

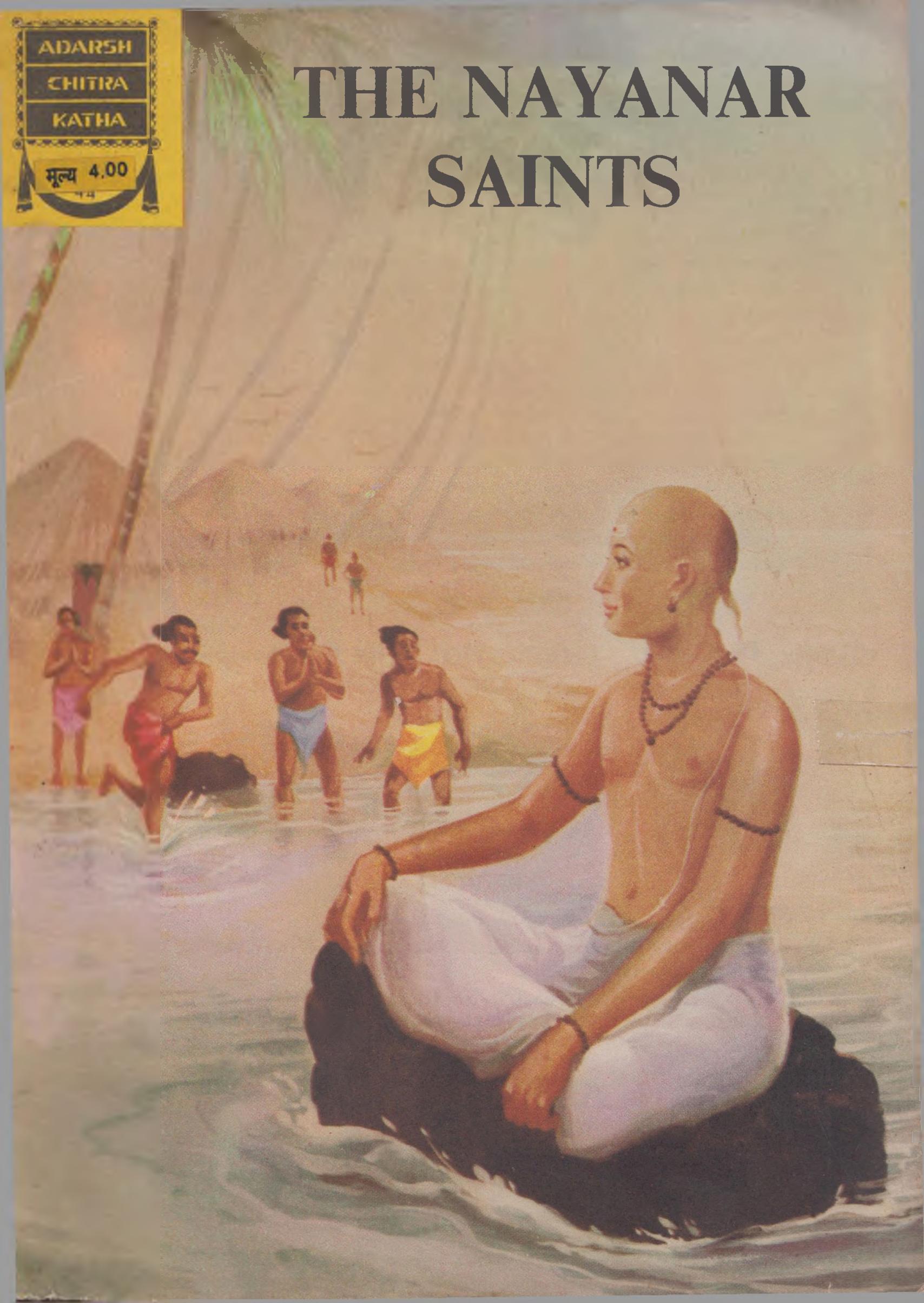
ADARSH

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THE NAYANAR SAINTS



The Nayanar Saints

Saivism is a religious system of the worship of Lord Siva. It is a popular cult, especially prevalent in Southern India, and was known and practised there even before the Christian era. Its prominence coincided with the period of history when the sixtythree Nayanar saints, spiritual giants who lived then in Southern India, are believed to have propounded and accentuated this great religious faith. The Nayanars emphasized devotion to God as Siva, which was practised by the fourfold way of service, adoration, meditation and knowledge, known respectively as **Charya, Kriya, Yoga and Jnana**, which were lived and taught by the great Tamil saints Appar, Sundarar, Jnanasambandar and Manickavachagar. These saints lived God every day and are believed to have contacted Him from moment to moment, almost visibly. The miracles they performed were wondrous indeed. Their enthralling life stories are picturized in the following pages.

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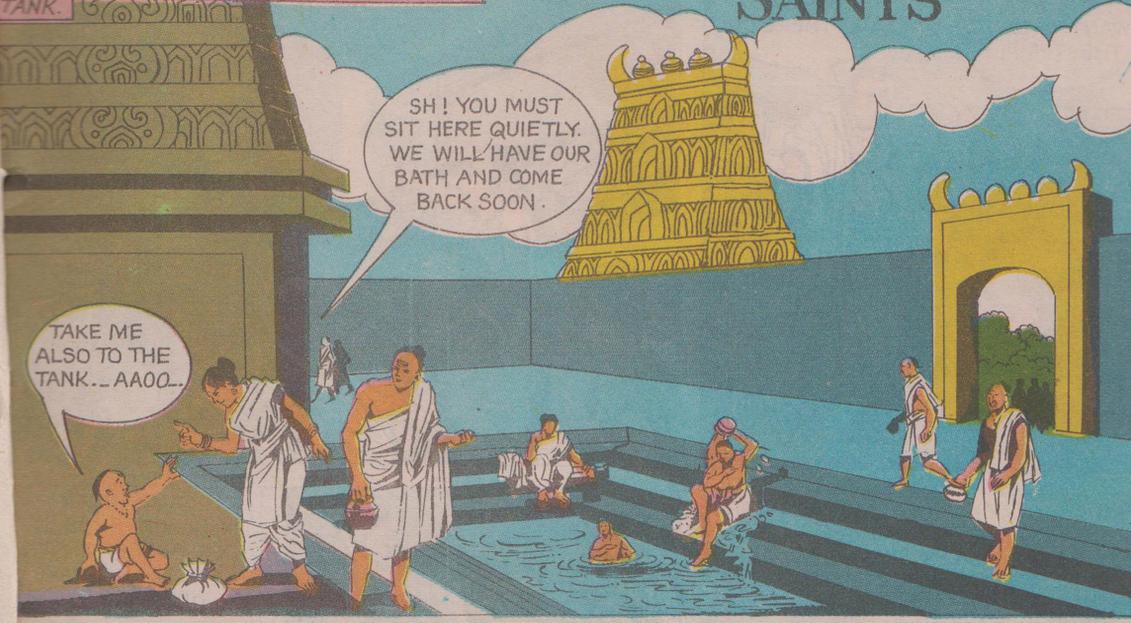
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ONCE A PIOUS BRAHMIN, SHIVAPADA, WITH HIS VIRTUOUS WIFE, LIVED IN SIRKALI IN SOUTHERN INDIA. A SON WAS BORN TO THEM. ONE DAY, THEY WENT TO HAVE A BATH IN THE TEMPLE TANK.

THE NAYANAR SAINTS



SH! YOU MUST SIT HERE QUIETLY. WE WILL HAVE OUR BATH AND COME BACK SOON.

TAKE ME ALSO TO THE TANK... AA00...



AA...OO... AA...OO...

OUR SON IS CRYING A LOT. WE MUST RETURN SOON.

YES, YES.

THE PARENTS HURRIED BACK TO THEIR CHILD. THE MOTHER NOTICED MILK OVER-FLOWING FROM THE CHILD'S MOUTH.

WHO GAVE YOU MILK TO DRINK?

STUPID BOY! WHY DID YOU ACCEPT MILK FROM SOME WAYFARER?



BUT, THE CHILD ONLY SMILED. HE ALSO SANG A SONG IN PRAISE OF LORD SHIVA.

HOW WONDERFUL!!

AH! COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT LORD SHIVA HIMSELF HAS FED OUR CHILD WITH THE MILK OF WISDOM?



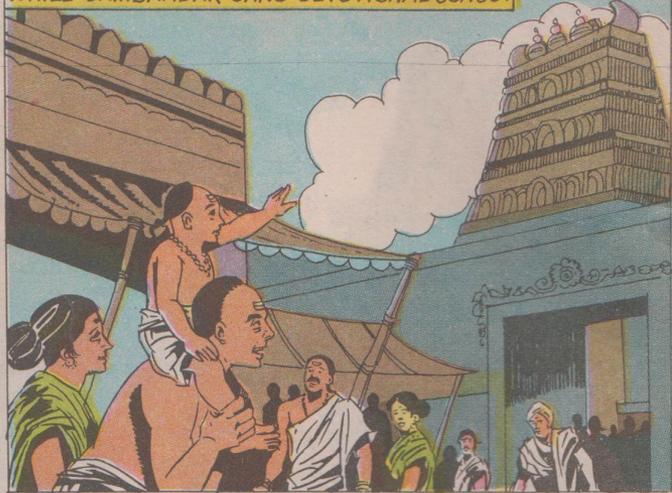
SOON AFTERWARDS, —



FATHER! I WANT TO GO TO THE TEMPLE.

VERY WELL, MY CHILD. I SHALL TAKE YOU THERE.

SHIVAPADA DANCED HIS WAY TO THE TEMPLE, WHILE SAMBANDAR SANG DEVOTIONAL SONGS.



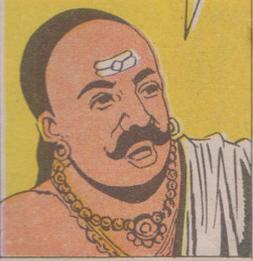
FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS, SAMBANDAR BEGAN TO GO ON PILGRIMAGES TO VARIOUS SHIVA TEMPLES, SINGING PADIGAMS* ONCE, —



OH, LORD SHIVA! NO DOCTOR HAS BEEN ABLE TO CURE MY DAUGHTER. SHOWER YOUR GRACE ON HER AND HEAL HER, OH LORD!

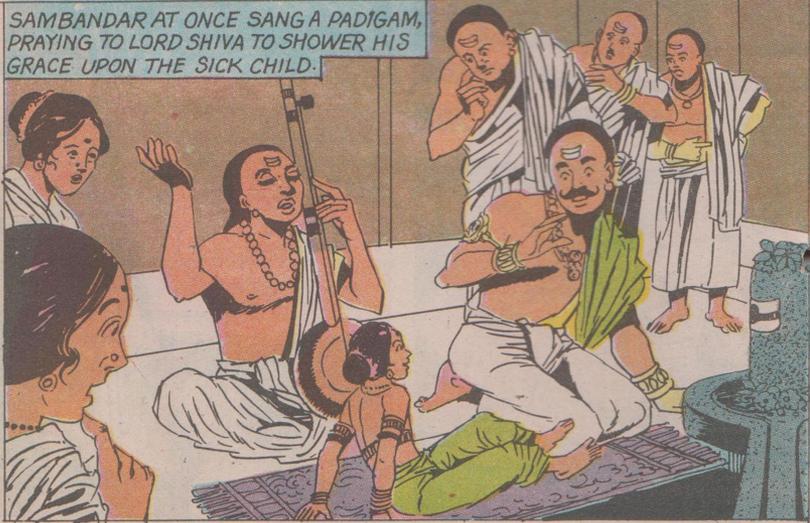
DO NOT DESPAIR, OH KING!

AH! SAMBANDAR! MY DAUGHTER IS IN YOUR GRACEFUL CARE, NOW. PLEASE MAKE HER WELL.



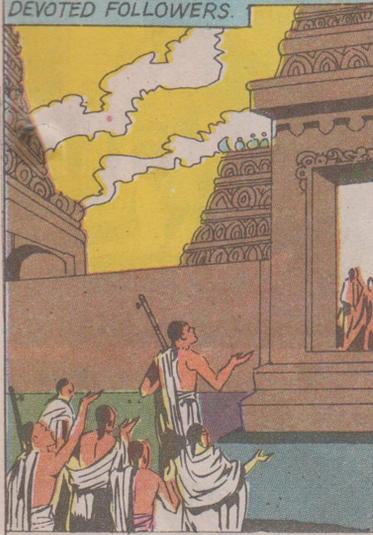
HAVE FAITH IN LORD SHIVA

SAMBANDAR AT ONCE SANG A PADIGAM, PRAYING TO LORD SHIVA TO SHOWER HIS GRACE UPON THE SICK CHILD.



* SHORT VERSES SUNG IN PRAISE OF GOD, ASKING FOR HIS GRACE.

SAMBANDAR CONTINUED ON HIS PILGRIMAGES, SINGING HYMNS IN PRAISE OF LORD SHIVA ALL THE WAY. SAMBANDAR'S FAME SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, AND HE GATHERED MANY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS.



THE QUEEN AND THE CHIEF MINISTER OF MADURA WERE GREAT DEVOTEES OF SHIVA.

I HEAR SAMBANDAR IS VERY CLOSE TO MADURA, NOW. DO GO QUICKLY AND WELCOME HIM TO OUR HOME.

YES, YOUR MAJESTY. I SHALL MAKE HASTE.



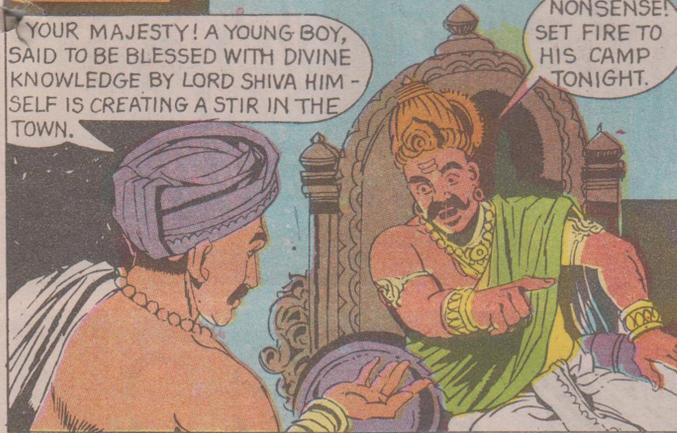
SAMBANDAR SANG THE GLORY OF SHIVA, AS HE ENTERED MADURA, AND WENT TO THE TEMPLE, THERE.



BUT, THE KING DID NOT BELIEVE IN THE WORSHIP OR THE GRACE OF LORD SHIVA.

YOUR MAJESTY! A YOUNG BOY, SAID TO BE BLESSED WITH DIVINE KNOWLEDGE BY LORD SHIVA HIMSELF IS CREATING A STIR IN THE TOWN.

NONSENSE! SET FIRE TO HIS CAMP TONIGHT.

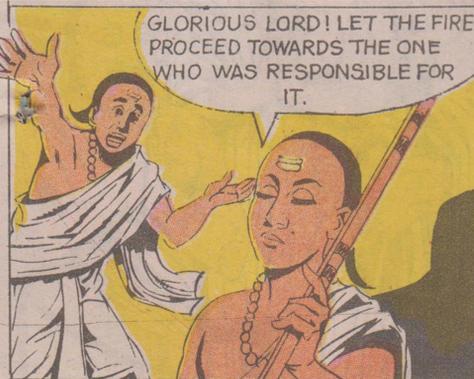


AT THE DEAD OF NIGHT,--

OH, SAVE US! OUR CAMP IS ON FIRE.

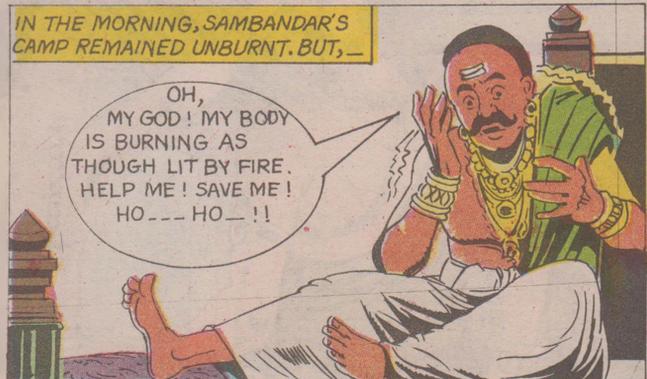


GLORIOUS LORD! LET THE FIRE PROCEED TOWARDS THE ONE WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT.



IN THE MORNING, SAMBANDAR'S CAMP REMAINED UNBURNT. BUT,--

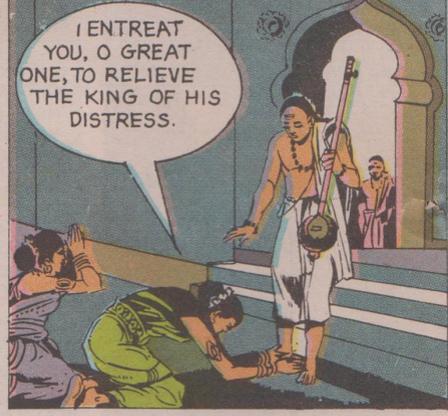
OH, MY GOD! MY BODY IS BURNING AS THOUGH LIT BY FIRE. HELP ME! SAVE ME! HO--- HO-- !!





I MUST ASK FOR SAM-BANDAR'S HELP. ONLY LORD SHIVA CAN CURE THIS STRANGE DISEASE.

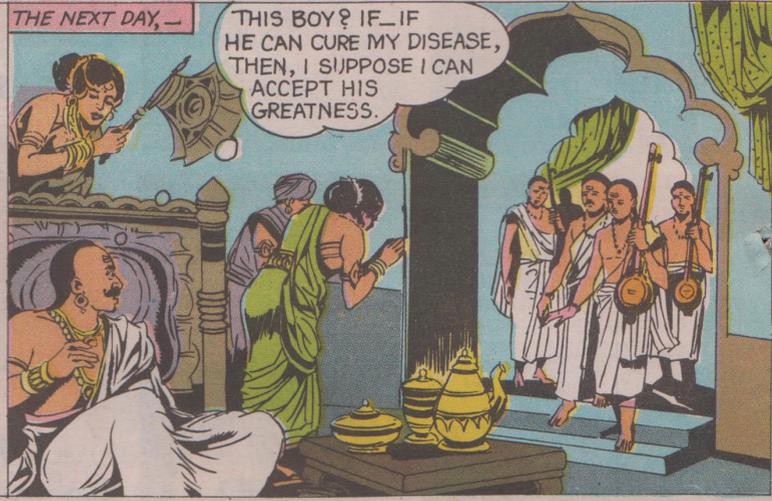
A LITTLE LATER, THE QUEEN PROCEEDED IN ALL HASTE TO MEET SAMBANDAR.



I ENTREAT YOU, O GREAT ONE, TO RELIEVE THE KING OF HIS DISTRESS.



I SHALL FULFILL YOUR WISH, OH, SHIVA DEVOTEE. GO BACK IN PEACE.



THE NEXT DAY, —

THIS BOY? IF... IF HE CAN CURE MY DISEASE, THEN, I SUPPOSE I CAN ACCEPT HIS GREATNESS.



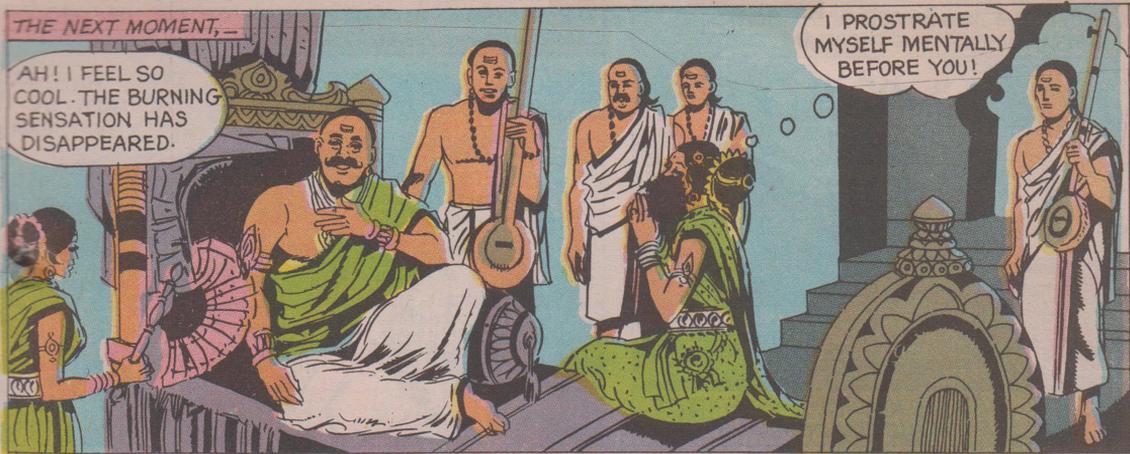
SAMBANDAR SANG A PADIGAM IN PRAISE OF BHASMA,* AND SMEARED THE SACRED ASH ON THE KING'S FOREHEAD.

* SACRED ASH OF LORD SHIVA.

THE NEXT MOMENT, —

AH! I FEEL SO COOL. THE BURNING SENSATION HAS DISAPPEARED.

I PROSTRATE MYSELF MENTALLY BEFORE YOU!



OH, WONDERFUL DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA! GLORY BE TO YOU.

GLORY BE TO LORD SHIVA!

IT IS THE GRACE OF THE GREAT LORD SHIVA THAT HAS MADE ME WELL.



SAMBANDAR TOOK LEAVE OF THE KING AND THE QUEEN, AND PROCEEDED ON HIS PILGRIMAGE. ON THE WAY, —

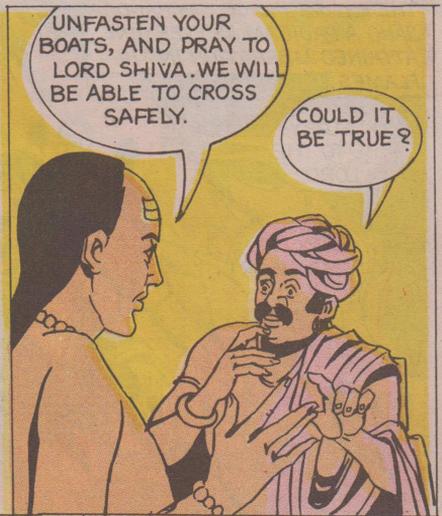
TAKE US ACROSS IN YOUR BOATS

OH, NO. THE RIVER IS IN SPATE. WE CANNOT FERRY.



UNFASTEN YOUR BOATS, AND PRAY TO LORD SHIVA. WE WILL BE ABLE TO CROSS SAFELY.

COULD IT BE TRUE?



WHILE THE MEN SAILED IN THE BOATS, SAMBANDAR SANG A PADIGAM, --



--AND THEY REACHED THE OPPOSITE BANK WITHOUT ANY MISHAP.

THE BOATSMEN BECAME ARDENT DEVOTEES OF LORD SHIVA SAMBANDAR BLESSED THEM ALL.



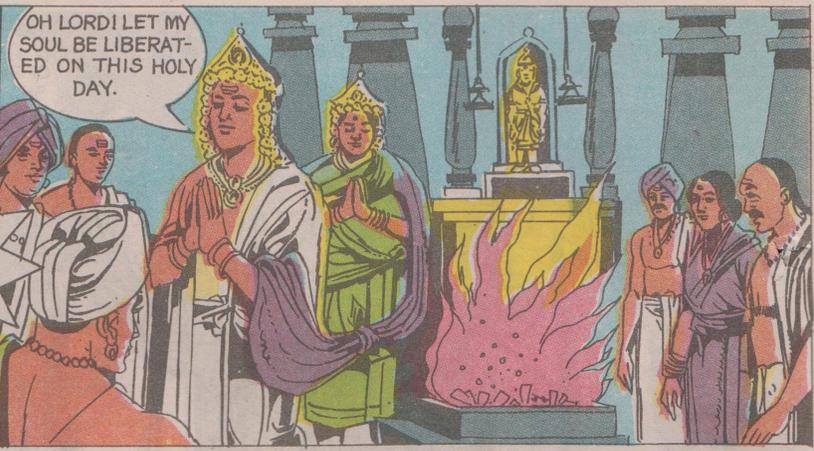
GLORY BE TO SAMBANDAR!
GLORY TO THE LORD!

HAVE FAITH IN LORD SHIVA!

SAMBANDAR RETURNED TO SIRKALI WHEN HE WAS SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE. HIS FATHER ARRANGED FOR HIS MARRIAGE. ON THE DAY OF THE MARRIAGE, --

OH LORD! LET MY SOUL BE LIBERATED ON THIS HOLY DAY.

SAMBANDAR, MY DEAR DEVOTEE! I GRANT THE WISH TO YOU, YOUR WIFE AND ALL THESE AROUND YOU.



ALL AT ONCE, THE FLAMES ROSE HIGH AND ENVELOPED THE ENTIRE PLACE. SAMBANDAR SANG A PADIGAM AS EVERYONE ATTAINED LIBERATION IN THE FLAMES.



GLORY BE TO THE LORD!

GLORY TO SAMBANDAR!



I THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY, FOR BESTOWING UPON ME THIS HONOUR. I SHALL DO MY BEST TO SERVE YOU WELL.

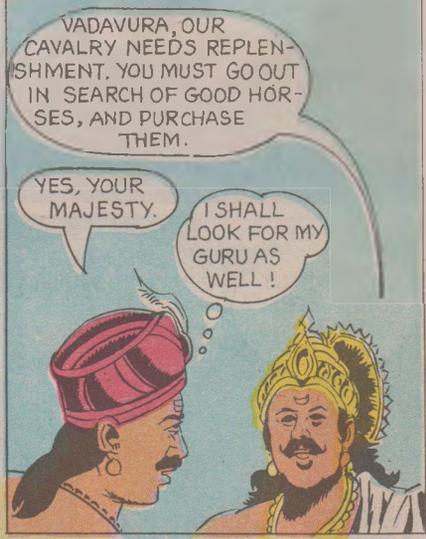
I AM GREATLY PLEASED WITH YOU, VADAVURA!

VADAVURA WAS A VIRTUOUS MAN AND AN ARDENT DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA. BESIDES DOING HIS MINISTERIAL DUTIES, HE OFTEN INVITED LEARNED MEN TO DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURES.



FOR ETERNAL BLISS, I MUST ATTAIN THE LOTUS FEET OF THE LORD. FOR THAT I NEED A GURU

ONE DAY, -



VADAVURA, OUR CAVALRY NEEDS REPLENISHMENT. YOU MUST GO OUT IN SEARCH OF GOOD HORSES, AND PURCHASE THEM.

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

I SHALL LOOK FOR MY GURU AS WELL!

VADAVURAR SET OUT WITH MEN AND MONEY TO BUY HORSES. HE REACHED PERUNTURAL TOWN, WHERE HE FIRST ENTERED THE TEMPLE.

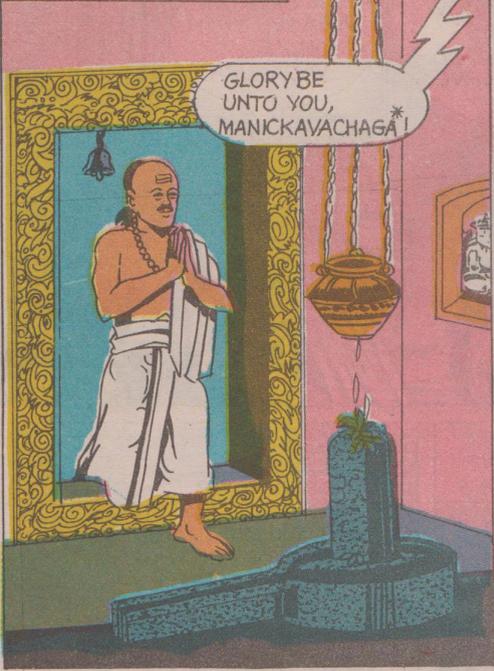


GURUJI! KINDLY ACCEPT ME AS YOUR DISCIPLE AND BLESS ME.

HARA, HARA!

SHIVA, SHIVA!

VADAVURAR WAS INITIATED BY THE GURU. HE ENTERED THE TEMPLE SINGING PRAISES OF LORD SHIVA.



GLORY BE UNTO YOU, MANICKAVACHAGA!

VADAVURAR CAME TO BE KNOWN AS MANICKAVACHAGAR. PEOPLE THRONGED TO HEAR HIS DEVOTIONAL SONGS.



OUR MINISTER HAS CHANGED COMPLETELY. MOREOVER HE HAS FORGOTTEN THE KING'S ORDERS.

WE MUST REMIND HIM.

THE KING'S MEN PROMPTLY RETURNED TO MADURA AND TOLD THE KING ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED AT PERUNTURAI.

AFTER A FEW DAYS, -



WHAT ABOUT BUYING HORSES FOR THE KING'S CAVALRY?

WELL! GO BACK TO MADURA AND TELL THE KING THAT THE HORSES WILL BE THERE IN A MONTH'S TIME.



HOW COULD VADAVURAR BE SO NEGLIGENT! NEVERTHELESS, I SHALL WAIT FOR A MONTH AND SEE.



AT PERUNTURAI, MANICKAVACHAGAR SPENT HIS TIME AND MONEY IN BUILDING A TEMPLE FOR LORD SHIVA.

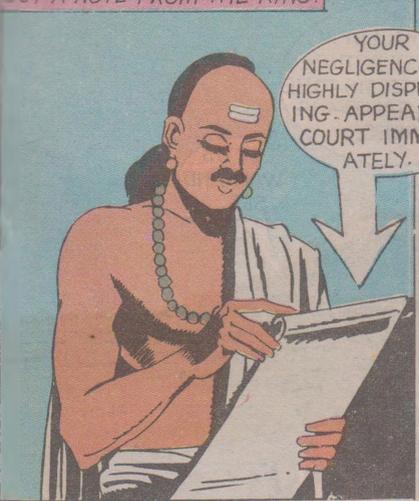
HOW FORTUNATE I AM TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A TEMPLE FOR YOU, OH LORD!



* GEM IN WISDOM.

A MONTH PASSED. MANICKAVACHAGAR GOT A NOTE FROM THE KING.

MANICKAVACHAGAR PRAYED AT THE TEMPLE.



YOUR NEGLIGENCE IS HIGHLY DISPLEASING. APPEAR IN COURT IMMEDIATELY.



OH, LORD! HOLY THOUGHTS ABOUT YOU MADE ME FORGET MY DUTY TO THE KING. PLEASE PROTECT ME FROM THE KING'S WRATH, LORD SHIVA!

FEAR NOT! ALL WILL BE WELL ON AVANI MOOLAM DAY.



THE NEXT DAY, MANICKAVACHAGAR WENT BACK TO MADURAI.

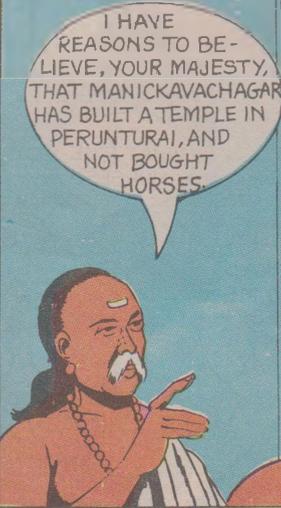
SOME TIME LATER,



YOUR MAJESTY! THE HORSES WILL ARRIVE ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF AVANI MOOLAM.

IS THAT SO ? THEN I AM SORRY FOR MY RASH NOTE

I HAVE MISJUDGED MY GOOD PRIME MINISTER.



I HAVE REASONS TO BELIEVE, YOUR MAJESTY, THAT MANICKAVACHAGAR HAS BUILT A TEMPLE IN PERUNTURAI, AND NOT BOUGHT HORSES.

SEND A COUPLE OF MEN AT ONCE TO CONFIRM THE BELIEF.

THE MESSENGERS WENT TO PERUNTURAI AND RETURNED SOON THEREAFTER.

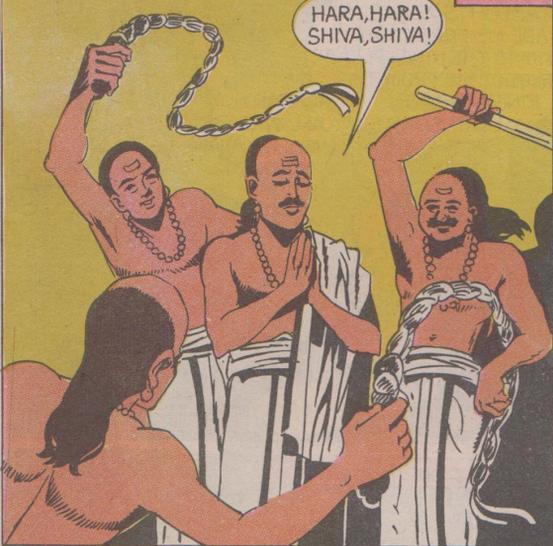


WE SAW NO HORSES THERE. BUT WE SAW THE TEMPLE, YOUR MAJESTY!



REALLY ? THEN GET MANICKAVACHAGAR AND BEAT HIM UP TILL HE OWNS HIS GUILT.

THE COURTIERS TORTURED MANICKAVACHAGAR. HE BORE THE TORTURE CALMLY AND PRAYED TO LORD SHIVA.



HARA, HARA!
SHIVA, SHIVA!

AVANI MOOLAM DAY DAWNED.



LOOK,
YOUR MAJESTY!
THAT DUST IN THE
HORIZON SEEMS TO BE
DUE TO GALLOPING
HORSES.

LET US
WAIT AND
SEE.

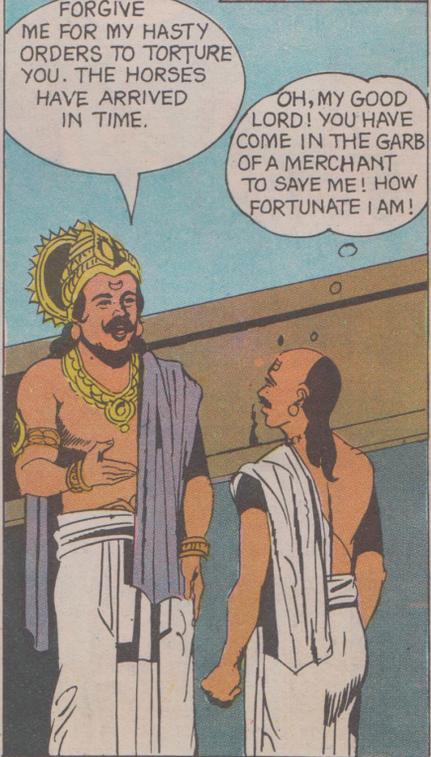
SOON, —



WHAT FINE
HORSES!

YOUR
MAJESTY, MANICKA -
VACHAGAR ASKED ME
TO DELIVER THESE
HORSES HERE ON
AVANI MOOLAM DAY.

THE KING IMMEDIATELY SENT FOR
MANICKAVACHAGAR.



FORGIVE
ME FOR MY HASTY
ORDERS TO TORTURE
YOU. THE HORSES
HAVE ARRIVED
IN TIME.

OH, MY GOOD
LORD! YOU HAVE
COME IN THE GARB
OF A MERCHANT
TO SAVE ME! HOW
FORTUNATE I AM!

PERMIT ME TO RESIGN MY DUTIES, YOUR MAJESTY. I SHALL SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS WORSHIPPING MY LORD AT PERUNTURAI.

I HATE TO PART WITH YOU. BUT I CAN'T STOP A DEVOTEE FROM WORSHIPPING THE LORD.

MANICKAVACHAGAR THEN WENT TO PERUNTURAI. THERE HE SANG HIGHLY INSPIRED SONGS AND PRAYED TO HAVE DARSHAN OF THE LORD. ONE DAY, A BRAHMIN CAME TO SEE MANICKAVACHAGAR.

MANICKAVACHAGAR RECITED THE TIRUVACHAGAM AND THE BRAHMIN WROTE IT DOWN ON PALM LEAVES.

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE ABODE. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

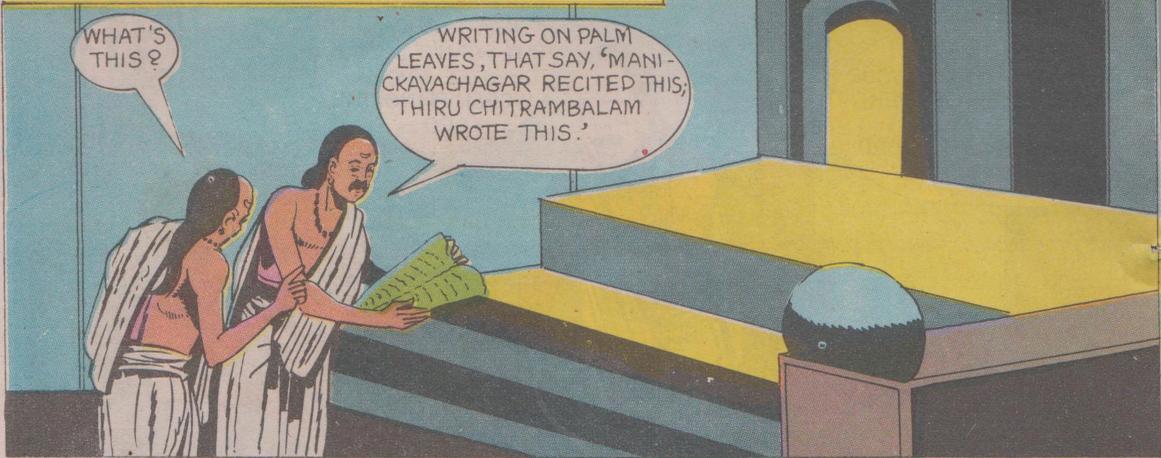
I WANT TO HEAR TIRUVACHAGAM FROM YOUR HOLY LIPS, SO THAT I MAY WRITE IT DOWN AND LEARN IT.

WHEN MANICKAVACHAGAR FINISHED RECITING AND OPENED HIS EYES, —

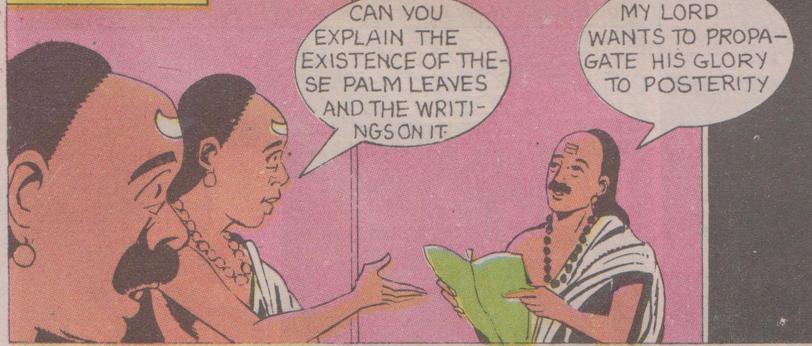
WHERE IS MY GUEST? ... AH! THE LORD HIMSELF HAD COME IN THE GUISE OF A BRAHMIN, NO DOUBT. I WAS NOT WORTHY ENOUGH TO RECOGNISE HIM.

* SONGS OF THE LORD SUNG BY MANICKAVACHAGAR ARE KNOWN BY THIS NAME.

THE NEXT MORNING, ON THE STEPS OF THE CHIT SABHA, —



THE MEN RUSHED TO MANICKAVACHAGAR WITH THE PALM LEAVES



MANICKAVACHAGAR RAN TO THE TEMPLE WITH THE PALM LEAVES.



AFTER THAT, MANICKAVACHAGAR FELL AT THE FEET OF THE LORD AND ATTAINED ETERNAL FREEDOM FROM THIS WORLDLY LIFE.



TIRUNAVUKKARASAR

MARULNEEKIAR LOST HIS PARENTS AT A VERY YOUNG AGE. HIS SISTER BROUGHT HIM UP WITH LOVE AND AFFECTION. EARLY IN LIFE, HE BEGAN THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES. ONE DAY, —

I WANT TO FIND OUT WHICH IS THE BEST RELIGION AND FOLLOW IT

PRAY TO LORD SHIVA. HAVE FAITH IN HIM.



BUT, I DON'T KNOW IF HE IS THE REAL GOD.

BELIEVE IN HIM, AND YOU WILL BE ENLIGHTENED



OH, LORD! PLEASE SHOWER YOUR GRACE ON MY BROTHER AND MAKE HIM EMBRACE YOU.



AFTER SOME TIME, MARULNEEKIAR FELL VICTIM TO SEVERE COLIC.

OH, SISTER! I CAN'T BEAR THE PAIN, HELP ME.



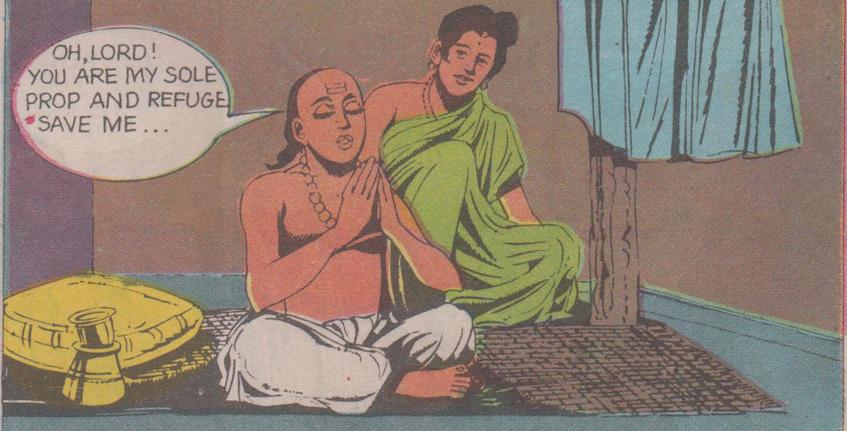
BE CALM. BY THE GRACE OF LORD SHIVA YOU WILL SURELY BE WELL. PRAY TO HIM, SINCERELY.

IF LORD SHIVA IS TRULY THE GREAT ONE, HE WILL MAKE ME WELL. I SHALL PRAY TO HIM.



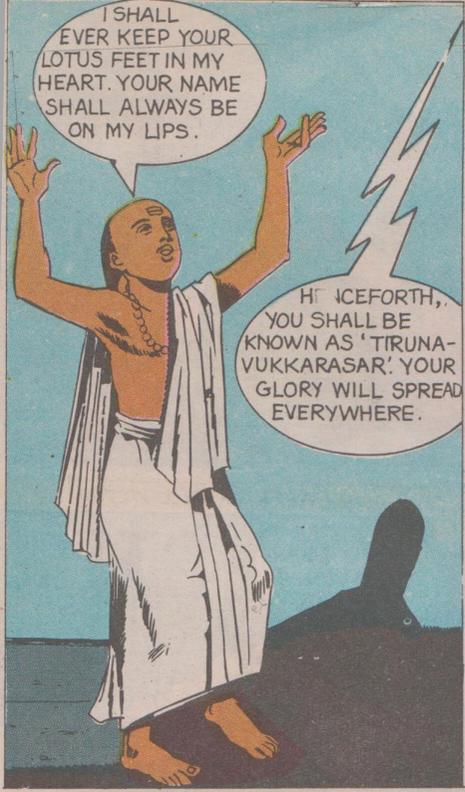
MARULNEEKIAR WORSHIPPED THE LORD AND SANG A HYMN TO HIM.

OH, LORD! YOU ARE MY SOLE PROP AND REFUGE. SAVE ME...



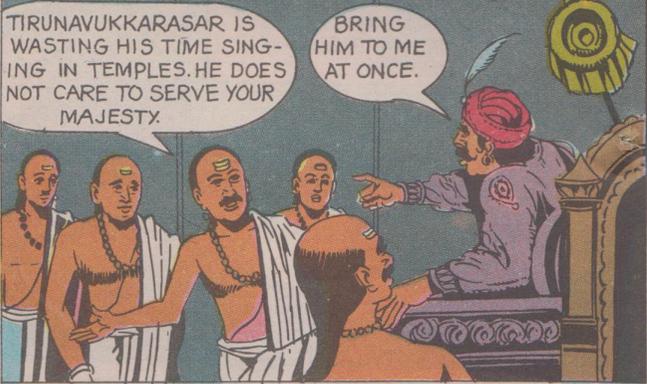
AS MARULNEEKIAR SANG THE SONG, HIS COLIC PAIN BEGAN TO DISAPPEAR

TIRUNAVUKKARASAR BECAME A STAUNCH DEVOTEE OF SHIVA AND LIVED HAPPILY, SINGING HIS PRAISES. BUT, SOME PEOPLE BECAME JEALOUS OF HIS HAPPINESS THEY COMPLAINED TO THE KING.



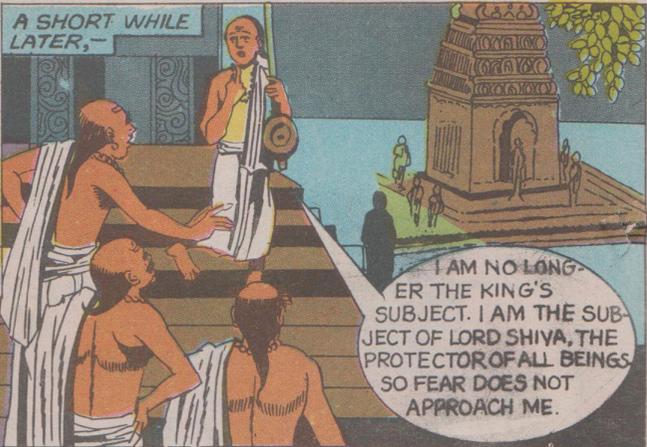
I SHALL EVER KEEP YOUR LOTUS FEET IN MY HEART. YOUR NAME SHALL ALWAYS BE ON MY LIPS.

HENCEFORTH, YOU SHALL BE KNOWN AS 'TIRUNAVUKKARASAR'. YOUR GLORY WILL SPREAD EVERYWHERE.



TIRUNAVUKKARASAR IS WASTING HIS TIME SINGING IN TEMPLES. HE DOES NOT CARE TO SERVE YOUR MAJESTY.

BRING HIM TO ME AT ONCE.



A SHORT WHILE LATER, -

YOU ARE TO PRESENT YOURSELF IMMEDIATELY IN COURT. THESE ARE THE KING'S ORDERS.

I AM NO LONGER THE KING'S SUBJECT. I AM THE SUBJECT OF LORD SHIVA, THE PROTECTOR OF ALL BEINGS SO FEAR DOES NOT APPROACH ME.

THE MEN TOOK TIRUNAVUKKARASAR BY FORCE TO THE KING. THE SIGHT OF HIM ENRAGED THE KING.



TELL ME. WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE PUNISHMENT TO BE METED OUT TO HIM?

LET HIM BE SHUT UP IN A KILN.

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, TIRUNAVUKKARASAR WAS THROWN INTO A BURNING LIME KILN. HE REMAINED THERE FIXING HIS MIND ON LORD SHIVA AND MEDITATING. AT THE END OF SEVEN DAYS, WHEN THE KILN WAS OPENED, -



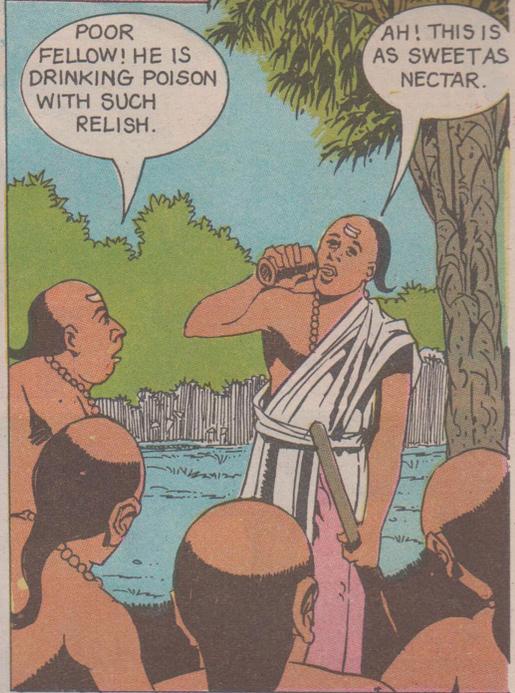
HE'S ALIVE... BUT... BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE...

HE... HE MUST BE POSSESSED WITH SOME EVIL POWERS.



YOUR MAJESTY. TIRUNAVUKKARASAR IS POSSESSED BY EVIL SPIRITS. HE SHOULD BE POISONED AT ONCE

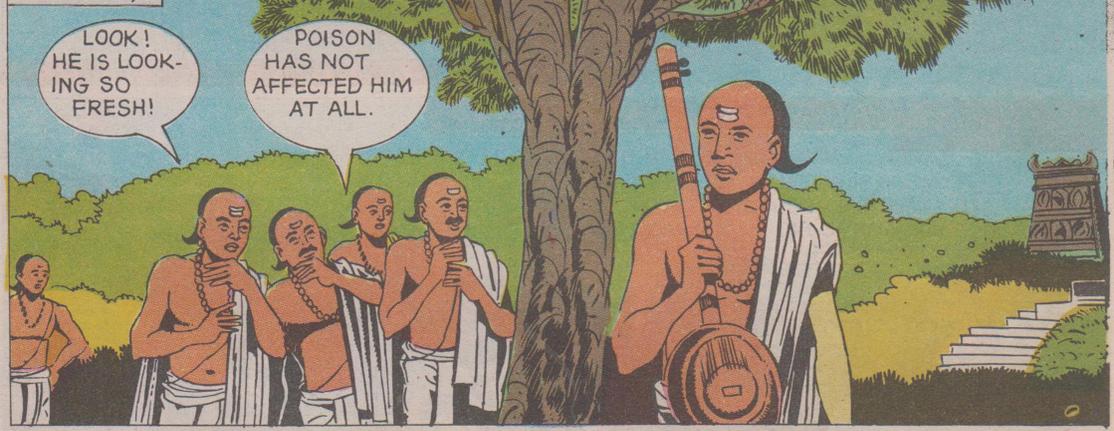
DO SO.



POOR FELLOW! HE IS DRINKING POISON WITH SUCH RELISH.

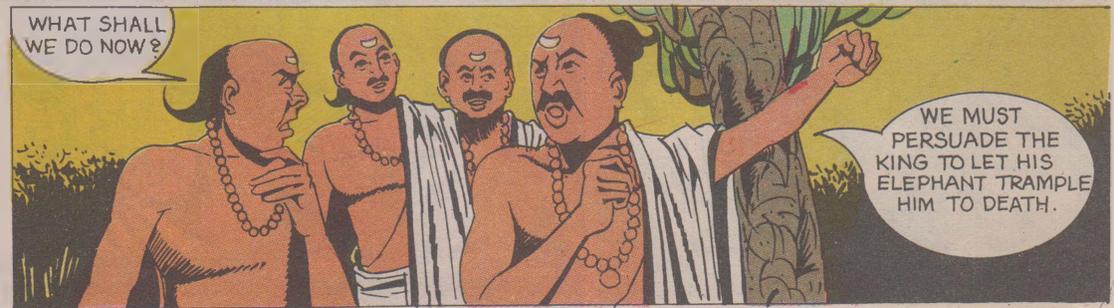
AH! THIS IS AS SWEET AS NECTAR.

THEY WAITED EAGERLY TO SEE TIRUNAVUKKARASAR PERISH. BUT, -



LOOK! HE IS LOOKING SO FRESH!

POISON HAS NOT AFFECTED HIM AT ALL.



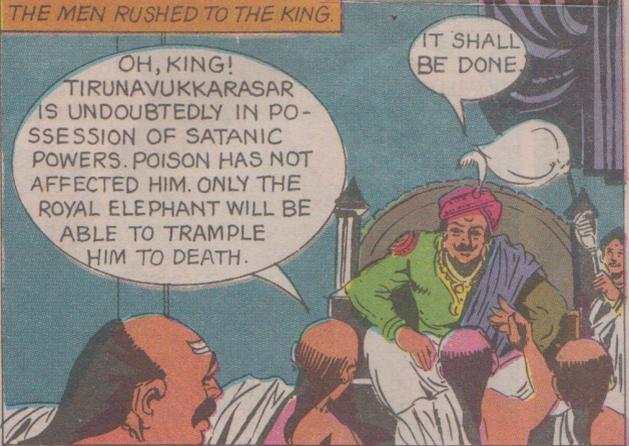
WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

WE MUST PERSUADE THE KING TO LET HIS ELEPHANT TRAMPLE HIM TO DEATH.

THE MEN RUSHED TO THE KING.

OH, KING!
TIRUNAVUKKARASAR
IS UNDOUBTEDLY IN POSSESSION OF SATANIC POWERS. POISON HAS NOT AFFECTED HIM. ONLY THE ROYAL ELEPHANT WILL BE ABLE TO TRAMPLE HIM TO DEATH.

IT SHALL BE DONE.



THE NEXT DAY, TIRUNAVUKKARASAR WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE ELEPHANT.

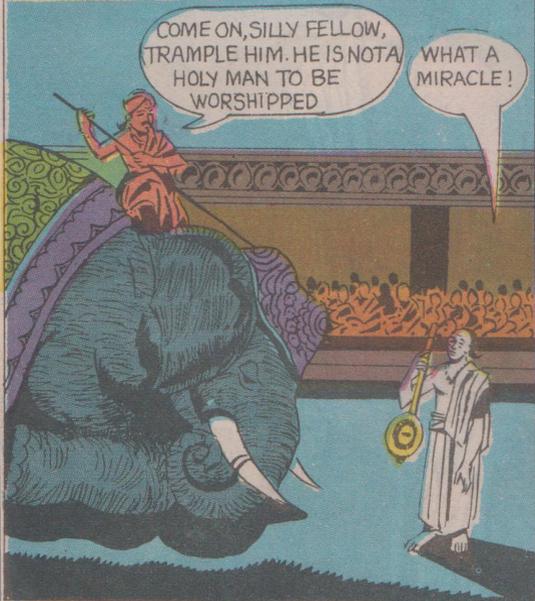


HE SANG A HYMN IN PRAISE OF LORD SHIVA.

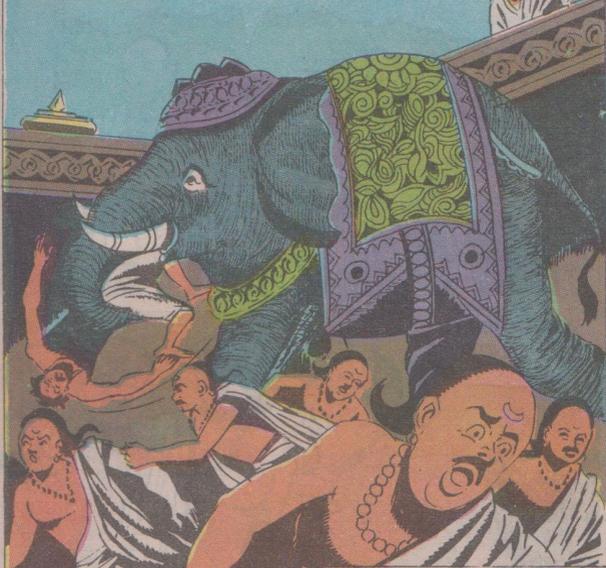
AS SOON AS TIRUNAVUKKARASAR FINISHED SINGING THE SONG,—

COME ON, SILLY FELLOW, TRAMPLE HIM. HE IS NOT A HOLY MAN TO BE WORSHIPPED.

WHAT A MIRACLE!



SUDDENLY,—

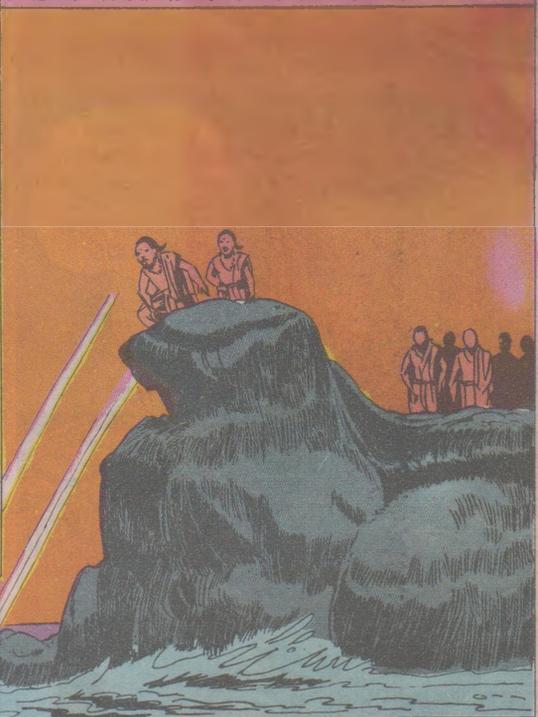
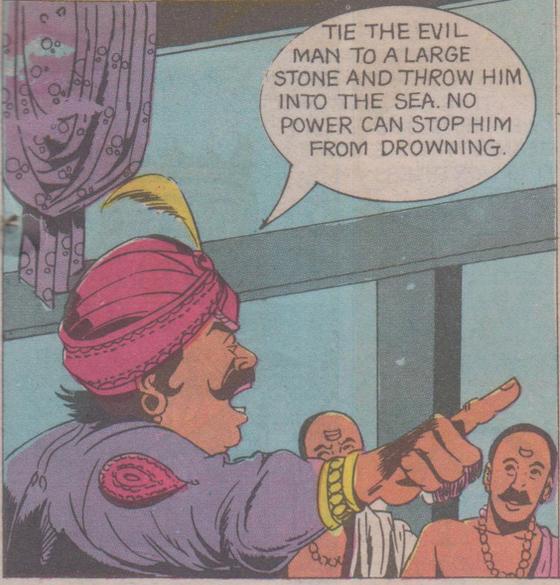


THE MAHOUT AND A FEW OTHER MEN WERE TRAMPLED BY THE ELEPHANT AND KILLED.

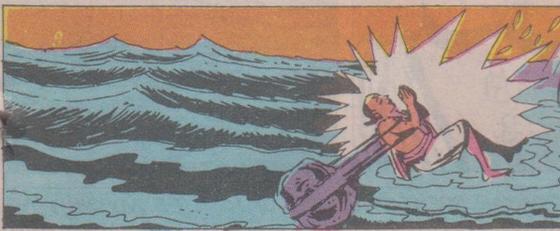
THE KING BOILED WITH RAGE.

SOON, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE KING'S ORDERS, TIRUNAVUKKARASAR WAS THROWN INTO THE SEA.

TIE THE EVIL MAN TO A LARGE STONE AND THROW HIM INTO THE SEA. NO POWER CAN STOP HIM FROM DROWNING.



HE CONTINUALLY SANG THE LORD SHIVA'S NAME, AS THE STONE BORE HIM DOWN.



A SHORT WHILE LATER, ...

AH! ... BUT THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE

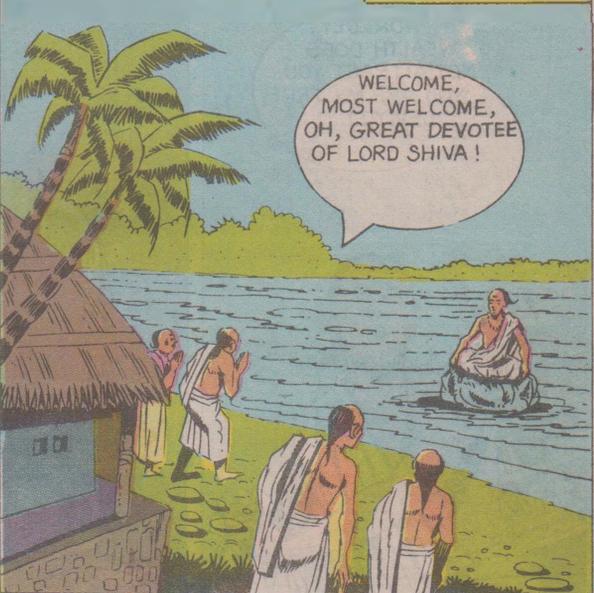
COULD THIS BE TRUE ?

IS IT A VISION ?

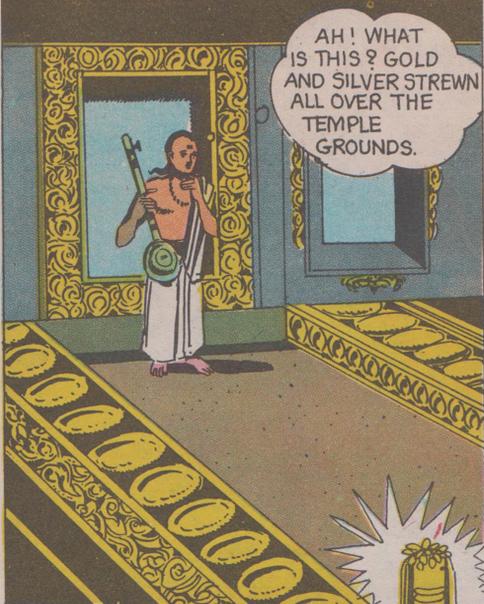


TIRUNAVUKKARASAR WAS BORNE ON THE WAVES AND SAFELY TAKEN TO THE SHORES OF ANOTHER TOWN, TIRUPPAPULIYUR.

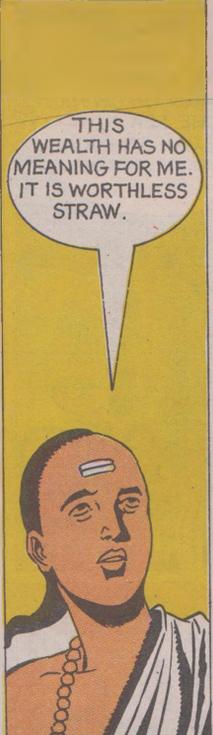
WELCOME, MOST WELCOME, OH, GREAT DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA !



TIRUNAVUKKARASAR THEN SPENT HIS DAYS IN WORSHIPPING AND SERVING LORD SHIVA IN VARIOUS WAYS. HE WENT ON SEVERAL PILGRIMAGES TO NEAR AND DISTANT PLACES. FINALLY, HE COME BACK TO HIS BIRTH PLACE. ONE DAY, —

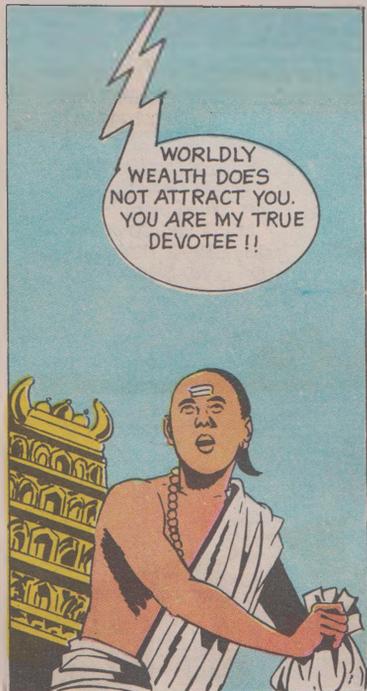


AH! WHAT IS THIS? GOLD AND SILVER STREWN ALL OVER THE TEMPLE GROUNDS.



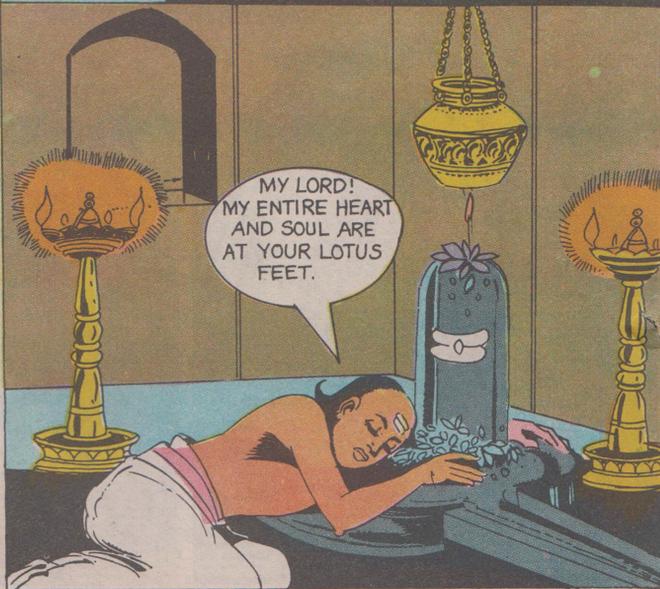
THIS WEALTH HAS NO MEANING FOR ME. IT IS WORTHLESS STRAW.

TIRUNAVUKKARASAR COLLECTED ALL THE GOLD AND SILVER AND THREW IT IN A NEAR-BY TANK.



WORLDLY WEALTH DOES NOT ATTRACT YOU. YOU ARE MY TRUE DEVOTEE !!

TIRUNAVUKKARASAR SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE WORSHIPPING THE LORD AND SINGING HIS PRAISES. HE GATHERED MANY FOLLOWERS. AT THE RIPE AGE OF EIGHTY ONE, HE MERGED HIMSELF IN LORD SHIVA.

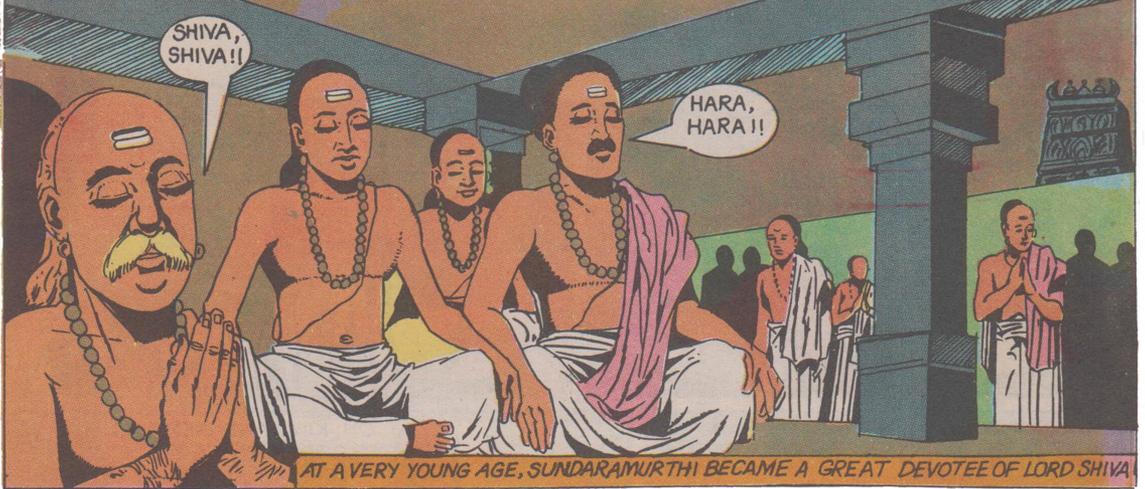


MY LORD! MY ENTIRE HEART AND SOUL ARE AT YOUR LOTUS FEET.

Sundaramurthi



SUNDARAMURTHI WAS THE SON OF A VERY PIOUS AND DEVOUT MAN. HE WAS BROUGHT UP IN AN ATMOSPHERE THAT WAS FULL OF SPIRITUAL VIBRATIONS.

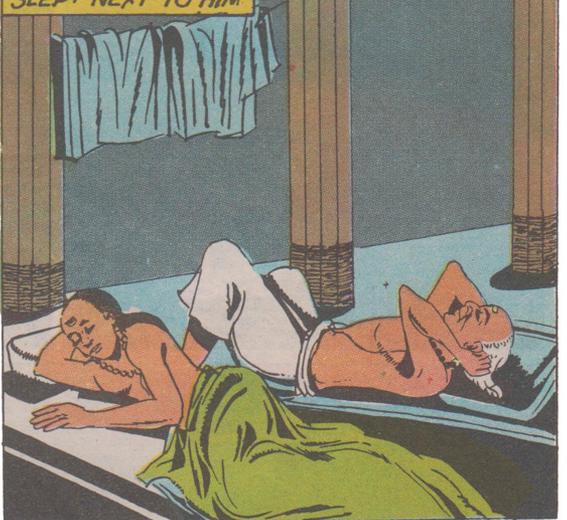


AT A VERY YOUNG AGE, SUNDARAMURTHI BECAME A GREAT DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA.

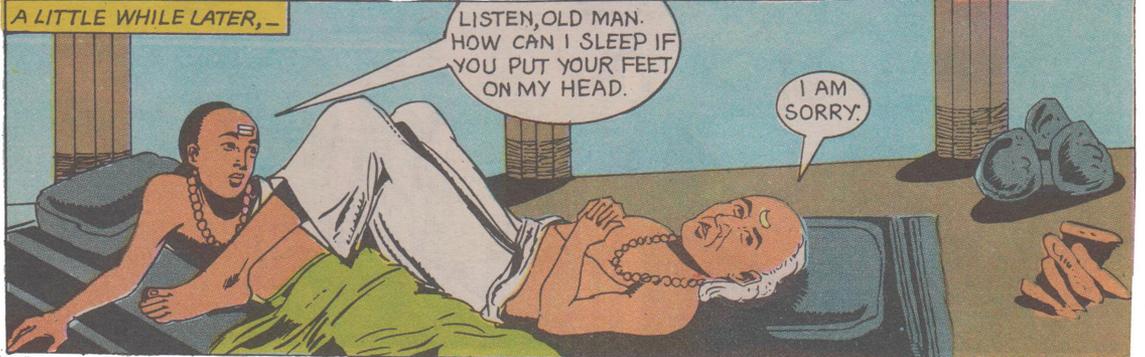
HE VISITED A NUMBER OF HOLY PLACES, AND SANG THE PRAISE OF THE LORD IN ALL THE TEMPLES. ONCE, WHEN HE REACHED THE HOLY PLACE OF VIRATTANAM.



THAT NIGHT, AT THE CHATTARAM* WHERE SUNDARAMURTHI WAS ASLEEP AN OLD MAN CAME AND SLEPT NEXT TO HIM.



A LITTLE WHILE LATER, -



* PHARMASHALA

SUNDARAMURTHI WENT OVER TO ANOTHER CORNER OF THE ROOM, AND SLEPT. THERE AGAIN, —

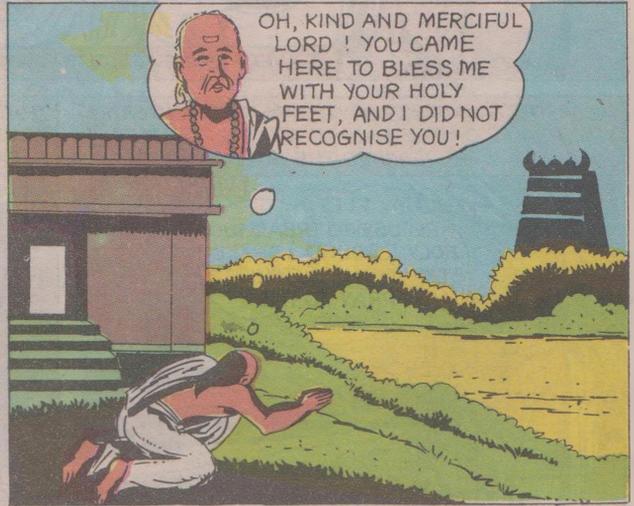


TELL ME, OLD MAN, WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY DO YOU PESTER ME ?

OH, FRIEND DON'T YOU KNOW ME ?



THE NEXT MOMENT, THE OLD MAN WAS NOT TO BE SEEN



IN GREAT ECSTASY, SUNDARAMURTHI CONTINUED ON HIS PILGRIMAGE. HE REACHED TIRUVACUR. AT THE TEMPLE, ONE DAY, —



MY LORD, I WISH I COULD MARRY THE GIRL I HAVE SET MY HEART ON.

WHAT A DEVOUT MAN! WOULD THAT I COULD SERVE HIM BY BEING HIS WIFE.



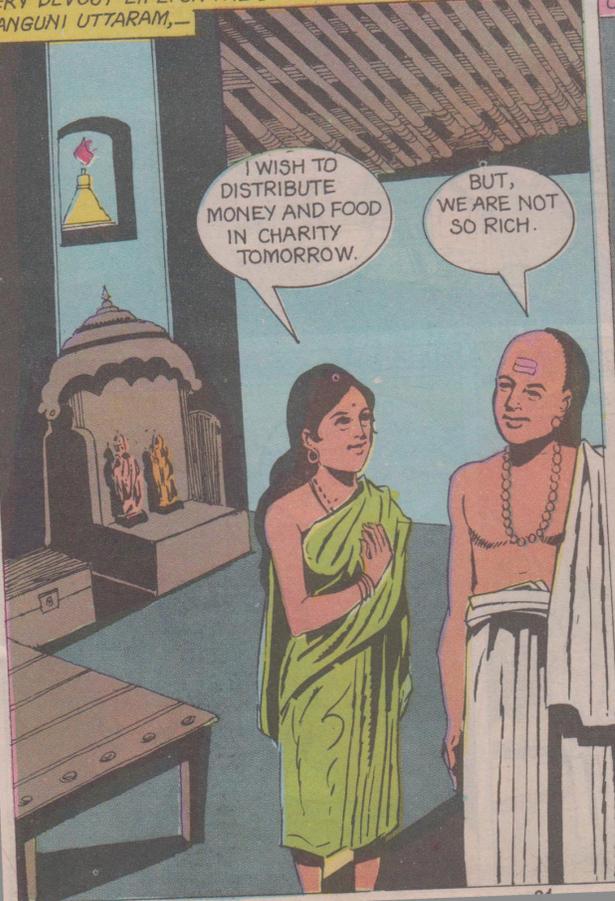
THE NEXT DAY, SUNDARAMURTHI AND THE GIRL OF HIS WISHES, PARAVAYAR WERE MARRIED.



SUNDARAR LIVED HAPPILY WITH PARAVAYAR. THEY LED A VERY DEVOUT LIFE. ON THE DAY BEFORE THE FESTIVAL OF PANGUNI UTTARAM,—

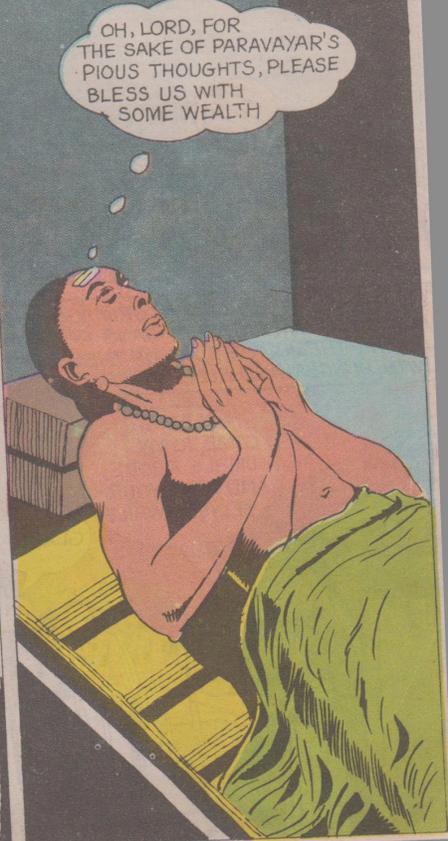
I WISH TO DISTRIBUTE MONEY AND FOOD IN CHARITY TOMORROW.

BUT, WE ARE NOT SO RICH.



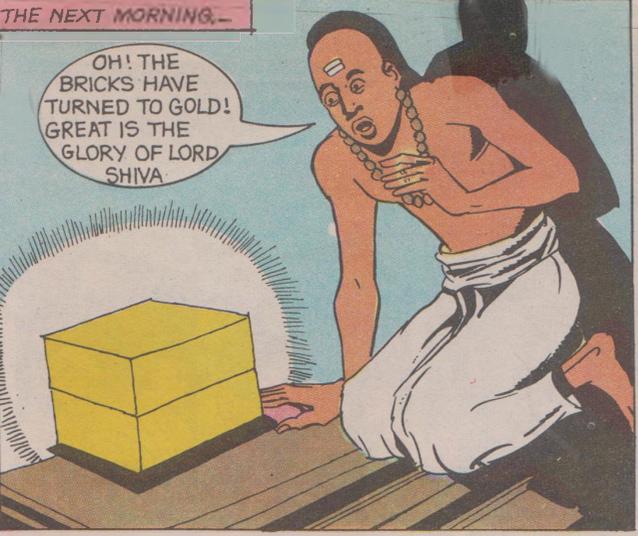
THAT NIGHT, SUNDARAMURTHI LAY DOWN TO SLEEP WITH A COUPLE OF BRICKS AS HIS PILLOW, HE PRAYED,—

OH, LORD, FOR THE SAKE OF PARAVAYAR'S PIOUS THOUGHTS, PLEASE BLESS US WITH SOME WEALTH



THE NEXT MORNING, —

OH! THE BRICKS HAVE TURNED TO GOLD! GREAT IS THE GLORY OF LORD SHIVA.



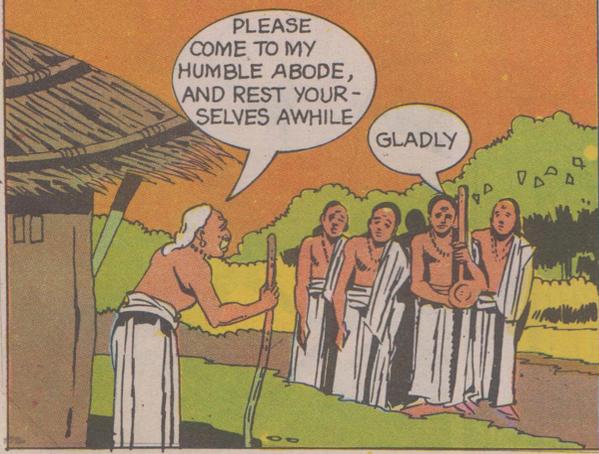
THE GOLD BRICKS HELPED PARAVAYAR TO GIVE AWAY PLENTY IN CHARITY. SUNDARAR SANG PADIGAMS IN PRAISE OF LORD SHIVA.



SUNDARAR SET OUT ON A PILGRIMAGE. MANY PEOPLE FOLLOWED HIM AND THEY SANG PADIGAMS ALL THE WAY. DURING THE JOURNEY, ALL OF THEM WERE OVERCOME WITH HUNGER AND SLEEP. THEN, —

PLEASE COME TO MY HUMBLE ABODE, AND REST YOURSELVES AWHILE

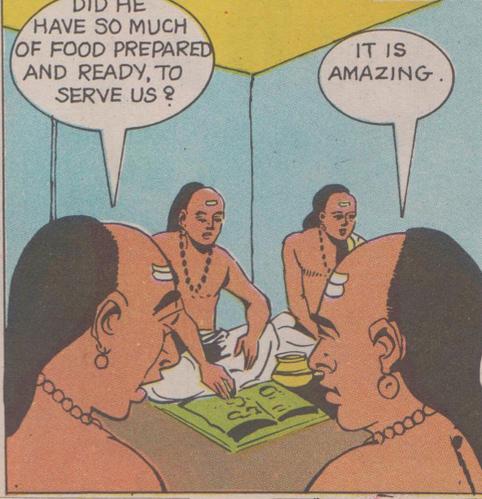
GLADLY



THE OLD MAN SERVED THEM A SUMPTUOUS MEAL.

DID HE HAVE SO MUCH OF FOOD PREPARED AND READY, TO SERVE US ?

IT IS AMAZING.



SUNDARAR AND HIS FOLLOWERS RESTED FOR A WHILE AND GOT UP. THEY GOT READY TO CONTINUE THEIR JOURNEY.

HE IS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

WE MUST THANK OUR HOST BEFORE WE LEAVE. WHERE IS HE?



AH! NONE OTHER THAN THE LORD HIMSELF HAD COME TO LOOK AFTER US. CAN THERE BE ANY LIMIT TO HIS LOVE AND KINDNESS?



NOT VERY LONG AFTERWARDS, SUNDARAR LOST HIS EYESIGHT.

OH, LORD! I TAKE COMPLETE REFUGE IN YOU. I ALWAYS REPEAT YOUR NAME. HAVE MERCY ON ME. LET ME HAVE MY EYESIGHT.



COMPLETELY RESIGNING HIMSELF TO GOD, SUNDARAR PRAYED AND WORSHIPPED LORD SHIVA.

TAKE A DIP IN THE TEMPLE TANK. ALL WILL BE WELL.

GLADLY SHALL I.

WHAT NONSENSE! AS THOUGH A DIP IN THE TANK WOULD GIVE HIM EYE SIGHT.



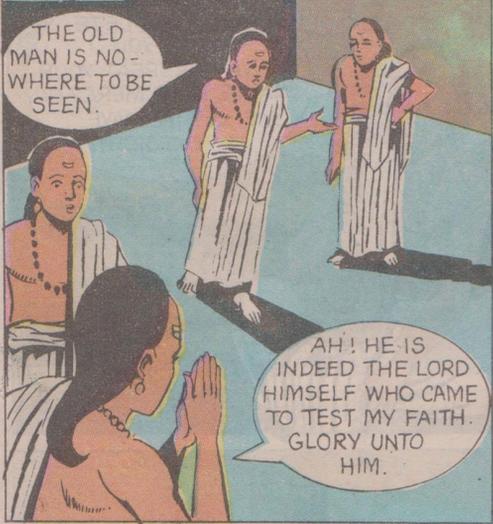
TAKING THE NAME OF THE LORD, SUNDARAR BATHED HIMSELF IN THE TANK, AS SOON AS CAME OUT OF IT, -



I CAN SEE. I CAN SEE. WHERE IS THE GREAT MAN WHO ADVISED ME? I WANT TO SEE HIM.

A MIRACLE HAS HAPPENED.

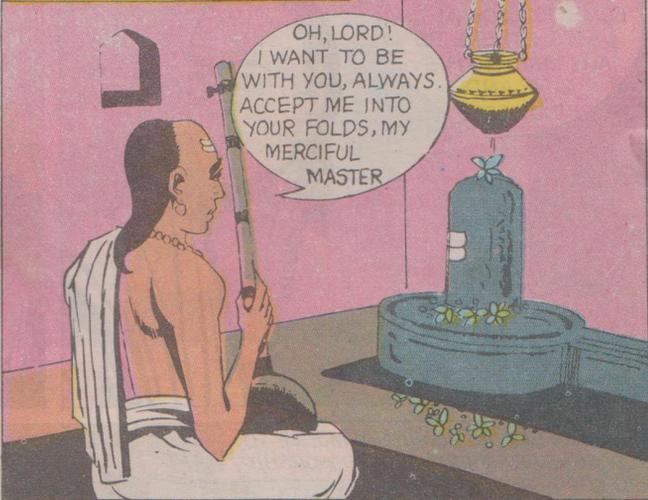
THE PEOPLE LOOKED ALL AROUND FOR THE OLD MAN.



THE OLD MAN IS NO - WHERE TO BE SEEN.

AH! HE IS INDEED THE LORD HIMSELF WHO CAME TO TEST MY FAITH. GLORY UNTO HIM.

ONE DAY, SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, SUNDARAR WENT TO THE TEMPLE AND SANG PADIGAMS WITH GREATER VENERATION AND LOVE THAN EVER BEFORE.



OH, LORD! I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, ALWAYS. ACCEPT ME INTO YOUR FOLDS, MY MERCIFUL MASTER

HIS MIND WAS FILLED WITH RAPTURE, AND HE SUDDENLY FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



A FEW MONTHS LATER, SUNDARAR'S SPIRITUAL BODY DEPARTED FOR THE HEAVENLY ABODE OF LORD SHIVA. ONLY HIS PHYSICAL REMAINS LAY IN THE TEMPLE.

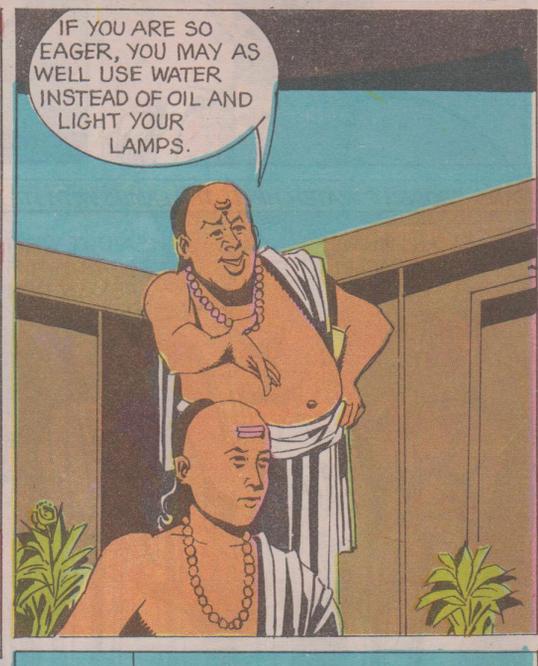
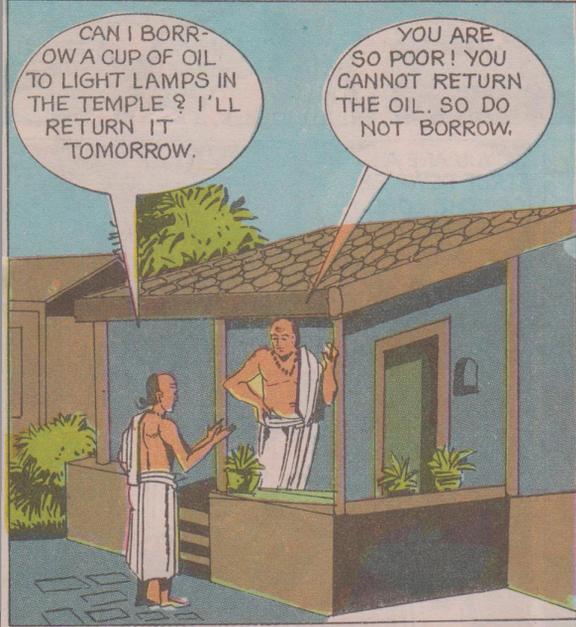
SUNDARAR WAS JUST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE THEN.

Nami Nandi Adigal

THERE ONCE LIVED A POOR YET DEVOUT MAN NAMED NAMI NANDI ADIGAL. HE USED TO GO TO THE TEMPLE DAILY TO WORSHIP LORD SHIVA. ONE DAY, -



NANDI ADIGAL WENT TO A NEARBY HOUSE.

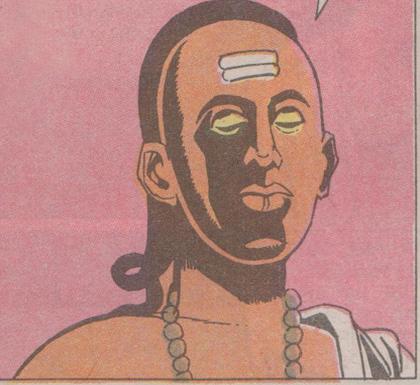


NANDI ADIGAL WAS FILLED WITH ANGUISH AT BEING SCORNFUL. HE WENT TO THE TEMPLE AND PRAYED TO THE LORD.



A SHORT WHILE LATER, -

IF GOD WILLS IT, MY LAMPS CAN BURN WITH WATER. THROUGH THE SUPREME GRACE OF THE LORD, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.



WITH A FIRM CONVICTION, NANDI ADIGAL RAN TO THE TEMPLE TANK

AND BROUGHT WATER. HE LIT THE LAMPS WITH IT.



AH! WHAT A MIRACLE!

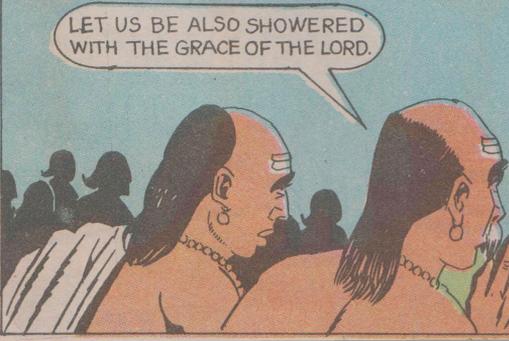
I SAID IT WITH SCORN, BUT HE'S REALLY DONE IT.



YOU ARE A TRUE DEVOTEE OF THE LORD. PLEASE BLESS US.

HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN THE LORD.

NANDI ADIGAL LIT HIS LAMPS WITH WATER FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND HIS FAME SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. PEOPLE THROGGED TO SEE HIM.



LET US BE ALSO SHOWERED WITH THE GRACE OF THE LORD.



HAVE FAITH IN HIM AND WORSHIP HIM.

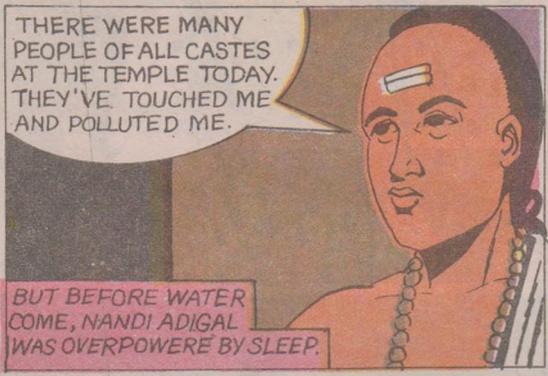
LATE ONE EVENING WHEN NANDI ADIGAL RETURNED HOME, —

GET ME SOME HOT WATER TO BATHE.

WHY A BATH AT THIS TIME?



THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE OF ALL CASTES AT THE TEMPLE TODAY. THEY'VE TOUCHED ME AND POLLUTED ME.



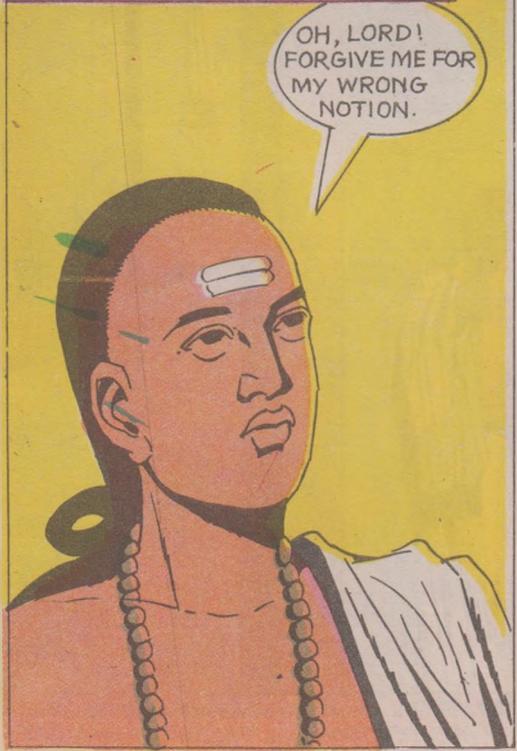
BUT BEFORE WATER COME, NANDI ADIGAL WAS OVERPOWERED BY SLEEP.



OH, NANDI! ALL MEN ARE EQUAL IN MY EYES. NO ONE'S TOUCH CAN BE REGARDED AS IMPURE. YOU WILL SEE THIS WITH YOUR OWN EYES SOON.

NANDI ADIGAL WOKE UP WITH A START

OH, LORD! FORGIVE ME FOR MY WRONG NOTION.



THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN NANDI ADIGAL REACHED THE TEMPLE, —

AH! THE LORD HAS SHOWN ME THAT HE LIVES IN ALL MEN, AND THAT ALL MEN ARE EQUAL.



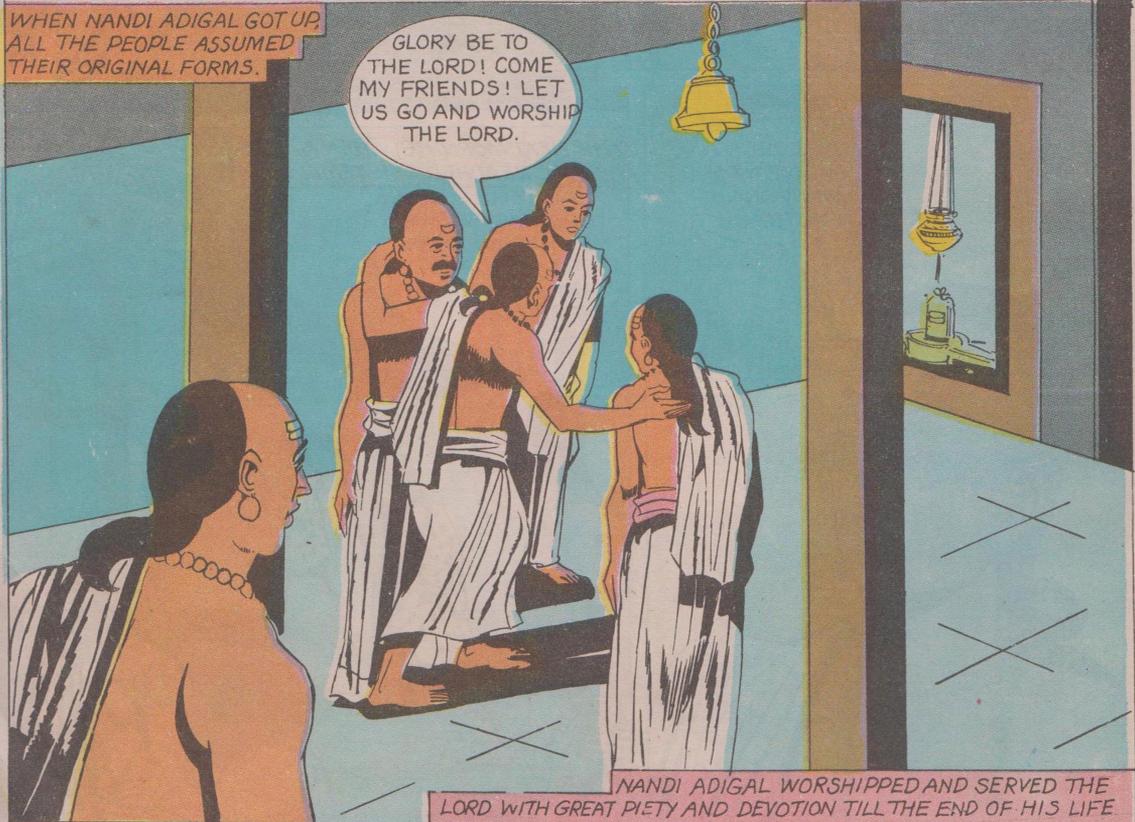
NANDI ADIGAL PROSTRATED HIMSELF BEFORE ALL OF THEM.

FORGIVE ME, IF I THOUGHT SOME OF YOU BELONGED TO A LOWER CASTE THAN ME.



WHEN NANDI ADIGAL GOT UP, ALL THE PEOPLE ASSUMED THEIR ORIGINAL FORMS.

GLORY BE TO THE LORD! COME MY FRIENDS! LET US GO AND WORSHIP THE LORD.



NANDI ADIGAL WORSHIPPED AND SERVED THE LORD WITH GREAT PIETY AND DEVOTION TILL THE END OF HIS LIFE

Siruthondar

ONCE THERE LIVED A GREAT DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA CALLED PARANJOTI. HE REGARDED HIMSELF AS THE SERVANT OF THE LORD AND HIS DEVOTEES. HENCE HE WAS KNOWN AS SIRUTHONDAR. THE LORD WANTED TO BRING OUT THE GLORY OF THIS NOBLE SAINT. ONE DAY, -



WHO IS THAT ?

I HAVE COME TO SEE PARANJOTI.



MY HUSBAND HAS GONE IN SEARCH OF A SHIVA BHAKTA, WITHOUT FEEDING WHOM HE WILL NOT TAKE HIS FOOD.

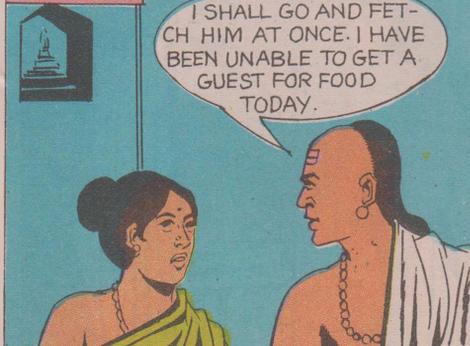
OH, THEN, I SHALL GO AWAY.



OH, NO. PLEASE DON'T GO. MY HUSBAND WILL BE BACK SOON.

WHEN HE COMES, TELL HIM THAT I AM UNDER THE TREE NEAR THE TEMPLE.

IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, SIRUTHONDAS RETURNED. HIS WIFE TOLD HIM ABOUT THE GUEST.



I SHALL GO AND FETCH HIM AT ONCE. I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO GET A GUEST FOR FOOD TODAY.

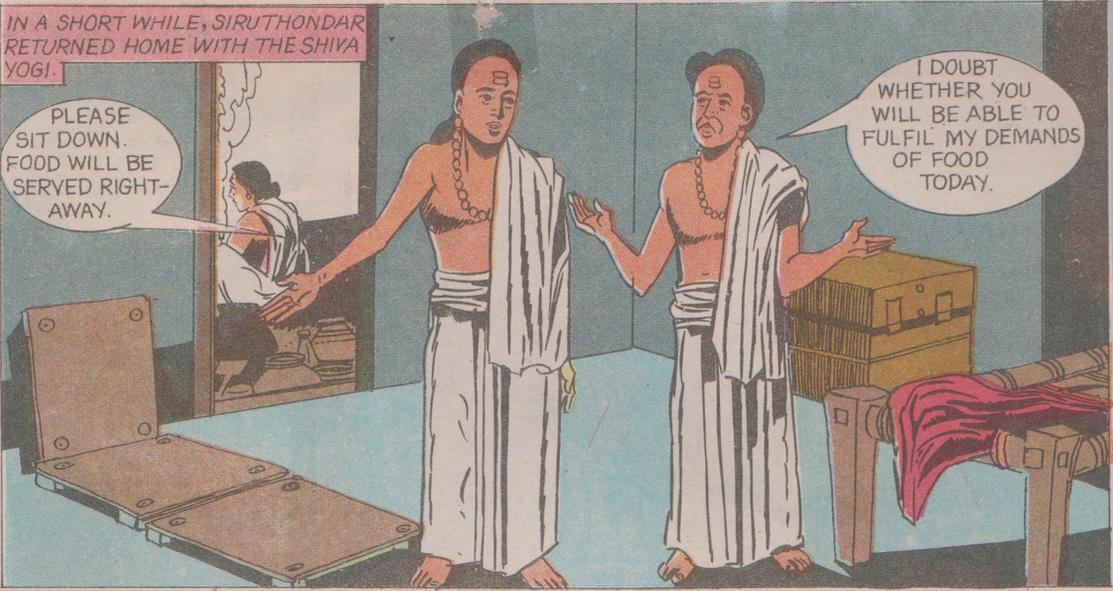
SIRUTHONDAS HASTENED TO THE TEMPLE.



IN A SHORT WHILE, SIRUTHONDAR RETURNED HOME WITH THE SHIVA YOGI.

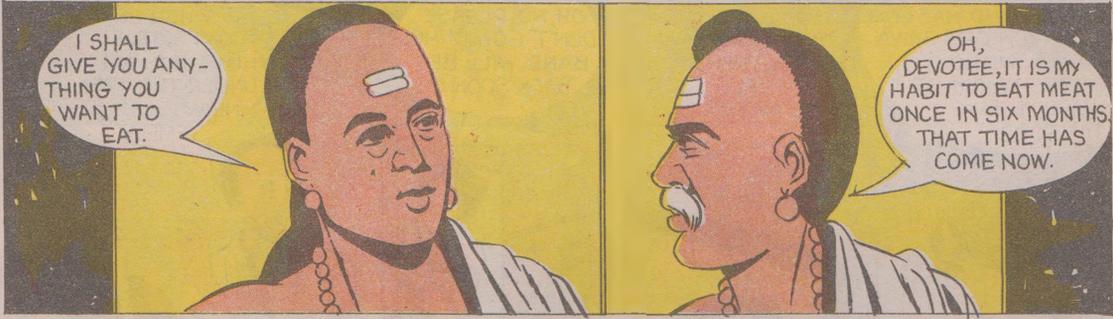
PLEASE SIT DOWN. FOOD WILL BE SERVED RIGHT-AWAY.

I DOUBT WHETHER YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FULFIL MY DEMANDS OF FOOD TODAY.



I SHALL GIVE YOU ANY-THING YOU WANT TO EAT.

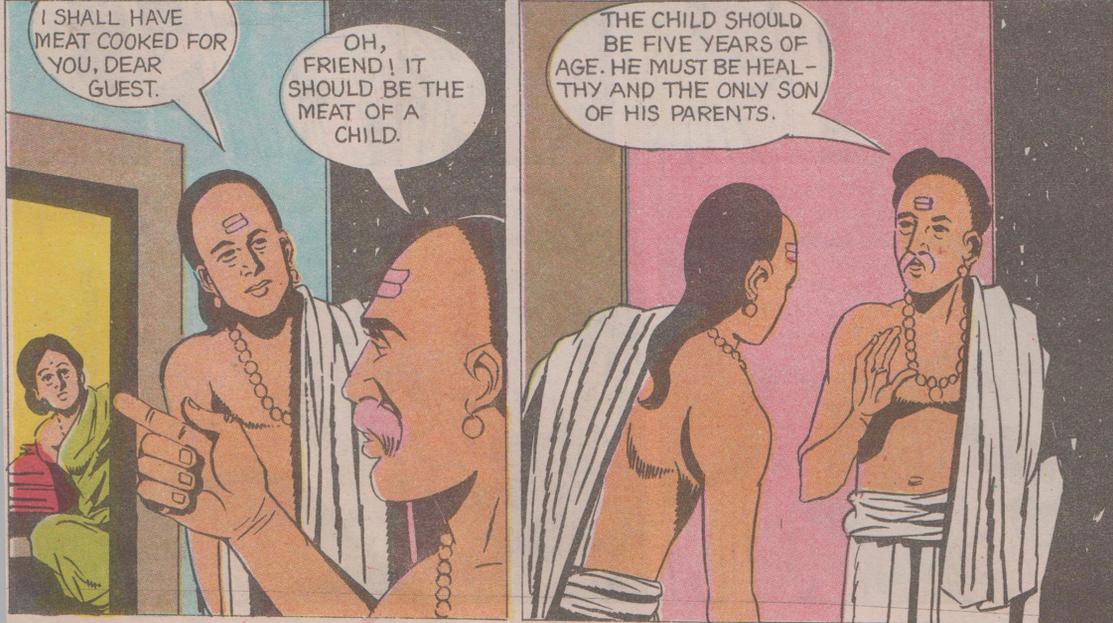
OH, DEVOTEE, IT IS MY HABIT TO EAT MEAT ONCE IN SIX MONTHS THAT TIME HAS COME NOW.



I SHALL HAVE MEAT COOKED FOR YOU, DEAR GUEST.

OH, FRIEND! IT SHOULD BE THE MEAT OF A CHILD.

THE CHILD SHOULD BE FIVE YEARS OF AGE. HE MUST BE HEALTHY AND THE ONLY SON OF HIS PARENTS.



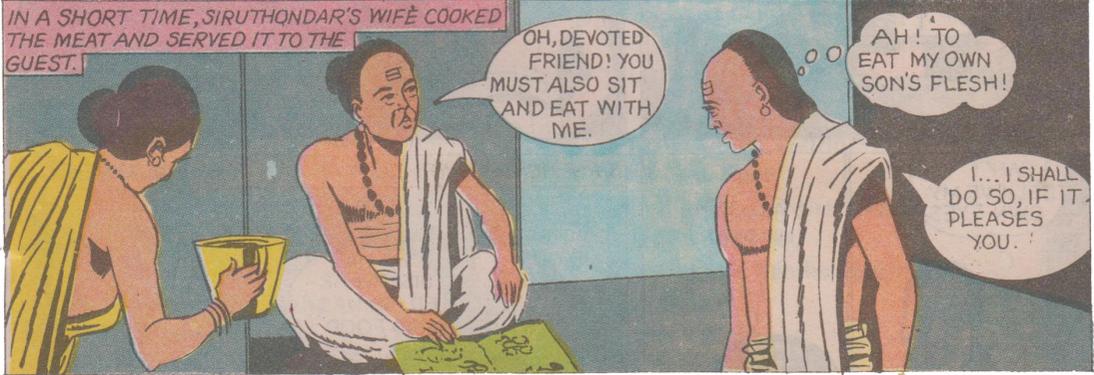
SIRUTHONDAR WENT INSIDE THE KITCHEN.



TO PLEASE OUR GUEST TODAY, WE HAVE TO COOK OUR OWN SON.

TO SATISFY YOUR GUEST, I KNOW YOU WILL DO ANYTHING. I CAN'T STOP YOU.

IN A SHORT TIME, SIRUTHONDAR'S WIFE COOKED THE MEAT AND SERVED IT TO THE GUEST.

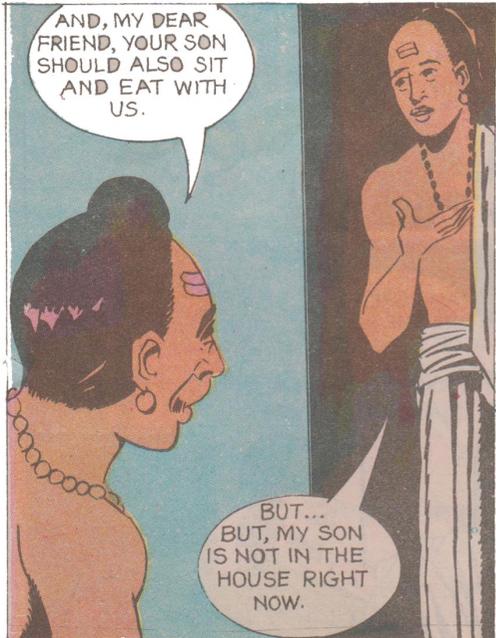


OH, DEVOTED FRIEND! YOU MUST ALSO SIT AND EAT WITH ME.

AH! TO EAT MY OWN SON'S FLESH!

I... I SHALL DO SO, IF IT PLEASES YOU.

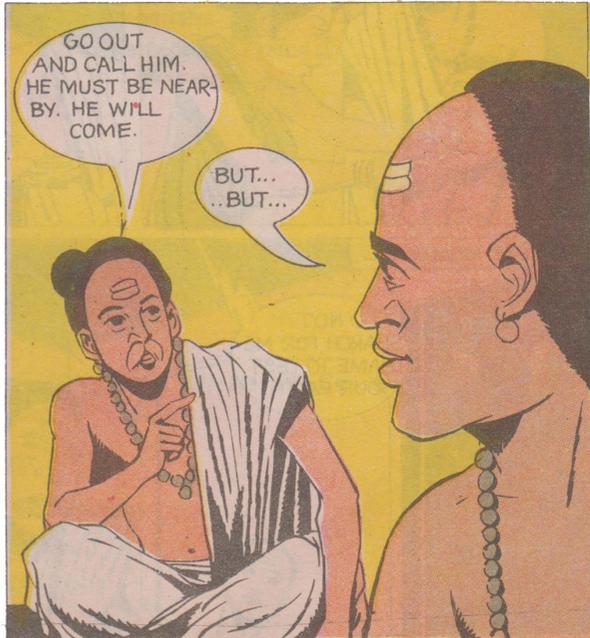
AND, MY DEAR FRIEND, YOUR SON SHOULD ALSO SIT AND EAT WITH US.



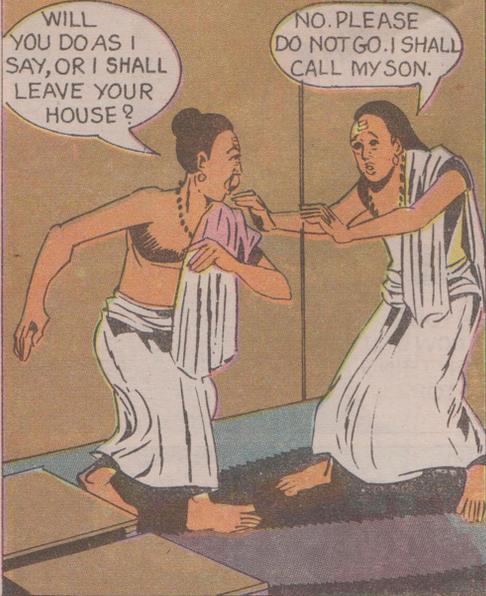
BUT... BUT, MY SON IS NOT IN THE HOUSE RIGHT NOW.

GO OUT AND CALL HIM. HE MUST BE NEARBY. HE WILL COME.

BUT... ..BUT...



THE SHIVA YOGI LOST HIS TEMPER



WILL YOU DO AS I SAY, OR I SHALL LEAVE YOUR HOUSE?

NO. PLEASE DO NOT GO. I SHALL CALL MY SON.

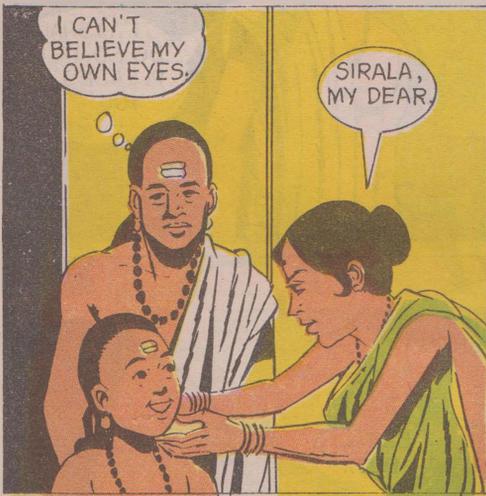
SIRUTHONDAR WENT OUTSIDE.



SIRALA, COME HERE. THE YOGI WANTS YOU TO EAT WITH HIM.

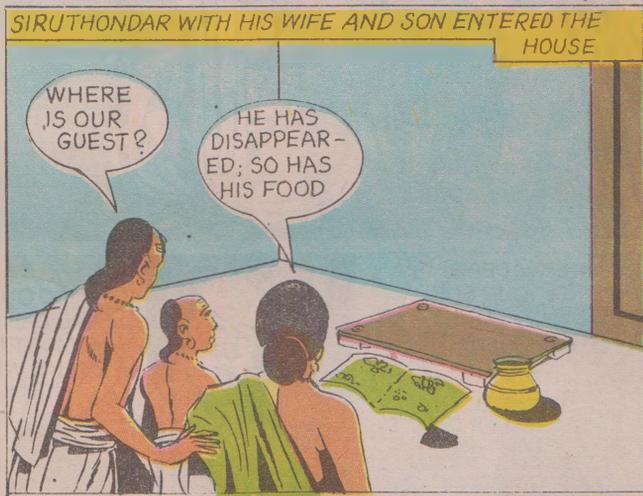
OH, LORD, HELP ME OUT OF THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION.

YES FATHER, I AM COMING



I CAN'T BELIEVE MY OWN EYES.

SIRALA, MY DEAR.



SIRUTHONDAR WITH HIS WIFE AND SON ENTERED THE HOUSE

WHERE IS OUR GUEST?

HE HAS DISAPPEARED; SO HAS HIS FOOD

THE NEXT MOMENT, —



DO NOT SEARCH FOR ME I CAME TO TEST YOUR FAITH.

AH! GREAT ARE THE WAYS OF THE LORD!

LORD SHIVA BLESSED THEM AND SOON, THEREAFTER, TOOK THEM TO HIS HEAVENLY ABODE.

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