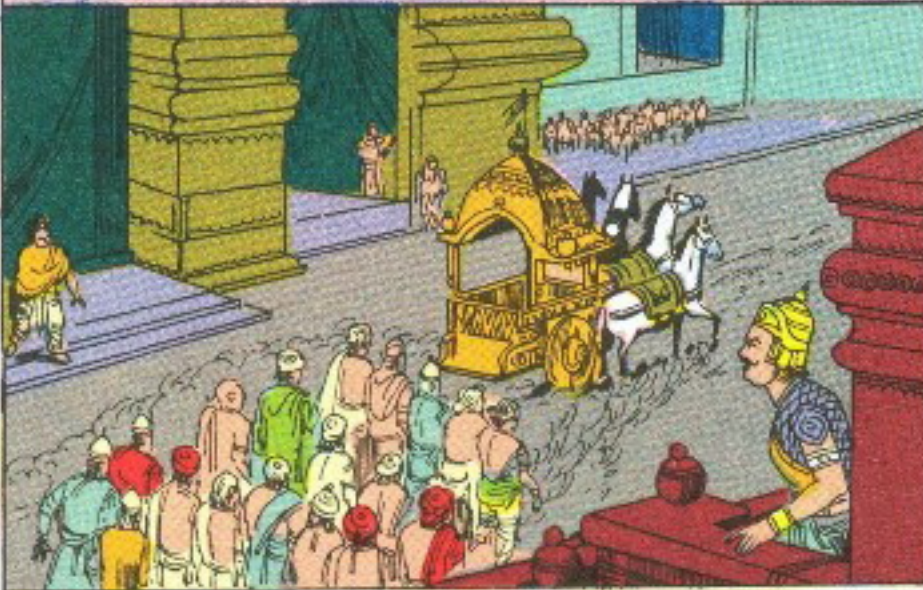


AT THE AUSPICIOUS HOUR THE ROYAL PRIEST STOOD BEFORE THE CHARIOT.

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



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

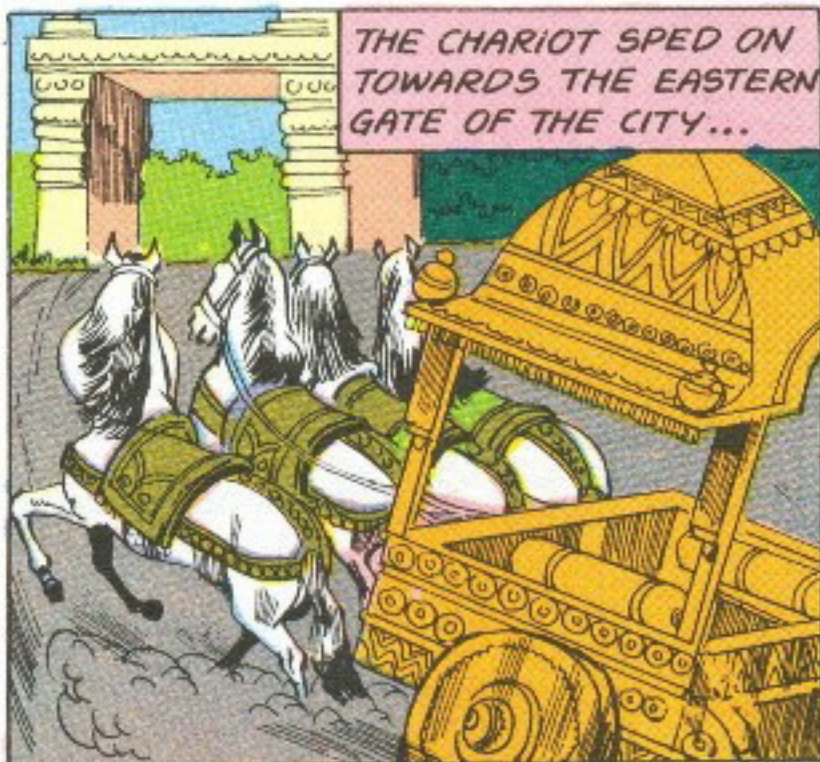


SUDDENLY THE HORSES BROKE INTO A GALLOP.

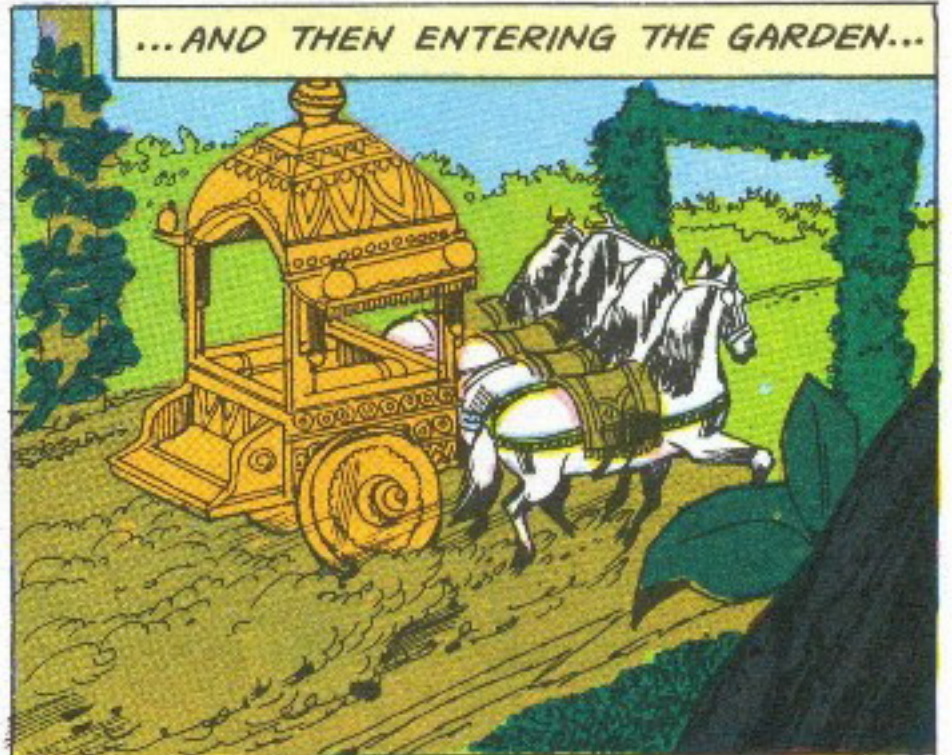
DON'T TRY TO SLOW THEM DOWN. WE'LL KEEP PACE WITH THEM.



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

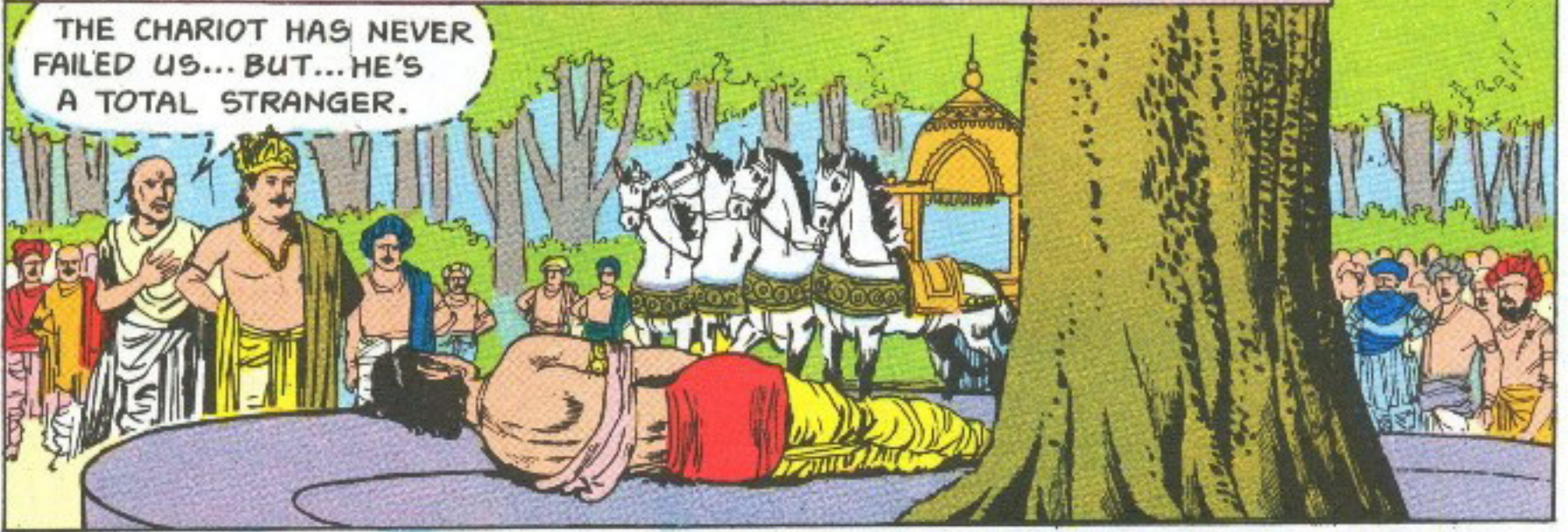


...AND THEN ENTERING THE GARDEN...

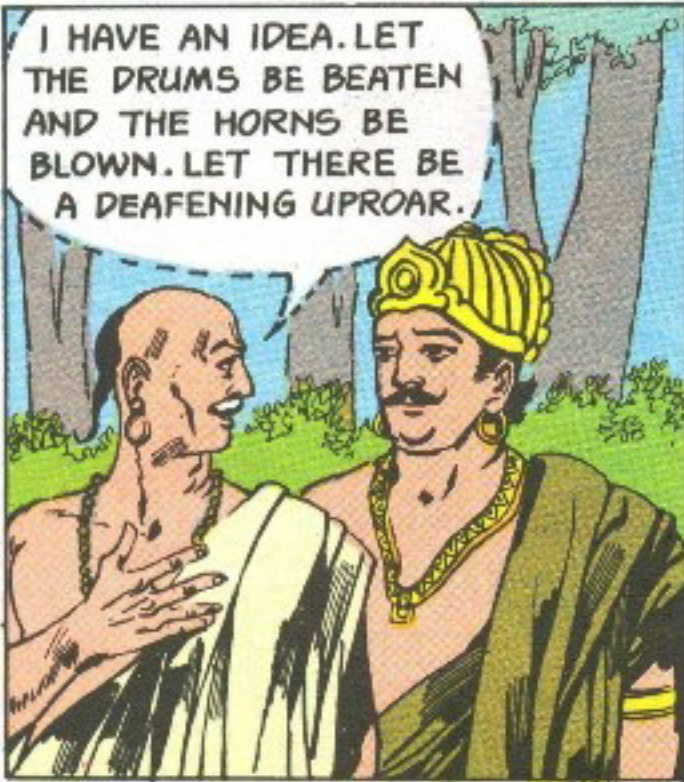


...CAME TO A HALT NEAR THE SPOT WHERE MAHAJANAKA LAY SLEEPING.

THE 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.

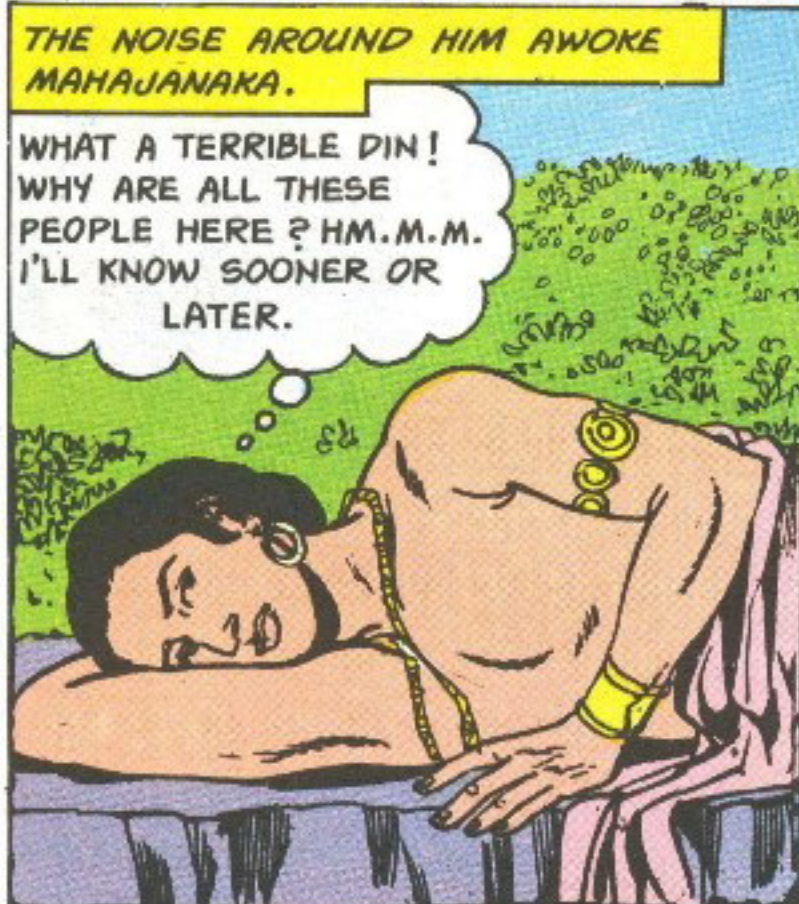


HOW HE WAKES UP, WHAT HE DOES AND SAYS, WILL TELL US MUCH ABOUT HIM. HE'S STIRRING!

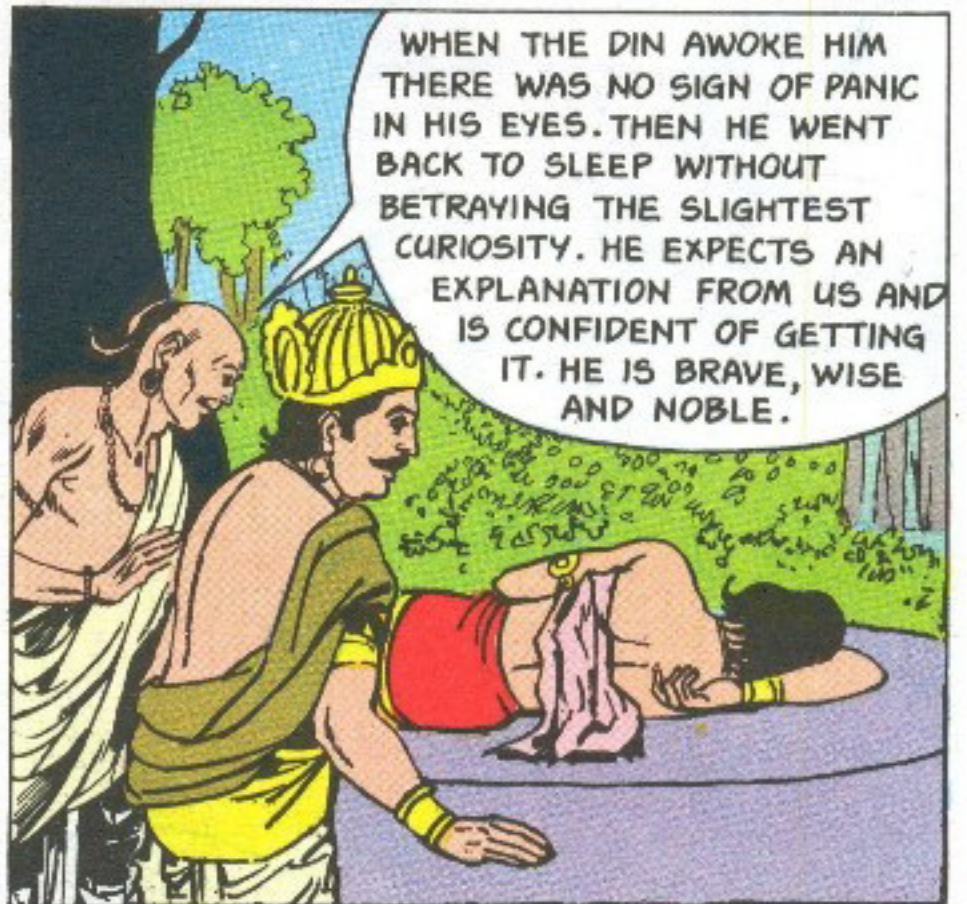


THE NOISE AROUND HIM AWOKE MAHAJANAKA.

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!

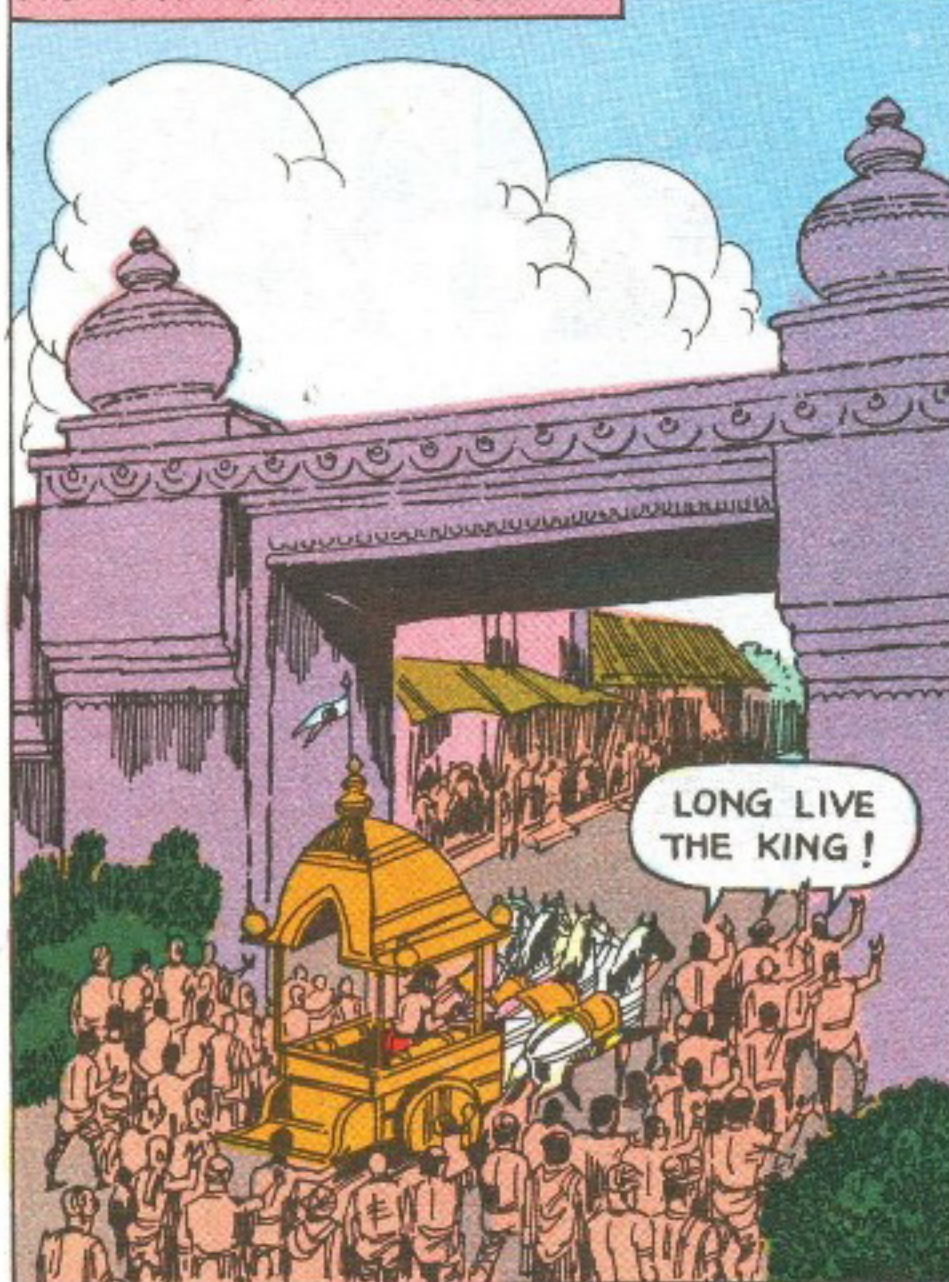
WHEN MAHAJANAKA SAT UP, THE PRIEST EXPLAINED ALL TO HIM.

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.



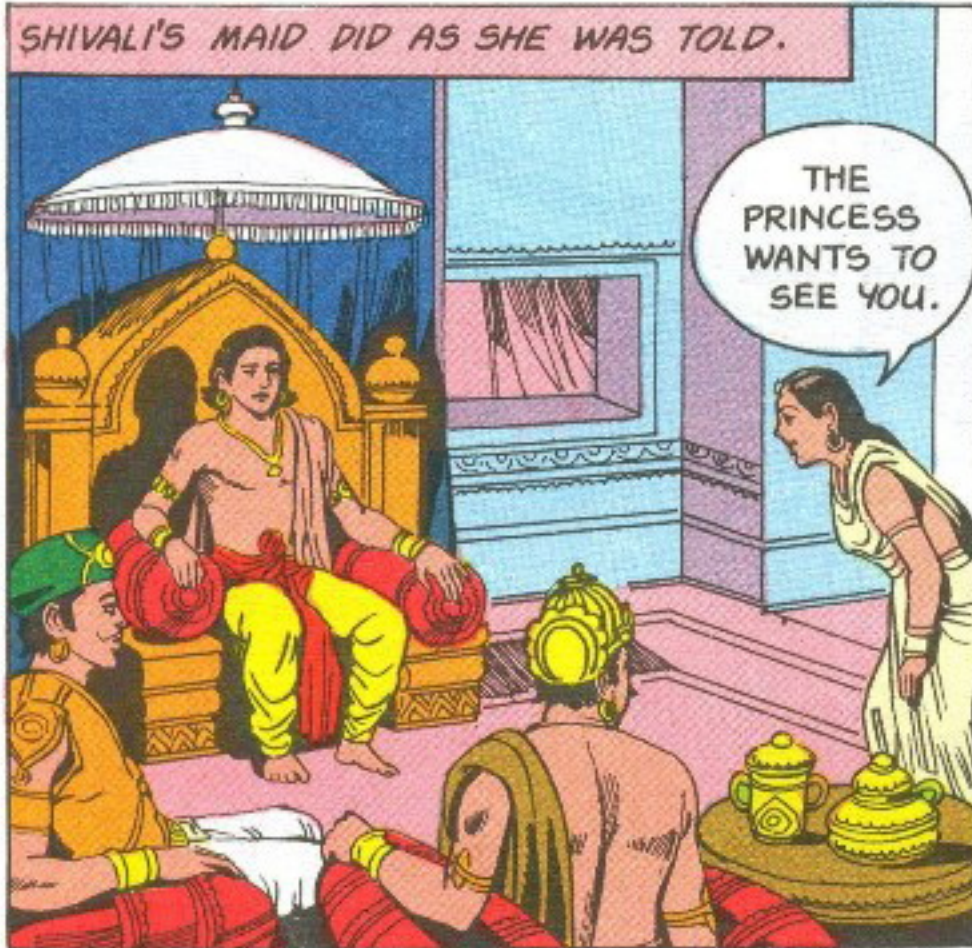
LONG LIVE THE KING!

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.

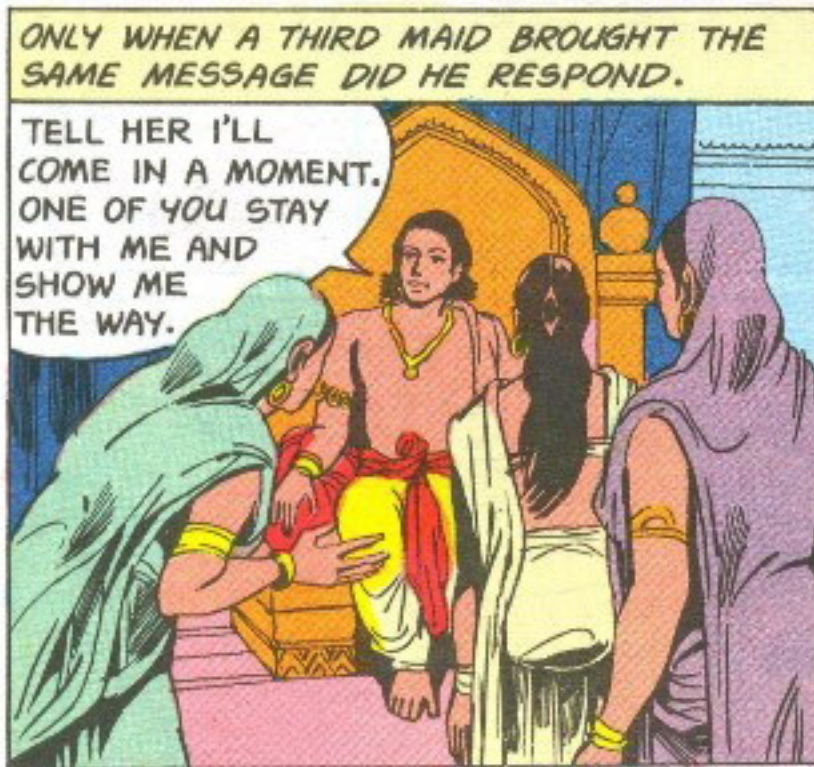
SHIVALI'S MAID DID AS SHE WAS TOLD.



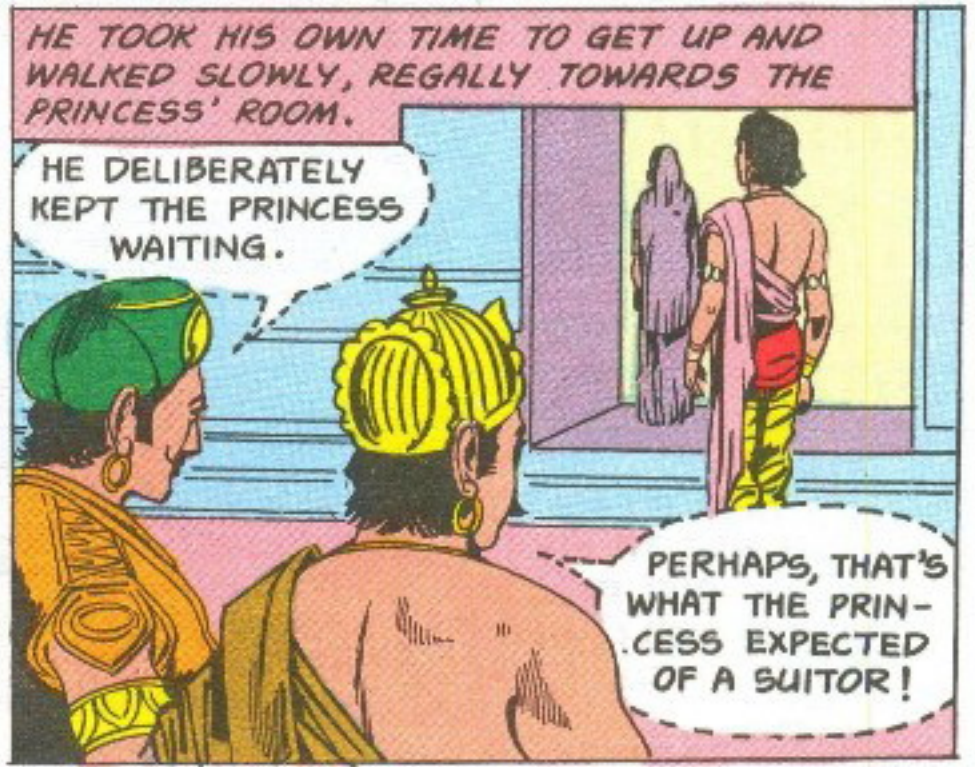
BUT MAHAJANAKA DID NOT MOVE. SOON ANOTHER MAID CAME IN.



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

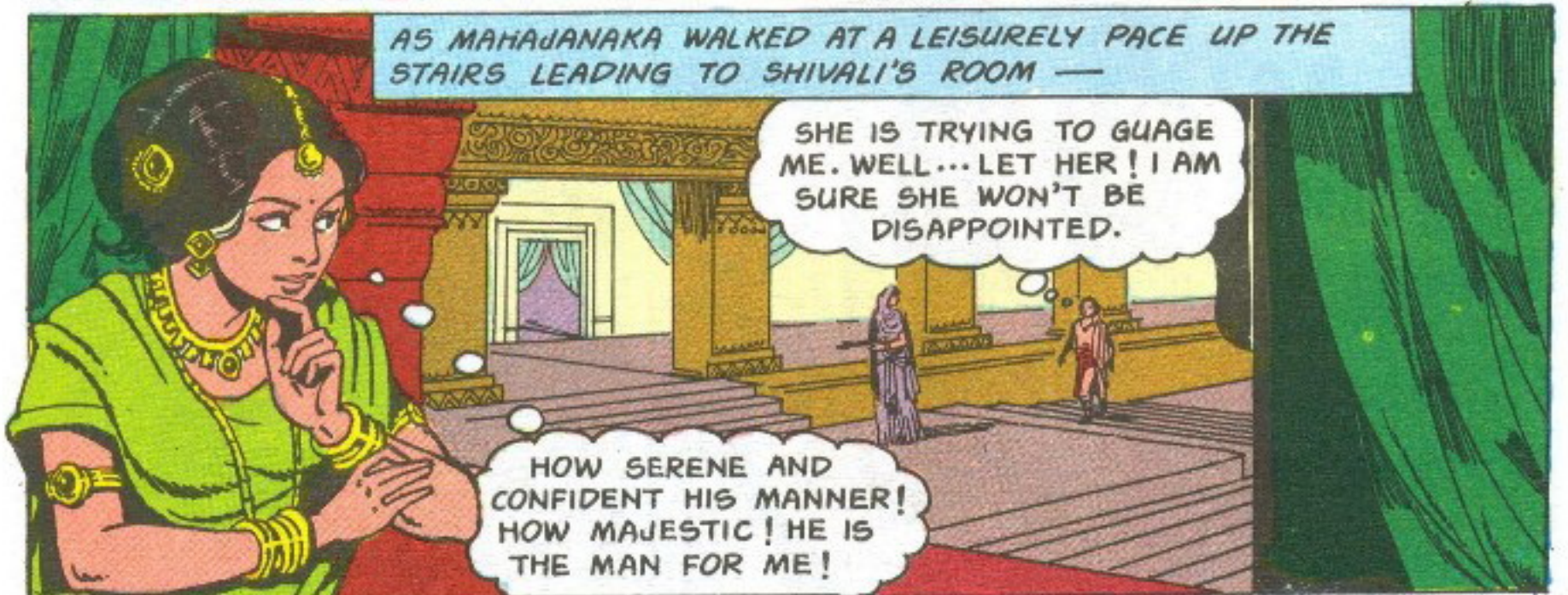


HE TOOK HIS OWN TIME TO GET UP AND WALKED SLOWLY, REGALLY TOWARDS THE PRINCESS' ROOM.



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 —



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

SHE CAME OUT TO GREET HIM.

WELCOME,
MY LORD!

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

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

WHEN THE MINISTERS CAME —

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

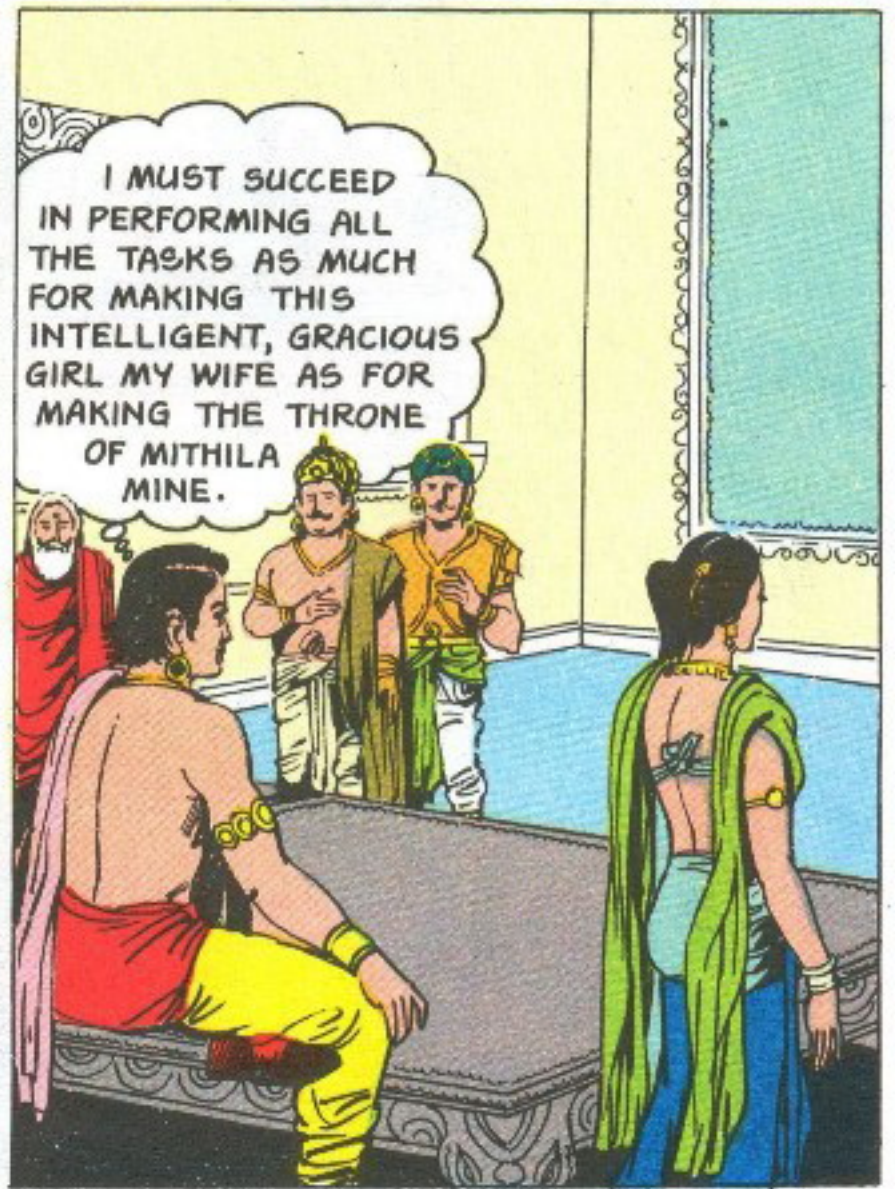
THE
CHARIOT WAS
RIGHT AS
USUAL.

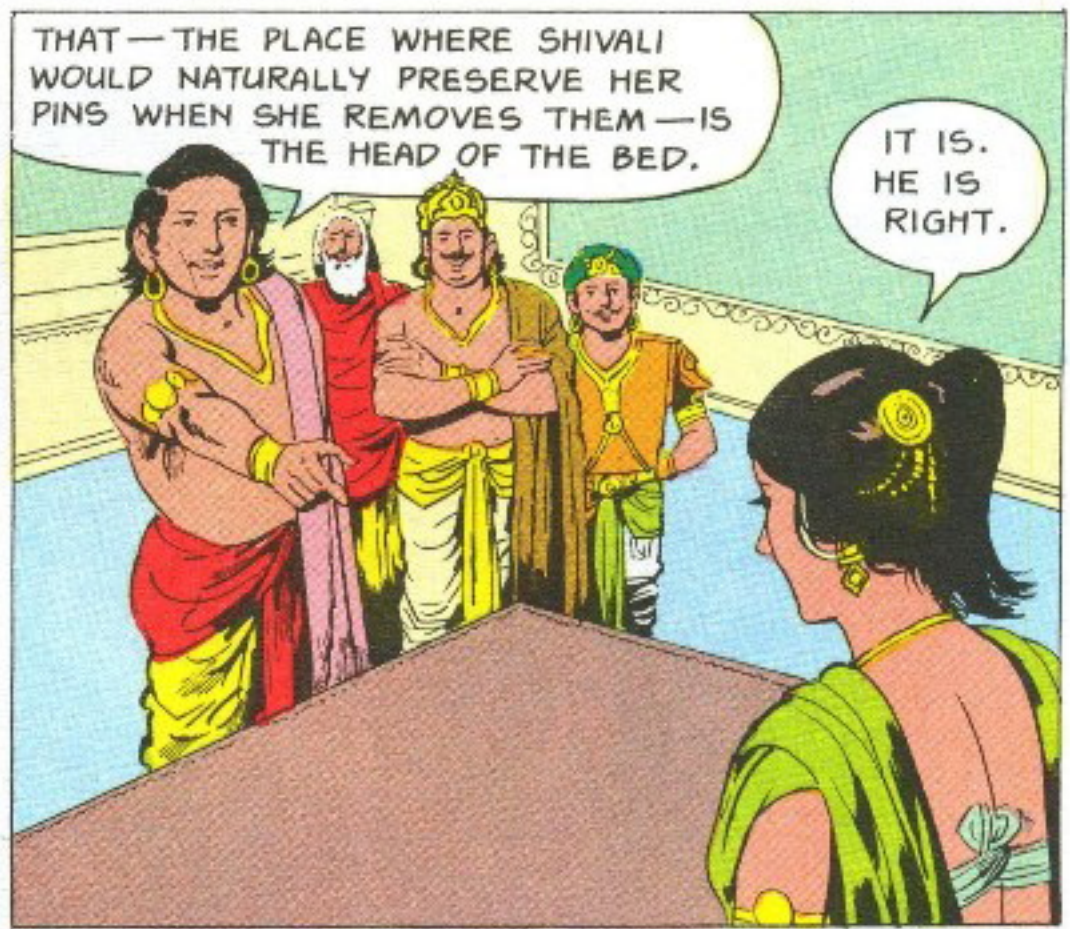
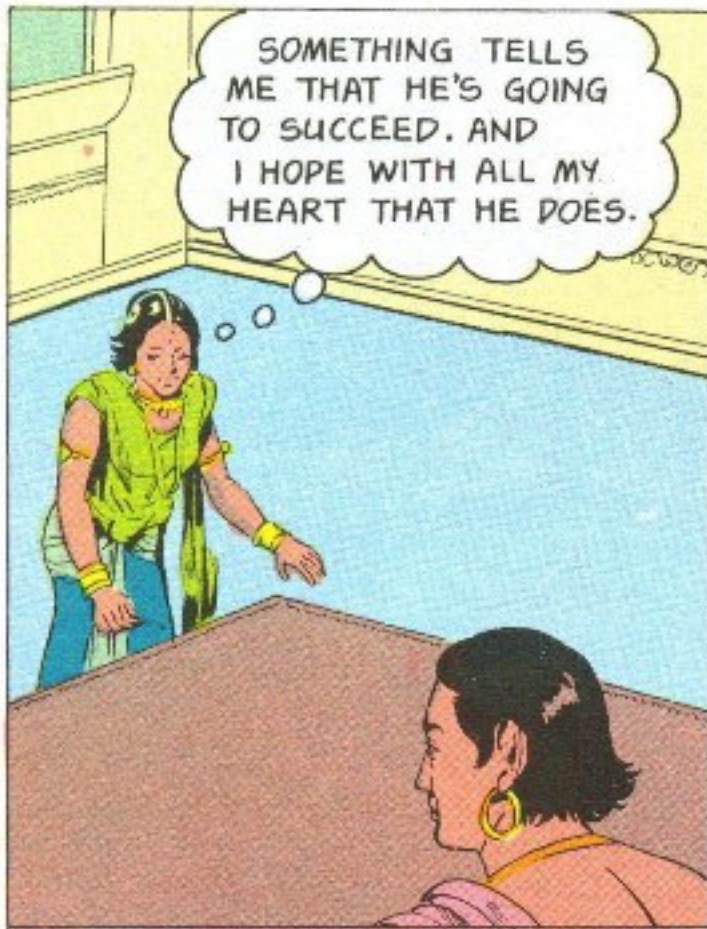
NOW FOR THE
TASKS. FIRST
YOU WILL HAVE
TO FIND THE
HEAD OF A
SQUARE BED.

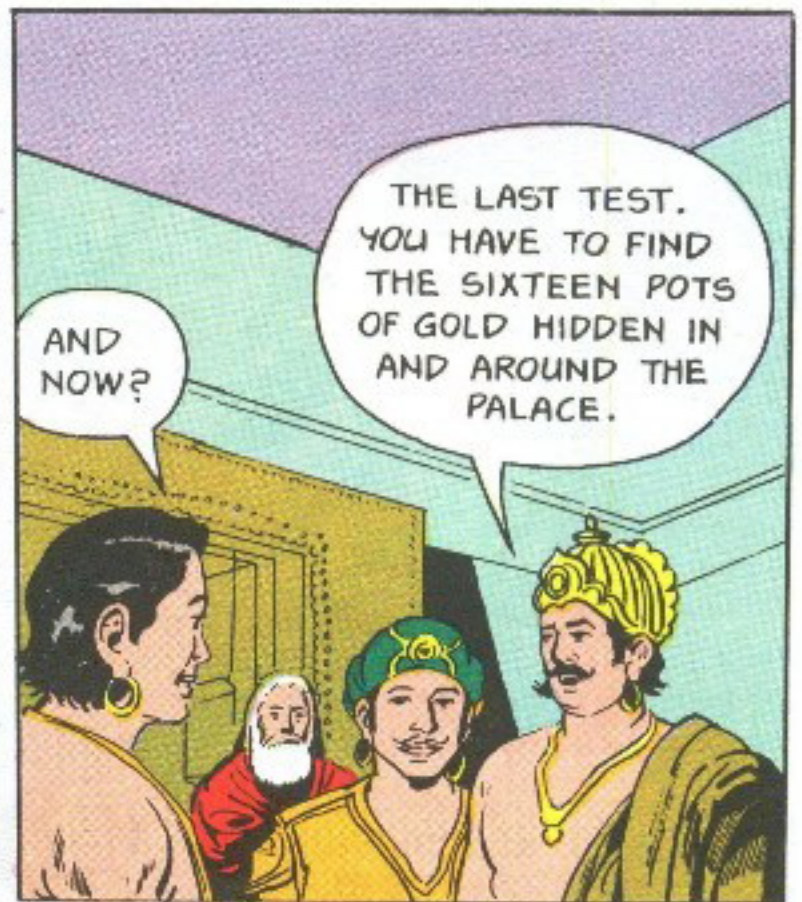
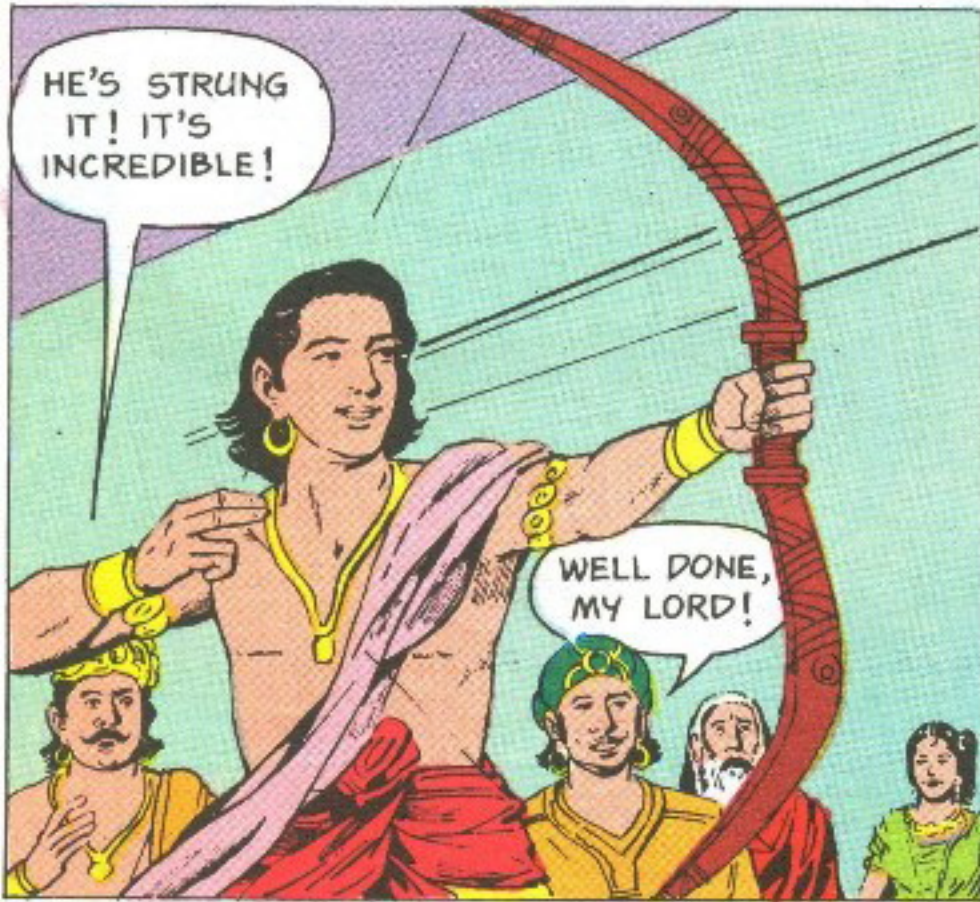
IS THAT
ALL?

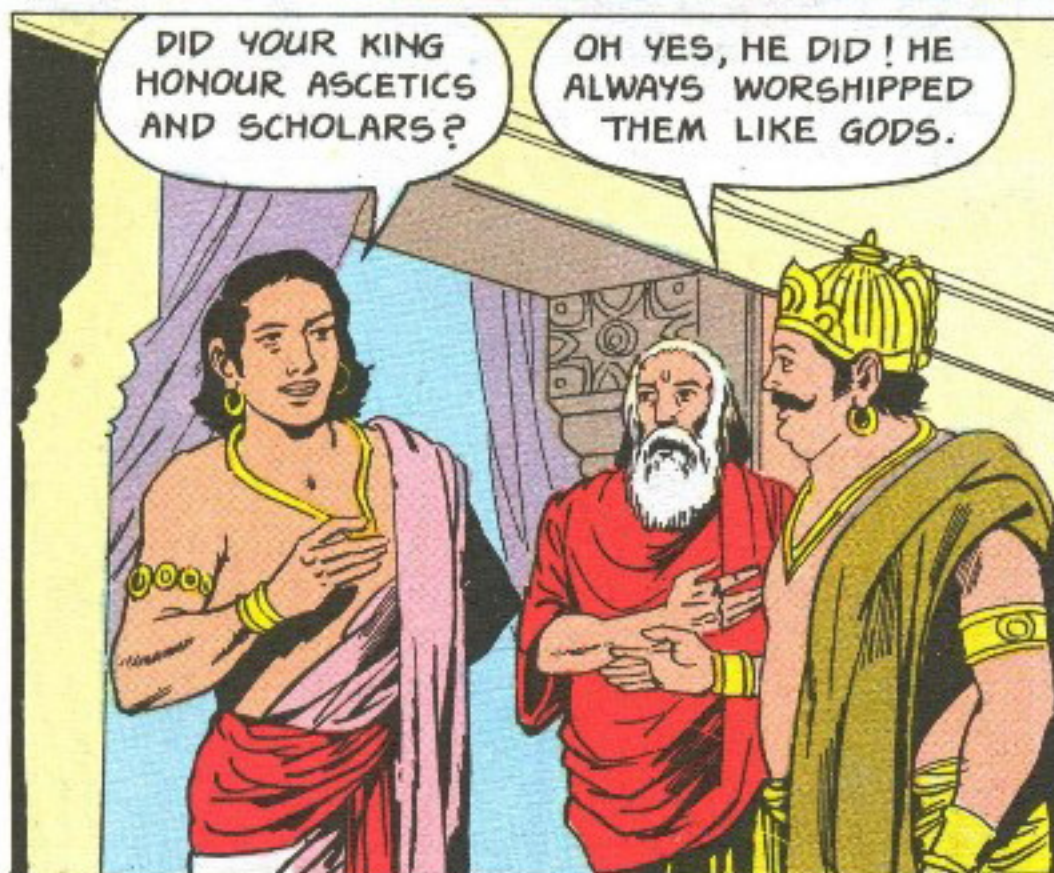
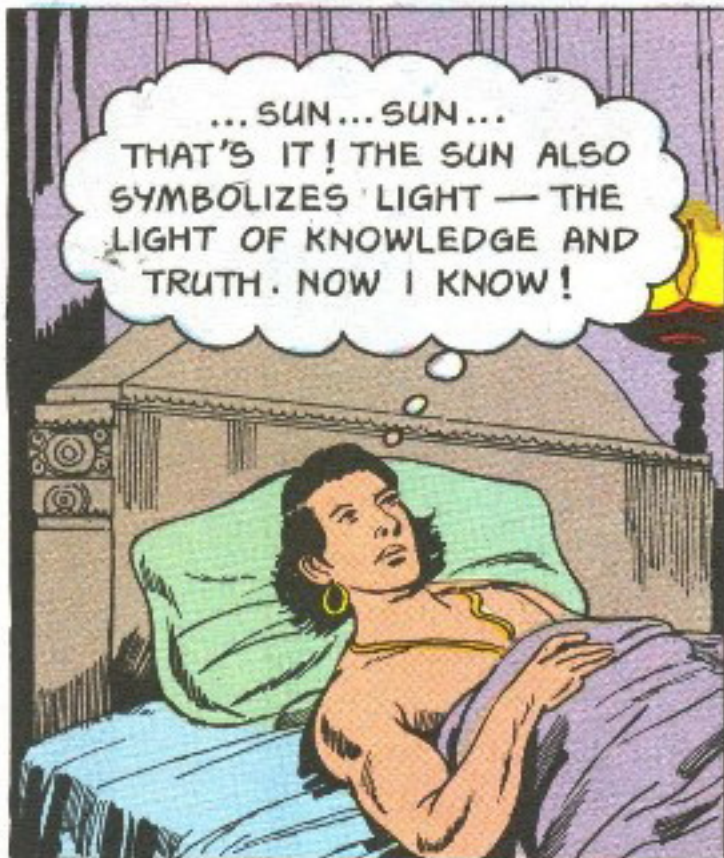
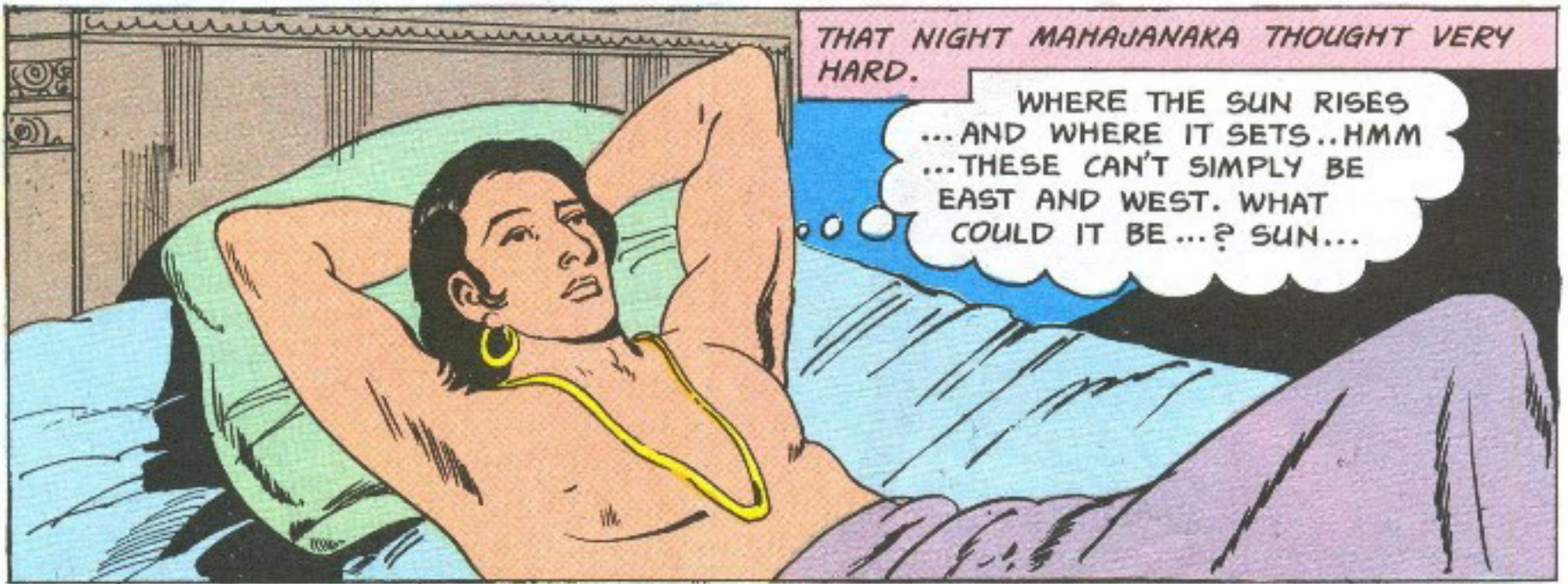


HE SAT DOWN ON THE BED AND HELD OUT A PIN.

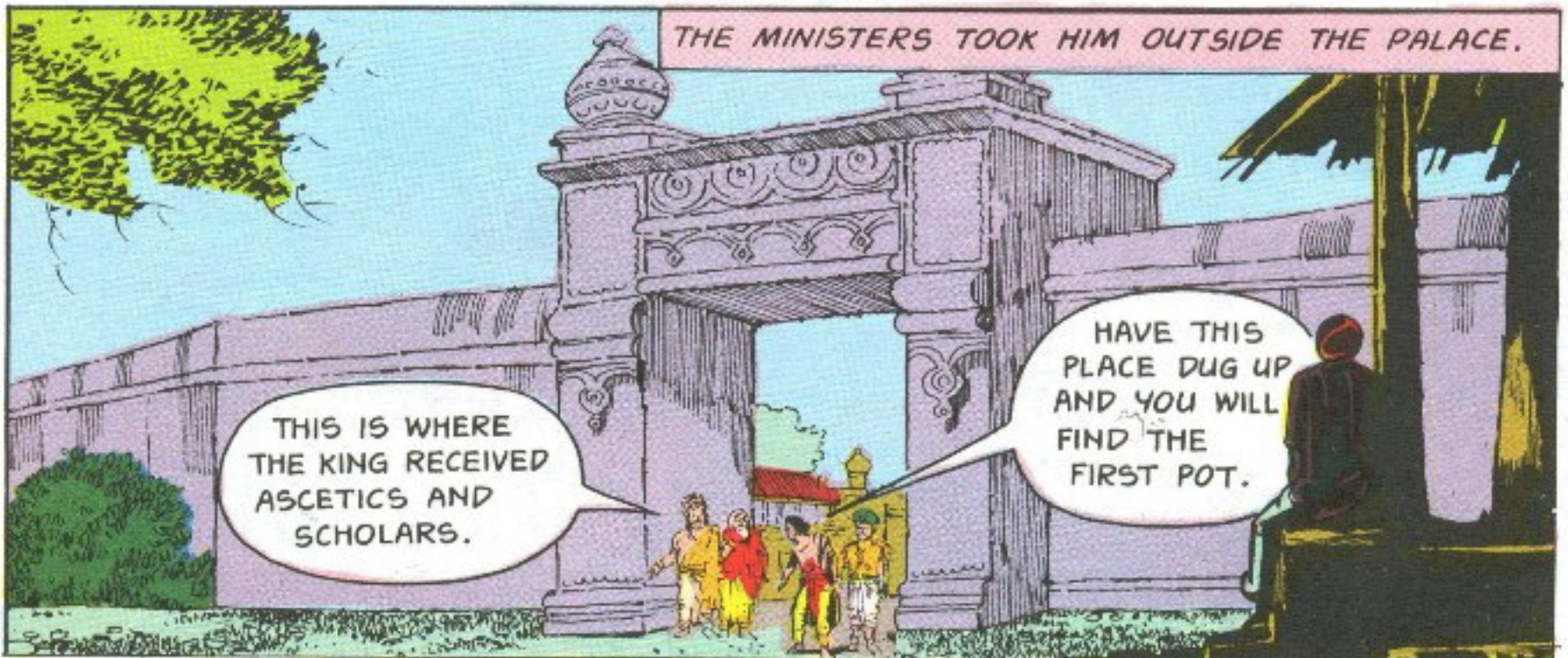




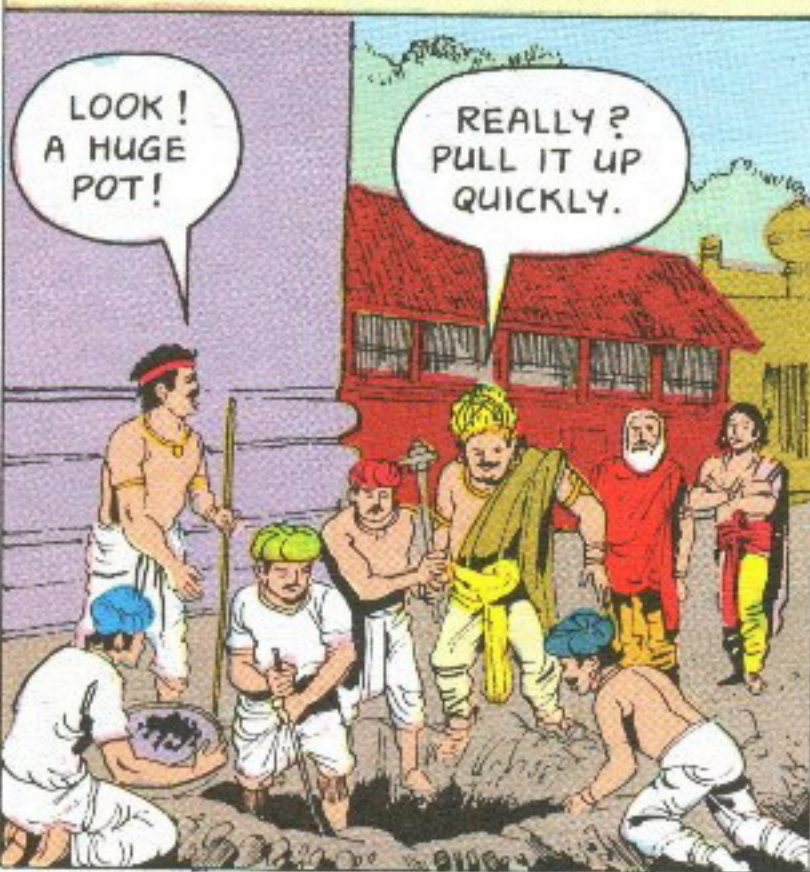




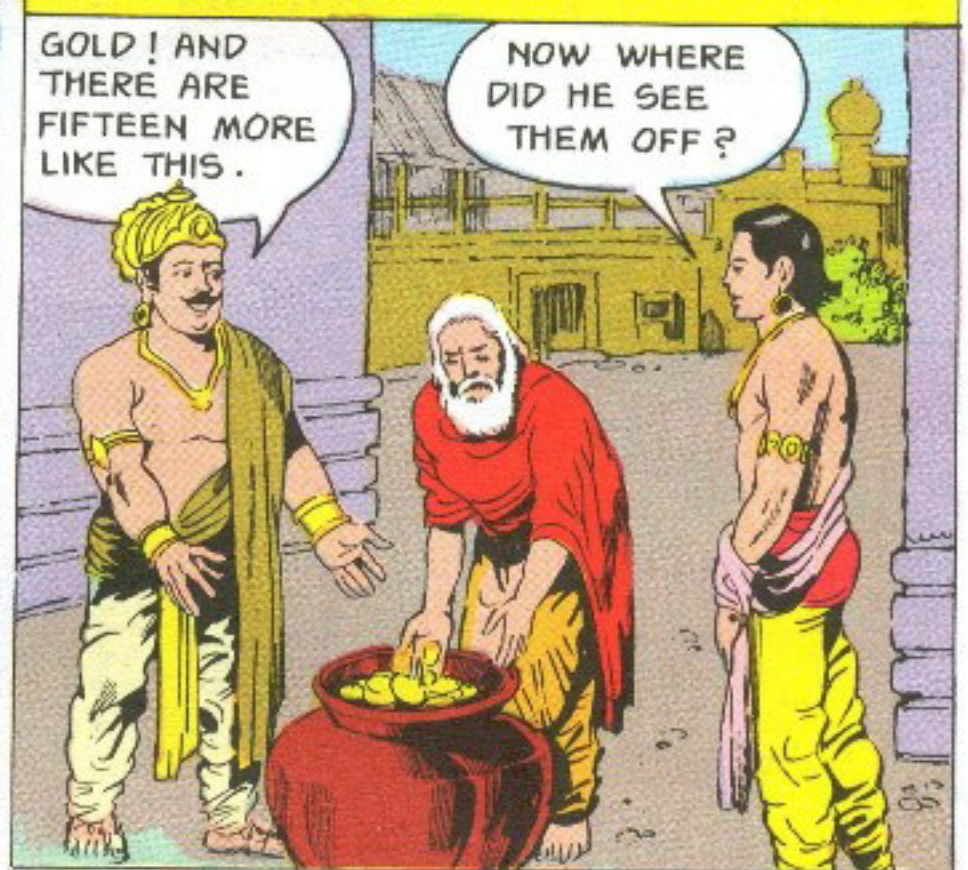
THE MINISTERS TOOK HIM OUTSIDE THE PALACE.



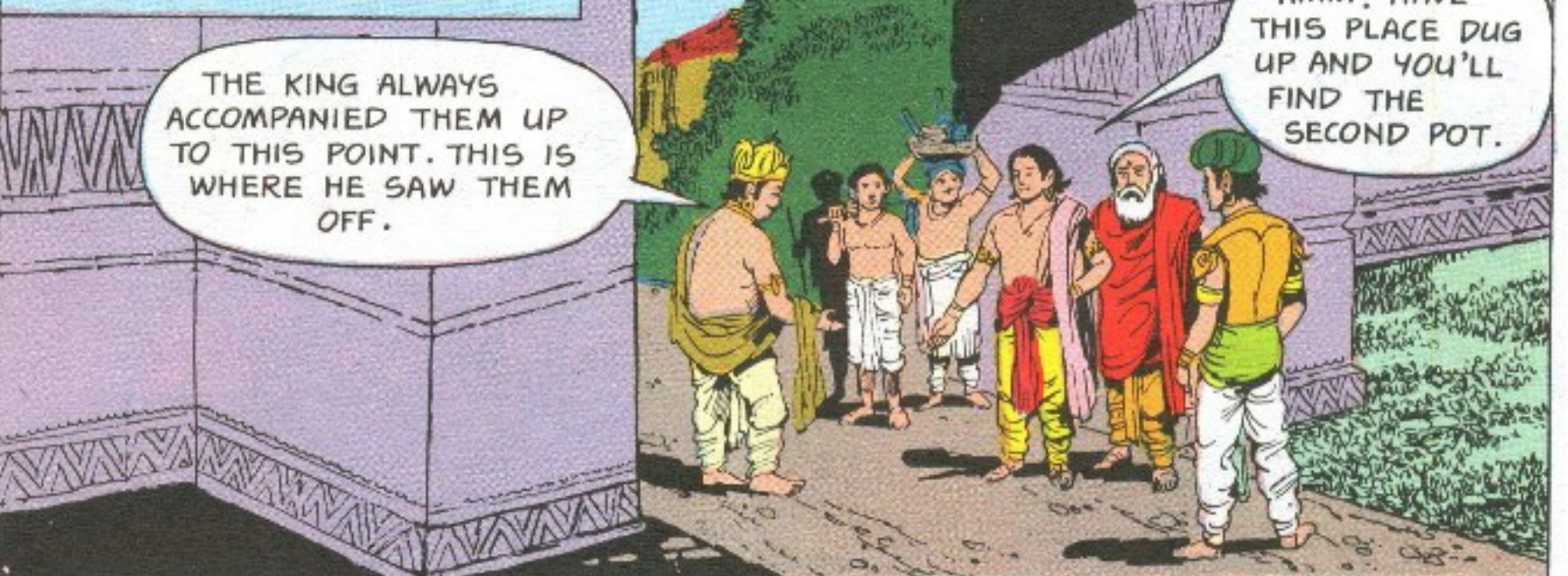
THE PLACE WAS DUG UP. SOON —



THE POT WAS LIFTED UP AND OPENED.



THEY TOOK HIM TO THE SPOT.



AND TRUE ENOUGH THEY DID.

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

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

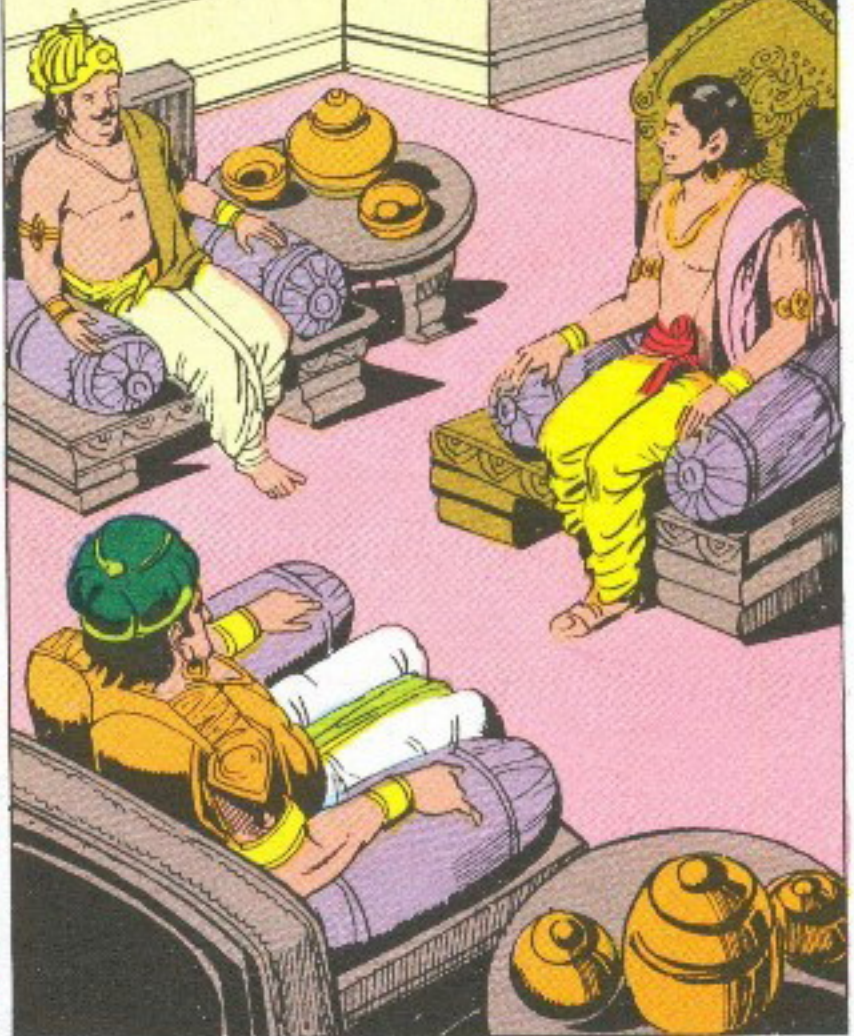


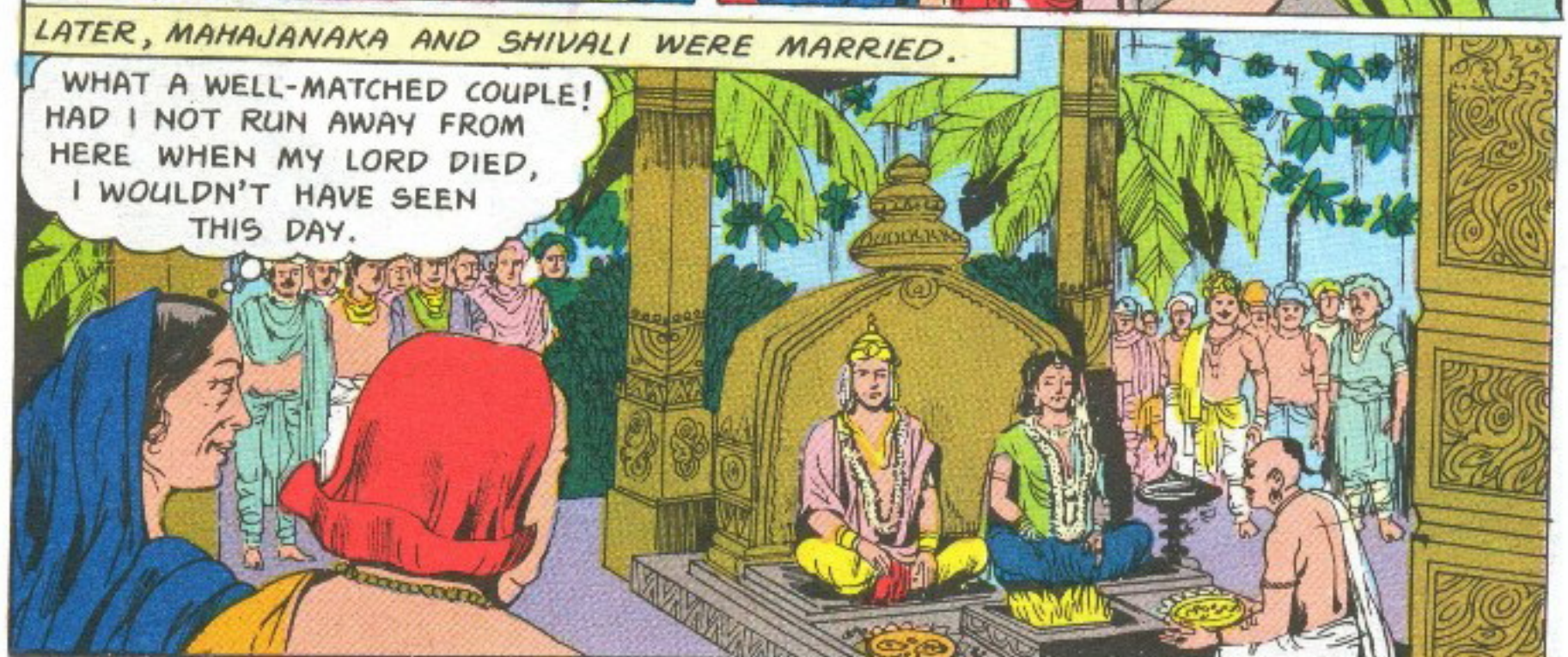
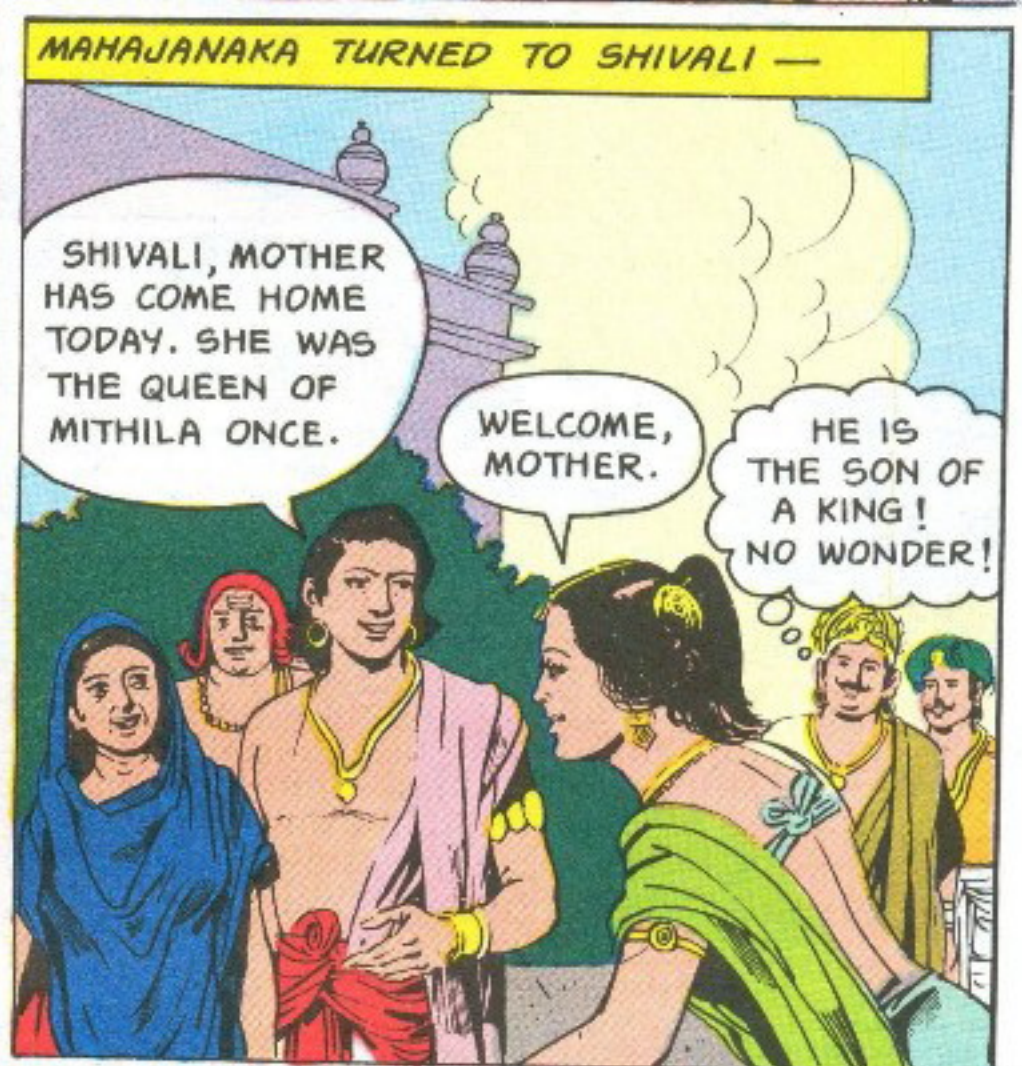
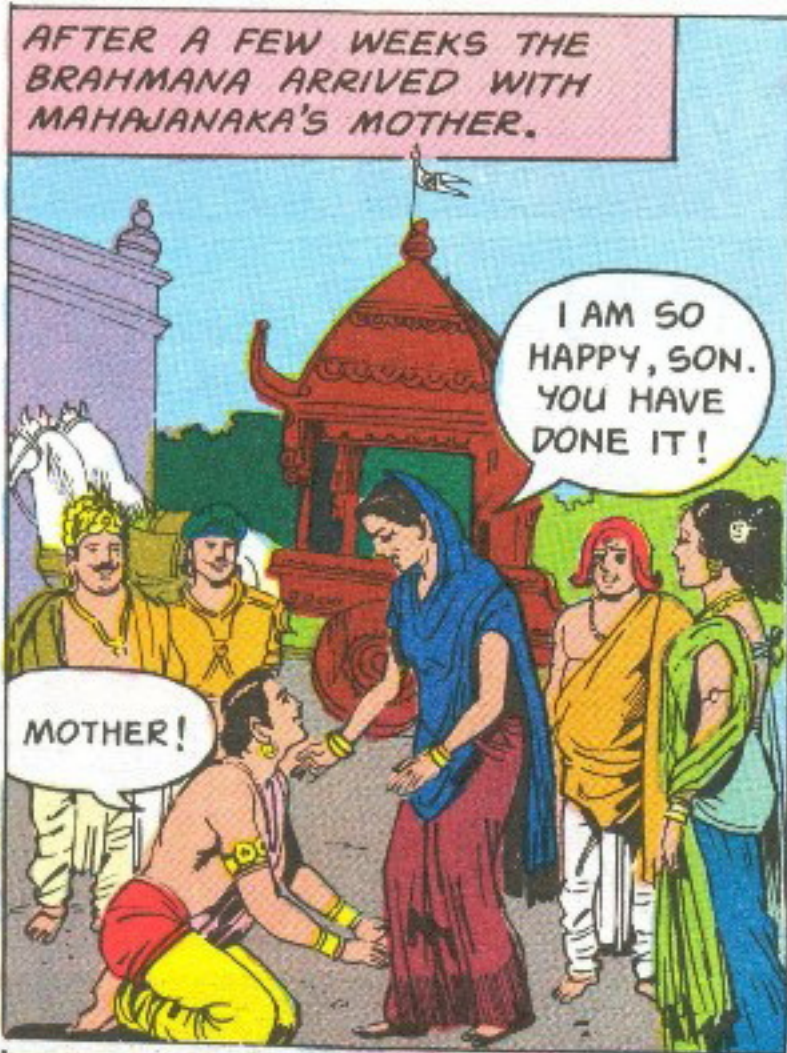
AFTER THIS MAHAJANAKA DECIPHERED THE REMAINING CLUES ONE AFTER THE OTHER AND ALL THE SIXTEEN POTS WERE FOUND.



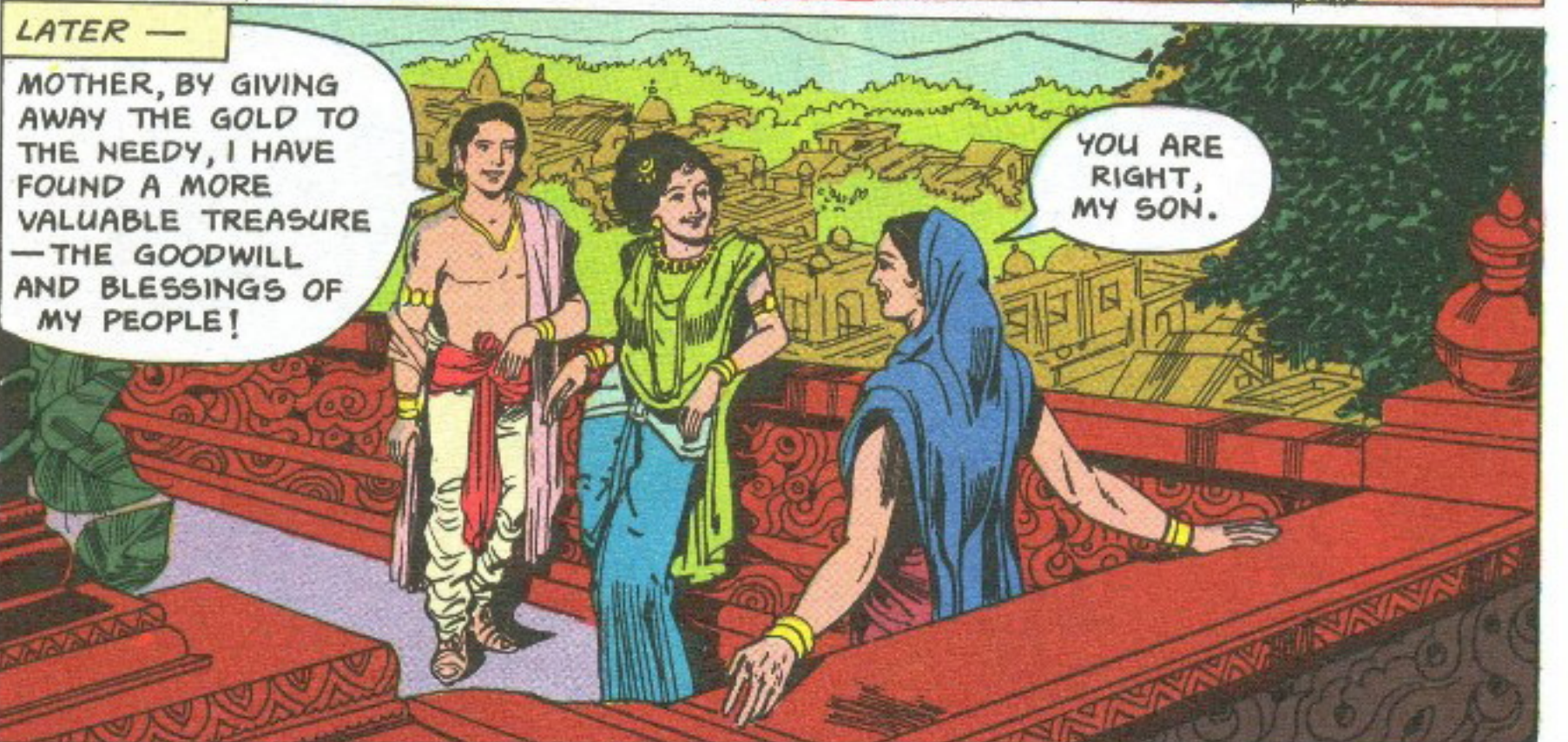
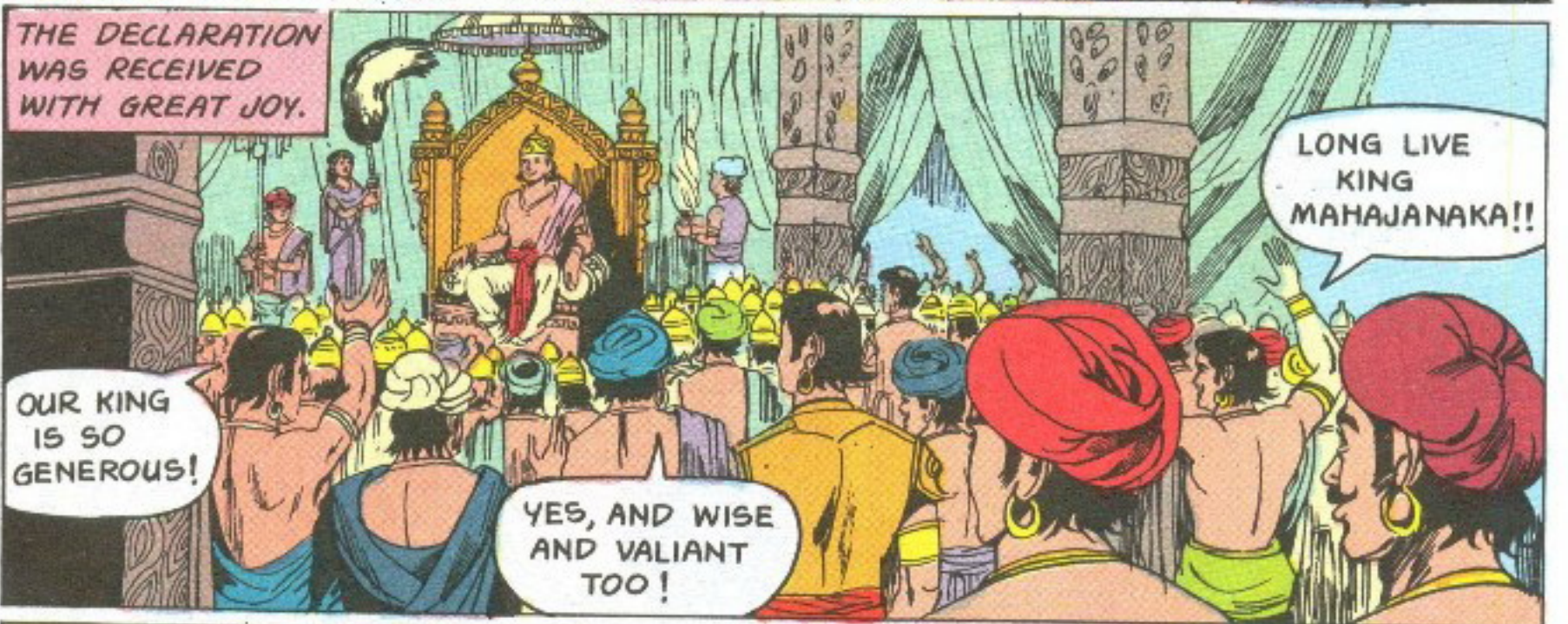
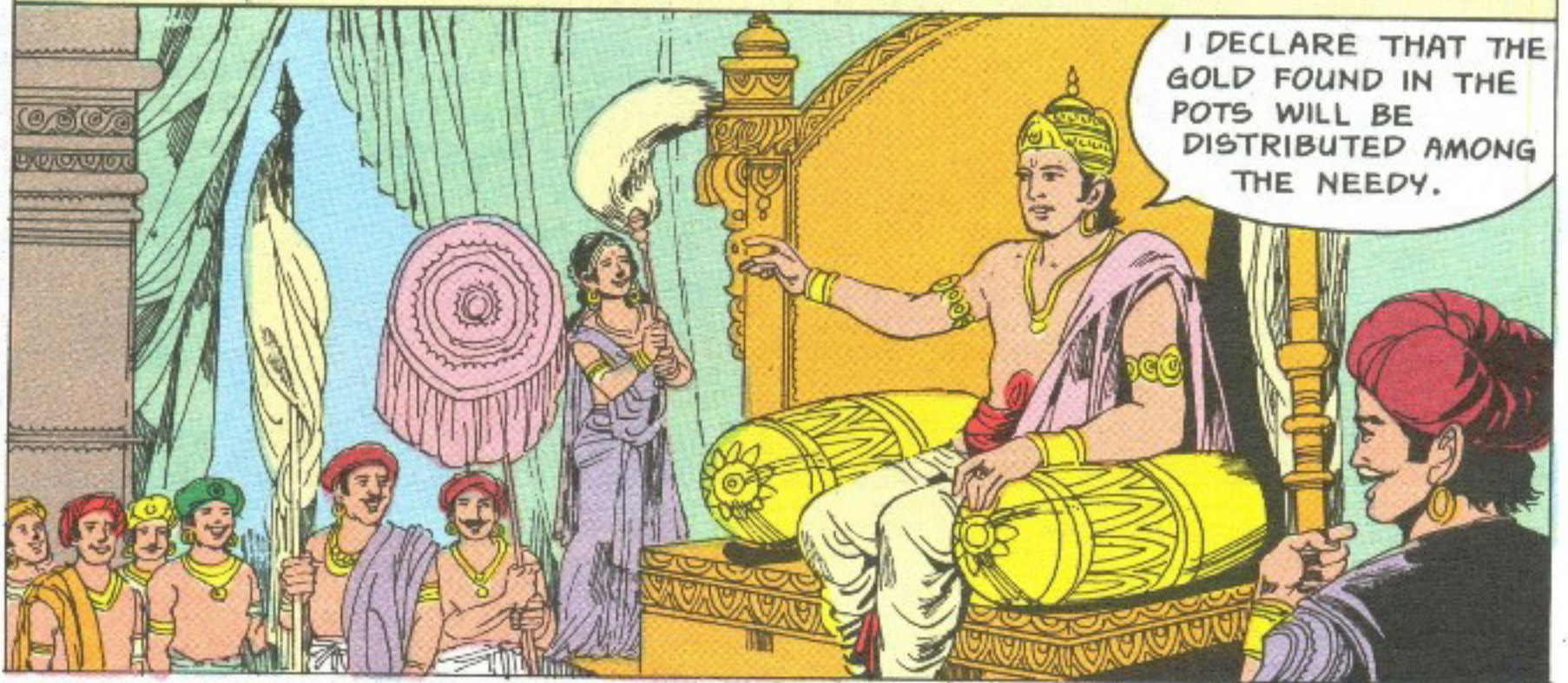
YOU HAVE PROVED YOURSELF ON EVERY SCORE, MY LORD. YOU MUST NOW MARRY THE PRINCESS, AND MAKE US HAPPY.

THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A WHILE.





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





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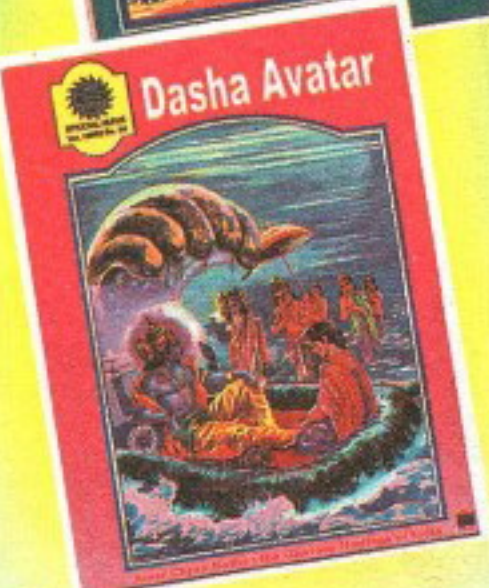
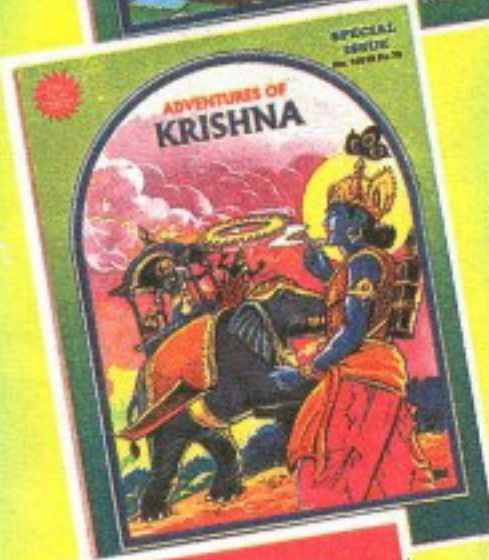
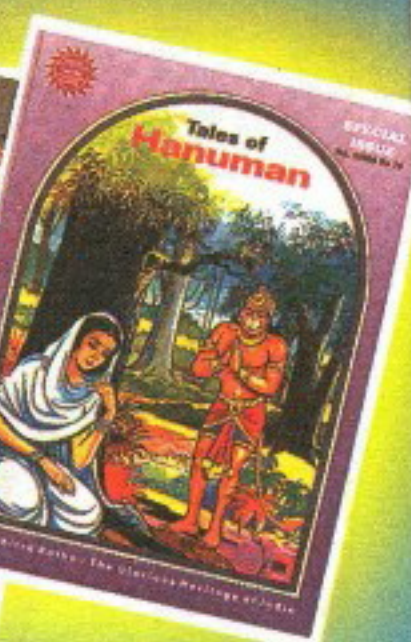
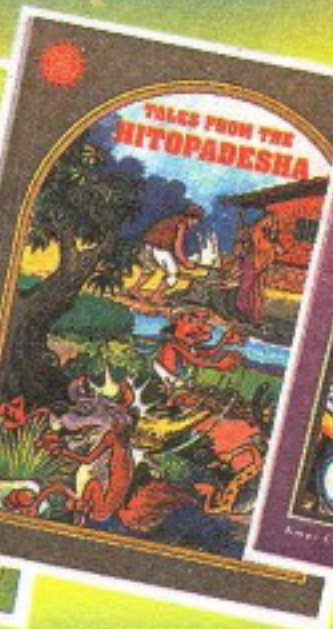
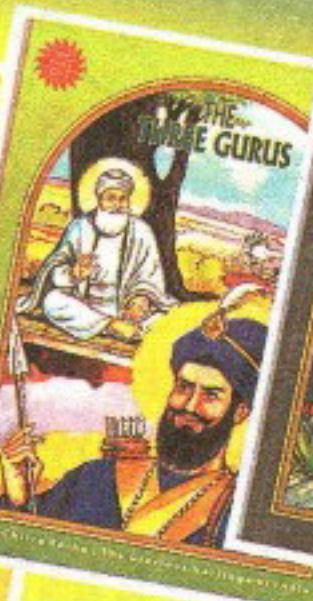
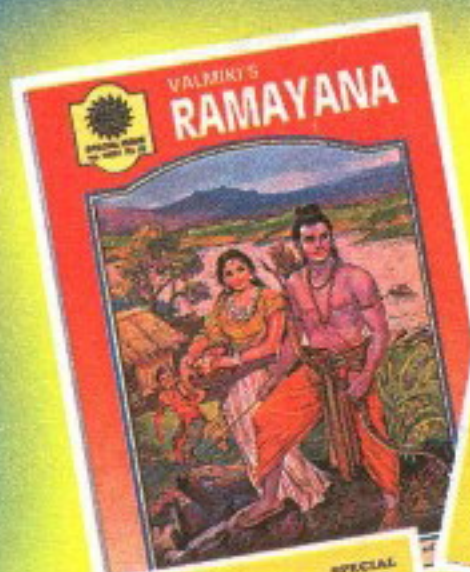
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