

JADABHARATA

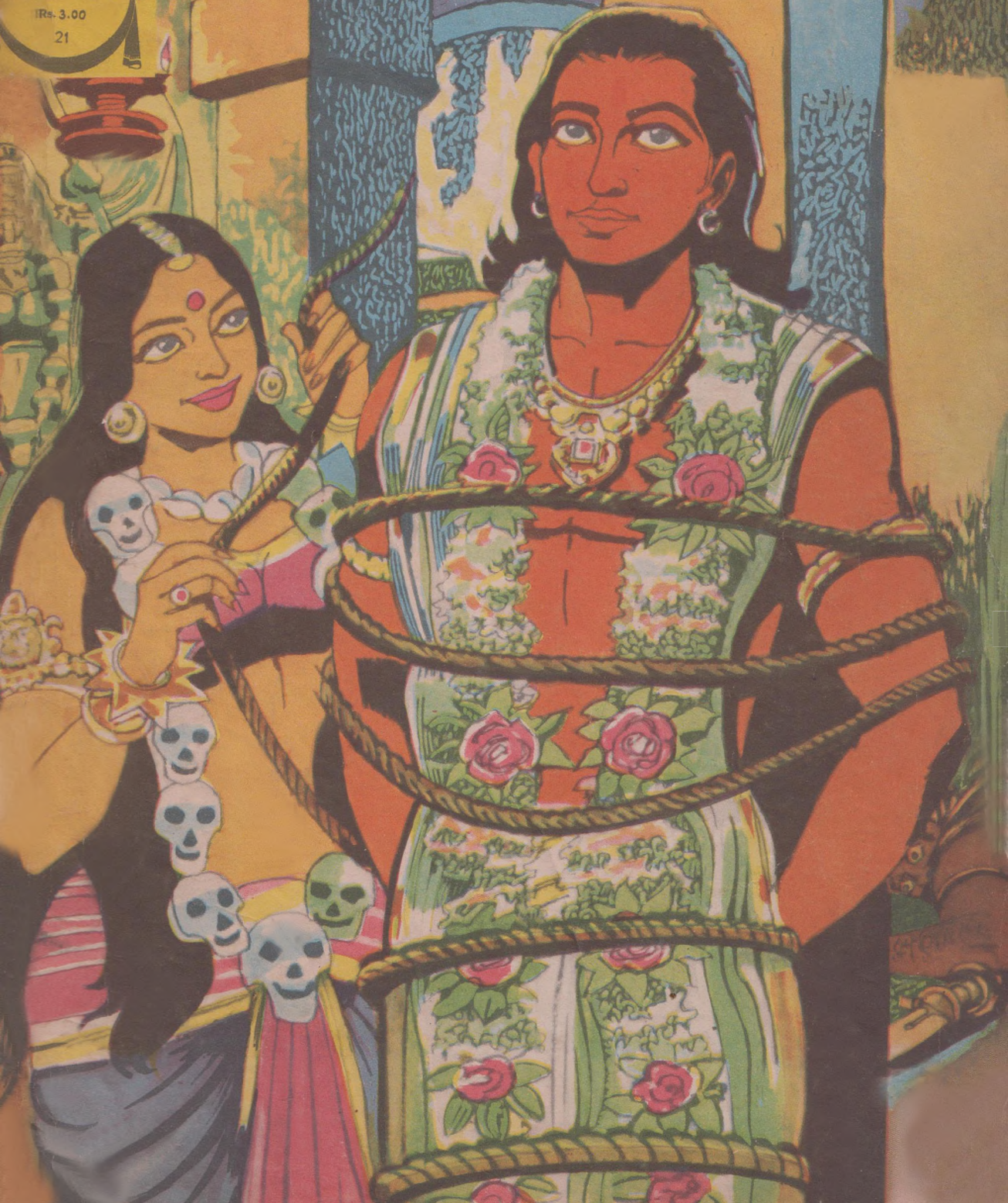
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21



From time immemorial, saints and sages of this country have taught the supreme ideals of love, service, uniformity, worship and meditation as a means to Self-realisation.

Mighty kings gave up their throne and power because of their love for truth. They renounced all their possessions so that they may realise their identity with God. As noble kings, they dedicated themselves to the welfare of their subjects. As sages of the forest, they served the entire mankind.

Bharata was one such king. Indeed, such was his greatness that this whole country came to be named after him !

Editor : **D. Kumar**

Script : **Bharati Sukhatankar**

Art Work
P. B. Kavadi

OUR NEXT TITLE

Vishnu Sahasranama of 999 Names

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JADABHARATA



MANY THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THERE LIVED A MIGHTY MONARCH CALLED KING BHARATA, WHO LOOKED AFTER HIS SUBJECTS WITH A FATHER'S LOVING CARE.

HE HAD WIDE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SHASTRAS*...



...AND WAS DEVOTED TO HIS DUTIES.



HE WORSHIPPED THE LORD WITH HIS WHOLE MIND CONCENTRATED ON HIS LOTUS FEET.



GLORY TO THE LORD, THE SUS-TAINER OF THIS UNIVERSE!

ACCORDING TO TRADITION, WHEN HE HAD DONE HIS DUTY BY HIS PEOPLE, HIS COUNTRY AND HIS CHILDREN...



MY DUTIES ARE OVER I MUST RETIRE TO THE FOREST AND SPEND MY DAYS IN MEDITATION.

...HE DISCARDED HIS SILKEN ROBES, KNOTTED HIS HAIR AND WORE DEERSKIN GARMENTS.



THEN HE LEFT THE PALACE TO TAKE UP THE LIFE OF A MENDICANT.



HOW WELL HE LOOKED AFTER US!

WHAT A WONDERFUL KING HE WAS!

HE WENT INTO THE FOREST TO THE BANKS OF THE RIVER GANDAKI.



BAARATA BUILT FOR HIMSELF, A SMALL HUT OF REEDS THATCHED WITH LEAVES.



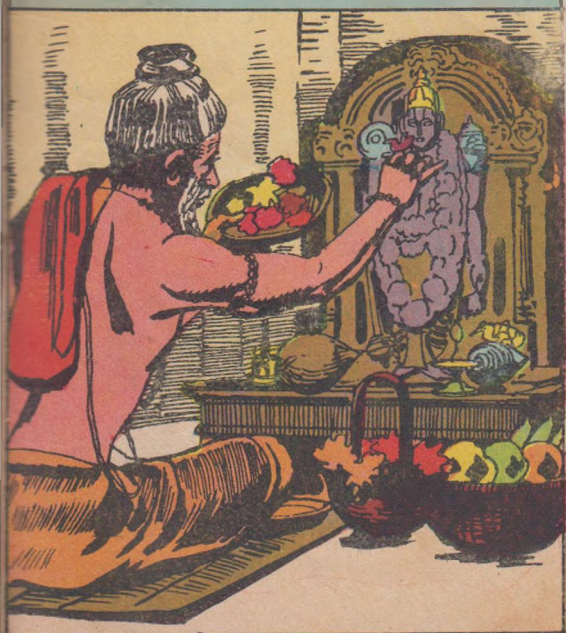
THERE. THAT'S OVER NOW.

HE CHOSE FOR MEDITATION, THE MOST SACRED GAYATRI MANTRA--

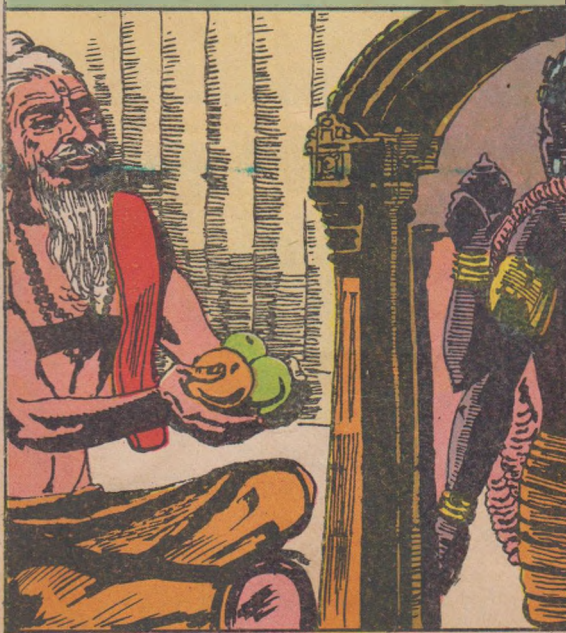


OM BHUR BHUVA SWAHA...

HE WORSHIPPED THE LORD WITH DIFFERENT FLOWERS, TENDER TULASI LEAVES AND WATER...



... OFFERING ROOTS AND FRUITS AS NAIVEDYAM.*



* FOOD FOR CONSECRATION

THUS PASSED MANY DAYS, MONTHS
AND YEARS, IN PERFECT PEACE AND
TRANQUILLITY.



ONE EARLY MORNING, THE SUN WAS
SLOWLY RISING OVER THE HORIZON.



BHARATA HAD JUST BATHED IN
THE SACRED GANDAKI.



HE OFFERED THE LAST OBLATIONS
TO THE RISING SUN...



... AND CLAD IN DEER-SKIN...



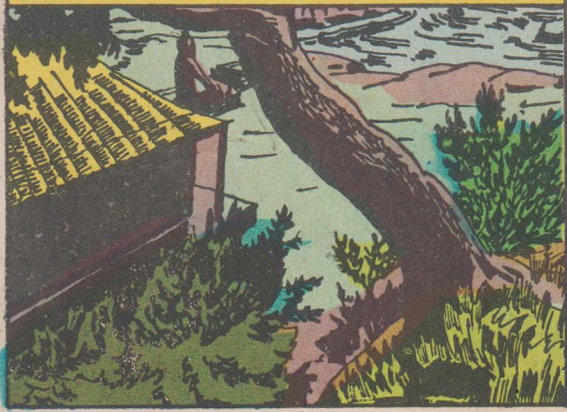
... WAS PREPARING TO SIT FOR MEDITATION.



... BHARGO
DEVASYA
DHEEMAHI...



JUST THEN, A DOE WHICH HAD STRAYED
FROM ITS HERD CAME TO THE RIVER...



... TO QUENCH ITS THIRST.



SUDDENLY, A LION ROARED IN THE NEARBY
FOREST.

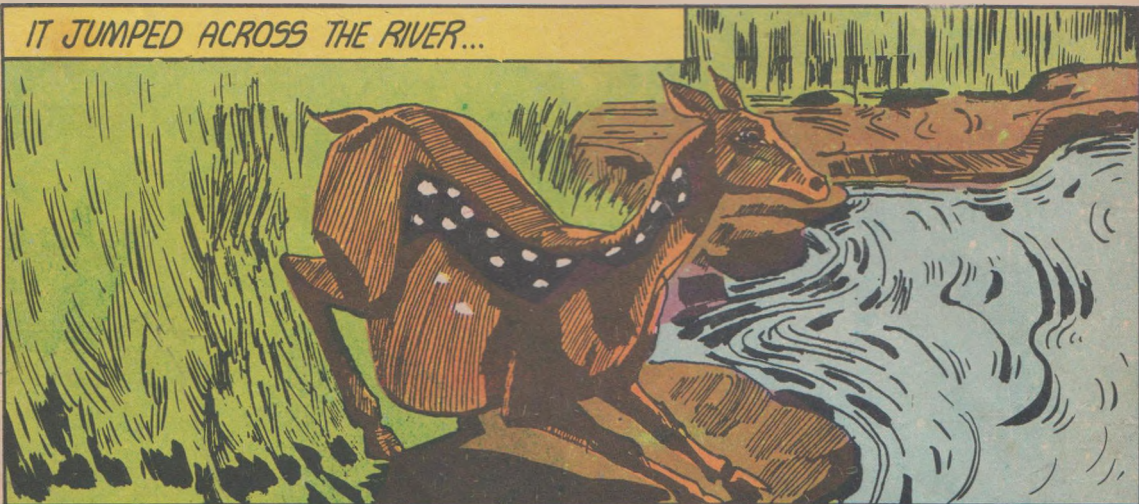
RRROOOAAA
RRRRRRR!!!



THIS FRIGHTENED THE DOE WHICH WAS HEAVY WITH YOUNG.



IT JUMPED ACROSS THE RIVER...

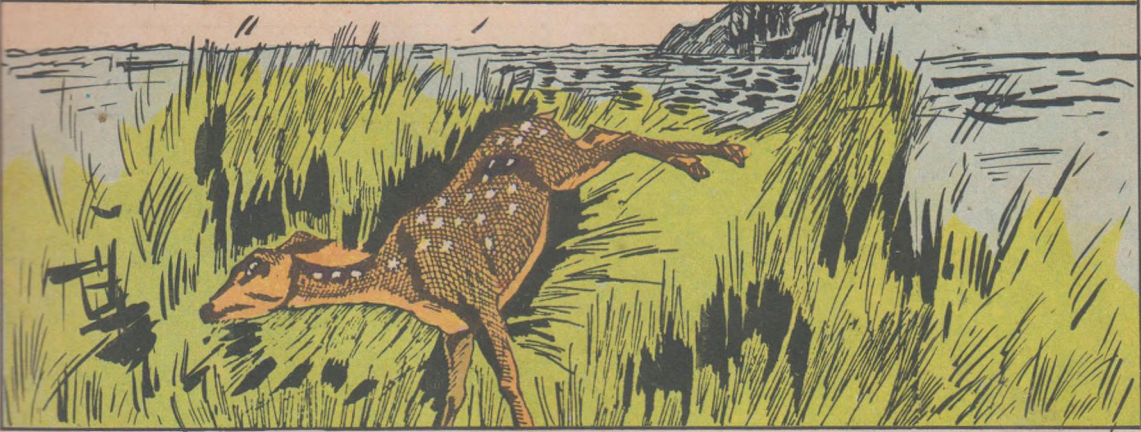


... AND DELIVERED ITS BABY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SWIFT WATERS.

MAAAAAA!
MAAAA !!



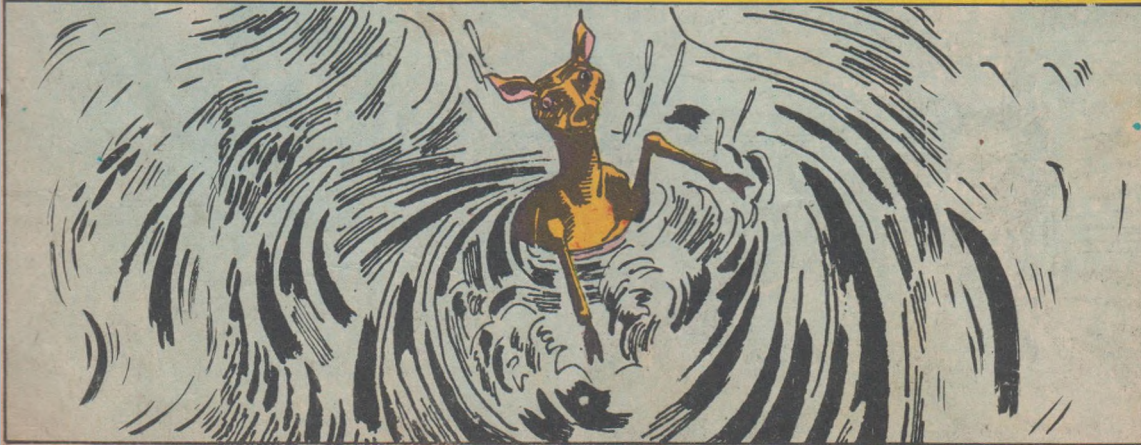
SOMEHOW THE DOE REACHED THE OTHER BANK OF THE RIVER WHERE SHE IMMEDIATELY DIED FROM EXHAUSTION AND SHOCK.



NOW THE SAGE BHARATA HAD WATCHED THIS SMALL DRAMA FROM HIS SEAT OF MEDITATION.



THE POOR FAWN WAS FLOUNDERING IN THE WATERS.



AT ONCE, BHARATA ROSE AND RAN
TOWARDS THE RIVER...



...AND JUMPED INTO IT TO RESCUE
THE LITTLE ANIMAL.



THE FAWN WAS COLD AND
FRIGHTENED.



O YOU
POOR THING !
I WILL WARM YOU
BACK TO LIFE.

HE LIT A FIRE AND MASSAGED THE
LITTLE CREATURE'S LEGS.



THERE , THERE.
I WILL TAKE CARE
OF YOU. DON'T
BE FRIGHTENED.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL ACT OF KINDNESS THIS WAS!
BUT ALAS! IT PROVED TO BE THE SAGE'S
UNDOING.



WHAT A LOVELY FAWN
YOU ARE!

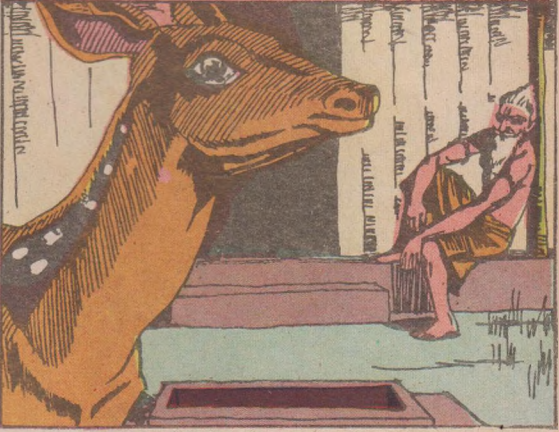
HE NOW BECAME VERY FOND OF HIS DEER-
CHILD.



HERE IS
SOME LOVELY SOFT
GRASS AND JUICY
FRUITS FOR YOU!

HOW
KIND
HE IS.

THE FAWN GREW UP TO BE A BEAUTIFUL DEER.



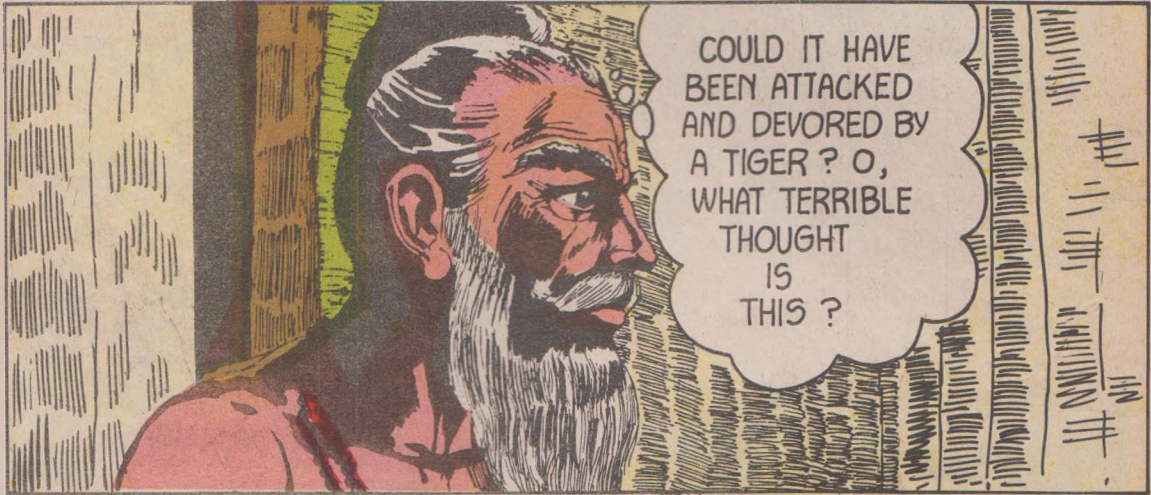
AND THE GREAT SAGE BHARATA INSTEAD OF CONTEMPLATING ON THE LORD,
WOULD ONLY THINK OF HIS DEER.



IT IS TIME FOR ME
TO GET SOME TENDER
LEAVES AND FRUIT
FOR MY CHILD.



IT IS ALREADY
DUSK AND THE DEER
HAS NOT YET RE-
TURNED FROM
THE FOREST.



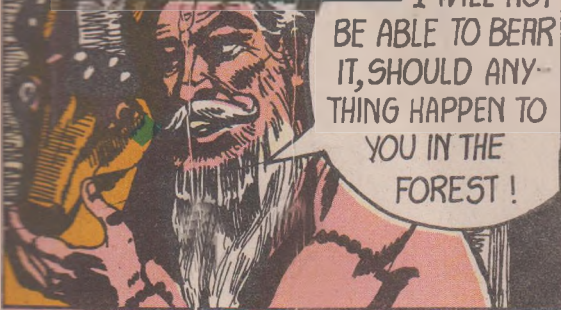
COULD IT HAVE
BEEN ATTACKED
AND DEVORED BY
A TIGER? O,
WHAT TERRIBLE
THOUGHT
IS
THIS?

THUS PASSED MANY YEARS.



O MY BEAUTIFUL DEER.
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME MUCH
HAPPINESS. BUT HOW
ANXIOUS YOU MAKE ME
FOR YOUR WELFARE.

THE NOBLE KING BHARATA, WHO HAD GIVEN UP HIS WHOLE KINGDOM AND RICHES FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, HAD BECOME SO ATTACHED TO THE DEER, THAT HE HAD STOPPED ALL DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES!



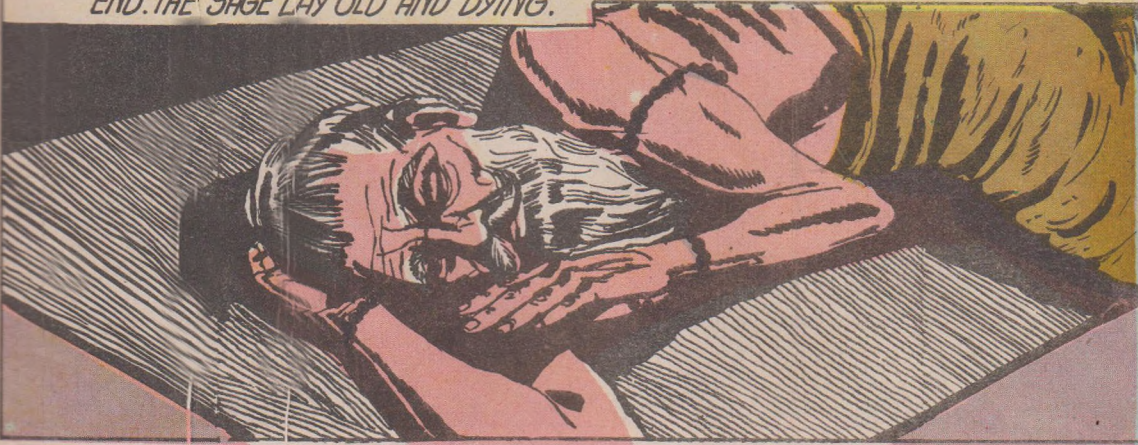
I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BEAR IT, SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU IN THE FOREST!

HIS SACRIFICIAL FIRES WENT UNLIT FOR DAYS. THE MORE FOND HE BECAME OF THE DEER, THE LESS HE THOUGHT OF GOD.

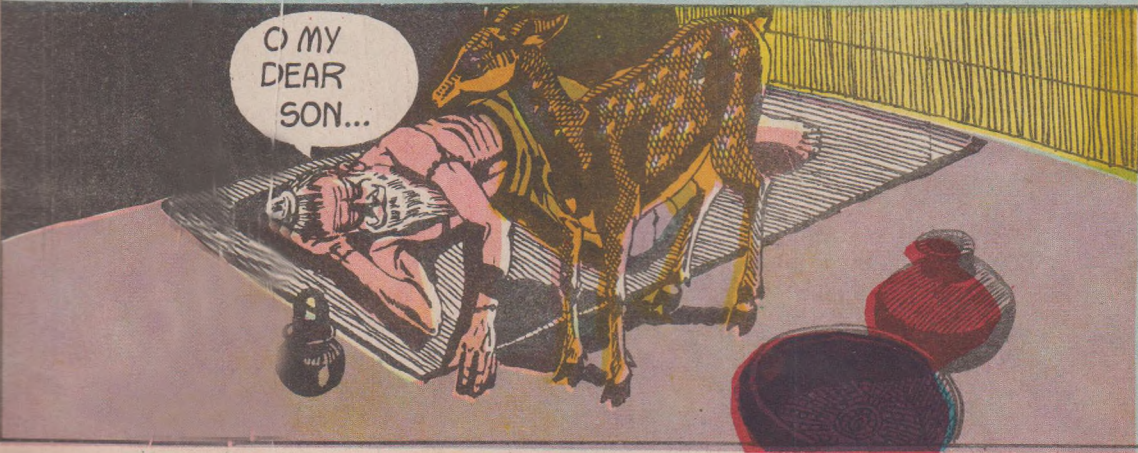


O MY CHILD, YOU MEAN MORE TO ME THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD!

BUT TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE AND EVERYONE MUST ONE DAY MEET HIS END. THE SAGE LAY OLD AND DYING.



THE FAITHFUL DEER STOOD BY HIS SIDE, SHEDDING SILENT TEARS.



O MY DEAR SON...

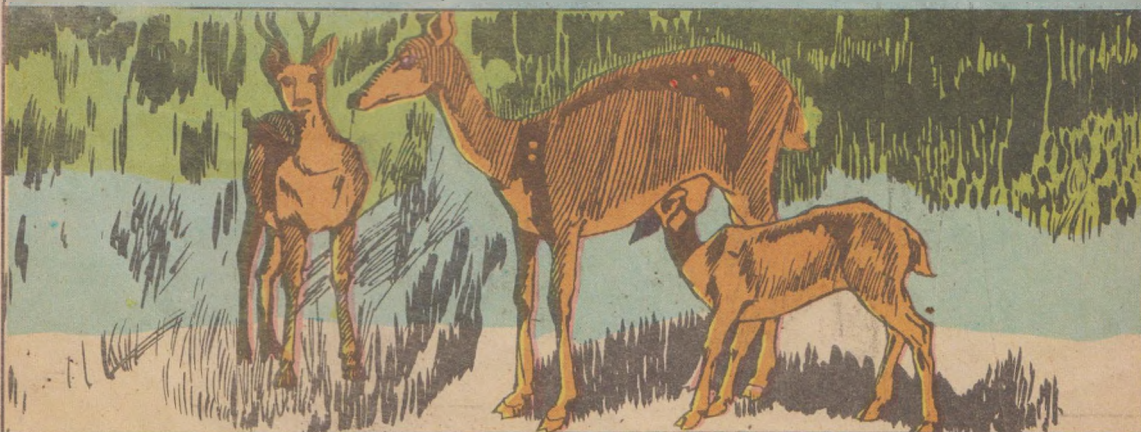
BHARATA WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE DEER'S LOVE AND ATTACHMENT FOR HIM.



AND HIS LAST THOUGHT, INSTEAD OF BEING OF GOD, WAS OF THE DEER.



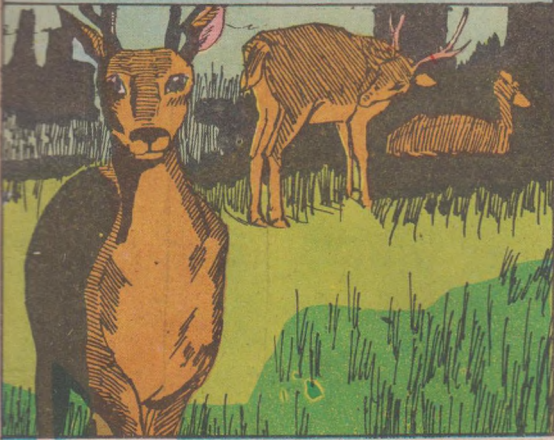
WE ARE TOLD THAT, AT THE TIME OF DEATH, A MAN'S LAST THOUGHT DETERMINES HIS NEXT BIRTH. SO BHARATA WAS REBORN AS A DEER.



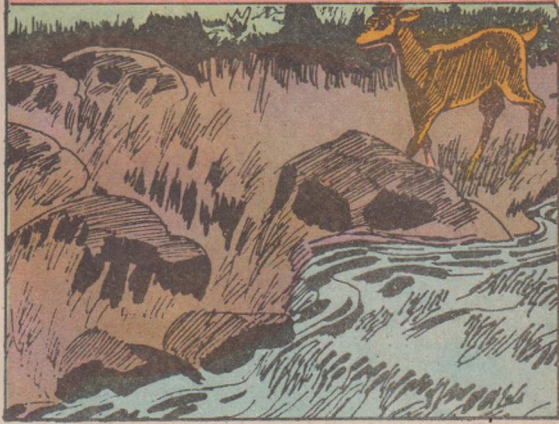
BUT HE WAS BORN WITH A MEMORY OF HIS PREVIOUS BIRTH, AS NO PRAYER OR DEVOTION TO THE LORD CAN EVER GO WASTE.



SO HE LEFT HIS DEER FAMILY IN THE HILLS..



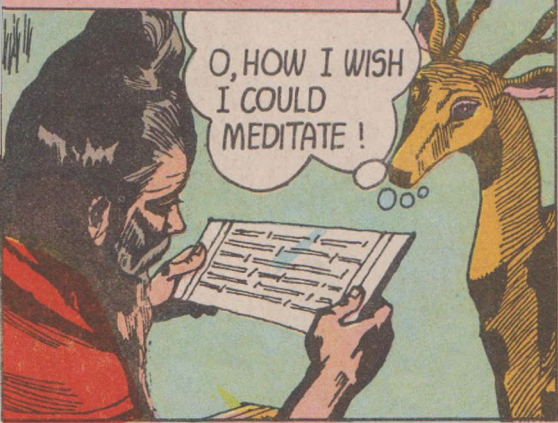
... AND CAME TO THE PULAHA ASHRAMA ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER GANDAKI.



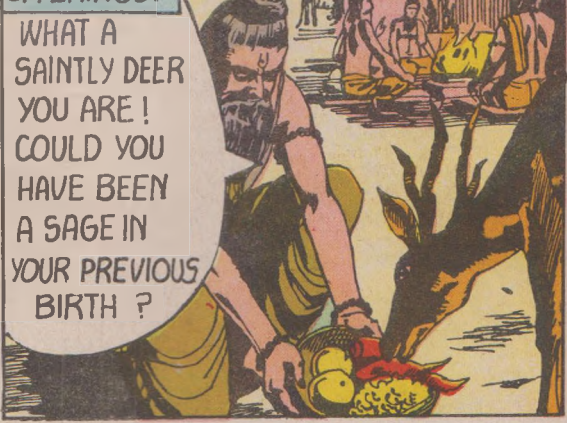
HERE, HE WOULD LISTEN TO THE TALKS OF THE RISHIS AND THEIR DISCUSSIONS.



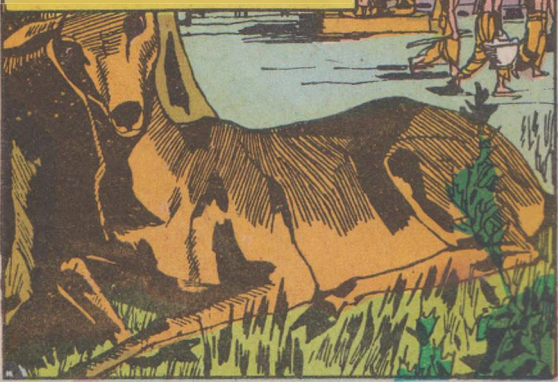
HE WOULD HEAR THE READINGS FROM THE UPANISHADS...



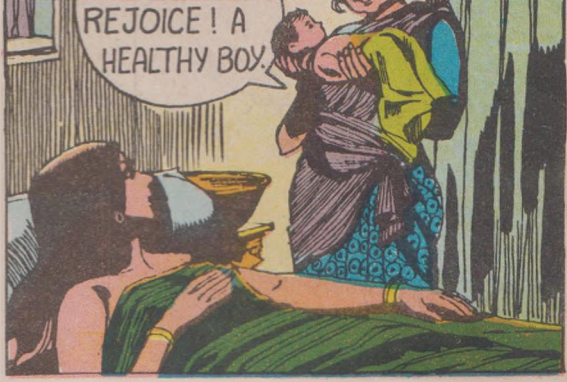
...AND EAT THE REMAINS OF THE OFFERINGS.



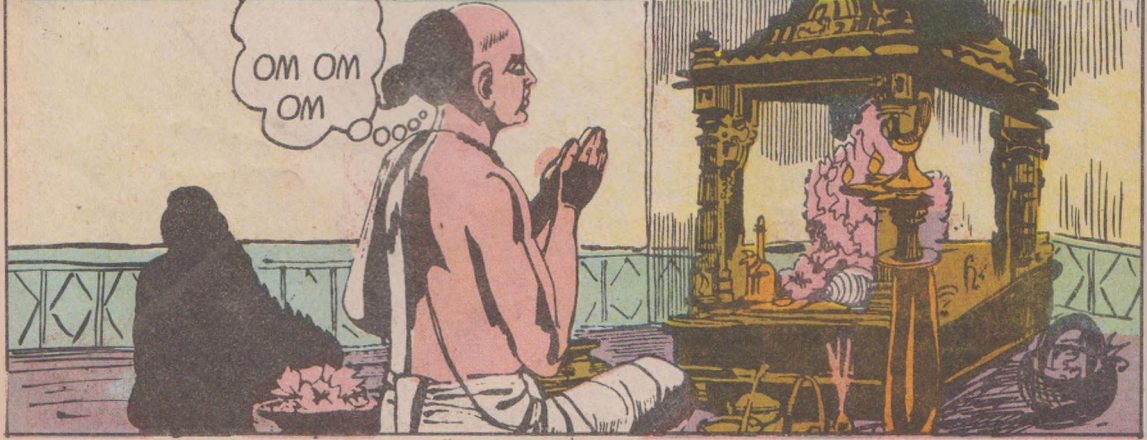
THUS PASSING HIS DAYS, HE WAITED PATIENTLY FOR DEATH SO THAT HE COULD GIVE UP HIS DEER-BODY.



IN HIS NEXT BIRTH, HE WAS BORN IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF A RICH AND PIOUS BRAHMIN.



THE BRAHMIN WAS A VERY GOOD MAN. HE DID HIS DAILY POOJA...

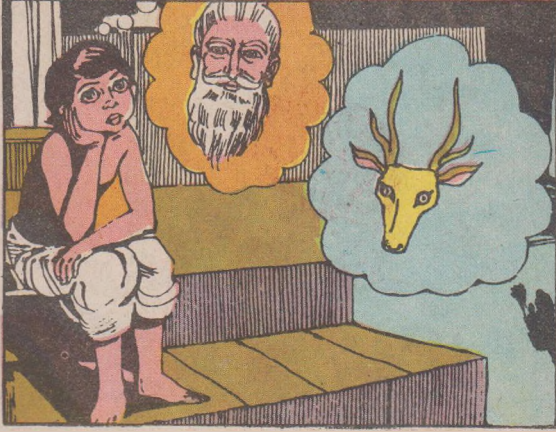


...AND WAS KIND AND GENEROUS TO THE POOR.



HERE MY GOOD MAN, HERE ARE SOME CLOTHES FOR YOUR FAMILY.

BHARATA, AS THE BRAHMIN BOY, REMEMBERED HIS PAST TWO LIVES.



HE REMEMBERED THE PANGS CAUSED BY ATTACHMENT.



INDEED ATTACHMENT CAUSES PAIN. I MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO FORM ANY NEW ATTACHMENTS!

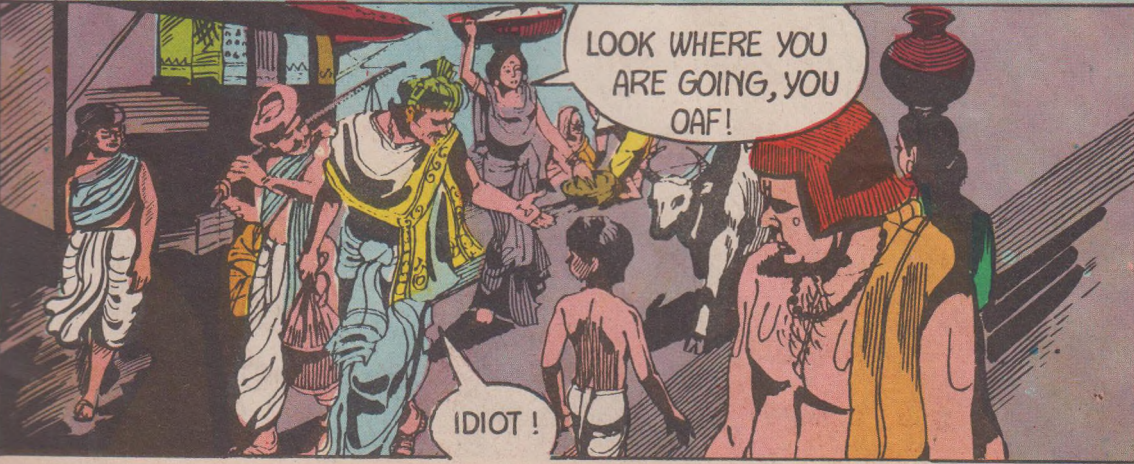
SO IN THIS LIFE HE WOULD NOT EVEN TALK.



IS HE DUMB?

MUST BE. HE NEVER UTTERS A SOUND!

PEOPLE THOUGHT HIM BLIND AND DEAF AND STUPID...



LOOK WHERE YOU ARE GOING, YOU OAF!

IDIOT!

...EVEN INSANE!

THERE COMES THE
MAD FELLOW

RUN!

MAD MAN!

HE SHUNNED COMPANY OF ALL KIND AND PREFERRED TO BE BY HIMSELF.

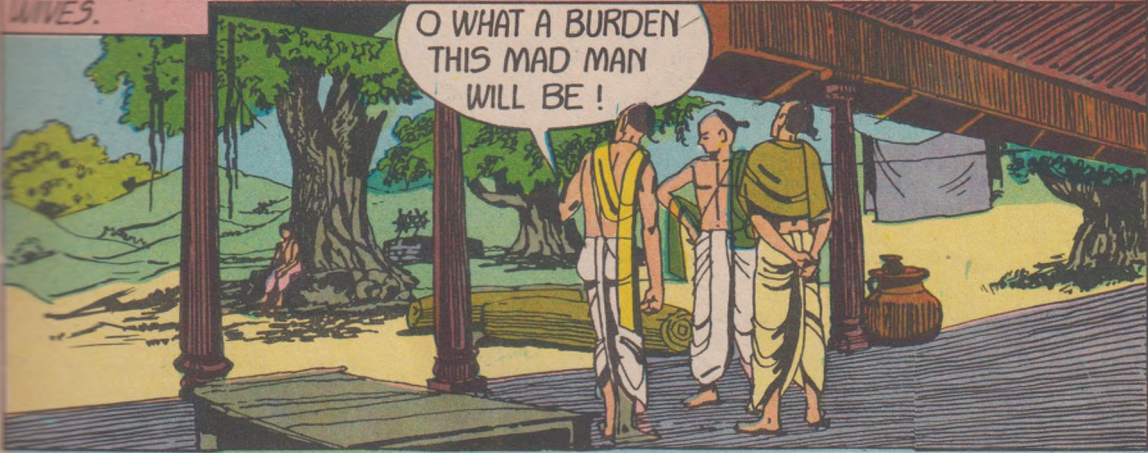
WHAT IGNORANT FOOLS
THEY ARE! THEY ARE
ONLY CONCERNED
WITH WORLDLY
AFFAIRS!

HOWEVER, HIS PARENTS WERE KIND AND FOUND NOTHING ABNORMAL IN HIM.

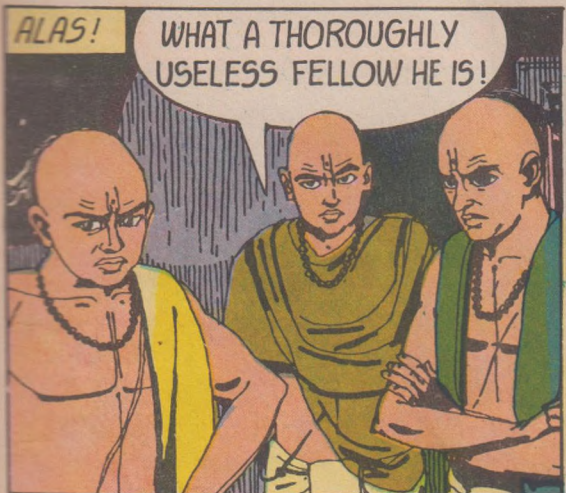
HAVE YOU EATEN
YOUR FOOD MY
SON?

COME
AND LIE DOWN
CHILD.

BUT THEY SOON DIED, LEAVING HIM TO THE CARE OF HIS BROTHERS AND THEIR WIVES.



O WHAT A BURDEN THIS MAD MAN WILL BE !



ALAS!

WHAT A THOROUGHLY USELESS FELLOW HE IS!



FETCH THE WATER QUICKLY !

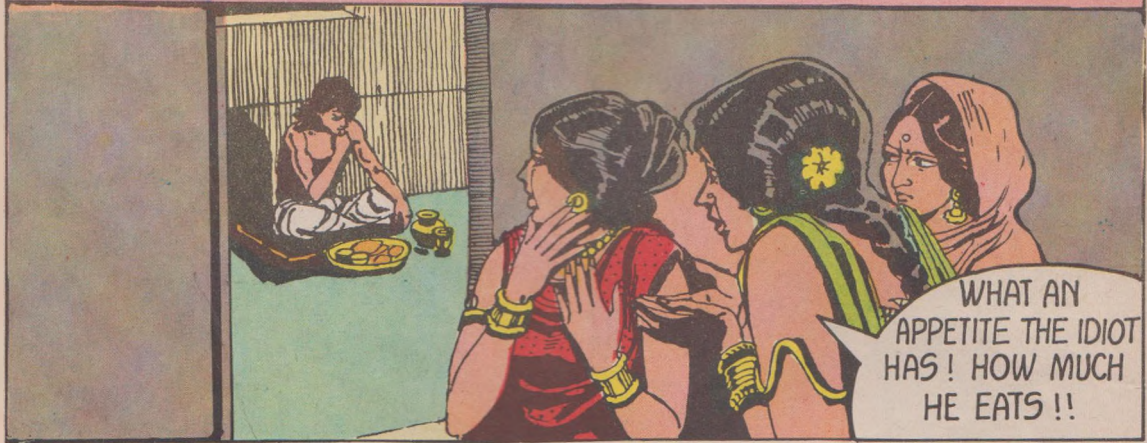


CHOP THE FIREWOOD !



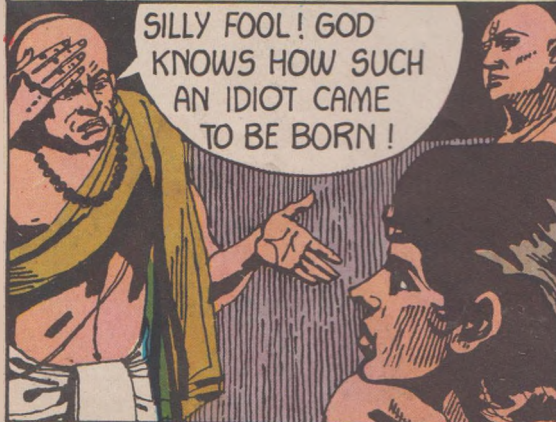
GO AND PLOUGH THE FIELDS!

THEY GAVE HIM RAGS TO COVER HIS BODY AND STALE FOOD TO EAT.



WHAT AN APPETITE THE IDIOT HAS! HOW MUCH HE EATS!!

WHEN THEY LOST THEIR TEMPER AND SHOUTED AT HIM...

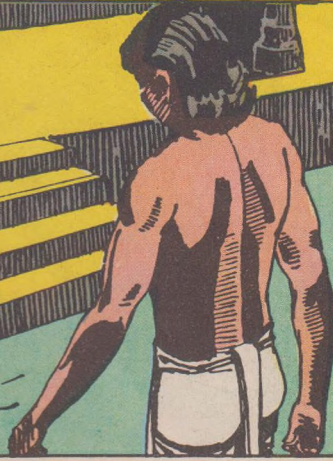


SILLY FOOL! GOD KNOWS HOW SUCH AN IDIOT CAME TO BE BORN!

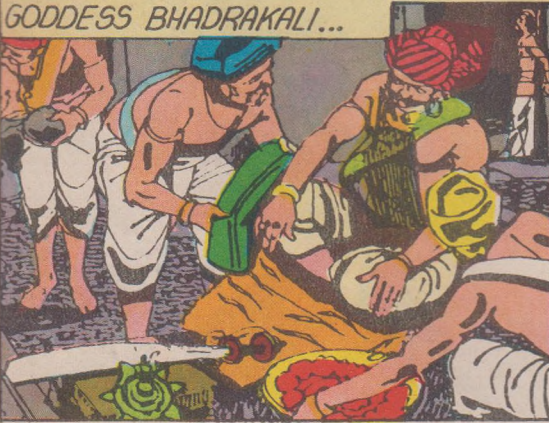
...HE WOULD GO AND SIT UNDER A TREE TILL THEIR ANGER HAD COOLED OFF.



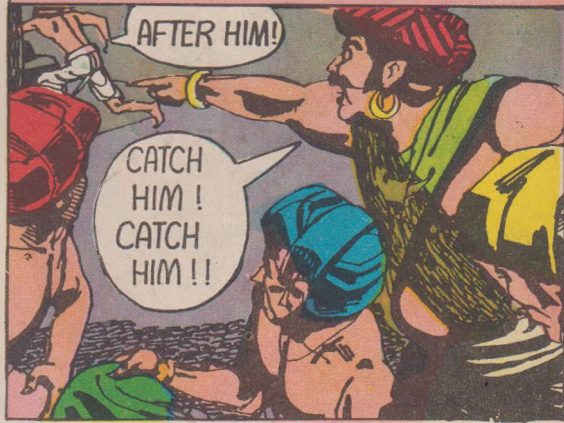
THEN HE WOULD GO BACK TO THE HOUSE.



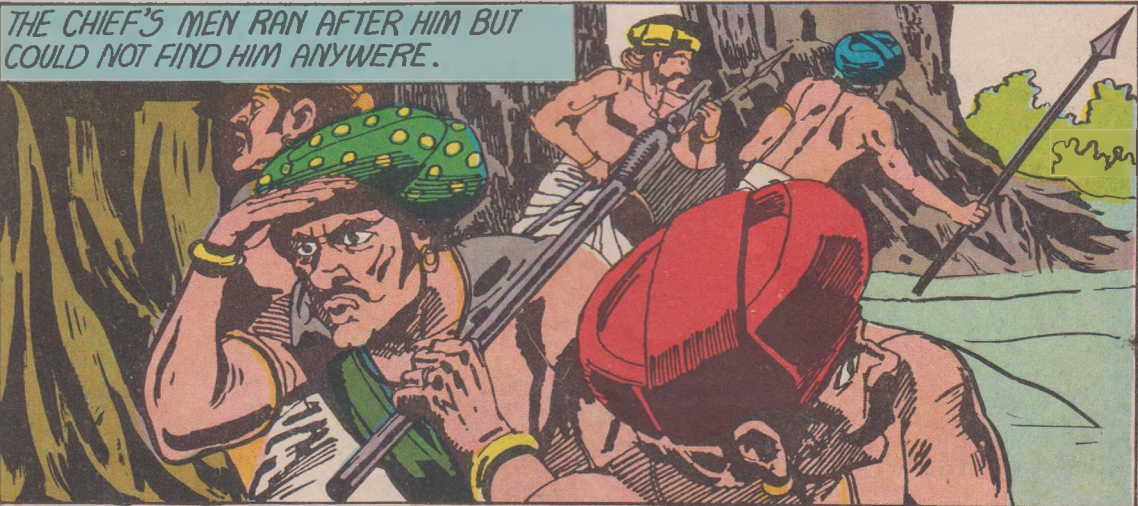
ONE DAY, A ROBBER CHIEFTAIN WAS PERFORMING A SACRIFICE TO THE GODDESS BHADRAKALI...



...WHEN THE HUMAN VICTIM FREED HIMSELF FROM HIS POST AND RAN AWAY.



THE CHIEF'S MEN RAN AFTER HIM BUT COULD NOT FIND HIM ANYWHERE.



THEY CAME UPON BHARATA SITTING UNDER A TREE, GUARDING THE FIELDS AGAINST STRAY ANIMALS.





HE WILL SURELY BE PLEASED AND REWARD US!

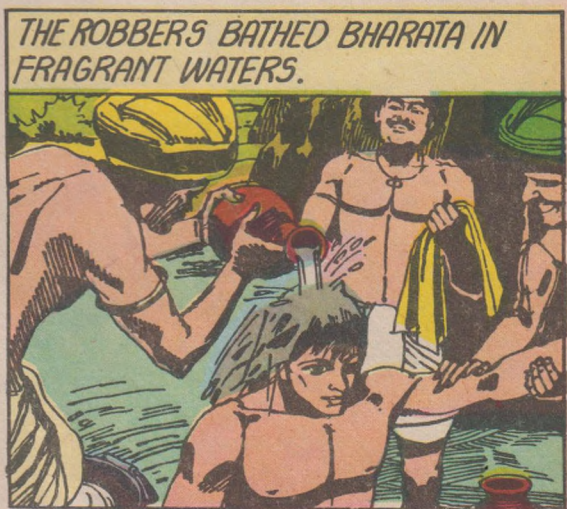


THE CHIEF WAS INDEED PLEASED.

O WHAT A FINE LOOKING FELLOW FOR THE SACRIFICE!



THE GODDESS IS BOUND TO GRANT ME THE BOON OF A SON AFTER SHE GETS SUCH A WONDERFUL OFFERING!



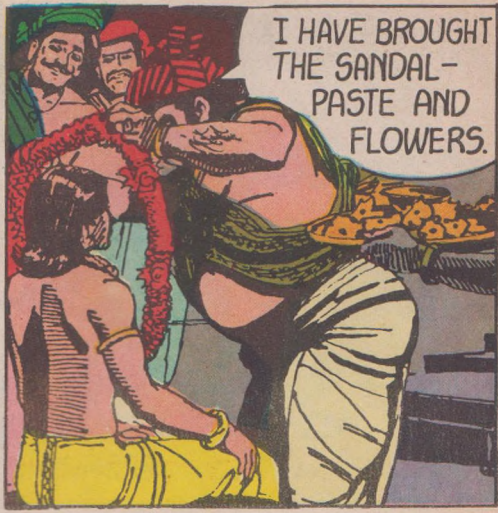
THE ROBBERS BATHED BHARATA IN FRAGRANT WATERS.



BRING THE NEW CLOTHES!



HERE ARE THE ORNAMENTS, O CHIEF!

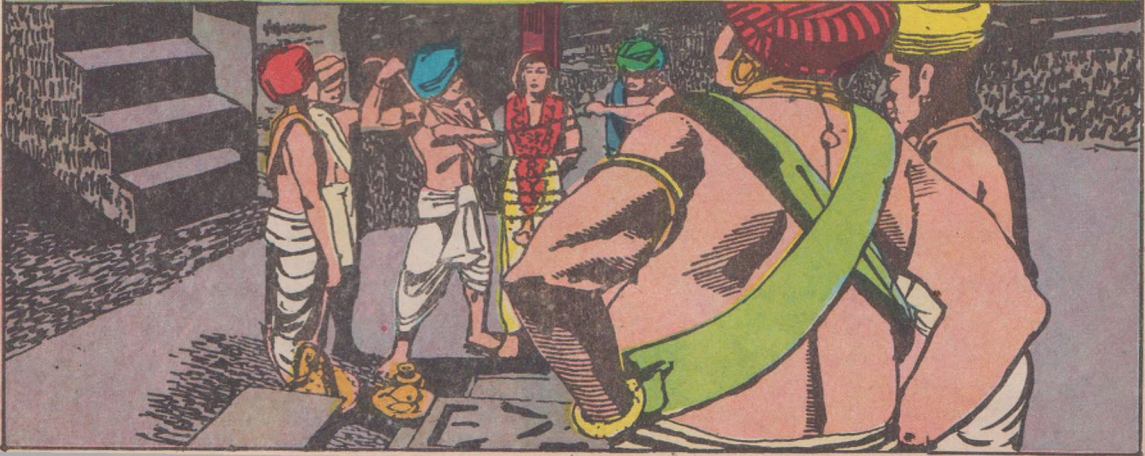


I HAVE BROUGHT THE SANDAL-PASTE AND FLOWERS.

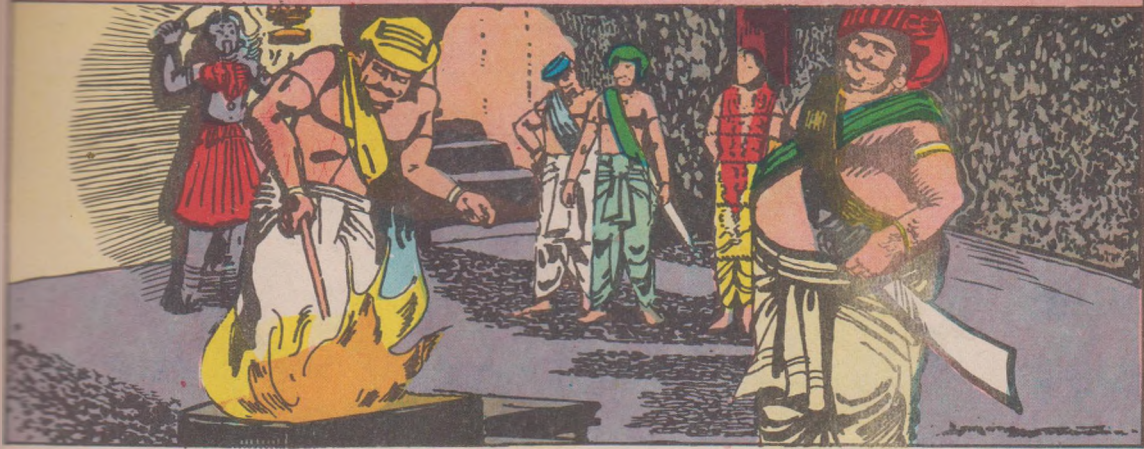


EAT YOUR FILL, GOOD MAN. IT MAY BE YOUR LAST MEAL! HA! HA!

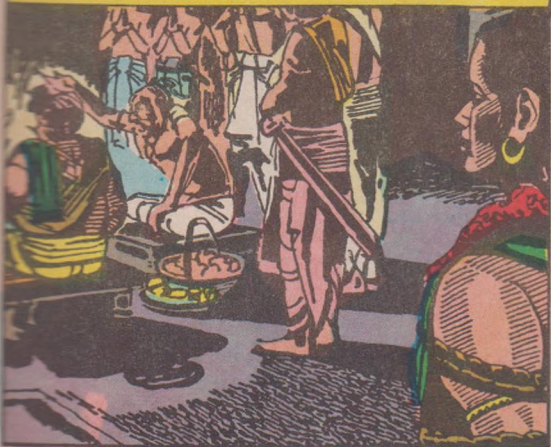
THEN THEY TOOK HIM AND TIED HIM TO THE POST.



THE SACRIFICIAL FIRES WERE LIT...



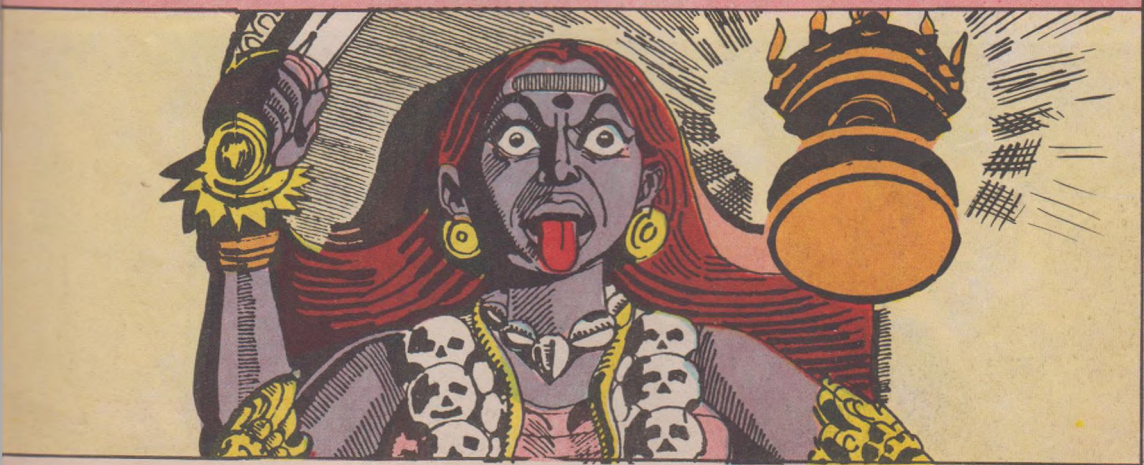
...AND MANTRAS WERE BEING CHANTED.



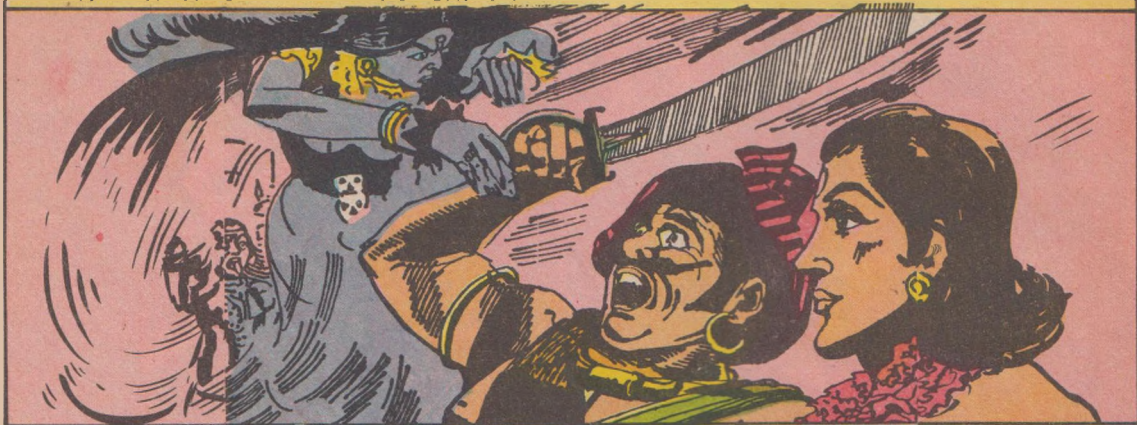
THE CHIEFTAIN THEN RAISED HIS SWORD TO CHOP OFF BHARATA'S HEAD.



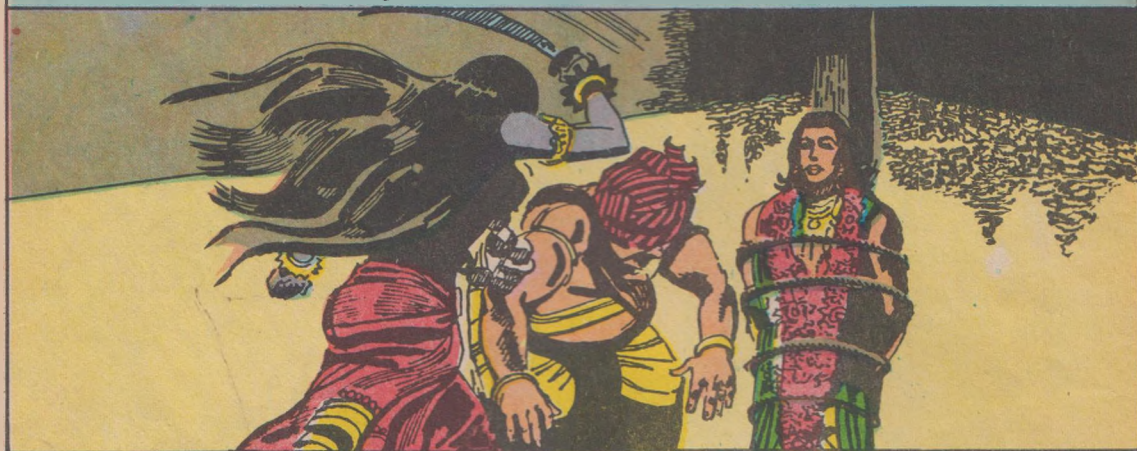
BUT THE GODDESS COULD BEAR THIS NO LONGER.



SHE EMERGED FROM HER STATUE IN A GREAT FURY AND SNATCHED THE WEAPON FROM THE CHIEF.



TREMBLING WITH RAGE, SHE CHOPPED OFF HIS HEAD!



AND THE HEADS OF HIS KINSMEN, TOO, ROLLED ONE BY ONE.



THEN SHE UNTIED BHARATA FROM THE POST AND SET HIM FREE.



BUT HIS MIND WAS SO ABSORBED IN THE LORD...

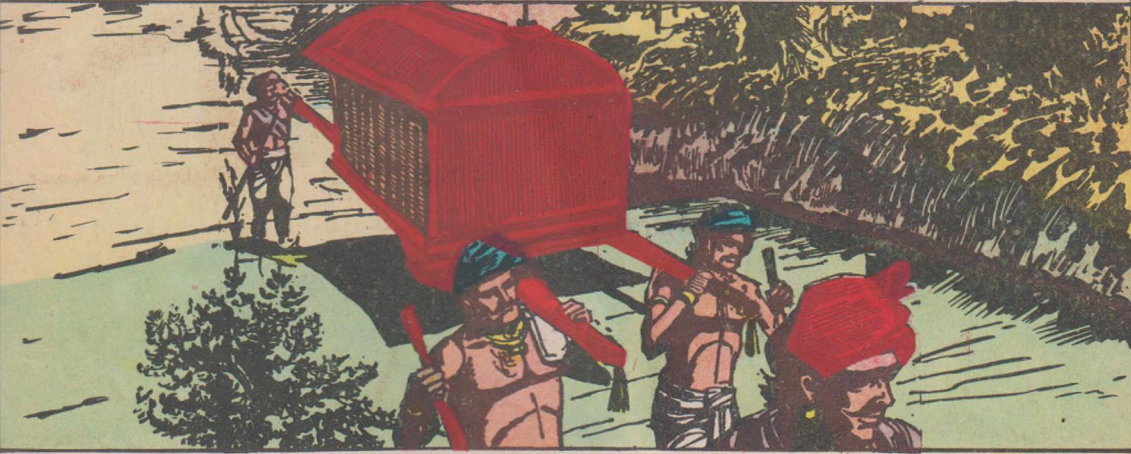


...THAT HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT A TERRIBLE FATE HE HAD BEEN SAVED FROM!

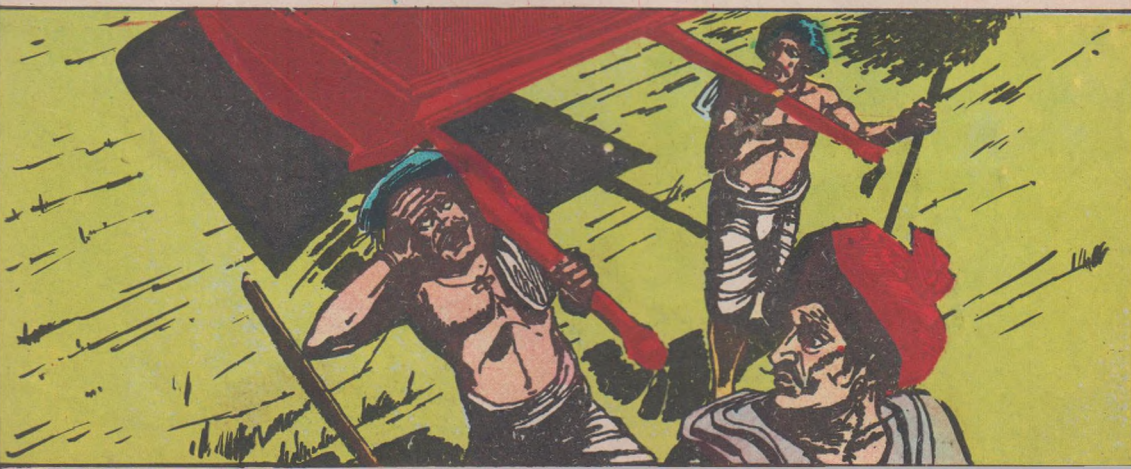
ONE DAY, WHEN BHARATA WAS SITTING LOST IN CONTEMPLATION...



...THE PALANQUIN OF KING RAHUGUNA PASSED BY.



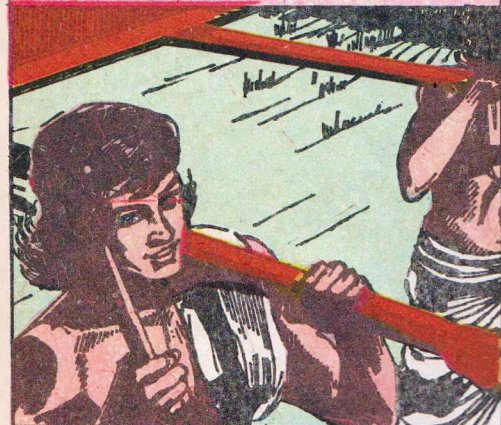
SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE PALANQUIN BEARERS FAINTED.





HEY YOU!
COME HERE
AND HELP US. YOU
LOOK VERY STRONG
AND HEALTHY.

THEY FORCED BHARATA TO
SHOULDER THE PALAQUIN.



BUT HIS STEP WAS UNSTEADY.



HE WALKED SLOWLY, JUMPING AND JERKING...



I MUST NOT TREAD
ON ANY ANTS OR
BEETLES AND CAUSE
THEM PAIN.

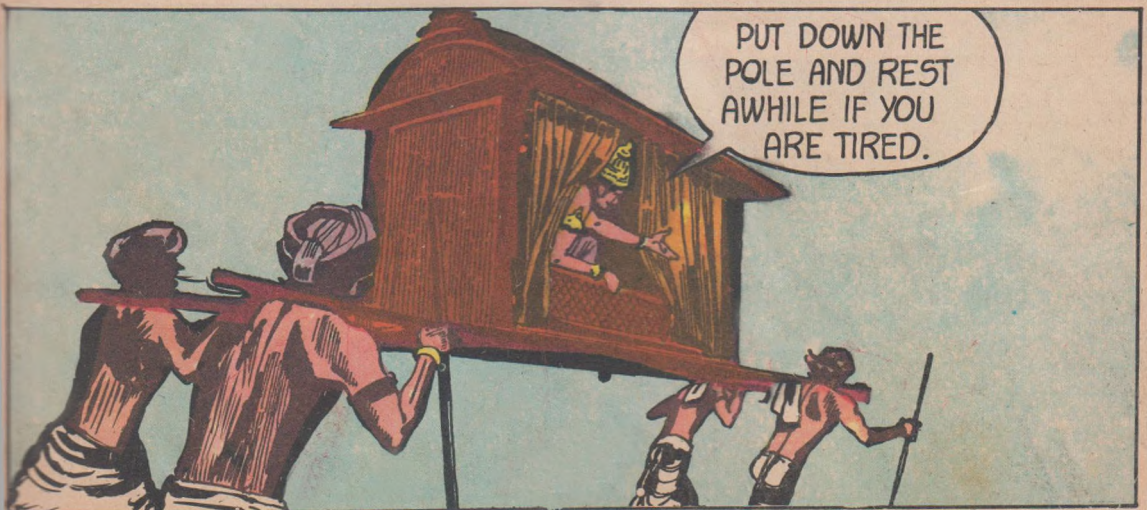
...AND SO THE PALANQUIN JURKED UNCOMFORTABLY.




THE KING PARTED THE CURTAIN.



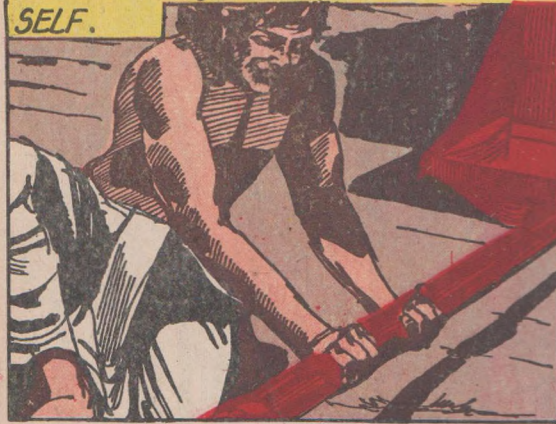
PUT DOWN THE
POLE AND REST
AWHILE IF YOU
ARE TIRED.





ALTHOUGH
YOU LOOK
AS STRONG
AS TWO
OXEN PUT
TOGETHER !


BHARATA THEN SET DOWN THE POLE HE
WAS CARRYING, SMILING, AS THOUGHT TO HIM-
SELF.




AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, HE
SPOKE.



HE SMILED AND CONTINUED—



DO YOU
TALK OF
THIS
BODY ?



IF SO, IT IS
MADE OF THE
SAME FLESH
AND BLOOD AS
YOURS.



WHO SHOULD
COMMAND, WHO
SHOULD OBEY? IN
FACT, THERE IS NO
MASTER, NO
SLAVE.



REALISE THIS TRUTH,
O KING, THAT YOU,
TOO, MAY COME TO
KNOW THIS SELF.



MY BODY WENT SLOW
FOR IT DID NOT WANT
TO TRAMPLE GOD'S LITTLE
CREATURES.



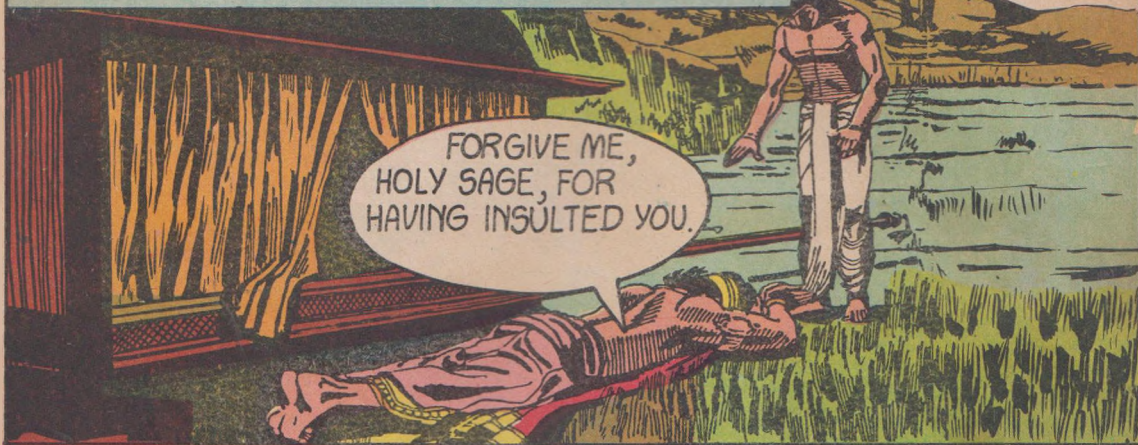
BUT THE SELF HAS
NOTHING TO DO WITH
IT. MY MIND IS EVER
ENGAGED IN THE
LORD'S
CONTEMPLATION.

KING RAHUGUNA WAS ASTONISHED TO HEAR BHARATA'S WORDS OF WISDOM.



HOW
WISELY HE
SPEAKS! WHO
COULD HE BE,
I WONDER?

HE CLIMBED OUT OF THE PALANQUIN AND PROSTRATED.



FORGIVE ME,
HOLY SAGE, FOR
HAVING INSULTED YOU.



I WISH TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT THIS
SELF. PLEASE ACCEPT
ME AS YOUR
DISCIPLE.

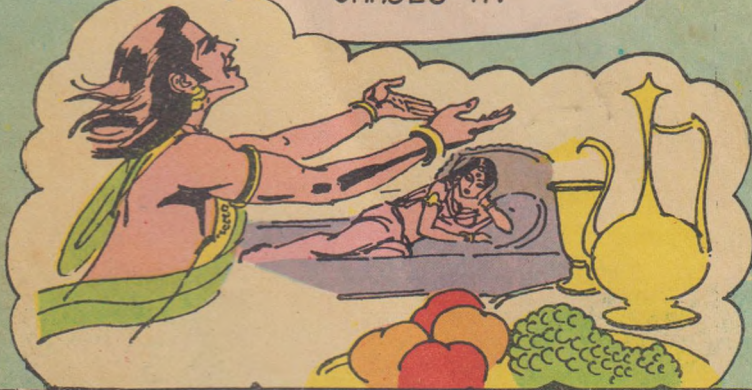
*BHARATA THEN SAT UNDER A TREE
WITH THE KING AT HIS FEET.*



THE WORLD IS LIKE
A THICK DARK JUNGLE
WHERE MAN HAS
LOST HIS WAY.



HUNGRY AND THIRSTY, HE SEES THE MIRAGE OF HAPPINESS AND CHASES IT.



CHASING ONE FLEETING HAPPINESS AFTER ANOTHER, HE GETS TIRED, NEVER FINDING TRUE PEACE.



THEN, A KINDLY FRIEND, THE TEACHER, LEADS HIM OUT OF THIS FOREST OF CONFUSION.



THE WORLDLY JUNGLE HAS
NO POWER TO GIVE HIM
EVERLASTING HAPPINESS
THEREFORE, O KING, YOU
SHOULD SEEK THE LORD.

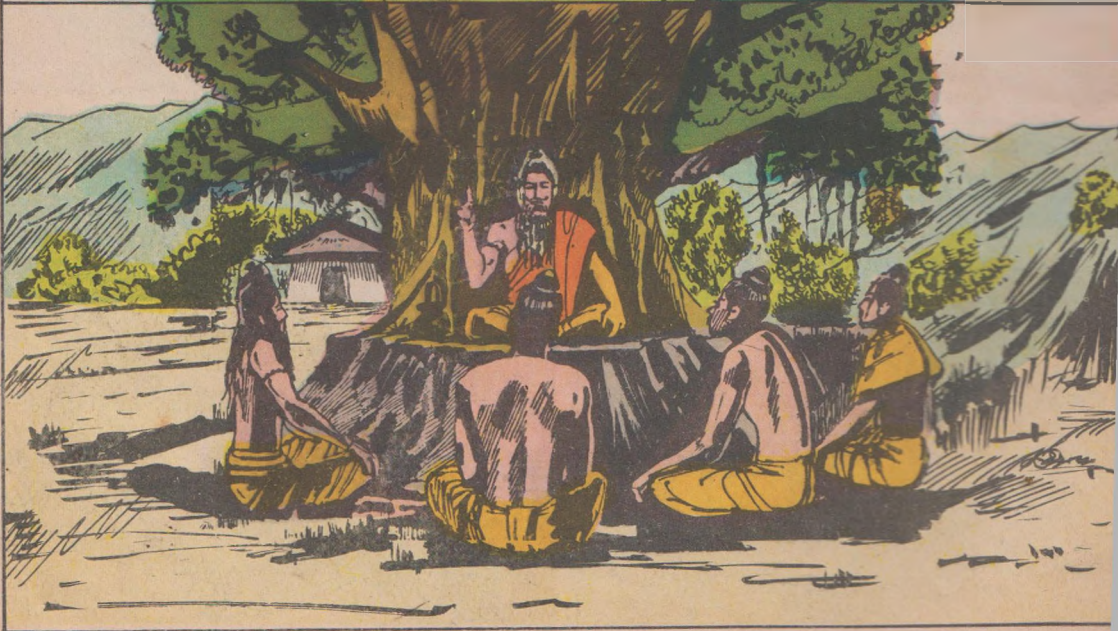


RAHUGUNA BENT HIS HEAD
TO HIS MASTER.

CUT YOUR BONDS
OF ATTACHMENT.
EMBRACE THE
WORLD IN YOUR
LOVE FOR HIM WHO
DWELLS IN THE
HEART OF ALL
BEINGS!



*SUCH WAS BHARATA'S INSTRUCTION TO KING RAHUGUNA.
RAHUGUNA FOLLOWED HIS MASTER AND JOINED THE RANKS
OF THE GREAT SAGES AND MEN OF WISDOM OF THIS COUNTRY!*



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