



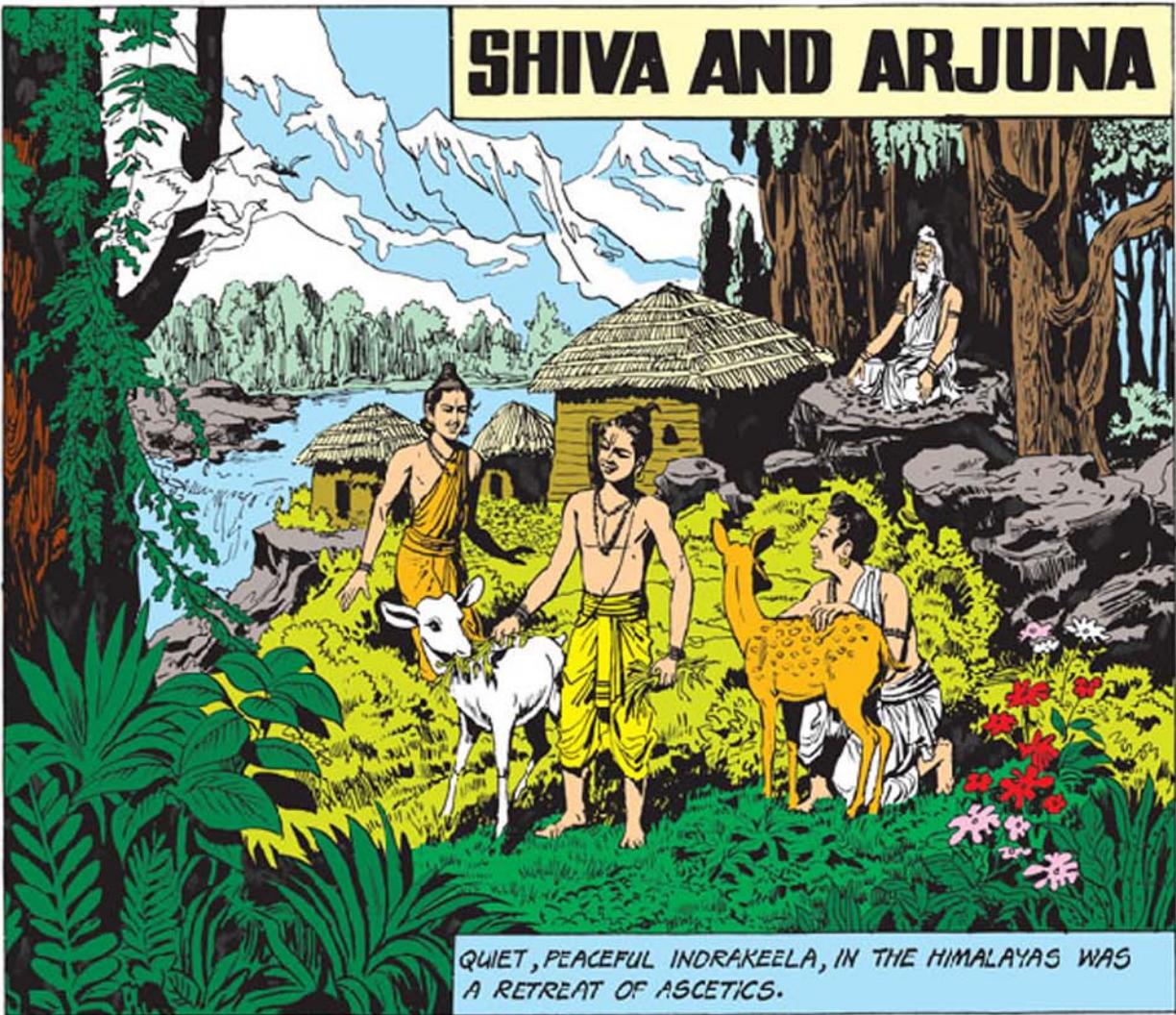
TALES OF SHIVA

THE MIGHTY LORD OF KAILASA

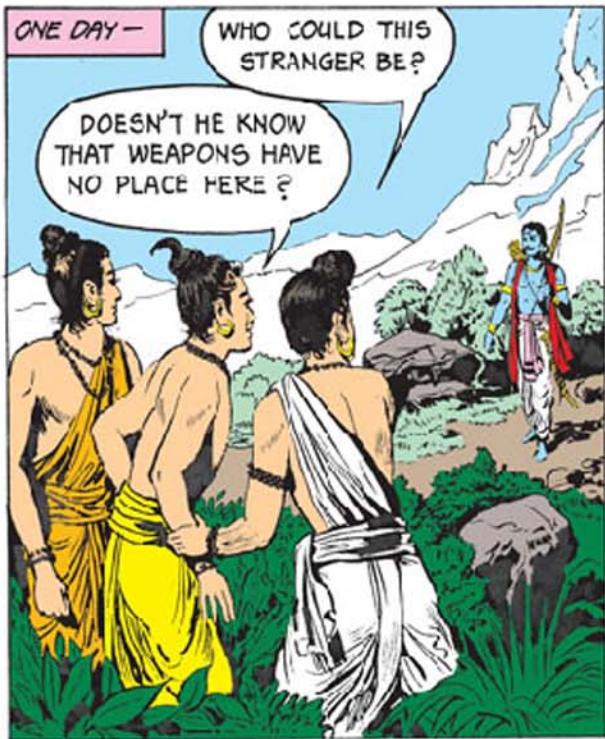
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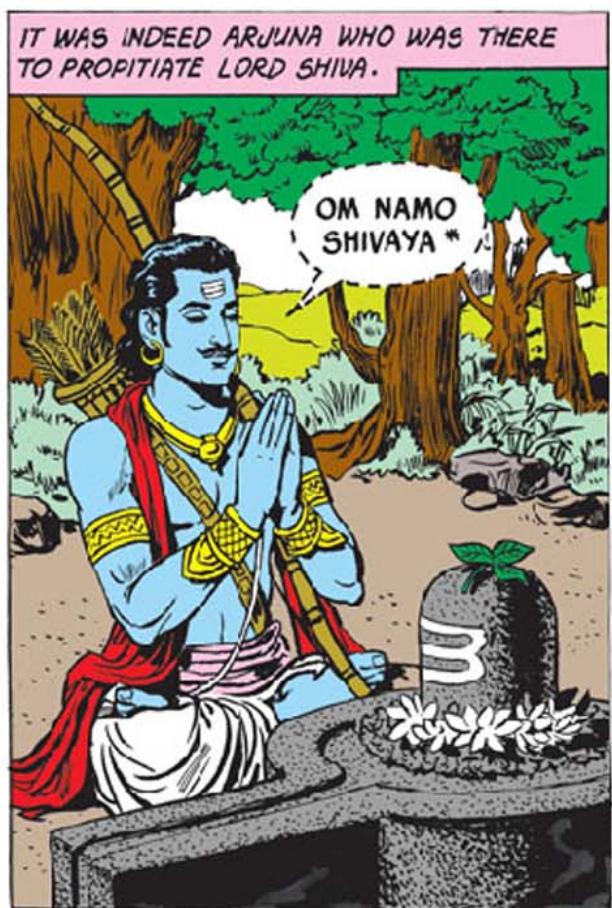
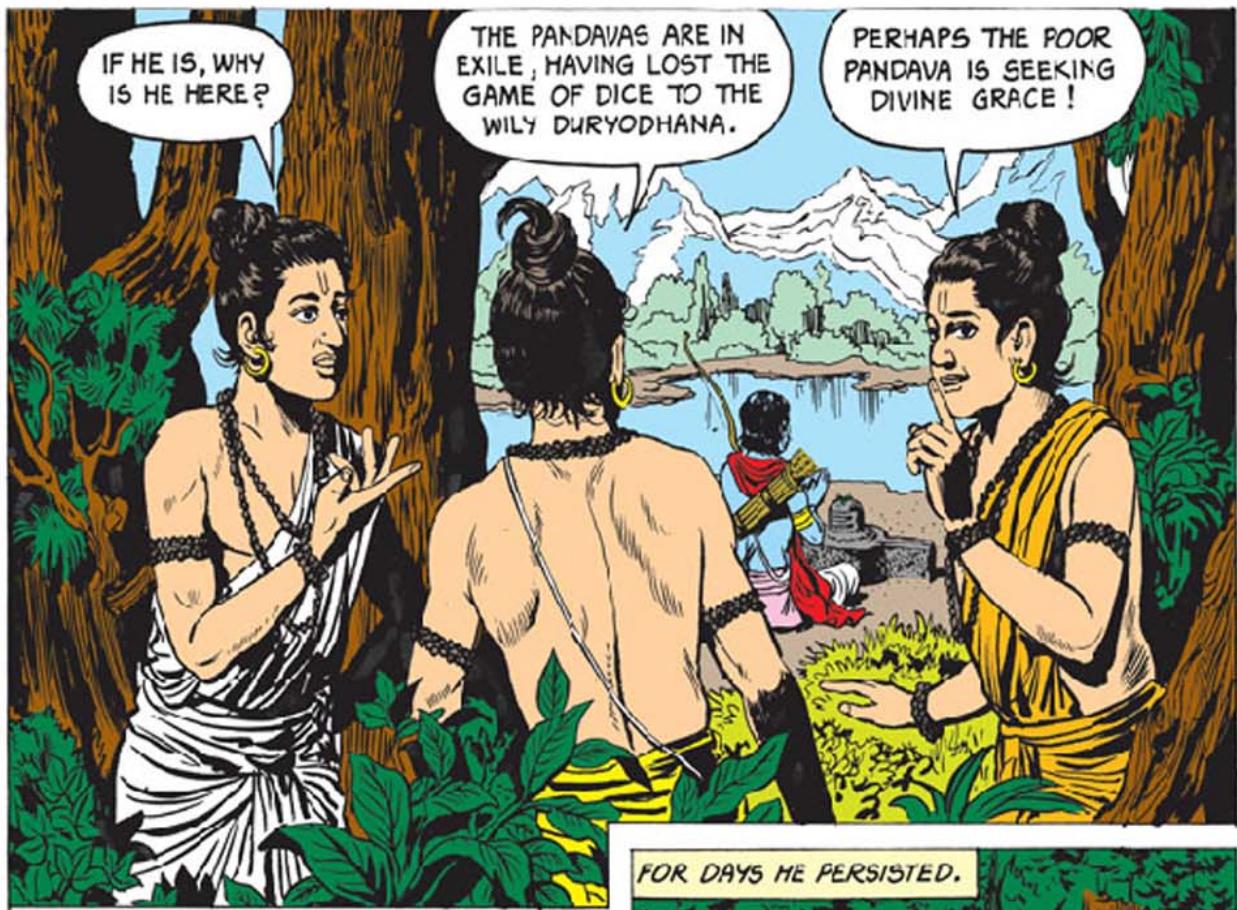


SHIVA AND ARJUNA



QUIET, PEACEFUL INDRAKEELA, IN THE HIMALAYAS WAS A RETREAT OF ASCETICS.





* SALUTATIONS TO SHIVA

FOUR MONTHS LATER—

WE CANNOT GO ANY NEARER.

THE HEAT OF THE TERRIBLE PENA
CE IS SPREADING FAR AND WIDE.

IT SOON CHOKED THE WHOLE FOREST.

THE SAGES OF INDRAKEELA SET OUT FOR KAILASA, THE ABODE OF LORD SHIVA.

AT KAILASA —

LORD, GRANT ARJUNA HIS WISH, AND RELIEVE US OF THIS SUFFERING.

SO BE IT.

WHEN THE SAGES DEPARTED —

WHAT DOES ARJUNA
WANT, MY LORD?

HE WANTS
CELESTIAL
WEAPONS.



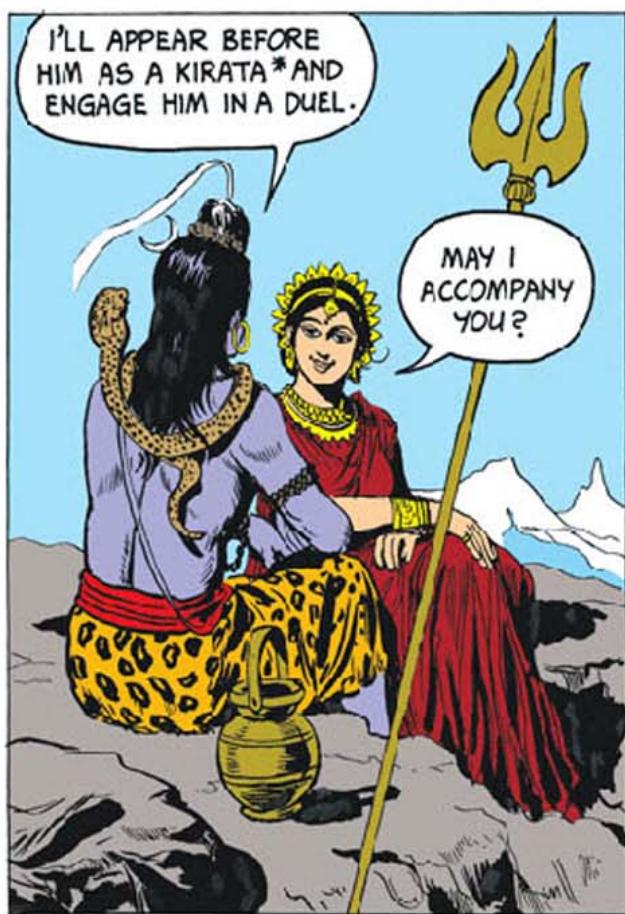
CAN HE
WIELD THEM,
MY LORD?

I WILL FIND
OUT BY
TESTING HIM.



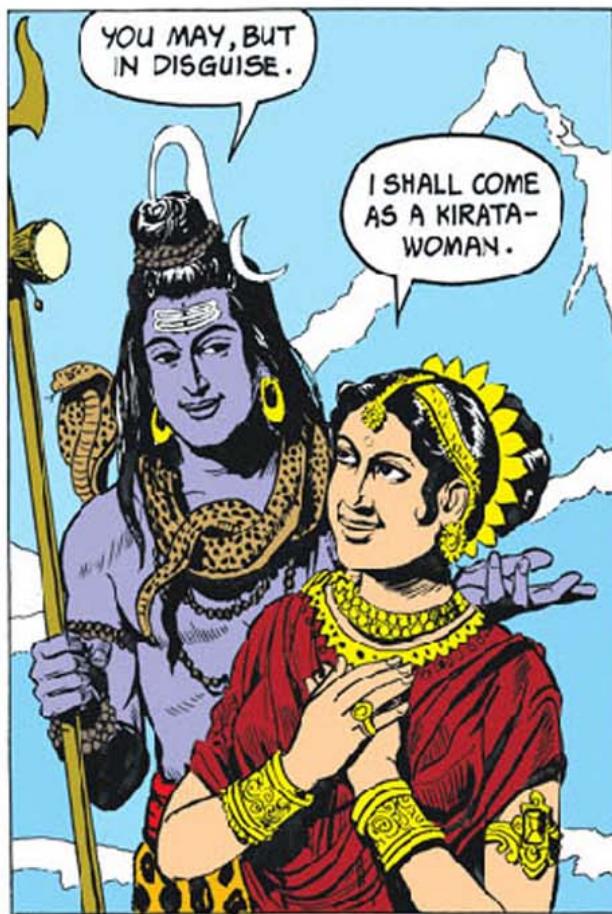
I'LL APPEAR BEFORE
HIM AS A KIRATA* AND
ENGAGE HIM IN A DUEL.

MAY I
ACCOMPANY
YOU?



YOU MAY,
BUT
IN DISGUISE.

I SHALL COME
AS A KIRATA-
WOMAN.



WHEN THE HORDES OF SHIVA HEARD ABOUT IT—

LORD, WE WOULD LIKE
TO WITNESS THE
GREAT COMBAT. MAY
WE ACCOMPANY YOU?

YOU MAY, IN THE
GUISE OF KIRATA
WOMEN.

SOON—

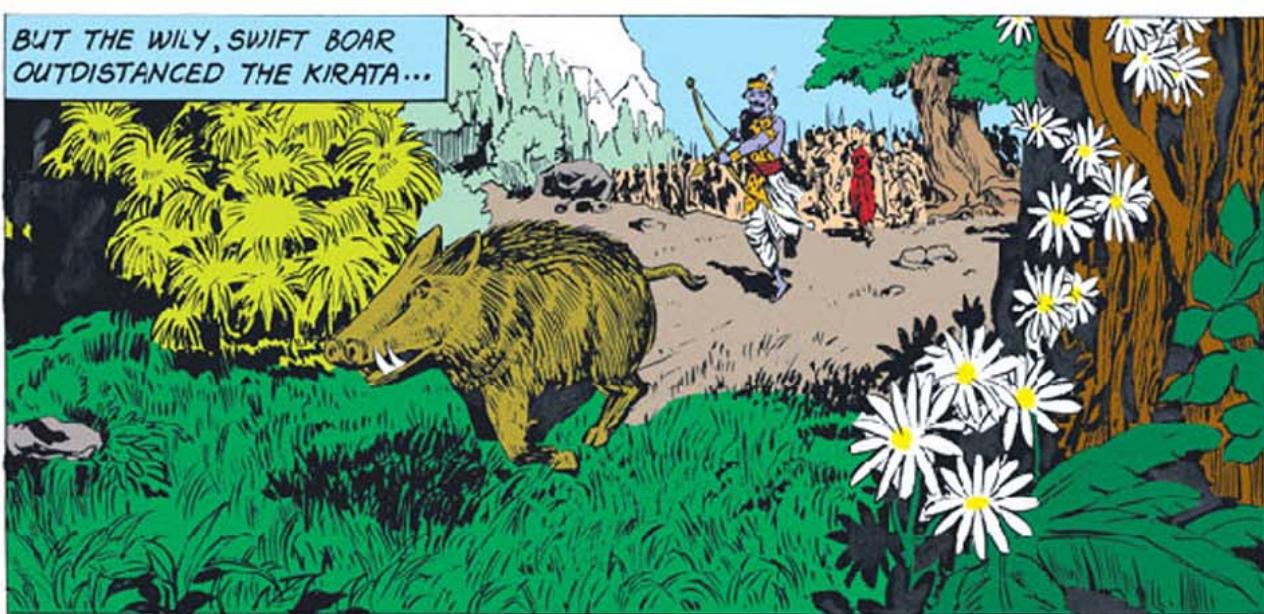


AS THEY APPROACHED INDRAKEELA —

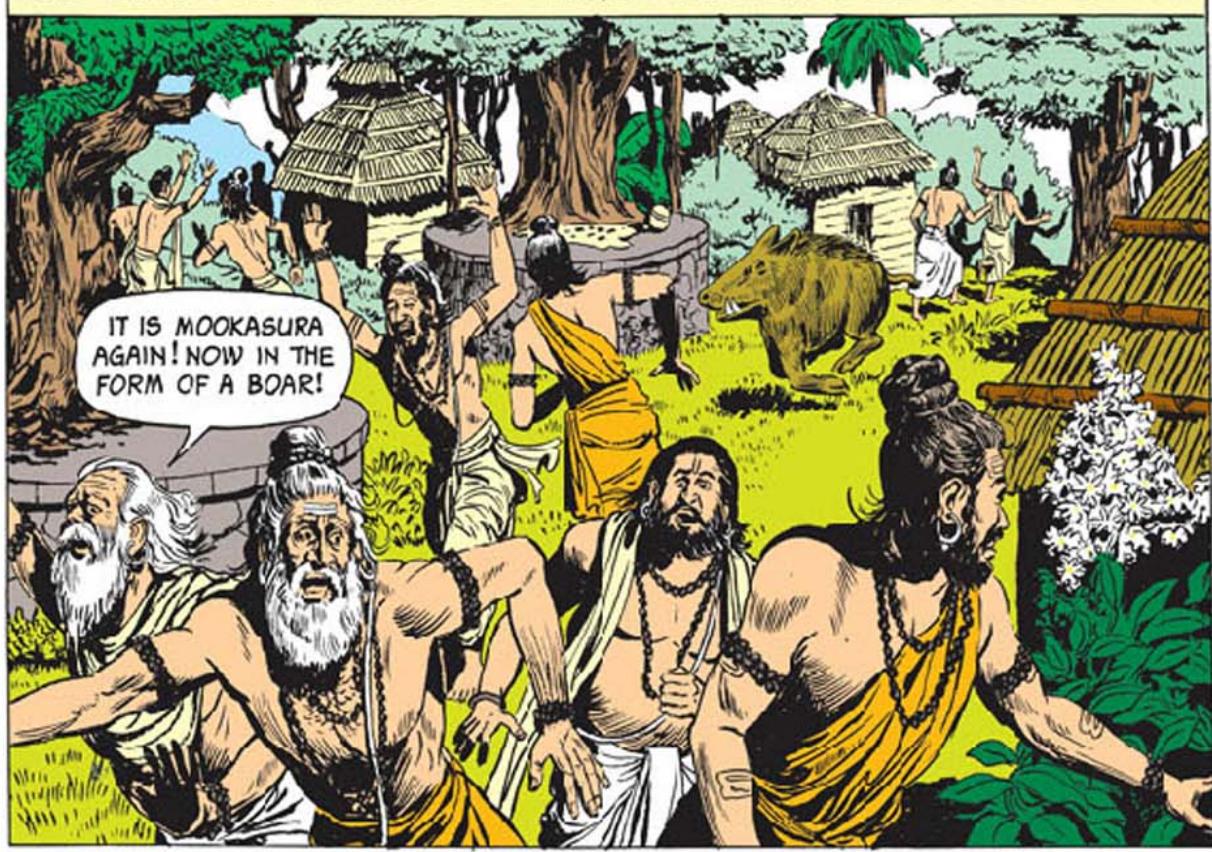
SEE THAT BOAR RUNNING
WILD, MY LORD.

HAH! A FIT TARGET FOR
MY ARROW!

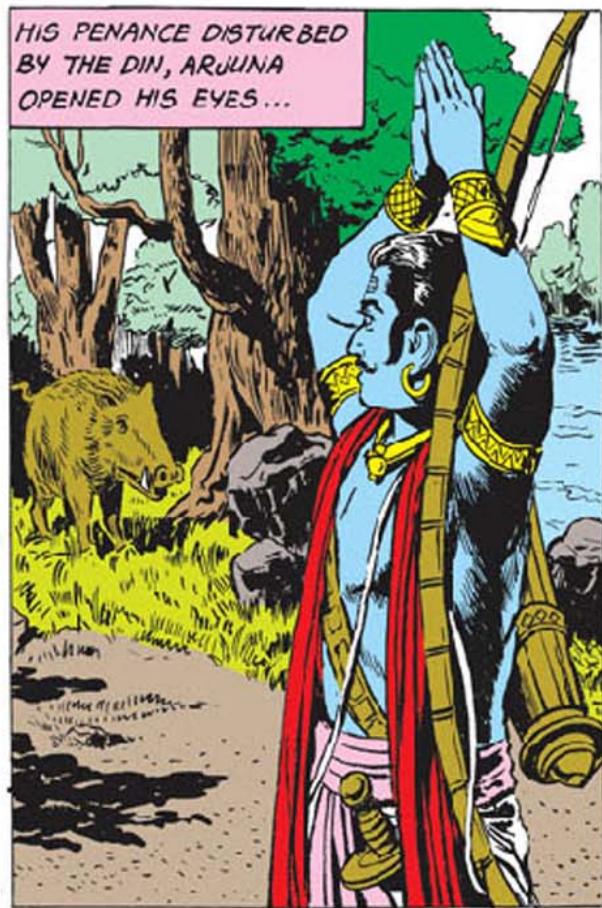
BUT THE WILY, SWIFT BOAR
OUTDISTANCED THE KIRATA...



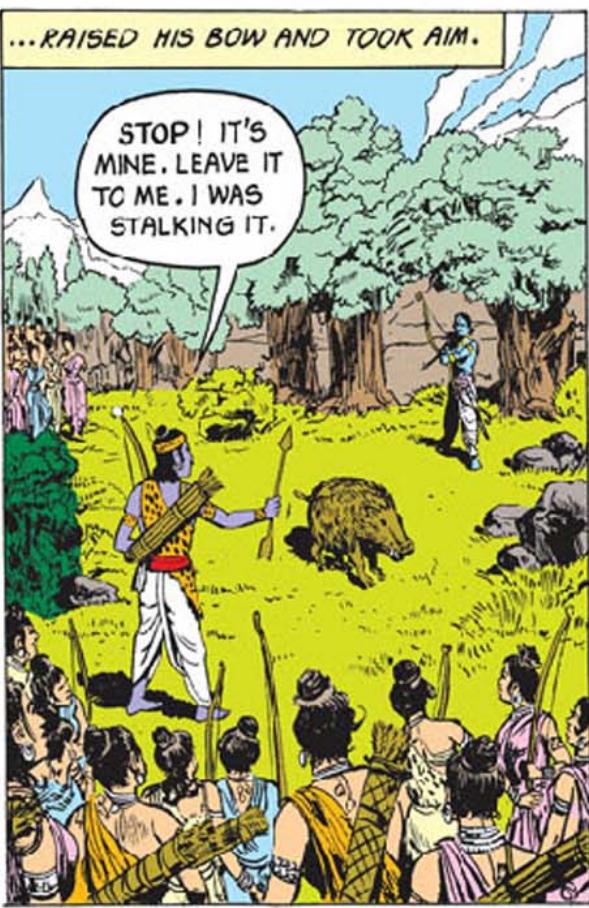
...AND CHARGED INTO THE QUIET HERMITAGE, DRIVING THE ASCETICS HELTER-SKELTER.



HIS PENA
CE DISTURBED
BY THE DIN, ARJUNA
OPENED HIS EYES...



...RAISED HIS BOW AND TOOK AIM.





* DEMON MOOKA

THE WILD EXULTATION OF THE KIRATA WOMEN AMUSED ARJUNA.

O KIRATA, DOES NOT THIS THICK FOREST TERRIFY YOUR WOMEN FOLK ? AND YOU THEIR ONLY ESCORT ?



YOUNG MAN,
WE FEAR
NOTHING .

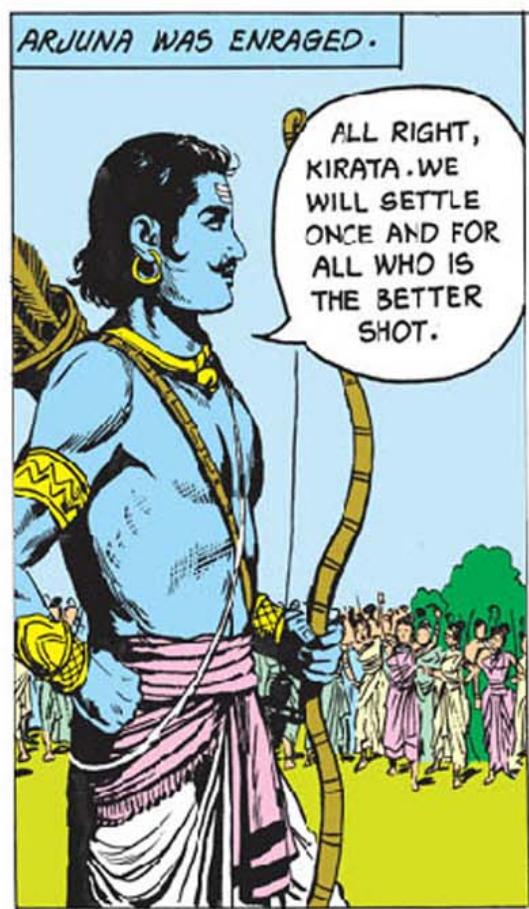
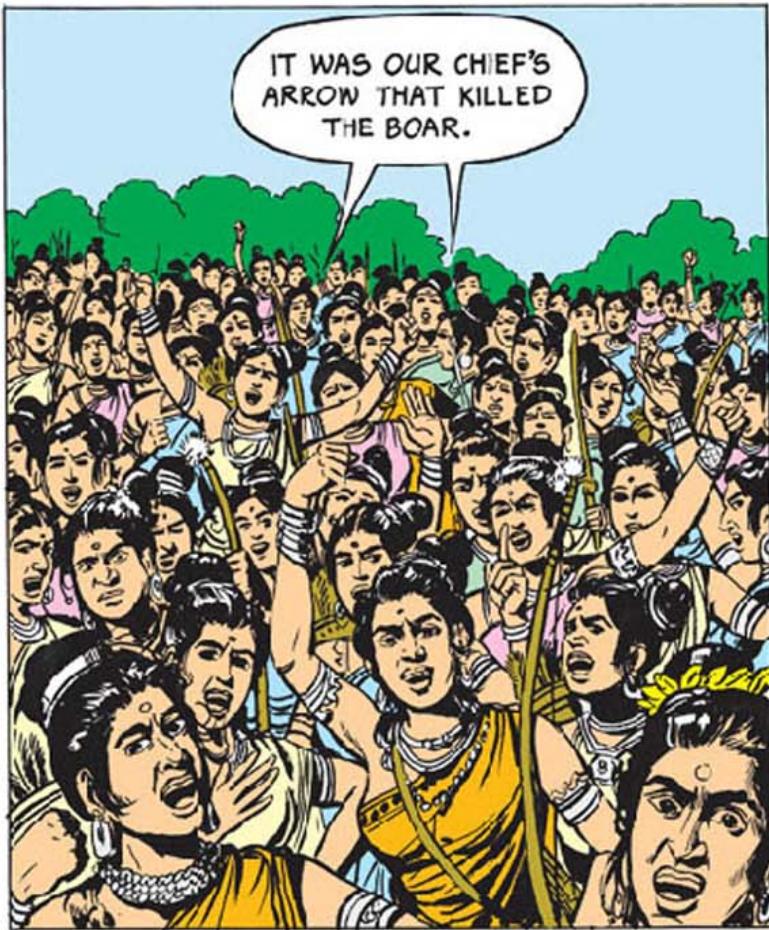


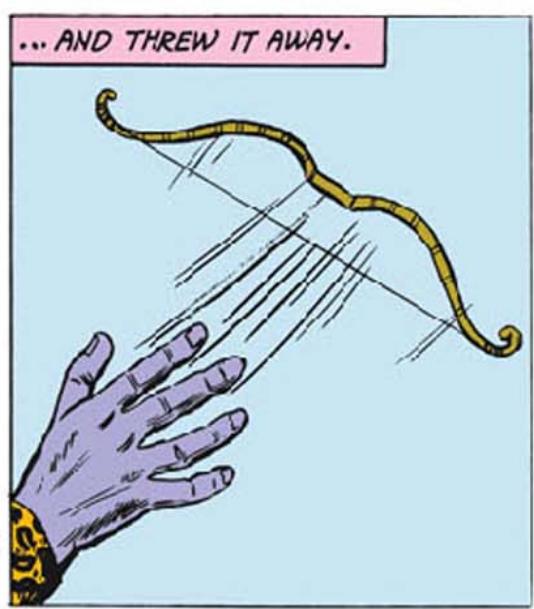
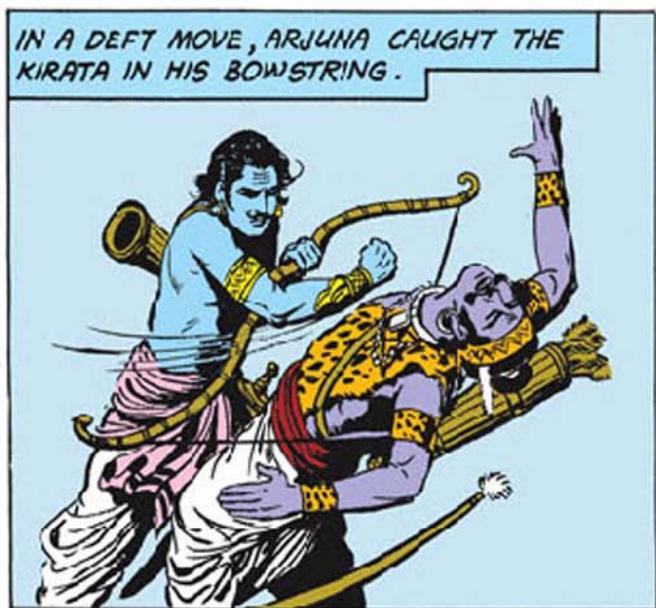
PERHAPS YOU ARE
TERRIFIED. YOU DO
APPEAR SOFT !



SOFT ? ME ? DIDN'T YOU
SEE THE FORCE OF MY
ARROW PIERCING THE
BOAR ?

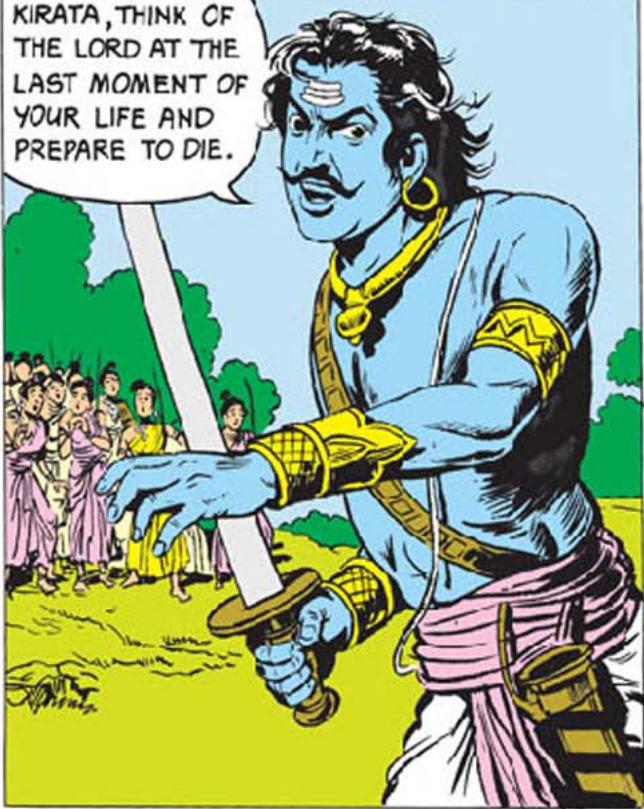






UNDAUNTED, ARJUNA WITH HIS SWORD RAISED, RUSHED TOWARDS THE KIRATA.

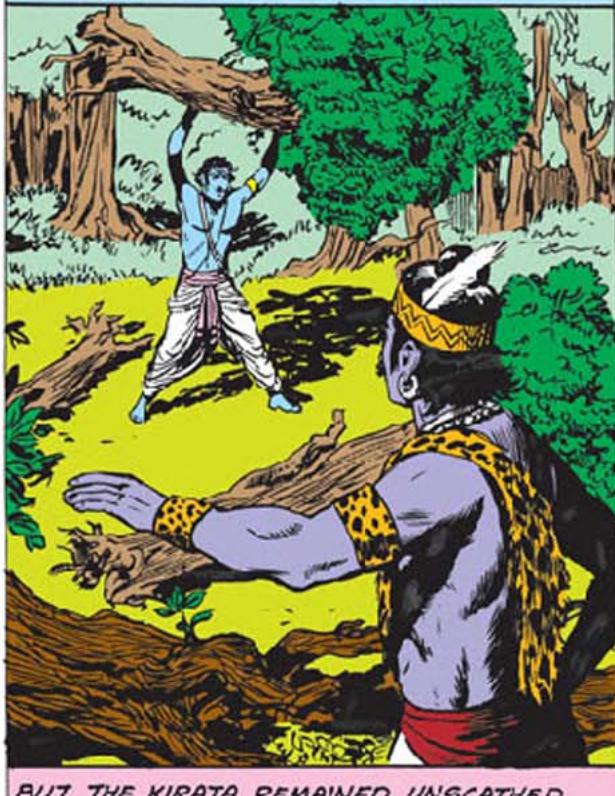
KIRATA, THINK OF THE LORD AT THE LAST MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE AND PREPARE TO DIE.



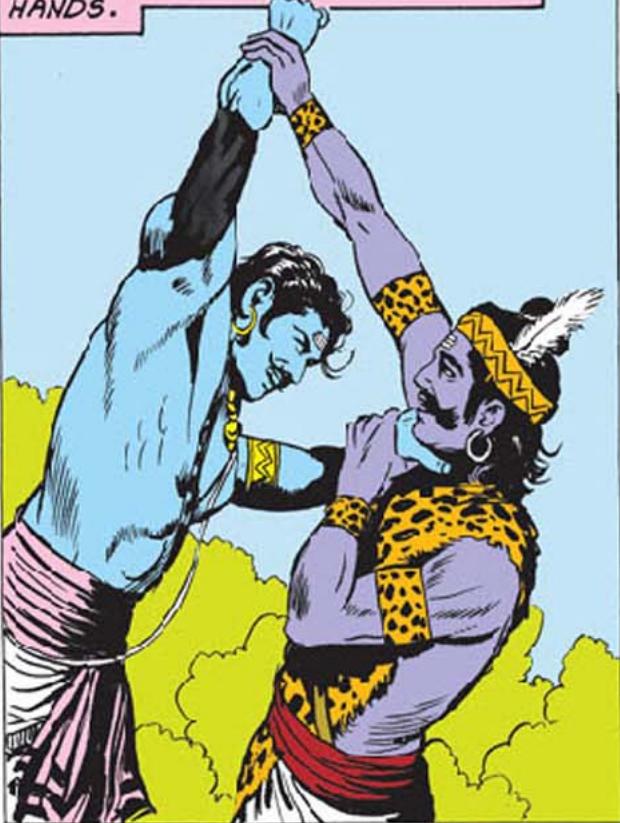
AS ARJUNA SMOTE THE HEAD OF THE KIRATA WITH HIS HEAVY SWORD, IT BROKE.



SHORN OF HIS ARMS, ARJUNA CONTINUED THE FIGHT WITH UPROOTED TREES.



IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT, ARJUNA CHARGED AT THE KIRATA WITH BARE HANDS.



BUT THE KIRATA REMAINED UNSCATHED.

WITH A FLICK OF HIS WRIST, THE KIRATA
LIFTED ARJUNA...



...AND FLUNG HIM DOWN.



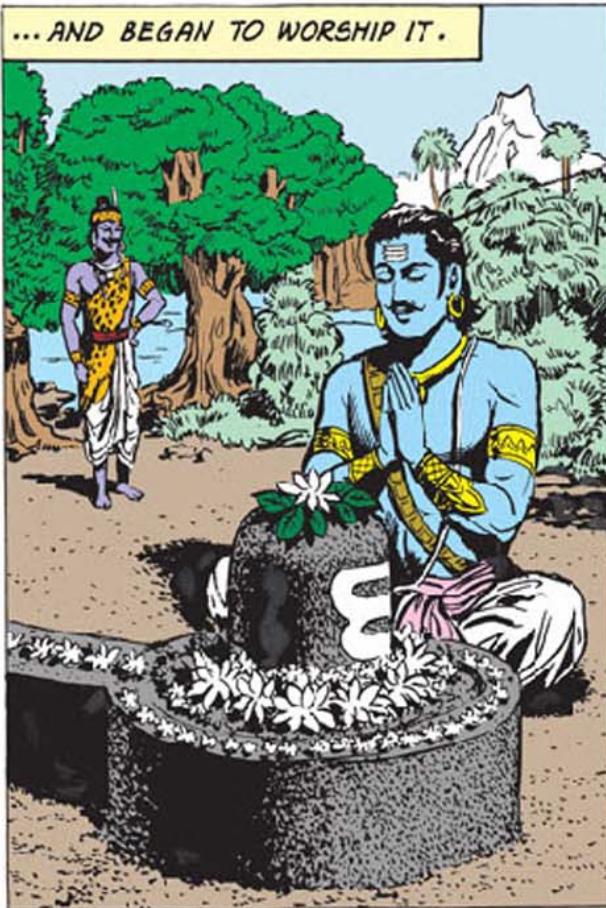
A HUMBLED
ARJUNA THOUGHT
OF SHIVA AND
HIS GRACE.



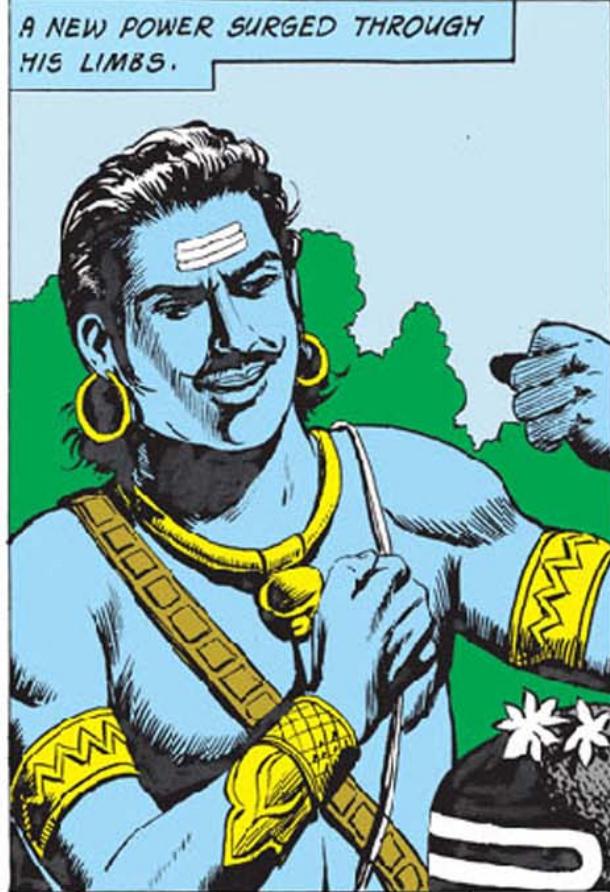
RIGHT ON THE SPOT HE MADE A LINGA ...



... AND BEGAN TO WORSHIP IT.



A NEW POWER SURGED THROUGH HIS LIMBS.

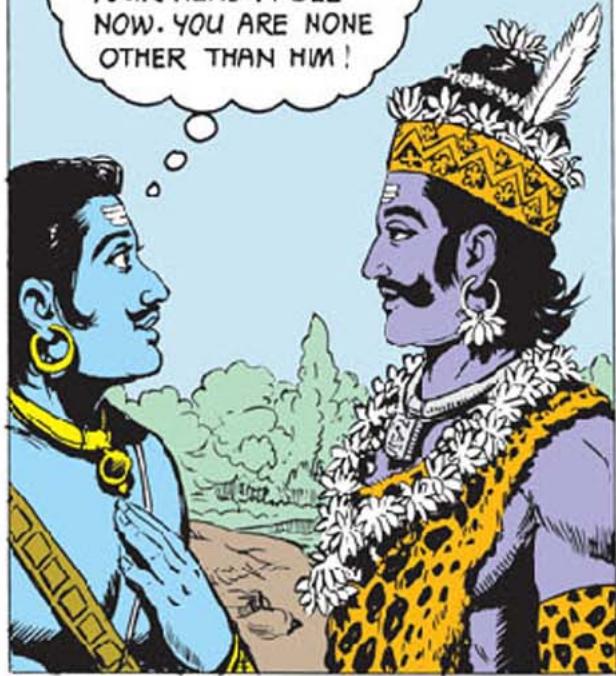


A REJUVENATED ARJUNA AGAIN CHALLENGED HIS RIVAL.



BUT HE STOPPED, AS IF TRANSFIXED.

THE FLOWERS, I OFFERED TO MY LORD SHIVA, ON YOUR HEAD ! I SEE NOW. YOU ARE NONE OTHER THAN HIM !



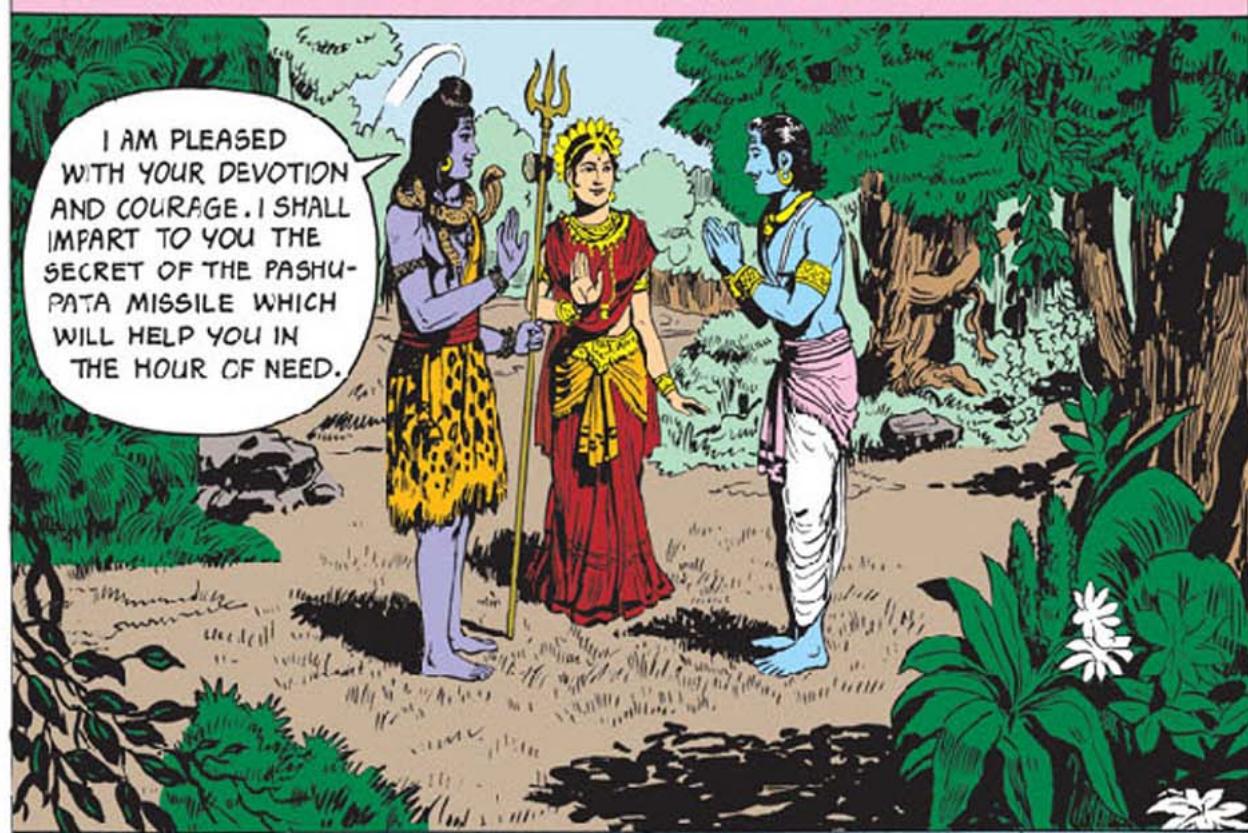
ARJUNA FELL AT THE FEET OF THE KIRATA.

O LORD, PARDON ME AND MY VANITY.



SHIVA THEN REVELED HIMSELF IN HIS TRUE FORM AND SO DID PARVATI IN HERS.

I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR DEVOTION AND COURAGE. I SHALL IMPART TO YOU THE SECRET OF THE PASHUPATA MISSILE WHICH WILL HELP YOU IN THE HOUR OF NEED.



SHIVA'S WORD CAME TRUE. LATER IN THE MAHABHARATA WAR, IT WAS ONLY WITH THE PASHUPATA THAT ARJUNA COULD KILL HIS ARCH-RIVAL, KARNA.

SHIVA THE FISHERMAN



ONCE IN KAILASA, SHIVA STARTED EXPOUNDING THE MYSTERY OF THE VEDAS TO PARVATI WHO WAS LISTENING ATTENTIVELY.

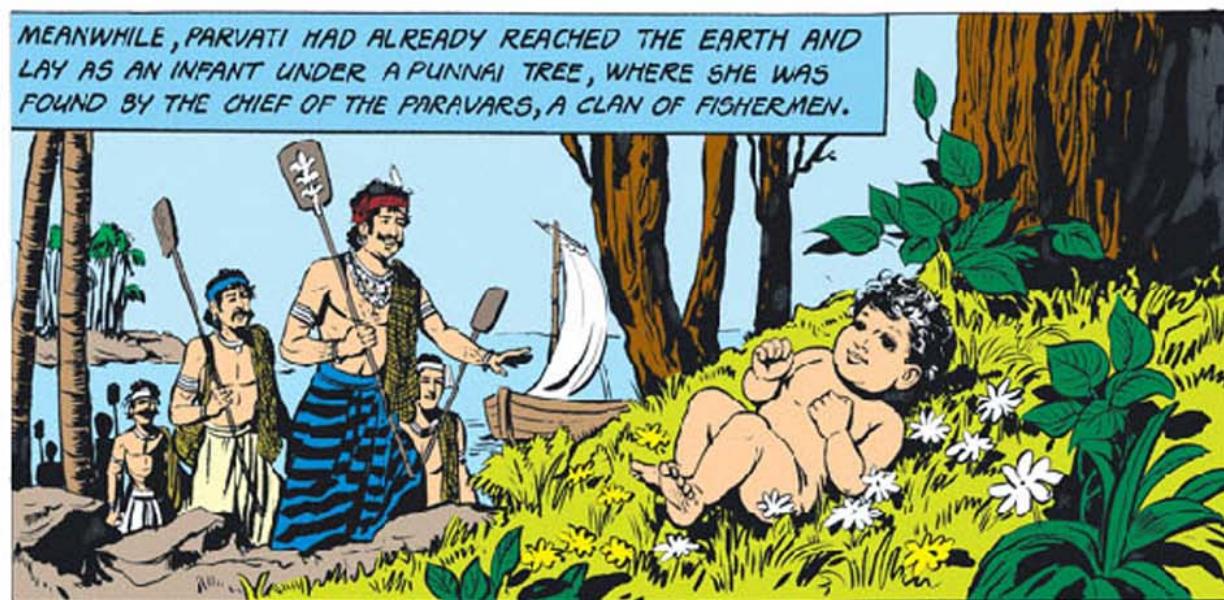
YEARS PASSED BY. SHIVA CONTINUED WITHOUT A BREAK.



GRADUALLY, IN SPITE OF HER BEST EFFORTS, PARVATI'S ATTENTION FLAGGED AND SHIVA WAS ANNOYED.







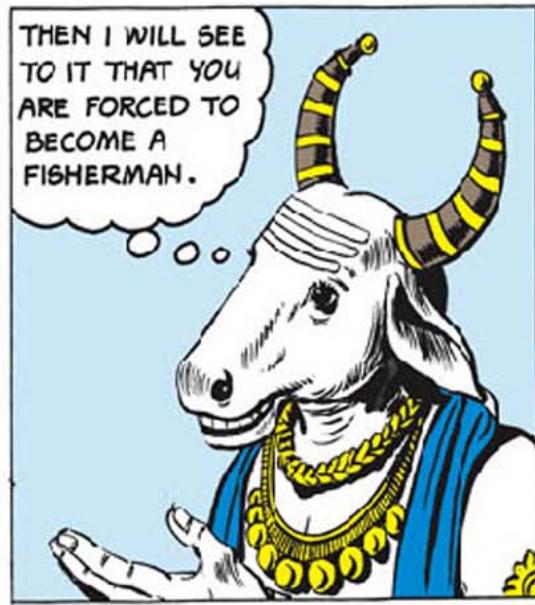
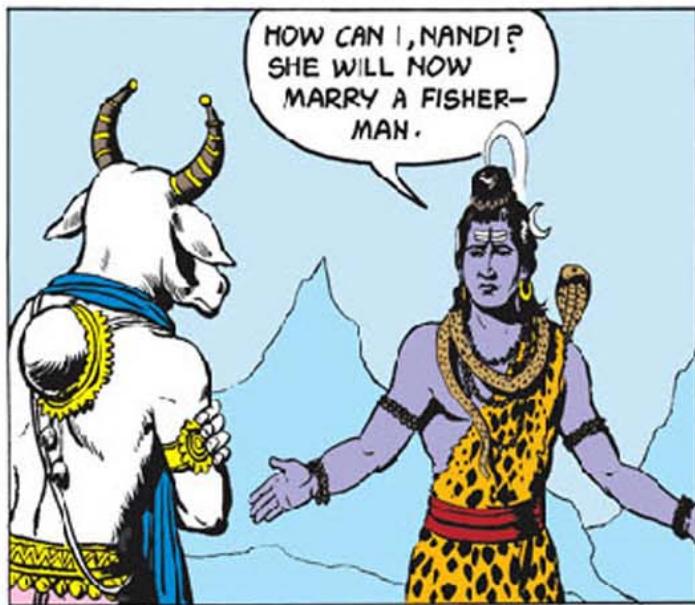
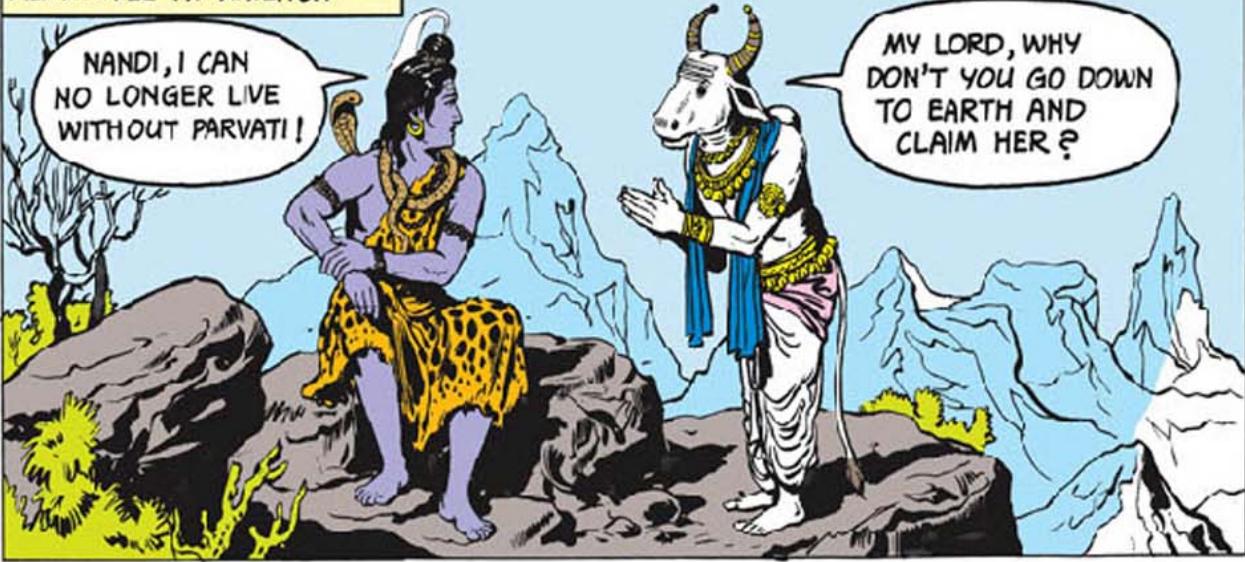
LITTLE PARVATI USED TO GO WITH HER FOSTER FATHER WHENEVER HE WENT FISHING.



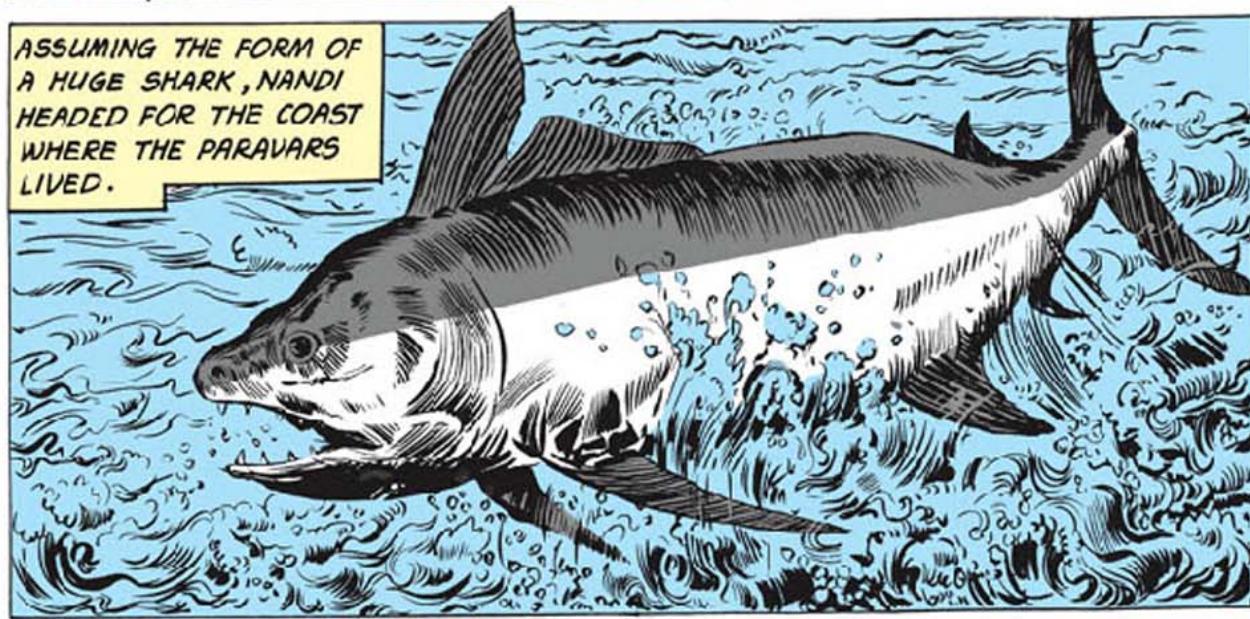
AS SHE GREW UP, SHE EVEN LEARNT TO ROW THE BOAT.

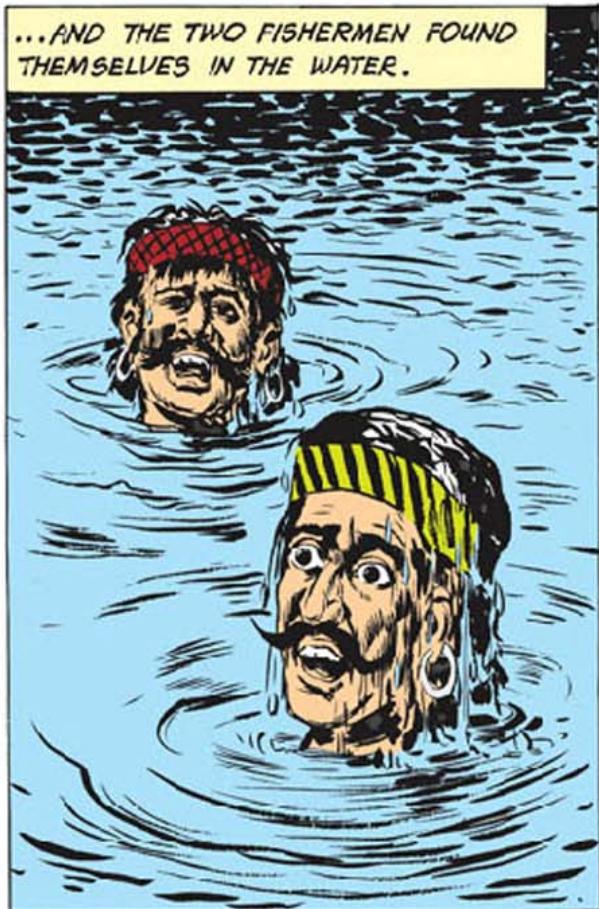
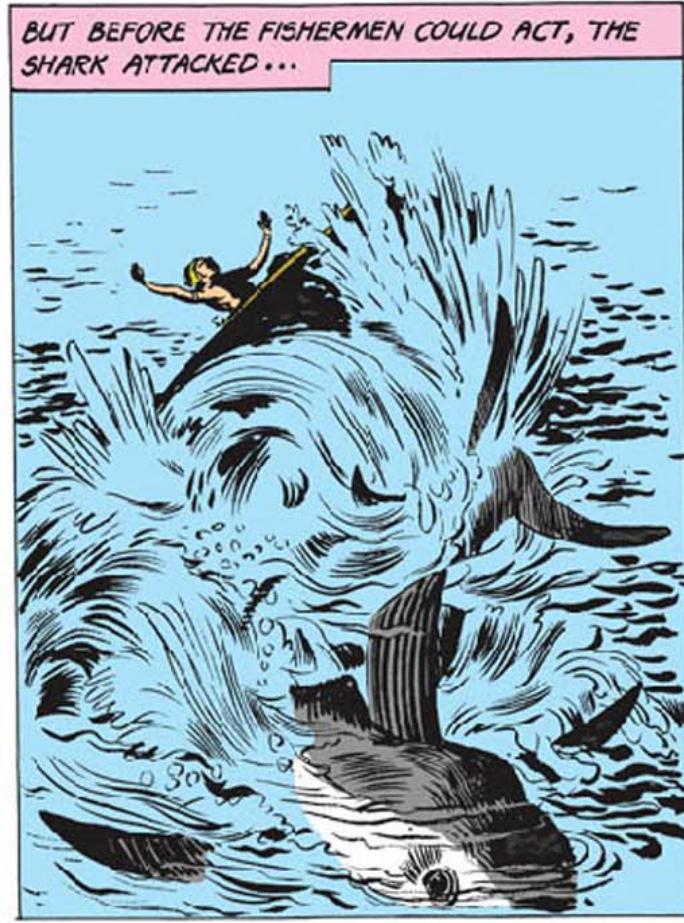


MEANWHILE AT KAILASA —



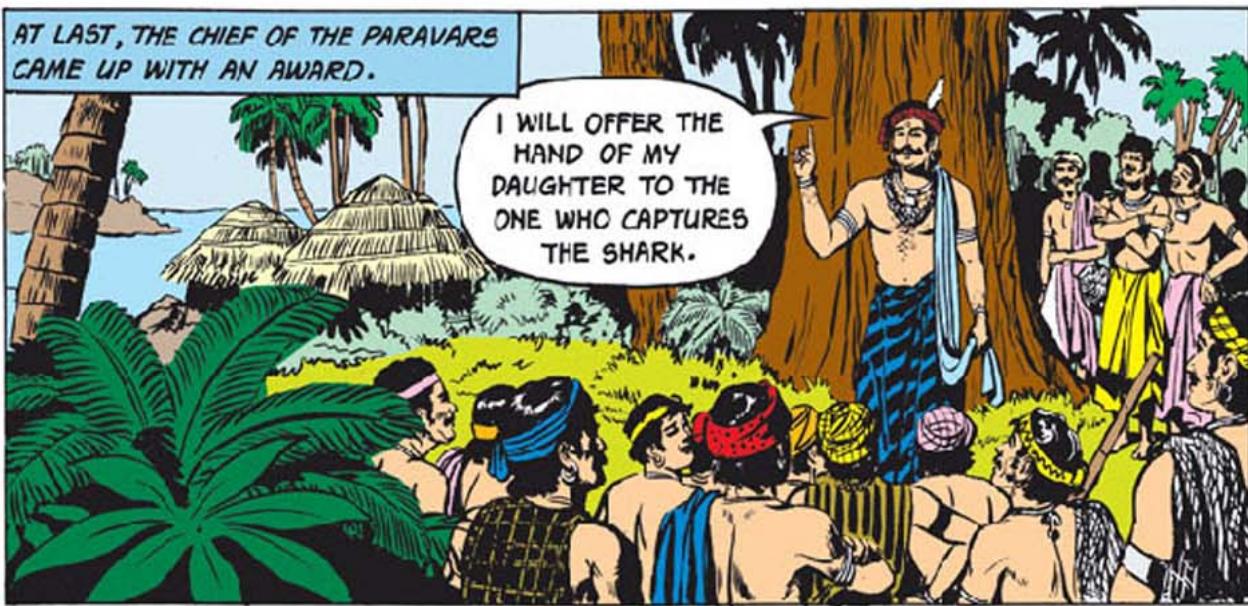
ASSUMING THE FORM OF
A HUGE SHARK, NANDI
HEADED FOR THE COAST
WHERE THE PARAVARS
LIVED.





AT LAST, THE CHIEF OF THE PARAVARS
CAME UP WITH AN AWARD.

I WILL OFFER THE
HAND OF MY
DAUGHTER TO THE
ONE WHO CAPTURES
THE SHARK.



MANY A YOUNG MAN TRIED ...

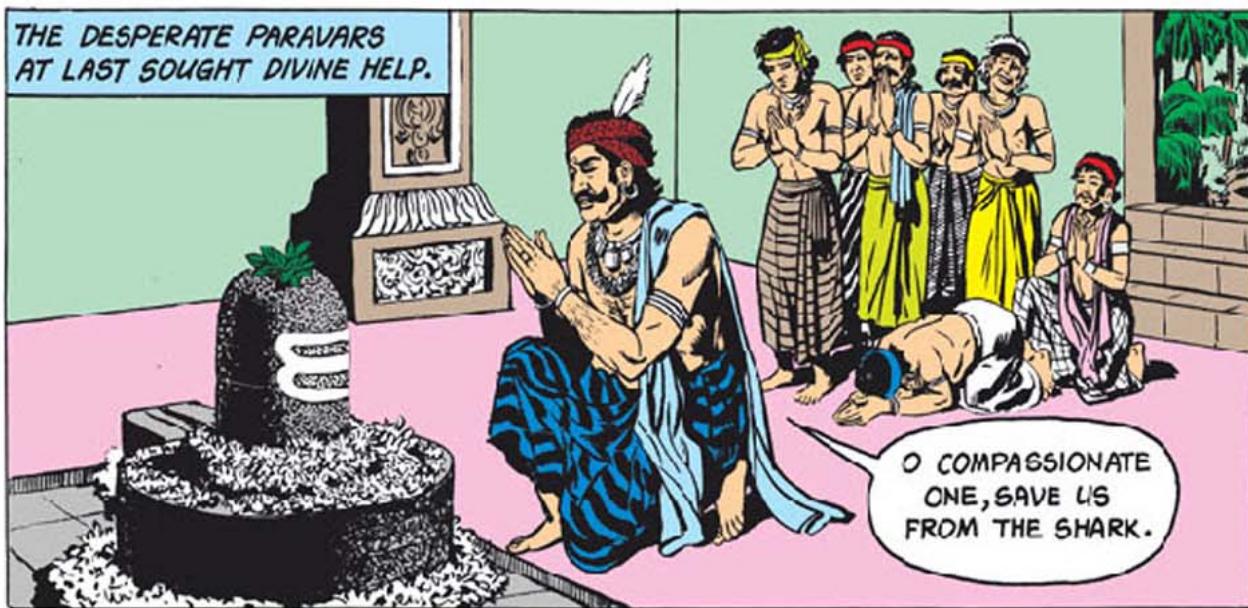


...AND FAILED.



THE DESPERATE PARAVARS
AT LAST SOUGHT DIVINE HELP.

O COMPASSIONATE
ONE, SAVE US
FROM THE SHARK.



THE DAUGHTER OF THE CHIEF OF THE PARAVARS TOO PRAYED.



SHIVA HEARD HER PRAYER.



HE APPEARED BEFORE THE CHIEF OF THE PARAVARS AS A YOUNG FISHERMAN.

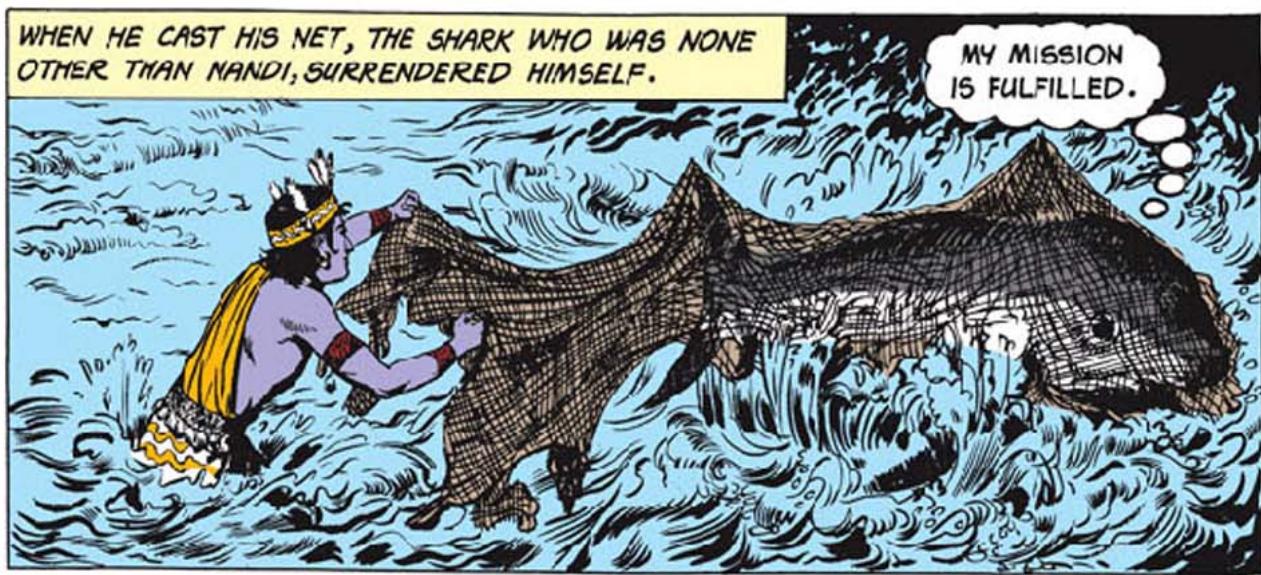


OUR TRIBE WILL BE INDEBTED TO YOU FOREVER, IF YOU SUCCEED.

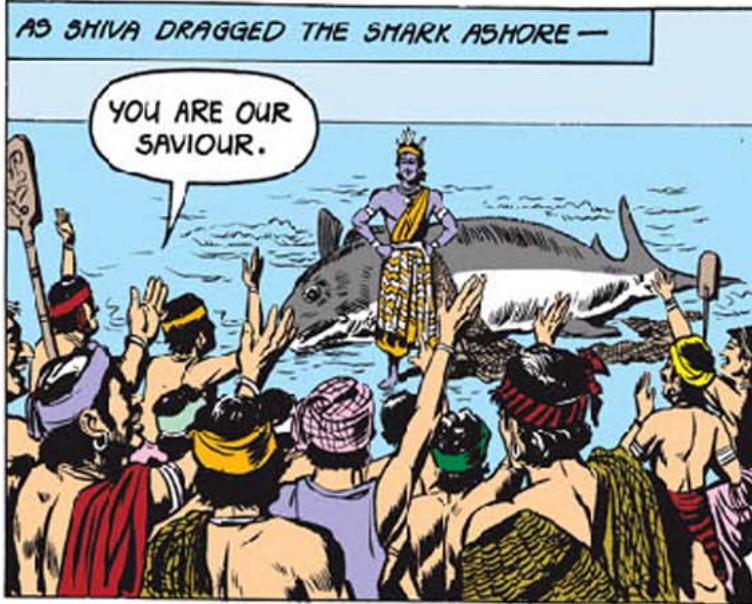




NET IN HAND, SHIVA WENT DOWN INTO THE SEA.



WHEN HE CAST HIS NET, THE SHARK WHO WAS NONE OTHER THAN NANDI, SURRENDERED HIMSELF.

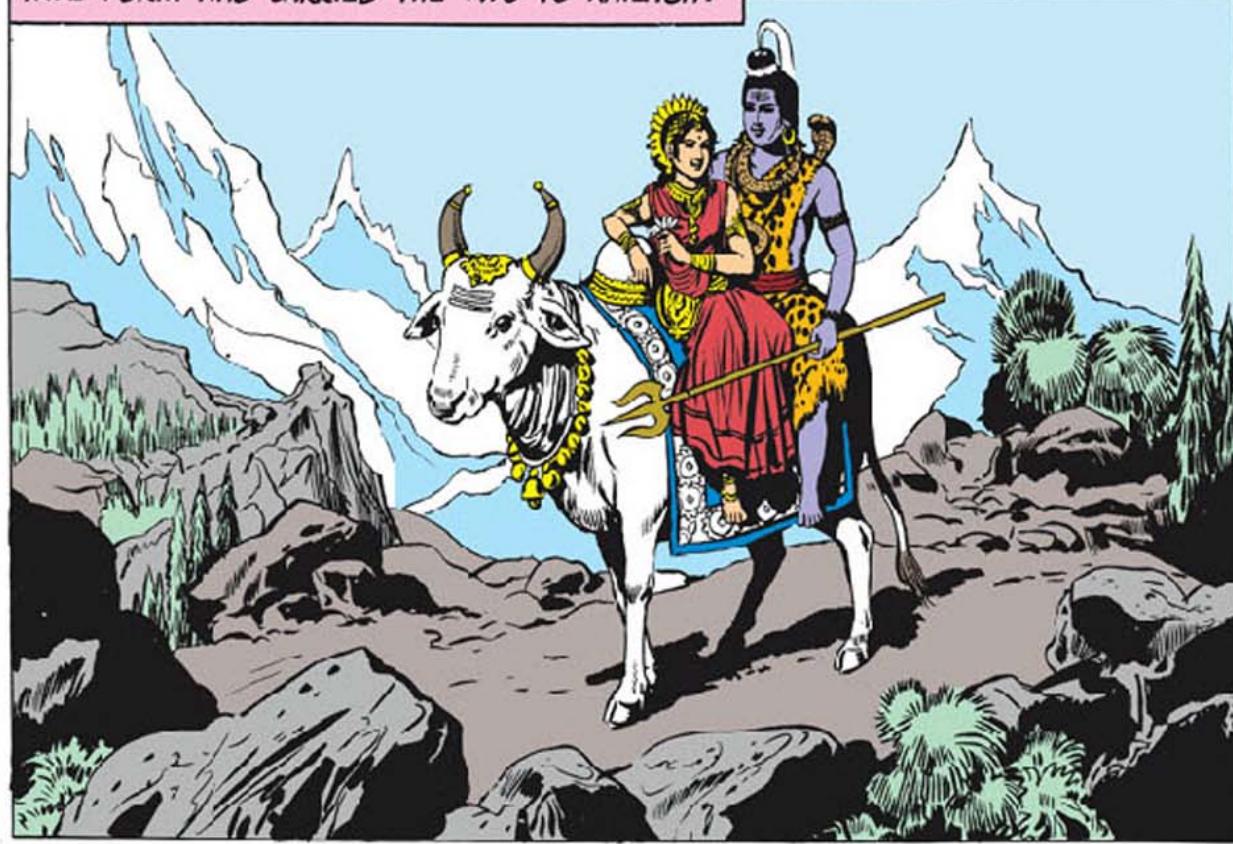


HOW FORTUNATE FOR ME THAT THIS BRAVE MAN HAS CAUGHT THE SHARK!

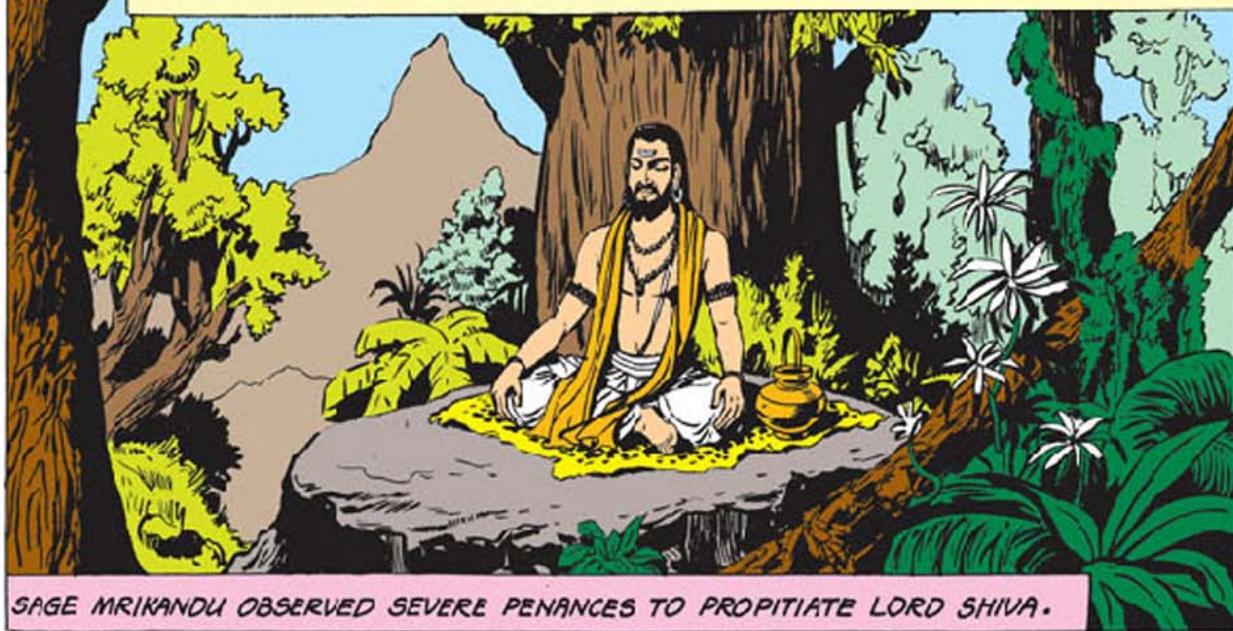




SHIVA, THE FISHERMAN, MARRIED PARVATI, THE FISHERWOMAN. NANDI ASSUMED HIS TRUE FORM AND CARRIED THE TWO TO KAILASA.



SHIVA AND MARKANDEYA



SAGE MRIKANDU OBSERVED SEVERE PENANCES TO PROPITIATE LORD SHIVA.

WHEN LORD SHIVA APPEARED BEFORE HIM —



...OR A SON WHO WILL BE WISE AND VIRTUOUS BUT WILL LIVE FOR ONLY SIXTEEN YEARS?

I WILL HAVE THE VIRTUOUS SON, MY LORD.

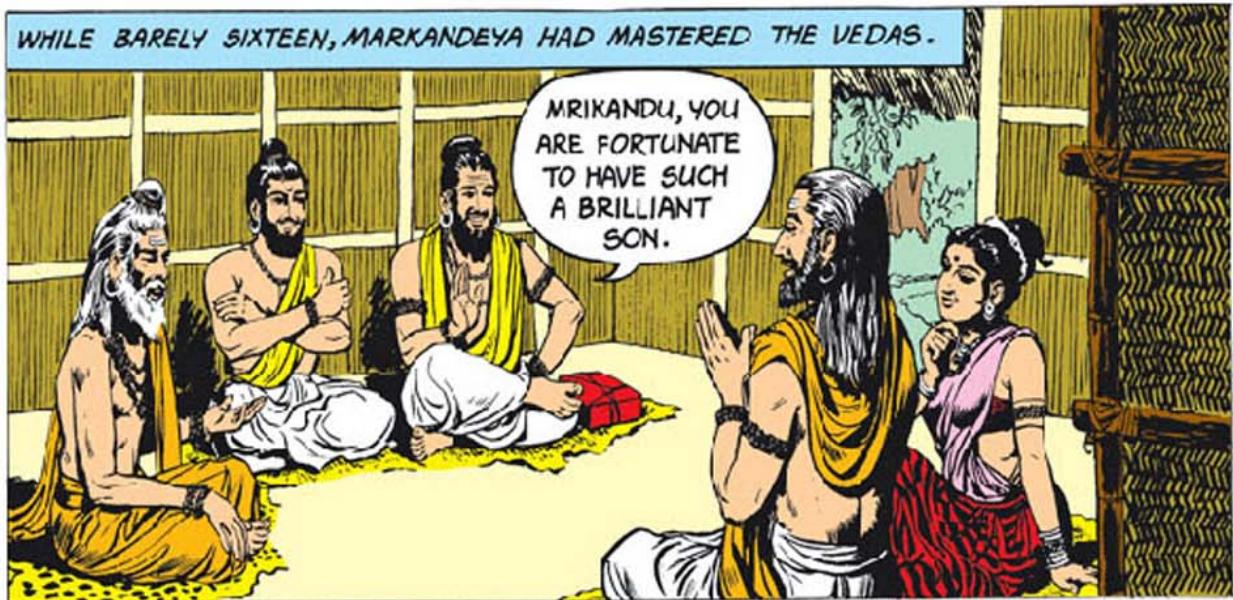
GRANTING THE WISH OF THE SAGE,
LORD SHIVA VANISHED.

IN DUE COURSE, MARUDVATI, MRIKANDU'S WIFE, GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.

THE BOY SHALL BE NAMED MARKANDEYA.



WHILE BARELY SIXTEEN, MARKANDEYA HAD MASTERED THE VEDAS.



WHEN THE VISITING SAGES LEFT —

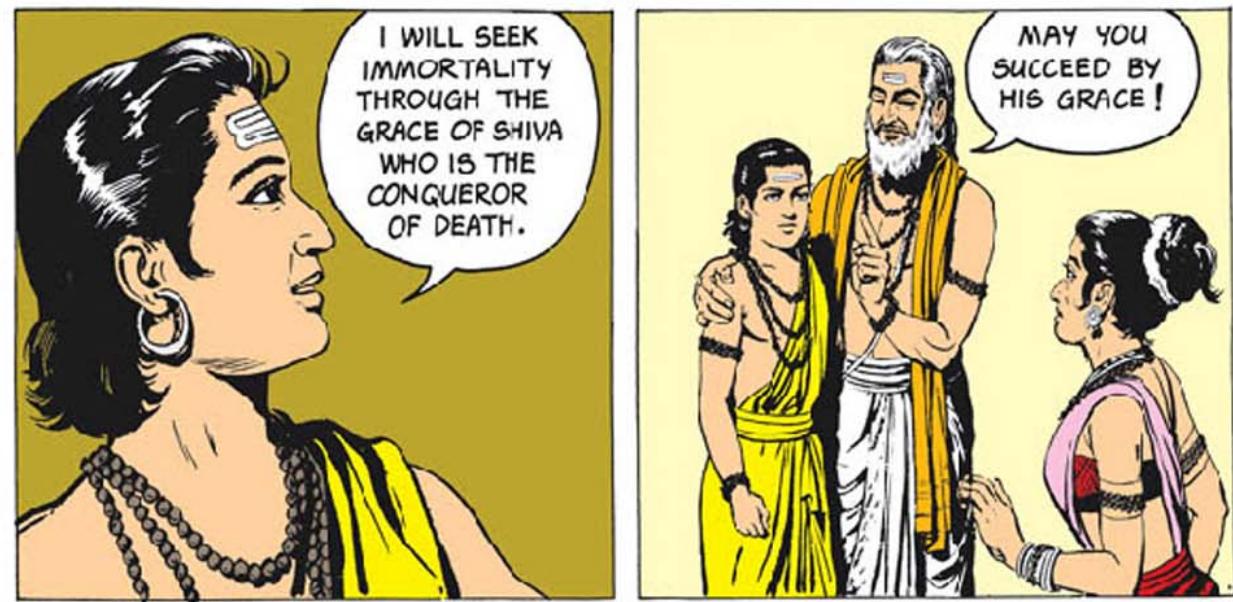
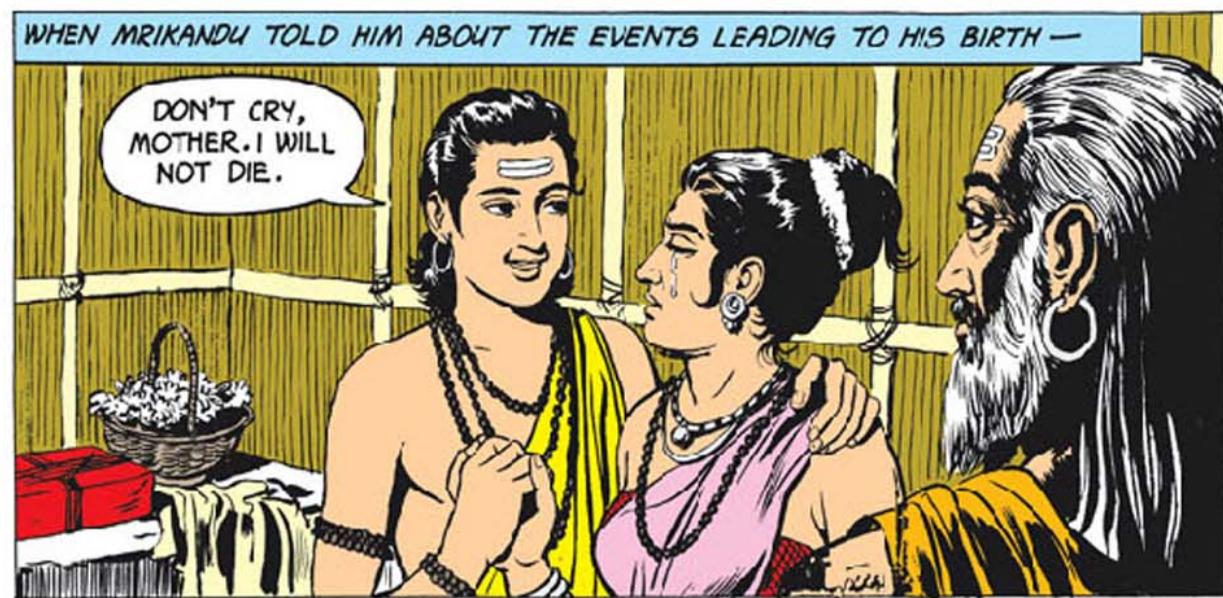
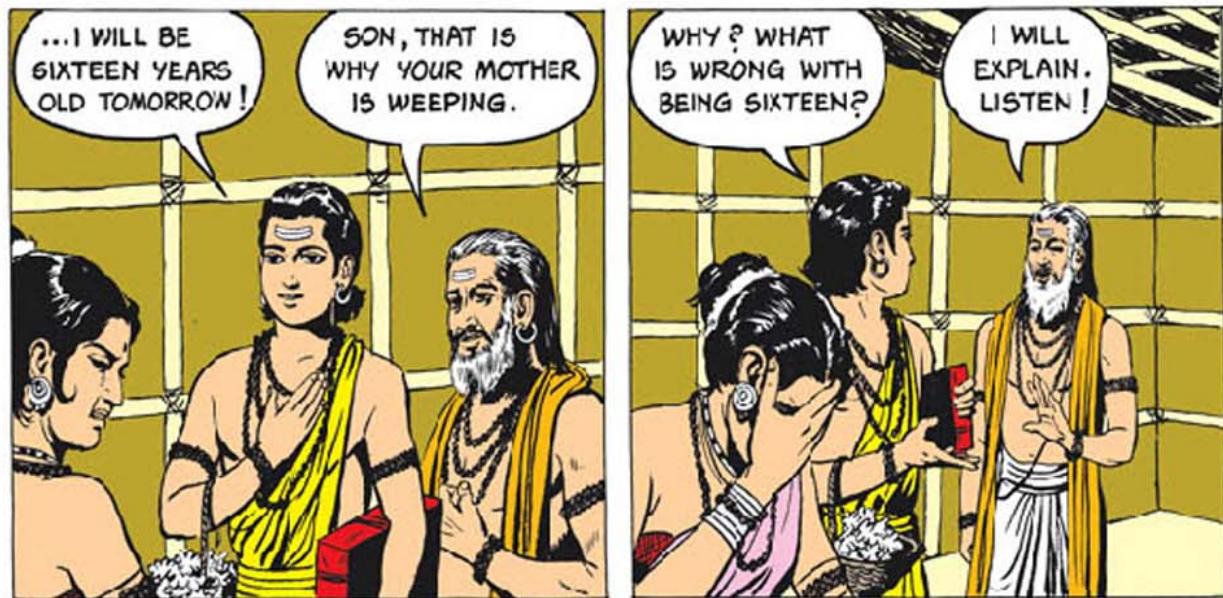


JUST THEN MARKANDEYA CAME HOME WITH THE FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP.



WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK, MOTHER? DO YOU THINK I CAN'T GET YOU WHAT YOU WANT? I AM NOT A CHILD ...



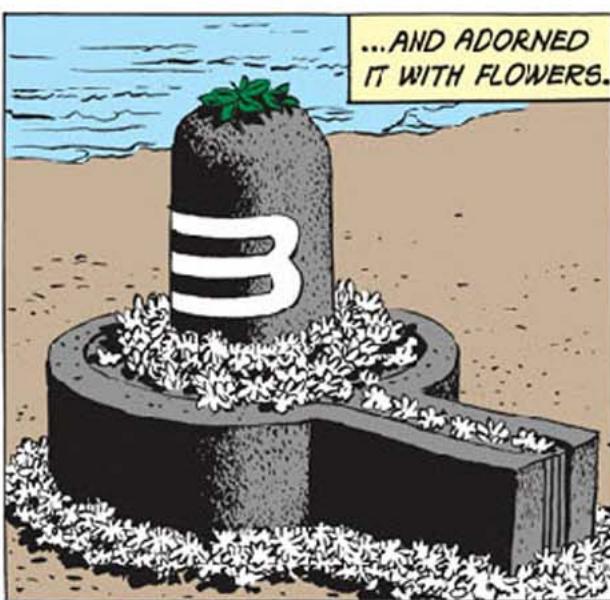




EARLY NEXT MORNING, MARKANDeya
REACHED THE SEA-SHORE WHERE HE MADE
A SHIVA LINGA OUT OF THE WET SAND ...



...AND ADORNED
IT WITH FLOWERS.



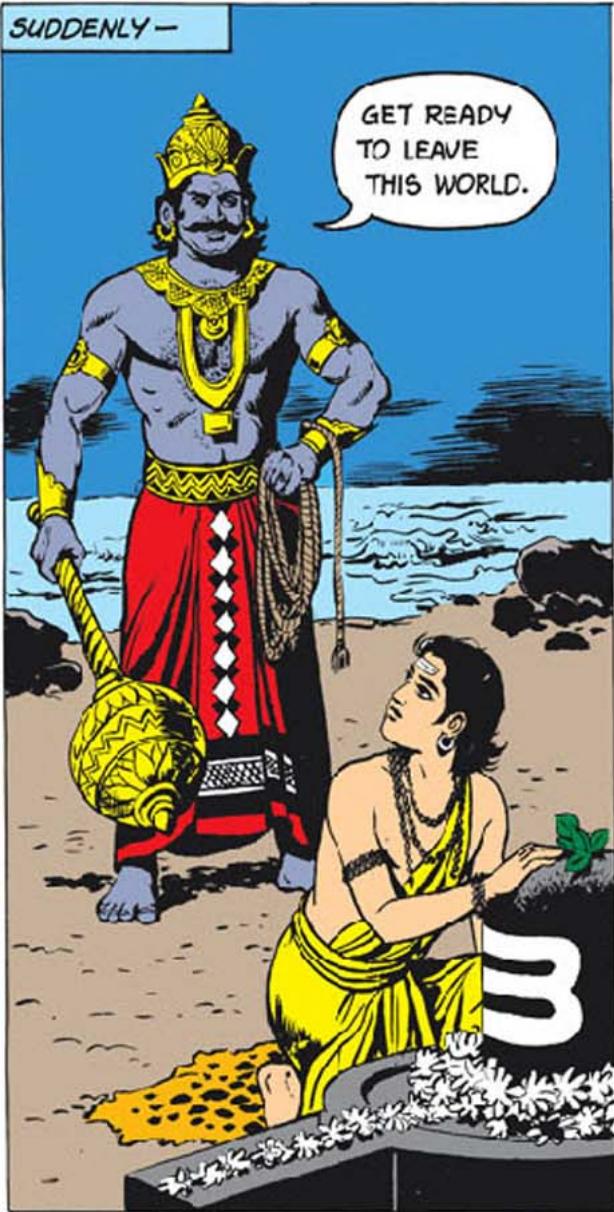
THEN HE SAT DOWN TO PRAY.



TOWARDS NIGHTFALL, HE BEGAN TO SING
AND DANCE BEFORE THE LORD.



SUDDENLY —



GET READY
TO LEAVE
THIS WORLD.

IT WAS YAMA, THE GOD OF DEATH.

O LORD OF DEATH,
PLEASE WAIT.
I HAVE NOT YET
FINISHED MY
WORSHIP.

FOOLISH
BOY, DON'T
YOU KNOW
THAT DEATH
WAITS FOR
NONE?



PLEASE DO NOT
OBSTRUCT ME IN
MY WORSHIP OF
LORD SHIVA.



FOOL! DO YOU HOPE
TO ESCAPE FROM ME BY
CLINGING TO SHIVA?
THE GRIP OF DEATH IS
FATAL AS YOU SHALL
NOW KNOW.



YAMA CAUGHT MARKANDEYA'S NECK IN THE NOOSE ...



... AND DRAGGED HIM.



THE NEXT MOMENT, SHIVA SPRANG FROM THE LINGA AND KICKED YAMA ON THE CHEST.



