



# VAISHNO DEVI

GODDESS OF THE HILLS

Vol 829 | ₹90





## The route to your roots

When they look back at their formative years, many Indians nostalgically recall the vital part Amar Chitra Katha picture books have played in their lives. It was **ACK – Amar Chitra Katha** – that first gave them a glimpse of their glorious heritage.

Since they were introduced in 1967, there are now **over 400 Amar Chitra Katha titles** to choose from. **Over 100 million copies** have been sold worldwide.

Now the Amar Chitra Katha titles are even more widely available in **1000+ bookstores all across India**. You can also buy all the titles through our online store [www.amarchitrakatha.com](http://www.amarchitrakatha.com). We provide quick delivery anywhere in the world.

To make it easy for you to locate the titles of your choice from our treasure trove of titles, the books are now arranged in five categories.

### **Epics and Mythology**

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

### **Indian Classics**

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

### **Fables and Humour**

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

### **Bravehearts**

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

### **Visionaries**

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

### **Contemporary Classics**

The Best of Modern Indian literature

**Script :** Aruna Balakrishna Singh

**Illustrations and cover :** Durgesh Velhal

**Colour & Layout :** Adarsh Achari, Anil Kumar M. & Subramanian

## **Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd**

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 2013, Reprinted February 2019,

ISBN 978-81-8482-630-2

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., AFL House, 7th Floor,  
Lok Bharati Complex, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India.

Printed at Zirius Images Pvt. Ltd, Bhiwandi, Thane - 421 311.

For Consumer Complaints Contact Tel : +91-22 4918881/2

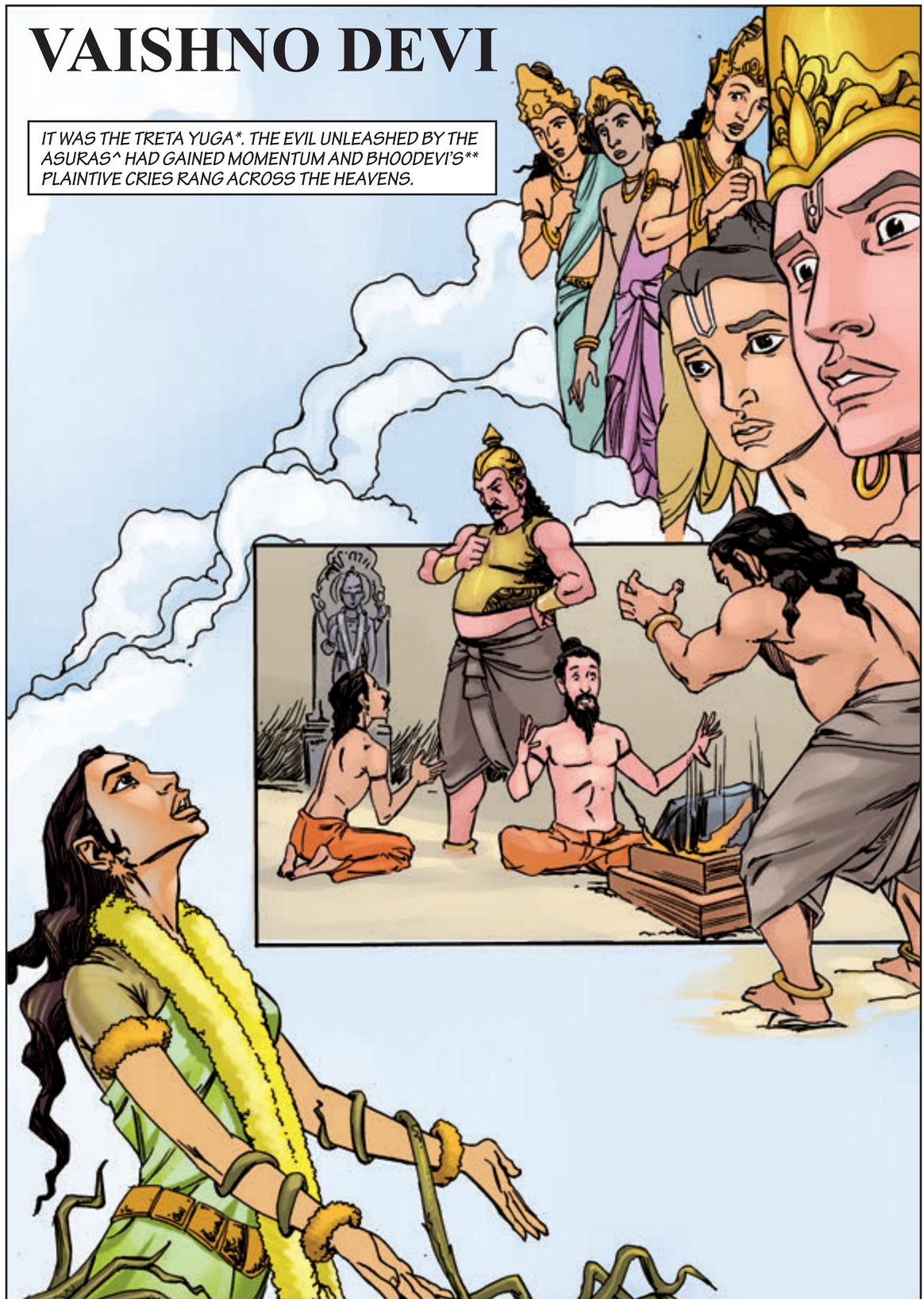
Email: [customerservice@ack-media.com](mailto:customerservice@ack-media.com)

This book is sold subject to the condition that the publication may not be reproduced,

stored in a retrieval system (including but not limited to computers, disks, external drives, electronic or digital devices, e-readers, websites), or transmitted in any form or by any means (including but not limited to cyclostyling, photocopying, docutech or other reprographic reproductions, mechanical, recording, electronic, digital versions) without the prior written permission of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

# VAISHNO DEVI

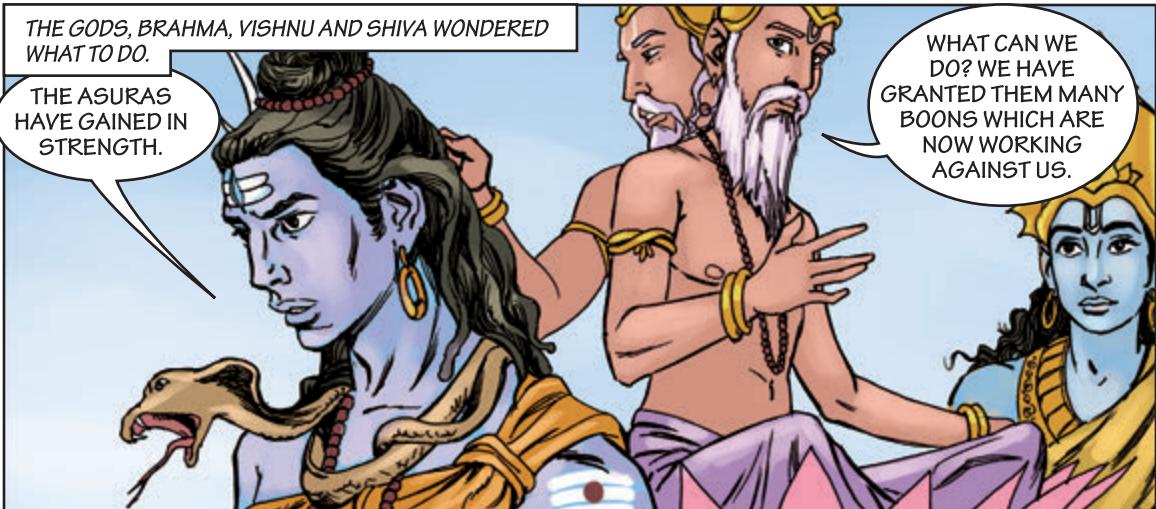
IT WAS THE TRETA YUGA\*. THE EVIL UNLEASHED BY THE ASURAS<sup>^</sup> HAD GAINED MOMENTUM AND BHOODEVI'S\*\* PLAINTIVE CRIES RANG ACROSS THE HEAVENS.



THE GODS, BRAHMA, VISHNU AND SHIVA WONDERED WHAT TO DO.

THE ASURAS HAVE GAINED IN STRENGTH.

WHAT CAN WE DO? WE HAVE GRANTED THEM MANY BOONS WHICH ARE NOW WORKING AGAINST US.



NOT FAR AWAY, THEIR CONSORTS\* WATCHED THEM.

OUR HUSBANDS SEEM SO DISTURBED. WISH WE COULD HELP THEM....

I THINK WE CAN. COME WITH ME.



AND SO -

OUR COLLECTIVE ENERGY WILL BRING FORTH A POWER SO GREAT, THAT SHE WILL BE UNDEFEATABLE IN BATTLE AND WILL RID EARTH OF HER SUFFERING.

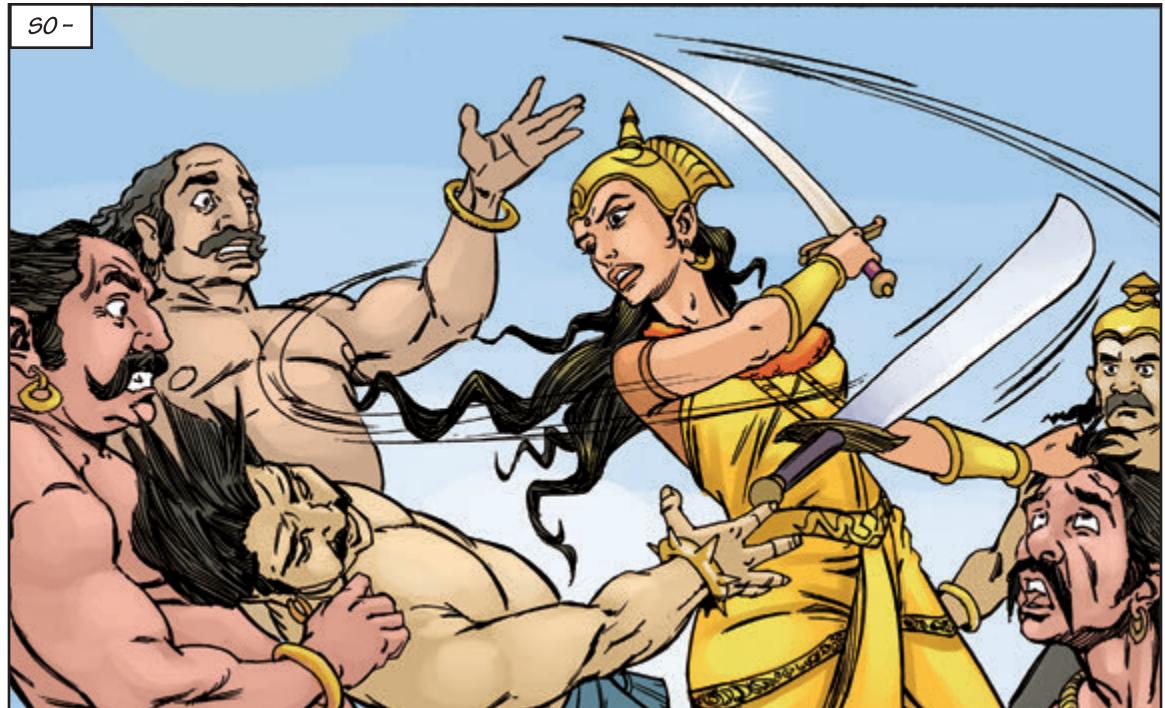


\* SARASWATI, LAKSHMI AND PARVATI

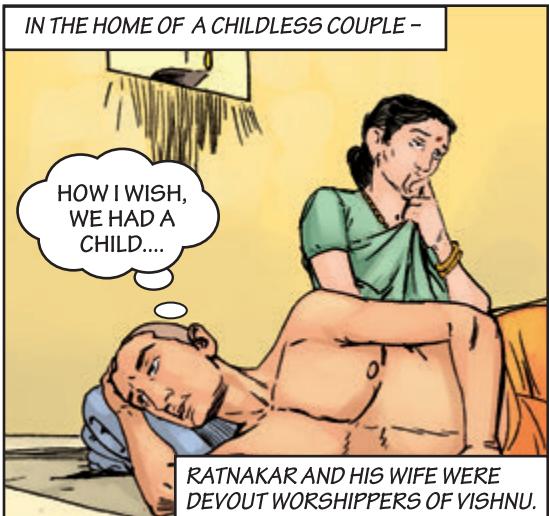
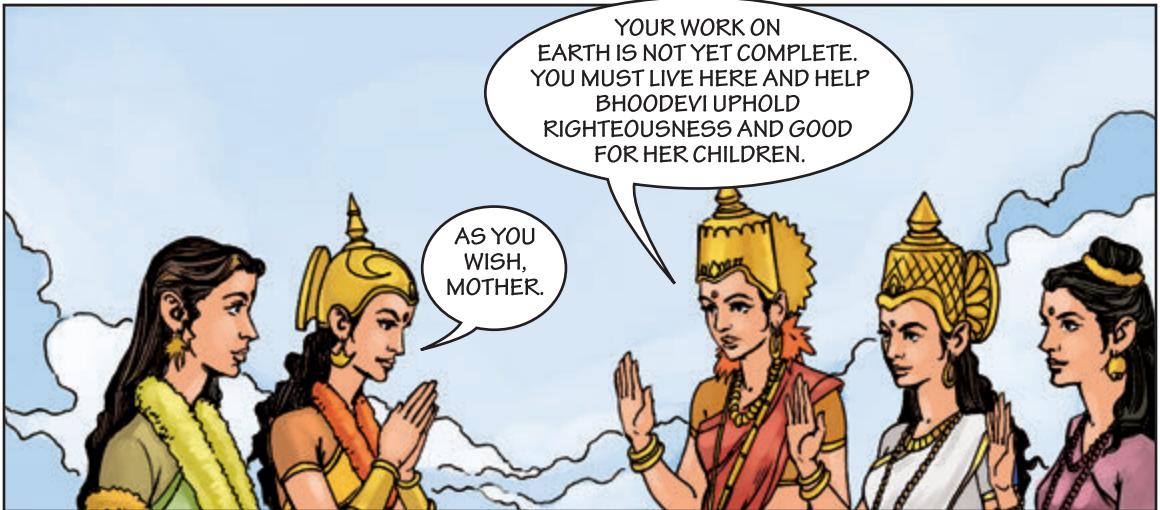
SOON -



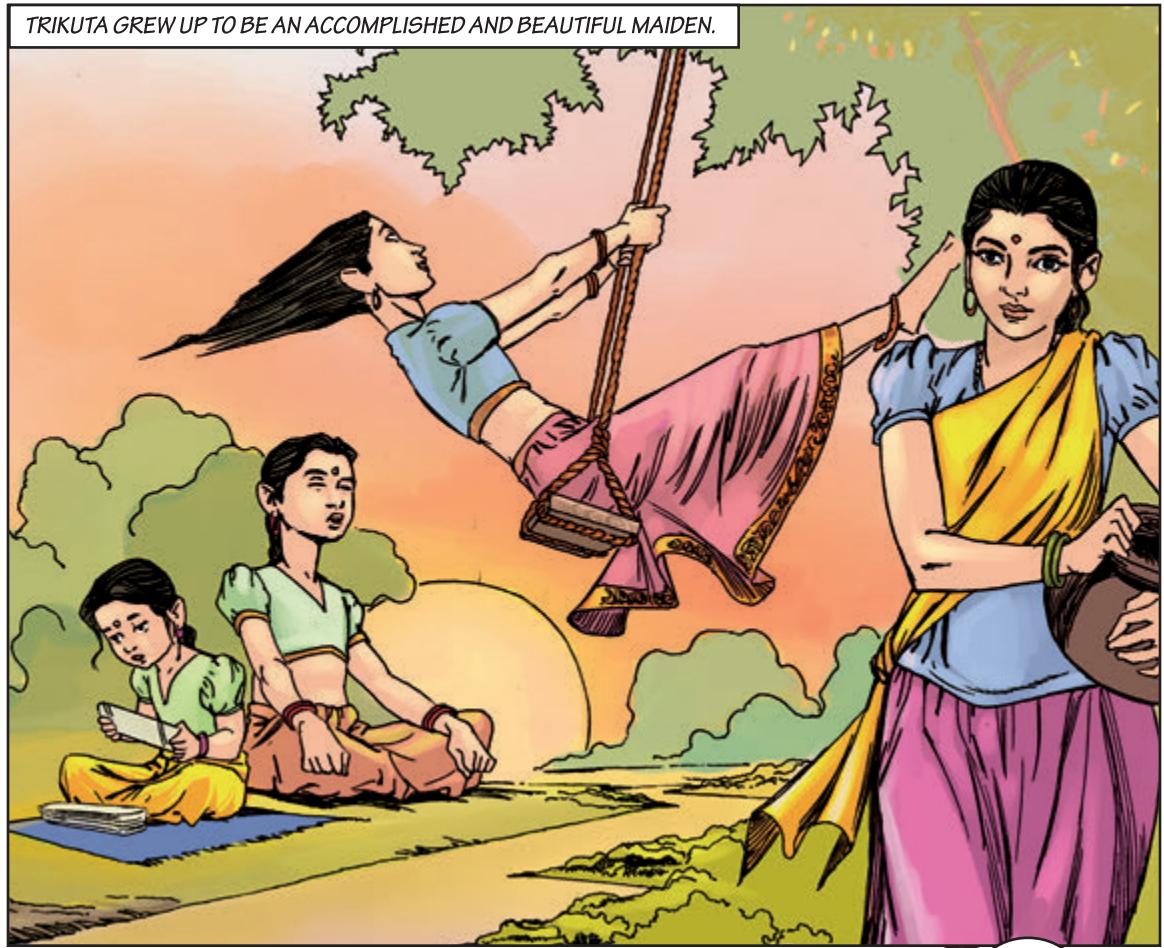
SO -







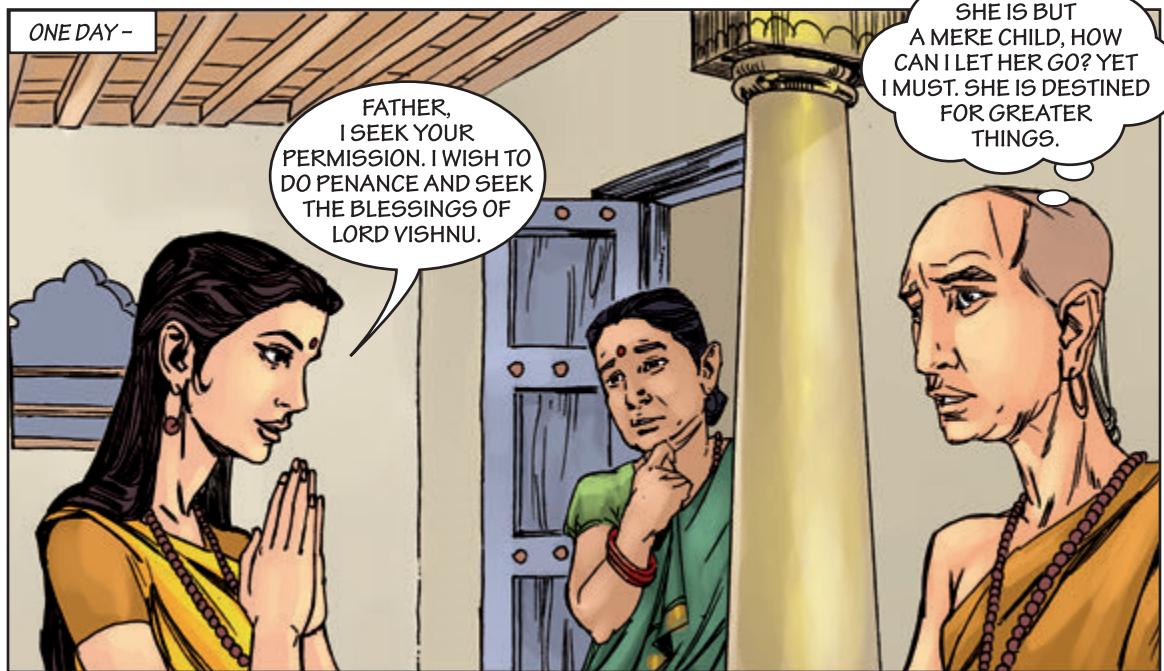
TRIKUTA GREW UP TO BE AN ACCOMPLISHED AND BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN.



ONE DAY -

FATHER,  
I SEEK YOUR  
PERMISSION. I WISH TO  
DO PENANCE AND SEEK  
THE BLESSINGS OF  
LORD VISHNU.

SHE IS BUT  
A MERE CHILD, HOW  
CAN I LET HER GO? YET  
I MUST. SHE IS DESTINED  
FOR GREATER  
THINGS.



VAISHNO DEVI

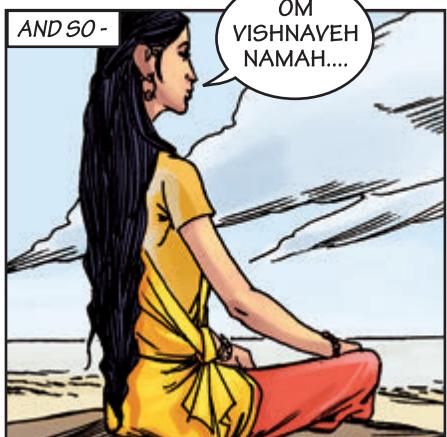
TRIKUTA REACHED THE SEASHORE.

WHAT A SERENE  
PLACE THIS IS, PERFECT  
FOR MY MEDITATION. I SHALL  
LIVE HERE AND SPEND MY  
DAYS MEDITATING ON  
THE LORD.



AND SO -

OM  
VISHNAVEH  
NAMAH....

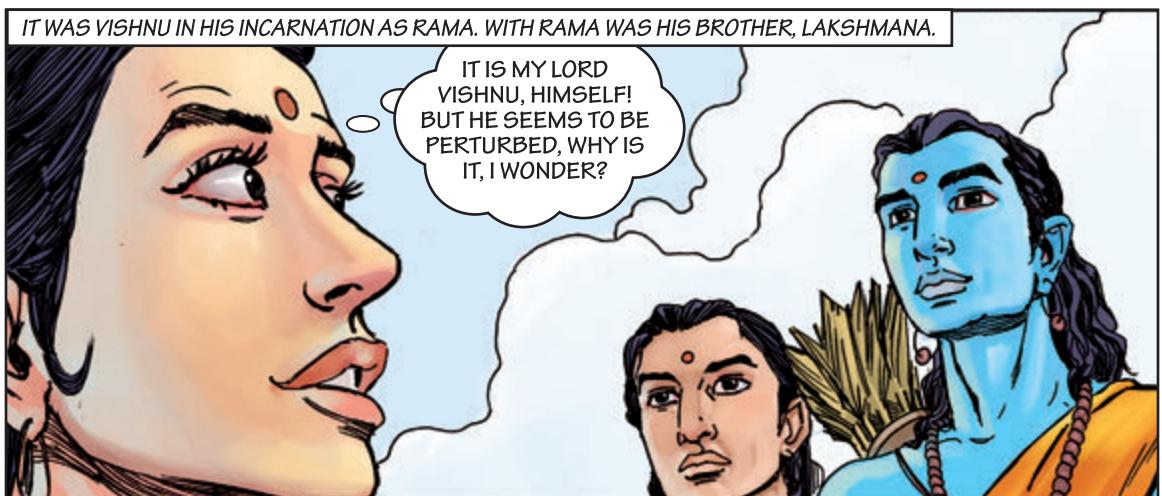


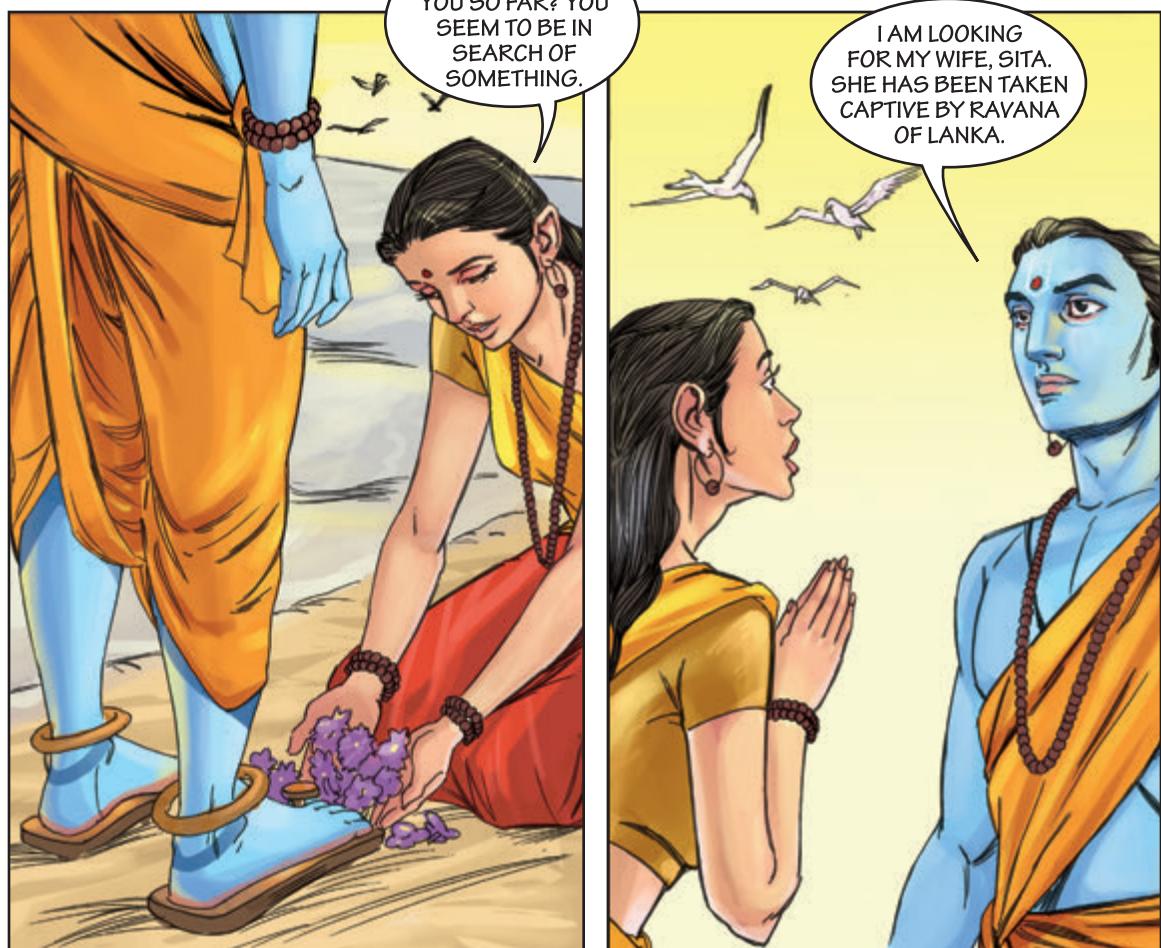
ONE DAY -

I CAN SENSE  
SOMEONE  
APPROACHING.  
IT IS....



IT WAS VISHNU IN HIS INCARNATION AS RAMA. WITH RAMA WAS HIS BROTHER, LAKSHMANA.

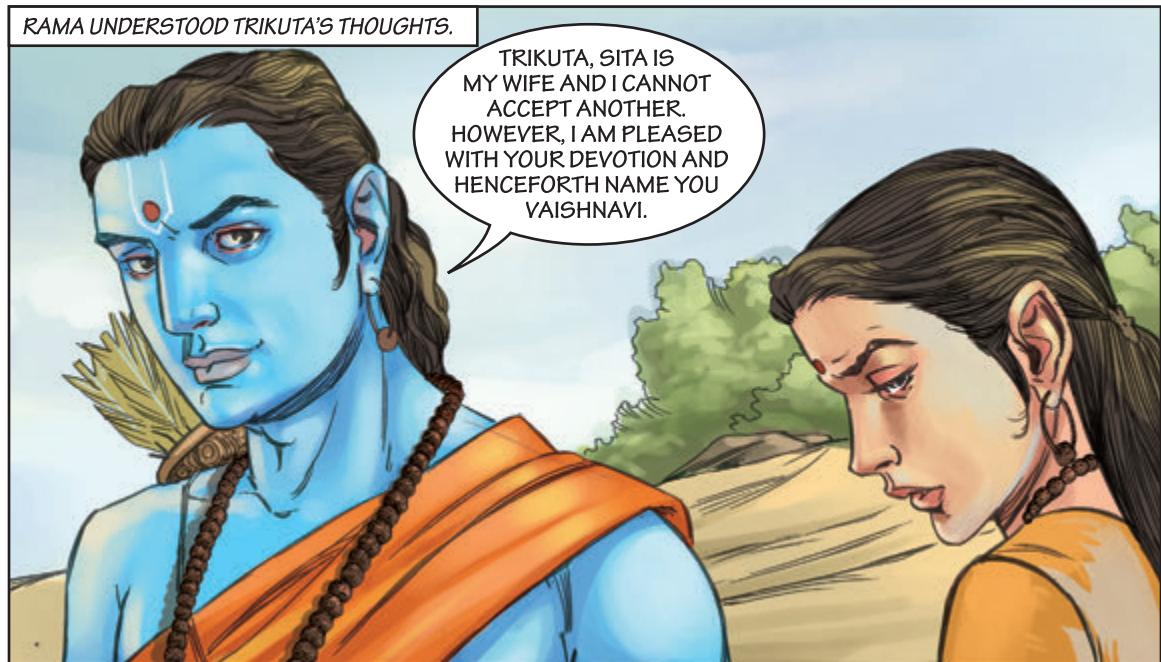


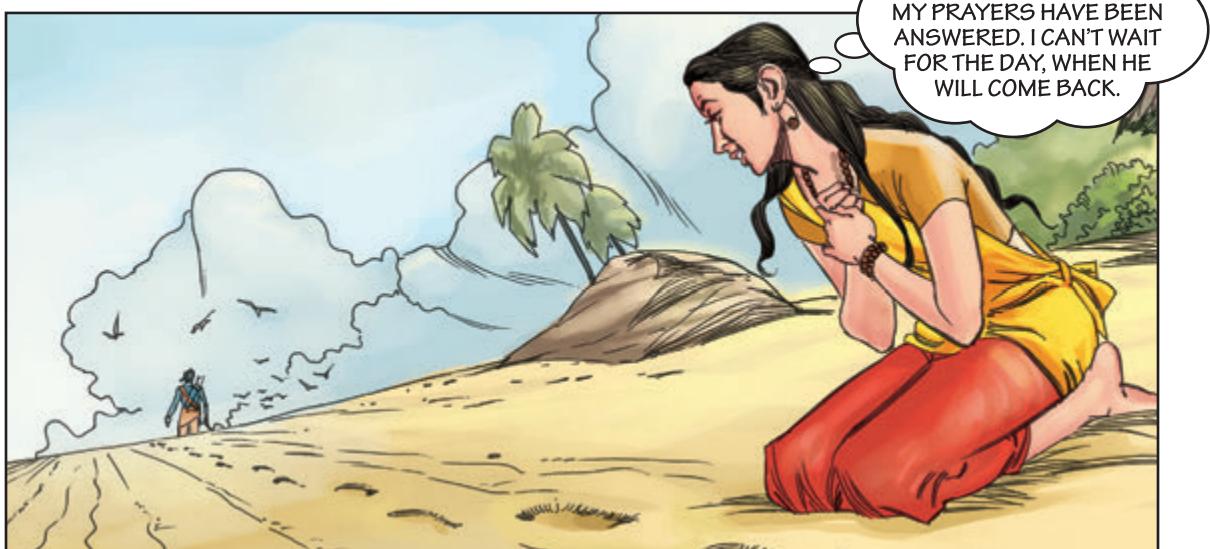
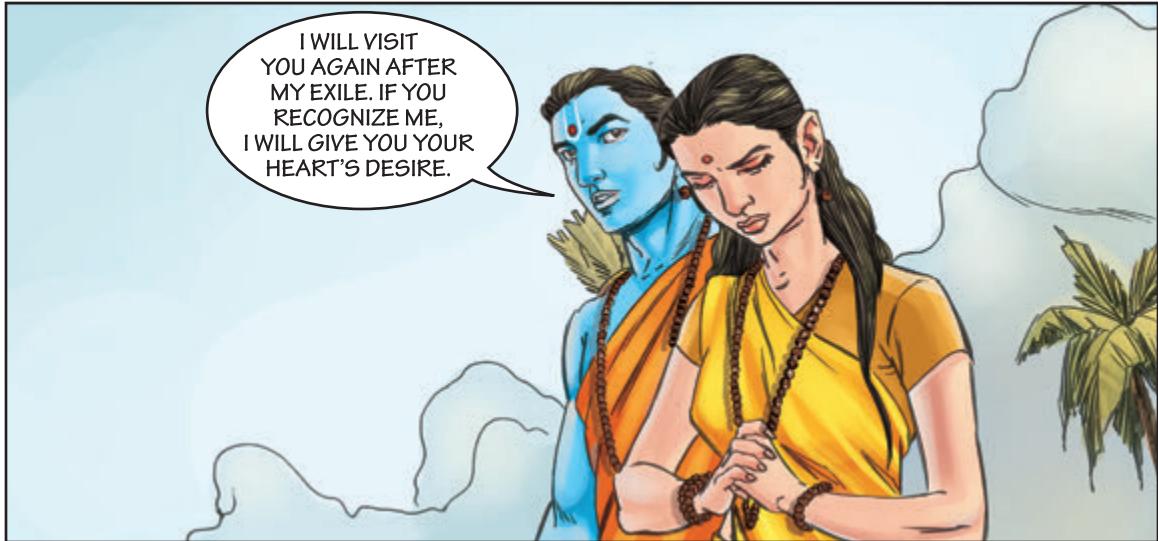


UPON HEARING THIS, TRIKUTA'S FACE FELL.



RAMA UNDERSTOOD TRIKUTA'S THOUGHTS.

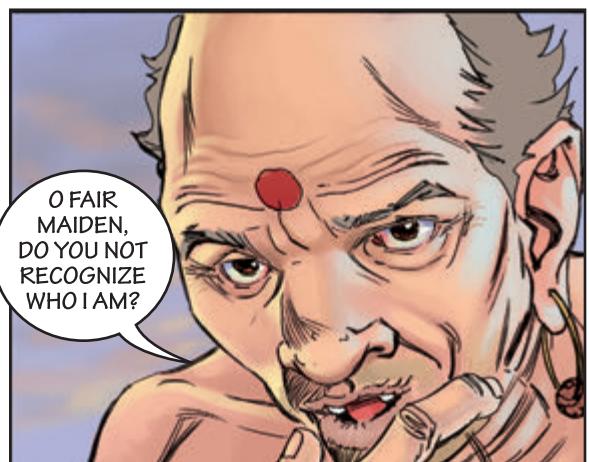




VAISHNAVI AWAITED HER  
LORD'S RETURN.



ONE DAY -





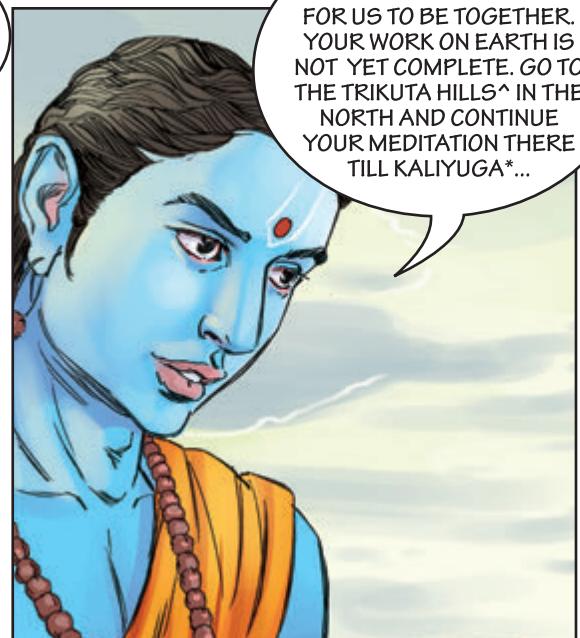
AS SOON AS SHE UTTERED THE WORDS, VAISHNAVI REALISED HER FOLLY.



MY LORD,  
FORGIVE ME!  
IN MY HASTE AND  
ARROGANCE, I COULD  
NOT RECOGNIZE  
YOU.



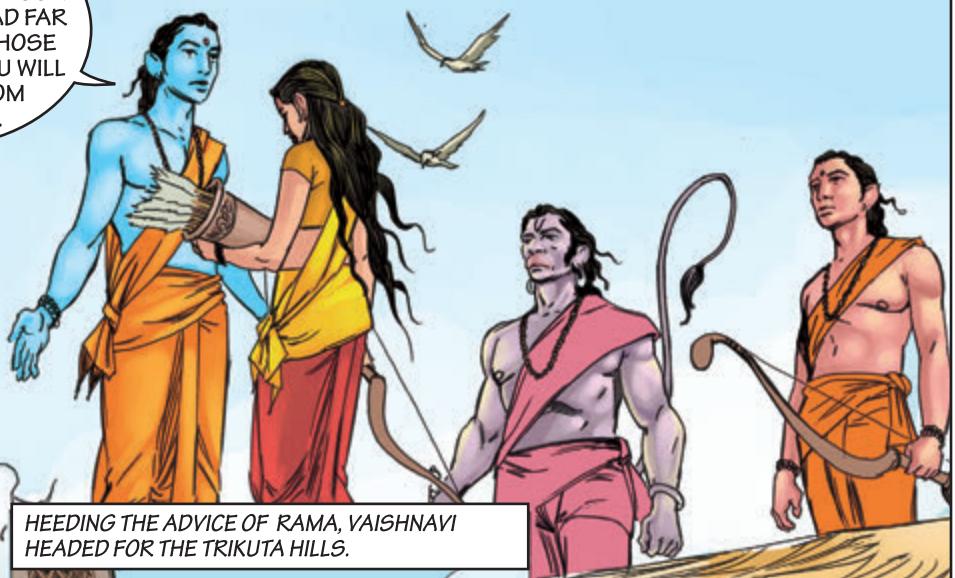
RISE VAISHNAVI,  
THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT  
FOR US TO BE TOGETHER.  
YOUR WORK ON EARTH IS  
NOT YET COMPLETE. GO TO  
THE TRIKUTA HILLS<sup>^</sup> IN THE  
NORTH AND CONTINUE  
YOUR MEDITATION THERE  
TILL KALIYUGA\*...



<sup>^</sup> IN MODERN DAY JAMMU.

...WHEN WE  
SHALL BE UNITED  
AGAIN. TILL THEN, YOUR  
FAME WILL SPREAD FAR  
AND WIDE AND THOSE  
WHO COME TO YOU WILL  
BE FREED FROM  
SUFFERING.

VAISHNO DEVI

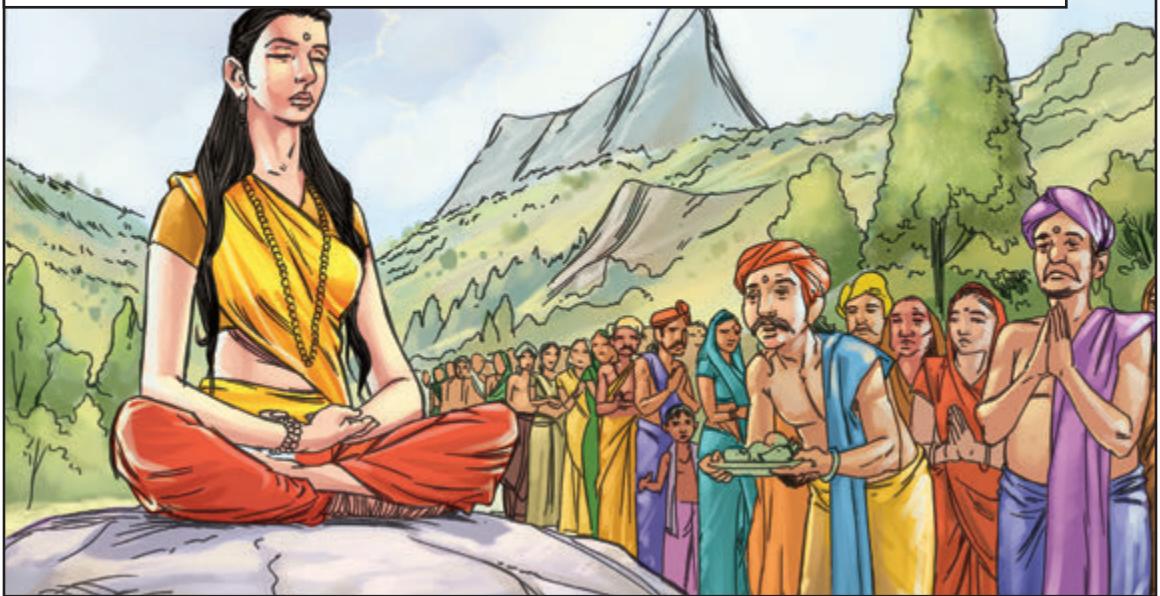


HEEDING THE ADVICE OF RAMA, VAISHNAVI HEADED FOR THE TRIKUTA HILLS.

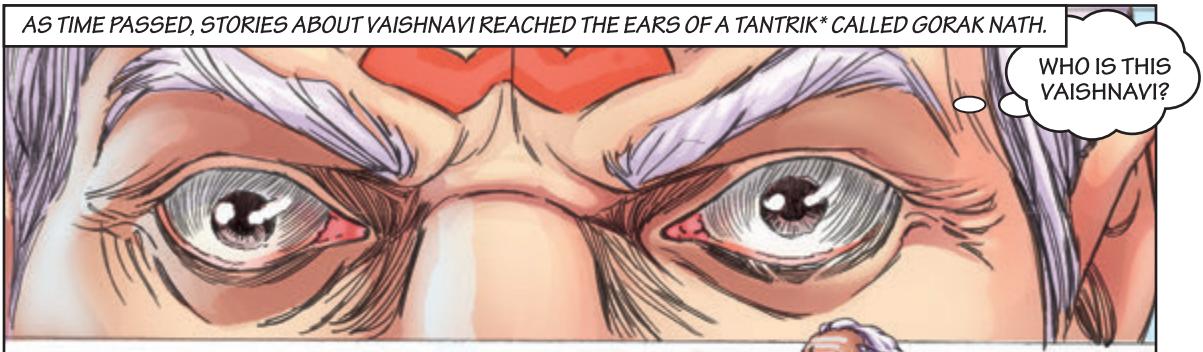


DURING HER JOURNEY SHE FACED MANY HARDSHIPS BEFORE SHE FINALLY REACHED TRIKUTA.

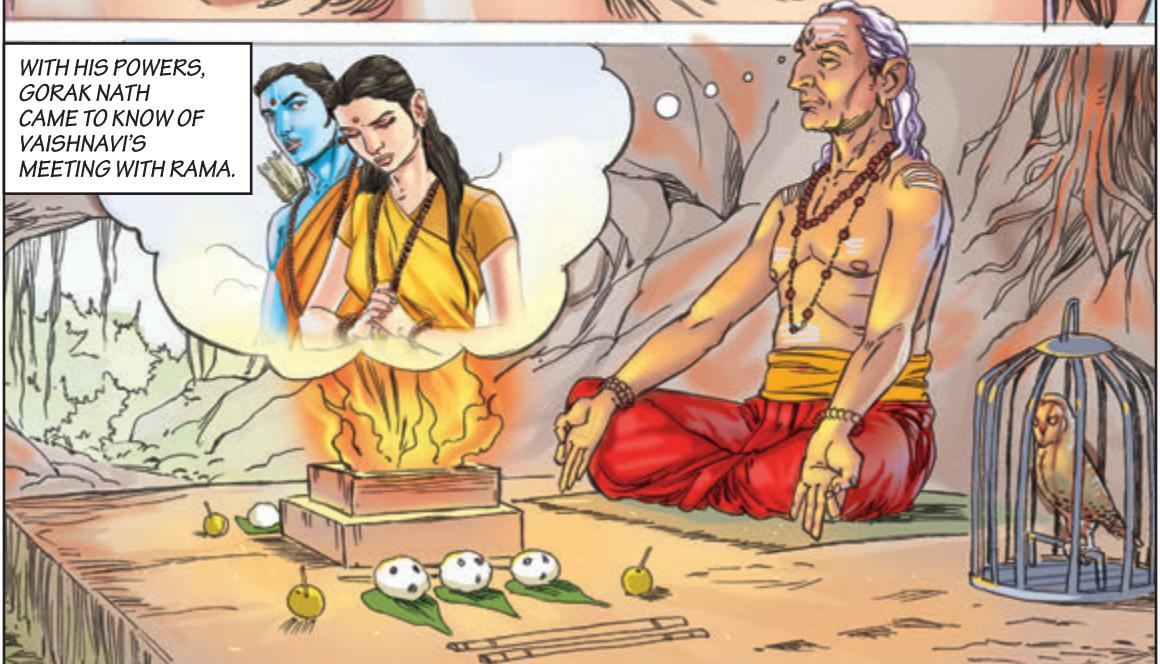
AS PREDICTED BY RAMA, VAISHNAVI'S FAME SPREAD FAR AND WIDE AND DEVOTEES FLOCKED TO HER.



AS TIME PASSED, STORIES ABOUT VAISHNAVI REACHED THE EARS OF A TANTRIK\* CALLED GORAK NATH.



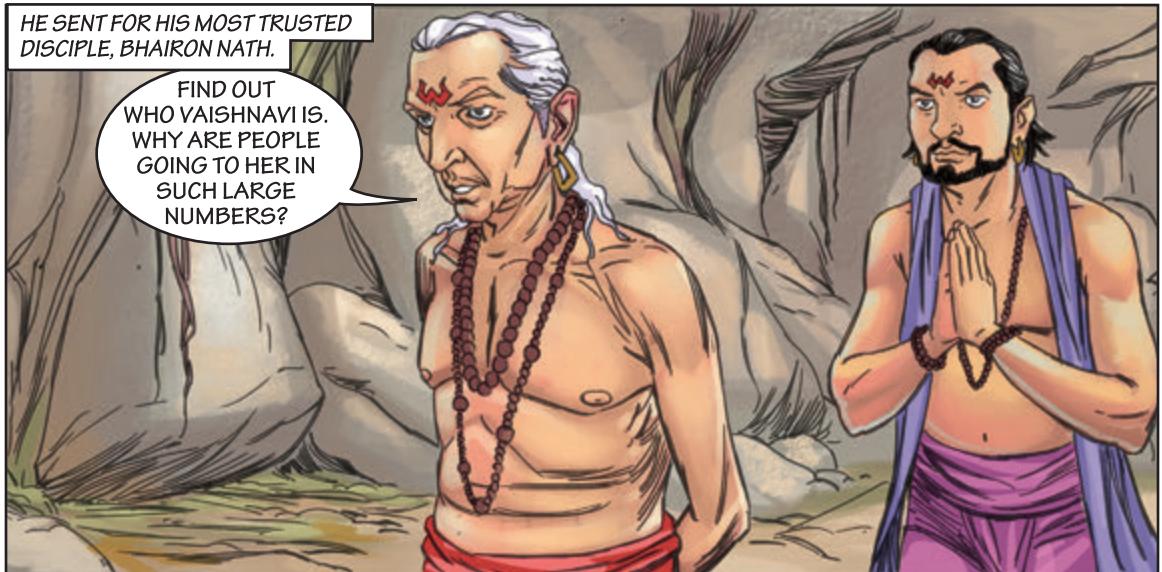
WITH HIS POWERS,  
GORAK NATH  
CAME TO KNOW OF  
VAISHNAVI'S  
MEETING WITH RAMA.



\* ONE WHO PRACTICES TANTRA - A SPIRITUAL STUDY

HE SENT FOR HIS MOST TRUSTED DISCIPLE, BHAIRO NATH.

FIND OUT WHO VAISHNAVI IS. WHY ARE PEOPLE GOING TO HER IN SUCH LARGE NUMBERS?

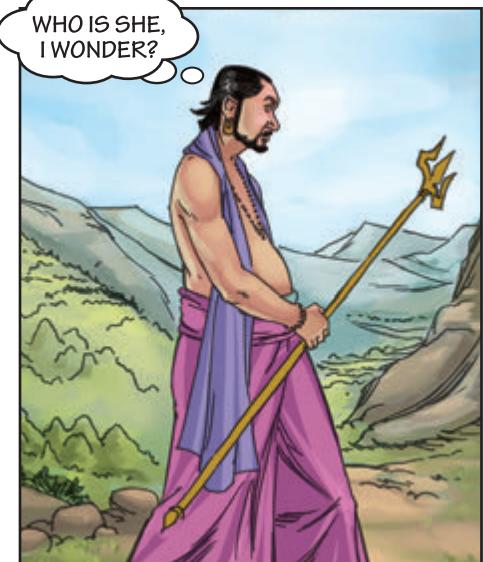


BHAIRON NATH STARTED IMMEDIATELY TO DO HIS MASTER'S BIDDING.

MY MASTER IS THREATENED BY A CHIT OF A GIRL!



WHO IS SHE, I WONDER?



HOWEVER, WHEN HE SET EYES ON VAISHNAVI -



WHEN EVERYONE HAD LEFT -



HOW DARE YOU  
SPEAK TO ME LIKE  
THAT! MY HEART IS  
SET ON VISHNU AND  
ONLY HE WILL BE MY  
HUSBAND.



UNDETERRED, BHAIRON RELENTLESSLY PURSUED VAISHNAVI.

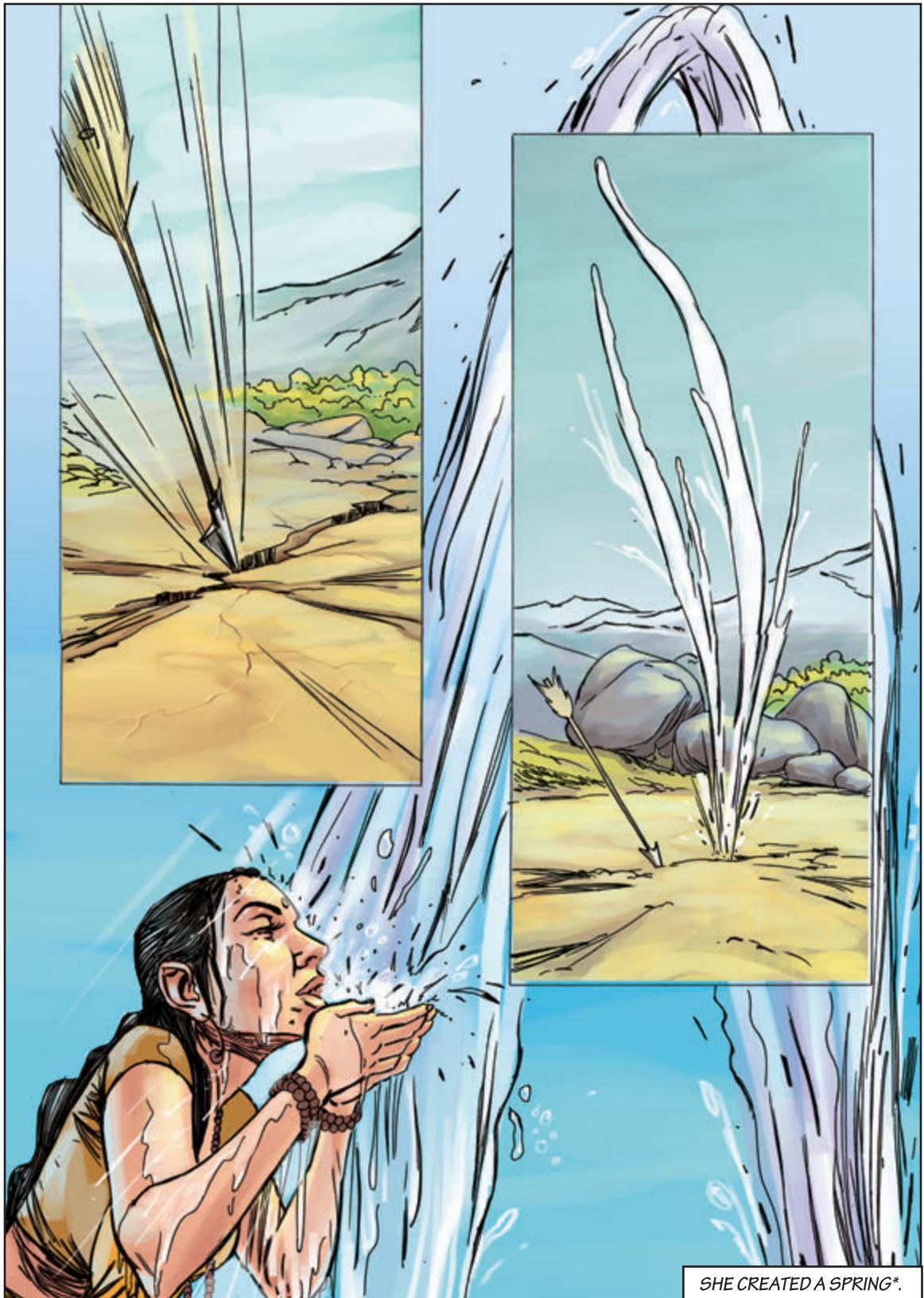


FINALLY -

I CANNOT BEAR  
HIS ATTENTION.  
I MUST ESCAPE.

VAISHNAVI SET OFF WITH  
BHAIRON IN PURSUIT.





SHE CREATED A SPRING\*.



\*THIS PLACE IS TODAY KNOWN AS CHARAN PADUKA  
OR FOOTPRINT.

O SAGE, I AM BEING PURSUED. PLEASE DO NOT REVEAL MY WHEREABOUTS TO ANYONE WHO COMES THIS WAY.



SO SAYING, VAISHNAVI HID HERSELF DEEP IN THE CAVE...



... AND RESTED IN MEDITATION FOR NINE MONTHS.\*



\* THIS PLACE IS KNOWN AS ADH KUNWARI. THE CAVE IS ALSO CALLED GARBH JOON SIGNIFYING THE NINE MONTHS VAISHNAVI RESTED AS A BABY RESTS IN THE WOMB OF THE MOTHER.

BUT BHAIRON NATH DID NOT GIVE UP AND ONE DAY -



BHAIRON NATH DIVINED WHERE VAISHNAVI WAS HIDING.



VAISHNO DEVI

VAISHNAVI ALSO SENSED HIS PRESENCE.

SHE USED HER TRIDENT TO BLAST A HOLE IN THE WALL OF THE CAVE...

BHAIRON NATH HAS FOUND MY REFUGE. I MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE.

BOOOOMM!

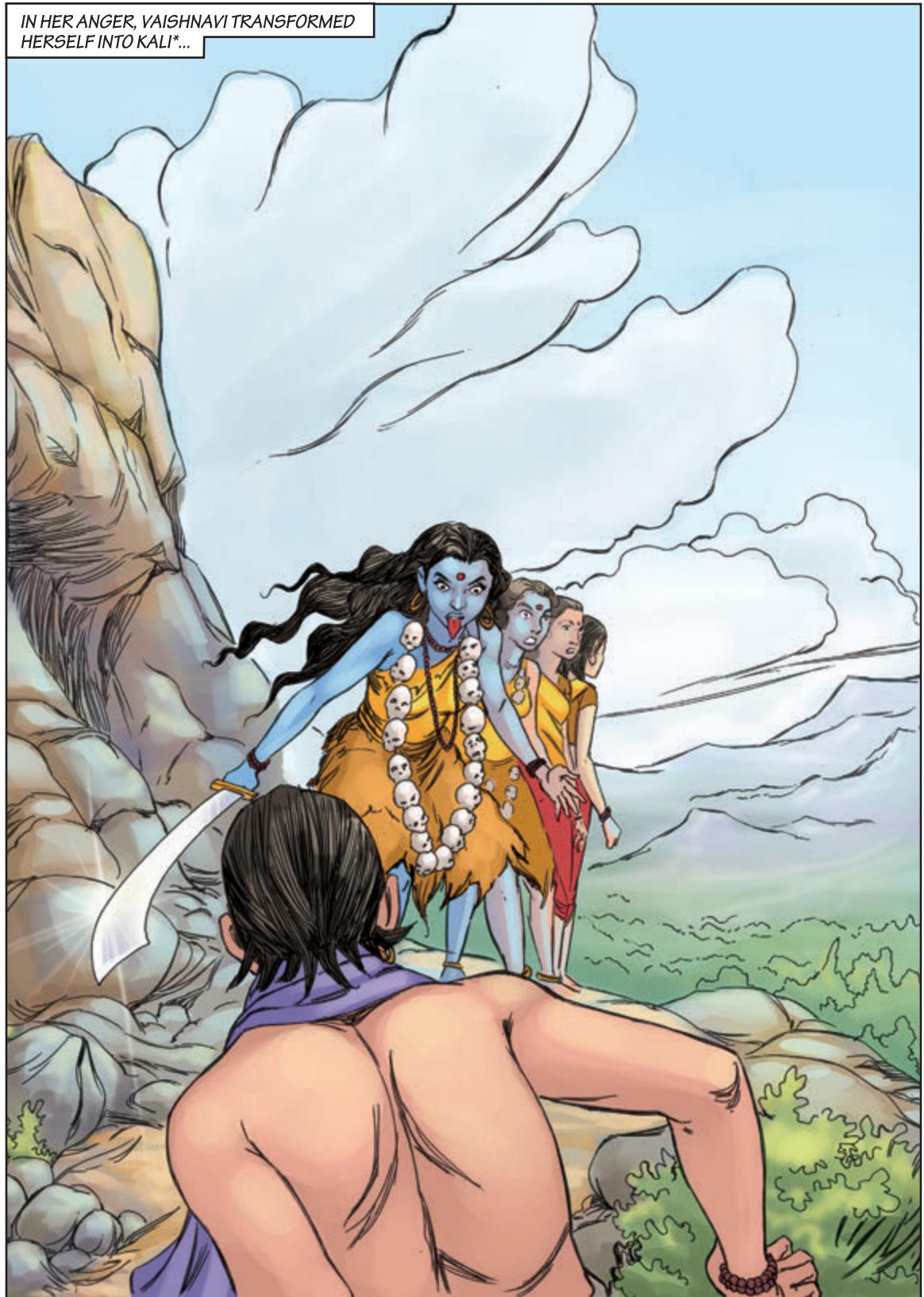
... AND ESCAPED.

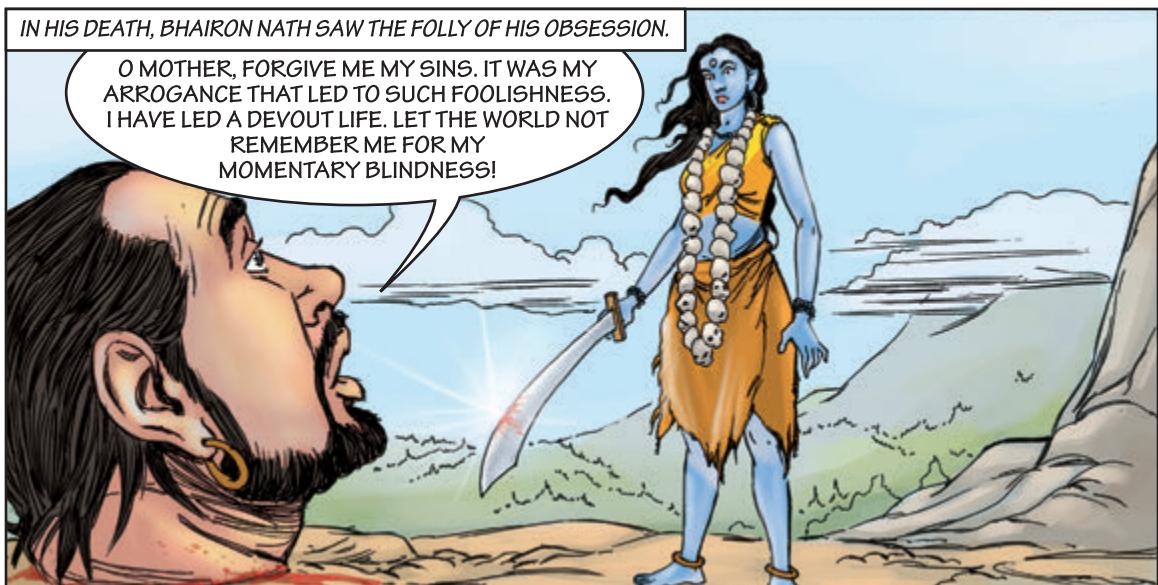
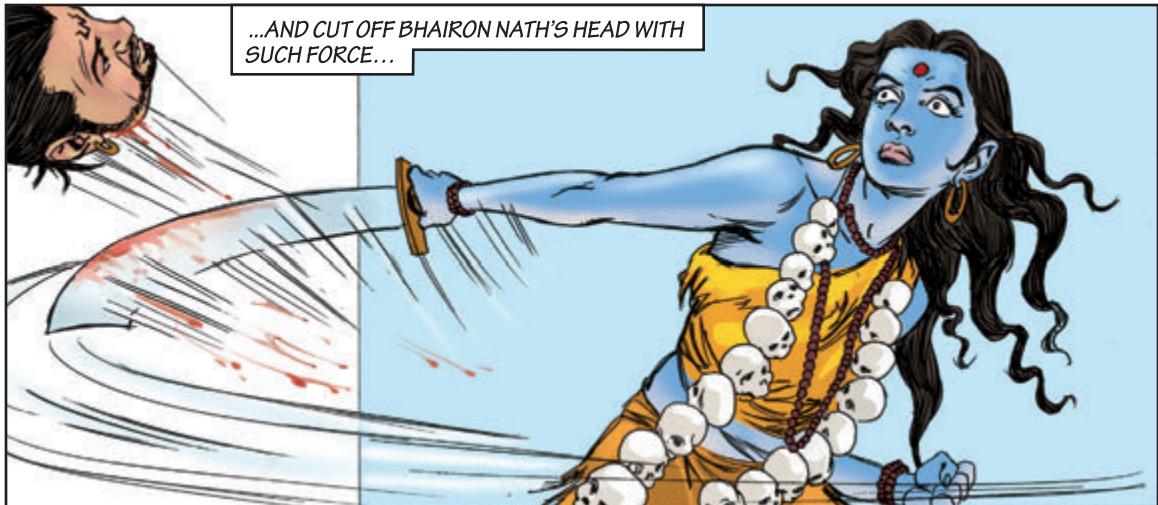
WITH BHAIRO NATH IN PURSUIT, VAISHNAVI KEPT GOING DEEPER INTO THE MOUNTAINS, TILL SHE REACHED ANOTHER CAVE IN THE HILLS.

HAI! HAI! YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME.

BHAIRON NATH HAS SUMMONED HIS OWN DEATH.

IN HER ANGER, VAISHNAVI TRANSFORMED  
HERSELF INTO KALI\*...



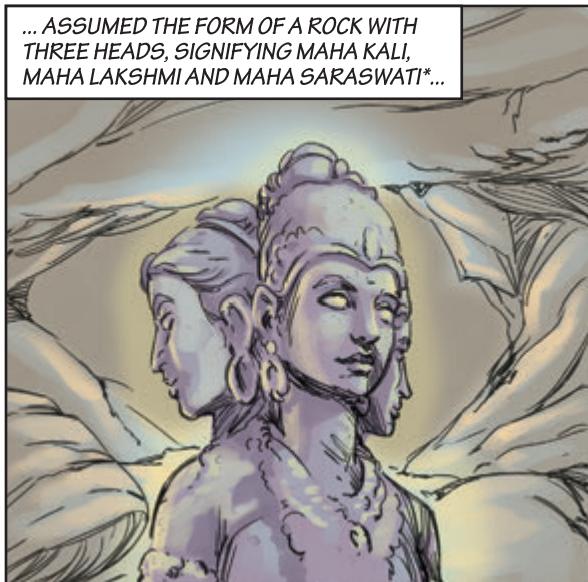




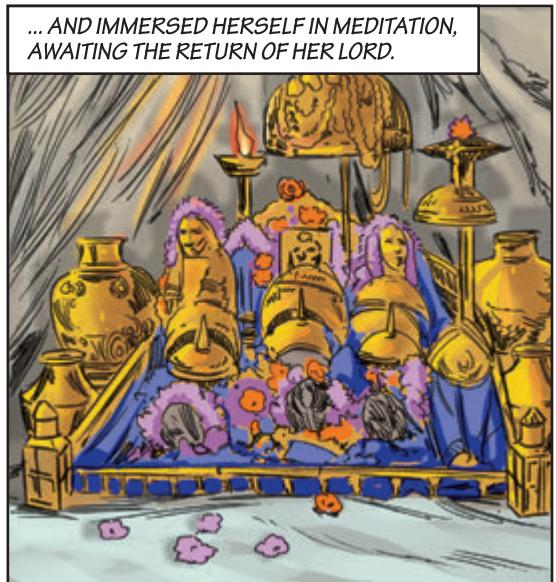
SO SAYING, VAISHNAVI WENT BACK INTO HER CAVE...



... ASSUMED THE FORM OF A ROCK WITH THREE HEADS, SIGNIFYING MAHA KALI, MAHA LAKSHMI AND MAHA SARASWATI\*...



... AND IMMersed HERSELF IN MEDITATION, AWAITING THE RETURN OF HER LORD.



\* THE GREATER FORMS OF THE THREE GODDESSES

THE PLACE VAISHNAVI CHOSE TO MEDITATE IN, IS CALLED VAISHNO DEVI. IT IS IN THE STATE OF JAMMU. EVERY YEAR, MILLIONS OF PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE, TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO HER. SOME OF THE PLACES THEY STOP AT, ON THE WAY UP, ARE:



### DARSHANI DARWAAZA

THIS IS WHERE THE CLIMB TO THE HOLY SHRIE BEGINS. FROM THIS POINT, ONE CAN GET AN ENTIRE VIEW OF THE TRIKUTA MOUNTAINS. 'DARSHAN' MEANS 'TO VIEW' AND 'DARWAAZA' MEANS 'DOOR'.

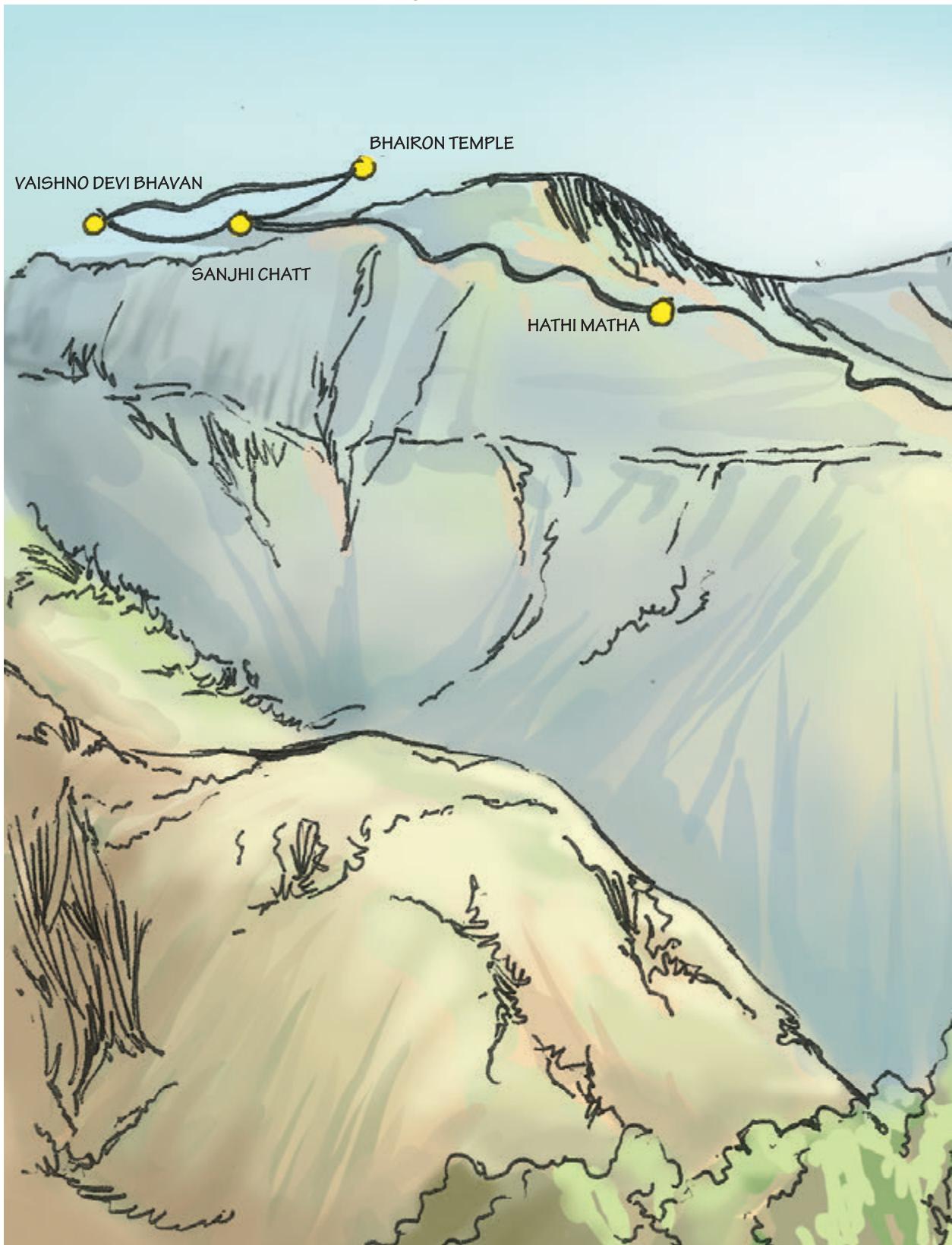
### SANJHI CHATT

IT IS A SMALL PLATEAU ON THE WAY TO THE HOLY SHRINE AND IS FAMOUS FOR ITS BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE VALLEY. SITUATED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 6200 FT, SANJHI CHATT IS THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE ENTIRE JOURNEY. AT THIS SPOT, THE UPHILL TREK STOPS AND THE DOWNHILL TREK TO VAISHNO DEVI BHAWAN BEGINS.



### AMRIT KUND

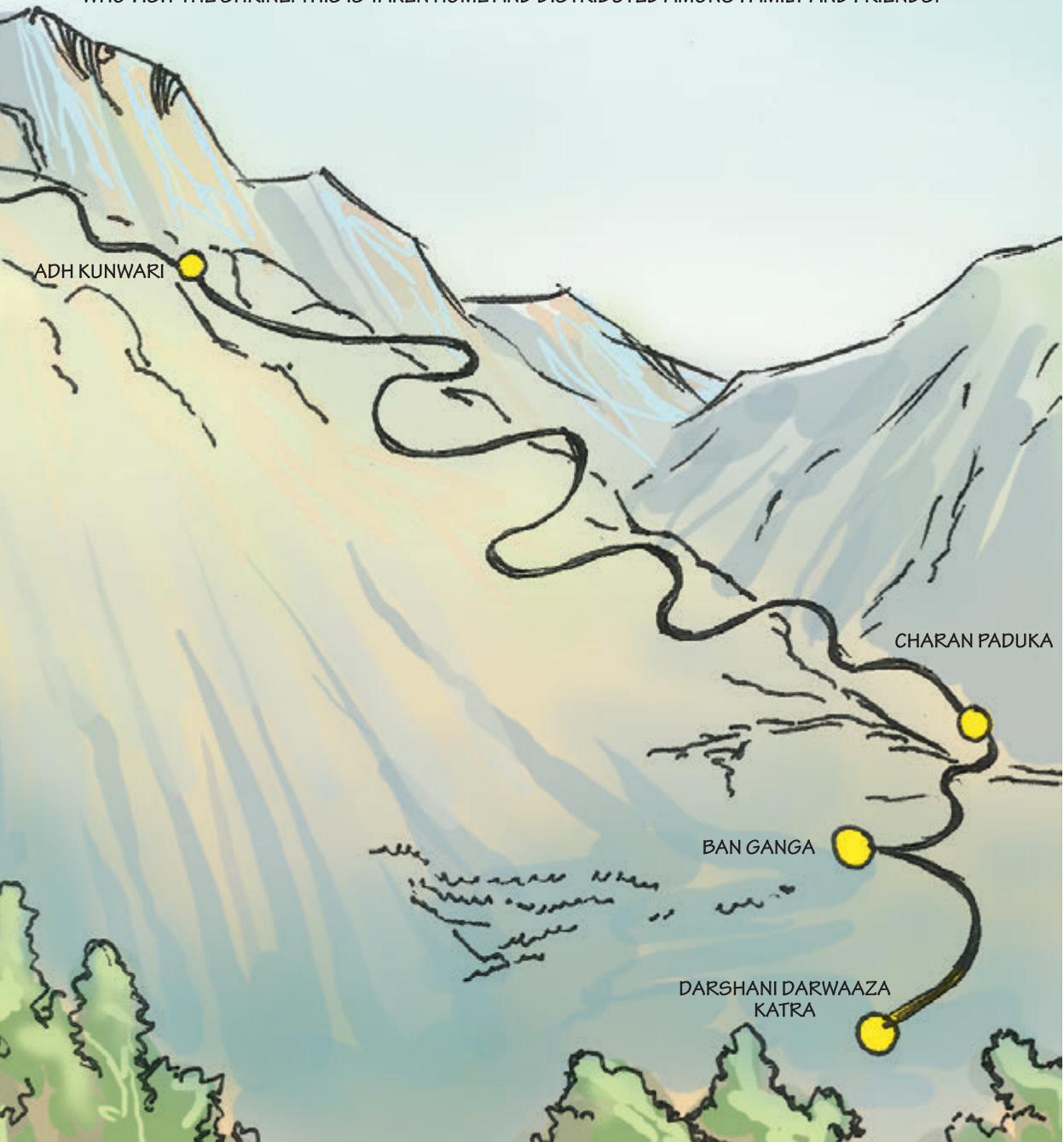
THIS PLACE STORES THE SACRED WATER CALLED 'CHARANAMRIT' WHICH FLOWS FROM THE FEET OF THE THREE PINDIES\*. DEVOTEES TAKE THIS HOLY WATER BACK WITH THEM AS IT IS BELIEVED TO PURIFY THEIR HEARTS AND HOMES.



THE TOTAL DISTANCE TO THE SHRINE AT VAISHNO DEVI, STARTING FROM KATRA, IS 13 KMS. PILGRIMS PREFER WALKING THE ENTIRE DISTANCE, THOUGH THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE. ONE CAN CHOOSE TO UNDERTAKE THE JOURNEY ON A PONY, IN A PALANQUIN AND ALSO BY HELICOPTER.

ALL PILGRIMS GET A SPECIALLY MINTED COIN CALLED KHAZANA. THE COINS HAVE THE IMAGE OF THE THREE PINDIES ON IT. THE COIN IS SAID TO BRING PROSPERITY TO THE OWNER.

WALNUTS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE 'PRASADA' OR SACRED GIFT THAT IS GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE SHRINE. THIS IS TAKEN HOME AND DISTRIBUTED AMONG FAMILY AND FRIENDS.





## Amar Chitra Katha's



EPICS & MYTHOLOGY



BRAVEHEARTS



VISIONARIES



FABLES & HUMOUR



INDIAN CLASSICS



CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS

## EXCITING STORY CATEGORIES, ONE AMAZING DESTINATION.

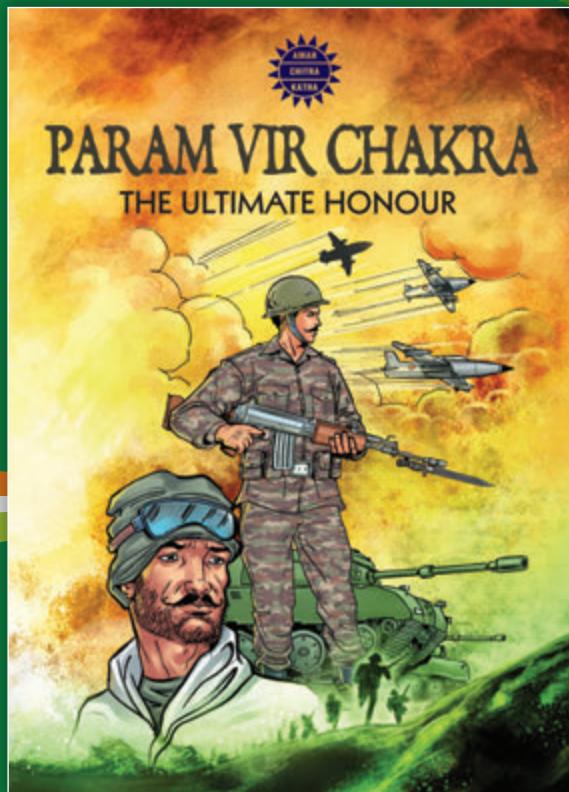
From the episodes of Mahabharata to the wit of Birbal,  
from the valour of Shivaji to the teachings of Tagore,  
from the adventures of Pratapan to the tales of Ruskin Bond –  
Amar Chitra Katha stories span across different genres to get you the best of literature.

To buy/view our products go to  
[www.amarchitrakatha.com](http://www.amarchitrakatha.com)

or visit your nearest book store or call 022-49188881/2/3/4



# 21 Inspiring Stories of Courage

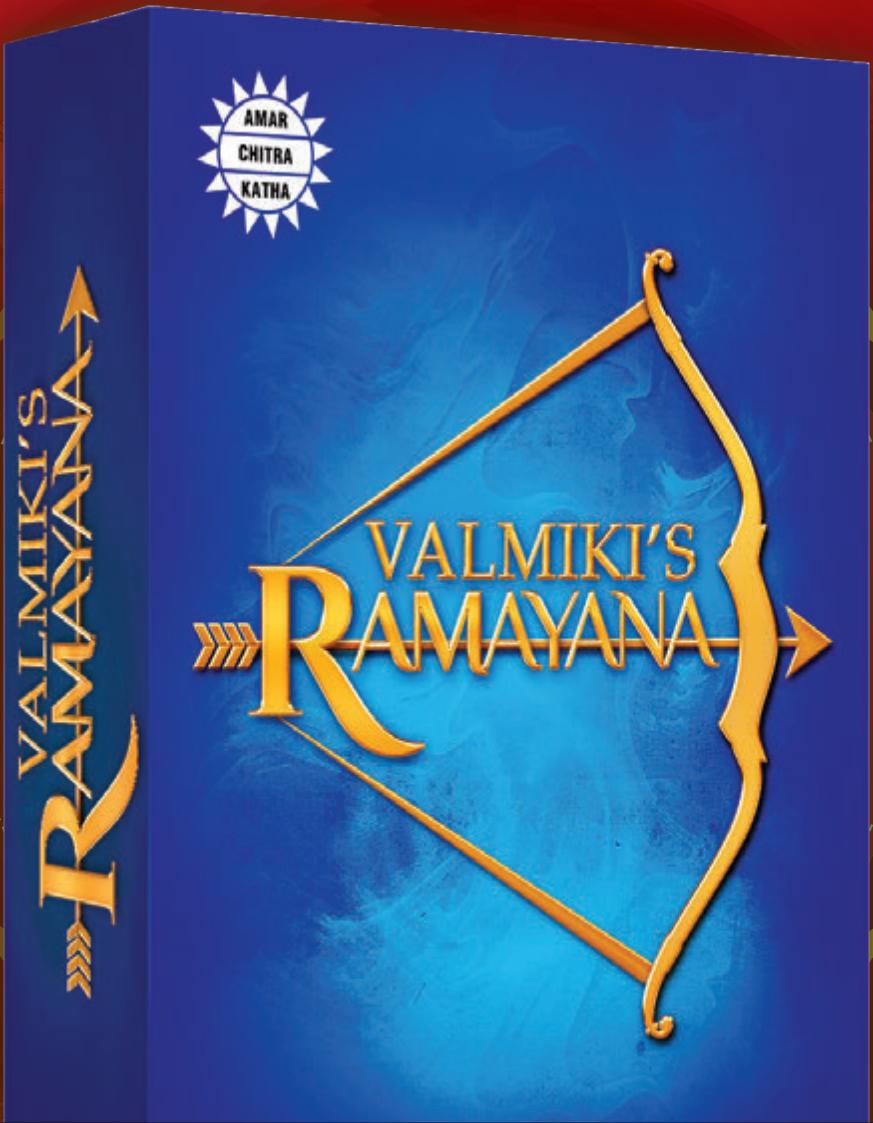


**MRP  
₹399/-**

To buy this product, visit your nearest bookstore  
or buy online at [www.amarchitrakatha.com](http://www.amarchitrakatha.com) or call: 022-49188881/2/3/4



# SEVEN KANDS! One Legendary Tale!



TAKE AN EPIC JOURNEY  
FROM AYODHYA TO LANKA AND BACK!

BUY ONLINE ON [WWW.AMARCHITRAKATHA.COM](http://WWW.AMARCHITRAKATHA.COM)

# WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

<p><b>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY</b> <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayappan Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrahasa Dasharatha Dhruba And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Virtra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Kartikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vaasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Nala Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Prahlad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada</p>	<p>Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syanamanta Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati</p> <p><b>VISIONARIES</b> <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hsiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaparakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. S. Subbulakshmi Madhvacharya Mahavira Marie And Pierre Curie Megasthenes Mirabai Mother Teresa Narayan Guru Rabindranath Tagore Ram Shastri Rama Maharshi Ramanuja Salim Ali Shankar Dev Soordas Sri. Ramakrishna Srinivasa Ramanujan Subramania Bharati</p>	<p>Swami Chinmayananda Swami Pranavananda Tales Of Sai Baba Tansen Tulsidas Vidyasagar Vivekananda Zarathushtra</p> <p><b>INDIAN CLASSICS</b> <i>Enchanting tales from Indian literature</i></p> <p>Ananda Math Ancestors Of Rama Devi Choudhurani Durgesh Nandini Kadambari Kannagi Kapala Kundala Kumanan Maarthanda Varma Malavika Manonmani Prince Jivaka Raj Singh Ratnavali Shakuntala The Adventures Of Pratapan The Elusive Kaka Udayana Urvashi Vasantasena Vasavadatta Veer Dhaval</p> <p><b>FABLES AND HUMOUR</b> <i>Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour</i></p> <p>A Bag Of Gold Coins Amrapali Ander Nagari Angulimala Bikal The Terrible <b>BIRBAL STORIES</b> Birbal The Clever Birbal The Genius Birbal The Just Birbal The Wise Birbal The Witty Birbal To The Rescue The Inimitable Birbal Chandralalat Dhola And Maru Friends And Foes Gopal And The Cowherd Gopal The Jester <b>HITOPADESHA TALES</b> Choice Of Friends How Friends Are Parted Hothal <b>JATAKA TALES</b> Battle Of Wits Bird Stories Deer Stories Elephant Stories Jackal Stories Monkey Stories Nandi Vishala Stories Of Courage Stories Of Wisdom Tales Of Misers The Deadly Feast The Giant And The Dwarf The Hidden Treasure The Magic Chant</p>	<p>The Mouse Merchant True Friends Kanwal And Kehar Kesari The Flying Thief King Kusha Manduka</p> <p><b>PANCHATANTRA TALES</b></p> <p>Crows And Owls How The Jackal Ate The Elephant The Brahmin And The Goat The Dullard The Greedy Mother-in-law The Jackal And The Wardrum Raman Of Tenali Raman The Matchless Wit Sahasramala Sakshi Gopal Satwant Kaur Sharan Kaur Shrenik Sukhu And Dukhu Sundari Tales Of Maryada Rama The Acrobat The Adventures Of Agad Datta The Adventures Of Baddu And Chhotu The Bridegroom's Ring The Celestial Necklace The Clever Dancer The Cowherd Of Alawi The Fearless Boy The Fool's Disciples The Golden Sand The Green Demon The Unhappy Tiger The Learned Pandit The Lost Prince The Magic Grove The Miraculous Conch The Mystery Of The Missing Gift The Pandit And The Milkmaid The Pig And The Dog The Pious Cat The Priceless Gem The Prince And The Magician The Prophecy The Queen's Necklace The Rainbow Prince The Secret Of The Talking Bird The Silent Teacher The Tiger And The Woodpecker The Tiger Eater Thugsen Viduyut Chora Vikramaditya's Throne</p> <p><b>BRAVEHEARTS</b> <i>Stirring tales of brave men and women of India</i></p> <p>A Nation Awakes Ahilyabai Holkar Ajatasatru Akbar Amar Singh Rathor Ashoka Babur Bagha Jatin Bajirao I</p>	<p>Baladitya And Yashodharma Balban Banda Bahadur Bappa Rawal Beni Madho And Pir Ali Bhagat Singh Bidhi Chand Bimbisara Chand Bibi Chandra Shekhar Azad Chandragupta Maurya Chennamma Of Keladi Dara Shukho And Aurangazeb Durgadas Ellora Caves Hakka And Bukka Hari Singh Nalwa Harsha Hemu Humayun Jahangir Jallianwala Bagh Kalpana Chawla Kochunni Krishnadeva Raya Kunwar Singh Lachit Barphukan Lalitaditya Mangal Pande Noor Jahan Padmini Panna And Hadi Rani Paurava And Alexander Prithviraj Chauhan Raja Bhoja Raja Raja Chola Rana Kumbha Rana Pratap Rana Sanga Rani Abbakka Rani Durgavati Rani Of Jhansi Ranji Singh Rash Bihari Bose Roopmati Sambhaji Samudra Gupta Sea Route To India Shah Jahan Shalivahana Shantala Sher Shah Shivaji Subhas Chandra Bose Sultana Razia Suriya Sen Tachcholi Othenan Tales Of Shivaji Tanaji Tenzing Norgay The Historic City Of Delhi The Rani Of Kittur Tipu Sultan Veer Hammir Veer Savarkar Velu Thampi Vikramaditya</p> <p><b>CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS</b> <i>(New Category)</i> <i>The best of modern Indian literature</i></p> <p>The Blue Umbrella</p>
--	--	---	--	--



Titles available in English and other Regional languages on [www.amarchitrakatha.com](http://www.amarchitrakatha.com)

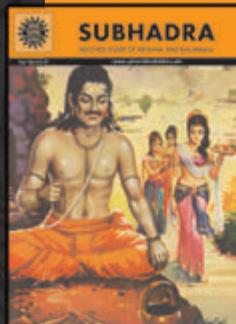
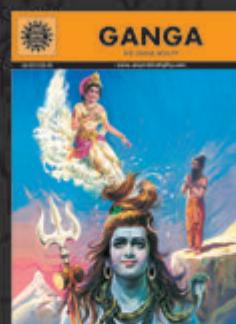
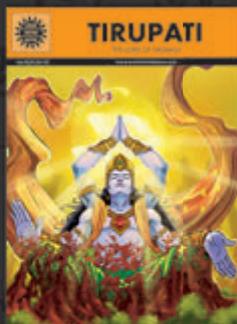
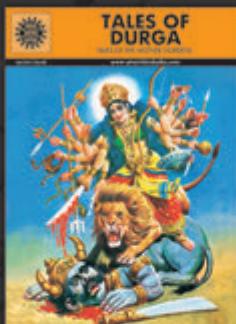
## VAISHNO DEVI

Bhooodevi, the earth, was being ravaged by evil asuras. She turned to the gods for aid but even the powerful trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, were helpless.

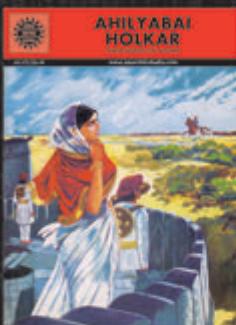
Concerned by the events, their consorts, Saraswati, Lakshmi and Parvati combined their powers and created Vaishnavi, a woman of unsurpassed strength. Vaishnavi fought and destroyed the asuras but the goddesses asked her to stay on and not return to heaven. Though Vaishnavi did not realise it, her story was only just beginning.

Amar Chitra Katha tells the story of Vaishnavi's transformation into the meditating goddess, Vaishno Devi, whose abode in the Himalayas is visited by millions of pilgrims every year.

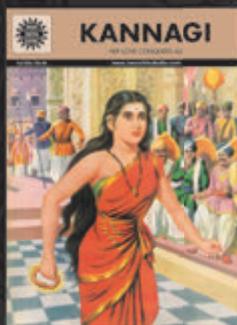
### OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



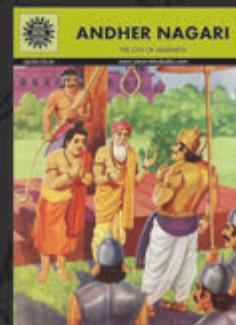
### ALSO LOOK FOR:



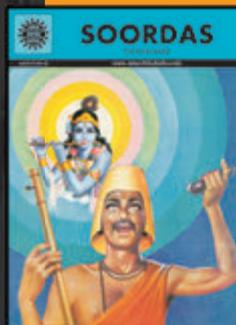
BRAVEHEARTS



INDIAN CLASSICS



FABLES & HUMOUR



VISIONARIES

Buy online at [www.amarchitrakatha.com](http://www.amarchitrakatha.com)

ISBN 978-81-8482-630-2



9 788184 826302