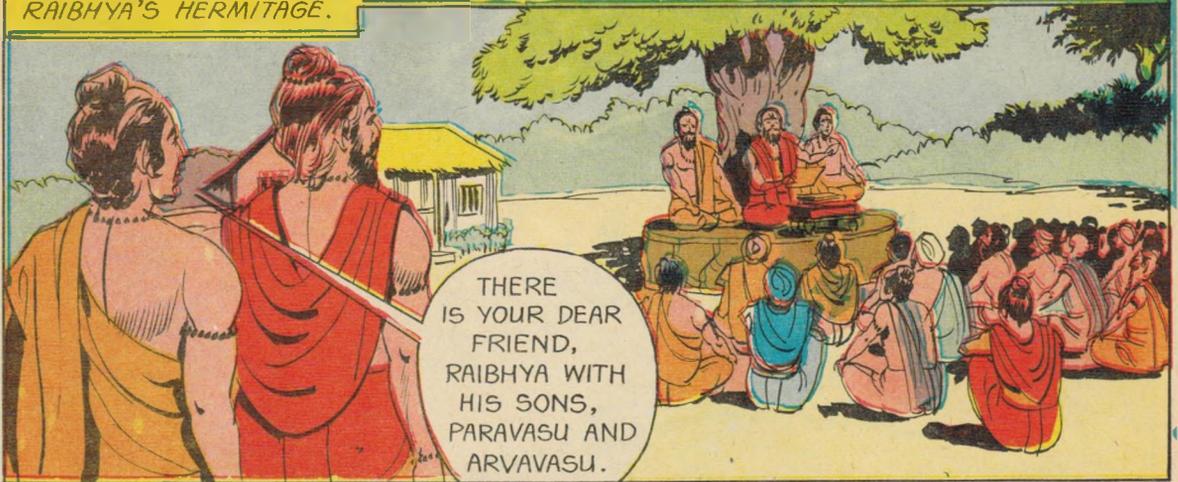


ONE DAY, SAGE BHARADWAJA ALONG WITH HIS SON YAVAKRIDA PAID A VISIT TO RAIBHYA'S HERMITAGE.



THERE IS YOUR DEAR FRIEND, RAIBHYA WITH HIS SONS, PARVASU AND ARVASU.

YAVAKRIDA WAS NOT HAPPY TO SEE THAT THE BRAHMANAS PAID MORE RESPECT TO RAIBHYA THAN TO HIS FATHER WHO WAS EQUALLY LEARNED.

SEE HOW THE BRAHMANAS BOW AND SCRAPE BEFORE HIM! WHAT HAS HE DONE TO DESERVE SUCH HONOUR?

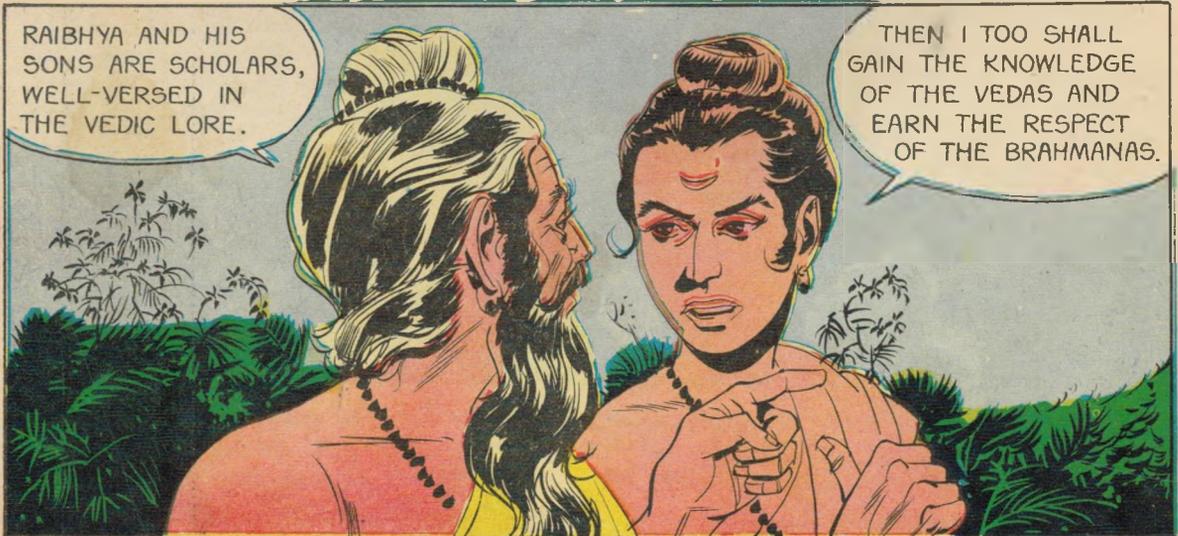


NOBODY GIVES YOU OR ME SO MUCH RESPECT.



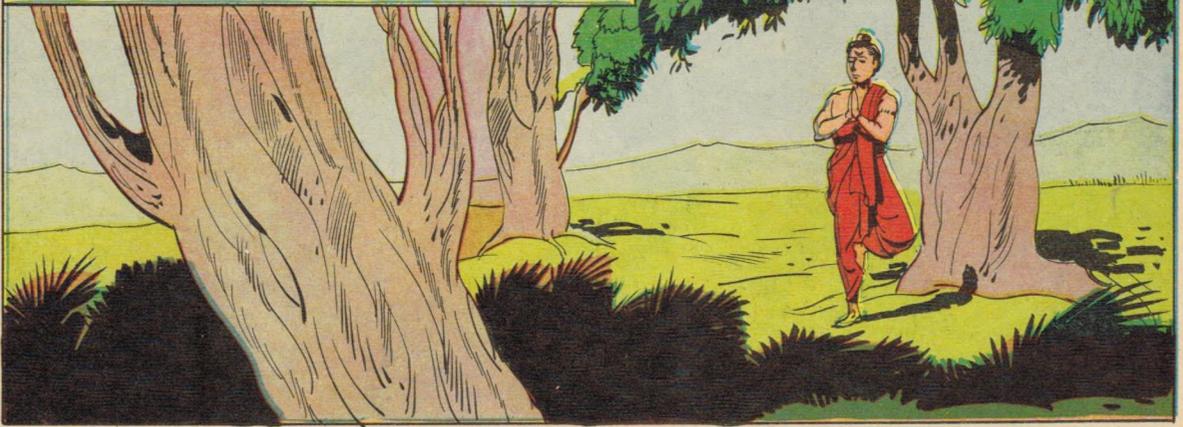
DO NOT GRUDGE HIM HIS DUE, MY SON.

RAIBHYA AND HIS SONS ARE SCHOLARS, WELL-VERSED IN THE VEDIC LORE.



THEN I TOO SHALL GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEDAS AND EARN THE RESPECT OF THE BRAHMANAS.

YAVAKRIDA SET OUT TO BECOME A SCHOLAR,
BUT INSTEAD OF SEEKING OUT A TEACHER,
HE BEGAN TO PRACTISE SEVERE AUSTERITIES.



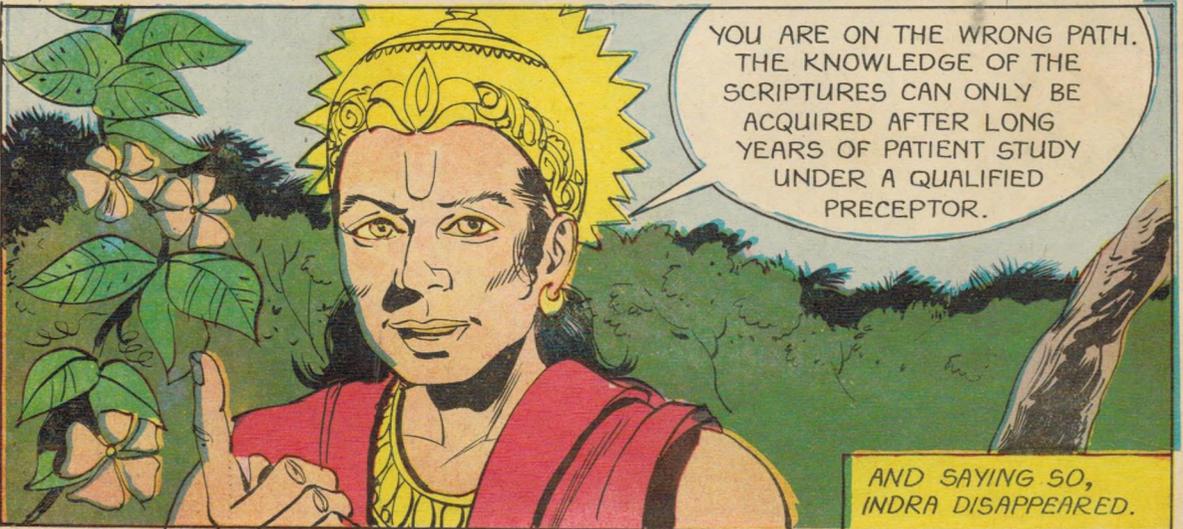
THEN ONE DAY INDRA APPEARED BEFORE HIM —

YOUR AUSTERITIES HAVE
PLEASED ME. WHAT DO
YOU SEEK, O BRAHMANA ?

LORD! I SEEK
KNOWLEDGE. PLEASE
GIVE ME COMPLETE
AND DIRECT KNOWLEDGE
OF THE VEDAS.

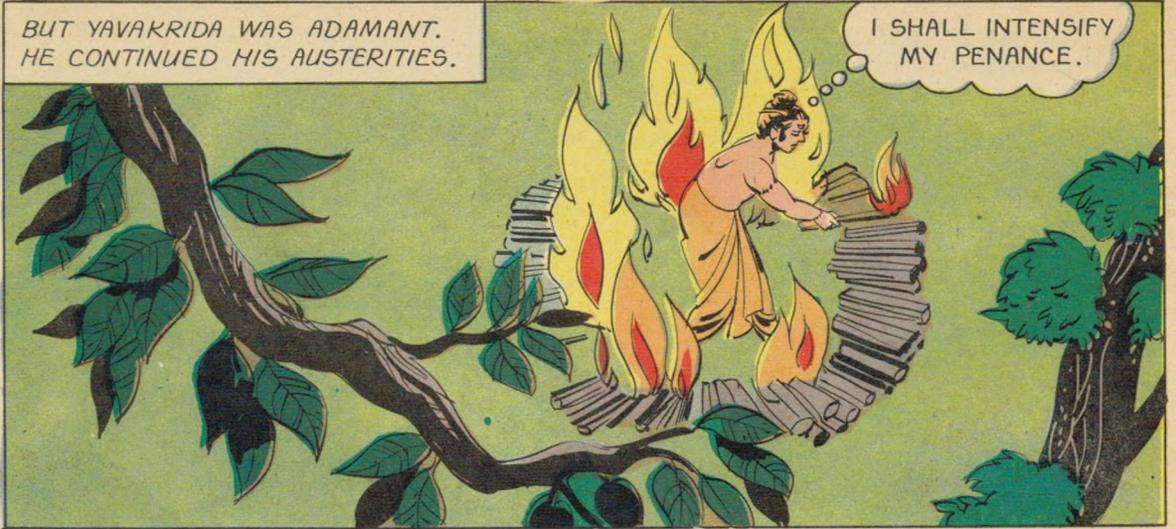


YOU ARE ON THE WRONG PATH.
THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE
SCRIPTURES CAN ONLY BE
ACQUIRED AFTER LONG
YEARS OF PATIENT STUDY
UNDER A QUALIFIED
PRECEPTOR.



AND SAYING SO,
INDRA DISAPPEARED.

BUT YAVAKRIDA WAS ADAMANT.
HE CONTINUED HIS AUSTERITIES.



I SHALL INTENSIFY
MY PENANCE.

WHEN HE BEGAN TO INFLICT THE MOST SEVERE PUNISHMENTS ON HIMSELF, INDRA
WAS HORRIFIED AND HAD TO COME DOWN ONCE AGAIN.



WHY ARE YOU SO
STUBBORN?

LORD! IT TAKES
A LONG TIME TO
STUDY THE VEDAS.
I, THEREFORE, IMPLORE
YOU ONCE AGAIN
TO GRANT MY
DESIRE.



GIVE UP THESE VAIN AUSTERITIES.
GO AND STUDY INSTEAD. REAL
KNOWLEDGE CANNOT BE ACQUIRED
BY MORTIFYING THE BODY.

IF YOU DO NOT GRANT MY PRAYER, I WILL CUT PIECES OF MY FLESH AND THROW THEM INTO THE FIRE.



YAVAKRIDA'S PENANCE BEGAN TO HINDER THE FUNCTION OF THE GODS. THEY HELD A MEETING.



NEXT MORNING WHEN YAVAKRIDA WENT DOWN TO THE GANGES TO BATHE, HE SAW AN OLD MAN SITTING ON THE BANK, THROWING HANDFULS OF SAND INTO THE RIVER.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OLD MAN?



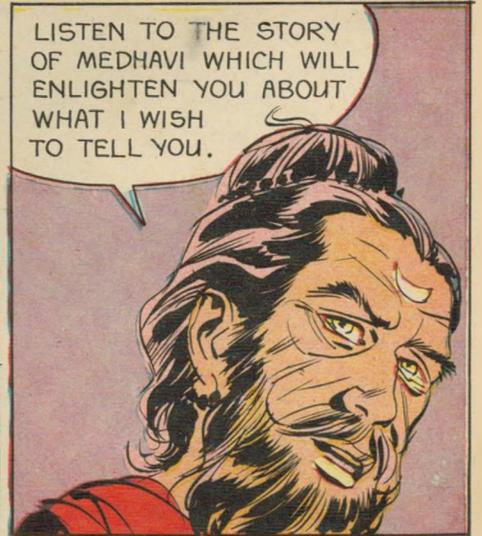
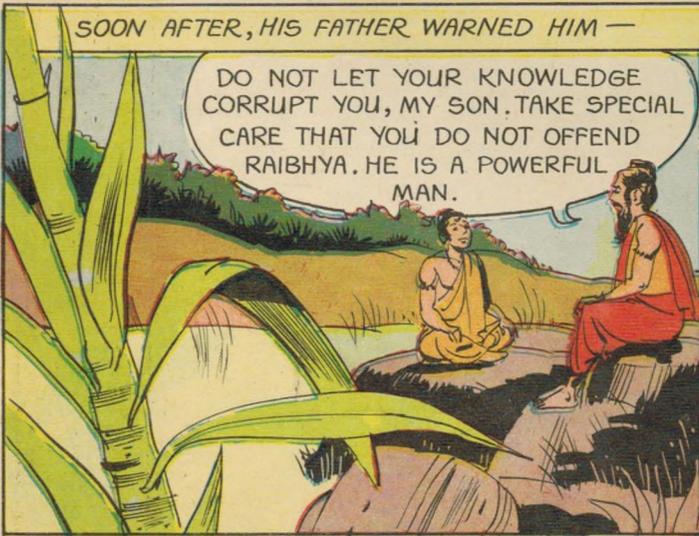
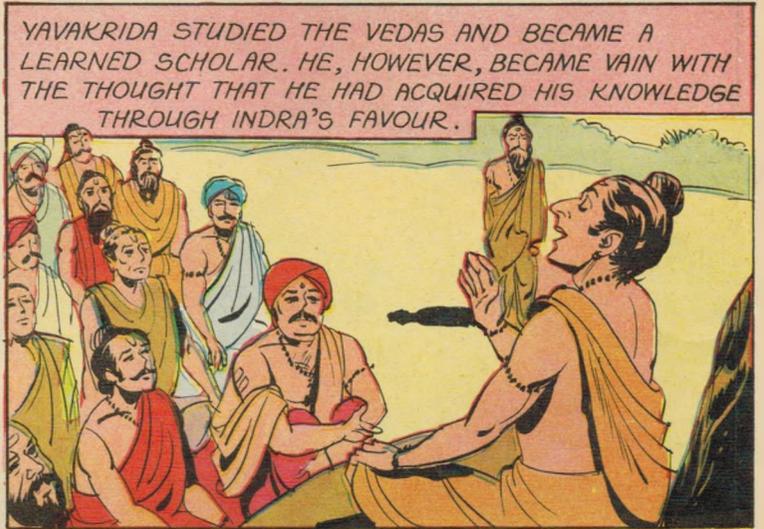
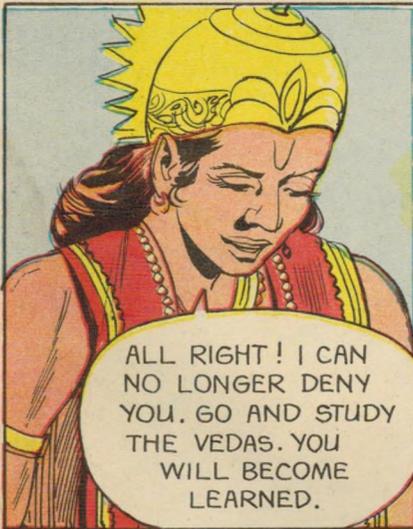
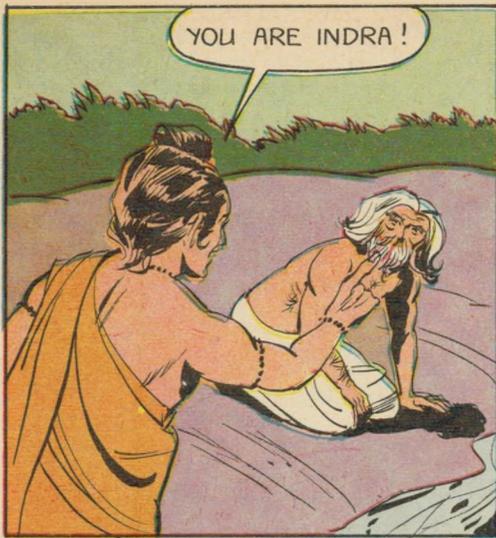
I AM BUILDING A DAM SO THAT PEOPLE MAY CROSS OVER IT TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.

YAVAKRIDA WAS AMUSED AT THE OLD MAN'S ANSWER.

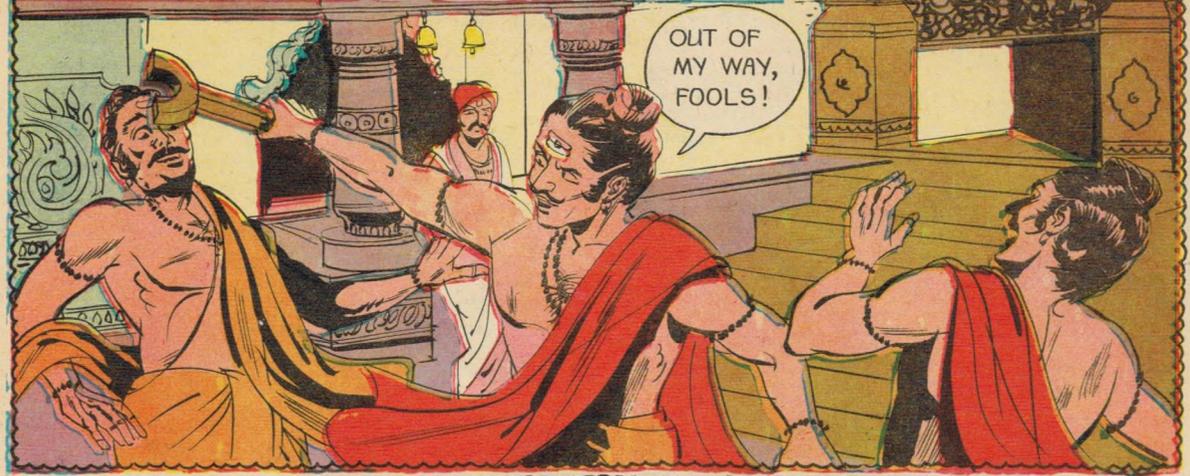
HOW CAN YOU BUILD A DAM THAT WAY? SEE HOW STRONG THE CURRENT IS. YOUR ATTEMPT IS BOUND TO PROVE FUTILE.



NOT AS FUTILE AS YOUR ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEDAS WITHOUT STUDYING THEM.



"MEDHAVI WAS AN INTELLIGENT BUT ARROGANT YOUTH."



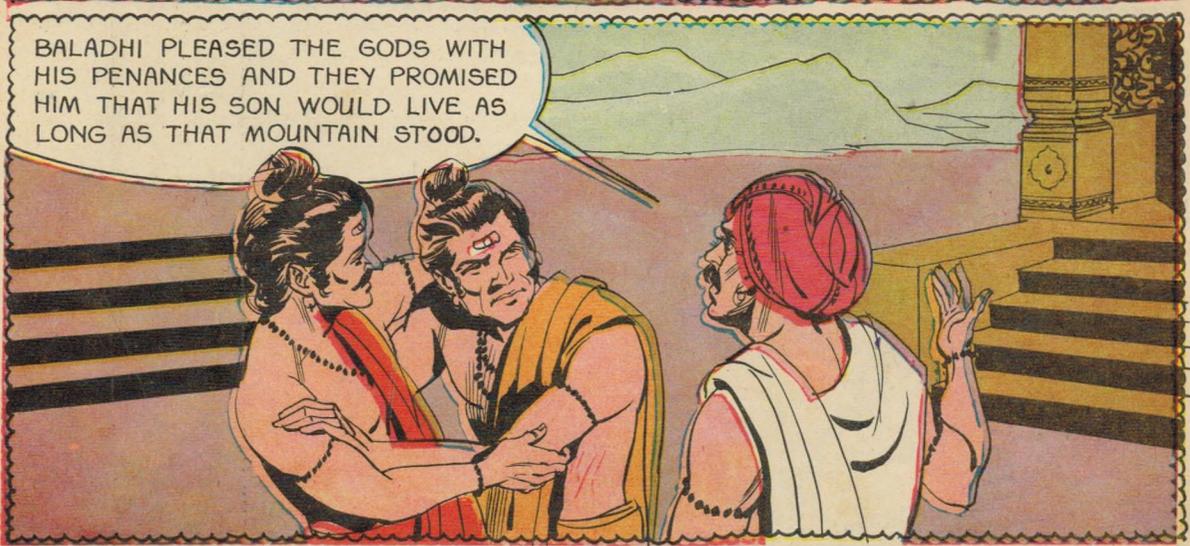
OUT OF MY WAY, FOOLS!

DO NOT BOTHER TO CURSE ME AND LOSE THE POWER OF YOUR PENANCE..I'M IMMORTAL... HA, HA, HA !



HE'S RIGHT. HE'S THE SON OF THE GREAT SAGE, BALADHI.

BALADHI PLEASSED THE GODS WITH HIS PENANCES AND THEY PROMISED HIM THAT HIS SON WOULD LIVE AS LONG AS THAT MOUNTAIN STOOD.



"MEDHAVI WANDERED AROUND, FLAUNTING HIS KNOWLEDGE AND INSULTING THE SAGES. THEN ONE DAY HE COMMITTED AN UNPARDONABLE SIN BY OFFENDING THE GREAT SAGE DHANUSHAKSHA. DHANUSHAKSHA WAS ENRAGED —"

DO YOU KNOW THAT I CAN
REDUCE YOU TO ASHES WITH
ONE GLANCE.

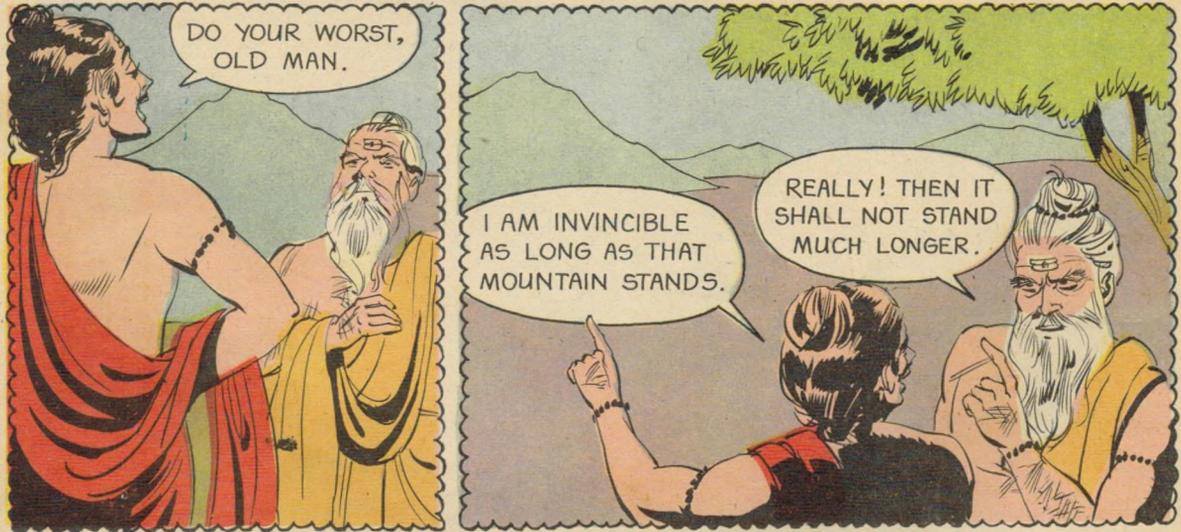
TRY!



DO YOUR WORST,
OLD MAN.

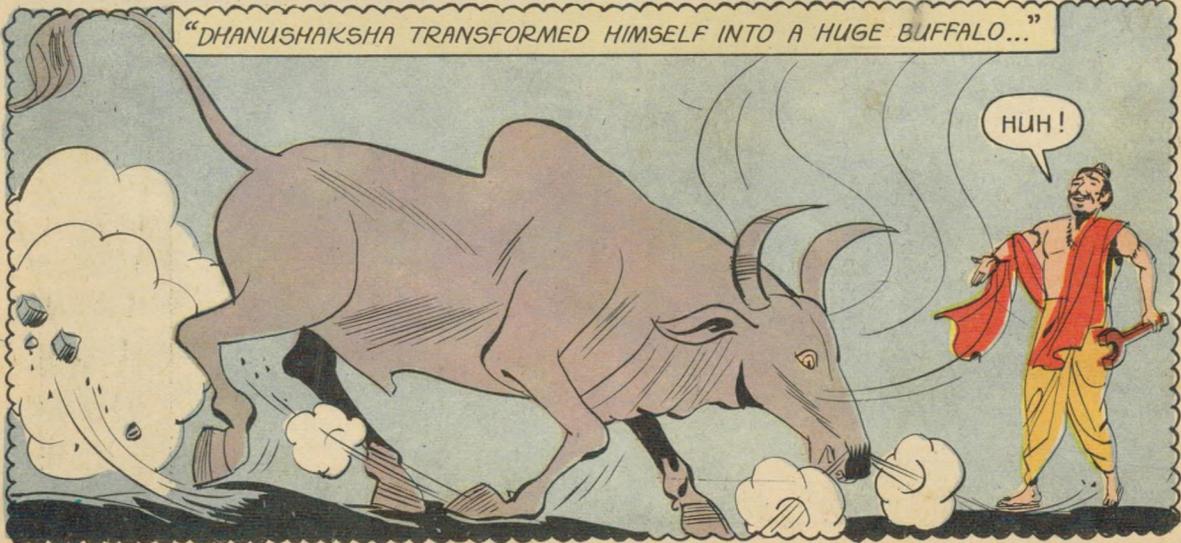
I AM INVINCIBLE
AS LONG AS THAT
MOUNTAIN STANDS.

REALLY! THEN IT
SHALL NOT STAND
MUCH LONGER.



"DHANUSHAKSHA TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A HUGE BUFFALO..."

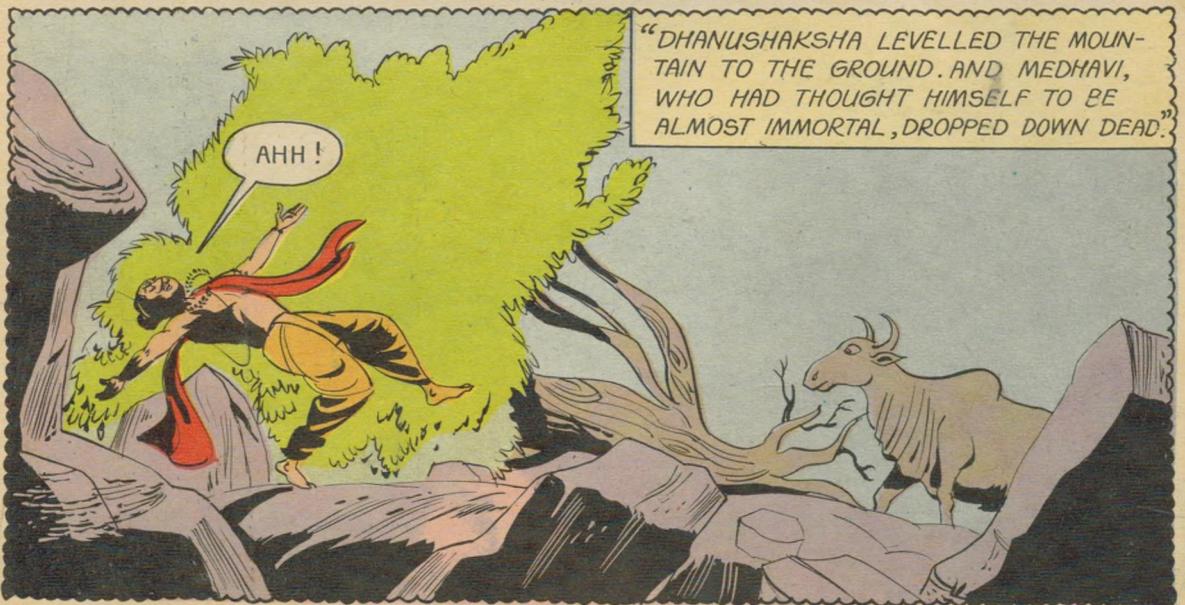
HUH!



"...AND RUSHED AT THE MOUNTAIN AND STARTED BATTERING IT WITH HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. THE MOUNTAIN BEGAN TO CRUMBLE."



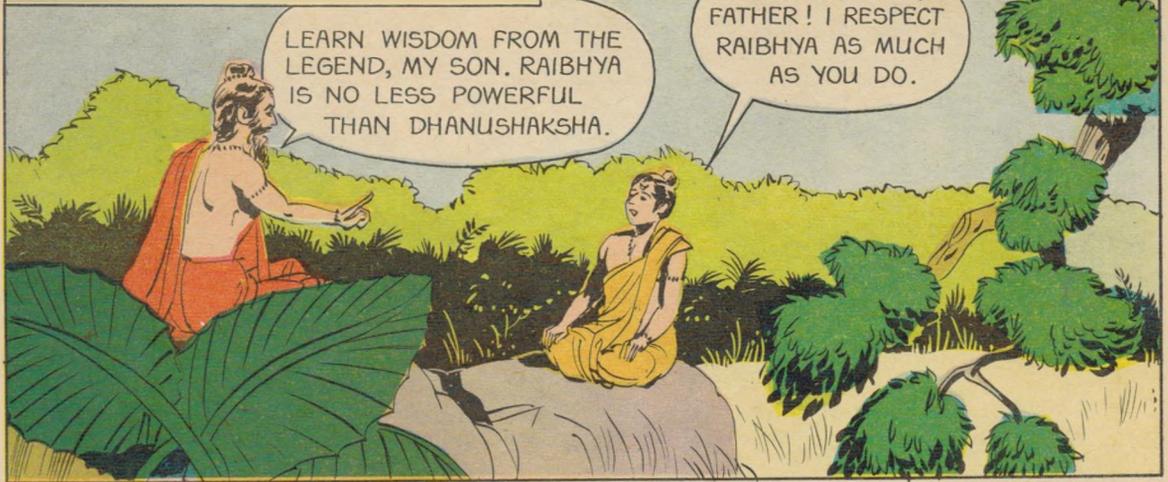
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ? NO, NO!



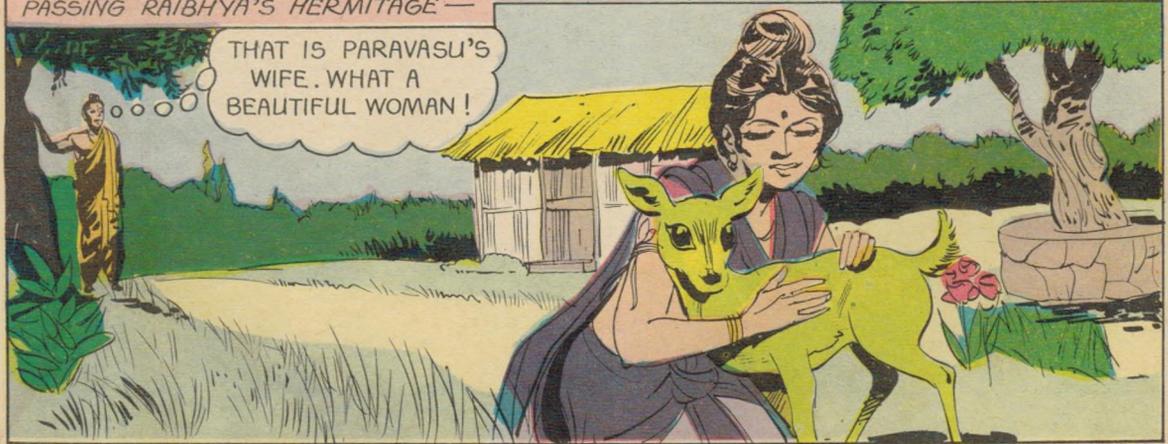
AHH!

"DHANUSHAKSHA LEVELLED THE MOUNTAIN TO THE GROUND. AND MEDHAVI, WHO HAD THOUGHT HIMSELF TO BE ALMOST IMMORTAL, DROPPED DOWN DEAD."

BHARADWAJA CONCLUDED HIS STORY —

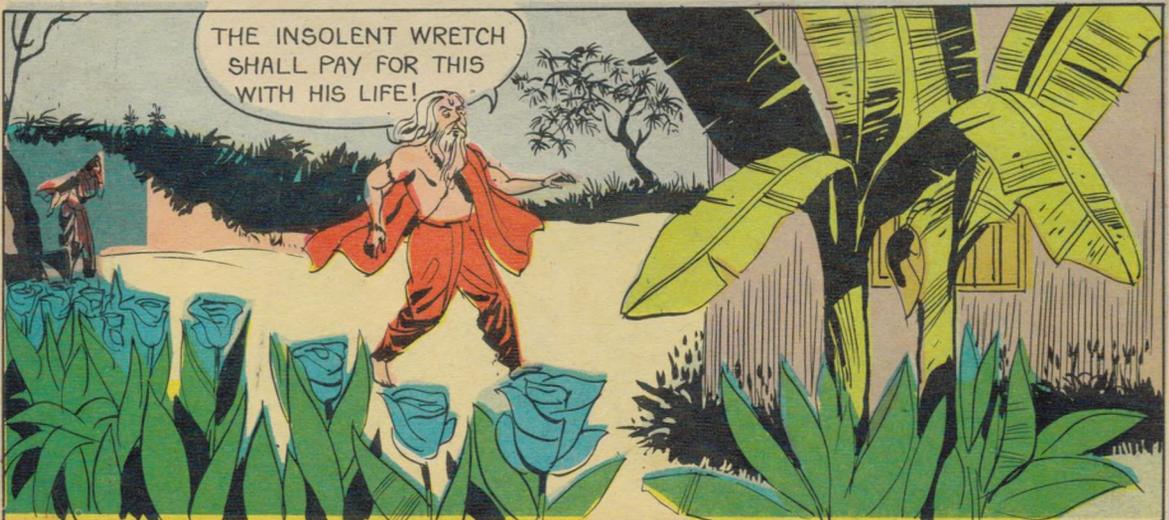
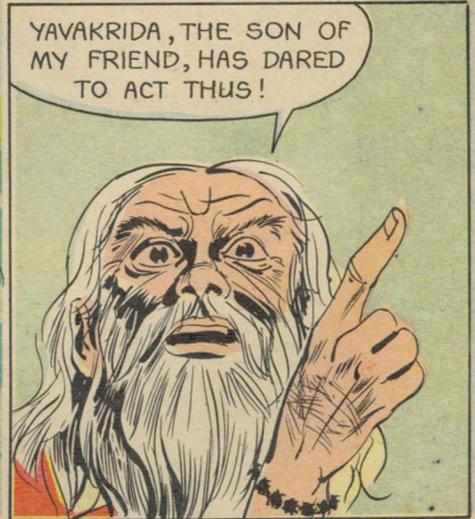


BUT YAVAKRIDA SOON FORGOT HIS FATHER'S WARNING. HIS KNOWLEDGE GAVE HIM A SENSE OF POWER AND HE BECAME VAIN AND ARROGANT. ONE DAY AS HE WAS PASSING RAIBHYA'S HERMITAGE —





WHEN RAIBHYA, WHO WAS AWAY, RETURNED TO HIS HERMITAGE IN THE EVENING, HE FOUND HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW IN TEARS.



RAIBHYA RUSHED INTO HIS HERMITAGE IN A TOWERING RAGE. HE PLUCKED A HAIR FROM HIS HEAD AND CHANTING A MANTRA THREW IT INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE...



...AND INSTANTANEOUSLY A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN ROSE UP FROM THE FLAMES.



HE PLUCKED ANOTHER HAIR AND REPEATED THE PROCEDURE. THIS TIME A MONSTER WITH BLAZING EYES AND A FEARFUL FACE TOOK SHAPE IN THE FIRE.

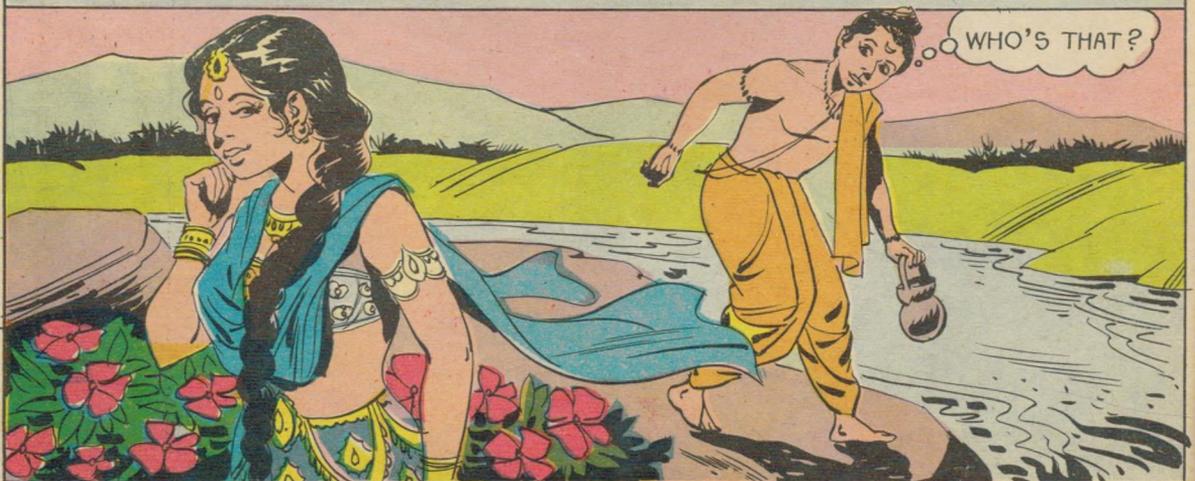




THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST IMMEDIATELY SET OUT TO CARRY OUT RAIBHYA'S COMMAND.



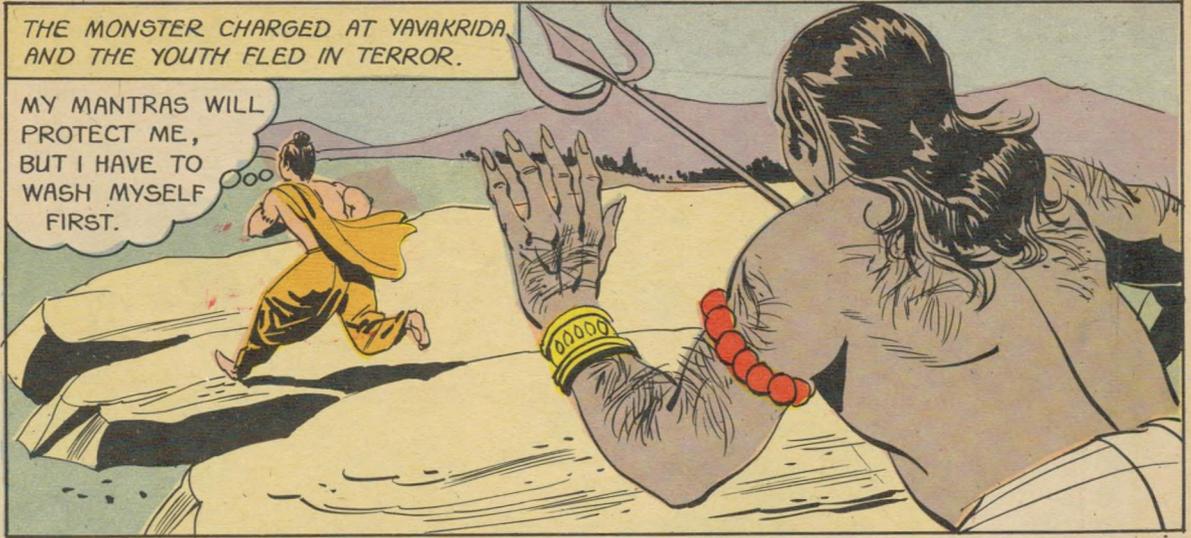
YAVAKRIDA WAS ABOUT TO PERFORM HIS ABLUTIONS WHEN THE MAIDEN WENT PAST HIM.





THE MONSTER CHARGED AT YAVAKRIDA AND THE YOUTH FLED IN TERROR.

MY MANTRAS WILL PROTECT ME, BUT I HAVE TO WASH MYSELF FIRST.



HE RAN TO THE PLACE WHERE HE HAD KEPT HIS WATER JUG, BUT IT WAS NO LONGER THERE.

THE MAIDEN! SHE TOO WAS ONE OF RAIBHYA'S CREATURES.



I WILL WASH MYSELF IN THE STREAM.



BUT WHEN HE REACHED THE STREAM HE FOUND THAT IT WAS DRY.

I AM DOOMED!





BUT THE LAKE TOO WAS DRY.



BHARADWAJA'S HERMITAGE WAS GUARDED BY A HALF-BLIND SENTRY.





YAVAKRIDA NOW REALIZED HIS FATHER'S WARNING TO HIM, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. HOWEVER, HE PLEADED ONCE AGAIN —



AND THE SENTRY WAS RIGHT FOR HE COULD SEE WITH ONLY ONE EYE WHICH WAS TURNED TOWARDS YAVAKRIDA.



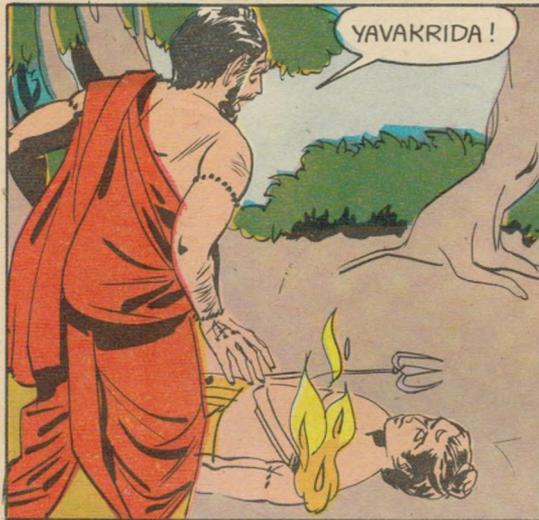
AS YAVAKRIDA STRUGGLED WITH THE SENTRY, THE MONSTER CAME RUNNING UP AND PLUNGED HIS TRIDENT INTO THE STOMACH OF THE YOUTH.

AND THE LEARNED YAVAKRIDA MET AN IGNOBLE DEATH DUE TO HIS PRIDE AND DISRESPECT TOWARDS OTHERS.



OUR WORK IS DONE!
HE IS DEAD!

THEN LET US GO
IMMEDIATELY.
HERE COMES HIS
FATHER!



YAVAKRIDA!



YAVAKRIDA, MY SON!
ALAS! WHY DID YOU
NOT HEED MY WORDS?



YOU ACQUIRED THE KNOWLEDGE OF
THE VEDAS IN A DISHONOURABLE
WAY AND THEN IN YOUR ARROGANCE
YOU OFFENDED RAIBHYA... AND
HE HAS PUNISHED YOU.

BHARADWAJA THEN MADE PREPARATION FOR THE FUNERAL PYRE OF HIS SON...



...BUT WHEN HE SAW HIS BODY BURNING HE COULD NO LONGER CONTROL HIS ANGER, THOUGH HE REPENTED FOR IT LATER ON.

A CURSE ON YOU RAIBHYA!
MAY YOU DIE AT THE HANDS
OF ONE OF YOUR OWN SONS!



WHAT HAVE I DONE? I HAVE
CURSED MY DEAR FRIEND!
NOW TRULY, I HAVE
NOTHING TO LIVE FOR.

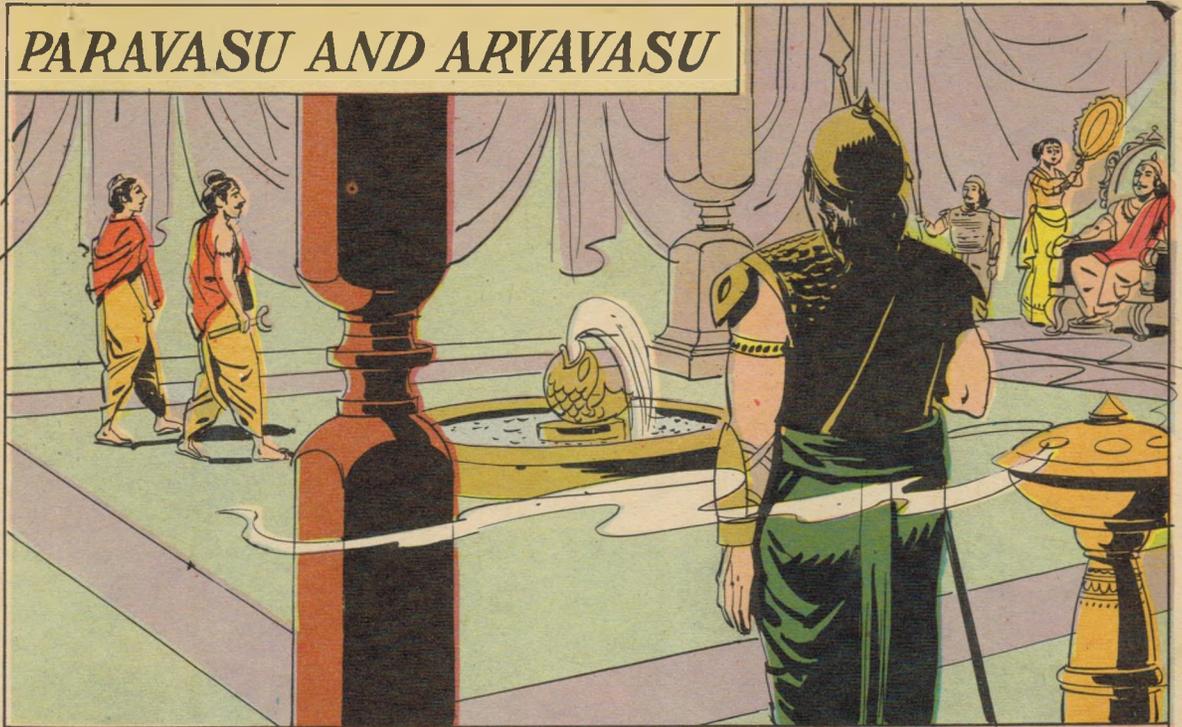


LET ME ALSO DIE ON
MY SON'S FUNERAL
PYRE.



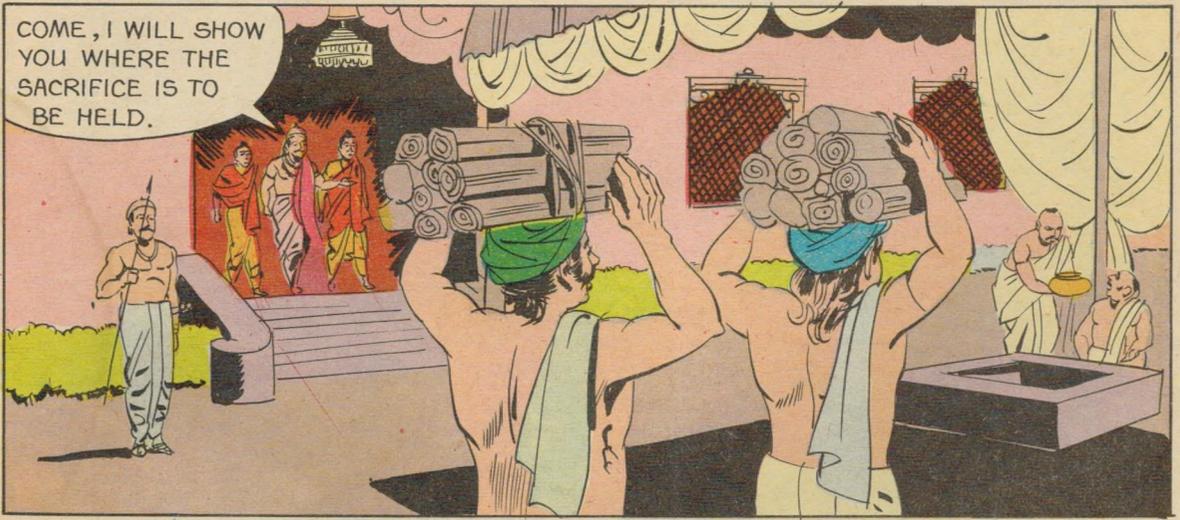
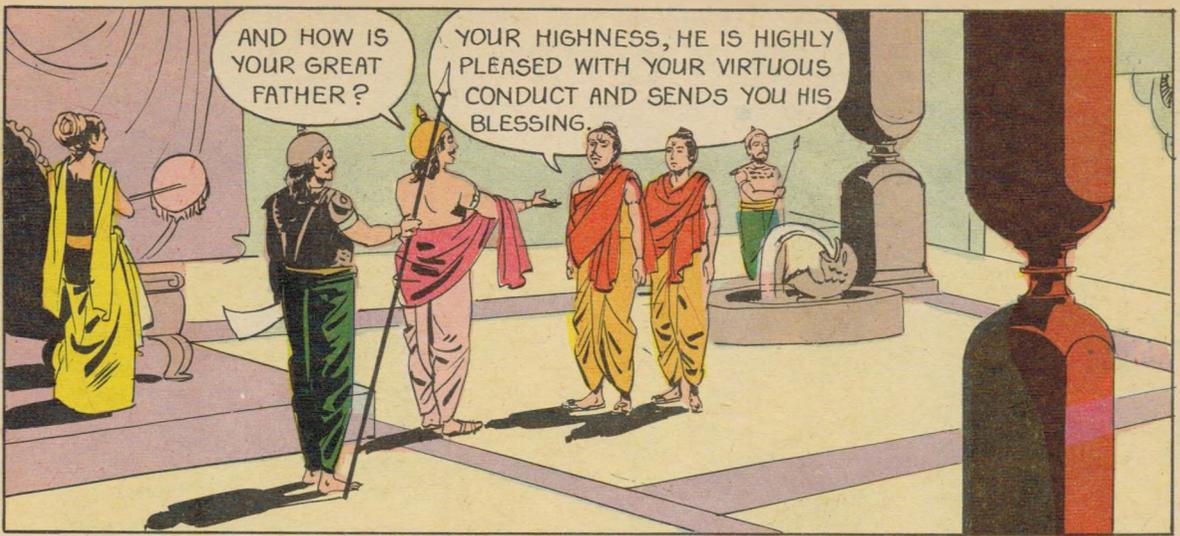
AND BHARADWAJA IMMOLATED HIMSELF
ON THE FUNERAL PYRE.

PARAVASU AND ARVAVASU



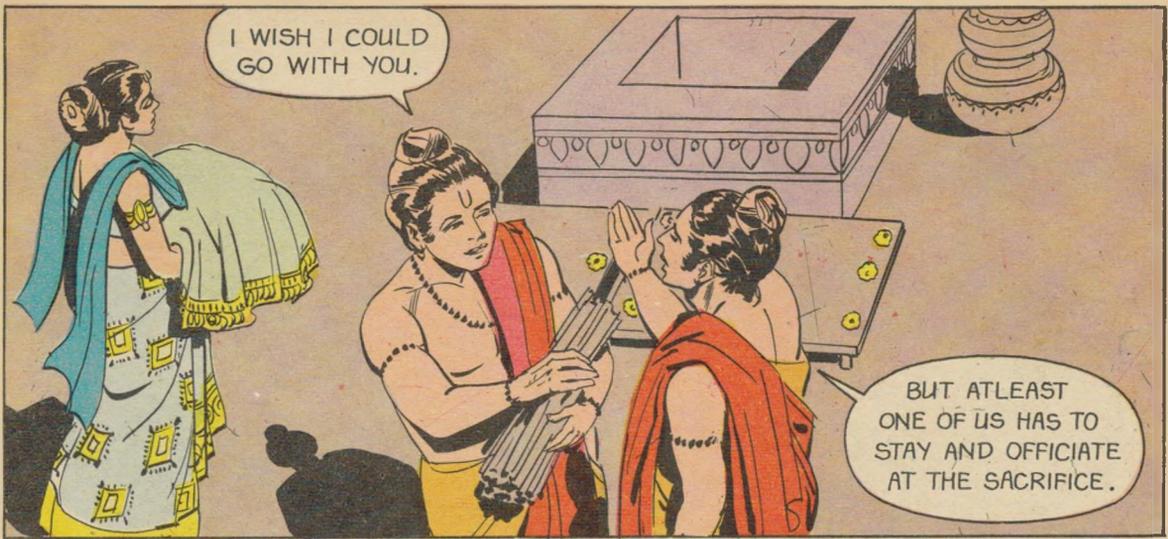
PARAVASU AND ARVAVASU, THE SONS OF RAIBHYA, WERE INVITED BY KING BRIHADYUMNA TO ASSIST IN THE PERFORMANCE OF A SACRIFICE.





THE TWO BROTHERS STAYED AT THE PALACE, MAKING SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONDUCTION OF THE SACRIFICE. ONE DAY —





I WISH I COULD GO WITH YOU.

BUT AT LEAST ONE OF US HAS TO STAY AND OFFICIATE AT THE SACRIFICE.

AFTER BIDDING FAREWELL TO HIS BROTHER, PARAVASU SET OUT THAT EVENING.



WATCH OUT FOR BANDITS AND WILD ANIMALS!

I WILL, MY BROTHER.

IT WAS DAWN BEFORE HE SIGHTED HIS FATHER'S HERMITAGE. AS HE APPROACHED NEARER —

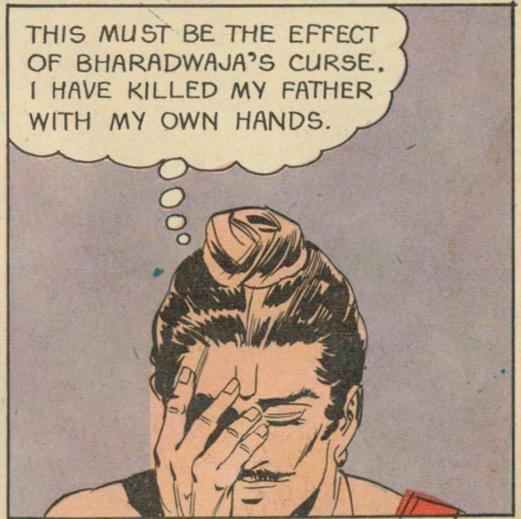


THERE IS SOMETHING MOVING IN THOSE BUSHES.



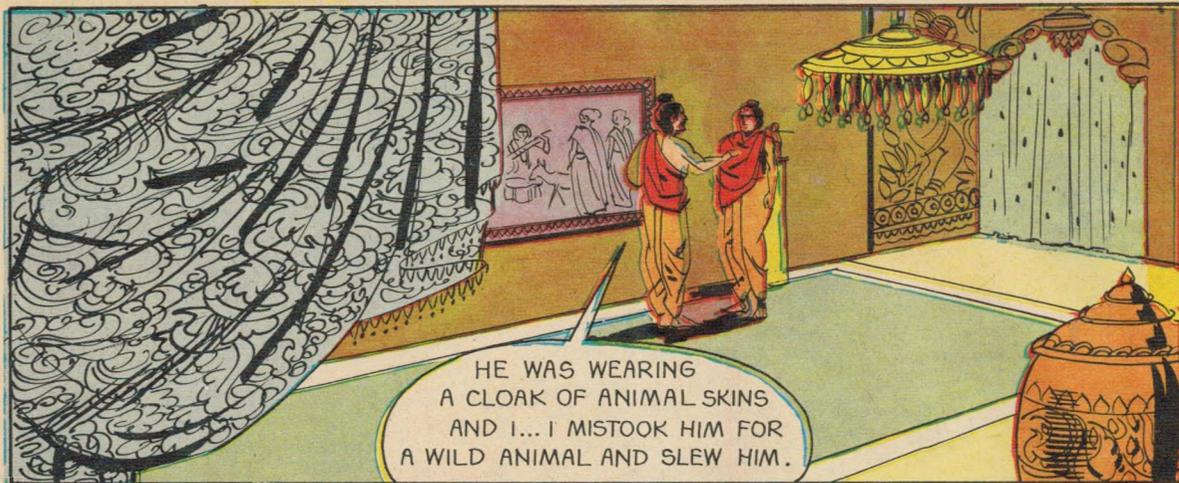
PARAVASU LIFTED HIS SPEAR AND FLUNG IT INTO THE BUSHES.



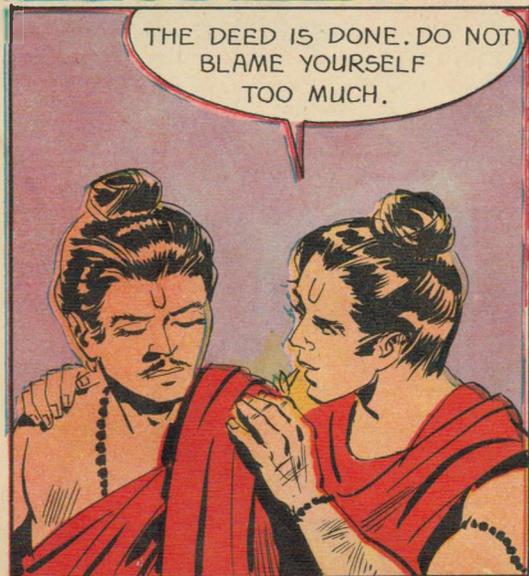


PARAVASU CREMATED HIS FATHER AND HURRIED BACK TO THE PALACE.

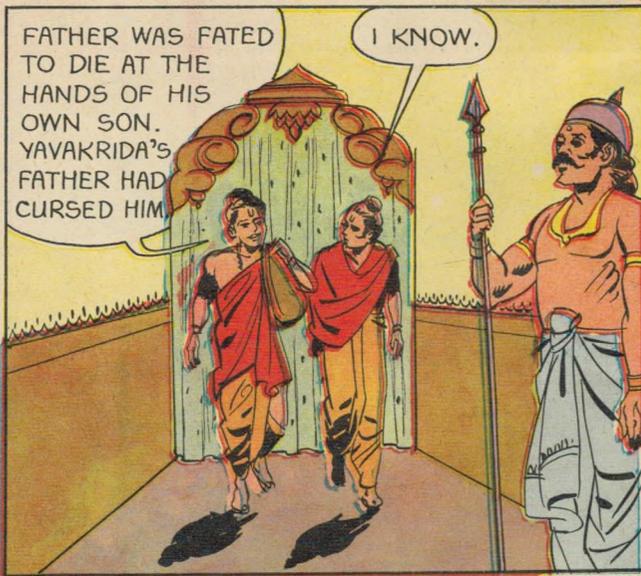




HE WAS WEARING
A CLOAK OF ANIMAL SKINS
AND I... I MISTOOK HIM FOR
A WILD ANIMAL AND SLEW HIM.



THE DEED IS DONE. DO NOT
BLAME YOURSELF
TOO MUCH.

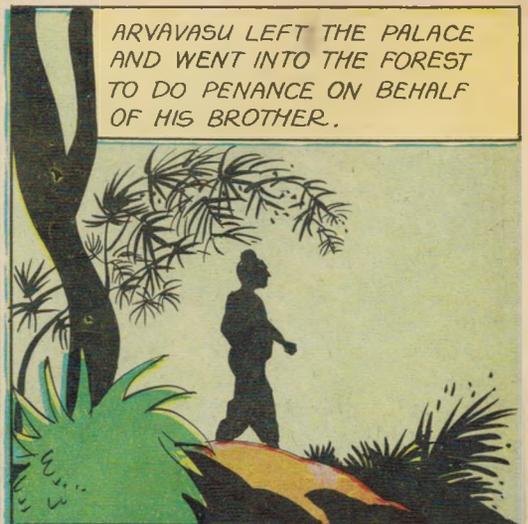
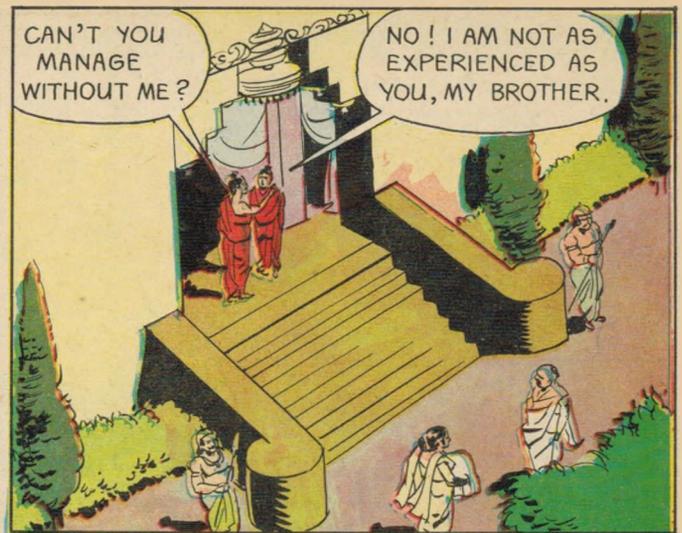


FATHER WAS FATED
TO DIE AT THE
HANDS OF HIS
OWN SON.
YAVAKRIDA'S
FATHER HAD
CURSED HIM.

I KNOW.



BUT NOW I HAVE HIS
BLOOD ON MY HANDS.
I HAVE SINNED AND
MUST GO AWAY FROM
HERE AND DO
PENANCE.



WHEN THE TIME FOR THE KING'S SACRIFICE DREW NEAR—



EVERYTHING IS READY FOR THE SACRIFICE. IT CAN BE COMMENCED DURING THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

GOOD! I HAVE BEEN WAITING EAGERLY FOR THE AUSPICIOUS EVENT.

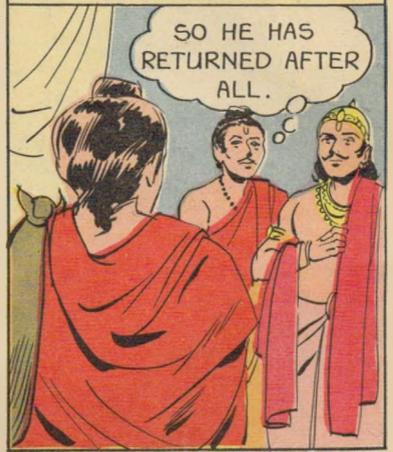
SUDDENLY—



LOOK, PARVASU, ISN'T THAT YOUR BROTHER?

YES, IT IS TRUE.

PARVASU'S SIN HAD NOT BEEN WASHED OFF.

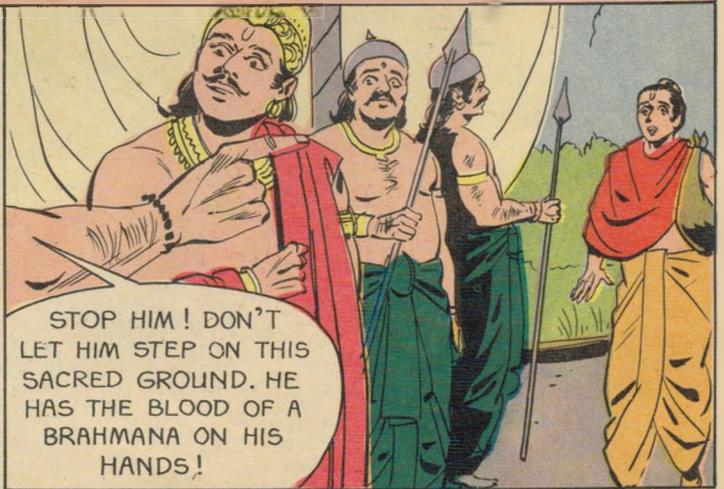


SO HE HAS RETURNED AFTER ALL.

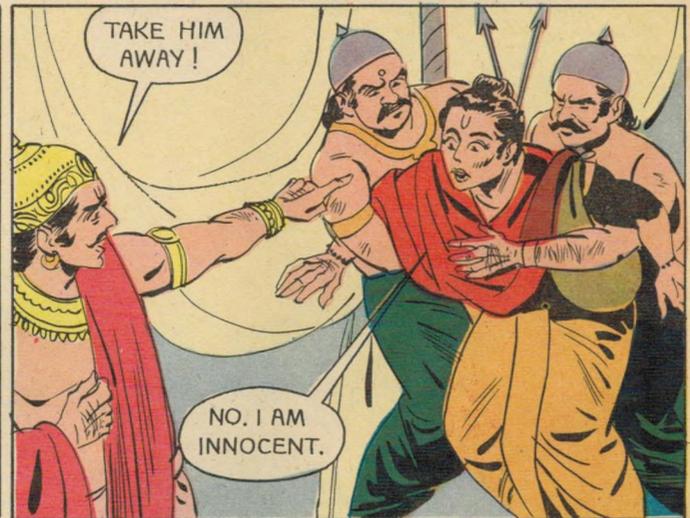
WHEN HE SAW HIS VIRTUOUS BROTHER AN EVIL THOUGHT CAME TO HIS MIND—



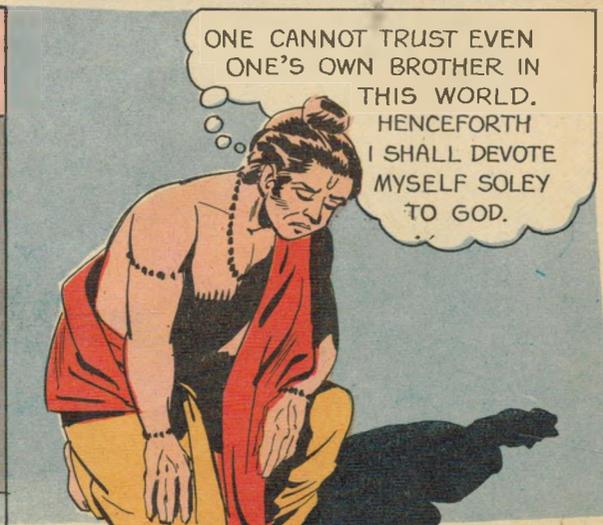
I CAN EASILY PUT THE BLAME FOR FATHER'S DEATH ON HIM.



STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM STEP ON THIS SACRED GROUND. HE HAS THE BLOOD OF A BRAHMANA ON HIS HANDS!



ARVAVASU'S PROTESTS WERE IN VAIN. THE GUARDS DRAGGED HIM AWAY AND THREW HIM OUT OF THE PALACE GROUNDS.



ARVAVASU RETURNED TO THE FOREST AND BECAME AN ARDENT DEVOTEE OF SURYA, THE SUN GOD.

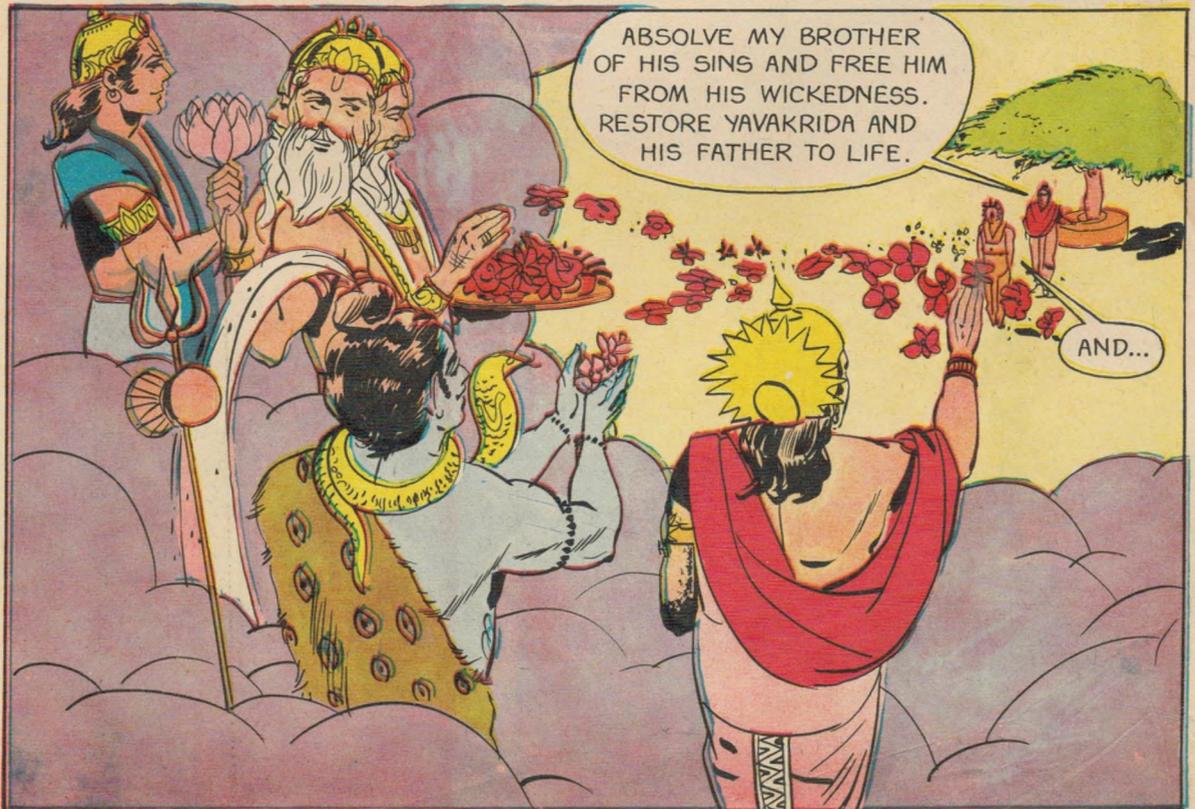
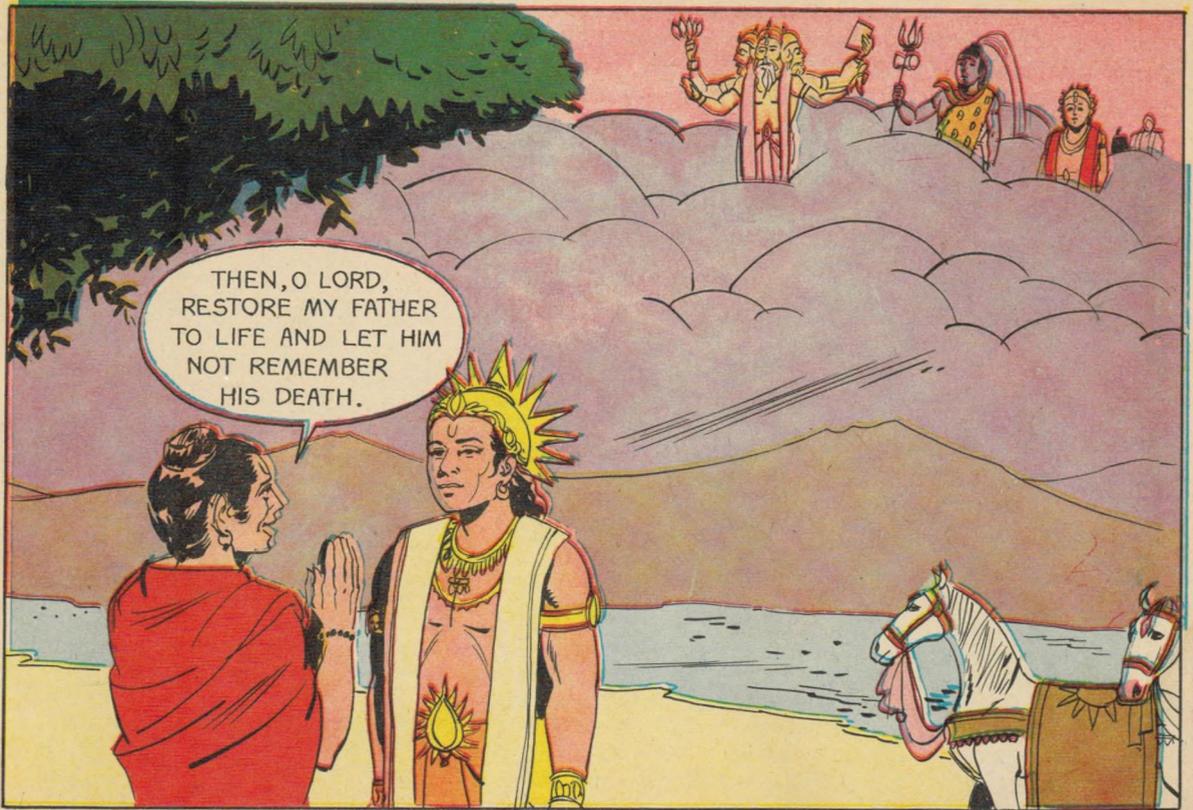
SURYA WAS PLEASED —

I MUST REWARD HIM FOR HIS DEVOTION.



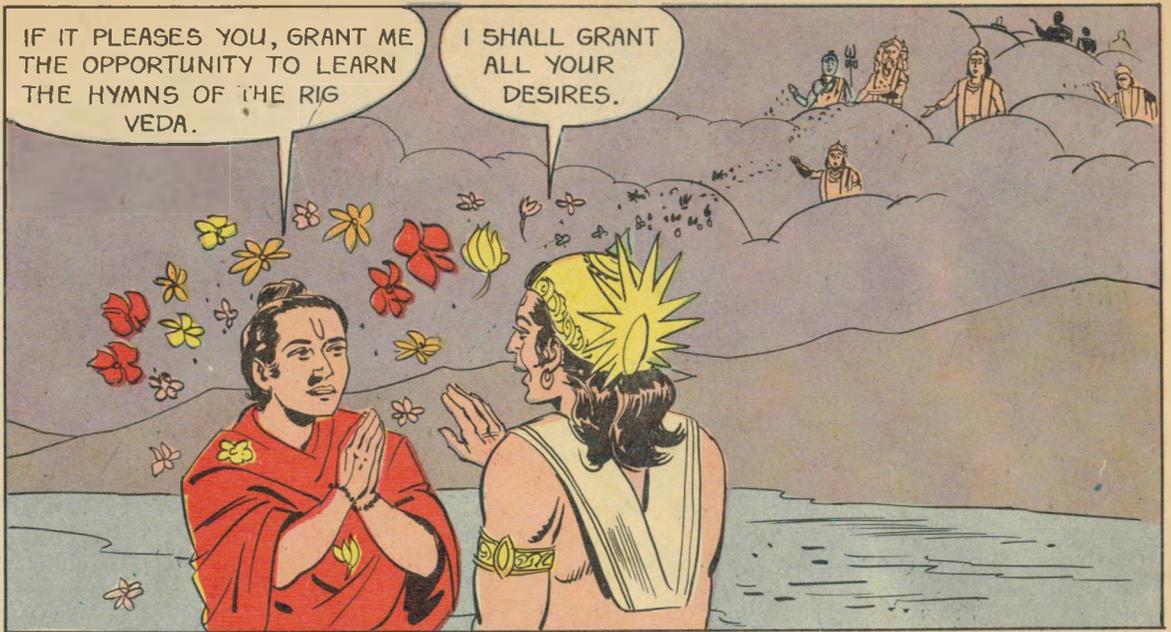
WHAT DO YOU SEEK, O BRAHMANA? ASK FOR THREE BOONS AND I SHALL GRANT THEM TO YOU.





IF IT PLEASES YOU, GRANT ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN THE HYMNS OF THE RIG VEDA.

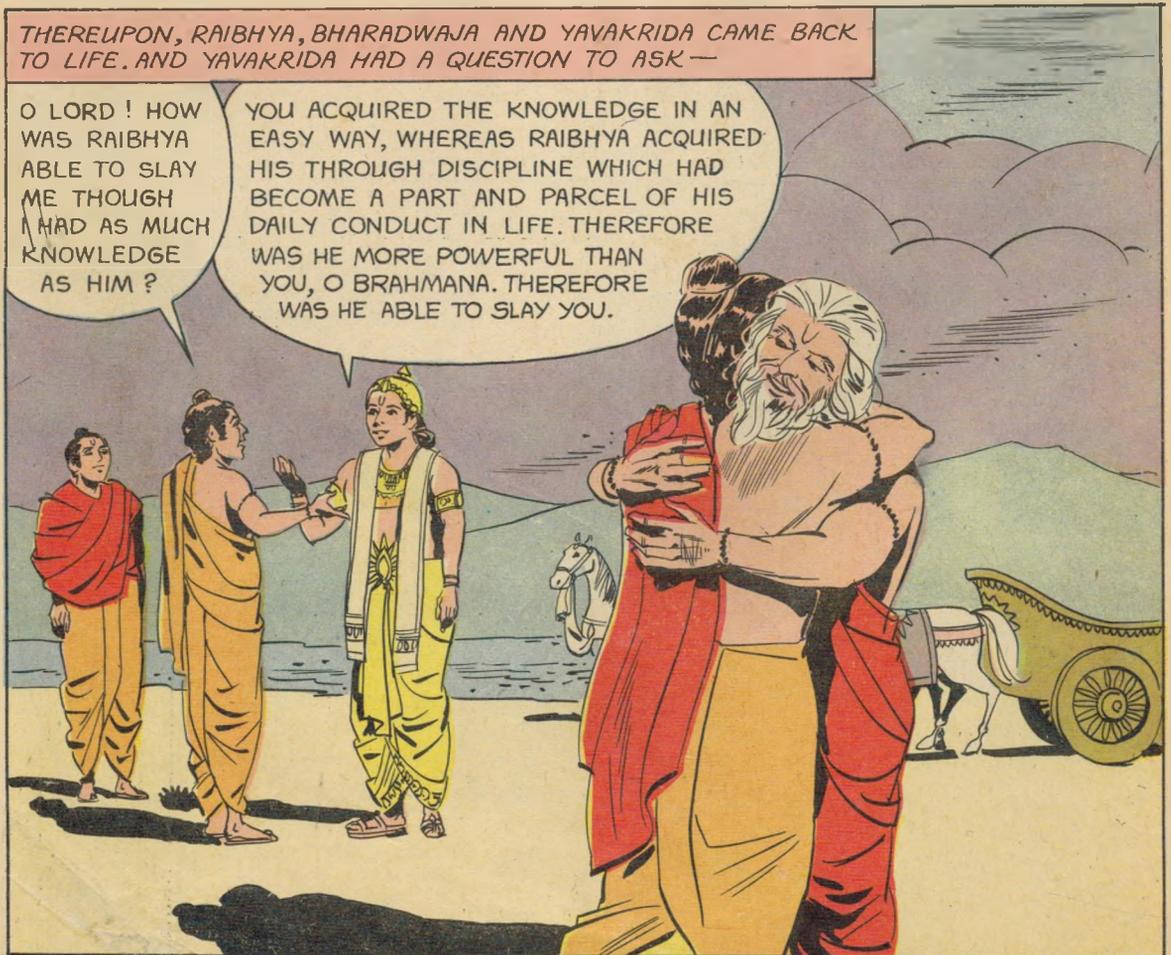
I SHALL GRANT ALL YOUR DESIRES.



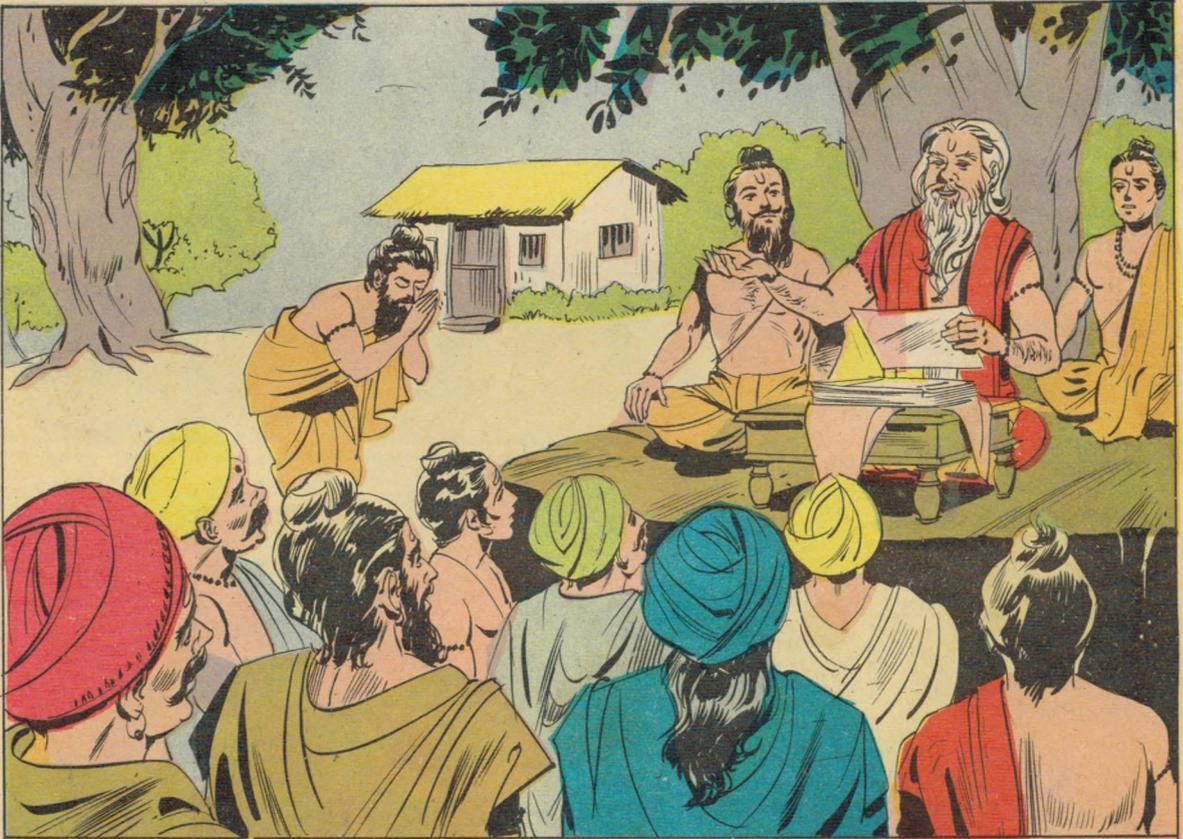
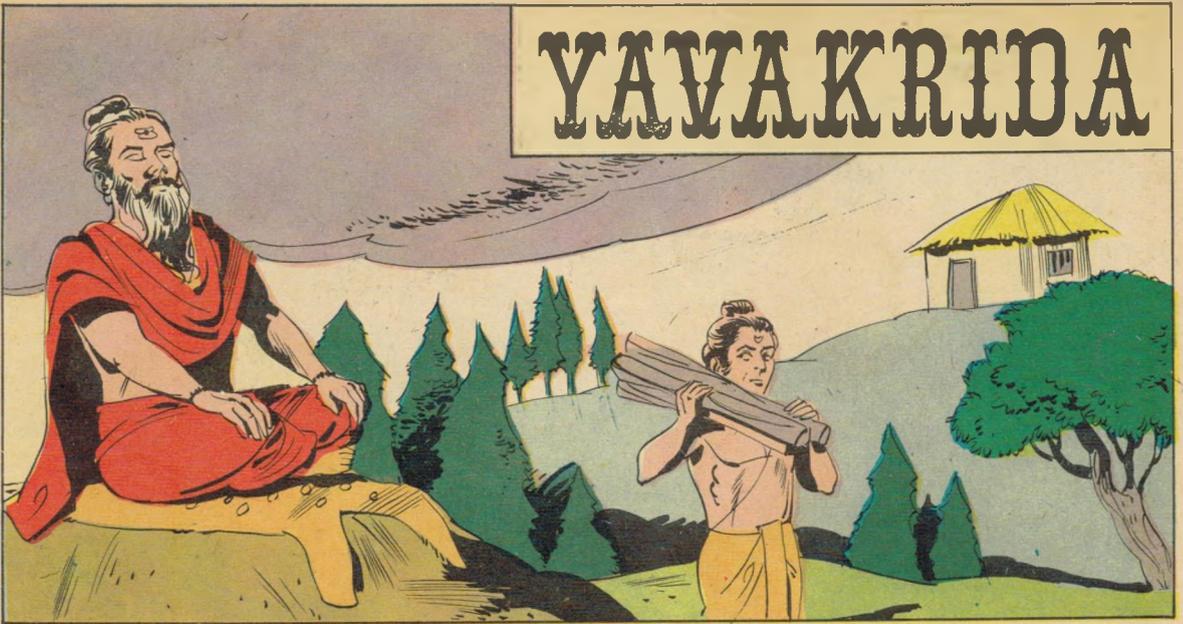
THEREUPON, RAIBHYA, BHARADWAJA AND YAVAKRIDA CAME BACK TO LIFE. AND YAVAKRIDA HAD A QUESTION TO ASK —

O LORD ! HOW WAS RAIBHYA ABLE TO SLAY ME THOUGH I HAD AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE AS HIM ?

YOU ACQUIRED THE KNOWLEDGE IN AN EASY WAY, WHEREAS RAIBHYA ACQUIRED HIS THROUGH DISCIPLINE WHICH HAD BECOME A PART AND PARCEL OF HIS DAILY CONDUCT IN LIFE. THEREFORE WAS HE MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU, O BRAHMANA. THEREFORE WAS HE ABLE TO SLAY YOU.



YAVAKRIDA



BHARADWAJA AND RAIBHYA, TWO LEARNED SAGES, WERE VERY GOOD FRIENDS. WHILE BHARADWAJA SPENT HIS TIME IN THE CONTEMPLATION OF GOD, RAIBHYA WHO SERVED THE PEOPLE BY HIS LEARNING WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED BY THE BRAHMANAS.