



GANESHA AND THE MOON

AND OTHER STORIES

Vol 830 | ₹90





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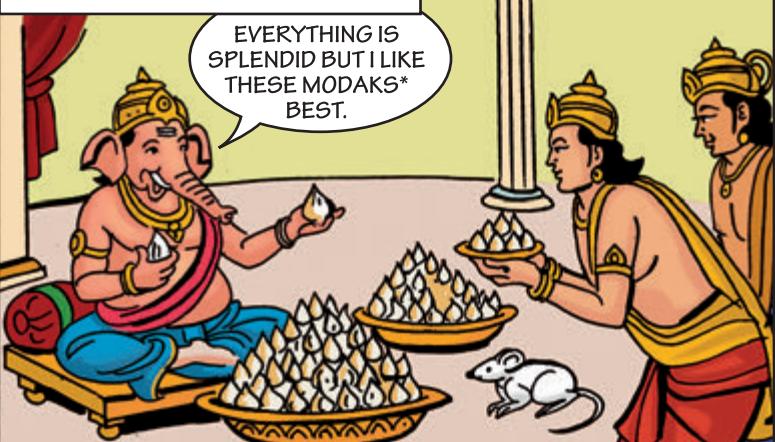
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GANESHA AND THE MOON

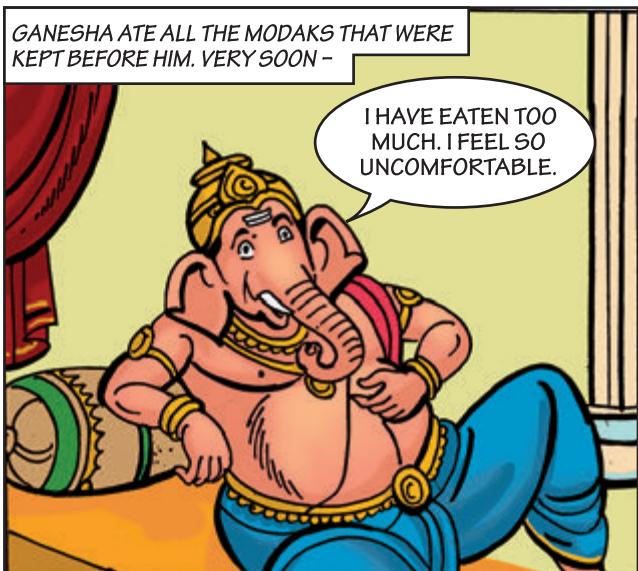
ONCE ON HIS BIRTHDAY, GANESHA WAS INVITED TO CHANDRALOK, THE ABODE OF THE MOON, FOR A FEAST.



WE HAD THEM MADE
SPECIALY FOR YOU,
KNOWING THEY ARE YOUR
FAVOURITE SWEET.

GANESHA ATE ALL THE MODAKS THAT WERE
KEPT BEFORE HIM. VERY SOON -

I HAVE EATEN TOO
MUCH. I FEEL SO
UNCOMFORTABLE.



I NEED TO GET SOME
FRESH AIR. I'LL GO
FOR A RIDE ON MY
MOUSE**.



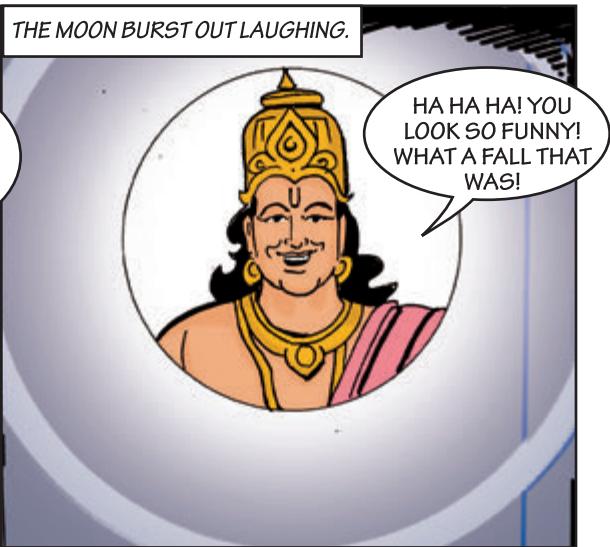
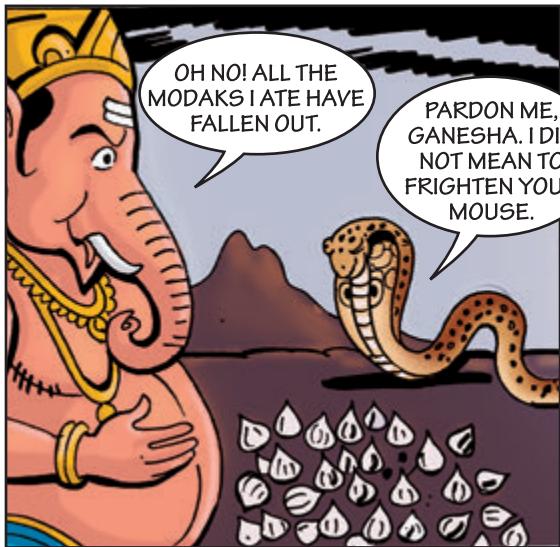
*A SWEET DUMPLING FILLED WITH COCONUT AND JAGGERY

** THE MOUSE IS GANESHA'S 'VAHANA' OR STEED

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT. THE MOON SHONE SO BRIGHTLY, IT WAS ALMOST LIKE DAY!



SUDDENLY -



GANESHA AND THE MOON

GANESHA WAS VERY ANGRY. BUT FIRST, HE PUT ALL THE MODAKS BACK...

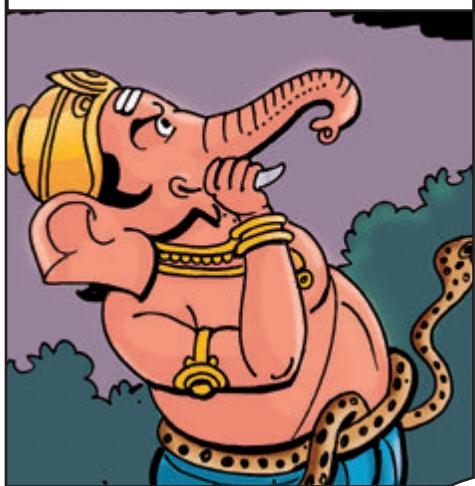


...AND USED THE SNAKE TO TIE HIS STOMACH UP.



THE MOON JUST WOULD NOT STOP LAUGHING.

GANESHA BROKE OFF A PIECE OF HIS TUSK...



...AND HURLED IT, FURIOUSLY...



...SLASHING THE MOON'S LUMINOUS FACE.



THE MOON DISAPPEARED AND THERE WAS CHAOS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH.

OH! I CANNOT SEE ANYTHING.

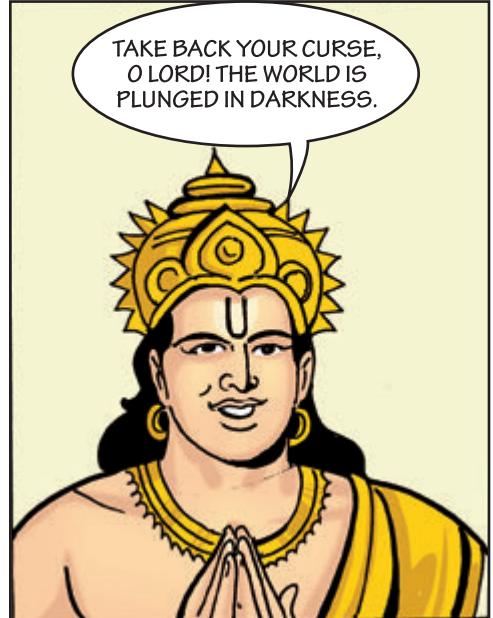
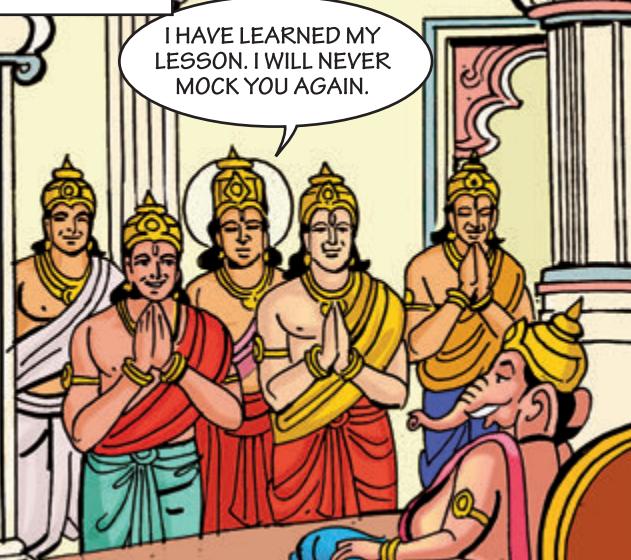
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE MOON?

IT IS SO DARK!

THE MOON WAS SORRY AND CAME TO GANESHA WITH THE OTHER GODS.

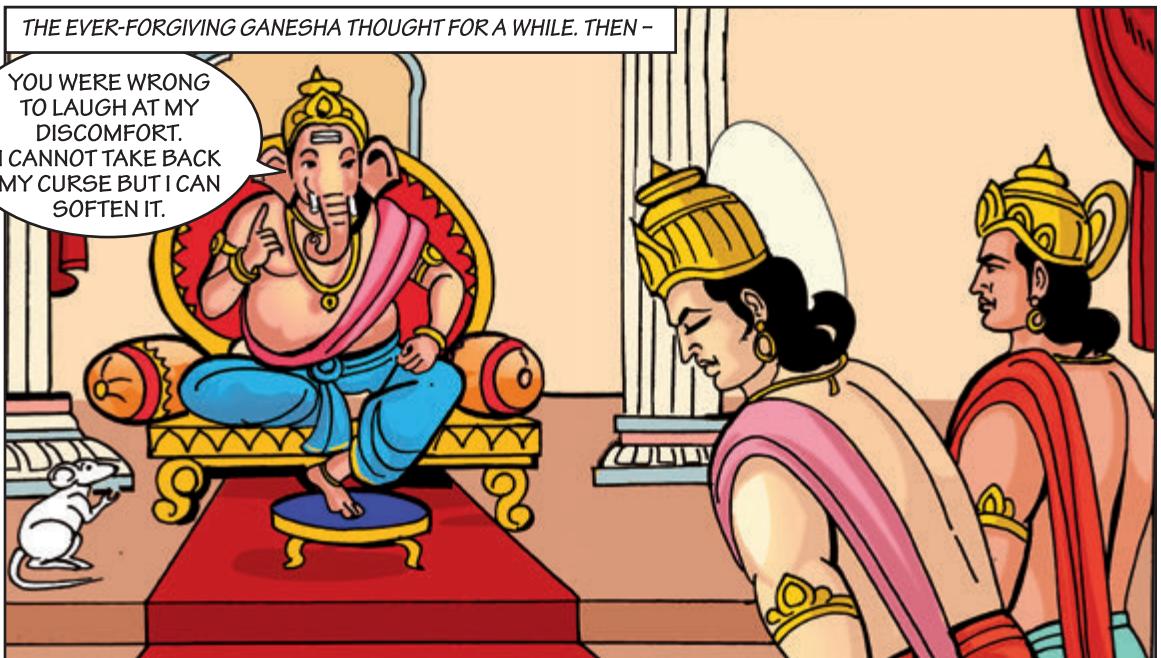
I HAVE LEARNED MY LESSON. I WILL NEVER MOCK YOU AGAIN.

TAKE BACK YOUR CURSE, O LORD! THE WORLD IS PLUNGED IN DARKNESS.

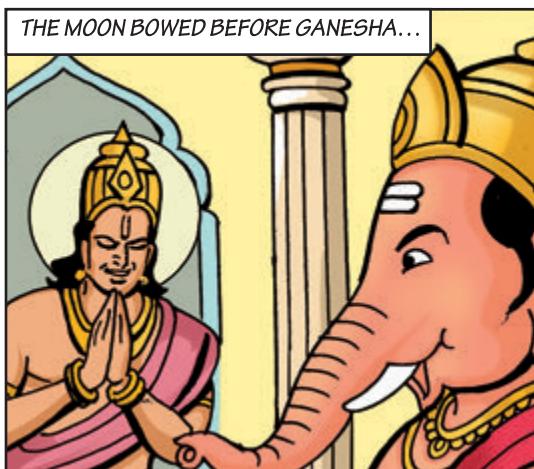
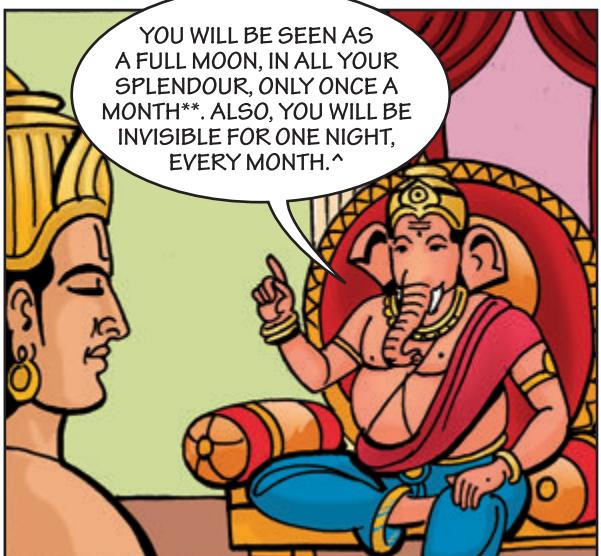
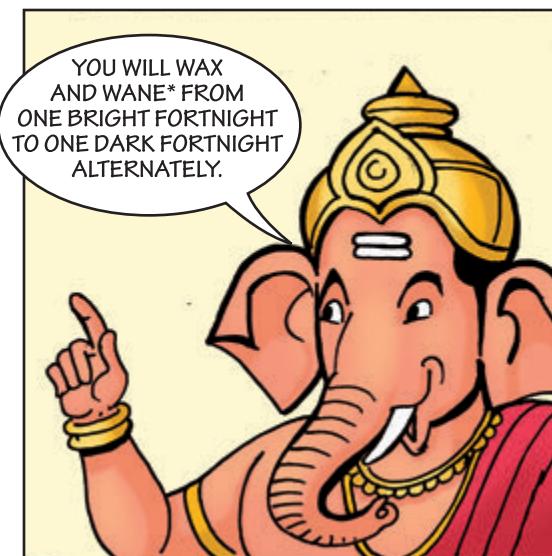


THE EVER-FORGIVING GANESHA THOUGHT FOR A WHILE. THEN -

YOU WERE WRONG TO LAUGH AT MY DISCOMFORT. I CANNOT TAKE BACK MY CURSE BUT I CAN SOFTEN IT.



GANESHA AND THE MOON



*ALTERNATELY GROWING SMALLER AND LARGER

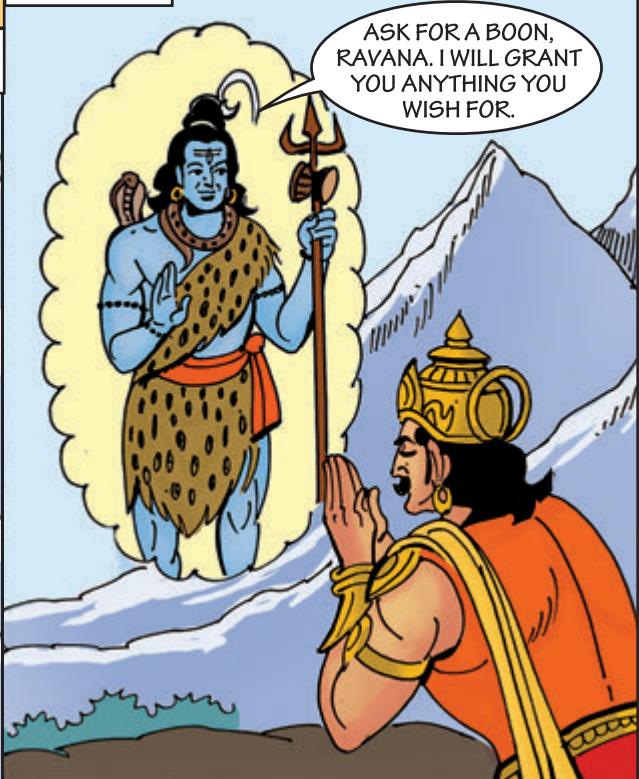
**PURNIMA OR POURNAMI
^AMAVASYA

GANESHA AND RAVANA

RAVANA, THE DEMON KING OF LANKA,
OBSERVED SEVERE PENANCE TO PLEASE SHIVA.



PLEASED WITH HIS AUSTERITIES, SHIVA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.

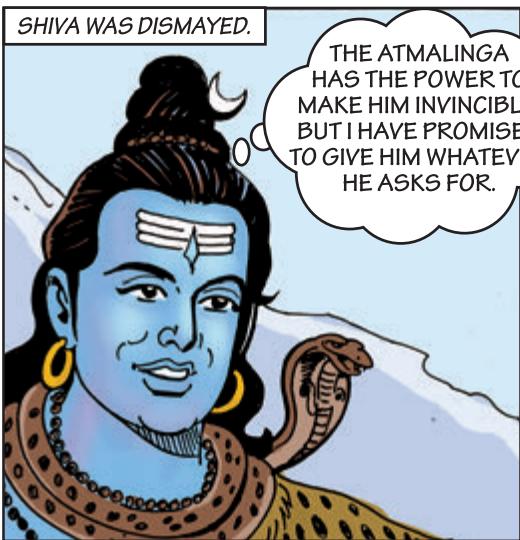


* SALUTATIONS TO SHIVA

** THE ATMALINGA IS A FORM IN WHICH SHIVA IS WORSHIPPED.

GANESHA AND THE MOON

SHIVA WAS DISMAYED.



DON'T PUT THE ATMALINGA DOWN. IF YOU DO, EVEN FOR A MOMENT, IT WILL STAY ROOTED TO THAT SPOT FOR EVER.

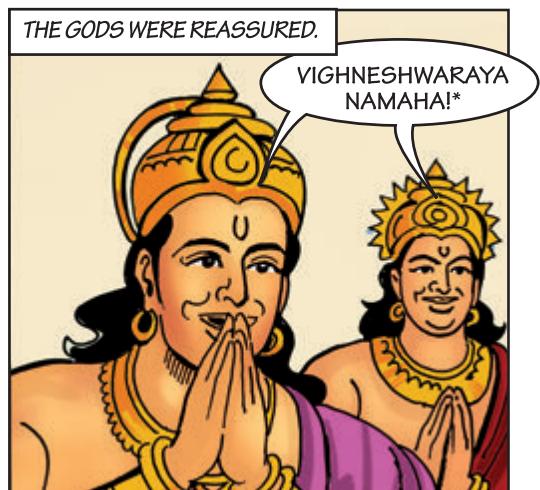
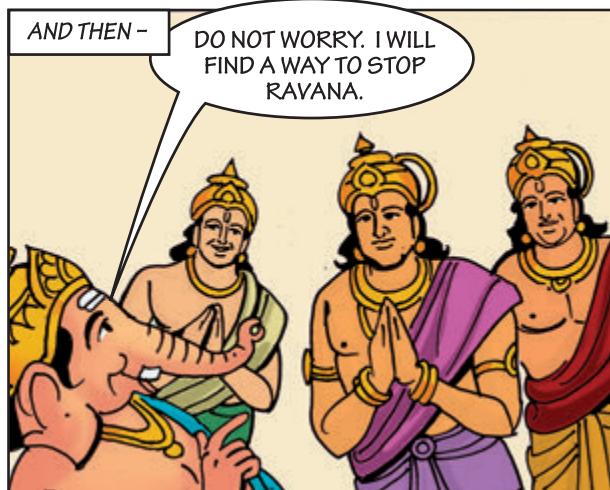
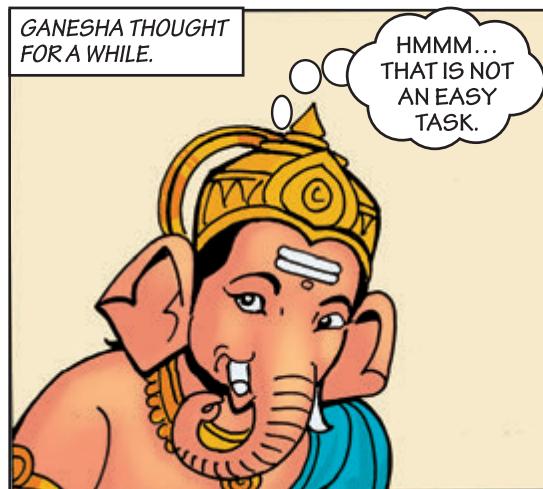
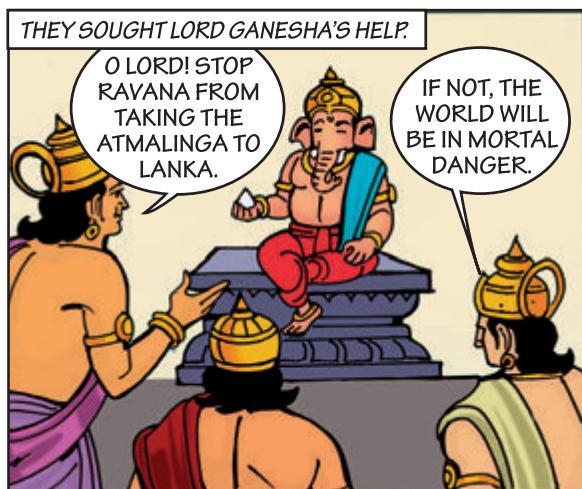
AND THEN SHIVA DISAPPEARED.

RAVANA WAS JUBILANT.

NO ONE CAN EVER DESTROY ME! I HAVE ACQUIRED THE VERY POWER OF SHIVA!

RAVANA STARTED HIS JOURNEY BACK HOME, CAREFULLY CARRYING THE SACRED LINGA.

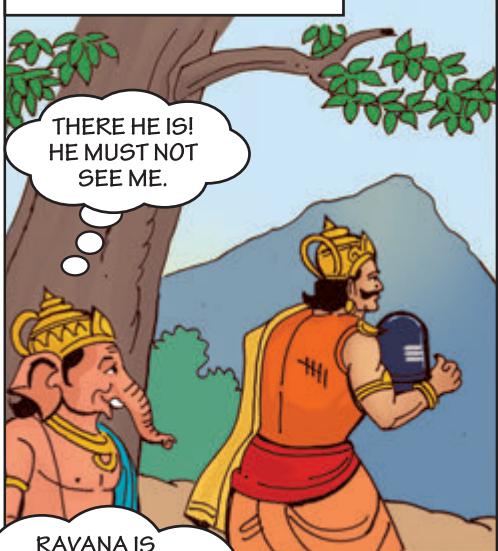




* SALUTATIONS TO YOU, O VIGHNESHWARA
VIGHNESHWARA - ONE WHO REMOVES OBSTACLES

GANESHA AND THE MOON

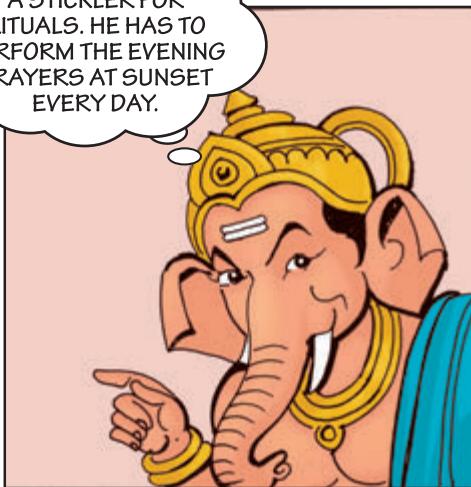
GANESHA FOLLOWED RAVANA.



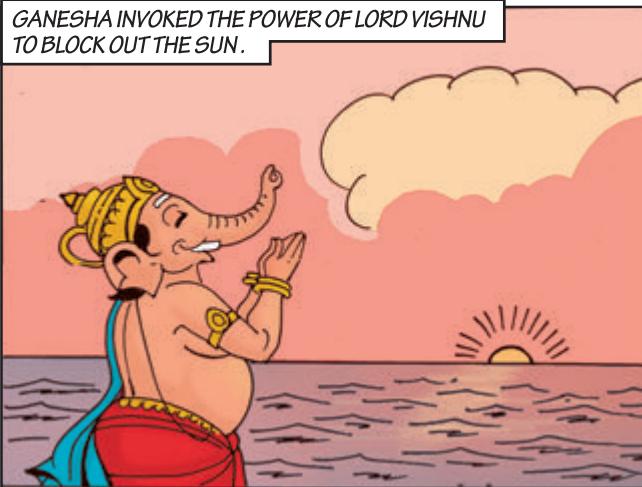
RAVANA WALKED VERY FAST. HE SOON REACHED THE WEST COAST AND STRODE ALONG THE DESERTED SEA SHORE.



RAVANA IS A STICKLER FOR RITUALS. HE HAS TO PERFORM THE EVENING PRAYERS AT SUNSET EVERY DAY.

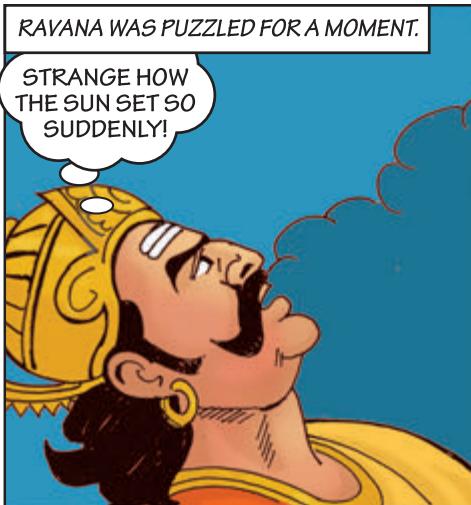


GANESHA INVOKED THE POWER OF LORD VISHNU TO BLOCK OUT THE SUN.



RAVANA WAS PUZZLED FOR A MOMENT.

STRANGE HOW THE SUN SET SO SUDDENLY!



BUT HE WAS UNSUSPECTING.

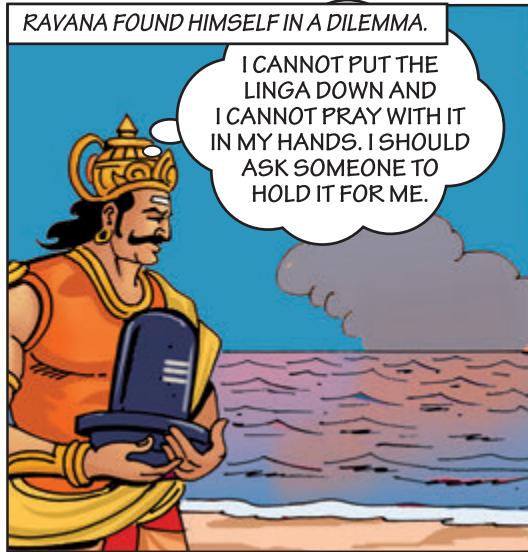
IT IS TIME FOR ME TO SAY MY EVENING PRAYERS.

AH, YOU CREATURE OF HABIT! THIS WILL CAUSE YOUR DEFEAT.



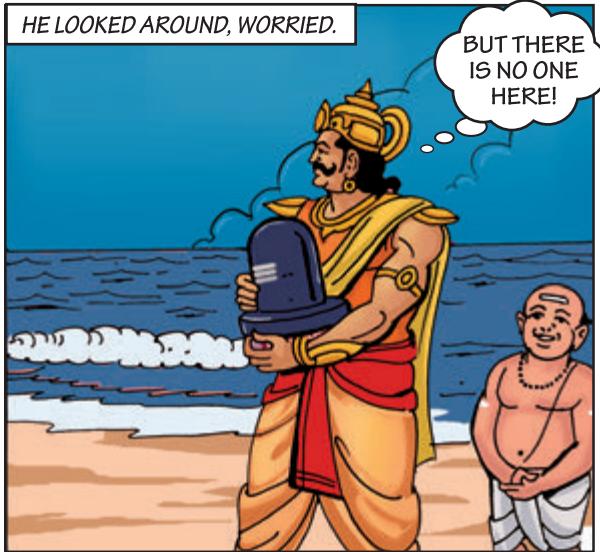
RAVANA FOUND HIMSELF IN A DILEMMA.

I CANNOT PUT THE LINGA DOWN AND I CANNOT PRAY WITH IT IN MY HANDS. I SHOULD ASK SOMEONE TO HOLD IT FOR ME.



HE LOOKED AROUND, WORRIED.

BUT THERE IS NO ONE HERE!



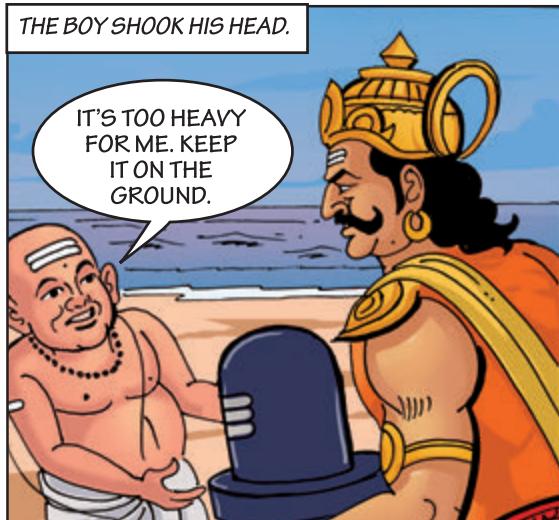
JUST THEN, HE SAW A YOUNG BRAHMIN BOY.



RAVANA IMMEDIATELY HELD OUT THE ATMALINGA.



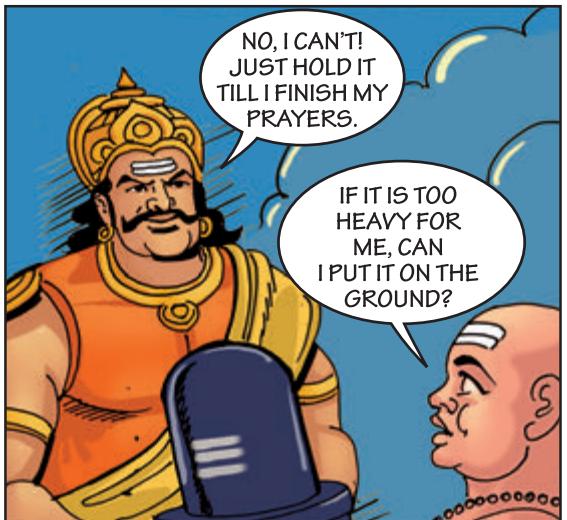
THE BOY SHOOK HIS HEAD.

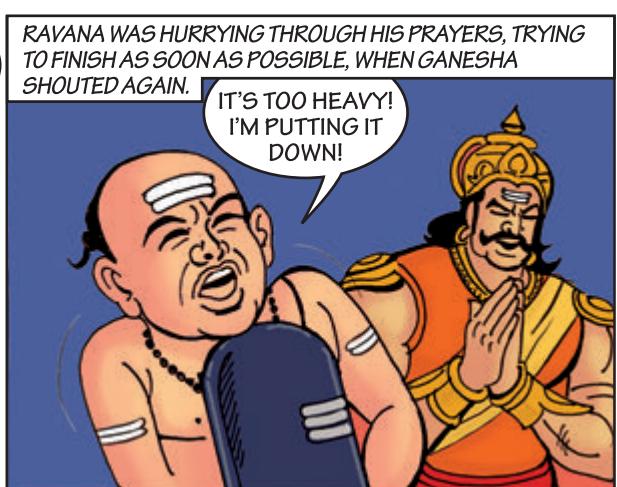
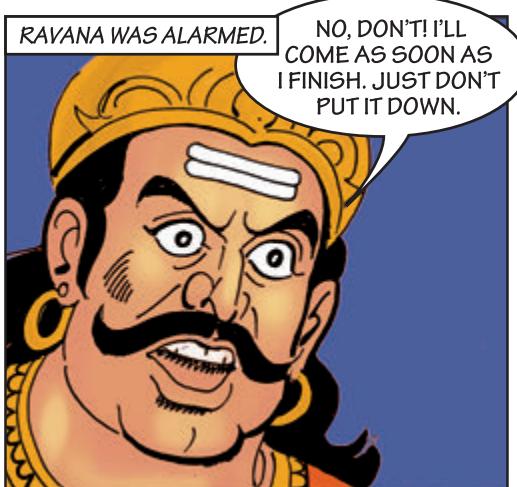
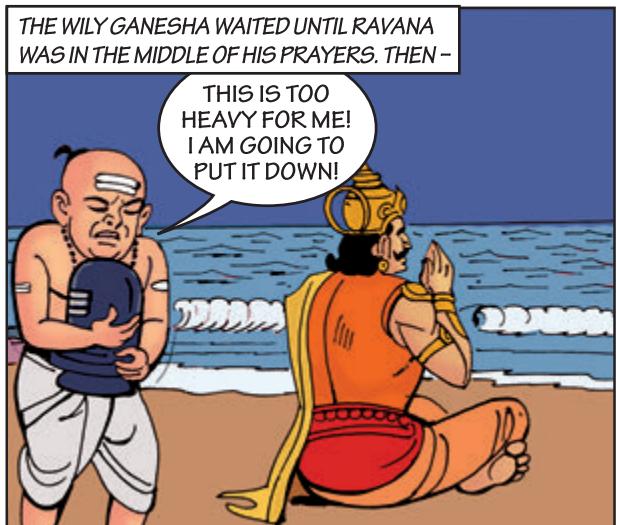
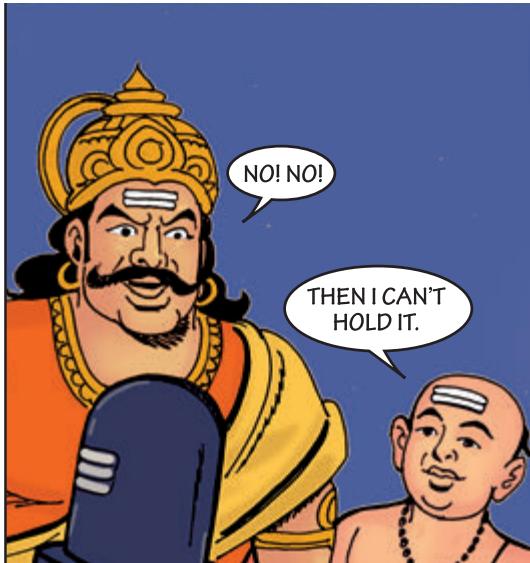


IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR ME. KEEP IT ON THE GROUND.

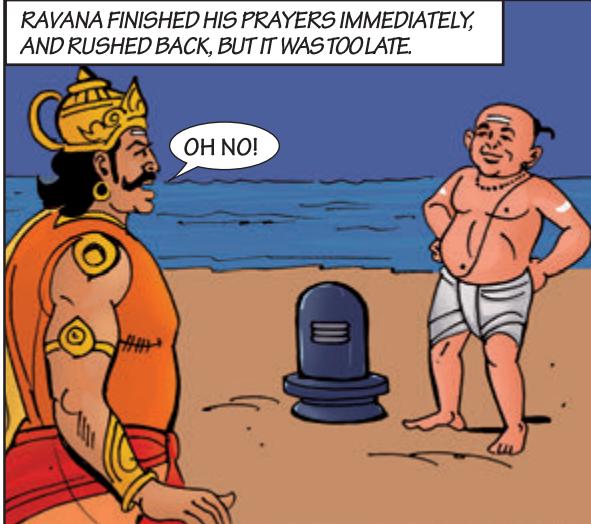
NO, I CAN'T! JUST HOLD IT TILL I FINISH MY PRAYERS.

IF IT IS TOO HEAVY FOR ME, CAN I PUT IT ON THE GROUND?

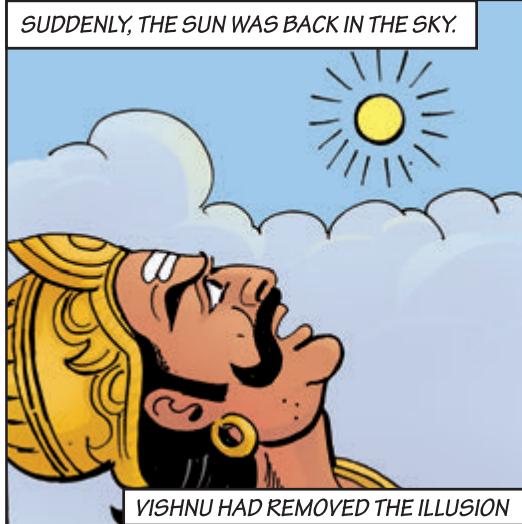




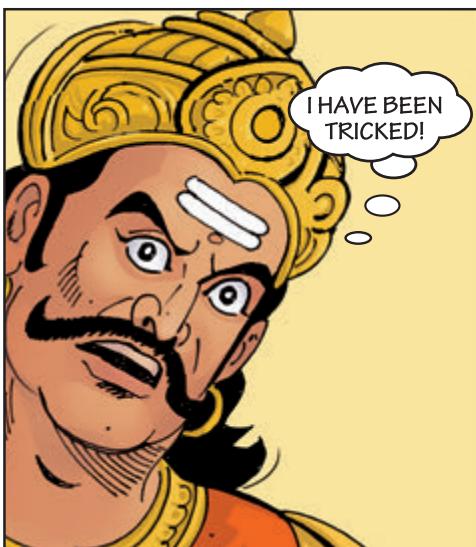
RAVANA FINISHED HIS PRAYERS IMMEDIATELY, AND RUSHED BACK, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.



SUDDENLY, THE SUN WAS BACK IN THE SKY.

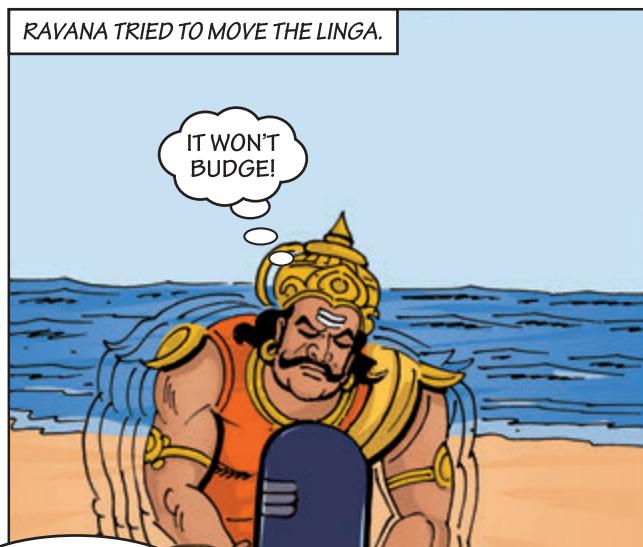


I HAVE BEEN TRICKED!



RAVANA TRIED TO MOVE THE LINGA.

IT WON'T BUDGE!



AN ENRAGED RAVANA CHASED THE BOY...

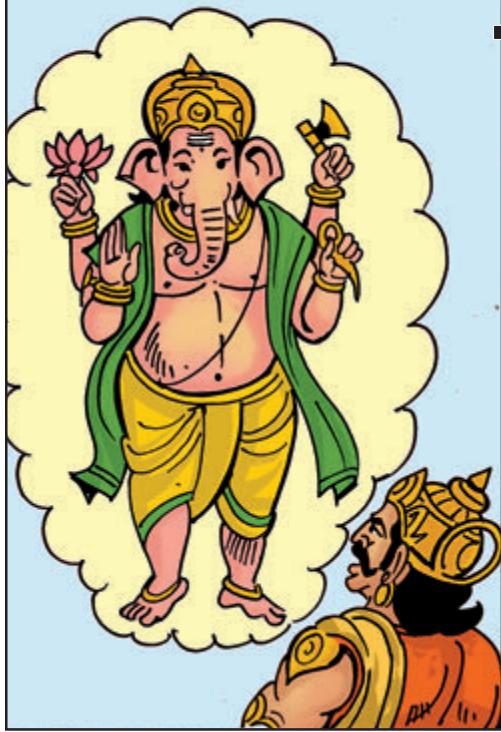
TAKE THAT, YOU RASCAL!



GANESHA AND THE MOON

THEN GANESHA ASSUMED HIS TRUE FORM.

REALISING WHAT HE HAD DONE,
RAVANA BOWED BEFORE GANESHA.



THE TEMPLE OVER THE ATMALINGA IS CALLED THE MAHABALESHWAR TEMPLE. 'MAHABALA' MEANS GREAT POWER AND 'ISHWAR' MEANS GOD.

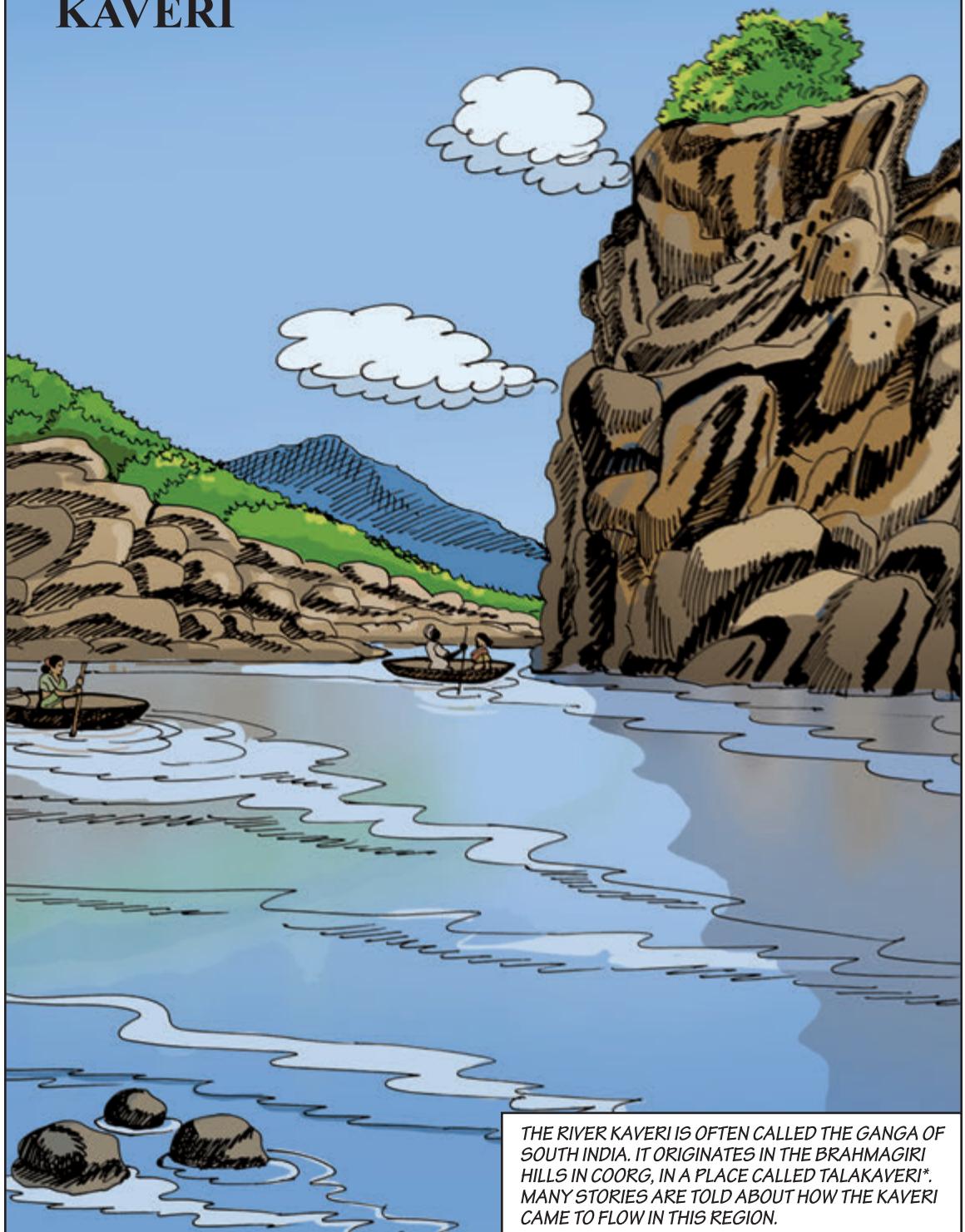


THE PLACE WHERE GANESHA PLACED THE ATMALINGA IS BELIEVED TO BE IN GOKARNA, KARNATAKA. THERE IS A TEMPLE BUILT AROUND THE ATMALINGA. NEXT TO IT IS A SHRINE OF GANESHA, WHERE THE IDOL HAS A DENT ON ITS FOREHEAD, SYMBOLISING THE INCIDENT.



THE GREAT FORCE EXERTED BY RAVANA ON THE LINGA IS SAID TO HAVE CHANGED ITS SHAPE. THE LINGA NOW RESEMBLES THE EAR OF A COW. IN FACT, THE NAME GOKARNA, COMES FROM THIS. 'GO' - COW AND 'KARNAM' - EAR.

GANESHA RELEASES KAVERI

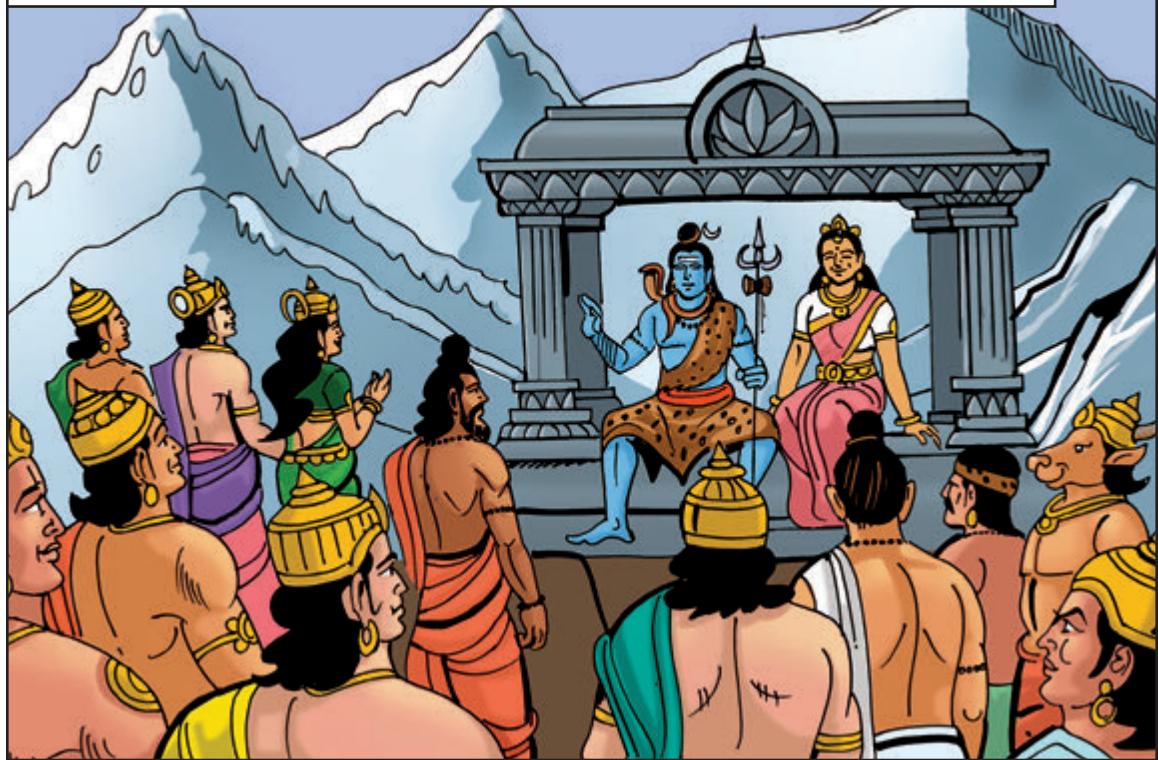


THE RIVER KAVERI IS OFTEN CALLED THE GANGA OF SOUTH INDIA. IT ORIGINATES IN THE BRAHMAGIRI HILLS IN COORG, IN A PLACE CALLED TALAKAVERI*. MANY STORIES ARE TOLD ABOUT HOW THE KAVERI CAME TO FLOW IN THIS REGION.

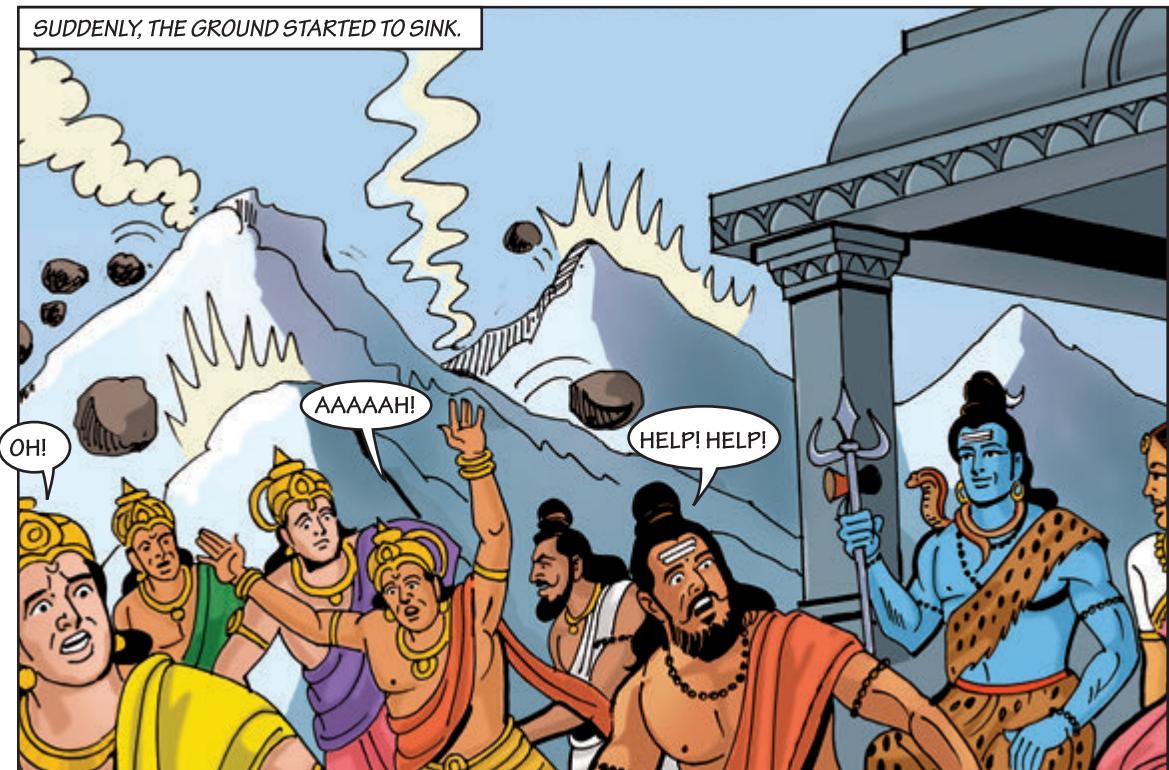
* POINT OF ORIGIN OF THE KAVERI

GANESHA AND THE MOON

ONE SUCH STORY BEGINS AT THE WEDDING OF SHIVA AND PARVATI. IT WAS AN AUSPICIOUS OCCASION. ALL THE GODS, GODDESSES AND SAGES GATHERED AT MOUNT KAILASH, IN THE HIMALAYAS.



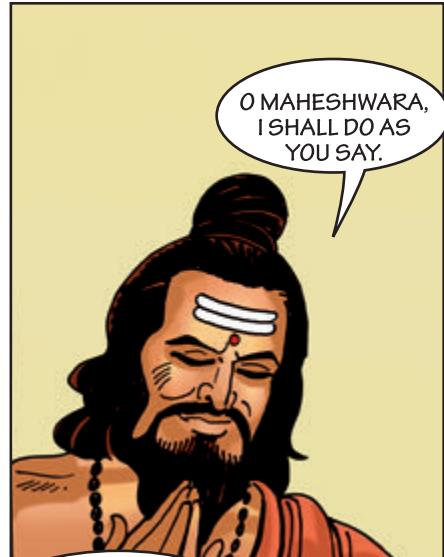
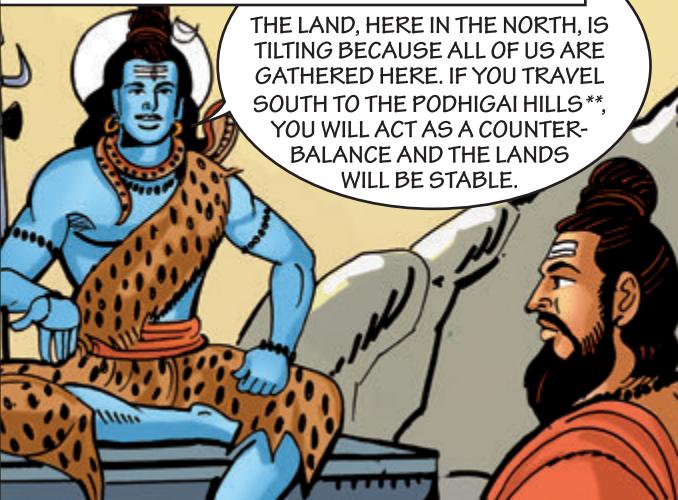
SUDDENLY, THE GROUND STARTED TO SINK.



SHIVA CALMED EVERYONE DOWN AND THEN SUMMONED SAGE AGASTYA, ONE OF THE SAPTARISHIS*.

THE LAND, HERE IN THE NORTH, IS TILTING BECAUSE ALL OF US ARE GATHERED HERE. IF YOU TRAVEL SOUTH TO THE PODHIGAI HILLS**, YOU WILL ACT AS A COUNTER-BALANCE AND THE LANDS WILL BE STABLE.

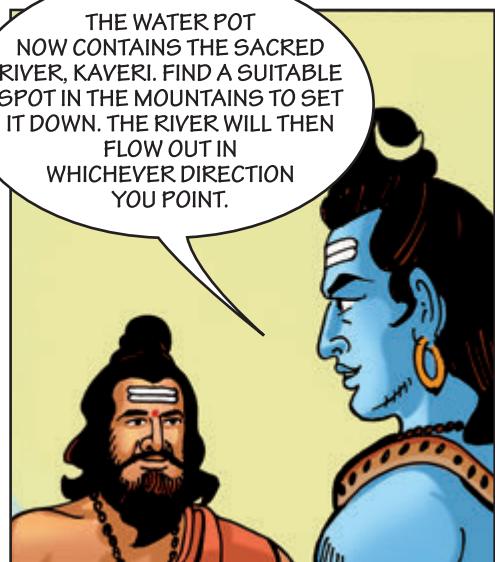
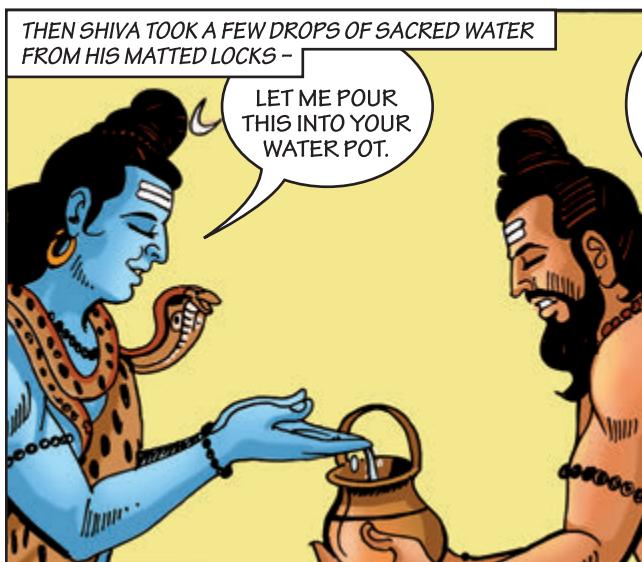
O MAHESHWARA,
I SHALL DO AS
YOU SAY.



THEN SHIVA TOOK A FEW DROPS OF SACRED WATER FROM HIS MATTED LOCKS -

LET ME POUR THIS INTO YOUR WATER POT.

THE WATER POT NOW CONTAINS THE SACRED RIVER, KAVERI. FIND A SUITABLE SPOT IN THE MOUNTAINS TO SET IT DOWN. THE RIVER WILL THEN FLOW OUT IN WHICHEVER DIRECTION YOU POINT.



BIDDING FAREWELL, AGASTYA TRAVELED SOUTH. ON THE WAY, HE VISITED MANY TEMPLES OF SHIVA.



* THE SEVEN SAGES WHO WERE BORN FROM BRAHMA'S MIND

** IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE WESTERN GHATS

TIME PASSED AND AGASTYA WANDERED IN THE SOUTHERN LANDS, LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT PLACE TO SET DOWN KAVERI. IN THE MEANTIME, INDRA, KING OF THE GODS, WAS ATTACKED BY A POWERFUL DEMON NAMED SURAPADMAN.

SURAPADMAN HAS THE UPPER HAND. I MUST ESCAPE.

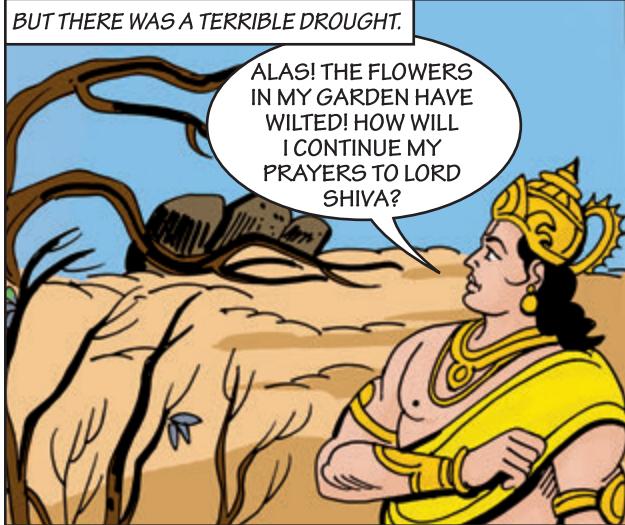


INDRA FLED TO THE EARTH. HE STOPPED AT A PLACE CALLED SIRGAZHI, WHERE HE CREATED A MAGNIFICENT GARDEN.

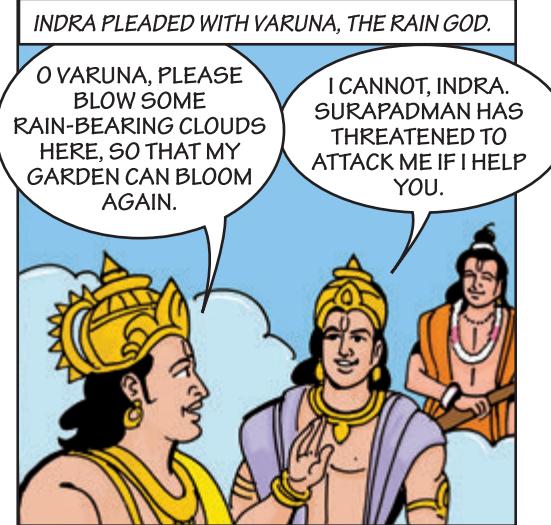
I WILL PROPITIATE SHIVA WITH FLOWERS FROM MY GARDEN AND ASK HIM FOR HELP AGAINST THE WICKED SURAPADMAN.



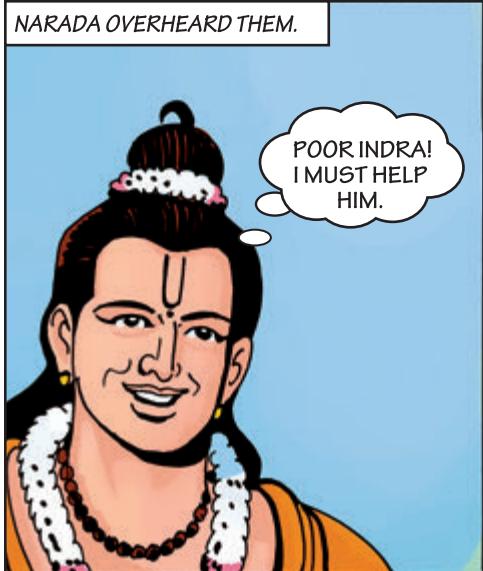
BUT THERE WAS A TERRIBLE DROUGHT.



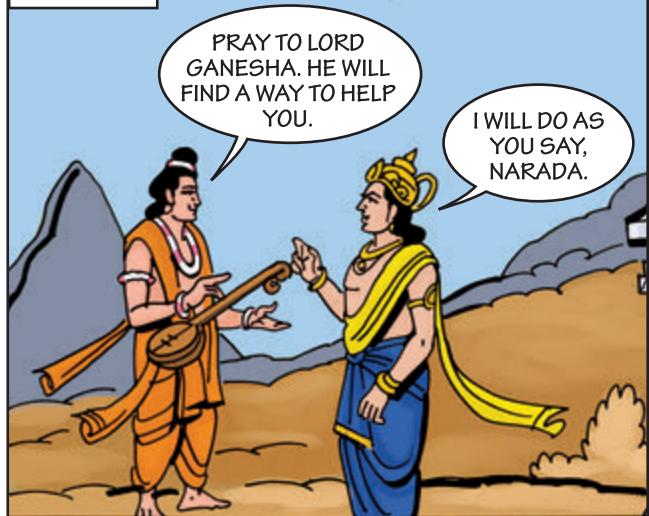
INDRA PLEADED WITH VARUNA, THE RAIN GOD.



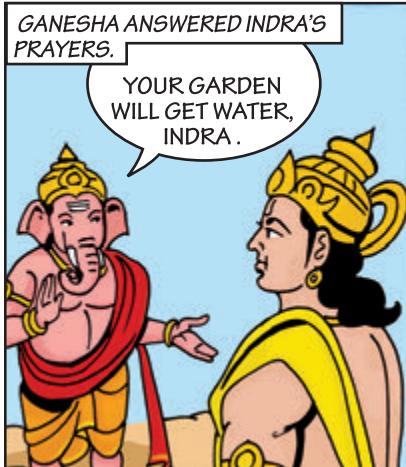
NARADA OVERHEARD THEM.



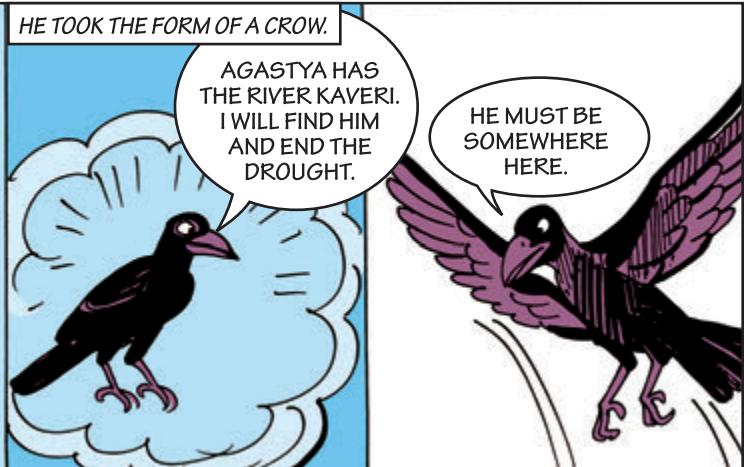
NARADA TOLD INDRA ABOUT AGASTYA'S WATER POT.



GANESHA ANSWERED INDRA'S PRAYERS.

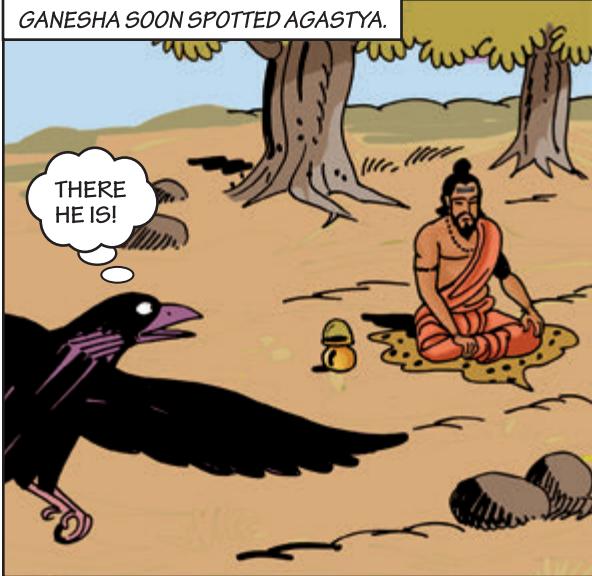


HE TOOK THE FORM OF A CROW.

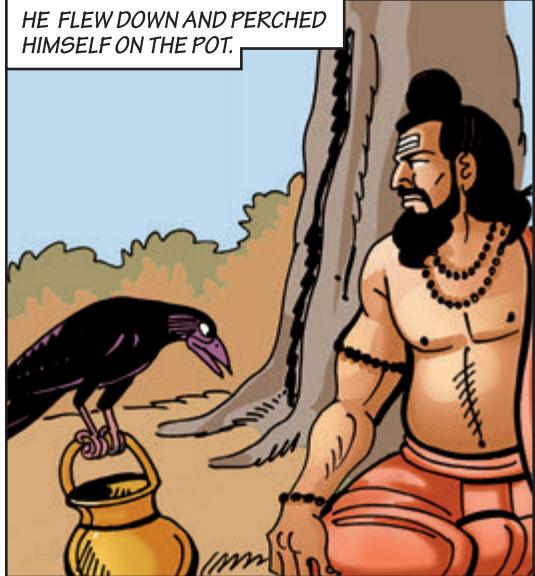


GANESHA AND THE MOON

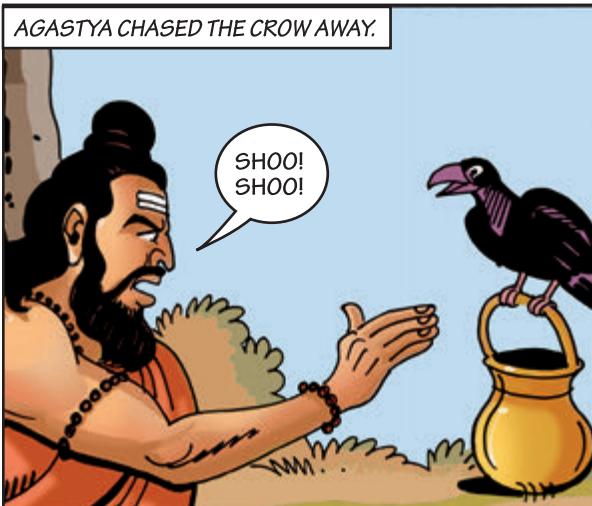
GANESHA SOON SPOTTED AGASTYA.



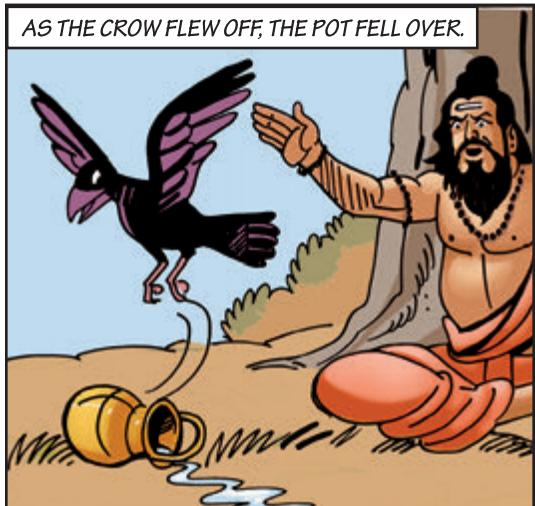
HE FLEW DOWN AND PERCHED HIMSELF ON THE POT.



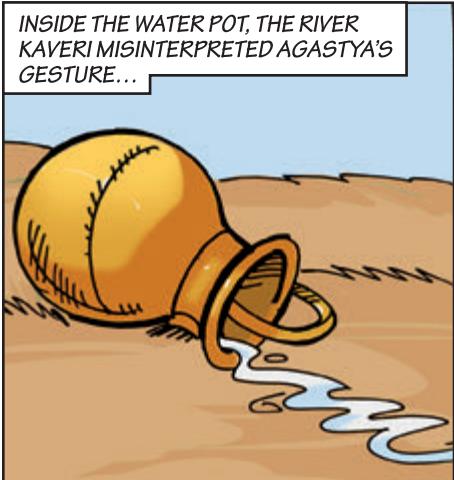
AGASTYA CHASED THE CROW AWAY.



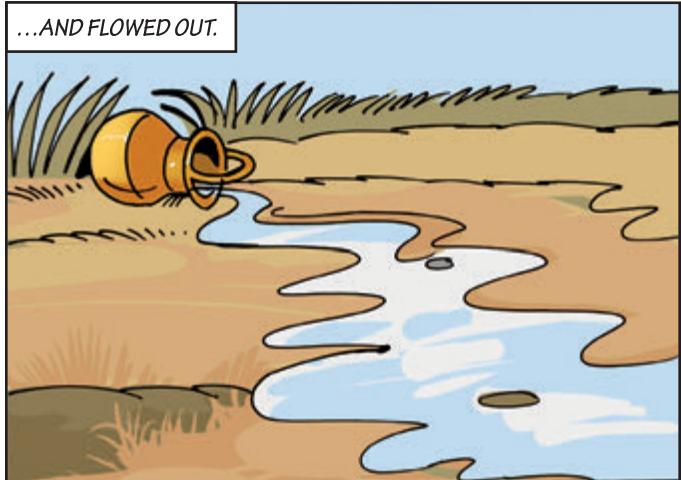
AS THE CROW FLEW OFF, THE POT FELL OVER.



INSIDE THE WATER POT, THE RIVER KAVERI MISINTERPRETED AGASTYA'S GESTURE...



...AND FLOWED OUT.



GANESHA AND THE MOON

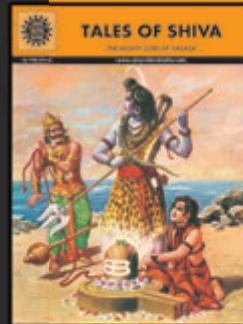
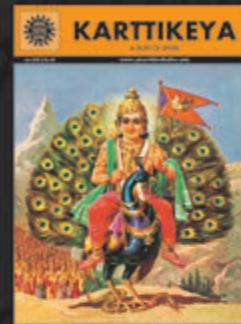
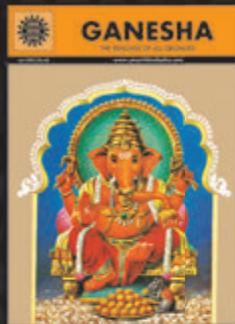
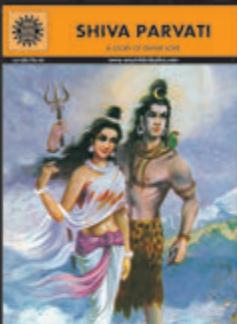
The Moon faced Ganesha's wrath for laughing at him, when the elephant-headed god fell off the mouse he rode.

When Ravana obtained the Atmalinga from Shiva, the gods were perturbed and turned to Ganesha for a solution.

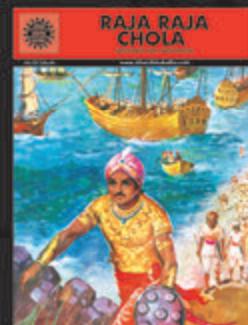
Kind-hearted, benign and always ready to help, Ganesha can also display anger at injustice and foolishness.

This Amar Chitra Katha features stories that revolve around one of the most popular and endearing figures in Indian mythology.

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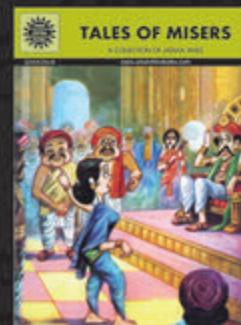
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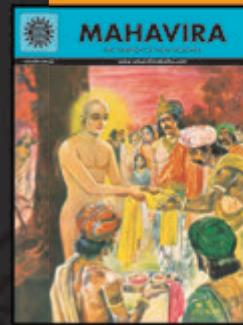
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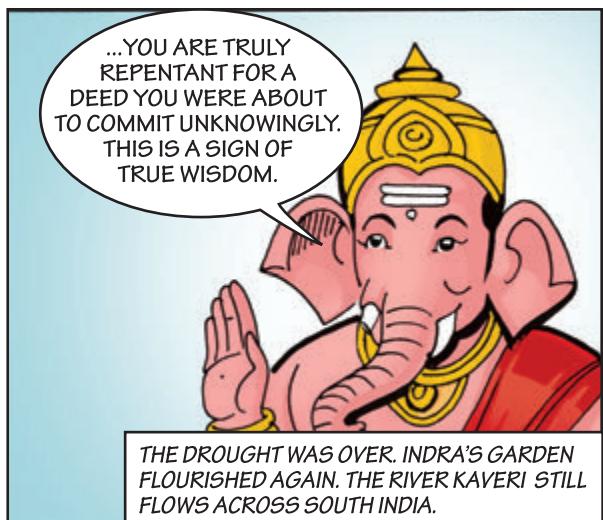
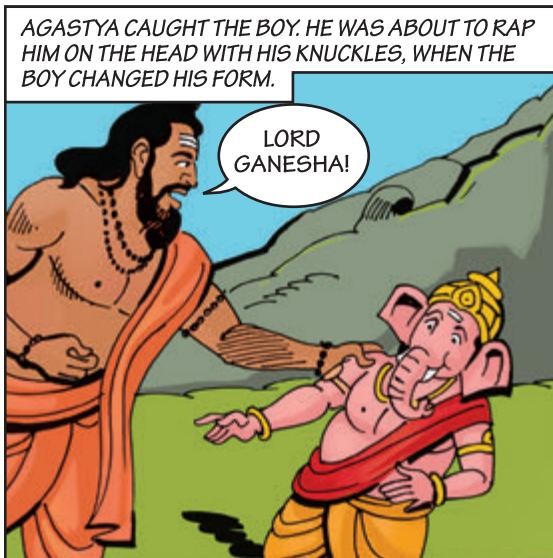
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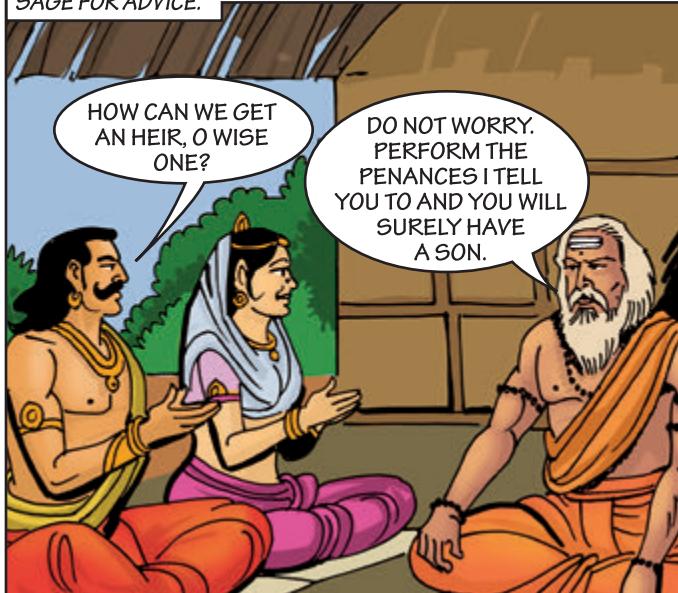


GANESHA AND GANA

THE CHINTAMANI VINAYAKA TEMPLE AT THEUR IS ONE OF THE ASHTAVINAYAKA TEMPLES, THE EIGHT GANESH TEMPLES NEAR PUNE. LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, THIS TEMPLE HAS ITS OWN STORY.



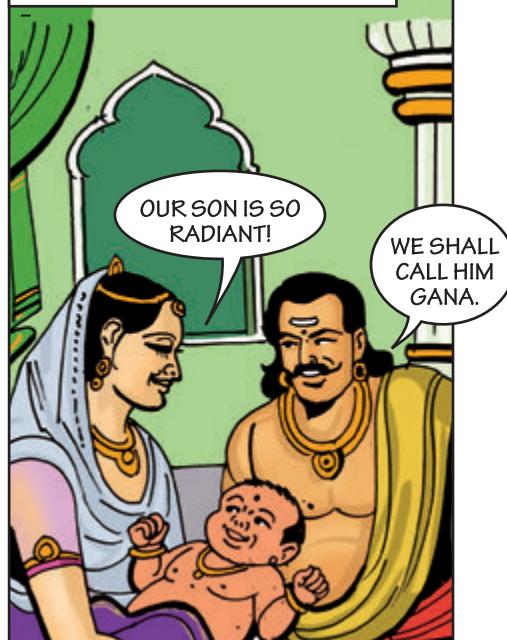
KING ABHISHEK AND HIS BEAUTIFUL QUEEN GUNAVATI, WERE FULL OF DESPAIR FOR THEY HAD NO CHILDREN. THEY WENT TO A SAGE FOR ADVICE.



HOW CAN WE GET AN HEIR, O WISE ONE?

DO NOT WORRY. PERFORM THE PENANCES I TELL YOU TO AND YOU WILL SURELY HAVE A SON.

JUST AS THE SAGE HAD PREDICTED-



THE YOUNG PRINCE GREW UP TO BE A GREAT DEVOTEE OF SHIVA.



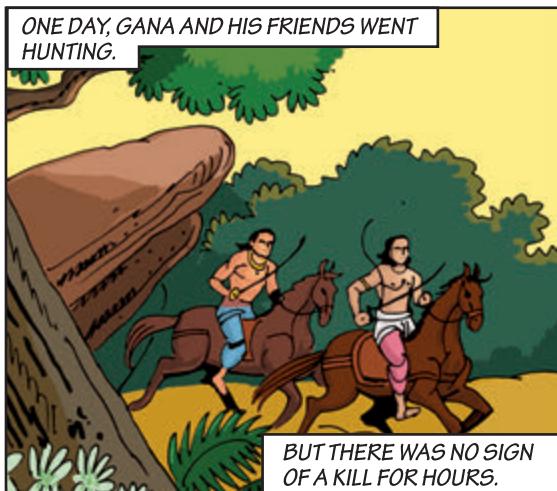
I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR DEVOTION, GANA. I WILL GRANT YOU SOME BOONS.



SHIVA'S BOONS MADE GANA POWERFUL AND ARROGANT.



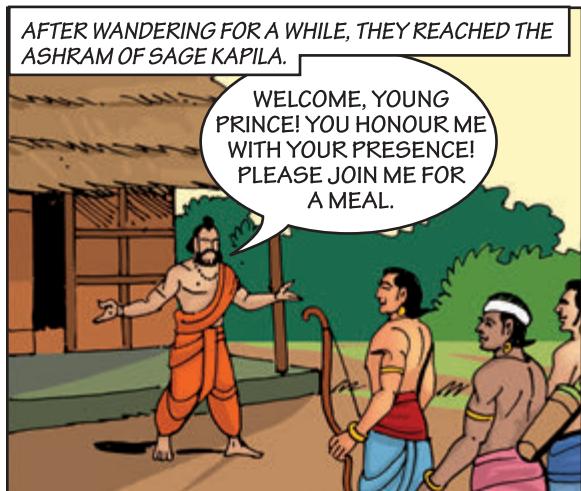
ONE DAY, GANA AND HIS FRIENDS WENT HUNTING.

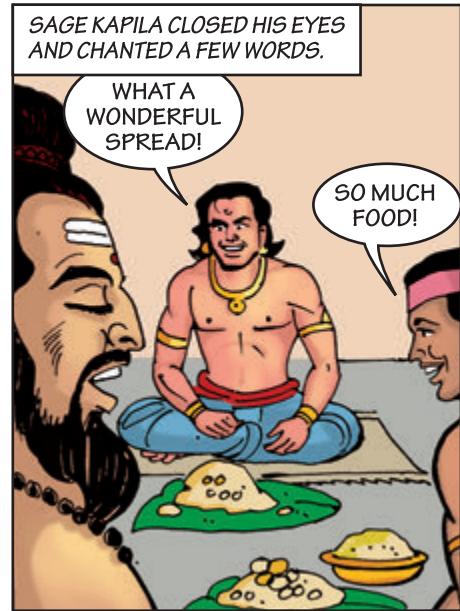


BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF A KILL FOR HOURS.

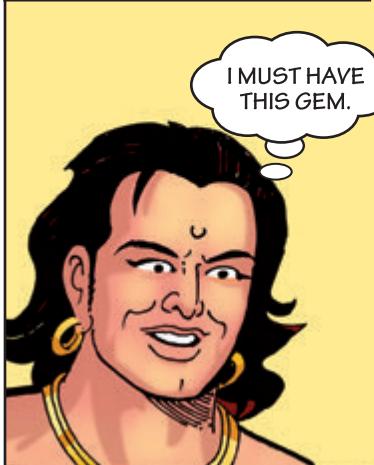
AFTER WANDERING FOR A WHILE, THEY REACHED THE ASHRAM OF SAGE KAPILA.

WELCOME, YOUNG PRINCE! YOU HONOUR ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE! PLEASE JOIN ME FOR A MEAL.





AS HE ATE, GANA'S SELFISH MIND HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT.



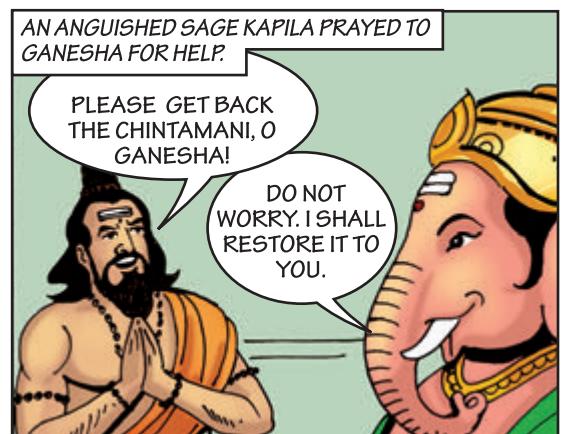
AFTER THE MEAL -

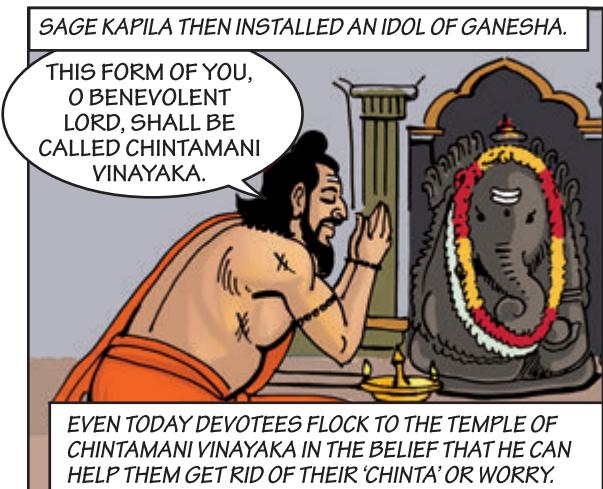
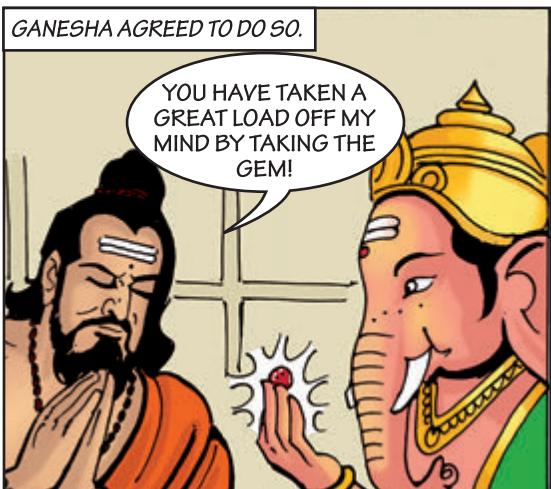
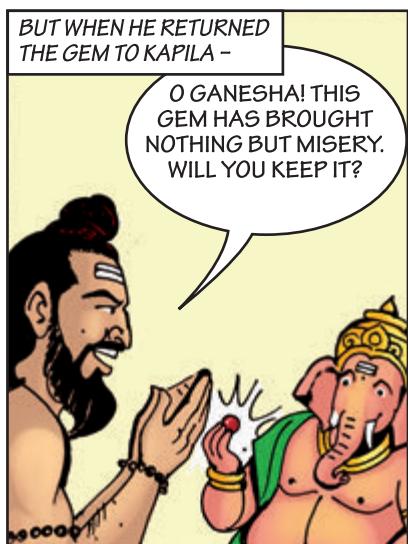


GANA FLEW INTO A RAGE.



AN ANGUISHED SAGE KAPILA PRAYED TO GANESHA FOR HELP.





THE LEGEND OF SHAMI AND MANDAR

SAGE AURAVA WAS A LEARNED BRAHMIN, WHOSE FACE SHONE WITH THE RADIANCE OF KNOWLEDGE. TO HIM AND HIS WIFE WAS BORN A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER NAMED SHAMI.

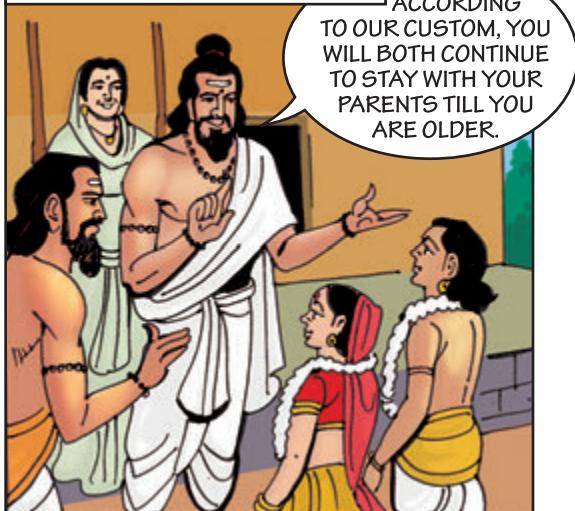


WHEN SHAMI WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD -



IN THOSE DAYS IT WAS THE CUSTOM TO GET SMALL CHILDREN MARRIED.

AFTER THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY -

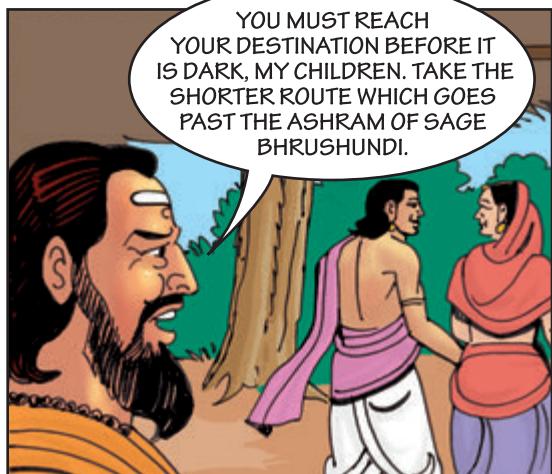


AFTER SOME YEARS, MANDAR WENT TO SAGE AURAVA'S ASHRAM.

O SAGE! WITH YOUR PERMISSION I WILL TAKE SHAMI TO THE HOME OF MY GURU, SAGE SHAUNAK.

YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS.

YOU MUST REACH YOUR DESTINATION BEFORE IT IS DARK, MY CHILDREN. TAKE THE SHORTER ROUTE WHICH GOES PAST THE ASHRAM OF SAGE BHRUSHUNDI.



BHRUSHUNDI HAD EARLIER BEEN A FISHERMAN WHO HAD TURNED TO THIEVING. ONCE, HE STOPPED THE RISHI MUGDALA TO ROB HIM.



BUT THE SAGE DID NOT DO AS BHRUSHUNDI DEMANDED. INSTEAD -



BHRUSHUNDI REALISED HE WAS IN THE PRESENCE OF A GREAT POWER AND ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS.

RISE, MY SON. PRAY TO LORD GANESHA AND YOUR PAST SINS WILL BE FORGIVEN.



BHRUSHUNDI TOOK THE SAGE'S ADVICE TO HEART AND STARTED WORSHIPPING GANESHA WITH SINGLE-MINDED DEVOTION.

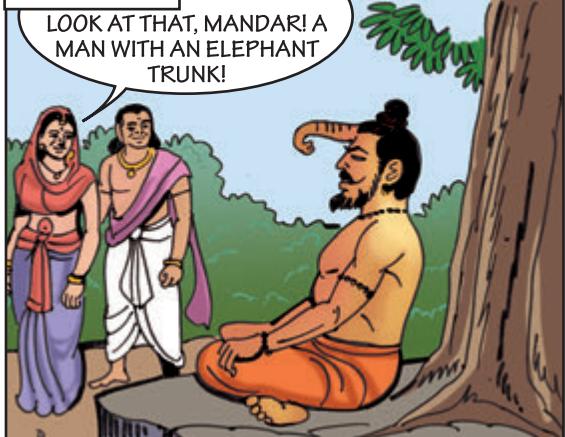


GANESHA WAS VERY PLEASED AND BESTOWED A SINGULAR HONOUR ON HIM...

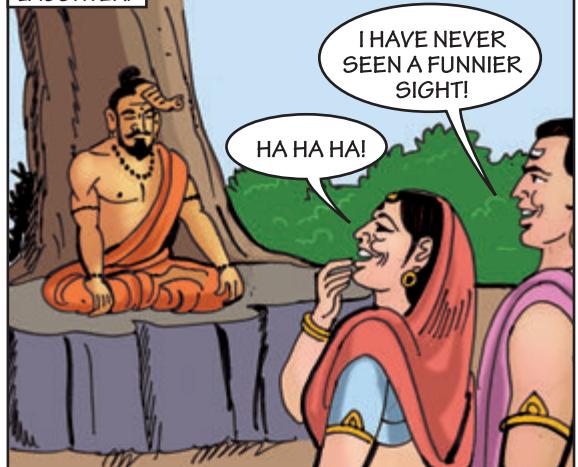


GANESHA AND THE MOON

ON THEIR WAY TO SAGE SHAUNAK'S ASHRAM, SHAMI AND MANDAR PASSED BHUSHUNDI MEDITATING UNDER A TREE.



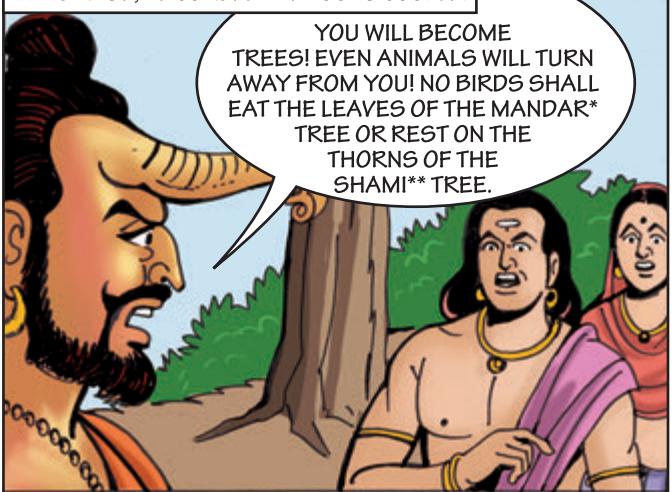
THE TWO BURST INTO UNCONTROLLABLE LAUGHTER.



BHUSHUNDI'S EYES FLEW OPEN.
THEY BLAZED WITH ANGER.



IN HIS RAGE, HE CURSED THE YOUNG COUPLE.

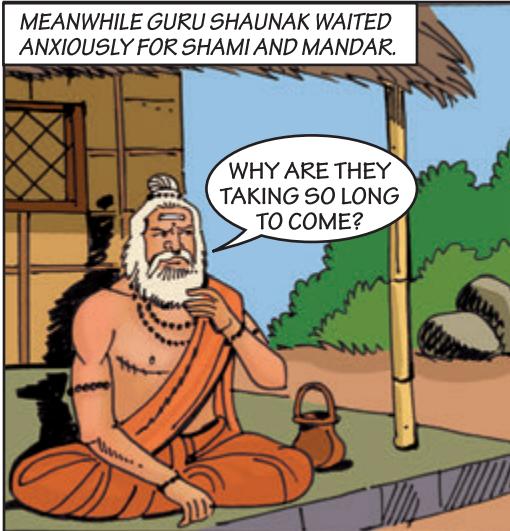


*THE INDIAN CORAL TREE
** INDIAN MESQUITE TREE

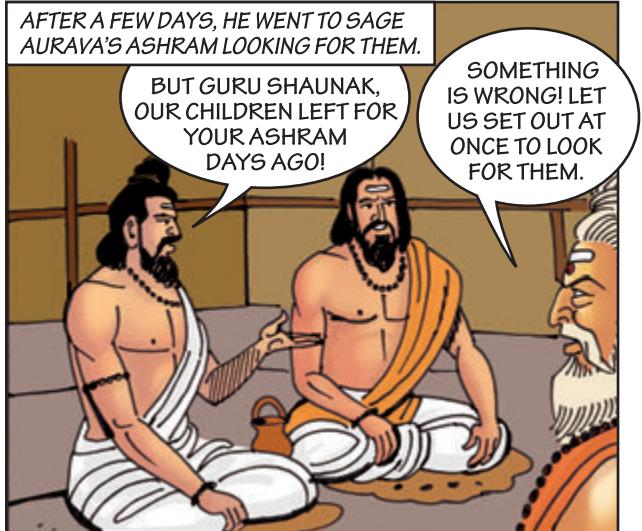
BHRUSHUNDI STORMED OFF, LEAVING THE BEAUTIFUL SHAMI AND HER HANDSOME HUSBAND, MANDAR, ROOTED TO THE SPOT AS TREES.



MEANWHILE GURU SHAUNAK WAITED ANXIOUSLY FOR SHAMI AND MANDAR.



AFTER A FEW DAYS, HE WENT TO SAGE AURAVA'S ASHRAM LOOKING FOR THEM.

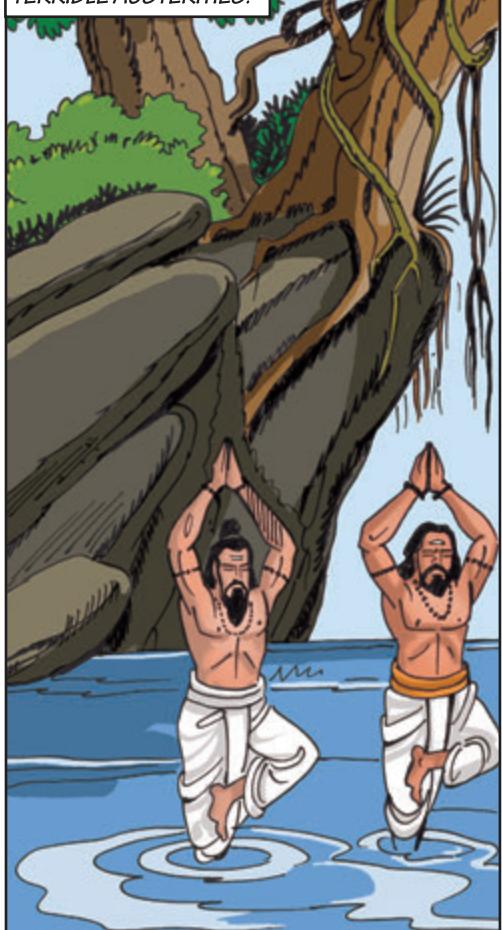


AFTER DAYS OF SEARCHING THEY CAME TO BHRUSHUNDI'S ASHRAM WHERE THEY HEARD OF THE FATE THAT HAD BEFALLEN THEIR CHILDREN.

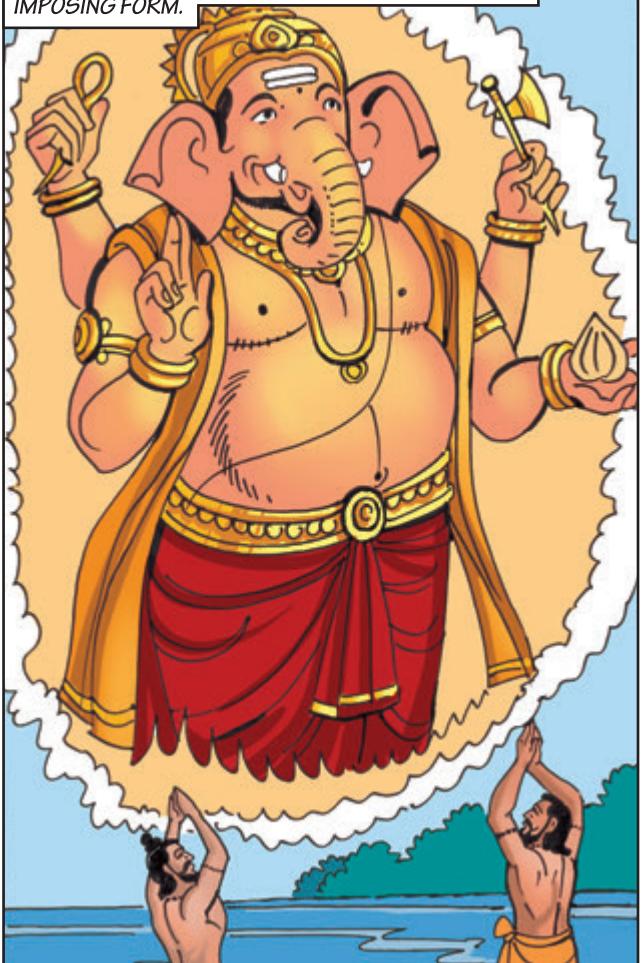


GANESHA AND THE MOON

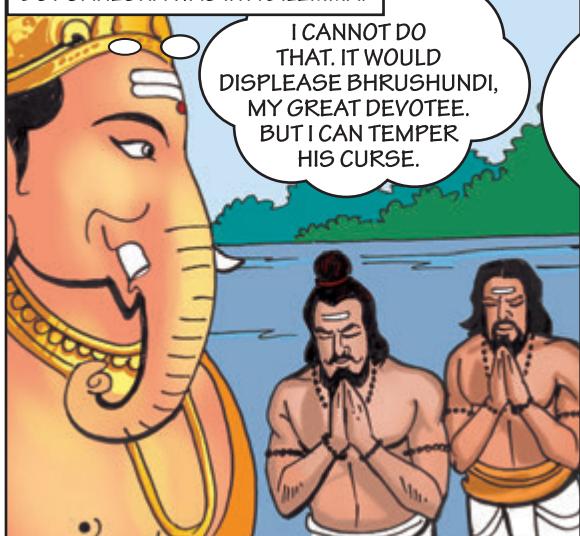
THE TWO FATHERS DECIDED TO APPEAL TO GANESHA FOR HELP AND BEGAN PRACTISING TERRIBLE AUSTERITIES.



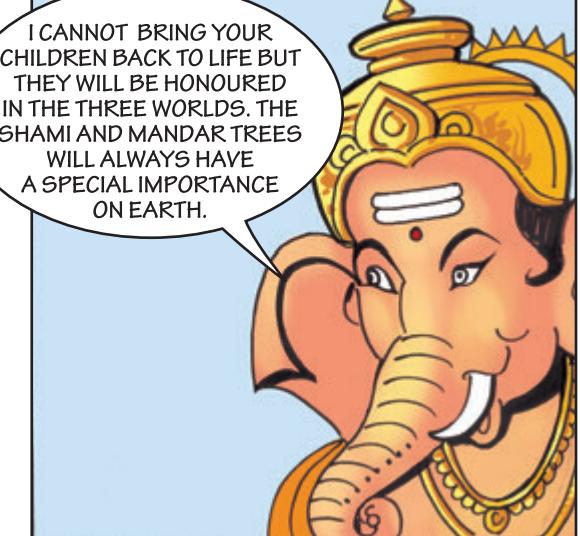
AT LAST, GANESHA APPEARED BEFORE THEM IN AN IMPOSING FORM.



THEY BEGGED GANESHA TO RESTORE THEIR CHILDREN. BUT GANESHA WAS IN A DILEMMA.



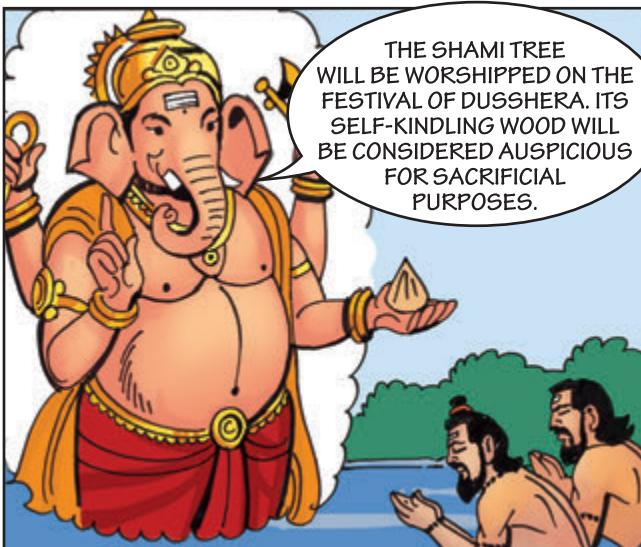
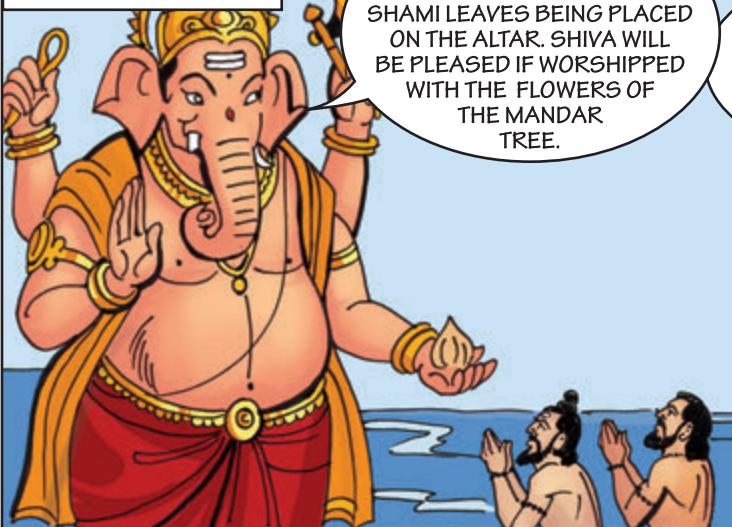
FINALLY -



GANESHA CONTINUED -

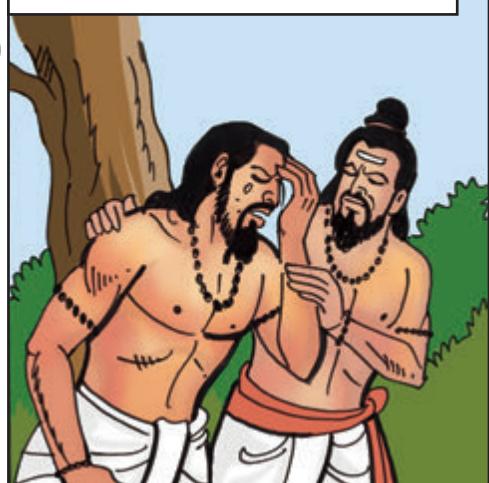
NO WORSHIP OF ME OR SHIVA WILL BE COMPLETE WITHOUT SHAMI LEAVES BEING PLACED ON THE ALTAR. SHIVA WILL BE PLEASED IF WORSHIPPED WITH THE FLOWERS OF THE MANDAR TREE.

THE 'PANCHANGA' OR FIVE PARTS OF THE SHAMI TREE, ITS ROOTS, FLOWERS, FRUITS, LEAVES AND BARK WILL HAVE MEDICINAL VALUE.



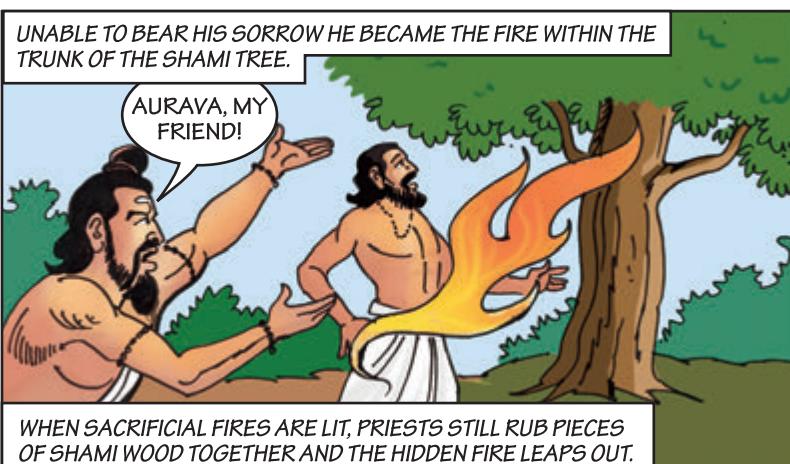
THE SHAMI TREE WILL BE WORSHIPPED ON THE FESTIVAL OF DUSHERA. ITS SELF-KINDLING WOOD WILL BE CONSIDERED AUSPICIOUS FOR SACRIFICIAL PURPOSES.

THEN, GANESHA VANISHED. SAGE AURAVA WAS INCONSOLABLE WITH GRIEF.



UNABLE TO BEAR HIS SORROW HE BECAME THE FIRE WITHIN THE TRUNK OF THE SHAMI TREE.

AURAVA, MY FRIEND!



WHEN SACRIFICAL FIRES ARE LIT, PRIESTS STILL RUB PIECES OF SHAMI WOOD TOGETHER AND THE HIDDEN FIRE LEAPS OUT.

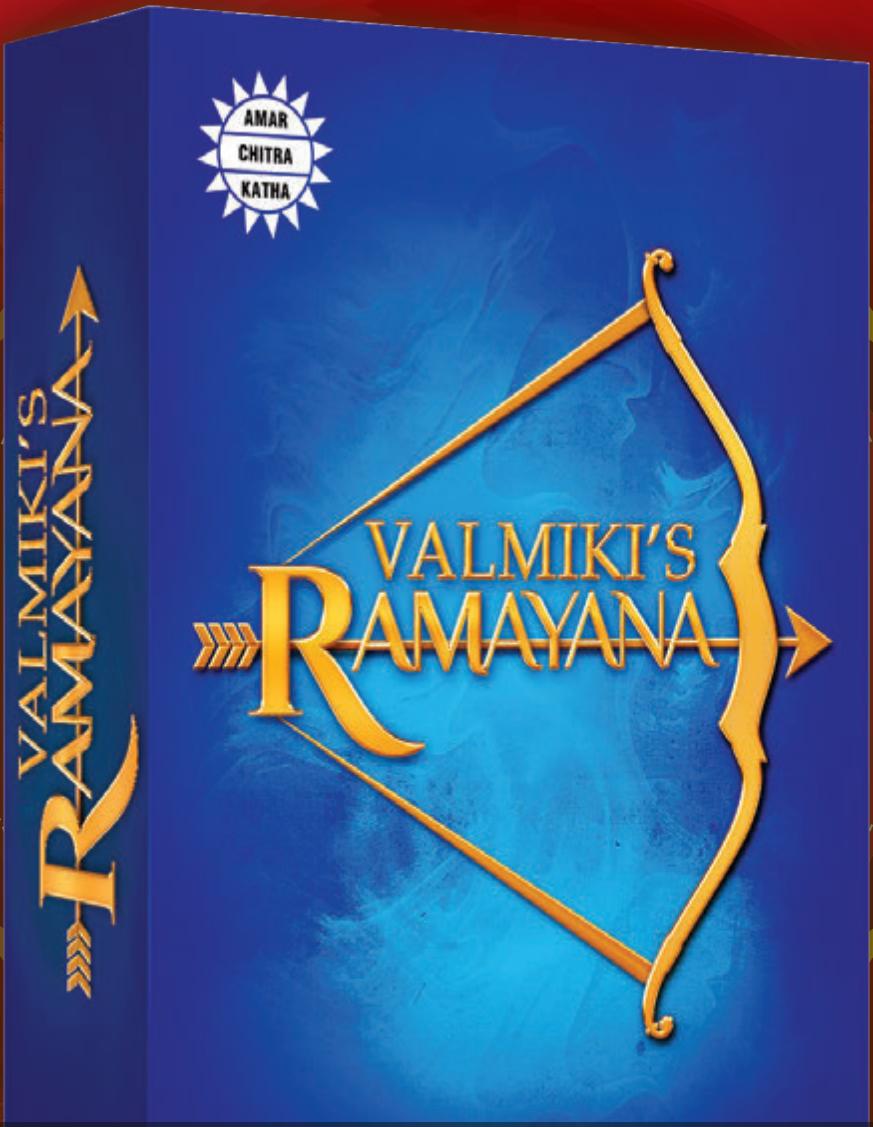
TO THIS DAY, PEOPLE TIE STRIPS OF CLOTH ON THE SHAMI TREE AS AN OFFERING OR WHEN MAKING A VOW.



TRUE TO GANESHA'S WORDS, THE SHAMI AND MANDAR TREE REMAIN FOREVER AUSPICIOUS.



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