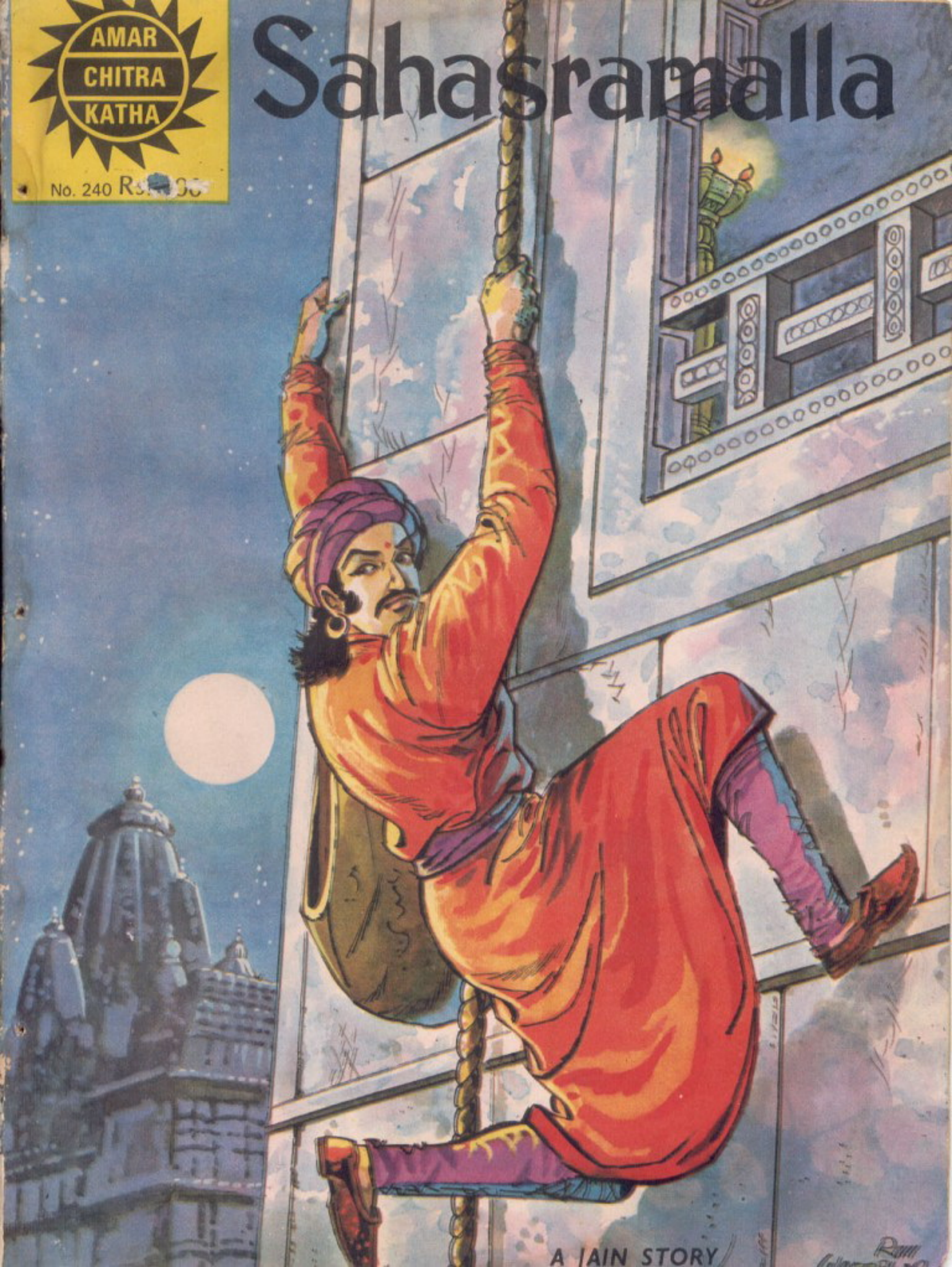




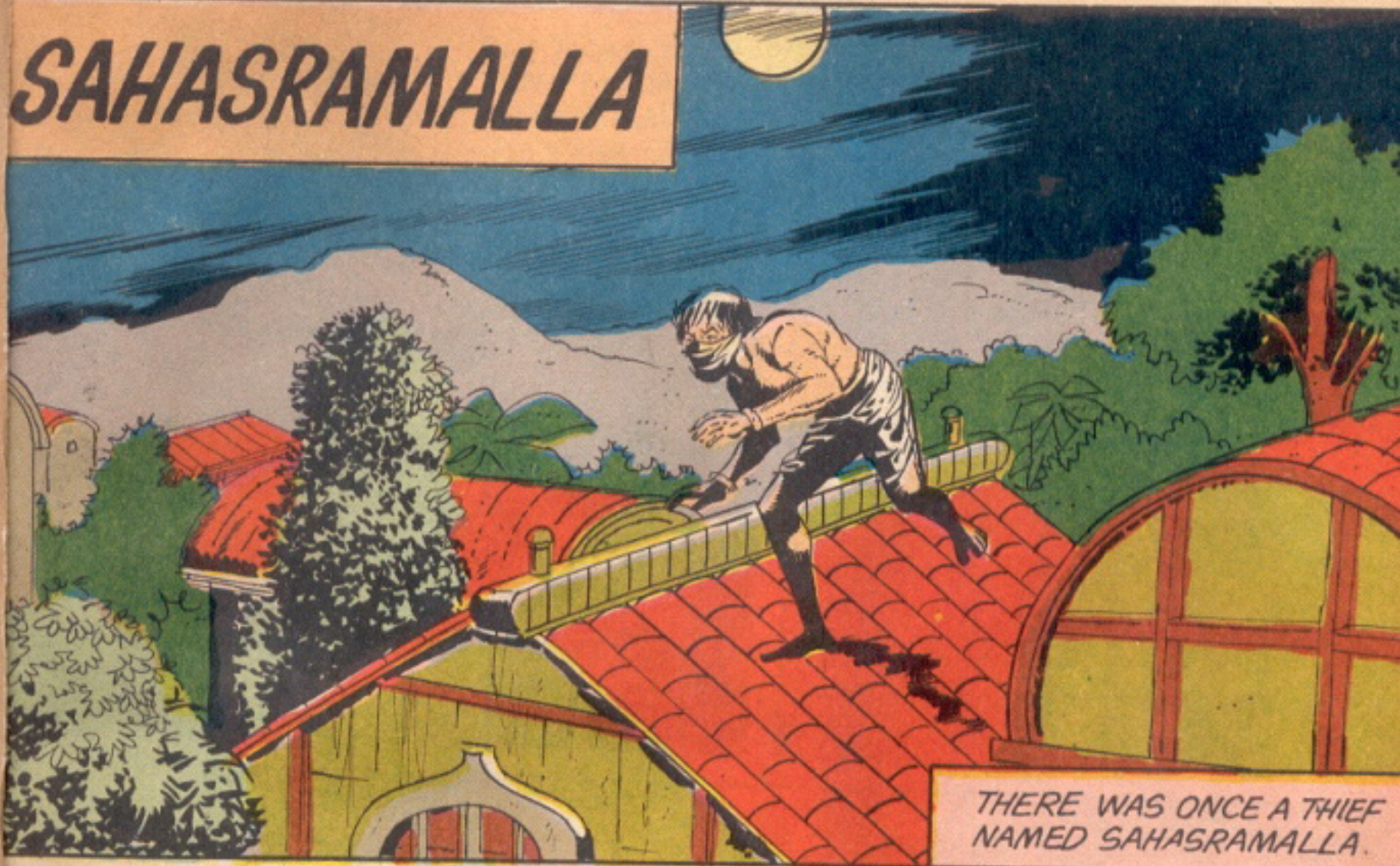
No. 240 Rs. 35

Sahasramalla



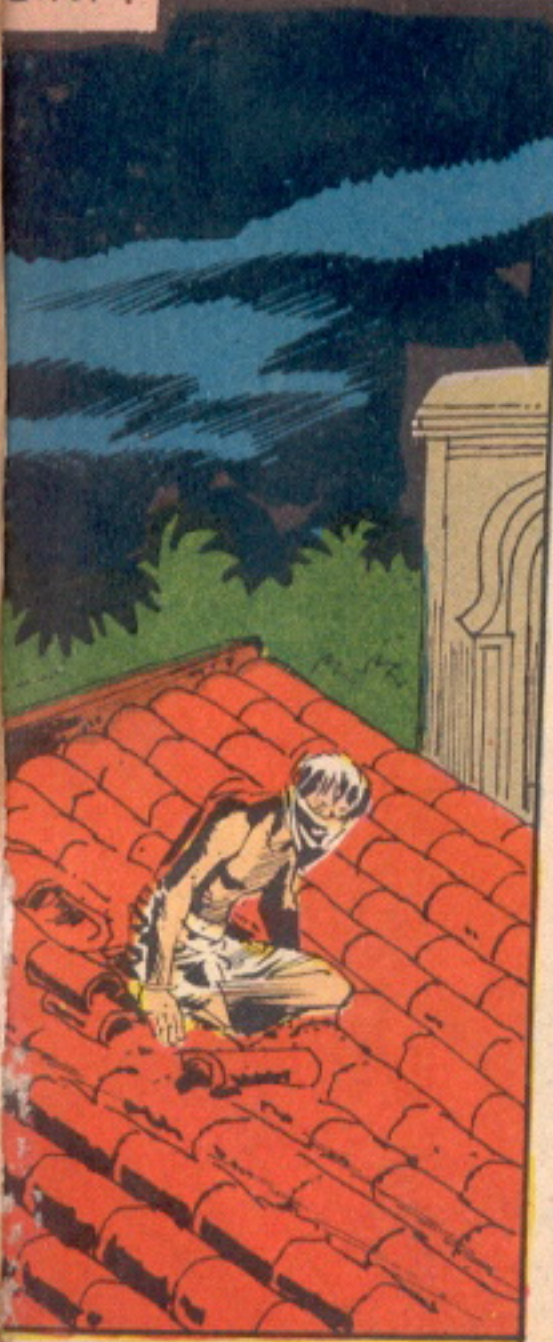
A JAIN STORY

SAHASRAMALLA



THERE WAS ONCE A THIEF
NAMED SAHASRAMALLA.

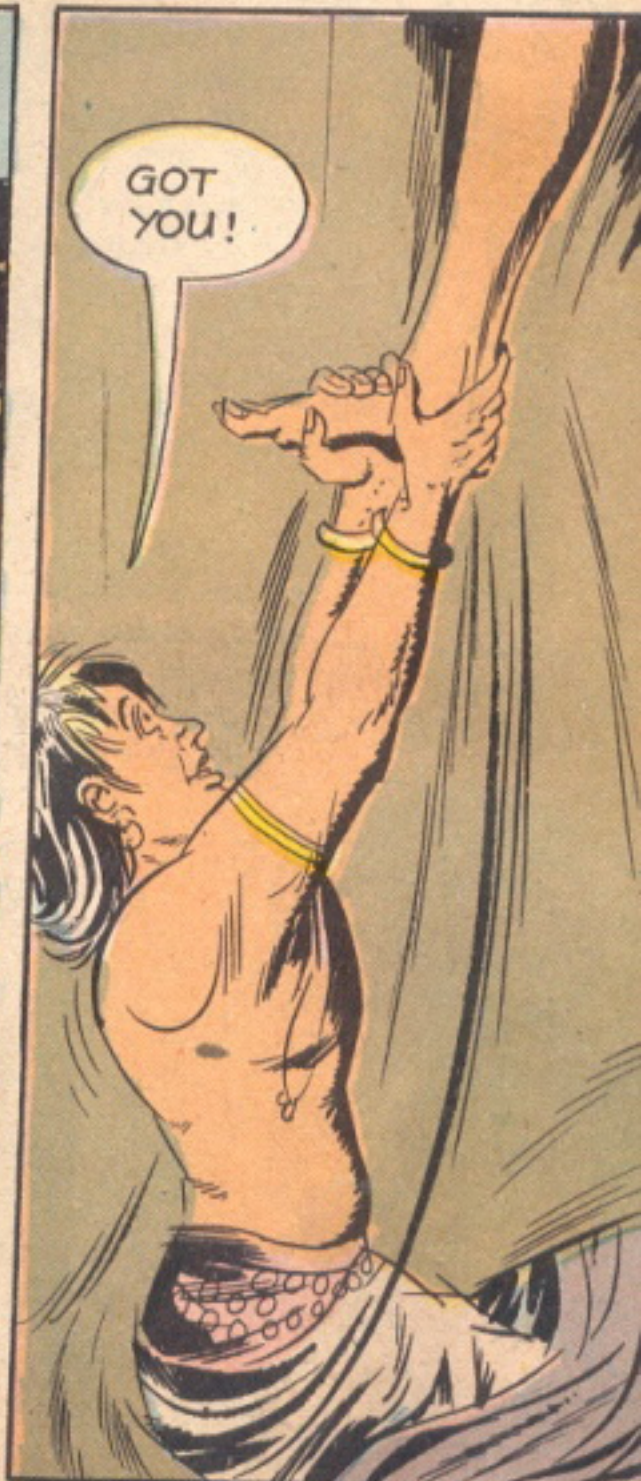
ONE NIGHT HE TRIED TO
BREAK INTO A JEWELLER'S
SHOP.



BUT AS LUCK WOULD
HAVE IT, THE JEWELLER'S
SON WAS SLEEPING
INSIDE



GOT
YOU!





OWWW!
OWWW!

I'LL LET
HIM GO.



HE'S HAD A BAD
FRIGHT. HE WON'T
BE IN A HURRY
TO TRY SUCH
TRICKS AGAIN.

SHAKEN BY THE
INCIDENT, SAHASRA-
MALLA RAN HOME
TO HIS MOTHER.

... HE... HE CAUGHT
MY LEG, MOTHER!
I... I THOUGHT HE
WOULD RAISE AN
ALARM... BUT HE
DIDN'T! HE LET
ME ESCAPE.



BUT WHAT IF HE HADN'T?
I'D BE IN PRISON NOW.

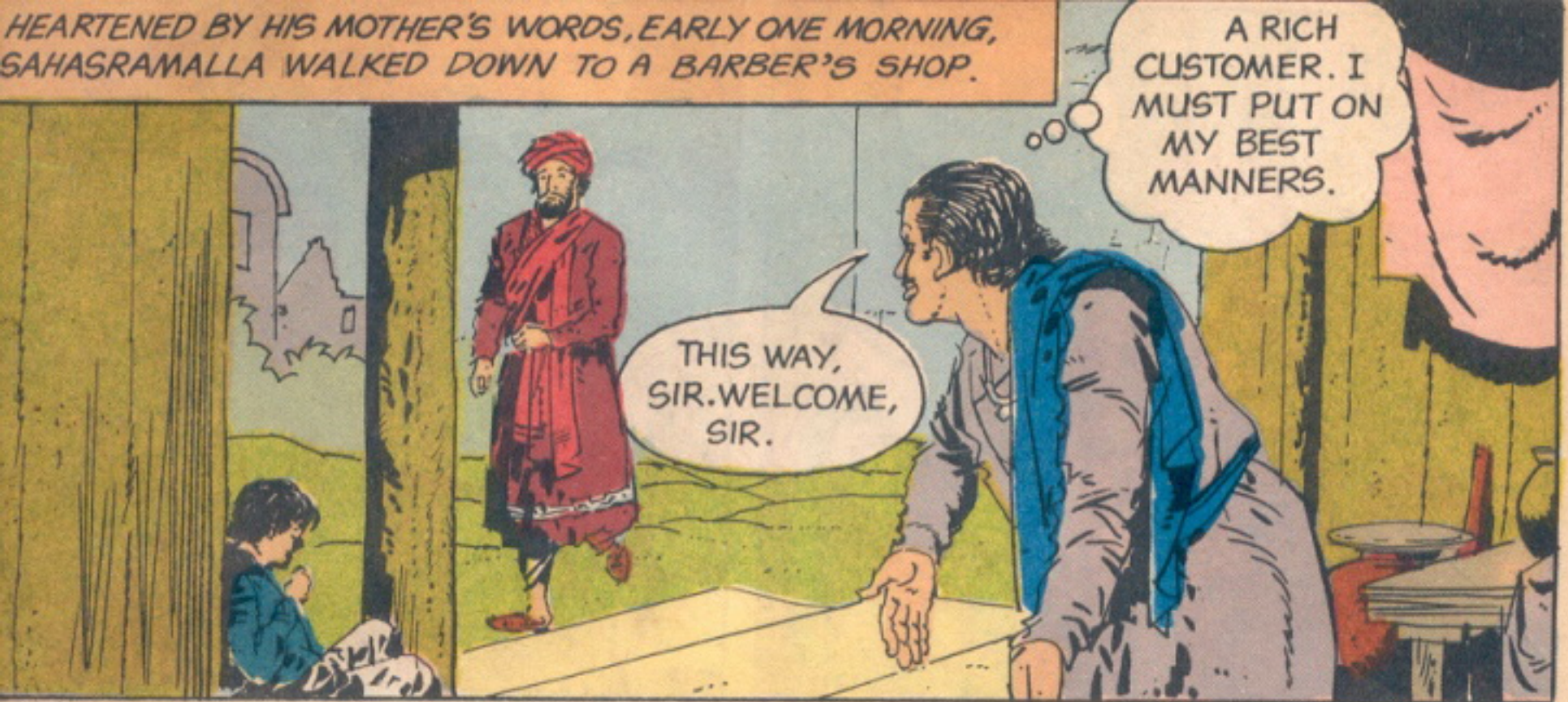
IT'S ALL IN
THE GAME, MY
SON. YOU CAN'T
AFFORD TO BE
UPSET—NOT IN
YOUR PROFESSION.

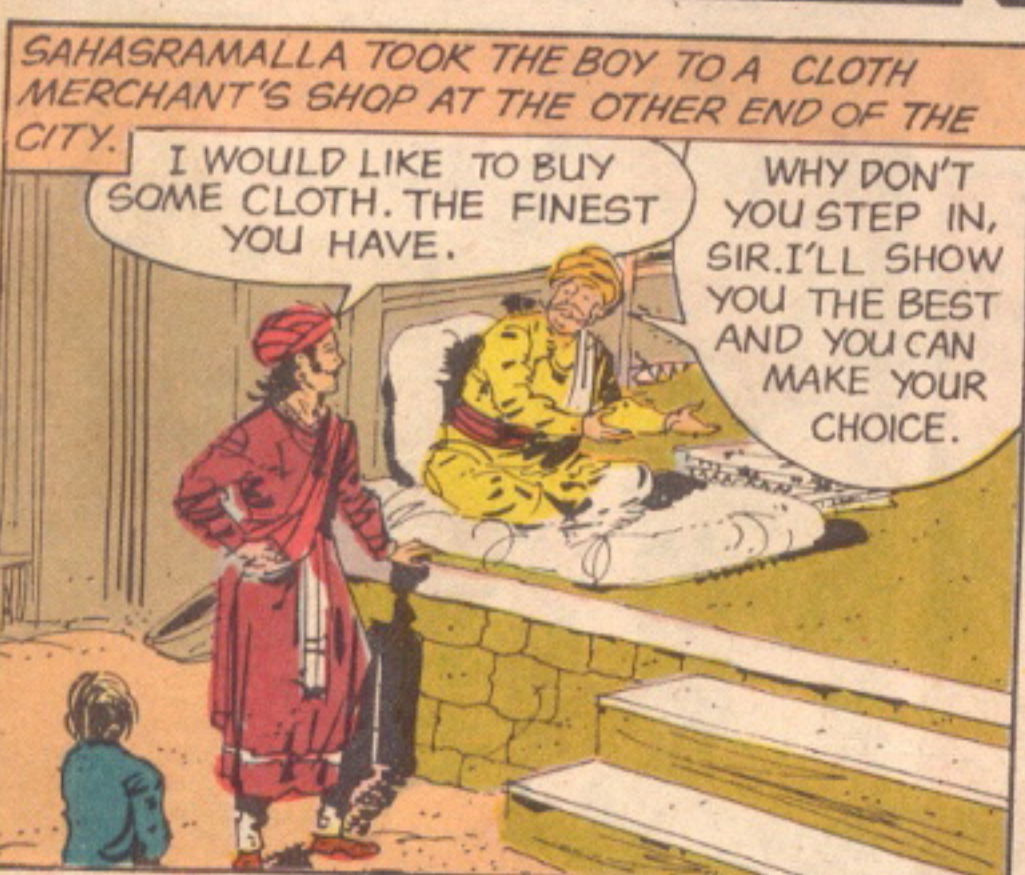


LET THIS
EXPERIENCE TEACH
YOU TO MAKE YOUR
PLANS MORE CARE-
FULLY IN THE FUTURE
AND YOU WILL
SUCCEED.
I KNOW
YOU WILL



HEARTENED BY HIS MOTHER'S WORDS, EARLY ONE MORNING, SAHASRAMALLA WALKED DOWN TO A BARBER'S SHOP.





WAIT HERE,
CHILD. I WON'T
BE LONG.

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT HIM, SIR.
I'LL LOOK AFTER
HIM.

SAHASRAMALLA WALKED OUT OF
THE SHOP WITH THE CLOTH AND...

...WENT HOME TO HIS MOTHER.

ALL FOR
YOU, MOTHER.

WELL DONE,
MY SON! SEE
HOW SUCCESS-
FUL YOU CAN BE
WHEN YOU HAVE
CONFIDENCE
IN YOURSELF.

NOW, MOTHER, PLEASE
GO TO THE CITY AND FIND
OUT WHAT THEY ARE
SAYING ABOUT
THIS THEFT.

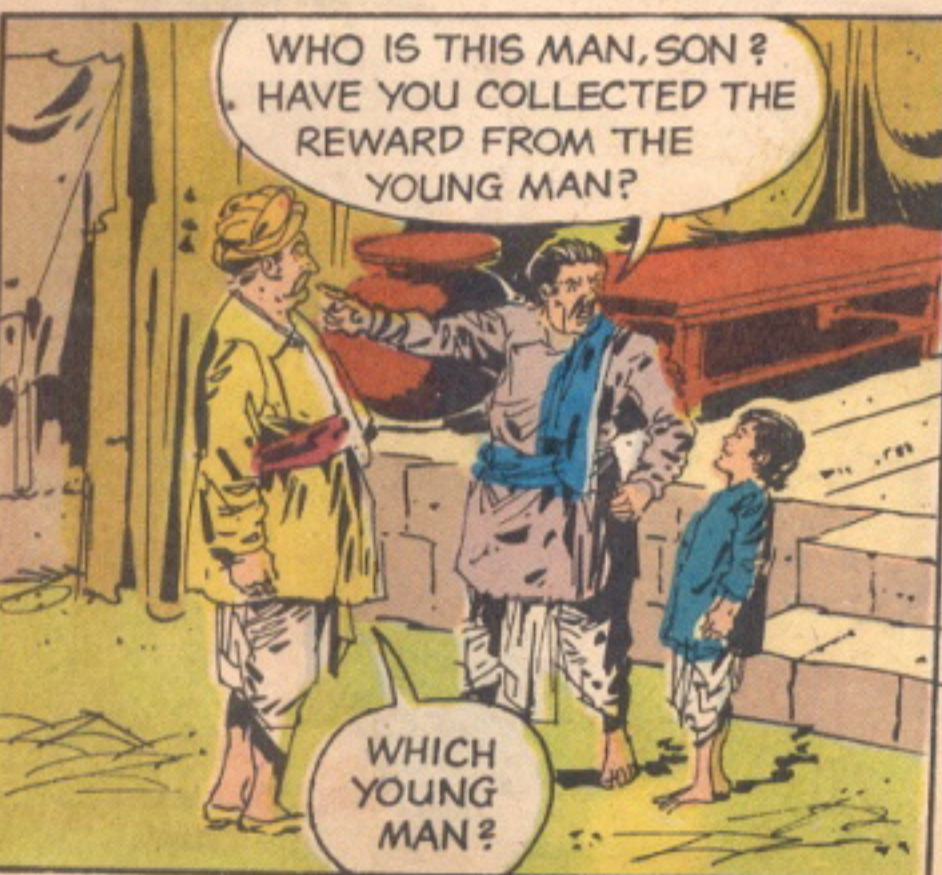
I'LL GO
RIGHT
AWAY!

MEANWHILE AT THE CLOTH SHOP—

THE MAN HASN'T
TURNED UP YET.
PERHAPS HE'S
FORGOTTEN
ALL ABOUT
THE MONEY.

PLEASE
TAKE ME TO
YOUR FATHER,
MY YOUNG
FRIEND.

THE TWO SET OUT.



THE TWO WENT TO THE KING.

...EVEN HIS HAIRCUT WAS AT MY EXPENSE!

HE MADE FOOLS OF US, YOUR MAJESTY.



A HORSE-TRADER WHO WAS PRESENT CAME FORWARD.

A THIEF SOONER OR LATER NEEDS A HORSE. THIS THIEF WILL COME TO ME FOR THE PURCHASE, AND THEN I SHALL BRING HIM HERE IN CHAINS.



WHEN THE NEWS SPREAD, A DANCING-GIRL TOO OFFERED TO CATCH THE THIEF.

THE THIEF HAS SUDDENLY COME INTO MONEY. HE'S BOUND TO COME TO SEE ME DANCE. WHEN HE DOES, I'LL CHARM HIM INTO GIVING HIMSELF UP, YOUR MAJESTY.



AND SO, WHEN SAHASRAMALLA'S MOTHER RETURNED HOME, SHE HAD MUCH TO TELL HIM.

...BE ON YOUR GUARD, MY SON. A HORSE-TRADER AND A DANCING-GIRL ARE BENT ON OUTWITTING YOU!



DON'T WORRY, MOTHER. THE BRAGGARTS WILL WISH THEY HAD NEVER CROSSED MY PATH WHEN I'VE FINISHED WITH THEM.



THAT EVENING AS THE HORSE-TRADER, WHO HAD SET UP CAMP OUTSIDE THE CITY, WAS RELAXING OUTSIDE HIS TENT—

A NOBLEMAN?
HERE? HE'S WALKING
TOWARDS ME!
WHO COULD
HE BE?

LITTLE DID HE REALISE THAT THE
COURTIER WAS NONE OTHER THAN...

...SAHASRAMALLA HIMSELF!

WHO ARE YOU,
SIR? WHY HAVE
YOU CAMPED
HERE?

I AM A
HORSE-TRADER,
MY LORD, AND
A STRANGER
IN THESE
PARTS.

WHY DON'T YOU
COME AND STAY
WITH ME? I'D BE
HONOURED!

NO, NO, MY LORD!
YOU MUSTN'T
TROUBLE
YOURSELF.

I INSIST!
I CANNOT LET A
DECENT MAN LIKE
YOU SPEND THE
NIGHT HERE.

VERY WELL
THEN, I'LL COME.
LET ME GET MY
HORSES READY.

SAHASRAMALLA THEN TOOK THE MAN TO THE HOUSE OF THE DANCING-GIRL.



THE DANCING-GIRL HAD NEVER SEEN THE HORSE-TRADER OR THE THIEF BEFORE.



SAHASRAMALLA QUICKLY TOOK HER ASIDE.



THE WOMAN SHOWED THE HORSE-TRADER TO HIS ROOM,
AND CAME BACK.



AND WHAT
ABOUT YOU, SIR ?
WON'T YOU STAY,
TOO ?

NO. I'LL COME
BACK LATER. I HAVE
TO SEE THE KING
ON AN URGENT
MATTER AND...

...OH, NO! IN MY
HURRY, I FORGOT TO
PUT ON MY ORNAMENTS.
HOW CARELESS OF ME!



HOW CAN I APPEAR
BEFORE THE KING LIKE
THIS ? COULD YOU...
WOULD YOU... ER...
LEND ME SOME
OF YOURS ?

CERTAINLY!



I AM MOST GRATEFUL
TO YOU. IT'S A SMALL MATTER
BUT MEANS
MUCH TO ME.



COME WITH ME.
YOU CAN TAKE
WHATEVER ORNA-
MENTS YOU WANT.



SAHASRAMALLA SELECTED THE MOST PRECIOUS ORNAMENTS IN THE WOMAN'S POSSESSION AND PUT THEM ON.

NOW BEFORE I LEAVE, I MUST SEE IF MY FRIEND IS COMFORTABLE.

OH, HE IS, SIR! BUT DO GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!

THE HORSE-TRADER HAD NO WORDS TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE WHEN SAHASRAMALLA ENTERED HIS ROOM.

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME SUCH A MAGNIFICENT ROOM, SIR. I AM SIMPLY OVERWHELMED BY YOUR GENEROSITY!

OH, IT'S NOTHING.

MY LADY WILL LOOK AFTER YOU WHILE I AM GONE. NOW I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK OF YOU.

GO AHEAD.

I NEED A FAST HORSE TO TAKE ME TO THE PALACE.

TAKE MINE, SIR. TAKE MINE! HE IS THE FASTEST IN THE COUNTRY.

IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR YOU AFTER ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME.

AND SO THE VERY TWO WHO HAD SET OUT TO CATCH THE THIEF WERE THEMSELVES CAUGHT IN HIS CLEVER WILES.

FAREWELL,
FRIENDS. MAY
WE NEVER
MEET AGAIN!

SAHASRAMALLA WENT HOME AND PRESENTED THE ORNAMENTS AND THE HORSE TO HIS MOTHER.

THE ORNAMENTS ARE A
GIFT FROM THE DANCING-
GIRL AND THE HORSE
FROM THE HORSE-
TRADER.

ALL FOR
YOU, MOTHER.

I AM
PROUD OF
YOU, SON.

MOTHER,
TOMORROW YOU
MUST GO TO THE
CITY AND FIND OUT
WHAT THEY ARE
SAYING ABOUT
THIS.

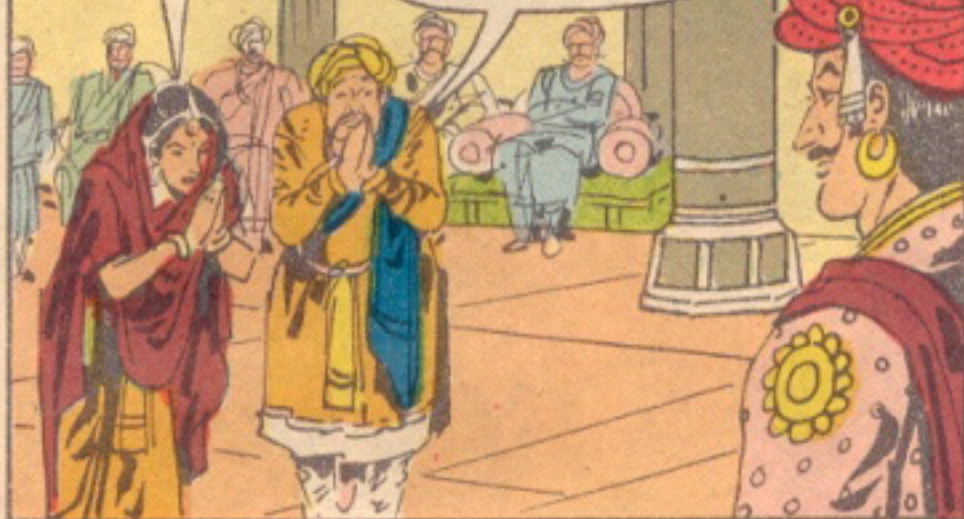
I'LL
DO THAT.

IN THE MEANTIME THE HORSE-TRADER AND THE DANCING-GIRL HAD REALISED THAT THEY HAD BEEN TRICKED...

... AND BOTH OF THEM WENT TO SEE THE KING.

HE WALKED OFF WITH MY ORNAMENTS...

SHE MEANS RODE OFF, YOUR MAJESTY... AND ON MY HORSE!



THE KING SUMMONED THE CHIEF OF POLICE.

THIS THIEF IS BECOMING BOLDER AND BOLDER.



I'LL GIVE YOU FIVE DAYS TO PRODUCE HIM BEFORE ME.

THE ROGUE WILL NOT ESCAPE ME, YOUR MAJESTY.



SAHASRAMALLA, AS BEFORE, HEARD THE NEWS FROM HIS MOTHER.

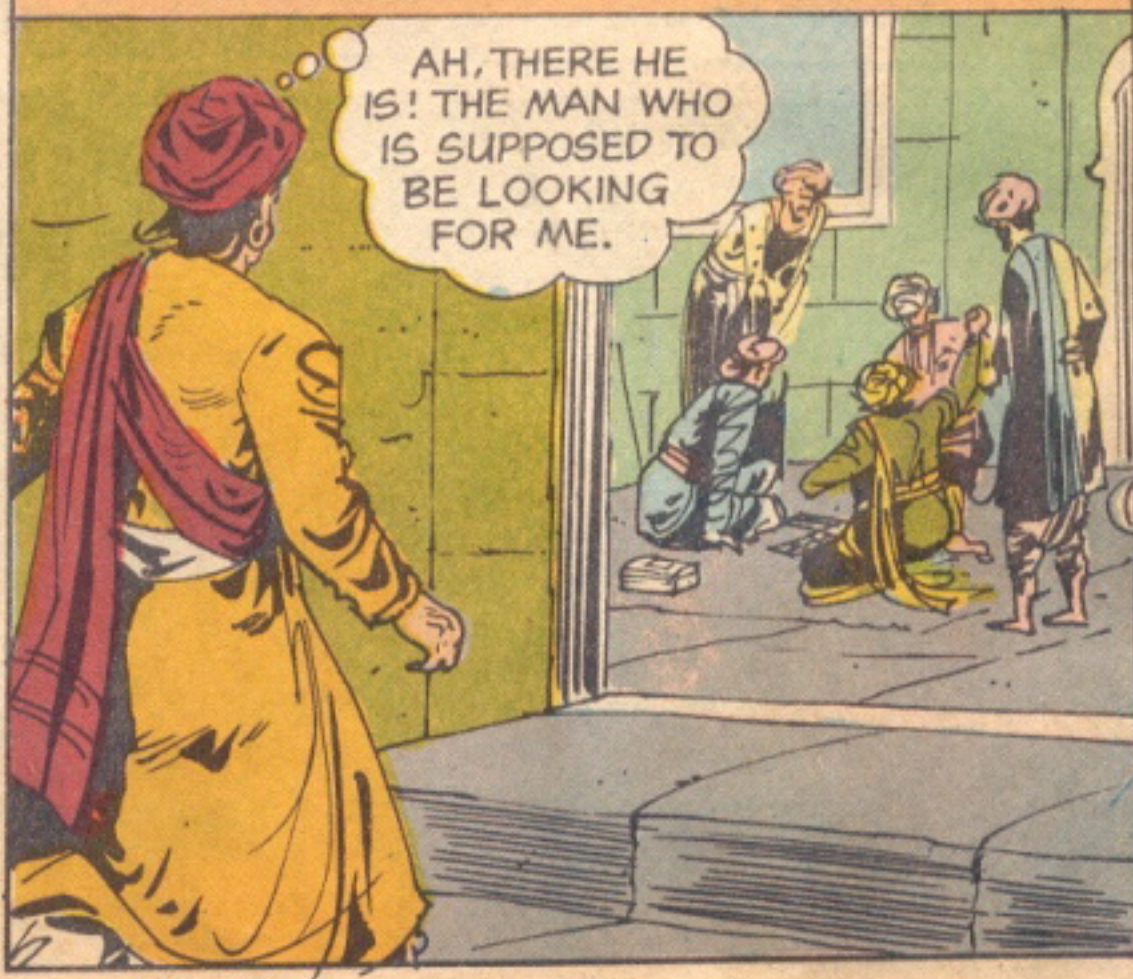
BE CAREFUL, SON. DON'T LET THAT MAN OUTWIT YOU.

DON'T WORRY, MOTHER. THE CHIEF OF POLICE WILL REGRET HE EVER HEARD OF ME BY THE TIME I'VE FINISHED WITH HIM.



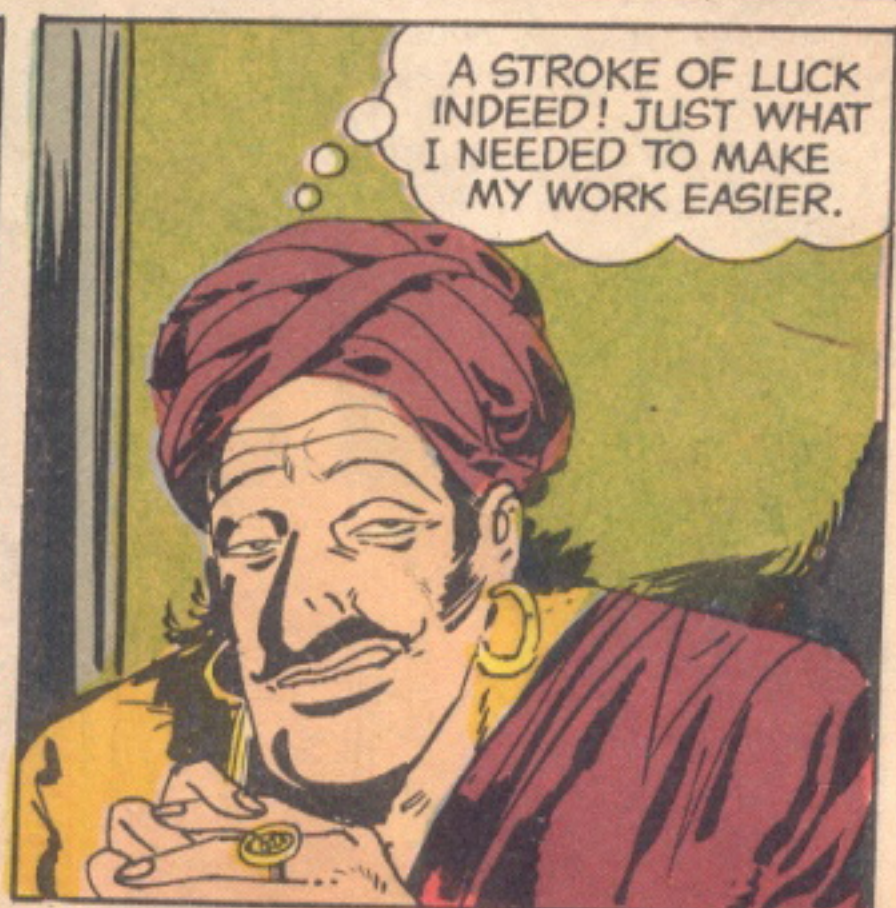
THAT EVENING THE MASTER THIEF DRESSED HIMSELF AS A WELL-TO-DO CITIZEN AND STROLLED INTO A GAMBLING DEN WHICH HE KNEW TO BE FREQUENTED BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE.

AH, THERE HE IS! THE MAN WHO IS SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR ME.



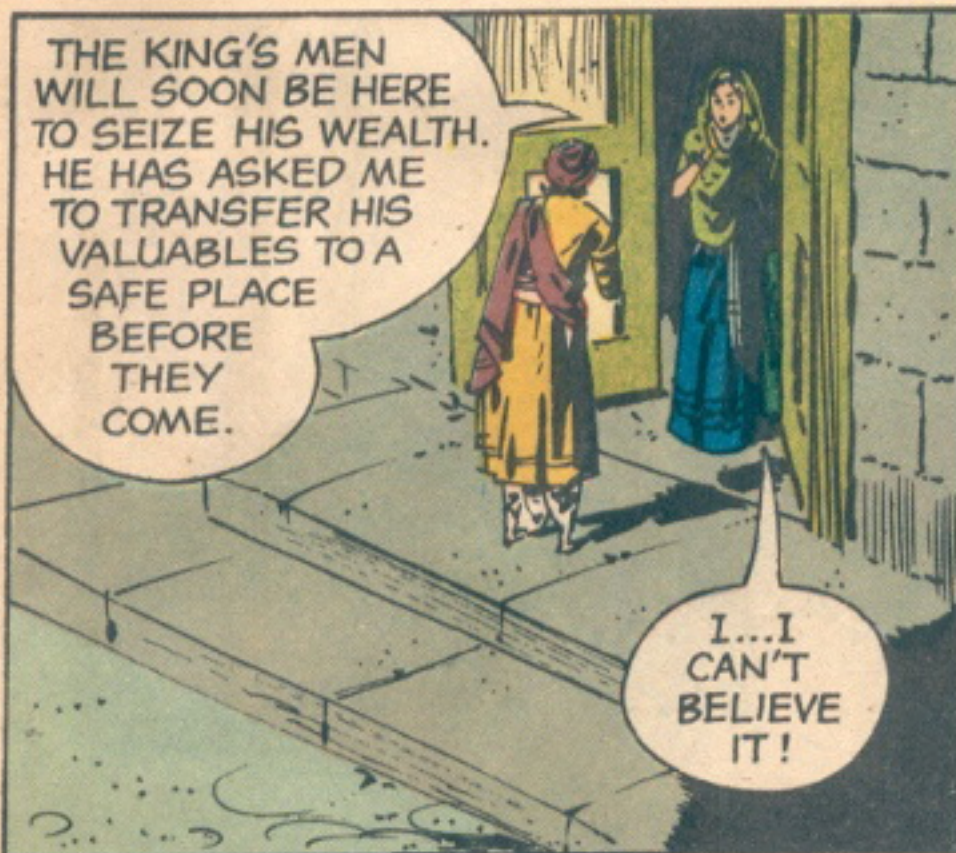


SAHASRAMALLA WAS A SKILFUL GAMBLER AND IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THE CHIEF OF POLICE LOST ALL HIS MONEY TO HIM.





SAHASRAMALLA HURRIED TO THE POLICE CHIEF'S HOUSE AND MET HIS WIFE.



A LITTLE LATER THE THIEF LEFT THE HOUSE WITH A BULGING SACK ON HIS BACK.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.

IT'S A PLEASURE, MADAM.

HE WENT HOME AND LAID THE SACK AT HIS MOTHER'S FEET.

GIFTS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE, MOTHER.

I AM PROUD OF YOU, MY SON... BUT PLEASE... DON'T TAKE ANY MORE RISKS.

MEANWHILE IN THE CITY, THE CHIEF OF POLICE HAD RETURNED HOME.

I AM SO GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK, DEAR. DID SOMEONE STAND SURETY FOR YOU?

UH?

WHY DID THEY ARREST YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOUR FRIEND CAME AND TOOK AWAY OUR VALUABLES.

FRIEND? VALUABLES?

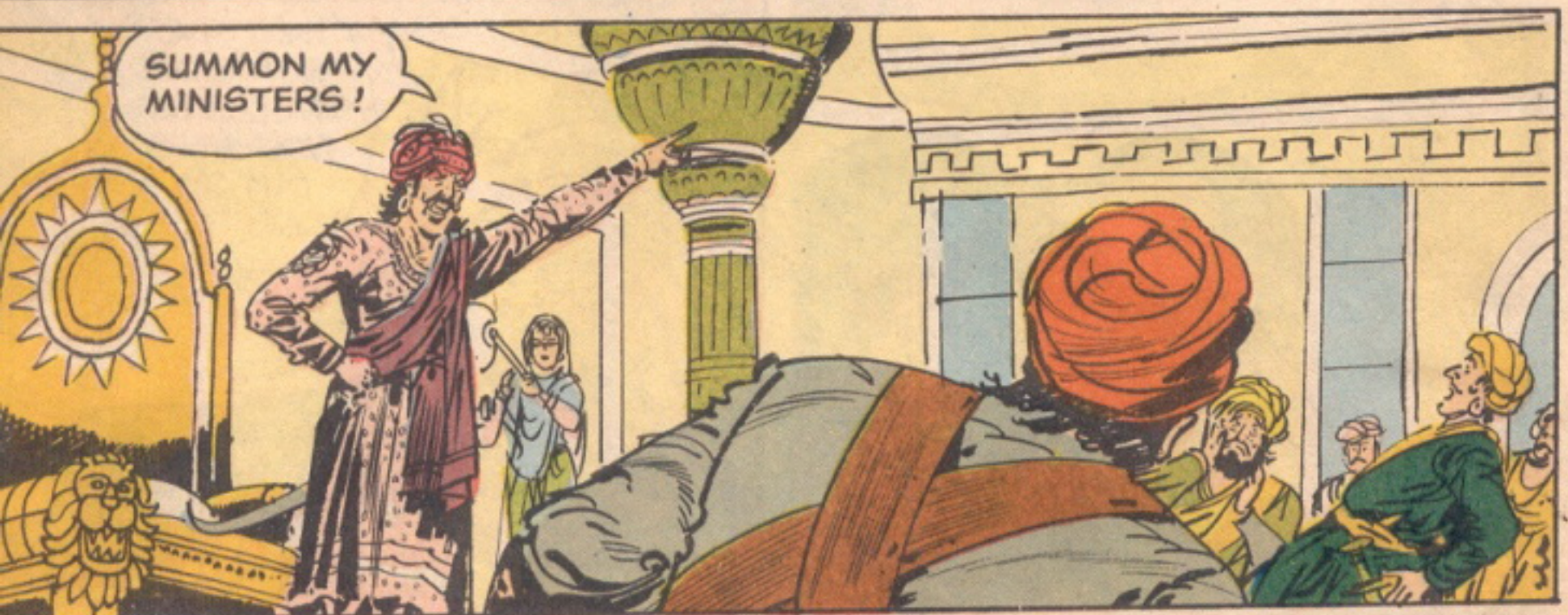
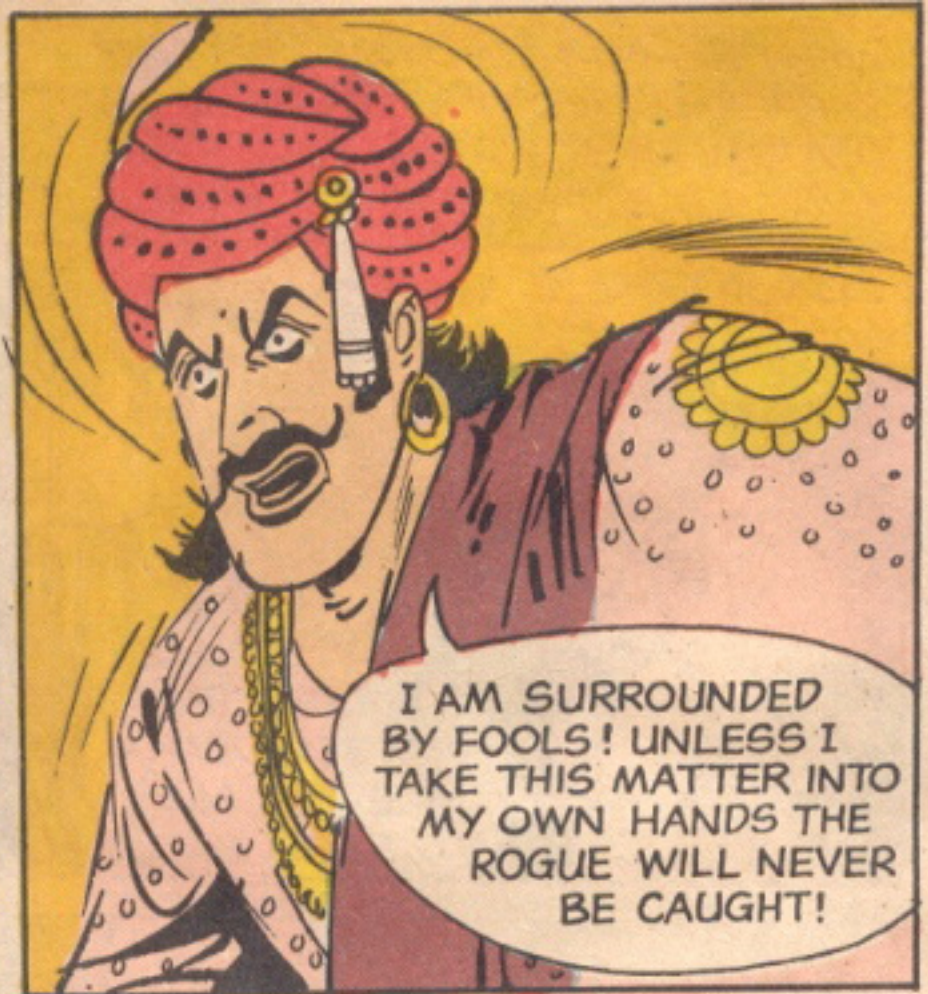
WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

WHEN HIS WIFE TOLD HIM WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THE POLICE CHIEF BECAME DEATHLY PALE. HIS MOUTH OPENED AND SHUT BUT NO SOUND CAME FROM IT.



THE HELPLESS POLICE CHIEF WENT TO THE PALACE NEXT DAY AND THREW HIMSELF AT THE KING'S FEET.

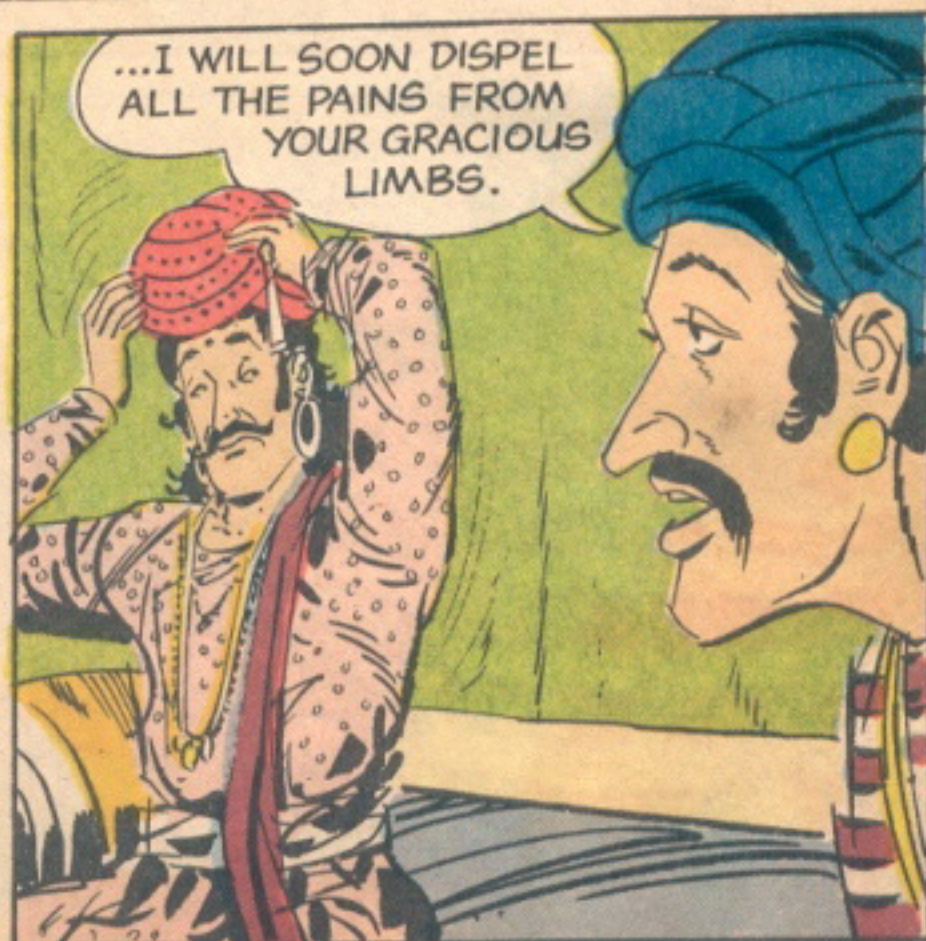




SOME DAYS LATER, THE THIEF PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE PALACE GATES.



WHEN SAHASRAMALLA WAS USHERED INTO THE ROYAL PRESENCE —





NOW CLOSE
YOUR EYES,
CALM YOUR
SENSES...



...AND LET MY
HANDS DO
THE REST.



AH, THAT
FEELS GOOD.
HO... HUM!

SAHASRAMALLA HAD NOT EXAGGERATED
WHEN HE HAD CLAIMED TO BE AN EXPERT
MASSEUR. HIS PRACTISED HANDS SOON
DISPELLED THE KING'S WEARINESS...



...AND THEN GENTLY LULLED HIM
TO SLEEP.



SWEET DREAMS,
YOUR MAJESTY.
NOW I MUST
BE OFF.



YOU WILL
PARDON ME,
I'M SURE, FOR
TAKING THESE
TRINKETS AS
SOUVENIRS FOR
MY MOTHER.

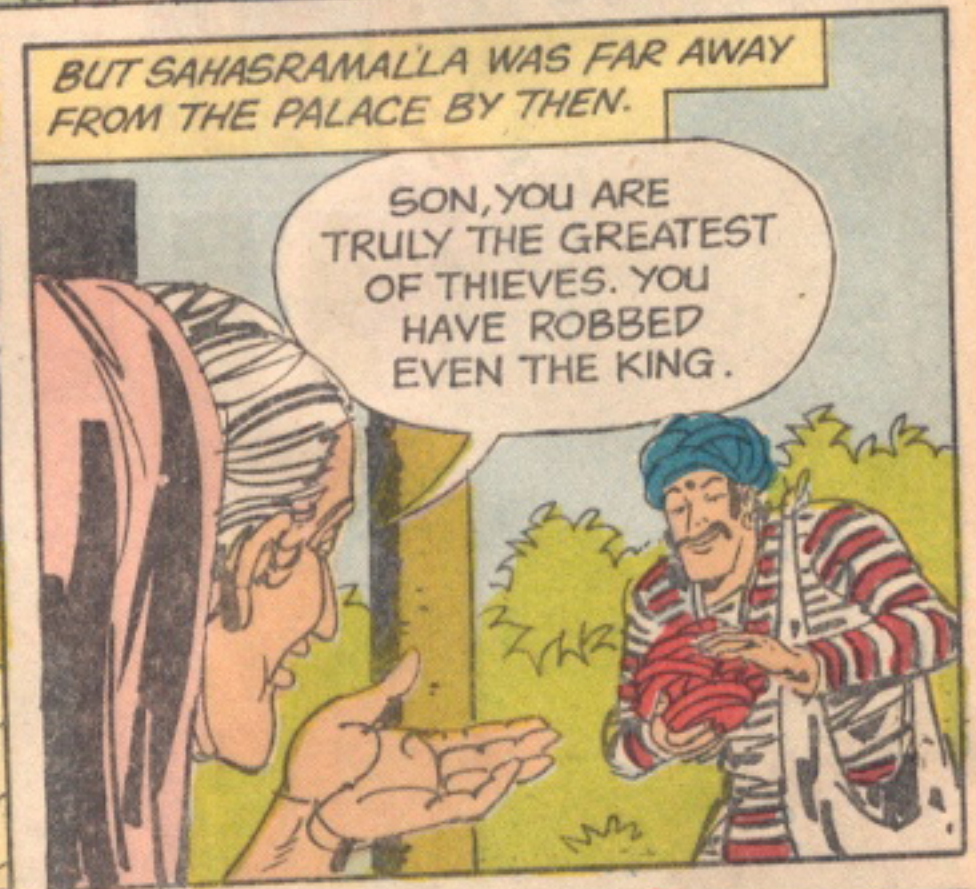
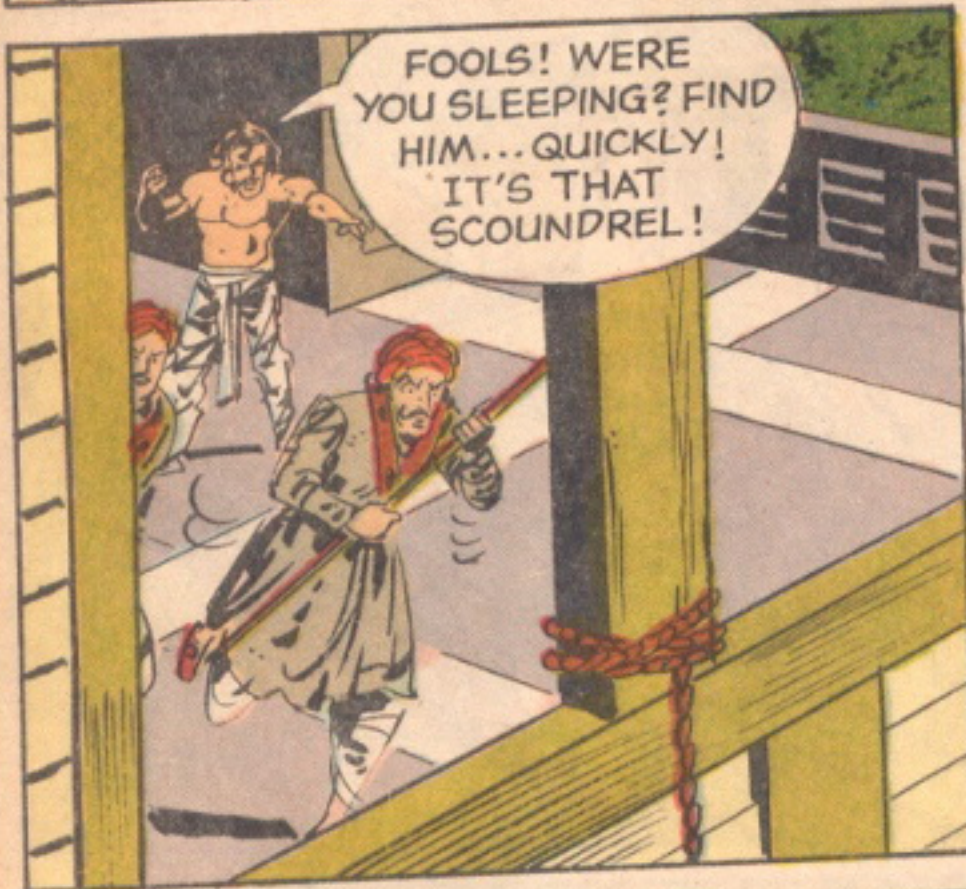
HE WRAPPED UP THE CROWN AND THE JEWELLERY IN THE ROYAL ROBES AND NOISELESSLY LET HIMSELF OUT OF THE WINDOW.

SOMETIME LATER, THE KING AWOKE.

I FEEL SO REFRESHED.

THAT MASSEUR REALLY KNOWS HIS... HEY!

WHERE IS MY CROWN? MY JEWELLERY? MY ROBES!





AND RIGHT ENOUGH, SAHASRAMALLA WAS SOON OUT ON THE PROWL. ONE DAY HE CAME ACROSS A HUGE GATHERING OF PEOPLE.



JUST AS SAHASRAMALLA SLIPPED INTO THE CROWD, THE MONK BEGAN TO PREACH.



SUCH WAS THE SPELL CAST BY THE PIOUS MONK, VASUDDA, THAT SAHASRAMALLA FORGOT HIMSELF AND STOOD TO LISTEN WITH RAPT ATTENTION.

... BROTHERS, WE SHOULD NOT HURT OUR FELLOW-MEN BY OUR ACTIONS...

IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE JOYS OF LIFE, SO HAVE OTHERS.

WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF SOMEONE STOLE YOUR PROPERTY?

I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T!

THEN SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT STEAL SOMEONE ELSE'S PROPERTY.

!



SAHASRAMALLA WHO HAD NEVER GIVEN
THOUGHT TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF
HIS ACTIONS WAS NOW FLOODED WITH
FEELINGS OF REMORSE.





WHEN SAHASRAMALLA BLURTED OUT HIS STORY OF SHAME—

YOUR WORDS HAVE MELTED MY HEART. BUT WILL IT WASH AWAY MY PAST SINS.

IF YOU HAVE TRULY REPENTED, MY SON, THEN YOU MUST DO AS I TELL YOU...



AND IN THE GATHERING DUSK THE SAINT INSTRUCTED THE SINNER.



THE NEXT DAY TOO VASUDDA SPOKE OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE. THIS TIME THERE WAS A LARGER CROWD AND THE KING HIMSELF WAS PRESENT.



AFTER THE SERMON—

HOLY VASUDDA, YOU ARE THE WISEST MAN IN THE KINGDOM.





SAHASRAMALLA FELL AT THE KING'S FEET.

I AM READY TO
ACCEPT WHATEVER
PUNISHMENT YOU
GIVE ME, YOUR
MAJESTY.

MY MOTHER AND
I HAVE BROUGHT BACK
ALL THE GOODS I STOLE,
TO BE RESTORED TO
THEIR RIGHTFUL
OWNERS.



WELL, SINCE
YOU HAVE
GIVEN YOUR-
SELF UP
VOLUNTARILY
AND SINCE YOU
HAVE REPENTED
AND SINCE THE
HOLY VASUDDA
INTERCEDES
FOR YOU...

... I PARDON YOU, SAHASRA-
MALLA. AND I WISH YOU HAPPI-
NESS IN YOUR NEW LIFE.

THANK YOU,
YOUR
MAJESTY.

AND SAHASRAMALLA
AND HIS MOTHER
LIVED A LIFE OF
PIETY AND HONOUR
EVER AFTER.