

Mukunda Lal Ghosh was born in Gorakhpur on January 5, 1893. Great saints predicted that his life would be extraordinary. Even as a little boy, Mukunda had a religious bent of mind. At seventeen, he met his guru, Swami Sri Yukteswar Giri, through whose guidance Mukunda attained divine enlightenment. Sri Yukteswar gave him the sannyas name, Yogananda, and the title, Paramahansa.

Although Yoganandaji wanted to live as a hermit, he submitted to the desire expressed by his Guru and his Param-paramguru, Mahavatar Babaji, that he should spread all over the world the ancient knowledge of Kriya Yoga: a spiritual science for realizing God and making Him a practical part of one's life. To accomplish his mission, Yoganandaji founded in 1917 the Yogoda Satsanga Society of India. Later, in 1920, he established in America an international society called Self-Realization Fellowship.

Yoganandaji's sublime love of God inspired reciprocal love in the hearts of others; he came to be known as Premavatar: an incarnation of divine love. He taught that all men can know God personally, and that this is the only lasting cure for human suffering. As one of India's truly great spiritual masters, he did pioneering work abroad to establish a living link between East and West, and to demonstrate how vital it is for man to unite every action to the love and wisdom of God.

India paid formal tribute to her great son on the 25th anniversary of his Mahasamadhi by issuing a commemorative postage stamp.

This Amar Charitra Katha is based on Paramahansa Yogananda's *Autobiography of a Yogi*, which is acclaimed all over the world as a classic in Yogic literature.

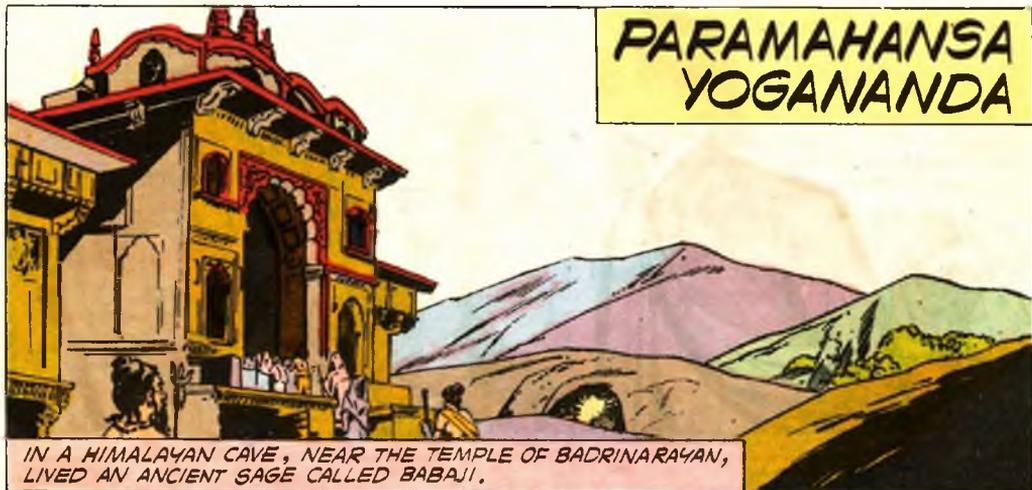
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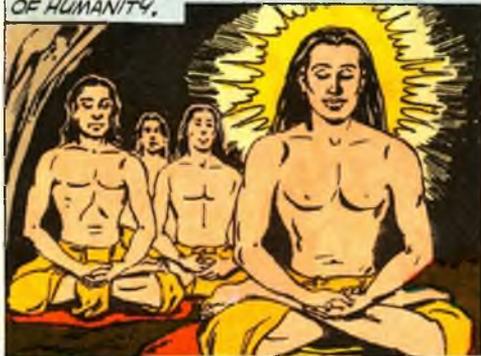
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PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA

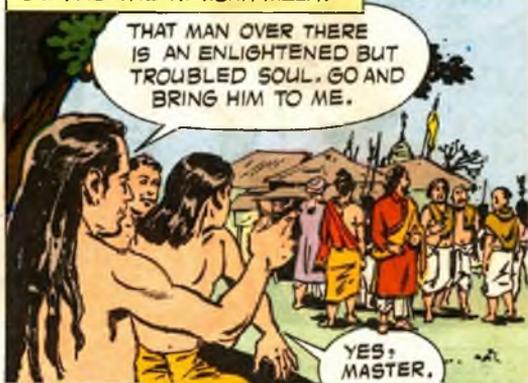


IN A HIMALAYAN CAVE, NEAR THE TEMPLE OF BADRINARAYAN,
LIVED AN ANCIENT SAGE CALLED BABAJI.

BABAJI HAD RETAINED HIS EVER-
YOUTHFUL PHYSICAL FORM TO WORK AS
THE INSTRUMENT OF GOD FOR THE UPLIFT
OF HUMANITY.



IN THE YEAR 1894, HE VISITED ALLAHABAD
DURING THE KUMBHA MELA.*



THE MAN WHO HAD ATTRACTED BABAJI'S NOTICE WAS SHRI YUKTESWAR.



* A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL HELD ONCE IN TWELVE YEARS

THE SCIENTISTS OF THE MATERIALISTIC WESTERN COUNTRIES, WHO WORK FOR THE PRACTICAL GOOD OF MANKIND ARE PERHAPS MORE PLEASING TO GOD THAN THESE BEGGARS IN OCHRE ROBES.

SIR, GURUDEV* IS CALLING YOU.



I AM NOT INTERESTED IN MEETING ANY GURU. BUT I FEEL DRAWN TOWARDS THIS ONE. I WILL GO.



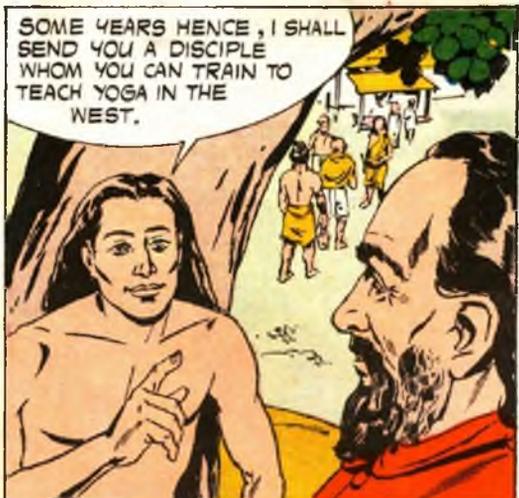
SALUTATIONS, MASTER! I HAVE SUMMONED YOU HERE BECAUSE I KNOW HOW TROUBLED YOU ARE.



A BLENDING OF THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE EAST AND THE ZEAL FOR ACTION OF THE WEST CAN HELP MANKIND. I PERCEIVE POTENTIAL SAINTS IN AMERICA AND EUROPE WAITING TO BE AWAKENED.



SOME YEARS HENCE, I SHALL SEND YOU A DISCIPLE WHOM YOU CAN TRAIN TO TEACH YOGA IN THE WEST.



THE DISCIPLE PROMISED TO SHRI YUKTESWAR WAS BORN IN GORAKHPUR * ON 5TH JANUARY 1893, TO BHAGAVATI CHARAN GHOSH AND GYANA PRABHA GHOSH.



SHORTLY AFTER HIS BIRTH —

TOMORROW WE WILL TAKE MUKUNDA TO THE HOME OF OUR GURU, LAHIRI MAHASAYA.

YES, MUKUNDA MUST RECEIVE THE SAINT'S BLESSING.



THE NEXT DAY AT LAHIRI MAHASAYA'S HOUSE —



LAHIRI MAHASAYA DID NOT LIVE TO SEE THE FULFILMENT OF HIS PROPHECY. SOON AFTERWARDS, HE PASSED AWAY.

THE SAINTLY NATURE OF HIS PARENTS HELPED TO AWAKEN MUKUNDA'S SPIRITUALITY AT AN EARLY AGE.

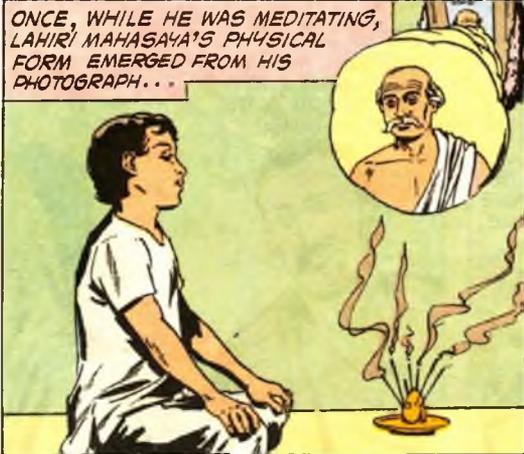


EVEN WHEN HE WAS VERY YOUNG, MUKUNDA MEDITATED EVERY DAY, MORNING AND EVENING.



* IN EASTERN U. P.

ONCE, WHILE HE WAS MEDITATING, LAHIRI MAHASAYA'S PHYSICAL FORM EMERGED FROM HIS PHOTOGRAPH...



... AND SAT IN FRONT OF MUKUNDA.



LATER, THIS HAPPENED A NUMBER OF TIMES.

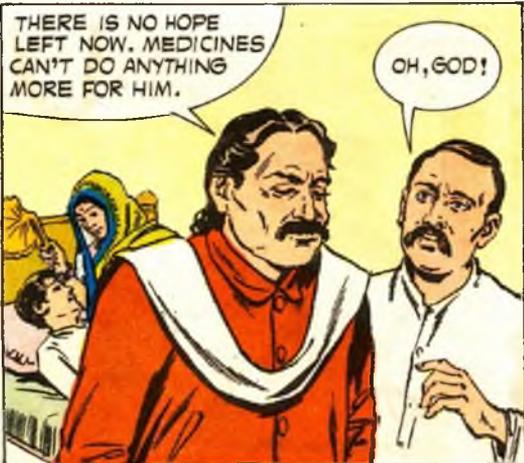
WHEN HE WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD, MUKUNDA FELL SERIOUSLY ILL.



HE HAS CHOLERA.

CHOLERA! GOOD HEAVENS!

THERE IS NO HOPE LEFT NOW. MEDICINES CAN'T DO ANYTHING MORE FOR HIM.



OH, GOD!

DON'T WORRY, CHILD. WHAT MEDICINE CAN'T DO, OUR OMNIPRESENT GURU CAN. BOW TO HIM AND PRAY. HE WILL CURE YOU.



MUKUNDA HAD GROWN TOO WEAK TO EVEN RAISE HIS HANDS. SO HE MENTALLY BOWED TO LAHIRI MAHASAYA'S PICTURE.



THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH —



ALL THESE SUPERNATURAL HAPPENINGS PROVIDED MUKUNDA'S INHERENTLY DEVOTIONAL NATURE WITH A DEFINITE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION.

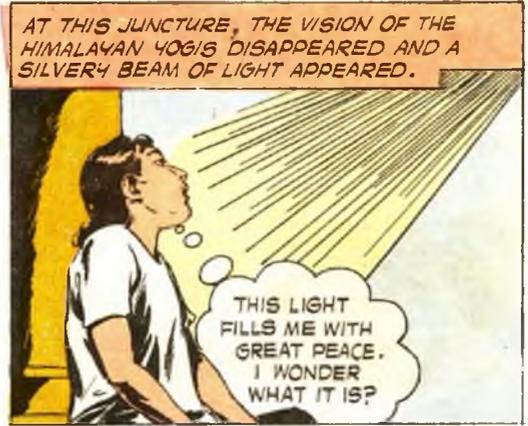
I MUST BECOME A YOGI.



ONCE, WHEN MUKUNDA WAS MEDITATING—



THE LIGHT STARTED TAKING VAGUE, BUT DISCERNIBLE SHAPES.



AFTER THESE EXPERIENCES, MUKUNDA COULD FEEL SPIRITUAL POWERS GROWING WITHIN HIM. ONE DAY, AS HE WAS STUDYING WITH HIS SISTER, UMA —



I HAVE A BOIL ON MY LEG.

I WILL APPLY SOME OINTMENT ON IT, UMA.

AFTER APPLYING SOME OINTMENT ON HIS SISTER'S LEG, MUKUNDA ALSO APPLIED SOME ON HIS ARM.



WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT?

BECAUSE TOMORROW I WILL HAVE A BOIL HERE!

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE? YOU ARE LYING!

YOU HAVE CALLED ME A LIAR! TOMORROW YOUR BOIL WILL BE DOUBLE IN SIZE!



THE NEXT DAY, THINGS HAPPENED JUST AS MUKUNDA HAD PREDICTED.



MOTHER, MUKUNDA CURSED ME AND MY BOIL HAS GROWN BIGGER. IT HURTS.

YOU CALLED ME A LIAR, AND THAT HURT TOO!

MUKUNDA, THE POWER YOU POSSESS IS A GIFT OF GOD. NEVER USE IT TO HARM OTHERS.

I WON'T, MOTHER.



MUKUNDA NEVER FORGOT HER COUNSEL.

A PICTURE OF THE DIVINE MOTHER, KALI, SANCTIFIED THE BALCONY OF MUKUNDA'S HOME. IN THAT SACRED PLACE, MUKUNDA FELT HIS EVERY PRAYER WOULD BE ANSWERED. ONE DAY —



MUKUNDA BEGAN A SILENT PRAYER.

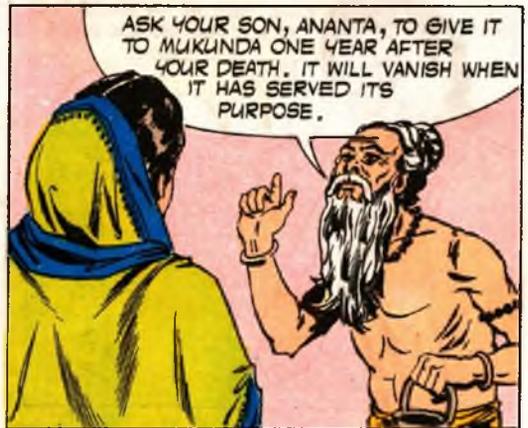
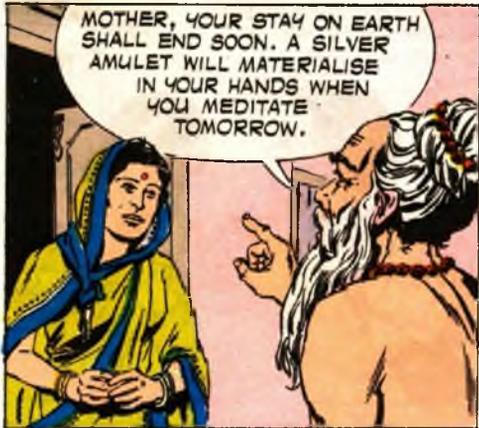


SHE RAN AWAY LIKE A FRIGHTENED FAWN.

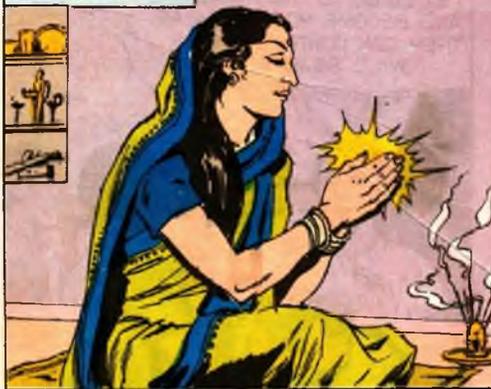
MUKUNDA'S MOTHER WAS HIS DEAREST FRIEND ON EARTH. AND HE LOVED TO HEAR THE STORIES SHE TOLD.



DESTINY WAS GRADUALLY TAKING DEFINITE SHAPE. ONE MORNING —



THE NEXT EVENING, WHEN GYANA PRABHA MEDITATED —





TWO YEARS LATER —

MOTHER, MOTHER, THEY ARE TAKING YOU AWAY FROM ME.

DO NOT CRY, MUKUNDA.



CHILD, IT IS I WHO HAVE WATCHED OVER YOU LIKE A MOTHER, LIFE AFTER LIFE. SEE IN MY EYES THE BEAUTIFUL BLACK EYES YOU SEEK.

IT IS THE DIVINE MOTHER!

MUKUNDA ALSO GOT A SURPRISE FROM HIS BROTHER, ANANTA.

ON HER DEATH-BED, MOTHER ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.



THE MOMENT MUKUNDA TOUCHED THE AMULET —

OH! WHAT A WONDERFUL FEELING THIS GIVES ME! I FEEL I AM RECEIVING GUIDANCE FROM THE GREAT MASTERS I HAVE KNOWN IN MY PAST LIVES!



THE URGE TO BECOME A YOGI WAS CONTINUOUSLY GROWING IN MUKUNDA.

LET US GO TO THE HIMALAYAS AND BECOME YOGIS. I HEAR THEY CAN CONTROL EVEN WILD BEASTS!

YES, LET'S GO!



MUKUNDA SECRETLY LEFT HOME WITH THE TWO BOYS AND BOARDED A TRAIN.



BUT ANANTA, MUKUNDA'S ELDER BROTHER, HAD NOTICED HIS ABSENCE. HE ALERTED THE POLICE AND THE BOYS WERE INTERCEPTED.

YOU ARE MUKUNDA, AREN'T YOU? YOU CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER. YOUR BROTHER HAS SENT A TELEGRAM. HE WILL SOON BE HERE TO TAKE YOU HOME!



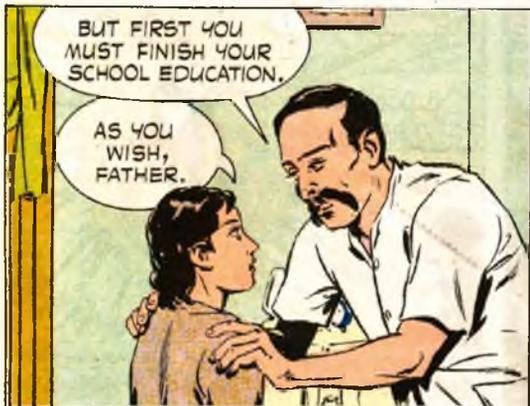
SOON MUKUNDA WAS BACK IN CALCUTTA WHERE HIS FAMILY NOW LIVED.



I DO NOT WANT TO PREVENT YOU FROM SEEKING GOD, MY SON. ON THE CONTRARY, TO HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR AIM, I HAVE ARRANGED TO TEACH YOU SANSKRIT.

BUT FIRST YOU MUST FINISH YOUR SCHOOL EDUCATION.

AS YOU WISH, FATHER.



IT IS COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT MY FATHER IS NOT AGAINST MY SPIRITUAL PURSUITS.



WITH IRON DETERMINATION, MUKUNDA CONTINUED TO SEEK GOD. ONE DAY—



AS THE SUN ROSE —

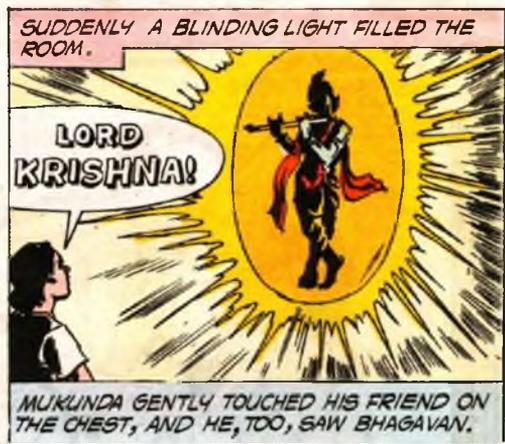
I'VE HAD ENOUGH, MUKUNDA! I'M GOING TO BED!

I SHALL NEVER GIVE UP!



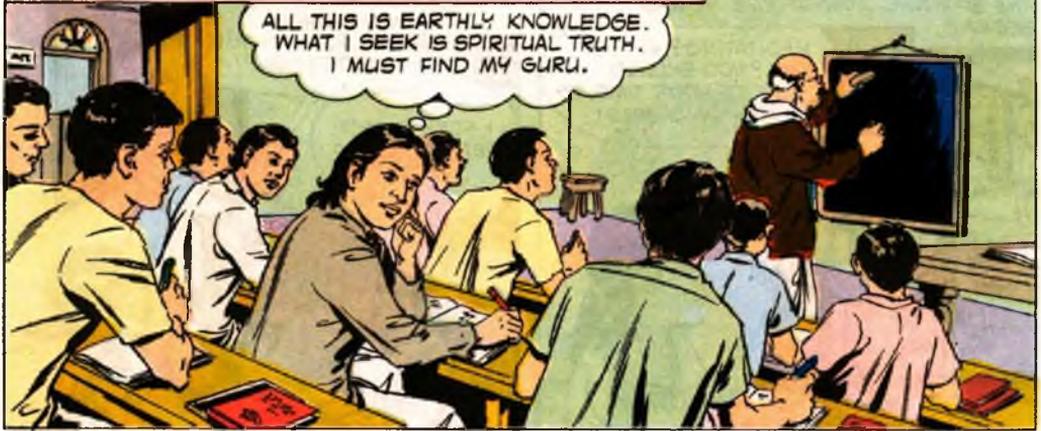
SUDDENLY A BLINDING LIGHT FILLED THE ROOM.

LORD KRISHNA!



MUKUNDA GENTLY TOUCHED HIS FRIEND ON THE CHEST, AND HE, TOO, SAW BHAGAVAN.

IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS FATHER'S WISHES, MUKUNDA DID NOT GIVE UP HIS SCHOOL EDUCATION. BUT A FIRE CONTINUED TO BURN IN HIS HEART.



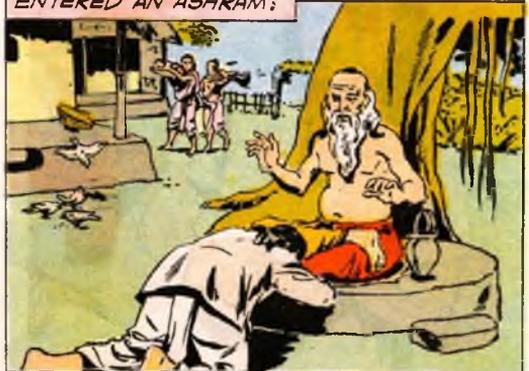
THOUGH NOT SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN HIS STUDIES, MUKUNDA COMPLETED HIS SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION.



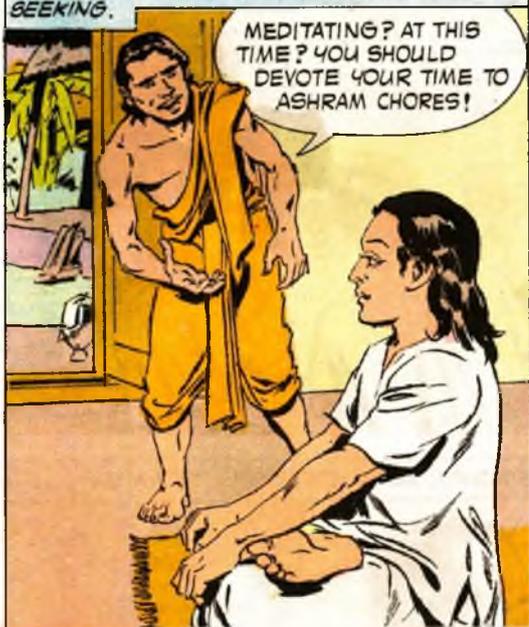
MUKUNDA'S HEART WAS TOUCHED, BUT THE SPIRITUAL CRAVING WAS VERY STRONG.



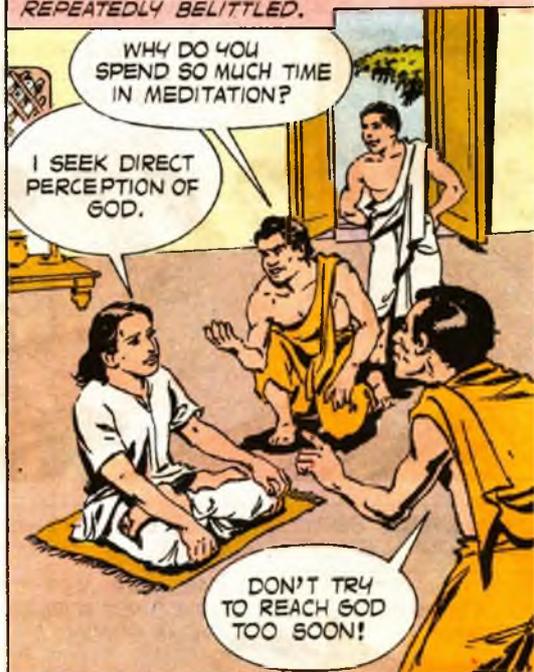
MUKUNDA WENT TO VARANASI AND ENTERED AN ASHRAM:



IT DID NOT TAKE MUKUNDA LONG TO REALISE THAT THE ASHRAM DID NOT HAVE THE SPIRITUAL ATMOSPHERE HE WAS SEEKING.



MUKUNDA'S EFFORTS AT MEDITATION WERE REPEATEDLY BELITTLED.

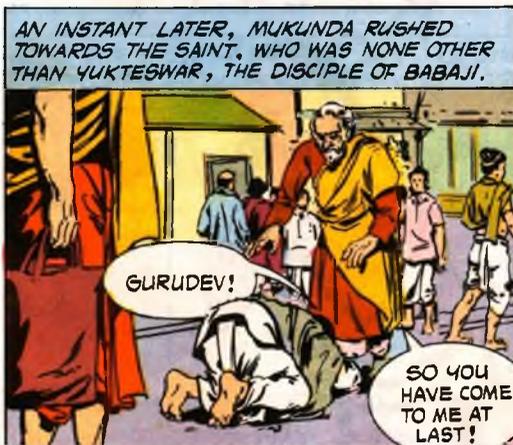
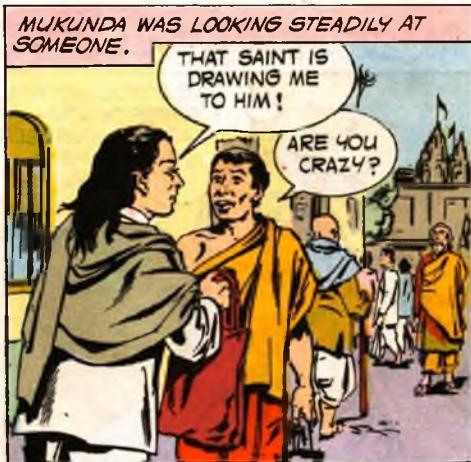


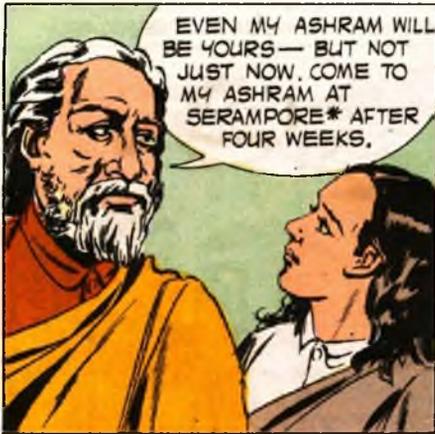
MUKUNDA WAS GREATLY PERTURBED BY THIS CONSTANT RIDICULE. ON SUCH OCCASIONS, HE WOULD TOUCH THE SILVER AMULET WHICH HE KEPT IN A SEALED BOX.



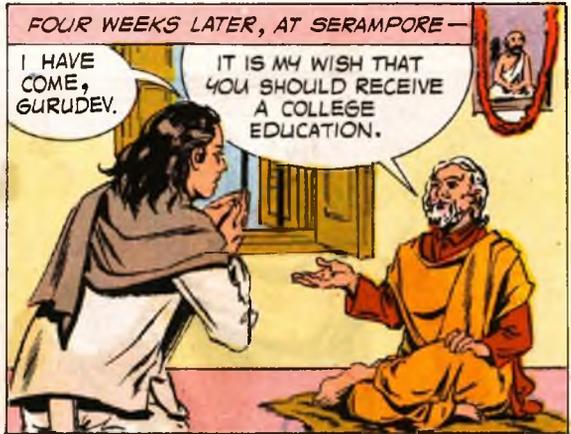
THE AMULET HAD DISAPPEARED AS PREDICTED BY THE SADHU. MUKUNDA WAS TORN WITH ANGUISH. HE CRIED TO THE DIVINE MOTHER.







EVEN MY ASHRAM WILL BE YOURS — BUT NOT JUST NOW. COME TO MY ASHRAM AT SERAMPORE* AFTER FOUR WEEKS.



FOUR WEEKS LATER, AT SERAMPORE —

I HAVE COME, GURUDEV.

IT IS MY WISH THAT YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A COLLEGE EDUCATION.



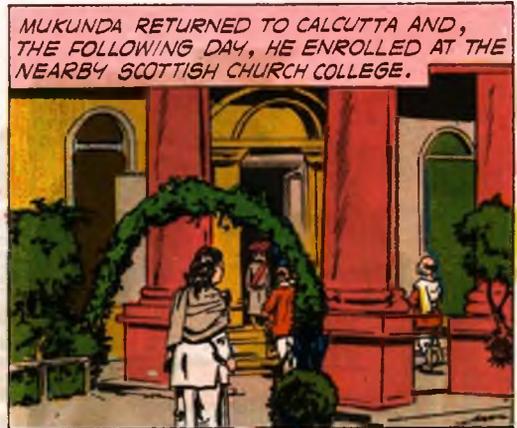
BUT...

NO 'BUTS'! SOME DAY YOU WILL GO TO THE WEST, WHERE PEOPLE WILL BE MORE RECEPTIVE IF YOU HAVE A UNIVERSITY DEGREE.



GO BACK HOME. VISIT ME WHENEVER YOU CAN.

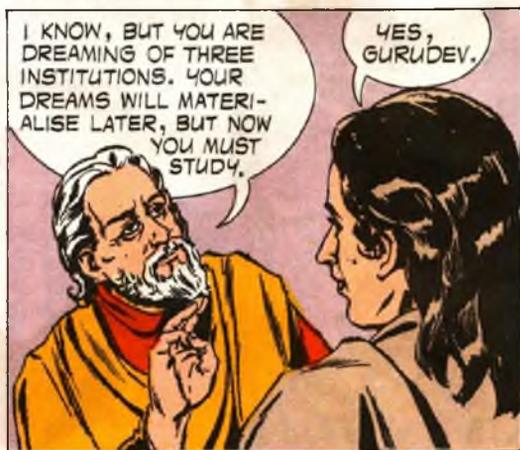
I WILL COME EVERY DAY.



MUKUNDA RETURNED TO CALCUTTA AND, THE FOLLOWING DAY, HE ENROLLED AT THE NEARBY SCOTTISH CHURCH COLLEGE.

* NEAR CALCUTTA

BUT HE SPENT ALL HIS SPARE TIME AT SHRI YUKTESWAR'S ASHRAM AND REGULARLY ATTENDED HIS DISCOURSES.



ONE MORNING, MUKUNDA WAS SUMMONED BY HIS GURU.

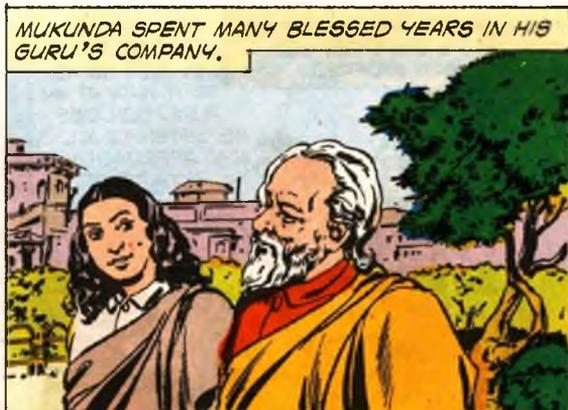
YOUR HEART'S DESIRE SHALL SOON BE FULFILLED!

AT SHRI YUKTESWAR'S TOUCH, MUKUNDA ENTERED THE STATE OF SAMADHI — THE COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE OMNIPRESENT, EVER-NEW BLISS OF GOD.





YOU MUST NOT GET LOST IN ECSTASY; MUCH WORK REMAINS FOR YOU IN THIS WORLD.



MUKUNDA SPENT MANY BLESSED YEARS IN HIS GURU'S COMPANY.

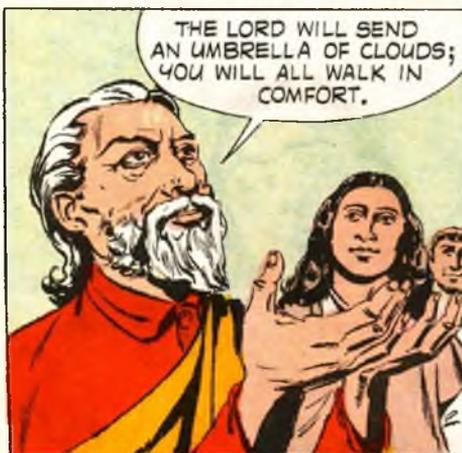
SOME TIME LATER, SHRI YUKTESWAR ARRANGED TO TAKE OUT A RELIGIOUS PROCESSION IN PURI TO CELEBRATE THE SUMMER SOLSTICE.



MUKUNDA, PLEASE LEAD THE DISCIPLES ACROSS THE TOWN AND ALONG THE BEACH.



GURUDEV! HOW CAN WE WALK BARE-FOOT OVER THOSE FIERY SANDS?



THE LORD WILL SEND AN UMBRELLA OF CLOUDS; YOU WILL ALL WALK IN COMFORT.



AS SOON AS THE GROUP LEFT THE ASHRAM, CLOUDS FILLED THE SKY, AS IF BY MAGIC.

LOOK! CLOUDS!

RAIN!

IT'S A MIRACLE!

THE MOMENT THEY RETURNED, THE CLOUDS DISAPPEARED AND THE RAIN STOPPED.

YOU SEE HOW GOD CARES FOR US. JUST AS HE SENT RAIN AT MY PLEA, SO DOES HE LISTEN TO ALL WHO APPROACH HIM WITH TRUST.



WHEN MUKUNDA COMPLETED HIS STUDIES—

MUKUNDA, NOW THAT YOU HAVE GRADUATED, YOU MUST TAKE UP A JOB. THERE IS AN EXECUTIVE POSITION VACANT IN THE RAILWAYS.

BUT, FATHER, I HAVE OTHER PLANS!



MUKUNDA, SUCH A POSITION IS NOT EASY TO COME BY. YOU MUST ACCEPT IT. I INSIST!

LET ME TALK TO GURUDEV.



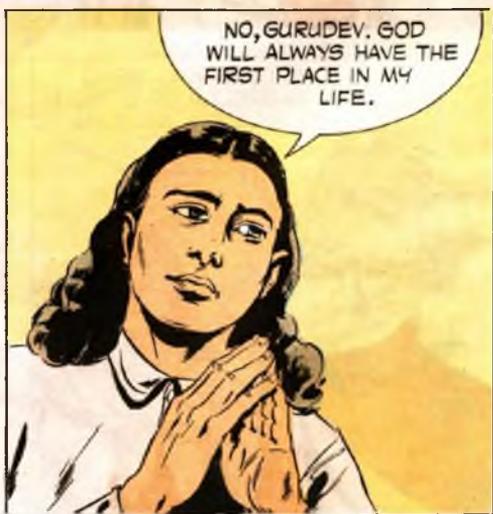
MUKUNDA WENT AT ONCE TO SHRI YUKTESWAR.

GURUDEV, MY FATHER WANTS ME TO TAKE UP A JOB BUT I WANT TO BE A SANNYASI.

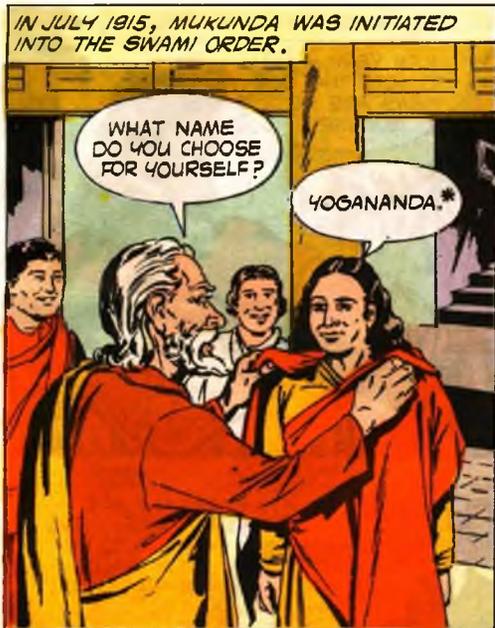
MUKUNDA, A MONK'S LIFE IS VERY HARD. WILL YOU NOT MISS THE COMPANIONSHIP OF A WIFE AND CHILDREN IN YOUR OLD AGE?



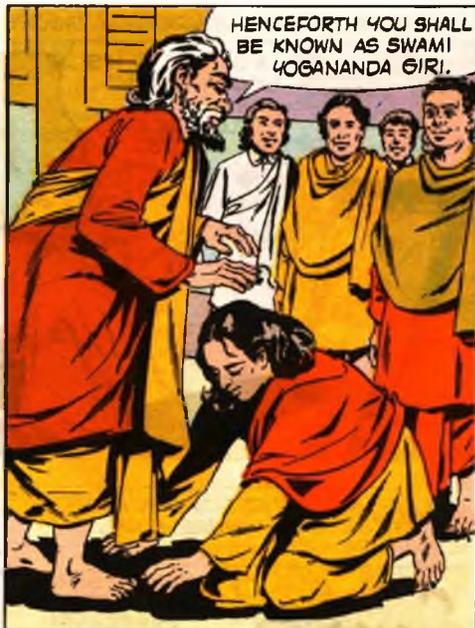
NO, GURUDEV. GOD WILL ALWAYS HAVE THE FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE.



IN JULY 1915, MUKUNDA WAS INITIATED INTO THE SWAMI ORDER.



HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL BE KNOWN AS SWAMI YOGANANDA GIRI.

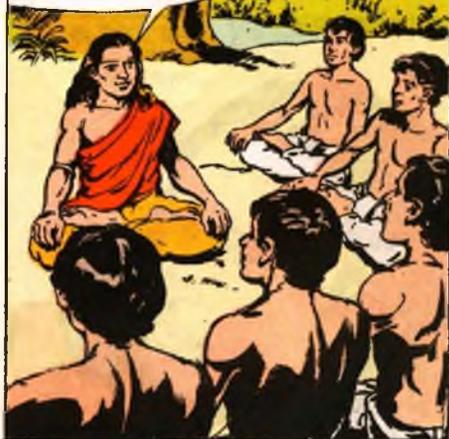


THE CORRECT EDUCATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BODY, MIND AND SOUL HAD ALWAYS BEEN AN IDEAL CLOSE TO SWAMI YOGANANDA'S HEART. IN 1917, HE FOUNDED THE YOGODA SATSANGA SOCIETY AND ESTABLISHED THE BRAHMACHARYA VIDYALAYA, A SCHOOL FOR BOYS AT RANCHI.



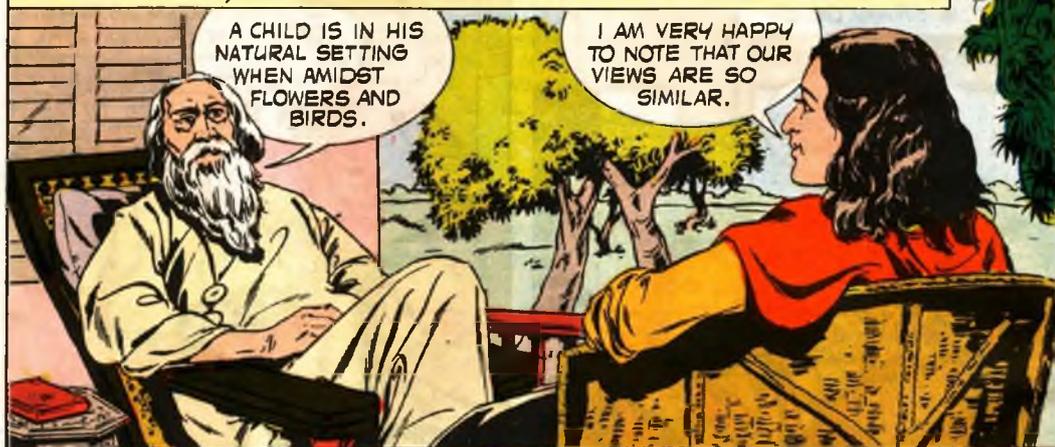
THERE YOGANANDA DEvised A PROGRAMME FOR TEACHING AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND ACADEMIC SUBJECTS, AND INCLUDED YOGIC MEDITATION IN THE COURSE.

THROUGH THE YOGA TECHNIQUE, A PERSON MAY CONSCIOUSLY AND INSTANTLY RECHARGE HIS LIFE-FORCE.

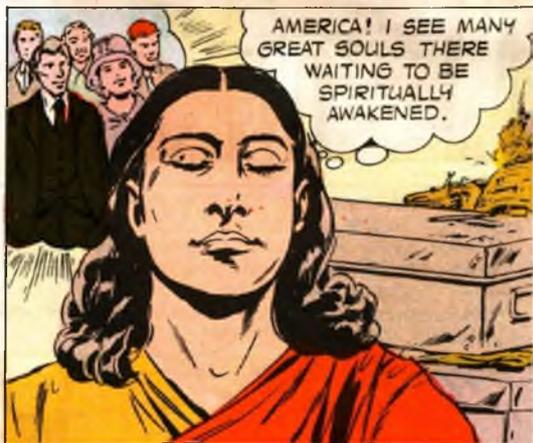


* BLISS (ANAND) THROUGH DIVINE UNION (YOGA)

TWO YEARS LATER, RABINDRANATH TAGORE INVITED HIM TO SHANTINIKETAN.

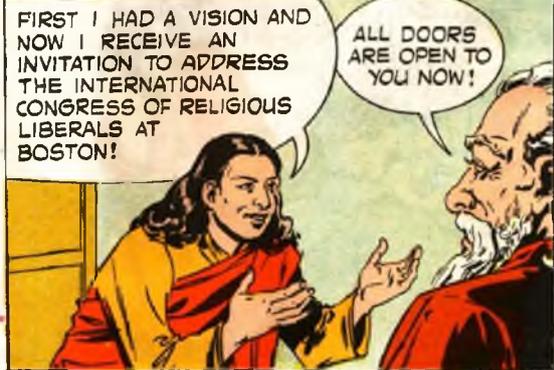


ONE DAY, WHILE MEDITATING IN RANCHI IN THE SECLUSION OF A STORE-ROOM, YOGANANDA HAD A VISION.

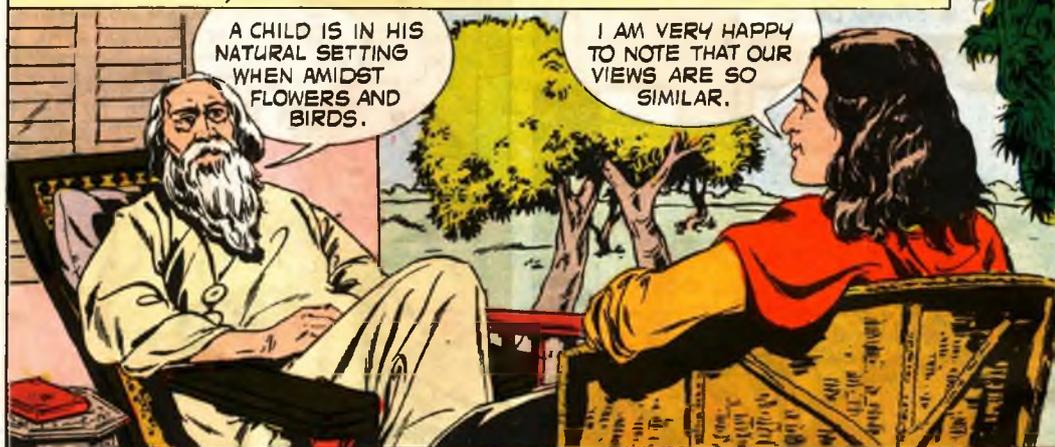


SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, YOGANANDA RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO VISIT AMERICA. HE CONSULTED SHRI YUKTESWAR.

FIRST I HAD A VISION AND NOW I RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RELIGIOUS LIBERALS AT BOSTON!



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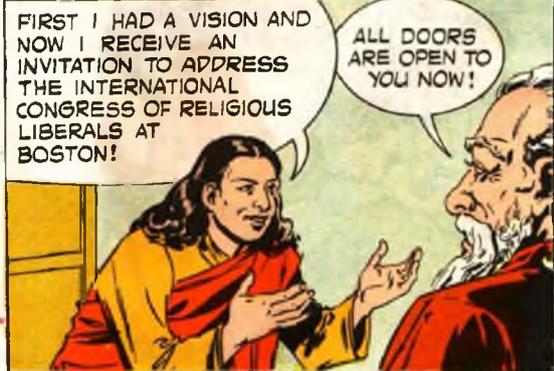


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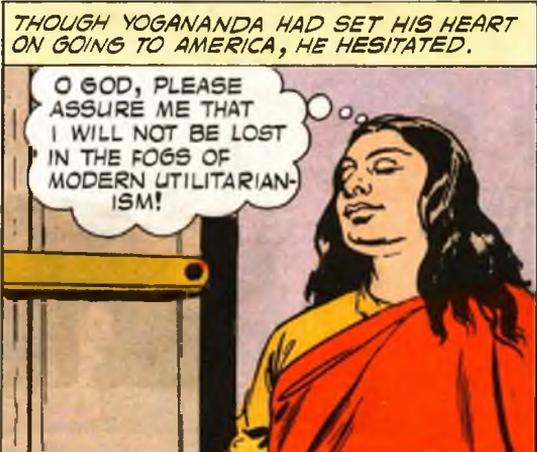
FIRST I HAD A VISION AND NOW I RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO ADDRESS THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RELIGIOUS LIBERALS AT BOSTON!



BUT HIS FATHER DIDN'T WANT HIM TO GO—



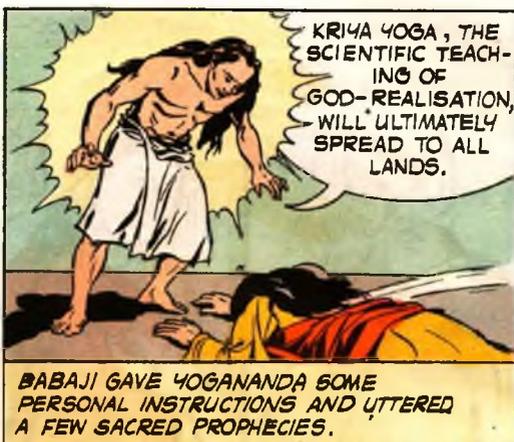
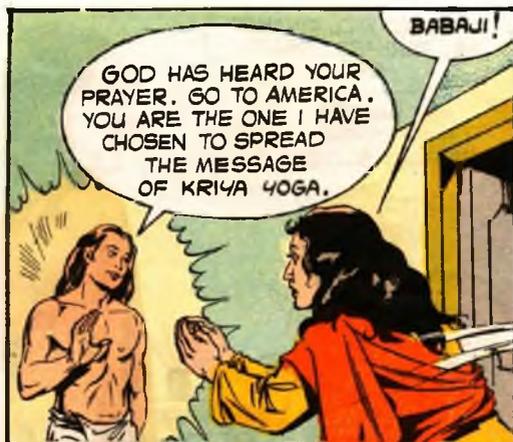
BUT THE NEXT DAY—



SOME HOURS LATER—



* A TECHNIQUE OF MEDITATION WHEREBY THE HIGHEST STATE OF DIVINE REALISATION MAY BE ATTAINED.



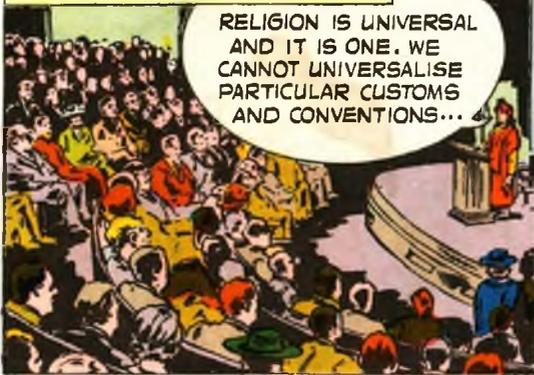
IN AUGUST 1920, SWAMI YOGANANDA SAILED FOR AMERICA ON THE "CITY OF SPARTA".



IN LATE SEPTEMBER 1920, THE SHIP DOCKED NEAR BOSTON. MOST AMERICANS HAD NEVER SEEN A SWAMI BEFORE.



ON OCTOBER 6, 1920, YOGANANDA MADE A SPEECH AT THE RELIGIOUS CONGRESS WHICH CAPTIVATED THE VAST AUDIENCE.



RELIGION IS UNIVERSAL AND IT IS ONE. WE CANNOT UNIVERSALISE PARTICULAR CUSTOMS AND CONVENTIONS...



...BUT THE COMMON ELEMENTS IN RELIGION CAN BE UNIVERSALISED.

HIS VIEWS ON "THE SCIENCE OF RELIGION" WERE SO WELL RECEIVED THAT, FOR FOUR YEARS, HE LECTURED IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES.



GOD IS ONE. THE PATHS TO HIM MAY DIFFER, BUT THE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE OF GOD IS THE SAME FOR ALL.

EVEN THE SINFUL WERE INFLUENCED BY HIS PERSONALITY. ONE DAY —



RAISE YOUR HANDS!

WHAT DO YOU WANT? MONEY? TAKE WHAT I HAVE.

THE SWAMI WENT INTO A STATE OF TRANCE.



HE DOES NOT HATE US EVEN WHEN WE ARE ROBBING HIM!

I, TOO, CAN FEEL HIS LOVE! HE IS GREAT!

SWAMIJI'S LOVE HAD CHANGED THEIR HEARTS.



HIS LOVE WAS EXPERIENCED BY MULTITUDES AND SO YOGANANDA WAS CALLED PREMAVATAR — THE INCARNATION OF LOVE.



THOUGH THOUSANDS THROGGED TO HEAR HIM SPEAK, THE SWAMIJI FELT HE WAS NOT ACCOMPLISHING HIS MISSION.



BELOVED GOD, WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME TO AMERICA?

THEN HE HAD A VISION —



HE UNDERSTOOD FROM THE VISION THAT HE SHOULD GO TO CALIFORNIA.

IN 1925, YOGANANDA ARRIVED IN LOS ANGELES AND BEGAN LECTURING THERE. ONE DAY, WHILE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO ESTABLISH HIS HEADQUARTERS, HE FELT AN INNER DIRECTION. THE PARTY DROVE UP TO THE TOP OF MOUNT WASHINGTON.



THROUGH GOD'S GRACE, YOGANANDA FOUND THAT THE PROPERTY WAS FOR SALE. BUT HE HAD NO MONEY TO PAY FOR IT. THEN UNEXPECTEDLY—

SWAMIJI, ARE YOU NOT GOING TO ESTABLISH A MATH* IN LOS ANGELES?

WE HAVE FOUND THE PERFECT BUILDING, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS TO BUY IT.



I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR HEALING MY HUSBAND. WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS DONATION TO HELP TOWARDS THE PURCHASE?

THE ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS! GOD BLESS YOU!



BUT EVEN ON THE DAY BEFORE THE PAYMENT WAS DUE, HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY.

LORD, IS THIS FAIR? IT WAS YOU WHO SENT ME TO THE WEST!

ALL RIGHT! YOU SHALL RECEIVE HELP!



THE SWAMIJI WENT TOWARDS HIS ROOM. SUDDENLY, A WINDOW BURST OPEN AND A GUST OF WIND HIT HIS FACE. HE TURNED AND HIS EYES FELL UPON THE TELEPHONE.

AH! I'VE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED A STUDENT WHO MIGHT HELP ME!





YES, SWAMIJI, I HAVE UNEXPECTEDLY RECEIVED SOME MONEY. WILL YOU ACCEPT IT?

I WILL, INDEED! PLEASE BE AT THE REAL ESTATE AGENT'S OFFICE AT NOON TOMORROW OR WE MAY LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THAT PROPERTY.

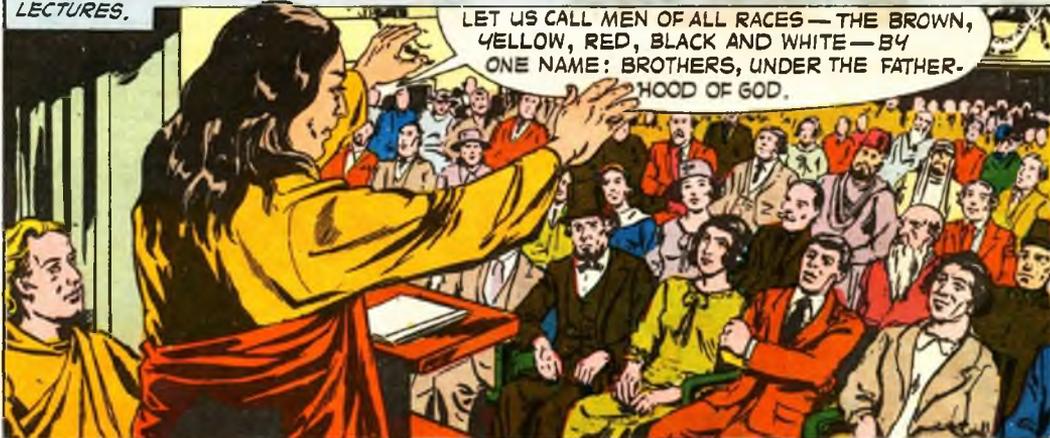


I HAVE THE MONEY.

BUT I AM OFFERING YOU MORE MONEY.

I AM SORRY. SWAMI YOGANANDA MADE THE FIRST BID.

SWAMI YOGANANDA ESTABLISHED HIS AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS ON MOUNT WASHINGTON AND HE CALLED HIS ORGANISATION "SELF-REALISATION FELLOWSHIP." AGAIN HE BEGAN HIS LECTURES.



LET US CALL MEN OF ALL RACES — THE BROWN, YELLOW, RED, BLACK AND WHITE — BY ONE NAME: BROTHERS, UNDER THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

YOGANANDA'S GURU'S PROPHECY HAD COME TRUE. INTEREST IN HIS TEACHING WAS GROWING.



I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED THAT AT A PUBLIC MEETING IN AMERICA THE AUDIENCE COULD SING THE NAME OF THE LORD FOR THREE HOURS!

MANY WERE BLESSED AND MIRACULOUSLY HEALED OF CHRONIC DISEASES BY THE SWAMIJI. ONCE IN SALT LAKE CITY —



WHAT IS YOUR NAME? WHY ARE YOU SO WEAK?

I AM FAYE WRIGHT. FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS I HAVE BEEN SUFFERING FROM A BLOOD DISEASE.



A FEW WEEKS LATER, CURED OF HER DREADFUL DISEASE, FAYE WRIGHT ENTERED THE GURU'S ASHRAM AT LOS ANGELES. SHE WAS LATER KNOWN AS SHRI DAYA MATA, SANGHA MATA OF YOGODA SATSANGA SOCIETY AND SELF-REALISATION FELLOWSHIP.

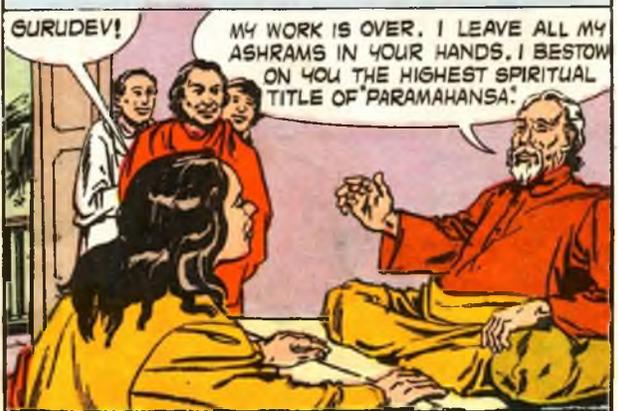
YOGANANDA'S AIM WAS TO TEACH SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES FOR ATTAINING EXPERIENCE OF GOD. FROM 1920 TO 1930, THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS LEARNT YOGA FROM HIM.



ONE DAY IN 1935, WHILE IN MEDITATION, SHRI YOGANANDA HEARD THE VOICE OF SHRI YUKTESWAR.

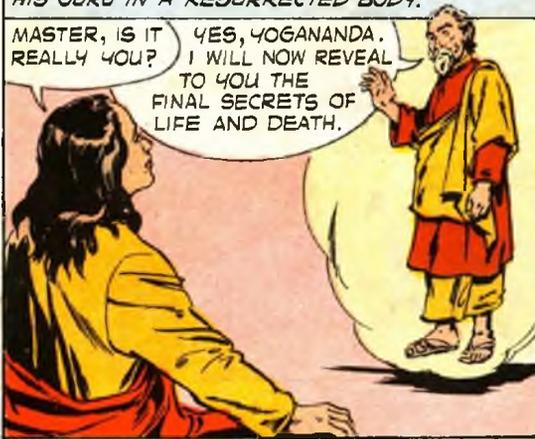


YOGANANDA HASTENED TO INDIA TO MEET HIS GURU.



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, SHRI YUKTESWAR ENTERED MAHASAMADHI. THREE MONTHS LATER, YOGANANDA WAS BLESSED TO BEHOLD HIS GURU IN A RESURRECTED BODY.

MASTER, IS IT REALLY YOU?
 YES, YOGANANDA. I WILL NOW REVEAL TO YOU THE FINAL SECRETS OF LIFE AND DEATH.



IN OCTOBER 1936, PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA RETURNED TO AMERICA. IN HIS NEW ASHRAM AT ENCINITAS, A GIFT FROM RAJARSI JANAKANANDA*, HE WROTE AN INTERPRETATION OF THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST.

IN ESSENCE THE NEW TESTAMENT ADVOCATES THE SAME YOGA TEACHINGS AS THOSE OF BHAGAVAN KRISHNA IN THE BHAGAVAD-GITA.

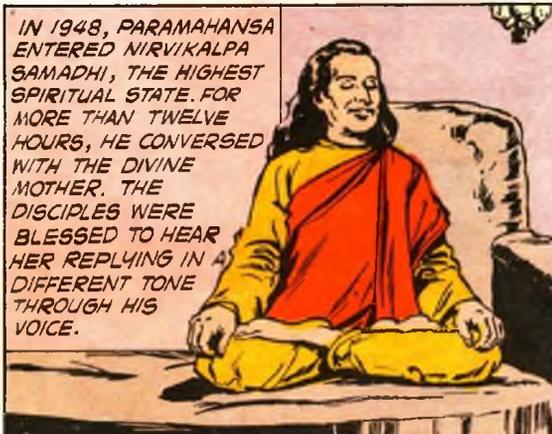


FROM A MASS OF LIGHT, CHRIST APPEARED BEFORE HIM.

THOU DOST DRINK FROM THE SAME CUP



IN 1948, PARAMAHANSA ENTERED NIRVIKALPA SAMADHI, THE HIGHEST SPIRITUAL STATE. FOR MORE THAN TWELVE HOURS, HE CONVERSED WITH THE DIVINE MOTHER. THE DISCIPLES WERE BLESSED TO HEAR HER REPLYING IN A DIFFERENT TONE THROUGH HIS VOICE.



PARAMAHANSA KNEW THAT LITTLE TIME WAS LEFT TO HIM TO COMPLETE HIS WRITINGS. HE DICTATED AN INTERPRETATION OF THE BHAGAVAD-GITA.

NO MATTER HOW BAD A MAN IS, HE WILL BE FORGIVEN IF HE LOVES GOD DEEPLY ENOUGH.



ON 7TH MARCH 1952, PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA WAS INVITED TO SPEAK AT A BANQUET TO HONOUR SHRI B.R. SEN, THE FIRST INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO AMERICA. EARLIER THAT DAY—

DAYA MATA, IN A FEW HOURS I WILL BE GONE FROM THE EARTH.

GURUJI, HOW SHALL WE CARRY ON WITHOUT YOU?



ONLY LOVE CAN TAKE MY PLACE.



AT THE BANQUET, AS HE HAD OFTEN PREDICTED, YOGANANDA'S LAST WORDS WERE OF GOD AND INDIA.

...WHERE GANGA... WOODS... HIMALAYAN CAVES... AND MEN DREAM GOD... I AM HALLOWED; MY BODY TOUCHED THAT GOD.



AFTER CONCLUDING HIS SPEECH, A BEATIFIC SMILE LIT HIS FACE AND HE ENTERED MAHASAMADHI — A GREAT YOGI'S FINAL CONSCIOUS EXIT FROM THE BODY AT DEATH.



"MY BODY SHALL PASS, BUT MY WORK SHALL GO ON."

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SAYINGS OF SRI SRI PARAMAHANSA YOGANANDA

- God is love; His plan for creation can be rooted only in love. Does not that simple thought, rather than erudite reasonings, offer solace to the human heart? Every saint who has penetrated to the core of Reality has testified that a divine universal plan exists and that it is beautiful and full of joy.
- There is so much to know! So much to see within! The answer to every problem comes to you straight from the Infinite. The Truths that I perceive within by meditation reveal the truth that science is discovering by other methods.
- The happiness that God gives is greater than anything the world can offer. Divine joy is enduring, eternal. When everything else melts away, that joy remains.
- When you know God, there is no more sorrow. All those you loved and lost in death are with you again in the Eternal Life. You don't know whom to consider your "own" any more, because everyone is yours.
- Knowledge prepares the way to love. You cannot love that which you do not know. Knowledge of God must therefore precede love for Him... When you know God, you will love Him; and when you love Him, you will surrender yourself to Him.