

# THE TALES OF GANESHA



No traditional Hindu will ever embark on any auspicious undertaking without first invoking the elephant-headed Lord Ganesha. Ganesha is known as Vighneswara or the Remover of obstacles. The elephant's head indicates a storehouse of knowledge. The trunk is capable of gross acts such as uprooting trees and subtle acts such as picking out a needle from a haystack. Therefore, it stands for the discriminative intellect, capable of sifting the subtle from the gross. He sits on one leg which indicates single-pointedness. To such a one's feet, come the best things in life—represented by the fruits and sweetmeats invariably shown in a traditional picture of Lord Ganesha.

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OUR NEXT TITLE

## **POT OF GOLD**

Published by Geeta Kumar

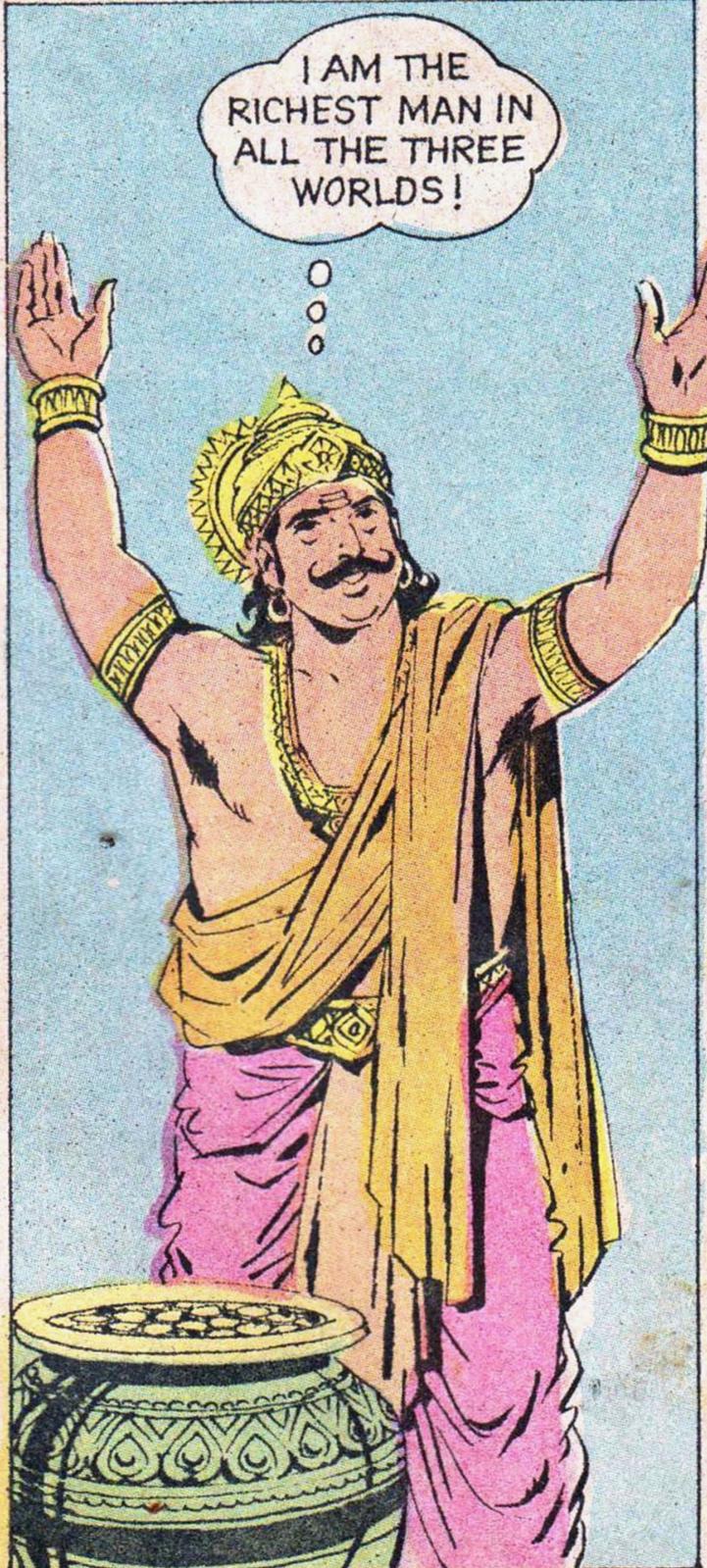
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KUBERA IS SAID TO BE THE TREASURER OF THE GODS. IT SO HAPPENED ONCE THAT HE BECAME CONCEITED AND IMAGINED HIMSELF TO BE THE MASTER OF ALL THE WEALTH ENTRUSTED TO HIS CARE.

# GANESHA AND KUBERA



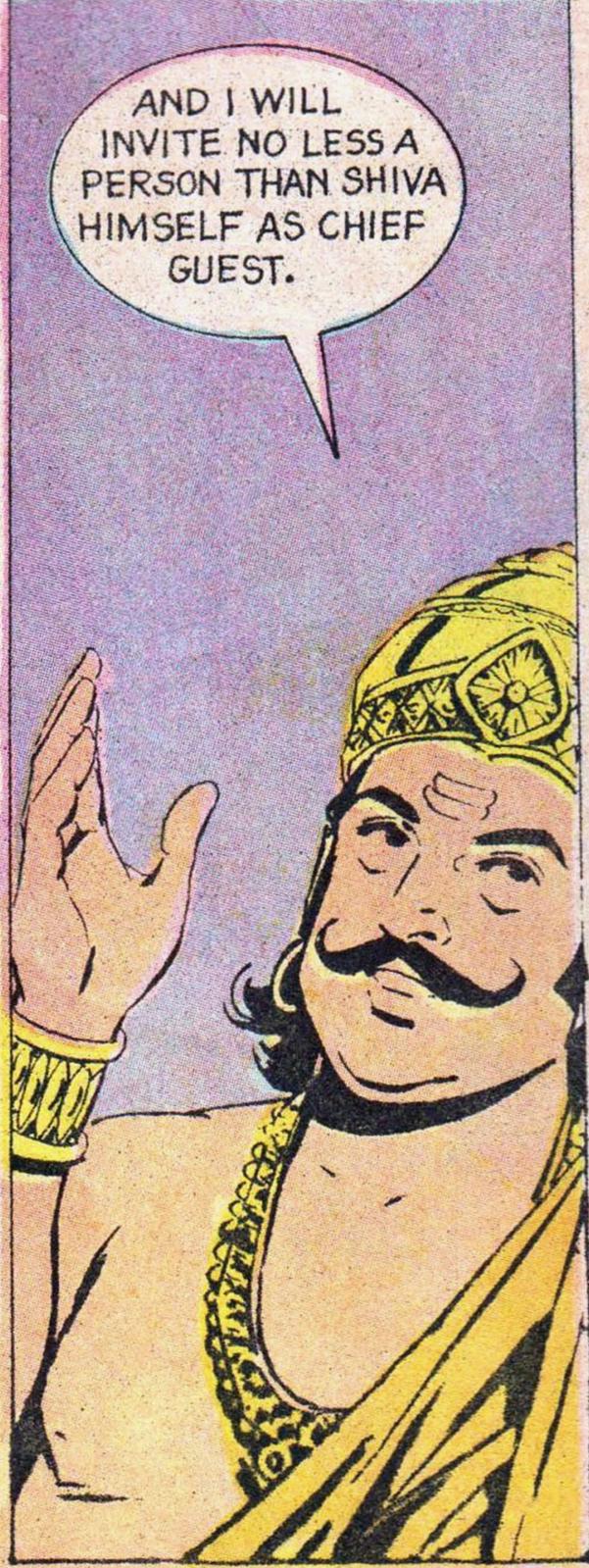
ALL THIS GOLD!  
ALL THIS MONEY.



I AM THE RICHEST MAN IN ALL THE THREE WORLDS!



I WILL GIVE A LAVISH FEAST, THE LIKE OF WHICH NO ONE HAS SEEN BEFORE.



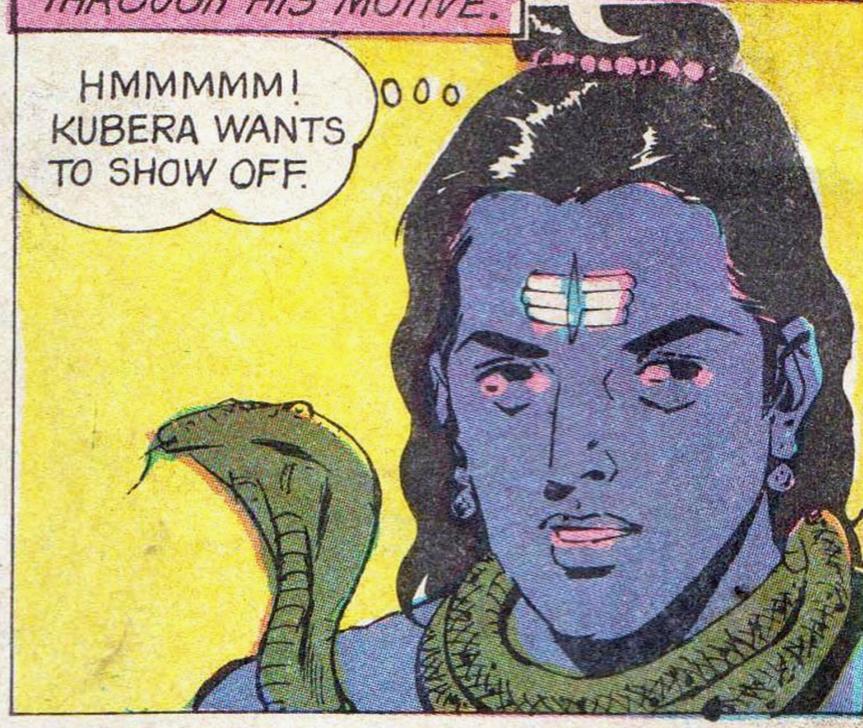
AND I WILL INVITE NO LESS A PERSON THAN SHIVA HIMSELF AS CHIEF GUEST.

LORD,  
I WILL BE GREATLY  
HONOURED IF YOU  
AND MOTHER PARVATI  
COULD COME FOR MY  
FEAST.

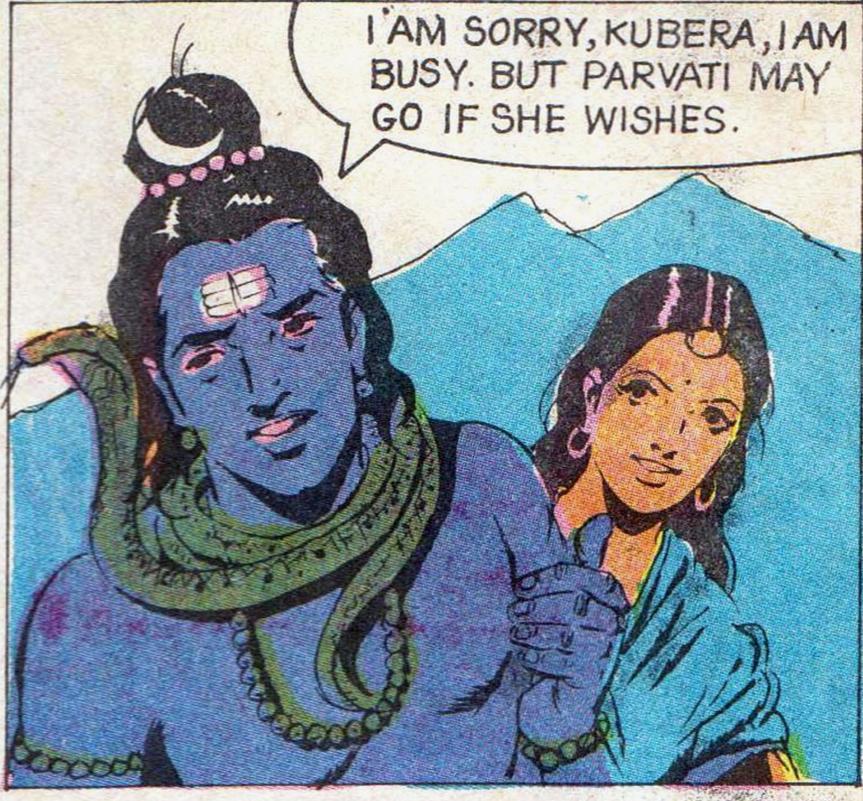


SHIVA, THE LORD OF THE UNIVERSE, SAW  
THROUGH HIS MOTIVE.

HMMMMM!  
KUBERA WANTS  
TO SHOW OFF.

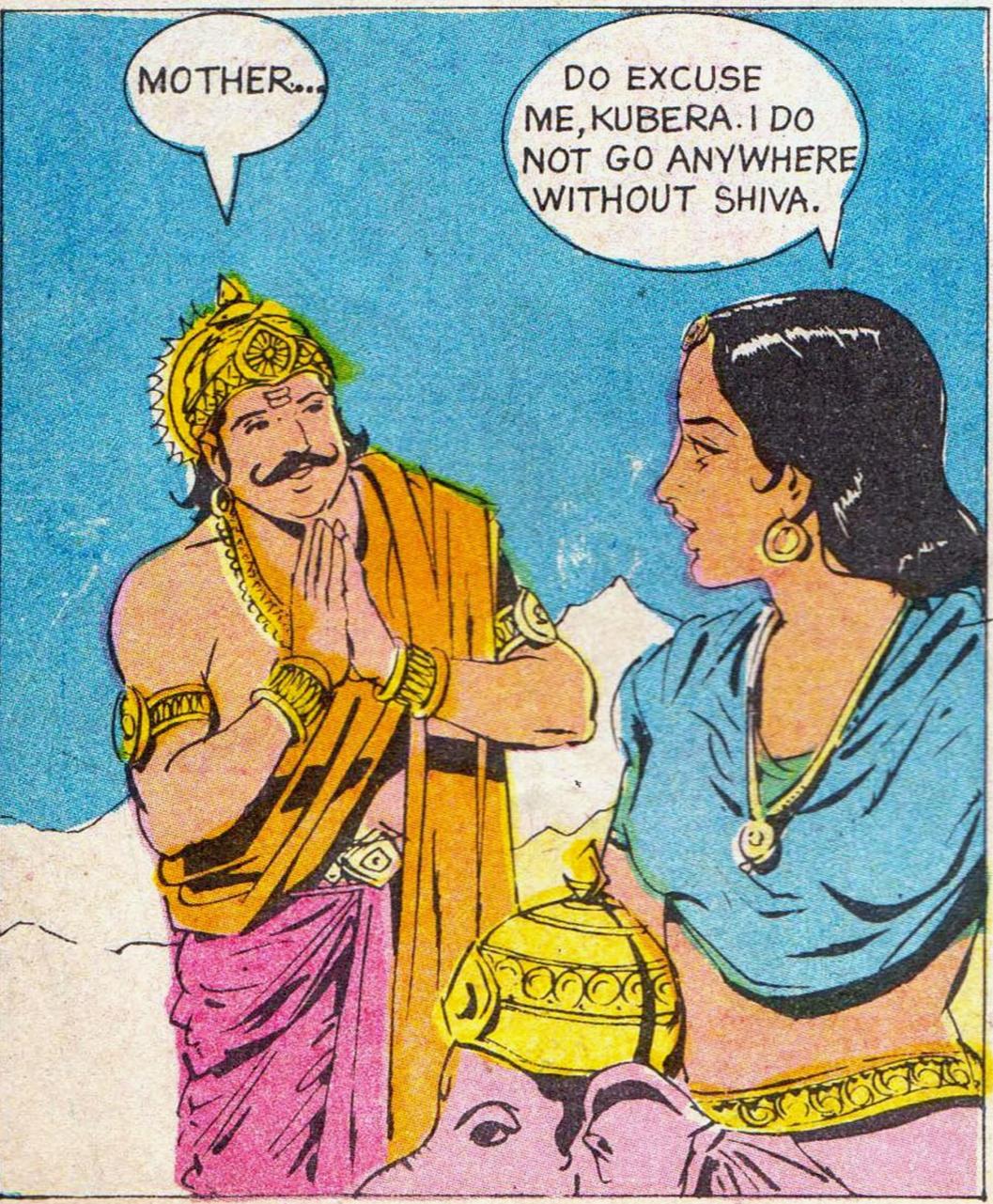


I AM SORRY, KUBERA, I AM  
BUSY. BUT PARVATI MAY  
GO IF SHE WISHES.



MOTHER...

DO EXCUSE  
ME, KUBERA. I DO  
NOT GO ANYWHERE  
WITHOUT SHIVA.

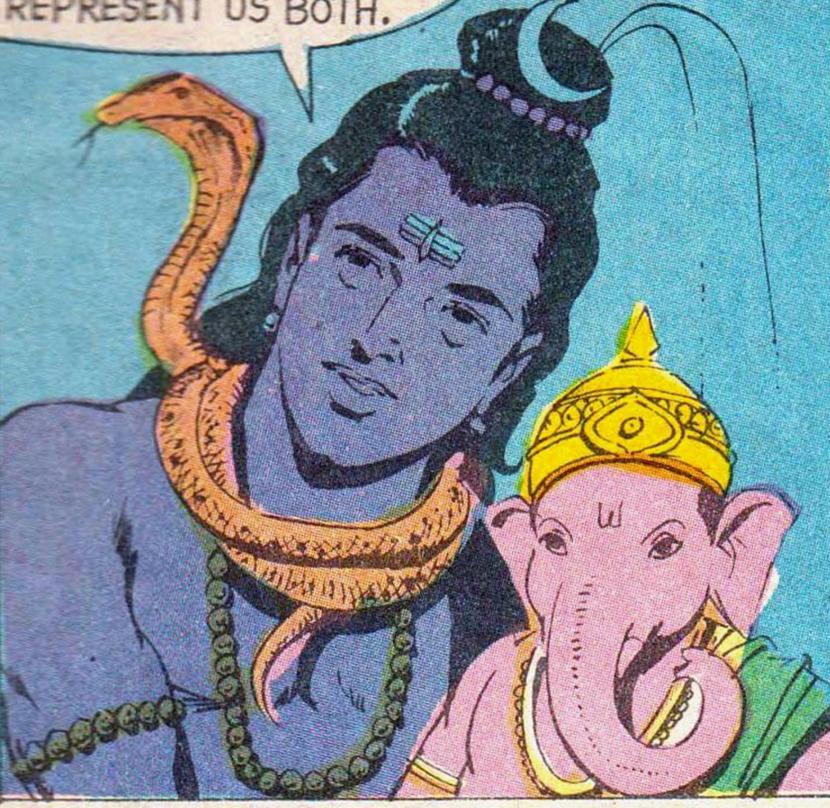


LORD, I HAVE  
ALREADY SENT OUT  
MY INVITATIONS. I  
WILL LOOK A  
FOOL.

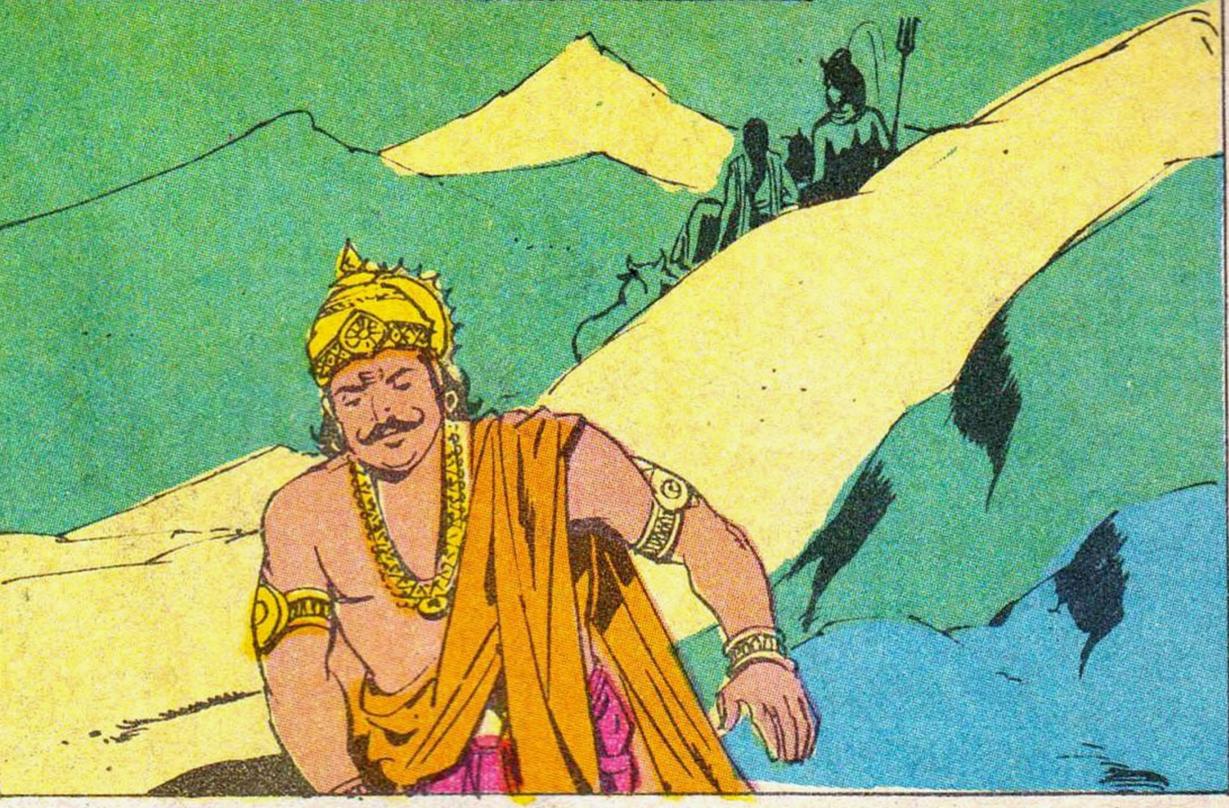
ALRIGHT.  
I CAN DO ONE  
THING...



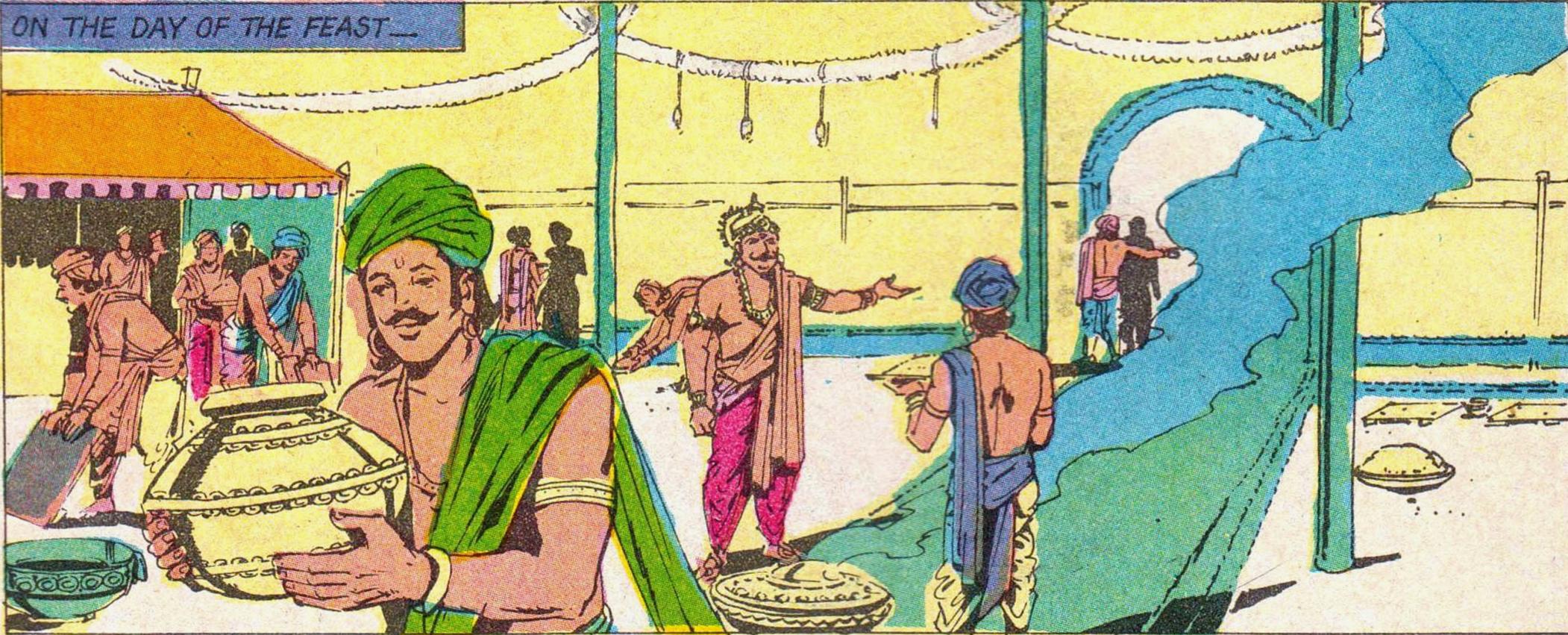
I CAN SEND GANAPATI TO YOUR FEAST. HE WILL REPRESENT US BOTH.



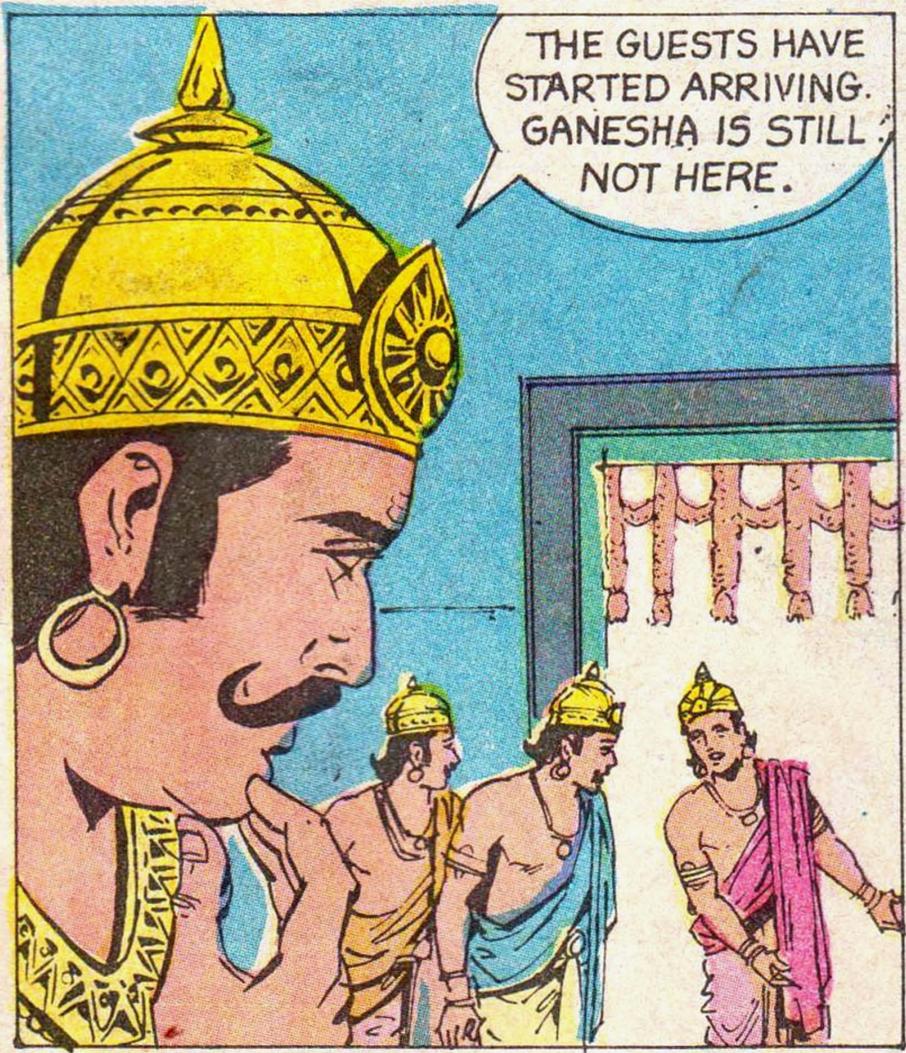
KUBERA HAD TO BE SATISFIED WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT. HE BOWED HIS ACCEPTANCE AND TOOK LEAVE.



ON THE DAY OF THE FEAST...

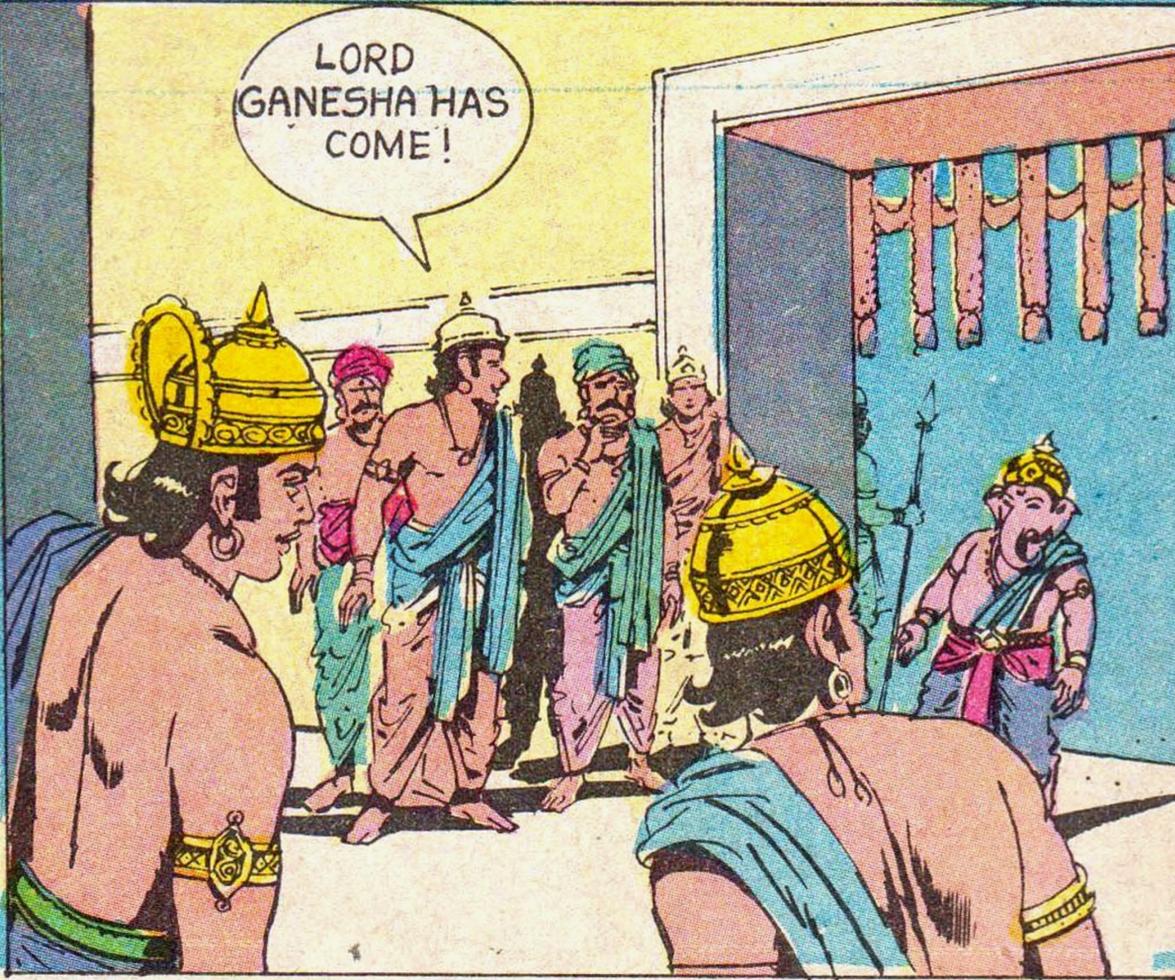


THE GUESTS HAVE STARTED ARRIVING. GANESHA IS STILL NOT HERE.



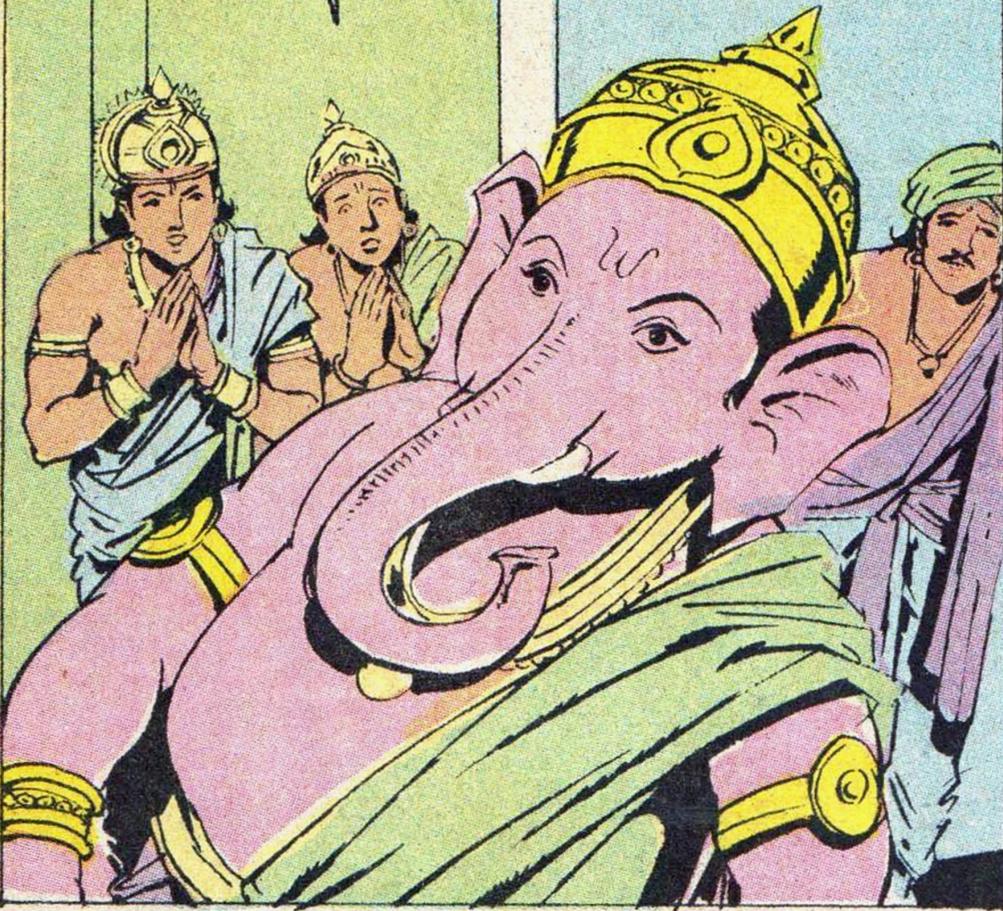
JUST THEN, THERE WAS A SMALL STIR AT THE ENTRANCE.

LORD GANESHA HAS COME!



SALUTATIONS,  
LORD.

JAI  
GANESHA!



GANESHA IGNORED THEM ALL AND WALKED UP TO KUBERA

GREETINGS,  
LORD!

WHERE  
IS THE FOOD?



BUT,  
BUT...

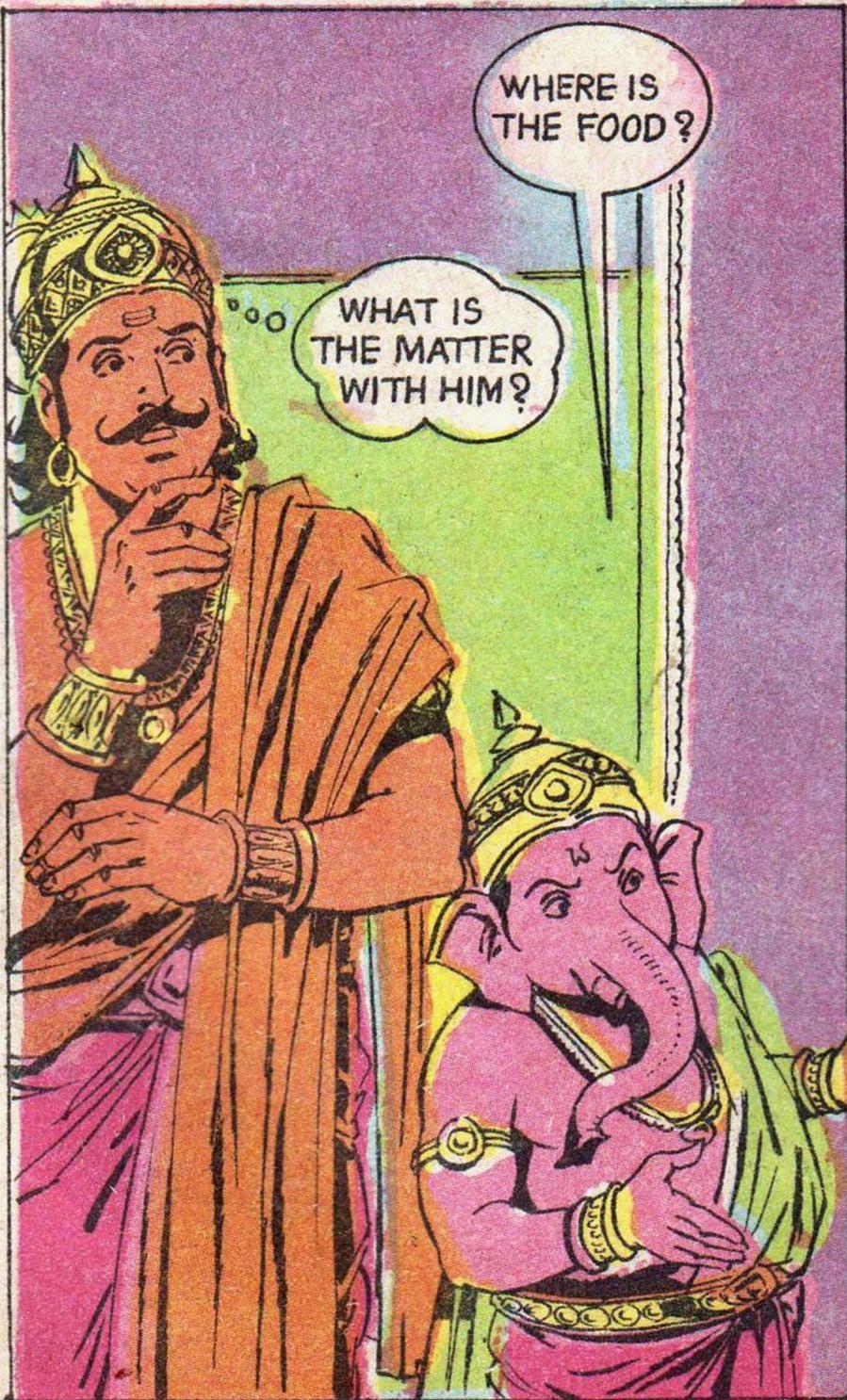
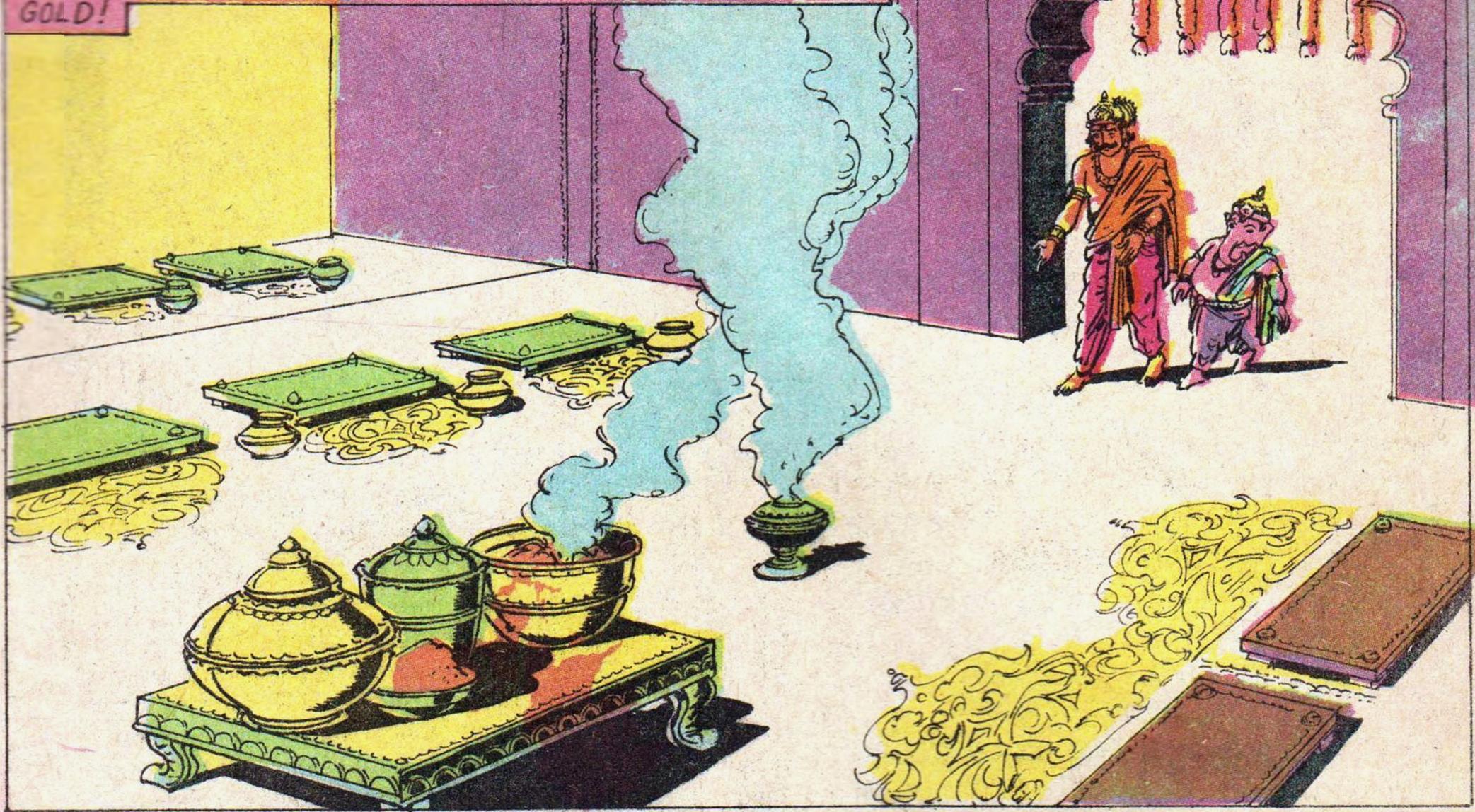
WHERE  
IS THE FOOD?  
I AM HUNGRY.



P. P.. PLEASE  
COME THIS  
WAY.



KUBERA LED THE WAY TO A BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED PANDAL. THERE WERE BUNTINGS IN THE ARCHES AND FLOWER GARLANDS HUNG EVERYWHERE. THE FLOOR WAS DECORATED WITH COLOURED DESIGNS AND ALL THE DISHES AND BOWLS WERE OF SPARKLING GOLD!

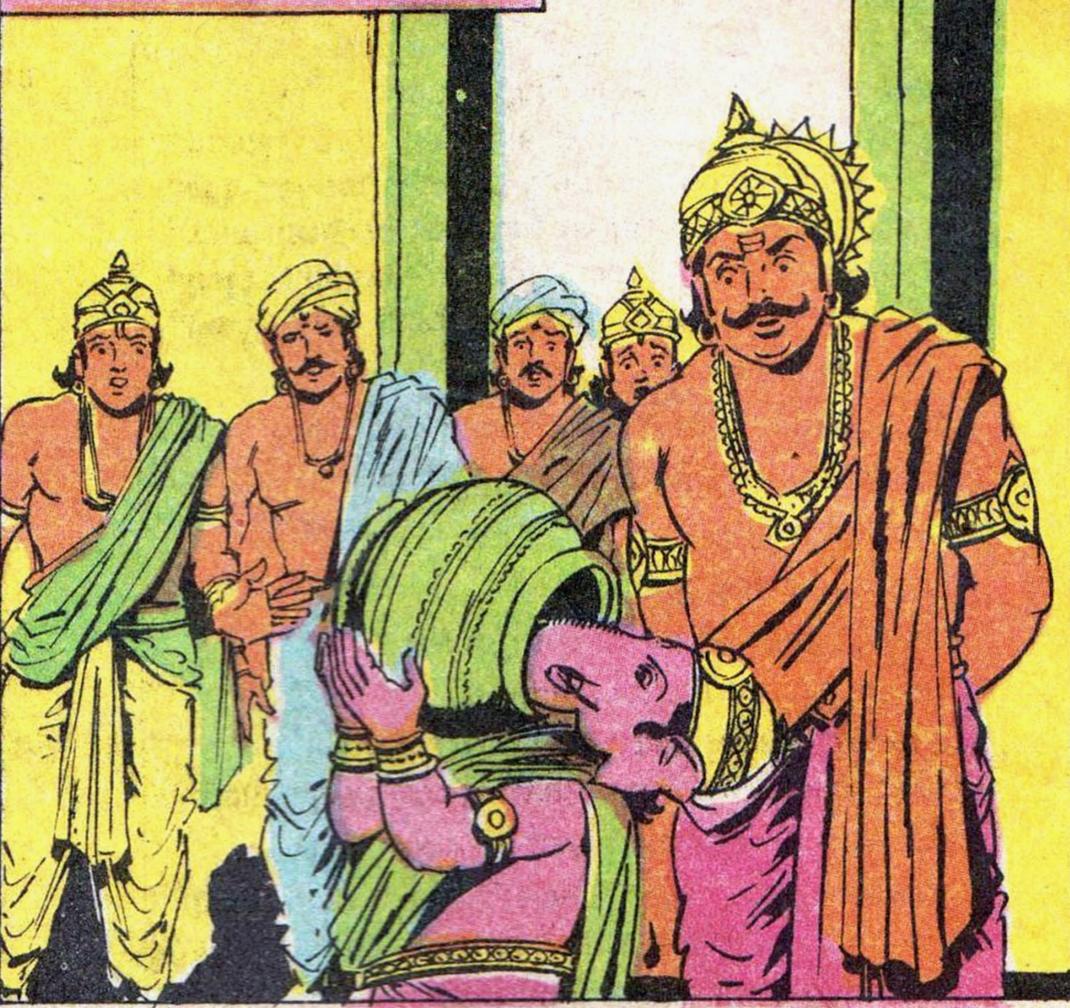


BUT GANESHA DID NOT PAY HIM ANY ATTENTION. HIS EYES WERE RIVETED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE KITCHEN.



AH, HERE COMES THE FOOD!

HE TOOK THE BOWLS FROM THE HANDS OF THE SERVERS AND SWALLOWED THEIR CONTENTS BEFORE THE ASTONISHED GAZE OF EVERYONE!



THIS IS FINISHED. BRING MORE PURIS AND KHEER.

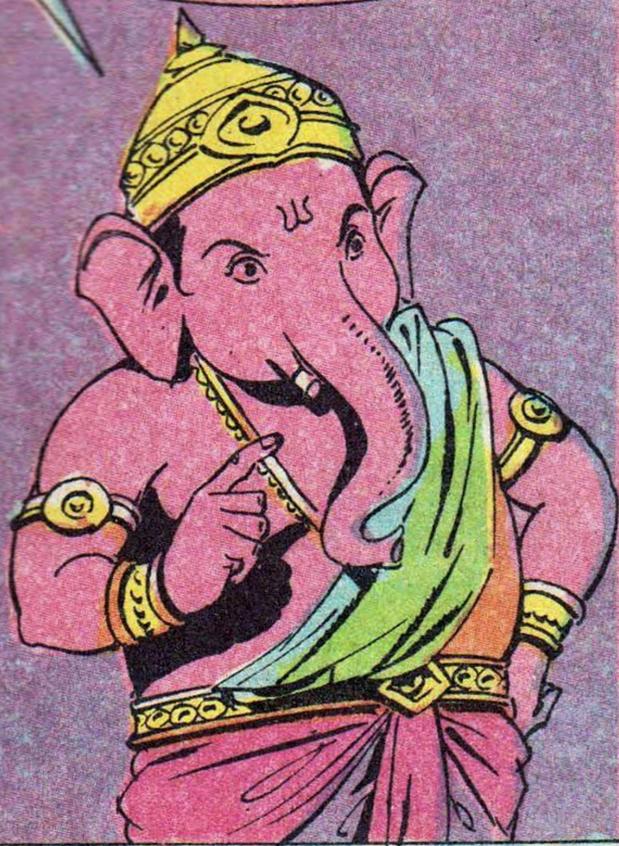


MORE PURIS AND KHEER...

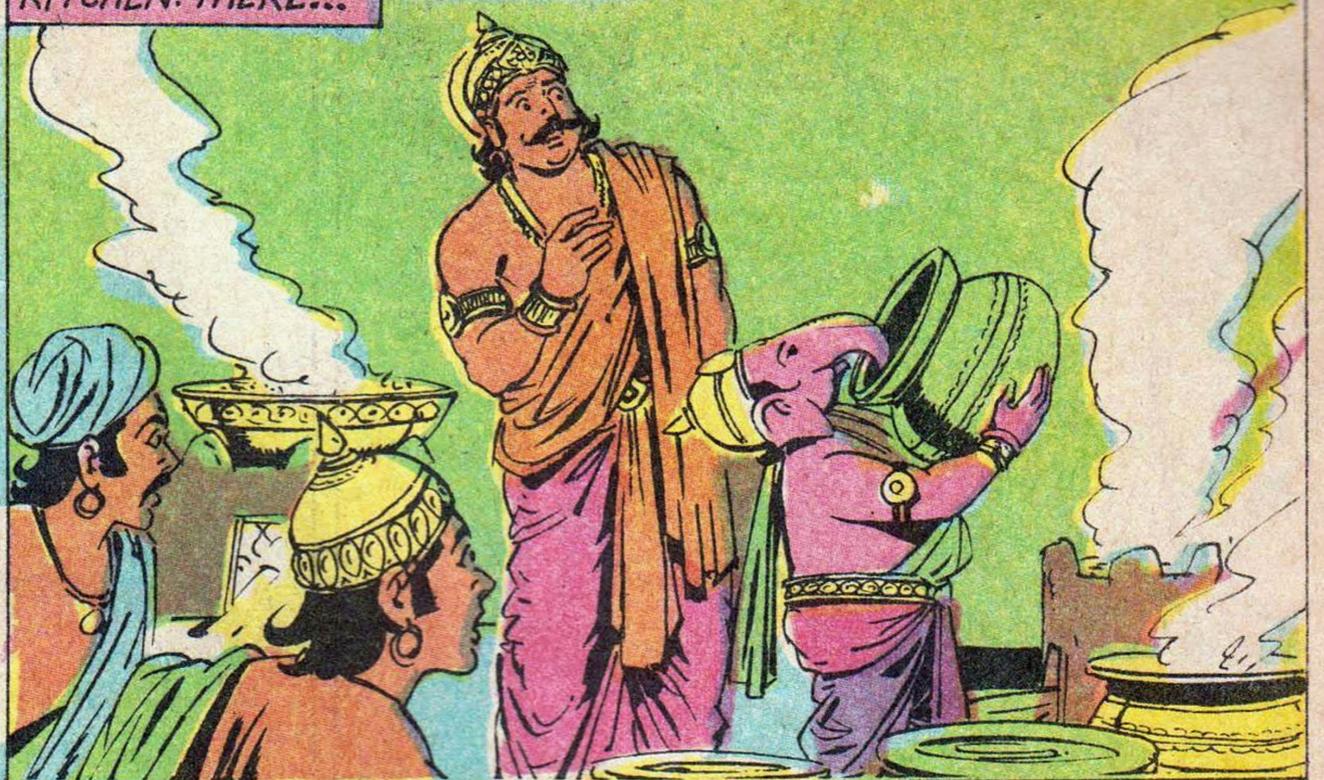
ACCORDINGLY...



THESE PEOPLE ARE TOO SLOW. I WANT MORE LADDUS. TAKE ME TO THE KITCHEN.



KUBERA, FEARFUL OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING, TOOK GANESHA TO THE KITCHEN. THERE...



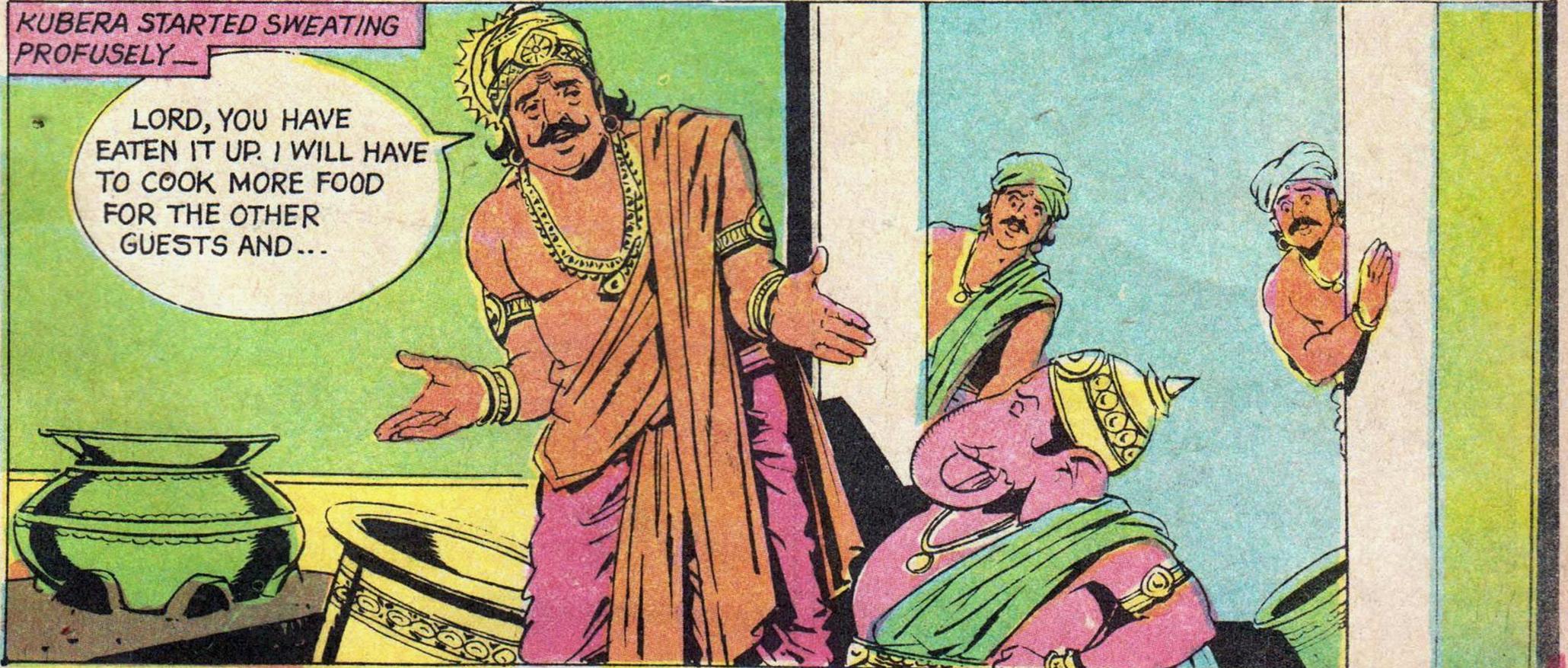
... HE LIFTED THE POTS OFF THE FIRES AND ATE UP EVERYTHING!

THEN HE ADVANCED MENACINGLY TOWARDS KUBERA-

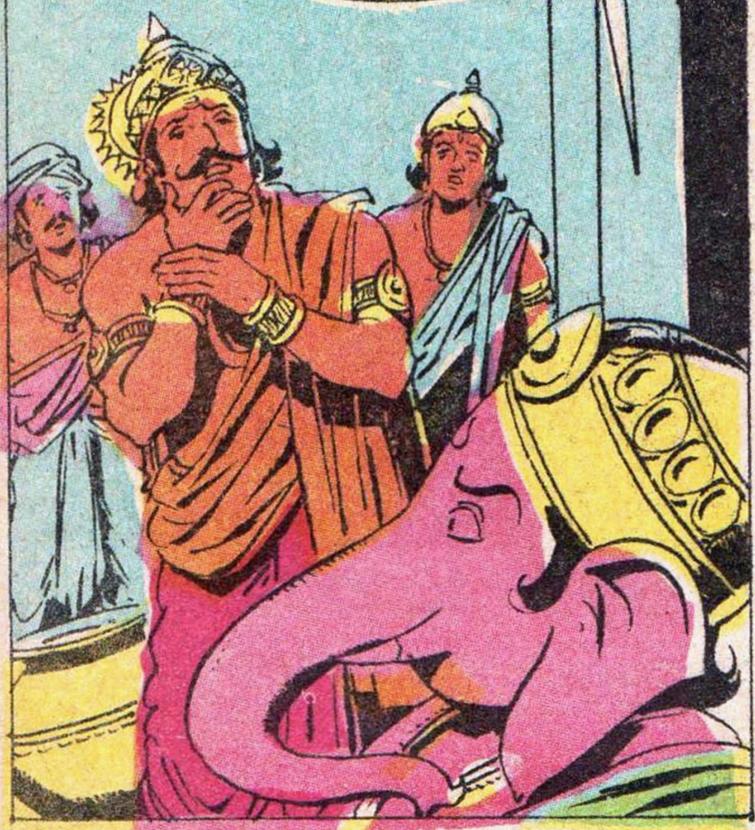


KUBERA STARTED SWEATING PROFUSELY—

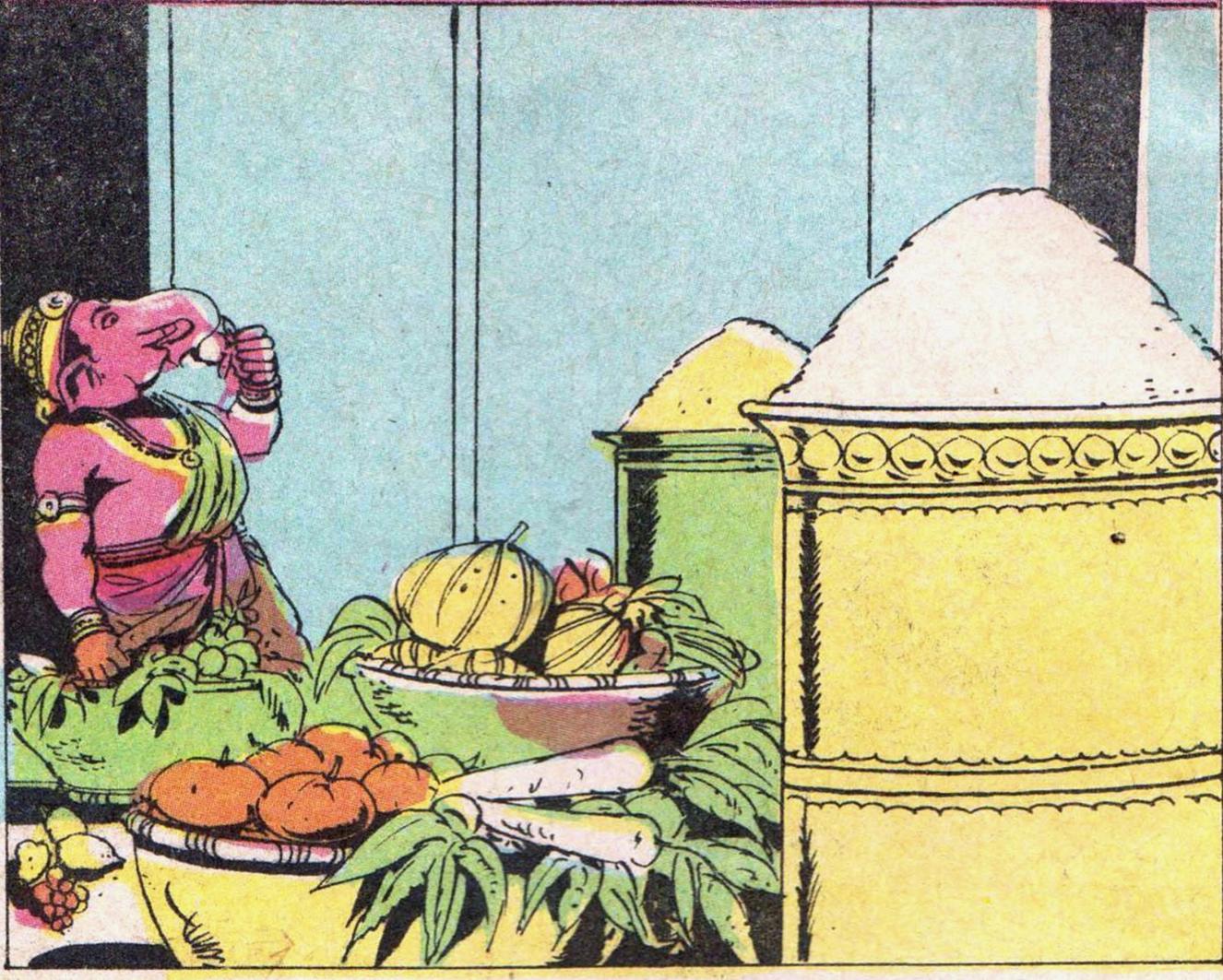
LORD, YOU HAVE EATEN IT UP. I WILL HAVE TO COOK MORE FOOD FOR THE OTHER GUESTS AND...



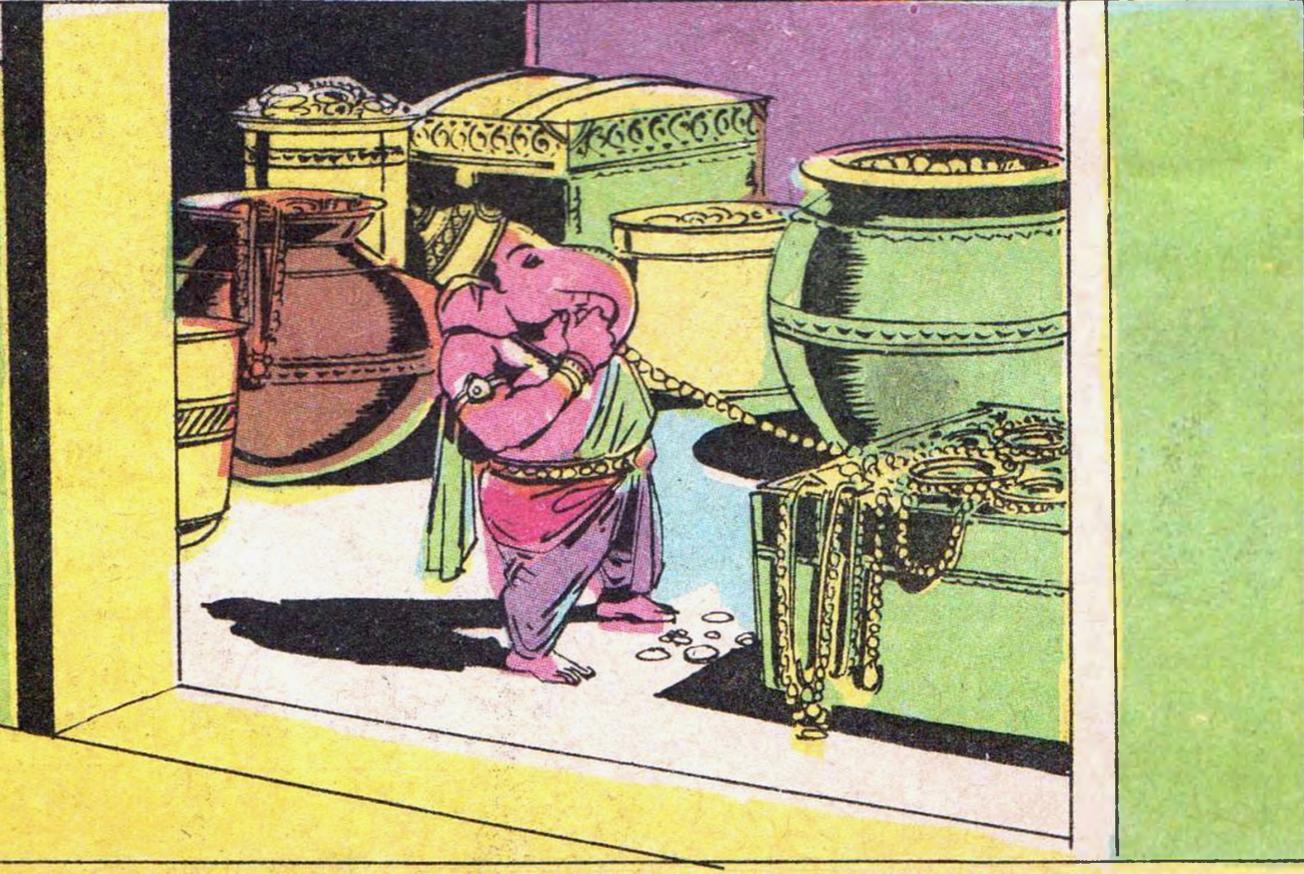
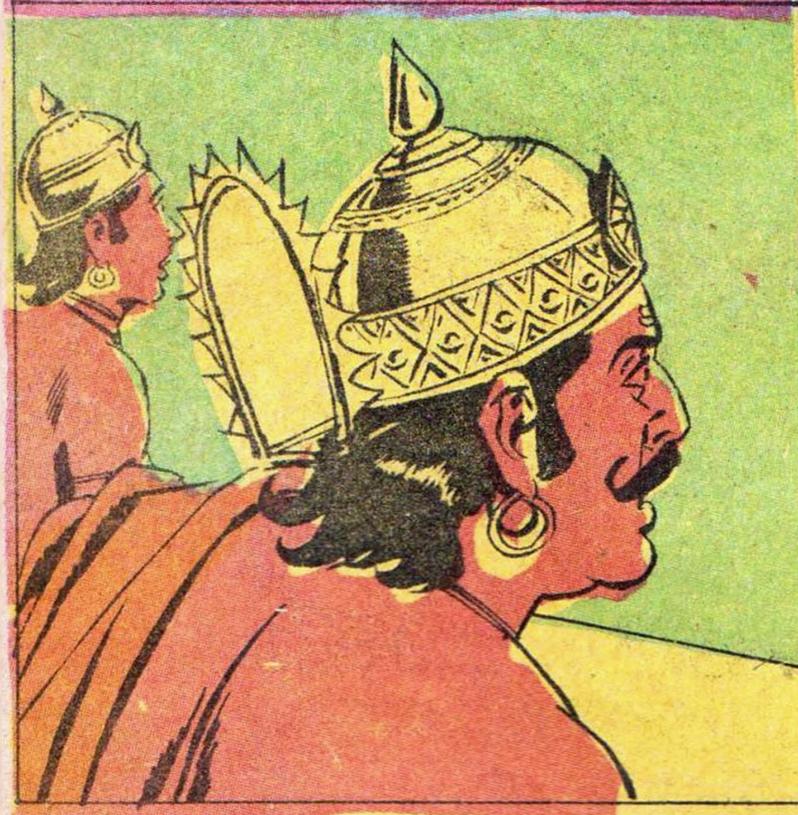
EATEN IT ALL UP?  
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?  
YOU INVITE SOMEONE FOR  
A MEAL AND CANNOT  
SATISFY HIS  
HUNGER?



GANAPATI THEN PROCEEDED TO RANSACK KUBERA'S STORES...

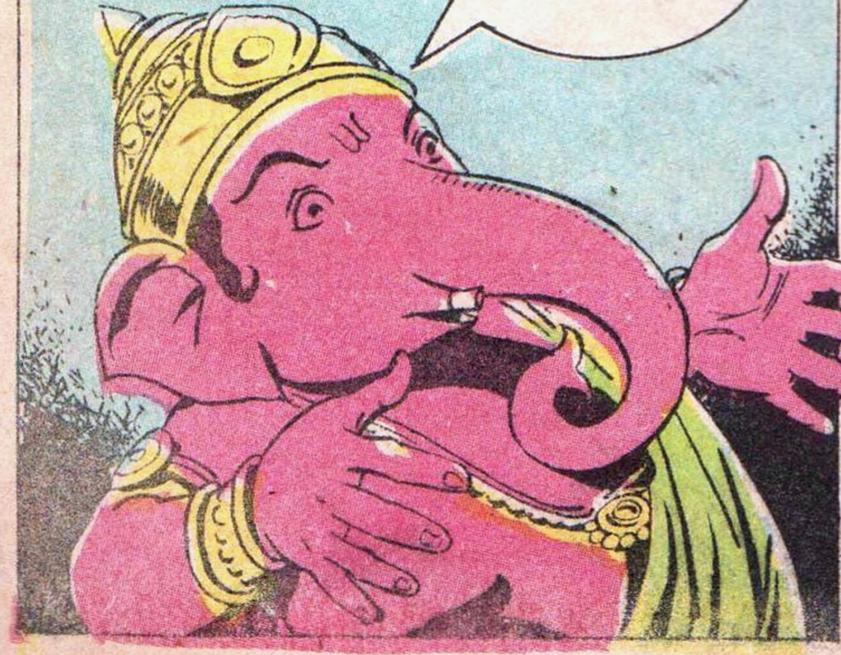


...THEN HIS ENTIRE TREASURY...



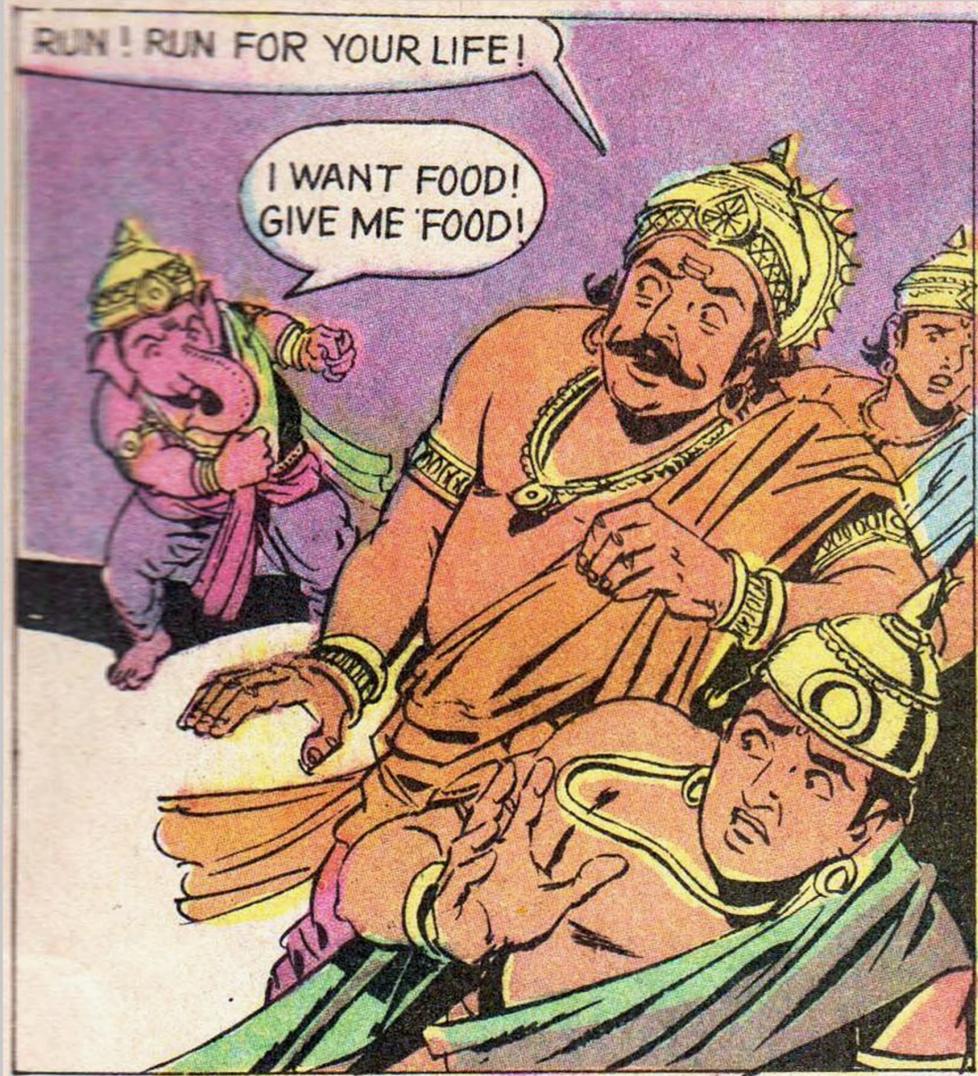
...AND ROARED-

I AM HUNGRY!  
GIVE ME FOOD!

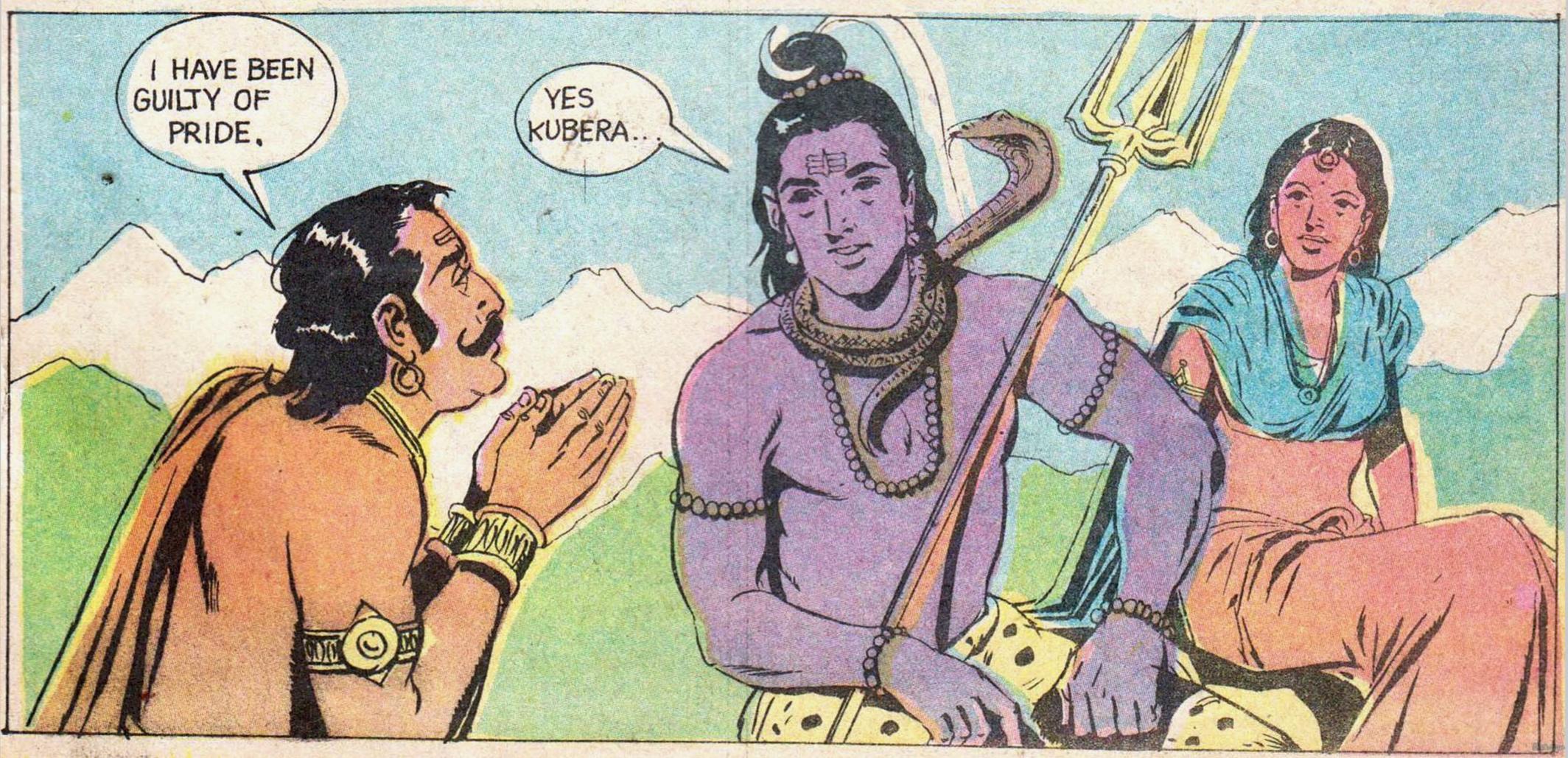


GIVE ME  
FOOD OR I WILL  
EAT YOU UP!

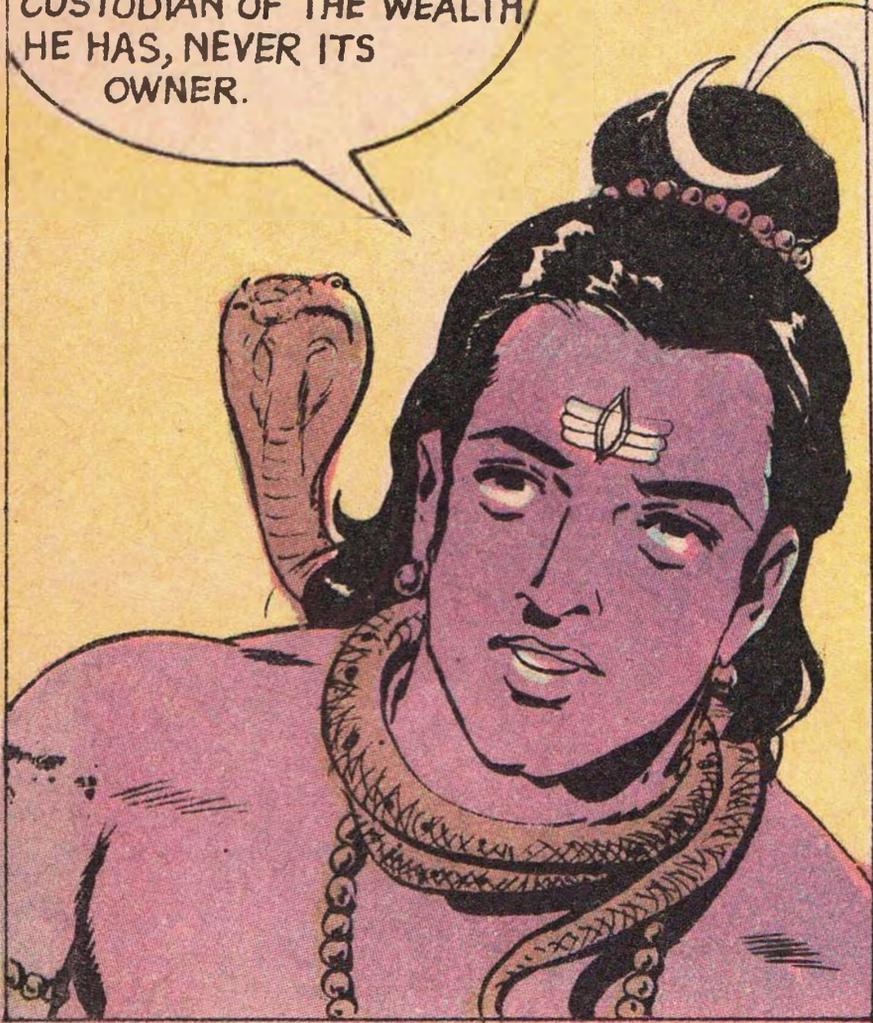




BREATHLESS AND PANTING HEAVILY, HE ARRIVED AT KAILASHA-



IT IS GOOD YOU HAVE REALISED YOUR FOLLY. A PERSON CAN ONLY BE THE CUSTODIAN OF THE WEALTH HE HAS, NEVER ITS OWNER.



THEREFORE, NEVER PRIDE YOURSELF ON FLEETING MATERIAL THINGS SUCH AS WEALTH.

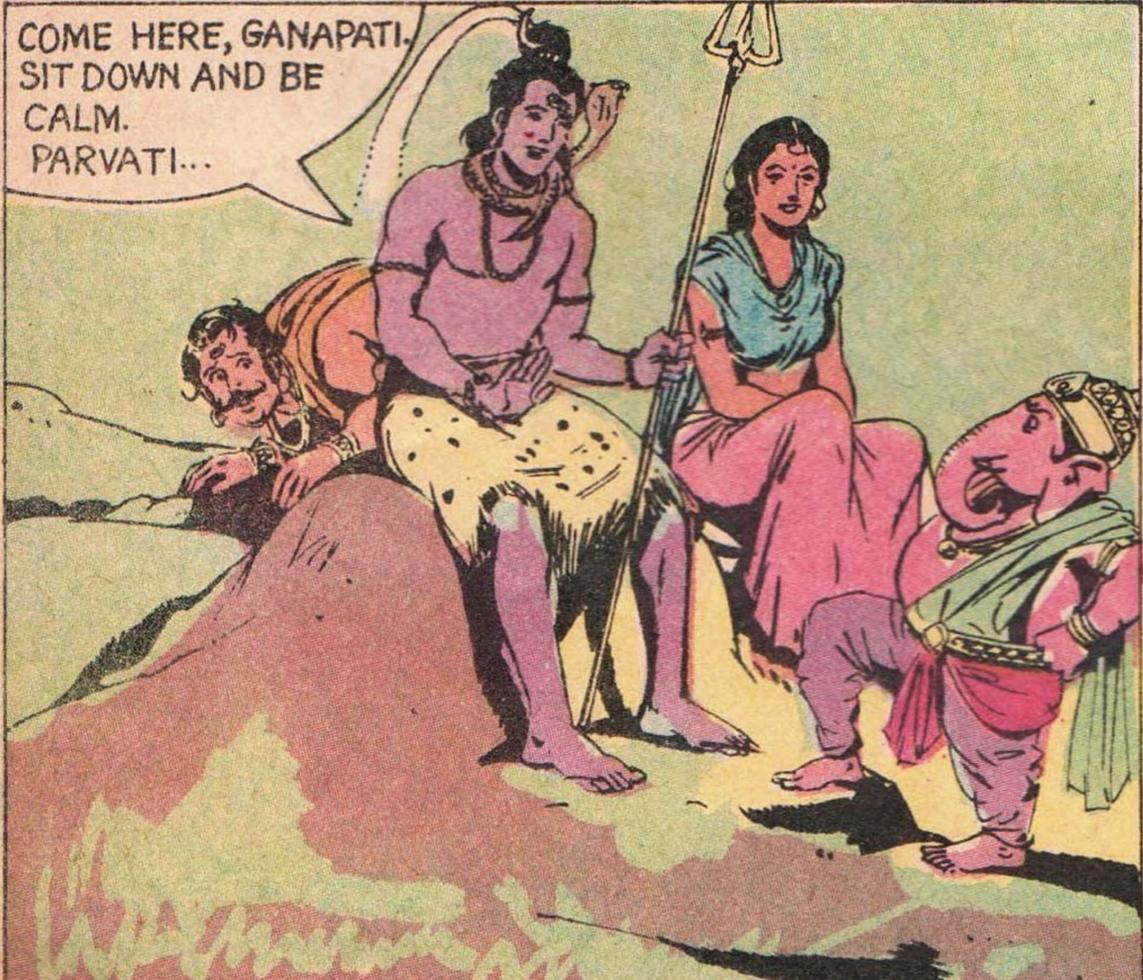


JUST THEN, GANAPATI CAME PANTING UP.

WHERE IS THAT RASCAL, KUBERA? I AM HUNGRY AND WILL EAT HIM UP!



COME HERE, GANAPATI. SIT DOWN AND BE CALM. PARVATI...



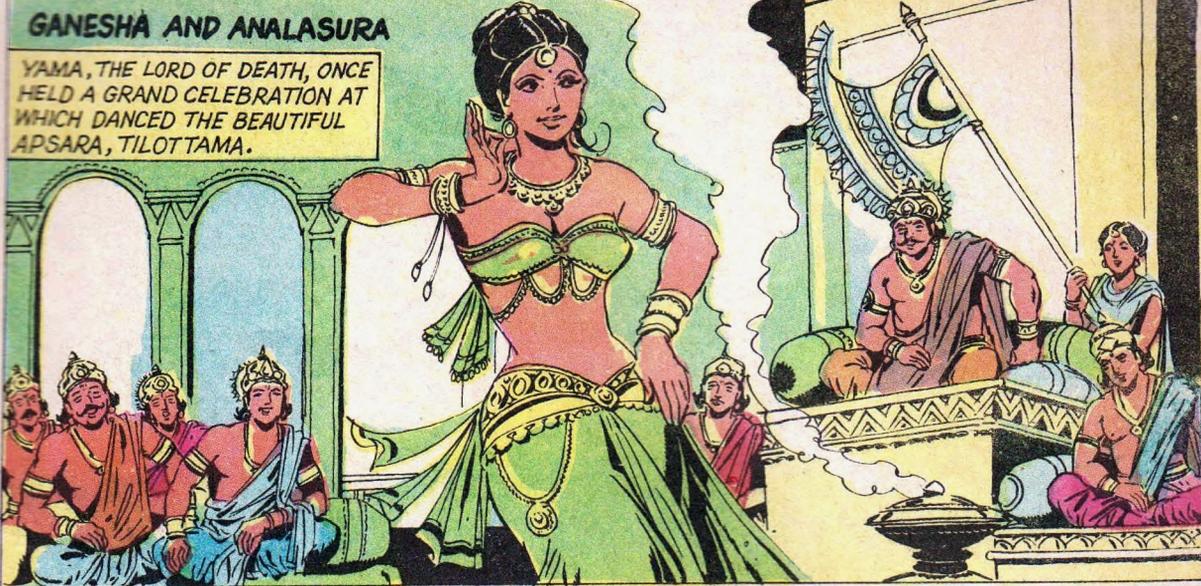
MOTHER PARVATI THEN FED GANESHA A SPOONFUL OF KHEER AND SATISFIED HIS INSATIABLE HUNGER!

MOTHER MAKES THE BEST KHEER IN THE WORLD!



# GANESHA AND ANALASURA

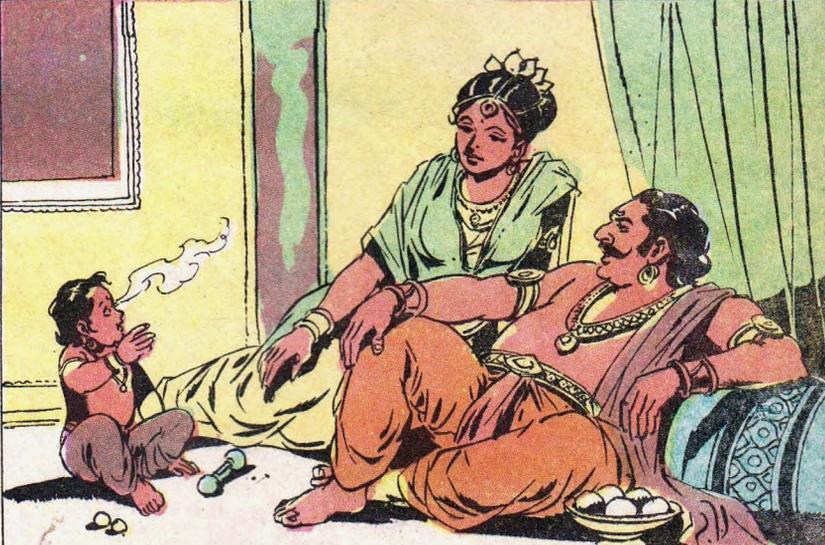
YAMA, THE LORD OF DEATH, ONCE HELD A GRAND CELEBRATION AT WHICH DANCED THE BEAUTIFUL APSARA, TILOTTAMA.



TO YAMA AND TILOTTAMA WAS BORN A RAKSHASA SON...



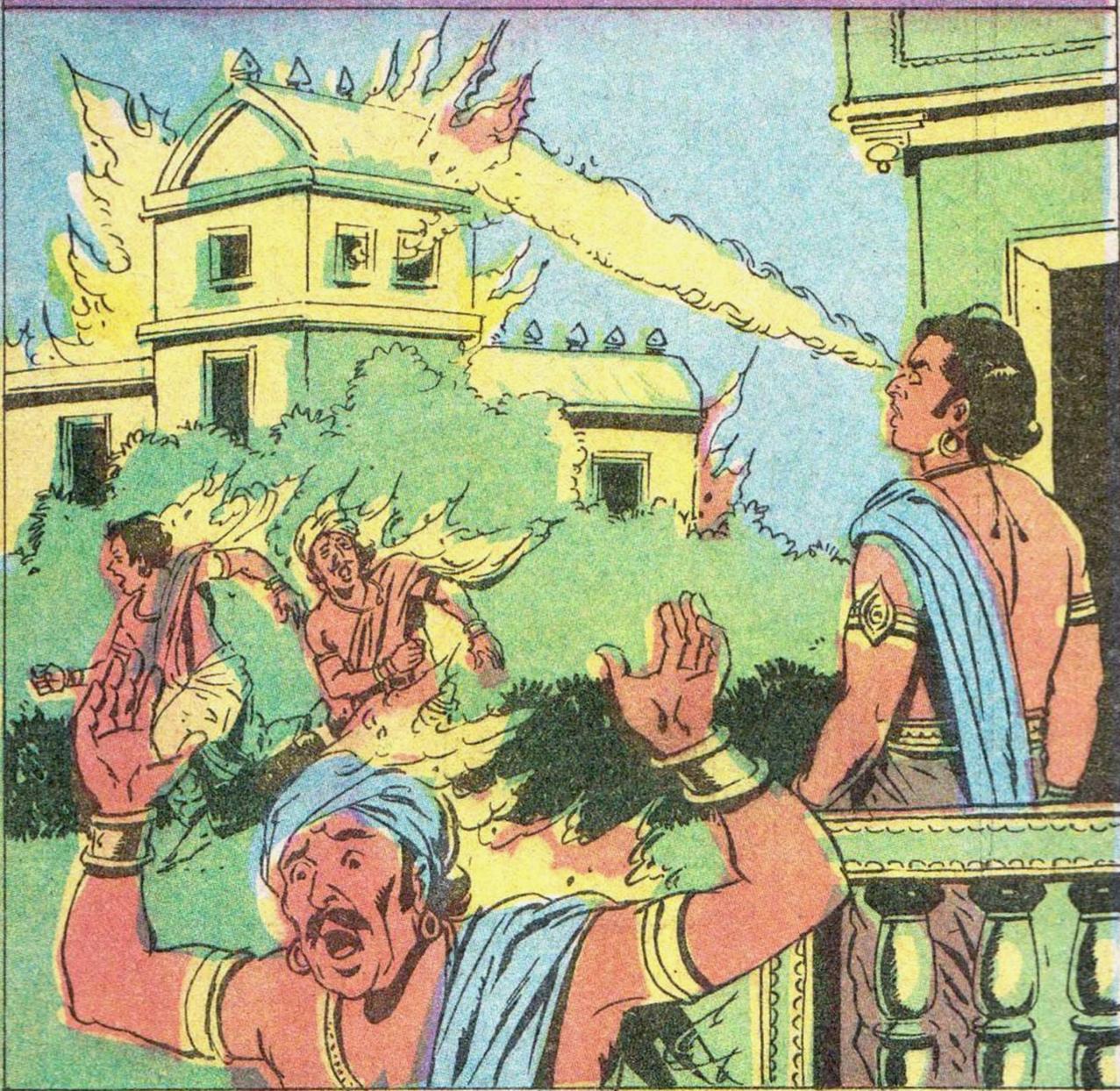
HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS! SHE MUST BE MINE!



...WHOSE BEING WAS SO TERRIBLE THAT FIRE DROPPED IN GREAT FLAMES FROM HIS EYES. BECAUSE OF THIS, HE WAS NAMED ANALASURA.



THESE FLAMES BURNT UP WHATEVER THEY FELL UPON. THE CREATURES OF THE WORLD FLED IN TERROR.



THEY CAME TO LORD VISHNU.



SAVE US, O LORD, FROM THIS TERRIBLE FATE.

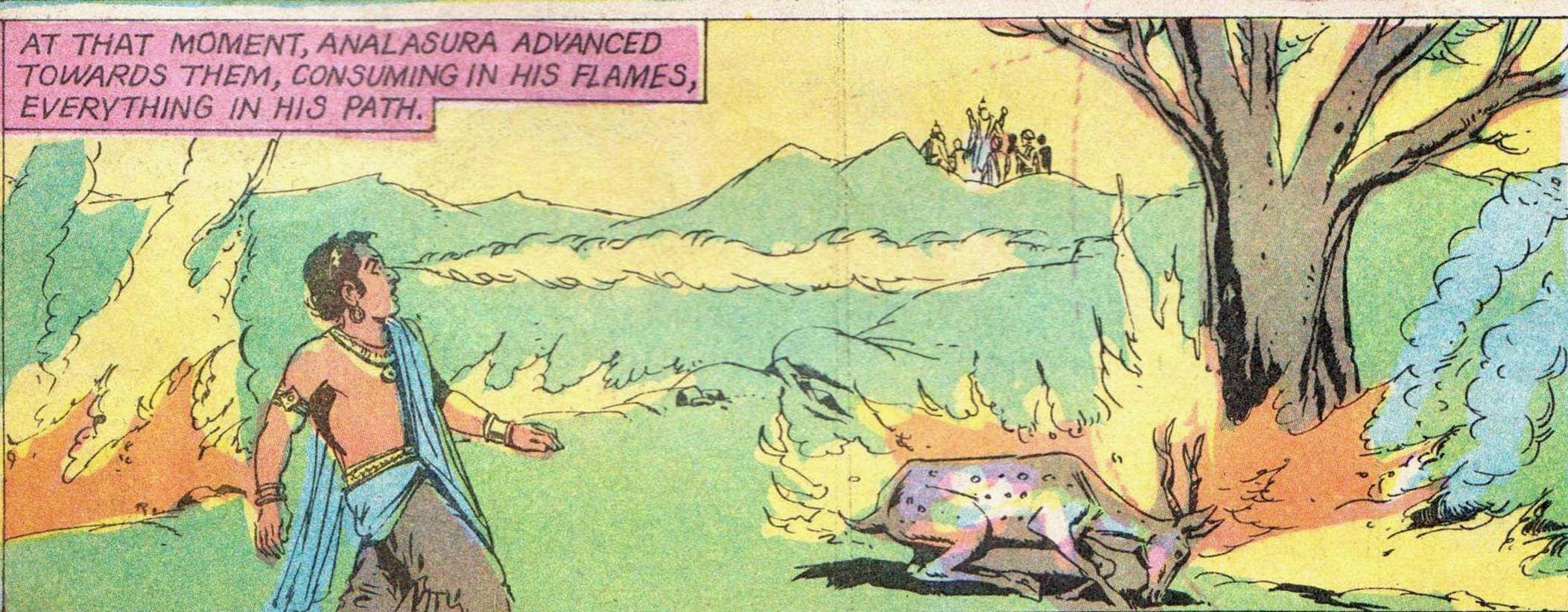
LET US ALL GO TO GANESHA.

GREETINGS O LORD.

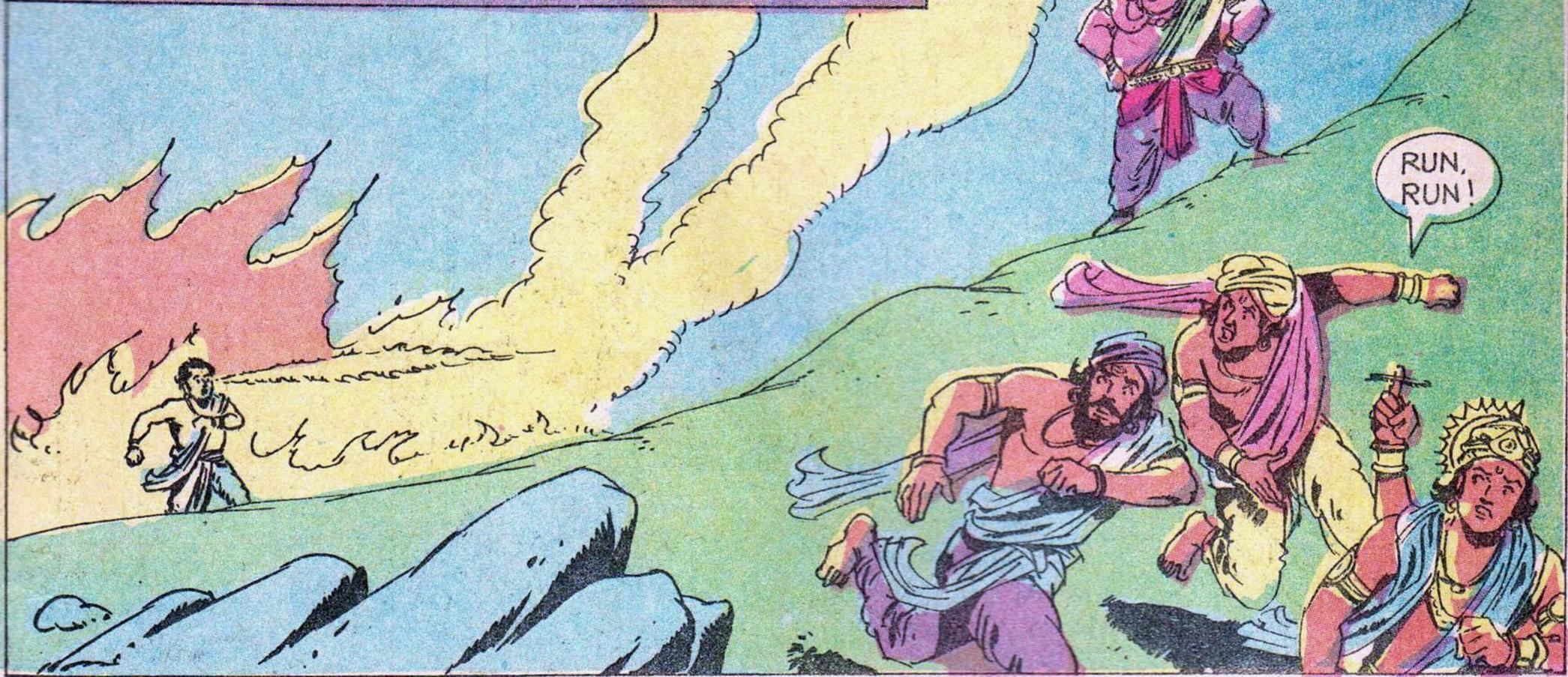
WE HAVE COME TO BEG YOUR HELP. ANALASURA IS DESTROYING THE WORLD.



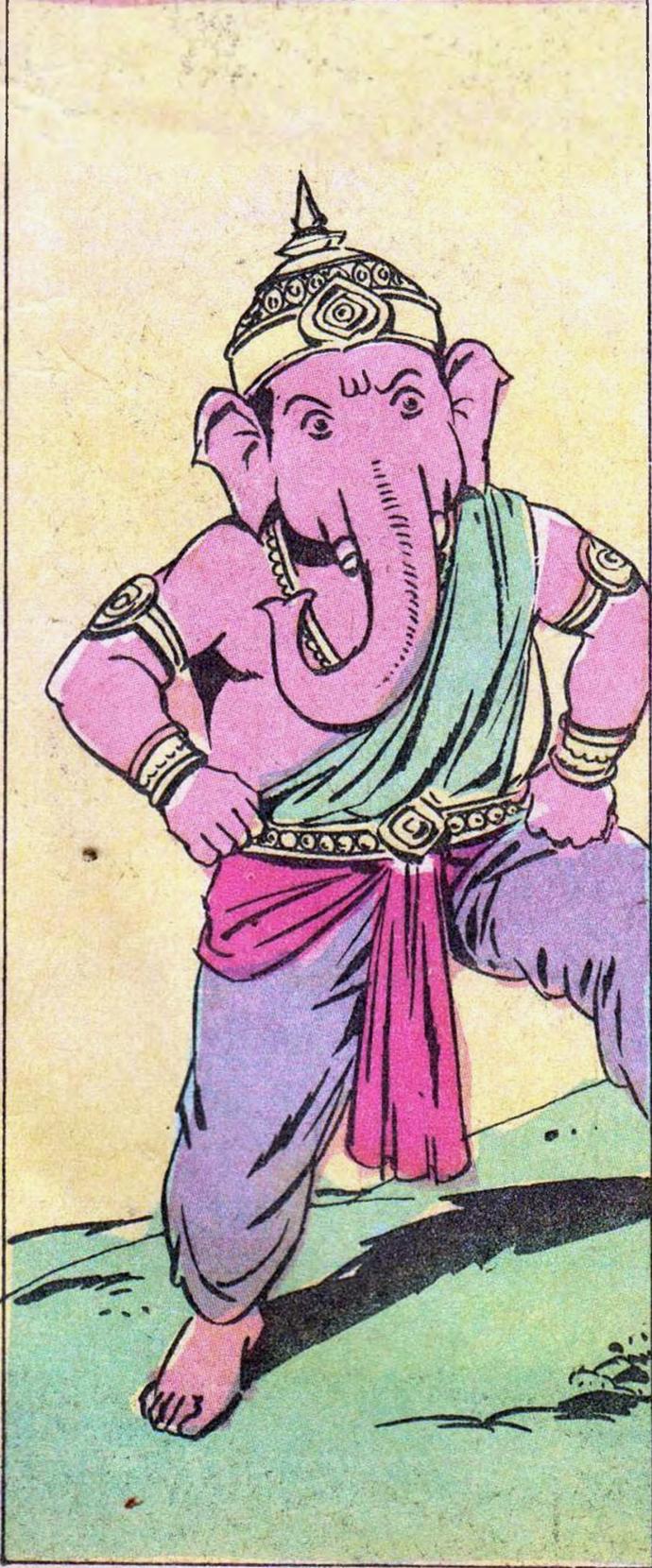
AT THAT MOMENT, ANALASURA ADVANCED TOWARDS THEM, CONSUMING IN HIS FLAMES, EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH.



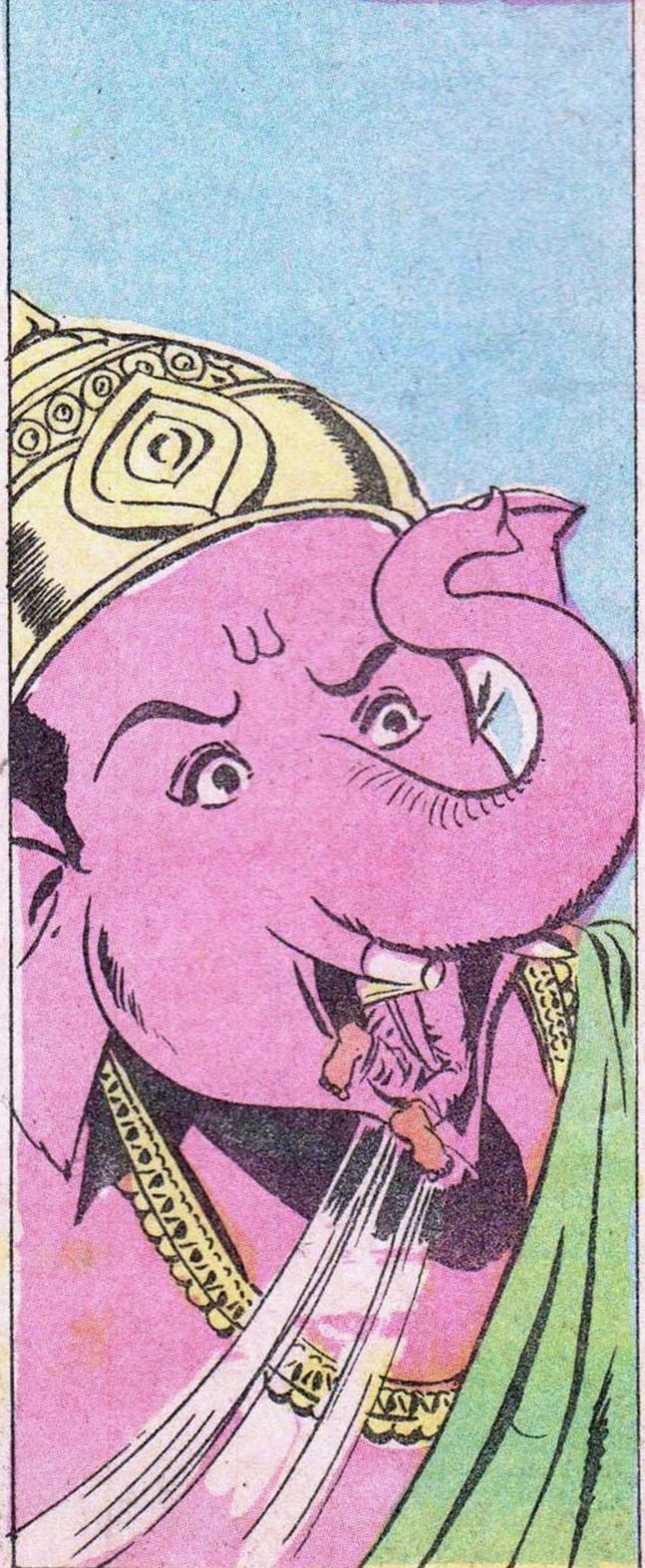
HE DRIED UP THE OCEAN AND THE EARTH TREMBLED DUE TO THE SCORCHING HEAT. ALL THE PEOPLE SCATTERED IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND RAN FOR THEIR LIVES.



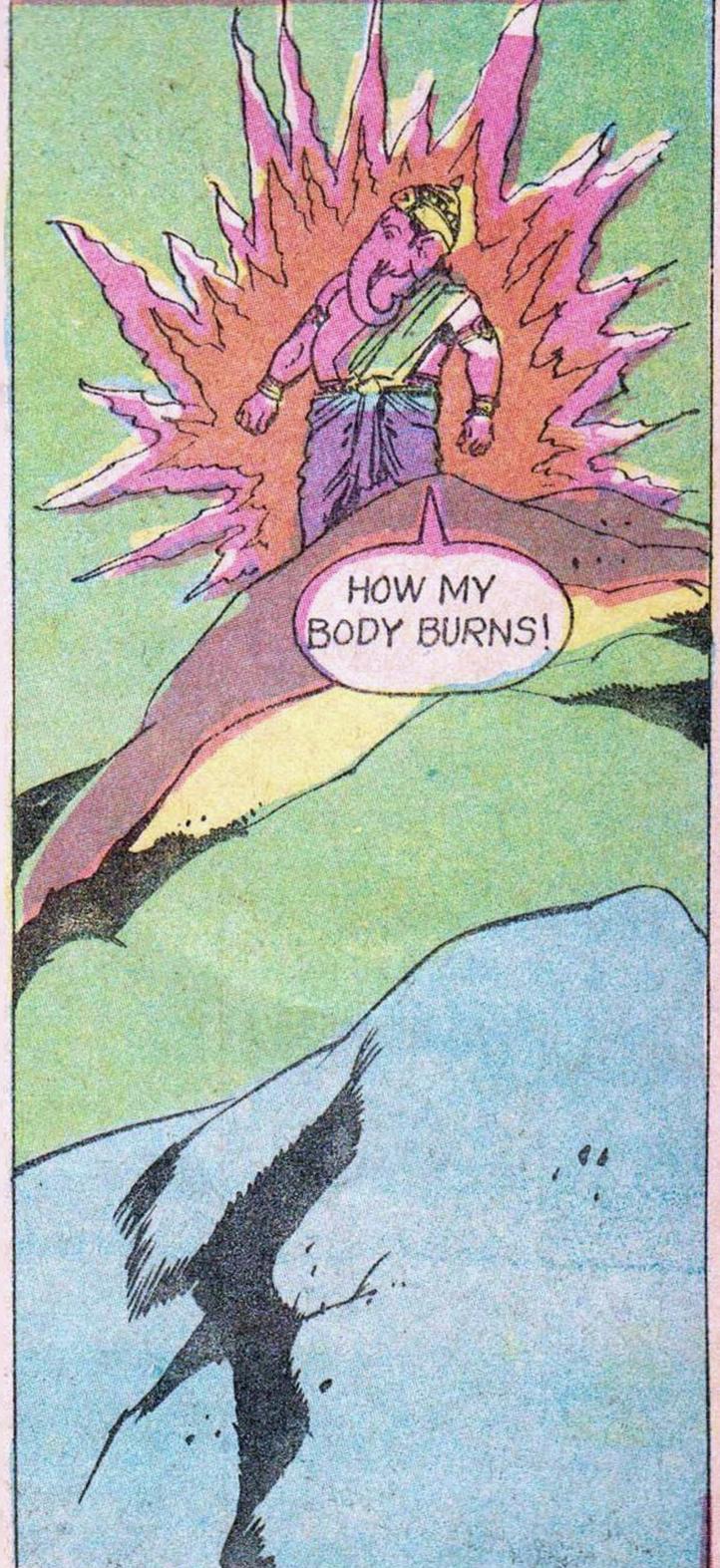
YOUNG GANESH STOOD THERE TO FACE HIM, ALONE AND UNAFRAID



AS SOON AS THE RAKSHASA CAME NEAR HIM, HE OPENED WIDE HIS MOUTH AND SWALLOWED HIM UP WHOLE!



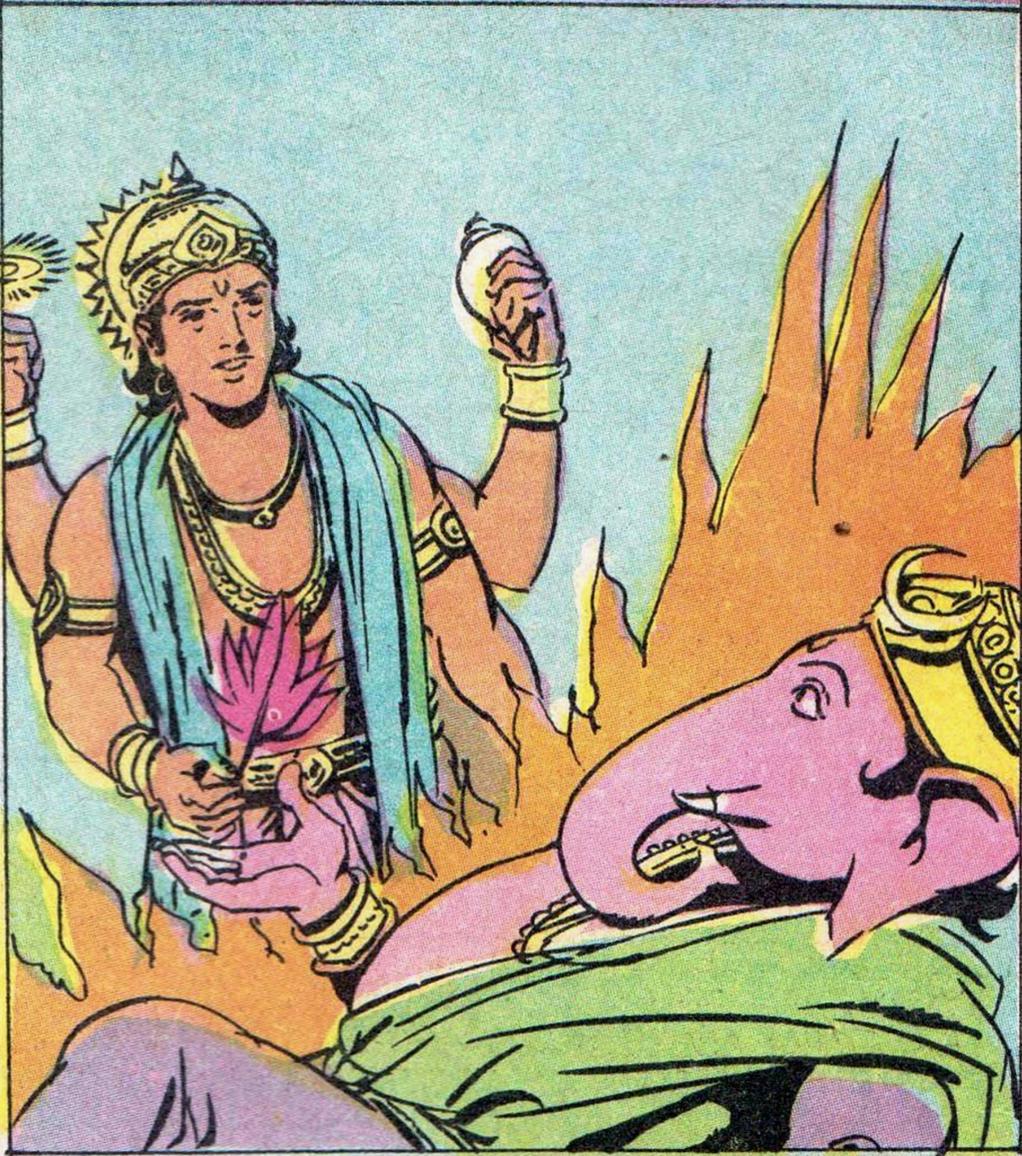
NOW THIS WAS FINE, AS IT WENT. BUT THE EFFECT OF THIS ACTION WAS THAT IT SEEMED AS THOUGH HIS WHOLE BODY WAS ON FIRE.



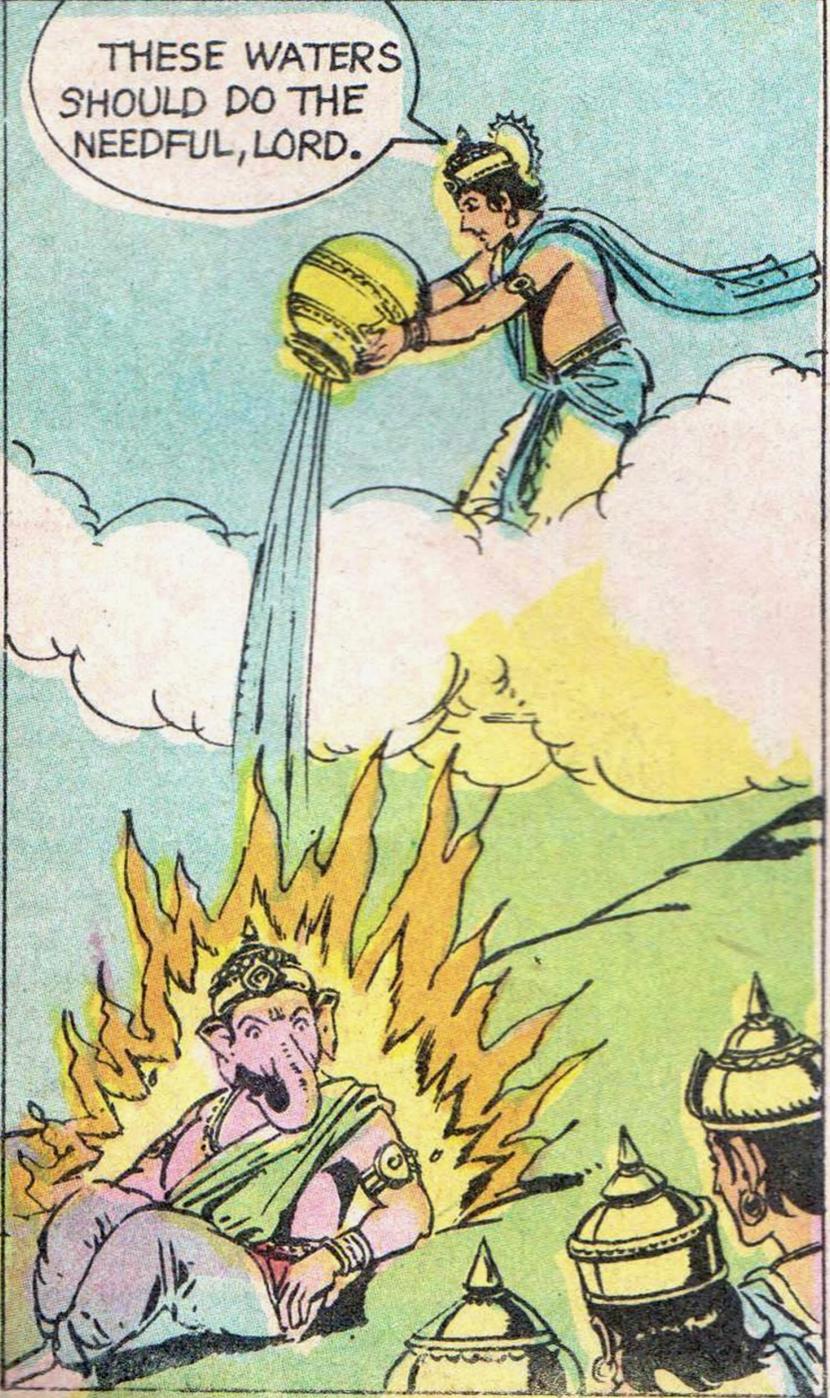
ALL THE GODS RUSHED TO HIS AID. THEY PLACED THE COOL AND SOOTHING MOON ON HIS FOREHEAD (BY WHICH HE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS BHALCHANDRA) BUT HIS BODY BURNED AS BEFORE.



VISHNU PLACED IN HIS HAND HIS TENDER AND FRAGRANT LOTUS, BY WHICH HE ACQUIRED THE NAME PADMAPANI. BUT COOL HIM IT DID NOT.



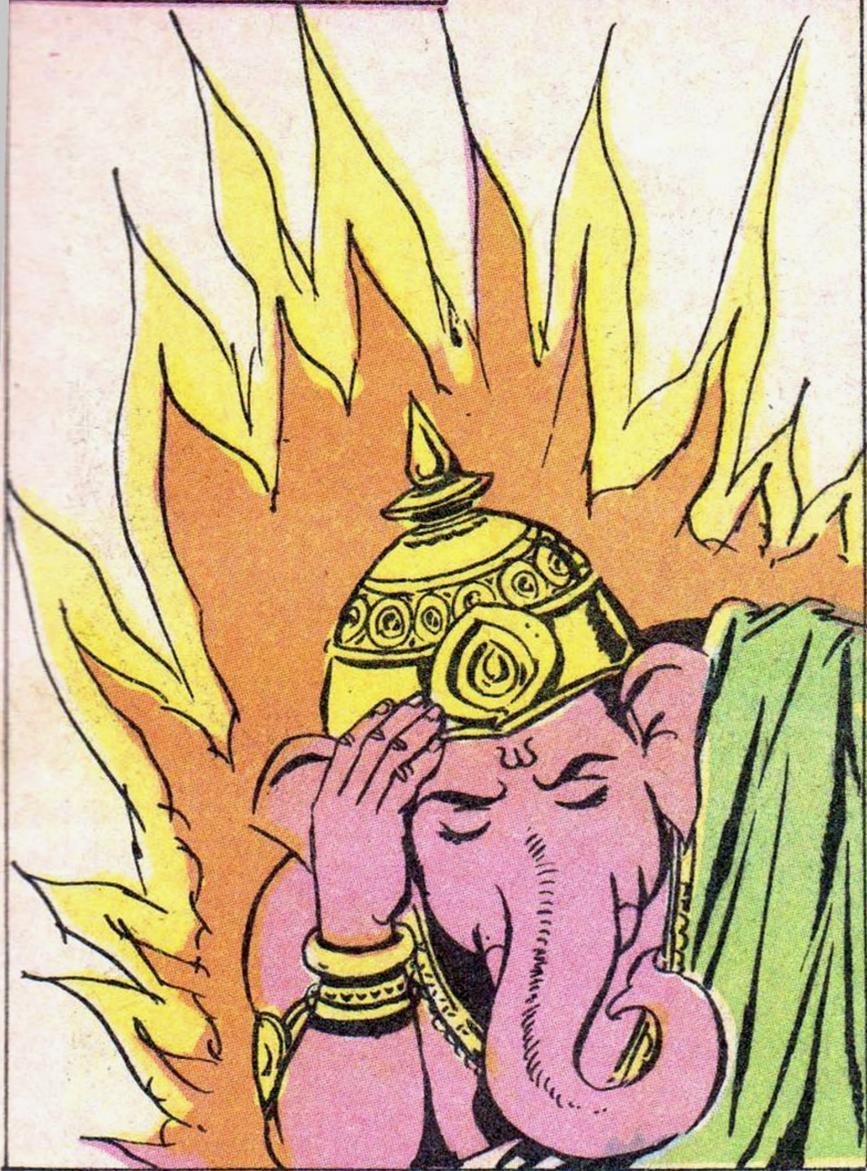
VARUNA, THE GOD OF WATER, Poured THE COOLEST WATERS GATHERED FROM RIVERS AND LAKES ON TO GANESHA.



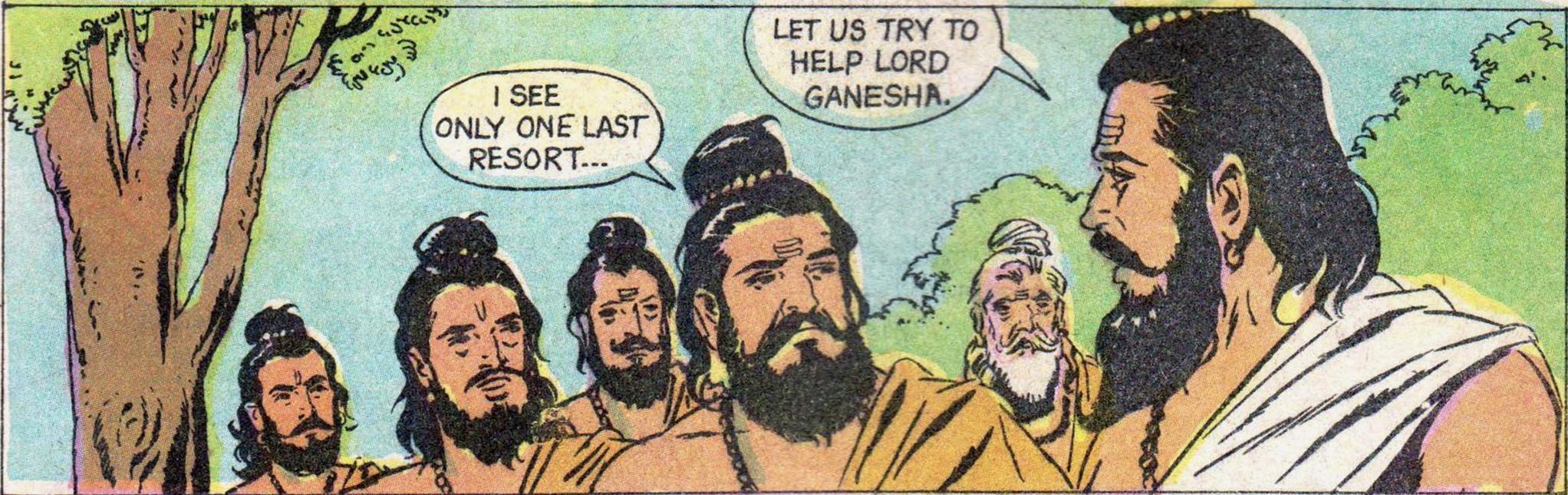
BUT GANESH WAS AS MISERABLE AS EVER.



YET, GANAPATI CONTINUED BURNING WITH TERRIBLE INTENSITY.



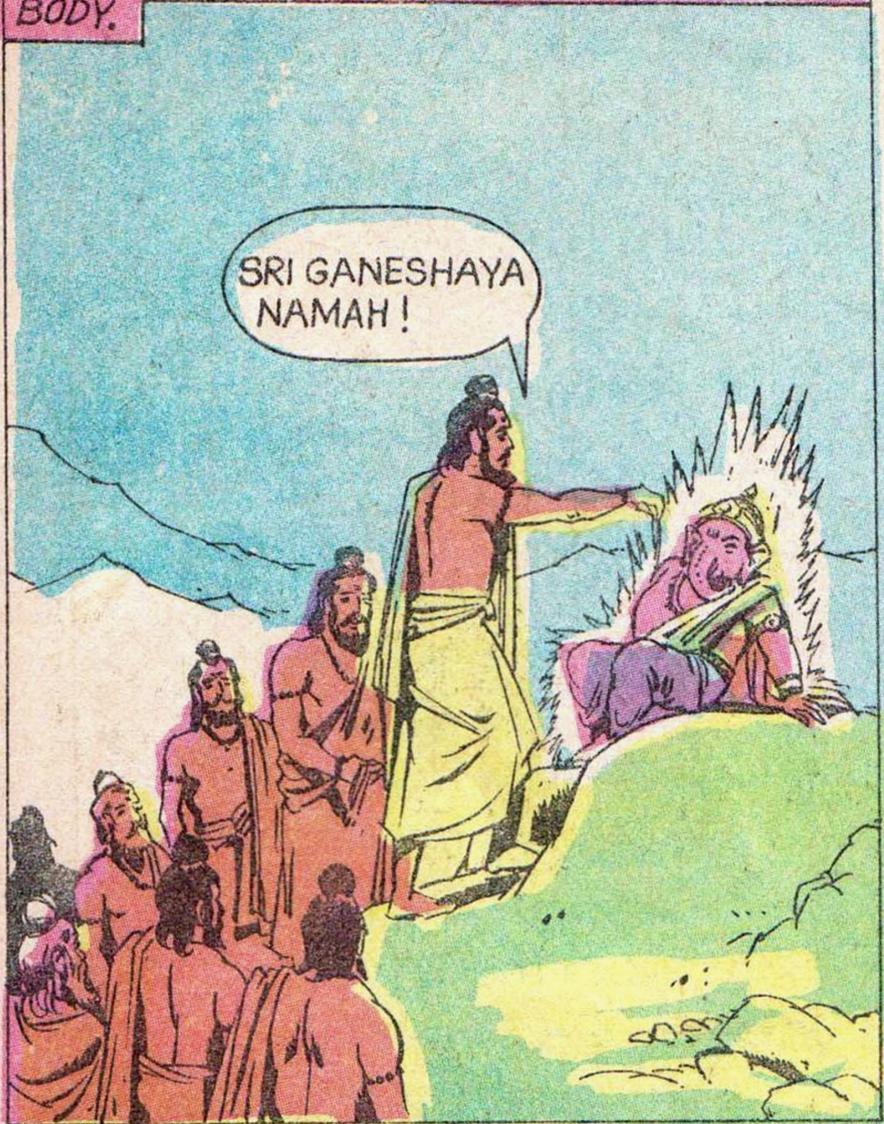
SEEING HIS PLIGHT, ALL THE RISHIS OF THE WORLD GATHERED TOGETHER.



THEN THESE RISHIS, WHO WERE EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND IN NUMBER, GATHERED TWENTY-ONE BLADES EACH OF A PARTICULAR GRASS CALLED DURVA.



THESE THEY TOOK TO GANAPATI AND PLACED THE SMALL BUNDLES ON HIS BURNING BODY.

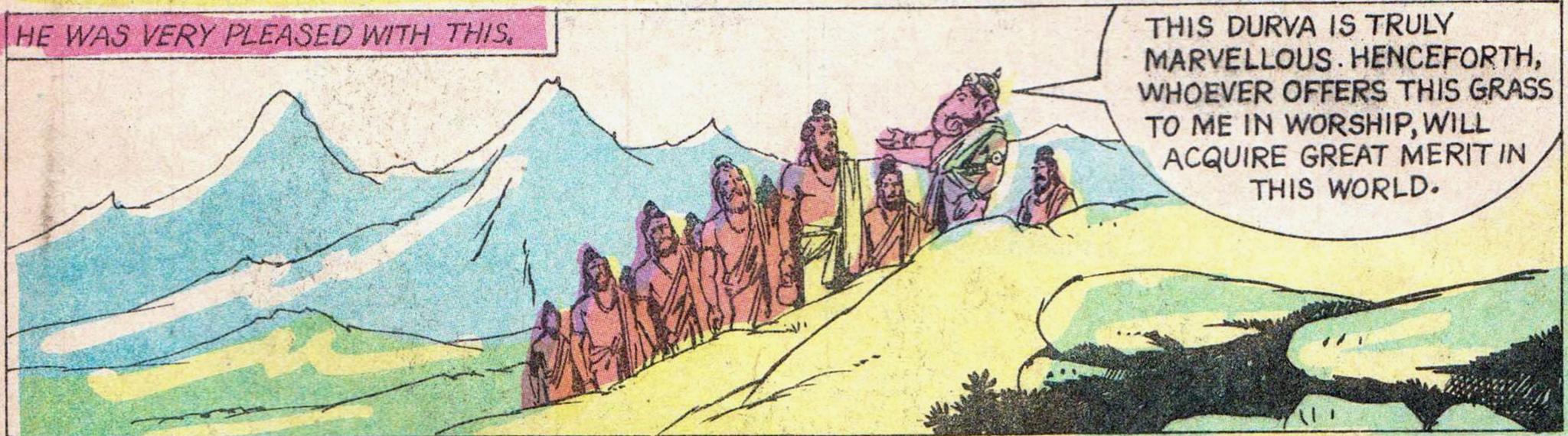


SRI GANESHAYA NAMAH!

MIRACULOUSLY, GANESHA'S BODY COOLED AND HIS DISCOMFORT DISAPPEARED.

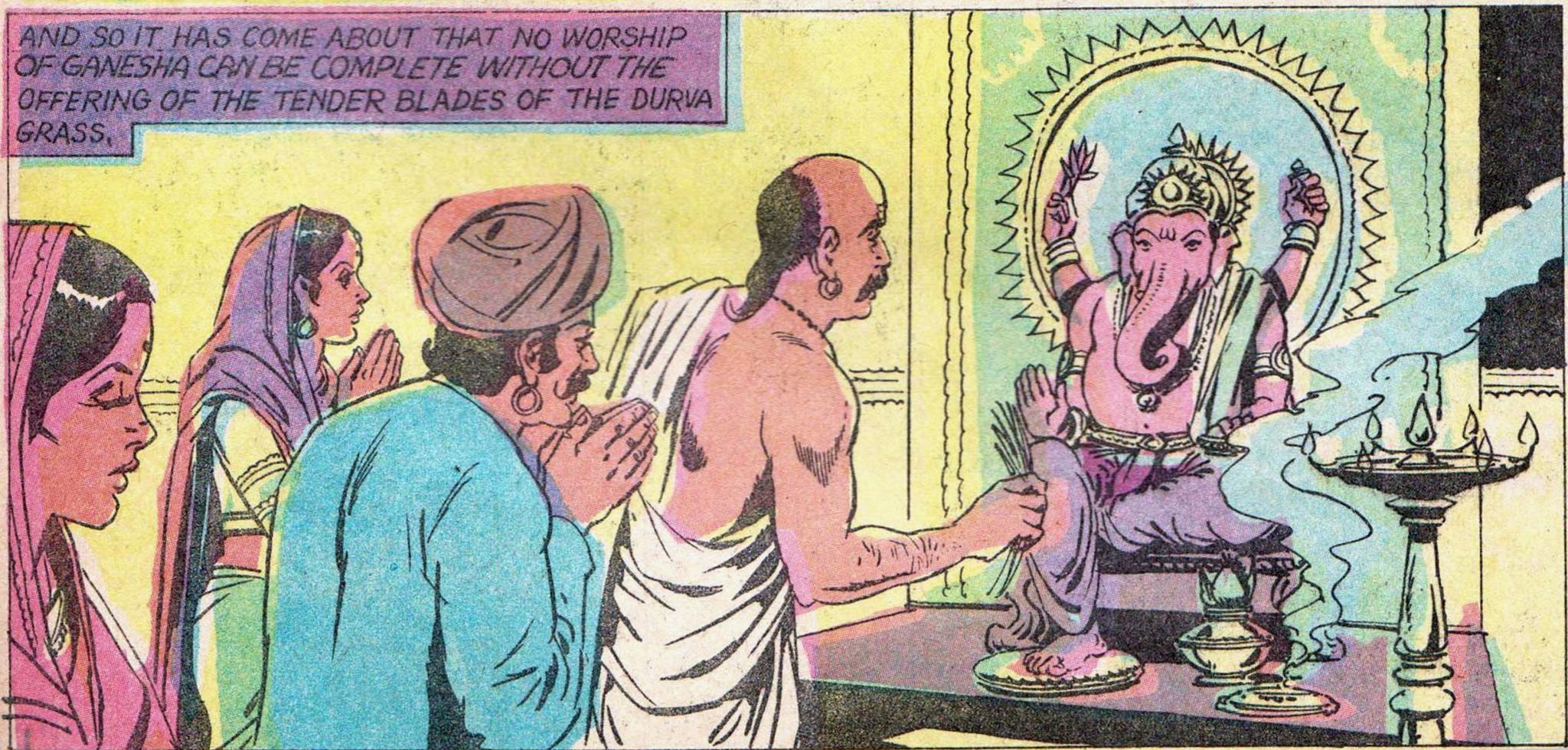


HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THIS.



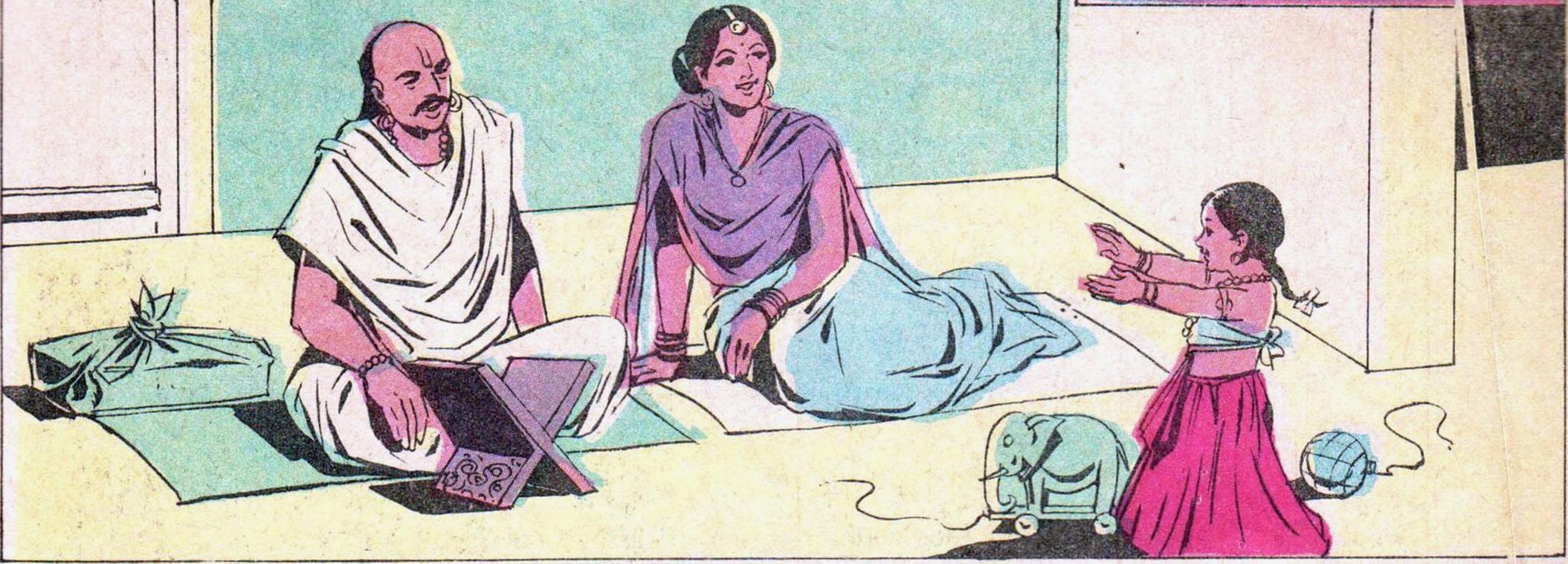
THIS DURVA IS TRULY MARVELLOUS. HENCEFORTH, WHOEVER OFFERS THIS GRASS TO ME IN WORSHIP, WILL ACQUIRE GREAT MERIT IN THIS WORLD.

AND SO IT HAS COME ABOUT THAT NO WORSHIP OF GANESHA CAN BE COMPLETE WITHOUT THE OFFERING OF THE TENDER BLADES OF THE DURVA GRASS.

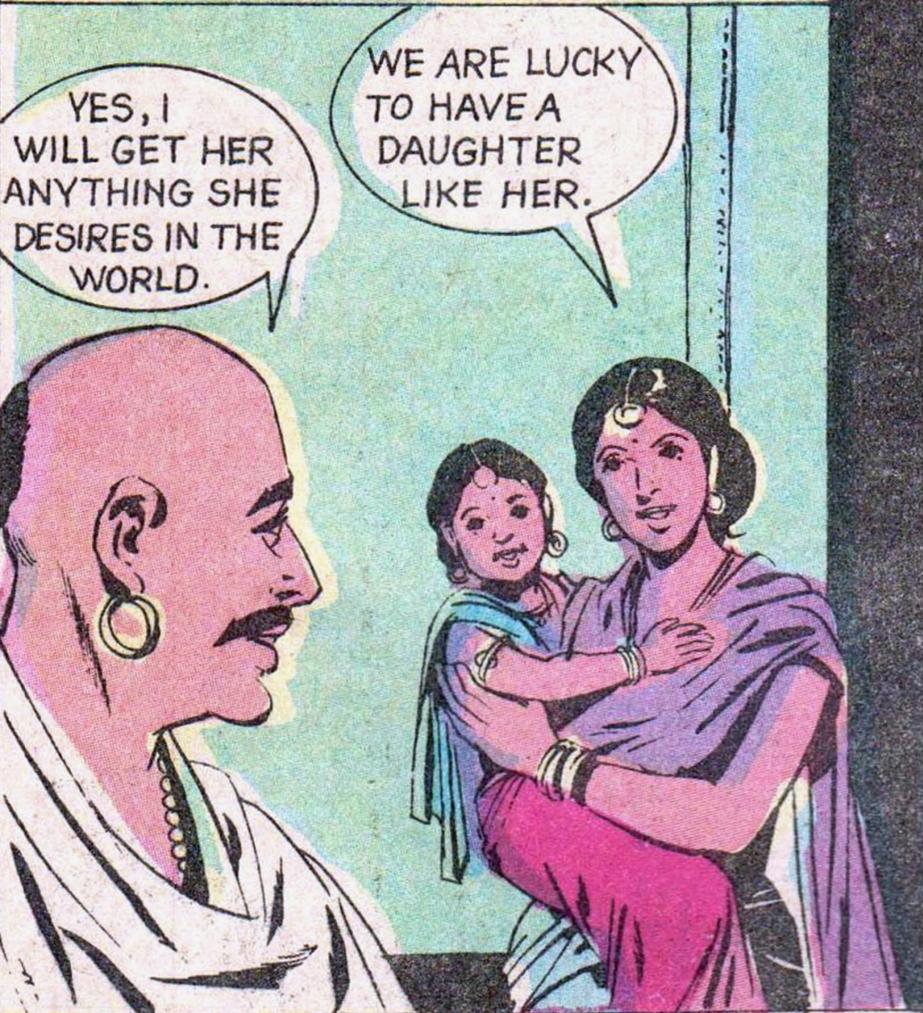


# THE STORY OF MANDAAR

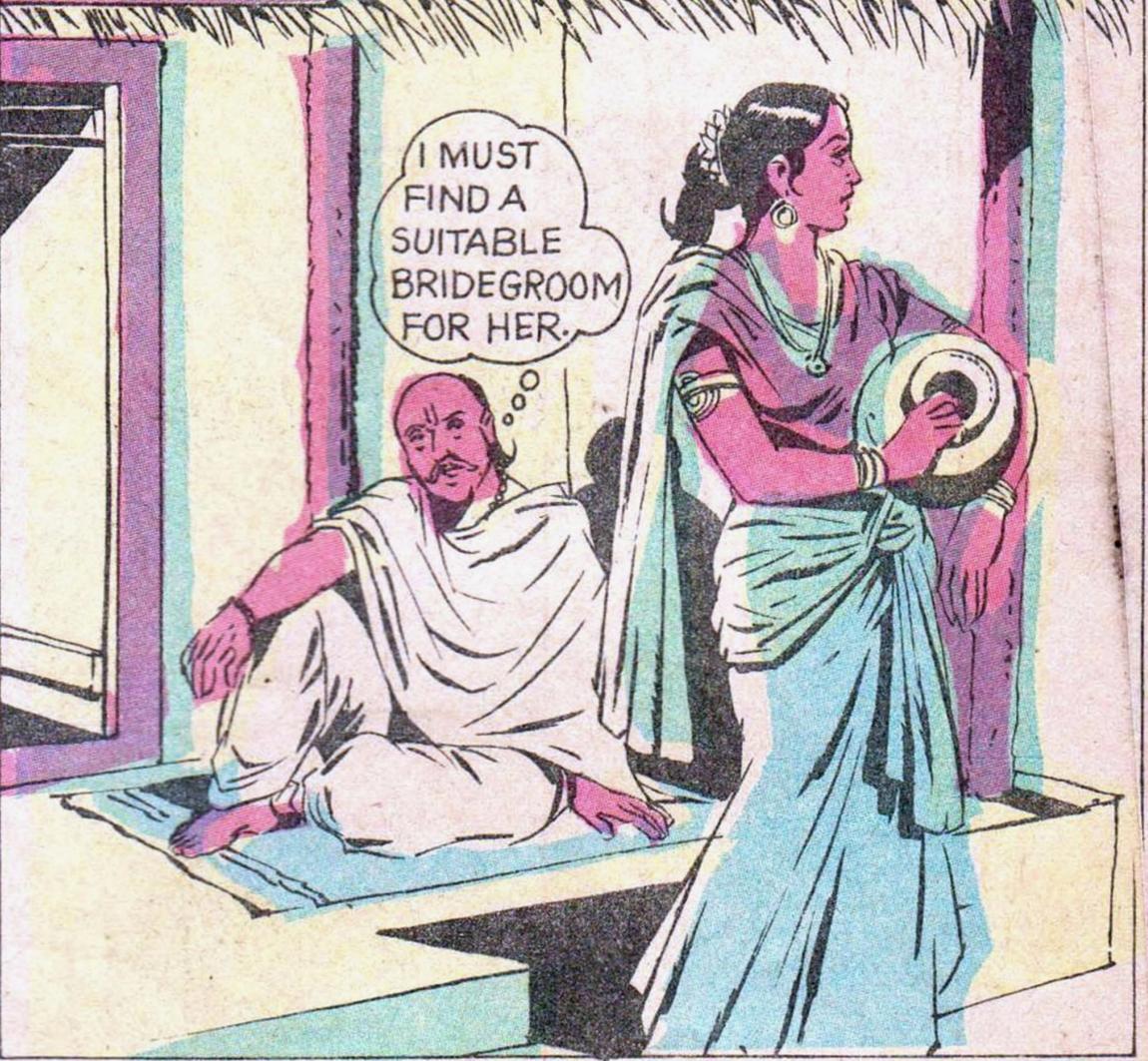
THERE LIVED A BRAHMIN CALLED AURAS AND HIS DEVOTED WIFE SUMEDHA. THEY HAD A DAUGHTER CALLED SHAMIKA.



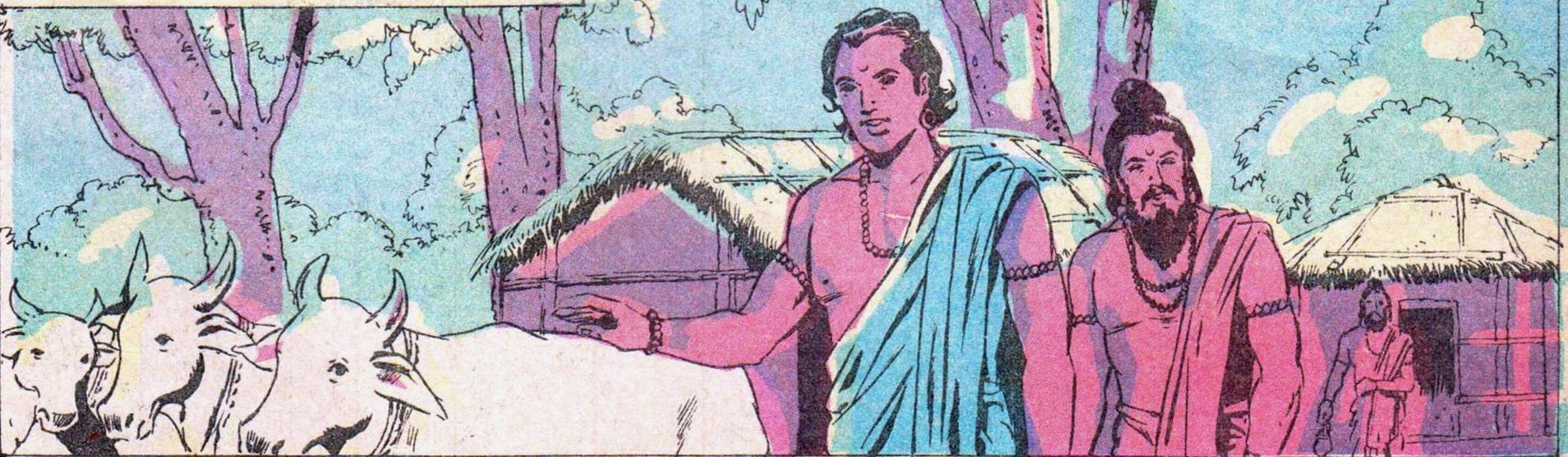
SHAMIKA, BEING AN ONLY CHILD, WAS DOTED ON BY HER FOND PARENTS.



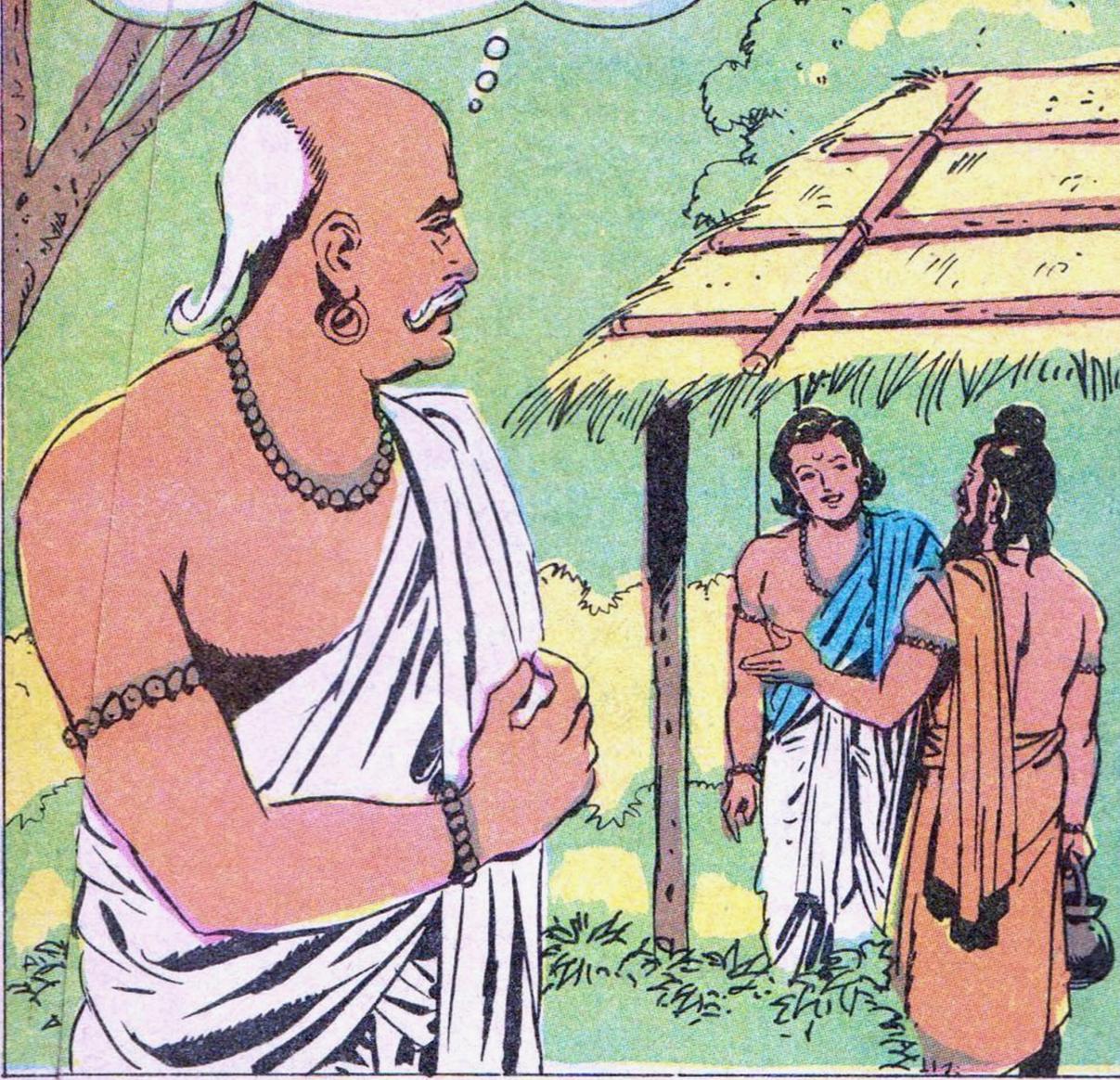
AS SHE GREW UP...



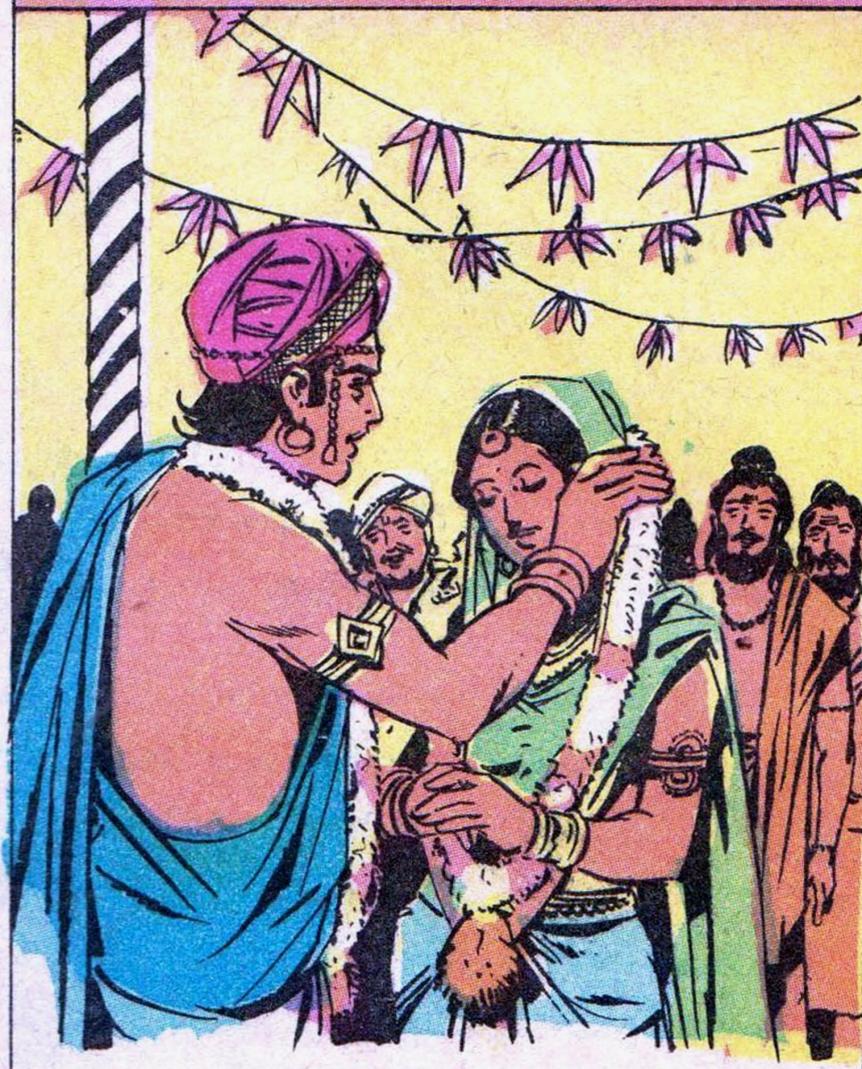
AT THAT TIME, IN THE ASHRAMA OF THE RISHI SHAUNAKA, WAS A BRIGHT YOUNG STUDENT. HIS NAME WAS MANDAAR AND HE WAS THE SON OF THE RISHI DHAUMYA.



MANDAAR IS LEARNED AND NOBLE.  
HE WILL SUIT SHAMIKA VERY WELL.



THEY WERE SOON WED...



...AND STARTED LIVING HAPPILY  
IN AN ASHRAM OF THEIR OWN.

ONE DAY, THEY WERE VISITED BY A QUEER LOOKING RISHI  
CALLED BHRUSHUNDI.



O LOOK, WHO  
IS THAT FUNNY  
CREATURE COM-  
ING OUR WAY?

MANDAAR AND HIS WIFE, ON SEEING HIS PECULIAR  
APPEARANCE, COULD NOT HIDE THEIR SMILES.



YOUR AMUSEMENT  
IS UNSEEMLY AND  
IN BAD TASTE.



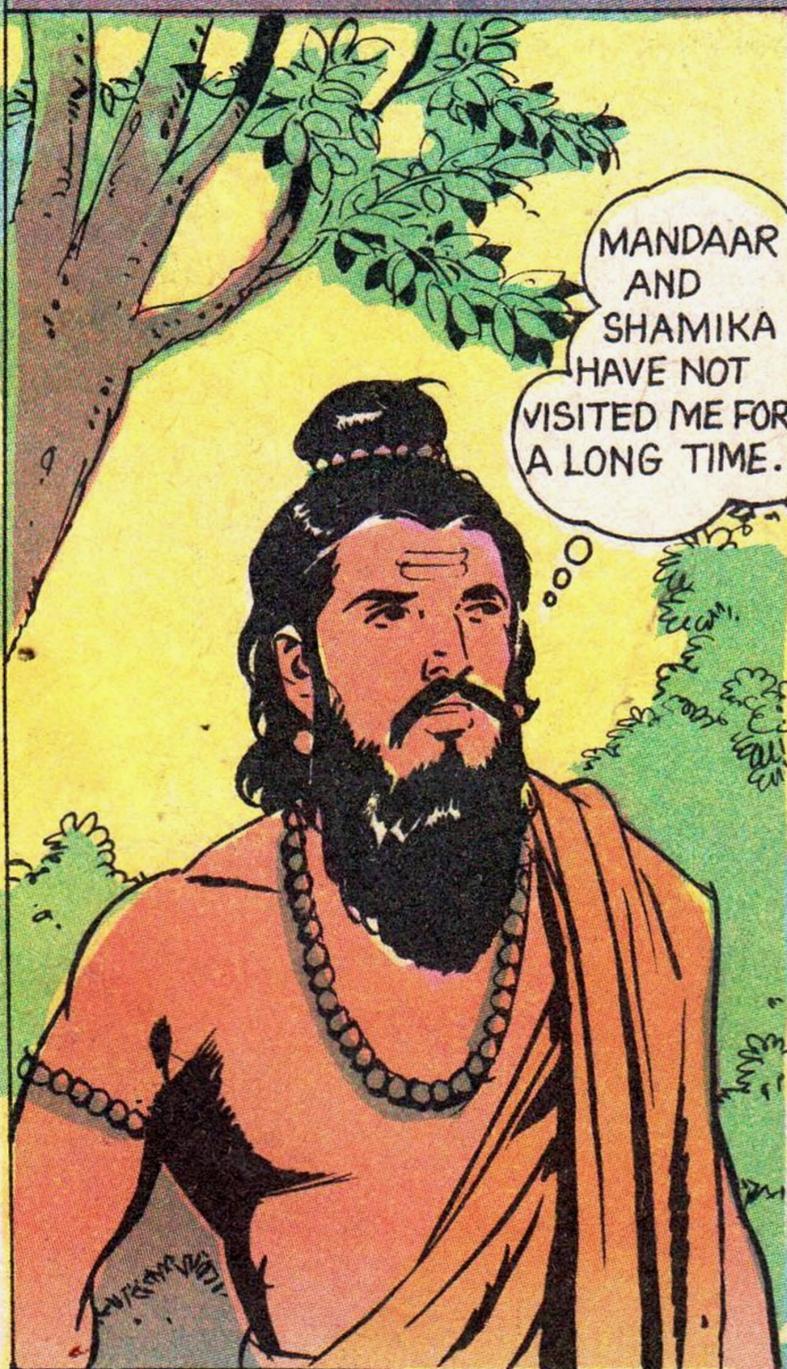
I CURSE YOU TO TURN INTO TREES -AND SUCH TREES THAT EVEN BIRDS WILL NOT COME NEAR YOU!

ACCORDINGLY, ALL BECAUSE OF AN INNOCENT MISTAKE, THEY TURNED INTO TREES WITH BIG THORNS, SO THAT NO BIRDS CAME NEAR THEM.



O WHAT A FATE!

IN SHAUNAKA'S ASHRAM -



MANDAAR AND SHAMIKA HAVE NOT VISITED ME FOR A LONG TIME.



LET ME GO AND SEE IF ALL IS WELL WITH THEM.

SHAUNAKA, ON NOT FINDING HIS BELOVED PUPIL IN HIS ASHRAM, WENT TO AURAS.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE MANDAAR AND SHAMIKA ARE?

WHY, WHAT HAS HAPPENED? ARE THEY NOT IN THEIR ASHRAMA?

I HAVE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR THEM BUT THEY ARE NOT TO BE SEEN ANYWHERE.

COME, LET US GO AGAIN AND LOOK FOR THEM.

THEY HUNTED FOR THEM THROUGH MANY VILLAGES AND FORESTS, BUT ALL THEIR EFFORTS WERE IN VAIN.

WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE?

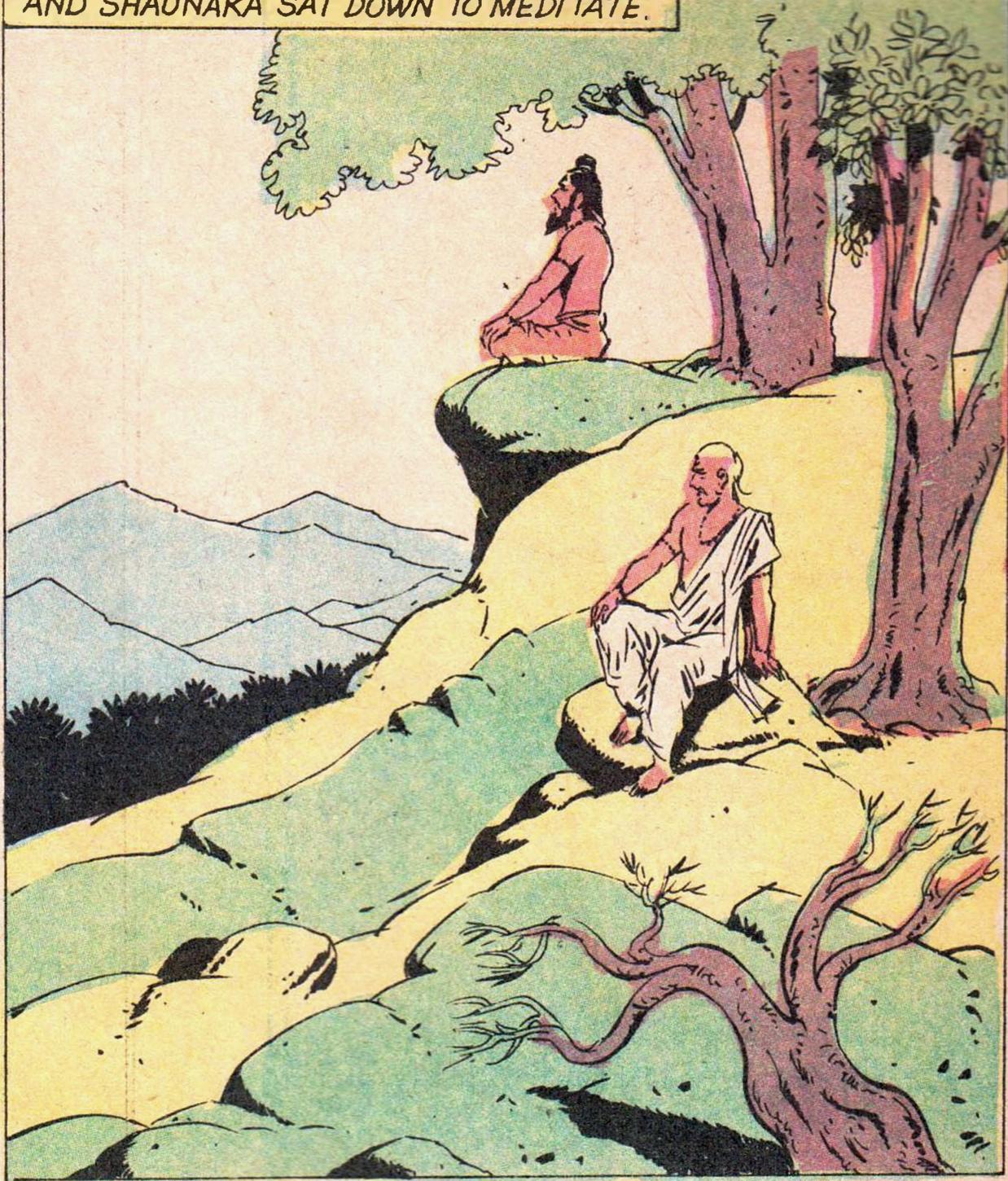
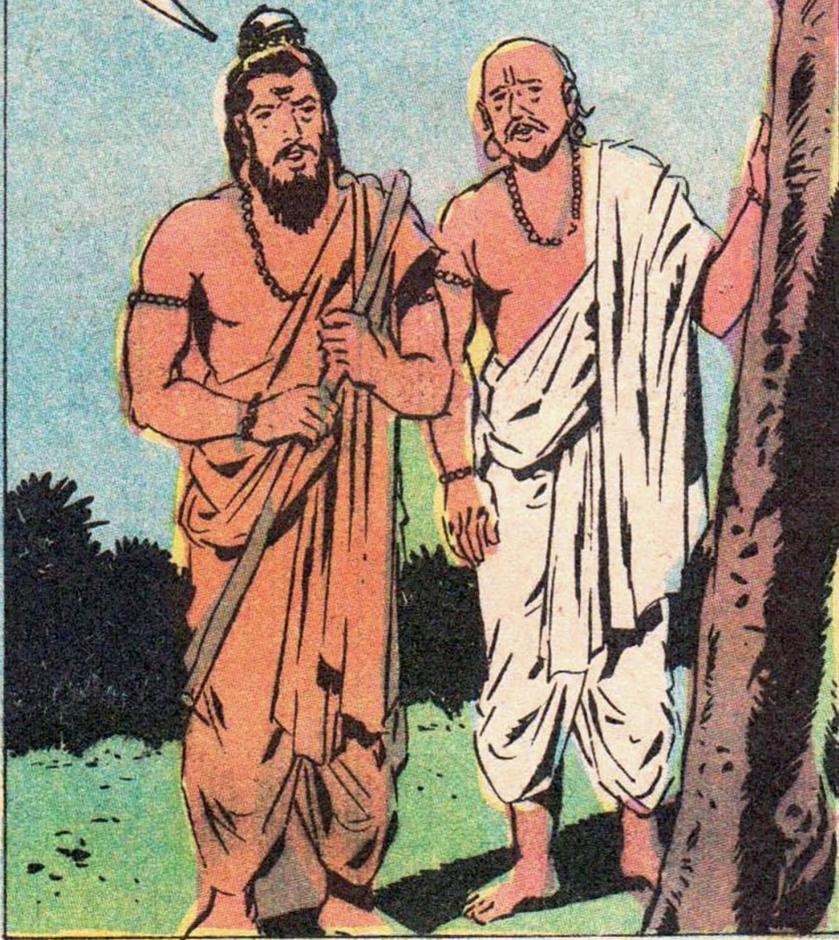
I HOPE NO HARM HAS BEFALLEN THEM.

ULTIMATELY AURAS, HALF OUT OF HIS MIND WITH ANXIETY, PLEADED WITH SHAUNAKA.

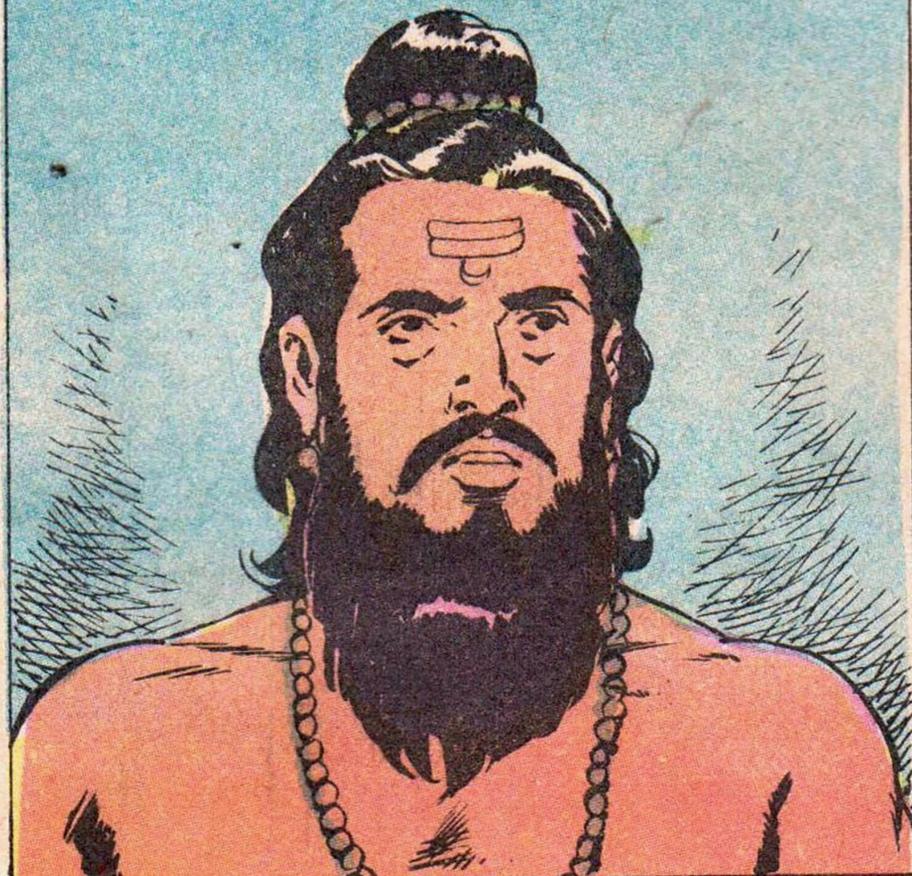
AND SHAUNAKA SAT DOWN TO MEDITATE.

MAHARAJ, COULD YOU NOT USE YOUR DIVINE POWERS TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY ARE?

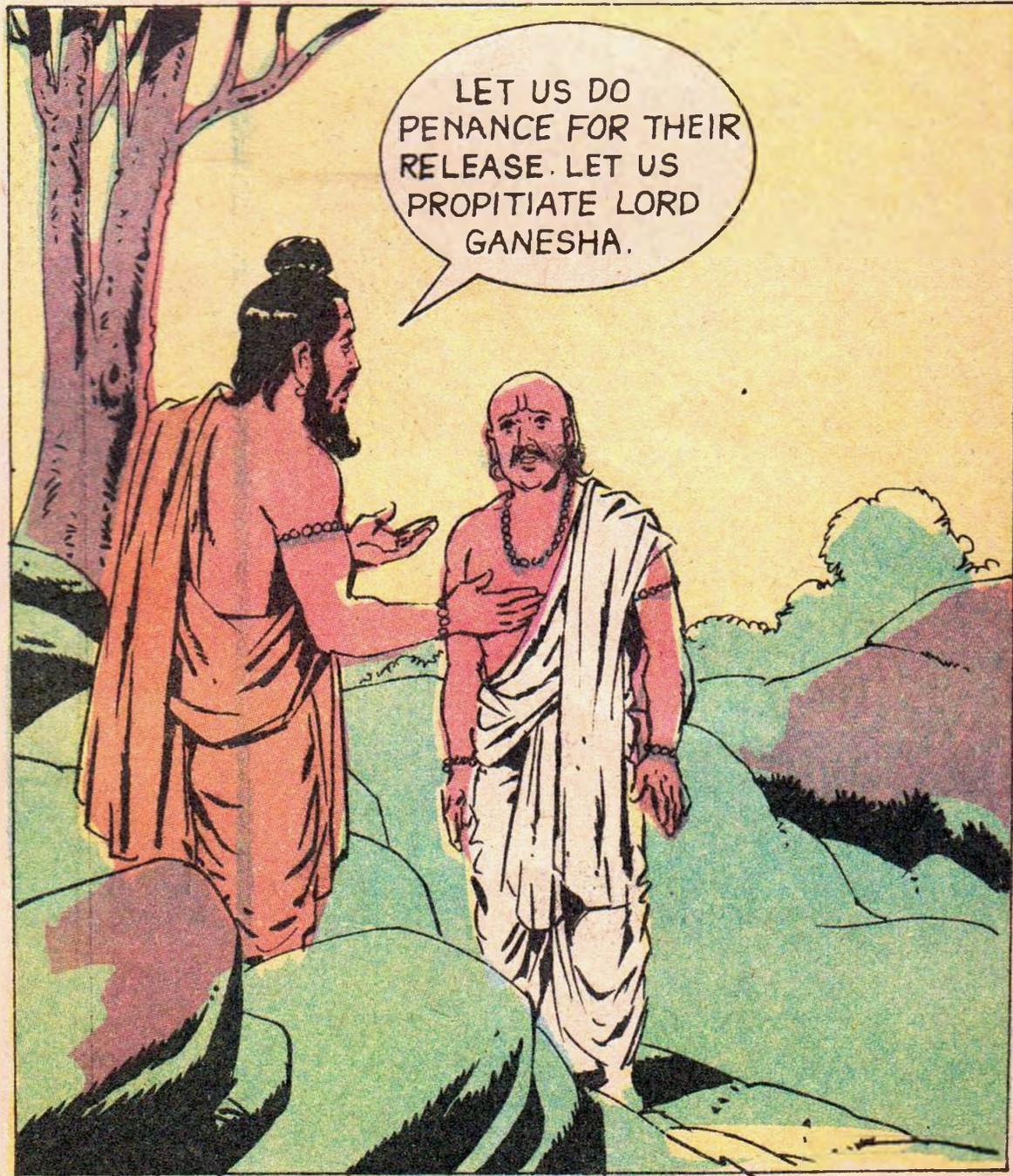
THAT IS OUR ONLY RESORT NOW.



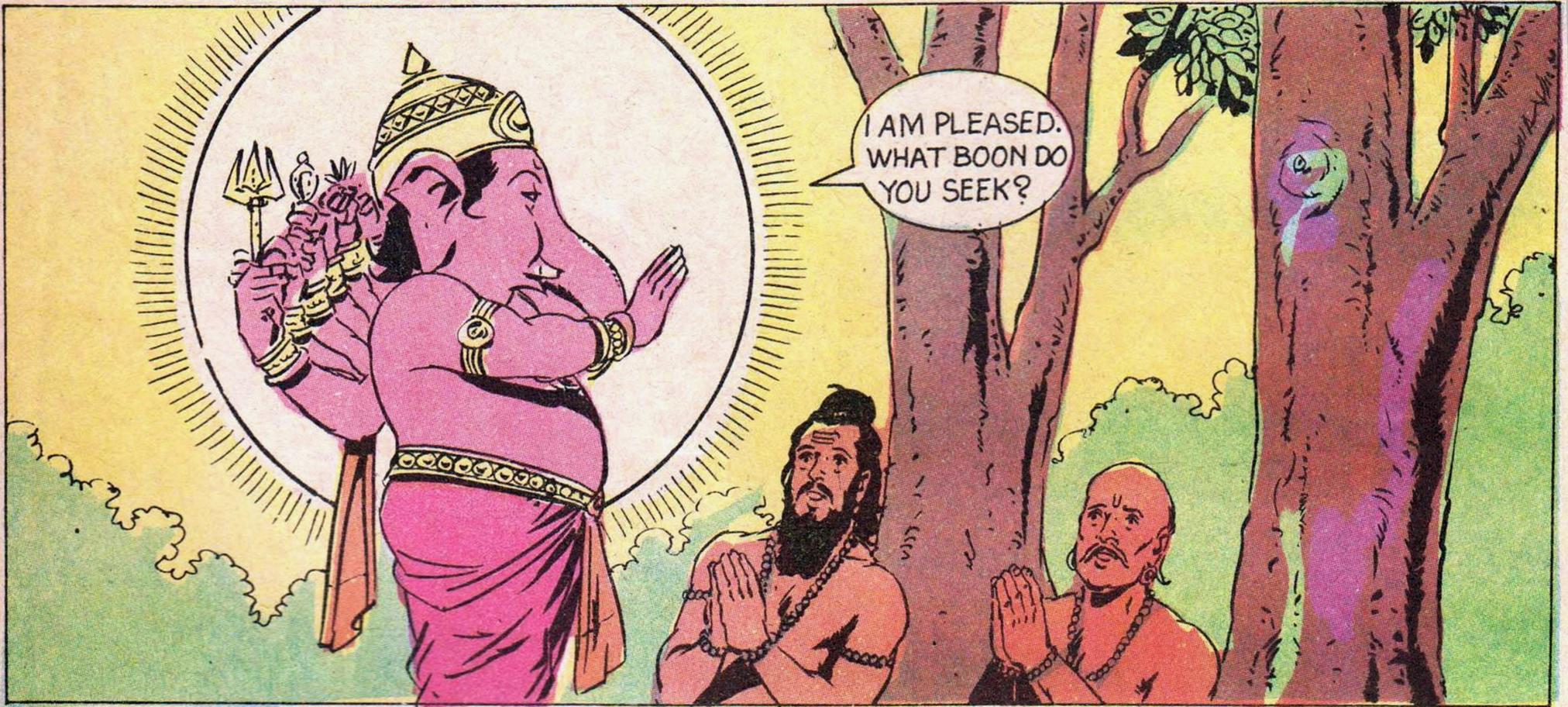
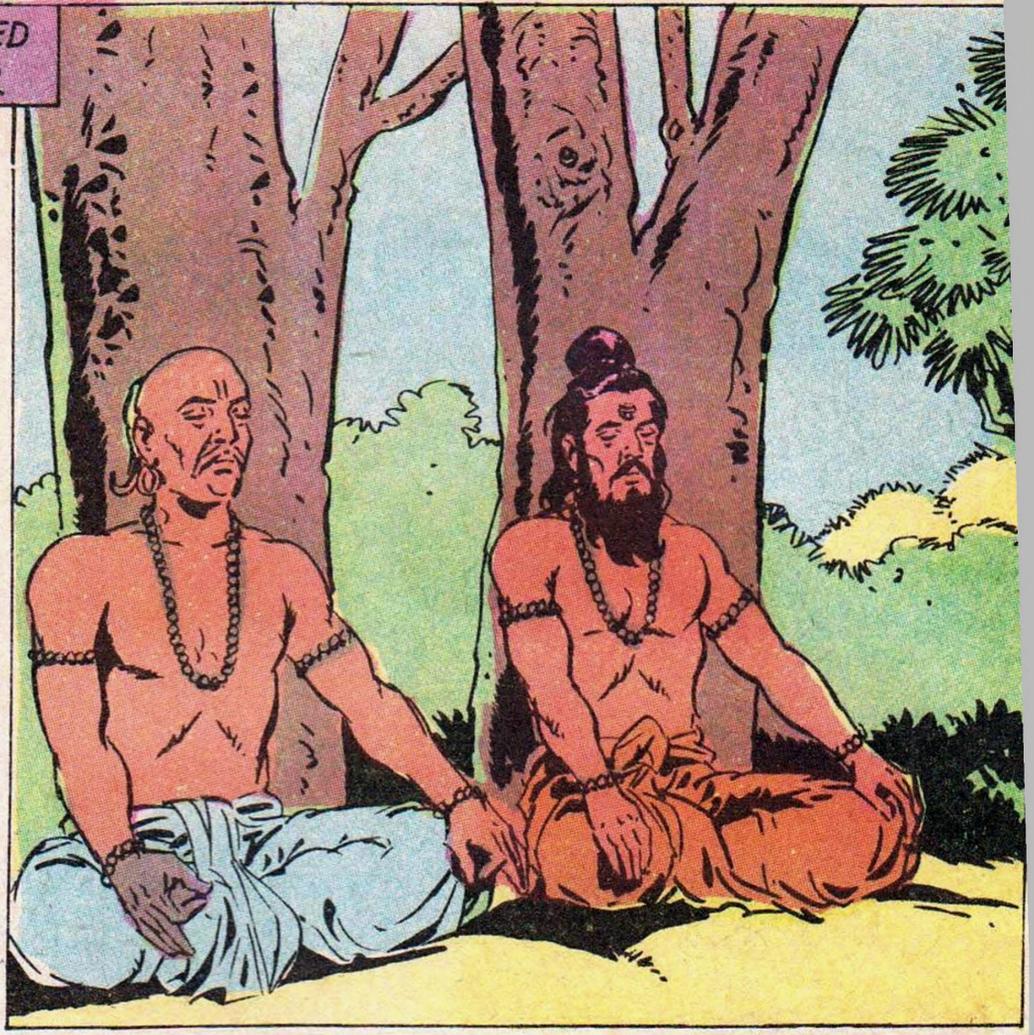
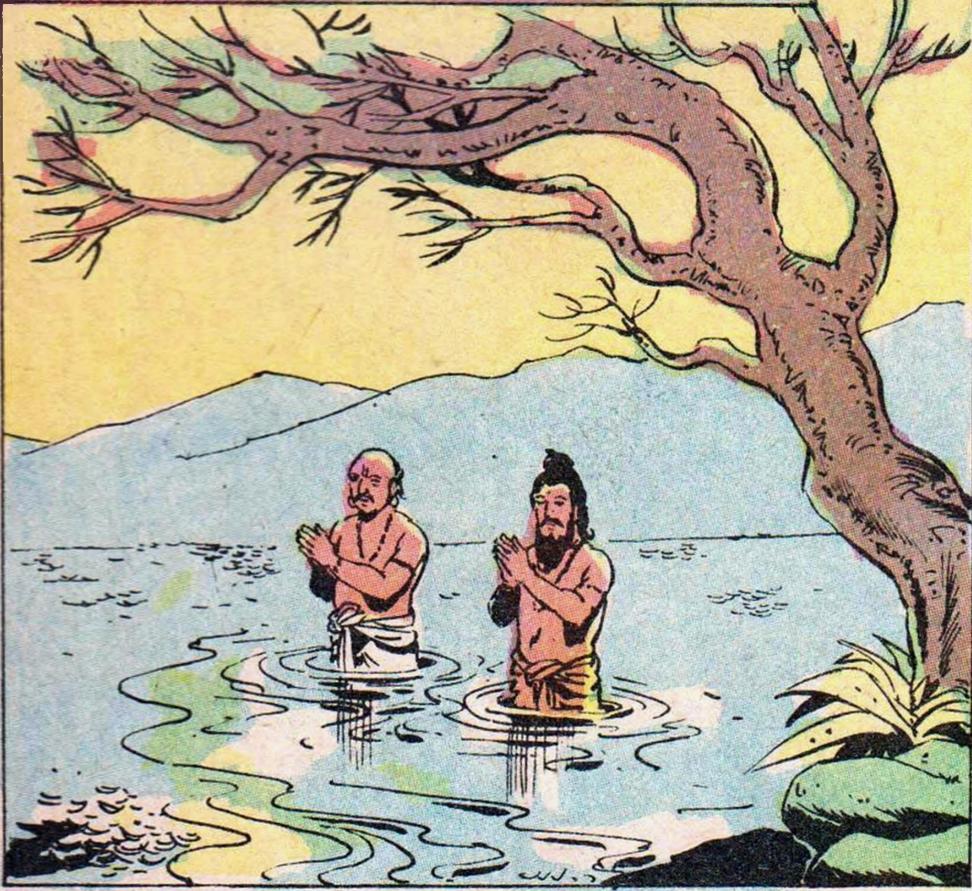
THEY HAVE TURNED INTO THE MANDAAR AND SHAMIKA TREES BY THE CURSE OF THE RISHI BHRUSHUNDI.



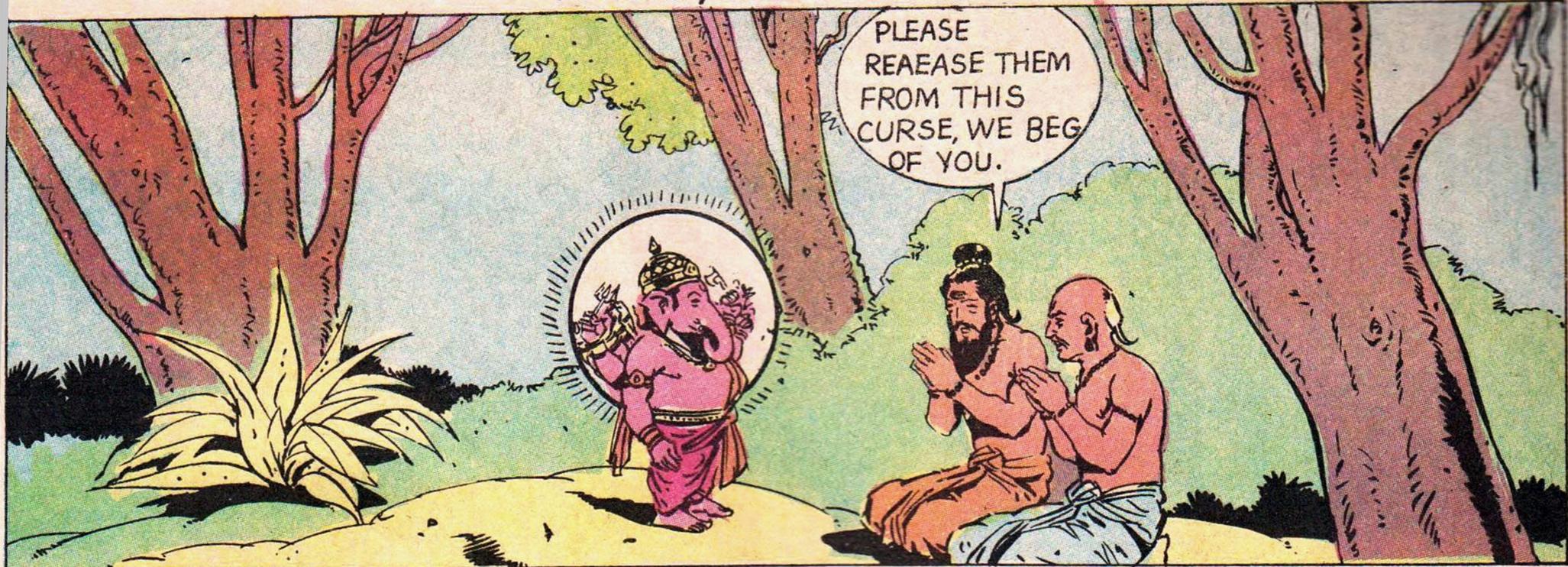
LET US DO PENANCE FOR THEIR RELEASE. LET US PROPITIATE LORD GANESHA.



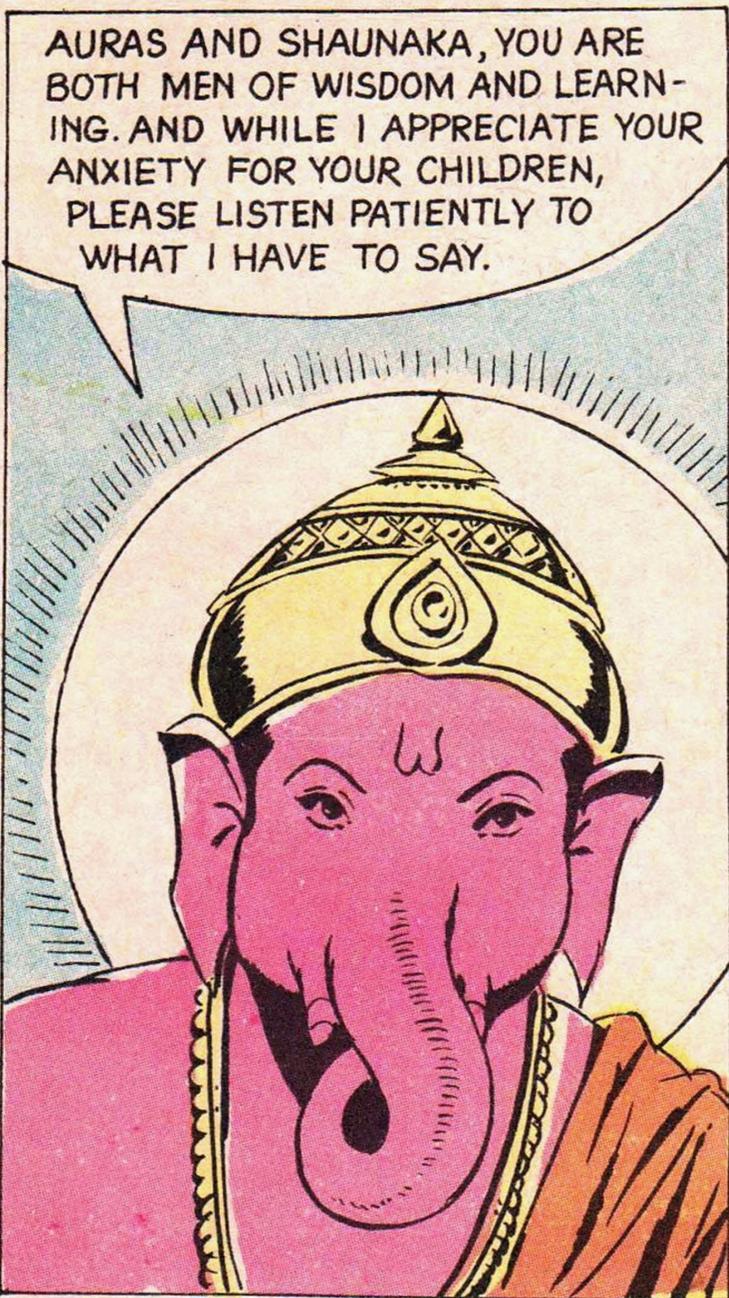
SO FOR TWELVE YEARS, SHAUNAKA AND AURAS CHANTED GANAPATI'S MANTRA AND PERFORMED PENANCES FOR THE RELEASE OF MANDAAR AND SHAMIKA.



# The Story of Mandaar



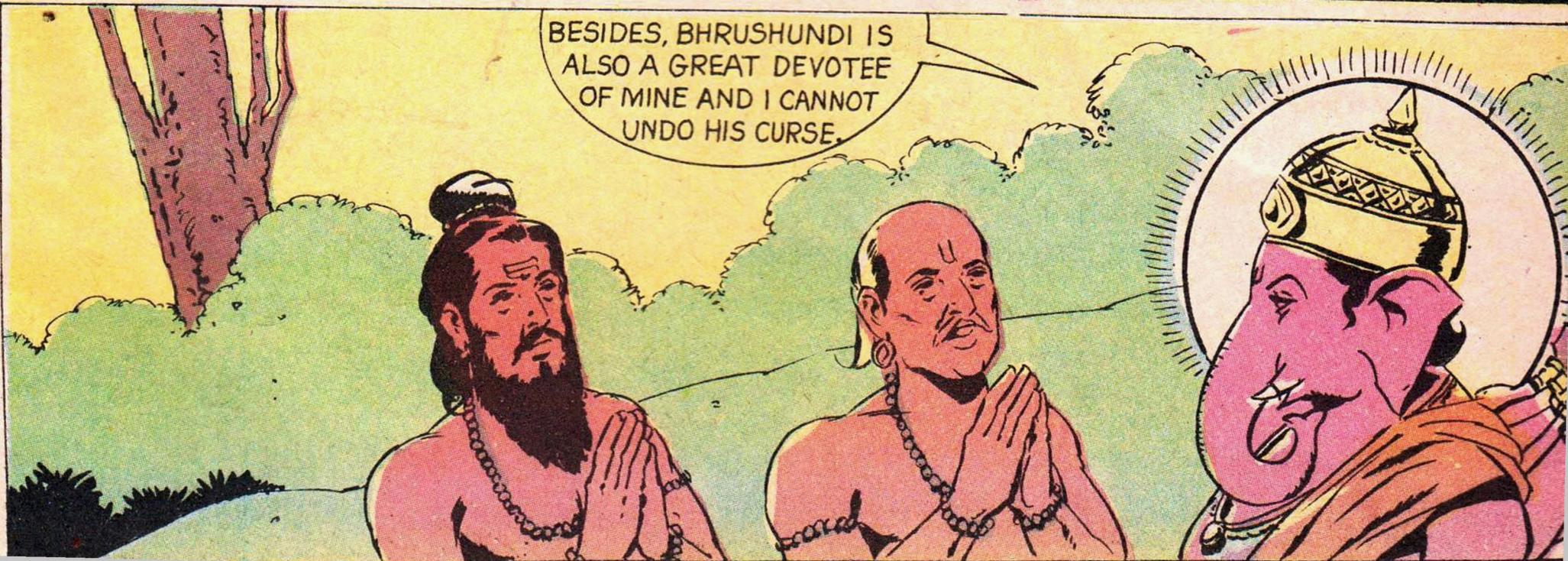
PLEASE  
RELEASE THEM  
FROM THIS  
CURSE, WE BEG  
OF YOU.



AURAS AND SHAUNAKA, YOU ARE  
BOTH MEN OF WISDOM AND LEARN-  
ING. AND WHILE I APPRECIATE YOUR  
ANXIETY FOR YOUR CHILDREN,  
PLEASE LISTEN PATIENTLY TO  
WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.



A CURSE CAN NEVER BE  
WITHOUT ITS BENEFITS .  
WHILE TO YOU IT SEEMS A  
CURSE AND A GREAT CALAMI-  
TY, IT WILL PROVE A  
BLESSING FOR ALL  
MANKIND.



BESIDES, BHRUSHUNDI IS  
ALSO A GREAT DEVOTEE  
OF MINE AND I CANNOT  
UNDO HIS CURSE.

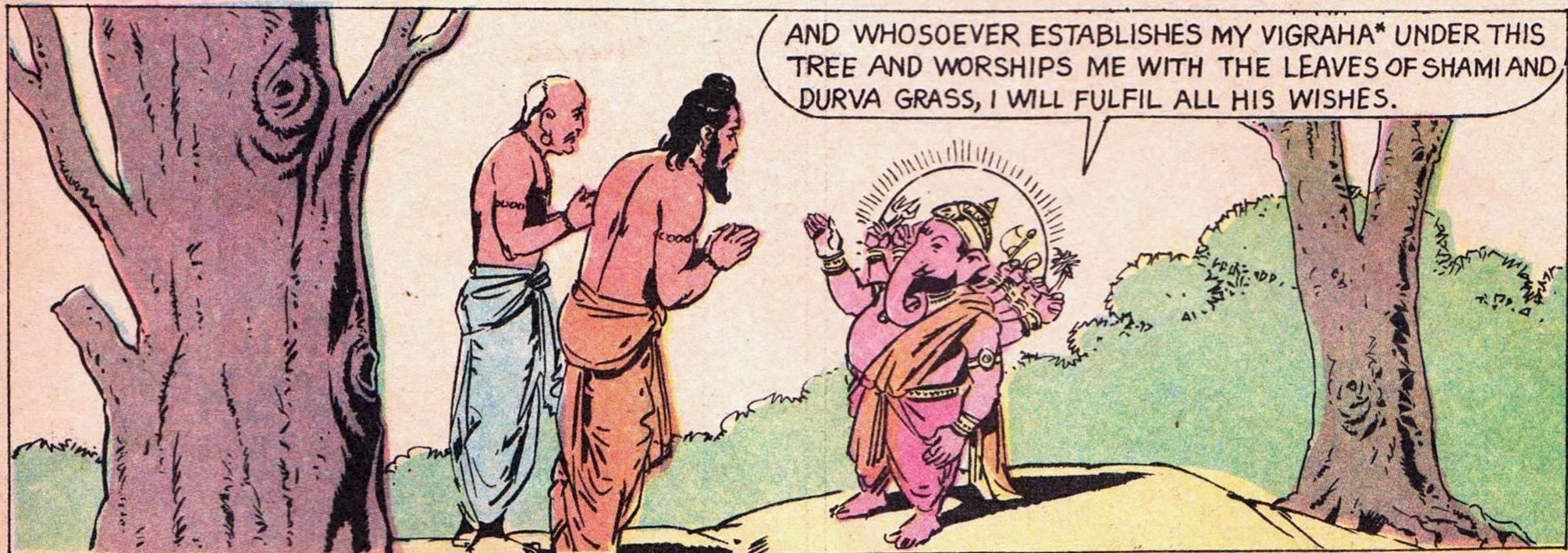
AND THE BLESSING IS THIS— FROM THIS DAY ONWARDS, I WILL TAKE UP MY ABODE AT THE ROOT OF THE MANDAAR TREE.



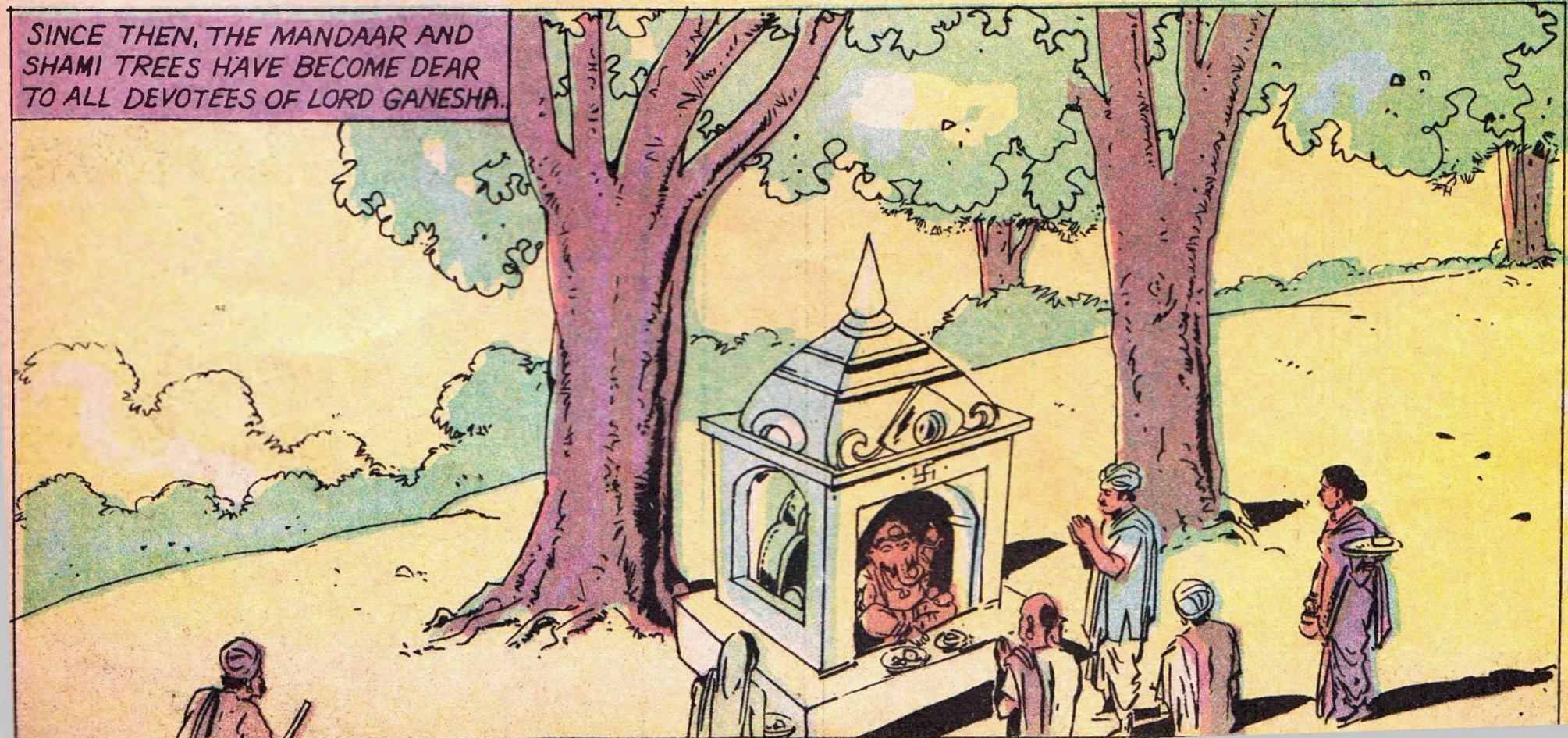
THIS TREE WILL BE CONSIDERED AUSPICIOUS AND WORSHIPPED IN ALL THREE WORLDS.



AND WHOSOEVER ESTABLISHES MY VIGRAHA\* UNDER THIS TREE AND WORSHIPS ME WITH THE LEAVES OF SHAMI AND DURVA GRASS, I WILL FULFIL ALL HIS WISHES.

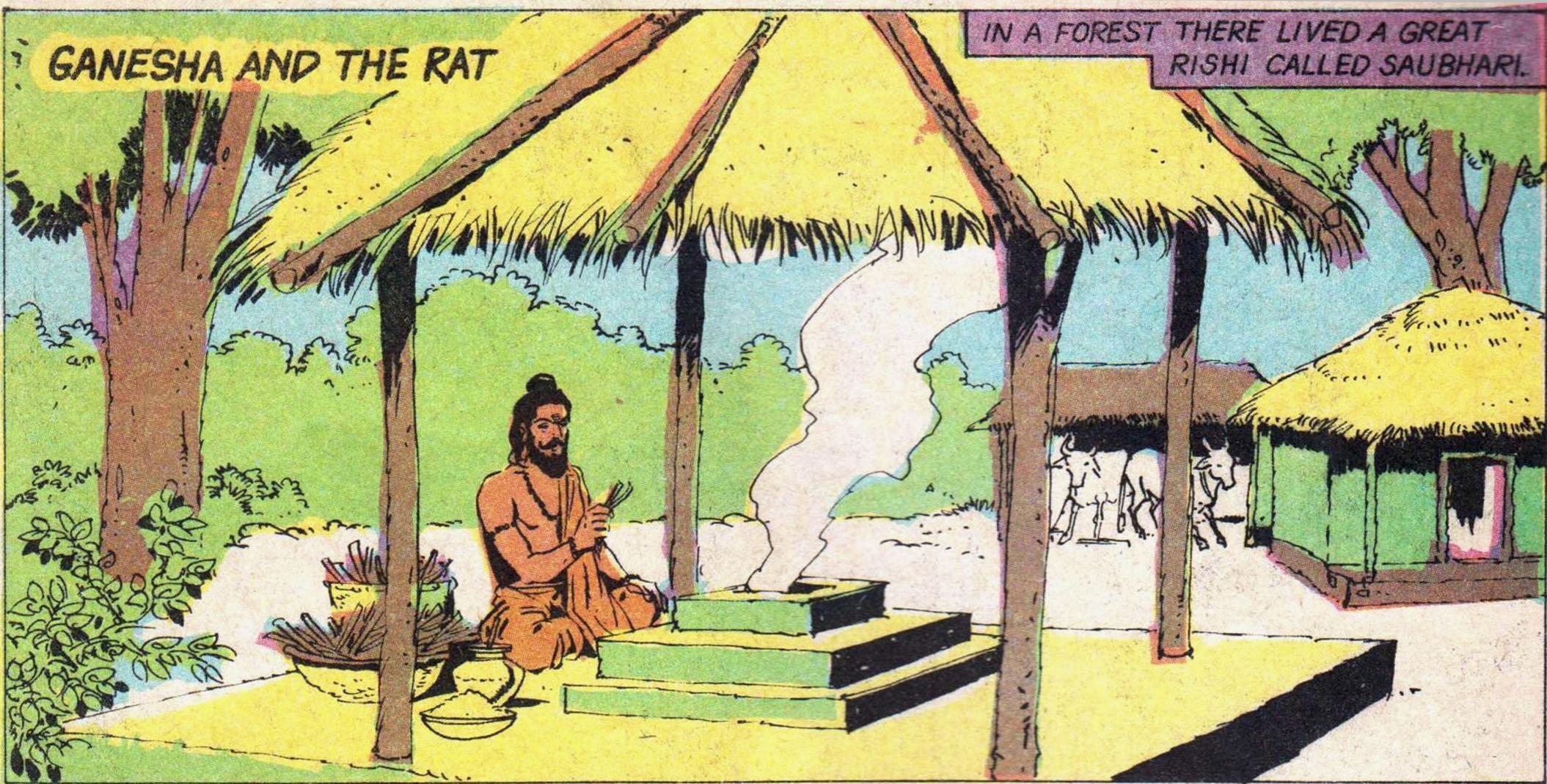


SINCE THEN, THE MANDAAR AND SHAMI TREES HAVE BECOME DEAR TO ALL DEVOTEES OF LORD GANESHA.

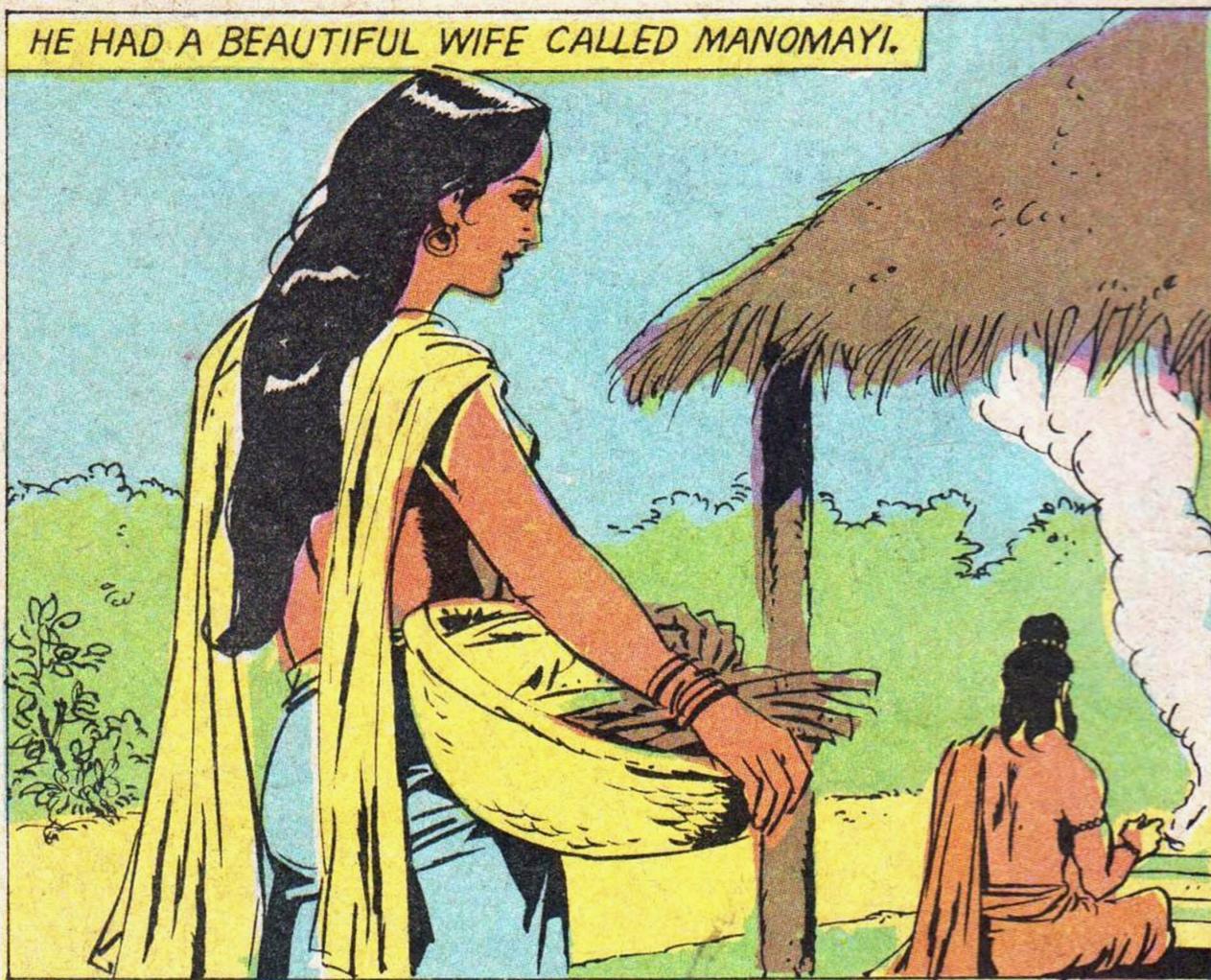


# GANESHA AND THE RAT

IN A FOREST THERE LIVED A GREAT RISHI CALLED SAUBHARI.



HE HAD A BEAUTIFUL WIFE CALLED MANOMAYI.

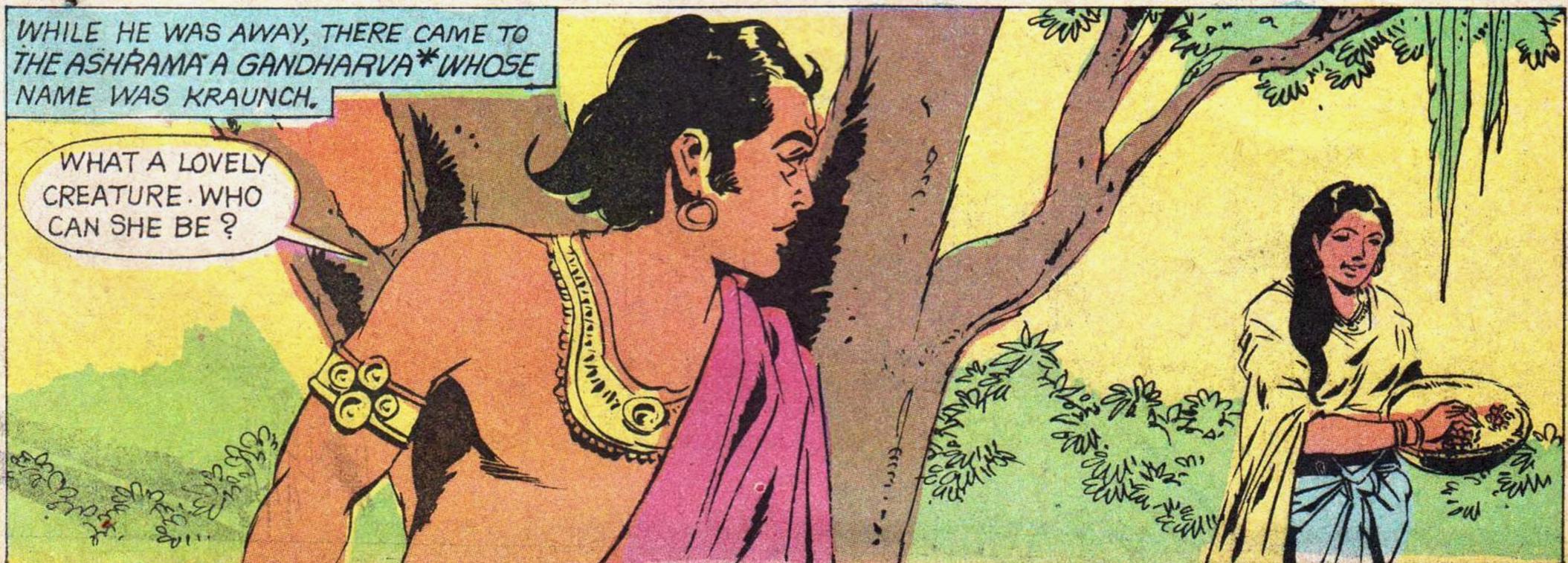


ONE DAY...



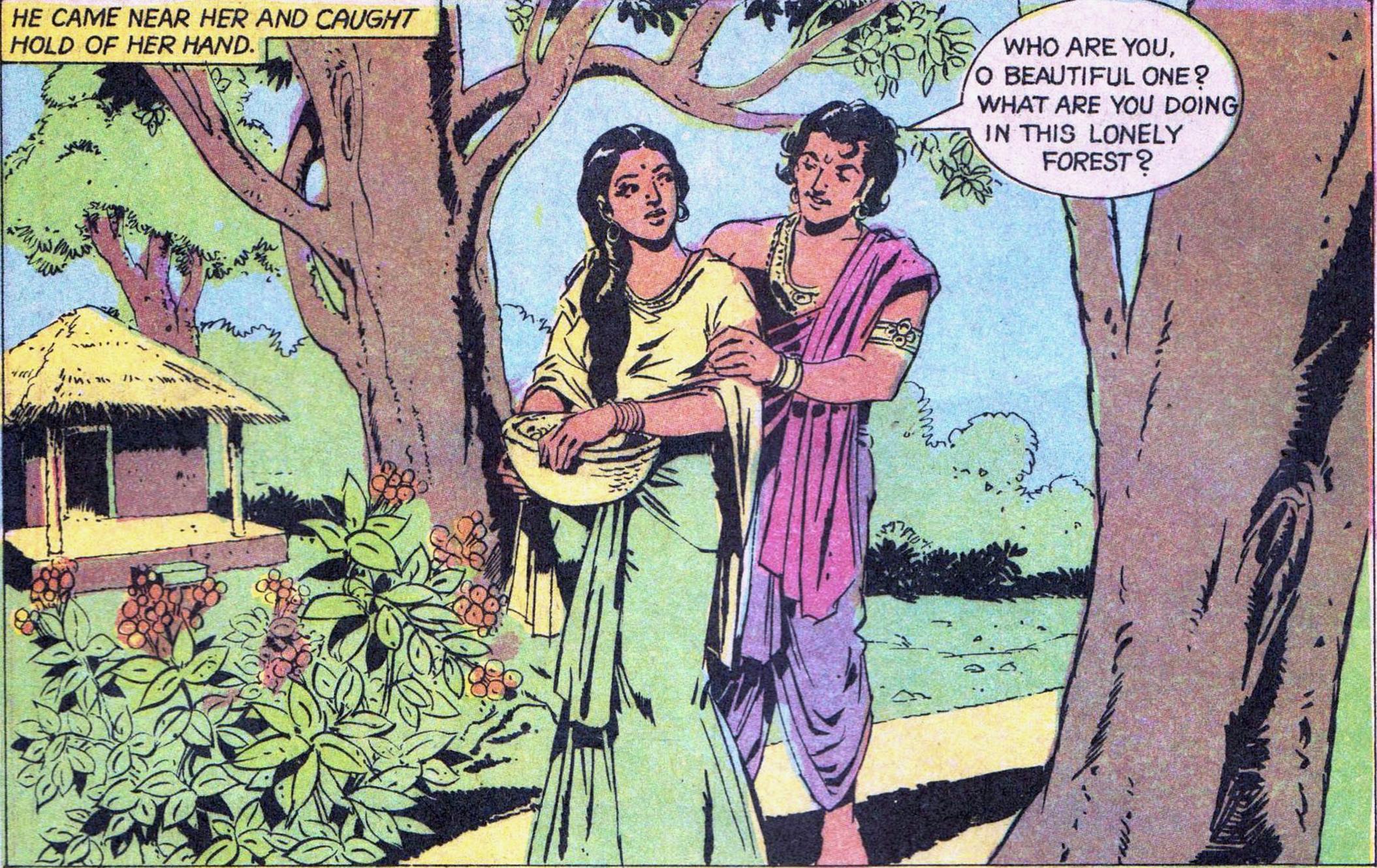
WHILE HE WAS AWAY, THERE CAME TO THE ASHRAMA A GANDHARVA\* WHOSE NAME WAS KRAUNCH.

WHAT A LOVELY CREATURE. WHO CAN SHE BE?



HE CAME NEAR HER AND CAUGHT HOLD OF HER HAND.

WHO ARE YOU, O BEAUTIFUL ONE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS LONELY FOREST?



COME AWAY WITH ME. I WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.



MANOMAYI FREED HERSELF GENTLY FROM HIS HOLD.

YOU OUGHT NOT TO TALK LIKE THIS. LEAVE MY HAND GOOD SIR.



SHE BADE HIM SIT BESIDE HER.

COME, SIT  
HERE. REFRESH  
YOURSELF WITH  
THESE FRUITS  
AND WATER.

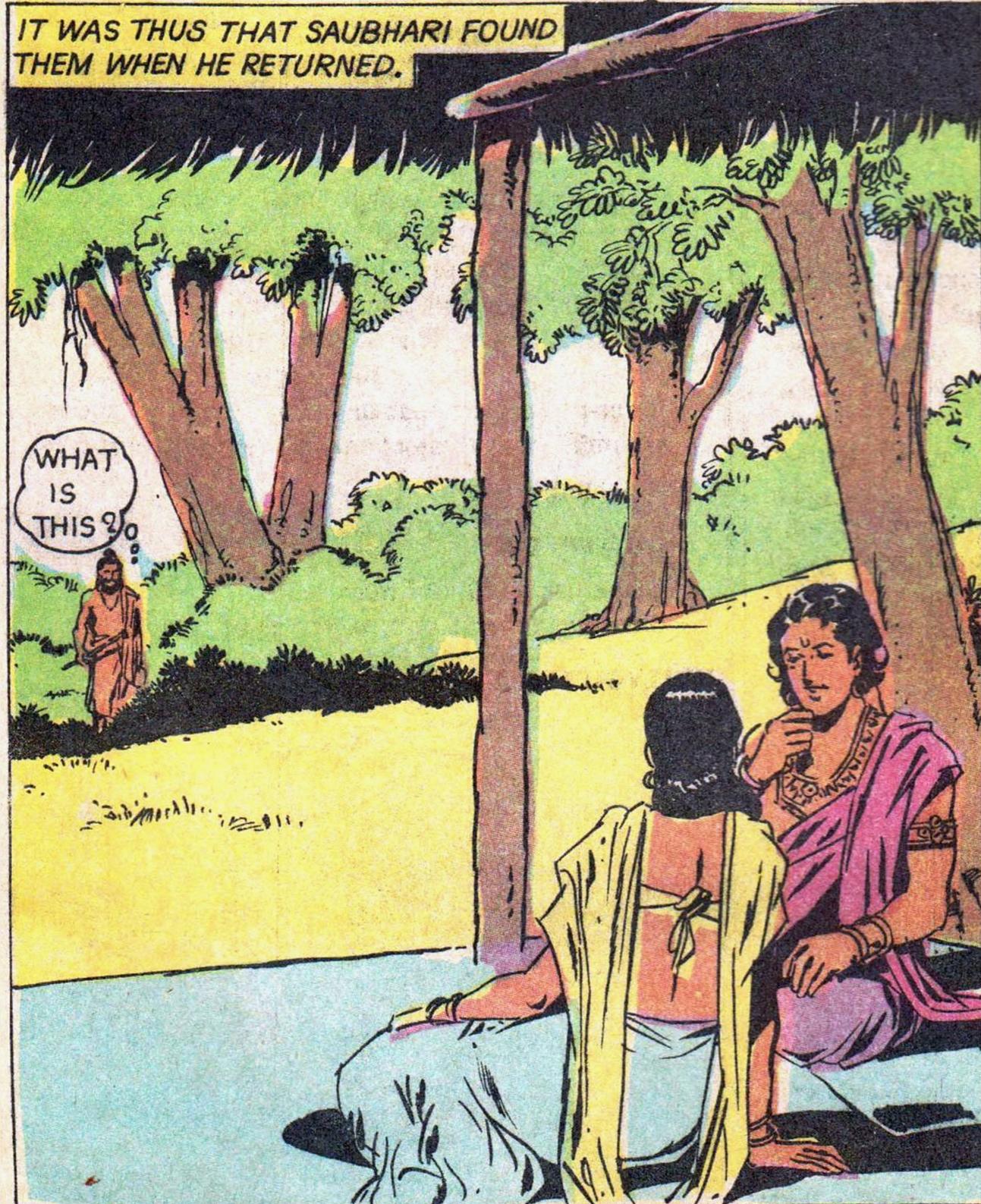


I AM THE RISHI  
SAUBHARI'S WIFE AND  
AS A MOTHER OR SISTER TO  
YOU. YOU SHOULD NOT ENT-  
ERTAIN THOUGHTS OF  
ANY OTHER KIND IN YOUR  
MIND.



IT WAS THUS THAT SAUBHARI FOUND  
THEM WHEN HE RETURNED.

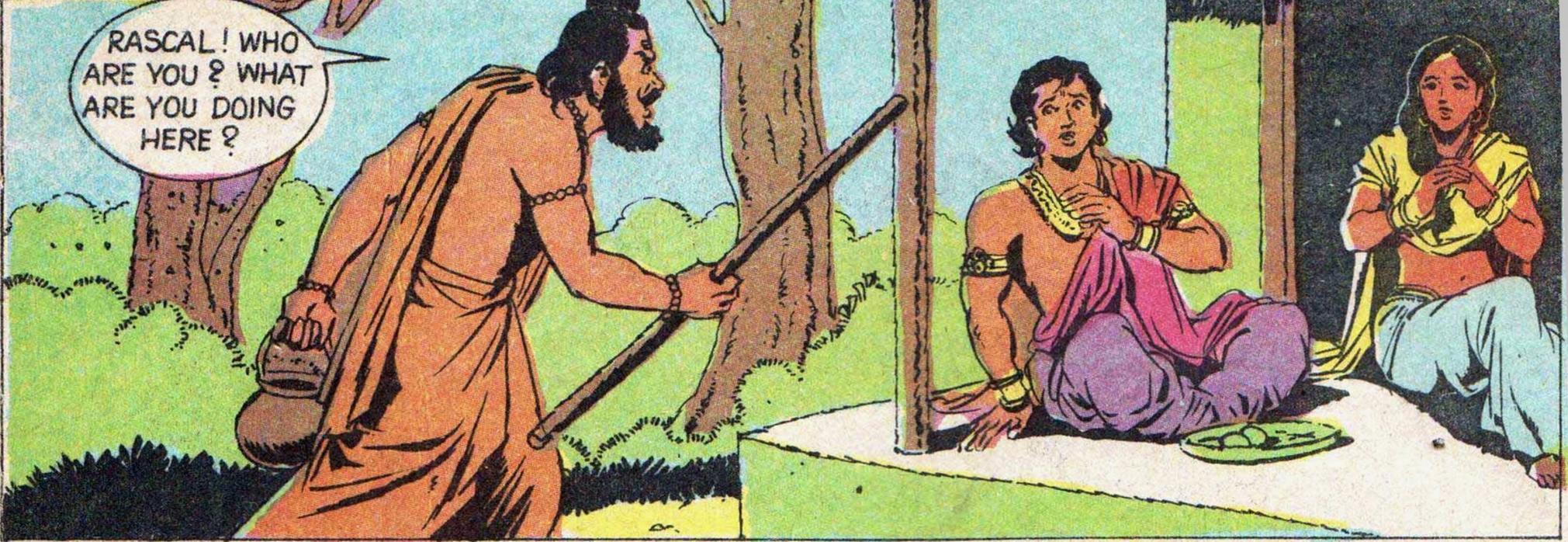
WHAT  
IS  
THIS?



WHO IS THAT  
STRANGER WITH  
MANOMAYI?



SAUBHARI WAS ANGRY WHEN HE SAW THE HANDSOME GANDHARVA.



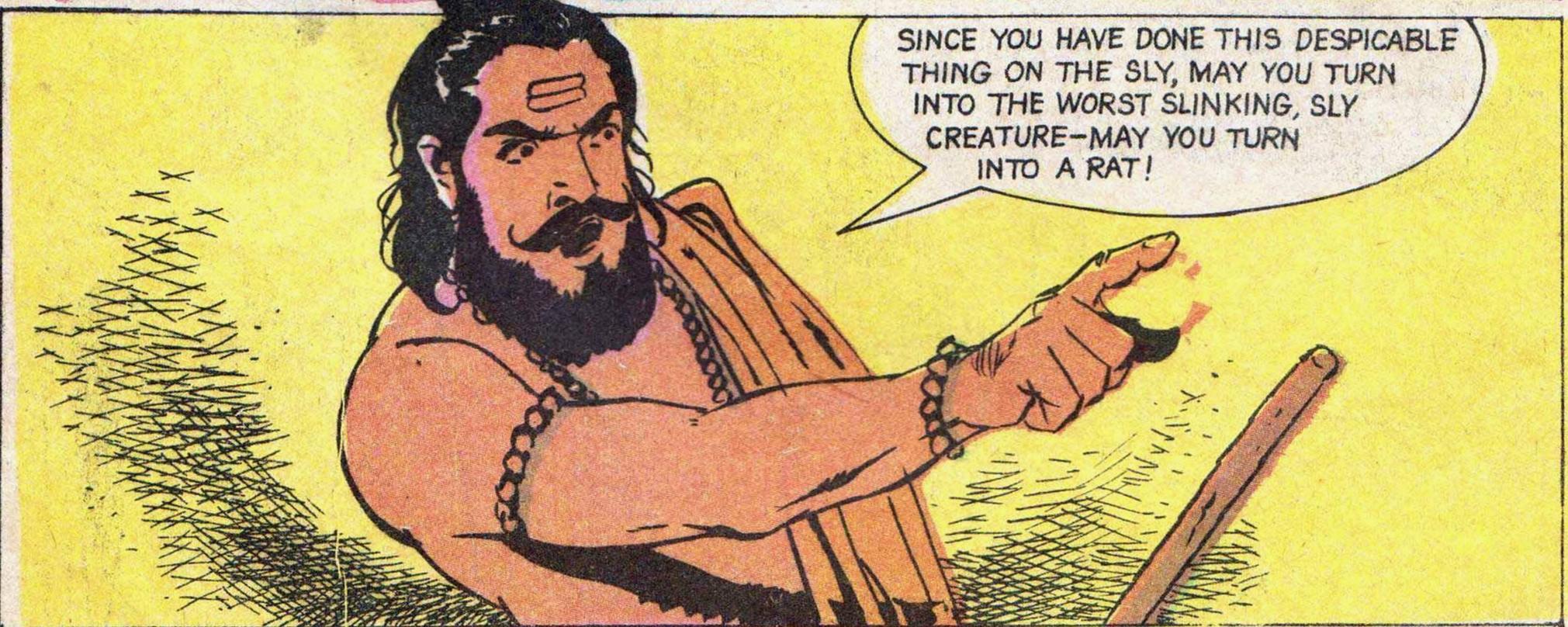
RASCAL! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



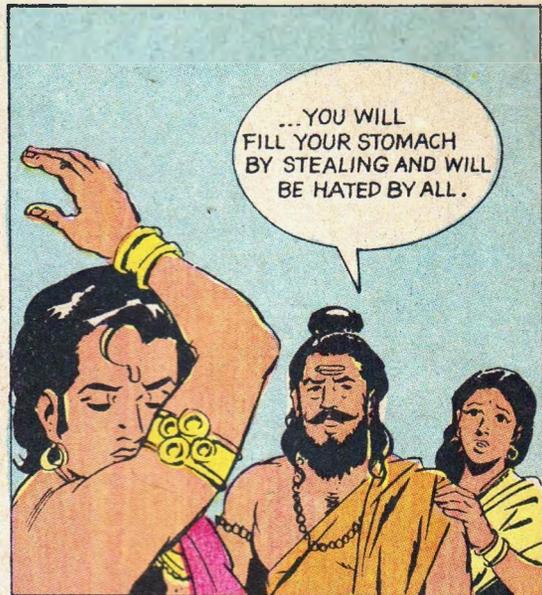
MAHARAJ, DO FORGIVE ME. I AM ENTIRELY AT FAULT.



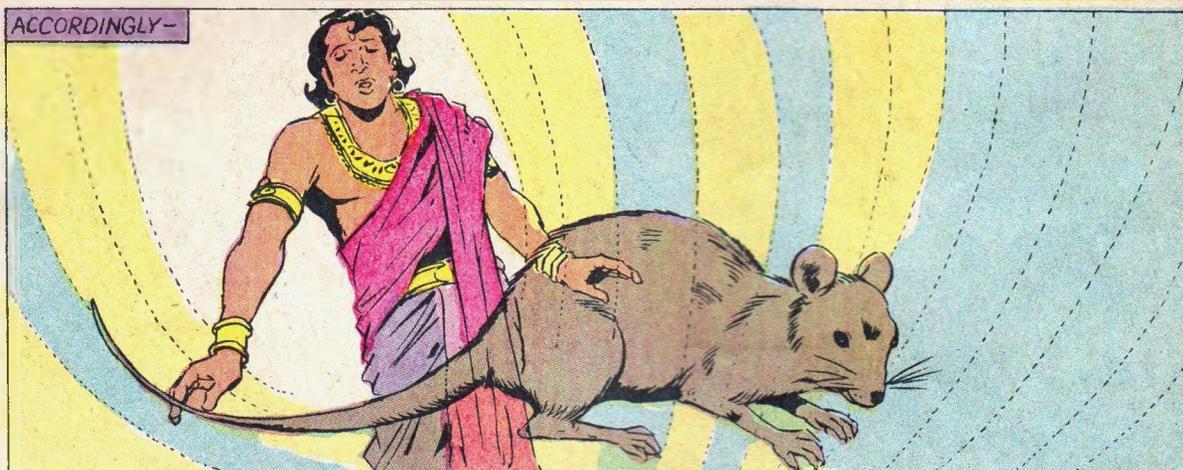
YOU HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF MY ABSENCE TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH MY WIFE.



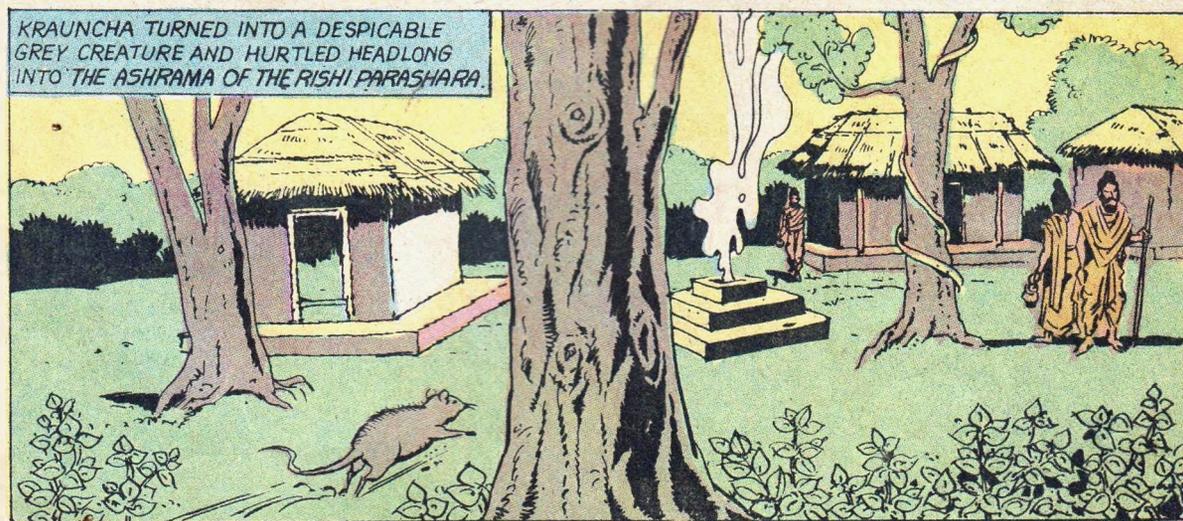
SINCE YOU HAVE DONE THIS DESPICABLE THING ON THE SLY, MAY YOU TURN INTO THE WORST SLINKING, SLY CREATURE—MAY YOU TURN INTO A RAT!



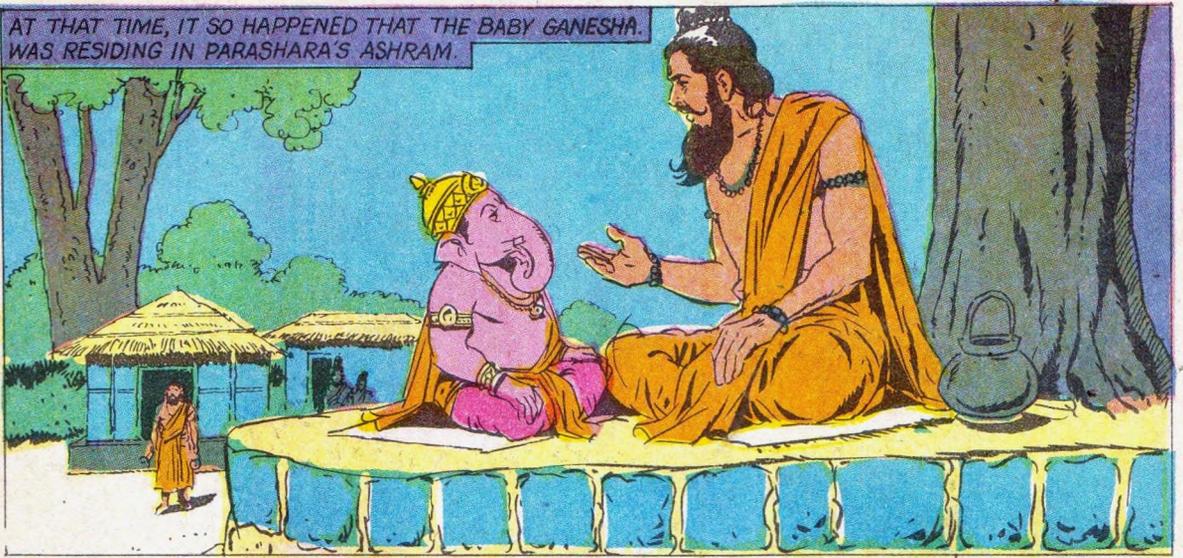
ACCORDINGLY-



KRAUNCHA TURNED INTO A DESPICABLE GREY CREATURE AND HURTLIED HEADLONG INTO THE ASHRAMA OF THE RISHI PARASHARA.



AT THAT TIME, IT SO HAPPENED THAT THE BABY GANESHA WAS RESIDING IN PARASHARA'S ASHRAM.



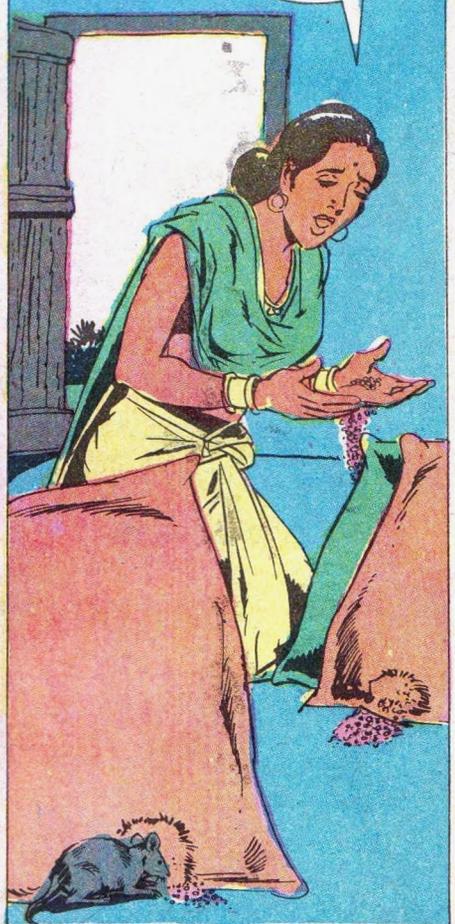
THE RAT, ACCORDING TO ITS NATURE AND HABIT, STARTED DESTROYING ALL THE SACKS OF GRAIN IN THE STORE ROOMS OF THE ASHRAMA.

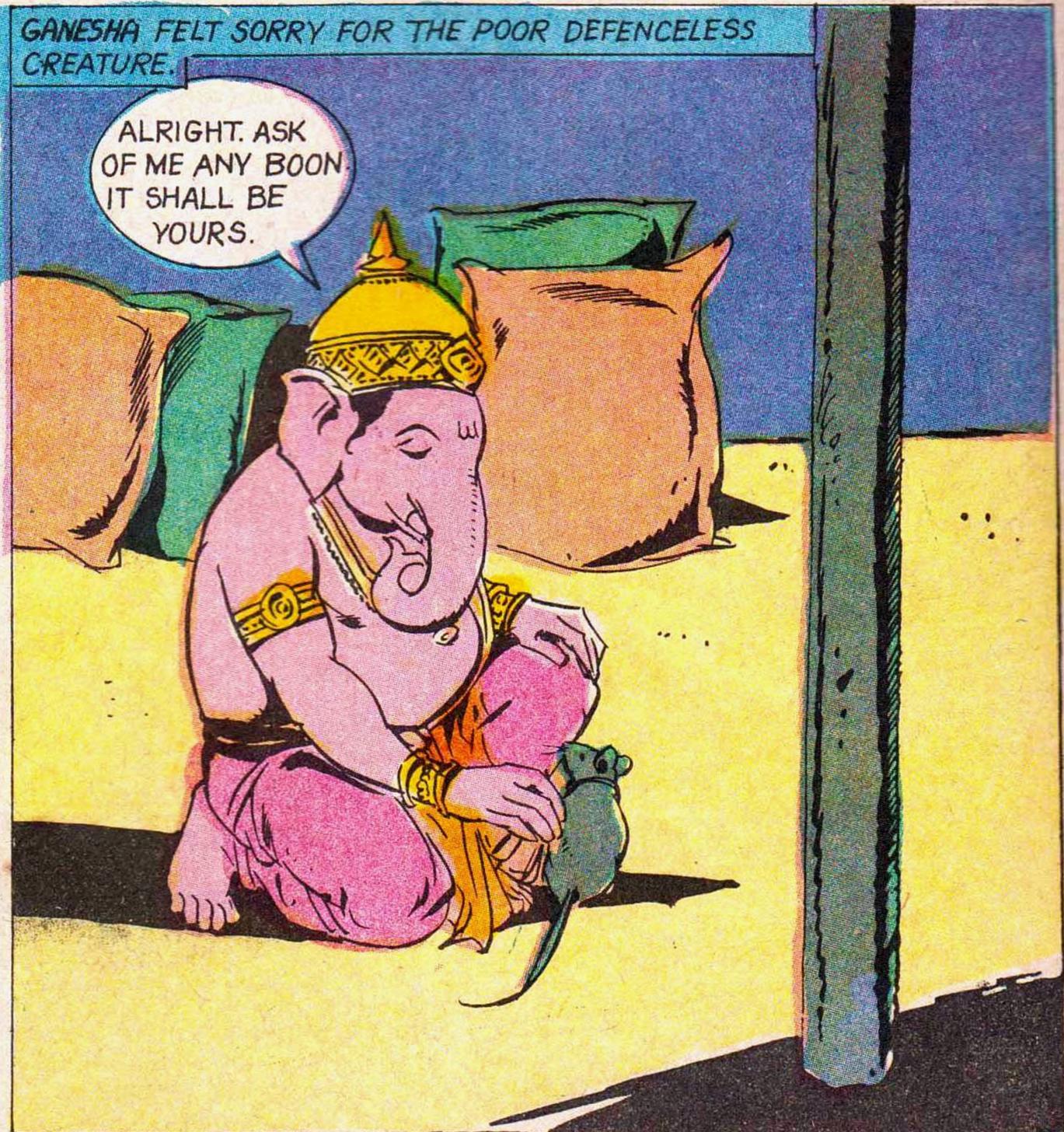
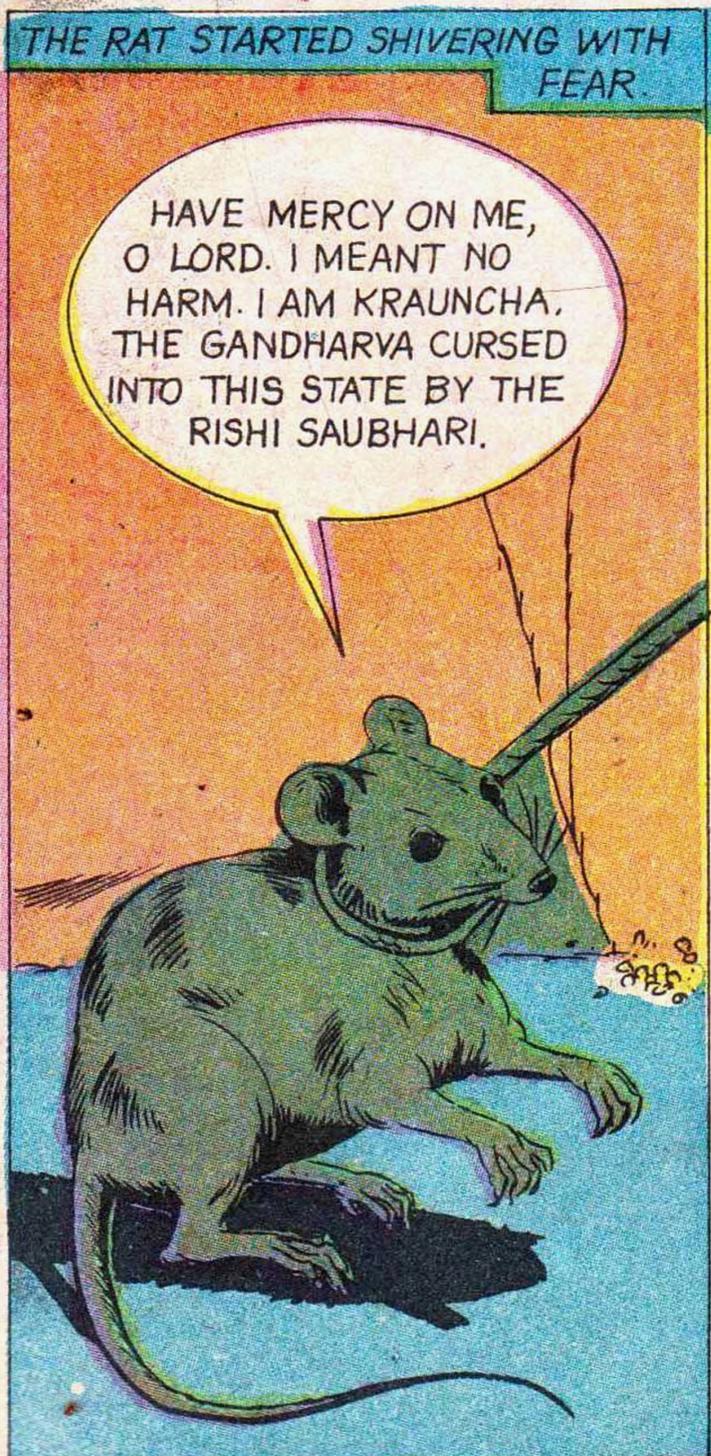
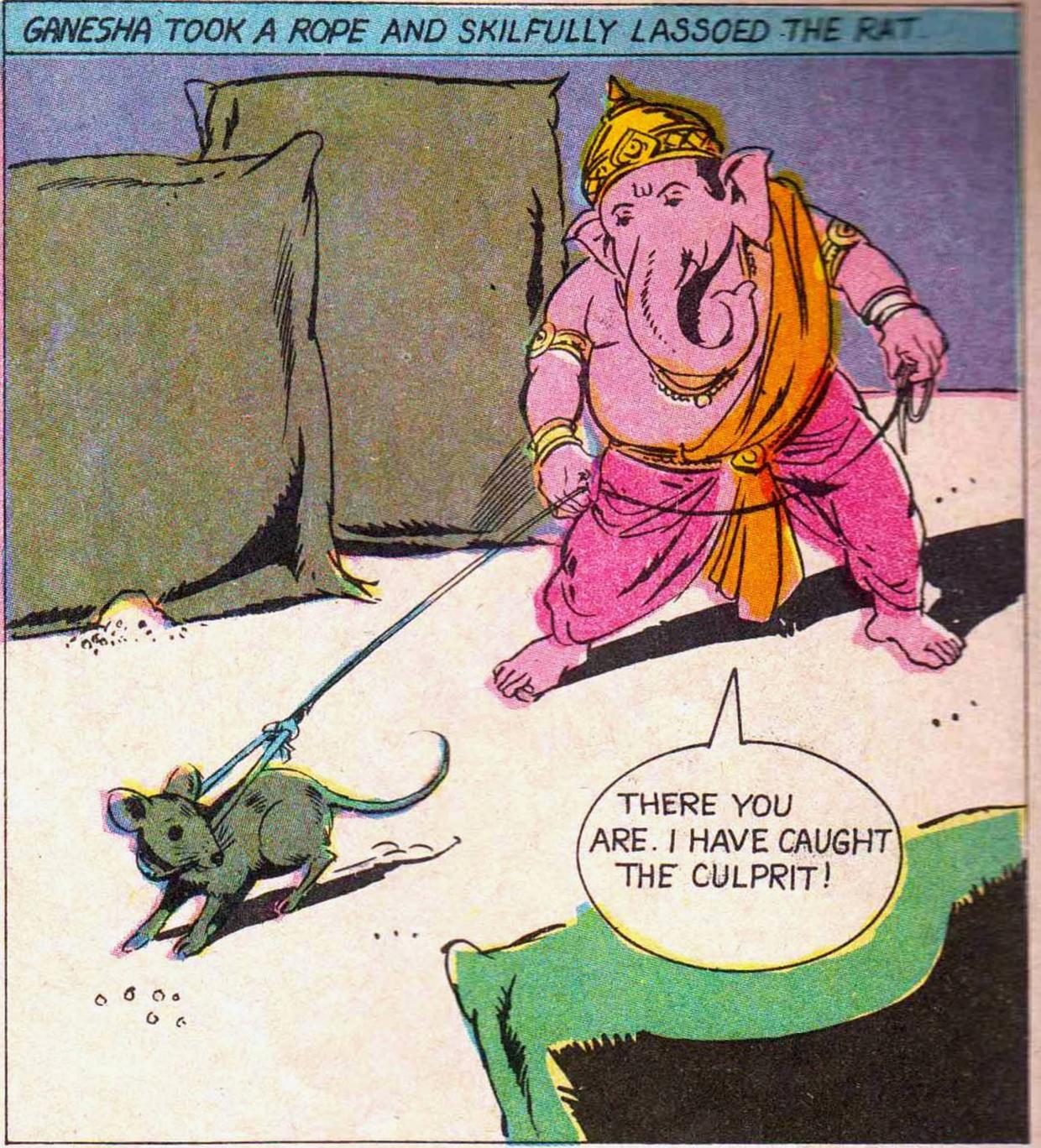


O DEAR, IT LOOKS AS IF SOME RAT HAS BEEN AT THE GRAIN.



AT THIS RATE WE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO EAT.

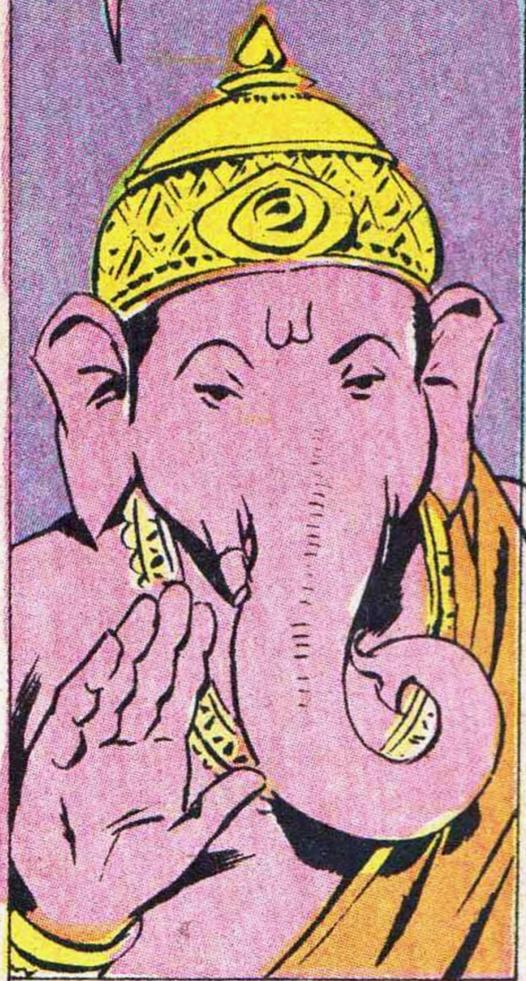




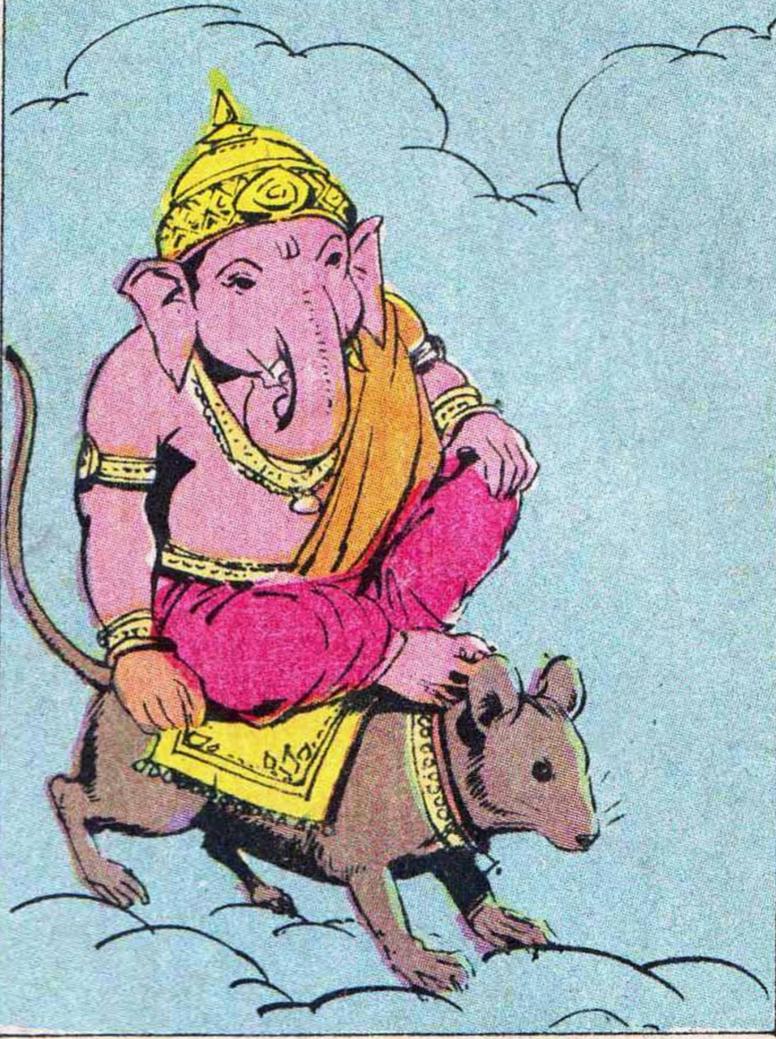
DEVOTION TO YOUR FEET IS ALL I ASK. I WANT NO OTHER BOON.



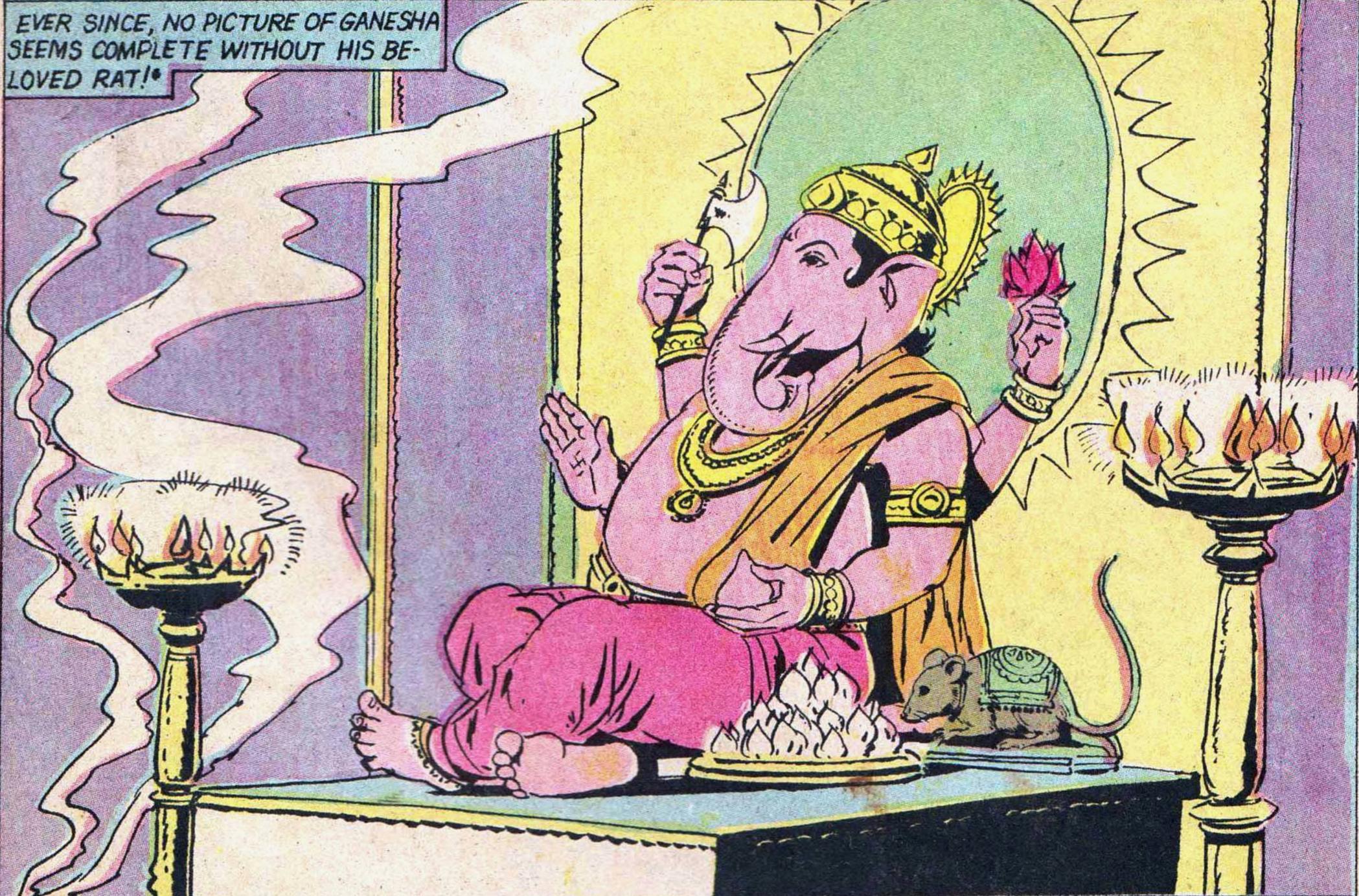
SO BE IT. HENCE-FORTH YOU WILL BE MY VEHICLE.



THE BABY GANAPATI THEN LEAPT ONTO THE BACK OF THE RAT AND RODE AWAY HAPPILY.



EVER SINCE, NO PICTURE OF GANESHA SEEMS COMPLETE WITHOUT HIS BE-LOVED RAT!\*



\*PHILOSOPHICALLY INTERPRETED, THE RAT REPRESENTS THE MIND. BEING THE VEHICLE, IT IS ALLOWED TO MOVE ONLY WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE MASTER AND IS KEPT UNDER STRICT CONTROL, NOT BEING ALLOWED TO NIBBLE AT THE SWEETS AND FRUITS WHICH COME AS OFFERINGS. GANESHA THUS BECOME THE MASTER OF THE MIND.

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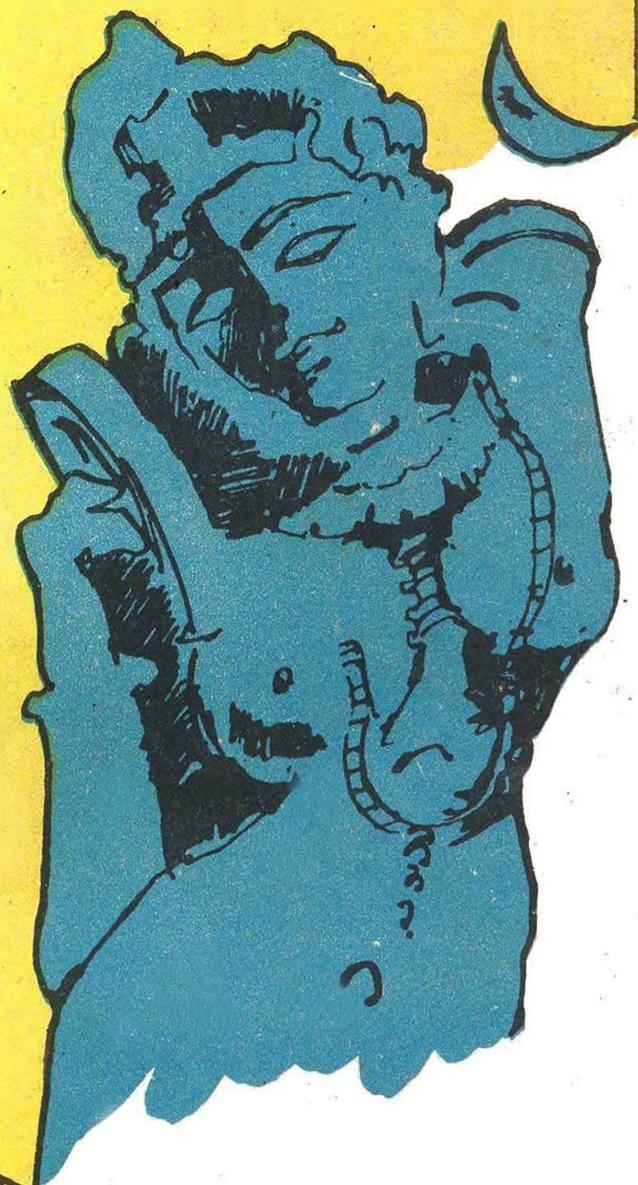
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