

# Pictorial Stories For Children



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# CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU

TAMIL ORIGINAL: Jana

English: Swami Raghaveshananda

Art: Maniam Selvam

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu was born in Navadweep, in West Bengal in the year 1486 to Jagannatha Misra and Sachi Devi. The child was chubby and beautiful.

The child had a Divine appearance and attracted every one. On the tenth day naming ceremony took place.



We shall name him Gaurahari, Gauranga.

I shall call him as Nimai and Viswambhara.

Nilambar Chakravarti, a famous astrologer was called to read the boy's horoscope.



Sir, he is our tenth child. Earlier, nine daughters and one son have been born to us. But none of the daughters survived. Please predict correctly.

The child has many Divine qualities and he is bound to become very famous.

The child was devoted to God from birth. It had great attraction for Lord Hari's name



Gauranga's brother Viswarup, renounced the world and left home very young to become a Sannyasin.



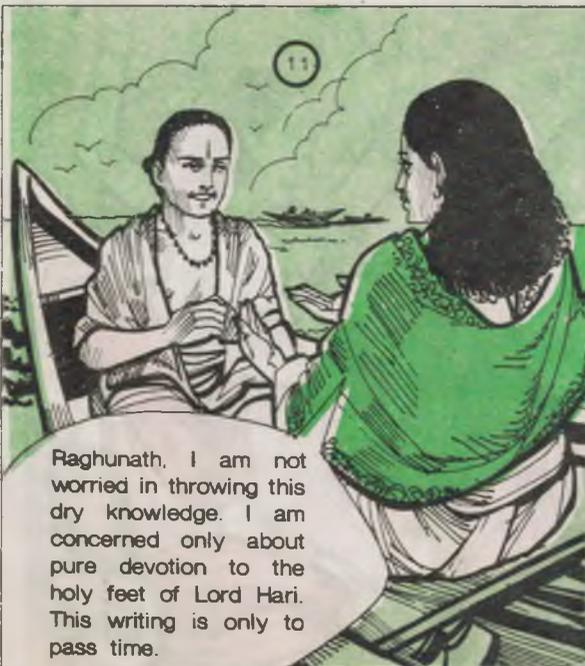
Nimai now turned his mind towards studies. He was invested with the sacred thread. He became a great scholar in a short time.



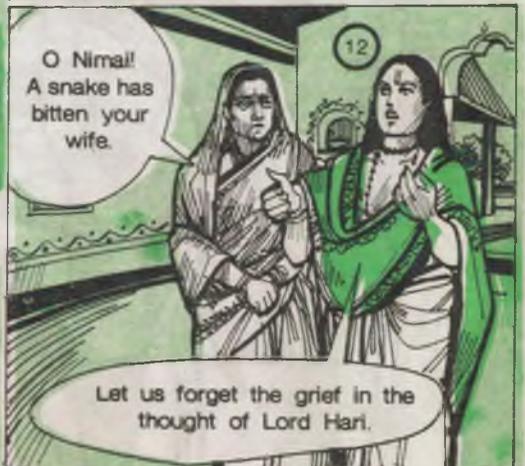
Nimai was married to Lakshmi, daughter of Mailabhacharya when he was 14 years old. By that time the prodigious Nimai had become a great scholar in Sanskrit, logic and grammar. He had a large income through teaching students.



Raghunath was one of his close boy friends. He was also a great scholar. He was writing a book on Logic. Chaitanya was also writing a book on the same subject. One day when they were going on a boat, Chaitanya read his book to him.

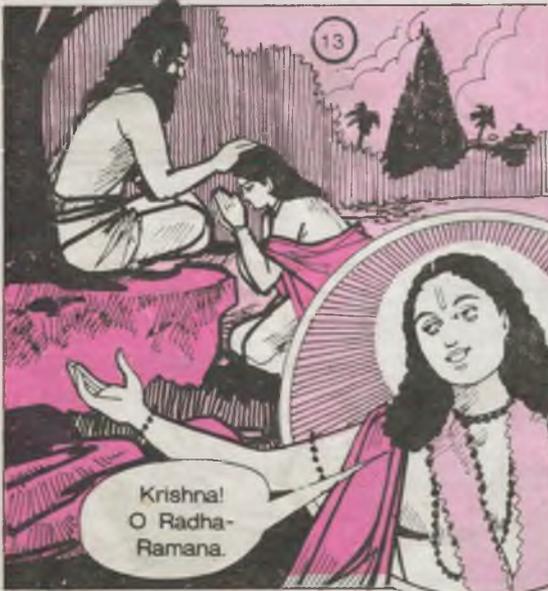


Chaitanya Mahaprabhu engaged himself day and night in chanting Lord Hari's name. His devotional fervour attracted every one. There was an upsurge of devotion in the minds of devotees wherever he went. Once after visiting several places, he was returning home.



When he visited Gaya, he took initiation from a saint, Eswarapuri. Then onwards, he spent all his time in singing the Lord's name. His one thought was Lord Krishna.

In addition to the school lessons, he began teaching devotion to the students.



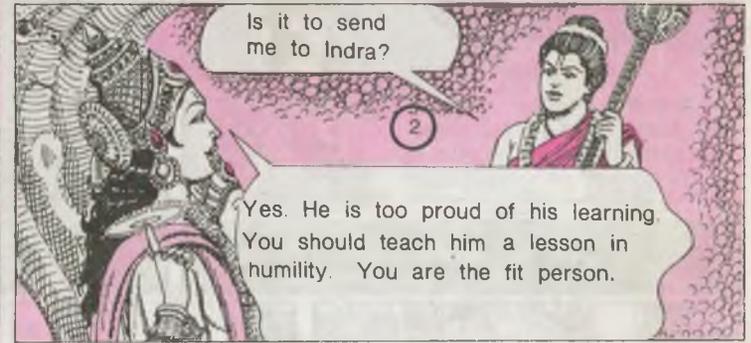
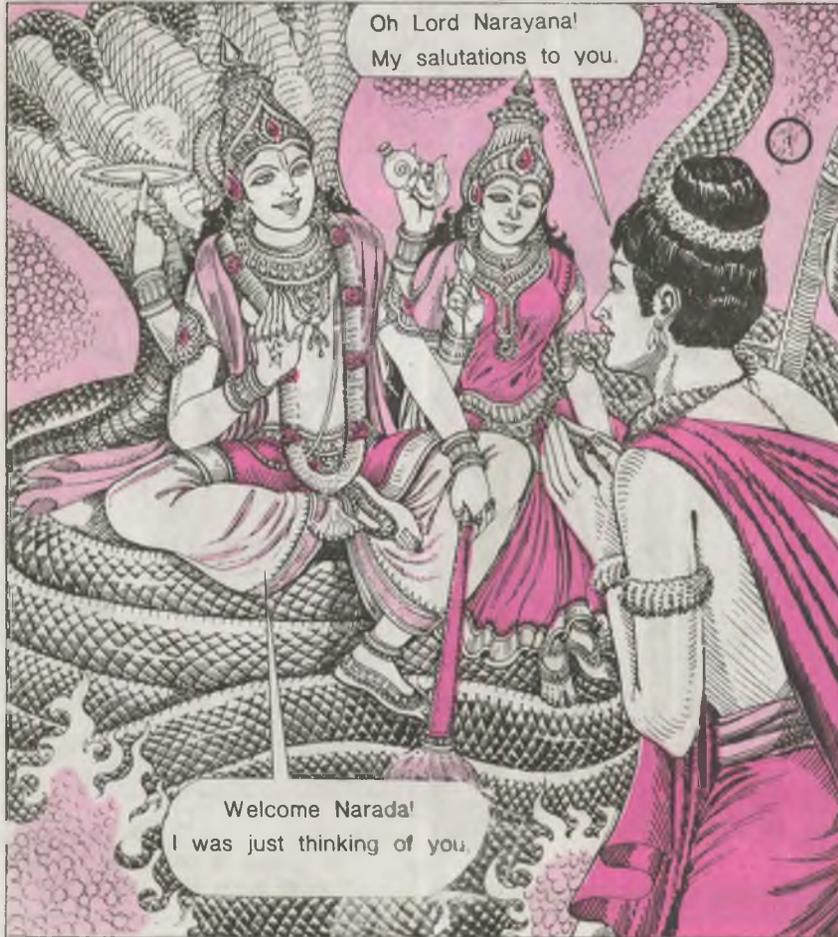
Lord Krishna's name and the love of the Lord spread far and wide beyond Navadweep by the efforts of Chaitanya. He was looked upon as an incarnation of God



# KNOWLEDGE BRINGS HUMILITY

Tamil: Jana  
Art: Shankar  
English: Raghaveshananda

Once Lord Narayana and Lakshmi were resting in Vaikuntha. Maharishi Narada came there.



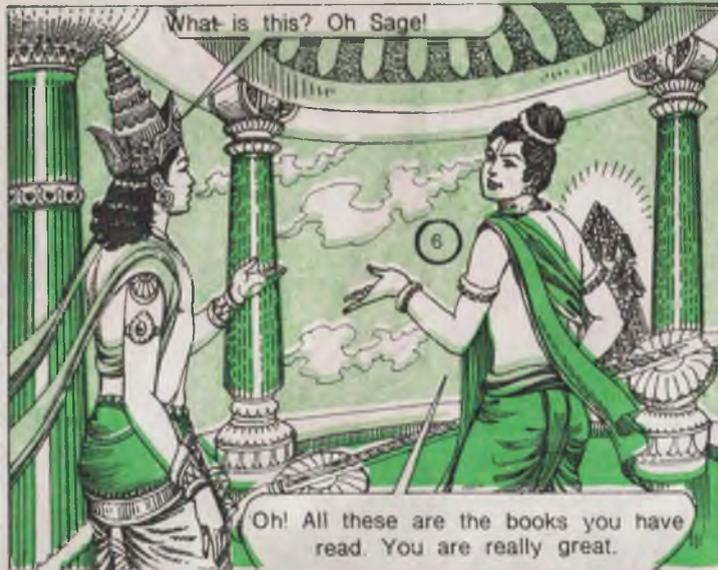
On seeing Narada, Indra hurried to welcome him.



Just when they were talking, there appeared a hillock of manuscripts.



Indra was surprised to see that hillock



Hearing Narada's words  
Indra thought in pride...



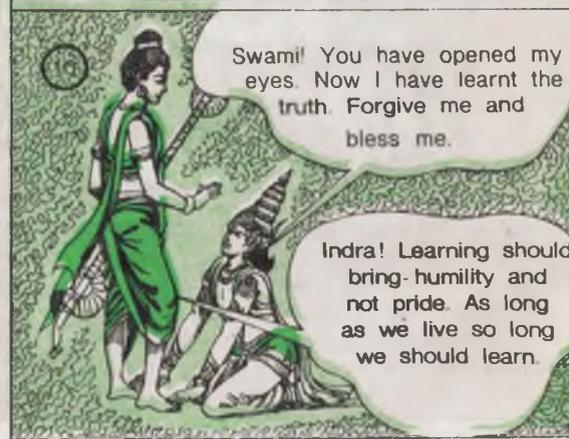
In a few minutes there appeared one more range of high mountains.



These are the books which you have not read. Knowledge is infinite. What you know is only a handful. There still remains much to learn as big as a mountain.



Hearing Narada's words, Indra's eyes were opened. He fell at his feet.



# JAYA AND VIJAYA

Tamil Original: Murali

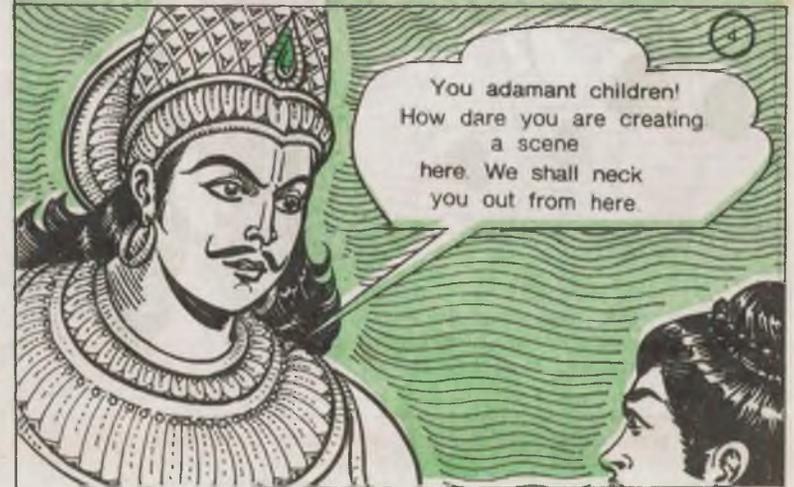
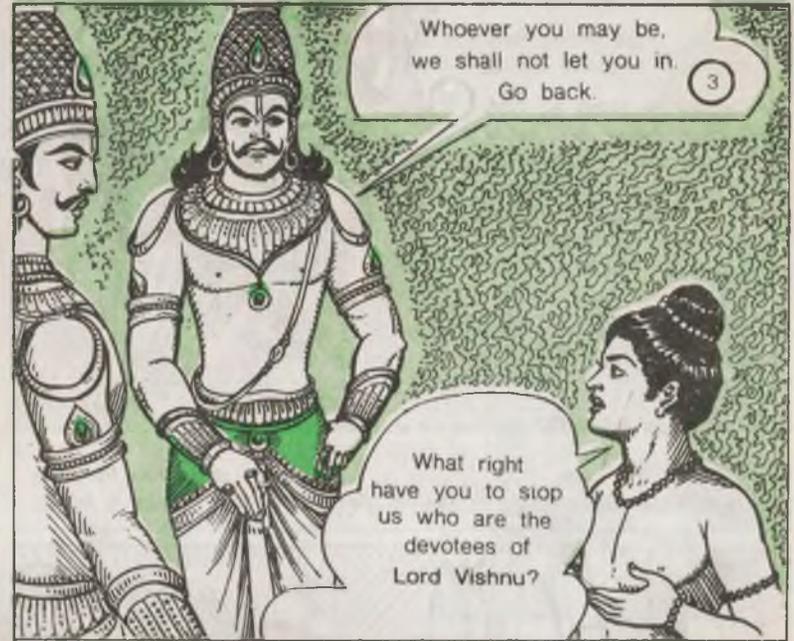
English: Swami Raghaveshananda

Art: Sankar

Brahma created in the very beginning four children Sanaka, Sanandana, Sanatana, and Sanathkumara. He blessed them to live as eternal boys. They had miraculous powers. They could travel anywhere at will. One day they approached their father and said...



They crossed six gates of Vaikuntha and stood at the seventh gate. The guards there, Jaya and Vijaya, did not allow them to get in.



The insult was too much. The sages got annoyed with them

You are arrogant fellows. You don't deserve to be in this sacred place.

5

We curse that you take birth in Bhuloka as Asuras

The whole of Vaikuntha trembled. Jaya and Vijaya understood their mistake and fell at the feet of the Sages and craved their pardon.

O Great Sages!  
Be compassionate!  
We committed a blunder.  
Let us not be cursed.

6

Just then, Lord Vishnu came there with his consort.

O Lord! We have been blessed by your vision. Fortunate are we. Bless us that we shall have pure devotion to your feet.

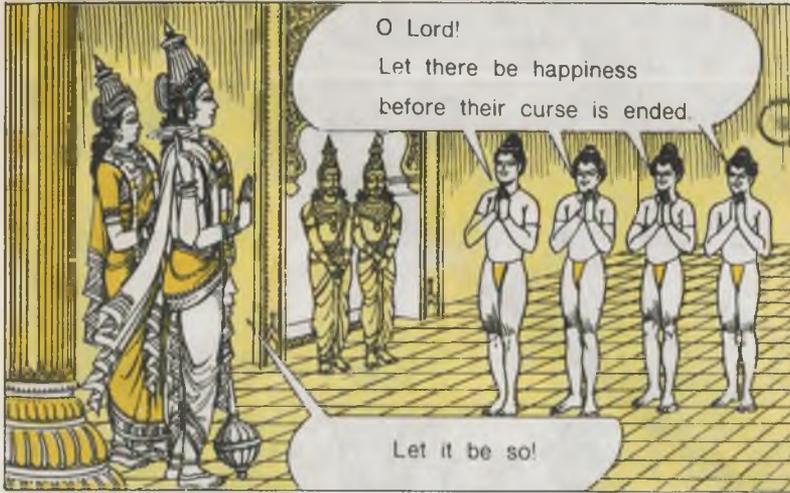
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Jaya & Vijaya prayed to Lord Vishnu to forgive their folly and release from the curse.

Your behaviour is unparadonable Never before had these divine boys cursed anybody Their curse must take effect May you be born on earth

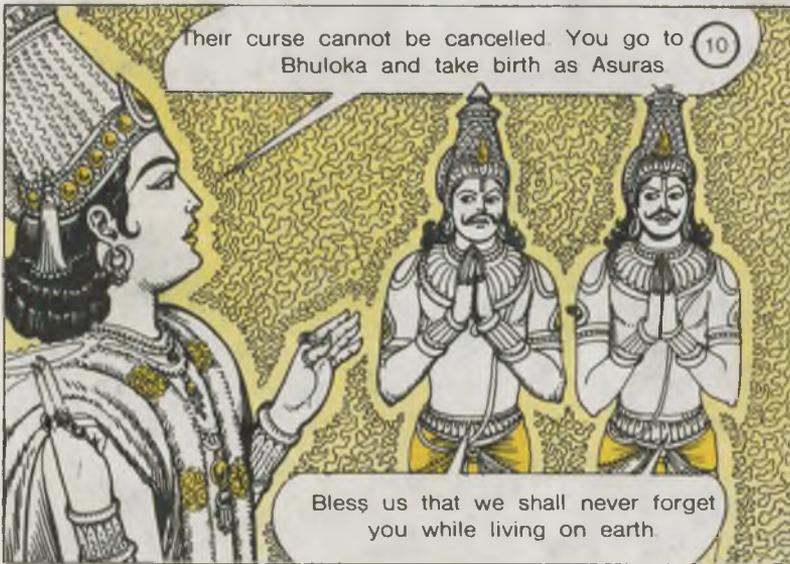
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The sages felt pity. Just before returning to their abode...



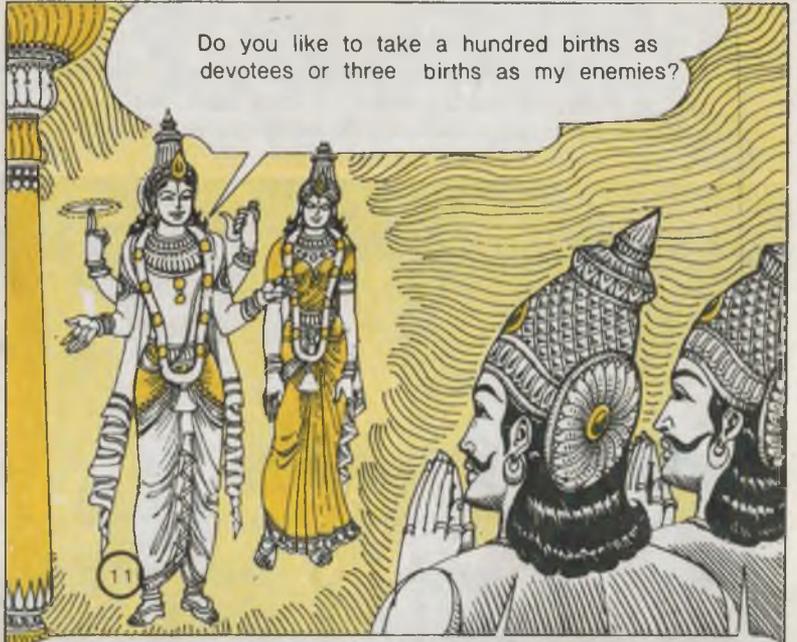
O Lord!  
Let there be happiness  
before their curse is ended

Let it be so!



Their curse cannot be cancelled. You go to Bhuloka and take birth as Asuras 10

Bless us that we shall never forget  
you while living on earth.



Do you like to take a hundred births as devotees or three births as my enemies?

11

We like to come back soon. We shall choose three births only. And we want to be killed by you.



Alright!



In the first round, they were born as Hiranyaksha and Hiranyakasipu; in the second as Kumbhakarna and Ravana and in the last they were born as Sisupala and Dantavakra. They were killed by the hands of Lord Vishnu in the forms of

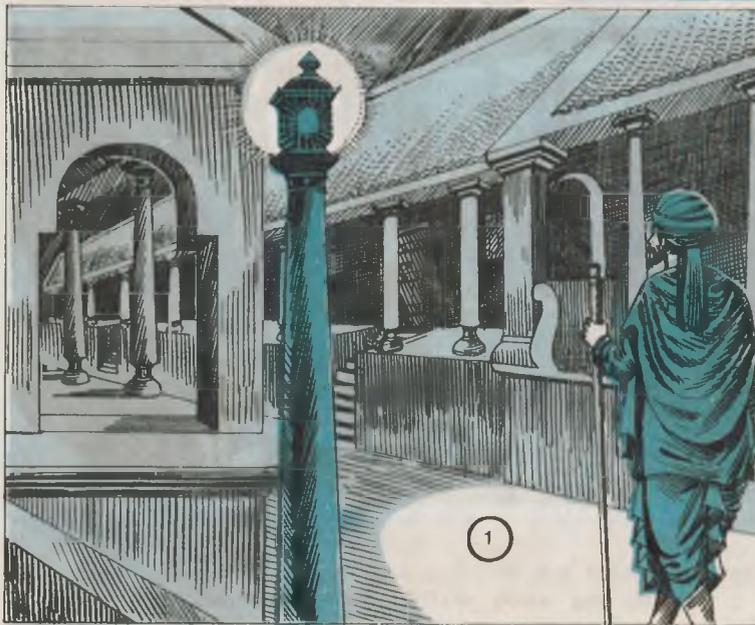
Varaha, Narasimha, Rama and Krishna. The curse having been fulfilled they went back to Vaikuntha and continued at their posts as Jaya and Vijaya with great humility.

## THE KING WITH THE GOLDEN HAND

Tamil Story: Raman  
Art: Shankar  
English: Raghaveshananda

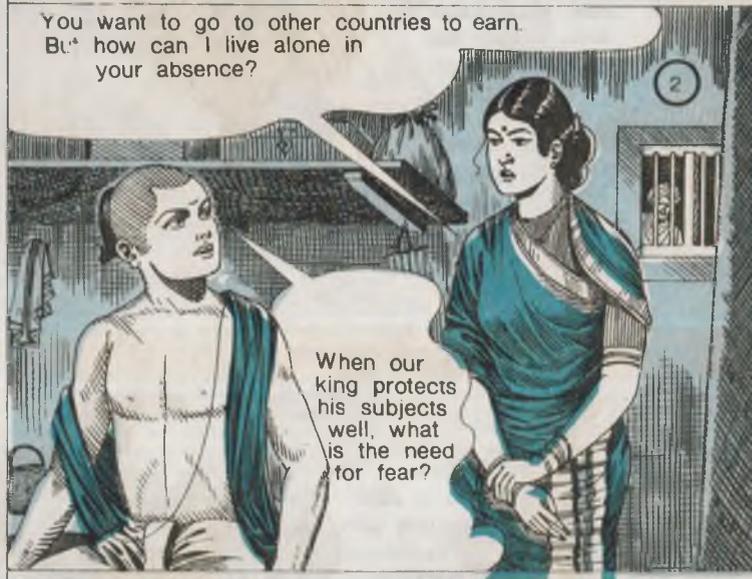
Once upon a time Madurai was ruled by a great king. He was familiarly known as the King with the Golden Hand. He got that name in an interesting manner.

Usually, to protect his subjects, he used to go in disguise during nights.

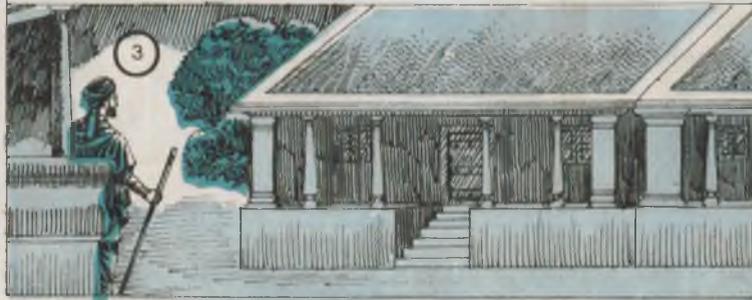


One night while going on his usual rounds, he overheard the conversation between a Brahmin and his wife.

You want to go to other countries to earn. But how can I live alone in your absence?



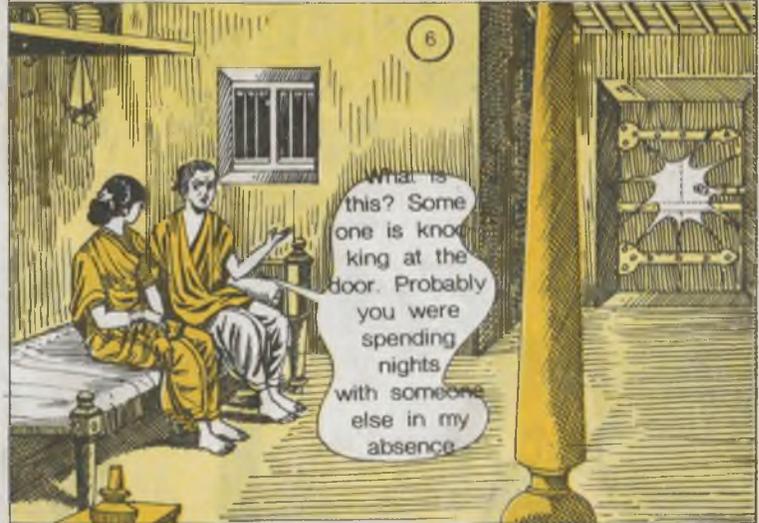
The very next day the Brahmin Kiranthalai went on a tour. The king kept vigil outside his house every night.



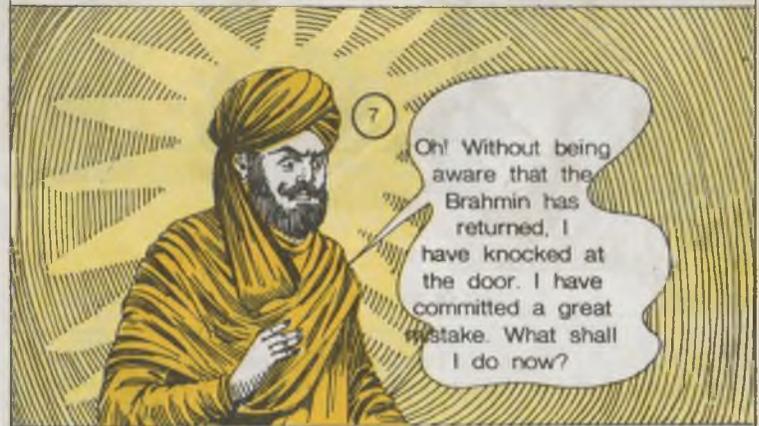
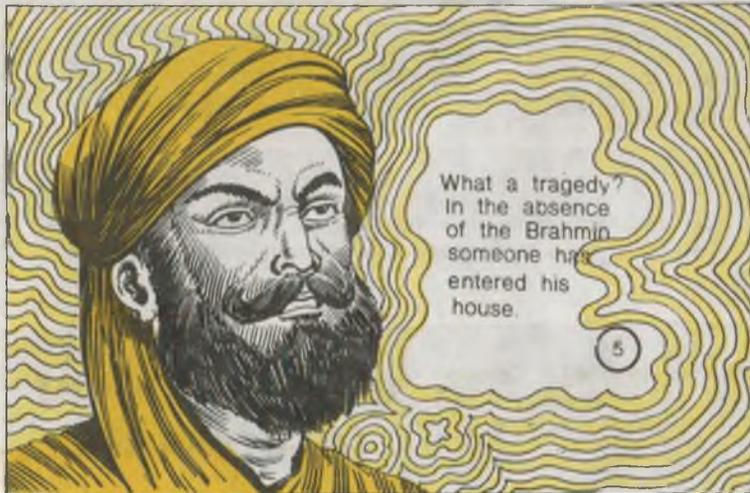
Some days passed. Kiranthal returned home. But the king was not aware of it. That night Kiranthal was conversing with his wife.



To know the truth the king knocked at the door loudly. He overheard a conversation.



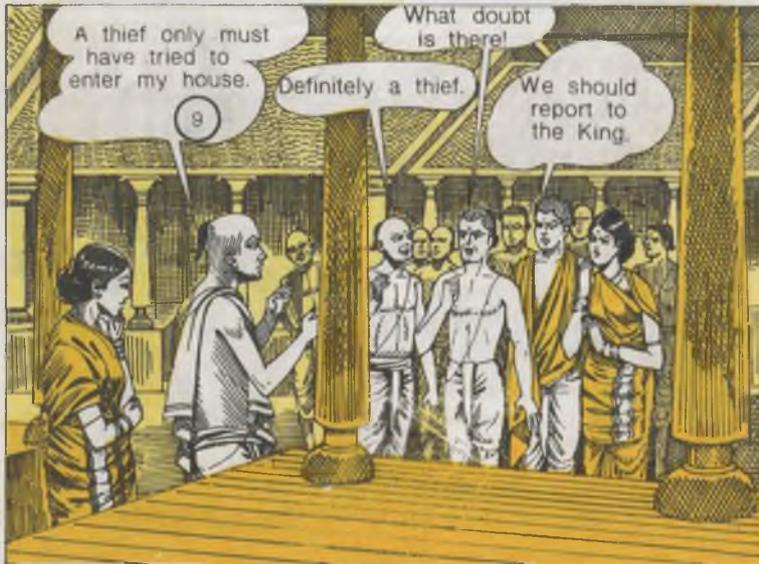
The king was shocked to hear it.



To avoid an embarrassing situation, he knocked at the doors of several other houses in the street and went away.



But people got agitated. A crowd gathered in the street.



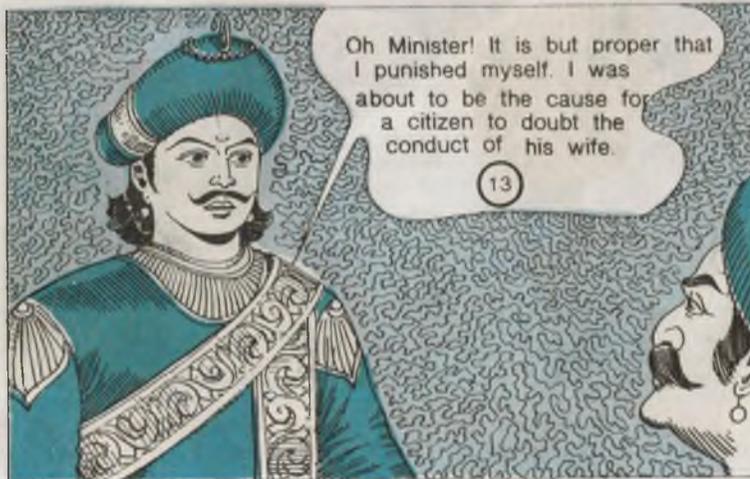
The next day, at the court of the King...



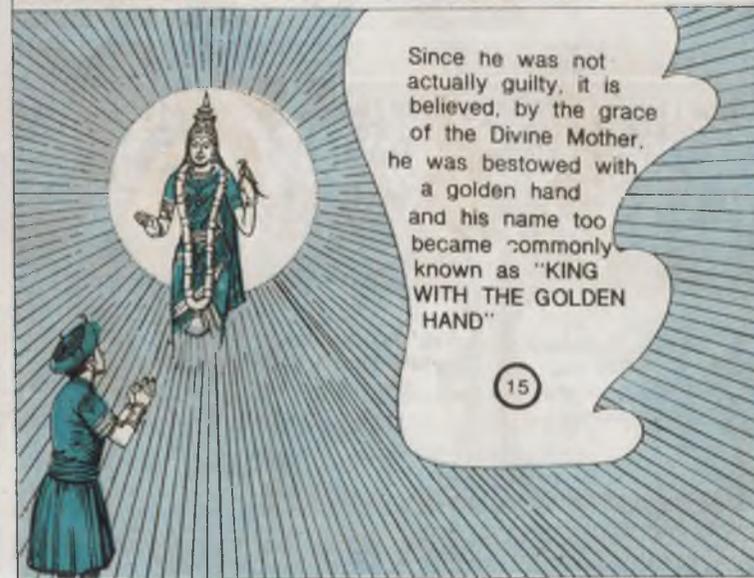
Immediately the king cut off his right hand with a sword.



All in the court were stunned by the unexpected action of the king. The king then explained the reason for his action.



The doctors fitted the king with a golden hand.



# PARASURAMA'S VOW

Story R V English Raghaveshananda Art Shankar

Parasurama was born to the great sage, Jamadagni and Renuka Devi. He attained spiritual powers and proficiency in archery even at a young age. He was regarded as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Everyday Renuka used to go and bathe in a nearby river. She was so pure in heart, she would by her spiritual power mould a pot from the sand and carry water home in that pot.



One day while she was bathing in the river a Gandharva by name Chitraratha flitted past along the sky above. She saw his reflection in the water.



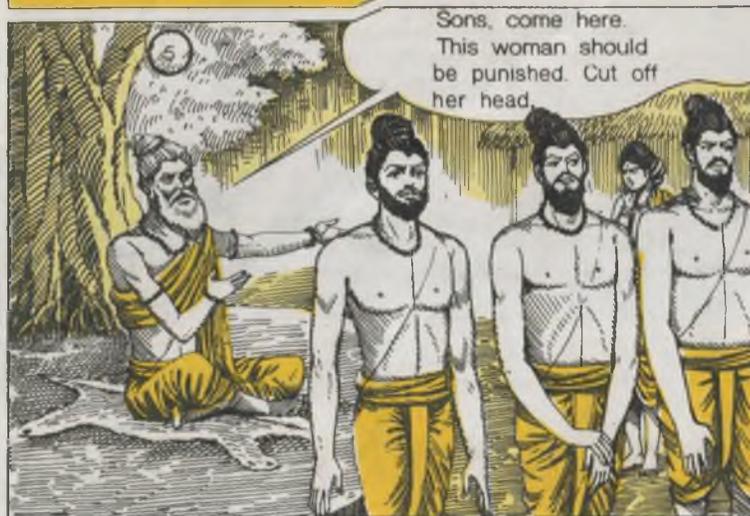
Even a simple thought as that, stained her purity. That day the sand pot could not be made.



Seeing Renuka returning empty-handed Jamadagni understood by his spiritual power what happened. He became furious.



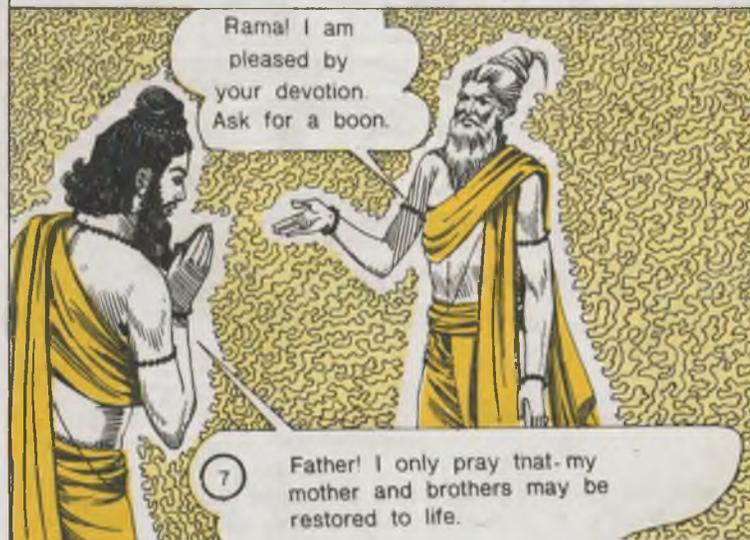
At that time Parasurama was not in the hermitage. The other sons were terror-stricken by the anger of their father.



But none of the sons dared to kill the mother. Shortly Parasurama returned from the forest.



In obedience to his father's command Parasurama beheaded his mother as well as his brothers with his axe.



Jamadagni agreed and revived his wife and his sons.



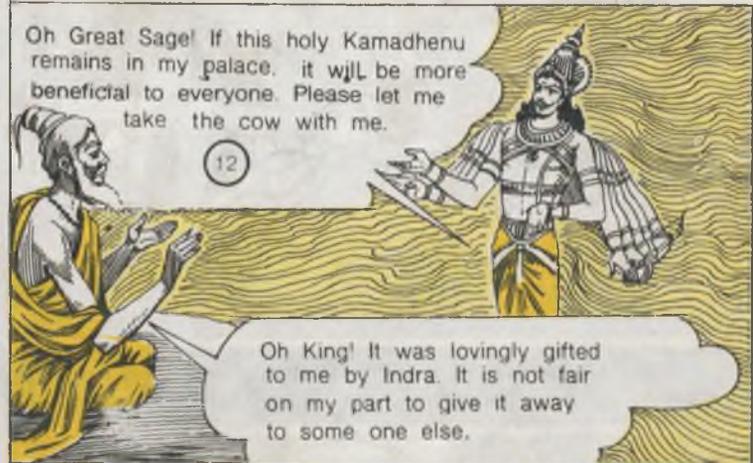
One day the great King Kartavirya, came to the hermitage of Jamadagni with his army.



Jamadagni had a cow called Kamadhenu gifted to him by Indra.



Kamadhenu immediately spread before their astonished eyes a grand dinner. The king and his retinue were supremely pleased.



That night when everyone was asleep, Karthavirya carried away the cow by stealth.

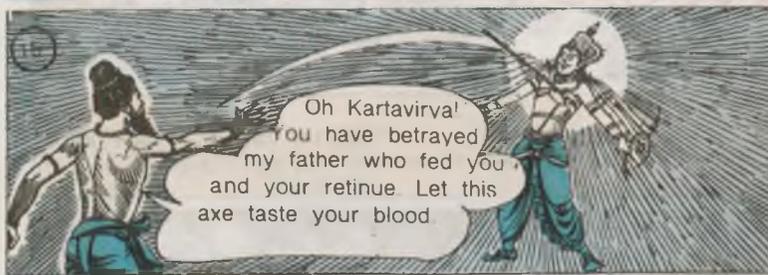


At that time Parasurama was engaged in severe austerities. Pleased by his penance Lord Shiva gave him a wonderful axe. Later he returned to the Ashram. There he heard about Kartavirya.



Is it so? I shall cut him down with this axe and bring back Kamadhenu.

He reached the gates of Kartavirya's palace. He shouted loudly Kartavirya's name and challenged him to battle.



Oh Kartavirya! You have betrayed my father who fed you and your retinue. Let this axe taste your blood.

Enraged by the death of Kartavirya, his sons came to Jamadagni's ashram when Parasurama was away. They took revenge by killing Jamadagni. On his return Parasurama was aghast to see the fate of his father.



I shall destroy the whole Kshatriya race.

He killed not only Kartavirya's lineage but went all over the world twentyone rounds and killed all the Kshatriyas.



After destroying all the arrogant kings, he decided to gift all his spiritual powers to Sri Rama and to retire to Mahendra hills for penance.



Oh! Rama! Let all my spiritual power enter your body. It will do lot of good to the world.

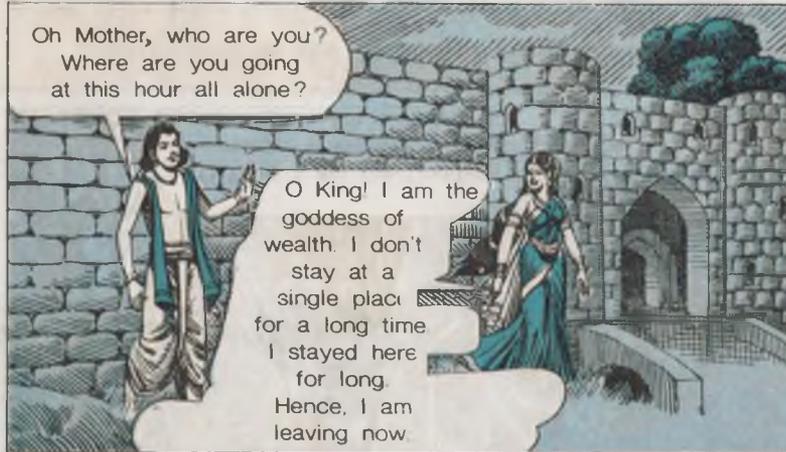
# GREATNESS OF TRUTH

Tamil Original A Jyothi

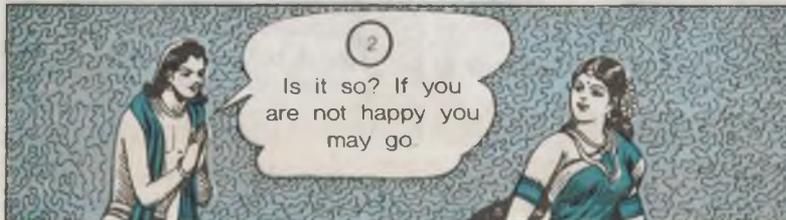
English Raghaveshananda Art Shankar

King Aparajitha was a great King. He loved his subjects dearly. All were happy and joyous under his care. The country was prosperous under him. One day, he saw a beautiful girl when he went for bathing.

Oh Mother, who are you?  
Where are you going  
at this hour all alone?



2  
Is it so? If you  
are not happy you  
may go.



After some time, another girl was passing along.

O Mother!  
Where are  
you going?

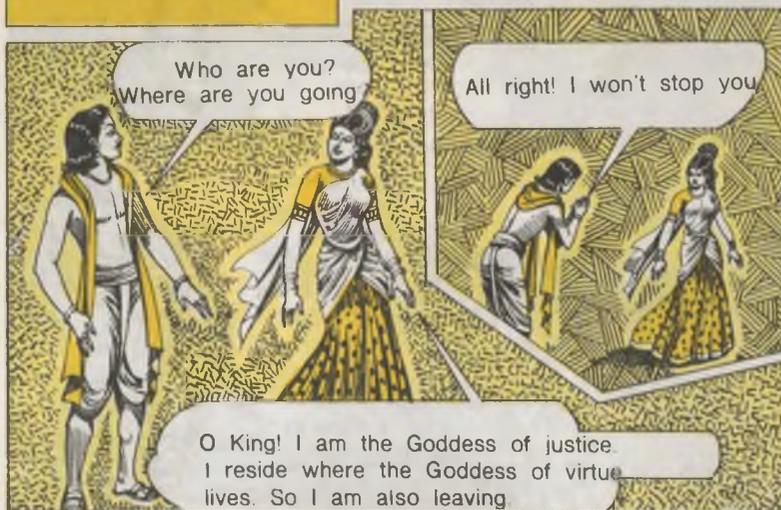


As you wish.  
You may go.

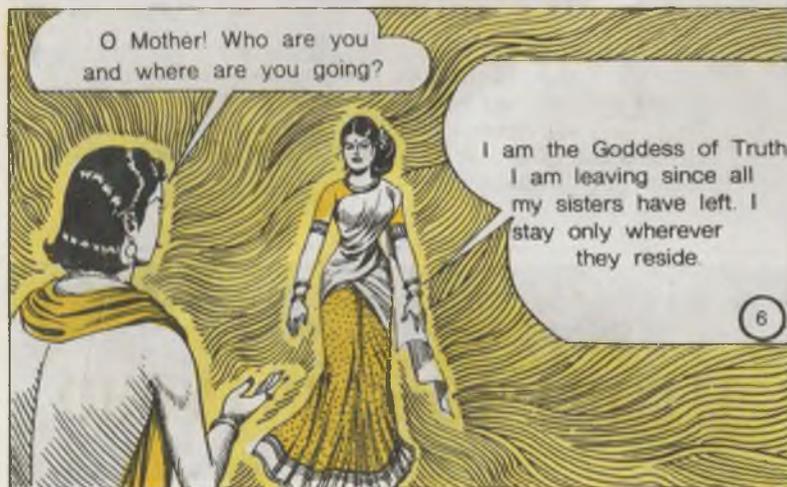


After sometime, another woman came there

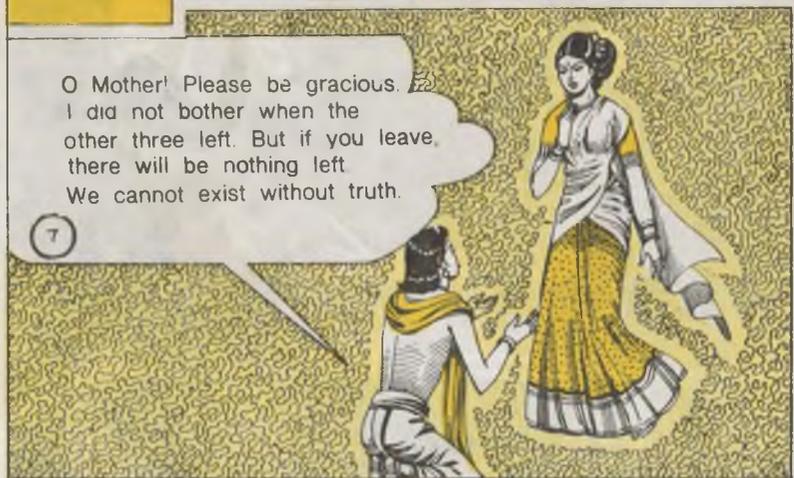
5



After sometime, he saw yet another woman about to leave.



The King became very sad. He instantly  
fell at her feet and said.



The Goddess of Truth was moved by the words of the King



Since, Truth stayed back, the goddess of justice too returned.



After sometime, the goddess of virtue also returned



A little later, the Goddess of wealth too returned.



The happy King prostrated in front of them.



# SELF SURRENDER

Tamil: N. Kumara Raja  
 Art: Chellam  
 English: Raghaveshananda

Sri Krishna once visited the Pandavas in the forest. On seeing him, Kunti shed tears and said...

How long, oh Krishna, are we to suffer in this forest?

Don't worry, mother. Good days are ahead.



Brother! Let the good days come in time. But now have a bath to relieve your fatigue. Let me prepare hot water for you.

That is fine. I need hot water to bathe.



Here is the dry wood. Light the fire.

I shall do it in no time.



## Outside the Ashram...

Arjuna! How is forest life?

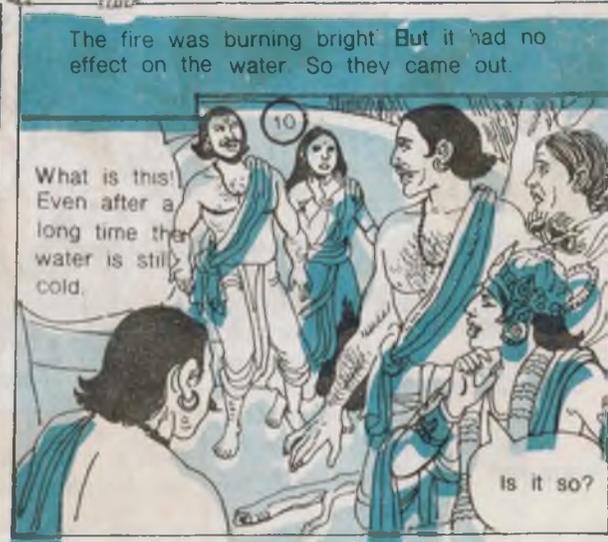
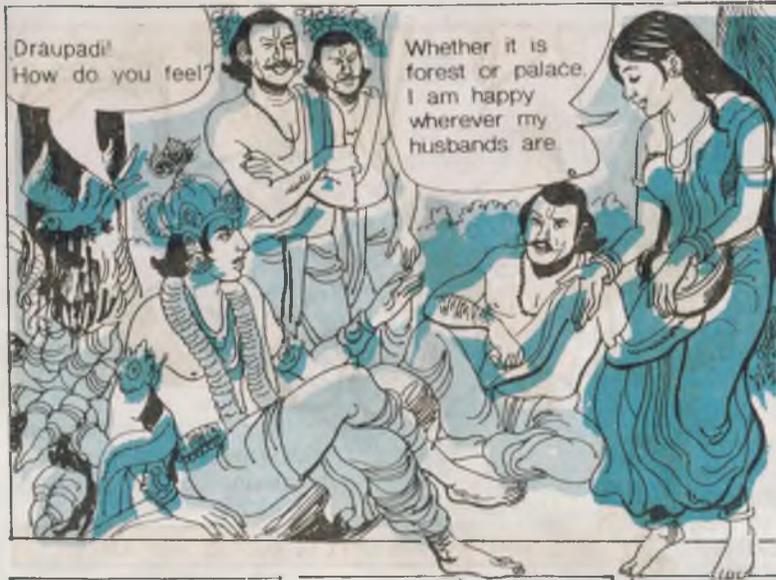
As long as you care for us, what worry do we have? We are better off here than in the palace.

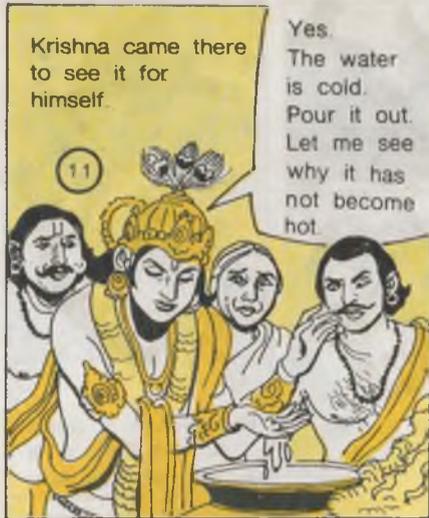


Yudhishtira! Did you hear him? He says he is happier here.

What is wrong? Nothing can equal nature's beauty.



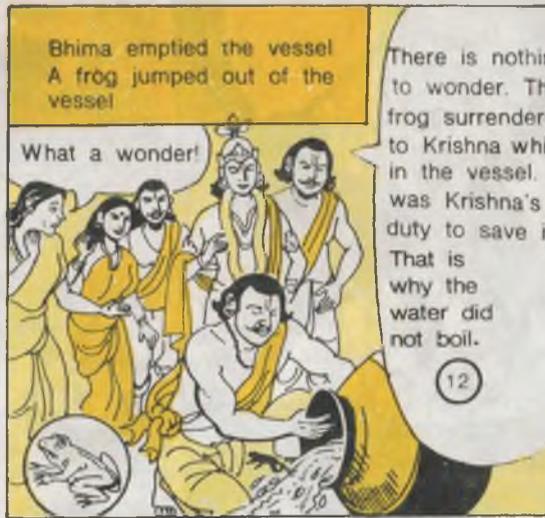




Krishna came there to see it for himself.

11

Yes. The water is cold. Pour it out. Let me see why it has not become hot.



Bhima emptied the vessel. A frog jumped out of the vessel!

What a wonder!

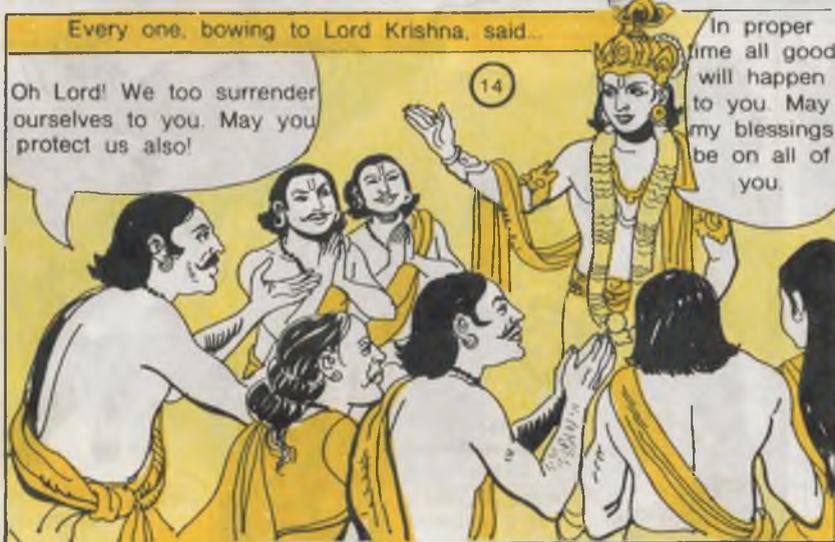
There is nothing to wonder. The frog surrendered to Krishna while in the vessel. It was Krishna's duty to save it. That is why the water did not boil.

12



Yes, you are right. When Draupadi put the vessel on the fire, the frog thought of Me. So I saved the frog.

13



Every one, bowing to Lord Krishna, said...

Oh Lord! We too surrender ourselves to you. May you protect us also!

14

In proper time all good will happen to you. May my blessings be on all of you.



Oh brother, you are great. Bless us that we shall ever remember you.

15

May you all live long.

# SAGE VALMIKI

Story: Shyam

Art: Shankar

English: Swami Raghaveshananda

Valmiki is the first poet of the world. So he is called Adi Kavi. Ramayana is his first work.



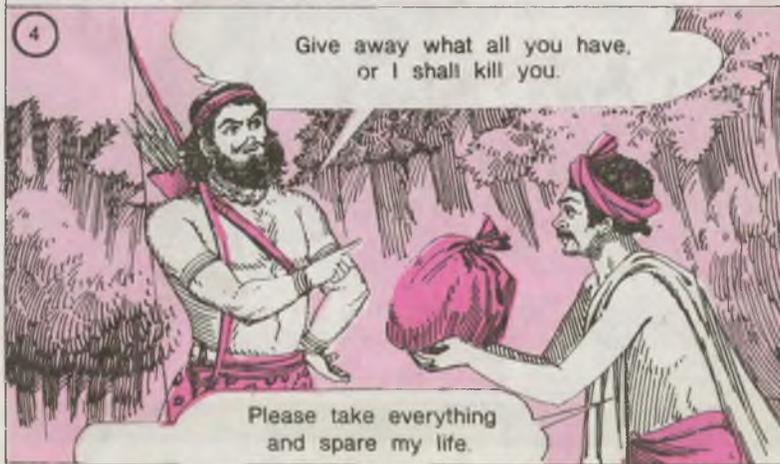
Earlier he was a hunter, who was also a robber. He was called Ratnakar.



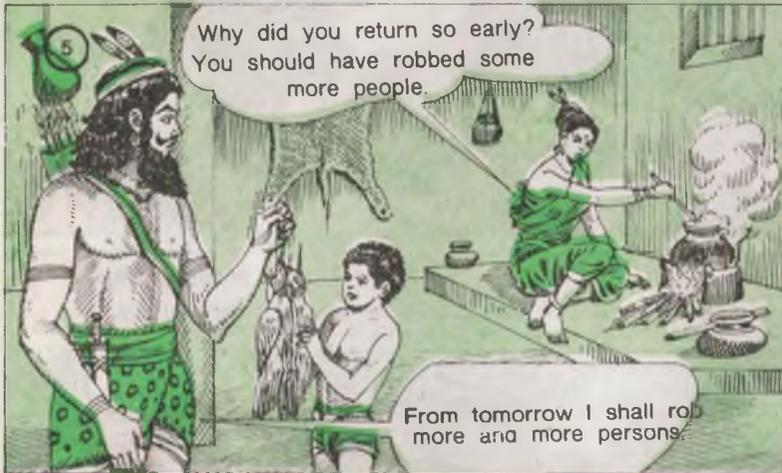
He used to hunt innocent birds and animals.



He also used to rob the passerby, often killing them.



He used to carry the booty and hand it over to his wife.



One day, seven sages passed through the forest. Ratnakar confronted them.



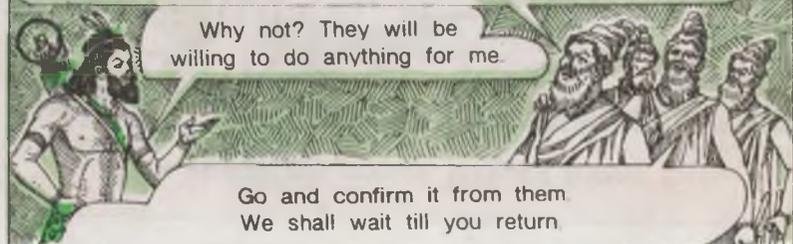
He jumped in front of them.



You are doing this for your livelihood. Will you answer my question?



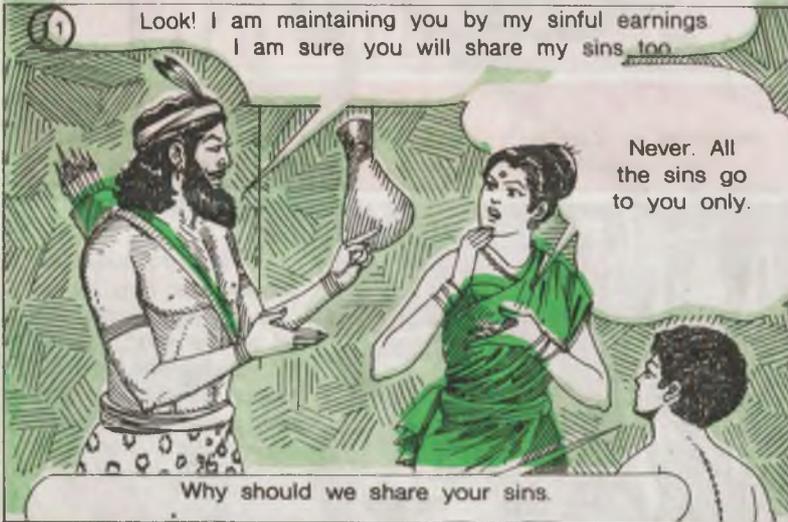
Your family members are living on your sinful earnings. Are they ready to share your sins?





10  
All right. I shall go.  
But I won't spare  
you if you run away

Accordingly he went home and called his wife.



11  
Look! I am maintaining you by my sinful earnings.  
I am sure you will share my sins too.

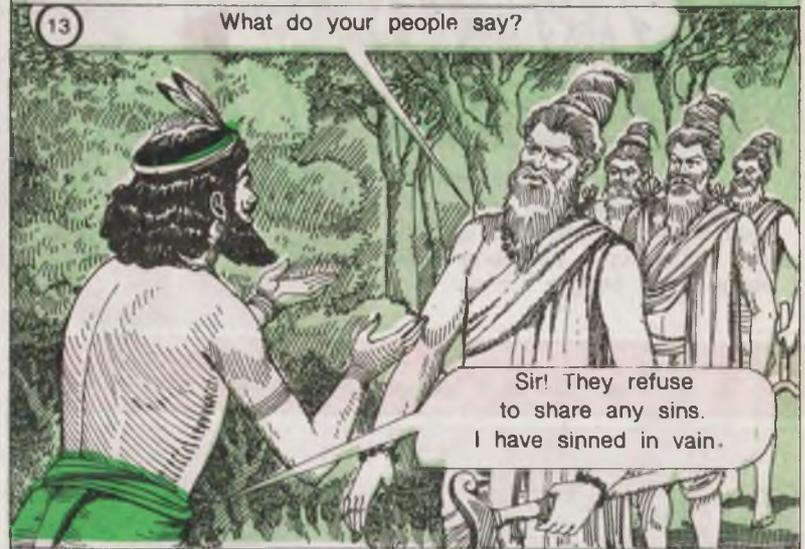
Never. All  
the sins go  
to you only.

Why should we share your sins.



12  
Oh Lord!  
I alone have to suffer  
for my sins. None is  
bothered about my fate.

Dejected, the hunter returned to the sages



13  
What do your people say?

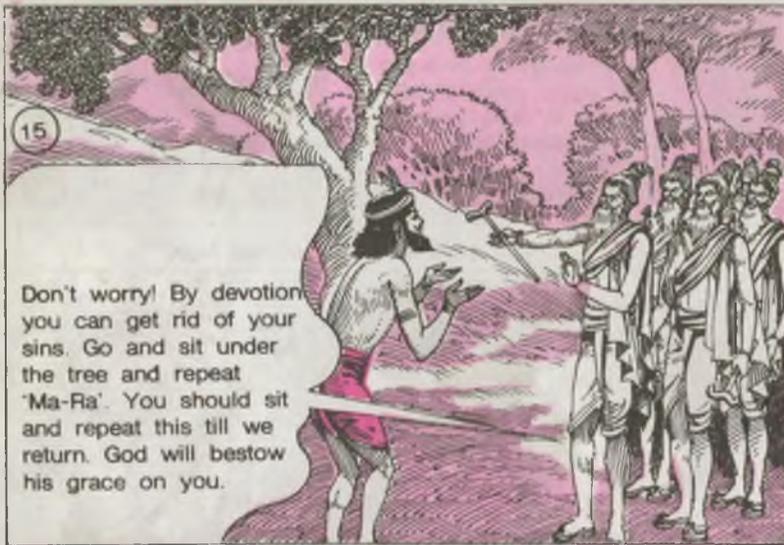
Sir! They refuse  
to share any sins.  
I have sinned in vain.

Ratnakar begged them to show a good path.

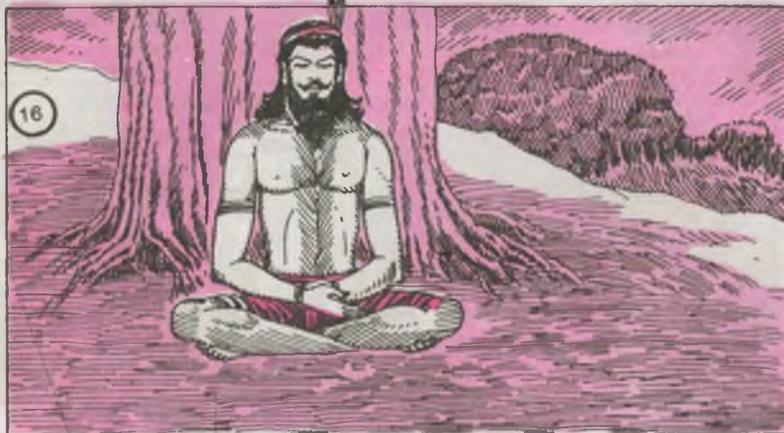


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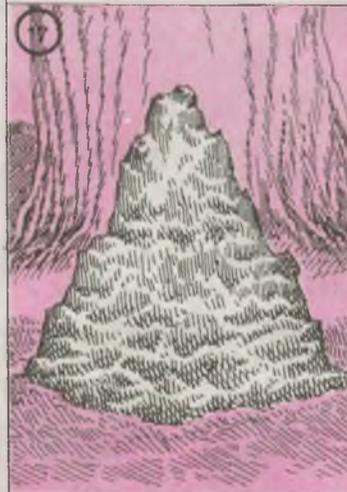
The compassionate sages took pity on him.



The hunter did as advised. The continuous repetition of "Ma-Ra" sounded in reverse as "RAMA". He went on repeating that sacred name.



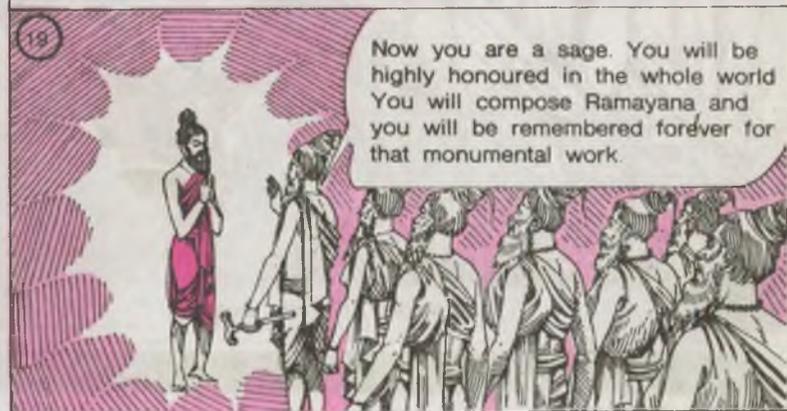
Days, months and years passed. But the hunter did not move from his seat. He was repeating "Rama, Rama" uninterruptedly. An ant-hill grew around him. Unaware of it he continued repeating the Lord's name.



After many years the sages came there again.



The word Valmika means ant-hill. One who came out of Valmika is called Valmiki.

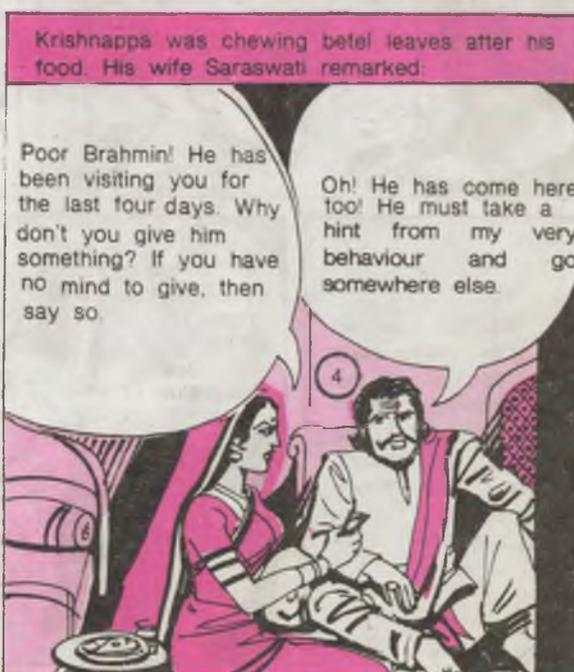
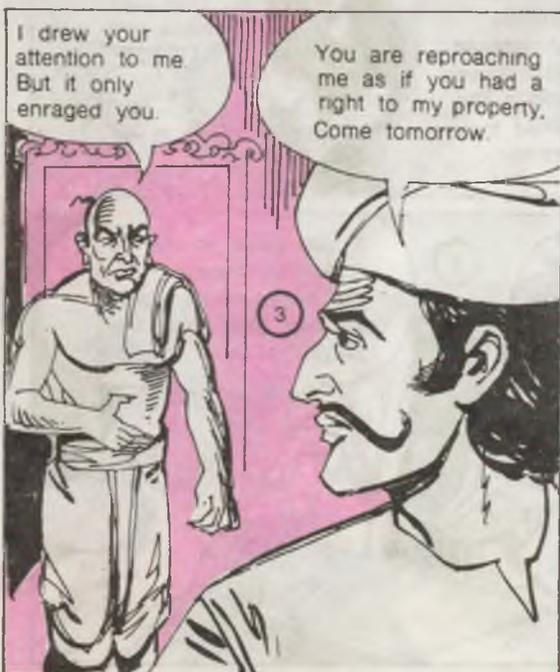
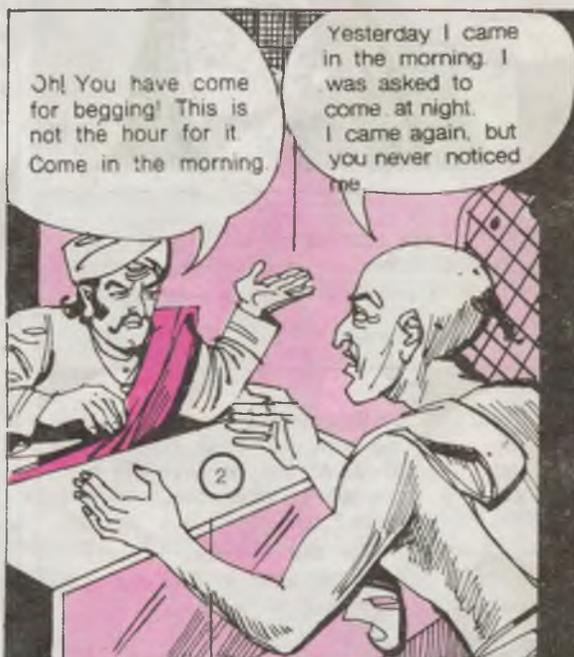


# MISER TURNED SAINT

English Swami Raghaveshananda

Story R V  
Art Gopan

Krishnappa Naicker was a pawnbroker. Once a Brahmin came and stood at his door for four days in succession. Krishnappa pretended he had not noticed him. But the Brahmin unperturbed waited patiently.



In the whole city of Pandaripur, it was well known that Krishnappa was the greatest miser. But his wife Saraswati looked upon him as God.



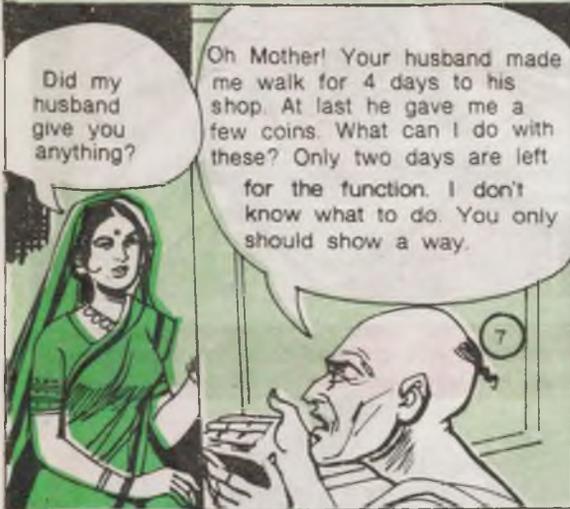
For the good of my husband I should help the Brahmin.

The Brahmin appeared in the shop again the next morning. Krishnappa, probably moved by his wife's words, took some coins.



Oh Brahmin! Accept this and perform your son's sacred thread ceremony.

The Brahmin was puzzled by Krishnappa's act. What could be done with such a small amount? He hit upon a plan and went to Krishnappa's house again.



Did my husband give you anything?

Oh Mother! Your husband made me walk for 4 days to his shop. At last he gave me a few coins. What can I do with these? Only two days are left for the function. I don't know what to do. You only should show a way.

Saraswati thought for a while. She had no money with her. She removed her Diamond nose ring and gave it to him.



Oh Brahmin! Don't be disheartened. Sell this and perform the sacred thread ceremony.

Oh Mother! May God bless you!

The Brahmin walked straight to Krishnappa's shop again to sell the ring. Krishnappa was not very happy to see him again. He thought he may ask more money again.

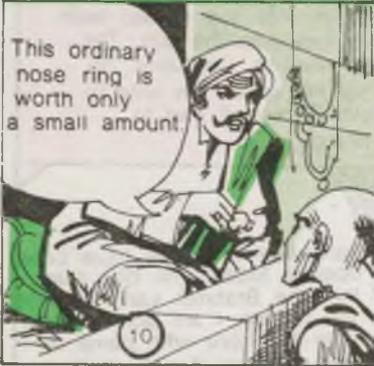


Sir! Where did you get this nose ring? Have you any idea of the value of it?

It was given to me by a devoted person. I am not aware of its worth. Please give me the correct price of it.

Krishnappa looked at him from head to foot

This ordinary nose ring is worth only a small amount.



10

After he left, Krishnappa got frightened. He was afraid that the public might come to know of his cheating.

Follow that Brahmin, and find out where he goes



11

When the boy returned...

He entered Pandarinatha's Temple and vanished.



12

Krishnappa returned home happily. While taking his food Krishnappa stared at his wife's face.

Where is your nose ring?



13

It is in the box I have removed it while bathing.

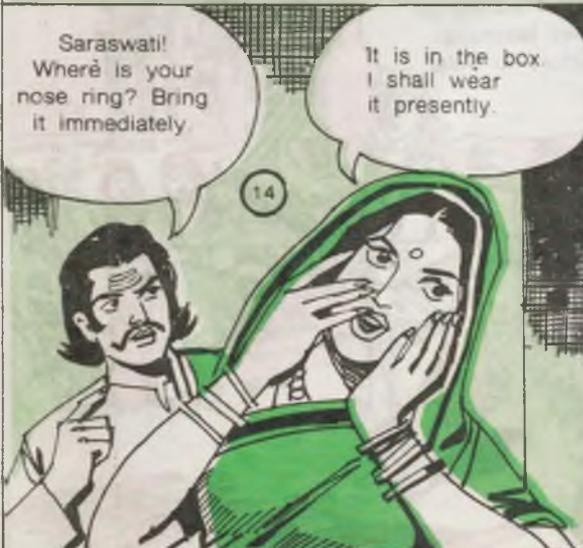


Krishnappa returned to his shop and saw the nose ring in the box. It was none other than Saraswati's nose ring. He thought that he had been cheated. He hurried home.

She was put into great trouble. He did not believe her words. He asked her to bring it.

Saraswati! Where is your nose ring? Bring it immediately

It is in the box. I shall wear it presently.



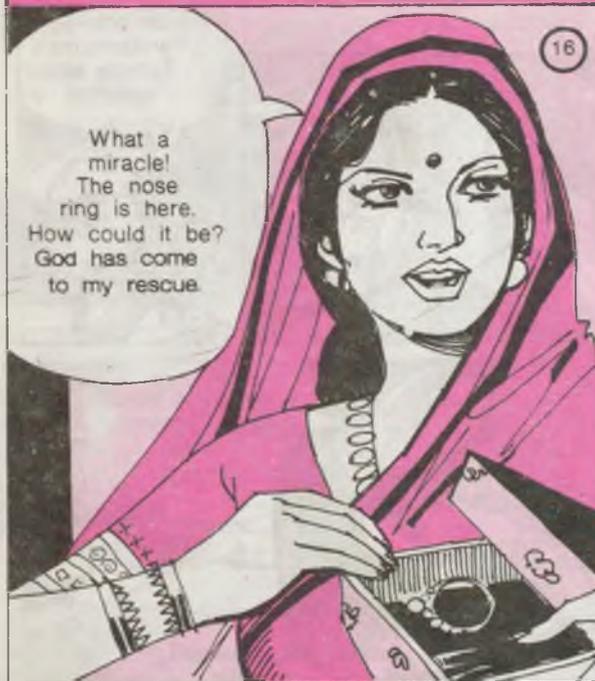
14

Oh Lord! Why are you testing me? What shall I do now?

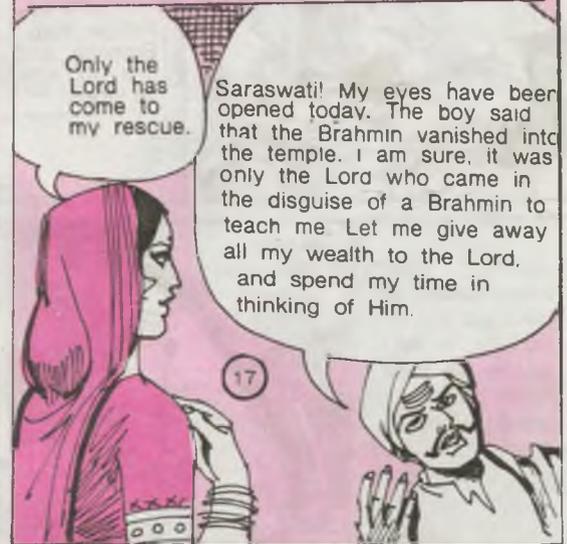


15

Never had she lied to her husband. She put her hand into the box, as if searching for the ring.



Krishnappa was astonished to see the nose-ring with his wife. He rushed back to his shop to look into the box. The nose ring was missing. Confused, he returned home. He asked his wife to speak the truth. Saraswati had to narrate everything.



He was transformed into a pious man in no time. The next day, he distributed all his wealth to the poor and went out begging from house to house to maintain himself as a monk. The songs he sang while begging form some of the most thrilling songs in Karnatic music. Then onwards he came to be known as Purandaradasa. His numerous songs are sung even today by devotees.



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