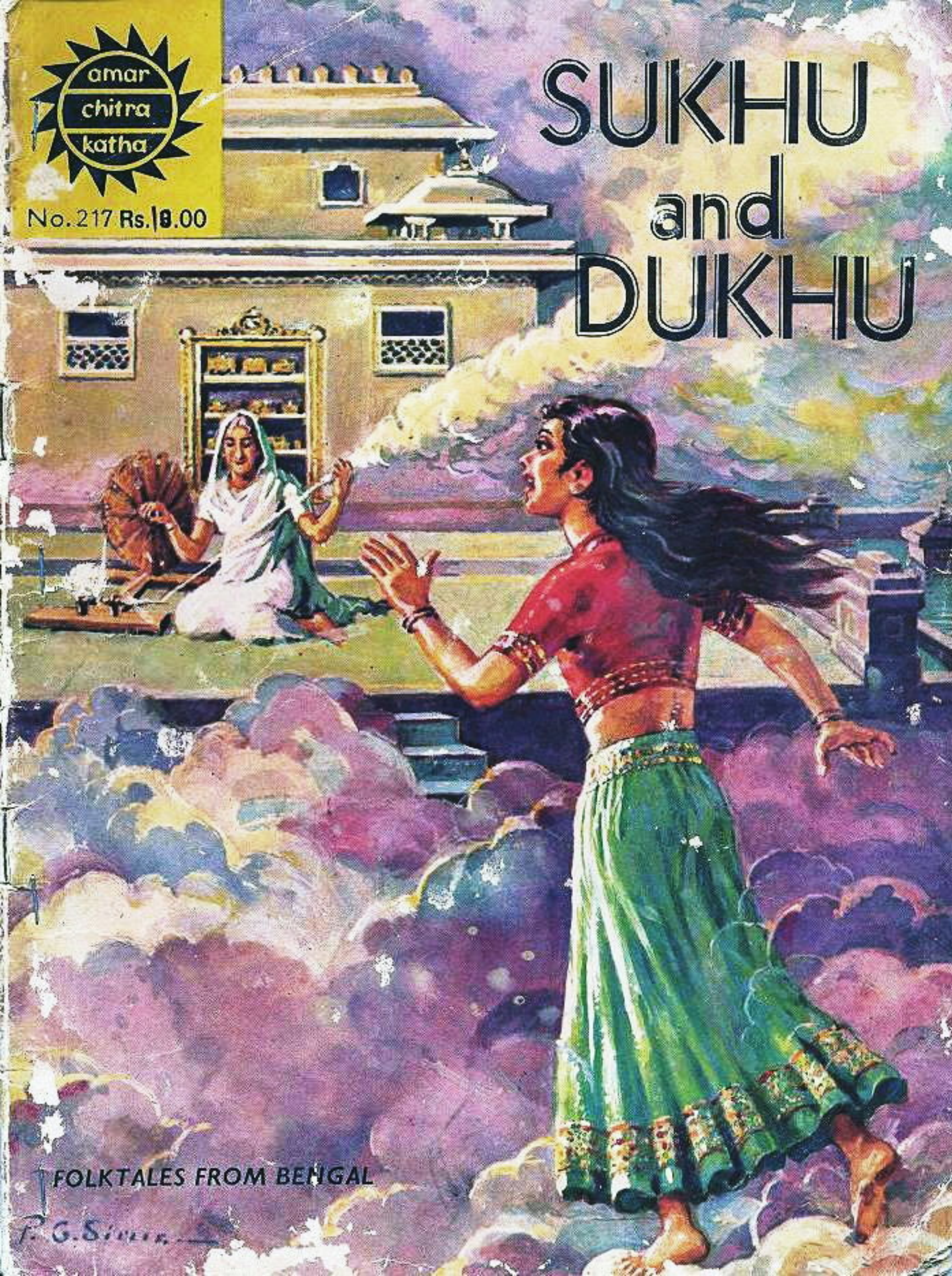




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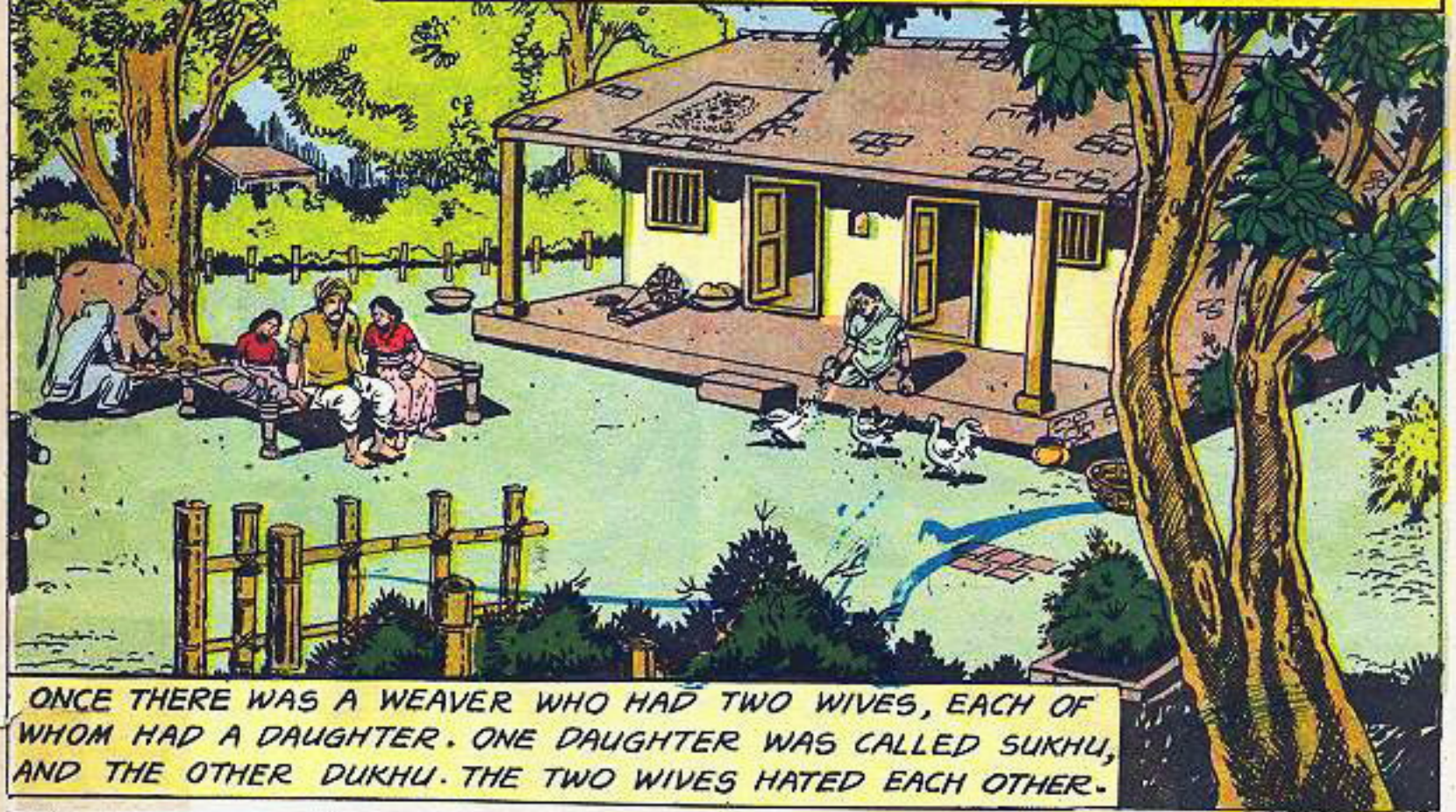
SUKHU and DUKHU



FOLKTALES FROM BENGAL

P. G. SINGH

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

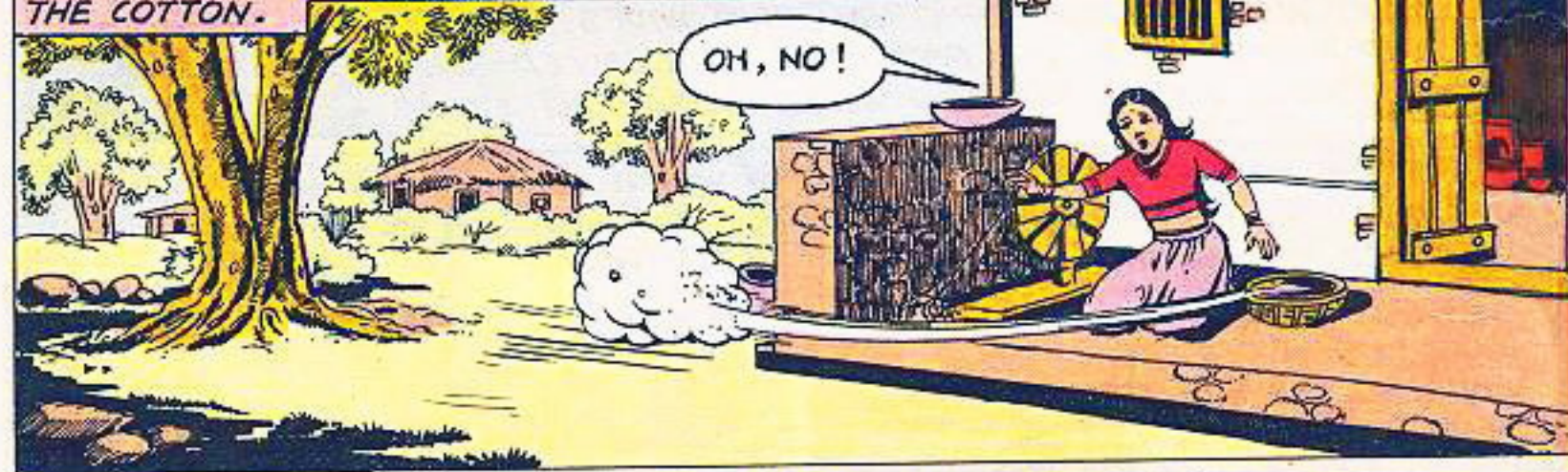


I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WORK SO HARD!

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.

WIND, GIVE ME BACK MY COTTON!

HA! HA! YOU WILL HAVE TO RUN FASTER TO CATCH UP WITH ME!



THE NAUGHTY WIND BLEW THE COTTON FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY.

O WIND, GIVE ME BACK MY COTTON, PLEASE!



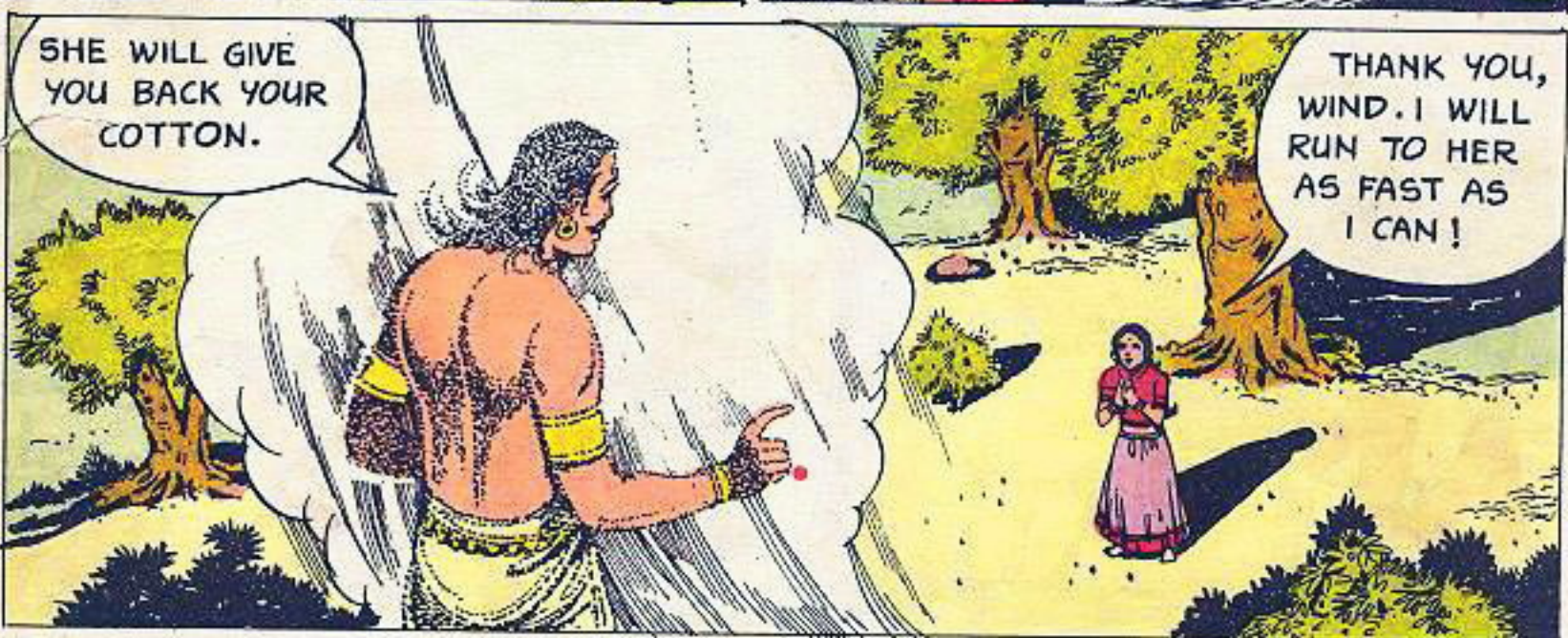
AT LAST THE WIND TOOK PITY ON HER —

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.



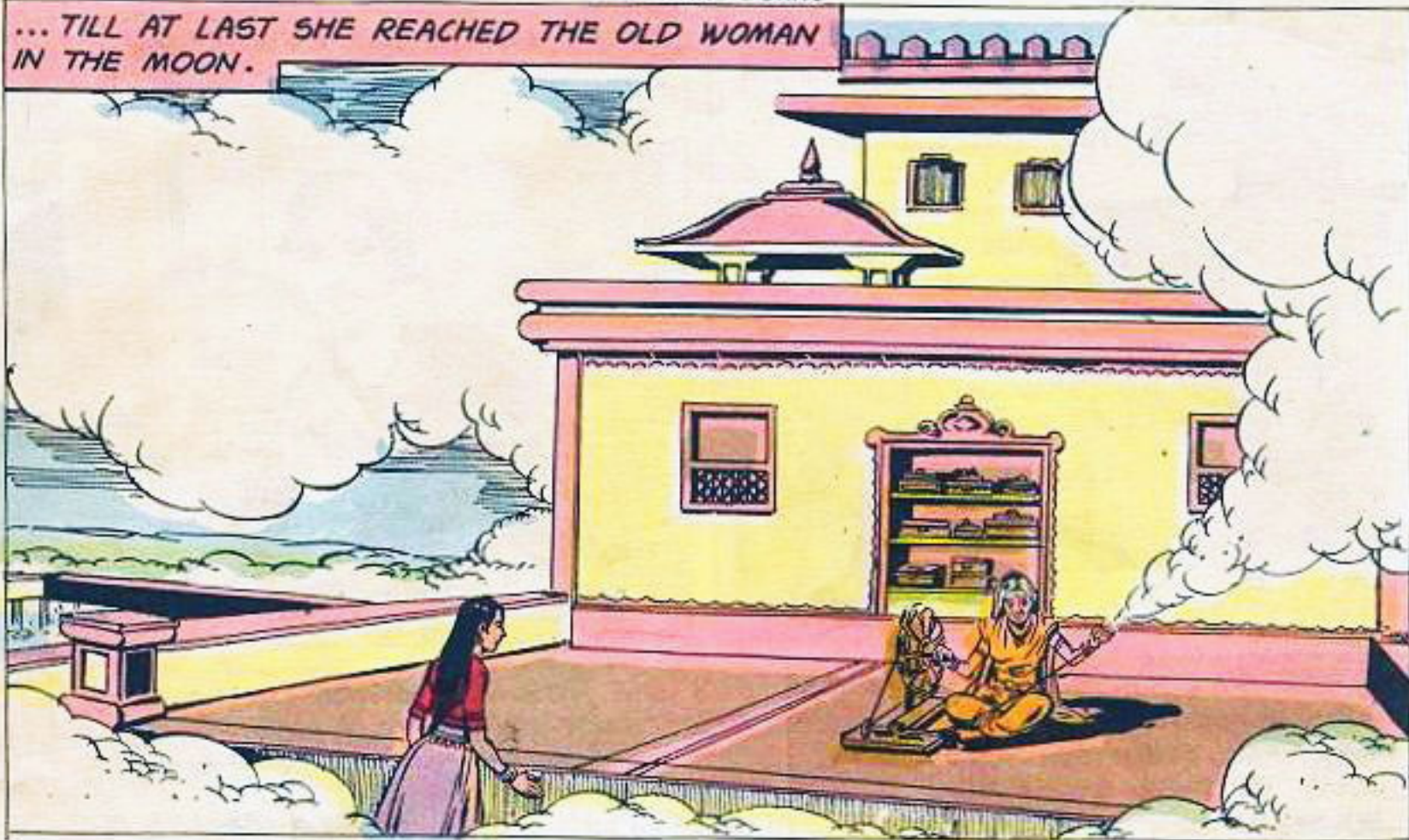
THIS WILL QUENCH YOUR THIRST, DEAR. NOW I MUST HURRY AWAY.



DUKHU RAN FASTER AND FASTER...



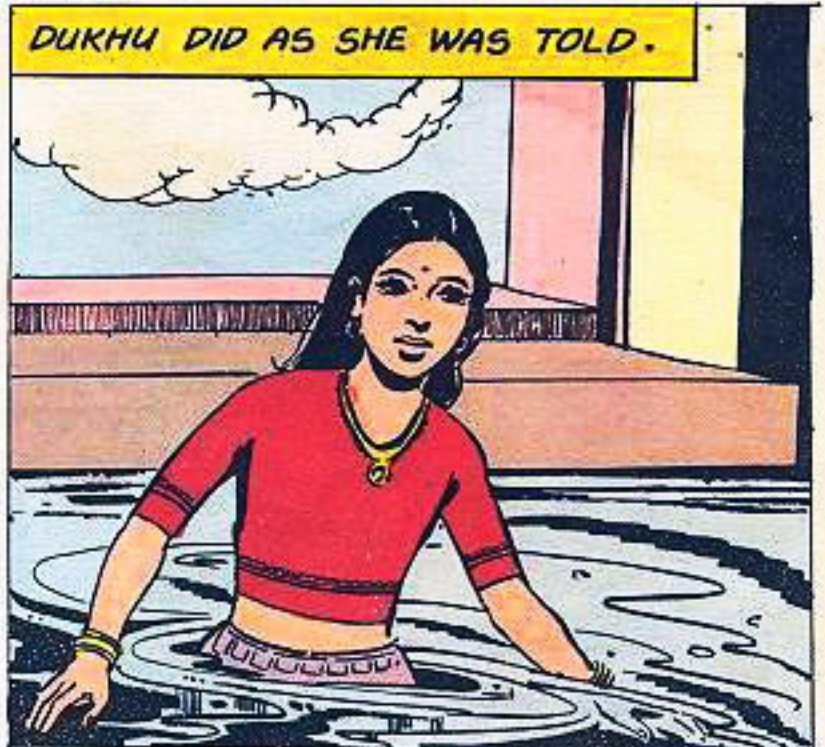
... TILL AT LAST SHE REACHED THE OLD WOMAN
IN THE MOON.



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 —

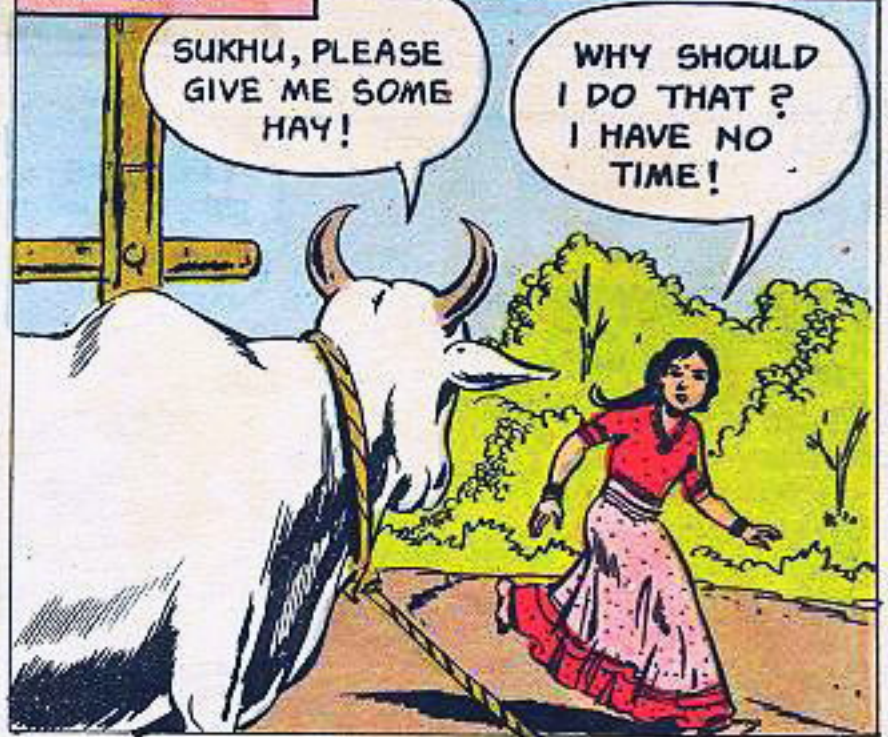
YOU HORRID,
NASTY WIND!
GIVE ME BACK
MY COTTON
AT ONCE!



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.

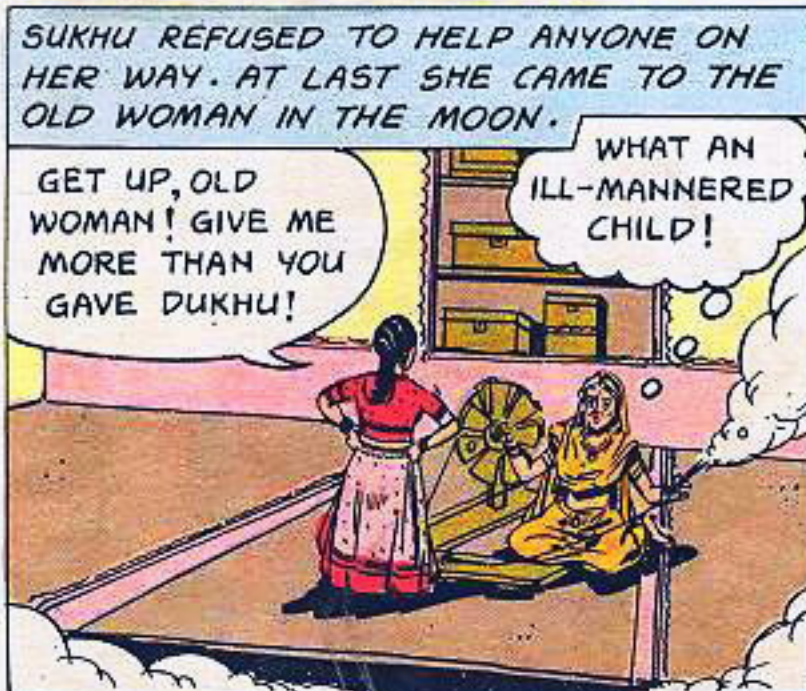
NO!



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.

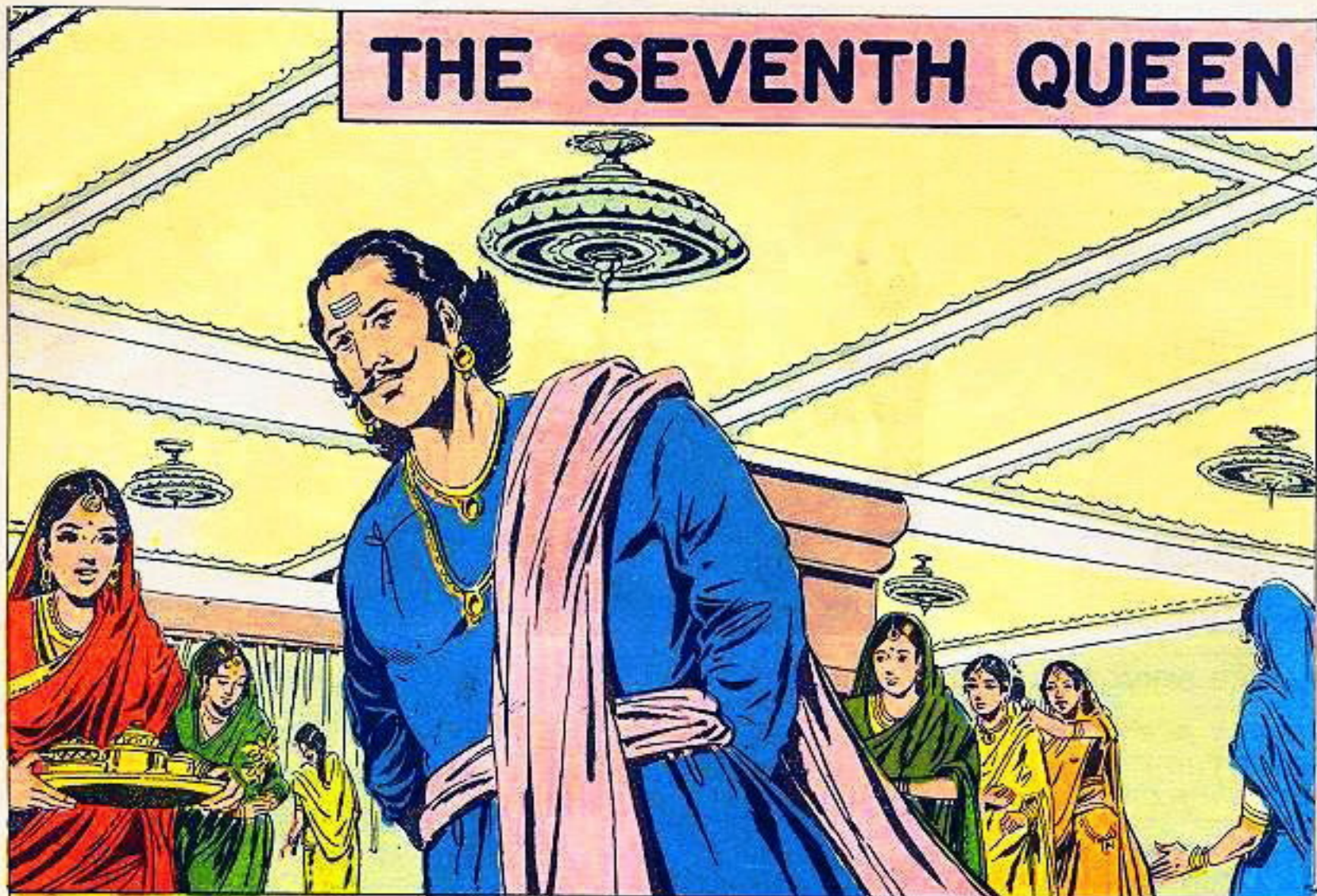
OH! OH! WHAT HAVE I DONE!

I TOLD YOU TO TAKE JUST ONE DIP!

I WANTED TO HAVE MORE THAN DUKHU!

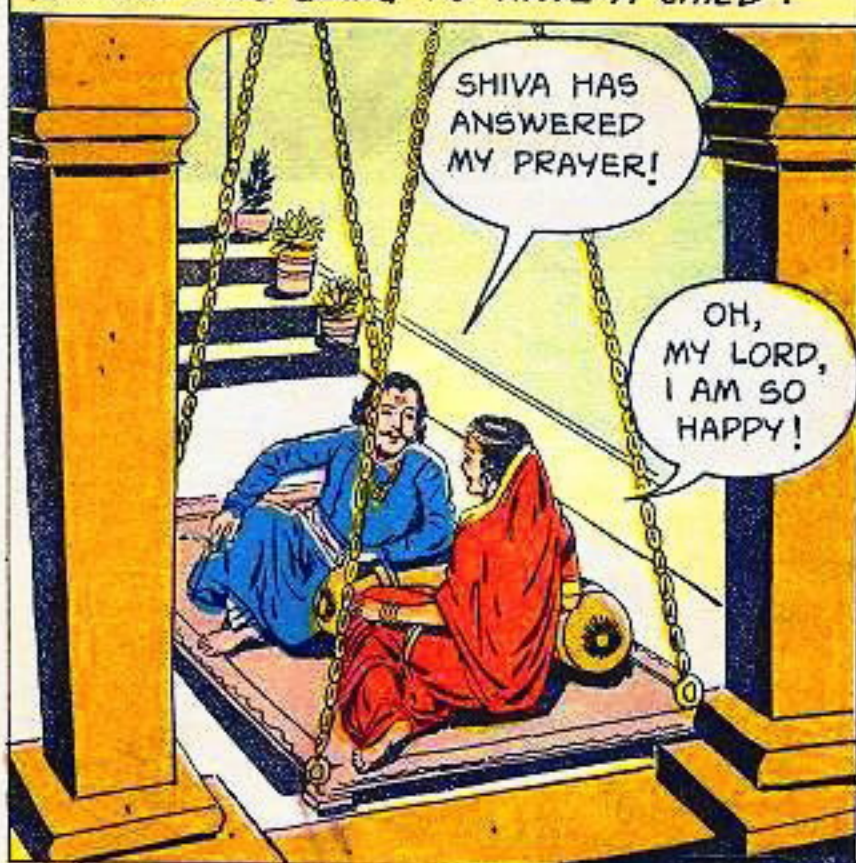
GREED AND JEALOUSY BRING THEIR OWN PUNISHMENT.

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.

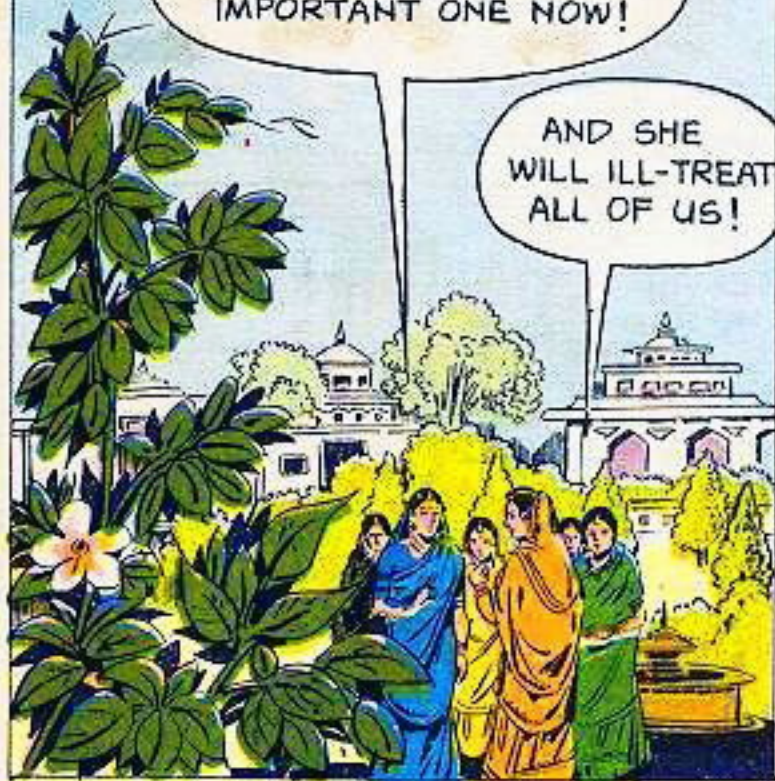
YEARS PASSED AND ONE DAY HE WAS PLEASED TO BE TOLD THAT HIS SEVENTH QUEEN WAS GOING TO HAVE A CHILD.



BUT THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WERE DISMAYED AT THE NEWS —

THE SEVENTH QUEEN IS GOING TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE NOW!

AND SHE WILL ILL-TREAT ALL OF US!



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 —



AFTER SOME TIME —

WHERE IS MY CHILD? IS IT A BOY OR A GIRL?

CHILD? THERE IS NO CHILD! YOU GAVE BIRTH TO THOSE CRABS!



THE SEVENTH QUEEN FAINTED FROM THE SHOCK.

IT SERVES HER RIGHT!

OUR CLEVER PLAN HAS WORKED! HA! HA! HA!



WHEN THE KING HEARD OF IT —

SHE MUST BE A WITCH! I WILL SEND HER AWAY!

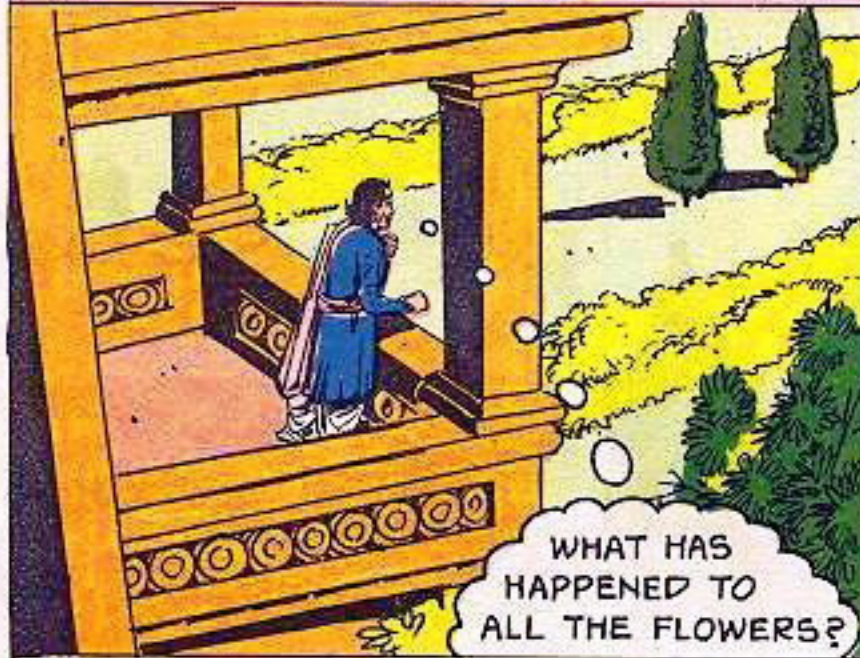
WHAT AN UNHAPPY SITUATION.



THE SEVENTH QUEEN WAS BANISHED FROM THE KINGDOM —



SOON AFTER HER DEPARTURE A STRANGE THING OCCURRED —



THE ROYAL PRIEST CAME TO THE KING.

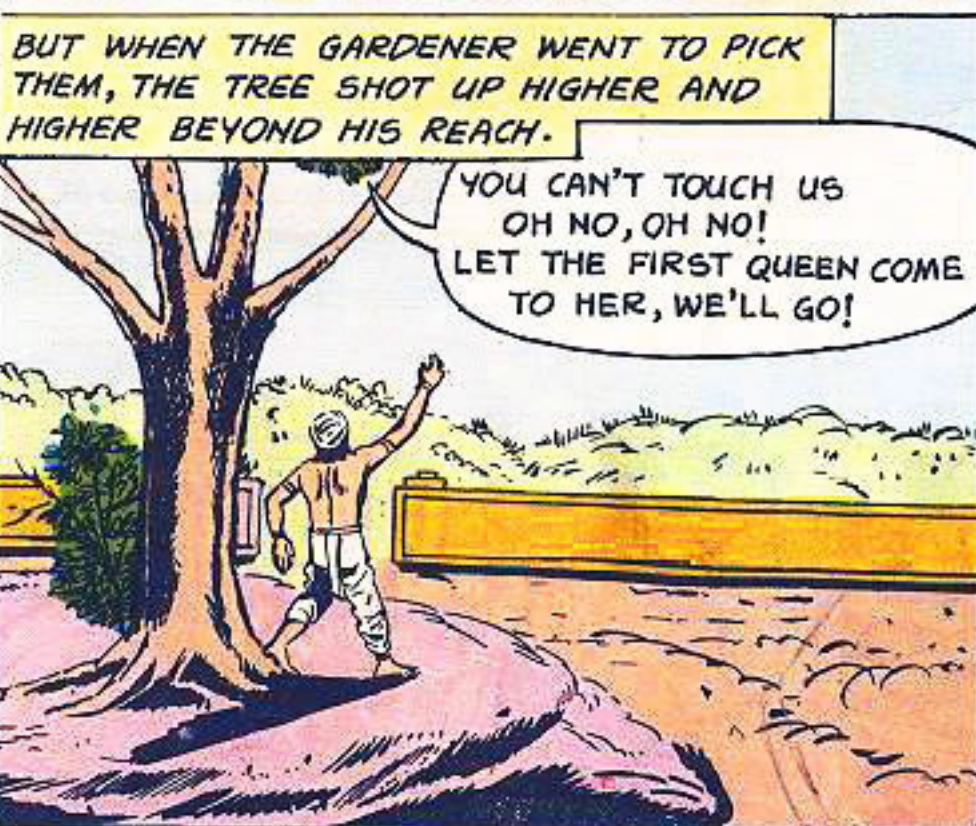
YOUR MAJESTY, HOW CAN I WORSHIP THE LORD WITHOUT A SINGLE FLOWER?

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

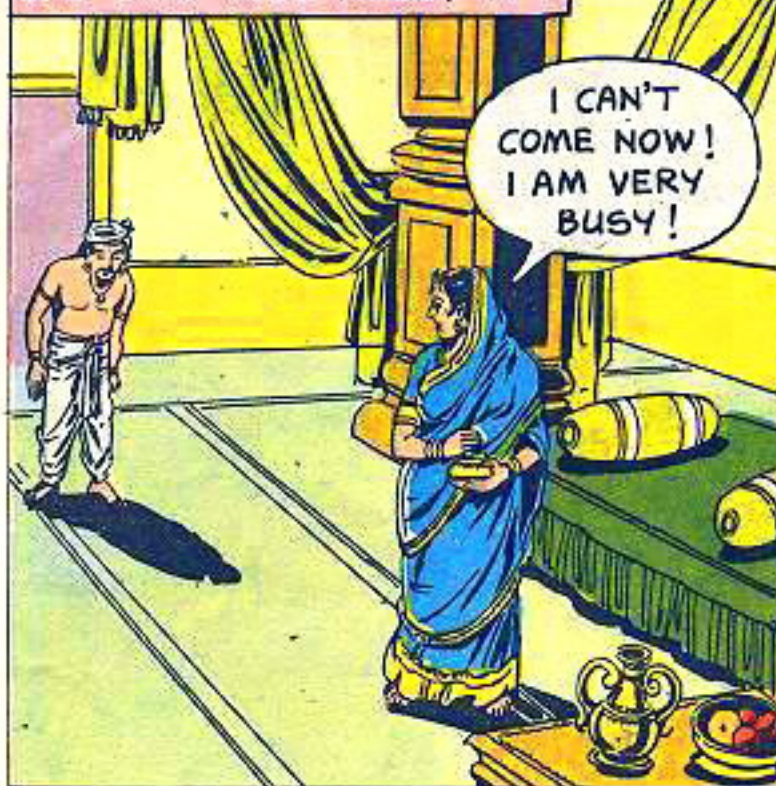


THEY JUST WITHERED AWAY!



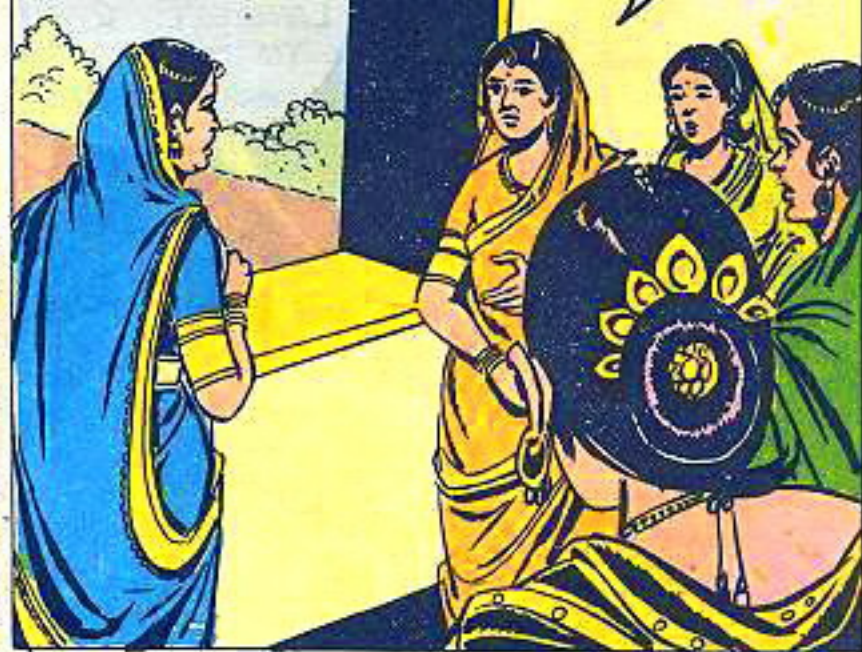


THE FIRST QUEEN WAS WORRIED WHEN SHE WAS TOLD ABOUT IT.



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.



MOTHER!

MOTHER!

CAN IT REALLY BE TRUE? ARE YOU REALLY MY CHILDREN?



YES, MOTHER, WE ARE ALL YOURS!

OH, HEAVENS!

WE'RE IN FOR IT NOW!



WHAT SHALL WE DO?

LET US RUN AWAY AND HIDE!



BUT THE KING TURNED STERNLY UPON THEM —

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WHY ARE YOU SNEAKING AWAY SO GUILTILY?

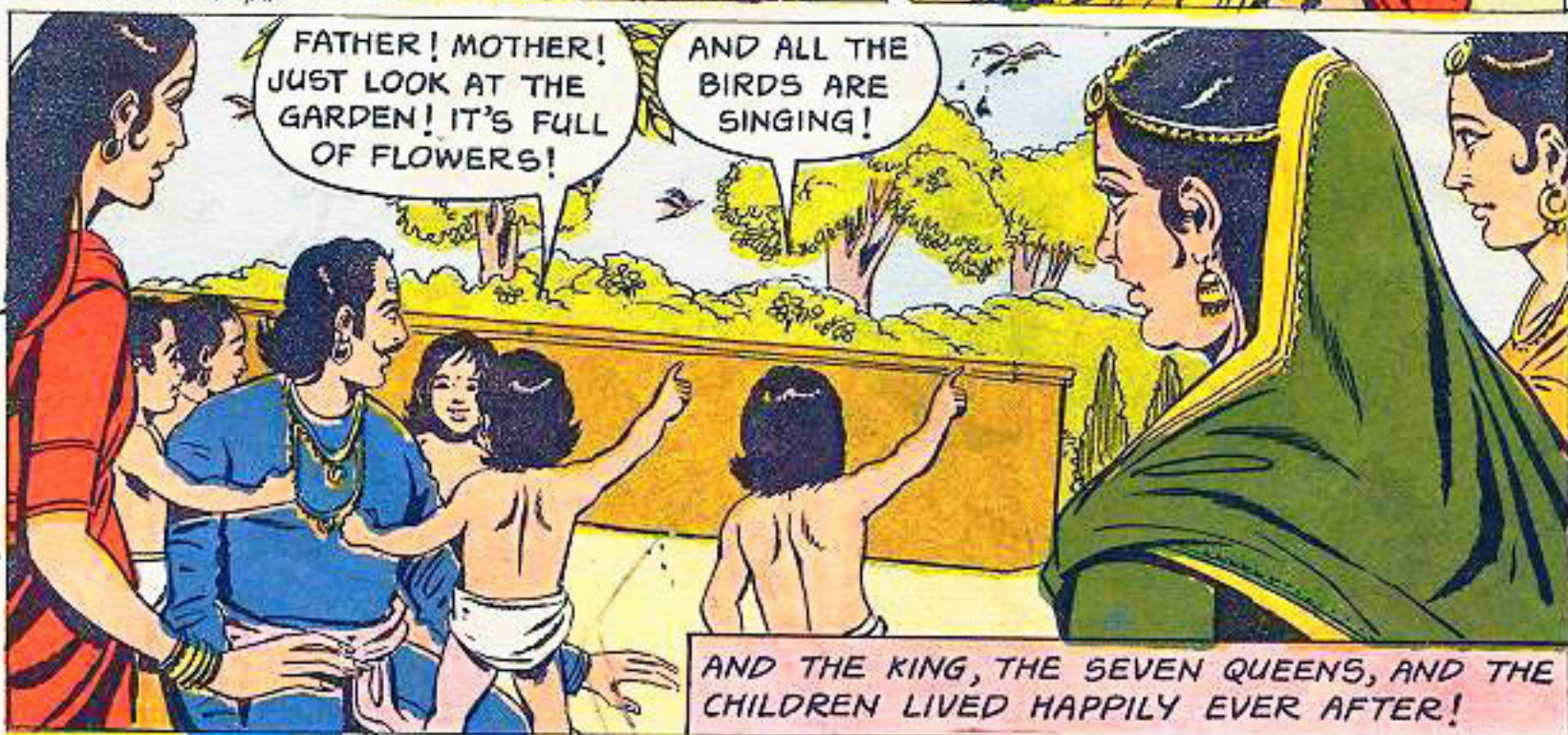
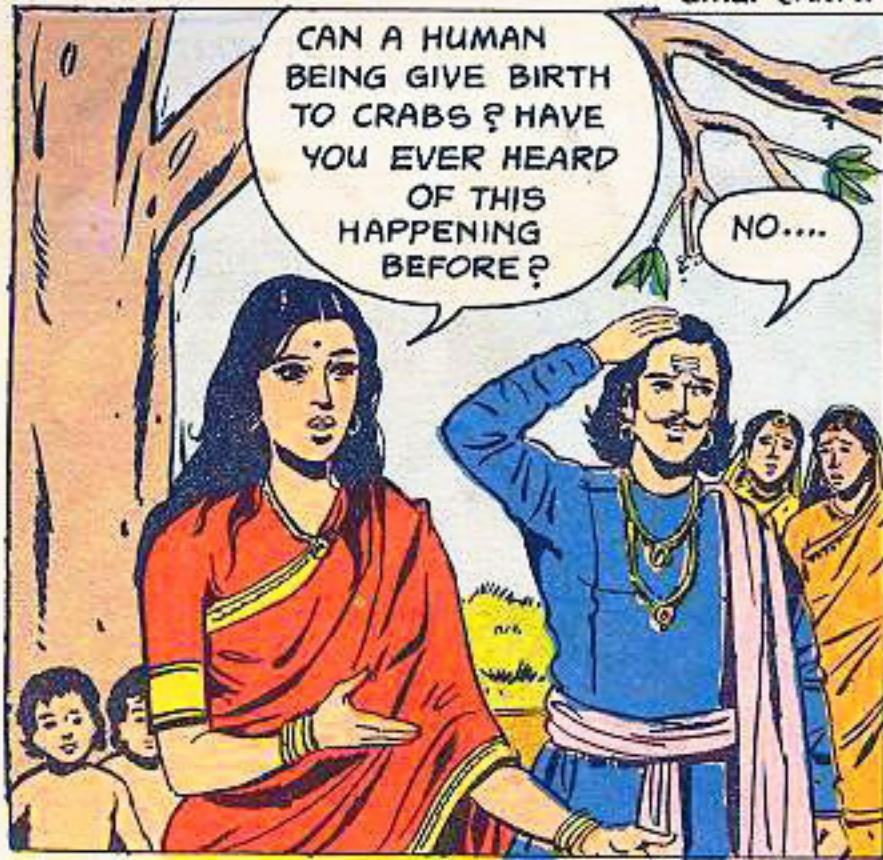


THEY WERE SILENT. IT WAS THE CHAMPAK TREE THAT SPOKE —

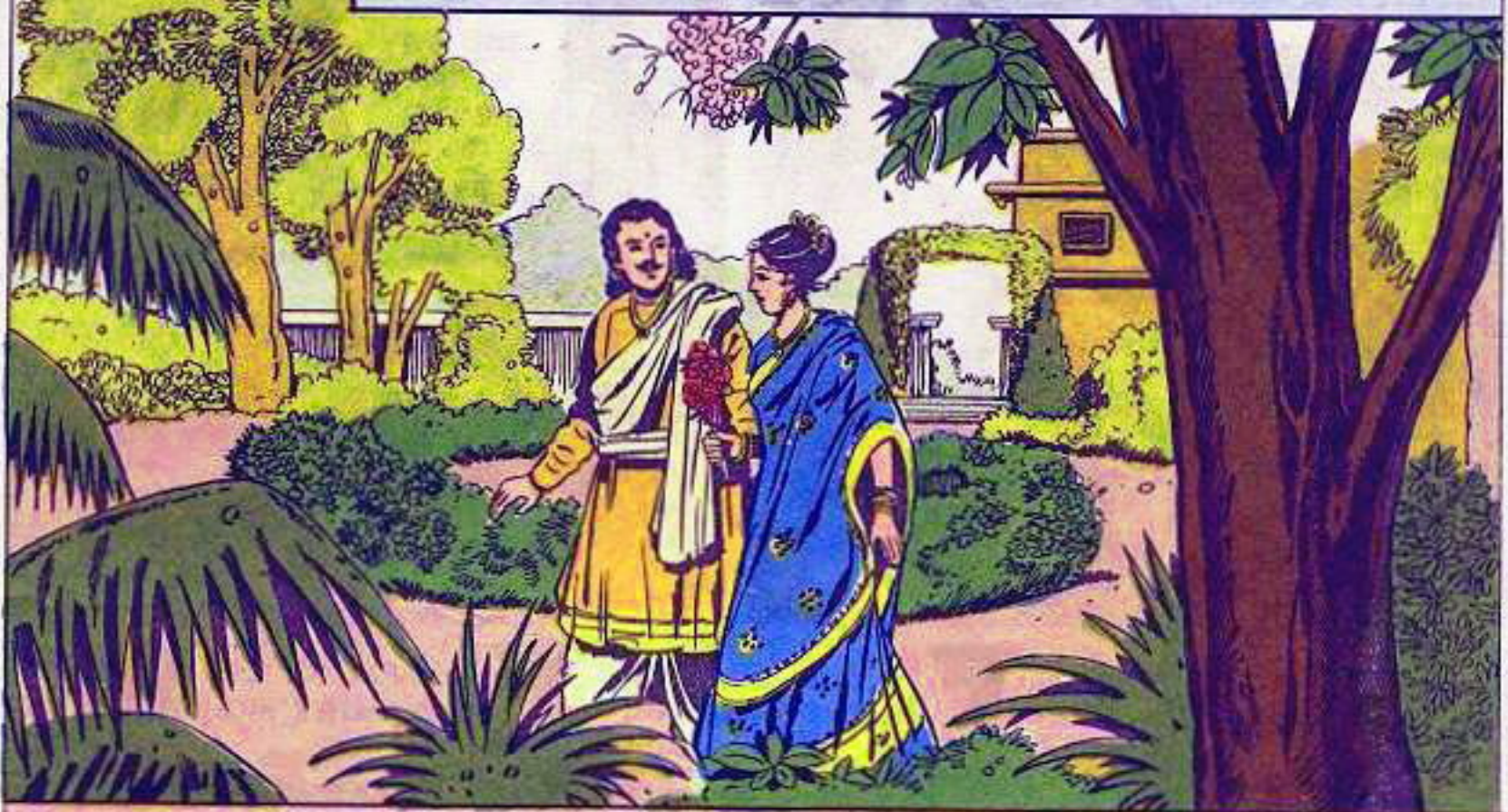
THEY TOOK AWAY THE EIGHT CHILDREN BORN TO THE SEVENTH QUEEN AND BURIED THEM IN THE ASH-HEAP HERE!



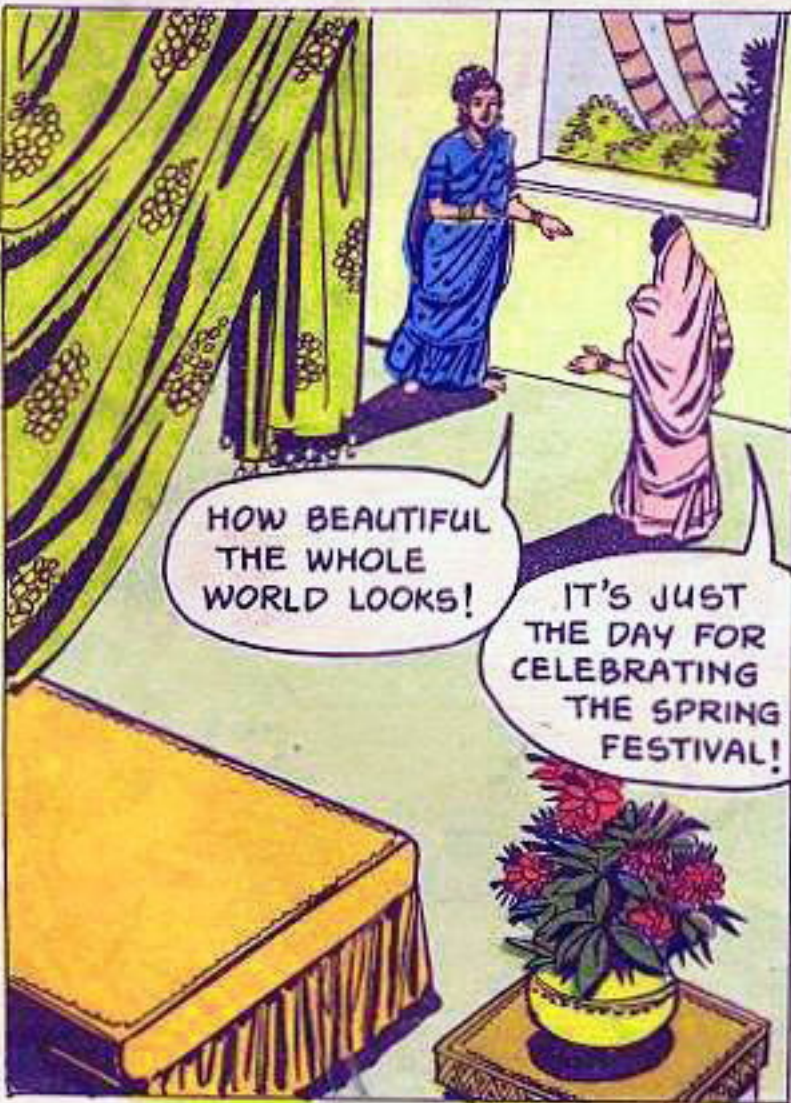




THE VALUE OF TEARS



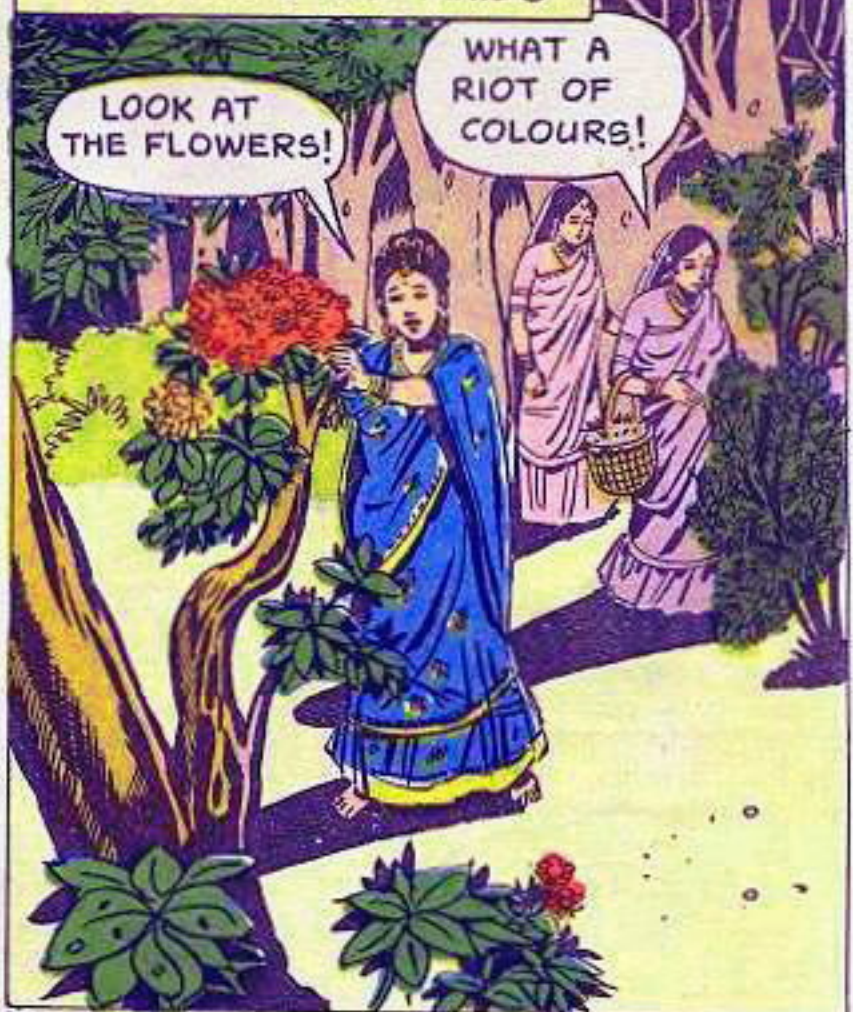
IT WAS THE MONTH OF SPRING. FLOWERS WERE BLOOMING EVERYWHERE AND THE BIRDS WERE SINGING. THERE WAS HAPPINESS IN EVERY HEART.



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!

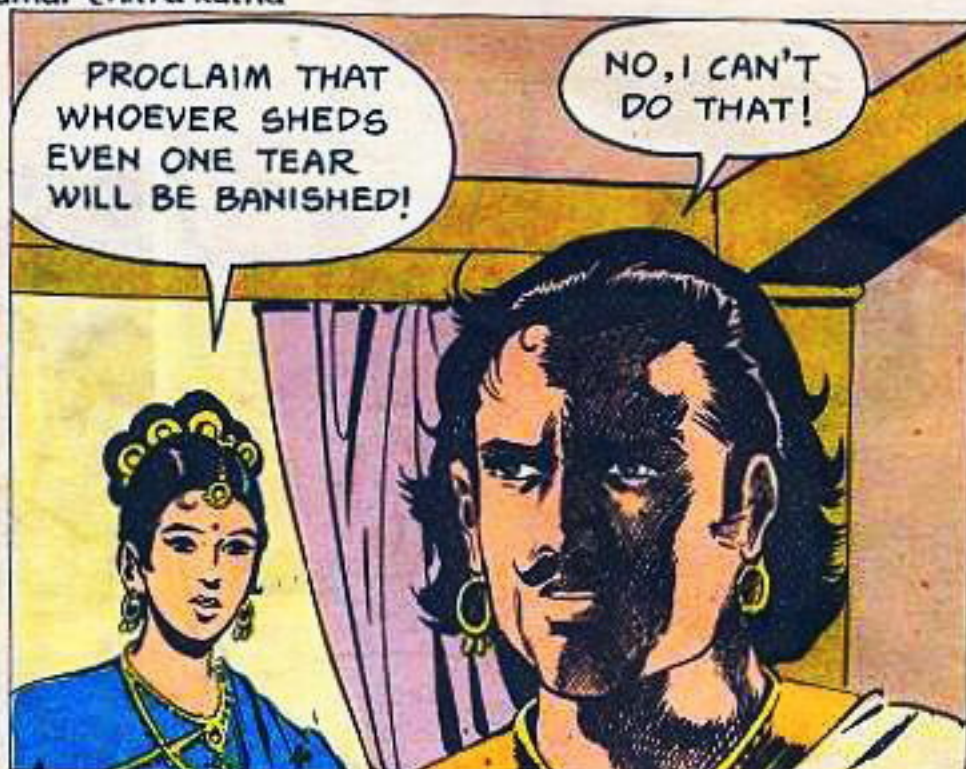
THE KING HAS HIS DUTIES TO PERFORM!

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?

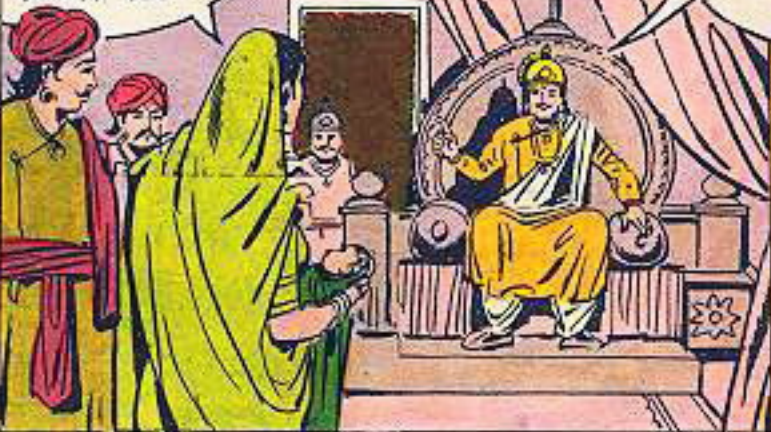




EVERY DAY THOSE WHO VIOLATED THE ROYAL ORDER WERE BROUGHT TO THE KING.

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

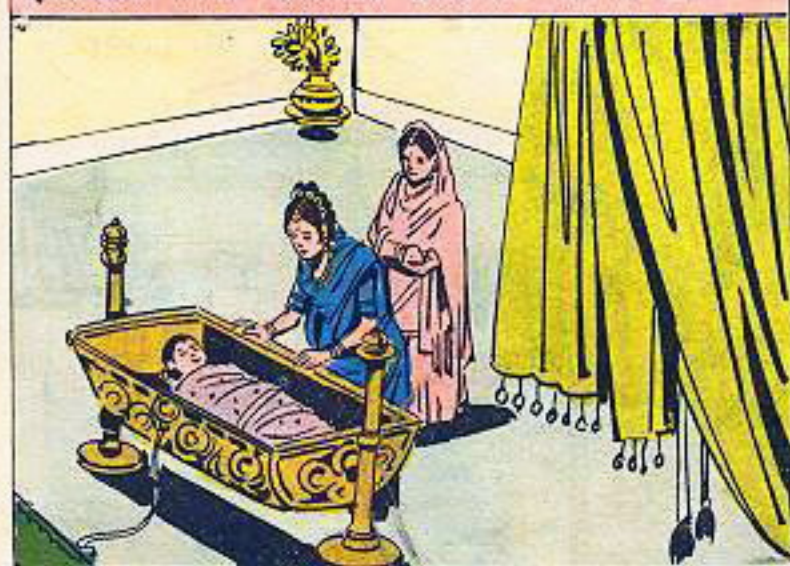
I AM SORRY, MY DEAR. BUT YOU MUST BE BANISHED!



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



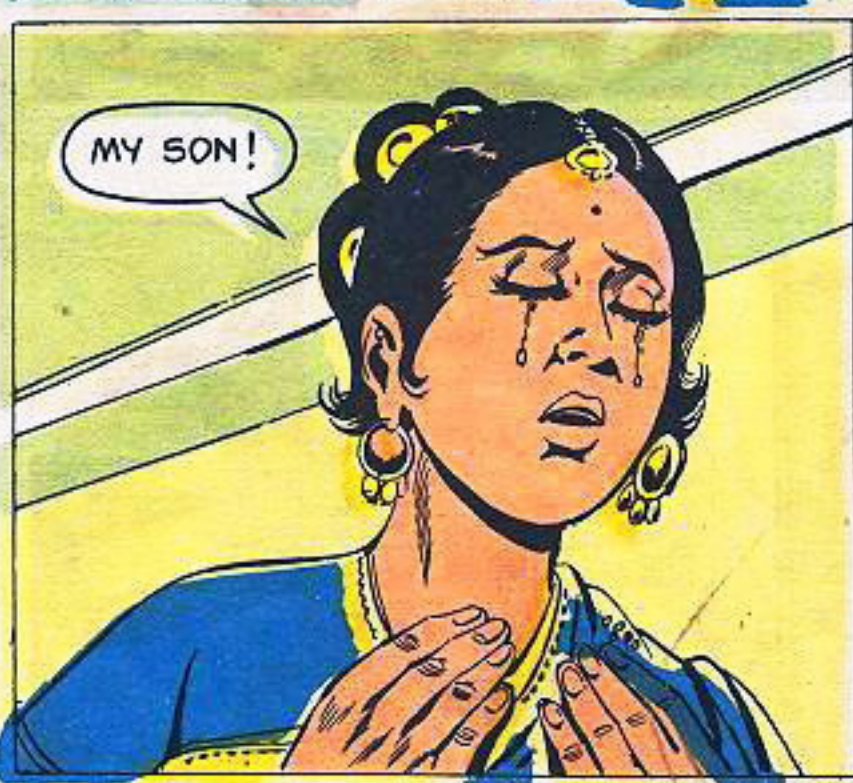
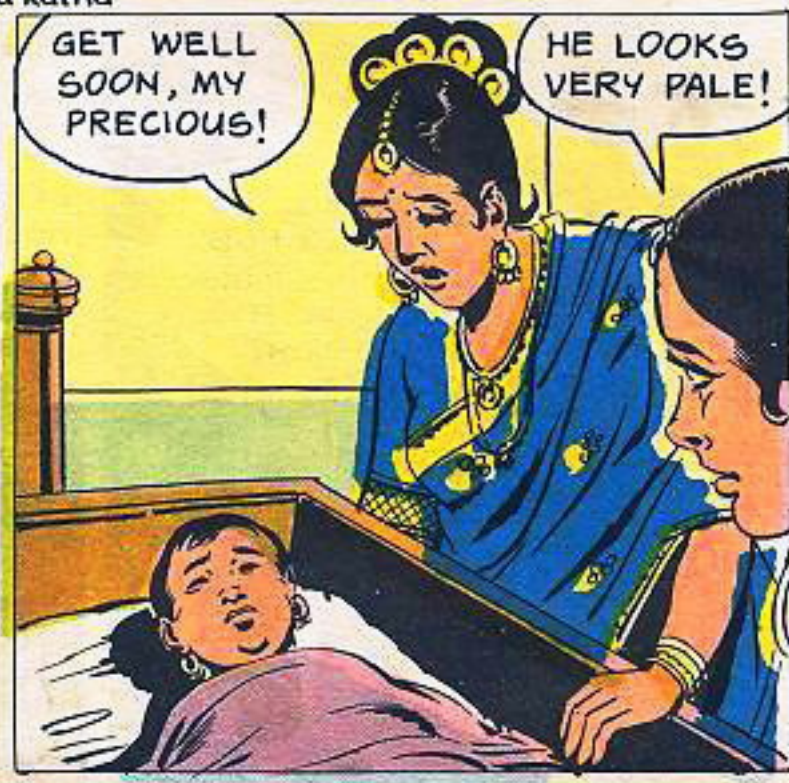
A YEAR PASSED. MEANWHILE THE QUEEN HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO A SON.

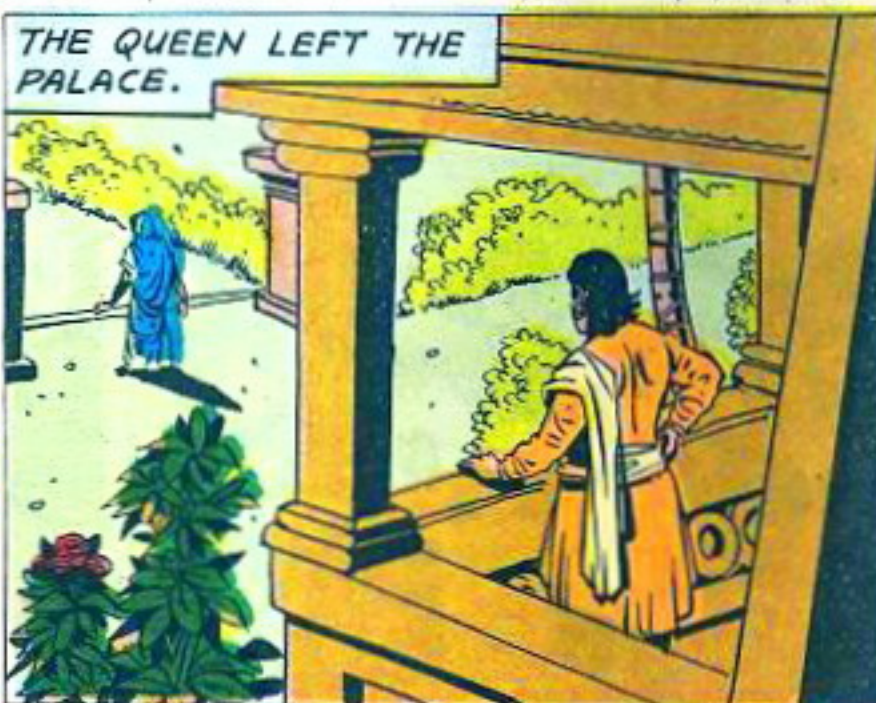


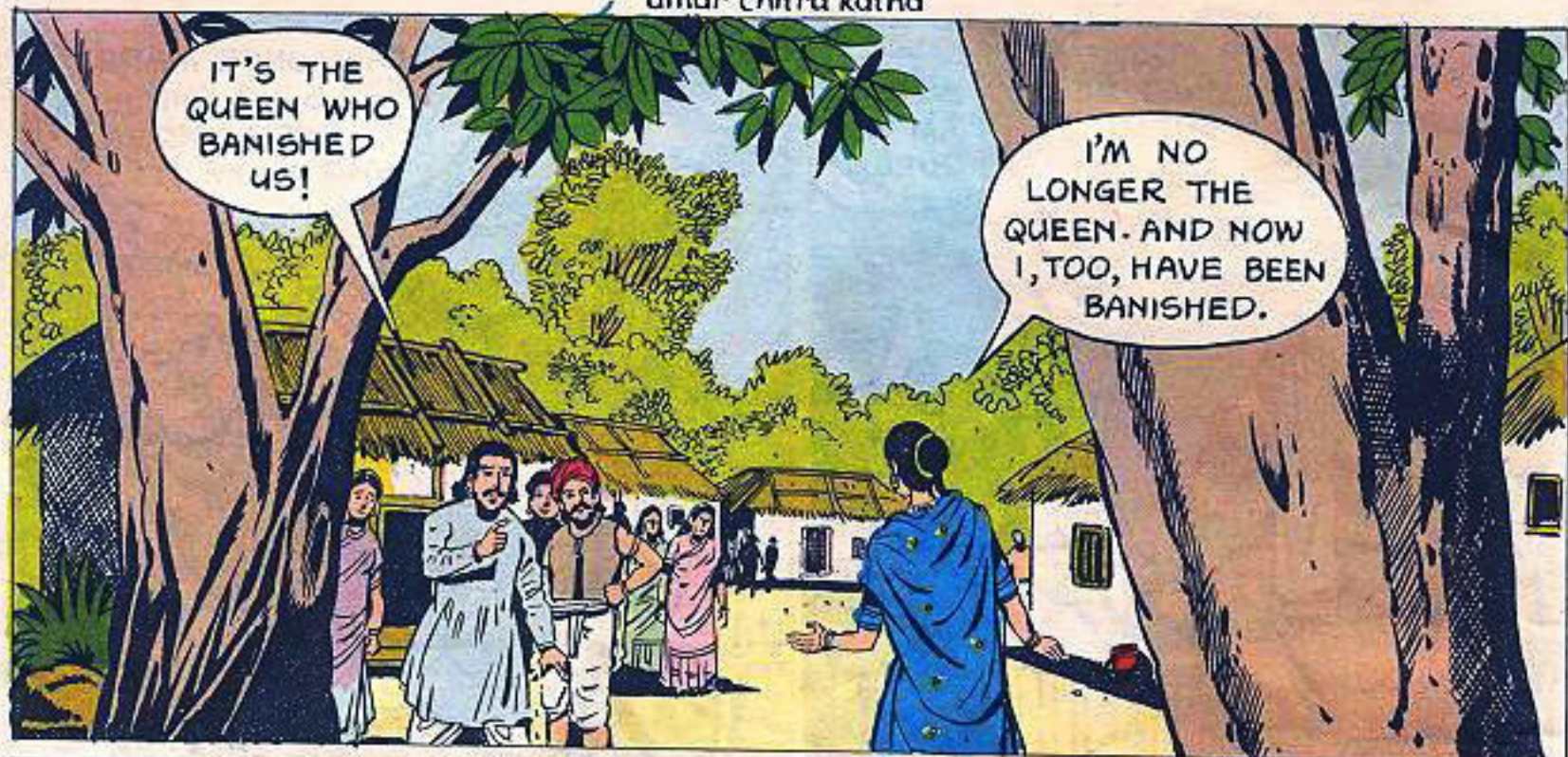
THEN IT WAS SPRING ONCE AGAIN. THE WOODS WERE ABLAZE WITH COLOUR, BUT —

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.



MY QUEEN! YOU ARE HAPPY THEN?

I AM. I'VE FOUND MY CHILD IN ALL THESE CHILDREN...

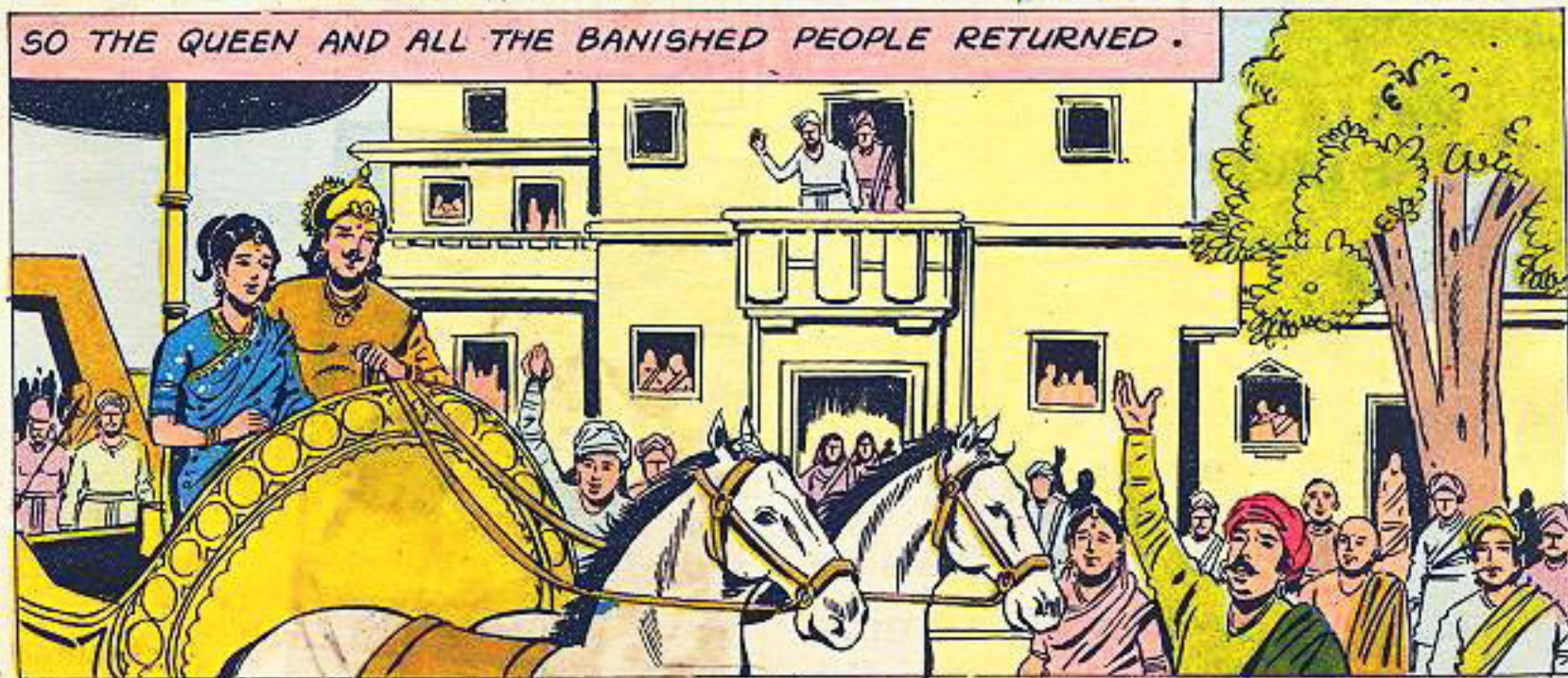


... AND I HAVE REALISED THE VALUE OF TEARS.

YOU HAVE? THEN COME BACK TO OUR KINGDOM!



SO THE QUEEN AND ALL THE BANISHED PEOPLE RETURNED.



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