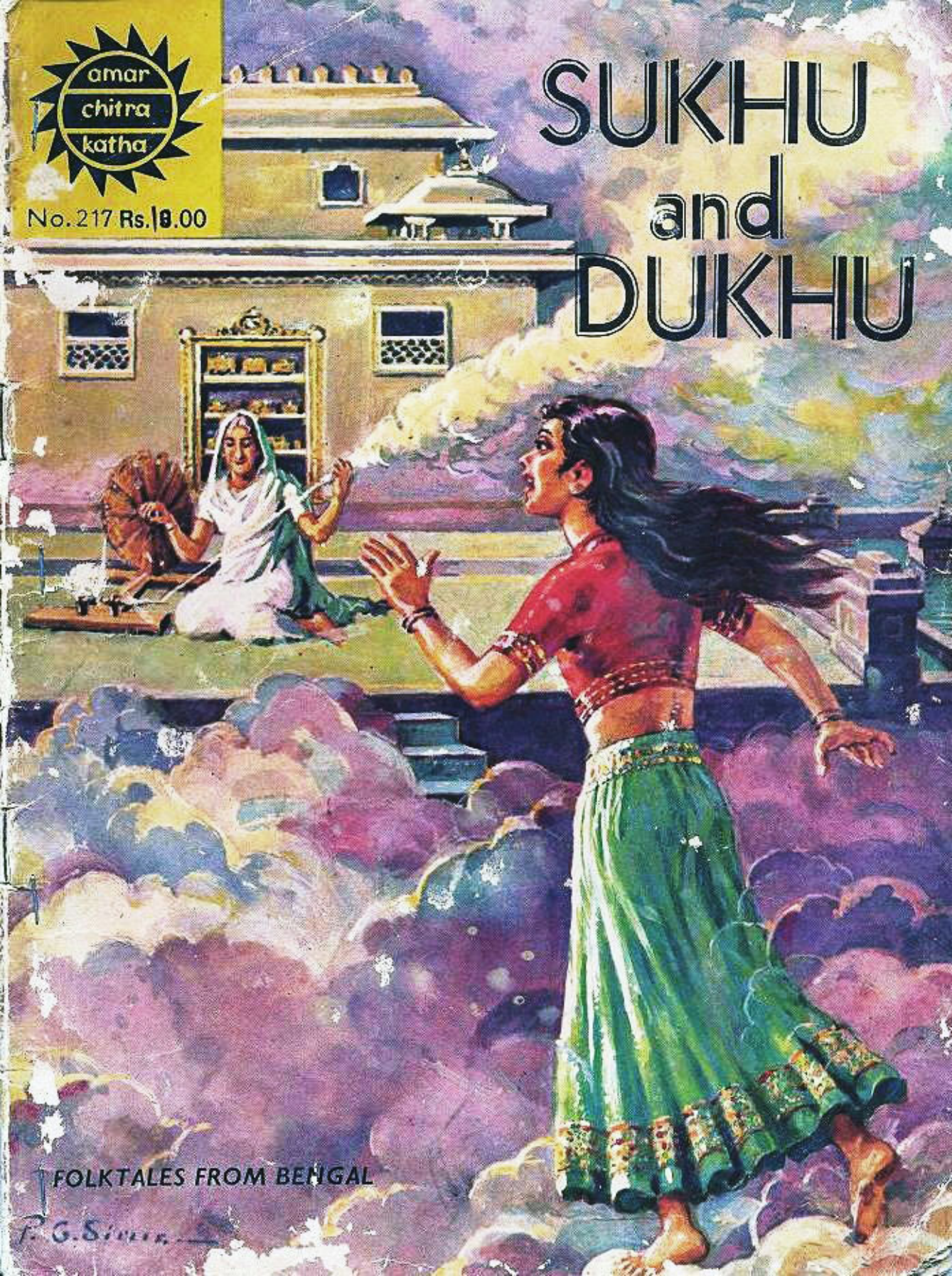




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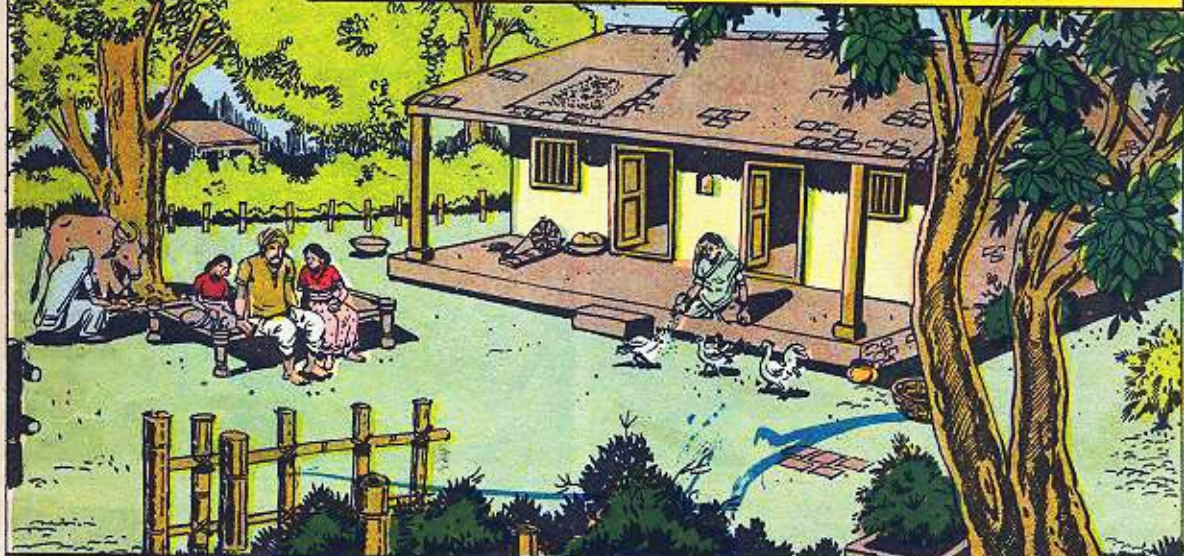
SUKHU and DUKHU



FOLKTALES FROM BENGAL

P. G. Sengupta

SUKHU AND DUKHU



ONCE THERE WAS A WEAVER WHO HAD TWO WIVES, EACH OF WHOM HAD A DAUGHTER. ONE DAUGHTER WAS CALLED SUKHU, AND THE OTHER DUKHU. THE TWO WIVES HATED EACH OTHER.

ONE DAY, THE WEAVER DIED SUDDENLY. SOON AFTER, SUKHU'S MOTHER DROVE DUKHU AND HER MOTHER AWAY.

GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE! I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU HERE EVER AGAIN!



WHERE SHALL WE GO, MOTHER?

GOD WILL FIND US SOME SHELTER, CHILD.



THEY FOUND A DESERTED HUT FAR AWAY AND DECIDED TO LIVE IN IT. AND THEY MADE A LIVING BY SPINNING YARN —



I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WORK SO HARD!

I DON'T MIND, MOTHER. WE ARE HAPPY TOGETHER, AREN'T WE?



ONE MORNING, DUKHU WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN SPINNING, WHEN A GUST OF WIND BLEW AWAY THE COTTON.



POOR DUKHU RAN AFTER THE WIND.



THE NAUGHTY WIND BLEW THE COTTON FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY.

O WIND, GIVE ME BACK MY COTTON, PLEASE!



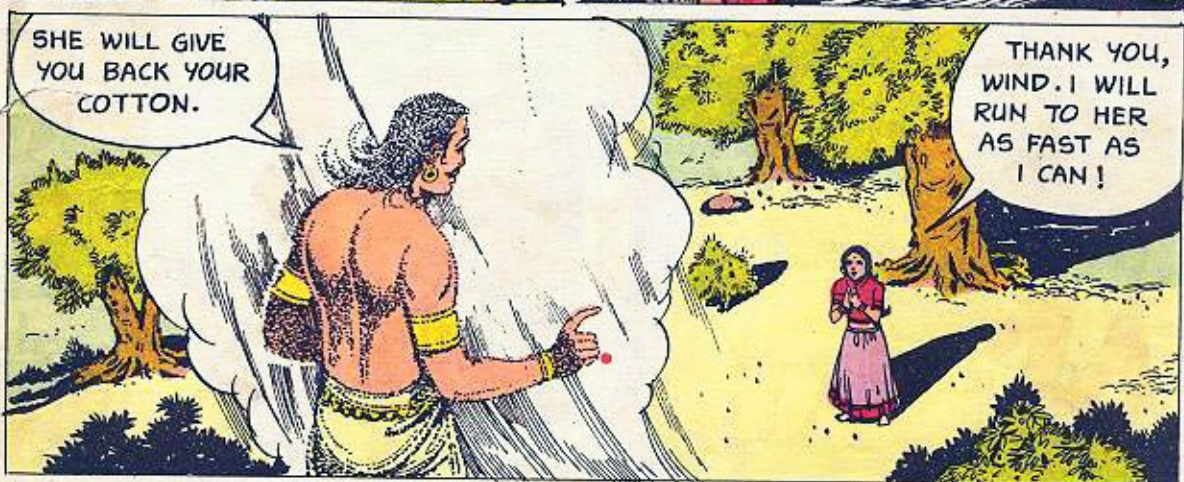
AT LAST THE WIND TOOK PITY ON HER —

GO TO MY MOTHER, THE OLD WOMAN IN THE MOON, WHO WEAVES PUFFS OF CLOUD ALL DAY LONG.



SHE WILL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR COTTON.

THANK YOU, WIND. I WILL RUN TO HER AS FAST AS I CAN!



AS DUKHU WAS RUNNING, SHE PASSED A COW —

DUKHU! I AM HUNGRY. WON'T YOU GIVE ME SOME HAY TO EAT?



DUKHU STOPPED AT ONCE.

POOR DEAR, YOU MUST BE VERY HUNGRY! HERE'S SOME HAY FOR YOU.



SHE RESUMED HER JOURNEY BUT, VERY SOON, SHE HAD TO STOP AGAIN. THIS TIME IT WAS A BANYAN TREE THAT NEEDED HELP.



DUKHU STOPPED AND SWEEPED THE GROUND NEAR THE TREE.



SHE BEGAN TO RUN AGAIN, BUT A HORSE STOPPED HER —



WITHOUT A WORD, DUKHU WENT TO DRAW WATER FROM A WELL NEAR BY.



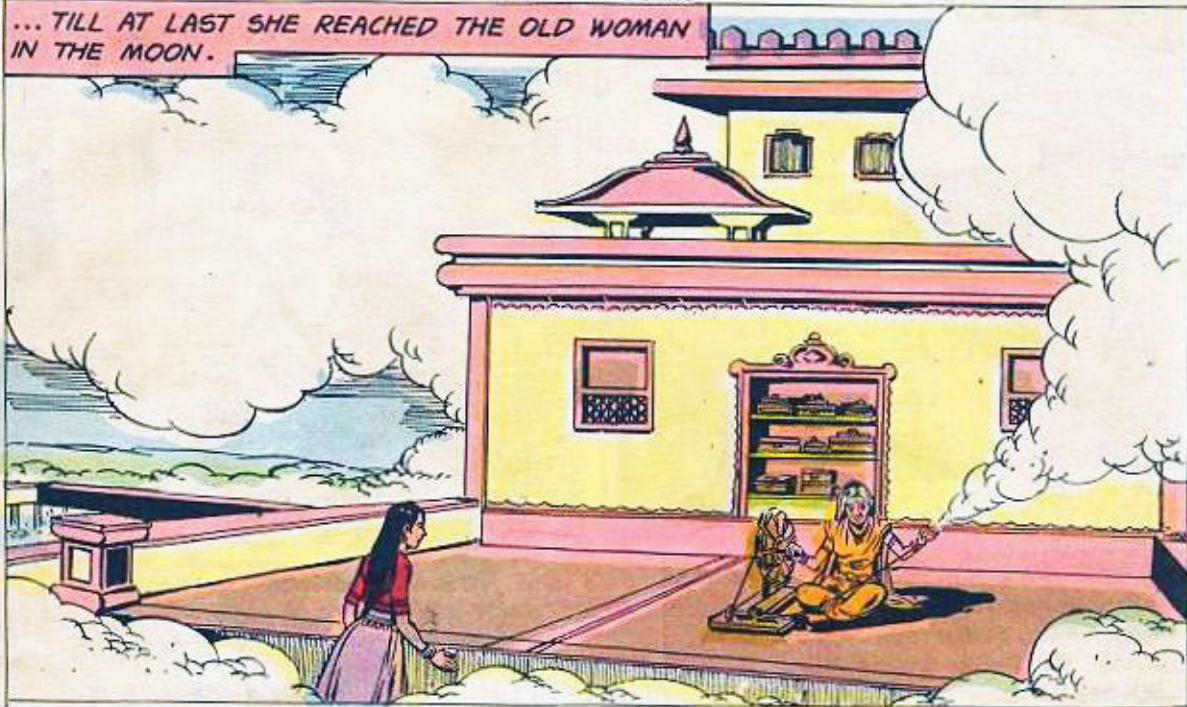
THIS WILL QUENCH YOUR THIRST, DEAR. NOW I MUST HURRY AWAY.



DUKHU RAN FASTER AND FASTER...



... TILL AT LAST SHE REACHED THE OLD WOMAN
IN THE MOON.



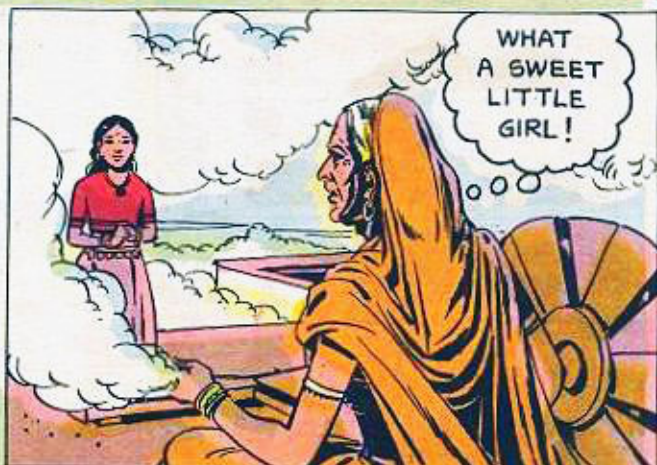
PLEASE, GRANDMA,
THE WIND CARRIED
AWAY MY COTTON,
AND ...



... AS WE ARE
VERY POOR, MAY
I HAVE IT BACK,
PLEASE ?



WHAT
A SWEET
LITTLE
GIRL !



OF COURSE, YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR COTTON, DEAR. BUT, FIRST, YOU MUST TAKE THREE DIPS IN THAT POOL.

DUKHU DID AS SHE WAS TOLD.



IT WAS AN ENCHANTED POOL. WHEN DUKHU EMERGED, SHE LOOKED BEAUTIFUL. SHE WAS DRESSED IN GRAND CLOTHES AND FINE JEWELLERY.

BUT SHE WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS. SHE WENT BACK TO THE OLD WOMAN.

MAY I HAVE MY COTTON NOW?

ALL THOSE CASKETS ARE FULL OF COTTON! TAKE ONE OF THEM.



DUKHU TOOK UP THE SMALLEST CASKET.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS, GRANDMA!

YOU ARE WELCOME, MY CHILD!



THEN DUKHU STARTED RUNNING HOME. ON THE WAY, THE HORSE STOPPED HER.

YOU WERE KIND TO ME, DUKHU. HERE'S A PONY FOR YOU TO RIDE ON!

THANK YOU.

DUKHU MOUNTED THE PONY AND RODE ON.

STOP A WHILE, DUKHU!

TAKE THIS BAG OF GOLD FOR YOU WERE KIND TO ME WHEN I NEEDED HELP.

THANK YOU!

NEXT SHE PASSED THE COW, WHO GAVE DUKHU HER CALF. LADEN WITH ALL THESE PRESENTS, DUKHU REACHED HOME AT LAST.

DUKHU! I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

I'M SORRY, MOTHER, I COULDN'T STOP TO LET YOU KNOW BEFORE RUNNING OFF. BUT I'VE HAD SUCH AN ADVENTURE!

DUKHU OPENED THE CASKET.

SEE WHAT I'VE
BROUGHT HOME,
MOTHER—DIAMONDS!
RUBIES!

AND
SAPPHIRES!
EMERALDS!
PEARLS!

THERE IS ENOUGH
HERE FOR US TO
LIVE ON FOR THE
REST OF OUR
LIVES!

YOU OUGHT
TO SHARE IT
WITH SUKHU,
DEAR.

BUT SUKHU AND HER MOTHER WERE WILDLY JEALOUS WHEN THEY HEARD THE STORY.

I DON'T WANT
DUKHU'S
THINGS!

MY SUKHU
CAN GET
BETTER
GIFTS!

THE NEXT DAY SUKHU SAT DOWN TO SPIN.

THE WICKED WIND
JUST WON'T BLOW
AWAY MY COTTON!

SUKHU THREW THE COTTON AWAY
HERSELF...

... AND CRIED OUT —

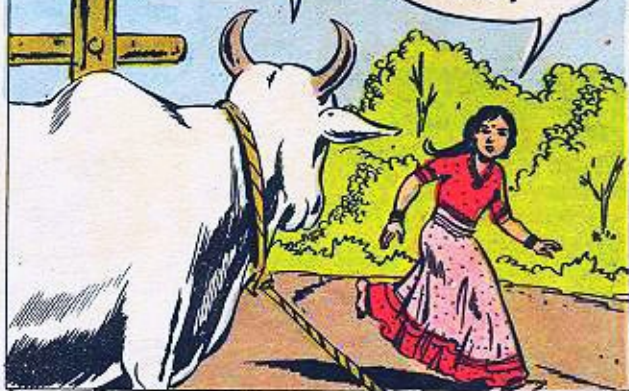
YOU HORRID,
NASTY WIND!
GIVE ME BACK
MY COTTON
AT ONCE!



THE WIND SAID NOTHING, BUT SUKHU RAN
OUT OF HER HOUSE. SHE CAME ACROSS
THE COW —

SUKHU, PLEASE
GIVE ME SOME
HAY!

WHY SHOULD
I DO THAT?
I HAVE NO
TIME!



SWEEP THE
GROUND
BENEATH ME
PLEASE,
SUKHU.

NO!



SUKHU REFUSED TO HELP ANYONE ON
HER WAY. AT LAST SHE CAME TO THE
OLD WOMAN IN THE MOON.

GET UP, OLD
WOMAN! GIVE ME
MORE THAN YOU
GAVE DUKHU!

WHAT AN
ILL-MANNERED
CHILD!



HURRY UP! WHY
ARE YOU TAKING
SO LONG?

TAKE A DIP
IN THAT POOL
FIRST — ONLY
ONE DIP.



SUKHU TOOK A DIP AND EMERGED AS BEAUTIFUL AS DUKHU.

I'LL TAKE ANOTHER DIP. THEN I'LL HAVE MORE THAN DUKHU!

SHE TOOK ANOTHER DIP AND THEN LOOKED AT HER REFLECTION. WHAT SHE SAW MORRIFIED HER.

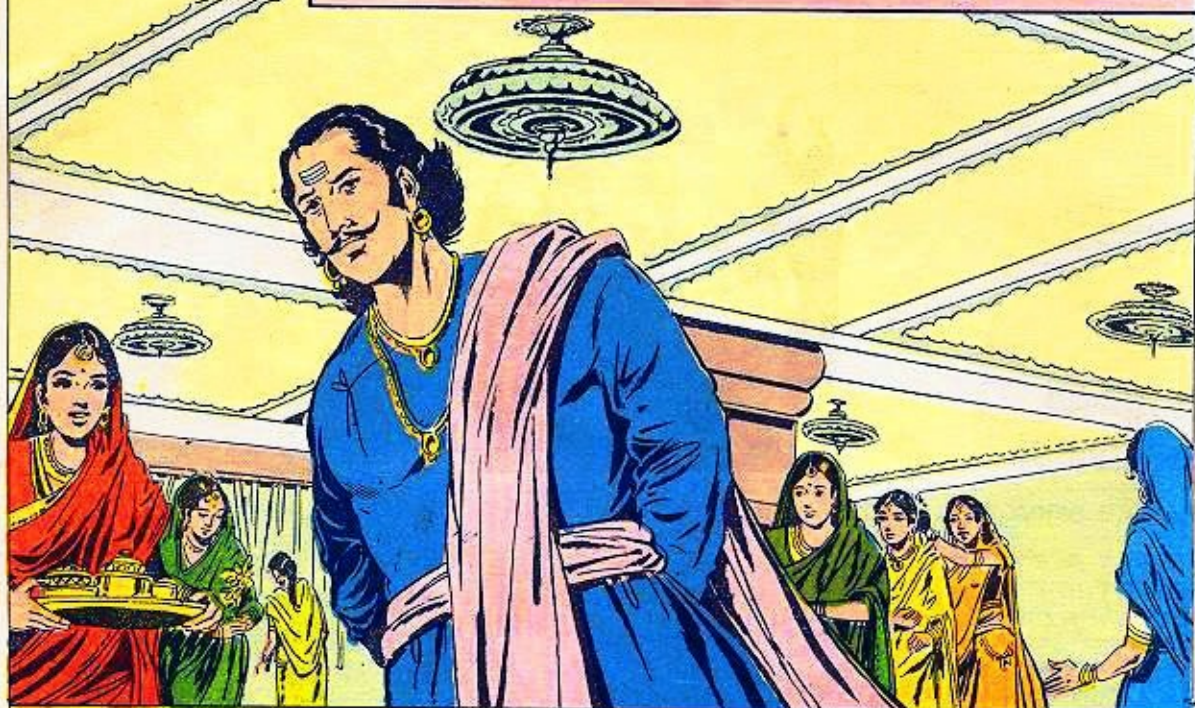
OH! OH! WHAT HAVE I DONE!

I TOLD YOU TO TAKE JUST ONE DIP!

I WANTED TO HAVE MORE THAN DUKHU!

GREED AND JEALOUSY BRING THEIR OWN PUNISHMENT.

THE SEVENTH QUEEN

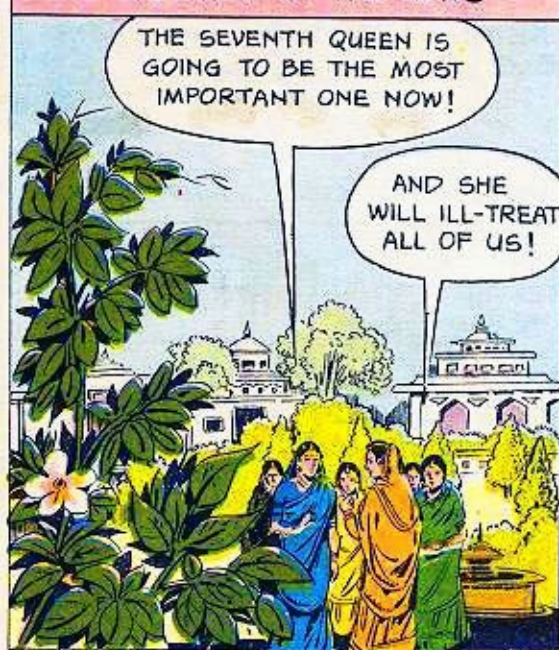


ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE LIVED A KING WHO HAD SEVEN QUEENS. BUT HE HAD NO CHILDREN AND THIS MADE HIM VERY UNHAPPY.

YEARS PASSED AND ONE DAY HE WAS PLEASED TO BE TOLD THAT HIS SEVENTH QUEEN WAS GOING TO HAVE A CHILD.



BUT THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WERE DISMAYED AT THE NEWS —



THE SEVENTH QUEEN GAVE BIRTH TO SEVEN SONS AND A DAUGHTER. AS SHE WAS VERY TIRED, SHE FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP. THE OTHER QUEENS HATCHED AN EVIL PLAN —



THE SEVENTH QUEEN FAINTED FROM THE SHOCK.



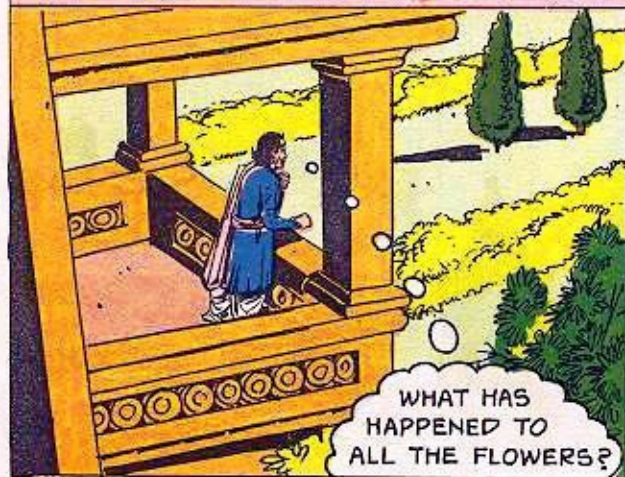
WHEN THE KING HEARD OF IT —



THE SEVENTH QUEEN WAS
BANISHED FROM THE KINGDOM —



SOON AFTER HER DEPARTURE A STRANGE THING OCCURRED —



THE ROYAL PRIEST CAME TO THE KING.

YOUR MAJESTY, HOW
CAN I WORSHIP THE
LORD WITHOUT A
SINGLE FLOWER?



BUT A FEW
FLOWERS WERE
GATHERED THIS
MORNING. WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO
THEM?

THEY JUST
WITHERED
AWAY!





A FEW HOURS LATER —



BUT WHEN THE GARDENER WENT TO PICK
THEM, THE TREE SHOT UP HIGHER AND
HIGHER BEYOND HIS REACH.



THE FIRST QUEEN WAS WORRIED WHEN SHE WAS TOLD ABOUT IT.



I CAN'T
COME NOW!
I AM VERY
BUSY!

I AM AFRAID TO
GO... TO THAT
ASH-HEAP!

BUT IT WILL
LOOK VERY ODD
IF YOU DON'T
GO!



THE FIRST QUEEN FINALLY OVERCAME
HER FEAR AND WENT TO THE
ASH-HEAP. SHE TRIED TO PLUCK THE
FLOWERS.



I CAN'T
REACH THEM
EITHER.

YOU CAN'T GET US
OH NO, OH NO!
LET THE SECOND QUEEN COME
TO HER, WE WILL GO!

THE SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH
QUEENS CAME AND HAD THE SAME
EXPERIENCE. WHEN THE SIXTH QUEEN
TRIED —



YOU CAN'T GET US.
OH NO, OH NO!
LET THE KING COME
TO HIM WE WILL GO!



THERE'S NOTHING
WE CAN DO! THE
KING MUST BE
SENT FOR.

OH, DEAR!
WHAT IF HE
FINDS OUT
THE TRUTH!

THE KING WAS GIVEN THE MESSAGE OF THE FLOWERS.

HOW STRANGE!

EVERYTHING HAS BEEN STRANGE OF LATE! I'LL GO TO THE ASH-HEAP.

FIND ME THE TALLEST LADDER.

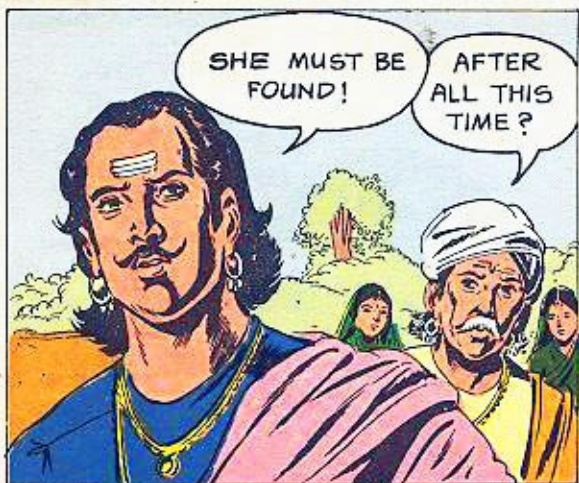


I CAN'T REACH THEM!



I MUST HAVE THE FLOWERS! GET ME ANOTHER LADDER!

YOU CAN'T GET US OH NO, OH NO! LET THE SEVENTH QUEEN COME TO HER WE'LL GO.



THE KING'S MEN WENT FAR AND WIDE, SEARCHING FOR THE SEVENTH QUEEN.





THE SEVENTH QUEEN HAD BEEN LIVING
ALONE IN A CAVE.



THEN ONE OF THE KING'S SOLDIERS SAW HER FROM A
DISTANCE.





A MOMENT LATER, THE FLOWERS CHANGED INTO SEVEN PRINCES AND A PRINCESS.



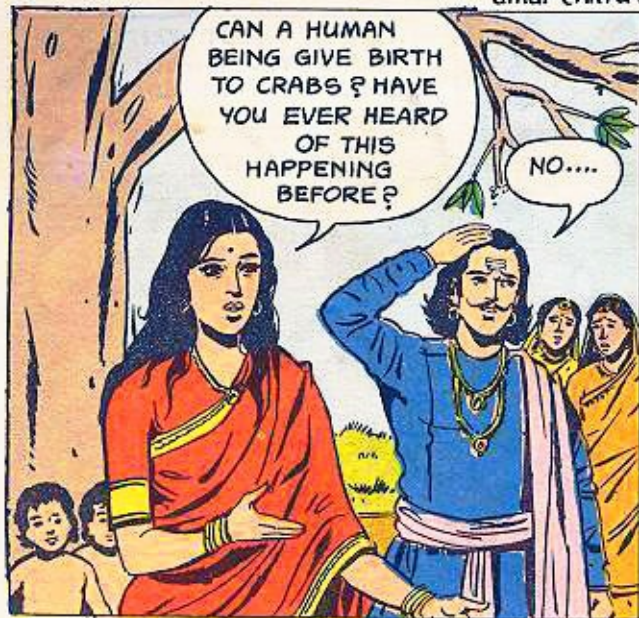
BUT THE KING TURNED STERNLY UPON THEM —



THEY WERE SILENT. IT WAS THE CHAMPAK TREE THAT SPOKE —







THE VALUE OF TEARS



IT WAS THE MONTH OF SPRING. FLOWERS WERE BLOOMING EVERYWHERE AND THE BIRDS WERE SINGING. THERE WAS HAPPINESS IN EVERY HEART.



HOW BEAUTIFUL THE WHOLE WORLD LOOKS!

IT'S JUST THE DAY FOR CELEBRATING THE SPRING FESTIVAL!

THE QUEEN WENT TO THE FOREST WITH HER FRIENDS AND MAIDS.



LOOK AT THE FLOWERS!

WHAT A RIOT OF COLOURS!



IT WAS ALMOST MIDNIGHT WHEN THE KING CAME IN.

WHY ARE YOU SO LATE, MY LORD?

THE SORROWS OF THE PEOPLE.

SORROWS?

YES, SORROWS AND PROBLEMS. WHO ELSE CAN HELP THEM BUT THEIR KING?

WHAT A SHAME IT IS TO WASTE A BEAUTIFUL DAY HEARING COMPLAINTS!

THE KING HAS HIS DUTIES TO PERFORM!

THE SAME THING HAPPENED DAY AFTER DAY. FINALLY, THE QUEEN BECAME VERY ANGRY.

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO FULL OF WORRIES?

CAN'T YOU ENJOY YOURSELF?

HOW CAN I, WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY UNHAPPY PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD?





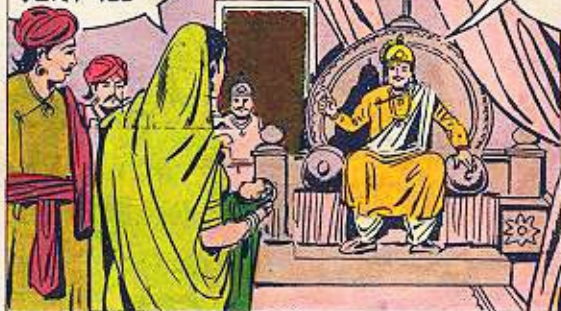
TEARS ARE
OUR ONLY
CONSOLATION.

CAN THE
KING ROB
US OF OUR
BIRTH-
RIGHT?

EVERY DAY THOSE WHO VIOLATED THE ROYAL
ORDER WERE BROUGHT TO THE KING.

MY LORD,
I COULDN'T
HELP CRYING.
MY ONLY
CHILD IS
VERY ILL.

I AM
SORRY, MY
DEAR. BUT
YOU MUST
BE BANISH-
ED!



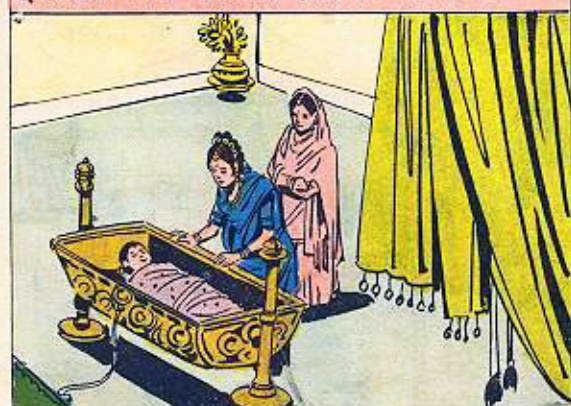
FINALLY —

SO MANY PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN BANISHED!
VERY SOON WE SHALL
HAVE AN EMPTY CITY!



GOOD! LET ALL
THE SAD ONES
GO! THEY ARE
NO LOSS TO
US!

A YEAR PASSED. MEANWHILE THE
QUEEN HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON.



THEN IT WAS SPRING ONCE AGAIN. THE
WOODS WERE ABLAZE WITH COLOUR,
BUT —

HAVE YOU
SEEN THE
FLOWERS,
MY QUEEN?









IT'S THE
QUEEN WHO
BANISHED
US!

I'M NO
LONGER THE
QUEEN. AND NOW
I, TOO, HAVE BEEN
BANISHED.



QUEEN,
WHERE
ARE
YOUR
JEWELS?

I'VE LOST
MY MOST
PRECIOUS
ONE: MY
SON.



WE ARE
ALL YOUR
CHILDREN.

THEN
LET ME
SHARE
YOUR
LIFE.



THE QUEEN NURSED A CHILD WHO
HAD FALLEN ILL.

YOU HAVE BEEN
AWAKE ALL NIGHT,
MY QUEEN. GO
AND REST NOW.

I'LL STAY
BY HIS
SIDE TILL
HE IS
BETTER.



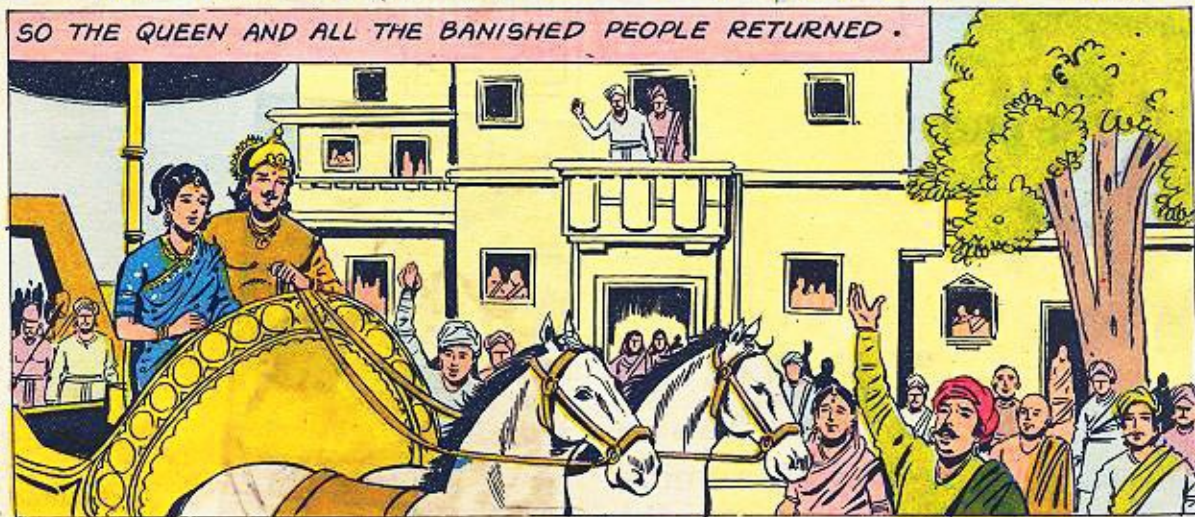
WE HAVE NEVER
HAD SUCH BEAUTI-
FUL CLOTHES
BEFORE!

I'M GLAD
YOU LIKE
THEM.

THE VALUE OF TEARS
ONE BRIGHT MORNING, THE KING CAME
TO THE FOREST IN HIS GOLDEN CHARIOT.



SO THE QUEEN AND ALL THE BANISHED PEOPLE RETURNED.



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