

All the language of the Puranas is symbolic. Representation, image or art is the way in which the Puranas express truths to mankind.

THE CITY OF NINE GATES represents the human body, with its nine apertures such as the eyes, ears, etc. by which the individual is able to absorb vibrations of the world into its own personality.

Devotion, or love of God is a renowned way of the saints and sages who could speak to God in the same way as to human beings. The lives of saints and sages are a more elaborate commentary on the nature of the working of God than all the scriptures and the revelations that we have heard of. This is because the saints and sages bring God to the world in a living flame of experience rather than through the vehicle of language and words, text-books or even scriptures.

The Puranas speak in a symbolic language of such saints as Narada reaching out to all the worlds including Vaikuntha, Satyaloka and Kailasa. The analogy of saints like Narada, penetrating through all the realms of the cosmos and contacting God on one side and men and even demons on the other, is a representation of the significance of Divine devotion and the extent to which it can practically transform life. Narada, the celestial saint, is thus held in high esteem in this romantic tale of the Bhagavata Purana.

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A FIRM BELIEVER IN THESE YAJNAS AS THE WAY TO SALVATION, THE KING HURRIEL TO THE ENCLOSURE AND SAT BEFORE THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.

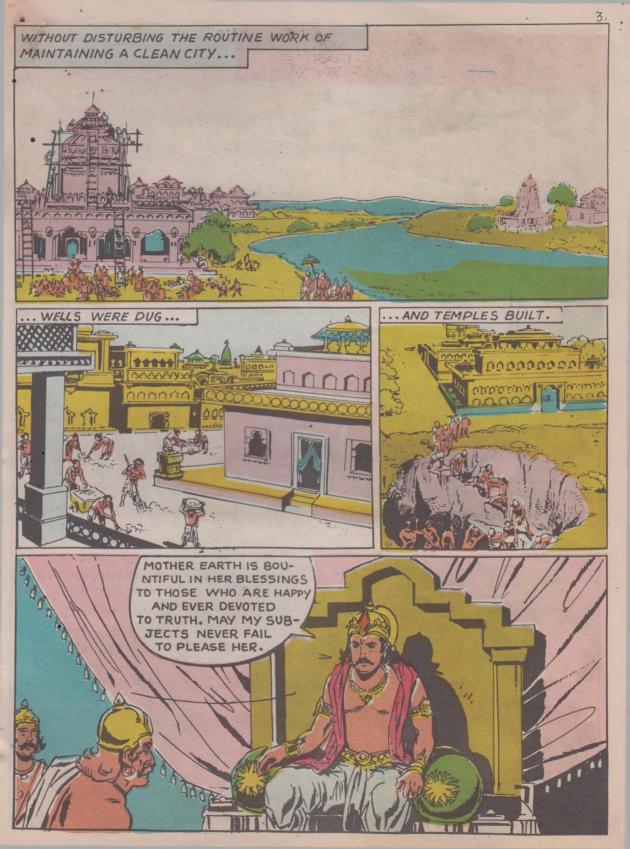
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THOUGH ADDICTED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF YAJNAS THE KING DID NOT NEGLECT HIS SECULAR DUTIES.

ARE MY SUBJECTS CONTENTED? WELL-FED, WELL-CLOTHED AND WELL - HOUSED?

THEY ARE, MY LORD. BUT THE KINGDOM COULD DO WITH A FEW MORE WELLS AND TEMPLES. THEN HAVE THE WELLS DUG AND THE TEMPLES CONSTRUCTED! MY SUBJECTS SHOULD KNOW NO WANT.

AS YOU COMMAND,















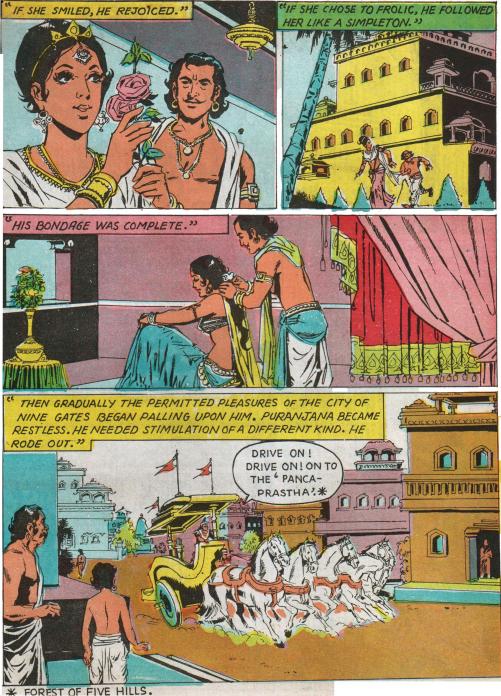












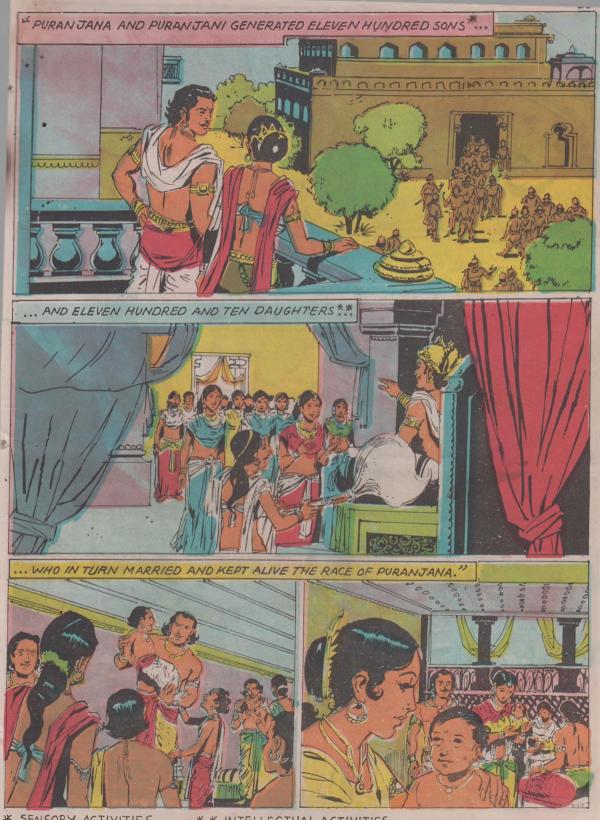






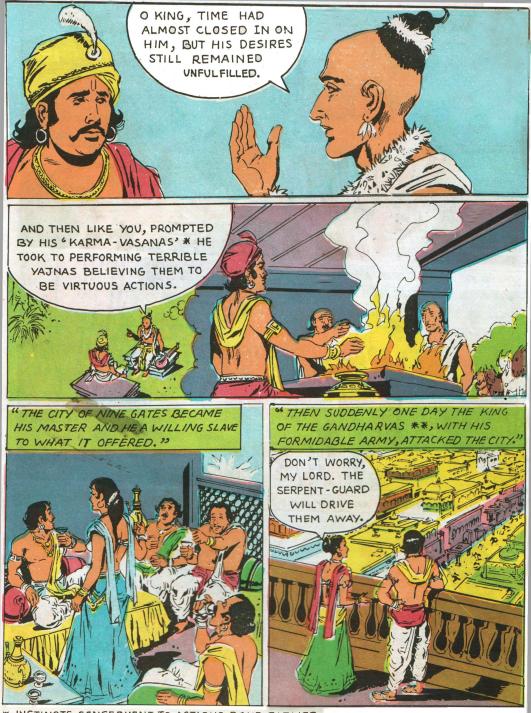






* SENSORY ACTIVITIES

*** *** INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITIES

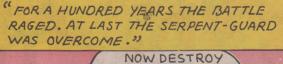


* INSTINCTS CONSEQUENT TO ACTIONS DONE EARLIER. ** INEXORABLE TIME MEASURED IN YEARS.



"AND WHEN THE MEN RESTED, THE WOMEN TOOK OVER, DRAINING THE INNATE RESOURSES OF THE SERPENT-GUARD."









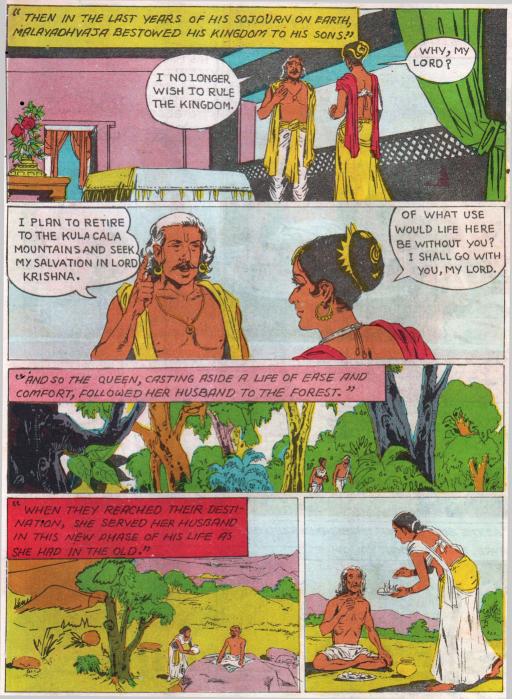


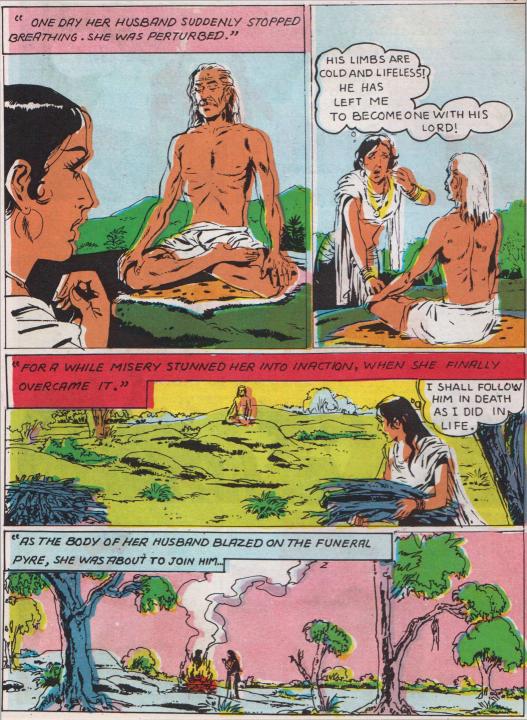


"PURANJANA, WHOSE LAST THOUGHT WAS A WOMAN, WAS ENCASED IN HER FORM IN HIS NEXT BIRTH AS THE DAUGHTER OF RAJASIMHA, THE PIOUS KING OF VIDARBHA.









... WHEN A VOICE STOPPED HER. IT BELONGED TO A BRAHMANA WHOM SHE HAD NEVER SEEN. BEFORE?

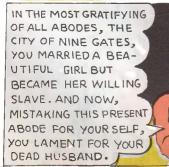


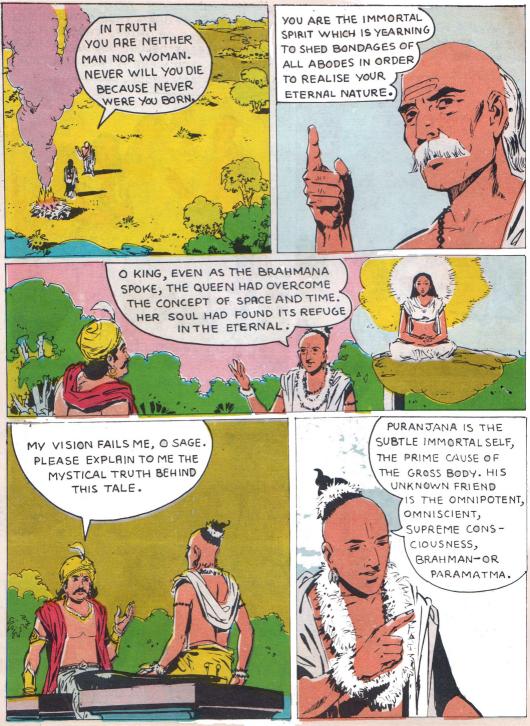
AND THEN YOU LEFT ME IN SEARCH OF PLEASURES. YOUR SEARCH TOOK YOU TO SEVERAL ABODES, BUT YOUR DESIRES REMAINED UNSA-TIATED.

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IGNORANCE OF ONE'S TRUE NATURE IS THE CAUSE OF GRIEF. THROUGH-OUT THE GREAT DELUGE YOU WERE WITH ME. YOU WERE A FREE SOUL, NOT BOUND BY ANY ABODE.







THE HUMAN INDIVIDUAL IS ENDOWED WITH A CAPACITY TO CHOOSE ACTIONS BY MEANS OF THE INTELLECT. BUT ITS SUBSEQUENT BIRTHS ARE DETERMINED BY THE SUM-TOTAL OF THE IMPRESSIONS OF THESE ACTIONS.

ITS GREATEST ENEMY IS THE ALL-DESTRUCTIVE TIME, OR THE GANDHARVA KING WITH ITS LIEUT-ENANTS- OLD AGE, DISEASE AND DEATH. AS LONG AS ONE IS BOUND BY DEEDS OF ATTACHMENT, ONE FORGETS ITS DIVINE NATURE AND SEEKS NEW ABODES. AT LAST WHEN THE VEIL OF IGNORANCE IS REMOVED, ONE REALISES ITS UNITY WITH BRAHMAN, OR GOD.

O KING, SEEK REFUGE IN GOD, SURRENDER YOUR SELF TO HIM AND YOU WILL ATTAIN EVERLASTING PEACE.

THE CITY OF NINE GATES* IS THE

HUMAN BODY AND PURANJANI IS

THE INTELLECT. HER TEN FRIENDS

ARE THE TEN SENSES. THUS THE

HUMAN BODY IS THE IDEAL

MEDIUM FOR THE GRATIFI-

CATION OF THE SENSES.

MY ENDEAVOURS SHALL HENCEFORTH BE GUIDED BY YOUR TEACH-ING, O SAGE. TAKING LEAVE OF PRACHINABARHIS, NARADA LEFT FOR THE REALM OF THE ENLIGHTENED.



* EYES, NOSTRILS, EARS, MOUTH, THE GENERATIVE



Kerala's Kaikottikali is a dance performed during the festival of Onam, in which the dancers move in a circle of flowers, with rhythmic hand movements symbolising the emergence of shoots and leaves. Handclaps accompany the graceful foot movements to the beat of popular melodies.

The Koli dance of Maharashtra is the folk dance of coastal fisherfolk and tells the story of their trials and tribulations, the swaying back and forth of the waves, and the brooding wait for the catch to be brought home. In two parallel rows they dance their laborious lives in mime; the arduous rowing against the tide, the waves breaking on the shore, the culminating joyousness of a good catch, as the beat quickens and the dancers break apart to fall, exhausted but happy, to the ground.

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OUR NEXT TITLES: No 6 THE BATTLE OF WITS No 7 AHALYA No 8 BHADRA (KUNDALAKESH) No 9 THE SONS OF BHARADWAJA AND RAIBHYA

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