

PADMINI



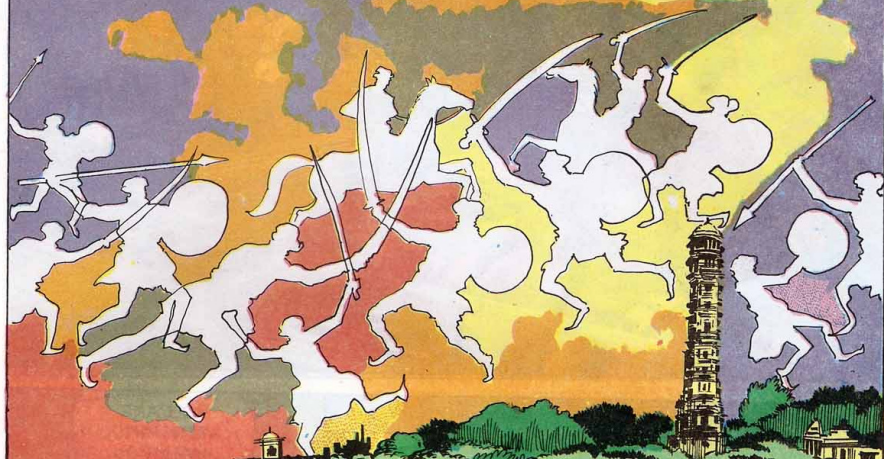
CPH
Original

NO. 605 RS. 35

Padmini

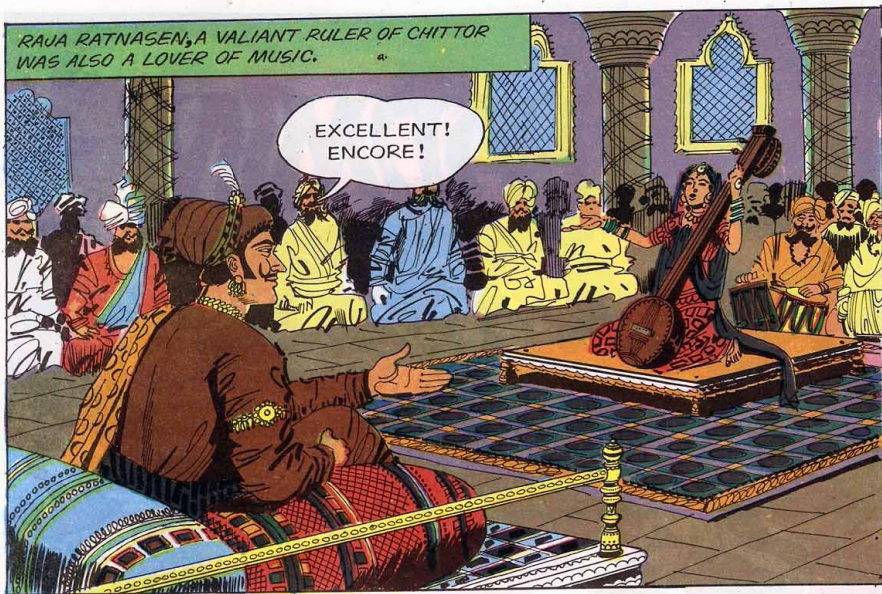


PADMINI



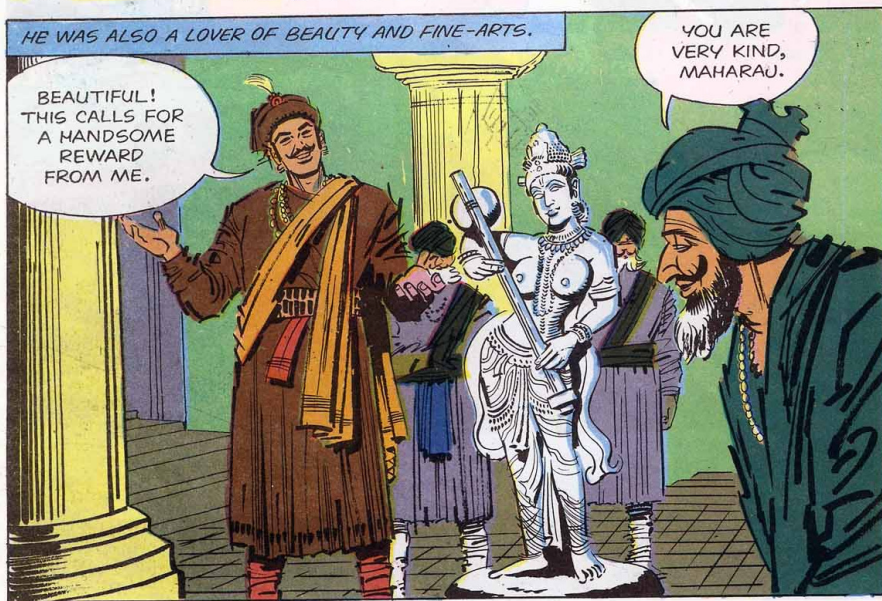
CHITTOR IS THE SOUL OF RAJASTHAN. ITS HISTORY
IS THE SAGA OF RAPUT VALOUR.

RAJA RATNASEN, A VALIANT RULER OF CHITTOR
WAS ALSO A LOVER OF MUSIC.



EXCELLENT!
ENCORE!

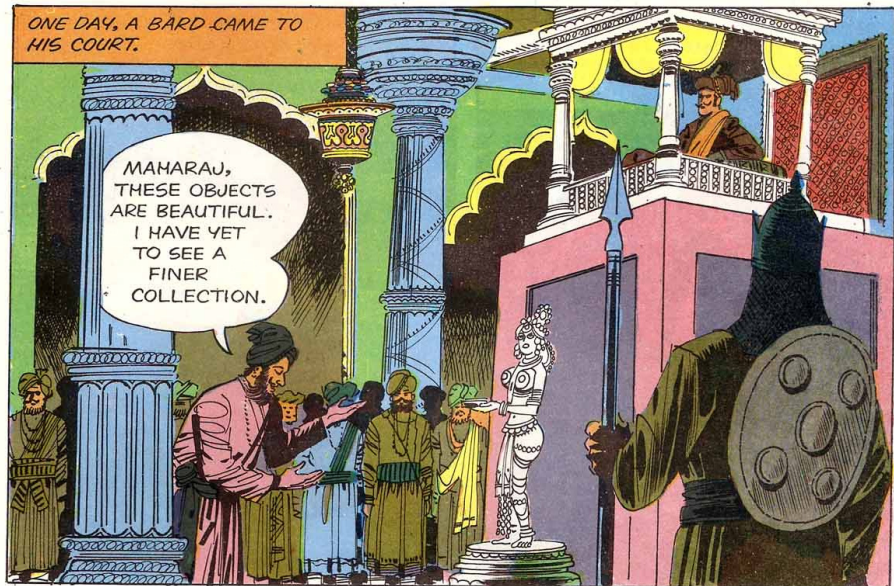
HE WAS ALSO A LOVER OF BEAUTY AND FINE-ARTS.



BEAUTIFUL!
THIS CALLS FOR
A HANDSOME
REWARD
FROM ME.

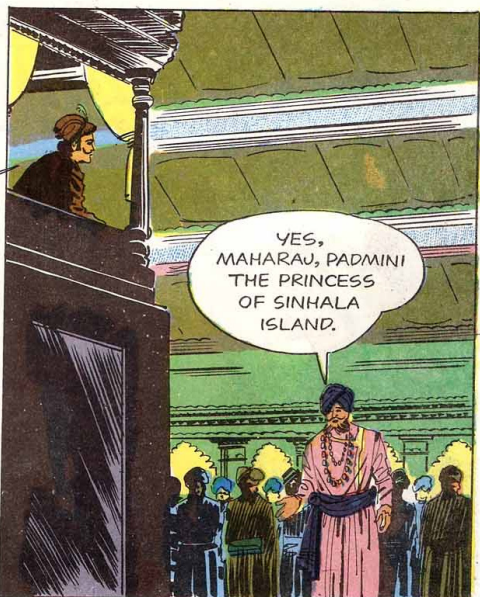
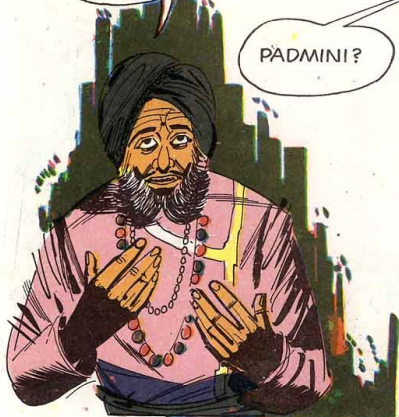
YOU ARE
VERY KIND,
MAHARAJ.

ONE DAY, A BARD CAME TO
HIS COURT.



...BUT, PARDON
ME, MAHARAJ,
NOTHING HERE
EQUALS THE
BEAUTY OF
PADMINI.

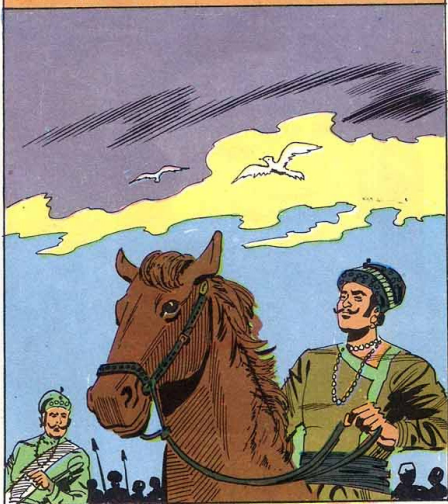
PADMINI?



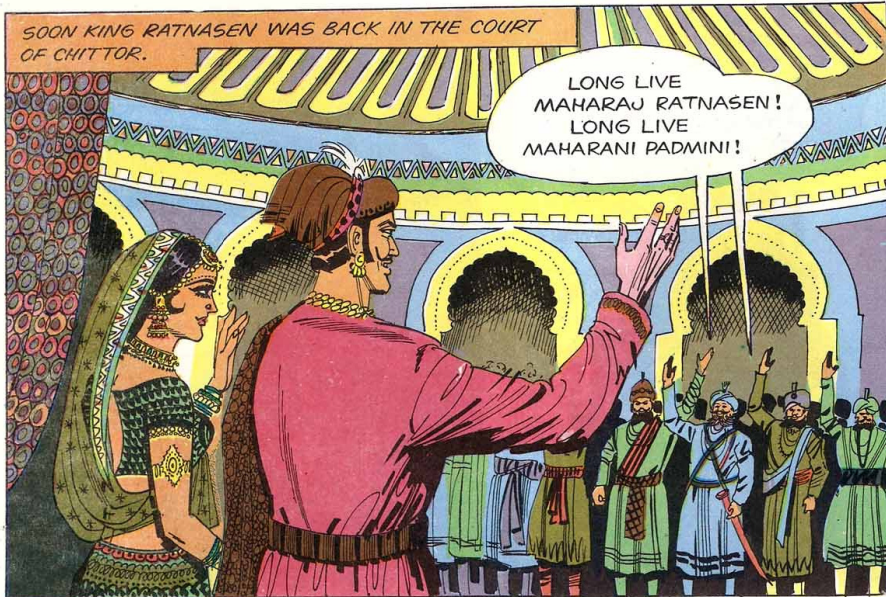
DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE BARD'S
ACCOUNT OF PADMINI, RATNASEN
WENT TO SINHALA AND
MARRIED HER.



ON THEIR JOURNEY BACK TO CHITTOR,
PADMINI'S RELATIVES, GORA AND
BADAL, ACCOMPANIED THE BRIDE.



SOON KING RATNASEN WAS BACK IN THE COURT
OF CHITTOR.



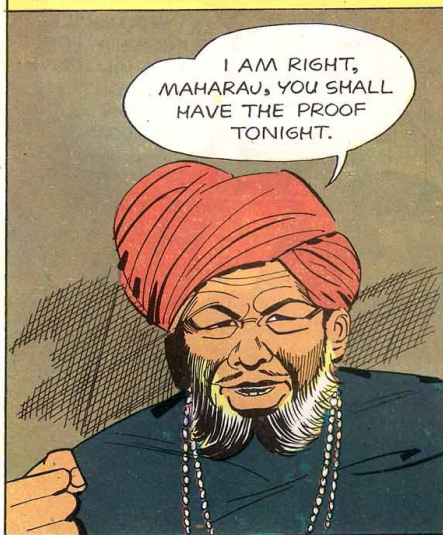
AMONG RATNASSEN'S COURTIER'S WAS A SCHOLAR NAMED RAGHAV CHETAN. ONE DAY -



BUT RAGHAV CHETAN HAD MADE A MISTAKE IN HIS CALCULATIONS.



BEING A STUBBORN MAN RAGHAV DID NOT ADMIT HIS MISTAKE.



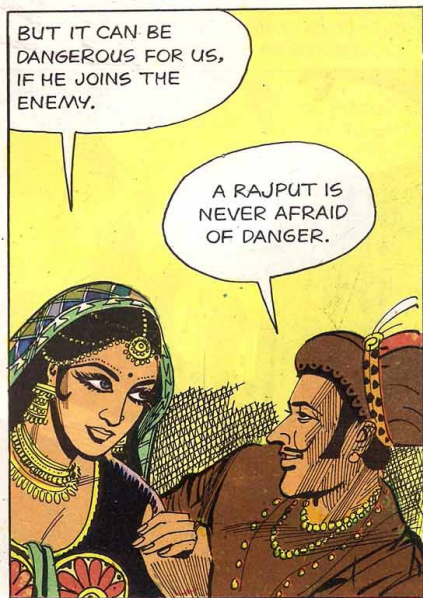
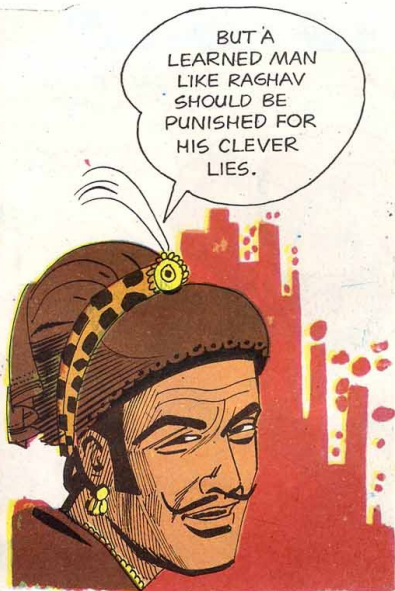
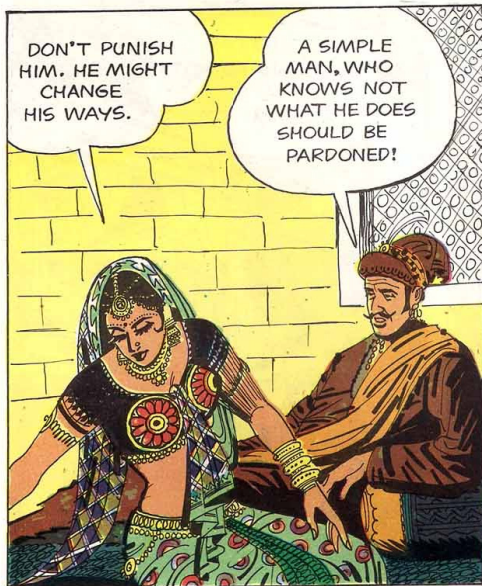
THAT NIGHT RAGHAV USED HIS SORCERY AND -



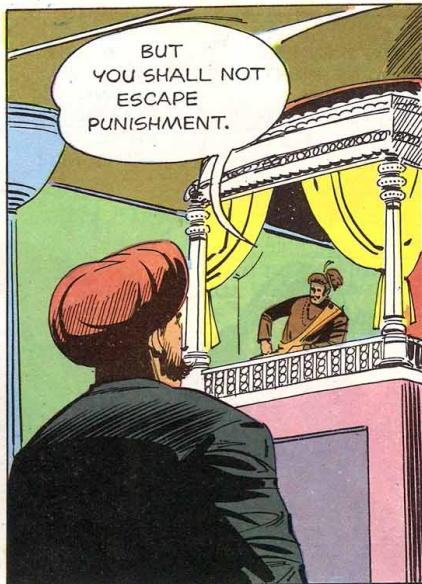
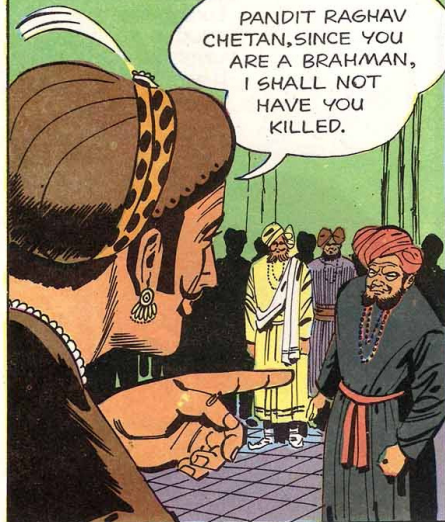


LATER IN THE PALACE, KING RATNASEN DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH QUEEN PADMINI.





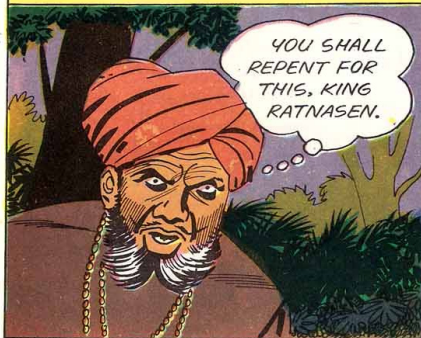
NEXT DAY IN THE COURT.



RAGHAV CHETAN'S FACE WAS PAINTED BLACK AND HE WAS CARRIED THROUGH THE STREETS ON A DONKEY. PADMINI WAS WORRIED.



RAGHAV CHETAN, THEN PROCEEDED
TOWARDS DELHI THROUGH JUNGLES.



ALA-UD-DIN, THE SULTAN OF DELHI,
WAS HUNTING IN THE SAME
JUNGLE.



SUDDENLY A MELODIOUS
TUNE FILLED THE
JUNGLE AIR.



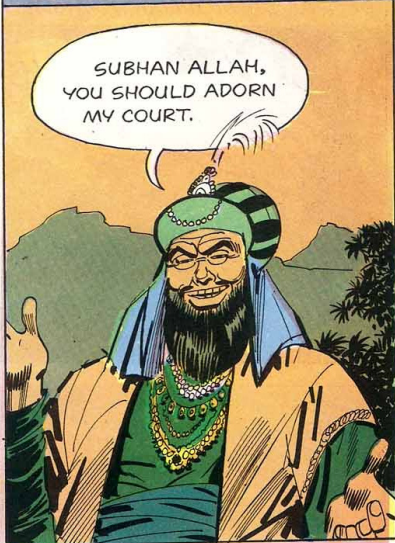
THE HERD OF DEER RAN IN THE DIRECTION
FROM WHICH THE MUSIC CAME. FASCINATED,
ALA-UD-DIN FOLLOWED THE DEER.



THE DEER STOPPED IN FRONT OF RAGHAV
PLAYING HIS FLUTE. THEY WERE HYPNOTISED.
SO WAS THE SULTAN.



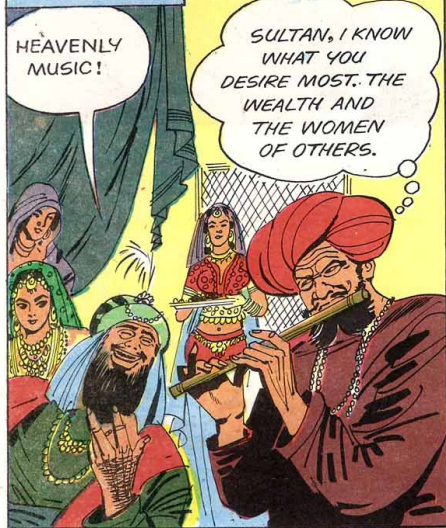
HE HAD NEVER HEARD SUCH MUSIC.



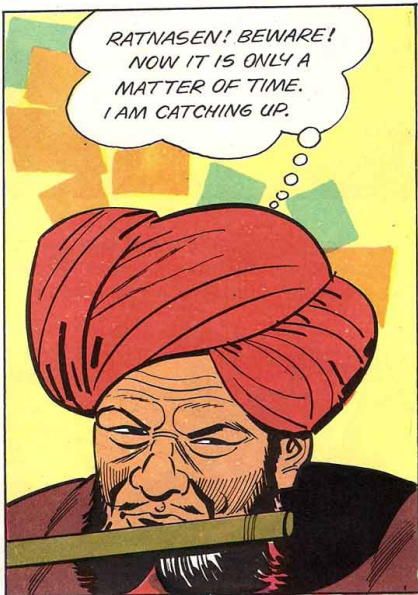
THUS RAGHAV CHETAN JOINED THE
DELHI COURT.

HEAVENLY
MUSIC!

SULTAN, I KNOW
WHAT YOU
DESIRE MOST. THE
WEALTH AND
THE WOMEN
OF OTHERS.



RATNASEN! BEWARE!
NOW IT IS ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME.
I AM CATCHING UP.



ONE DAY A HUNTER PRESENTED A RABBIT TO THE SULTAN.

THERE CAN BE NOTHING MORE DELICATE THAN THIS CREATURE.

YOU ARE WRONG, SULTAN.

PADMINI, THE QUEEN OF CHITTOR IS. SHE IS THE MOST DELICATE AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THIS WORLD.

ARE YOU SURE? I HAVE TWO THOUSAND EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL BEGUMS. SURELY PADMINI CAN'T BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ALL OF THEM.

NO SULTAN, I INSIST THAT PADMINI IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD.

THERE AND THEN ALA-UD-DIN MADE A DECISION.

WELL THEN, PADMINI SHOULD
BE IN MY HAREM.

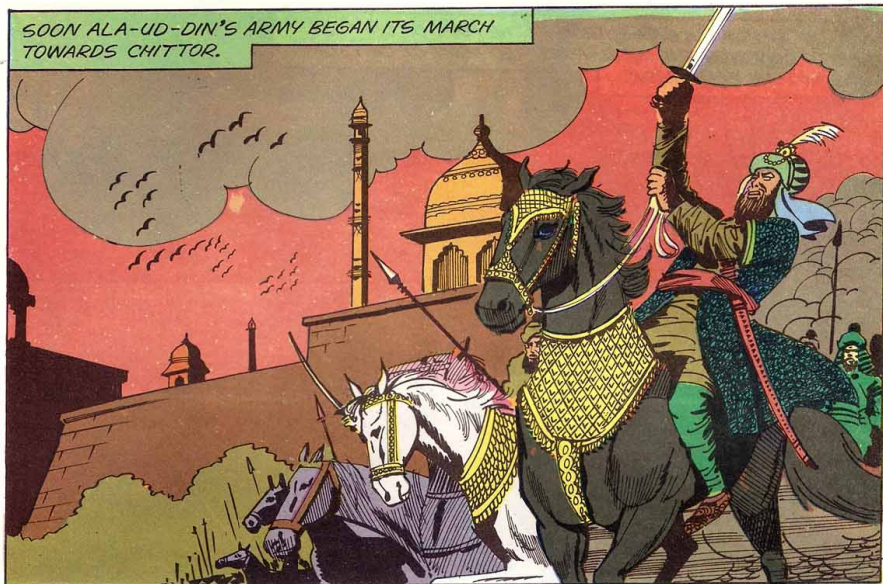
AND
CHITTOR UNDER
YOUR
RULE.



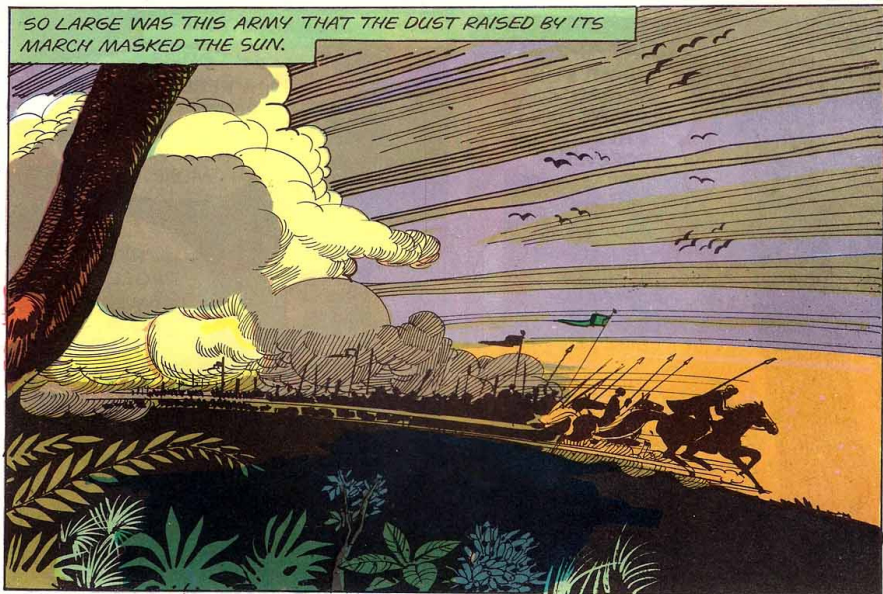
YES, A NEW
KINGDOM AND THE
MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
I CAN KILL TWO
BIRDS WITH
ONE STONE.



SOON ALA-UD-DIN'S ARMY BEGAN ITS MARCH
TOWARDS CHITTOR.



SO LARGE WAS THIS ARMY THAT THE DUST RAISED BY ITS
MARCH MASKED THE SUN.



"ALA-UD-DIN LAID A SIEGE AROUND THE FORT OF CHITTOR.
BUT TO CONQUER THE WELL-FORTIFIED FORT OF CHITTOR
WAS NOT AN EASY TASK.



AFTER A LONG WAIT—

WE CAN'T
STAY
HERE
FOREVER.

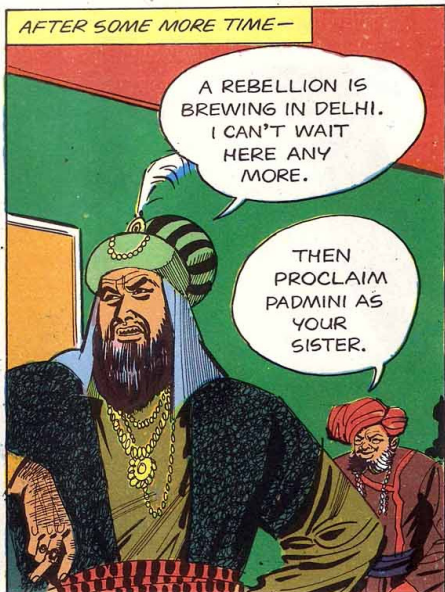
HAVE PATIENCE,
SULTAN. FRUITS
OF PATIENCE
ARE ALWAYS
SWEET.

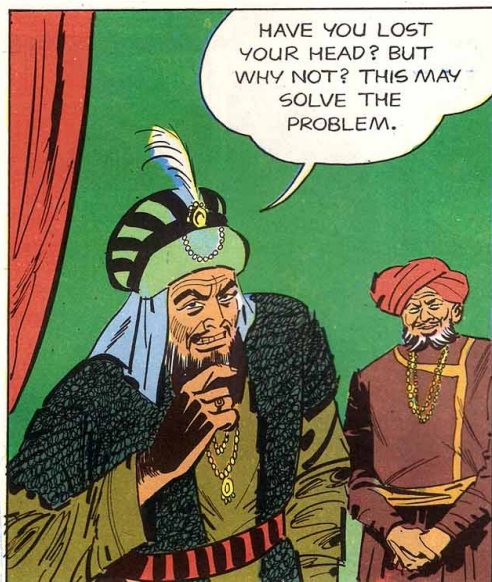


AFTER SOME MORE TIME—

A REBELLION IS
BREWING IN DELHI.
I CAN'T WAIT
HERE ANY
MORE.

THEN
PROCLAIM
PADMINI AS
YOUR
SISTER.

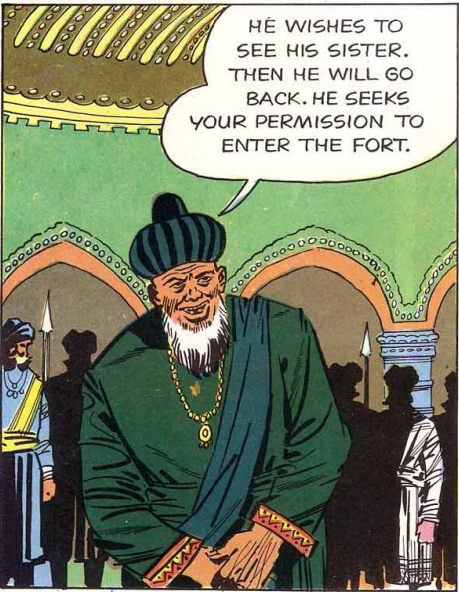




NEXT DAY ALA-UD-DIN'S MESSENGER VISITED
THE CHITTOR COURT.



HUZUR, OUR
SULTAN CALLS FOR
PEACE. HE HAS
PROCLAIMED HIMSELF
A BROTHER TO
QUEEN PADMINI.



HE WISHES TO
SEE HIS SISTER.
THEN HE WILL GO
BACK. HE SEEKS
YOUR PERMISSION TO
ENTER THE FORT.



A BROTHER
NEEDS NO PERMISSION
TO MEET HIS SISTER. YOUR
SULTAN IS MOST WELCOME.

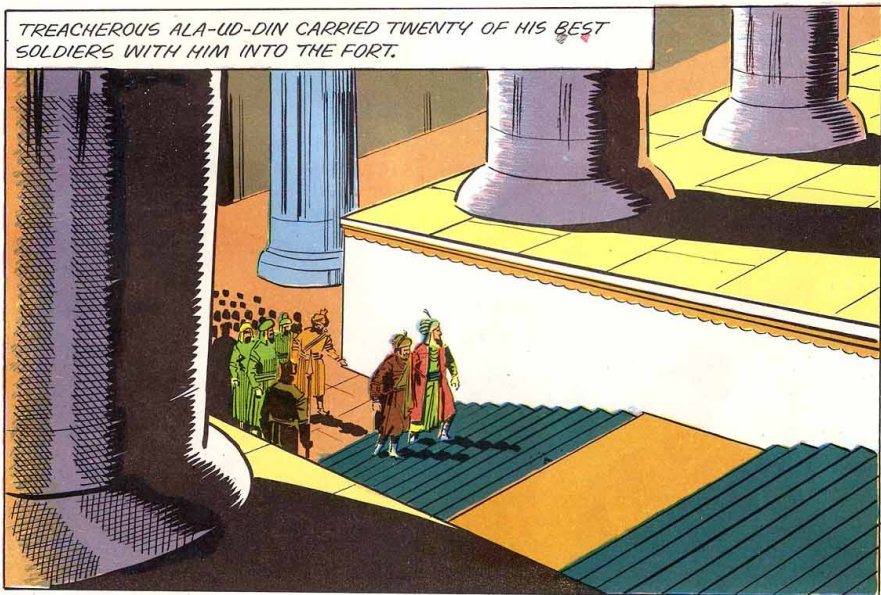
NEXT DAY...

MY WIFE'S
BROTHER IS MOST
WELCOME IN
MY HOME.

I AM
HONOURED.



TREACHEROUS ALA-UD-DIN CARRIED TWENTY OF HIS BEST
SOLDIERS WITH HIM INTO THE FORT.

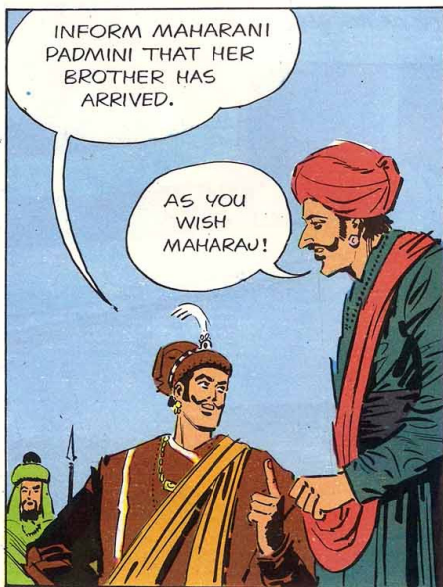


UNSUSPECTING KING RATNASEN TREATED ALA-UD-DIN WITH GREAT RESPECT.



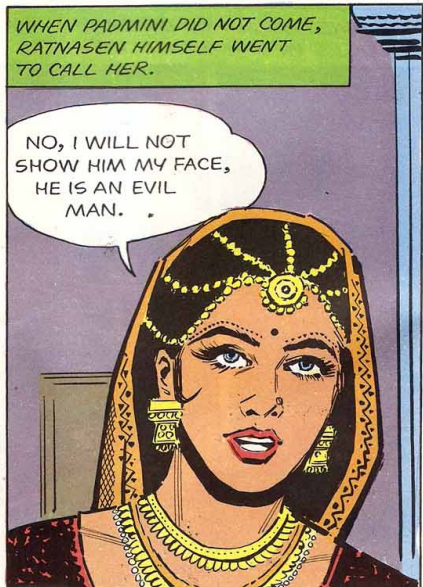
INFORM MAHARANI PADMINI THAT HER BROTHER HAS ARRIVED.

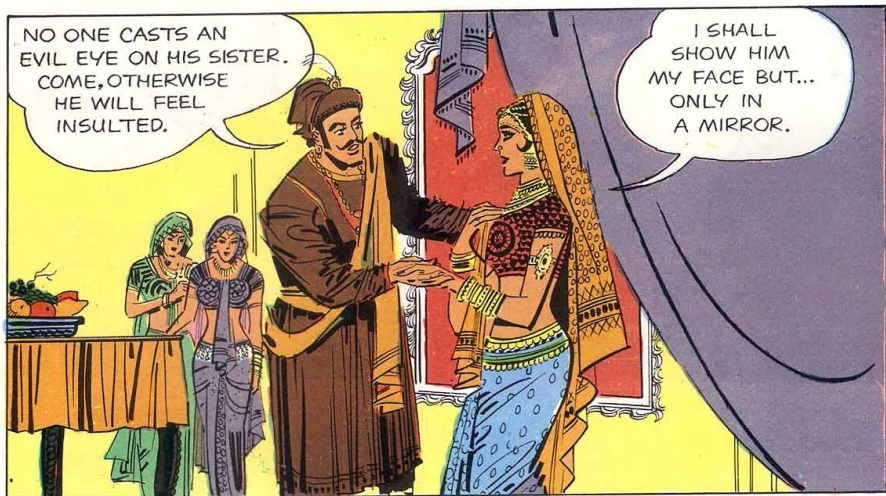
AS YOU WISH MAHARAU!

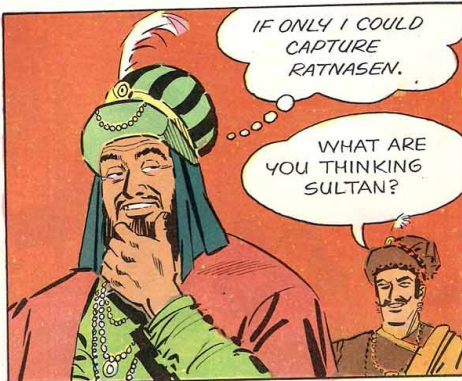
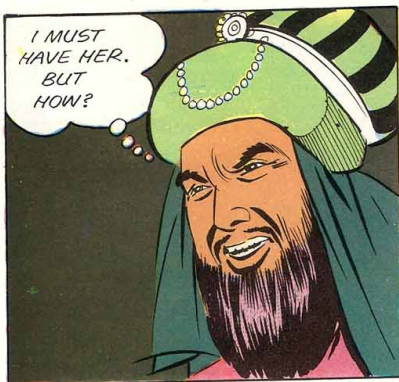


WHEN PADMINI DID NOT COME, RATNASEN HIMSELF WENT TO CALL HER.

NO, I WILL NOT SHOW HIM MY FACE, HE IS AN EVIL MAN.

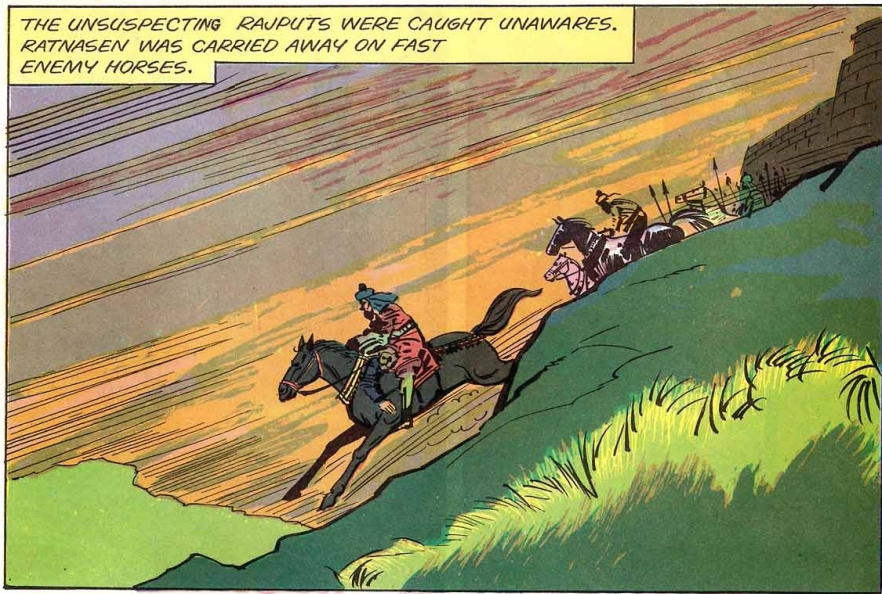








THE UNSUSPECTING RAJPUTS WERE CAUGHT UNAWARES.
RATNASÉN WAS CARRIED AWAY ON FAST
ENEMY HORSES.





WILL YOU NOW
ASK PADMINI
TO SUBMIT?

NEVER!

ALA-UD-DIN CHANGED HIS
TACTICS.

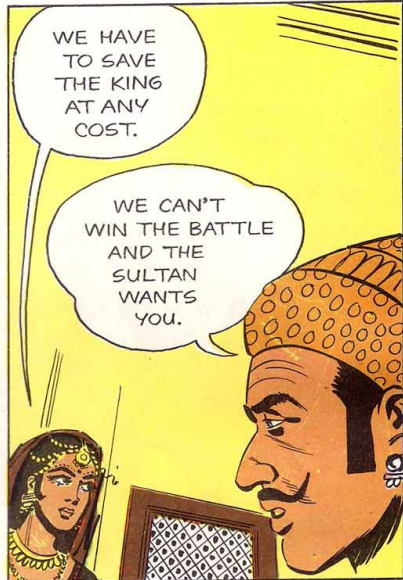
INFORM PADMINI
THAT IF SHE SUBMITS
TO ME, HER HUSBAND
SHALL LIVE.

SOON THE MESSENGER WAS IN CHITTOR
FORT.

IT IS
EITHER MY
HUSBAND
OR MY
HONOUR. WHAT
SHALL I DO?

DESPERATE PADMINI
ASKED HER RELATIVES,
GORA AND BADAL, TO
HELP HER.

DO NOT WORRY. WE
SHALL DO EVERYTHING
TO SAVE THE KING
AND YOUR
HONOUR.



PADMINI HAD FIVE HUNDRED MAIDS. NEXT MORNING
FIVE HUNDRED PALANQUINS LEFT THE FORT.



PADMINI'S PALANQUIN WAS CARRIED TO
PRISONER RATNASEN'S TENT.



KING RATNASEN WAS VERY UPSET.





RATNASEN WAS RELEASED AND RUSHED TOWARDS THE FORT. GORA DRESSED AS A PALANQUIN BEARER GAVE THE SIGNAL.



RATNASSEN REACHED THE FORT
SAFELY.



BUT GORA WAS KILLED IN THE
BATTLE.



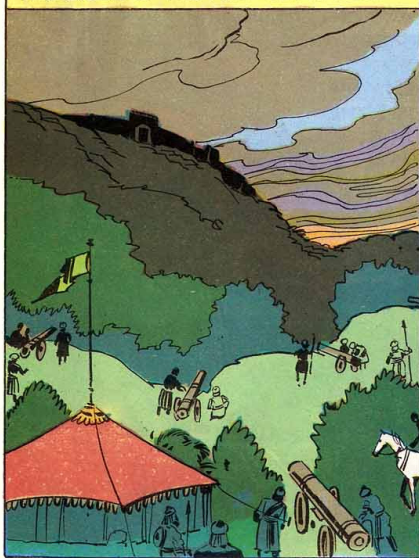
ALA-UD-DIN WAS FURIOUS.

SOLDIERS
DRESSED AS
WOMEN AND
SERVANTS! THEY
MADE FOOLS
OF US.

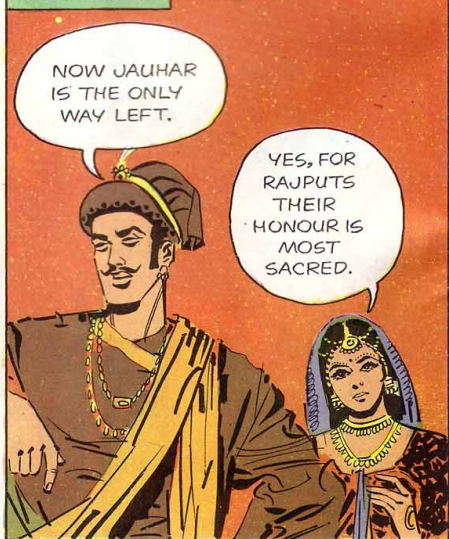




THE SIEGE OF THE FORT CONTINUED.



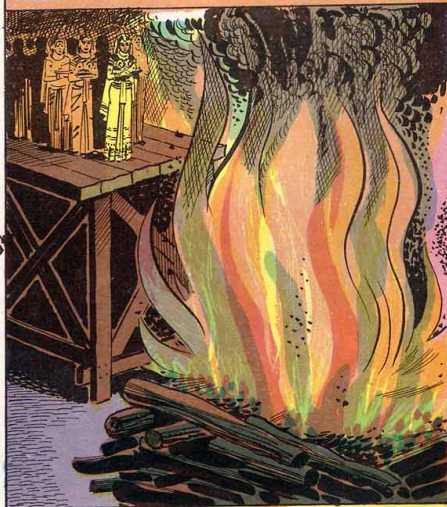
THE FOOD SUPPLIES IN THE FORT BEGAN TO DWINDLE.



SO, HUGE PYRES WERE LIT INSIDE THE FORT.

NO SACRIFICE IS TOO BIG TO SAVE ONE'S HONOUR!

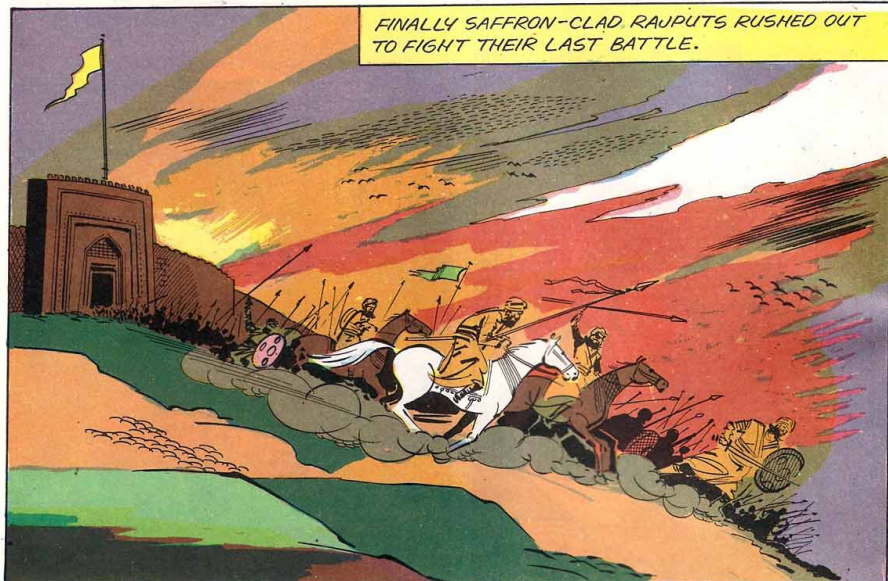
SO, PADMINI LED THE RAJPUT LADIES TO JAUHAR, THE GREAT SACRIFICE BY SELF-IMMOLATION.



THE RAJPUT WOMEN PREFERRED DEATH TO DISHONOUR.



FINALLY SAFFRON-CLAD RAUPUTS RUSHED OUT TO FIGHT THEIR LAST BATTLE.



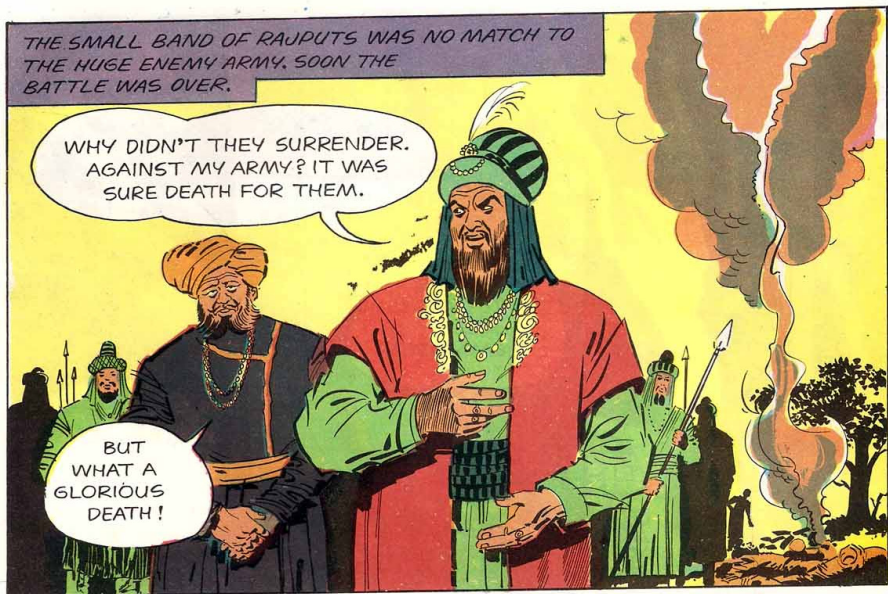
AFTER THEIR WOMEN HAD PERFORMED JAUHAR, NO RAUPUT HAD ANY DESIRE LEFT TO LIVE. THEY WERE THERE TO DIE, BUT THEY TOOK A HEAVY TOLL OF ENEMY LIVES.



THE SMALL BAND OF RAUPUTS WAS NO MATCH TO THE HUGE ENEMY ARMY. SOON THE BATTLE WAS OVER.

WHY DIDN'T THEY SURRENDER.
AGAINST MY ARMY? IT WAS
SURE DEATH FOR THEM.

BUT
WHAT A
GLORIOUS
DEATH!



FINALLY ALA-UD-DIN ENTERED THE FORT WITH HIS VICTORIOUS ARMY. TO BE GREETED BY THE SMOULDERING ASHES OF DEATH.





• BUT WHY
DID THEY
KILL
THEMSELVES?

YOUR
MAJESTY!
YOU WILL
NEVER
UNDERSTAND.



Illustrated Classics From India

Padmini

Rani Padmini was the wife of Raja Ratnasen, the valiant ruler of Chittor. Padmini holds a prominent position in the history of India. She was a model of ideal Indian womanhood, an epitome of virtue and beauty.

When Ala-ud-din Khilji, the mighty Afghan king of Delhi, threatened the values she cherished so dearly, she faced the problems with exceptional courage – never faltering in her unflinching valour. These qualities of the virtuous Rani Padmini inspired many a legend about her.

This story of Padmini is based on *Padmavat* by the famous Sufi poet Malik Muhammed Jayasi and *Gora-Badal* by the poet Jatmal.

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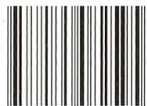
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