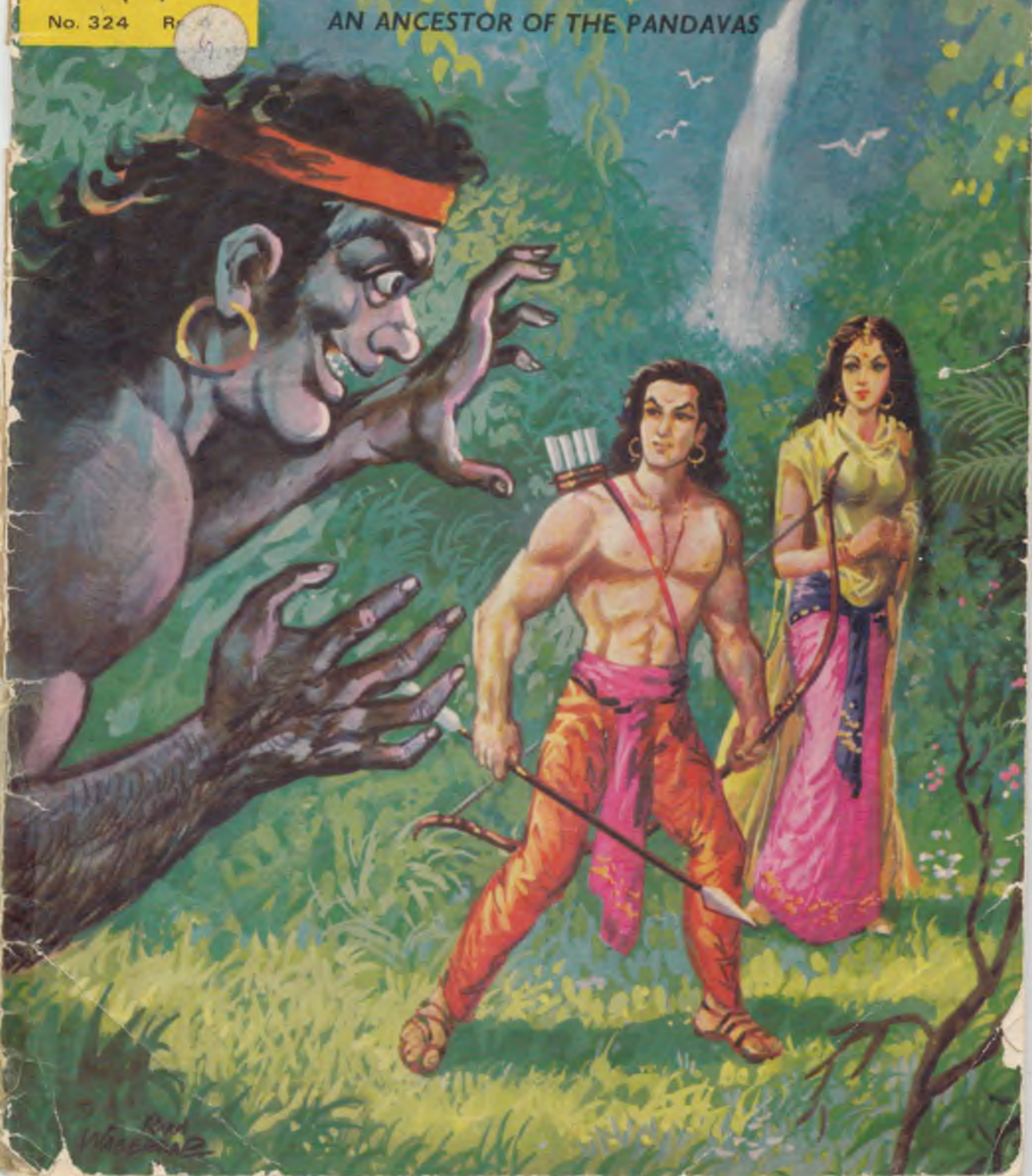




No. 324 R

Nahusha

AN ANCESTOR OF THE PANDAVAS



Amar Chitra Katha

No. 324

December 15, 1984

Editor

ANANT PAI

Associate Editors

**KAMALA CHANDRAKANT
SUBBA RAO**

Script

GAYATRI MADAN DUTT

Artworks

RAM WAEERKAR

Art Consultant

RAM WAEERKAR

Production

GOVIND KOTWANI

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NAHUSHA

Nahusha was a forbear of the Pandavas. He was a descendant of Manu (Manu - Ila - Pururavas - Ayus - Nahusha).

The first tale in this Chitra Katha is from the Padma Purana and the other two from the Mahabharata.

In "The Curse", Nahusha serves as a model of the devout worshipper. When he was humble and devout his power and renown increased, but his subsequent vanity led to his downfall. But, after his fall, he returns to heaven and comes to be counted again among the noblest.

The story of Nahusha and Chyavana has been modified for our young readers.

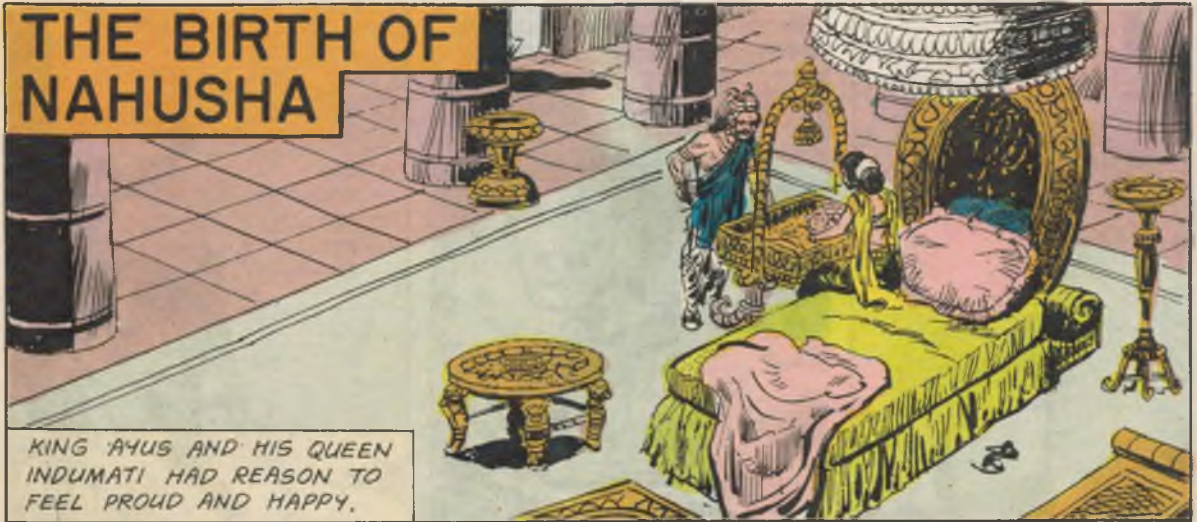
*

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THE BIRTH OF NAHUSHA



KING AYUS AND HIS QUEEN INDUMATI HAD REASON TO FEEL PROUD AND HAPPY.



WHAT A FINE SON WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH!

THAT NIGHT WHILE THE WHOLE PALACE SLEPT —



CREAK





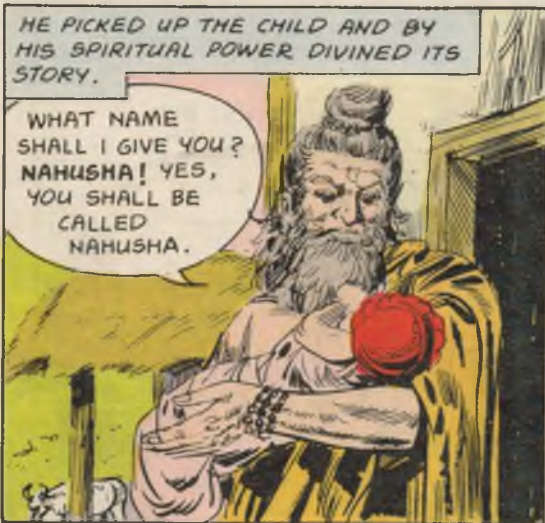
NAHUSHA



DAWN HAD JUST FLUSHED THE SKY. THE VENERABLE SAGE VASISHTHA WAS SETTING OUT FOR THE RIVER WHEN—



WHAT IS THIS? A CHILD ON MY DOORSTEP?



HE PICKED UP THE CHILD AND BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWER DIVINED ITS STORY.

WHAT NAME SHALL I GIVE YOU?
NAHUSHA! YES, YOU SHALL BE CALLED NAHUSHA.



MEANWHILE —

MY SON... MISSING... GONE...

HE MUST BE SOMEWHERE... SAFE... I HOPE...



HE IS, O AYUS.

SAGE NARADA!



DON'T BE DISTRAUGHT. YOUR CHILD WILL COME BACK TO YOU. FOR THE MOMENT, HE IS IN GOOD HANDS.

THE YEARS PASSED. NAHUSHA WAS NOW A YOUNG MAN. ONE DAY, WHEN HE WAS COLLECTING SAMIT* FOR VASISHTHA'S SACRIFICIAL FIRE, HE HEARD THE SWEET STRAINS OF MUSIC.



O NAHUSHA...

WHAT'S THAT?

POOR NAHUSHA...

IT WAS A GROUP OF DEVACHARANAS⁺ SINGING.

... HIS PARENTS STILL GRIEVE FOR THE LOST SON...

... WHO WAS SEIZED BY HUNDASURA, BUT WAS SAVED BY A COOK'S COMPASSION...



NAHUSHA RAN BACK TO THE HERMITAGE.



WHEN VASISHTHA CONFIRMED THEIR TALE —



THAT EVIL ASURA SHOULD BE SLAIN.

I SHALL KILL HIM-NOW!



BLESS ME, NOBLE SAGE.

MAY SUCCESS BE YOURS.



* TWIGS OFFERED IN VARIOUS RITES TO AGNI

+ CELESTIAL MUSICIANS

AS NAHUSHA VENTURED DEEP INTO THE FORESTS IN SEARCH OF HUNDA, A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN APPEARED BEFORE HIM.



"ONE DAY, WHEN LORD SHIVA AND PARVATI WERE IN NANDANA VANA, PARVATI DECIDED TO TEST THE KALPA VRIKSHA*."



"I WAS THAT BABY."

I SHALL CALL HER ASHOKASUNDARI.



"I GREW UP AS PARVATI'S DAUGHTER. THE GODDESS IN HER BENEVOLENCE GRANTED ME A BOON."

NAHUSHA THE SON OF AYUS WHO WILL BE EQUAL TO INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS, SHALL BE YOUR HUSBAND.



"ONE DAY, WHILE I WAS WANDERING IN NANDANA VANA WITH MY MAIDS, AN ASURA CAME THERE".



BEAUTEOUS MAIDEN, I AM THE MIGHTY HUNDA, SON OF VIPRACHITTI.

ACCEPT MY LOVE AND MARRY ME. THAT CANNOT BE, FOR I AM TO MARRY NAHUSHA THE SON OF AYUS.



BUT WHY WAIT FOR ONE WHO IS NOT YET BORN? MARRY ME NOW.

I HAVE GIVEN YOU MY ANSWER. PLEASE GO AWAY.



"THE ASURA BLAZED UP IN ANGER."

WHEN HUNDA STRETCHES OUT A HAND, HE NEVER WITH-DRAWS IT EMPTY.

"AND HE VANISHED!"

"SOME DAYS LATER, A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN CAME TO ME WEeping. SHE TOLD ME THAT HUNDA HAD KILLED HER HUSBAND."



I AM PERFORMING AUSTERITIES TO DESTROY HUNDA. COME TO MY HERMITAGE. IT WILL GIVE ME SOLACE.



"I ACCOMPANIED THE LADY TO HER HOME."

HERE WE ARE!

BUT...THIS IS A... PALACE. YOU TOLD ME IT WAS A...





NAHUSHA AND CHYAVANA

ONE DAY, IN THE KINGDOM OF NAHUSHA, THE BRAVE AND BROAD-CHESTED KAIVARTAS OF PRAYAG, CAST THEIR NETS FOR THEIR DAILY CATCH OF FISH.





THE SAGE STROKED THE DYING FISH WITH PITY AND COMPASSION.



IN GREAT FEAR, THE KAIIVARTAS WENT WITH THIS STORY TO NAHUSHA.



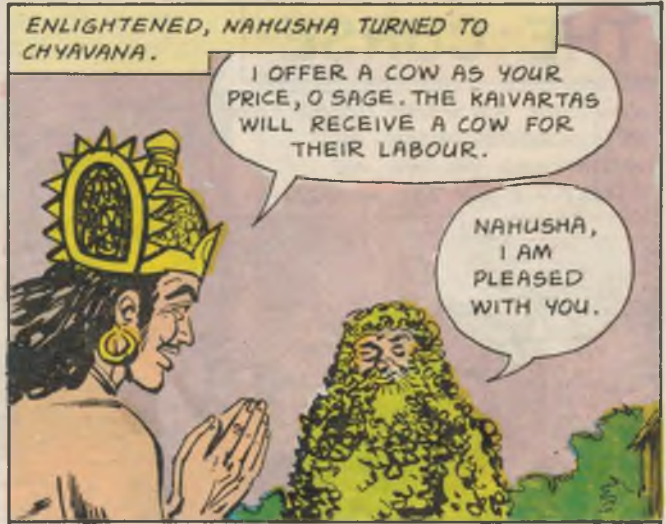
AT PRAYAG, NAHUSHA INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO CHYAVANA. THEN —







THEREFORE ONLY A COW, O NAHUSHA, COULD BE THE PROPER PRICE.



ENLIGHTENED, NAHUSHA TURNED TO CHYAVANA.

I OFFER A COW AS YOUR PRICE, O SAGE. THE KAIVARTAS WILL RECEIVE A COW FOR THEIR LABOUR.

NAHUSHA, I AM PLEASSED WITH YOU.



ONE COW WOULD BE A FAIR OFFER.

THE COW IS THE ROOT OF PROSPERITY. THE COW YIELDS THAT STRENGTH-GIVING NECTAR—MILK. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD TO EQUAL THE COW.



GIVE THESE KAIVARTAS THIS BLESSED ANIMAL FOR THEIR TROUBLE.



AT ONCE, NAHUSHA ARRANGED FOR THE COW TO BE GIVEN TO THE KAIVARTAS. CHYAVANA AND THE ASCETIC THEN BLESSED HIM...

...AND WENT THEIR WAYS.

THE CURSE

NAHUSHA WAS THE IDEAL KING. BY HIS GOOD DEEDS AND UNMATCHED VALOUR, HE DAZZLED EVEN THE DENIZENS OF HEAVEN.



SO, WHEN INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS, WAS DEPRIVED OF HIS THRONE BY A CURSE, THEY CHOSE NAHUSHA AS THEIR NEXT KING.

HAVING INVITED HIM TO HEAVEN, THE DEVAS GRANTED NAHUSHA MANY BOONS AND GAVE HIM THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY TO DRINK.



THEN BRAHMA BLESSED HIM WITH THE MOST POWERFUL BOON OF ALL.

MAY ALL WHO COME WITHIN THE RANGE OF YOUR VISION BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR ENERGY AND COME UNDER YOUR SWAY.



DESPITE ALL THIS, NAHUSHA, WITH HUMBLE DEVOTION, CONTINUED TO WORSHIP THE DEVAS AS HE HAD DONE ON EARTH...



...AND IN THE COURT, THE DEVAS BOWED TO HIM.



AND SO IT WENT ON

THEN ONE DAY IN THE MIDST OF HIS WORSHIP NAHUSHA SUDDENLY STOPPED AND OPENED HIS EYES.



AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA

Quiz INDIA -15

Compiled by: Swarn Khandpur
Illustrated by: Ramesh Umrotkar



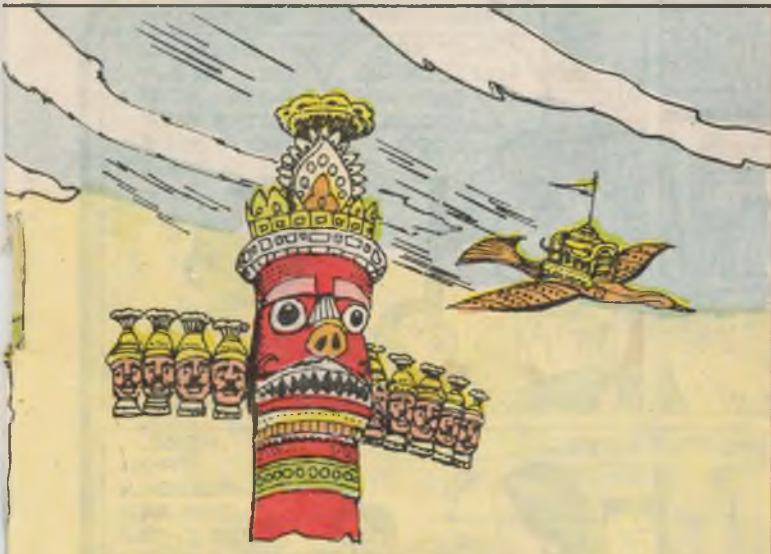
DID YOU KNOW...

...that Brahma, the creator of this universe is worshipped only in one temple (at Pushkar in Ajmer) in the whole of India?

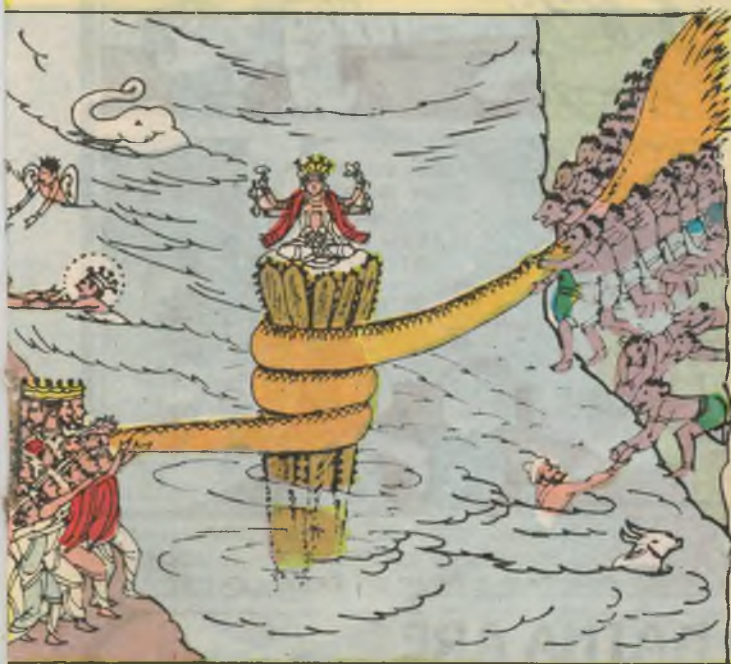
A To which heavenly body is the Gayatri Mantra of the Vedas addressed?



C Of the two sons of Shiva, Ganesha rides on a rat. What is the mount of the second son, Kartikeya, who is also known as Skanda or Subrahmanya?



B What was the name of the aerial chariot used by Ravana?



D When the Devas and Asuras churned the ocean, who was used as the churning rope?

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Quiz INDIA - 15

ENTRY FORM

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MY ANSWERS

A _____
 B _____
 C _____
 D _____

RAMU TURNS DETECTIVE

AT THE BOOK-SHOP —



HERE YOU ARE! TWELVE AMAR CHITRA KATHA.

RAMU EXAMINES THE BOOKS.



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT? THEY ARE ALL EQUALLY GOOD.

YES, RAMU. YOU CAN BUY AMAR CHITRA KATHA WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED.



NO, MUMMY. I MUST KEEP MY EYES OPEN.

A LITTLE LATER —



HERE, I'LL TAKE THESE. ONLY THESE ARE AMAR CHITRA KATHA.



AND THESE YOU MAY KEEP THEY ARE NOT AMAR CHITRA KATHA.

ARE YOU SURE?



YES, MUMMY. ONLY AMAR CHITRA KATHA CARRY THIS STAMP.

LIKE RAMU KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN WHEN YOU BUY AMAR CHITRA KATHA. LOOK FOR THIS STAMP OF EXCELLENCE.

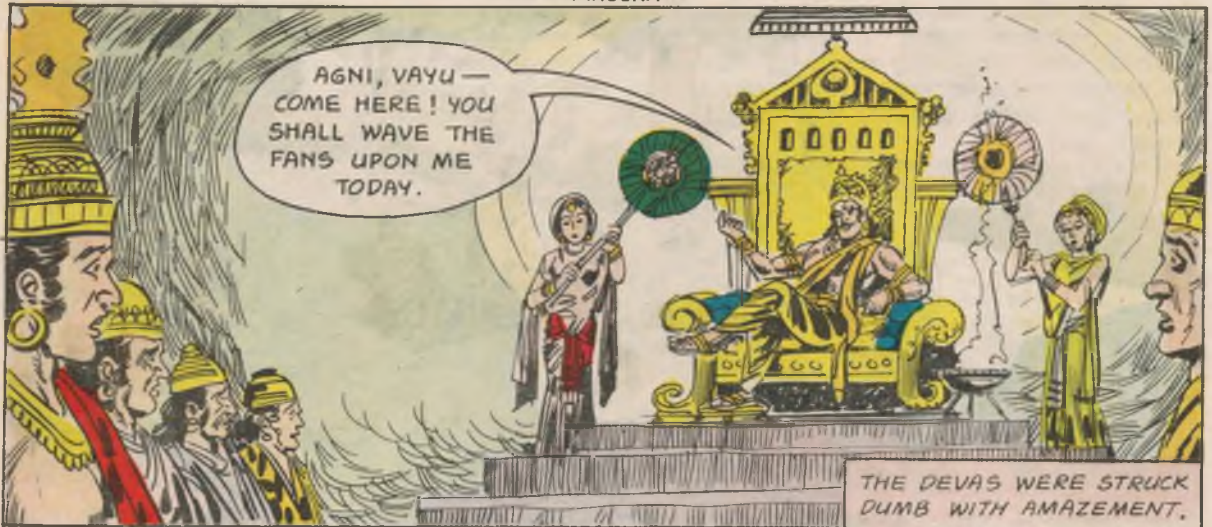


AMAR CHITRA KATHA ARE BROUGHT OUT BY PEOPLE

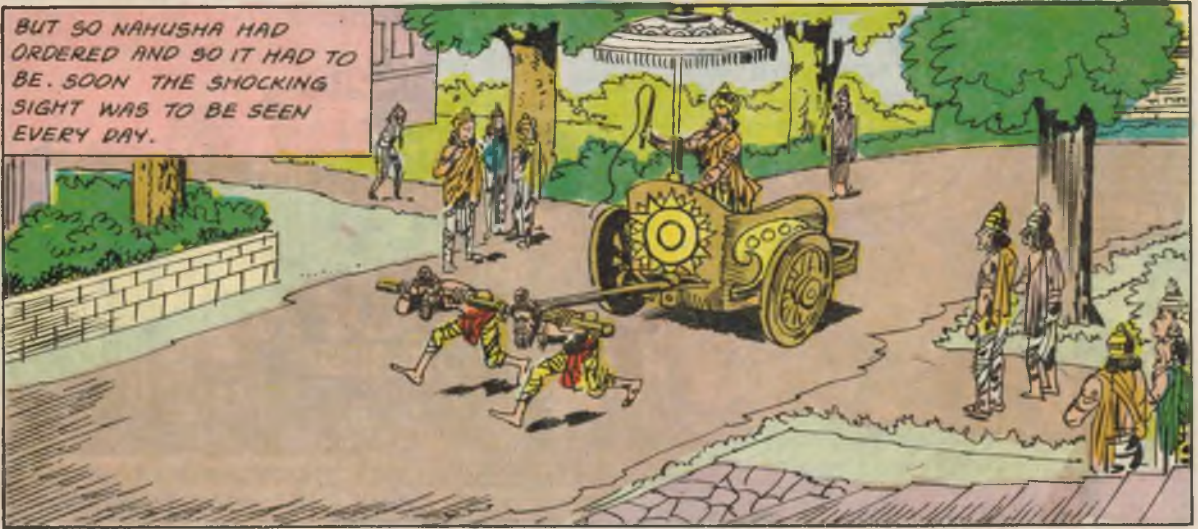
- who care for children
- who screen each word and each picture as they have a lasting impact on impressionable minds.
- for whom Chitra Katha is more a vehicle of education than a business.

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BUT SO NAHUSHA HAD ORDERED AND SO IT HAD TO BE. SOON THE SHOCKING SIGHT WAS TO BE SEEN EVERY DAY.



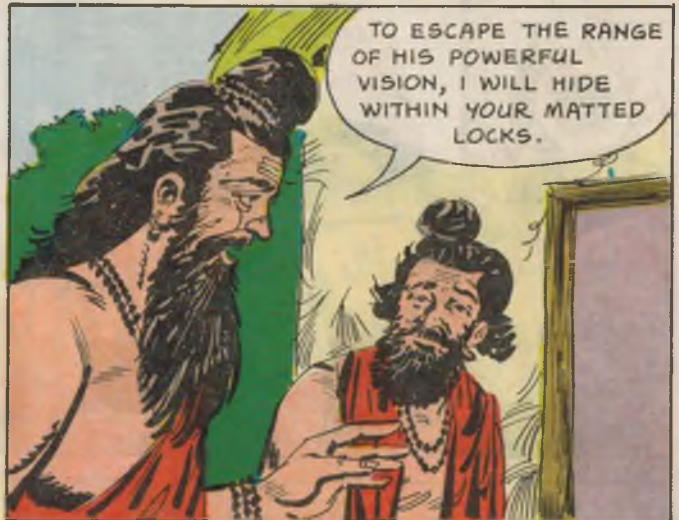
THE SAGES WERE IN A QUANDARY. FINALLY, SAGE BHRIGU CAME ONE DAY TO SAGE AGASTYA.

O AGASTYA, TODAY, IT IS YOUR TURN TO PULL NAHUSHA'S CHARIOT. WILL YOU TOO PUT UP WITH THIS INSULT?

I HAVE NO CHOICE BHRIGU. BECAUSE OF BRAHMA'S BOON AND THE NECTAR NAHUSHA HAS DRUNK, WE ARE POWERLESS BEFORE HIM. THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO.



THERE IS, AGASTYA. BRAHMA HIMSELF HAS SUGGESTED A PLAN.



TO ESCAPE THE RANGE OF HIS POWERFUL VISION, I WILL HIDE WITHIN YOUR MATTED LOCKS.



WHEN YOU ARE YOKED TO HIS CHARIOT, NAHUSHA WILL ORDER YOU TO MOVE. DO NOT MOVE.



THEN, IMPELLED BY THE FATE THAT BEFALLS TYRANTS, HE WILL KICK YOU.





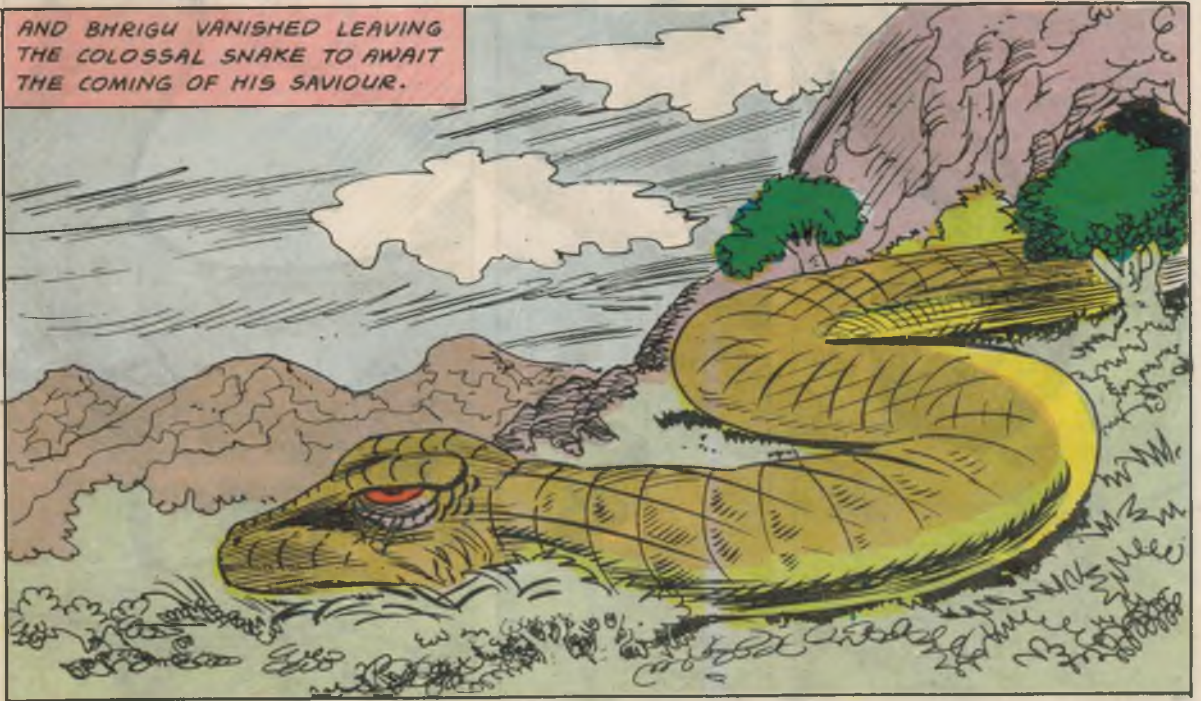
BUT BECAUSE OF HIS EARLIER HUMILITY AND DEVOTION, NAHUSHA RETAINED THE MEMORY OF HIS BYGONE DAYS. AND NOW, SHAME AND REMORSE CAME TO HIM.



NAHUSHA'S DEEP AND SINCERE PRAYERS ROSE UP TO HEAVEN. IN COMPASSION, AGASTYA TURNED TO BHRIGU.



AND BHRIGU VANISHED LEAVING THE COLOSSAL SNAKE TO AWAIT THE COMING OF HIS SAVIOUR.



NAHUSHA AND YUDHISHTHIRA

EXILED BY THEIR TREACHEROUS COUSINS THE KAURAVAS, THE PANDAVAS — YUDHISHTHIRA, BHEEMA, ARJUNA, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA — WITH THEIR WIFE DRAUPADI, WERE LIVING IN A HERMITAGE IN THE FOREST.



ONE DAY, BHEEMA DECIDED TO ROAM THE JUNGLES. HE SET OFF, EXULTING IN THE NATURAL BEAUTY AROUND HIM.



BREAKING DOWN TREES, STAMPING ON THE GROUND AND ROARING LOUDLY, HE WENT DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE JUNGLE...



...FRIGHTENING THE ANIMALS BY HIS VIGOUR AND VOICE.

THE SCENERY CHANGED FROM GREEN TO BROWN. BRACKISH POOLS LAY ON THE DRY, THORNY GROUND. TOWERING ROCKS ROSE INTO THE SKY. BUT BHEEMA CONTINUED ONWARD.



SUDDENLY, HIS HAIR STOOD ON END.



THE NEXT MOMENT—



THOSE EYES...
THEY MAKE ME
WEAK... FAINT...
POWERLESS...



AND BHEEMA LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE HERMITAGE, YUDHISHTHIRA WAS WORRIED.

CROWS CAWING...,
JACKALS HOWLING...
THE WIND DRY AND
FULL OF GRIT...
THESE ARE BAD
OMENS!



DRAUPADI,
WHERE IS
BHEEMA?

HE WENT OUT
QUITE SOME TIME
AGO.



ARJUNA! STAND
GUARD OVER DRAUPADI.
NAKULA! SAHADEVA!
YOU PROTECT THE
DWELLERS OF THE
HERMITAGE.



YUDHISHTHIRA THEN TURNED TO
THEIR PRIEST, DHAUMYA.

GURUDEV, I AM GOING
IN SEARCH OF
BHEEMA.

I WILL
COME WITH
YOU.



THEY SET OUT.

LOOK! BHEEMA
HAS LEFT A TRAIL.
WE WILL FOLLOW
IT.







O SERPENT,
YOU KNOW FULLY
WELL WHAT IS TO
BE KNOWN. ASK
YOUR QUESTIONS. I
SHALL ANSWER THEM
AS BEST AS I
CAN.



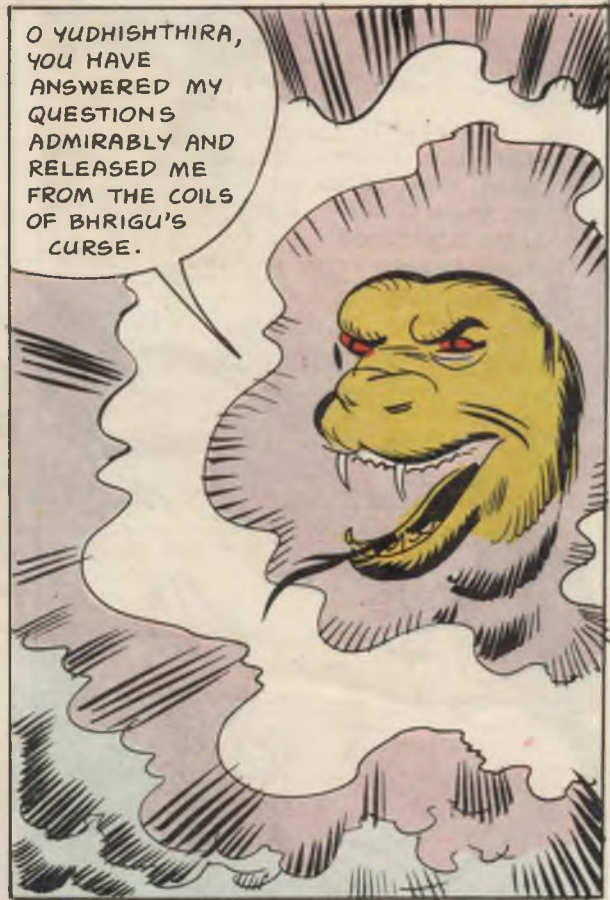
TELL ME
FIRST, WHO IS
A BRAHMANA?

ANY MAN WHO
IS TRUTHFUL,
CHARITABLE,
FORGIVING,
KIND AND OF
GOOD CONDUCT IS
A BRAHMANA,
WHATEVER
BE HIS BIRTH. ANY
MAN WHO DOES NOT
POSSESS THESE
VIRTUES IS A
SHUDRA,
WHATEVER BE HIS
BIRTH.



DO YOU MEAN THEN,
THAT THE IDEA OF
CASTE IS FUTILE?

YES. MEN OF THE
FOUR CASTES INTER-
MARRY. THEREFORE,
THERE CAN BE NO FIXED
CASTE. THUS, IN JUDGING
A MAN, IT IS NOT
BIRTH THAT COUNTS,
BUT VIRTUE.





THEN NAHUSHA ROSE TO HEAVEN...

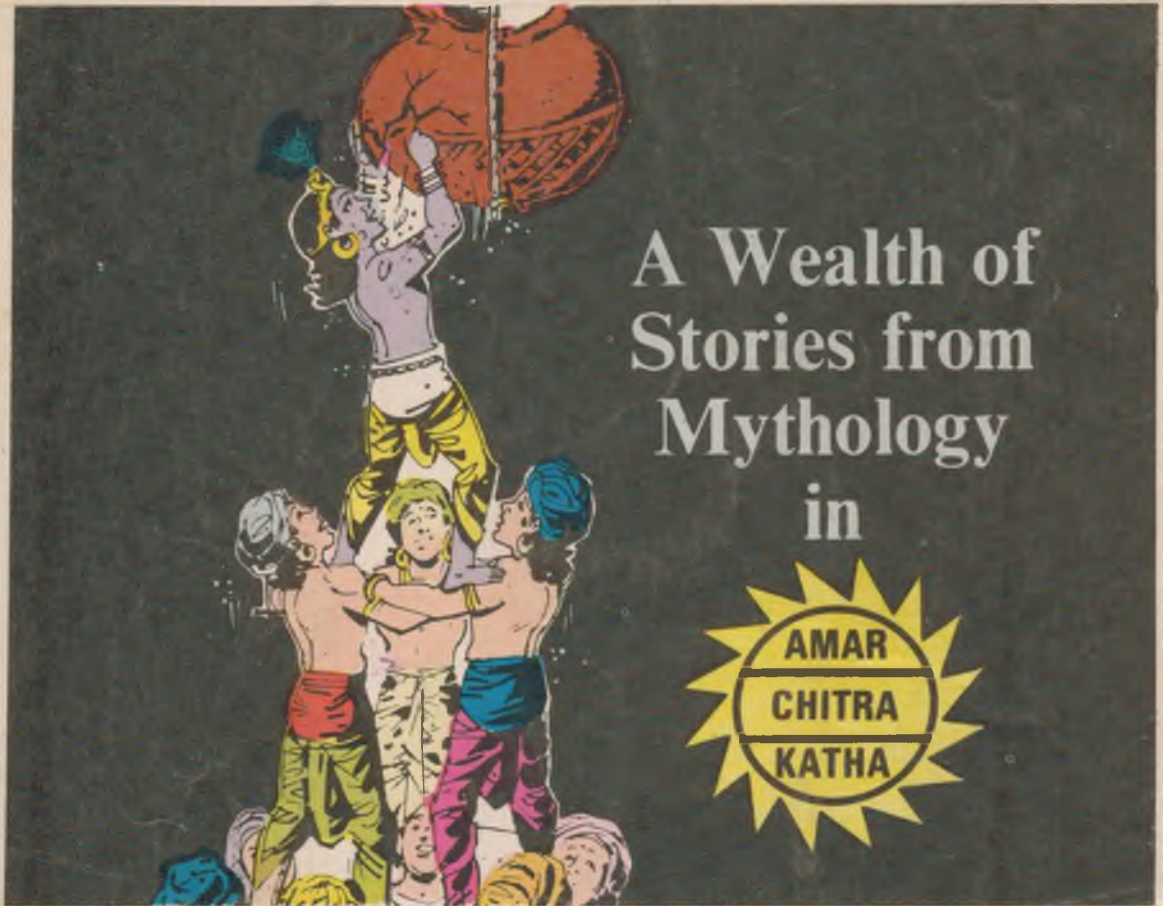


...AND YUDHISHTHIRA, BHEEMA AND DHAUMYA RETURNED TO THE HERMITAGE WHERE THE OTHERS WELCOMED THEM JOYOUSLY.



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