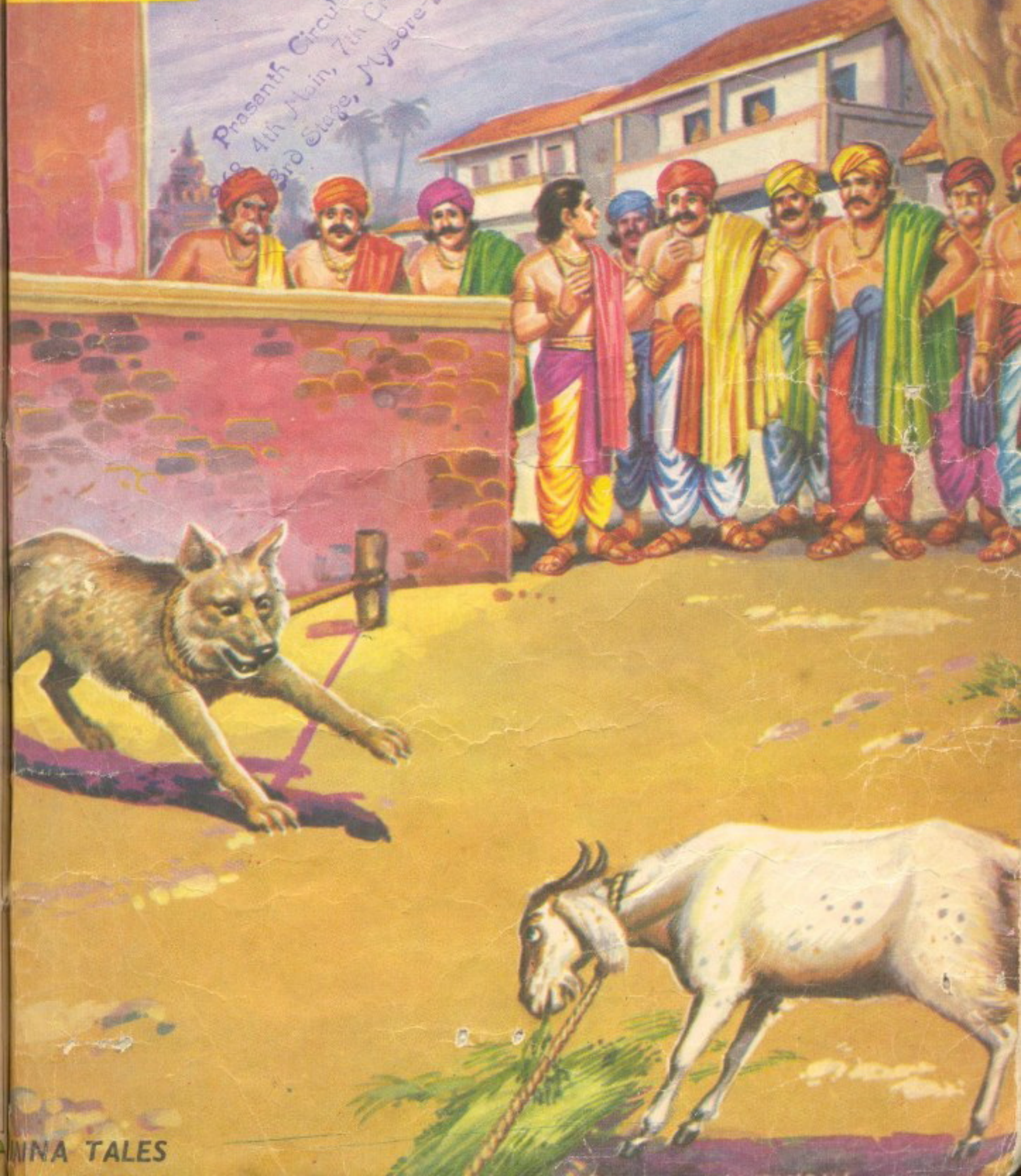




SHRENIK

and The Hidden Truth



Amar Chitra Katha

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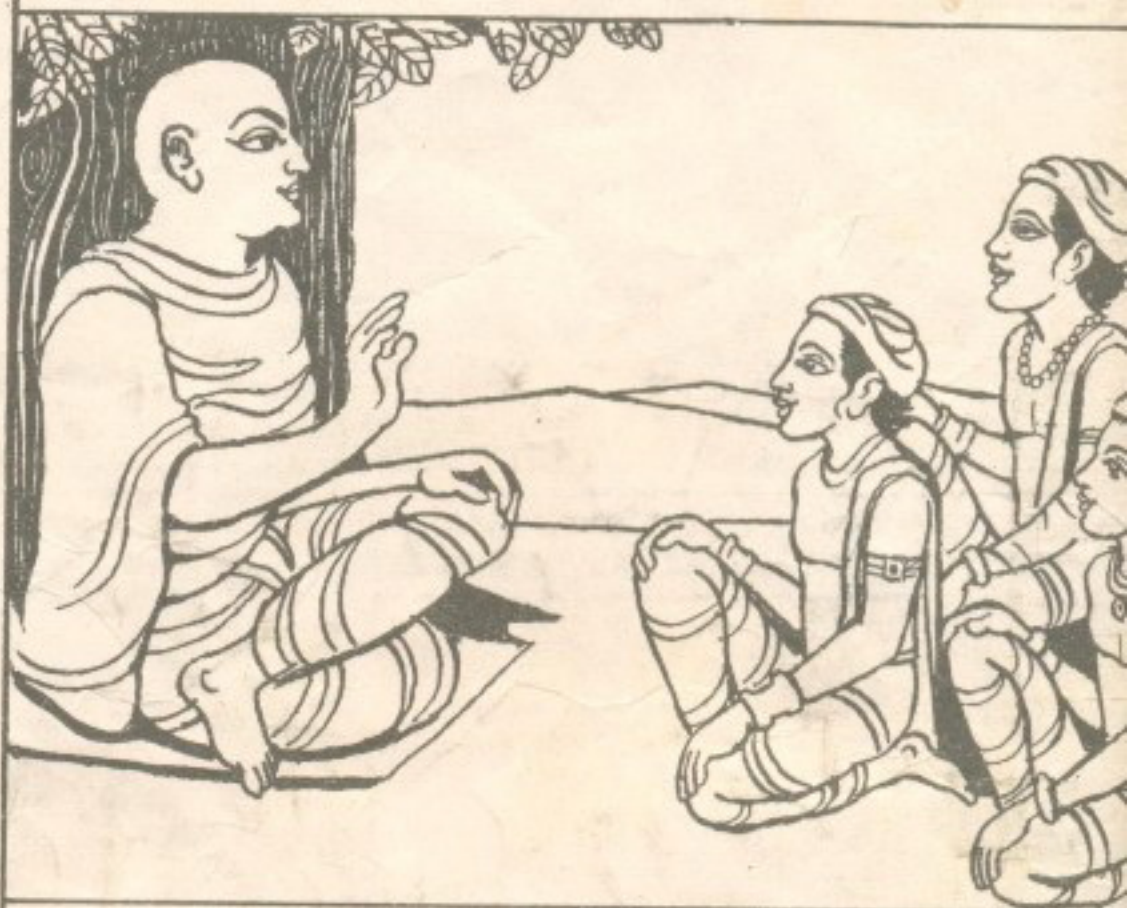
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SHRENIK and The Hidden Truth



Jain monks took a keen interest in the moral and spiritual uplift of the common people. To make their philosophical concepts, expressed in terse statements, intelligible and interesting to the layman, they used the medium of stories. Thousands of such didactic stories in Sanskrit and Prakrit have come down to us.

The story of Shrenik is retold from Harishena's **Bhrihat Katha Kosha** (10th century) and 'The Hidden Truth' from Rajashekara's **Vinodakathasangraha** (14th century).

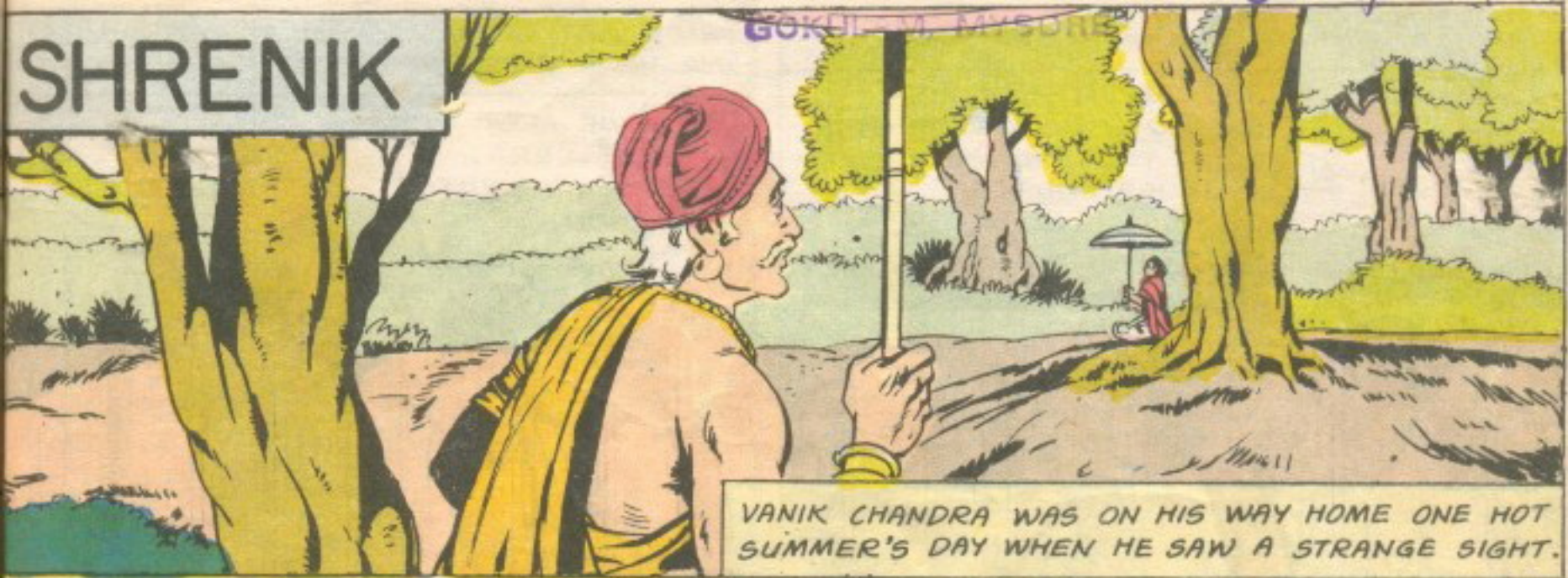
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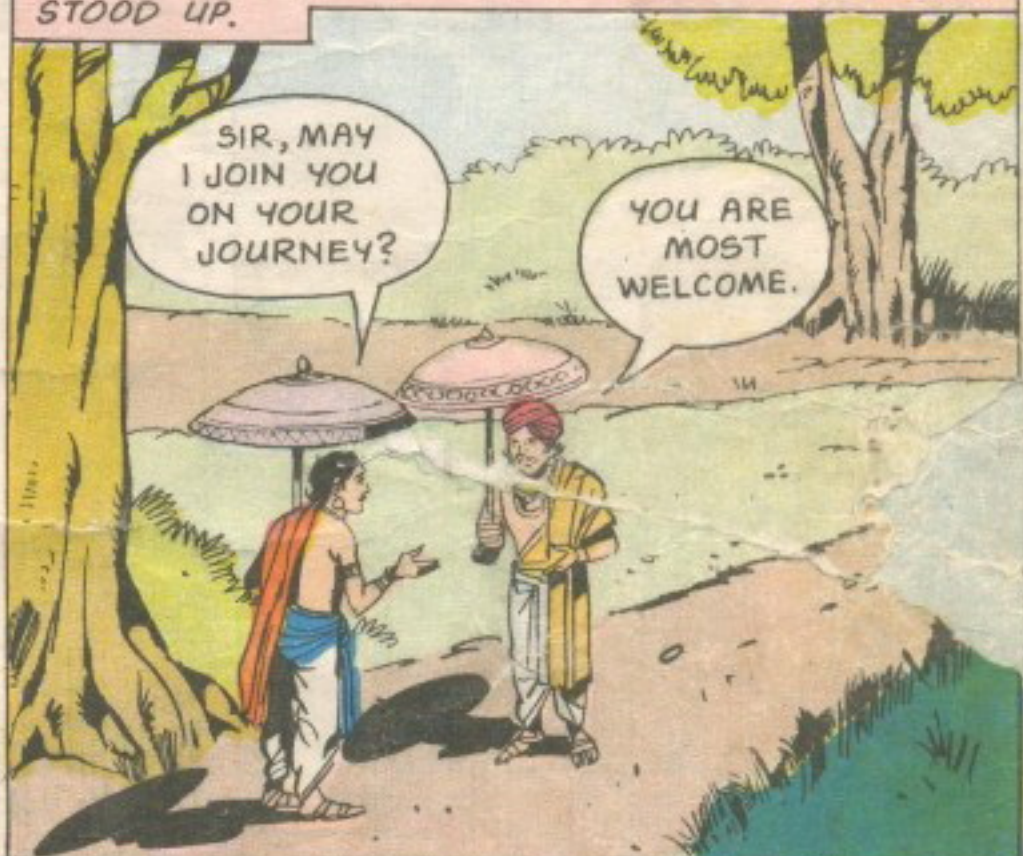
SHRENIK



YOUNG MAN SITTING IN THE SHADE OF A TREE WITH HIS UMBRELLA HELD OVER HIS HEAD!

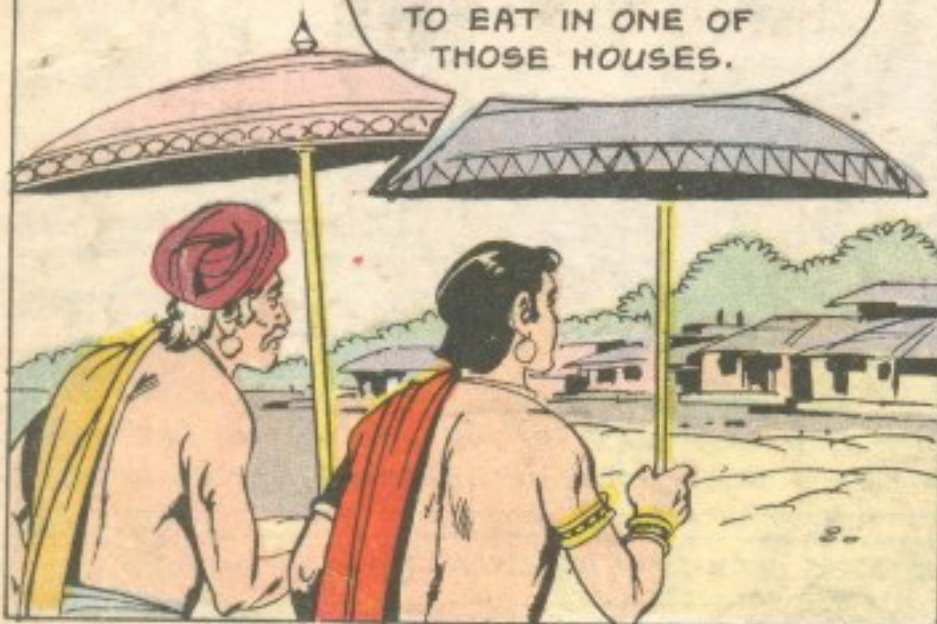


WHEN HE SAW VANIK CHANDRA, THE YOUTH STOOD UP.



AS THEY WALKED ON THEY CAME UPON A VILLAGE.

AH! I AM HUNGRY. WE SHOULD GET SOMETHING TO EAT IN ONE OF THOSE HOUSES.



VANIK CHANDRA KNOCKED AT THE DOOR OF THE VERY FIRST HOUSE ON THEIR WAY.

WE ARE TRAVELLERS, GOOD SIR. COULD YOU...

THEN KEEP TRAVELLING!



AND DON'T STOP.



VANIK CHANDRA TRIED ANOTHER HOUSE.

SIR, WE ARE HUNGRY. WE THOUGHT, PERHAPS...

I AM SORRY. WE HAVE NO FOOD LEFT.

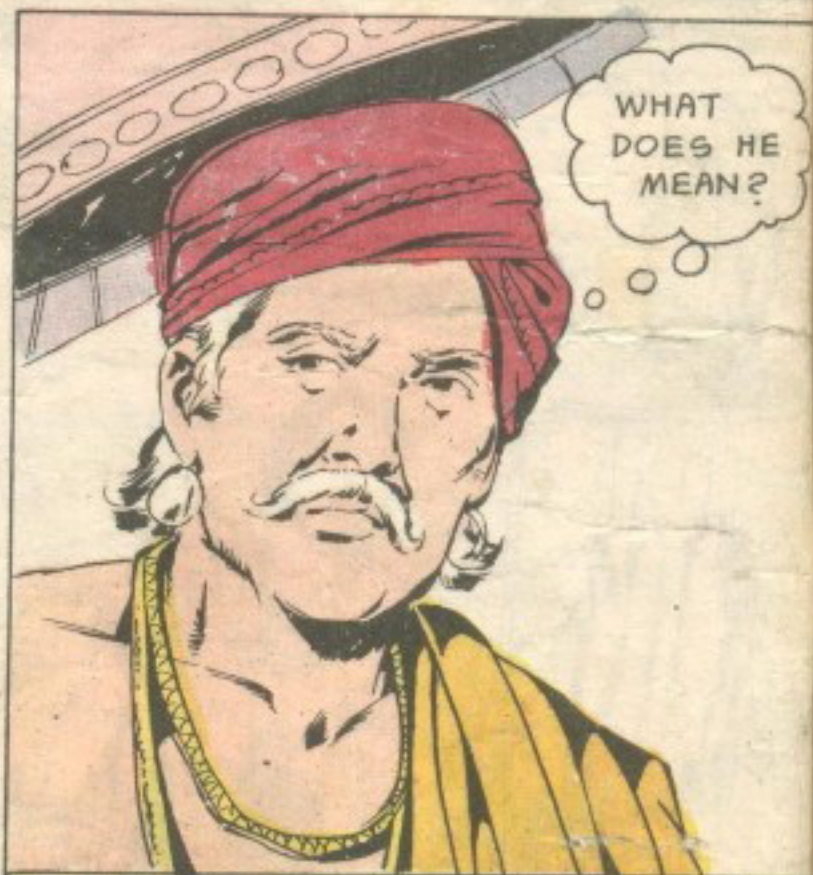


THIS VILLAGE IS UNINHABITED.

!



WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

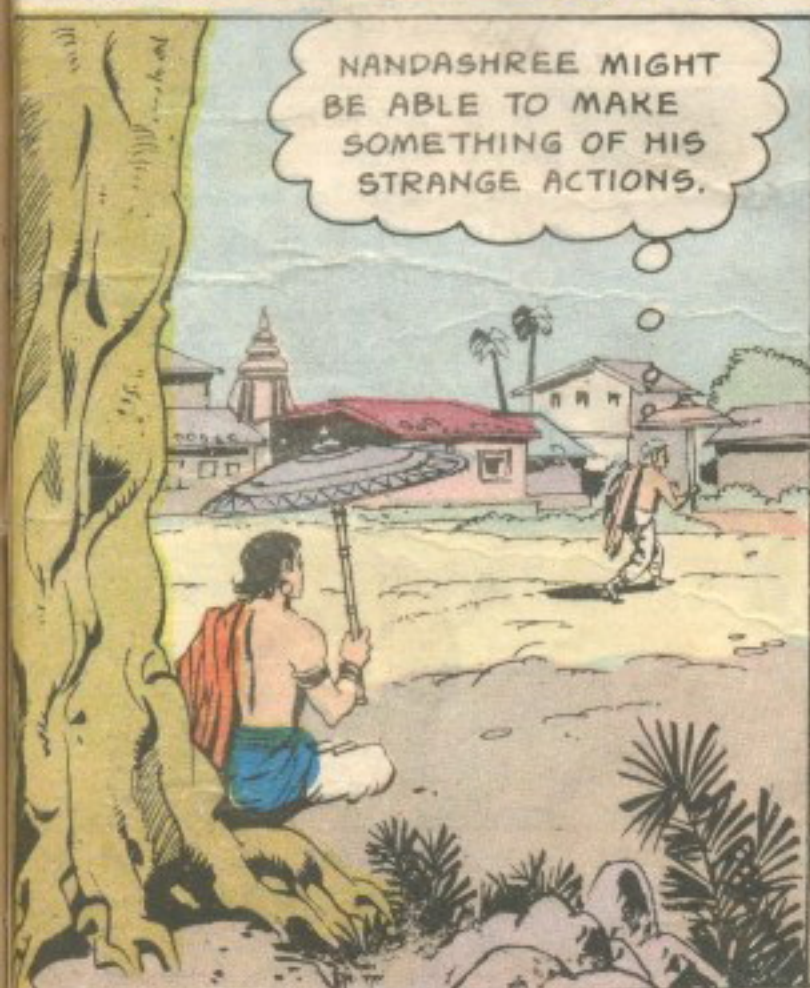
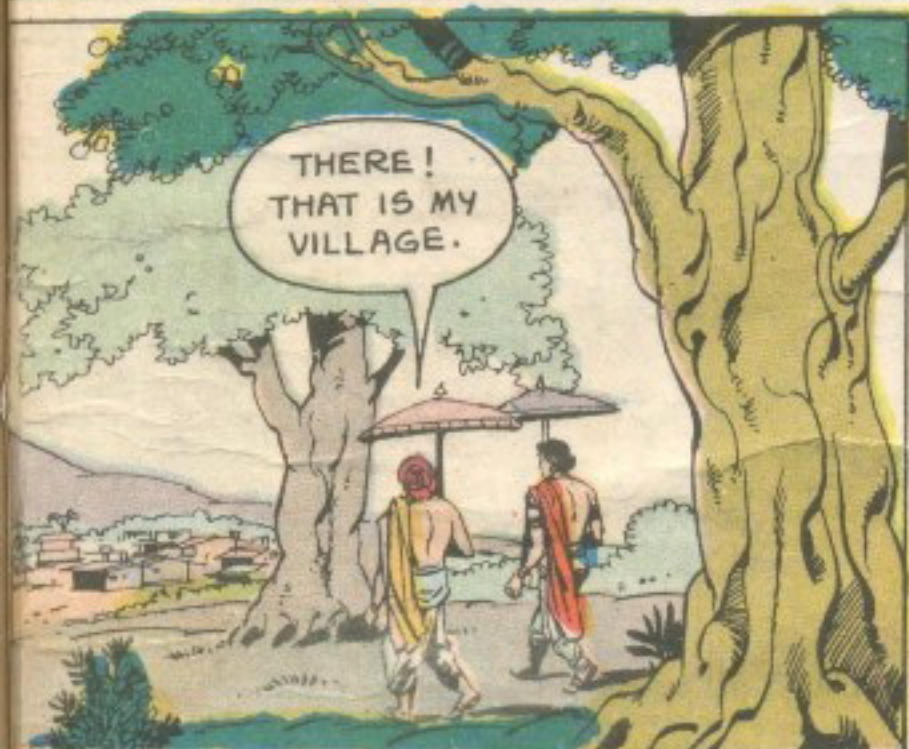


VANIK CHANDRA DID NOT ASK FOR AN EXPLANATION LEST HE BETRAY HIS OWN IGNORANCE.

WHEN THEY CAME UPON A RIVER, VANIK CHANDRA TOOK OFF HIS SANDALS...

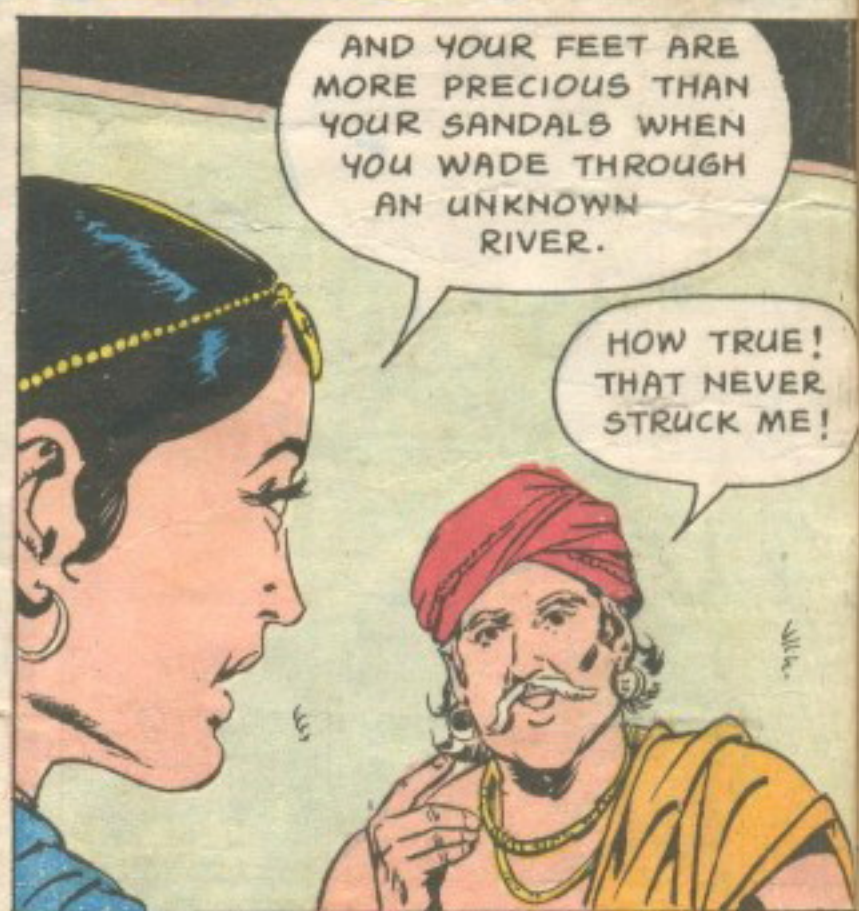
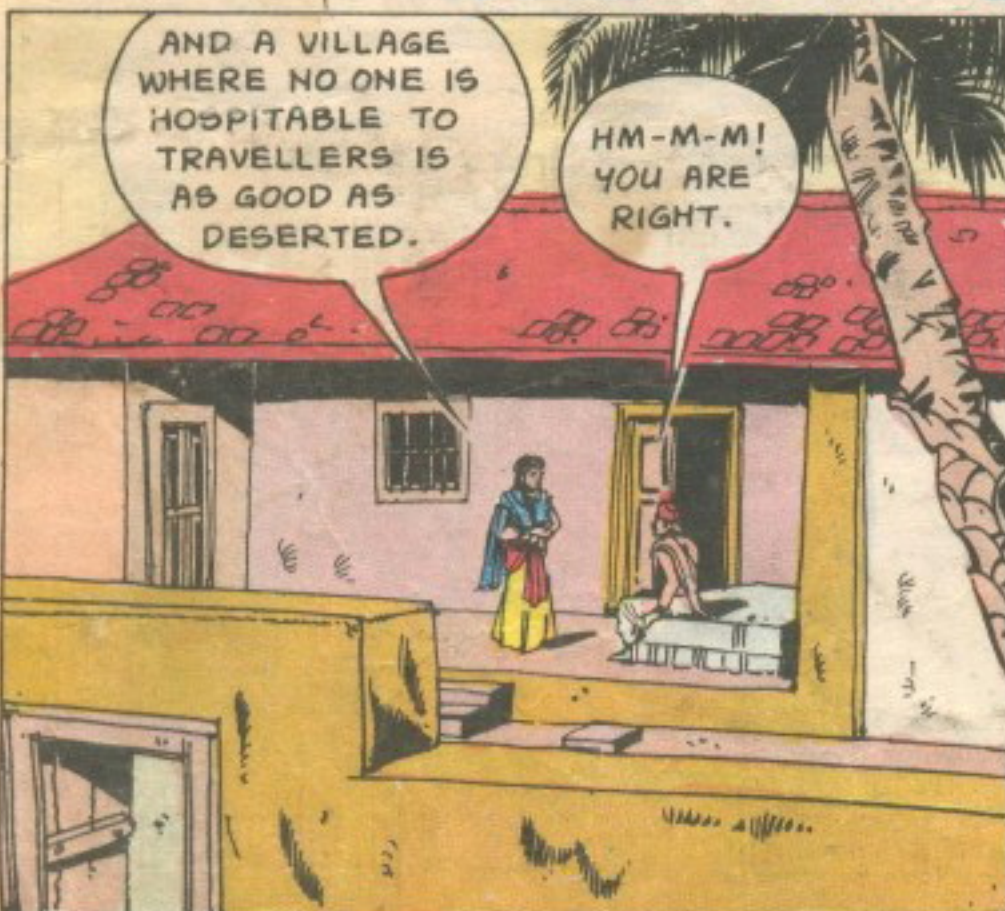


... BUT THE YOUNG MAN WADED THROUGH THE WATER WITH THEM ON!



AS VANIK CHANDRA REACHED HOME, NANDASHREE, HIS ONLY DAUGHTER CAME OUT TO RECEIVE HIM.





HIS INTELLIGENCE IS CERTAINLY ABOVE AVERAGE. AND HE IS HANDSOME TOO. NANDASHREE, WHY DON'T YOU...

LET ME TEST HIM, FATHER



YES. SEND FOR HIM. HE IS WAITING OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE. SEND YOUR MAID.

I WILL, FATHER, AFTER I HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO RECEIVE HIM.



AND NANDASHREE WENT ABOUT THE TASK.

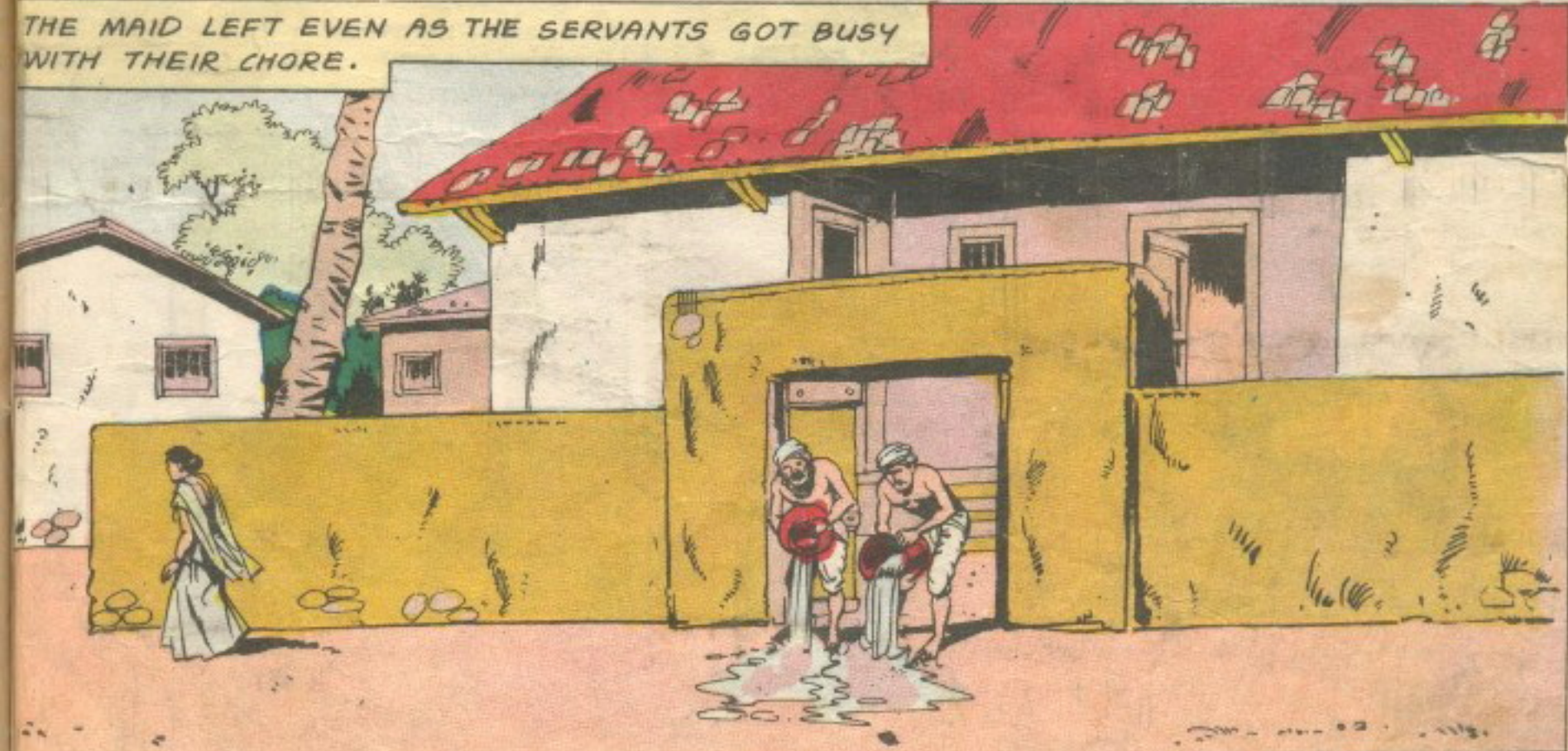
I WANT YOU TO WATER THE COURTYARD.



AND I WANT YOU TO GO TO THE MAN WAITING OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE. LISTEN CAREFULLY...



THE MAID LEFT EVEN AS THE SERVANTS GOT BUSY WITH THEIR CHORE.

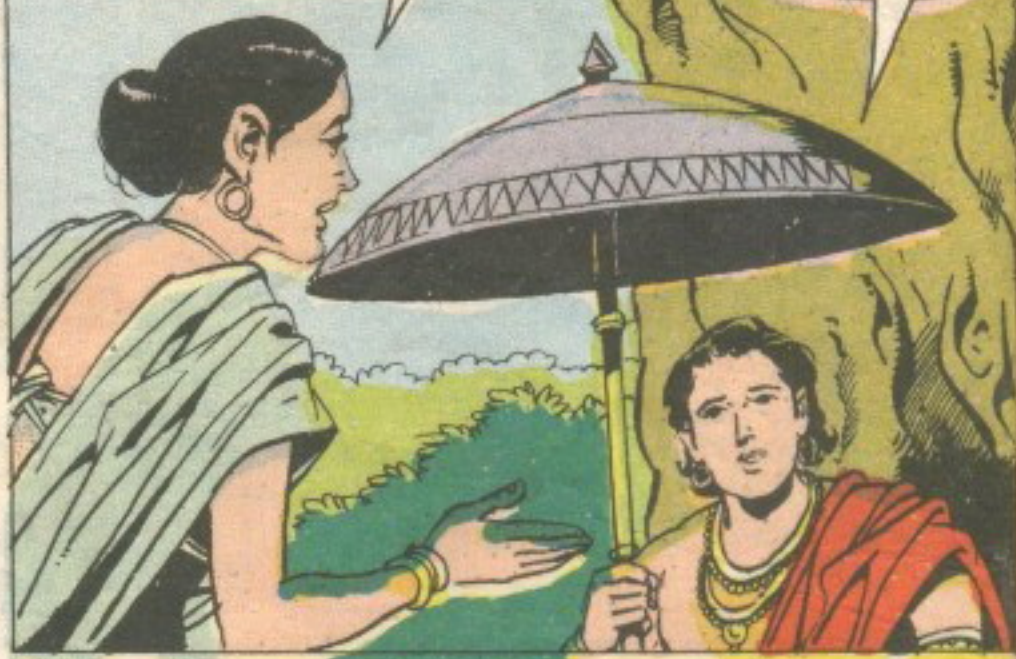


WHEN THE MAID FOUND THE YOUNG MAN —



I HAVE TO GO TO THE TEMPLE. I HOPE YOU WILL FIND YOUR WAY TO THE HOUSE.

I COULD IF YOU GAVE ME DIRECTIONS



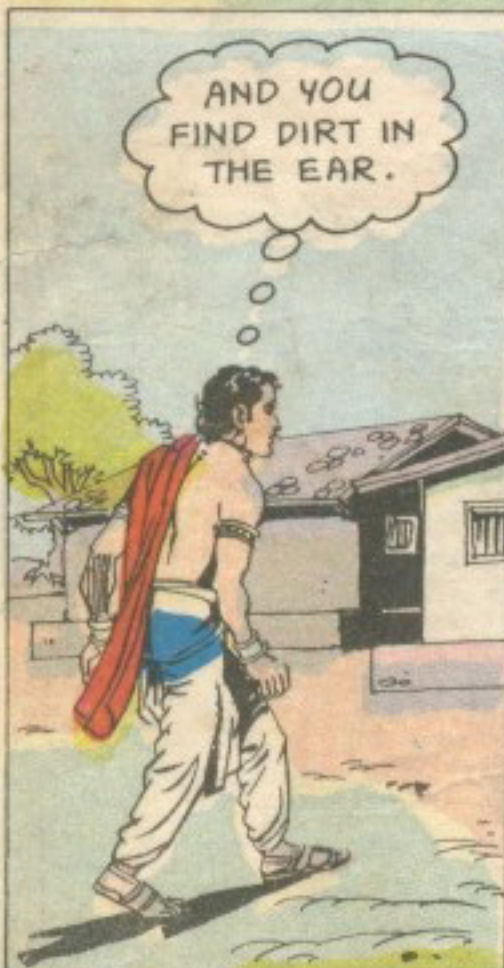
THE MAID JUST TOUCHED HER EAR AND LEFT.



THE EAR IS THE SYMBOL FOR A PALM TREE.



AND YOU FIND DIRT IN THE EAR.

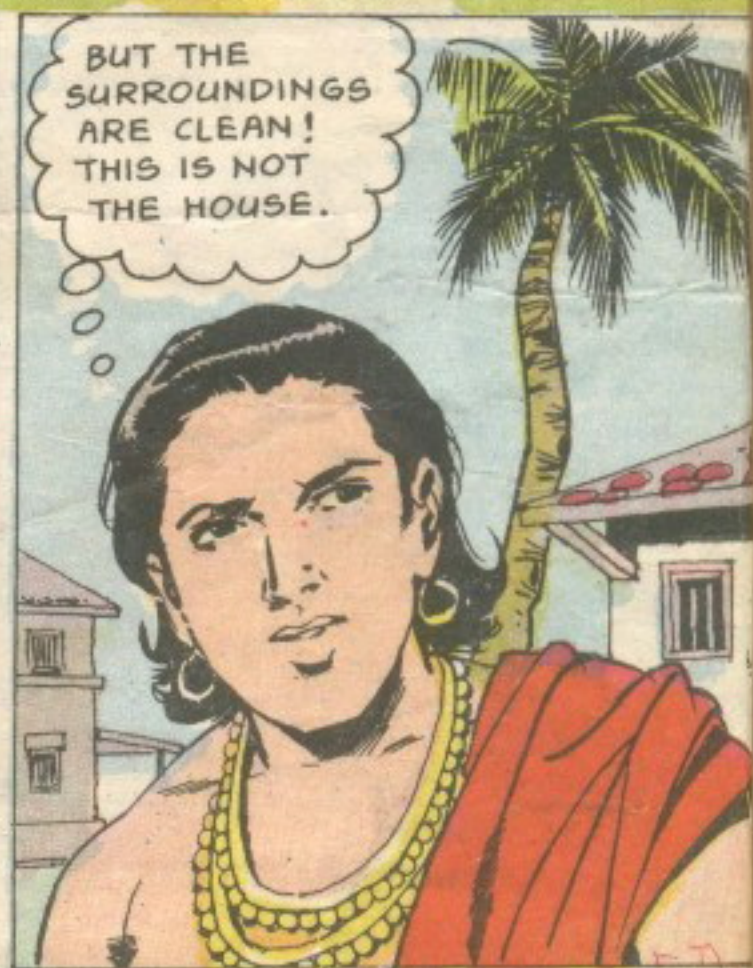


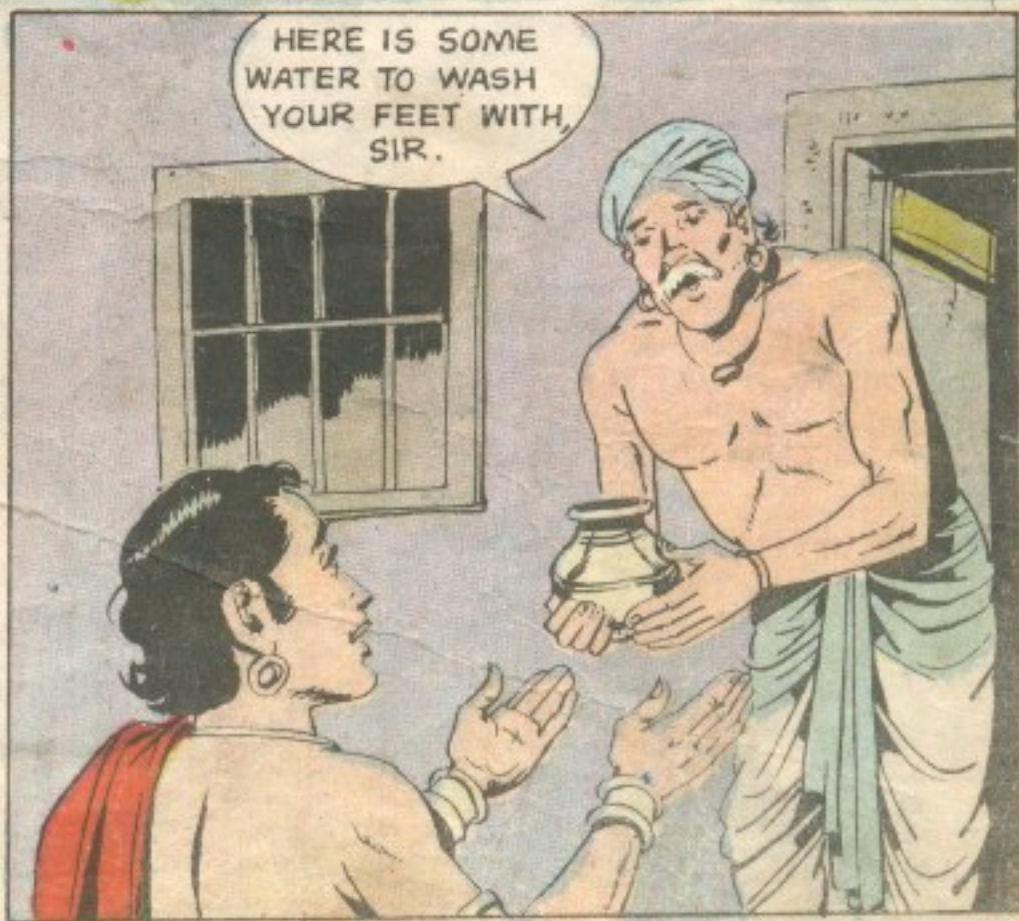
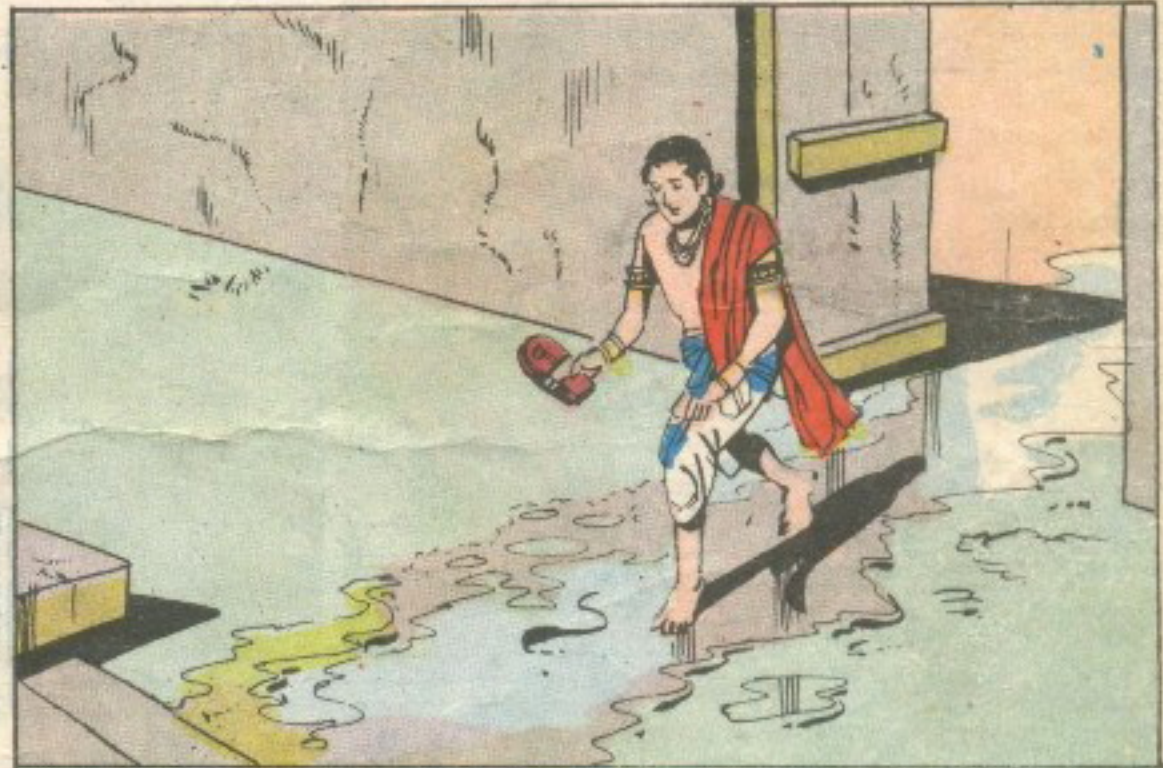
SOON —

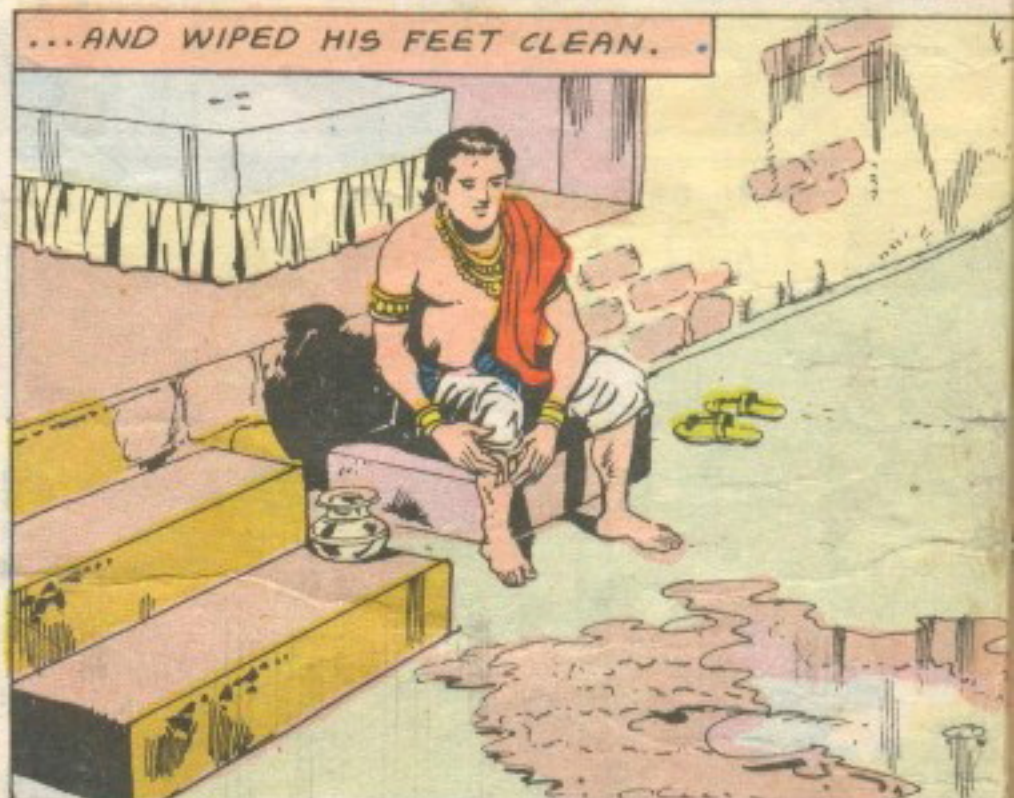
AH, HERE IS A HOUSE WITH A PALM TREE.



BUT THE SURROUNDINGS ARE CLEAN! THIS IS NOT THE HOUSE.

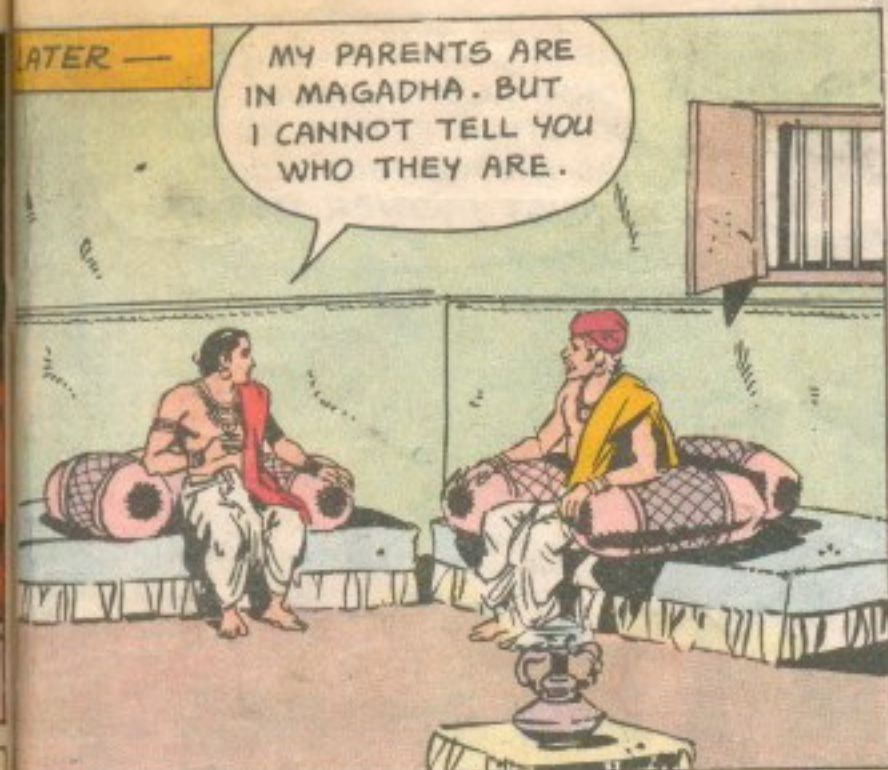






LATER —

MY PARENTS ARE
IN MAGADHA. BUT
I CANNOT TELL YOU
WHO THEY ARE.



YOU MUST HAVE
GOOD REASONS FOR
KEEPING IT A SECRET.
TELL ME YOUR NAME.

MY
NAME?



MY NAME IS
SHRENIK.

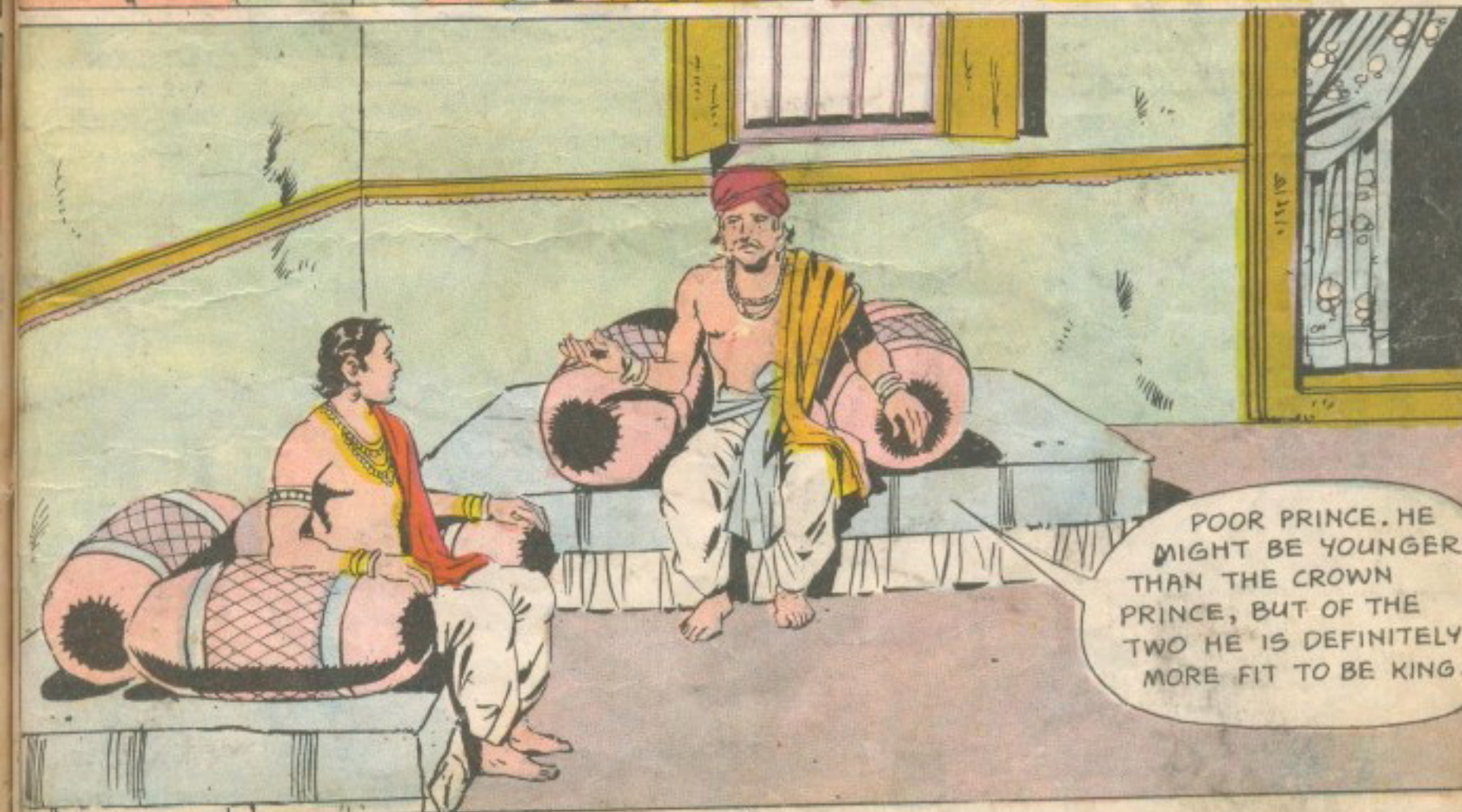
SHRENIK?

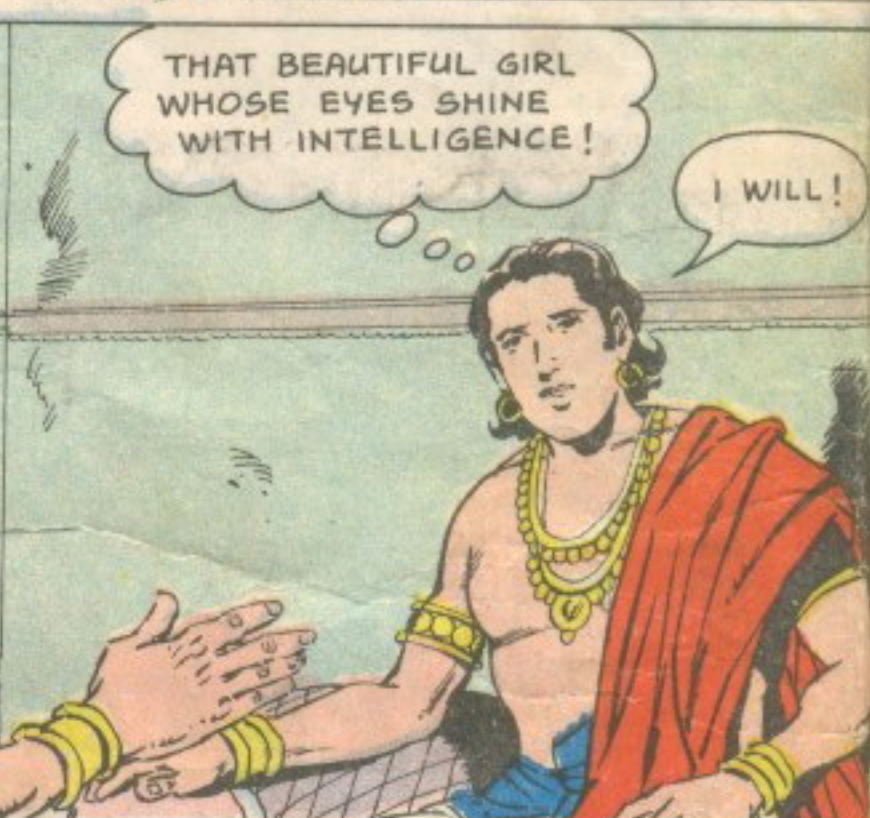
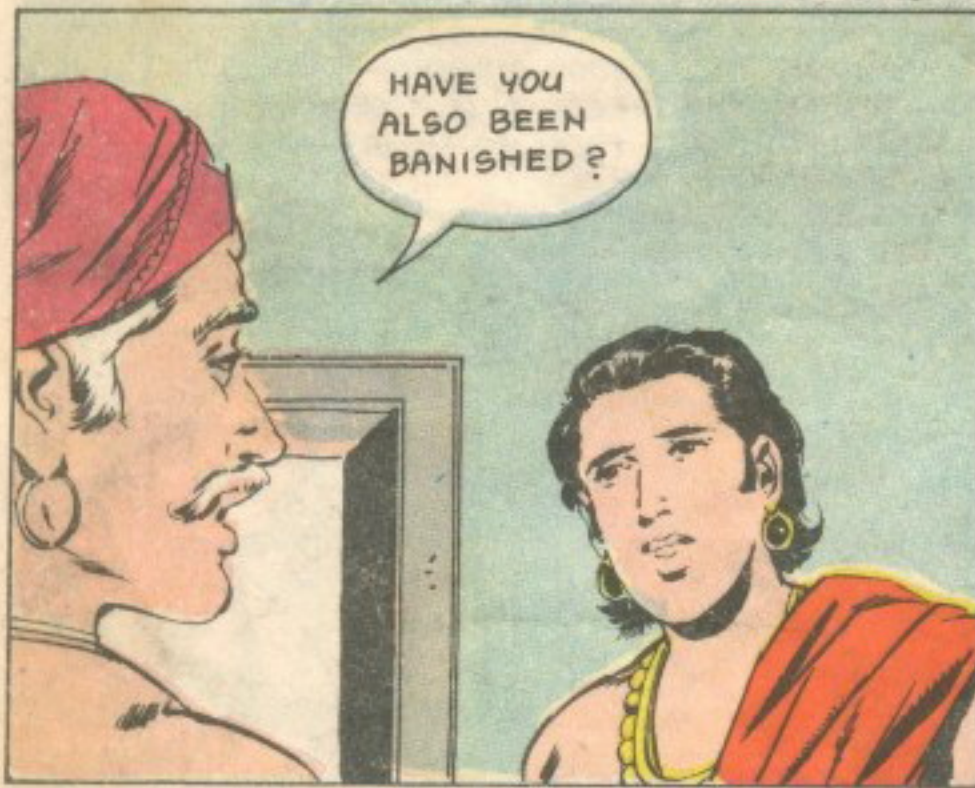


WHY, YOU
HAVE THE
SAME NAME
AS OUR
BANISHED
PRINCE!

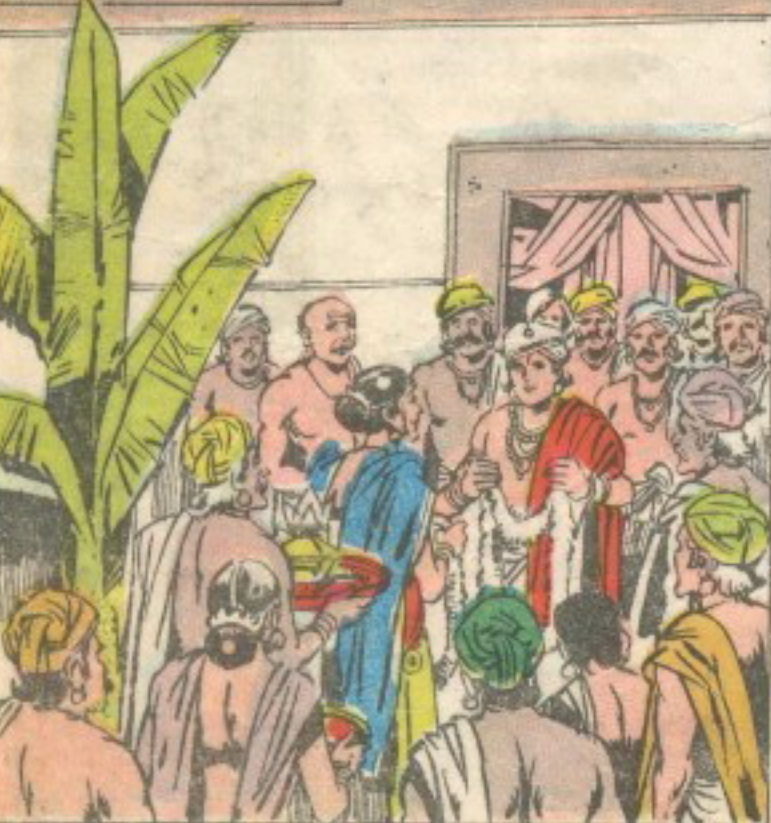


POOR PRINCE. HE
MIGHT BE YOUNGER
THAN THE CROWN
PRINCE, BUT OF THE
TWO HE IS DEFINITELY
MORE FIT TO BE KING.

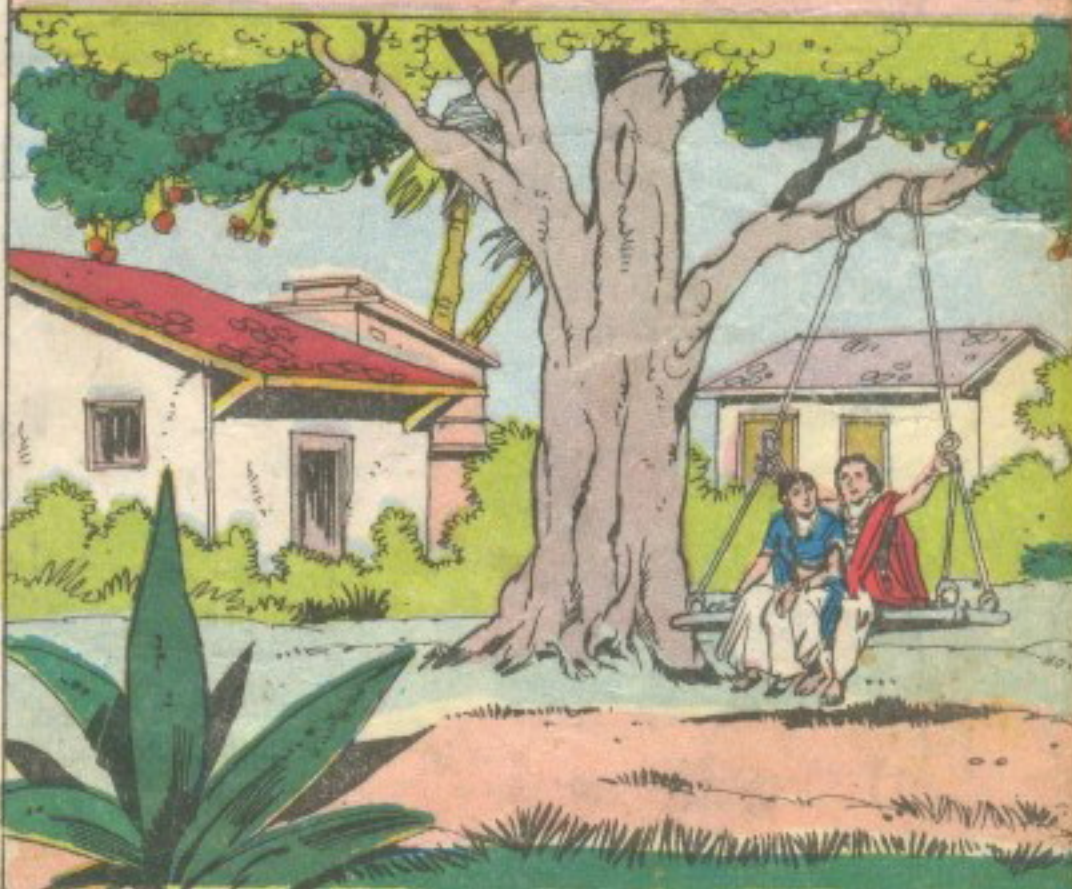




THE YOUNG MAN WHO CALLED HIMSELF SHRENIK MARRIED NANDASHREE.



THE COUPLE SPENT MANY HAPPY DAYS TOGETHER.



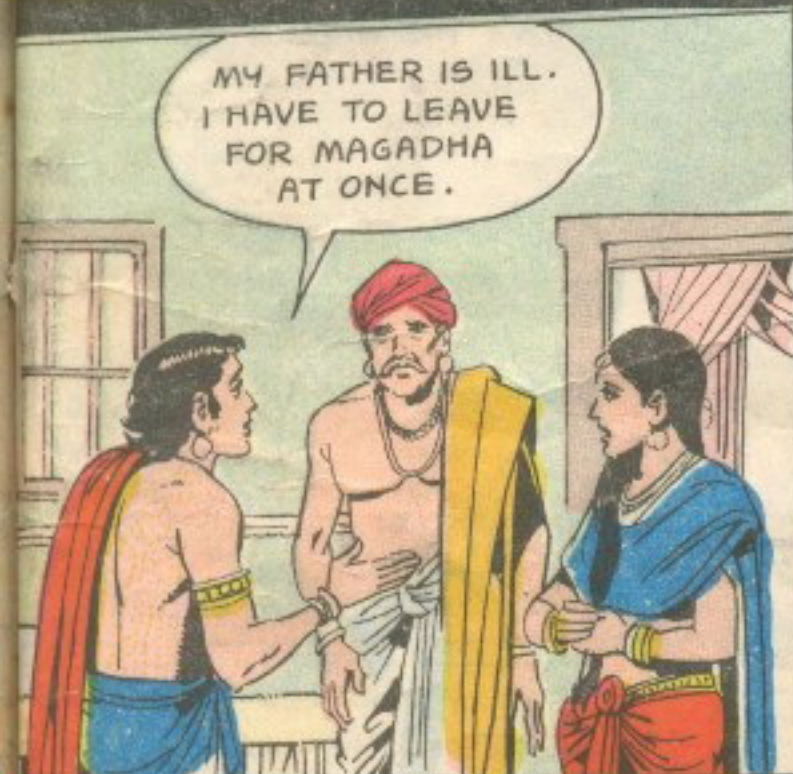
THEN ONE DAY —



PARDON ME.
... SIR, WE HAVE BEEN
LOOKING FOR YOU
EVERYWHERE. YOUR
FATHER WANTS TO
SEE YOU. HE IS ILL.



LATER —



I WILL SEND FOR YOU,
AS SOON AS HE IS
WELL.



AND SHRENIK LEFT.

DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS PASSED BUT
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF SHRENIK.

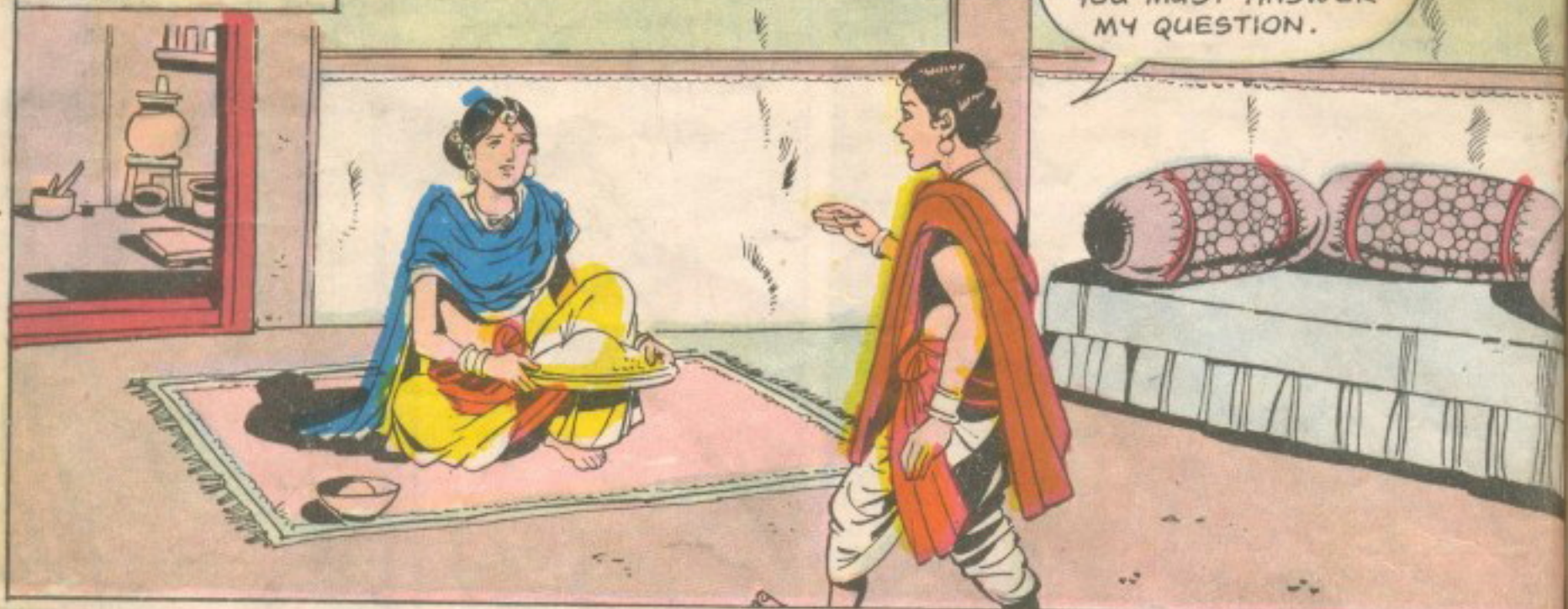


THEN NANDASHREE WAS DELIVERED OF A CHILD.

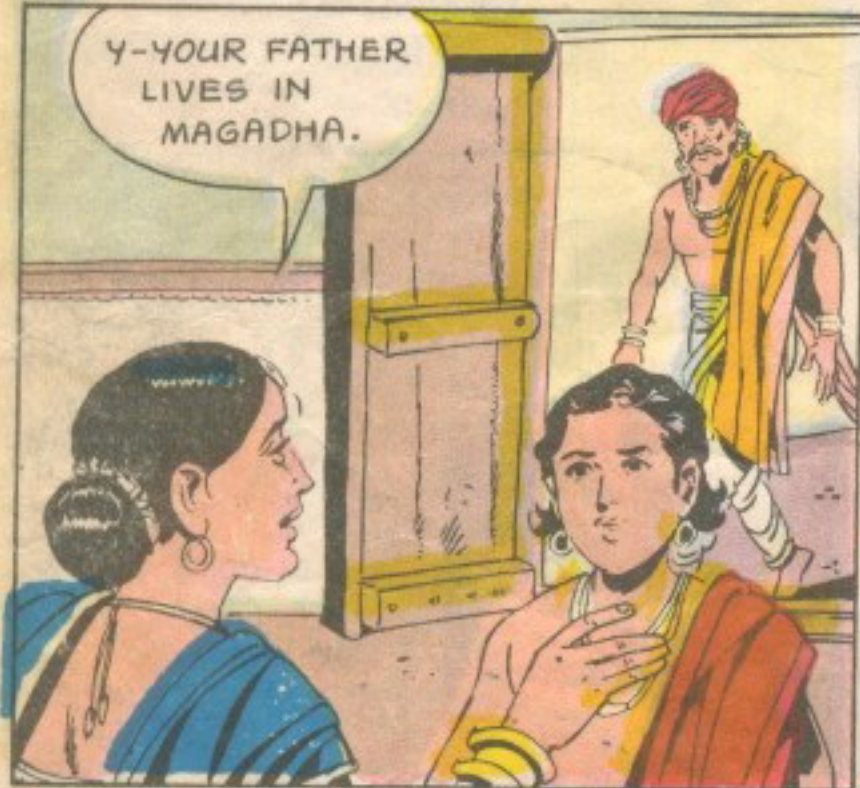


THE CHILD, ABHAYA KUMAR, AS HE GREW UP SHOWED PROMISE OF OUTSHINING BOTH HIS PARENTS IN INTELLIGENCE. ONE DAY—

MOTHER, WHERE IS MY FATHER? TODAY YOU MUST ANSWER MY QUESTION.



Y-YOUR FATHER LIVES IN MAGADHA.



WHAT IS HIS NAME?



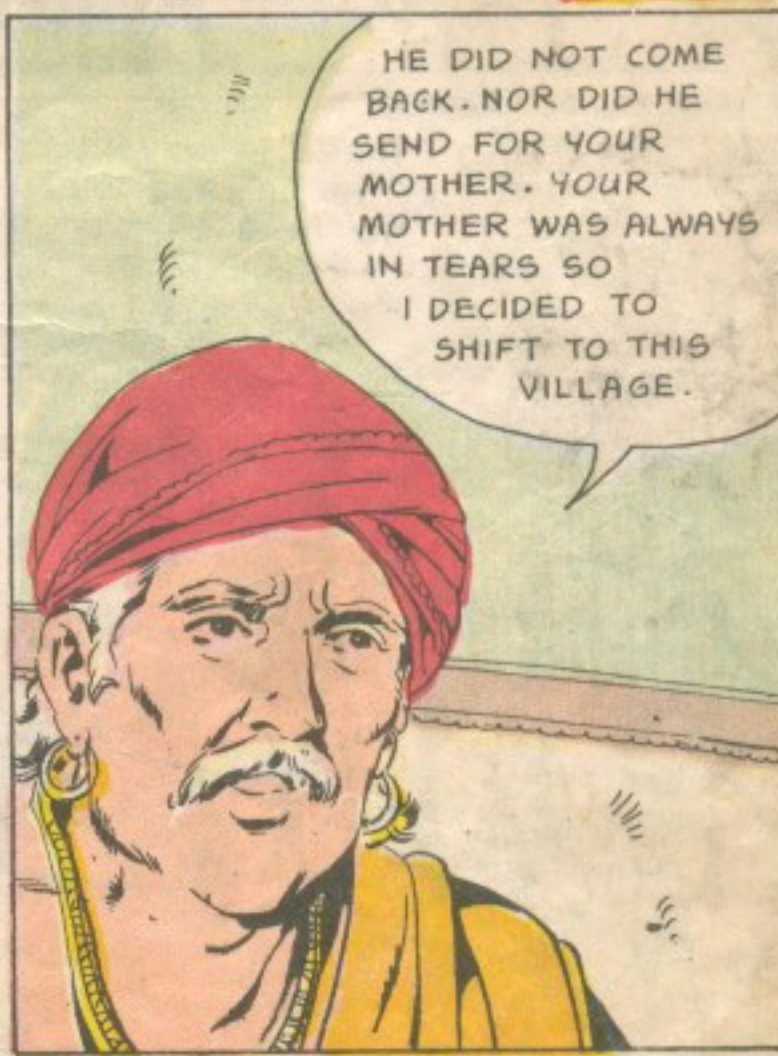
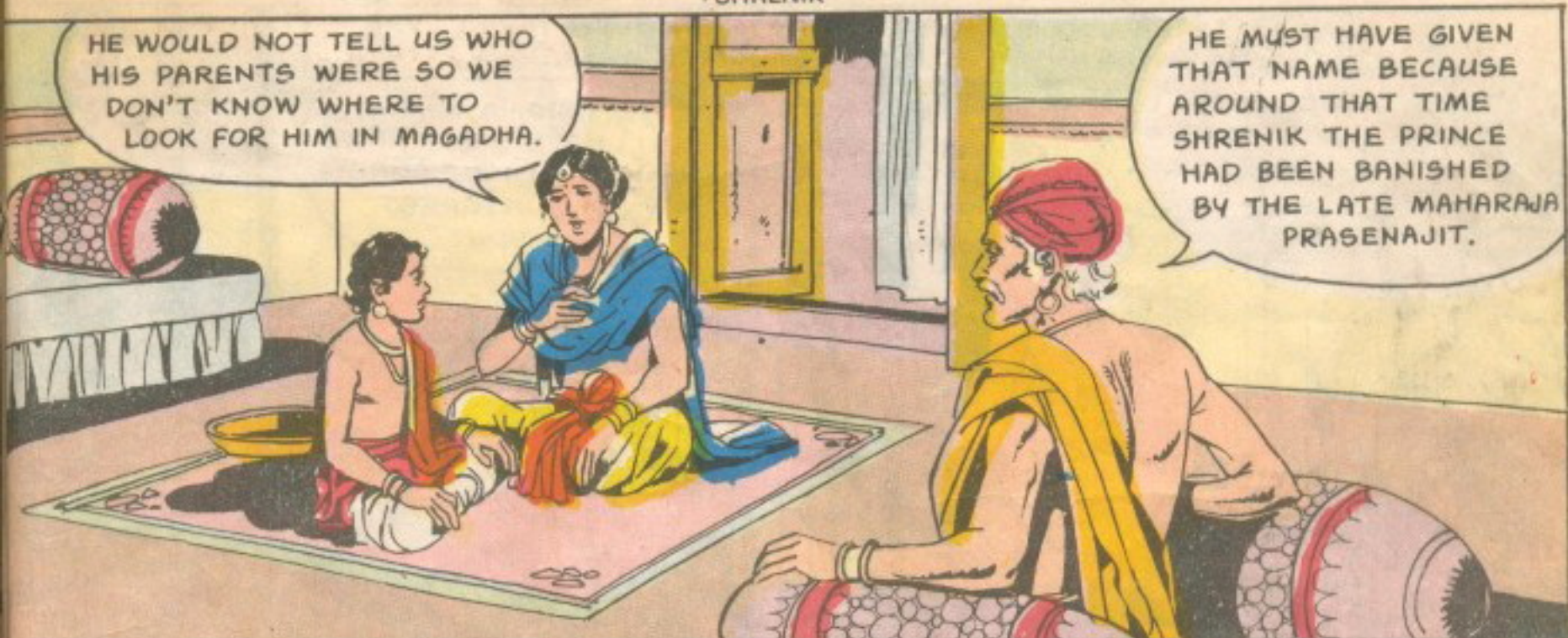
HE CALLED HIMSELF SHRENİK.

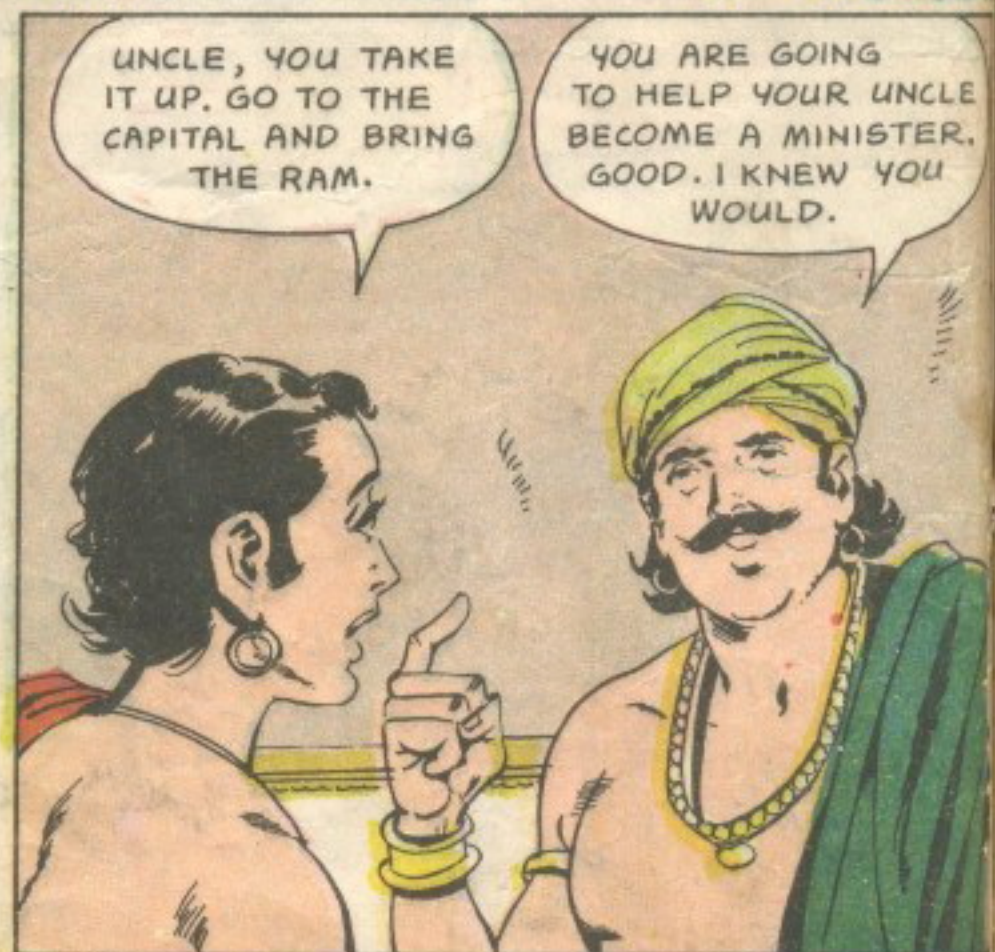
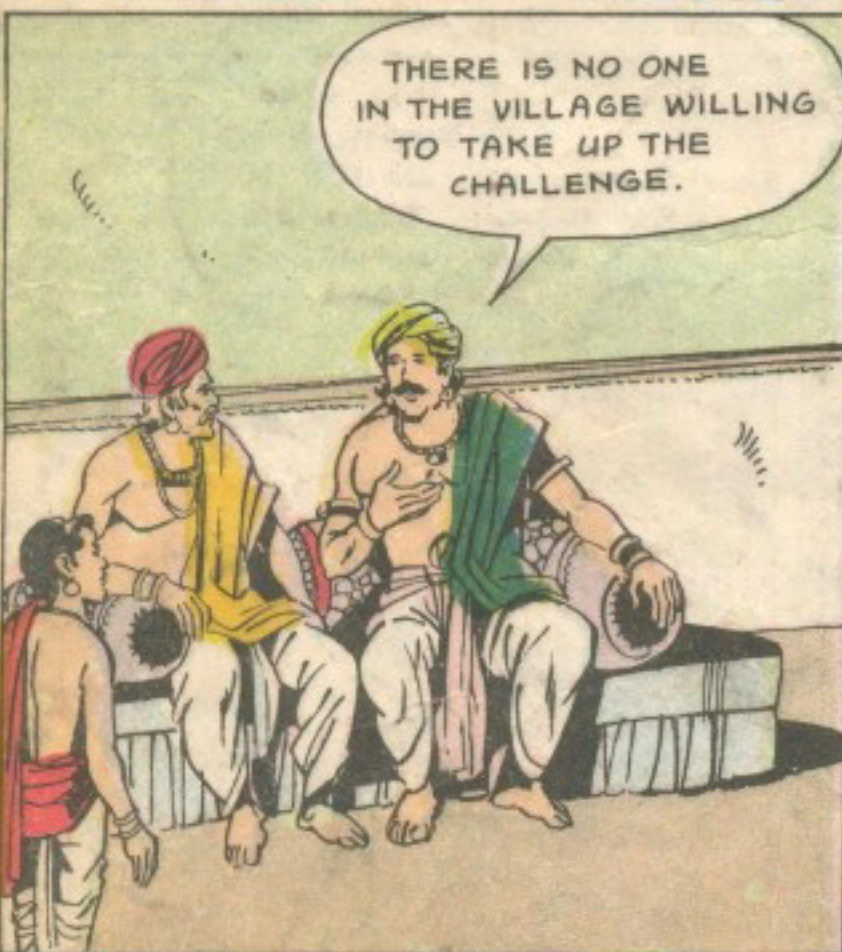
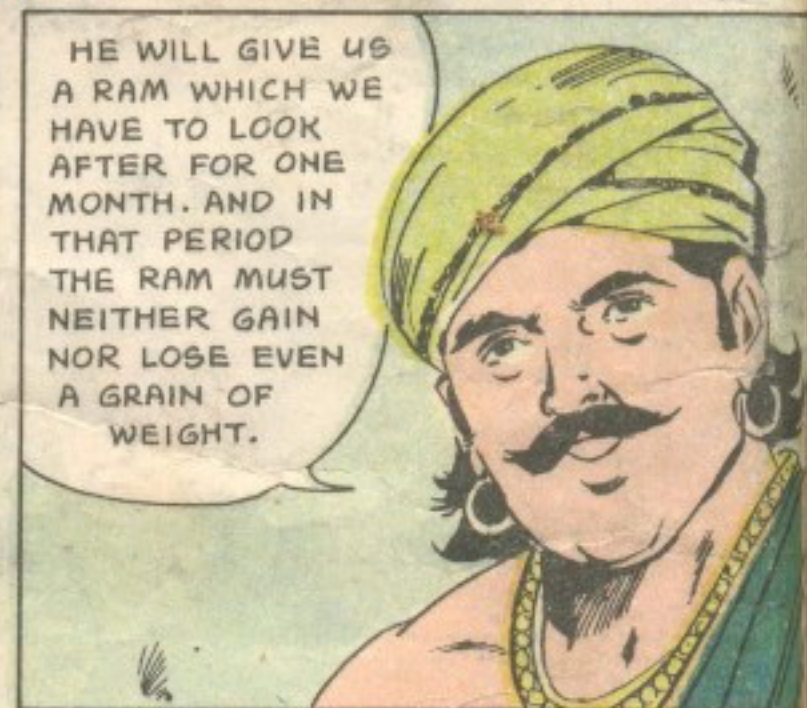
SHRENİK! SHRENİK IS OUR MAHARAJA'S NAME.



WELL YOUR FATHER SAID HIS NAME WAS SHRENİK. AND THAT WAS ALL HE WOULD DIVULGE ABOUT HIMSELF.







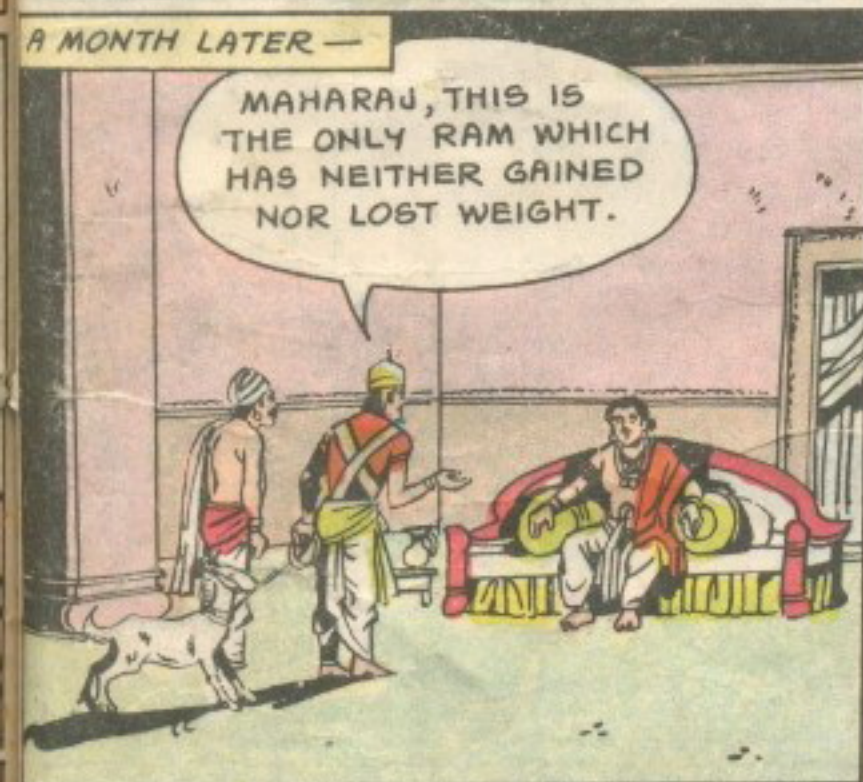
MANY WERE THE VILLAGERS WHO ASPIRED FOR THE MINISTERSHIP.

REMEMBER. YOU
MUST BRING BACK
YOUR RAM
NEXT MONTH.



A MONTH LATER —

MAHARAJ, THIS IS
THE ONLY RAM WHICH
HAS NEITHER GAINED
NOR LOST WEIGHT.



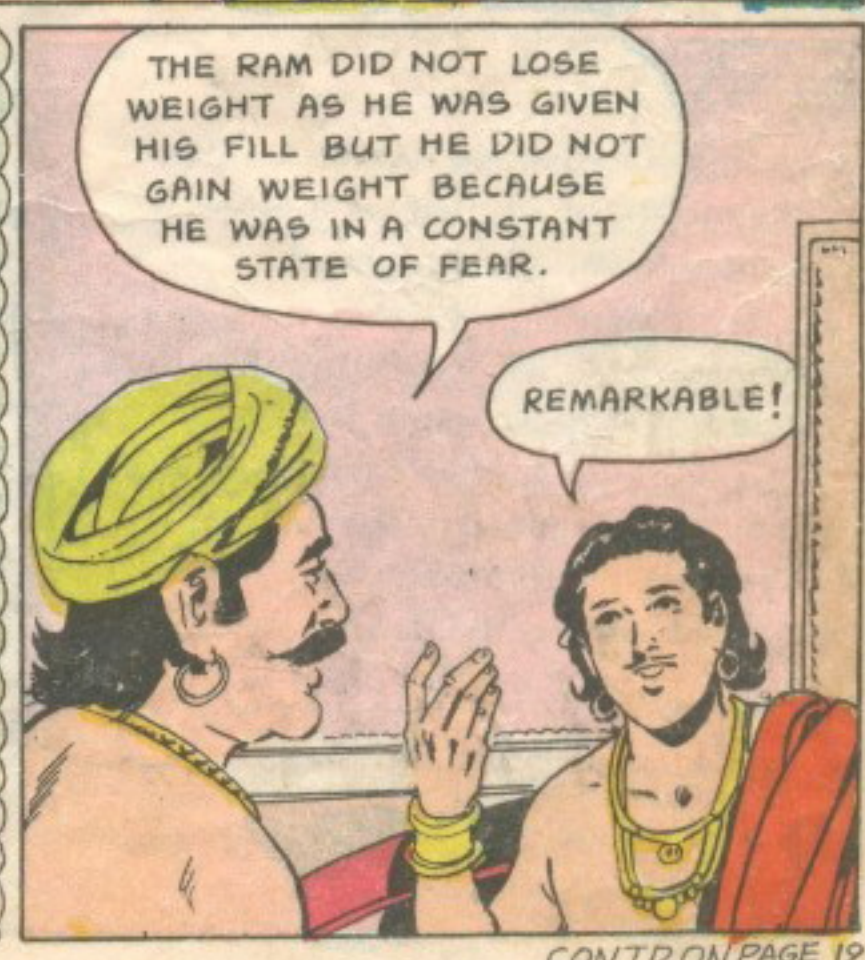
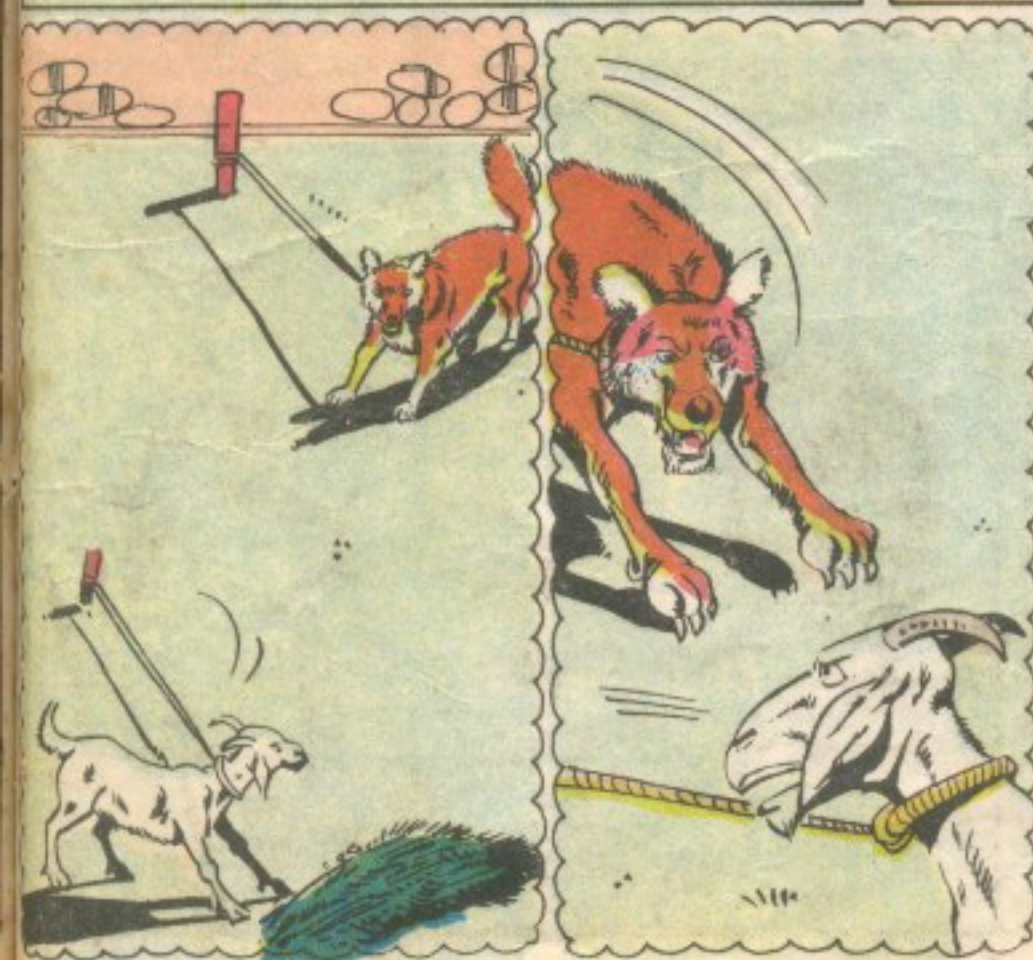
WHAT DID YOU
FEED HIM?

HIS NORMAL DIET,
MAHARAJ — GRASS.
BUT WE TIED A WOLF
NEXT TO HIM.



THE RAM DID NOT LOSE
WEIGHT AS HE WAS GIVEN
HIS FILL BUT HE DID NOT
GAIN WEIGHT BECAUSE
HE WAS IN A CONSTANT
STATE OF FEAR.

REMARKABLE!



CONTD. ON PAGE 19

Quiz INDIA - 14



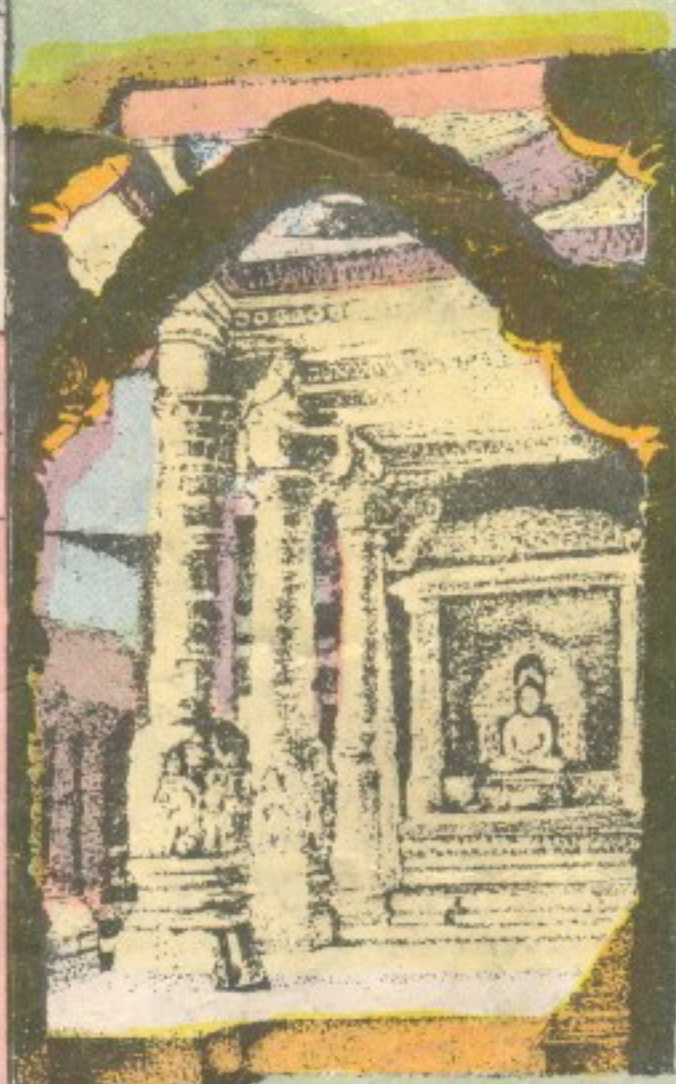
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Illustrated by : Ramanand Bhagat



DID YOU KNOW...

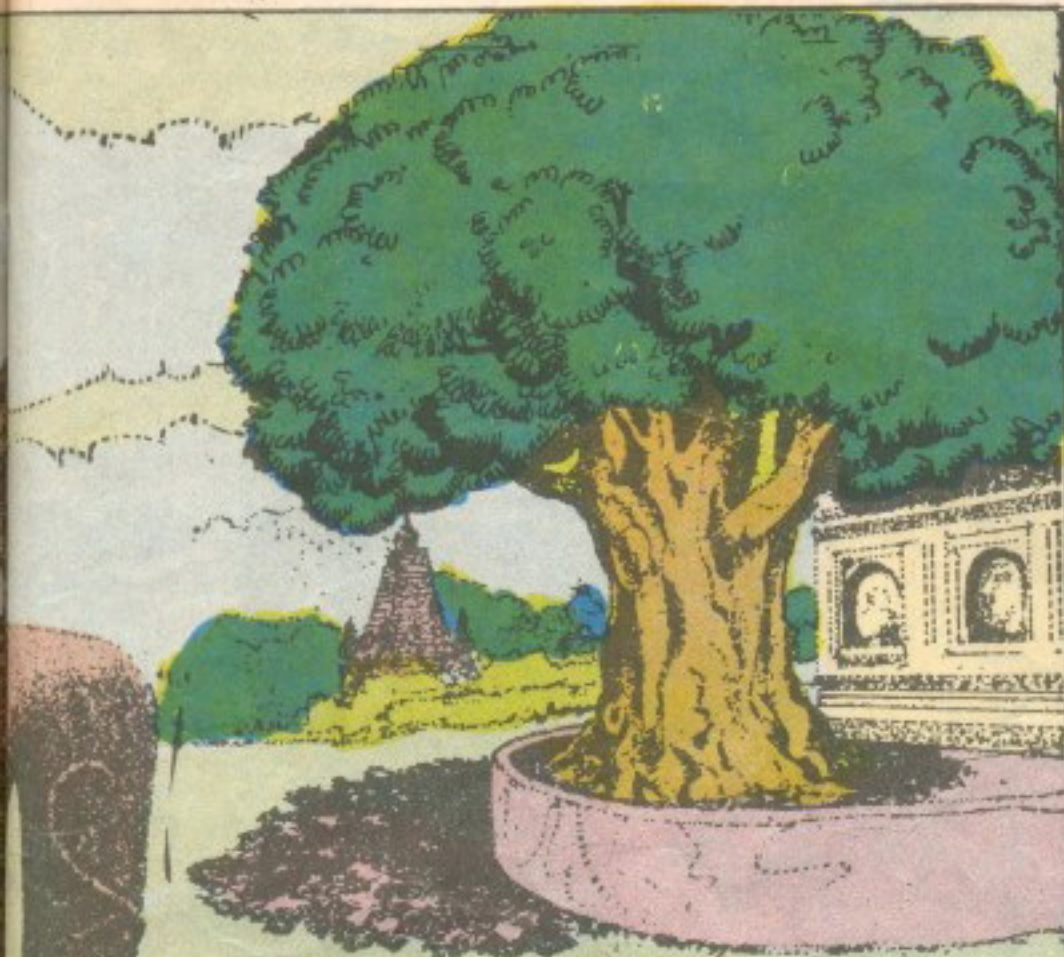
... that Paryushana, which falls in the month of August, is a week-long festival of the Jains ?

... that apart from fasting for the whole week, on the eighth day, every Jain goes round to young and old with folded hands begging their forgiveness for the wrongs knowingly and unknowingly done to them during the year ?



A Where is the Dilwara temple dedicated to the first Tirthankara of the Jains ?

B This 17-metre Gomateshwara is a block of rock world. Where is it ?



- (C) The Bodhi tree is associated with Buddha's enlightenment. Which tree is associated with Mahavira's ?



statue of
d from a single
highest in the

- (D) Vardhamana Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankara of the Jains. How many Tirthankaras are there ?

cave

D. Leh in Ladakh

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For details see the rules
on the inside back
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G

B

N

(Nothing to be written here)

QUIZ 14
INDIA

ENTRY FORM

Name : _____

Age : _____

Address : _____

State : _____

Pin Code : _____

MY ANSWERS

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

The last date for receiving entries : 14.12 84

While he makes some high-reaching plans,
you should make some
down-to-earth ones.



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So plan your child's future today. It's your way of making sure his dreams are realised.

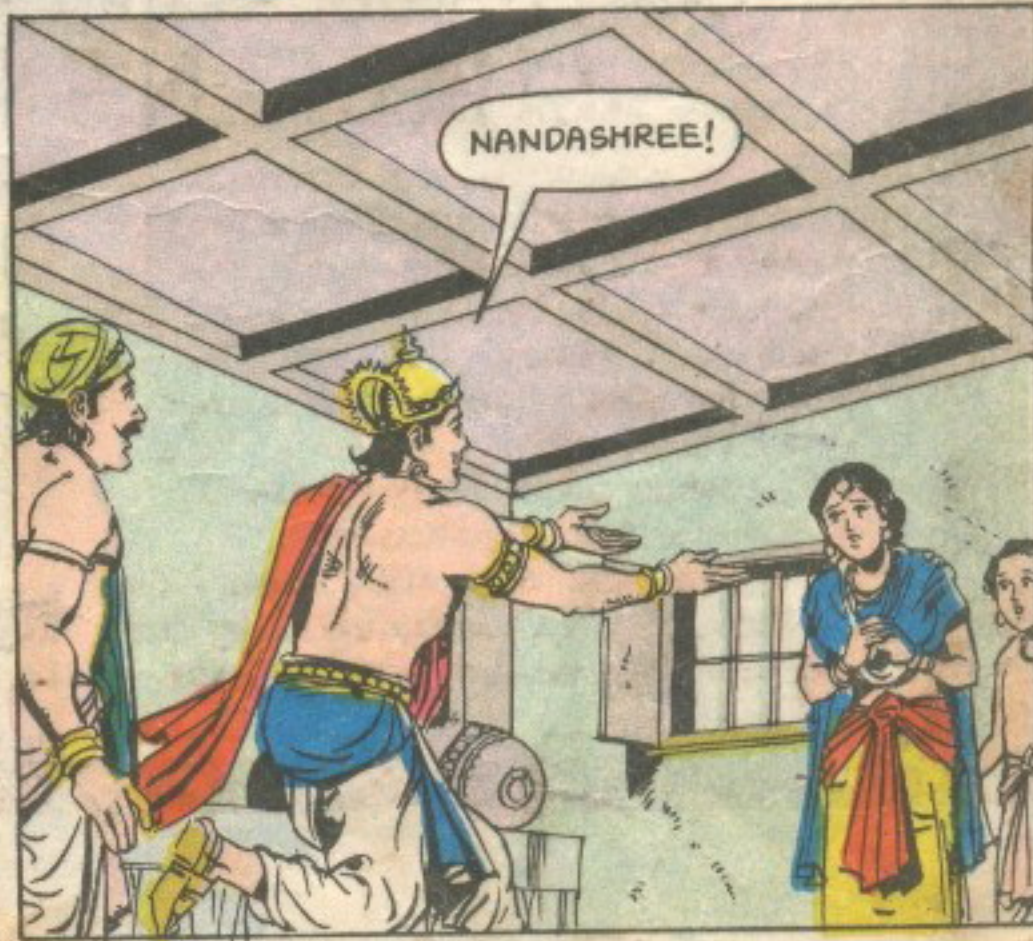
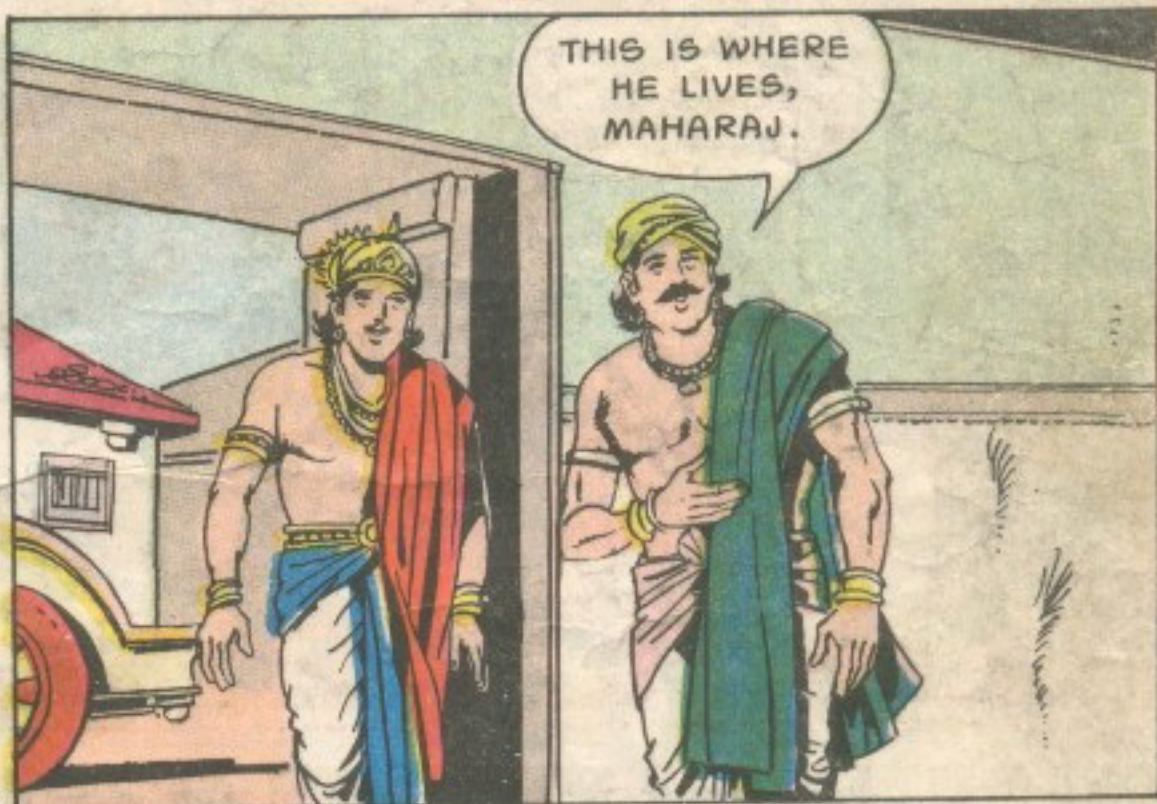
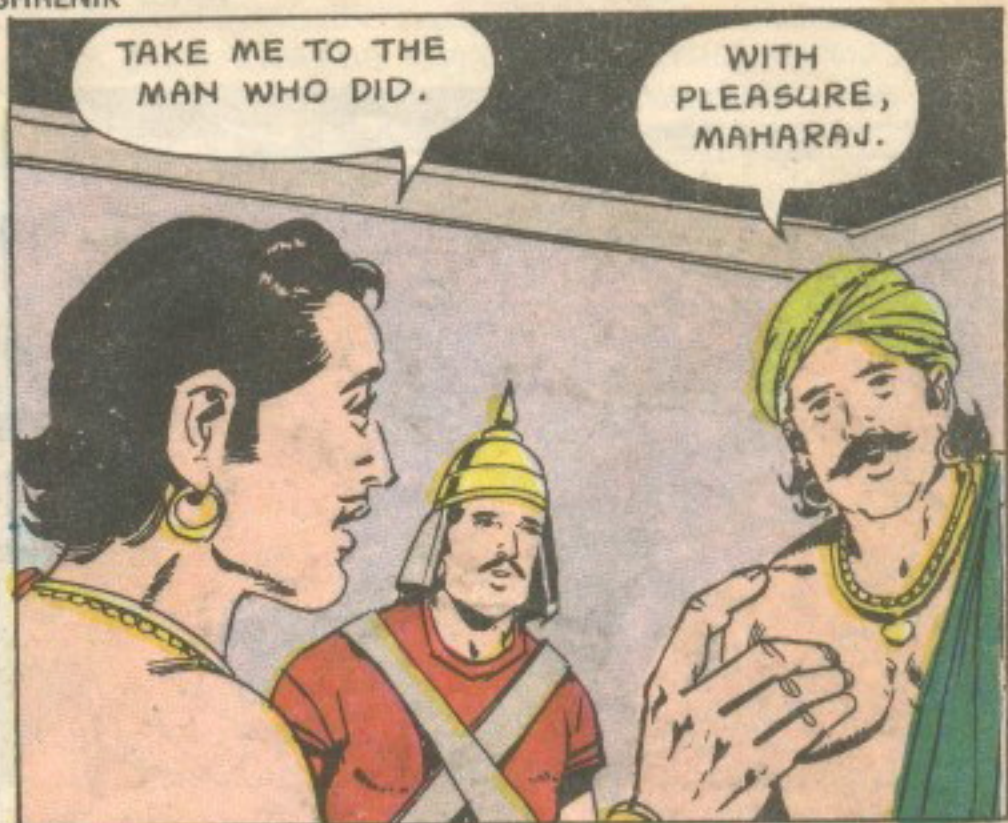
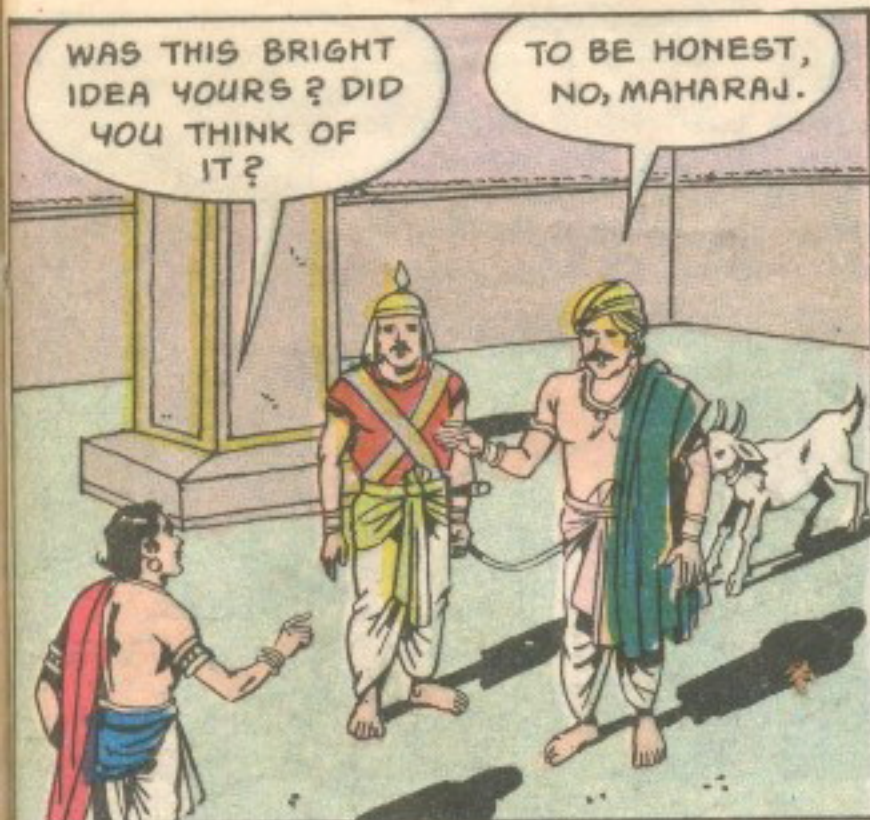


UNIT TRUST OF INDIA

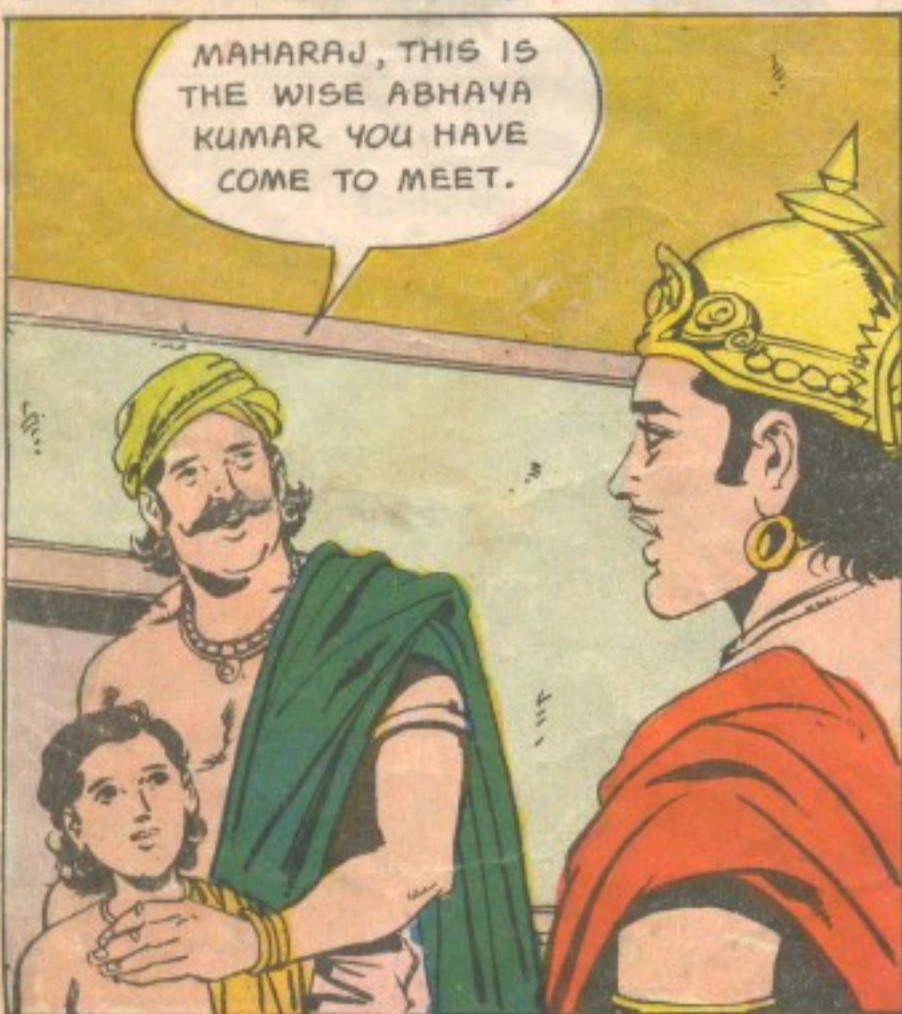
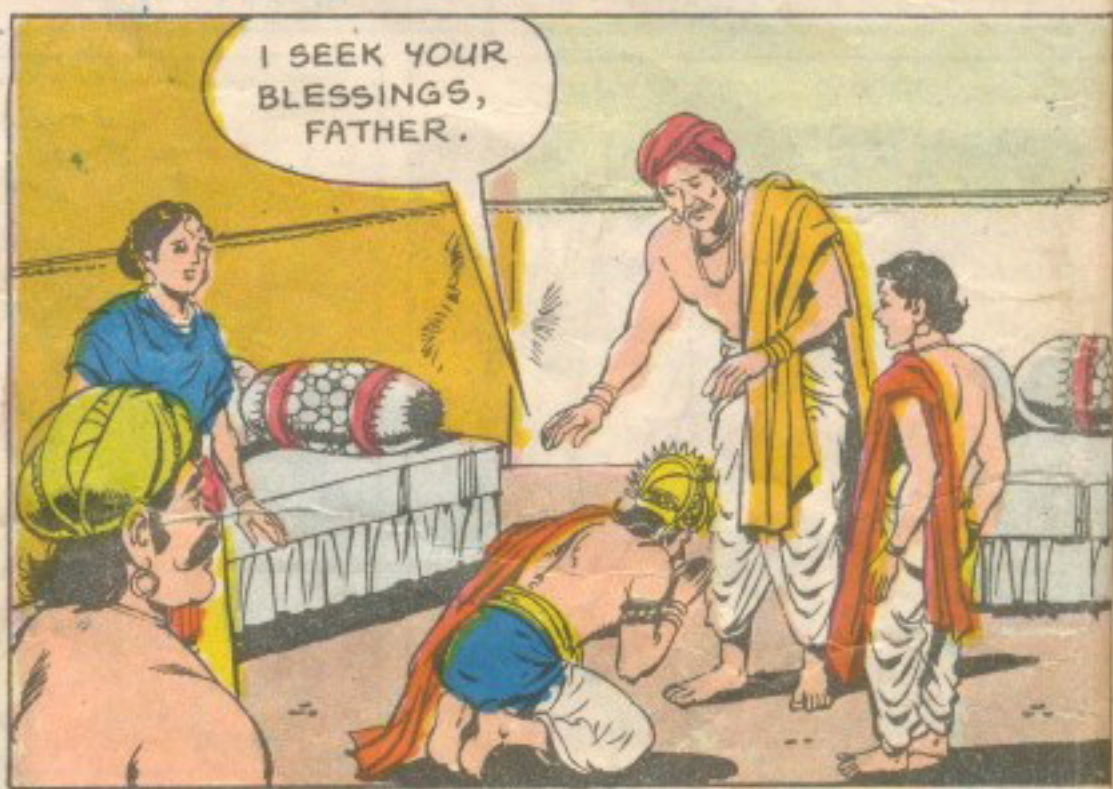
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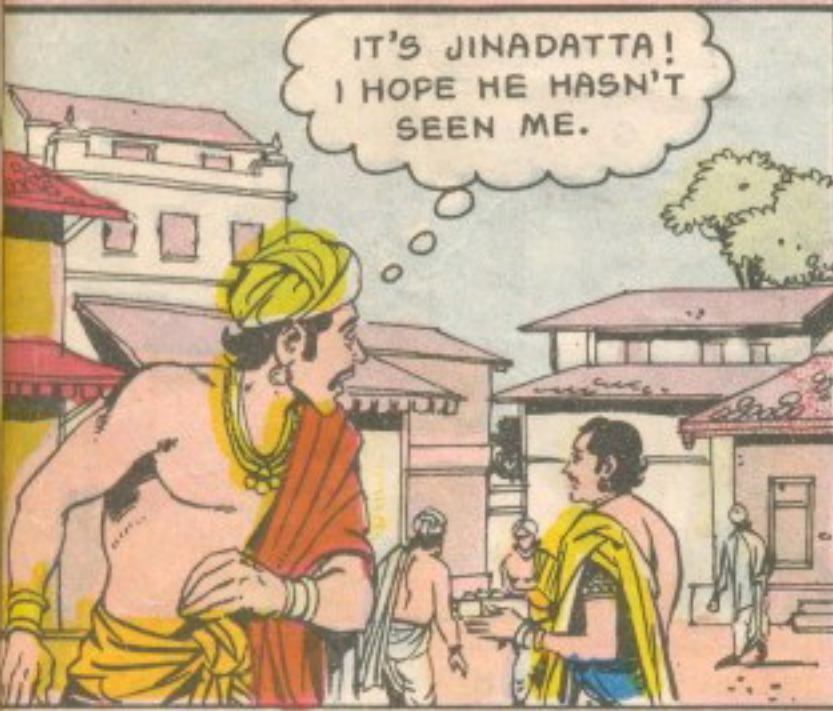


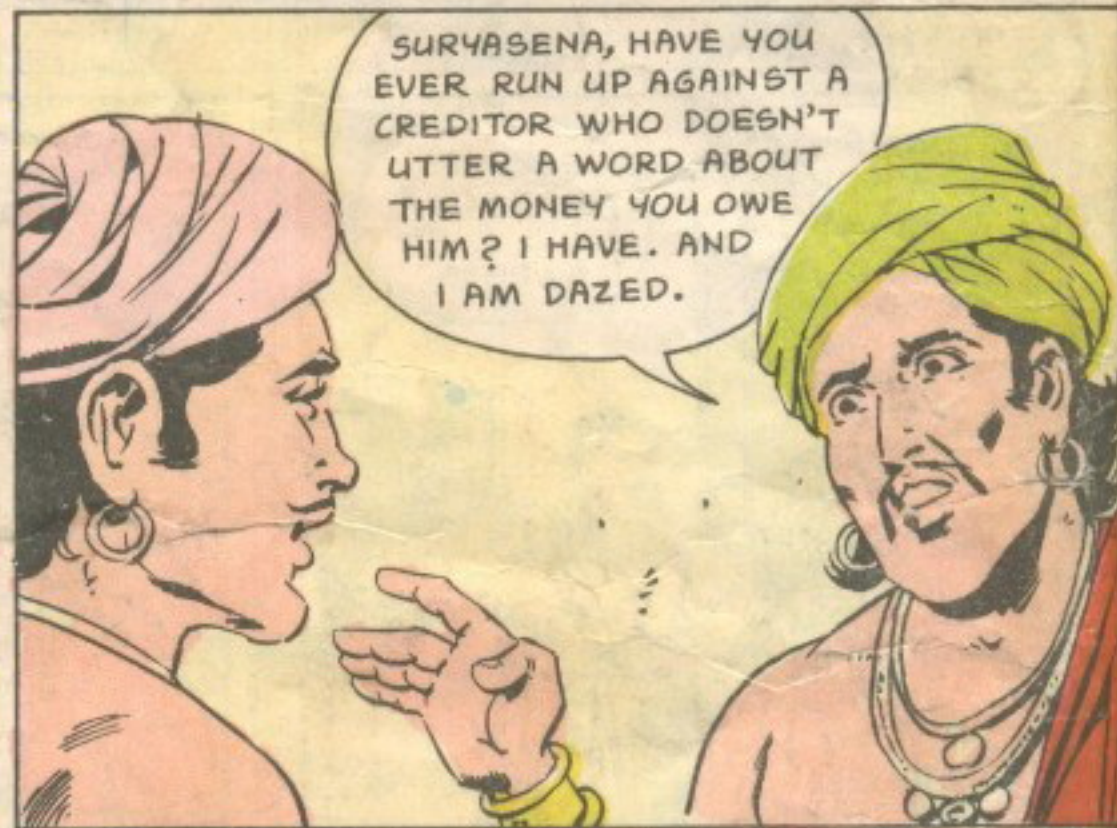
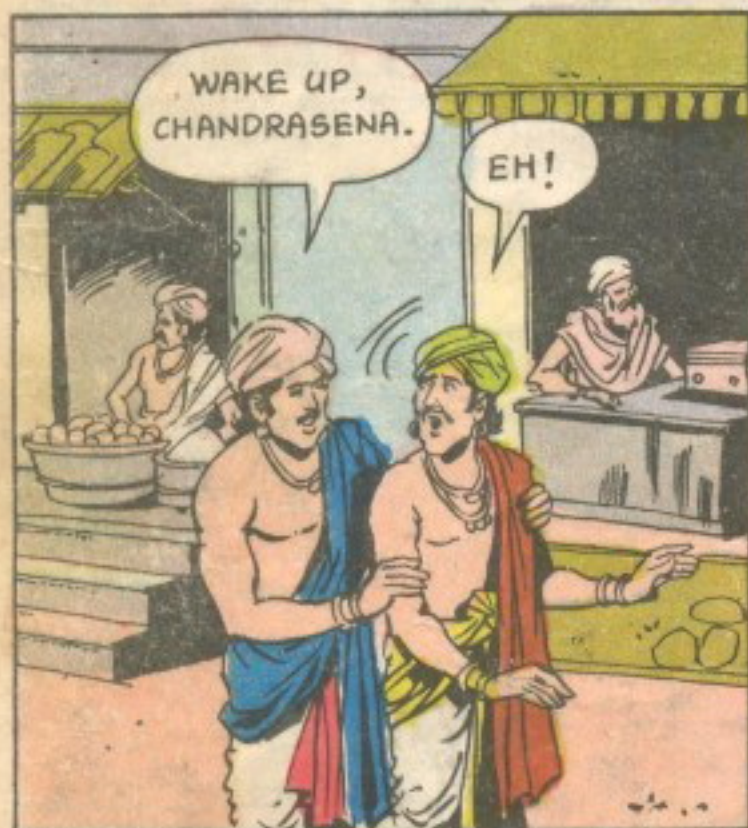
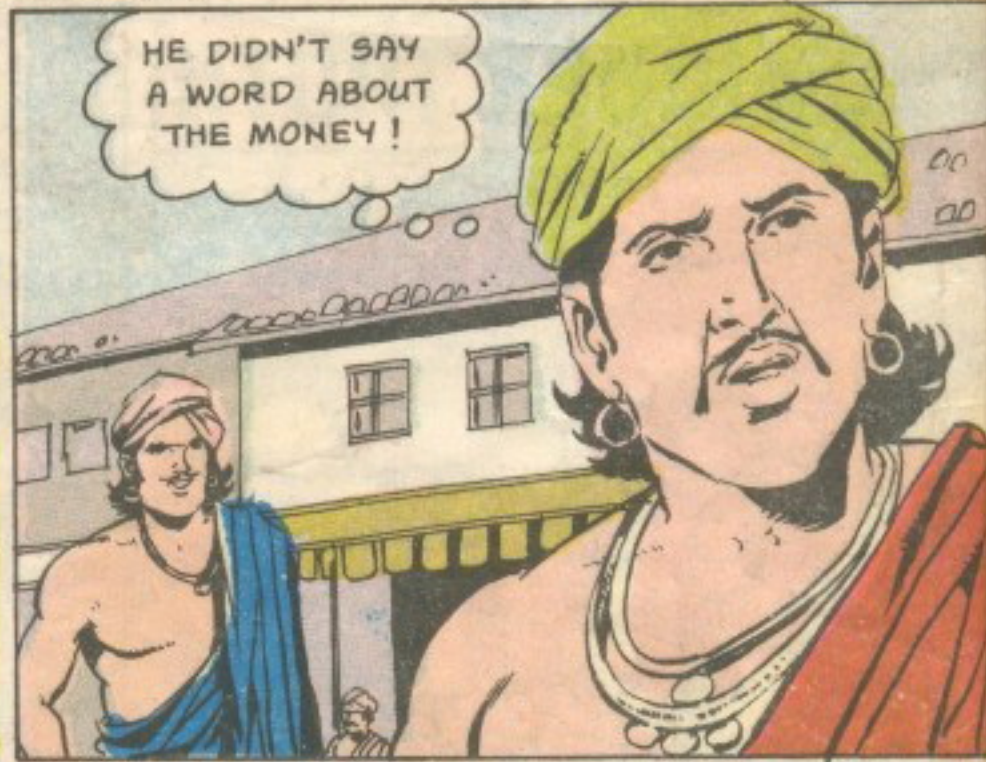
SHRENIK THE STRANGER AND SHRENIK THE KING WERE THE SAME PERSON.

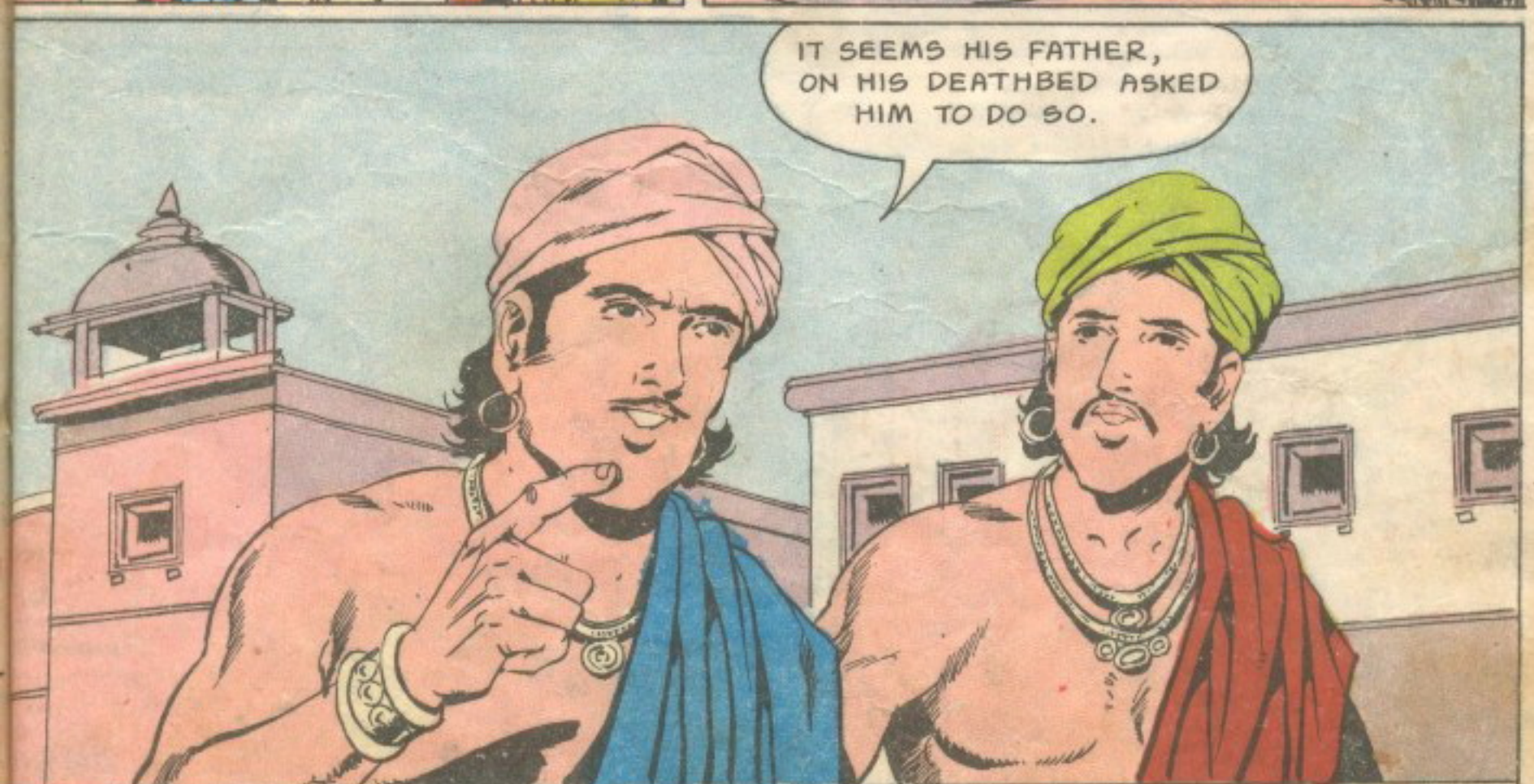
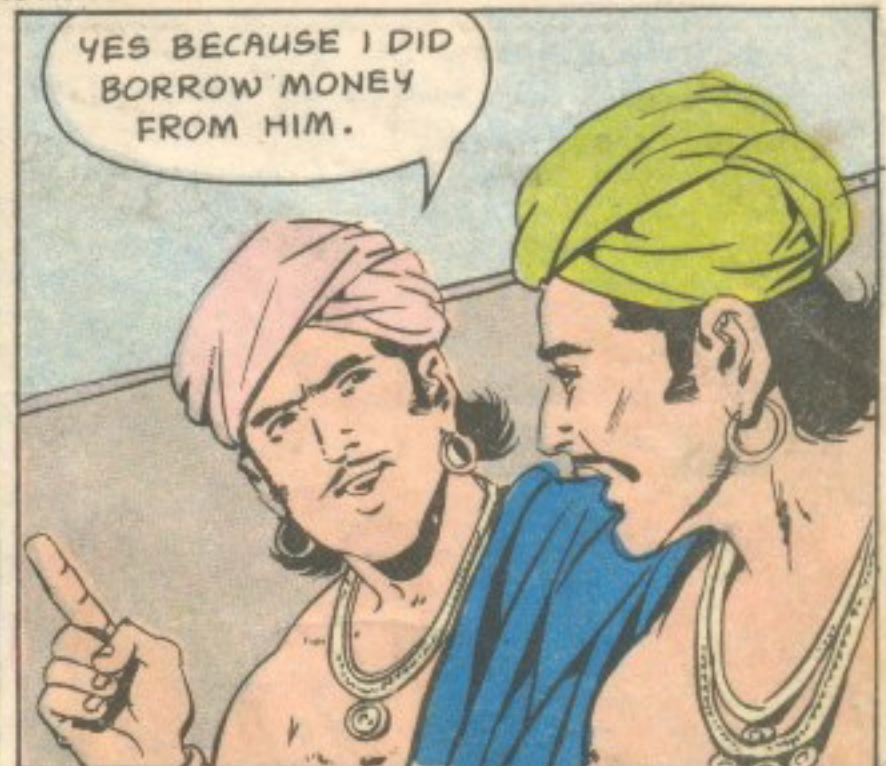
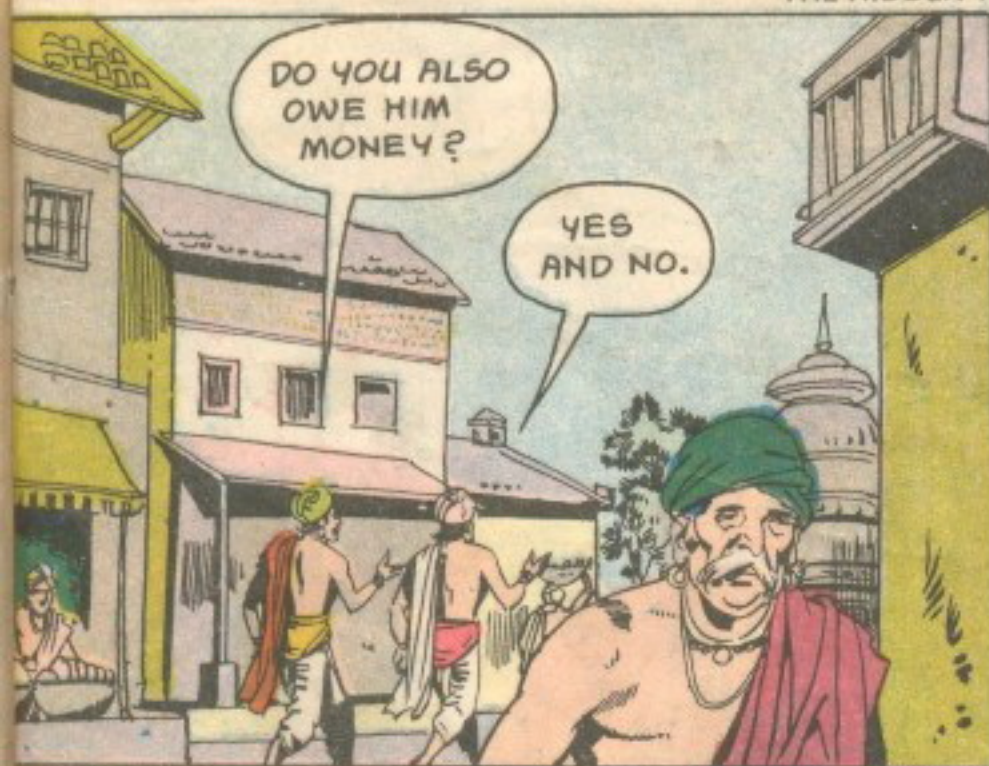


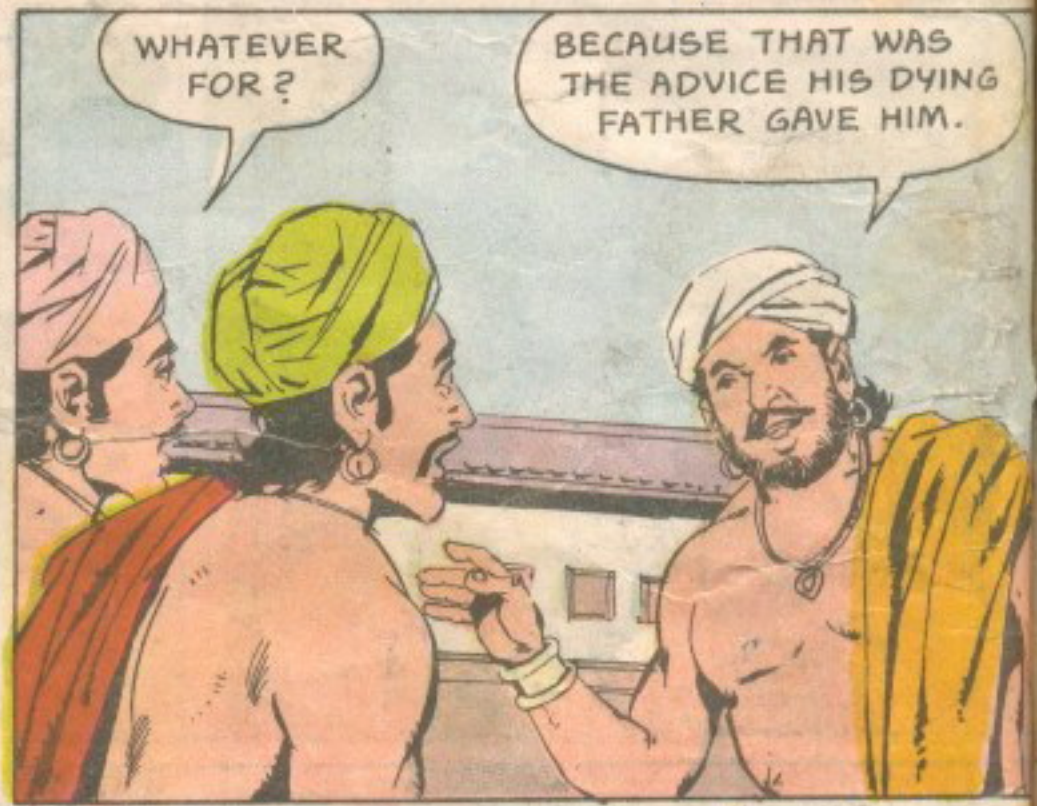
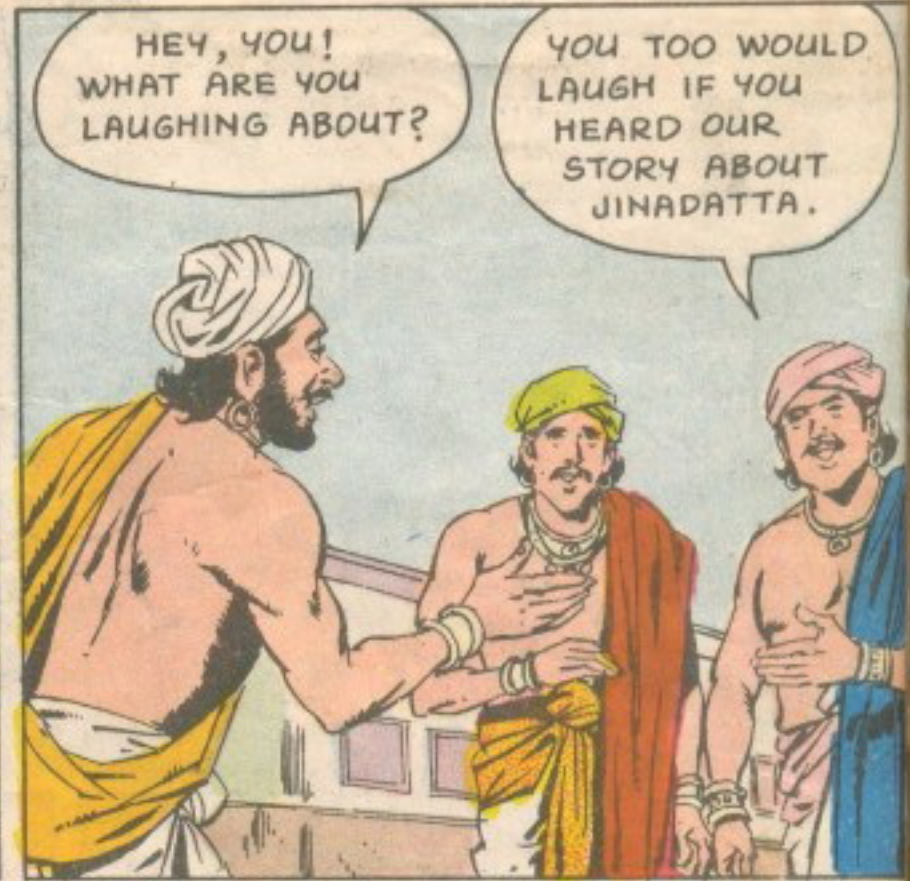
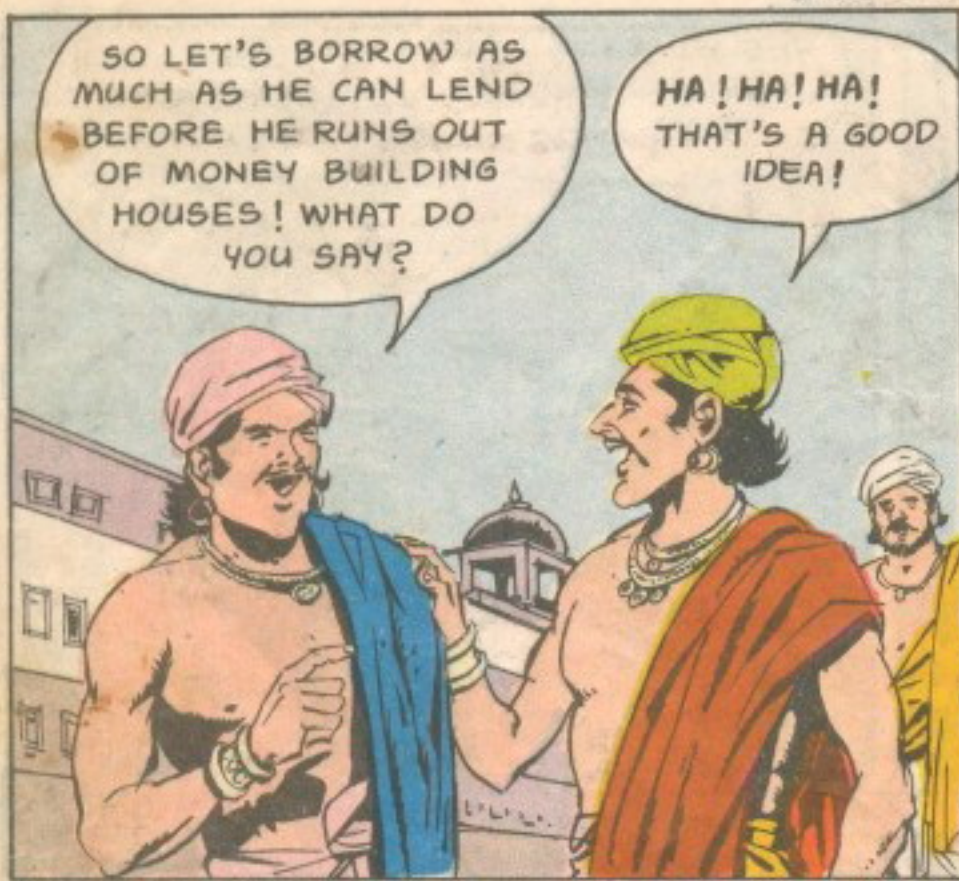
SHRENIK TOOK HIS WIFE AND SON TO MAGADHA WHERE THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

THE HIDDEN TRUTH

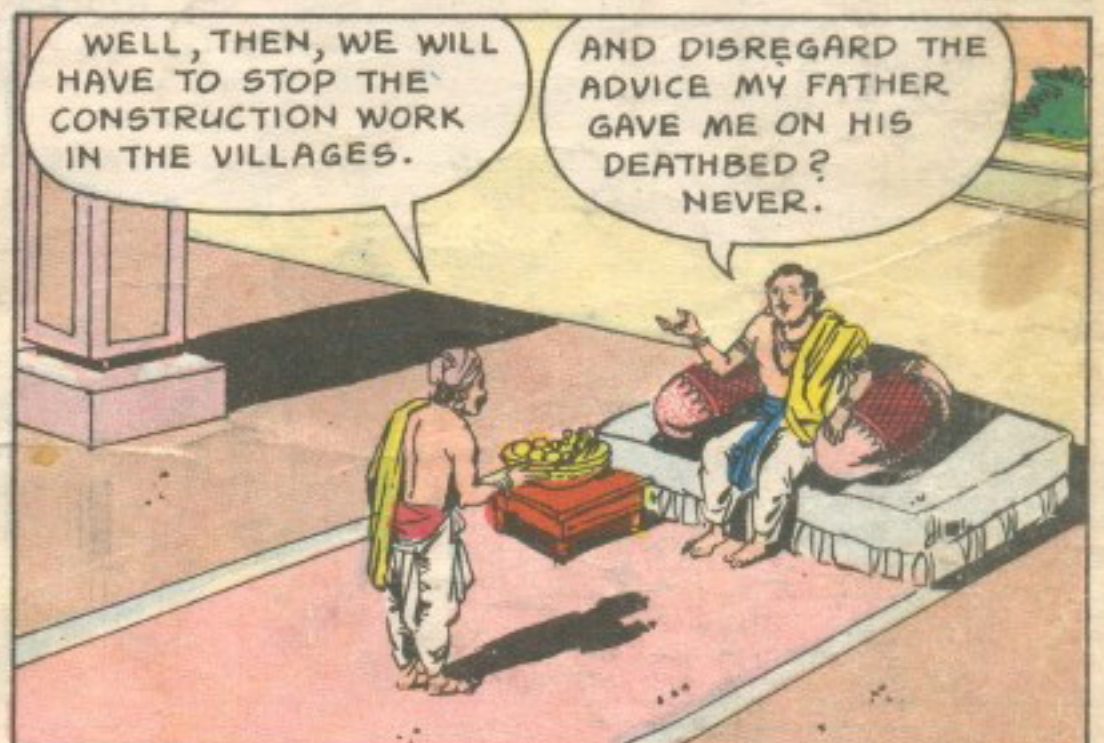
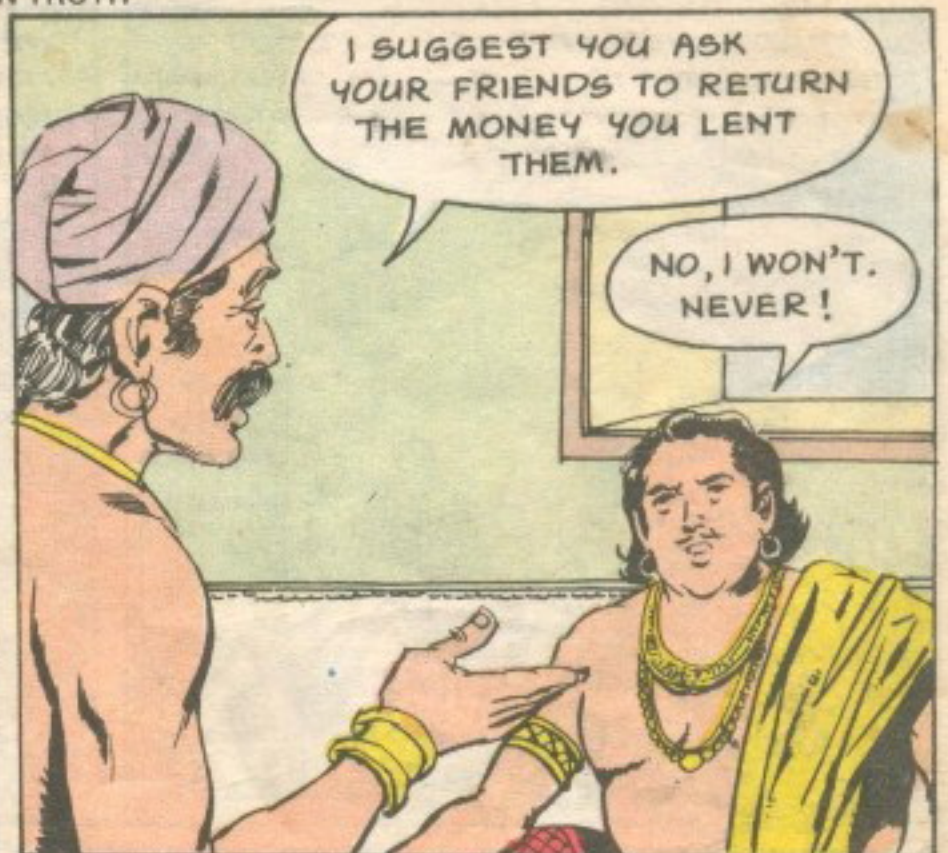




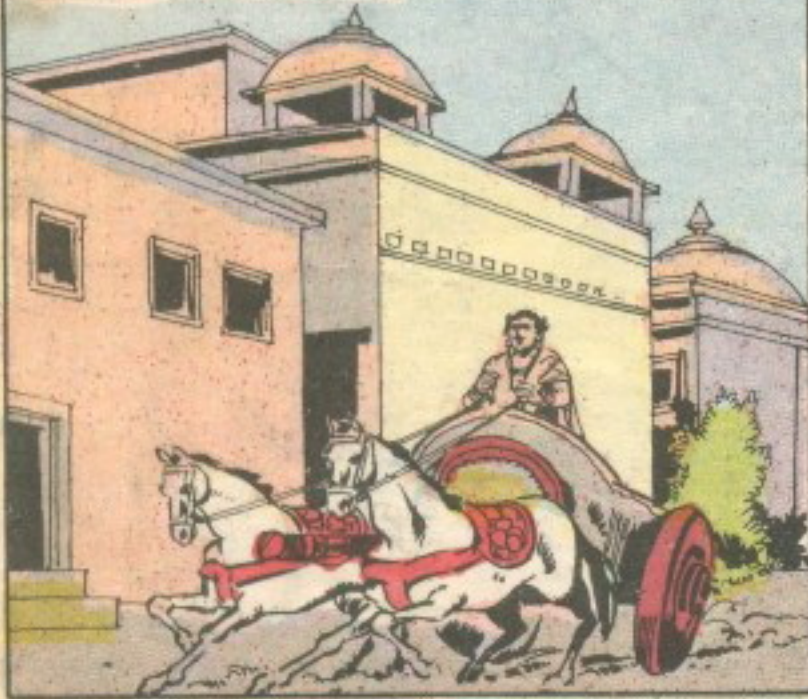




MEANWHILE AT JINADATTA'S HOUSE —



JINADATTA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT TO SEE SOMADATTA.



THE WISE OLD SOMADATTA RECEIVED WITH AFFECTION THE SON OF HIS DEPARTED FRIEND WHOSE CONFIDENCE HE HAD ENJOYED.



I AM HAPPY TO SEE YOU, JINADATTA.

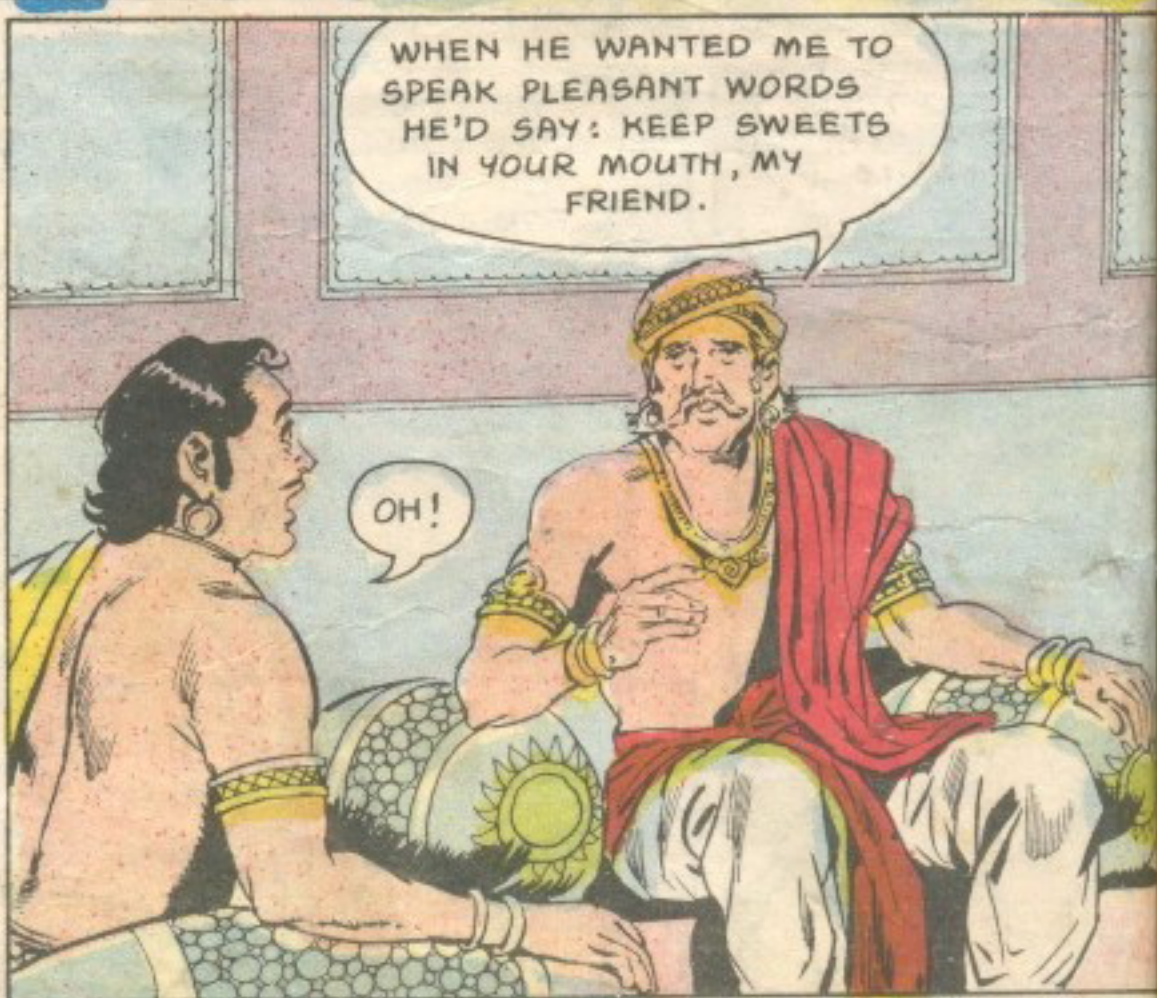
YOU HAVE PUT ON A LOT OF WEIGHT. HAVE YOU BEEN EATING TOO MANY SWEETS?

YES. THAT'S WHAT MY FATHER ADVISED ME TO DO, UNCLE.

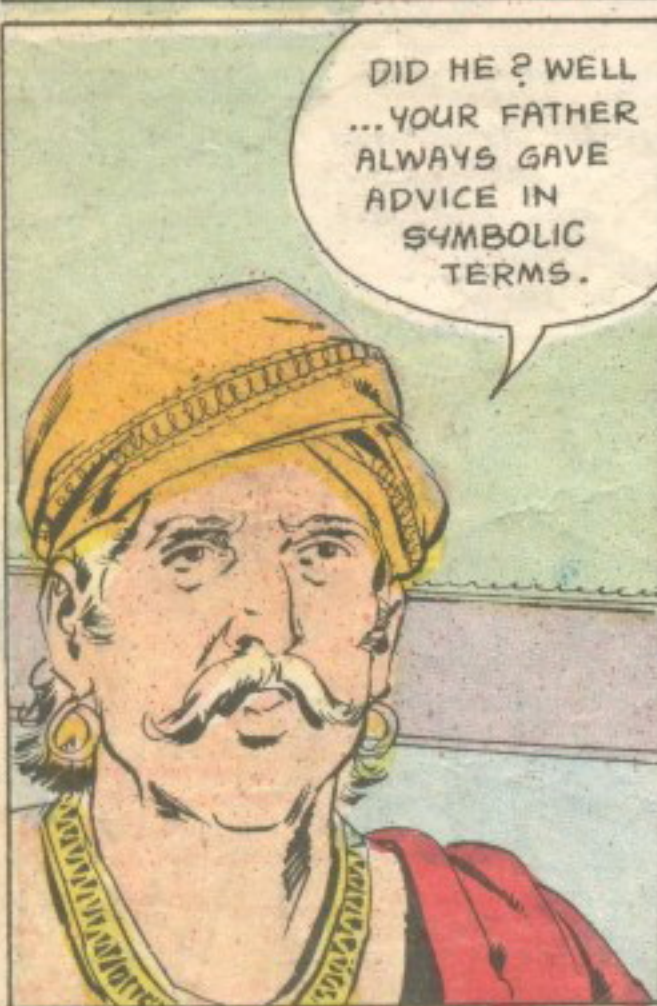


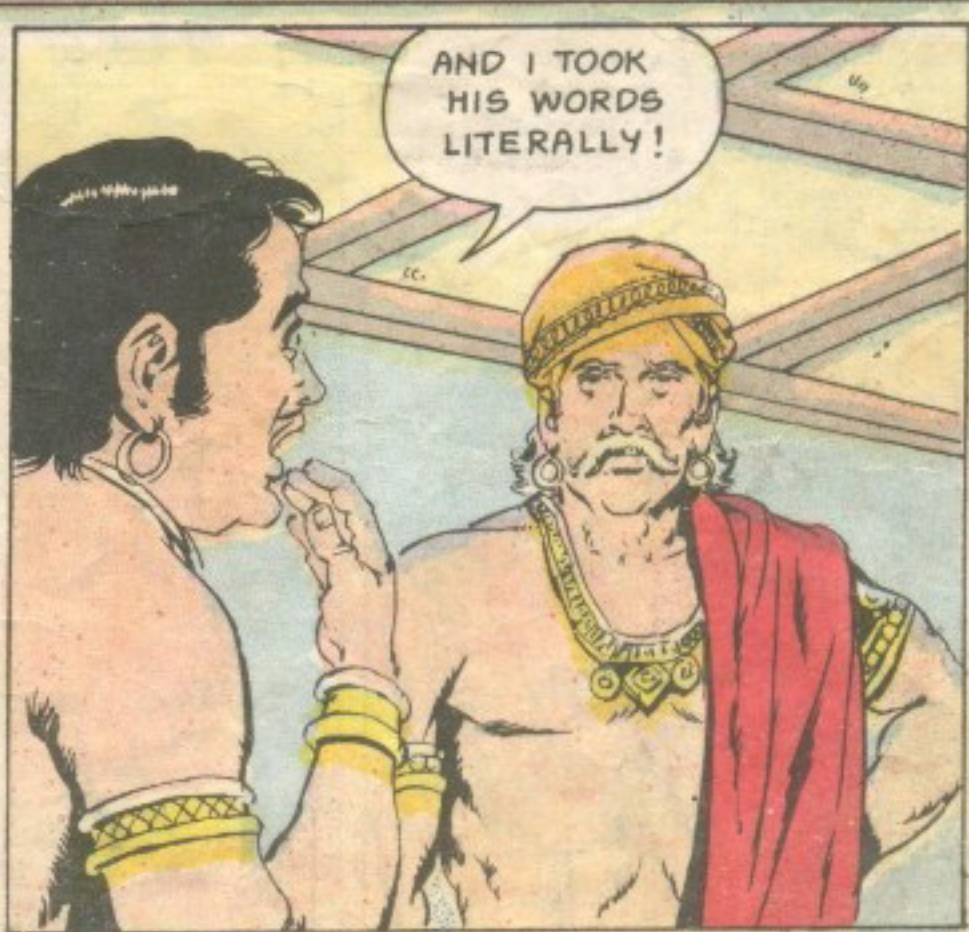
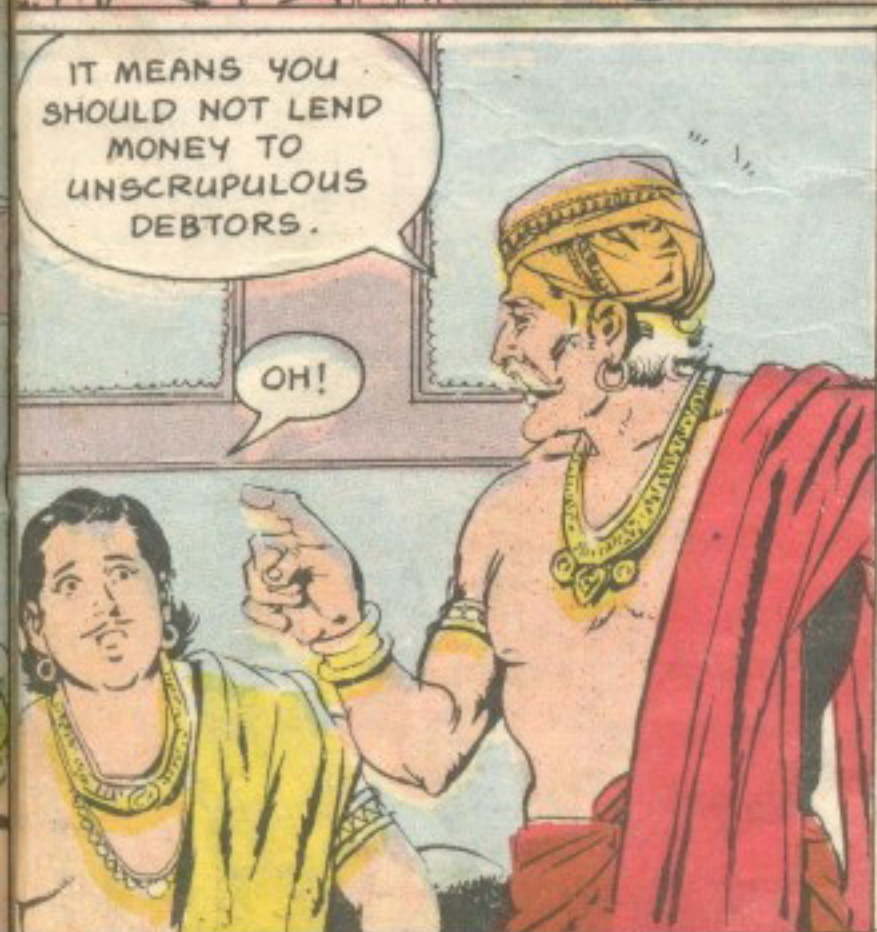
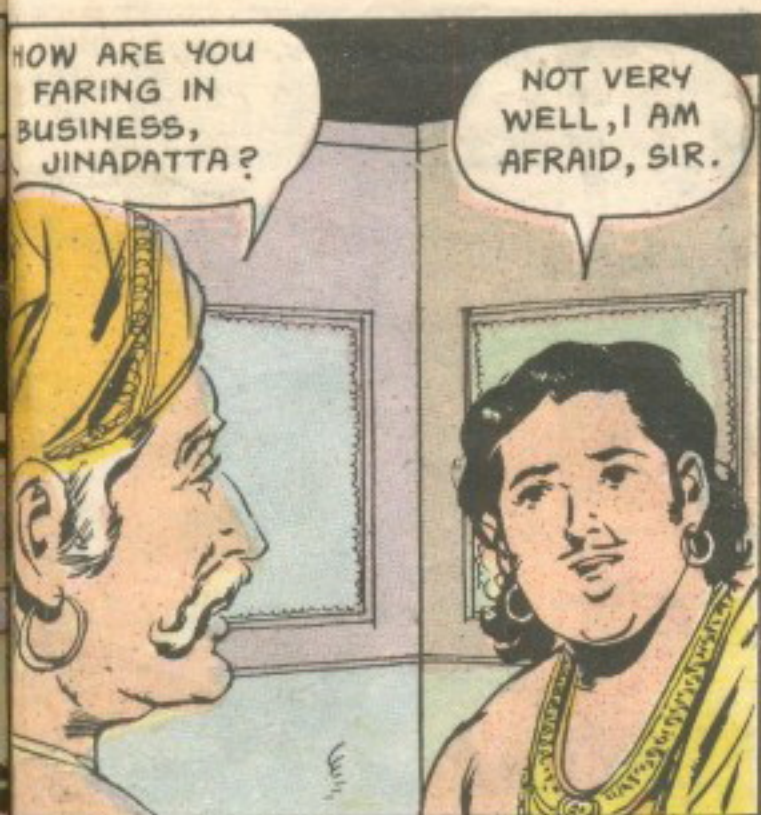
DID HE? WELL ...YOUR FATHER ALWAYS GAVE ADVICE IN SYMBOLIC TERMS.

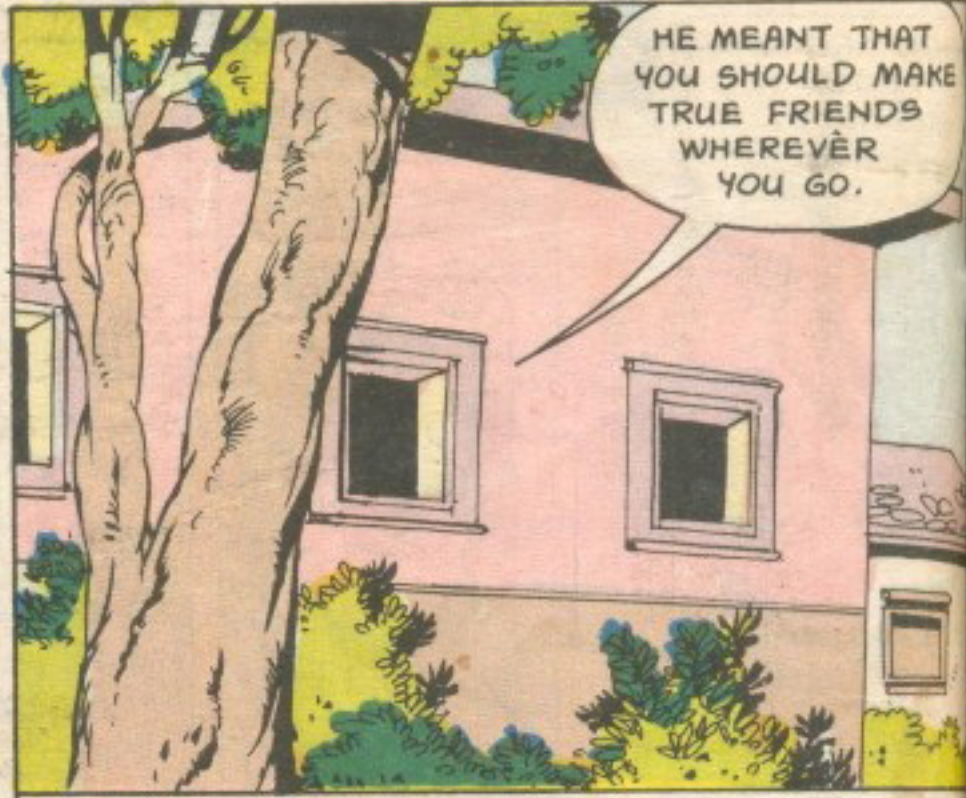
WHEN HE WANTED ME TO SPEAK PLEASANT WORDS HE'D SAY: KEEP SWEETS IN YOUR MOUTH, MY FRIEND.

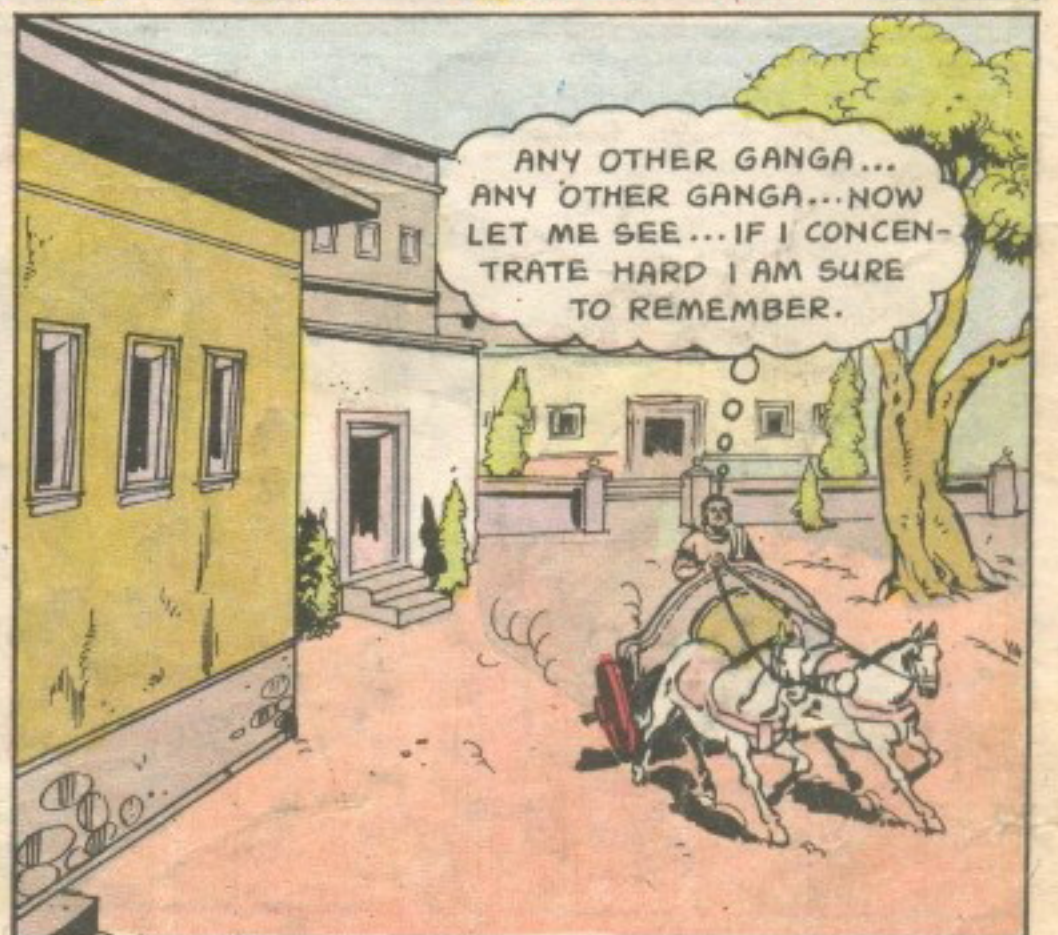
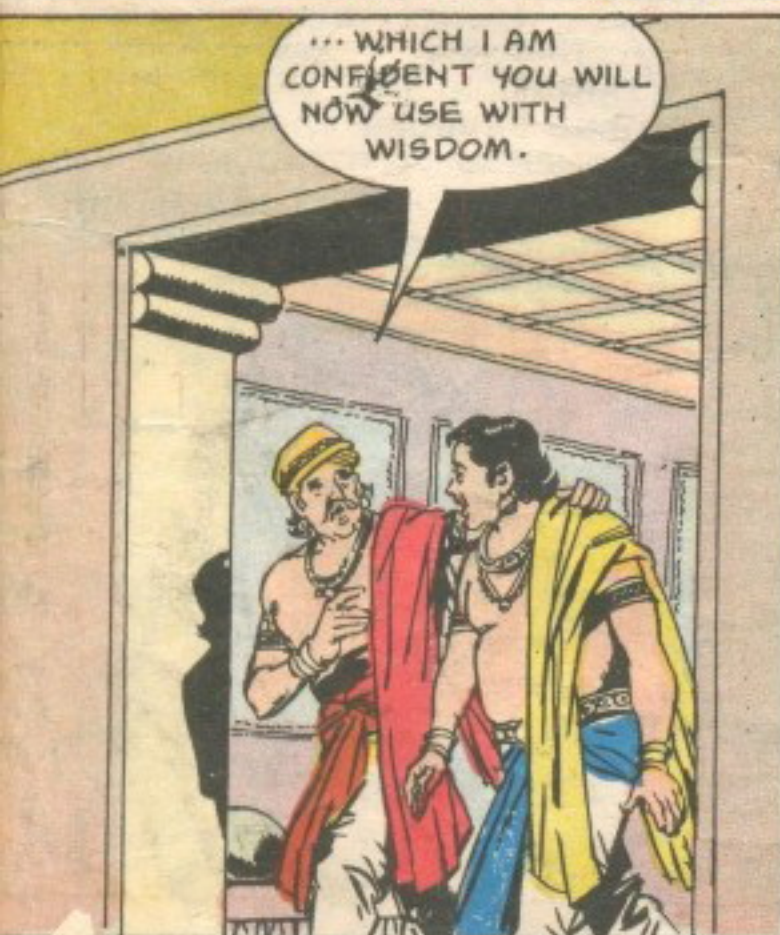
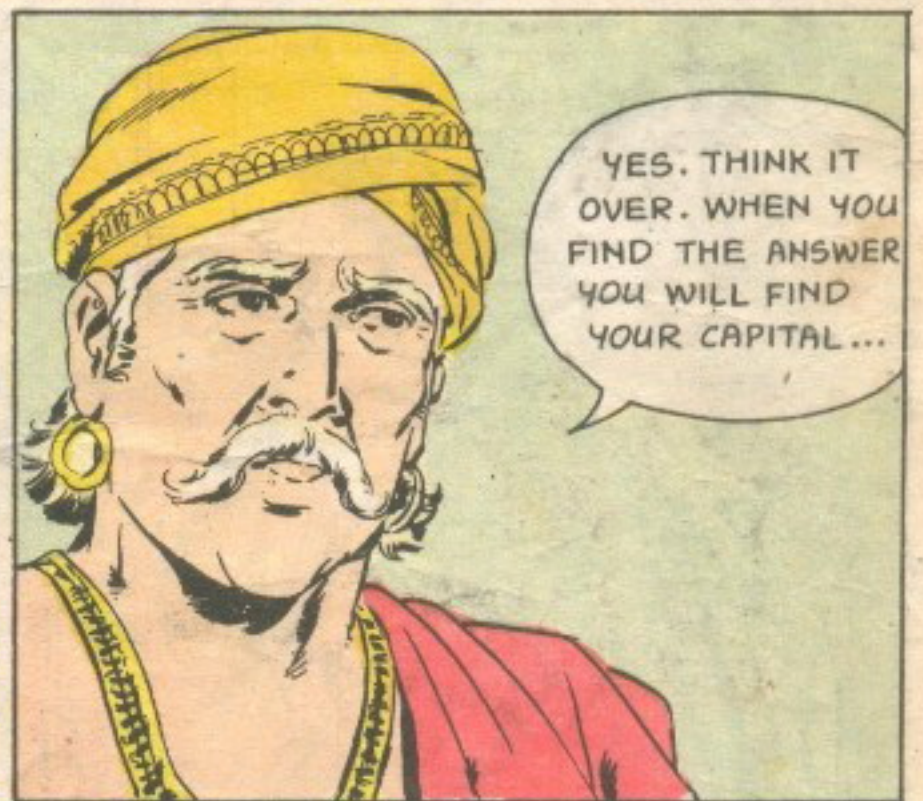
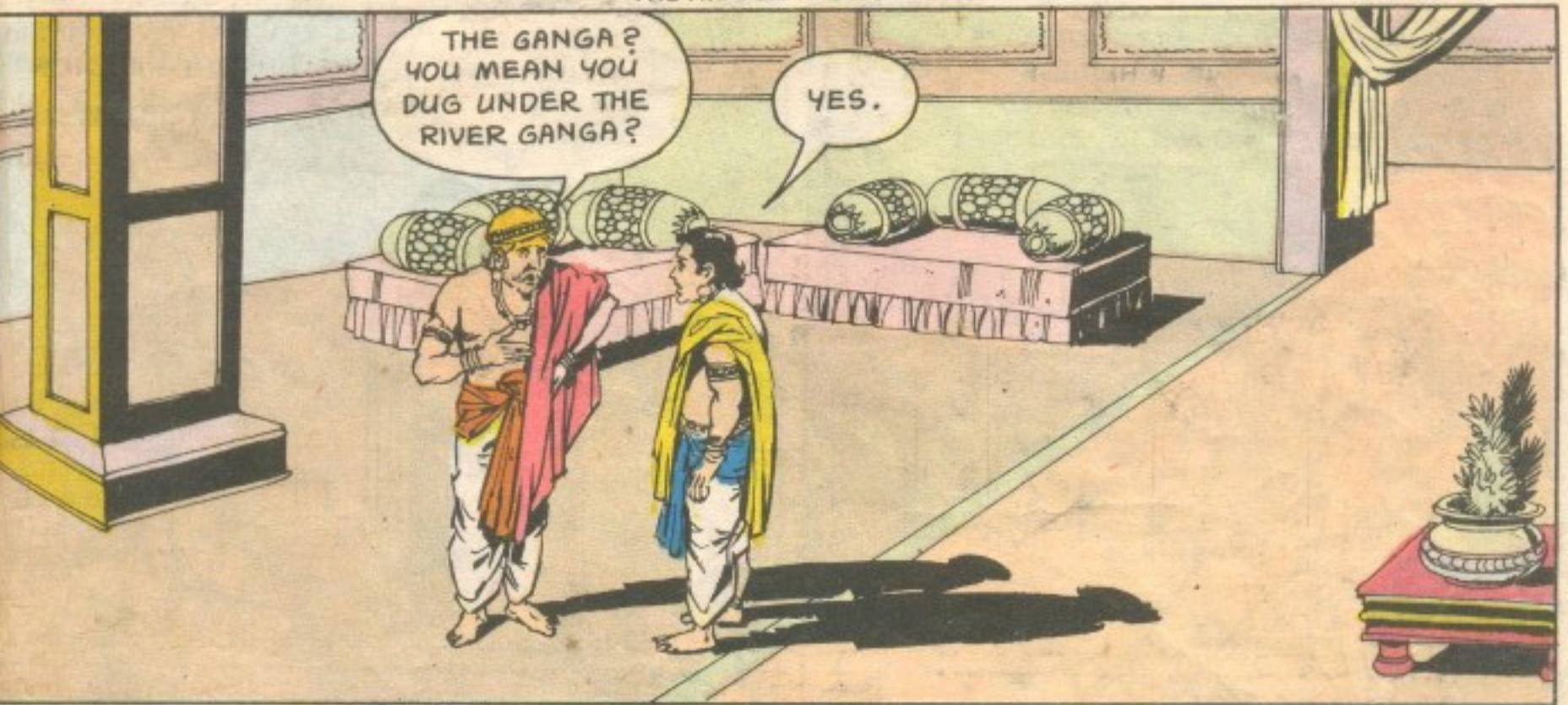


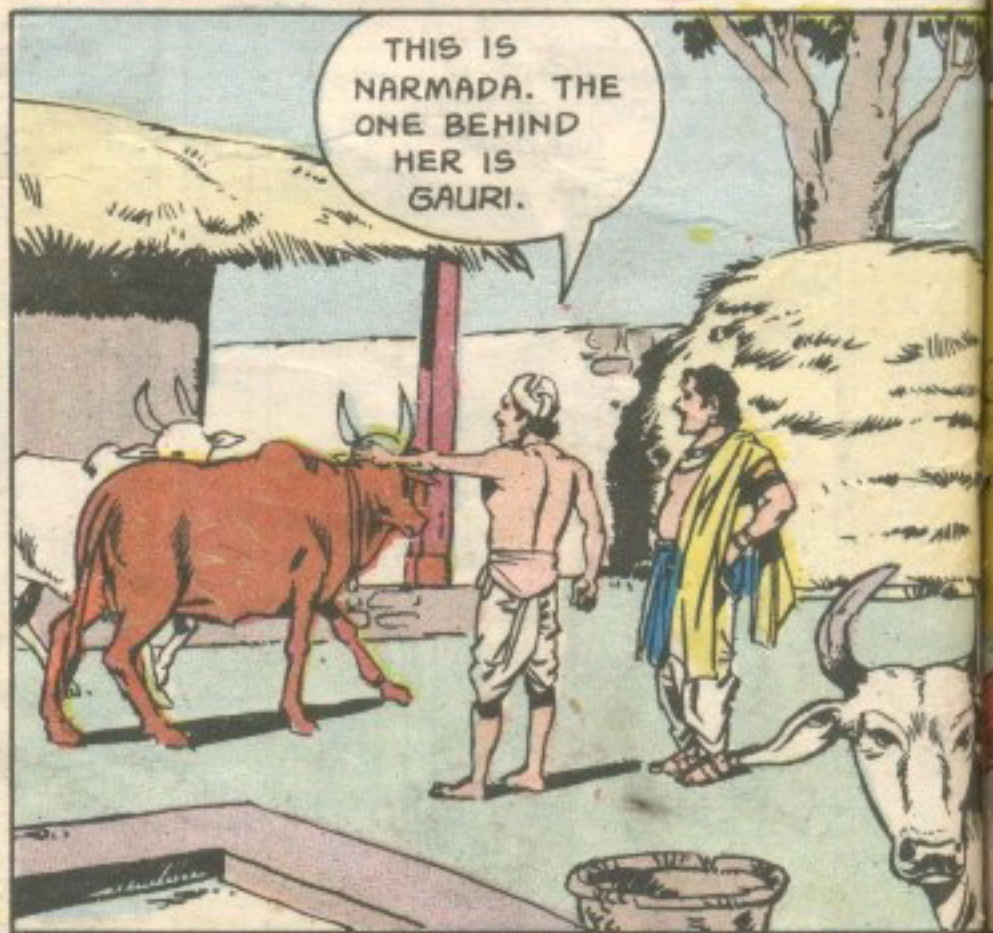
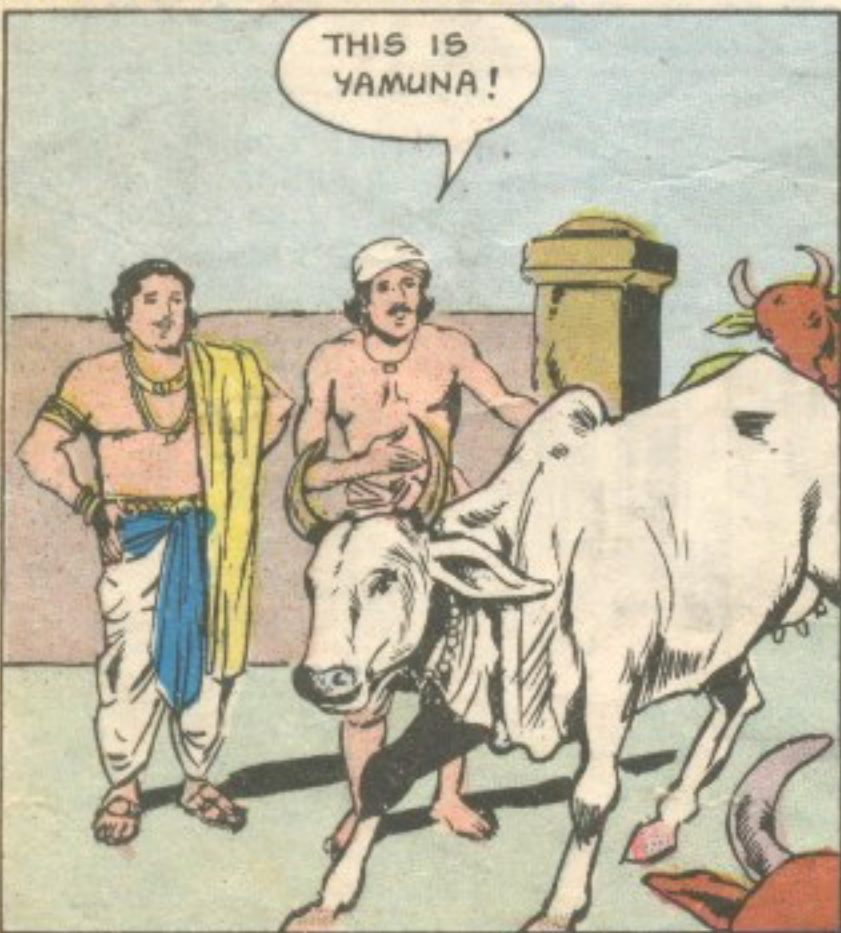
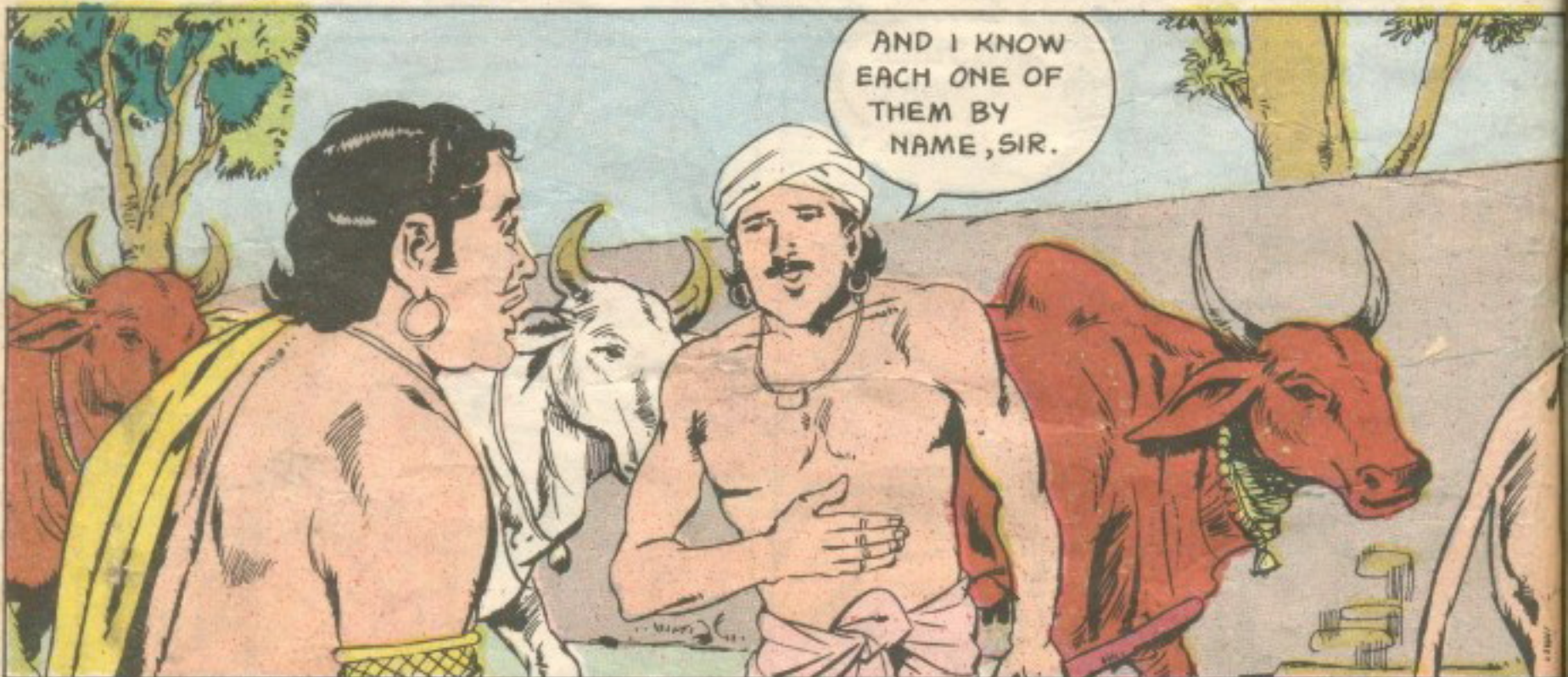
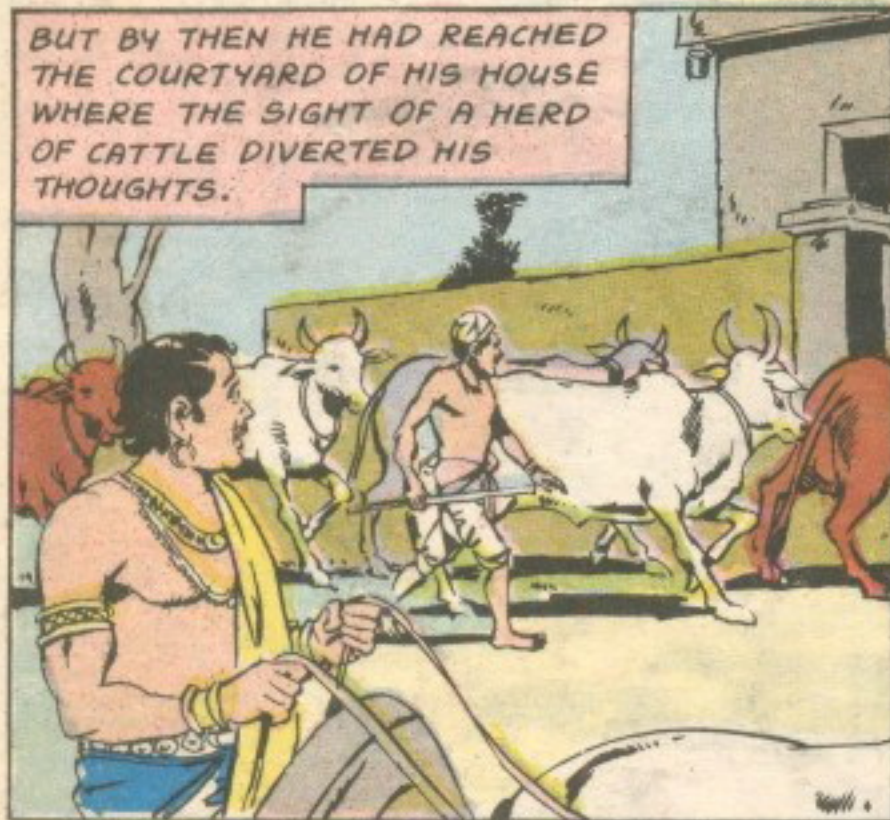
OH!

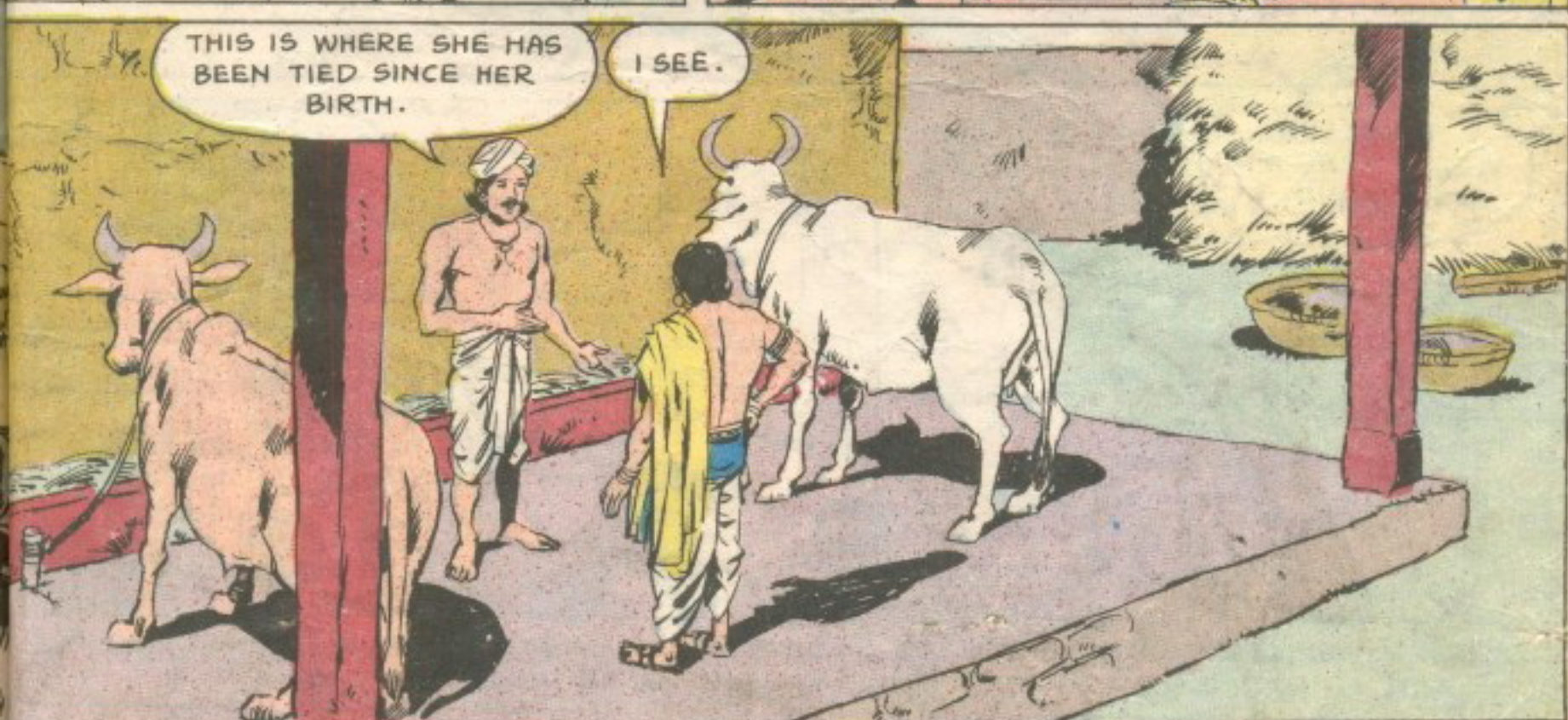
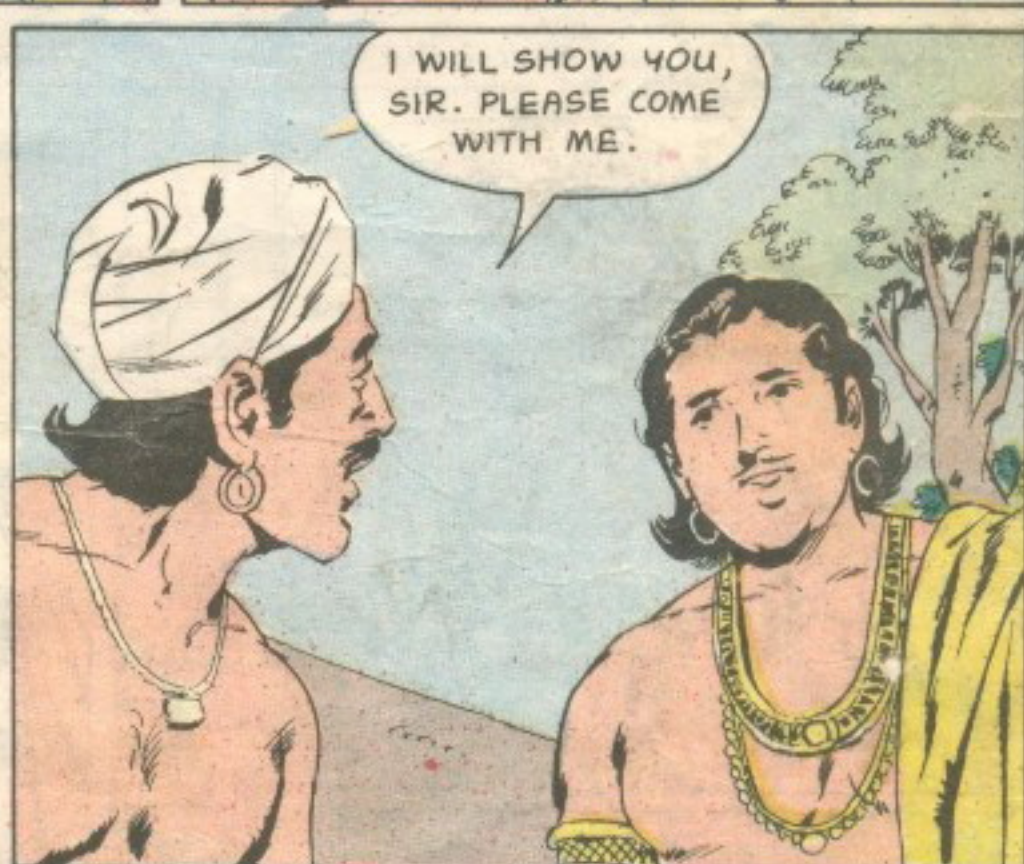
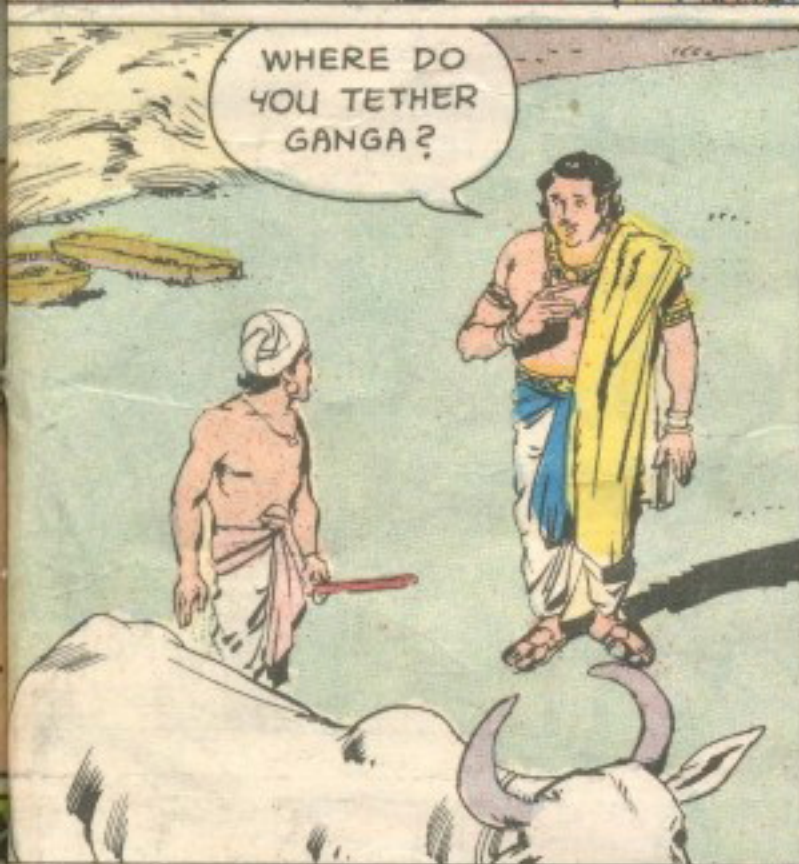
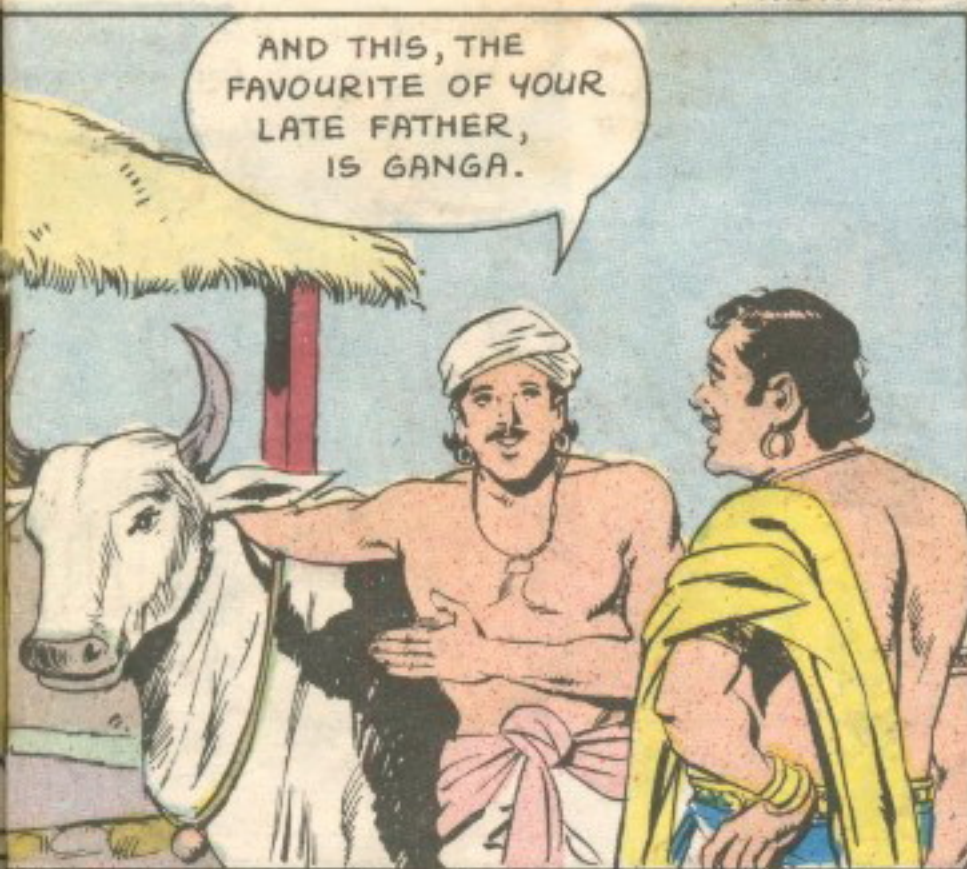




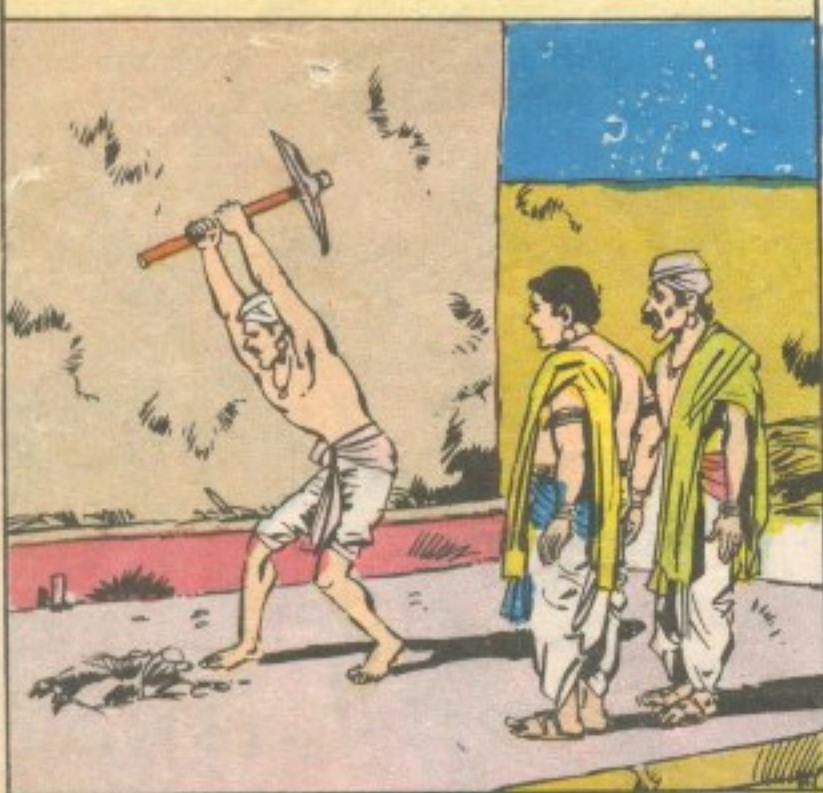








JINADATTA HAD THE PLACE DUG UP.

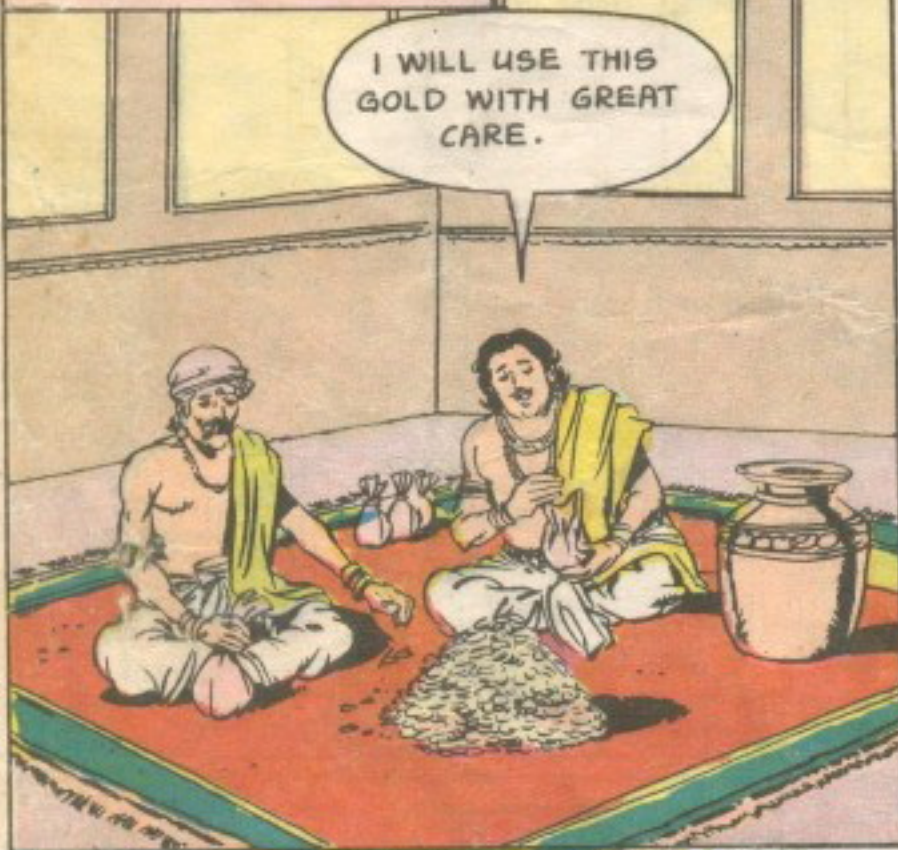


I THINK WE HAVE FOUND IT!
I HAVE FOUND THE CAPITAL!



INDEED JINADATTA HAD FOUND HIS CAPITAL —
AN URN OF GOLD COINS!

I WILL USE THIS
GOLD WITH GREAT
CARE.



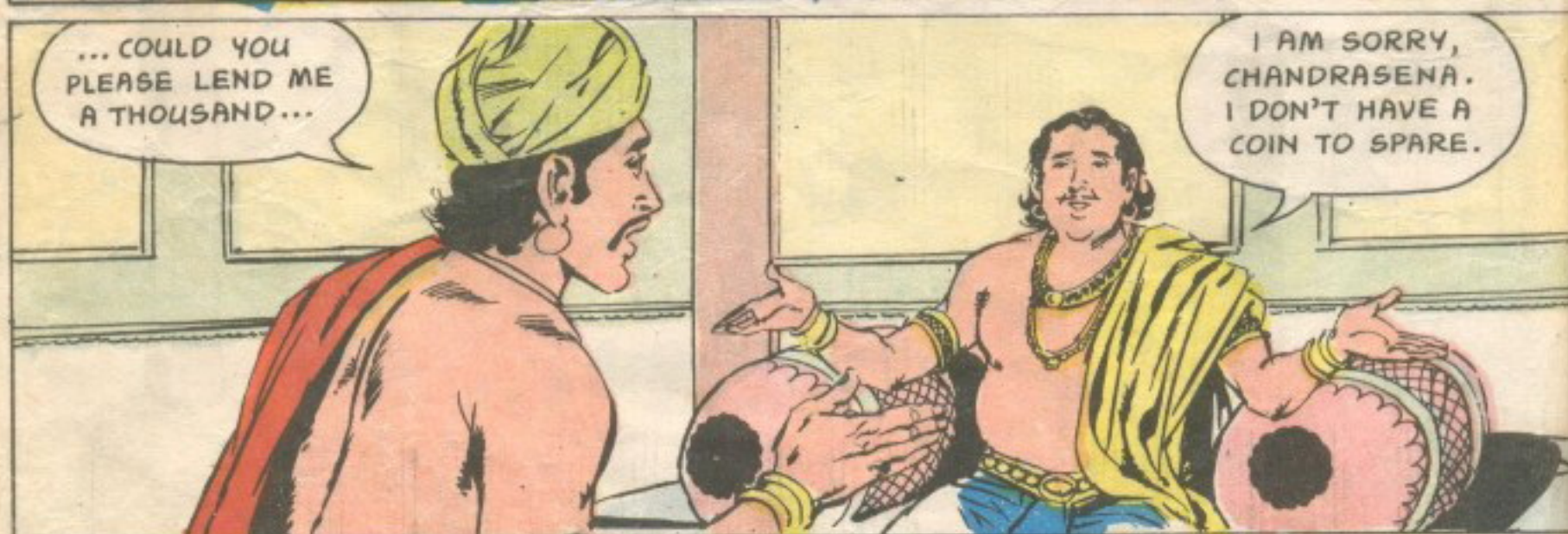
THE FOLLOWING DAY —

JINADATTA,
I HATE TO
TROUBLE YOU,
BUT...



... COULD YOU
PLEASE LEND ME
A THOUSAND...

I AM SORRY,
CHANDRASENA.
I DON'T HAVE A
COIN TO SPARE.



JINADATTA HAD LEARNT HIS LESSON. HE NOW HELPED ONLY THE DESERVING, AND USED THE
REST OF HIS WEALTH TO EARN MORE THROUGH WISE INVESTMENT.