



HEMU

BRILLIANT STRATEGIST, SHREWD STATESMAN

Vol 765 |

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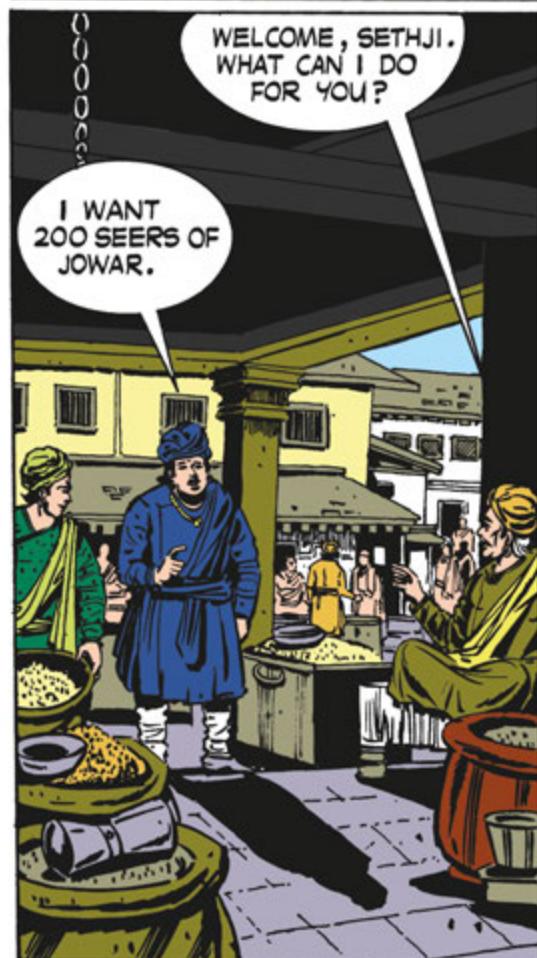
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HEMU



HEMU WAS BORN IN A SMALL TOWN CALLED REWARI.* AS HIS FATHER WAS A GROCER, HE WAS BROUGHT UP TO BE A SHOPKEEPER.



WELCOME, SETHJI.
WHAT CAN I DO
FOR YOU?

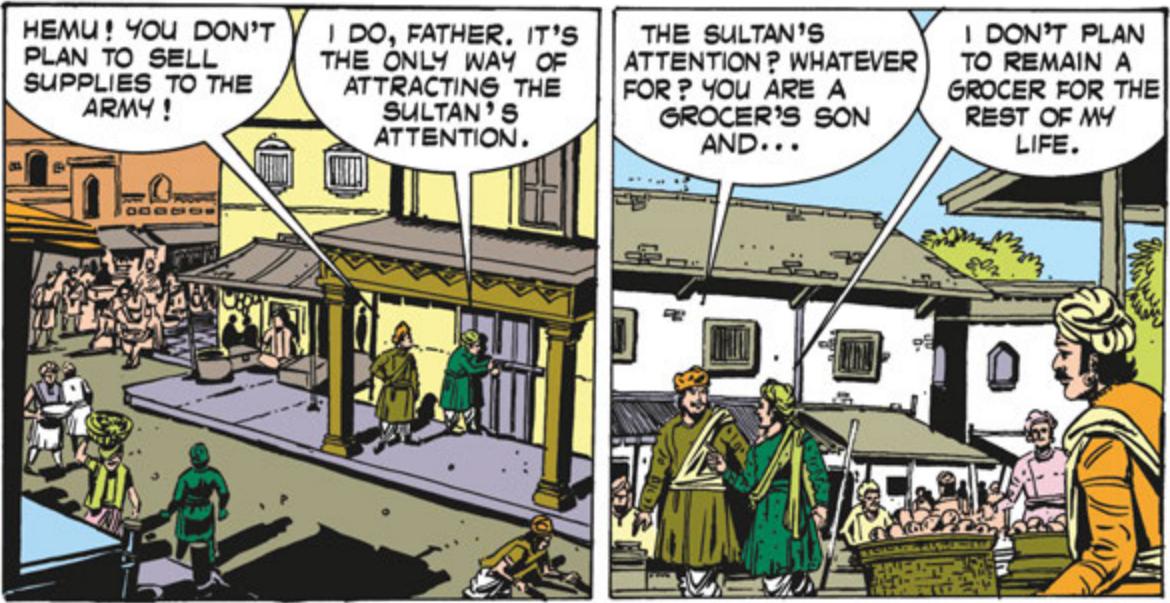
I WANT
200 SEERS OF
JOWAR.



HEMU, HAVE 200 SEERS
OF JOWAR SENT TO THE
SETHJI'S HOUSE.

FATHER HAS
NO HEAD FOR
BUSINESS. I'LL
HAVE TO TAKE
MATTERS INTO
MY OWN HANDS
OR DIE A MISERABLE
GROCER.





* IN MODERN PUNJAB — TO THE WEST OF REWARI

WELCOME,
FAUJDAR SAHIB.*
MAY I HAVE THE
HONOUR OF SERVING
THE SULTAN AND
YOUR NOBLE
SELF?

DO YOU
HAVE ENOUGH
GRAIN TO SUPPLY
THE SULTAN'S
ARMY?

ENOUGH AND MORE, SIR.
I'VE BEEN SAVING IT FOR
YOU EVER SINCE I HEARD
THE ARMY HAD ENTERED
OUR DISTRICT.

YOUR
FORESIGHT
IS COMMEND-
ABLE!



AS THE LAST SACK WAS CARRIED OUT—

HIS MAJESTY WILL
BE PLEASED!



WHY DON'T YOU COME
TO AGRA? THE SULTAN
COULD DO WITH MEN
LIKE YOU IN HIS
SERVICE!

THANK YOU, SIR. IT
WOULD BE A PRIVILEGE
TO SERVE THE
SULTAN.



* AN ARMY OFFICER

A FEW DAYS LATER, HEMU SET OUT FOR AGRA.

TAKE CARE, MY SON. LIFE AT COURT IS FULL OF INTRIGUE. DON'T TRUST ANYONE.

I WILL ALWAYS BE VIGILANT, FATHER. DON'T WORRY.

SULTAN ISLAM SHAH, SON OF THE FAMOUS AFGHAN, SHER SHAH, WAS AN ABLE RULER. WHEN HEMU REACHED AGRA, THE SULTAN WAS PLANNING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE REBEL GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB.

MY FATHER DROVE HUMAYUN* OUT OF INDIA. HE COULD COME BACK IF REBELS WEAKEN THE UNITY OF MY EMPIRE. THIS REBEL MUST BE CRUSHED.

THAT SHOULD TEACH OTHERS NOT TO OPPOSE YOUR MAJESTY'S RULE.

IT SHOULD. BUT WITH THE FAMINE THERE, OUR SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON OUR SUPPLIES.

YOUR MAJESTY, I KNOW AN ENTERPRISING YOUNG MAN CALLED HEMU WHO COULD GET US ALL THE GRAIN WE'D NEED!

WHERE IS THIS MAN?

* THE SECOND MUGHAL EMPEROR

WHEN HEMU WAS CONDUCTED TO THE SULTAN —

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU CAN GET FOOD FOR AN ARMY ON THE MARCH, IN A FAMINE-STRICKEN REGION?

CERTAINLY, YOUR MAJESTY. OUR LOYAL FARMERS WOULD BE HONOURED IF THEY COULD BE SUPPLIERS TO YOUR MAJESTY'S TROOPS.

VERY WELL. I HEREBY APPOINT YOU SUPERINTENDENT OF BAZARS.

HEMU UNDERTOOK A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF THE KINGDOM.

REMEMBER, THIS GRAIN IS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS. SO QUOTE ME A FAIR PRICE.

TIMES ARE HARD, AND FOOD IS SCARCE. BUT THE SUPPLIES ARE FOR OUR FIGHTING MEN.

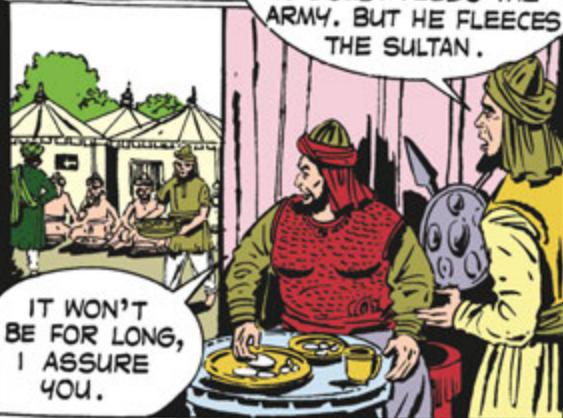
HOW CAN WE REFUSE YOU? WE WILL GIVE YOU ALL WE CAN SPARE.

HEMU PROVED TO BE A RESOURCEFUL MAN AND THE SULTAN TOOK HIM WITH THE ARMY TO THE PUNJAB.



THE SULTAN PAID HIM GENEROUSLY.

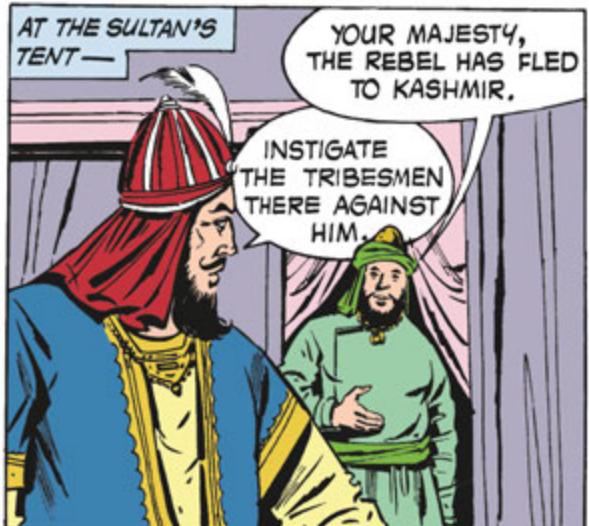
THE GROCER, HEMU,
NO DOUBT FEEDS THE
ARMY. BUT HE FLEECES
THE SULTAN.



AT THE SULTAN'S
TENT —

YOUR MAJESTY,
THE REBEL HAS FLED
TO KASHMIR.

INSTIGATE
THE TRIBESMEN
THERE AGAINST
HIM.



A FEW DAYS LATER —

THE TRIBESMEN OF
KASHMIR HAVE KILLED
THE REBEL AND HIS MEN.
WE MAY SAFELY
RETURN NOW.





THE SULTAN WAS INTRIGUED BY HEMU'S REMARK.

TO OUR ADVANTAGE?
HOW?

YOUR MAJESTY,
MIRZA KAMRAN IS
FLEEING FROM
HUMAYUN. BY
HELPING KAMRAN
YOU CAN UPSET
HUMAYUN'S PLANS.

YOU ARE SHREWD,
HEMU. YOU SHALL
LEAD MY SECRET
SERVICE.

THANK YOU,
YOUR
MAJESTY.

HAVING STRENGTHENED HIS FRONTIER, ISLAM SHAH
CAME TO DELHI, WHERE HE FELL ILL. ONE DAY—

YOUR MAJESTY,
HUMAYUN IS BACK.
HE HAS REACHED
THE INDUS.

WE'LL
DRIVE HIM
OUT AGAIN.

THOUGH ILL, THE SULTAN HIMSELF LED HIS FORCES. WHEN THEY REACHED THE PUNJAB—

AS SOON AS HE HEARD OF OUR CAMPAIGN, HUMAYUN RETREATED TO KABUL.

THE COWARD!



NOW SERIOUSLY ILL, ISLAM SHAH ACCOMPANIED BY HEMU, WENT TO HIS FAVOURITE RESTING-PLACE— GWALIOR.

THE SULTAN IS ON HIS DEATH-BED AND THE PRINCE IS BUT A MINOR. THE COURTIERS HAVE NO UNITY. HUMAYUN IS ONLY WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO CAPTURE DELHI.



I MUST BE CAUTIOUS. A FALSE MOVE CAN MEAN THE RUIN OF THE EMPIRE AND MY CAREER.



ON THE DEATH OF ISLAM SHAH, THE LOYAL NOBLES PLACED THE YOUNG PRINCE UPON THE THRONE.

THE BOY IS ONLY A PAWN IN THE GAME FOR POWER. LET ME WAIT AND WATCH.



HEMU WAS PROVED RIGHT. THE YOUNG SULTAN WAS MURDERED BY HIS OWN UNCLE WHO LATER ASCENDED THE THRONE ASSUMING THE TITLE OF SULTAN MUHAMMAD ADIL SHAH.



I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE UP THE REINS OF THE EMPIRE FOUNDED BY SHER SHAH, TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION AND TO WIN GREATER GLORY.

SULTAN ADIL SHAH APPOINTED HEMU AS HIS MINISTER.



I AM DEEPLY HONOURED, YOUR MAJESTY. I SHALL SERVE YOU TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.



I KNOW YOU WILL BE LOYAL. BESIDES, YOU, A HUMBLE GROCER, CAN NEVER BE A THREAT TO ME.

AFTER SETTLING MATTERS AT GWALIOR, ADIL SHAH LEFT WITH HEMU FOR CHUNAR, HIS STRONGHOLD IN THE EAST.



WHEN HE REACHED CHUNAR, ADIL SHAH FOUND A MESSENGER WAITING FOR HIM.



YOUR MAJESTY, JUNAID KHAN OF AJMER HAS REBELLIED AGAINST YOU.

HE SHALL BE PUNISHED.

HEMU SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY.



MY COMMON SENSE AND INTELLIGENCE CAN LEAD THE SOLDIERS TO VICTORY. GIVE ME A CHANCE AND I'LL PROVE IT.

VERY WELL, HEMU! LET VICTORY BE YOURS.

AT AJMER —



JUNAID KHAN SENT FOR HIS ABLE GENERAL.

DAULAT KHAN,
WIPE OUT HEMU'S ARMY
BUT CAPTURE HIM ALIVE.
I WANT TO SEE THE TRADESMAN
WHO IS ARROGANT
ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE
ME!

CONSIDER
IT DONE, MY
LORD!

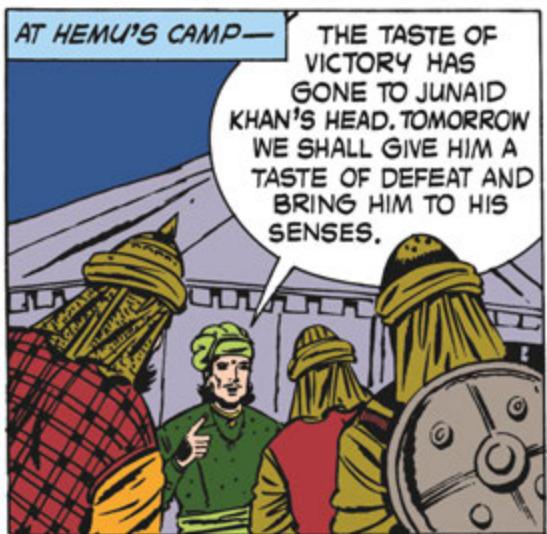


HEMU'S DEFENSIVE TACTICS MADE DAULAT KHAN BELIEVE THAT VICTORY WAS WITHIN HIS GRASP.

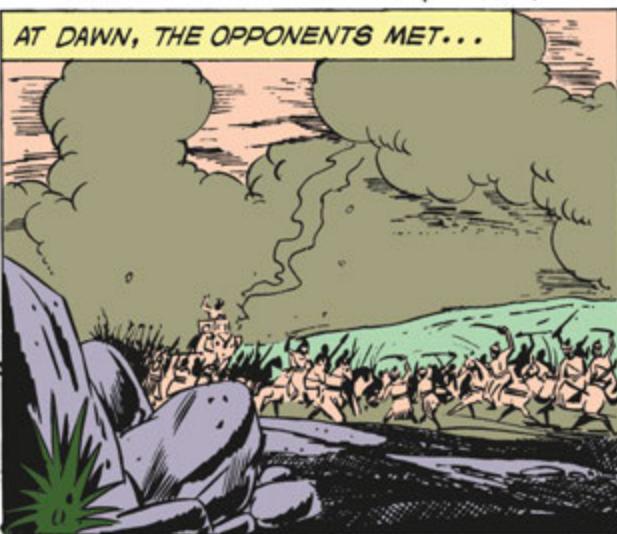


AT HEMU'S CAMP—

THE TASTE OF VICTORY HAS GONE TO JUNAID KHAN'S HEAD. TOMORROW WE SHALL GIVE HIM A TASTE OF DEFEAT AND BRING HIM TO HIS SENSES.



AT DAWN, THE OPPONENTS MET...



...AND IN THE BATTLE, DAULAT KHAN WAS SLAIN.

VICTORY TO SULTAN ADIL SHAH!



WHEN JUNAID KHAN LEARNT ABOUT THE DEFEAT OF HIS MEN, HE WAS FURIOUS.

PREPARE TO MARCH AT ONCE!



AT HEMU'S CAMP—

THEY HAVE MORE MEN THAN I DO AND MY MEN ARE TIRED AND WOUNDED. BUT I MUST WIN! MY FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.



FRIENDS, WE CANNOT HOPE TO FIGHT THE ENEMY BY DAY. IF, HOWEVER, YOU CAN MAKE AN EFFORT TONIGHT, WE COULD ROUT JUNAID KHAN'S FORCES.



SELECTING A FEW STRONG MEN, HEMU SLOWLY MOVED TOWARDS THE ENEMY CAMP...



... AND AT NIGHT, WHEN JUNAID KHAN'S FORCES WERE ASLEEP, HE ATTACKED.



THE ENEMY WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE.



A TRIUMPHANT HEMU RETURNED TO THE COURT AT GWALIOR WITH HIS AFGHAN SOLDIERS.



THE REWARD SHOULD BY RIGHT GO TO MY FEARLESS SOLDIERS, YOUR MAJESTY.



BUT THE AFGHAN NOBLES RESANTED HEMU'S GROWING INFLUENCE.

THIS GROCER IS NO STATESMAN. HIS ADVICE TO THE SULTAN, TO SEIZE THE JAGIRS FROM THE POWERFUL NOBLES FOR REDISTRIBUTION, IS DANGEROUS.

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, TAJ KHAN. WE ARE THE SULTAN'S FAVOURITES.

FIRMULI, YOU'LL SOON BE DISILLUSIONED. AS FOR ME, I AM LEAVING GWALIOR TODAY. WILL YOU GO WITH ME?

NO, TAJ KHAN. I CHOOSE TO STAY HERE.

AT COURT THAT DAY—

KANAUJ IS TO BE HANDED OVER TO SIRMAST KHAN SIRPANI.

KANAUJ WAS THE JAGIR OF MUHAMMED FIRMULI. HIS YOUNG SON, SIKANDAR KHAN, OBJECTED LOUDLY.

OUR ESTATE TO GO INTO THE HANDS OF THE SIRPANI CURS!

MY NOBLE SON! PROTEST LIKE A COURTIER, IF PROTEST YOU MUST!

SIRMAST KHAN SIRPANI APPROACHED THE YOUNG SIKANDAR KHAN.

YOUR WORDS ARE
NEEDLESSLY HARSH,
MY SON.

THAT'S A
CLEVER APPROACH,
SIRMAST KHAN!



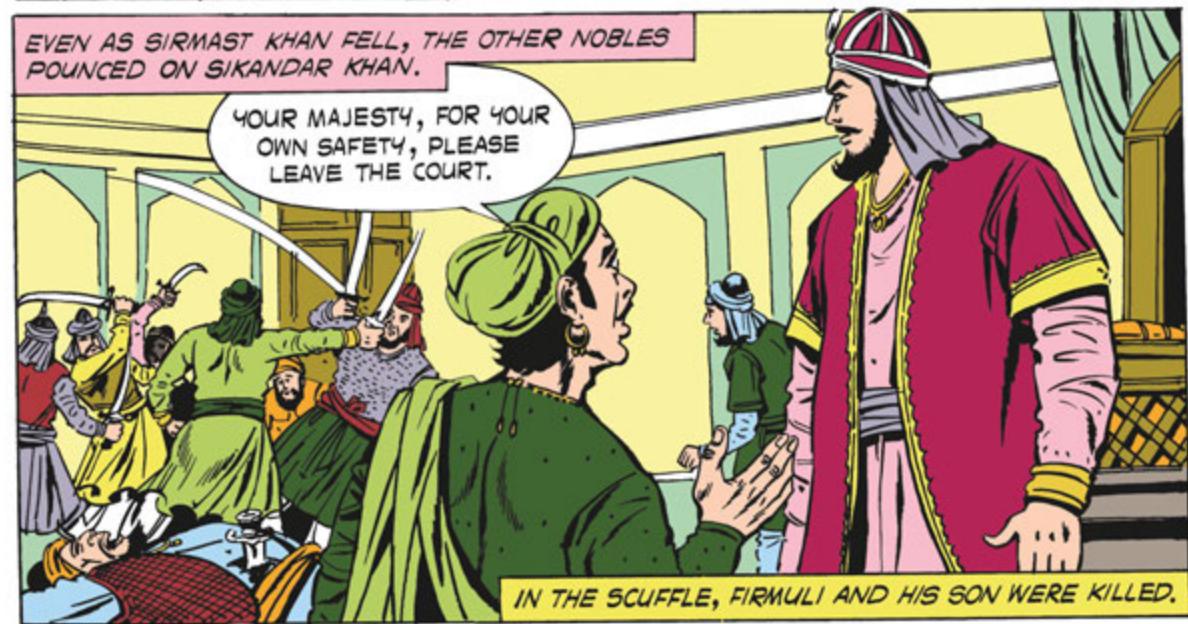
YOU DON'T LIKE MY
WORDS... THEN TAKE
THIS!



EVEN AS SIRMAST KHAN FELL, THE OTHER NOBLES
POUNCED ON SIKANDAR KHAN.

YOUR MAJESTY, FOR YOUR
OWN SAFETY, PLEASE
LEAVE THE COURT.

IN THE SCUFFLE, FIRMULI AND HIS SON WERE KILLED.



LATER, HEMU MET THE SULTAN.

FIRMULI'S CLOSE FRIEND, TAJ KHAN KERMANI, HAS LEFT GWALIOR WITH HIS MEN.

HE'S SURE TO MAKE TROUBLE FOR US. WE MUST STOP HIM.

ADIL SHAH SET OUT WITH HIS FORCES IN PURSUIT OF TAJ KHAN.

THE TWO ARMIES MET AT CHHIBRAMAU, 50 MILES FROM AGRA.

TAJ KHAN WAS DEFEATED AND FLED TO KHAVASSPUR TANDA ON THE BANK OF THE GANGA.

YOUR MAJESTY, TAJ KHAN HAS JOINED FORCES WITH HIS BROTHERS.

SOON, THEY WILL WISH THEY HAD NEVER BEEN BORN.

ADIL SHAH MARCHED TO KHAVASSPUR TANDA.

WE SHALL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE WATERS TO RECEDER.

YOUR MAJESTY, GIVE ME A FEW ELEPHANTS. I'LL CROSS THE RIVER AND TEACH THE REBELS A LESSON.

SPOKEN LIKE A SOLDIER! I APPOINT YOU COMMANDER.

HEMU CROSSSED THE RIVER...



... AND TOOK THE REBELS BY SURPRISE.

NO ONE CAN DENY THAT HEMU IS A BRILLIANT STRATEGIST.

THE CUNNING GROCER IS A SHREWD GENERAL TOO.



HEMU'S FORCES DEFEATED THE REBELS AND TAJ KHAN FLED TO BENGAL.



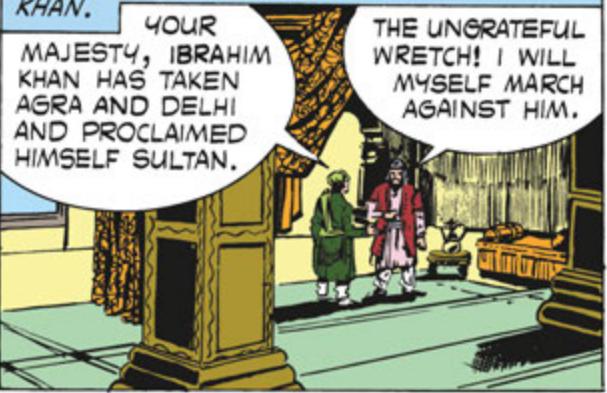
WHEN THE VICTORIOUS HEMU CAME TO CHUNAR—

WELL DONE, HEMU!
TAJ KHAN WILL
NEVER AGAIN DARE
TO DEFY MY
AUTHORITY.

BUT THERE WERE OTHER AFGHANS WHO
TRIED TO DEFY THE SULTAN. ONE OF THEM
WAS HIS OWN BROTHER-IN-LAW, IBRAHIM
KHAN.

YOUR
MAJESTY,
IBRAHIM
KHAN HAS TAKEN
AGRA AND DELHI
AND PROCLAIMED
HIMSELF SULTAN.

THE UNGRATEFUL
WRETCH! I WILL
MYSELF MARCH
AGAINST HIM.



WHEN ADIL SHAH REACHED THE YAMUNA, AN ENVOY FROM IBRAHIM KHAN MET HIM.

YOUR MAJESTY,
MY MASTER IBRAHIM
KHAN APOLOGISES
AND BEGS YOUR
FORGIVENESS. HE WILL
SURRENDER HIMSELF
TO YOUR SENIOR
GENERALS.

IT'S A RUSE.
I MUST WARN
THE KING.





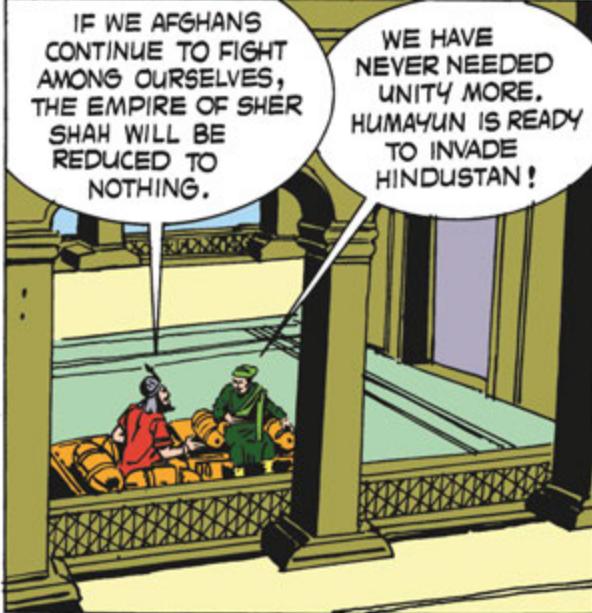
AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, THE GOVERNORS OF BENGAL AND LAHORE DECLARED THEIR INDEPENDENCE. THE EMPIRE BEGAN TO FALL APART.



WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

AGRA IS NOT SAFE AT PRESENT. WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETURN TO CHUNAR.

IBRAHIM KHAN DID NOT RULE FOR LONG. HE WAS OVERTHROWN BY HIS OWN COUSIN WHO ASSUMED THE NAME SIKANDAR SHAH. WHEN THE NEWS REACHED CHUNAR—



IF WE AFGHANS CONTINUE TO FIGHT AMONG OURSELVES, THE EMPIRE OF SHER SHAH WILL BE REDUCED TO NOTHING.

WE HAVE NEVER NEEDED UNITY MORE. HUMAYUN IS READY TO INVADE HINDUSTAN !



SOON—

YOUR MAJESTY! HUMAYUN HAS DEFEATED SIKANDAR SHAH AND OCCUPIED DELHI.

HEMU, THIS IS THE MOST TRAGIC DAY IN AFGHAN HISTORY. WE HAVE LOST EVERYTHING SHER SHAH WORKED FOR AND WE HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT OURSELVES!



YOUR MAJESTY, WE HAVE ONLY TO BIDE OUR TIME. WE WILL REGAIN DELHI, I ASSURE YOU.

A YEAR LATER —

YOUR MAJESTY,
HUMAYUN IS DEAD.
HE FELL FROM A
STAIRCASE WHILE
HURRYING TO SAY
HIS EVENING
PRAYERS.

AKBAR, HIS
SUCCESSOR, IS
ONLY A CHILD. YOUR
MAJESTY, NOW IS
OUR CHANCE TO
WIPE OUT THE
MUGHALS FROM
THE LAND.

YOU ARE
RIGHT, HEMU!
YOU SHALL
LEAD THE
EXPEDITION.



WHEN HEMU REACHED AGRA, HE FOUND THE FORT DESERTED BY THE MUGHALS.

THE COWARDS
WERE TOO SCARED
TO FACE ME, SO
THEY'VE TAKEN
TO THEIR HEELS!



SOLDIERS AND
NOBLES, LET US CLOSE
IN ON DELHI AT ONCE
AND CATCH THE MUGHAL
RATS IN A TRAP.

LEAD ON,
HEMU. WE'LL
FOLLOW.



AT THE MUGHAL COURT IN DELHI, TARDI BEG, THE GOVERNOR HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS GENERALS.

HEMU IS ON HIS WAY WITH A HUGE ARMY. HE IS OUT TO CRUSH US.

WE CANNOT DEFEND DELHI. WE MUST RETREAT TO THE PUNJAB AND JOIN PRINCE AKBAR.

BUT THIS SUGGESTION WAS VEHMENTLY OPPOSED.

RUN AWAY EVEN BEFORE THE ENEMY IS SIGHTED! PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT US.

AND HOW COULD WE EVER FACE PRINCE AKBAR?

TARDI BEG GAVE HIS DECISION.

WE'LL STAY HERE AND DEFEND DELHI. BUT WE'LL KEEP THE LINES OF RETREAT OPEN.

THE MUGHALS WERE FULLY PREPARED WHEN HEMU ATTACKED.

MY MEN ARE LOSING GROUND!

HEMU WAS IN THE THICK OF THE BATTLE, ENCOURAGING HIS MEN.

FIGHT, MEN!
FINISH THE MUGHALS!
WE WILL TAKE
DELHI !



HIS CHARGE ROUTED THE MUGHALS.



THEY HAD TO FLEE, LEAVING, A LARGE NUMBER DEAD.



ALL THE MUGHAL WEALTH FELL INTO HEMU'S HANDS.

DISTRIBUTE THE BOOTY AMONG YOURSELVES. FOR THOSE WILLING TO DIE FOR THEIR KING, THE REWARD SHOULD BE HIGH!

LONG LIVE HEMU!

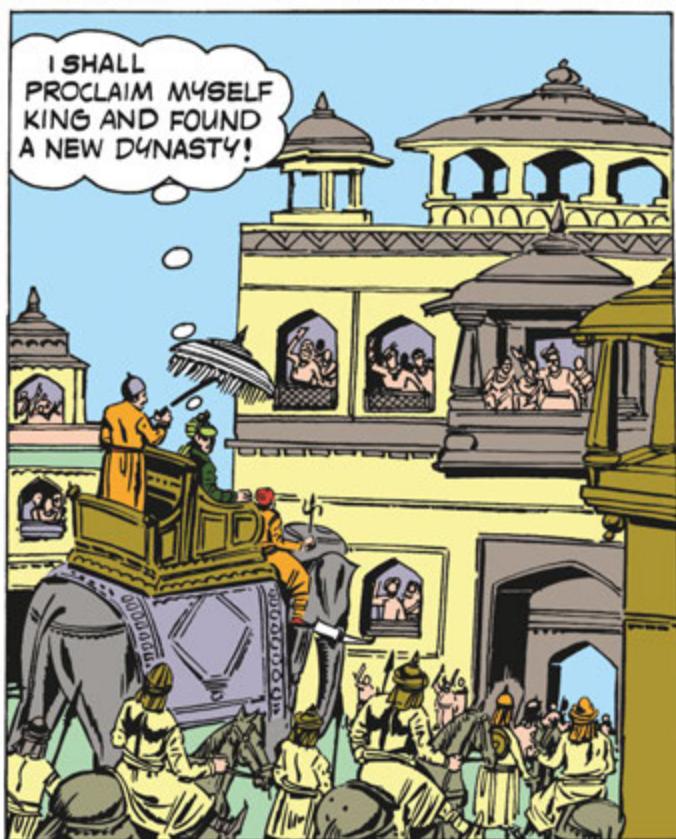


HEMU MADE A TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO THE PALACE.

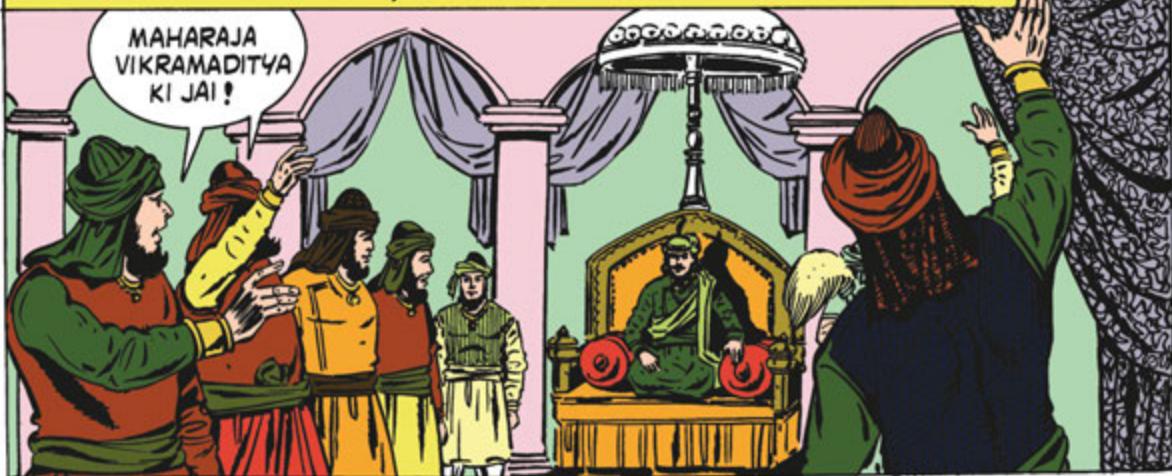


RAJA HEMU? WHY NOT?
DELHI BELONGS TO ME.
THE AFGHANS ARE FIGHT-
ING AMONG THEMSELVES,
AND THE MUGHALS ARE WITHOUT A
LEADER.

I SHALL
PROCLAIM MYSELF
KING AND FOUND
A NEW DYNASTY!



ON ASCENDING THE THRONE, HEMU ASSUMED A NEW NAME — VIKRAMADITYA.



HEMU'S FIRST CONCERN WAS TO DEFEND HIS NEW-FOUND KINGDOM AGAINST THE MUGHAL ARMY DESPATCHED BY AKBAR.

THE VETERAN SOLDIER, BAIRAM KHAN, IS LEADING THE MUGHAL SOLDIERS. THIS IS GOING TO BE A DECISIVE BATTLE. IT'S VICTORY OR DEATH.



THAT NIGHT HEMU HAD A NIGHTMARE.



HE WOKE UP SWEATING AND GASPING.

EVERYTHING POINTS TO OUR VICTORY. AND YET I TREMBLE LIKE A FRIGHTENED CHILD!



THE TWO ARMIES MET ON THE HISTORIC PLAINS OF PANIPAT, NEAR DELHI.



JUST AS THE ARMIES WERE ABOUT TO ATTACK, THE LEADING ELEPHANT IN HEMU'S ARMY WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.



THE SPIRITED CHARGE OF HEMU AND HIS MEN SCATTERED THE MUGHAL FORCES.



BAIRAM KHAN WAS UNEASY.

ONLY A MIRACLE
CAN SAVE US NOW.
OR IS THIS THE END
OF THE MUGHAL RULE
IN INDIA?



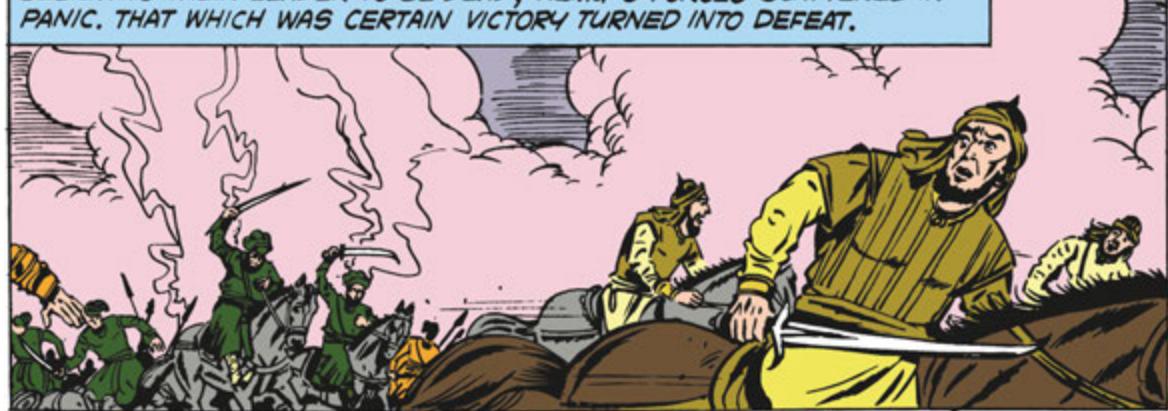
JUST THEN A
CHANCE ARROW...

...PIERCED HEMU'S EYE. HE SWOONED.

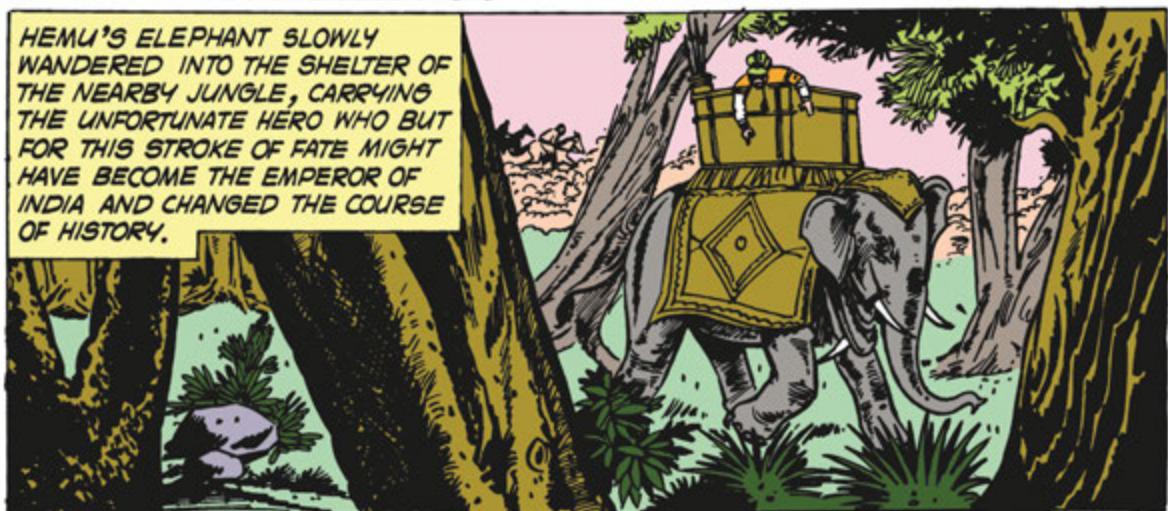




BELIEVING THEIR LEADER TO BE DEAD, HEMU'S FORCES SCATTERED IN PANIC. THAT WHICH WAS CERTAIN VICTORY TURNED INTO DEFEAT.



HEMU'S ELEPHANT SLOWLY WANDERED INTO THE SHELTER OF THE NEARBY JUNGLE, CARRYING THE UNFORTUNATE HERO WHO BUT FOR THIS STROKE OF FATE MIGHT HAVE BECOME THE EMPEROR OF INDIA AND CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

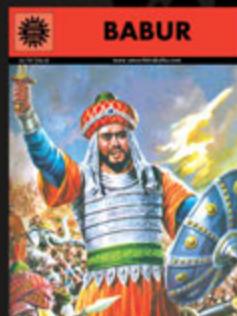


HEMU

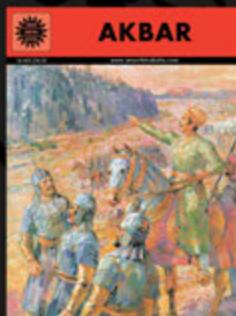
Born in the small town of Rewari, in present-day Haryana, Hemu, a grocer's son, had ambitions that took him beyond his world into the realm of politics, intrigue and war. An ambition that made him Emperor of Delhi.

Hemu's rise to power is a fascinating story. He relied entirely on his own intelligence and intuition. He had to contend with political scheming and treachery in the courts of Sher Shah Suri, Islam Shah and finally Adil Shah. With Humayun and then Akbar making a bid to regain the throne of Delhi, it was up to Hemu to defend it.

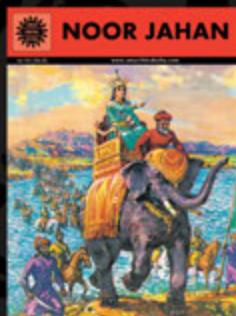
OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS:



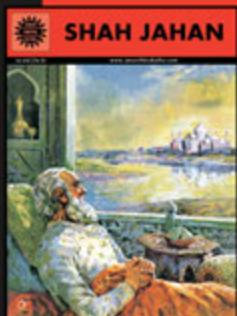
BABUR



AKBAR



NOOR JAHAN



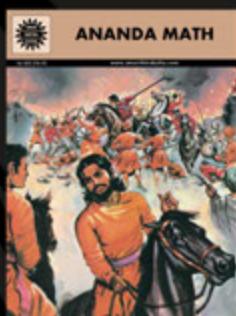
SHAH JAHAN

ALSO LOOK FOR:



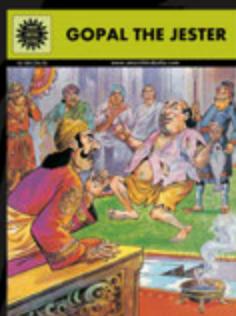
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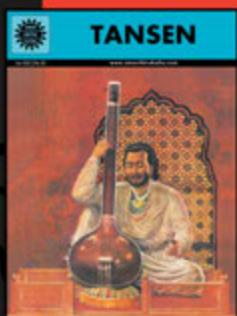
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GOPAL THE JESTER

FABLES & HUMOUR



TANSEN

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"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

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