

SRI VENKATESWARA

Sri Venkateswara (or Bala ji) is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. When sage Narada expressed concern regarding the deterioration of human values in Kali-Yuga, Brahma, the Creator, told him that only Lord Vishnu, the Preserver of Creation, could save a wayward suffering mankind. But the problem was how to ask Vishnu to leave Valkuntha, his abode, and take upon an incarnation to descend to Bhooloka, the Earth. The events that led to Vishnu dwelling in the sacred Tirumala hills in the Southern India, as Srinivasa, is the saga of Sri Venkateswara. The Tirumala hills are also known as the Venkataadri hills for the dweller on the Venkataadri is Sri Venkateswara. Ven in Sanskrit means sin and 'kata' that which burns. Hence the devotees believe that even a visit to the holy Venkataadri hills can bring peace and salvation to mankind in Kali-Yuga.

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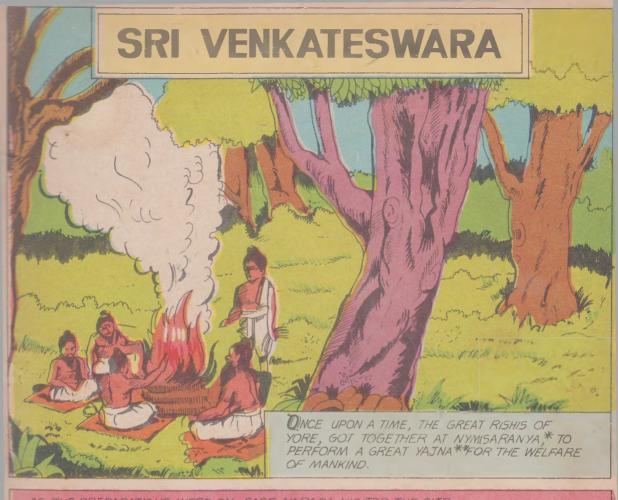
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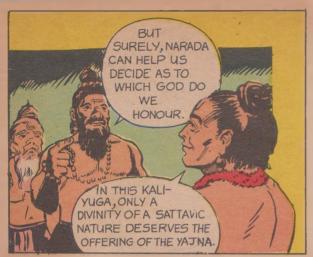
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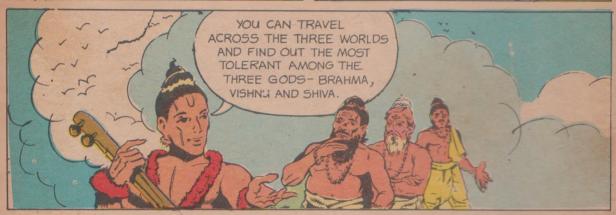


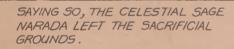














THE RISHIS WERE HESITANT, BUT SAGE BHRIGU AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THE GREAT JOURNEY.







THEREAFTER THE SAGE WENT TO KAILASH, THE ABODE OF SHIVA...

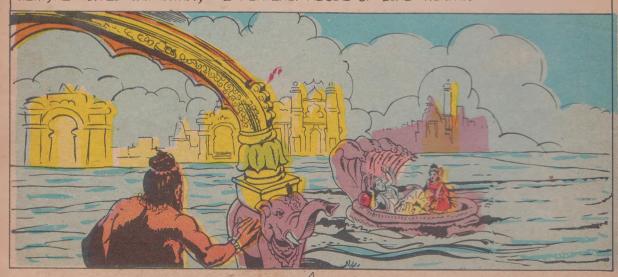
... WILL HE FOUND THE GOD SPORTING WITH HIS CONSORT PARVAIT.



BHRIGU SAW A TINGE OF IRRITATION ON SHIVA'S FACE, AND DECIDED TO RETIRE.



NEXT, HE VISITED VAIKUNTHA, THE HEAVENLY ABODE OF LORD VISHNU.



BHRIGU SAW VISHNU, RECLINING IN SOUND SLUMBER, WITH HIS CONSORT LAKSHMI AT HIS FEET.





IN ANGER, THE SAGE KICKED









BHRIGU RETURNED TO EARTH AND













AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF LAKSHMI,

VAIKUNTHA LOST ITS LUSTER. VISHNU,

PAINED AT THE SEPERATION OF HIS

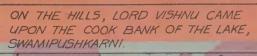






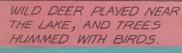








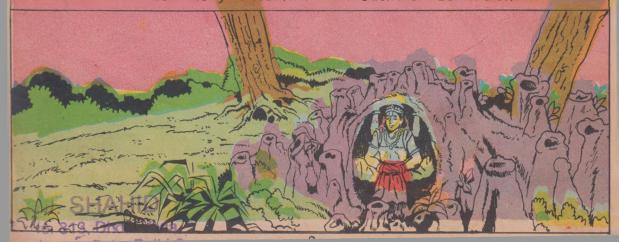








THE SUPREME LORD SAT INSIDE THE ANT-HILL IN MEDITATION, FORGETTING ALL THOUGHT OF FOOD AND DRINK.



THE SEVER PENANCE OF VISHNU DISTURBED BRAHMA, SHIVA AND OTHER GODS.

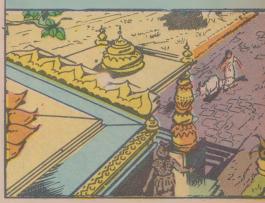




BRAHMA DEVISED A PLAN AND BECAME A COW
WHILE SHIVA TOOK THE FORM OF ITS CALF. AND
UPON SURYA'S**REQUEST, LAKSHMI TOOK THE
FORM OF A YOUNG GIRL ESCORTING THE COW.



LAKSHMI TOOK THE COW TO THE CITY OF A CHOLA KING WHO RULED THE AREA OF THE SESHAADRI HILLS.



ACCORDING TO BRAHMA'S PLAN, THE KING PURCHASED THE COW AT A GRAND PRICE.

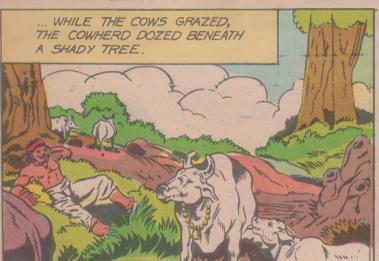


THE COW AND ITS CALF WERE ADDED TO THE ROYAL HERD.



THE COWHERD OF THE PALACE USED TO TAKE THE HERD FOR GRAZING TO THE NEARBY SESHAADRI HILLS, AND ...





THE DIVINE COW TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY AND WENT TO THE PLACE WHERE LORD VISHING SAT IN MEDITATION.



THE COW STOOD ABOVE THE HOLE OF THAT CAVE AND POURED ITS MILK.

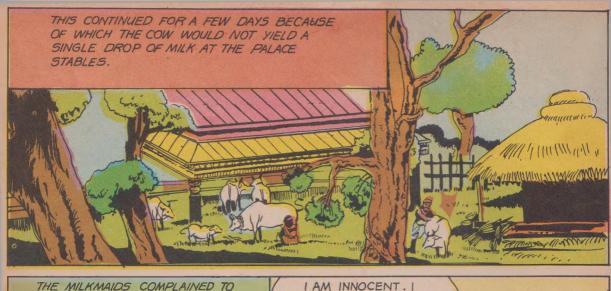


LORD VISHNU STIRRED
FROM HIS CONTEMPLATION,
AND BECAME AWARE OF
BRAHMA'S CONCERN
FOR HIM...



... AND DRANK THE MILK.



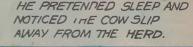






THE NEXT DAY THE COWHERD LED THE HERD TO

THE SESHAADRI HILLS.





HE QUICKLY PICKED UP
HIS AXE AND FOLLOWED
THE COW.





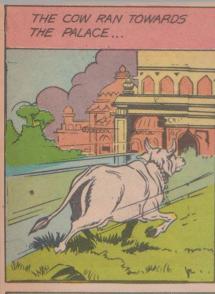




... AND CAUGHT THE AXE BEFORE IT COULD HARM



UPON SEEING VISHNU, THE .













... THAT BROUGHT HIM TO THE ANT-







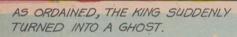






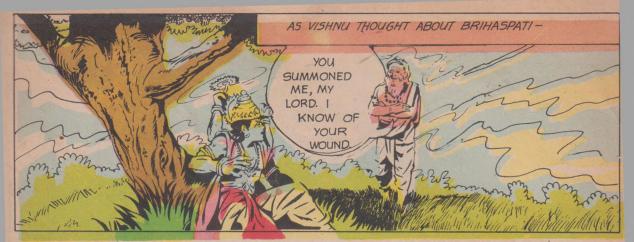




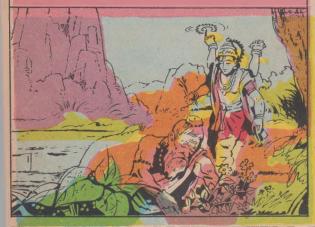








BRIHASPATI TOLD VISHNU TO APPLY A PARTICULAR HERB FOUND NEAR THE LAKE, SWAMIPUSHKARANI.



AS THE GOD LOOKED FOR THE HERB, LORD VARAHA* APPEARED.



VISHNU TURNED AND LOOKED AT THE SPEAKER. THE TWO RECOGNISED EACH OTHER.



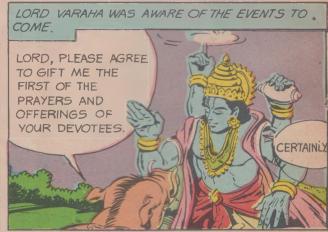
THE BOAR-AVATAR OF VISHNU

VISHNU RELATED HOW HE CAME TO LIVE THERE AFTER LAKSHMI'S DEPARTURE.









VAKULAMALIKA ACCOMPANIED VISHNU, KNOWING

WELL THAT HE WAS NONE OTHER THAN LORD





"YASHODA IN PREVIOUS BIRTH, WHEN VISHNU TOOK KRISHNA-AVATARA

AS TIME PASSED, THE DECCAN PLATEAU PRC 'ERED UNDER THE CHOLA KINGS, AKASHRAJ AND THONDAMAN.



KING AKASHRAJ HAD A CHARMANS WIFE DHARINIDEVI, BUT HAD NO CHILD.



UPON THE ADVICE OF PRIESTS AND ASTROLOGERS THE KING DECIDED TO PERFORM A YAJNA FOR BEGETTING A CHILD.



PRIESTS OF RENOWN ASSEMBLED TO PERFORM THE YAJNA.



AS THE PRIESTS CHANTED THE 'MANTRAS', THE KING PLOUGHED THE LAND AS REQUIRED BY THE YAJNA.



AFTER A FEW ROUNDS, THE PLOUGH STRUCK AN OBJECT...













THE ROYAL RETINUE RETURNED

TO THE PALACE, AMIDST GREAT



AFTER A FEW MONTHS QUEEN DHARINIDEVI

GAVE BIRTH TO A MALE CHILD WHOM THE

^{*} DAUGHTER OF KING JANAKA AND WIFE OF SRI RAMA



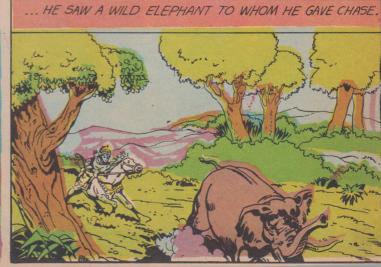








AFTER GALLOPING FOR SOME



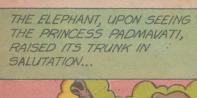
THE ELEPHANT RAN FASTER THAN USUAL FOR ITS KIND, MAKING AN INTERESTING CHASE.



PADMAVATI, AT PLAY WITH HER FRIENDS IN THE PALACE GARDENS, SAW THE WILD TUSKER RUNNING TOWARDS THEM.













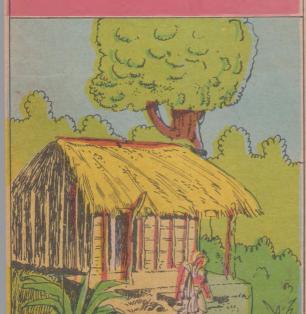






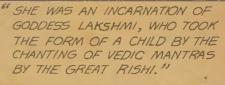






"IN HER LAST BIRTH PADMAVATI WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A SAGE

NAMED KUSATHWAJA



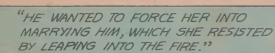




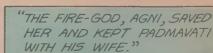
"SHE WANTED TO MARRY LORD VISHNU, AND ON HER FATHER'S ADVICE, SHE REPAIRED TO THE HIMALAYAS TO UNDERGO AUSTERITIES FOR THE PURPOSE."





















FIRE, BUT THE FIRE-GOD IMMEDIATELY CAME OUT WITH THE REAL SITA."

"SITA, THAT IS VEDAVATI, ENTERED

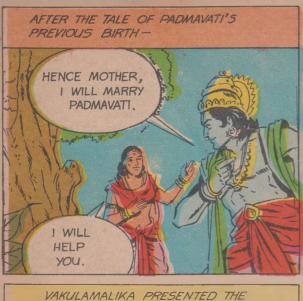
"RAMA WAS SURPRISED TO SEE TWO

EXPLAINED THE EPISODE OF VEDAVATI."

SITAS, BUT THE FIRE-GOD

"THEN RAMA GRANTED VEDAVATI A BOON
THAT WHEN HE TOOK HIS INCARNATION
AS SRINIVASA, SHE WOULD BE BORN AS
PADMAVATI TO THE CHOLA KING AKASHRAJ,
AND THAT THEY WOULD BE MARRIED."

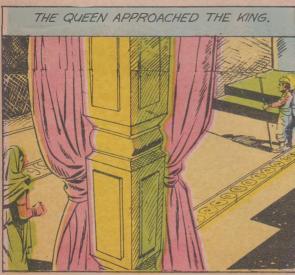














THE KING, UPON BEING TOLD ABOUT THE







THE WEDDING PREPARATIONS

AT THE HILLS, BRAHMA, SHIVA AND THE OTHER GODS ASSEMBLED TO ACCOMPANY VISHNU'S WEDDING ENTOURAGE.



















VISHNU DECIDED TO PERFORM A SEVERE
PENANCE TO GET HER BACK...



... AND AFTER BF IMA AND OTHER GODS



LAKSHMI JOINED VISHNU AND







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