

NO. 532 RS. 30



Sudama





Illustrated Classics From India

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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 430 stories from all over India have been told in this series that has been endorsed by educationists and recommended by teachers the world over.

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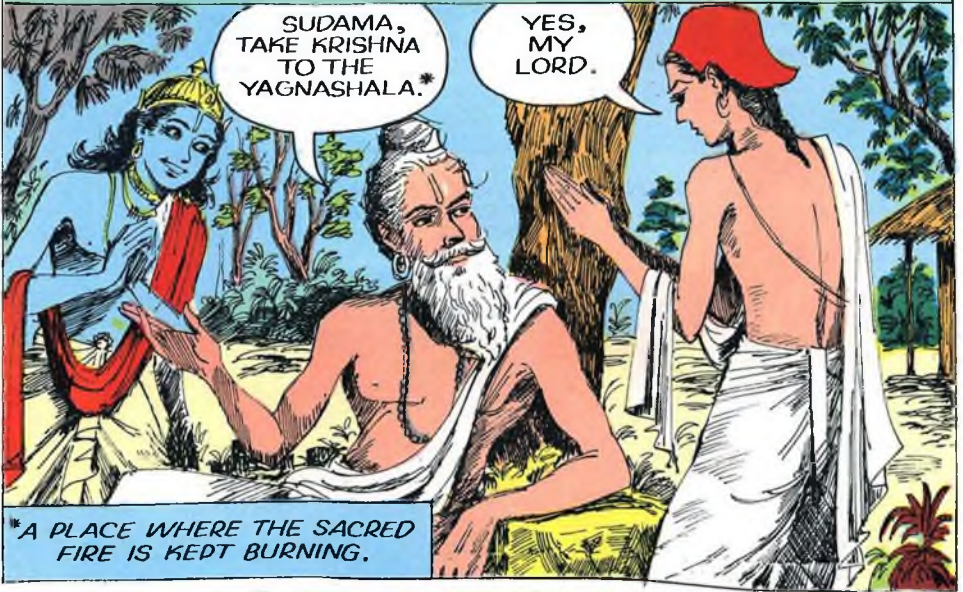
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SUDAMA

SUDAMA WAS A POOR BRAHMAN BOY. HE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF KRISHNA.



SUDAMA AND KRISHNA HAD MET IN GURU SANDIPANI'S ASHRAM.



IN THE YAGNASHALA -





YOUR RENDERING OF
THE VEDIC HYMNS IS
ALMOST PERFECT.

I HAVE GOT IT
FROM MY FATHER.
GURU SANDIPANI AND
HE WERE GOOD
FRIENDS.

*SUDAMA OFTEN PRACTISED
WITH KRISHNA.*



*ONE DAY, SANDIPANI'S WIFE CALLED
THE BOYS TO HER.*



WILL YOU GO
AND BRING ME SOME
FIREWOOD FROM THE
FOREST?

SOON AFTER THEY
ENTERED THE FOREST...



...A TERRIBLE STORM BROKE OUT.

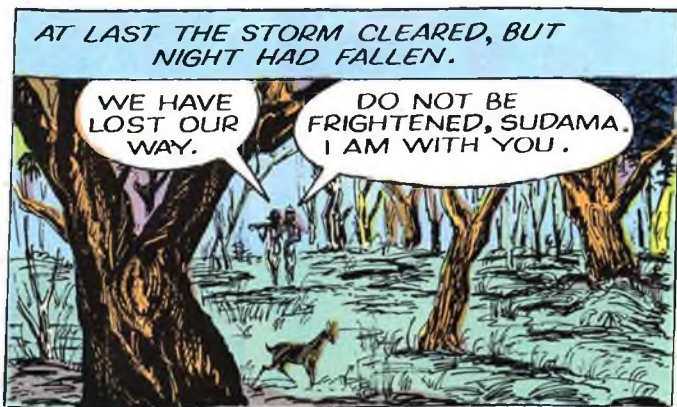


KRISHNA!

AT LAST THE STORM CLEARED, BUT
NIGHT HAD FALLEN.

WE HAVE
LOST OUR
WAY.

DO NOT BE
FRIGHTENED, SUDAMA.
I AM WITH YOU.



WHEN THE BOYS DID NOT RETURN -



I AM WORRIED ABOUT THE BOYS. I WILL GO AND LOOK FOR THEM.

GURU SANDIPANI FOUND THE BOYS AFTER A LONG SEARCH.



LIFE IS DEAR TO ALL AND YET YOU HAVE DISREGARDED THAT LIFE FOR MY SAKE...

AND HE GRANTED THEM A BOON.



YOU WILL NOT LOSE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE VEDAS IN THIS WORLD OR THE NEXT.

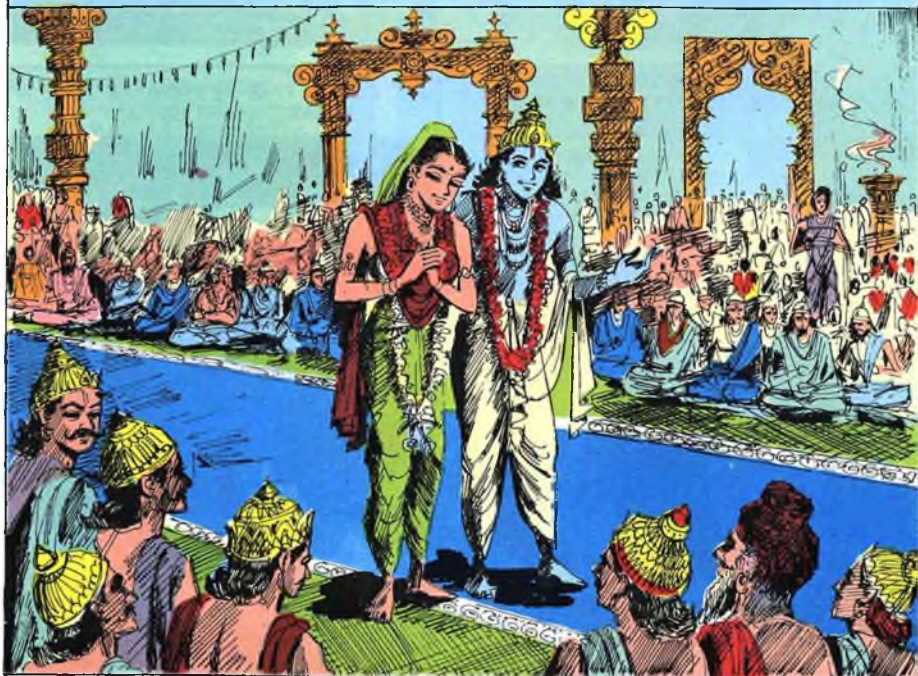
AT LAST THE PERIOD OF THEIR STUDIES WAS OVER.



TOMORROW WE PART AND GO OUR WAYS.



YEARS PASSED. KRISHNA BECAME THE LORD OF DWARKA AND MARRIED PRINCESS RUKMINI, THE GODDESS OF PROSPERITY INCARNATE.



SUDAMA MARRIED A BRAHMAN GIRL .



*HE DID NOT CARE FOR
WORLDLY PLEASURES...*



...AND LIVED IN DIRE POVERTY.



EVERYONE LOVED SUDAMA AND HE HAD NO ENEMIES.



BUT HIS WIFE WAS SORELY TRIED BY THE LIFE SHE HAD TO LEAD.



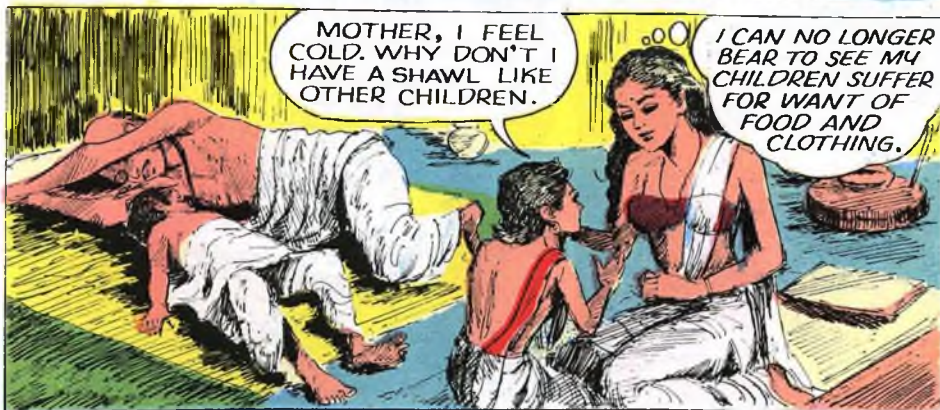
SHE PATIENTLY BORE IT ALL ...



...FOR SHE LOOKED UPON SUDAMA AS HER GOD.



SOON CHILDREN WERE BORN TO THEM AND THE CHILDREN TOO HAD TO LEAD AN AUSTERE LIFE.



THAT NIGHT WHEN THE CHILDREN HAD SLEPT —

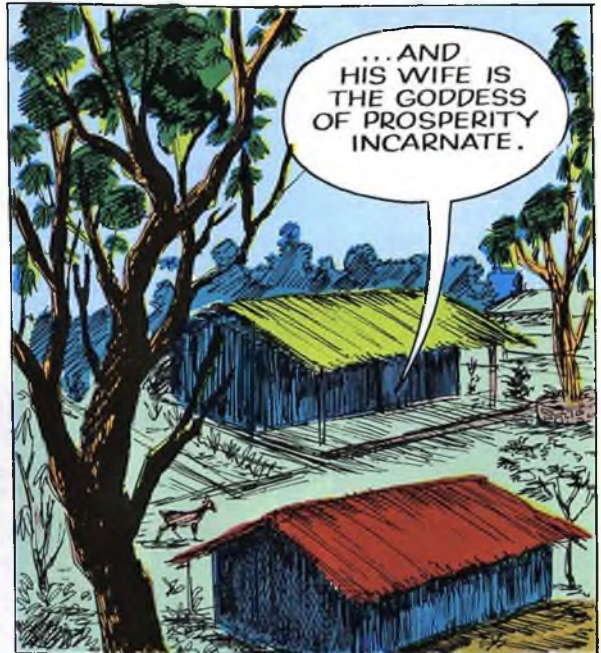


I BEG YOU TO BE PATIENT WITH ME, MY LORD.

DO NOT FEAR. SPEAK OUT YOUR HEART, MY GOOD LADY. DO NOT FEAR.



YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT KRISHNA OF DWARKA IS YOUR FRIEND...



...AND HIS WIFE IS THE GODDESS OF PROSPERITY INCARNATE.

THE PROSPERITY OF DWARKA FLASHED BEFORE HER MIND'S EYE.



GO MY LORD, I BESEECH YOU, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR DEAR CHILDREN AND MEET KRISHNA.

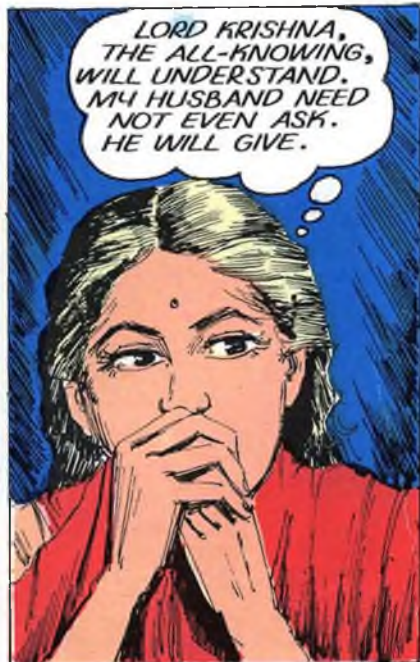


THE VERY PROSPECT OF MEETING MY DEAR FRIEND AFTER SO MANY YEARS MAKES ME HAPPY.





SUDAMA'S WIFE COULD BARELY CONCEAL HER JOY.



ONE THOUGHT OCCURRED TO BOTH OF THEM AT THE SAME TIME.

I CANNOT SEND MY HUSBAND EMPTY-HANDED.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING IN THE HOUSE? ANYTHING WORTHY OF BEING PRESENTED TO KRISHNA?



SUDAMA'S WIFE SUDDENLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING.

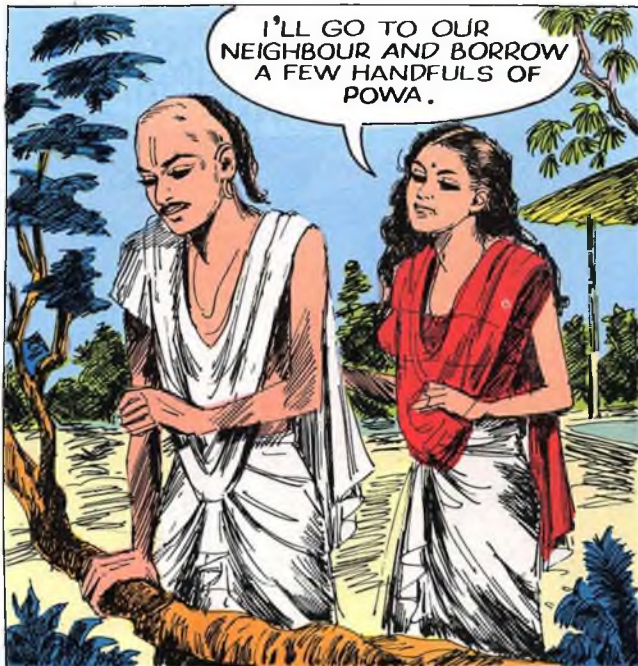
MY LORD USED TO TELL ME HOW KRISHNA LOVED TO EAT POWA*.



*FLATTENED RICE.



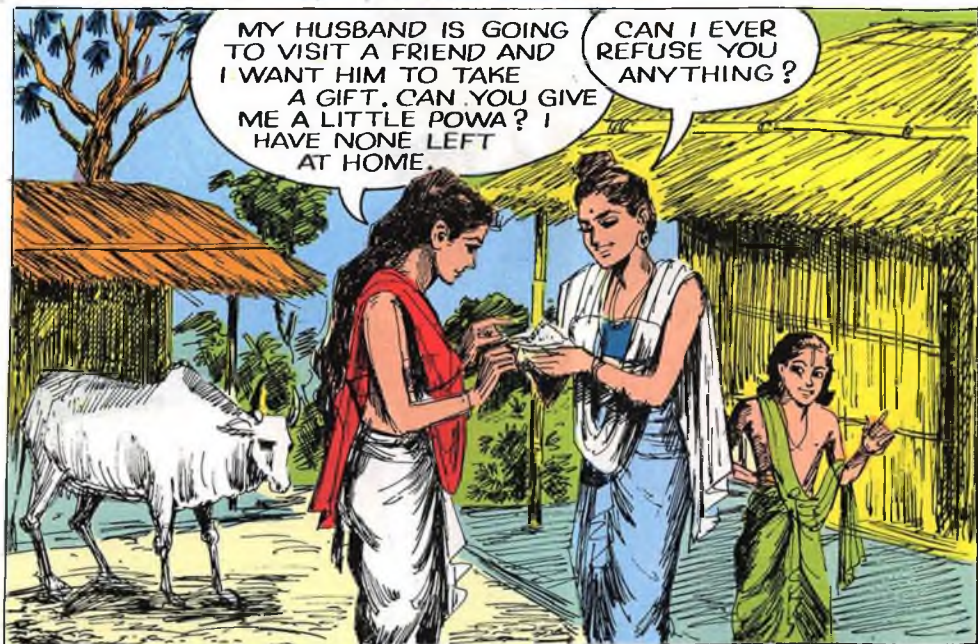
SUDAMA TOO REMEMBERED HOW KRISHNA HAD SNATCHED SOME POWA FROM HIS HAND.



I'LL GO TO OUR
NEIGHBOUR AND BORROW
A FEW HANDFULS OF
POWA.



MY GOOD WOMAN,
SHE EVEN
REMEMBERS MY
BELOVED FRIEND'S
TASTES!



MY HUSBAND IS GOING
TO VISIT A FRIEND AND
I WANT HIM TO TAKE
A GIFT. CAN YOU GIVE
ME A LITTLE POWA? I
HAVE NONE LEFT
AT HOME.

CAN I EVER
REFUSE YOU
ANYTHING?

SUDAMA'S WIFE BROUGHT
THE POWA TO HIM.



BUT SHE COULD FIND NOTHING TO TIE
IT IN SO...



SHE TORE THE END
OF HER GARMENT...



...AND HANDED THE
BUNDLE OF POWA
TO SUDAMA.



HE TOOK LEAVE
OF HIS WIFE...



...AND SET OUT ON THE JOURNEY TO DWARKA.



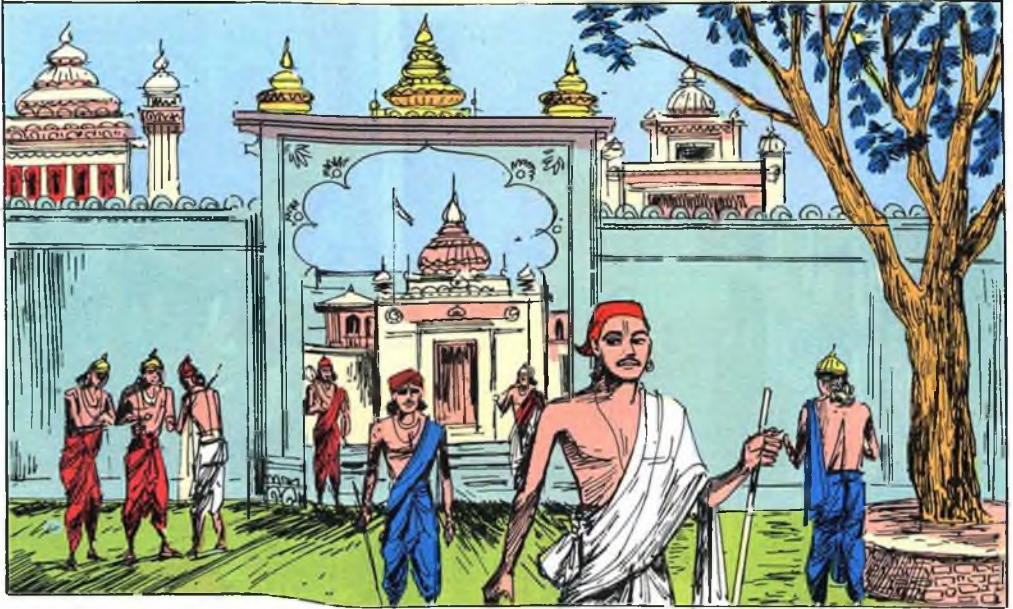
THE ROUTE WAS AN INTERESTING,
THOUGH LONG ONE.



AND BEFORE HE KNEW IT, HE HAD REACHED DWARKA.



WHEN HE CAME TO THE OPEN GATES OF THE PALACE AT DWARKA,
NO ONE STOPPED HIM AS HE ENTERED.



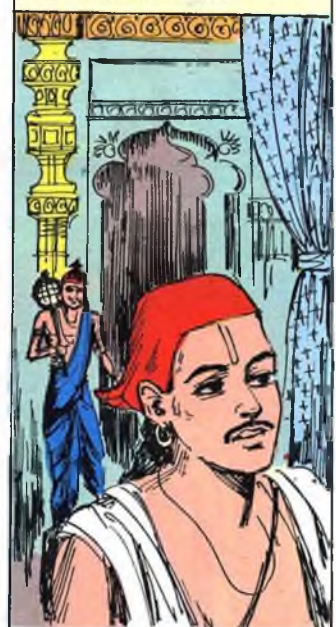
HE WALKED INTO
THE PALACE GROUNDS



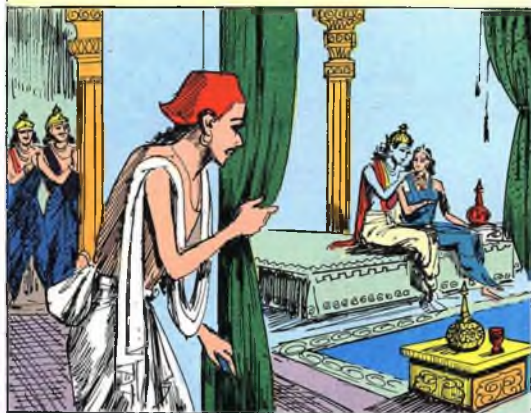
..AND THROUGH ROOM..



..AFTER ROOM.



AT LAST HE FOUND KRISHNA AND RUKMINI.





KRISHNA APPLIED SANDALWOOD
PASTE TO SOOTHE THE TIRED
LIMBS OF SUDAMA.



AND PUT PIECES OF BETEL
NUT INTO HIS MOUTH.



THE PALACE ATTENDANTS
WONDERED.

WHAT GREAT ACT OF
MERIT HAS THIS DIRTY
BEGGAR IN TATTERED
GARMENTS PERFORMED
TO BE SO DELIGHTFULLY
WELCOMED?



RUKMINI, WE MUST
DO EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE TO MAKE
HIS STAY HERE COM-
FORTABLE.

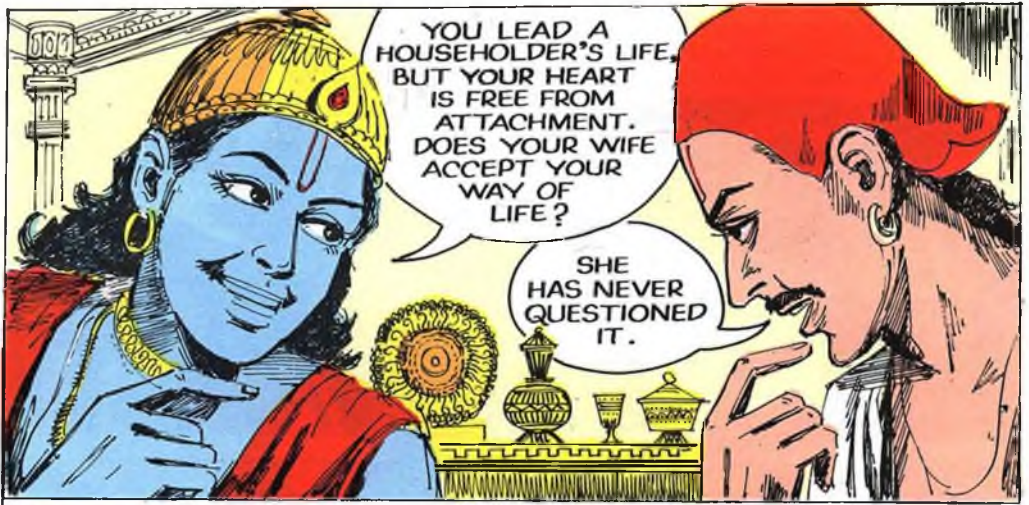


AT LAST AFTER SUDAMA WAS REFRESHED -

TELL ME,
HAVE YOU
MARRIED ?

YES,
MY WIFE
IS A GOOD
BRAHMAN
WOMAN.





KRISHNA SAW THE RAG BUNDLE, TIED TO SUDAMA'S WAIST.



WHEN KRISHNA SAW THAT
SUDAMA WAS ASHAMED TO
GIVE HIM THE BUNDLE -

THE POOREST
OF GIFTS GIVEN
TO ME WITH LOVE
IS DEARER TO ME
THAN THE RICHEST
OF GIFTS
GIVEN WITHOUT
LOVE.



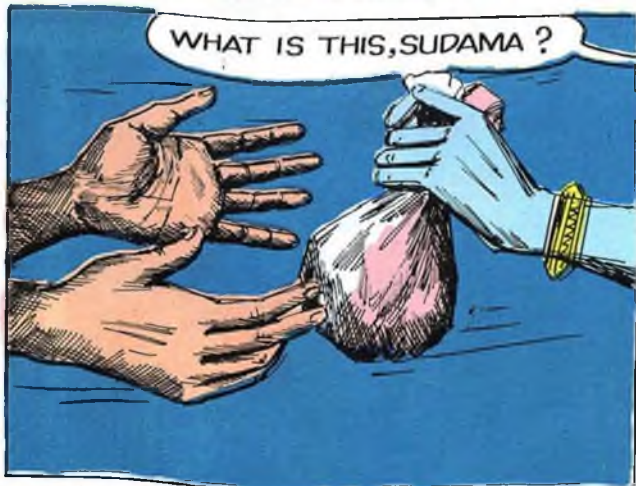
HOW CAN I GIVE
MY RAG BUNDLE
TO ONE WHO
HAS ALL?



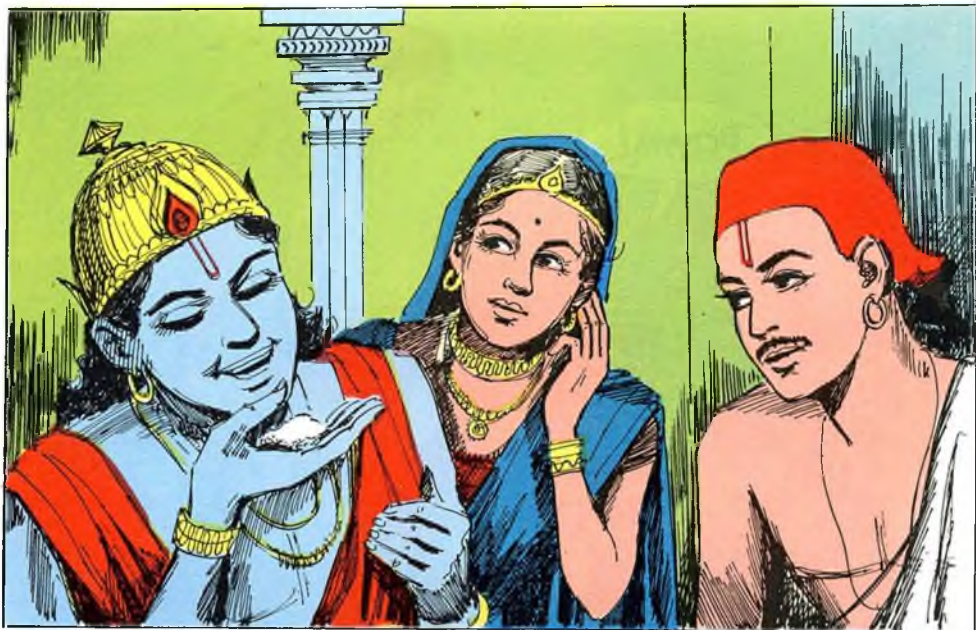
HE HAS NOT COME TO
ASK ANYTHING FOR
HIMSELF. HE HAS COME
OUT OF LOVE FOR HIS
WIFE AND ME!



WHAT IS THIS, SUDAMA ?







WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO PICK A SECOND HANDFUL -



IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE GODDESS OF PROSPERITY INCARNATE TO CONTROL ITS DISTRIBUTION.





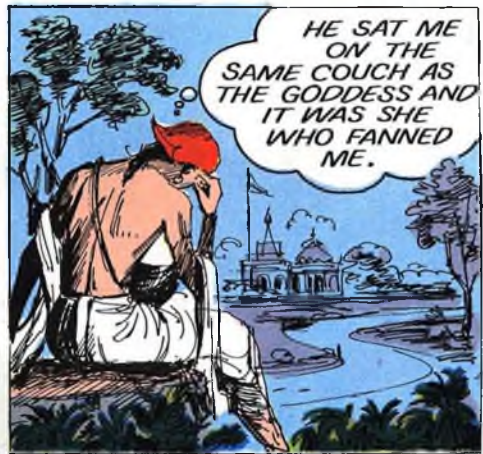
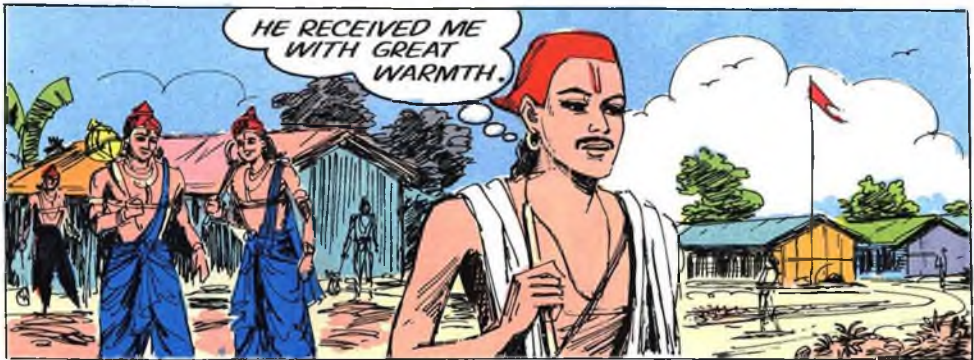
THE NEXT MORNING
SUDAMA TOOK LEAVE
OF KRISHNA AND
RUKMINI.



DON'T FORGET US,
SUDAMA, WHEN YOU
GO BACK HOME.



ON HIS WAY HOME, SUDAMA RELIVED HIS RECENT EXPERIENCES.



SUDAMA'S FEET ACHED.



I WAS RECEIVED
WITH HOSPITALITY
AND HE WASHED
MY FEET.

HE MUST HAVE
THOUGHT THAT IF HE
GAVE ME WEALTH,
I WOULD FORGET HIM.
HE HAS SAVED ME.
I AM FORTUNATE
INDEED.



BUT WHEN HE NEARED HIS HOME...

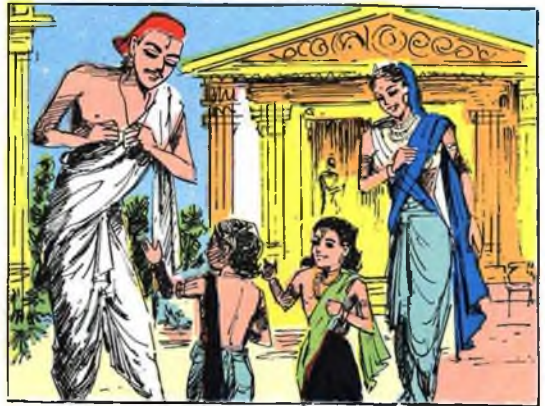
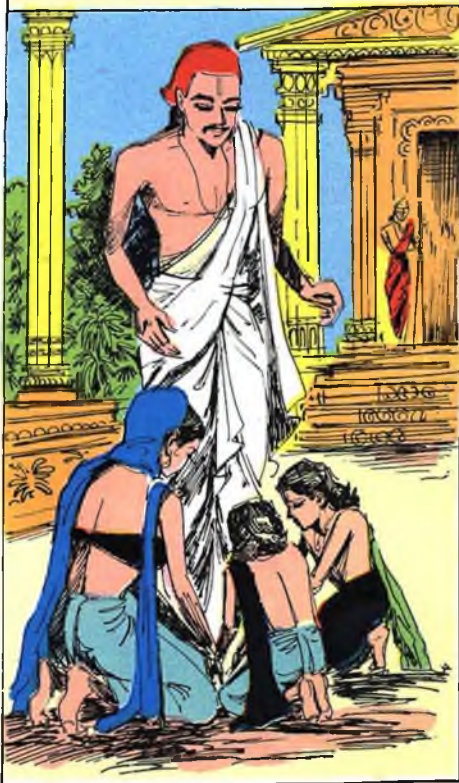
WHAT IS ALL THIS?
TO WHOM DOES IT BELONG?
WHERE IS MY HUT?



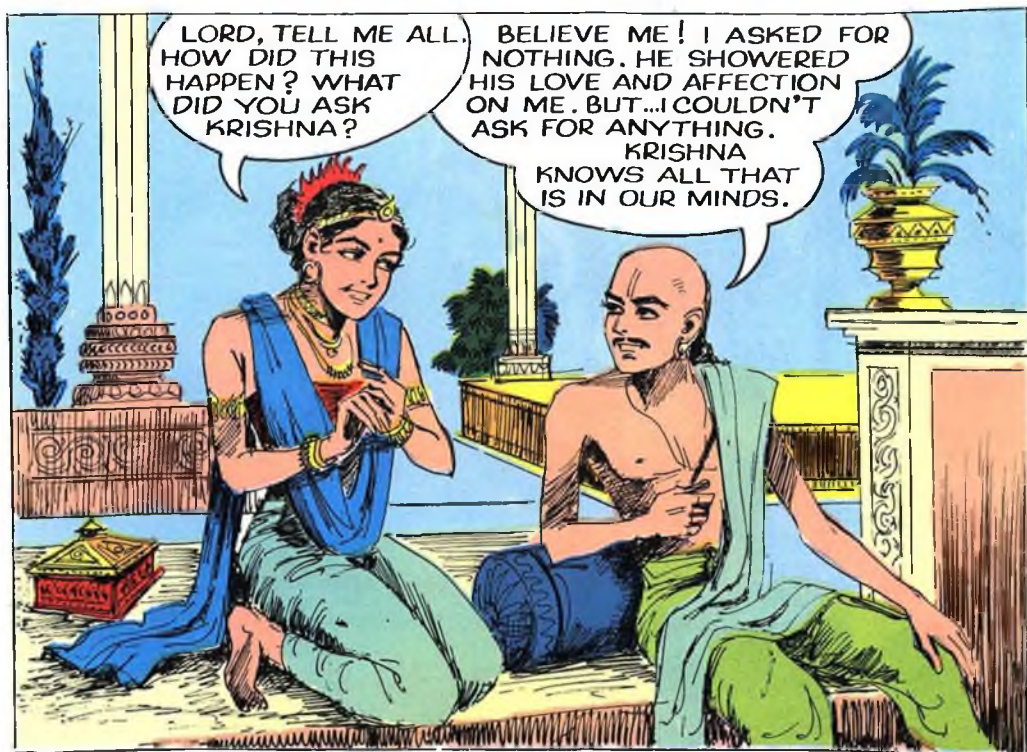
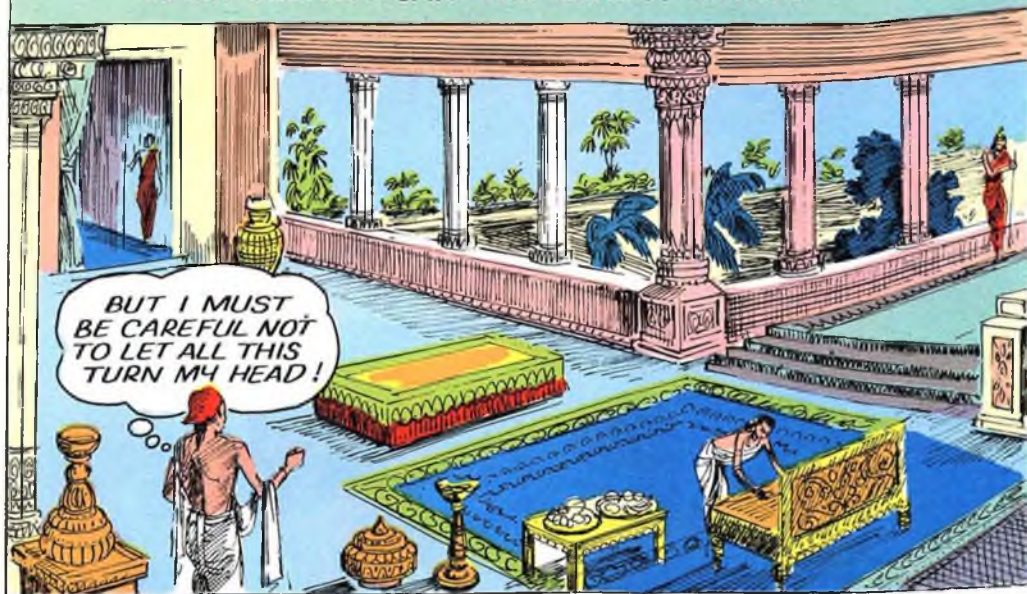
SUDAMA'S WIFE AND CHILDREN CAME OUT TO RECEIVE HIM, BUT-



AND SUDAMA UNDERSTOOD ALL.



WHEN SUDAMA SAW THE LUXURY WITHIN -



AND THEY TALKED ENDLESSLY ABOUT THE GLORY AND GREATNESS OF LORD KRISHNA.





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 tenth book of the Bhagawat Purana, gives in detail the life story of Lord Krishna – his birth, early childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The many incidents narrated are full of adventure and romance and at the same time inspire, enlighten and guide human beings whose aim is to ennoble their lives and attain God.

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How Sudama's wife coaxes him to go and see Krishna, his prosperous and generous childhood friend, and what happens when Sudama does is retold in pictures in the following pages.

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Kamala Chandrakant Illustrations: Prabhakar Khanolkar

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