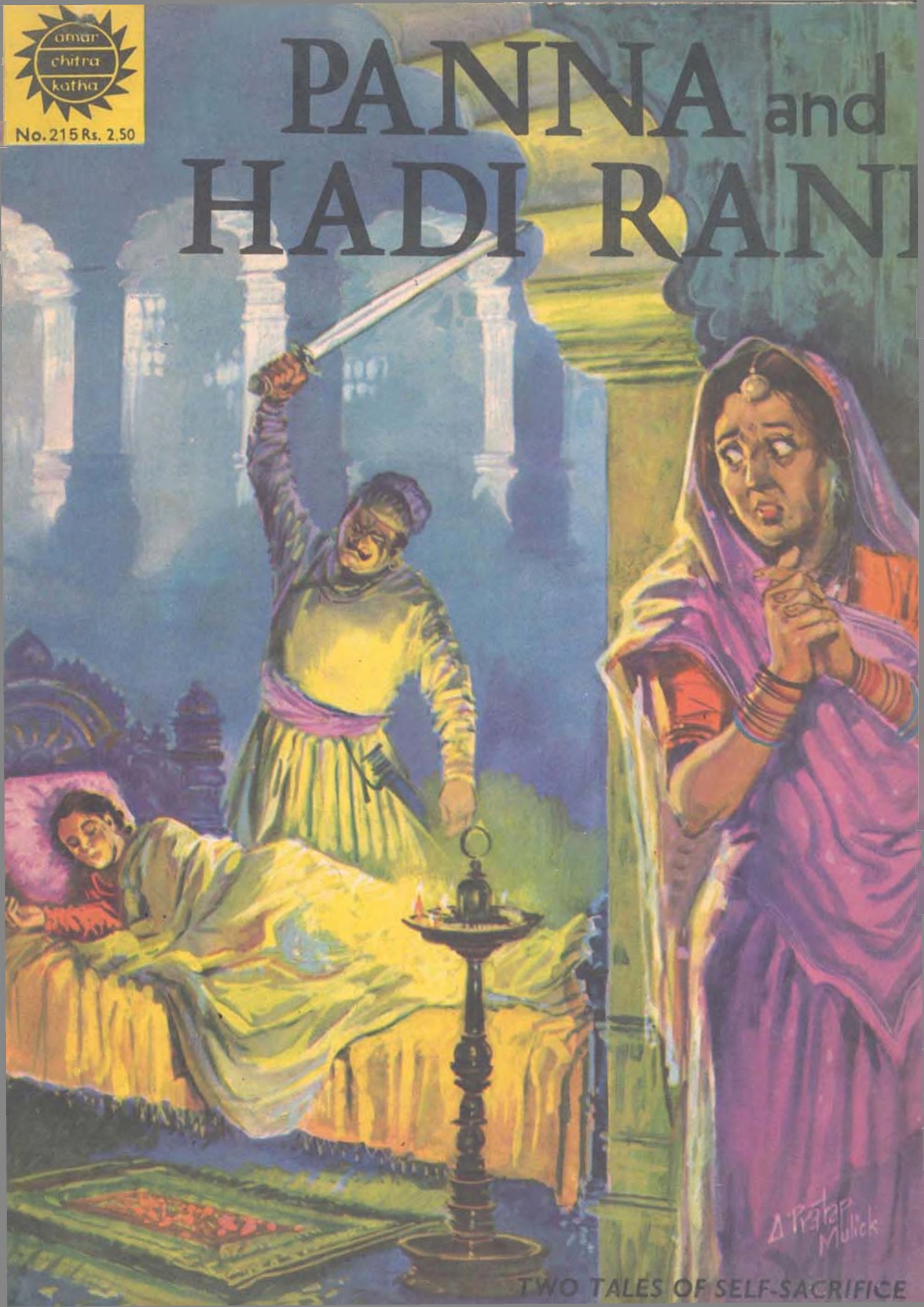


PANNA and HADI RANI



TWO TALES OF SELF-SACRIFICE

Though the people of Rajasthan are well known for their chivalry and valour, they too had their share of villains. Banvir was one such character. Invited by the nobles to be the guardian of the weak but arrogant king Vikramaditya, he exploited the situation to fulfil his own ambitions. And he might have been successful too, had it not been for *PANNA*.

In the seventeenth century, many Rajputs linked their fate with the Mughals. They accepted employment under them and had marriage alliances with them, but there were some among them who considered Mughals as usurpers. Prabhavati, also known as Chanchal, was one such person. Betrothed by her brother to the Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb, she sought the help of Maharana Raj Singh of Mewar. The gallant Rana came to her rescue, though his chivalrous action put a strain on the amiable relations he had with the Mughal Emperor. The marriage of Prabhavati and Raj Singh was possible only because of the heroic decision of another couple, Ratna Singh and his bride, Hadi Rani.

This Amar Chitra Katha brings to you the stories of two courageous women who sacrificed their all at the call of duty.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA
means good reading
Over 200 titles
are now on sale

OUR NEXT TITLE:

Rani Abbakka

Available In U.S.A. from :

Gulmohr Books P.O. Box 1414, Los Altos, C.A. 94022.

© India Book House Education Trust, Bombay—400 039

All rights reserved.

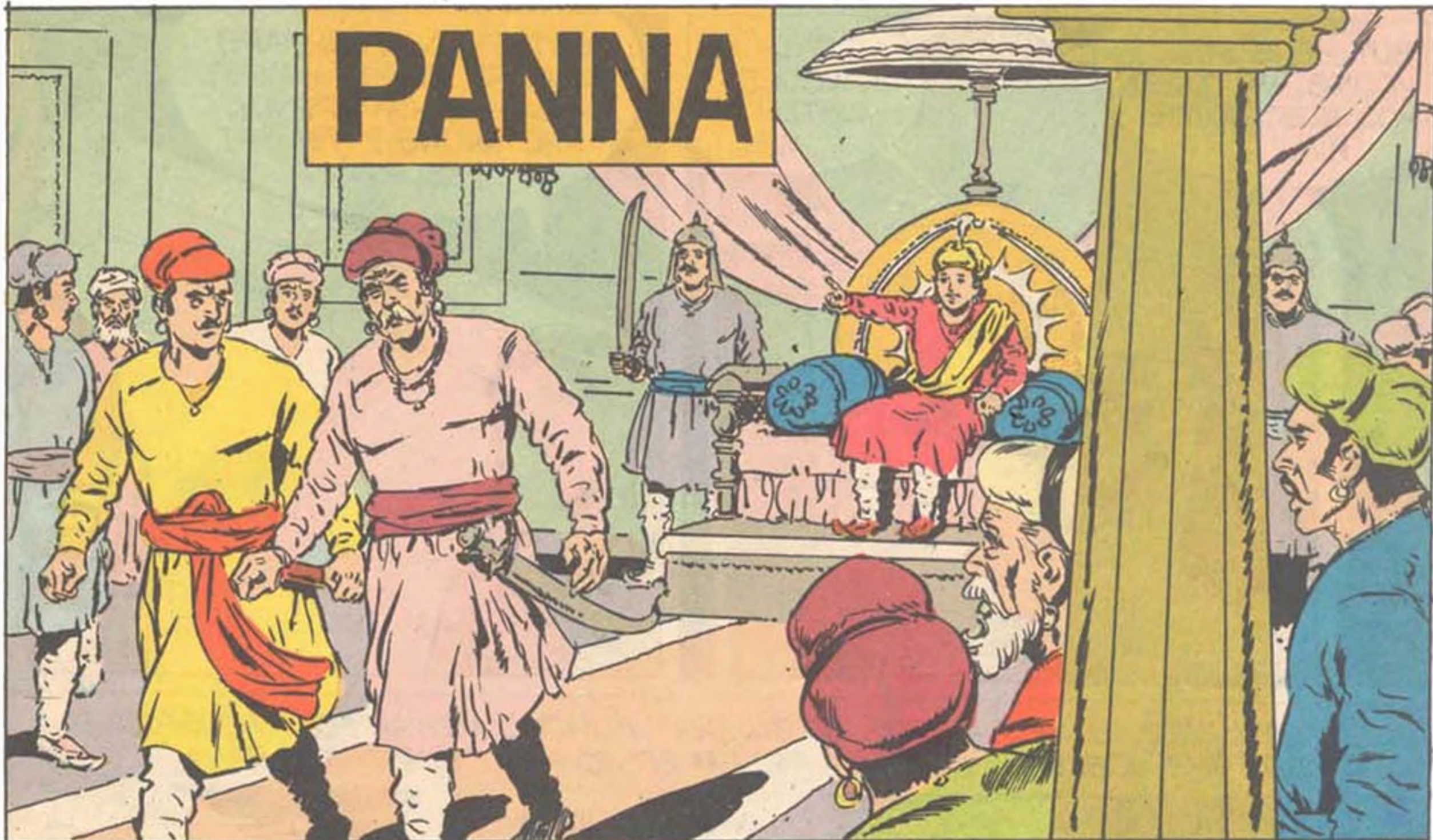
June 1, 1980

Published by H.G. Mirchandani, for India Book House Education Trust, Rusi Mansion, 29, Nathalal Parekh Marg, Bombay-400 039 and printed by him at IBH Printers, Marol Naka, Mathuradas Vissanji Road, Andheri (East), Bombay-400 059.

Editor : Anant Pai Script : Meera Ugra & Dinanath Dube

Artworks : Dilip Kadam

PANNA



VIKRAMADITYA, THE RANA OF MEWAR, BELONGED TO THE LONG AND RESPECTED LINE OF SISODIAS, WHO WERE FAMOUS FOR THEIR VALOUR AND STRENGTH. HOWEVER, THE YOUNG VIKRAMADITYA, WHO CAME TO POWER IN 1531, WAS ARROGANT AND INSOLENT.

MANY SELF-RESPECTING NOBLES LEFT HIS COURT IN DISGUST.

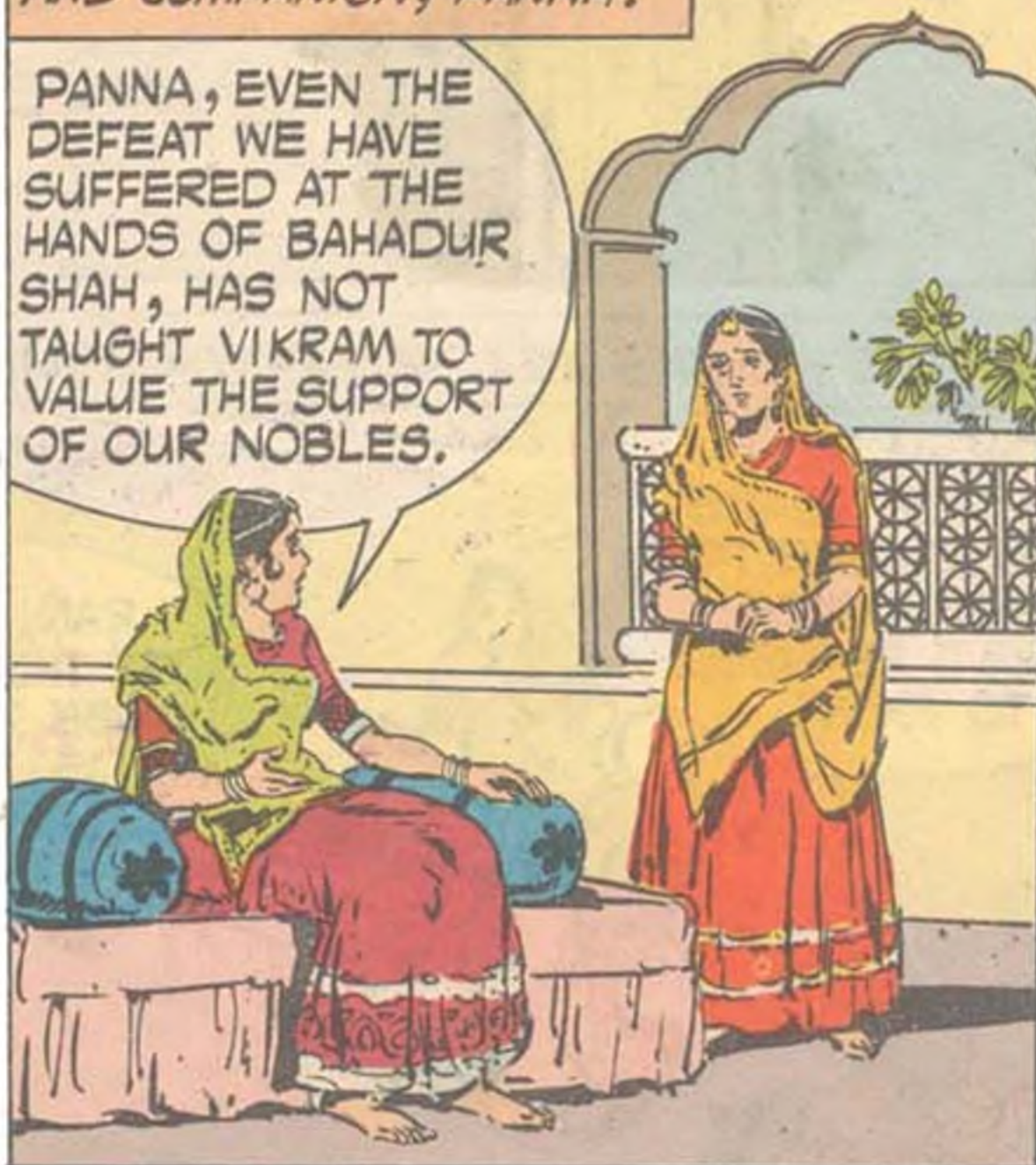
CHITTOR IS NO PLACE FOR US. WE SHALL NOT RETURN AS LONG AS VIKRAMADITYA SITS ON THE THRONE.



I FEEL SORRY FOR HIS MOTHER, THE QUEEN.

RANI KARMAVATI, VIKRAMADITYA'S MOTHER, WAS DISTRESSED BY HER SON'S BEHAVIOUR, AND SHE POURED HER HEART OUT TO HER TRUSTED MAID AND COMPANION, PANNA.

PANNA, EVEN THE DEFEAT WE HAVE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF BAHADUR SHAH, HAS NOT TAUGHT VIKRAM TO VALUE THE SUPPORT OF OUR NOBLES.



BUT HE IS STILL
YOUNG, MY QUEEN.
YOU MUST GUIDE
HIM.

IF ONLY HE
WOULD
LISTEN TO
ME!

BUT, PANNA, PERHAPS
YOU ARE RIGHT. I MUST
SPEAK TO HIM OPENLY.
WHO KNOWS? IT MIGHT
HELP....

A LITTLE LATER, BAHADUR SHAH OF GUJARAT INVADED MEWAR FOR THE SECOND
TIME. BUT THE NOBLES WERE NOT PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RANA.

WHY SHOULD WE
FIGHT FOR THE RANA?
HE HAS NEVER LOOKED
AFTER OUR
INTERESTS!

YES, I'LL
NOT RAISE
A FINGER
IN HIS
DEFENCE!

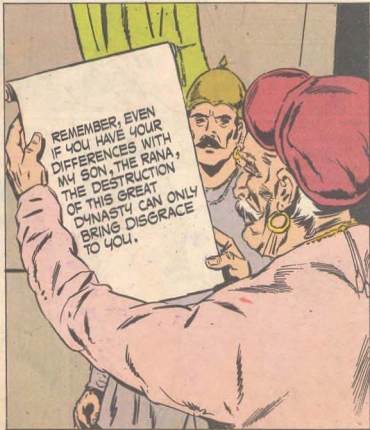
WHEN THE NEWS REACHED RANI KARMAVATI—

PANNA, SO MY
WORST FEARS
HAVE COME TRUE!
THE NOBLES
HAVE REFUSED
TO FIGHT.

RANI, I AM
SURE THEY WILL
CHANGE THEIR
MINDS, IF YOU
APPEAL TO
THEM.

THE RANI ACCEPTED HER ADVICE
AND BEGAN TO WRITE TO THE NOBLES.

...CHITTOR ALWAYS HAS REMAINED
IN THE POSSESSION OF THE
SISODIAS, BUT NOW IT SEEMS THE
DAY OF DESTRUCTION
HAS ARRIVED....



THE GALLANT NOBLES RESPONDED
TO HER CALL.

THE RANI IS
RIGHT. WE MUST
FIGHT FOR MEWAR,
IF NOT FOR
VIKRAMADITYA.

WE CAN'T
LET DOWN
THE QUEEN WHO
HAS REPOSED
HER CONFIDENCE
IN US.



PANNA BROUGHT THE GLAD NEWS TO
RANI KIRMAVATI.

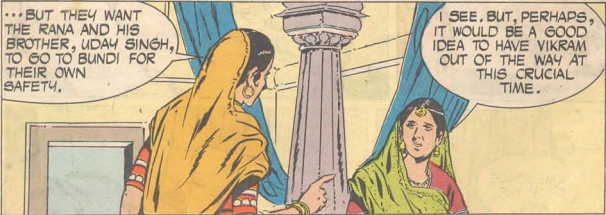
RANI, THE NOBLES
HAVE AGREED TO DEFEND
THE FORT WITH ALL
THEIR STRENGTH...

THAT IS
HAPPY NEWS.
MEWAR
CAN BE
SAVED!



...BUT THEY WANT
THE RANA AND HIS
BROTHER, UDAY SINGH,
TO GO TO BUNDI FOR
THEIR OWN
SAFETY.

I SEE. BUT, PERHAPS,
IT WOULD BE A GOOD
IDEA TO HAVE VIKRAM
OUT OF THE WAY AT
THIS CRUCIAL
TIME.



PANNA,
YOU MUST
ACCOMPANY
MY SONS
TO BUNDI.

YOU MEAN
YOU'LL STAY
HERE? IN THE
THICK OF
DANGER?



YES, PANNA.
I'LL STAY
HERE.

I CAN'T
LEAVE YOU
HERE
ALONE!



I NEED YOU TO TAKE CARE OF MY CHILDREN. I CAN LOOK AFTER MYSELF.

I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU, RANI.

WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MEWAR. THE YOUNG RANA MUST BE SAVED AT ALL COSTS.

I UNDERSTAND.

WHERE IS UDAY?

IN THE GARDEN, PLAYING WITH MY SON, CHANDAN.

IN THE GARDEN—

SURRENDER!

I WON'T! LOOK THERE'S THE RANI. SHE'LL PROTECT ME!

RANUJI! *

MOTHER!



WHAT WERE YOU
UP TO JUST NOW?
I SAW YOU
FIGHTING.

WE WERE ONLY
PRACTISING, RANUJI!
WE WANT TO BE
PREPARED.



PREPARED
FOR WHAT,
CHANDAN?

FOR WAR
WITH BAHADUR
SHAH!



OH, YOU ARE
A BRAVE BOY.
I AM PROUD
OF YOU!

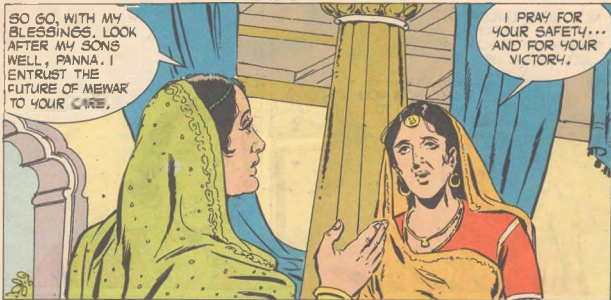


I AM READY
TO DIE FOR
MEWAR!

BOTH CHANDAN
AND I ARE
GOING TO FIGHT
BAHADUR SHAH!



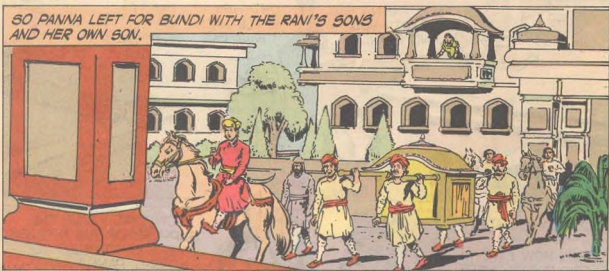
* BRACELET GIVEN BY A SISTER TO A BROTHER OR AN ADOPTED BROTHER



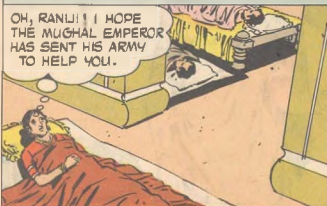
SO GO, WITH MY BLESSINGS. LOOK AFTER MY SONS WELL, PANNA. I ENTRUST THE FUTURE OF MEWAR TO YOUR CARE.

I PRAY FOR YOUR SAFETY... AND FOR YOUR VICTORY.

SO PANNA LEFT FOR BUNDI WITH THE RANI'S SONS AND HER OWN SON.



AT BUNDI, PANNA THOUGHT CONSTANTLY ABOUT THE QUEEN AND THE FATE OF MEWAR.



OH, RANII!! I HOPE THE MUGHAL EMPEROR HAS SENT HIS ARMY TO HELP YOU.

A FEW DAYS LATER, A MESSENGER ARRIVED AT BUND.



I'VE BAD NEWS FROM CHITTOR. THE QUEEN IS NO MORE. SHE HAS COMMITTED JAUHAR.*

OH—RANII!!

THE BRAVE RAJPUTS
FOUGHT VALIANTLY,
BUT THEY WERE
OUTNUMBERED.



SOON, HOWEVER, BAHADUR SHAH HAD
TO FLEE FROM CHITTOR AS THE MUGHAL
FORCES WERE ADVANCING TO FIGHT HIM.



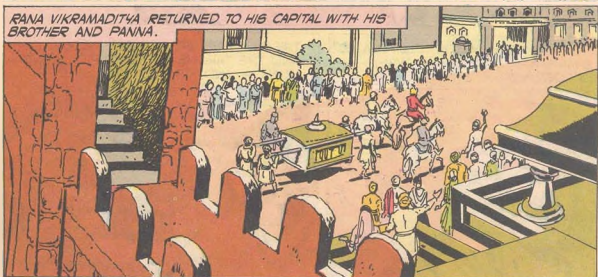
THE LOYAL RAJPUTS AT CHITTOR THEN SENT
A MESSAGE TO BUNDI.



IT IS NOW SAFE
FOR THE RANA TO
RETURN TO
CHITTOR.

IF ONLY THE
RANI WERE
ALIVE!

RANA VIKRAMADITYA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL WITH HIS
BROTHER AND PANNA.



HE WAS REINSTATED ON THE THRONE. BUT ALL WAS NOT WELL.

I HEAR OUR RANA HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH ROGUES AGAIN, PANNA DHAY.*

I FEAR IT MAY BE SO, RAJMANI. HE SEEMS TO HAVE LEARNT NOTHING DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS.



HE HAS ALLOWED HIS RELATIVE, BANVIR, TO ENTER THE COURT AGAIN AND SPENDS A LOT OF TIME IN HIS COMPANY.

WHAT! BANVIR! THAT SCOUNDREL WHOM THE RANA'S LATE FATHER HAD BANISHED FROM MEWAR WITH ORDERS NEVER TO RETURN?



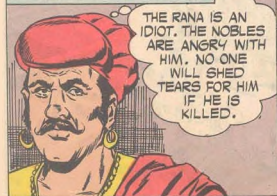
YES, YES, THE SAME CRUEL, WILY BANVIR!

LORD SAVE US THEN! I FEAR EVIL DAYS ARE AHEAD!



PANNA'S FEARS WERE WELL FOUNDED. BANVIR WAS WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.

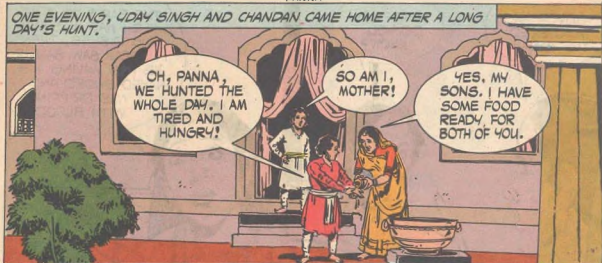
THE RANA IS AN IDIOT. THE NOBLES ARE ANGRY WITH HIM. NO ONE WILL SHED TEARS FOR HIM IF HE IS KILLED.



THE ONLY BARRIER BETWEEN ME AND THE THRONE IS THE STUPID RANA — AND HIS BROTHER UDAY.



ONE EVENING, UDAY SINGH AND CHANDAN CAME HOME AFTER A LONG DAY'S HUNT.



OH, PANNA,
WE HUNTED THE
WHOLE DAY. I AM
TIRED AND
HUNGRY!

SO AM I,
MOTHER!

YES, MY
SONS. I HAVE
SOME FOOD
READY FOR
BOTH OF YOU.

SHE GAVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT...



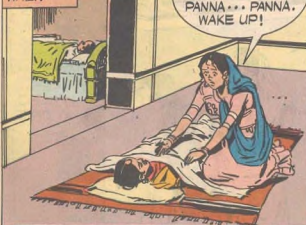
... AND PUT THEM TO BED.



I HOPE TOMORROW,
TOO, WE WILL HAVE
A GOOD...

WAKE...
ME... EARLY
... TOMORROW...

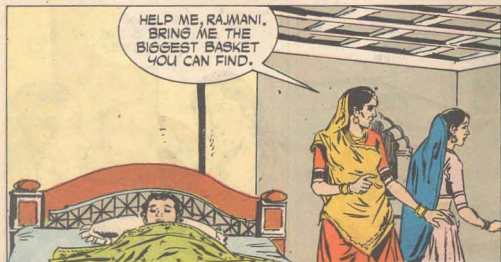
PANNA HAD BARELY CLOSED HER EYES
WHEN—



PANNA... PANNA.
WAKE UP!

RAJMANI!
WHAT IS THE
MATTER?







... AND THE TWO WOMEN COVERED HIM WITH FRUITS.



THE SERVANTS LEFT WITH THE BASKET, PANNA BREATHED A PRAYER..



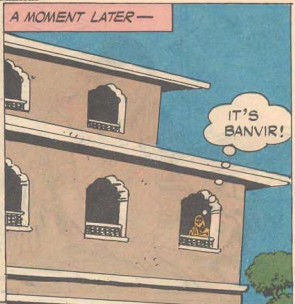
THEN SUDDENLY A CHILLING THOUGHT
STRUCK HER.

BANVIR... OH...
HE WILL SOON
COME HERE
ASKING FOR
UDAY SINGH!



A MOMENT LATER —

IT'S
BANVIR!



WHAT IF HE
ASKS FOR
UDAY SINGH?



I MUST PUT
MY SON ON
UDAY SINGH'S
BED.



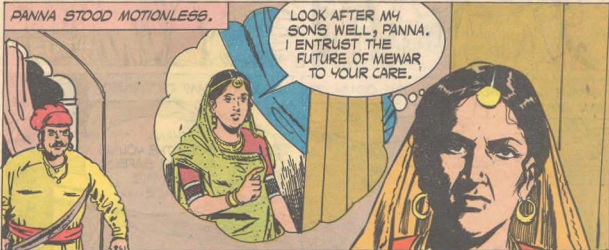
SHE ACTED SWIFTLY. JUST AS SHE HAD PUT A SHEET OVER HER SON, BANVIR ENTERED—

WHERE IS
UDAY SINGH?



PANNA STOOD MOTIONLESS.

LOOK AFTER MY
SONS WELL, PANNA.
I ENTRUST THE
FUTURE OF MEWAR
TO YOUR CARE.



RANI, I AM
PREPARED TO
DIE FOR MEWAR.

TELL
ME, WHERE
HE IS!



PANNA COULD NOT TRUST HERSELF TO SPEAK.



BANVIR STRUCK THE SLEEPING FIGURE.



PANNA COULD NOT MOURN THE DEATH OF HER OWN SON.



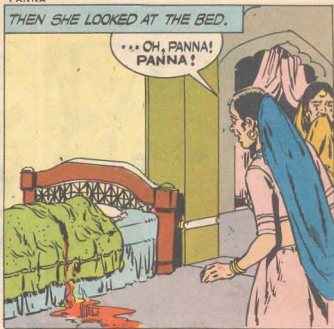
SOON RAJMANI RETURNED.



THEN SHE LOOKED AT THE BED.

BUT, PANNA, WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHY ARE YOU CRYING?

... OH, PANNA! PANNA!



PANNA HAD REGAINED HER COMPOSURE BY THEN.

HUSH! NO NOISE!
WE ... CANNOT... GIVE
OURSELVES AWAY NOW.
BANVIR MUST BELIEVE
THAT UDAY IS
DEAD.



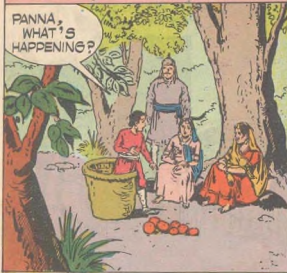
THEN THEY SET OUT ON THEIR SECRET MISSION AND JOINED THE PARTY WHICH HAD LEFT EARLIER WITH UDAY.

LET'S LEAVE QUICKLY.
WE MUST GET AWAY AS
FAR AS POSSIBLE FROM
CHITTOR BEFORE THE
SUN RISES.



A LITTLE LATER, THEY DECIDED TO STOP AND HAVE SOME REST.

PANNA,
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?



PANNA TOLD HIM ALL THE EVENTS OF THE PAST NIGHT.

CHANDAN IS DEAD!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I WILL
KILL THAT MONSTER,
BANVIR!



HUSH! WE HAVE
NO TIME TO LOSE,
LIDAY. LET'S
HURRY ON.



ALL RIGHT, I'LL
GO ON NOW. BUT
SOME DAY I WILL
AVENGE THE
DEATH OF MY
DEAR FRIEND.



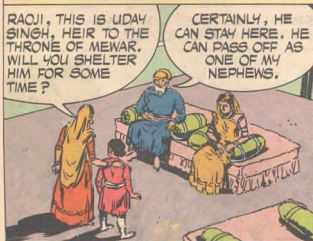
THINK NO MORE OF
IT. HE DIED FOR MEWAR
AND HIS SACRIFICE
SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN.
ONE DAY YOU WILL
REGAIN CHITTOR.



A LITTLE WHILE LATER—



PANNA TOOK UDAY SINGH TO RAO ASA SAH, THE RULER OF KUMBHALMER.



FOUR YEARS WENT BY. DURING THAT TIME, UDAY SINGH WAS MARRIED TO A RAJPUT PRINCESS.



AFTER THE WEDDING—



THEN PANNA CONTACTED THE CHIEFTAINS OF MEWAR AND MADE PUBLIC THE FACTS OF UDAY SINGH'S ESCAPE.

I APPEAL TO YOU TO RESTORE MEWAR TO THE RIGHTFUL HEIR.

WE CONSIDER IT OUR DUTY TO DO SO, PANNA.



THE CHIEFTAINS ROSE IN REVOLT AGAINST BANVIR AND JOINED UDAY SINGH. IN A BATTLE FOUGHT NEAR MAHOLI, BANVIR'S ARMY WAS ROUTED.



AT LAST UDAY SINGH TOOK CHITTOR.

VICTORY TO RANA UDAY SINGH!



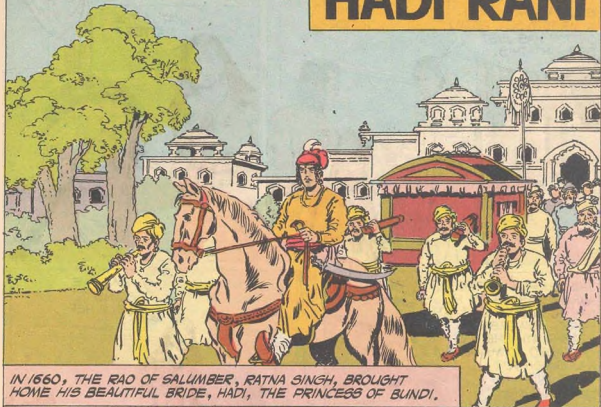
HE WAS LATER CROWNED MAHARANA OF MEWAR.

PANNA, I OWE YOU A DEBT WHICH I CAN NEVER REPAY.

DON'T TALK OF DEBTS, MY SON. SEEING YOU ON THE THRONE TODAY, I HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL MY OWN SORROWS.



HADI RANI



LATER —



JUST THEN THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.



A MAID ENTERED.

SALUTATIONS, RAOJI. A MESSENGER FROM CHITTOR HAS JUST BROUGHT THIS.

FROM CHITTOR?

RATNA SINGH READ THE LETTER AND TURNED PALE.

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

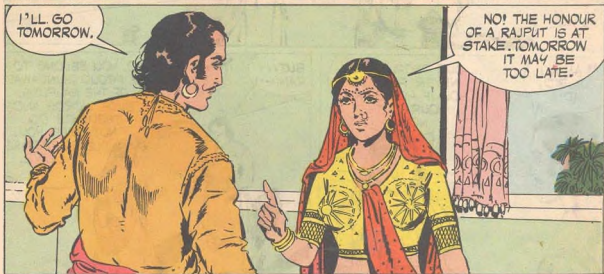
THE MUGHAL EMPEROR, AURANGZEB, IS ON HIS WAY TO ROOP NAGAR TO MARRY PRINCESS PRABHAVATI. SHE HAS APPEALED TO MAHARANA RAJ SINGH FOR HELP AND....

ISN'T HE GOING TO HELP HER?

YES, HE HAS ALREADY LEFT FOR ROOP NAGAR TO MARRY HER BEFORE AURANGZEB REACHES.

BUT SUPPOSE THE MUGHAL FORCES GET THERE BEFORE THE RANA DOES?

THE MAHARANA WANTS ME TO INTERCEPT THEM.



STILL RAO RATNA SINGH HESITATED.

WE HAVE JUST BEEN MARRIED. YET YOU ASK ME TO LEAVE YOU STRAIGHT AWAY. AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE DANGER AHEAD OF ME?

ONLY COWARDS ARE AFRAID OF DANGER, MY LORD. THE BRAVE WOO THEM.



I AM NO COWARD, HADI!

OUR PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU SHIRK YOUR DUTY NOW.



BUT... RANI...

NO, YOU BELONG TO THE PROUD CHUNDAWAT CLAN OF THE RAJPUTS. SUCH WORDS AND THOUGHTS DO NOT BEFIT YOU. PLEASE PREPARE TO LEAVE.



LEAVE YOU? YOU, WHO HAVE BECOME SO DEAR TO ME? HAS YOUR HEART TURNED TO STONE?

NO, IT STILL THROBS AND CAN FEEL THE MISERY OF PRABHAVATI ONLY TOO KEENLY.



THEN HADI FLEW INTO A RAGE.

O MIGHTY CHUNDAWAT, ARISE!
DUTY CALLS YOU! YOUR
PROUD ANCESTRY COMMANDS
YOU! A RAJPUT PRINCESS
ENTREATS YOU! O LORD OF
MY LIFE, DON'T HESITATE!



HADI'S WORDS HAD THEIR EFFECT.

OH! HADI! YOU
HAVE AWOKEN ME
FROM MY
SLUMBER.

MAY VICTORY
BE YOURS, MY
LORD!



SOON THE DRUMBEATS RESOUNDED
THROUGHOUT THE CASTLE AND PREPARATIONS
FOR BATTLE BEGAN.

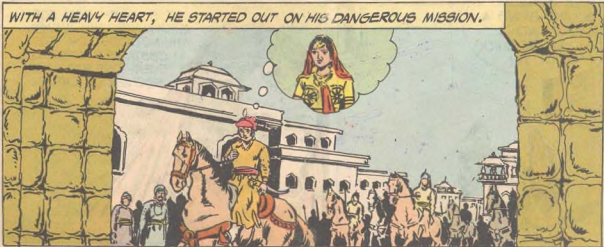


RAO RATNA SINGH WAS READY TO DEPART.

MAY LORD
EKLING
PROTECT YOU.
MAY YOU COME
BACK
VICTORIOUS....



WITH A HEAVY HEART, HE STARTED OUT ON HIS DANGEROUS MISSION.



SUDDENLY —

RETURN TO THE RANI AND ASK HER TO SEND ME A MEMENTO.

AS YOU COMMAND, SIR!

THE RANI SAW THAT THEY HAD STOPPED.

WHAT MAKES HIM DELAY NOW?

WHEN THE MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED TO HER —

A MEMENTO? IS HE THINKING OF A MEMENTO AT SUCH A TIME?

ALL RIGHT, I KNOW WHAT TO SEND HIM — A MEMENTO WHICH WILL MAKE HIM FIGHT FOR THE MAHARANA.

GO AND BRING A SWORD AND A SALVER. BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

IT IS MY PHYSICAL FORM WHICH MAKES HIM WAVER. WHY NOT DESTROY THIS OBSTACLE? AFTER ALL, EVERY ONE HAS TO DIE SOONER OR LATER.



WITH TEARS IN HER EYES, HADI'S MAID GAVE THE MEMENTO TO THE MESSENGER.



RAO RATNA SINGH WAS WAITING IMPATIENTLY.



THE MESSENGER SILENTLY PRESENTED RATNA SINGH WITH THE MEMENTO.

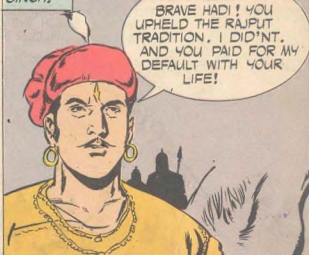


RATNA SINGH HURRIEDLY REMOVED THE CLOTH.

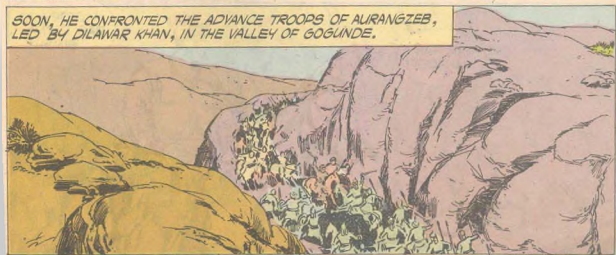




A SUDDEN CHANGE CAME OVER RAO RATNA SINGH.



SOON, HE CONFRONTED THE ADVANCE TROOPS OF AURANGZEB, LED BY DILAWAR KHAN, IN THE VALLEY OF GOGUNDE.



AND IN THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, RAO RATNA SINGH FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY.

LOOK, HADI, LOOK!
WATCH THE CHUNDAWAT
VALOUR NOW!



THOUGH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, RAO RATNA SINGH CONTINUED THE FIGHT.

YA ALLAH! HE IS
POSSESSED!

RUN!

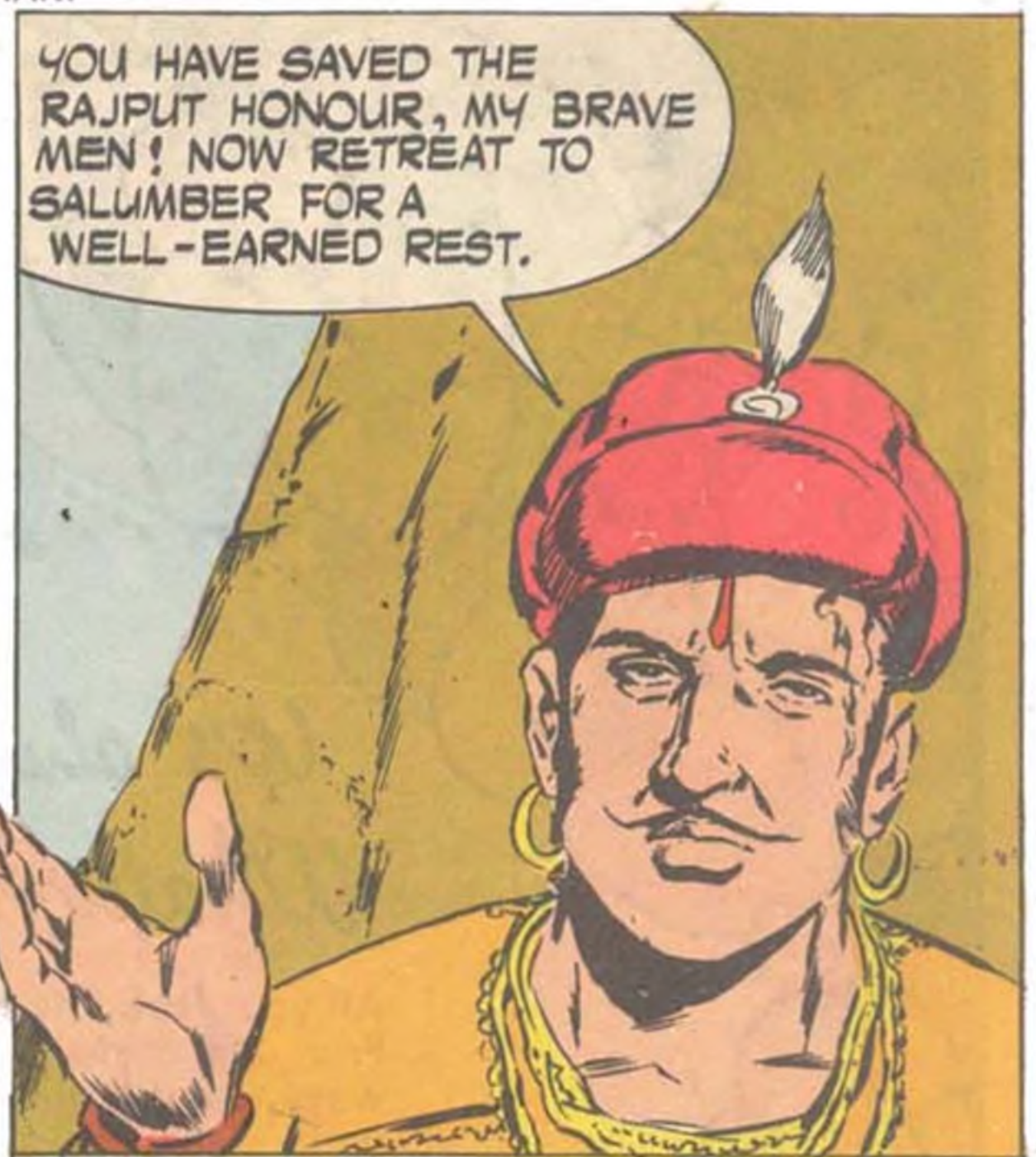
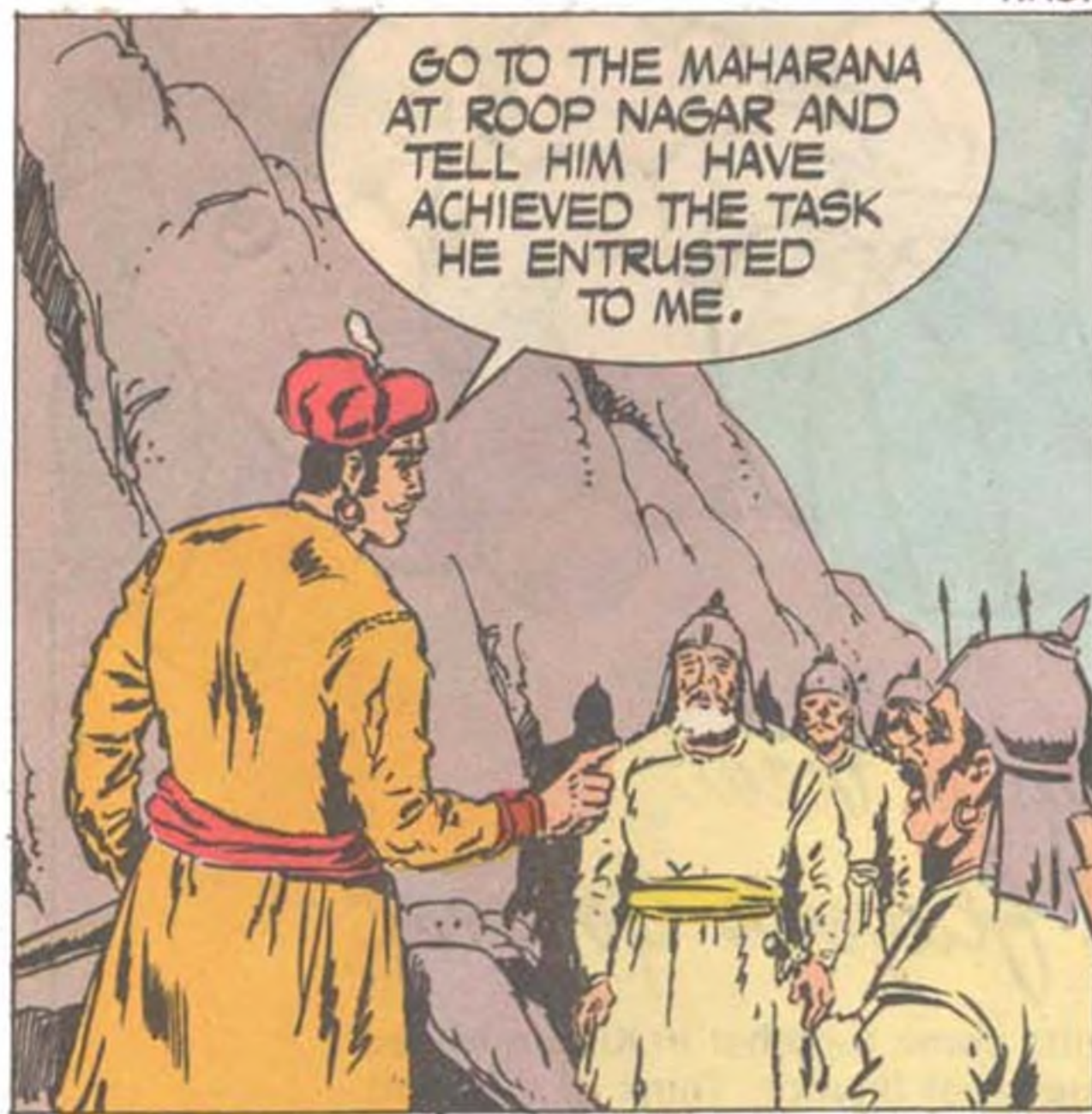


DILAWAR KHAN WAS FORCED TO ORDER A RETREAT.


HAR HAR
MAHADEV!

VICTORY TO
RAO RATNA
SINGH!





LIKE HADI RANI, RAO RATNA SINGH, TOO, SEVERED HIS HEAD. BUT THEIR SACRIFICE WAS NOT IN VAIN. PRABHAVATI WAS RESCUED BY MAHARANA RAJ SINGH, AND HE LATER MARRIED HER.



*It's always a treat
Whatever flavour you eat*

All your favourite fruits come together in Kissan Mixed Fruit Jam to make one great flavour. Think of different ways to eat it in. Spread it on a crunchy cracker. Roll it up in a chappati. Drink it stirred in milk. Kissan's fruity goodness makes almost everything more delicious.

Nine great flavours to choose from
Mixed Fruit, pineapple, strawberry,
raspberry, mango, apple, apricot,
Goldenmist orange marmalade
and guava jelly.

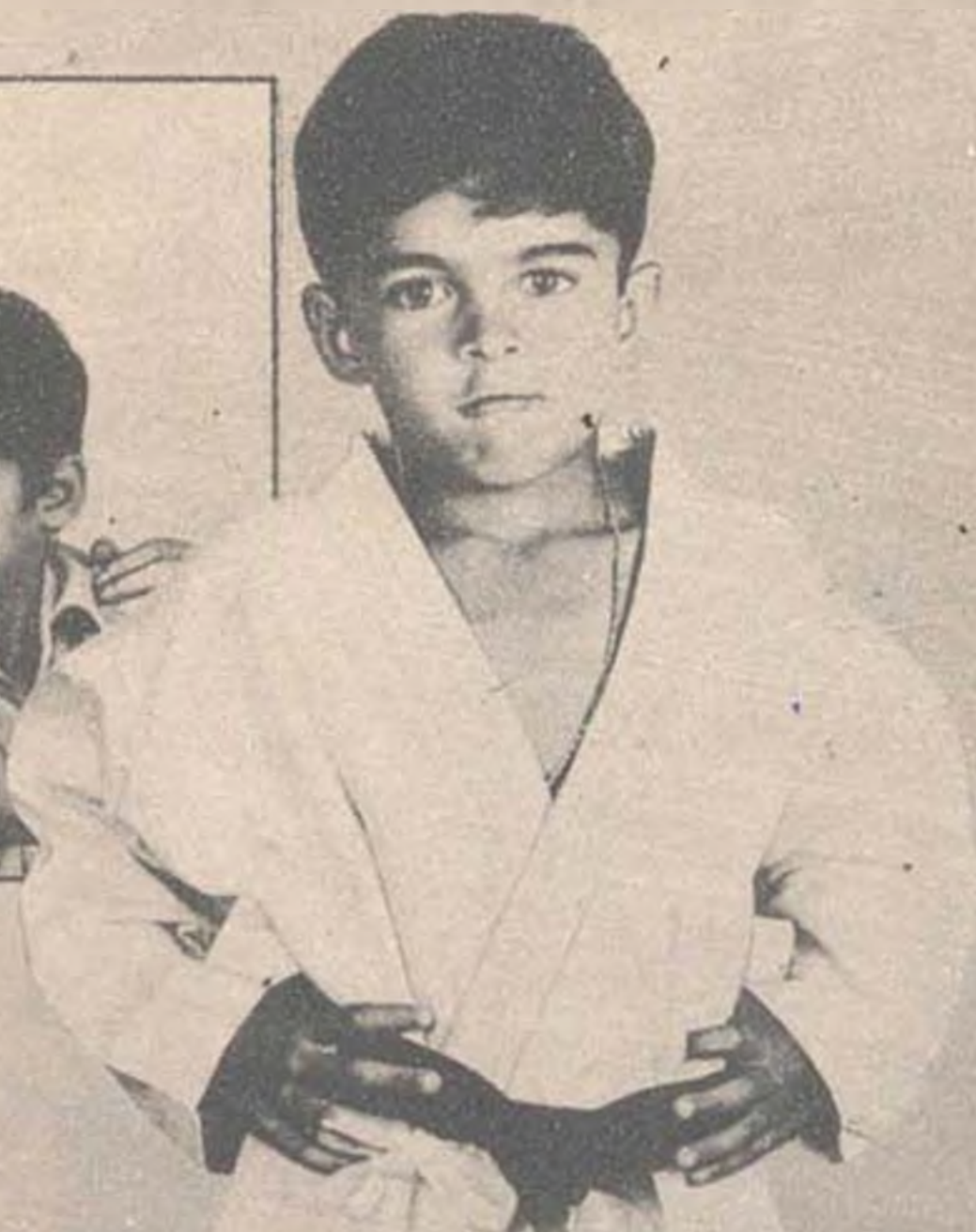


Kissan

**A LITTLE
SWEETNESS GOES
A LONG WAY**



"Raju hated milk ... till I added Nutramul."



**"Now he's
a Nutramul *dada*."**

It's such a problem
getting children to
drink their milk.

That's why
thousands of
mothers bless
delicious Nutramul.

Nutramul delivers
taste and strength.
Nutramul is rich in
cocoa, milk and



malt—tastes
superb. And
contains
proteins, vitamins
and minerals.
So nourishing for
growing bodies.
Flavourful
Nutramul—every
cup builds you up.

Marketed by
Gujarat Co-operative
Milk Marketing
Federation Limited,
Anand, Gujarat.



AMUL'S
Nutramul

Every cup builds you up!



someone else busily steals wallets!

SHORE AM LUCKY! THAT'S MY-TENTH 'UN TODAY!



HOLY COW! SAW THAT?



OKAY FELLAS... LET'S GO FIX HIS WAGON!



Joe knows the game is up.

Dipy the Kid in the dizziest chase of his life.



Yessiree, it's no wonder Joe didn't lose his grip when it came to Dipy's! 'Cause Dipy's make some of the most scrumptious squashes and syrups around. Lemon, Orange and Mango Squashes. Lemon Barley Water. Lime Cordial. Pineapple Crush. Refreshing Rose Syrup. Frolic, the Fruit Flavoured Syrup. And all the rest of the Dipy's party. Worth getting your hands on!

Dipy's is real fruity —so fresh 'n' juicy.

YIPPEE IT'S DIPY'S!

BETWEEN POCKETS AND DIPY'S, IT'S DIPY'S I PICK!



Sehgal Bros.
South Ext. Mkt.
New Delhi