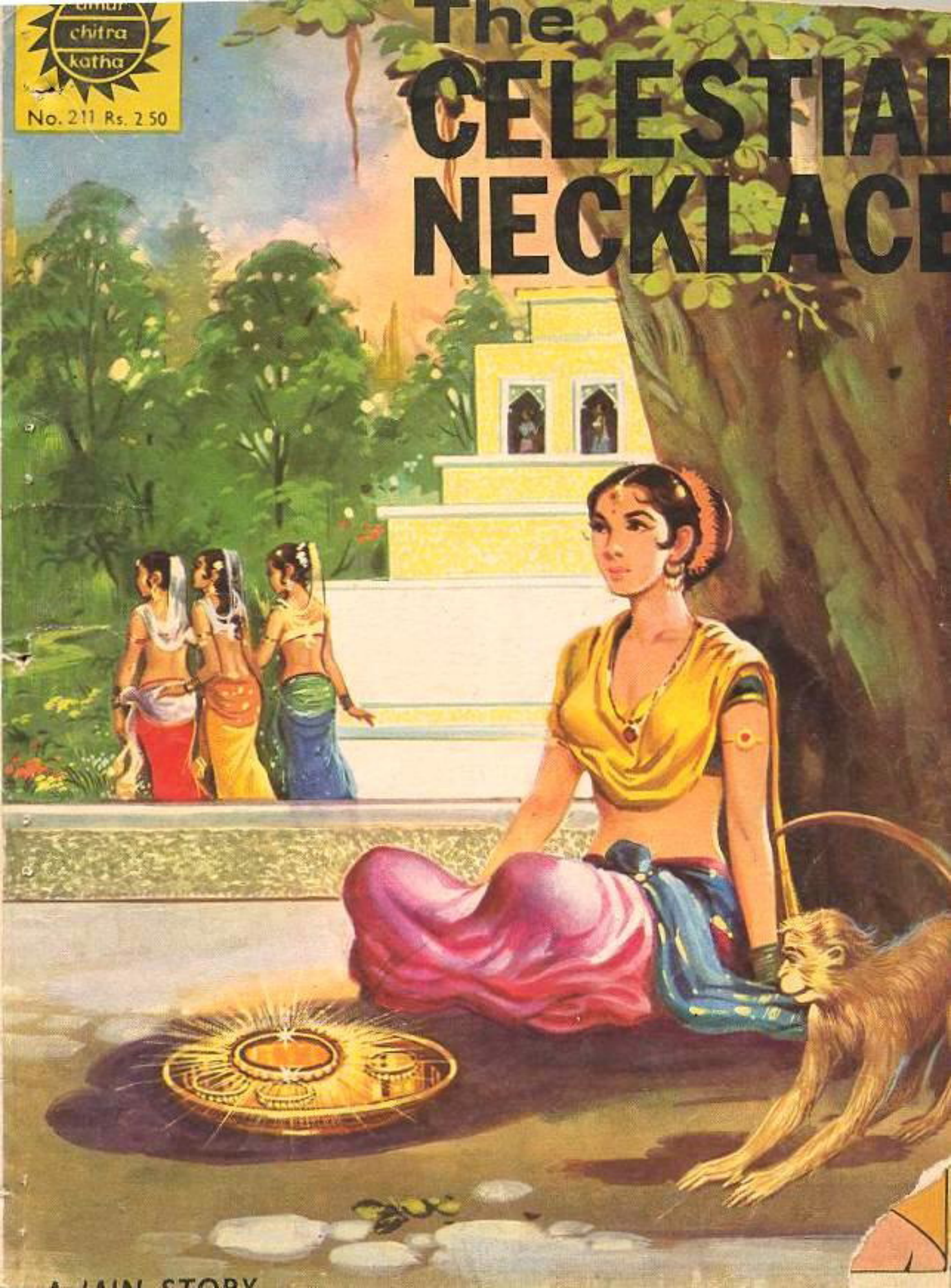


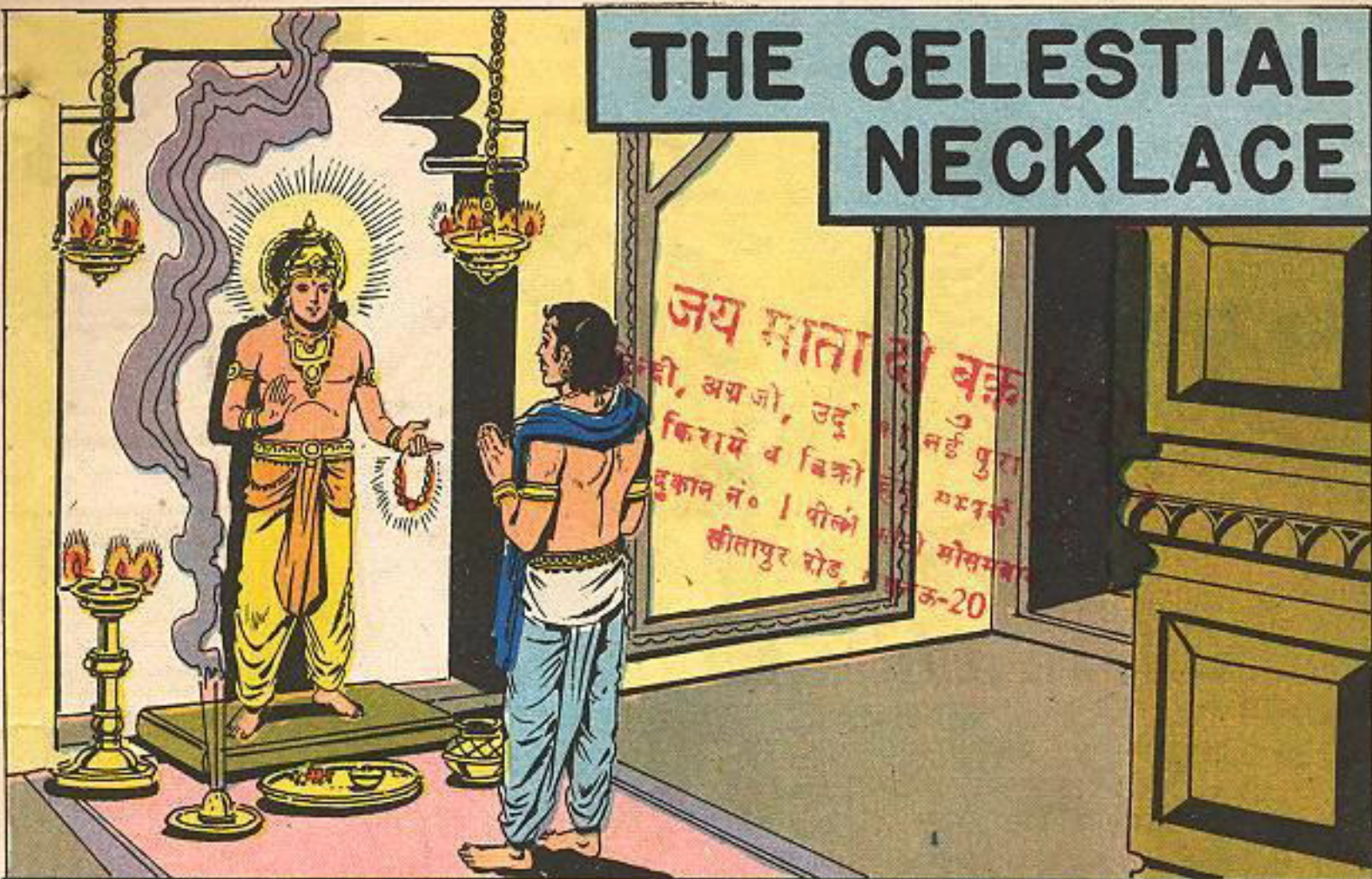
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No. 211 Rs. 2 50

The CELESTIAL NECKLACE



A LAIN STORY

THE CELESTIAL NECKLACE



KING SHRENIKA OF RAJAGRIHA WAS A PIOUS KING WHO HAD DONE MANY GOOD DEEDS. ONE DAY A DEVA APPEARED BEFORE HIM AND...

...REWARDED HIM WITH A NECKLACE OF PRECIOUS STONES.

TREAT THIS NECKLACE WITH CARE...



...FOR IF IT BREAKS, THE MAN WHO REPAIRS IT, WILL DIE AT ONCE!



KING SHRENIKA WAS VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE NECKLACE AND HE GAVE IT TO HIS FAVOURITE WIFE, QUEEN CHELLANA.

IT SHINES
LIKE THE STARS
IN THE MILKY
WAY — IT'S
HEAVENLY!

IT IS HEAVENLY.
I GOT IT AS A
GIFT FROM A
DEVA.



LOOK AFTER
IT WELL.

I WILL . NEVER,
EVEN FOR A SINGLE
DAY, WILL I PART
WITH MY NECKLACE!



QUEEN CHELLANA WORE THE NECKLACE EVERY
DAY.

ONE MORNING, THE QUEEN WAS
ABOUT TO PUT ON THE NECKLACE...



WHEN THE STRING GAVE WAY.



THE QUEEN'S MAID CAREFULLY PICKED UP THE PRECIOUS STONES STREWN ON THE FLOOR.

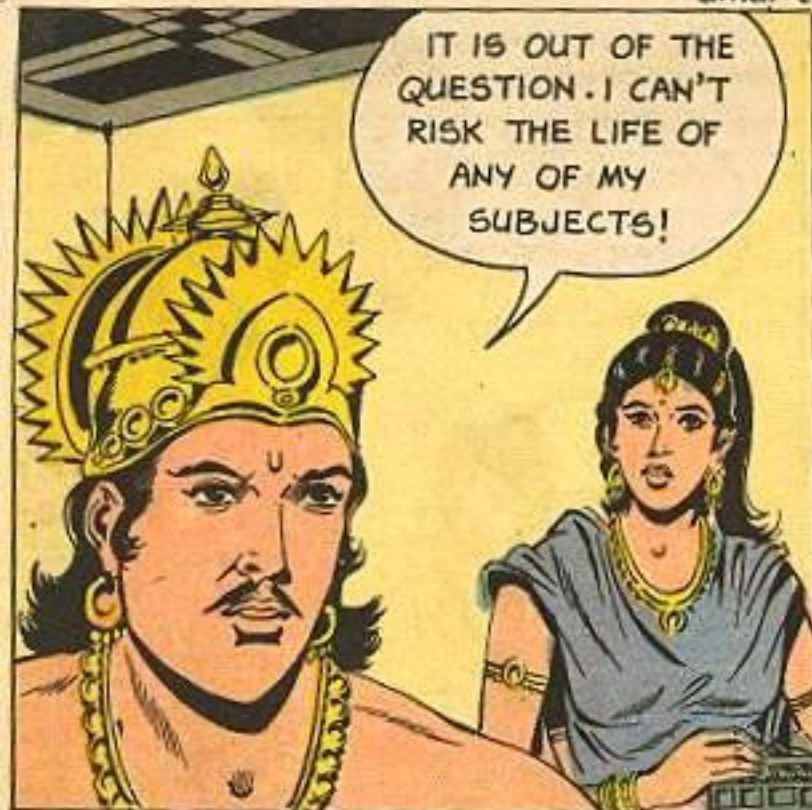


BUT WHEN THE KING WAS INFORMED, HE WAS VERY DISTURBED.

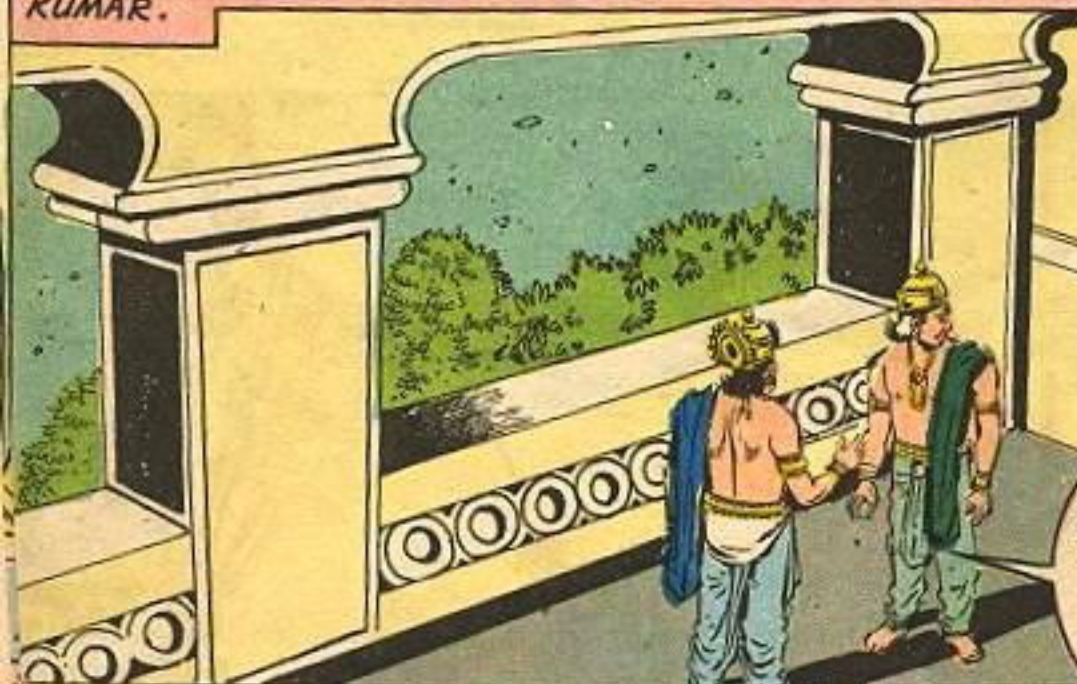


BECAUSE THE DEVA, WHOSE GIFT IT WAS, WARNED ME THAT THE MAN WHO REPAIRS THE NECKLACE WILL DIE THE MOMENT THE WORK IS DONE.





THE KING TURNED HELPLESSLY TO HIS MINISTER, ABHAY KUMAR.



WOMEN ARE SO UNREASONABLE! HOW CAN I LIE ABOUT THE FATE AWAITING THE MAN WHO REPAIRS THIS NECKLACE? WHO WOULD THEN BE SO FOOLHARDY AS TO ACCEPT SUCH AN OFFER?



THE NEXT DAY THE KING'S CRIERS ANNOUNCED THE REWARD —

ONE LAKH OF GOLD COINS FOR STRINGING QUEEN CHELLANA'S NECKLACE!

ONE LAKH! JUST FOR STRINGING A NECKLACE?

I'LL DO IT!

AND I!

BUT, REMEMBER, THE MAN WHO COMPLETES THIS TASK WILL DIE IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

OH! THEN IT'S NOT FOR ME!

NOR ME!

FOR A LONG TIME NO ONE CAME FORWARD TO DO THE WORK. THEN AN OLD GOLDSMITH WHO WAS VERY POOR, DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE KING'S OFFER.

I AM AT THE END OF MY LIFE IN ANY CASE. IF I DIE TO EARN THE REWARD, MY DEAR SONS WILL BENEFIT!

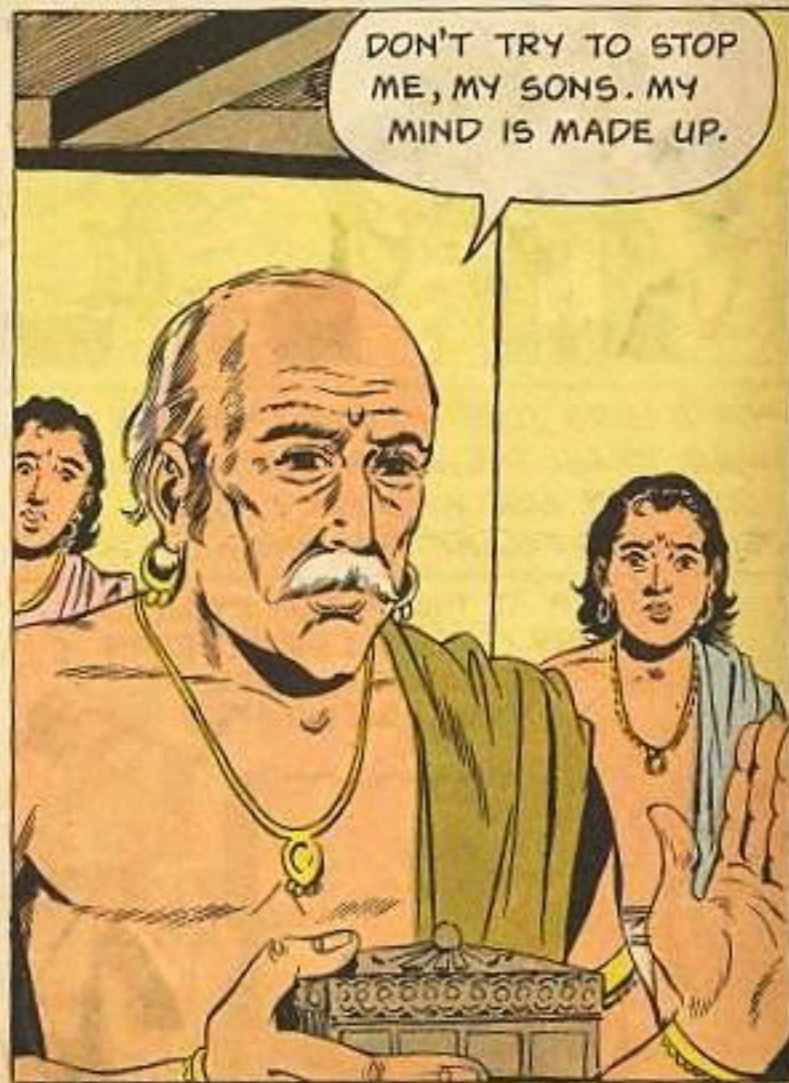
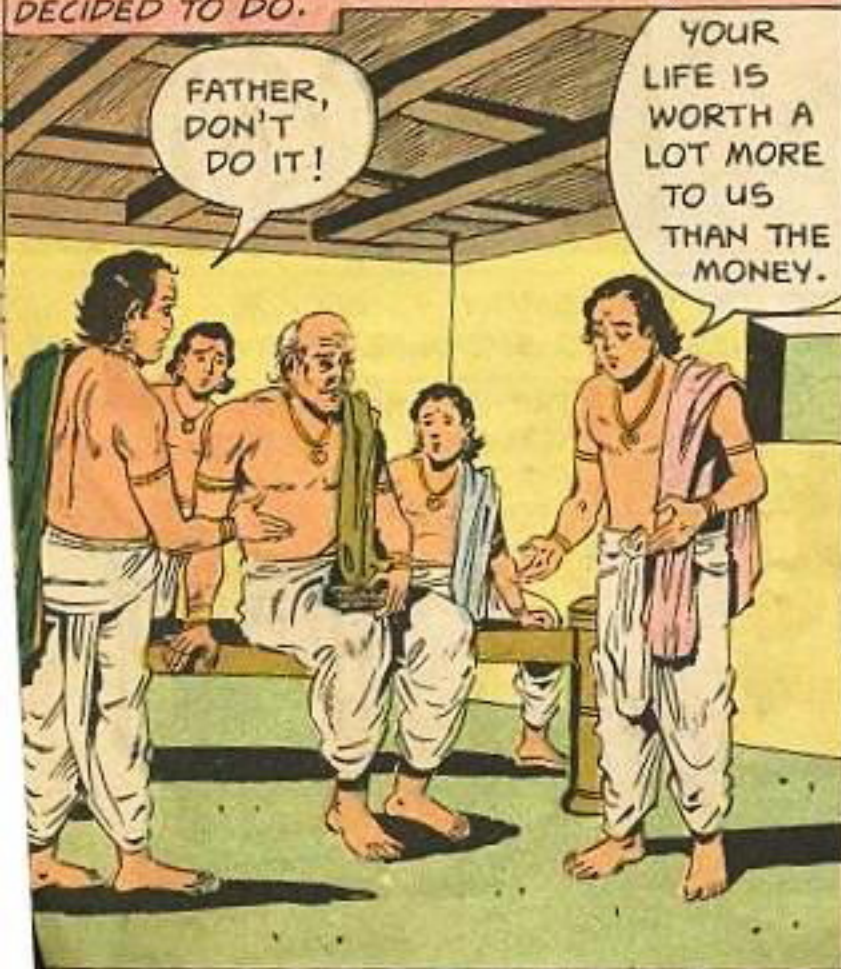
SO THE GOLDSMITH ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO SPEAK TO THE KING.

FRIEND, I AM HAPPY YOU HAVE AGREED TO DO THIS SERVICE FOR THE QUEEN.

THE KING TURNED TO HIS GUARD —



THE GOLDSMITH RETURNED HOME WITH THE CASKET AND TOLD HIS SONS WHAT HE HAD DECIDED TO DO.

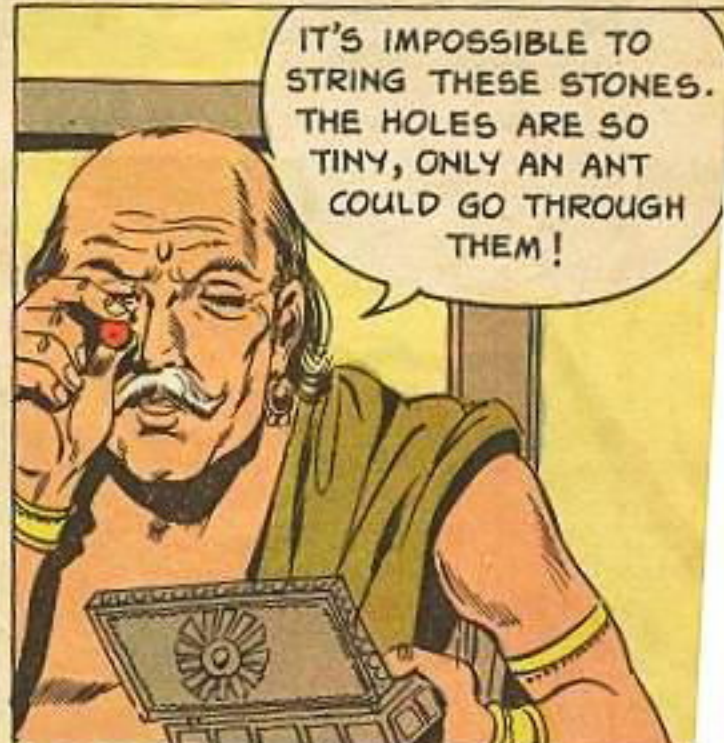


ONLY REMEMBER, WHEN I HAVE COMPLETED MY TASK AND I AM NO MORE, TAKE THE NECKLACE TO THE KING AND CLAIM THE REST OF THE REWARD.



THE GOLDSMITH THEN SHUT THE DOOR AND BEGAN HIS WORK. SPREADING THE SPARKLING JEWELS IN FRONT OF HIM, HE PREPARED TO THREAD THEM. BUT —

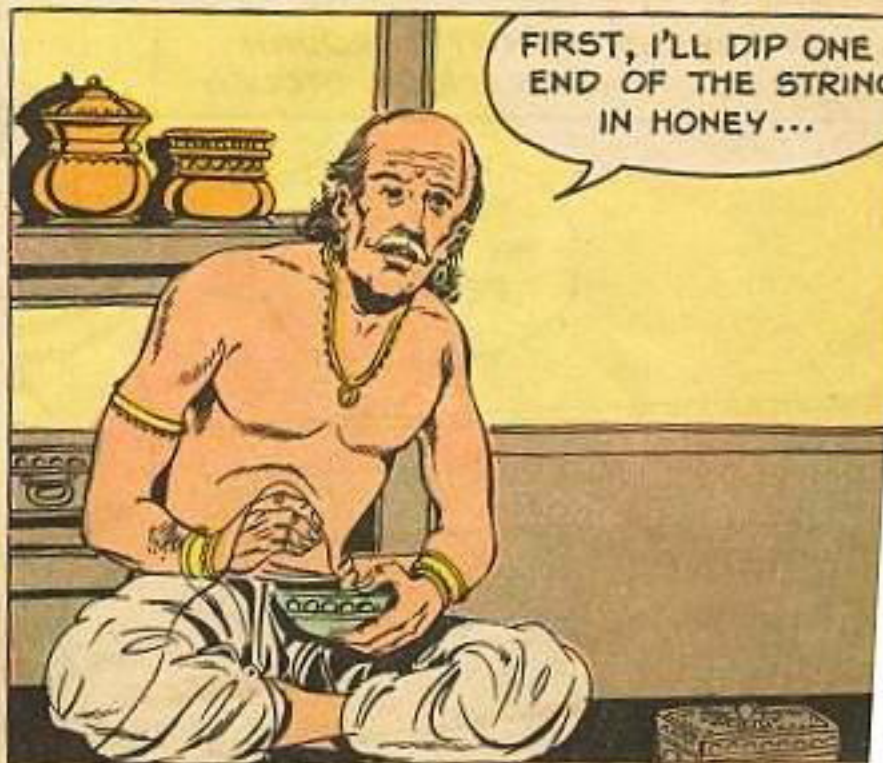
OH! OH! THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED PROBLEM.



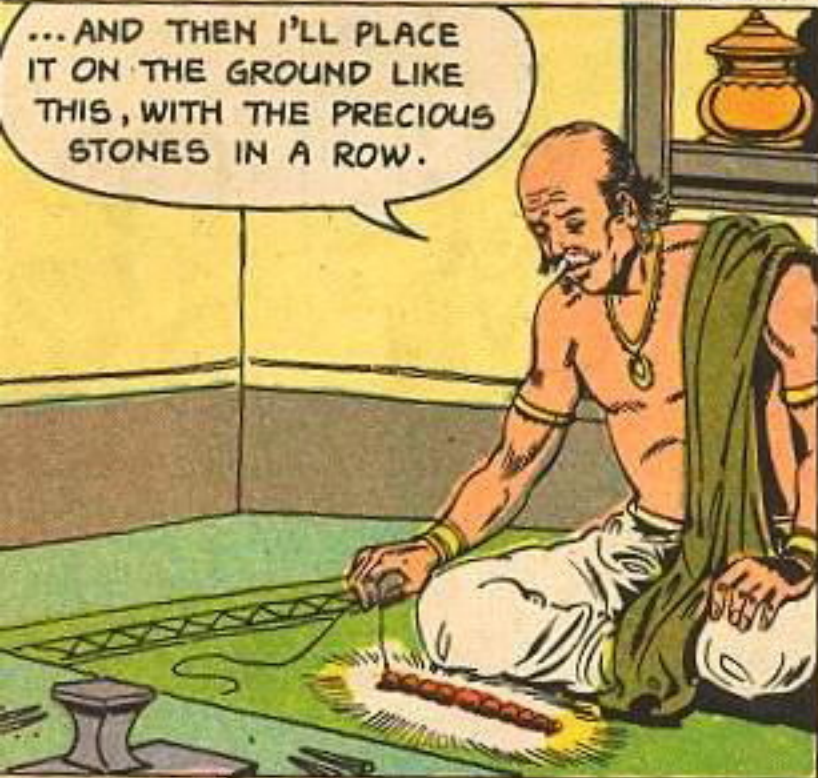
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STRING THESE STONES. THE HOLES ARE SO TINY, ONLY AN ANT COULD GO THROUGH THEM!

...AN ANT!
THAT'S IT!
I HAVE AN
IDEA!

FIRST, I'LL DIP ONE
END OF THE STRING
IN HONEY...



... AND THEN I'LL PLACE
IT ON THE GROUND LIKE
THIS, WITH THE PRECIOUS
STONES IN A ROW.



NOW, LET'S SEE
IF MY PLAN
WORKS.



AFTER A WHILE, AN ANT CAME BY...



... PICKED UP THE STRING...

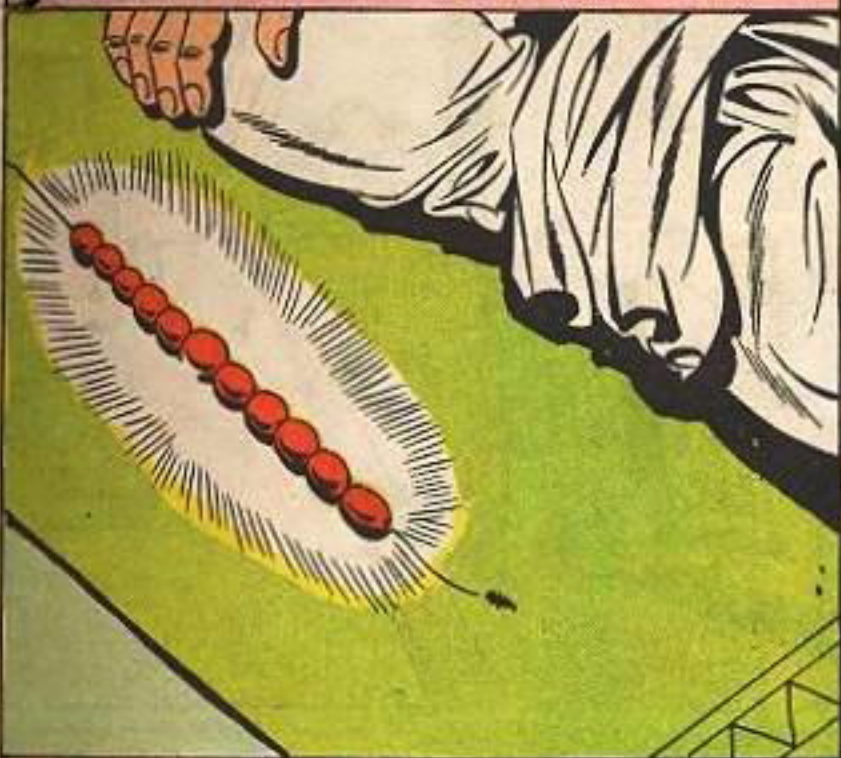


... AND PASSED WITH IT THROUGH
THE HOLES IN THE PRECIOUS STONES.

PERFECT!
MY PLAN IS
PERFECT!



WHEN THE ANT FINALLY EMERGED WITH THE STRING FROM THE LAST STONE ...



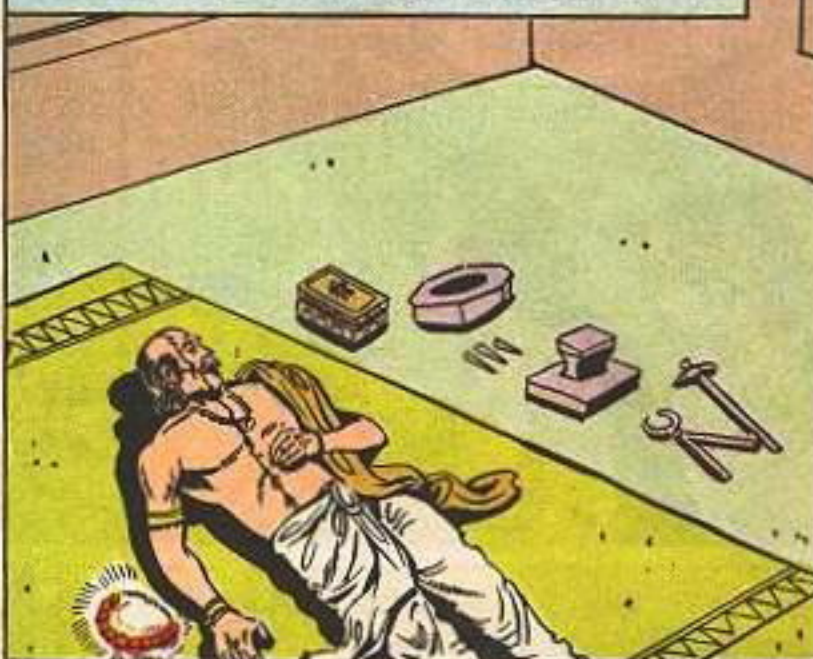
...THE GOLDSMITH PICKED UP THE TWO ENDS AND FITTED UP THE CLASP.



HE HELD UP HIS BEAUTIFUL HANDIWORK AND REJOICED IN IT FOR JUST ONE MOMENT.



THE NEXT MOMENT, HE WAS DEAD.



THE FOUR SONS OF THE GOLDSMITH MOURNED THE DEATH OF THEIR FATHER.



POOR FATHER!

HE LOVED US MORE DEARLY THAN LIFE ITSELF!

AFTER SOME TIME, REMEMBERING THEIR FATHER'S LAST WORDS, THE FOUR BOYS TOOK THE CELESTIAL NECKLACE TO KING SHRENIKA.



THE NECKLACE HAS BEEN REPAIRED! GOOD! THE QUEEN WILL BE DELIGHTED!



THEN MAY WE HAVE THE REST OF THE REWARD?

REWARD? BUT WHERE IS THE OLD MAN WHO REPAIRED THE NECKLACE?



THE OLD GOLDSMITH WAS MY FATHER. AS SOON AS HE HAD REPAIRED THE NECKLACE, HE DIED, AS WAS FATED.



HE TOLD US TO COLLECT THE MONEY FROM YOU AFTER HIS DEATH.

BUT HOW DO
I KNOW YOU ARE REALLY
HIS SONS? FOR ALL I KNOW
YOU MAY HAVE STOLEN
THE NECKLACE FROM
THE POOR OLD MAN!



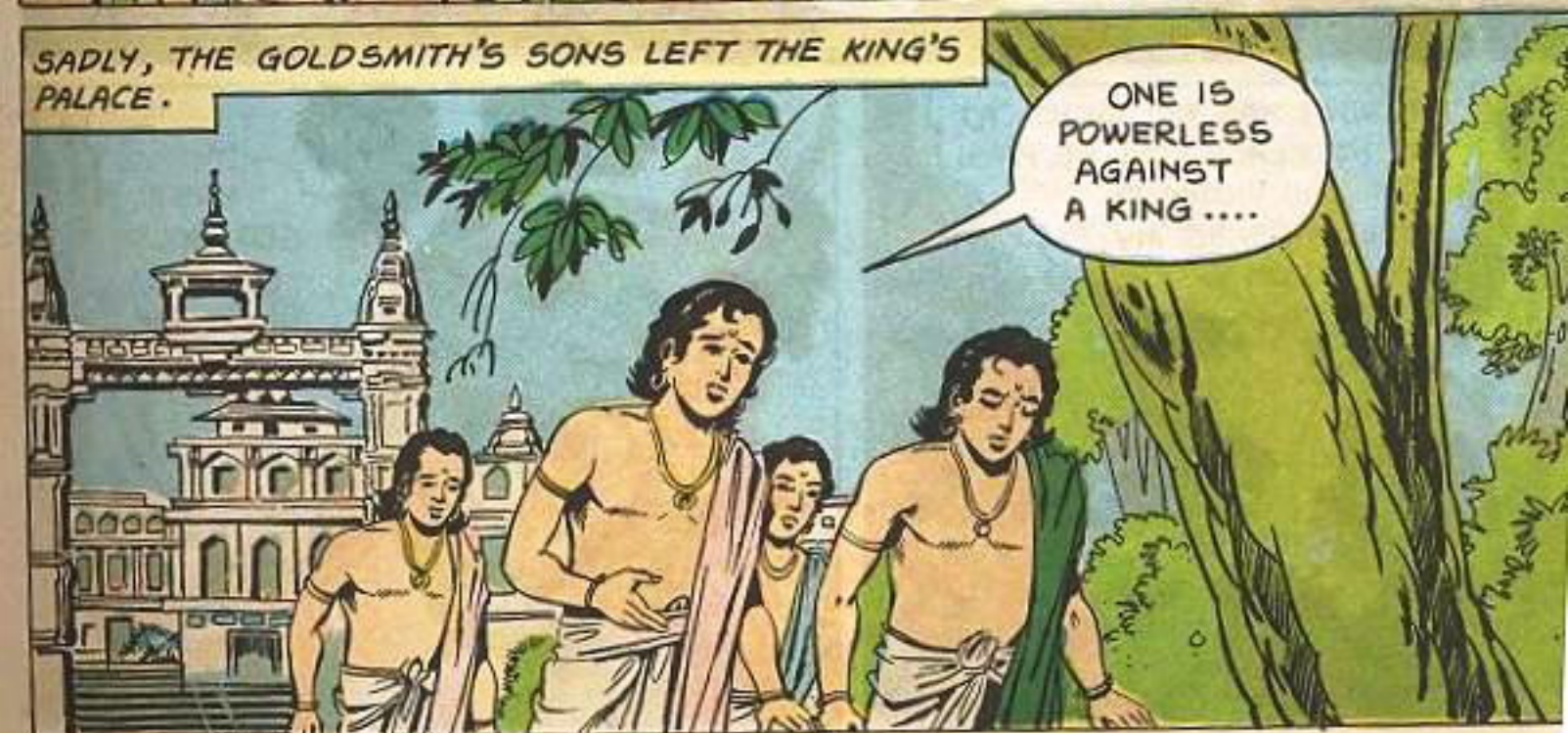
BUT,
SIR...!

GO AWAY,
BEFORE I HAVE
YOU PUT INTO
MY DUNGEONS!



SADLY, THE GOLDSMITH'S SONS LEFT THE KING'S
PALACE.

ONE IS
POWERLESS
AGAINST
A KING



SOME YEARS LATER, THEY WERE PASSING THROUGH A FOREST.

POOR FATHER!
IF HE KNEW THE
KING REFUSED
TO PAY US THE
MONEY HE WOULD
BE VERY
UNHAPPY.



NOW, THE OLD GOLDSMITH HAD BEEN REBORN AS A MONKEY. THIS MONKEY CHANCED TO BE SITTING ON A TREE ABOVE AND, HEARING THEM, THE MEMORY OF HIS PAST LIFE FLASHED UPON HIM WITH BLINDING SUDDENNESS.

AH, MY DEAR SONS!
SO THE KING HAS DONE
YOU OUT OF THE
REWARD I PAID FOR
SO DEARLY!



THE KING HAS NO RIGHT TO
THE NECKLACE. TILL HE PAYS
FOR THE WORK, IT
BELONGS TO MY
SONS.



I MUST
GET HOLD
OF THE
NECKLACE.



THE MONKEY WENT TO THE PALACE, WONDERING HOW HE COULD GET HOLD OF THE NECKLACE.

IF I GO INTO THE PALACE, I WILL BE SPOTTED AT ONCE. I WILL WAIT OUTSIDE NEAR THIS TANK.

NOT LONG AFTER THIS, QUEEN CHELLANA CAME TO THE TANK TO BATHE.

SHE PLACED HER NECKLACE AND OTHER ORNAMENTS IN THE CARE OF HER MAID.

WAIT HERE TILL I RETURN FROM MY DIP IN THE TANK, KAPILA. WE WON'T BE LONG.

THE MONKEY WAITED TILL THE QUEEN HAD LEFT AND THE MAID, KAPILA, WAS ALONE.



THEN HE SWOOPED DOWN SO SWIFTLY ...



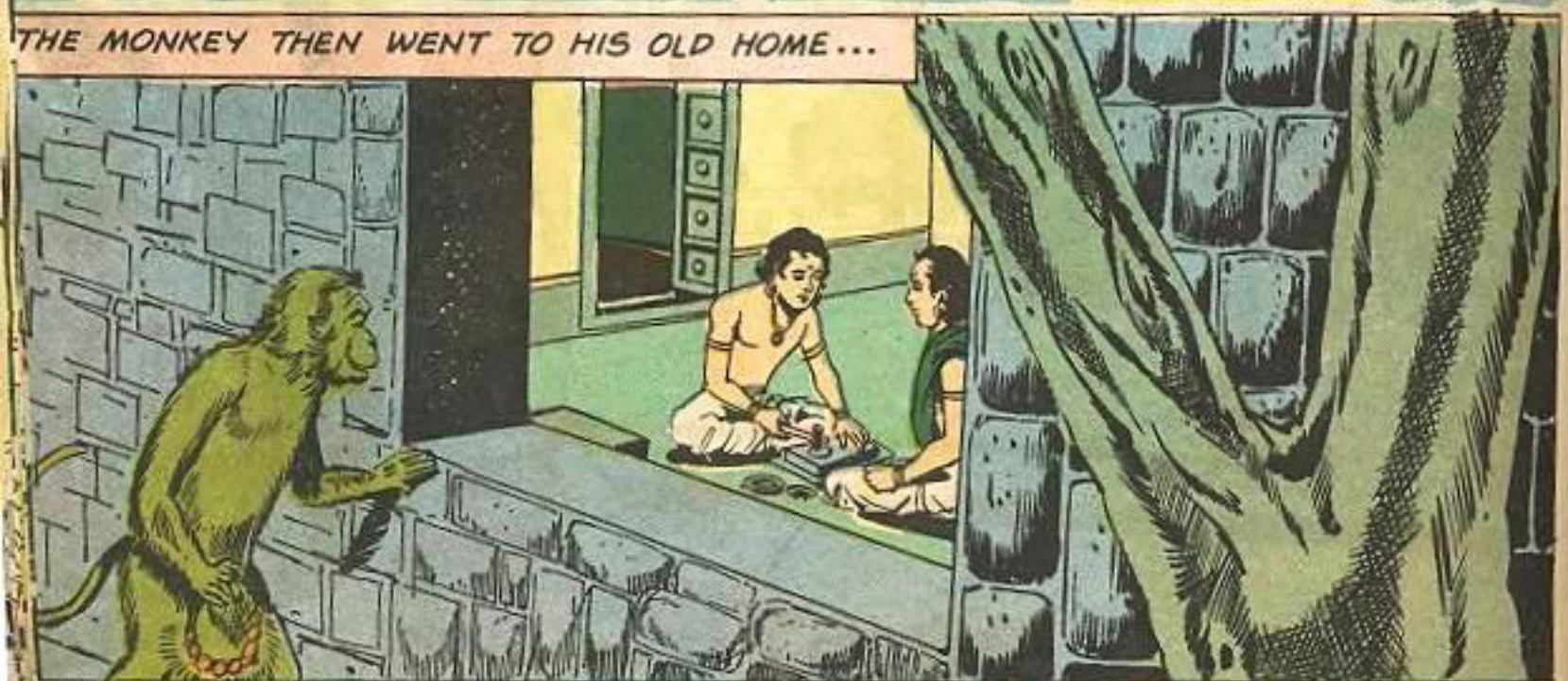
... AND PICKED UP THE NECKLACE SO DEFTLY ...



... THAT THE MAID NOTICED NOTHING .



THE MONKEY THEN WENT TO HIS OLD HOME ...



...AND THREW IN THE NECKLACE.



ONE OF THE GOLDSMITH'S SONS SPRANG TO THE WINDOW AND SAW THE MONKEY.





HIDE THE NECKLACE. THE KING HAS NO RIGHT TO IT TILL HE PAYS THE PROMISED REWARD.



THE SONS WERE AFRAID TO KEEP THE NECKLACE, BUT —

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID. DO AS I SAY AND ALL WILL BE WELL.



FAREWELL, MY SONS.



THE BOYS DECIDED TO BURY THE NECKLACE IN THE HOUSE.

THIS PLACE SHOULD BE QUITE SAFE.



WE'LL DIG A HOLE HERE.

THERE! WE'VE FINISHED! LET'S PUT THE CHARPOY OVER IT.



NOW THE PATCH OF DUG EARTH IS WELL HIDDEN.



MEANWHILE IN THE PALACE GARDENS —

KAPILA, WHERE'S MY NECKLACE?

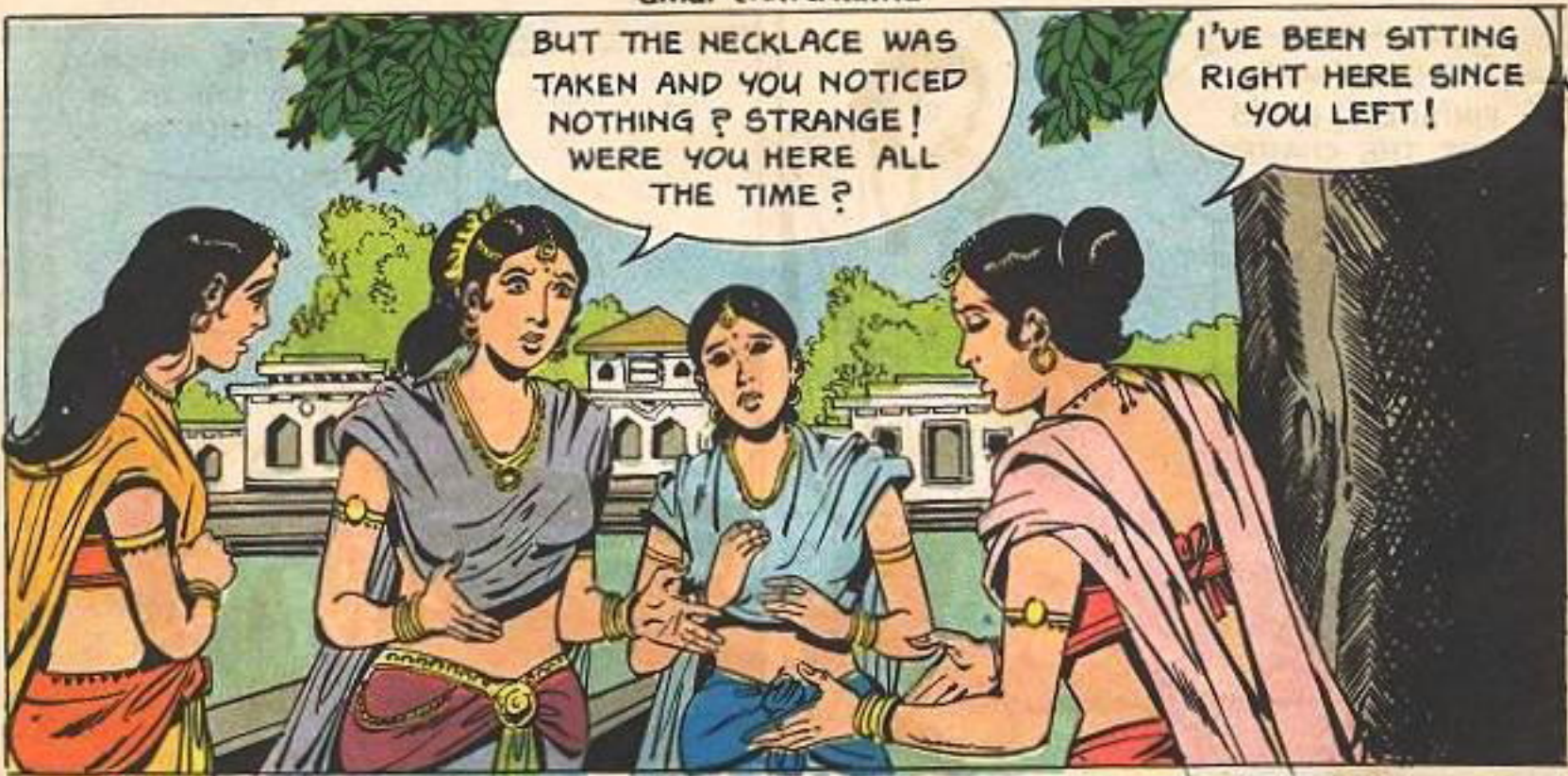
NECKLACE...? IT... IT'S GONE...!



YOU ARE TREMBLING, KAPILA! WHY SUCH FEAR? I KNOW YOU COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN IT!

NO, INDEED, I HAVEN'T.





HE TURNED TO HIS VIRTUOUS MINISTER.

DON'T YOU
AGREE, ABHAY
KUMAR?

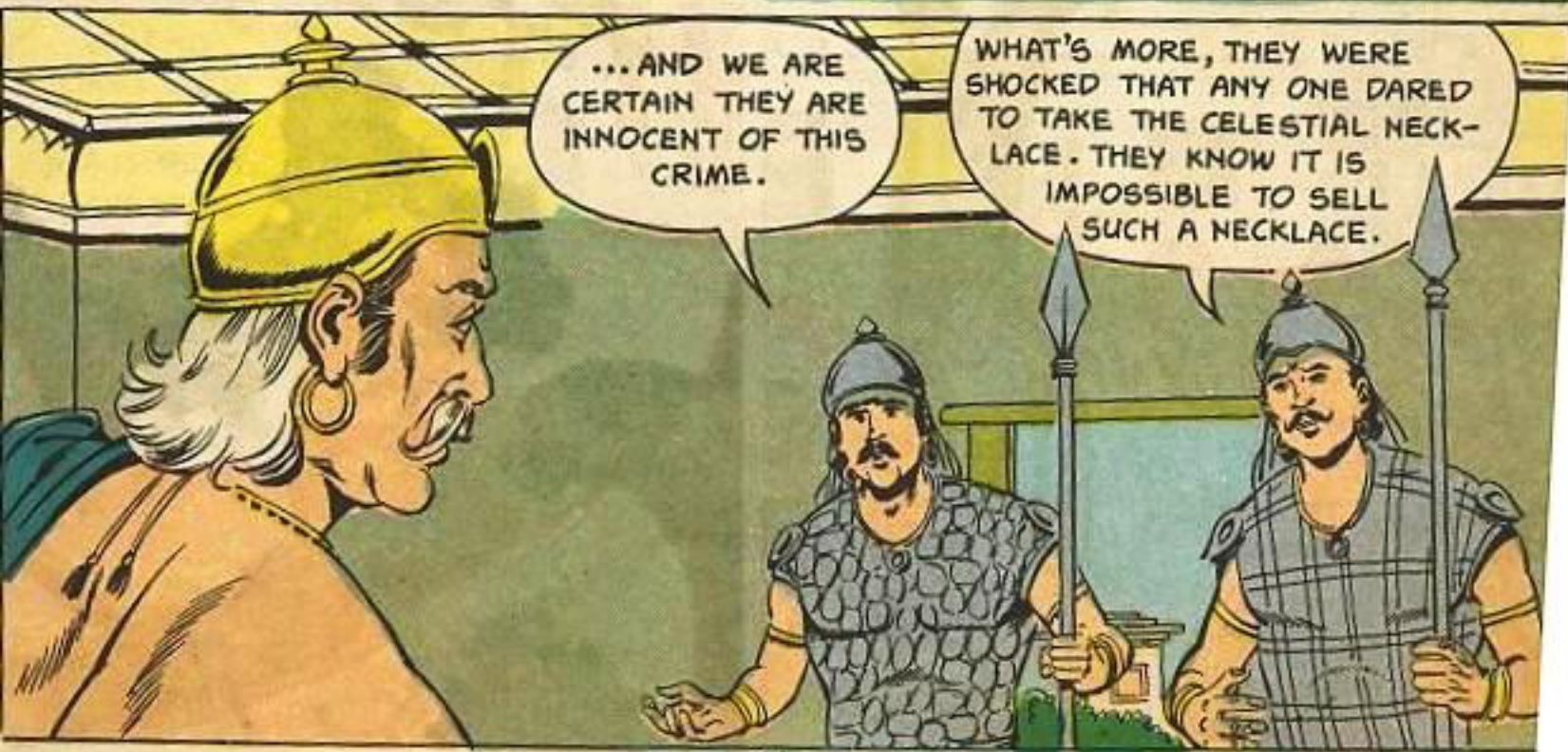
YES. IT SHOULD TAKE
LESS THAN A WEEK TO
FIND THE THIEF.



SOME TIME LATER —

NO SIGN OF
THE NECKLACE
YET?

NO. WE'VE RANSACKED
THE HOUSES OF ALL
THE KNOWN THIEVES...

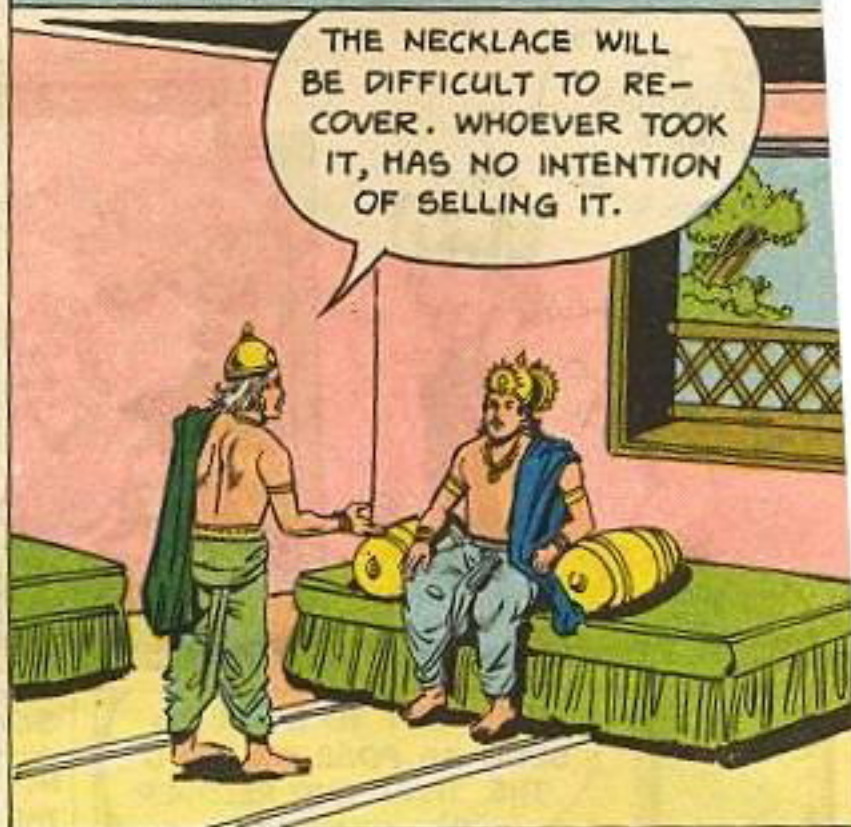


HMM....THE NECKLACE HASN'T BEEN STOLEN BY A REGULAR THIEF, THAT'S CERTAIN. WHOEVER TOOK IT HAD ANOTHER MOTIVE FOR DOING SO.



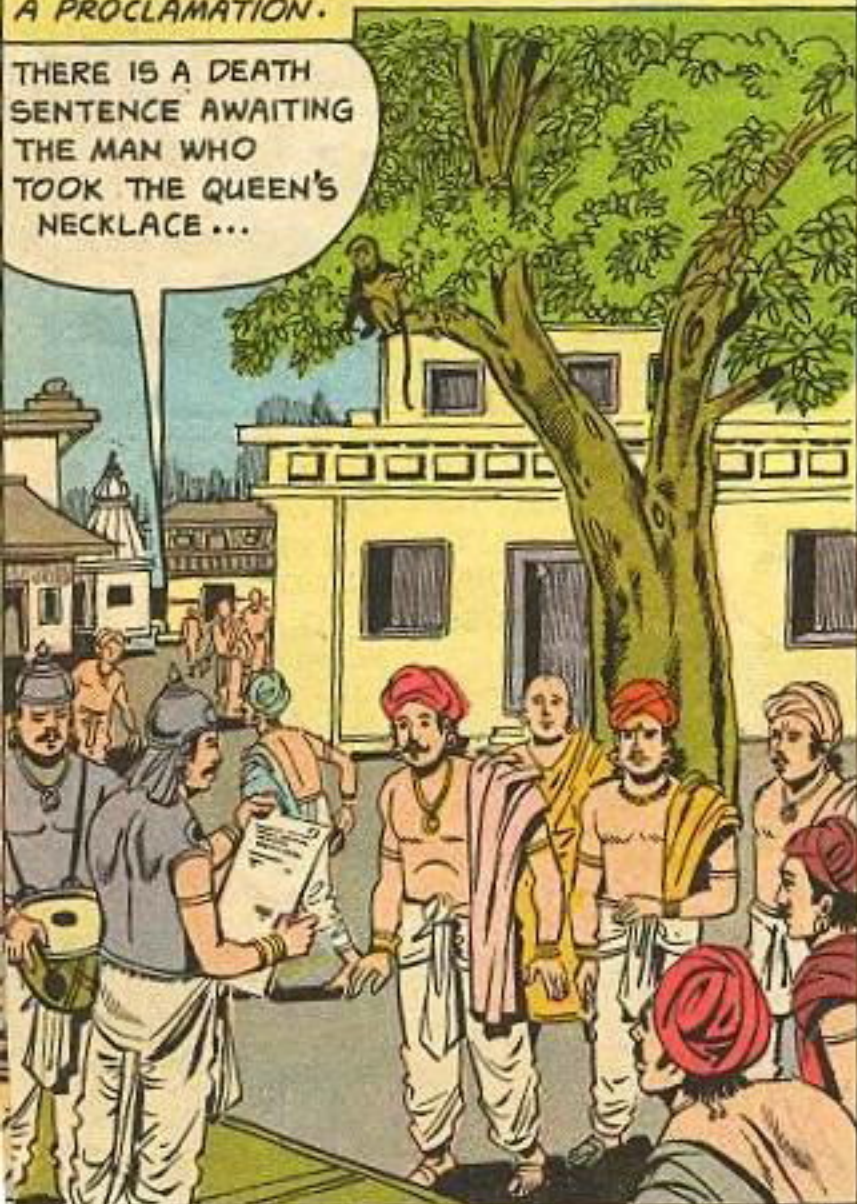
ABHAY KUMAR REPORTED TO THE KING.

THE NECKLACE WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RECOVER. WHOEVER TOOK IT, HAS NO INTENTION OF SELLING IT.



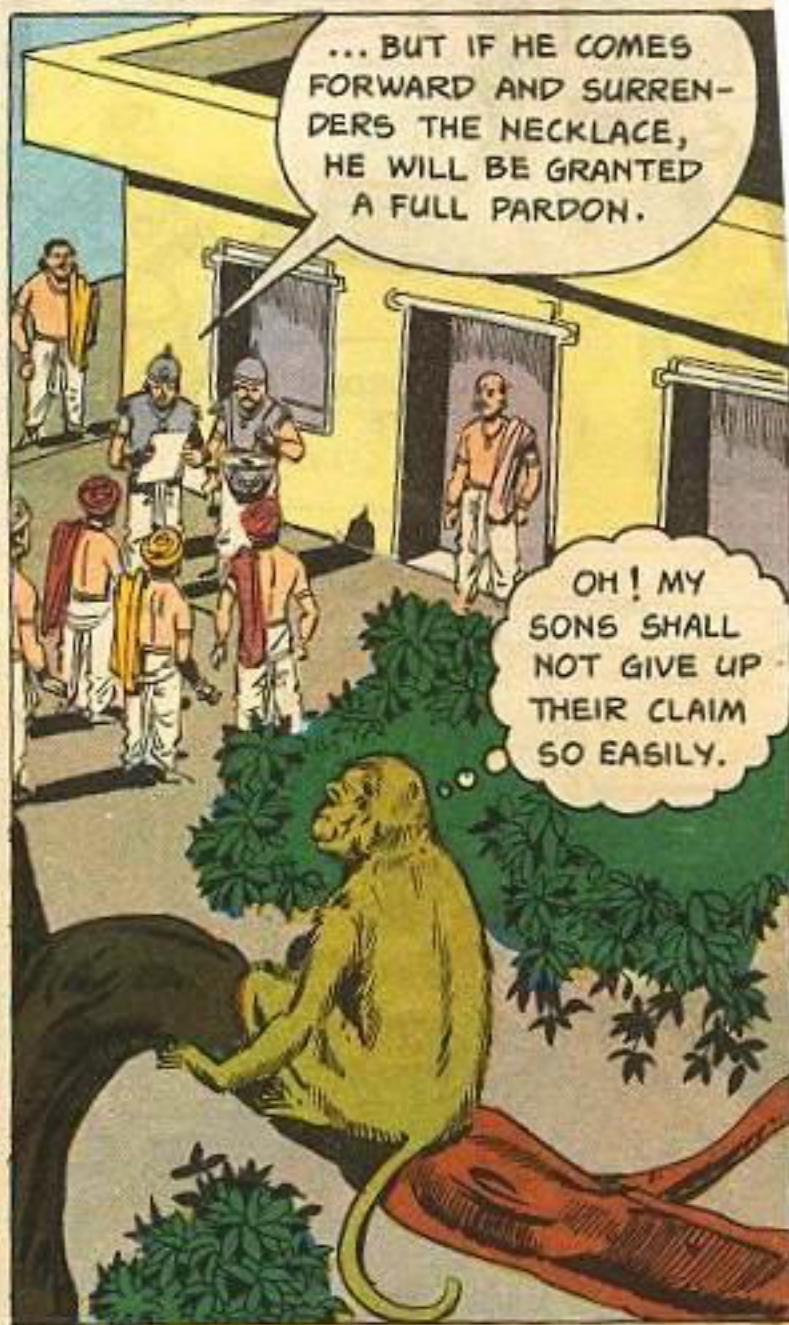
AS THERE SEEMED TO BE NO OTHER WAY OF RECOVERING THE NECKLACE, THE KING ISSUED A PROCLAMATION.

THERE IS A DEATH SENTENCE AWAITING THE MAN WHO TOOK THE QUEEN'S NECKLACE...



... BUT IF HE COMES FORWARD AND SURRENDERS THE NECKLACE, HE WILL BE GRANTED A FULL PARDON.

OH! MY SONS SHALL NOT GIVE UP THEIR CLAIM SO EASILY.



THE MONKEY WENT TO SPEAK TO HIS SONS, AND FOUND THEM BUSY DIGGING UP THE HOLE AGAIN. THEY HAD ALREADY HEARD OF THE KING'S PROCLAMATION.

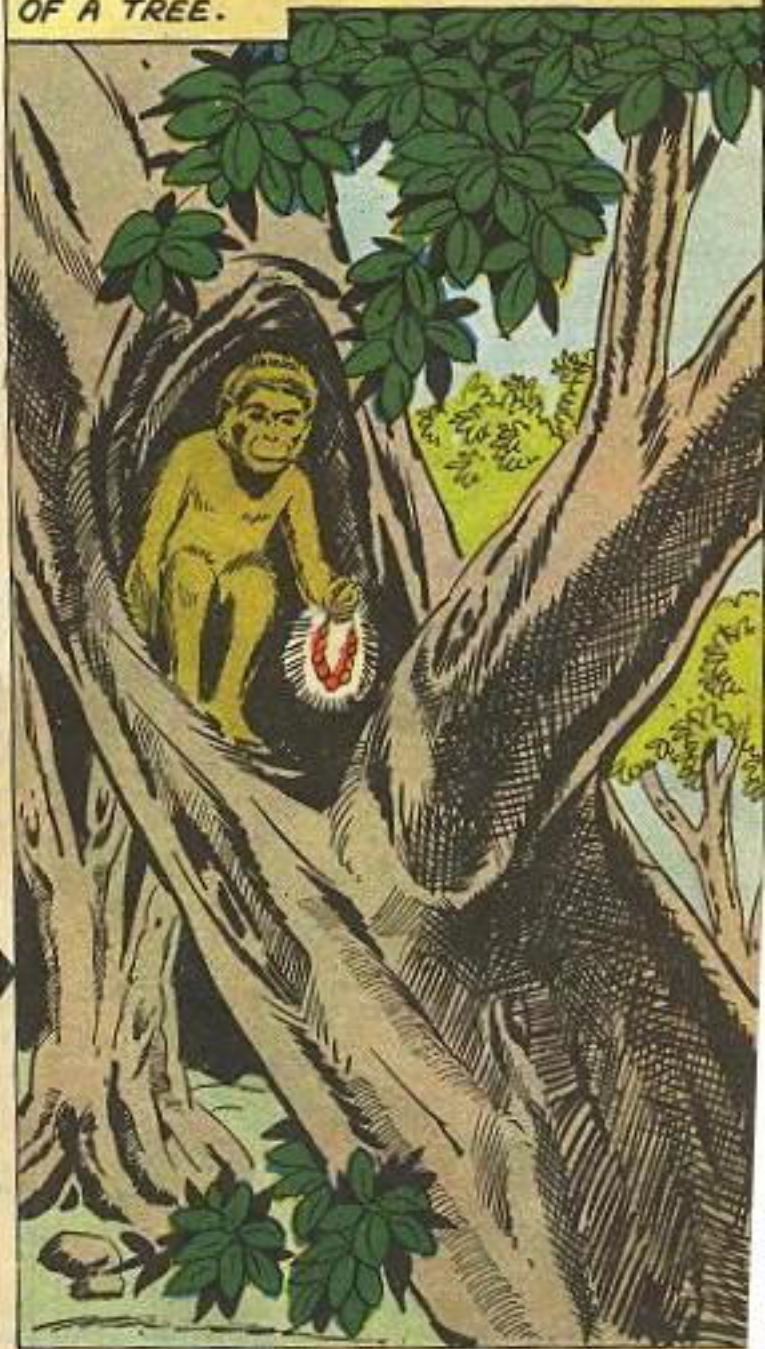
WE HAD BETTER RETURN THE NECKLACE BEFORE WE ARE DISCOVERED!

LET'S DO IT SOON. I AM AFRAID....

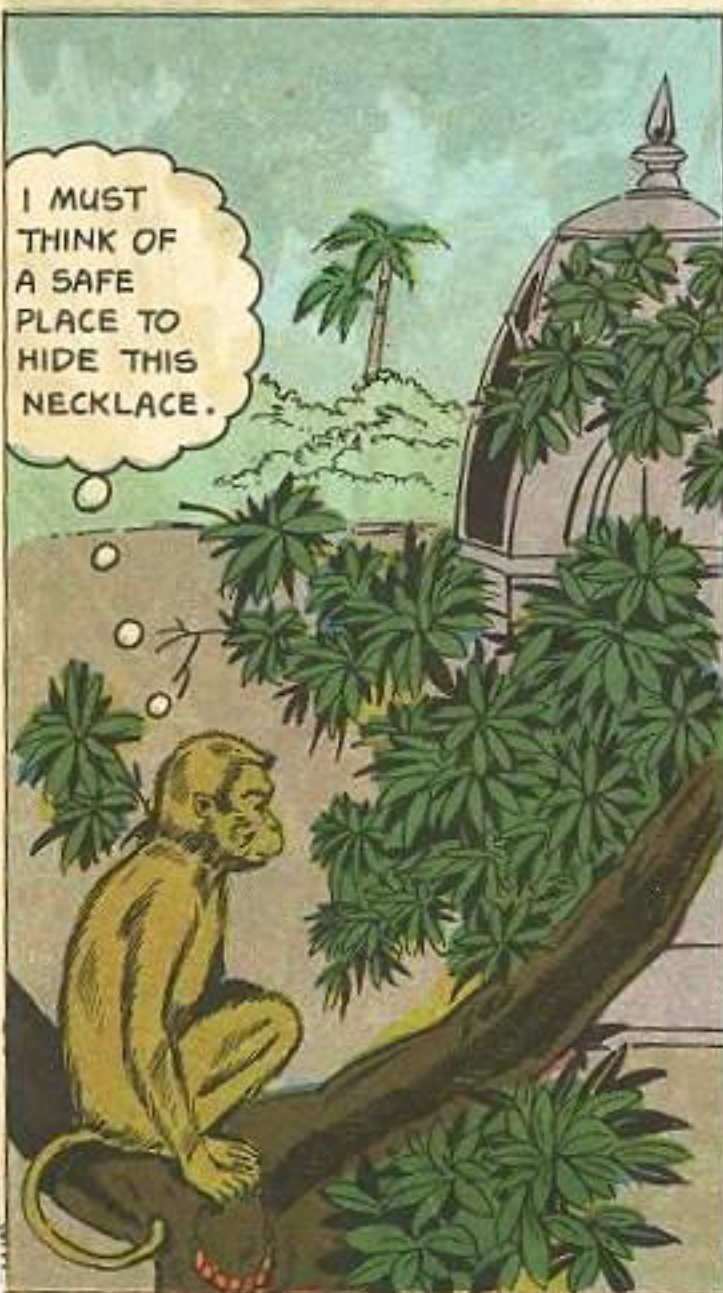
NO, DEAR SONS. DON'T RETURN IT. GIVE ME THE NECKLACE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER.

ALL DAY LONG HE HID IN THE HOLLOW OF A TREE.

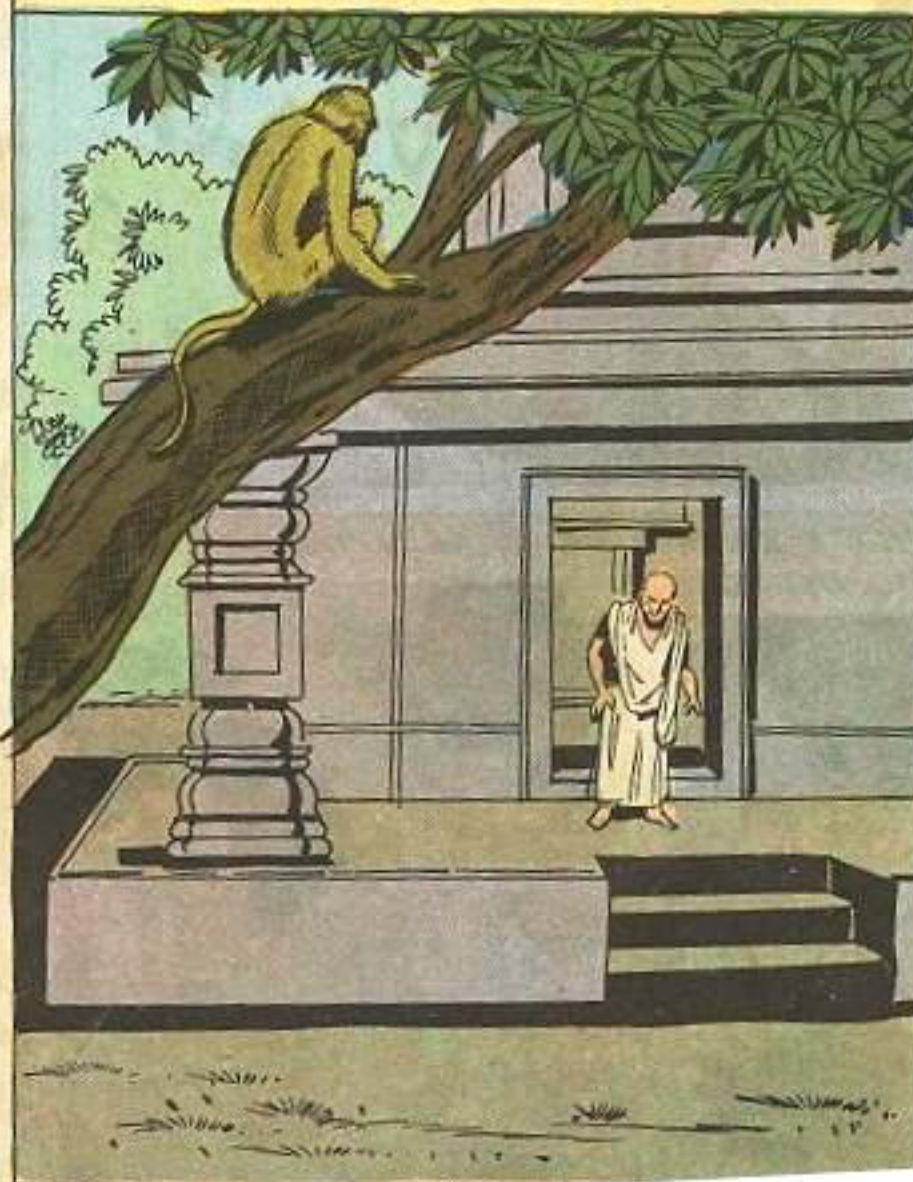
THE MONKEY CARRIED AWAY THE NECKLACE TO THE FOREST.



AT SUNSET HE VENTURED OUT AGAIN AND CAME TO A PARK NEAR A TEMPLE.



JUST THEN, ACHARYA SUHASTI, A RENOWNED ASCETIC, EMERGED FROM THE TEMPLE...



...AND, STANDING UNDER THE SAME TREE,
WAS LOST IN MEDITATION.



FOR A LONG TIME THE MONKEY WATCHED
THE ASCETIC. THEN A THOUGHT SLOWLY
DAWNED ON HIM —

THE ASCETIC IS AN
HONEST MAN. WHERE
ELSE COULD THE
NECKLACE BE MORE
SAFE THAN ON
HIS NECK?



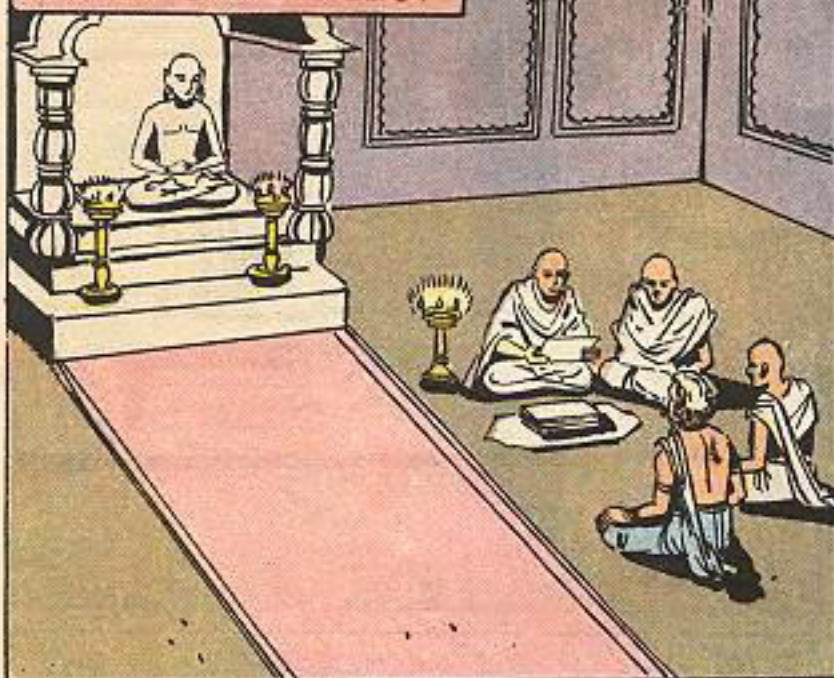
SO HE PLACED THE NECKLACE ROUND THE
NECK OF THE ASCETIC...



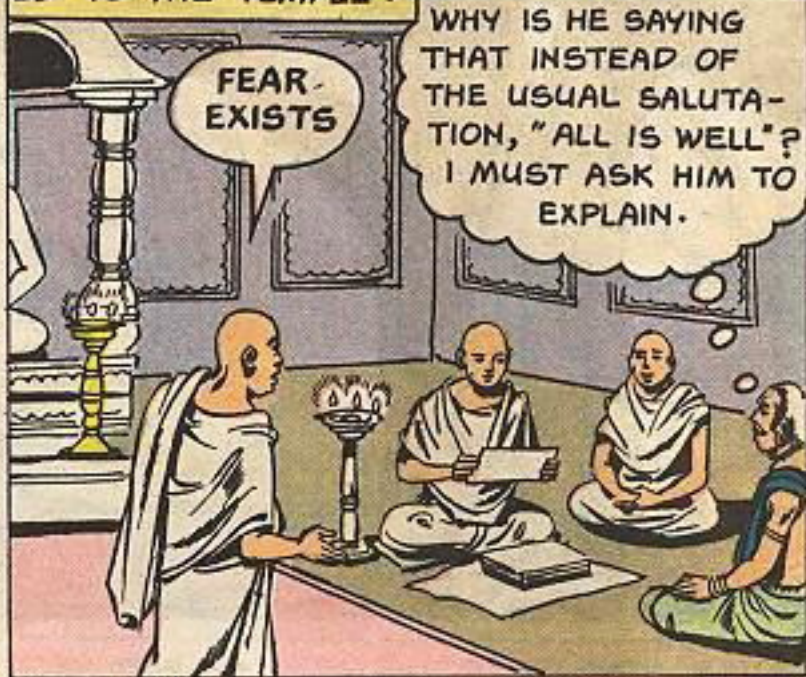
...AND WENT AWAY, WELL SATISFIED.



THAT NIGHT, THE KING'S MINISTER, ABHAY KUMAR, WAS PRACTISING AUSTERITIES IN THE TEMPLE IN THE COMPANY OF ACHARYA SUHASTI'S DISCIPLES.



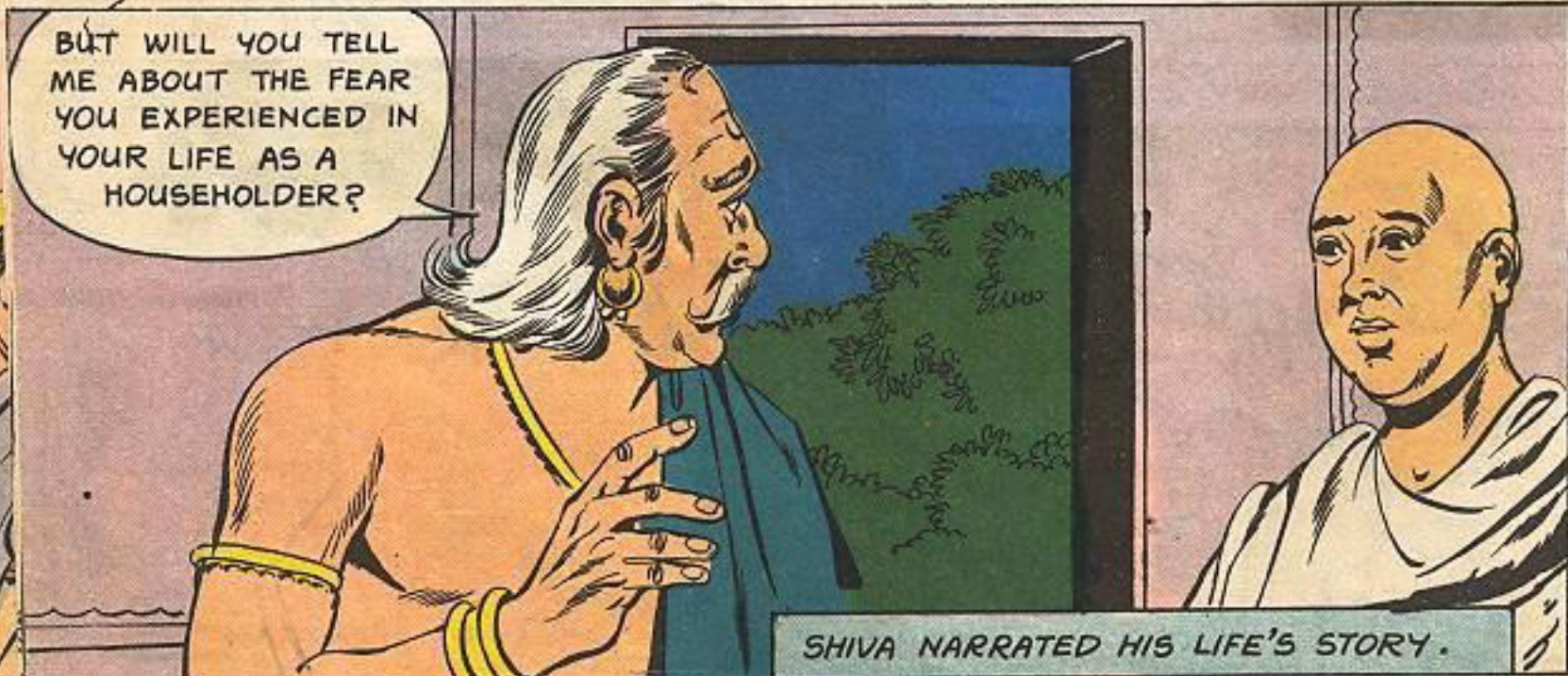
AT THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE NIGHT, SHIVA, THE DISCIPLE WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING UPON SUHASTI, RETURNED TO THE TEMPLE.



SURELY AN ASCETIC HAS NOTHING TO FEAR?



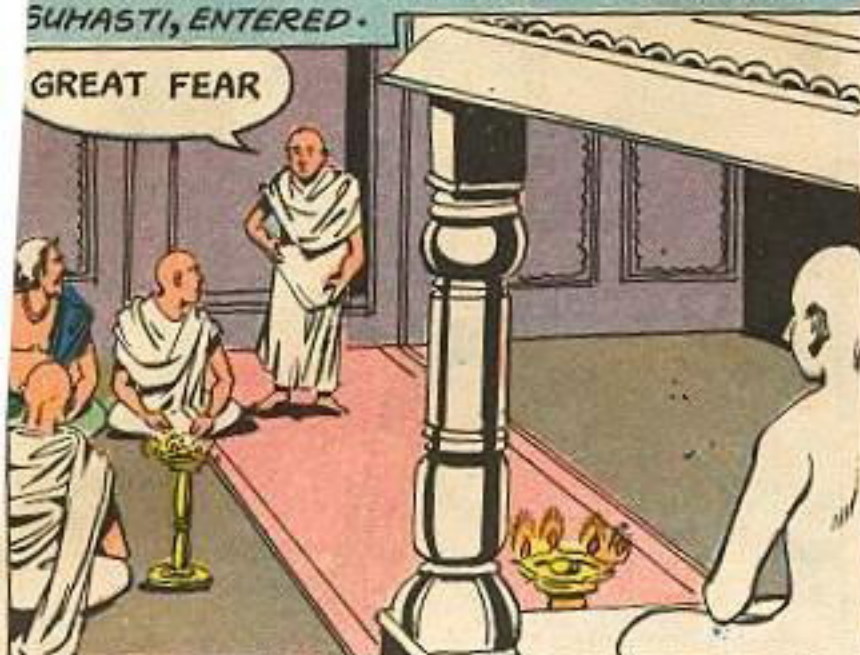
BUT WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE FEAR YOU EXPERIENCED IN YOUR LIFE AS A HOUSEHOLDER?



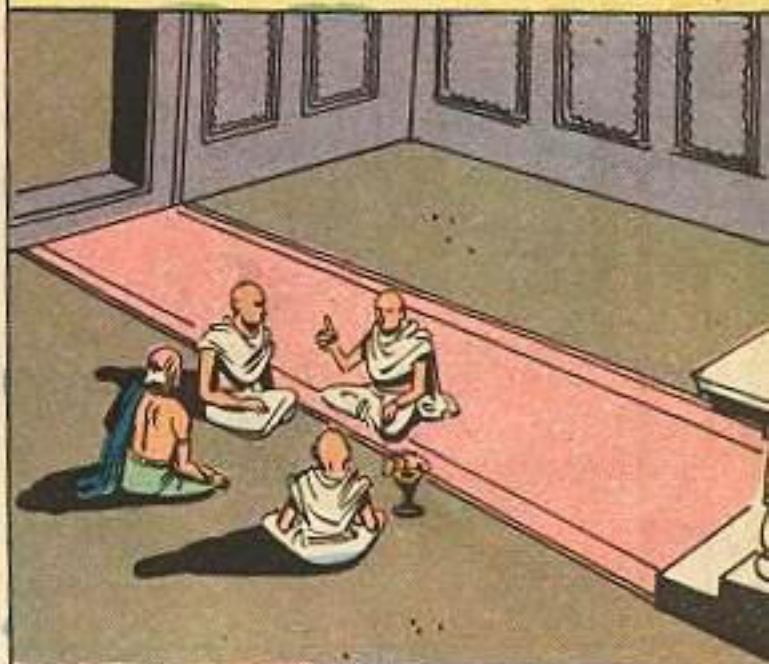
SHIVA NARRATED HIS LIFE'S STORY.

AS SHIVA WAS FINISHING HIS STORY, THE SECOND QUARTER ENDED AND THE DISCIPLE, SUVRATA, WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING UPON SUHASTI, ENTERED.

GREAT FEAR

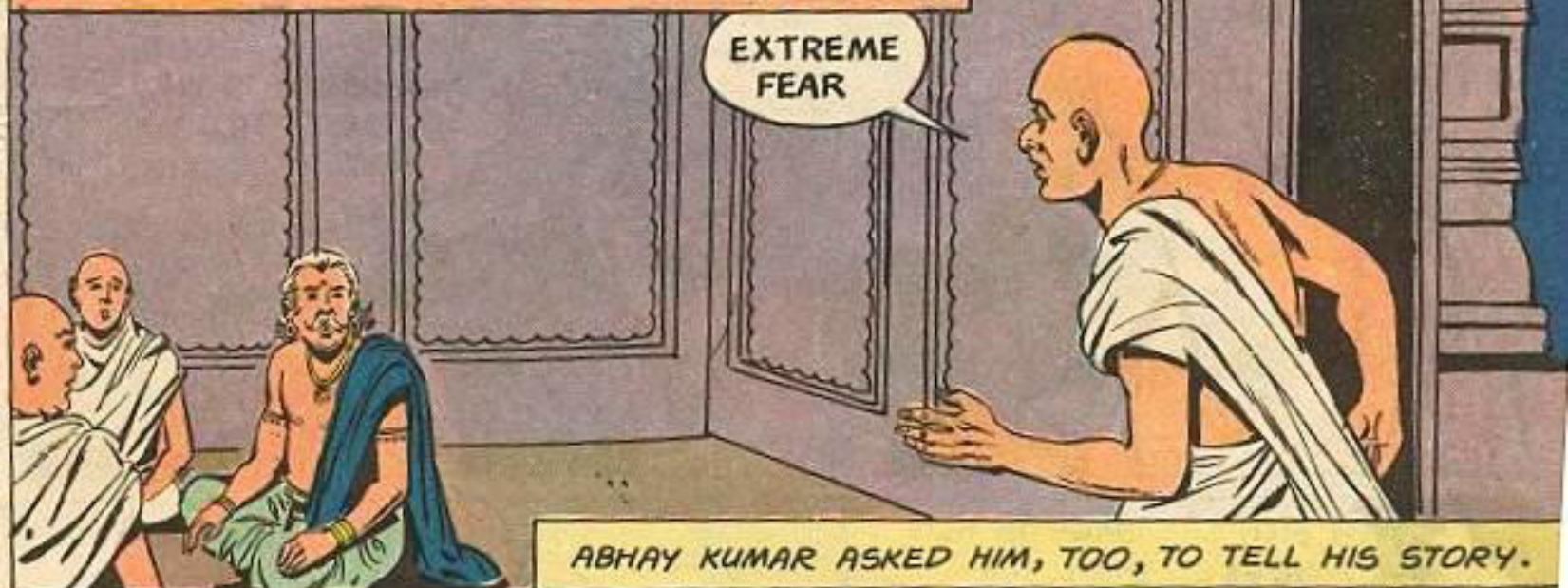


ON ABHAY KUMAR'S ENQUIRY, SUVRATA TOO RECALLED AN EPISODE IN HIS LIFE WHEN HE HAD EXPERIENCED FEAR.



AT THE END OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE NIGHT, THE DISCIPLE, JAYANA, WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED HIS TURN OF ATTENDING ON THE ASCETIC, RETURNED.

EXTREME FEAR



ABHAY KUMAR ASKED HIM, TOO, TO TELL HIS STORY.

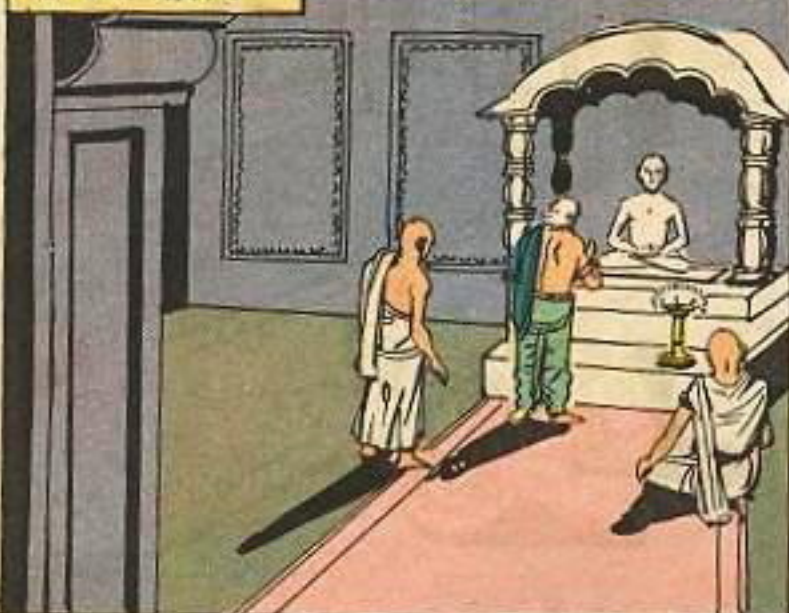
JUST AS JAYANA HAD FINISHED HIS STORY, THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE NIGHT ENDED, AND THE DISCIPLE, DHANNYA, RETURNING FROM HIS DUTIES WITH SUHASTI, UTTERED THE STRANGE WORDS —

FEAR,
EXTREME
FEAR



AND DHANNYA, LIKE SHIVA, SUVRATA AND JAYANA, TOLD ABHAY KUMAR AN EPISODE IN HIS PAST WHEN HE HAD EXPERIENCED EXTREME FEAR.

IT WAS MORNING WHEN THE LAST DISCIPLE FINISHED HIS TALE. THE DEVOUT PRIME MINISTER PREPARED TO DEPART.



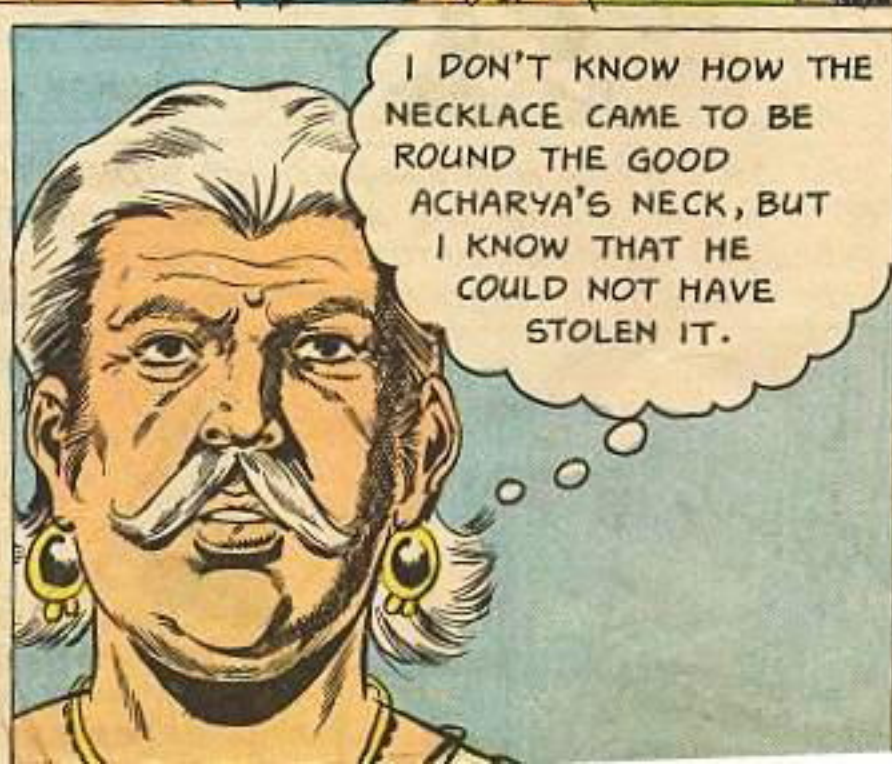
AS HE MADE HIS WAY OUT —



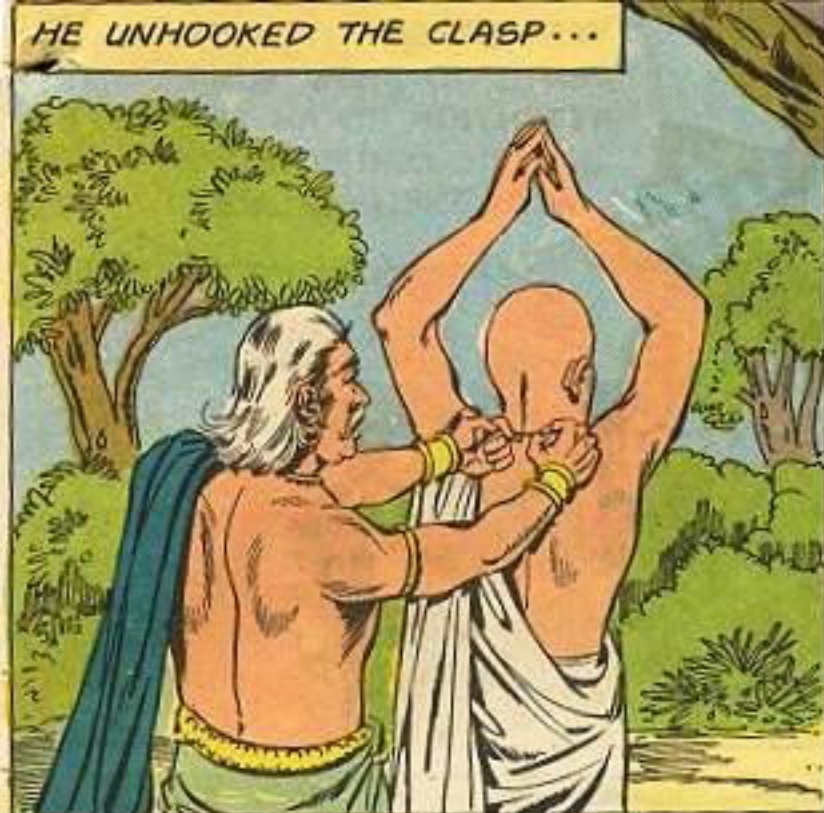
BUT THE SAGE IS NOT AFFECTED BY THE NECKLACE. HE IS CALM. HE HAS ACHIEVED COMPLETE DETACHMENT.



I DON'T KNOW HOW THE NECKLACE CAME TO BE ROUND THE GOOD ACHARYA'S NECK, BUT I KNOW THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE STOLEN IT.



HE UNHOOKED THE CLASP...



... AND TOOK THE NECKLACE BACK TO THE KING.

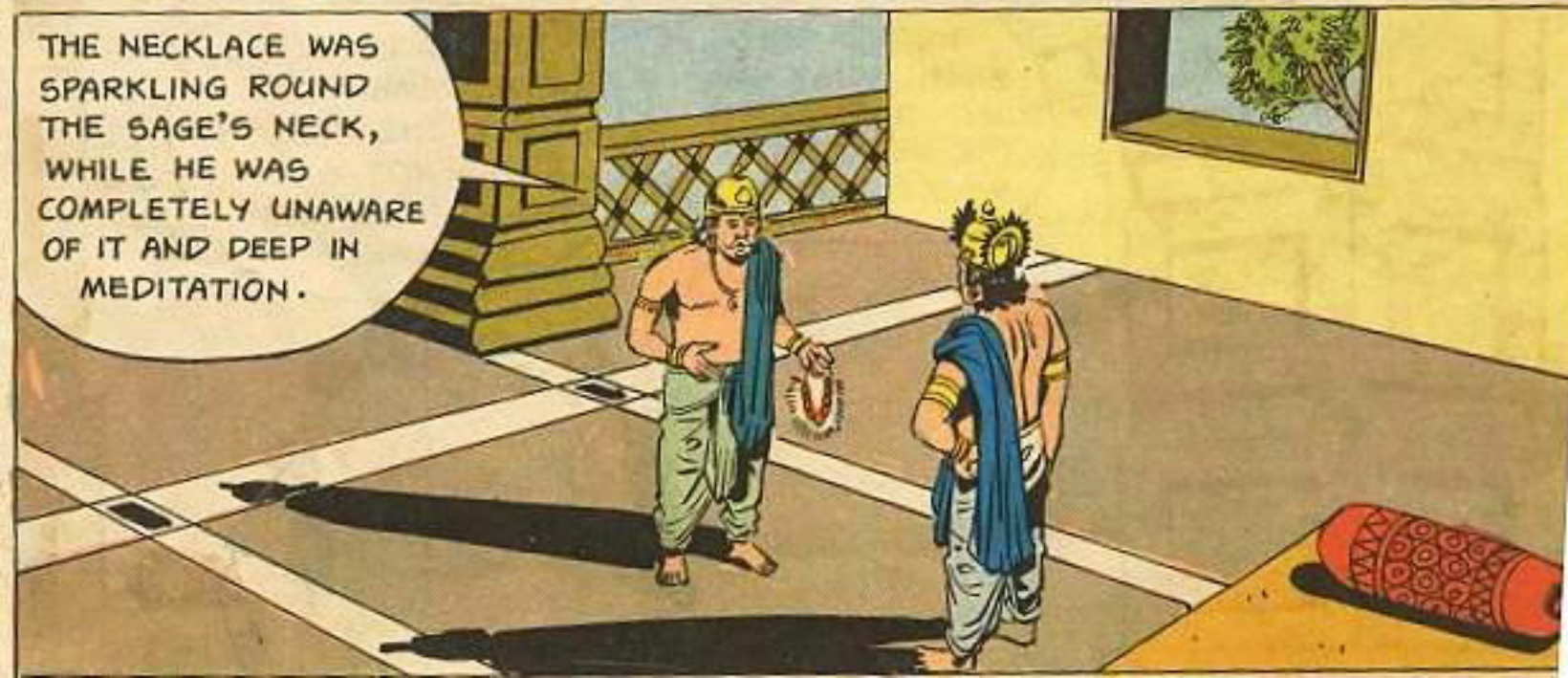


THERE WAS NO THIEF, KING. I FOUND IT ROUND THE NECK OF ACHARYA SUHASTI.

SUHASI, OUR PURE SAGE! YOU MUST BE JOKING.



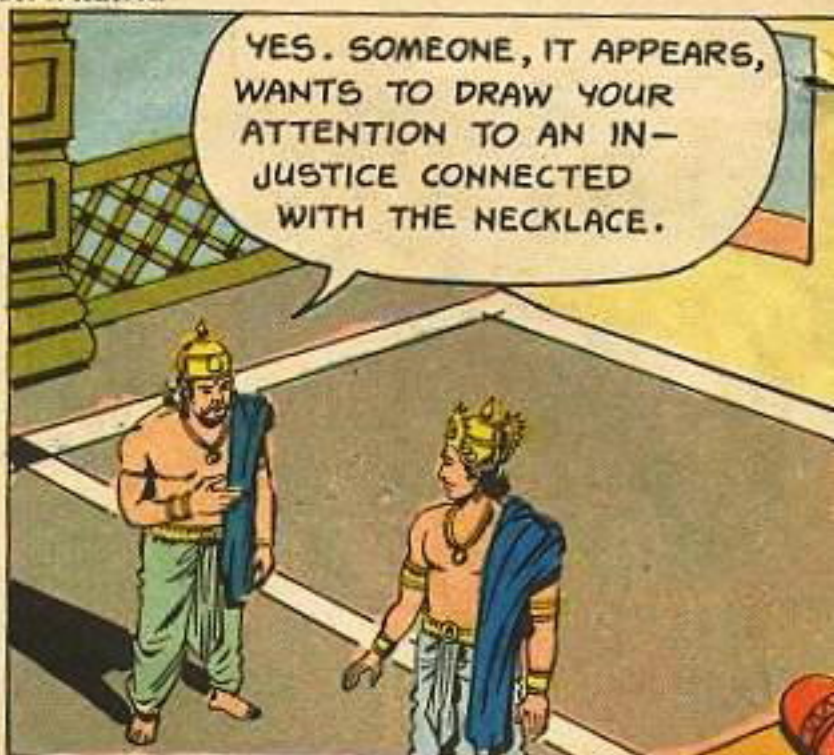
THE NECKLACE WAS SPARKLING ROUND THE SAGE'S NECK, WHILE HE WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF IT AND DEEP IN MEDITATION.



THERE IS SOME
MYSTERY BEHIND
THIS



YES. SOMEONE, IT APPEARS,
WANTS TO DRAW YOUR
ATTENTION TO AN IN-
JUSTICE CONNECTED
WITH THE NECKLACE.



THE OLD MAN WHO
REPAIRED THE NECKLACE
DID NOT TURN UP FOR
THE REST OF THE REWARD
— DO YOU THINK THAT
HAS ANYTHING TO DO
WITH THE THEFT OF
THE NECKLACE ?

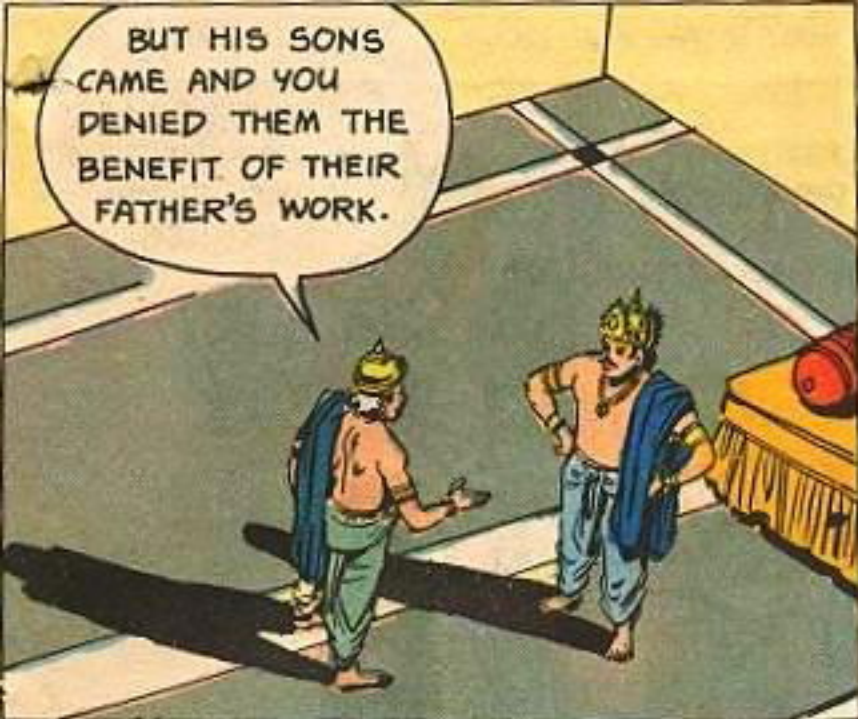


THE OLD GOLD-
SMITH MUST HAVE
DIED THE MOMENT
THE NECKLACE
WAS REPAIRED.

THAT'S TRUE. YES,
NOW I REMEMBER!
THAT'S THE REASON
HE WAS NOT GIVEN
THE REST OF THE
REWARD!

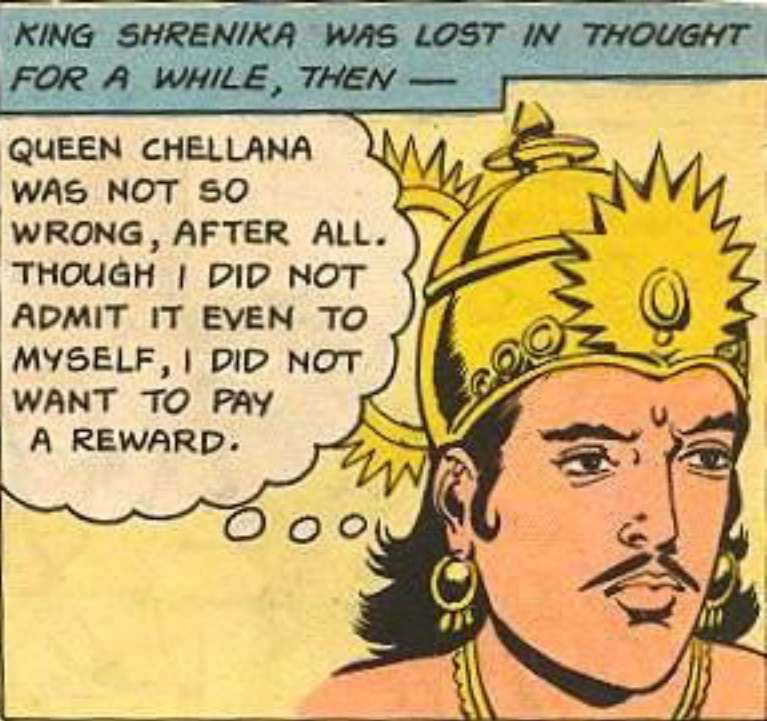


BUT HIS SONS
CAME AND YOU
DENIED THEM THE
BENEFIT OF THEIR
FATHER'S WORK.



KING SHRENIKA WAS LOST IN THOUGHT
FOR A WHILE, THEN —

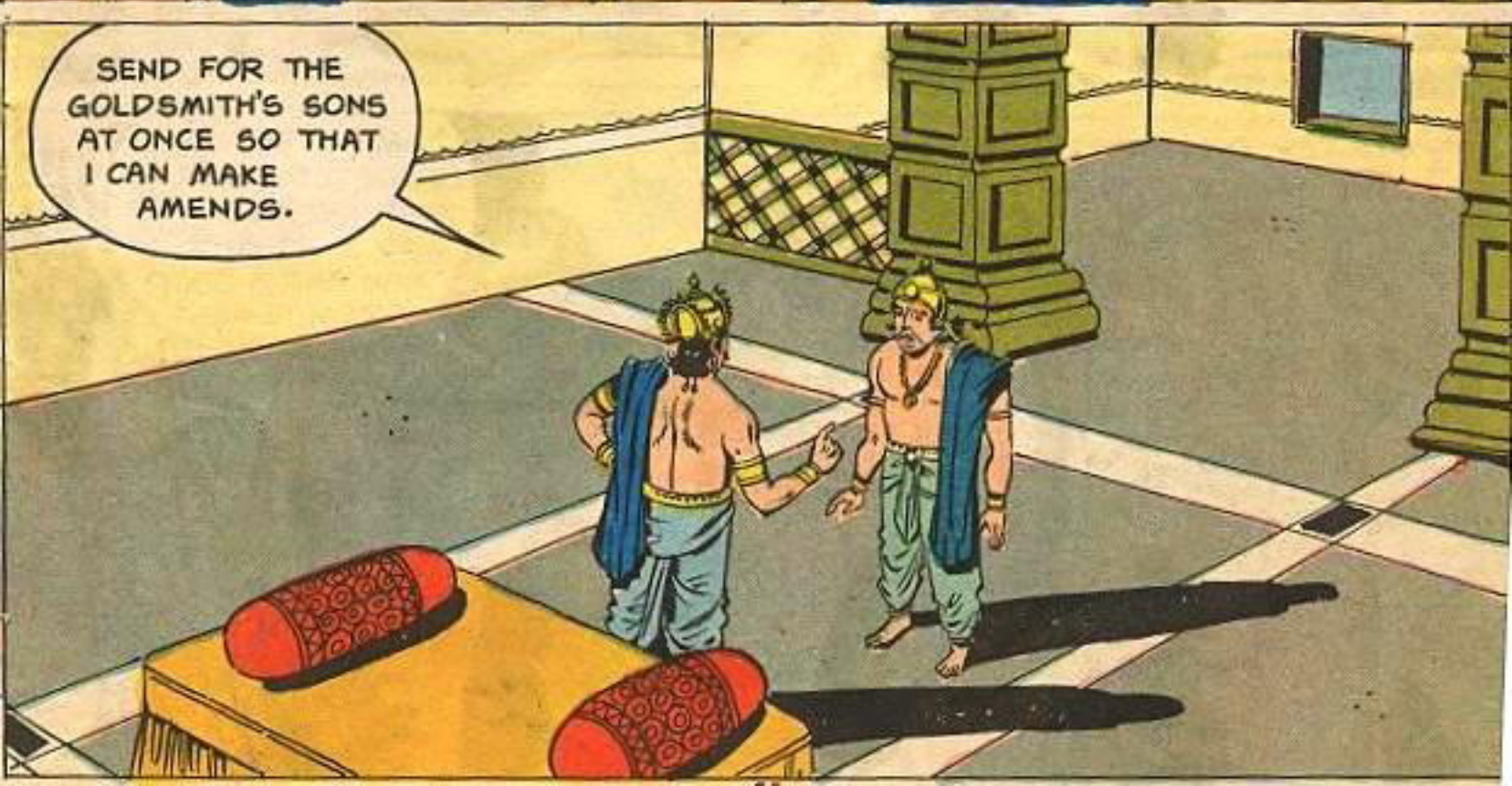
QUEEN CHELLANA
WAS NOT SO
WRONG, AFTER ALL.
THOUGH I DID NOT
ADMIT IT EVEN TO
MYSELF, I DID NOT
WANT TO PAY
A REWARD.



A KING MUST BE A FATHER
TO HIS SUBJECTS WHEN THEY
ARE IN HARDSHIP, YET
I WITHHELD FROM THOSE
POOR BOYS WHAT WAS
THEIR DUE!



SEND FOR THE
GOLDSMITH'S SONS
AT ONCE SO THAT
I CAN MAKE
AMENDS.



THE GOLDSMITH'S SONS WERE OVERJOYED WHEN THEY RECEIVED THE MESSAGE THAT THE KING HAD REALISED HIS MISTAKE.

THE KING
IS A GOOD
MAN.

NOT FOR NOTHING
DID THE DEVA GIFT
HIM WITH THE
CELESTIAL NECKLACE.

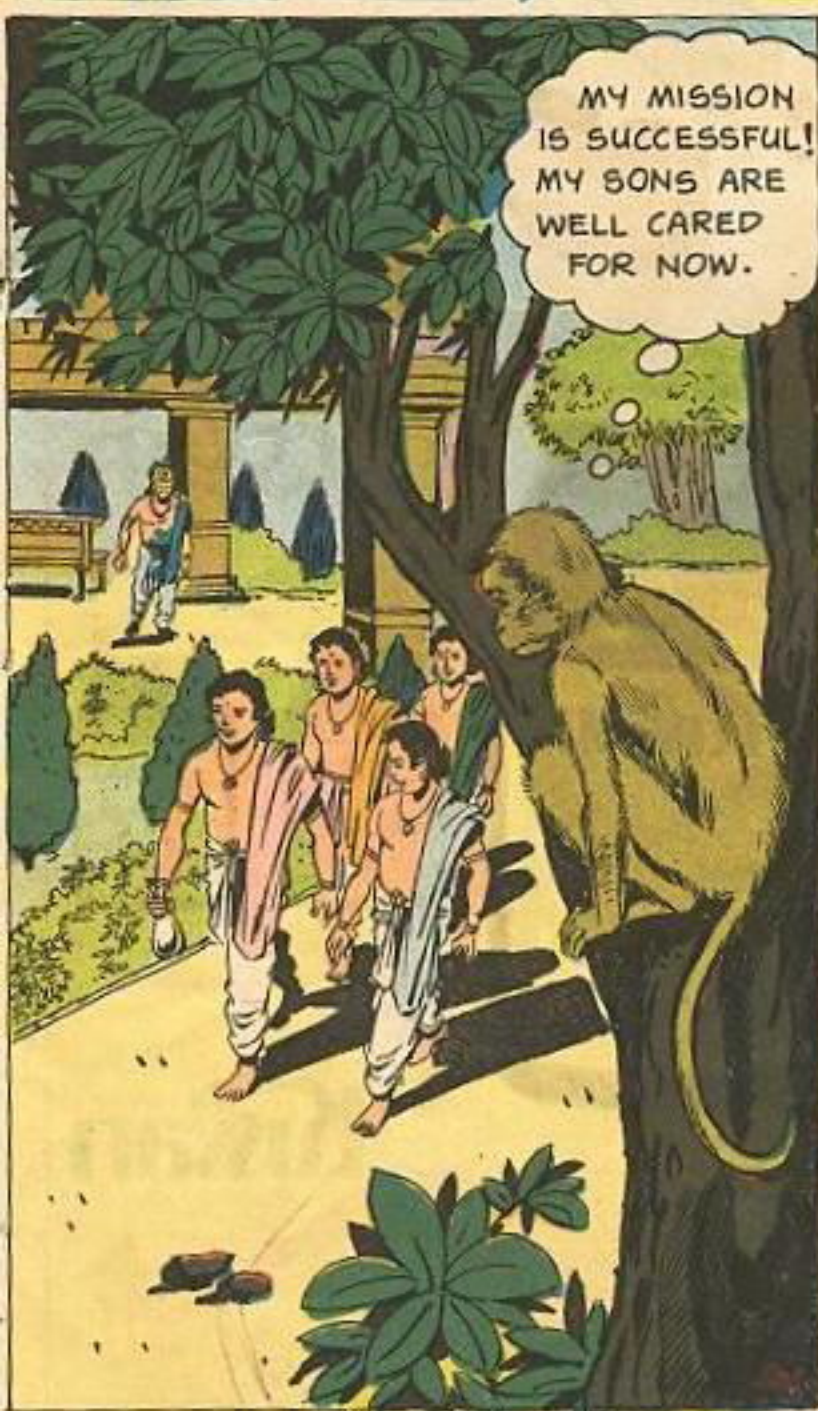
SOONER OR LATER
HE WAS BOUND TO
COME TO HIS
SENSES.

ON THEIR WAY TO THE PALACE, THEY HAD TO PASS THROUGH THE FOREST. THE MONKEY SAW HIS SONS.

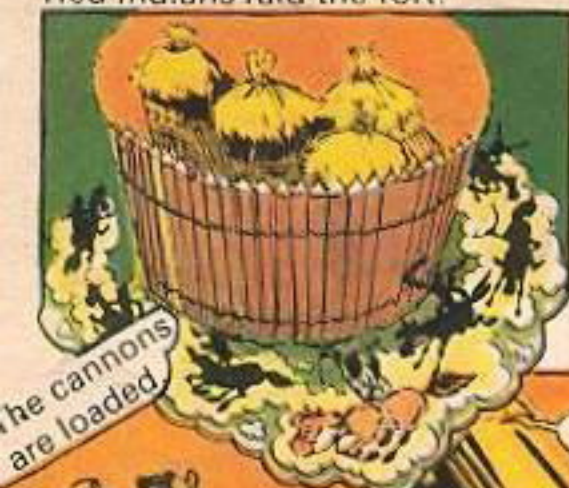
MY DEAR SONS!
THEY ARE LOOKING
HAPPY. I WONDER
WHERE THEY
ARE GOING?

THE MONKEY FOLLOWED THEM AT A DISTANCE
INTO THE PALACE GARDEN.

I AM SORRY
I DOUBTED YOUR
WORD. YOUR FATHER
WAS A WORTHY
MAN AND A GOOD
CRAFTSMAN.



Red Indians raid the fort!



The Indians are thunderstruck!



Dipy the Kid in "Delicious Defence"

Dipy the Kid takes charge.



The Indians call a truce.



An end to fighting, it's time for fun!



es folks! When you've said Dipy's, you've said a mouthful! Dipy's make some of the most scrumptious squashes and syrups around. Orange, Lemon and Mango Squashes. Lemon Barley Water. Lime Cordial. Pineapple Crush. Refreshing Rose Syrup. And all the rest of the Dipy's tribe. Those Indians sure knew a good thing when they saw it.

**Dipy's is real fruity
-so fresh 'n' juicy.**

