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Indra and Sachi





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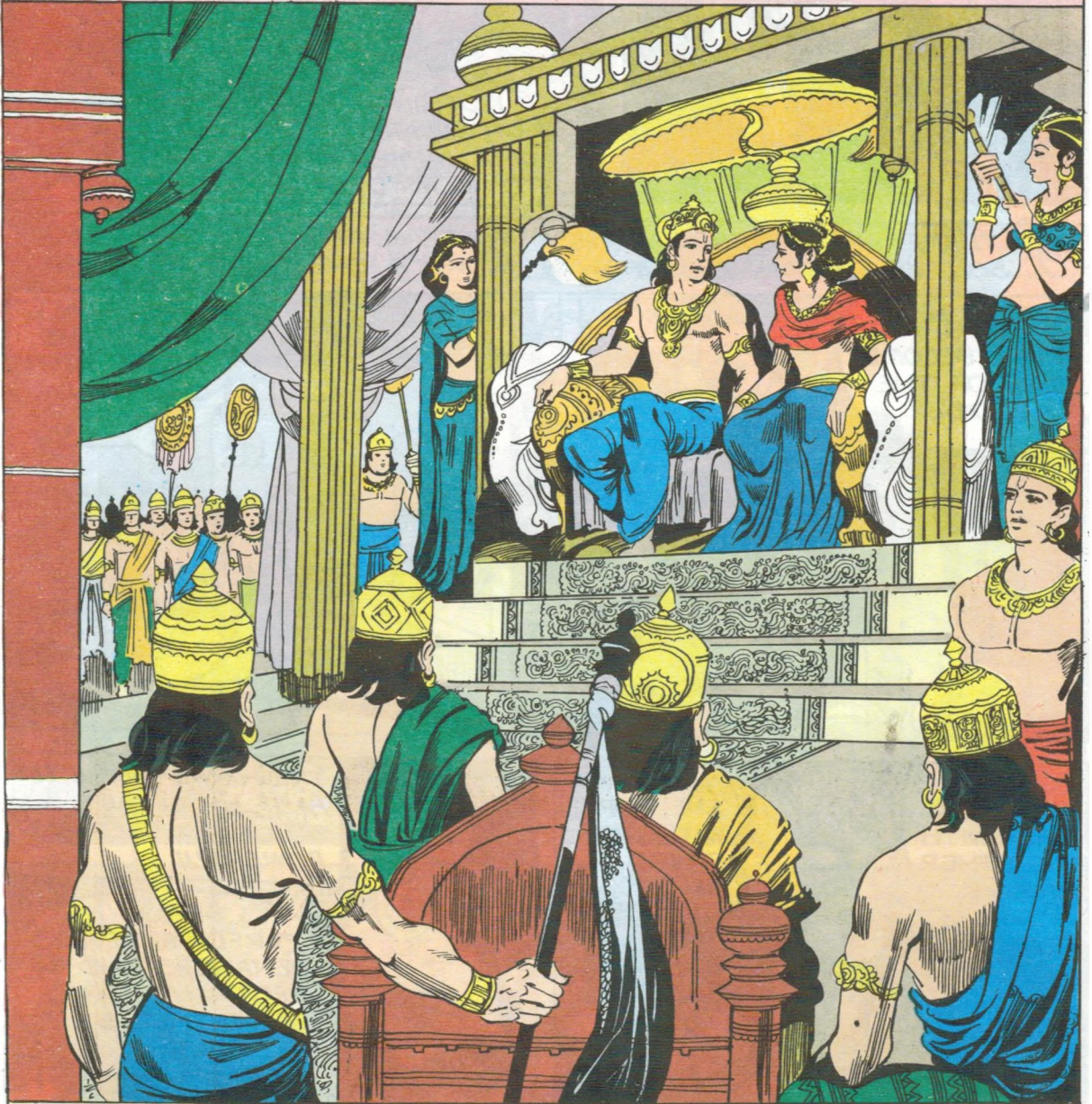
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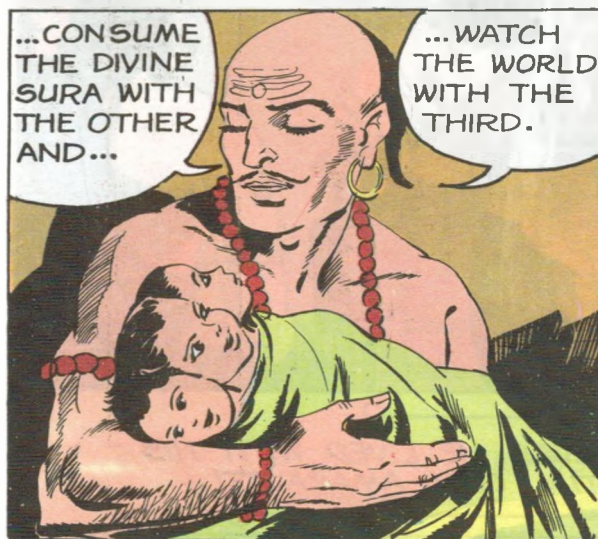
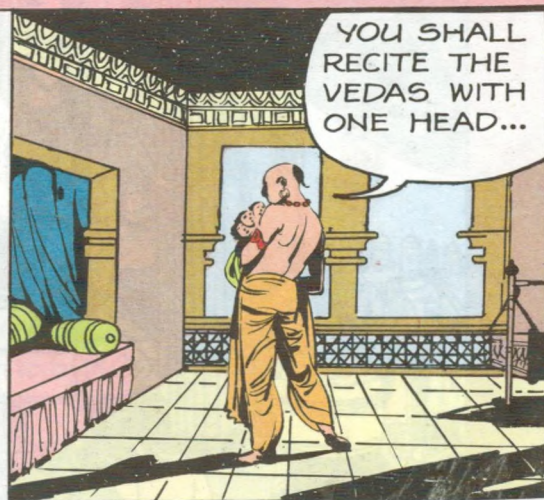
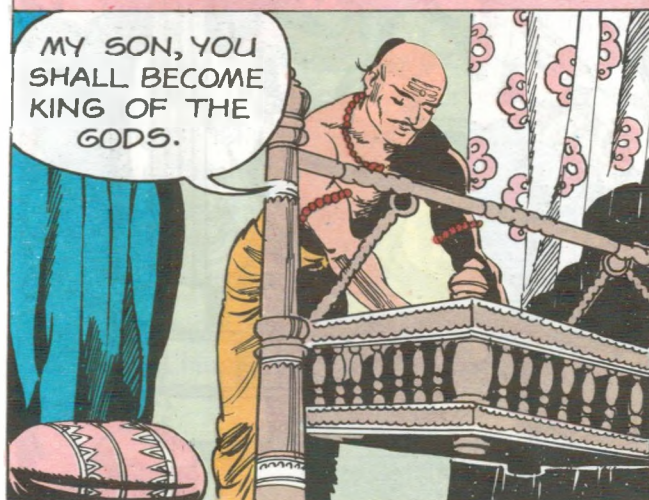
INDRA AND SHACHI



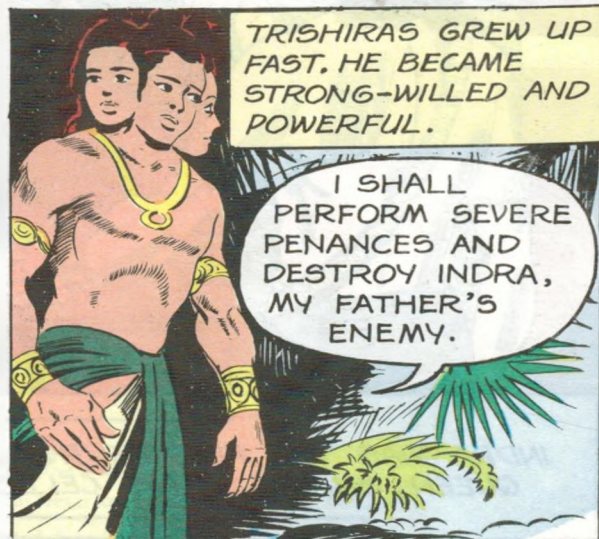
INDRA WAS THE KING OF THE DEVAS. HE LIVED WITH HIS QUEEN, SHACHI IN HIS CELESTIAL CITY, AMARAVATI.



BUT THERE WAS CAUSE FOR THEM TO FEAR. AT THAT VERY MOMENT A SON WAS BORN TO TVASHTA, INDRA'S ENEMY.



...WATCH THE WORLD WITH THE THIRD.



I SHALL PERFORM SEVERE PENANCES AND DESTROY INDRA, MY FATHER'S ENEMY.

INDRA HEARD OF TRISHIRAS AND OF HIS INTENSE PENANCE TO DESTROY HIM. HE SENT FOR THE APSARAS, THE CELESTIAL MAIDENS...



THE APSARAS PREPARED THEMSELVES.

WE WILL TEMPT HIM WITH THESE FRUITS AND FLOWERS.



THEIR CHARMS WERE HEAVENLY. BUT TRISHIRAS WAS UNMOVED.



THE APSARAS RETURNED TO
INDRA.



WE HAVE FAILED.
TRISHIRAS IS
STEADFAST...

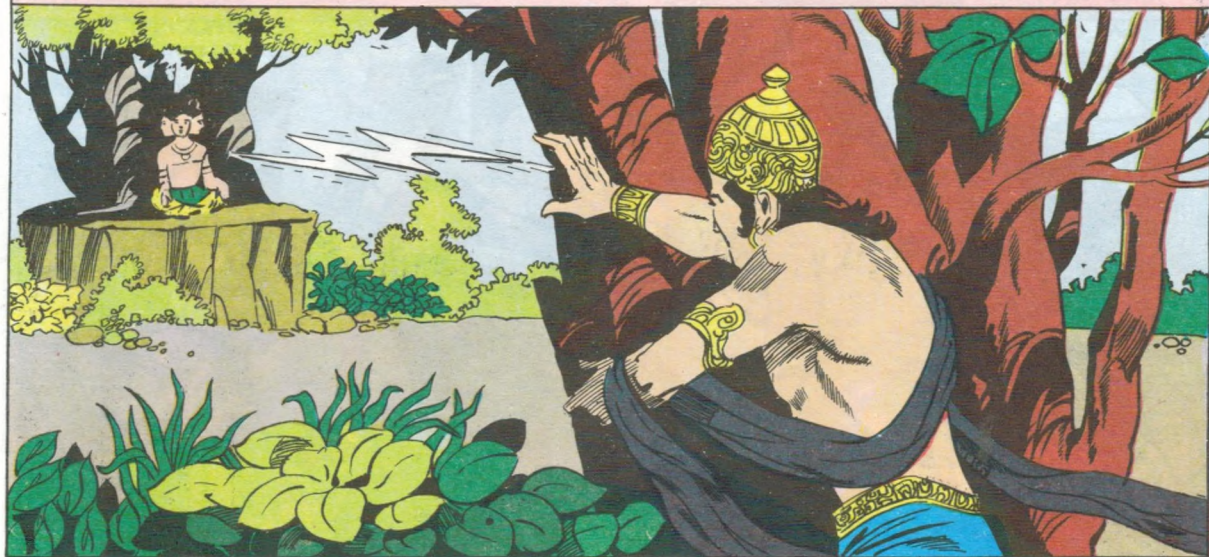
AT THIS RATE,
HE WILL USURP
MY THRONE.
I MUST
KILL HIM.

SHACHI WAS WORRIED.



BE CARE-
FUL! I FEAR
FOR YOUR
SAFETY.

INDRA THREW HIS THUNDERBOLT AT TRISHIRAS WHILE HE WAS
PRAYING.



TRISHIRAS FELL DEAD BUT HIS EYES
REMAINED UNSHUT AND STARING.

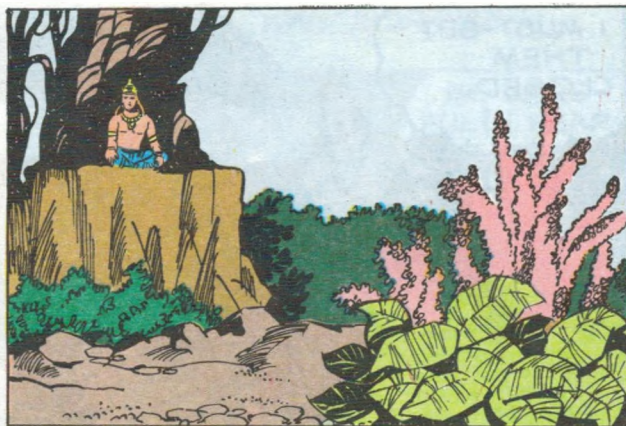


THOSE EYES
HAUNT ME.

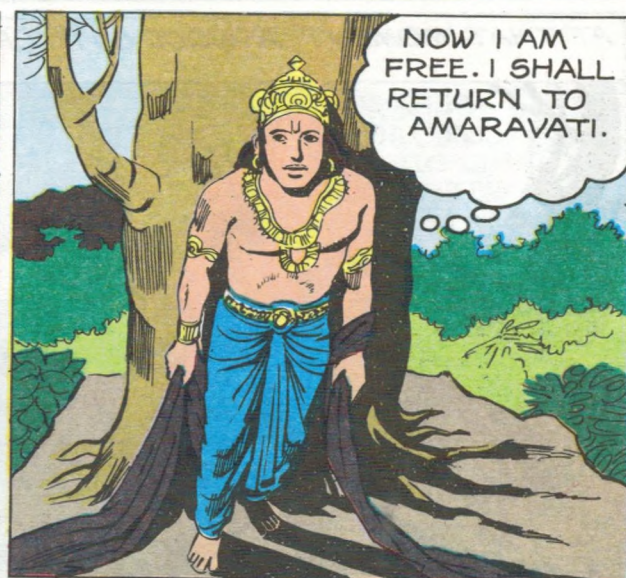
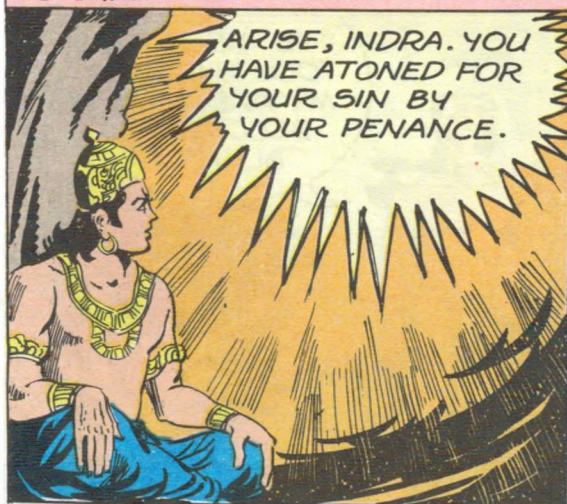


AT THAT MOMENT A WOODCUTTER HAPPENED TO PASS BY.





FINALLY, A DIVINE VOICE SPOKE TO HIM.

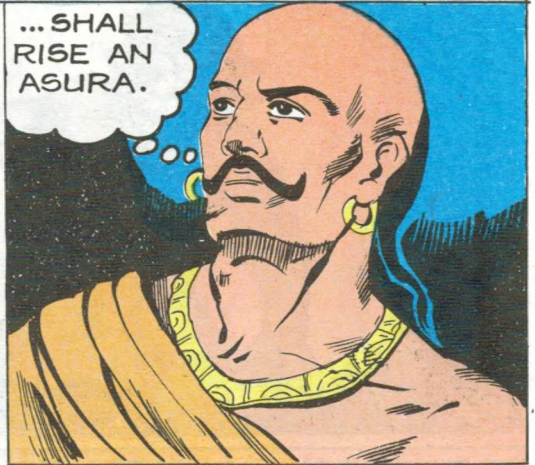


MEANWHILE TVASHTA HEARD OF TRISHIRAS' DEATH. HE WAS DEEPLY GRIEVED AND VERY ANGRY.

I SHALL AVENGE
MY SON'S DEATH.
FROM THE
POWER OF MY
PRAYERS...



... SHALL
RISE AN
ASURA.



TVASHTA PERFORMED A SACRIFICE AND CREATED AN ASURA.



WHEN INDRA HEARD OF VRITRA, HE PREPARED TO MEET THE CHALLENGE.

VRITRA HAS COME
TO AVENGE TRISHIRAS.

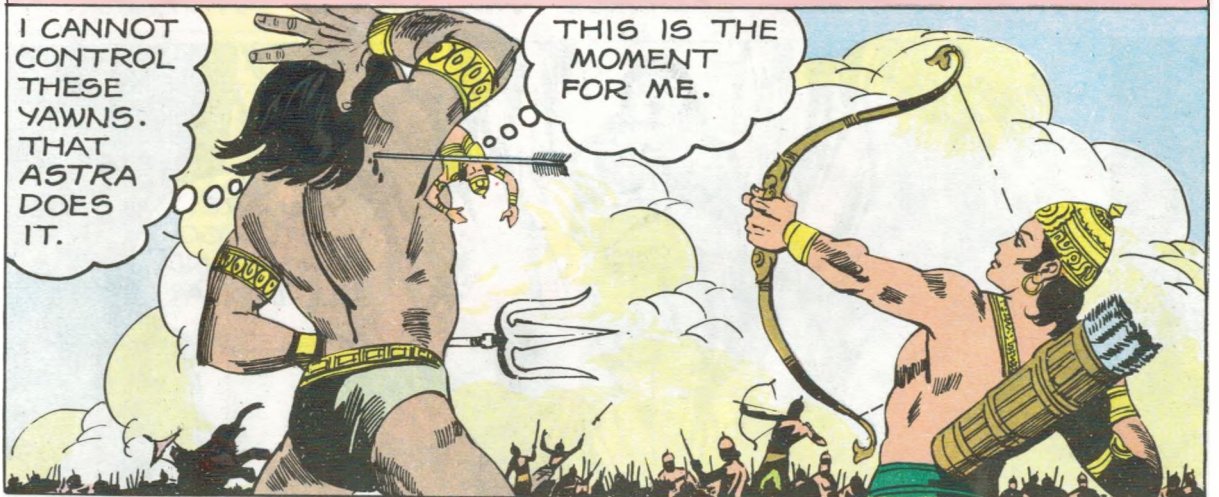
I KNEW NO GOOD
WOULD COME OF
KILLING
TRISHIRAS.



THERE WAS A TERRIBLE BATTLE IN WHICH VRITRA CAUGHT INDRA BETWEEN HIS TEETH.



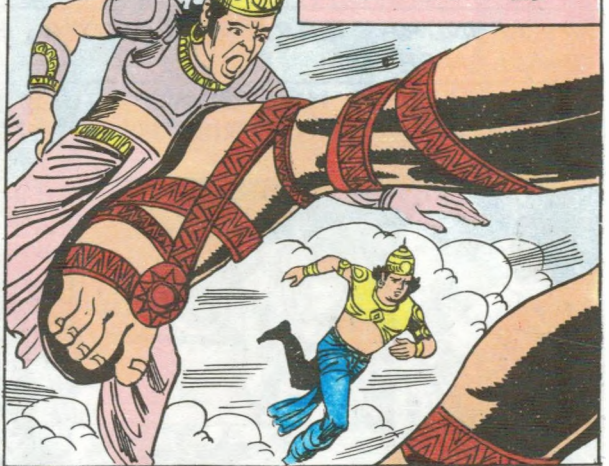
THE JIRIMBHAKA ASTRA FOUND ITS MARK.



VRITRA YAWNED...



INDRA MADE HIMSELF TINY AND ESCAPED.

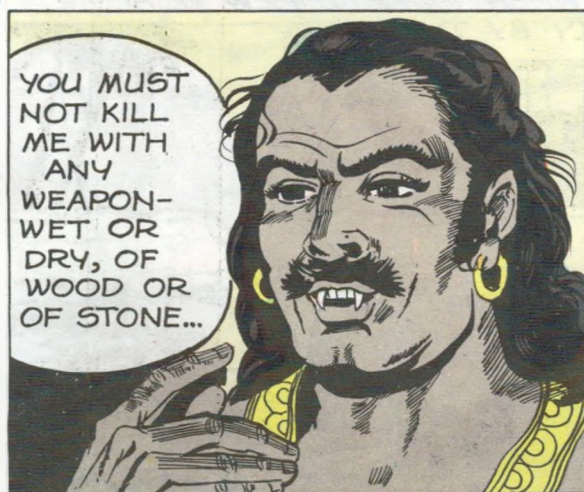


* AN ARROW WHICH MAKES A MAN YAWN.

HE AND HIS SUBJECTS WENT TO VISHNU FOR ADVICE.



INDRA MADE PEACE WITH VRITRA. BUT VRITRA WAS WARY.



ONE EVENING THEY WERE ON
THE SEA-SHORE.



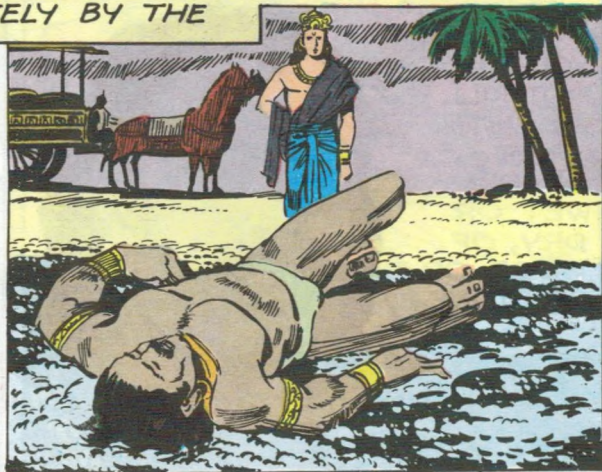
FOAM
CANNOT BE
CONSIDERED
A WEAPON.
VISHNU HAS
PROMISED
TO HELP
ME.



THIS TWILIGHT
IS NEITHER
NIGHT NOR
DAY. FOAM
IS NEITHER
WET NOR
DRY. VISHNU,
HELP ME!



VISHNU ENTERED THE FOAM AND WHEN INDRA THREW IT AT
VRITRA, HE WAS KILLED IMMEDIATELY BY THE
POWER OF VISHNU WITHIN IT.



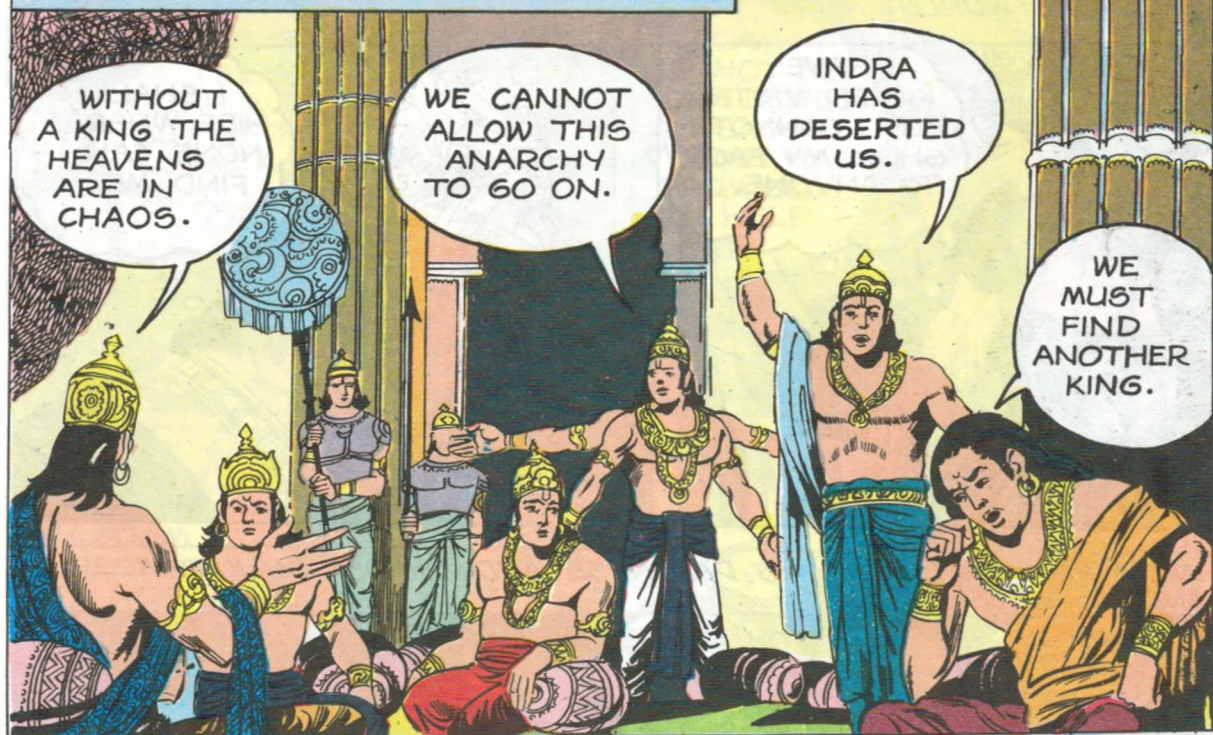
BUT AS INDRA HAD BETRAYED VRITRA HE WAS ASHAMED TO FACE THE WORLD.



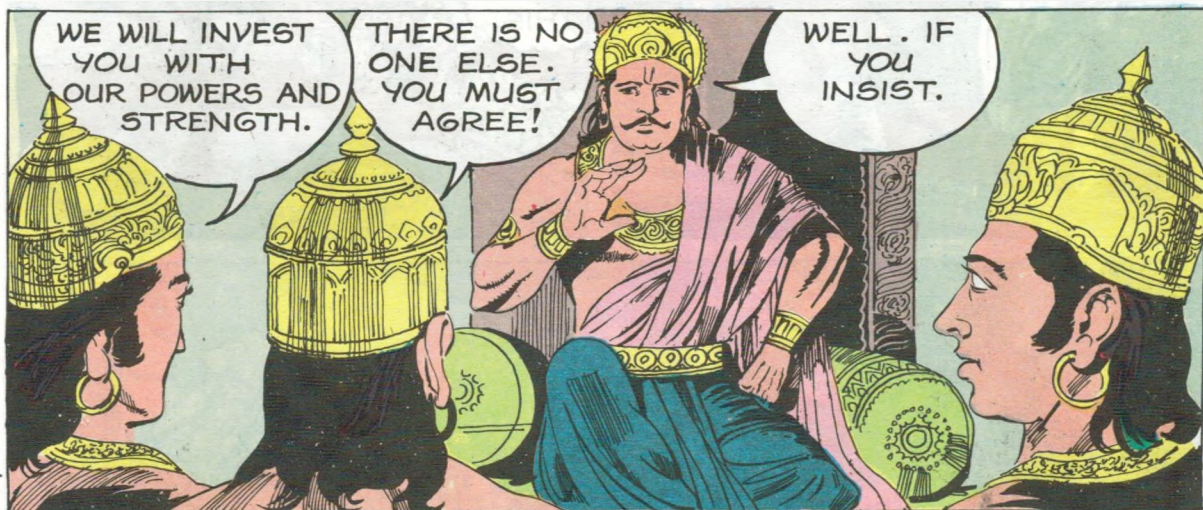
INDRA RAN AWAY. ALL WAS DARKNESS AND CHAOS, ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN.



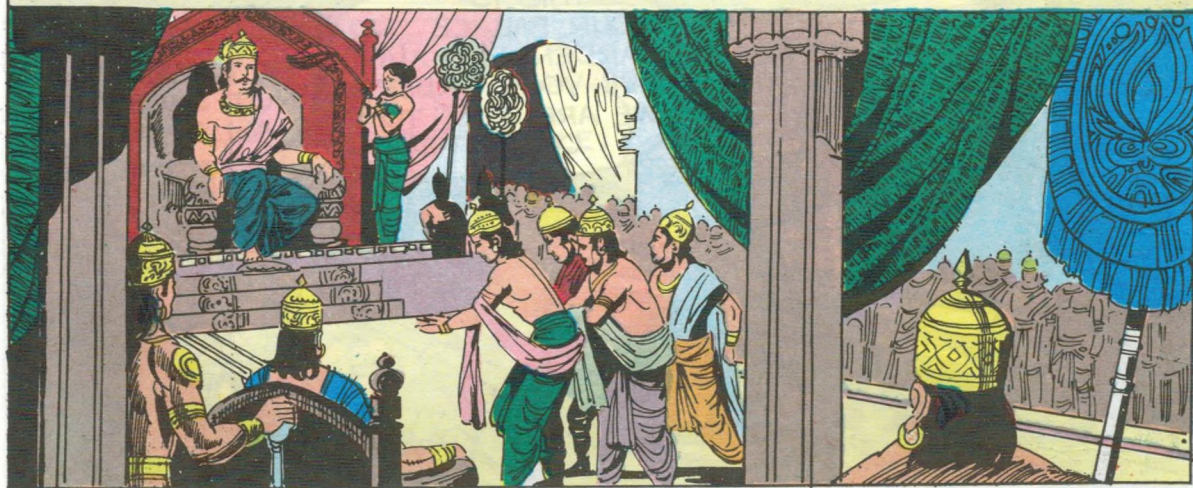
THE DEVAS MET IN A COUNCIL.



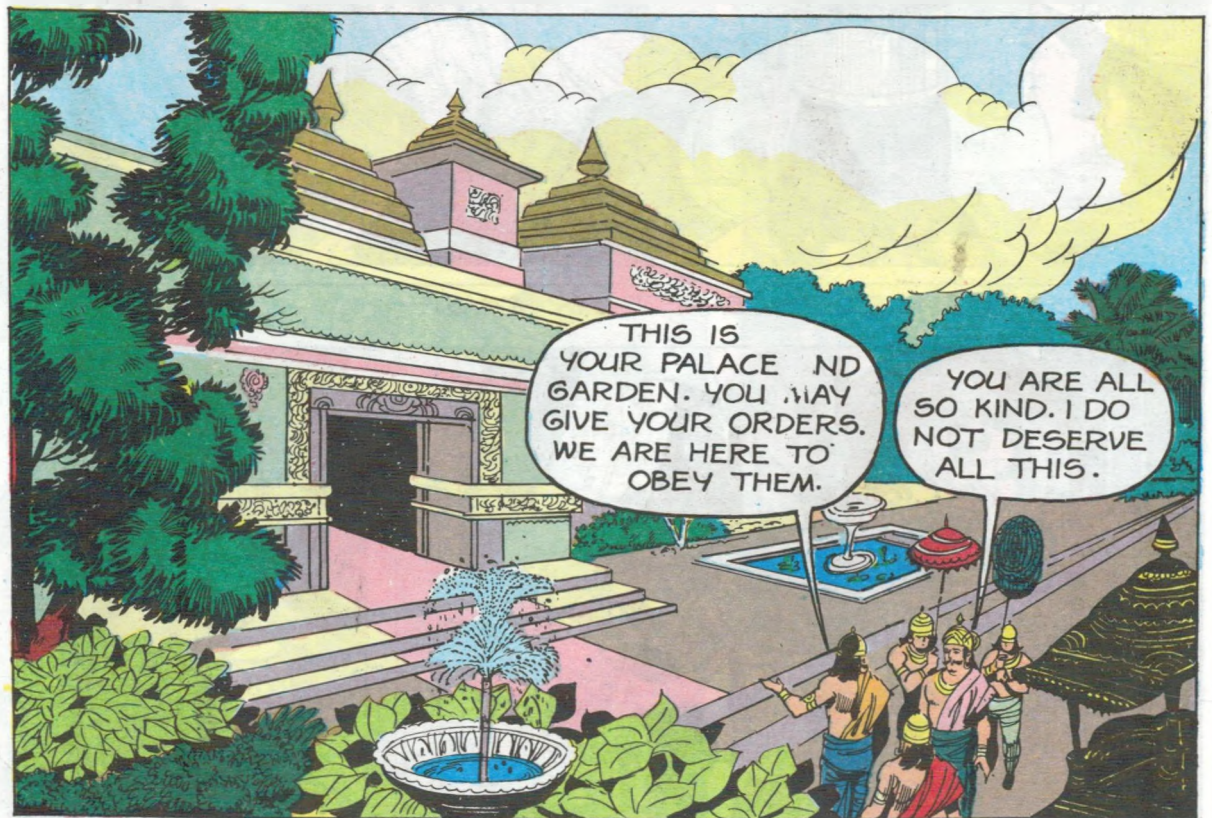
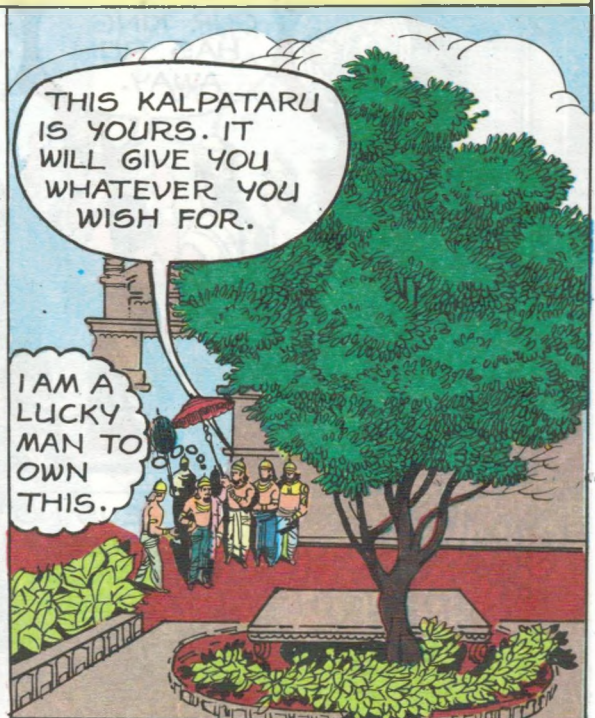
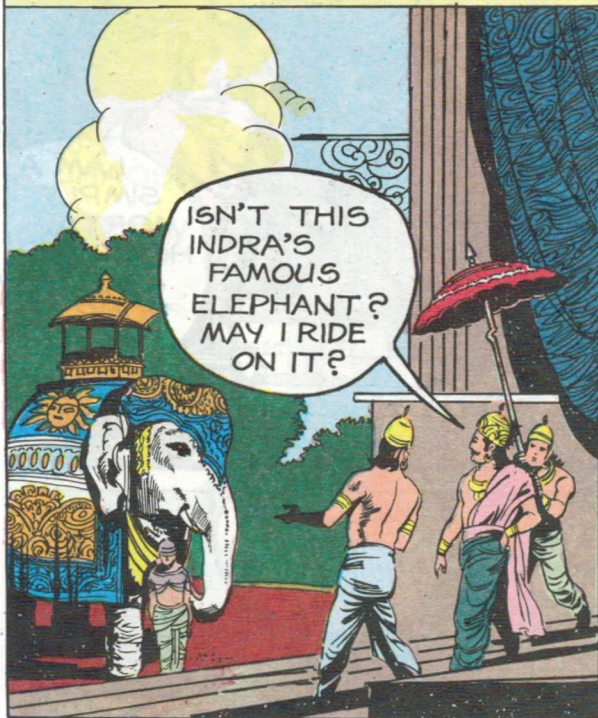
THE DEVAS WENT TO KING NAHUSHA'S COURT.



THE DEVAS MADE NAHUSHA THEIR KING.



NAHUSHA ENJOYED ALL THE CELESTIAL PLEASURES.



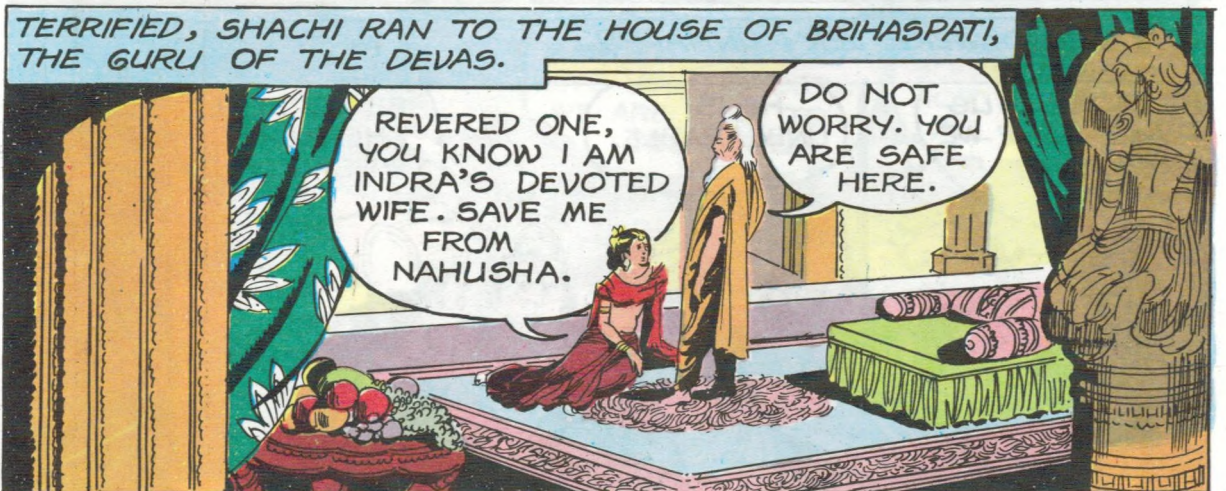
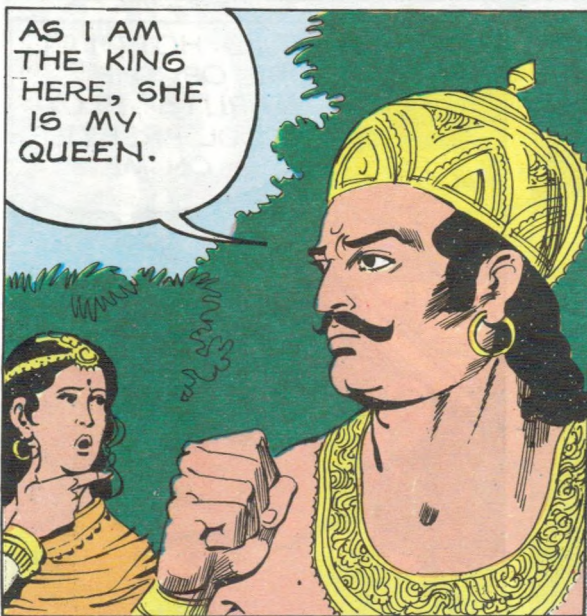
BUT ALAS! NAHUSHA SOON BECAME CONCEITED AND ARROGANT.



THE DEVAS WERE VERY UNHAPPY.



* THE GODS OF WIND.

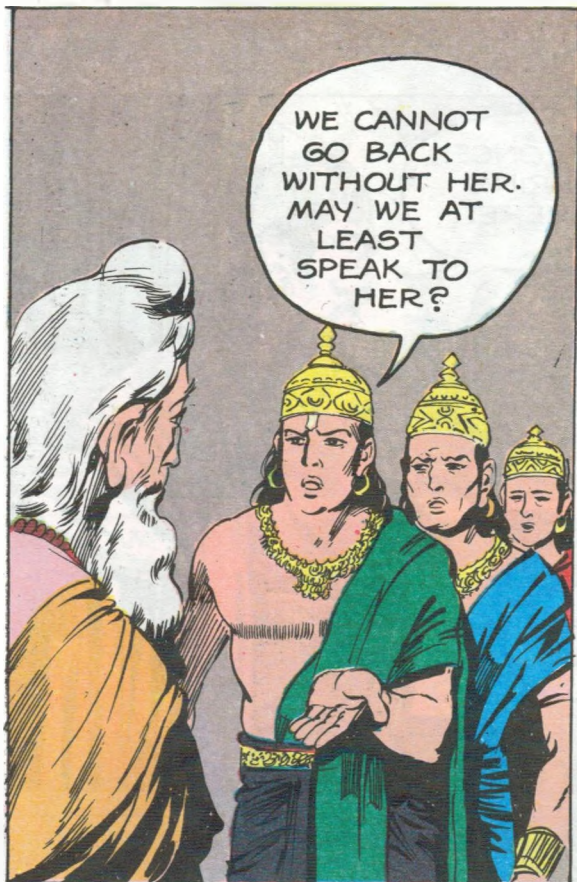


NAHUSHA WAS VERY ANGRY WHEN HE HEARD THAT SHACHI WAS IN BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.



THE DEVAS TREMBLED BEFORE NAHUSHA'S FURY.
THEY RAN TO BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.





WE CANNOT
GO BACK
WITHOUT HER.
MAY WE AT
LEAST
SPEAK TO
HER?



CERTAINLY!
SHE WILL
SPEAK TO
YOU.

SHACHI CAME OUT AND MET THEM.



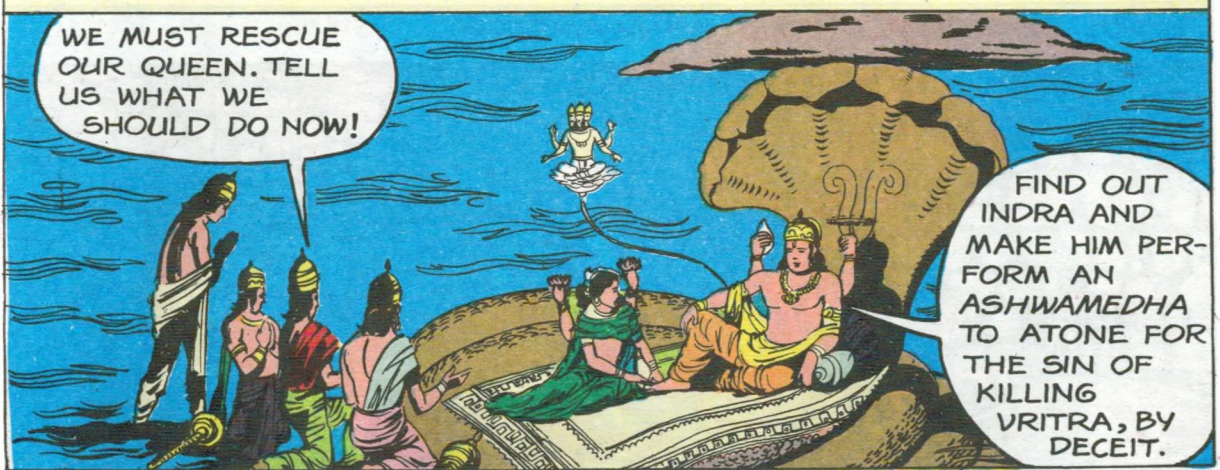
O GRACIOUS QUEEN,
HELP US! TALK TO
NAHUSHA.

GO WITH THEM
SHACHI. ASK
NAHUSHA TO
GRANT YOU SOME
TIME. MEANWHILE
WE SHALL THINK
OF A PLAN TO
SAVE YOU
FROM HIM.

SO, PROMPTED BY BRIHASPATI, SHACHI WENT WITH THE DEVAS TO NAHUSHA.



THE DEVAS THEN WENT TO VISHNU FOR ADVICE.



AGNI, THE FIRE-GOD, LED THE SEARCH FOR INDRA.



AT LAST THEY FOUND INDRA.



INDRA PERFORMED THE ASHWAMEDHA...



... AND THEN SET OUT TO CHALLENGE NAHUSHA.



SHACHI HEARD THAT INDRA WAS COMING.



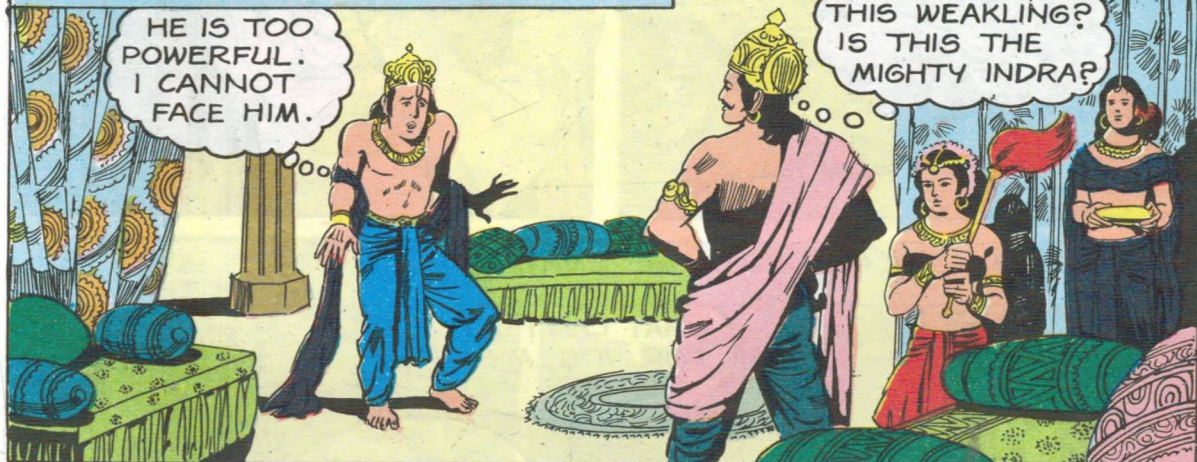
MAY HE
DEFEAT
NAHUSHA.

SO DID NAHUSHA.



I MUST
GET INDRA
OUT OF
MY WAY.

INDRA CONFRONTED NAHUSHA.



HE IS TOO
POWERFUL.
I CANNOT
FACE HIM.

THIS WEAKLING?
IS THIS THE
MIGHTY INDRA?

INDRA RAN AWAY.



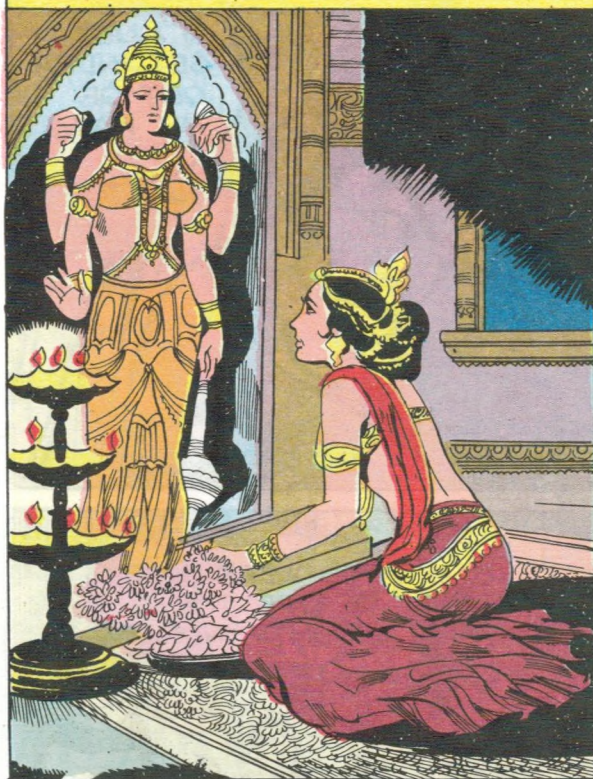
WHY DO I
QUAKE
IN FEAR?

SHACHI WEPT.



I WOULD
GIVE MY
LIFE TO
HELP
HIM.

SHACHI PRAYED TO UPASHRUTI, A GODDESS OF THE NIGHT.

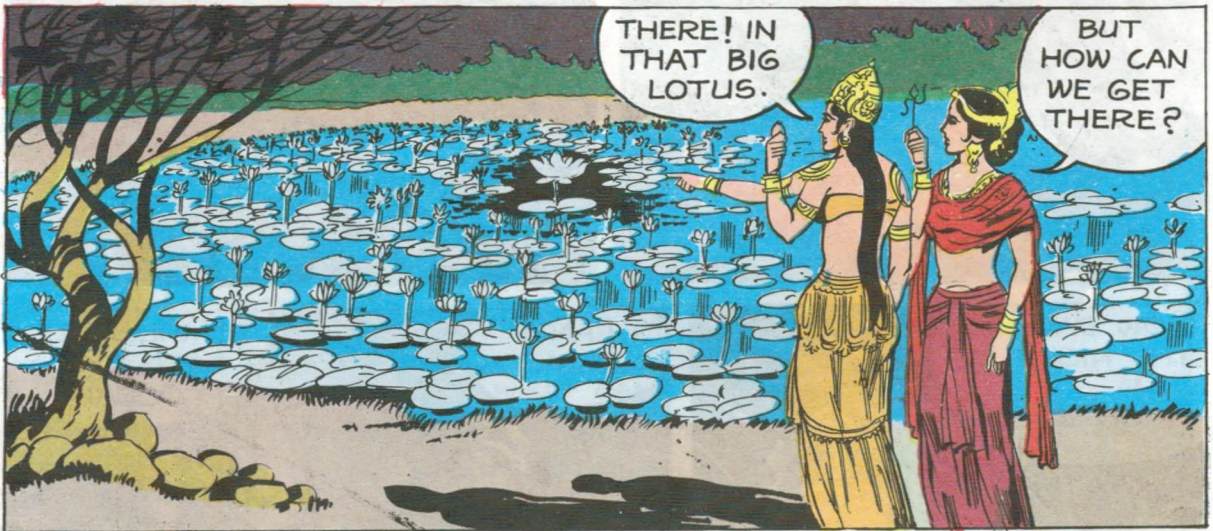
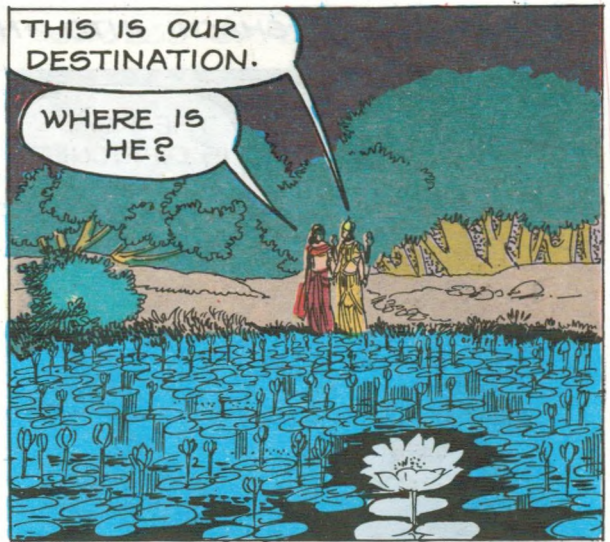


UPASHRUTI APPEARED BEFORE SHACHI.



UPASHRUTI LED SHACHI INTO THE DARK NIGHT.





UPASHRUTI SLIT THE STEM. INSIDE COWERED A TINY INDRA.



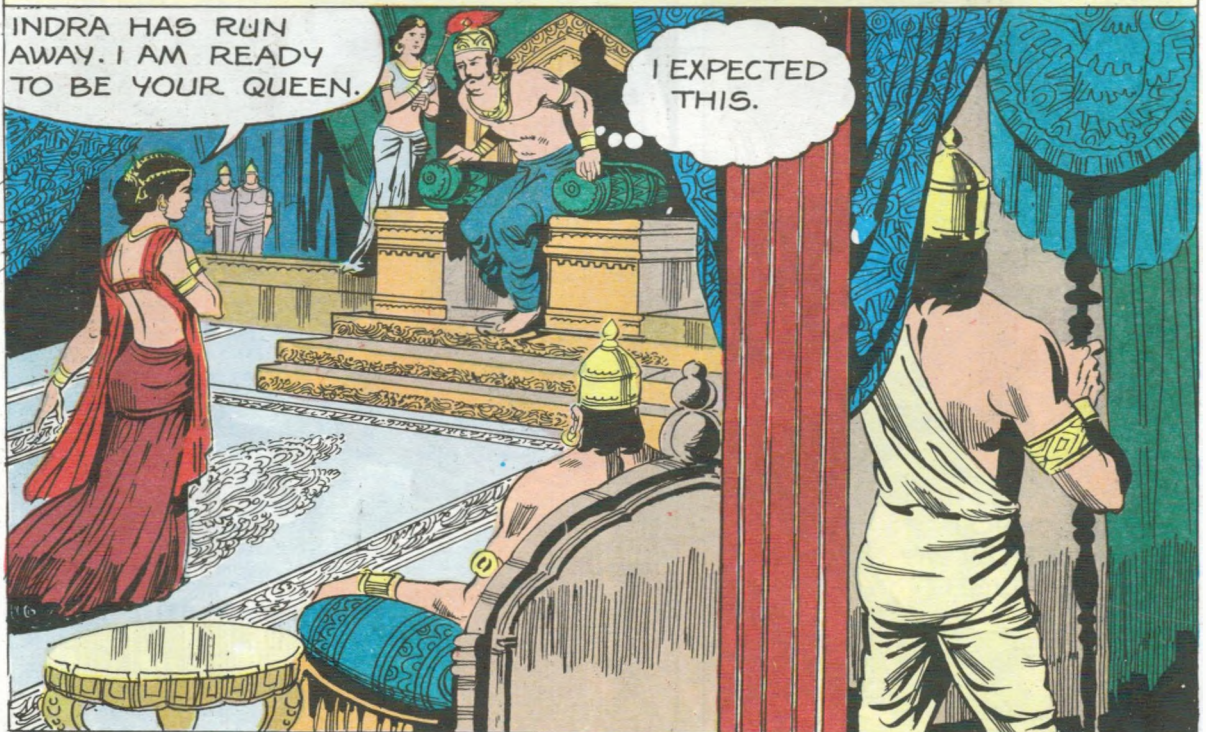
AFTER SHACHI HAD EXPLAINED THE WHOLE SITUATION —

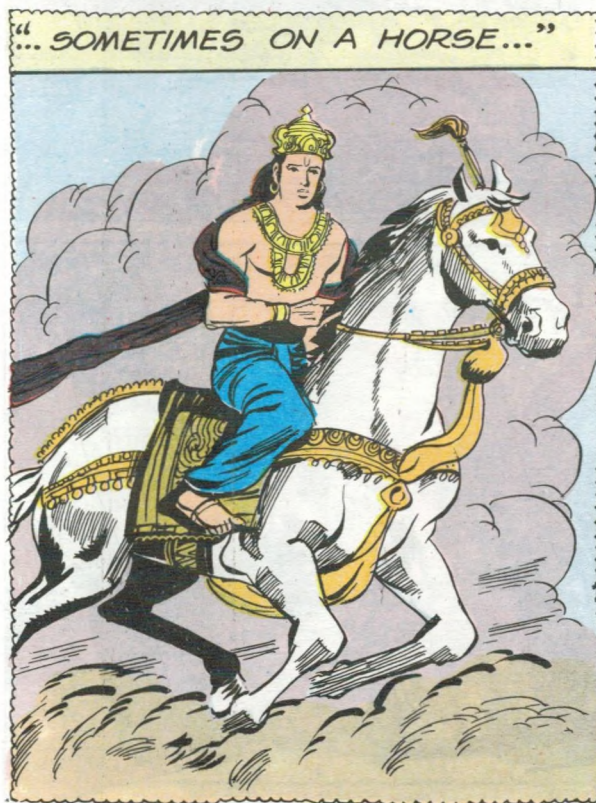
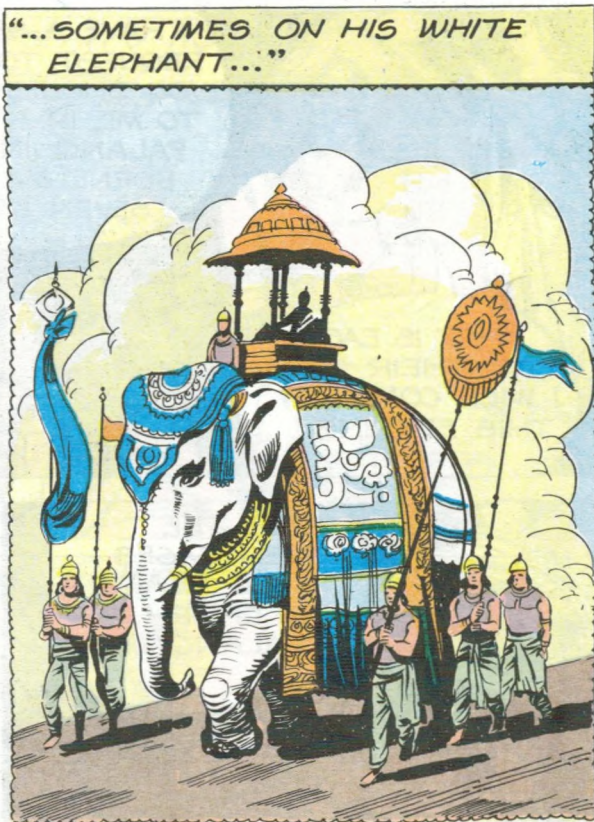


INDRA TOLD HER WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.



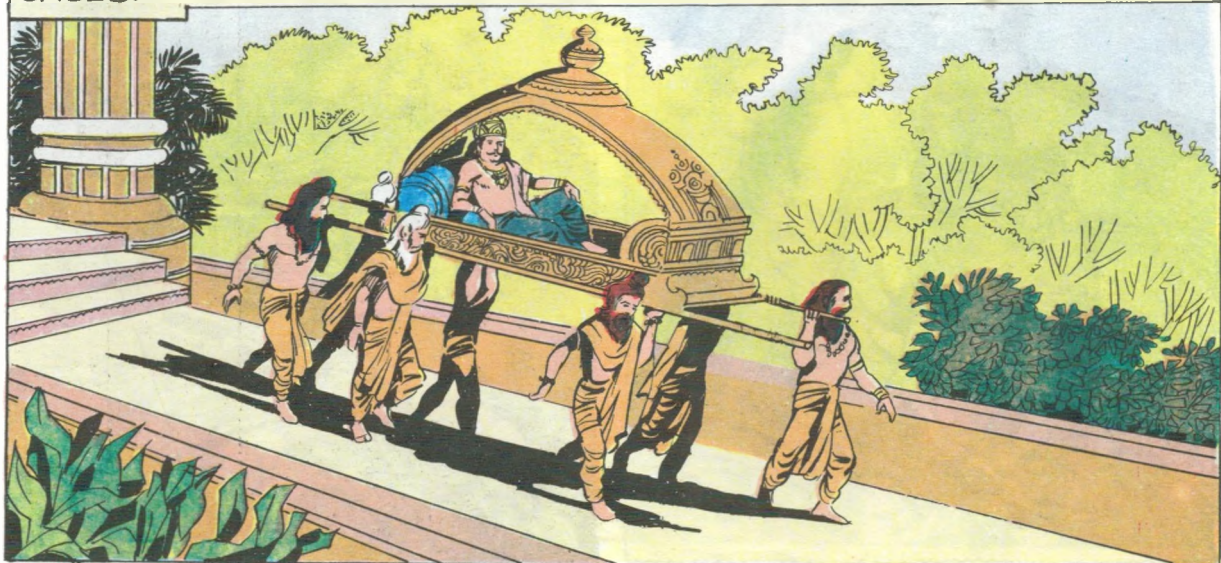
THE NEXT MORNING SHACHI WENT TO NAHUSHA.







NAHUSHA SET OUT IN THE PALANQUIN BORNE BY THE SEVEN SAGES.



MEANWHILE SHACHI WENT TO BRIHASPATI'S HOUSE.



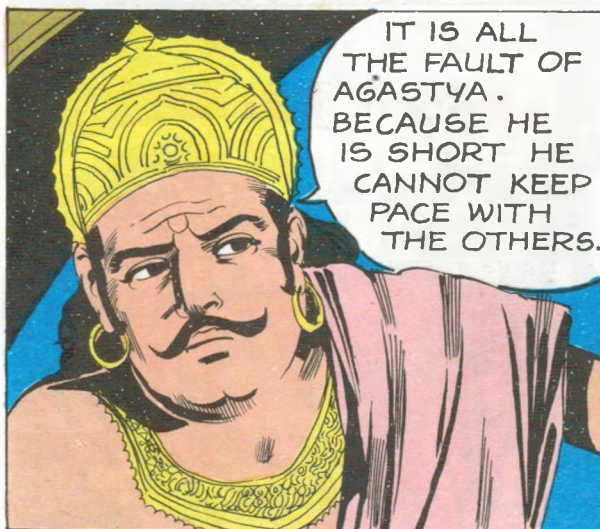
BRIHASPATI INVOKED AGNI IN A SACRIFICE.



AGNI CALLED THE DEVAS.



AT THAT MOMENT NAHUSHA WAS ON HIS WAY TO SHACHI'S PALACE.

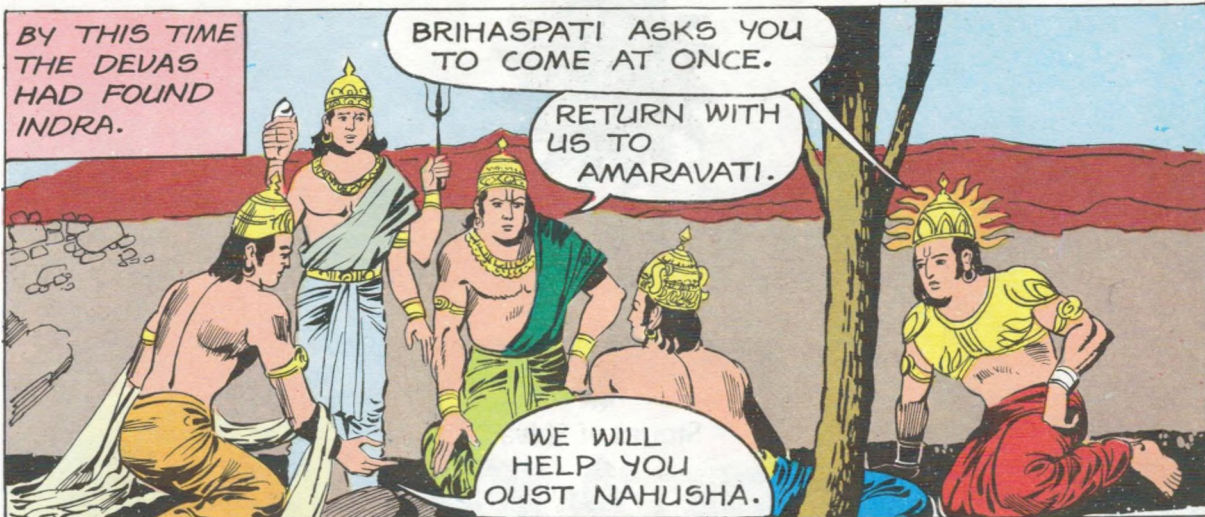


WHEN NAHUSHA KICKED HIM, AGASTYA BECAME ANGRY.



* MOVE ON. ALSO SNAKE.

* MAY YOU BECOME A SNAKE.

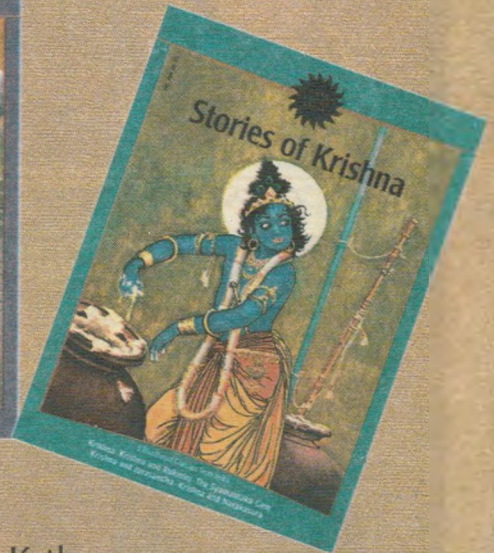
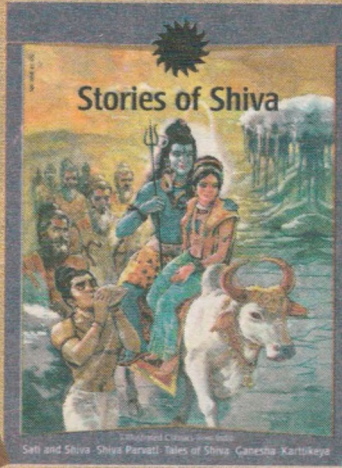
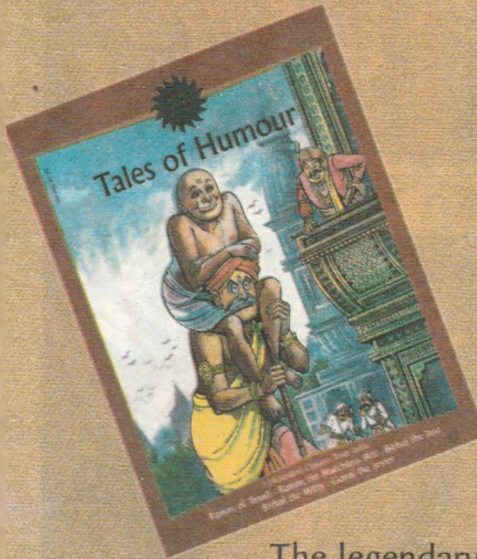


JUST THEN AGASTYA CAME HURRYING UP.





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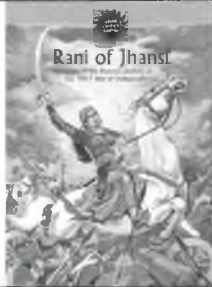
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Indra and Shachi

In some epics, like the Vedas, Lord Indra, ruler of the heavens, is a very powerful king. But as we delve into some of the other epics, we find he becomes more and more human. He grapples with a number of worldly problems, much like the ones mortal kings have to deal with on earth. He has many enemies who seek to usurp his kingdom.

Indra's wife is the beautiful Shachi, who is counted as one amongst great women like Anasuya, Savitri, Arundhati and Sita. All these women, with their unfaltering love and devotion for their husbands, have been immortalised as exemplary examples of ideal Indian womanhood.

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Shachi is a figure many women admire and strive to emulate. The story in this Amar Chitra Katha has been adapted from the Mahabharata. It is narrated to Yudhisthira before the great battle of Kurukshetra, in order to console him for his sufferings.

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