



SUKANYA

THE PRINCESS WHO MARRIED A SAGE

Vol 759 |

www.amarchitrakatha.com





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 90 million copies** have been sold worldwide.

Now the Amar Chitra Katha titles are even more widely available in **1000+ bookstores all across India**. Log on to www.ack-media.com to locate a bookstore near you. If you do not have access to a bookstore, you can buy all the titles through our online store 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

Script
Shanta Iyer

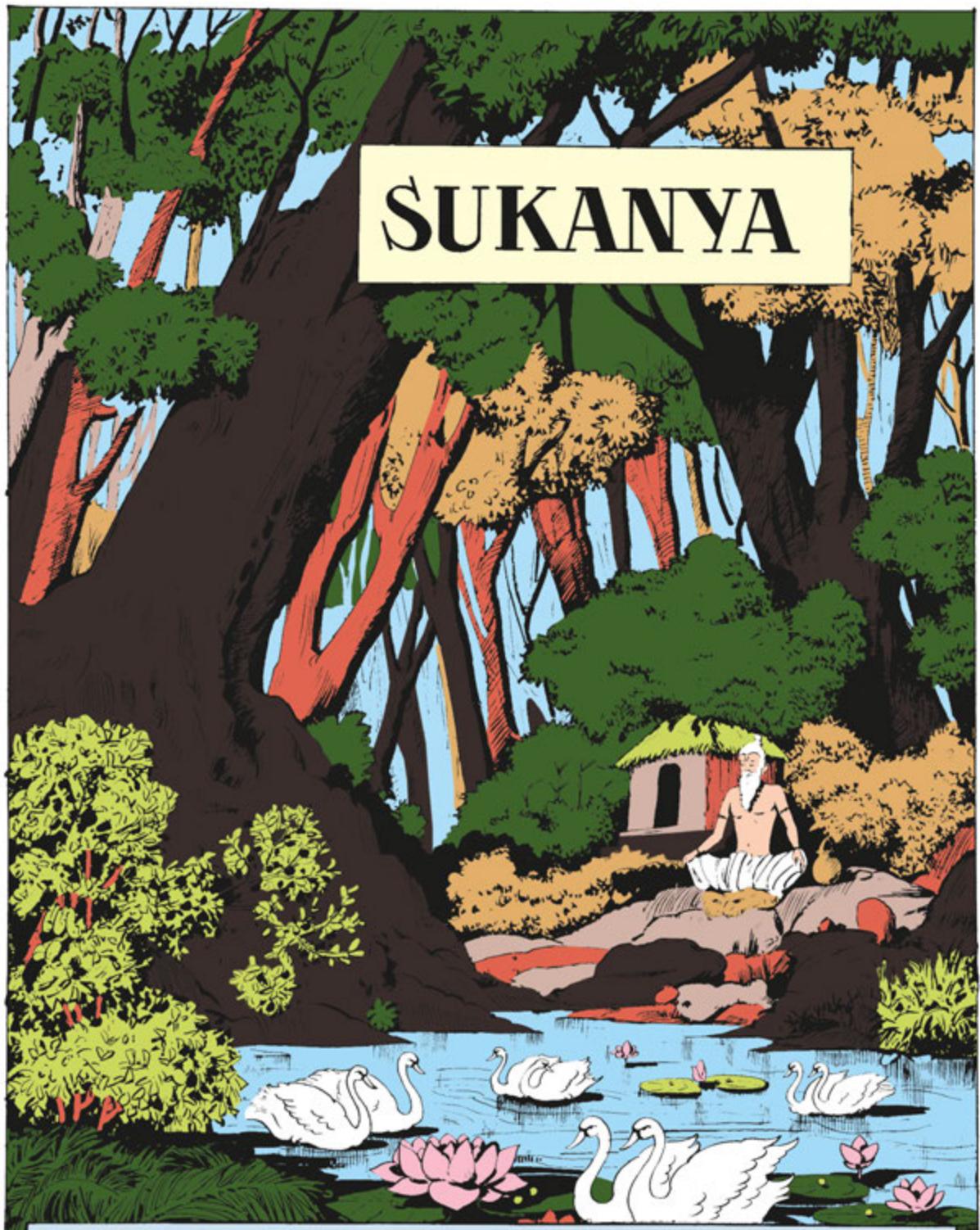
Illustrations
Staff Artist

Editor
Anant Pai

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1974, Reprinted April 2010, ISBN 81-8482-339-8
Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 14 Marthanda, 4th floor,
84 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Mumbai 400 018, India

SUKANYA

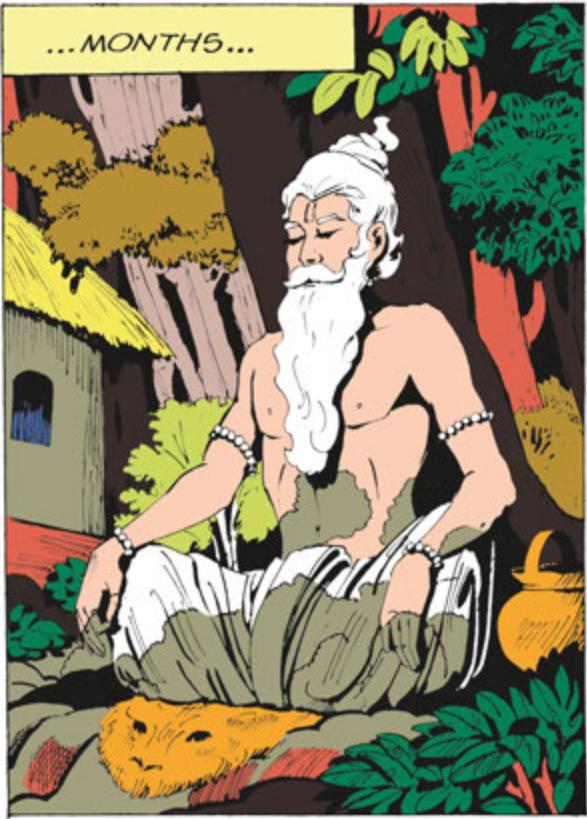


LONG LONG AGO, THERE LIVED A SAGE CALLED CHYAVANA. HE PERFORMED HIS PENANCES AND AUSTERITIES AND MEDITATED NEAR A LAKE IN A JUNGLE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SHARYAATI'S KINGDOM.

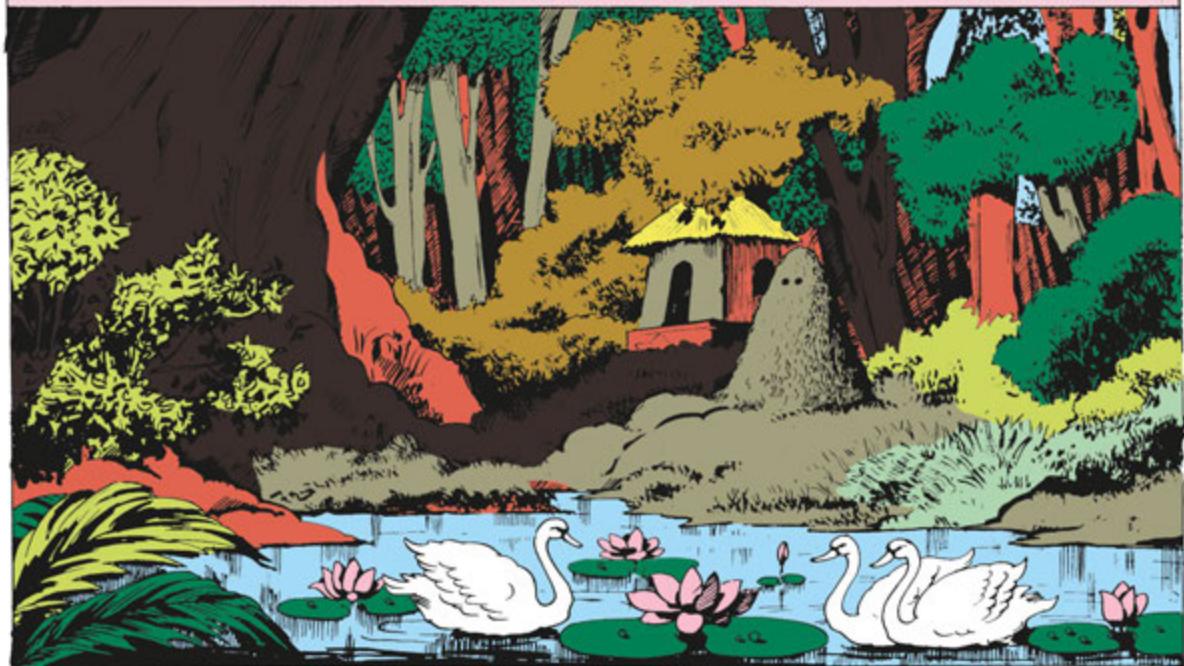
DAYS...



...MONTHS...



...AND YEARS ROLLED BY. CHYAVANA CONTINUED TO MEDITATE. HE WAS COMPLETELY COVERED BY AN ANTHILL BUT BEING DEEPLY IMMersed IN MEDITATION, HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANYTHING.



KING SHARYAATI HAD MANY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS, BUT HE LOVED SUKANYA THE MOST. ONE DAY—

SUKANYA, WE WOULD ALL LOVE TO GO TO THE LAKE IN THE FOREST.



IF YOU ASK FATHER, HE WILL CERTAINLY TAKE US.



SUKANYA,
PLEASE.

SUKANYA WENT TO SHARYAATI.

FATHER! WILL YOU PLEASE GRANT MY WISH?

HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS. SHE SHALL MARRY ONLY THE MOST HANDSOME, ACCOMPLISHED, PRINCE IN THE LAND.

CERTAINLY, MY CHILD. WHAT IS IT?



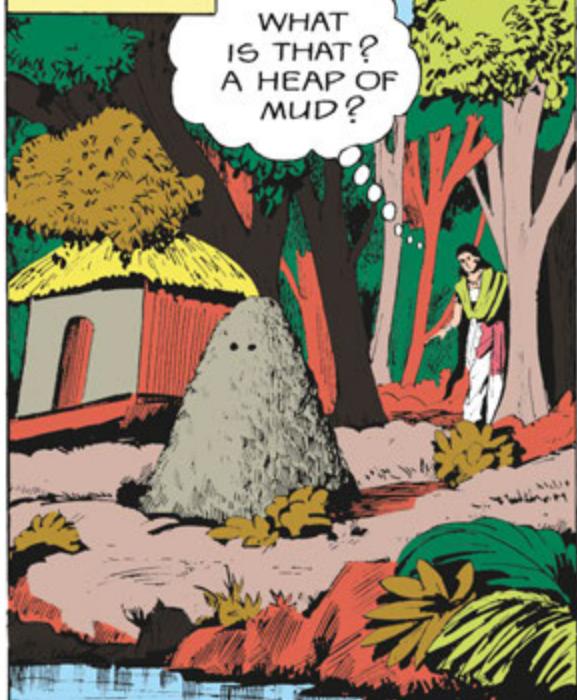


SUDDENLY SOMETHING IN THE DISTANCE ATTRACTED HER ATTENTION.

WHAT IS THAT?
A HEAP OF MUD?

SHE CAME NEARER.

OH ! IT'S AN ANTHILL.
WHAT ARE THOSE SHINING OBJECTS?



COULD THEY BE FIREFLIES? I'LL DRIVE THEM OUT AND CATCH THEM. THE OTHERS WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE THEM.





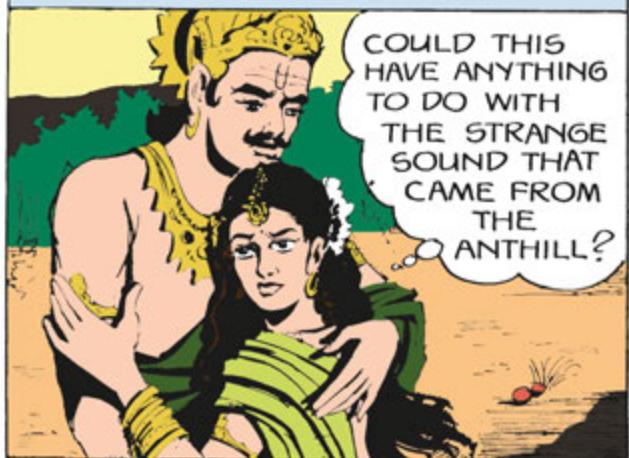
...TILL SHE REACHED THE PLACE WHERE THE OTHERS WERE.



THERE A STRANGE SIGHT MET HER EYES. THE KING'S MEN WERE WRITHING IN PAIN.



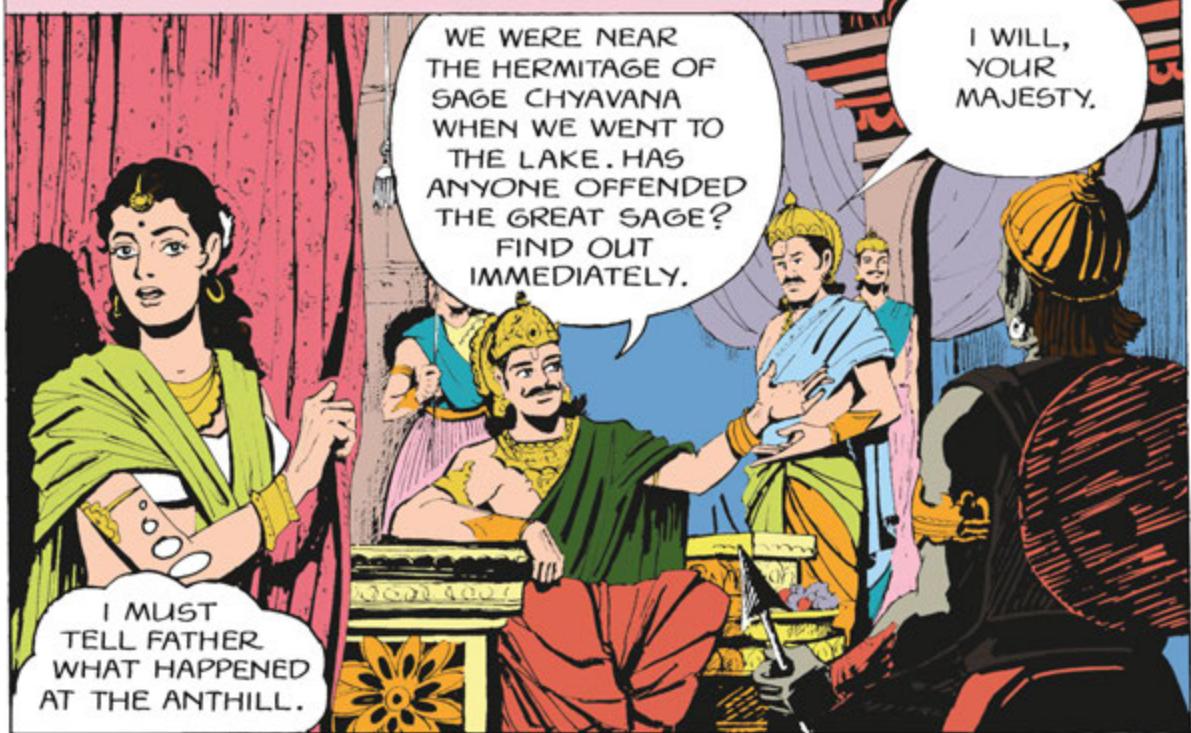
SUKANYA RAN TO HER FATHER.



THE KING WAS PERPLEXED BY THIS SUDDEN SCOURGE THAT HAD HIT ALL THE MEN.

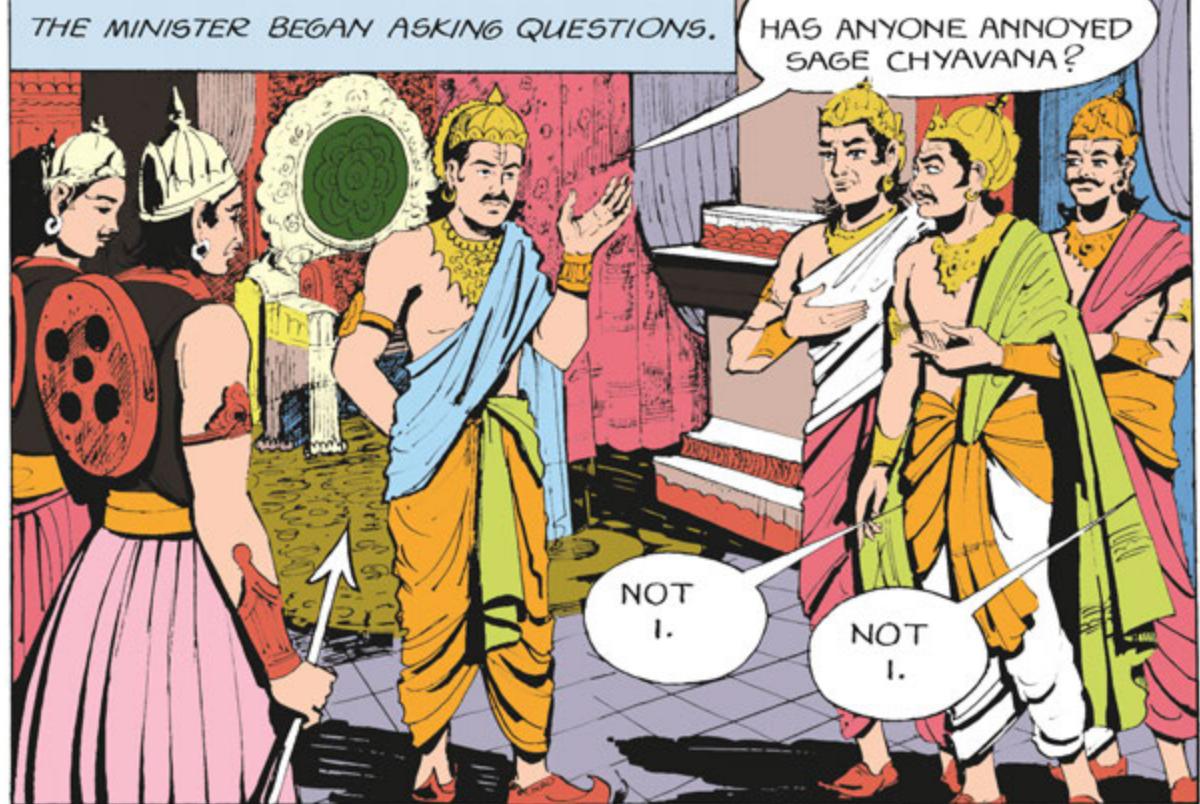


AT THE PALACE, SHARYAATI SENT FOR HIS MINISTER.



THE MINISTER BEGAN ASKING QUESTIONS.

HAS ANYONE ANNOYED SAGE CHYAVANA?



MEANWHILE SUKANYA WALKED UP TO THE KING.

FATHER, I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

SPEAK, MY CHILD, I AM LISTENING.

NEAR THE LAKE, I SAW AN ANTHILL. EMBEDDED IN IT WERE TWO BRIGHT OBJECTS WHICH LOOKED LIKE FIREFLIES.

...I WAS CURIOUS. I POKED AT THEM WITH TWIGS. SUDDENLY FROM THE ANTHILL CAME A CRY OF PAIN.“E...E..EAAAH.”

I'LL GO TO THE LAKE AND SEE.

TERRIFIED, I CAME RUNNING BACK TO YOU.

THE KING, HIS MINISTER AND A FEW OTHERS LEFT FOR THE LAKE.



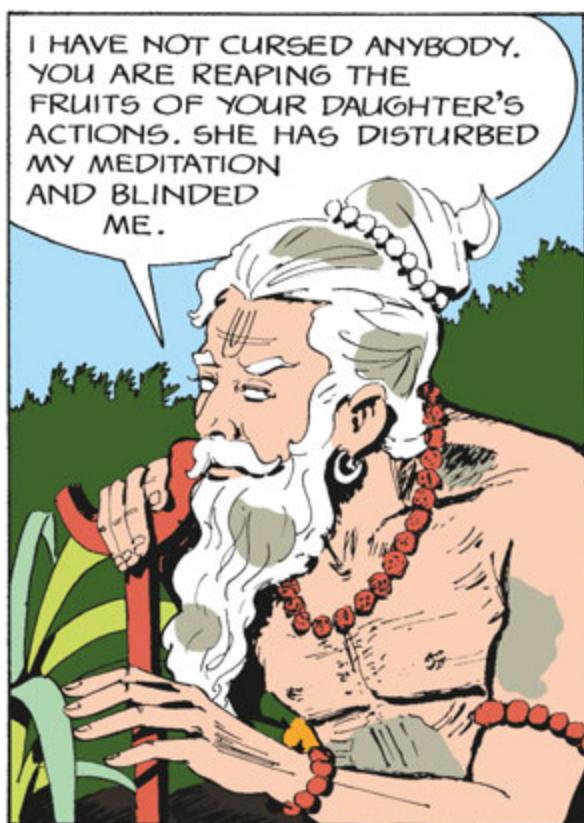
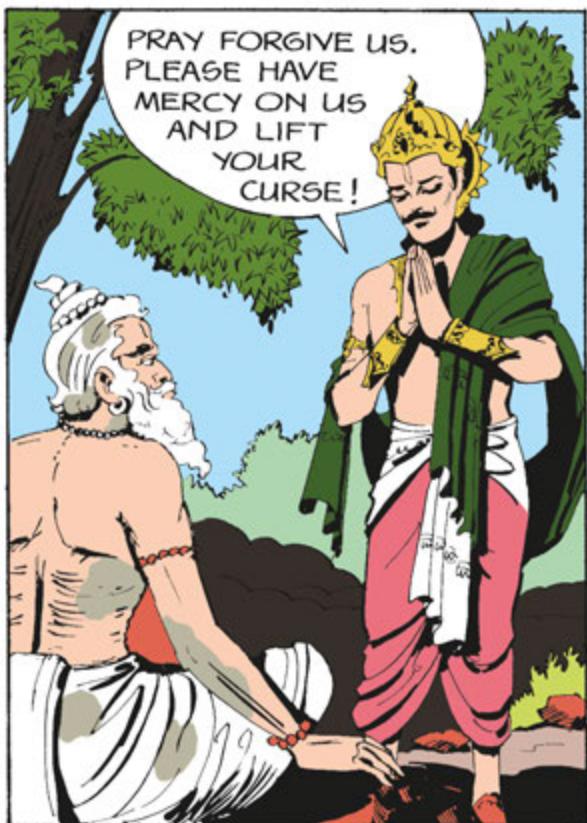
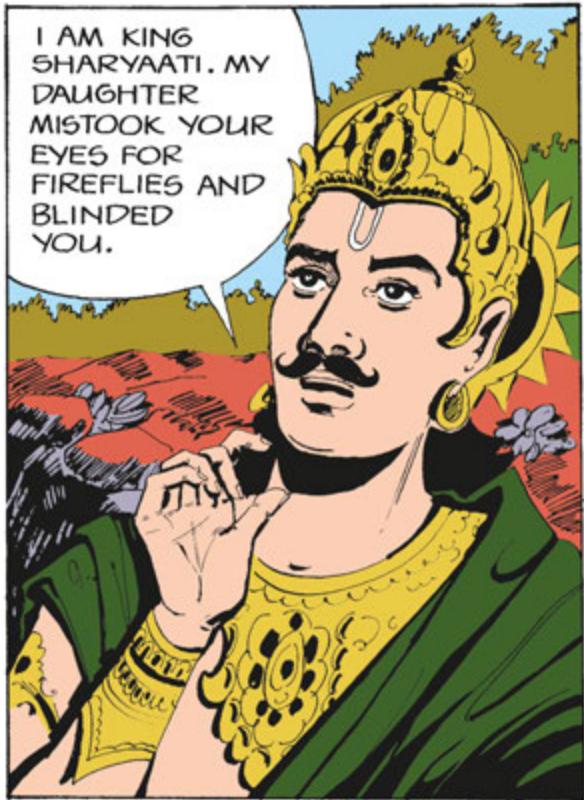
WHEN THE KING SAW THE SAGE WITH PORTIONS OF ANTHILL,
STILL STICKING TO HIS BODY -

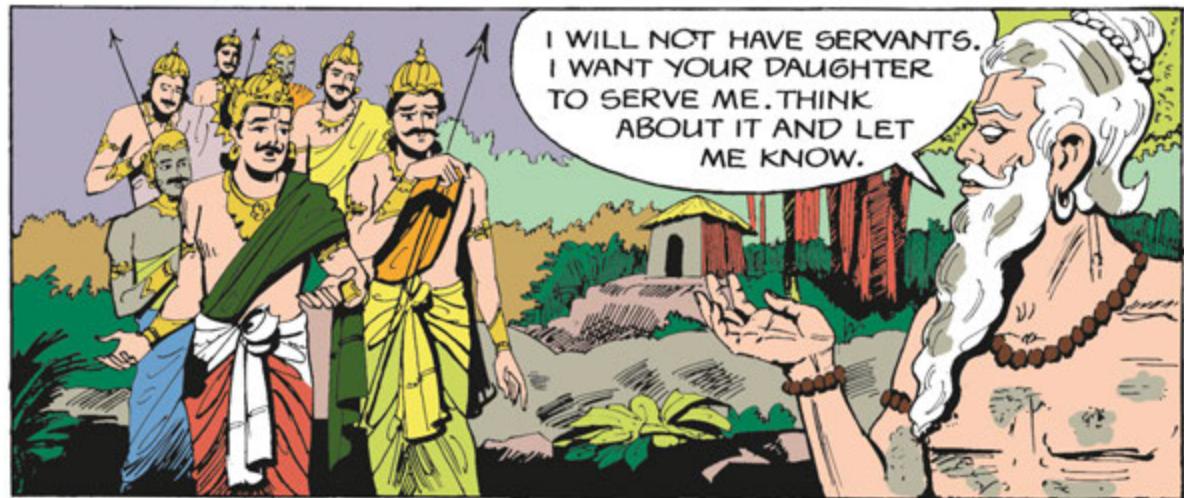


HE GOT DOWN FROM THE
HORSE AND APPROACHED
THE SAGE.

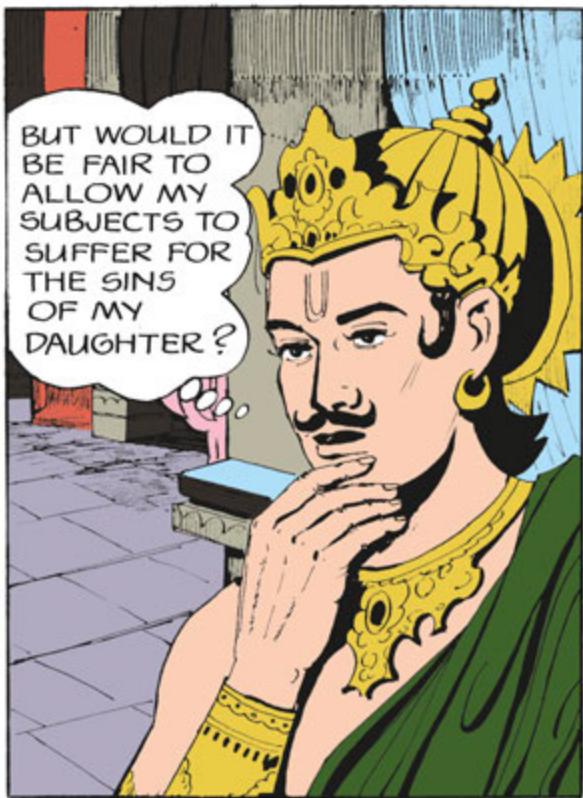
OH! OH!





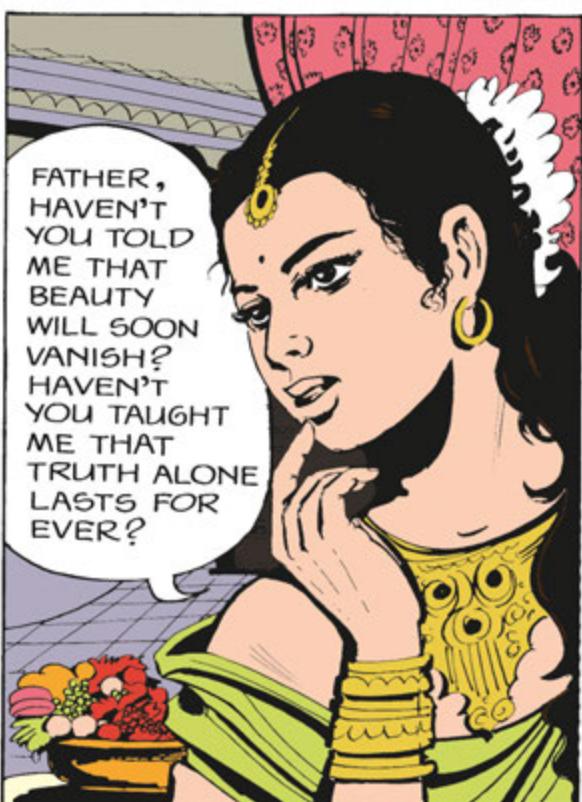


BACK AT THE PALACE—



JUST THEN—

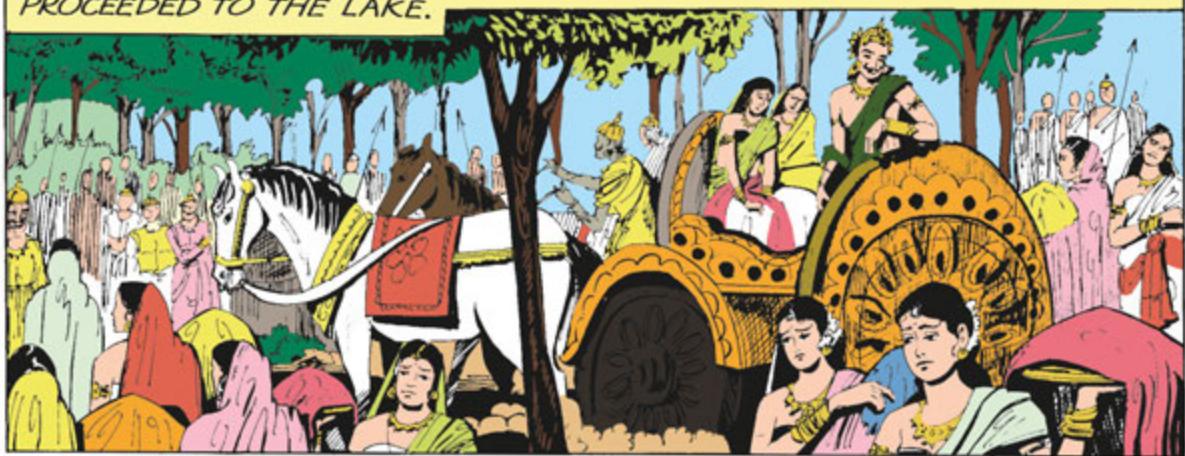




AND SUKANYA TOOK AN OATH.



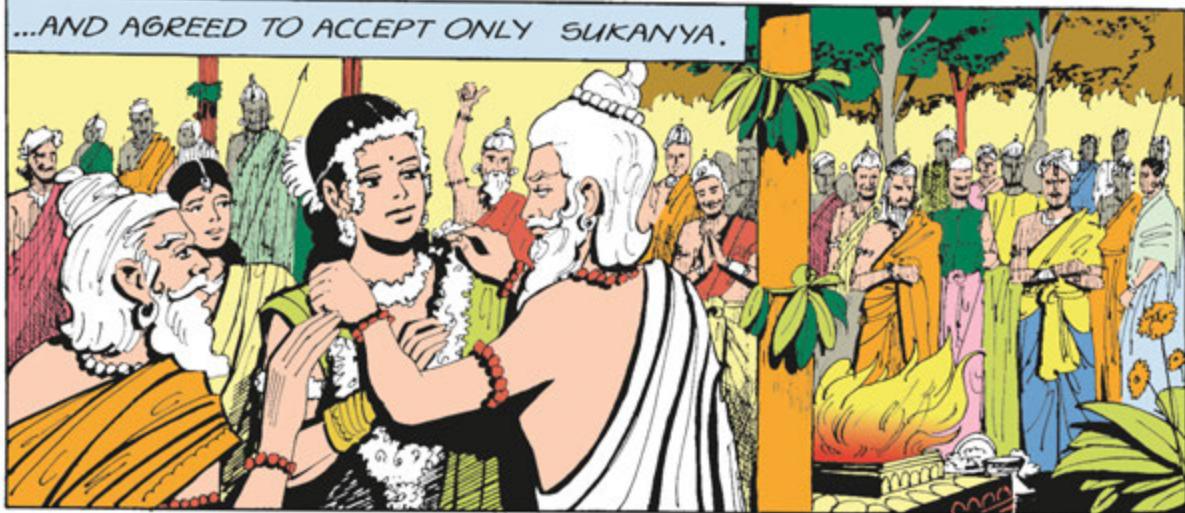
THEN SHARYAATI, SUKANYA AND THE MINISTER, FOLLOWED BY A GROUP OF SERVANTS CARRYING RICH PRESENTS FOR THE BRIDEGROOM, PROCEEDED TO THE LAKE.

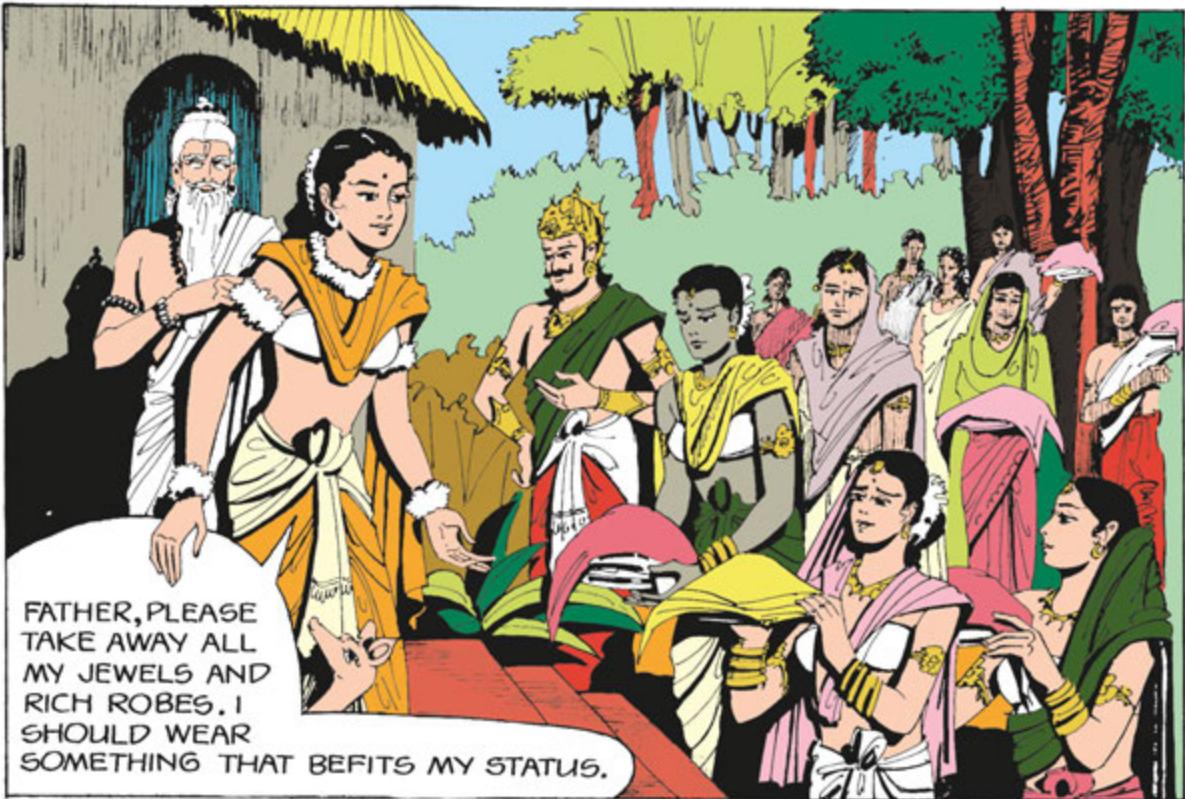


SAGE CHYAVANA REFUSED THE ROYAL GIFTS ...



...AND AGREED TO ACCEPT ONLY SUKANYA.



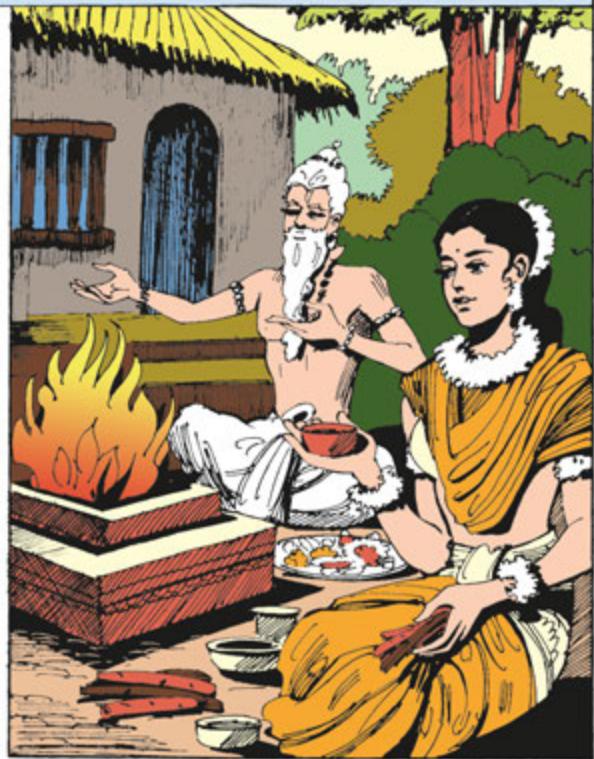


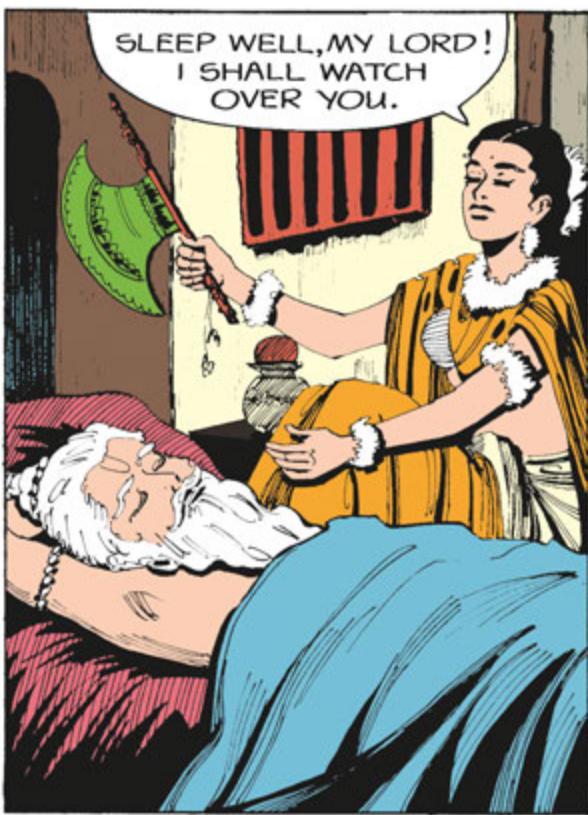
FATHER, PLEASE
TAKE AWAY ALL
MY JEWELS AND
RICH ROBES. I
SHOULD WEAR
SOMETHING THAT BEFITS MY STATUS.

LEAVING SUKANYA TO THE CARE OF THE SAGE, THE KING RETURNED
TO HIS PALACE WITH A HEAVY HEART.

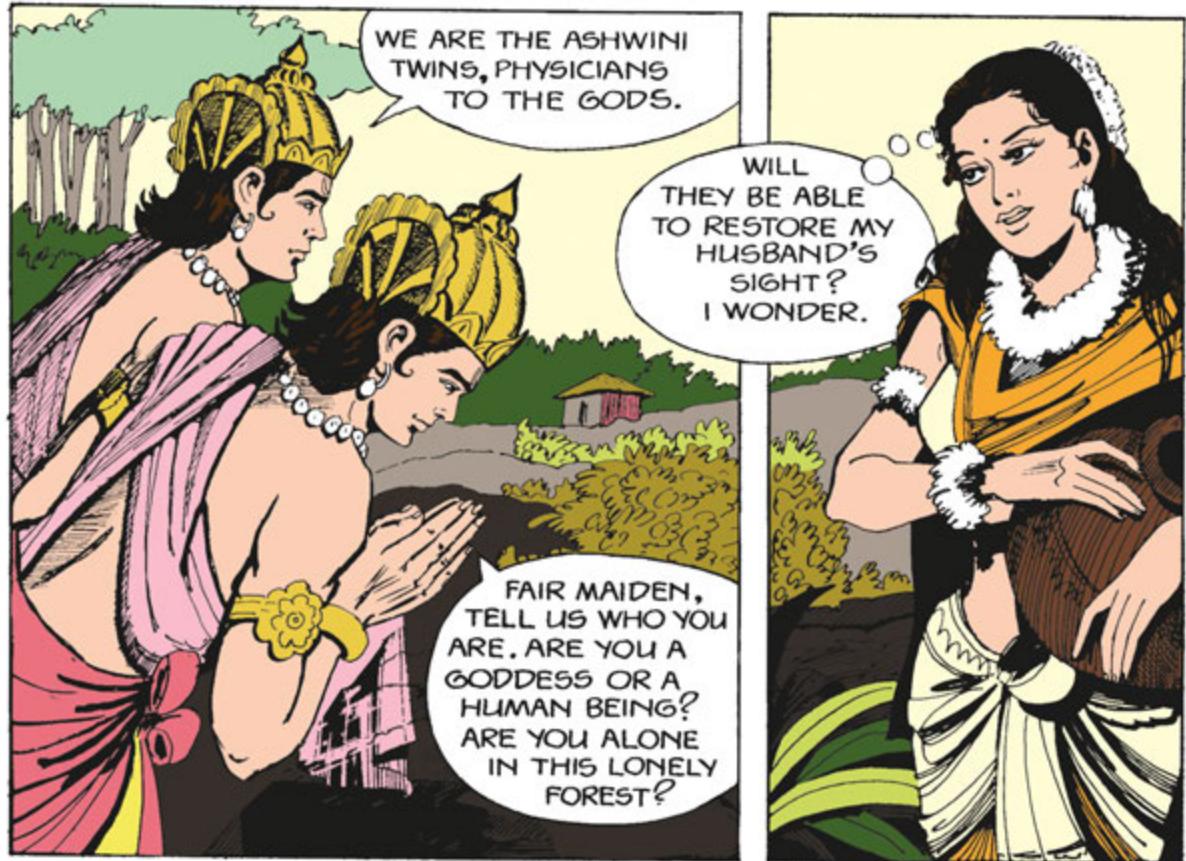
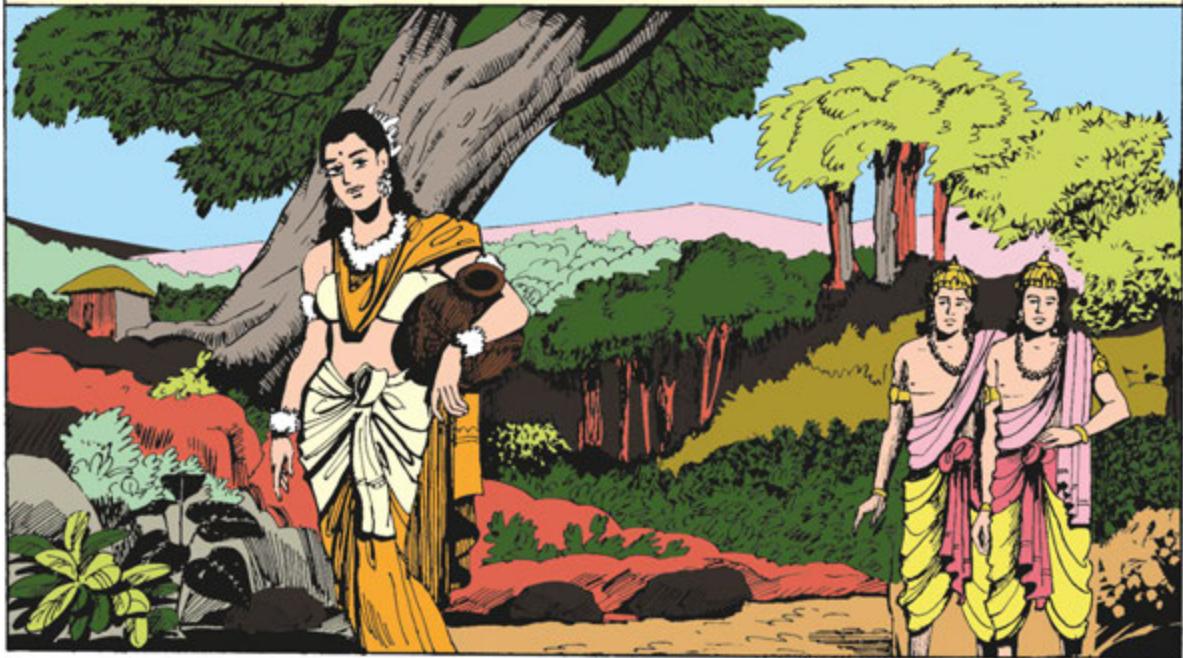


SUKANYA COMPLETELY DEDICATED HERSELF TO THE SERVICE OF HER HUSBAND. SHE PICKED THE FLOWERS FOR HIS RITUALS AND HELPED HIM WITH HIS YAGNAS.





AND SO THE YEARS PASSED. ONE DAY THE ASHWINI TWINS HAPPENED TO PASS BY. SUKANYA WAS RETURNING HOME FROM THE LAKE AFTER A BATH.





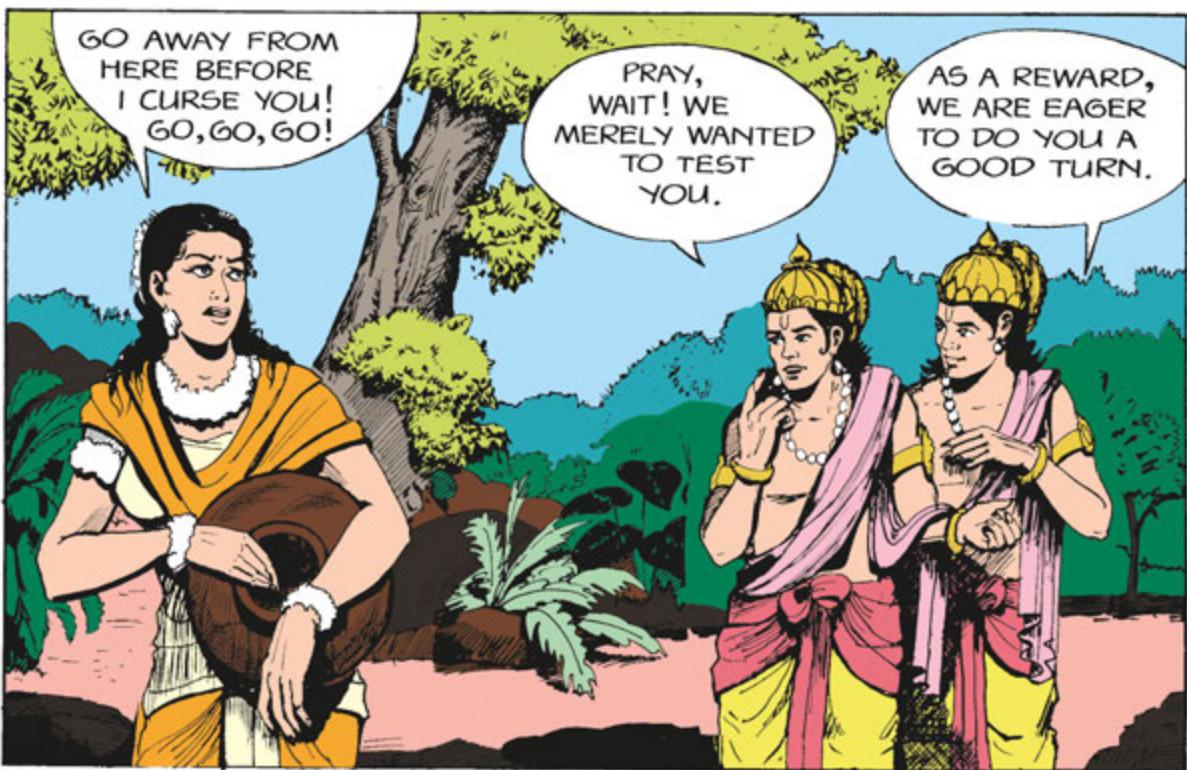
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK THESE WORDS TO A CHASTE WOMAN! GODS YOU CLAIM TO BE.

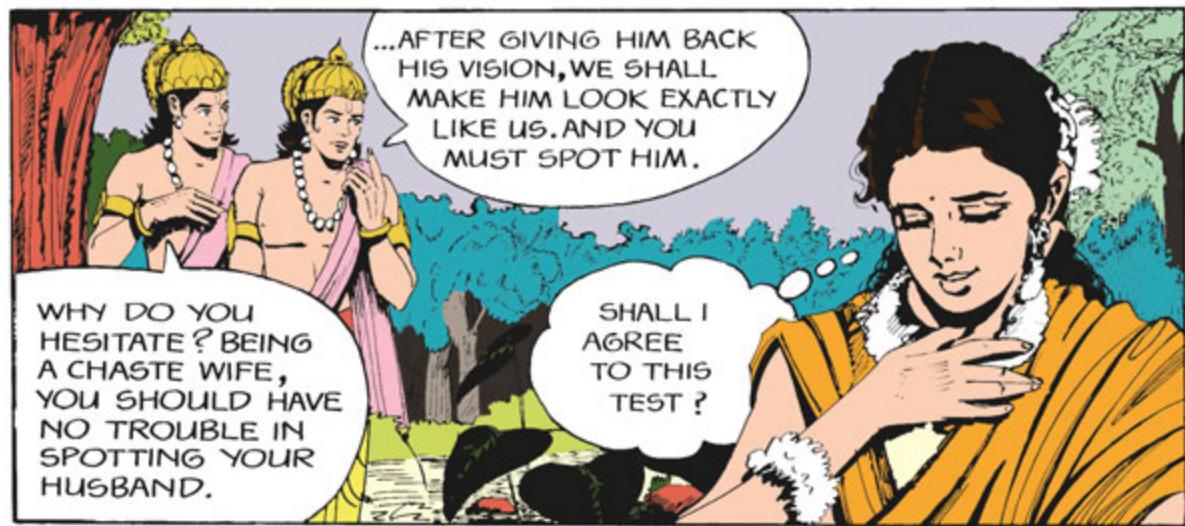
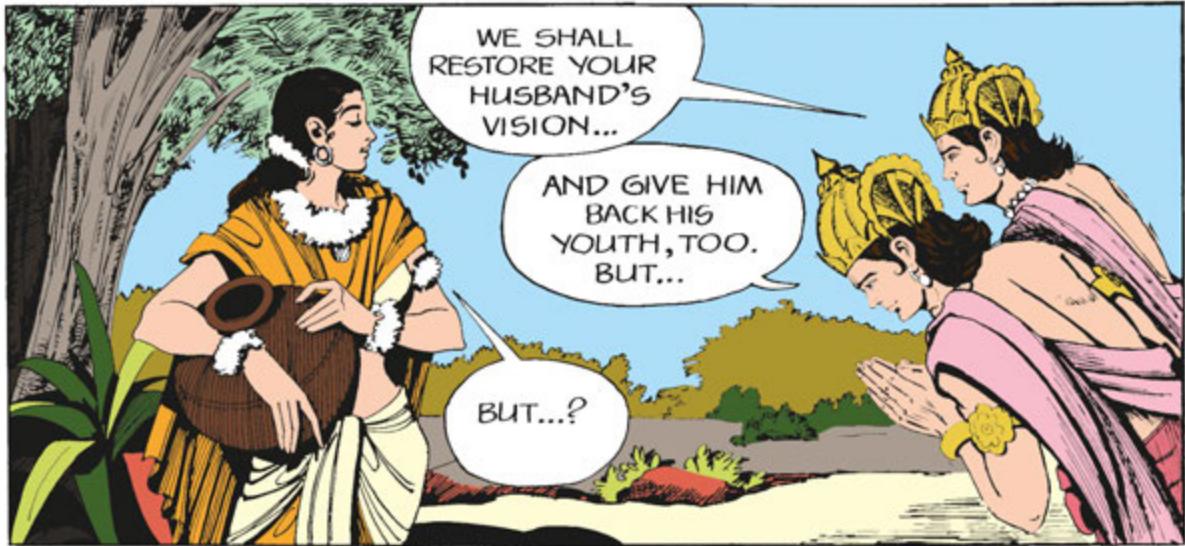


GO AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE I CURSE YOU!
GO, GO, GO!

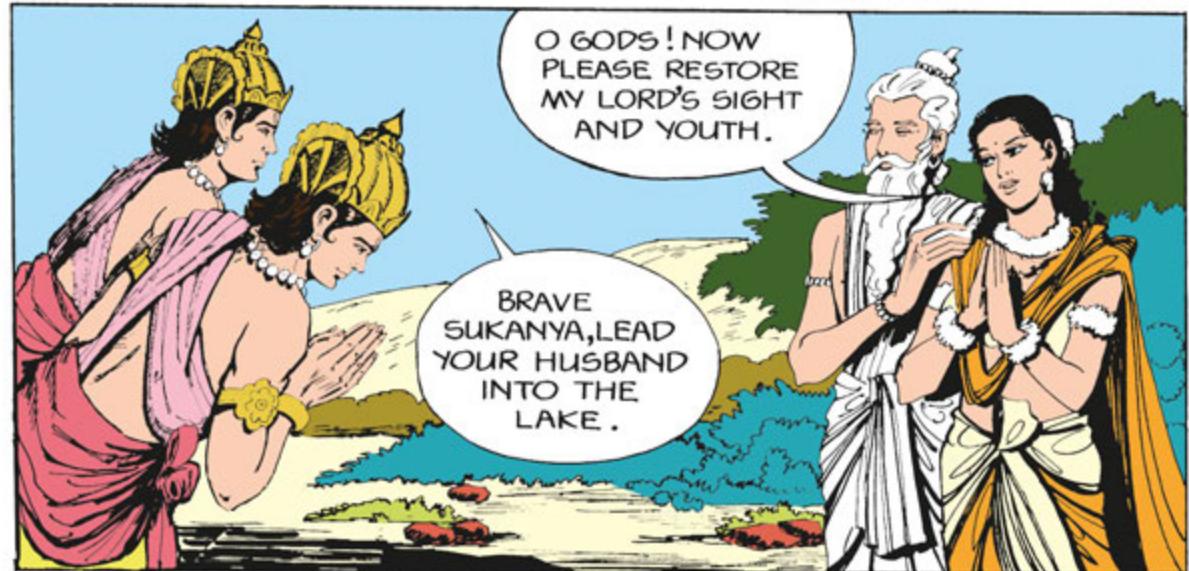
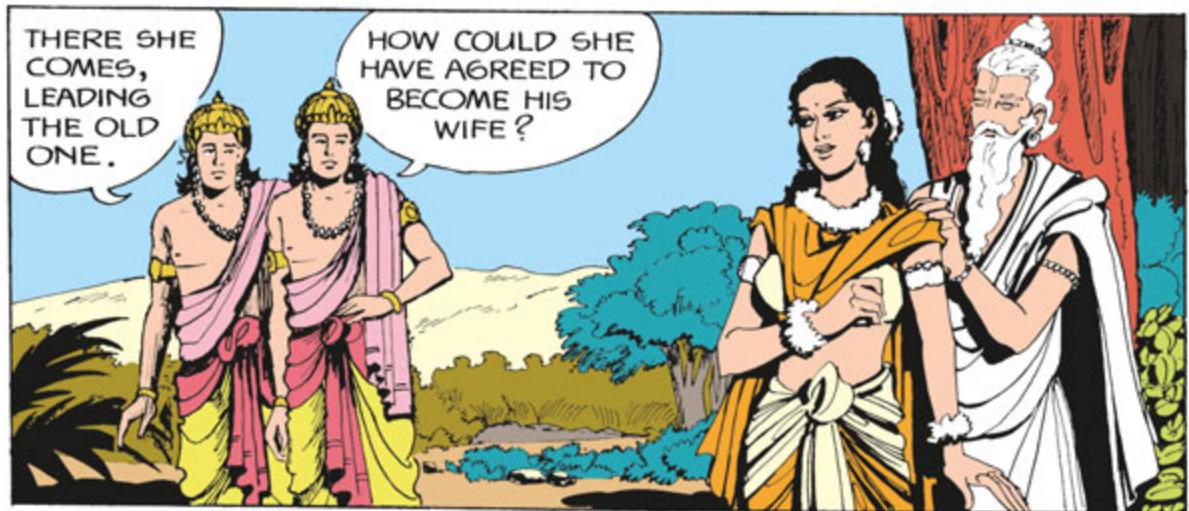
PRAY,
WAIT! WE MERELY WANTED TO TEST YOU.

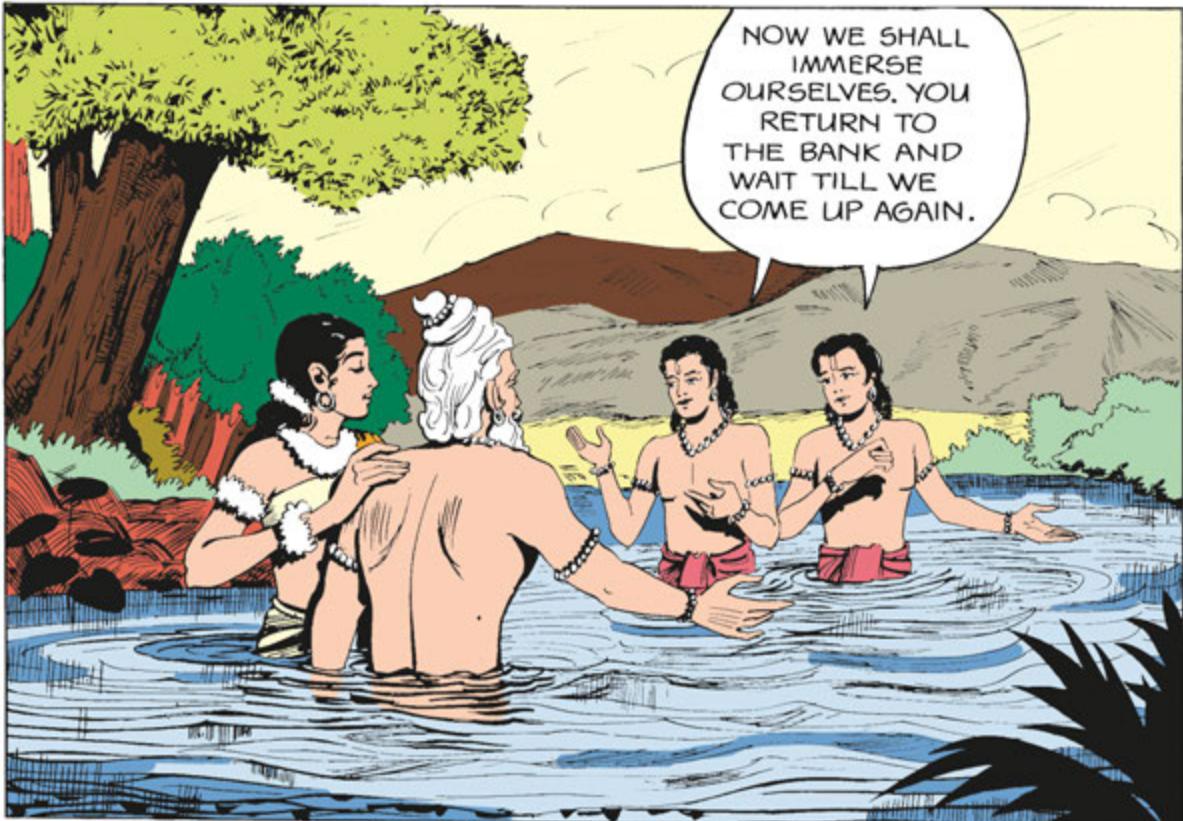
AS A REWARD,
WE ARE EAGER TO DO YOU A GOOD TURN.



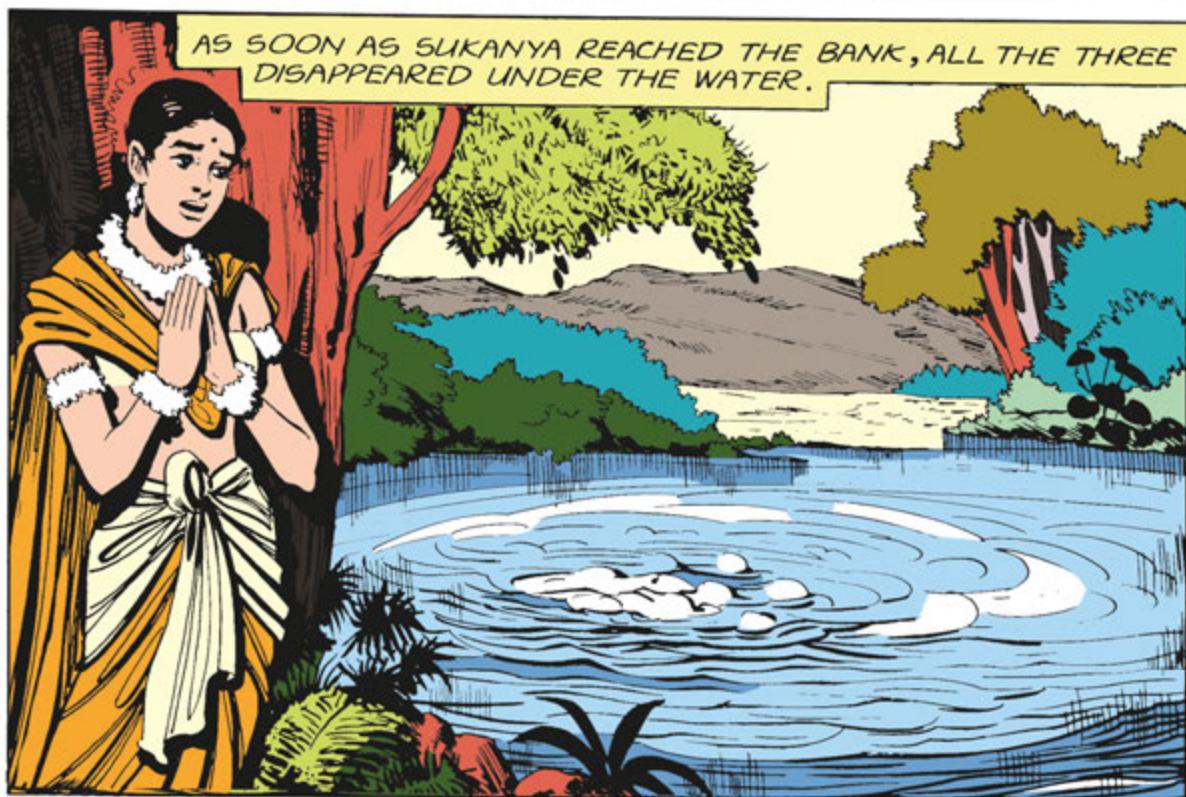


BACK AT THE ASHRAM, SUKANYA TOLD HER HUSBAND ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED.





NOW WE SHALL
IMMERSE
OURSELVES. YOU
RETURN TO
THE BANK AND
WAIT TILL WE
COME UP AGAIN.

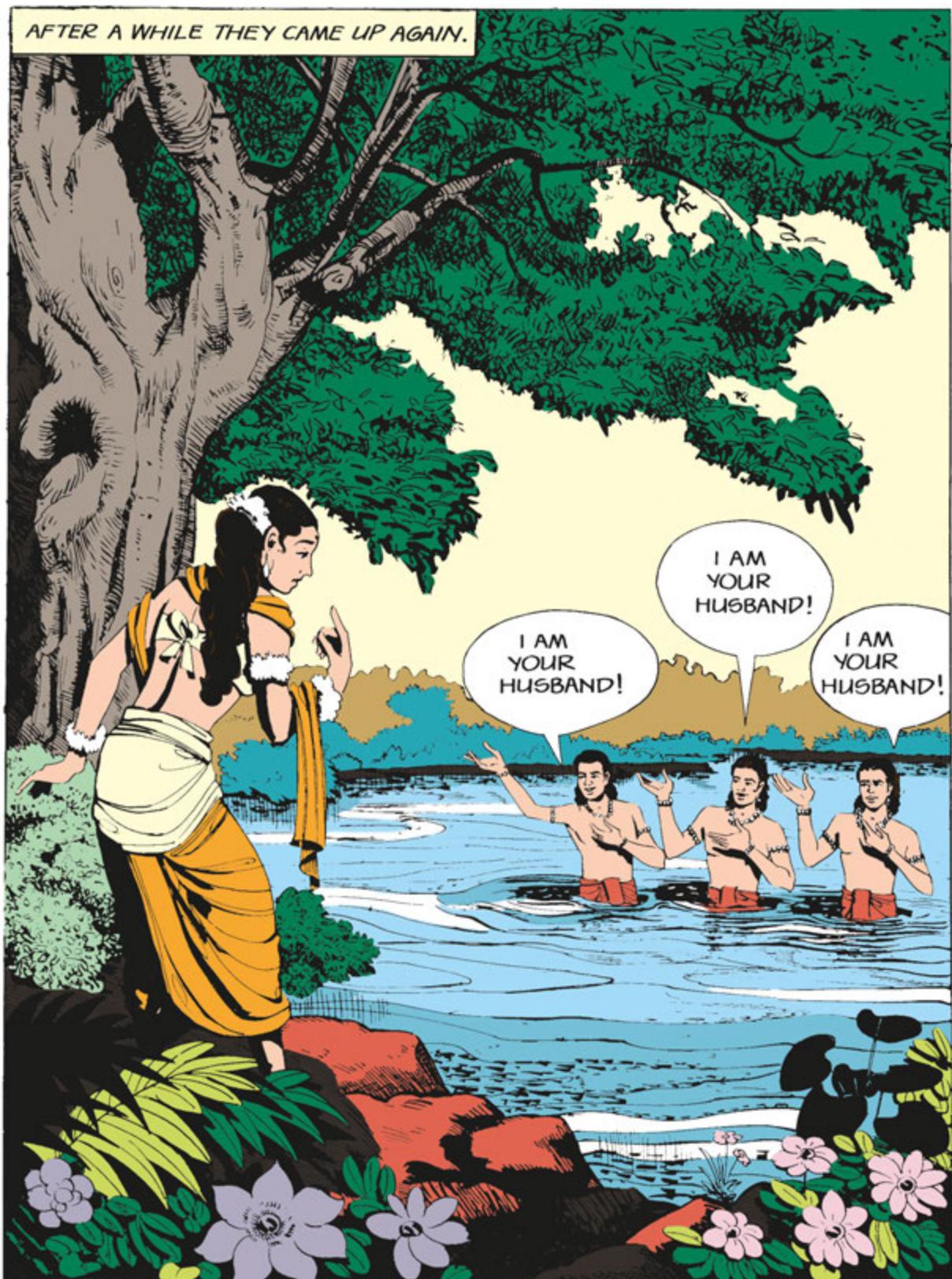


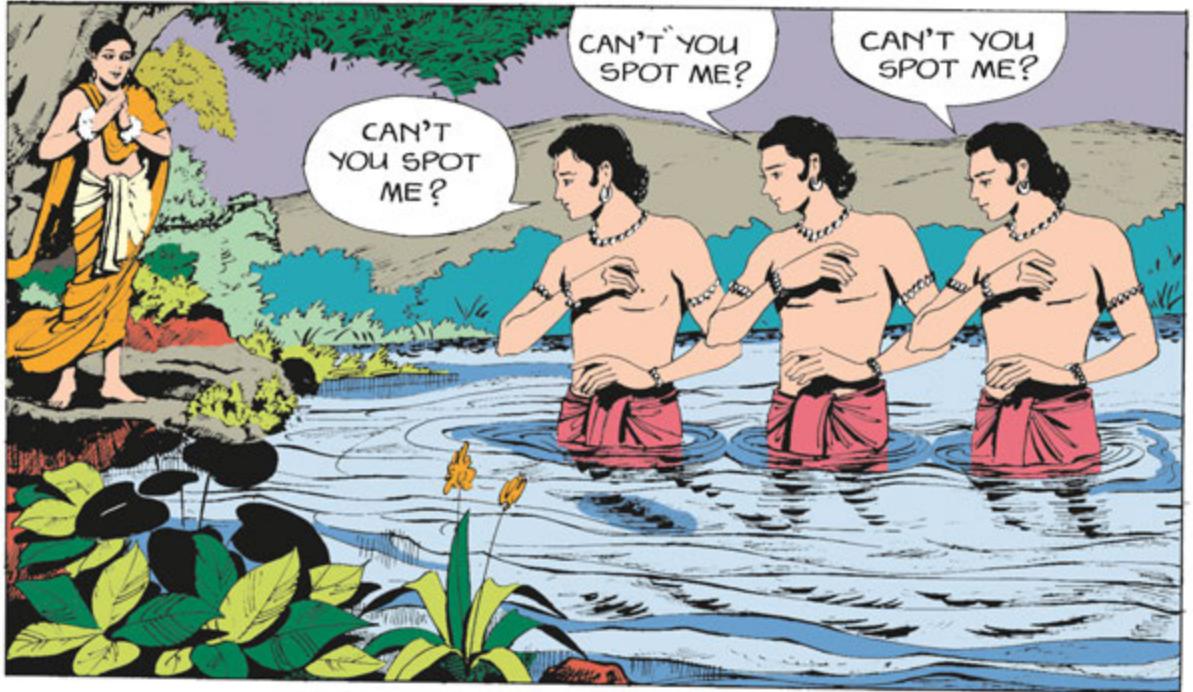
AFTER A WHILE THEY CAME UP AGAIN.

I AM
YOUR
HUSBAND!

I AM
YOUR
HUSBAND!

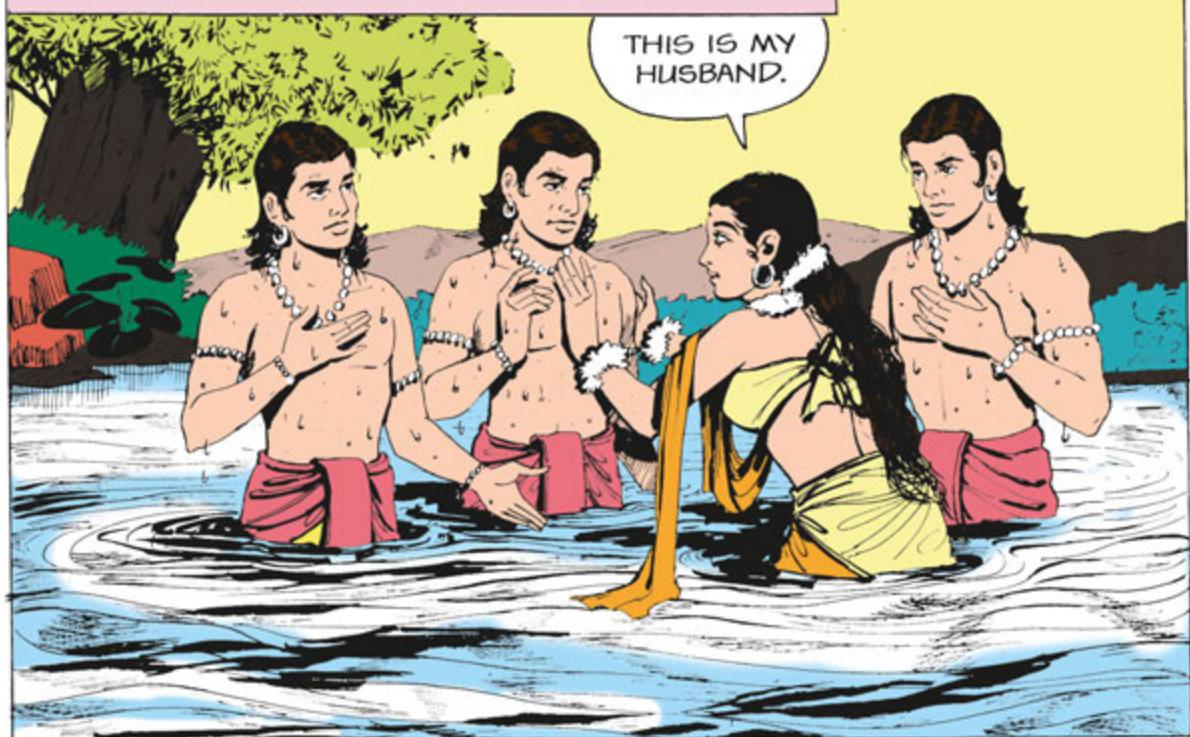
I AM
YOUR
HUSBAND!



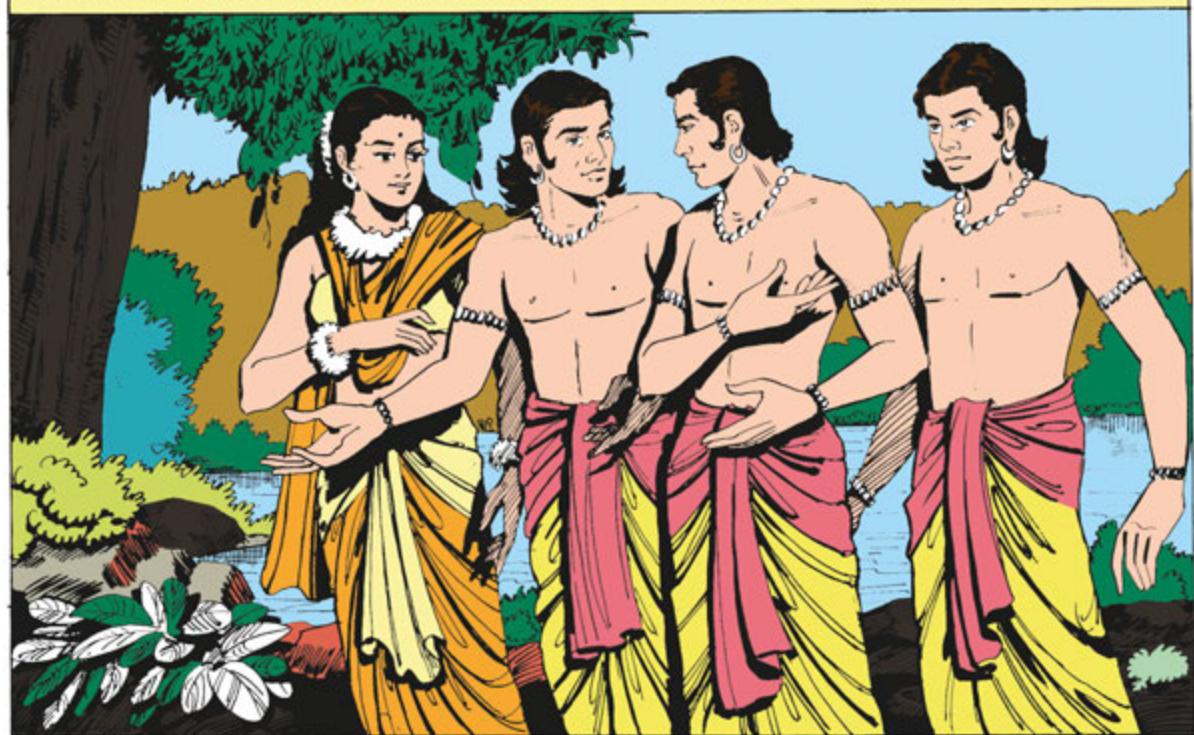


SUKANYA LOOKED CAREFULLY AT THEM FOR A WHILE AND SAW THAT THE EYES OF THE ONE IN THE CENTRE BLINKED.

THIS IS MY HUSBAND.



HER GUESS WAS RIGHT. ALL FOUR OF THEM CAME OUT OF THE LAKE.



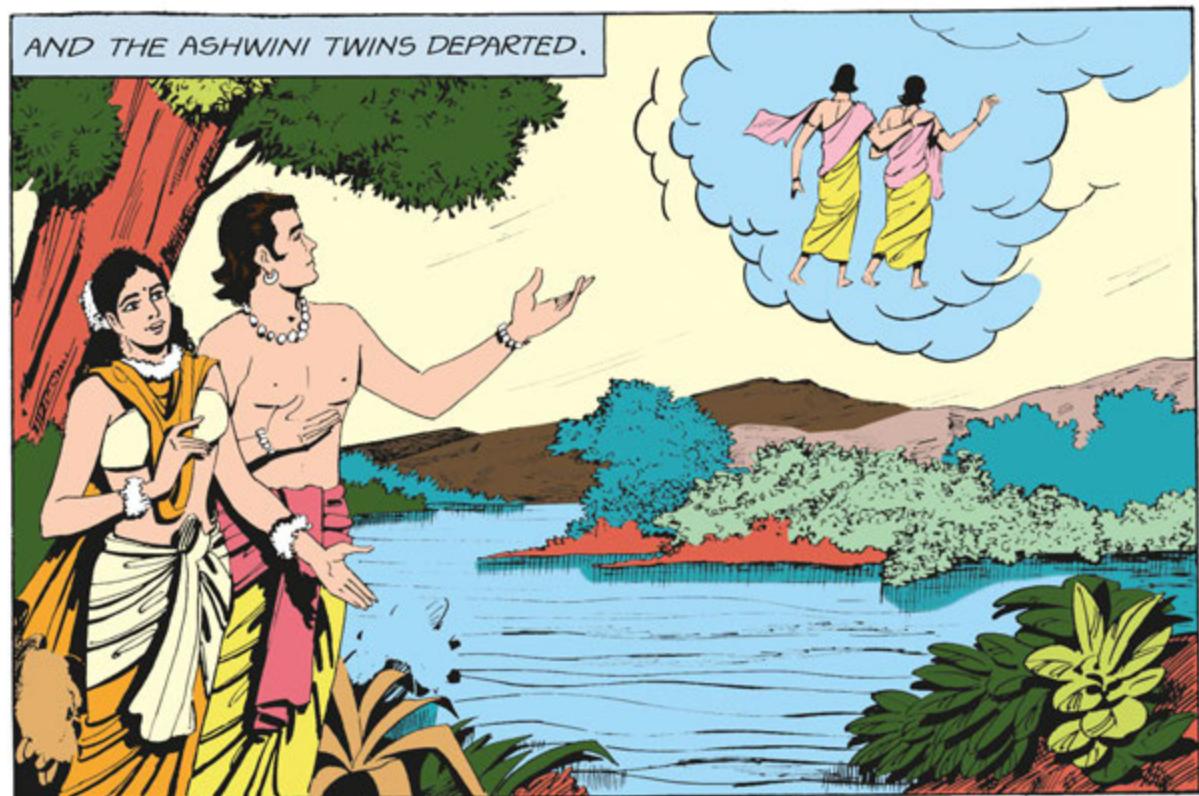
ON THE BANK THE TWINS AND CHYAVANA BLESSED SUKANYA.

YOUR GLORY SHALL LIVE FOR EVER.

SUKANYA, YOU, A CHASTE WOMAN, HAVE HUMBLED THE VERY GODS!



AND THE ASHWINI TWINS DEPARTED.



LATER, AT THE ASHRAM —

I HAVE EVERYTHING
A WIFE COULD
WISH FOR.

IS THERE
NOTHING LEFT
THAT I COULD
DO FOR MY
BELOVED WIFE?

I LONG TO SEE
MY FATHER. HOW
HAPPY HE
WOULD BE TO
SEE US NOW!

HE IS
ALREADY
ON HIS
WAY!

WHAT IS
IT?
I WILL...

WHEN SHARYAATI CAME—

SUKANYA, YOU
HAVE MADE ME
PROUD! NAY! YOU HAVE
MADE ALL WOMANKIND
PROUD!!

AS LONG AS
THE SUN AND THE
MOON EXIST, LET
HER BE KNOWN AS
“ SATI
SUKANYA ”*



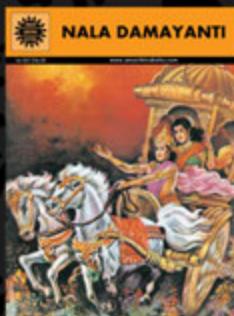
*CHASTE WIFE.

SUKANYA

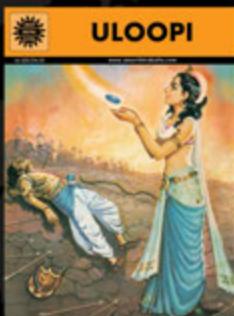
Sukanya, a princess, curiously pokes at two bright sparks in an anthill. She is horrified when she realizes that the sparks are actually the eyes of the great Sage Chyavana. He is blinded and a blight descends upon the entire kingdom. There is respite only when Sukanya agrees to leave her family and her royal home to marry the sage and serve him faithfully.

This version is taken from the Mahabharata, but references to Sukanya's integrity appear in the Bhagawat Purana, the Devi Purana and the Rigveda. She remains faithful to Chyavana, eventually shaming even the heavenly twins, the Ashwini Kumaras.

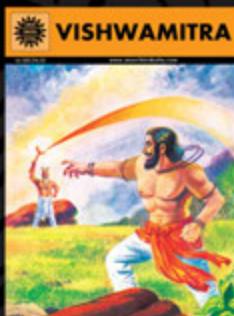
OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



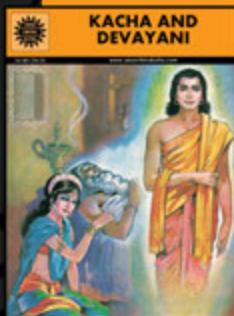
NALA DAMAYANTI



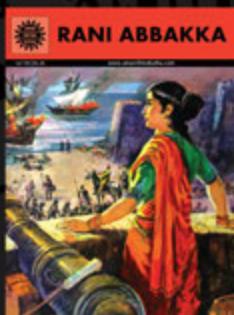
ULOOPI



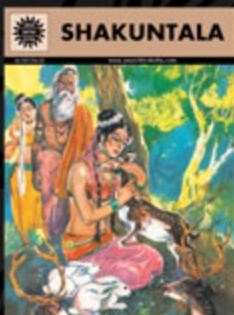
VISHWAMITRA

KACHA AND
DEVAYANI

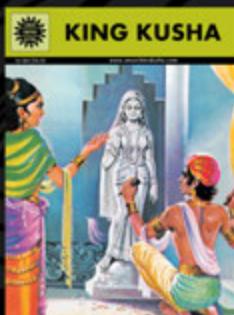
ALSO LOOK FOR:



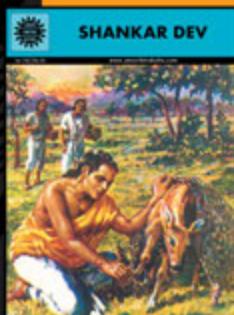
BRAVEHEARTS



INDIAN CLASSICS



FABLES & HUMOUR



VISIONARIES

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

