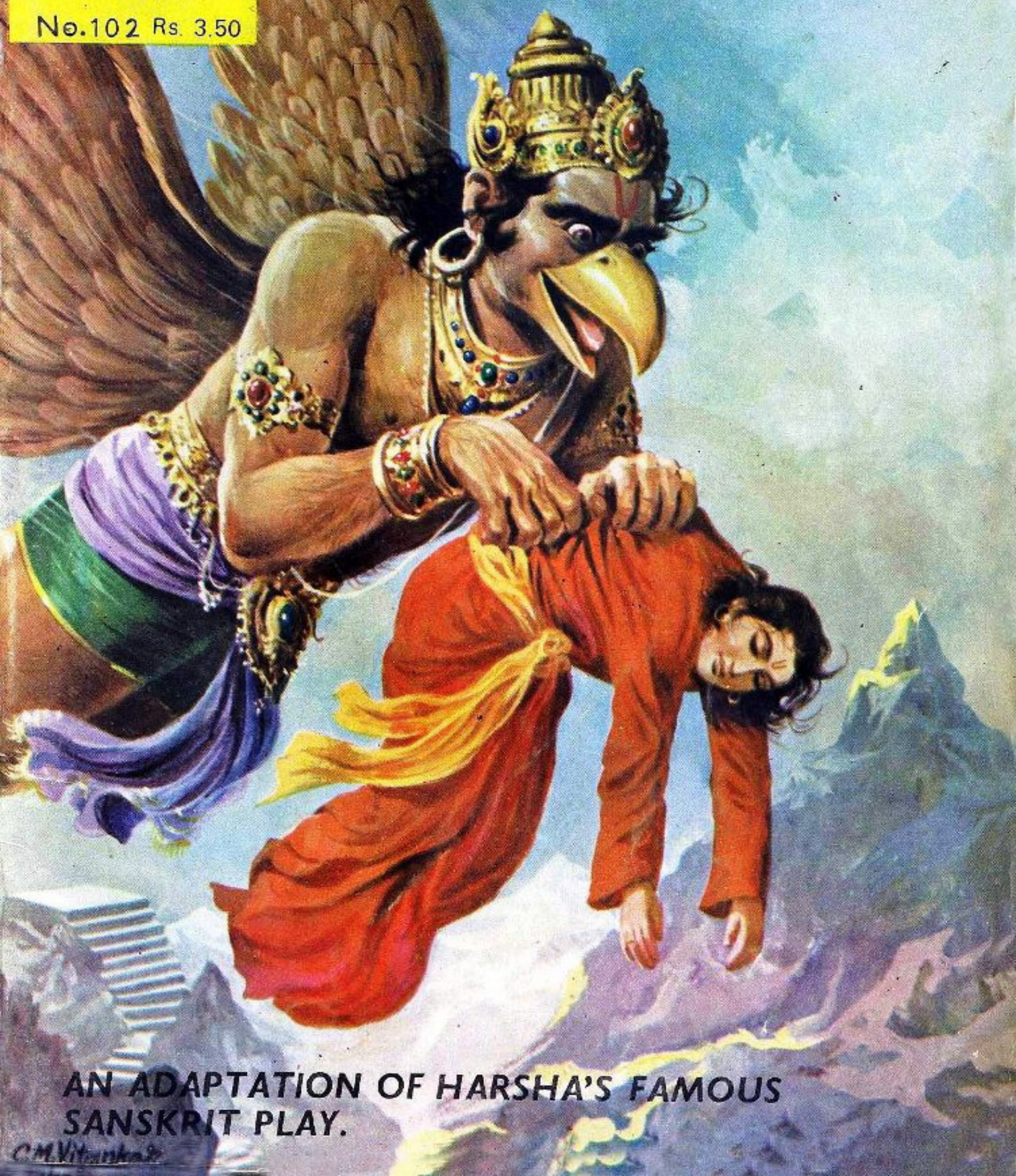




No. 102 Rs. 3.50

NAGANANDA



AN ADAPTATION OF HARSHA'S FAMOUS
SANSKRIT PLAY.

CMVitraka2

Besides being a patron of art and literature, King Harshavardhana of Kannauj, who reigned from about 606 A. D. to 647 A. D., was himself a dramatist of high repute. Although he may have been influenced by Kalidasa, Harsha was a dramatist with original ideas, imagination and techniques.

Nagananda is the dramatisation of a Buddhist legend that occurs in the Brihat Katha. It is the story of Jimutavahana, a Vidyadhara prince, who finds contentment in sacrificing his own life so that others might live. He invites death and likes it. "Even on my mother's lap, as a child, I had not experienced the joy that I am experiencing now on the seat of sacrifice"—Thus he faces death with a smile which ultimately brings about a transformation in Garuda, the mythical bird.

In "Nagananda", Harsha has tried to blend Buddhism and Hinduism. The ideal of sacrificing one's life, if need be, for the sake of another is essentially Buddhist. The parts played by Garuda and Goddess Gauri and the reference to Indra and the other Hindu gods give the story a Puranic touch.

I-tsing, the Chinese traveller, records that Harsha versified the story of Bodhisatva Jimutavahana and acted it on the stage.

**AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
Over 260 titles are now on sale.**

© India Book House Education Trust, Bombay-400 026
All rights reserved.

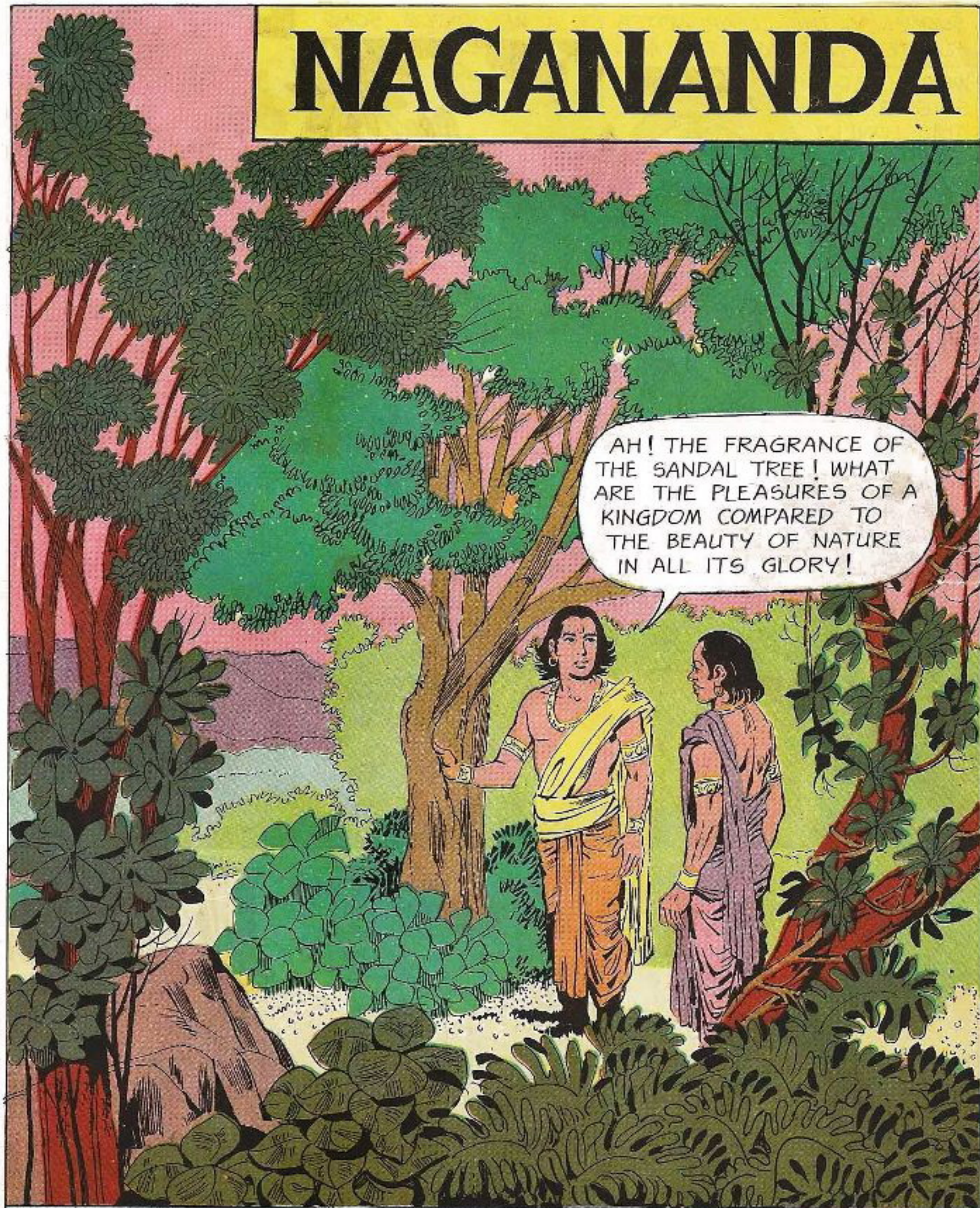
Published by H. G. Mirchandani for India Book House Education Trust,
Mahalaxmi Chambers, 22, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay-400 026 and
printed by him at H. K. Printers, 120, Shivshakti Industrial Estate,
Mathuradas Vissanji Road, Andheri (East), Bombay-400 059

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Subba Rao

Illustrations: M.N. Nangare

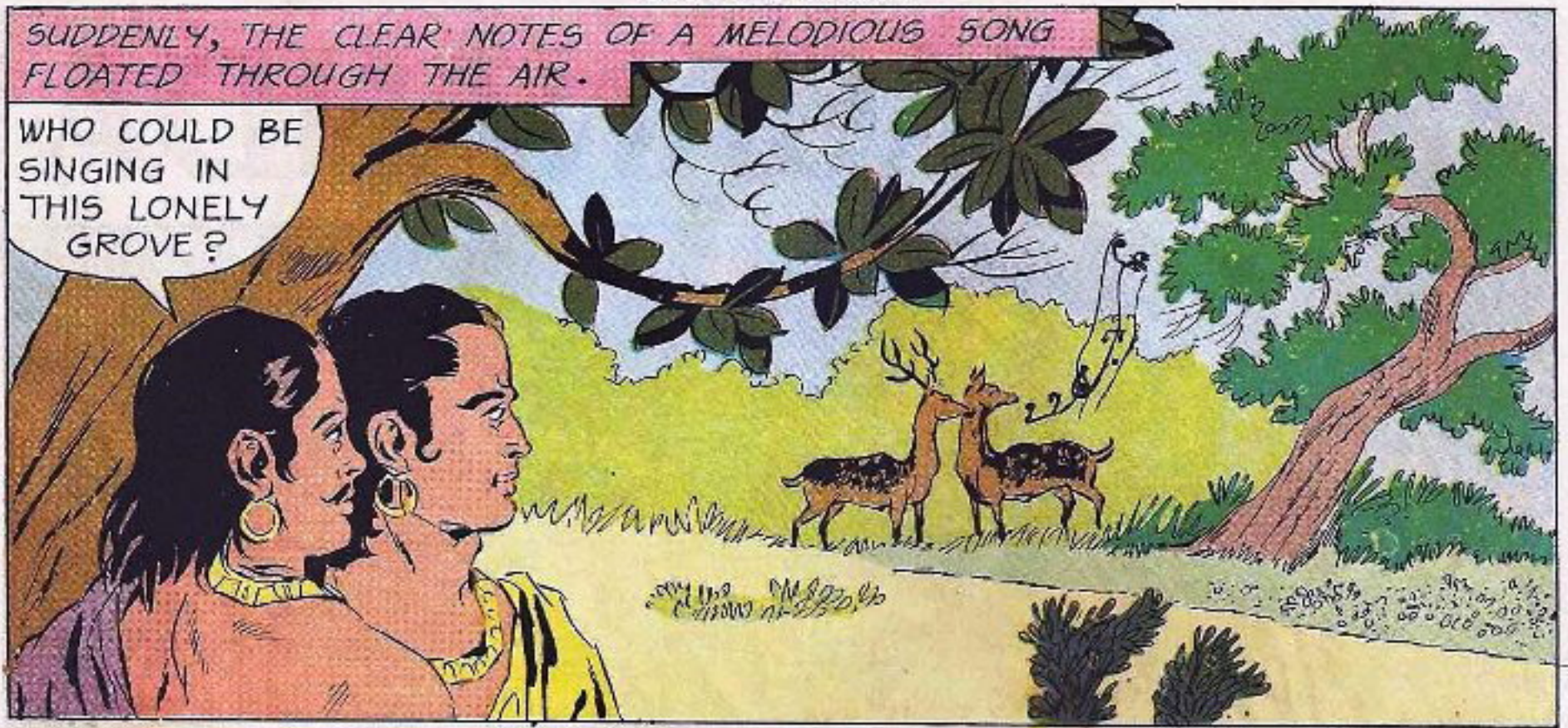
NAGANANDA



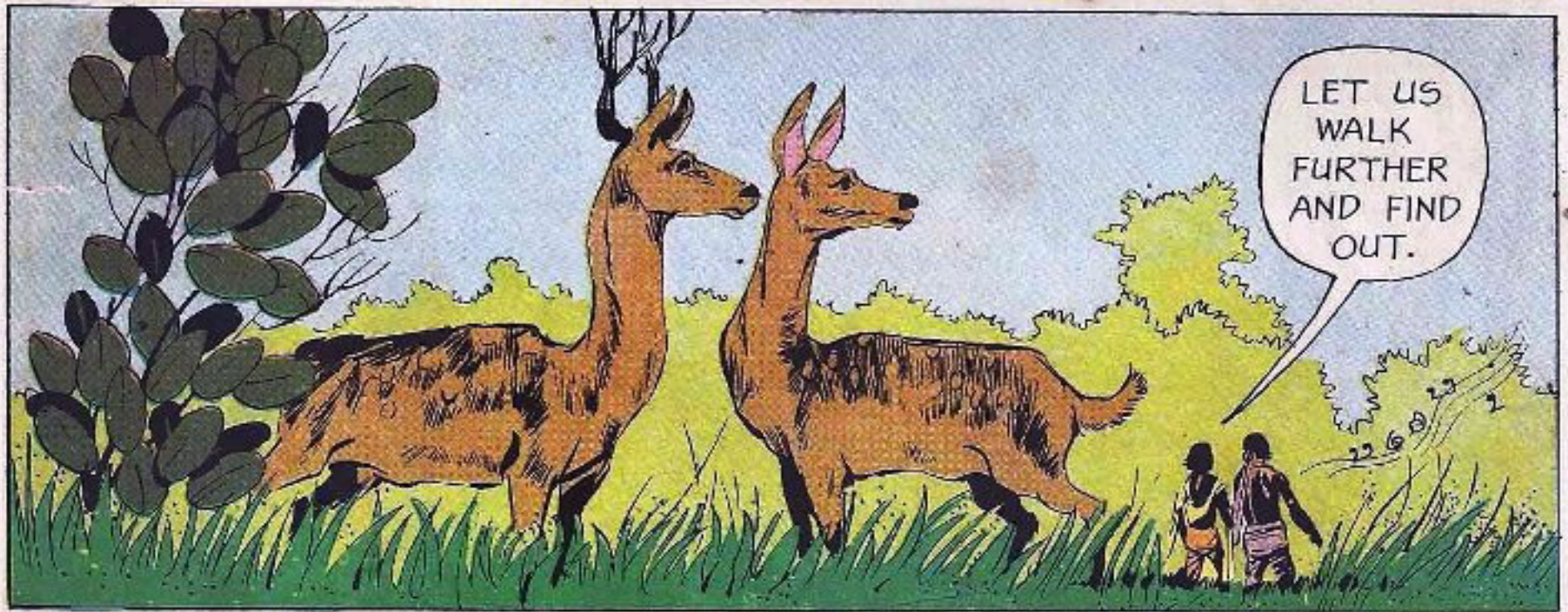
HAVING ENTRUSTED HIS KINGDOM TO HIS MINISTERS, JIMUTAVAHANA, THE VIDYADHARA PRINCE, HAD DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE SERVICE OF HIS AGED PARENTS. ALONG WITH HIS FRIEND ATREYA, HE WAS NOW AT THE MALAYA MOUNTAINS LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE HERMITAGE FOR THEM.

SUDDENLY, THE CLEAR NOTES OF A MELODIOUS SONG FLOATED THROUGH THE AIR.

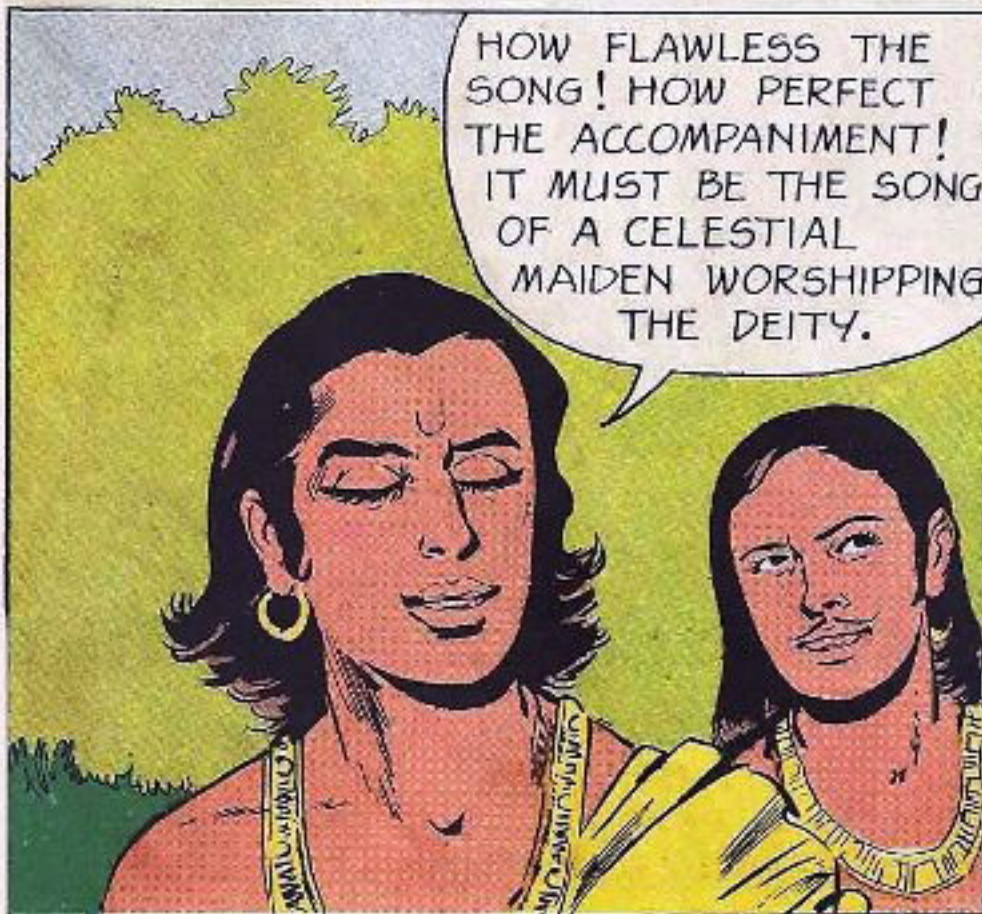
WHO COULD BE SINGING IN THIS LONELY GROVE?



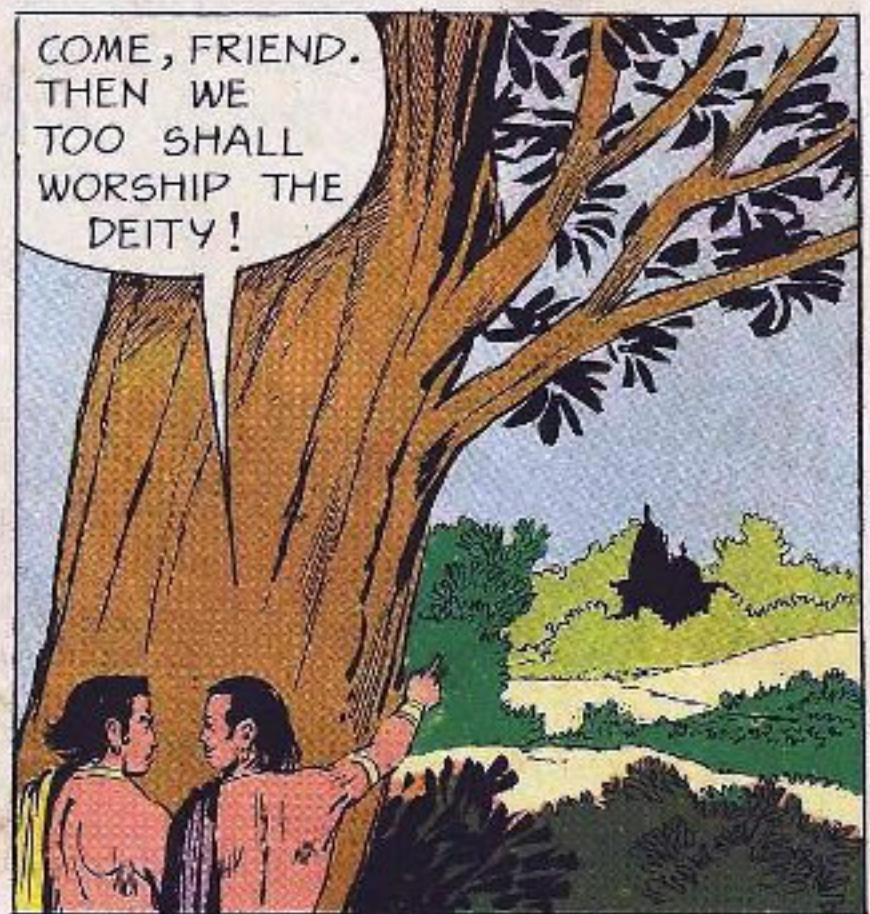
LET US WALK FURTHER AND FIND OUT.



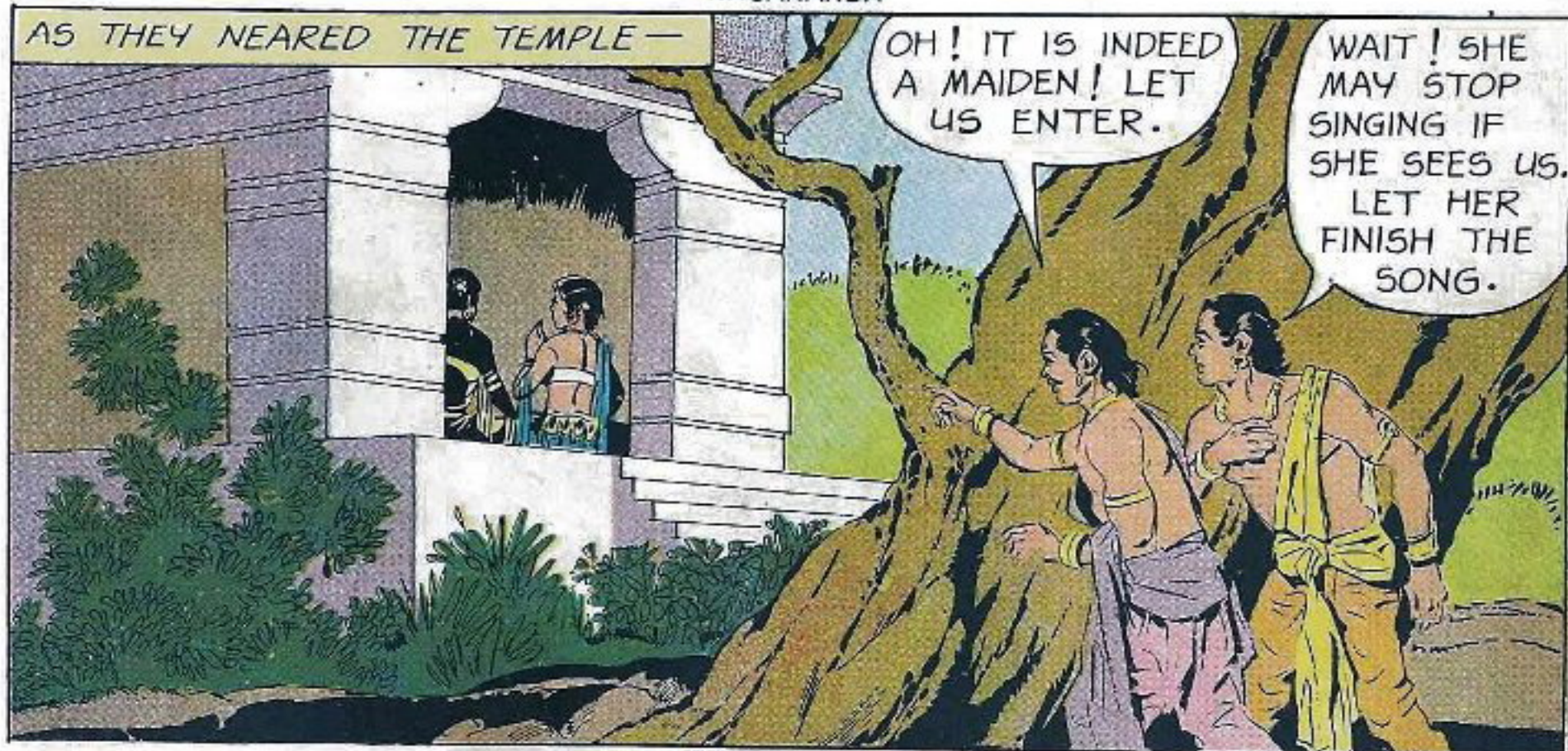
HOW FLAWLESS THE SONG! HOW PERFECT THE ACCOMPANIMENT! IT MUST BE THE SONG OF A CELESTIAL MAIDEN WORSHIPPING THE DEITY.



COME, FRIEND. THEN WE TOO SHALL WORSHIP THE DEITY!



AS THEY NEARED THE TEMPLE —



OH! IT IS INDEED
A MAIDEN! LET
US ENTER.

WAIT! SHE
MAY STOP
SINGING IF
SHE SEES US.
LET HER
FINISH THE
SONG.

AS SOON AS THE SONG WAS OVER —

O PRINCESS MALAYAVATI,
WHY DO YOU WASTE
YOUR TIME WORSHIPPING
THIS MERCILESS DEITY?
YOUR DEVOTION SEEMS
TO HAVE NO EFFECT
ON HER.

YOU ARE WRONG, CHATURIKA.
EARLY THIS MORNING SHE
APPEARED IN MY DREAM AND
FAVoured ME WITH A VARA.*
A VIDYADHARA PRINCE WOULD
SOON MARRY ME, SHE
PROMISED.



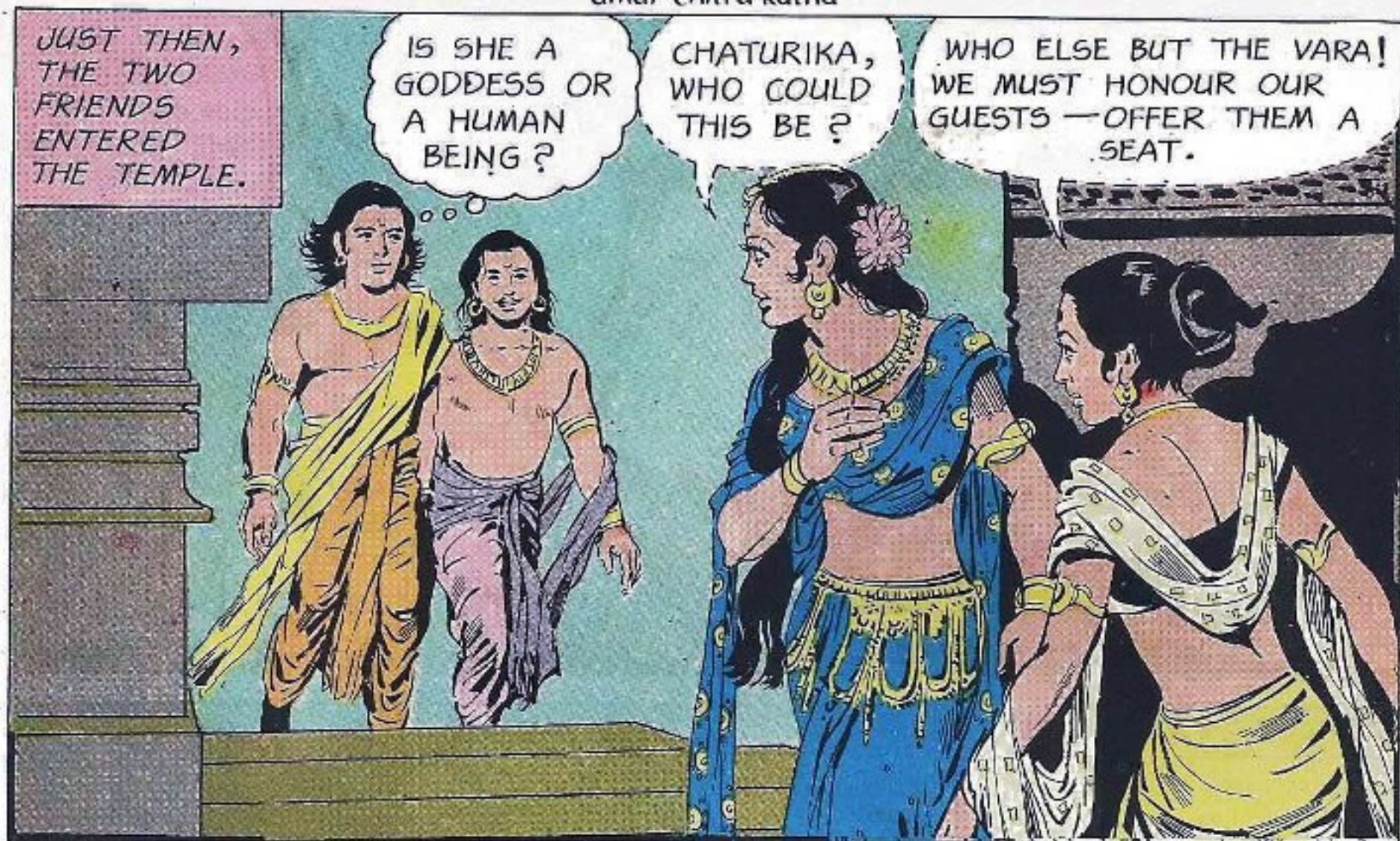
* BOON. ALSO MEANS HUSBAND.

JUST THEN,
THE TWO
FRIENDS
ENTERED
THE TEMPLE.

IS SHE A
GODDESS OR
A HUMAN
BEING?

CHATURIKA,
WHO COULD
THIS BE?

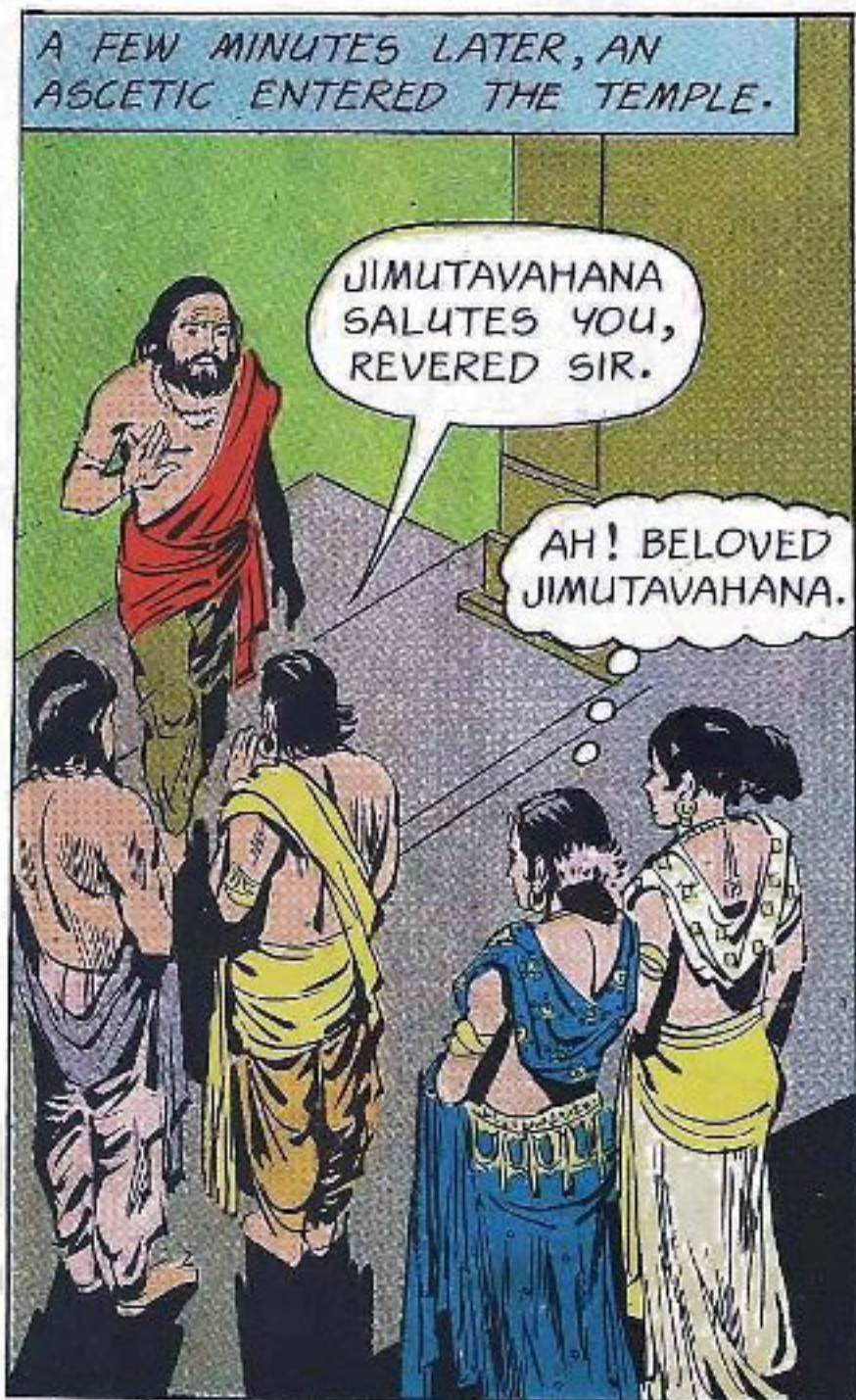
WHO ELSE BUT THE VARA!
WE MUST HONOUR OUR
GUESTS — OFFER THEM A
SEAT.



A FEW MINUTES LATER, AN
ASCETIC ENTERED THE TEMPLE.

JIMUTAVAHANA
SALUTES YOU,
REVERED SIR.

AH! BELOVED
JIMUTAVAHANA.



THE ASCETIC ACKNOWLEDGED
JIMUTAVAHANA'S GESTURE AND
TURNED TO MALAYAVATI.

SAGE KAUSHIKA* HAS
SENT FOR YOU. IT IS
TIME FOR THE
MIDDAY WORSHIP.

I SHALL LEAVE
IMMEDIATELY,
SIR!



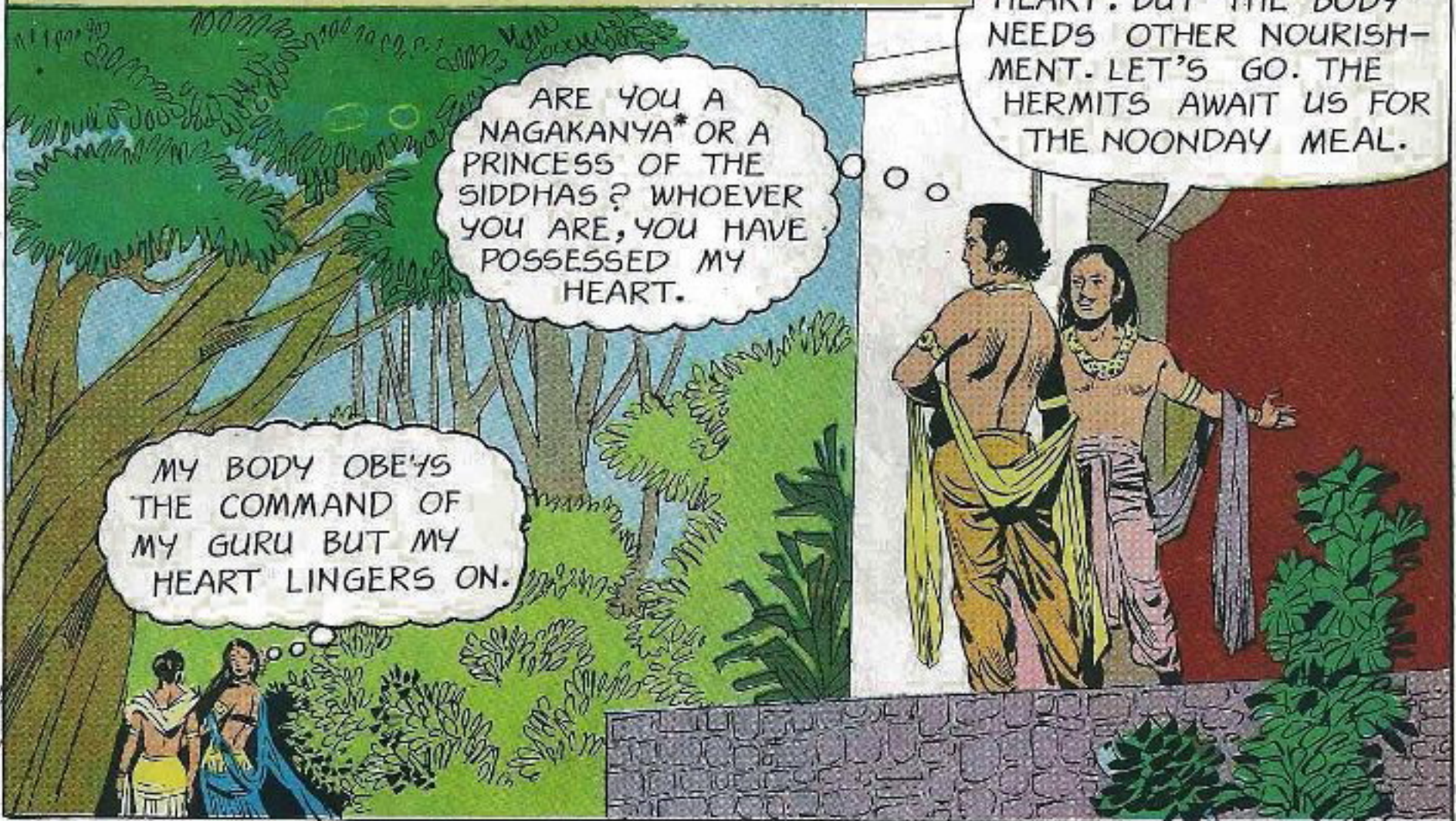
* MALAYAVATI'S GURU.

MALAYAVATI AND CHATURIKA LEFT THE TEMPLE.

ARE YOU A NAGAKANYA* OR A PRINCESS OF THE SIDDHAS? WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU HAVE POSSESSED MY HEART.

MY BODY OBEYS THE COMMAND OF MY GURU BUT MY HEART LINGERS ON.

LOVE MAY FEED THE HEART. BUT THE BODY NEEDS OTHER NOURISHMENT. LET'S GO. THE HERMITS AWAIT US FOR THE NOONDAY MEAL.



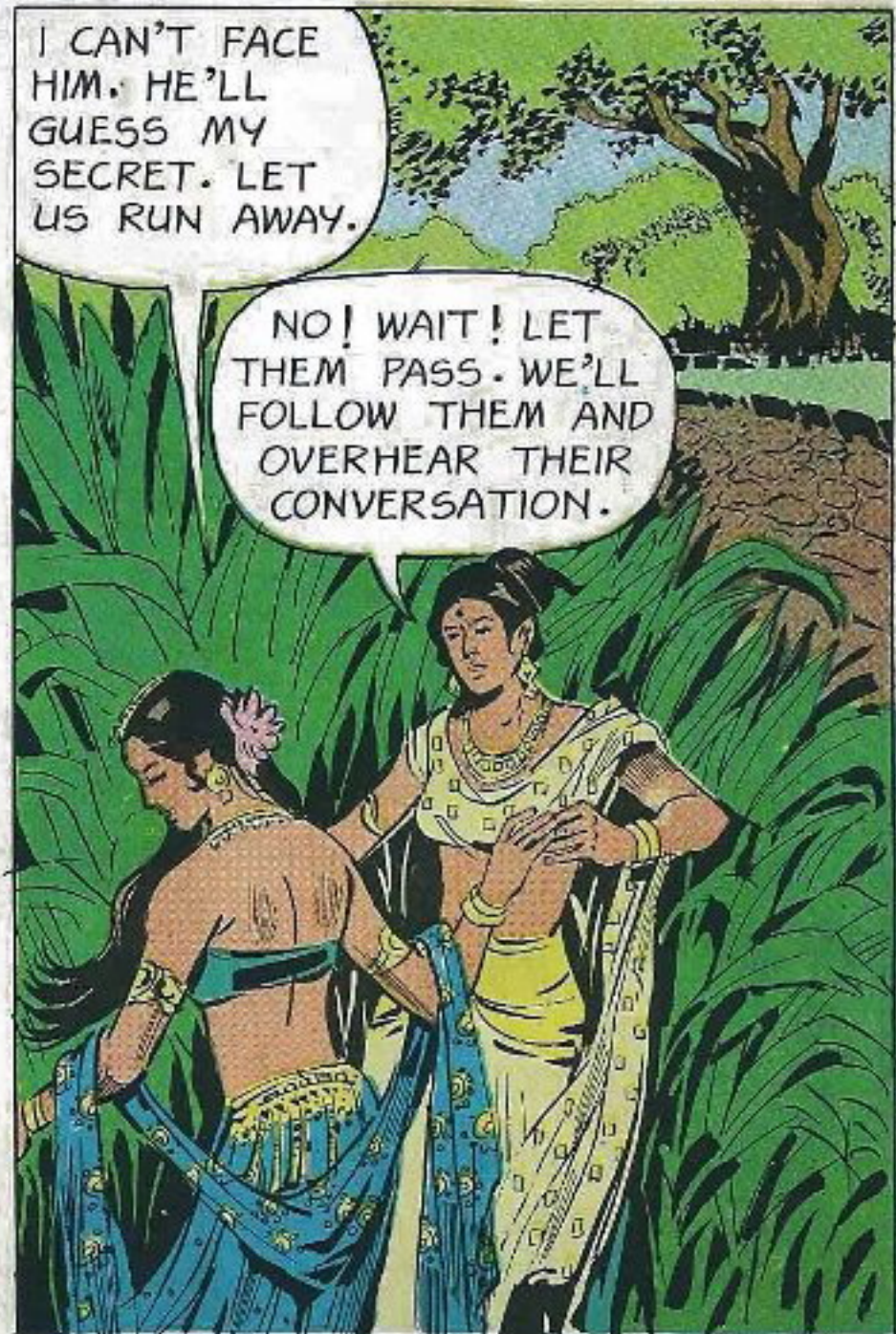
THE NEXT DAY, OUTSIDE THE GARDEN HOUSE —

I CANNOT BEAR THIS TORMENT ANY LONGER, CHATURIKA. CAN YOU THINK OF ANY REMEDY?

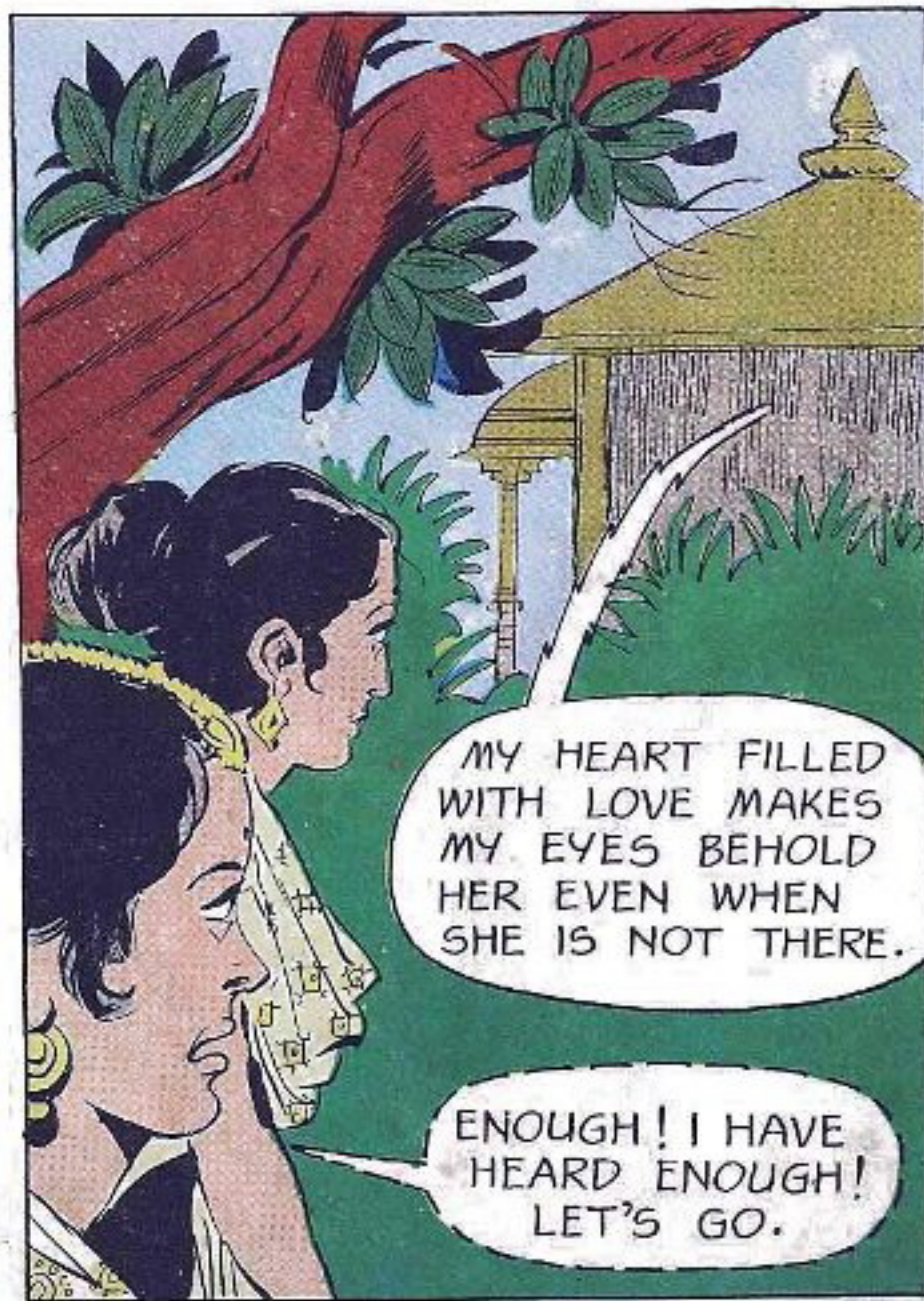
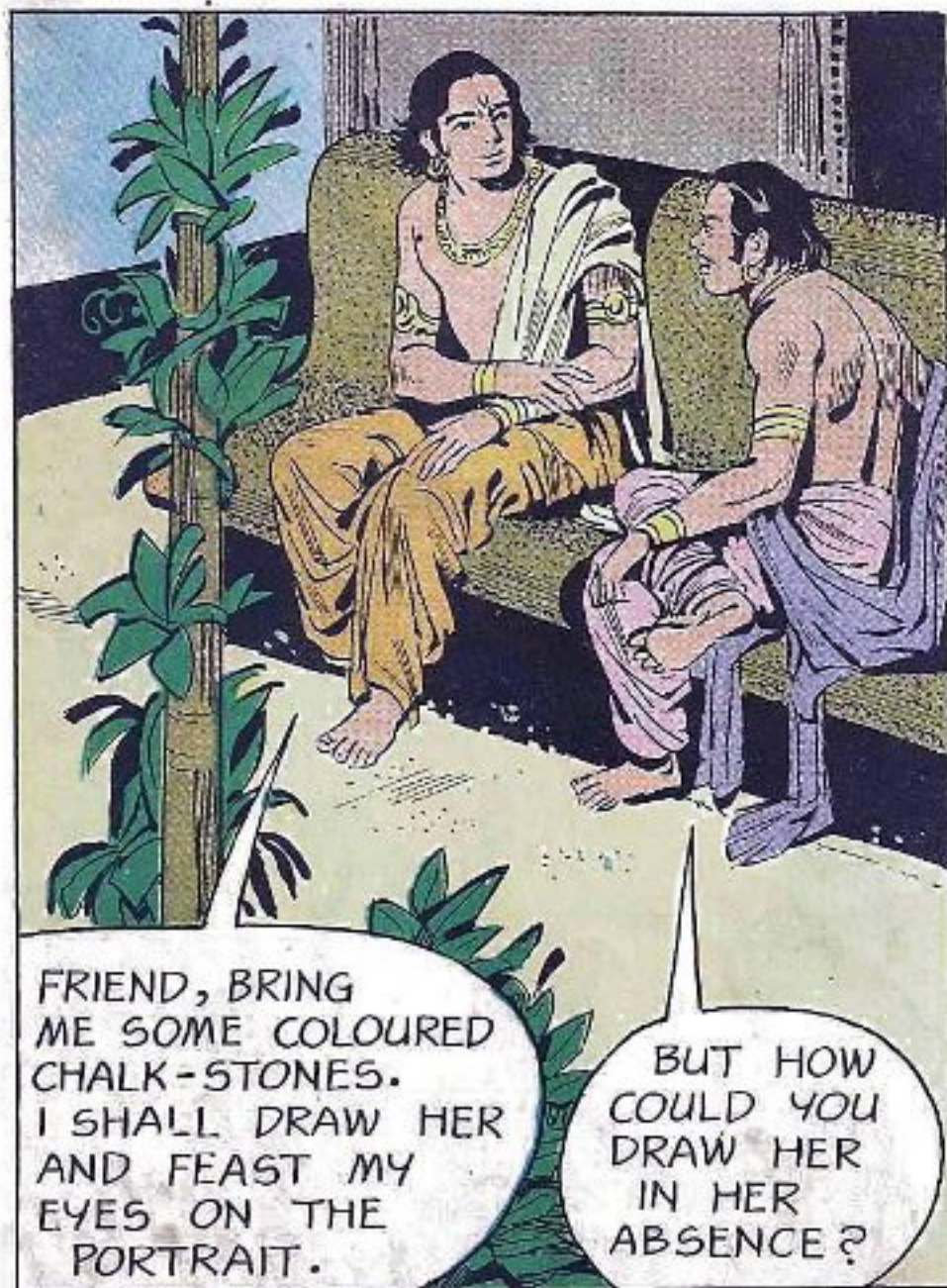
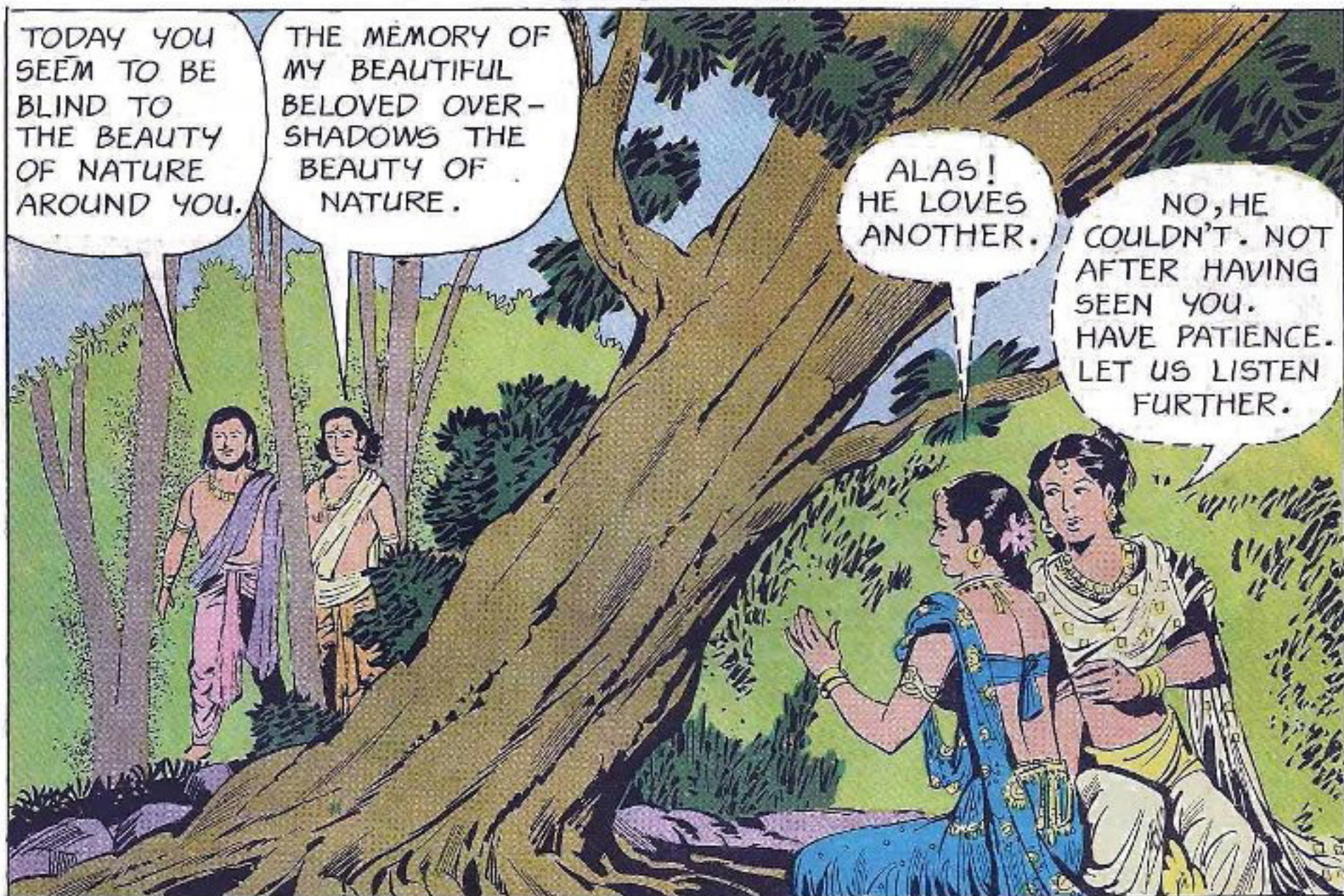
THERE IS ONLY ONE— AND HE IS HEADING THIS WAY.

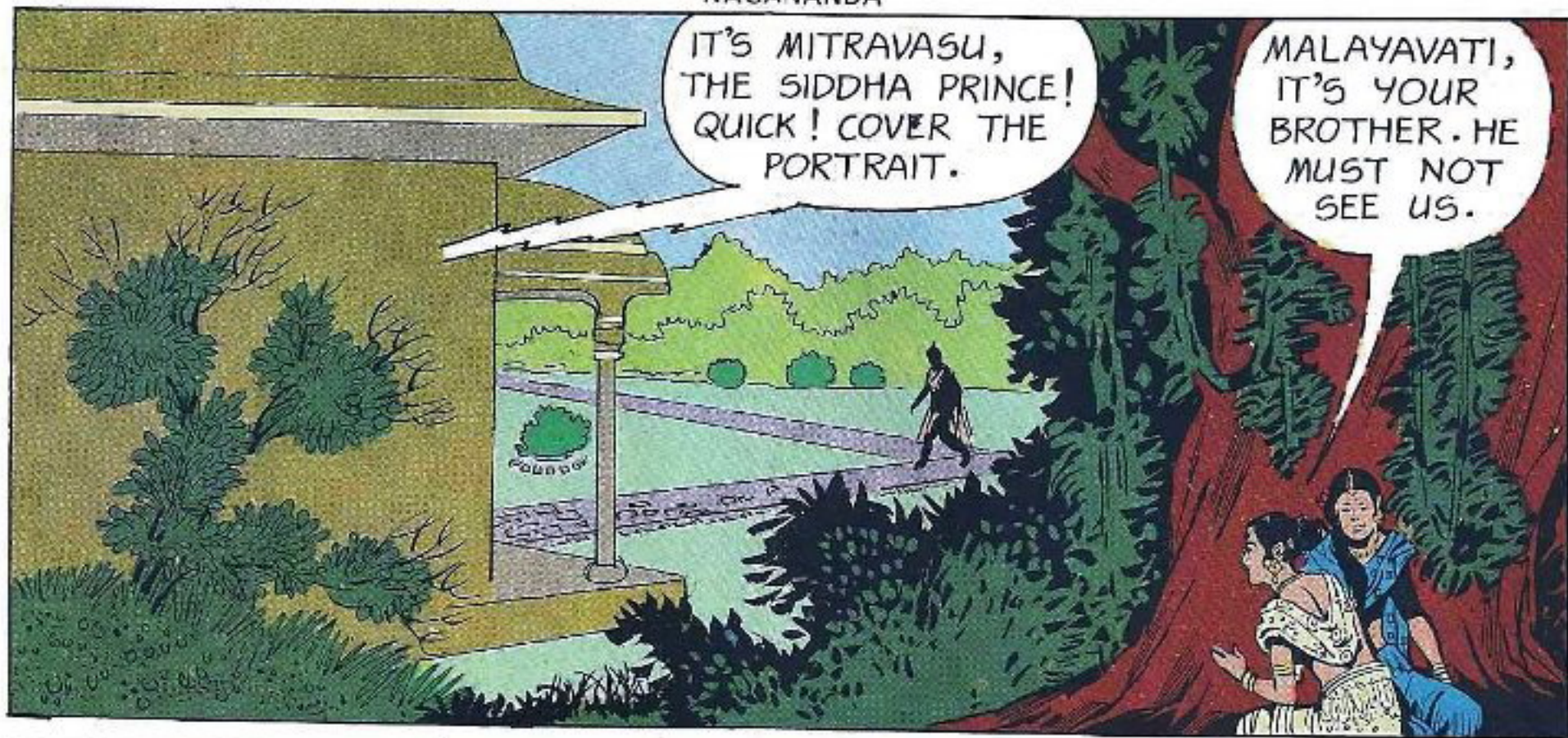
I CAN'T FACE HIM. HE'LL GUESS MY SECRET. LET US RUN AWAY.

NO! WAIT! LET THEM PASS. WE'LL FOLLOW THEM AND OVERHEAR THEIR CONVERSATION.



* GIRL OF THE NAGA RACE.





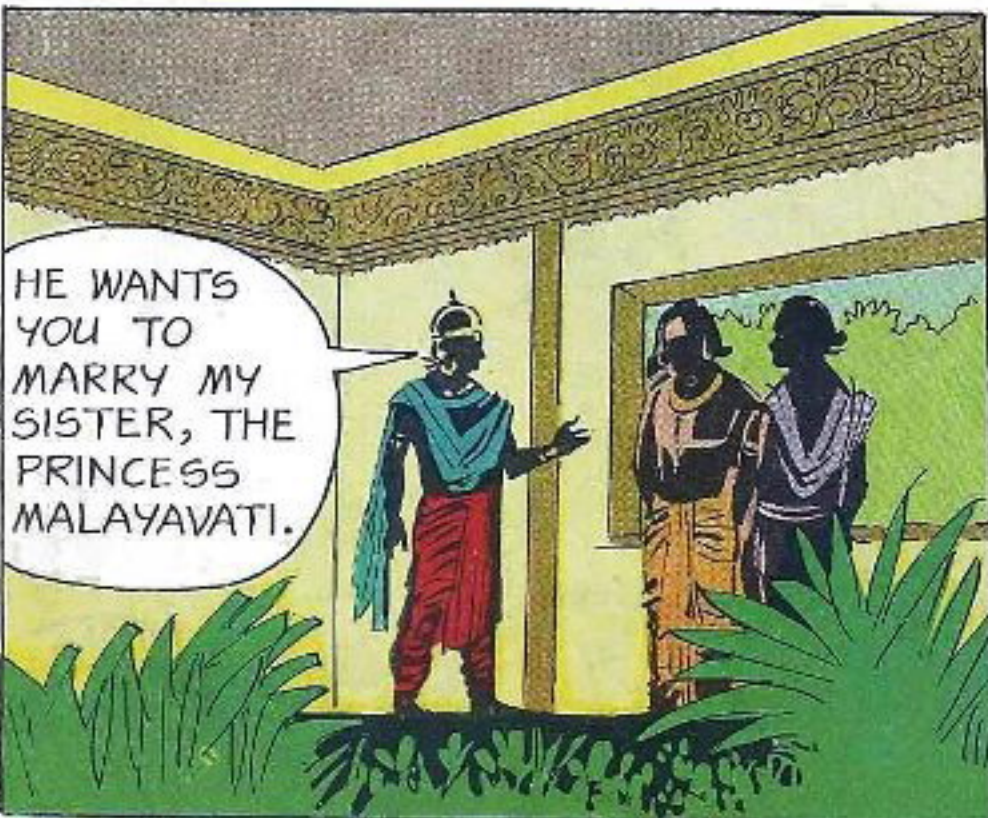
IT'S MITRAVASU,
THE SIDDHA PRINCE!
QUICK! COVER THE
PORTRAIT.

MALAYAVATI,
IT'S YOUR
BROTHER. HE
MUST NOT
SEE US.



WELCOME, MITRA-
VASU. IS THE
KING, YOUR
FATHER, WELL?

HE IS. I BRING
YOU A
PROPOSAL
FROM HIM.



HE WANTS
YOU TO
MARRY MY
SISTER, THE
PRINCESS
MALAYAVATI.

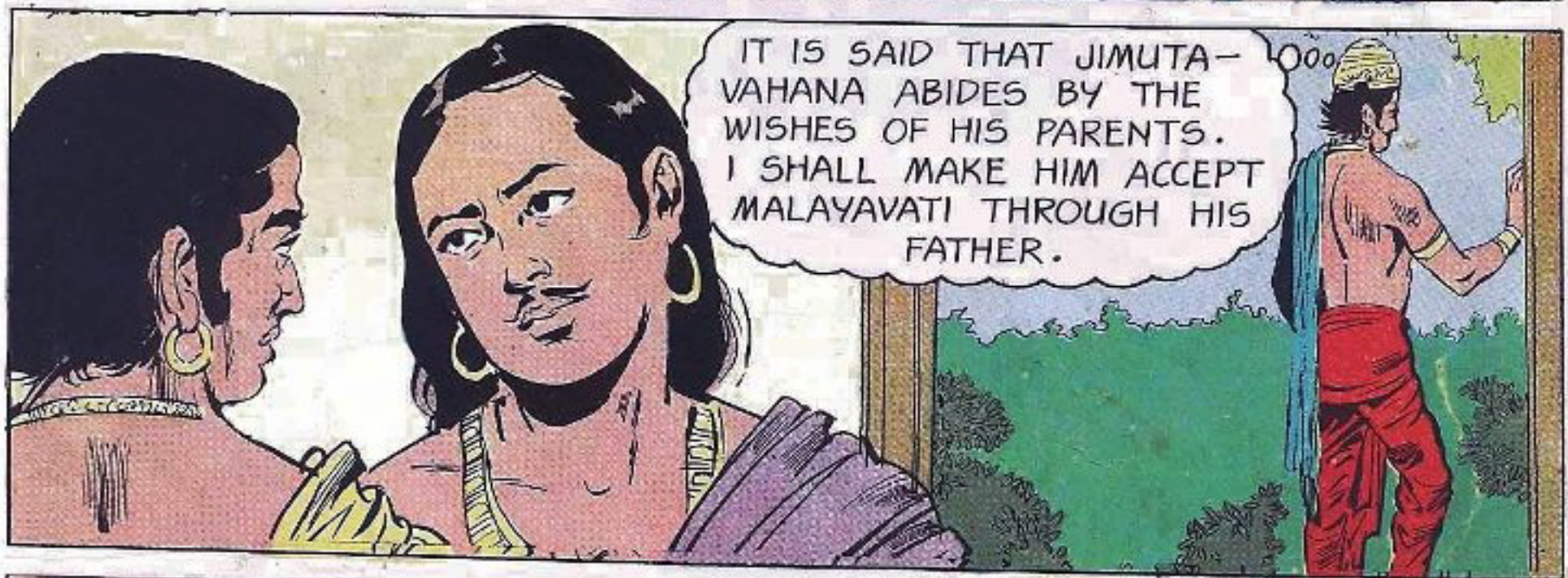
CHATURIKA LOOKED ANXIOUSLY AT
MALAYAVATI AS THEY WAITED FOR
JIMUTAVAHANA'S REACTION.





THOUGH I AM HONoured
BY THE PROPOSAL,
I CANNOT ACCEPT IT.
I LOVE ANOTHER.

TAKE HEART,
DEAR ONE!
YOU ARE A
PRINCESS!



IT IS SAID THAT JIMUTA-
VAHANA ABIDES BY THE
WISHES OF HIS PARENTS.
I SHALL MAKE HIM ACCEPT
MALAYAVATI THROUGH HIS
FATHER.



MALAYAVATI WAS MISERABLE.

I SHALL SEND
CHATURIKA AWAY
AND DESTROY
THIS WRETCHED
BODY OF MINE.

PLEASE GO AND
SEE IF MITRAVASU
HAS GONE FAR
ENOUGH. THEN
WE TOO CAN
RETURN TO
THE PALACE.

AS YOU
COMMAND,
MY PRINCESS.

CHATURIKA WALKED A SHORT WAY AND STOPPED.

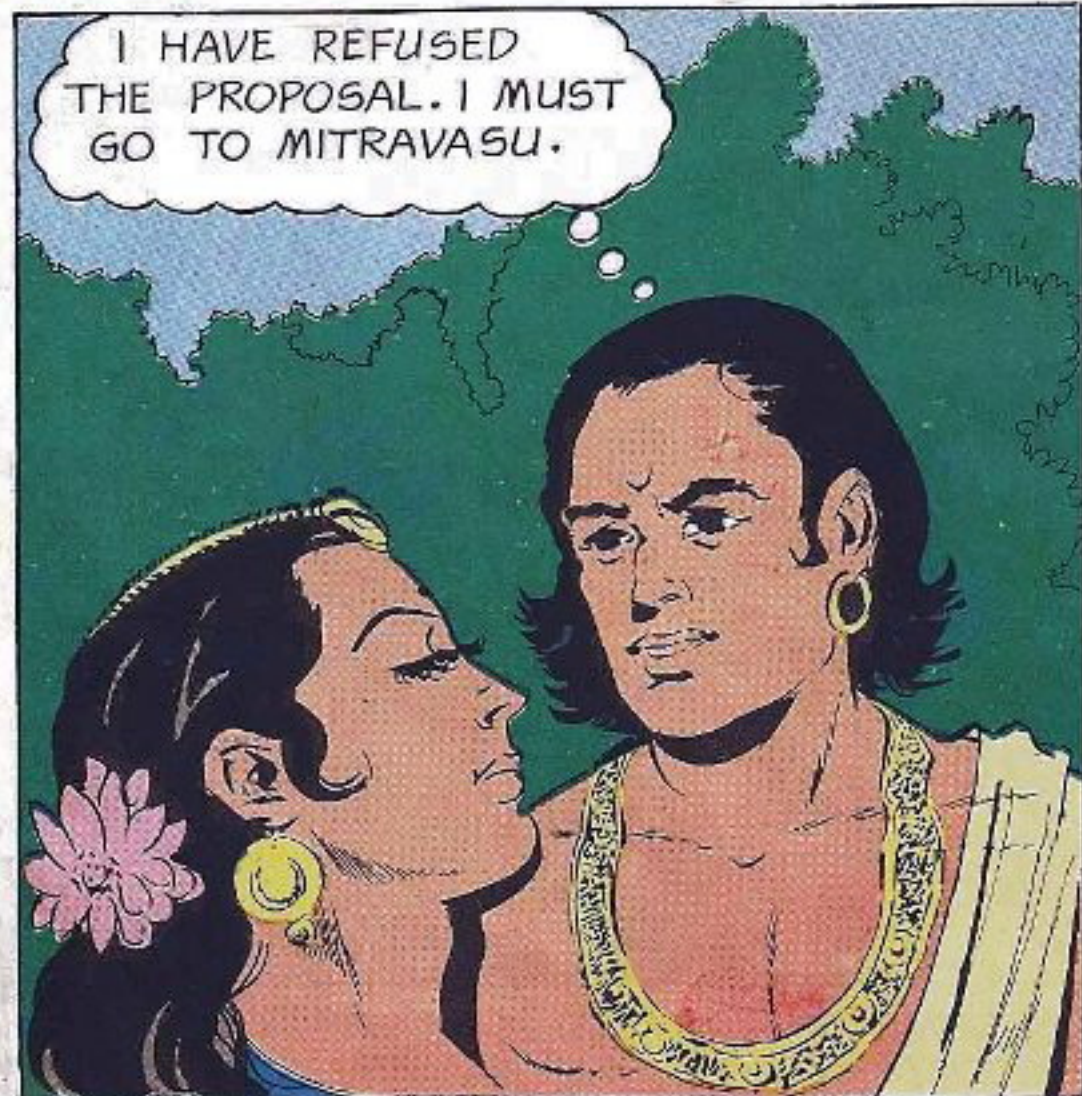
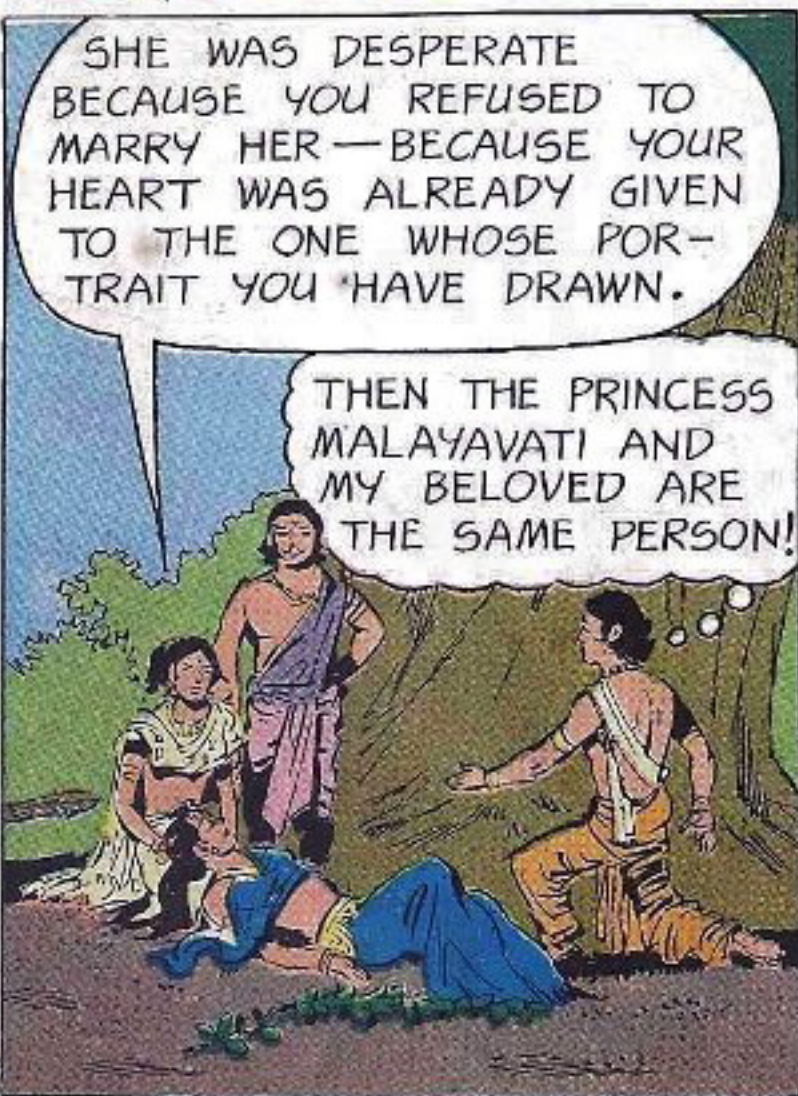
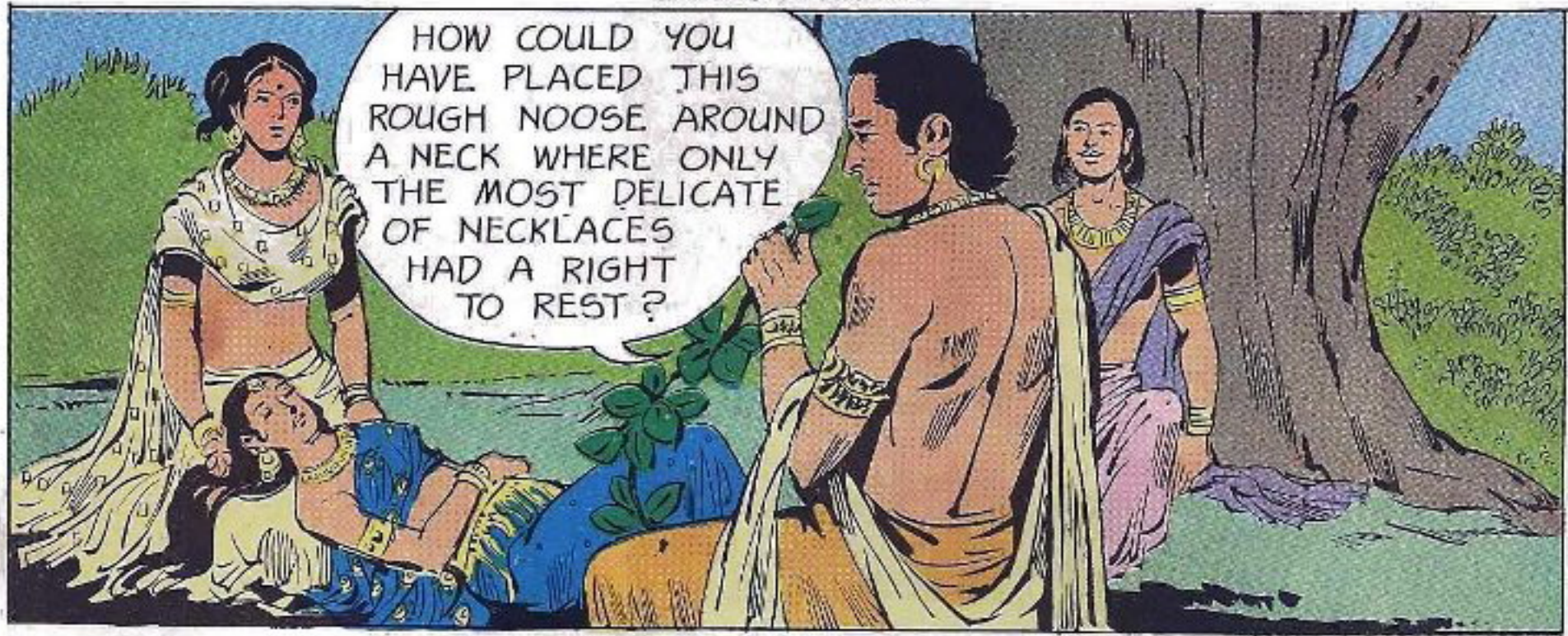
MALAYAVATI IS HEART-BROKEN AND MUST NOT BE LEFT ALONE. I'LL HIDE HERE AND WATCH HER.

O GODDESS GOWRI, YOUR WORDS HAVE PROVED FALSE. LIFE HAS NO MEANING FOR ME NOW.

AND MALAYAVATI HANGED HERSELF FROM A TREE. FOR A MOMENT CHATURIKA WAS STRUCK DUMB WITH HORROR. THEN —

HELP!
HELP! THE
PRINCESS!
SAVE THE
PRINCESS!

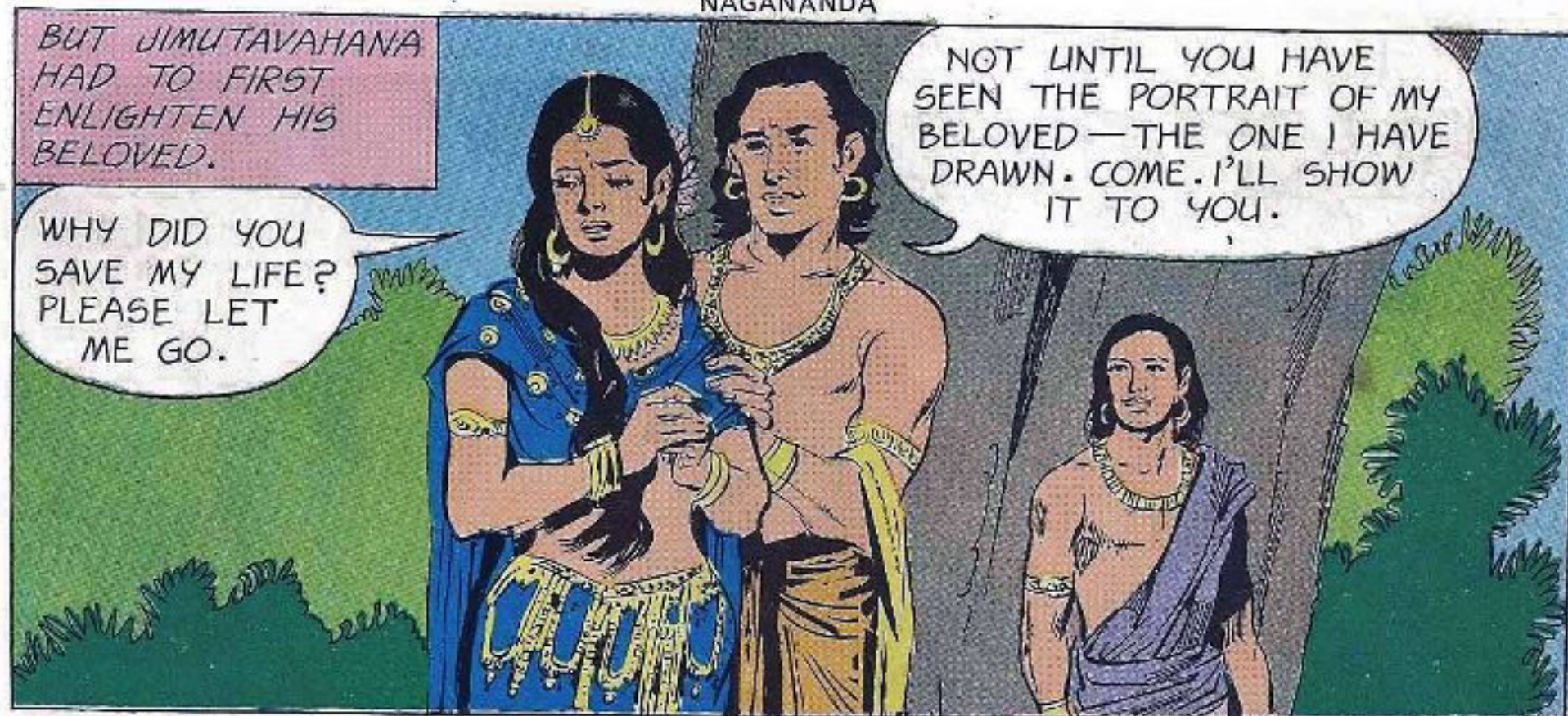
HEARING CHATURIKA'S CRY, JIMUTAVAHANA RUSHED OUT OF THE GARDEN HOUSE.



BUT JIMUTAVAHANA
HAD TO FIRST
ENLIGHTEN HIS
BELOVED.

WHY DID YOU
SAVE MY LIFE?
PLEASE LET
ME GO.

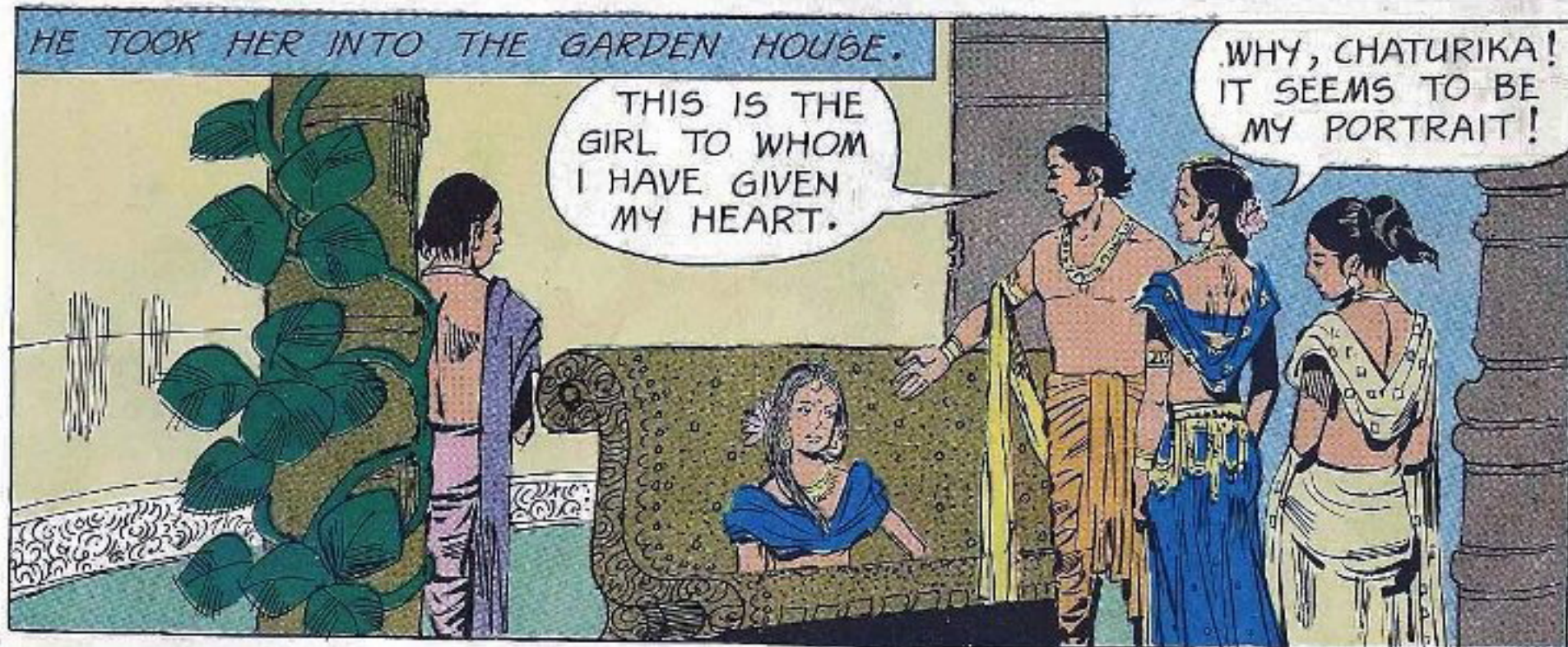
NOT UNTIL YOU HAVE
SEEN THE PORTRAIT OF MY
BELOVED—THE ONE I HAVE
DRAWN. COME. I'LL SHOW
IT TO YOU.



HE TOOK HER INTO THE GARDEN HOUSE.

THIS IS THE
GIRL TO WHOM
I HAVE GIVEN
MY HEART.

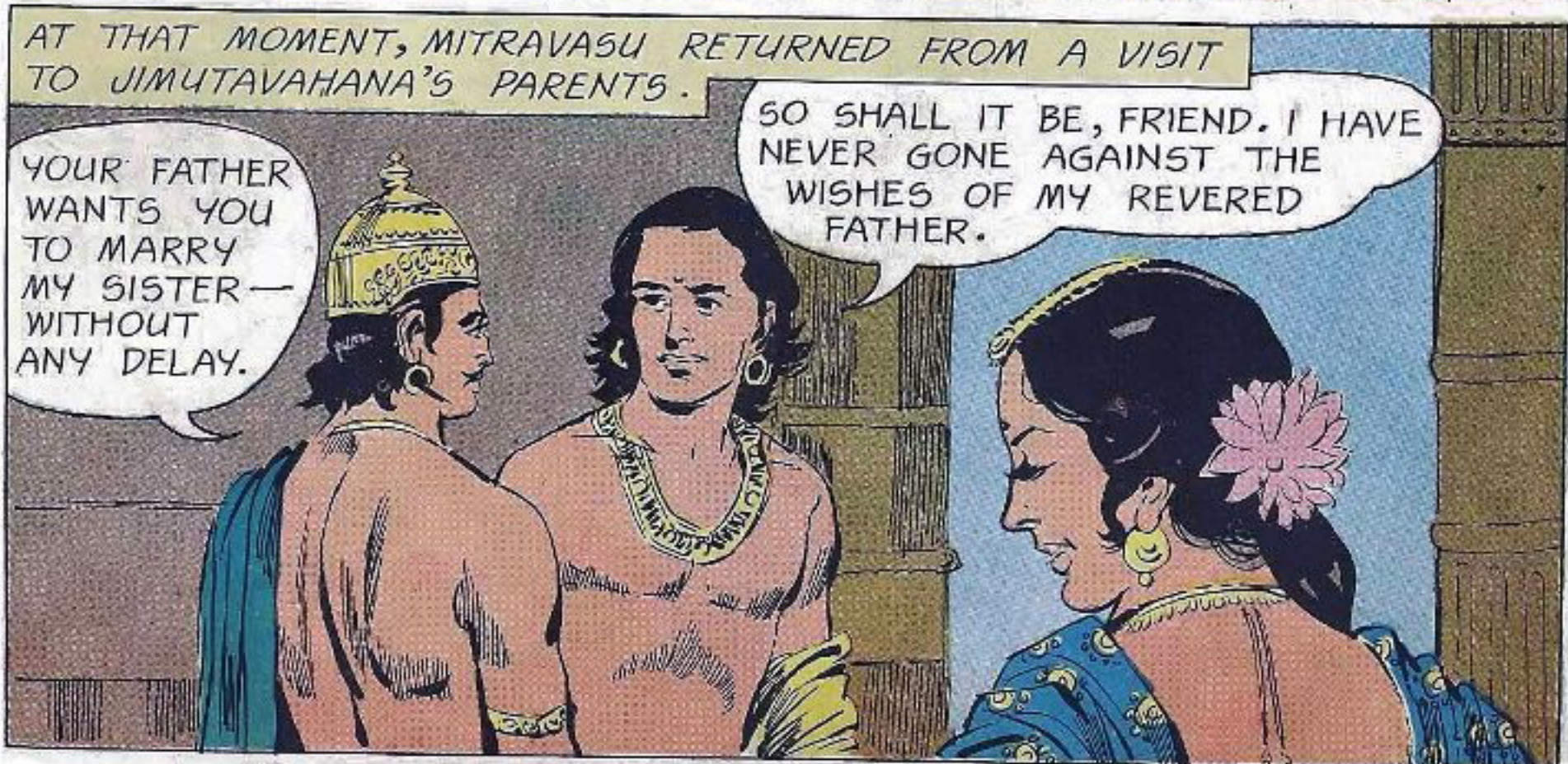
WHY, CHATURIKA!
IT SEEMS TO BE
MY PORTRAIT!



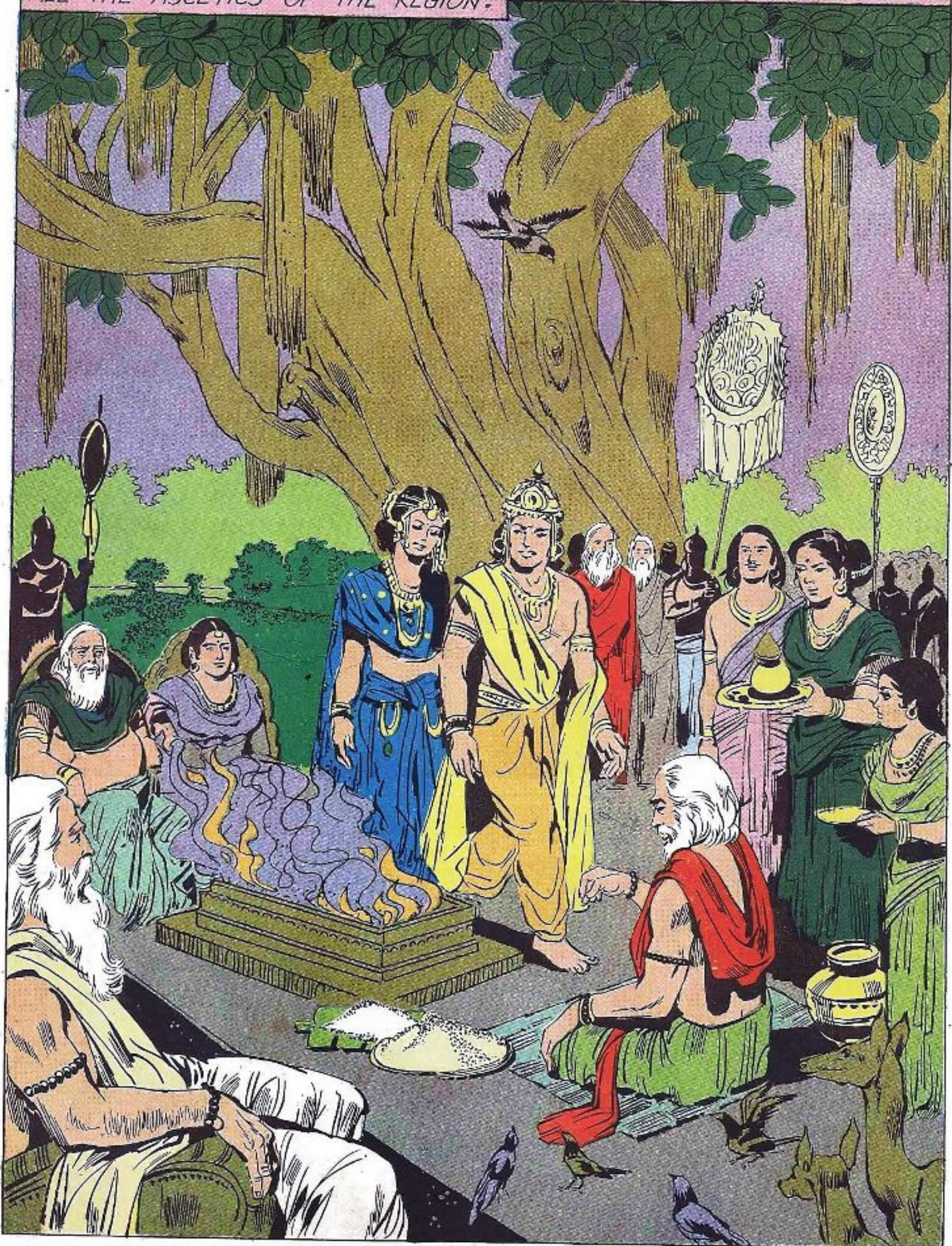
AT THAT MOMENT, MITRAVASU RETURNED FROM A VISIT
TO JIMUTAVAHANA'S PARENTS.

YOUR FATHER
WANTS YOU
TO MARRY
MY SISTER—
WITHOUT
ANY DELAY.

SO SHALL IT BE, FRIEND. I HAVE
NEVER GONE AGAINST THE
WISHES OF MY REVERED
FATHER.



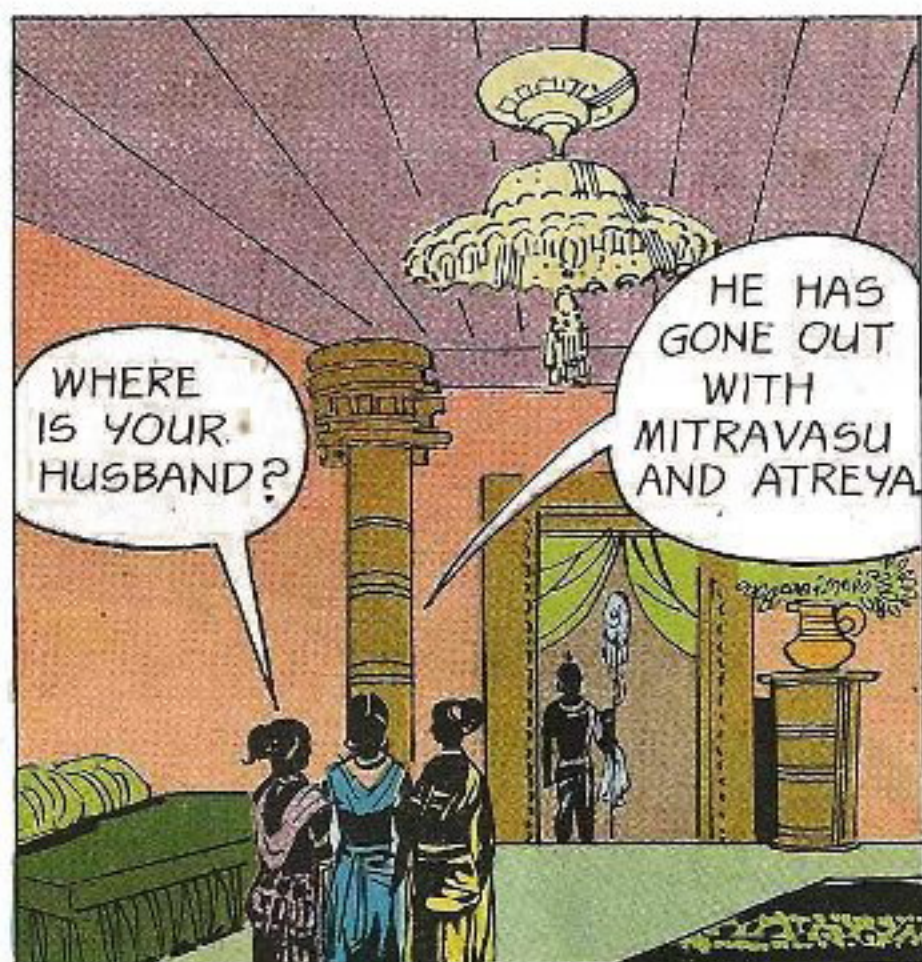
THE WEDDING OF JIMUTAVAHANA AND MALAYAVATI WAS ATTENDED BY ALL THE ASCETICS OF THE REGION.



THE DAY AFTER THE WEDDING —

FOR HOW MANY DAYS MUST I WEAR THESE RED ROBES, MOTHER.

BOTH OF YOU MUST WEAR THEM FOR TEN DAYS, DEAR.

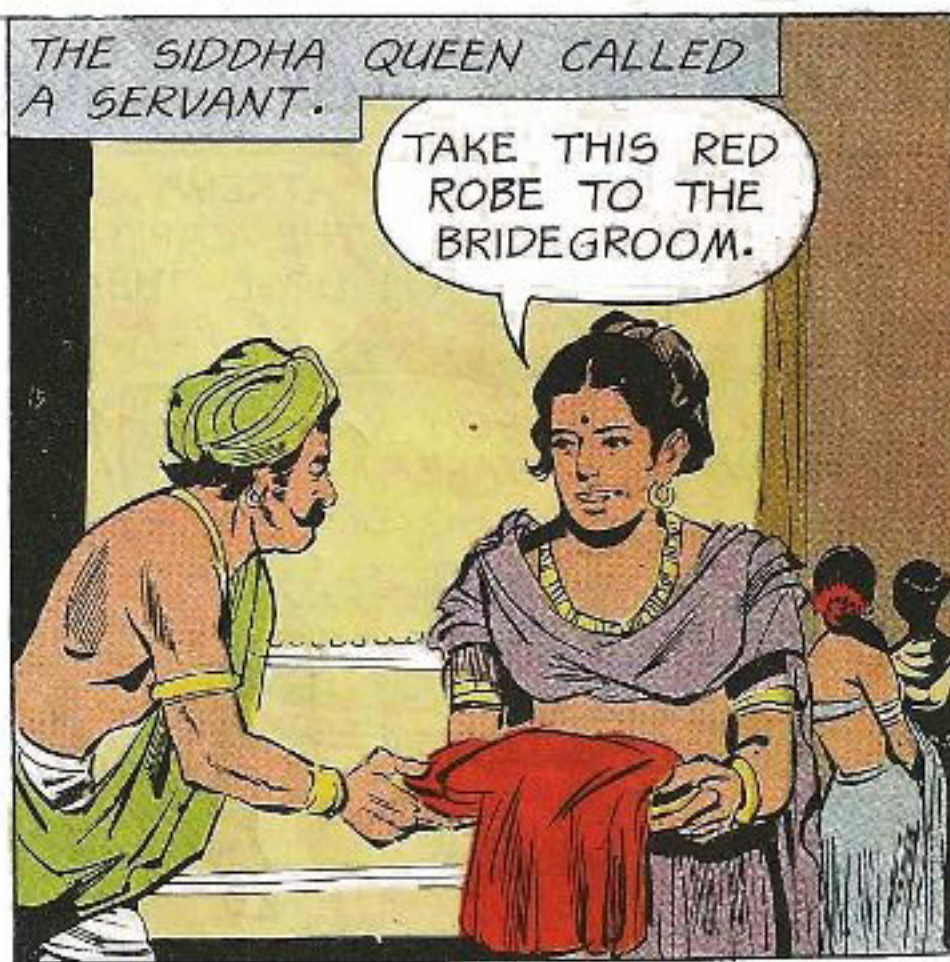


WHERE IS YOUR HUSBAND?

HE HAS GONE OUT WITH MITRAVASU AND ATREYA

THE SIDDHA QUEEN CALLED A SERVANT.

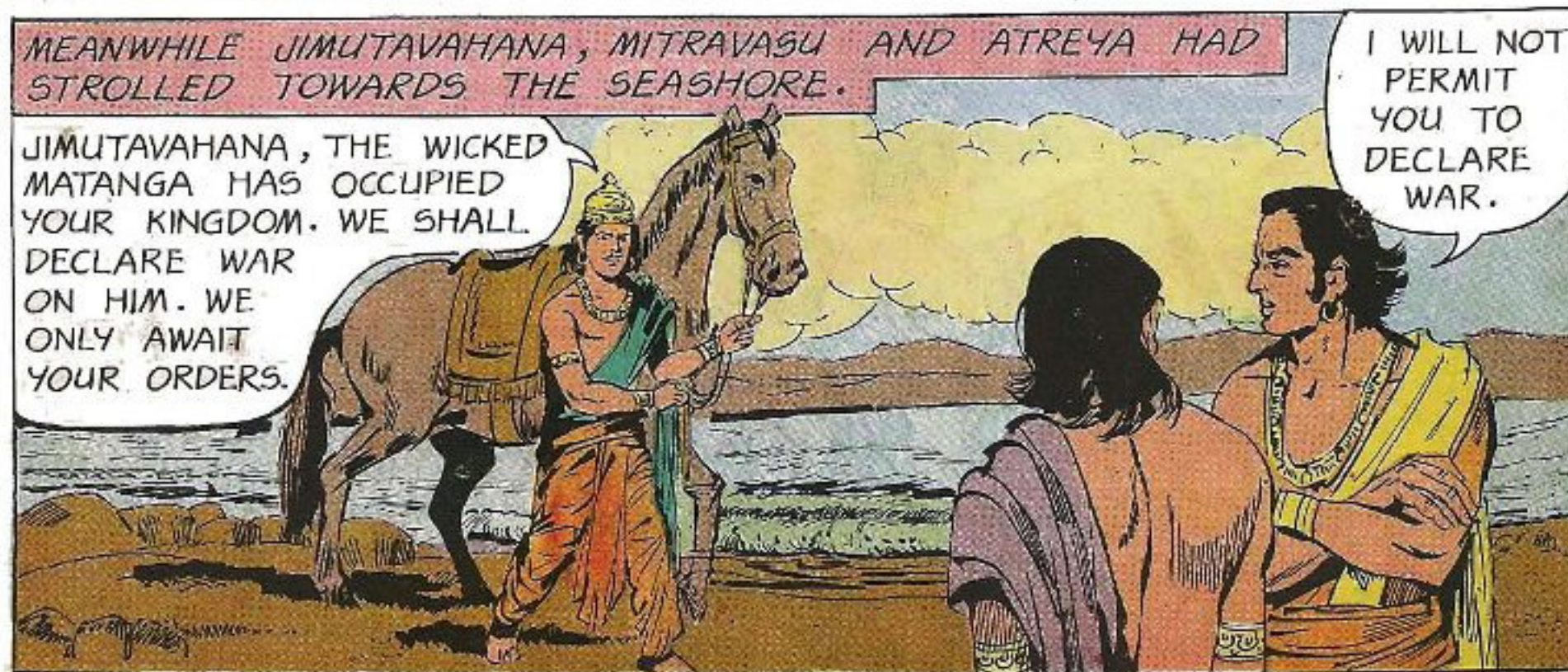
TAKE THIS RED ROBE TO THE BRIDEGROOM.

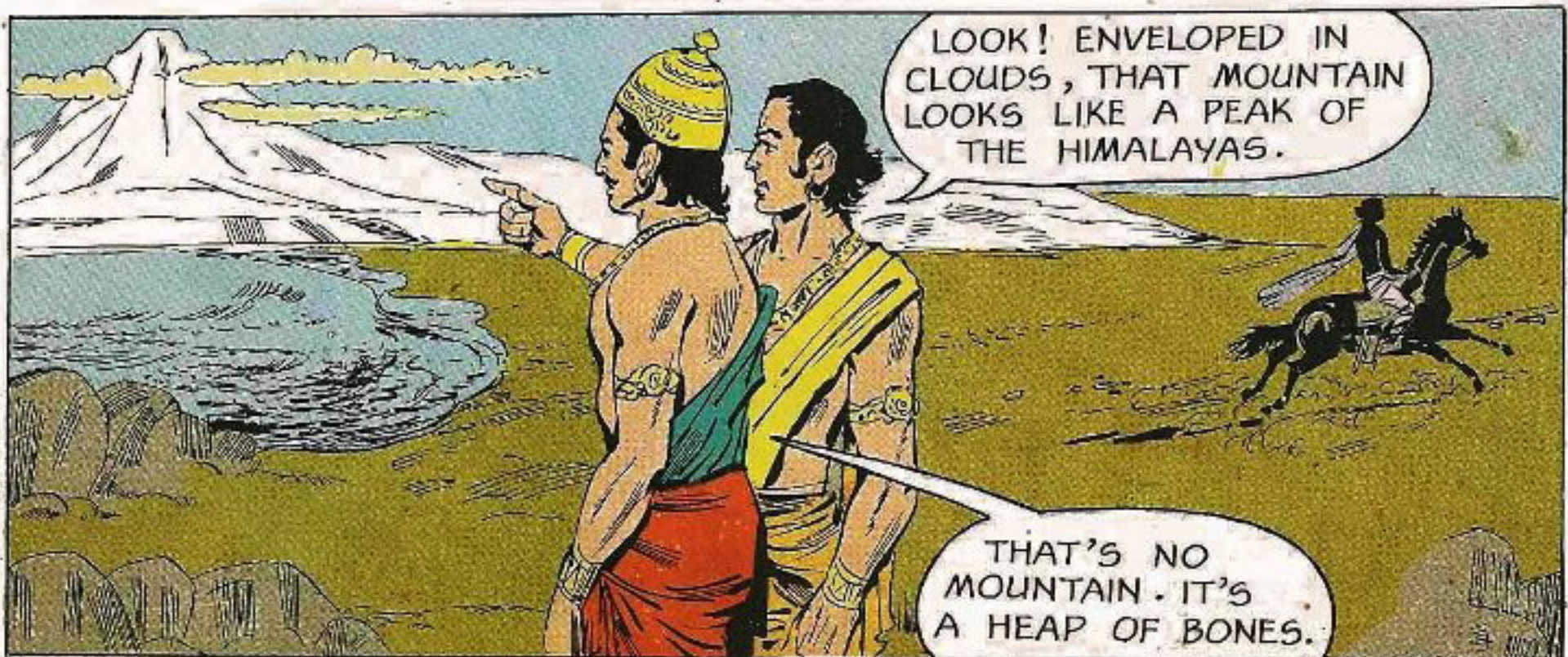
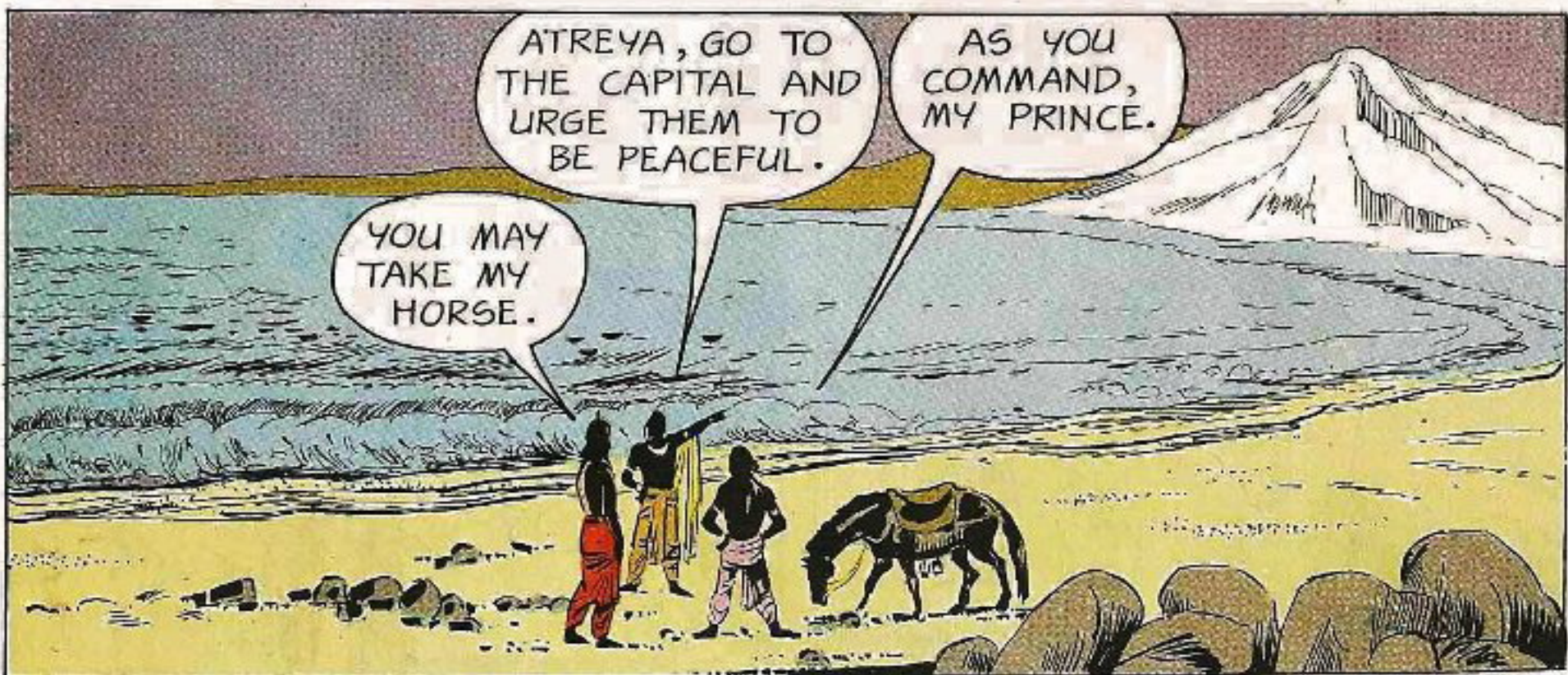
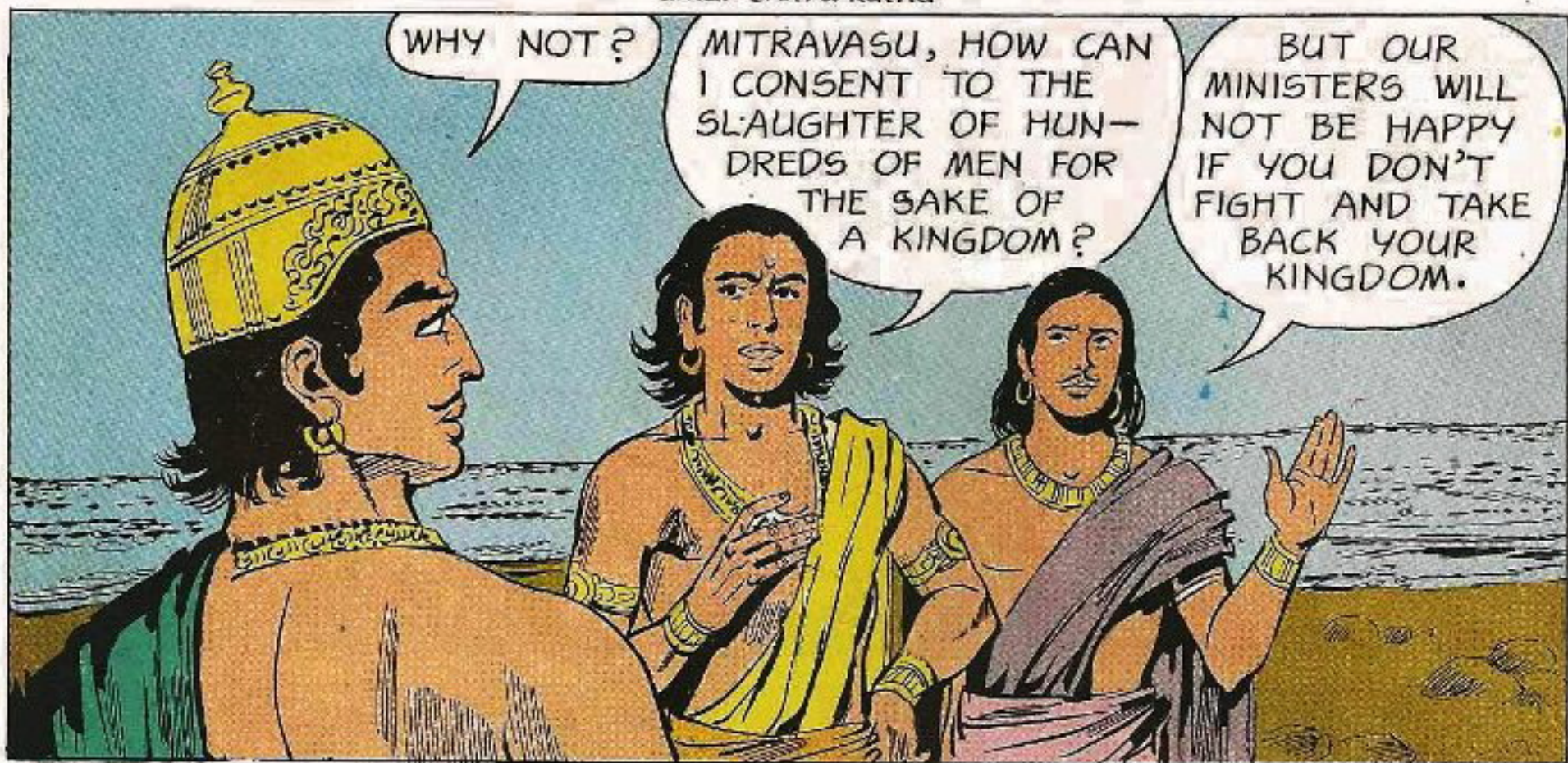


MEANWHILE JIMUTAVAHANA, MITRAVASU AND ATREYA HAD STROLLED TOWARDS THE SEASHORE.

JIMUTAVAHANA, THE WICKED MATANGA HAS OCCUPIED YOUR KINGDOM. WE SHALL DECLARE WAR ON HIM. WE ONLY AWAIT YOUR ORDERS.

I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO DECLARE WAR.

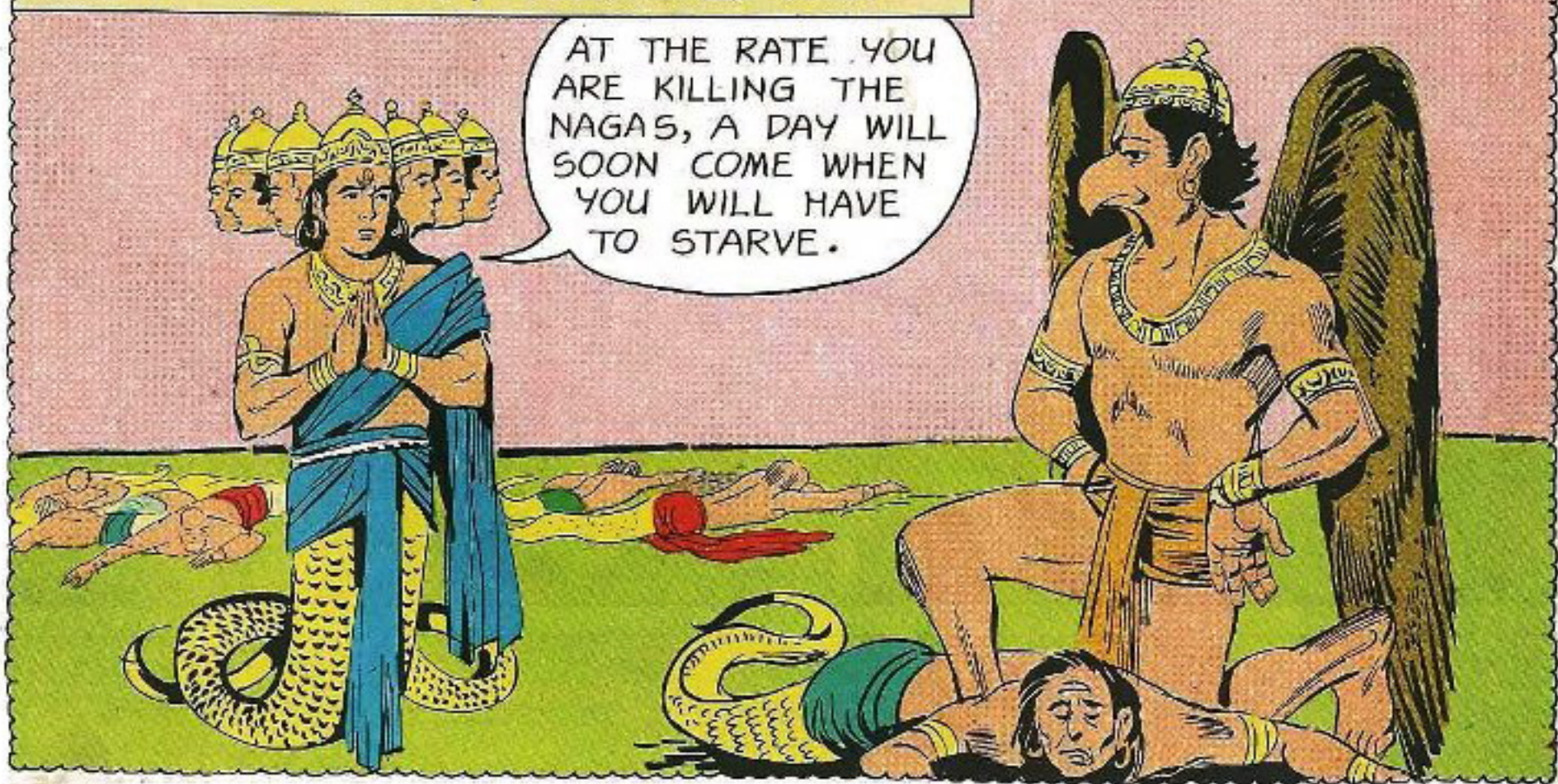




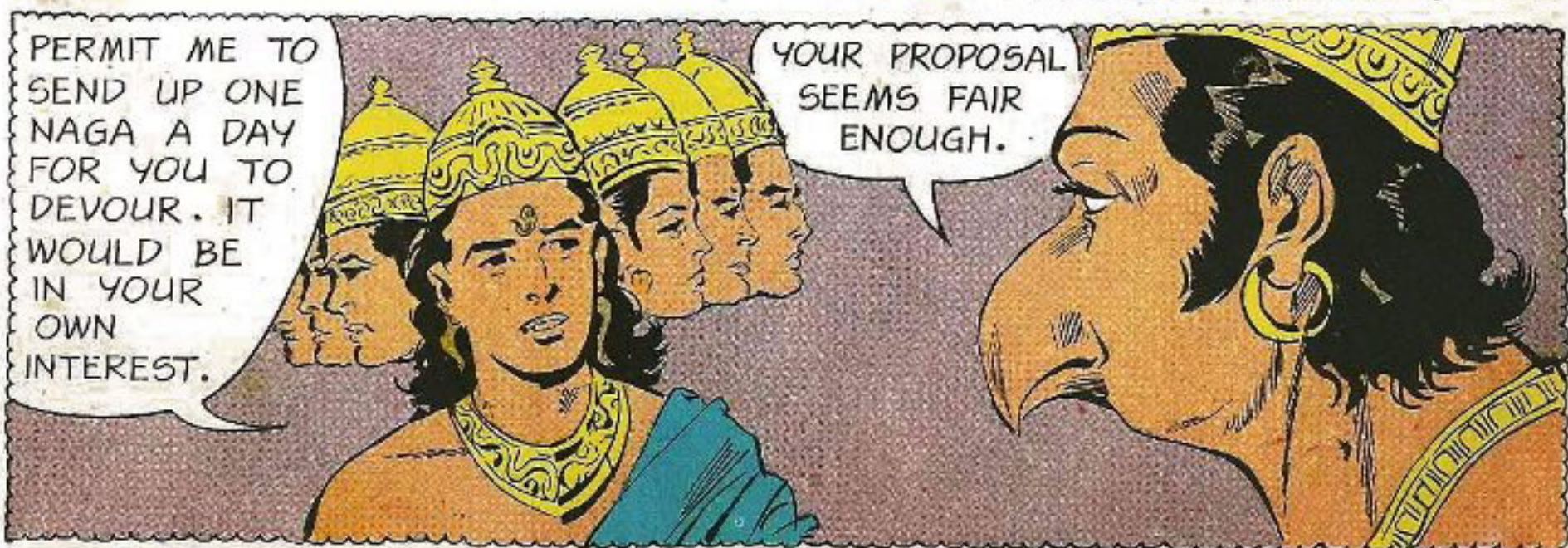


AT ONE TIME,
GARUDA USED TO
ENTER PATALA*...

...AND MASSACRE AND DEVOUR COUNTLESS NAGAS. ONE DAY, VASUKI,
KING OF THE NAGAS, APPROACHED HIM.



AT THE RATE YOU
ARE KILLING THE
NAGAS, A DAY WILL
SOON COME WHEN
YOU WILL HAVE
TO STARVE.



PERMIT ME TO
SEND UP ONE
NAGA A DAY
FOR YOU TO
DEVOUR. IT
WOULD BE
IN YOUR
OWN
INTEREST.

YOUR PROPOSAL
SEEMS FAIR
ENOUGH.

* THE MYTHICAL WORLD BELOW THE EARTH, WHERE THE NAGAS LIVED

WHAT YOU SEE
THERE ARE THE
GLEAMING BONES OF
GARUDA'S ILL-FATED
VICTIMS.

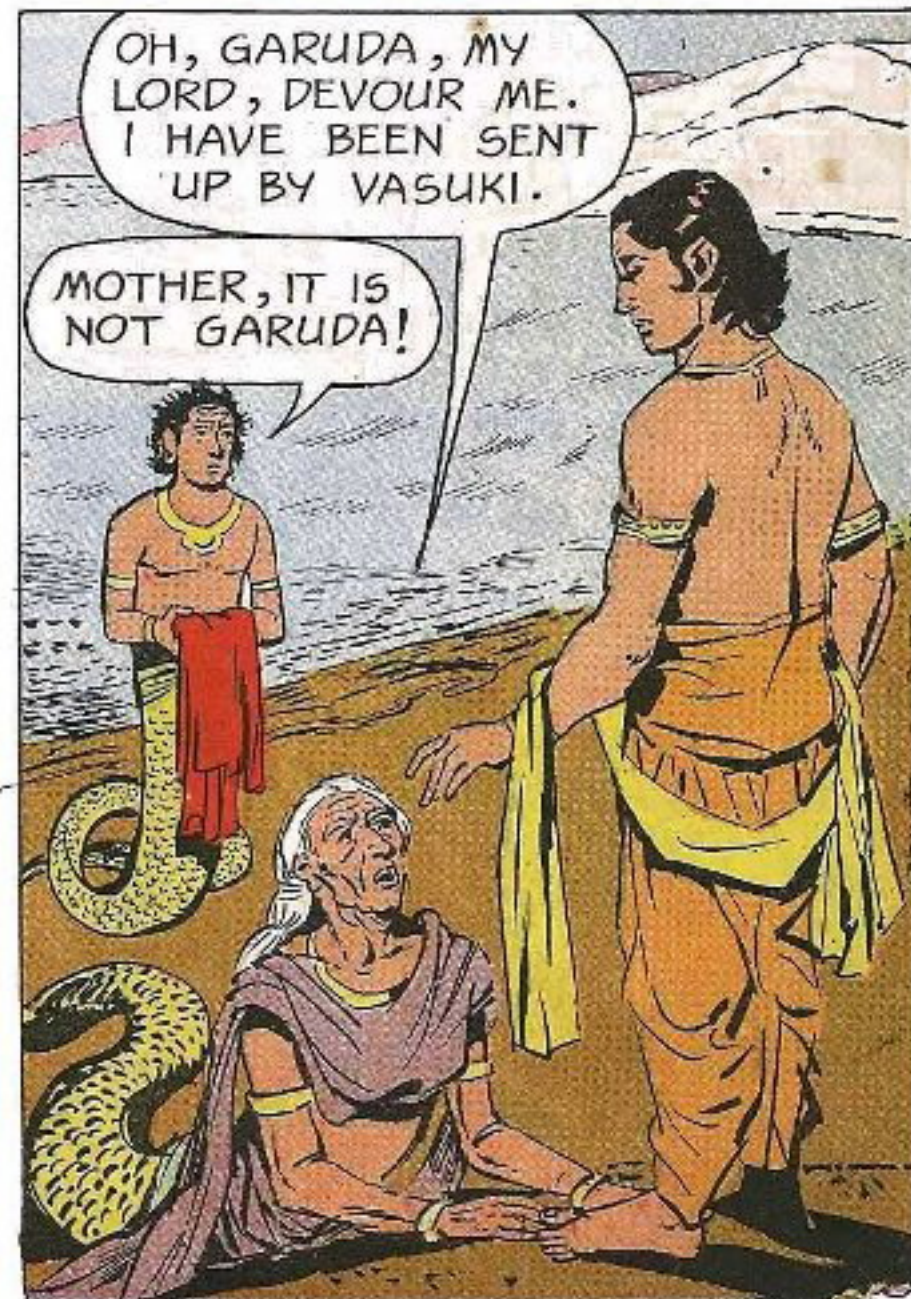
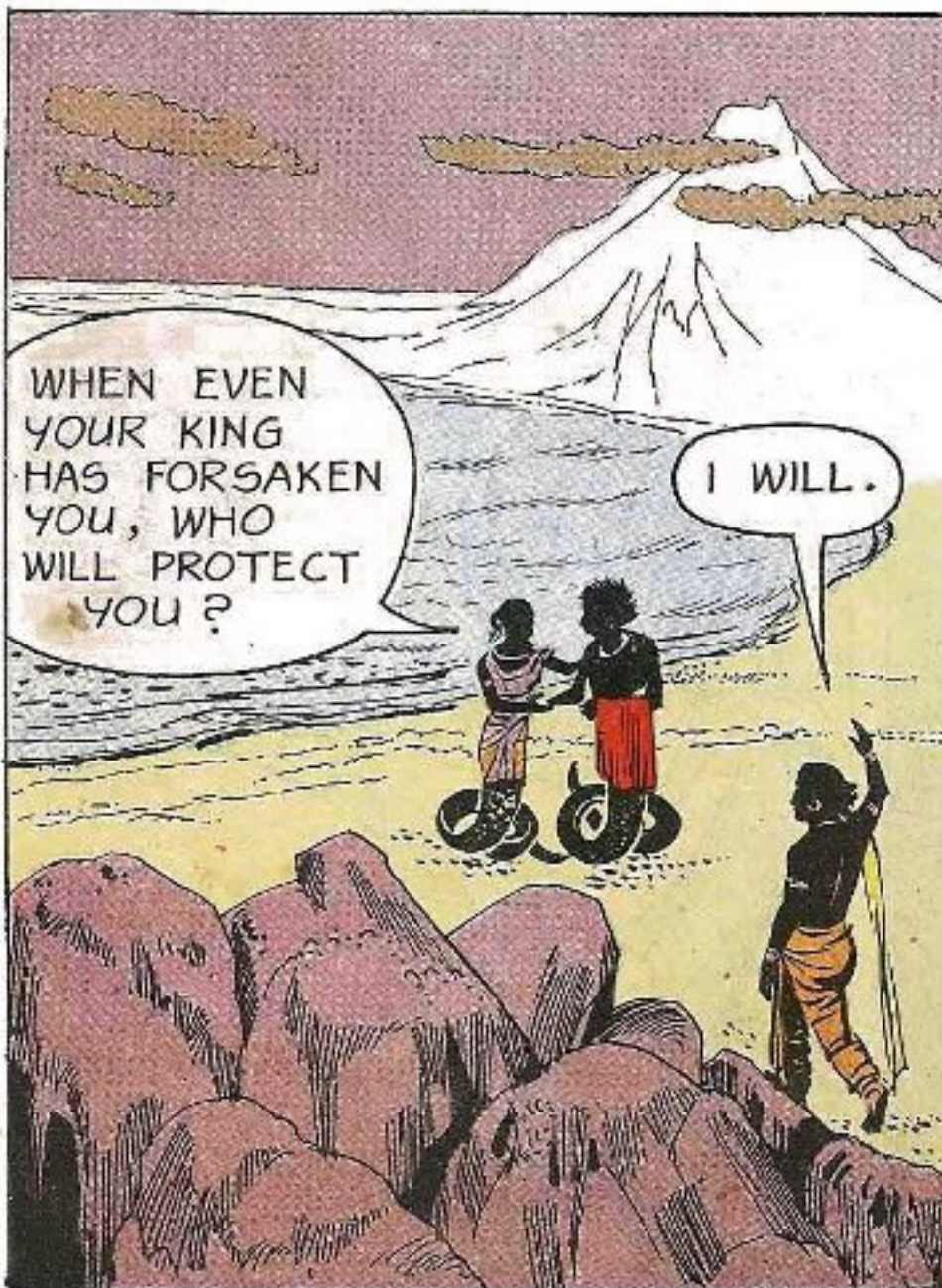
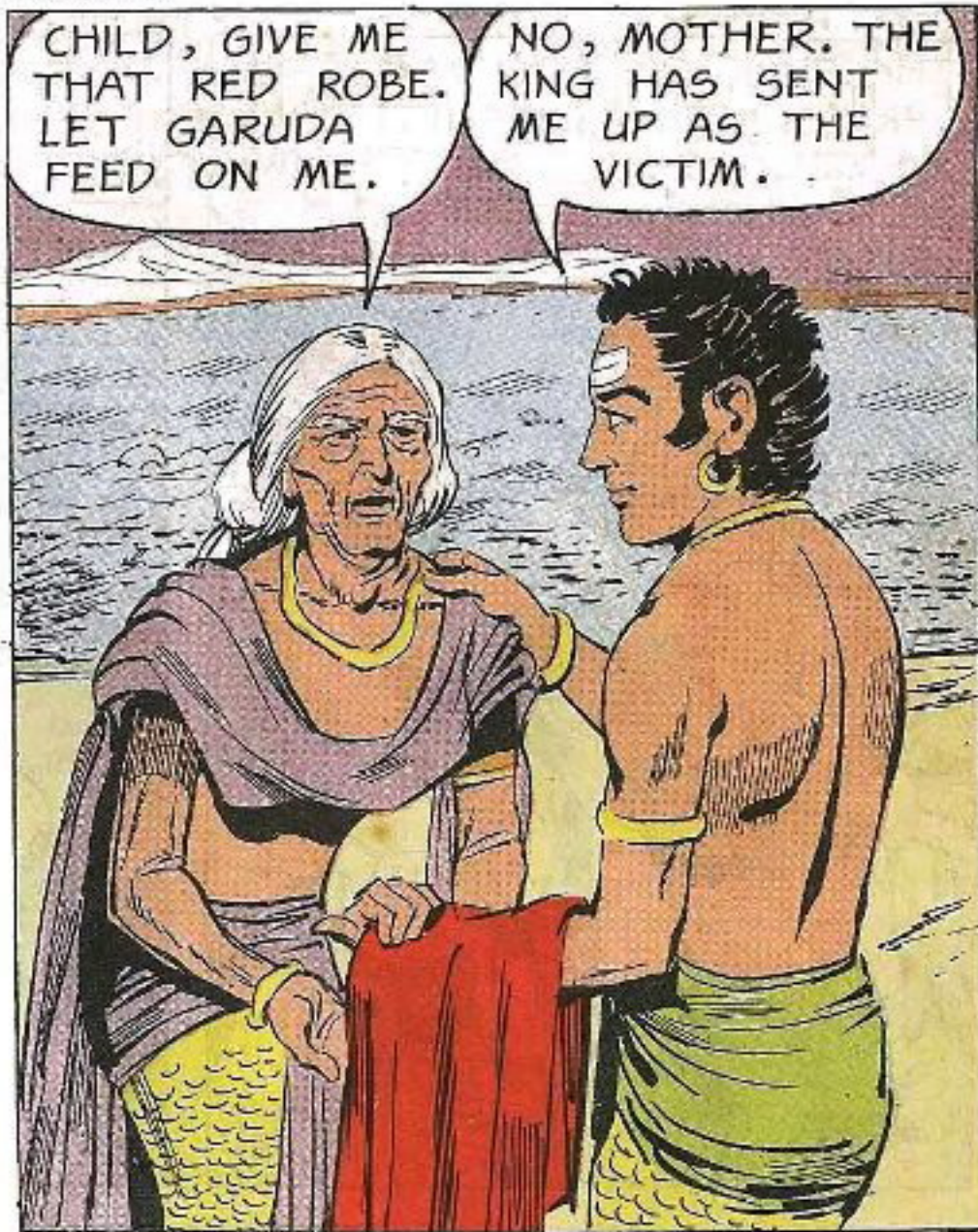
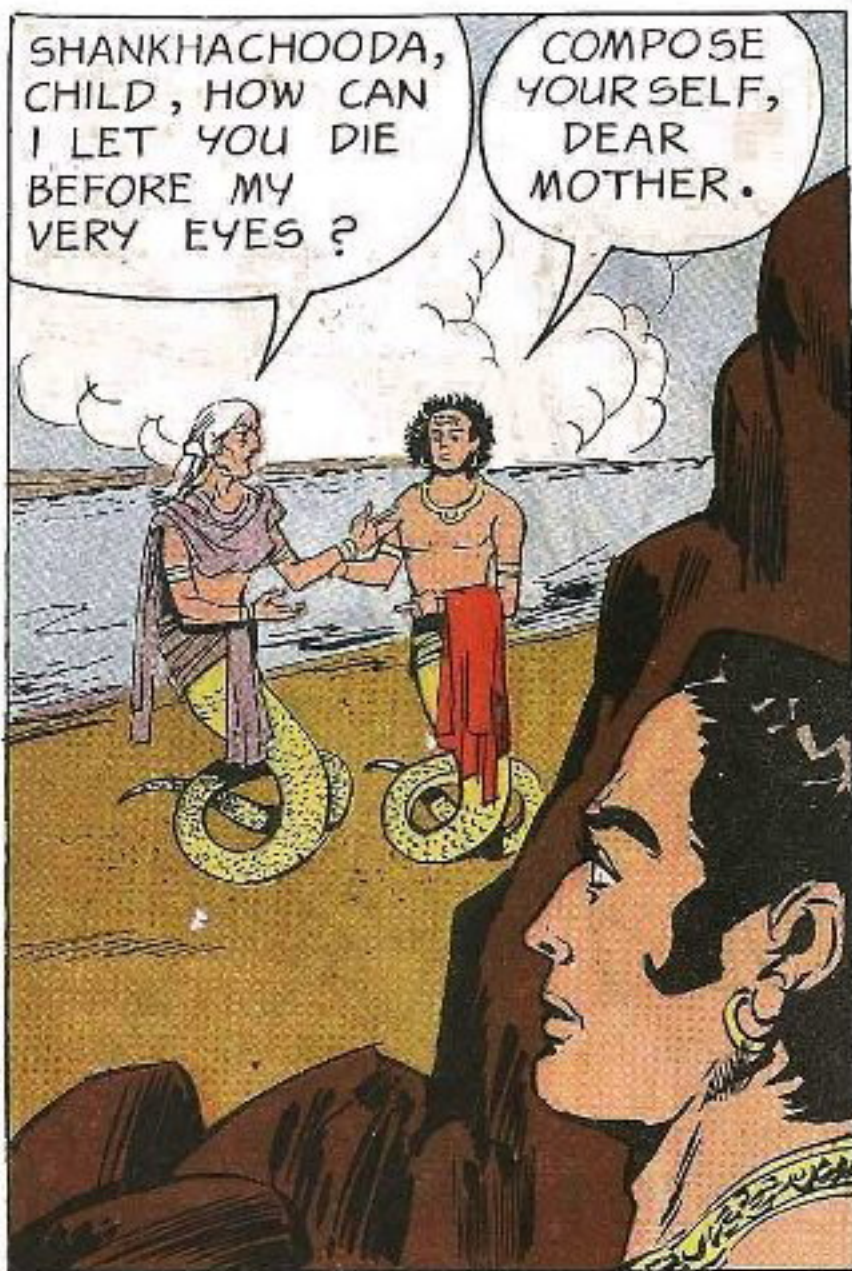
AH! IF I COULD
PROTECT BUT ONE
NAGA BY OFFERING
MY OWN BODY!

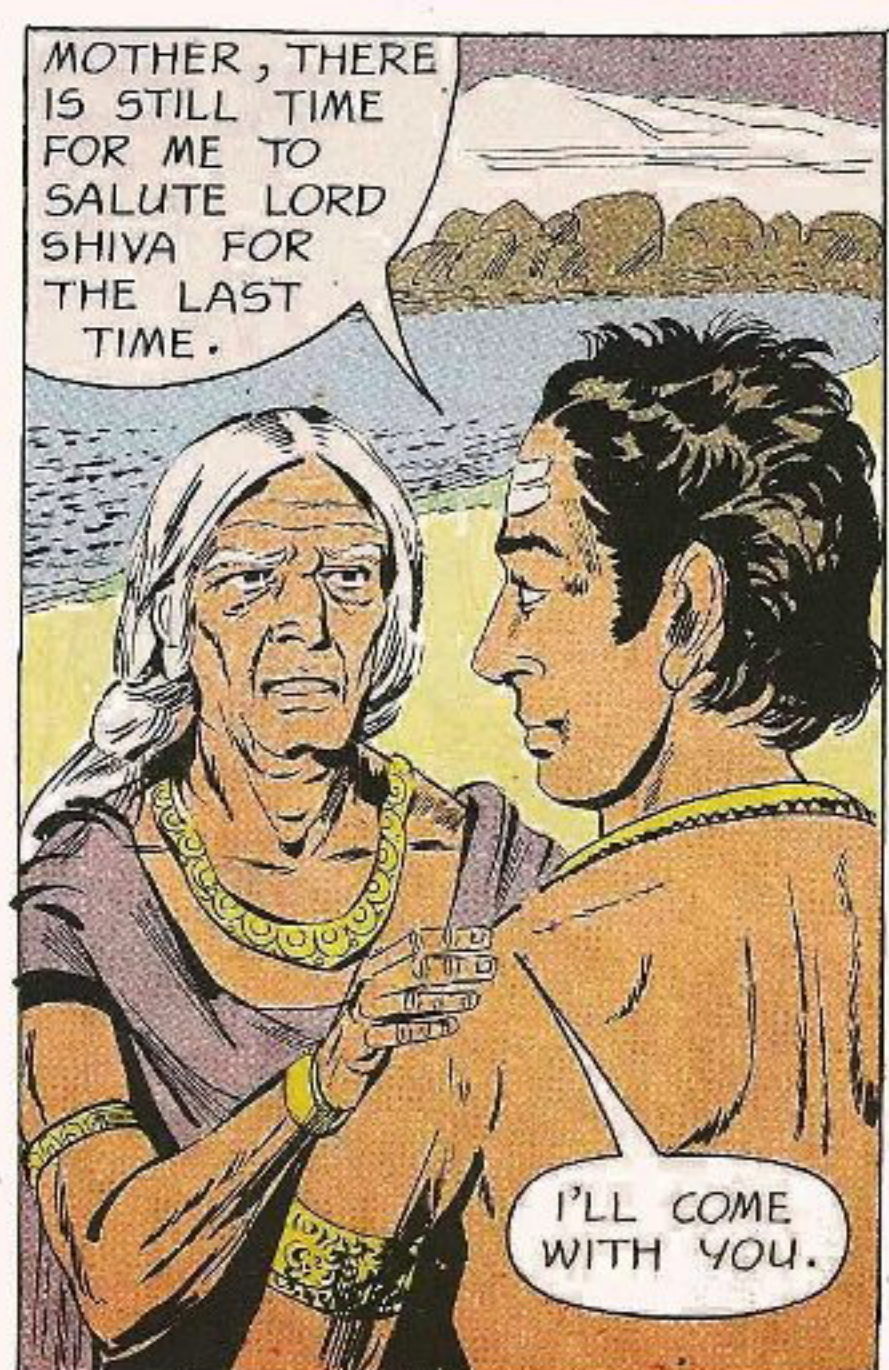
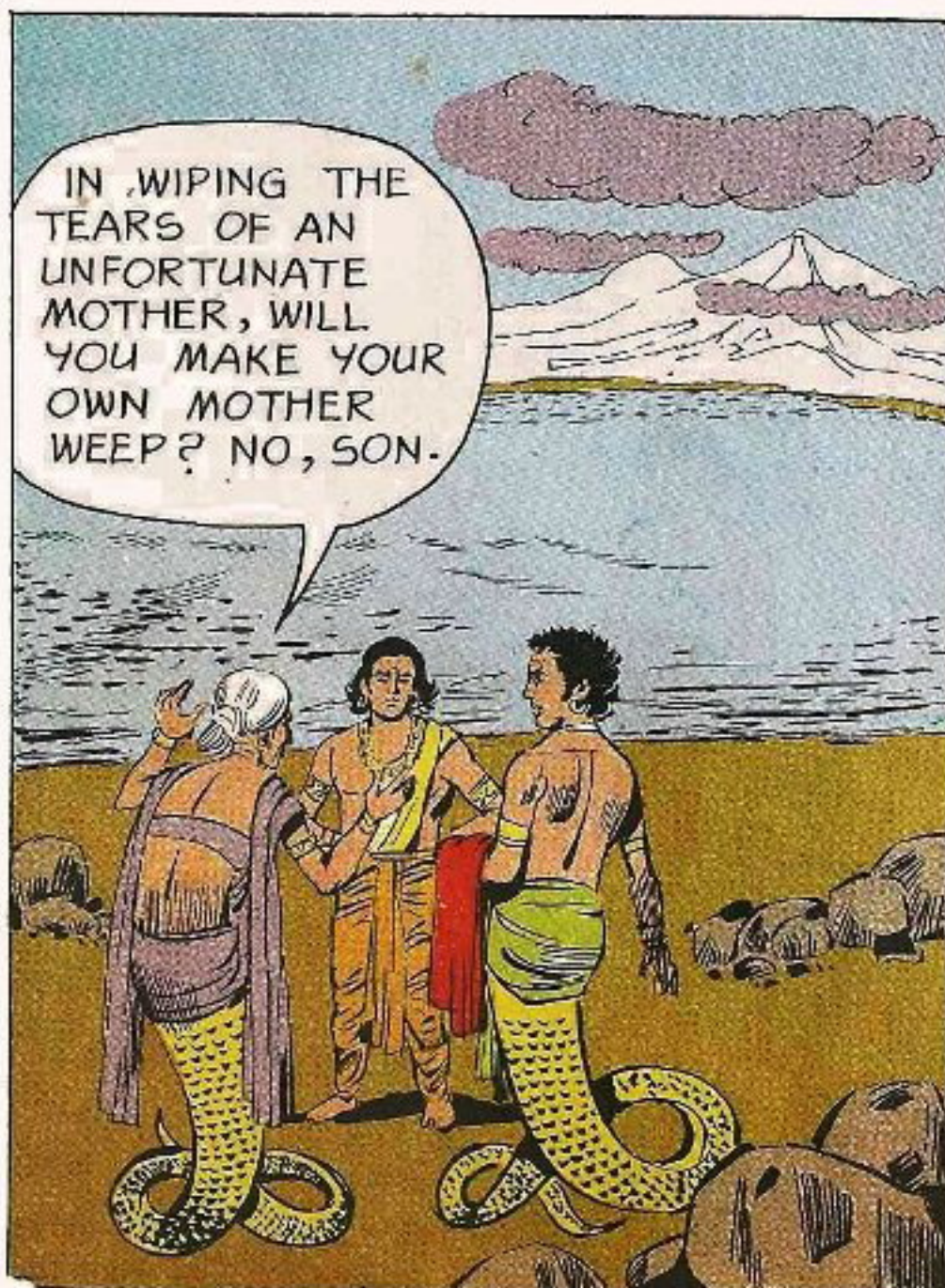
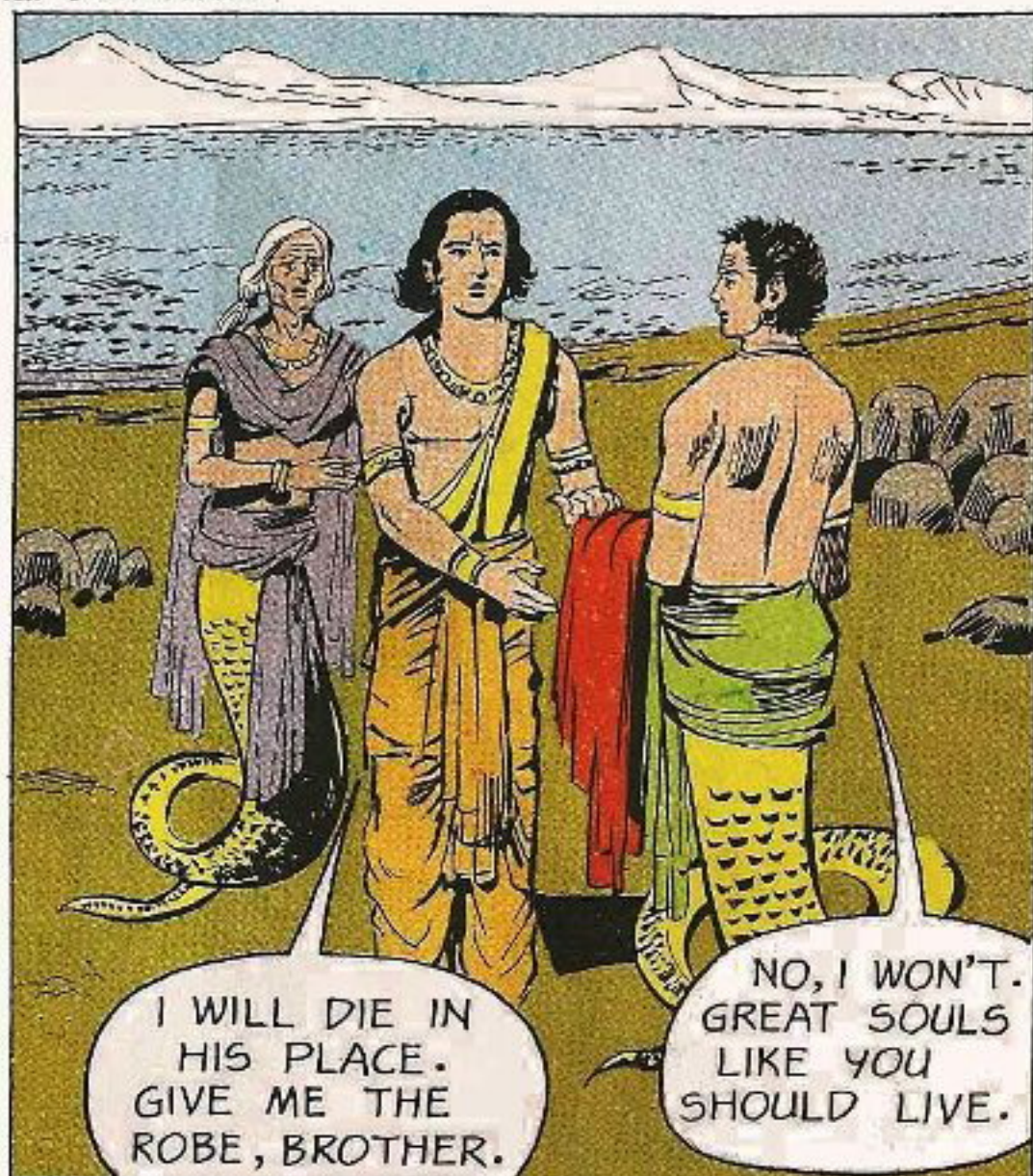
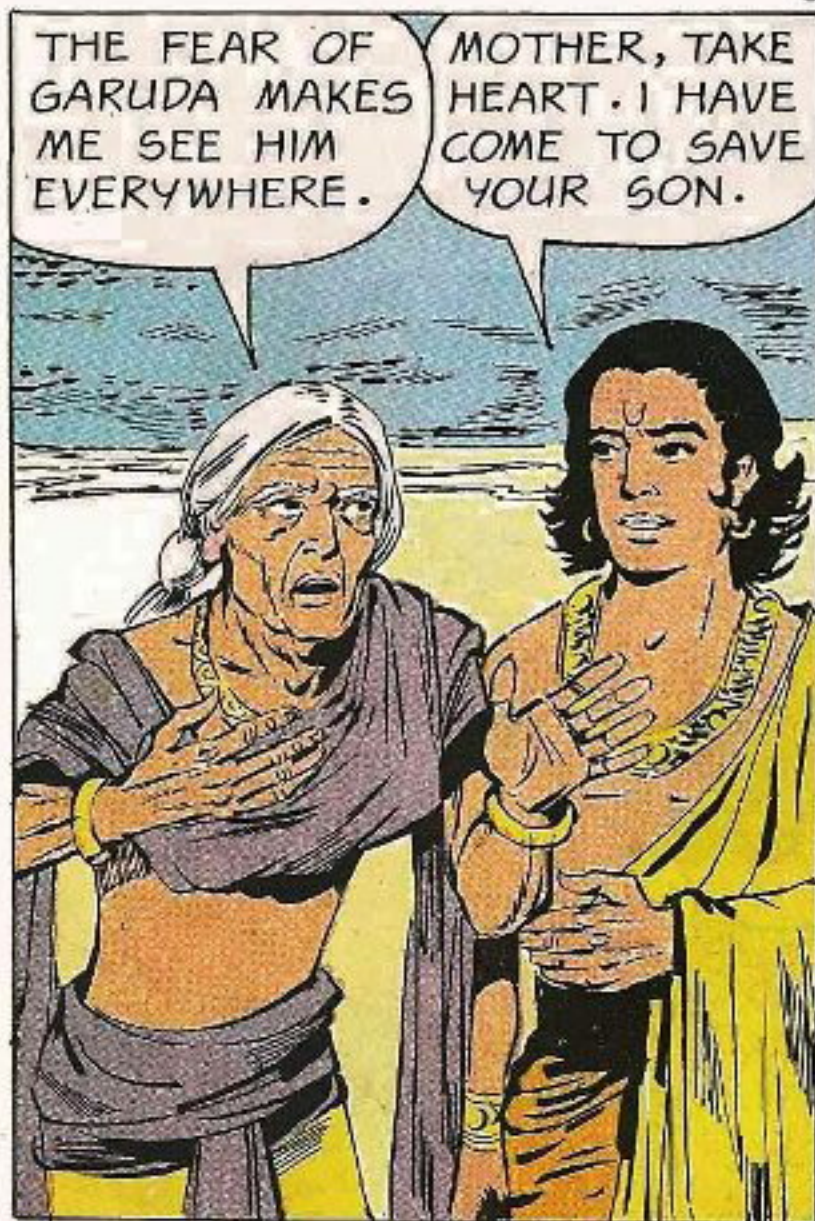
JIMUTA,
IT'S GETTING
LATE. LET
US GO.

LET ME NOT
DETAIN YOU.
YOU MAY GO.
I WILL JOIN YOU
IN A WHILE.

MITRAVASU LEFT AND JIMUTAVAHANA WAS ALONE. SUDDENLY
A PITEOUS CRY PIERCED THE SILENCE —

ALAS! MY BELOVED
SON! HOW CAN
I GIVE YOU UP?





AS THE MOTHER AND SON GLIDED AWAY —

OF WHAT USE IS MY LIFE IF IT CAN'T SAVE ANOTHER. IF ONLY I HAD THE RED ROBE...



AT THAT MOMENT, THE SERVANT OF THE QUEEN OF THE SIDDHAS CAME THERE WITH THE RED ROBE.

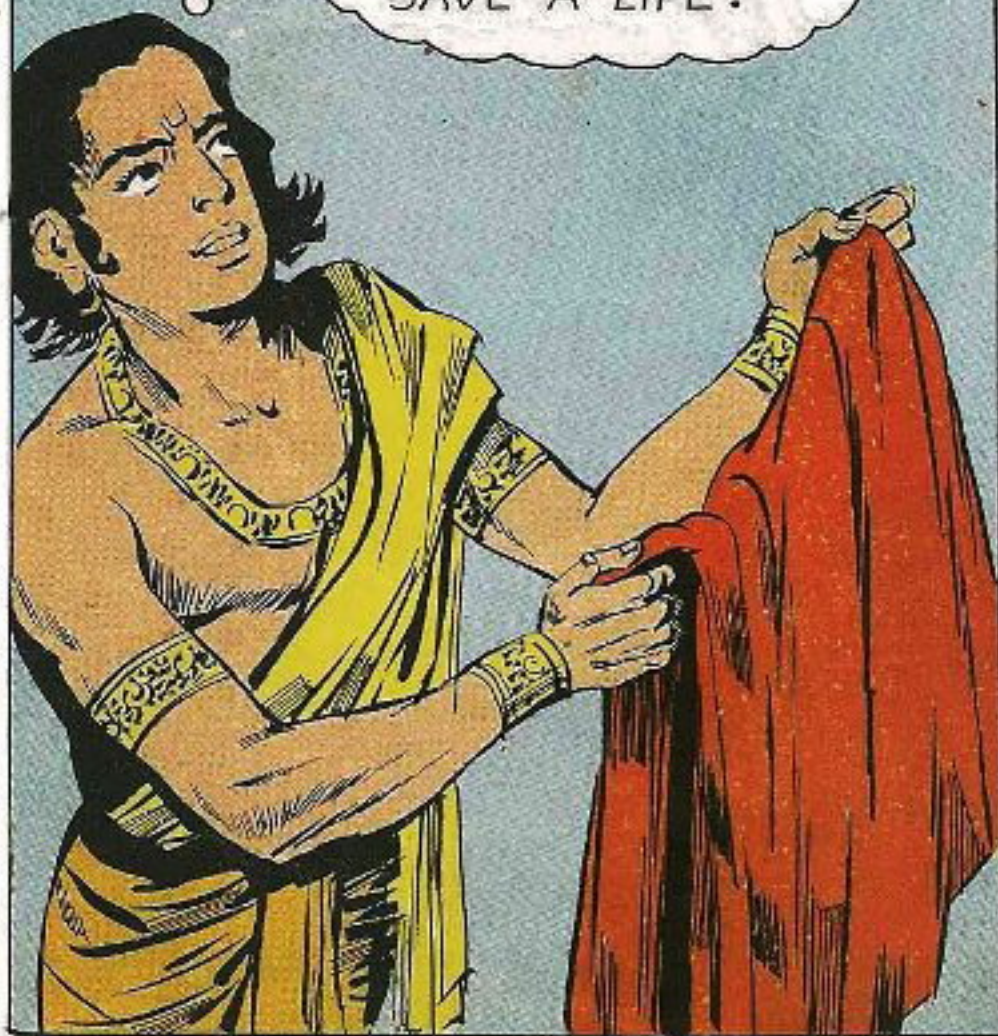
HERE IS THE CUSTOMARY RED ROBE FOR THE NEWLY-WEDDED PRINCE. YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW REQUESTS YOU TO WEAR IT FOR TEN DAYS.

IT HAS COME AT THE RIGHT TIME.

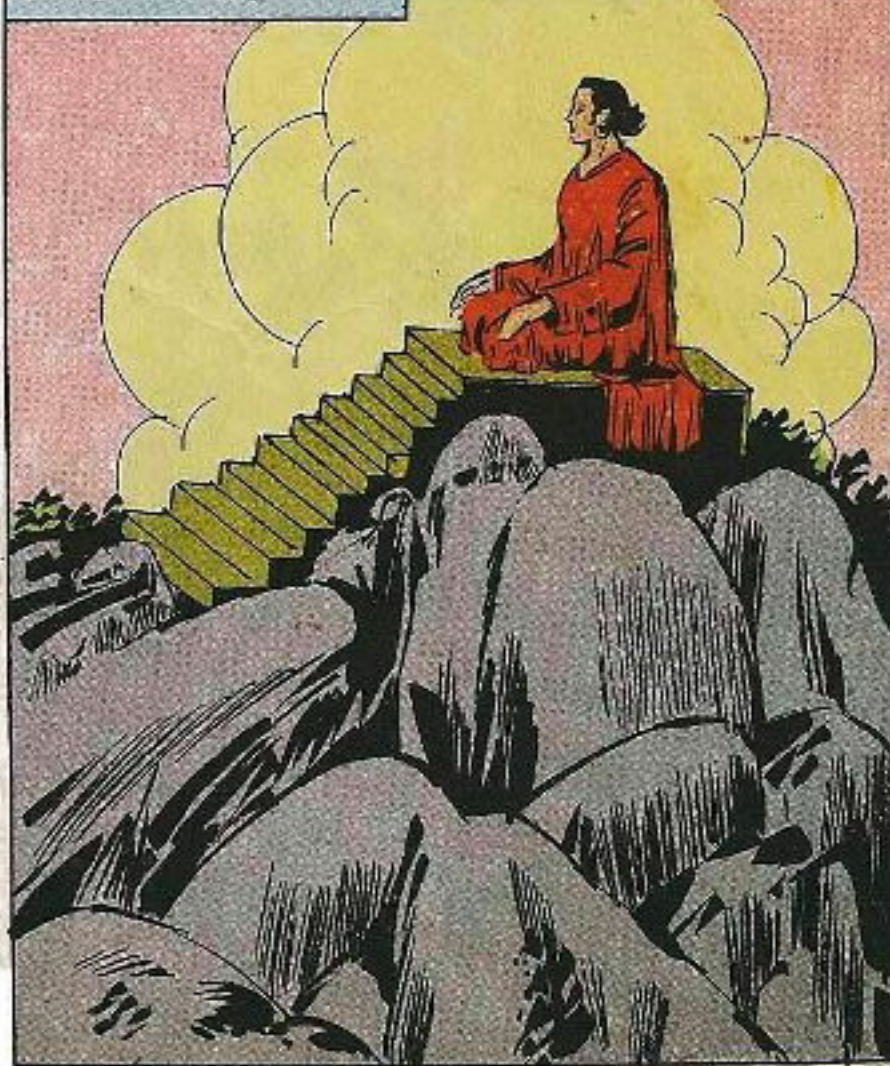
MY RESPECTS TO THE QUEEN.



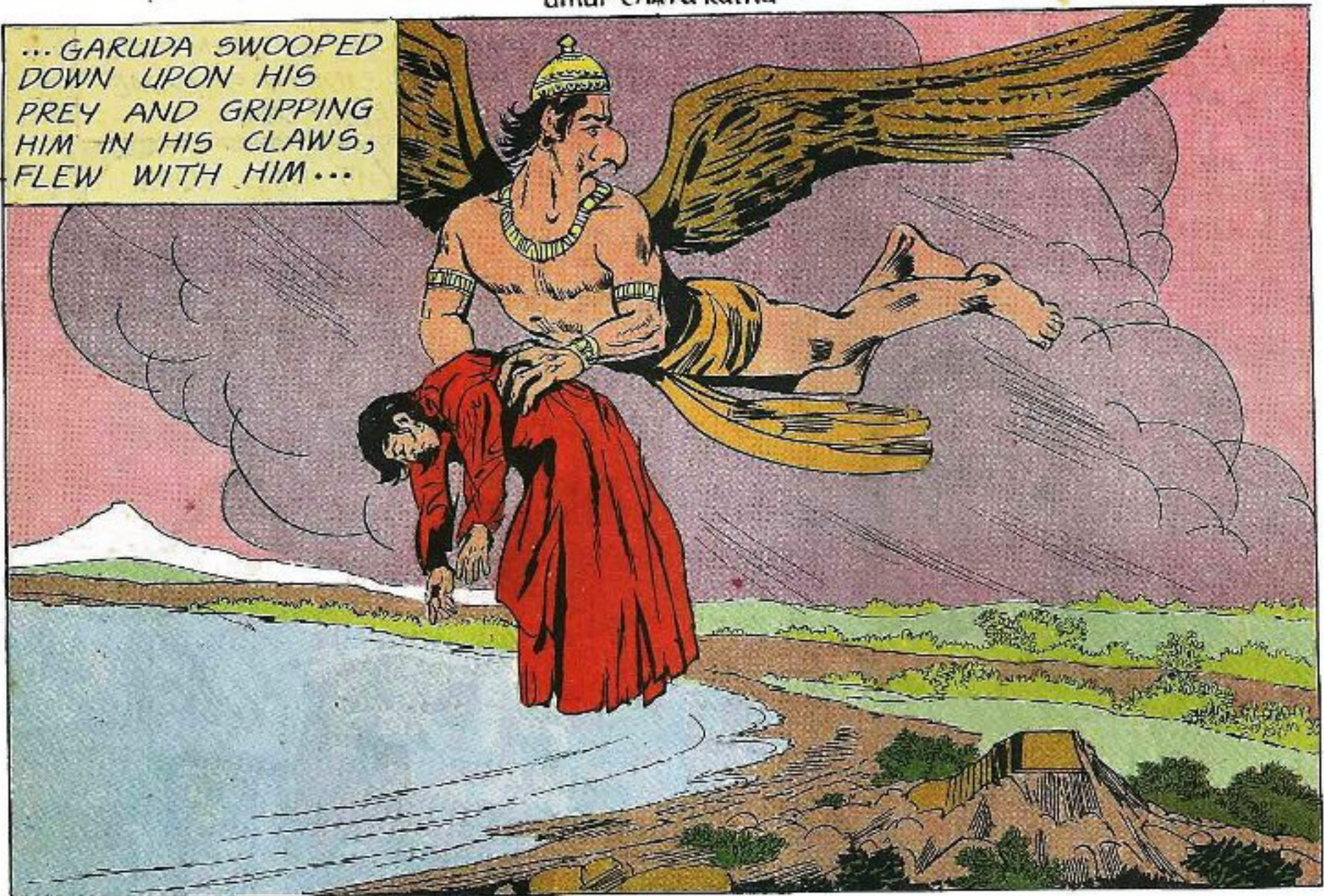
MY MARRIAGE TO MALAYAVATI HAS BORNE FRUIT. IT IS GOING TO HELP ME SAVE A LIFE.



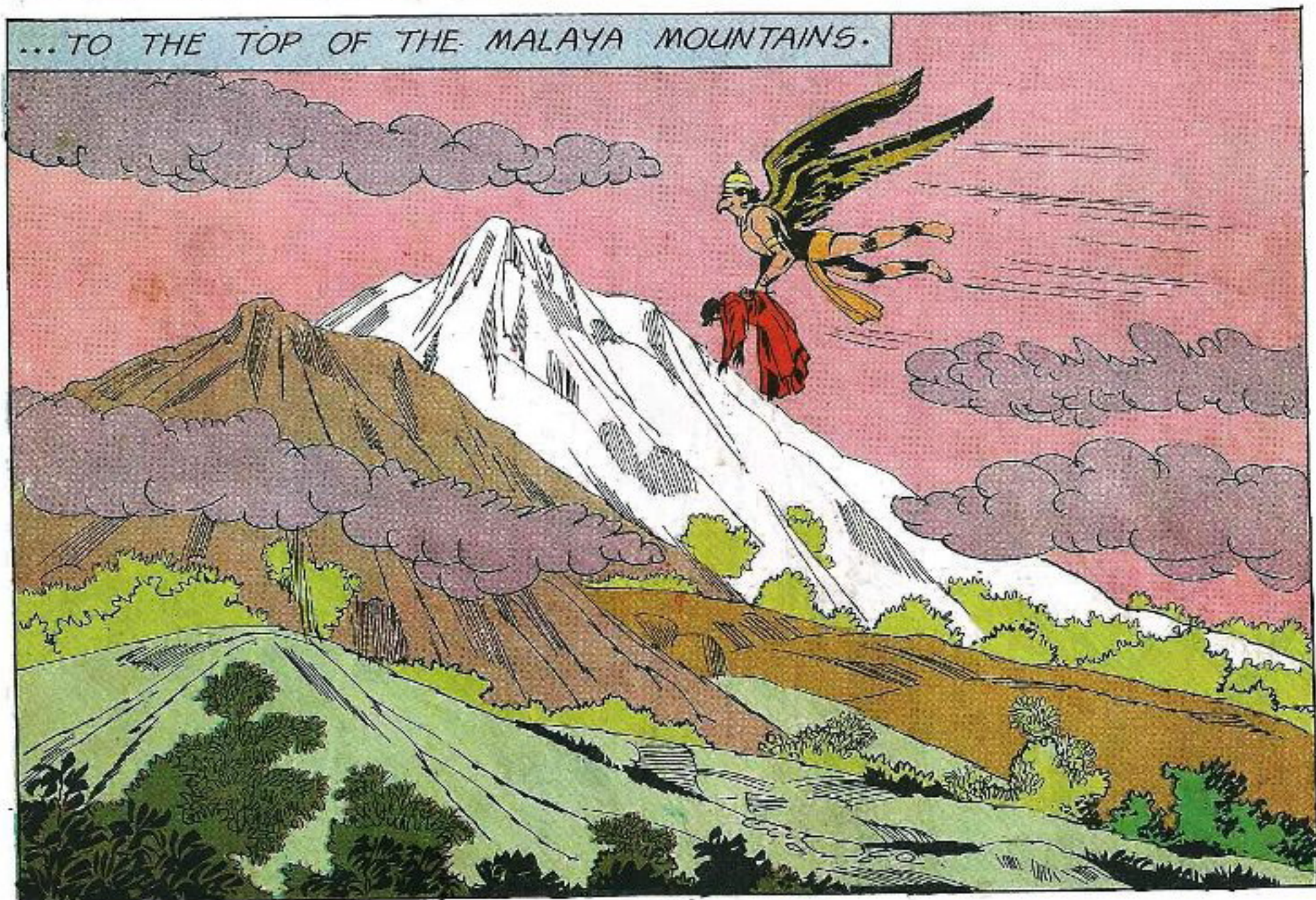
AS SOON AS JIMUTAVAHANA, CLAD IN THE RED ROBE, OCCUPIED THE SEAT OF SACRIFICE...



... GARUDA SWOOPED
DOWN UPON HIS
PREY AND GRIPPING
HIM IN HIS CLAWS,
FLEW WITH HIM...



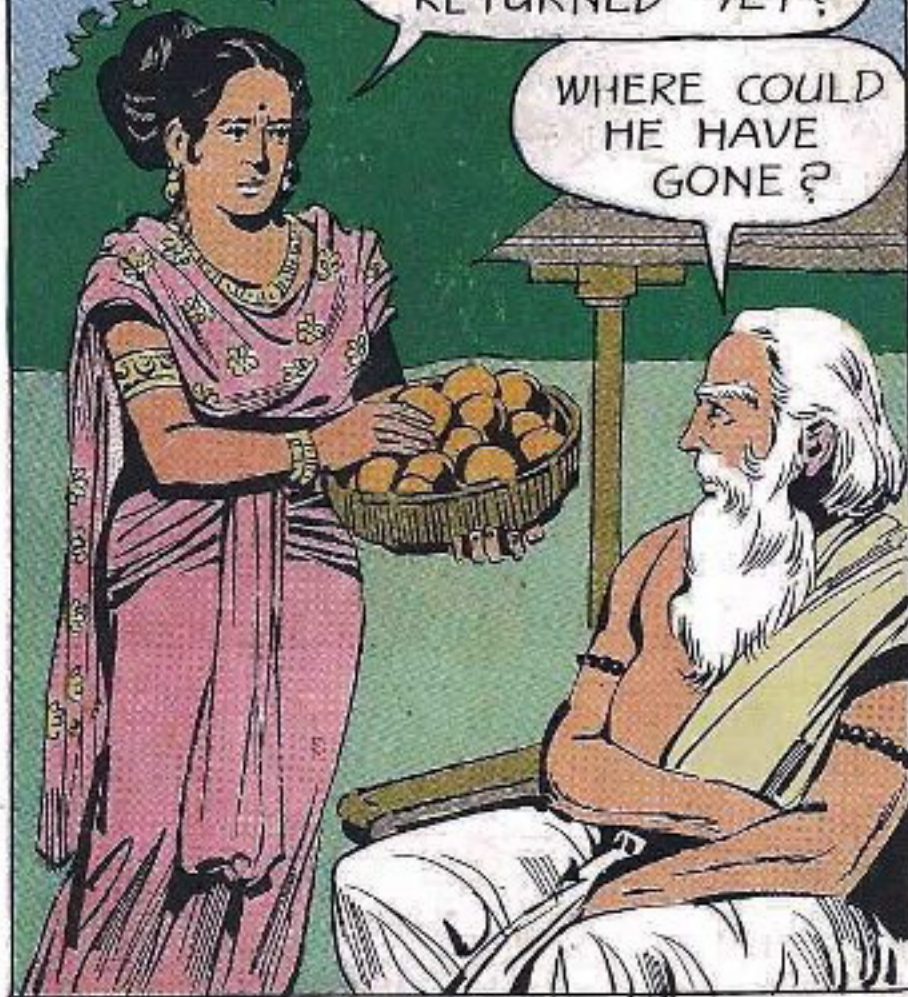
... TO THE TOP OF THE MALAYA MOUNTAINS.



MEANWHILE, JIMUTAVAHANA'S PARENTS WERE ANXIOUS.

WHY HASN'T HE RETURNED YET?

WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?



DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS, CHILD?

A VAGUE DREAD FILLS MY HEART. SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT JIMUTA'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!



AT THAT MOMENT, GARUDA, CARRYING HIS PREY, FLEW OVER THEM.

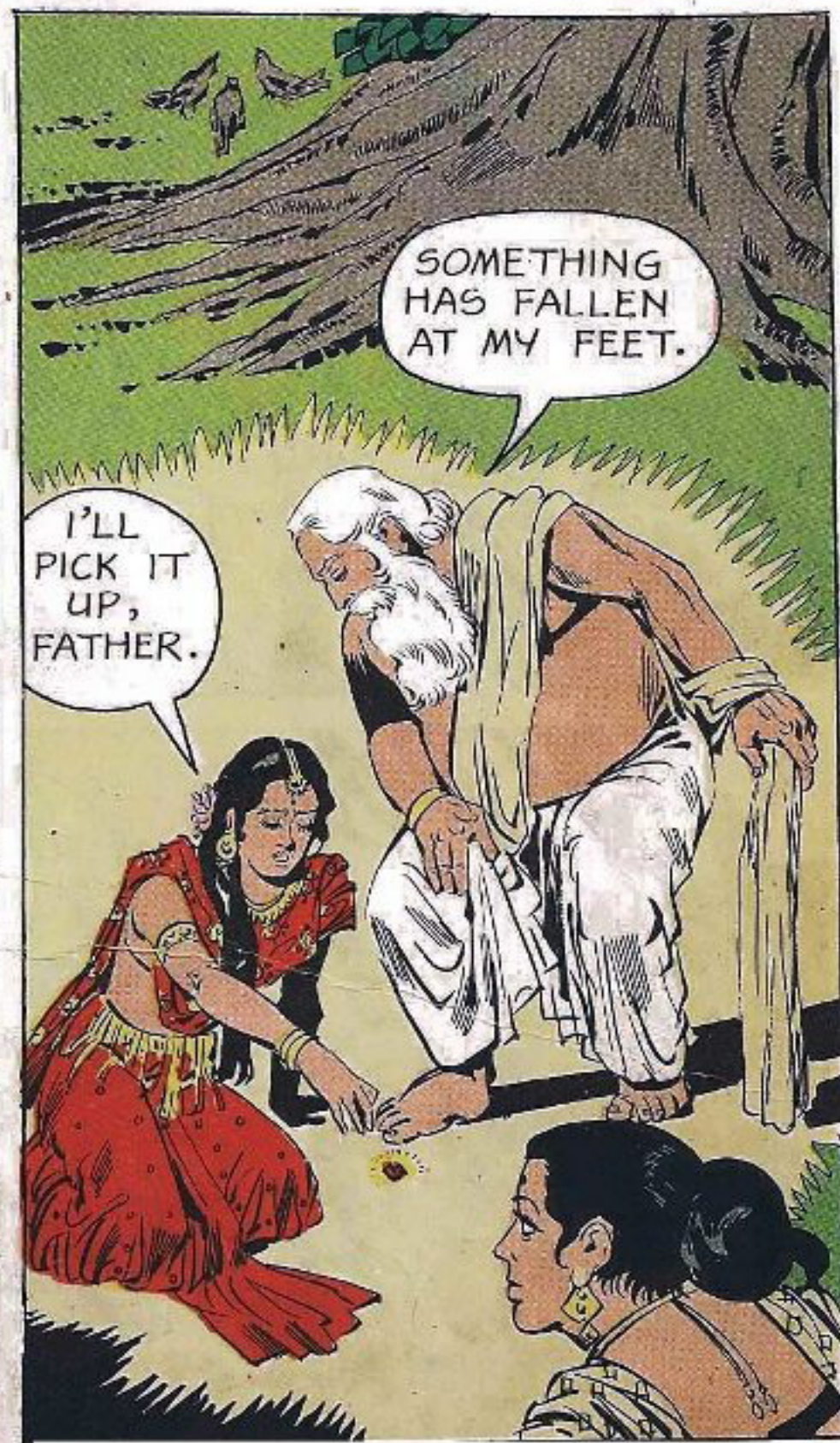
WHA—WHAT'S THAT?

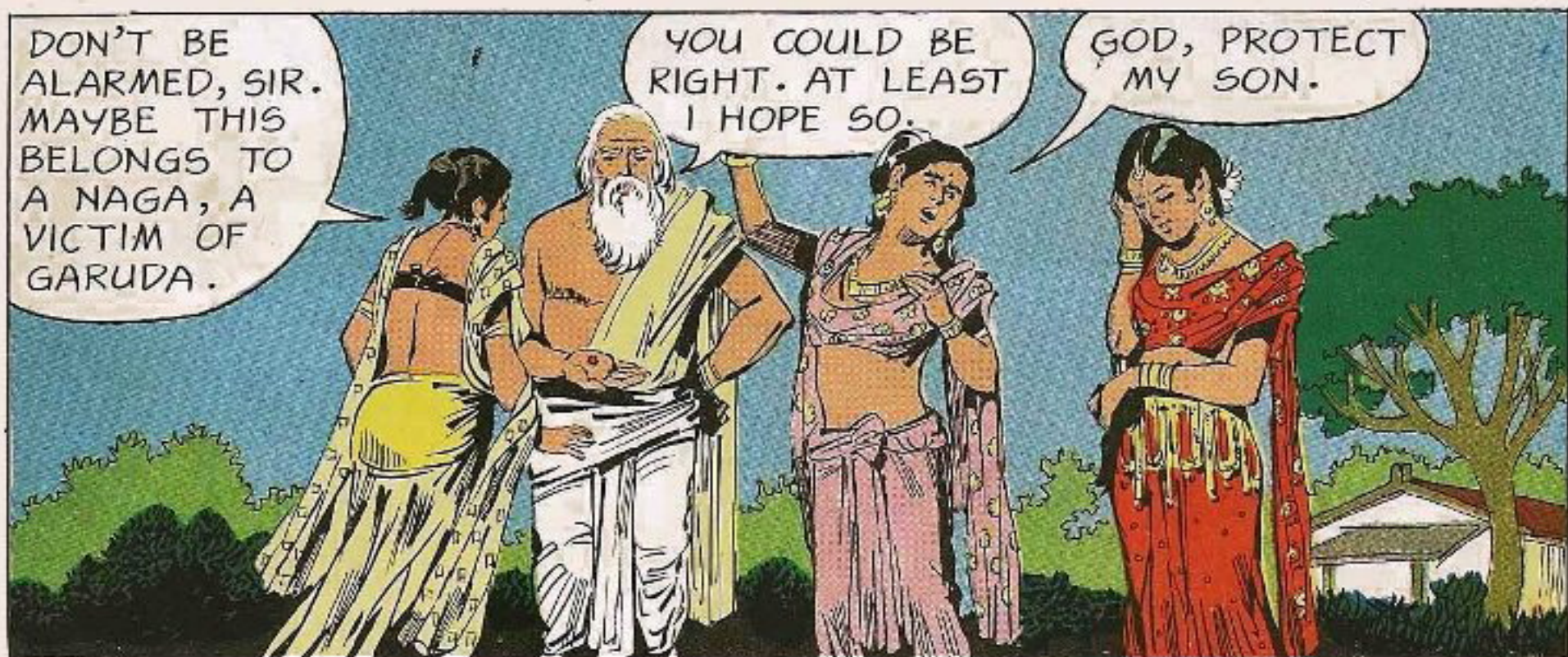
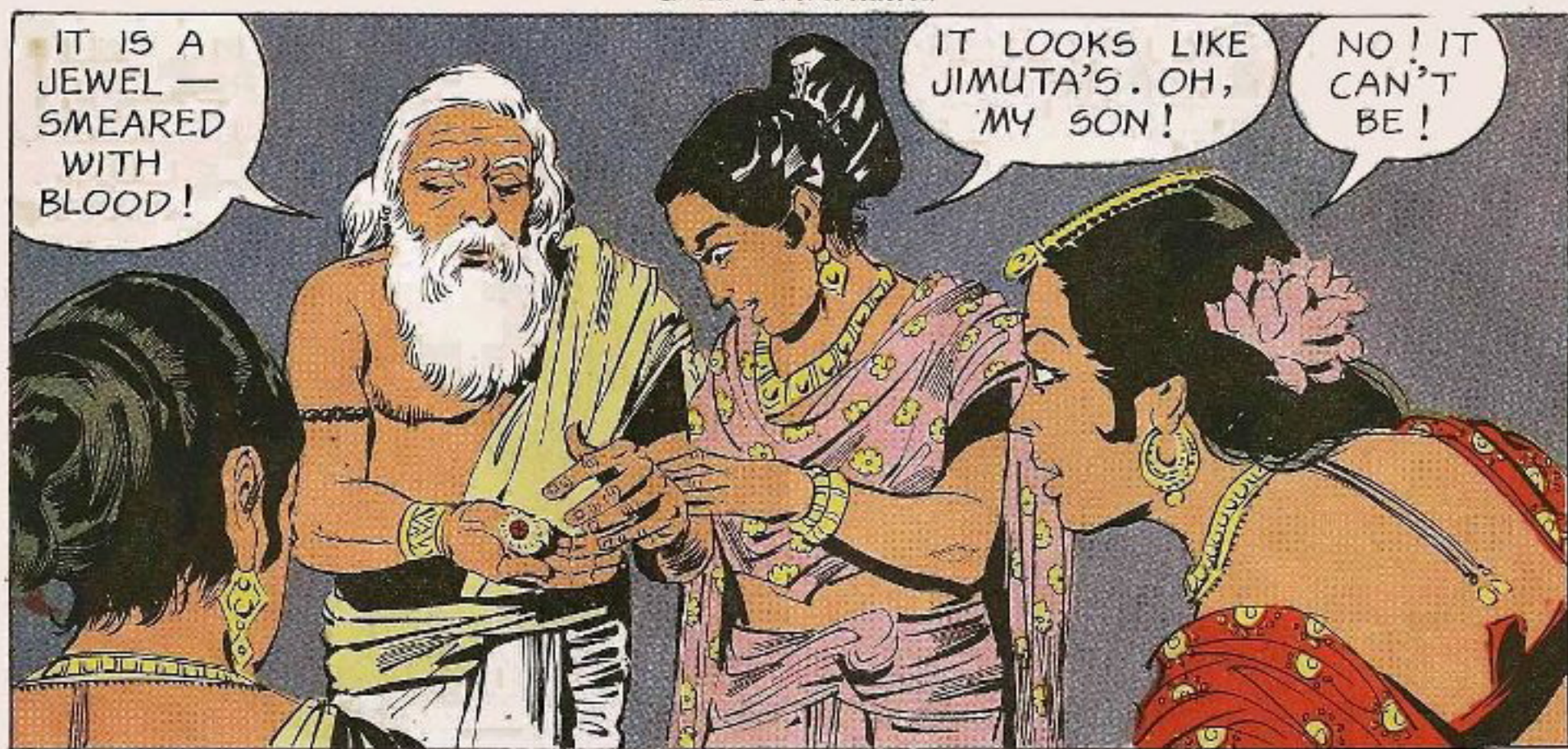
IT'S A HUGE BIRD. ITS WINGS HAVE COVERED THE SUN.



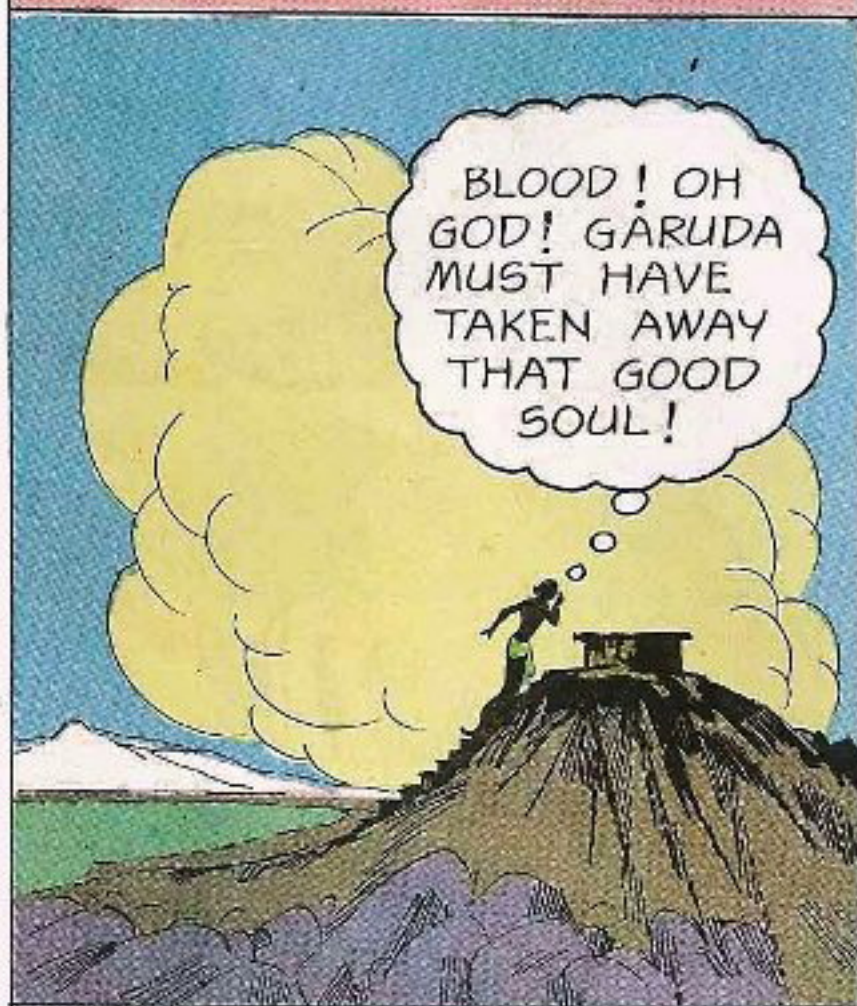
SOMETHING HAS FALLEN AT MY FEET.

I'LL PICK IT UP, FATHER.



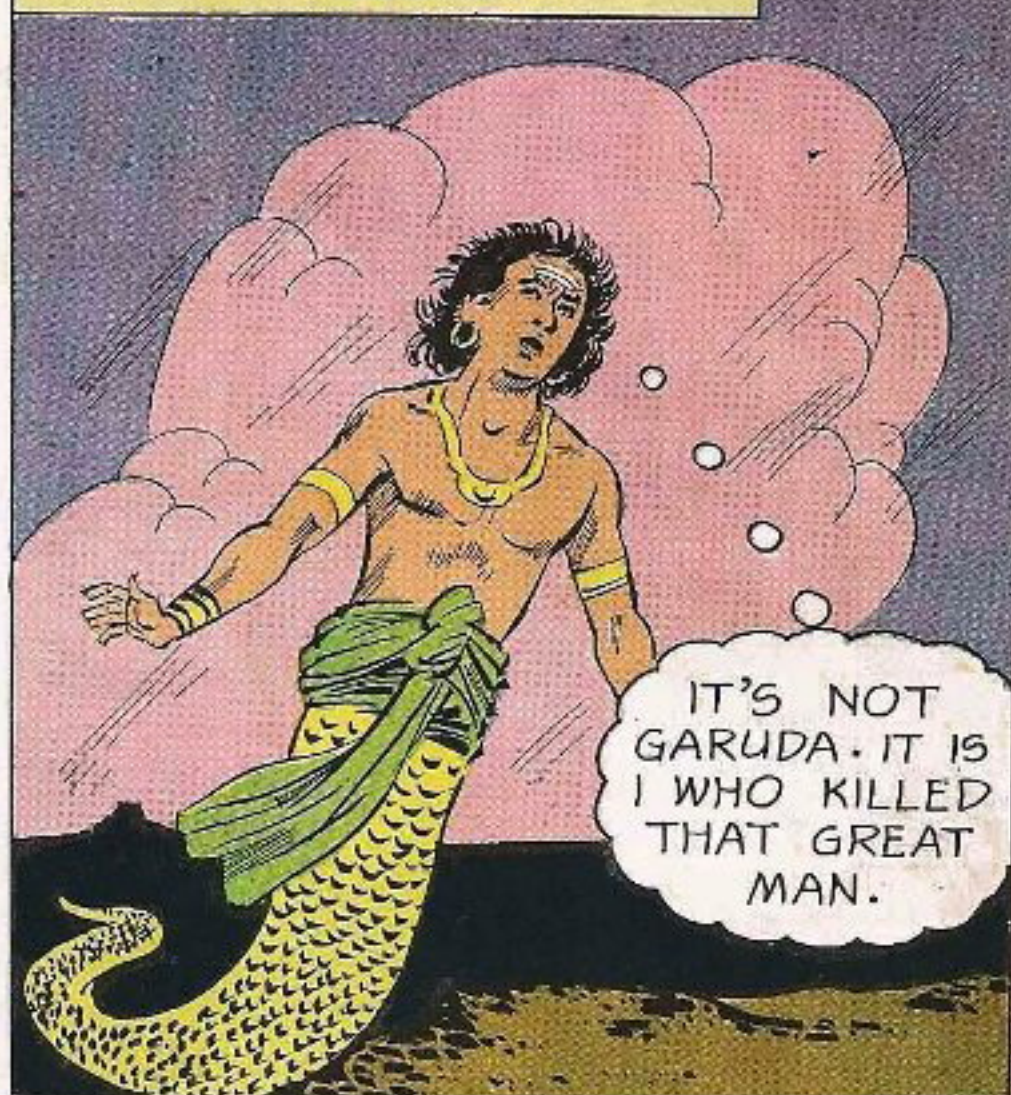


MEANWHILE SHANKHACHOODA RETURNED FROM THE TEMPLE, AND MADE HIS WAY TO THE SEAT OF THE SACRIFICE.

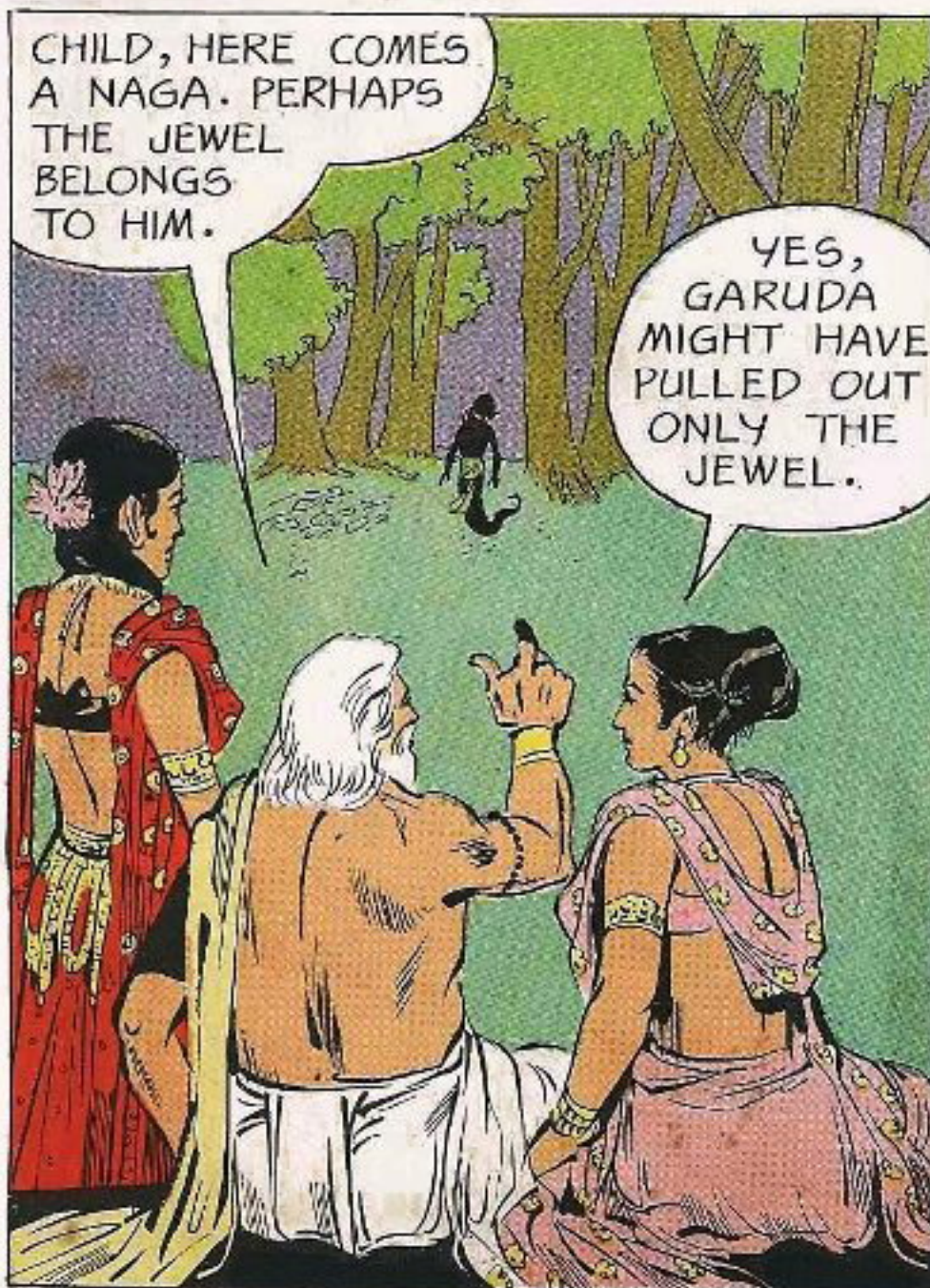


BLOOD! OH GOD! GARUDA MUST HAVE TAKEN AWAY THAT GOOD SOUL!

FULL OF GUILT, HE GLIDED ABOUT AIMLESSLY.

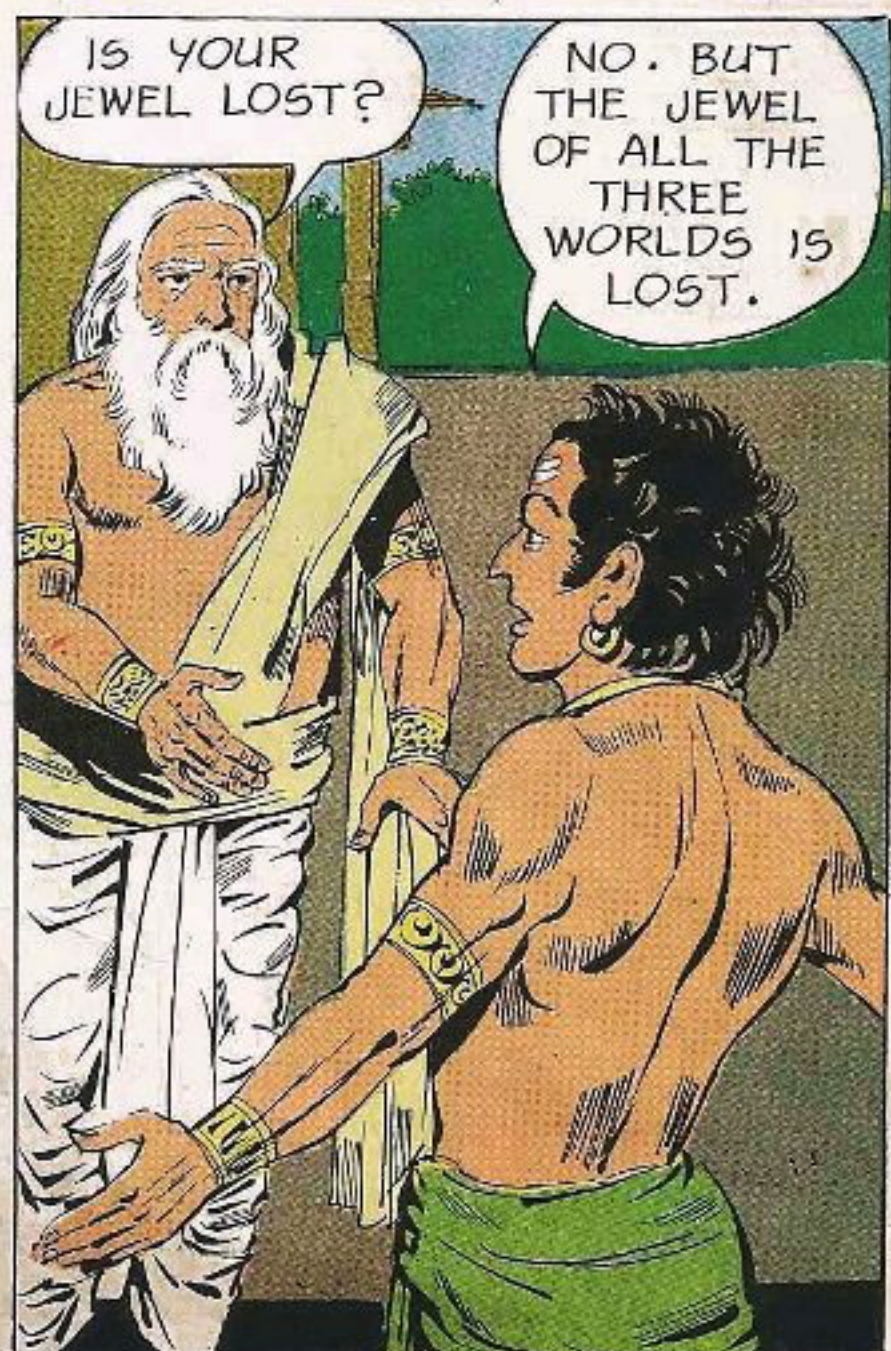


IT'S NOT GARUDA. IT IS I WHO KILLED THAT GREAT MAN.



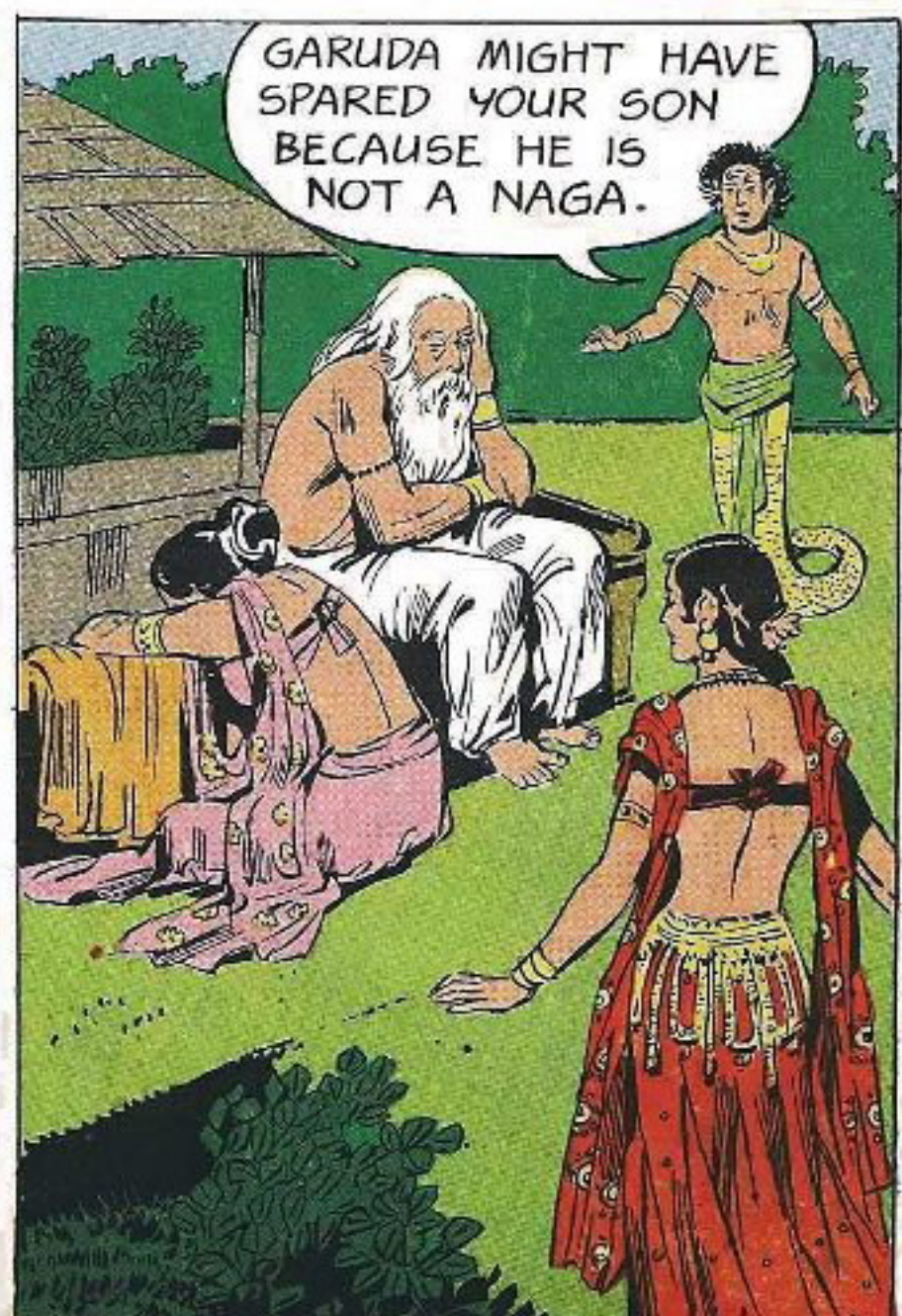
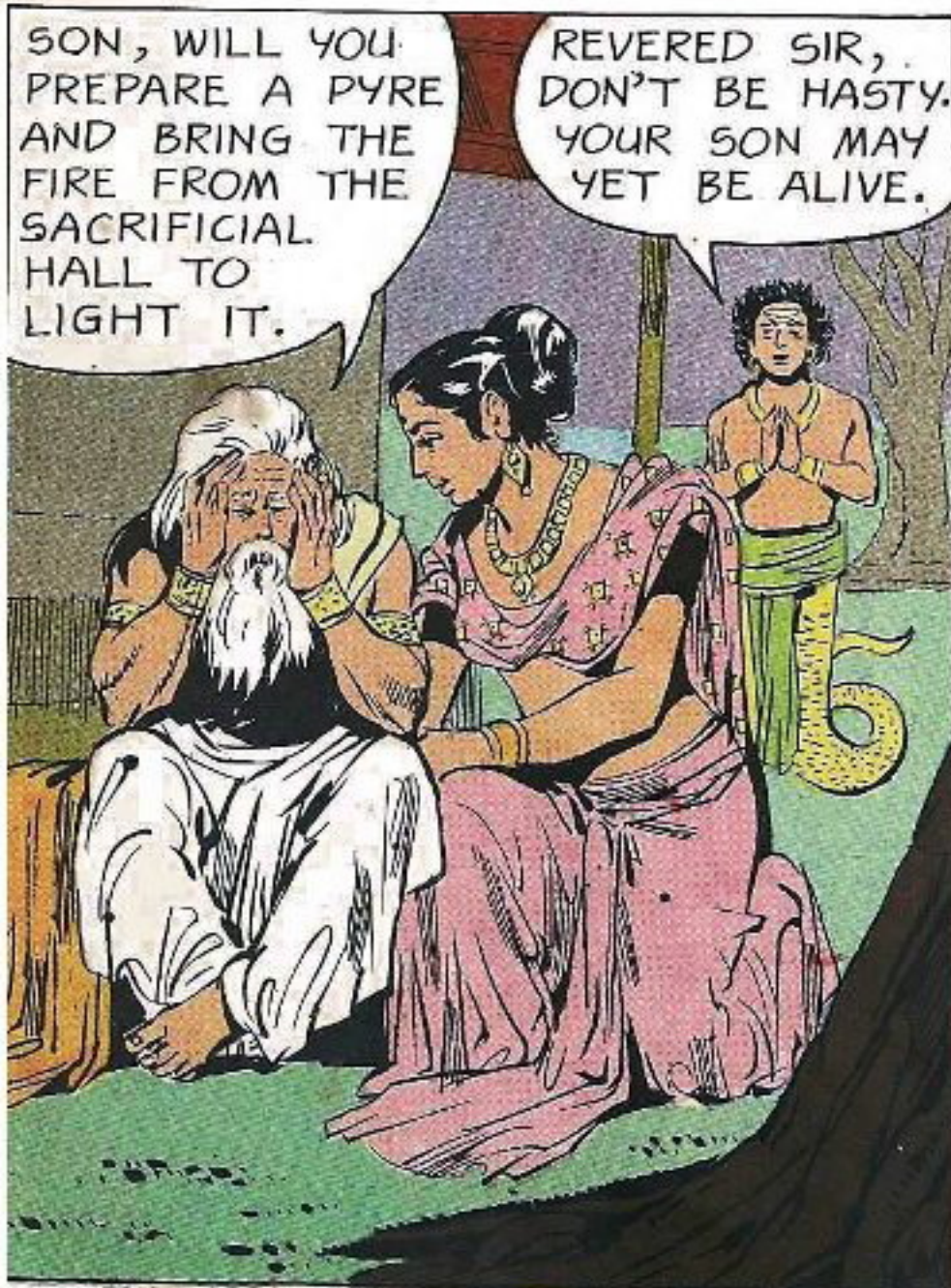
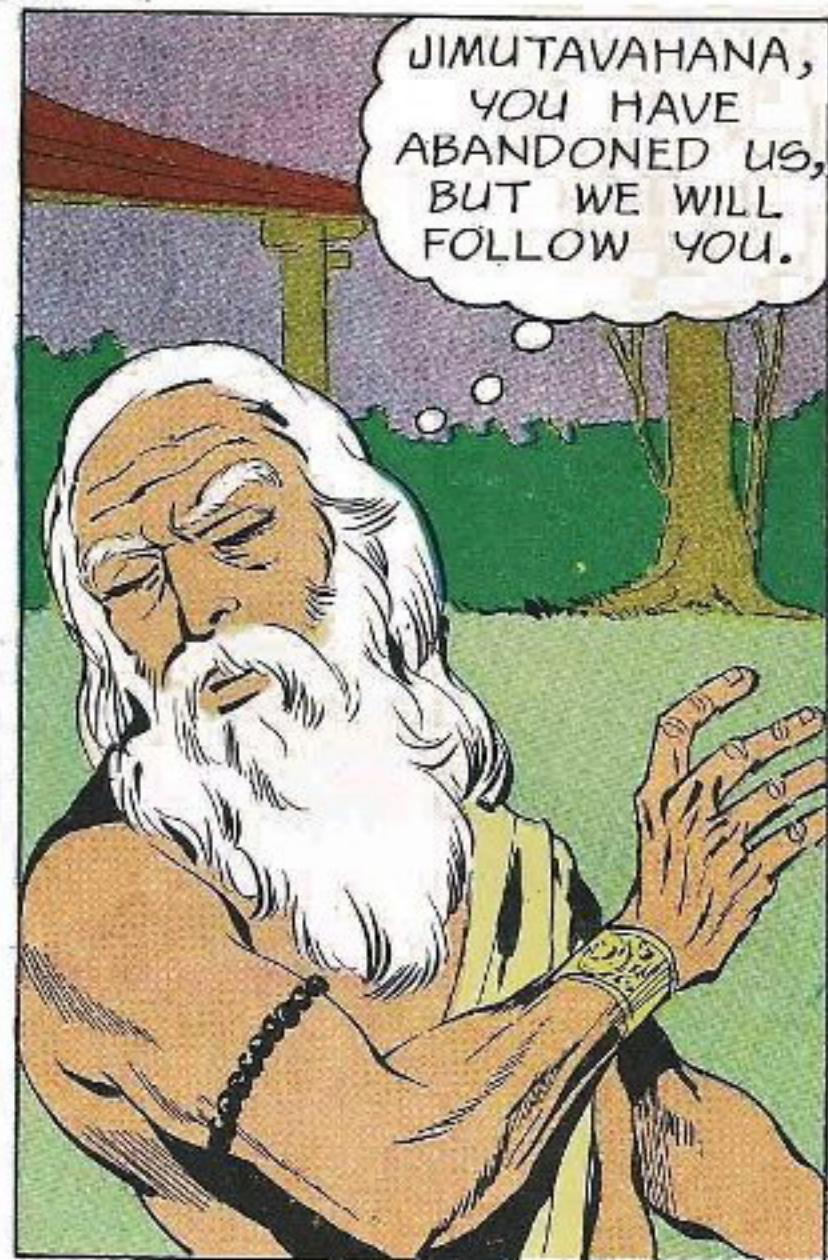
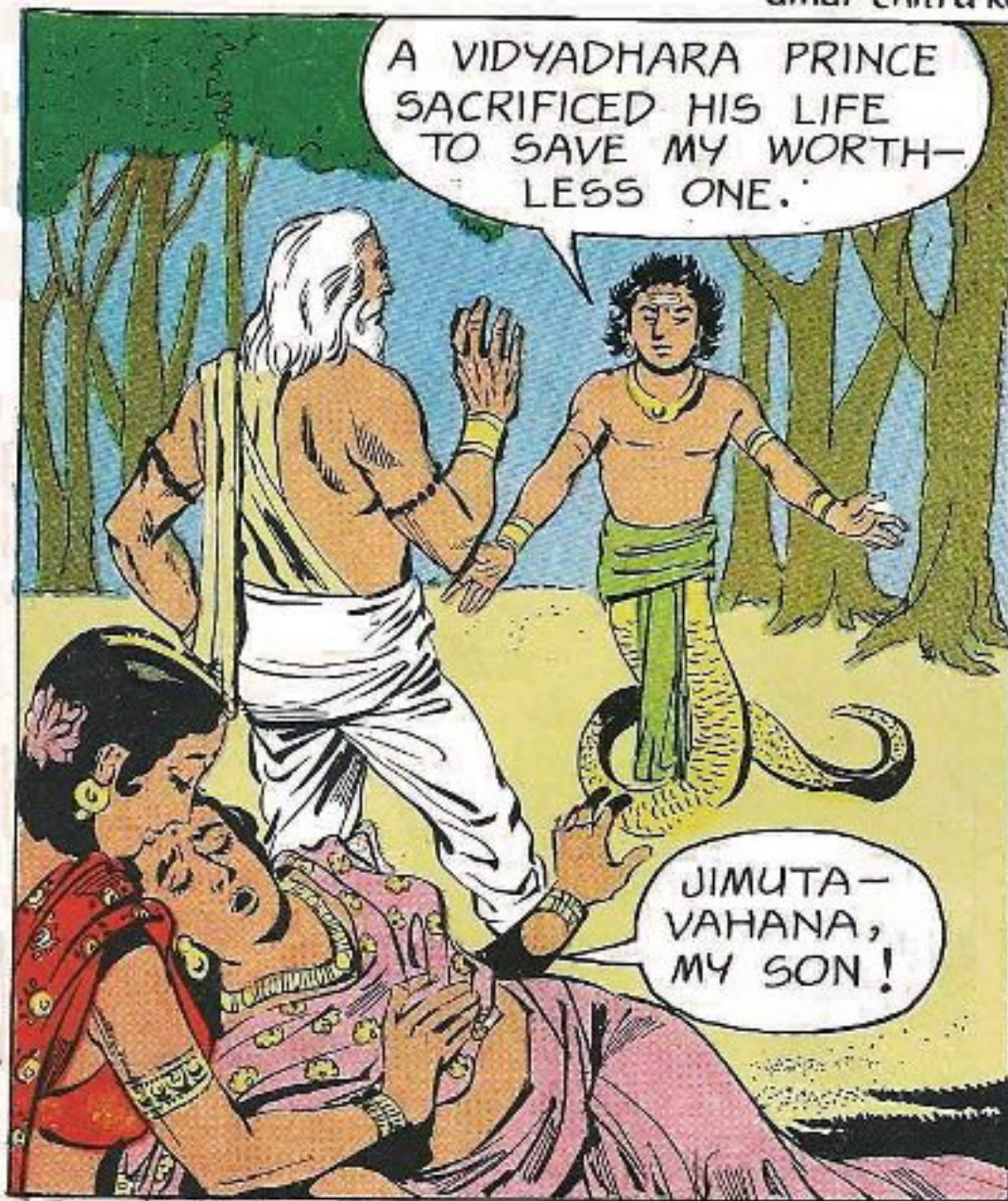
CHILD, HERE COMES A NAGA. PERHAPS THE JEWEL BELONGS TO HIM.

YES, GARUDA MIGHT HAVE PULLED OUT ONLY THE JEWEL.



IS YOUR JEWEL LOST?

NO. BUT THE JEWEL OF ALL THE THREE WORLDS IS LOST.

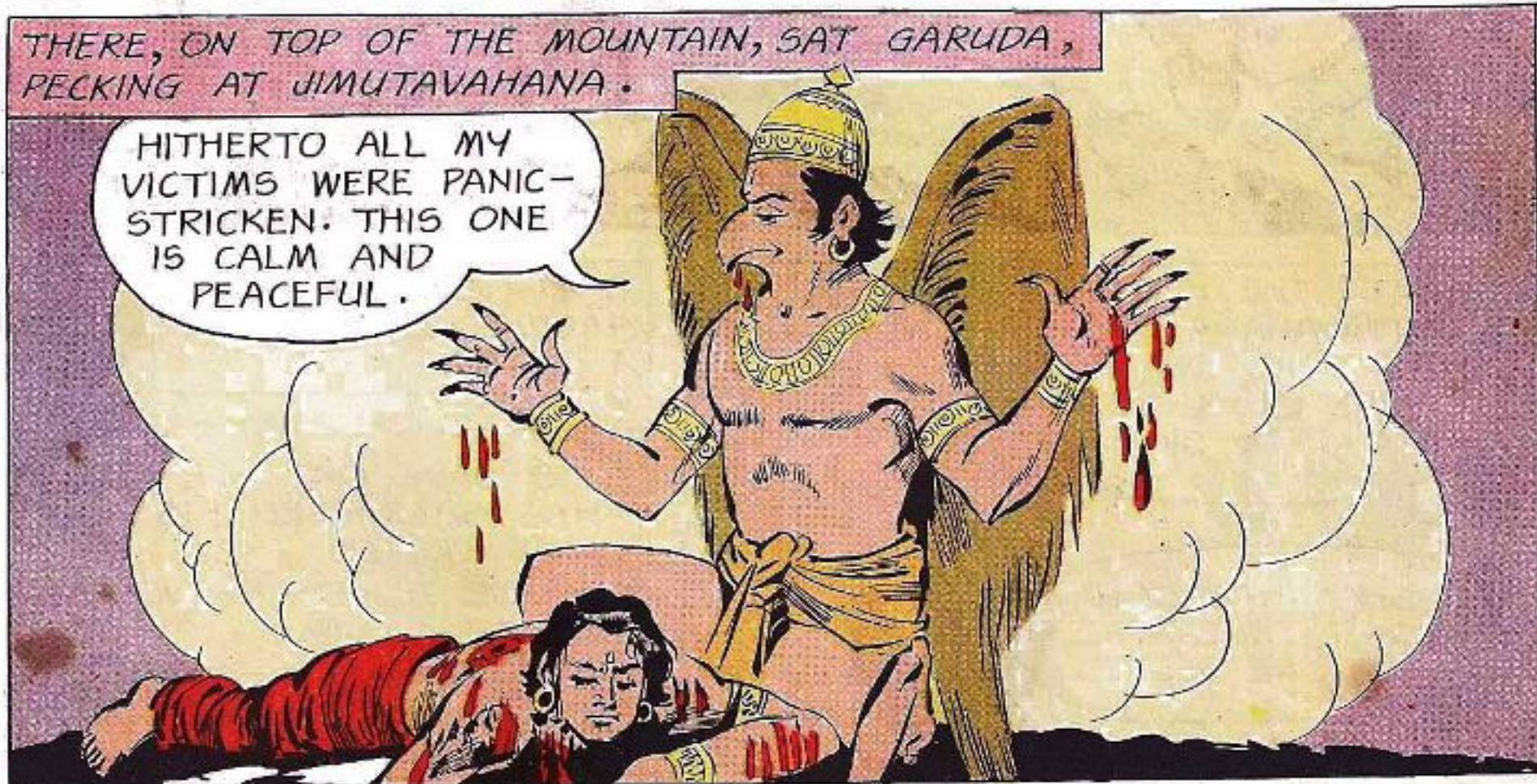


SUSTAINED BY THAT FAINT HOPE, THEY FOLLOWED THE TRAIL OF BLOOD.

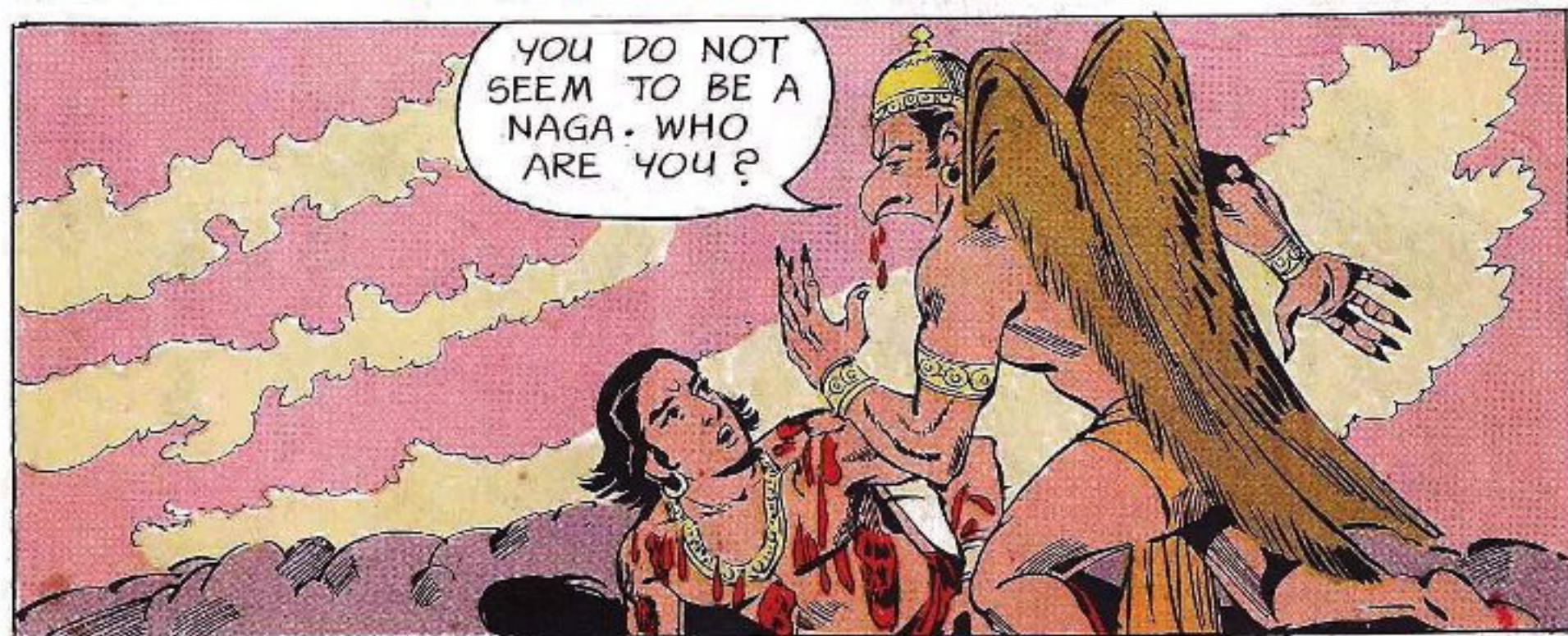


THERE, ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN, SAT GARUDA, PECKING AT JIMUTAVAHANA.

HITHERTO ALL MY VICTIMS WERE PANIC-STRICKEN. THIS ONE IS CALM AND PEACEFUL.



YOU DO NOT SEEM TO BE A NAGA. WHO ARE YOU?



AT THAT MOMENT, SHANKHACHOODA RUSHED FORWARD AND ANSWERED HIS QUESTION.

GARUDA, HE IS JIMUTAVAHANA, A VIDYADHARA PRINCE. I AM THE NAGA SENT UP FROM PATALA!



WHAT! THE VIRTUOUS JIMUTAVAHANA! ALAS, WITH THIS ONE ACT I HAVE SUNK INTO A MIRE OF SIN.

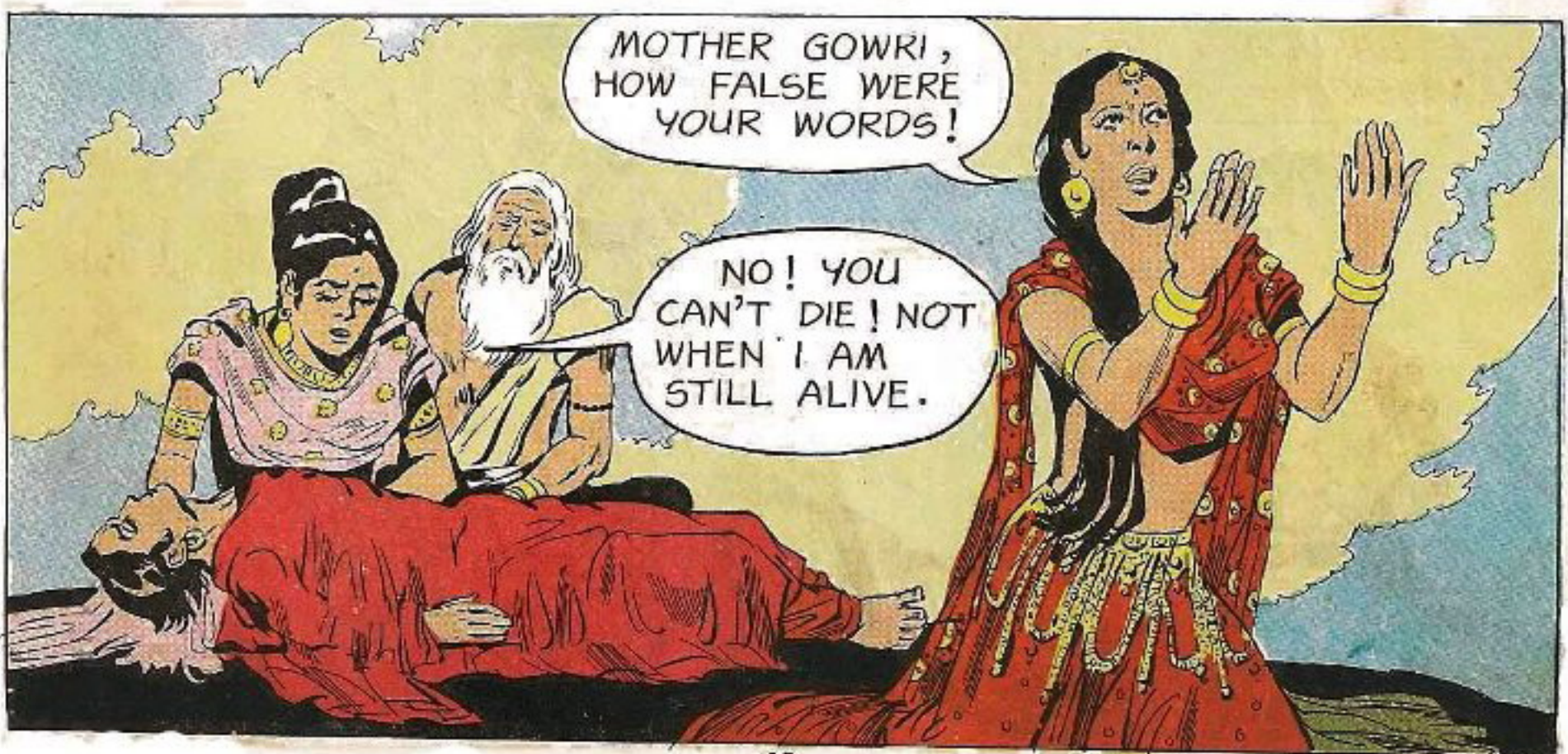
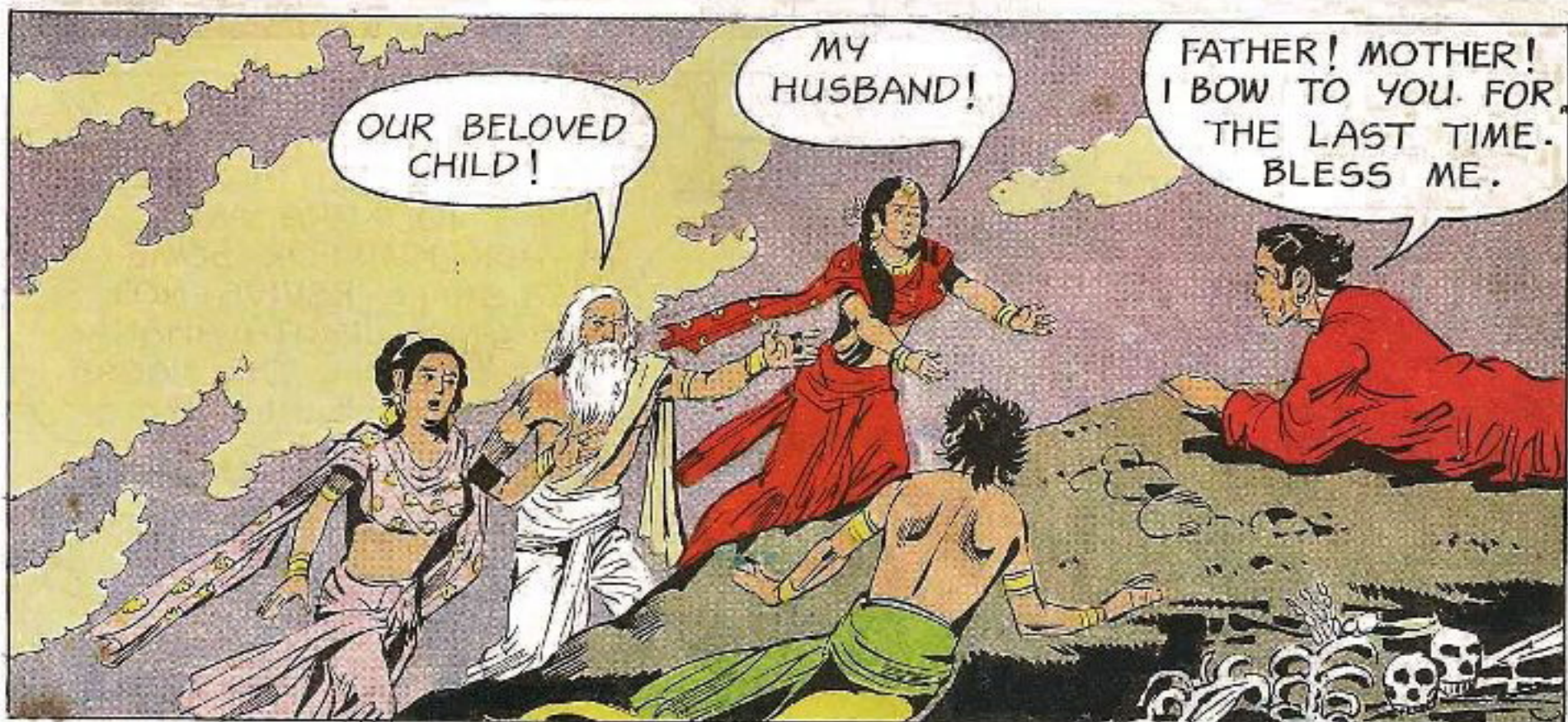
O SHANKHACHOODA, DON'T FRUSTRATE MY ONE DESIRE.

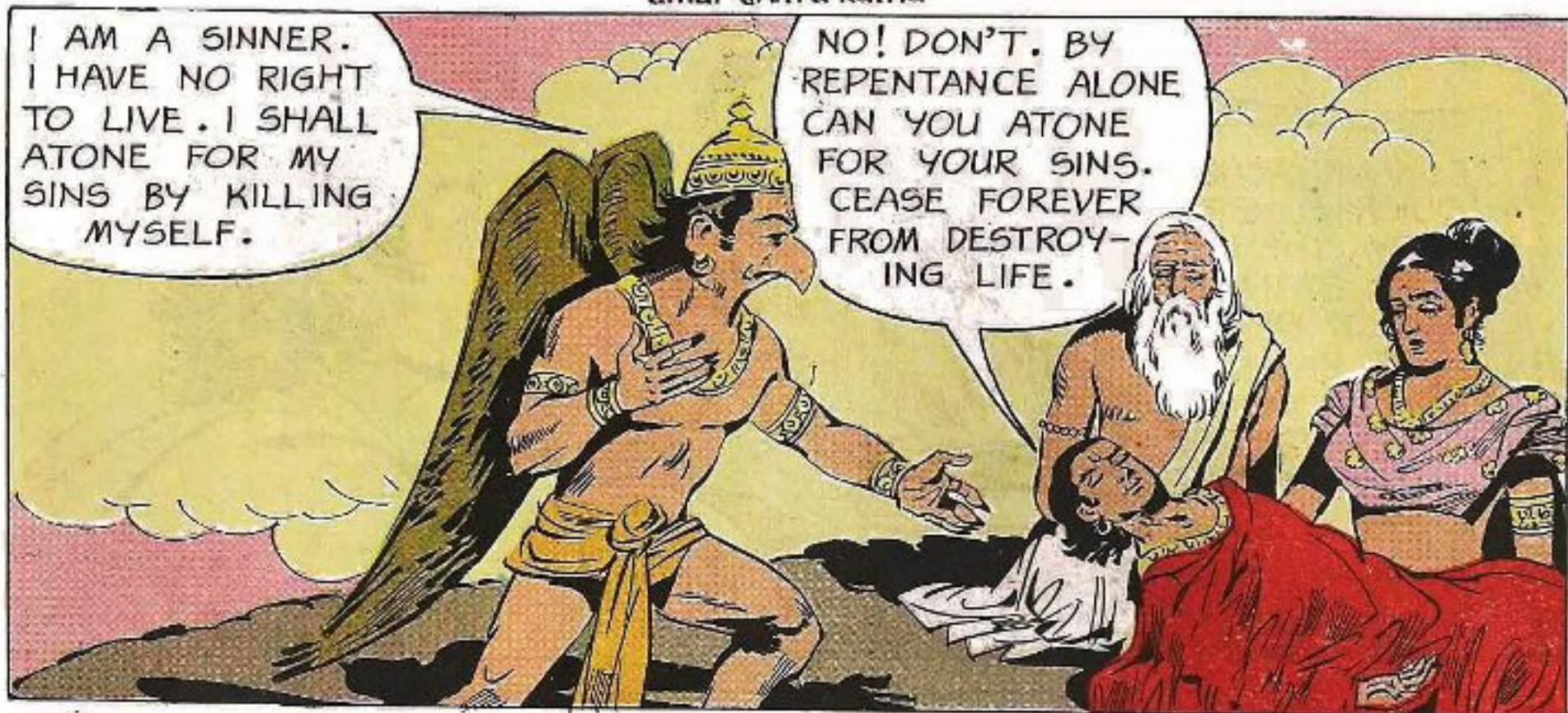


THAT VERY MOMENT GARUDA UNDERWENT A GREAT TRANSFORMATION.

TO SAVE ONE LIFE HE HAS SACRIFICED HIS! AND WRETCH THAT I AM, I HAVE ALMOST DEVoured HIM.







I AM A SINNER.
I HAVE NO RIGHT
TO LIVE. I SHALL
ATONE FOR MY
SINS BY KILLING
MYSELF.

NO! DON'T. BY
REPENTANCE ALONE
CAN YOU ATONE
FOR YOUR SINS.
CEASE FOREVER
FROM DESTROY-
ING LIFE.

ADVISING GARUDA THUS, JIMUTAVAHANA
BREATHED HIS LAST.

O DEVAS, WHY DO
YOU NOT SHOWER
AMRIT * OVER MY
SON AND REVIVE
HIM ?

AMRIT! THE NECTAR OF
IMMORTALITY! WHY DIDN'T
I THINK OF IT! I WILL FLY
TO INDRA AND
ASK HIM FOR SOME.
I SHALL REVIVE NOT
ONLY JIMUTAVAHANA
BUT ALL THE NAGAS
I HAVE KILLED.



WHILE GARUDA WENT ON
HIS MISSION —

FATHER! MOTHER!
PERMIT ME TO
ENTER THE FIRE
WITH MY LORD.



* THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY.



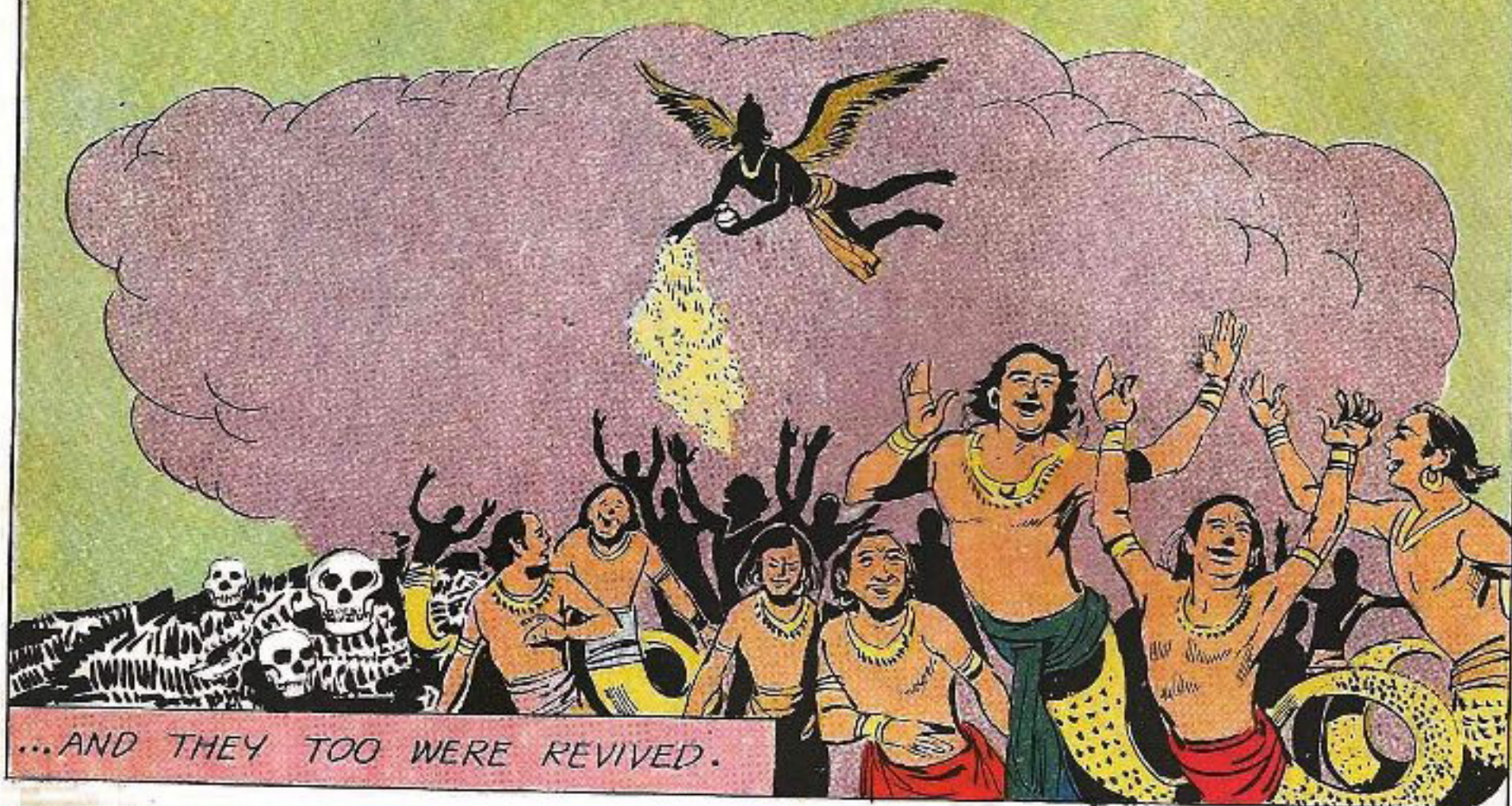
JUST THEN, GARUDA LET FALL A SHOWER OF AMRIT AND THE GODDESS MADE HER APPEARANCE.



JIMUTAVAHANA, RISE AND BECOME THE EMPEROR OF THE VIDYADHARAS.



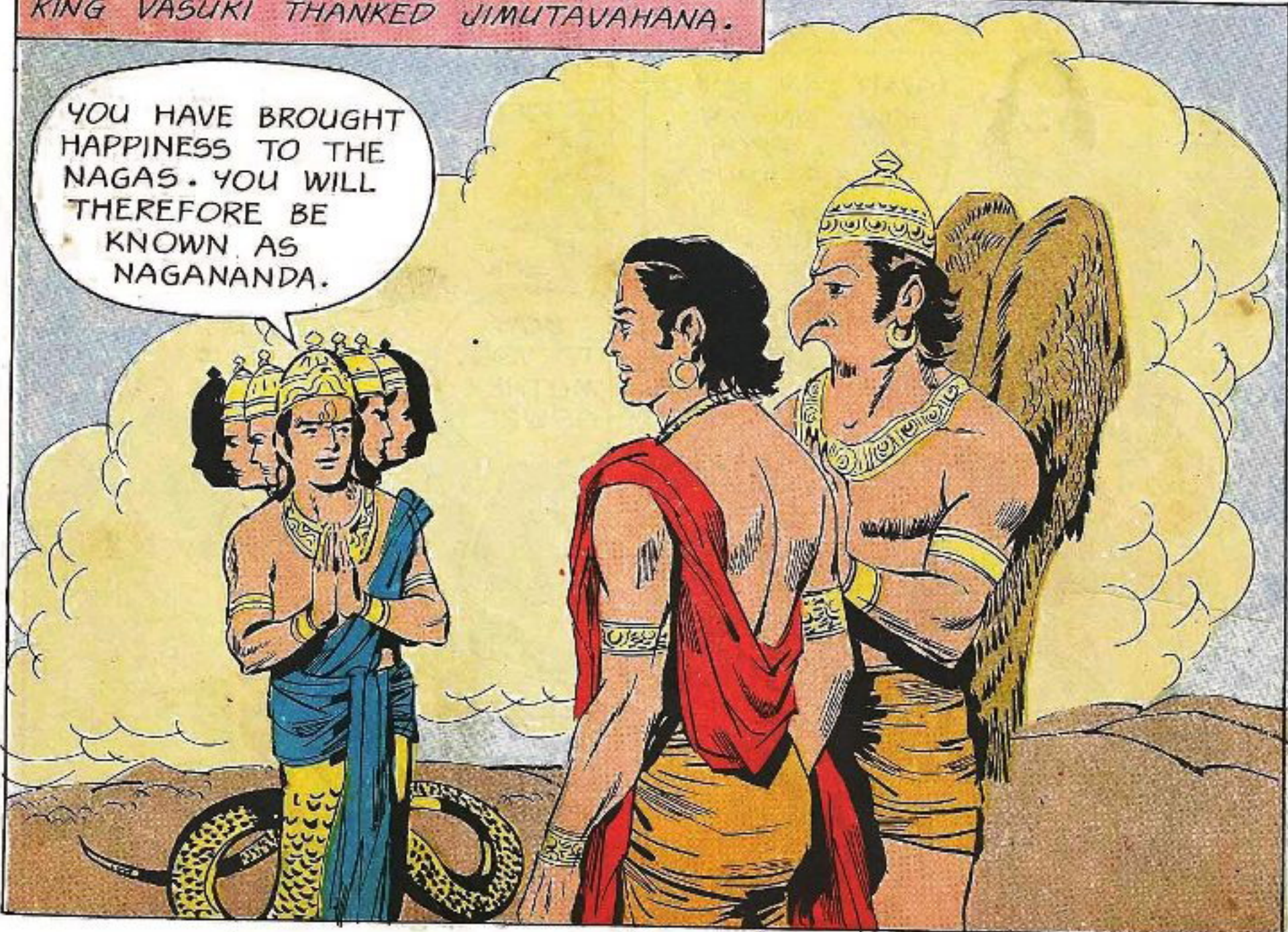
THEN GARUDA SHOWERED AMRIT OVER THE DEAD NAGAS ...

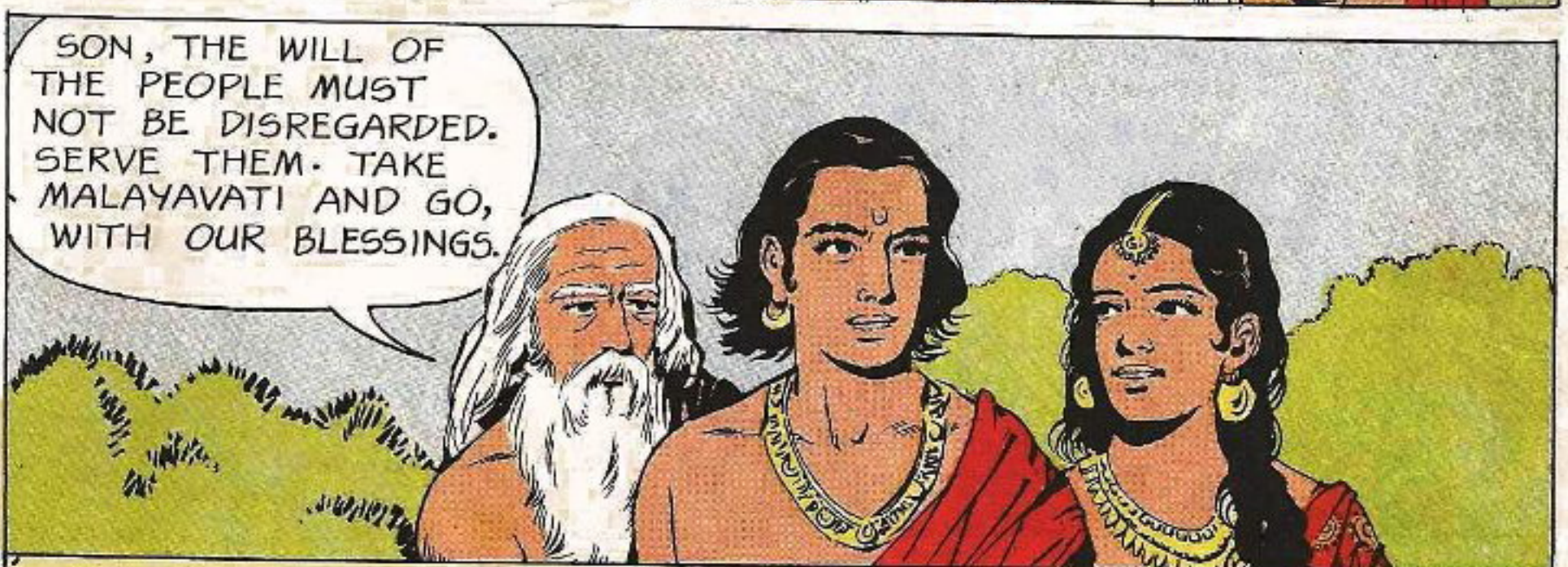
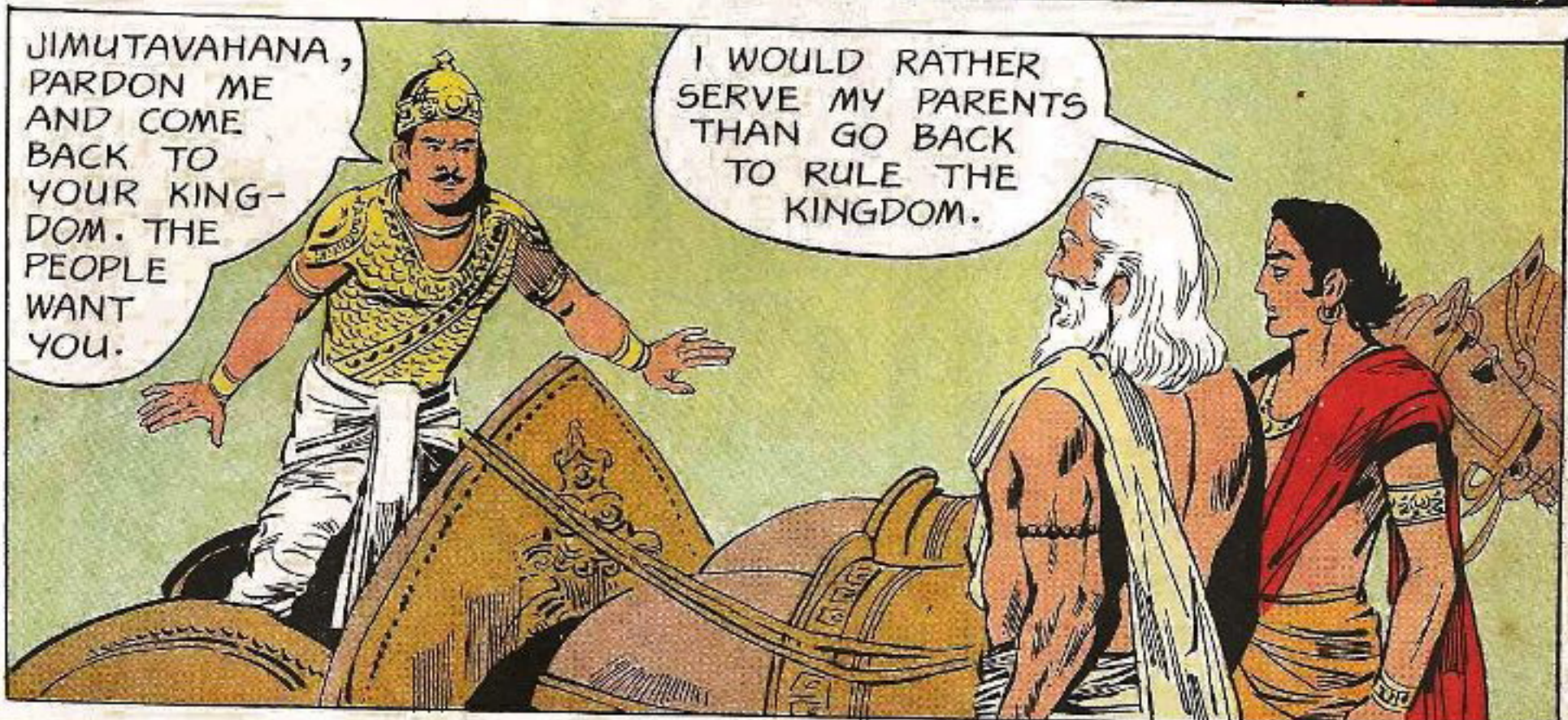
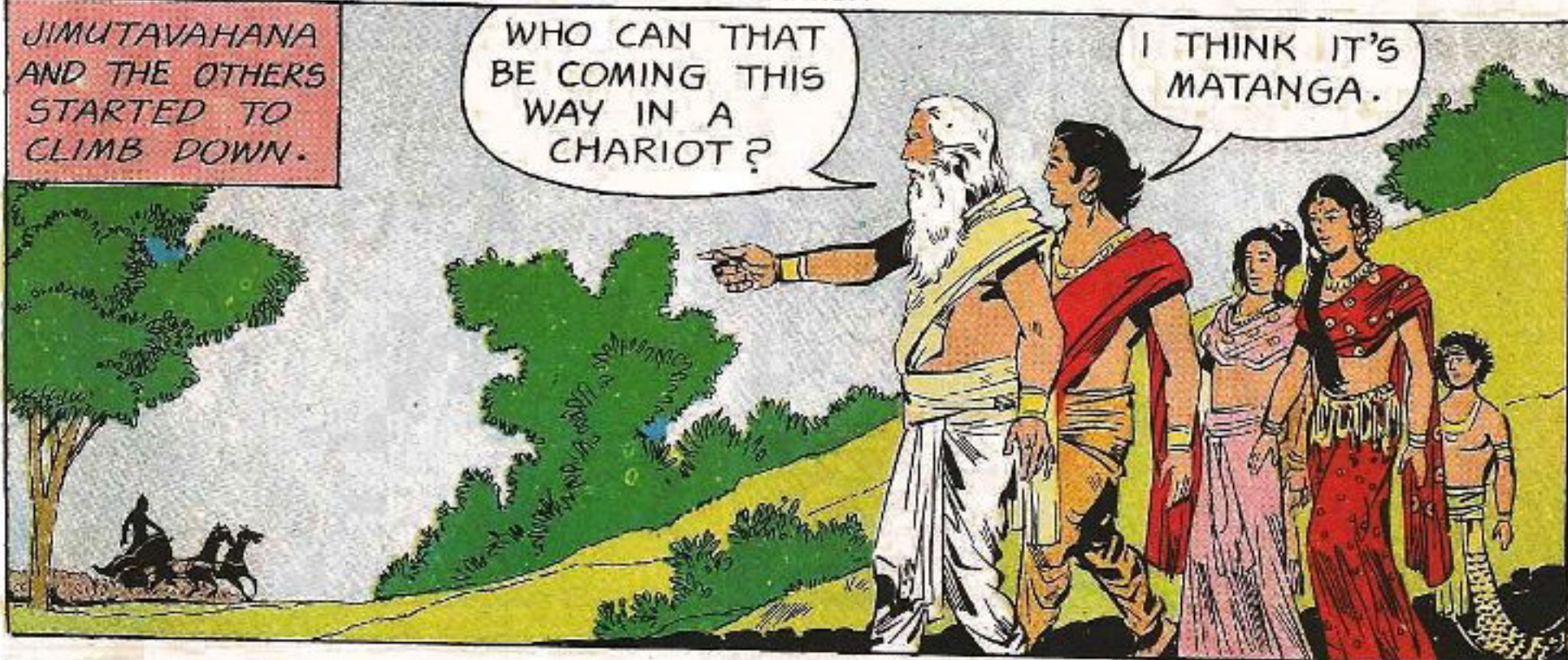


...AND THEY TOO WERE REVIVED.

KING VASUKI THANKED JIMUTAVAHANA.

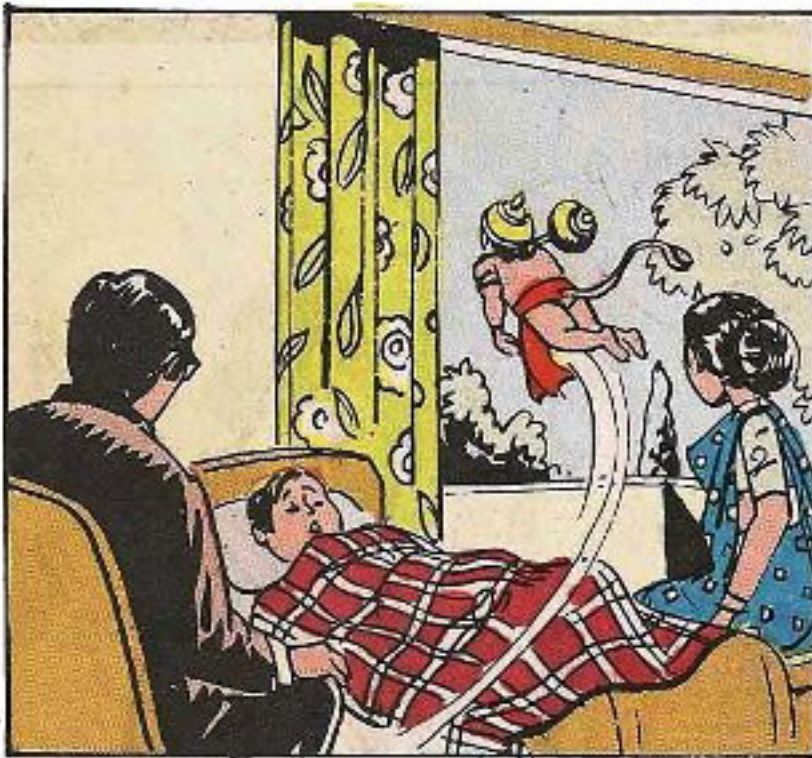
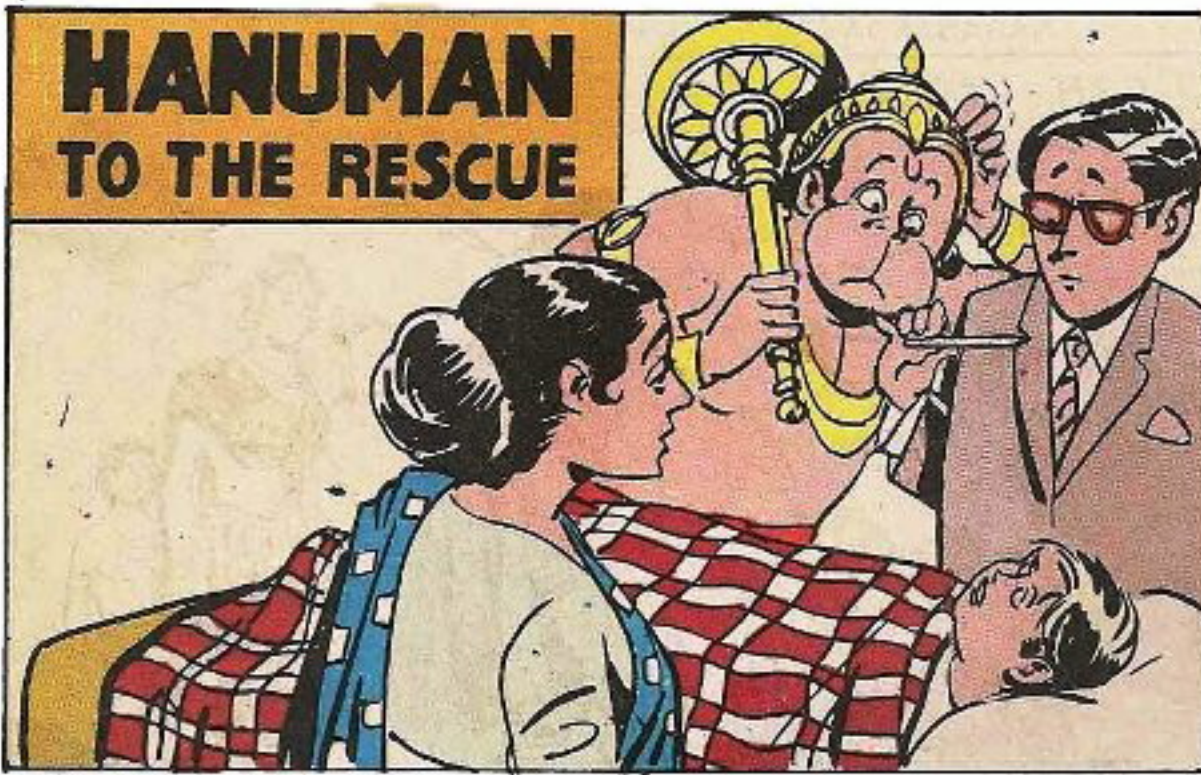
YOU HAVE BROUGHT
HAPPINESS TO THE
NAGAS. YOU WILL
THEREFORE BE
KNOWN AS
NAGANANDA.





JIMUTAVAHANA, THE APOSTLE OF LOVE AND NONVIOLENCE WHO NEVER WENT AGAINST THE WISHES OF HIS FATHER, RETURNED TO HIS KINGDOM WITH MALAYAVATI AND BECAME THE EMPEROR OF THE VIDYADHARAS.

HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE



You don't have to fall ill to get Amar Chitra Katha!
Nor do you need Hanuman to get you Amar Chitra Katha.
Amar Chitra Katha are available everywhere at Rs. 3.50 per copy.
Distributed by:  India Book House