

TALES OF MARYADA RAMA

Rich or poor, old or young, Maryada Rama was fair to all. Though it was not always easy to figure who was right and who was wrong, Maryada Rama always found a way. No wonder the king bestowed on the young man the title of City Judge.

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FABLES &
HUMOUR



TALES OF MARYADA RAMA

THE FAIREST JUDGE OF ALL

Vol 633 | ₹50

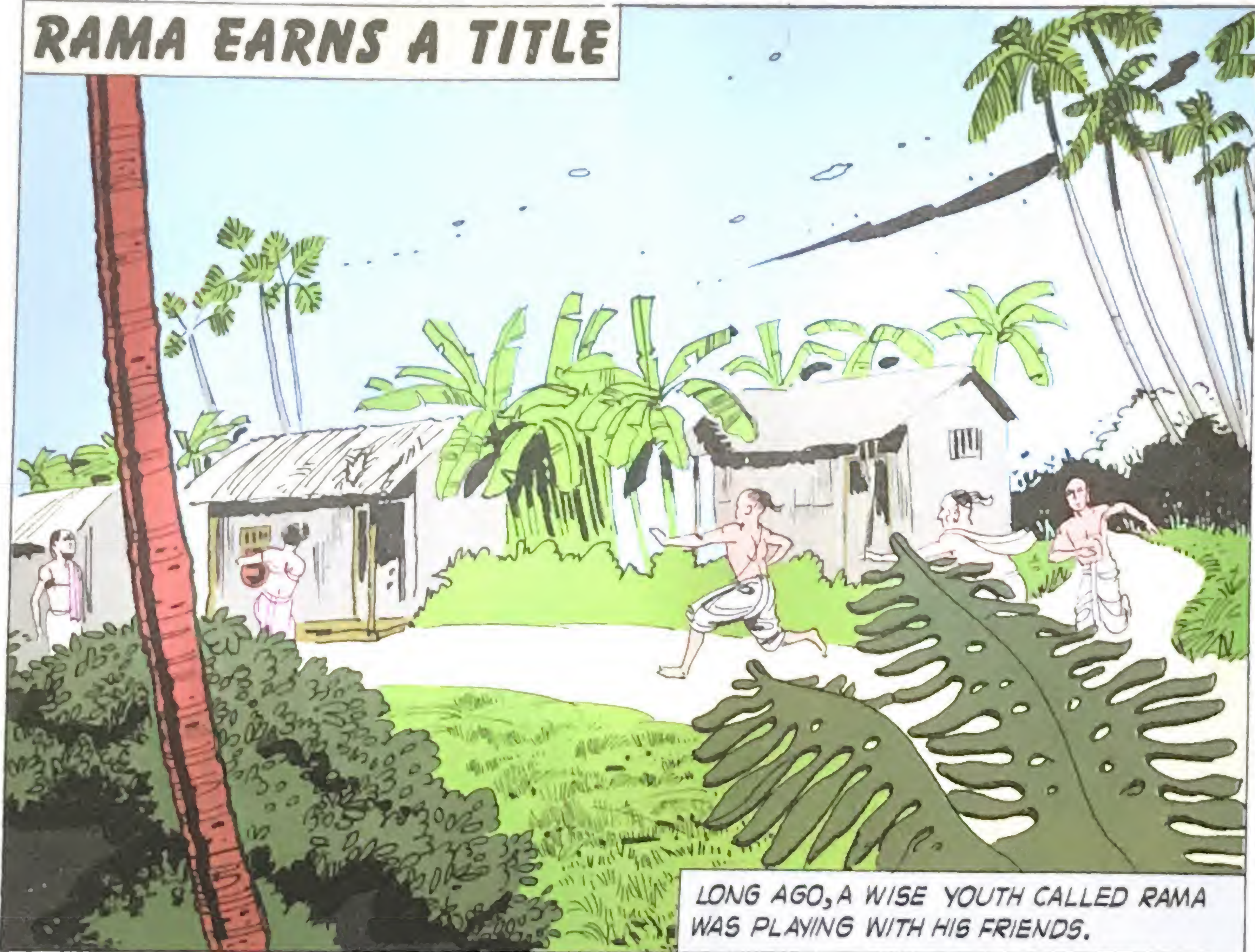


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RAMA EARNS A TITLE



LONG AGO, A WISE YOUTH CALLED RAMA WAS PLAYING WITH HIS FRIENDS.

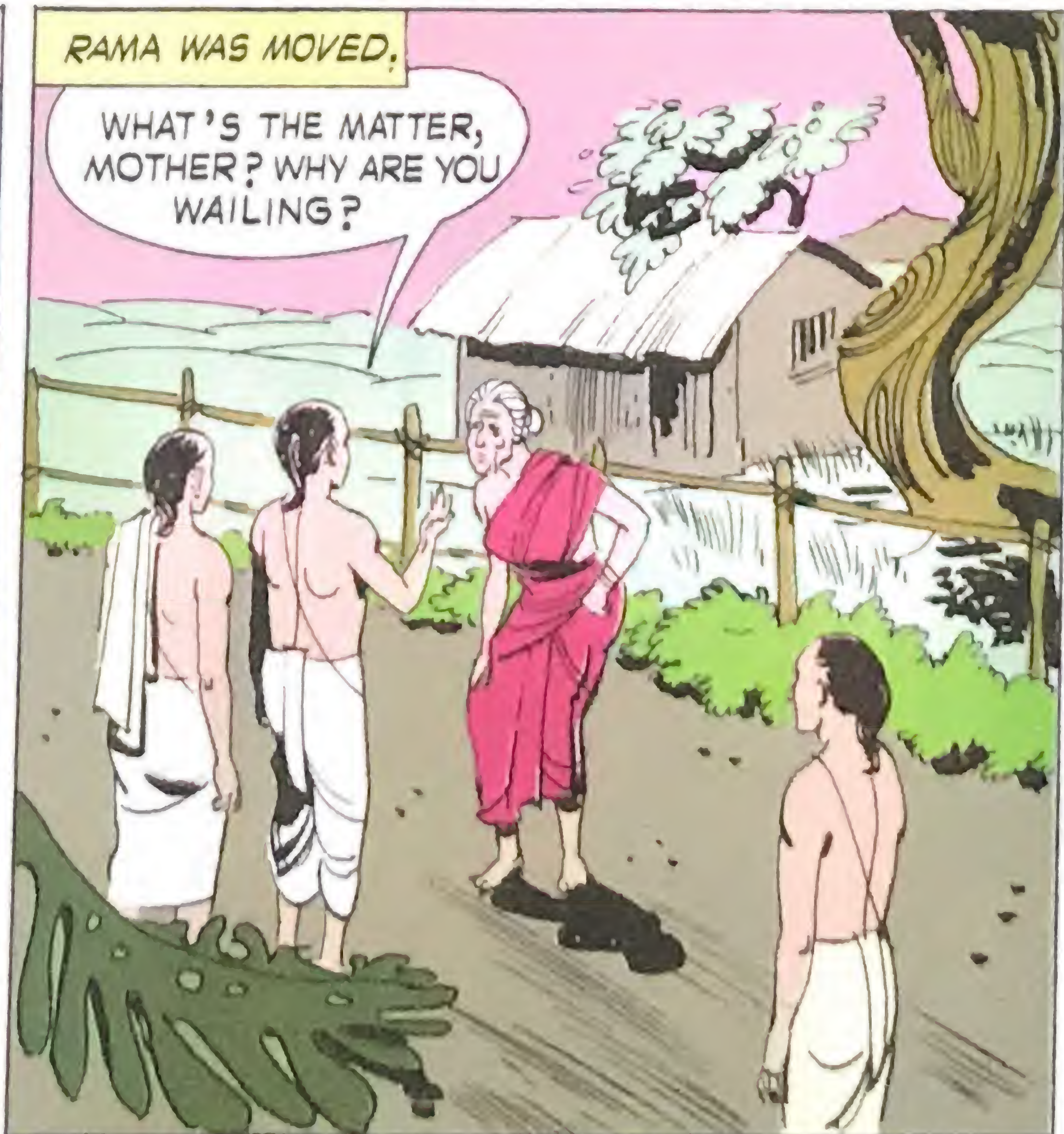
SUDDENLY AN OLD WOMAN CAME BY.

SUCH MISFORTUNE COULD ONLY BEFALL A WIDOW. IF ONLY I HAD SOMEONE TO FIGHT FOR ME, WOULD THE JUDGE DARE PASS SUCH AN UNJUST VERDICT?



RAMA WAS MOVED.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MOTHER? WHY ARE YOU WAILING?



THE OLD WOMAN CONTROLLED HER GRIEF AND TOLD HER TALE.



I MAKE A LIVING BY TAKING IN LODGERS.

"ONE DAY, FOUR OF MY LODGERS CAME TO ME WITH A SEALED POT.



MOTHER, PLEASE KEEP THIS FOR US.

"I TOOK THE POT. AND REMEMBER, MOTHER, IT SHOULD BE RETURNED ONLY IF ALL FOUR OF US TOGETHER ASK FOR IT.



"A FEW DAYS LATER, AS THE FOUR OF THEM WERE SITTING OUTSIDE THE HOUSE —



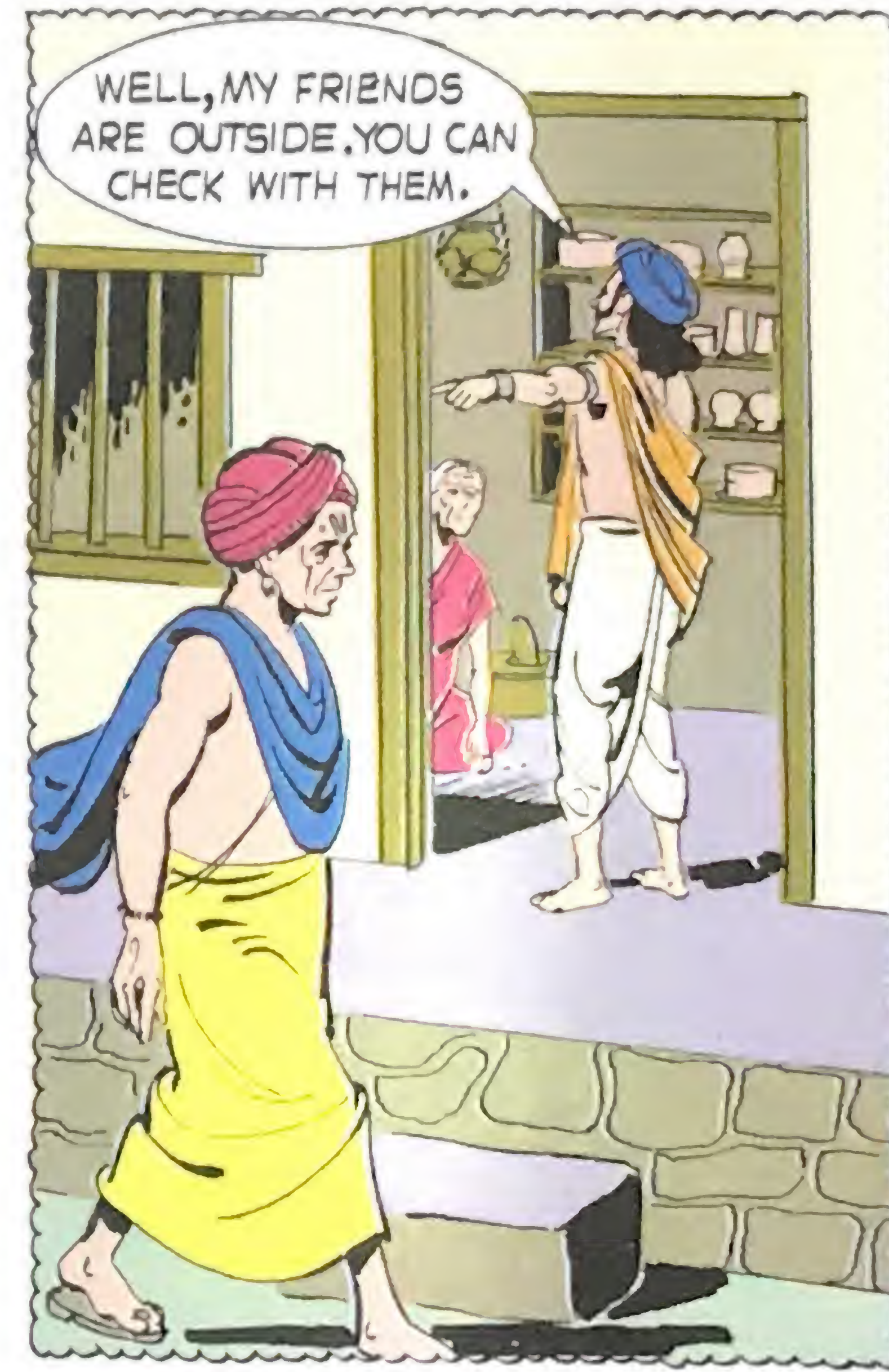
BUTTERMILK! DELICIOUS BUTTERMILK!

"THE YOUNGEST OF THEM CAME IN.



MY FRIENDS HAVE SENT ME IN TO ASK FOR THE BRASS POT WE LEFT WITH YOU.

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T GIVE IT UNLESS ALL FOUR OF YOU ASK FOR IT.



WELL, MY FRIENDS ARE OUTSIDE. YOU CAN CHECK WITH THEM.



HEY, YOU OUT THERE! YOUR FRIEND SAYS YOU'VE SENT HIM IN FOR THE POT. SHALL I GIVE IT TO HIM?

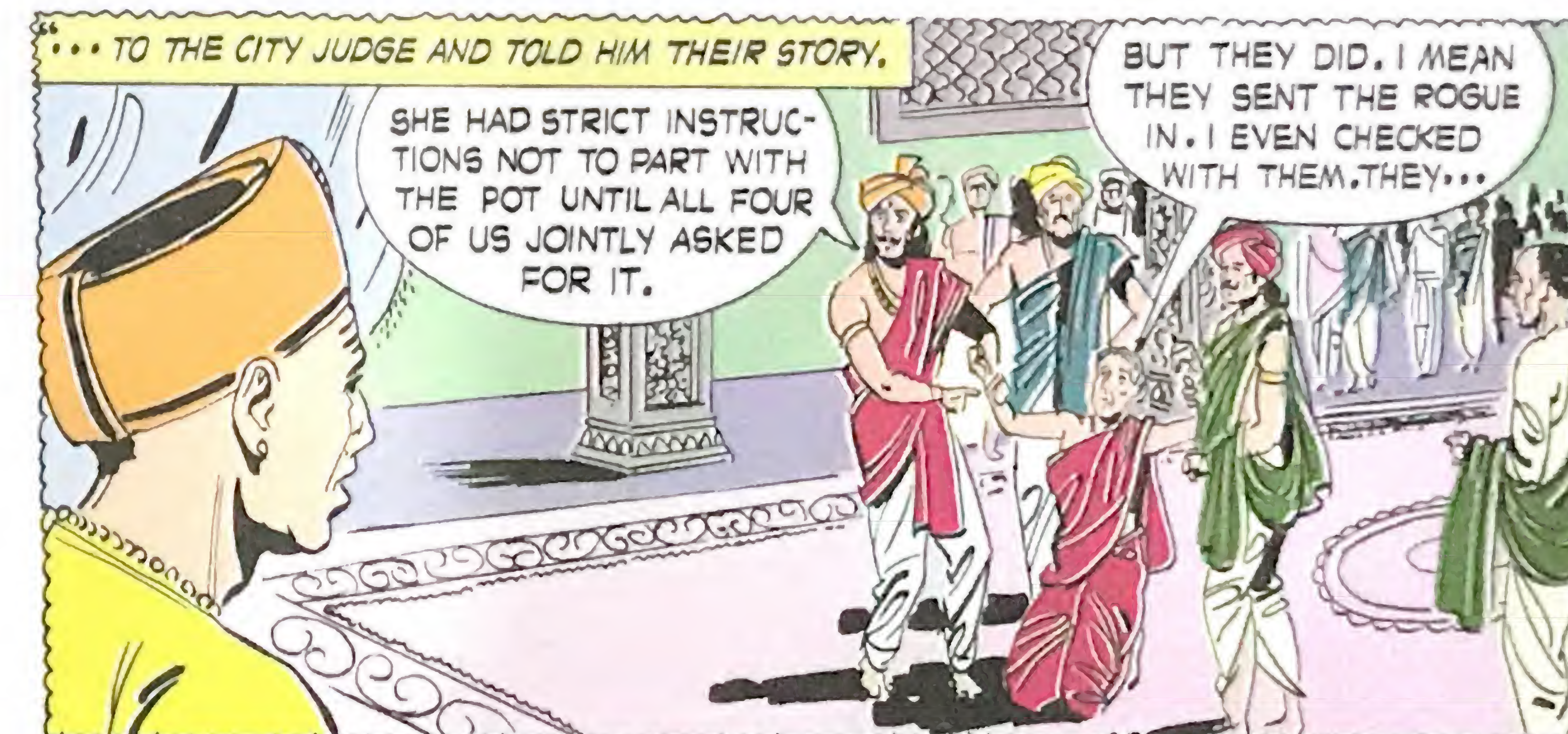
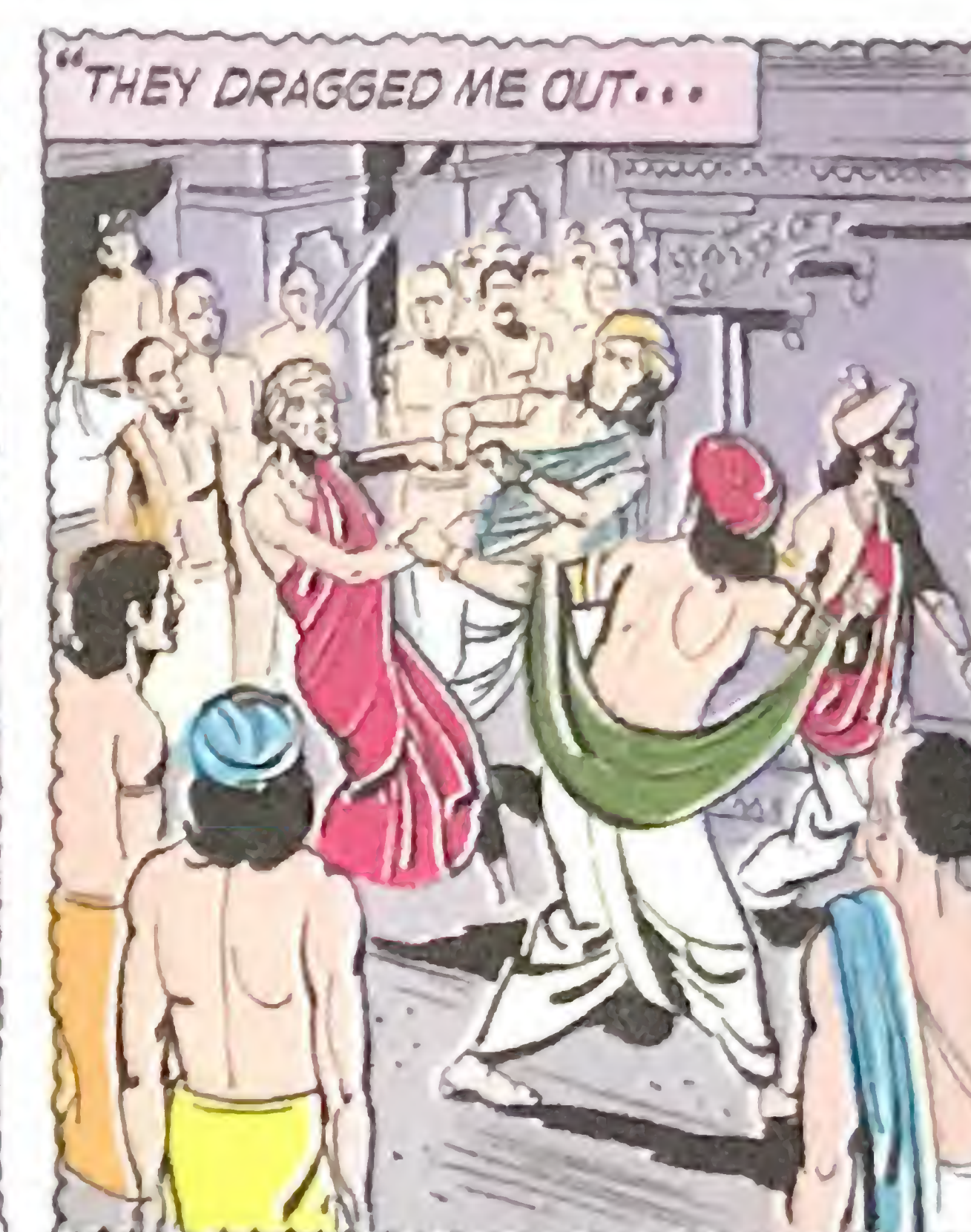
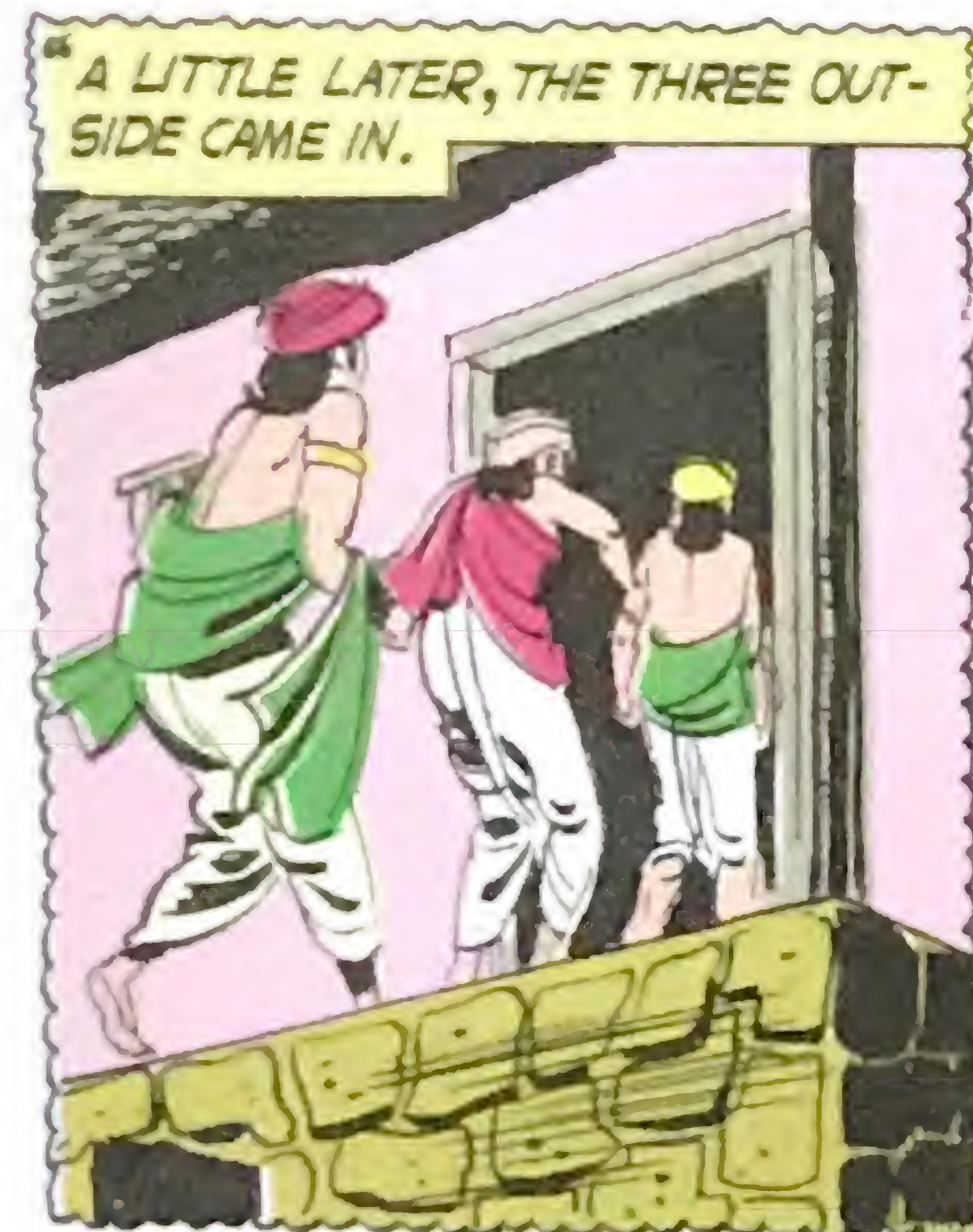
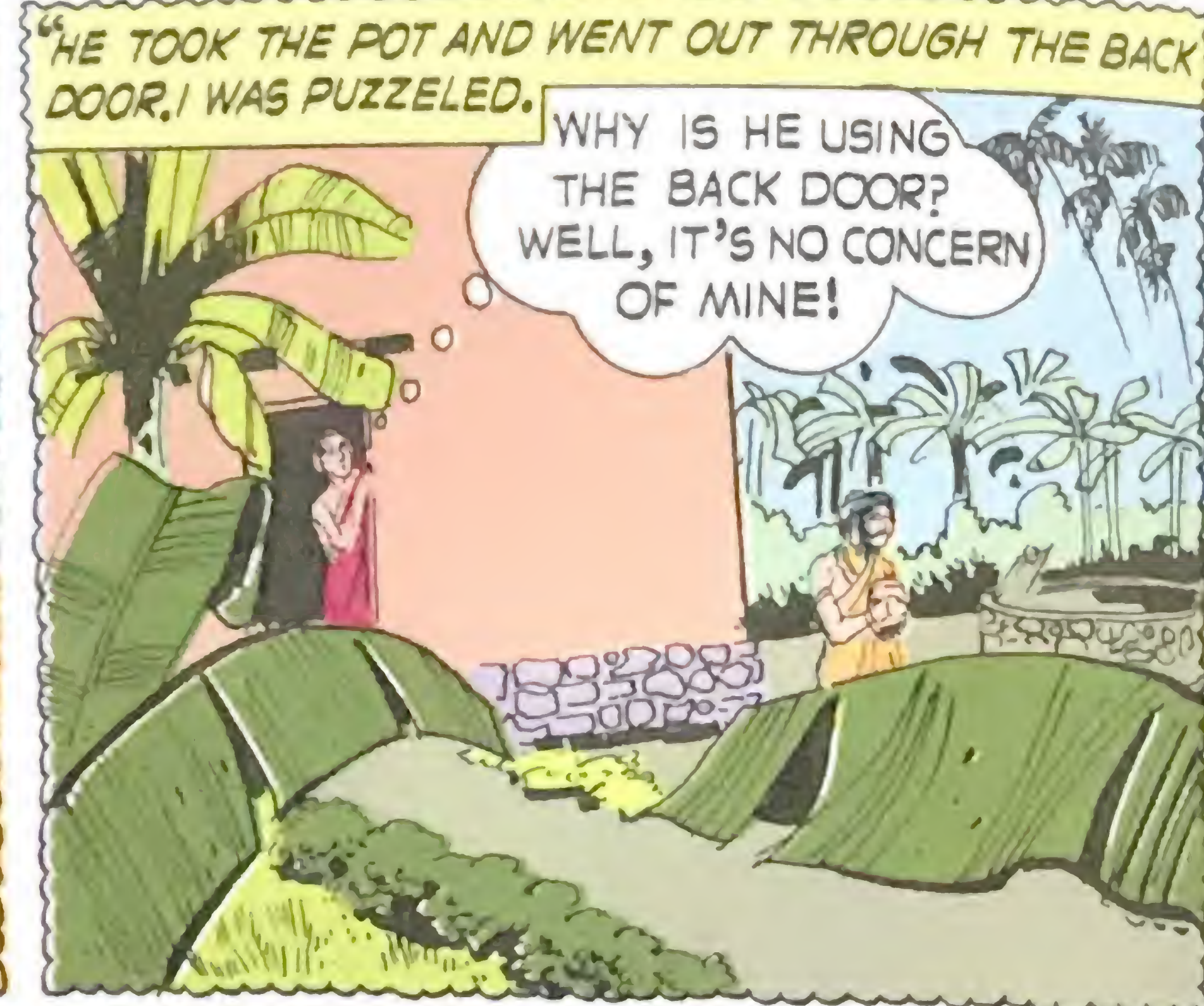
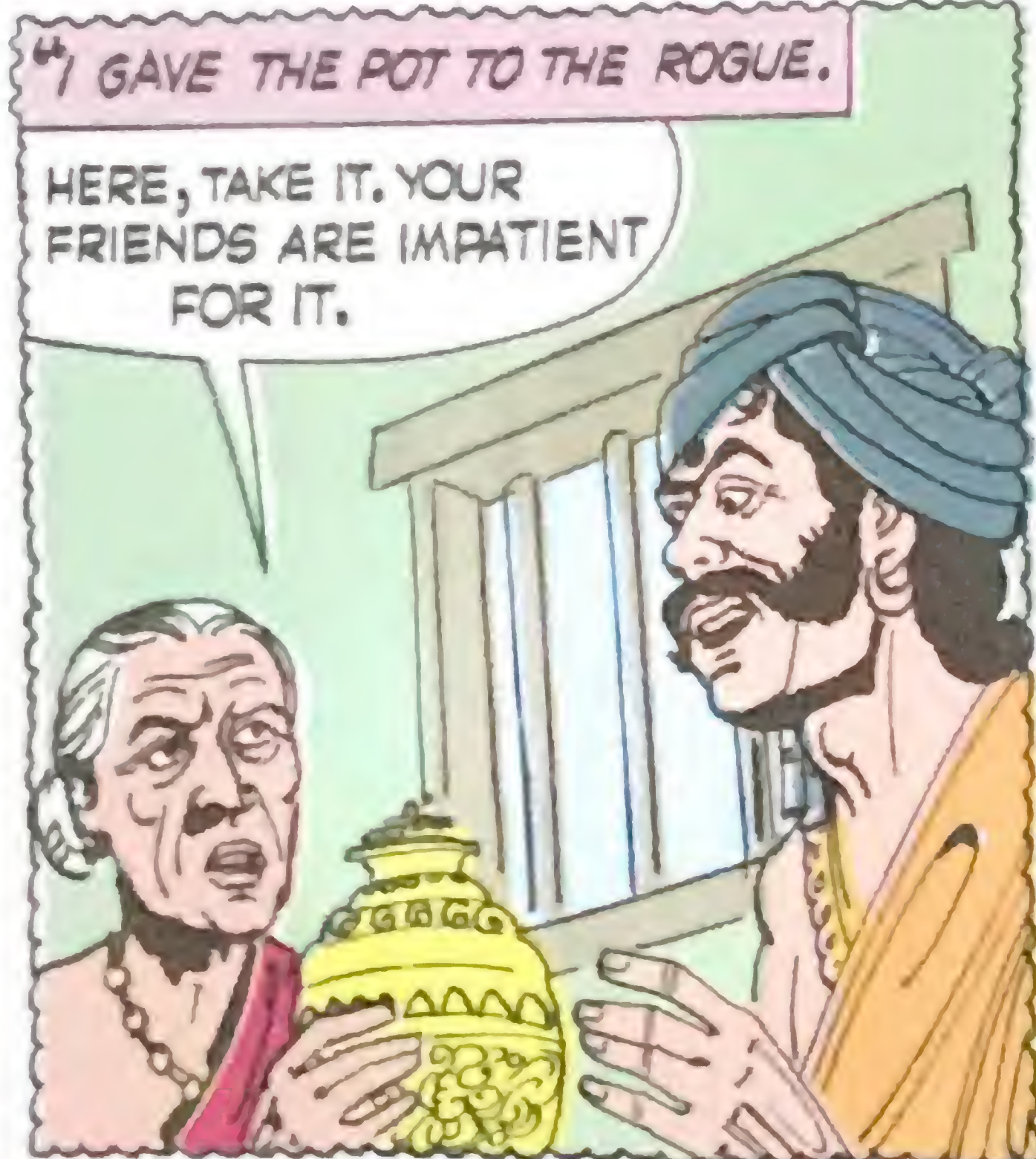


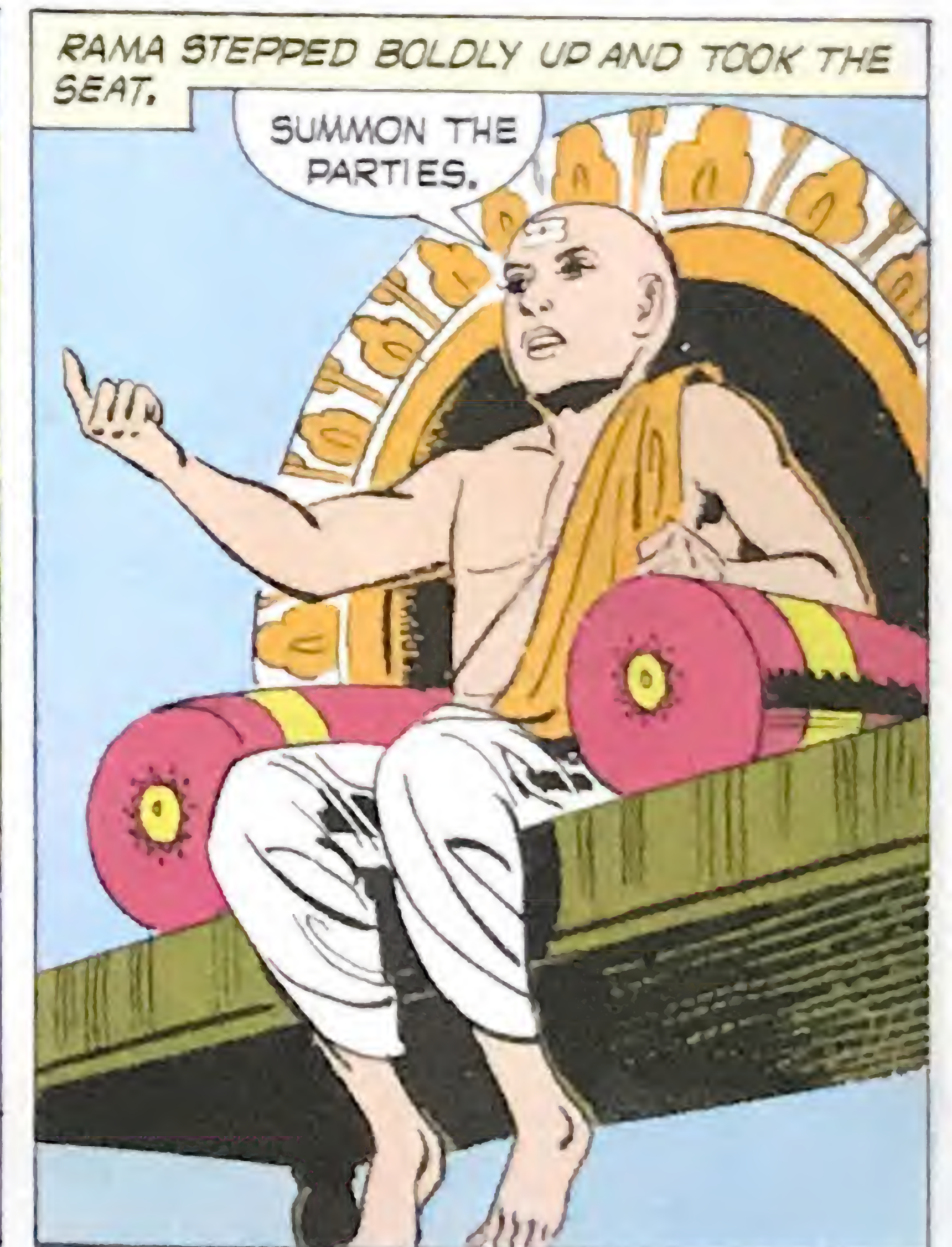
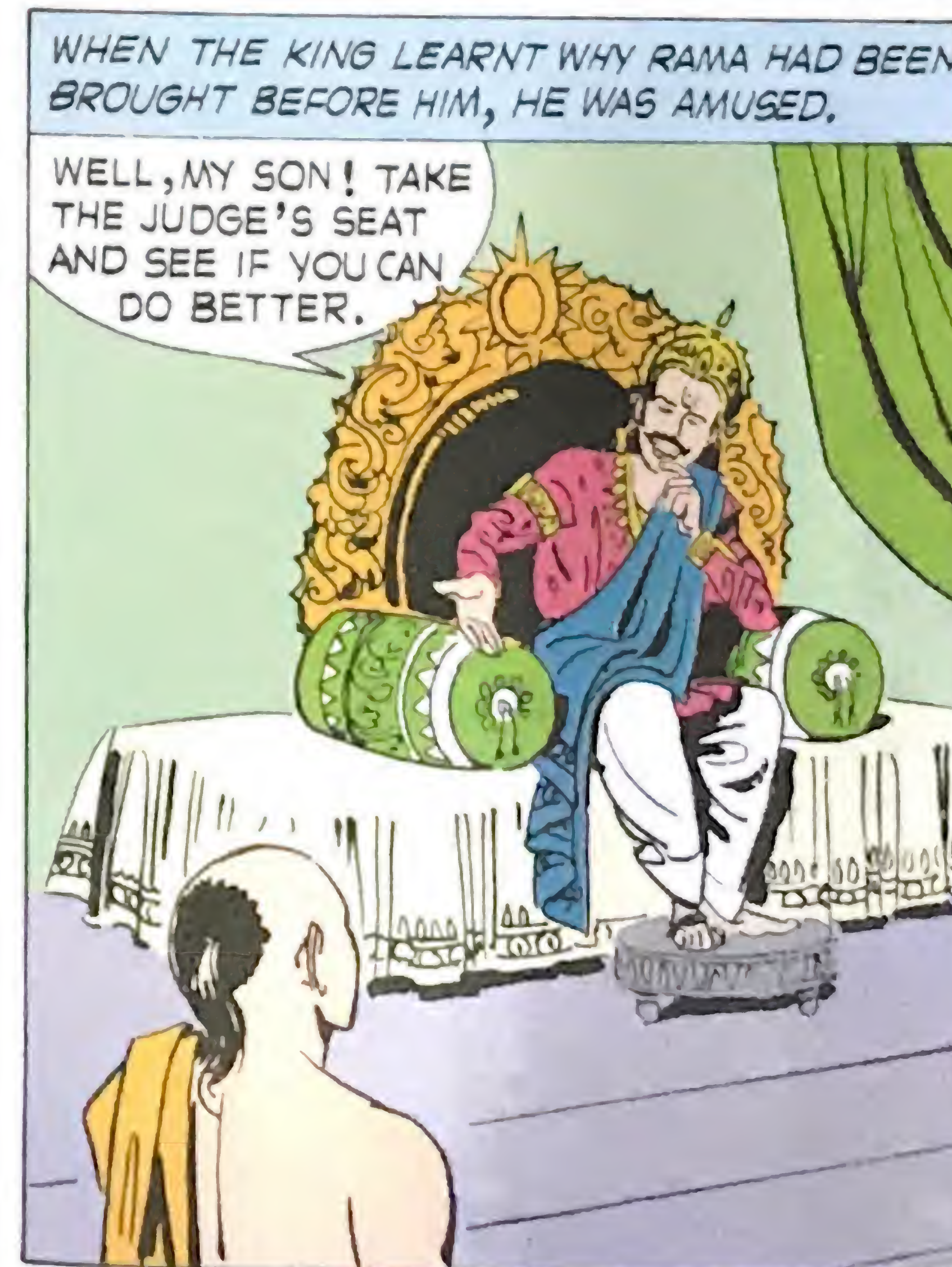
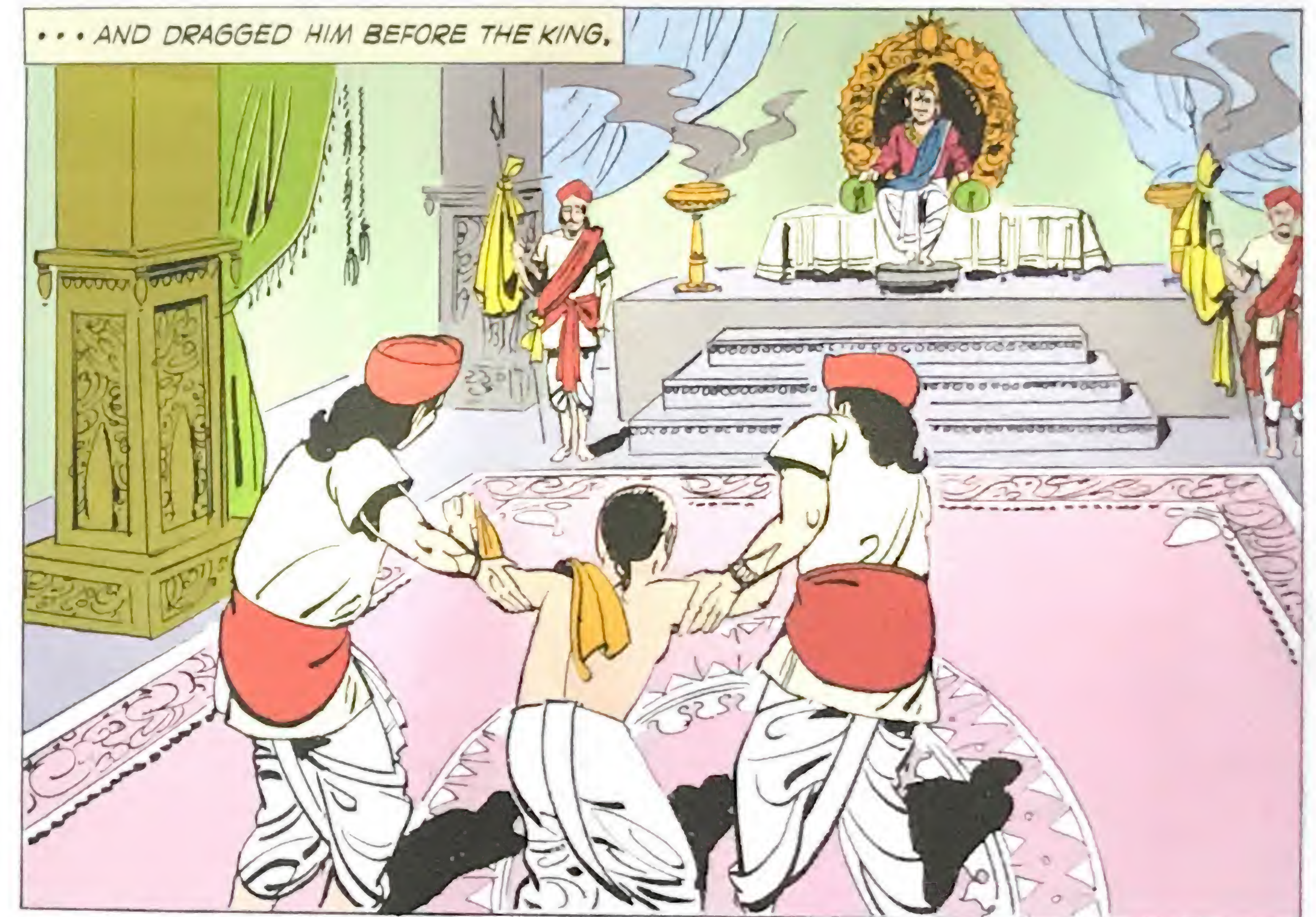
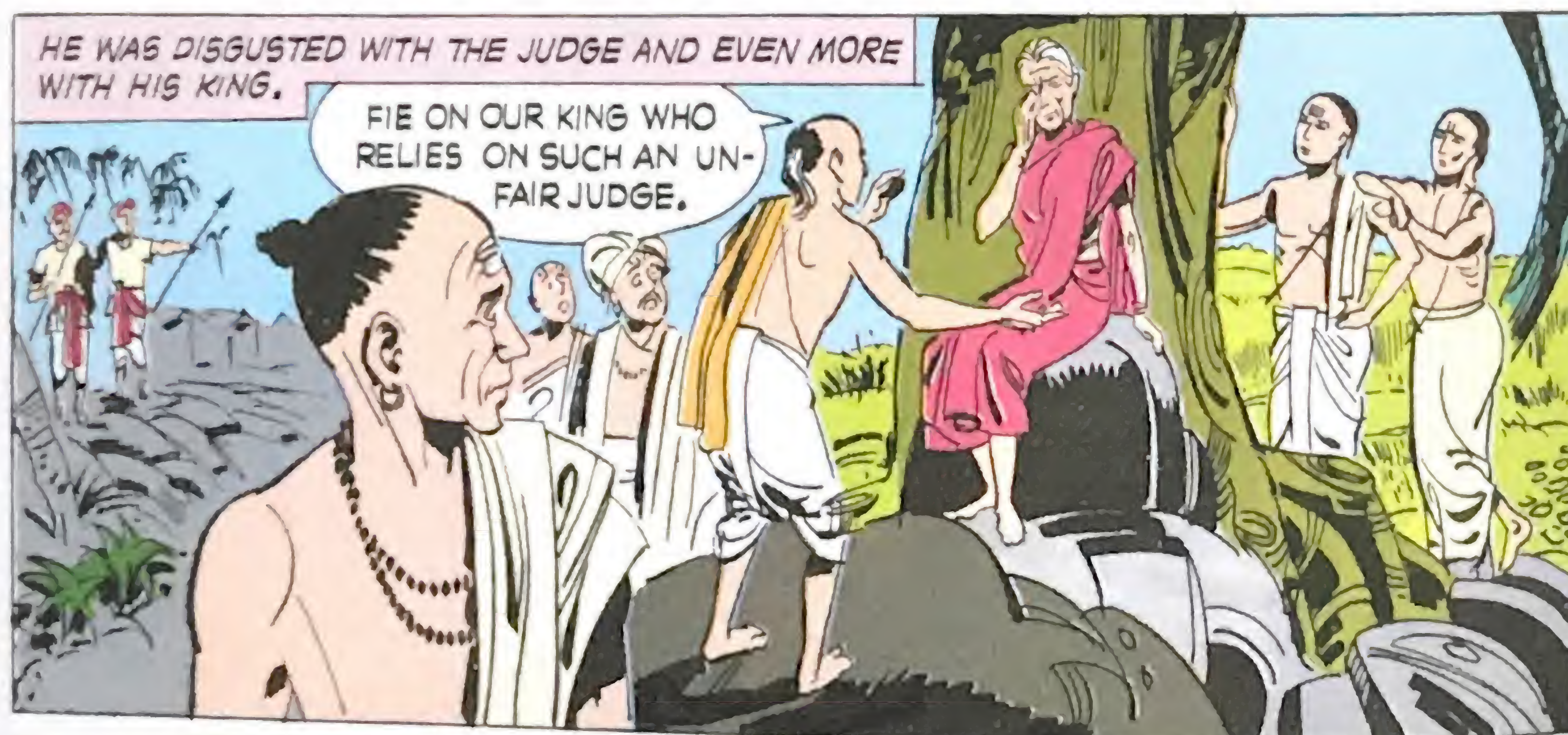
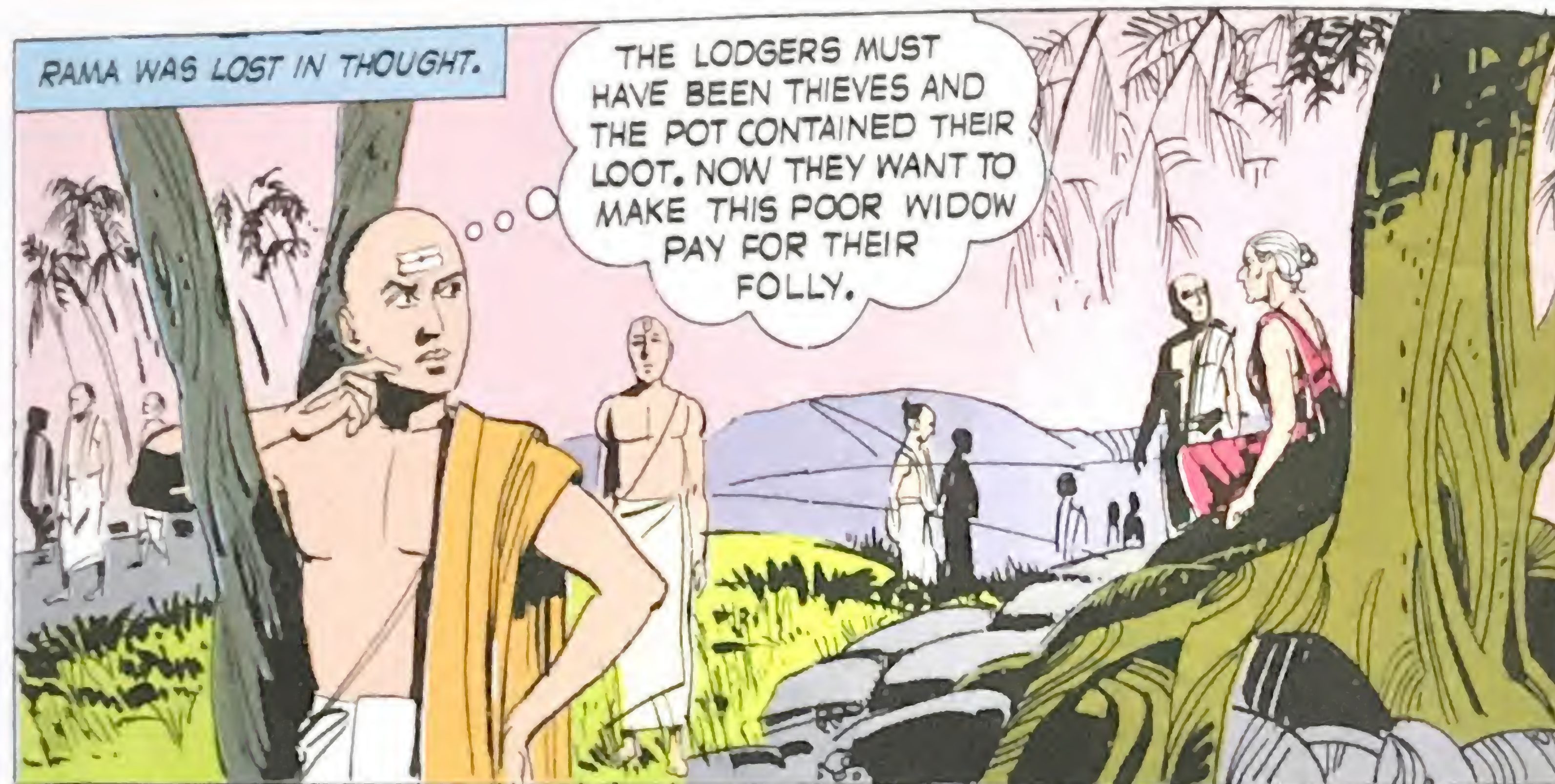
YES! YES! AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT.

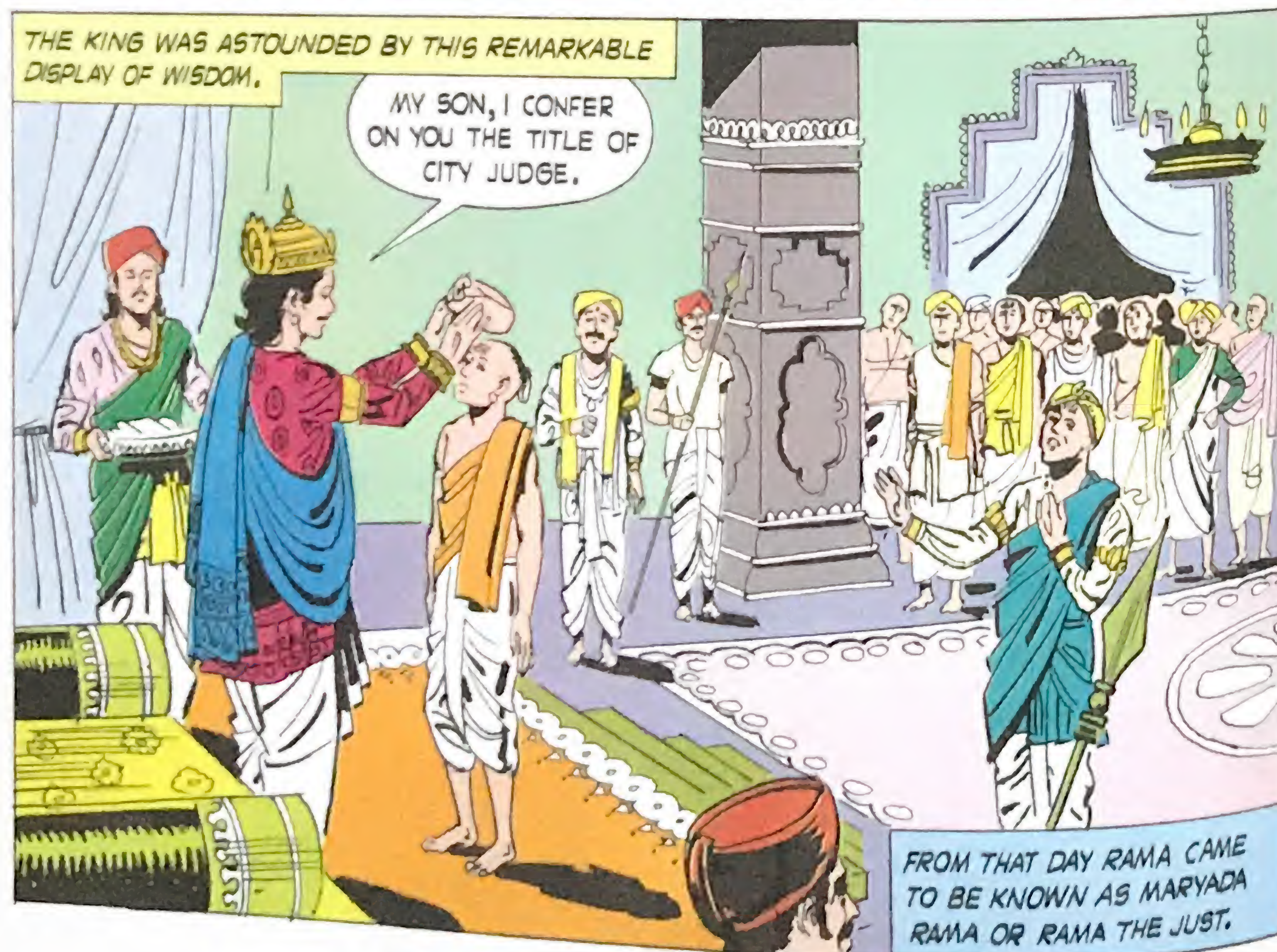
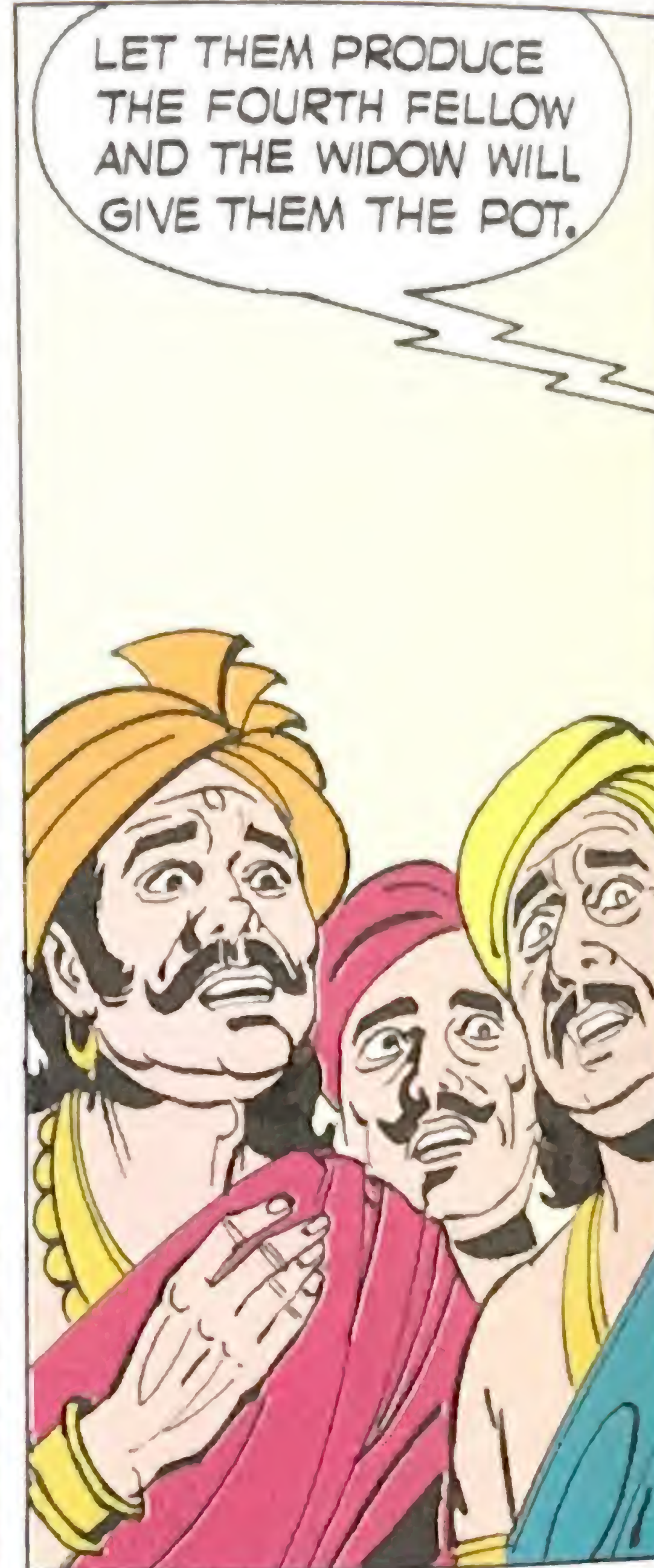


HOW WAS I TO KNOW THAT THEY HAD SENT THEIR YOUNG FRIEND IN TO FETCH AN EMPTY POT TO BUY BUTTERMILK IN?

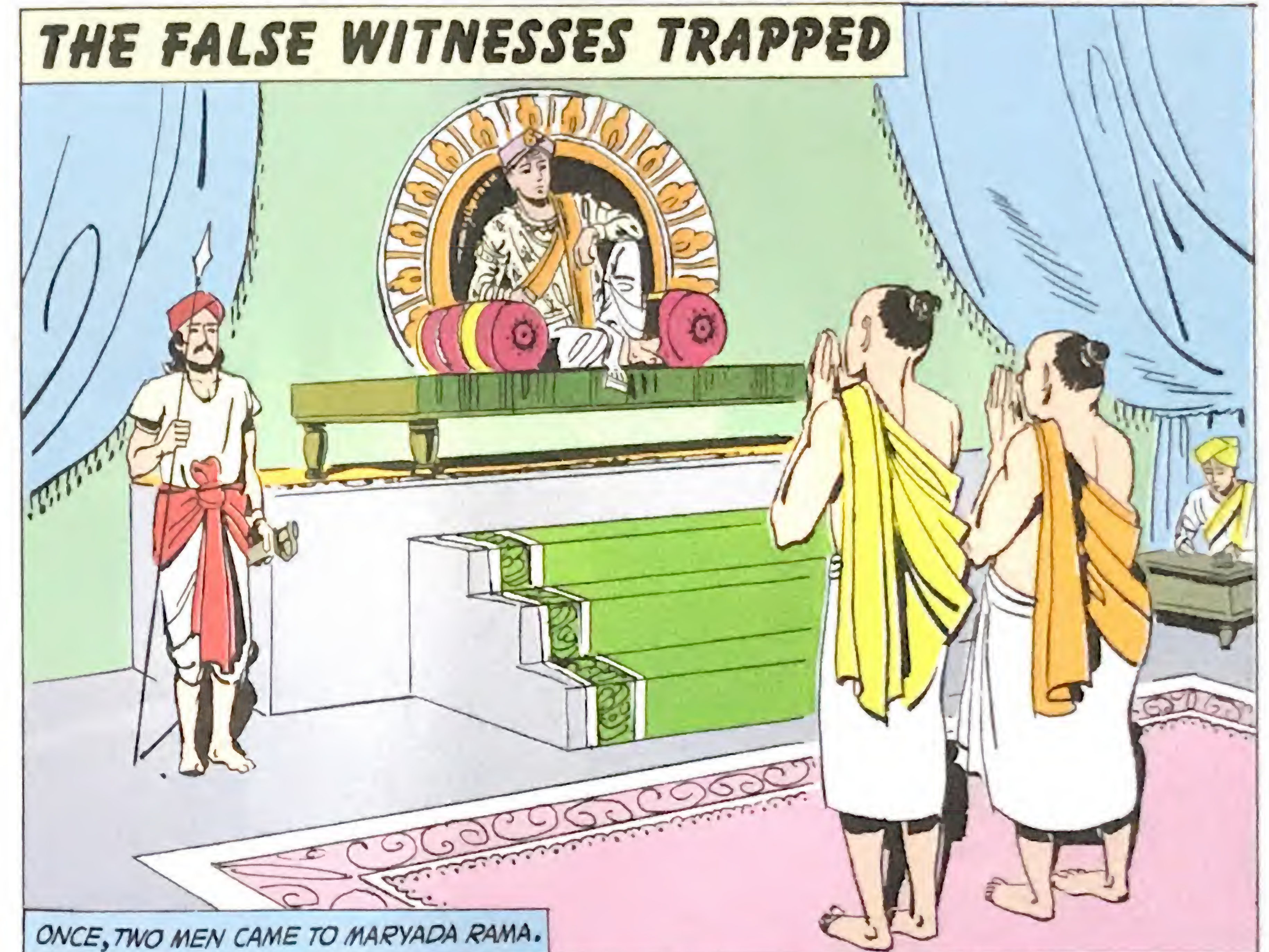
I UNDERSTAND. PLEASE CONTINUE, MOTHER. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?

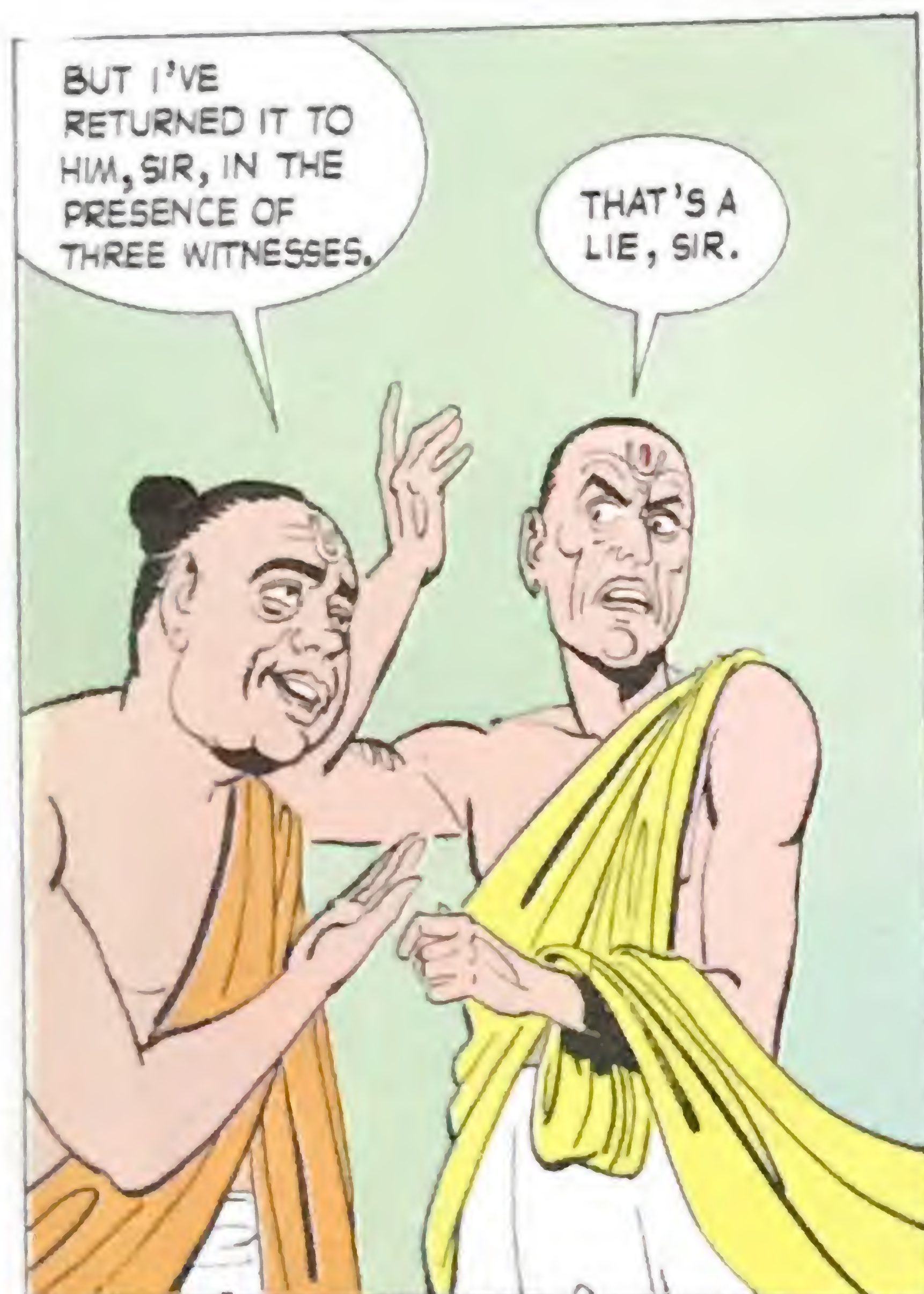






THE FALSE WITNESSES TRAPPED



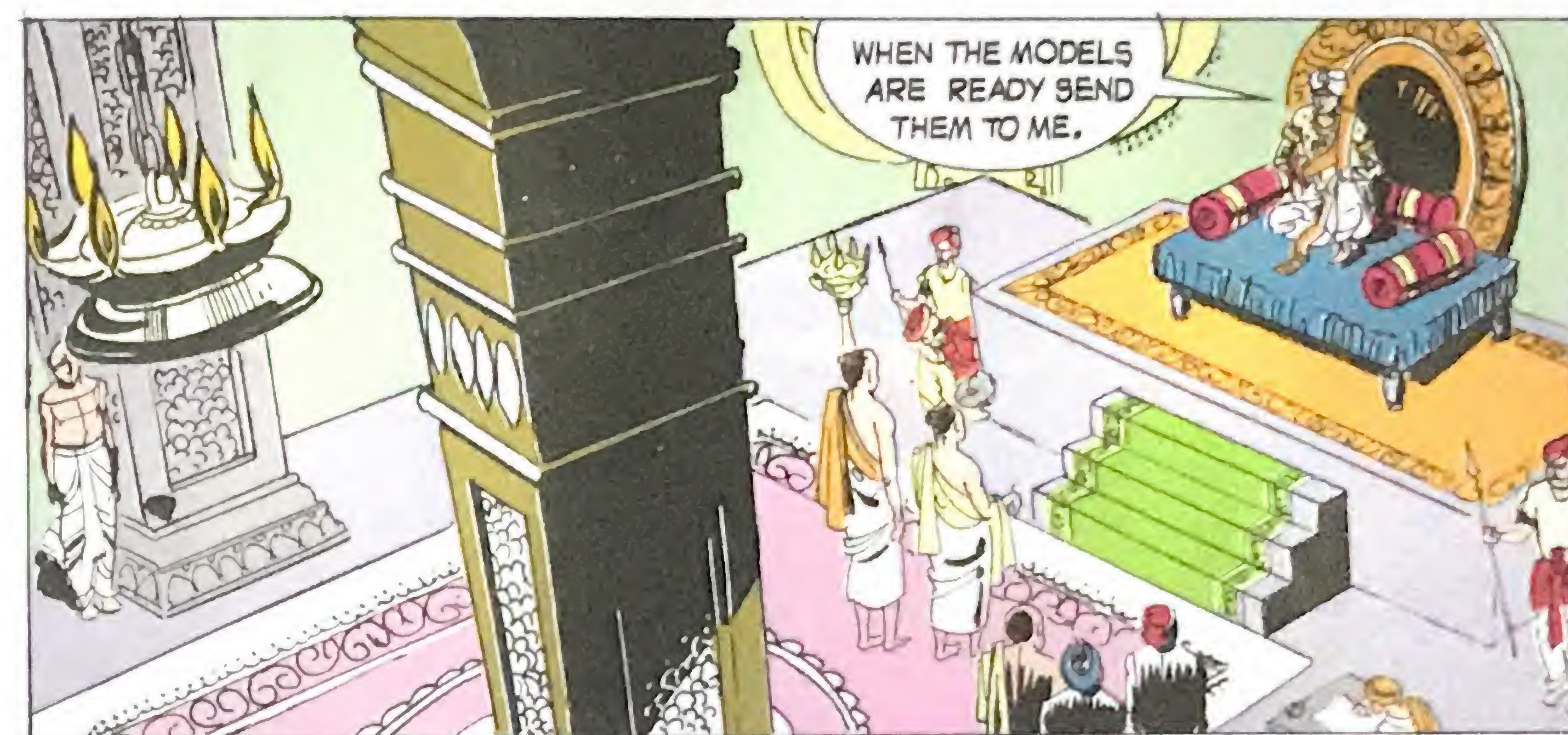


THE DEFENDANT HAD BRIBED HIS OWN WASHERMAN, BARBER AND COOK TO COME AND SUPPORT HIS STORY.



RAMA TURNED TO HIS ATTENDANT.

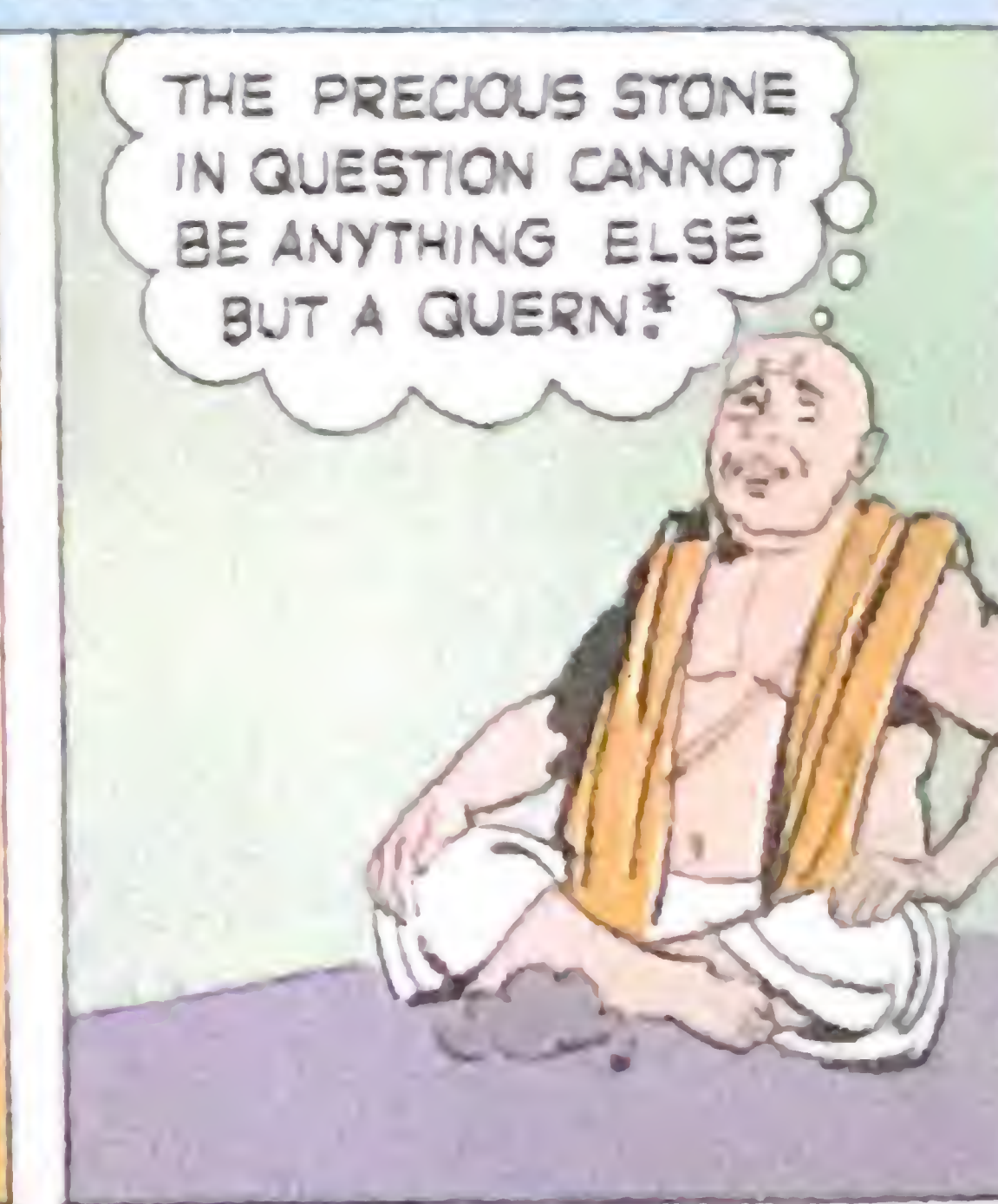
GIVE ALL FIVE OF THEM SOME CLAY AND ASK EACH OF THEM TO MAKE A MODEL OF THE PRECIOUS STONE.



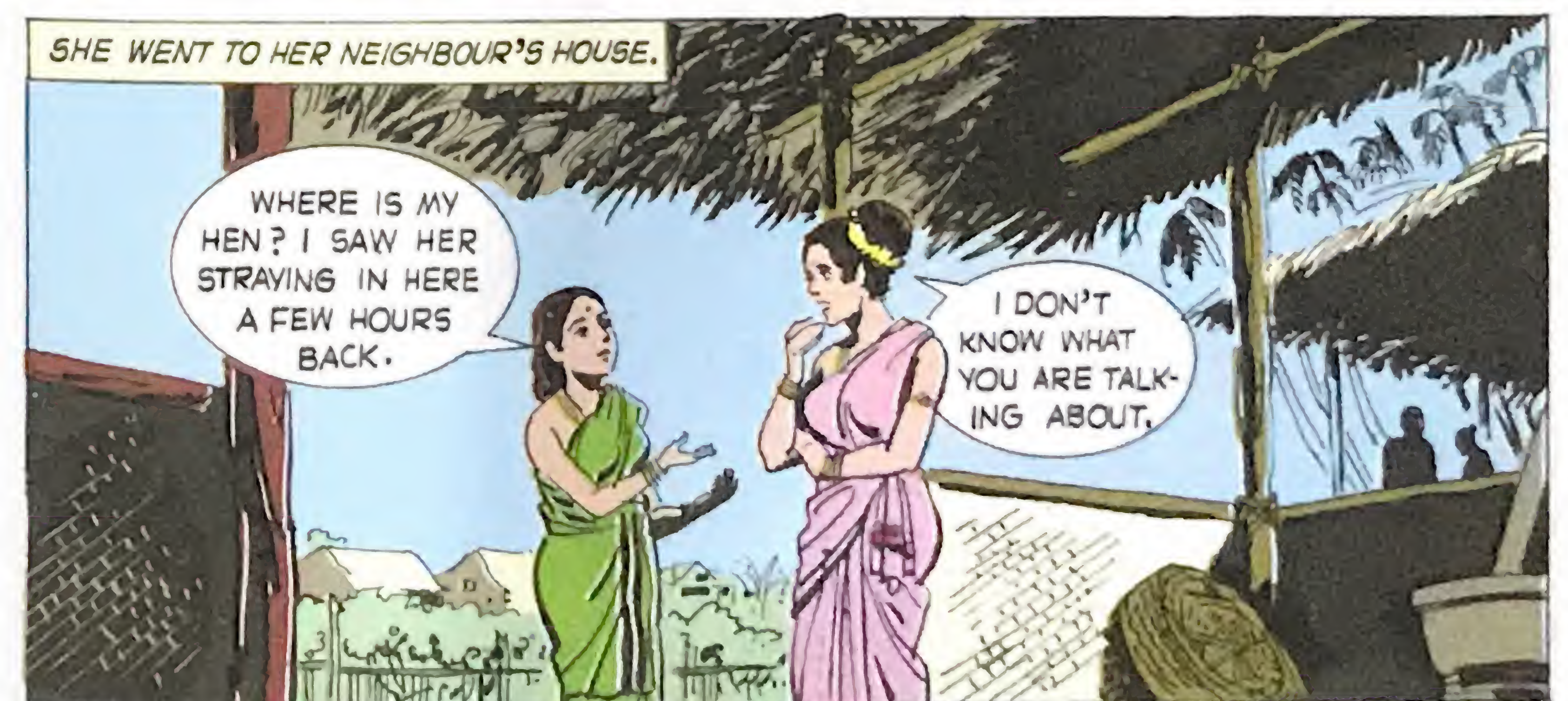
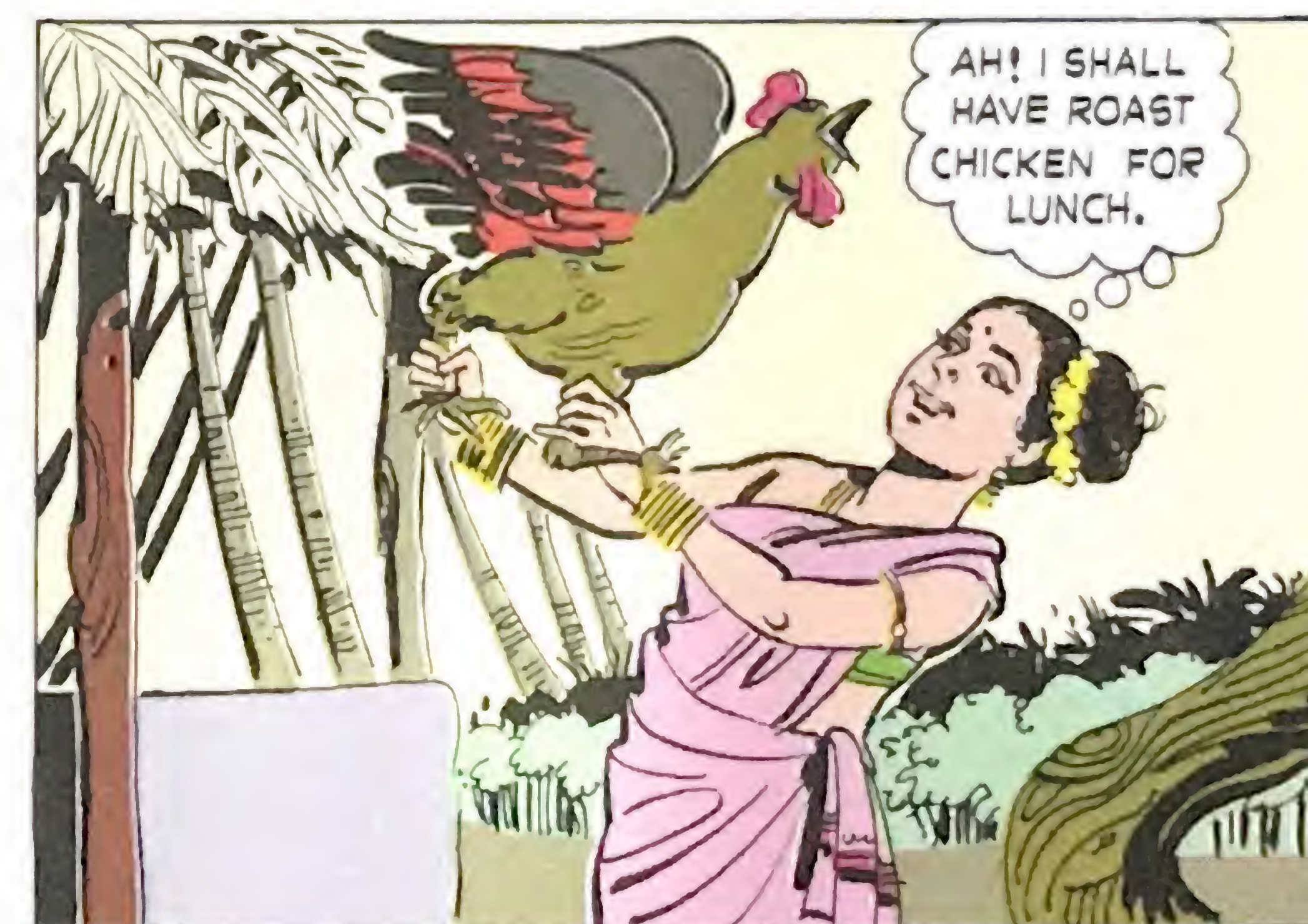
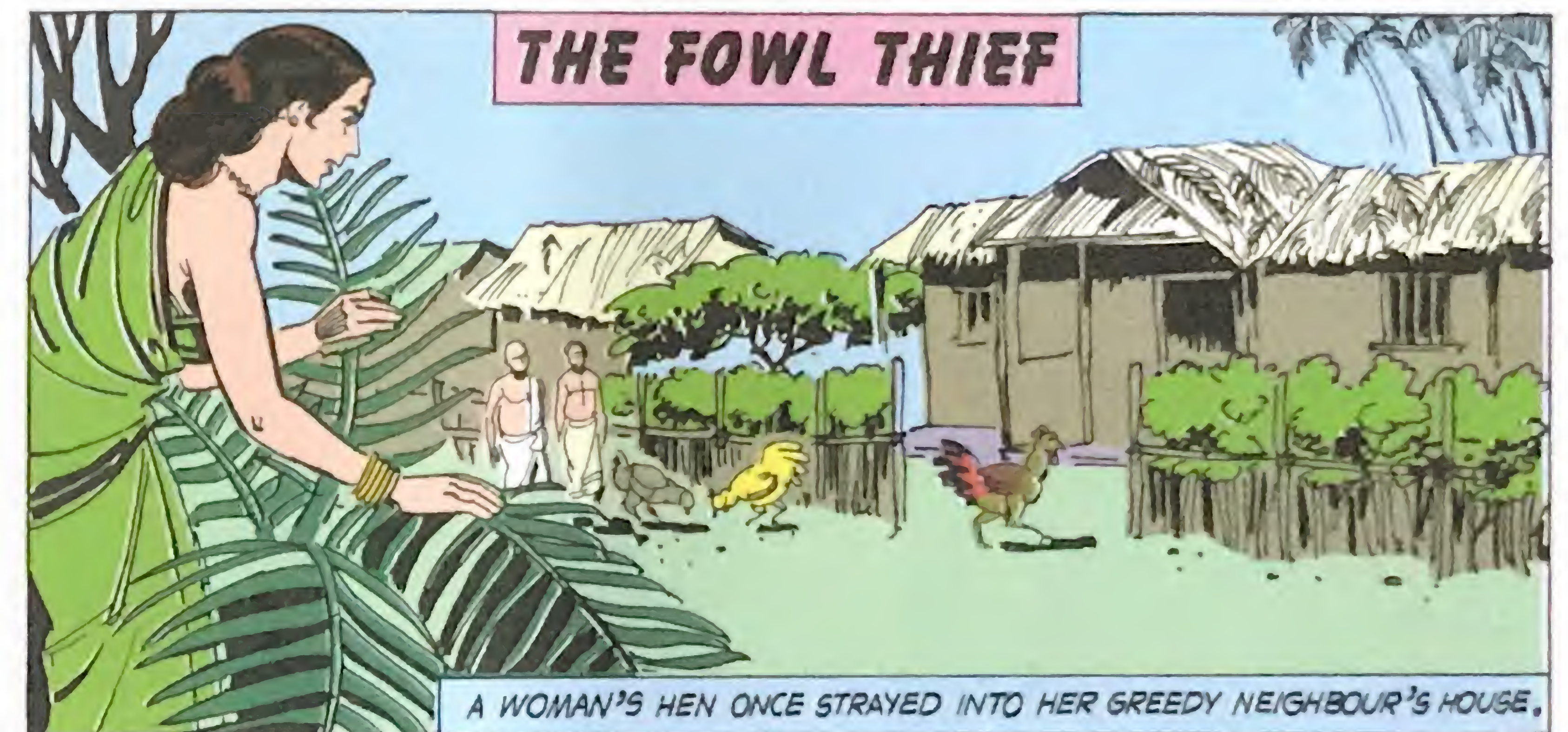
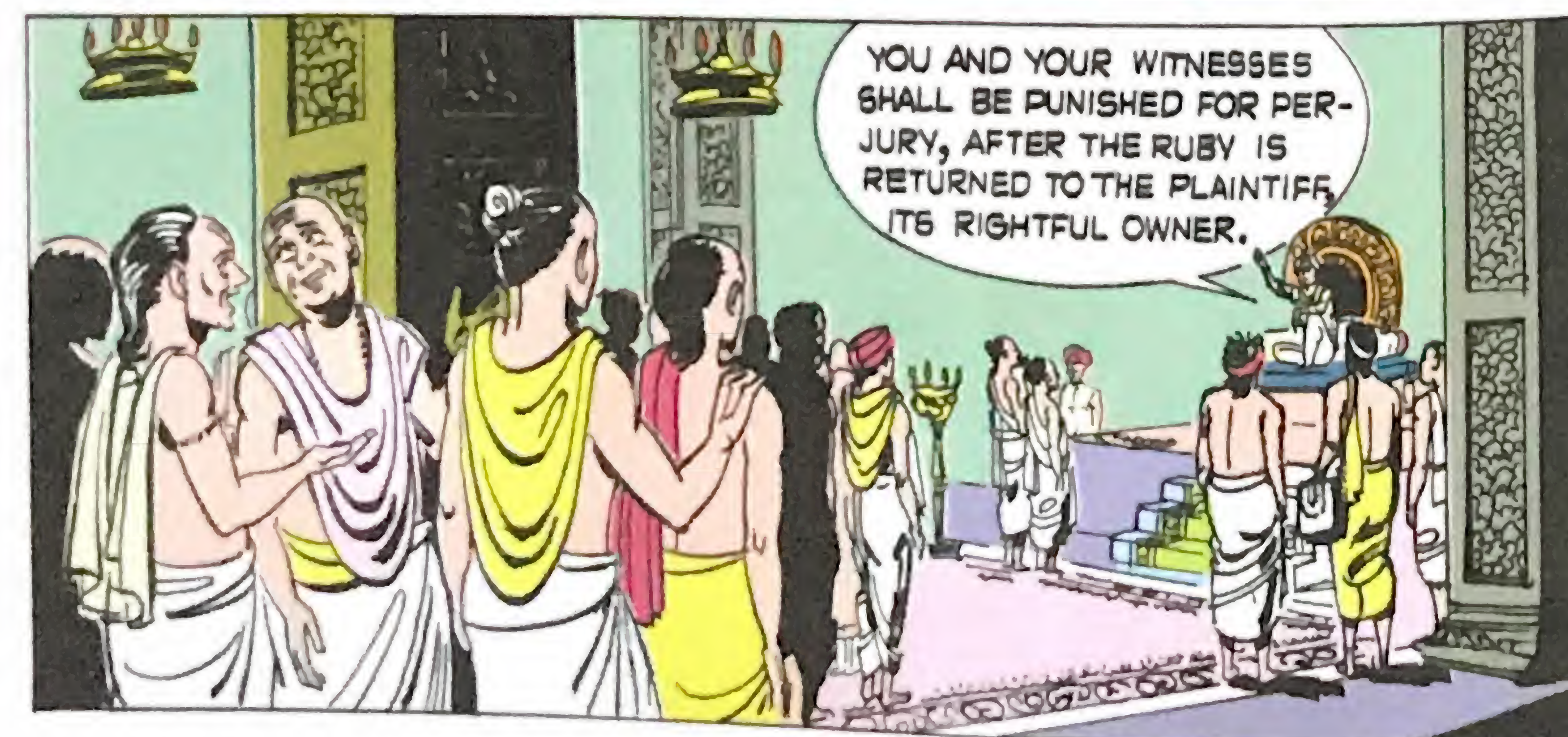
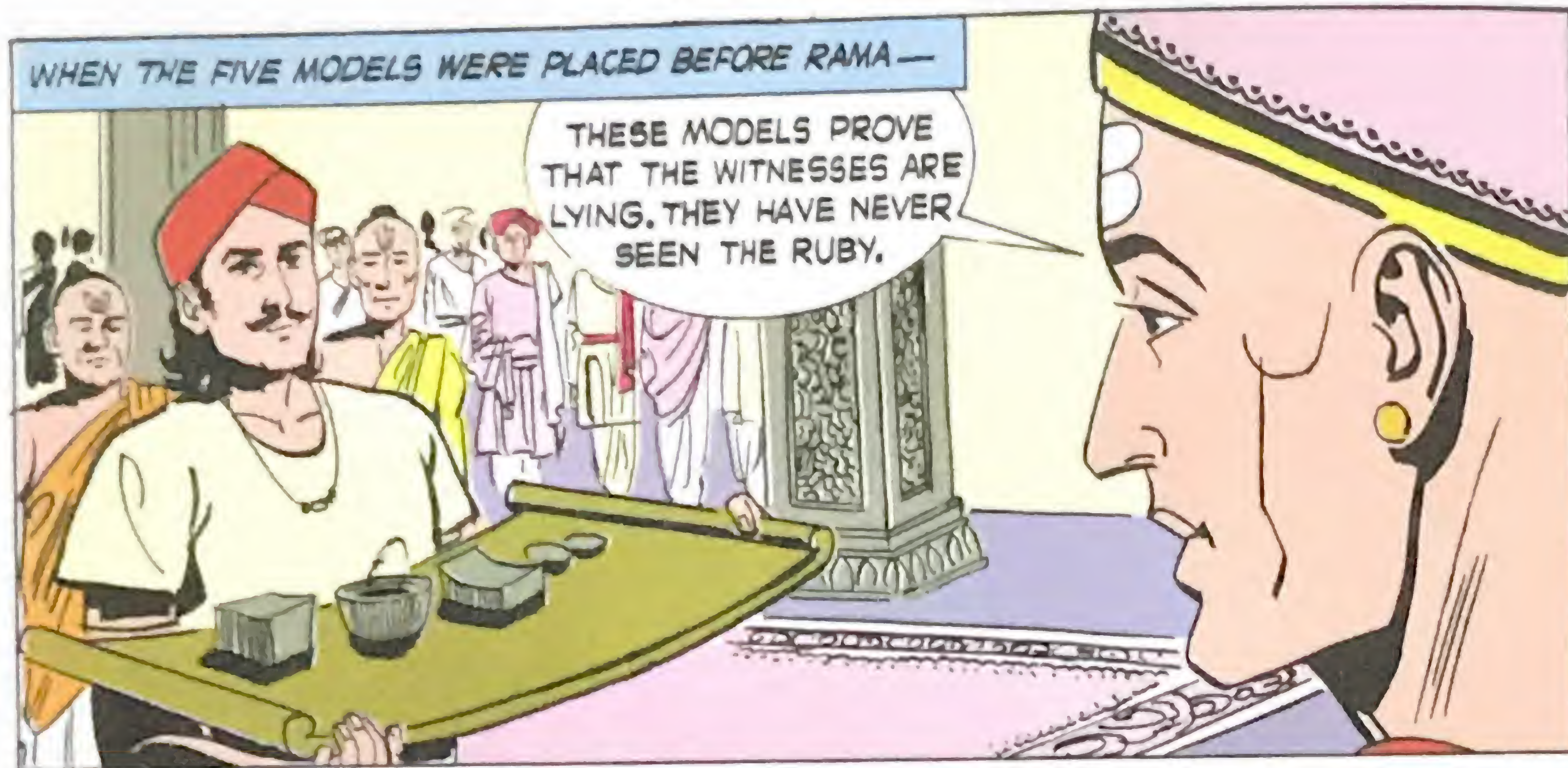
THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DEFENDANT HAD NO PROBLEM. THEY KNEW THAT THE PRECIOUS STONE WAS A RUBY AND GOT DOWN TO WORK ON THEIR MODELS.

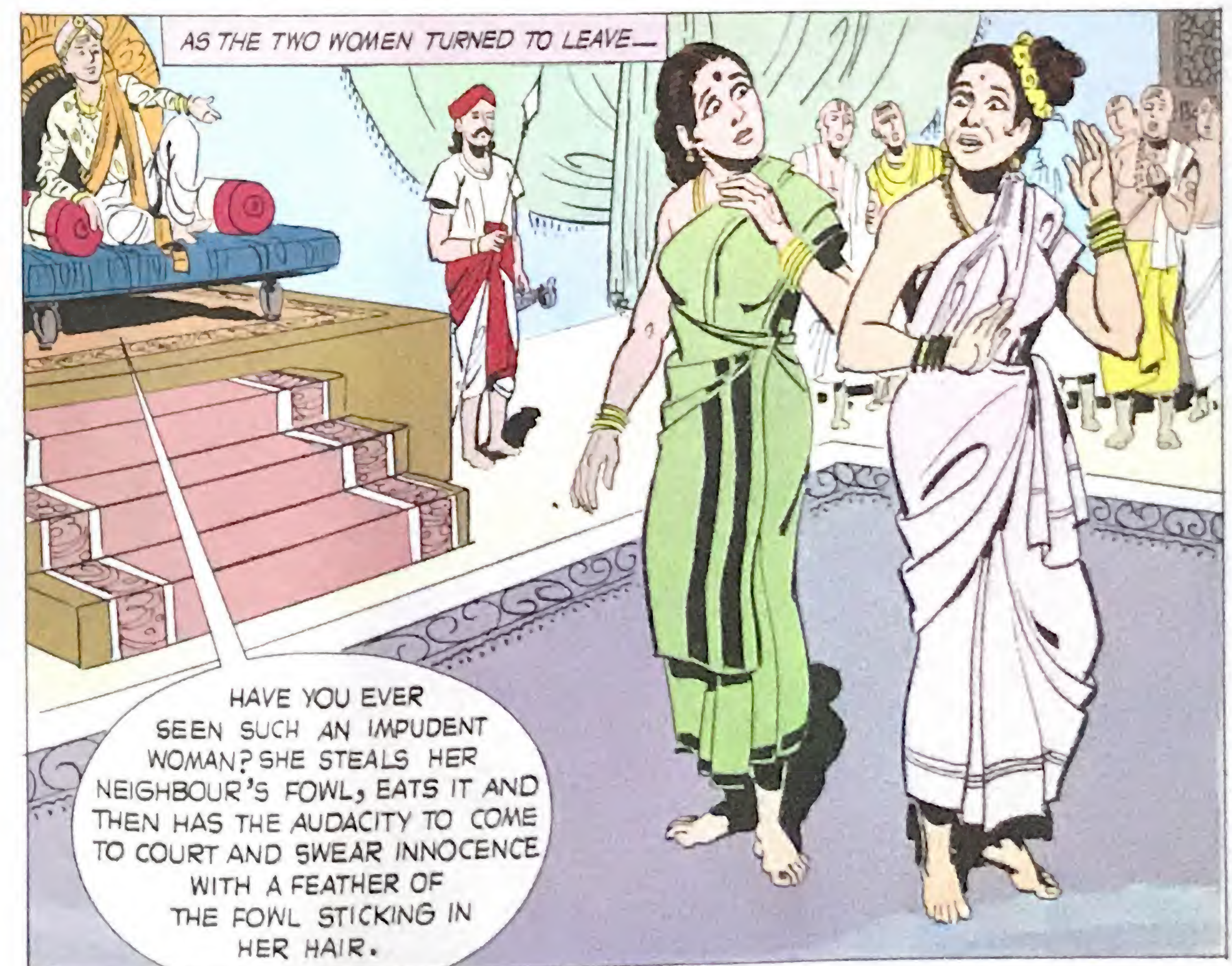
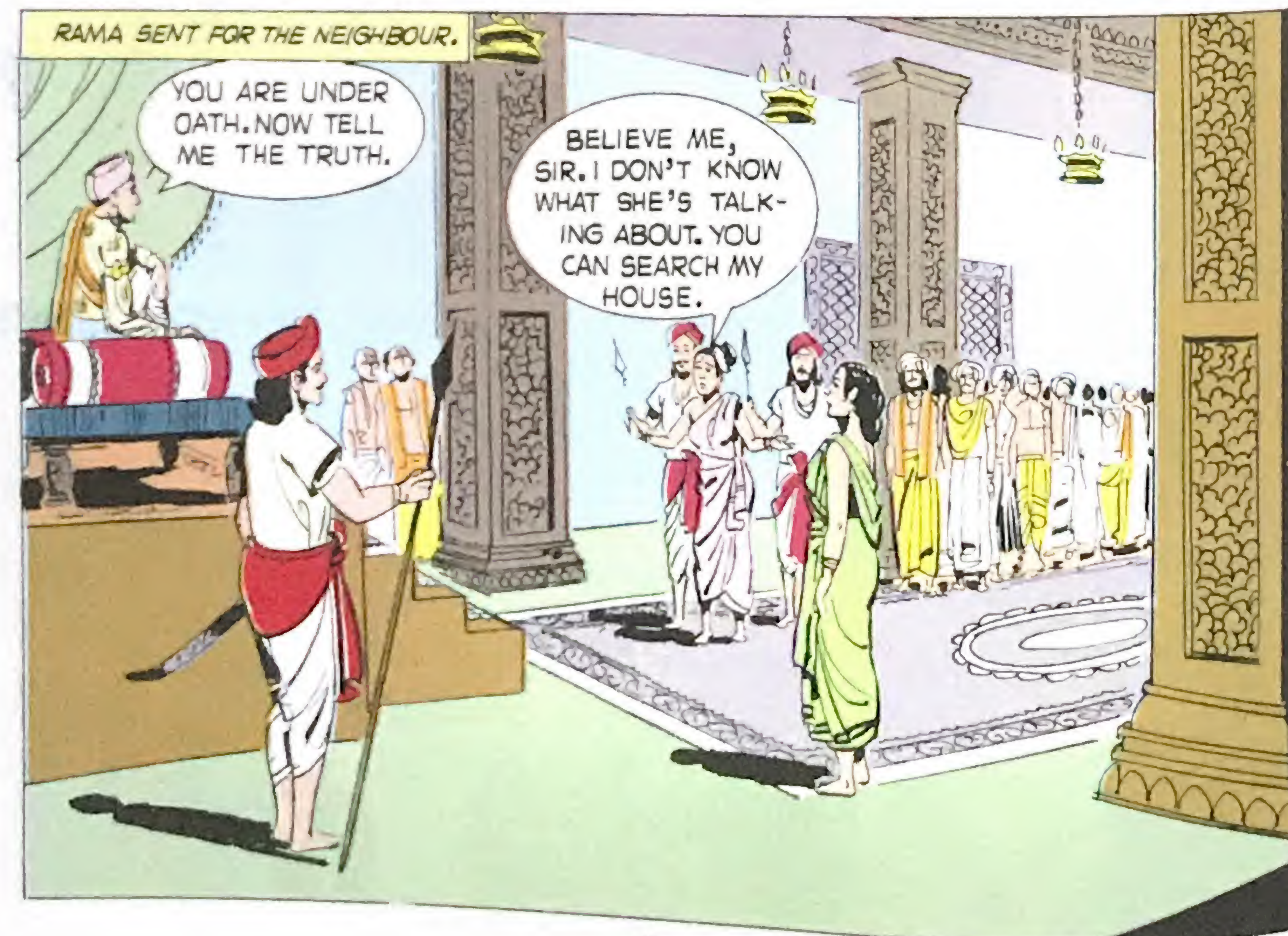
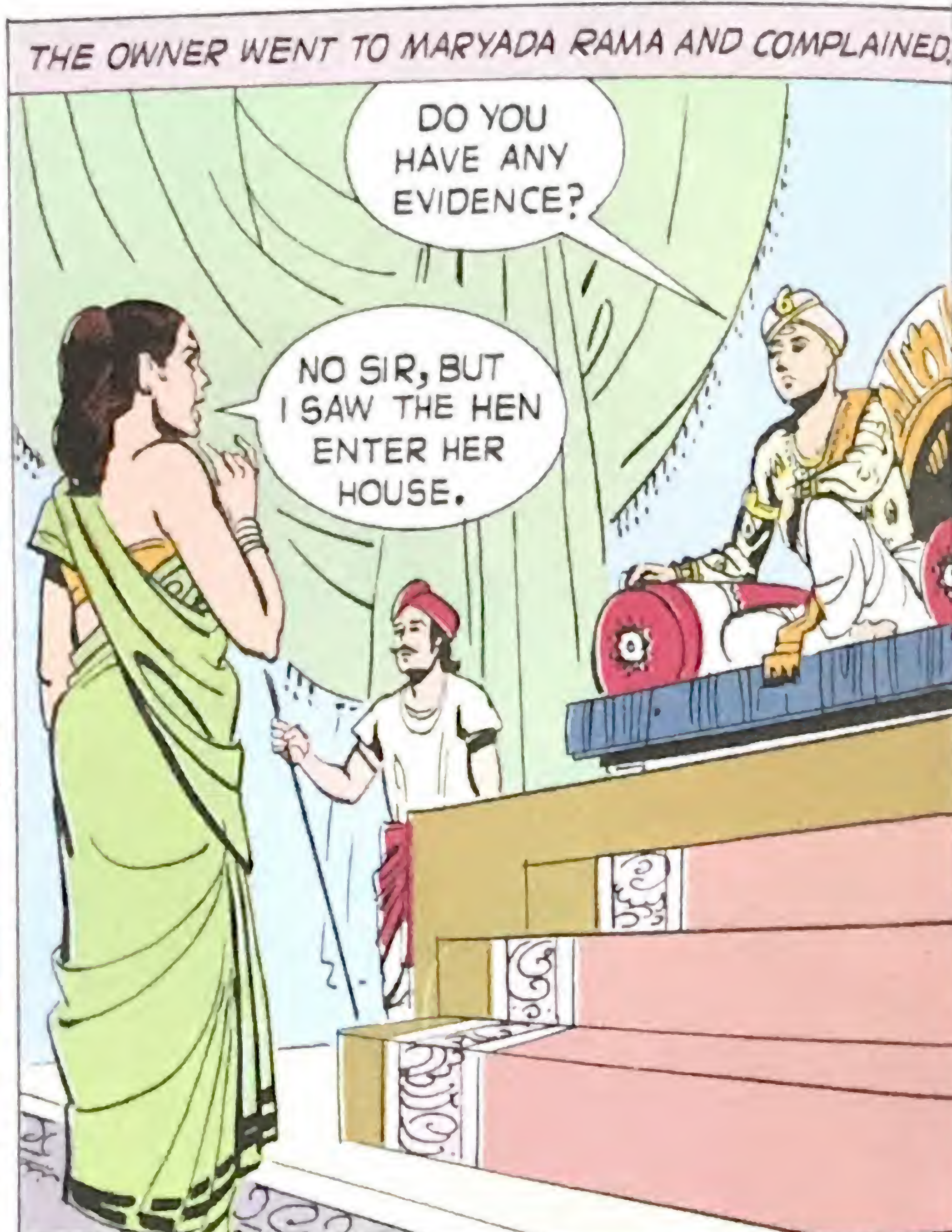


BUT THE FALSE WITNESSES WHO HAD NEVER SEEN THE RUBY, DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO, SO EACH OF THEM MADE A MODEL OF WHAT WAS TO HIM A PRECIOUS STONE—THE STONE USED IN HIS TRADE.



* STONE FOR GRINDING SPICES.





THE MOMENT THE GUILTY WOMAN HEARD RAMA'S WORDS, SHE PASSED HER HAND OVER HER HAIR.

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO CARELESS!



THE NEXT MOMENT —

SEIZE HER! SHE IS GUILTY.



THE SUSPECT STOOD SHAME-FACEDLY BEFORE RAMA.

YOU WILL REPLACE THE STOLEN BIRD AND PAY A HEAVY FINE TO THE COURT FOR UTTERING A FALSEHOOD UNDER OATH.



THE DISHONEST DEBTOR



A FARMER ONCE SIGNED A BOND AND BORROWED A HUNDRED GOLD COINS FROM A MONEY-LENDER, PROMISING TO RETURN THE AMOUNT WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

AT THE END OF THE THREE MONTHS, THE MONEY-LENDER ASKED HIM TO REPAY THE SUM.

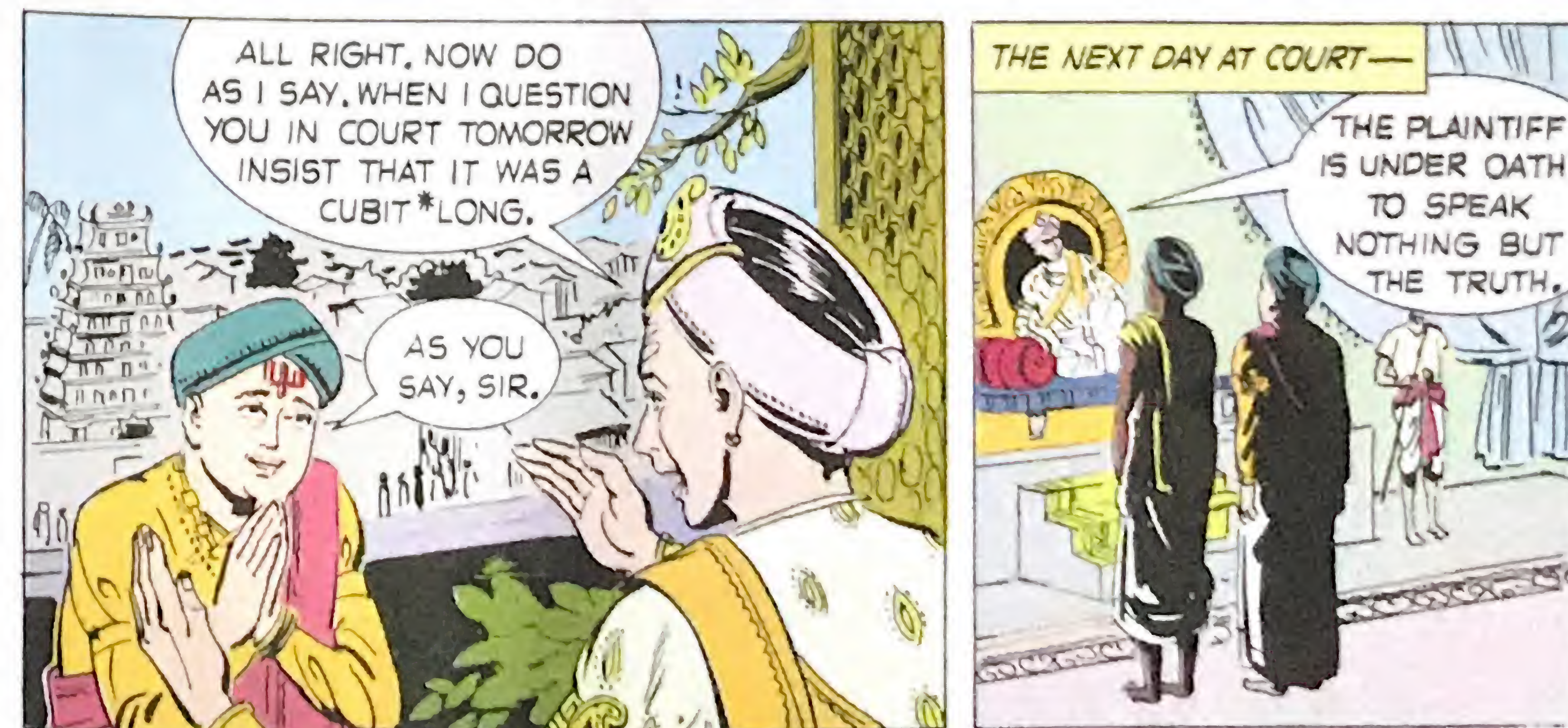
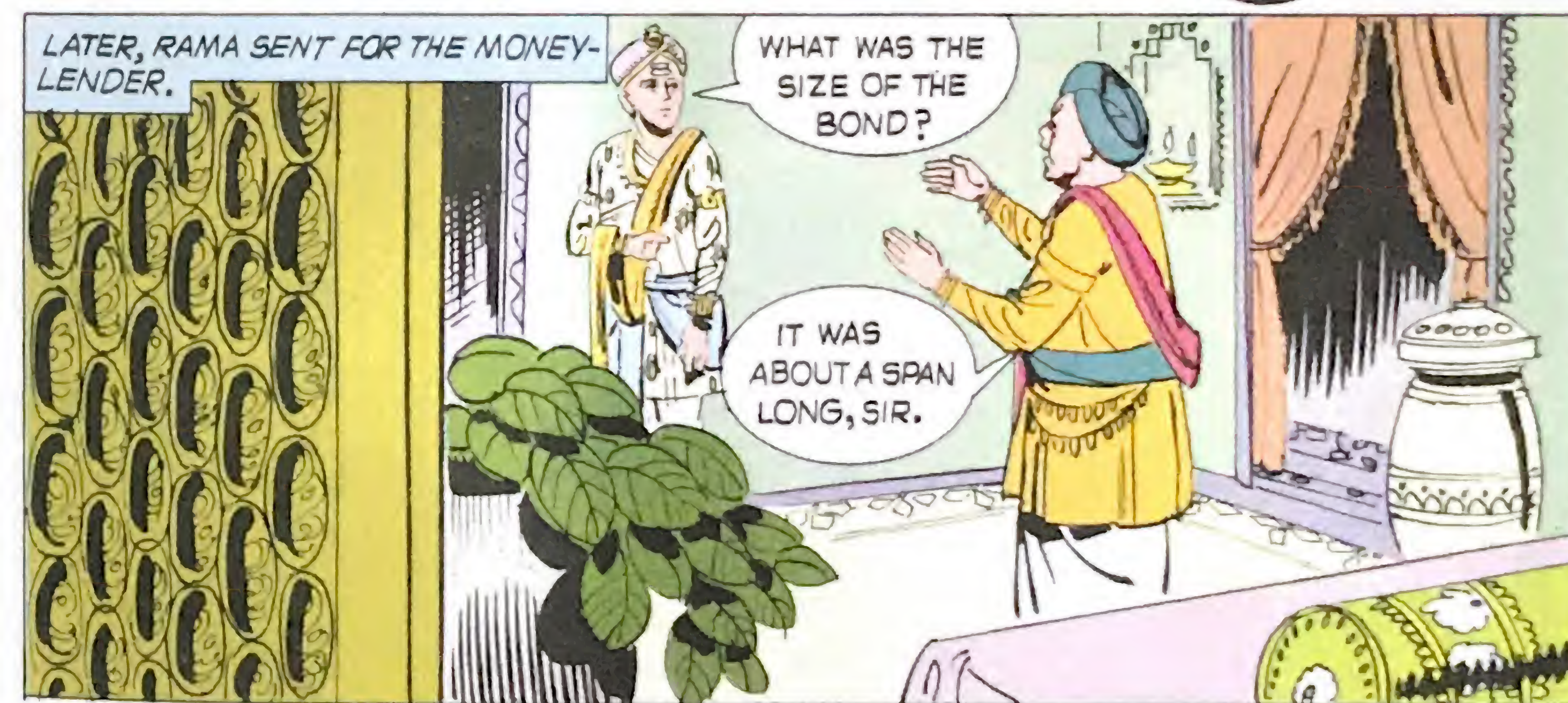
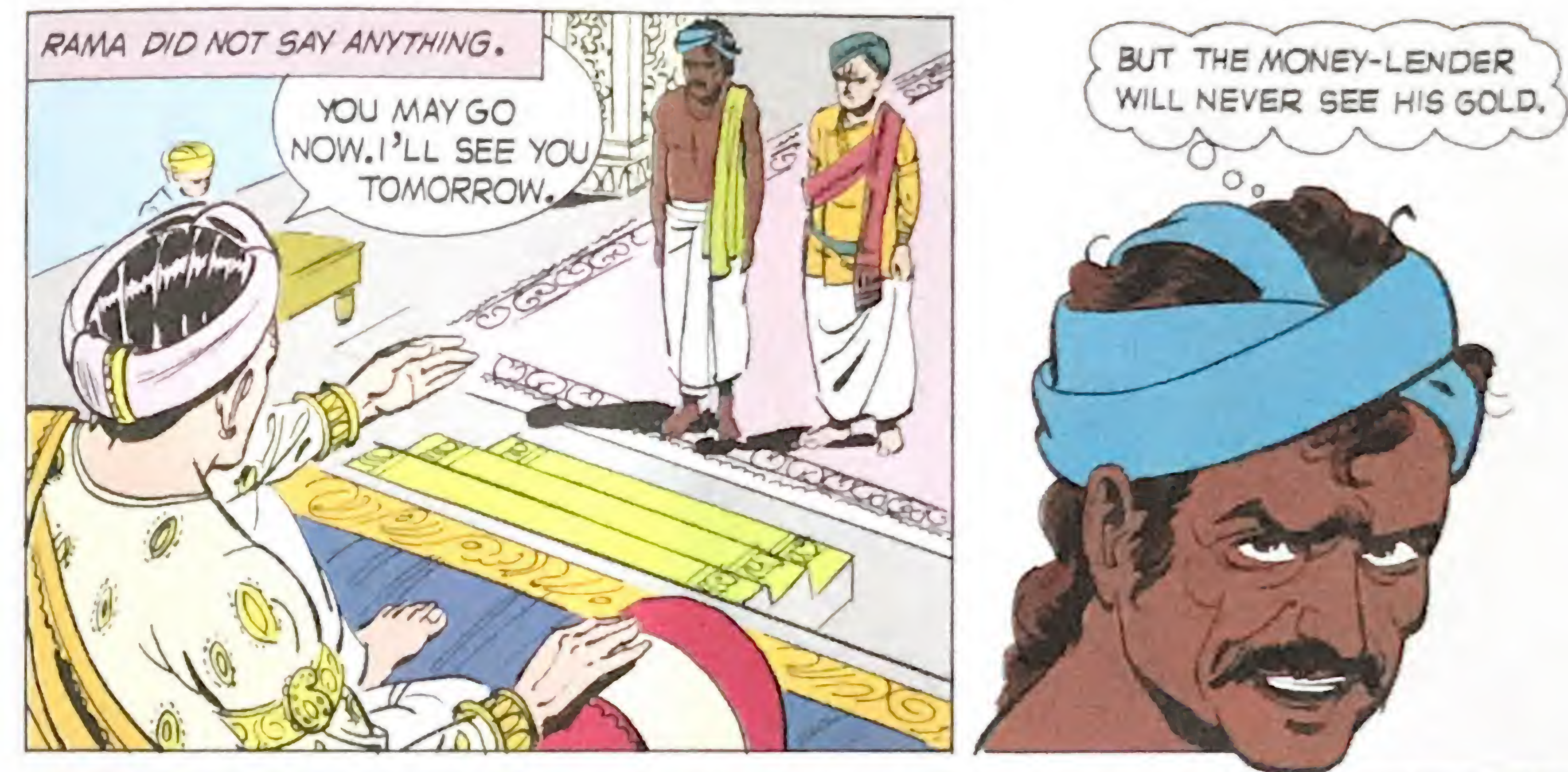
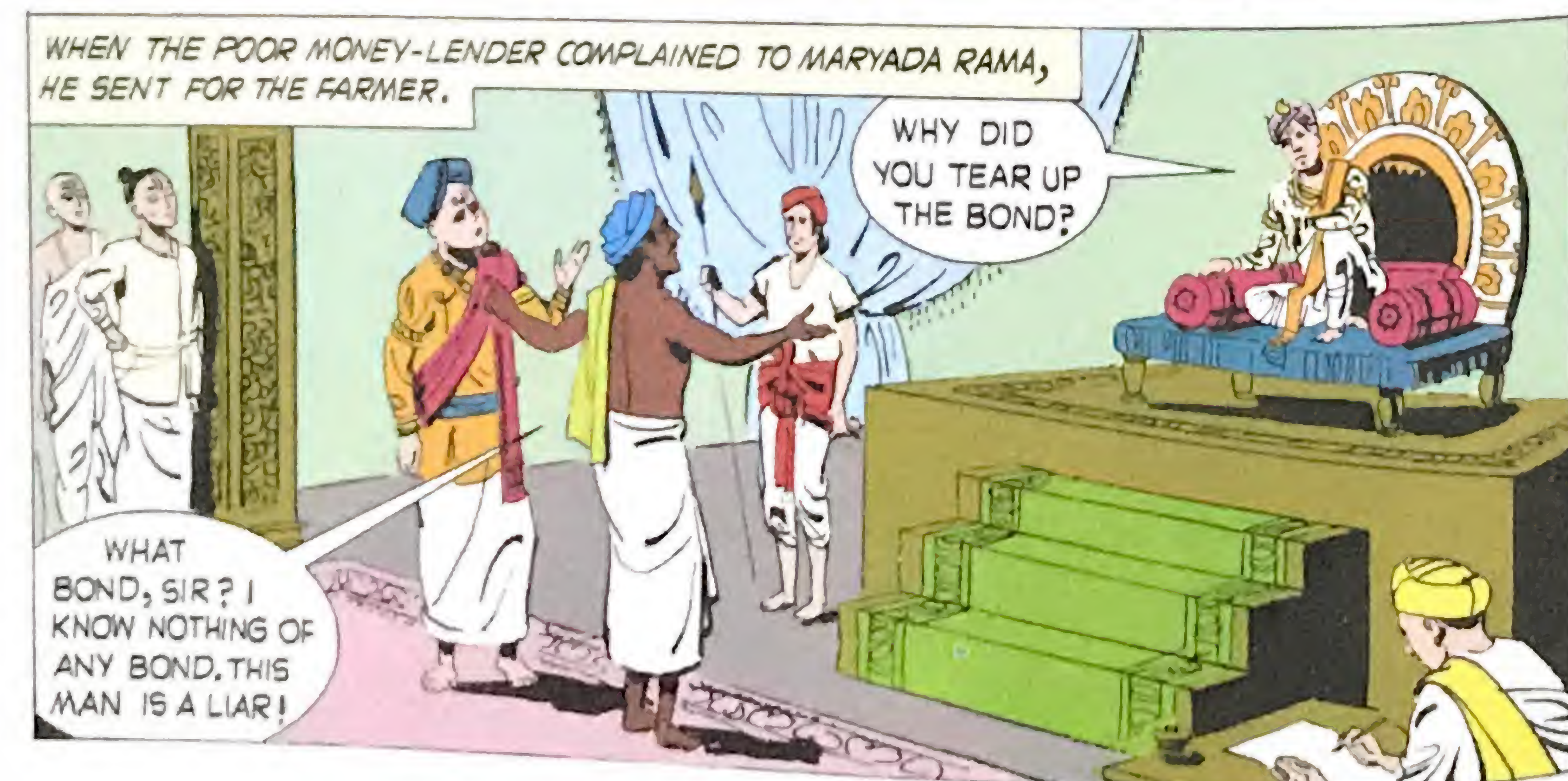


COME TO MY FARM TOMORROW WITH THE BOND AND I'LL RETURN THE AMOUNT ALONG WITH THE INTEREST.

THE MONEY-LENDER WENT THE NEXT DAY WITH THE BOND.

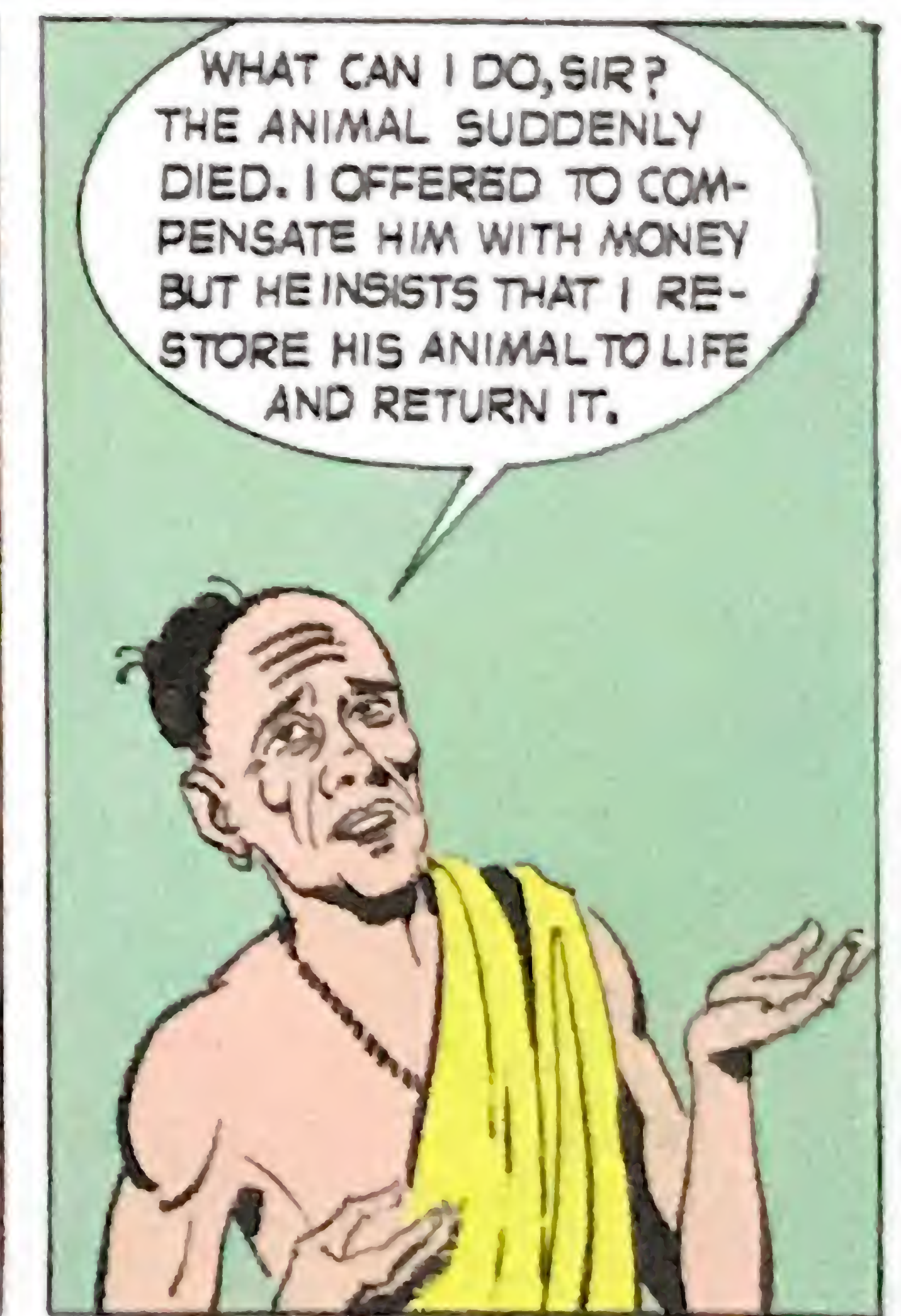
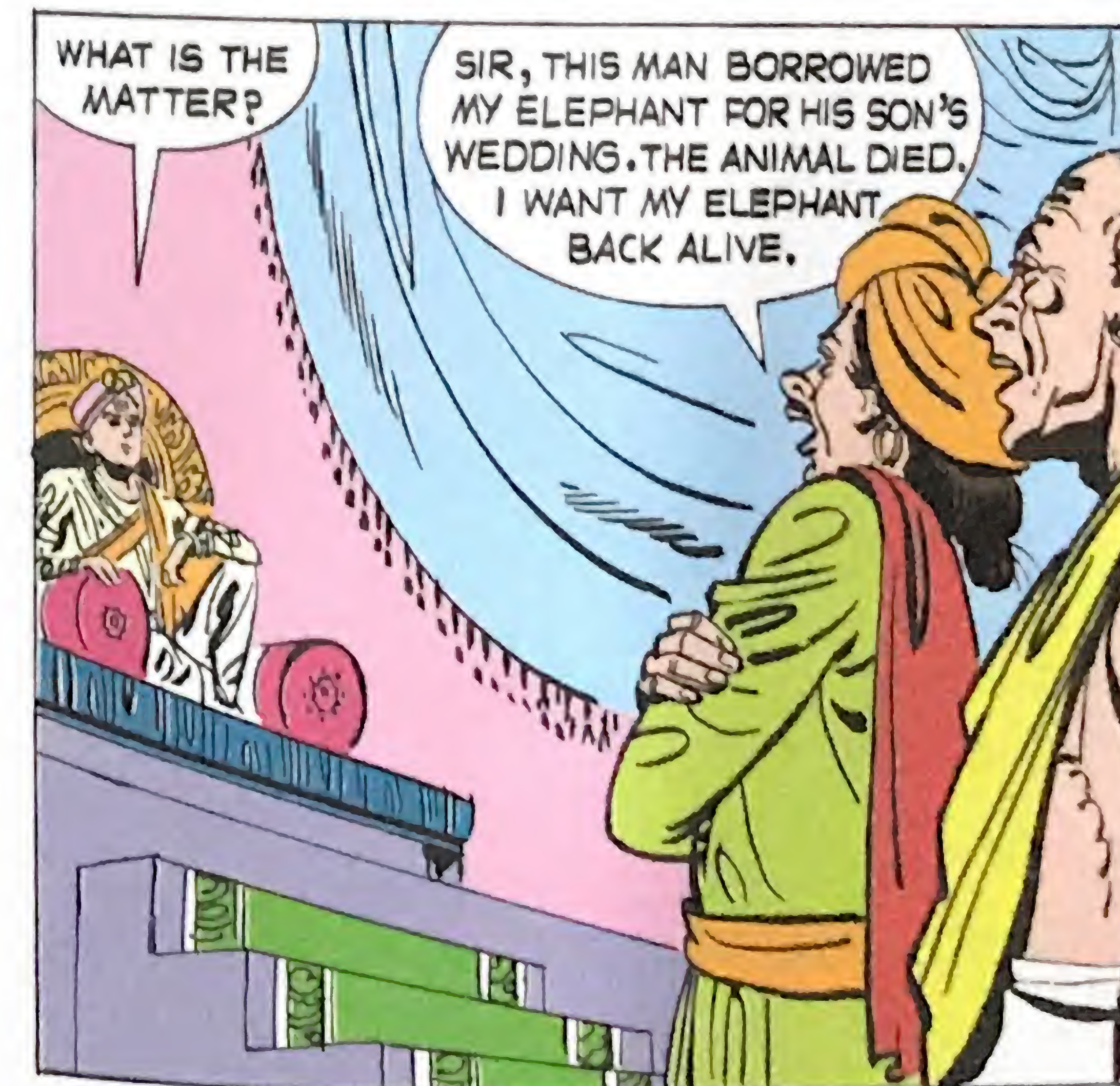
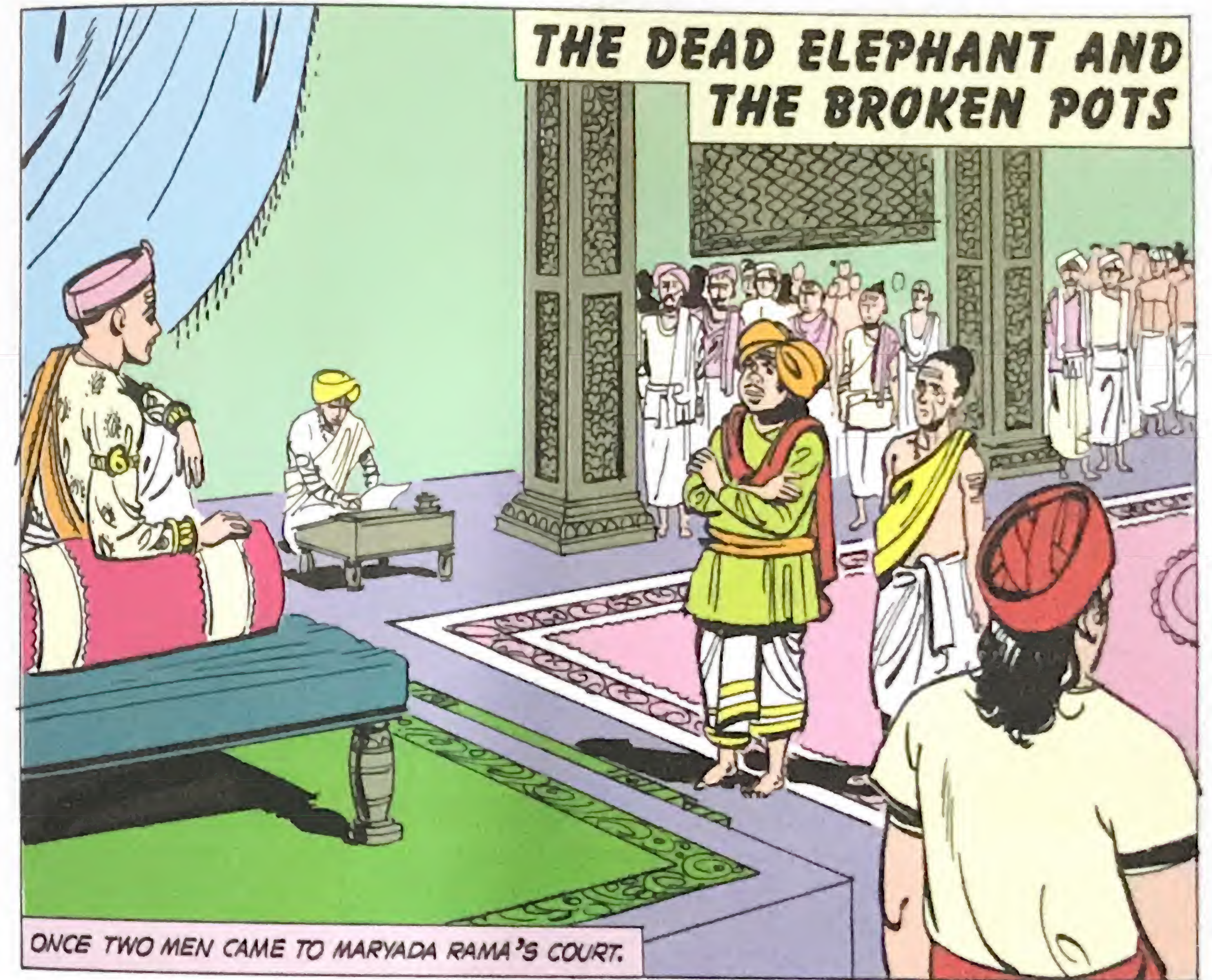
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME MISTAKE ABOUT THE DATE. LET ME SEE THE BOND.

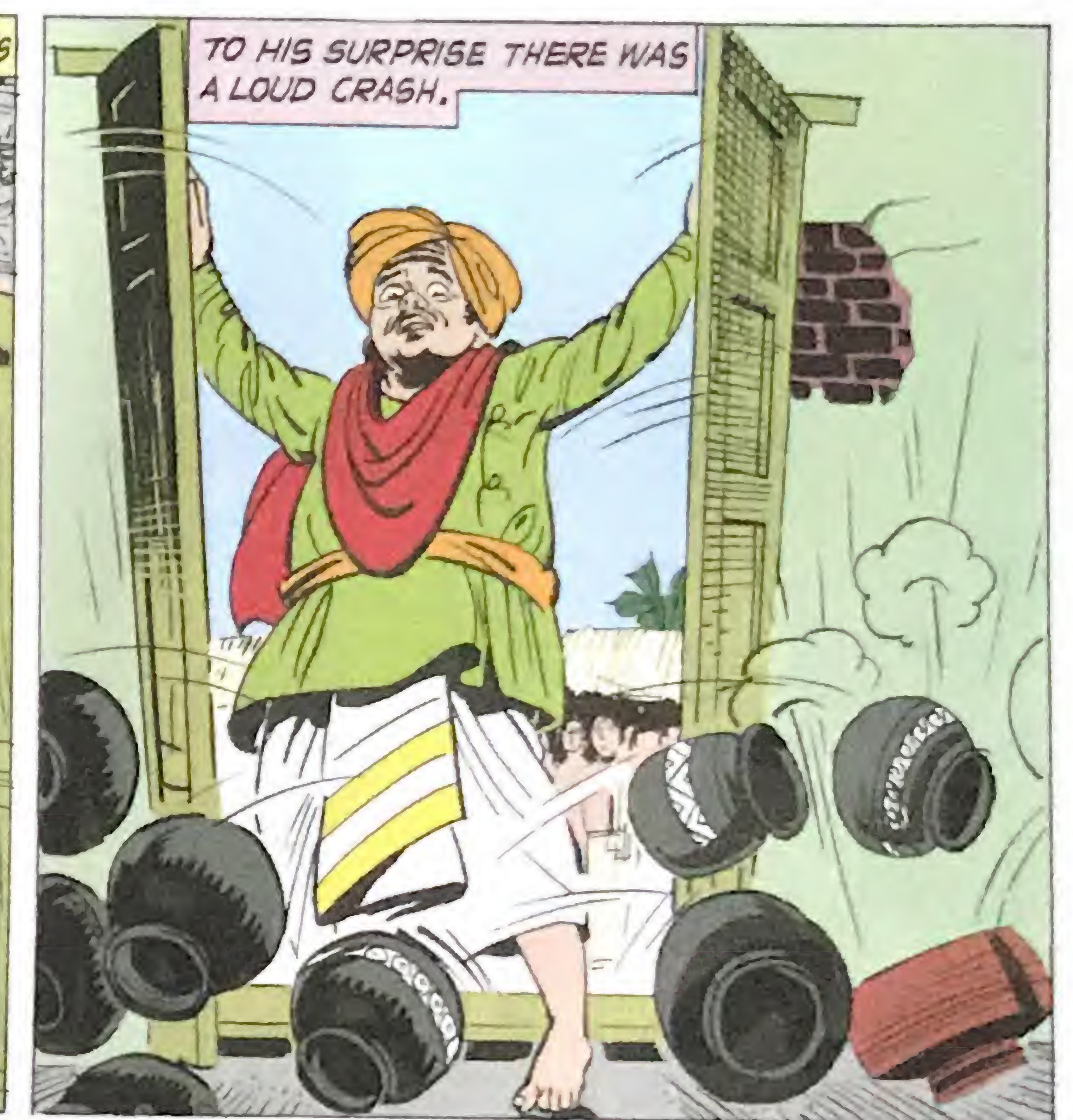


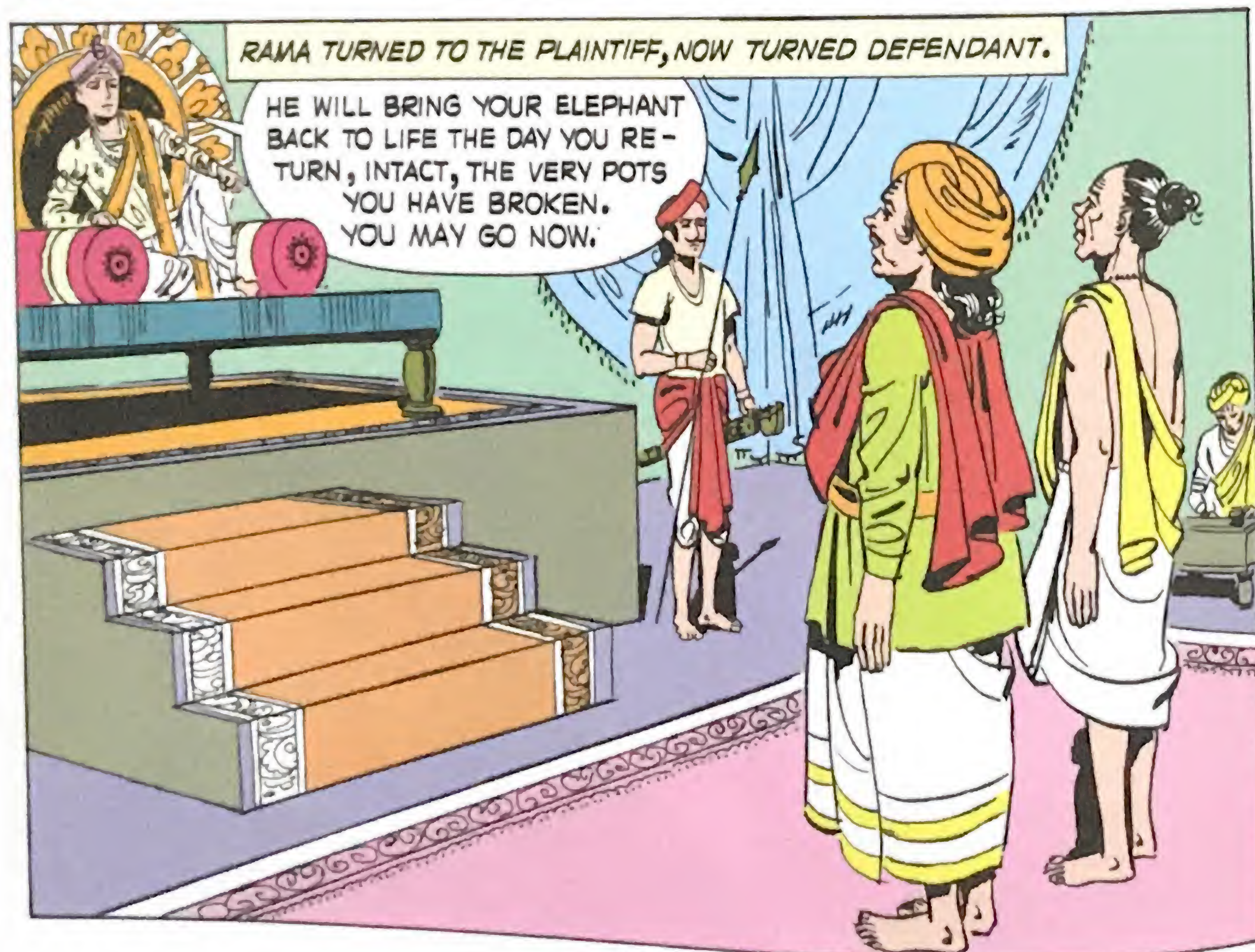




THE FARMER KNEW HE WAS TRAPPED AND CONFESSED.



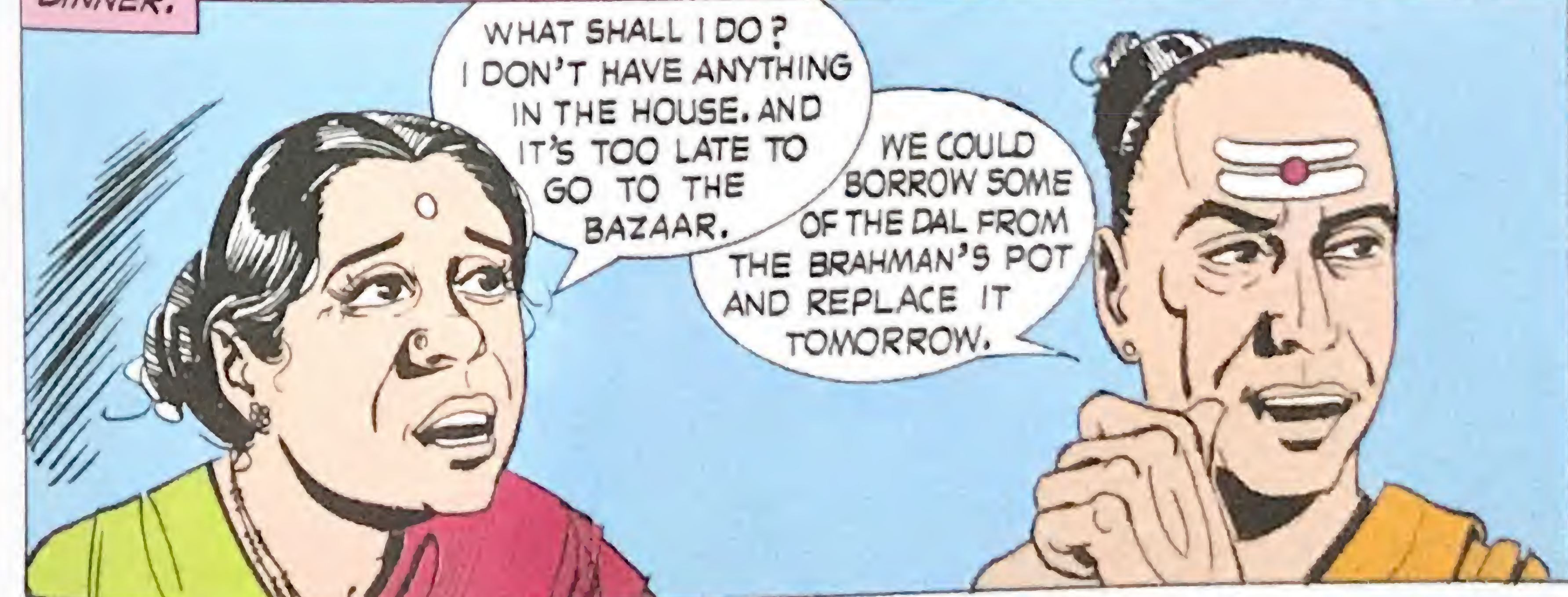


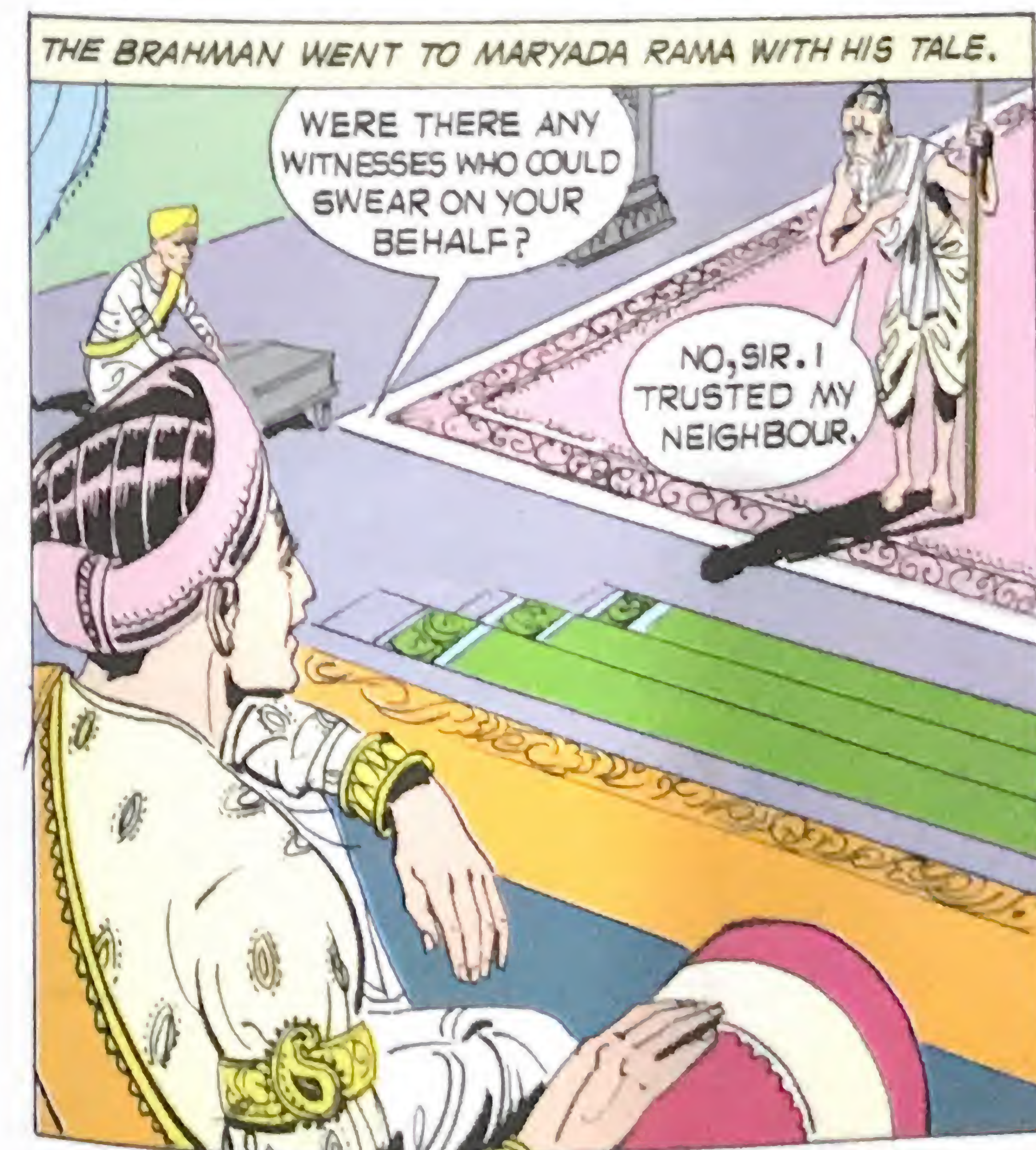
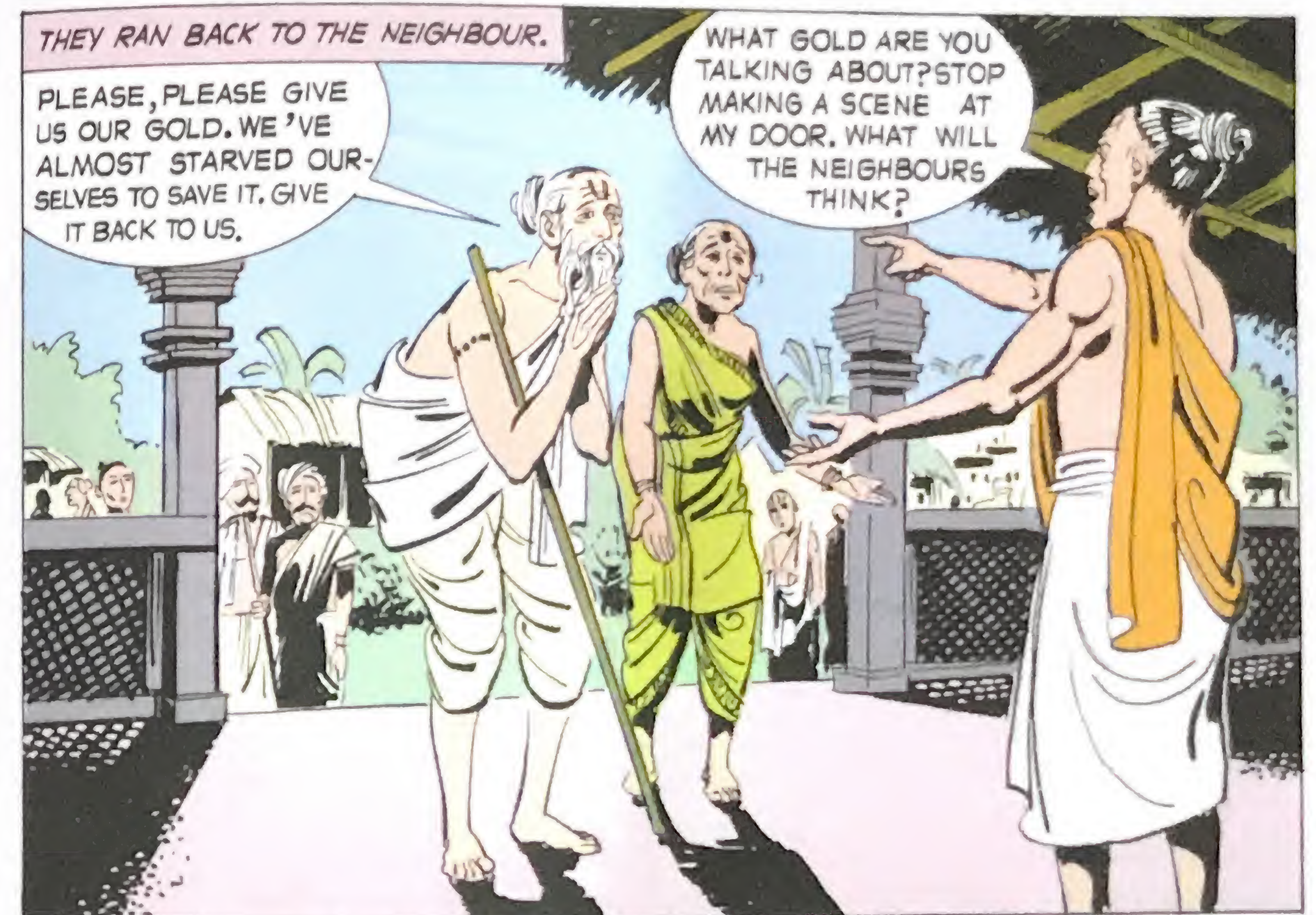
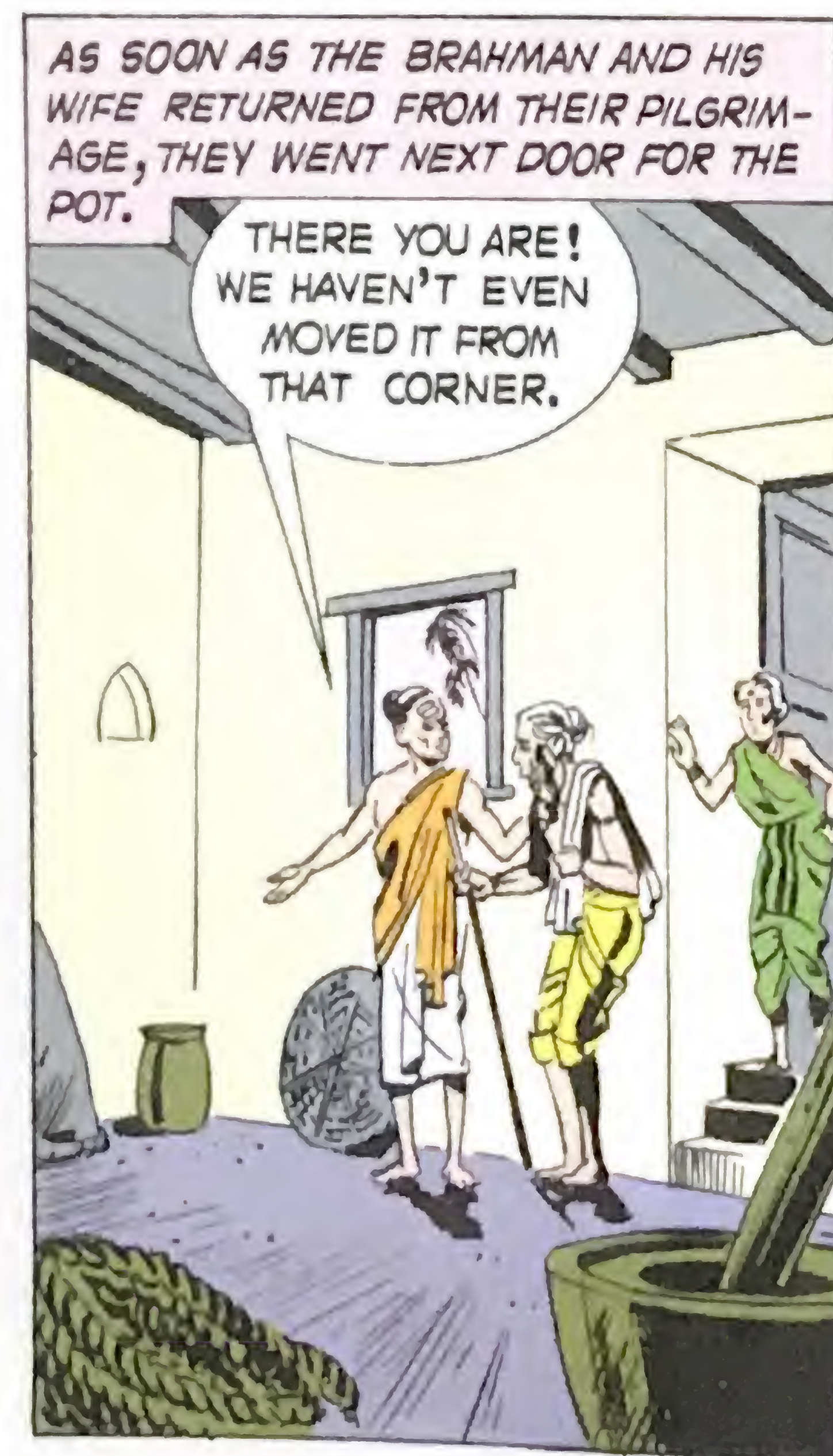


THE BRAHMAN'S GOLD



ONE NIGHT, A FEW DAYS LATER, THE NEIGHBOURS HAD EIGHT UNEXPECTED GUESTS FOR DINNER.





HE SENT FOR A BASKET-MAKER.



I WANT A HOLLOW IDOL MADE OF CANE. IT SHOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO CONCEAL A CHILD AND LIGHT ENOUGH TO BE CARRIED BY TWO PEOPLE. COVER IT WITH LAC TO MAKE IT LOOK AS IF IT'S MADE OF WOOD.

WHEN THE IDOL WAS BROUGHT TO COURT, RAMA SENT FOR A BRIGHT CHILD.



NOW SIT HERE WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND AND LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT-EVER YOU HEAR.

WHEN THE CHILD WAS COMFORTABLY SEATED INSIDE THE IDOL, RAMA SENT FOR THE NEIGHBOUR AND HIS WIFE.

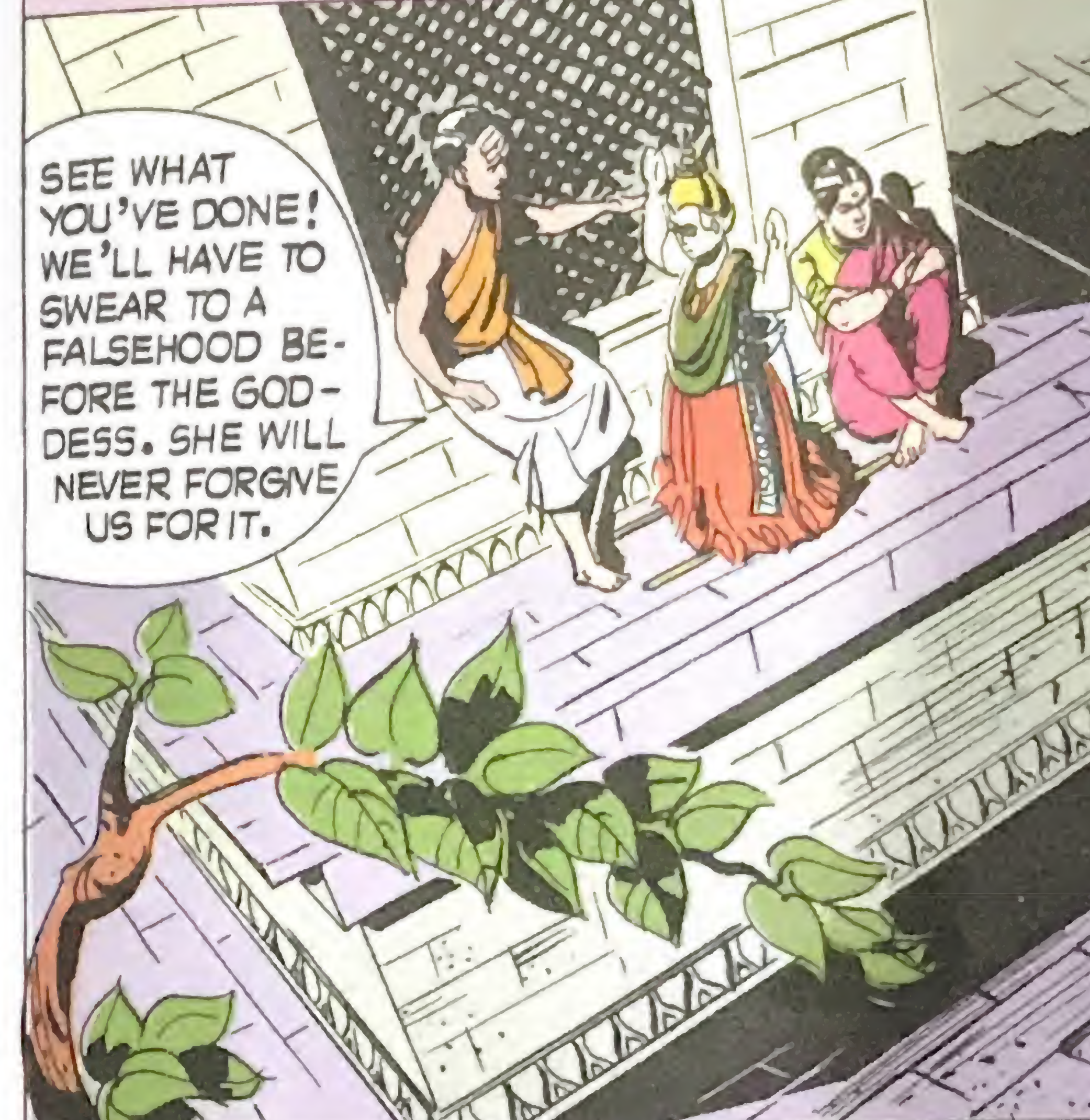


CARRY THIS IDOL ROUND THE TEMPLE, SWEAR BEFORE GODDESS KALI THAT YOU HAVE NOT TAKEN THE BRAHMAN'S GOLD AND THEN COME BACK HERE.

TREMBLING WITH FEAR, THE COUPLE CARRIED THE IDOL TO THE TEMPLE AND BEGAN WALKING ROUND IT.



WHILE THEY WERE AT THE BACK OF THE TEMPLE AND OUT OF EARSHOT, AS HE BELIEVED, THE HUSBAND TURNED ANGRILY UPON HIS WIFE.



SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE! WE'LL HAVE TO SWEAR TO A FALSEHOOD BEFORE THE GOD-DESS. SHE WILL NEVER FORGIVE US FOR IT.

INSIDE THE IDOL—



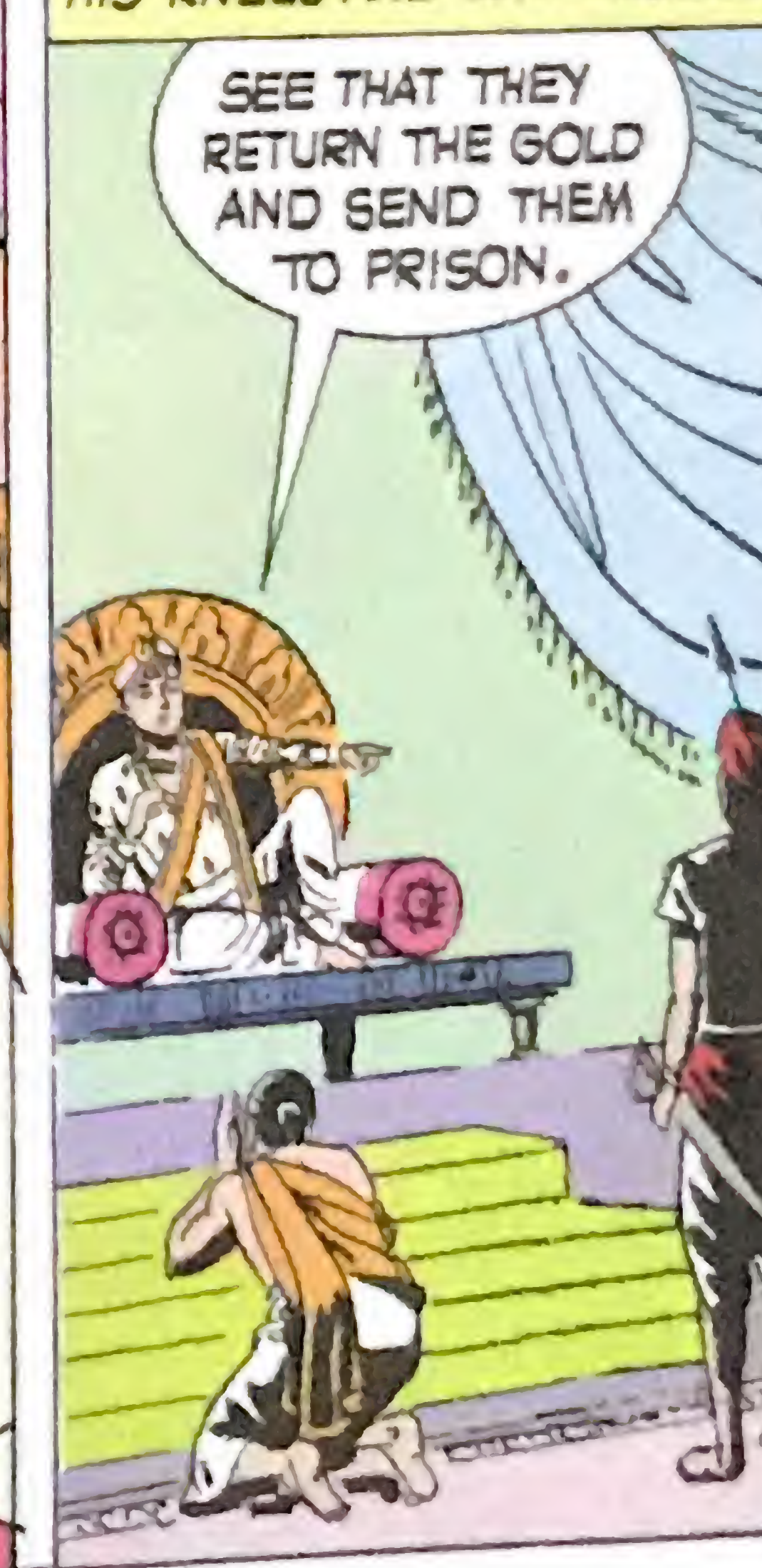
THE JUDGE WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR THIS.

AS SOON AS THE IDOL WAS BROUGHT BACK TO COURT, THE CHILD CAME OUT.



SIR, THIS MAN SAID TO HIS WIFE...

KNOWING THAT HE WAS TRAPPED, THE NEIGHBOUR FELL ON HIS KNEES AND CONFESSED.



SEE THAT THEY RETURN THE GOLD AND SEND THEM TO PRISON.

AND THE CHILD REPEATED WHAT HE HAD HEARD.

THE CAT'S PAW



ONCE A STRANGE CASE CAME UP BEFORE MARYADA RAMA.

THE PLAINTIFFS WERE THREE COTTON MERCHANTS AND THE DEFENDANT, THEIR FOURTH PARTNER.



SIR, THE FOUR OF US DEAL IN COTTON BALES. DISGUSTED WITH THE RAT MENACE WE BOUGHT A CAT.

"WE BECAME SO FOND OF THE CAT THAT EACH OF US TOOK CHARGE OF ONE OF ITS LEGS AND SHOWERED ATTENTION ON IT.



HERE IS A FINE ANKLET FOR MY LEG.

IT'S NOT AS FINE AS MINE.

"ONE DAY, THE CAT HURT ONE OF ITS LEGS—THE ONE BELONGING TO THE DEFENDANT.



MIAOW!

THERE! THERE! I'LL BIND IT WITH THIS OIL-SOAKED RAG AND IT WILL SOON BE ALL RIGHT.

"THAT NIGHT, AS THE CAT LIMPED ABOUT AFTER THE RATS, IT STEPPED ON AN OIL LAMP AND THE RAG CAUGHT FIRE.



"MAD WITH PAIN, IT DASHED HITHER AND THITHER AND SET ALL THE BALES ON FIRE.



"WHEN WE WOKE UP, IT WAS TOO LATE. ALL THE GOODS WERE DESTROYED.



SINCE IT WAS HIS LEG THAT CAUSED THE FIRE, HE WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR THE DAMAGES.

RAMA LOOKED AT THE DEFENDANT.



THE POOR FELLOW CANNOT BE BLAMED. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. HIS PARTNERS MUST BE TAUGHT A LESSON.



HE TURNED TO THE PLAINTIFFS.

IT IS YOU IN FACT WHO WILL HAVE TO MAKE GOOD TO THE DEFENDANT THE VALUE OF ONE FOURTH OF THE GOODS DESTROYED, FOR...



...IT WAS THE SOUND LEGS THAT HELPED THE CAT JUMP ABOUT AND SET FIRE TO THE BALES.