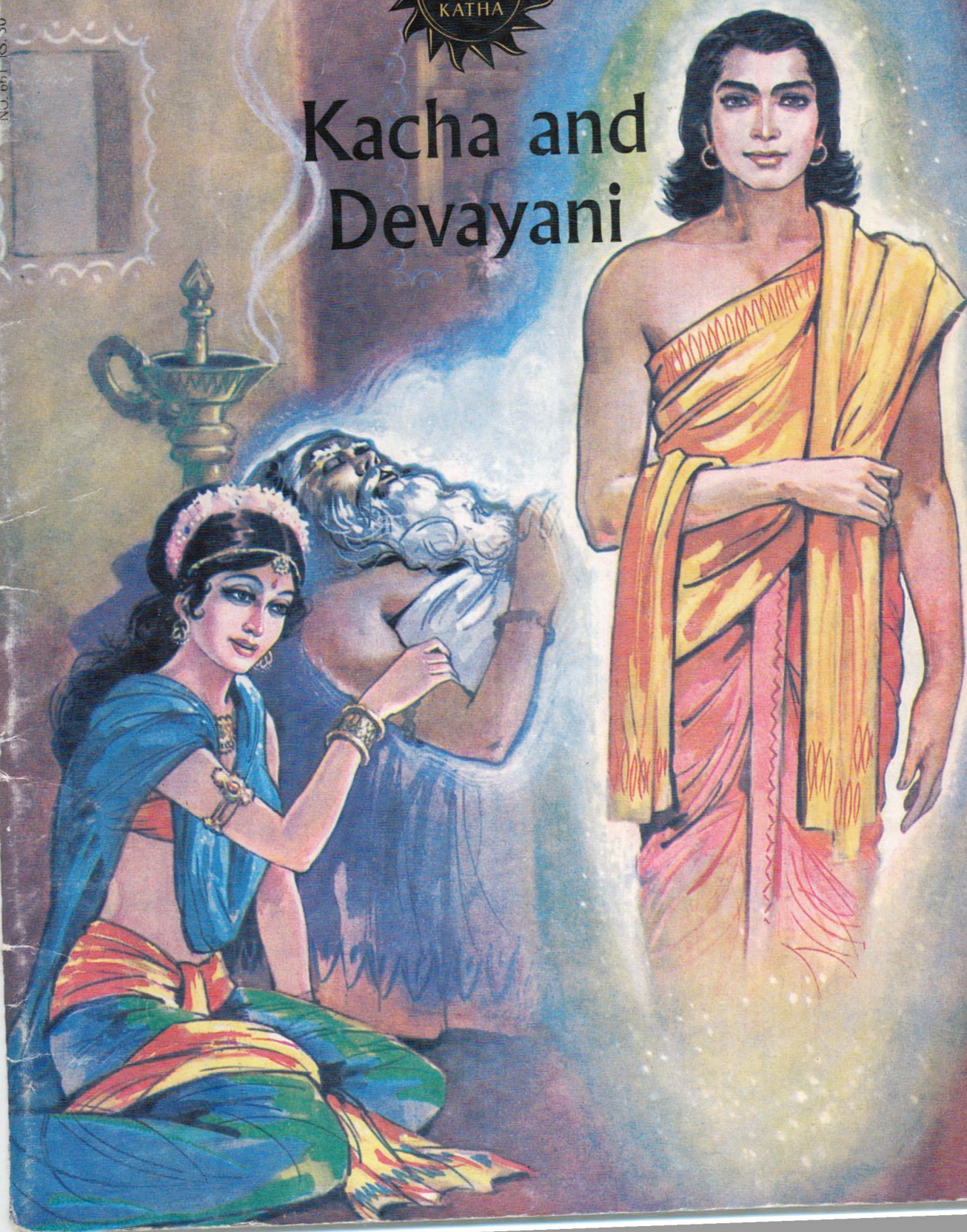




Kacha and Devayani

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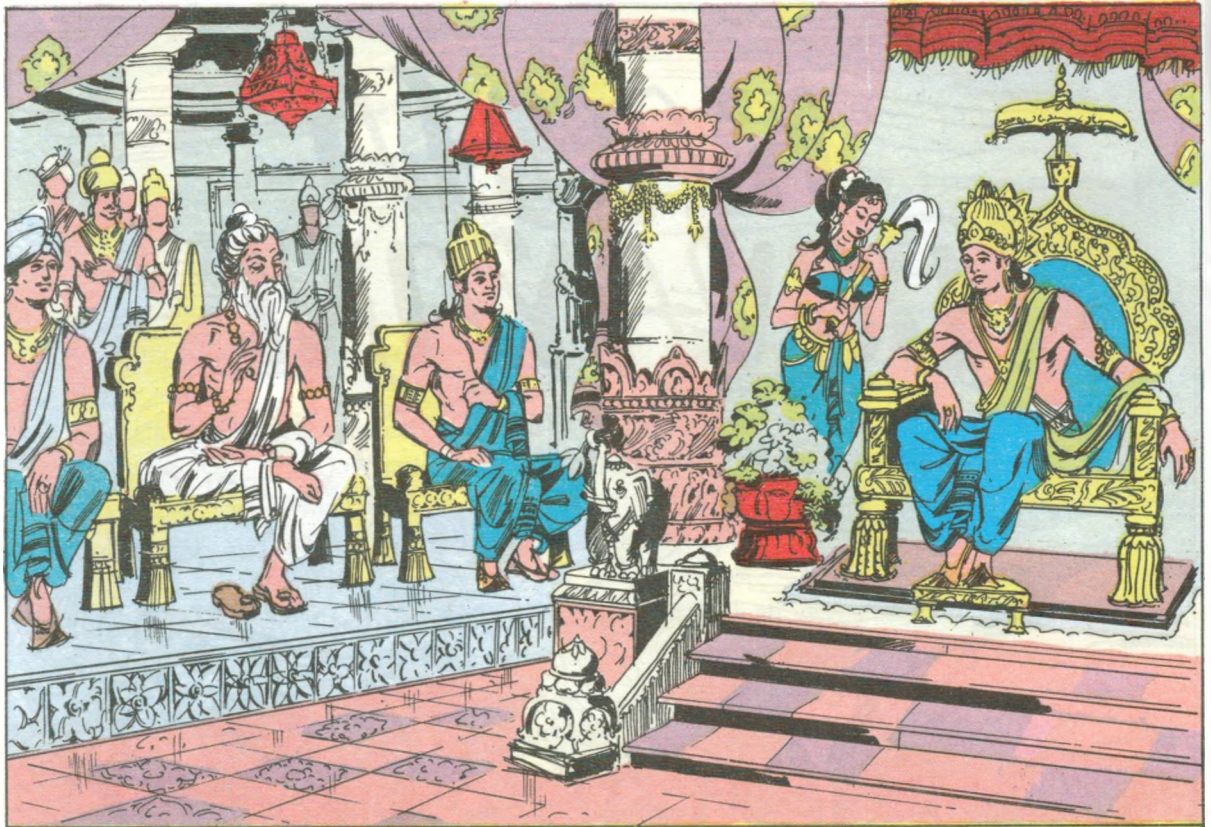
Mahalaxmi Chambers, 5th Floor, 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road, Mumbai 400 026, India.

© India Book House Pvt. Ltd. 1972 Reprinted: July 2005 ISBN: 81-7508-172-4
Printed at Tritop Art-n-Print, Unit No. 104, Anand Raj Industrial Estate,
1st floor, Sonapur Lane, Bhandup (West), Mumbai - 400 078.

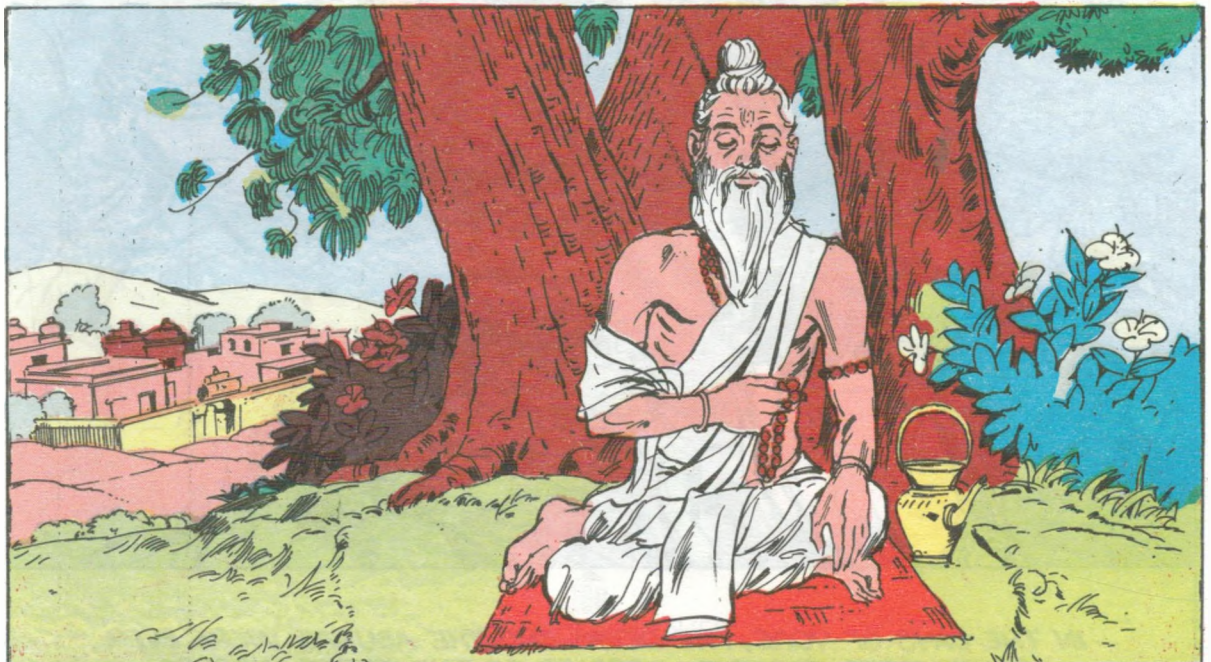
KACHHA DEVAYANI



IN THE DAYS OF YORE, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS WERE EVER
STRUGGLING FOR THE LORDSHIP OF THE THREE WORLDS.



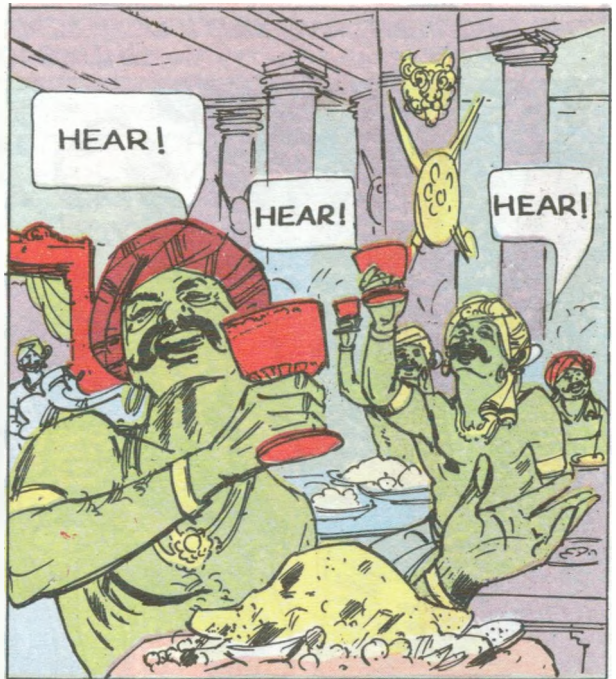
BOTH HAD WISE MEN TO GUIDE THEM. BRIHASPATI, THE SON OF SAGE ANGIRAS, LIVED IN THE ABODE OF INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.



AND SHUKRACHARYA THE FAVOURITE PUPIL OF SAGE ANGIRAS, LIVED IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF THE ASURA KING, VRISHAPARVA.

BUT OF THE TWO, SHUKRACHARYA
ALONE KNEW THE CRAFT OF
SANJIVANI, THE SECRET OF
REVIVING THE DEAD.

AS LONG AS
SHUKRACHARYA
IS WITH US,
OUR NUMBERS
SHALL NEVER
DECREASE.



FOR, THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN IN
BATTLE WERE SIMPLY BROUGHT
BACK TO LIFE, TO CONTINUE THE
WAR ON THE DEVAS.

THE VALIANT DEVAS, TIRED OF THE UNEQUAL STRUGGLE WENT TO
THE BRILLIANT, HANDSOME YOUTH, KACHA, THE SON OF BRIHASPATI.

YOU MUST GO TO
SHUKRACHARYA AND
LEARN THE CRAFT OF
SANJIVANI. ONLY THEN
CAN WE VANQUISH
OUR SWORN ENEMIES.



THE OBEDIENT AND DUTIFUL KACHA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT TO MEET SHUKRACHARYA.



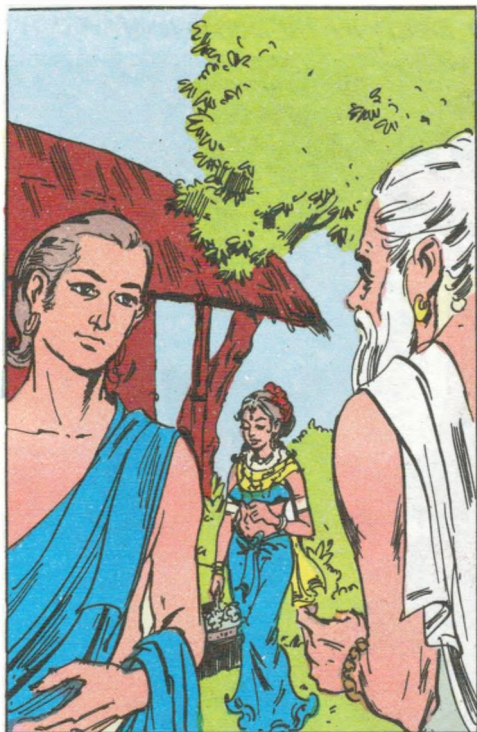
THERE HE HUMBLY PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE GREAT WISE ONE.



SHUKRACHARYA GAVE HIM A WARM WELCOME.

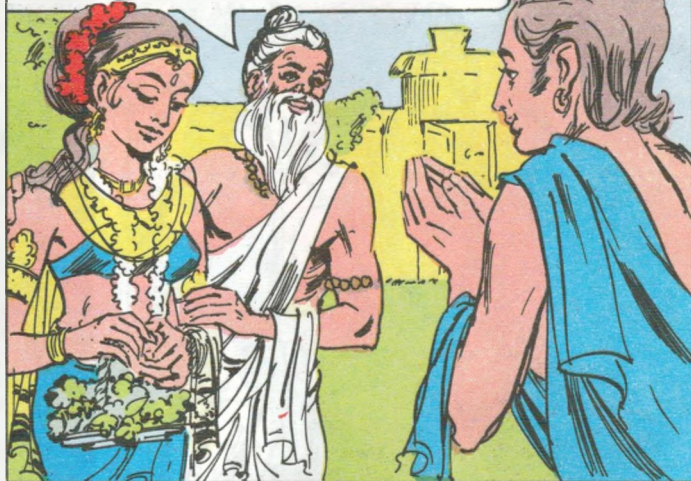
I ACCEPT YOU AS MY PUPIL, O WORTHY KACHA, SON OF LEARNED BRIHASPATI.



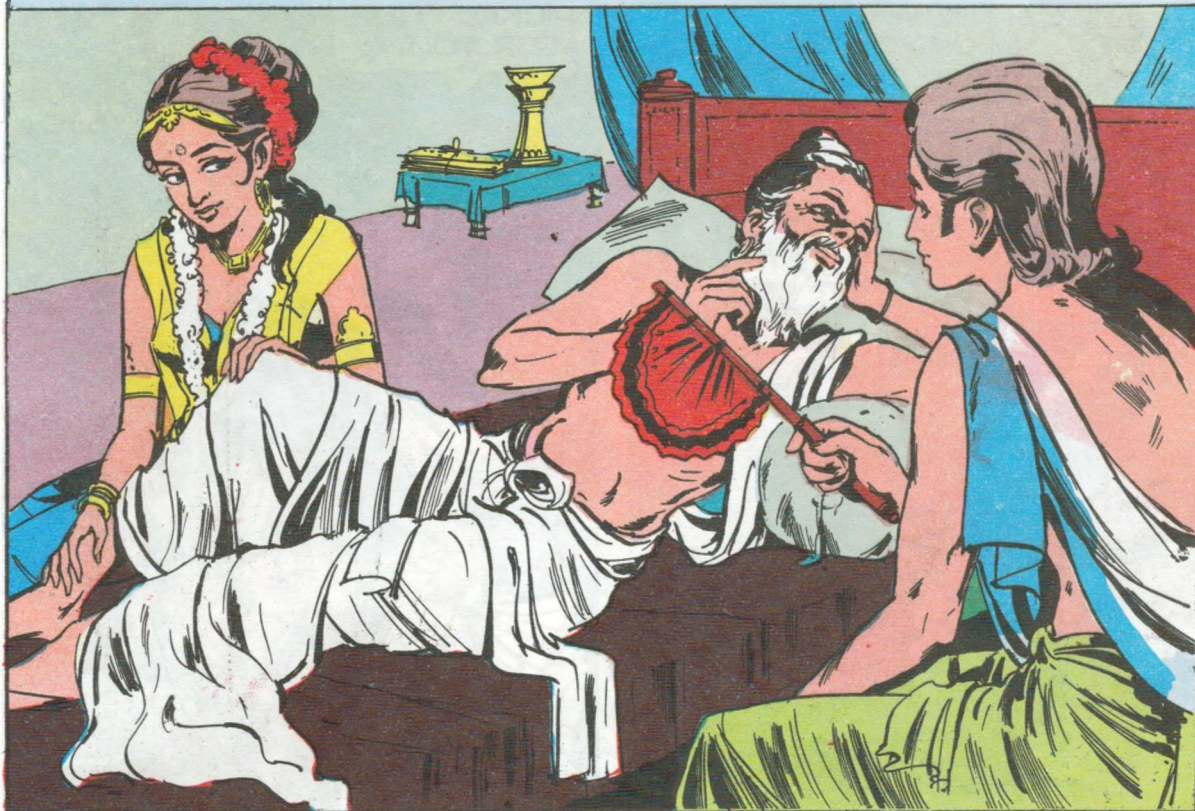


SHUKRACHARYA HAD A DAUGHTER,
DEVAYANI, WHOM HE LOVED DEARLY.

COME DEVAYANI, MY CHILD.
MEET THE WORTHY KACHA,
WHO HAS VOWED TO BE
MY PUPIL TILL THE PERIOD
OF HIS STUDIES IS OVER.



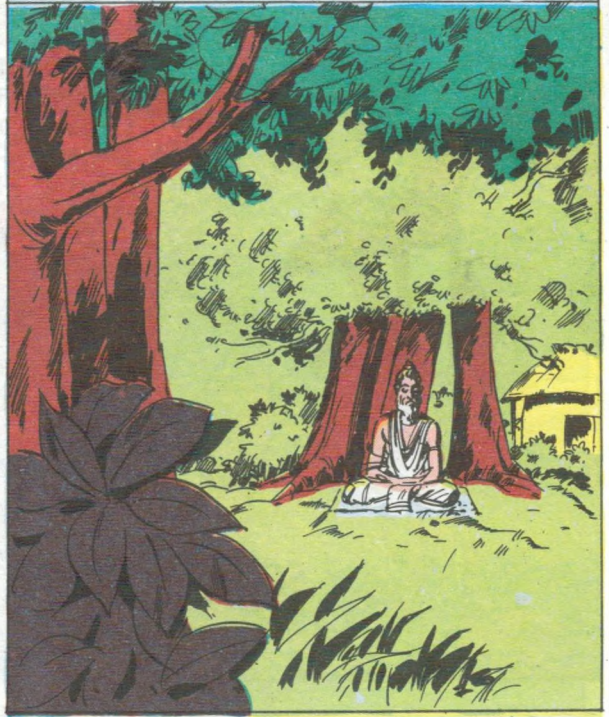
ALL LEARNING IN THOSE DAYS WAS HANDED DOWN BY WORD OF MOUTH.
THE PUPIL LIVED WITH HIS GURU'S FAMILY AS ONE OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.
IN RETURN FOR HIS EDUCATION, HE SERVED HIS GURU WITH LOVE AND
DEVOTION.



BUT MOST OF THE DAY
SHUKRACHARYA WAS EITHER BUSY
AT COURT...



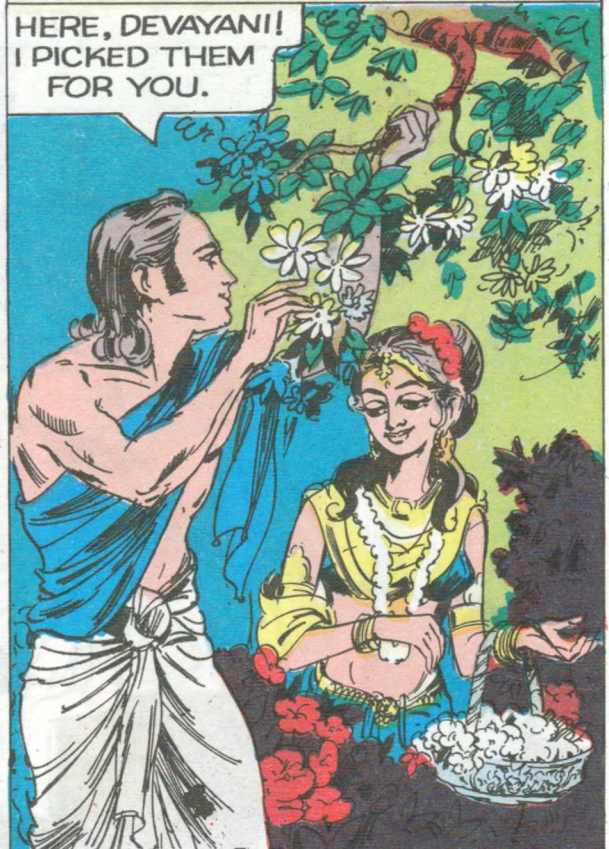
...OR DEEP IN MEDITATION.



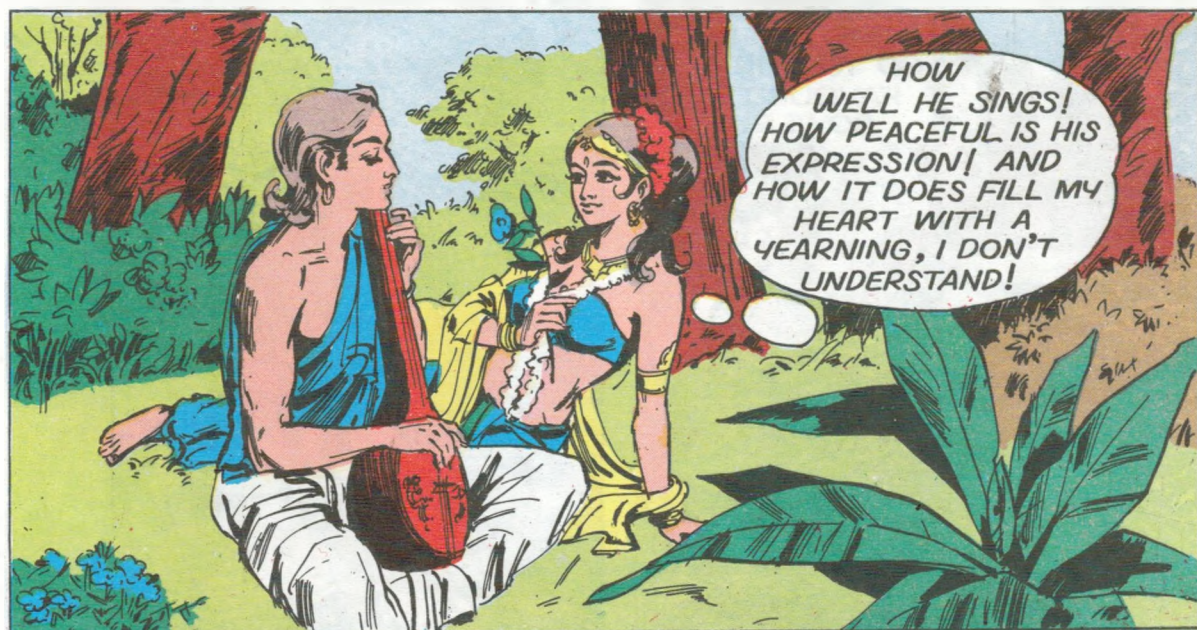
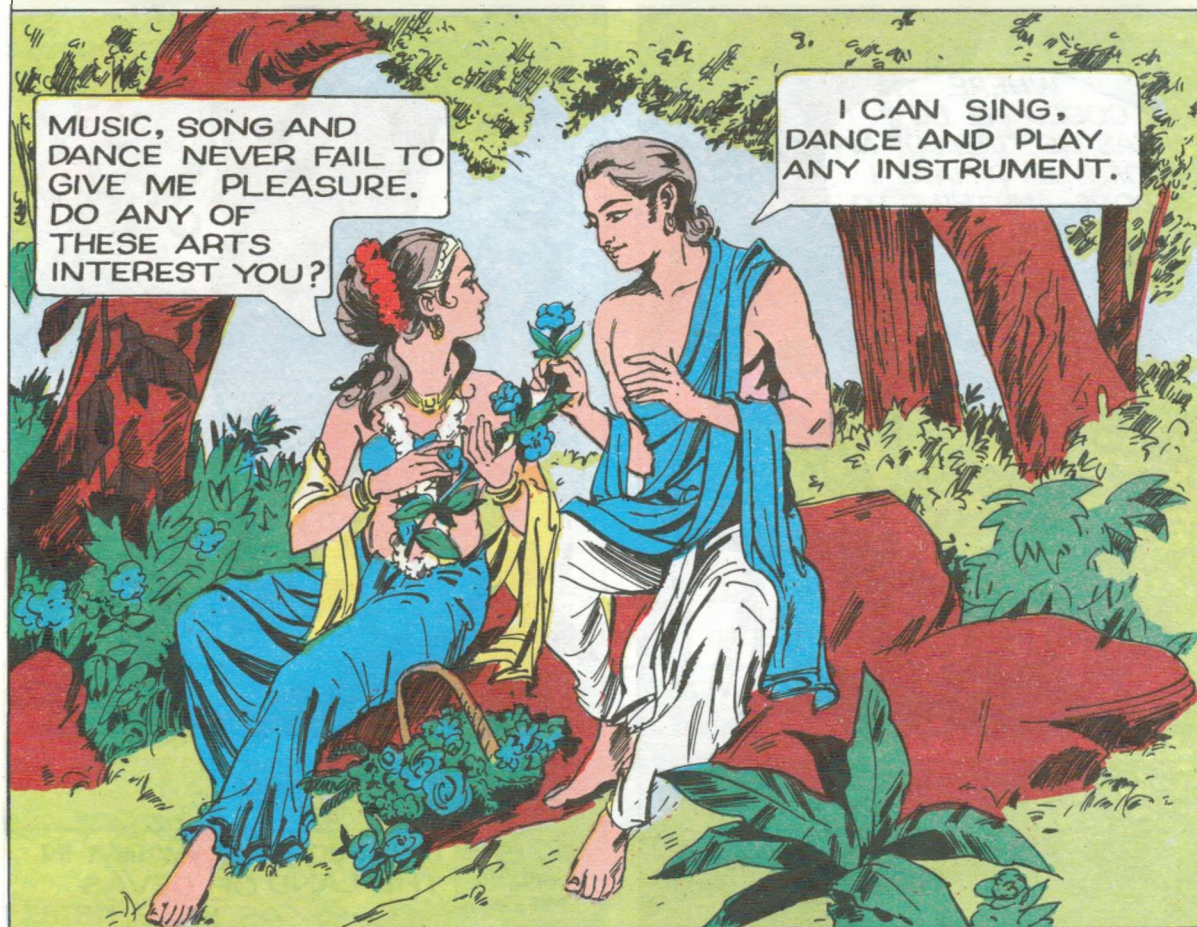
SO KACHA HELPED DEVAYANI
WITH HER DAILY CHORES.



AND TENDERLY FULFILLED HER
SLIGHTEST WISH.

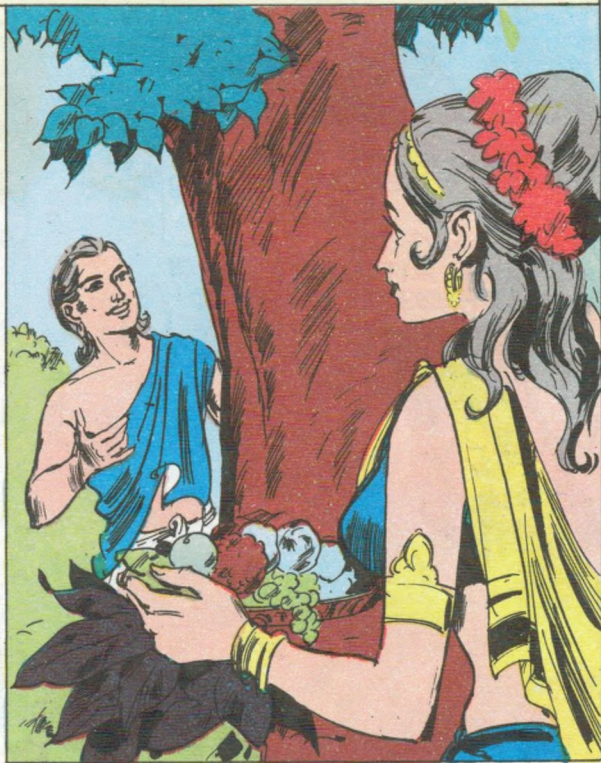


WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF HIS ARRIVAL, KACHA FOUND HIMSELF SPENDING ALL HIS LEISURE HOURS IN THE COMPANY OF THE LIVELY DEVAYANI.



AND KACHA WON HIS WAY INTO DEVAYANI'S HEART.

ONCE TO TEASE HER, KACHA HID HIMSELF AMONG THE TREES.

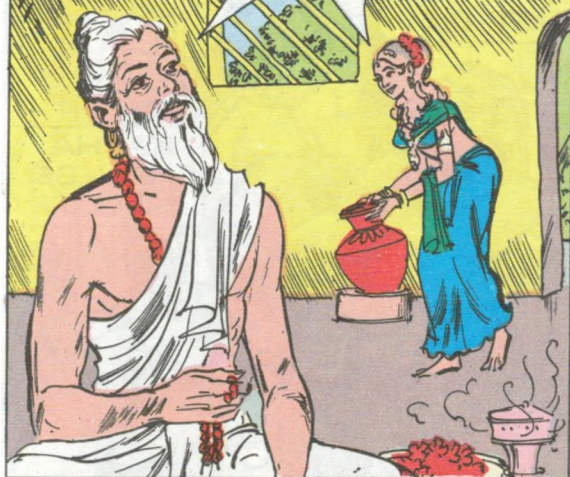


BUT DEVAYANI COULD NOT EVEN
PRETEND TO BE ANGRY FOR LONG.



WHERE IS
KACHA?
IT IS TIME...

I SHALL
CALL HIM.
HE IS WITH
THE CATTLE



AND SO KACHA LIVED AND LEARNED
IN THE HOME OF HIS GURU.



BUT AS THE YEARS PASSED, THE ASURAS BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF KACHA.

IT IS STRANGE! WHY SHOULD
THE SON OF THE LEARNED
BRIHASPATI COME TO OUR
CITY AND CHOOSE SHUKRA-
CHARYA FOR HIS GURU?

I SENSE TREACHERY.
THE ONLY KNOWLEDGE
SHUKRACHARYA HAS,
THAT KACHA'S FATHER
HAS NOT, IS THE SECRET
CRAFT OF SANJIVANI.



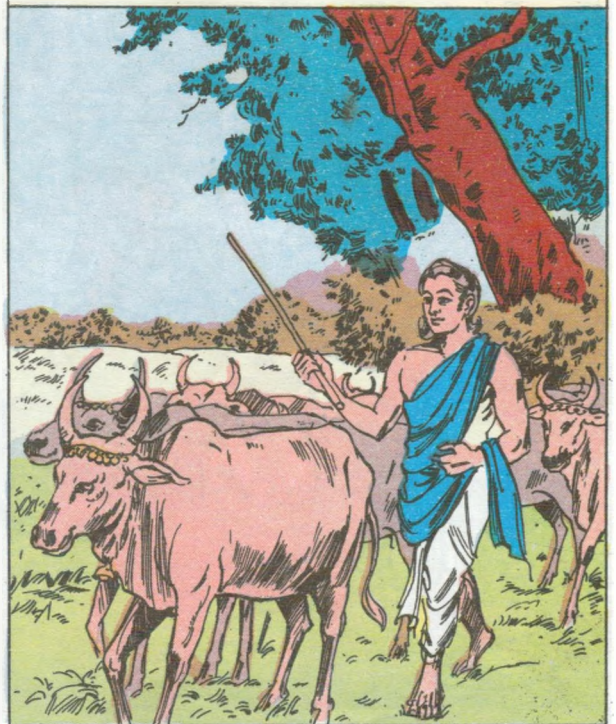
ALL THE ASURAS ROSE AS ONE ROARING ANGRILY.



WAIT! PATIENCE!
WE SHALL HAVE
TO DO THIS IN
SECRECY. A GURU
WILL NOT LET
HIS PUPIL BE
SLAIN.



THE ASURAS WAITED, BUT
IMPATIENTLY. THEN ONE DAY...



THE ASURAS FELL UPON HIM AND SLEW HIM.



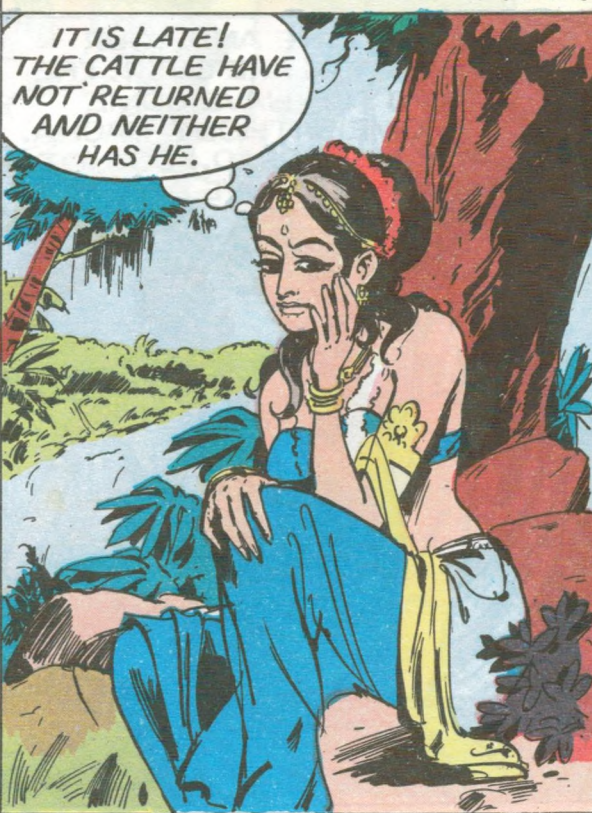
THEY CUT HIM INTO PIECES.



AND FED HIS FLESH TO THEIR DOGS.



AS USUAL DEVAYANI WAITED FOR HIM.



IT IS LATE!
THE CATTLE HAVE
NOT RETURNED
AND NEITHER
HAS HE.



THERE THEY COME!
BUT WHY DO THEY
RETURN WITHOUT KACHA?
A NAMELESS FEAR
GRIPS ME.



IT IS LATE AND YOUR
PRAYERS ARE OVER. THE
CATTLE HAVE COME
HOME WITHOUT KACHA.
IF HE IS DEAD, I DO NOT
WANT TO LIVE ANY MORE

DO NOT WEEP, MY CHILD. WILL
NOT YOUR FATHER, WHO HAS
REVIVED COUNTLESS ASURA
WARRIORS, USE HIS SECRET
FOR HIS OWN DAUGHTER'S
HAPPINESS?



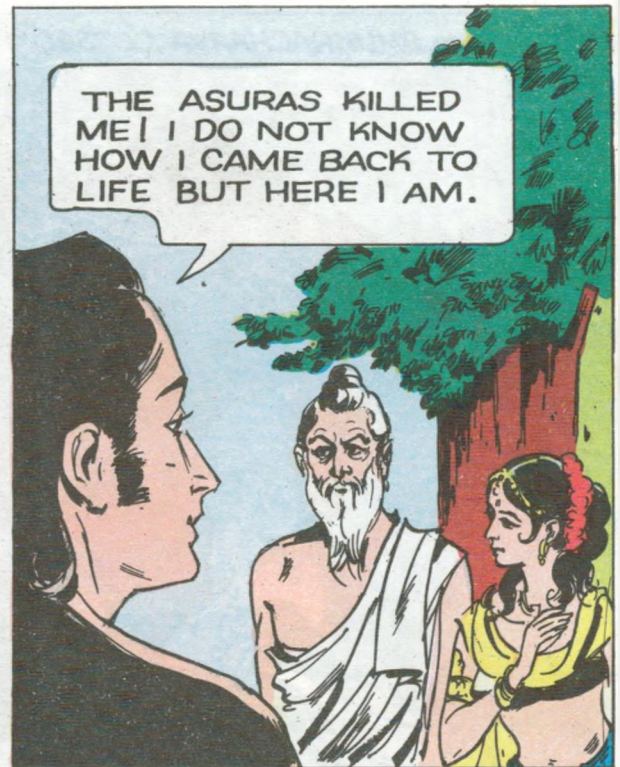
SHUKRACHARYA CLOSED HIS EYES AND LO!



KACHA STOOD BEFORE DEVAYANI.



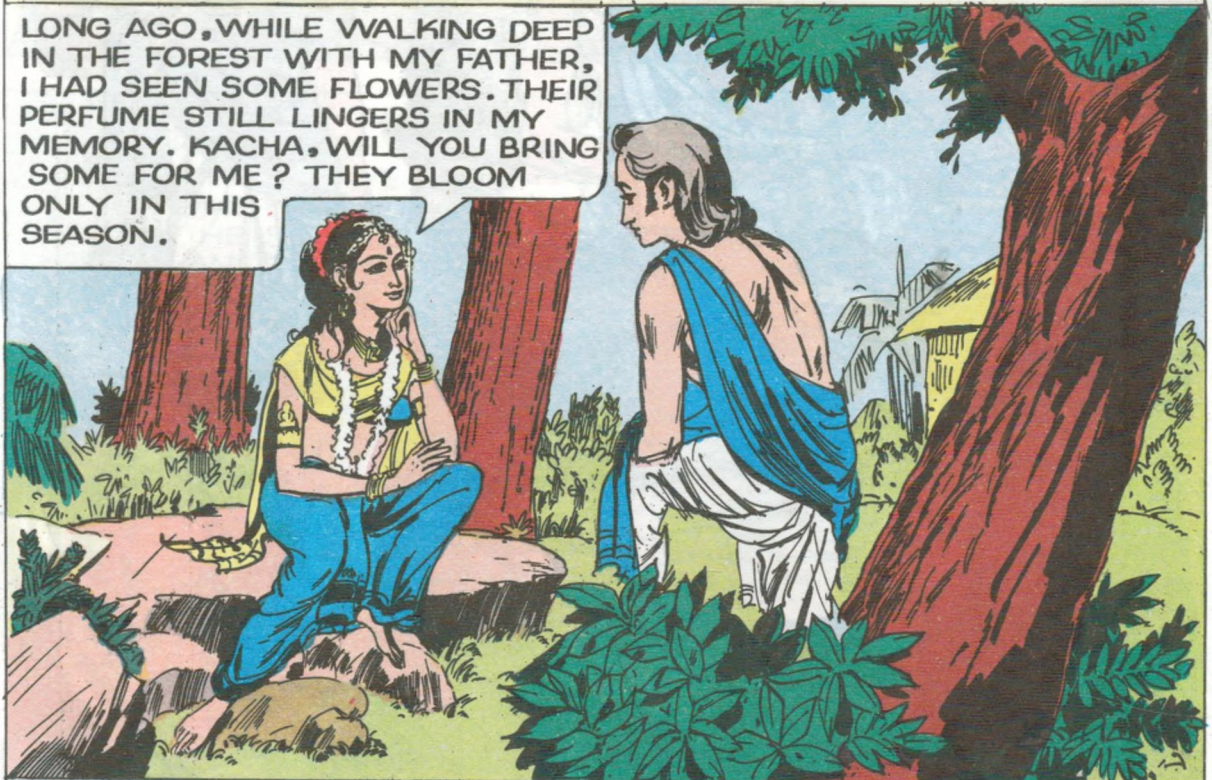
WHERE DID YOU
VANISH? WHY
DID YOU TEASE
ME SO?



THE ASURAS KILLED
ME! I DO NOT KNOW
HOW I CAME BACK TO
LIFE BUT HERE I AM.

KACHA CONTINUED LIVING IN THE HOME OF HIS GURU. ONE DAY -

LONG AGO, WHILE WALKING DEEP
IN THE FOREST WITH MY FATHER,
I HAD SEEN SOME FLOWERS. THEIR
PERFUME STILL LINGERS IN MY
MEMORY. KACHA, WILL YOU BRING
SOME FOR ME? THEY BLOOM
ONLY IN THIS
SEASON.



KACHA COULD HARDLY REFUSE THE ENCHANTING DEVAYANI SUCH
A REQUEST.

SO HE WANDERED DEEP INTO THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF THE FLOWERS.
THE ASURAS WERE WAITING FOR JUST SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.



THEY WAYLAID HIM AND SLEW HIM.



THIS TIME THEY CARRIED HIS BODY
TO A LONELY SPOT. THERE -



WE SHALL POUND
HIS CARCASS INTO
PASTE AND DISSOLVE
IT IN THE WATERS
OF THE OCEAN.

HOURS LATER AT SHUKRACHARYA'S HOME -

KACHA IS AWAY
LONG ENOUGH TO
COLLECT FLOWERS
FOR TEN MAIDENS.
I WONDER WHAT
KEEPS HIM?

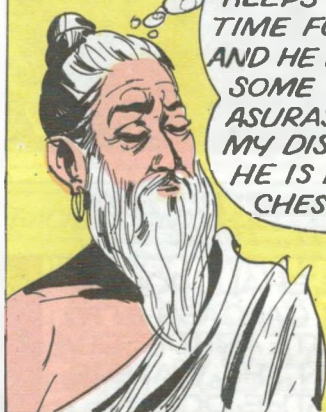


WHY SHOULD I WORRY?
I HAVE ONLY TO TELL
FATHER AND KACHA
WITH MY FLOWERS
WILL STAND BEFORE
ME.



MEANWHILE-

I WONDER WHAT
KEEPS KACHA. IT IS
TIME FOR HIS STUDIES.
AND HE IS PROMPT. FOR
SOME REASON THE
ASURAS WISH TO KILL
MY DISCIPLE. I FEAR
HE IS IN THEIR CLUT-
CHES ONCE AGAIN.



DEVAYANI APPROACHED SHUKRACHARYA
AND HIS SUSPICIONS WERE CONFIRMED.

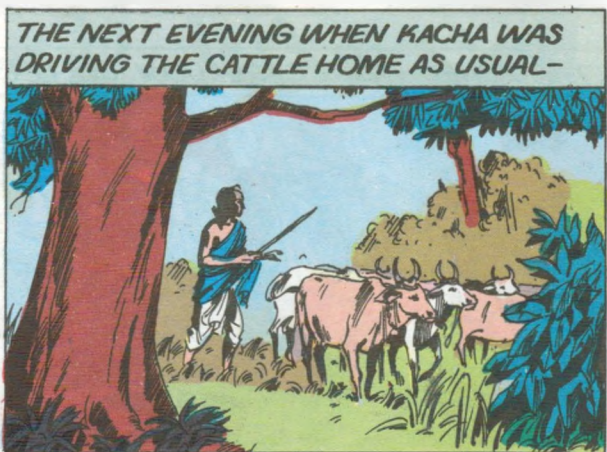
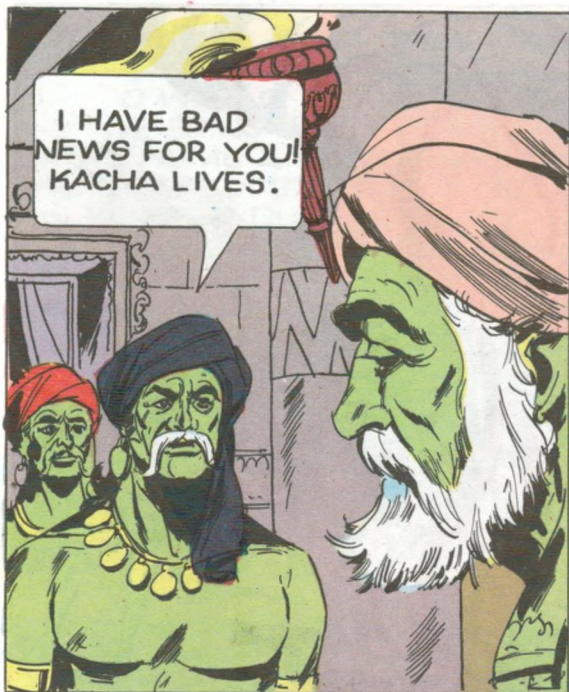
FATHER !

DO NOT BE
UPSET,
MY CHILD.



ONCE AGAIN HE USED HIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE TO RECALL KACHA.

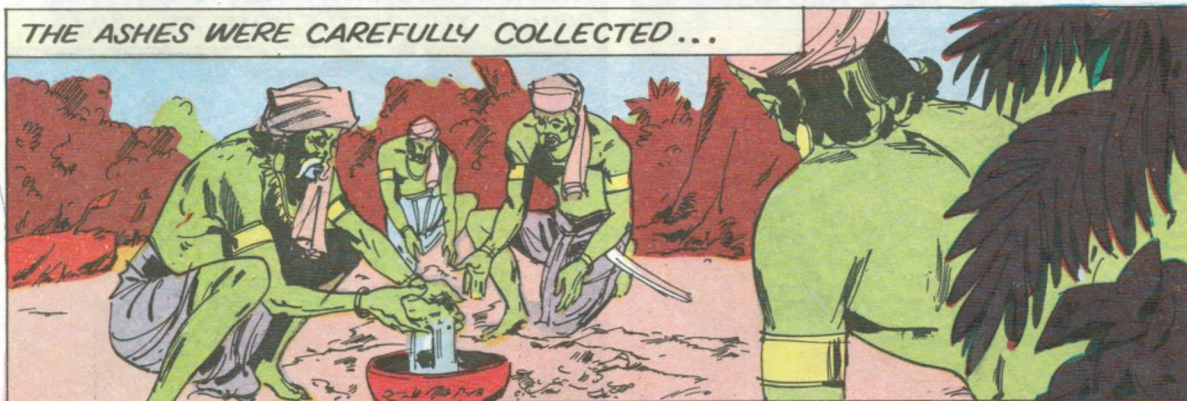




HIS BODY WAS CREMATED.



THE ASHES WERE CAREFULLY COLLECTED...

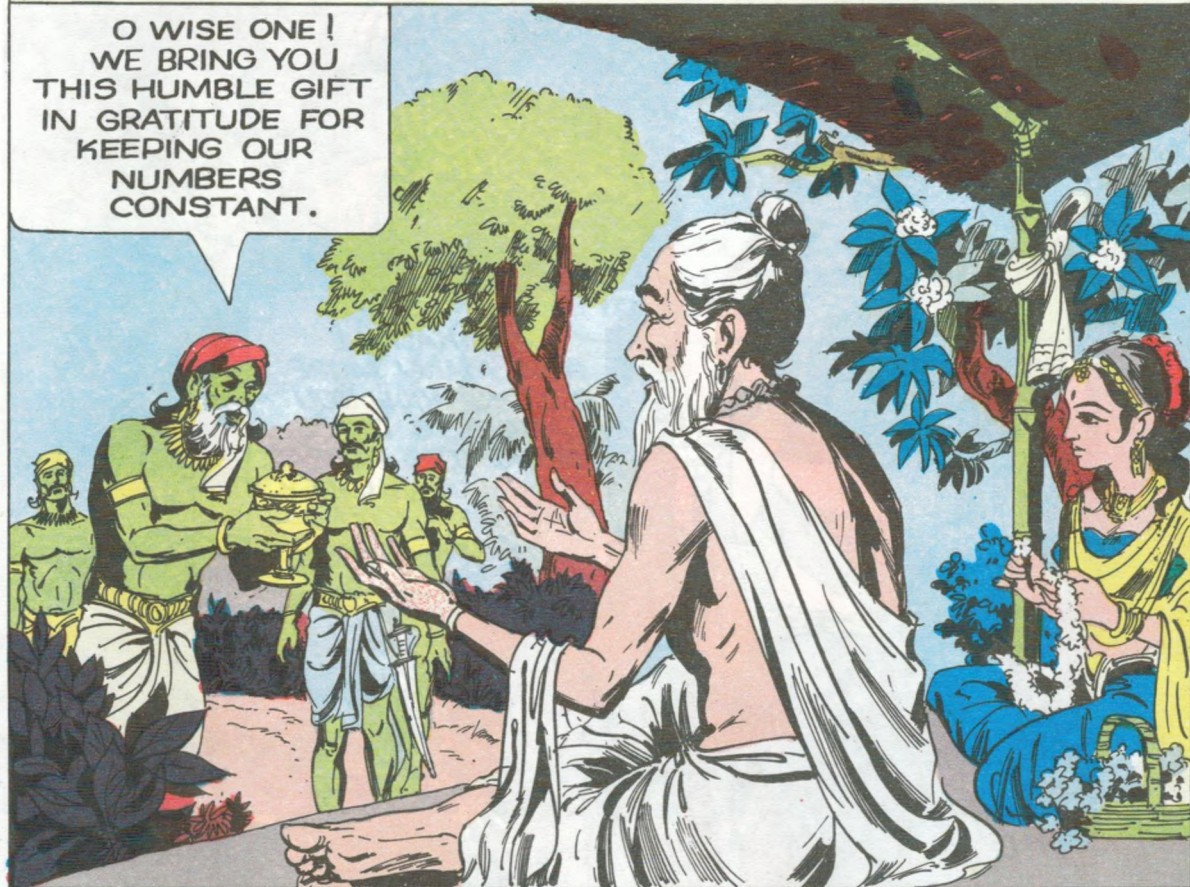


... AND MIXED INTO A GOBLET OF WINE.



THE GREYING ASURA THEN TOOK THE GOBLET OF WINE TO SHUKRACHARYA.

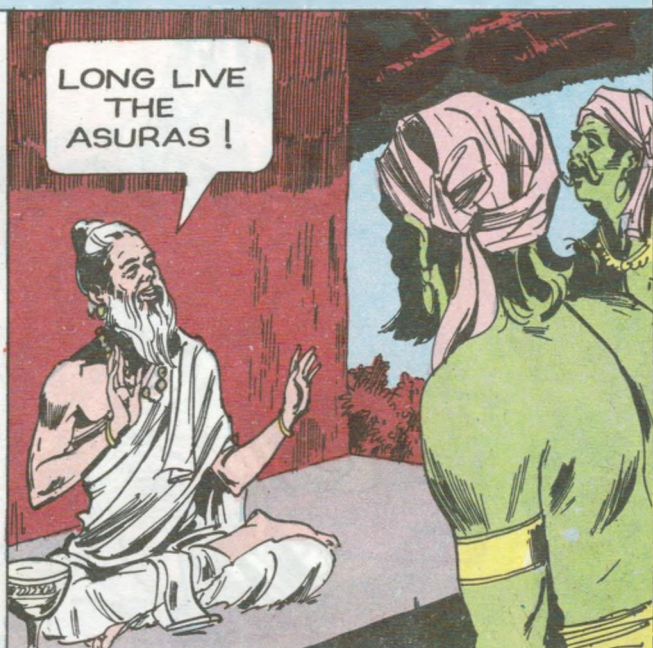
O WISE ONE !
WE BRING YOU
THIS HUMBLE GIFT
IN GRATITUDE FOR
KEEPING OUR
NUMBERS
CONSTANT.



IF SHUKRACHARYA HAD A WEAKNESS IT WAS FOR WINE. HE EMPTIED THE CONTENTS OF THE GOBLET IN ONE GULP.



LONG LIVE
THE
ASURAS !



DEVAYANI WAITED IN VAIN FOR KACHA.



THE CATTLE RETURNED HOME ONCE MORE WITHOUT KACHA.



SHUKRACHARYA KNEW THE FUTILITY OF RECALLING KACHA FROM THE DEAD.



WHAT GOOD WILL IT SERVE, IF I BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE ONCE MORE? THE ASURAS ARE BENT UPON KILLING HIM. A WISE SOUL LIKE YOU SHOULD NOT GRIEVE AT A LOVED ONE'S DEATH. YOU ARE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL AND YOU HAVE YOUR LIFE TO LIVE.

BUT DEVAYANI'S LOVE FOR KACHA KNEW NO REASONING.

KACHA WAS A GOOD PUPIL AND LOYAL TO US. I LOVED HIM DEARLY AND NOW THAT HE IS DEAD, I DO NOT WISH TO LIVE.



PLEASE, FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO EAT ANYTHING.



I CAN'T BEAR YOUR SORROW.

YET AGAIN SHUKRACHARYA USED HIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE AND
CALLED UPON KACHA TO COME BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.
KACHA CAME BACK TO LIFE...

THE ASURAS KILLED
ME BUT I DO NOT KNOW
HOW I HAPPEN TO
BE INSIDE
YOUR STOMACH.

...BUT INSIDE
SHUKRACHARYA'S STOMACH.



SHUKRACHARYA CURSED HIMSELF
FOR DRINKING WINE.

HENCEFORTH
WINE SHALL BE
FORBIDDEN FOR THOSE
ENGAGED IN THE
PURSUIT OF WISDOM.



SHUKRACHARYA, THE WISE ONE
WAS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A
DILEMMA.

KACHA CAN
COME OUT
ONLY BY
KILLING ME.

BUT FATHER, I
WILL NOT LIVE
IF EITHER OF
YOU DIES.

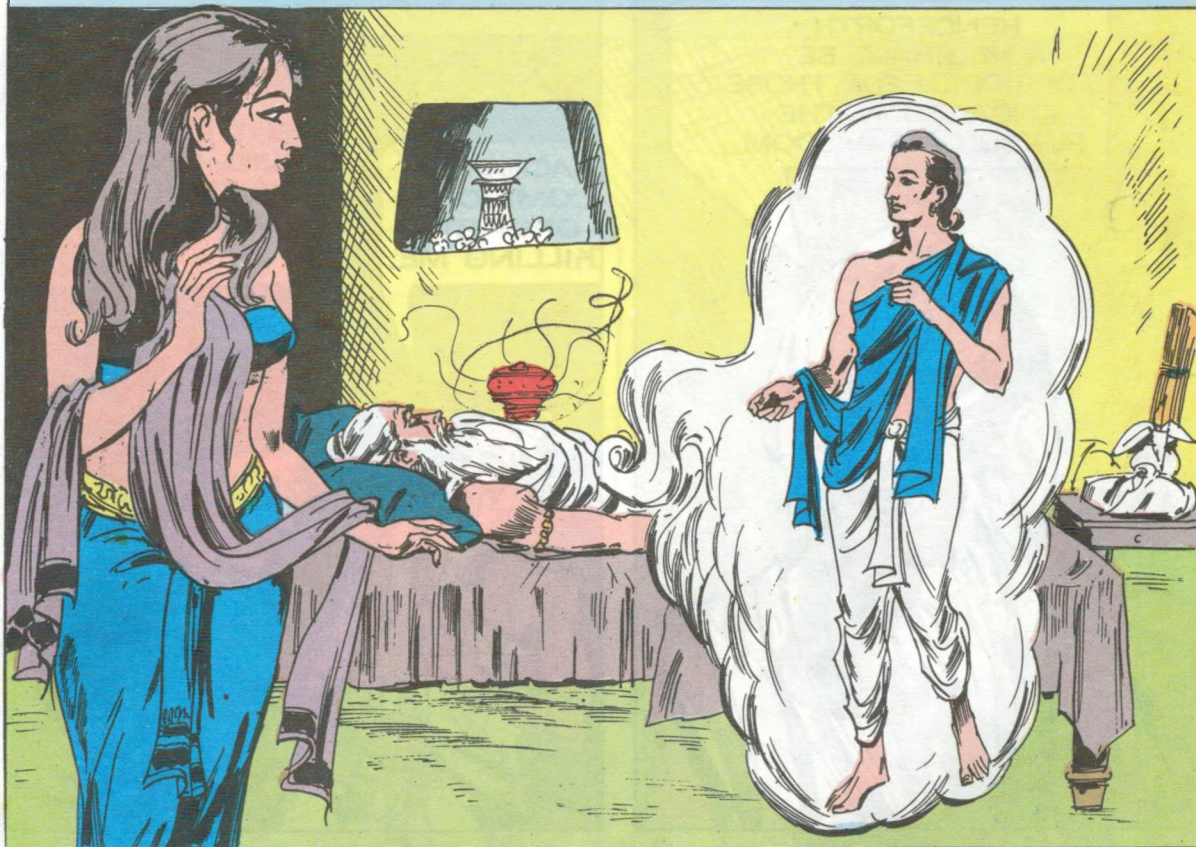


AS SHUKRACHARYA THOUGHT OF A WAY OUT, THE REAL PURPOSE OF KACHA'S
VISIT DAWNED UPON HIM.

I NOW SEE WHY YOU
CAME AND TRULY YOU
HAVE SUCCEEDED. THERE
IS ONLY ONE WAY BY
WHICH BOTH OF US
CAN SURVIVE TO
ENSURE DEVAYANI'S
HAPPINESS.
I WILL HAVE
TO TEACH YOU
THE CRAFT OF
SANJIVANI.



AND SO KACHA LEARNED THE CRAFT FOR WHICH HE HAD COME TO THE HOUSE OF SHUKRACHARYA IN THE CITY OF THE ASURAS AND EMERGED FROM SHUKRACHARYA'S MANGLED BODY.



HE IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT HIS GURU BACK TO LIFE.



SHUKRACHARYA COULD NOT HELP BEING PLEASED WITH HIS PUPIL'S WISDOM.

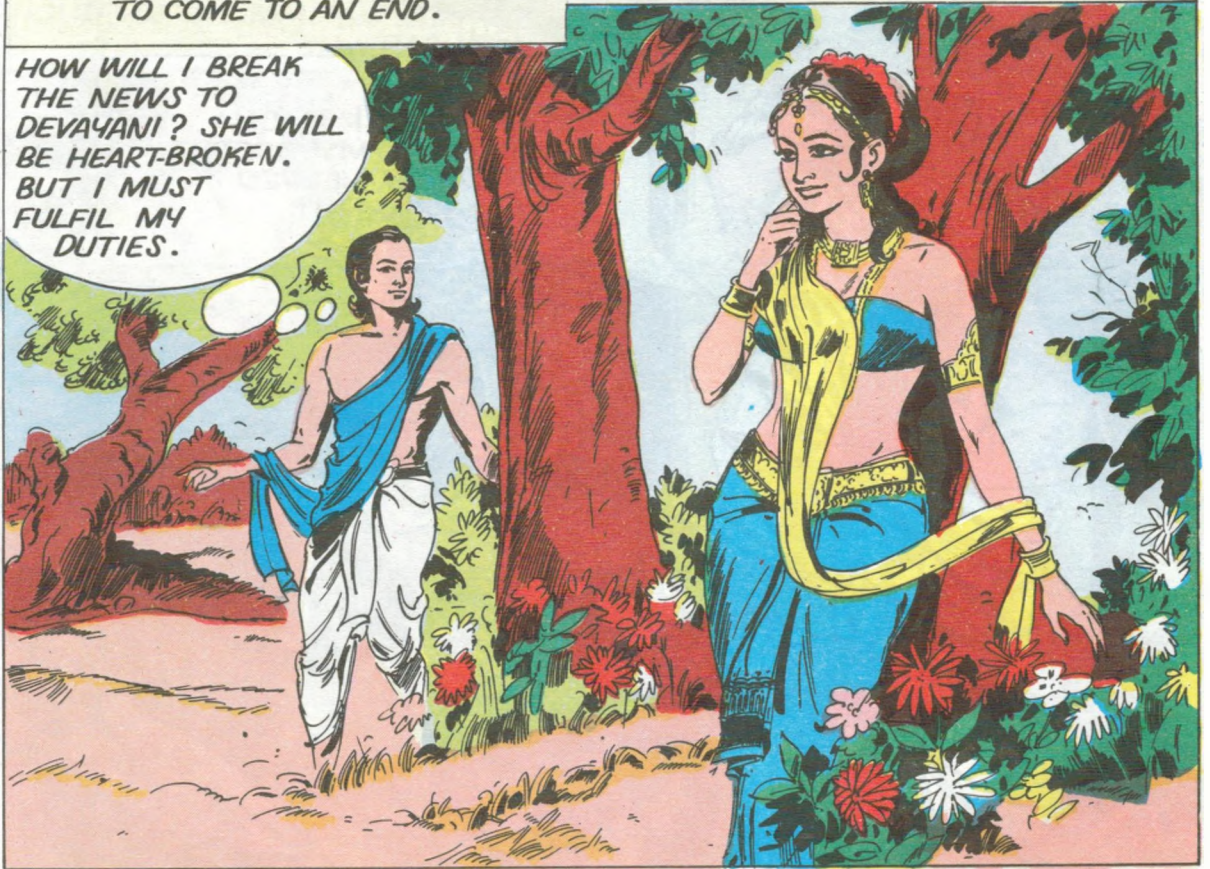
SHUKRACHARYA THEN WENT TO SEE THE ASURAS.





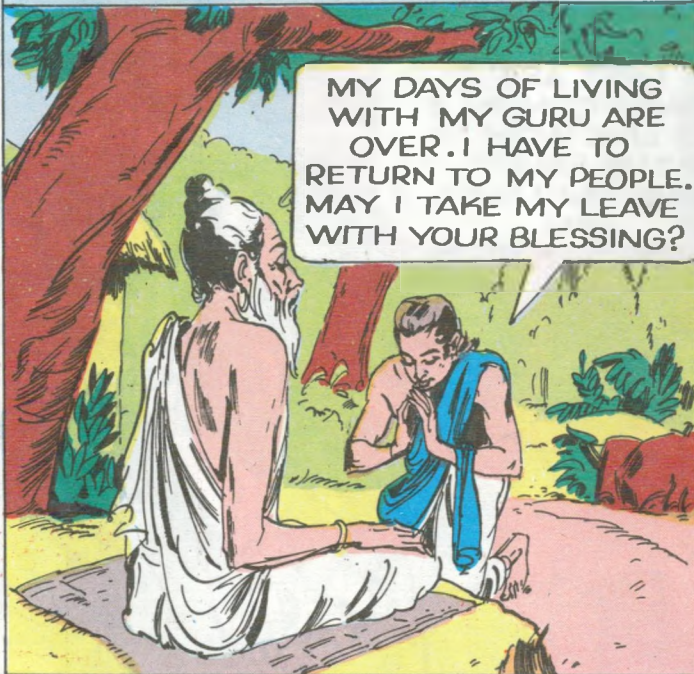
BUT KACHA WAS ONLY WAITING FOR THE FORMAL PERIOD OF HIS STUDIES TO COME TO AN END.

HOW WILL I BREAK THE NEWS TO DEVAYANI? SHE WILL BE HEART-BROKEN. BUT I MUST FULFIL MY DUTIES.



AT LAST THE DAY ARRIVED WHEN KACHA COULD LEAVE.

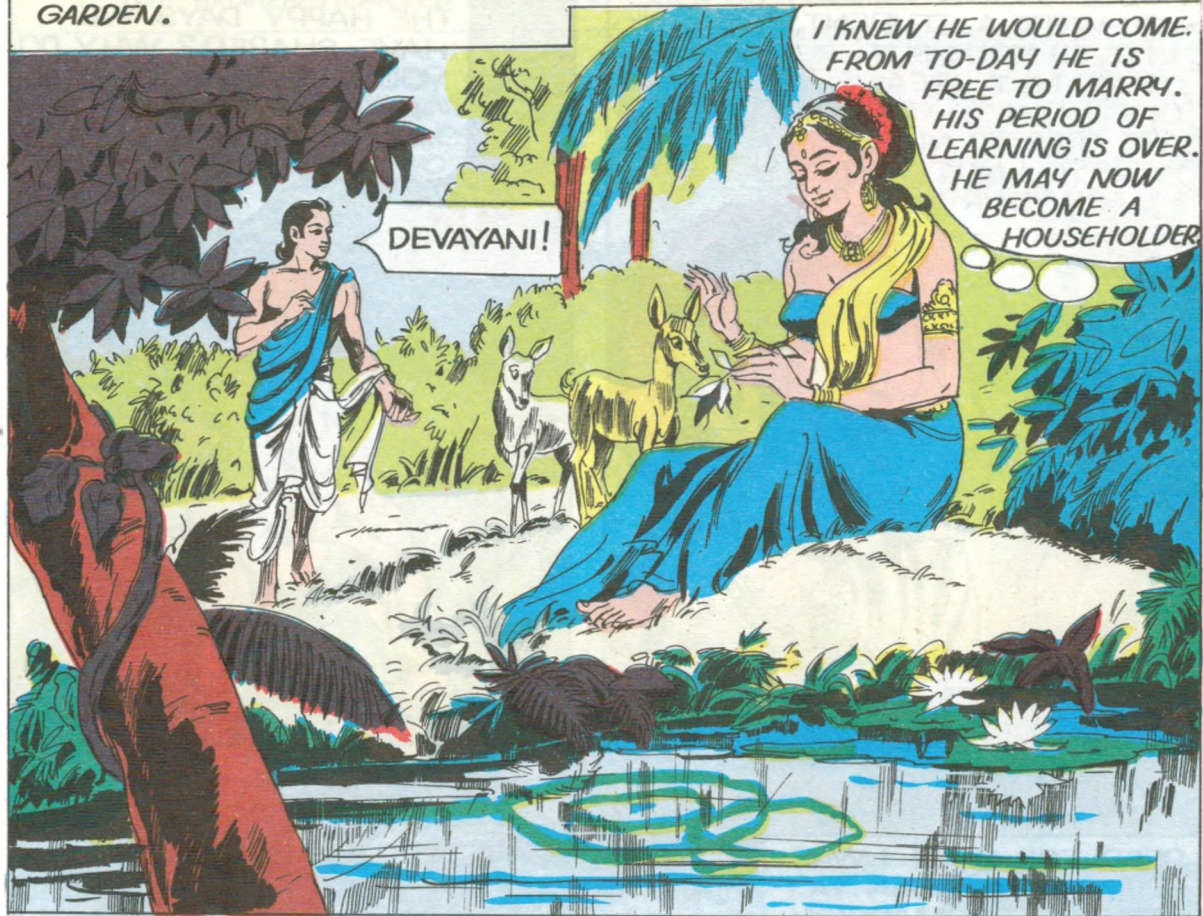
MY DAYS OF LIVING WITH MY GURU ARE OVER. I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY PEOPLE. MAY I TAKE MY LEAVE WITH YOUR BLESSING?



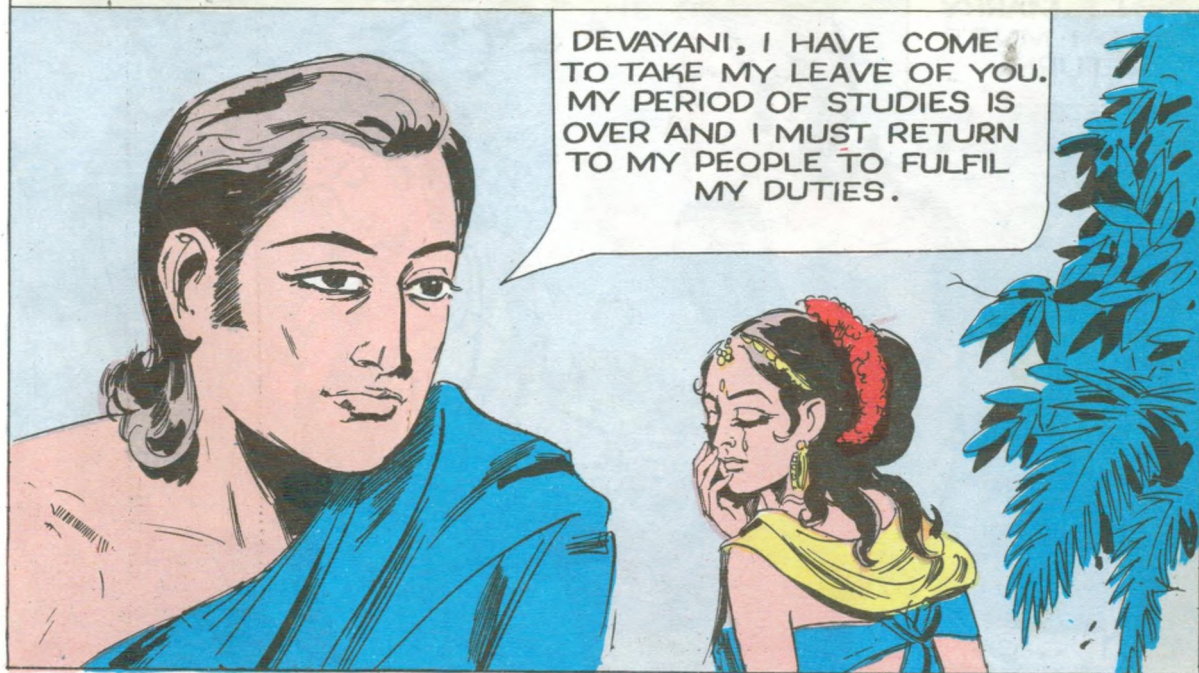
DOES DEVAYANI KNOW OF HIS DECISION? I WONDER!



NEXT KACHA WENT TO DEVAYANI. SHE WAS FONDLING A DEER IN HER GARDEN.



BUT DEVAYANI'S SMILES WERE SOON TO DISSOLVE INTO TEARS.



NOBLE KACHA! WHILE YOU WERE A STUDENT, I LOVED YOU, BUT COULD NOT SPEAK OUT. NOW THAT YOU ARE FREE TO MARRY WILL YOU NOT TAKE ME FOR YOUR WIFE?



DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE HAPPY DAYS WE HAVE SHARED? WHY DO YOU STAND ALOOF? HAVE I WRONGED YOU IN ANY WAY?



KACHA HELD DEVAYANI'S HAND TENDERLY.

PEERLESS ONE! I WAS REBORN IN YOUR FATHER'S STOMACH. I AM THEREFORE YOUR BROTHER. I CAN'T MARRY YOU. I MUST RETURN.

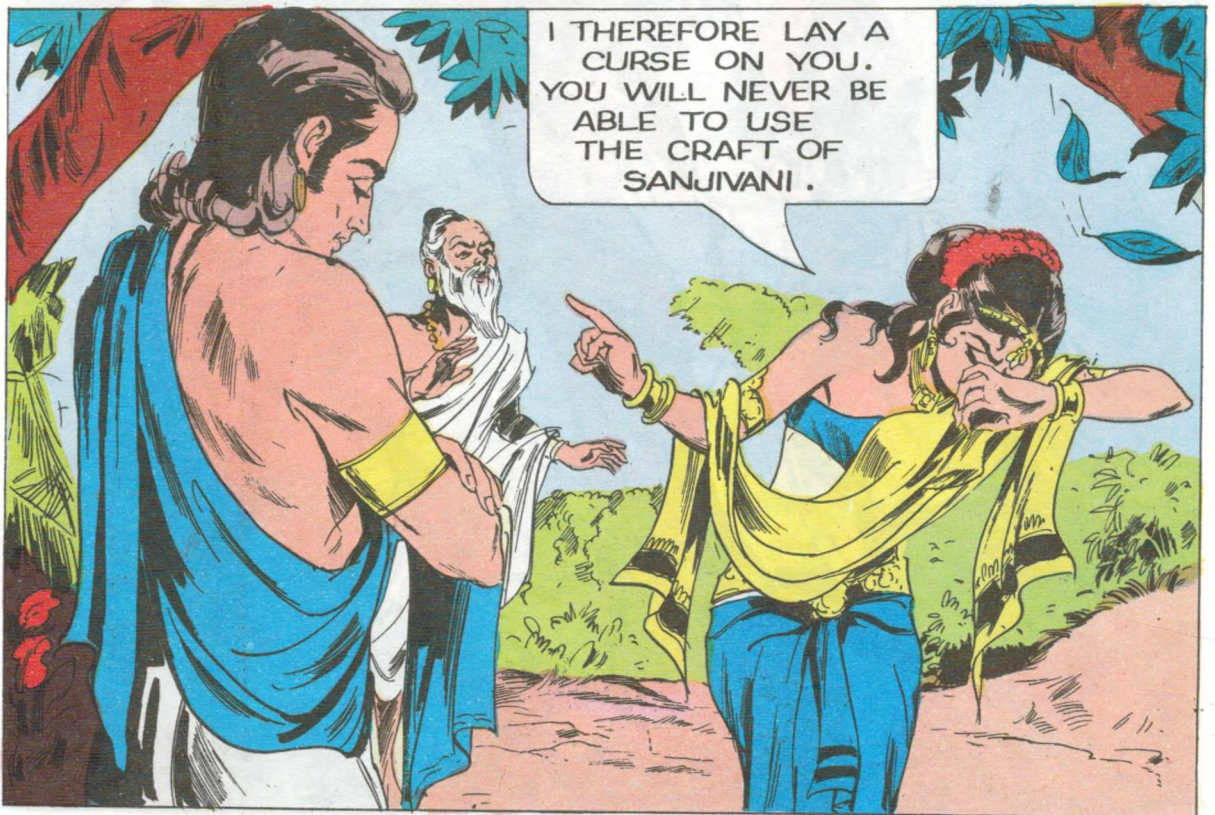


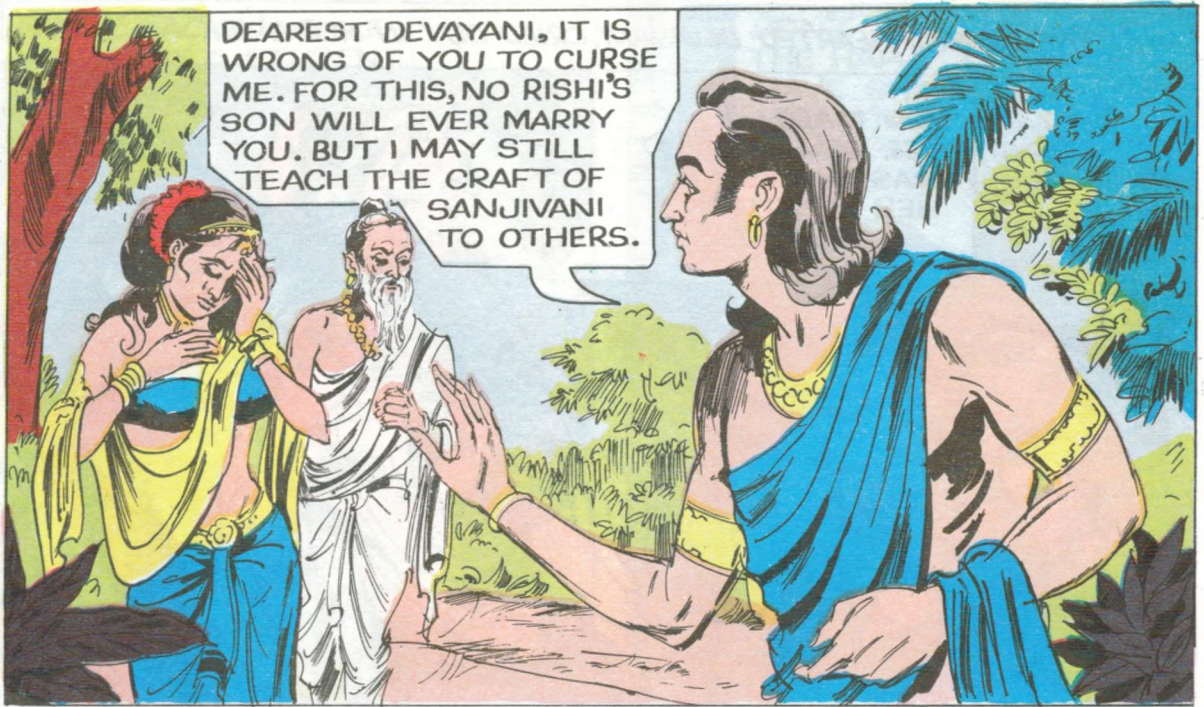
THE BROKEN-HEARTED DEVAYANI CRIED OUT IN HER GRIEF.

YOU MADE
USE OF ONE WHO
WAS SINLESS IN
HER DEVOTION
TO YOU.

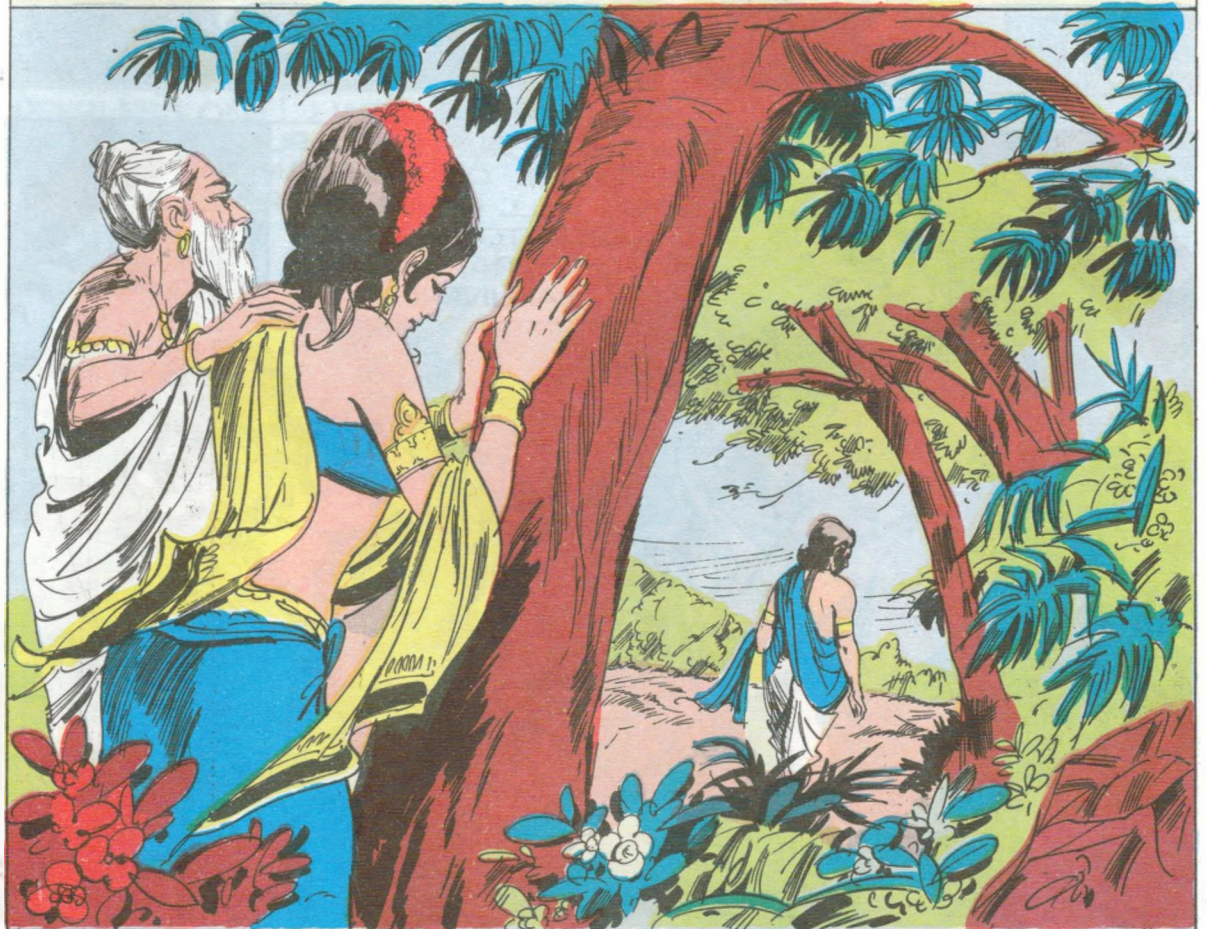


I THEREFORE LAY A
CURSE ON YOU.
YOU WILL NEVER BE
ABLE TO USE
THE CRAFT OF
SANJIVANI.

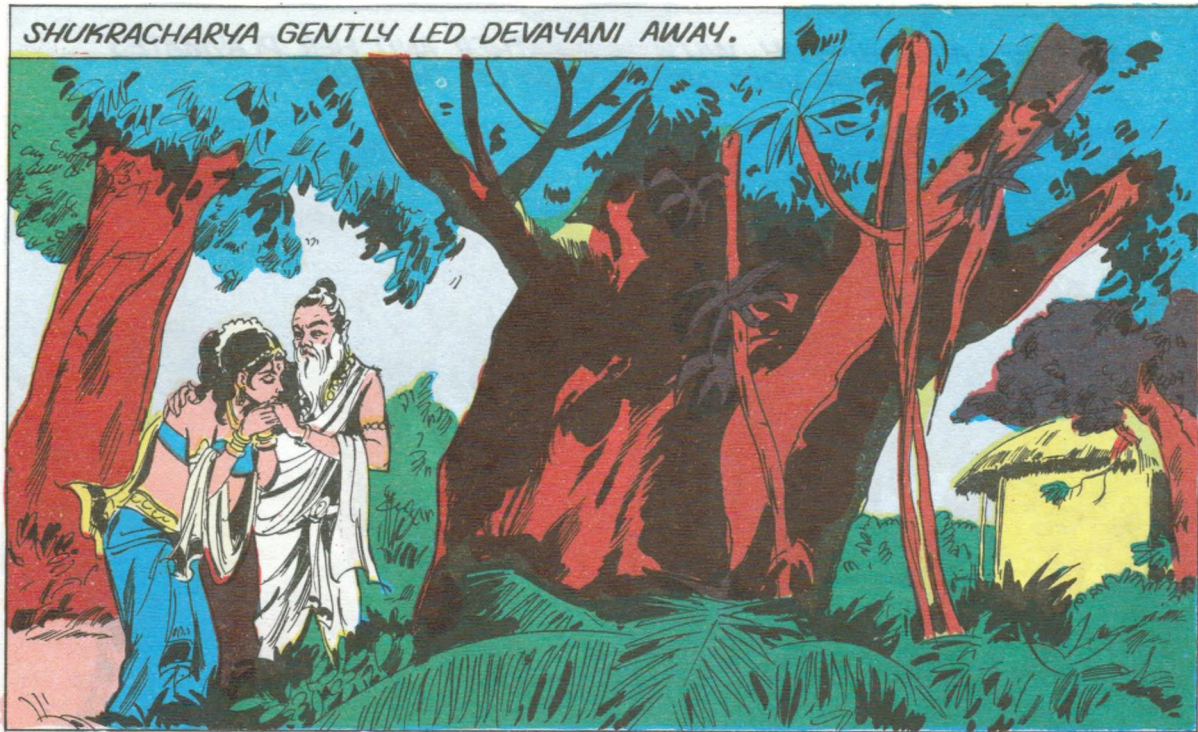




THEN KACHA DEPARTED FOR THE ABODE OF INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.



SHUKRACHARYA GENTLY LED DEVAYANI AWAY.



WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, DEVAYANI COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF KACHA.



AND SHE LIVED HAPPILY WITH HER FATHER AND HER PLAYMATES
IN THE CITY OF VRISHAPARVA, KING OF THE ASURAS.





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.



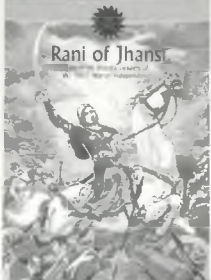
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The story of Kacha and Devayani appears in the first of the eighteen books that comprise the Mahabharata. The central theme of the Mahabharata is the 18-day war on the battlefield of Kurukshetra between the cousins, the Pandavas and the Kauravas, and their respective allies.

Devayani, the daughter of Shukracharya, guru to the *asuras*, was of the Yadava clan, ancestress of Krishna, the champion of the Pandavas. Kacha was the son of Brihaspati, preceptor to the *devas*.

The story of Kacha and Devayani centres round the battle for supremacy between the *asuras* and the *devas*.

This Amar Chitra Katha narrates the story of how Kacha enters the city of the *asuras* and learns the secret craft of *sanjivani* (reviving the dead) from Shukracharya. It also recounts the triumph of his sense of duty over the pleas of the charming Devayani.

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Kamala Chandrakant Illustrations: Souren Roy Cover: Dayal Patkar

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