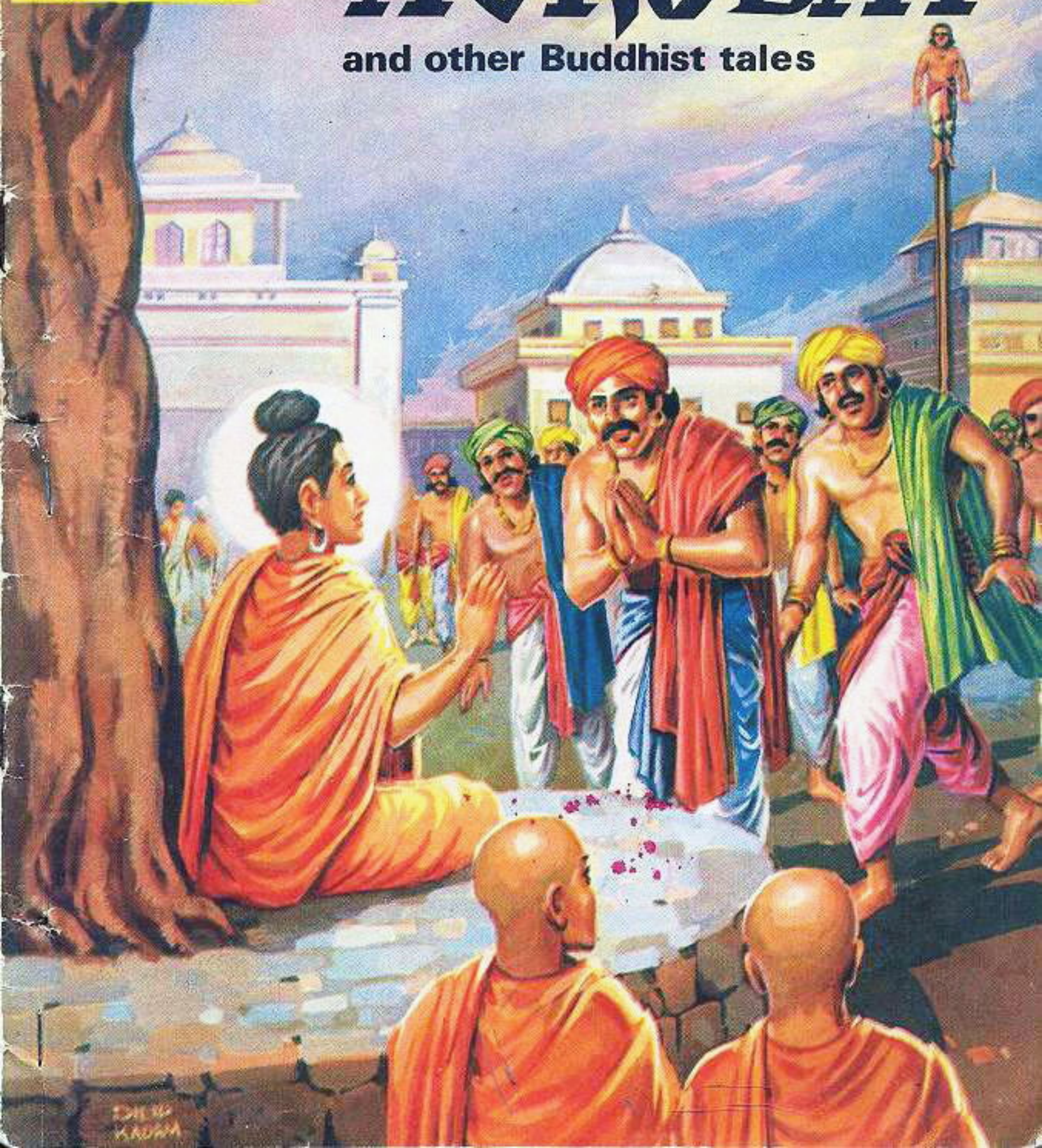




No.314 Rs. 2.00

THE ACROBAT

and other Buddhist tales

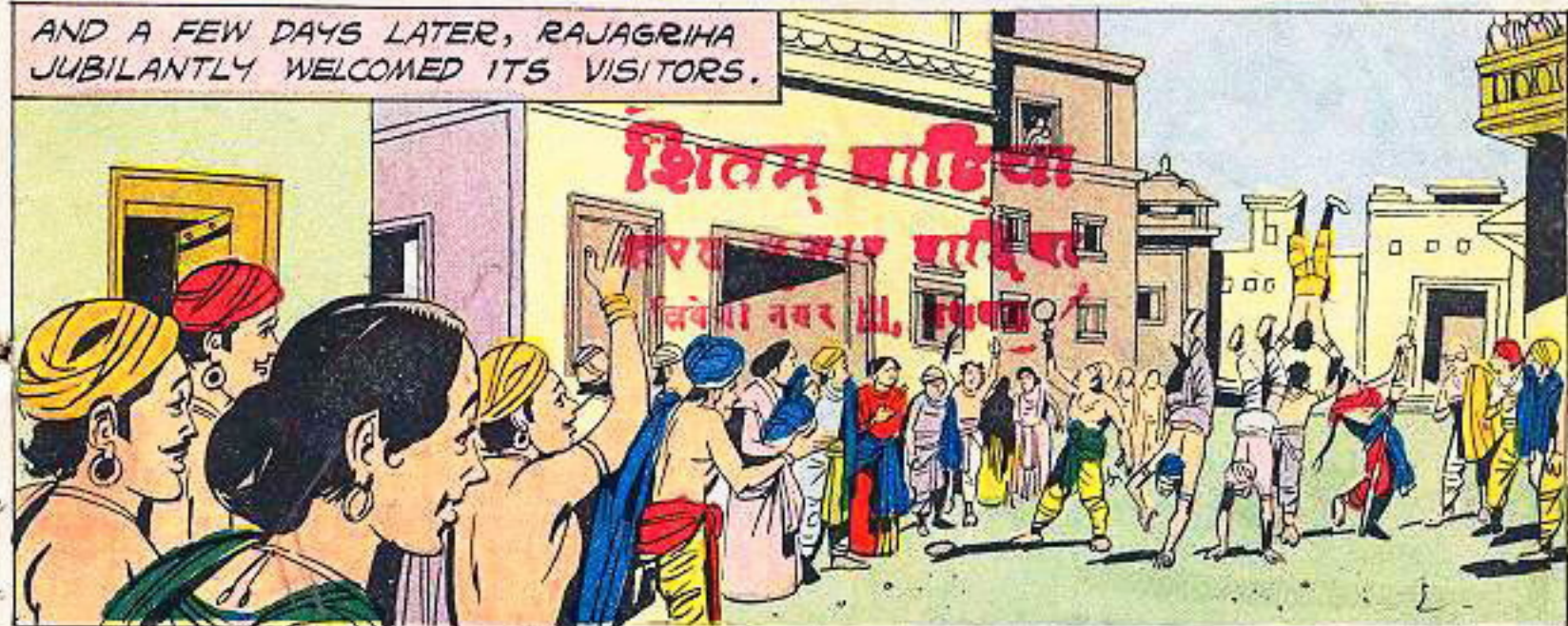


THE ACROBAT

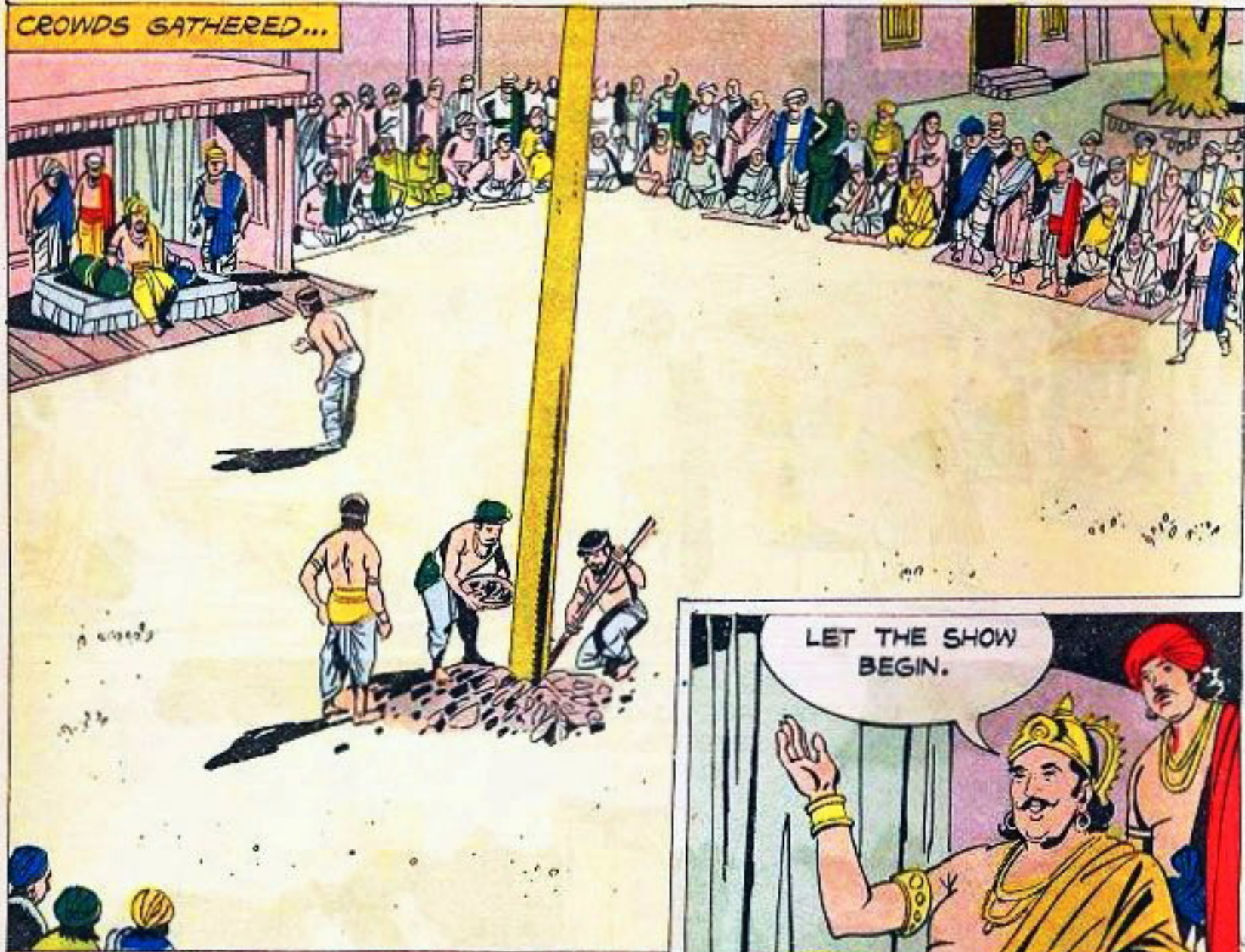
THE CITY OF RAJAGRIHA WAS BUZZING WITH EXCITEMENT.



AND A FEW DAYS LATER, RAJAGRIHA JUBILANTLY WELCOMED ITS VISITORS.

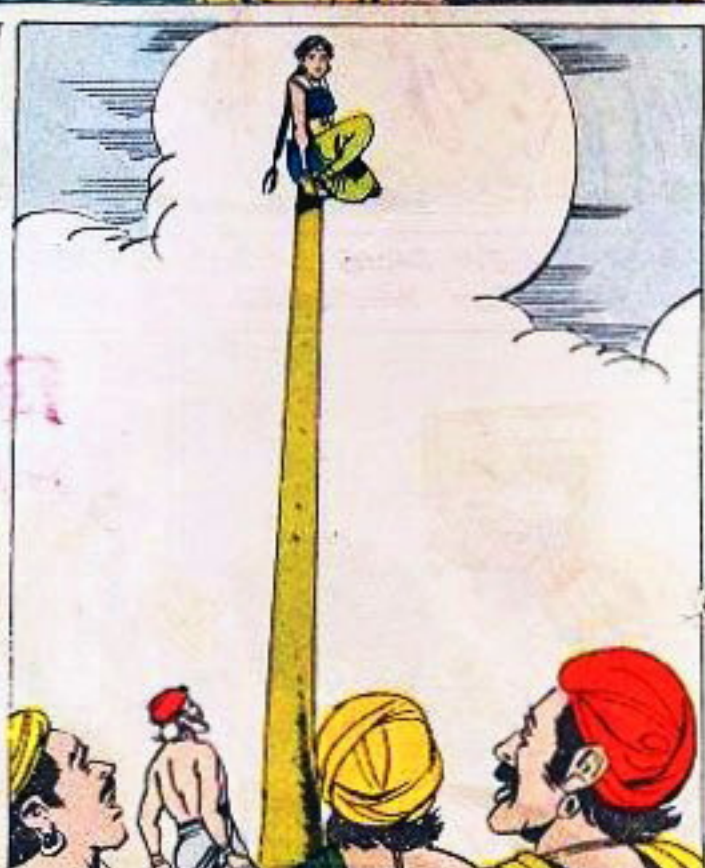


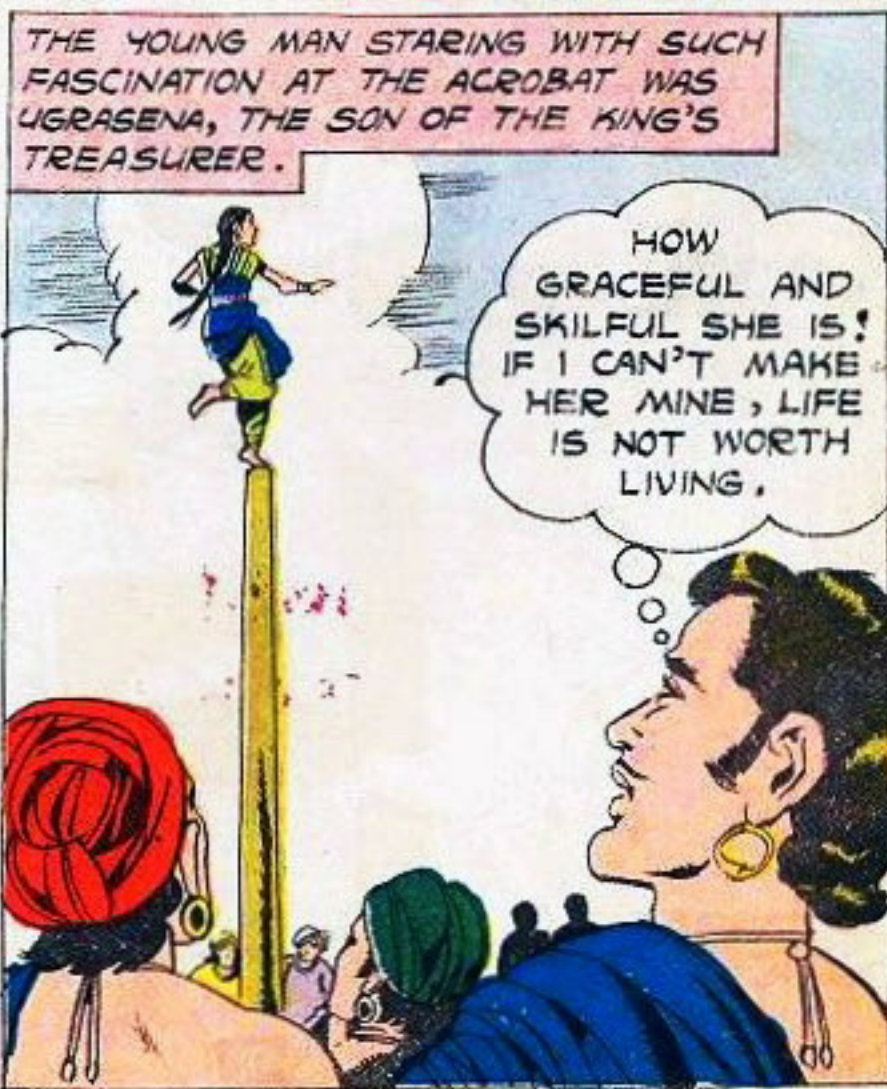
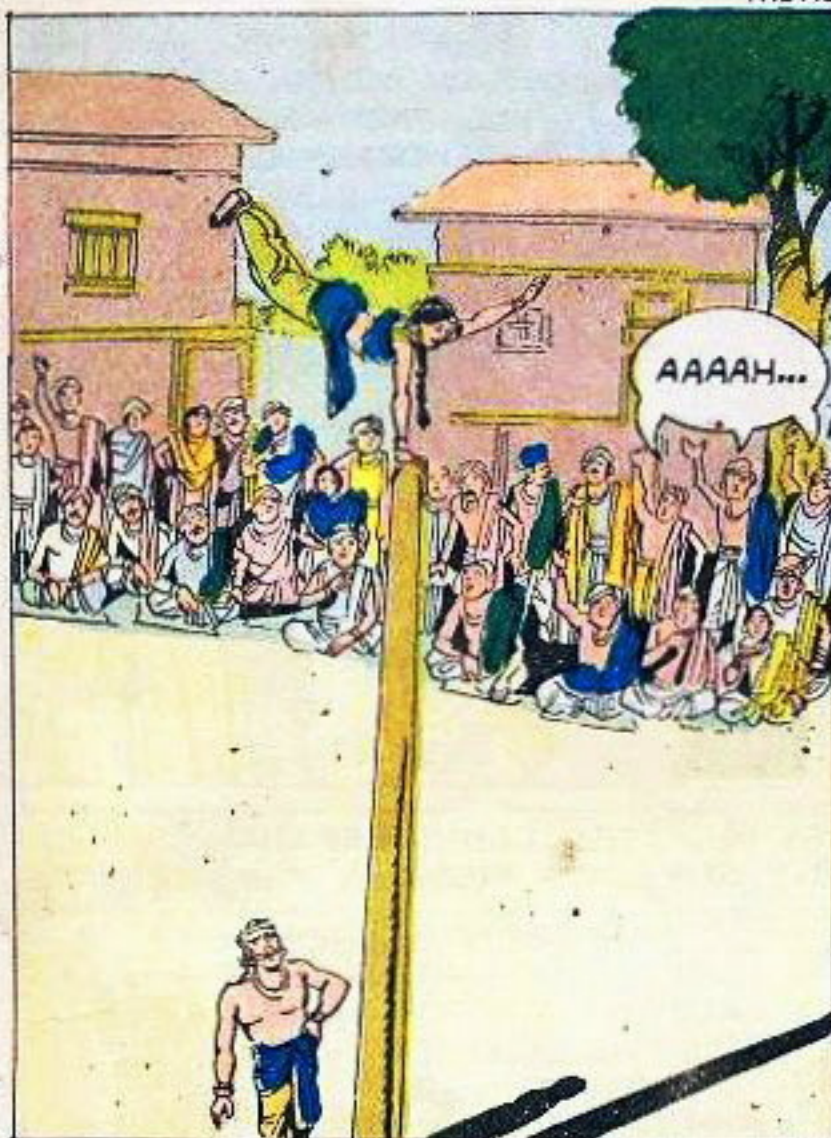
CROWDS GATHERED...



...AND THOSE AT THE VERY BACK STOOD ON THEIR TOES TO GET A BETTER VIEW.

LET THE SHOW BEGIN.





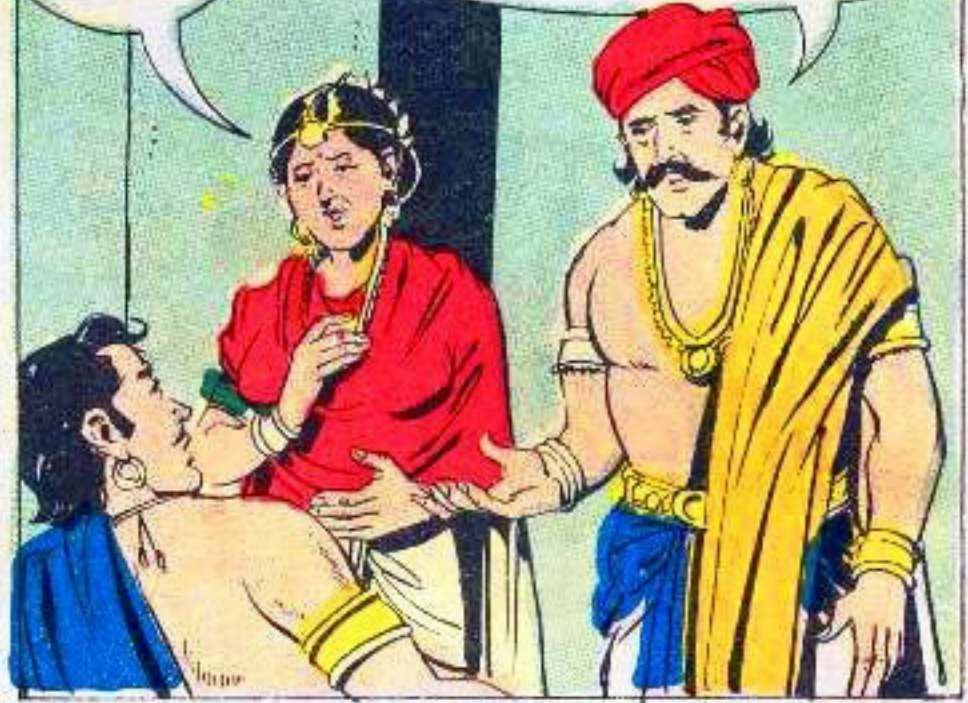
UGRASENA WENT HOME AND FLUNG HIMSELF ON HIS BED.

FATHER, MOTHER—I WANT TO MARRY THE ACROBAT WE SAW TODAY. IF I CAN'T MARRY HER, I SHALL STARVE MYSELF TO DEATH.



MY DEAR SON, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WHAT CAN YOU HAVE IN COMMON WITH AN ACROBAT? WE WILL FIND YOU A GIRL... ONE WORTHY OF YOU...



IT'S HER OR NONE! I SHALL NOT EVEN LOOK AT ANOTHER GIRL.



THE HELPLESS TREASURER AND HIS WIFE SENT UGRASENA'S FRIEND TO THE ACROBAT'S FATHER.

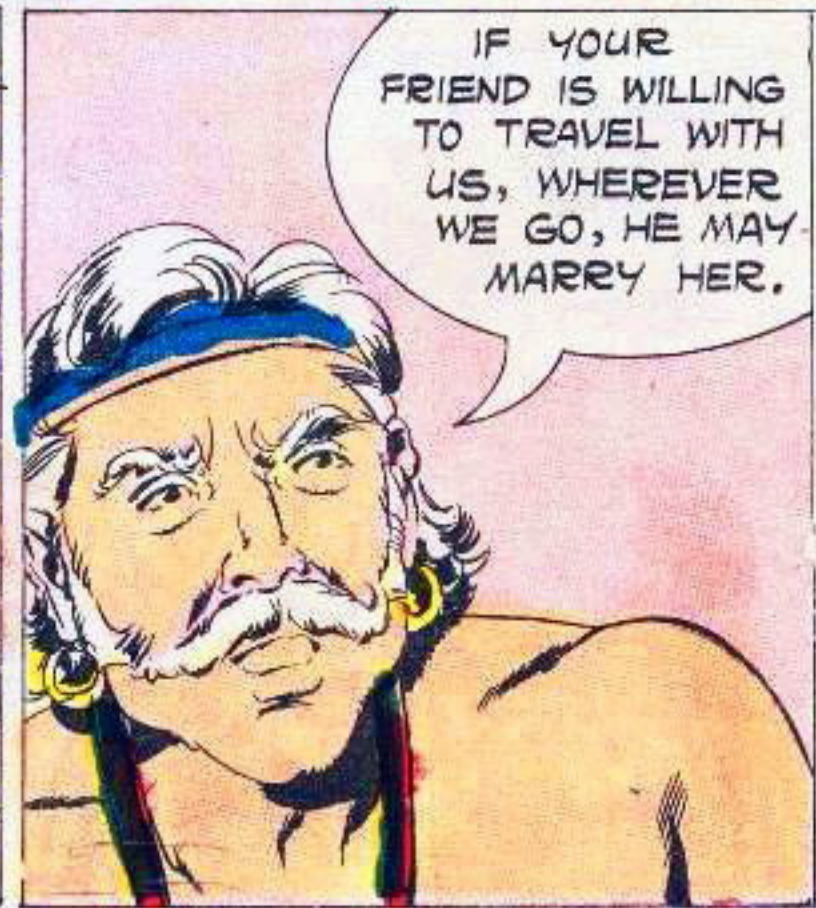
MY FRIEND WISHES TO MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER. AS A MARRIAGE PORTION, HERE IS ALL THE GOLD YOU MIGHT DESIRE.



FOR SHAME! ARE YOU ASKING ME TO SELL MY DAUGHTER?



IF YOUR FRIEND IS WILLING TO TRAVEL WITH US, WHEREVER WE GO, HE MAY MARRY HER.



THE TREASURER AND HIS WIFE WERE SHOCKED TO HEAR THIS.

SON,
SURELY YOU WILL
NOT LEAVE US TO
GO TRAVELLING WITH
AN ACROBAT!

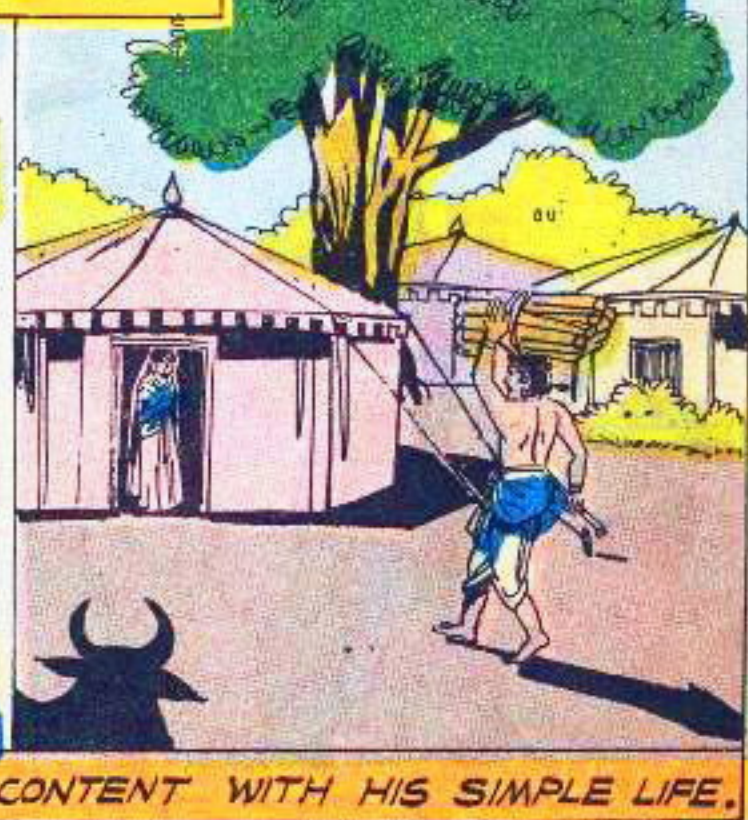
I WILL,
FOR SHE MEANS
EVERYTHING TO
ME NOW.

SO UGRASENA MARRIED THE ACROBAT...

...AND JOINED THE TROUPE.

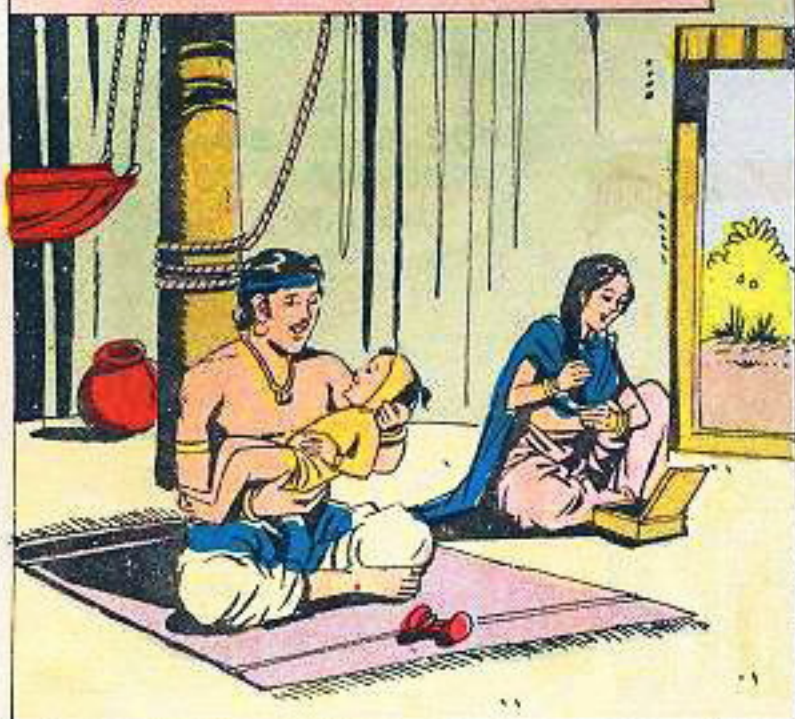


BEING THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE TROUPE UNSKILLED IN
ACROBATICS, HE MADE HIMSELF USEFUL IN OTHER WAYS...



... AND WAS CONTENT WITH HIS SIMPLE LIFE.

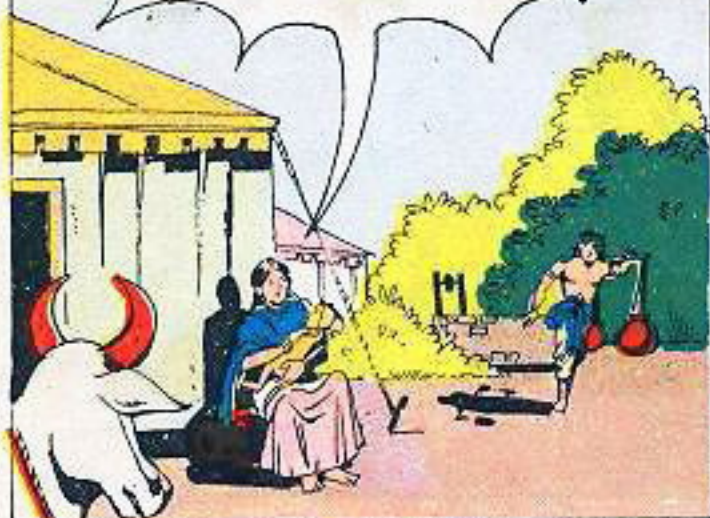
SOON, A SON WAS BORN TO THEM.



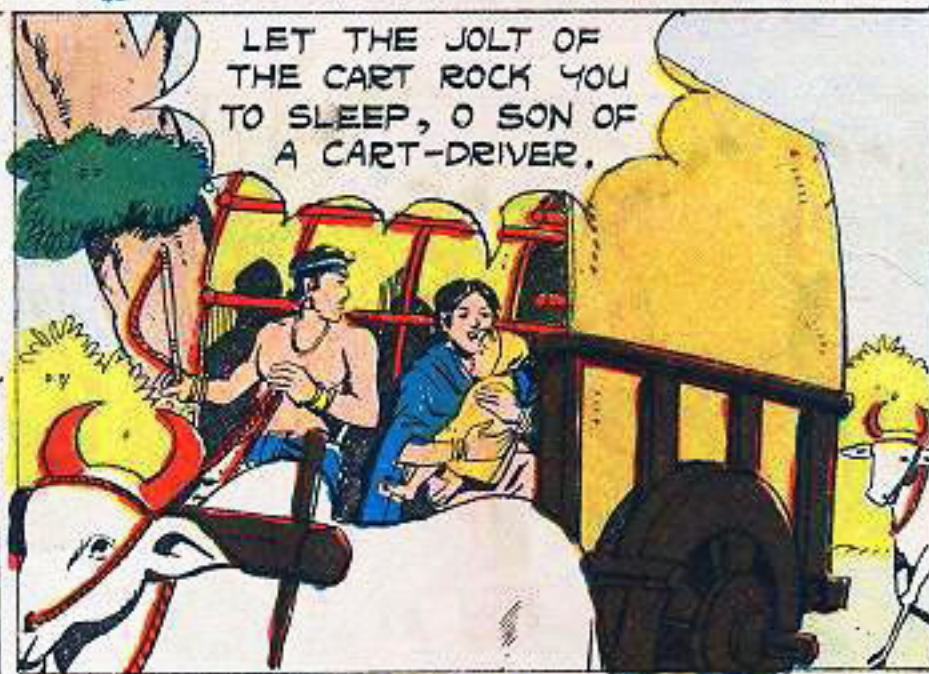
HIS WIFE SPENT ALL HER TIME BETWEEN SHOWS WITH THE BABY.



CLOSE YOUR EYES AND SLEEP, O SON OF A WATER-CARRIER.



LET THE JOLT OF THE CART ROCK YOU TO SLEEP, O SON OF A CART-DRIVER.



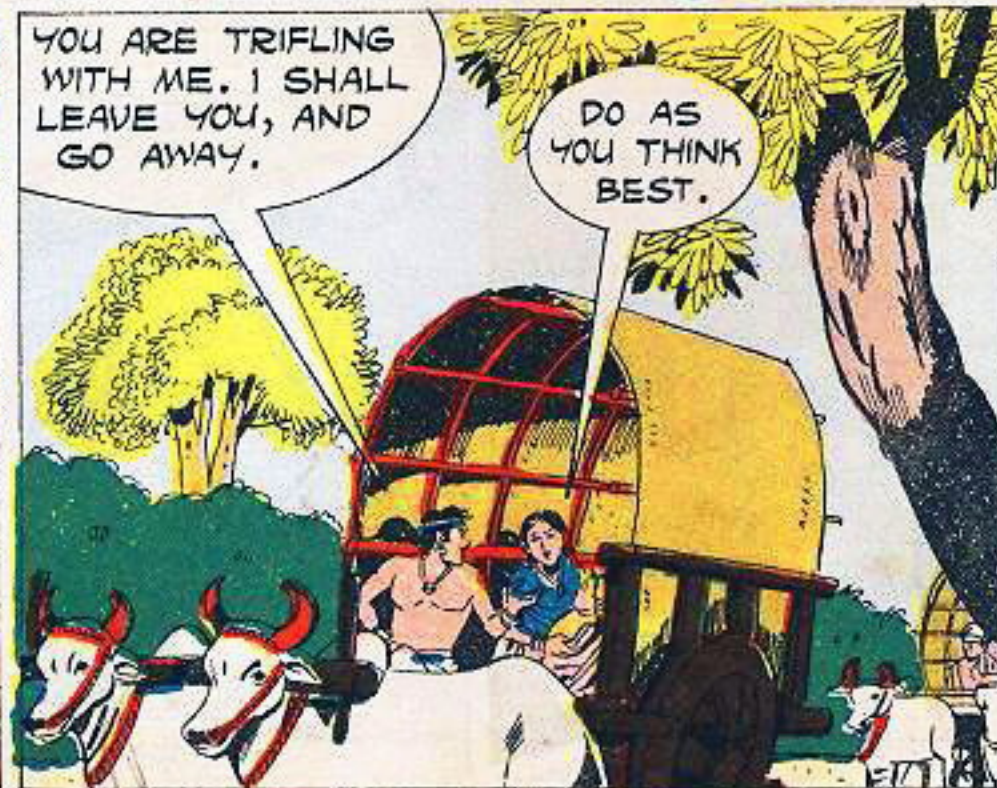
WOMAN, ARE YOU REFERRING TO ME, WHEN YOU SING THOSE SONGS?

YES... I AM.



YOU ARE TRIFLING WITH ME. I SHALL LEAVE YOU, AND GO AWAY.

DO AS YOU THINK BEST.





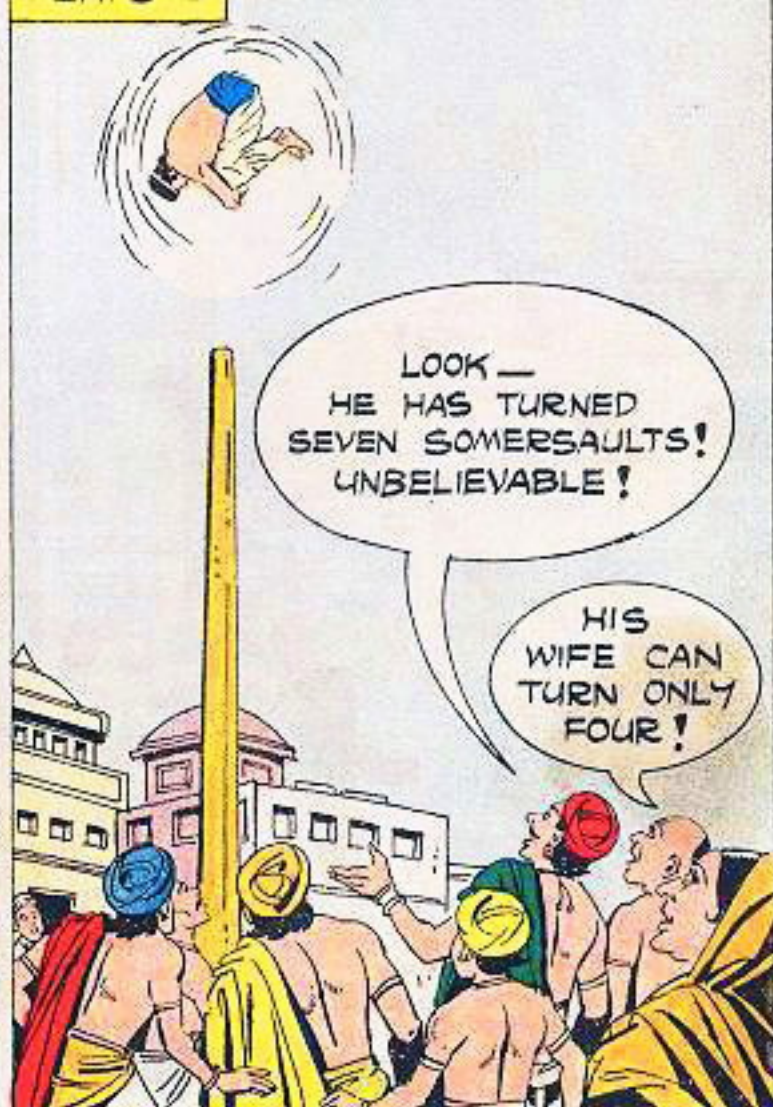
UGRASENA WENT TO HIS FATHER-IN-LAW.



UGRASENA MADE RAPID PROGRESS IN HIS NEW PROFESSION AND SOON —



WHEN UGRASENA DISPLAYED HIS FEATS —



SOON AT RAJAGRIHA, NEWS SPREAD THAT THE ACROBATS WERE RETURNING AND, WITH THEM, THE TREASURER'S SON.

IT SEEMS UGRASENA WILL PERFORM THE FEAT OF TURNING FOURTEEN SOMERSAULTS IN THE AIR!

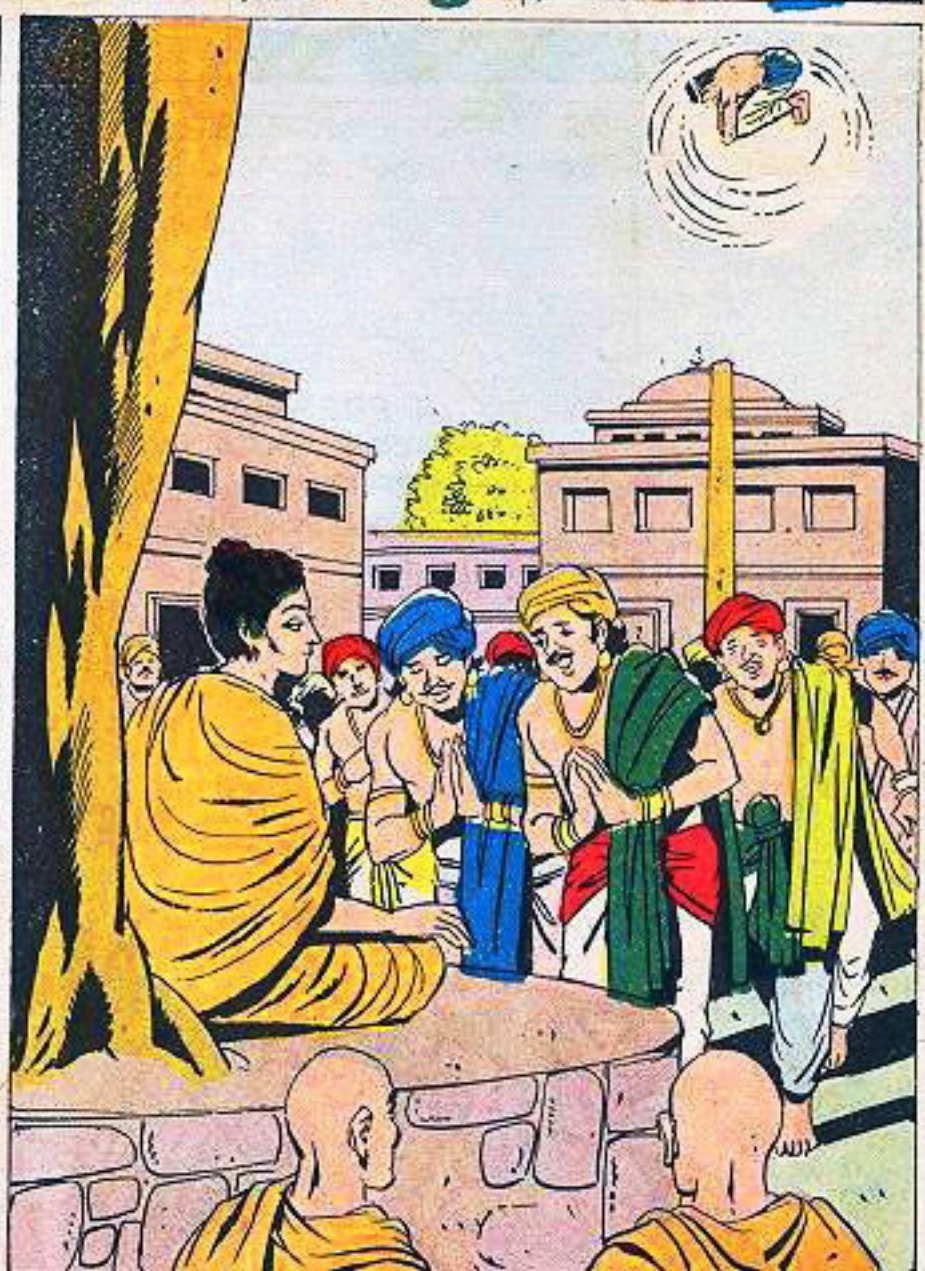
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU ARE JOKING!

ON THE APPOINTED DAY, THE ENTIRE CITY GATHERED IN THE SQUARE TO WATCH UGRASENA PERFORM.

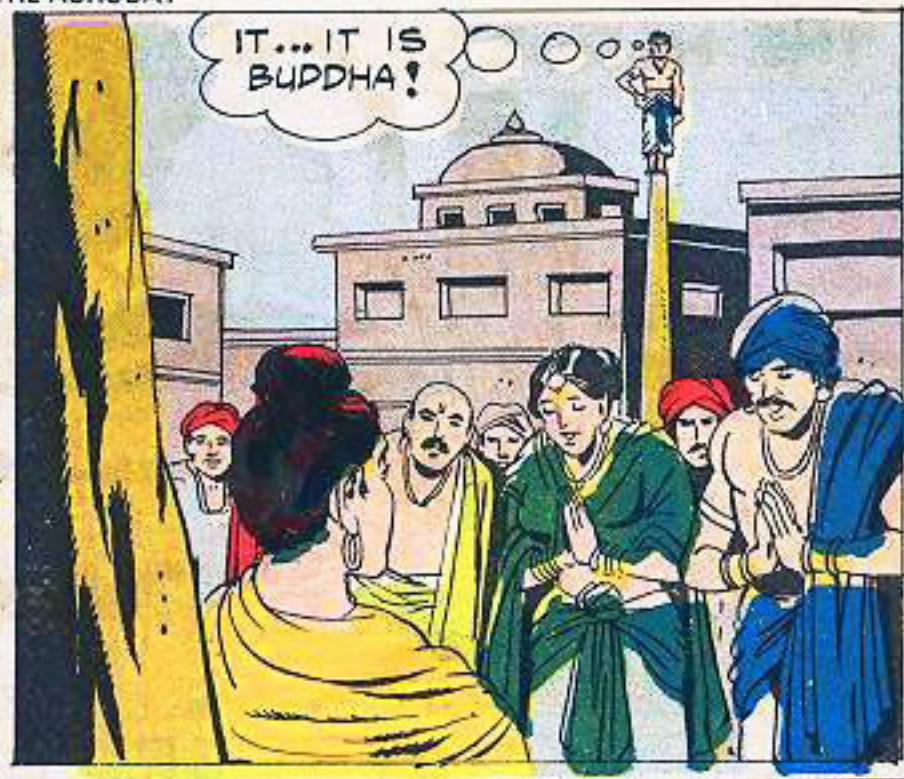


JUST AS HE TURNED THE FIRST SOMERSAULT —

LOOK! THE HOLY TEACHER!



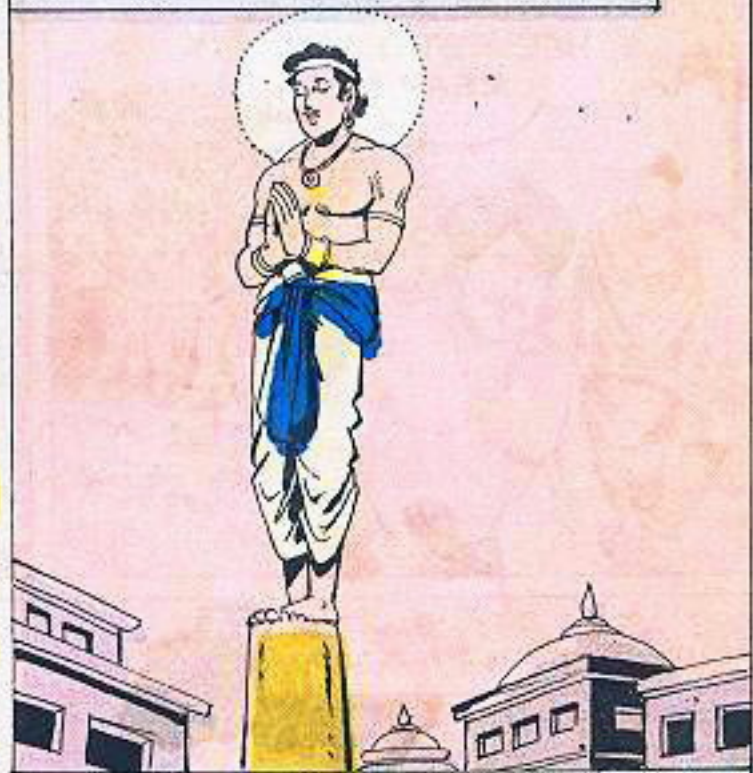
WHEN HE CAME BACK TO POSITION—

IT... IT IS
BUDDHA!

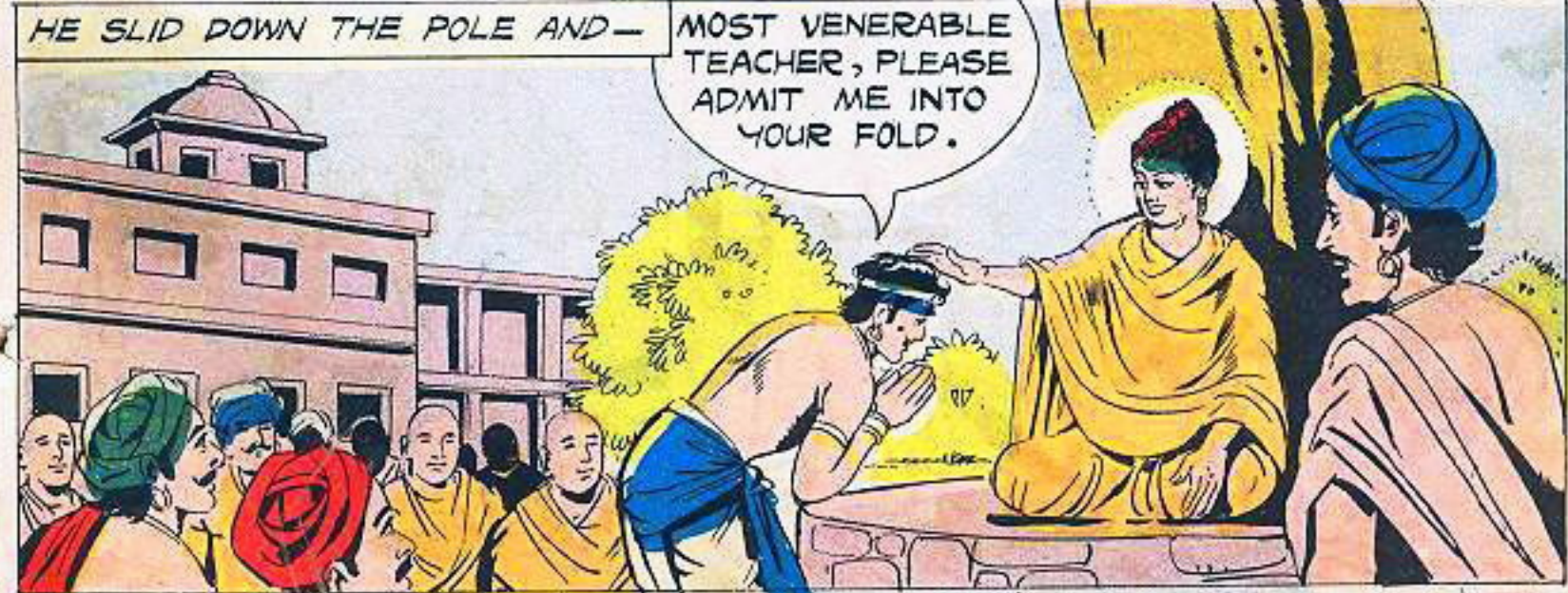
AS UGRASENA GAZED AT BUDDHA...



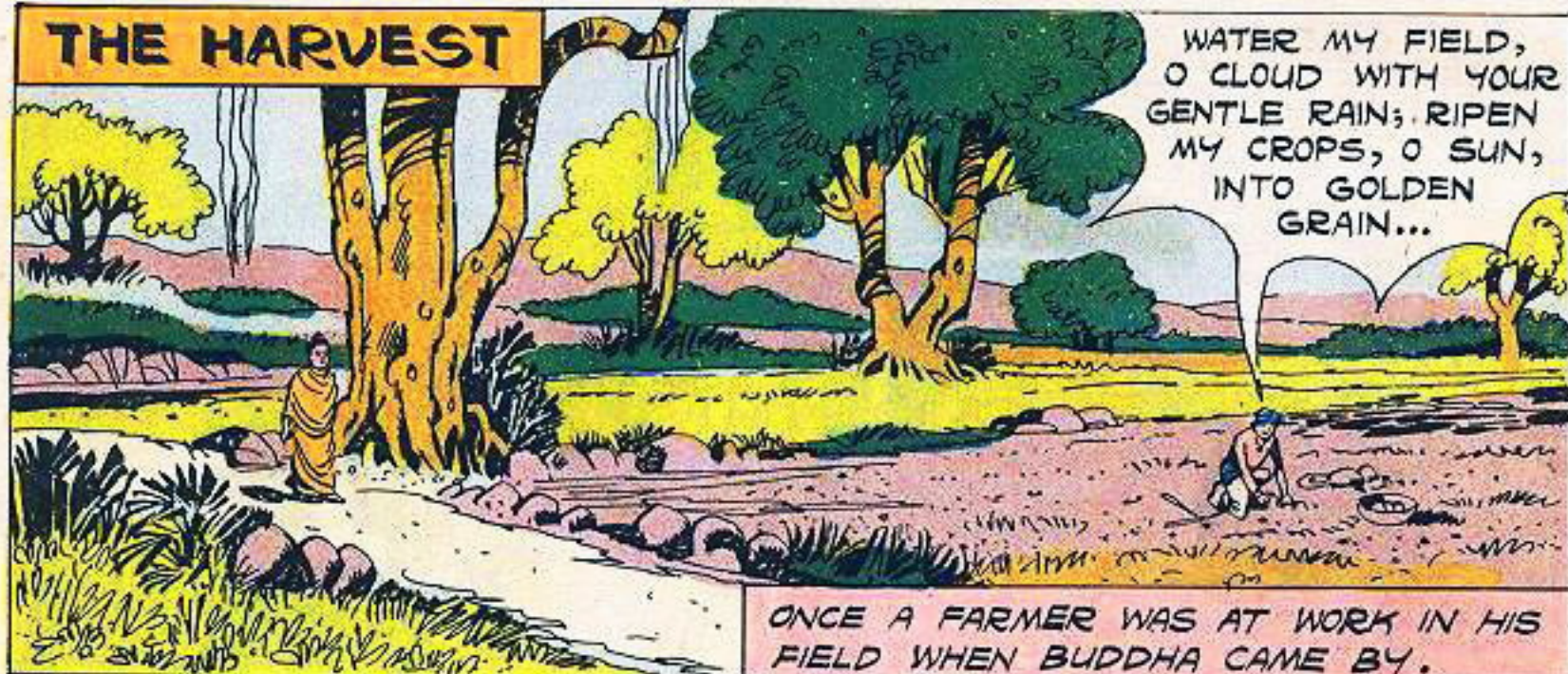
...A CHANGE CAME OVER HIM.



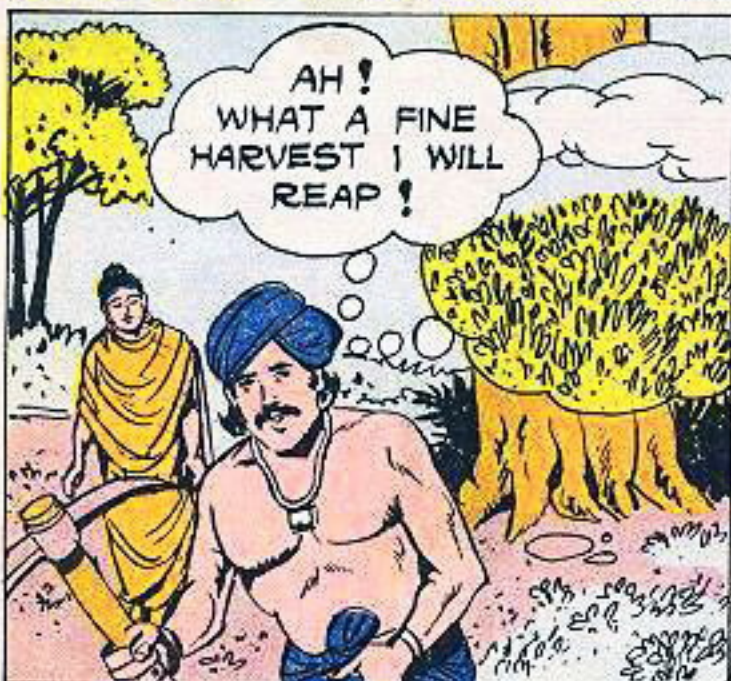
HE SLID DOWN THE POLE AND—

MOST VENERABLE
TEACHER, PLEASE
ADMIT ME INTO
YOUR FOLD.

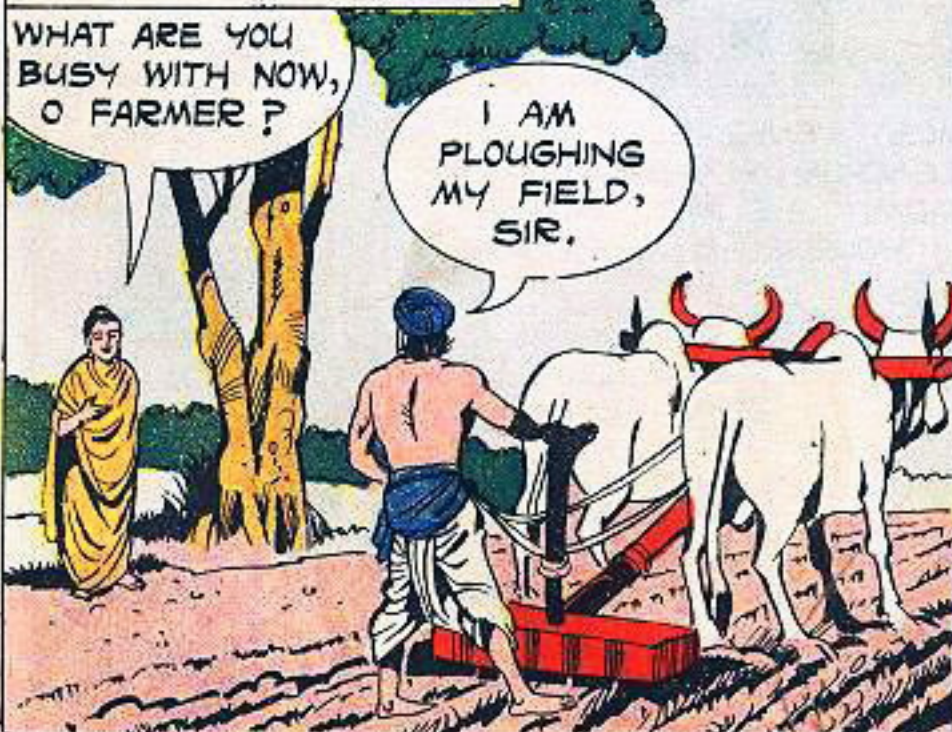
THE HARVEST



ONCE A FARMER WAS AT WORK IN HIS FIELD WHEN BUDDHA CAME BY.

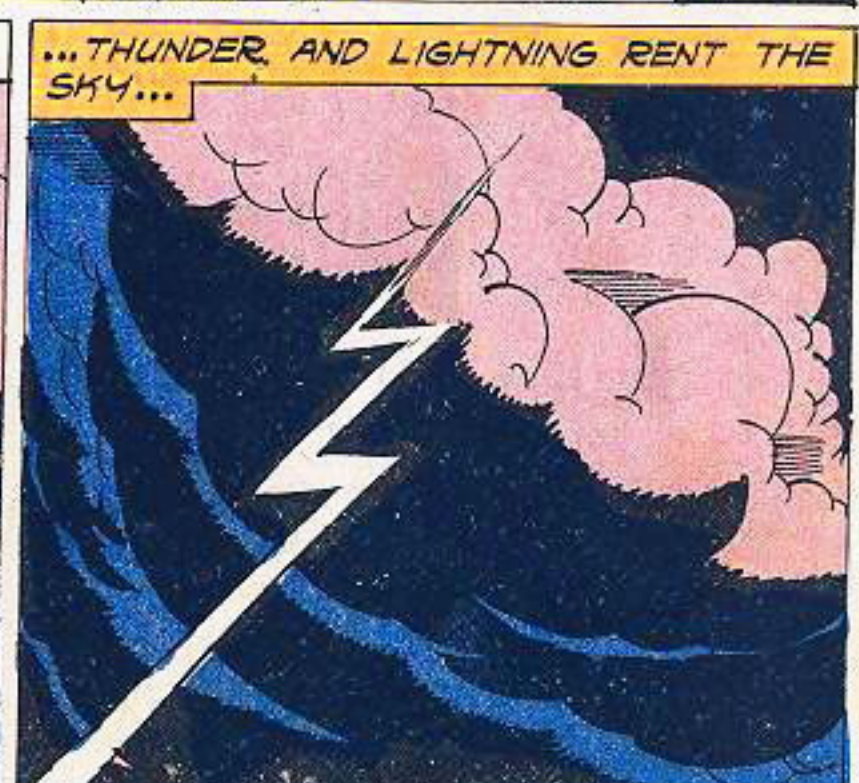
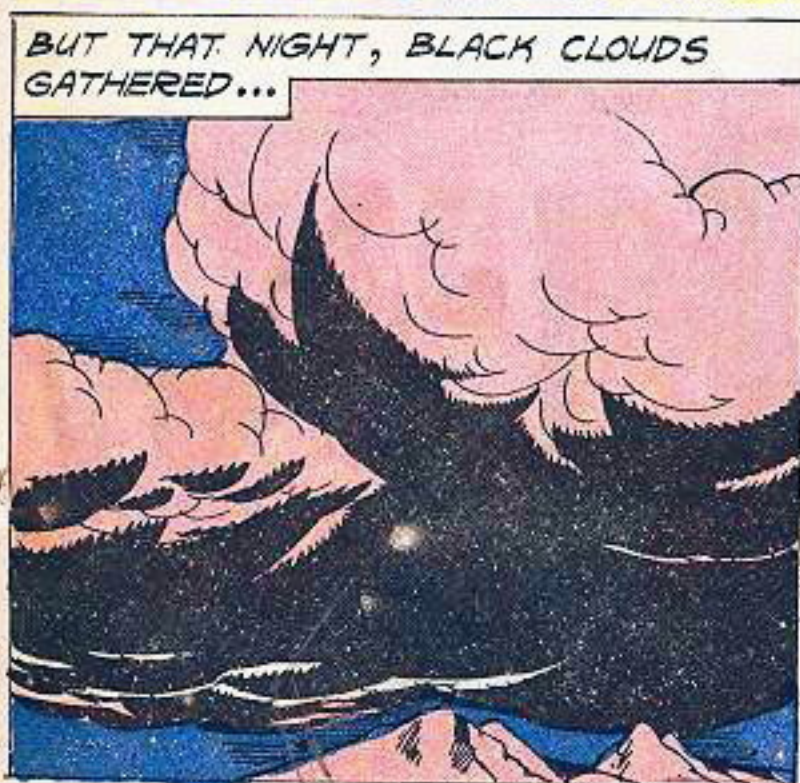
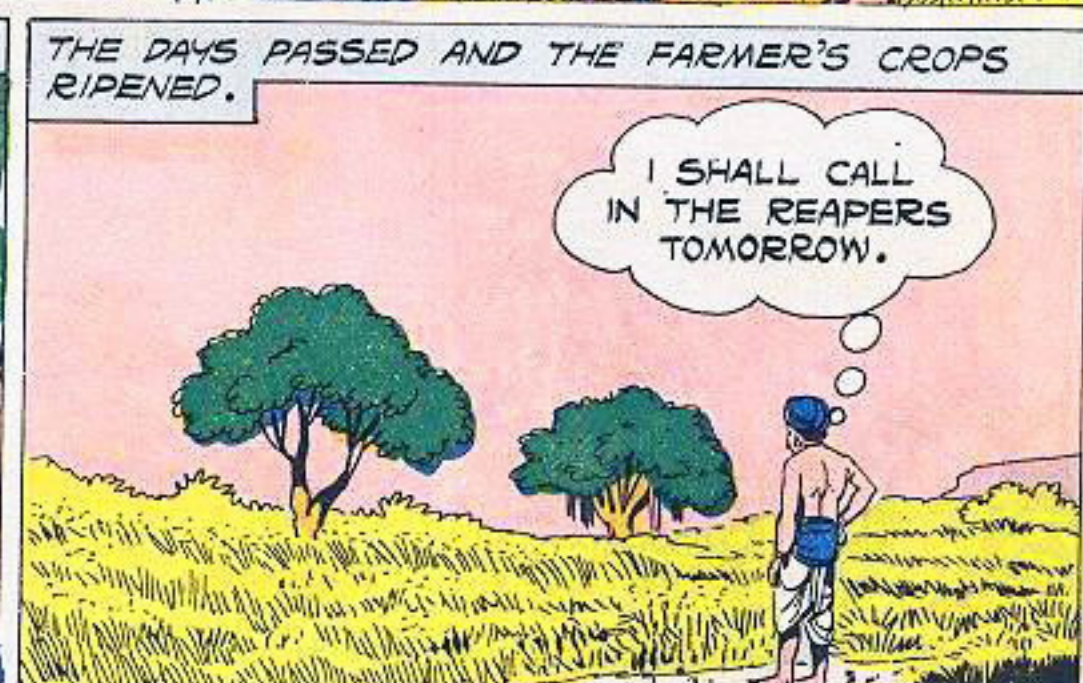


THE NEXT DAY, BUDDHA CAME THAT WAY AGAIN.



ON EVERY SUCCEEDING DAY AFTER THIS, BUDDHA CAME AND INQUIRED ABOUT THE FARMER'S WORK.

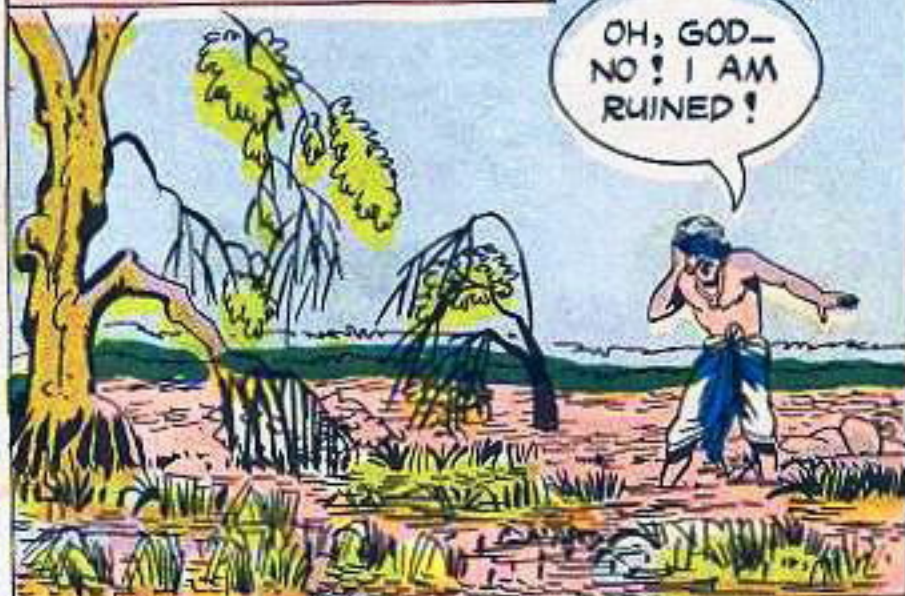




...AND A RAGING STORM BROKE OUT.



THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE FARMER HURRIED TO HIS FIELD —



AND I HAVE PROMISED A SHARE TO MY PARTNER!



THE GRIEF-STRICKEN FARMER RETURNED HOME AND TOOK TO HIS BED.



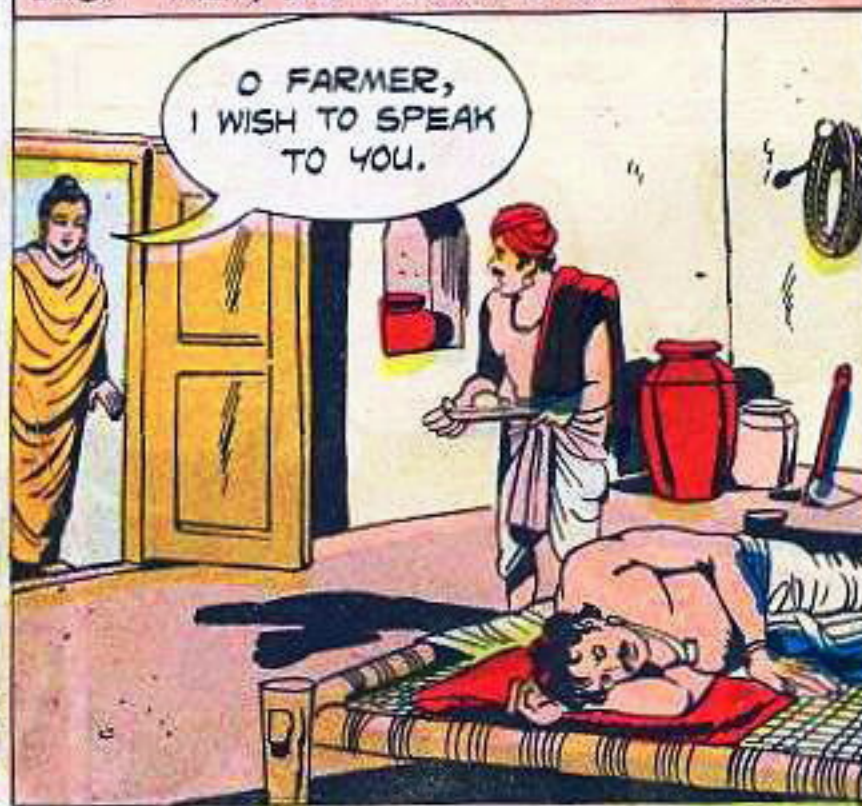
MASTER, JUST A MOUTHFUL OF FOOD...

NO— TAKE IT AWAY. I WILL NOT EAT.



JUST THEN, BUDDHA ARRIVED THERE.

O FARMER, I WISH TO SPEAK TO YOU.



THE FARMER SLOWLY ROSE AND
CAME TO SIT BY BUDDHA.

TELL ME WHY
YOU GRIEVE,
O FARMER.

LAST
NIGHT'S STORM
DESTROYED
MY CROP...



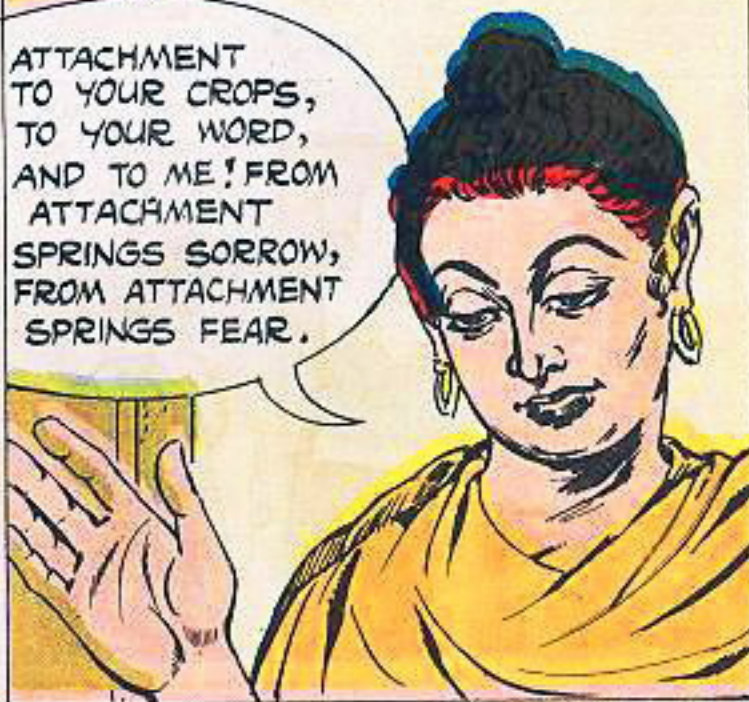
...AND I CANNOT
KEEP MY WORD
TO YOU.



YOU WOULD NOT GRIEVE
THUS, IF YOU KNEW
WHAT YOUR SORROW
SPRINGS FROM. IT IS
FROM ATTACHMENT,
O FARMER.



ATTACHMENT
TO YOUR CROPS,
TO YOUR WORD,
AND TO ME! FROM
ATTACHMENT
SPRINGS SORROW,
FROM ATTACHMENT
SPRINGS FEAR.



HE WHO IS
FREE FROM
ATTACHMENT IS
FREE OF THE
BURDEN OF
BOTH SORROW
AND FEAR.



I HAVE
UNDERSTOOD,
O VENERABLE
ONE.



THE GOLDEN MAIDEN

IN THE TOWN OF SRAVASTI LIVED YOUNG KUMARA. HE WAS THE SON OF RICH PARENTS AND HE HAD COME OF AGE.

SON, YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO BE MARRIED. WE SHALL CHOOSE A GOOD, BEAUTIFUL GIRL FOR YOU AND...

FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED.

BUT THE OLD COUPLE DID NOT GIVE UP. EVERY ONCE IN A WAY, THEY PUT THE QUESTION TO HIM AGAIN. AT LAST...

THEY WILL NOT TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER.

THE ONLY WAY OUT IS TO AGREE BUT MAKE SURE THAT THEY WON'T FIND THE GIRL FOR ME.

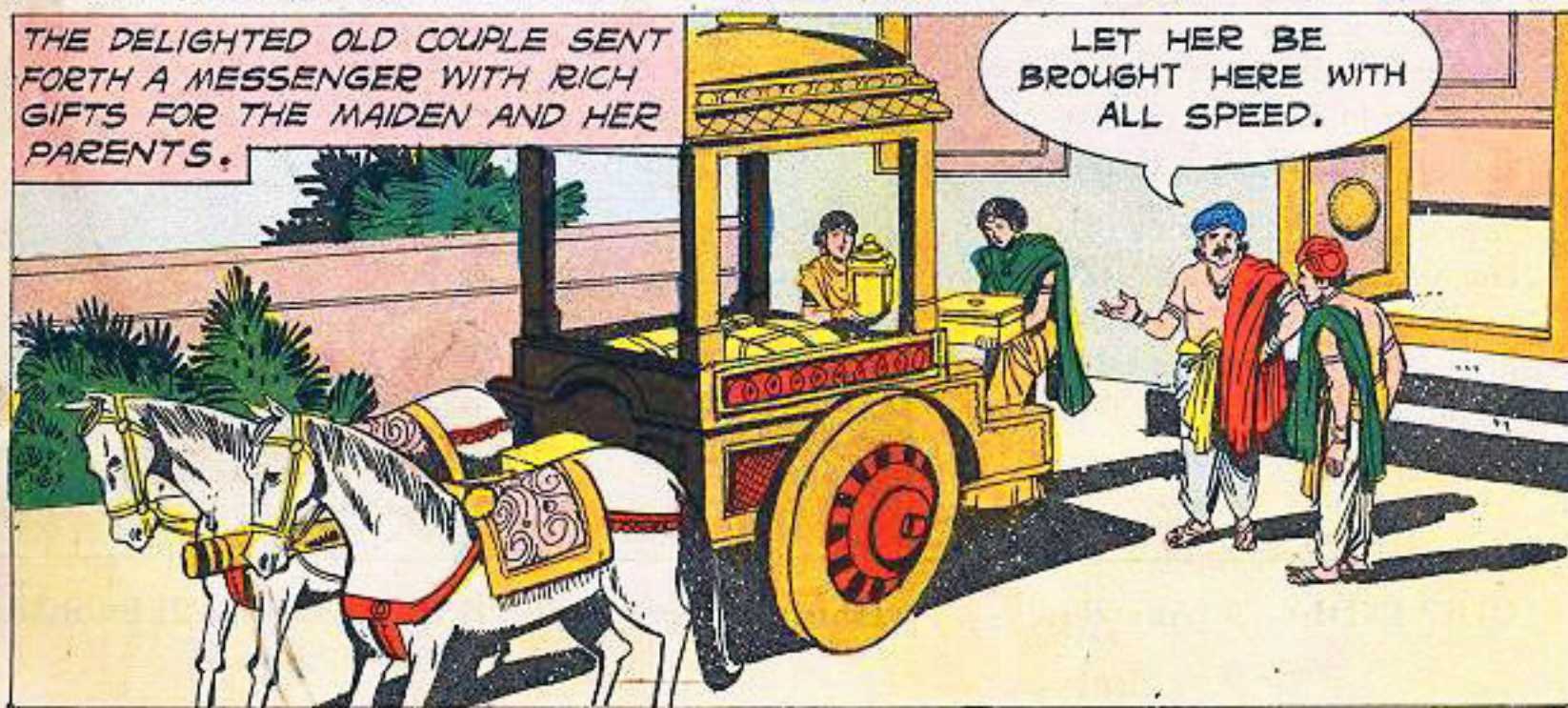
THE YOUNG MAN GOT SKILLED ARTISANS TO CARVE A GOLDEN IMAGE OF MATCHLESS BEAUTY. THEN—

MOTHER!
FATHER! I WILL MARRY BUT...

...ONLY ONE SUCH AS THIS!

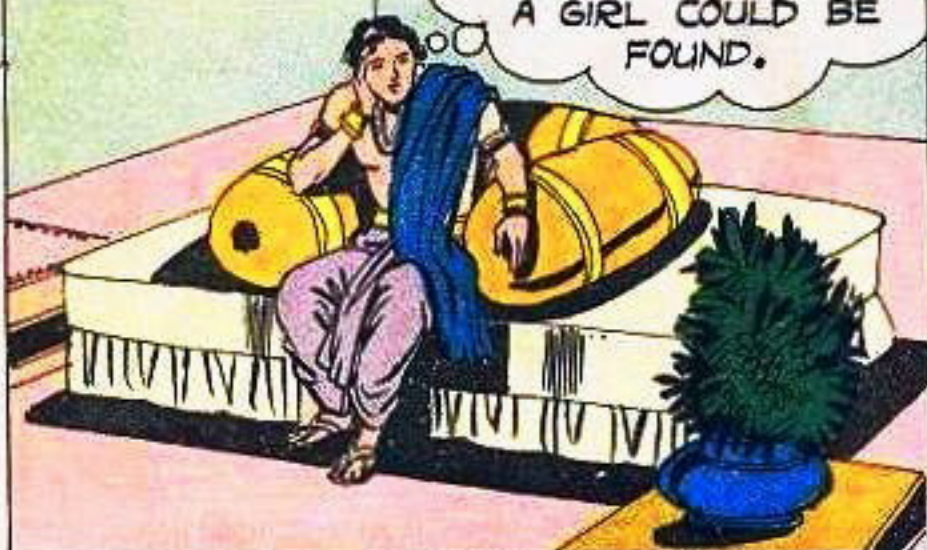


THE DELIGHTED OLD COUPLE SENT FORTH A MESSENGER WITH RICH GIFTS FOR THE MAIDEN AND HER PARENTS.



KUMARA RECEIVED THE NEWS WITH MIXED FEELINGS.

WHEN I GOT THE STATUE MADE, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT SUCH A GIRL COULD BE FOUND.



BUT NOW THAT SHE IS FOUND, I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE HER!



THEY SAY THAT COMPARED WITH THE IMAGE...

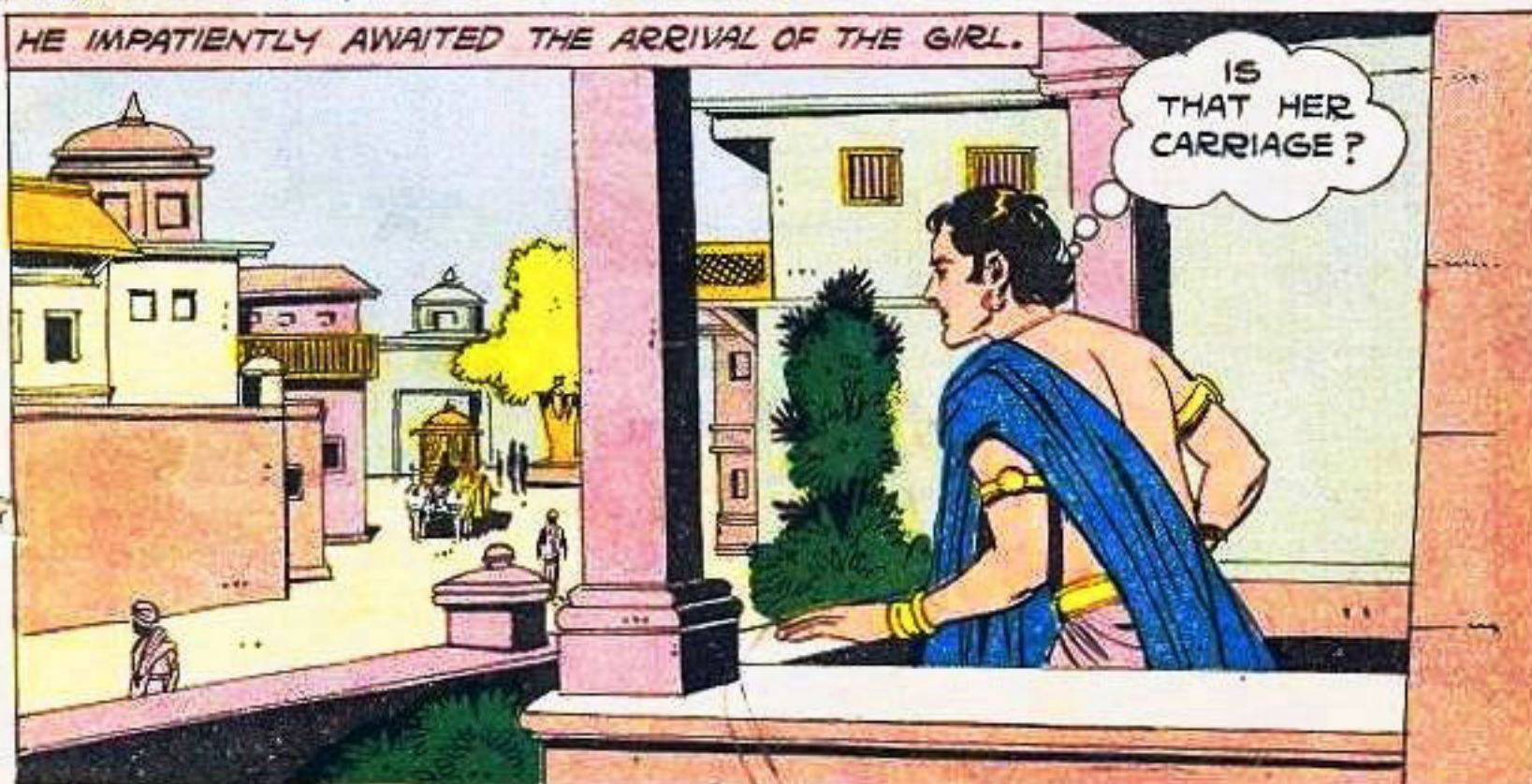


...SHE IS FAR, FAR LOVELIER! I CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE THE EXTENT OF HER BEAUTY!



HE IMPATIENTLY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF THE GIRL.

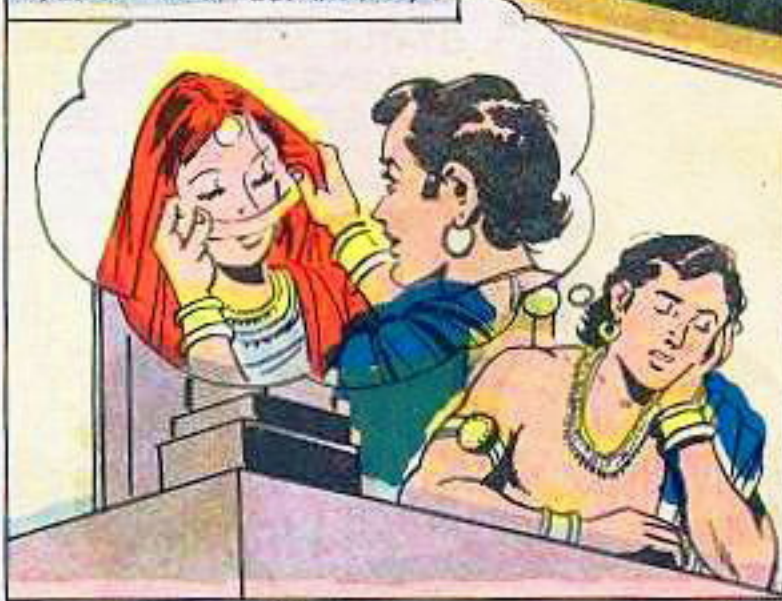
IS THAT HER CARRIAGE?



NO! IT IS NOT. OH, HOW SLOWLY THE HOURS CRAWL BY!



EACH PASSING DAY, THOUGHTS OF HER KEPT HIM COMPANY.



OH!



IT IS NIGHT ALREADY, THE TENTH NIGHT SINCE SHE SET OUT. WHERE IS SHE?



FATHER, MOTHER — SHE IS STILL NOT COME. WHAT COULD DELAY HER SO?

SHE... SHE
MUST BE ON
HER WAY,
SON!

MOTHER, ARE YOU
HIDING SOMETHING FROM
ME? IS SOMETHING
WRONG?

NOT
AT ALL,
SON.

HAVE THEY
REFUSED THE
PROPOSAL?

NO, MY
SON.

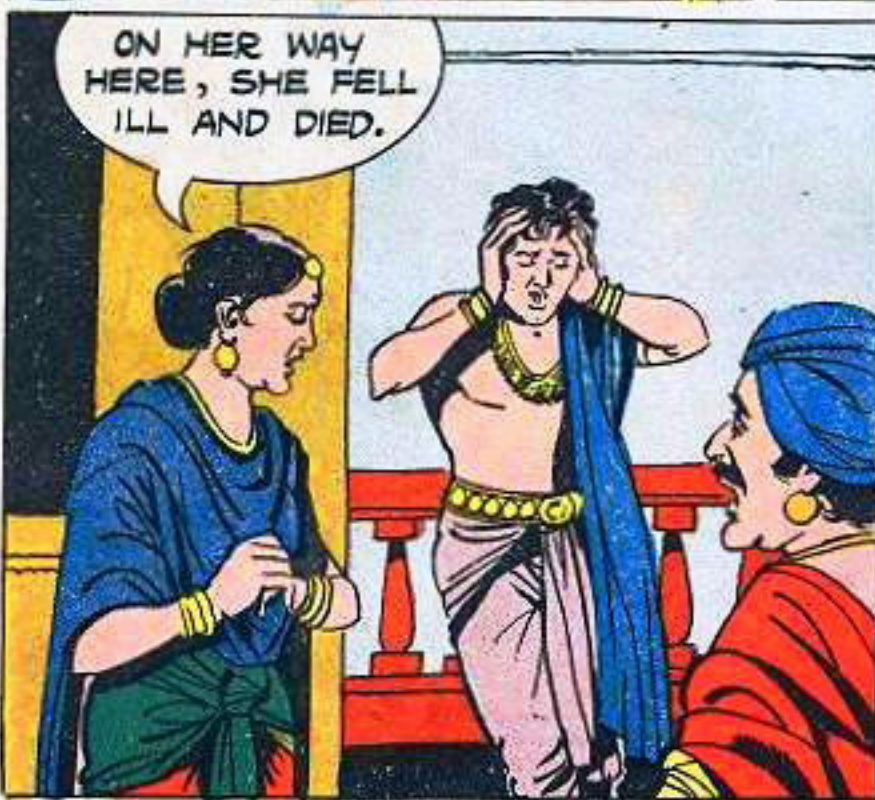
THEN WHY
HASN'T SHE
COME YET?
WHY? WHY?

WE MUST
NOT KEEP IT
FROM HIM ANY
LONGER.

YES. HE
WILL HAVE TO
BE TOLD.

SON...

YES?



ARISE,
YOUTHFUL
ONE.



WHAT IS THIS
SORROW THAT
AFFLICTS
YOU?

HOLY SIR, A WOMAN
DIED ON THE ROAD
AND...



... AND
THE NEWS HAS
FILLED ME WITH
UNBEARABLE
GRIEF.



SHE WAS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ON
EARTH. SHE WAS
THE WOMAN I WAS
TO MARRY.



O KUMARA,
YOU DO NOT GRIEVE
BECAUSE A WOMAN
DIED.

UN...?



YOU GRIEVE
BECAUSE THE WOMAN
YOU DESIRED
DIED .



FROM DESIRE SPRINGS SORROW;
FROM DESIRE SPRINGS FEAR.
HE THAT IS FREE FROM DESIRE
NEITHER SORROWS NOR FEARS.



AND KUMARA PROSTRATED
HIMSELF BEFORE BUDDHA,
AS THE TEACHER'S
CALMNESS ENVELOPED
HIS OWN HEART .



BUDDHA AND KRISHA GAUTAMI

HE HAS NOT
WOKEN UP FOR
HOURS. HE MUST
BE VERY ILL
INDEED.



ONCE, IN THE TOWN OF SRVASTI, A WOMAN
WAS SITTING BY HER CHILD'S BED.

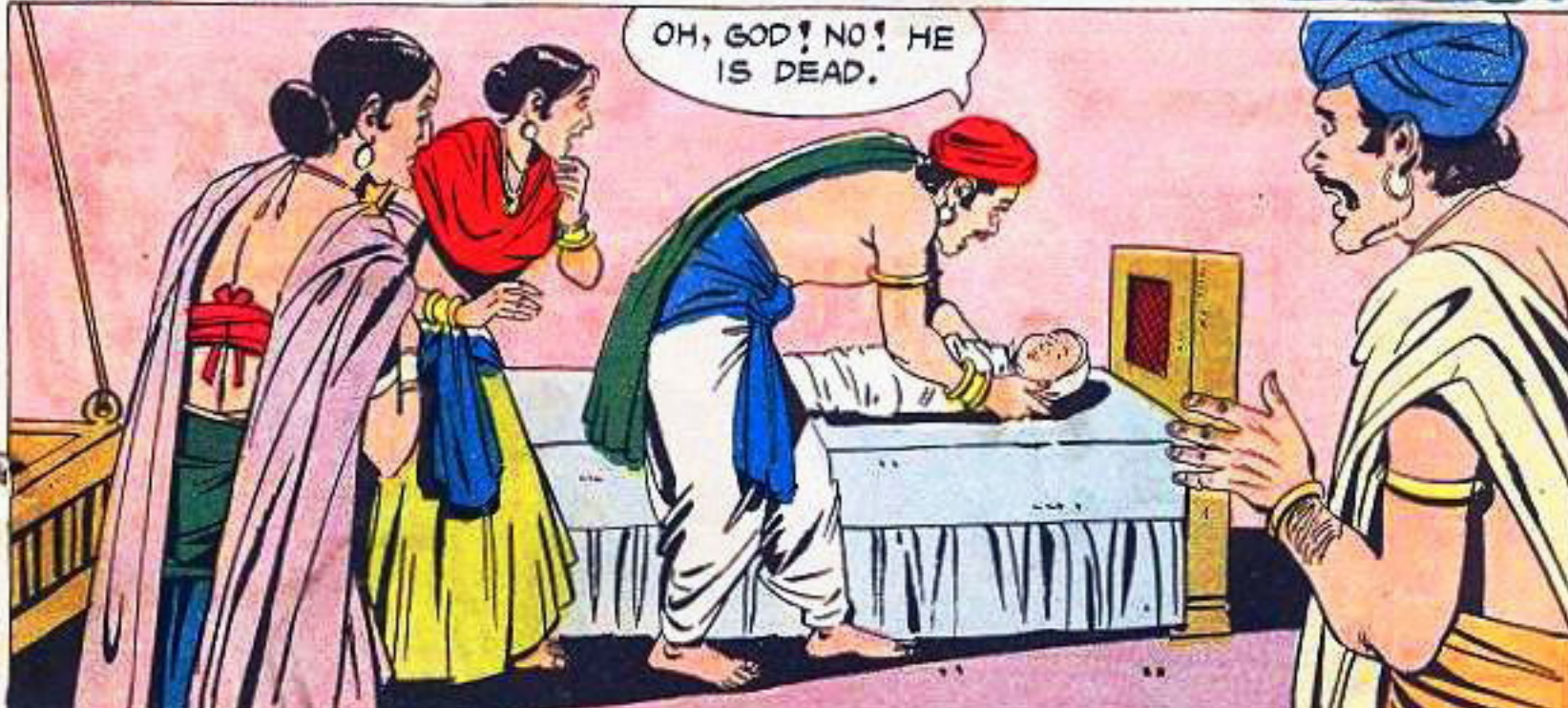
HOW IS
THE CHILD,
GAUTAMI?



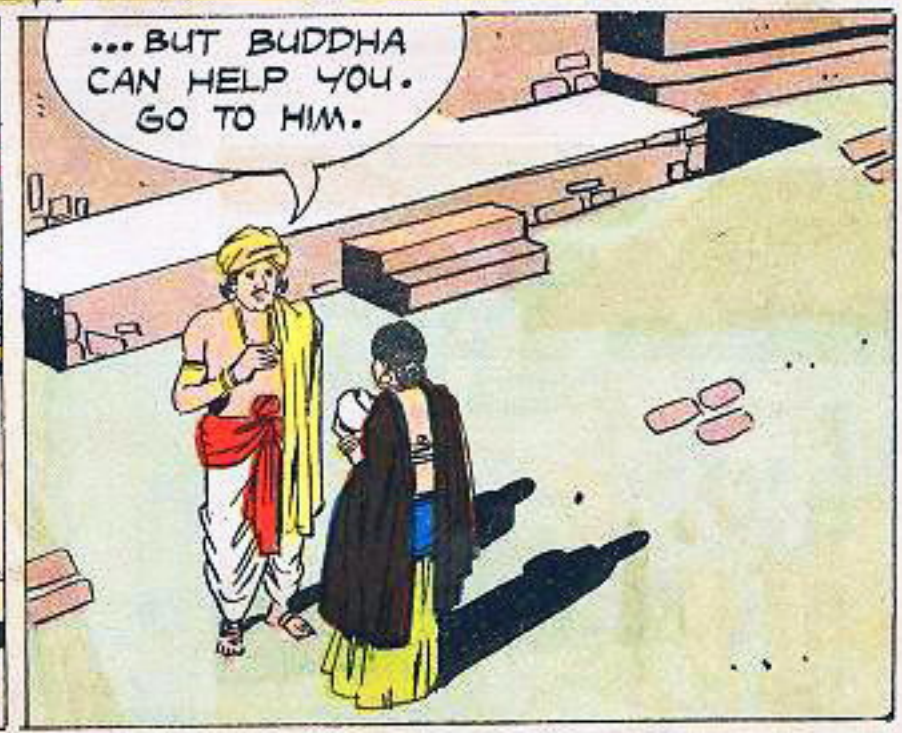
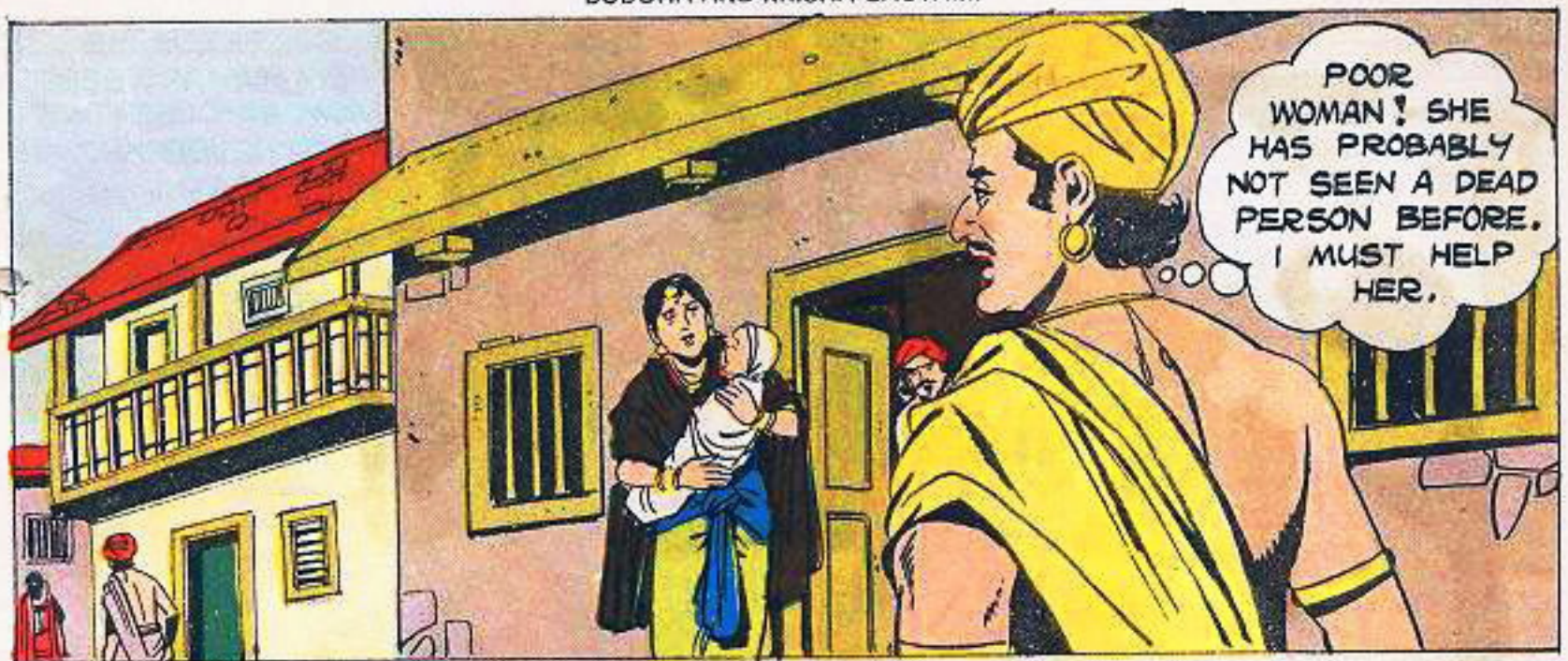
THE MAN WAS KRISHA
GAUTAMI'S HUSBAND
AND THE FATHER
OF THE CHILD.



OH, GOD! NO! HE
IS DEAD.







FULL OF HOPE, KRISHA GAUTAMI AT ONCE WENT TO THE SACRED GROVE OF BUDDHA.

MY NAME IS KRISHA GAUTAMI, VENERABLE ONE. I WAS TOLD THAT YOU COULD CURE MY SON. SO I HAVE COME TO YOU.



BUDDHA LOOKED AT THE CHILD AND SMILED.



THEN —



GO, FETCH ME
A FEW MUSTARD SEEDS
FROM A HOUSE THAT
HAS NEVER KNOWN
DEATH.

KRISHA GAUTAMI SET OUT ON HER
QUEST.



YES,
WHAT IS
IT?

MOTHER, CAN
YOU GIVE ME
A FEW MUSTARD
SEEDS?

THE WOMAN WENT IN AND BROUGHT
THE SEEDS.



HERE
YOU
ARE.

THANK YOU,
MOTHER.



I TRUST THIS HOUSE
HAS NEVER KNOWN
DEATH.

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING, GOOD
WOMAN?

WE THAT ARE LIVING
ARE FEW, COMPARED
WITH THOSE THAT
HAVE DIED
HERE.

THEN PLEASE
TAKE BACK THESE
MUSTARD SEEDS, FOR
I HAVE NO USE
FOR THEM.

KRISHA GAUTAMI WENT ON HER QUEST FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE,
BUT EVERYWHERE IT WAS THE SAME. EVERY HOUSE HAD KNOWN DEATH
AND EVERY DEAD BODY HAD BEEN BURNT TO ASHES.

...I LOST MY
DAUGHTER...

...MY
BROTHER
DIED LAST
YEAR...

THEY HAVE TAKEN
MY OLD FATHER TO THE
CREMATION GROUND TO
BE BURNT...

SO THOSE THAT
ARE DEAD CAN NEVER
BE CURED, AFTER
ALL.

AH,
WHAT A VAIN
SEARCH WAS
MINE!

KRISHA GAUTAMI WENT TO THE FOREST, LAID HER CHILD UPON A CARPET OF FALLEN LEAVES AND FLOWERS...



... AND THEN WENT BACK TO BUDDHA.



DID YOU GET THE MUSTARD SEEDS?

NO, HOLY SIR, I COULD NOT GET THEM. THERE IS NOT A HOUSE THAT HAS NOT KNOWN DEATH.

O KRISHA GAUTAMI, IT IS NOT YOU ALONE WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD TO DEATH.



I HAVE REALIZED THAT, O VENERABLE BUDDHA. ADMIT ME INTO YOUR ORDER.



I ACCEPT YOU, KRISHA GAUTAMI.

KRISHA GAUTAMI WAS ADMITTED INTO BUDDHA'S FOLD.

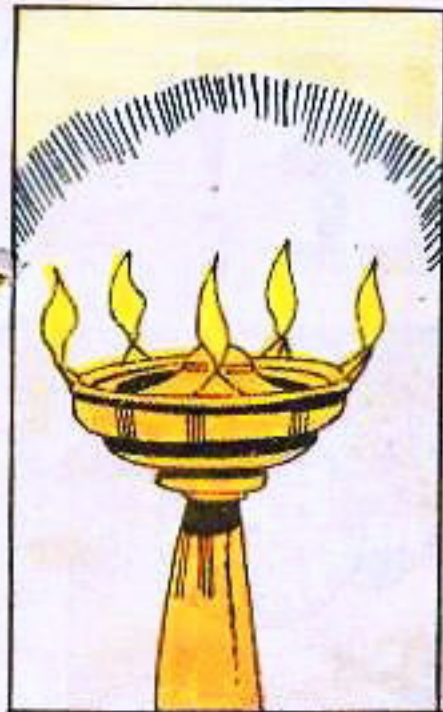


ONE DAY, WHEN IT WAS HER TURN, SHE LIT THE LAMP...

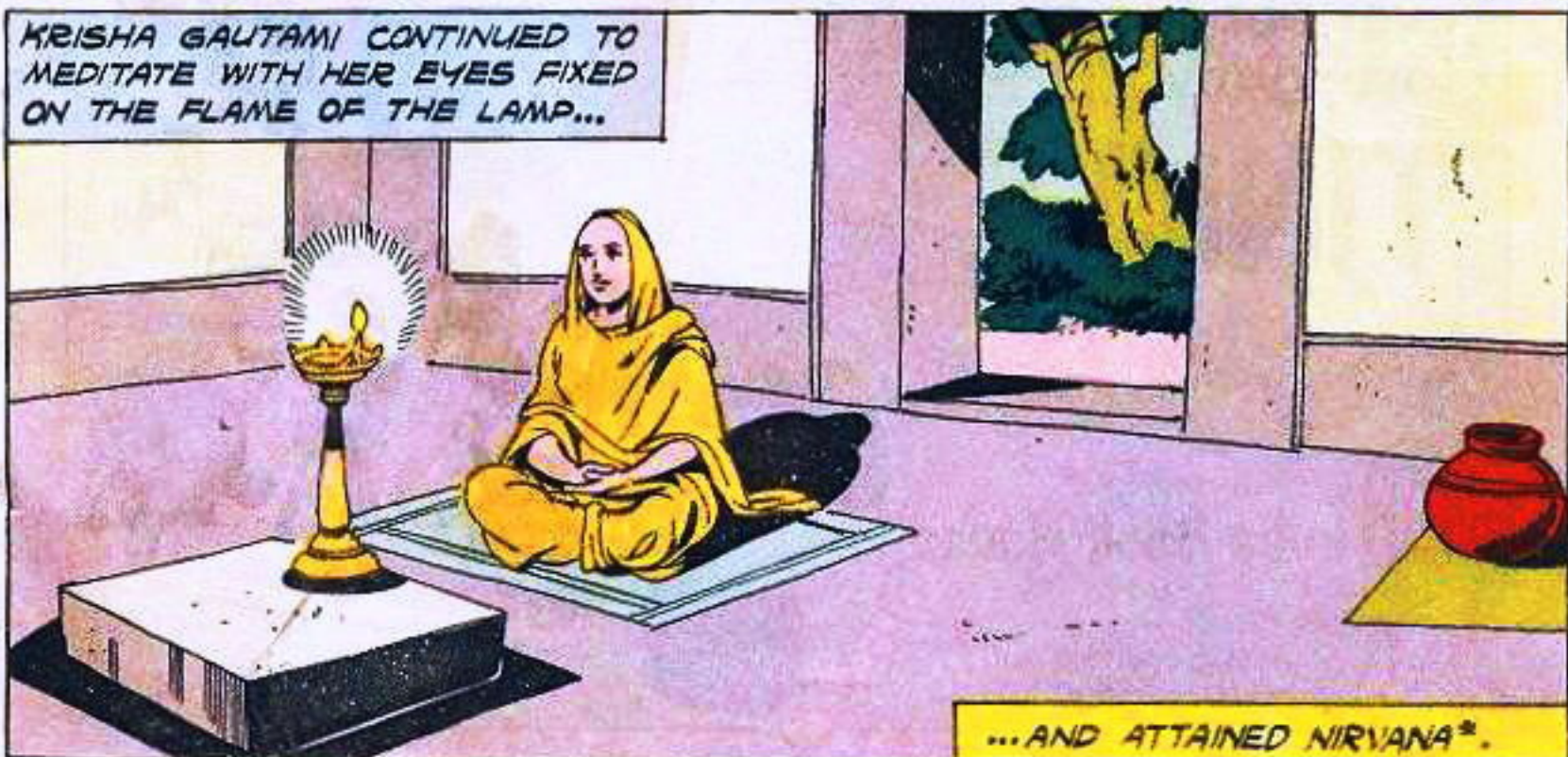


...AND SAT DOWN IN FRONT OF IT.





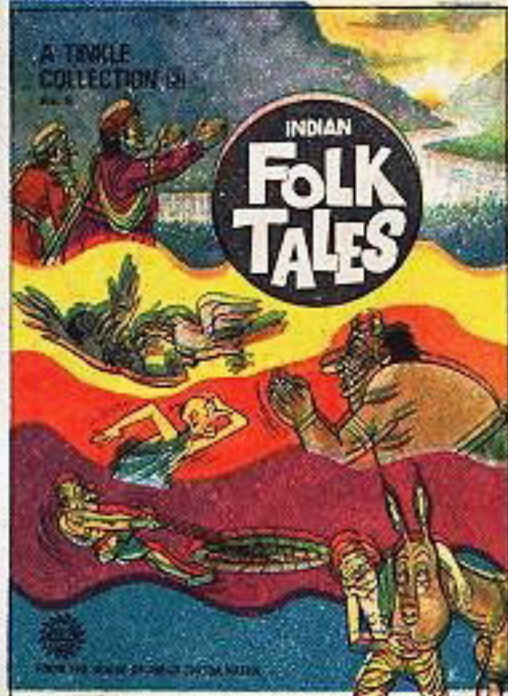
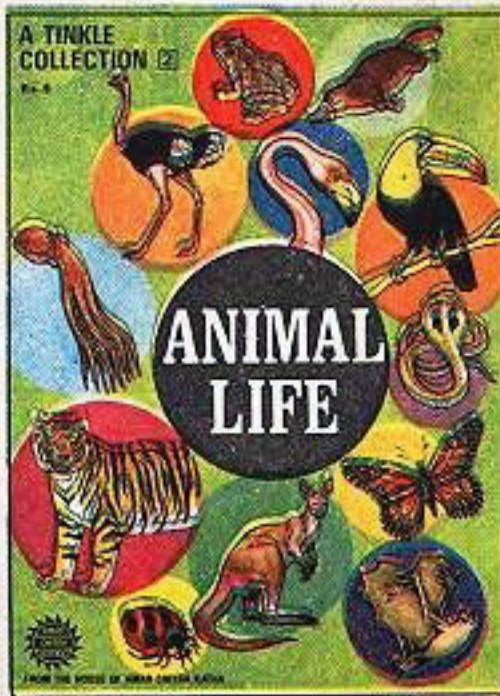
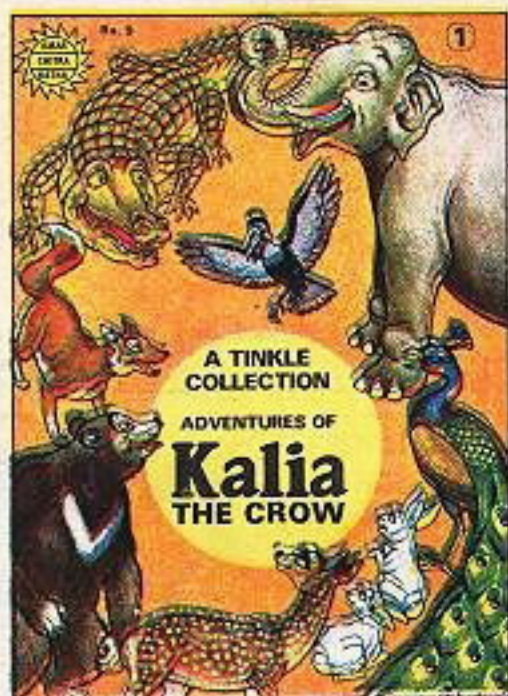
KRISHA GAUTAMI CONTINUED TO MEDITATE WITH HER EYES FIXED ON THE FLAME OF THE LAMP...



...AND ATTAINED NIRVANA*.

* THE PERFECT STATE

NOW AVAILABLE!

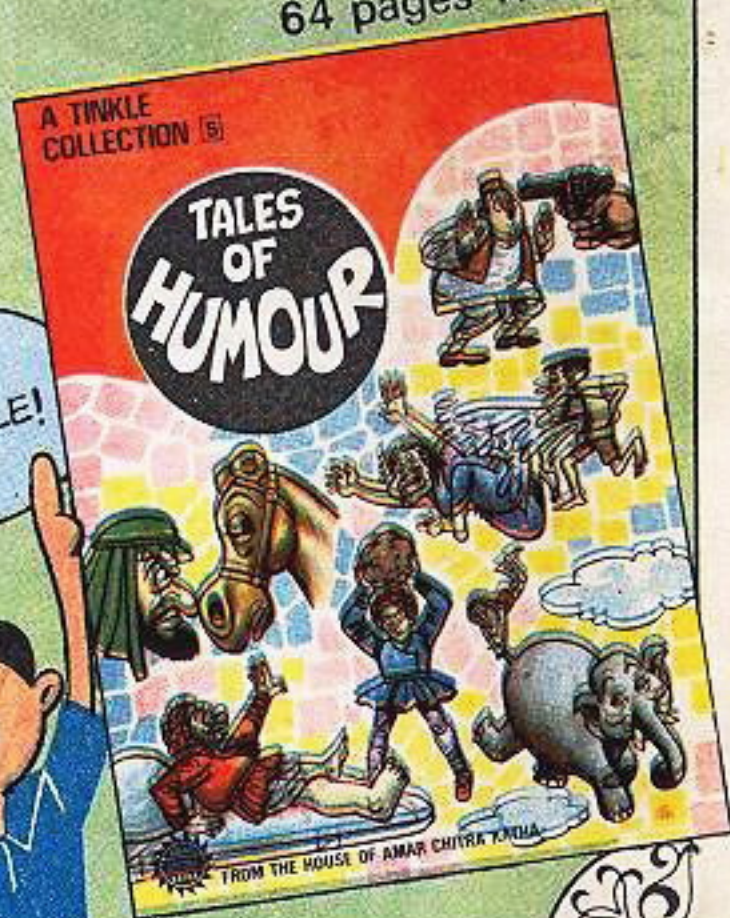


Special Tinkle Collections

From the pages of the
ever popular children's
fortnightly

TINKLE

64 pages Rs. 9



ALSO
AVAILABLE!



Distributed by :
India Book House

For V.P.P. orders write to :
India Book House
3A, Rashtrapati Road
Secunderabad 500 003



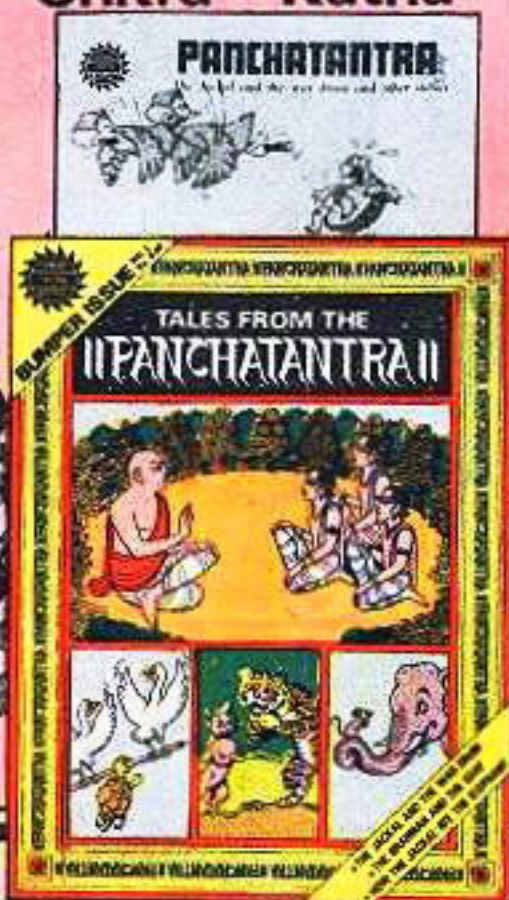
TINKLE -114/83



Give your child a gift he'll treasure
forever—the gift of his own heritage
in these specially designed

BUMPER ISSUES

each containing three
Amar Chitra Katha titles :



1. Tales of Hanuman
2. Tales of Birbal
3. Tales from the Panchatantra
4. Tales of Buddha
5. Tales of the Mother Goddess
6. The sons of Shiva
7. Adventures of Krishna
8. Tales from the Hitopadesha
9. The Great Ranas of Mewar
10. Tales of Humour
11. The sons of the Pandavas

12. Devotees of Vishnu
13. Jataka tales - Animal Stories
14. Poet Saints of North-India
15. Ramakrishna Paramahansa & his tales
16. Tales from the Mahabharata
17. Tales of Gujarat
18. Valiant kings of Ancient India
19. Folktales of Bengal
20. Heroes of the Mahabharata
21. The three Gurus

22. Tales of Revolutionaries
23. Men who fought for Independence-1.
24. Great sons of Bengal
25. Tales of Valiant Queens.
26. Tales of Krishna
27. Tales of Love and Devotion
28. Exploits of Arjuna
29. Tales of Indra
30. Buddhist Legends
31. The Great Mughals-I
32. The Great Mughals-II
33. Heroes of Punjab
34. Tales of Sanjeevani
35. Legends of Orissa



Distributed by
INDIA BOOK HOUSE

Rs. 12/- each