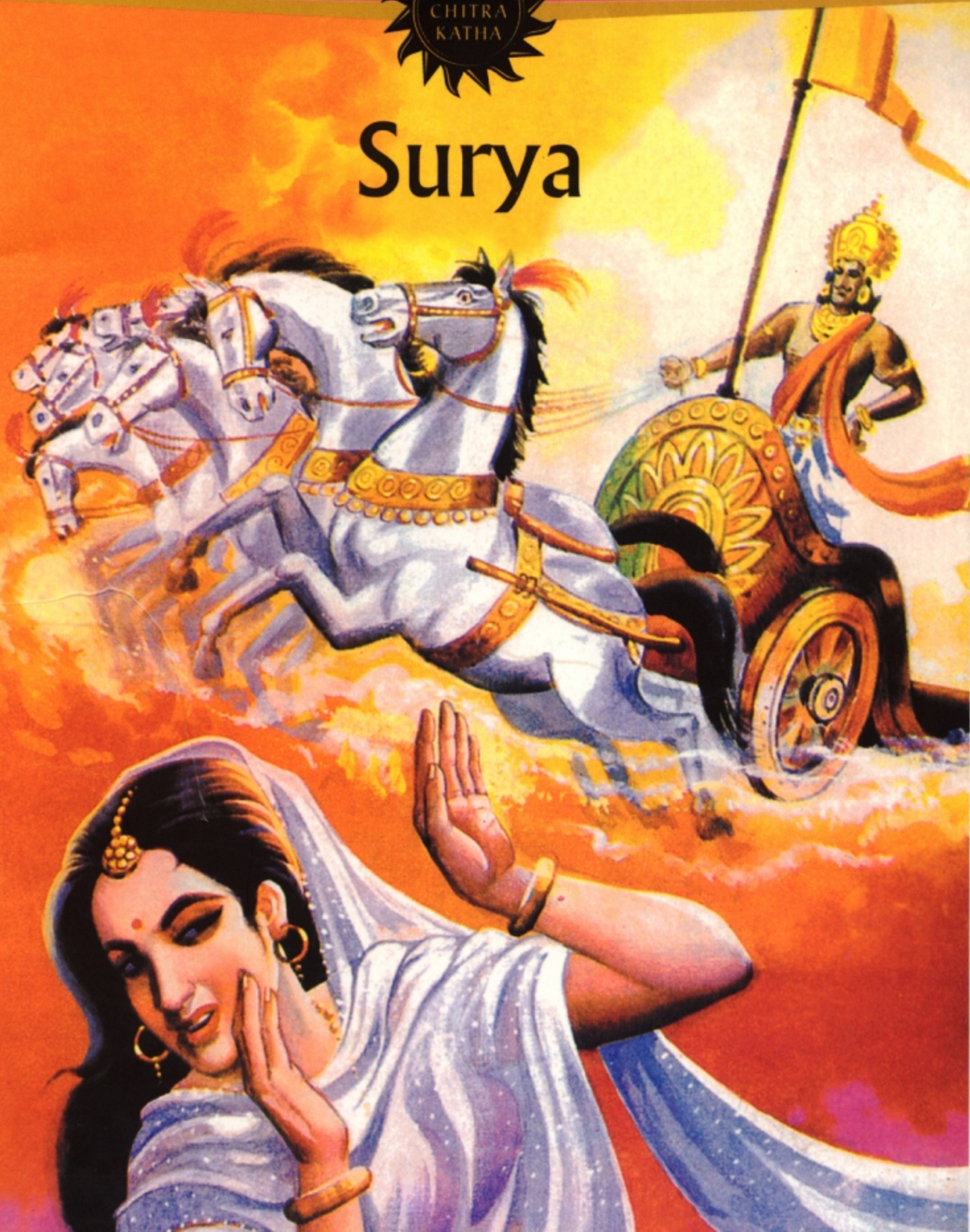




Surya





Illustrated Classics From India

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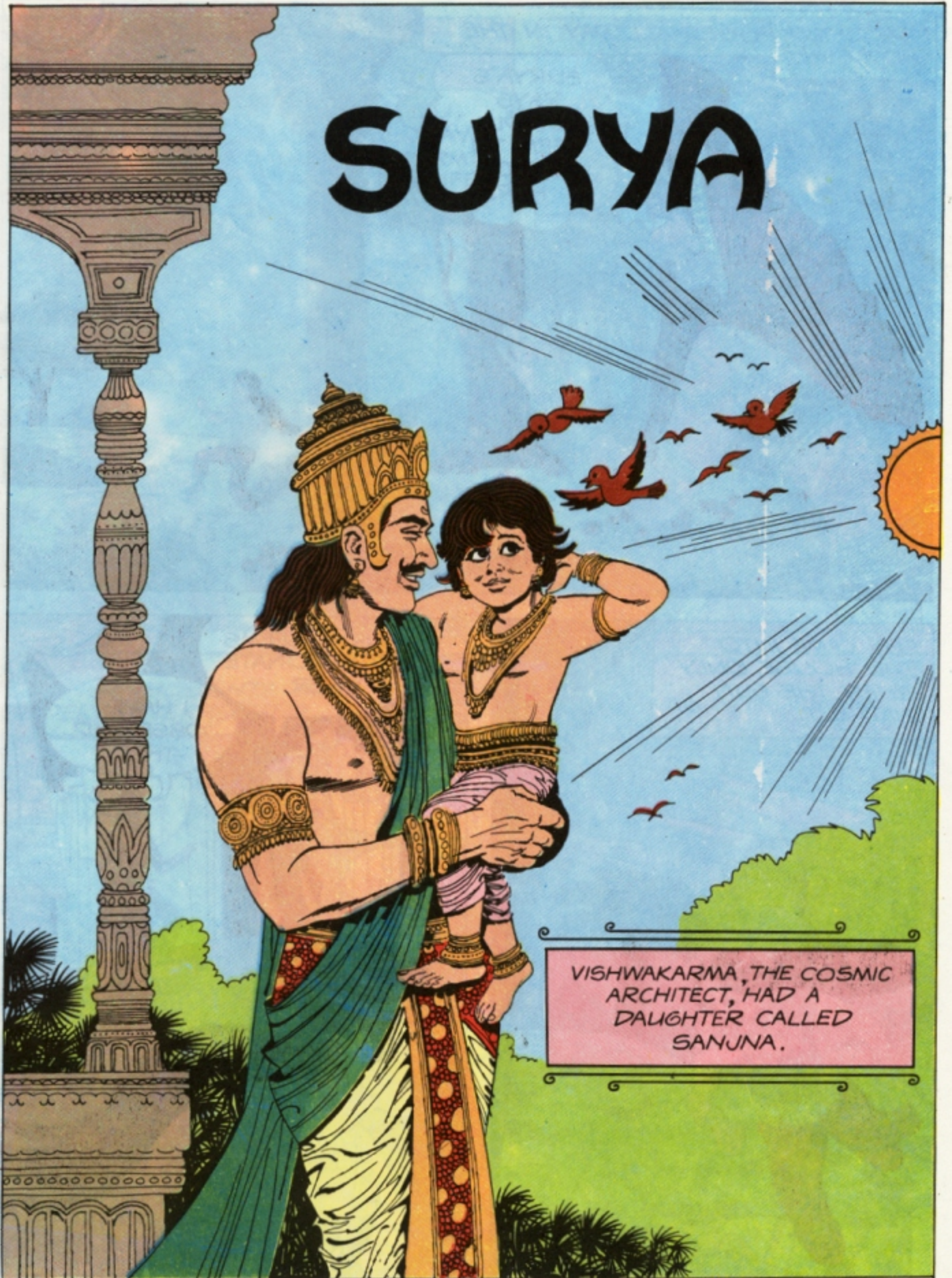
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INDIA BOOK HOUSE

SURYA



VISHWAKARMA, THE COSMIC
ARCHITECT, HAD A
DAUGHTER CALLED
SANJNA.

THE CHILD PLAYED ALL DAY IN THE HOT SUN.

SURYA'S RAYS HARDLY SEEM TO AFFECT HER.



SHE CAME INTO THE HOUSE ONLY WHEN THE SUN HAD SET.



SURYA SEEMS TO FASCINATE HER.

I HAVE OBSERVED THAT.



AS SANJNA GREW UP, HER LOVE FOR THE SPLENDOUR OF THE SUN INCREASED.

I ENVY YOU.
YOU WILL HAVE
SURYA'S WARMTH
ALL YOUR LIFE.



AS FOR ME,
I SHALL
HAVE TO GET
MARRIED
SOON AND...



BUT HER THOUGHTS WERE
RUDELY INTERRUPTED.

AREN'T YOU
COMING TO
THE SWING?

WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING
SO DEEPLY
ABOUT?

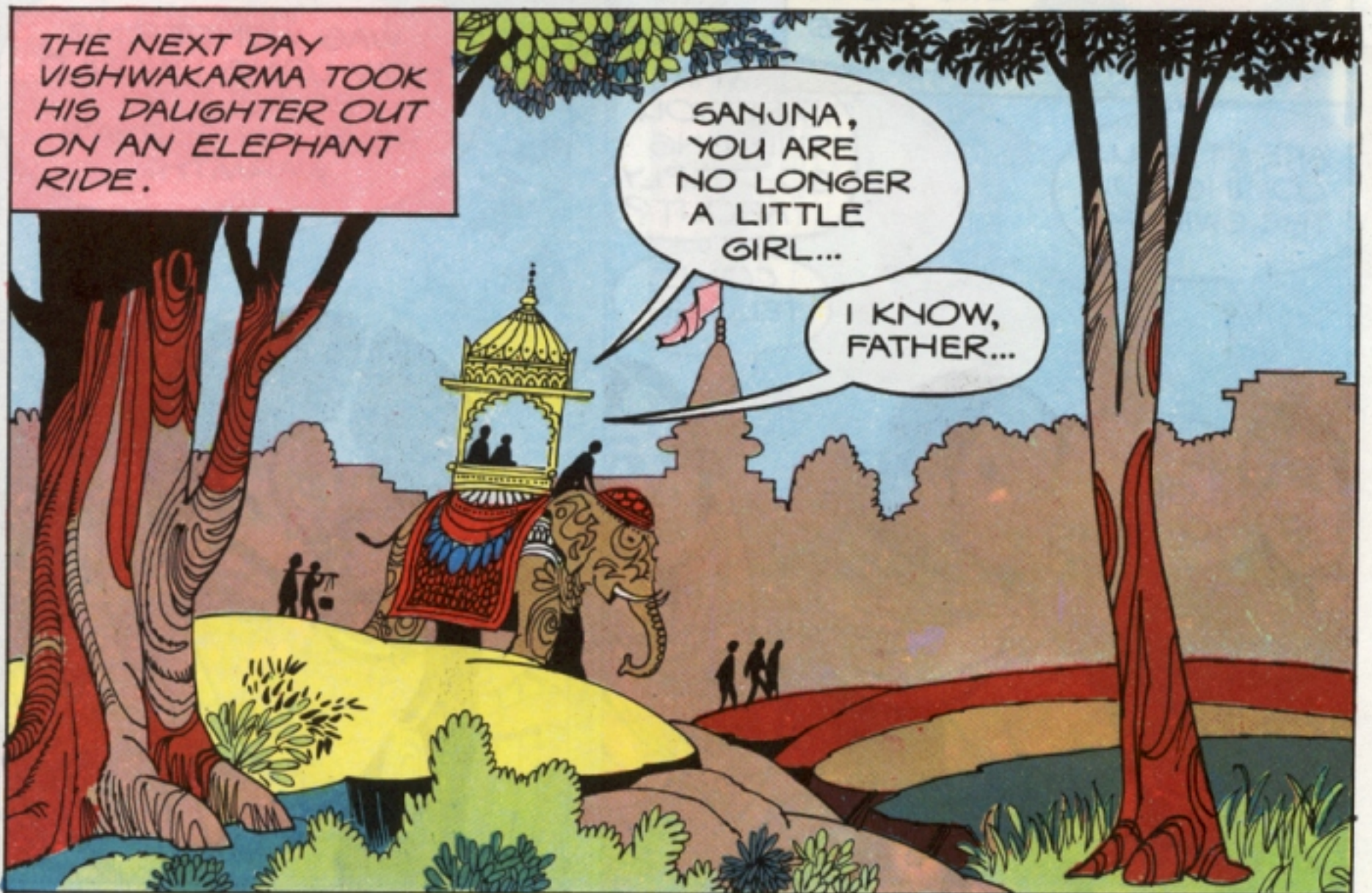
COME
TELL US.

UH! UH!
OH!
NOTHING!



I WAS WONDERING
HOW LONG I WOULD
BE ABLE TO
REVEL IN SURYA'S
WARMTH.







VISHWAKARMA DREW
SANJNA ASIDE.

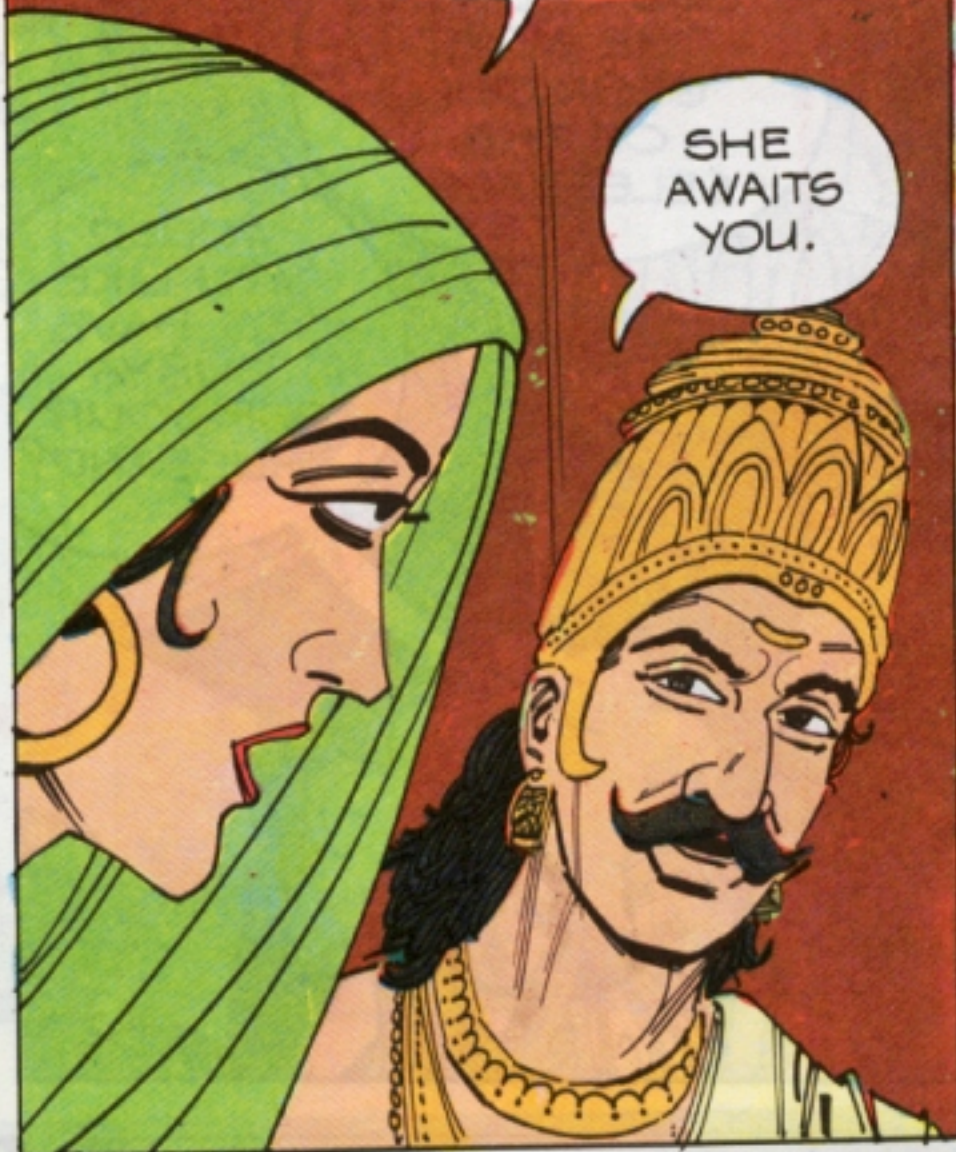
THINK WELL.
ARE YOU SURE
YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO BEAR
HIS BRILLIANCE
IN ALL SEASONS?

I AM
SURE,
FATHER.



WHERE IS MOTHER?

SHE
AWAITS
YOU.



I SEEK
YOUR
BLESSINGS,
MOTHER.

MAY
YOU EVER
BE HAPPY.

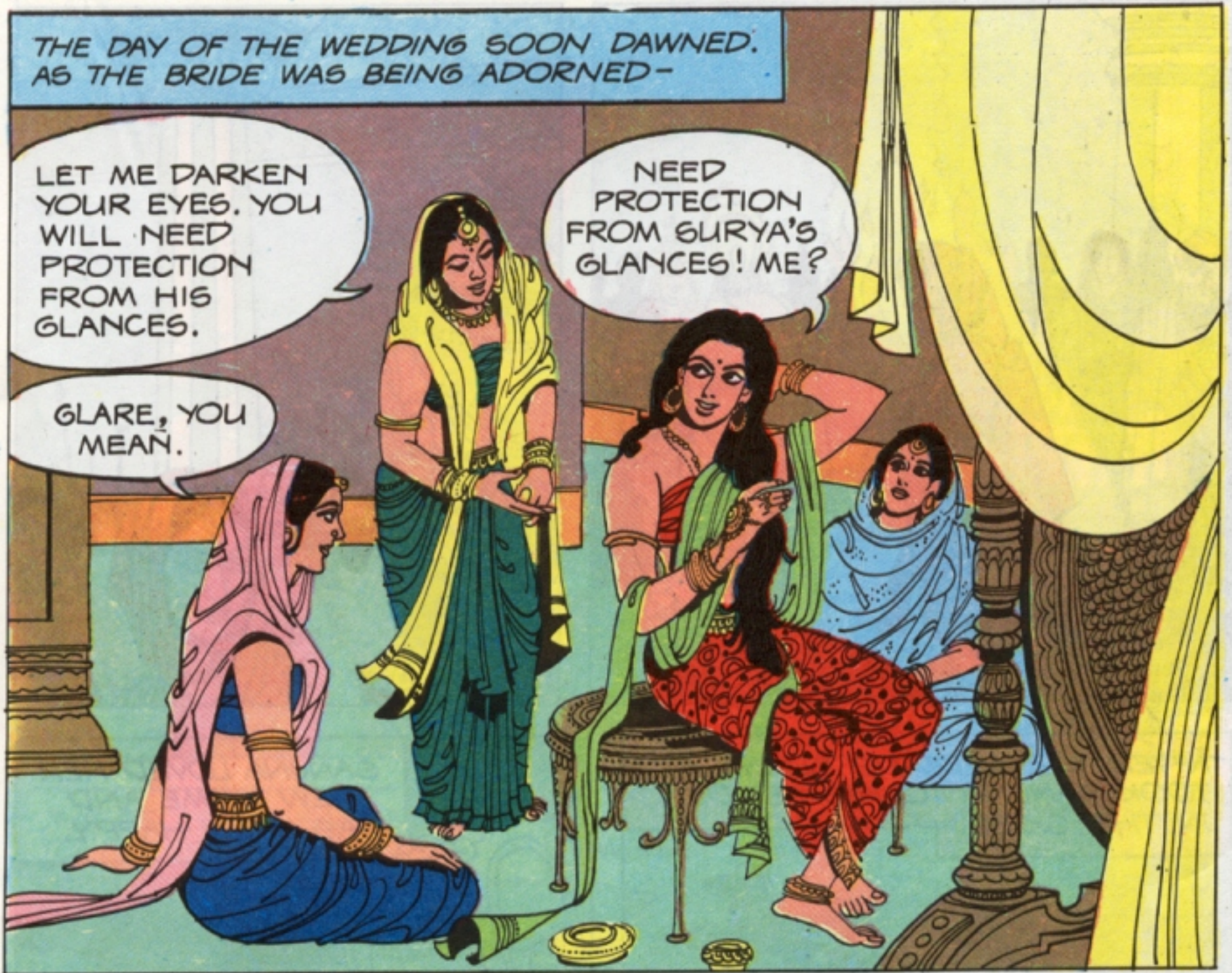


THE DAY OF THE WEDDING SOON DAWNED.
AS THE BRIDE WAS BEING ADORNED—

LET ME DARKEN
YOUR EYES. YOU
WILL NEED
PROTECTION
FROM HIS
GLANCES.

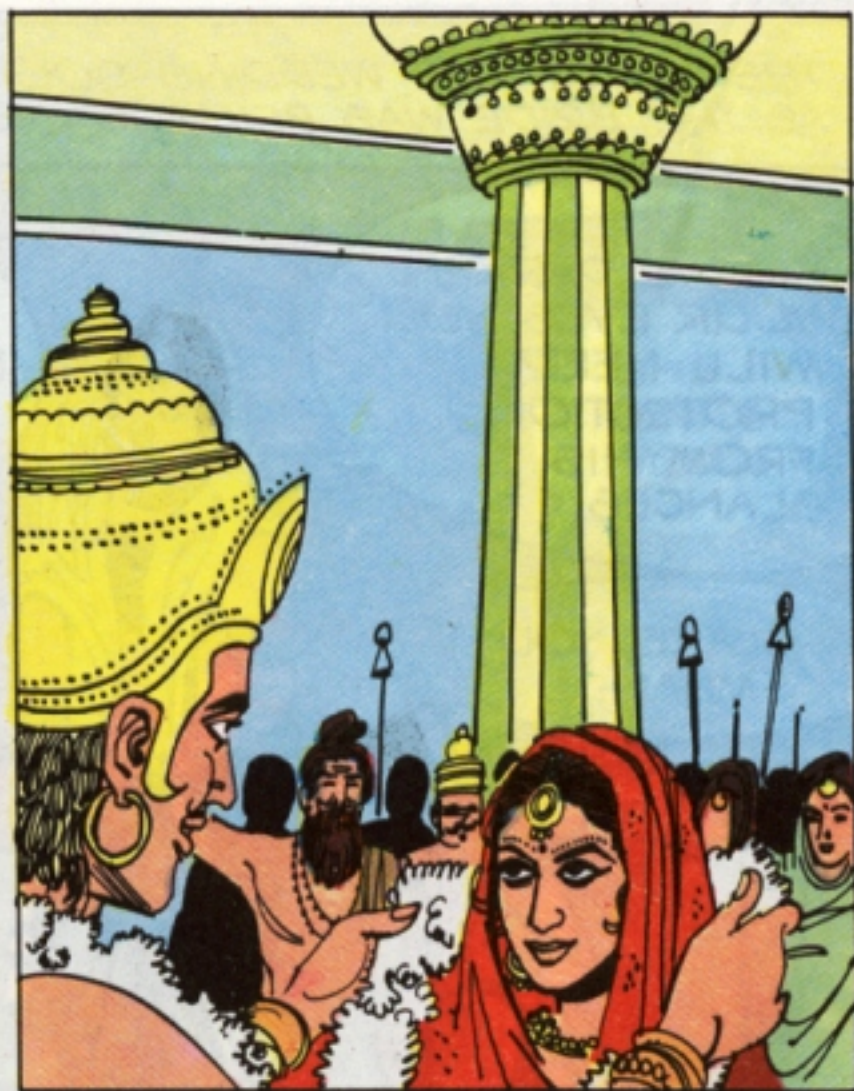
GLARE, YOU
MEAN.

NEED
PROTECTION
FROM GURYA'S
GLANCES! ME?

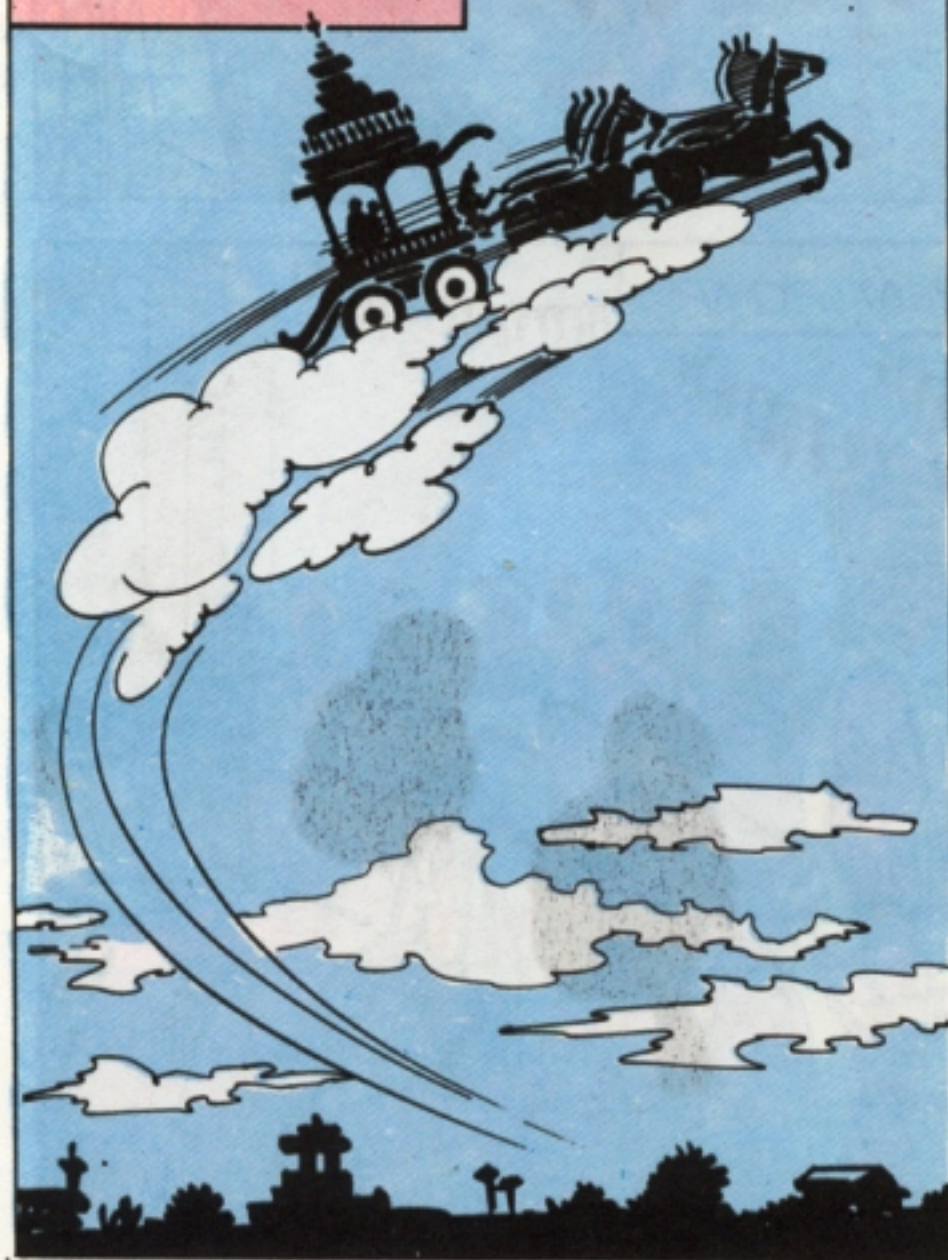


THE WEDDING TOOK PLACE WITH GREAT POMP.





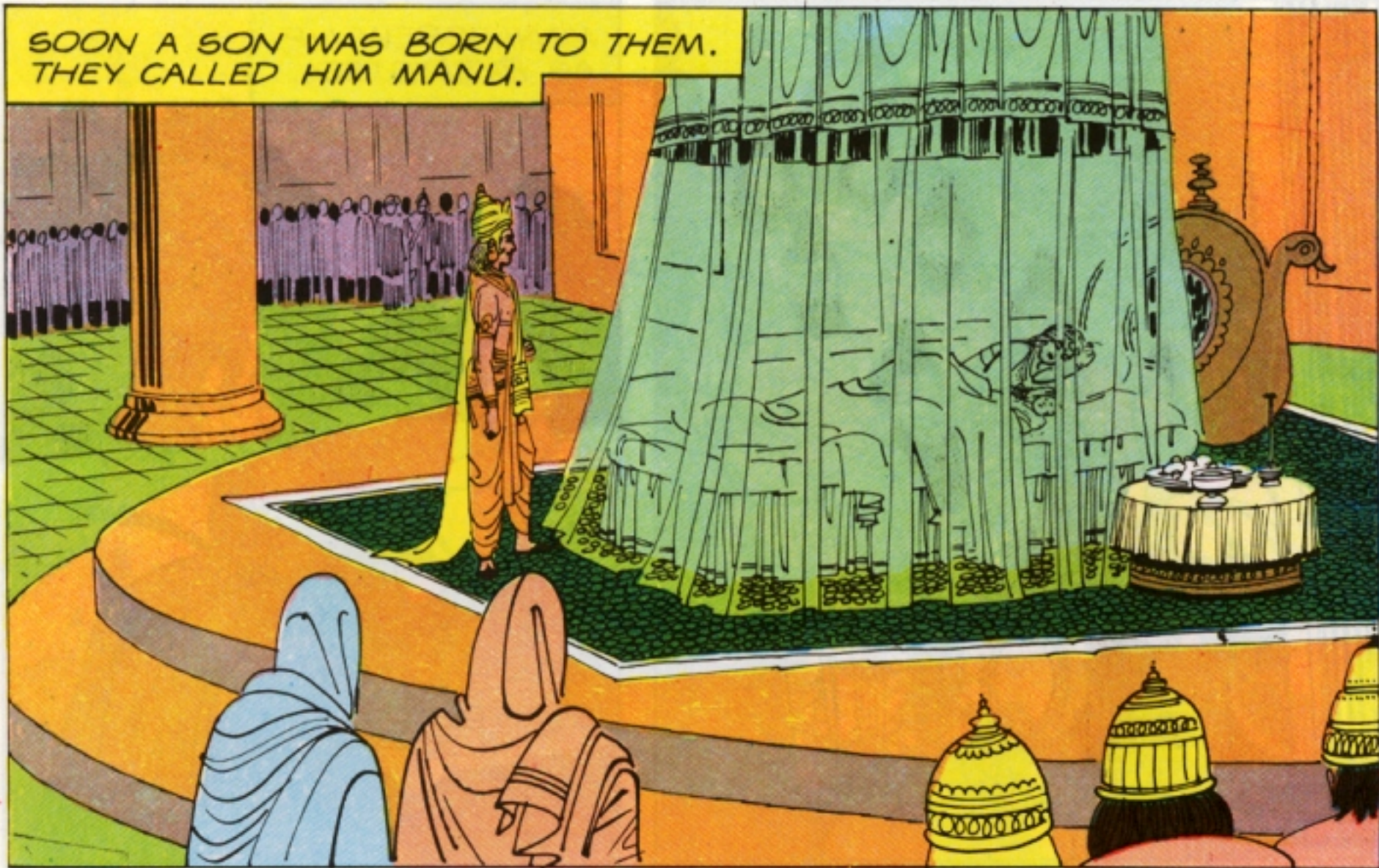
AFTER THE WEDDING SURYA
TOOK SANJNA TO HIS ABODE
IN THE SKIES.



SANJNA LOVED HER
NEW HOME AND
WAS VERY HAPPY.

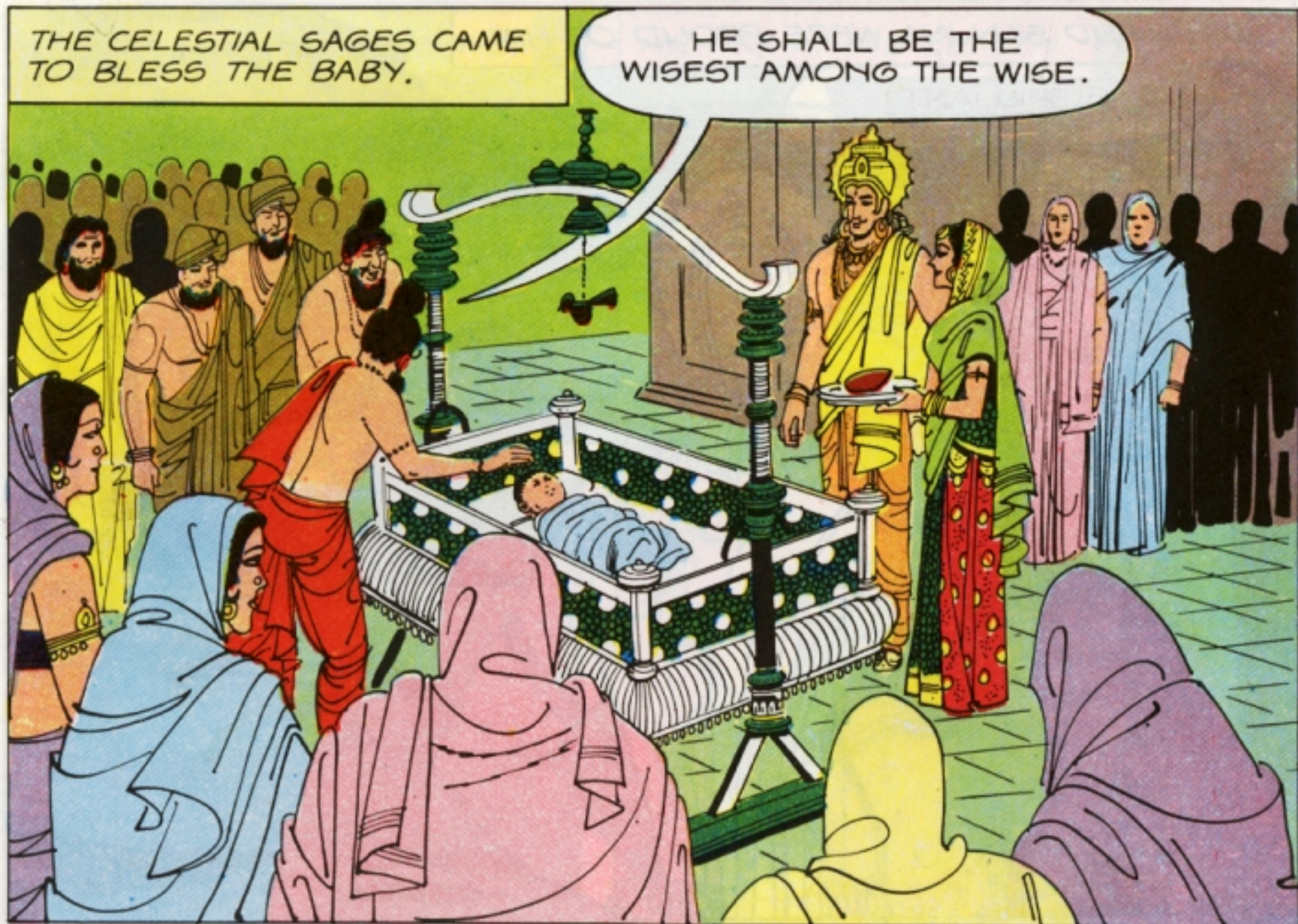


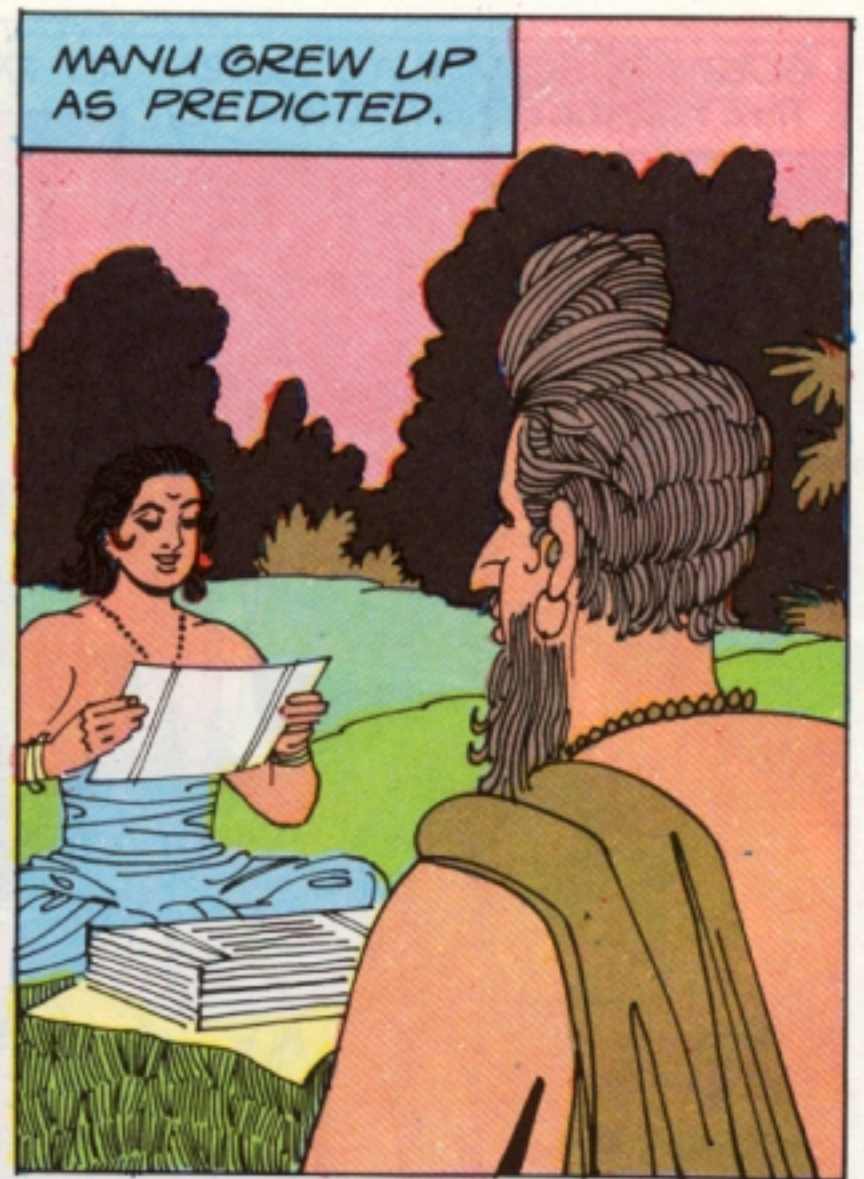
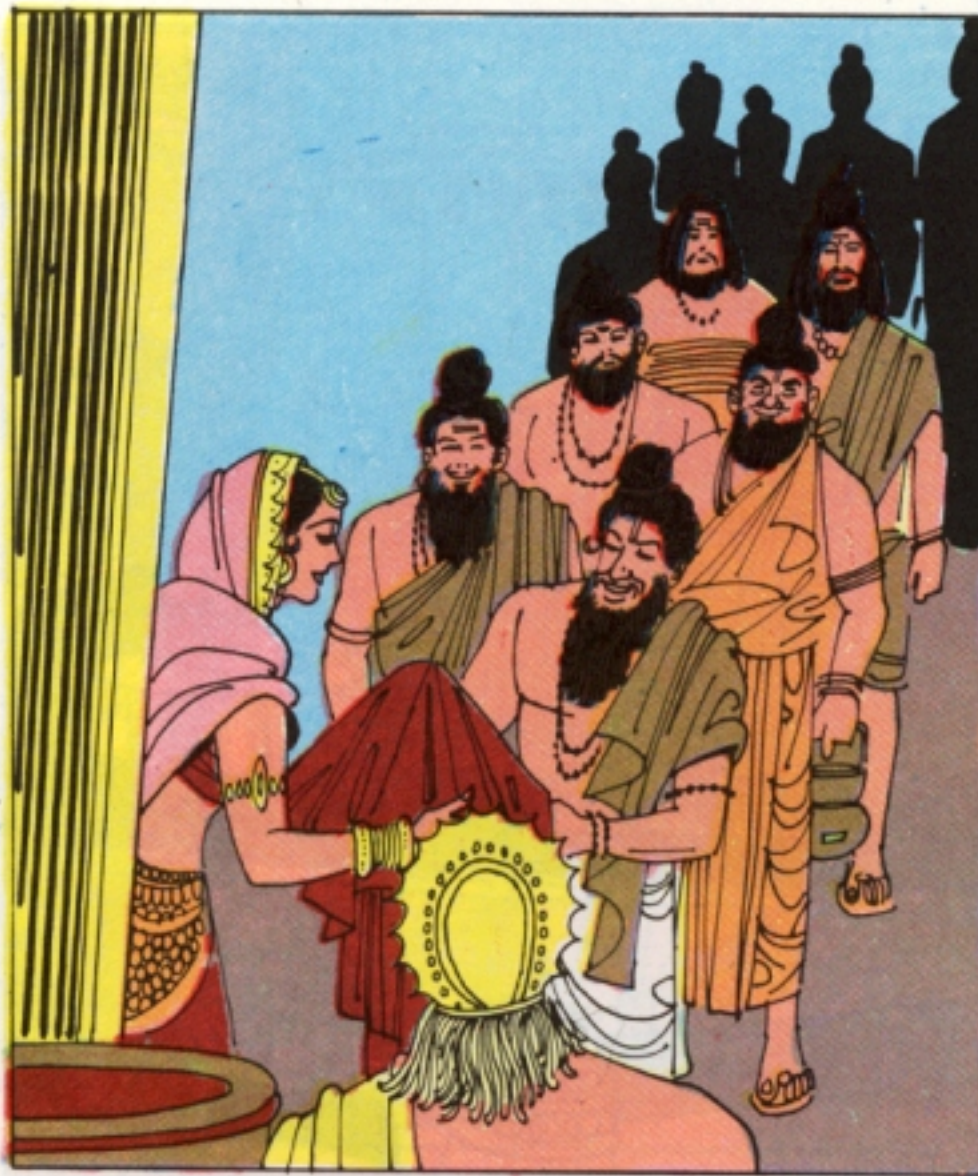
SOON A SON WAS BORN TO THEM.
THEY CALLED HIM MANU.



THE CELESTIAL SAGES CAME
TO BLESS THE BABY.

HE SHALL BE THE
WISEST AMONG THE WISE.





THEN SUDDENLY ONE SUMMER...



...SURYA'S RAYS BEAT DOWN...



...INTENSE AND OPPRESSIVE.



HE WAS AT HIS ZENITH.



COME,
SANJNA,
SIT BY
ME.



SANJNA,
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?

MY LORD!
WHY DO YOU
GLARE AT
ME SO!



LORD!
I CANNOT
OPEN MY
EYES.

SANJNA!



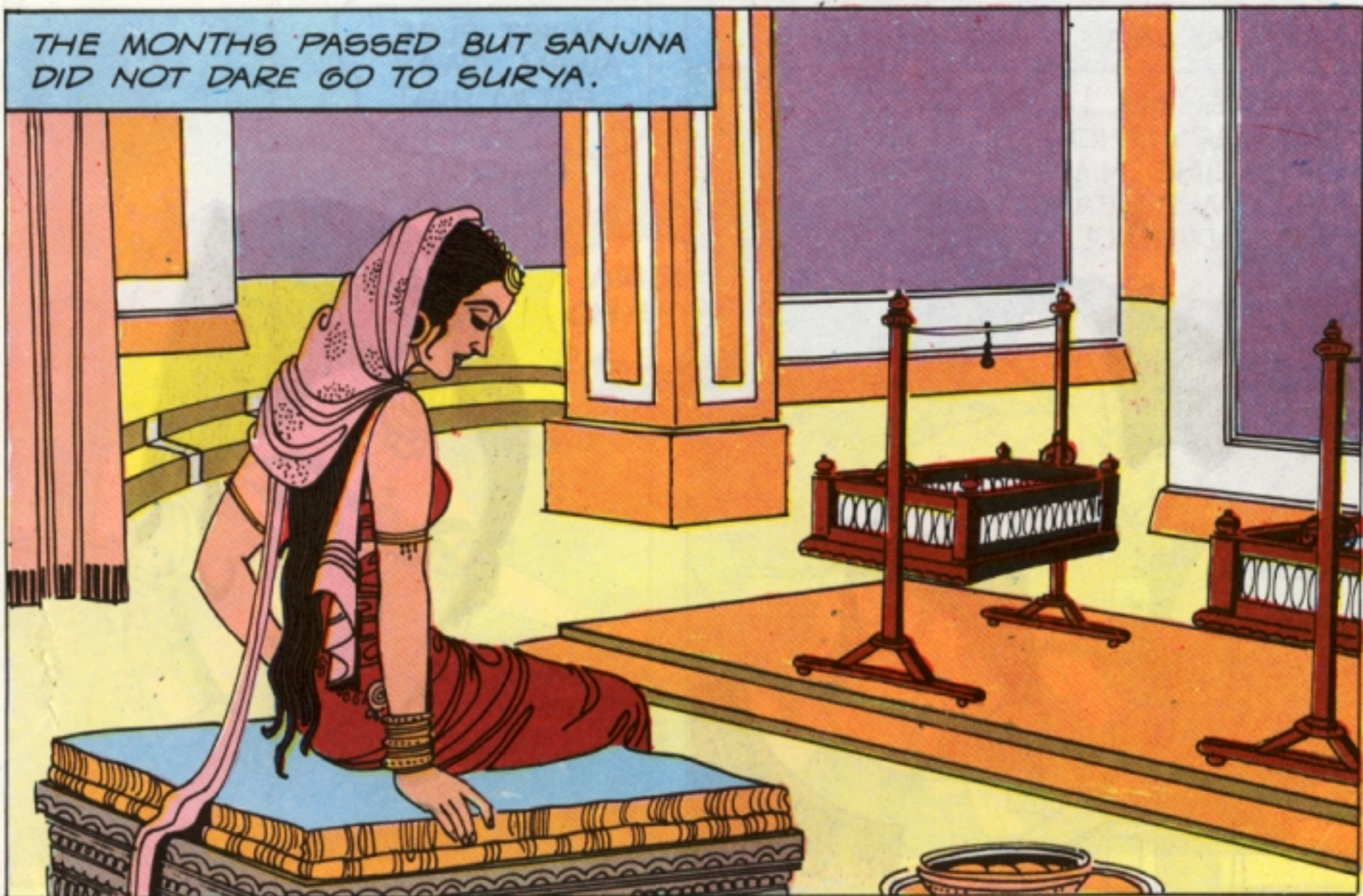
SURYA BECAME ANGRY AND
HIS GLARE, EVEN FIERCE.

ALAS! MY
FATHER
KNEW!

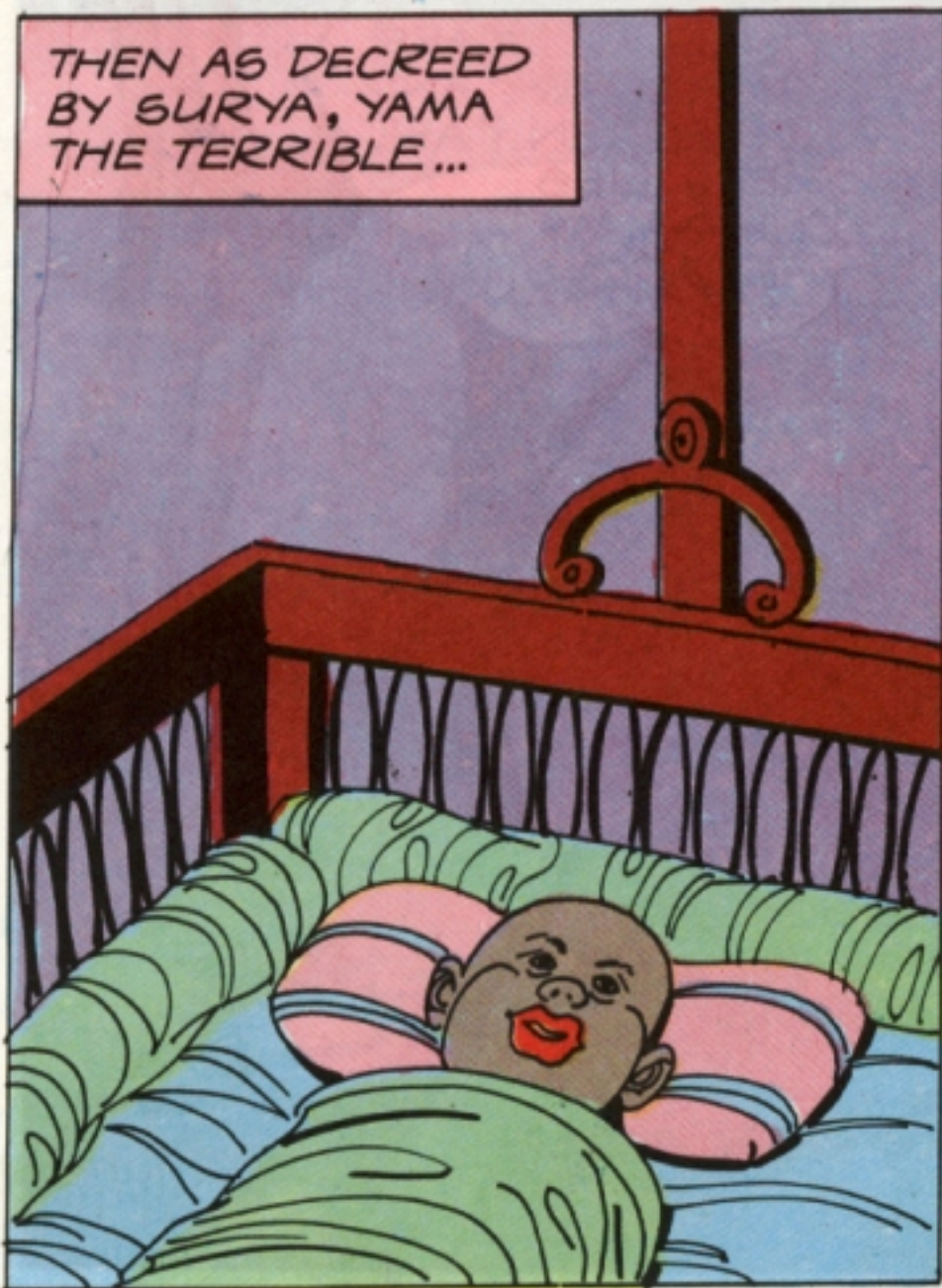




THE MONTHS PASSED BUT SANJNA DID NOT DARE GO TO SURYA.



THEN AS DECREED BY SURYA, YAMA THE TERRIBLE...

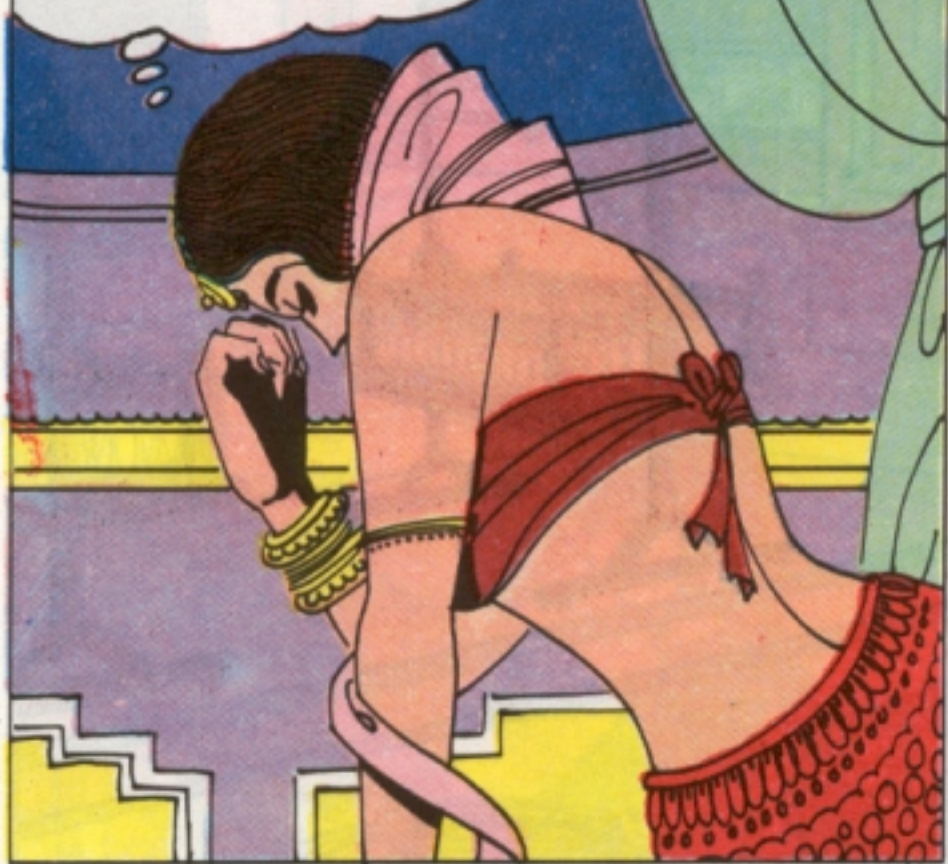


...AND YAMUNA THE INCONSTANT WERE BORN TO SANJNA.



BUT SANJNA'S FEAR REMAINED.

WHAT SHALL I DO?
THE VERY THOUGHT
OF FACING HIM
FILLS MY HEART
WITH DREAD.



I MUST FLEE.
AWAY...AWAY
FROM HIM!



BUT WHO WILL CARE
FOR MY LORD? AND
MY CHILDREN? AH,
THERE LIES
CHHAYA, MY
SHADOW.









SANJNA, I WILL
DO ALL THIS
ON ONE
CONDITION.



THE MOMENT SURYA
ILL-TREATS ME OR
THREATENS TO CURSE
ME I SHALL DISCLOSE
THE TRUTH.

GO THEN,
CHHAYA, AND
CARE FOR MY
DEAR ONES.



YOU HAVE IMPOSED
A DIFFICULT TASK
ON ME. BUT
I SHALL TRY AND
DO MY BEST.

WHEN CHHAYA LEFT—

I SHALL GO
TO MY FATHER.



... FATHER WILL SAY THAT
A WOMAN'S RIGHTFUL
PLACE IS BY HER
HUSBAND.



SO SANJNA LEFT FOR
HER PARENT'S HOME.

WHEN FATHER
INSISTS THAT
I RETURN TO
MY HUSBAND,
I WILL GO INTO
THE FOREST.

VISHWAKARMA THOUGHT THAT HIS
DAUGHTER HAD COME ON A VISIT.

WELCOME
MY
DAUGHTER.
IS ALL
WELL WITH
YOU?

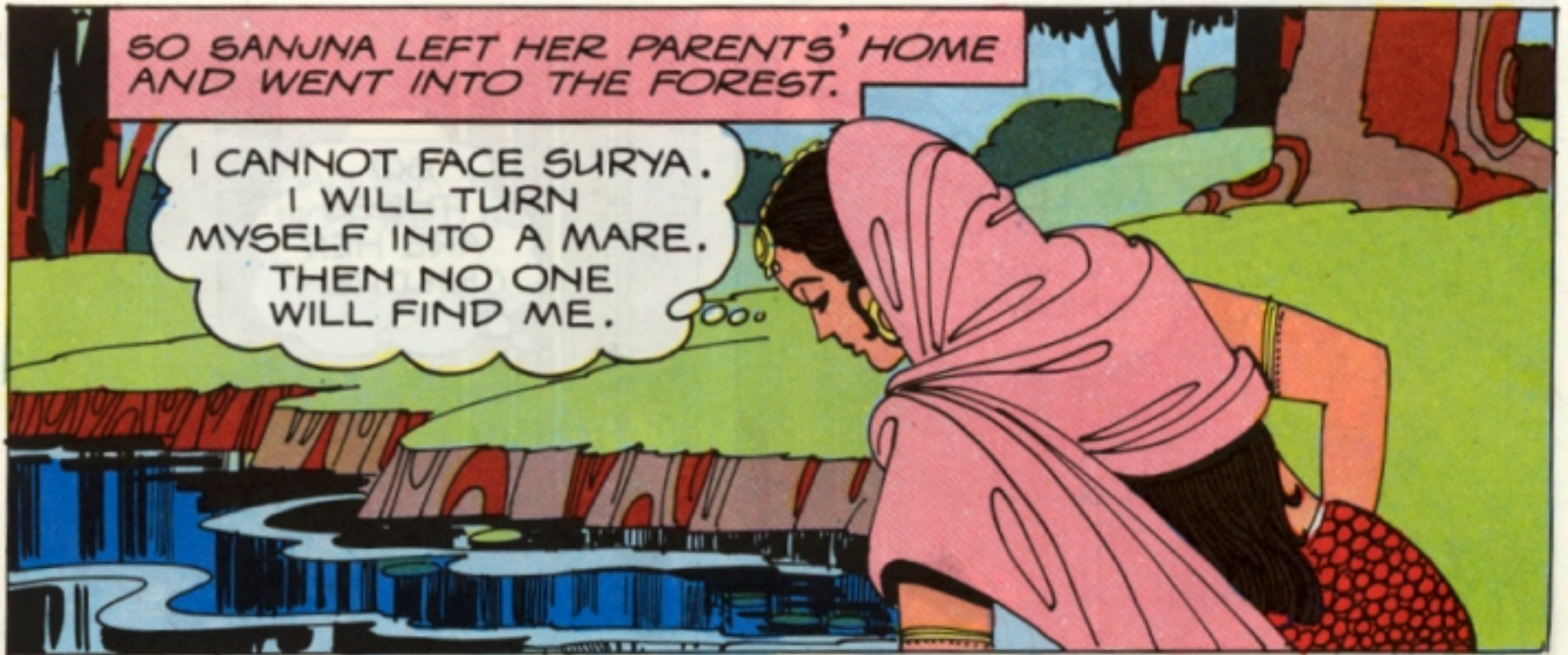
NO, FATHER! YOU
WERE RIGHT.
I COULD NOT BEAR
THE BRILLIANCE
OF SURYA
IN SUMMER.

SANJNA SPENT A FEW HAPPY DAYS THERE.



SO SANJNA LEFT HER PARENTS' HOME
AND WENT INTO THE FOREST.

I CANNOT FACE SURYA.
I WILL TURN
MYSELF INTO A MARE.
THEN NO ONE
WILL FIND ME.



NOW I SHALL DO
PENANCE TO
REDUCE THE
STRENGTH OF
SURYA'S GLARE.



MEANWHILE CHHAYA
HAD REACHED SURYA'S
ABODE AND HAD
TAKEN SANJNA'S
PLACE.

YOU HAVE
COME
BACK
TO ME!

MY LORD, FORGIVE
ME. I HAVE
OVERCOME MY
WEAKNESS.





THEN ANOTHER SON AND A DAUGHTER WERE BORN TO HER.

SANJNA WILL NOT RETURN.



CHHAYA LOVED HER CHILDREN AND SPENT MOST OF HER TIME CARING FOR THEM.



BUT ALAS! SHE DID NOT CARE FOR SANJNA'S CHILDREN IN THE SAME MANNER.

GET AWAY FROM MY SIGHT, YOU ACCURSED CHILDREN.



COME, MY DEAR ONE. LET US GO TO YOUR FATHER.



MANU FORGAVE HER FOR THIS
BUT YAMA COULD NOT.

THERE SHE IS ! NOW CRUEL
TO YAMUNA. MOTHER,
WHAT HAVE WE DONE
TO DESERVE THIS ?



HOW
I WISH
I WERE
MOTHERLESS.



STOP!
YOU SHALL
NOT TOUCH
MY SISTER.

INSOLENT BOY!
MAY YOUR
FOOT FALL
OFF!



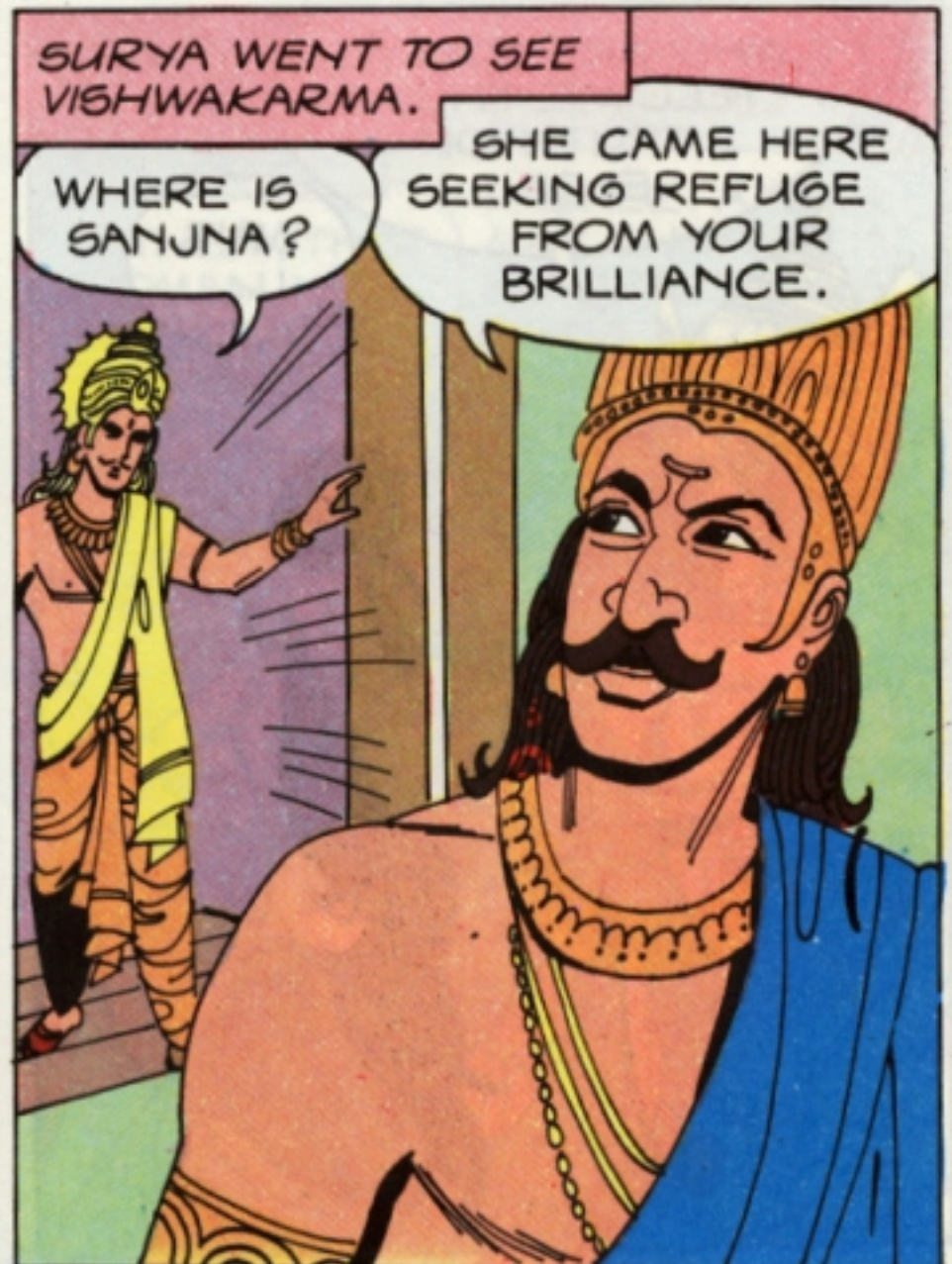
YAMA DECIDED TO SPEAK OUT TO
HIS FATHER. AFTER HE HAD
FINISHED -

FATHER, THAT
WOMAN IS
NOT OUR
MOTHER!

I AGREE. A SON
MAY CHANGE IN
HIS AFFECTIONS
BUT A MOTHER
NEVER CEASES
TO CARE.









VISHWAKARMA REDUCED SURYA'S BRILLIANCE BY CHISELLING AWAY AN EIGHTH OF HIS RAYS. THEN THEY WENT IN SEARCH OF SANJANA.





SURYA WENT UP TO THE MARE.

SANJNA!
I AM SURYA,
YOUR
HUSBAND.
PLEASE
TAKE YOUR
OWN FORM.

NOT UNTIL
I HAVE
OBTAINED THE
BOON I SEEK.



SANJNA TOOK HER OWN FORM.

FATHER!
DEAR FATHER!







Illustrated Classics From India

Surya

In the Puranas, there are distinct and different scales in the hierarchy of deities. At the highest end of the spectrum is the Divine Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara. Surya occupies a much lower position.

In the Vedas, Surya holds an eminent rank. He is one of the trinity of Gods – Agni, Vayu and Surya and is next in importance only to Indra. Gayatri, the most sacred verse of the Rig Veda, which is repeated every day by devout Hindus, is addressed to Surya. The verse invokes him to confer his splendour on and stimulate the intellect of the worshipper.

Surya's character as a luminary was always present in the minds of the Rig Vedic poets. He is said to diffuse golden splendour. He rides in a golden chariot drawn by seven swift horses. Manu, the law-giver, Yama, the God of Death and the River Yamuna are some of his many children.

The story as narrated in this book is based on the Markandeya Purana. How Surya was tricked into having two wives and how he ultimately lost his unbearably fierce brilliance, is the theme of the story.

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Mayah Balse Illustrations: Ram Waeerkar Cover: Ram Waeerkar

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