



No. 368 Rs. 5/-

The Nawab's Diwan

100 pages.

and Other Tamil Tales



Amar Chitra Katha

No. 368 November 1, 1986

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Published by:
H.G. MIRCHANDANI

for India Book House Pvt. Ltd.
Mahalaxmi Chambers
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,
Bombay 400 026.

and printed by him
at IBH Printers, Marol Naka,
Mathurda Vissanji Road,
Andheri (East), Bombay 400 059.

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Distributors in U.S.A.
Admans Enterprises Inc.,
8024 Empire State Bldg.,
350, Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10118.

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The Nawab's Diwan and Other Tamil Tales

Written in 1879, *Pratapa Mudaliar Charitram* is the first novel in Tamil, the oldest of the Dravidian group of Indian languages.

Veda Nayakam Pillai (1826-1889) of Maayooram (Mayiladuthurai of today) in Tiruchi district was born in a Christian family. He worked as munsif in various parts of the district. Pillai who was widely read in European literature was eager from his youthful days to introduce the novel in Tamil. The result was *Pratapa Mudaliar Charitram* which continues to be read and appreciated by Tamil speaking people to this day.

In this Amar Chitra Katha, we have retold the fascinating story of Pratapa's grandfather, followed by the story of his childhood friend Kanakan. The story of Pratapa has been retold in the companion Amar Chitra Katha Volume—*The Adventures of Pratapan*.

See page 30 for QUIZ INDIA

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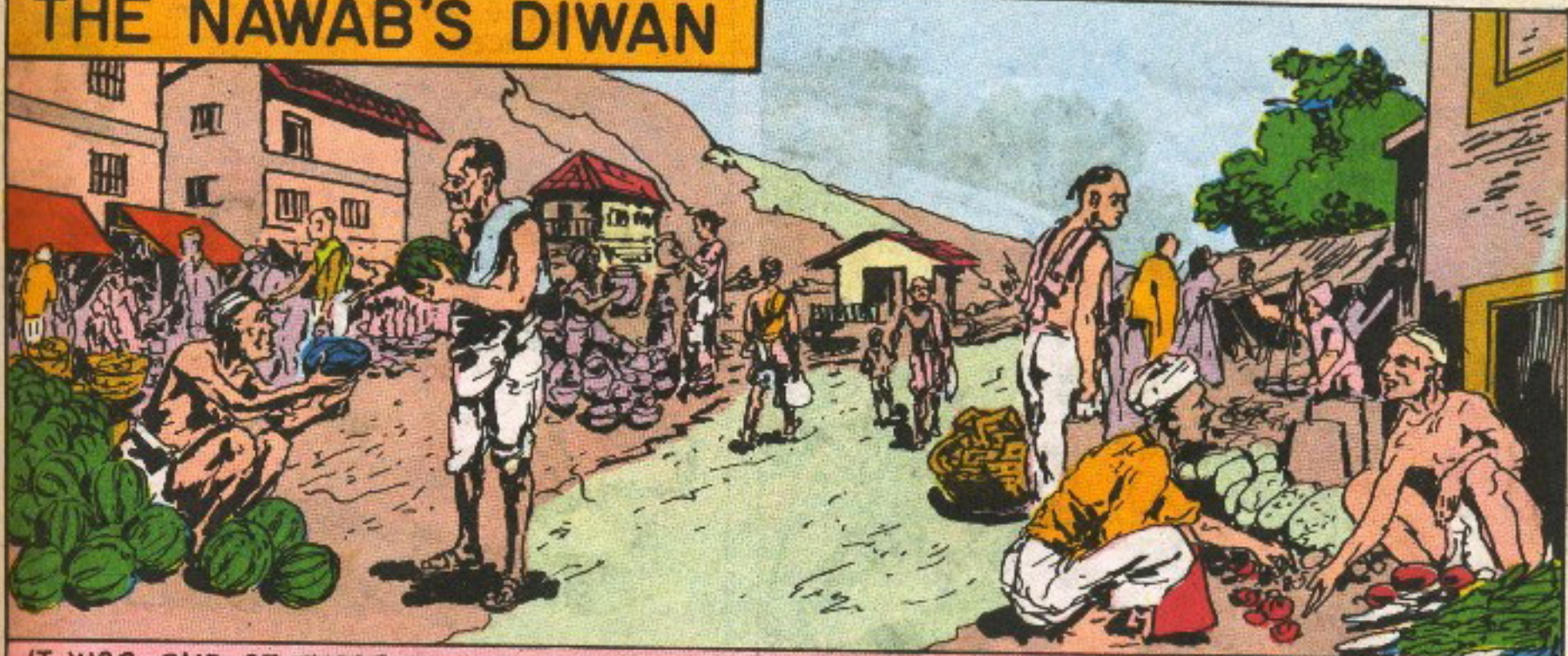
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Mahabharata—21

ARJUNA IN INDRALOKA

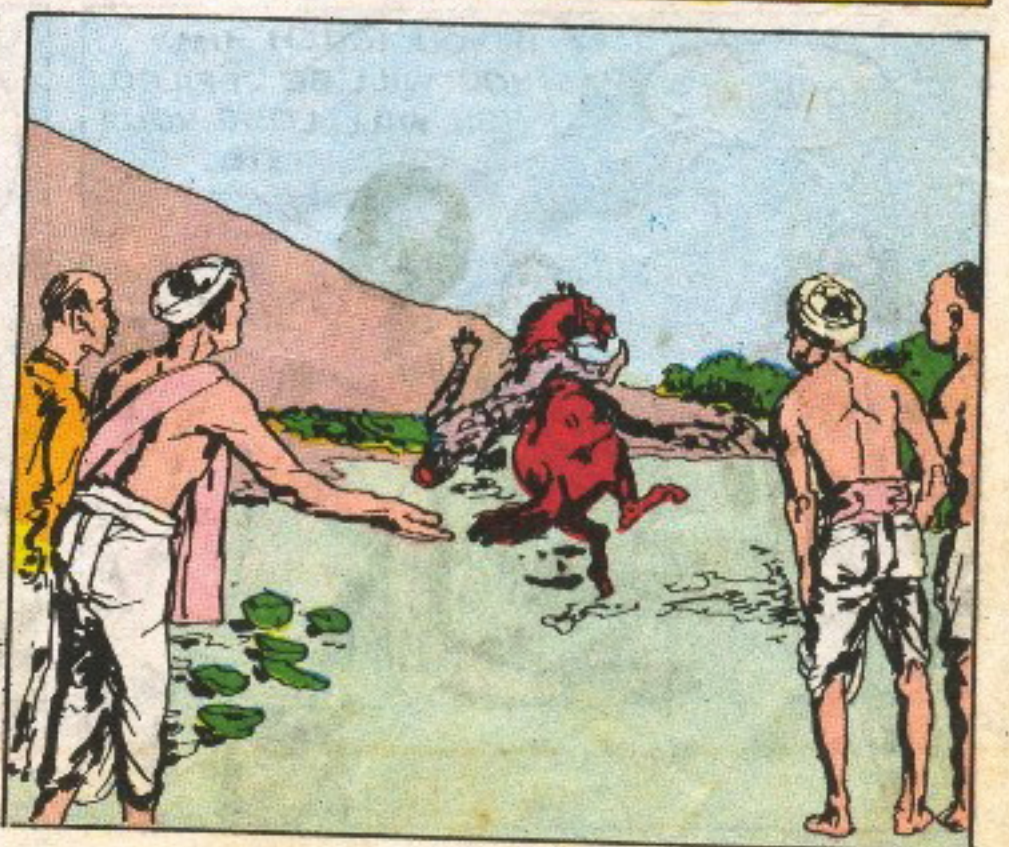
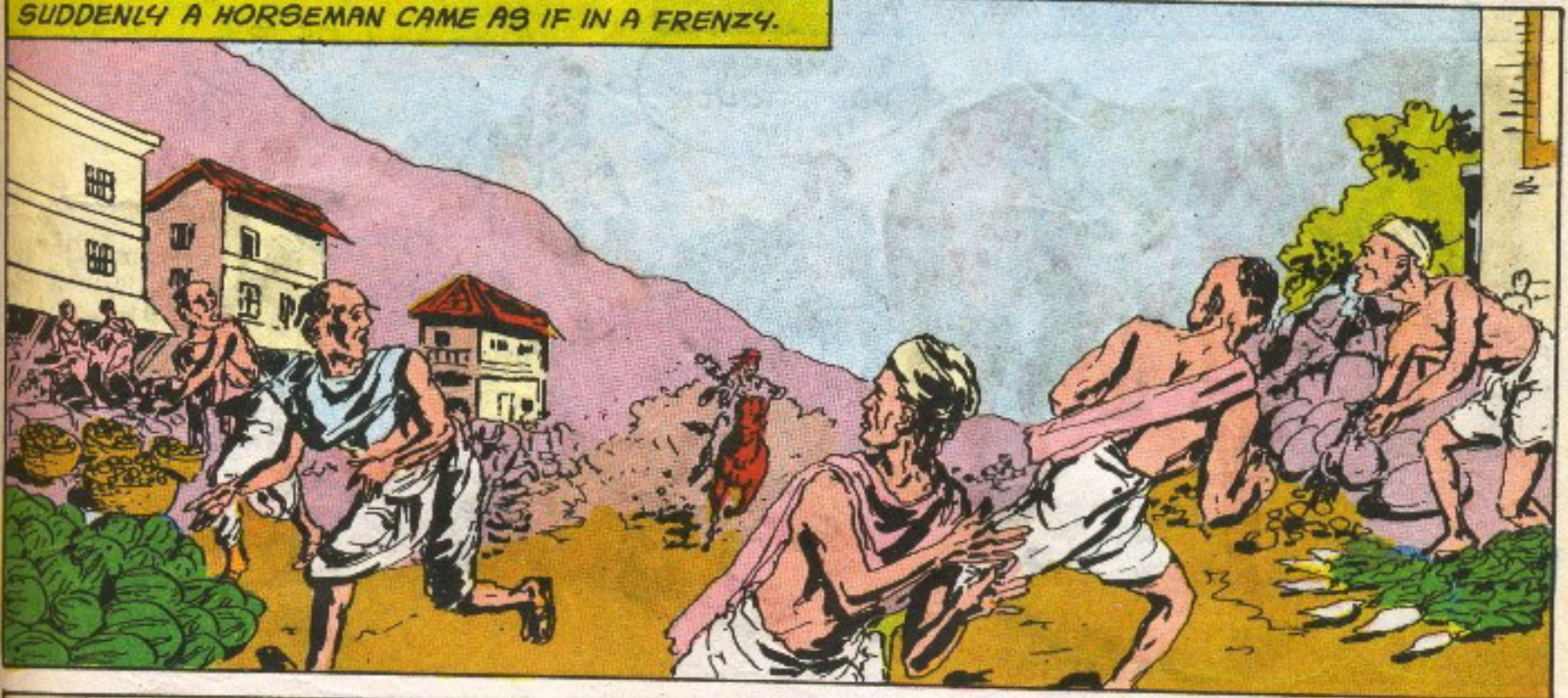
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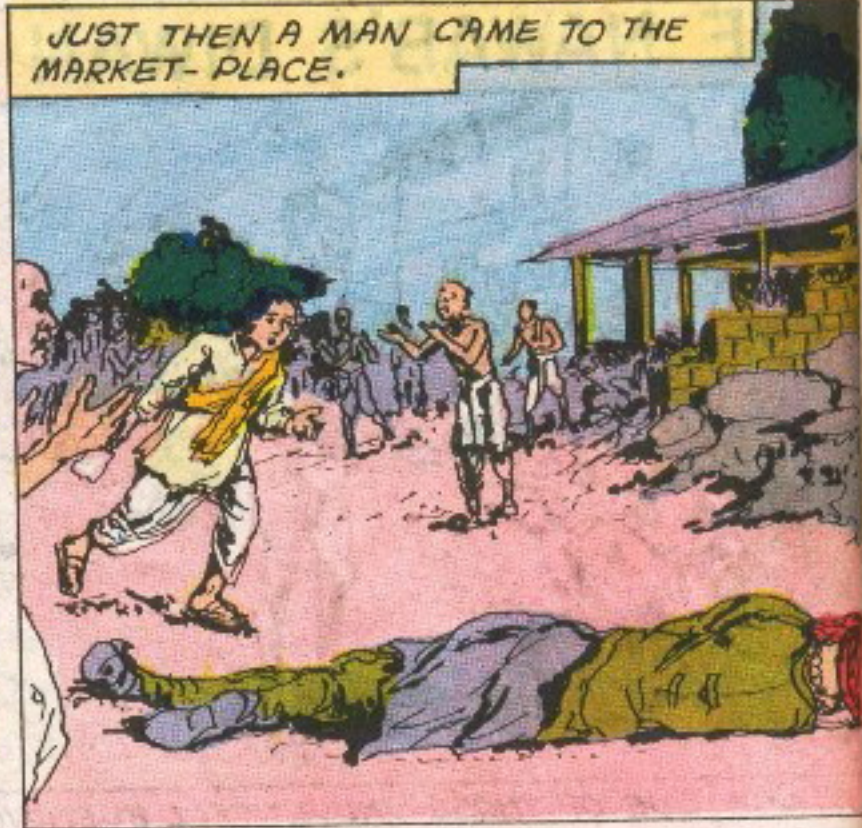


IT WAS ONE OF THOSE UNEVENTFUL EVENINGS AT THE MARKET-PLACE IN SATYAPURI...

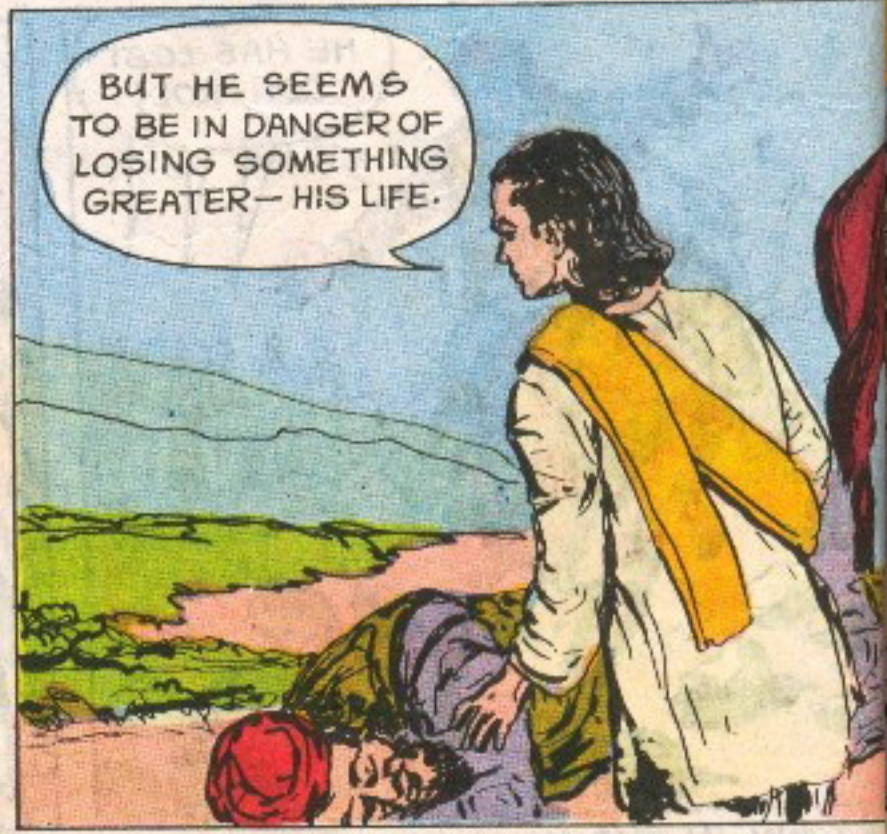
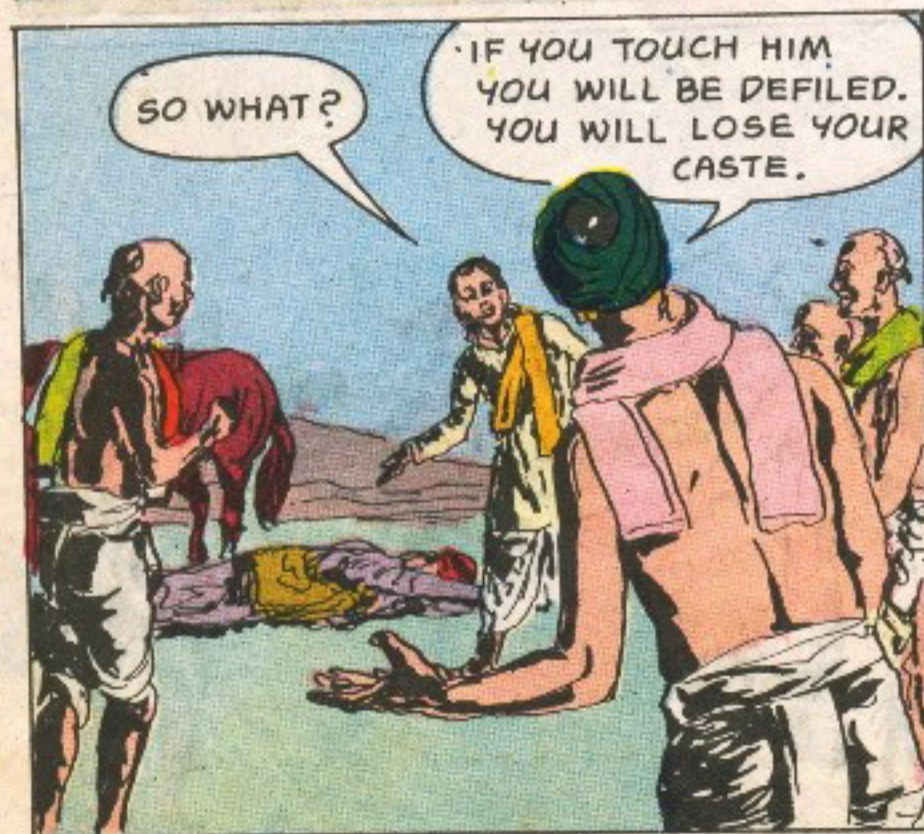
SUDDENLY A HORSEMAN CAME AS IF IN A FRENZY.



* A TOWN IN THE NAWAB'S KINGDOM



AS HE RUSHED TO THE AID OF THE INJURED MAN —

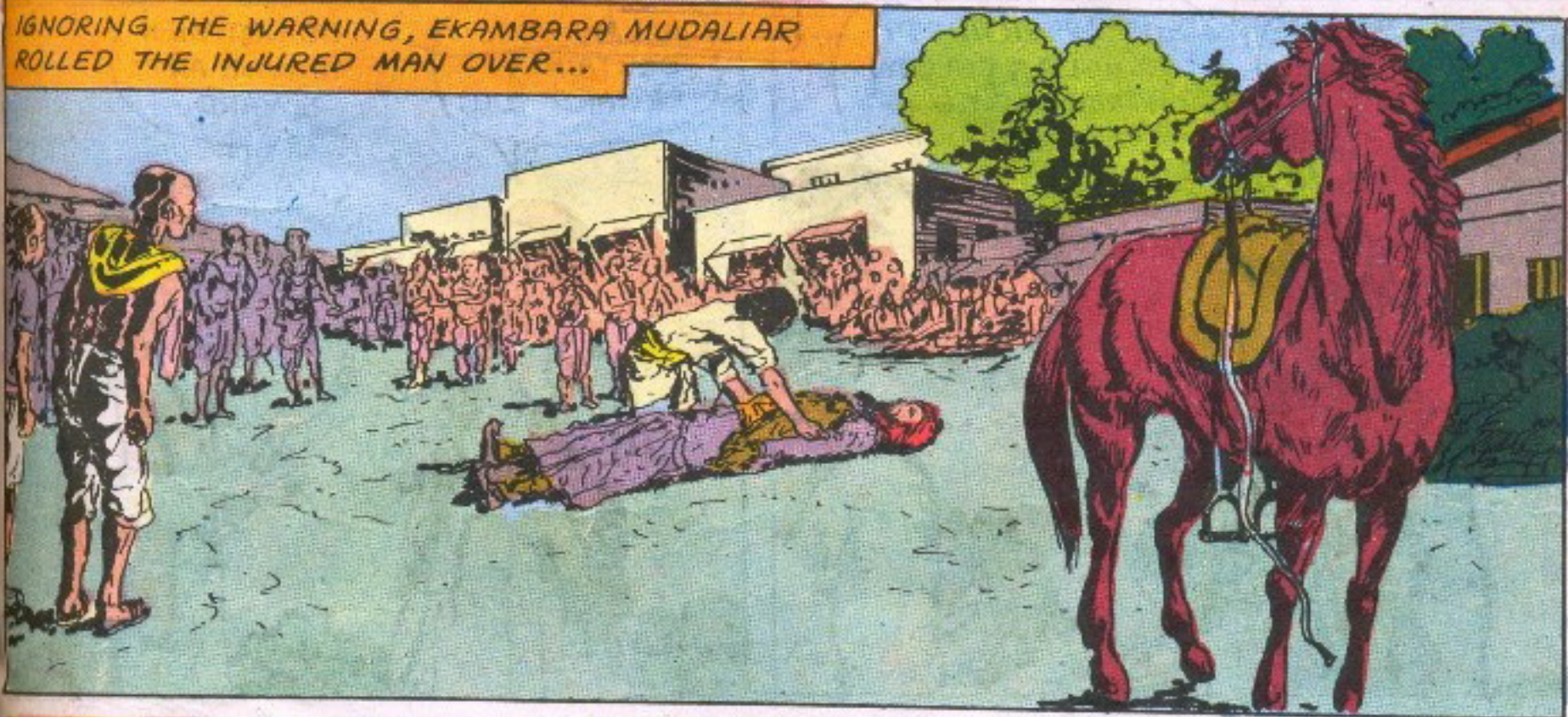


DON'T TOUCH HIM, I WARN YOU.

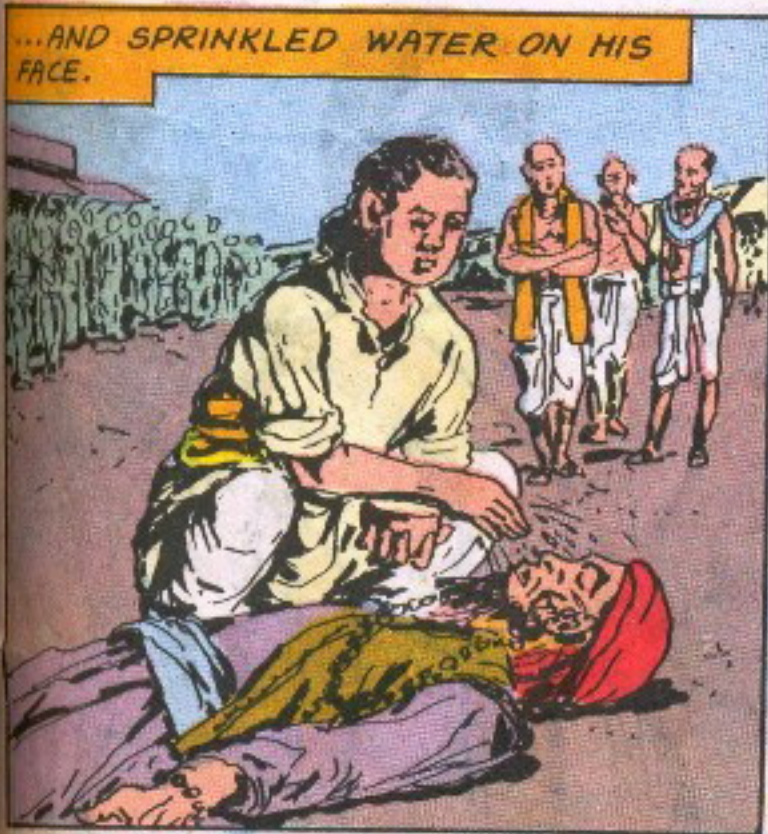
IF YOU DO, YOU WILL REGRET IT, EKAMBARAM.



IGNORING THE WARNING, EKAMBARA MUDALIAR ROLLED THE INJURED MAN OVER...



...AND SPRINKLED WATER ON HIS FACE.

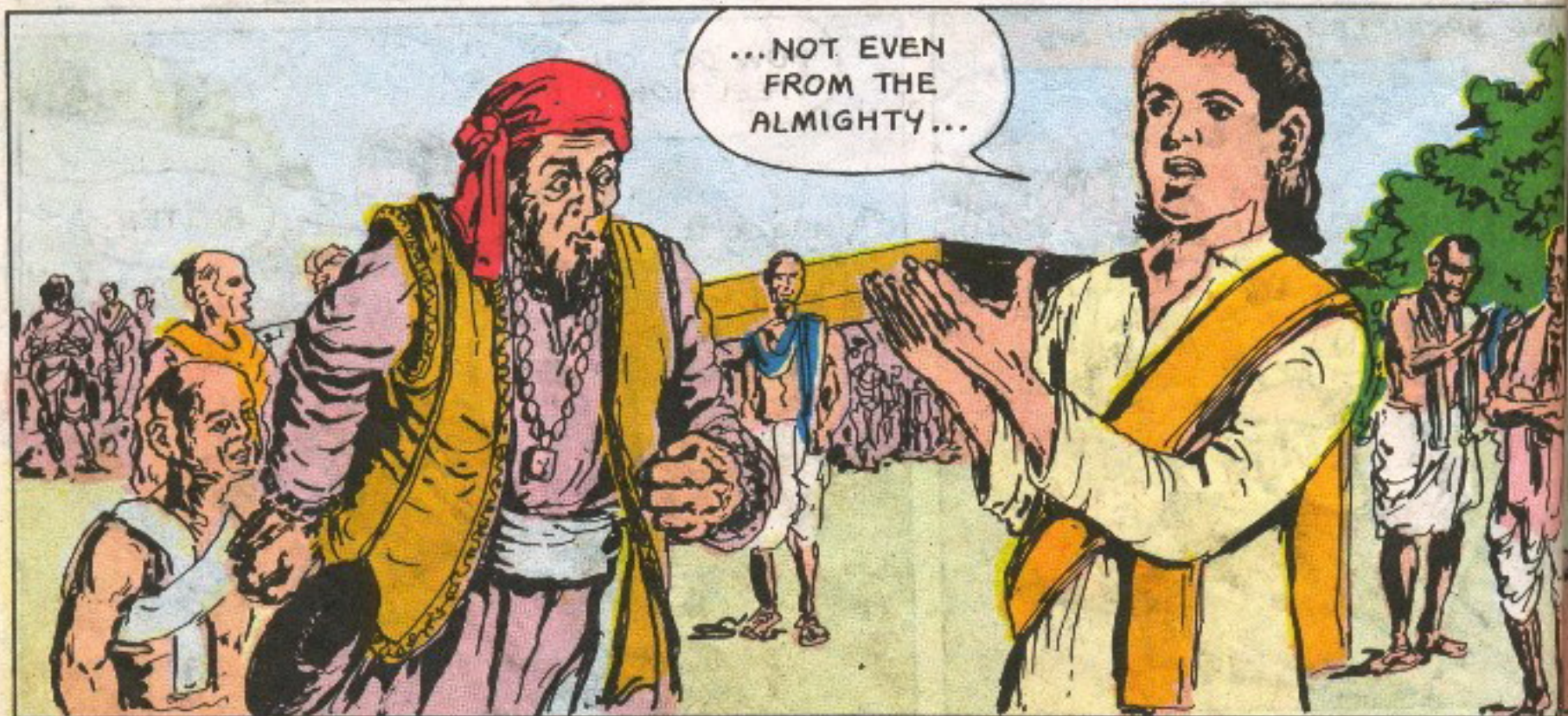
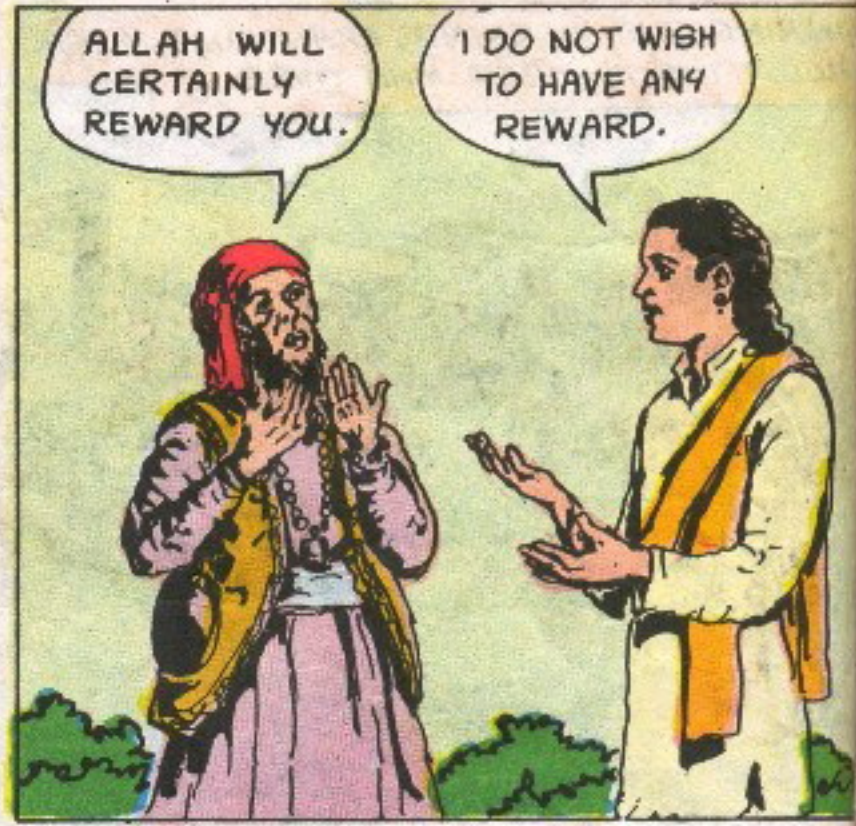
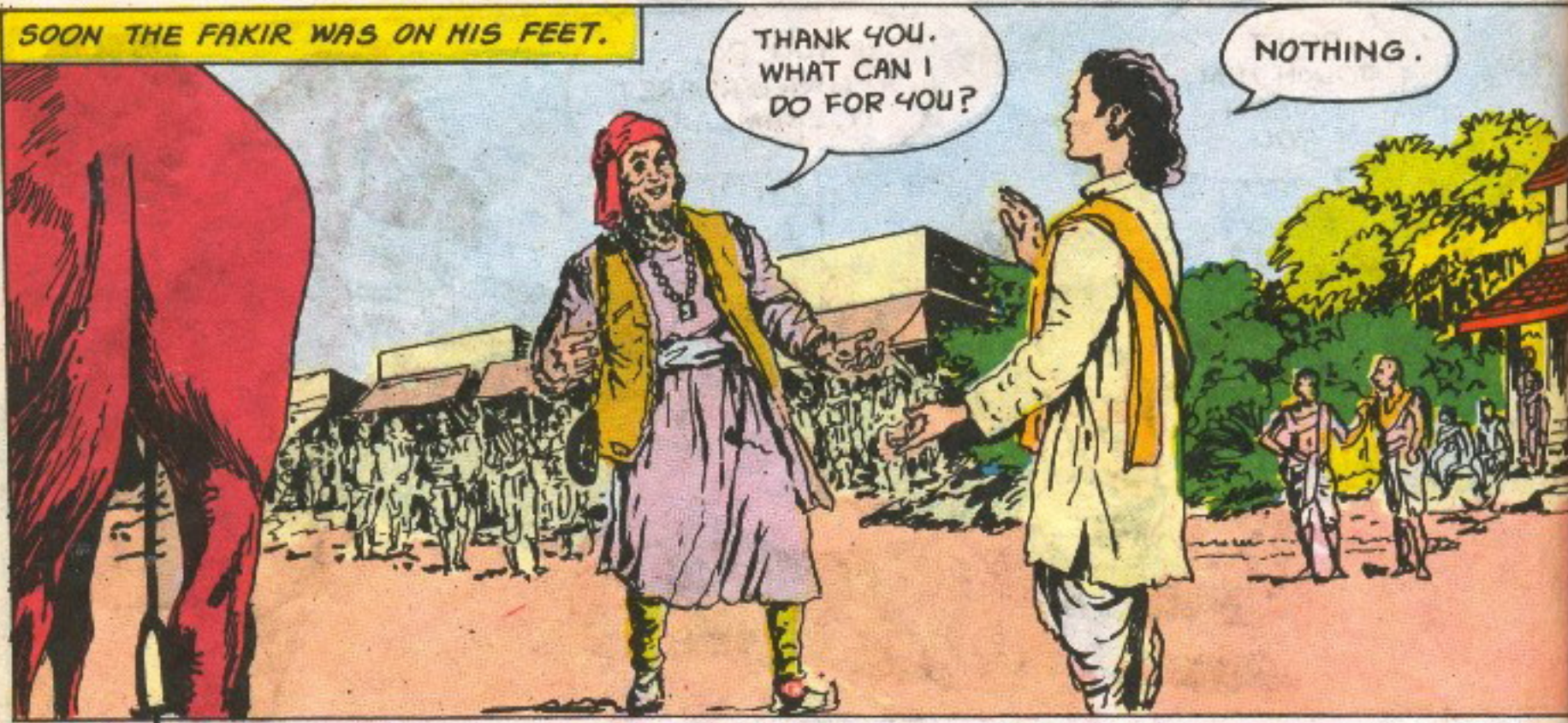


HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW?

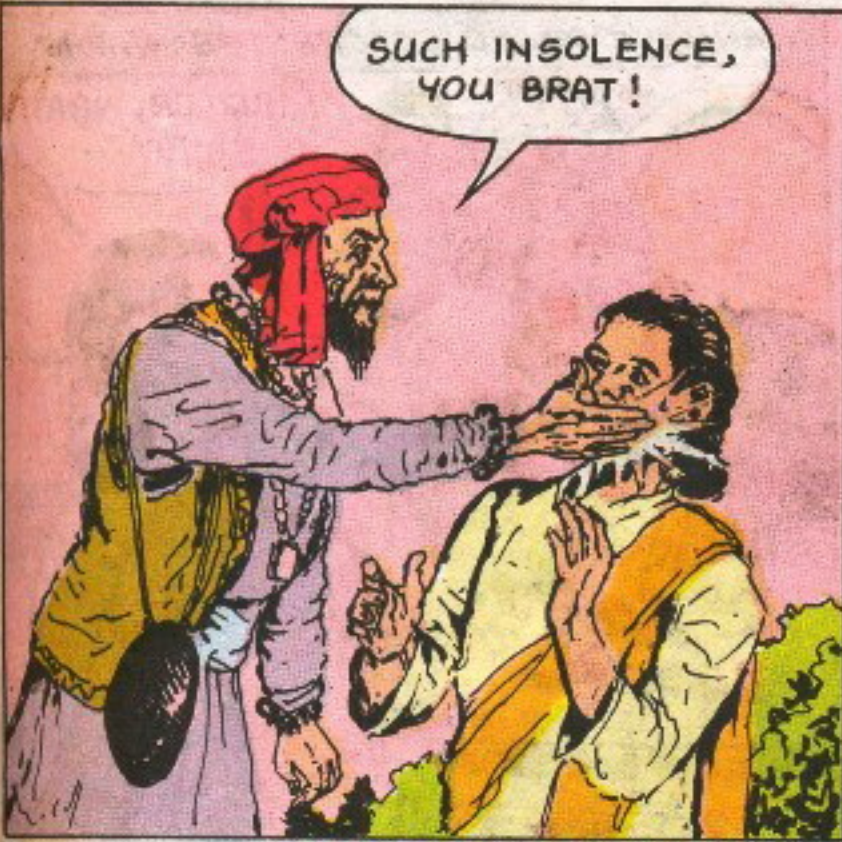
BETTER.



SOON THE FAKIR WAS ON HIS FEET.



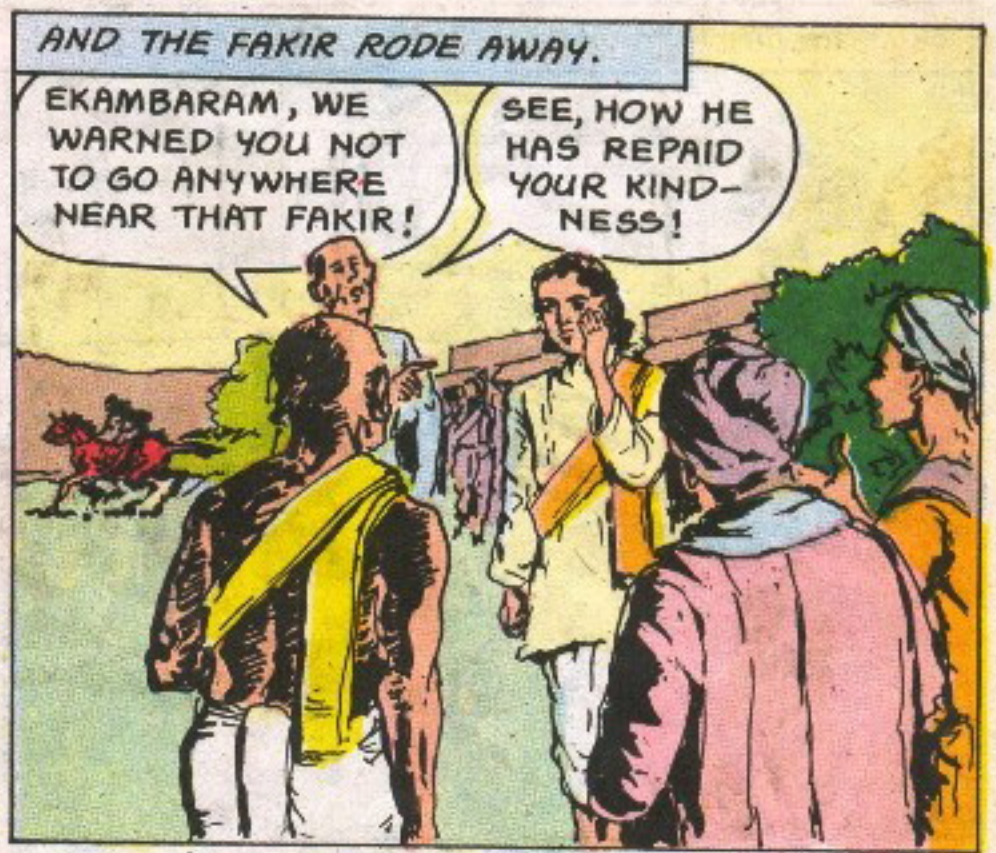
SUCH INSOLENCE,
YOU BRAT!



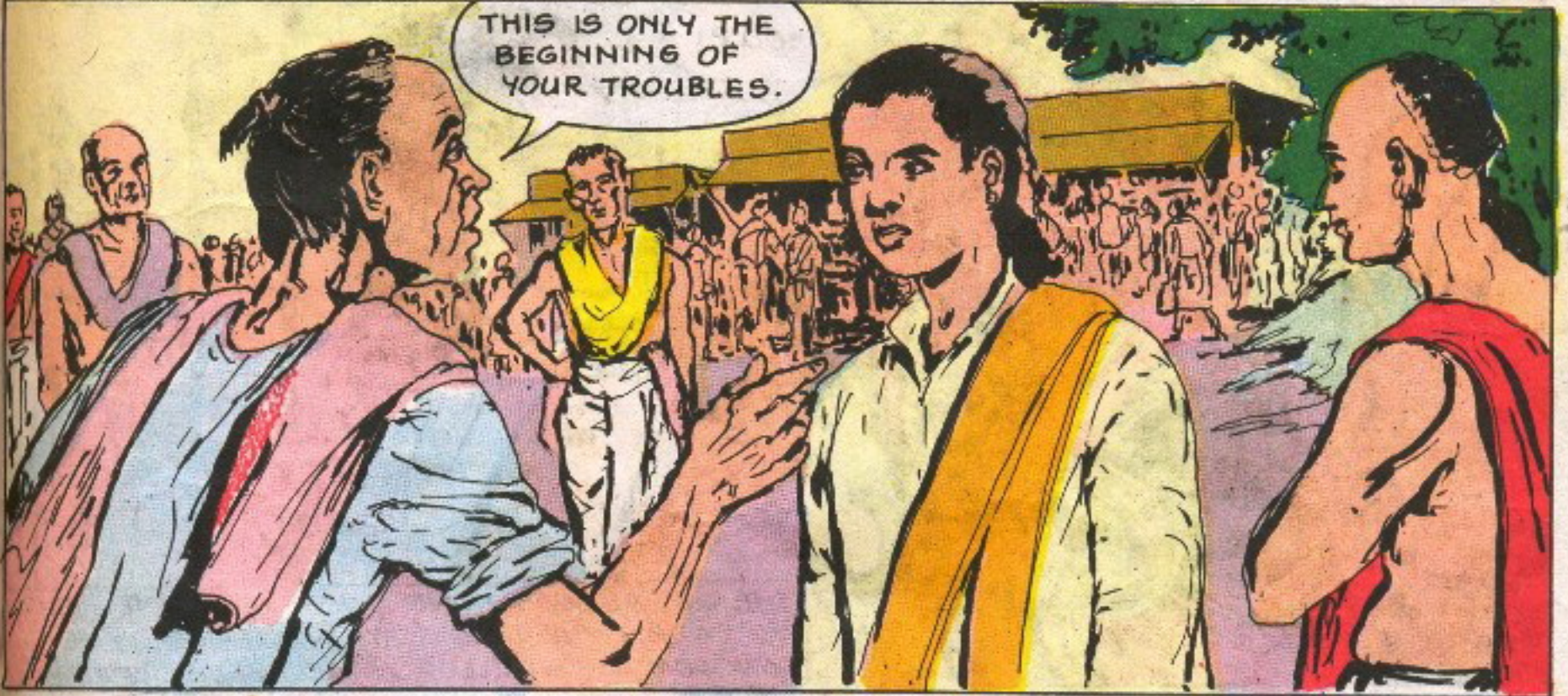
AND THE FAKIR RODE AWAY.

EKAMBARAM, WE
WARNED YOU NOT
TO GO ANYWHERE
NEAR THAT FAKIR!

SEE, HOW HE
HAS REPAID
YOUR KIND-
NESS!



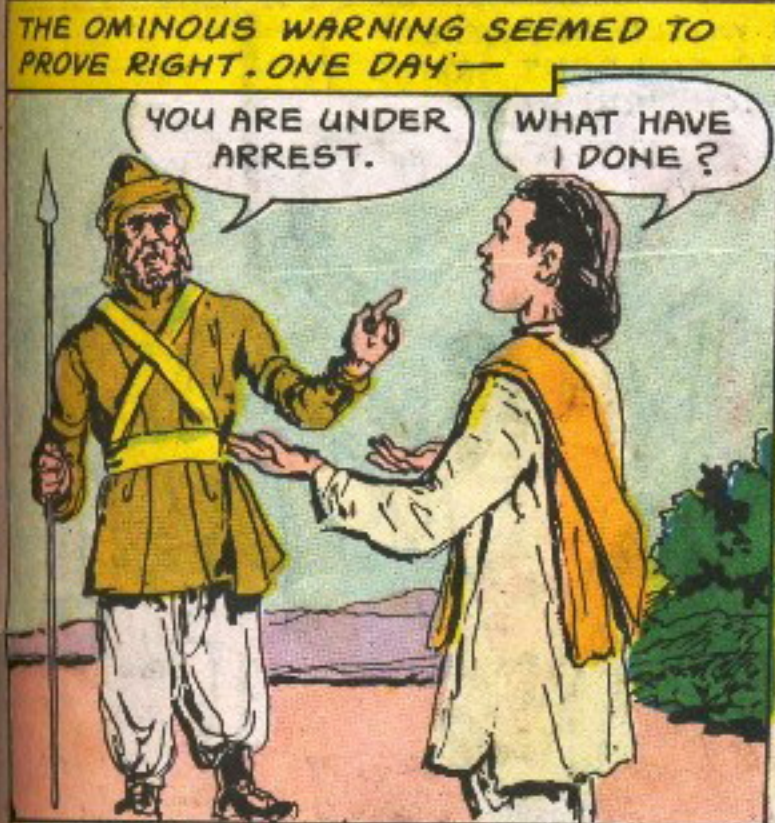
THIS IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING OF
YOUR TROUBLES.



THE OMINOUS WARNING SEEMED TO
PROVE RIGHT. ONE DAY—

YOU ARE UNDER
ARREST.

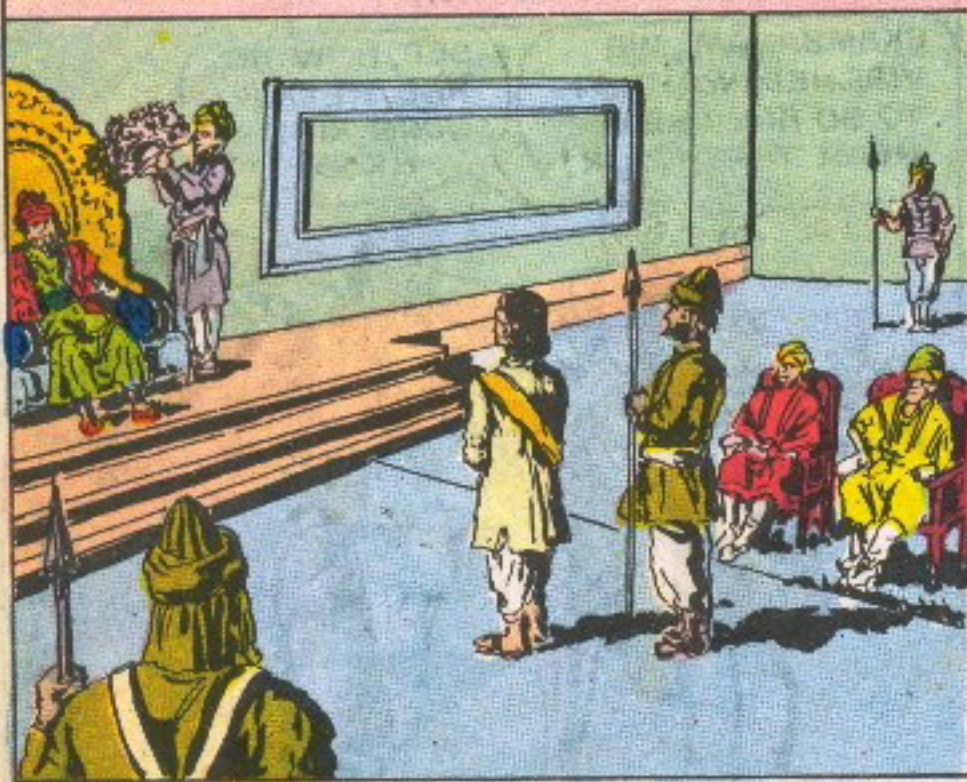
WHAT HAVE
I DONE?



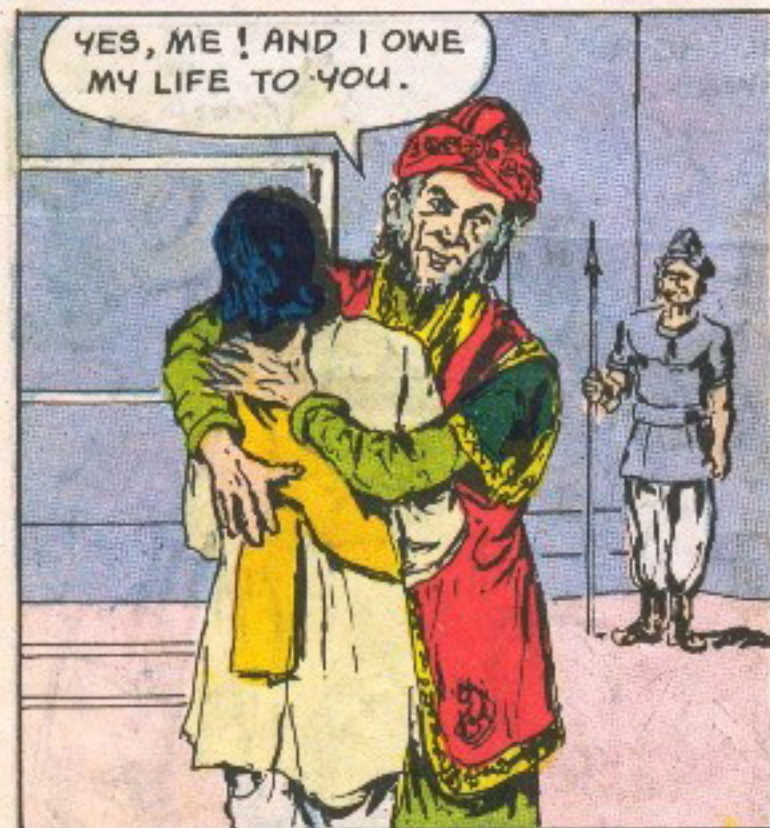
ASK THE
NAWAB.

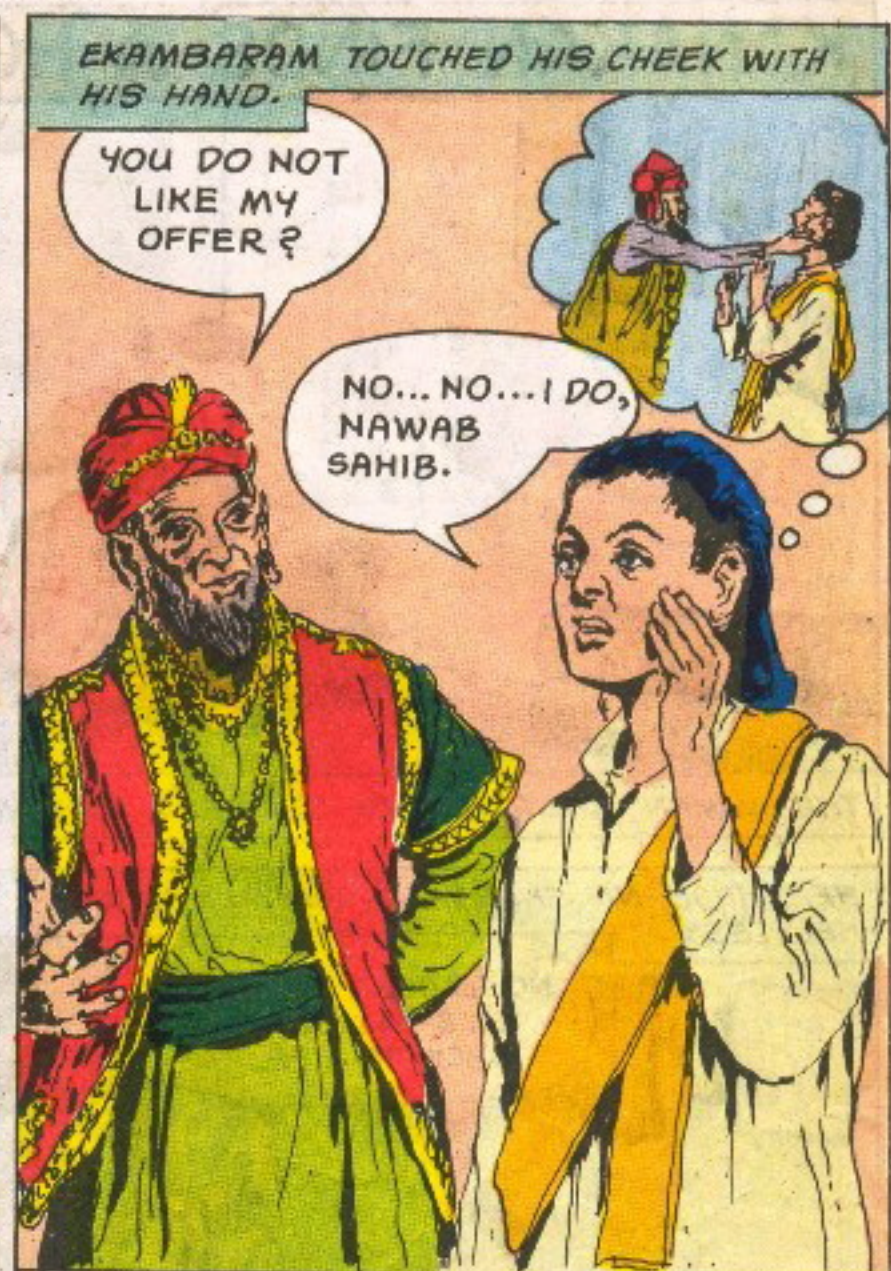


EKAMBARAM WAS TAKEN TO THE CAPITAL...



...AND PRODUCED BEFORE THE NAWAB.





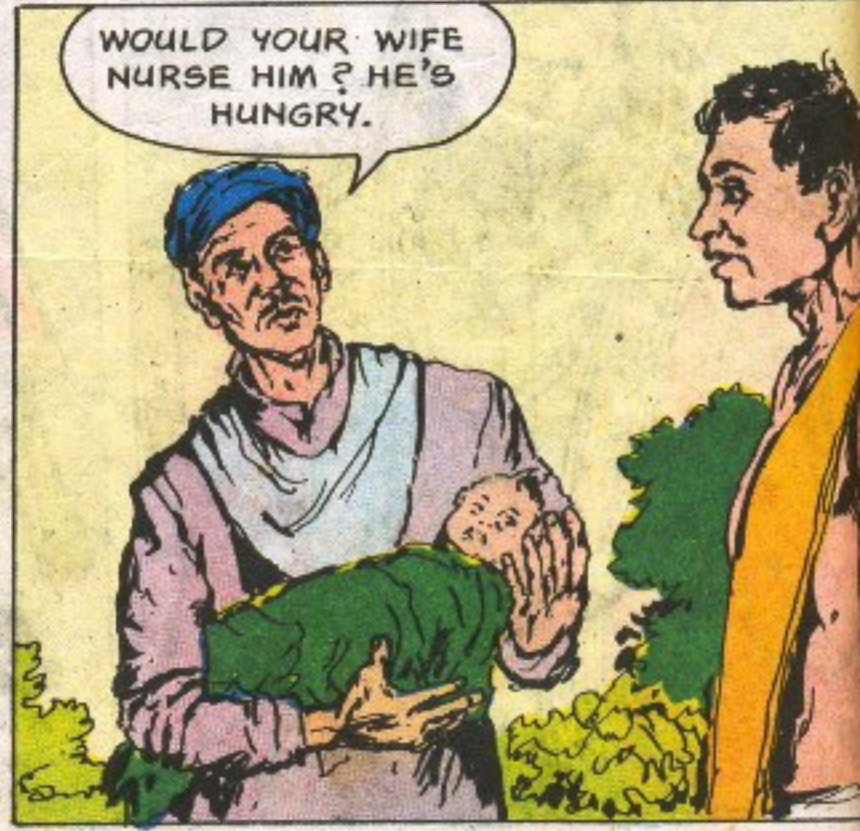
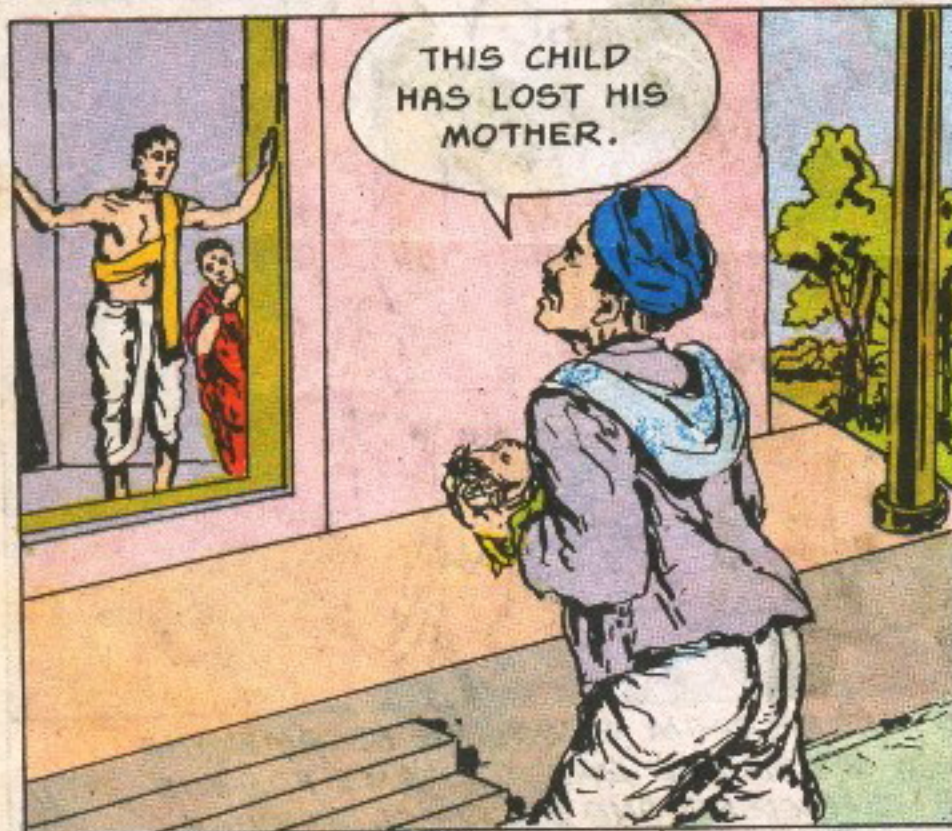
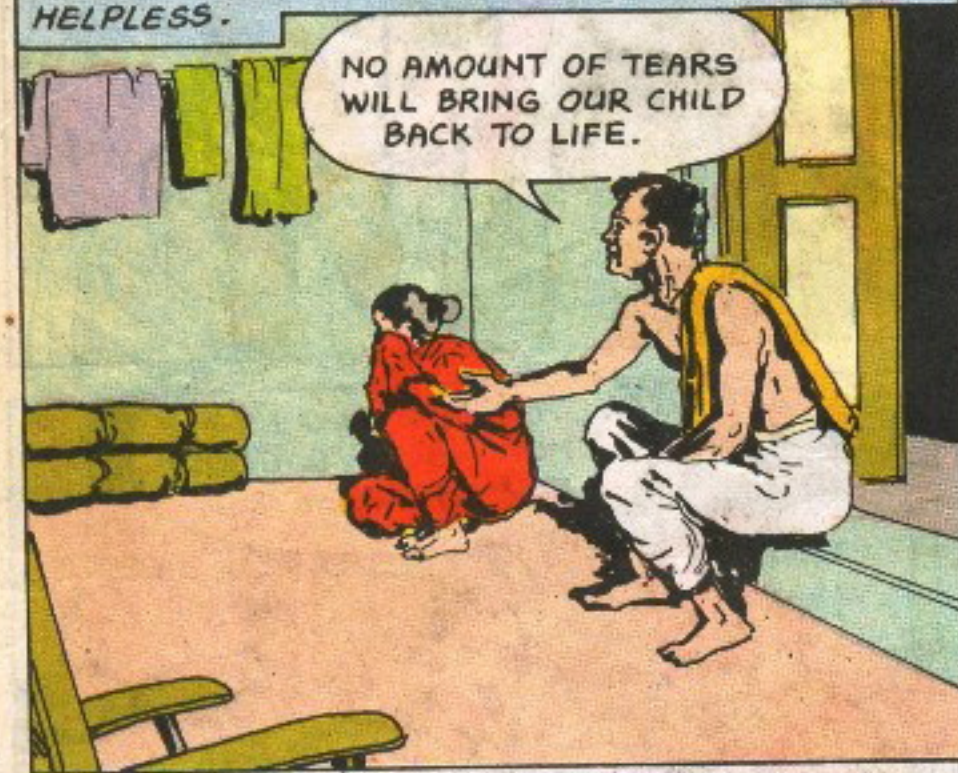
THUS EKAMBARAM MUDALIAR BECAME THE NAWAB'S DIWAN AND EARNED FAME FOR HIS HONEST, EFFICIENT AND SELFLESS SERVICE.

KANAKAN FINDS A HOME

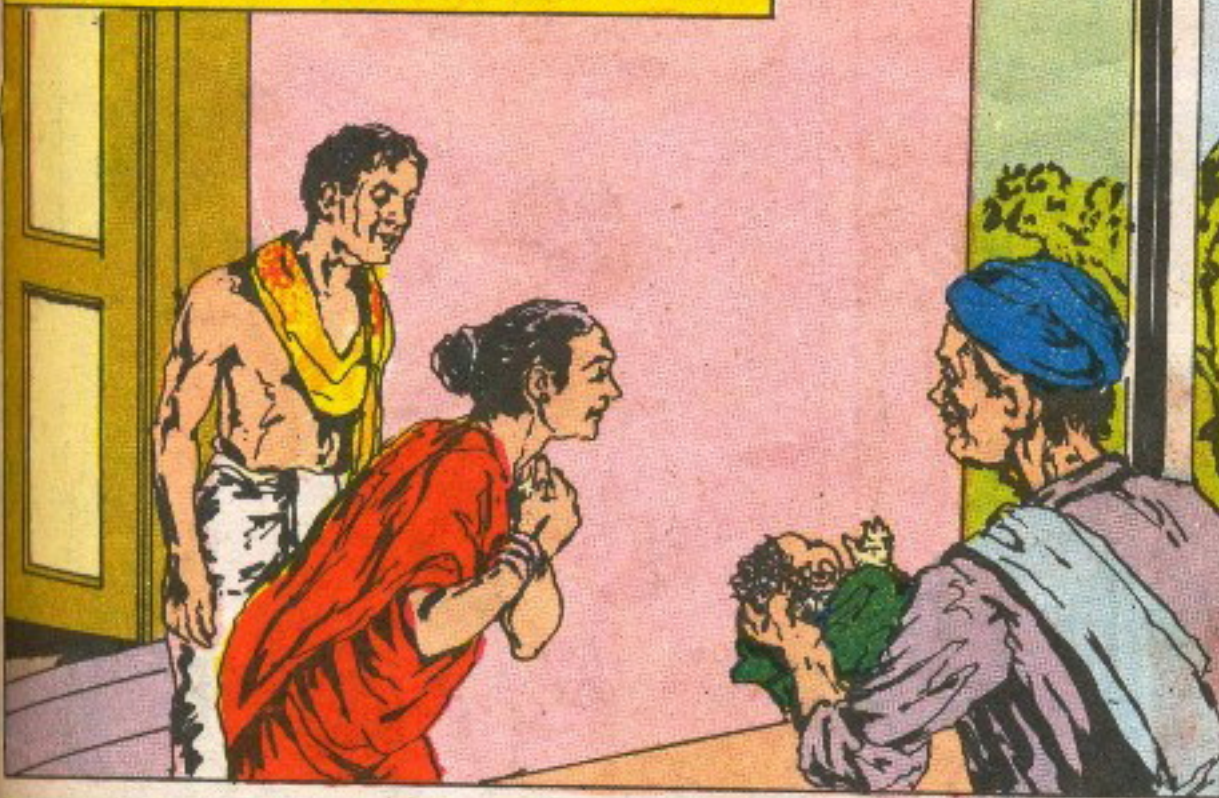


THE WOMAN COULD NOT BE CONSOLED. HER NEW-BORN INFANT HAD DIED.

HER HUSBAND SHANTALINGAM PILLAI WAS HELPLESS.



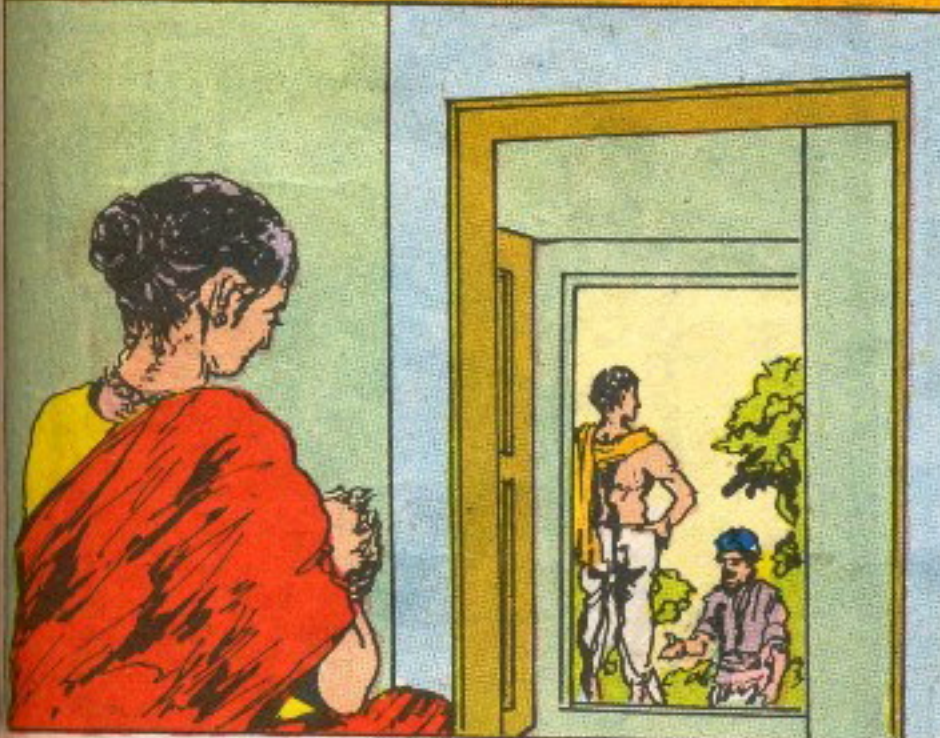
PILLAI'S WIFE LOOKED AT THE INFANT.



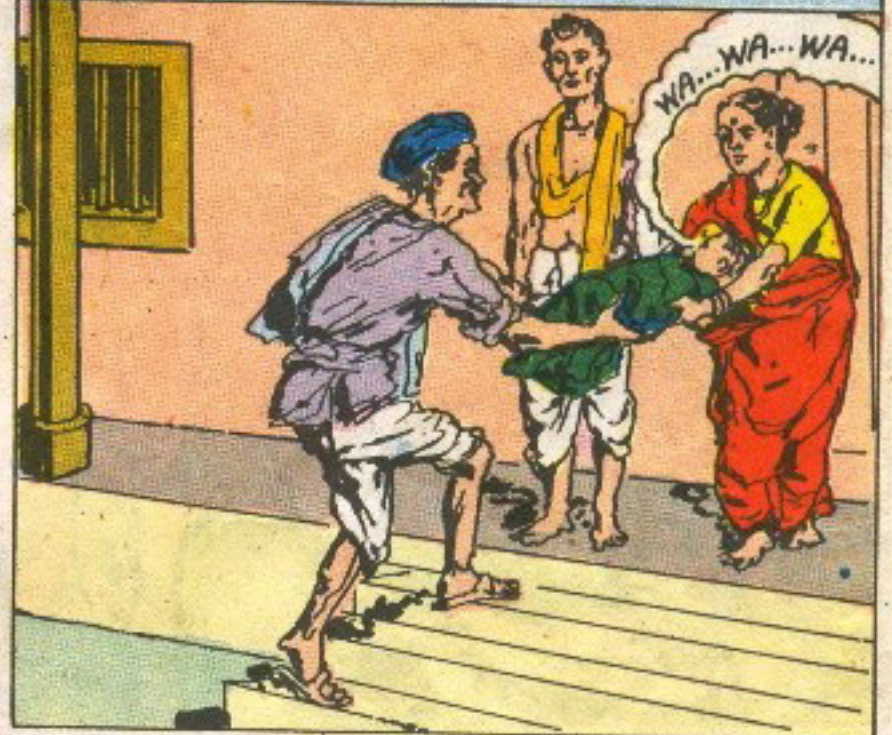
AND THE NEXT MOMENT —



AND PILLAI'S WIFE AT ONCE SUCKLED THE BABY. HIS HUNGER SATISFIED, THE BABY SNUGGLED UP TO HER.



WHEN THE MAN TRIED TO TAKE HIM AWAY THE CHILD WAILED LOUDLY IN PROTEST.

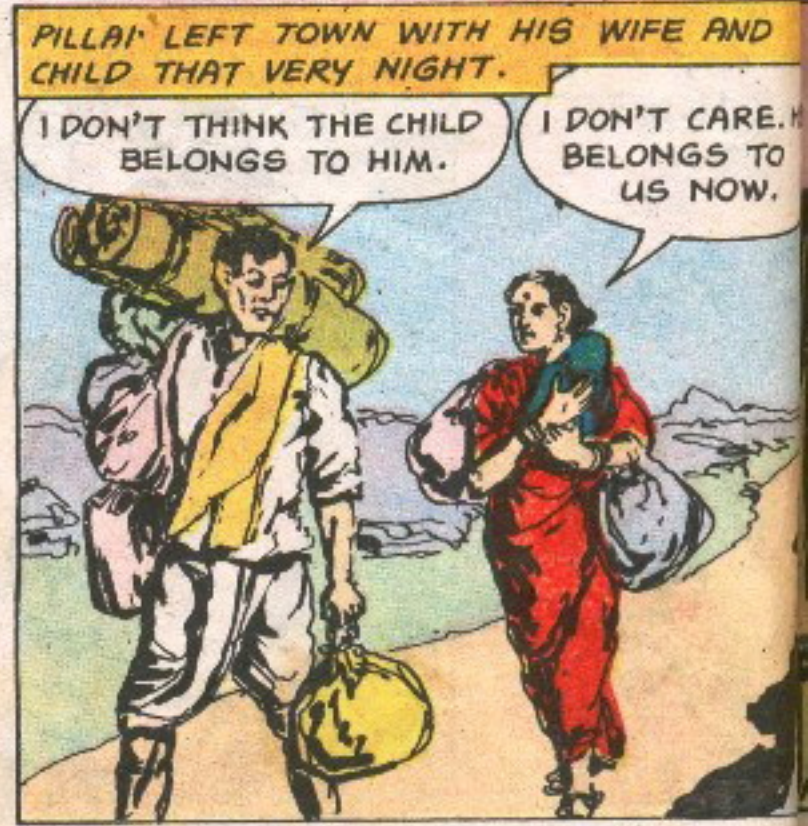
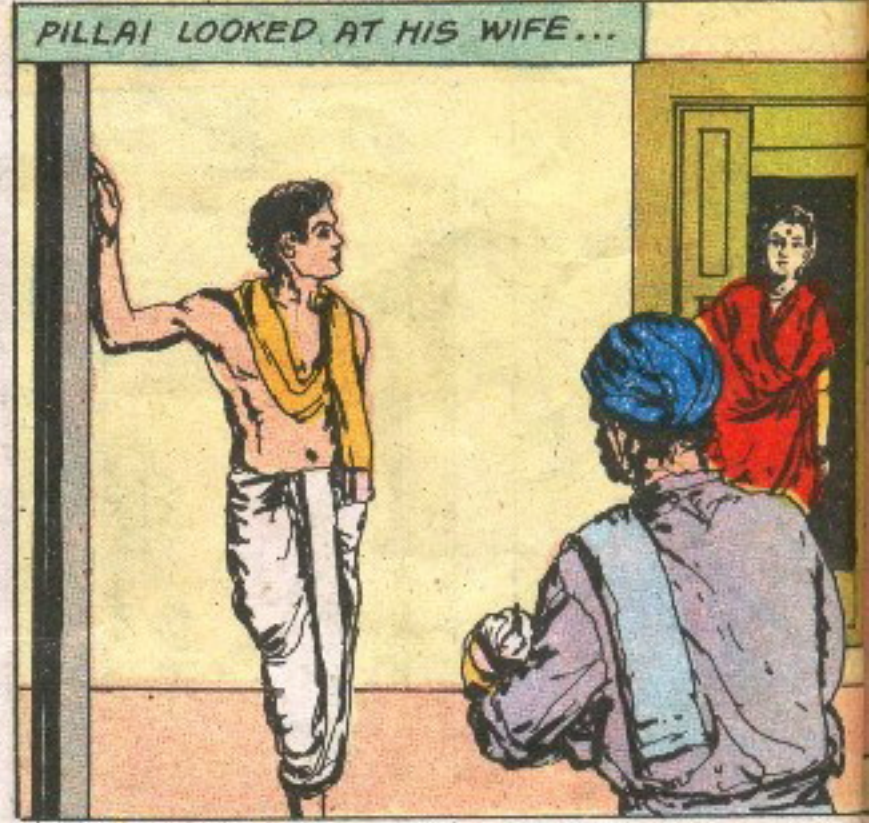
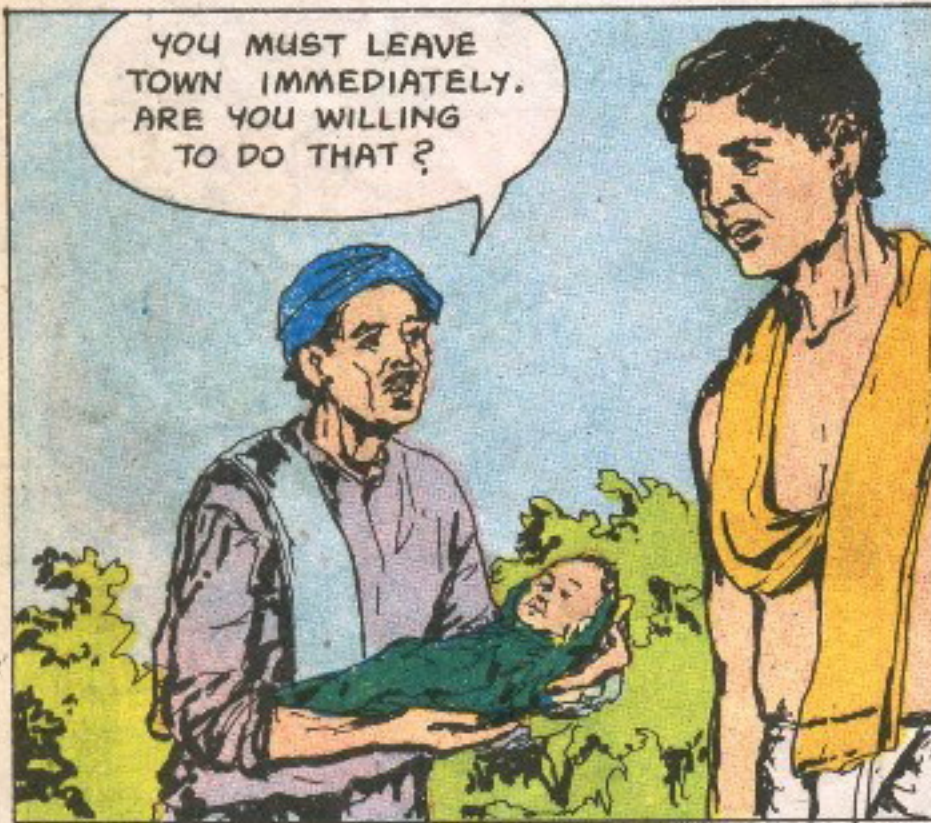


THE WOMAN GAZED LONGINGLY AT THE INFANT.



WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM TO US? WE WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.

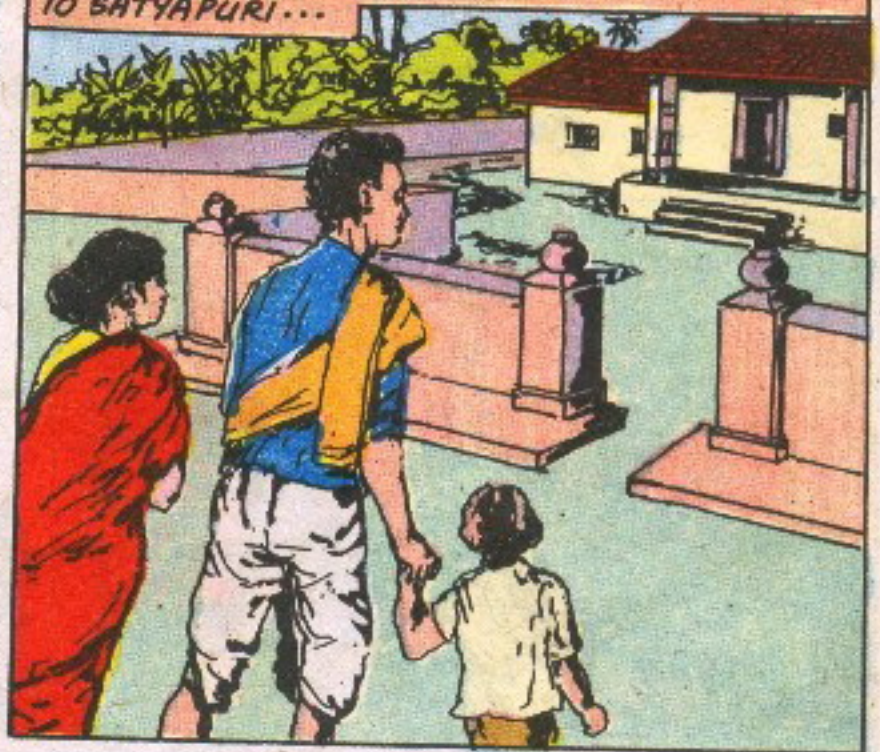




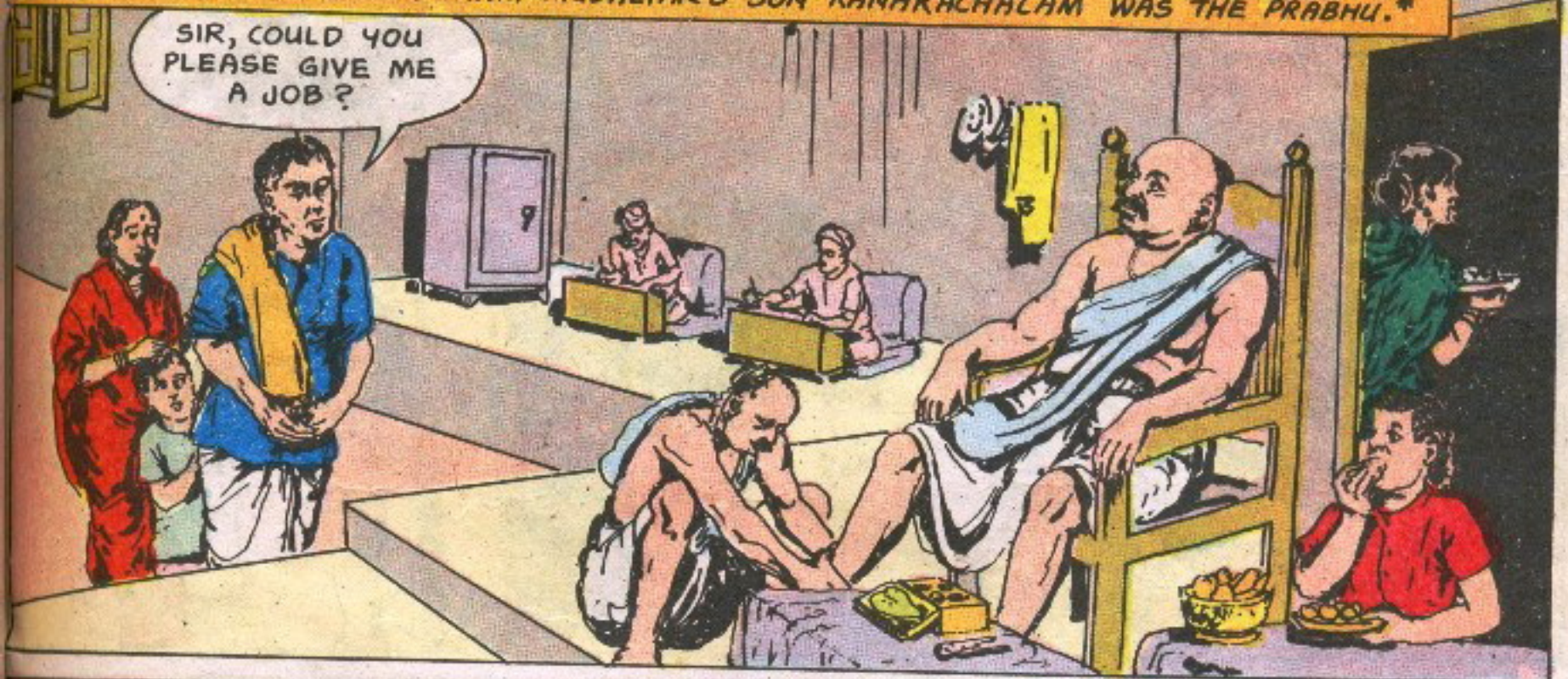
PILLAI WANDERED FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, DOING
ODD JOBS WHICH CAME HIS WAY...



...AND FINALLY WHEN THE CHILD KANAKAN WAS ABOUT EIGHT YEARS OLD THEY CAME TO SATYAPURI...



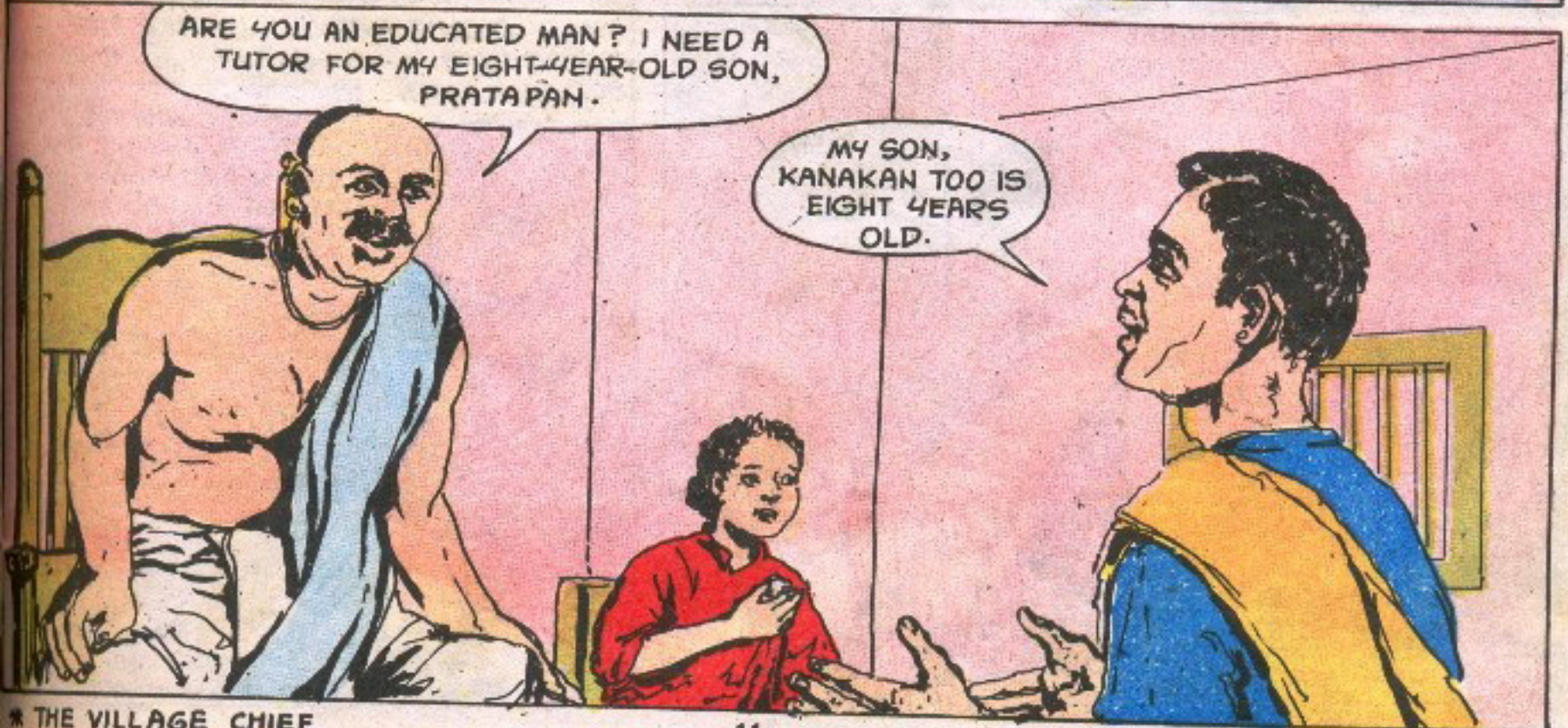
...WHERE THE LATE EKAMBARAM MUDALIAR'S SON KANAKACHALAM WAS THE PRABHU.*

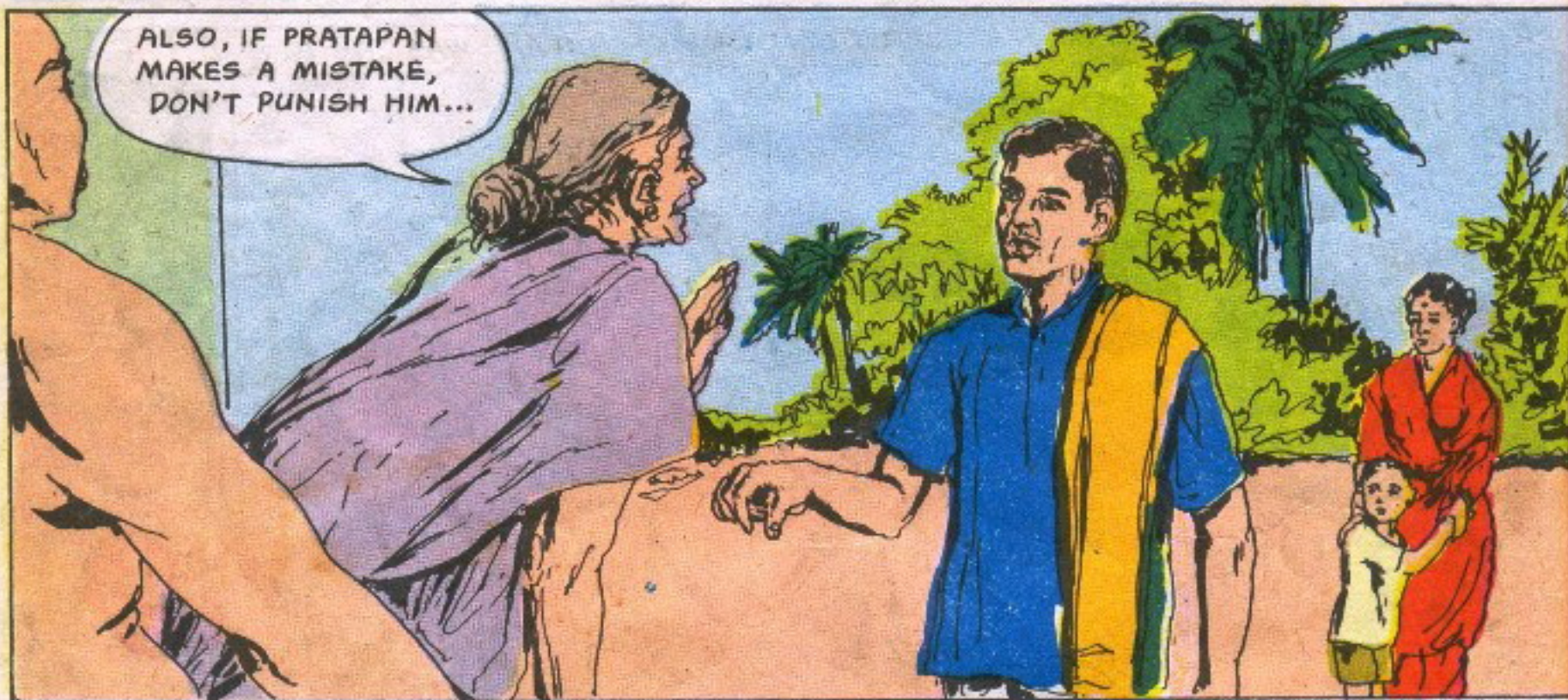
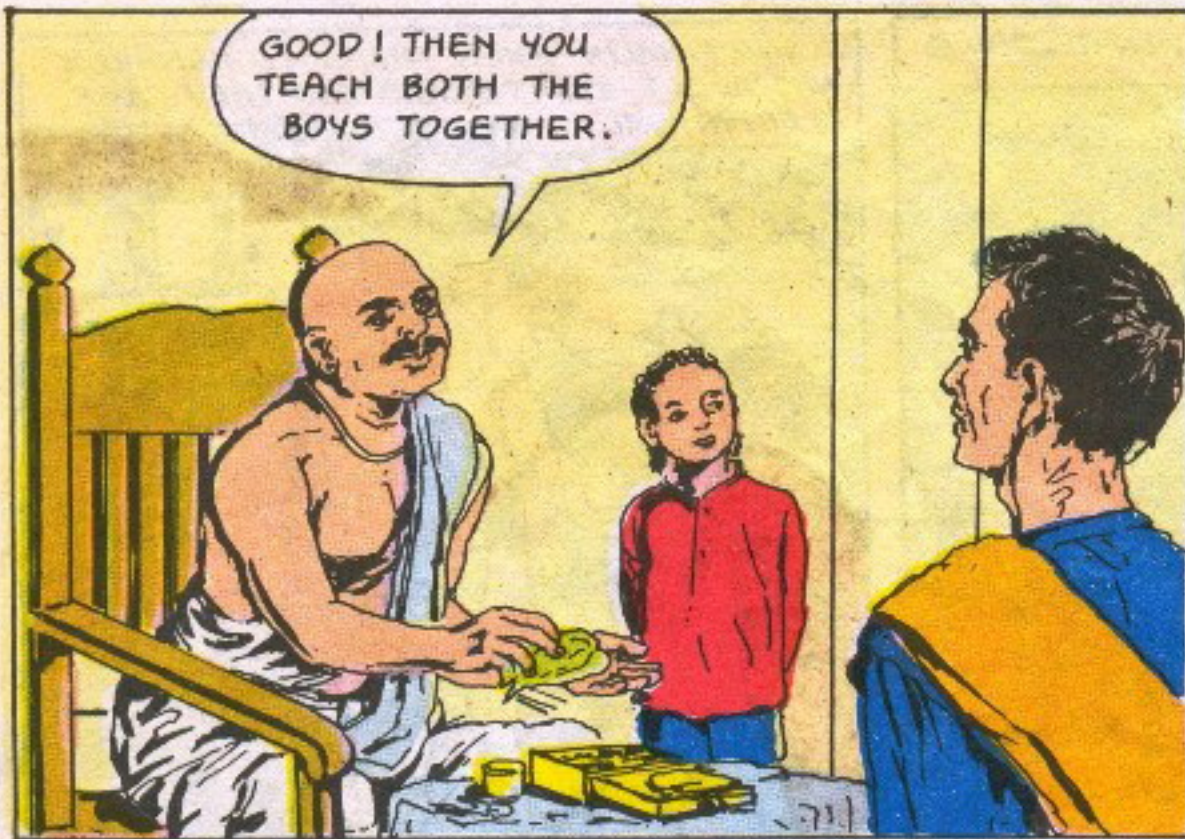


SIR, COULD YOU
PLEASE GIVE ME
A JOB?

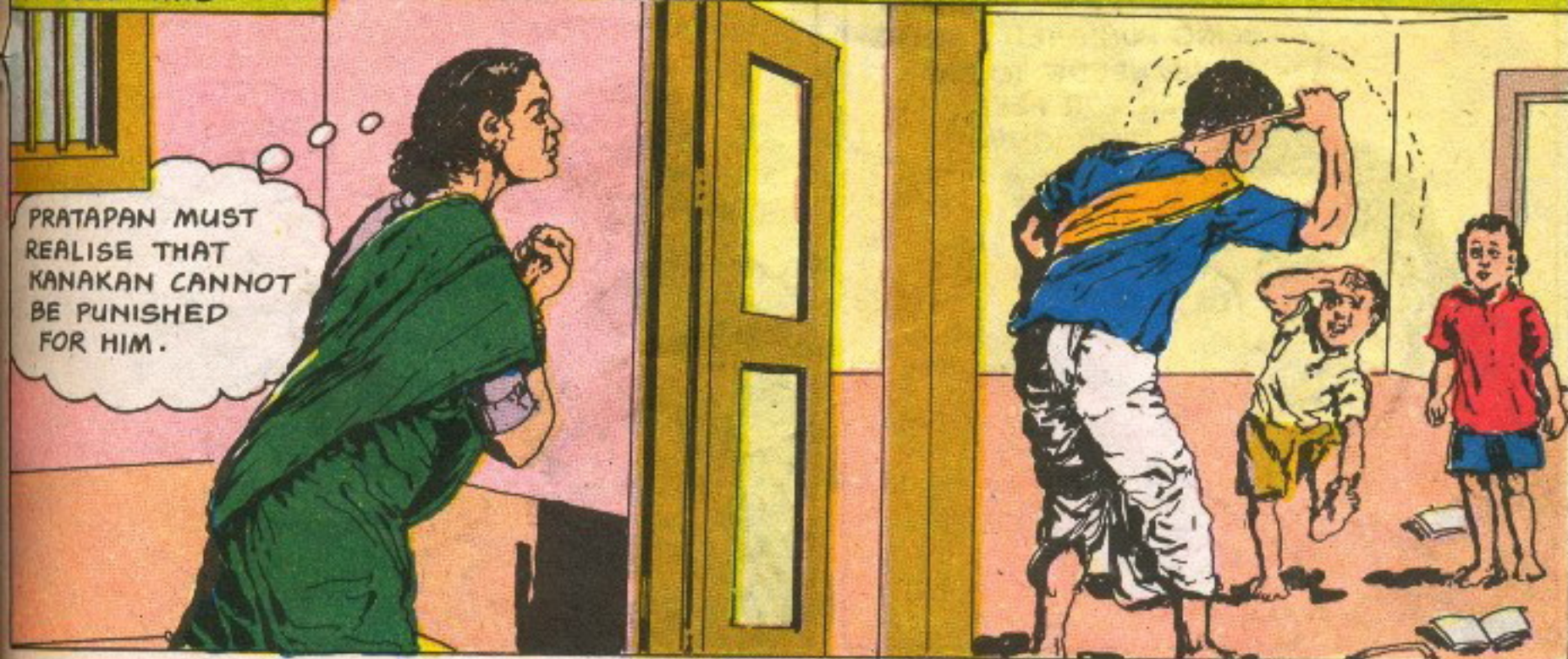
ARE YOU AN EDUCATED MAN? I NEED A
TUTOR FOR MY EIGHT-YEAR-OLD SON,
PRATAPAN.

MY SON,
KANAKAN TOO IS
EIGHT YEARS
OLD.

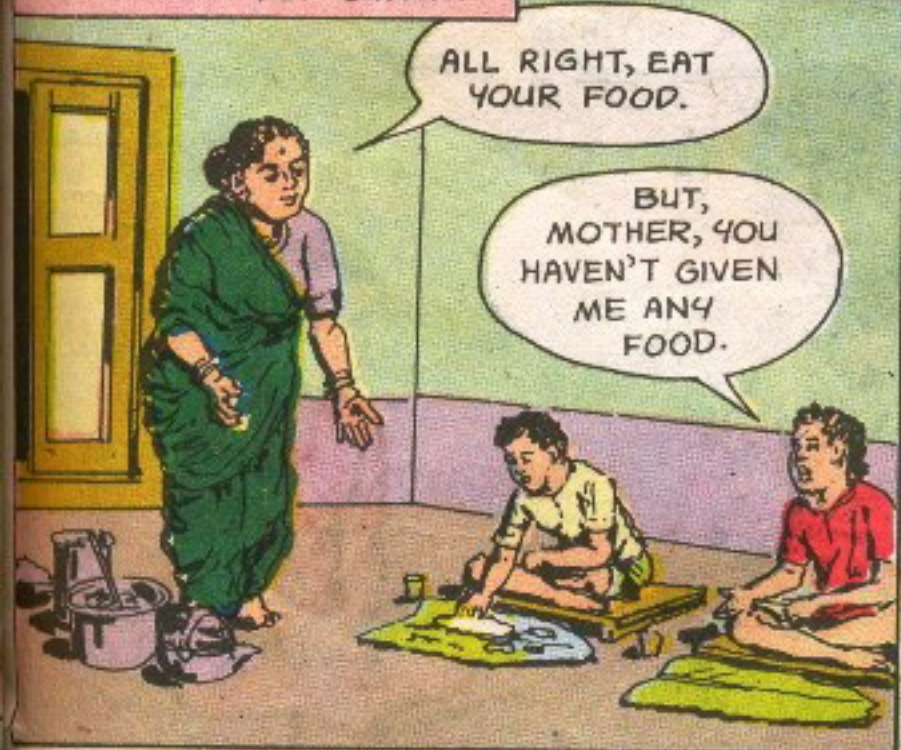


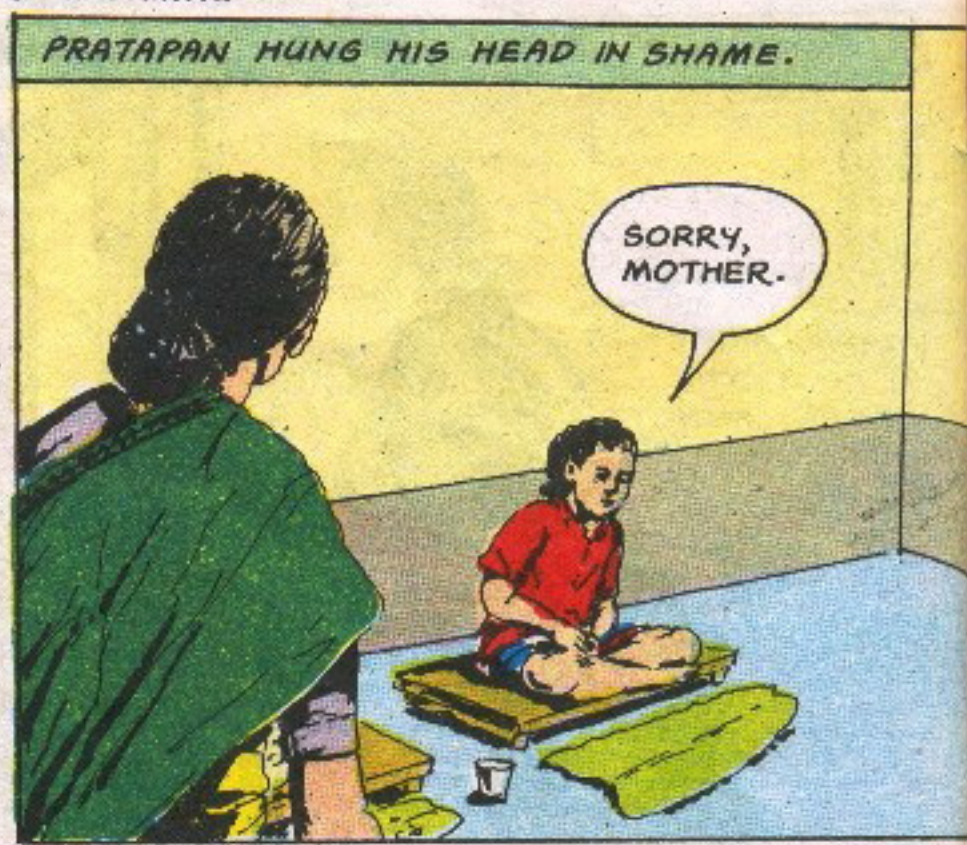
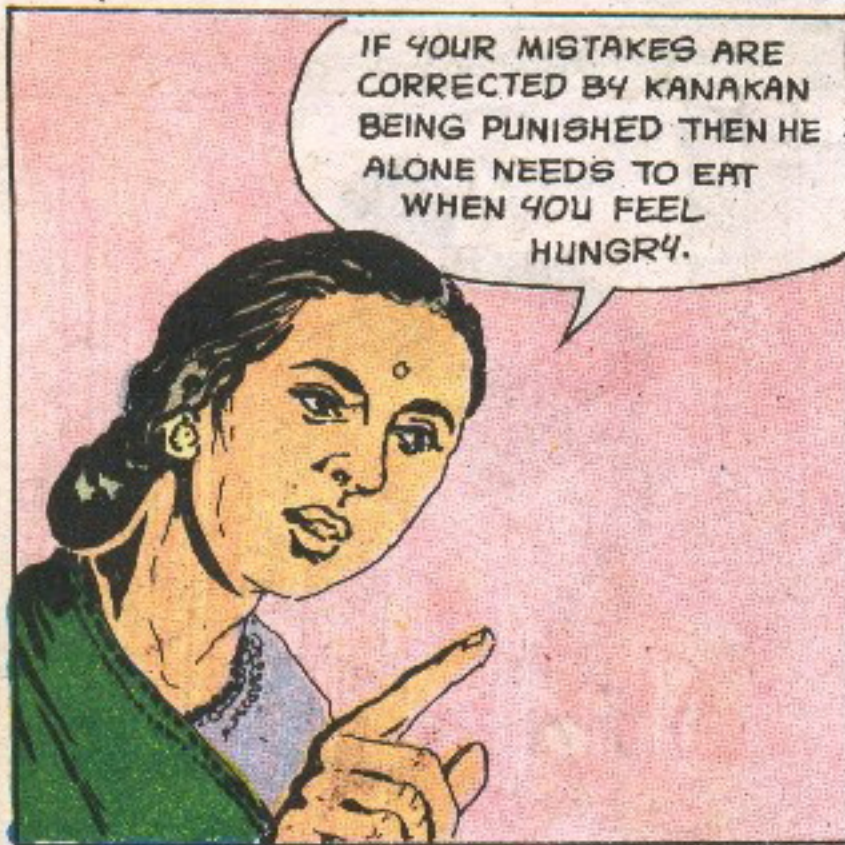


THUS KANAKAN WAS OFTEN CANED FOR NO FAULT OF HIS. WHEN PRATAPAN'S MOTHER FIRST NOTICED THIS —



SO ONE AFTERNOON, SHE CALLED BOTH PRATAPAN AND KANAKAN FOR LUNCH.





FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS KANAKAN AND PRATAPAN BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS.



A BET

PRATAPAN AND KANAKAN GREW UP AS GOOD FRIENDS. ONCE THEY HAD A BET.

CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR EYES OPEN WHAT I CAN WITH MY EYES CLOSED?

YOU BET I CAN!

ALL RIGHT! HERE IS A HANDFUL OF SAND...

...I WILL THROW IT ON MY FACE ...

... WITH MY EYES CLOSED.

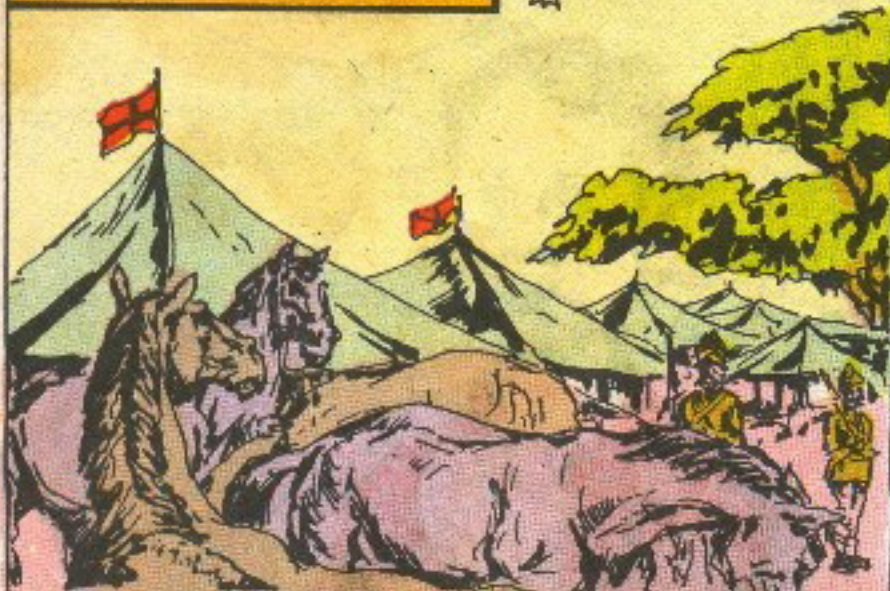
NOW, YOU DO THAT WITH YOUR EYES OPEN.

NO!

YOU LOSE YOUR BET THEN.

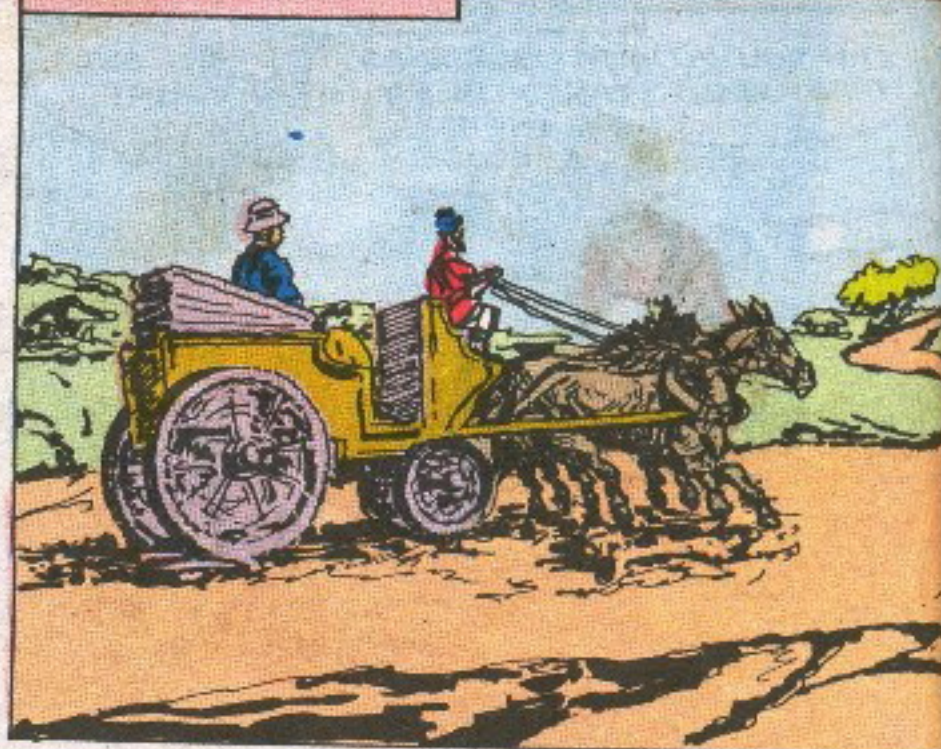
I'D RATHER LOSE MY BET THAN LOSE MY EYES.

KANAKAN MEETS THE GOVERNOR



ONCE THE GOVERNOR CAMPED NEAR SATYAPURI.

HE WENT OUT TO INSPECT THE VILLAGES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.



WHILE RETURNING TO THE CAMP IN THE EVENING HE LOST HIS WAY.



ARE YOU SURE THIS ROAD GOES TO OUR CAMP?

I DON'T KNOW, HUZOOR.



ASK THAT BOY.

THE BOY THEY SPOKE TO WAS KANAKAN.

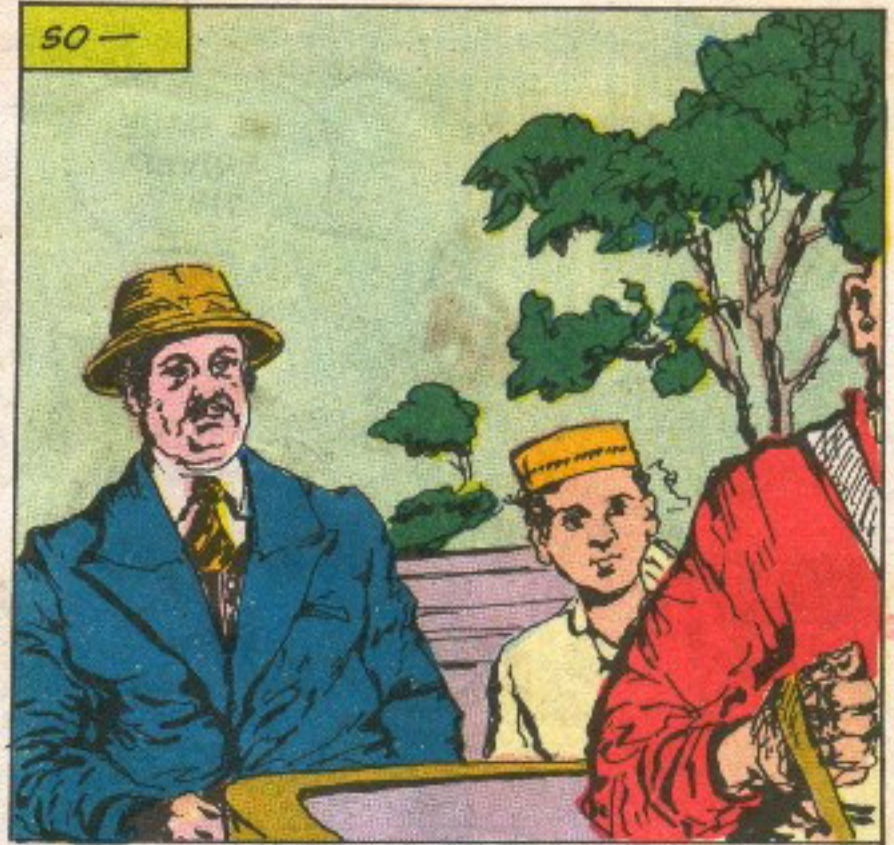
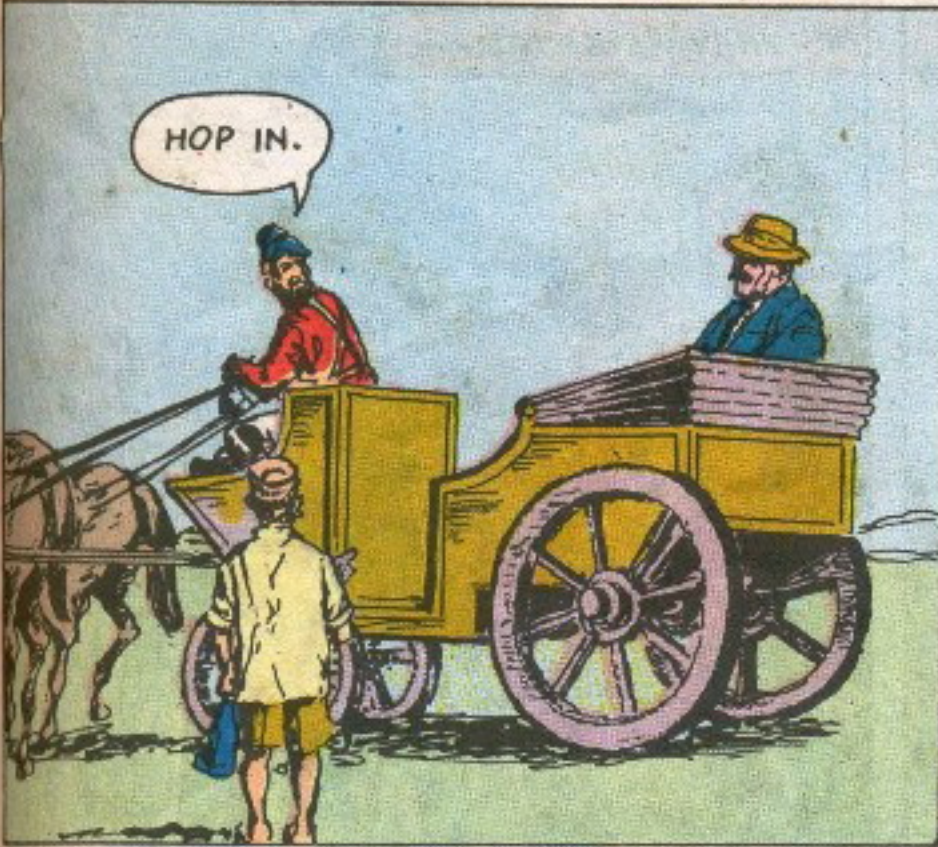
COULD YOU TAKE US TO THE GOVERNOR'S CAMP?

YES, I CAN.



50 —

HOP IN.



GO STRAIGHT AND
TAKE THE FIRST
TURN TO THE
LEFT... THEN...



ON THE WAY —

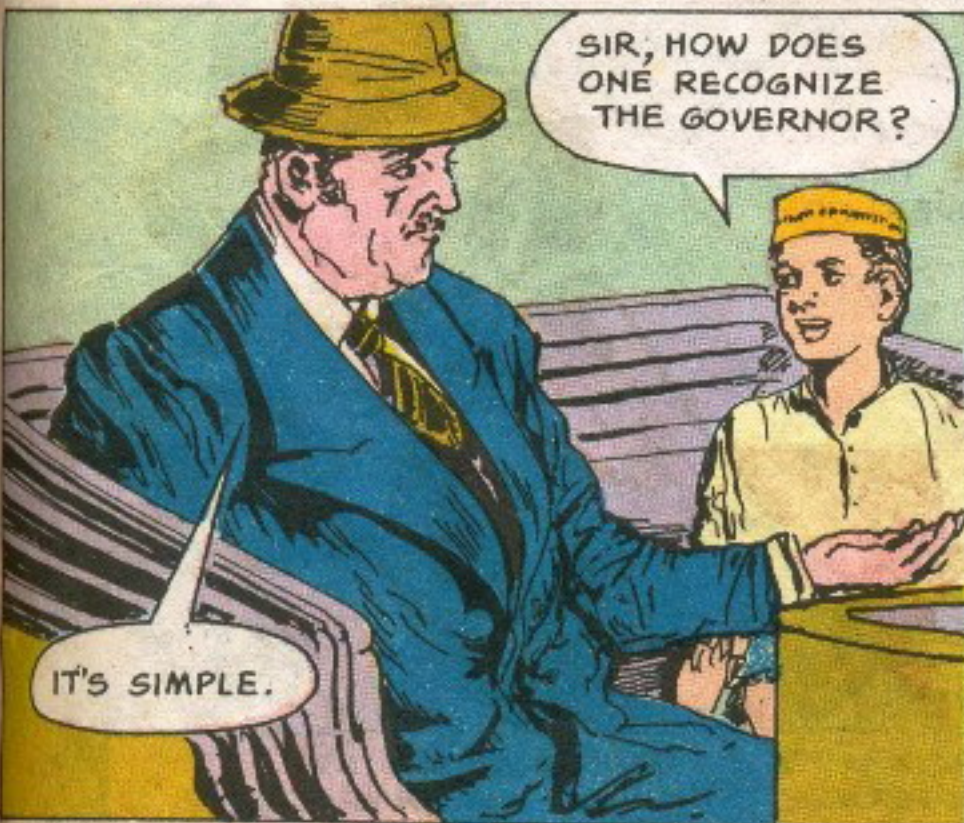
SIR, ARE YOU
GOING TO THE
GOVERNOR'S
CAMP?

YES.



SIR, HOW DOES
ONE RECOGNIZE
THE GOVERNOR?

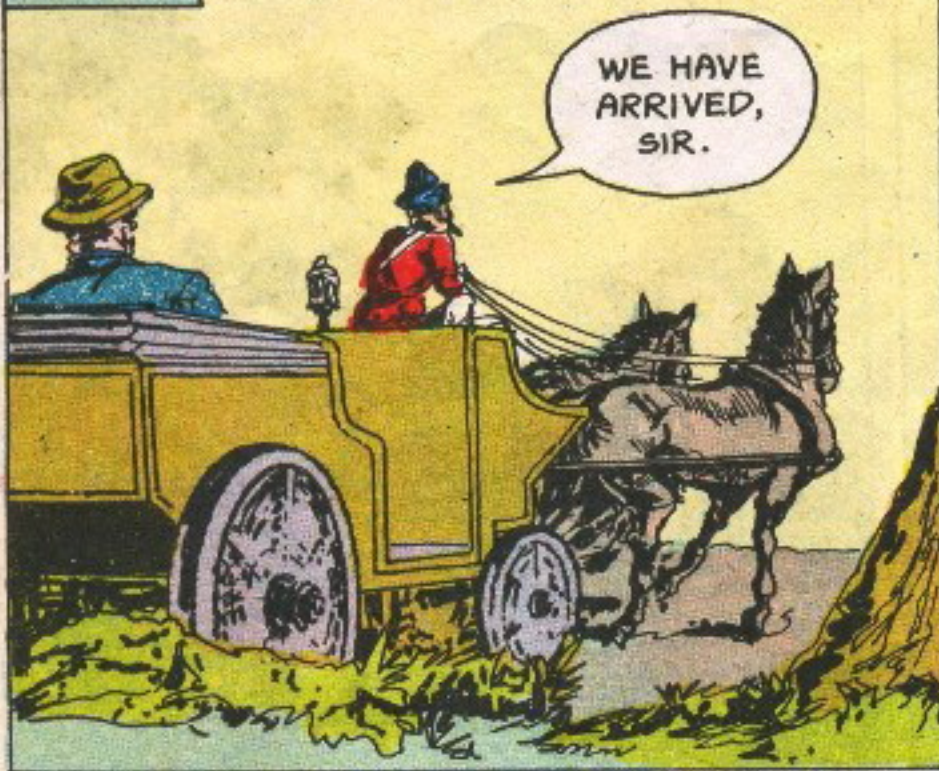
IT'S SIMPLE.



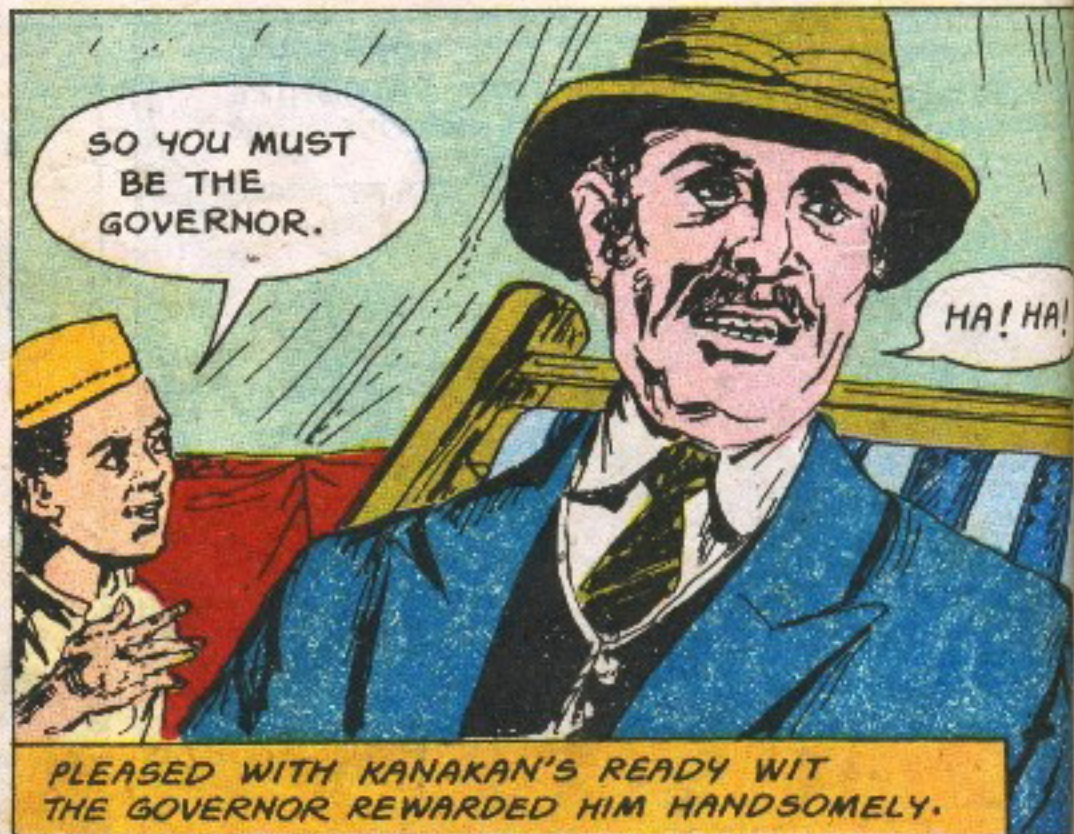
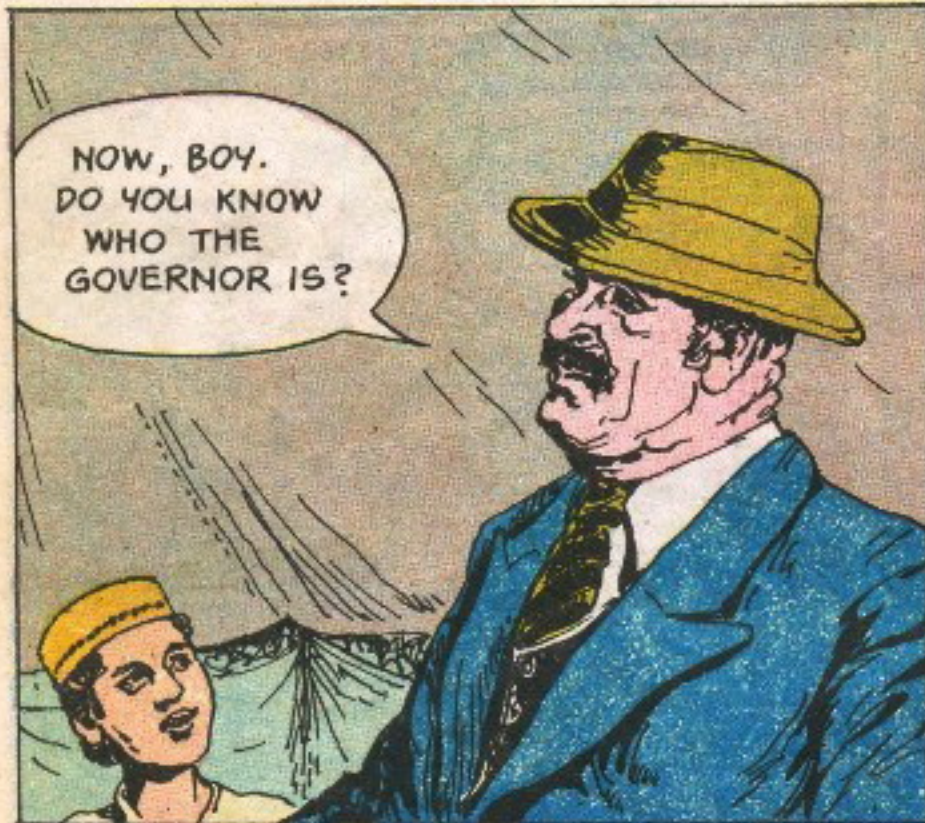
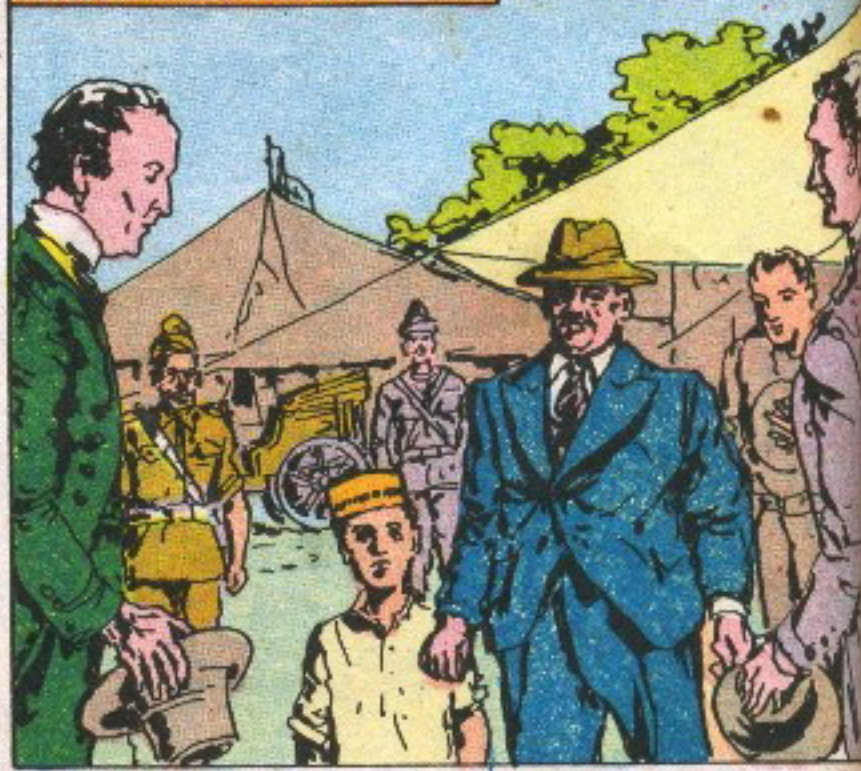
WHEN THE
GOVERNOR
APPEARS,
EVERYONE
PRESENT
REMOVES
HIS HAT AS
A MARK OF
RESPECT...



SOON —



AS THEY ALIGHTED —



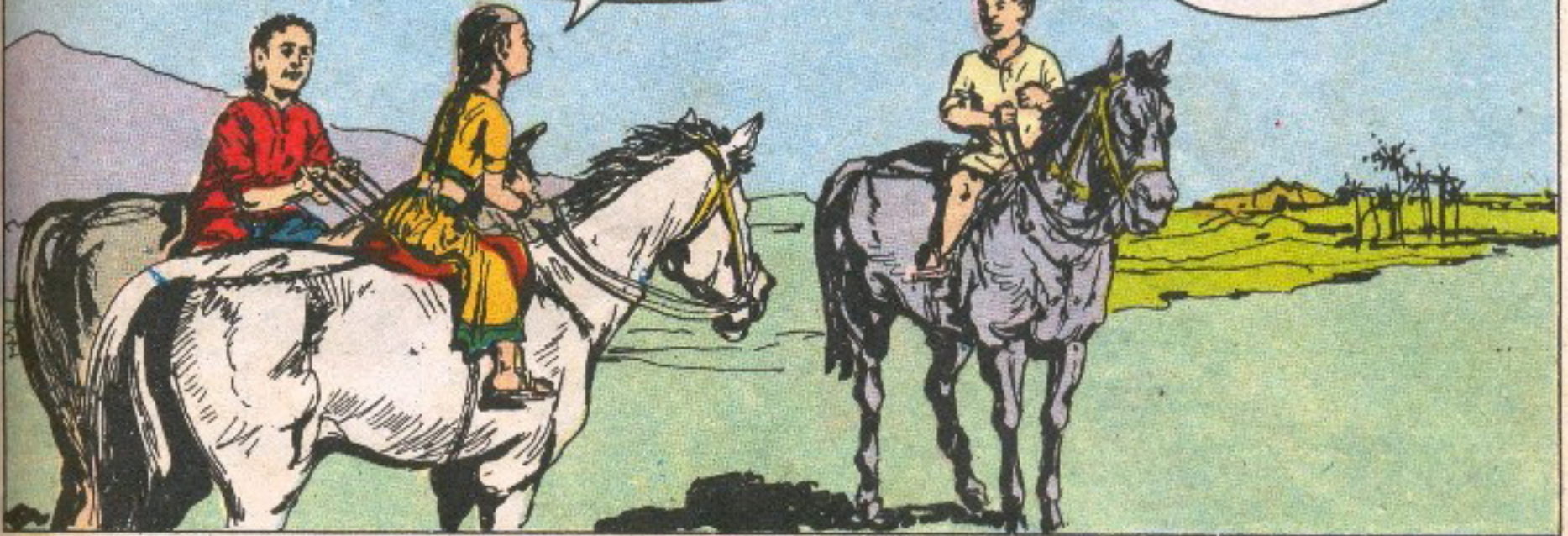
PLEASED WITH KANAKAN'S READY WIT THE GOVERNOR REWARDED HIM HANDSOMELY.

THE RACE

JNANAM, THE DAUGHTER OF PRATAPAN'S UNCLE, WOULD OFTEN PLAY WITH THE BOYS.

LET'S HAVE A RACE.

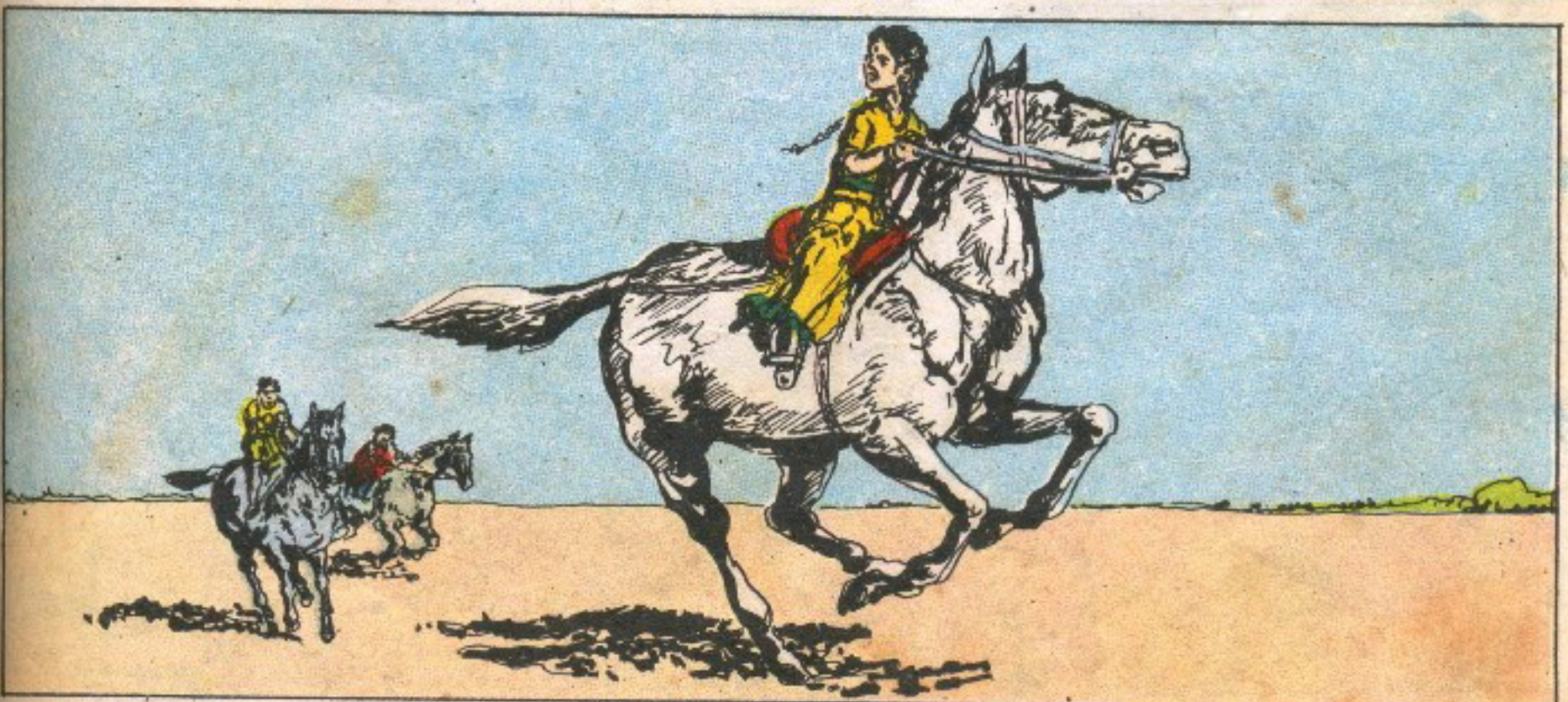
YES, THAT WILL BE FUN.

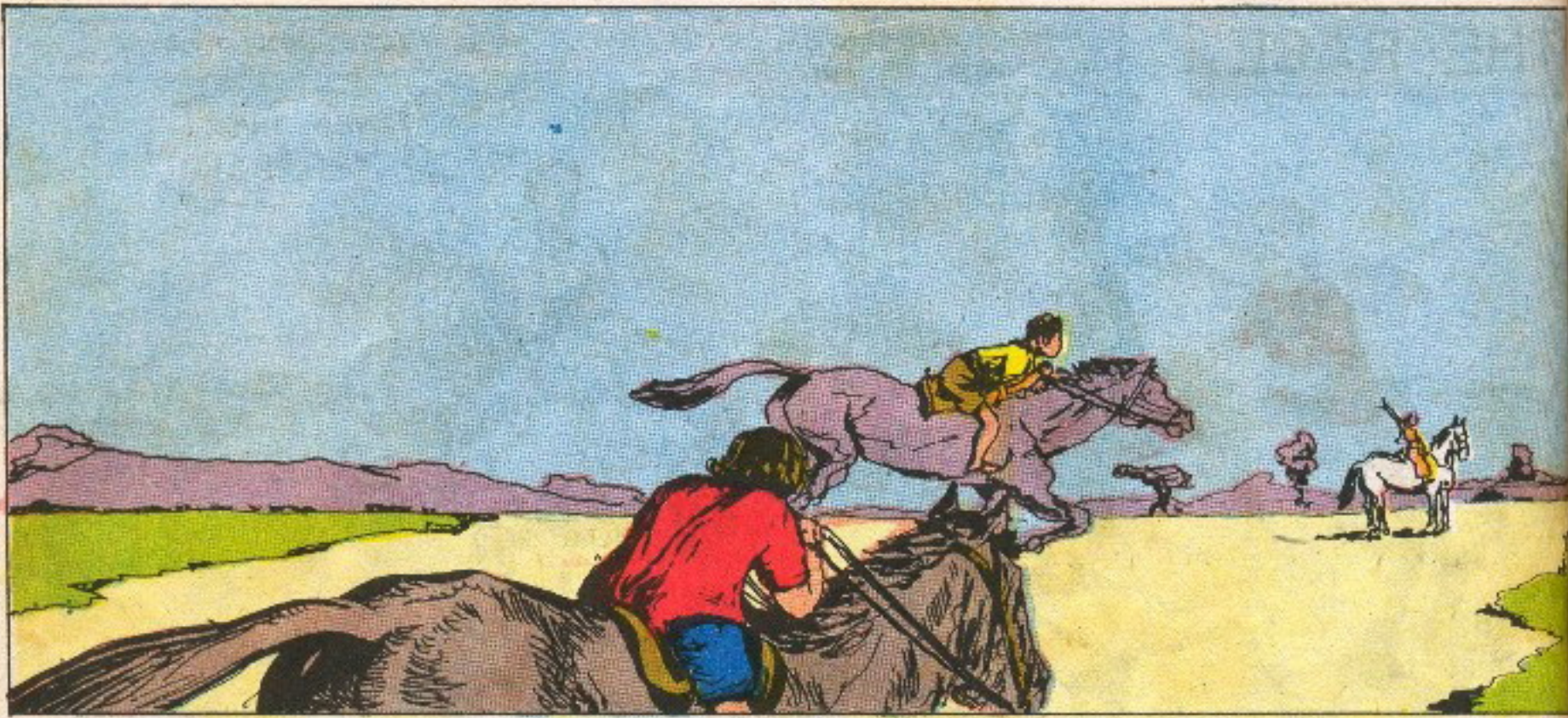


ONE... TWO...
THREE...

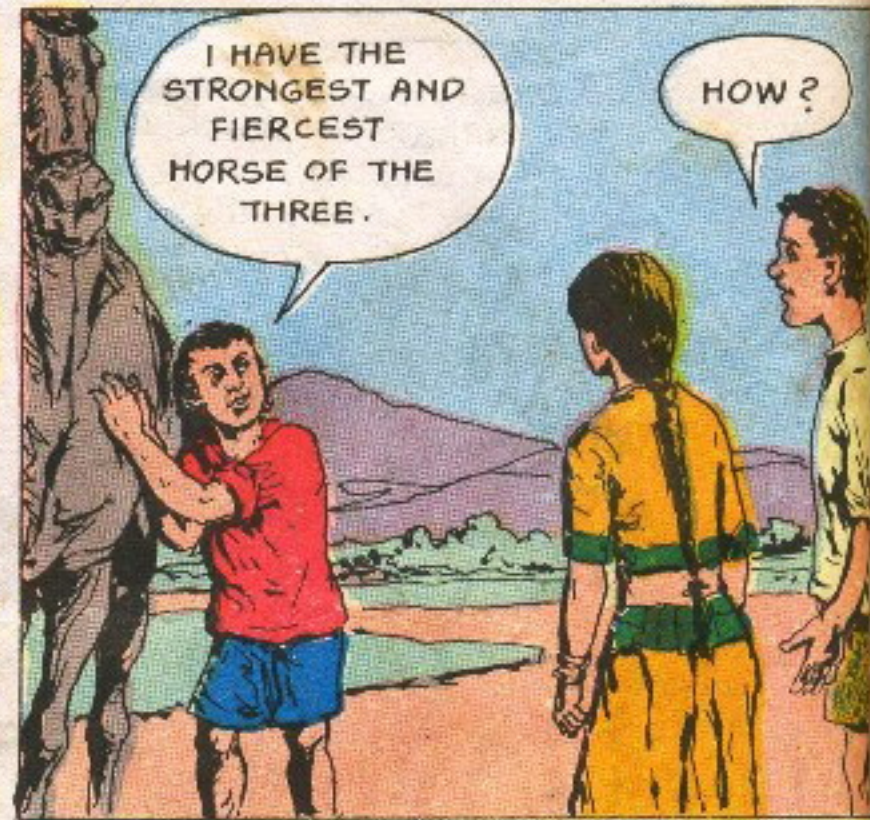
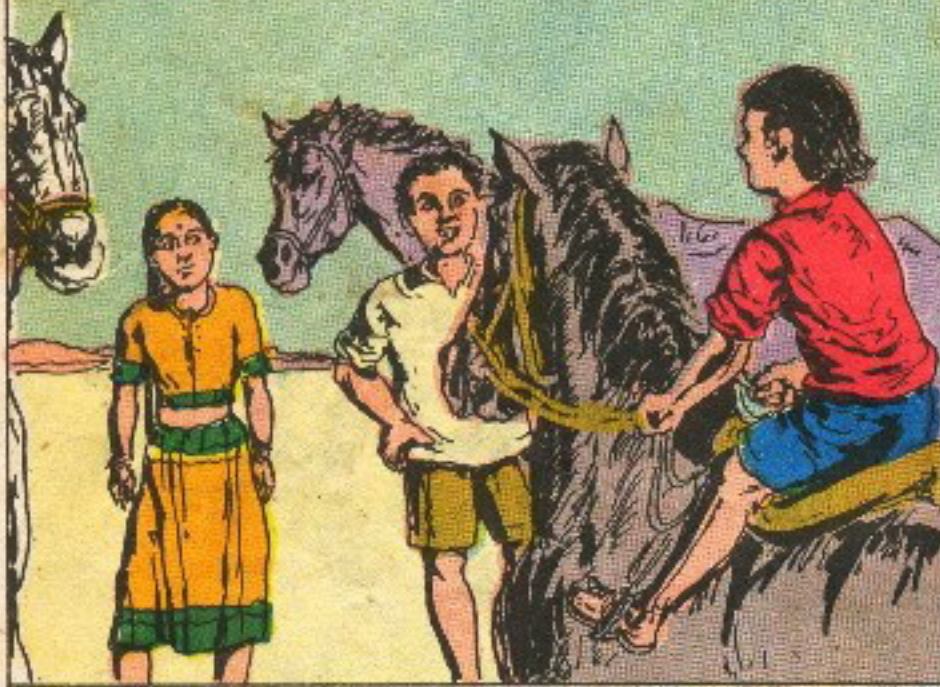


OFF!





PRATAPAN WAS THE LAST ONE TO REACH THE FINISH.



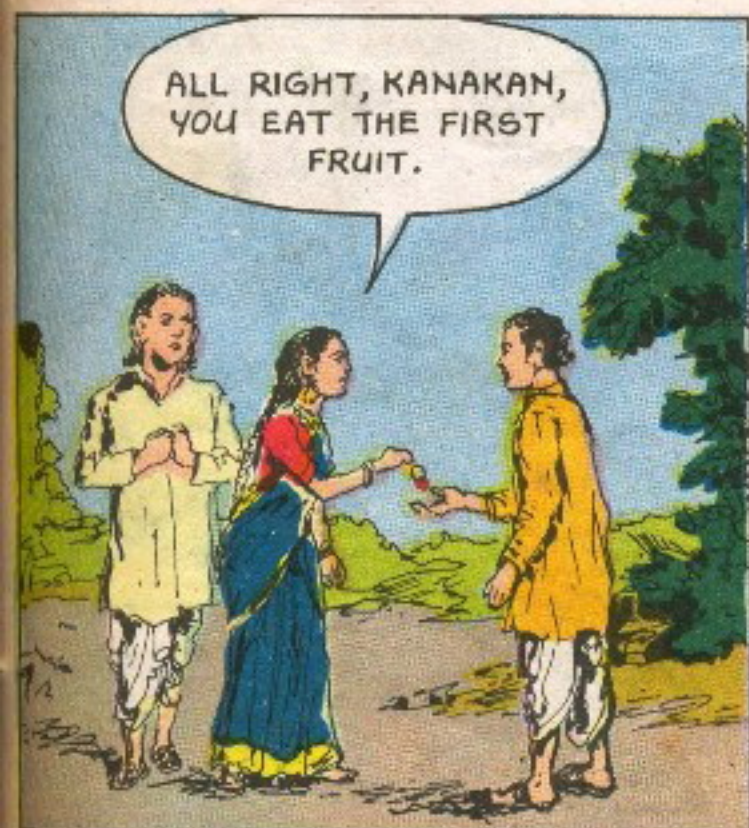
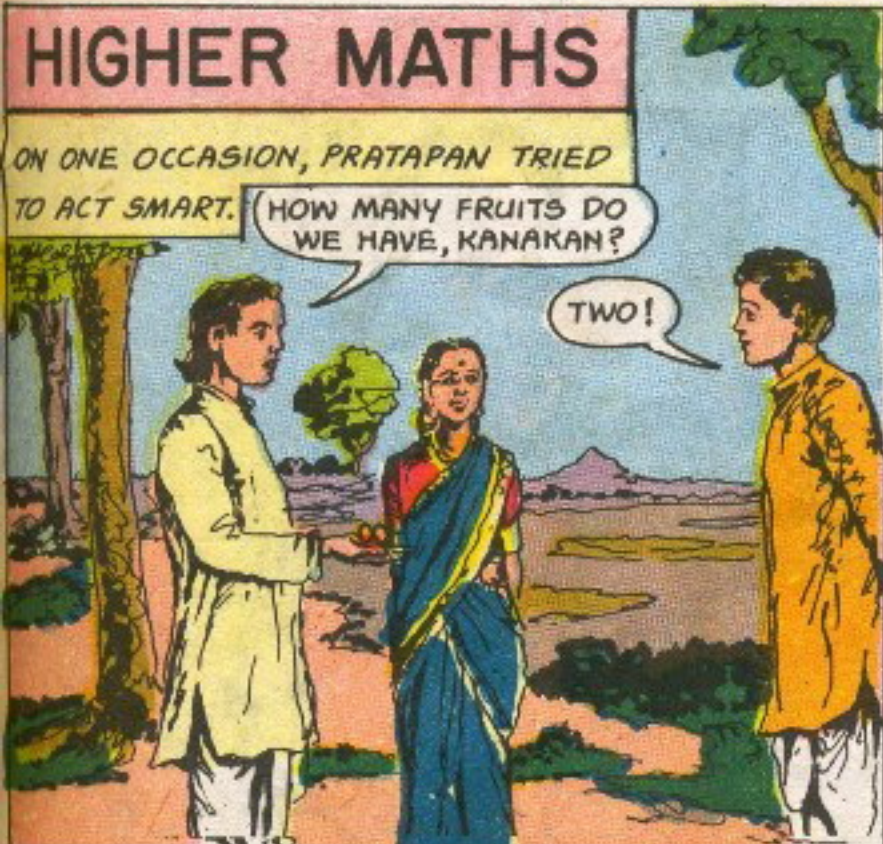
I HAVE THE STRONGEST AND FIERCEST HORSE OF THE THREE.

HOW?



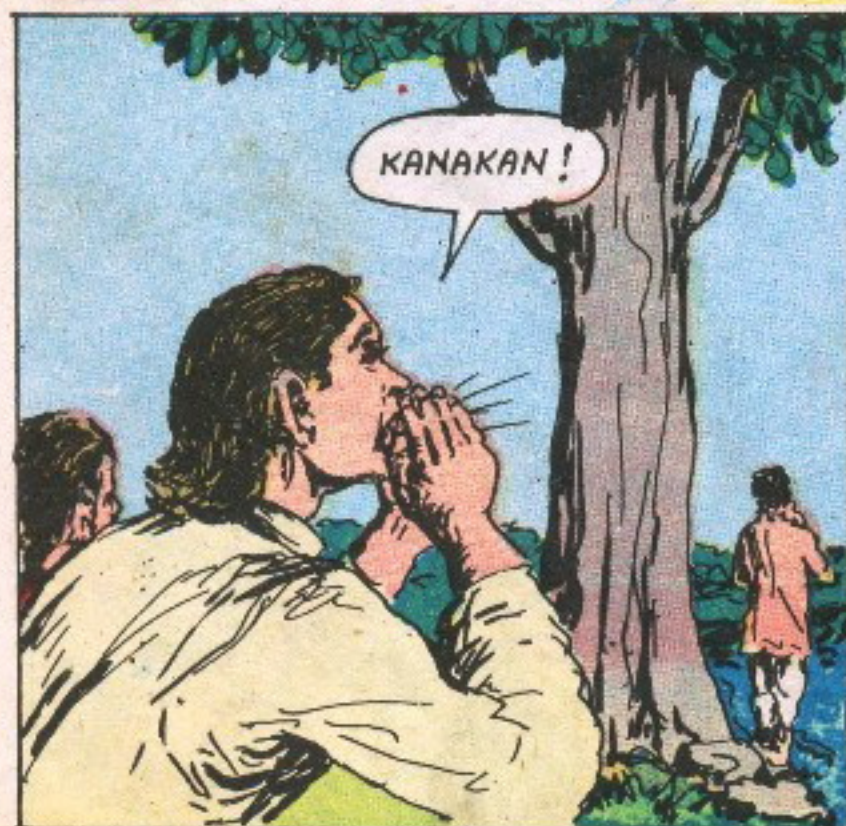
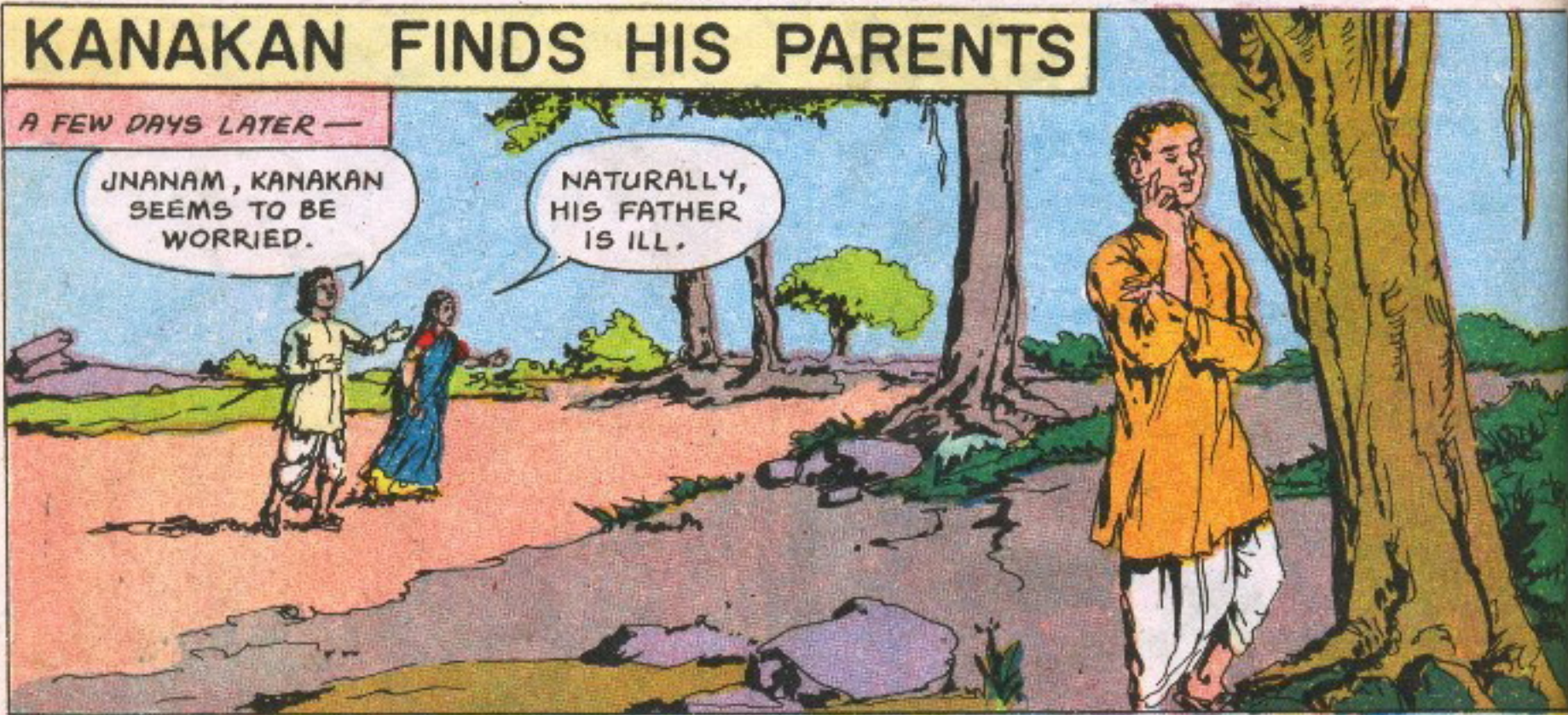
IT FRIGHTENED YOUR HORSES INTO RUNNING FASTER, DIDN'T IT?

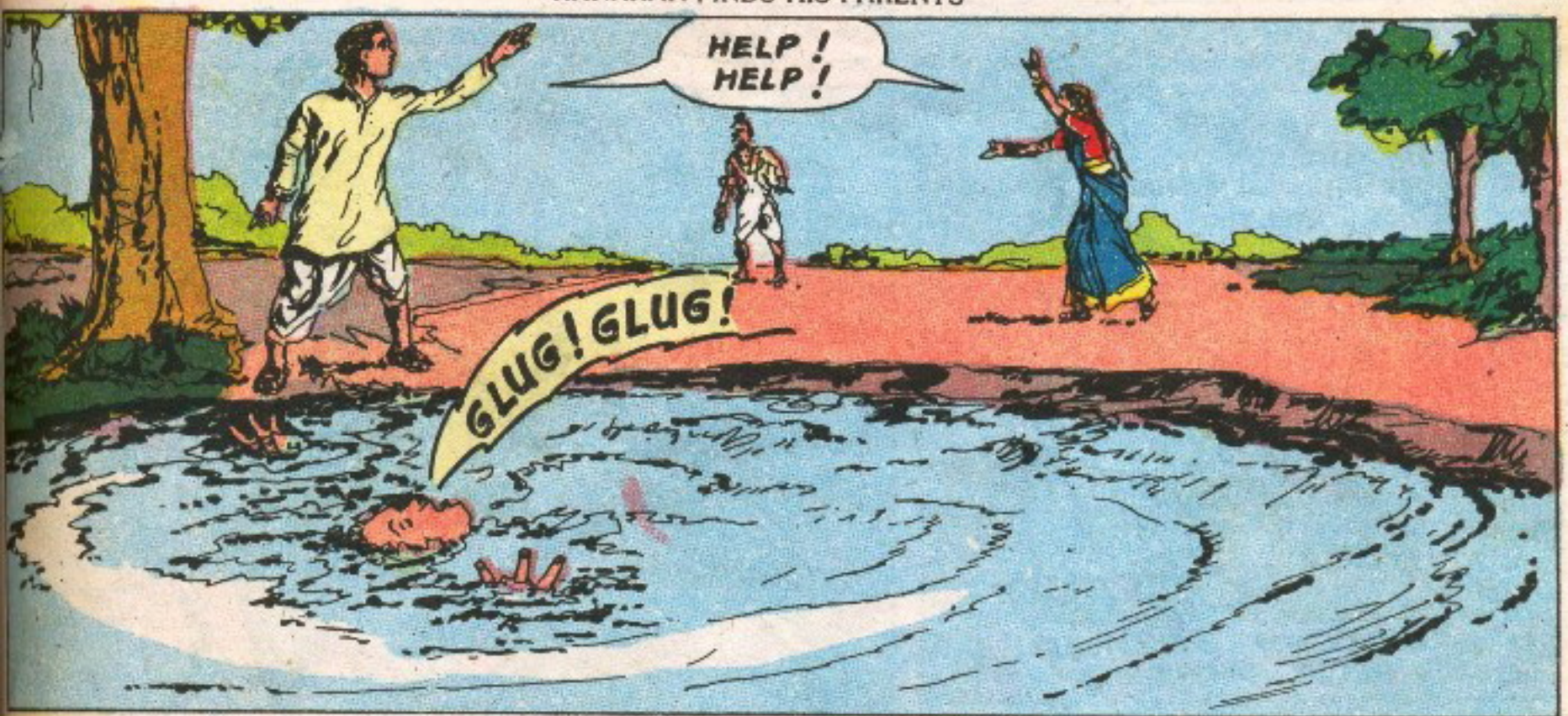
HA! HA!



KANAKAN FINDS HIS PARENTS

A FEW DAYS LATER —

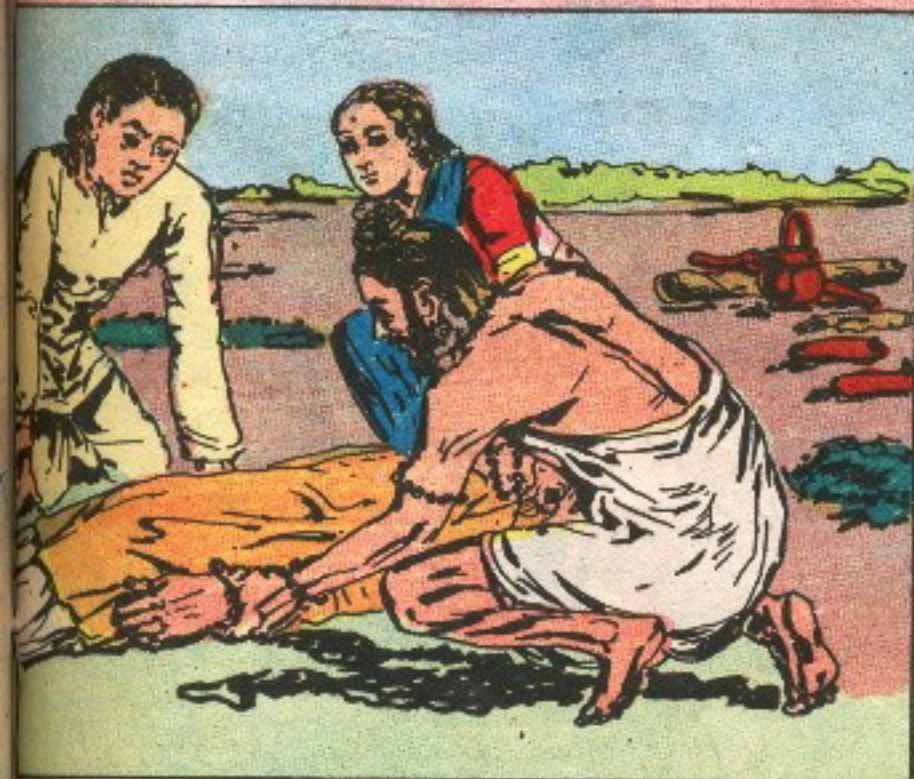




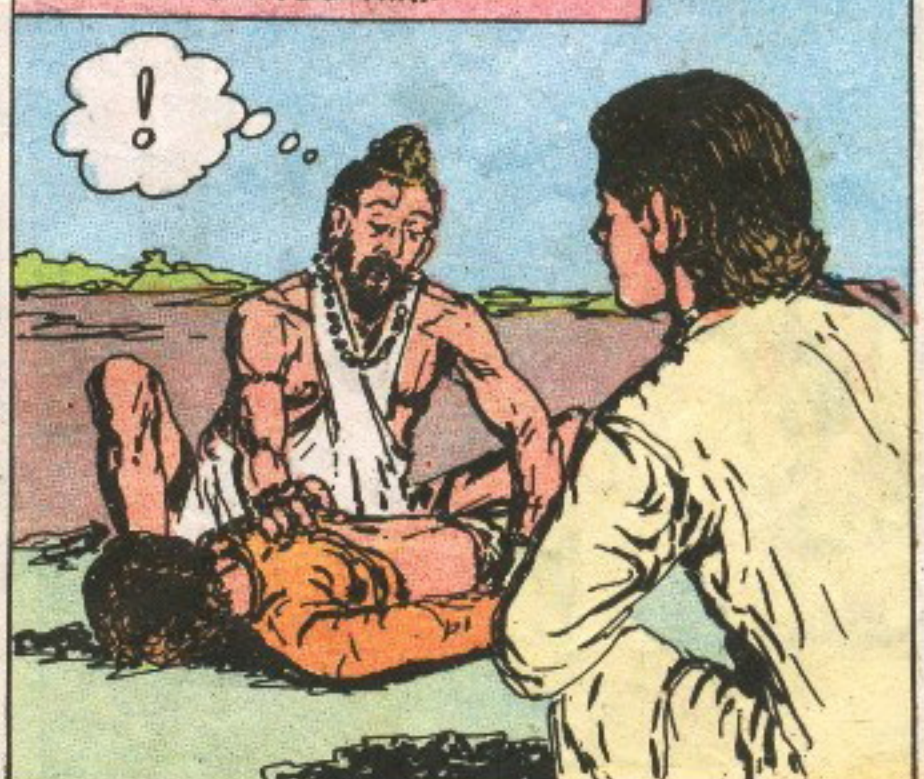
HEARING THEIR CRIES AN ASCETIC RUSHED TO THEIR AID...

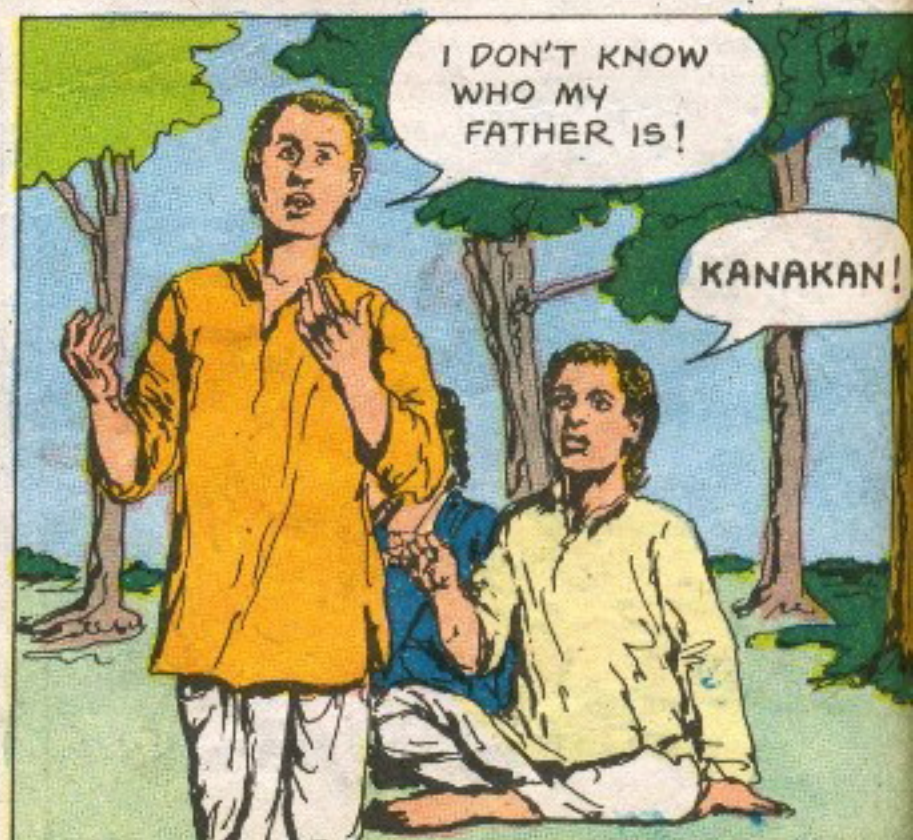
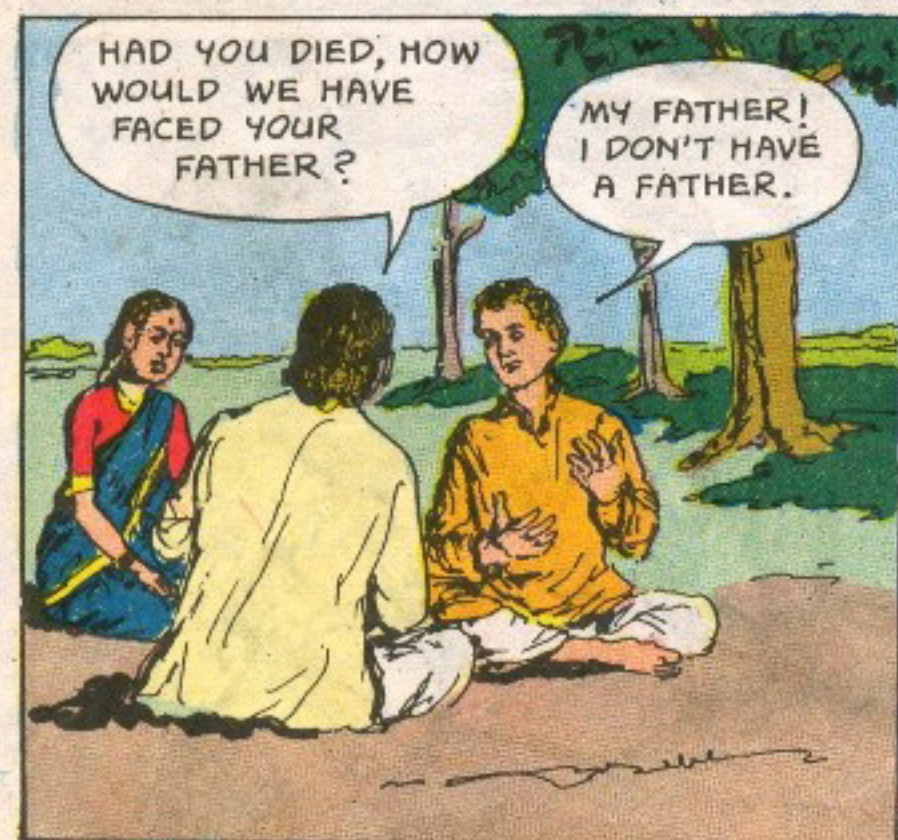
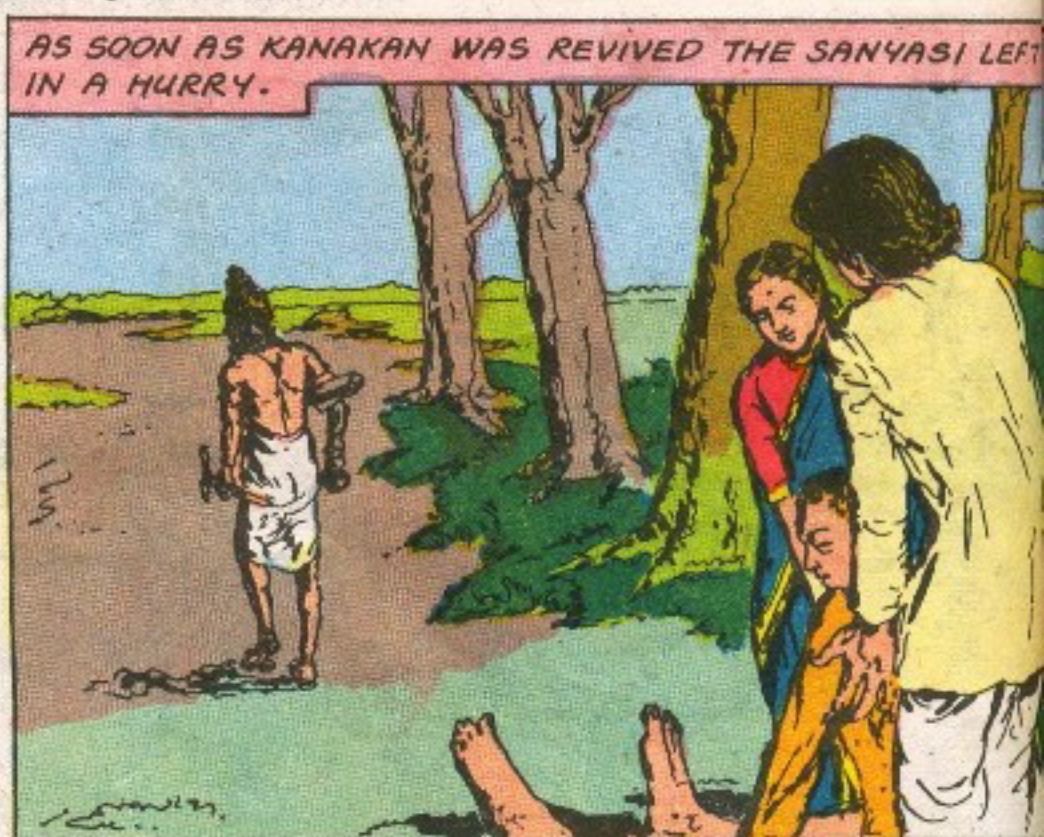
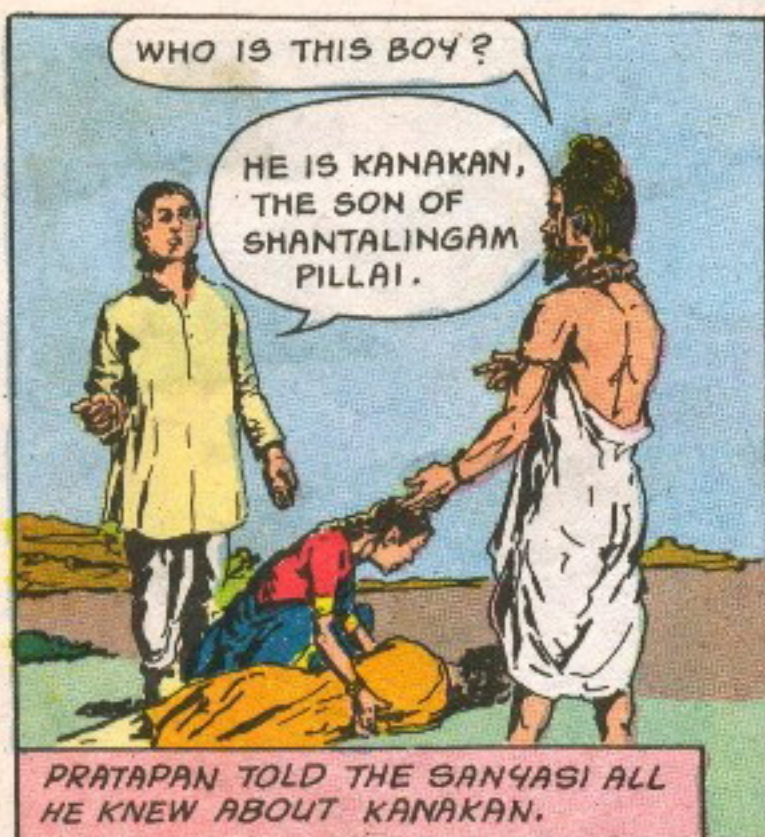


...HE BROUGHT KANAKAN ONTO THE BANK...



...AND REVIVED HIM.





YOU ARE SHOCKED. SO WAS I WHEN THE MAN I LOOK UPON AS MY FATHER TOLD ME WHEN HE WAS ILL.

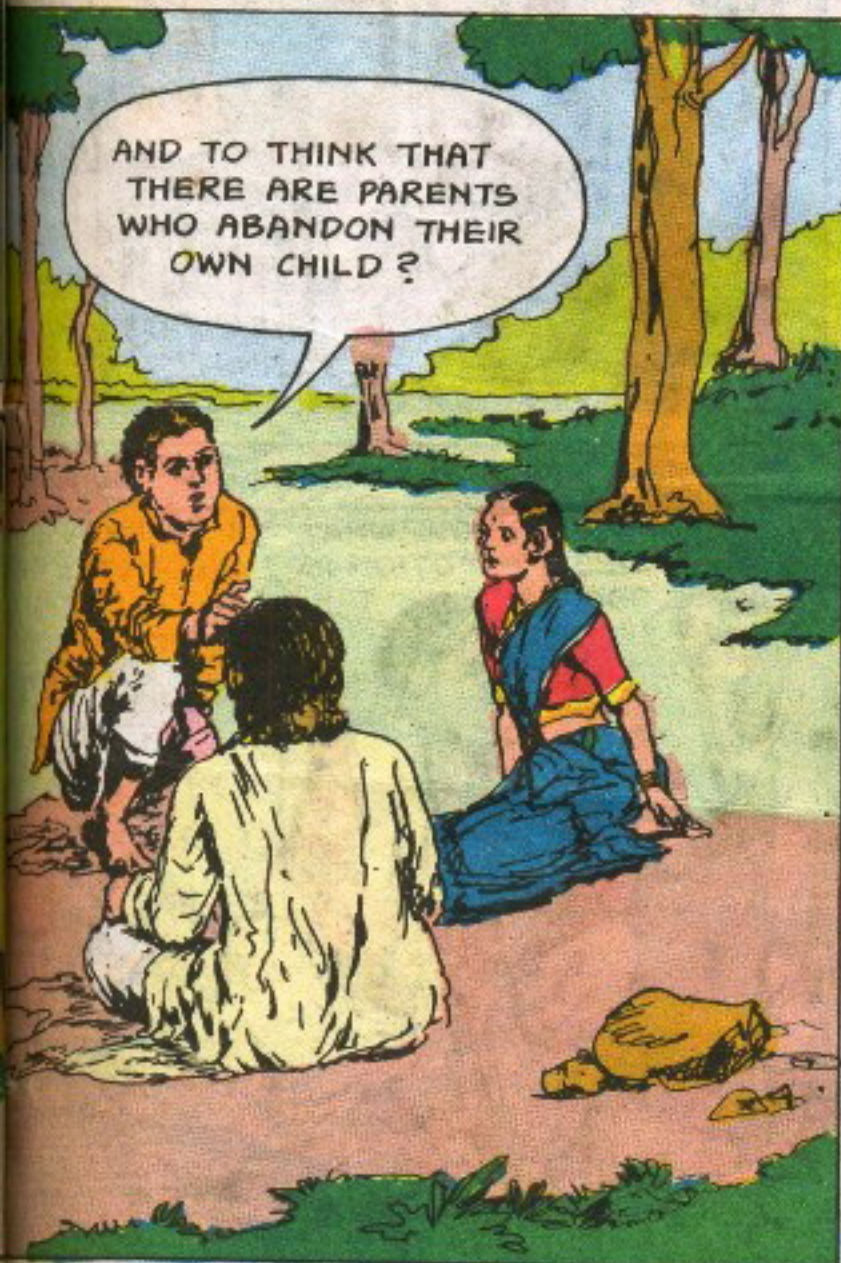


KANAKAN BROKE INTO TEARS.

CAN ANYONE BE MORE UNFORTUNATE THAN THE ONE WHO DOES NOT KNOW WHO HIS PARENTS ARE?



AND TO THINK THAT THERE ARE PARENTS WHO ABANDON THEIR OWN CHILD?

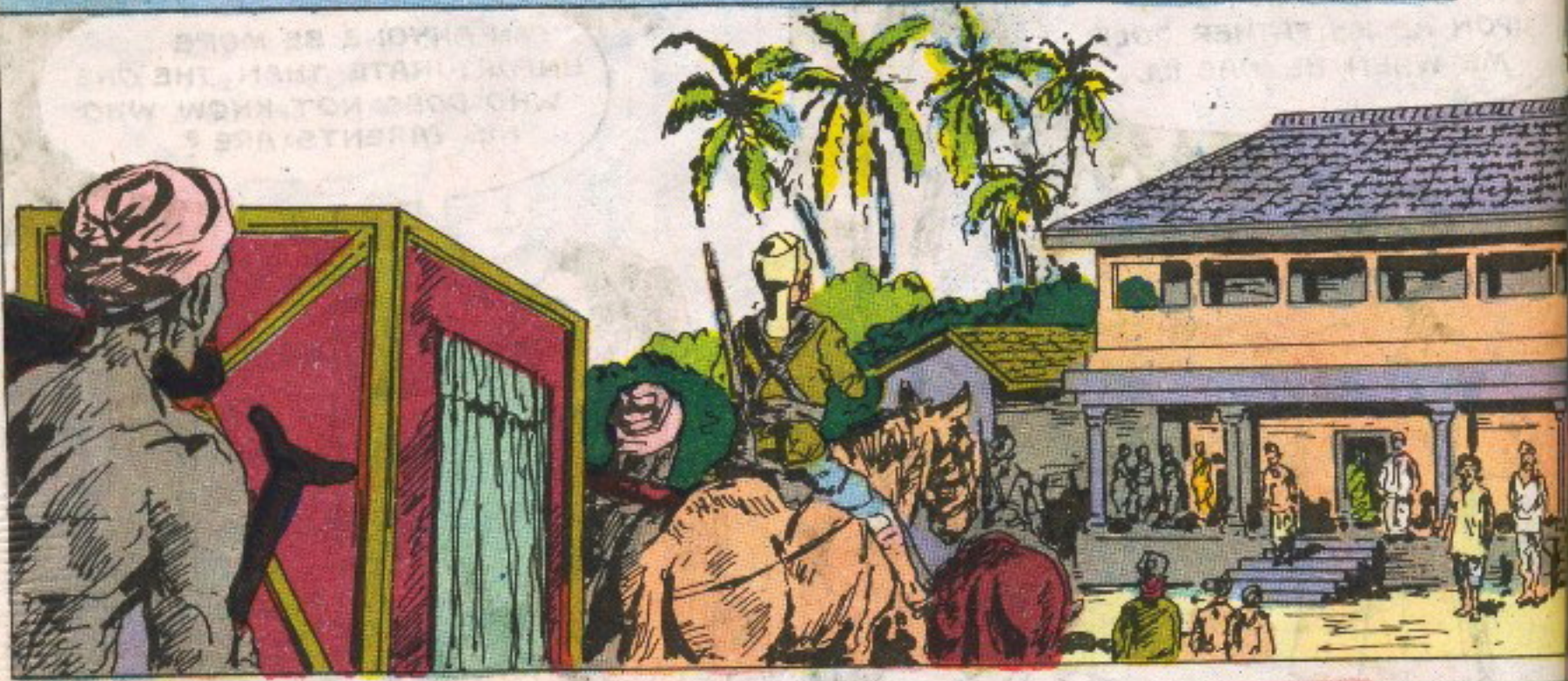


PRATAPAN AND JNANAM TRIED THEIR BEST TO CONSOLE THEIR FRIEND.

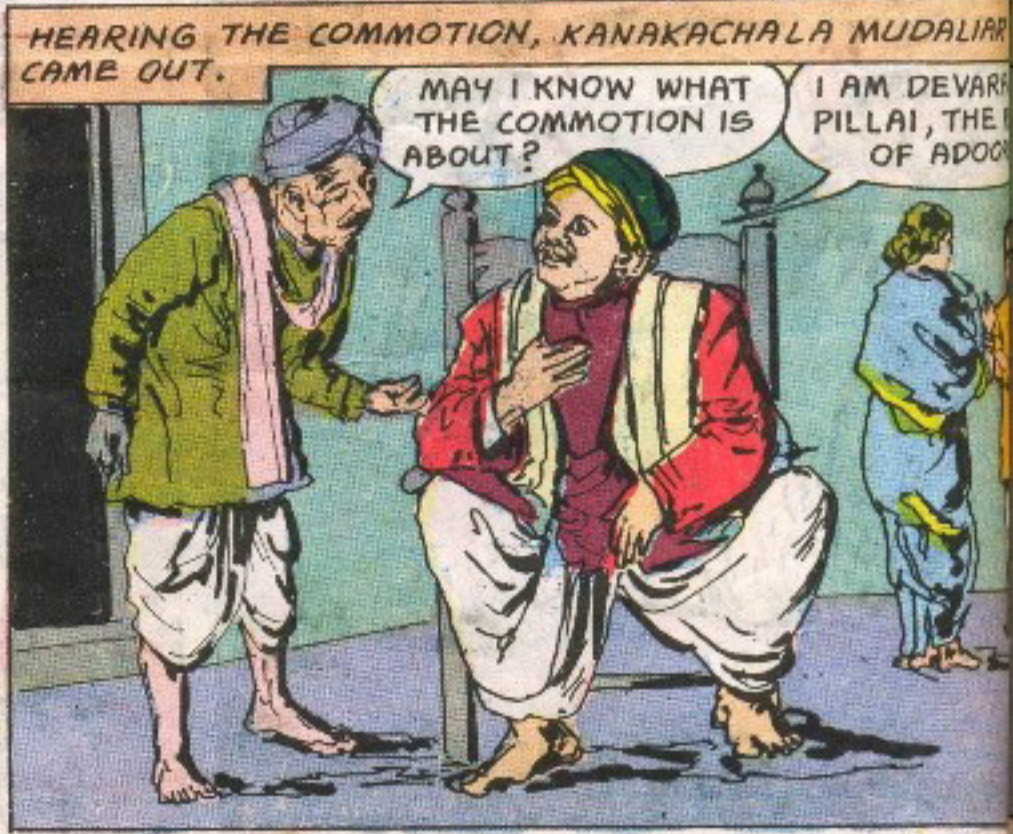
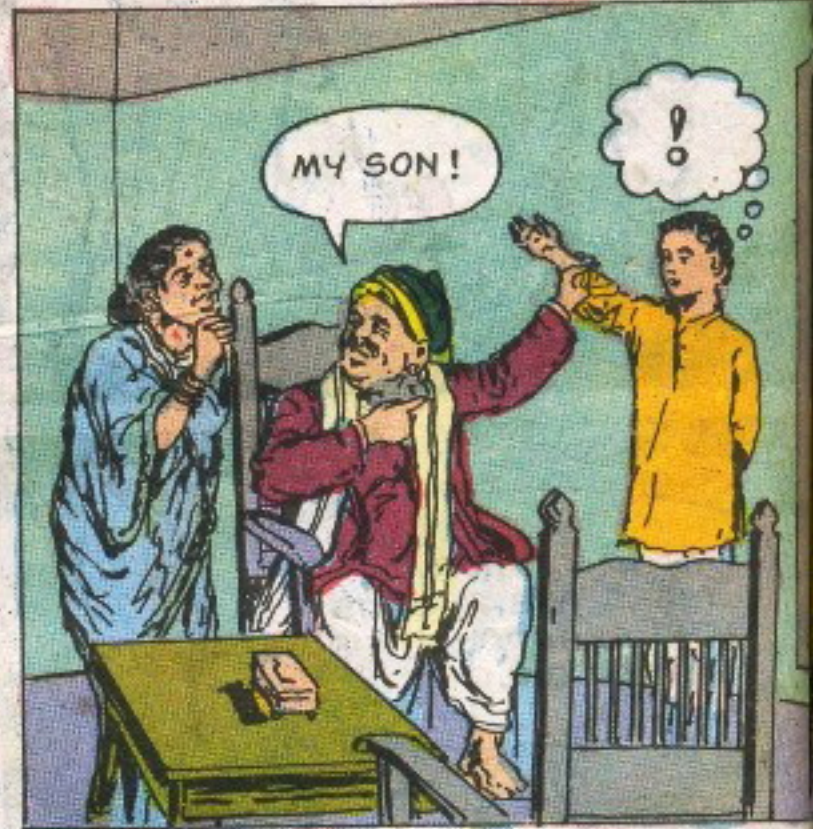
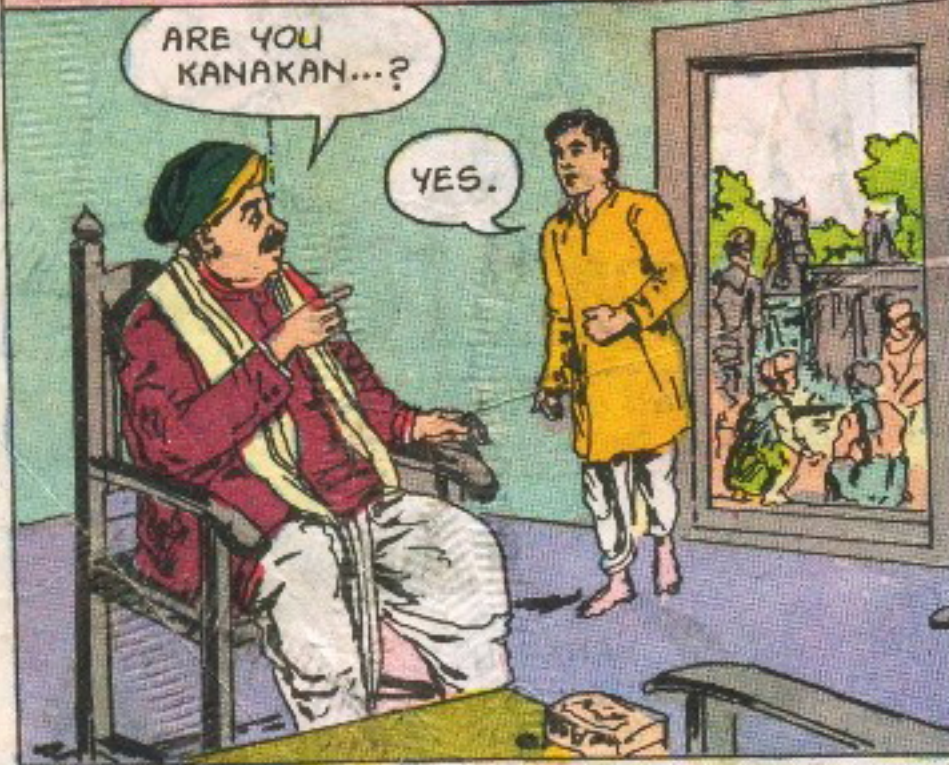
KANAKAN, YOU WILL CERTAINLY FIND YOUR PARENTS. HAVE FAITH.



A FEW DAYS LATER, A PRABHU CAME TO THE VILLAGE WITH A LARGE RETINUE.

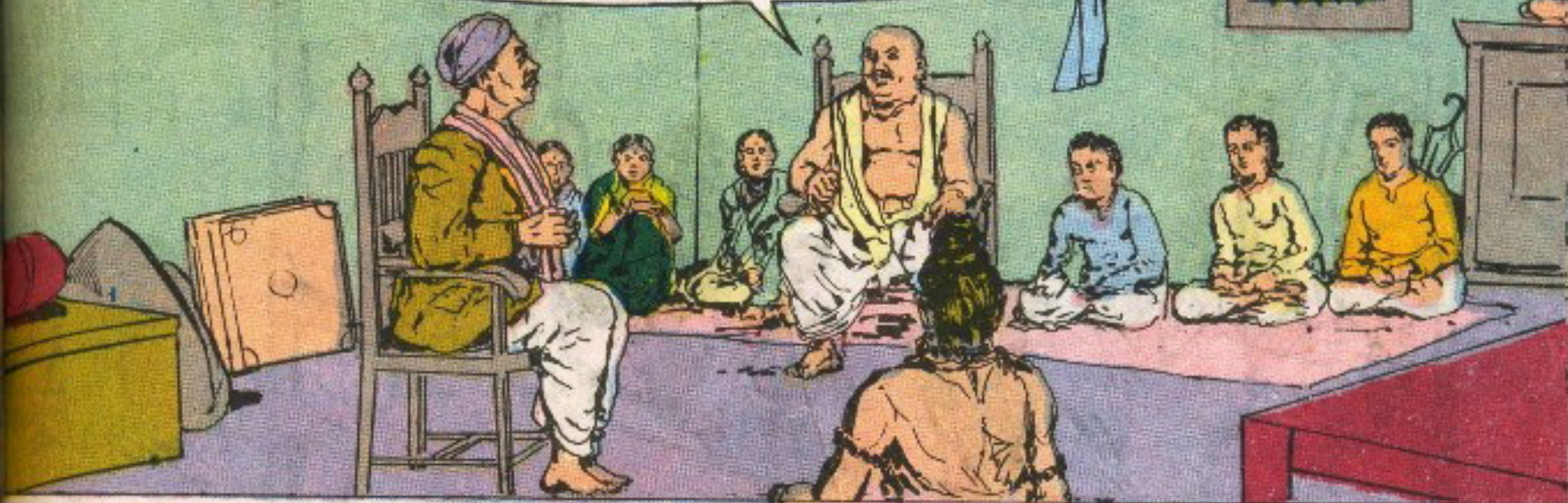


HE WENT STRAIGHT TO MUDALIAR'S HOUSE.



LATER DEVARAJA PILLAI TOLD HIS STORY.

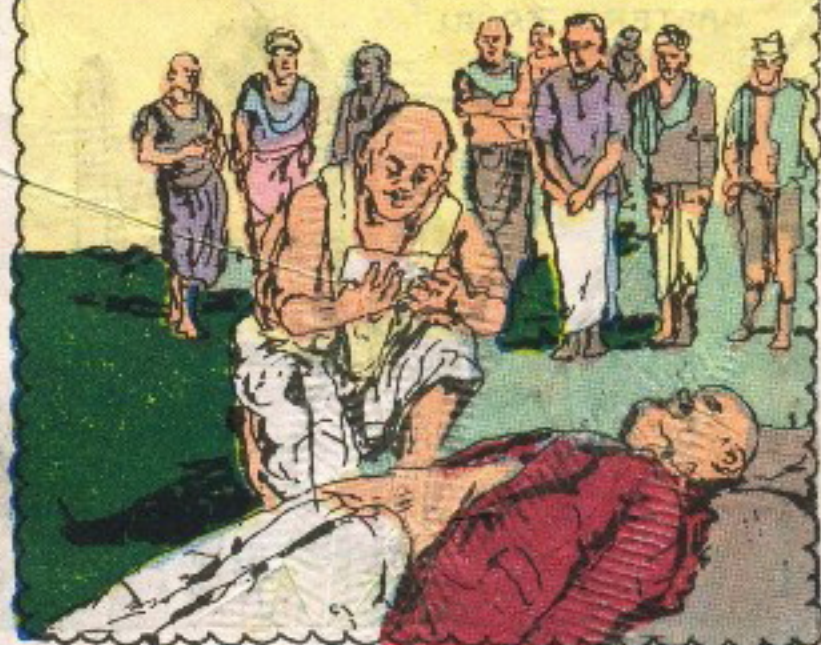
WHEN I WAS AWAY ON A PILGRIMAGE WITH MY WIFE, MY YOUNGER BROTHER SENT ME A MESSAGE STATING THAT OUR ONLY CHILD HAD DIED.



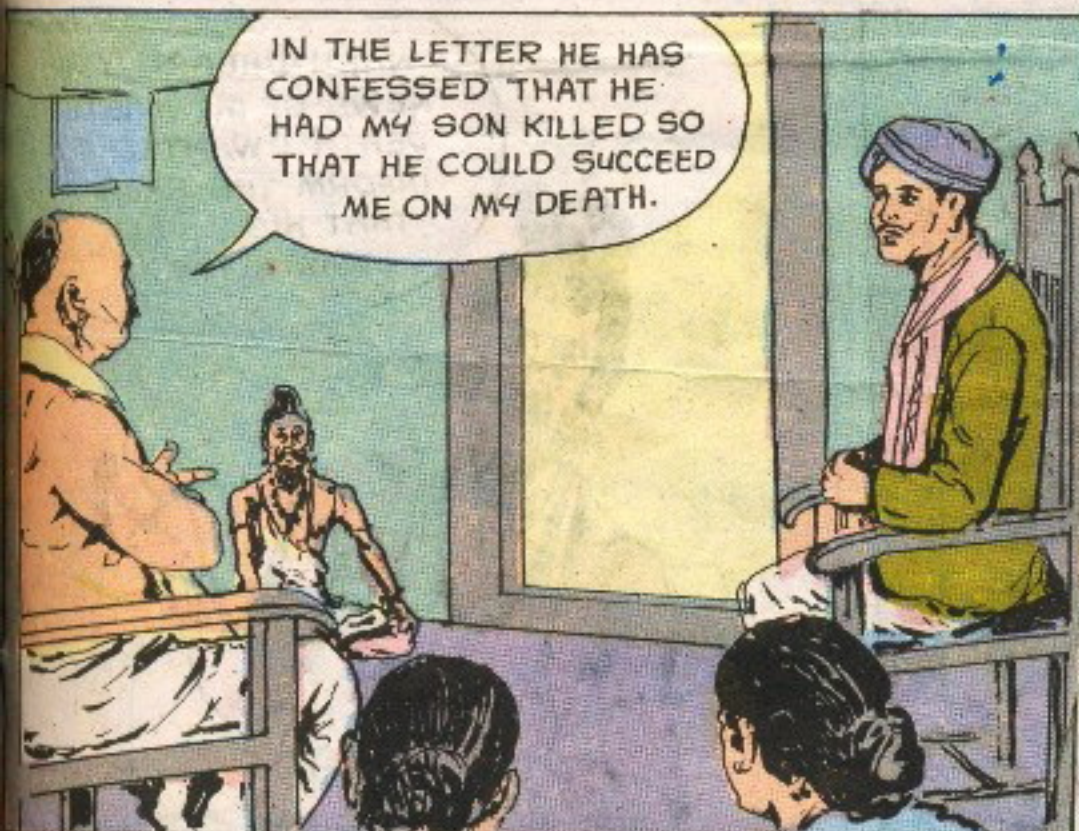
WE WEPT FOR OUR DEAD CHILD. IT TOOK US A LONG TIME TO GET OVER THE SHOCK.



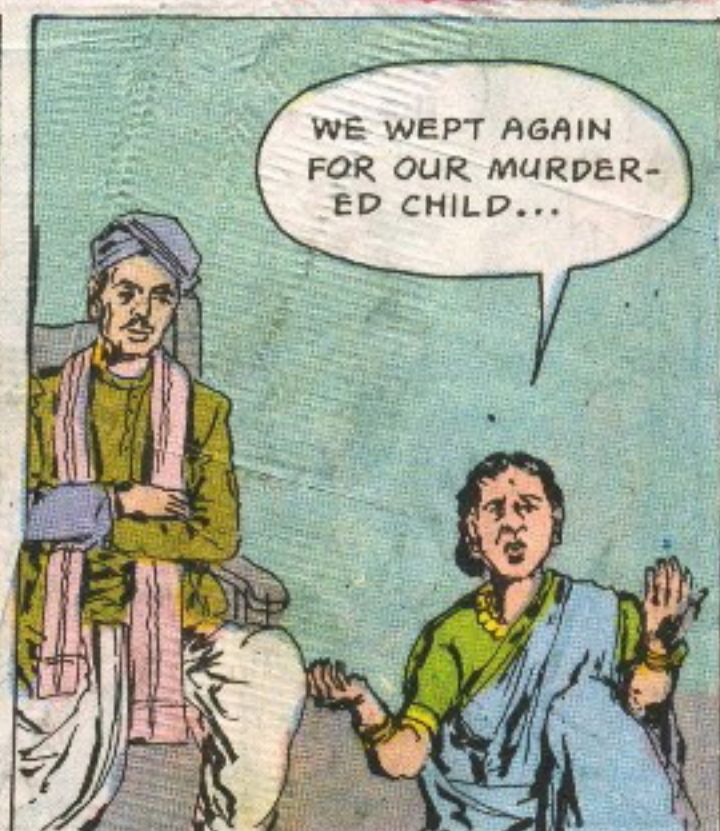
"THEN, RECENTLY, WHEN MY BROTHER DIED I FOUND A LETTER ADDRESSED TO ME."



IN THE LETTER HE HAS CONFESSED THAT HE HAD MY SON KILLED SO THAT HE COULD SUCCEED ME ON MY DEATH.



WE WEPT AGAIN FOR OUR MURDERED CHILD...

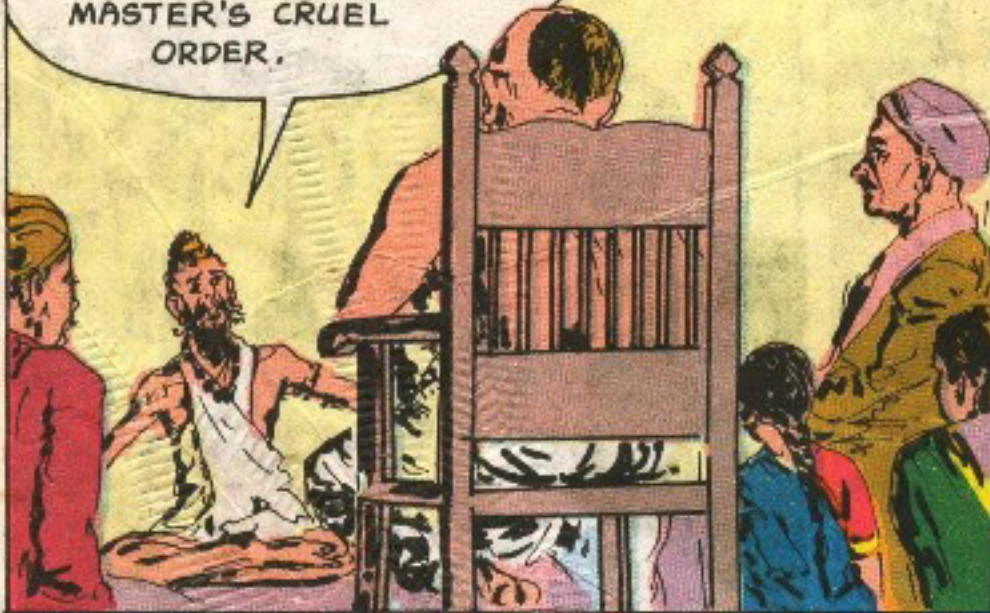


A FEW DAYS BACK THIS SANYASI CAME TO OUR HOUSE. IMAGINE OUR SURPRISE WHEN HE TOLD US THAT OUR CHILD WAS ALIVE!



THE SANYASI TOLD HIS STORY.

I WAS INSTRUCTED TO KILL THE CHILD. BUT I COULD NOT CARRY OUT MY MASTER'S CRUEL ORDER.



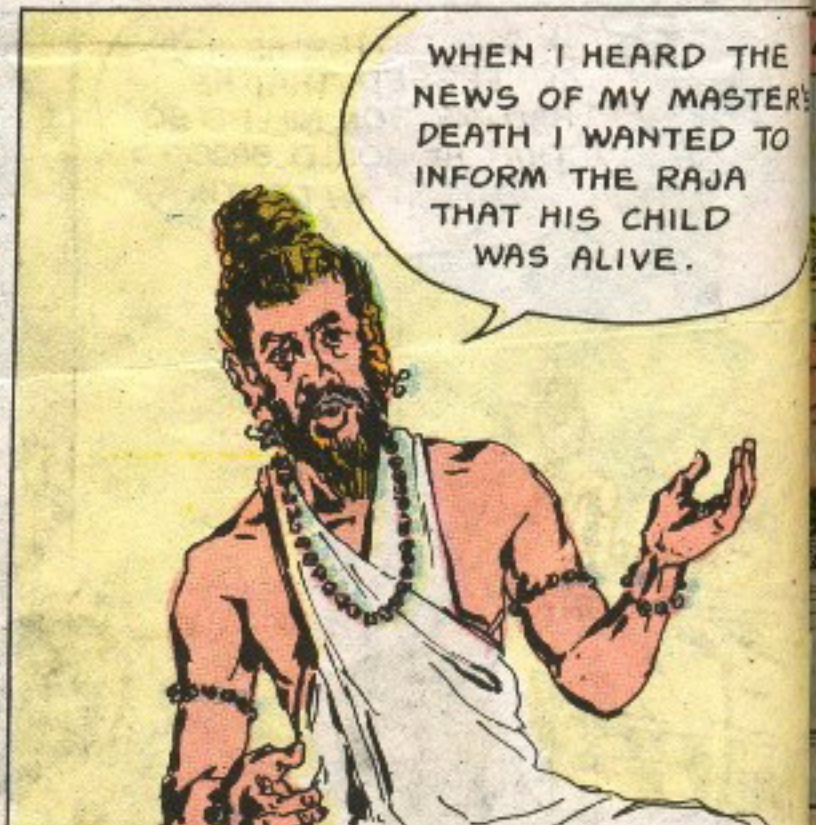
"SO I GAVE THE CHILD TO SHANTALINGAM PILLAI..."



...AND LEFT THE VILLAGE.



WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS OF MY MASTER'S DEATH I WANTED TO INFORM THE RAJA THAT HIS CHILD WAS ALIVE.



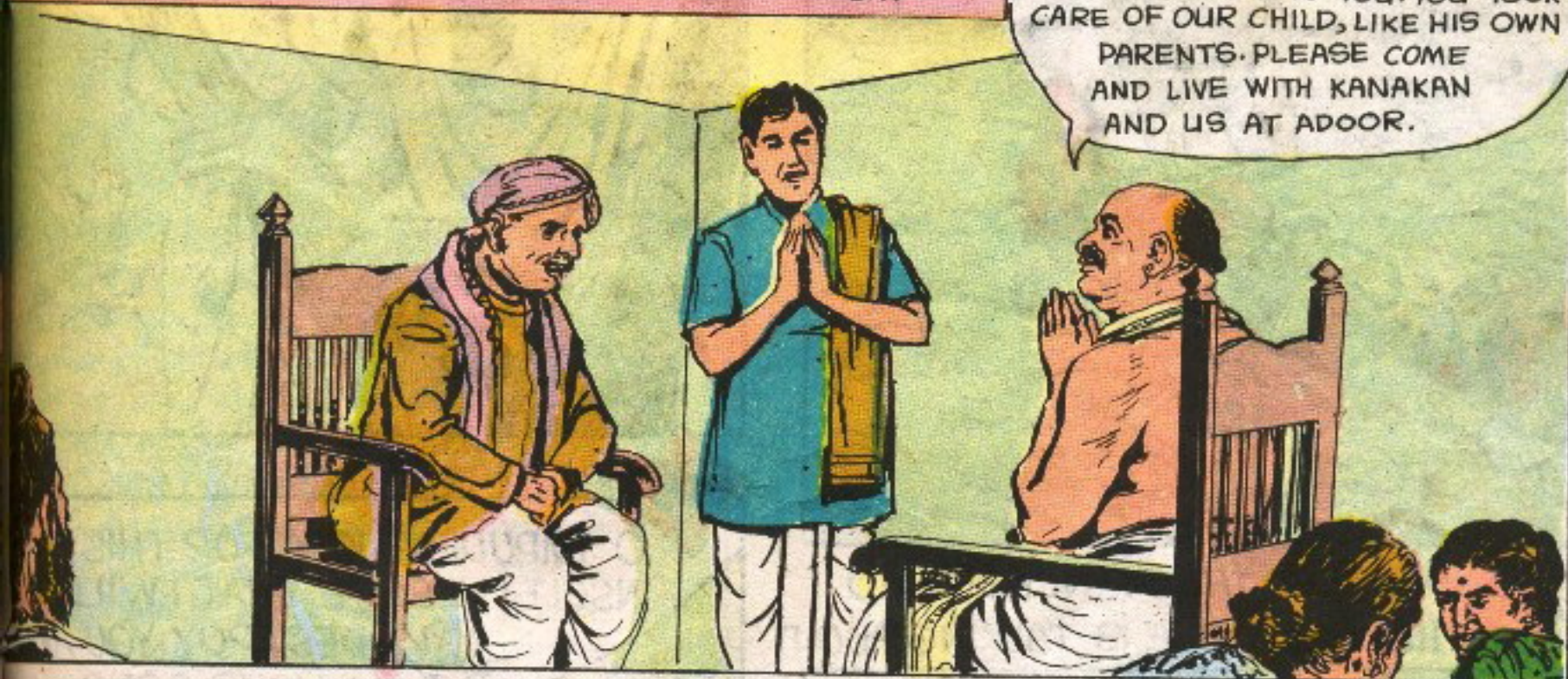
BUT I DID NOT KNOW WHERE.,
FOR I HAD LOST TRACK OF
SHANTALINGAM PILLAI.

A FEW DAYS BACK
I RESCUED A BOY FROM
DROWNING. FROM HIS BIRTH
MARK I KNEW THAT HE WAS
THE RAJA'S SON.



DEVARAJA PILLAI TURNED TO SHANTALINGAM PILLAI —

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU. YOU TOOK
CARE OF OUR CHILD, LIKE HIS OWN
PARENTS. PLEASE COME
AND LIVE WITH KANAKAN
AND US AT ADOOR.

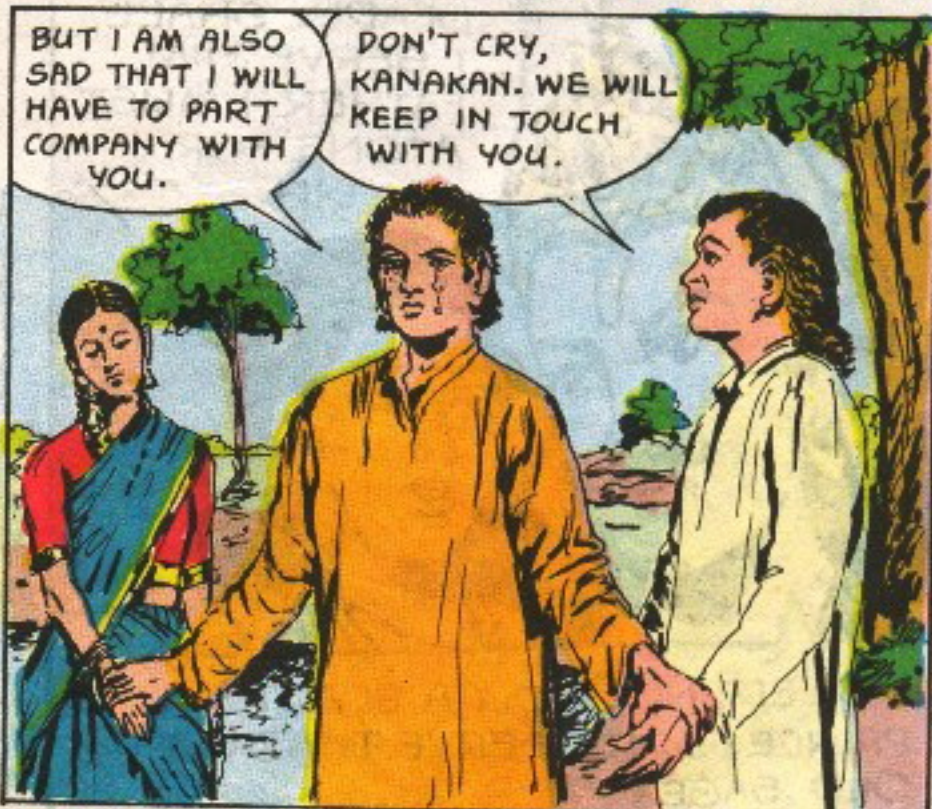


SO KANAKAN, YOU
HAVE FOUND
YOUR PARENTS.

YES. I AM SO
HAPPY.

BUT I AM ALSO
SAD THAT I WILL
HAVE TO PART
COMPANY WITH
YOU.

DON'T CRY,
KANAKAN. WE WILL
KEEP IN TOUCH
WITH YOU.



Quiz

INDIA-3

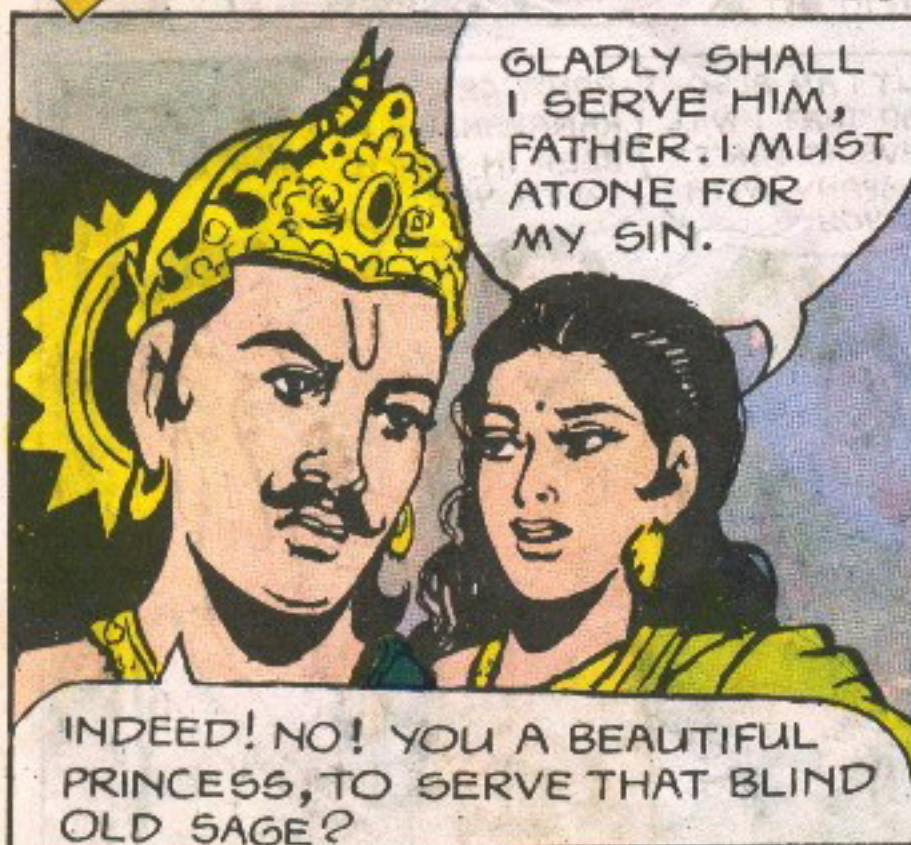
Compiled by: Shobha Rao

I. WHO ARE HIS PARENTS?

AND BABHRUVAHANA SAT NEXT TO HIS PARENTS.



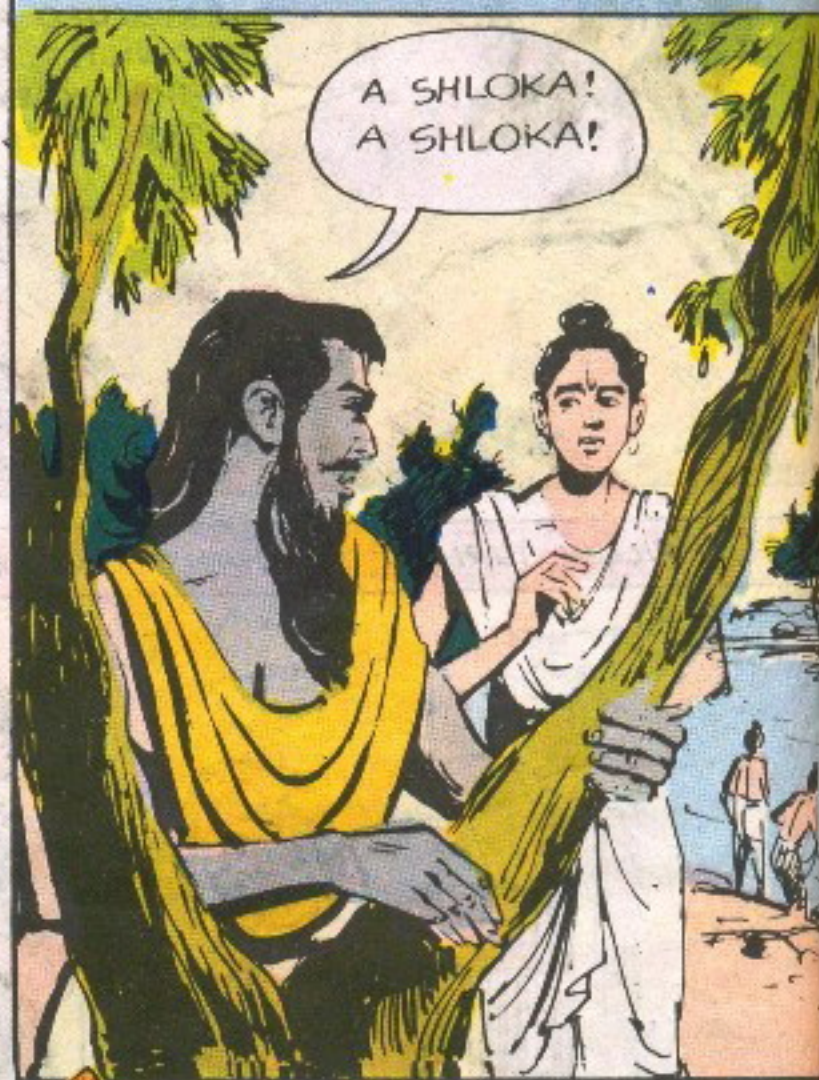
II. IDENTIFY THE PRINCESS AND THE SAGE SHE IS TALKING ABOUT.



IIIa

GIVE THE NAME OF THE CLASSIC WRITTEN BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS.

THUS CAME INTO BEING THE FIRST STANZA EVER. AS IT AROSE FROM HIS "SHOKA" OR GRIEF HE CALLED IT "SHLOKA!"



IIIb

O IMPUDENT KING, FOR THIS INSULT I PLEDGE THAT I WILL DESTROY YOU AND ALL YOUR SONS.



WHAT IS THE MAJOR MISTAKE
IN THIS ILLUSTRATION ?



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