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DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS
SARASWATI
Authentic™
Indya



DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS india  authentic™
SARASWATI

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Saraswati

Growing up in India, the vast pantheon of Indian gods and goddesses were not just ephemeral idols that people prayed to or told stories about. For my mother – and as a result for me and my younger brother – they were beings that existed just on the other side of ordinary reality, but whose presence and influence were as real as anything or anyone else.

My mother was always torn in terms of who her favorite was amongst the dozens of gods and goddesses in the divine pantheon. Alternatively, she would comment on the benefits of having the attention of Saraswati, the matron of knowledge and wisdom vs. the affections of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Like many in post-colonial India, my mother considered intelligence the greatest power above all else and hence the favors of Saraswati a most enviable thing. Still, she also understood the implicit benefits of Lakshmi's indulgences that manifested in comfort, security, and material wealth.

To that end, my mother concocted a plan that insured the attention of both almighty goddesses, not to mention tapped into her acute awareness of the female mind! From a very early age, she implored my brother and I to study our hardest, read as much as we could, ask as many questions as possible of our teachers and elders, and be as thirsty as humanly possible for knowledge. In her mind,



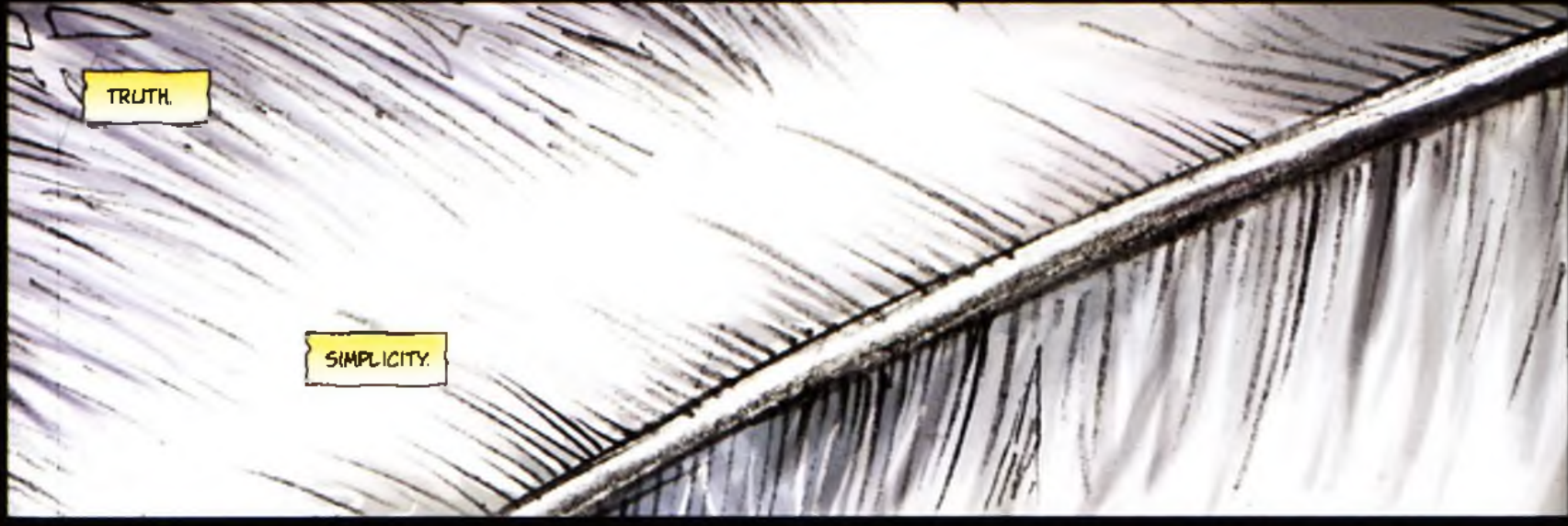
that would demand the attention of Saraswati. As a result of this showering of attention for the Goddess of knowledge, this reciprocal obsession with one another, Lakshmi would become jealous and she too would ultimately pursue us and bestow us with her favor. My brother and I, never one to question my mother's orders when she meant business, took these directions very seriously all throughout our schooling. Today, having written over 50 books that I believe are more full of questions than answers, and my brother having reached the role of Dean of Continuing Education at Harvard Medical School, and with both of us living in relative comfort and security, I like to think we heeded my mother's instructions well. Not to mention when I look at some of the most successful business innovators of our time—the heads of Apple, Microsoft, and Google amongst others—I see that they too are followers of the same cult.

These days, I have my own perspective of what the Gods and Goddesses of the Indian pantheon represent—namely various states of awareness and forces in embryo that gestate within each of us. Nowhere was that ever more evident to me than my mother, instinctively knowledgeable like Saraswati, wealthy in so many ways beyond material aspects like Lakshmi, a true Goddess in every respect.

Thanks Mom.

Deepak Chopra
June 2008





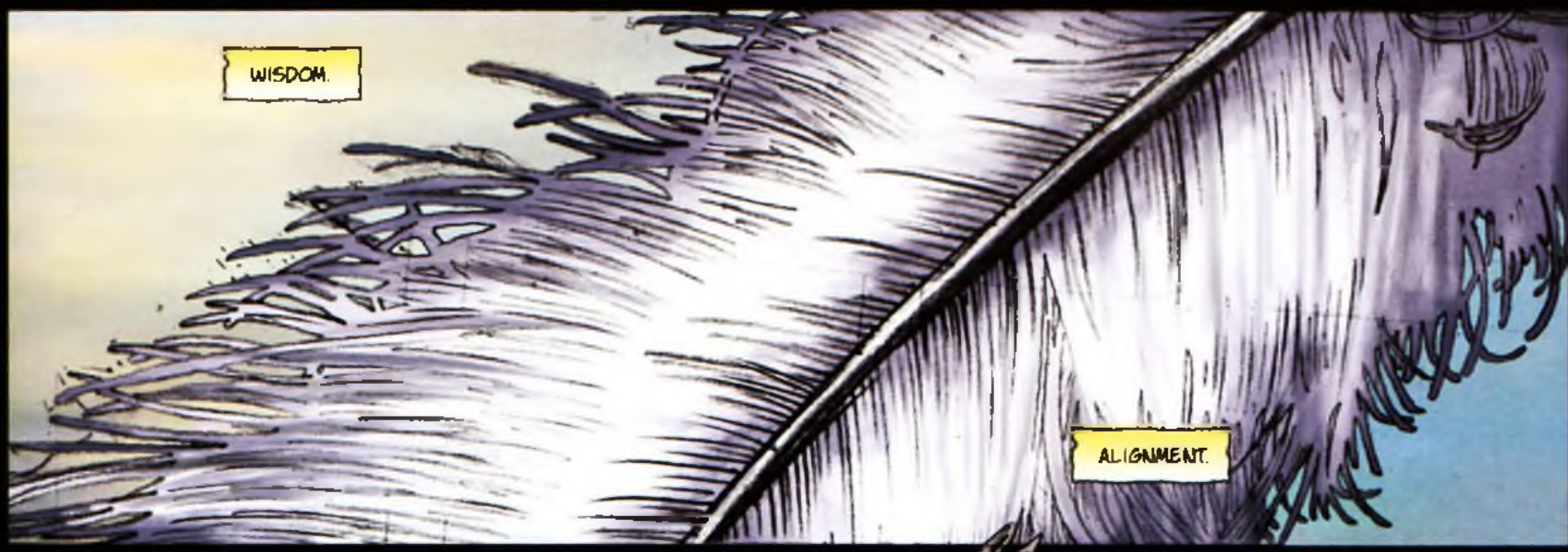
TRUTH.

SIMPLICITY.



LEARNING.

EVOLUTION.



WISDOM.

ALIGNMENT.



ENLIGHTENMENT.

FREEDOM.

BUT IT ALL HAS TO
BEGIN SOMEWHERE.



THE SEED...



...THE KERNEL...



...THE GENESIS OF
ALL WISDOM...



...IS POTENTIAL.

IT HIDES IN
PLAIN SIGHT.

LIKE A STATESQUE STATUE
IN THE ROUGH CRAGGY
FACE OF THE GRANITE.

THAT BUFFOON
KALIDAS IS AT
IT AGAIN.

TRUE TO FORM,
AS ALWAYS. THIS
SHOULD BE GOOD
ENTERTAINMENT.

Slap??

HA! HERE
IT COMES!

AAAGH!

HA HA
HA! KALIDAS, YOU
FOOL YOU TRULY ARE
A SIMPLETON, SAWING THE
VERY BRANCH YOU ARE
PERCHED UPON!

BUT I RECOGNIZE IT.
IT IS MY FUNCTION,
MY PURPOSE.



IT IS VERY EASY
TO RIDICULE.



EVEN EASIER TO
SIMPLY GIVE UP.



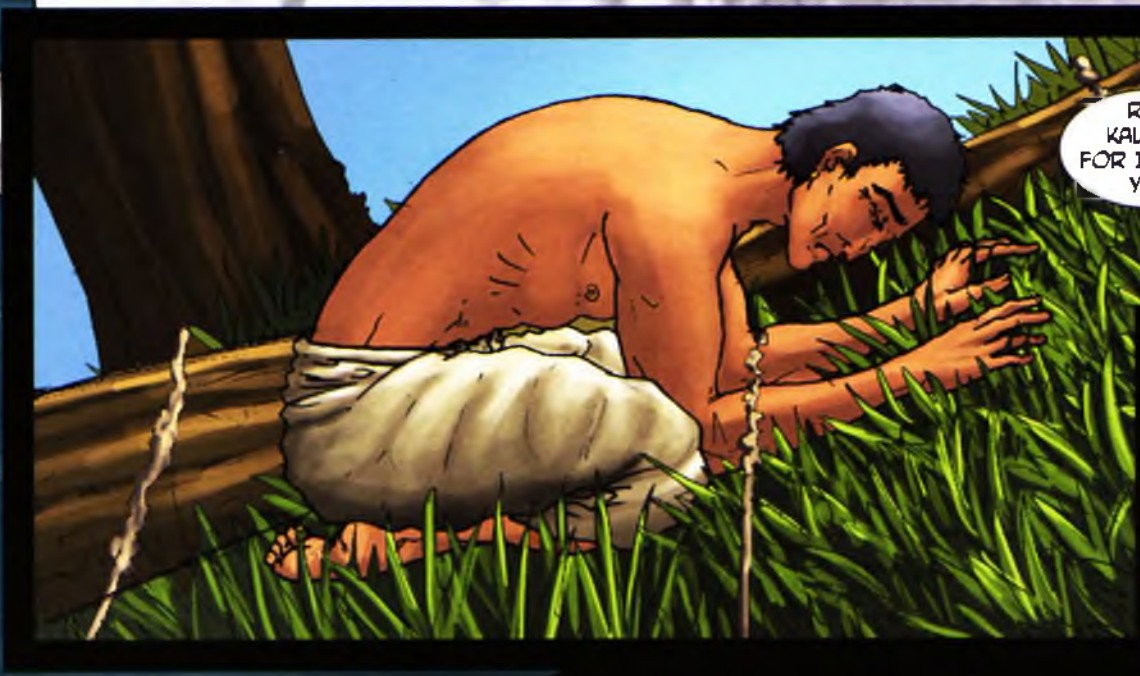
OH, SARASWATI,
GODDESS OF WISDOM, WHY
HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

BUT I EXIST
TO NURTURE IT.



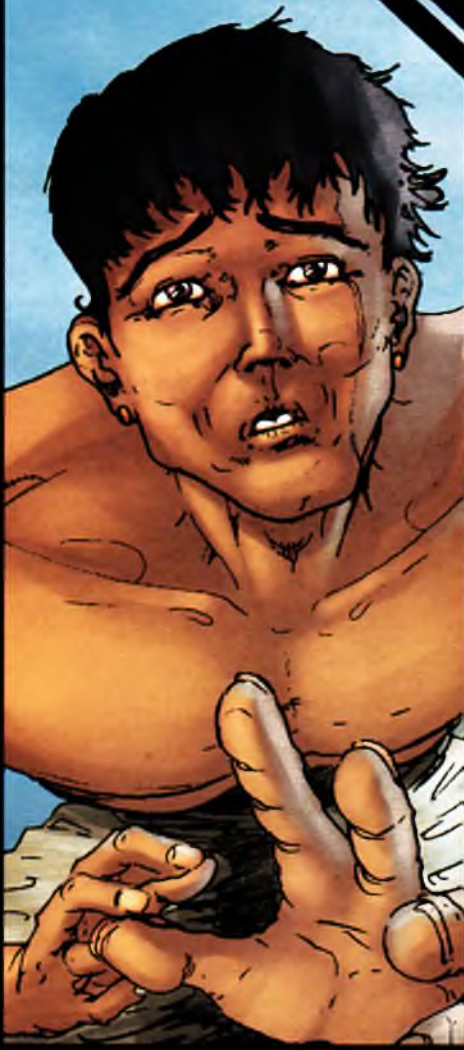
PLEASE OH
GODDESS, TAKE
PITY ON ME. GRANT ME
A FRACTION OF YOUR
INFINITE WISDOM.

RISE
KALIDAS,
FOR I BLESS
YOU.



OH!

I SEE YOUR THOUGHTS AS CLEAR AS THE WATERS OF A MOUNTAIN SPRING.



I SEE A SOUL WITHOUT A HINT OF MALICE.

I, SARASWATI, GRANT YOU THE BOON YOU SEEK.



*FEAR NOT, KALIDAS. I HAVE CHOSEN YOU TO BE THE FOUNT OF WISDOM, THE LYNCHPIN OF ENLIGHTENMENT FOR ALL MANKIND.

*RID YOUR MIND OF DOUBT.

*OPEN YOUR EYES...

*AND CHOOSE.

*I GRANT YOU THE POWER...

...TO SHAPE THE MAP OF ENLIGHTENMENT, FOR YOURSELF AND FOR ALL MANKIND.



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU, GODDESS.
MY EYES ARE TRULY
OPEN.

I FEEL THE
GLOOM OF IGNORANCE
LIFTING...

...AS I
BEHOLD YOUR
ETHEREAL
BEAUTY.

IS THIS ALL
YOU CAN THINK OF,
KALIDAS? IS THIS HOW
YOU CHOOSE TO DEFINE
ENLIGHTENMENT?



I AM DISSAPPOINTED. I GRANTED YOU A BOON TO BEHOLD ENLIGHTENMENT IN ALL ITS INFINITE GLORY...

...YET YOU CHOSE TO EMBODY IT IN THE CONFINES OF A HUMAN FORM?

HAVE I DONE SOMETHING WRONG, GODDESS?



THE FAULT IS MINE PERHAPS, BUT YOU HAVE COMMITTED SACRILEGE.

YOU'VE WROUGHT WITH YOUR THOUGHTS A FORM FOR KNOWLEDGE THAT REEKS OF YOUR BASER INSTINCTS.

I CURSE YOU FOR YOUR NARROW MINDEDNESS. A WOMAN SHALL BE THE CAUSE OF YOUR DEATH. THE VERY FORM YOU CHOSE FOR ME SHALL TRIGGER YOUR DOWNFALL.



BUT HOLY MOTHER, THERE WAS NO MALICE IN MY HEART, NOR WAS EVEN AN INKLING OF AN IMPURE THOUGHT. I CHOSE TO BEHOLD YOU IN THIS FORM, FOR I REALIZED BEAUTY IS THE TRUE FORM AND FUNCTION OF ENLIGHTENMENT.



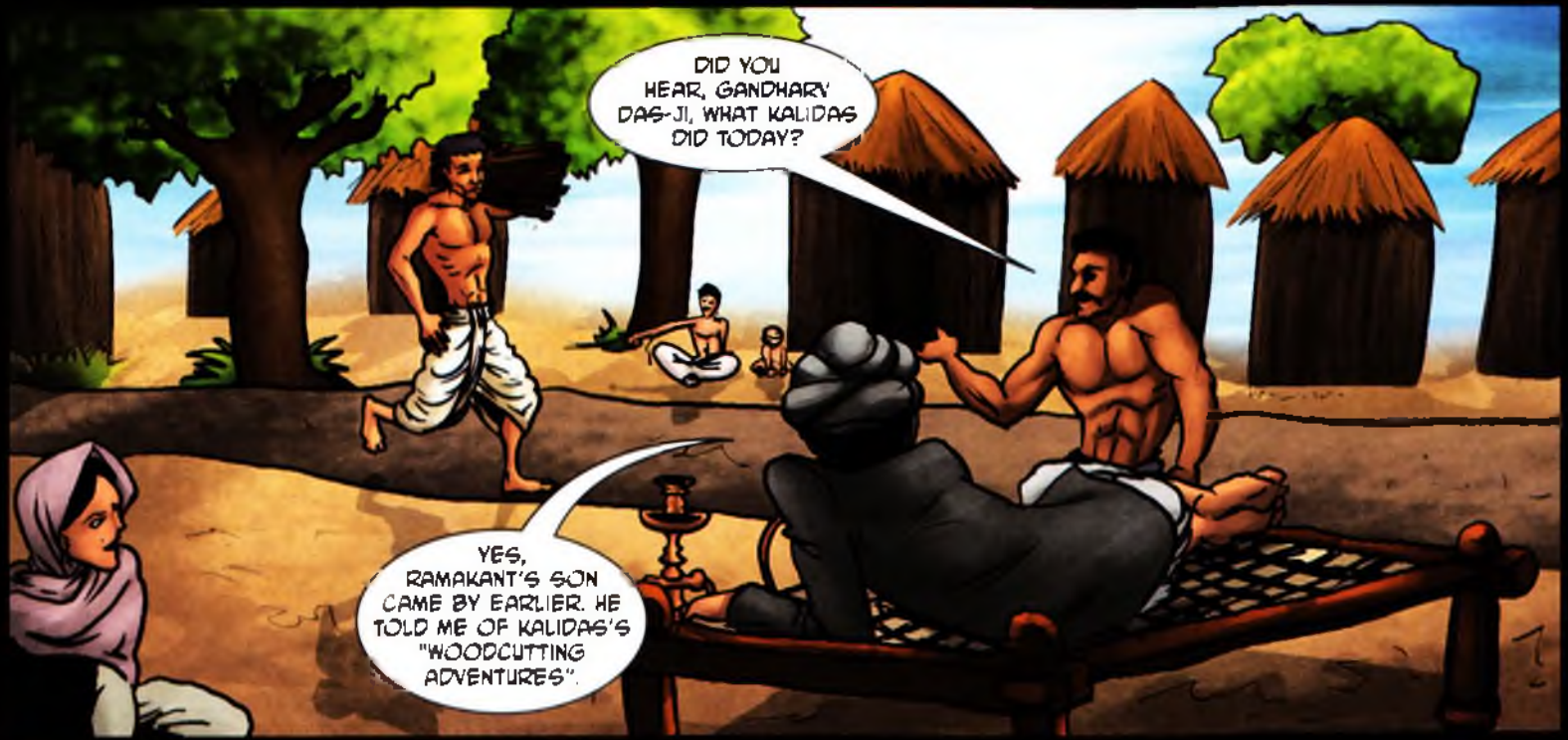
WHAT I HAVE SAID CANNOT BE TAKEN BACK, BUT I SENSE WHAT YOU SAY TO BE TRUE.



LEAD A VIRTUOUS LIFE, KALIDAS, USE THE GIFT OF YOUR NEW FOUND WISDOM TO BRING JOY TO THE LIFE OF OTHERS. WHEN YOUR END COMES, I PROMISE YOU THIS...

...YOU SHALL RECEIVE A SIGN FROM ME, A SINGLE WARNING WHICH, IF YOU IGNORE IT, SHALL TRULY LEAD YOU TO YOUR END.





DID YOU HEAR, GANDHARY DAS-JI, WHAT KALIDAS DID TODAY?

YES, RAMAKANT'S SON CAME BY EARLIER. HE TOLD ME OF KALIDAS'S "WOODCUTTING ADVENTURES".



HEY KALIDAS, DID YOUR PARENTS KNOW THEY HAD A BUFFOON FOR A SON WHEN YOU WERE BORN OR DID YOU MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM AS YOU GREW UP?

HEH, YOUR STUPIDITY IS LOWERING THE ESTEEM OF OUR VILLAGE. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR SORRY SELF SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY FROM HERE?



THIS IS THE BEST PART. THE IDIOT SHALL PROBABLY STAND THERE ALL NIGHT TRYING TO THINK OF SOME CLEVER REPARTEE.



AS YOU SAY, MUKHIYAJEE, BUT BEFORE I GO I HAVE A QUERY OF MY OWN TO ASK OF YOU.

SO RAUCUS IS YOUR LAUGHTER AND SO BOORISH IS YOUR DEMEANOR...



...I OFTEN WONDER IF YOUR NAME WOULD HAVE BEEN APTER, WERE IT TO BE "GADHARY" IN STEAD OF "GANDHARY".

"GADHARY-DONKEY"

•GANDHARY-DEMIGOD



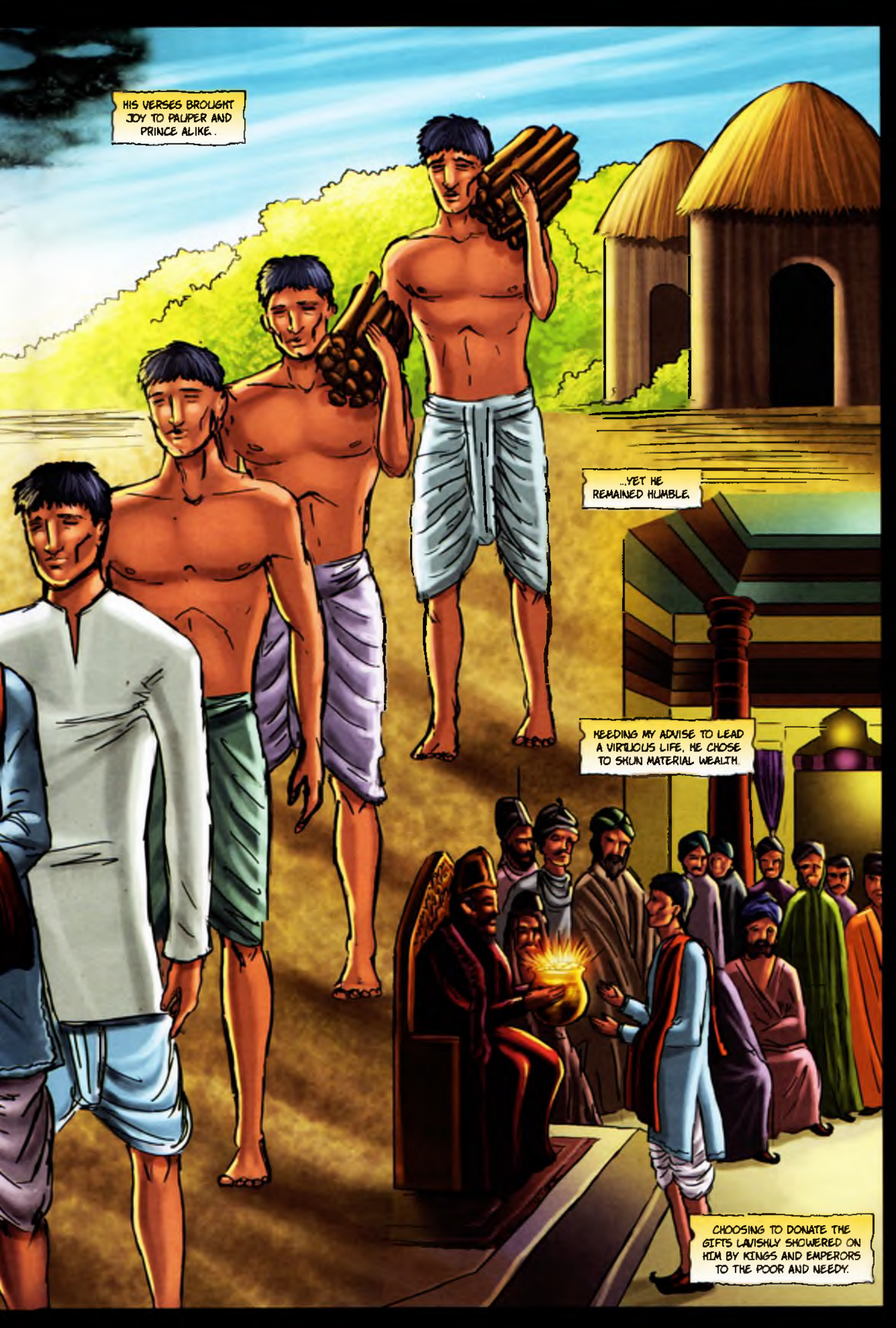
KALIDAS USED HIS NEW
FOUND GIFTS WELL.

THE POTENTIAL I HAD SEEN
IN HIM BLOOMED AT LAST.

WITH A CLARITY OF
THOUGHT HE WEAVED WORLDS
FROM HIS IMAGINATION.

HE WROTE
GRAND EPICS.

HIS VERSES BROUGHT JOY TO PALUPER AND PRINCE ALIKE.



...YET HE REMAINED HUMBLE.

HEEDING MY ADVICE TO LEAD A VIRTUOUS LIFE, HE CHOSE TO SHUN MATERIAL WEALTH.

CHOOSING TO DONATE THE GIFTS LAVISHLY SHOWERED ON HIM BY KINGS AND EMPERORS TO THE POOR AND NEEDY.

TAKING ONLY THAT WHICH
HE ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED
TO SUBSIST UPON.

GREAT KING OF
KINGS, I AM INDEED
HONORED WITH YOUR
GENEROUS GIFTS. BUT
YOUR APPRECIATION
ALONE IS ENOUGH
FOR ME.

I HAVE TAKEN
THAT WHICH IS MY DUE
AND I HUMBLY REQUEST
THAT YOU GIVE THE REST
TO THE NEEDY IN YOUR
KINGDOM...

...SO THAT
THEY TOO KNOW OF
YOUR GRAND GENEROUS
HEART AS I HAVE
BORNE WITNESS.

AH KALIDAS,
THE RUMORS WERE
TRUE. YOU TRULY ARE
AN ELIGHTENED
BEING.

I WAS A BIT SADDENED
TO SEE THE EFFECT OF
MY CURSE ON KALIDAS.

PAYING HEED TO MY PREDICTION
THAT A WOMAN SHALL BRING ABOUT
HIS DOWNFALL, KALIDAS SPURNED
ALL TIES OF KITH AND KIN.

HE ROAMED THE LENGTH
AND BREADTH OF THE LAND

HE LED THE LIFE OF
THE PERPETUAL WANDERER.

AND SO THINGS STOOD
TILL HIS TRAVELS BROUGHT
HIM TO THE ISLAND KINGDOM
OF THE SOUTHERN PEARL.

KALIDAS'S LOQUACIOUS VERSES WON THE HEART OF THE KING, AS THEY HAD DONE FOR THOUSANDS BEFORE.

THE YOUNG BARD THOUGHT NOTHING OF IT—JUST ANOTHER KING OF YET ANOTHER KINGDOM, SHIPS THAT PASS IN THE NIGHT.

YET UNBEKNOWNST TO KALIDAS AN ALIGNMENT OF OMENS WAS UNDERWAY, THE SIGNS OF HIS END WERE ABLLOW WITH THEIR MALEVOLENT HALOS.

BRAVO, KALIDAS. YOUR WORDS HAVE MOVED US TO TEARS. YOU TRULY ARE THE BLESSED OF GODDESS SARASWATI.

YOUR EXCELLENCY IS AS WISE AS HE IS CULTURED. I INDEED HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO HAVE FOUND AS GRACIOUS A LISTENER AS YOU.

I KNOW OF YOUR VOW, YOUNG POET, THAT YOU SHUN ANY GIFTS LAVISHED ON YOU. YET THERE IS SOMETHING THAT I MUST INSIST UPON. BE MY GUEST FOR A FORTNIGHT. THAT IS ALL I ASK FOR. LET ME REPAY YOU FOR THE JOY THAT YOUR WORDS HAVE BROUGHT TO ME.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOUR OFFER IS KIND, YET I MUST...

PLEASE KALIDAS, I BESEECH YOU.

BY THE GODDESS!

KALIDAS?

I ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION.

LORD KAMA, THE GOD OF LOVE, MOVES IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS. KALIDAS HAD TREKKED ON THE LONESOME PATH OF THE TRAVELER LONG ENOUGH.

IN THAT MOMENT I FELT THE ALIGNMENT OF EVENTS SEND A SHIVER THROUGH ME. WHAT I HAD FORETOLD WAS COMING TO PASS. THE END WAS NIGH.

KIND SIR, MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION? AT THE COURT, BEHIND THE KING, THERE WAS A YOUNG WOMAN ON THE BALCONY, A BEAUTY SO DIVINE THAT EVEN THE APSARAS OF HEAVEN ARE PUT TO SHAME...

MY LORD, PLEASE REMOVE SUCH THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MIND. THE LADY ADHAARA, THE BEAUTY YOU SPEAK OF, IS THE KING'S CONCUBINE. HE WON HER IN CONQUEST OF THE NORTHERN LANDS.

IT IS A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY DEATH FOR A COMMONER TO GAZE UPON THE KING'S CONSORTS.

AH, FOOLISH HEART. YOU YEARN FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

**KNOCK!
KNOCK!**

MY LORD, LADY ADHAARA SENDS HER REGARDS. SHE WAITS FOR YOU IN THE WESTERN GARDENS TONIGHT.

LORD KAMA BE PRAISED, FOR HE HAS SET THE EMBERS OF LOVE AGLOW IN THE FAIR LADY'S HEART.

LADY ADHAARA, THIS I MUST TELL YOU.

I CANNOT GAZE UPON THE FACE OF THIS FULL MOON THAT I FOUND SO PLEASANT BEFORE. HOW CAN ONE CHERISH THAT BLEMISHED VISAGE, WHEN ONE HAS GAZED UPON THE PERFECTION OF YOUR FACE?

KALIDAS, THOUGH BLESSED BY ME WITH THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE, STILL HAD THE HEART OF A CHILD IN THE MATTERS OF THE WORLD.

ADHAARA WAS OF A RACE OF WARRIORS OF THE NORTHERN WASTELANDS SHE WAS THE KING'S CHERISHED CONCLUBINE, YET HER HEART SEETHED AT BEING A PRISONER.

AS A MERE GIRL, SHE HAD RIDDEN THE WILD STALLIONS EVEN HER FATHER'S FIERCEST WARRIORS COULD NOT BEST.

HERE IN THE KING'S PALACE, SHE WAITED FOR A CHANCE TO BREAK FREE, AND IN KALIDAS SHE SAW HER FIRST CHANCE IN A LONG TIME.

SHE FIRST ENSNARED HIM WITH HER CHARMS AS THE DAYS PASSED BY SHE REVEALED HER PLAN TO THE LOVELORN POET.

KALIDAS,
THERE IS SOMETHING I WISH TO ASK OF YOU. WILL YOU ACCEPT ME AS YOUR COMPANION AND TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE?



OF COURSE MY LADY. HEARING YOUR WORDS, MY HEART SINGS LIKE THE FIRST WIND OF THE COOL NIGHT WHISTLING THROUGH THE BAMBOO GROVES.

I HAD NOT THE COURAGE, YET IN MY HEART I WAS PONDERING THE SAME THING.



LET US LEAVE TONIGHT. WE CAN BE FAR AWAY FROM HERE BY DAWN.



TILL THIS DAY I HAD NOT A THING IN THIS WORLD TO CALL MY OWN. BUT WITH YOU BY MY SIDE, I FEEL THAT I AM THE RICHEST MAN IN ALL CREATION. WE SHALL BE LIKE...

WAIT, WHAT DID YOU SAY? THE KINGS YOU VISIT LAVISH YOU WITH GIFTS. HOW CAN YOU SAY YOU ARE WITHOUT POSSESSIONS?



I PURSUE THE PATH OF ENLIGHTENMENT, THE TRUEST OF WEALTHS. I GIVE AWAY THAT WHICH IS NOT NEEDED TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE. I KEEP NOT ANY TREASURE WITH ME.

ADHARA WAS BORN IN A ROYAL HOUSE. SHE HAD A MEASURE OF CUNNING AND A WORLD-WISE SENSE OF SURVIVAL THAT KALIDAS THE ROMANTIC COULD NEVER FATHOM. SHE SPURNED HIM ON THE SPOT, TO WAIT FOR HER NEXT CHANCE.



OH MY SWEET BUFFOON, I AM A PRINCESS. HOW CAN YOU, A PAUPER, ASPIRE TO HOLD MY HAND WHEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO CALL YOUR OWN?

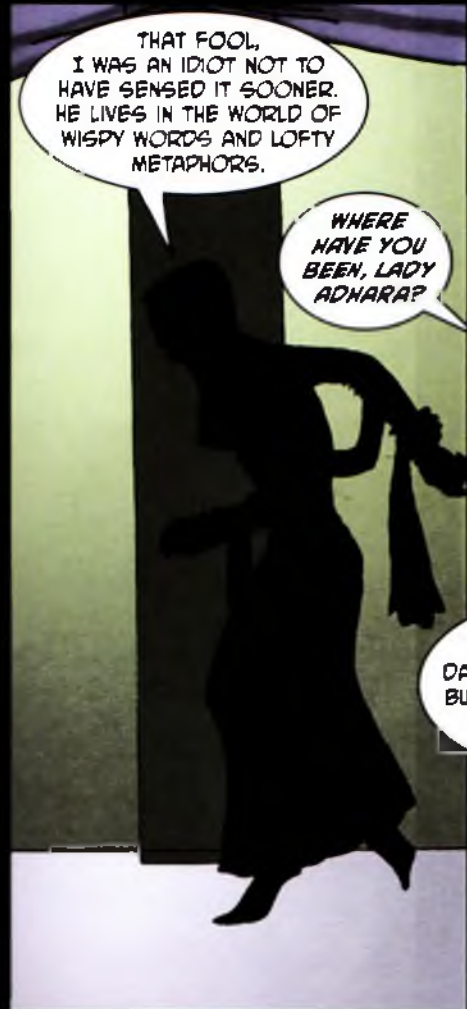


LADY ADHARA, I BESEECH YOU. I SHALL WRITE AN EPIC TO YOUR DOE EYES, COMPOSE MELODIES IN THE CADENCE OF YOUR MELODIOUS LAUGHTER...

GO AWAY, BARD, AND TAKE YOUR PIPEDREAMS WITH YOU.



AHHH, THE BARD AND THE CONCUBINE. MOST INTERESTING.



THAT FOOL, I WAS AN IDIOT NOT TO HAVE SENSED IT SOONER. HE LIVES IN THE WORLD OF WISPY WORDS AND LOFTY METAPHORS.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN, LADY ADHARA?



M...MMM...MY LIEGE?

I HEAR WHISPERS OF YOUR DALLIANCE WITH KALIDAS. BUT I CHOOSE TO HEAR IT FROM YOUR LIPS. IS IT TRUE?



ADHAARA WAS A DAUGHTER OF THE SHADOW WARRIORS OF THE DESERT. SHE LEARNED THE WAY OF THE BLADE WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG. SHE HAD LEARNED THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT LESSON OF THOSE HARSH WASTELANDS.

SHE KNEW THE PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE OF SURVIVAL AT ANY COST. VICTORY COMES TO THE PATIENT...

OH MY KING, I HAD NOT THE COURAGE TO TELL YOU IN MY SHAME!

...AND THE RESOURCEFUL.



KALIDAS IS BEGOTTED WITH ME. HE THREATENED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE IF I WERE NOT TO GRANT HIM AN AUDIENCE. IN FACT, I COME NOW SPURNING HIS AMOROUS ADVANCES ONCE AND FOR ALL.



KALIDAS?

YES, MY LORD, HE SOUGHT TO TURN ME AGAINST YOU. GIVE ME ONE CHANCE, MY LIEGE...



"...I CAN PROVE IT TO YOU."

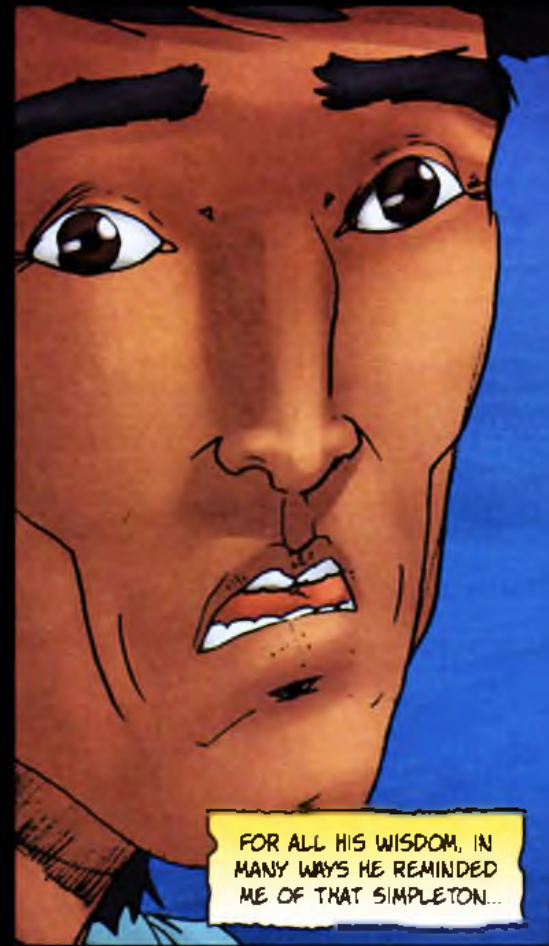
**KNOCK!
KNOCK!**



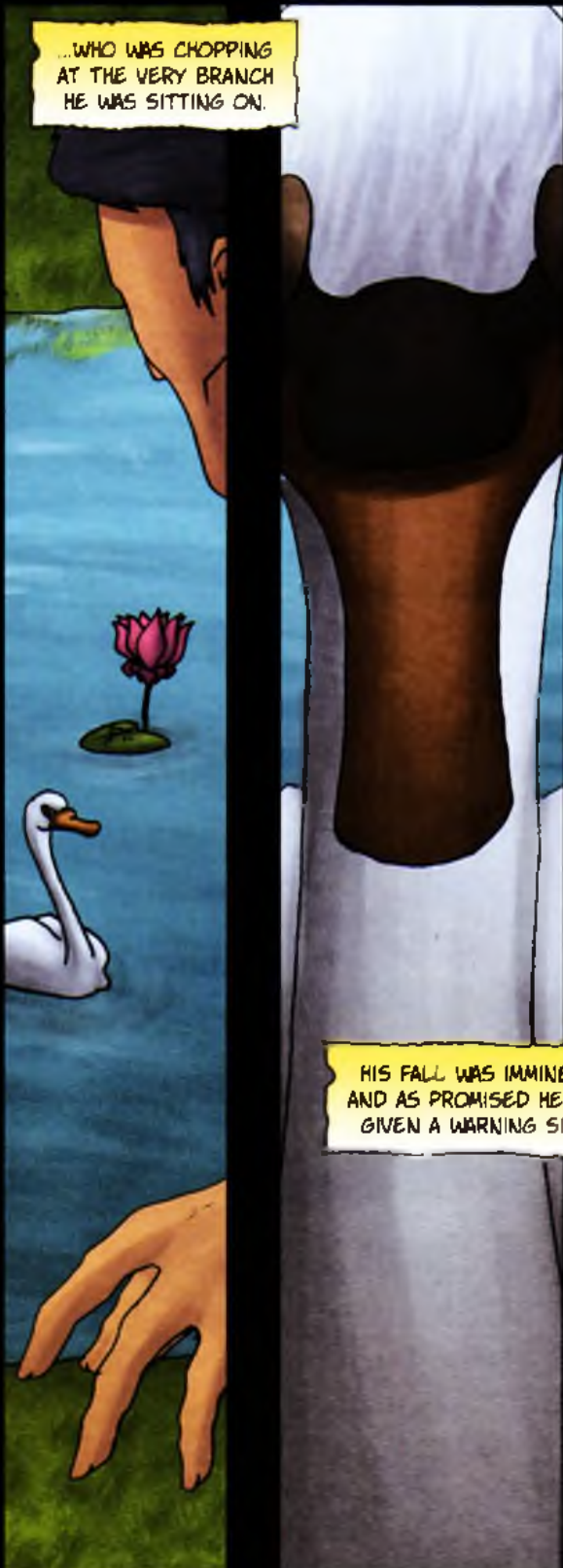
AH, LADY ADHAARA, SO YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO SEE THE TRUTH OF MY LOVE.



KALIDAS WALKED WITH A GAIT THAT HAD THE SPRING OF THE GAZELLE, THINKING THAT HE HAD AT LAST FOUND HIS LOVE RECIPROCATED.



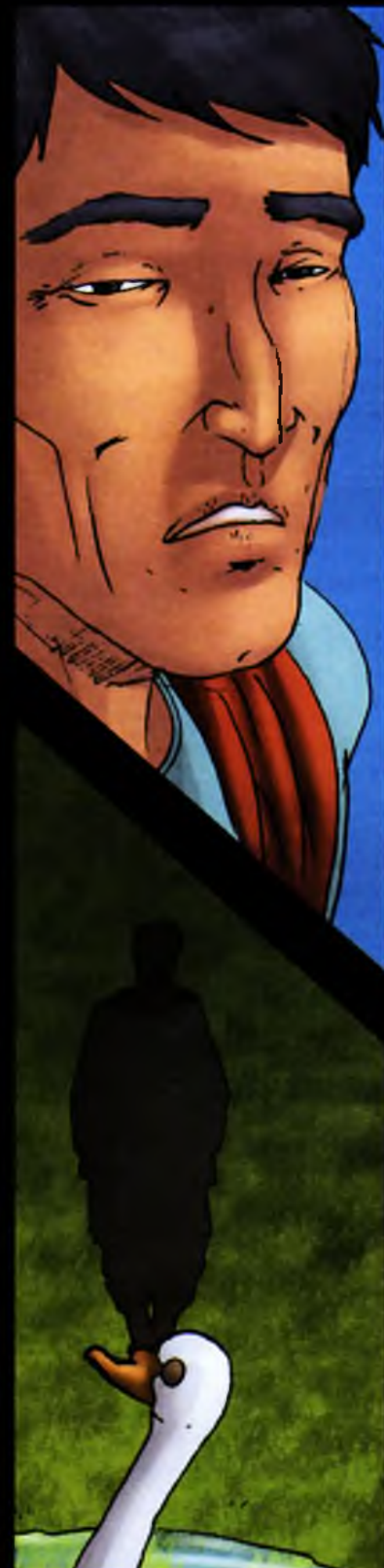
FOR ALL HIS WISDOM, IN MANY WAYS HE REMINDED ME OF THAT SIMPLETON...



...WHO WAS CHOPPING AT THE VERY BRANCH HE WAS SITTING ON.



HIS FALL WAS IMMINENT AND AS PROMISED HE WAS GIVEN A WARNING SIGN.





THEY SAY THAT LORD KAMA
IS THE GOD OF LOVE.



YET I HAVE ALWAYS FELT
THAT HE IS THE PATRON
DEITY OF THE BLIND.



IN A WAY I FELT A
SLIGHT TWINGE OF GUILT.



BUT KALIDAS HAD
BROUGHT HIS FATE
UPON HIMSELF.



THE DIE WAS CAST.



OVER THE AGES I
HAVE GRANTED THE
GIFT OF WISDOM TO
A CHOSEN FEW.

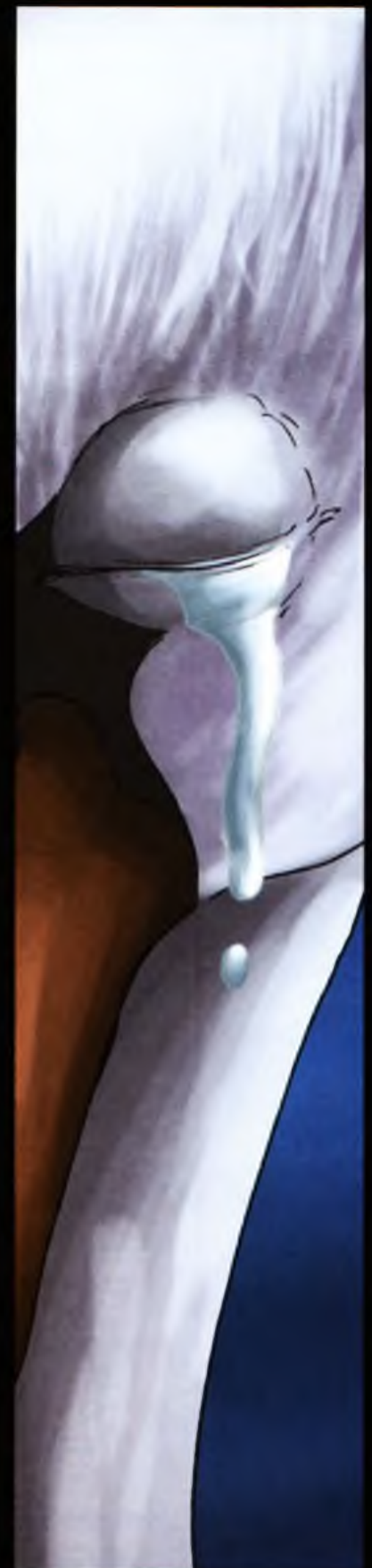
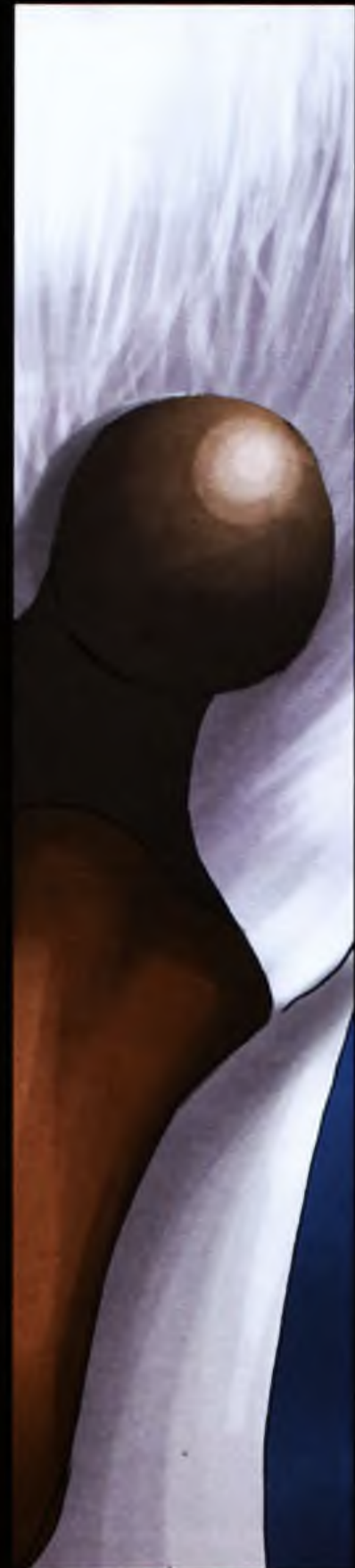


YET I HAD HIGH
HOPES FOR KALIDAS.



HE HAD SUCH...

POTENTIAL



I SEE IT NOW, GODDESS.

I COMPREHEND.

WHAT YOU TRIED TO SHOW ME THAT DAY.

THE END

IN ALL ITS
SIMPLICITY

"THE TRUTH."



REHAB IS FOR

QUITTERS

ROSIE