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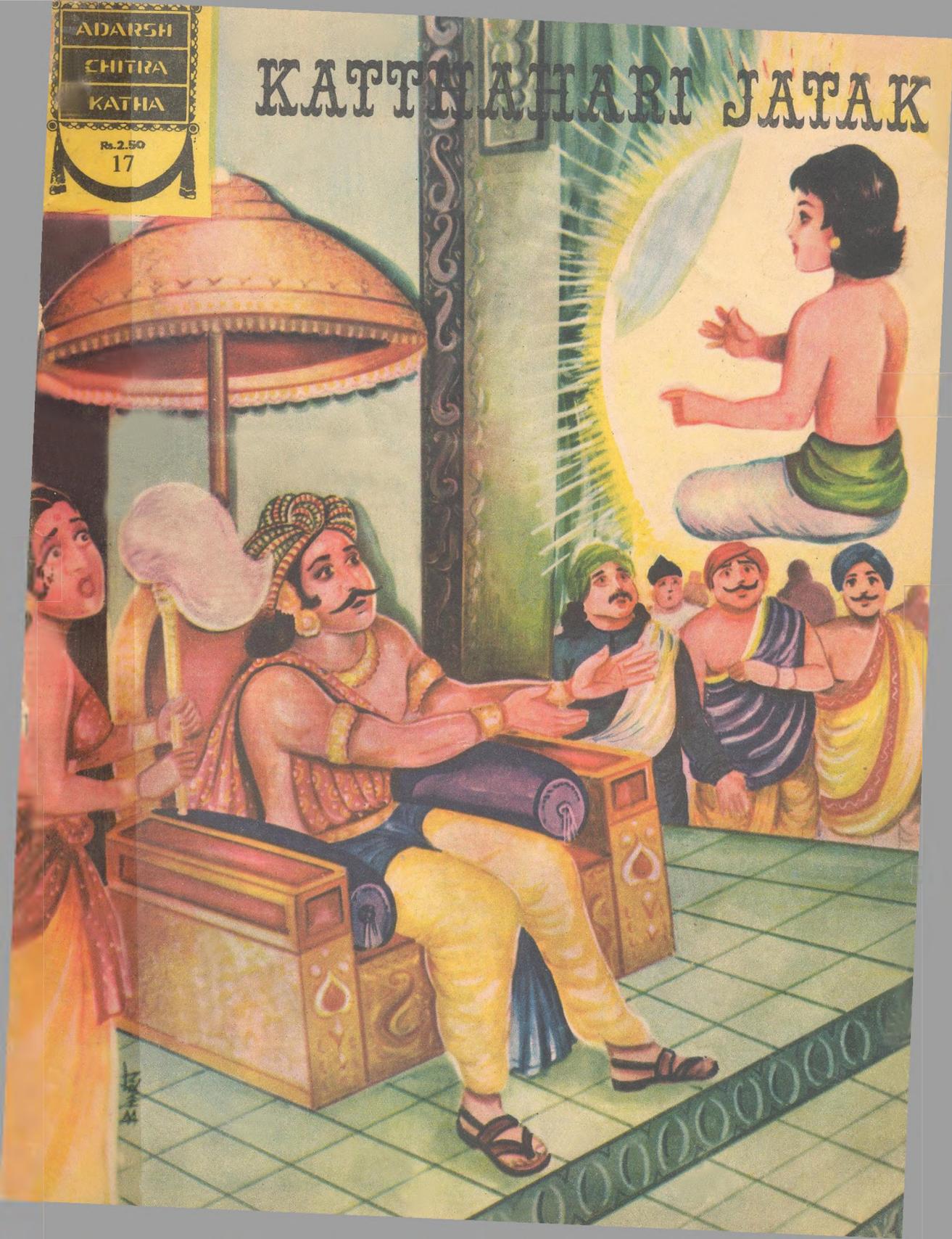
CHITRA

KATHA

Rs. 2.50

17

# KATTNAHARI JATAK



The Jataka book occupies a supreme position in the early Indian literature. According to Dr. Rhys Davide, "It is the oldest, most complete and most important collection of folklore extant." All Jataka tales refer to the prior births of the Buddha (Bodhisatva).

The present book is based on an original Jataka tale which may remind our readers of Shakuntala of Kalidasa. This Jataka is the oldest and the earliest Jataka which was composed before the christian era.

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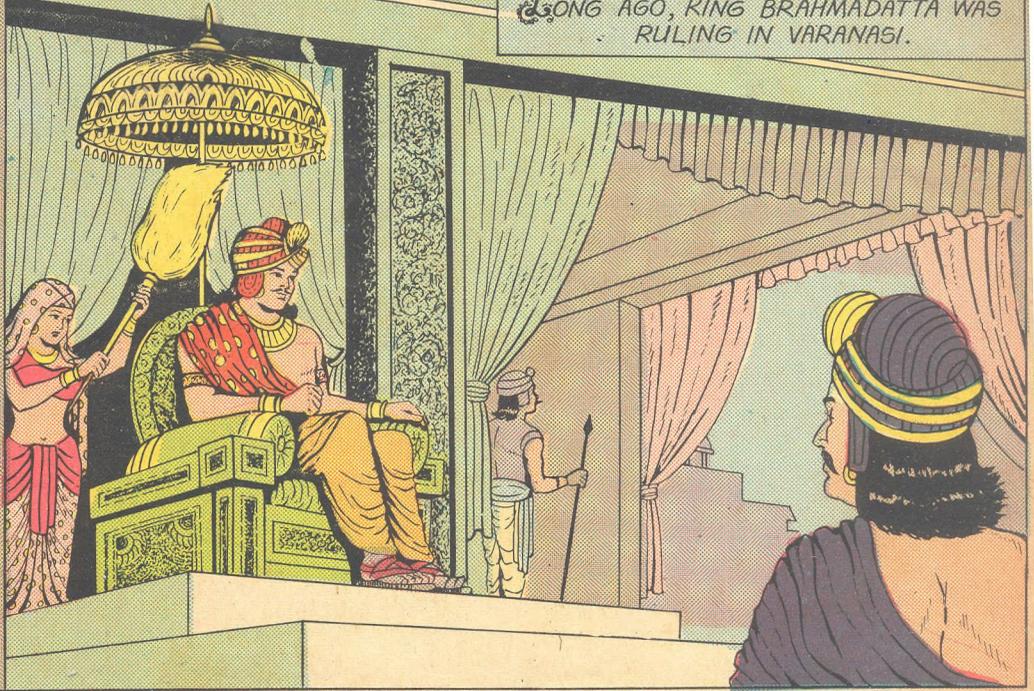
**Our Next Title :**

# **JAISAL AND TORAL**

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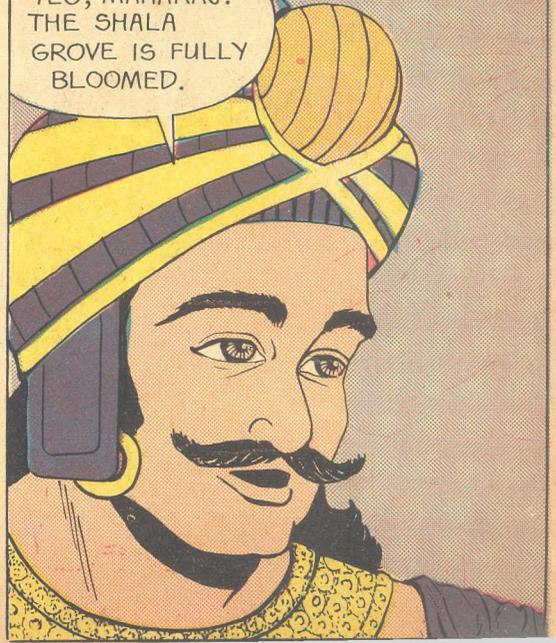
# KATTHAHARI JATAKA

LONG AGO, KING BRAHMADATTA WAS RULING IN VARANASI.



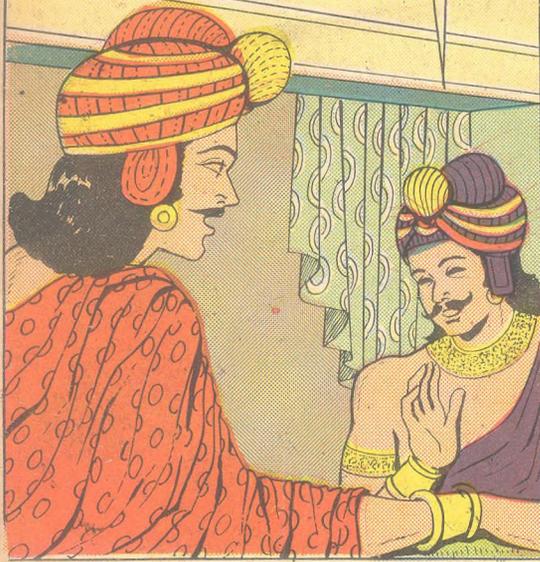
AMATYA,\* IS IT NOT TIME FOR SPRING ?

YES, MAHARAJ. THE SHALA GROVE IS FULLY BLOOMED.



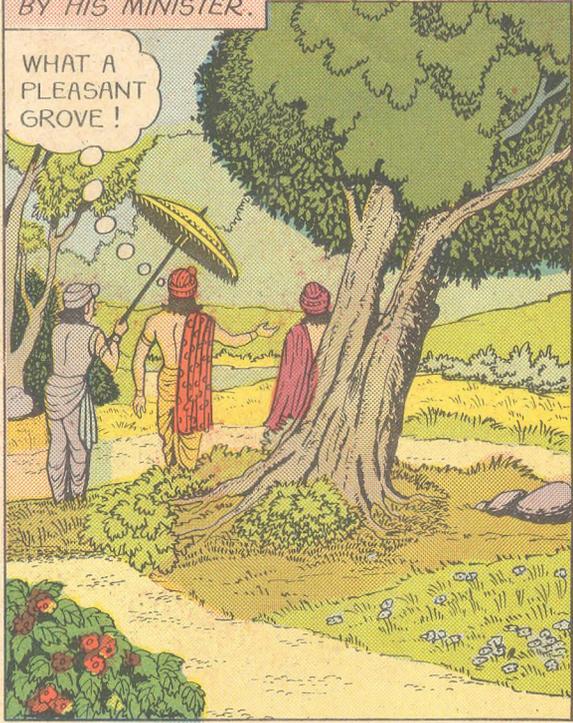
MAKE ARRANGEMENTS,  
I'LL VISIT THE  
GARDEN.

ALL RIGHT,  
MAHARAJ.

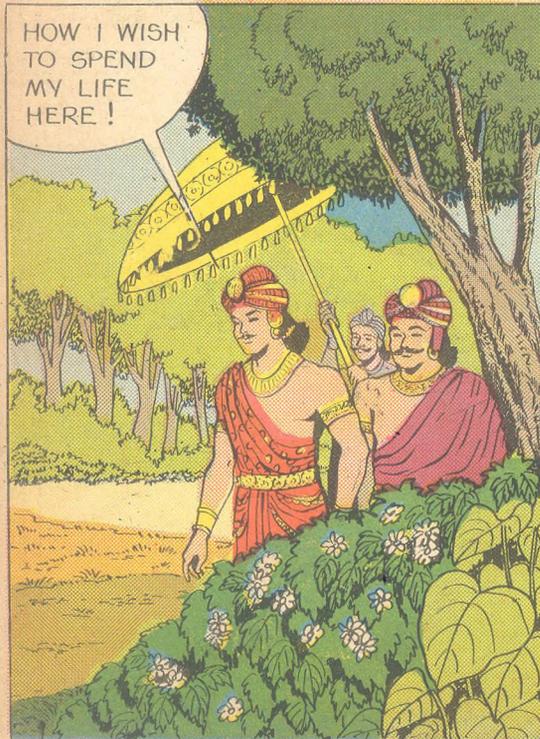


THE KING VISITED THE GROVE, ATTENDED  
BY HIS MINISTER.

WHAT A  
PLEASANT  
GROVE !



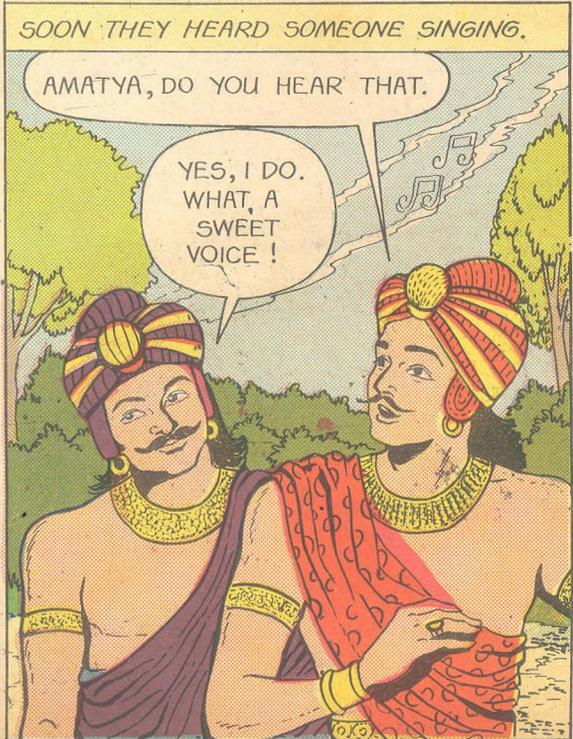
HOW I WISH  
TO SPEND  
MY LIFE  
HERE !

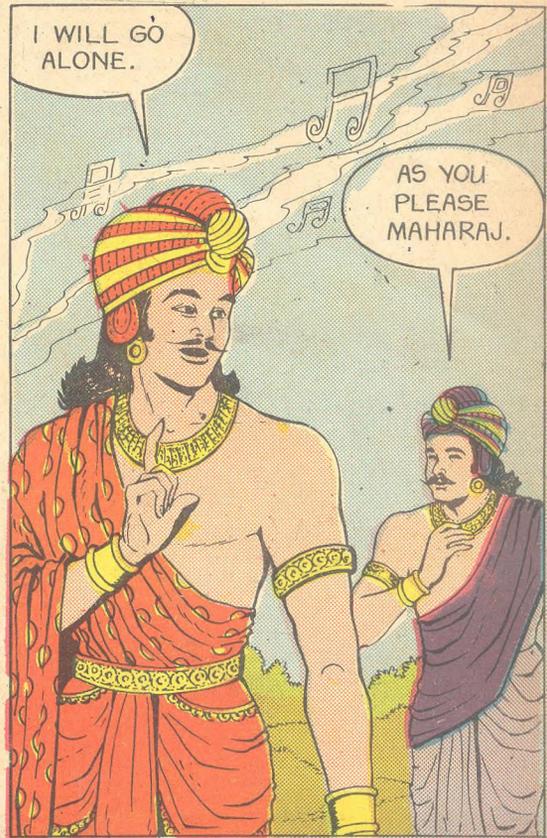
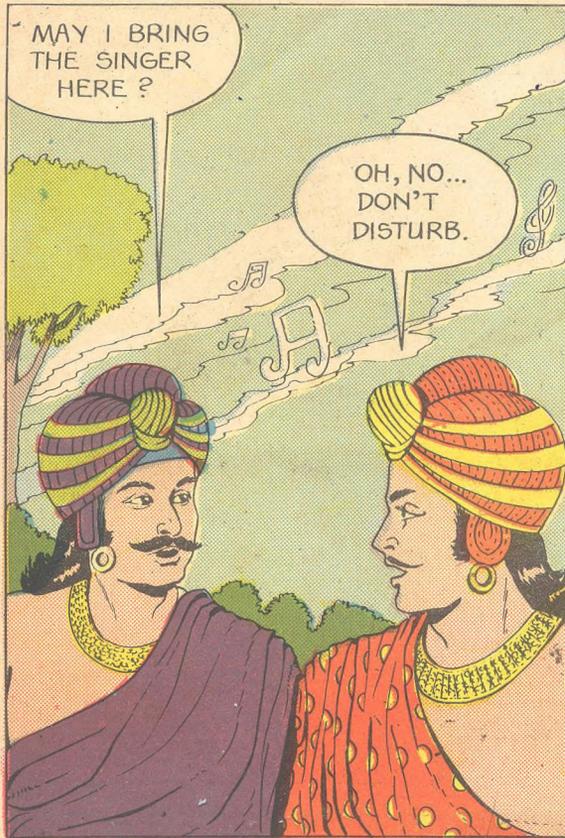


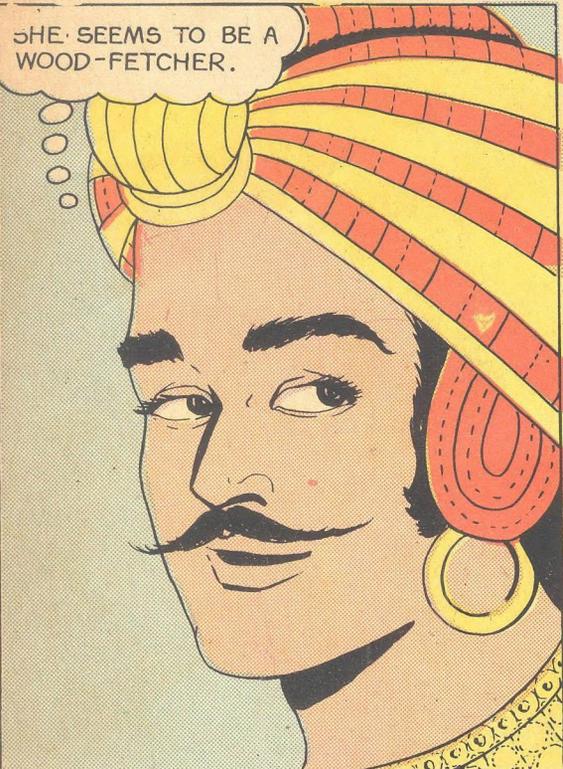
SOON THEY HEARD SOMEONE SINGING.

AMATYA, DO YOU HEAR THAT.

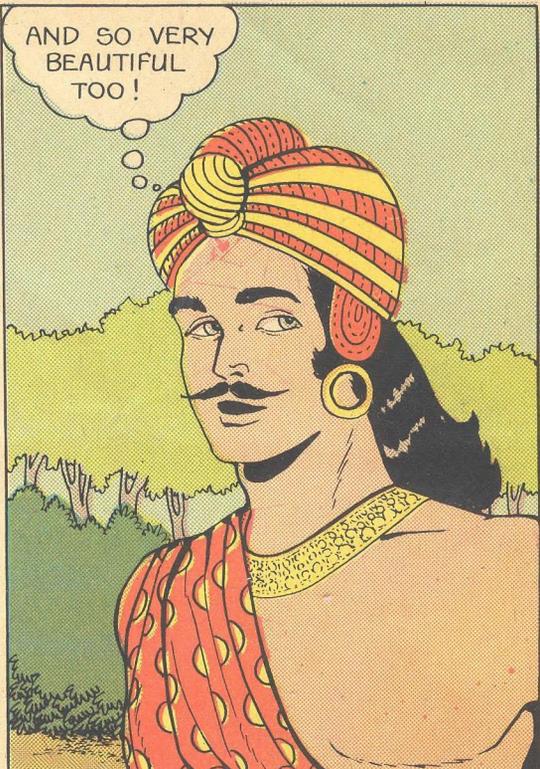
YES, I DO.  
WHAT A  
SWEET  
VOICE !







SHE SEEMS TO BE A  
WOOD-FETCHER.



AND SO VERY  
BEAUTIFUL  
TOO!

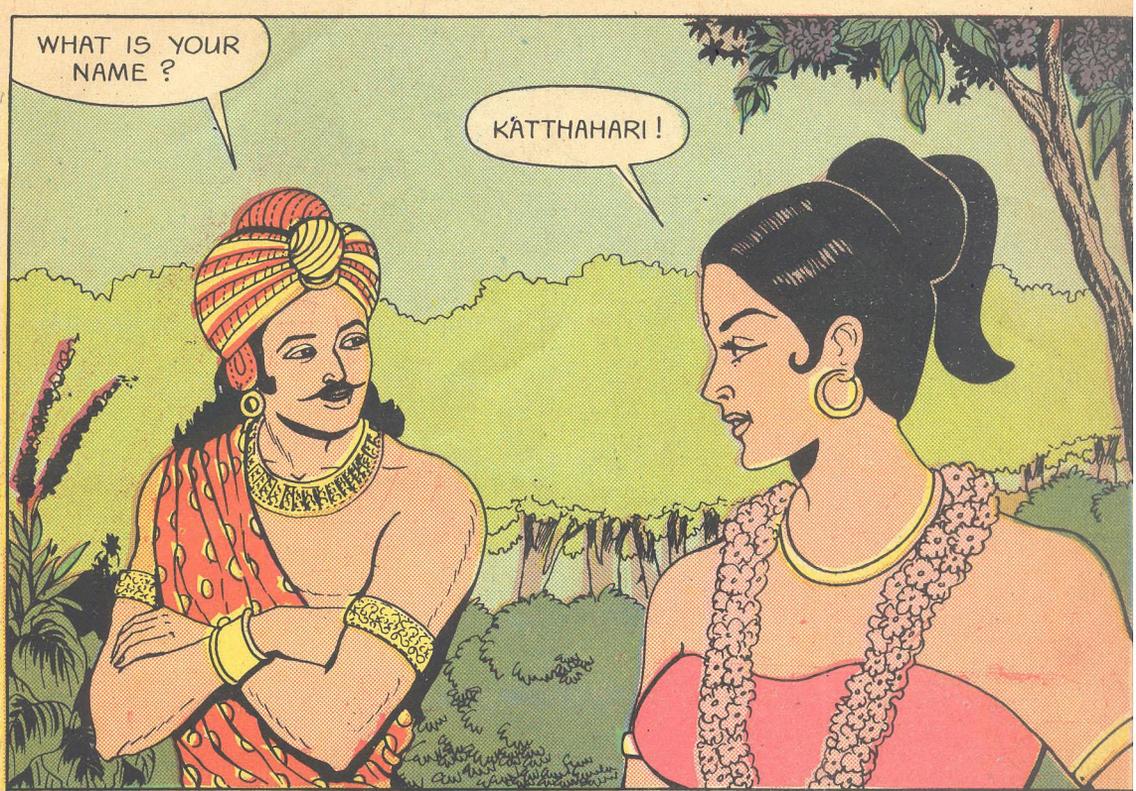


OH! MM...

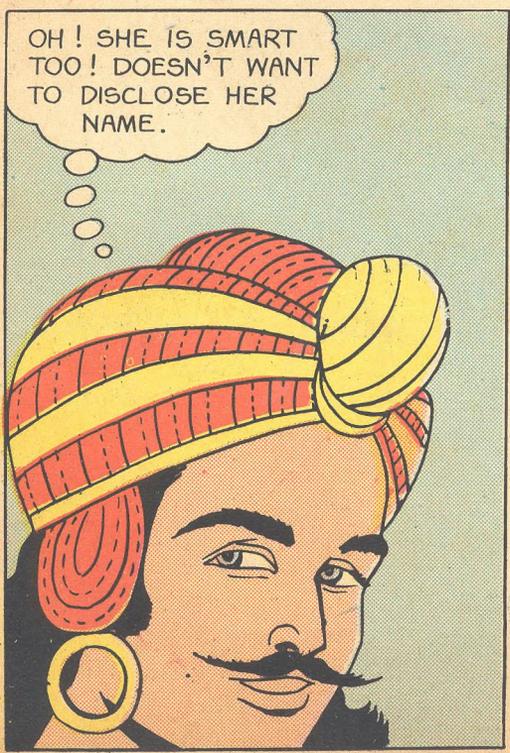
DON'T BE AFRAID,  
KATTHAHARI.\*  
I AM THE KING  
OF VARANASI.

WHAT IS YOUR NAME ?

KÄTTHAHARI !

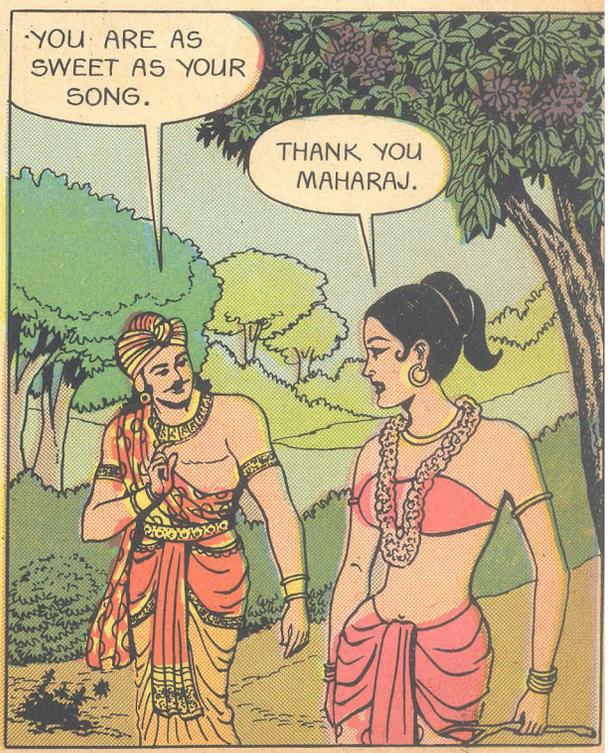


OH ! SHE IS SMART TOO ! DOESN'T WANT TO DISCLOSE HER NAME .



YOU ARE AS SWEET AS YOUR SONG .

THANK YOU MAHARAJ .



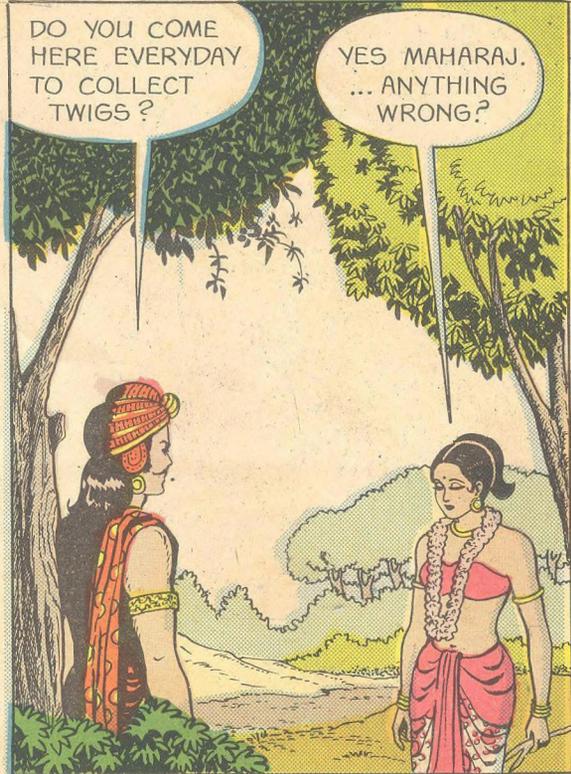
WHERE DO YOU LIVE ?

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THIS FOREST.



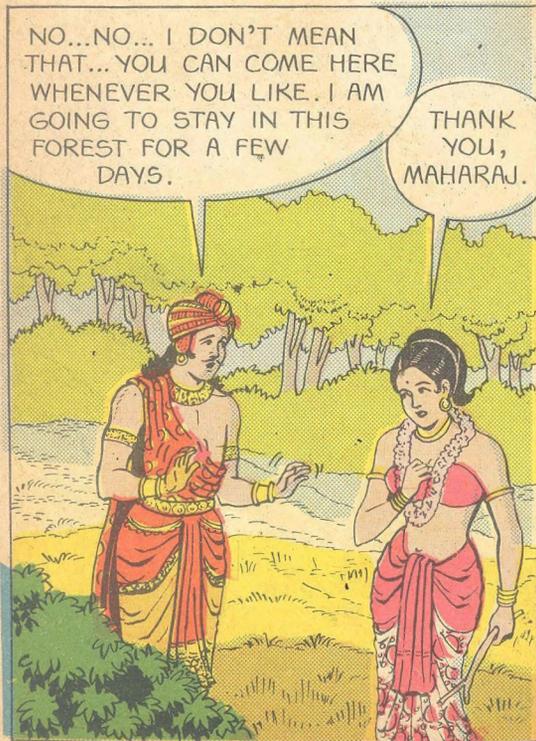
DO YOU COME HERE EVERYDAY TO COLLECT TWIGS ?

YES MAHARAJ. ... ANYTHING WRONG ?



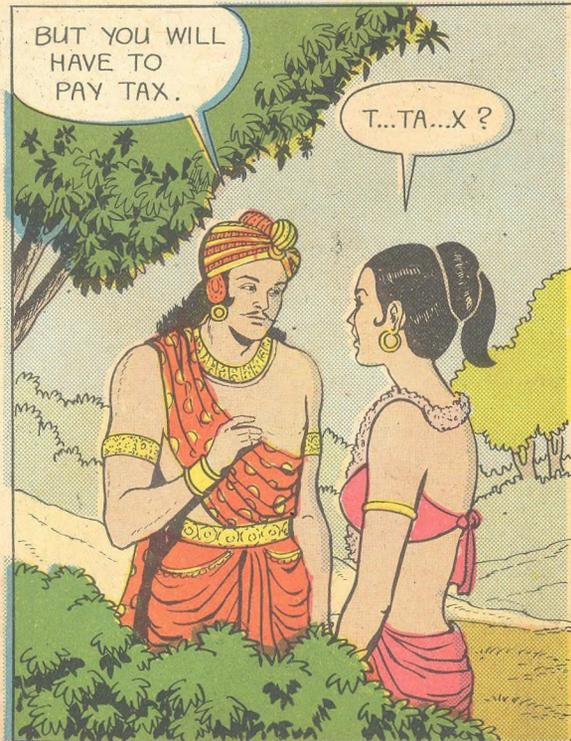
NO...NO... I DON'T MEAN THAT... YOU CAN COME HERE WHENEVER YOU LIKE. I AM GOING TO STAY IN THIS FOREST FOR A FEW DAYS.

THANK YOU, MAHARAJ.



BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY TAX.

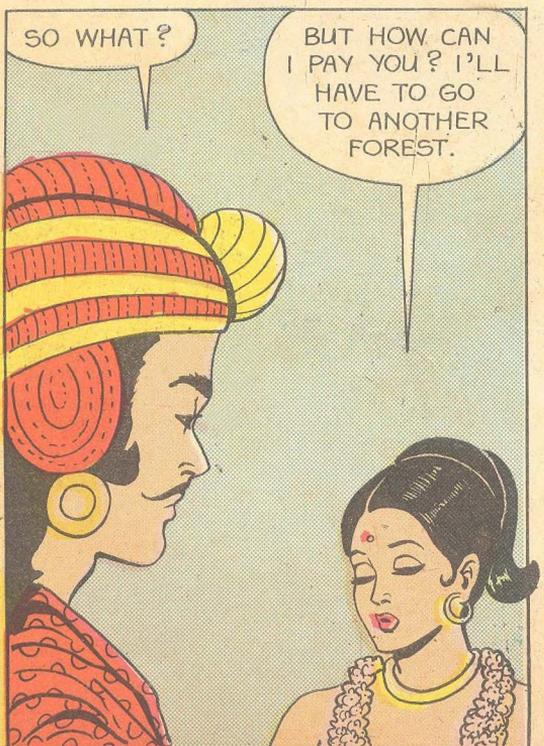
T...TA...X ?





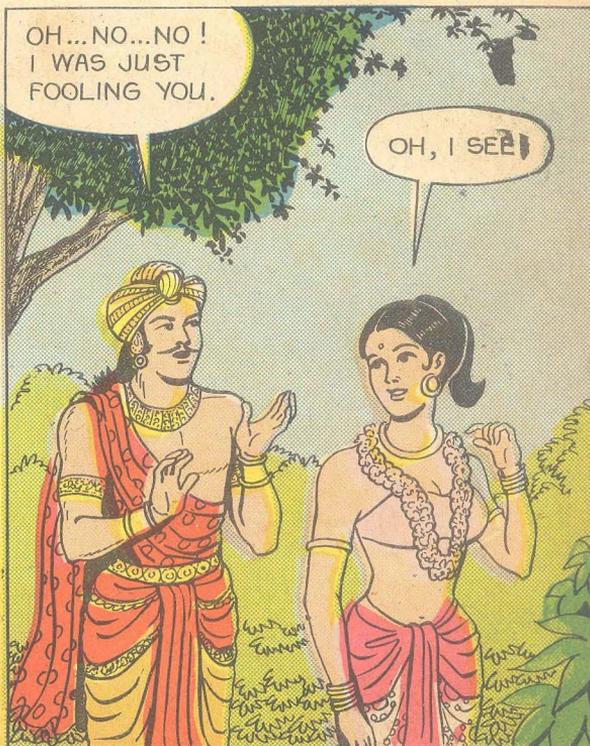
HMM!

MAHARAJ, I AM POOR. I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER MY OLD WIDOWED MOTHER.



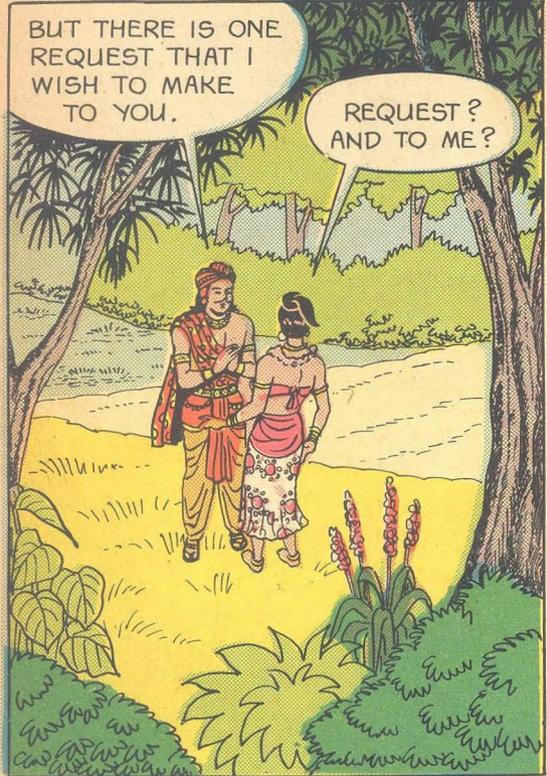
SO WHAT?

BUT HOW CAN I PAY YOU? I'LL HAVE TO GO TO ANOTHER FOREST.



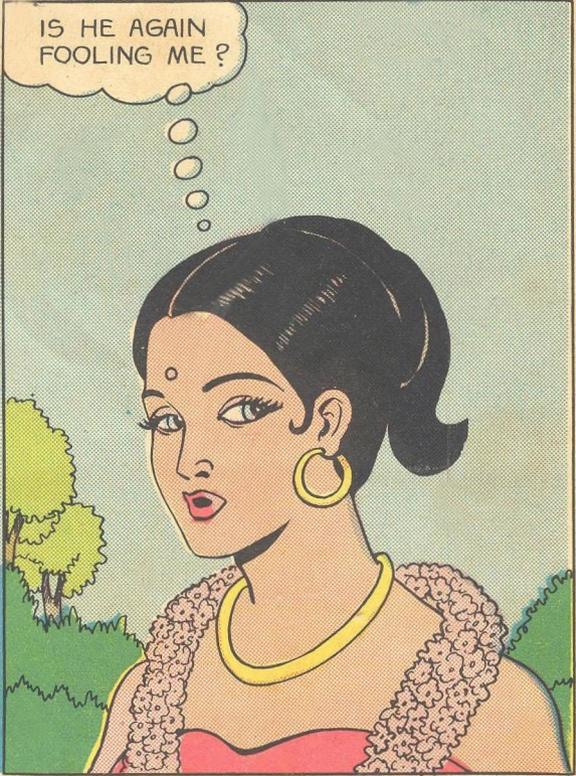
OH...NO...NO! I WAS JUST FOOLING YOU.

OH, I SEE!

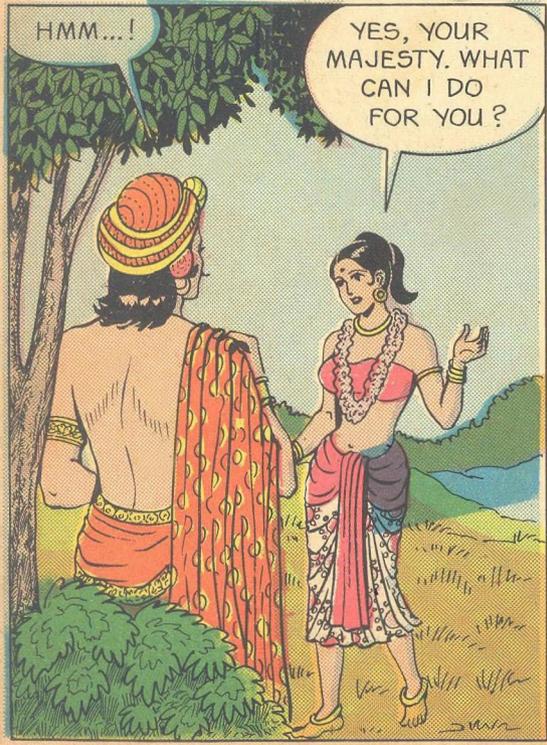


BUT THERE IS ONE REQUEST THAT I WISH TO MAKE TO YOU.

REQUEST? AND TO ME?

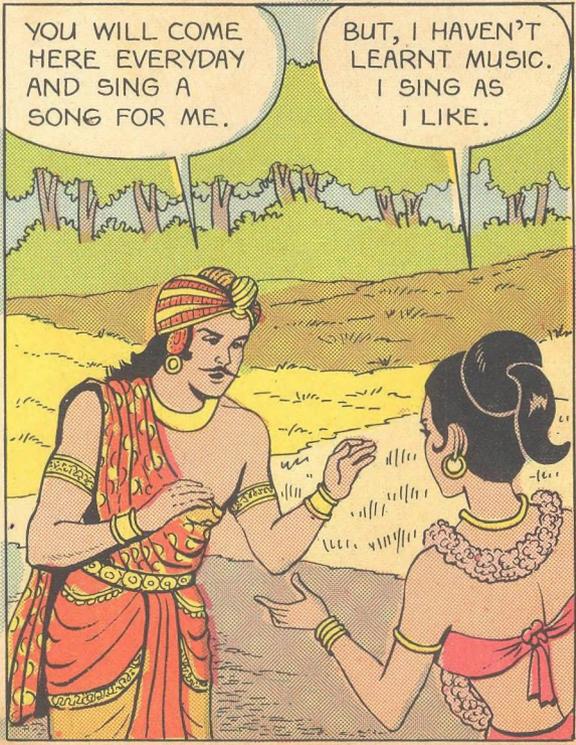


IS HE AGAIN FOOLING ME?



HMM...!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

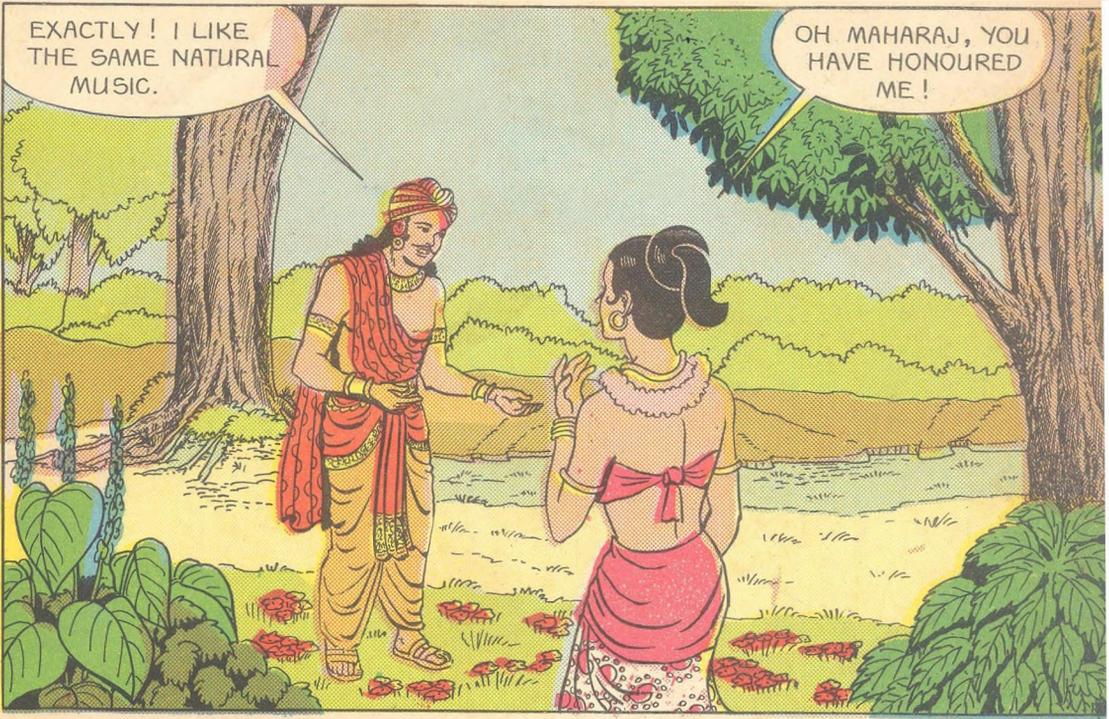


YOU WILL COME HERE EVERYDAY AND SING A SONG FOR ME.

BUT, I HAVEN'T LEARNT MUSIC. I SING AS I LIKE.

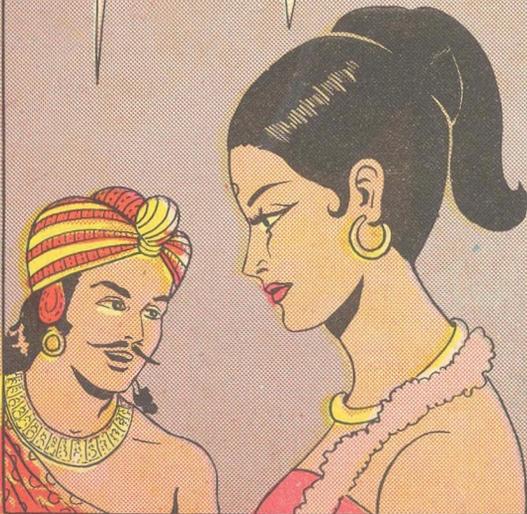
EXACTLY ! I LIKE  
THE SAME NATURAL  
MUSIC.

OH MAHARAJ, YOU  
HAVE HONoured  
ME !



SO, IT'S A  
DEAL NOW !

YES, I'LL  
COME  
EVERYDAY.

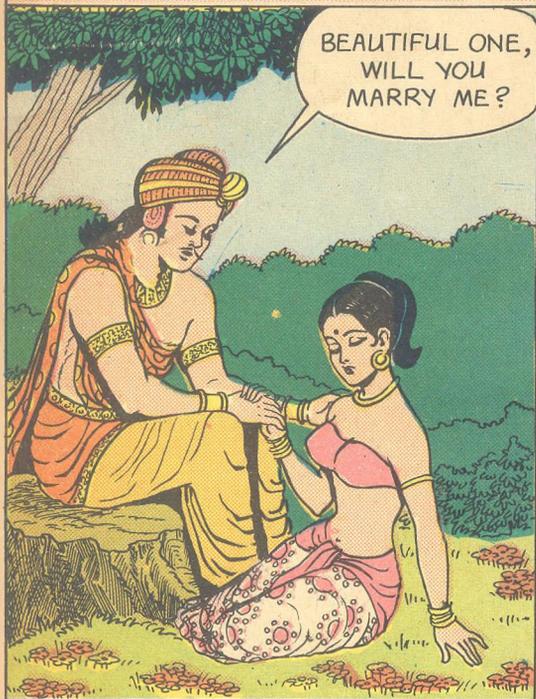


THUS THEY MET EVERYDAY.



SOON BRAHMADATTA FELL IN LOVE WITH HER. ONE DAY—

BEAUTIFUL ONE,  
WILL YOU  
MARRY ME?



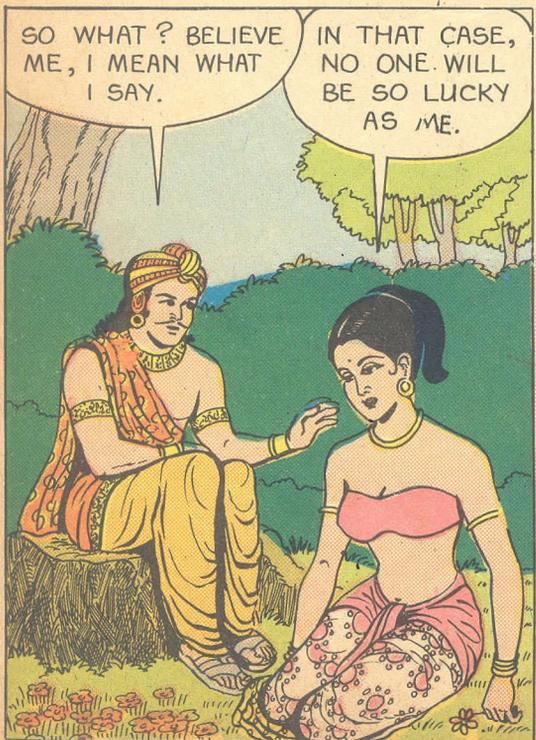
DEAR, WHY ARE  
YOU QUIET?  
DON'T YOU  
LIKE ME?

YES I DO. BUT I AM  
A RUSTIC MAIDEN  
AND YOU ARE  
A KING.



SO WHAT? BELIEVE  
ME, I MEAN WHAT  
I SAY.

IN THAT CASE,  
NO ONE WILL  
BE SO LUCKY  
AS ME.



WILL YOUR PEOPLE  
GIVE CONSENT TO  
OUR MARRIAGE?

DEAR ONE,  
LEAVE THAT  
TO ME.



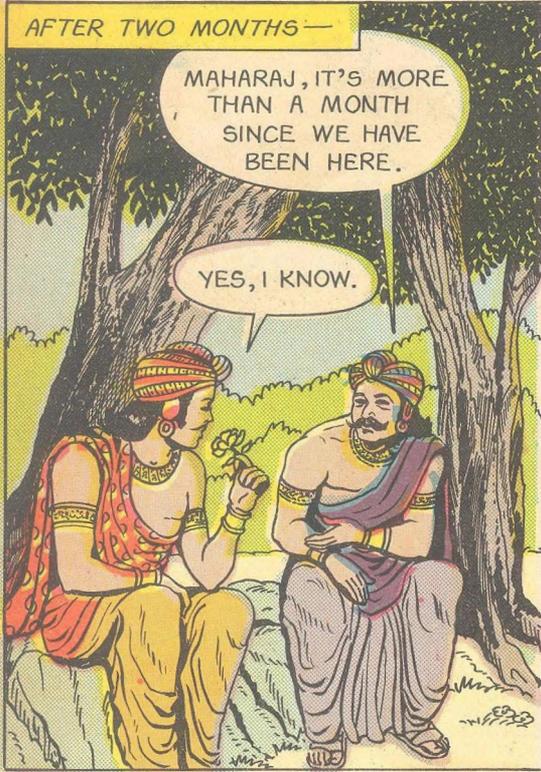
SOON THEY MARRIED ACCORDING TO GANDHARVA VIVAHA.\*



AFTER TWO MONTHS—

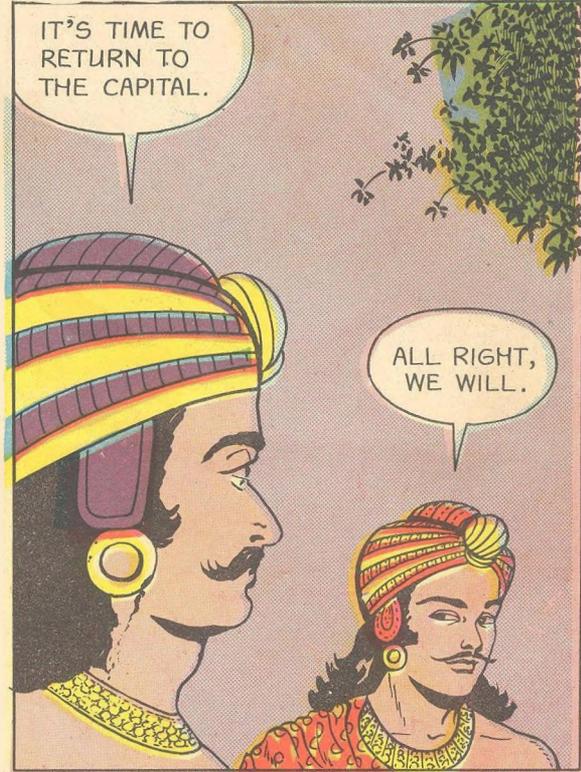
MAHARAJ, IT'S MORE THAN A MONTH SINCE WE HAVE BEEN HERE.

YES, I KNOW.

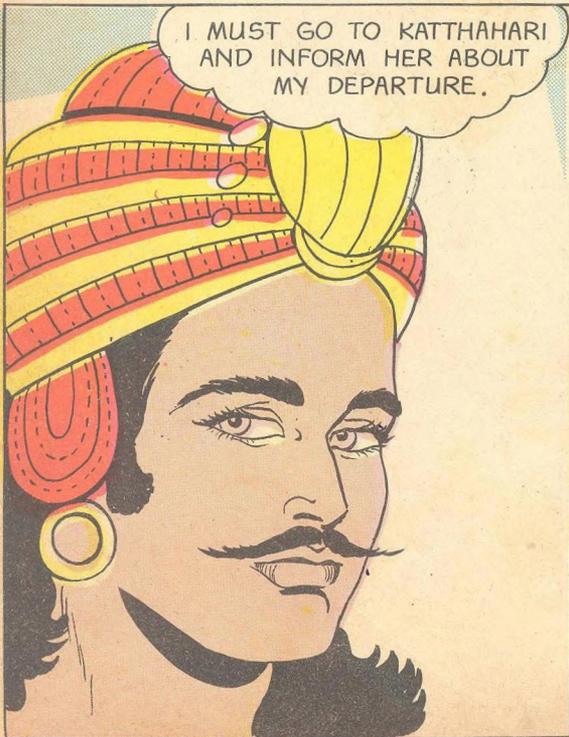


IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO THE CAPITAL.

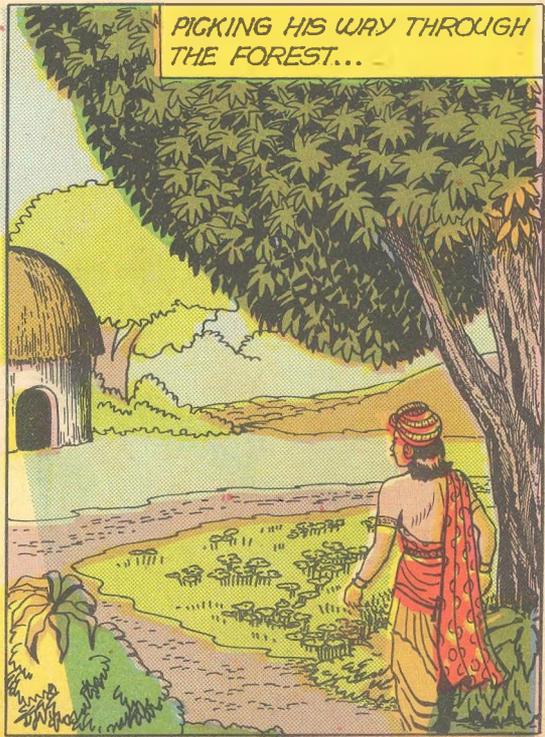
ALL RIGHT, WE WILL.



I MUST GO TO KATTAHARI AND INFORM HER ABOUT MY DEPARTURE.



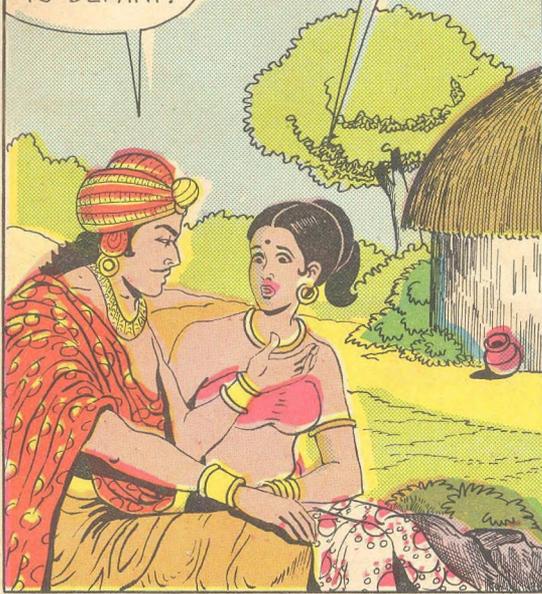
PICKING HIS WAY THROUGH THE FOREST...



...HE WENT TO KATTHAHARI, TO BID  
FAREWELL.

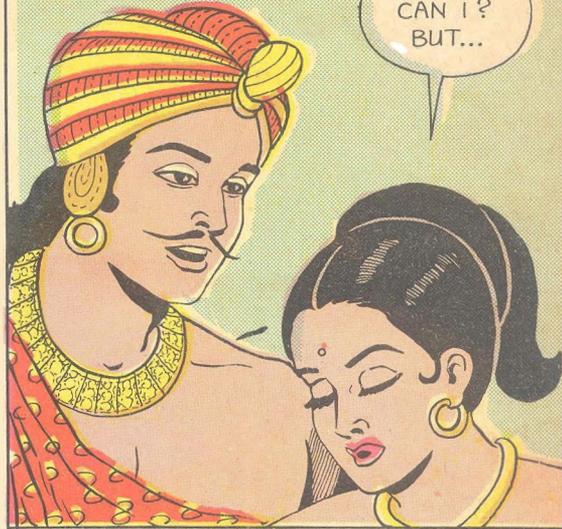
DEAR ONE,  
IT IS TIME  
TO DEPART.

SO SOON,  
MAHARAJ?



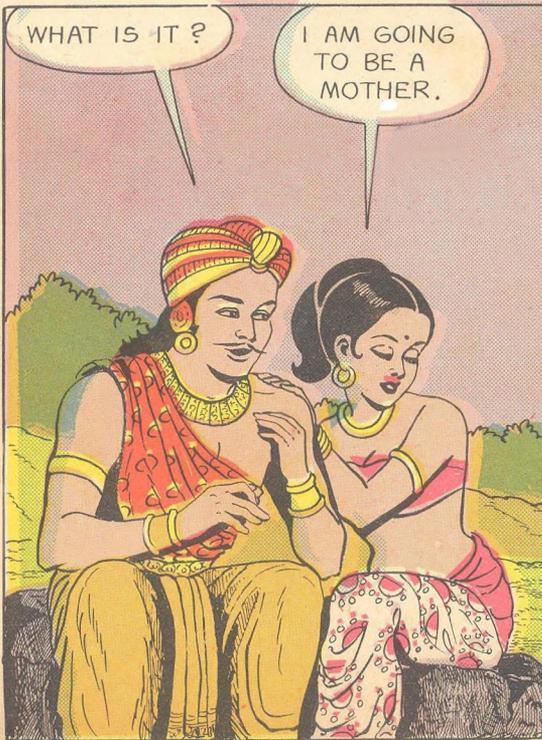
DON'T YOU  
FORGET THAT  
I AM A KING.

HOW  
CAN I?  
BUT...

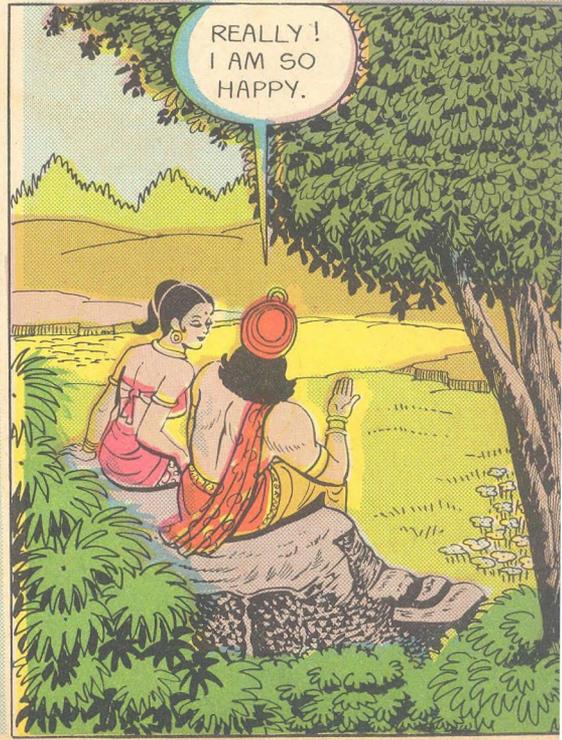


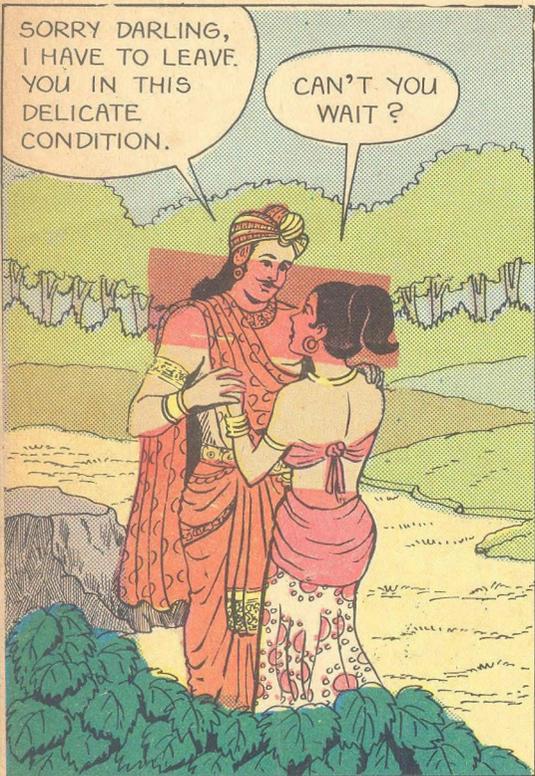
WHAT IS IT?

I AM GOING  
TO BE A  
MOTHER.



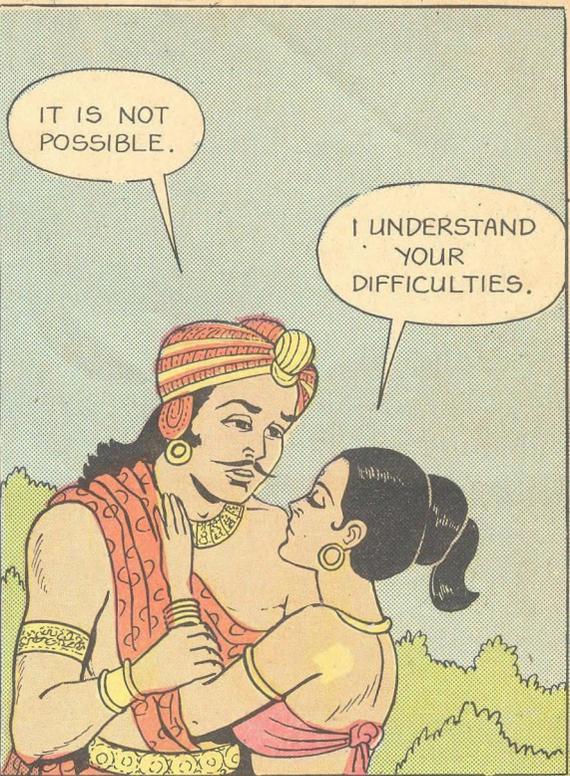
REALLY!  
I AM SO  
HAPPY.





SORRY DARLING,  
I HAVE TO LEAVE.  
YOU IN THIS  
DELICATE  
CONDITION.

CAN'T YOU  
WAIT ?



IT IS NOT  
POSSIBLE.

I UNDERSTAND  
YOUR  
DIFFICULTIES.



YOU COME TO  
THE CAPITAL  
WITH OUR  
CHILD.

HOW  
CAN I ?

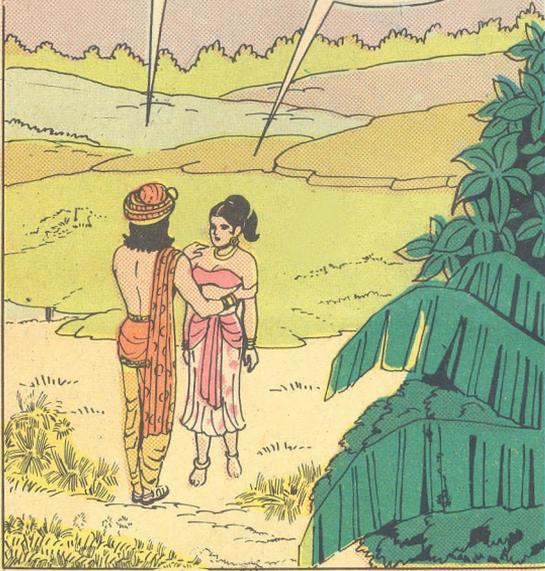


TAKE THIS RING  
AND YOU WILL  
BE ALLOWED IN  
THE PALACE.

THANK YOU  
MAHARAJ.

REMEMBER, IF IT'S  
A BOY BRING HIM  
IMMEDIATELY  
TO ME.

AND IF IT'S  
A GIRL?



SELL THE RING  
AND NOURISH  
HER

WHAT?



HOW CAN ONE FEEL  
DIFFERENT, WHETHER  
IT'S A BOY OR A  
GIRL?



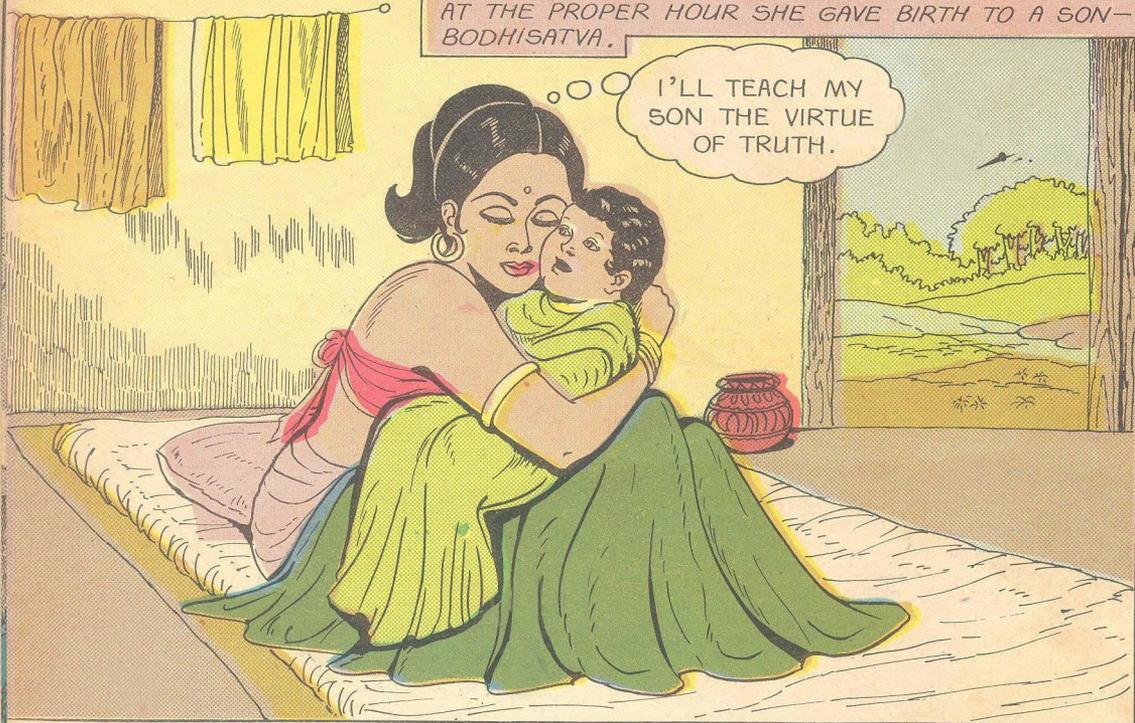
WILL YOU  
NOT COME  
TO ME?

IN THAT CASE,  
I'LL NOT COME  
TO YOU.

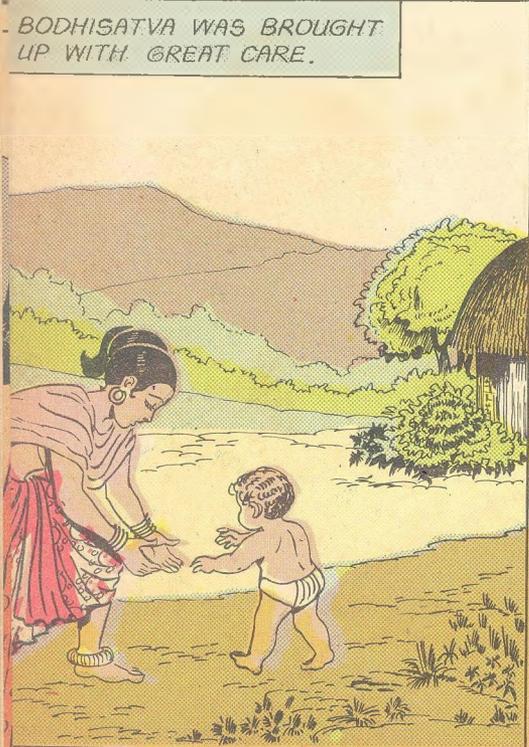


AT THE PROPER HOUR SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A SON—  
BODHISATVA.

I'LL TEACH MY  
SON THE VIRTUE  
OF TRUTH.



BODHISATVA WAS BROUGHT  
UP WITH GREAT CARE.



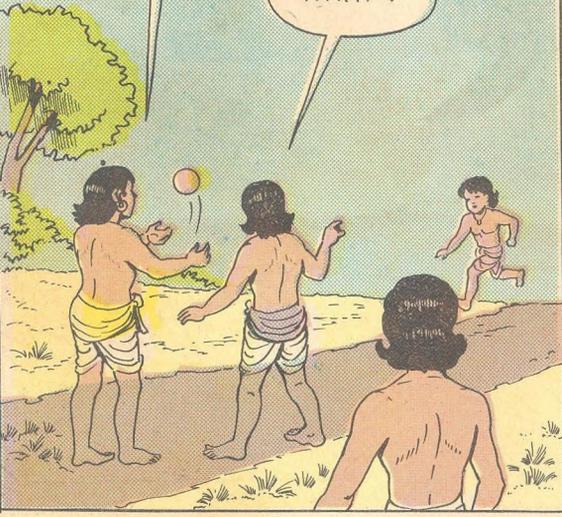
THE KING SEEMS TO  
HAVE FORGOTTEN ME.  
BODHISATVA IS NOW  
EIGHT YEARS OLD.



ONE DAY AT THE PLAY GROUND —

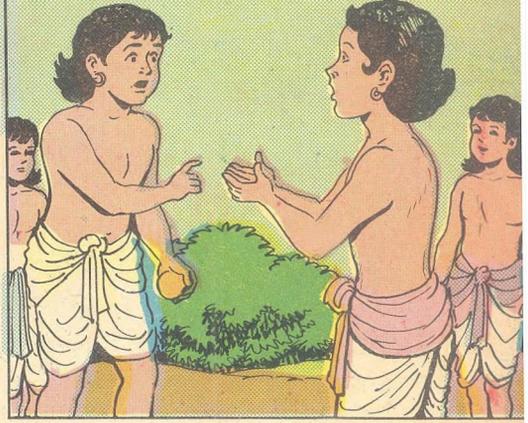
HERE COMES THE FATHERLESS CHILD!

WHAT?



THIS FATHERLESS BOY HAD BEATEN ME YESTERDAY.

WHY DO YOU CALL ME FATHERLESS?

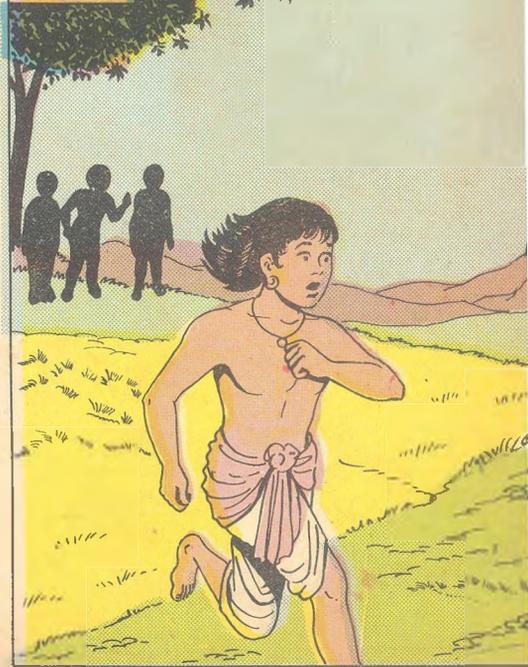


WHO IS YOUR FATHER?

TELL US THE NAME OF YOUR FATHER.



BODHISATVA IMMEDIATELY RAN HOME.

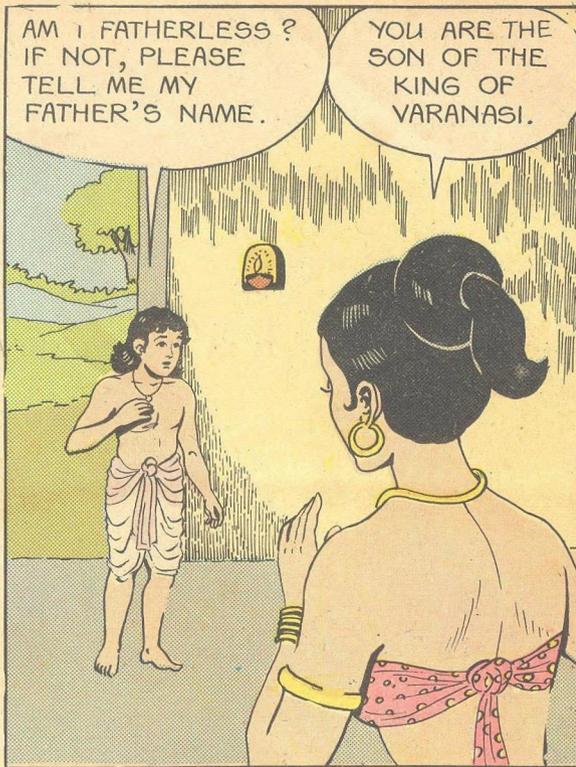


MOTHER, WHO IS MY FATHER?



OH...!

AM I FATHERLESS ?  
IF NOT, PLEASE  
TELL ME MY  
FATHER'S NAME.



YOU ARE THE  
SON OF THE  
KING OF  
VARANASI.

REALLY? BUT  
IS THERE  
ANY PROOF ?



YES,  
THERE IS.

SHE OPENED A CASKET AND SHOWED  
HIM THE RING.



THIS IS THE RING YOUR FATHER HAS GIVEN ME.

IT'S A SIGNET RING!

I'LL PROVE TO MY FRIENDS THAT I AM NOT A FATHERLESS CHILD!

MOTHER, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ME TO HIM.

I'LL DO THAT MY SON.

I MUST GO TO HIM FOR THE SAKE OF THIS CHILD.

AS SOON SHE TOOK HIM TO THE PALACE.

EH! WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?

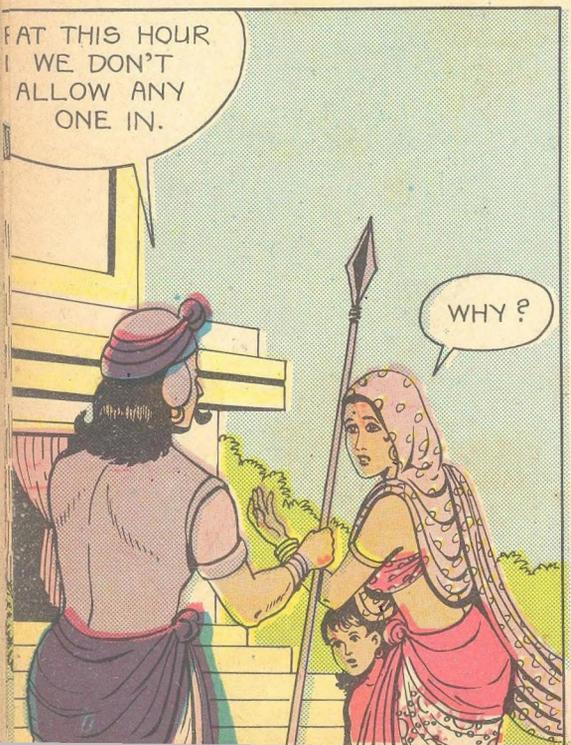
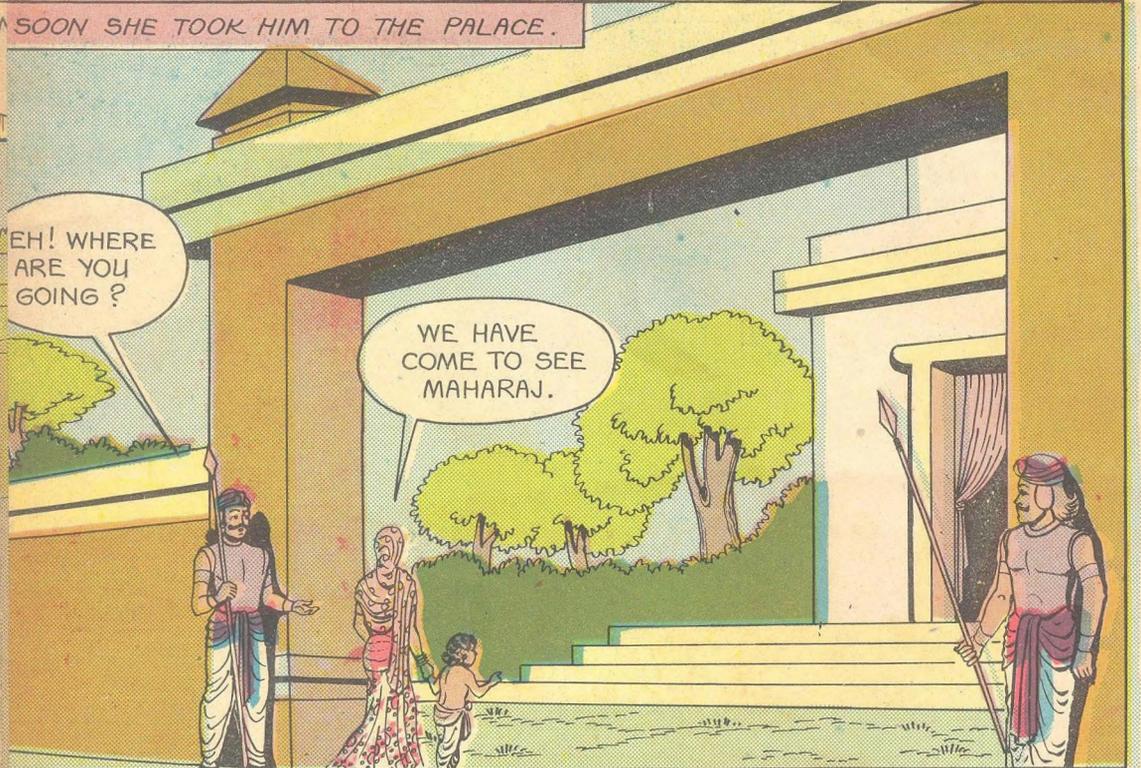
WE HAVE COME TO SEE MAHARAJ.

AT THIS HOUR WE DON'T ALLOW ANY ONE IN.

WHY ?

THE KING IS IN THE ASSEMBLY OF MINISTERS.

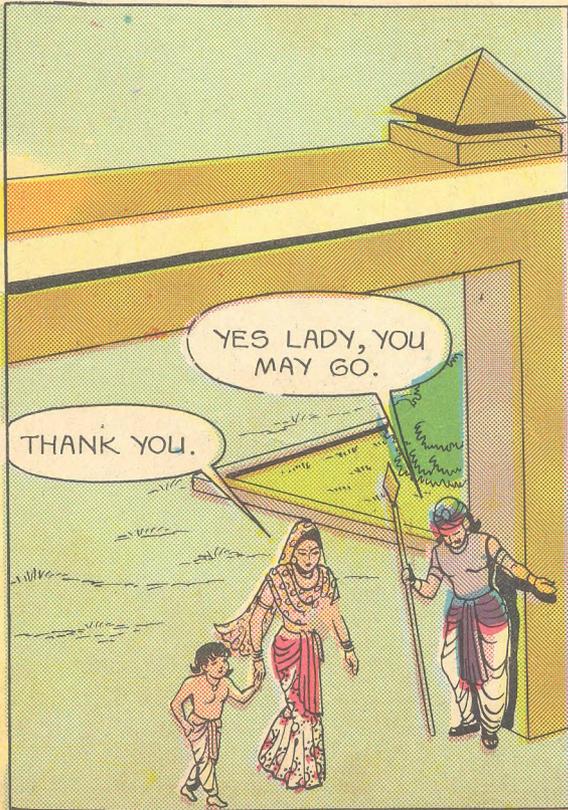
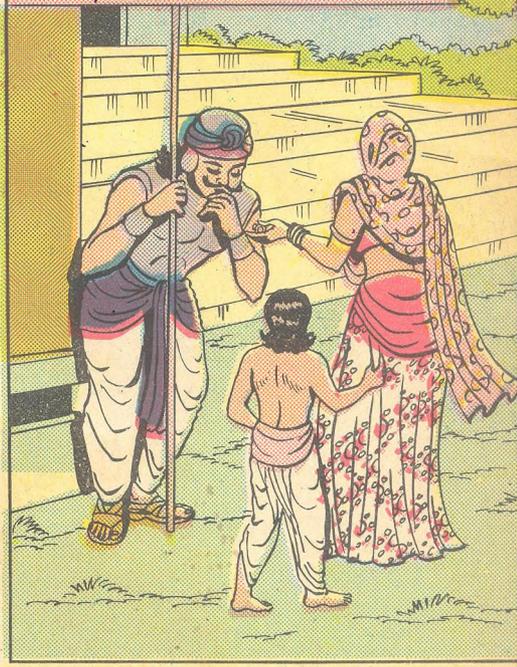
MOTHER, SHOW HIM THE RING.



EVEN IF I SHOW  
YOU HIS SIGNET  
RING?



SHE SHOWED HIM THE RING.

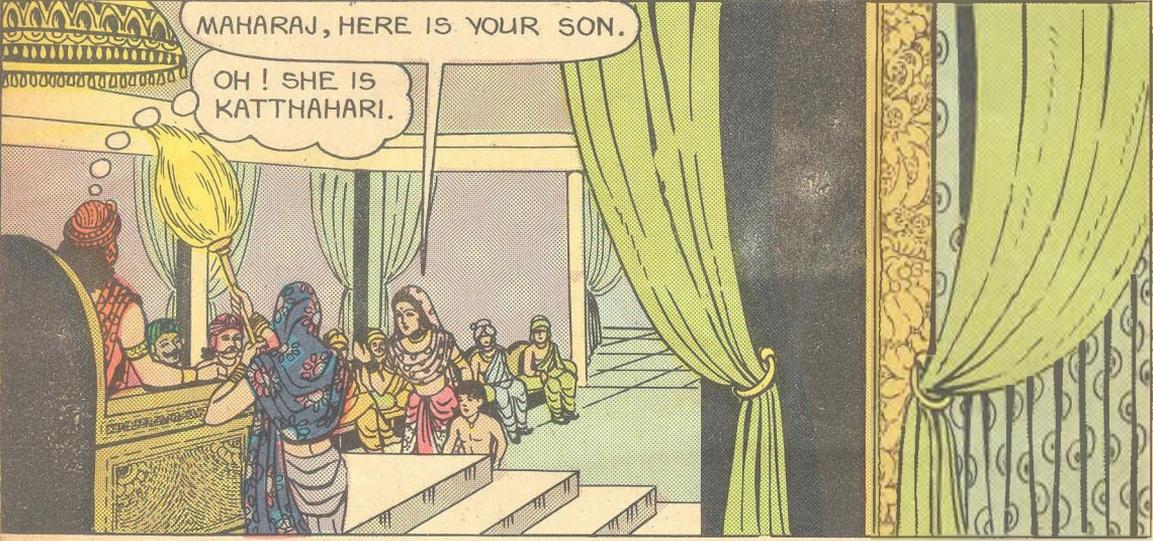


SHE ENTERED THE ASSEMBLY  
HALL.



MAHARAJ, HERE IS YOUR SON.

OH! SHE IS  
KATTHAHARI.



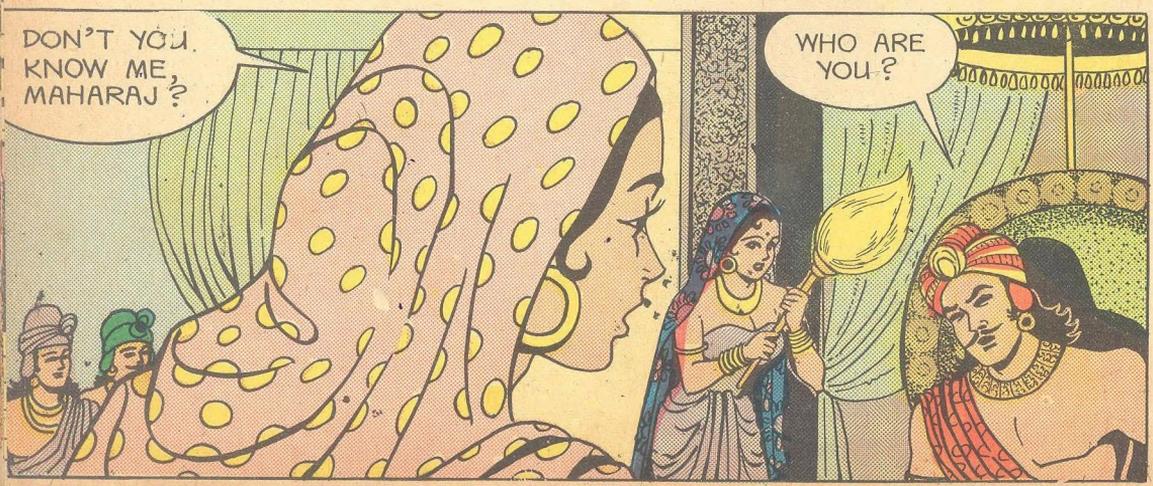
WHO  
IS SHE ?

WHAT IS  
SHE TALKING  
ABOUT ?



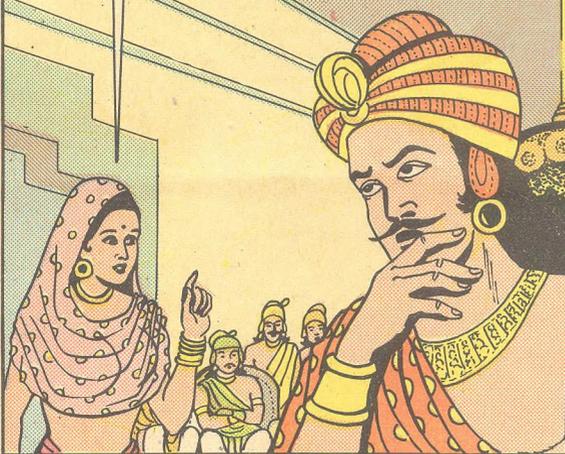
DON'T YOU  
KNOW ME,  
MAHARAJ ?

WHO ARE  
YOU ?



MAHARAJ, NINE YEARS AGO YOU CAME TO THE SHALA GROVE.

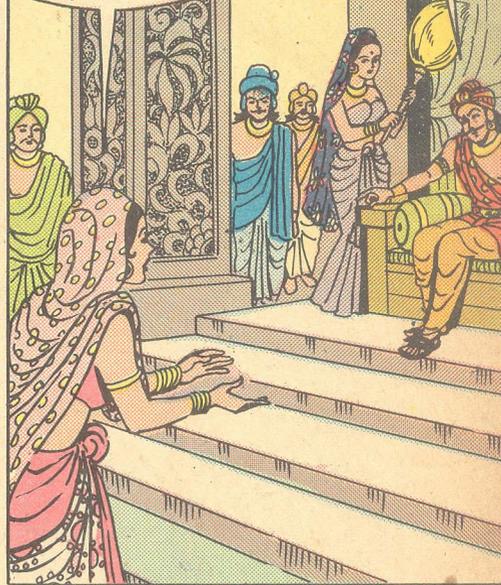
NINE YEARS AGO ?



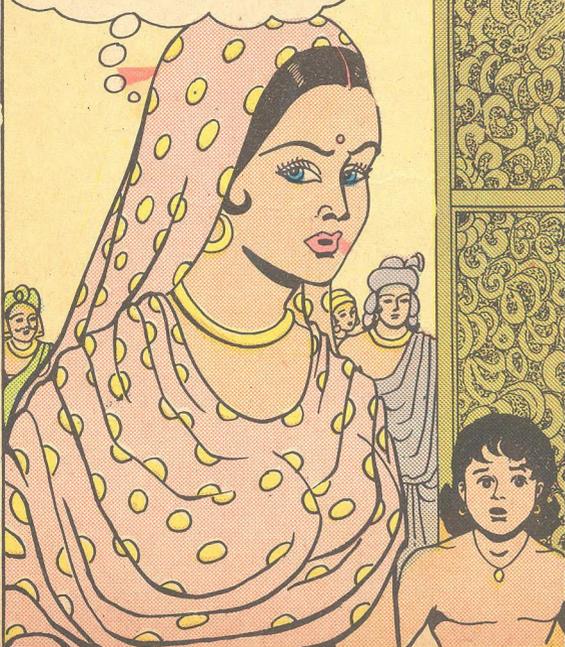
THE KING PRETENDED TO REMEMBER.

YES, THERE YOU MET KATTHAHARI AND MARRIED HER. I AM THAT KATTHAHARI.

OH ! NEVER. I HAD NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE.

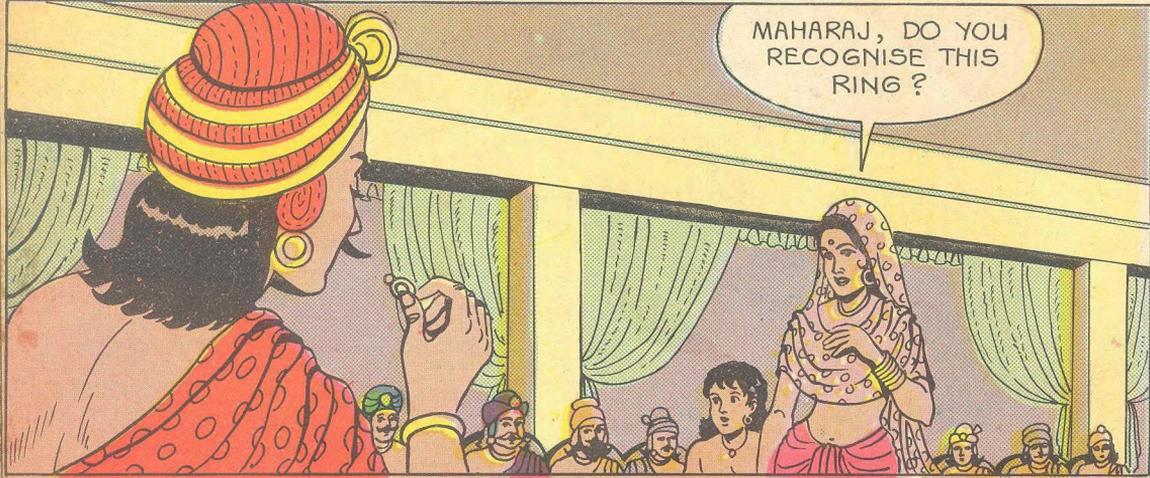


HE IS A LIAR ! I WILL SHOW HIM THE RING.

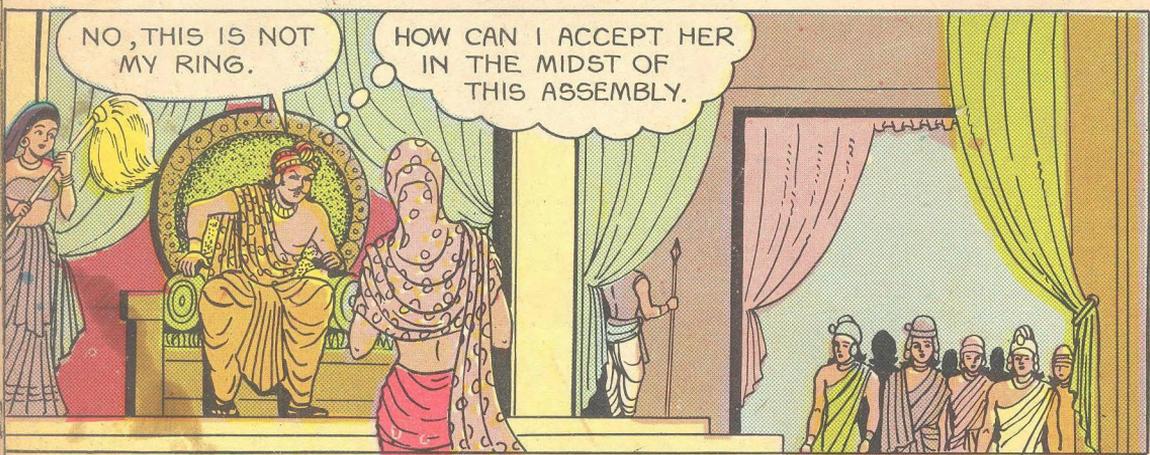


BODHISATVA, SHOW THIS RING TO THE KING.



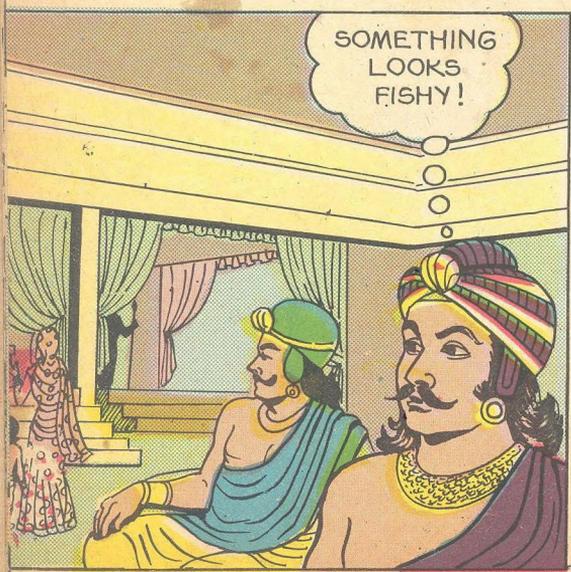


MAHARAJ, DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS RING ?



NO, THIS IS NOT MY RING.

HOW CAN I ACCEPT HER IN THE MIDST OF THIS ASSEMBLY.



SOMETHING LOOKS FISHY!

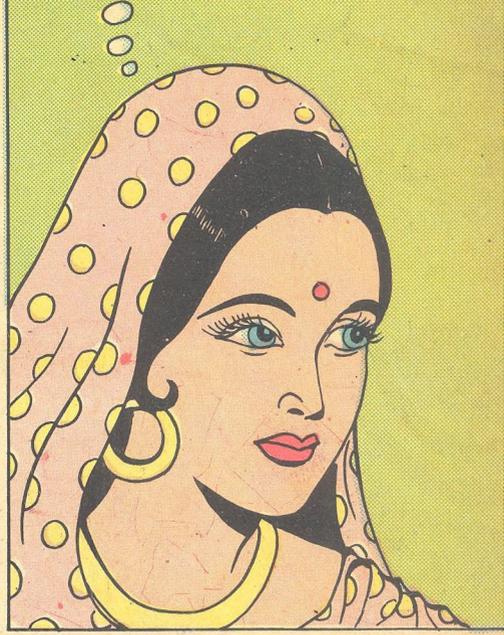
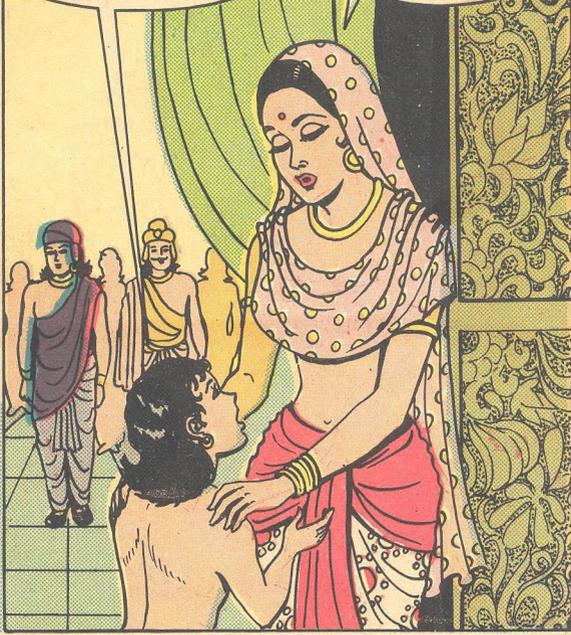


OH GOD! WHAT SHALL I DO NOW ?

OH MOTHER, HAVEN'T YOU TAUGHT ME THAT TRUTH ALWAYS PREVAILS.

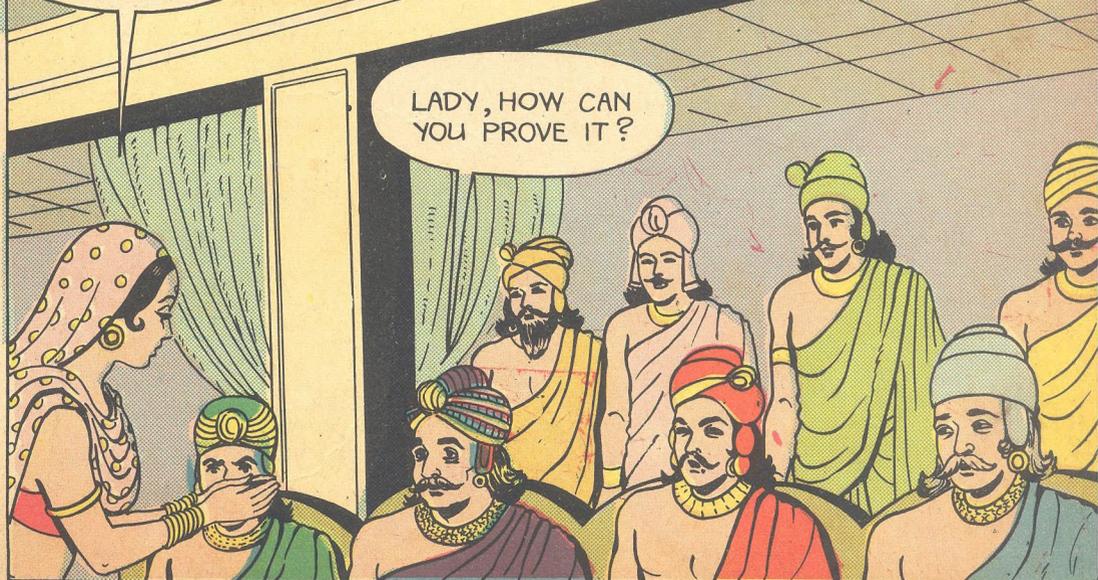
YES, AND THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME MY CHILD.

HE HAS SHOWN ME THE RIGHT PATH.



AMATYA, GIVE ME JUSTICE. THIS KING IS A COWARD AND A LIAR.

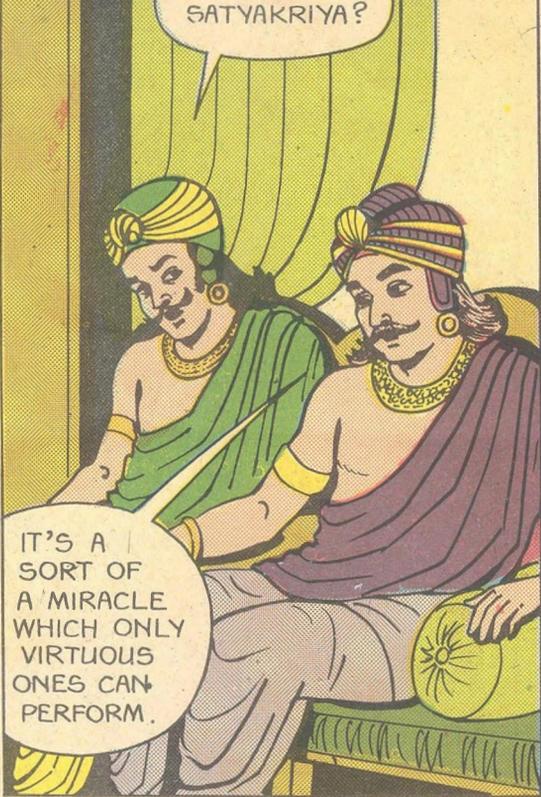
LADY, HOW CAN YOU PROVE IT?



I'LL MAKE SATYAKRIYA.\*



WHAT IS SATYAKRIYA?



IT'S A SORT OF A MIRACLE WHICH ONLY VIRTUOUS ONES CAN PERFORM.

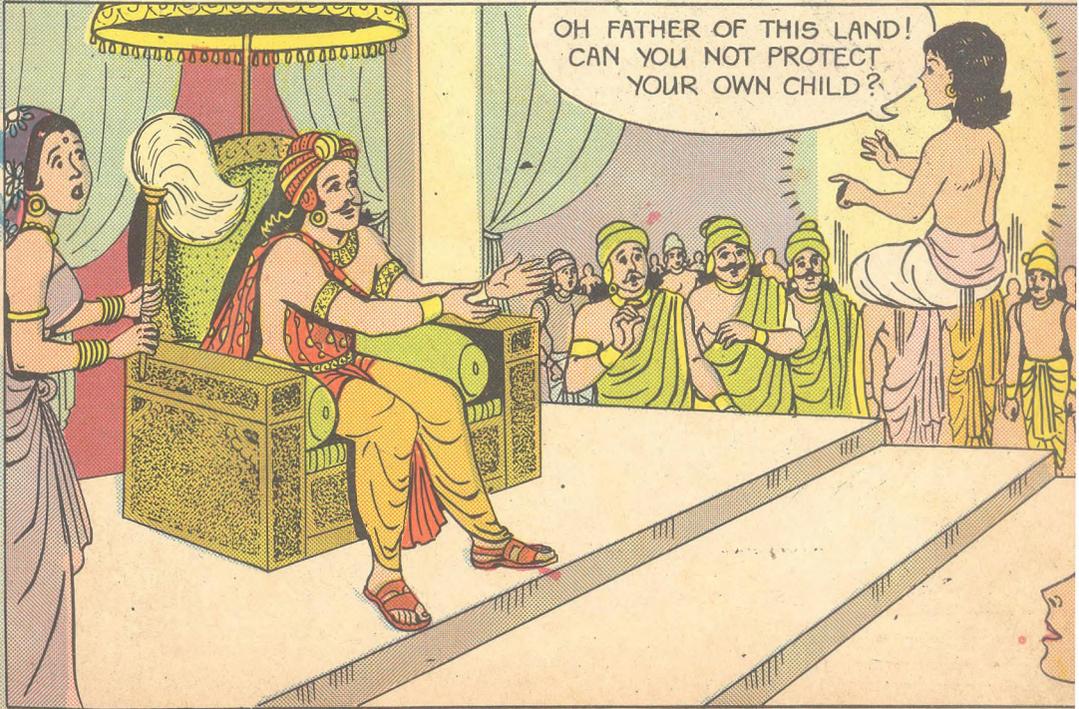
LET THIS CHILD BE ABLE TO SIT IN EMPTY SPACE, IF HE IS THE SON OF THE KING, OR ELSE LET HIM FALL DOWN AND DIE.



SHE THREW BODHISATVA UP...



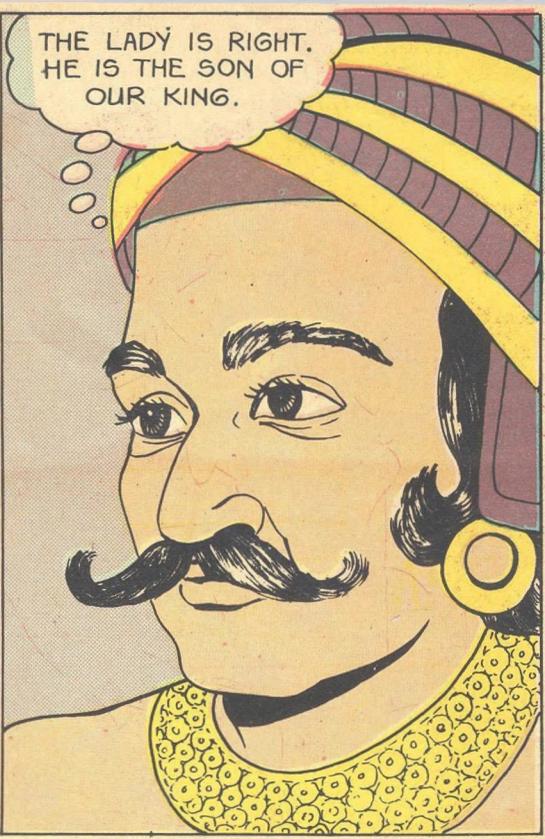
...AND HE SAT CROSS-LEGGED IN THE AIR.



COME, MY CHILD.  
I'LL LOOK  
AFTER YOU.



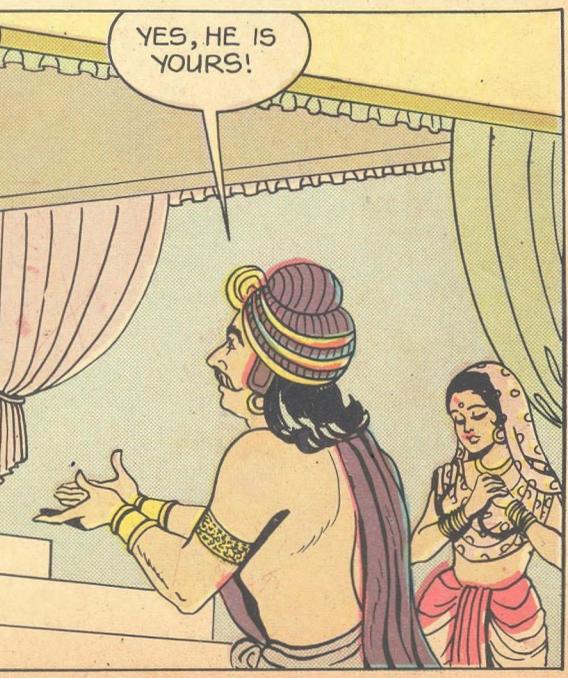
THE LADY IS RIGHT.  
HE IS THE SON OF  
OUR KING.



OH CHILD! FORGIVE ME.  
YOU ARE MY SON.



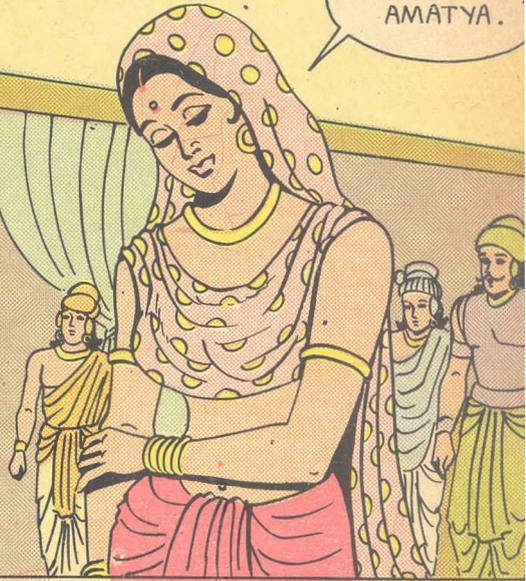
YES, HE IS  
YOURS!



OH VIRTUOUS LADY!  
YOU ARE RIGHT.  
YOU ARE TRUTHFUL.



THANK YOU,  
AMATYA.

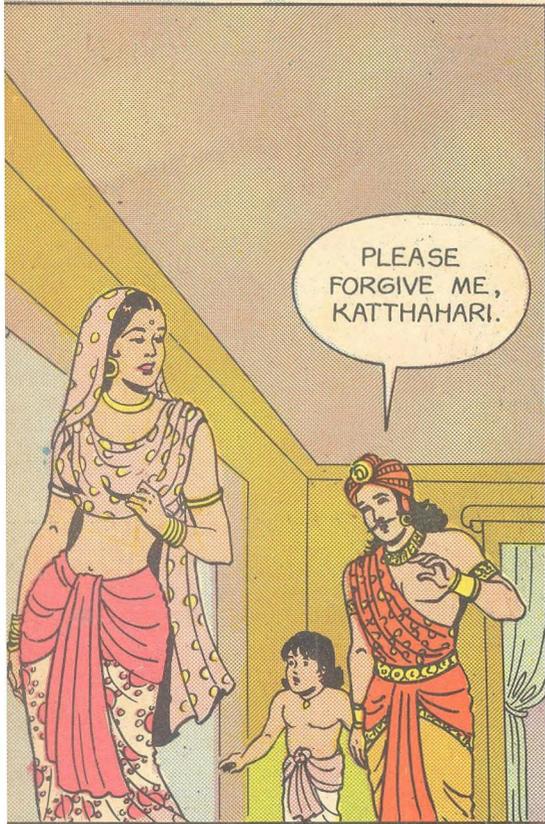


NOW I MUST  
GO BACK  
TO MY HUT.

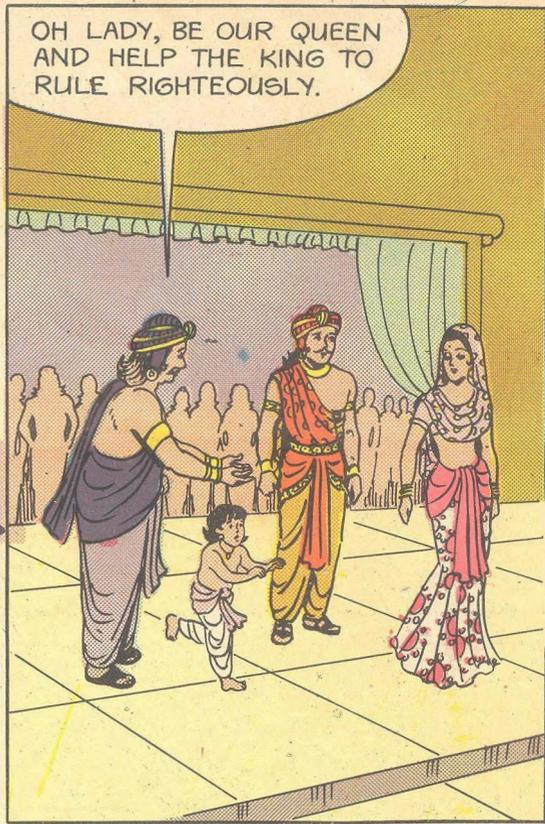


LOOK FATHER,  
MOTHER IS  
GOING.

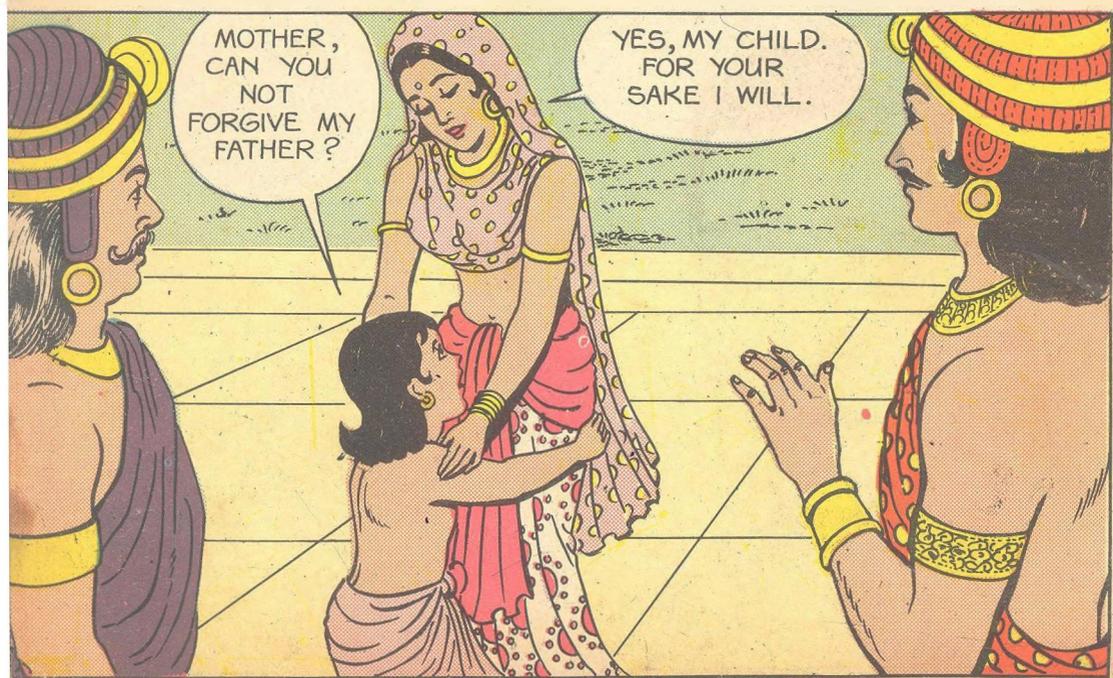




PLEASE FORGIVE ME, KATTHAHARI.



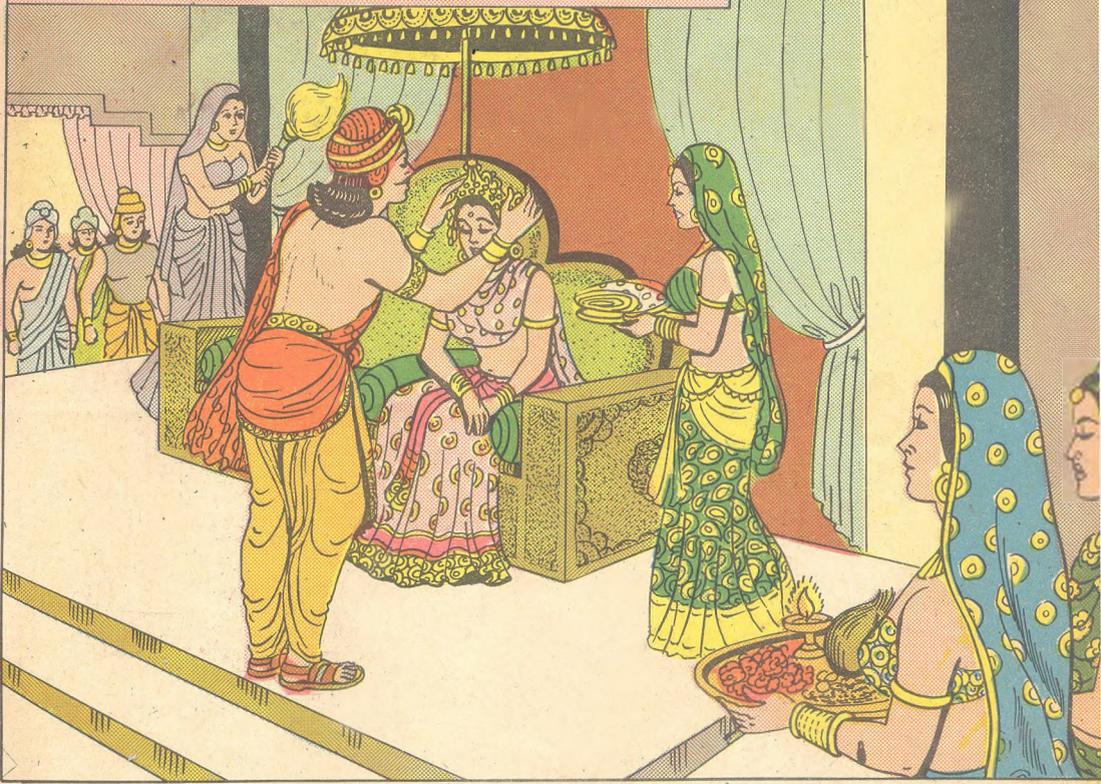
OH LADY, BE OUR QUEEN AND HELP THE KING TO RULE RIGHTEOUSLY.



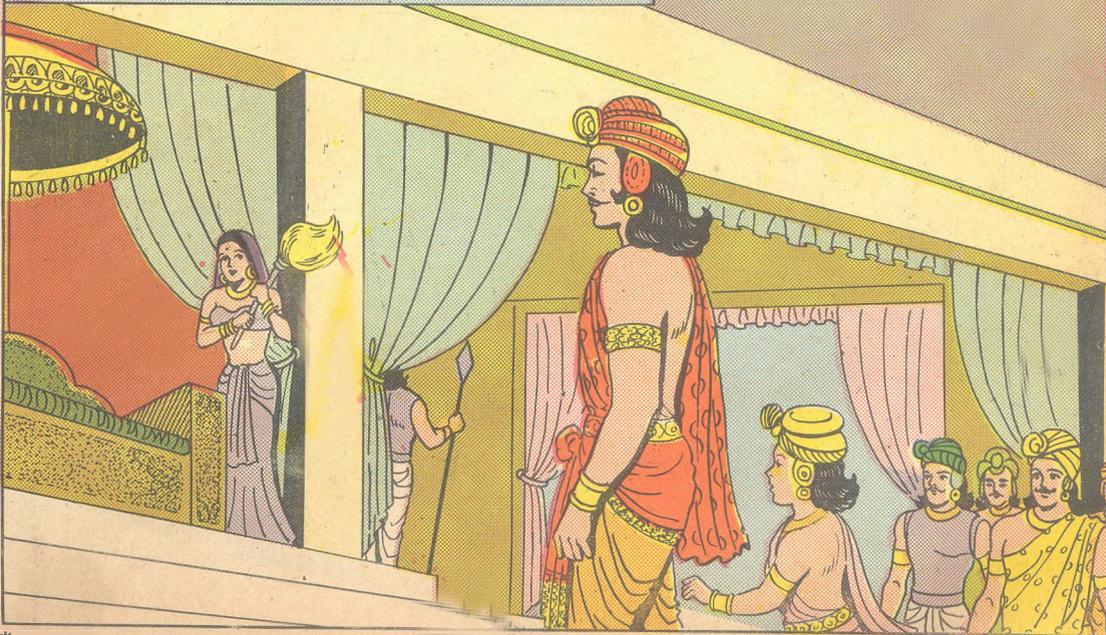
MOTHER, CAN YOU NOT FORGIVE MY FATHER?

YES, MY CHILD. FOR YOUR SAKE I WILL.

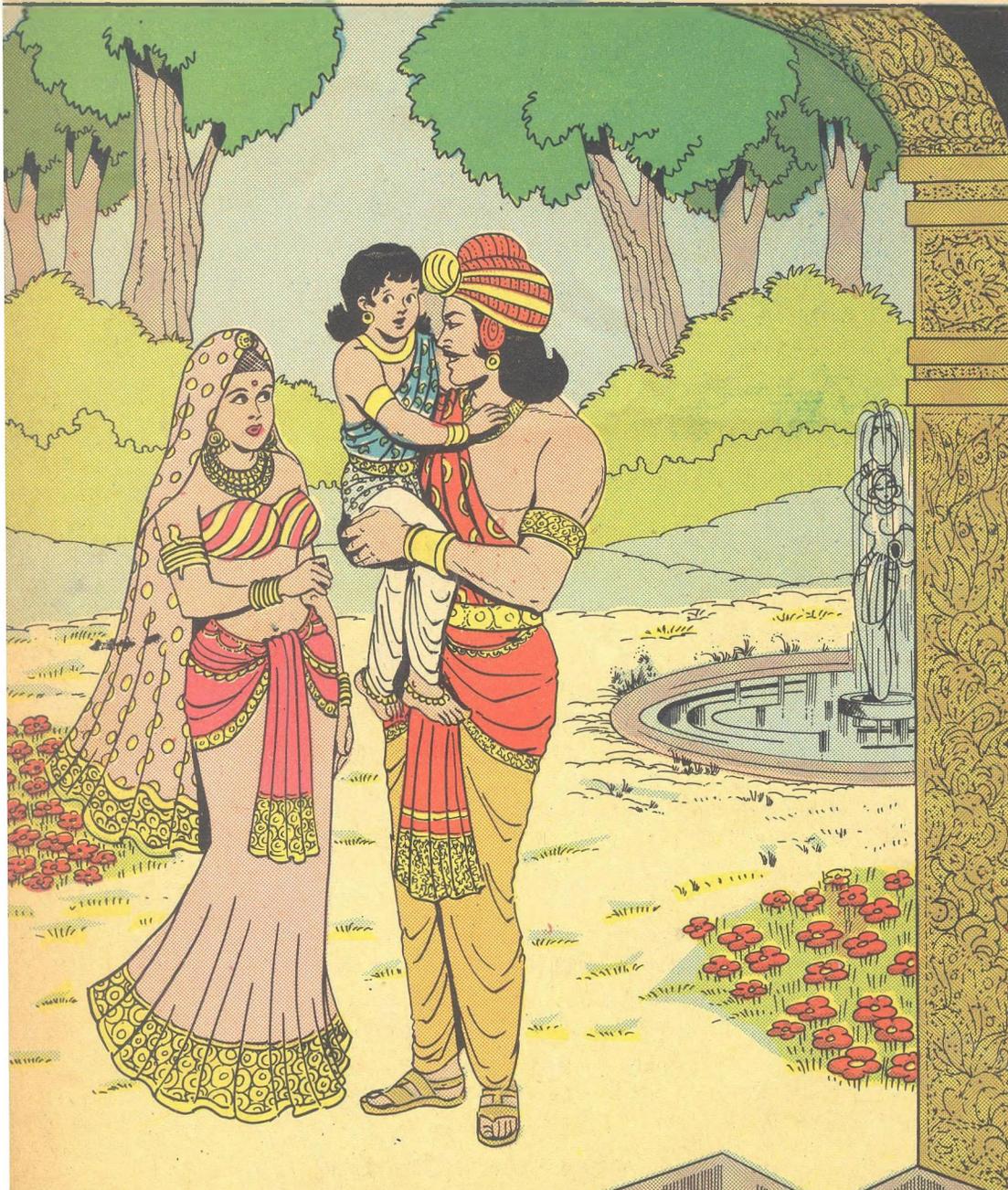
THE KING MADE KATTAHARI HIS CHIEF QUEEN.



BODHISATVA ALSO BECAME THE YUVARAJA.\*



\* YUVARAJA - CROWN PRINCE



THUS THEY LIVED  
HAPPILY EVER AFTER.\*

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