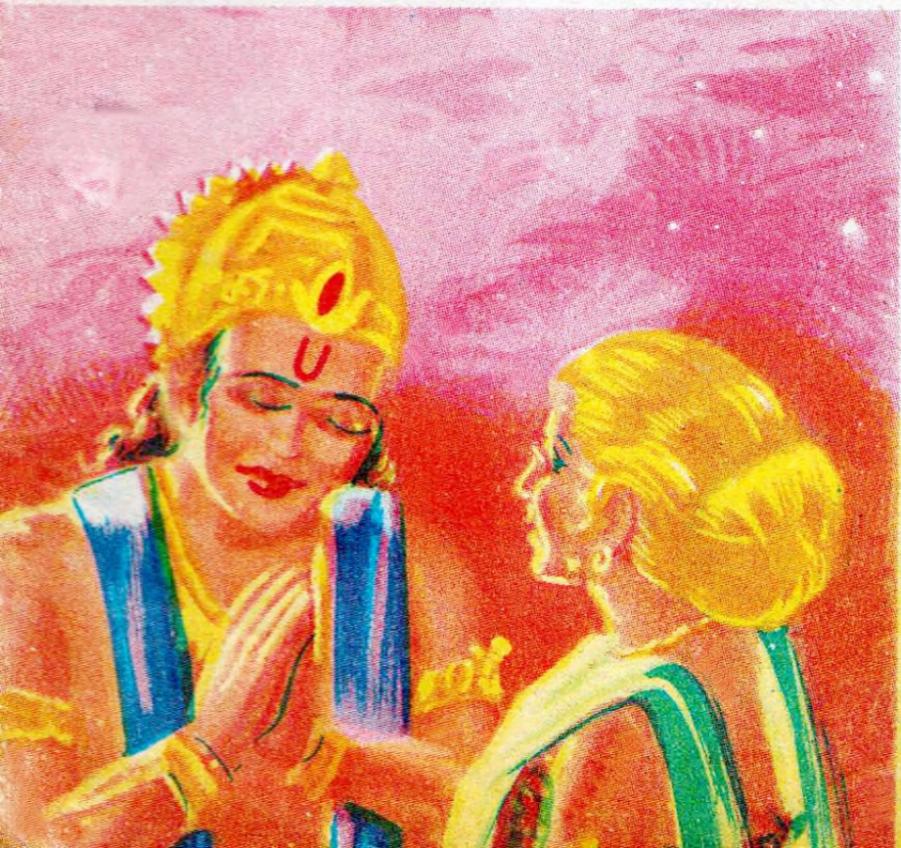


ADARSH  
CHITRA  
KATHA  
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# BRAHMA'S INSTRUCTIONS TO GODS, MEN AND DEMONS

No. 5



**BRAHMA'S INSTRUCTIONS TO GODS, MEN AND DEMONS :** The Brihadara-nyaka Upanishad contains a simple and instructive anecdote which prescribes the practice of three principle virtues, viz. self-control, charity and mercy. The cultivation of these virtues in the mind paves the way for greater happiness through harmony with the world, thereby sublimating the entire personality for contemplation on the higher values of life.

**THE STORY OF NACHIKETAS :** In this mystical tale of the Katha Upanishad we are given a history of the human spirit which passes through various stages of suffering, test and experience in its onward march to the Absolute. The path of the spirit is not an easy one. That it is hardship and also accompanied by a sense of mystery and awe is exemplified in the philosophical epic that goes after the name of Nachiketas.

**THE PRIDE OF THE GODS :** The Kena Upanishad, at its very outset, commences with a question : "Who is the compeller and the propeller of the senses and the mind ?" The question implies that there is positively some superior principle surpassing the operation of the sense organs, the mind and the intellect. Whatever be the effort on the part of these organs, they are incapable of gaining an access into Reality. It is only when the ego melts completely that there can be a salvation for the soul.

**DADHYAN ATHARVANA MAHARISHI :** The doctrine of the Madhu-Vidya, occurring in the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad as taught by sage Dadhyan, is an exposition of the interdependence of things in creation. No object is independent by itself. Nothing in the universe is self-existent or stands isolated. Everything is connected with every thing else. Since every thing is dependent on every thing, everything becomes the supporting factor for every thing. This support is the Universal Element present everywhere, namely, Brahman, the Absolute which is called the Honey (Madhu), or the sustaining food for the existence of every thing in creation. In short, the moral behind the doctrine is that selfishness is a chimera. It *cannot* and *does not* exist. The Law of the Universe is co-operative activity and mutual regard.

Editor : D. Kumar

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OUR NEXT TITLES

## The Battle of Wits

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# Brahma's Instructions to Gods, Men and Demons

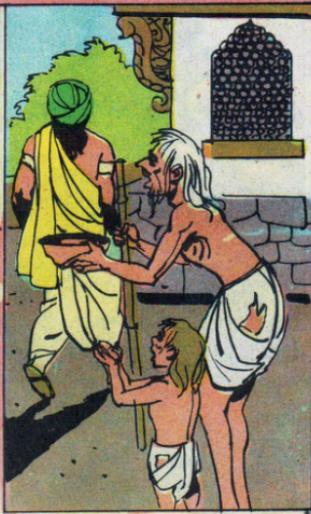
THREE CLASSES OF BRAHMA'S CHILDREN — THE GODS, THE MEN AND THE DEMONS — ARE ALWAYS DESIROUS OF OVERCOMING THEIR LIMITATIONS WITH A VIEW TO GAIN CONTROL OVER THE ENTIRE CREATION.

VICTORY TO THE DEVAS!

RALLY OUR FORCES!  
WE MUST NOT YIELD  
SO EASILY TO OUR  
ENEMIES!



WHILE THE WARFARE BETWEEN THE GODS AND THE DEMONS WAS GOING ON, MANKIND WAS VICARIOUSLY INFLUENCED, EACH INDIVIDUAL REAPING THE FRUITS OF ITS PREVIOUS KARMAS.



SOMETIMES WHEN THE GODS WOULD WIN VICTORY OVER THE DEMONS...



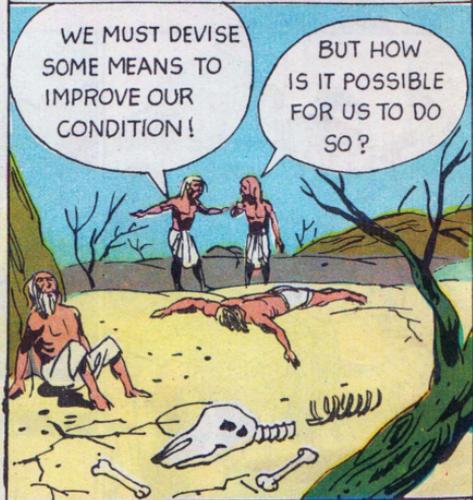
... MANKIND WAS BLESSED WITH VIRTUOUS QUALITIES, RADIANT HEALTH, CONTENTMENT AND LONG LIFE.



BUT, WHEN THE GODS WERE SUBDUED BY THE DEMONS...



... IT WAS THEN THAT VICIOUS QUALITIES PREVAILED IN HUMAN BEINGS, LEADING THEM TO MISERY, DISEASE, DECAY AND IMMATURE DEATH.



AND MANKIND WAS IN A DILEMMA.

EVEN THOUGH ANY ONE WAS FREE TO CHOOSE HIS COURSE OF ACTION, AVIDYA\* SUPERVENED TO REVEAL THE MEANS OF FULFILLING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH CREATION HAD BEEN SET IN MOTION.



THE THREE WORLDS WERE IN A CHAOS.

AT LAST, A VOICE WAS HEARD FROM THE HIGHEST HEAVEN —\*\*

Da..

YES, IT IS OUR FATHER BRAHMA WHO IS CALLING US!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?



SOME UNKNOWN FORCE IS PULLING US! LET US REPOSE OUR FAITH IN IT AND BE GUIDED TO WHERE WE ARE LED!

Da...

THE GODS ARE UP TO SOME MISCHIEF! WE SHALL FOLLOW THEM, LEST WE MAY COME TO GRIEF LATER ON!

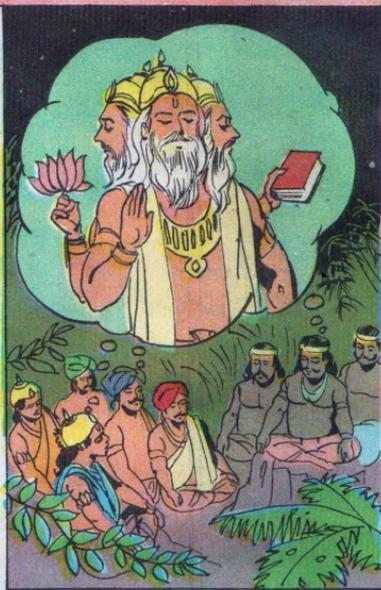
Da....



THE DEMONS GOT SUSPICIOUS. THEY DID NOT WANT TO ALLOW THE DEVAS TO OVERCOME THEM.

\* NEESCENCE, OR IGNORANCE. \*\* BRAHMA-LOKA, OR THE WORLD OF THE CREATOR.

ACCORDINGLY, THE GODS, THE MEN AND THE DEMONS WENT TO THE ABODE OF BRAHMA AND UNDERTOOK SEVERE PENANCE, LIVING A LIFE OF CONTINENCE.



AFTER THE PERIOD OF STUDENTSHIP WAS OVER, THEY APPROACHED BRAHMA —

O DEVAS!  
"Da"! DO YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT I SAY?

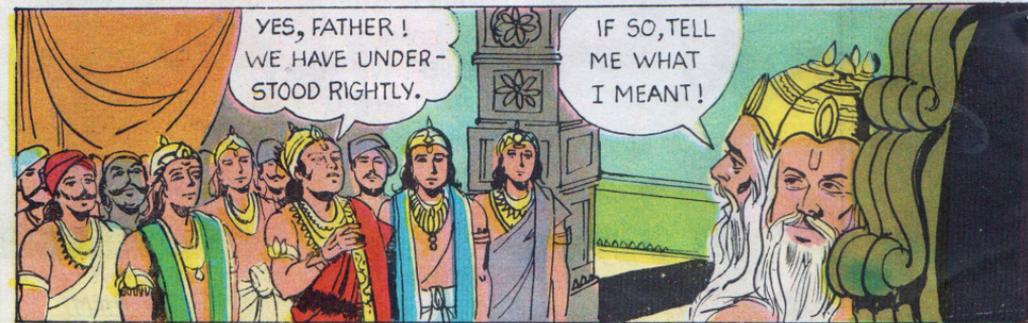


O ADORABLE FATHER,  
PLEASE GIVE US  
INSTRUCTION! TELL  
US OUR DUTY!



YES, FATHER!  
WE HAVE UNDER-  
STOOD RIGHTLY.

IF SO, TELL  
ME WHAT  
I MEANT!



YOU TOLD US  
DAMYATA.\*

THAT IS BECAUSE WE ENJOY  
TOO MUCH IN HEAVEN. THEN THE DEMONS  
ATTACK US AND TAKE US BY  
SURPRISE.

SO YOUR INSTRUCTION  
IMPLIES THAT WE MUST  
NOT GO TOO MUCH IN THE  
DIRECTION OF SENSE -  
ENJOYMENT.

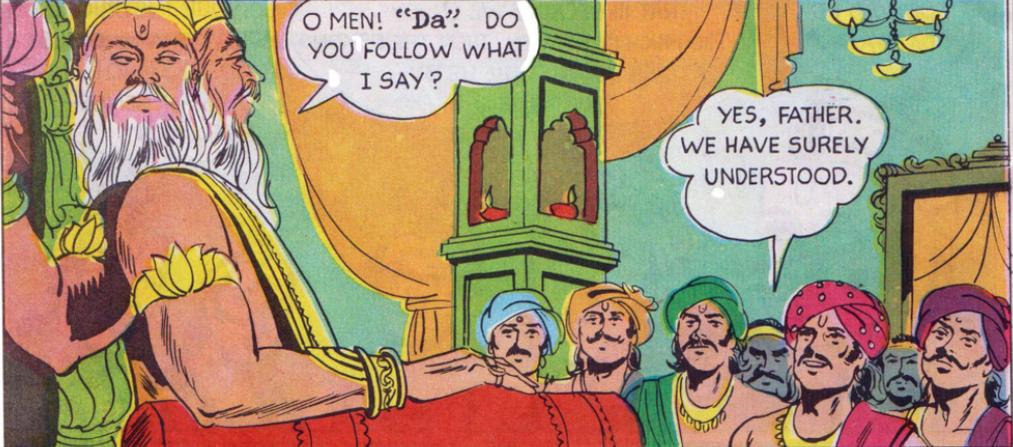
VERY GOOD!  
SO YOU FOLLOW THIS  
INSTRUCTION FROM  
ME.

WE ARE  
GRATEFUL TO YOU,  
FATHER.

WHEN THE GODS HAD TAKEN LEAVE OF BRAHMA, THE MEN STEPPED FORWARD -

ADORABLE FATHER,  
PLEASE INSTRUCT US.  
TELL US THE CAUSE OF  
OUR MISFORTUNES.

\* DAMYATA MEANS - RESTRAIN YOURSELF -



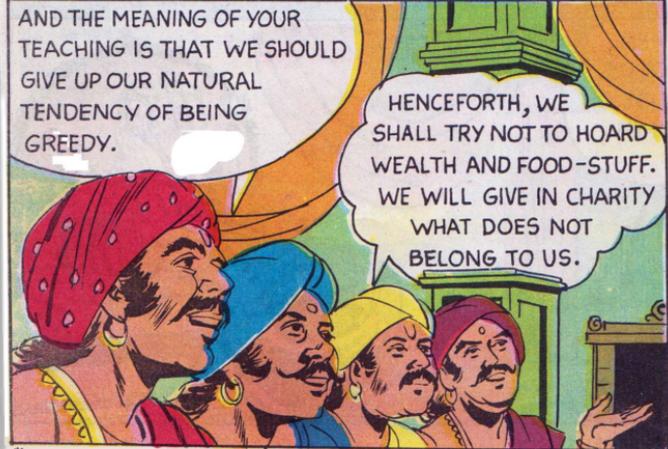
O MEN! "Da" DO YOU FOLLOW WHAT I SAY?

YES, FATHER. WE HAVE SURELY UNDERSTOOD.



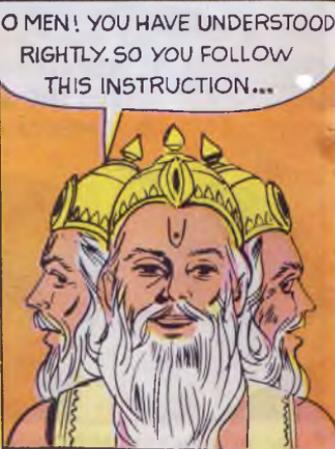
IF SO, TELL ME WHAT I MEANT.

YOU TOLD US DATTA.\*



AND THE MEANING OF YOUR TEACHING IS THAT WE SHOULD GIVE UP OUR NATURAL TENDENCY OF BEING GREEDY.

HENCEFORTH, WE SHALL TRY NOT TO HOARD WEALTH AND FOOD-STUFF. WE WILL GIVE IN CHARITY WHAT DOES NOT BELONG TO US.

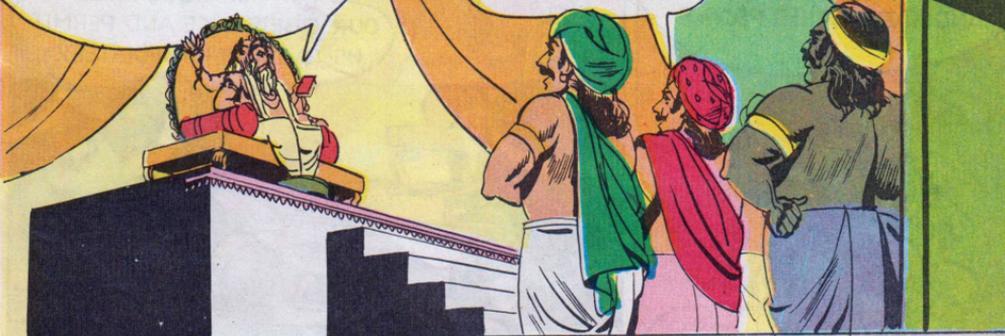


O MEN! YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD RIGHTLY. SO YOU FOLLOW THIS INSTRUCTION...

\* DATTA MEANS: GIVE IN CHARITY

... AND BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT GET PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE WHEN YOU ARE WELL-PLACED IN LIFE.

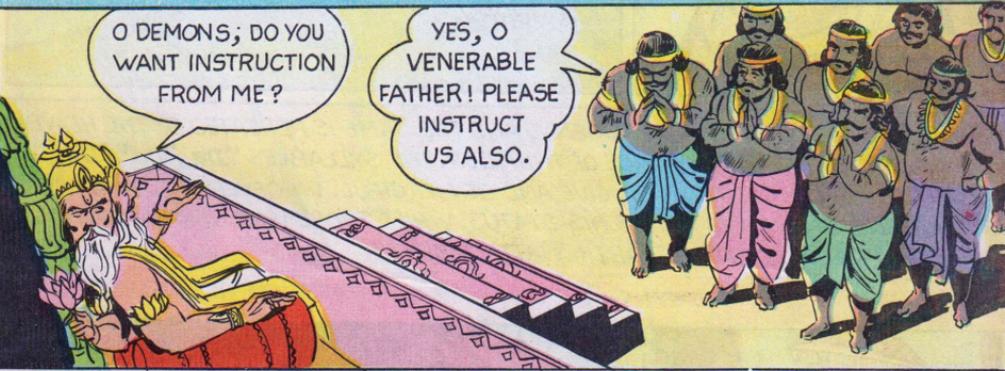
FATHER, WE ARE YOUR OBEDIENT CHILDREN. WE WILL TRY TO FOLLOW YOUR INSTRUCTION.



THE MEN, HAVING RECEIVED INSTRUCTION FROM BRAHMA, PAID HOMAGE TO HIM AND LEFT. THE DEMONS WERE WAITING IMPATIENTLY.

O DEMONS; DO YOU WANT INSTRUCTION FROM ME ?

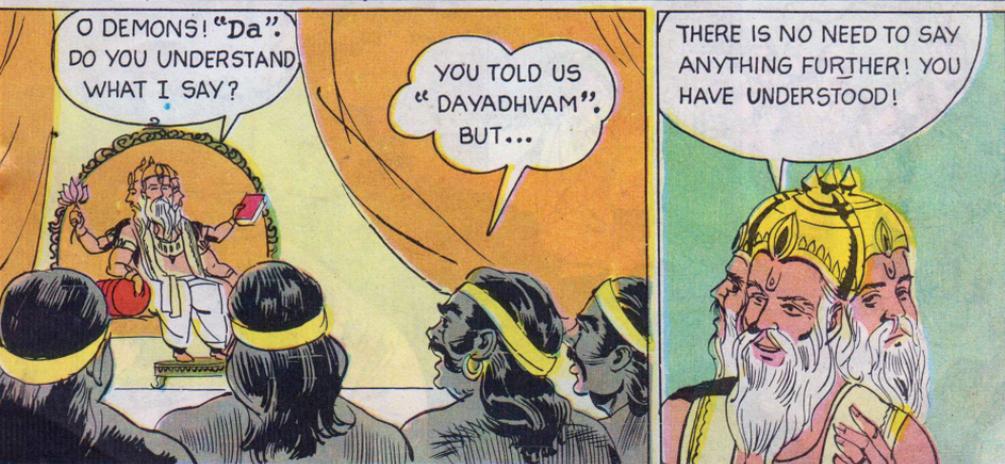
YES, O VENERABLE FATHER ! PLEASE INSTRUCT US ALSO.



O DEMONS! "Da". DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAY?

YOU TOLD US "DAYADHVAM". BUT...

THERE IS NO NEED TO SAY ANYTHING FURTHER! YOU HAVE UNDERSTOOD!



\* DAYADHVAM MEANS BE MERCIFUL

HOWEVER, I SHALL REPEAT AGAIN! YOU ARE VERY CRUEL! YOU ALWAYS INSULT, INJURE AND HARM OTHER PEOPLE!

THEREFORE, DON'T EAT, SWALLOW, DESTROY AND DEMOLISH EVERYTHING!

FATHER, WHAT YOU TELL US IS FOR OUR GOOD! ACCEPT OUR OBEISANCE AND PERMIT US TO LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

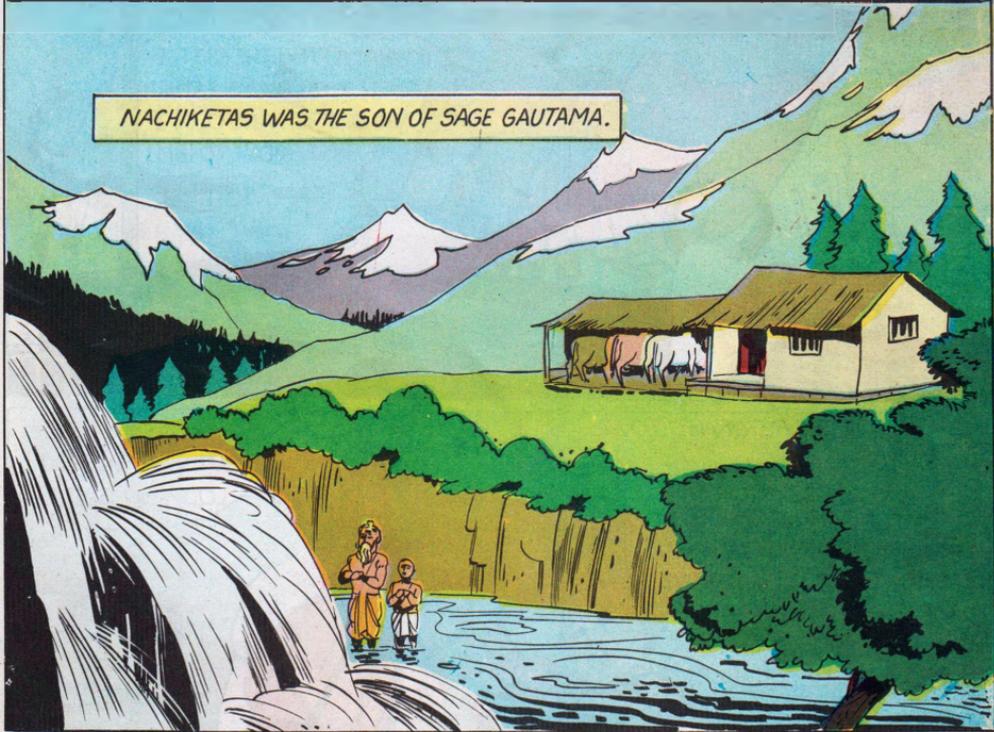
THE DEMONS ARE VERY HARD-HEARTED PEOPLE. THEY WANTED TO FIGHT THE GODS RATHER THAN FOLLOW BRAHMA'S INSTRUCTION. SO THEY LEFT IN A HURRY.

BRAHMA HAD INSTRUCTED HIS PROGENY, AND THE SAME IS REPEATED BY THE HEAVENLY VOICE, THE CLOUD BY THE FORCE OF THUNDER. THE SYLLABLES "Da", "Da", "Da", TELL US TO BE SELF-CONTROLLED, GIVE AND BE MERCIFUL. WHOEVER FOLLOWS THESE INSTRUCTIONS OF BRAHMA RAISES HIS STATUS, WHILE THOSE WHO REMAIN IGNORANT OF THIS TRUTH STAY ROOTED IN EARTHLY ATTACHMENTS.



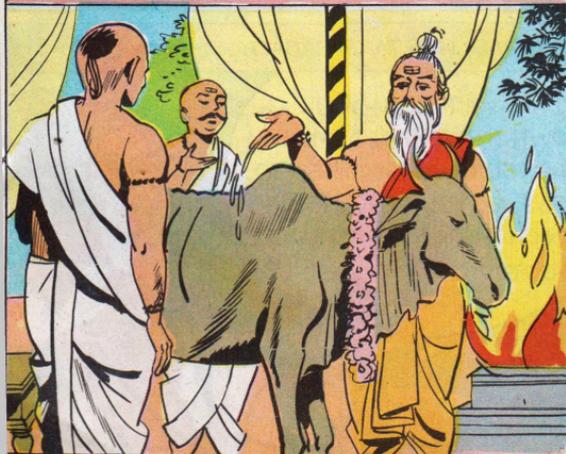
# The Story of Nachiketas

NACHIKETAS WAS THE SON OF SAGE GAUTAMA.



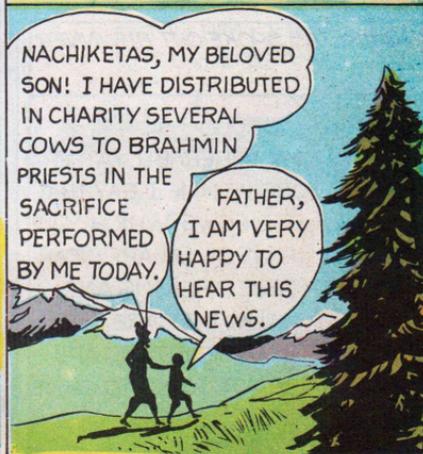
DESIROUS OF HEAVENLY REWARDS, GAUTAMA PERFORMED A SACRIFICE KNOWN AS THE SARAVEDASA - YAJNA.

IN THIS SACRIFICE, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO GIVE IN CHARITY ALL HIS POSSESSIONS, DEAR AND NEAR

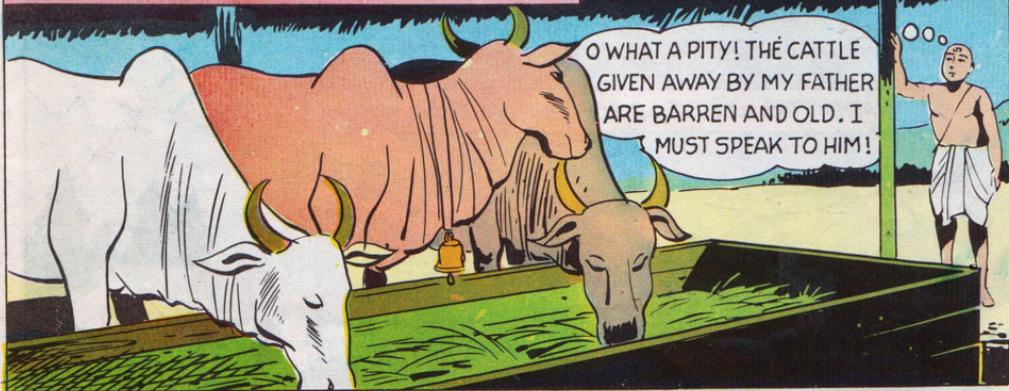


NACHIKETAS, MY BELOVED SON! I HAVE DISTRIBUTED IN CHARITY SEVERAL COWS TO BRAHMIN PRIESTS IN THE SACRIFICE PERFORMED BY ME TODAY.

FATHER, I AM VERY HAPPY TO HEAR THIS NEWS.



NACHIKETAS RAN TO THE SHED. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHICH OF THE COWS HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY BY HIS FATHER.



O WHAT A PITY! THE CATTLE GIVEN AWAY BY MY FATHER ARE BARREN AND OLD. I MUST SPEAK TO HIM!

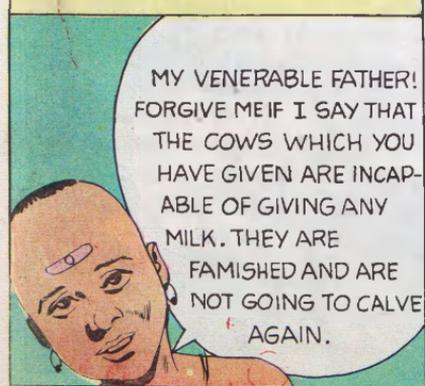
WHEN NACHIKETAS RETURNED TO HIS FATHER -



FATHER, IN THIS SACRIFICE WHICH YOU ARE PERFORMING, HAVE YOU DECIDED TO GIVE IN CHARITY EVERYTHING THAT YOU OWN?

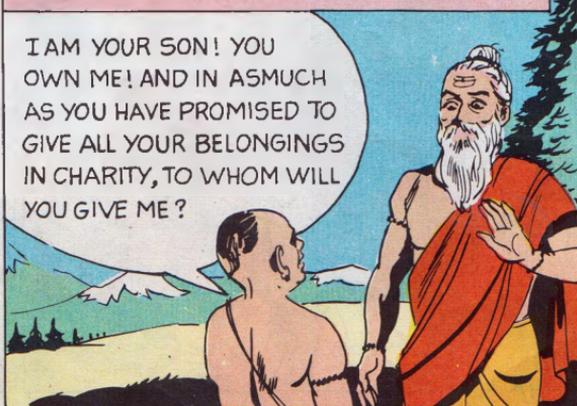
YES, MY CHILD! BUT WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SAD?

NACHIKETAS SPOKE OUT HIS INNER HEART.



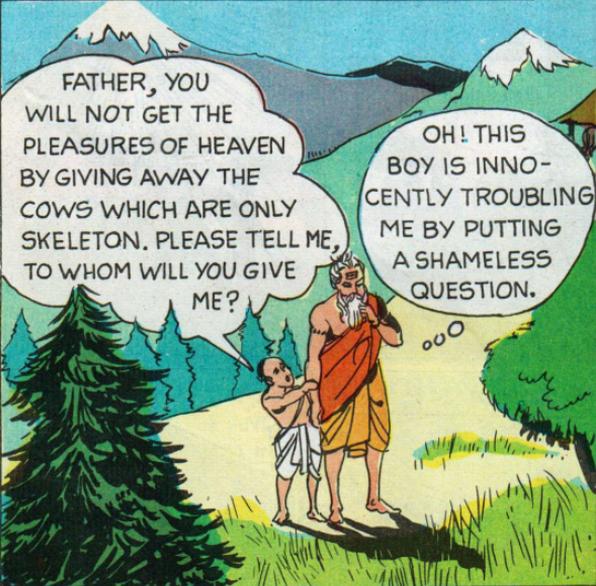
MY VENERABLE FATHER! FORGIVE ME IF I SAY THAT THE COWS WHICH YOU HAVE GIVEN ARE INCAPABLE OF GIVING ANY MILK. THEY ARE FAMISHED AND ARE NOT GOING TO CALVE AGAIN.

GAUTAMA WAS TAKEN ABACK.



I AM YOUR SON! YOU OWN ME! AND IN AS MUCH AS YOU HAVE PROMISED TO GIVE ALL YOUR BELONGINGS IN CHARITY, TO WHOM WILL YOU GIVE ME?

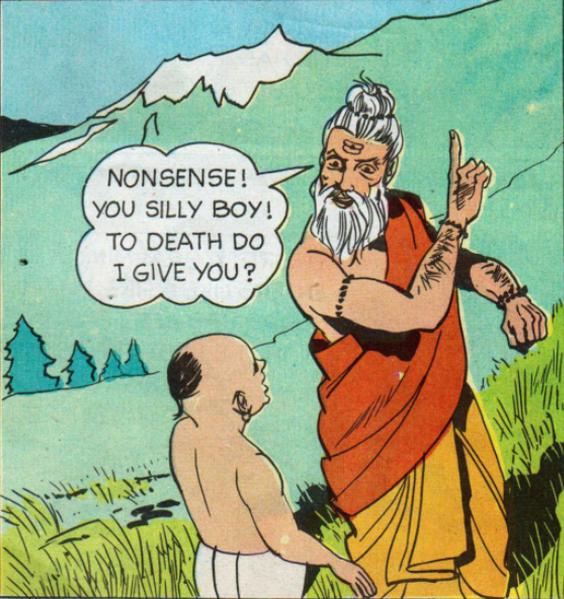
GAUTAMA HAD NO IDEA OF GIVING HIS SON IN CHARITY TO ANYONE. NACHIKETAS REPEATED HIS QUESTION ONCE AGAIN.



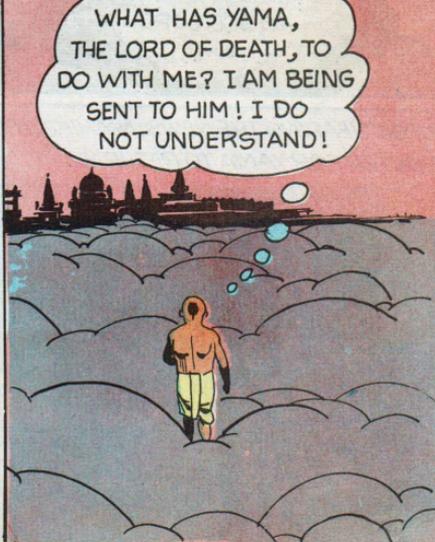
WHEN NACHIKETAS QUERIED FOR THE THIRD TIME...



... GAUTAMA WAS ENRAGED. HE CURSED HIS SON.



THE CURSE IMMEDIATELY HAD ITS EFFECT. NACHIKETAS DIED AND WENT TO THE ABODE OF YAMA, THE LORD OF DEATH.





I AM NOT AFRAID OF DEATH. LIKE A CORN A MORTAL IS BORN AND LIKE A CORN HE DIES. I WILL BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO BE YAMA'S DISCIPLE AND DO SERVICE TO THE WORLD.

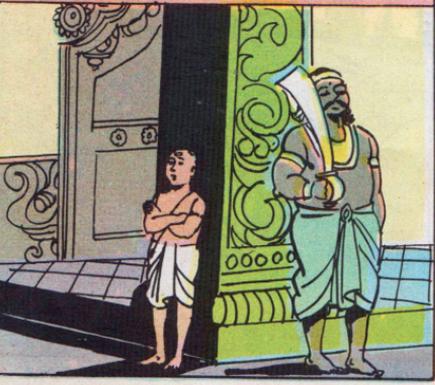
AS NACHIKETAS APPROACHED THE ABODE OF YAMA -



O REVERED SIR, I HAVE COME TO SEE LORD YAMA.

YOUNG LAD, LORD YAMA IS NOT HERE. HE HAS GONE OUT.

UPON HEARING THE NEWS, NACHIKETAS WAITED FOR YAMA TO RETURN.



WHEN YAMA RETURNED AFTER A PERIOD OF THREE DAYS -



O LORD! A BRAHMIN GUEST ENTERS LIKE A FIRE. NACHIKETAS HAS BEEN FASTING FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS DURING YOUR ABSENCE...

... AND NOTHING CAN BE WORSE FOR A HOUSE-HOLDER THAN FOR A GUEST TO STAND STARVING AT HIS GATES.

O THIS IS HORRIBLE! I MUST MAKE AMMENDS!



YAMA RUSHED OUTSIDE HIS PALACE. WHEN HE SAW NACHIKETAS —

O GREAT SOUL! YOU HAVE BEEN STANDING HERE FOR THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS. WHAT DID YOU EAT DURING THE THREE DAYS?

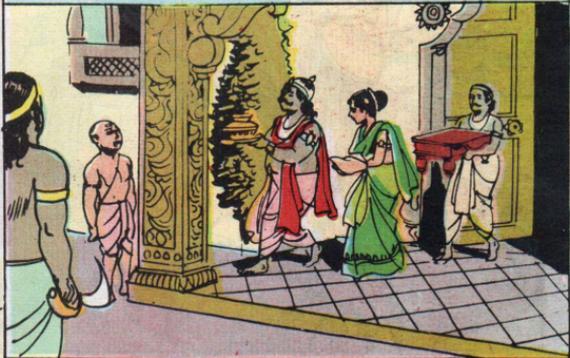
O YAMA! I ATE YOUR OFF-SPRINGS ON THE FIRST DAY.



ON THE SECOND DAY I ATE ALL YOUR CATTLE AND WEALTH. AND ON THE THIRD DAY ALL THE GOOD WORKS THAT YOU HAVE DONE!



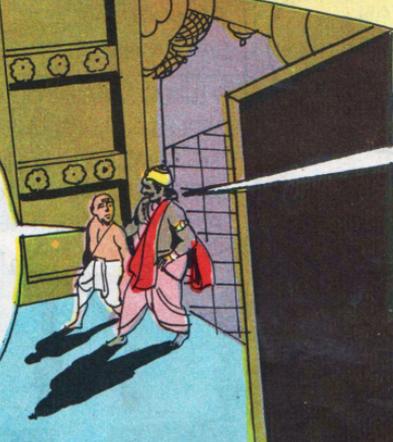
YAMA IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT THE SACRED WATERS FROM INSIDE HIS PALACE...



... AND WASHED THE FEET OF THE GUEST AND MADE HIM SEATED.

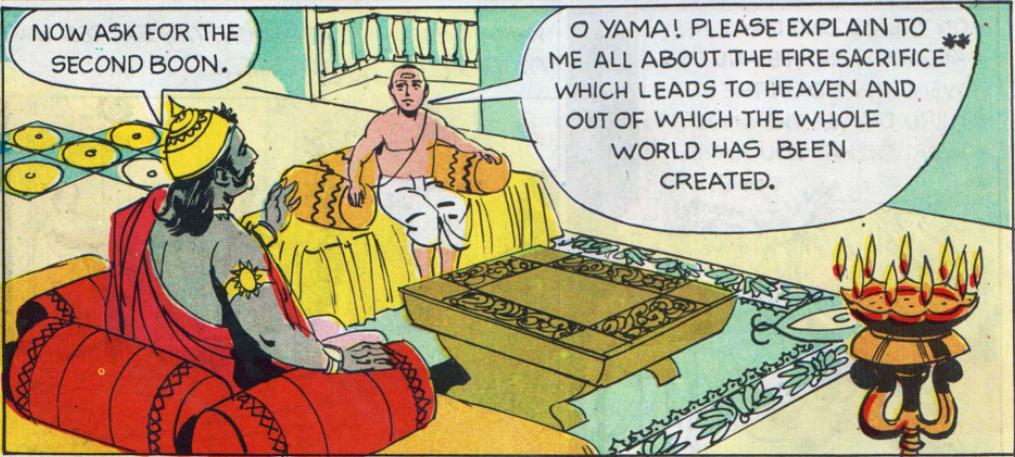


O REVERED NACHIKETAS! PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR MY ABSENCE. I GIVE YOU THREE BOONS AS MY EXPIATION. MAY GOOD BEFALL US BOTH!



O YAMA!  
AS THE FIRST OF  
THE THREE BOONS  
I CHOOSE THAT MY  
FATHER GAUTAMA BE  
PACIFIED. HE SHOULD  
BE FREE FROM ANGER  
AND HATRED TOWARDS  
ME WHEN I AM  
SENT BACK TO HIM.

YES, I  
GRANT YOU THIS!  
WHEN YOU RETURN  
TO THE WORLD, YOUR  
FATHER WILL RECOGNIZE  
YOU AND RECEIVE  
YOU WITH  
AFFECTION.



NOW ASK FOR THE  
SECOND BOON.

O YAMA! PLEASE EXPLAIN TO  
ME ALL ABOUT THE FIRE SACRIFICE\*  
WHICH LEADS TO HEAVEN AND  
OUT OF WHICH THE WHOLE  
WORLD HAS BEEN  
CREATED.

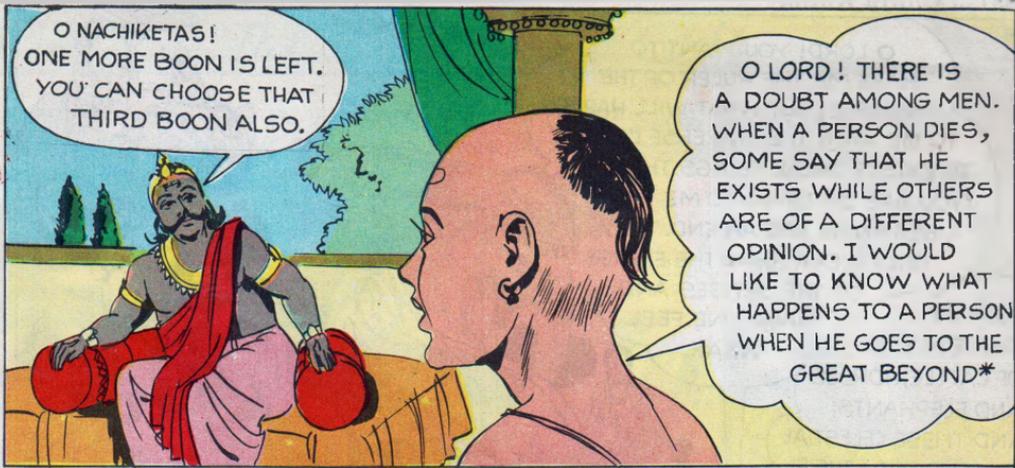
*YAMA INITIATED NACHIKETAS INTO THE MYSTERY OF THE UNIVERSAL FIRE.*

O NACHIKETAS! THIS SACRIFICE  
WHICH YOU HAVE LEARNT  
FROM ME IS HIDDEN IN THE  
CAVE OF THE  
HEART.

HENCEFORTH, THIS SACRIFICE WILL BE KNOWN IN  
YOUR NAME. I AM VERY PLEASED WITH YOU AND  
AS AN EXTRA BOON I PRESENT YOU WITH THIS MANY-  
COLOURED CHAIN WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO  
KNOW ALL ABOUT THE PAST AND THE  
HIDDEN POWERS OF NATURE.

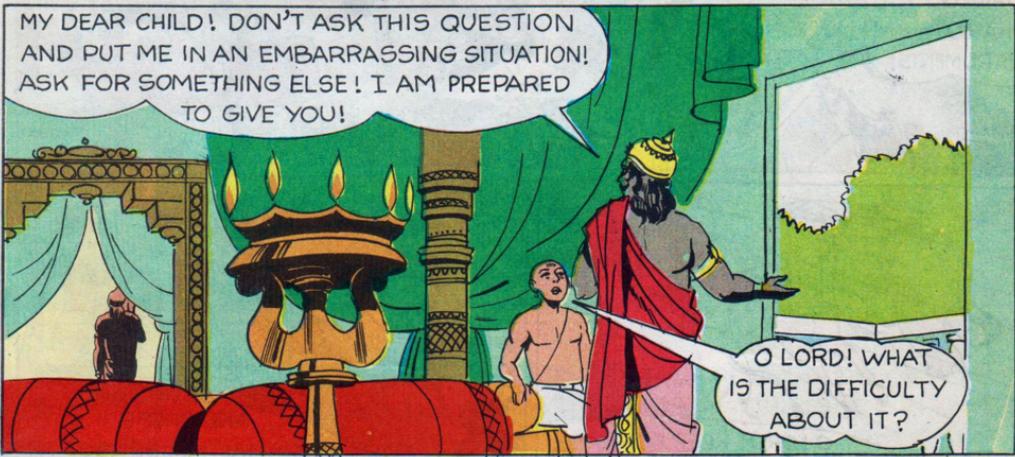


\* THE ENTIRE CREATION. \*\* PROCESS OF INITIATION BY A SPIRITUAL PRECEPTOR.



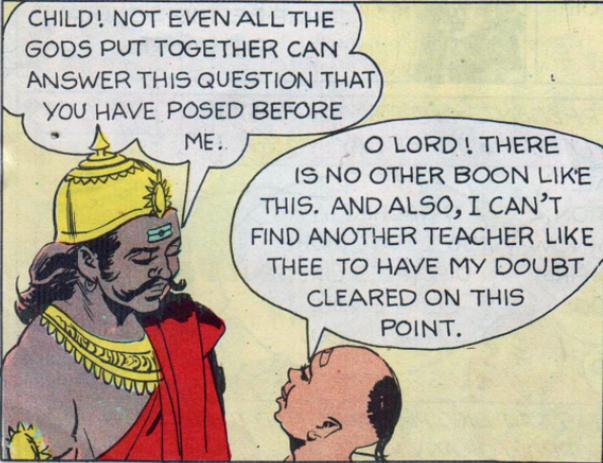
O NACHIKETAS!  
ONE MORE BOON IS LEFT.  
YOU CAN CHOOSE THAT  
THIRD BOON ALSO.

O LORD! THERE IS  
A DOUBT AMONG MEN.  
WHEN A PERSON DIES,  
SOME SAY THAT HE  
EXISTS WHILE OTHERS  
ARE OF A DIFFERENT  
OPINION. I WOULD  
LIKE TO KNOW WHAT  
HAPPENS TO A PERSON  
WHEN HE GOES TO THE  
GREAT BEYOND\*



MY DEAR CHILD! DON'T ASK THIS QUESTION  
AND PUT ME IN AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION!  
ASK FOR SOMETHING ELSE! I AM PREPARED  
TO GIVE YOU!

O LORD! WHAT  
IS THE DIFFICULTY  
ABOUT IT?



CHILD! NOT EVEN ALL THE  
GODS PUT TOGETHER CAN  
ANSWER THIS QUESTION THAT  
YOU HAVE POSED BEFORE  
ME.

O LORD! THERE  
IS NO OTHER BOON LIKE  
THIS. AND ALSO, I CAN'T  
FIND ANOTHER TEACHER LIKE  
THEE TO HAVE MY DOUBT  
CLEARED ON THIS  
POINT.

*YAMA DID NOT EASILY ANSWER THE  
QUESTION OF NACHIKETAS. HE  
TESTED HIM FURTHER.*

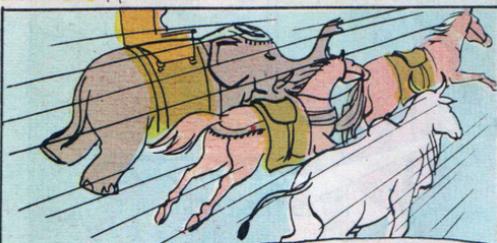
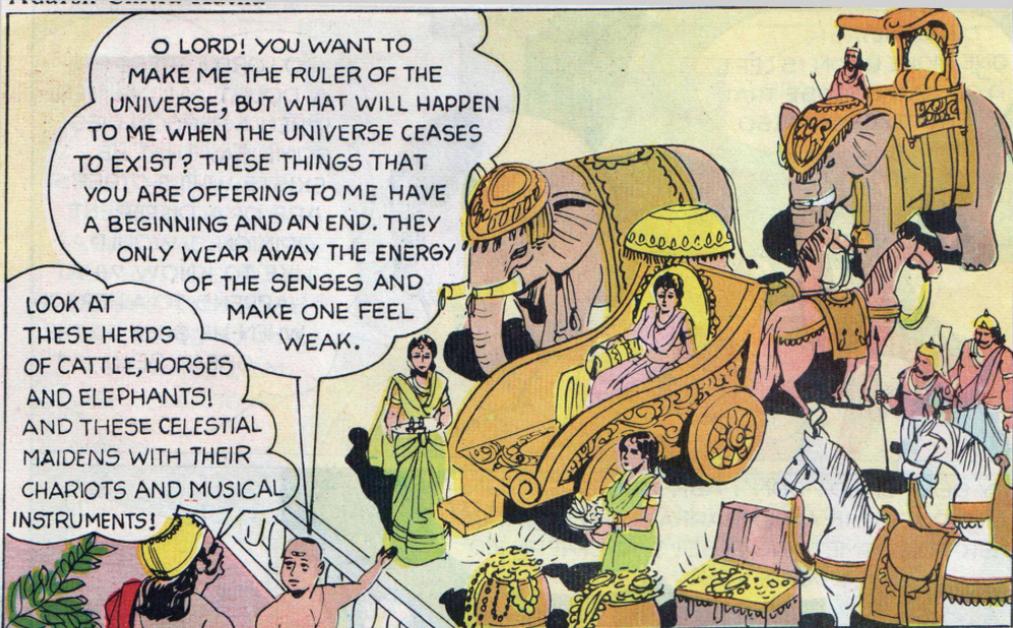
I AM READY TO BESTOW UPON YOU  
THE RULERSHIP OF THE WHOLE  
UNIVERSE. ASK FOR WEALTH, LONG  
LIFE, SONS, GRANDSONS. PLEAS-  
URES WHICH THE HUMAN BEINGS  
CANNOT EVEN DREAM OF  
ARE HERE AT YOUR  
DISPOSAL BY MY  
GRACE.



\* FINAL LIBERATION FROM BODY, MIND AND SENSES.

O LORD! YOU WANT TO MAKE ME THE RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME WHEN THE UNIVERSE CEASES TO EXIST? THESE THINGS THAT YOU ARE OFFERING TO ME HAVE A BEGINNING AND AN END. THEY ONLY WEAR AWAY THE ENERGY OF THE SENSES AND MAKE ONE FEEL WEAK.

LOOK AT THESE HERDS OF CATTLE, HORSES AND ELEPHANTS! AND THESE CELESTIAL MAIDENS WITH THEIR CHARIOTS AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS!



O LORD! KEEP FOR THYSELF ALL THE WEALTH OF CATTLE, HORSES AND ELEPHANTS...



... AND THESE CELESTIAL MAIDENS, FOR THINE BE THE SONG AND THE DANCE.



*NACHIKETAS REJECTED THE GRAND PRESENTS OFFERED TO HIM BY YAMA. HIS BODY, MIND AND SOUL HAD ATTAINED PURITY BY HIS THREE DAYS FAST.\**

O LORD! YOU SAY THAT NOT EVEN ALL THE GODS CAN ANSWER MY QUESTION, WHICH MEANS TO SAY THAT YOU KNOW THE ANSWER. I THEREFORE STAND FIRM IN MY RESOLVE AND WILL NOT BUDGE FROM THIS PLACE UNLESS THIS QUESTION THAT I HAVE ASKED THE THIRD TIME IS ANSWERED.

O NACHIKETAS! MAY I HAVE MORE DISCIPLES LIKE YOU! COME I WILL TEACH YOU.

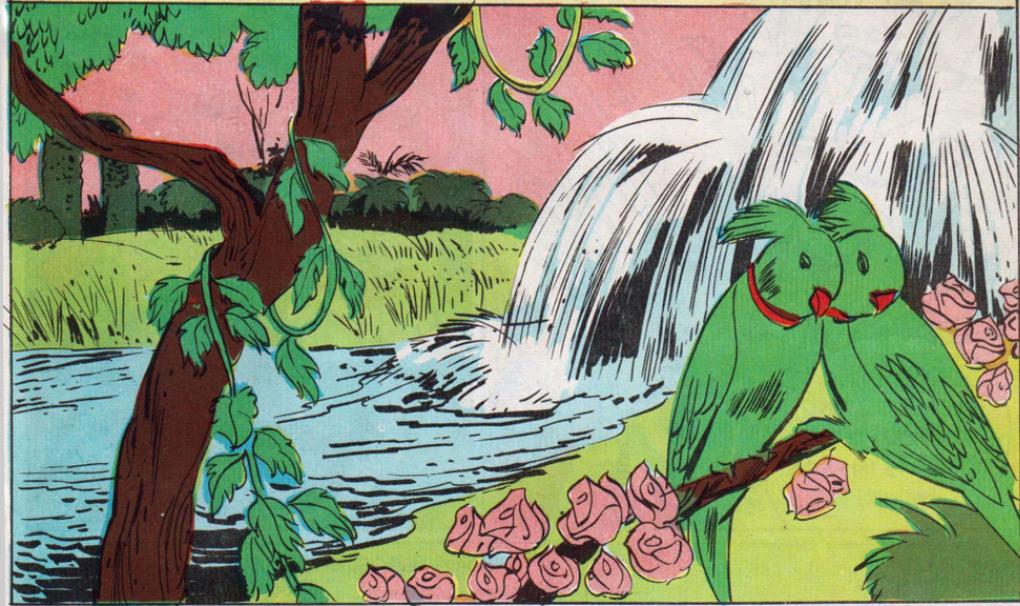


*AND YAMA, RECOGNIZING IN NACHIKETAS A FIT DISCIPLE, IMPARTED TO HIM THE HIGHEST KNOWLEDGE WHICH IS FREE FROM SORROW OF ANY KIND.*

\* THE THREE DAYS FAST IS THE DISCIPLINE UNDERTAKEN BY A SEEKER OF KNOWLEDGE FOR THE PURIFICATION OF BODY, MIND AND SOUL.

# The Pride of the Gods

A PLEASURE-GARDEN IN AMRAVATI, THE CITY OF THE GODS, WAS FULL OF GREENERY AND SWEET-SMELLING FLOWERS. IT WAS AN IDEAL PANORAMA OF BEAUTY.



AS AGNI, VAYU AND INDRA ENTERED THE GARDEN —

GLORY, GLORY UNTO OUR PROWESS!  
WE HAVE WON A GREAT VICTORY OVER  
THE ASURAS! IMMEASURABLE  
INDEED IS OUR STRENGTH!



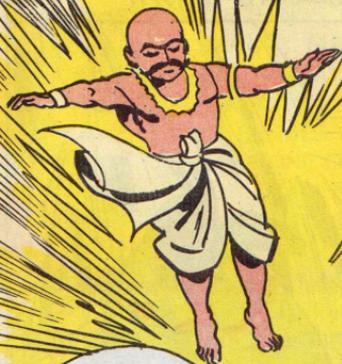
WHO IN THE THREE  
WORLDS CAN DEFY US?  
MATCHLESS IS OUR  
STRENGTH! COME NOW,  
LET US ENJOY!



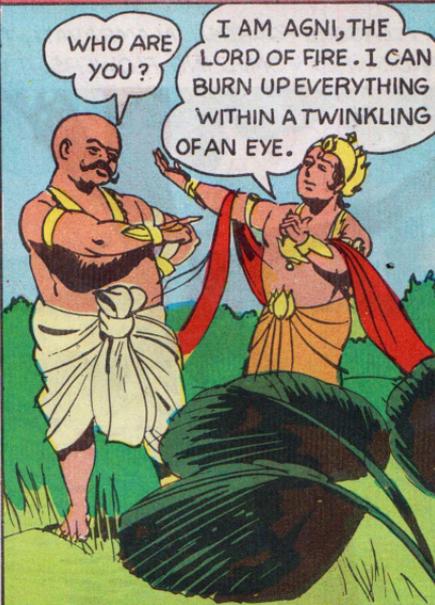
AND THE GODS STARTED THEIR  
MERRY-MAKING.

SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A THUNDERING SOUND. A HUGE YAKSHA\* APPEARED BEFORE THEM. THEY GOT TERRIFIED.

AGNI, THE FIRE GOD, APPROACHED THE YAKSHA—



O AGNI!  
PLEASE GO AND  
FIND OUT WHO  
THIS IS IN FRONT  
OF US.



WHO ARE  
YOU?

I AM AGNI, THE  
LORD OF FIRE. I CAN  
BURN UP EVERYTHING  
WITHIN A TWINKLING  
OF AN EYE.

I SEE! YOU  
ARE ONE OF  
THE GODS AND YOU  
CAN REDUCE  
EVERYTHING TO  
ASHES.

THERE IS  
NOT THE  
LEAST DOUBT  
ABOUT  
IT!

THE YAKSHA PLACED A DRY BLADE OF GRASS  
BEFORE AGNI!—

IF YOU ARE SO  
CONFIDENT,  
BURN THIS TINY  
BLADE OF  
GRASS.

YOU REALLY  
AMUSE ME! BURN  
THIS TINY BLADE  
OF GRASS! WELL,  
LET ME SHOW  
YOU WHAT I CAN  
DO!



\* SOME MYSTERIOUS, GIGANTIC, INSCRIBTABLE FORM

AGNI PENETRATED INTO THE BLADE OF GRASS BUT TRY AS MUCH AS HE COULD HE FAILED IN HIS ATTEMPT TO BURN OR EVEN SHAKE IT.



WHAT IS THIS ? I AM NOT ABLE TO BURN A TINY BLADE OF GRASS. MYSTERIOUS IS THIS SPIRIT ! I MUST RUN AWAY TO INDRA !

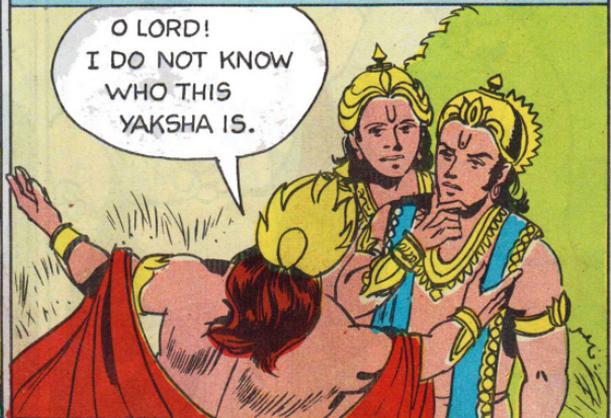


AGNI RAN AWAY IN FRIGHT...



... AND TOLD EVERYTHING TO INDRA.

O LORD ! I DO NOT KNOW WHO THIS YAKSHA IS.

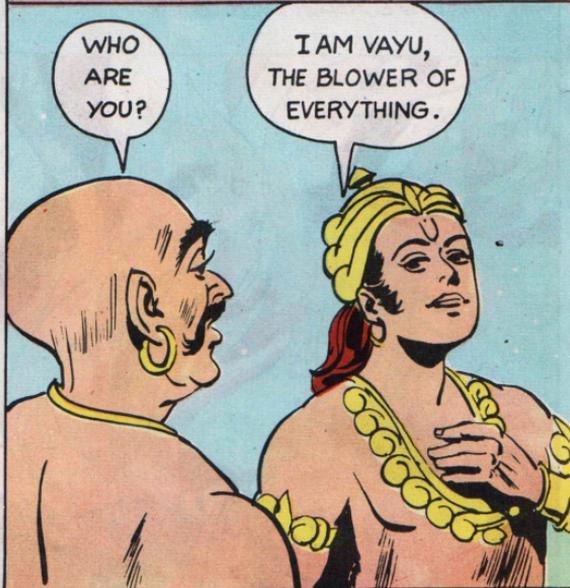


INDRA TURNED TO VAYU —



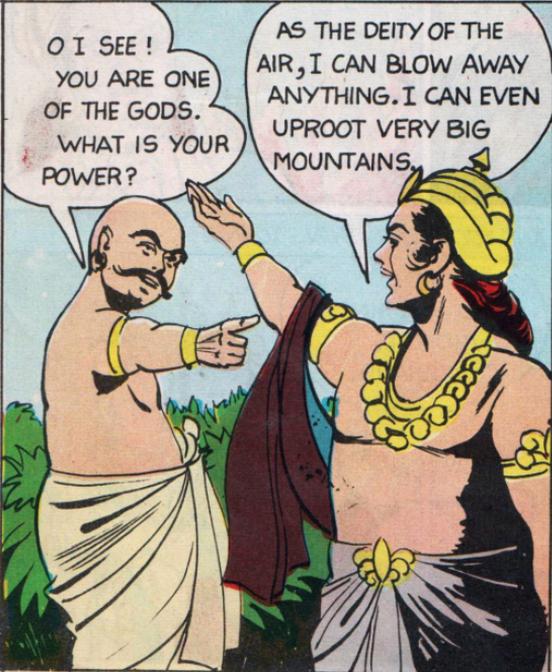
O VAYU, YOU PLEASE GO AND FIND OUT WHO THIS IS IN FRONT OF ME.

VAYU HASTENED TO MEET THE YAKSHA .AS HE APPROACHED NEARER —



WHO ARE YOU?

I AM VAYU, THE BLOWER OF EVERYTHING.



O I SEE ! YOU ARE ONE OF THE GODS. WHAT IS YOUR POWER?

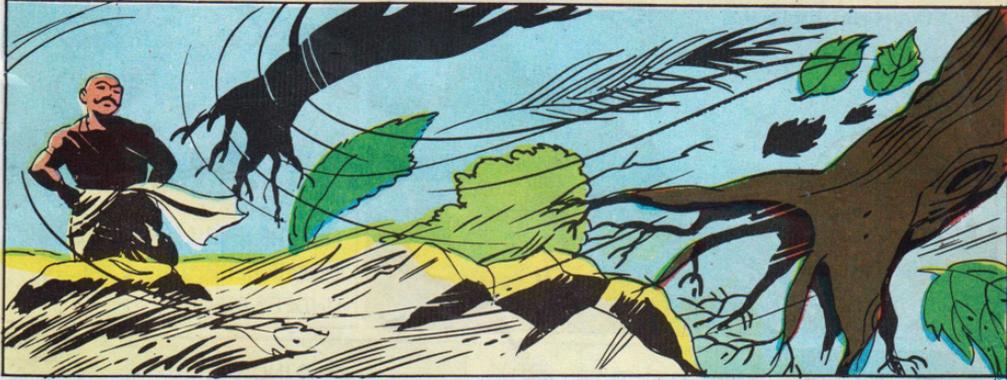
AS THE DEITY OF THE AIR, I CAN BLOW AWAY ANYTHING. I CAN EVEN UPROOT VERY BIG MOUNTAINS.



THE YAKSHA PLACED A BLADE OF GRASS BEFORE VAYU —

IS THAT SO ? THEN BLOW THIS LITTLE BLADE OF GRASS.

VAYU TOOK UP THE CHALLENGE AND THE MIGHTY CYCLONIC WIND BLEW AND BLEW. BUT THE DRY BLADE OF GRASS REMAINED WHERE IT WAS.



THIS SEEMS TO BE A MIGHTY SPIRIT! IT HAS MYSTERIOUS POWERS! I AM GREATLY AFRAID! I MUST RUN BACK TO INDRA!



VAYU RETURNED DEFEATED—

MY LORD!  
I TOO HAVE NOT BEEN  
ABLE TO FIND WHO  
THIS YAKSHA IS.

ALL RIGHT,  
THEN, I SHALL  
GO MYSELF.



WHEN INDRA\* APPROACHED, THE YAKSHA SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED...



...AND IN ITS PLACE STOOD A VERY LUSTROUS, BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OF GOLDEN COLOUR.



IT IS UMA HEMAVATI,  
THE GOLDEN-HUED  
GODDESS! \*\*

\*INDRA REPRESENTS THE EGO PRINCIPLE IN HUMAN BEINGS.

O MOTHER ! WHAT WAS THIS GREAT BEING ? AGNI\* AND VAYU\* FAILED TO DISCOVER HIS IDENTITY.

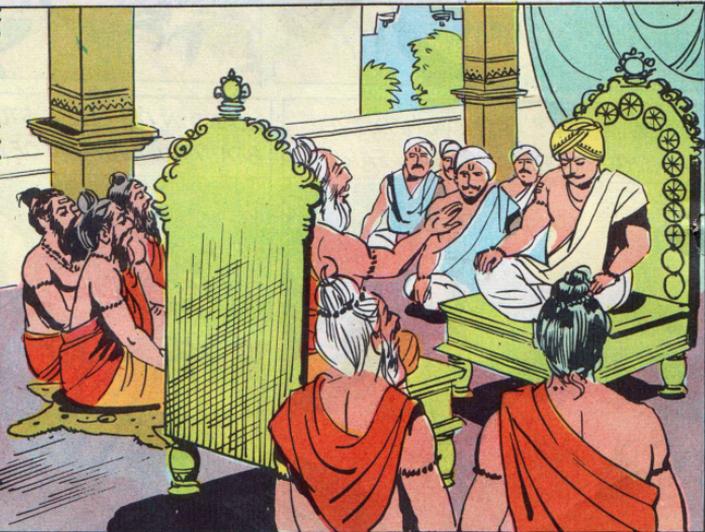


BUT THE SPIRIT VANISHED WHEN I CAME HERE. THIS I FAIL TO UNDERSTAND.

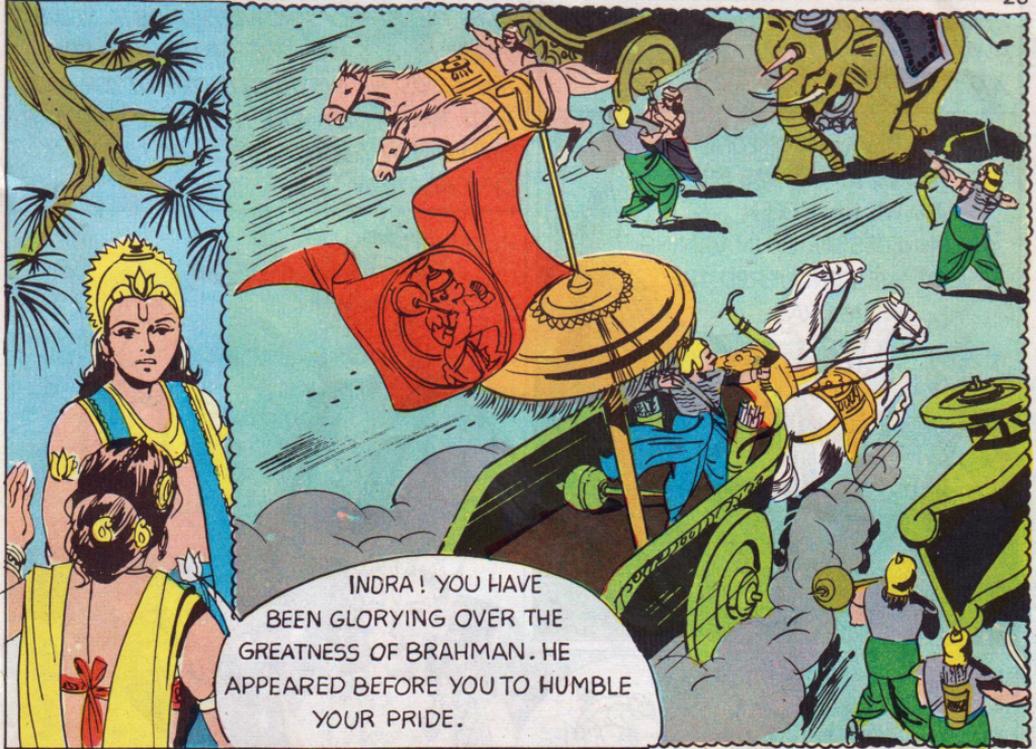
O MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSE ! PLEASE ENLIGHTEN ME ABOUT THIS MYSTERY. YOU ARE ALL-KNOWING AND CAN DESTROY THE IGNORANCE OF ANY ONE WHO APPROACHES YOU WITH HUMILITY.

O INDRA ! YOU CANNOT EASILY KNOW WHAT IT WAS THAT CAME AND MYSTIFIED YOU. IT WAS BRAHMAN.\*\*\*

WHILE BRAHMAN WON THE VICTORY IN THE BATTLE WITH THE ASURAS, YOU THOUGHT THAT IT WAS DUE TO YOUR EFFORTS.



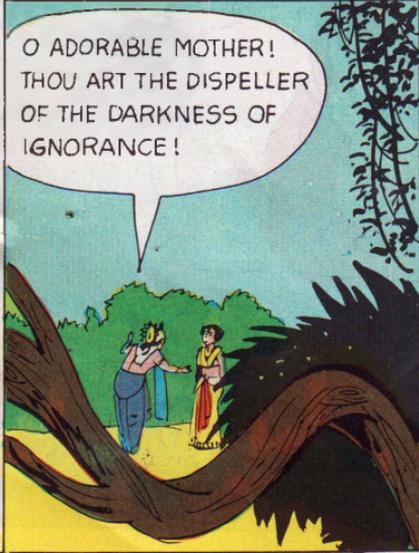
\*AGNI (THE FIRE PRINCIPLE) \*VAYU (THE MENTAL PRINCIPLE)



INDRA! YOU HAVE BEEN GLORYING OVER THE GREATNESS OF BRAHMAN. HE APPEARED BEFORE YOU TO HUMBLE YOUR PRIDE.

INDRA'S PRIDE WAS COMPLETELY HUMBLD.

HE PROSTRATED HIMSELF BEFORE THE GODDESS OF KNOWLEDGE...



O ADORABLE MOTHER! THOU ART THE DISPELLER OF THE DARKNESS OF IGNORANCE!



IT IS THROUGH THY GRACE THAT I HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF THAT GREAT BEING WHO IS THE REPOSITORY OF ALL POWERS. PROSTRATIONS UNTO THEE!

... AND AFTER HAVING BEEN INITIATED BY HER, INDRA RETURNED TO AGNI AND VAYU -

WITH THE FIRE OF KNOWLEDGE OBTAINED BY INDRA HE BECAME PRE-EMINENT AMONG THE GODS. HE INSTRUCTED THE OTHER GODS AND THEY TOO WERE ILLUMINED AND ARE SHINING IN THE HEAVEN SINCE THE TIME OF CREATION.

O DEVAS ! SOMEONE HELPED US ! IT WAS BRAHMAN AND WE HAVE BEEN UNNECESSARILY IMAGINING THAT WE CONQUERED THE ASURAS.



# Dadhyan Atharvava Maharishi



I HAVE HEARD THAT SAGE DADHYAN IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SATISFY MY THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.

INDRA, THE KING OF THE GODS, SAT ON HIS SPLENDID THRONE. HE WAS IN A DEJECTED MOOD.

AS INDRA APPROACHED THE HERMITAGE OF SAGE DADHYAN -



WELCOME, O INDRA! MAY I KNOW THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT?

O REVERED MAHARISHI! THE PLEASURES OF HEAVEN ARE PALLING UPON ME.

THE ASURAS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED! BUT THEY ARE BOUND TO COME BACK TO WRECK THEIR VENGEANCE UPON US.

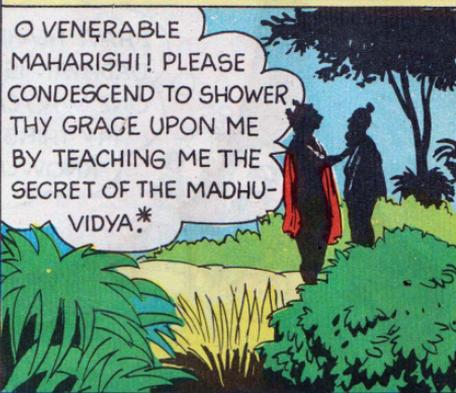


IF THAT IS SO, WHAT SERVICE CAN I DO TO YOU?

INDRA FELL PROSTRATE AT THE FEET OF THE SAGE...



... AND REQUESTED FOR INITIATION INTO A SECRET DOCTRINE.



O VENERABLE MAHARISHI! PLEASE CONDESCEND TO SHOWER THY GRACE UPON ME BY TEACHING ME THE SECRET OF THE MADHU-VIDYA.\*

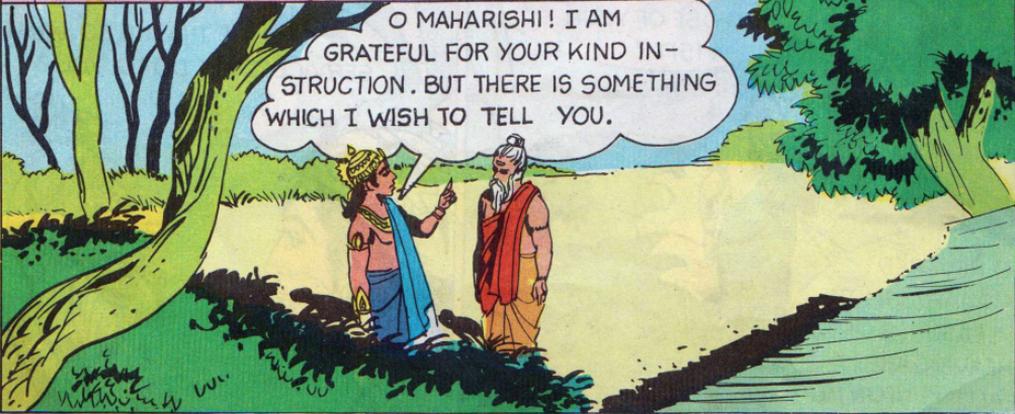
SAGE DADHYAN WAS PLEASED. HE TAUGHT THE DOCTRINE TO INDRA.



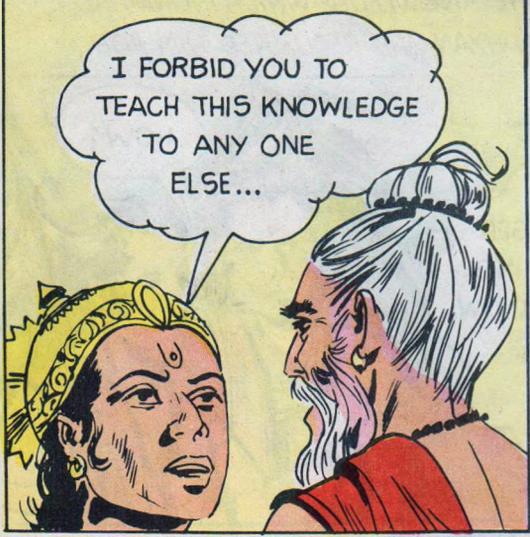
O INDRA! EVEN THE MEMORY OF THIS KNOWLEDGE WILL ENABLE YOU TO BE FREE FROM FEAR OF ANY KIND.

THIS IS REALLY A GREAT SECRET! IT SHOULD NOT BE IMPARTED TO ANY ONE ELSE! I SHALL SEE TO IT!

INDRA, HOWEVER, WAS A VERY STRANGE DISCIPLE —



O MAHARISHI! I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KIND INSTRUCTION. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING WHICH I WISH TO TELL YOU.



I FORBID YOU TO TEACH THIS KNOWLEDGE TO ANY ONE ELSE...



... AND IF YOU DO, I WILL CUT OFF YOUR HEAD.

SAGE DADHYAN, ON HEARING THIS THREAT FROM INDRA, KEPT QUIET.



NOW PERMIT ME TO LEAVE. AND REMEMBER MY WORDS BECAUSE I SHALL NOT RELENT ON THIS POINT.

INDRA THEN WENT BACK TO HIS KINGDOM. THE TWO ASHVINS\* SAW HIM ENTERING HIS PALACE.

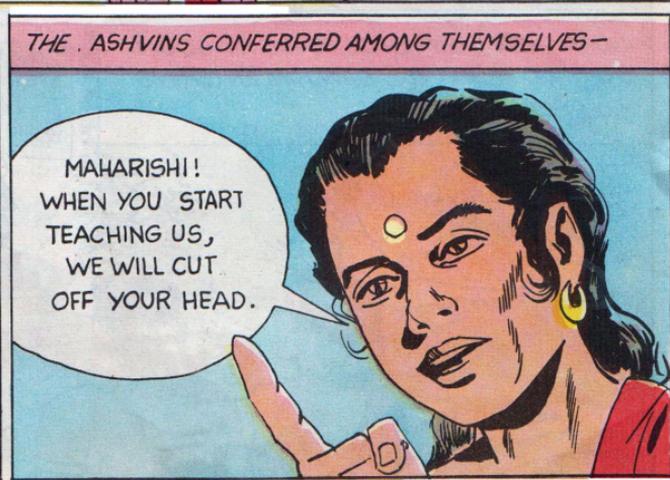
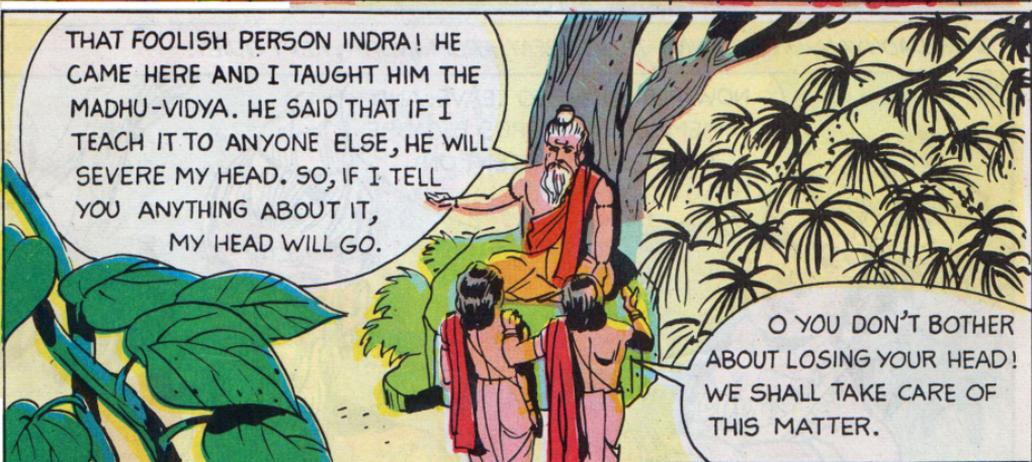
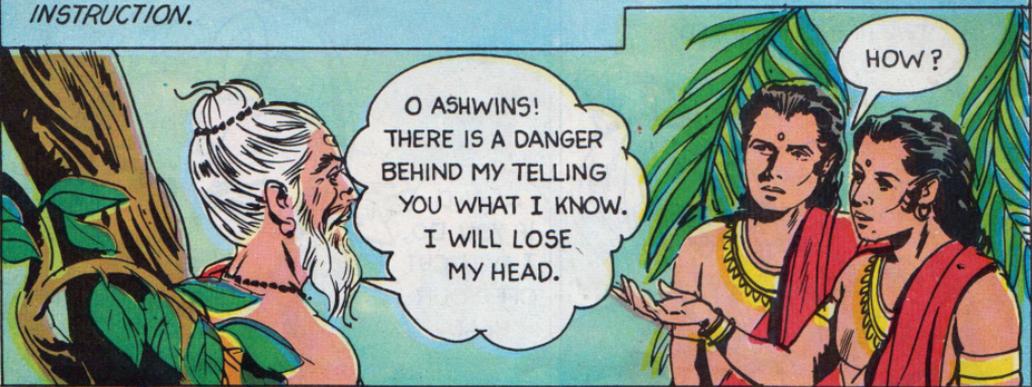


HE LOOKS CONFIDENT AND WELL-CONTENTED!

THE RESPLENDECE ON HIS FACE MAKES IT SO EVIDENT!

\* THE TWO ASHVINS ARE ALSO KNOWN AS THE TWIN BROTHERS OF THE SUN AND MOON.

THE TWO ASHVINS ALSO WANTED TO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE WHICH INDRA HAD ACQUIRED. THEY HUMBLY APPROACHED SAGE DADHYAN AND REQUESTED HIM FOR INSTRUCTION.

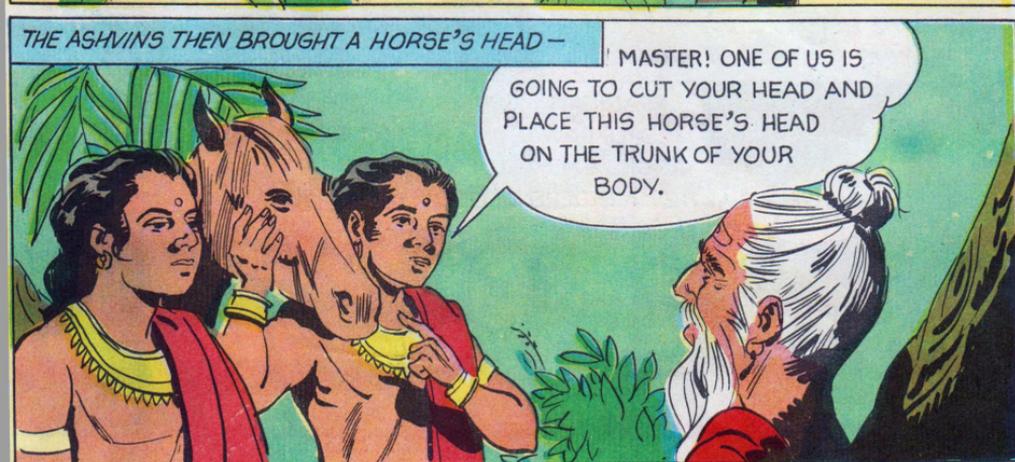


WHEN THE ASHVINS HAD DISCLOSED THE ENTIRE PLAN TO THE SAGE —

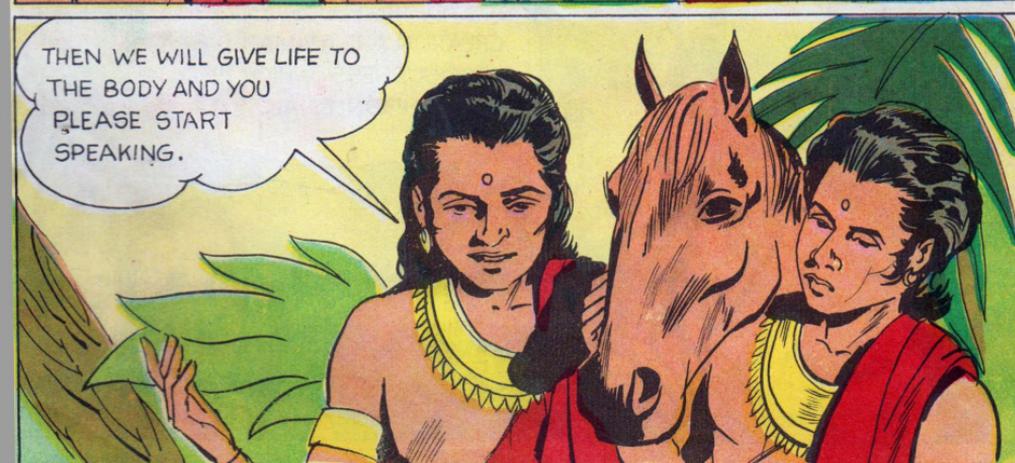


A WONDERFUL IDEA,  
INDEED! YOU GO AHEAD  
WITH IT AND I SHALL  
TEACH YOU FOR THE  
SAKE OF  
POSTERITY.

THE ASHVINS THEN BROUGHT A HORSE'S HEAD —

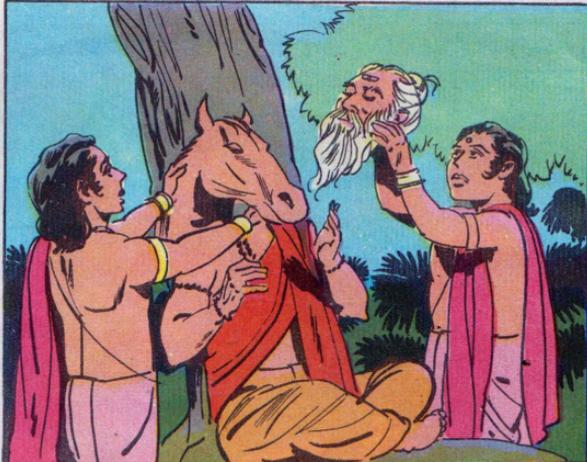


MASTER! ONE OF US IS  
GOING TO CUT YOUR HEAD AND  
PLACE THIS HORSE'S HEAD  
ON THE TRUNK OF YOUR  
BODY.



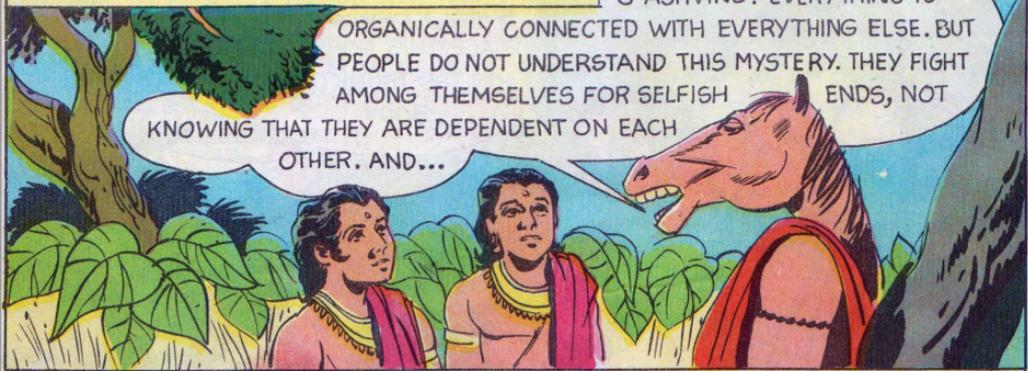
THEN WE WILL GIVE LIFE TO  
THE BODY AND YOU  
PLEASE START  
SPEAKING.

O ASHVINS, I AM READY FOR YOUR IDEA TO SUCCEED.

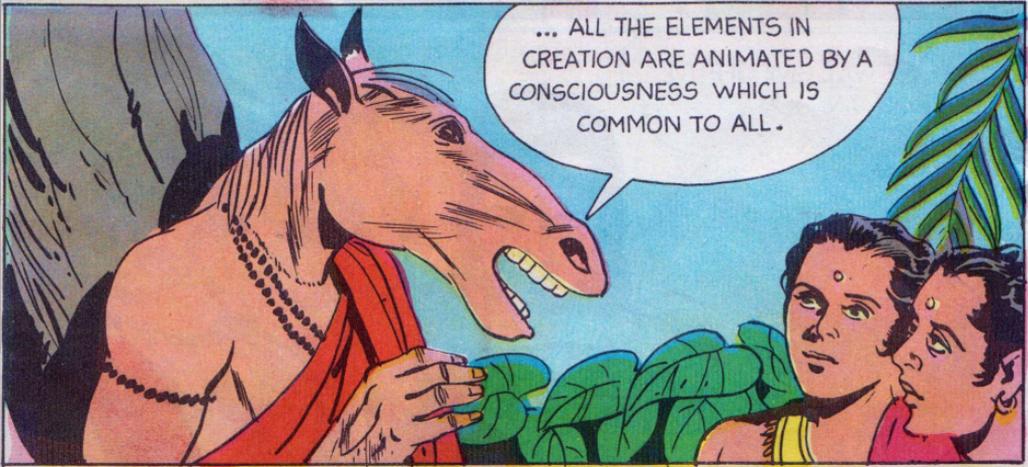


WITH THE HEAD OF THE HORSE ON THE TRUNK OF HIS BODY THE 'SAGE STARTED SPEAKING THE MADHU-VIDYA.

O ASHVINS! EVERYTHING IS ORGANICALLY CONNECTED WITH EVERYTHING ELSE. BUT PEOPLE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS MYSTERY. THEY FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES FOR SELFISH ENDS, NOT KNOWING THAT THEY ARE DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER. AND...



... ALL THE ELEMENTS IN CREATION ARE ANIMATED BY A CONSCIOUSNESS WHICH IS COMMON TO ALL.

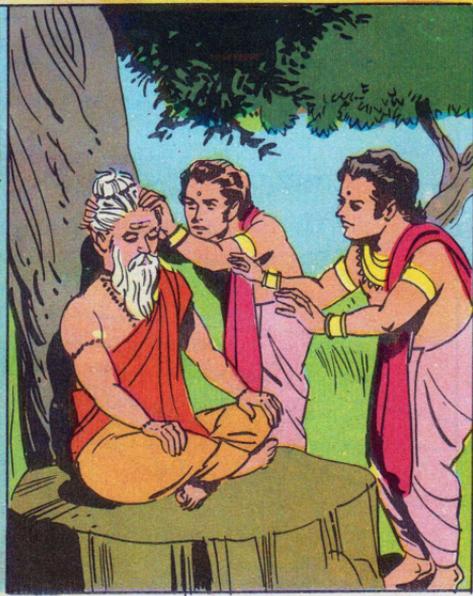
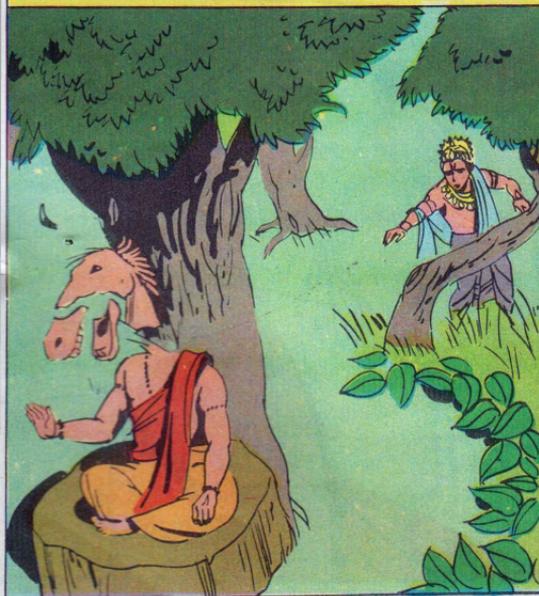


IMMEDIATELY INDRA CAME TO KNOW THAT THE SAGE HAD BETRAYED HIM.

SO THE MAHARISHI HAS TAUGHT THE SECRET TO SOMEONE ELSE ! I SHALL GO IMMEDIATELY AND DEAL WITH HIM.



LIKE A FURIOUS HURRICANE DID HE COME TO CARRY OUT HIS THREAT, NOT KNOWING THAT WHAT HE HAD CUT OFF WAS THE HORSE'S HEAD ONLY. THE ASHVINS THEN REPLACED THE ORIGINAL HEAD ON THE SAGE'S BODY AND MADE HIM WHOLE.



DADHYAN ATHARVANA MAHARISHI TAUGHT THE WHOLE DOCTRINE TO THE ASHVINS,  
AND IN CONCLUSION HE SAID -

MY DEAR CHILDREN! YOU  
HAVE PERFORMED A TERRIFIC  
FEAT IN WANTING TO KNOW  
THIS WISDOM FROM ME BY  
CUTTING OFF MY HEAD. YOU  
ARE VERY VIRILE!

LIKE CLOUDS  
RAIN WATER, I  
SHALL RAIN  
PROSPERITY UPON  
YOU BY THIS KNOWLEDGE  
THAT YOU HAVE GAINED  
FROM ME.

"THROUGH THE MOUTH OF THE HORSE THE GREAT RISHI SPOKE."

Halhe



Kerala's Kaikottikali is a dance performed during the festival of Onam, in which the dancers move in a circle of flowers, with rhythmic hand movements symbolising the emergence of shoots and leaves. Handclaps accompany the graceful foot movements to the beat of popular melodies.

The Koli dance of Maharashtra is the folk dance of coastal fisher-folk and tells the story of their trials and tribulations, the swaying back and forth of the waves, and the brooding wait for the catch to be brought home. In two parallel rows they dance their laborious lives in mime; the arduous rowing against the tide, the waves breaking on the shore, the culminating joyousness of a good catch, as the beat quickens and the dancers break apart to fall, exhausted but happy, to the ground.

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**OUR NEXT TITLES:**

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No 9 THE SONS OF BHARADWAJA AND RAIBHYA

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