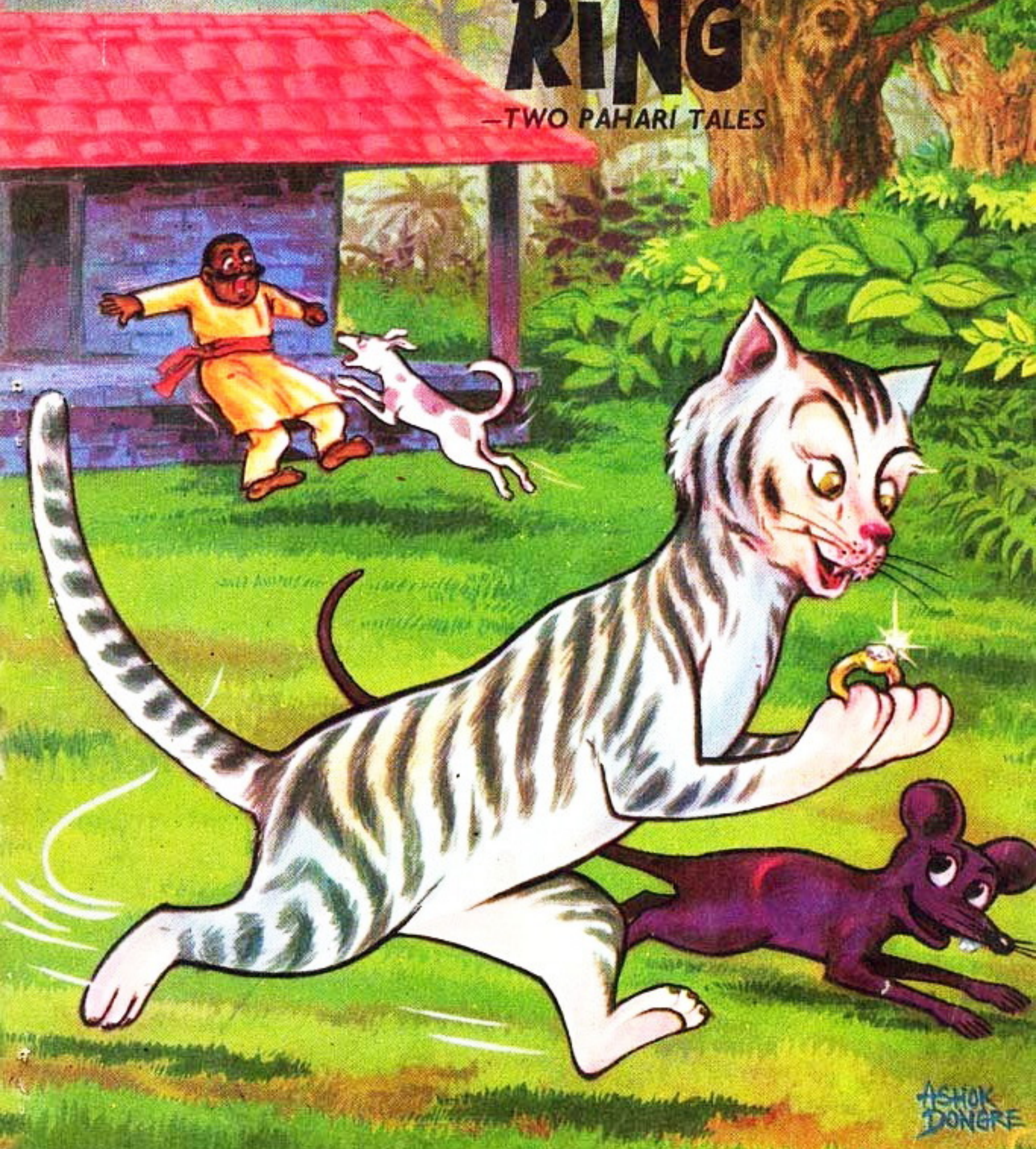




No. 307 Rs

THE BRIDEGROOM'S RING

—TWO PAHARI TALES



ASHOK
DONGRE

Amar Chitra Katha
No. 307, April 1, 1984

Editor
ANANT PAI

Associate Editors
KAMALA CHANDRAKANT
SUBBA RAO

Script
APPASWAMI

Artworks
ASHOK DONGRE

Art Consultant
RAM WAEERKAR

Production
GOVIND KOTWANI

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The Bridegroom's Ring

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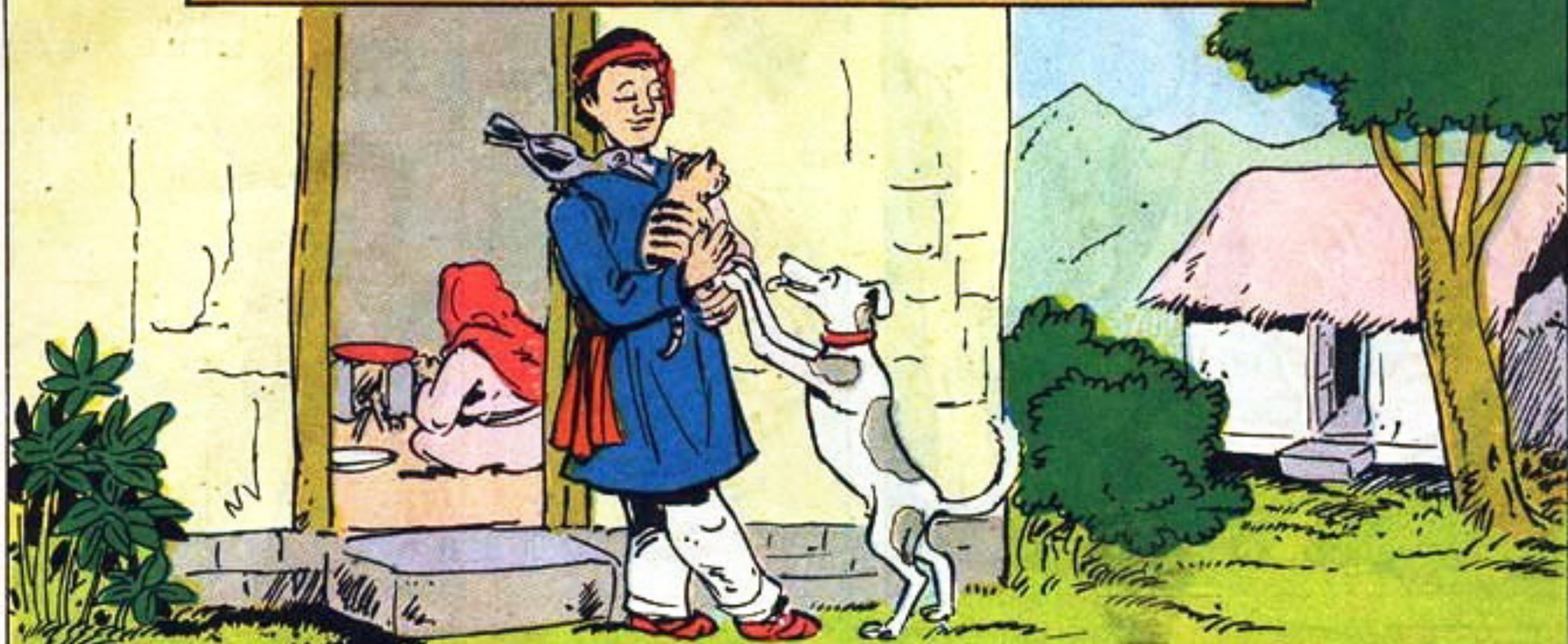
The grandmother who heard a story as a little girl from her grandmother, tells the same story to her grandchild but with a few embellishments of her own. The traveller from a distant land who happens to hear a story in the course of his travels, later tells it to his own people, modifying it to make it more dramatic or more acceptable to his audience.

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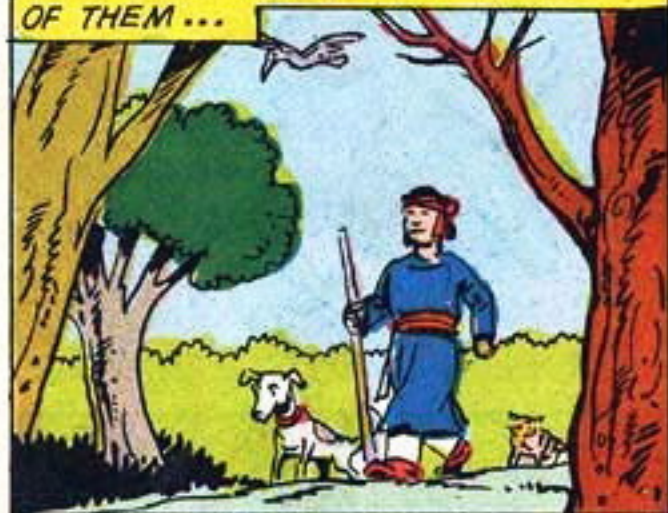
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THE BRIDEGROOM'S RING



YOUNG BHOLA LIVED IN A LITTLE HUT WITH HIS MOTHER AND HIS PETS, A CAT, A DOG AND A CROW.

ONE DAY BHOLA AND HIS FRIENDS SET OUT TO HUNT. SUDDENLY, THE CROW WHO WAS FLYING AHEAD OF THEM...



...BEGAN TO CIRCLE EXCITEDLY ROUND AN OBJECT ON THE GROUND.



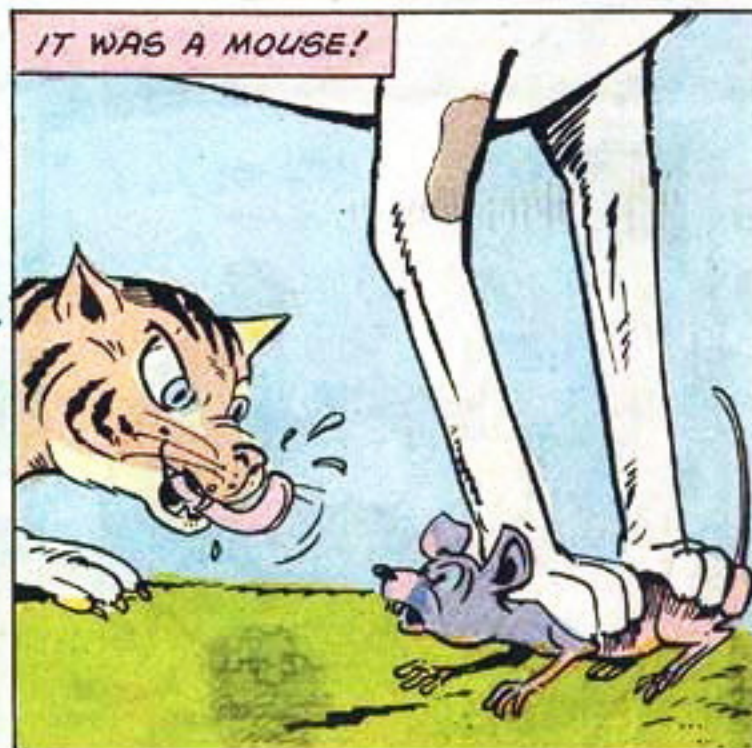
THE DOG RAN AHEAD OF THE OTHERS...



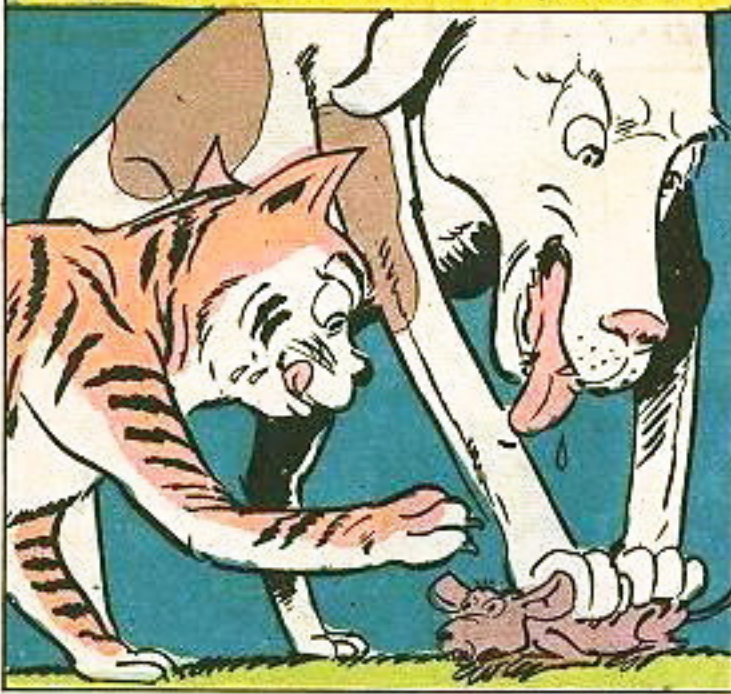
...AND POUNCED ON THE OBJECT.



IT WAS A MOUSE!



AS THE CAT WAS ABOUT TO STRIKE...



...IT FOUND ITSELF LIFTED OFF THE GROUND.



BHOLA GENTLY DROPPED THE CAT...



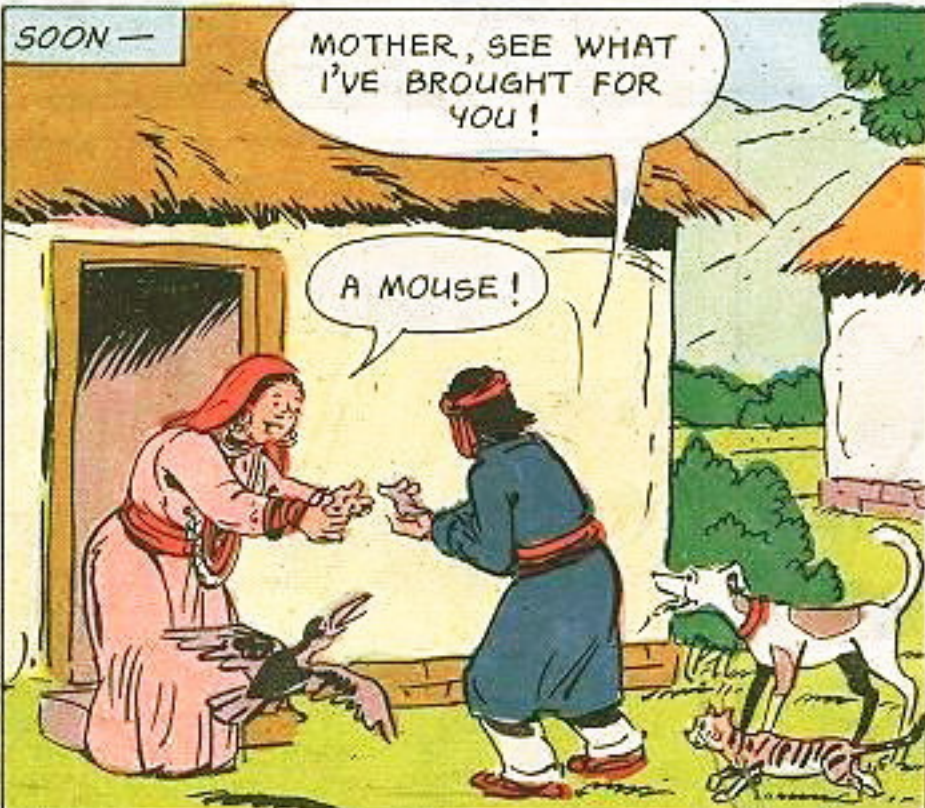
...AND PICKED UP THE FRIGHTENED MOUSE.



SOON —

MOTHER, SEE WHAT I'VE BROUGHT FOR YOU!

A MOUSE!

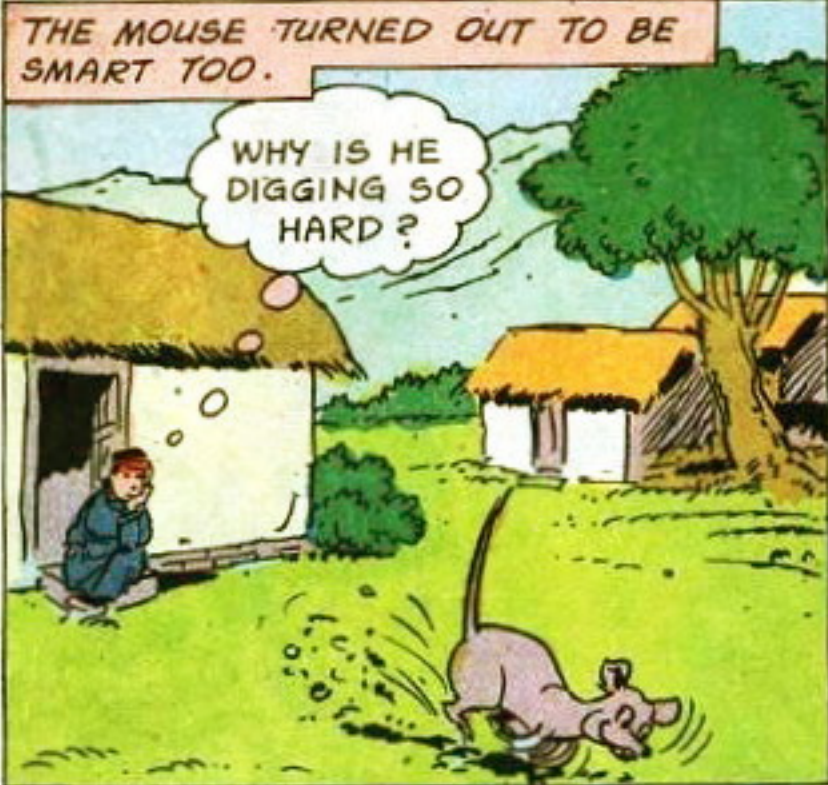


HE IS SO CUTE!



THE MOUSE TURNED OUT TO BE SMART TOO.

WHY IS HE DIGGING SO HARD?



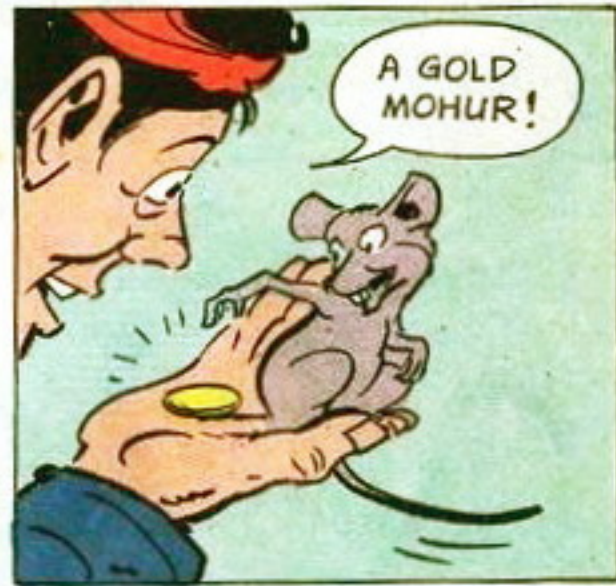
YOU'VE BROUGHT SOMETHING FOR ME!



WHAT IS IT?



A GOLD MOHUR!

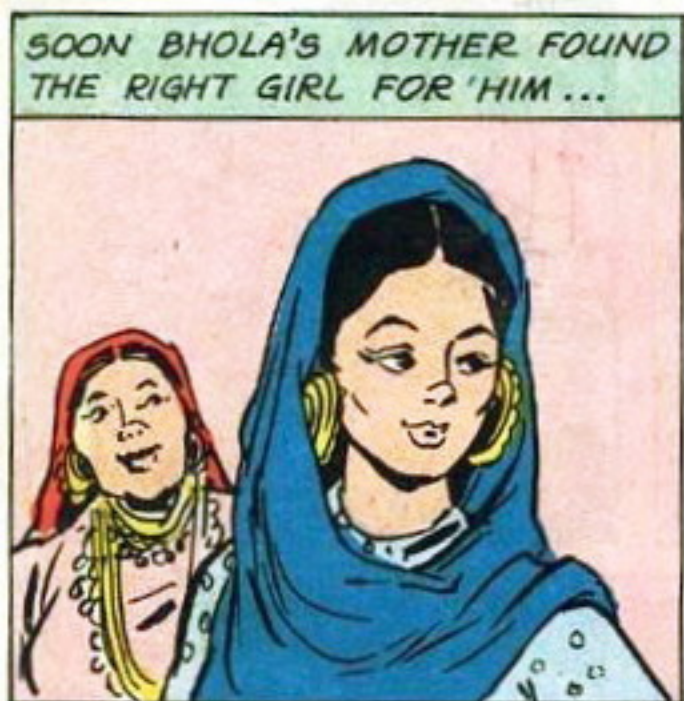


THE MOUSE SEEMED TO BE AN EXPERT TREASURE-HUNTER.



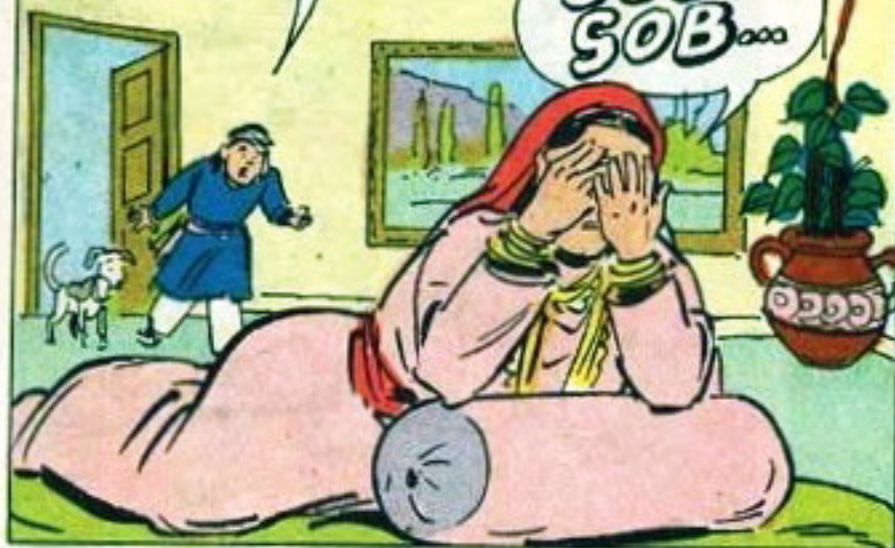
SOON BHOLA AND HIS MOTHER WERE ABLE TO MOVE INTO A BIG HOUSE!





HOWEVER, ON THE EVE OF THE WEDDING —

MOTHER! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

SOB...
SOB...THE RING ...
THE WEDDING RING...

...IS MISSING.

OH!

SNIFF!
SNIFF!

YOU MUST HAVE MISPLACED IT...

I HAVE LOOKED EVERYWHERE!



NO, BHOLA. SOMEONE HAS STOLEN IT.

STOLEN IT?

SNIFF!
SNIFF!

YES. ONE OF THE VISITORS TO WHOM I SHOWED THE WEDDING ORNAMENTS MUST HAVE WALKED AWAY WITH IT.

SNIFF!
SNIFF!

BHOLA TURNED TO HIS ANIMAL FRIENDS —

YOU MUST
FIND THE
RING.



GO NOW.



DON'T COME
BACK WITHOUT
IT.



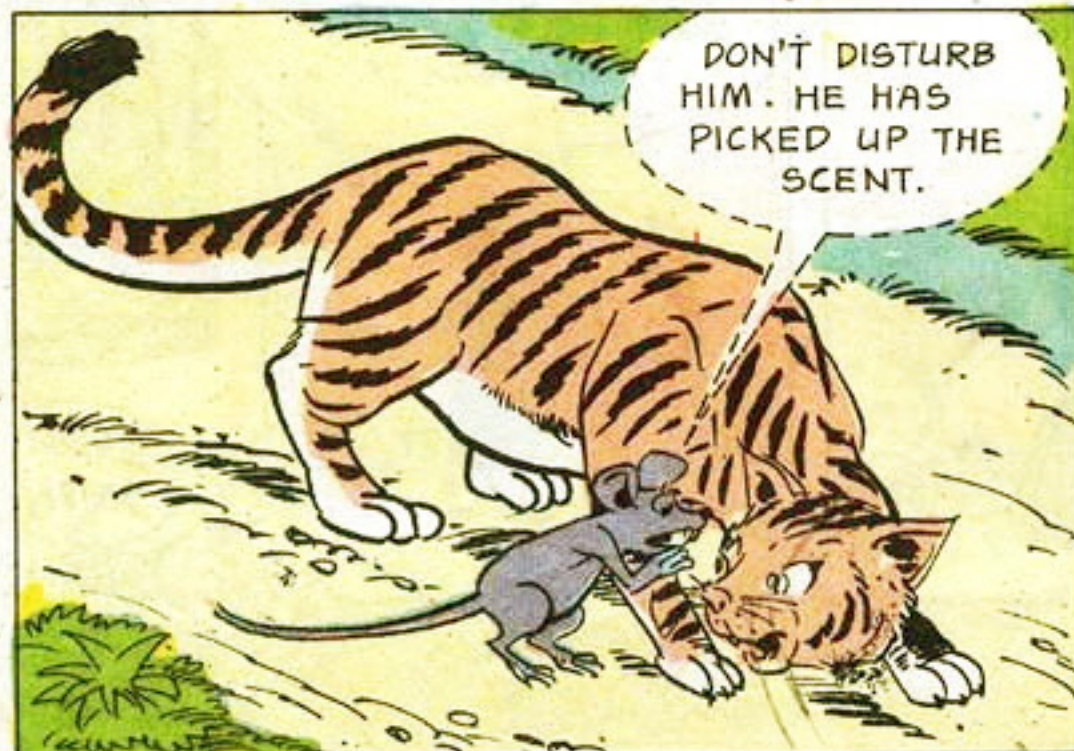
BUT WHERE
DO WE
FIND IT?

SH...

SNIFF!
SNIFF!

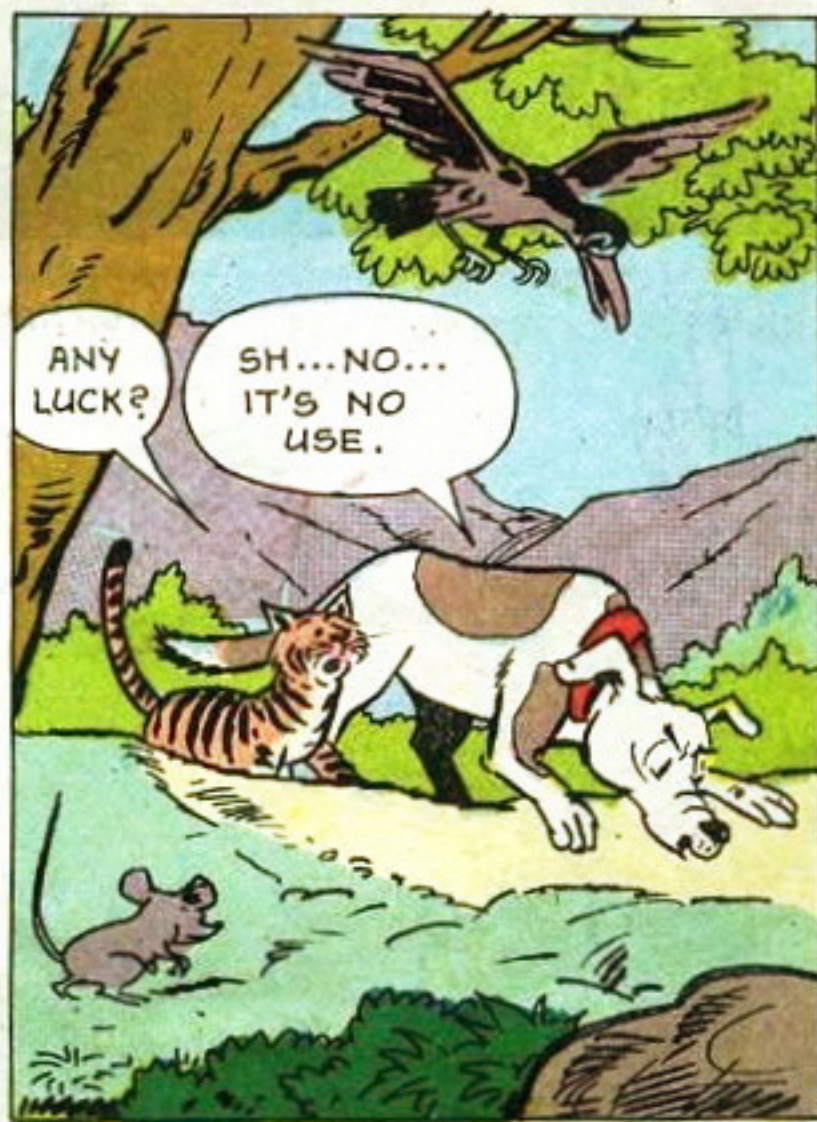
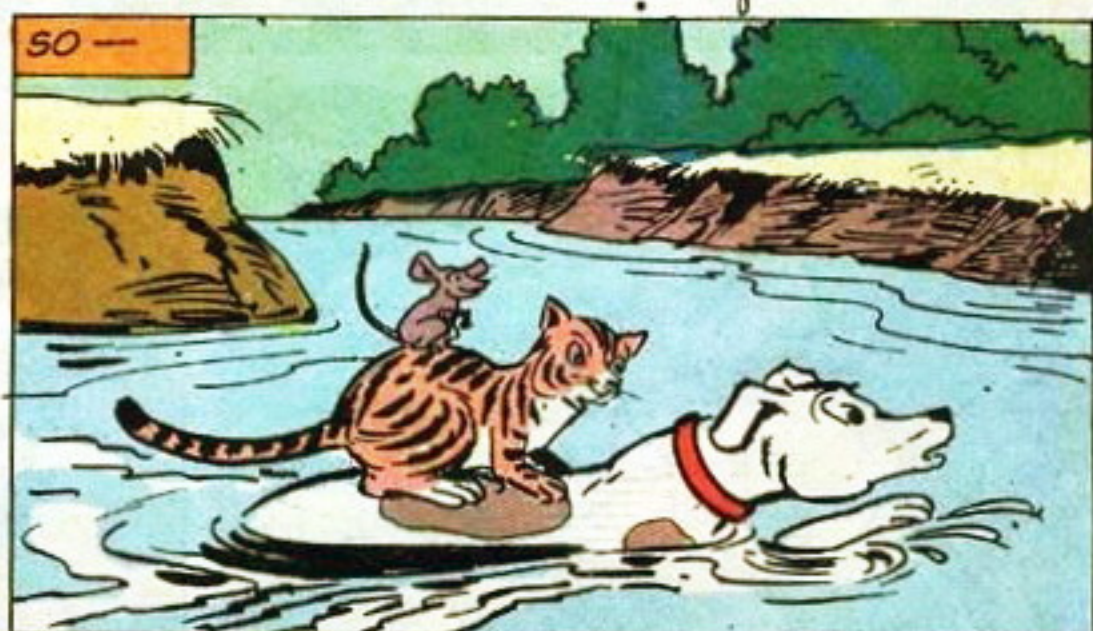
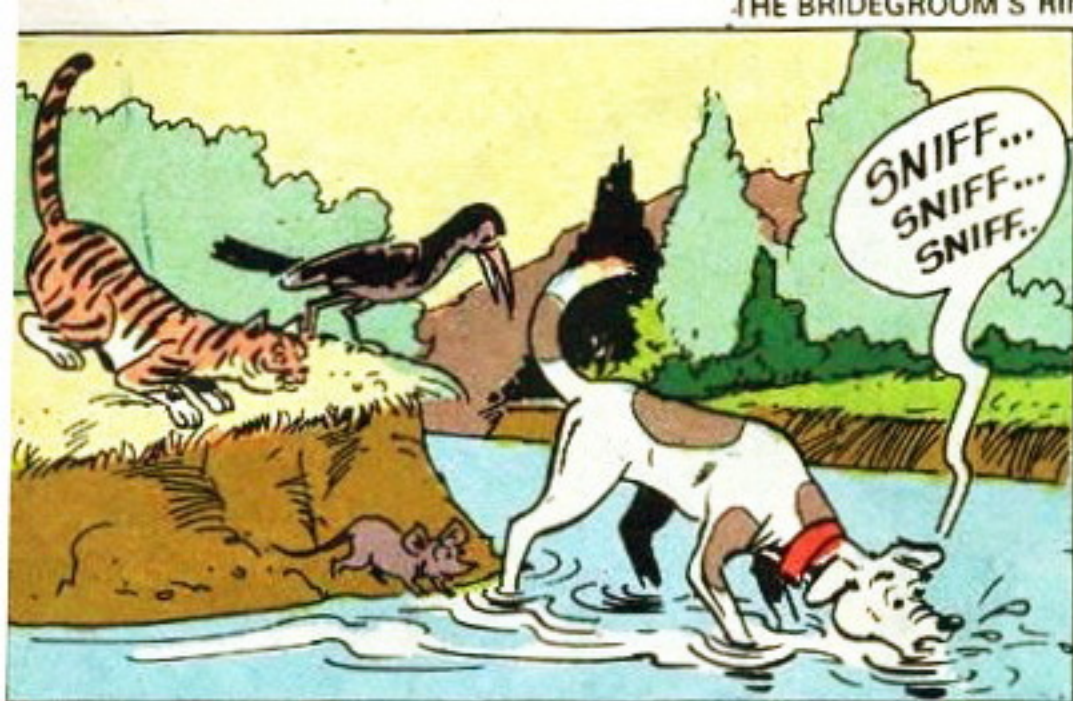


DON'T DISTURB
HIM. HE HAS
PICKED UP THE
SCENT.

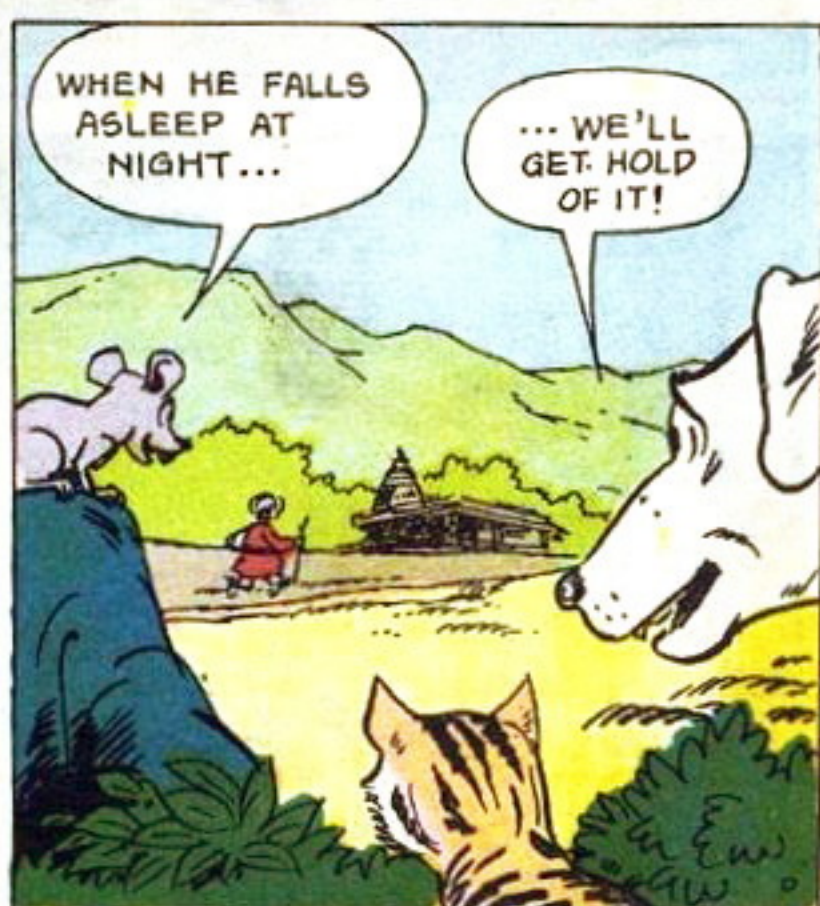
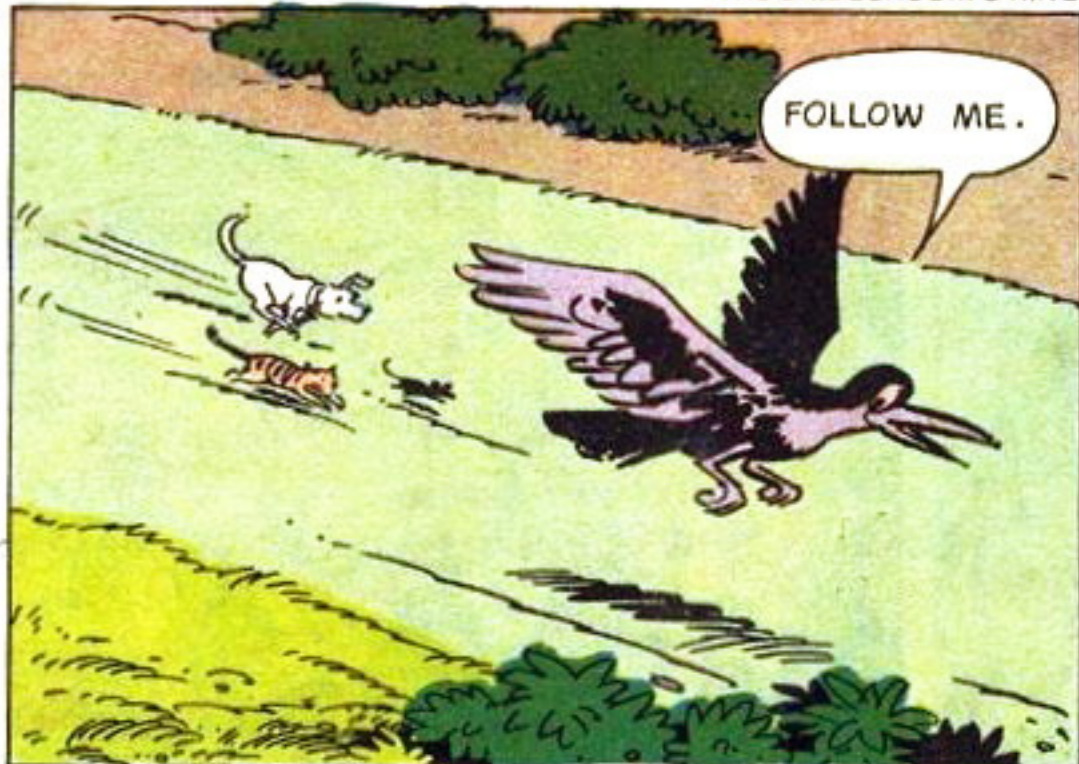


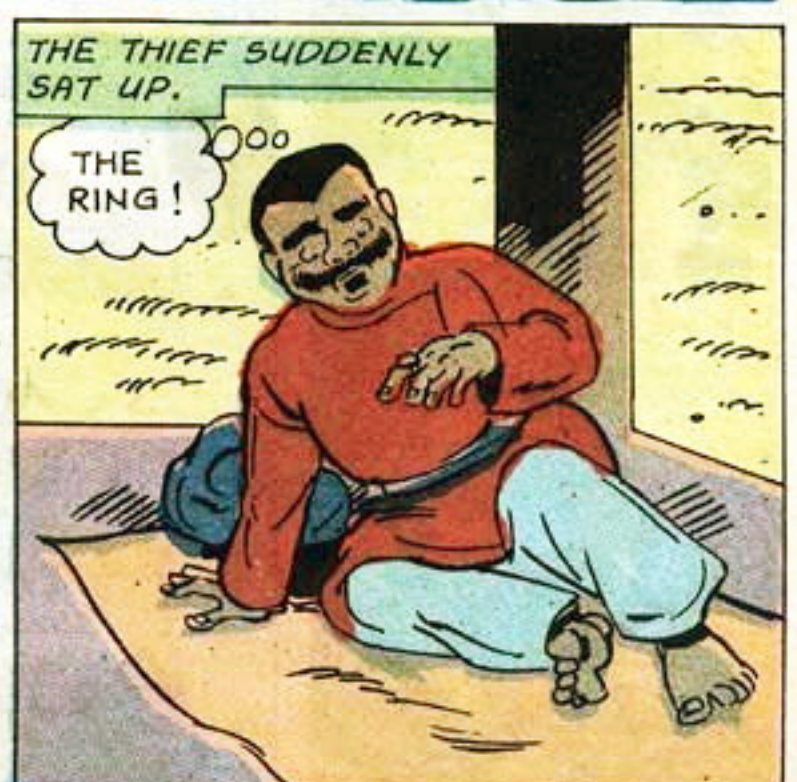
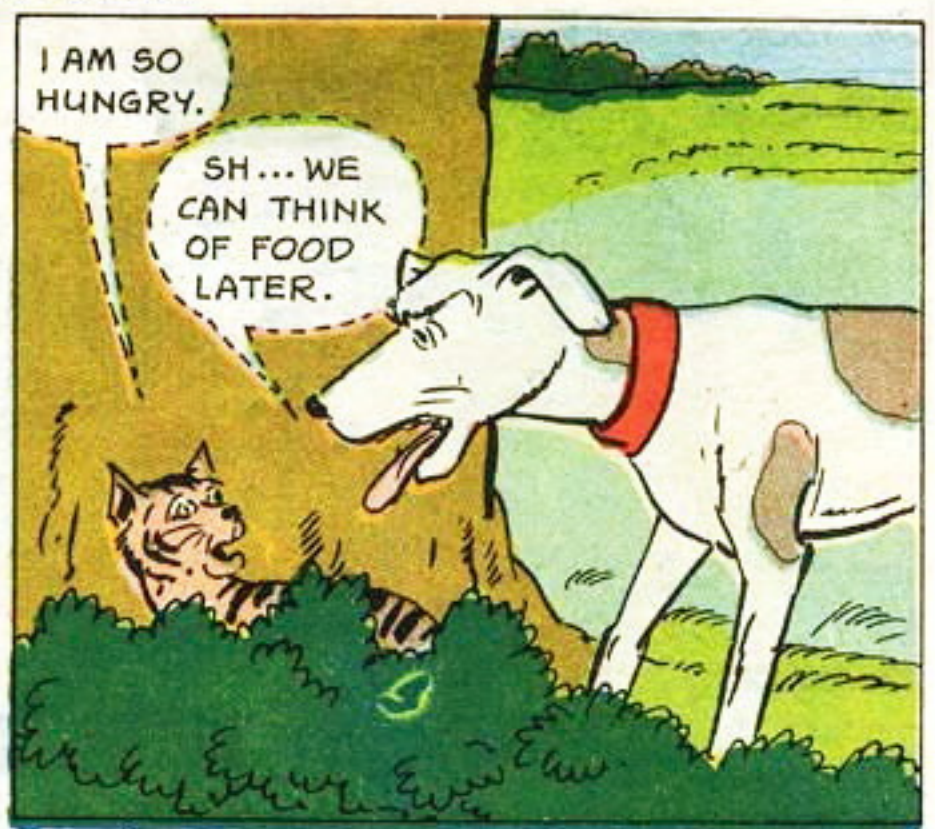
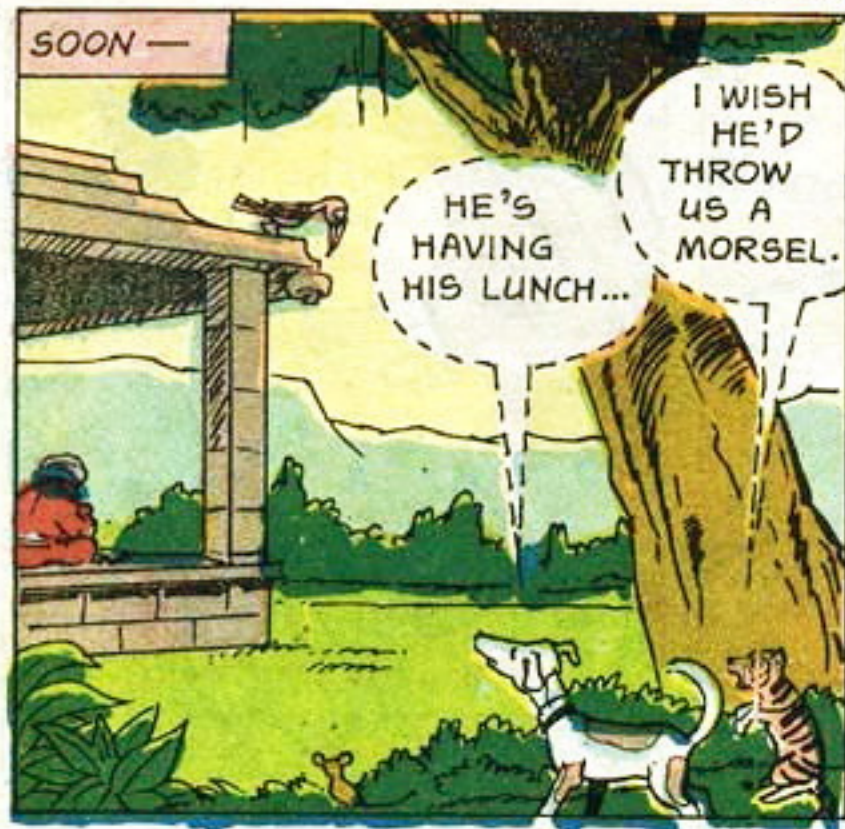
SNIFF!
SNIFF!

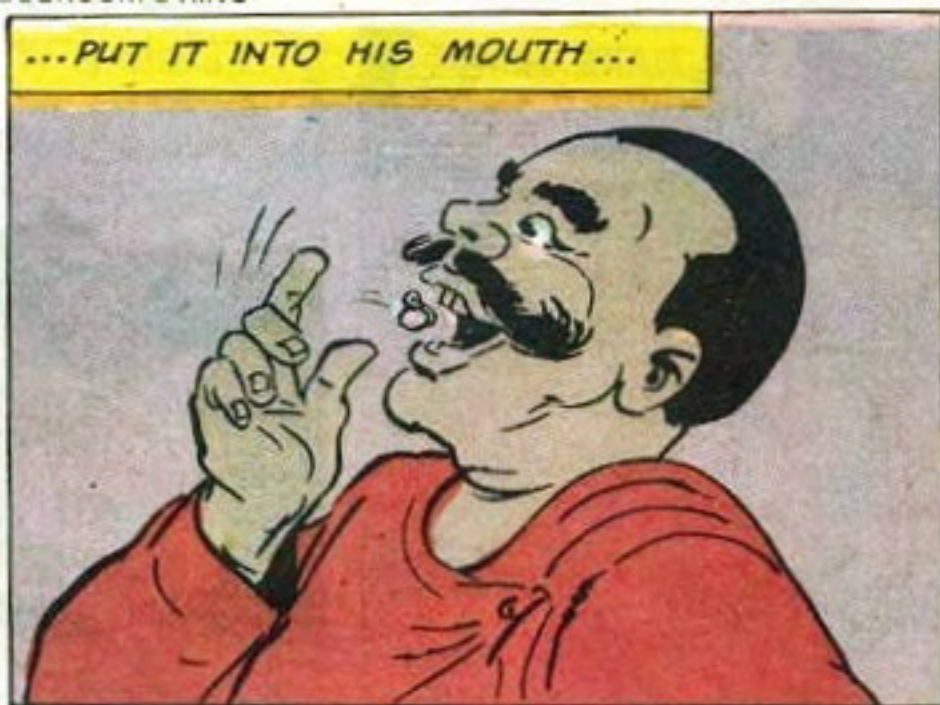
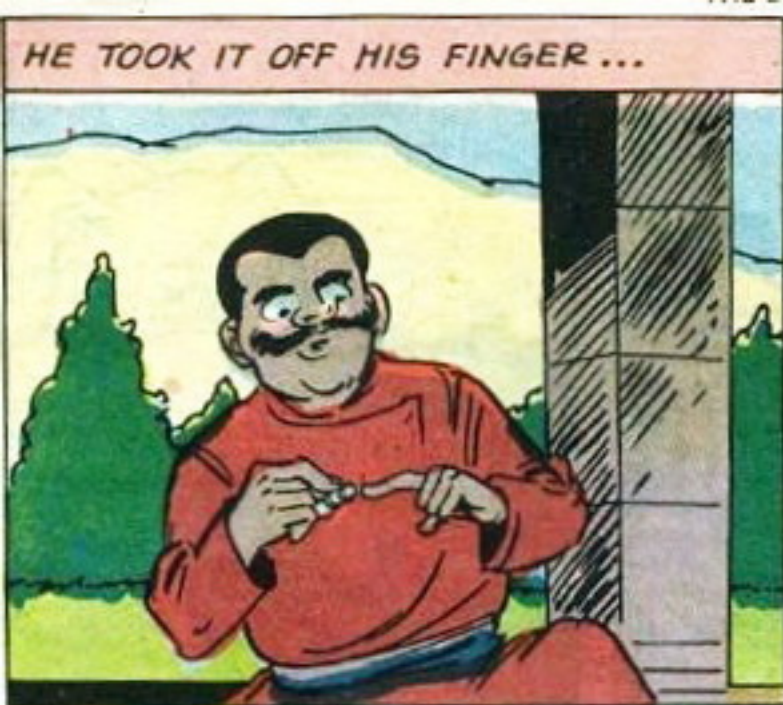


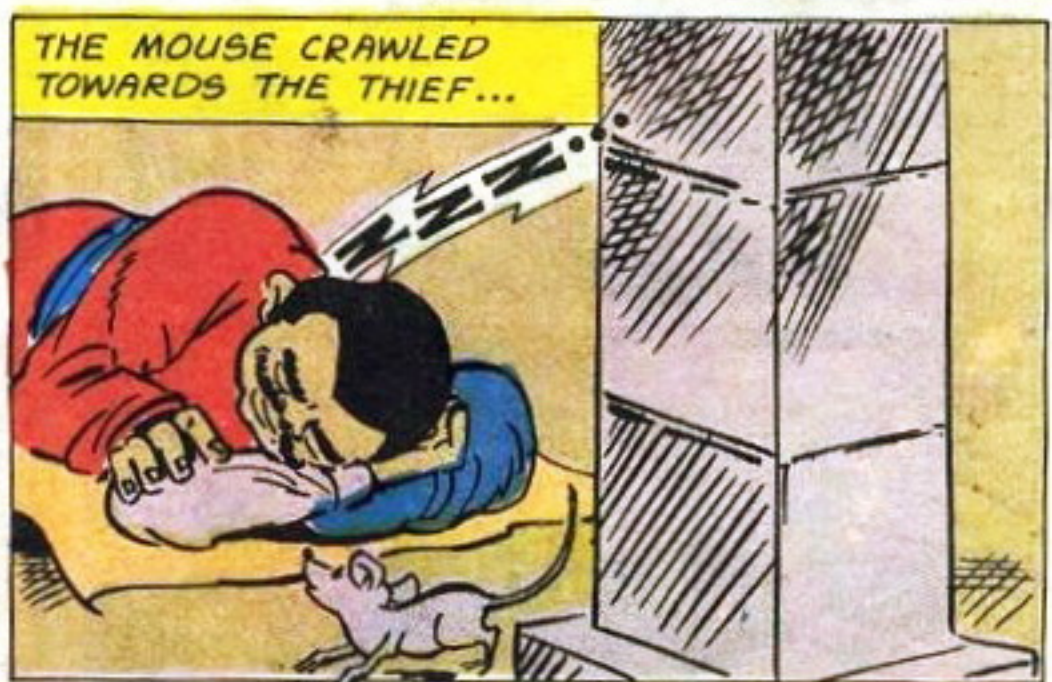
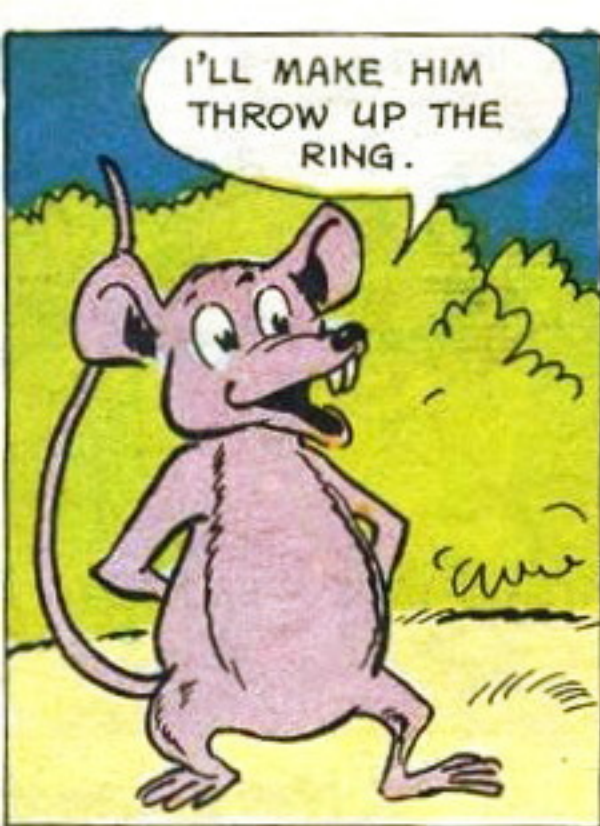


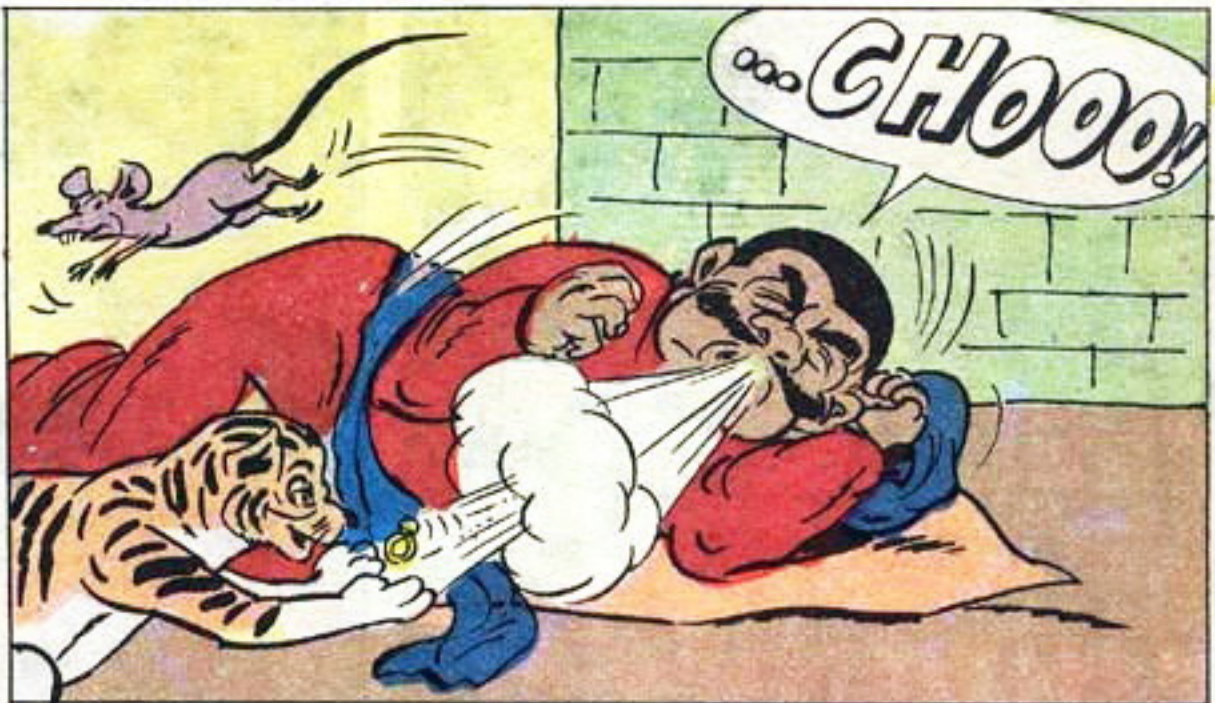


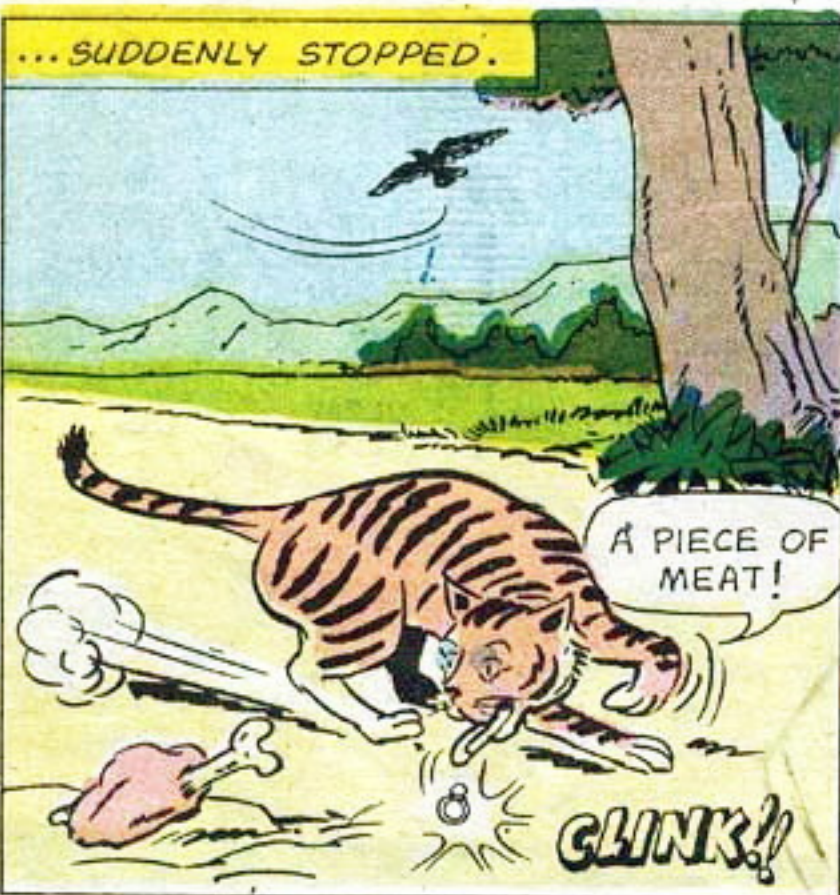
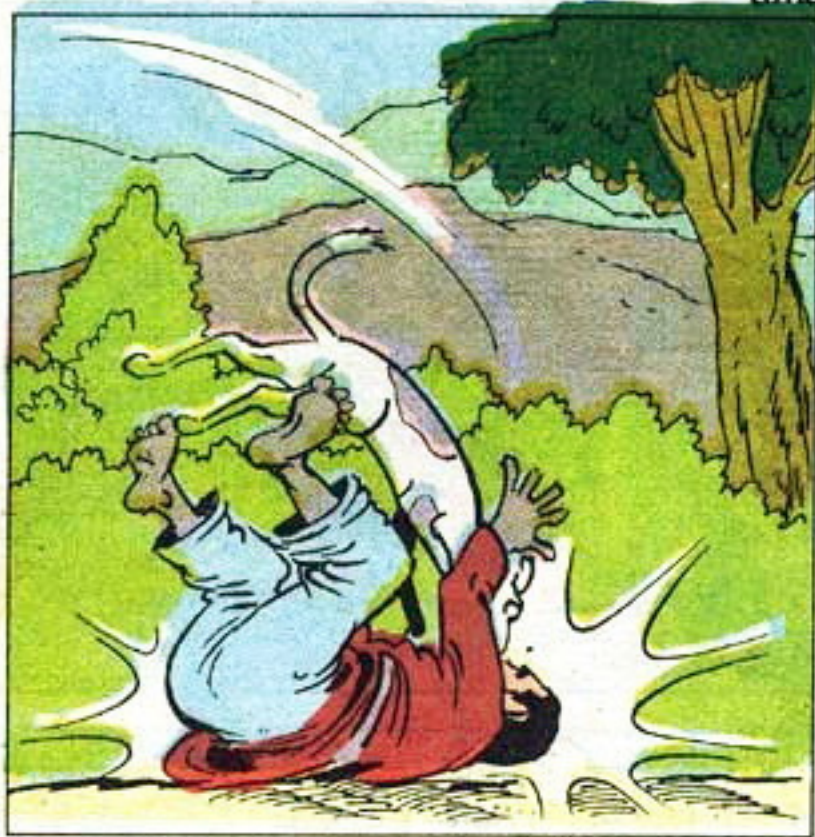








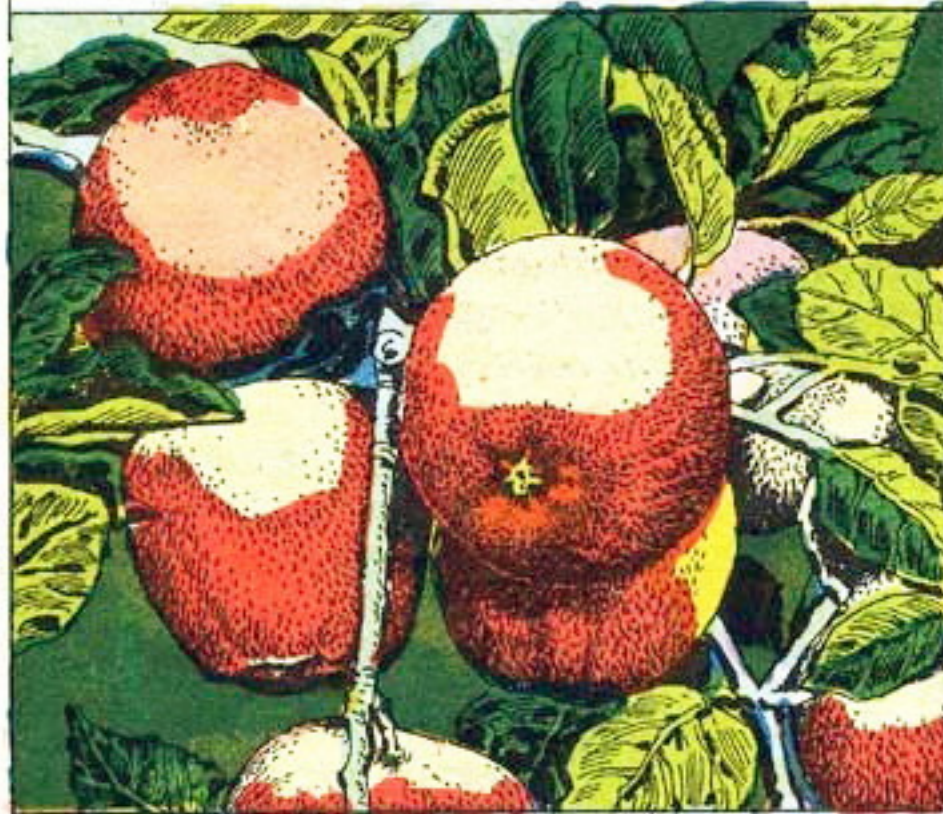
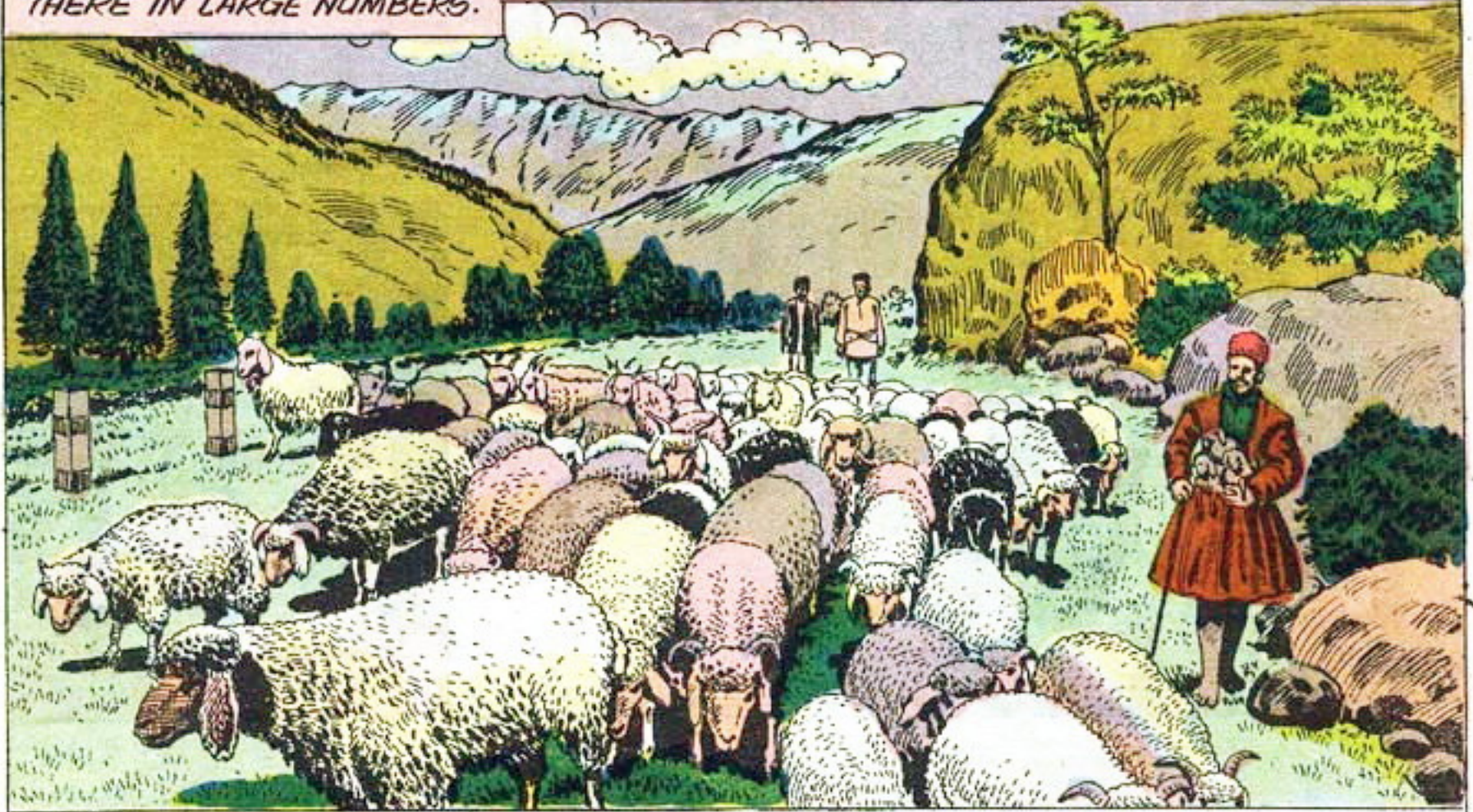




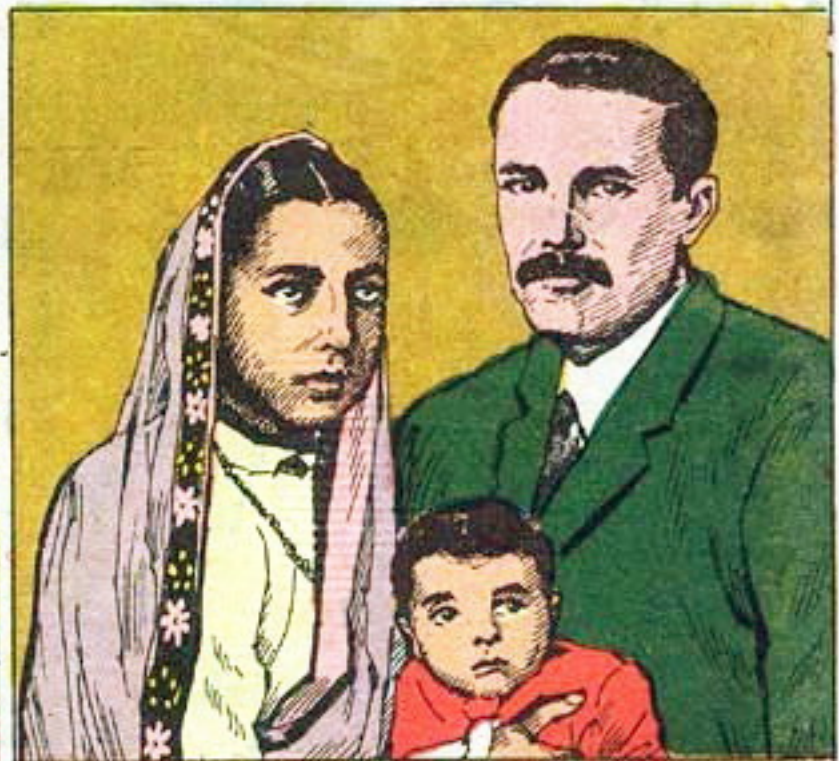
HIMACHAL PRADESH THE VALLEY OF THE GODS

Script : Swarn Khandpur
Illustrated by : S.K. Parab

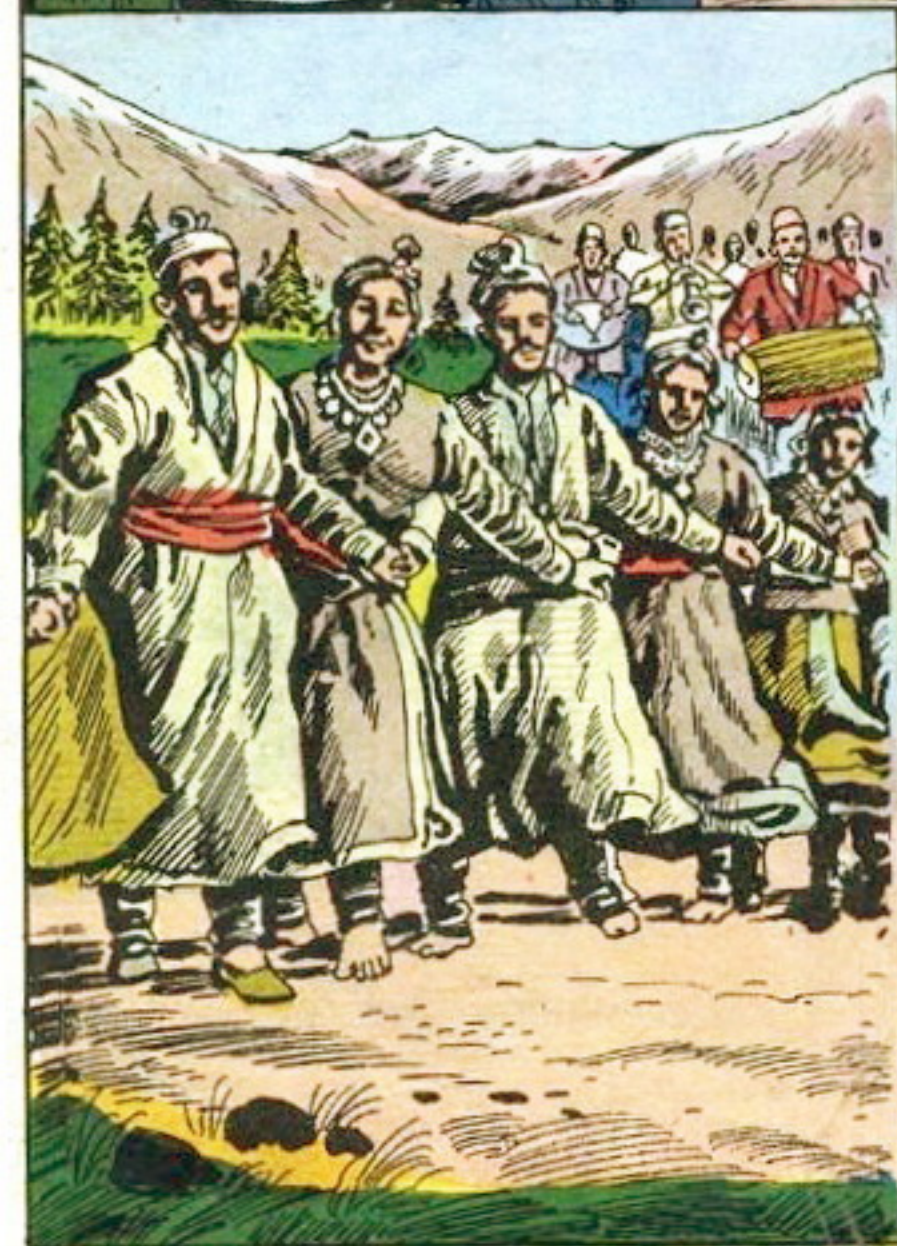
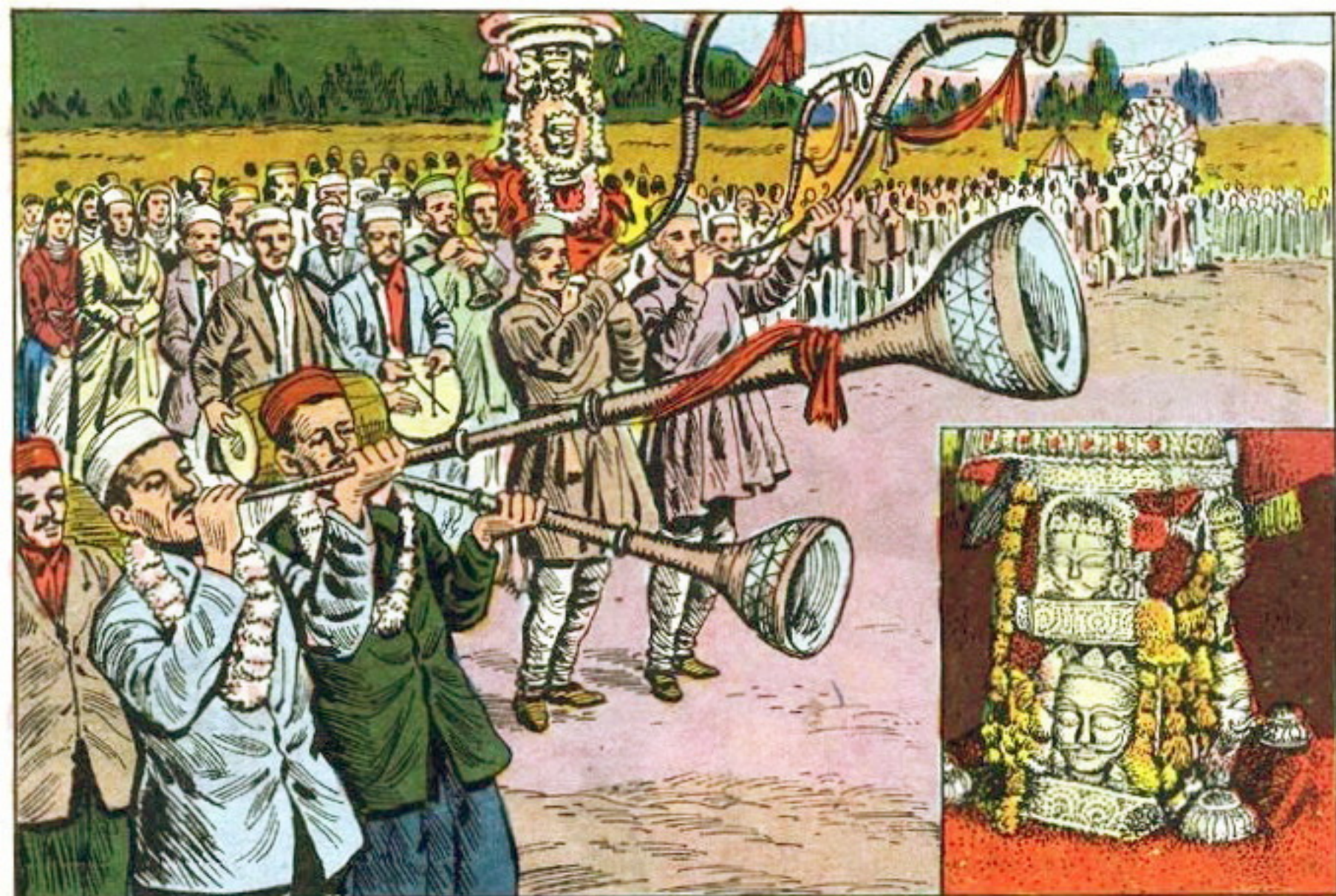
HIMACHAL PRADESH, AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, LIES IN THE HIMALAYAS. ITS HILLS AND VALLEYS PROVIDE RICH PASTURES FOR THE SHEEP AND GOATS THAT ARE REARED THERE IN LARGE NUMBERS.



IT IS THE 'APPLE STATE' OF INDIA. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HEAVILY-LADEN APPLE TREES DOT THE COUNTRYSIDE. APPLE ORCHARDS COVER SOME 100,000 HECTARES OF LAND IN THE STATE, AND EVERY YEAR MORE THAN 75,00,000 BOXES OF LUSCIOUS APPLES—GOLDEN, RED AND ROYAL DELICIOUS—ARE SENT OUT.



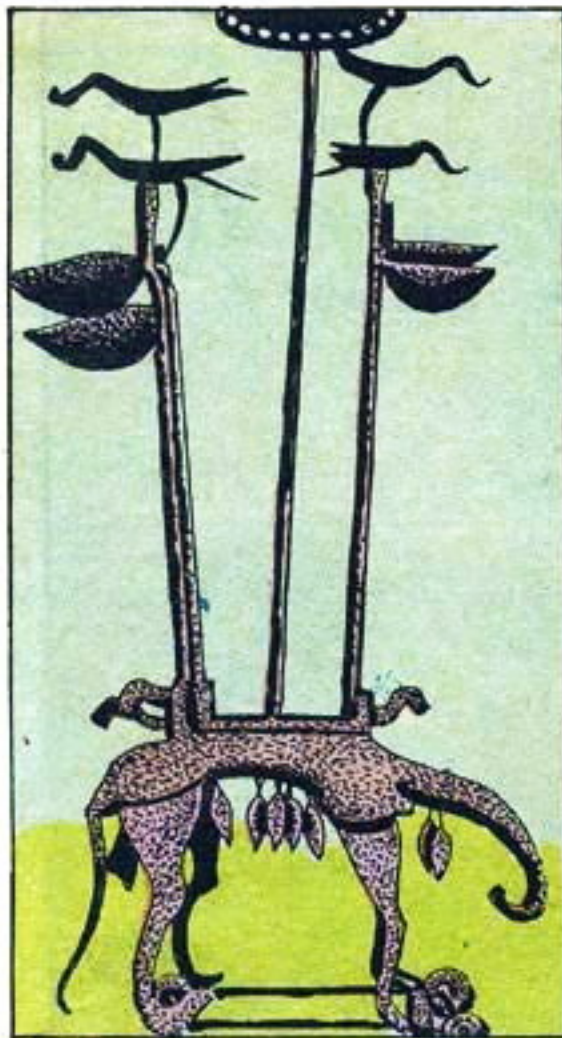
APPLES WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE STATE IN 1920, BY AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY, SAMUEL EVANS STOKES, WHO LATER TOOK THE NAME OF SATYANAND. HE ADOPTED THE HINDU WAY OF LIFE AND SETTLED DOWN IN KOTGARH. HIS PIONEERING WORK IN THE SCIENTIFIC CULTIVATION OF APPLES GAVE THE POOR PEASANTS UNDREAMT OF PROSPERITY.



SOCIAL MEETINGS ARE NOT EASY IN THE HILLS. BUT FAIRS AND FESTIVALS ARE OCCASIONS FOR FUN AND FROLIC.

THE DUSSEHRA FESTIVAL AT KULU IS ONE SUCH OCCASION FOR BOTH GODS AND MEN. IN GAILY DECORATED PALANQUINS MINOR DEITIES FROM THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGES COME OUT OF THEIR TEMPLES FOR A 'DURBAR' WITH RAGHUNATHJI, THE MAIN DEITY OF THE VALLEY OF KULU.

THE 'VALLEY OF THE GODS' THEN REVERBERATES WITH THE BEATING OF DRUMS, SONGS AND DANCES.



IT IS IN THESE FAIRS THAT TRADING IS DONE. EXQUISITELY DESIGNED SHAWLS, WOODEN VESSELS AND METALWARE ARE BOUGHT AND SOLD HERE.

THESE OBJECTS OF UTILITY AND BEAUTY ARE THE CREATIONS OF THE INGENIOUS ARTISANS OF THE REGION.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THEM ALL IS THE EMBROIDERED CHAMBA RUMAAL. ALTHOUGH LITERALLY 'RUMAAL' MEANS A HANDKERCHIEF, THE CHAMBA RUMAAL IS MUCH LARGER. IT FORMS AN IMPORTANT PART OF A BRIDE'S TROUSSEAU.



A black and white photograph of a young boy sitting on the floor, surrounded by a large collection of LEO brand toys. He is wearing a striped shirt and shorts, with his arms raised in excitement. The toys include various vehicles like cars, trucks, and a helicopter, as well as action figures, a disc, and boxes labeled 'LEO' with titles like 'FLYING DISC JUNIOR', 'ROCK ROY', and 'AUTOMATIC RIFLE'.

Toys that amuse. Toys that delight. Toys that excite and educate. Toys for all ages. In an ever-growing range. From Leo.



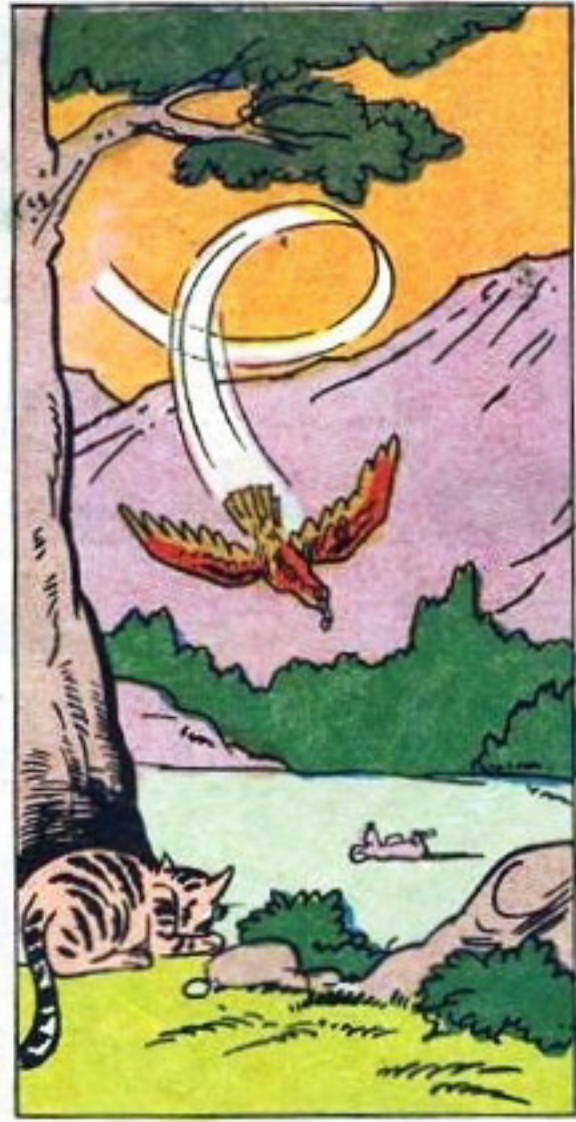
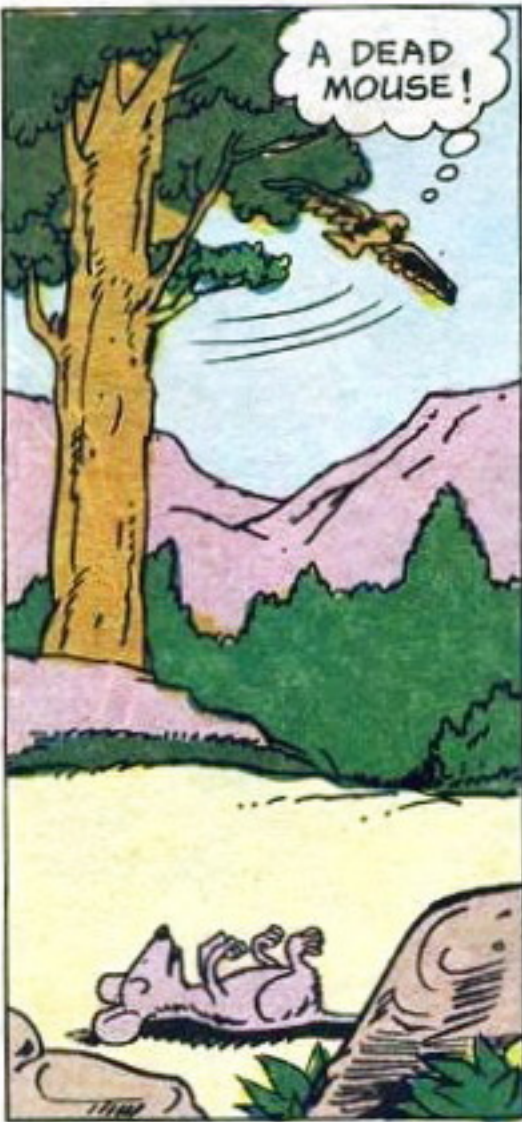
Toys that care.
Because you care

EVEN AS ITS TEETH SANK INTO THE MEAT, A HAWK SWOOPED DOWN...



...AND FLEW AWAY WITH THE RING.





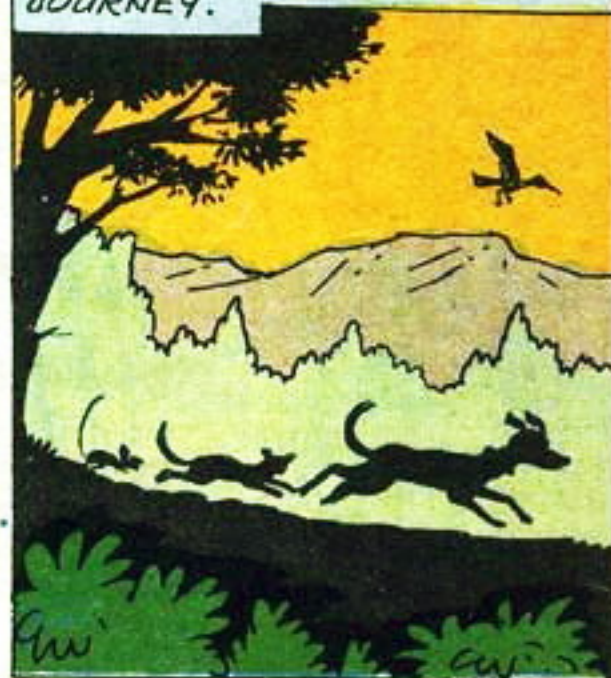
AS THE CAT PICKED UP THE RING THE DOG CAME ALONG.



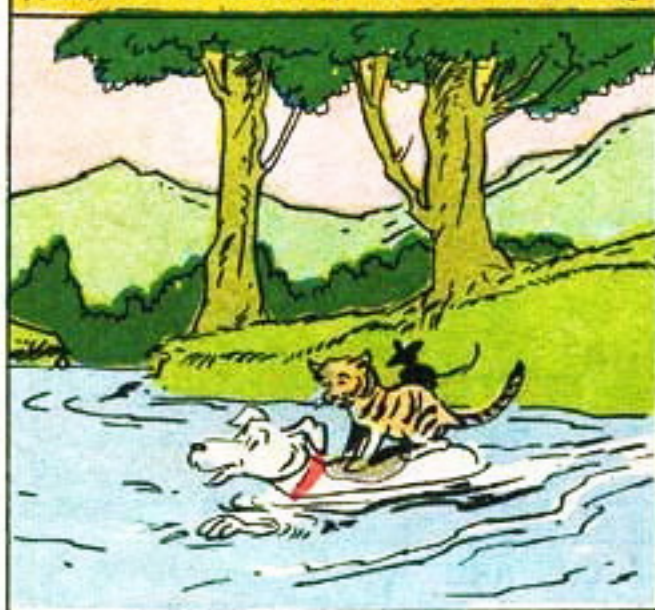
THE CROW TOLD THE DOG THE WHOLE STORY.



SO, THE DOG TOOK CHARGE OF THE RING AND THE FRIENDS BEGAN THEIR HOMEWARD JOURNEY.



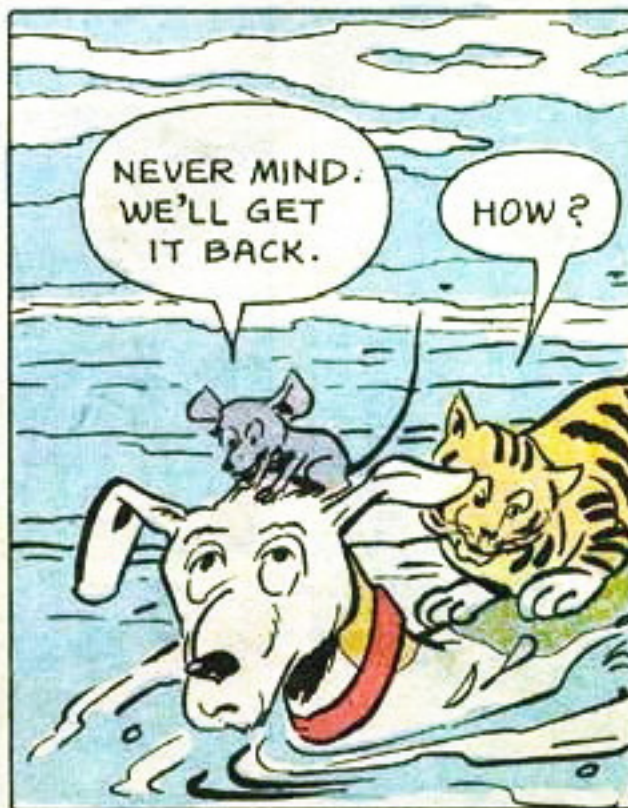
THEY HAD TO CROSS THE RIVER AGAIN TO REACH THEIR MASTER.



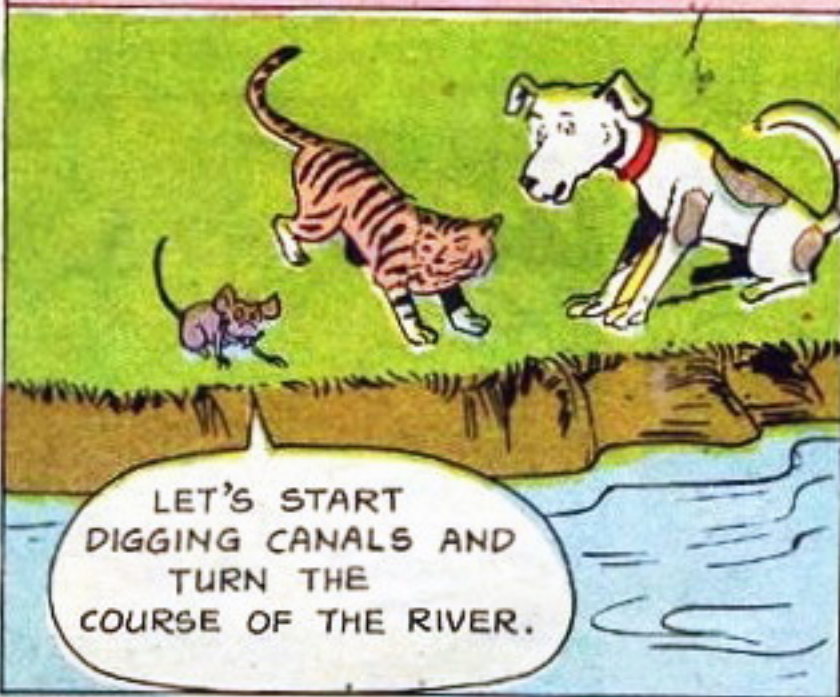
ON THE WAY THE DOG SWALLOWED SOME WATER.



AS IT SPAT THE WATER OUT —



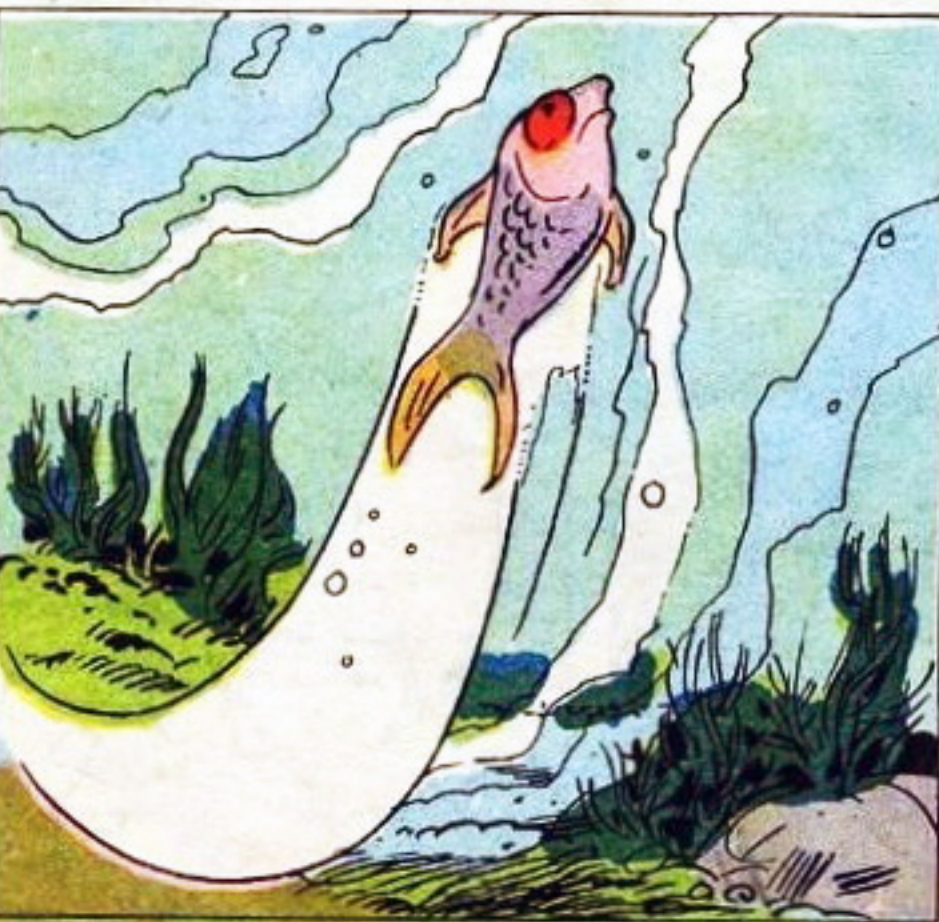
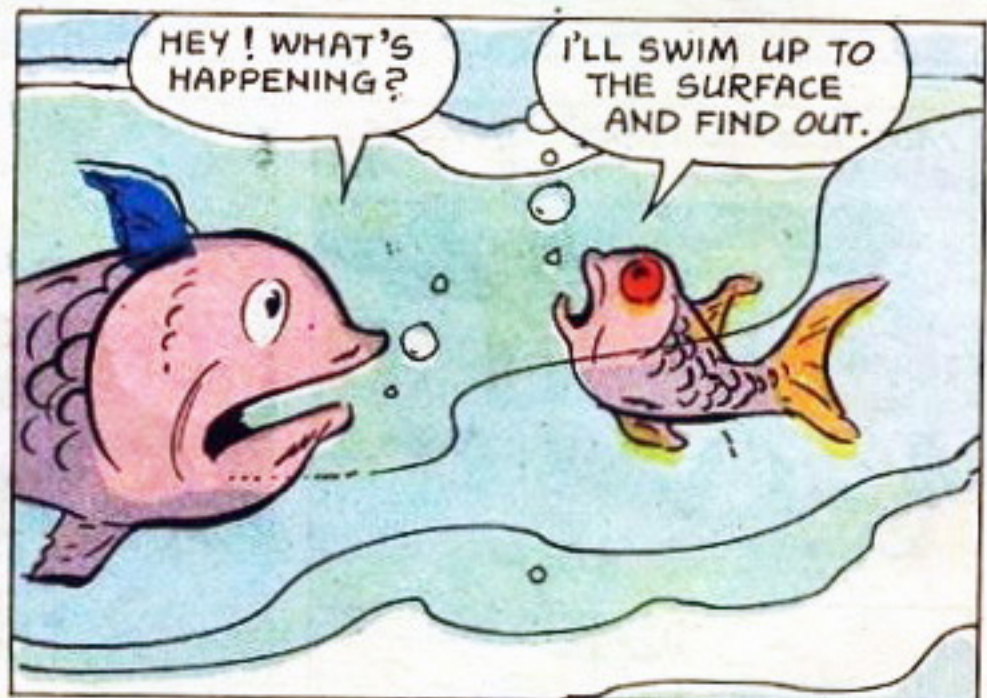
AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE BANK—



THE FRIENDS WORKED HARD...



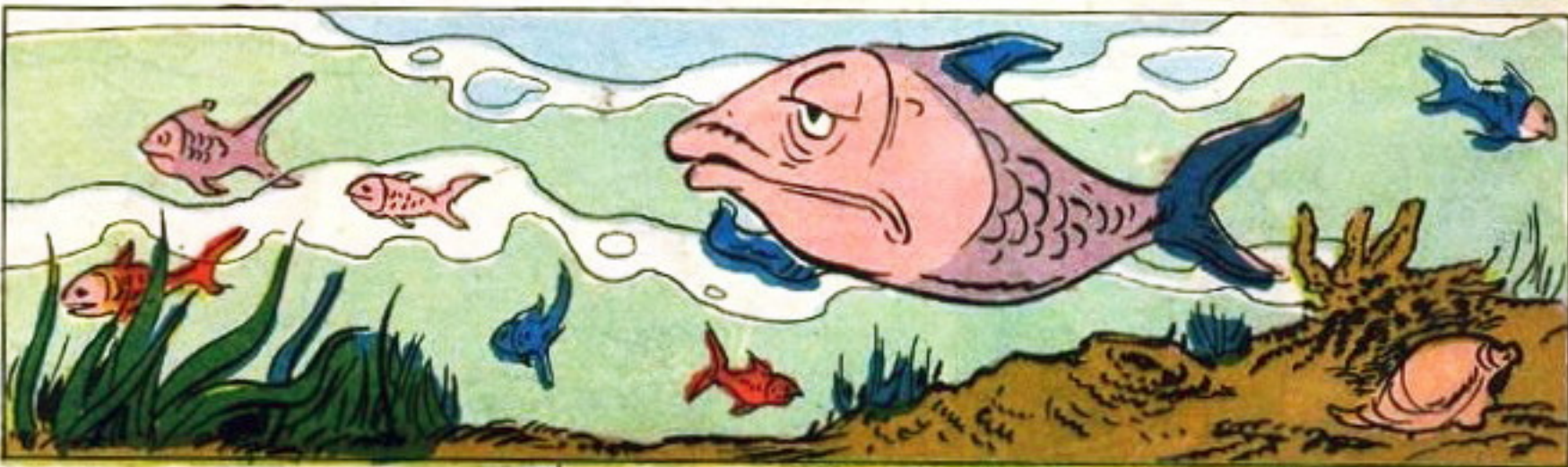
... AND SLOWLY, BUT STEADILY, THE WATER STARTED FLOWING OUT.



THE FISH SWAM DOWN WITH THE NEWS.

THEY ARE CHANGING THE COURSE TO FIND A CURSED RING.

FIND THE RING AND BRING IT TO ME!



SOON A SMALL FISH BROUGHT THE RING TO THE CHIEF.

GIVE IT TO ME.

THE CHIEF SHOT UP CARRYING THE RING...

...AND OFFERED IT TO THE MOUSE.

WILL YOU LEAVE OUR RIVER ALONE NOW?

OF COURSE, WE WILL.

YOU MUST
TAKE CARE OF
THE RING
NOW.



THE FRIENDS RESUMED
THEIR JOURNEY...



... AND REACHED HOME
WITHOUT ANY MORE MISHAPS.

HERE THEY
COME!



THE NEXT MOMENT —

MOTHER!

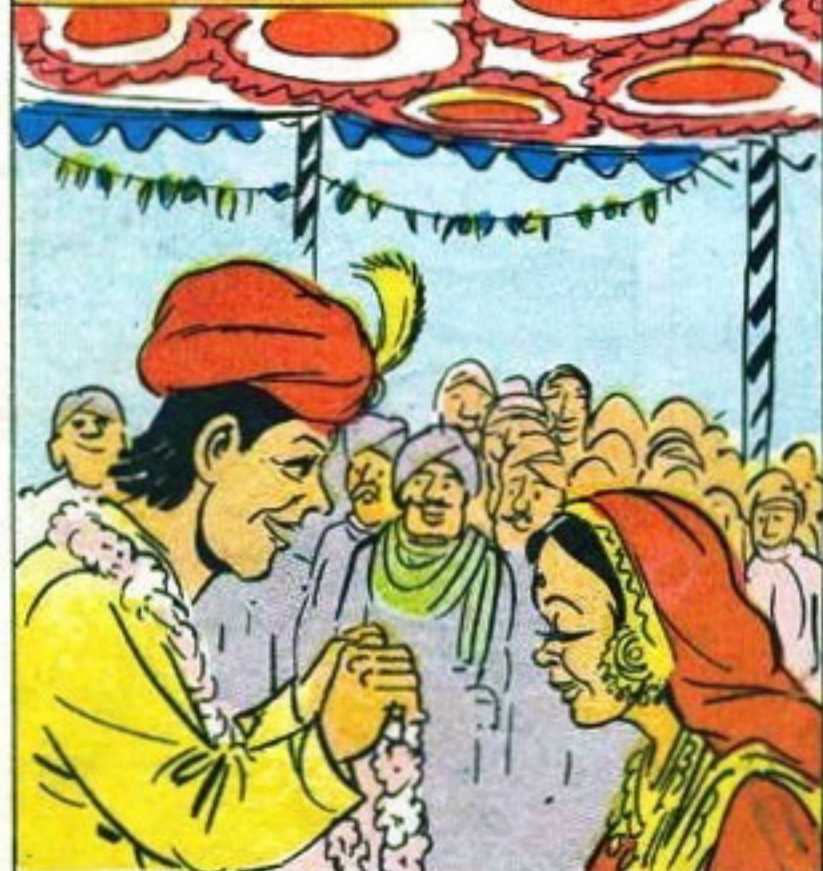


THEY HAVE
BROUGHT BACK
THE RING.

OH, MY
DARLINGS!



AT THE WEDDING ...



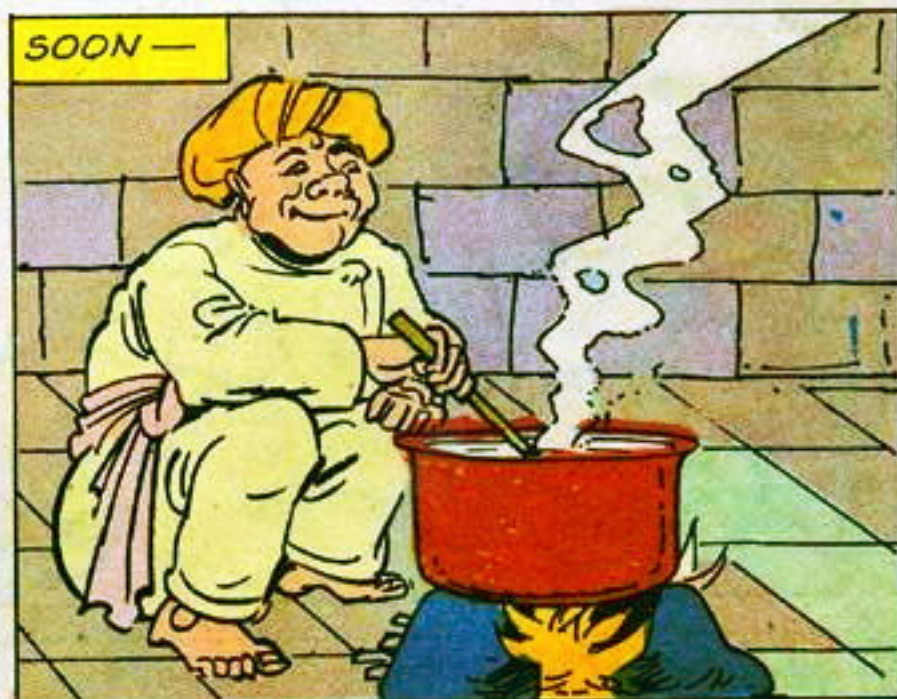
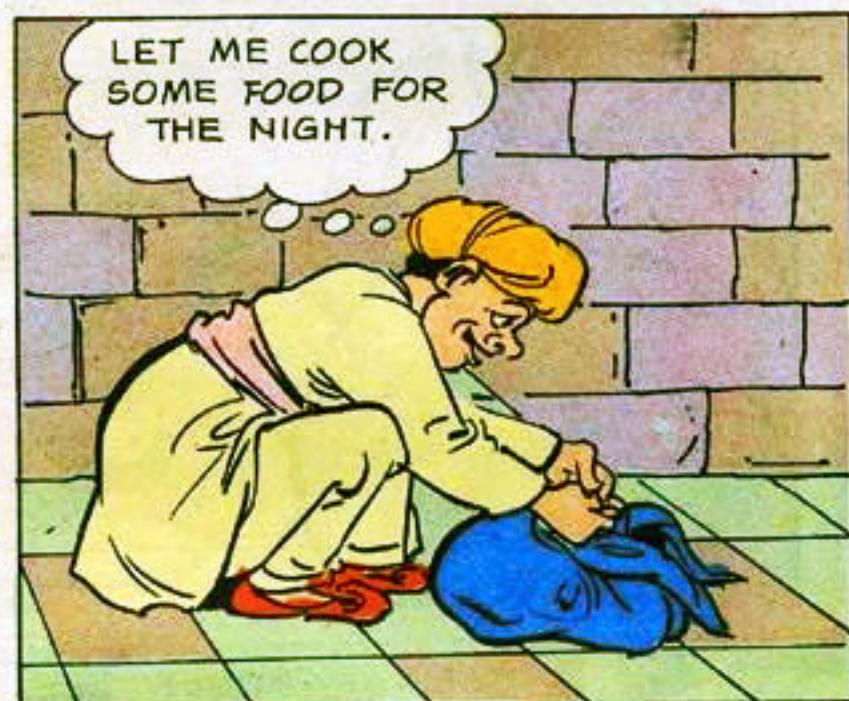
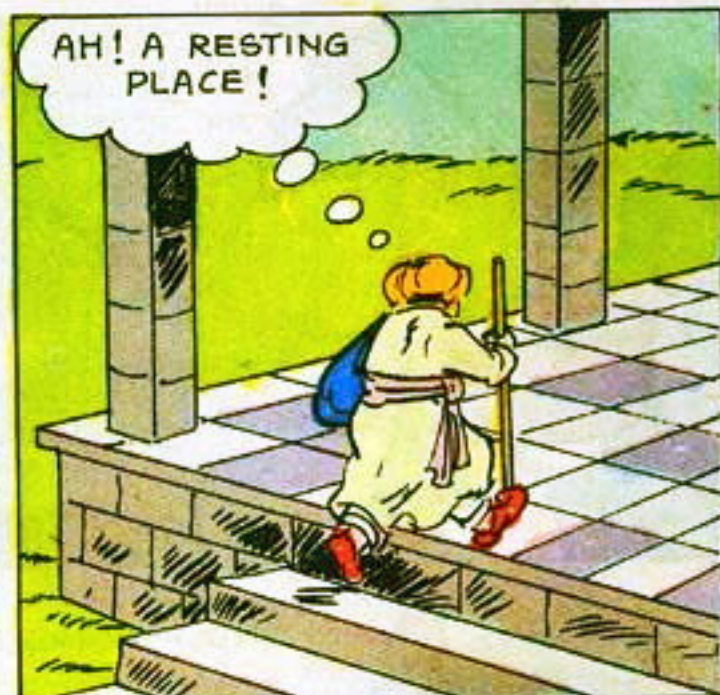
...THE ONES WHO STOLE THE SHOW WERE
BHOLA'S FRIENDS.

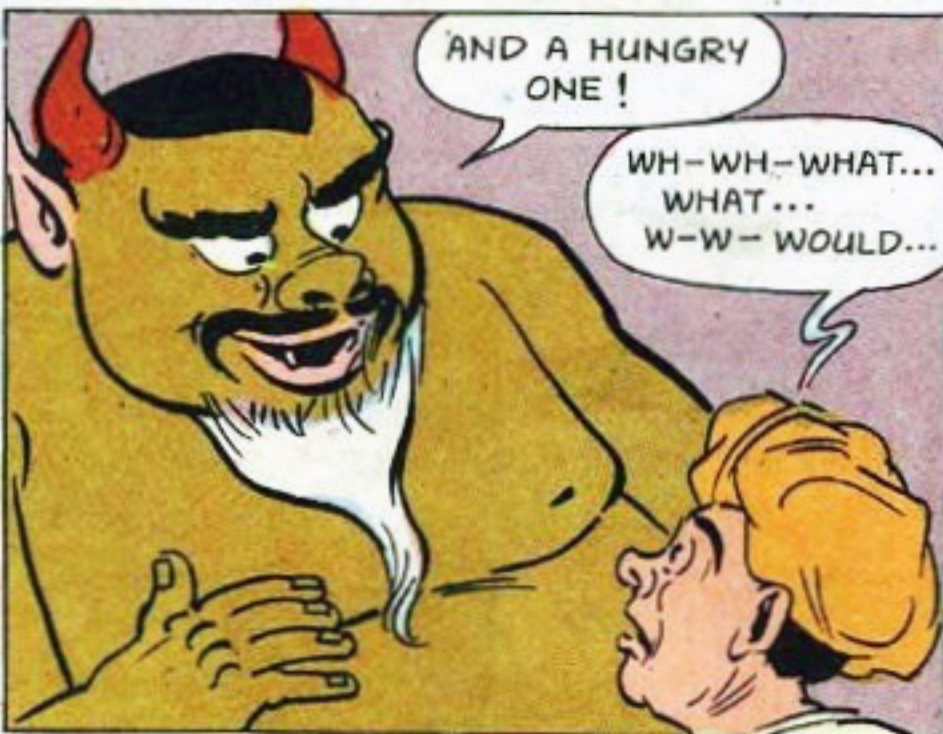


THE KAYASTHA AND HIS GUEST



IT WAS LATE IN THE EVENING WHEN A KAYASTHA REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF A TOWN.





WHAT WAS I SAYING ?
AH, YES. MY MENU...
YES... BUT I AM TIRED
OF EATING MEN...

YOU
ARE?

FOR A CHANGE
LET ME HAVE
THIS.

ALL OF IT!
EAT ALL
OF IT!

SLURP
SLURP

DELICIOUS! NOW I KNOW
WHY YOU HUMANS
DON'T EAT HUMANS.

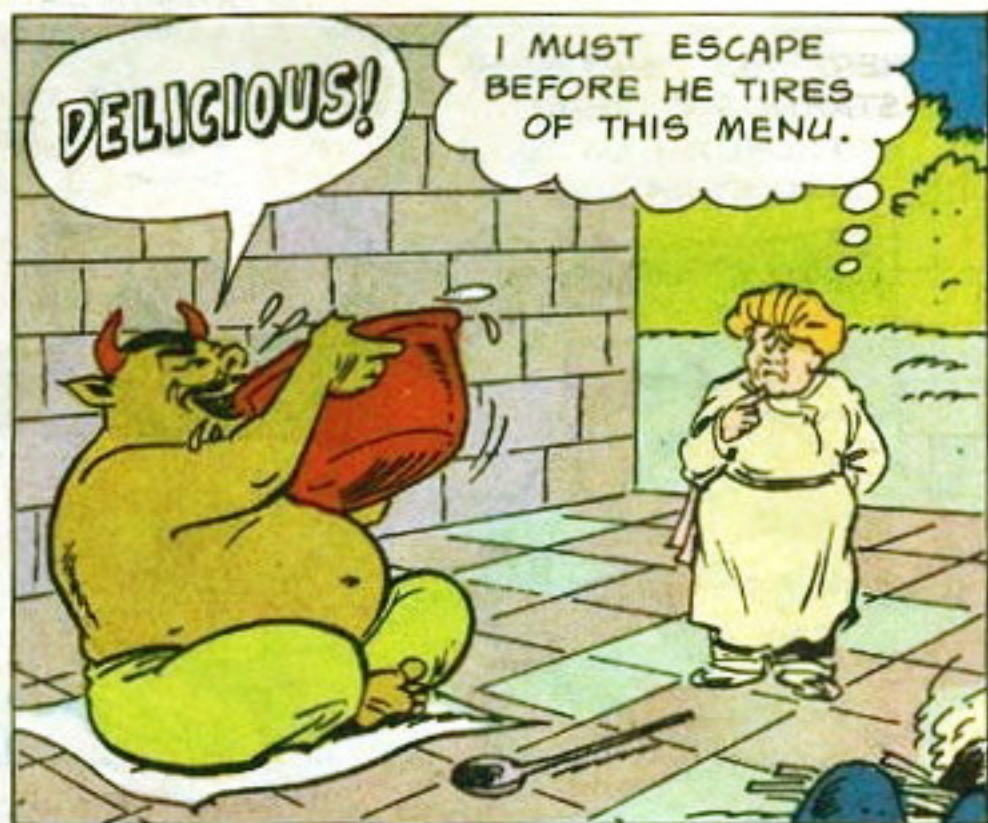
BY THE WAY, WHY
HAVE YOU COME
TO TOWN?

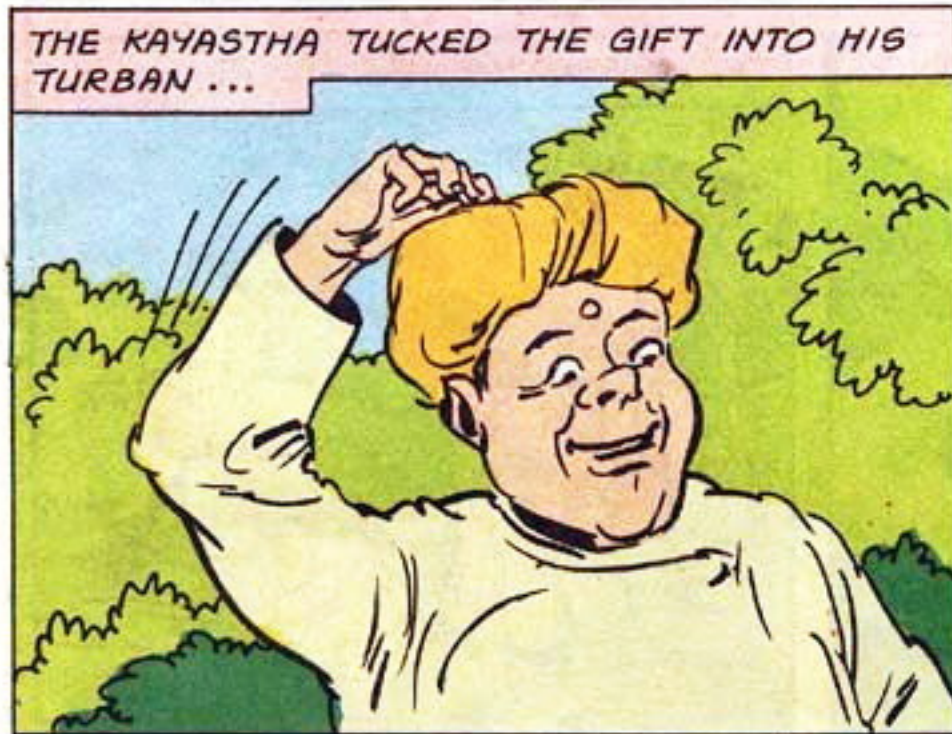
TO FIND
SOME
WORK!

YOU WILL WORK
FOR ME...AS
MY COOK.

MOST
WILLINGLY.

SO THE KAYASTHA SPENT A MONTH WORKING AS A COOK.







AND THE DEMON VANISHED.



AS THE KAYASTHA CONCLUDED THE STRANGE STORY —



MEN! MY ENEMIES HAVE SENT MEN AFTER ME!

THE MEN HOWEVER TURNED OUT TO BE HIS OWN SUBJECTS.



A HIDEOUS CREATURE APPEARED FROM NOWHERE...



... AND CHASED AWAY YOUR ENEMIES.

WE HAVE COME HERE TO TAKE YOU BACK TO THE KINGDOM.



FRIEND, YOU MUST COME WITH ME AND BE MY MINISTER.

THE KAYASTHA LIVED HAPPILY THEREAFTER.

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Swing 'n' stick with Fevicol
That's all he takes"—**

Fevi Fairy



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And it's quick.
All you do is think
and stick.
Stick what?
Anything at all.
Just have a ball.
Make a pencil stand,
a basket
...even a doll.
It's not messy at all.
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With Fevicol MR you
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and whatever you make,
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