



NO. 512 RS. 30



Tales of Vishnu





Illustrated Classics From India

Over 86 million copies of over 400 titles sold worldwide!

Amar Chitra Katha is a collection of illustrated classics that retell stories from Indian mythology, history, folktale and legend through the fascinating medium of comics. Over 430 stories from all over India have been told in this series that has been endorsed by educationists and recommended by teachers the world over.

Through a masterful blend of commentary, dialogue and illustration, Amar Chitra Katha presents complex historical facts and intricate mythology in a format that would appeal to children. They not only entertain, but also provide a fitting introduction to the cultural heritage of India. In a country so vast and varied, the series also serves as a medium for national integration, by introducing young readers to the rich cultural diversity of the country and highlighting the achievements of local heroes.

Amar Chitra Katha comics are like family heirlooms, passed down from generation to generation. These timeless illustrated classics are now also available online on www.AmarChitraKatha.com. Start your own collection today!

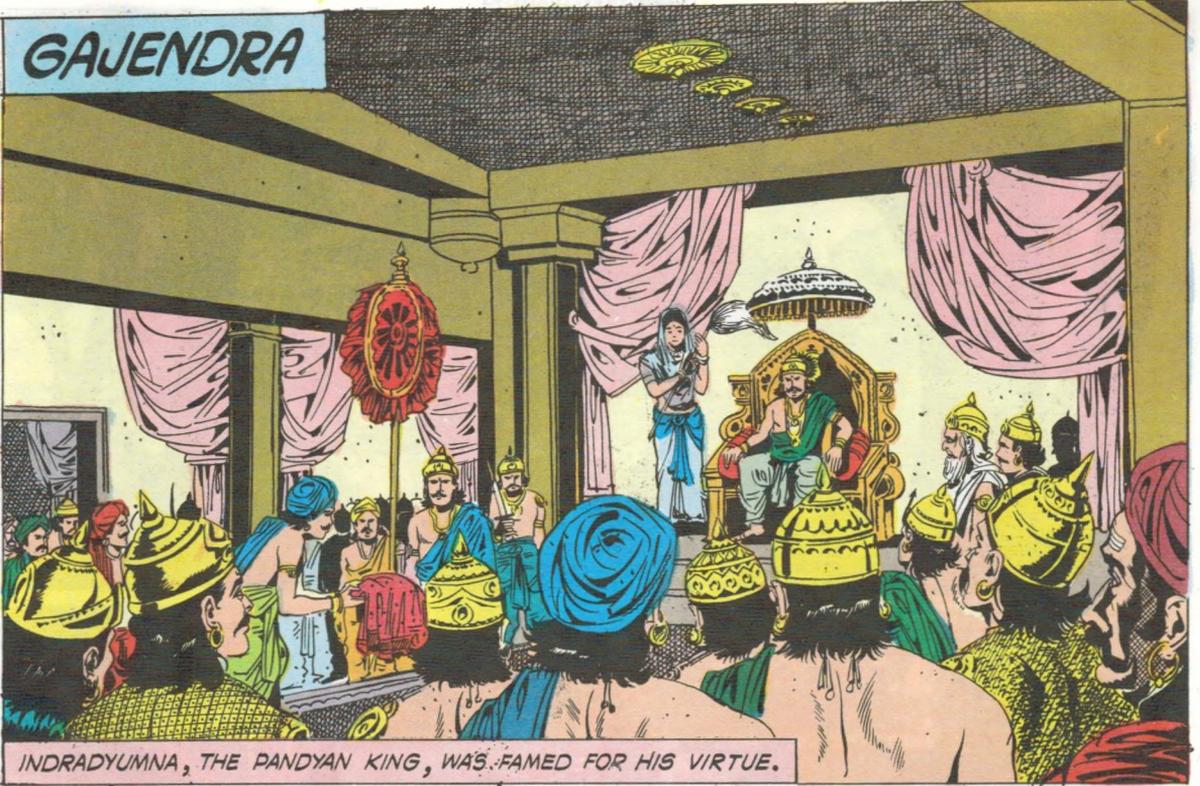
No. 512 • Rs 30



INDIA BOOK HOUSE

© India Book House Pvt. Ltd. 1977 Reprinted: May 2006 ISBN: 81-7508-155-4
Published and Printed by India Book House Pvt Ltd, Mahalaxmi Chambers,
5th Floor, 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai 400 026, India.

GAJENDRA

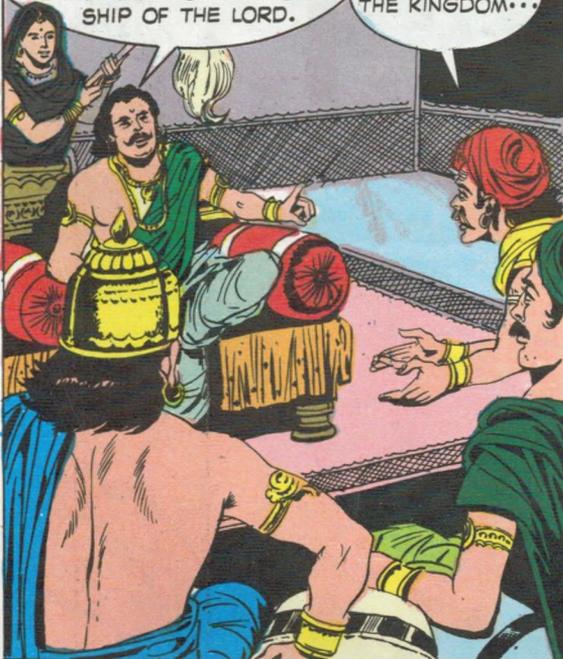


INDRADYUMNA, THE PANDYAN KING, WAS FAMED FOR HIS VIRTUE.

ONE DAY, HE CALLED A MEETING OF HIS COUNSELLORS.

I HAVE DECIDED TO RETIRE TO THE FOREST AND DEVOTE ALL MY TIME TO THE WORSHIP OF THE LORD.

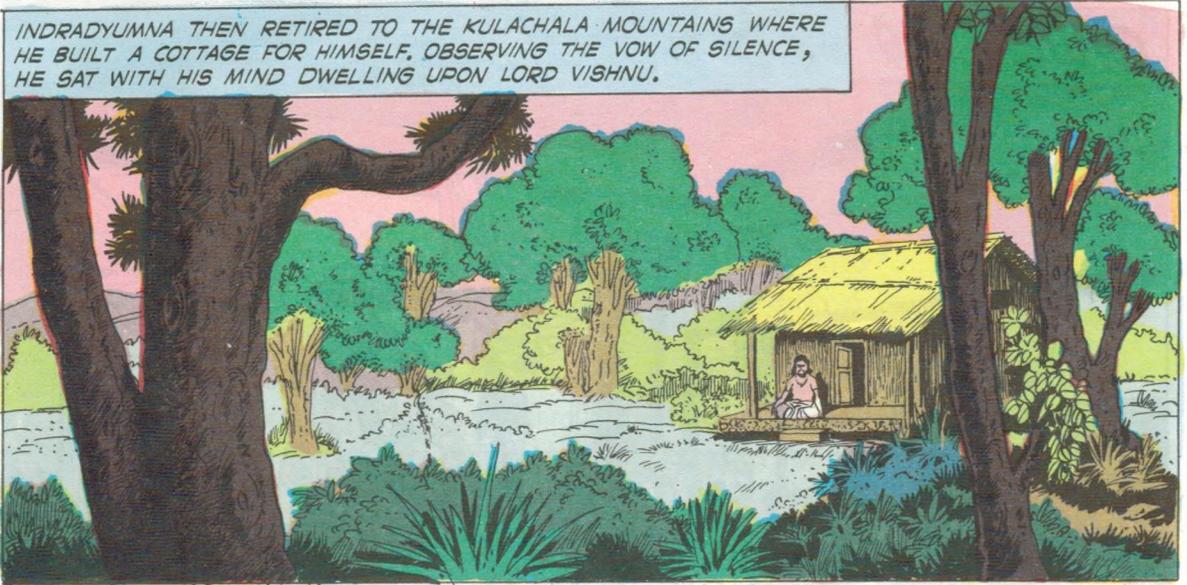
BUT, YOUR MAJESTY... THE KINGDOM...



DON'T TRY TO STOP ME. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN AND WILL TAKE CARE OF THE KINGDOM.

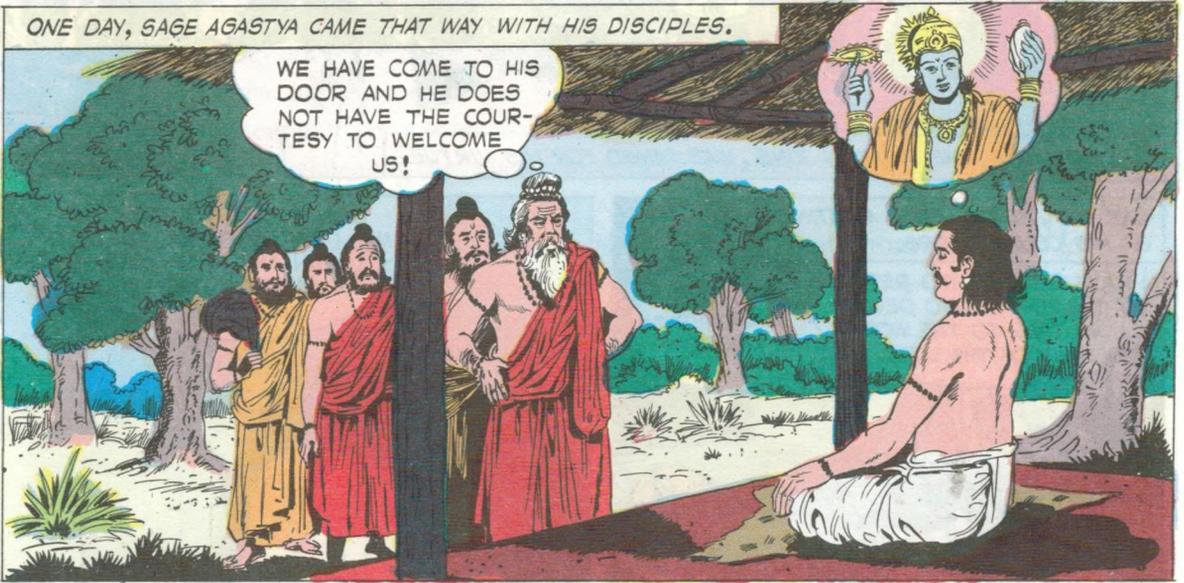


INDRADYUMNA THEN RETIRED TO THE KULACHALA MOUNTAINS WHERE HE BUILT A COTTAGE FOR HIMSELF, OBSERVING THE VOW OF SILENCE, HE SAT WITH HIS MIND DWELLING UPON LORD VISHNU.

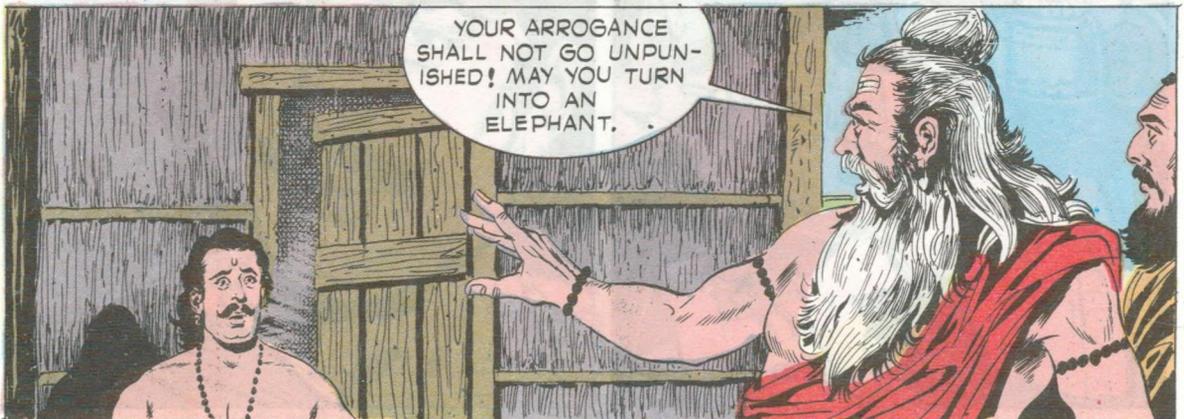


ONE DAY, SAGE AGASTYA CAME THAT WAY WITH HIS DISCIPLES.

WE HAVE COME TO HIS DOOR AND HE DOES NOT HAVE THE COURTESY TO WELCOME US!



YOUR ARROGANCE SHALL NOT GO UNPUNISHED! MAY YOU TURN INTO AN ELEPHANT.

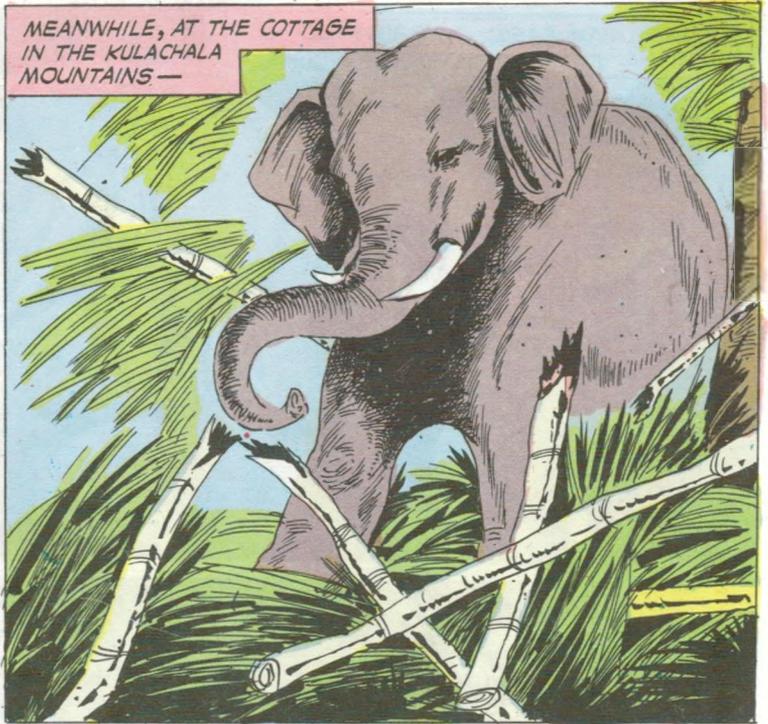


IN HIS CELESTIAL ABODE, LORD VISHNU SMILED WHEN HE HEARD THE CURSE OF AGASTYA.

AGASTYA, YOU HAVE UNKNOWINGLY DONE MY DEVOTEE A GREAT SERVICE!

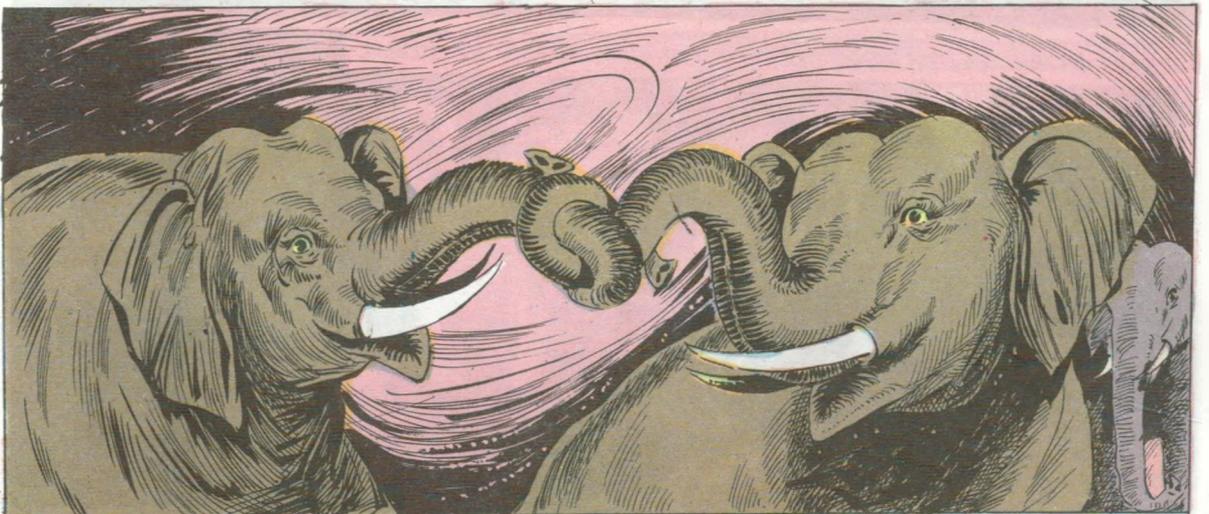
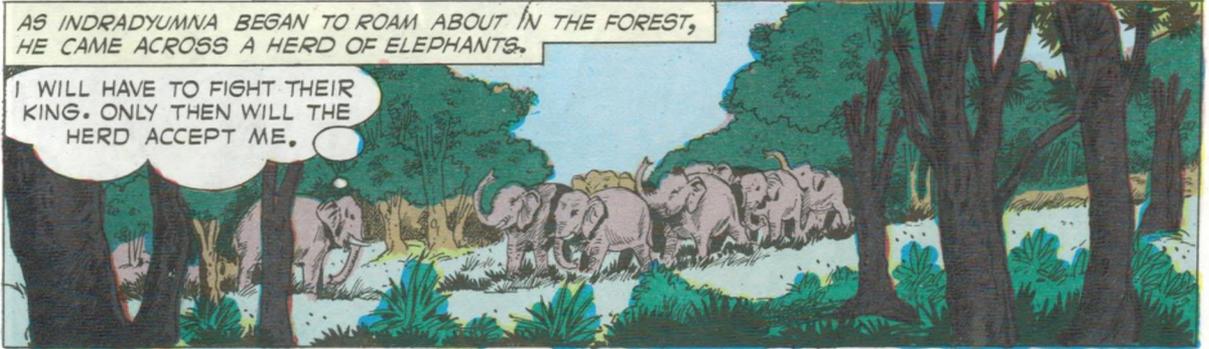


MEANWHILE, AT THE COTTAGE IN THE KULACHALA MOUNTAINS—



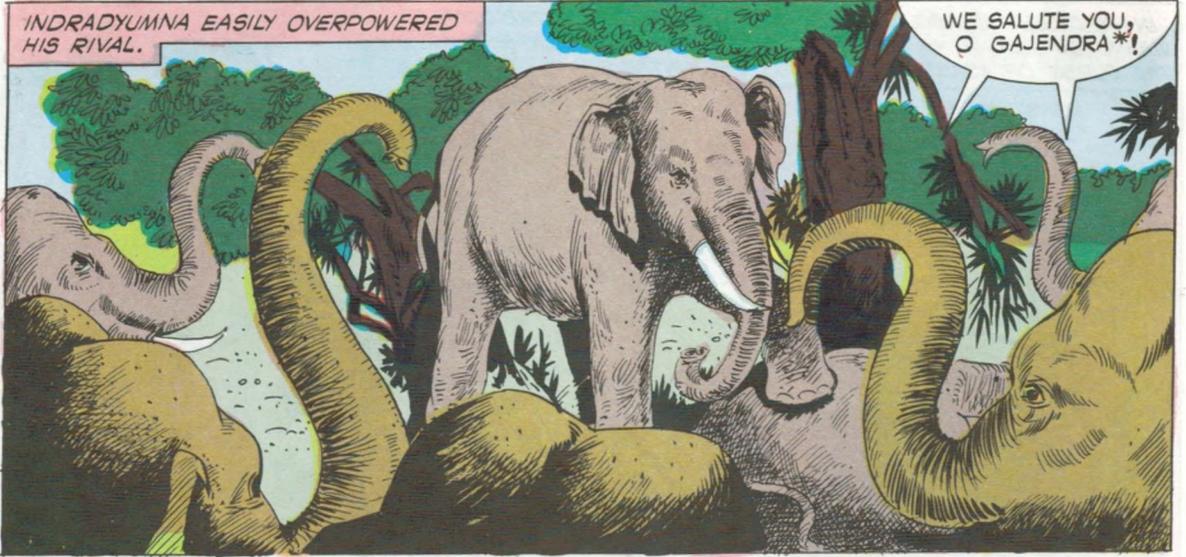
AS INDRADYUMNA BEGAN TO ROAM ABOUT IN THE FOREST, HE CAME ACROSS A HERD OF ELEPHANTS.

I WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THEIR KING. ONLY THEN WILL THE HERD ACCEPT ME.



INDRADYUMNA EASILY OVERPOWERED HIS RIVAL.

WE SALUTE YOU, O GAJENDRA*!



ONE DAY —

LET US GO TO THE TRIKUTA MOUNTAIN. IT'S A BETTER PLACE THAN THIS.

WE'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE END OF THE EARTH, O GAJENDRA.

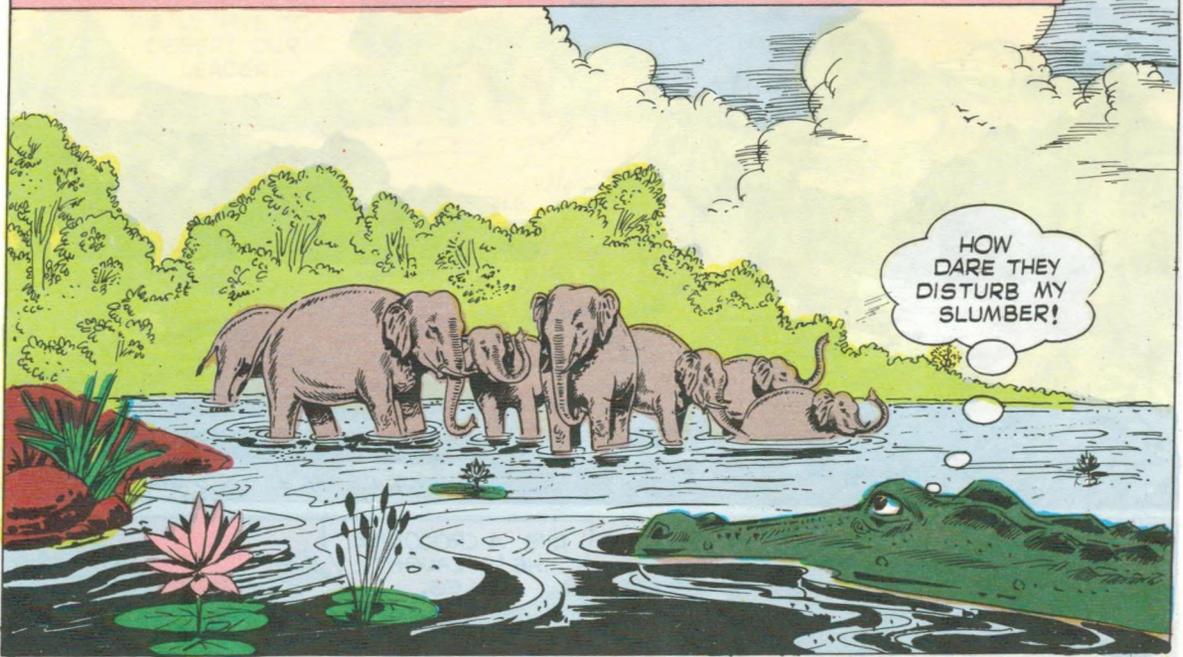


LED BY GAJENDRA, THE HERD TOOK THE TRIKUTA FOREST BY STORM.



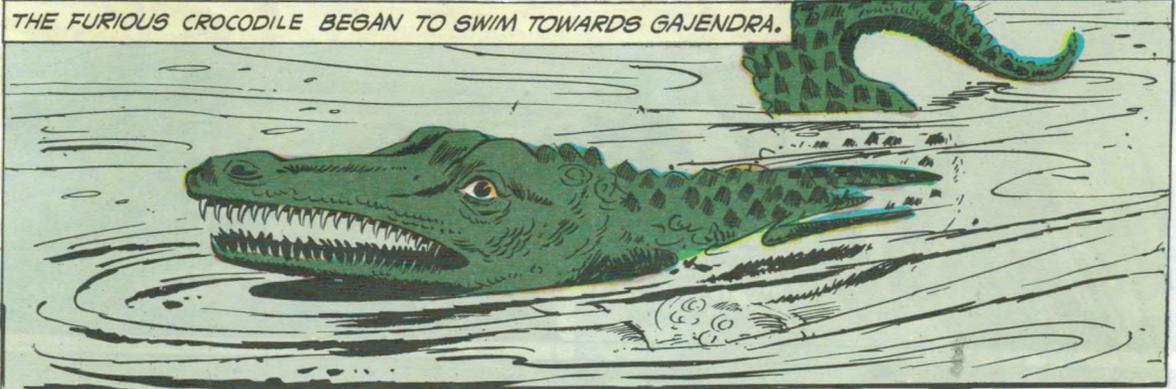
* KING ELEPHANT

THE ELEPHANTS THEN ENTERED A LAKE, WHICH WAS THE ABODE OF A CROCODILE.



HOW DARE THEY DISTURB MY SLUMBER!

THE FURIOUS CROCODILE BEGAN TO SWIM TOWARDS GAJENDRA.



I'LL TEACH THE KING ELEPHANT TO KEEP OUT OF MY LAKE!

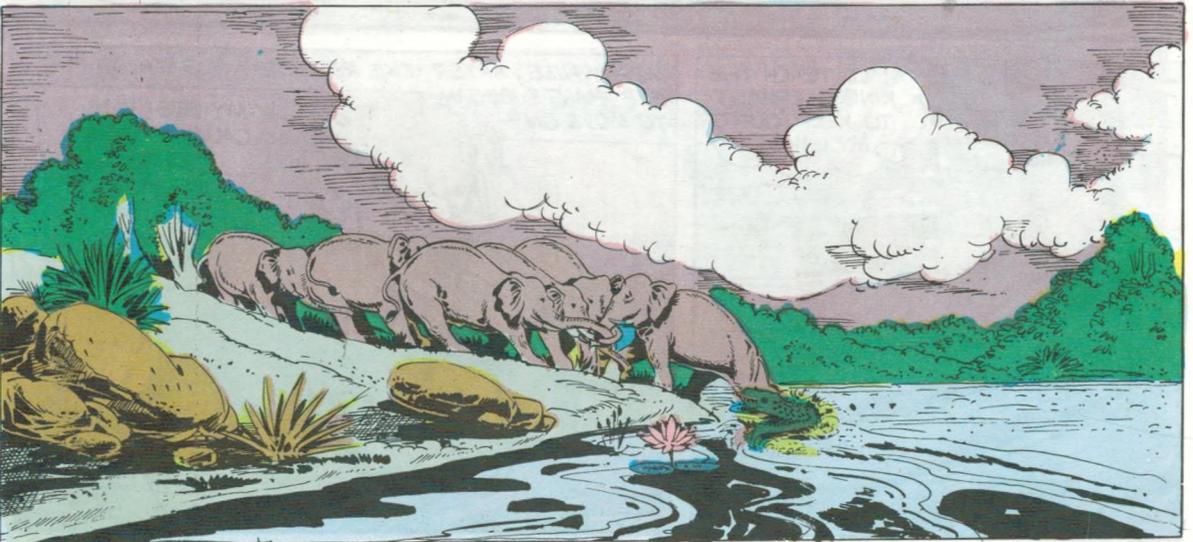
MEANWHILE, AFTER THE REFRESHING BATH, AS THE ELEPHANTS BEGAN TO MOVE ON—



MY LEG! IT'S CAUGHT IN A TRAP...

IT'S A CROCODILE!

TRUMPETING LOUDLY, HE TRIED TO SHAKE OFF THE CROCODILE.



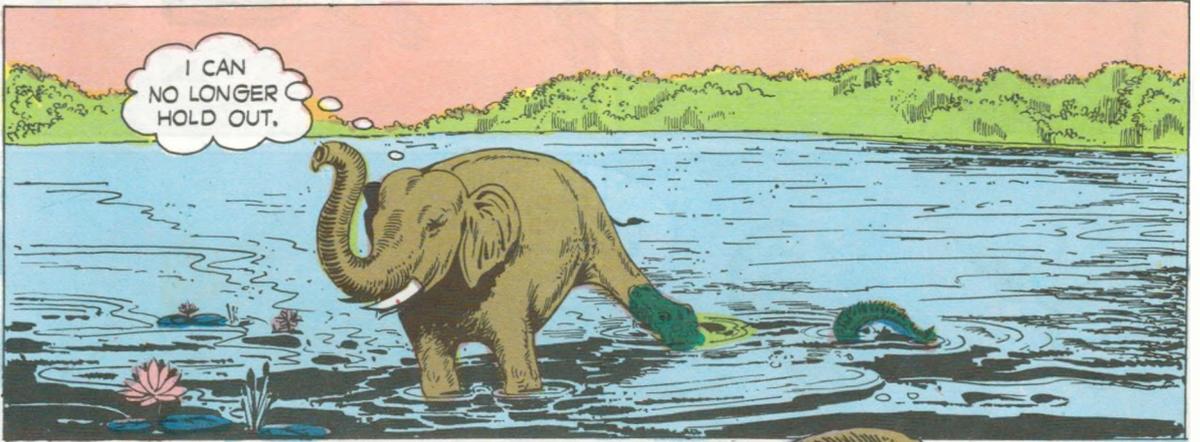
BUT THE HERD SOON HAD TO GIVE UP.

IT'S A PITY, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO DESERT OUR LEADER.

THE CROCODILE SEEMS TO HAVE DIVINE STRENGTH.

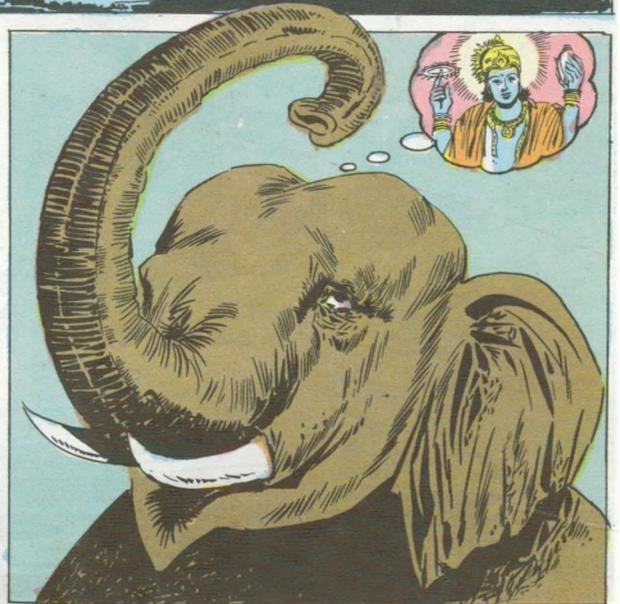
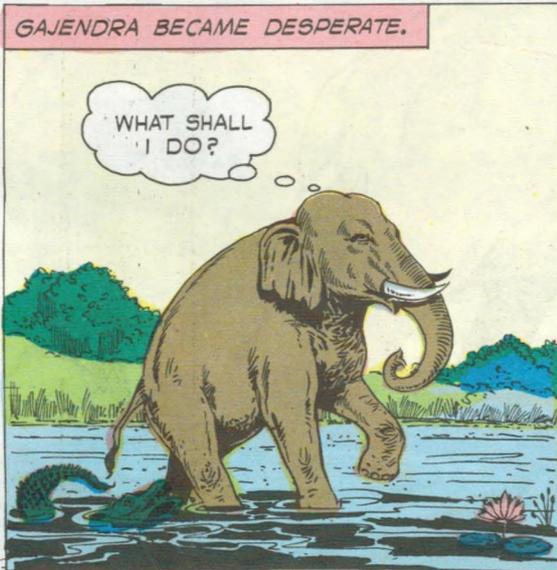


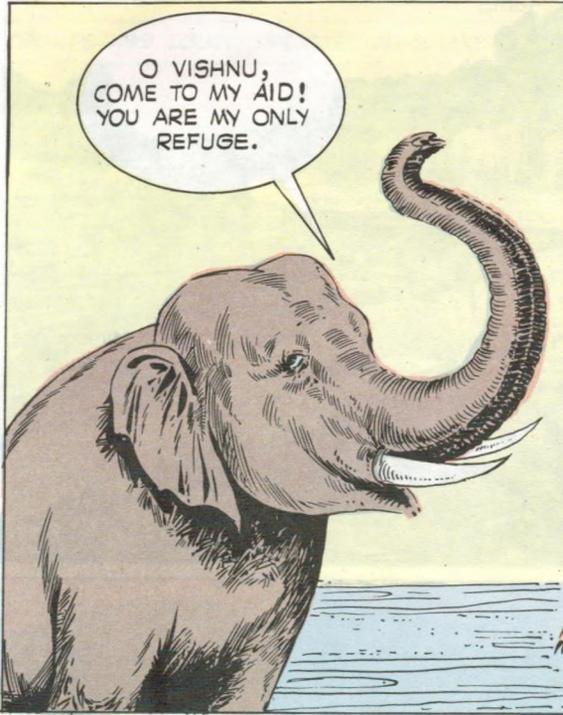
I CAN NO LONGER HOLD OUT.



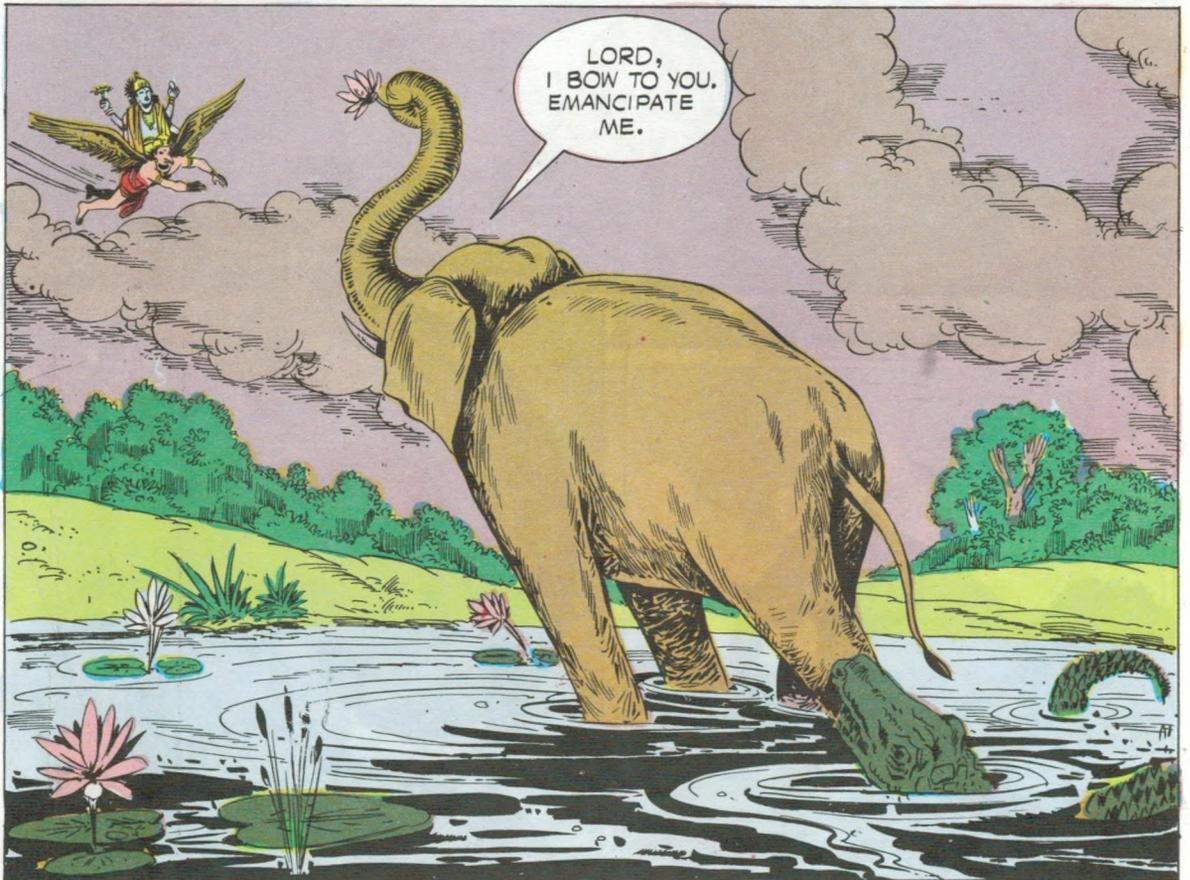
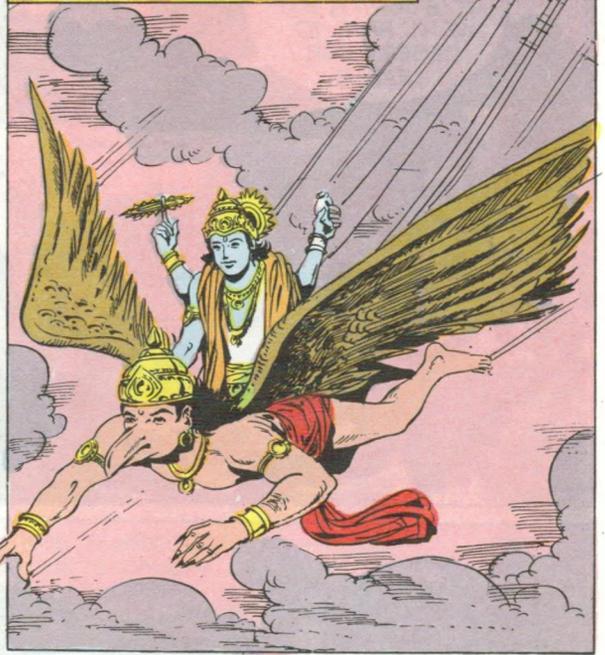
GAJENDRA BECAME DESPERATE.

WHAT SHALL I DO?





VISHNU HEARD THE PRAYER. MOUNTING GARUDA,
HE LEFT HIS ABODE, VAIKUNTHA.





LORD VISHNU RESPONDED...



... AND THE CROCODILE FELL A VICTIM TO HIS DISCUS.

LORD!

OFFERING HIM THE LOTUS, GAJENDRA BOWED BEFORE VISHNU.



ARISE, GAJENDRA.

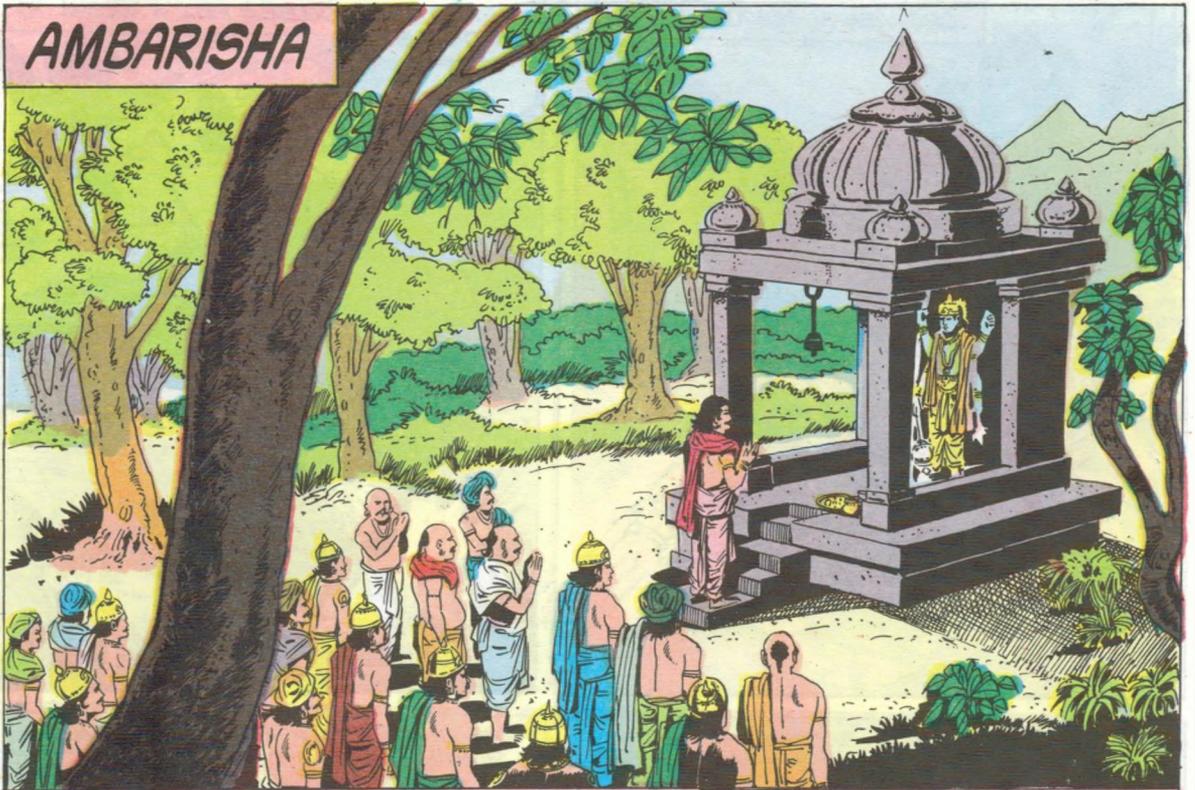
AT THE DIVINE TOUCH, GAJENDRA REGAINED HIS HUMAN FORM.



LORD, I WISH TO BEHOLD YOU ALL THE TIME. TAKE ME WITH YOU TO VAIKUNTHA.

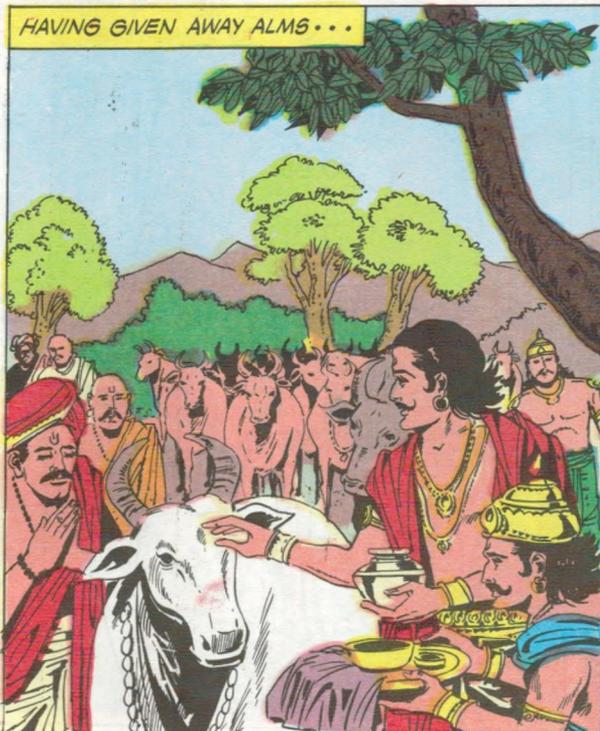
SO BE IT.

AMBARISHA

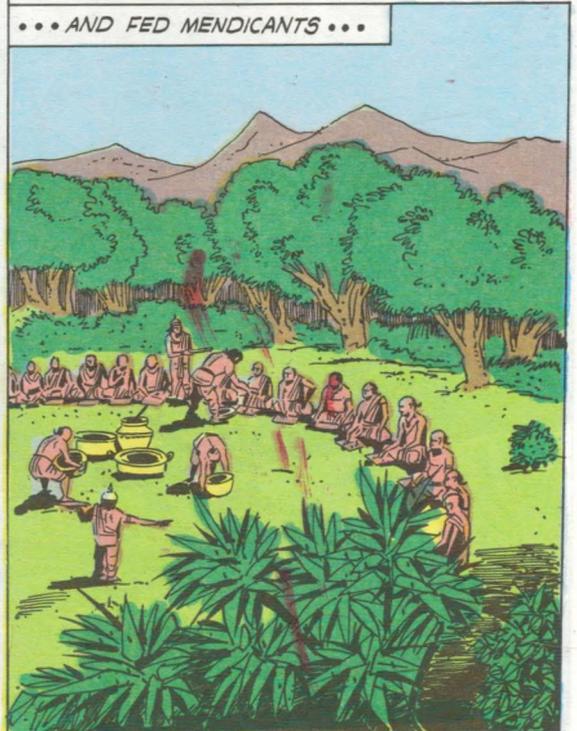


AFTER FASTING FOR THREE DAYS, KING AMBARISHA WORSHIPPED LORD VISHNU IN THE FOREST OF MADHUVANA*. HE WAS TO BREAK HIS FAST ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF DWADASHI.†

HAVING GIVEN AWAY ALMS...

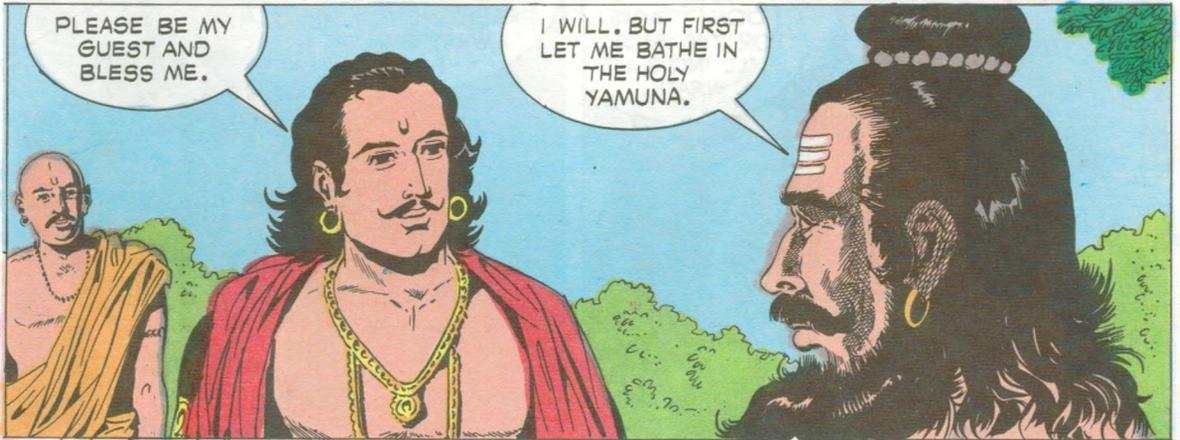
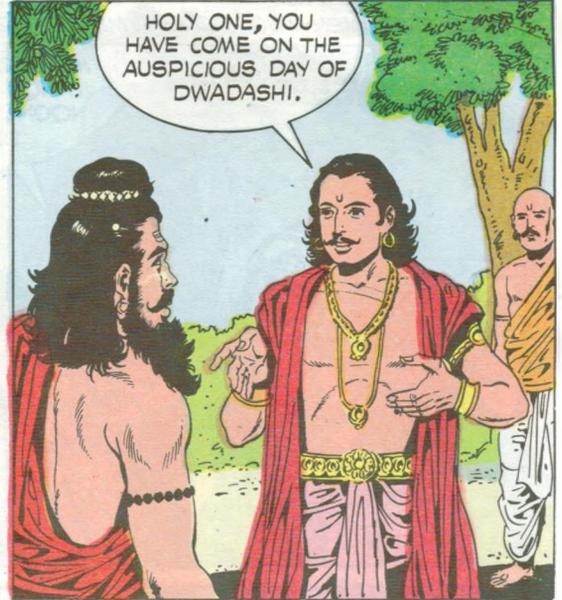
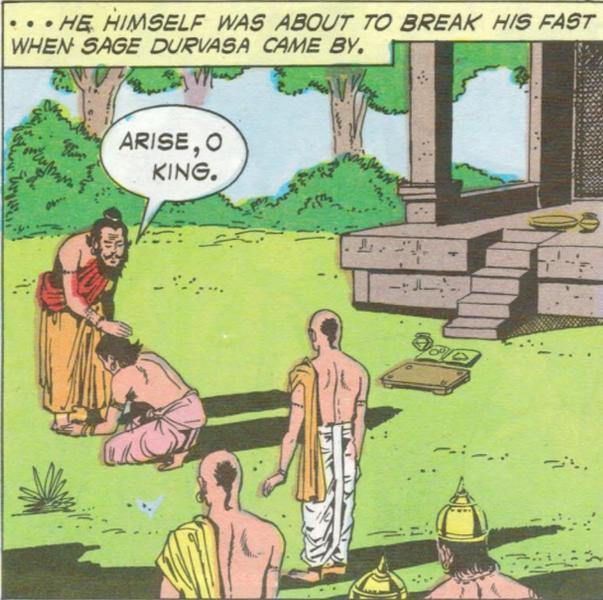


...AND FED MENDICANTS...

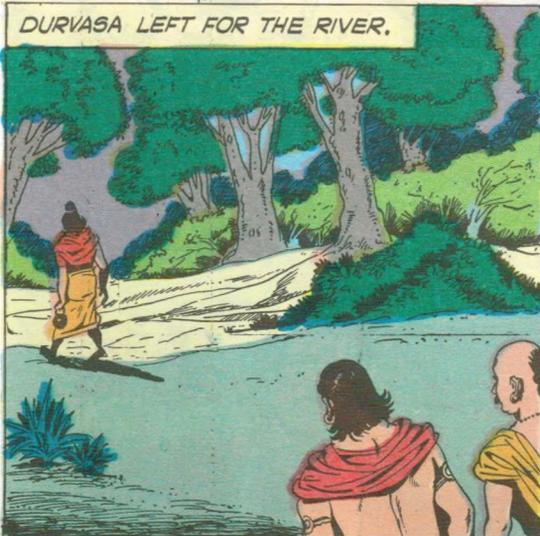


* THE FOREST REGION AROUND MATHURA † THE TWELFTH DAY OF THE FORTNIGHT

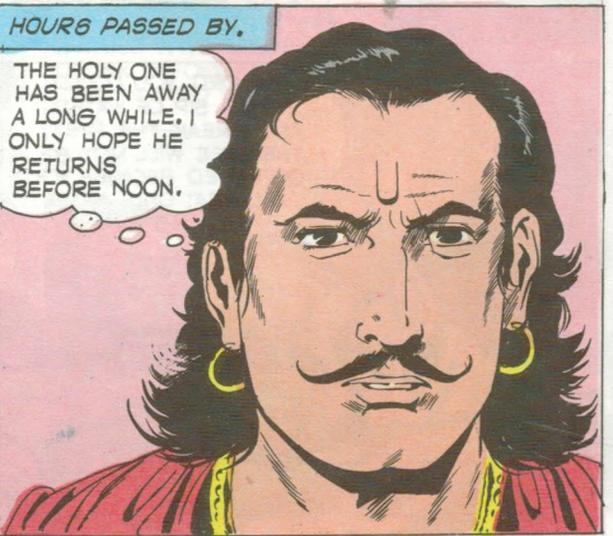
... HE HIMSELF WAS ABOUT TO BREAK HIS FAST WHEN SAGE DURVASA CAME BY.



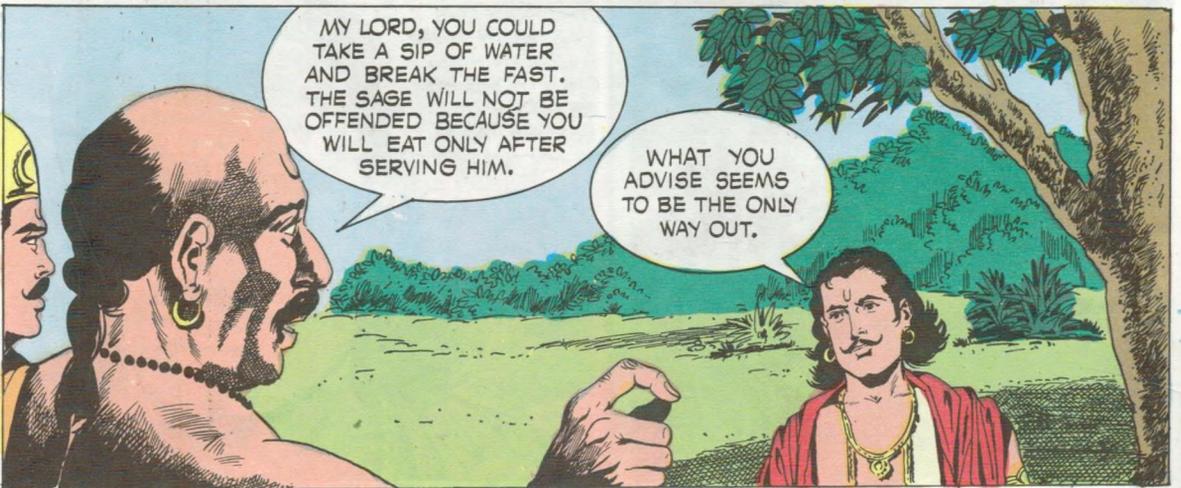
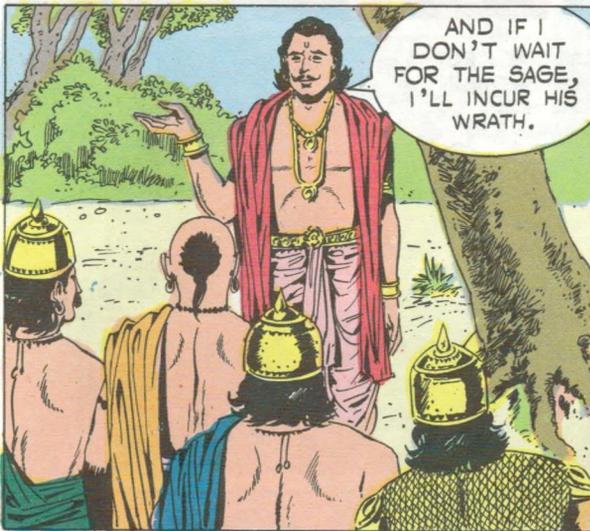
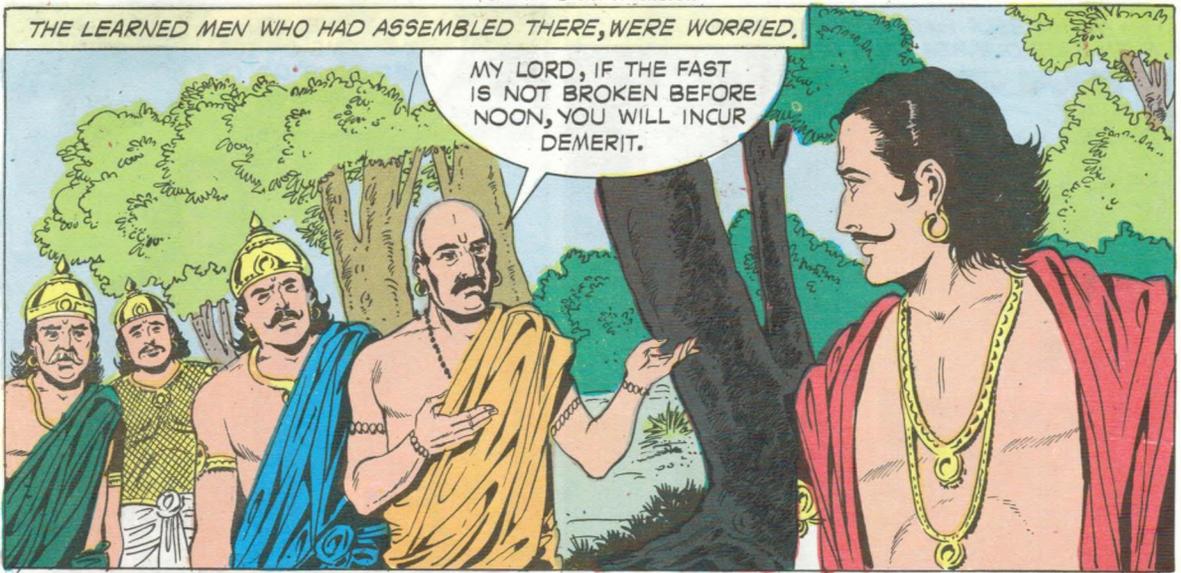
DURVASA LEFT FOR THE RIVER.



HOURS PASSED BY.

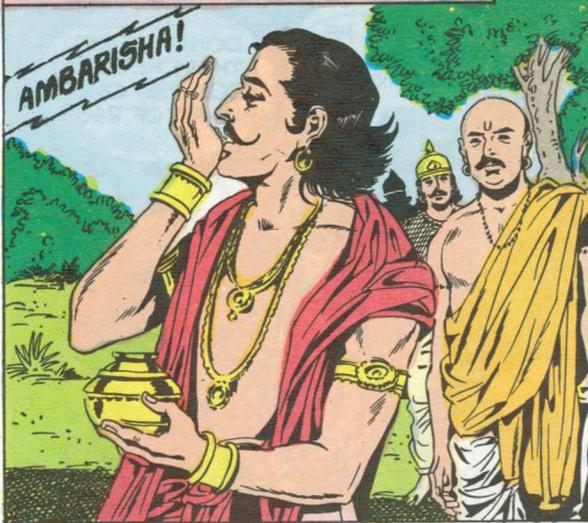


THE LEARNED MEN WHO HAD ASSEMBLED THERE, WERE WORRIED.

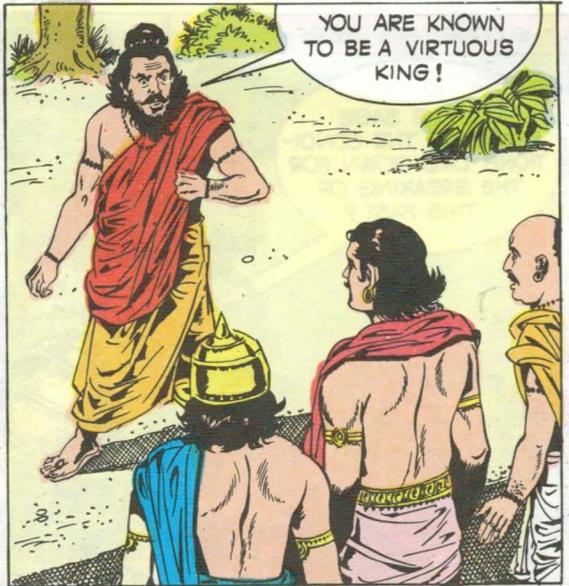


AS AMBARISHA POURED A LITTLE WATER INTO HIS PALM AND RAISED IT TO HIS LIPS —

AMBARISHA!



YOU ARE KNOWN TO BE A VIRTUOUS KING!



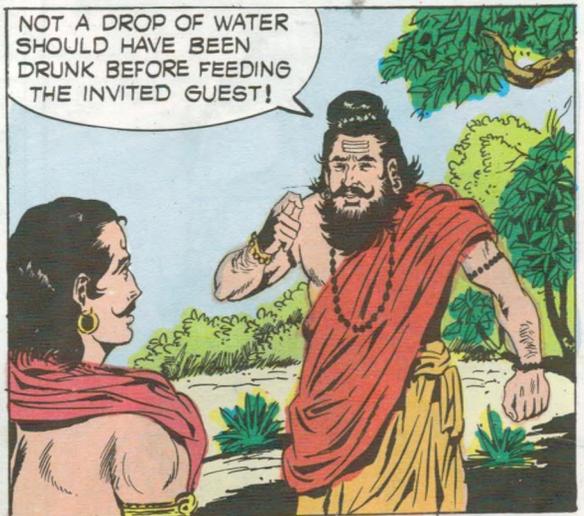
AND YET, YOU COULD NOT WAIT FOR YOUR GUEST!



HOLY SAGE, I HAVE ONLY TAKEN A SIP OF WATER, I HAD TO, OTHERWISE...



NOT A DROP OF WATER SHOULD HAVE BEEN DRUNK BEFORE FEEDING THE INVITED GUEST!

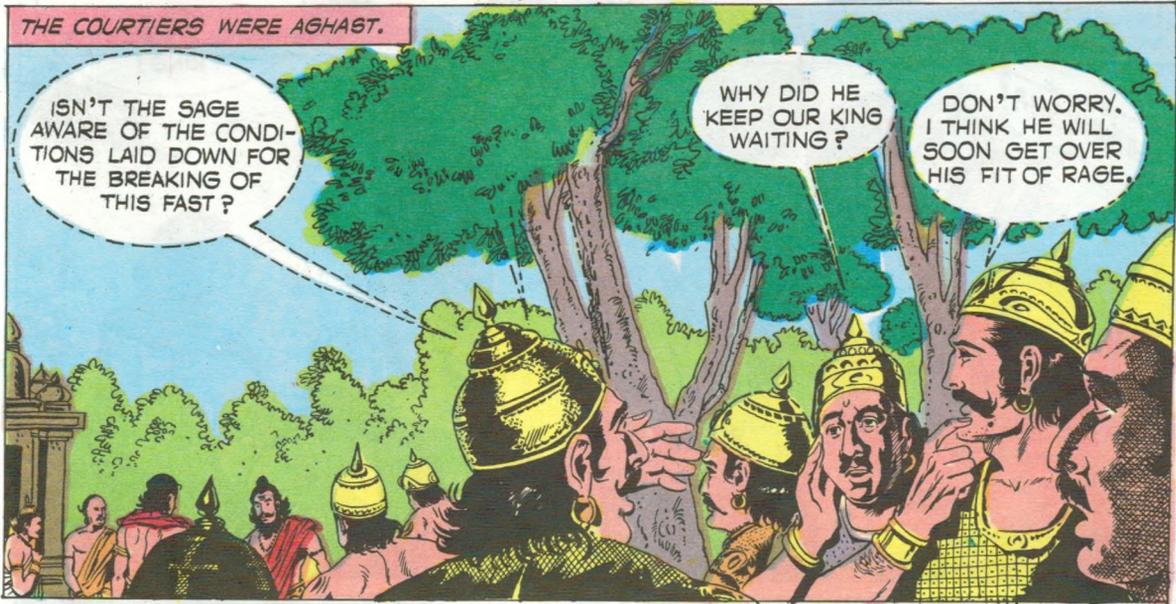


THE COURTIERERS WERE AGHAST.

ISN'T THE SAGE AWARE OF THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN FOR THE BREAKING OF THIS FAST?

WHY DID HE KEEP OUR KING WAITING?

DON'T WORRY. I THINK HE WILL SOON GET OVER HIS FIT OF RAGE.



BUT THE COURTIER WAS IN FOR A SHOCK. THE NEXT MOMENT—

YOU SHALL PAY FOR YOUR ARROGANCE, AMBARISHA!



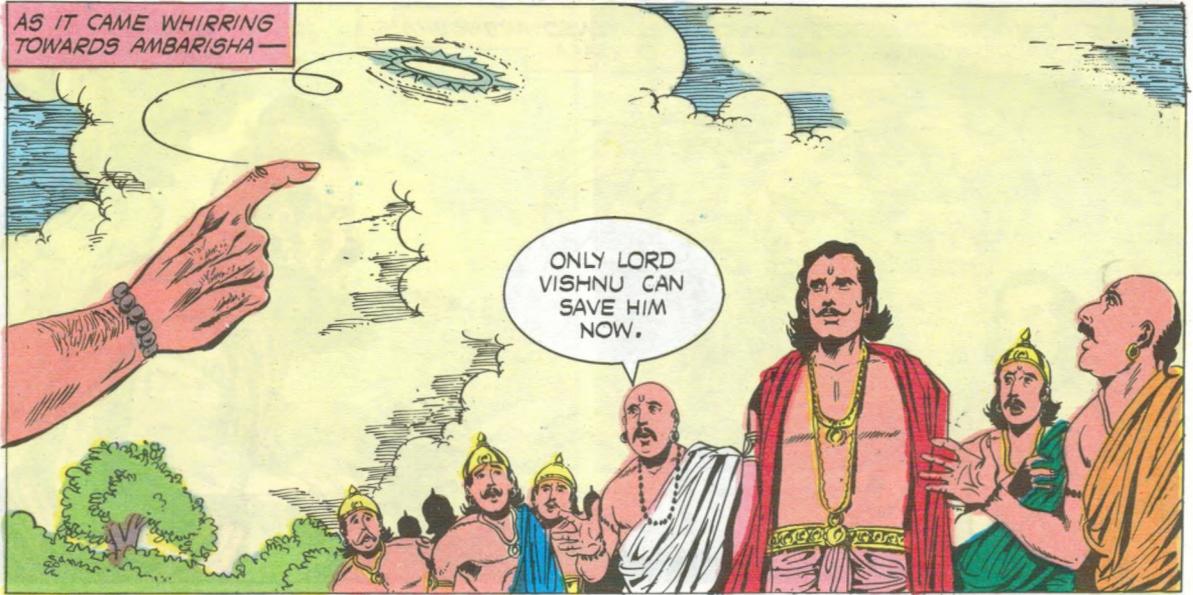
THE SAGE TORE OFF A LOCK OF HIS MATTED HAIR.



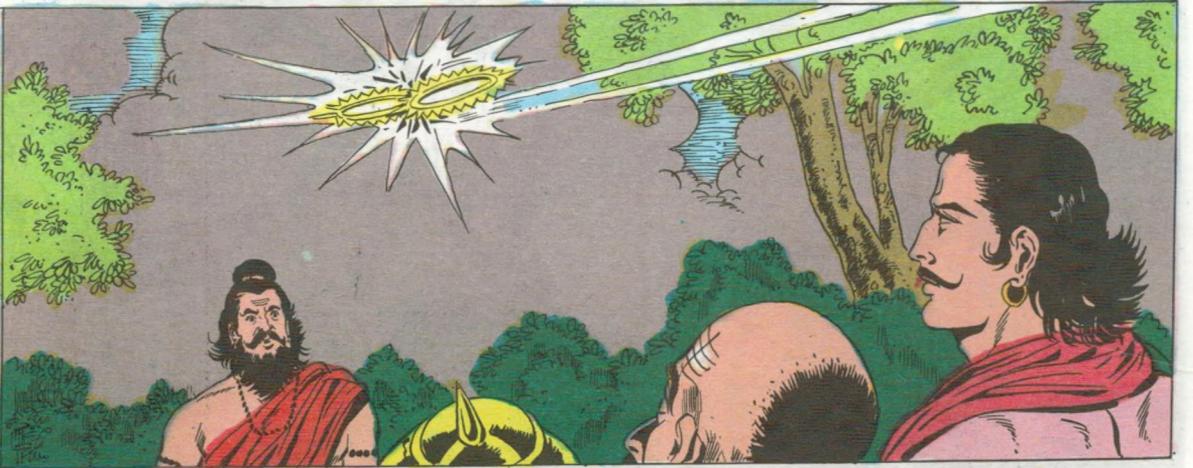
AND LO! IT TURNED INTO A DISCUS.



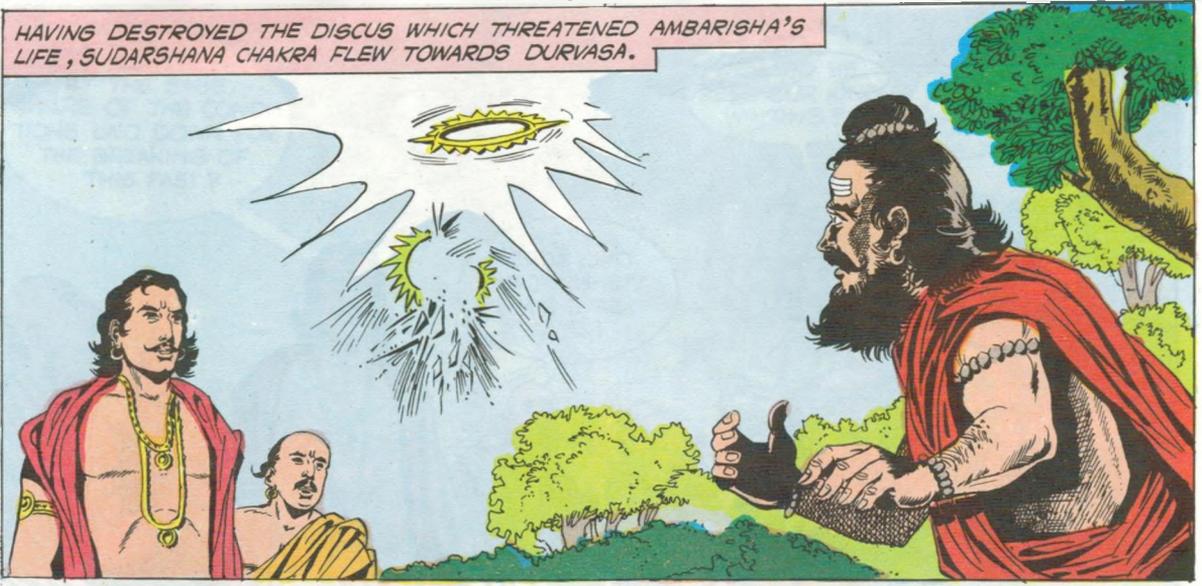
AS IT CAME WHIRRING
TOWARDS AMBARISHA —



MEANWHILE —



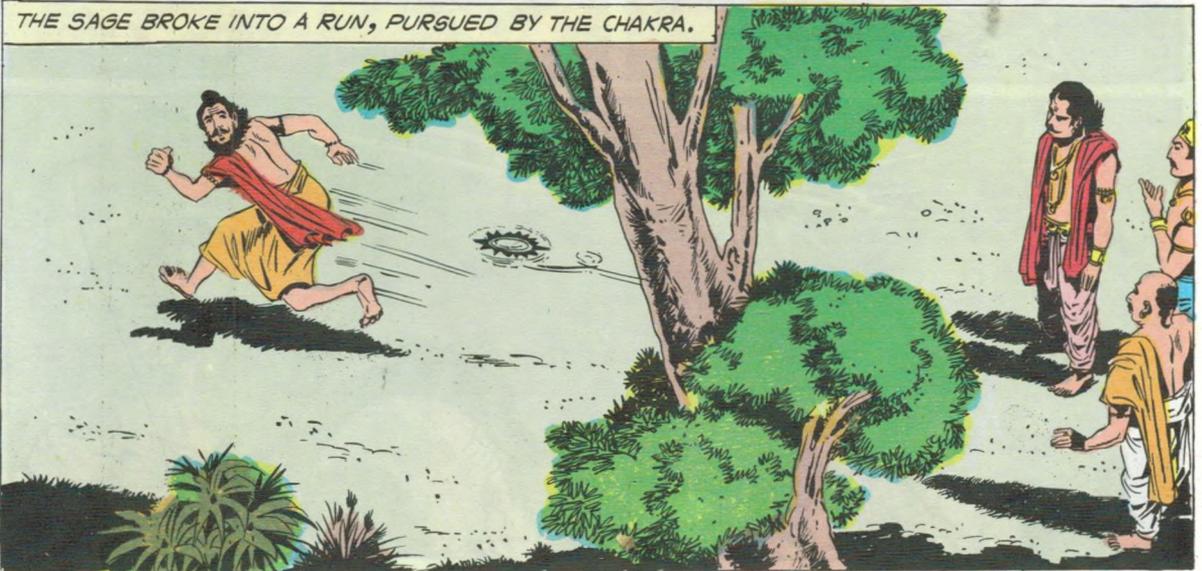
HAVING DESTROYED THE DISCUS WHICH THREATENED AMBARISHA'S LIFE, SUDARSHANA CHAKRA FLEW TOWARDS DURVASA.

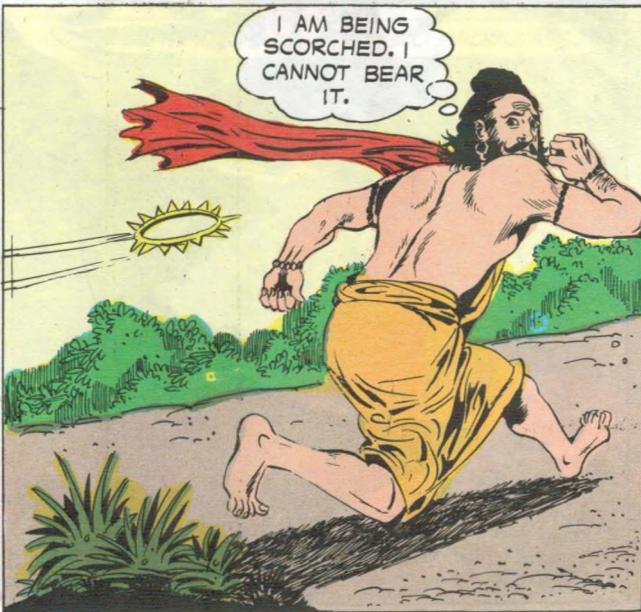
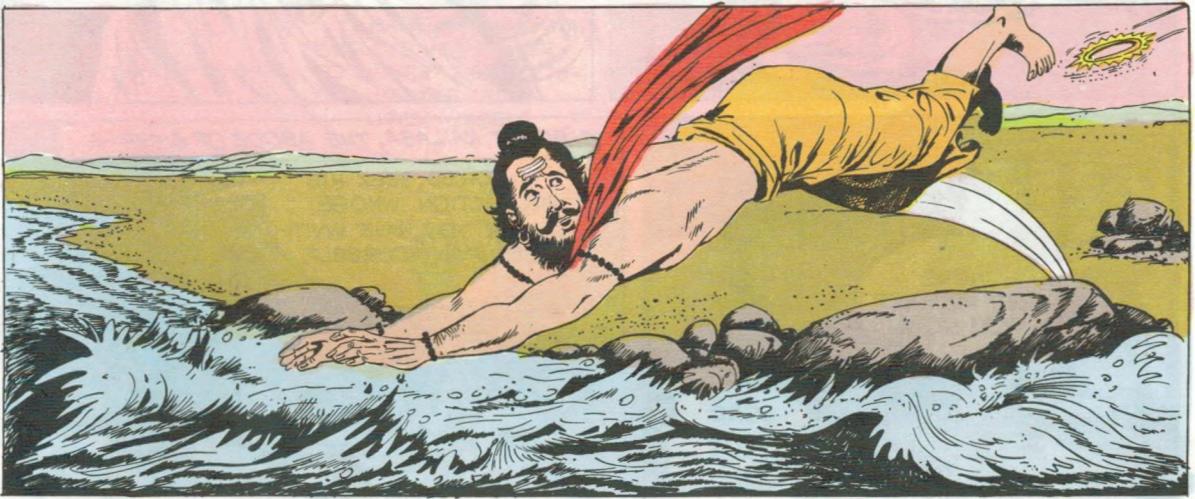
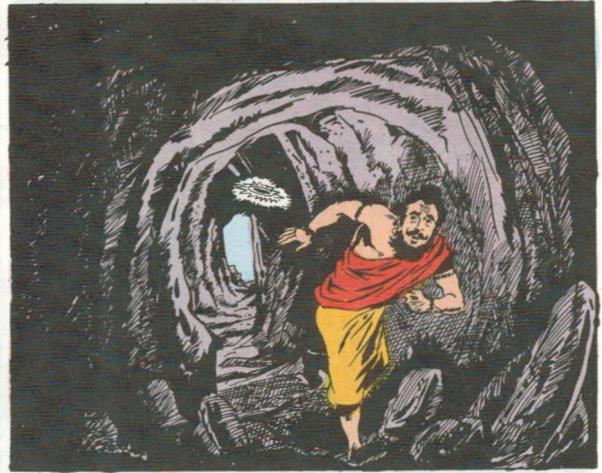


IT'S HEADING FOR ME!

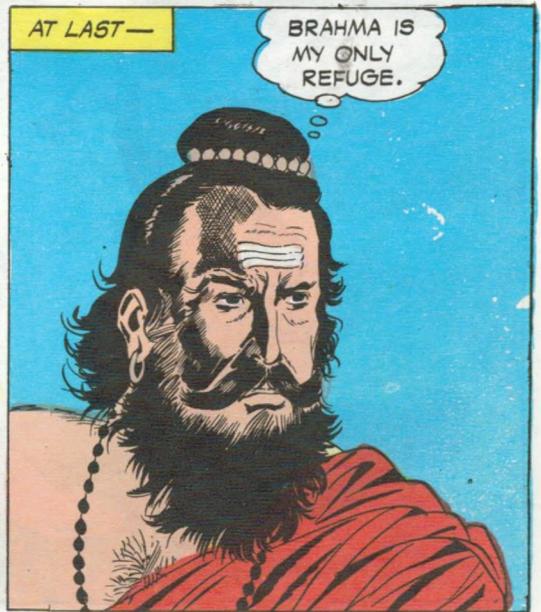


THE SAGE BROKE INTO A RUN, PURSUED BY THE CHAKRA.



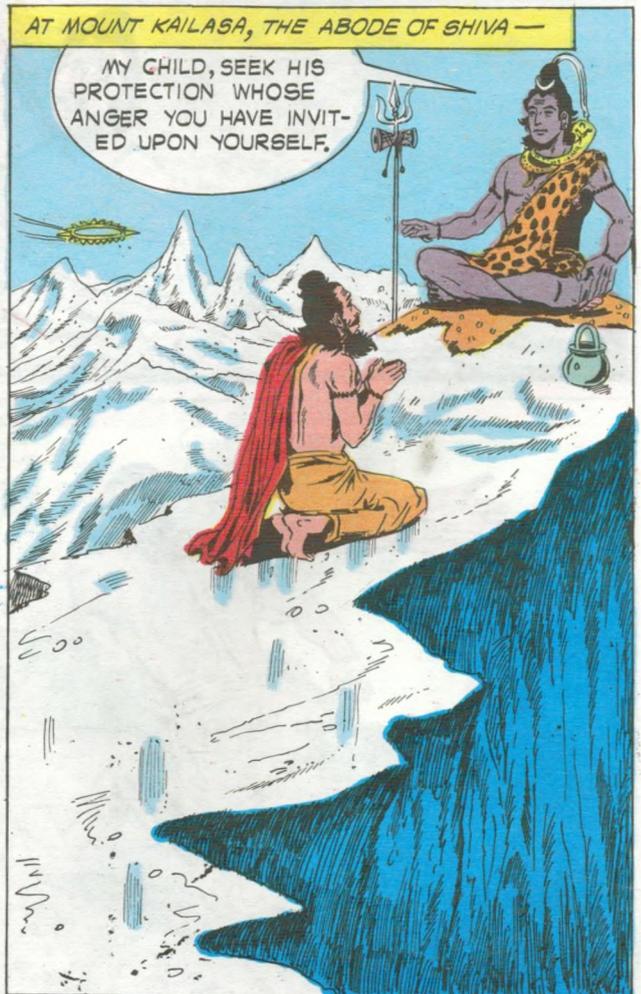
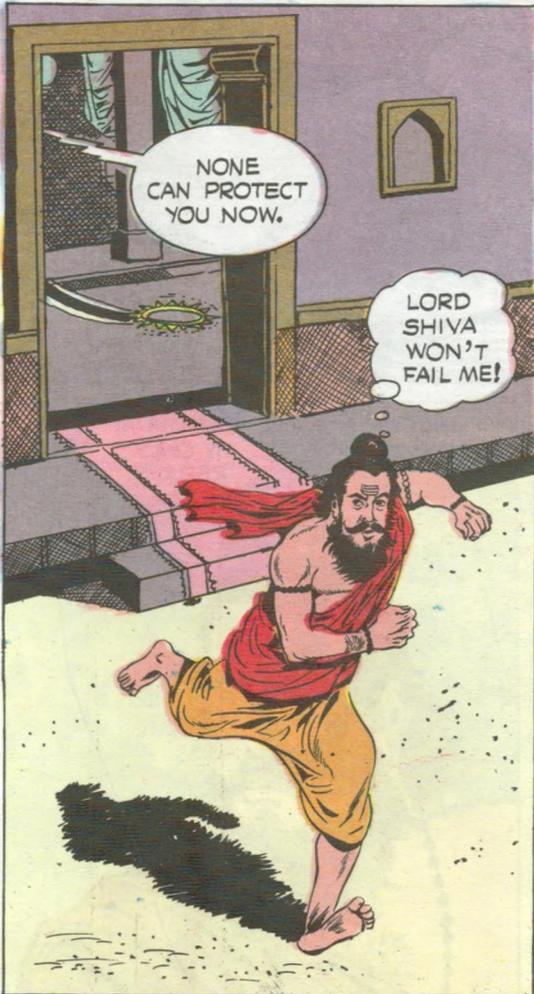


I AM BEING SCORCHED. I CANNOT BEAR IT.



AT LAST—

BRAHMA IS MY ONLY REFUGE.



DURVASA RUSHED TO LORD VIŚHNU.

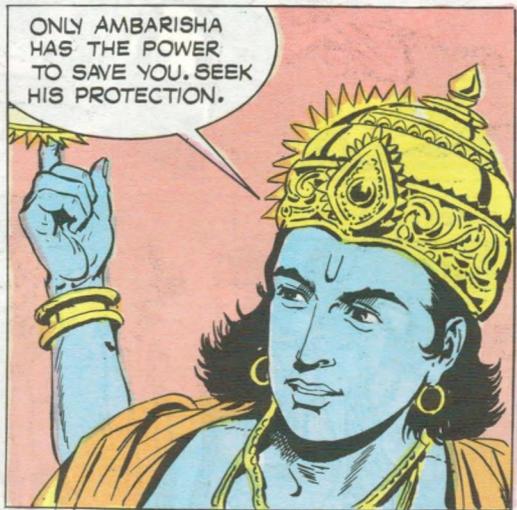
O LORD! I HAVE OFFENDED YOUR DEVOTEE. PARDON ME! PROTECT ME!



O SAGE, HE WHO EMPLOYS HIS POWER TO INJURE THE VIRTUOUS, INVITES EVIL UPON HIMSELF.

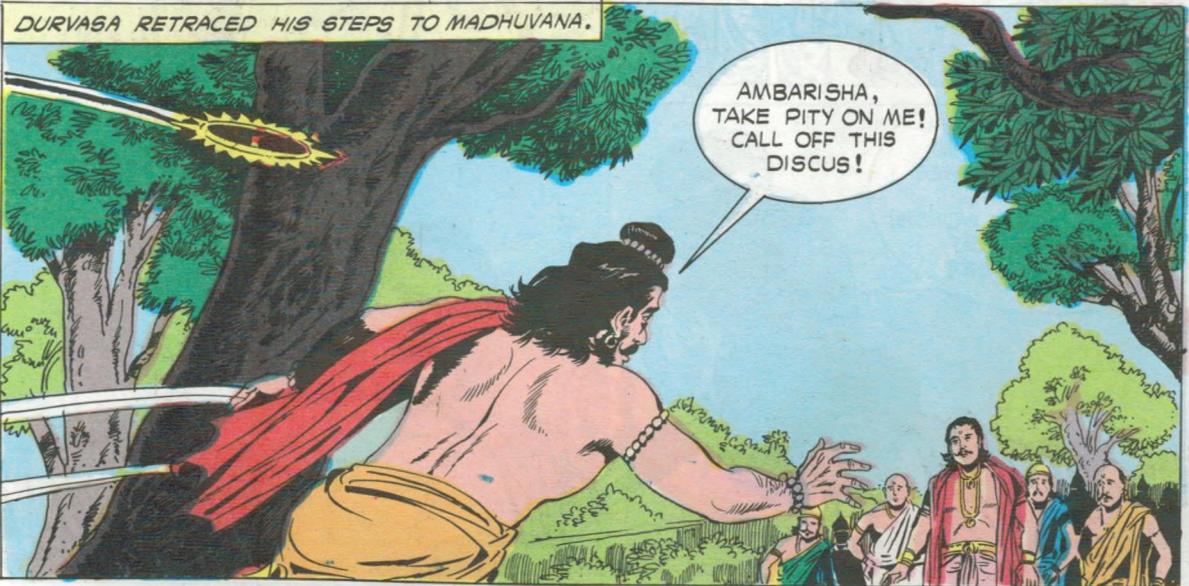


ONLY AMBARISHA HAS THE POWER TO SAVE YOU. SEEK HIS PROTECTION.



DURVASA RETRACED HIS STEPS TO MADHUVANA.

AMBARISHA, TAKE PITY ON ME! CALL OFF THIS DISCUS!

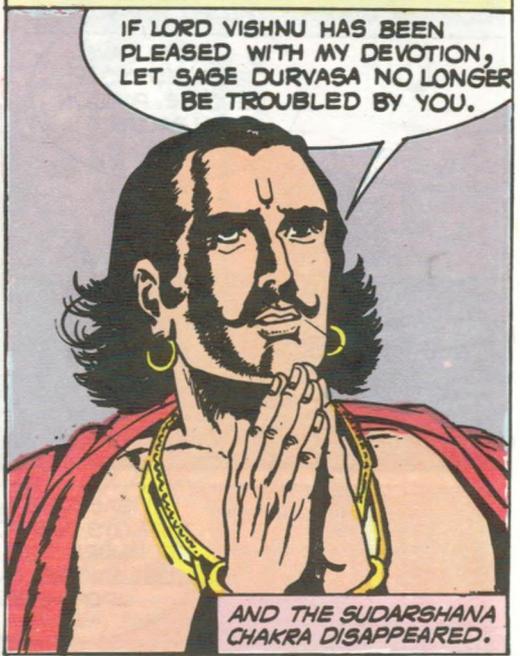


AMBARISHA WAS MOVED BY DURVASA'S PLIGHT.



HAS THE GREAT SAGE BEEN REDUCED TO SUCH A PATHETIC STATE?

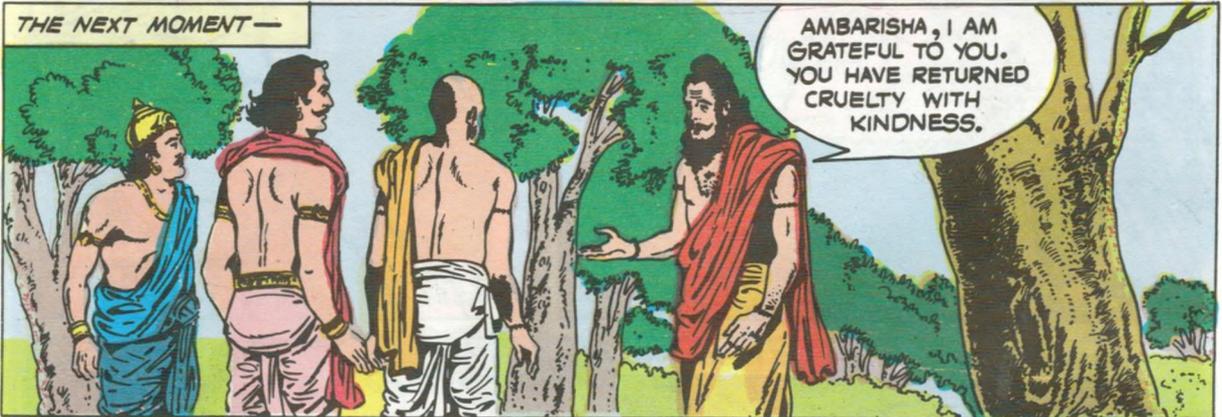
HE APPEALED TO SUDARSHANA CHAKRA.



IF LORD VISHNU HAS BEEN PLEASED WITH MY DEVOTION, LET SAGE DURVASA NO LONGER BE TROUBLED BY YOU.

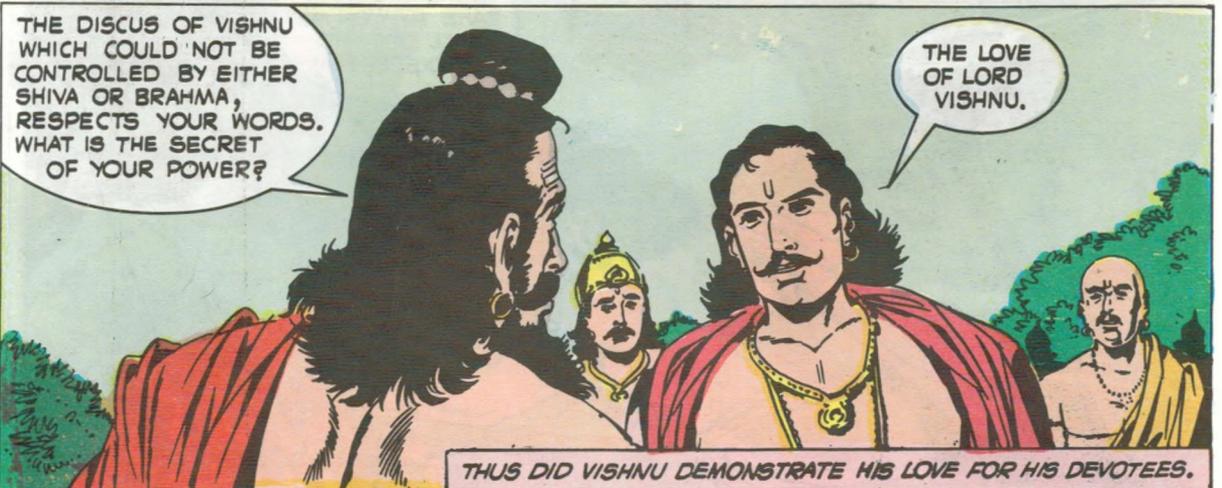
AND THE SUDARSHANA CHAKRA DISAPPEARED.

THE NEXT MOMENT —



AMBARISHA, I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU. YOU HAVE RETURNED CRUELTY WITH KINDNESS.

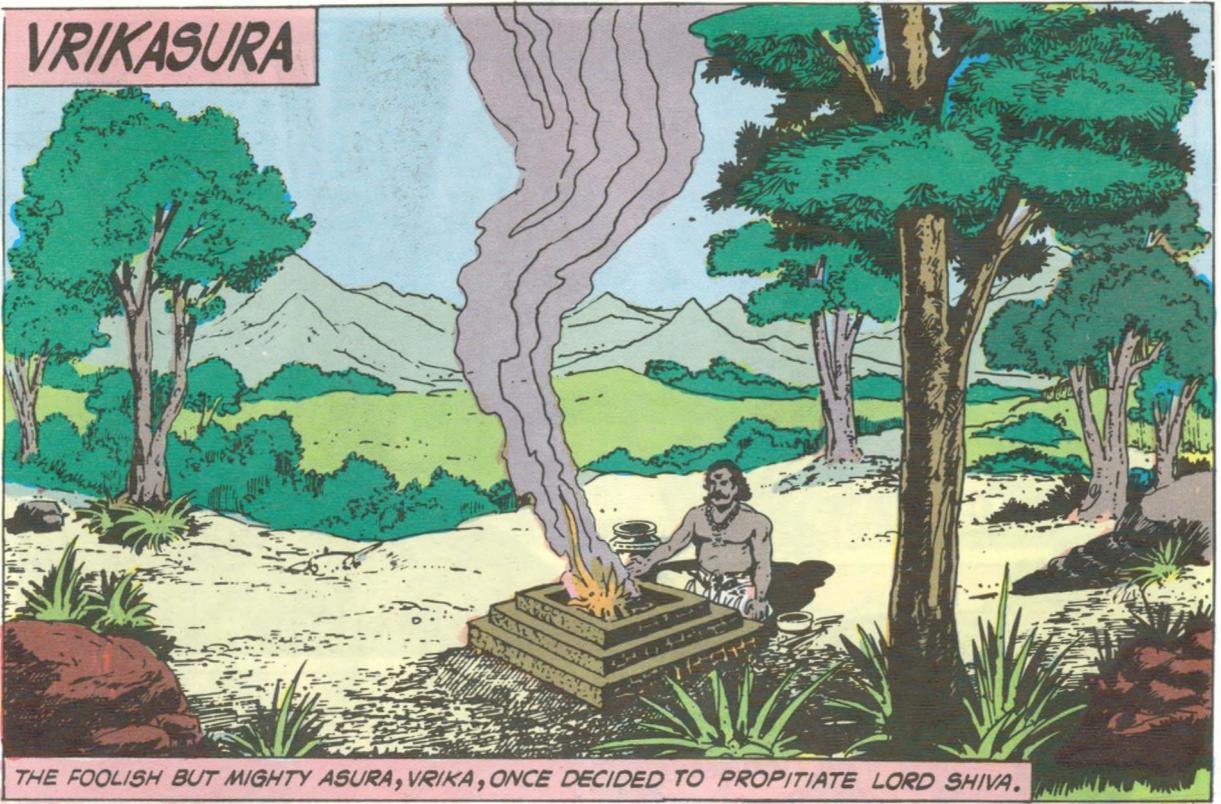
THE DISCUS OF VISHNU WHICH COULD NOT BE CONTROLLED BY EITHER SHIVA OR BRAHMA, RESPECTS YOUR WORDS. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF YOUR POWER?



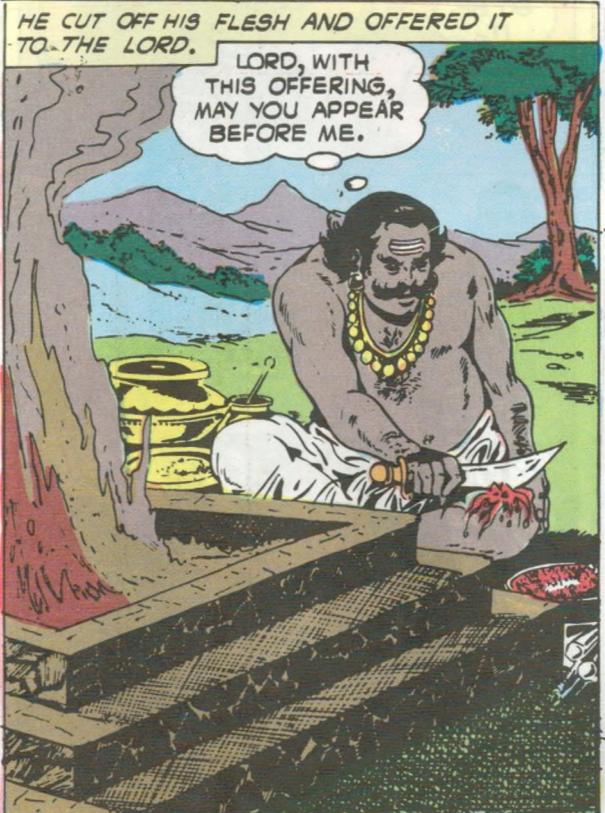
THE LOVE OF LORD VISHNU.

THUS DID VISHNU DEMONSTRATE HIS LOVE FOR HIS DEVOTEES.

VRIKASURA

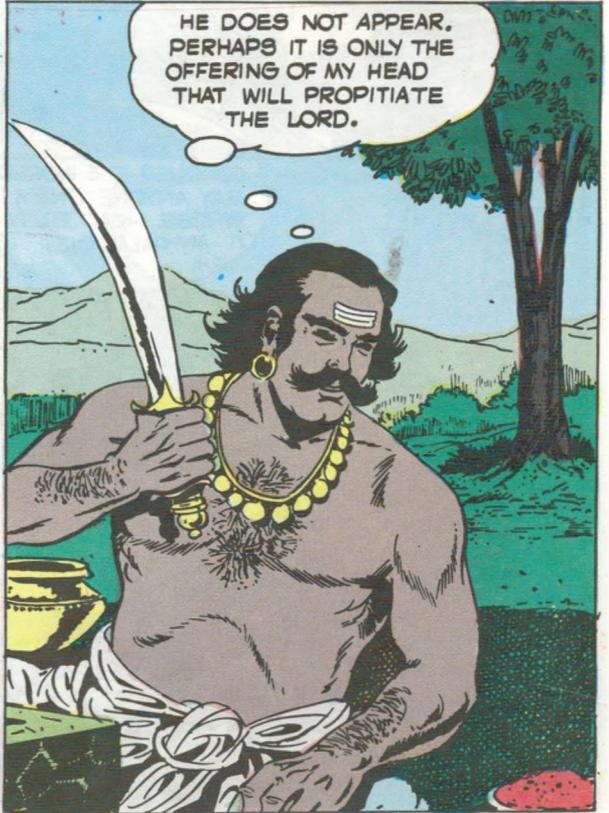


THE FOOLISH BUT MIGHTY ASURA, VRIKA, ONCE DECIDED TO PROPITIATE LORD SHIVA.



HE CUT OFF HIS FLESH AND OFFERED IT TO THE LORD.

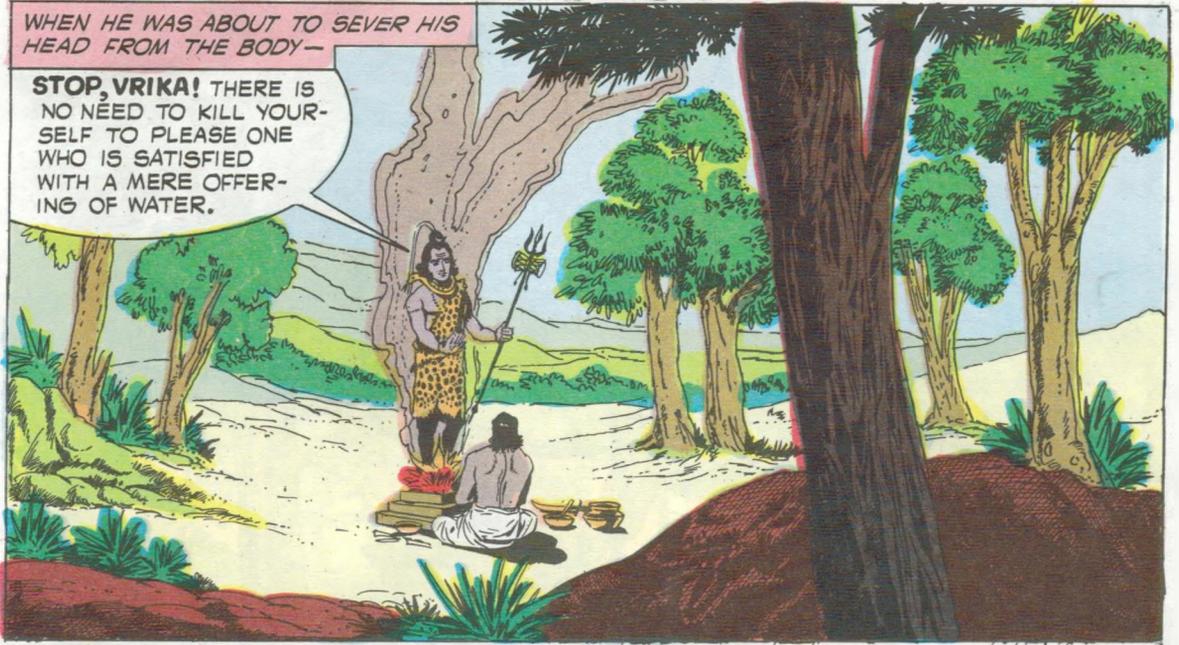
LORD, WITH THIS OFFERING, MAY YOU APPEAR BEFORE ME.



HE DOES NOT APPEAR. PERHAPS IT IS ONLY THE OFFERING OF MY HEAD THAT WILL PROPITIATE THE LORD.

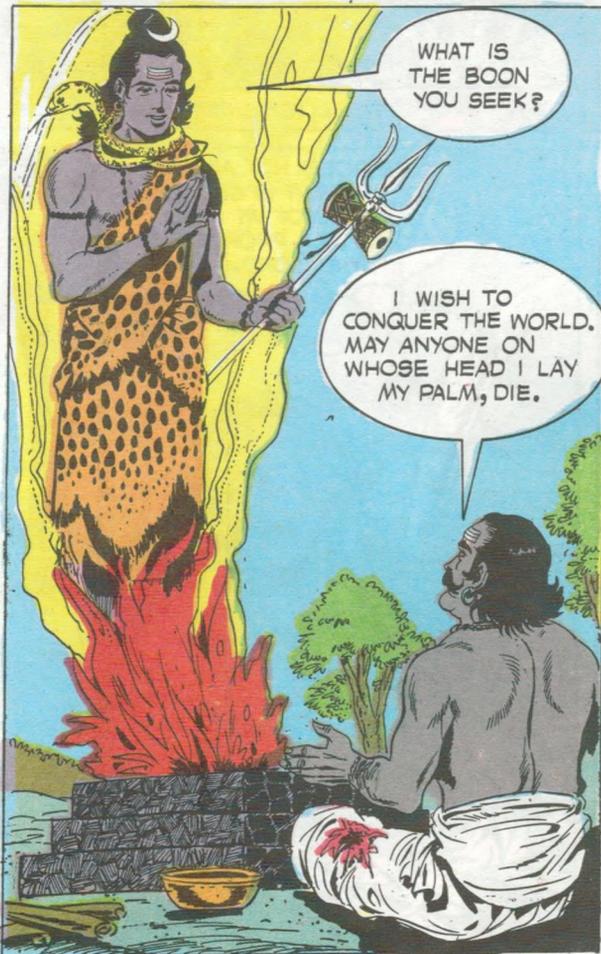
WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO SEVER HIS HEAD FROM THE BODY—

STOP, VRIKA! THERE IS NO NEED TO KILL YOURSELF TO PLEASE ONE WHO IS SATISFIED WITH A MERE OFFERING OF WATER.



WHAT IS THE BOON YOU SEEK?

I WISH TO CONQUER THE WORLD. MAY ANYONE ON WHOSE HEAD I LAY MY PALM, DIE.



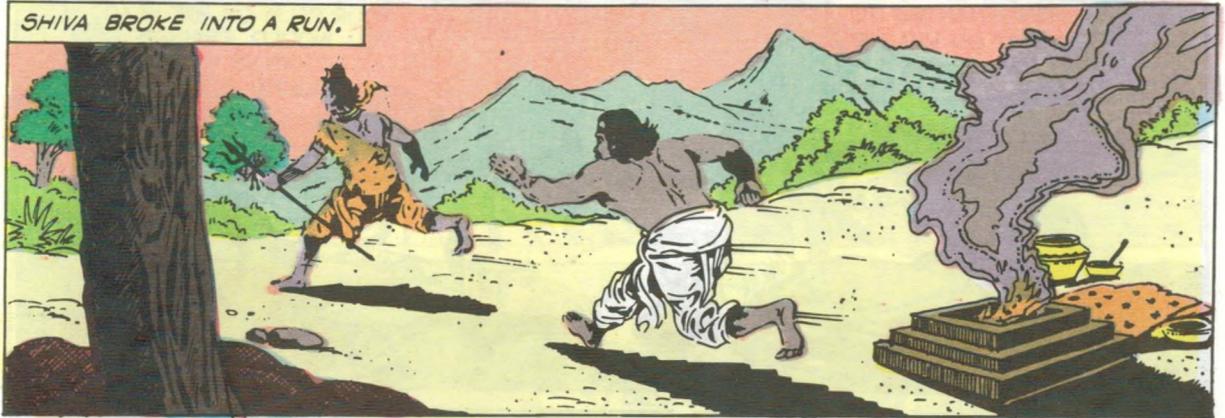
SO BE IT.



THE NEXT MOMENT, VRIKA TRIED TO REACH FOR SHIVA.



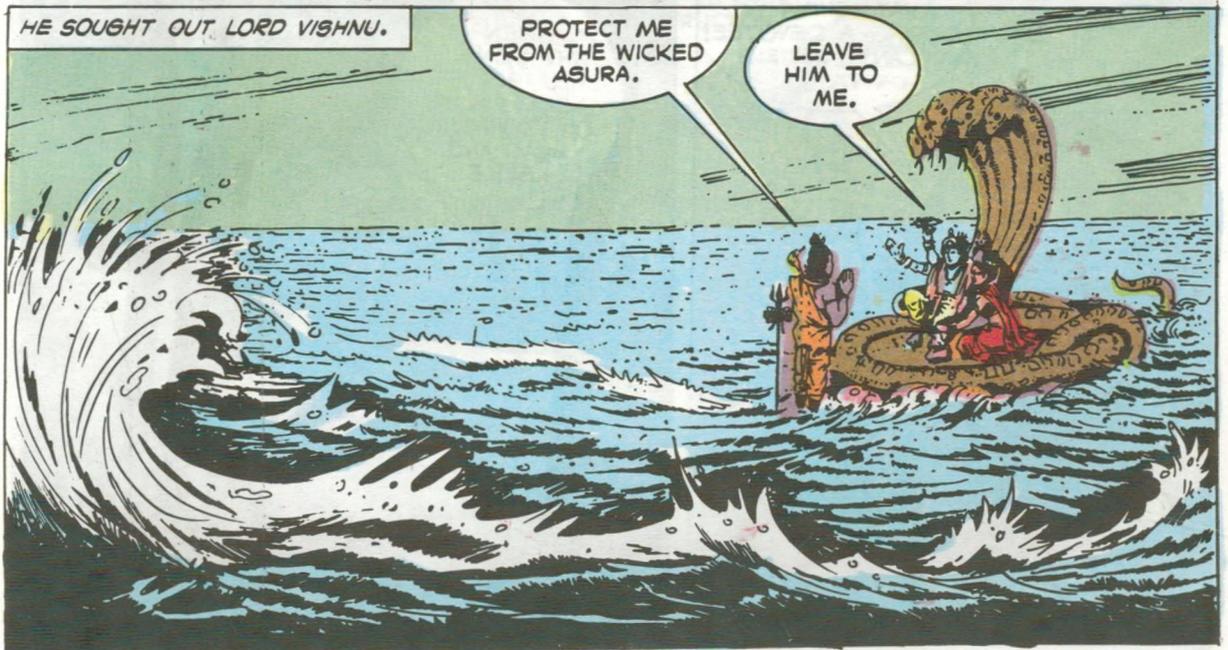
SHIVA BROKE INTO A RUN.



HE SOUGHT OUT LORD VISHNU.

PROTECT ME FROM THE WICKED ASURA.

LEAVE HIM TO ME.



MEANWHILE, AS VRIKA RAN IN SEARCH OF SHIVA, A YOUNG BRAHMACHARI *MET HIM.

WHERE ARE YOU RUNNING TO? WHOM ARE YOU SEEKING? REST FOR A WHILE. YOU SEEM TIRED.



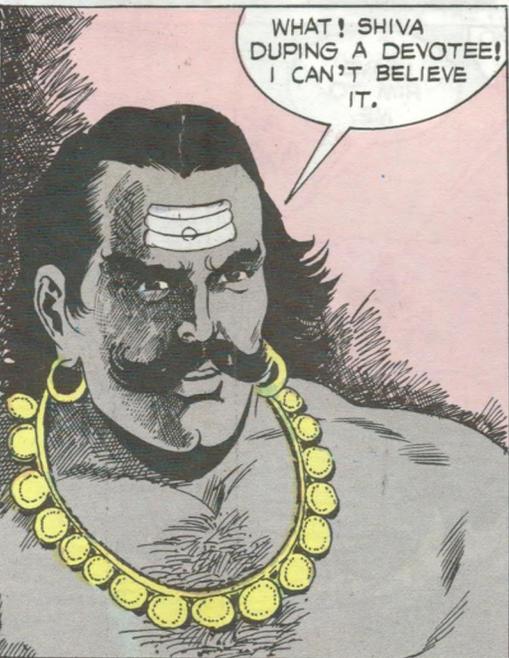
VRIKA TOLD HIM OF SHIVA'S BOON.

WHEN I WANTED TO TRY IT ON HIM, HE RAN AWAY.

THAT'S BECAUSE THE MOMENT YOU PLACED YOUR PALM ON HIS HEAD, YOU WOULD REALISE THAT HE HAD DUPED YOU.



WHAT! SHIVA DUPING A DEVOTEE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

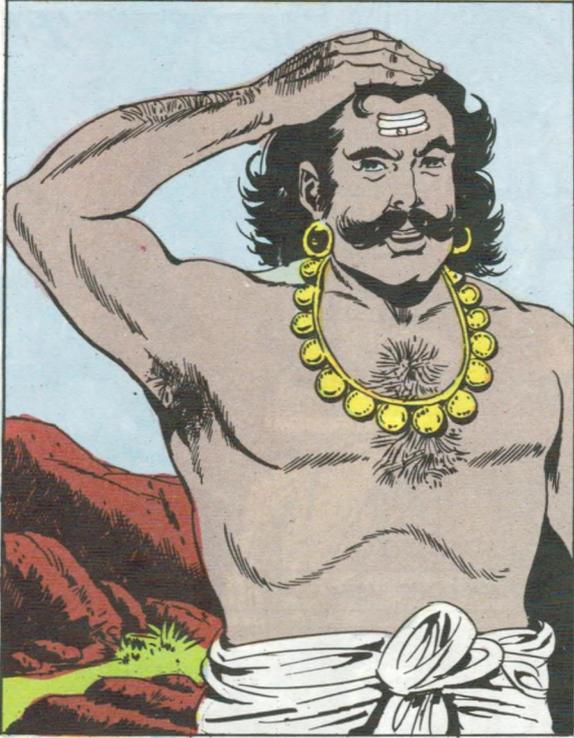


THEN WHY DON'T YOU PLACE YOUR PALM ON YOUR OWN HEAD AND SEE?

A GOOD IDEA!



WITHOUT STOPPING TO THINK, THE FOOLISH ASURA PLACED HIS PALM ON HIS HEAD.



THE NEXT MOMENT, HE FELL DEAD. THE CLEVER BRAHMACHARI WAS NONE OTHER THAN VISHNU.



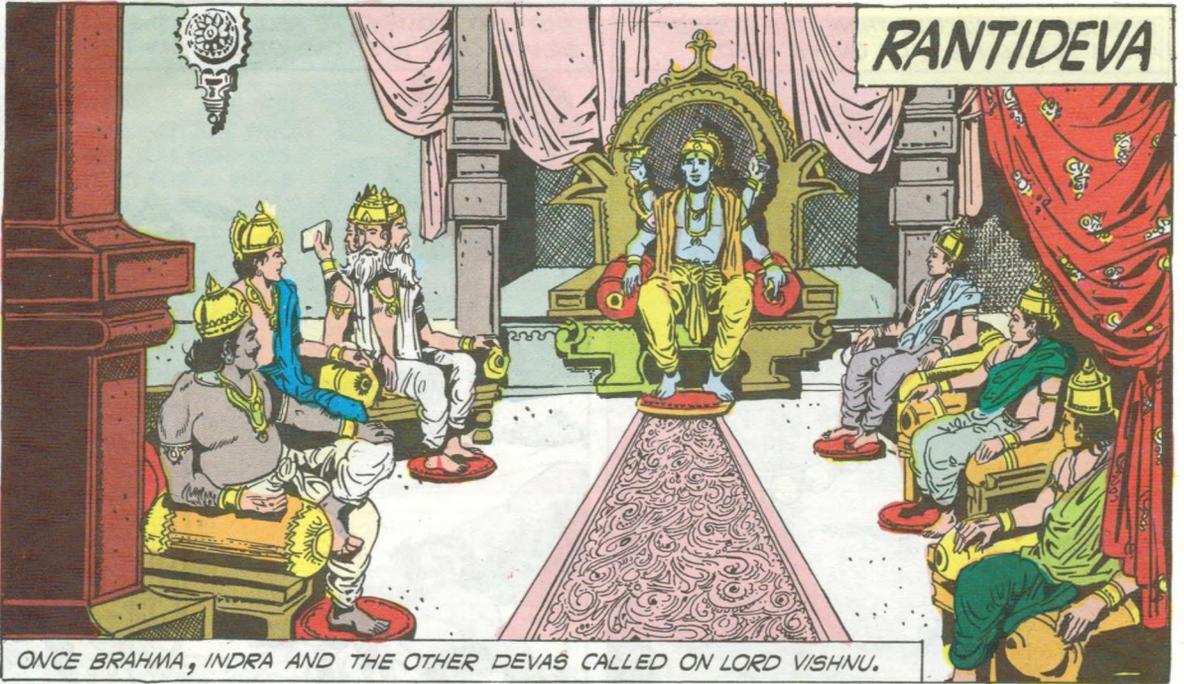
JUST THEN, SHIVA APPEARED.

I AM SORRY THAT THE UNFORTUNATE ASURA HAD TO DIE.

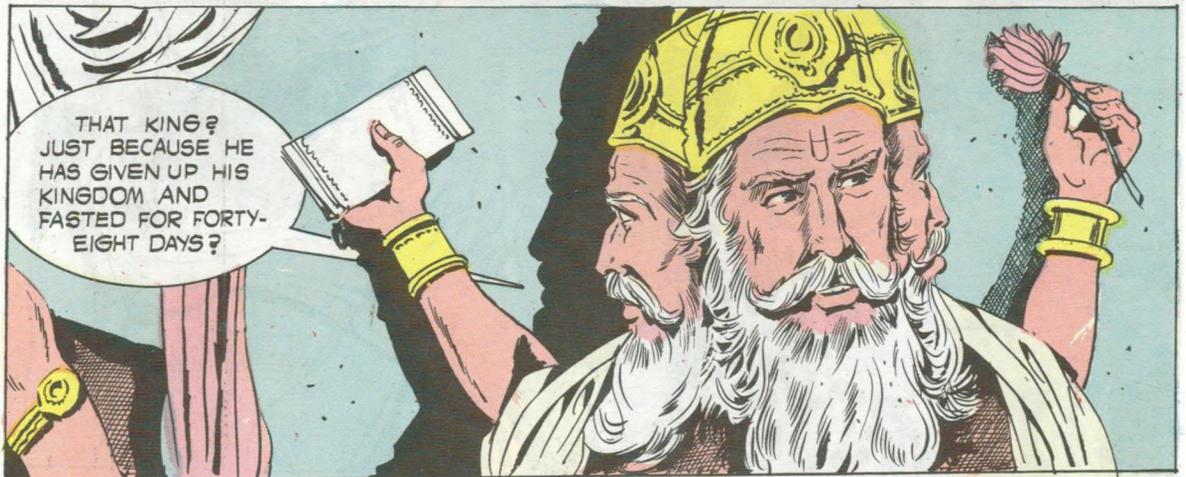
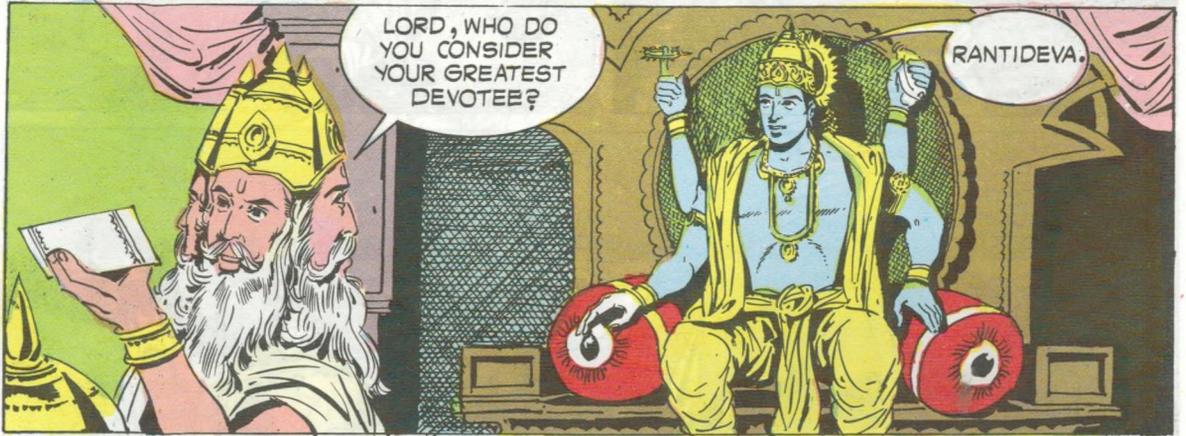
IT WAS INEVITABLE. HE WHO SECURES A BOON TO DESTROY OTHERS SEEKS HIS OWN DESTRUCTION.



RANTIDEVA



ONCE BRAHMA, INDRA AND THE OTHER DEVAS CALLED ON LORD VISHNU.





ALLOW US TO TEST HIM, MY LORD.

ANYWAY, HE'S HAD ENOUGH! HE'S BREAKING HIS FAST TODAY.



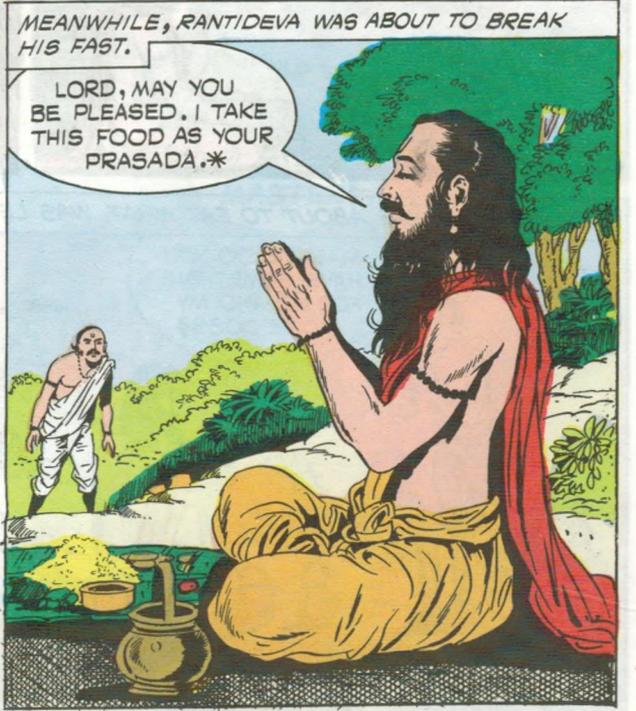
DO SO. IN THE PROCESS YOU'LL LEARN WHY I CONSIDER HIM A GREAT DEVOTEE.



AS THE DEVAS SET OUT—

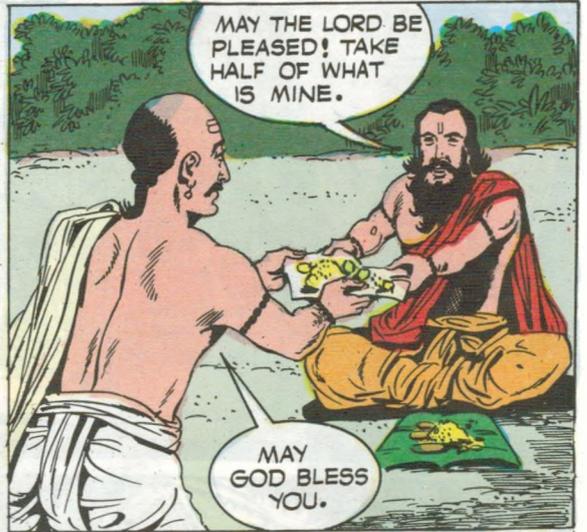
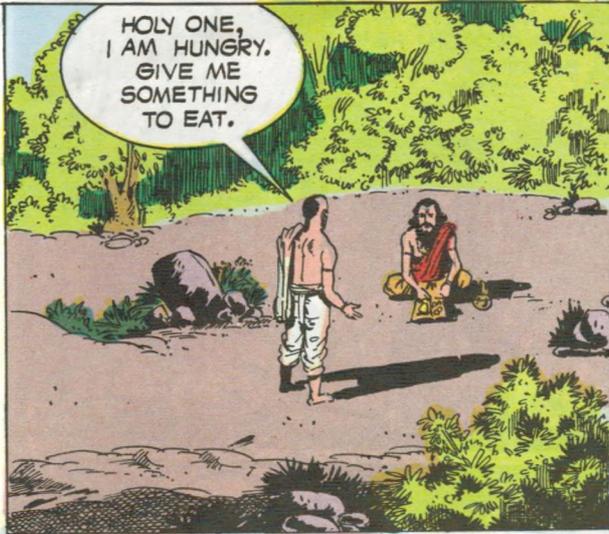
IT IS HARD TO PRACTISE CHARITY WHEN ONE IS HUNGRY. LET'S SEE HOW RANTIDEVA REACTS.

A GOOD TEST.

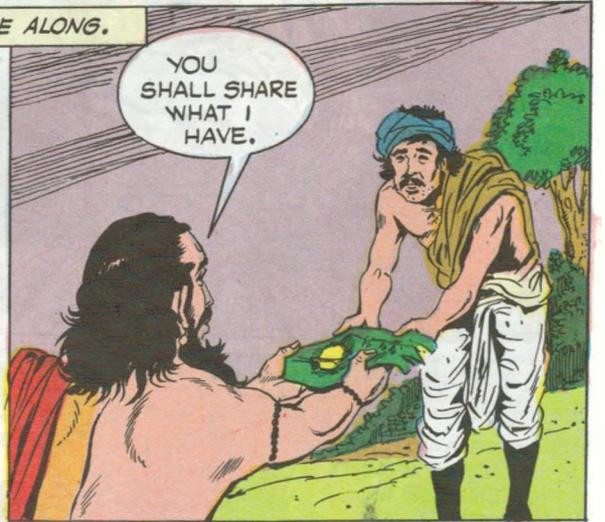


MEANWHILE, RANTIDEVA WAS ABOUT TO BREAK HIS FAST.

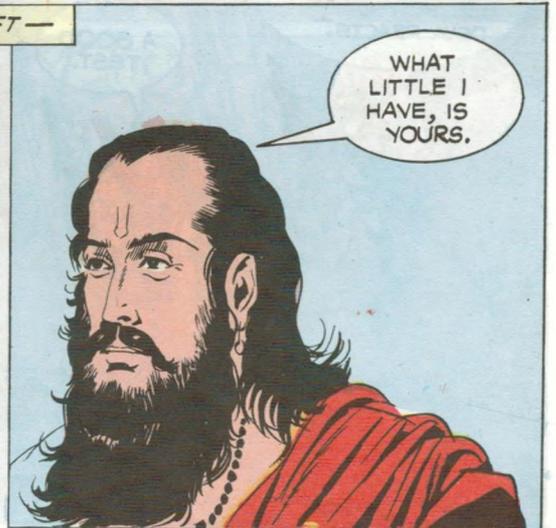
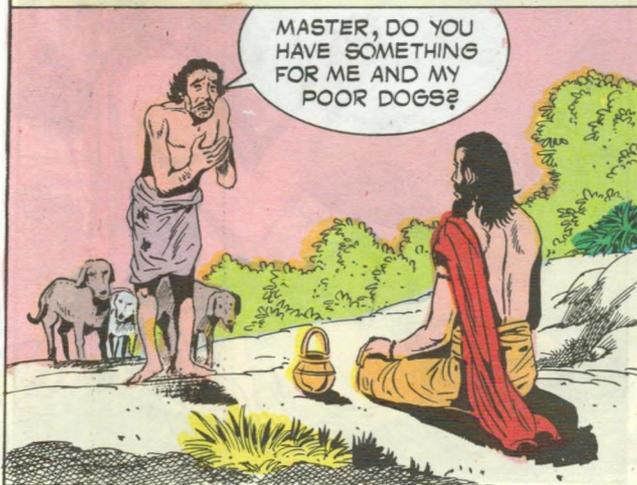
LORD, MAY YOU BE PLEASED. I TAKE THIS FOOD AS YOUR PRASADA.*



AS THE BRAHMIN WENT AWAY, A FARMER CAME ALONG.



AS RANTIDEVA WAS ABOUT TO EAT WHAT WAS LEFT —



WHILE THE BEGGAR AND HIS DOGS ATE —

A STRANGE PEACE
FILLS MY HEART.



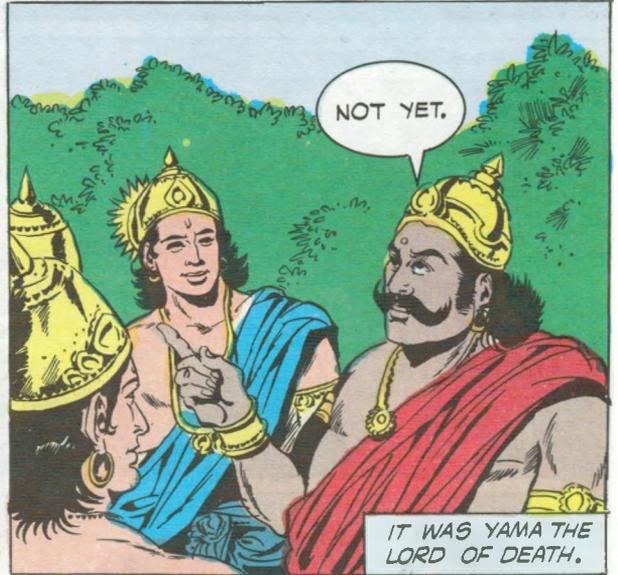
LATER, THE DEVA * WHO HAD CALLED ON RANTIDEVA IN THE GUISE OF THE BEGGAR, JOINED THE OTHERS.

HE GAVE ME ALL THE FOOD HE HAD.

SHOULD WE ADMIT DEFEAT, THEN?



NOT YET.

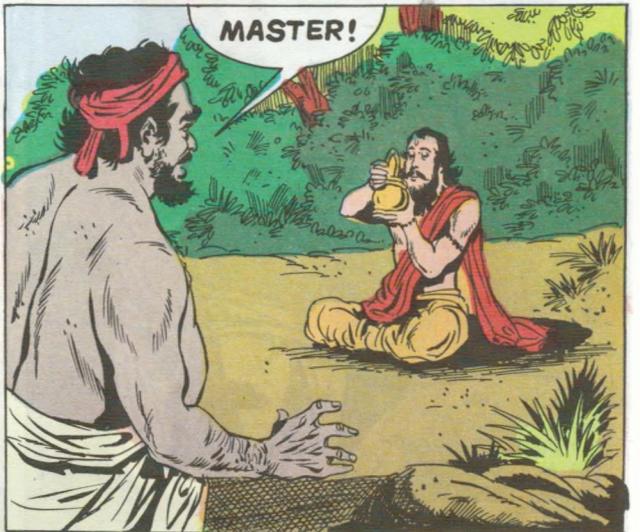


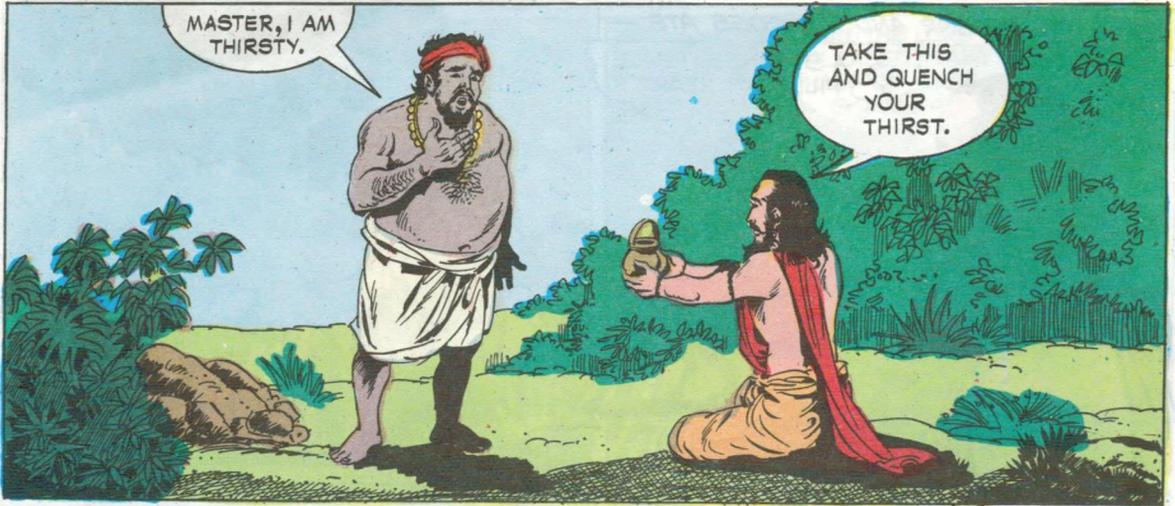
IT WAS YAMA THE LORD OF DEATH.

MEANWHILE —

GLORY TO THE LORD. I WAS ABLE TO SERVE HIM BY FEEDING THE HUNGRY. LET ME HAVE SOME WATER AND BREAK MY FAST.

MASTER!





MASTER, I AM THIRSTY.

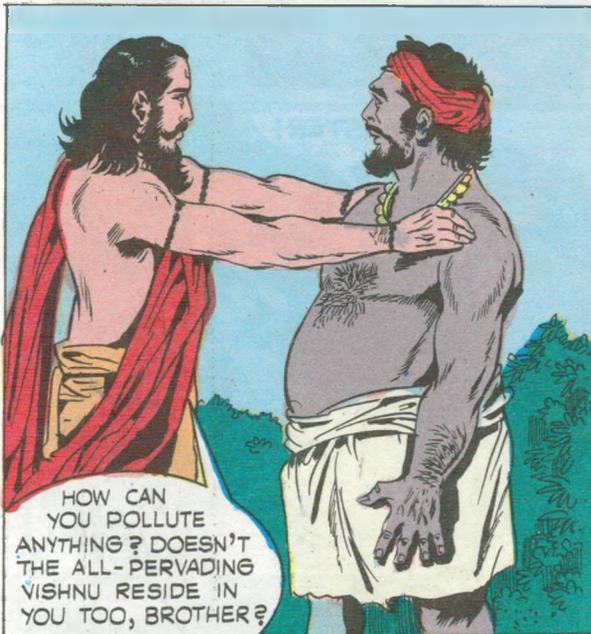
TAKE THIS AND QUENCH YOUR THIRST.

BUT THE VISITOR HESITATED.



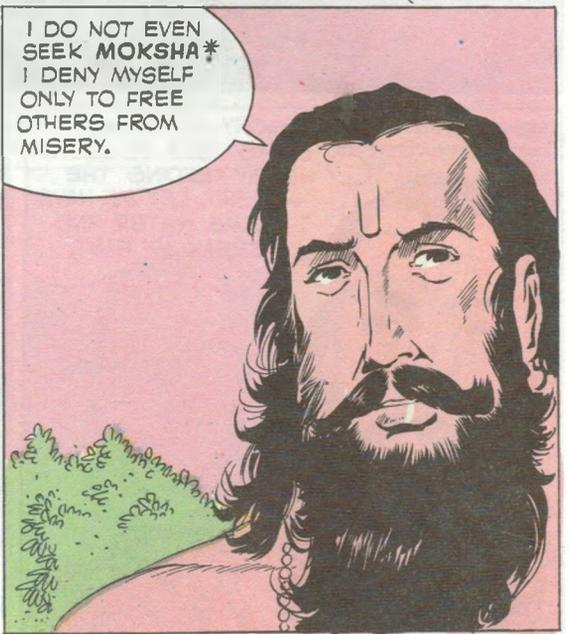
NO! I SHOULDN'T DECEIVE YOU. PEOPLE CALL ME AN UNTOUCHABLE. I WILL POLLUTE IT IF I TOUCH IT.

NOW WE WILL SEE IF YOU ARE REALLY AS GREAT A DEVOTEE AS VISHNU BELIEVES YOU TO BE.



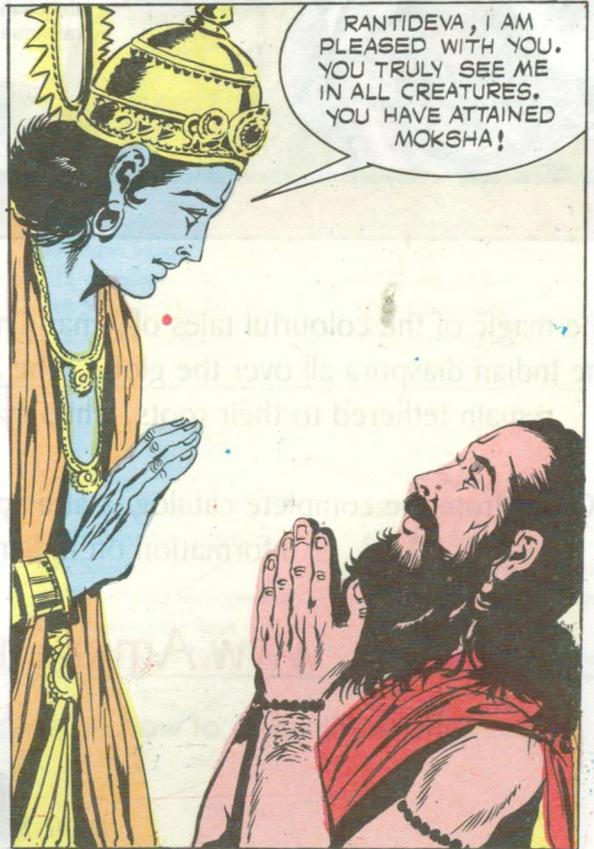
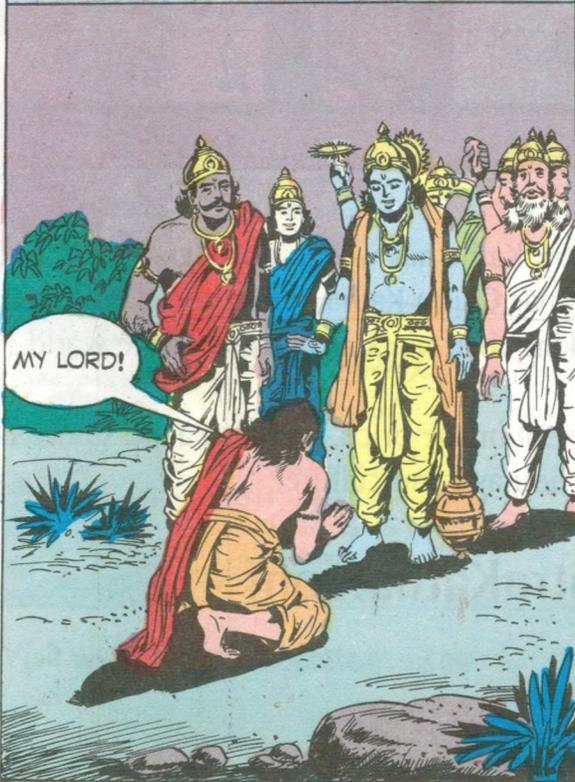
HOW CAN YOU POLLUTE ANYTHING? DOESN'T THE ALL-PERVADING VISHNU RESIDE IN YOU TOO, BROTHER?

I DO NOT EVEN SEEK MOKSHA* I DENY MYSELF ONLY TO FREE OTHERS FROM MISERY.





THE NEXT MOMENT, VISHNU AND THE OTHER DEVAS APPEARED BEFORE RANTIDEVA.





Illustrated Classics from India

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

AmarChitraKatha.com
Illustrated Classics from India

Login Search Search books.. GO

New Reprints

Children's Corner

Festival Focus

GUDI PADWA

About Us Catalogue Feedback Contact Us

The magic of the colourful tales of Amar Chitra Katha has woven nostalgic bonds among the Indian diaspora all over the globe. The Amar Chitra Katha comic books help Indians remain tethered to their roots, while making their mark as citizens of the world.

Order from the complete catalogue at a **special online price**, and also access heaps of information on Indian heritage and culture.

www.AmarChitraKatha.com



INDIA BOOK HOUSE

Mahalaxmi Chambers, 5th Floor, 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai 400 026, India
Tel 23523827 Fax 23538406 Email info@amarchitrakatha.com

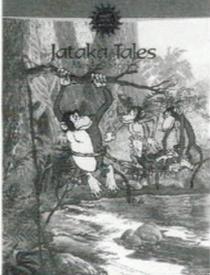


Amar Chitra Katha is a collection of illustrated classics that retell stories from Indian mythology, history, folktale and legend, through the fascinating medium of comics. Over 400 titles have been published in the Amar Chitra Katha comic series that are approved by parents, appreciated by children and accepted by schools.



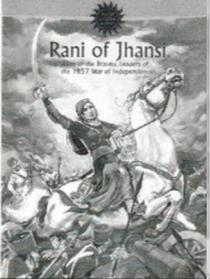
Mythology

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 501 Krishna | 525 Tales of Arjuna | 570 Dasharatha |
| 502 Hanuman | 531 Karna | 571 Dhruva and Ashtavakra |
| 510 Buddha | 533 Abhimanyu | 572 Ancestors of Rama |
| 511 Savitri | 547 Garuda | 589 Krishna and Shishupala |
| 512 Tales of Vishnu | 565 Drona | 592 Ghatotkacha |
| 520 Tales of Narada | 566 Surya | 612 Urvashi |
| 524 Indra and Shibi | 567 Indra and Shachi | 663 Aniruddha |



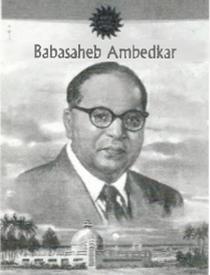
Folktales

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 507 Nala Damayanti | 558 Birbal the Clever | 607 A Bag of Gold Coins |
| 523 Raman of Tenali | 559 Birbal the Just | 621 Udayana |
| 543 Jataka Tales: Monkey Stories | 578 Kesari the Flying Thief | 625 Battle of Wits |
| 553 Jataka Tales: Jackal Stories | 580 Inimitable Birbal | 659 Devi Choudhurani |
| 554 Jataka Tales: Elephant Stories | 581 Raman the Matchless Wit | 664 King Kusha |
| 555 Jataka Tales: Deer Stories | 584 Gopal the Jester | 667 Bikal the Terrible |
| 557 Birbal the Witty | 587 Birbal the Genius | 713 The Fool's Disciples |



History

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 508 Chanakya | 606 Rani Durgavati | 685 Chand Bibi |
| 536 Ashoka | 627 Harsha | 701 Noor Jahan |
| 563 Rana Pratap | 630 Rana Sanga | 704 Jallianwala Bagh |
| 568 Vikramaditya | 632 Vidyasagar | 722 Megasthenes |
| 579 Madhvacharya | 648 Samudra Gupta | 723 Jnaneshwar |
| 603 Akbar | 676 Rana Kumbha | 725 Sultana Razia |
| 604 Prithviraj Chauhan | 682 Tanaji | 734 Banda Bahadur |



Biography

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 517 Vivekananda | 564 Shivaji | 647 Lal Bahadur Shastri |
| 535 Mirabai | 608 Bhagat Singh | 650 Mahatma Gandhi |
| 539 Rani of Jhansi | 611 Babasaheb Ambedkar | 678 Veer Savarkar |
| 544 Subhas Chandra Bose | 613 Soordas | 679 Swami Pranavananda |
| 548 Rabindranath Tagore | 631 Chaitanya Mahaprabhu | 693 Jayaprakash Narayan |
| 551 Tulsidas | 636 Krishnadeva Raya | 700 Jawaharlal Nehru |
| 563 Rana Pratap | 645 Lokamanya Tilak | 732 Swami Chinmayananda |

Visit www.AmarChitraKatha.com for details on how to order these titles online.



INDIA BOOK HOUSE

Mahalaxmi Chambers, 5th Floor, 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai 400 026, India.
Tel 23523827 Fax 23538406 Email info@amarchitrakatha.com



Illustrated Classics From India

Tales of Vishnu

Lord Vishnu is known as the Preserver in the holy Hindu trinity along with Brahma, the Creator, and Shiva, the Destroyer. Whenever evil is on the rise, Vishnu descends onto the earth to uphold righteousness, preserve justice and annihilate sin.

Vishnu has countless incarnations, but the complete incarnations are ten in number and are called Dasha Avatar. These ten start with the form of a fish and work their way up to the human form, cast in the image of god.

The tales of these descents or avatars told in various Puranas have contributed in no small measure to make Vishnu one of the most popular Hindu deities. His worshippers are called Vaishnavas. Of the eighteen major Puranas, six are known as the Vaishnava Puranas as they eulogise Vishnu and depict him as the Supreme Self.

According to some scholars, the identification of Vishnu with Vasudeva-Krishna, the deified Yadava hero, contributed significantly to the rise of Vishnu as the greatest of the gods in the hierarchy of the Hindu pantheon. In fact, Vasudeva-Krishna came to be considered the eighth avatar of Vishnu.

Vishnu inspires more love than fear in his devotees. The Bhagawat Purana, from which the tales in this Amar Chitra Katha have been adapted, abounds in narratives of the benevolent acts of Vishnu. Although he is kind and sympathetic, he is never taken in by the apparent devotion of the wicked and wily. Even when they succeed in wresting favours from other deities, Vishnu maneuvers to bring about their destruction without falsifying the boons given to them by the gods.

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Subba Rao Illustrations: H.S. Chavan Cover: C.M. Vitankar

Related Titles

Rama • Krishna • Prahlad • Tales of Shiva
Tales of Narada • Bhagawat Purana (9 volumes)
Devotees of Vishnu • Dasha Avatar

ISBN 81-7508-155-4



9 788175 081550



INDIA BOOK HOUSE