



JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA



The early 18th century saw the northern kingdoms in India torn between warring factions. The Mughals were rulers merely in name. The Afghans made seasonal intrusions into India and plundered regions on the frontier. About this time the Marāthas, too, were vying for sovereignty in the north. In spite of the disbandment of the Sikhs after the cruel execution of Banda Bahadur, Sikh warriors were arming themselves in greater numbers to wrest power from the Afghans.

During this turbulent period, a Sikh warrior, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia led the confederacy of various Sikh regiments, known as the Dal Khalsa, with visions of an independent Sikh state. His great military talent and political foresight, combined with his aspirations of forming a Sikh nation, endeared him to the fiery and able Sikh warriors; and so much so, that they came to rally in large numbers under his banner making a formidable array against their enemies.

Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, born in a small village of Ahlu, came to be called 'Badshah', the King, by his followers. He did not crown himself king, but it is little known that his achievements paved the way for the emergence of an independent Sikh nation.

Editor : D. Kumar

Script : Jagjit Uppal

Art Work : Vasant B Halbe

Our Next Title :

KING PRASENJITA AND HIS SON

JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA

UPON THE DEATH OF SARDAR BADR SINGH IN 1723, HIS WIFE TOOK HER FIVE YEAR OLD SON, JASSA SINGH, TO GURU GOBIND SINGH'S WIDOW MATA SUNDARI, FOR BLESSINGS.

YOUR SON IS DESTINED TO BE A GREAT MAN ONE DAY.

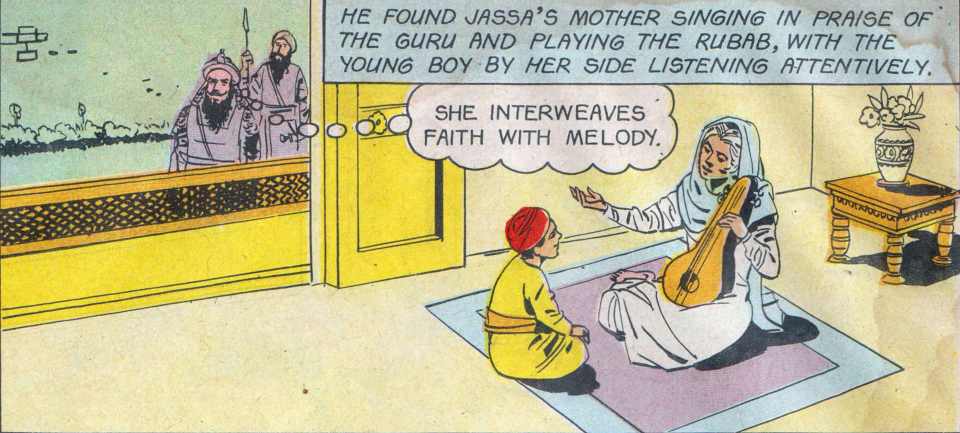
JASSA SINGH AND HIS MOTHER STAYED AT HER BROTHER SARDAR BHAG SINGH'S HOUSE.

ONE DAY NAWAB KAPUR SINGH, THE CHIEF OF FYZULPURIA MISL, PAID A VISIT TO THEIR HOUSE.



HE FOUND JASSA'S MOTHER SINGING IN PRAISE OF THE GURU AND PLAYING THE RUBAB, WITH THE YOUNG BOY BY HER SIDE LISTENING ATTENTIVELY.

SHE INTERWEAVES FAITH WITH MELODY.

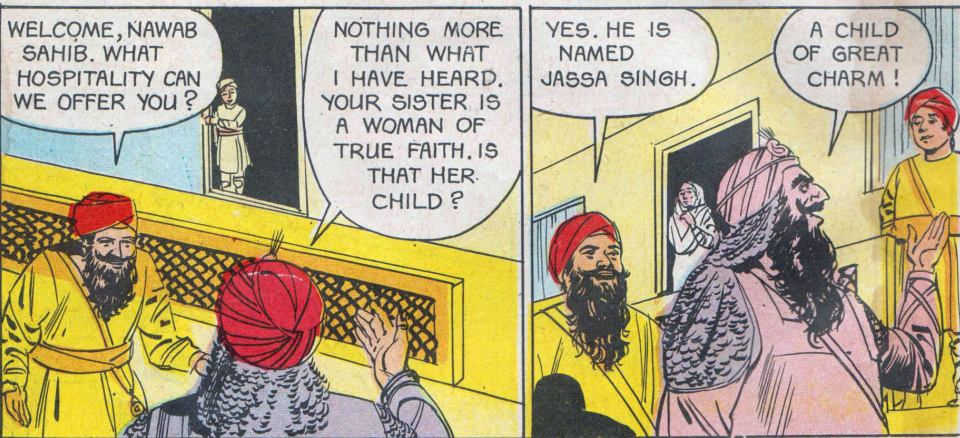


WELCOME, NAWAB SAHIB. WHAT HOSPITALITY CAN WE OFFER YOU?

NOTHING MORE THAN WHAT I HAVE HEARD. YOUR SISTER IS A WOMAN OF TRUE FAITH. IS THAT HER CHILD?

YES. HE IS NAMED JASSA SINGH.

A CHILD OF GREAT CHARM!

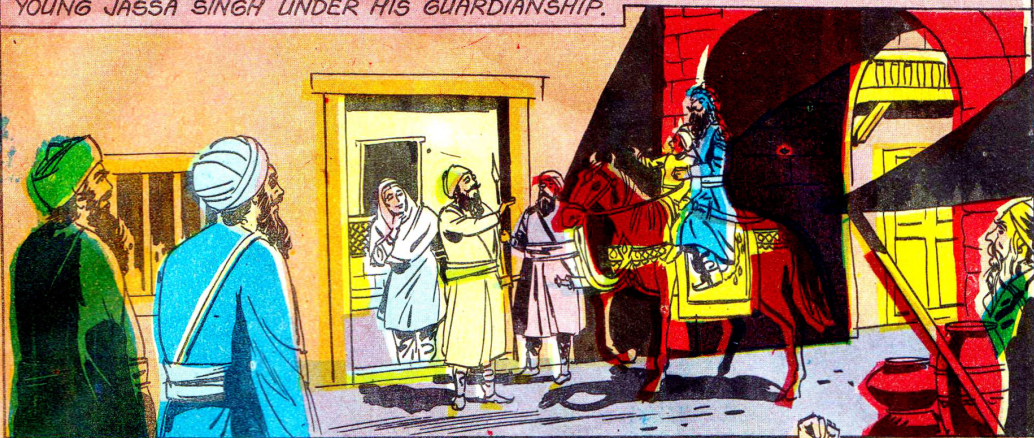


SISTER, PLACE YOUR CHILD IN MY CARE. I PROMISE TO REAR HIM AS MY OWN AND MAKE HIM A GENERAL OF WORTH.

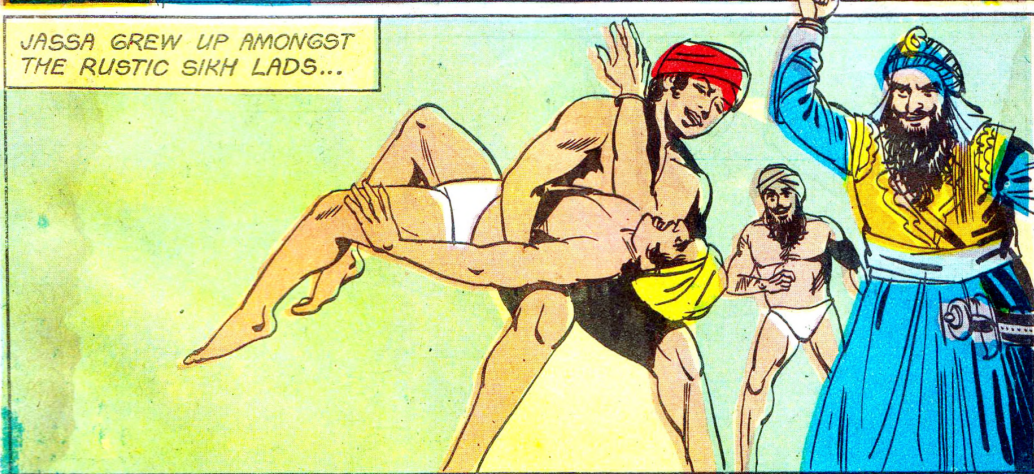
IT IS WELL, BROTHER. MATA SUNDARI HAD INDEED ASKED ME TO MEET YOU.



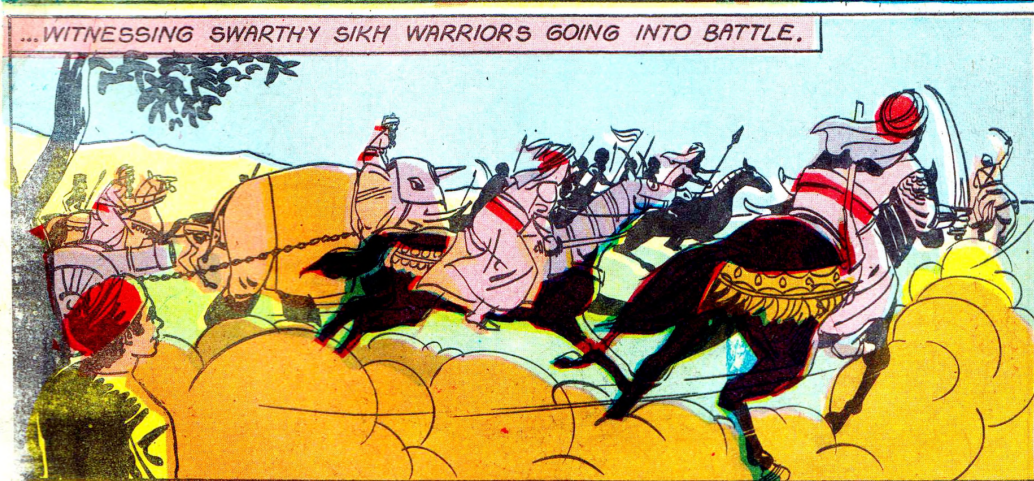
THUS NAWAB KAPUR SINGH, ONE OF THE ABLEST OF SIKH GENERALS, TOOK THE YOUNG JASSA SINGH UNDER HIS GUARDIANSHIP.



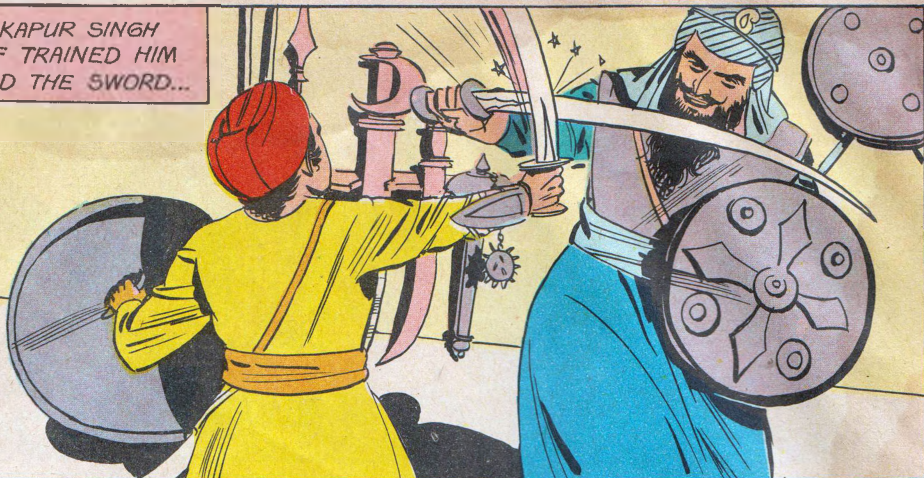
JASSA GREW UP AMONGST THE RUSTIC SIKH LADS...



...WITNESSING SWARTHY SIKH WARRIORS GOING INTO BATTLE.



NAWAB KAPUR SINGH
HIMSELF TRAINED HIM
TO WIELD THE SWORD...

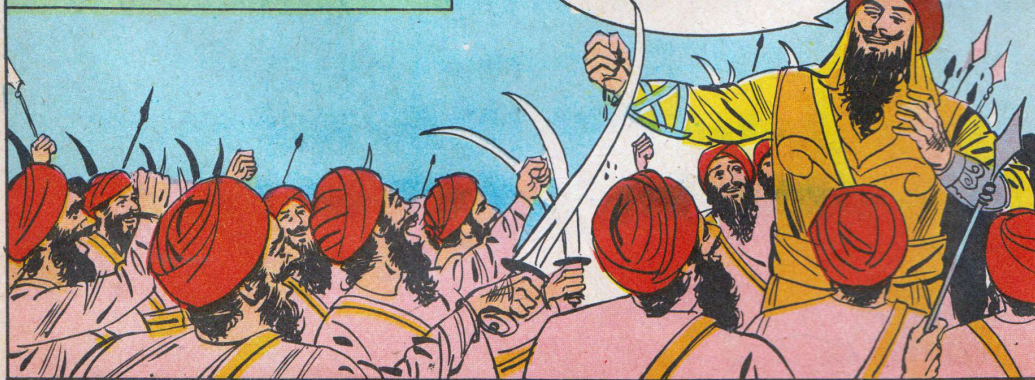


...THE BOW AND THE
MATCHLOCK.

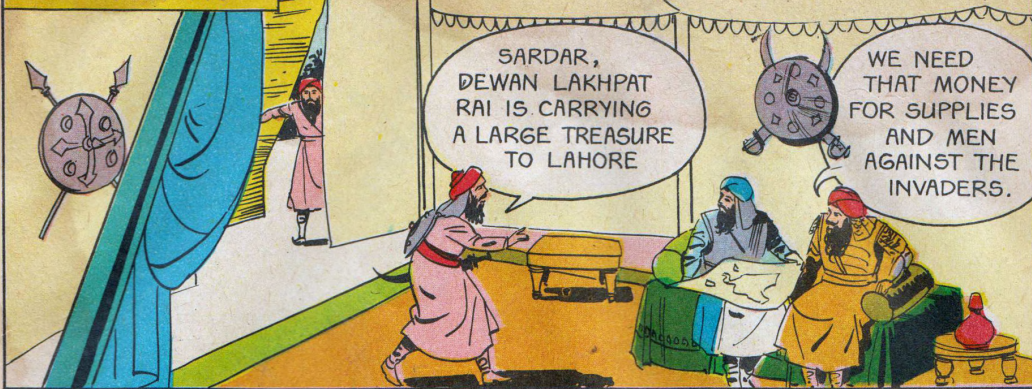


IN A FEW YEARS TIME THE LAD
GREW TO BE A HANDSOME YOUNG
MAN, JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA,
WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF
FOLLOWERS.

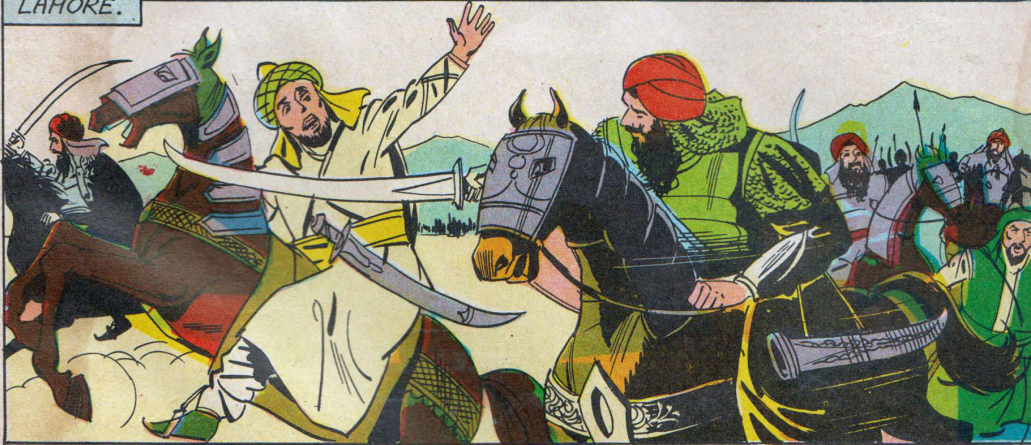
FRIENDS, TAKE A CLOD OF
EARTH IN YOUR FISTS AND
PLEDGE THAT WE WILL
WREST OUR LANDS FROM
THE INVADER!



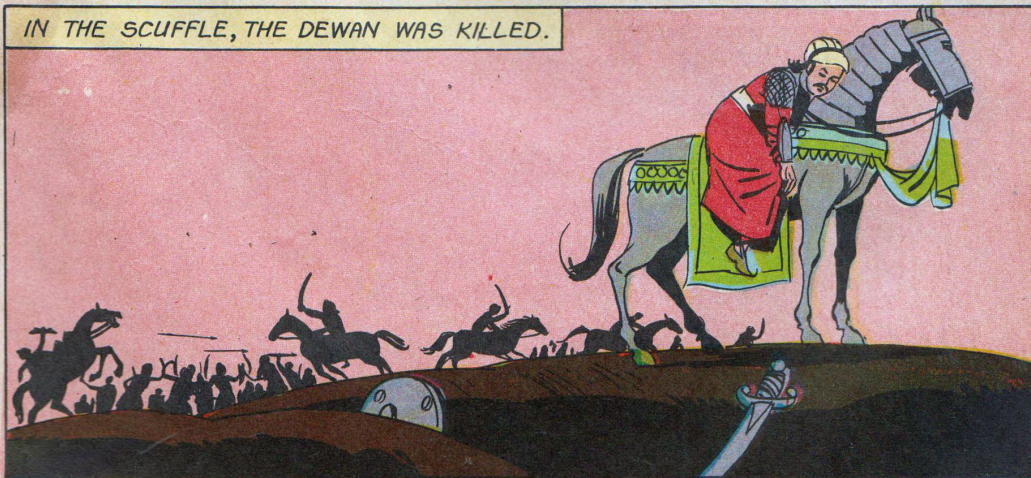
IN THE YEAR 1743 —

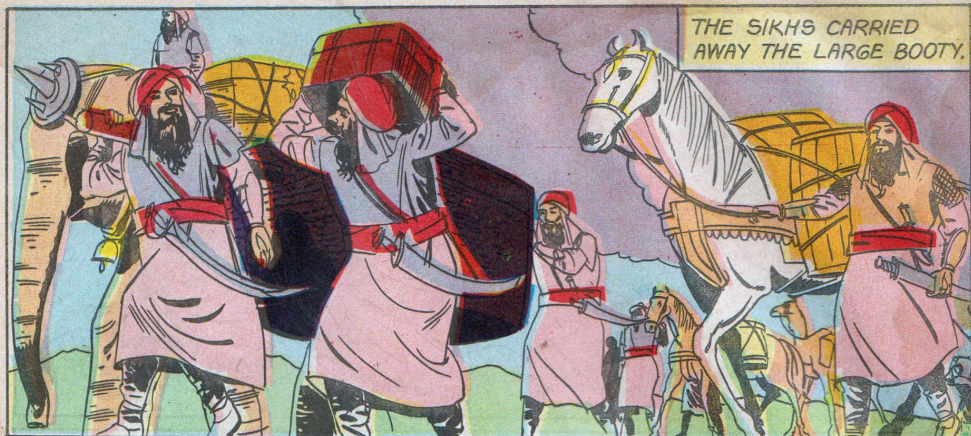


ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE BODY OF HORSEMEN, JASSA SINGH FELL UPON THE CONVOY OF DEWAN LAKHPAT RAI, THE DEPUTY OF NAWAB ZAKARIA KHAN OF LAHORE.



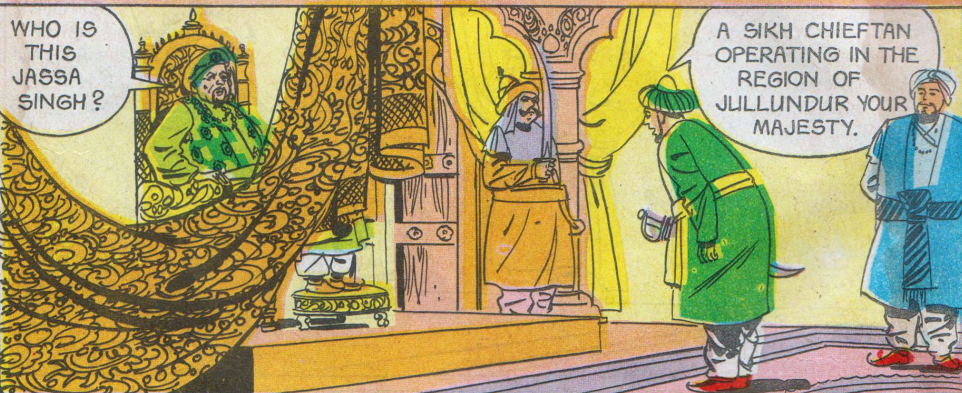
IN THE SCUFFLE, THE DEWAN WAS KILLED.





THE SIKHS CARRIED AWAY THE LARGE BOOTY.

AT LAHORE, THE VICEROY, NAWAB ZAKARIA KHAN WAS FURIOUS.



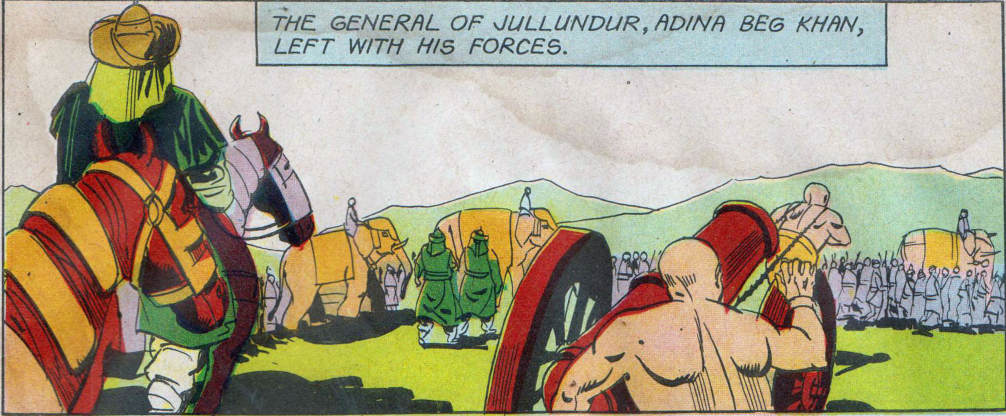
WHO IS THIS JASSA SINGH?

A SIKH CHIEFTAN OPERATING IN THE REGION OF JULLUNDUR YOUR MAJESTY.



SEND ORDERS TO ADINA BEG KHAN TO CRUSH THESE SIKH WARRIORS.

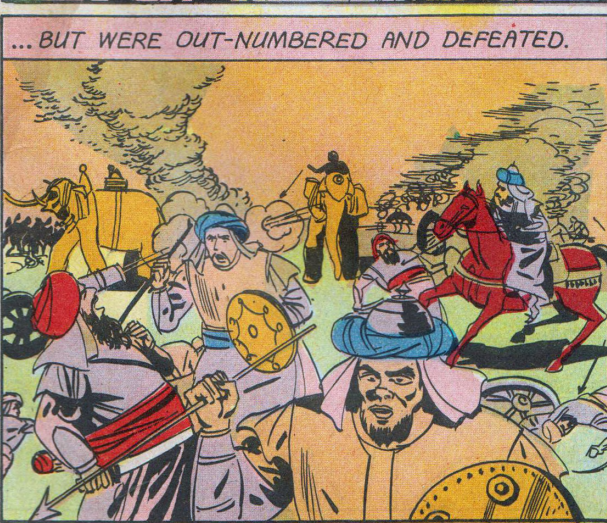
THE GENERAL OF JULLUNDUR, ADINA BEG KHAN,
LEFT WITH HIS FORCES.



THE SIKHS GAVE BATTLE TO ADINA BEG KHAN...



... BUT WERE OUT-NUMBERED AND DEFEATED.



SARDAR,
YOU MUST
ESCAPE.

NO. I CANNOT
LEAVE THE
BATTLEFIELD.

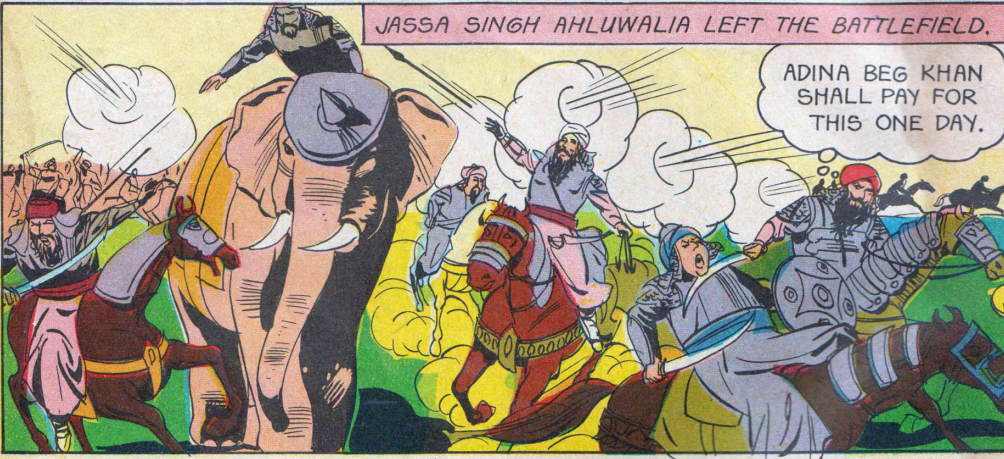


NO, SARDAR, WE ARE
LOSING. ESCAPE NOW
TO FIGHT AGAIN.

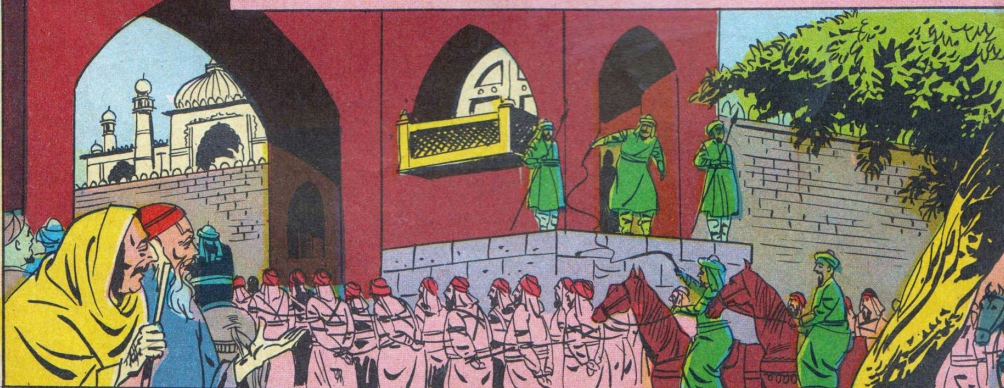


JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA LEFT THE BATTLEFIELD.

ADINA BEG KHAN
SHALL PAY FOR
THIS ONE DAY.



MANY SIKHS WERE TAKEN PRISONERS TO LAHORE WHERE
THEY WERE EXECUTED AT NAKHASHKHANA.*



* LATER CALLED SHAHID GANJ

JASSA SINGH WAS FURIOUS AT THE NEWS OF THESE EXECUTIONS.

I MUST VISIT AMRITSAR, BEFORE DECIDING UPON THE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION.

IN ENTERING THE HOLY CITY, WILL WE NOT PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNOR SALABAT KHAN?

I PROMISE THAT SALABAT KHAN'S SWORD WILL LEAVE IT'S SCABBARD FOR THE LAST TIME.

THE SIKHS STORMED AMRITSAR...



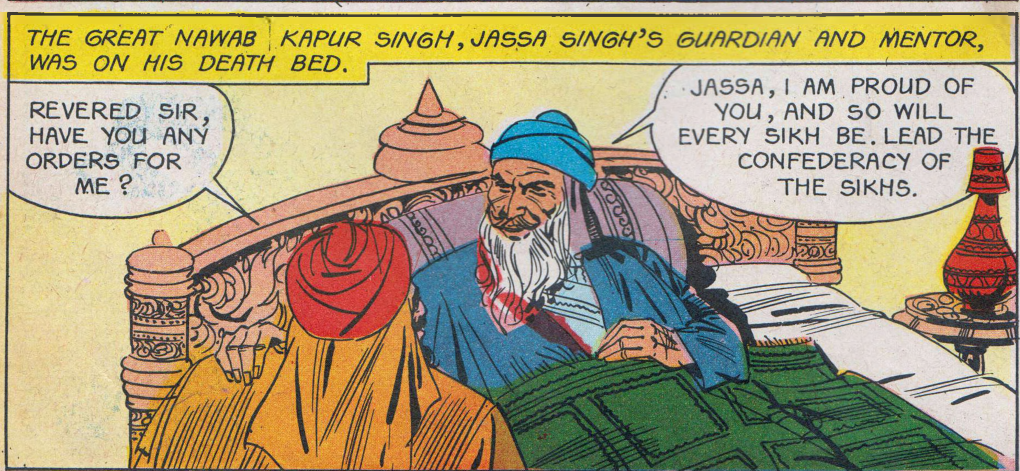
... AND SALABAT KHAN WAS SLAIN IN THE BATTLE.



JASSA SINGH GOT THE GOLDEN TEMPLE REPAIRED.



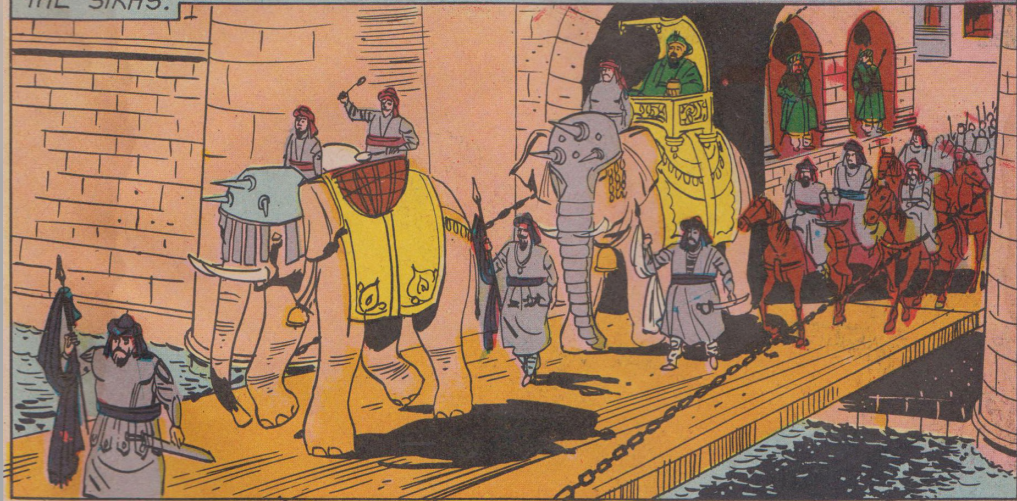
THE GREAT NAWAB KAPUR SINGH, JASSA SINGH'S GUARDIAN AND MENTOR, WAS ON HIS DEATH BED.



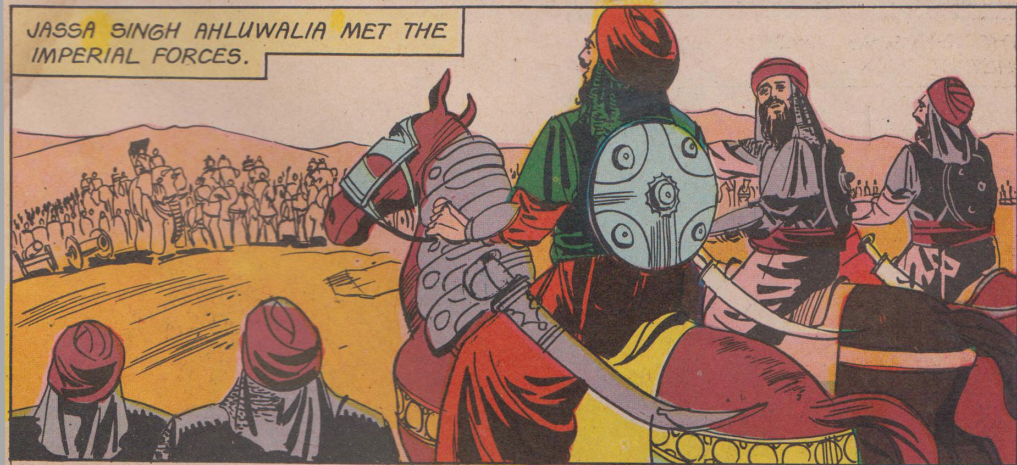
SARDAR JASSA SINGH
AHLUWALIA KI JAI!



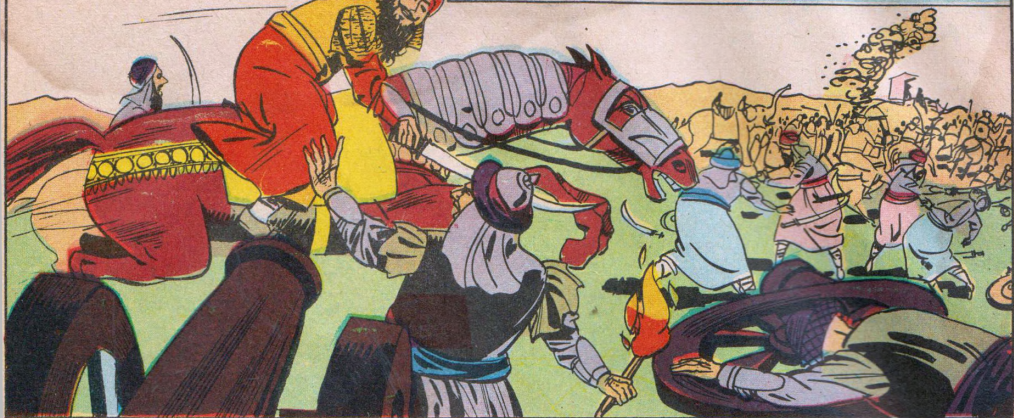
IN 1753, AZIZ KHAN, THE COMMANDER OF THE LAHORE FORCES, MARCHED TO CRUSH THE SIKHS.



JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA MET THE
IMPERIAL FORCES.



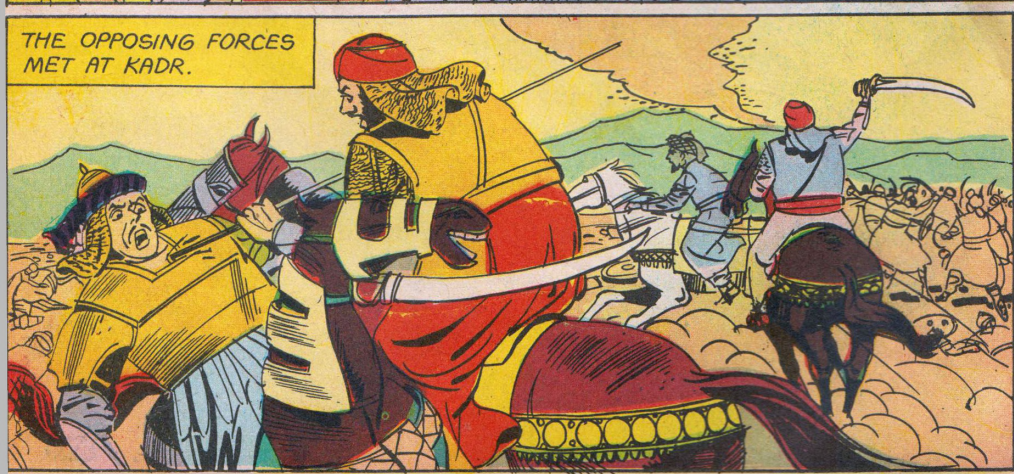
AZIZ KHAN SUFFERED A BATTERING DEFEAT.



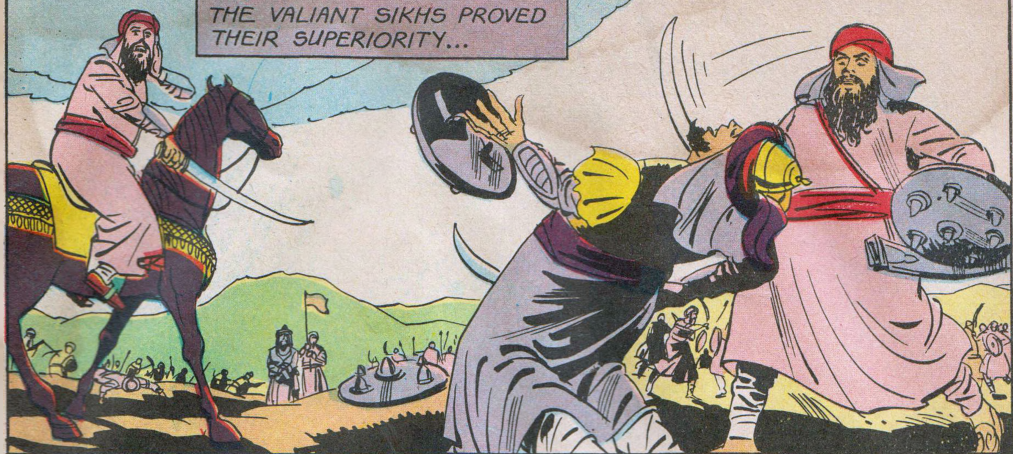
TWO YEARS LATER, ADINA BEG KHAN MARCHED WITH HIS ARMY AGAINST JASSA SINGH.



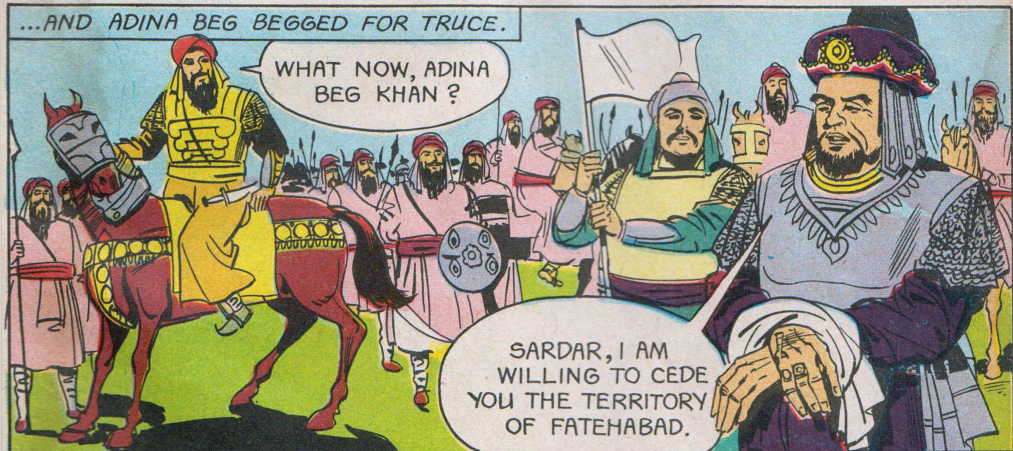
THE OPPOSING FORCES MET AT KADR.



THE VALIANT SIKHS PROVED
THEIR SUPERIORITY...



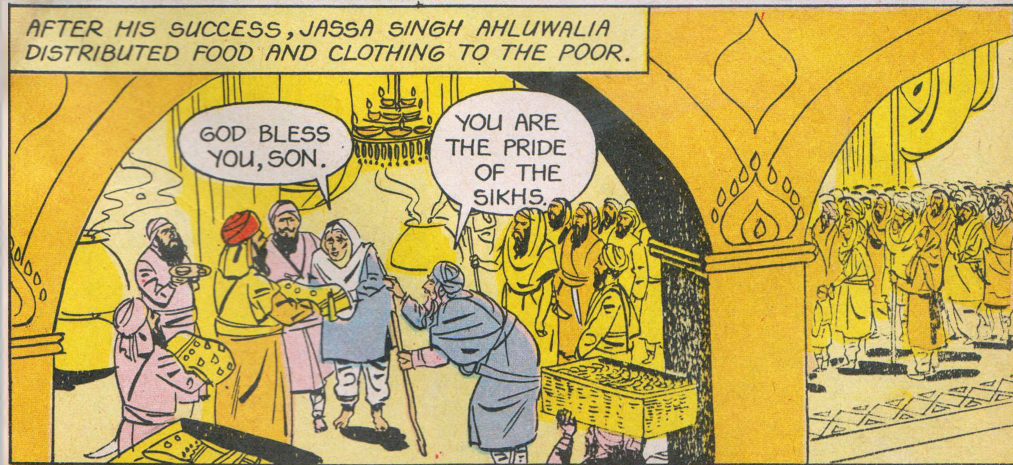
...AND ADINA BEG BEGGED FOR TRUCE.



WHAT NOW, ADINA
BEG KHAN ?

SARDAR, I AM
WILLING TO CEDE
YOU THE TERRITORY
OF FATEHABAD.

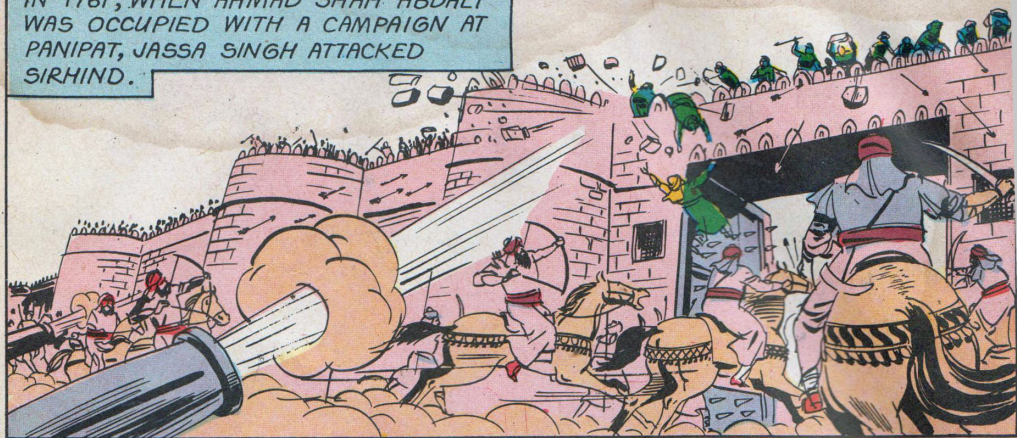
AFTER HIS SUCCESS, JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA
DISTRIBUTED FOOD AND CLOTHING TO THE POOR.



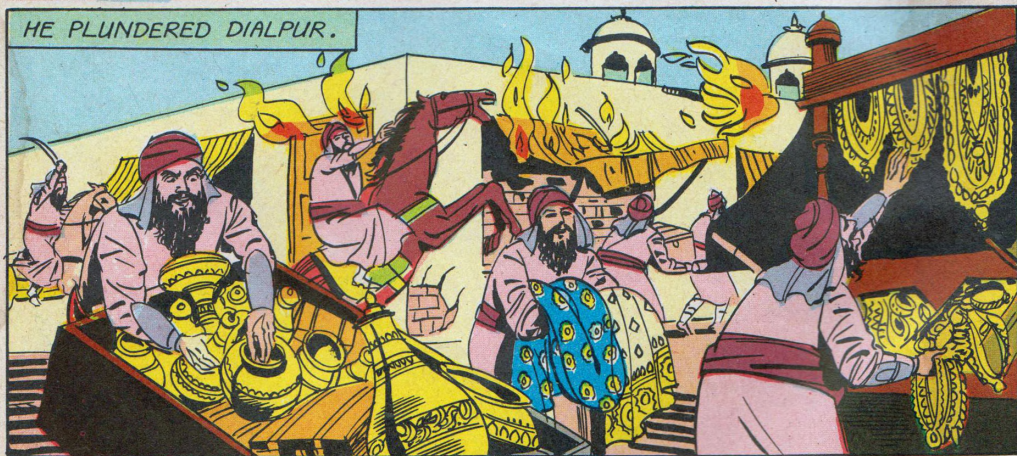
GOD BLESS
YOU, SON.

YOU ARE
THE PRIDE
OF THE
SIKHS.

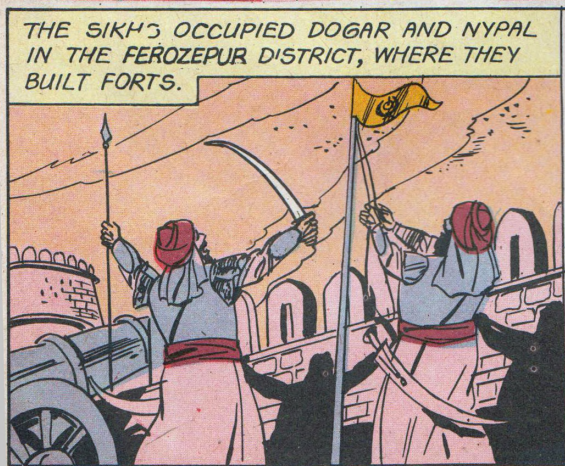
IN 1761, WHEN AHMAD SHAH ABDALI WAS OCCUPIED WITH A CAMPAIGN AT PANIPAT, JASSA SINGH ATTACKED SIRHIND.



HE PLUNDERED DIALPUR.

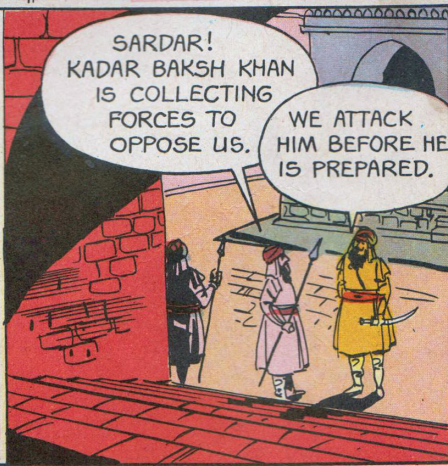


THE SIKH'S OCCUPIED DOGAR AND NYPAL IN THE FERÖZEPUR DISTRICT, WHERE THEY BUILT FORTS.

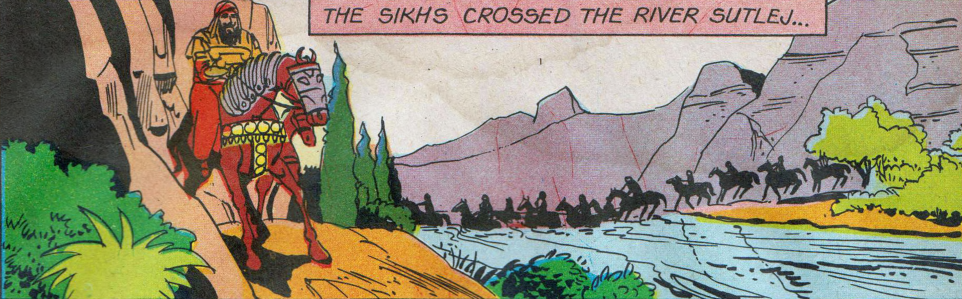


SARDAR!
KADAR BAKSH KHAN
IS COLLECTING
FORCES TO
OPPOSE US.

WE ATTACK
HIM BEFORE HE
IS PREPARED.



THE SIKHS CROSSED THE RIVER SUTLEJ...

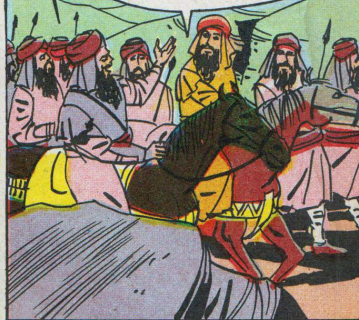


...AND CAPTURED JAGRAON AND KOT ISA KHAN FROM KADAR BAKSH KHAN.



GREAT IS THE FAVOUR OF THE GURU ! THE ENEMIES FLEE FROM US !

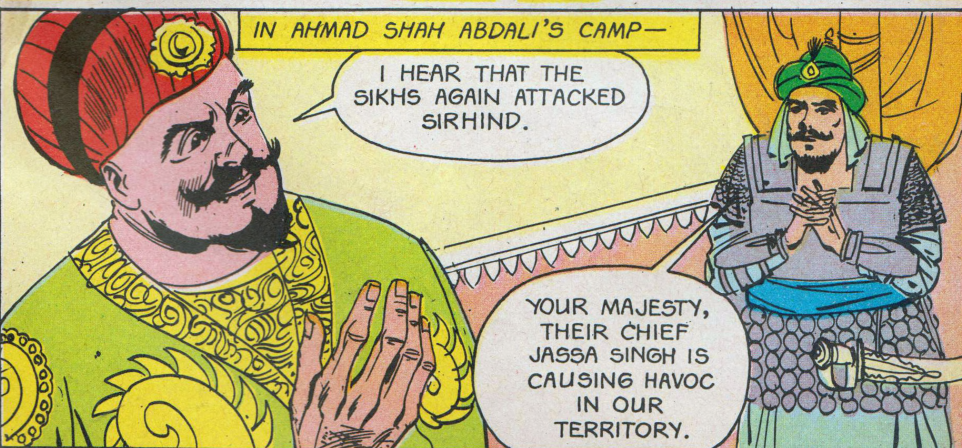
AND GREAT IS THE ARM OF JASSA ! HOSHIARPUR, AMBALA, GOVINDWAL AND TARAN IS OURS !



IN AHMAD SHAH ABDALI'S CAMP—

I HEAR THAT THE SIKHS AGAIN ATTACKED SIRHIND.

YOUR MAJESTY, THEIR CHIEF JASSA SINGH IS CAUSING HAVOC IN OUR TERRITORY.



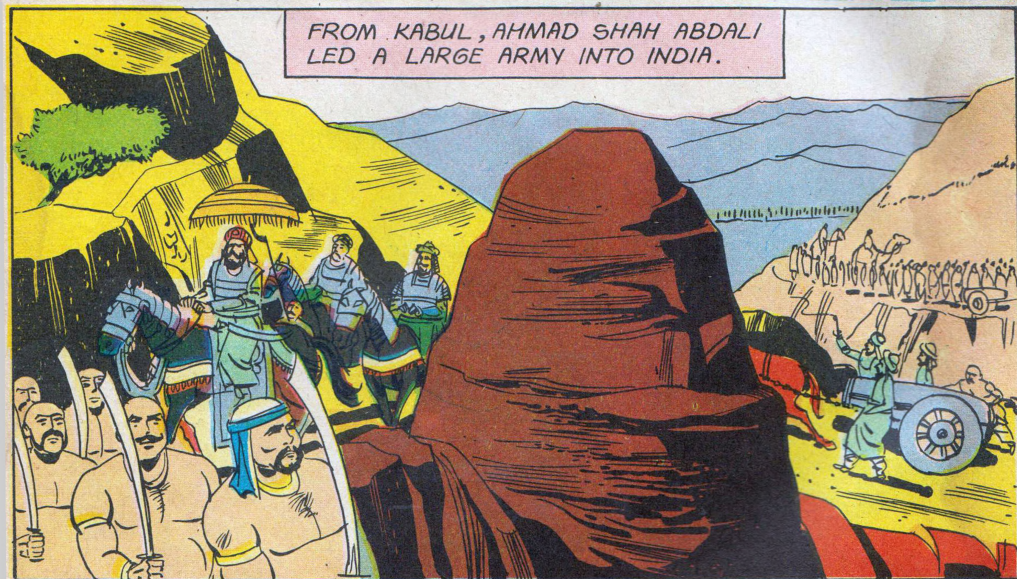
AN ARMY
OF UPSTART,
STATELESS
SIKHS
PITTED
AGAINST ME...



I SHALL NOT TOLERATE
THIS ANY MORE. AN
INVASION TO INDIA
THIS TIME SHALL SEE
AN END TO THESE
SIKH ADVENTURERS.



FROM KABUL, AHMAD SHAH ABDALI
LED A LARGE ARMY INTO INDIA.



THE SIKHS RALLIED UNDER JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA.

THIS TIME WE GIVE ABDALI A TASTE
OF OUR STRENGTH. WE MAY BE
OUT-NUMBERED BUT NOT OUT-
MATCHED.

BADSHAH
JASSA SINGH
KI JAI.*



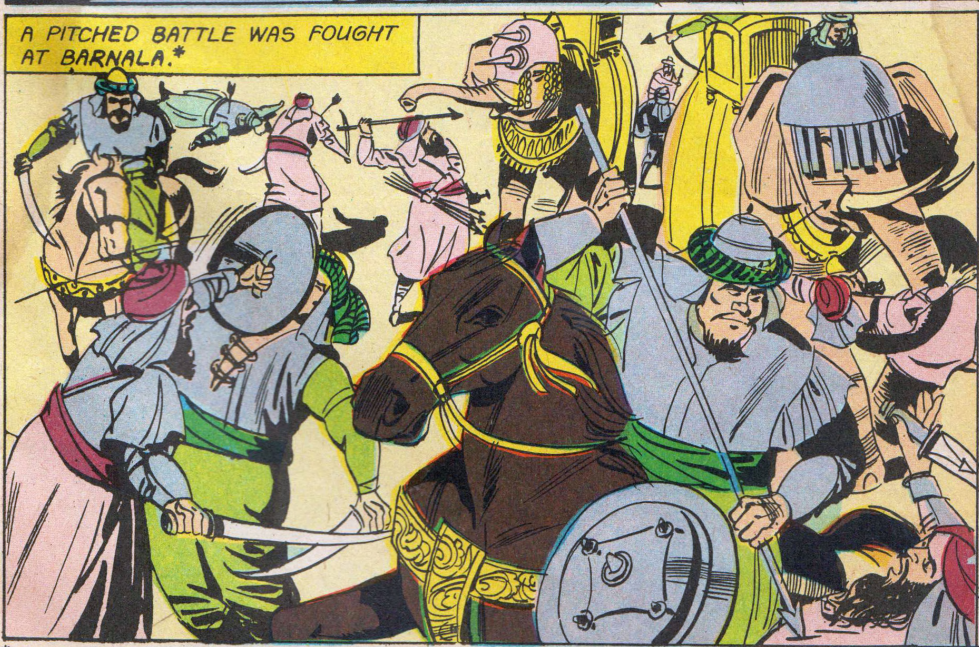
* JASSA SINGH FOLLOWERS CALLED HIM BADSHAH



JASSA SINGH LED THE CONFEDERACY OF THE SIKHS.

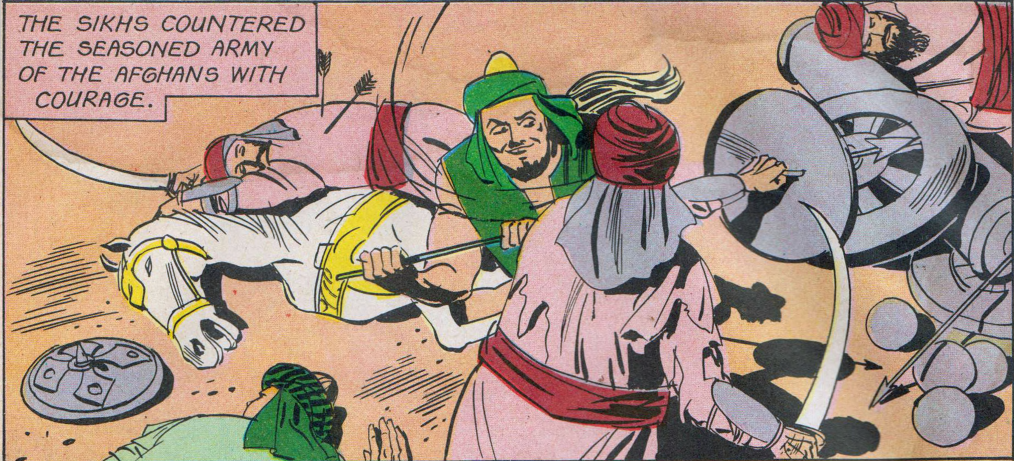


A PITCHED BATTLE WAS FOUGHT AT BARNALA.*

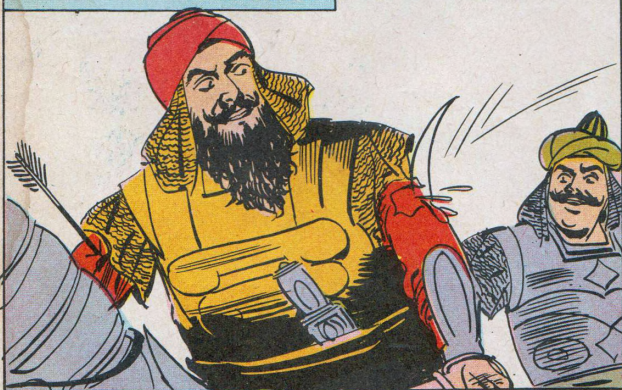


*SIKHS CALL IT GULLUGHARA

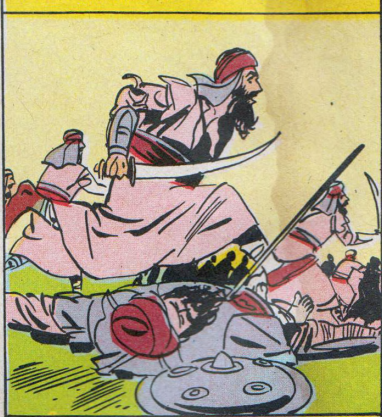
THE SIKHS COUNTERED
THE SEASONED ARMY
OF THE AFGHANS WITH
COURAGE.



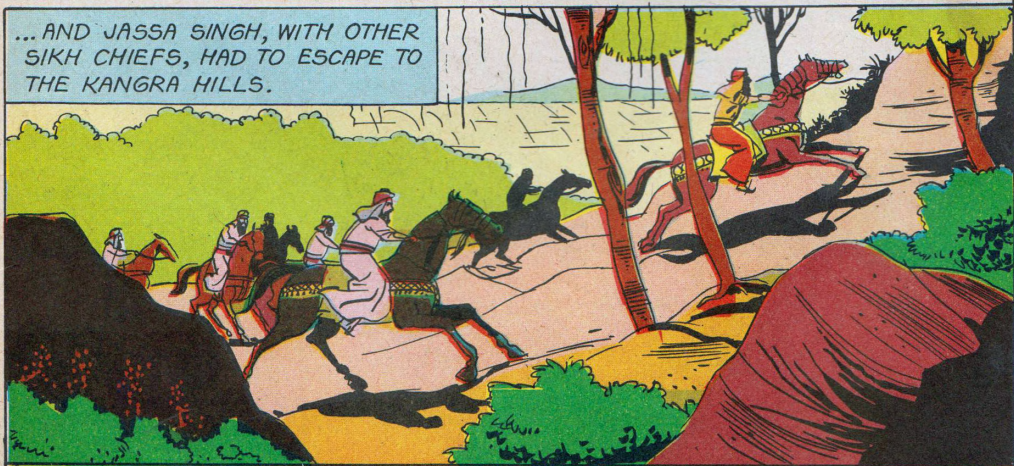
BUT THEY LOST AND JASSA SINGH RECEIVED
A NUMBER OF WOUNDS.

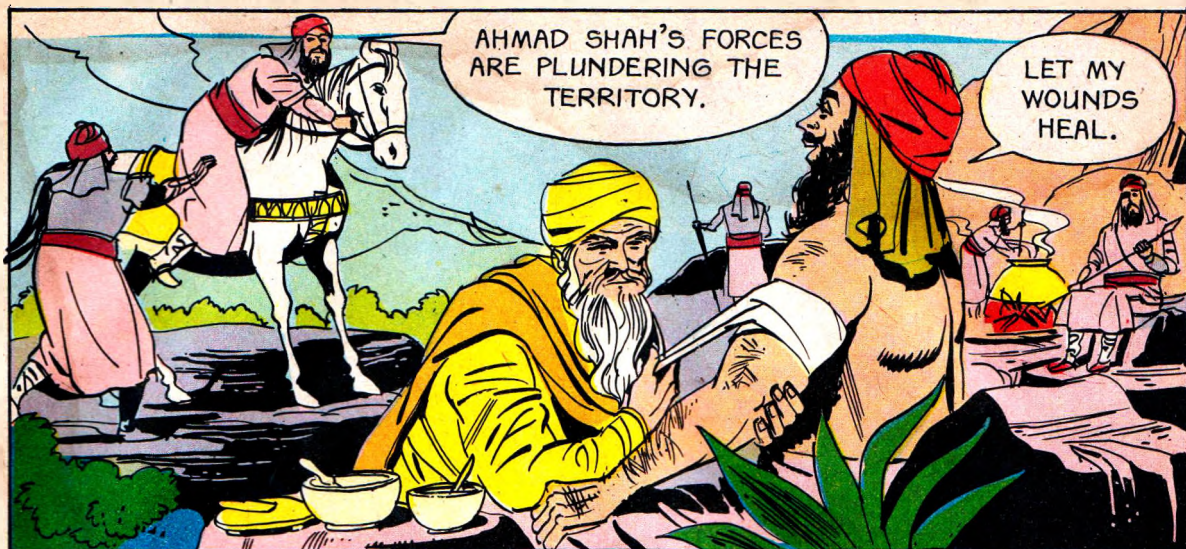


THE SIKHS SCATTERED...



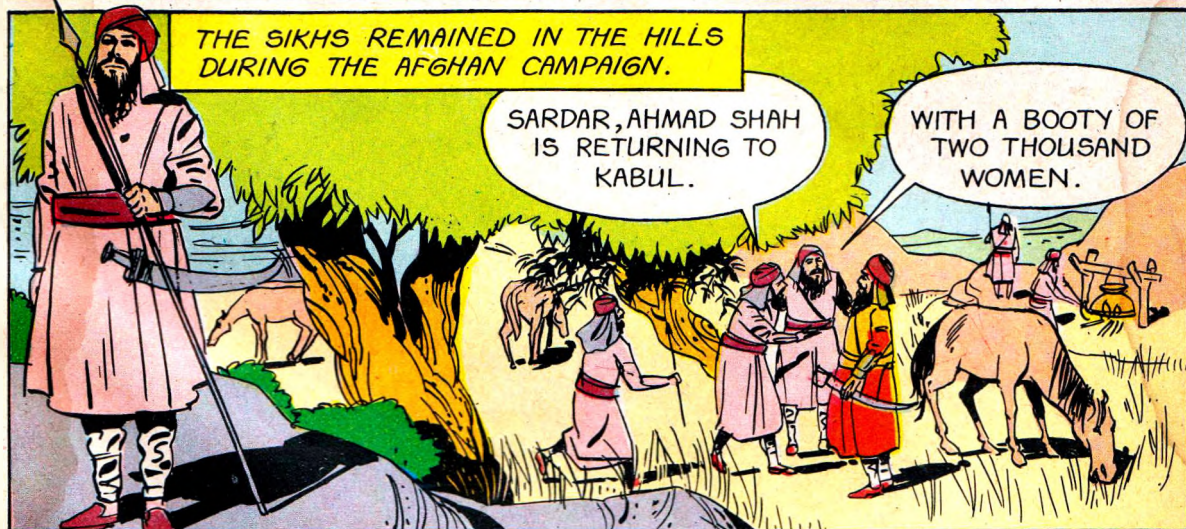
... AND JASSA SINGH, WITH OTHER
SIKH CHIEFS, HAD TO ESCAPE TO
THE KANGRA HILLS.





AHMAD SHAH'S FORCES
ARE PLUNDERING THE
TERRITORY.

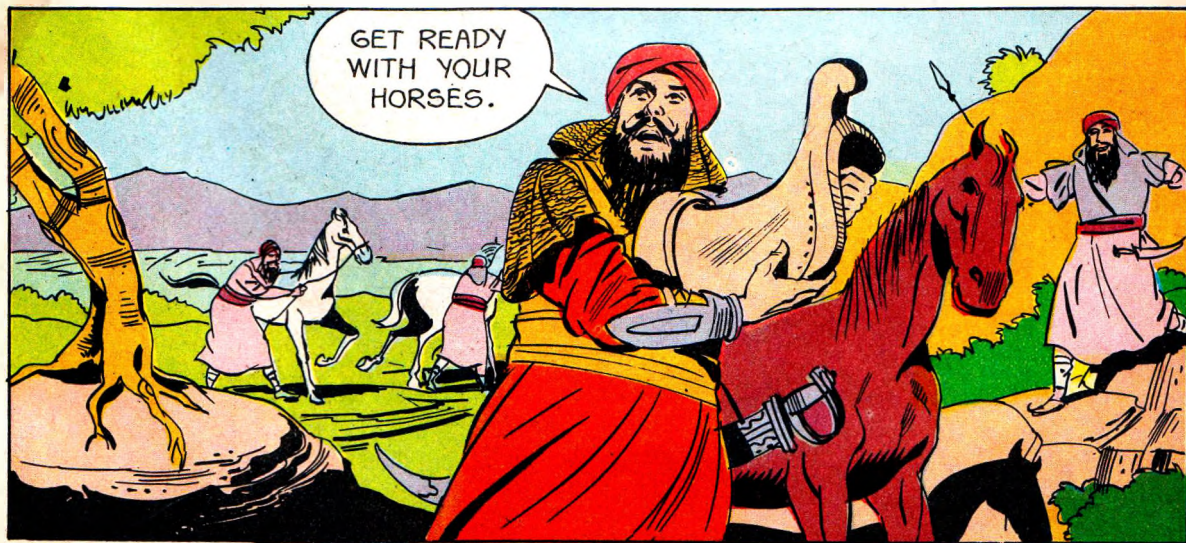
LET MY
WOUNDS
HEAL.



THE SIKHS REMAINED IN THE HILLS
DURING THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGN.

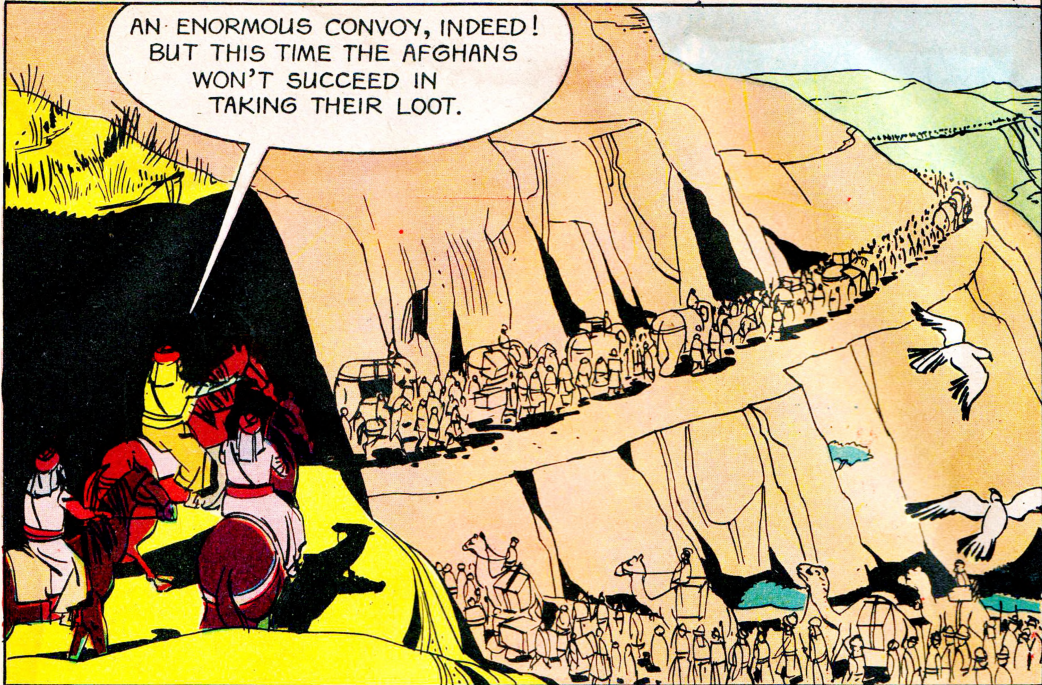
SARDAR, AHMAD SHAH
IS RETURNING TO
KABUL.

WITH A BOOTY OF
TWO THOUSAND
WOMEN.

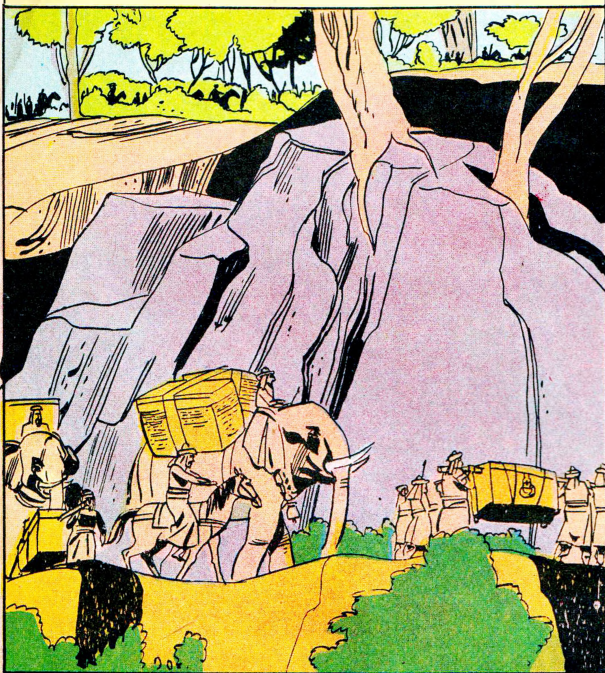


GET READY
WITH YOUR
HORSES.

AN ENORMOUS CONVOY, INDEED!
BUT THIS TIME THE AFGHANS
WON'T SUCCEED IN
TAKING THEIR LOOT.



THE SIKHS PURSUED THE AFGHANS,
ALWAYS KEEPING IN COVER.



THE AFGHANS SENSED THAT
THEY WERE BEING FOLLOWED.



I THINK SOME
DANGER IS LURKING
BEHIND US!

OH! IT
MUST BE
THE
SIKHS!

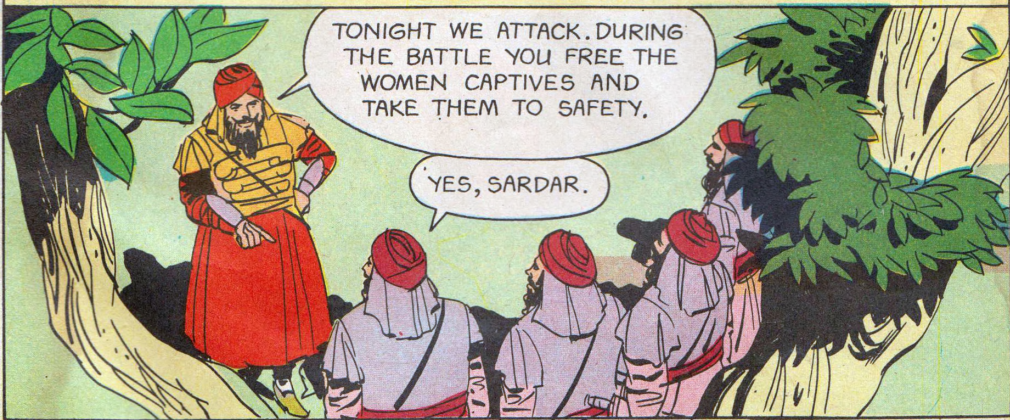
BUT WHY DON'T
THEY COME OUT IN
THE OPEN? THEY
WOULD GET A
LESSON.



BUT THE SIKHS LAY IN WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT.

TONIGHT WE ATTACK. DURING
THE BATTLE YOU FREE THE
WOMEN CAPTIVES AND
TAKE THEM TO SAFETY.

YES, SARDAR.



THAT NIGHT—

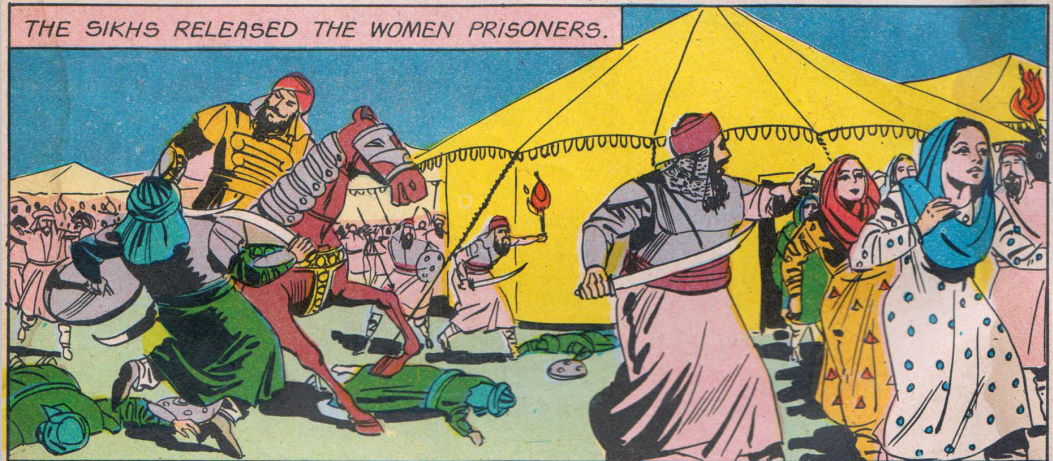
ATTACK...!



THE AFGHANS WERE
TAKEN BY SURPRISE.



THE SIKHS RELEASED THE WOMEN PRISONERS.



JASSA SINGH AND HIS MEN SCATTERED
THE RETREATING AFGHANS...

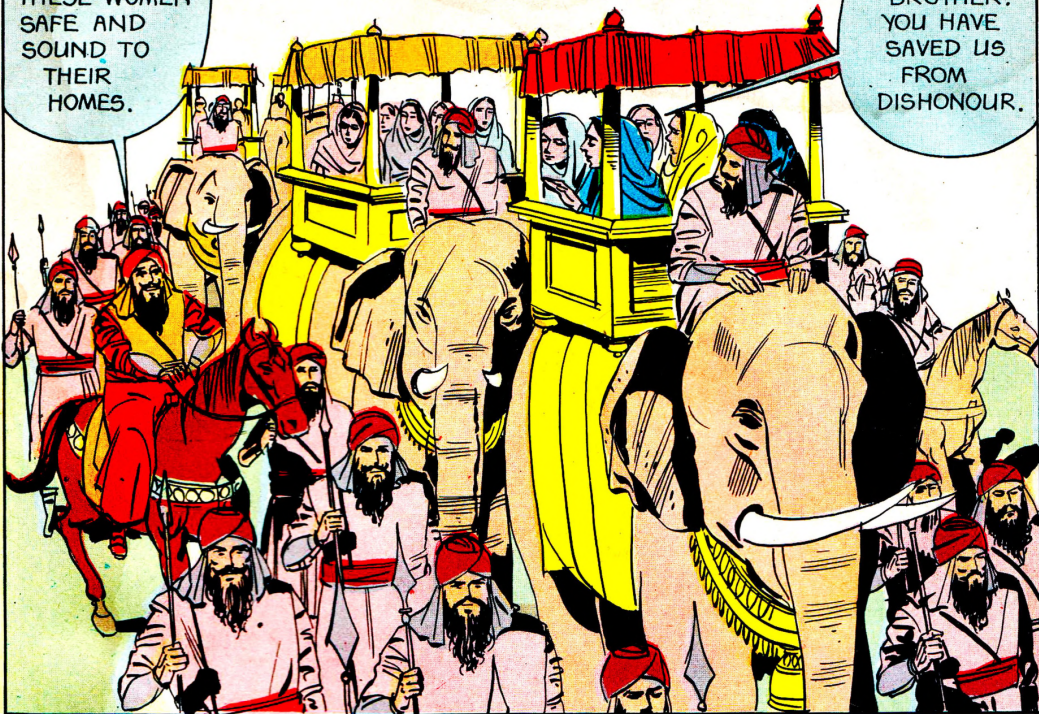


...AND A LARGE BOOTY FELL
INTO THEIR HANDS.



MEN, ESCORT
THESE WOMEN
SAFE AND
SOUND TO
THEIR
HOMES.

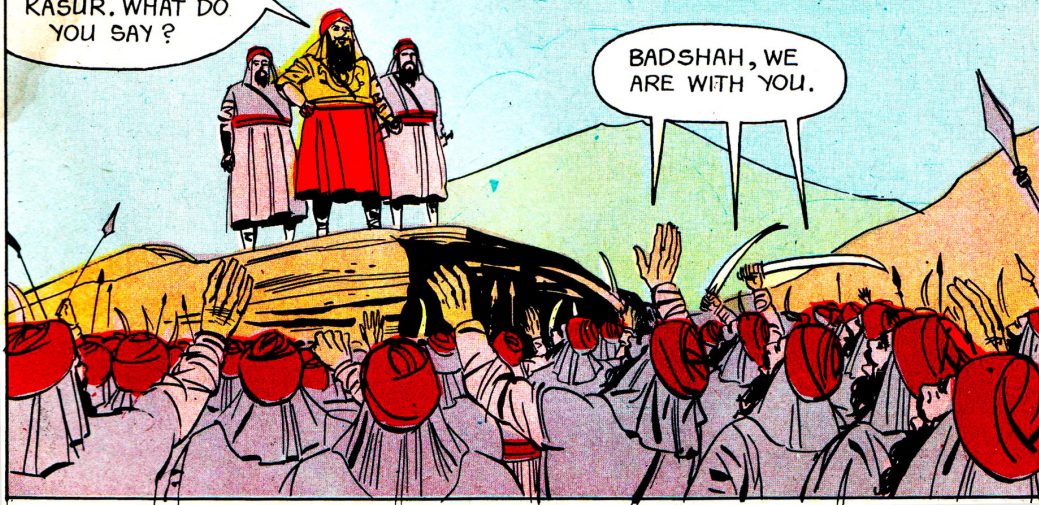
LIVE LONG
BROTHER.
YOU HAVE
SAVED US
FROM
DISHONOUR.



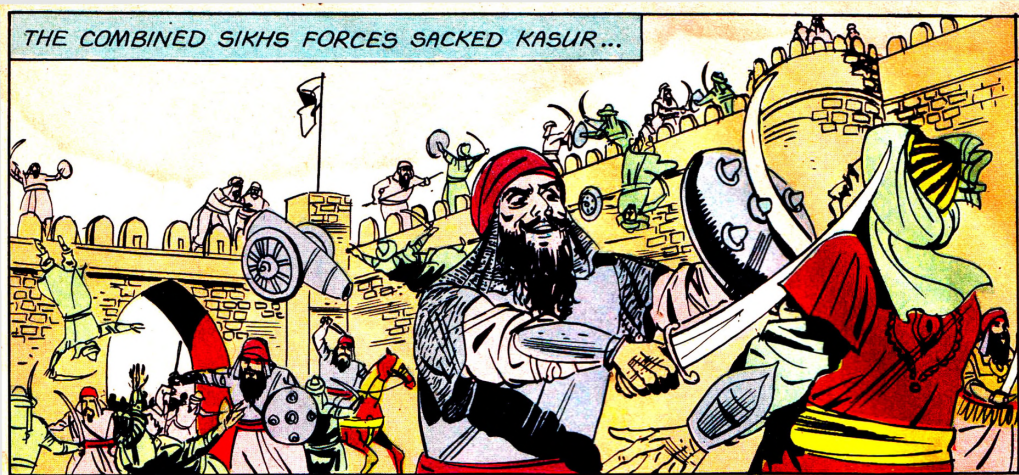
AFTER AHMAD SHAH'S RETURN, JASSA SINGH RALLIED THE
SIKHS OF THE RAMGARHIA AND THE KANHIA MISLS.

WARRIORS, I PLAN
TO TAKE OVER
KASUR. WHAT DO
YOU SAY ?

BADSHAH, WE
ARE WITH YOU.



THE COMBINED SIKHS FORCES SACKED KASUR...



...AND ALIF KHAN, THE PATHAN LEADER, WAS KILLED.



BADSHAH
JASSA SINGH
KI JAI !

BADSHAH
JASSA SINGH
KI JAI !

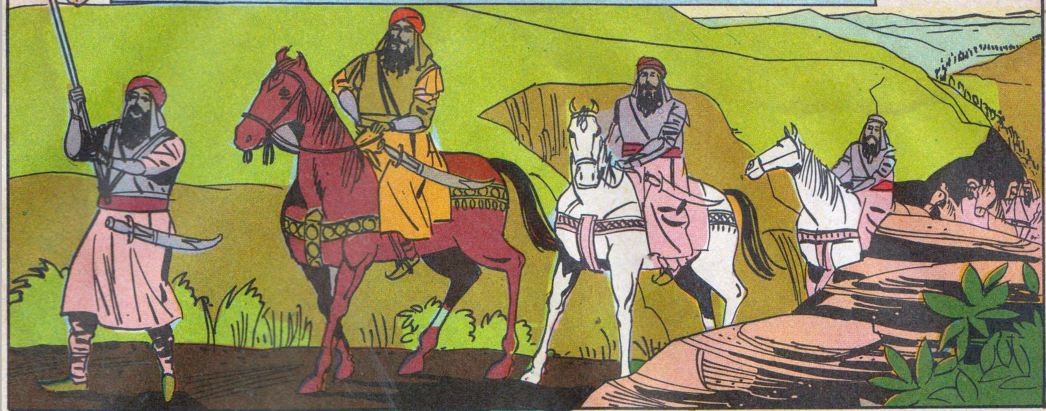


LET US NOT REST WITH MINOR
VICTORIES. SIRHIND IS STILL A
SORE SPOT. ARE YOU WILLING
TO MARCH TO THAT AFGHAN
STRONGHOLD ?

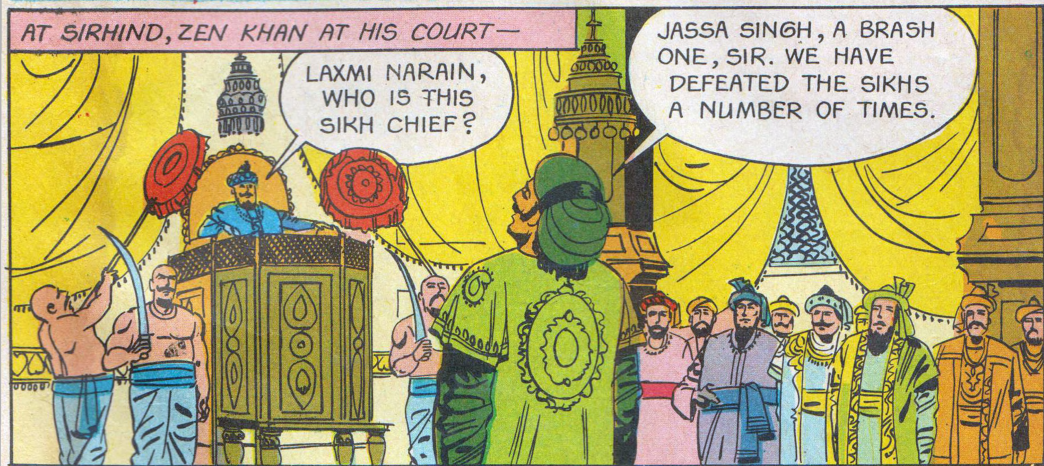
DOWN WITH
ZEN KHAN !
DEATH TO
HIS DEPUTY
LAXMI
NARAIN !



THE SIKHS COLLECTED A LARGE ARMY AND JASSA SINGH LED AN EXPEDITION TO SIRHIND.



AT SIRHIND, ZEN KHAN AT HIS COURT —



LAXMI NARAIN,
WHO IS THIS
SIKH CHIEF?

JASSA SINGH, A BRASH
ONE, SIR. WE HAVE
DEFEATED THE SIKHS
A NUMBER OF TIMES.

THEY COME TO TASTE
DEFEAT ONCE MORE.

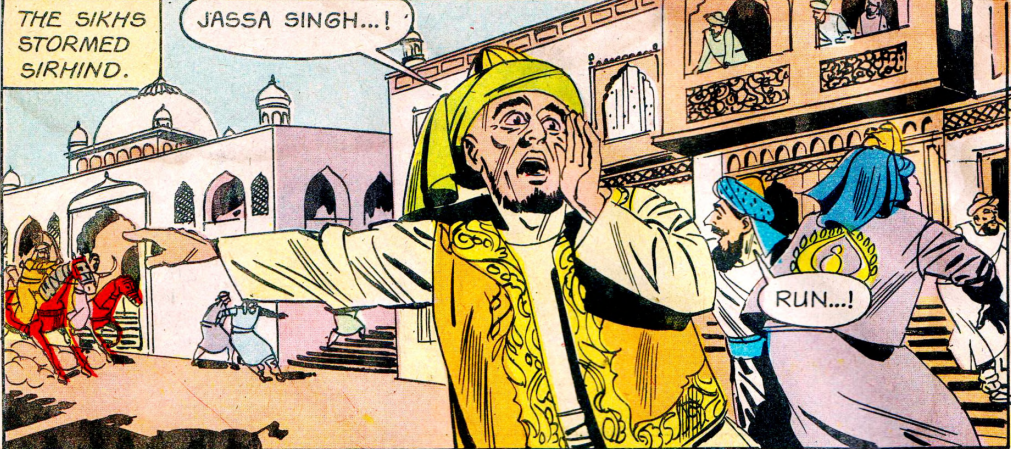
BUT JASSA SINGH
IS A TERROR,
I HEAR.



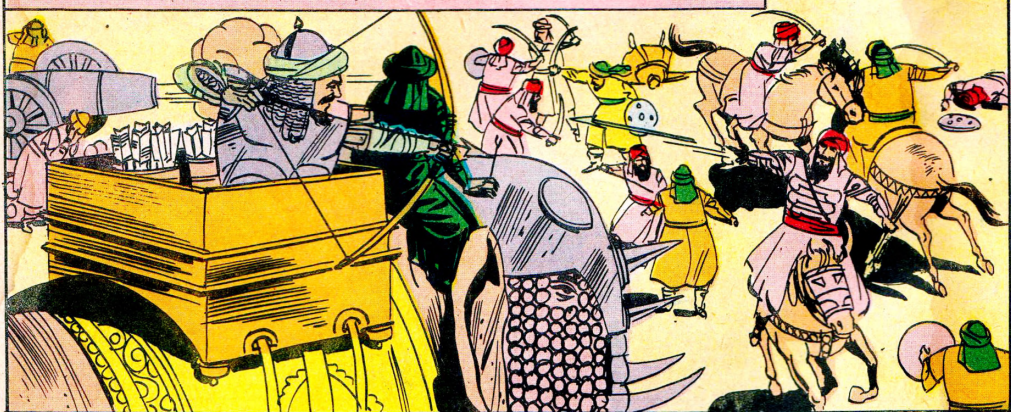
THE SIKHS
STORMED
SIRHIND.

JASSA SINGH...!

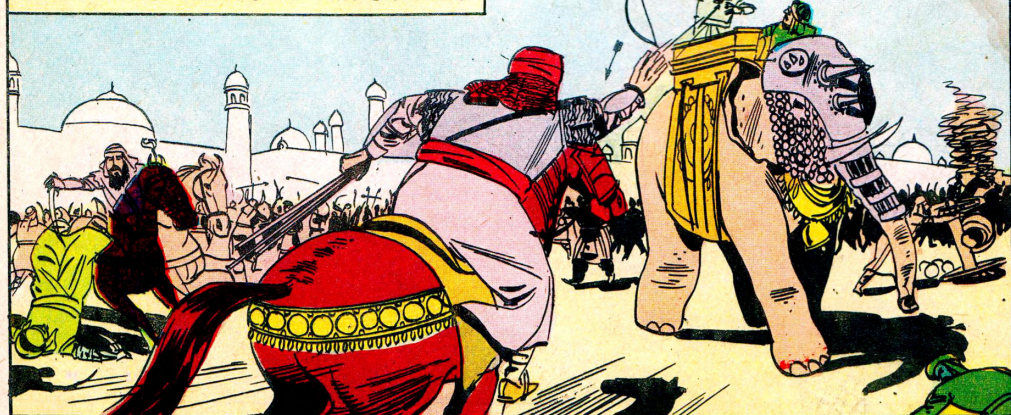
RUN...!



ZEN KHAN AND LAXMI NARAIN ARRIVED ON THE SCENE...



... BUT WERE KILLED IN THE BATTLE.



THE SIKHS RAZED SIRHIND TO THE GROUND.

JASSA SINGH
KI JAI !

DAL KHALSA
KI FATEH !*

THE FALL OF SIRHIND MADE THE
SIKHS MASTERS OF A LARGE
TERRITORY IN THE FRONTIER
REGIONS OF INDIA.

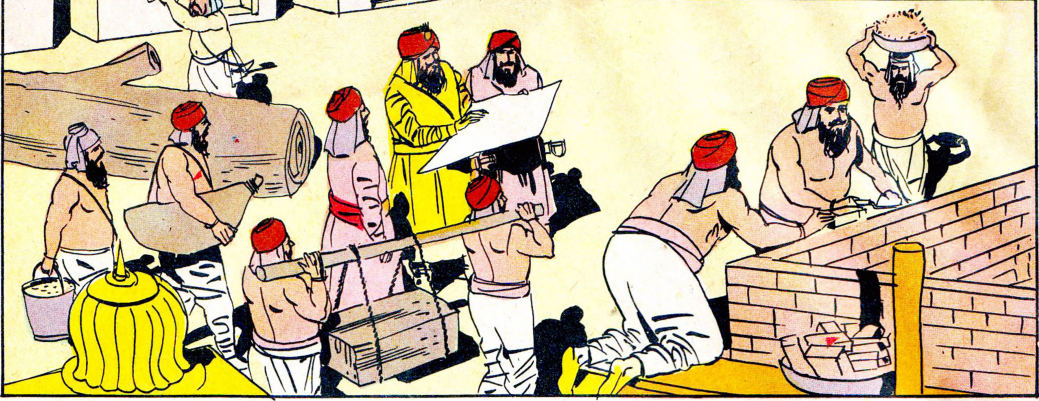
JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA
RETURNED TO AMRITSAR.

DAL KHALSA KI JAI !

WELCOME
TO BADSHAH
JASSA SINGH !

HE PAID HIS RESPECTS TO
THE SHRINE OF THE GOLDEN
TEMPLE.

AT AMRITSAR, JASSA SINGH BUILT THE AHLUWALIA BAZAAR.*

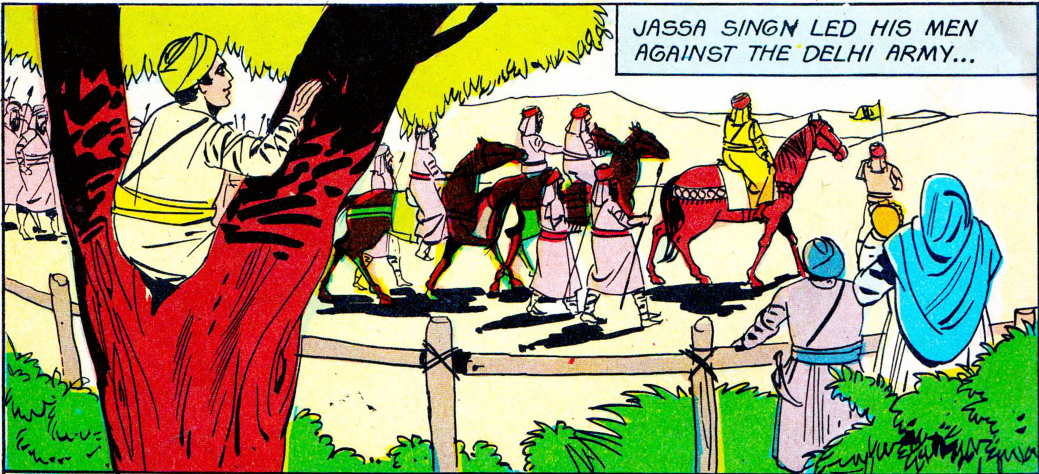


SARDAR, THE MUGHAL GENERAL MIRZA SUKHAN IS MAKING PREPARATIONS IN DELHI AGAINST US.

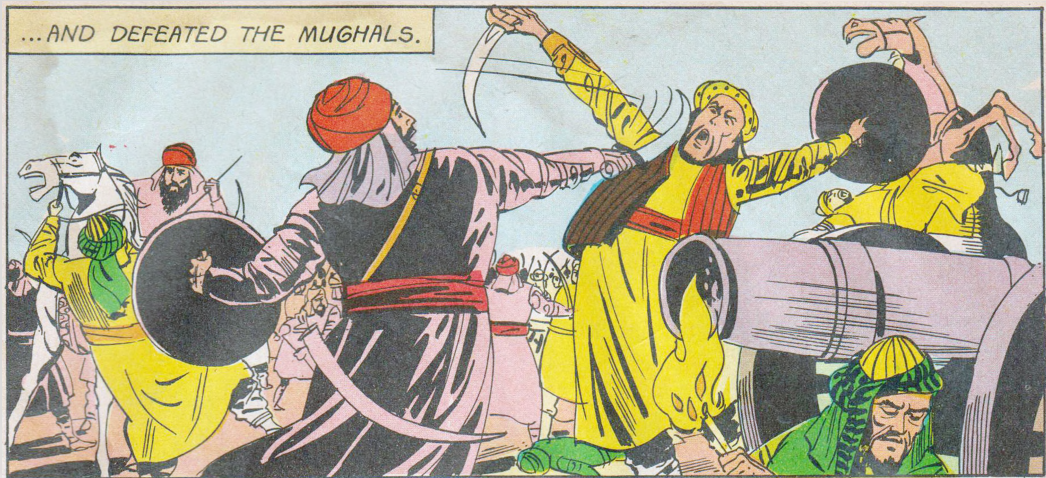
WE WILL MEET THEM, MAN TO MAN, BLADE TO BLADE.



JASSA SINGH LED HIS MEN AGAINST THE DELHI ARMY...



...AND DEFEATED THE MUGHALS.



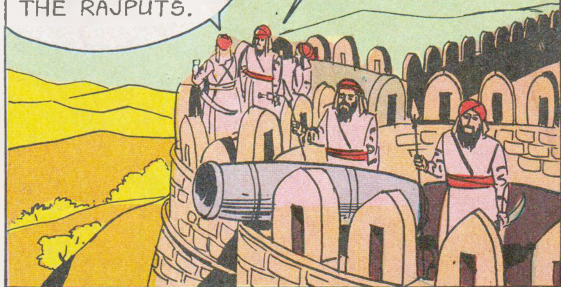
THE SIKHS CAPTURED GHAZIUDDI-NAGAR AND ANUP SHAHR NEAR DELHI.



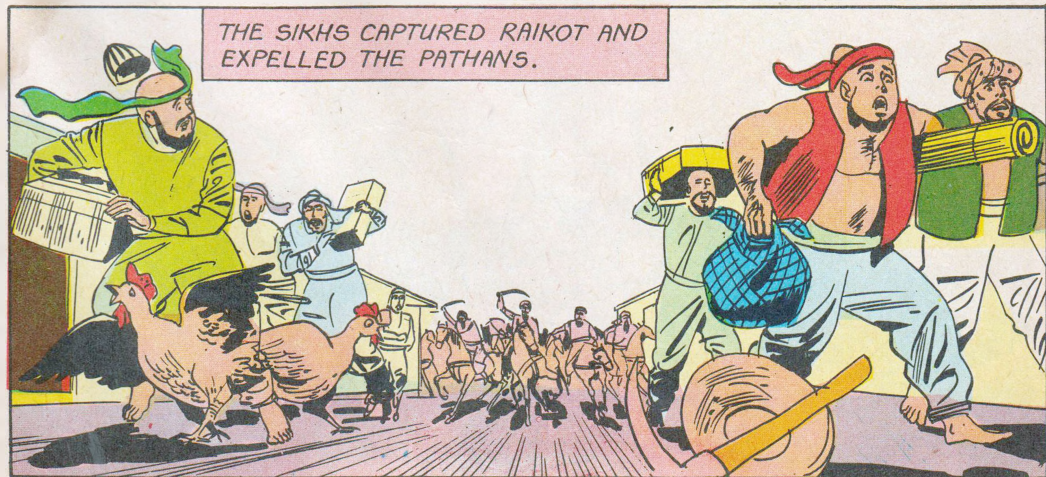
IN 1771 —

RAIKOT IS STILL UNDER PATHAN RULE, THOUGH JOINTLY WITH THE RAJPUTS.

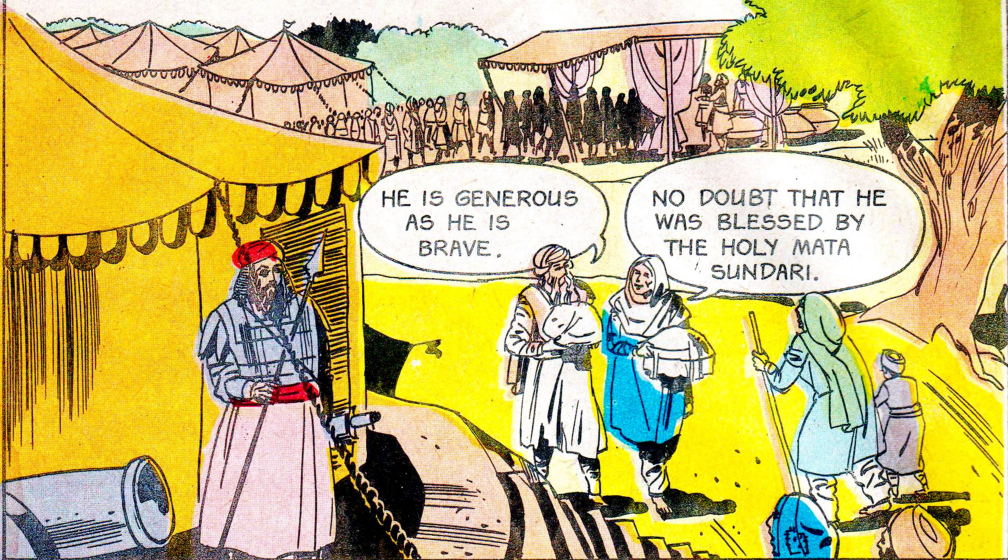
WE ARE WAITING FOR YOUR ORDERS, SARDAR.



THE SIKHS CAPTURED RAIKOT AND EXPELLED THE PATHANS.



A LARGE NUMBER OF POOR PEASANTS RECEIVED GIFTS AND FOOD AS WELL FROM JASSA SINGH'S CAMP.

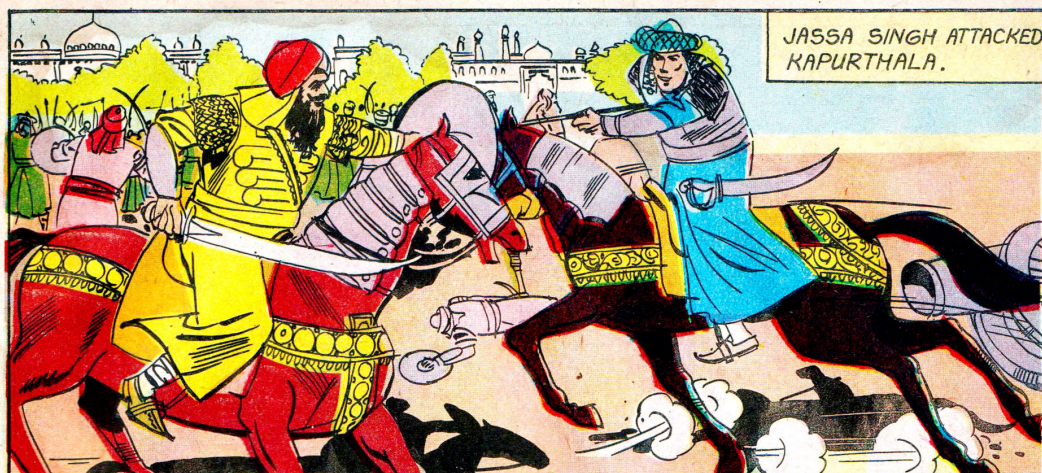


IN 1777 —

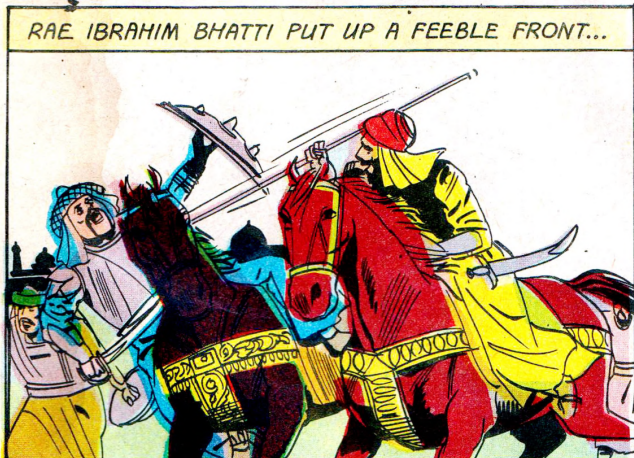


TRIBUTES PROMISED MUST BE PAID AND IN TIME. I DON'T RESPECT THOSE WHO BREAK THEIR WORD.

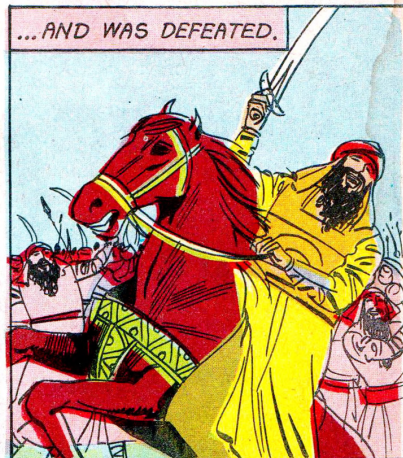




JASSA SINGH ATTACKED KAPURTHALA.



RAE IBRAHIM BHATTI PUT UP A FEEBLE FRONT...




...AND WAS DEFEATED.



THE SIKHS MARCHED VICTORIOUS INTO KAPURTHALA.

DAL KHALSA KI FATEH!

GLORY TO THE SIKHS!



KAPURTHALA WILL
BECOME MY HEAD-
QUARTERS. AND NOW
I SHALL STRIKE
COINS IN MY NAME.

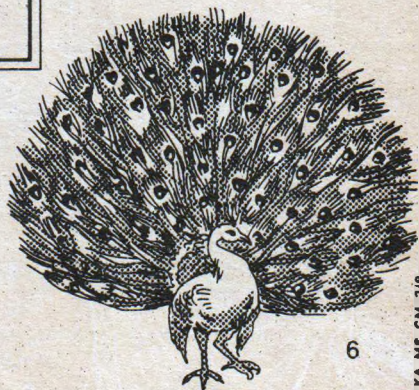
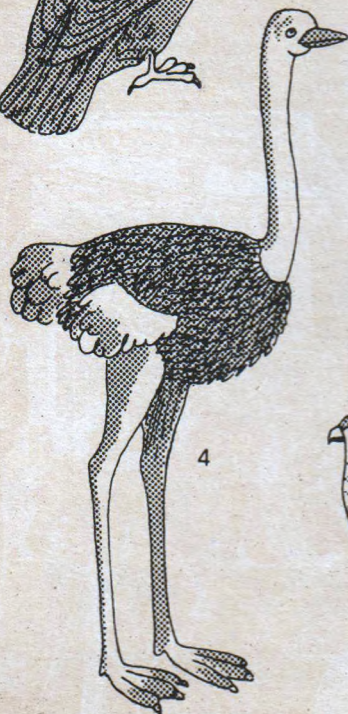
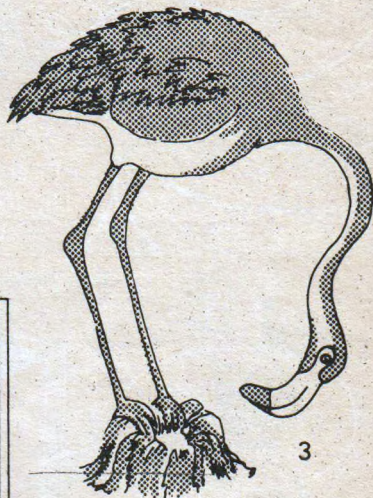
JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA WAS THE FIRST TO PROCLAIM THE MILITARY RULE OF THE SIKHS. THOUGH HE WAS NO CROWNED KING, HE MADE BOLD TO STRIKE COINS IN HIS NAME. AND UPON THE COINS OF THIS REDOUBTABLE WARRIOR, WHO WAS FILLED WITH VISIONS OF AN IDENTIFIABLE, INDEPENDENT SIKH STATE, RAN THE LEGEND:—
"JASSA, THE KALAL*, HAVING SEIZED THE COUNTRY OF AHMAD, STRUCK COINS IN THE WORLD THROUGH THE GRACE OF THE IMMORTAL."

Around the world with BOB!



Match birds with the places!

Guess where will you find these birds in large numbers?



Open a Minor's Savings Account.

Saving is a good habit.



Bank of Baroda

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Answers: 1. Eagle, America. 2. Penguin, Antarctica. 3. Flamingo, America. 4. Ostrich, Africa. 5. Falcon, Arabia. 6. Peacock, India.

Sita shows you something of everything in India...

We at SITA have been doing just that for over two decades. And being the leading travel agency in India, our services are comparable to the best available anywhere in the world.

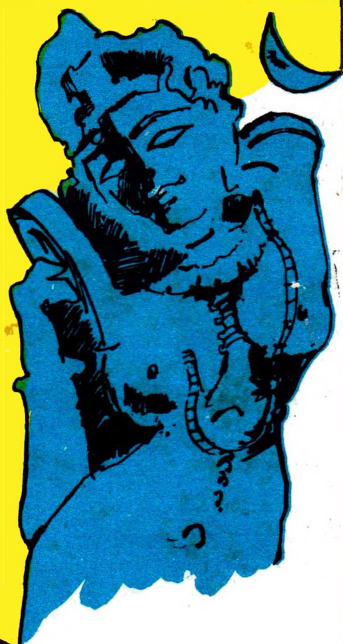
SITA will help you right from the moment you touch-down at any one of our international airports. By booking your hotel accommodation, confirming your air seats for travel within India.

Conducting guided and pre-planned sightseeing trips, group and individual itineraries. Providing car hire, trekking, wild-life photo safaris, special interest tours, conference facilities...everything to make your visit truly memorable.

**SITA – takes India to the world.
Brings the world to India.**

SITA
WORLD TRAVEL
(INDIA) PVT. LTD.,

F-12 Connaught Place
New Delhi
Tel : 43103



Agra, Bangalore, Varanasi, Bombay
Calcutta, Hyderabad, Madras, Srinagar