



# KRISHNADEVA RAYA

THE ILLUSTRIOUS KING OF VIJAYANAGARA

Vol 636 | ₹90





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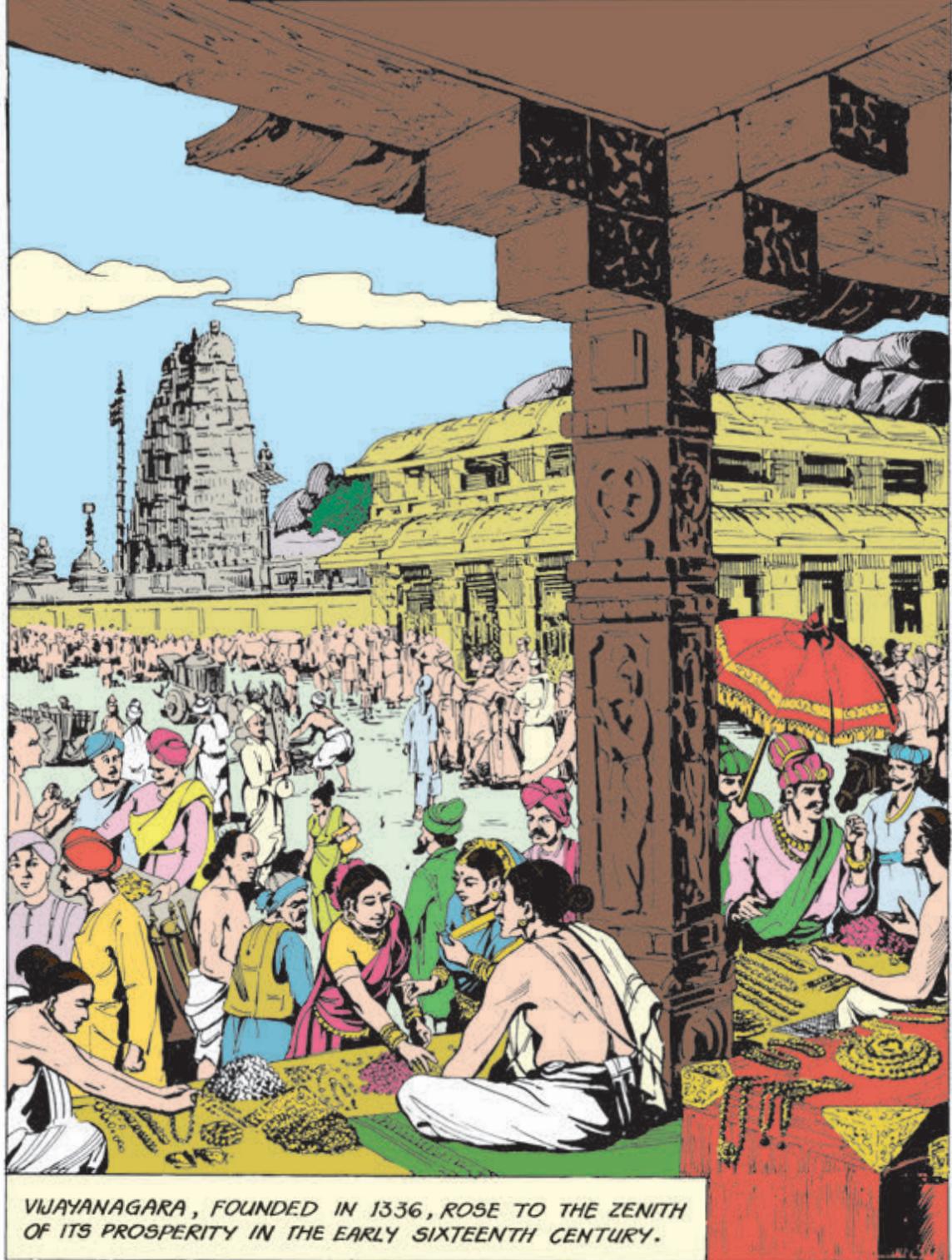
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# KRISHNADEVA RAYA

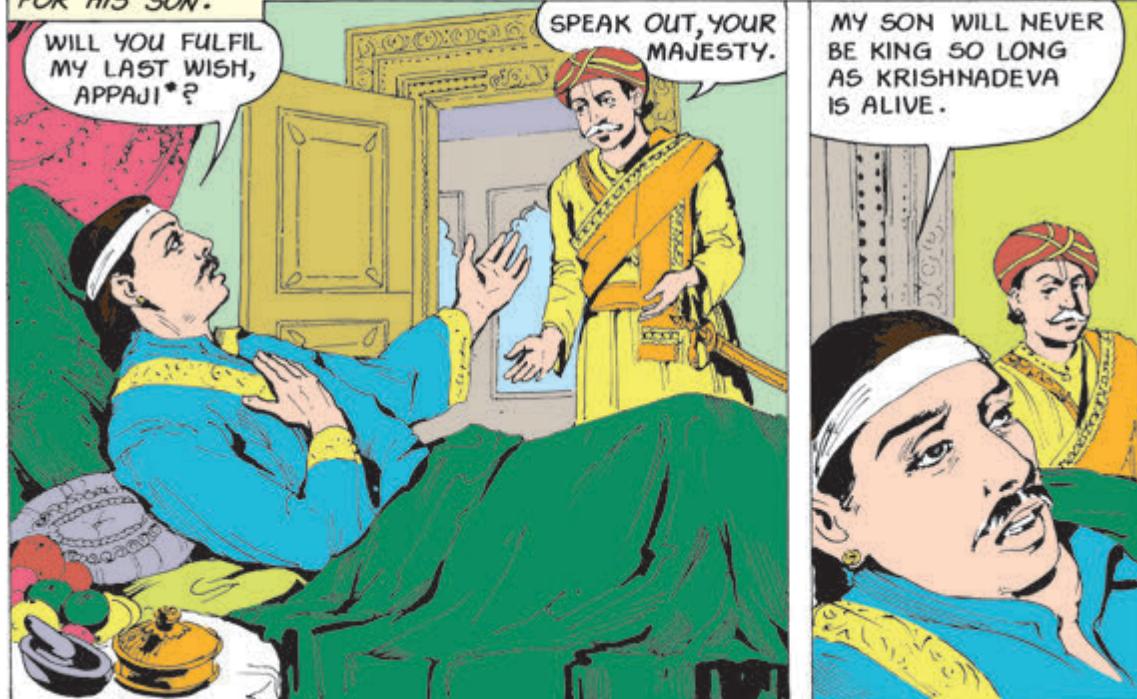


VIJAYANAGARA, FOUNDED IN 1336, ROSE TO THE ZENITH OF ITS PROSPERITY IN THE EARLY SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

IN 1509, VIRA NARASIMHA, KING OF VISHAYANAGARA, FELL SERIOUSLY ILL. IN THE CAPITAL, PEOPLE WONDERED WHO WOULD SUCCEED HIM.



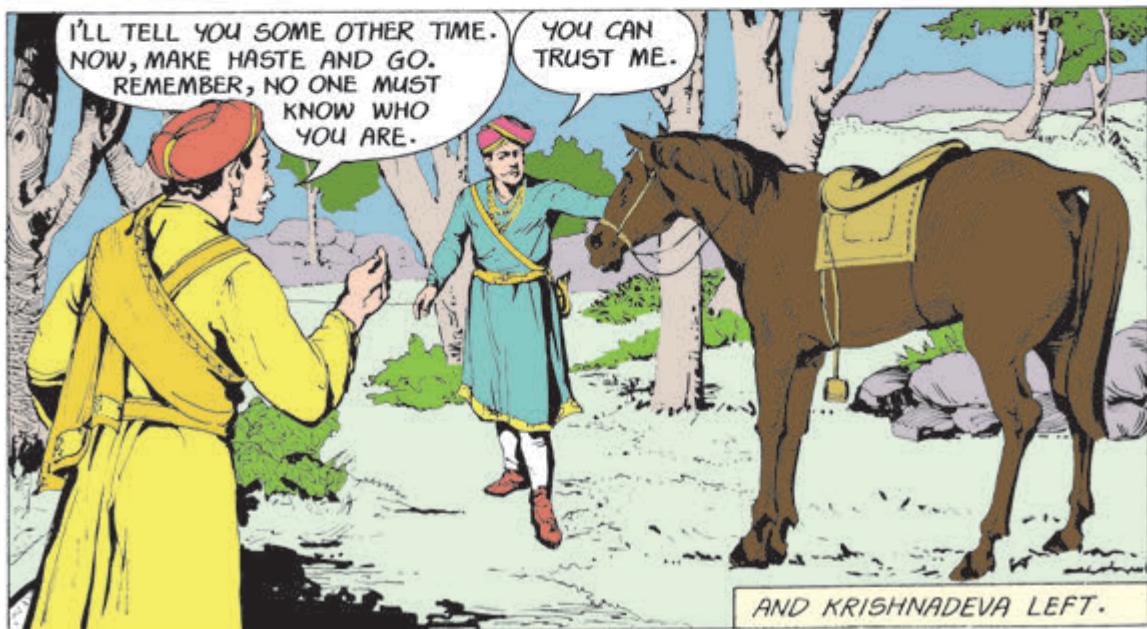
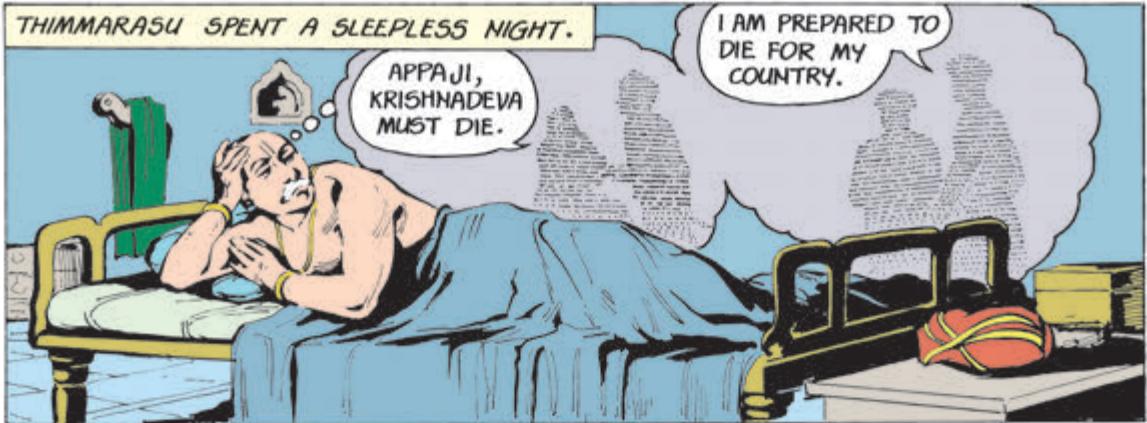
BUT AT THAT MOMENT THE KING WAS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WAS BEST FOR HIS SON.



\* MINISTER THIMMARASU WAS AFFECTIONATELY ADDRESSED AS APPAJI.



THIMMARASU SPENT A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.



THIMMARASU THEN HAD A GOAT KILLED AND BROUGHT ITS EYES TO THE KING.

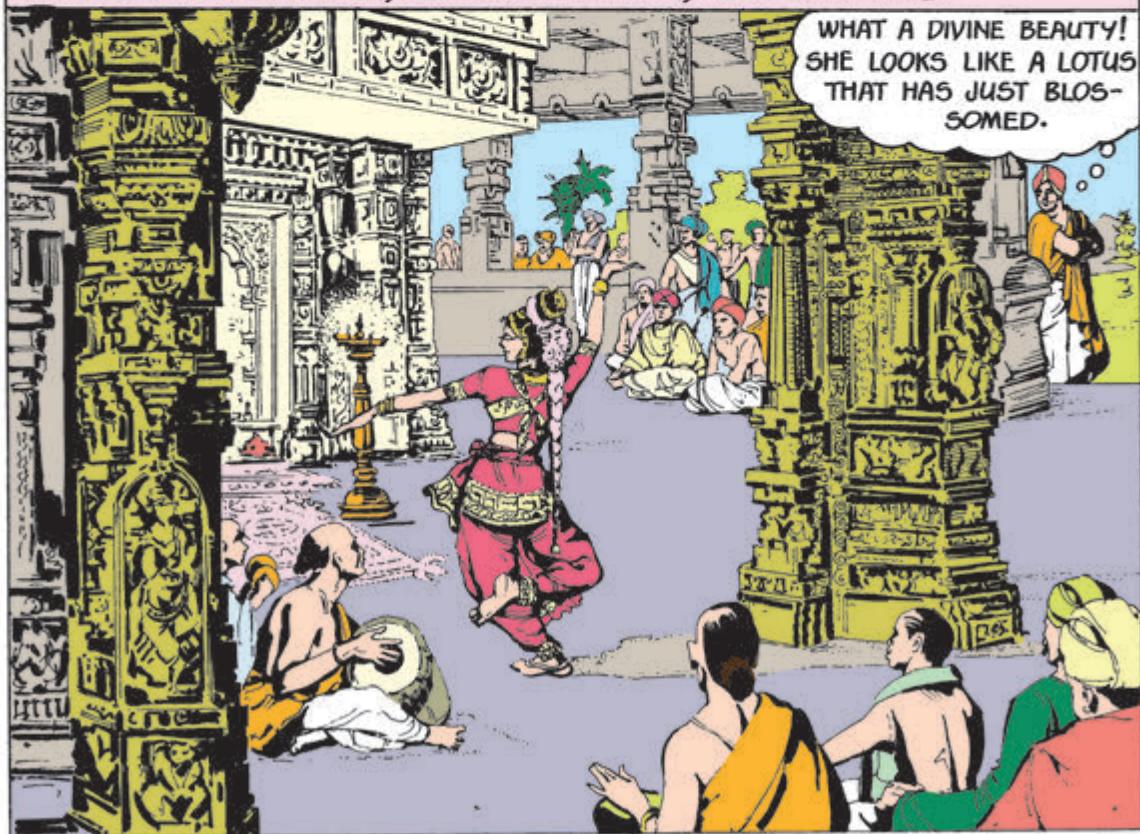
KRISHNA IS NO MORE,  
YOUR MAJESTY.  
HERE ARE HIS  
EYES.

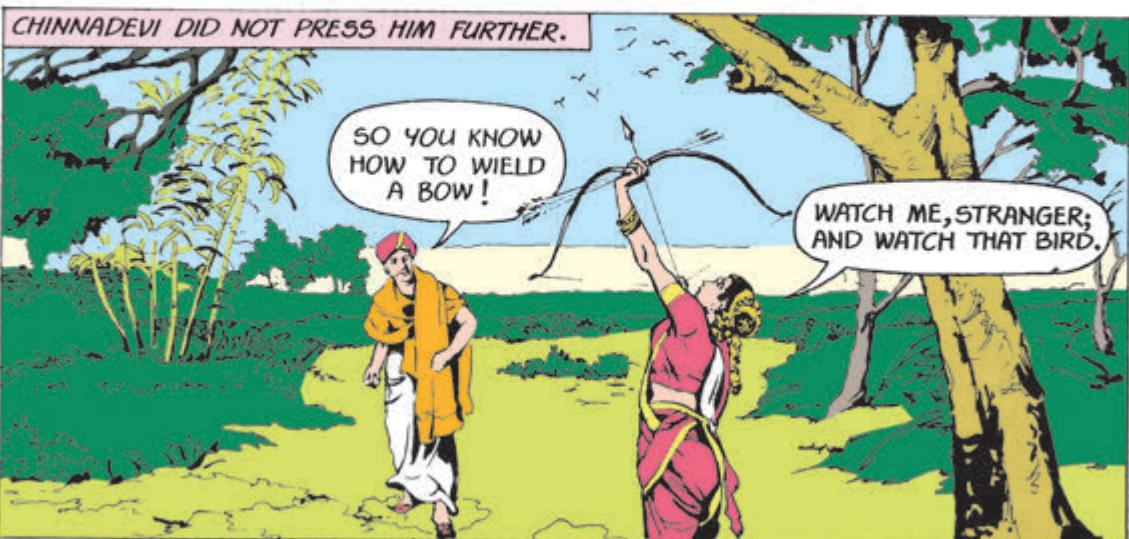
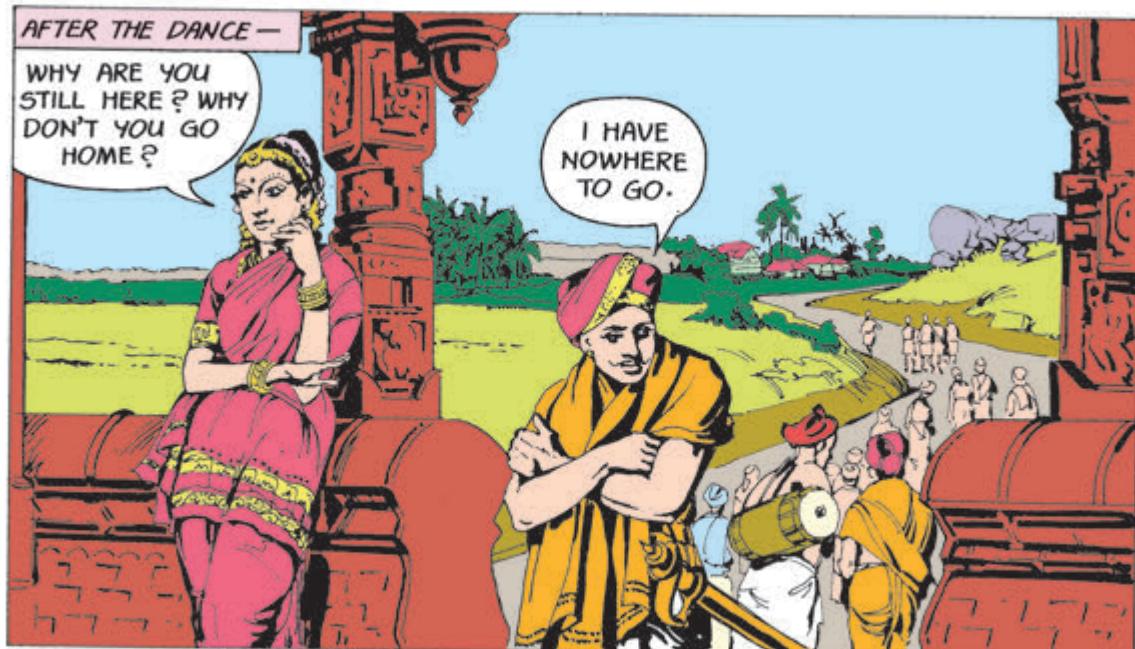
MY SON AND I WILL  
FOREVER BE INDEBTED  
TO YOU, APPAJI.



DAYS LATER, WHILE WANDERING INCOGNITO, KRISHNADEVA HAPPENED TO VISIT A TEMPLE WHERE CHINNADEVI, THE TEMPLE DANCER, WAS PERFORMING.

WHAT A DIVINE BEAUTY!  
SHE LOOKS LIKE A LOTUS  
THAT HAS JUST BLO-  
SOMED.





SHE SHOT DOWN THE BIRD. KRISHNADEVA WAS AMAZED.

YOU ARE A  
GOOD SHOT,  
INDEED,  
CHINNA!

AND YOU ARE A COWARD,  
AFRAID EVEN TO DISCLOSE  
YOUR NAME!

A FEW DAYS LATER —

MUST YOU  
LEAVE? I MUST. GOD  
WILLING, I'LL SEE  
YOU AGAIN.

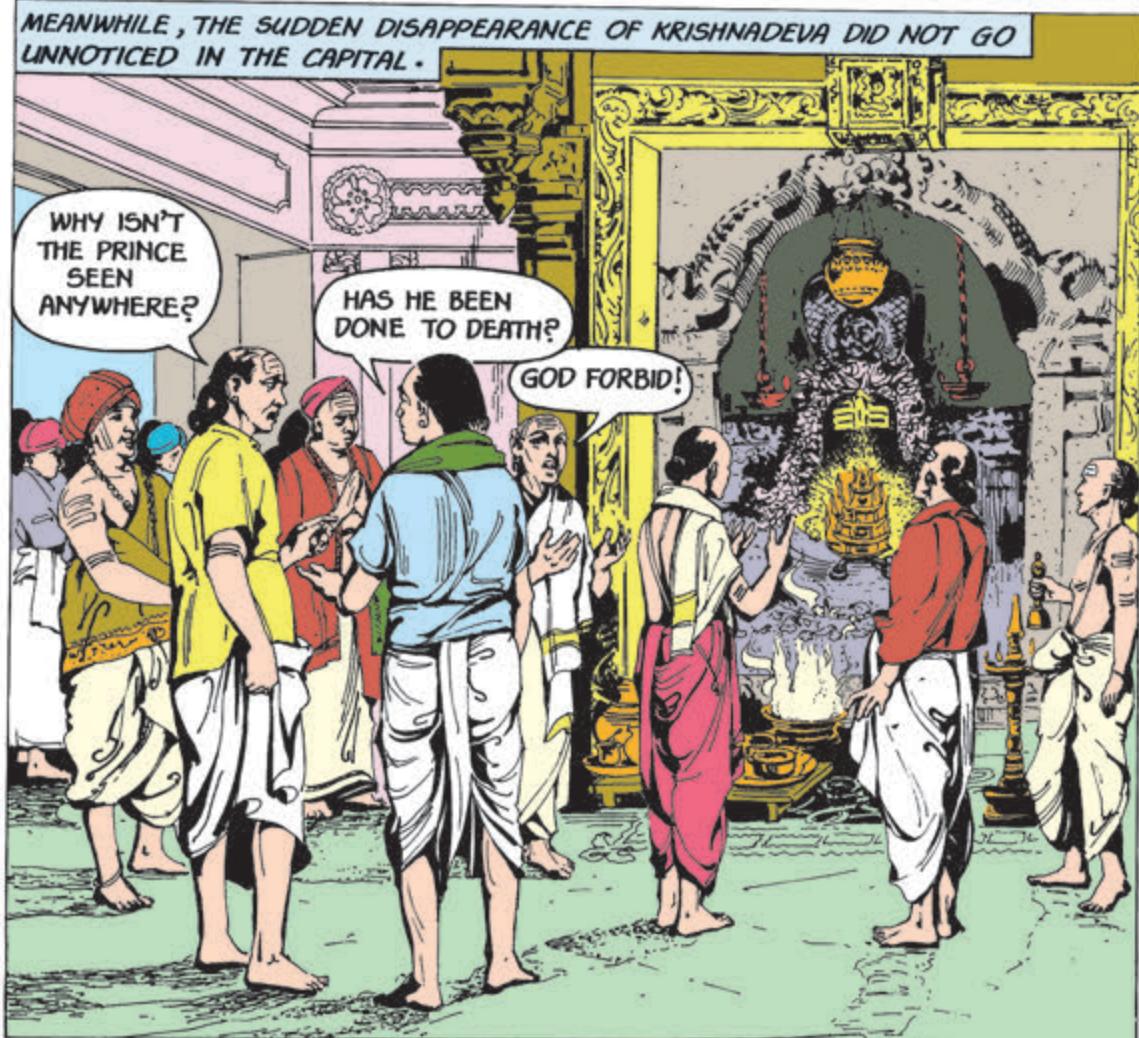


MEANWHILE, THE SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF KRISHNADEVA DID NOT GO UNNOTICED IN THE CAPITAL.

WHY ISN'T  
THE PRINCE  
SEEN  
ANYWHERE?

HAS HE BEEN  
DONE TO DEATH?

GOD FORBID!



THE NEWS OF VIRA NARASIMHA'S ILLNESS AND KRISHNADEVA'S DISAPPEARANCE REACHED GULBARGA, THE CAPITAL OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING.





WHEN THE AILING KING DIED, THE COUNCILLORS DECIDED TO CROWN KRISHNADEVA AS THE EMPEROR.

KRISHNADEVA, CUSTOM REQUIRES THAT YOU BE MARRIED BEFORE THE CORONATION.

THEN, APPAJI, I WILL SHOW YOU THE GIRL WHO HAS WON MY HEART.



THE NEXT DAY HE TOOK THE ELDERLY MINISTER TO THE TEMPLE OF VIRUPAKSHA.

ISN'T SHE BUT A TEMPLE DANCER LOVELY, CAN'T BE THE QUEEN APPAJI? OF VIJAYANAGARA!



KRISHNADEVA, HOWEVER, WAS FIRM IN HIS RESOLVE.

APPAJI, I MET HER WHILE TRAVELLING INCOGNITO. I HAD NO NAME, HOME OR FORTUNE AND YET SHE GAVE HER HEART TO ME. I'D RATHER GIVE UP THE KINGDOM THAN DEAR CHINNA.

WE WILL SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO RECONCILE THE DICTATES OF TRADITION \* AND THE DICTATES OF YOUR HEART.

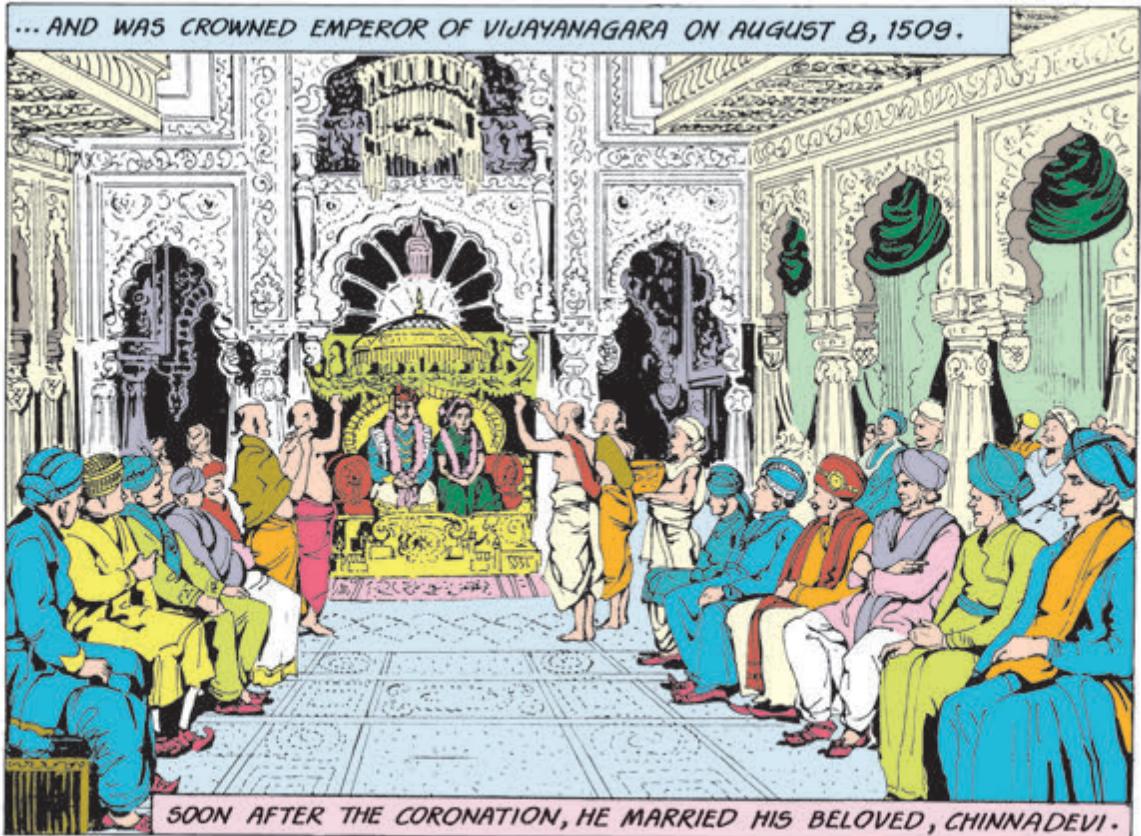


\* THE FIRST WIFE OF A KING SHOULD BE A WOMAN OF NOBLE BIRTH.

FINALLY, KRISHNADEVA RAYA ACCEPTED TIRUMALA DEVI, A ROYAL PRINCESS, AS HIS FIRST QUEEN...



...AND WAS CROWNED EMPEROR OF VIJAYANAGARA ON AUGUST 8, 1509.



SOON AFTER THE CORONATION, HE MARRIED HIS BELOVED, CHINNADEVI.

MEANWHILE, THE BAHMANI KING HAD COMPLETED THE PREPARATION FOR THE CAMPAIGN AND REACHED DIWANI WHERE KRISHNADEVA RAYA GAVE HIM BATTLE.

NO, WE CANNOT FIGHT KRISHNADEVA RAYA.

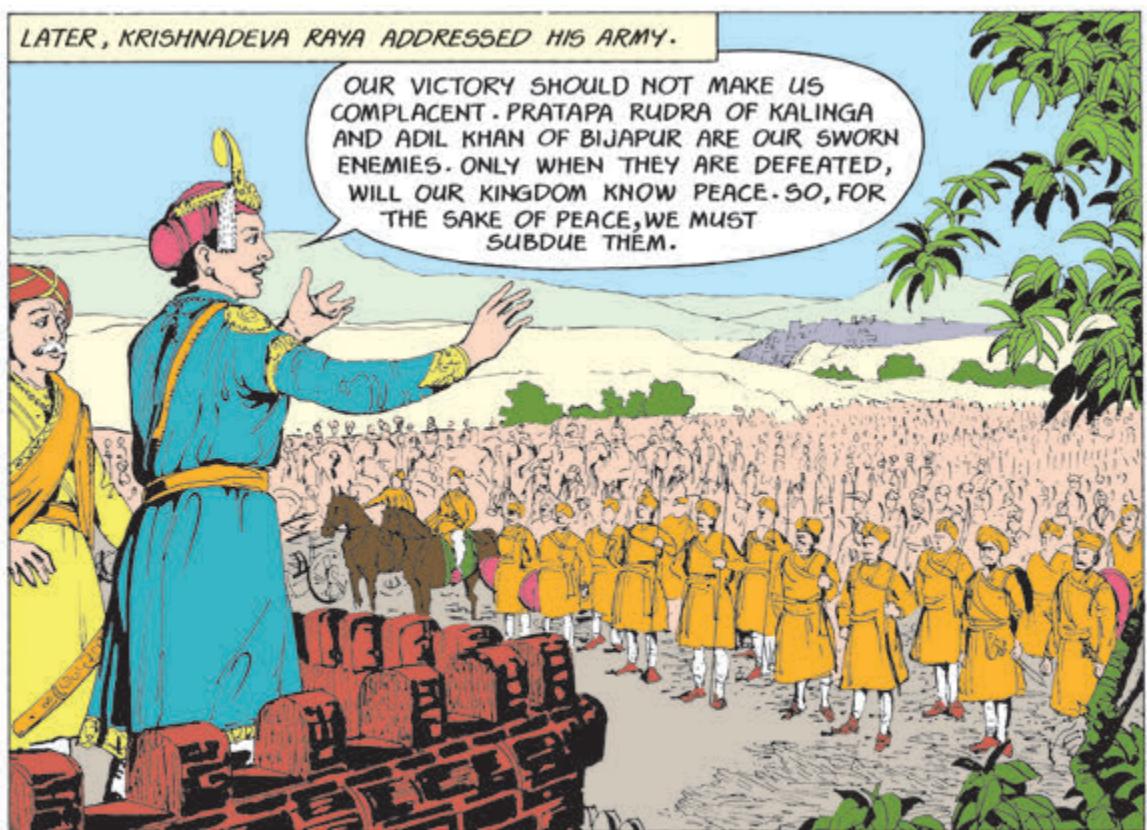


THE BAHMANI ARMY HAD TO BEAT A HASTY RETREAT.



LATER, KRISHNADEVA RAYA ADDRESSED HIS ARMY.

OUR VICTORY SHOULD NOT MAKE US COMPLACENT. PRATAPA RUDRA OF KALINGA AND ADIL KHAN OF BIJAPUR ARE OUR SWORN ENEMIES. ONLY WHEN THEY ARE DEFEATED, WILL OUR KINGDOM KNOW PEACE. SO, FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE, WE MUST SUBDU THEM.



AT UDAIGIRI, HIS INACCESSIBLE FORT, PRATAPA RUDRA, KING OF KALINGA, WAS AMUSED TO HEAR ABOUT KRISHNADEVA RAYA'S PLANS TO ATTACK HIM.



KRISHNADEVA RAYA PERSONALLY LED THE ARMY.

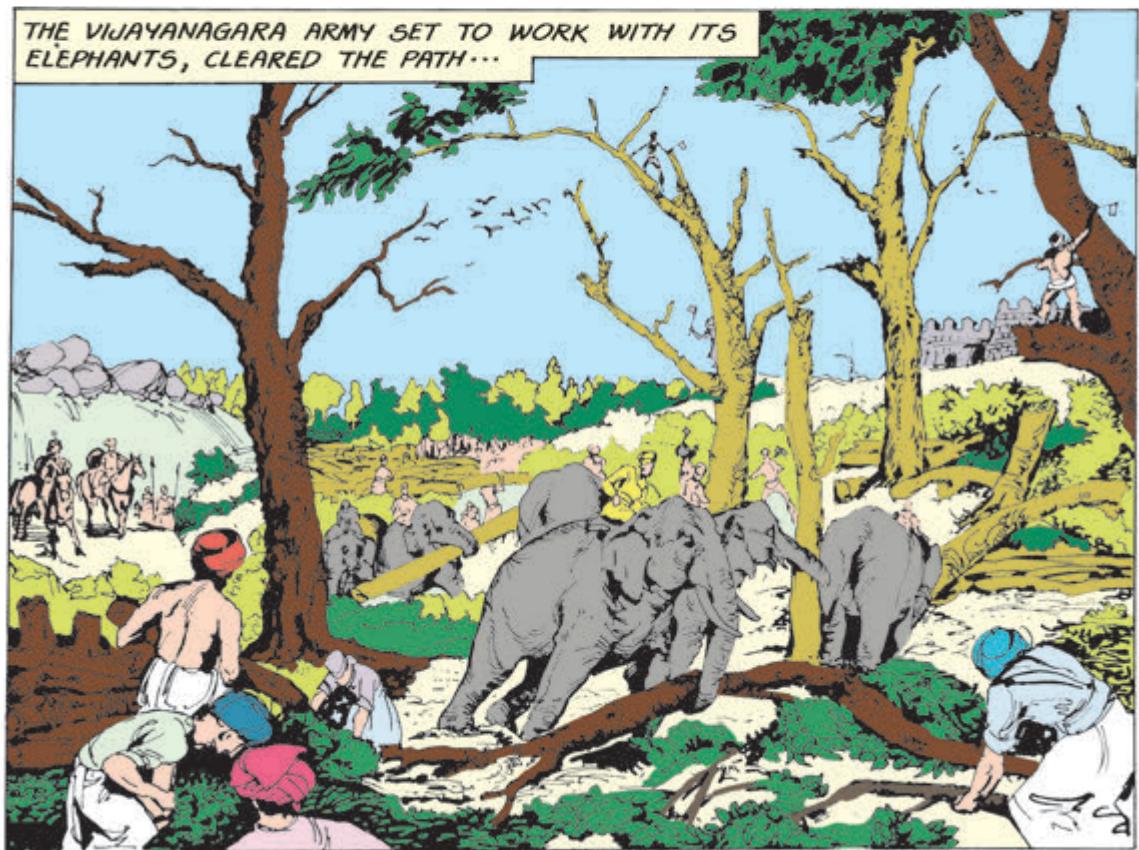
WHAT A DENSE FOREST! WHAT SHALL WE DO?

HAVE THE TREES PULLED DOWN AND THE PATH CLEARED. OUR ARMY SHALL MOVE ON.

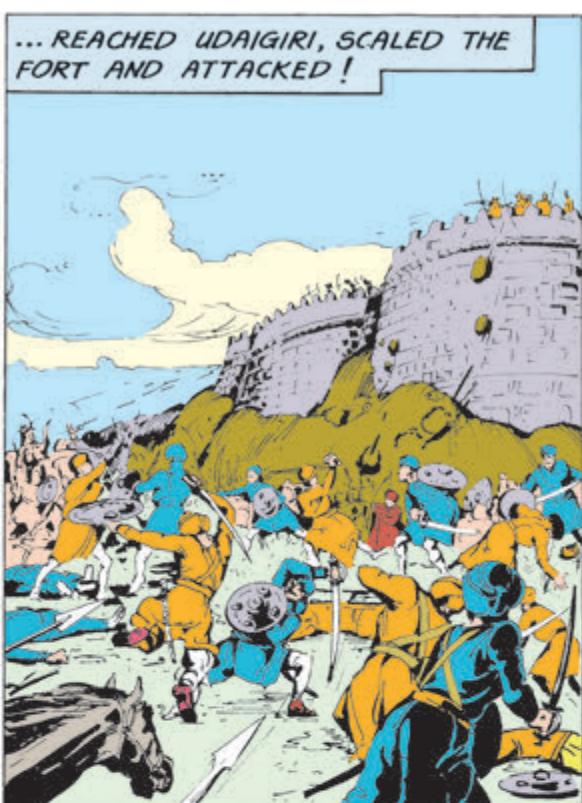


A MERE FOREST WAS NOT GOING TO PREVENT KRISHNADEVA RAYA FROM ACHIEVING HIS AIM.

THE VIKAYANAGARA ARMY SET TO WORK WITH ITS ELEPHANTS, CLEARED THE PATH...



... REACHED UDAIGIRI, SCALED THE FORT AND ATTACKED !



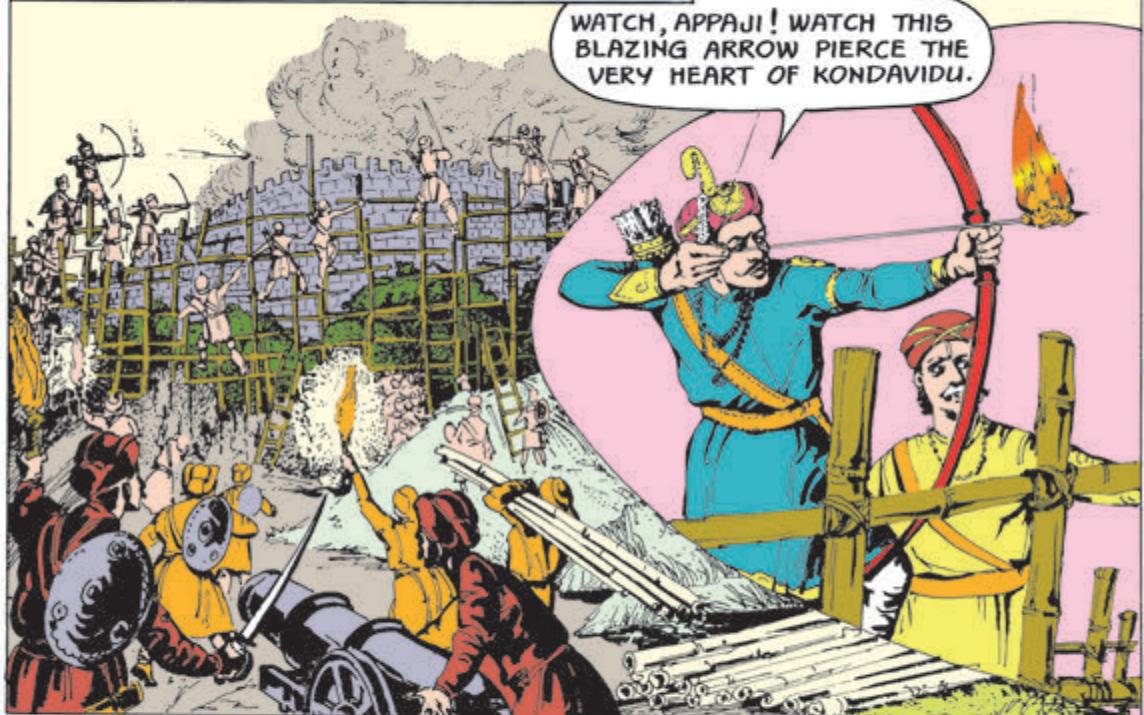
TIRUMALA RAUT COULD NOT HOLD OUT FOR LONG,



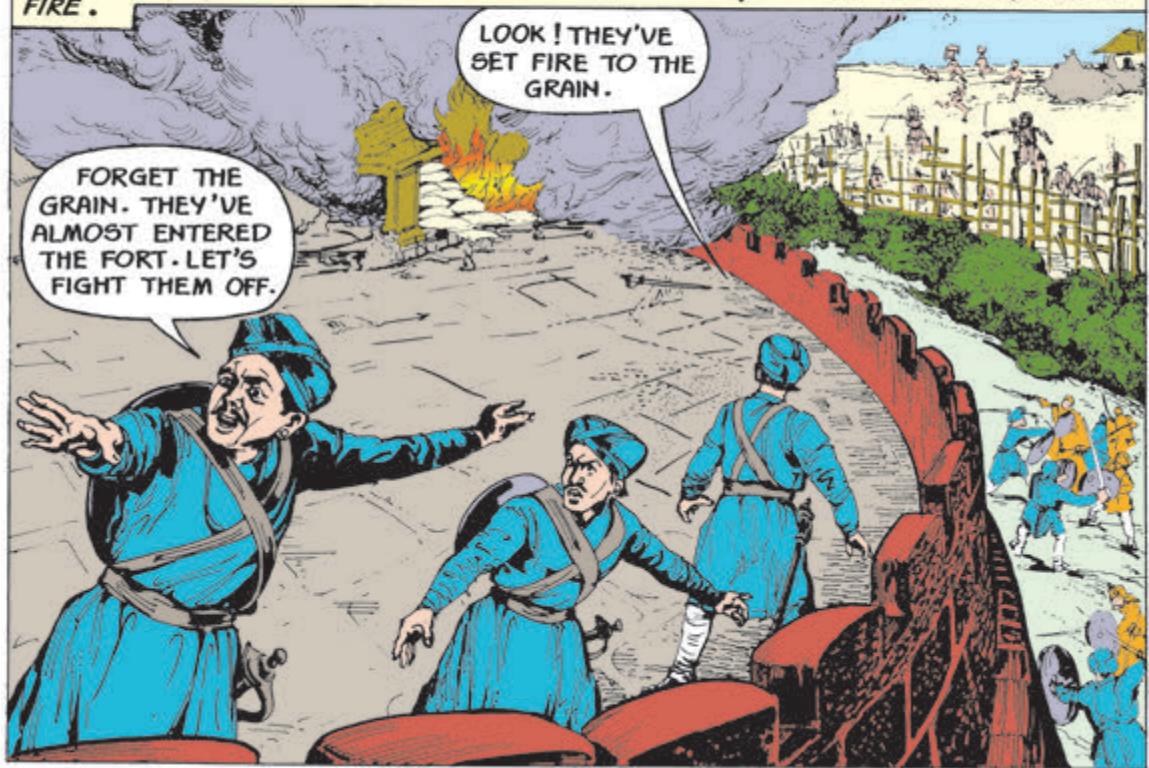
BUT THE VIJAYANAGARA ARMY, ON REACHING KONDAVIDU, FOUND IT HARD TO SCALE THE STRONG FORT.



THE VIJAYANAGARA SOLDIERS GOT DOWN TO WORK. AS SOON AS THE SCAFFOLDS ROSE AS HIGH AS THE FORT —



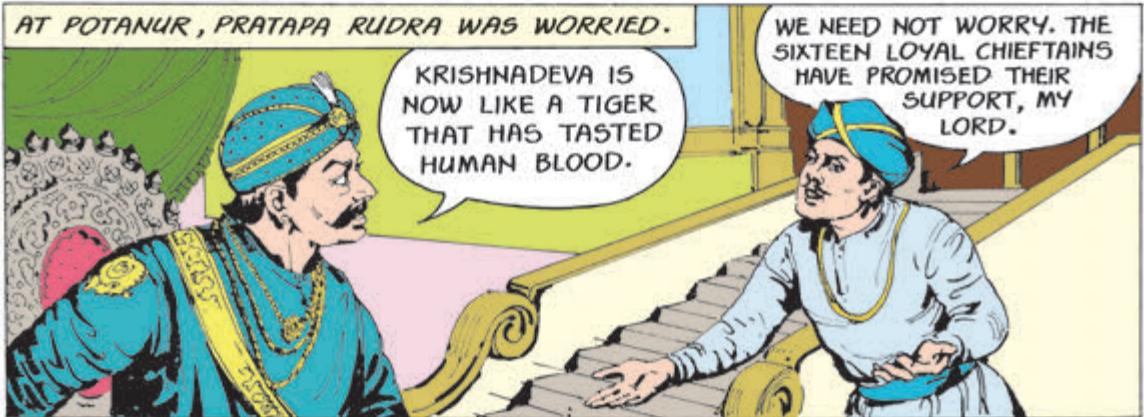
THE ARROW FOUND ITS MARK. HEAPS OF GRAIN DEEP WITHIN THE FORT, CAUGHT FIRE.



IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED, KRISHNADEVA AND HIS ARMY ENTERED THE FORT AND EFFORTLESSLY TOOK IT.



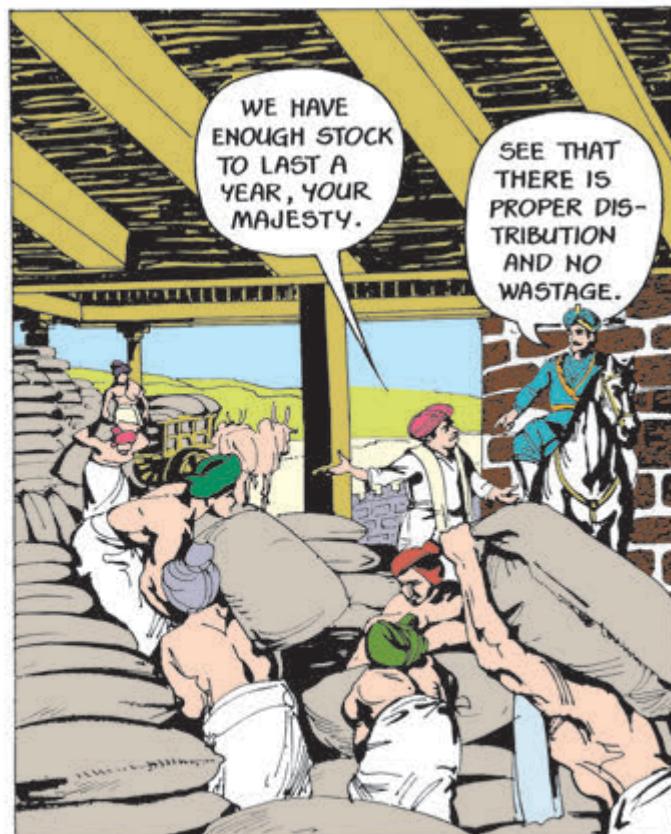
AT POTANUR, PRATAPA RUDRA WAS WORRIED.



THE SIXTEEN CHIEFTAINS SOON ARRIVED AT POTANUR.



PRATAPA RUDRA WENT ROUND THE FORT ON AN INSPECTION TOUR.



THUS PRATAPA RUDRA WAS FULLY PREPARED WHEN KRISHNA DEVA RAYA LAID SIEGE TO POTANUR.



THE BATTLE CONTINUED FOR MONTHS. KRISHNADEVA RAYA WAS WORRIED.



THIMMARASU WROTE A LETTER TO HIS SECRET AGENT INSIDE THE FORT.



HE THEN TIED THE LETTER TO THE FOOT OF A HOMING PIGEON, AND SET IT FREE.



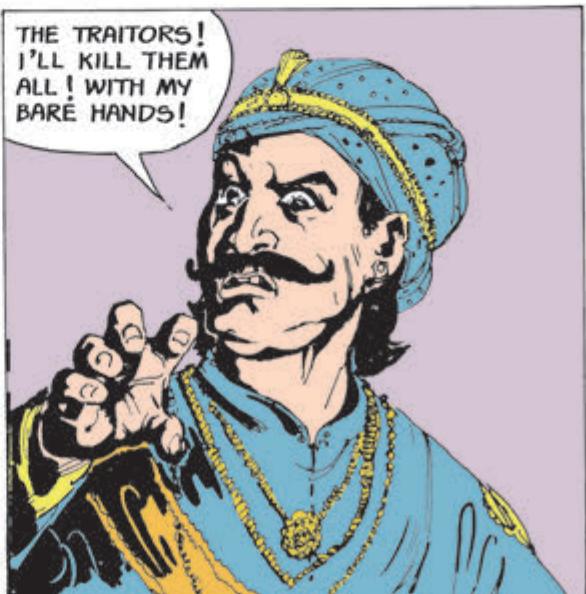
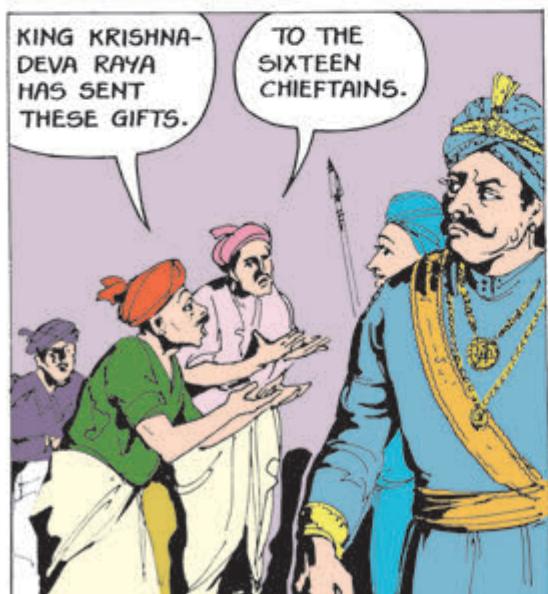
THE BIRD FLEW STRAIGHT TO THE AGENT.



THE SECRET AGENT HAD A MEETING WITH HIS ASSOCIATES.







BUT PRATAPA RUDRA SOON REALISED THAT DISCRETION WAS THE BETTER PART OF VALOUR.

THEY ARE SIXTEEN, AND I AM ALONE. I SHOULD RUN BEFORE THEY CAPTURE ME AND TAKE ME TO KRISHNADEVA RAYA.



MEANWHILE, A GUARD CAME RUNNING TO THE CHIEFTAINS.

THE KING IS FURIOUS. HE CAUGHT THE MEN WHO WERE CARRYING A GIFT OF DIAMONDS FOR YOU FROM KRISHNADEVA RAYA.

NONSENSE! FROM KRISHNADEVA RAYA? FOR ME? SHEER NONSENSE!



LET US GO TO OUR KING AND EXPLAIN. WHAT IF HE REFUSES TO BELIEVE US?



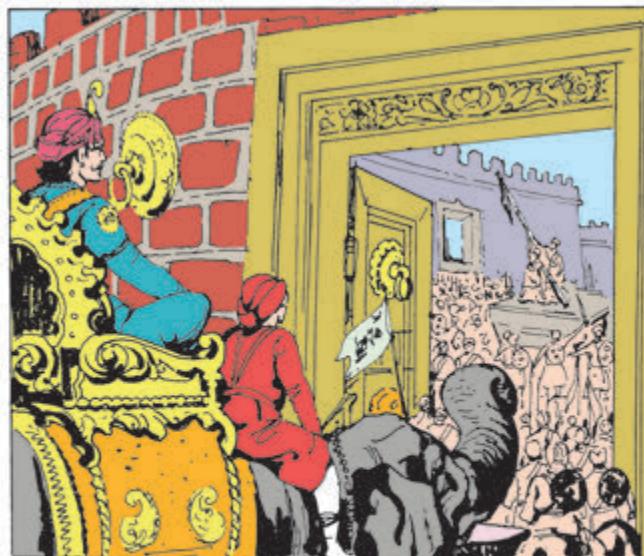
SUPPOSING HE THROWS US INTO PRISON? THIS IS HIS TERRITORY. HERE WHILE WE CAN.



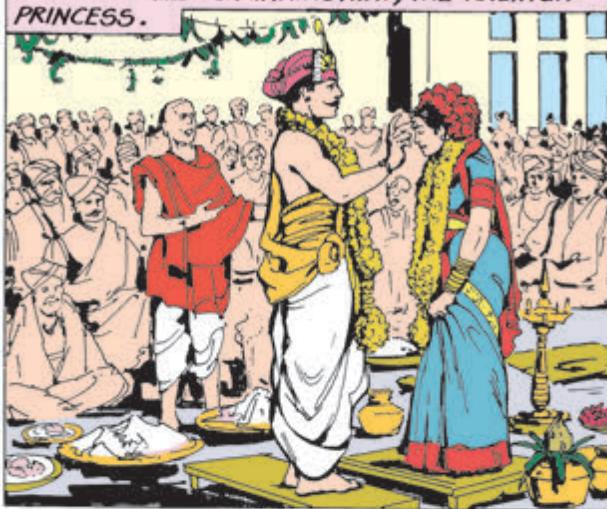
THE SIXTEEN CHIEFTAINS QUIETLY SLIPPED AWAY FROM THE FORT WITH THEIR MEN.



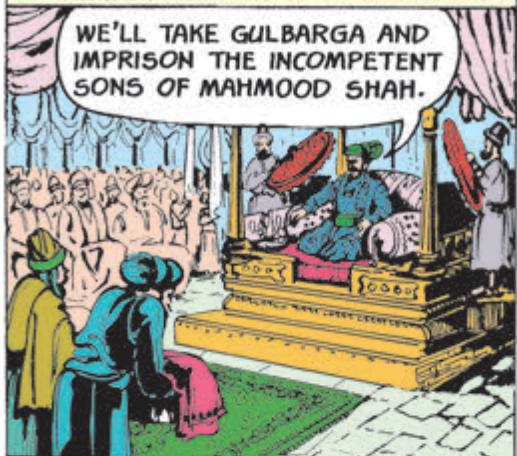
AND KRISHNADEVA RAYA MARCHED TRIUMPHANTLY INTO POTANUR. THIMMARASU'S RUSE HAD PAID OFF.



LATER, PEACE WAS DECLARED BETWEEN VIJAYANAGARA AND KALINGA. KRISHNADEVA RAYA MARRIED JAGANMOHINI, THE KALINGA PRINCESS.



MEANWHILE, AFTER THE DEATH OF MAHMUD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING OF THE DECCAN, ISMAIL ADIL KHAN, HAD DECLARED HIMSELF THE INDEPENDENT RULER OF BIJAPUR.



KRISHNADEVA RAYA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL AND FOUND THAT ADIL KHAN HAD TAKEN RAICHUR WHILE HE WAS AWAY.



SIDDI MERCAR, AN OFFICER IN THE COURT OF VIJAYANAGARA, WAS SUMMONED.



MANY DAYS PASSED. SIDDI MERCAR DID NOT RETURN. THEN SPIES CAME WITH NEWS.



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE AMBASSADOR RETURNED FROM BIJAPUR.



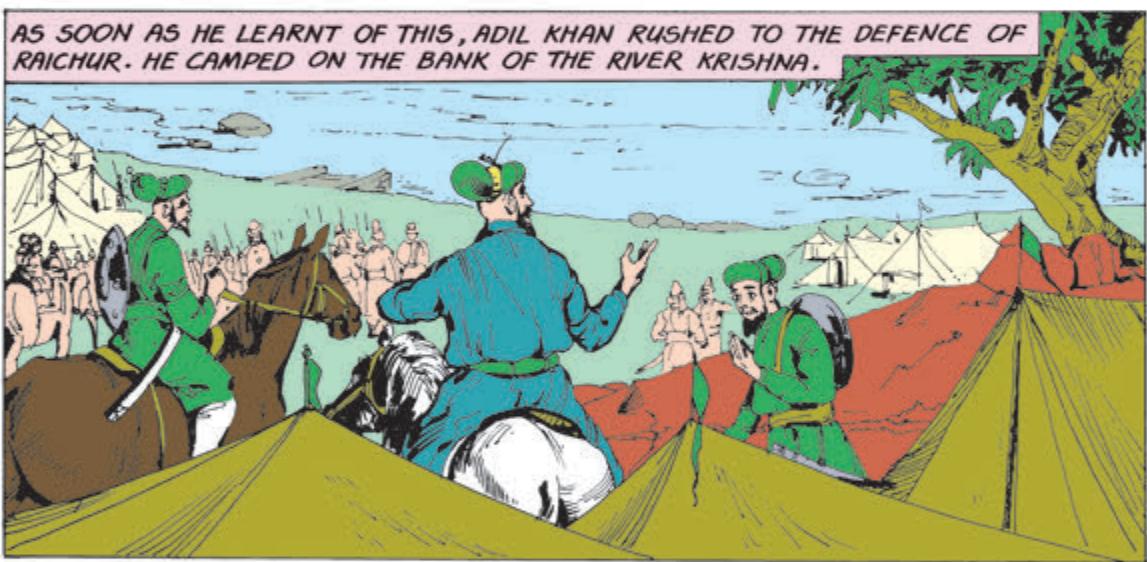
KRISHNADEVA RAYA AND HIS ARMY SOON MARCHED OUT OF VIJAYANAGARA...



... AND LAID SIEGE TO RAICHUR.



AS SOON AS HE LEARNED OF THIS, ADIL KHAN RUSHED TO THE DEFENCE OF RAICHUR. HE CAMPED ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER KRISHNA.



THE NEWS SOON REACHED KRISHNADEVA RAYA.

YOUR MAJESTY, ADIL KHAN HAS CROSSED THE KRISHNA RIVER AND WILL BE ATTACKING US FROM THE REAR.

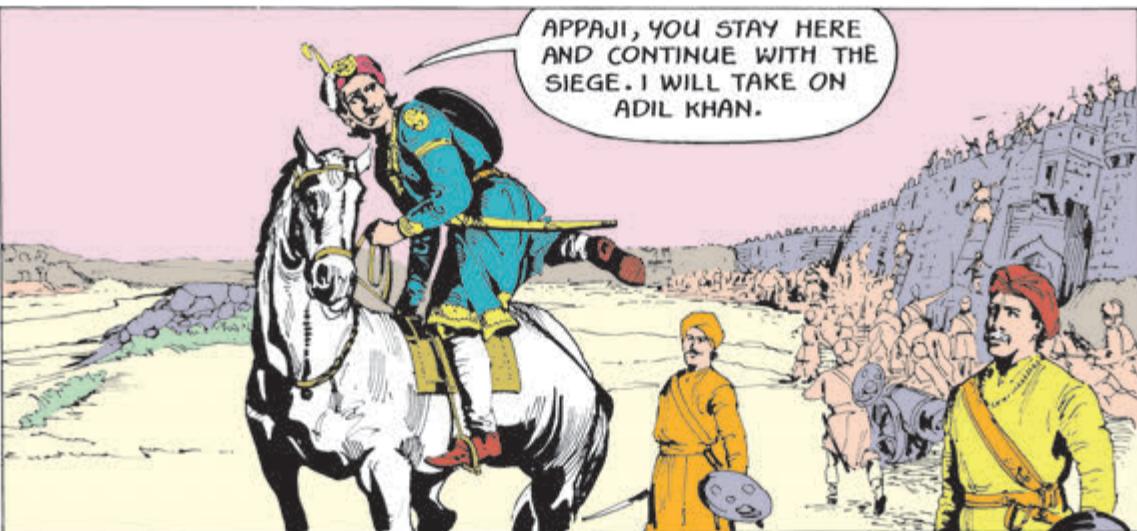
APPAJI, SEND PART OF OUR FORCES TO STOP ADIL KHAN. LET THE REST CONTINUE WITH THE SIEGE.



BUT THE FORCES SENT TO CHECK THE ADVANCE OF THE BIJAPUR ARMY WERE BEATEN BACK.

WHAT ! OUR MEN RETREATING.

WHAT IF OUR ENEMIES INSIDE THE FORT DECIDE TO COME OUT AND FIGHT ? YOUR MAJESTY, WE WILL BE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES.

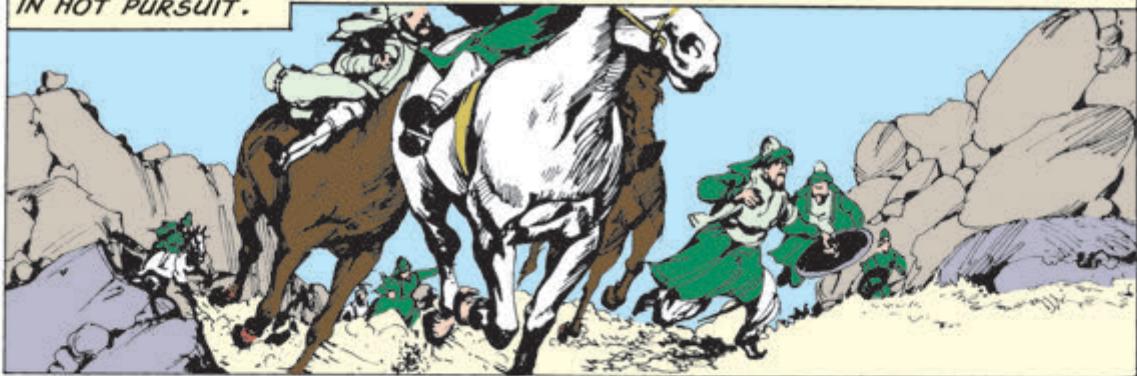


KRISHNADEVA RAYA CALLED OUT TO HIS RETREATING MEN.

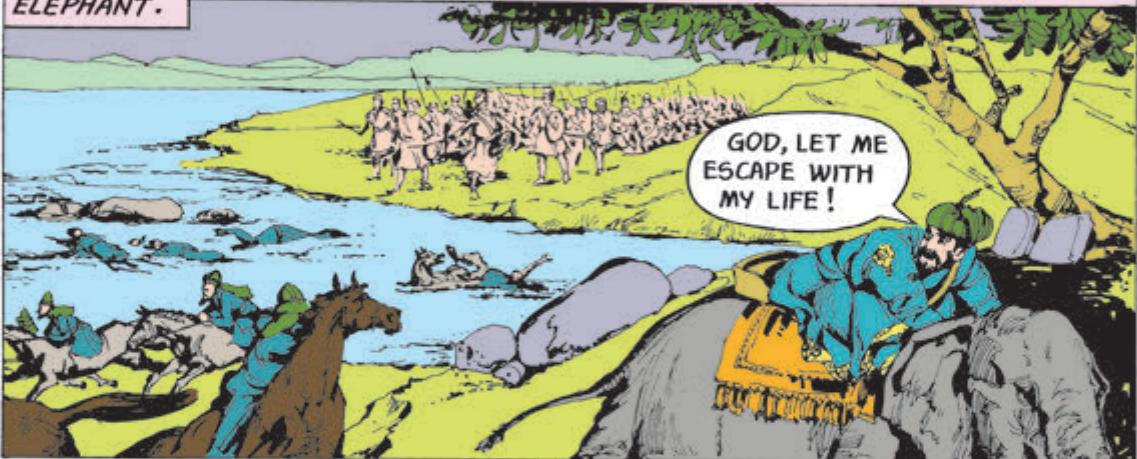
DON'T FALL BACK ! FIGHT ON. WE'LL FINISH THEM. WE'VE DONE IT BEFORE AND WE'LL DO IT AGAIN.



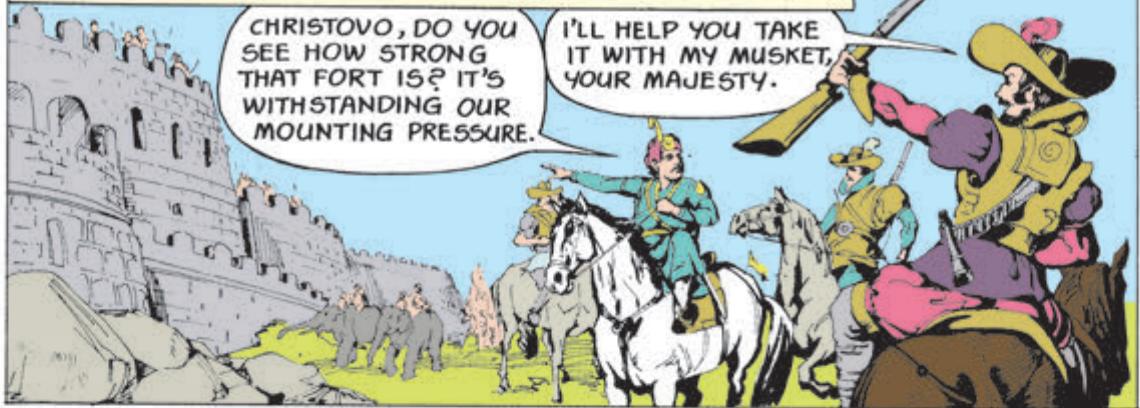
INSPIRED BY HIS WORDS, THE SOLDIERS FOUGHT WITH FRESH CONFIDENCE. NOW THE BIJAPUR ARMY WAS ON THE RUN WITH THE SOLDIERS OF VIJAYANAGARA IN HOT PURSUIT.



WHILE THOUSANDS OF HIS SOLDIERS AND HORSES FELL INTO THE RIVER WHICH WAS NOW IN SPATE, AND PERISHED, ADIL KHAN HIMSELF GOT AWAY ON AN ELEPHANT.



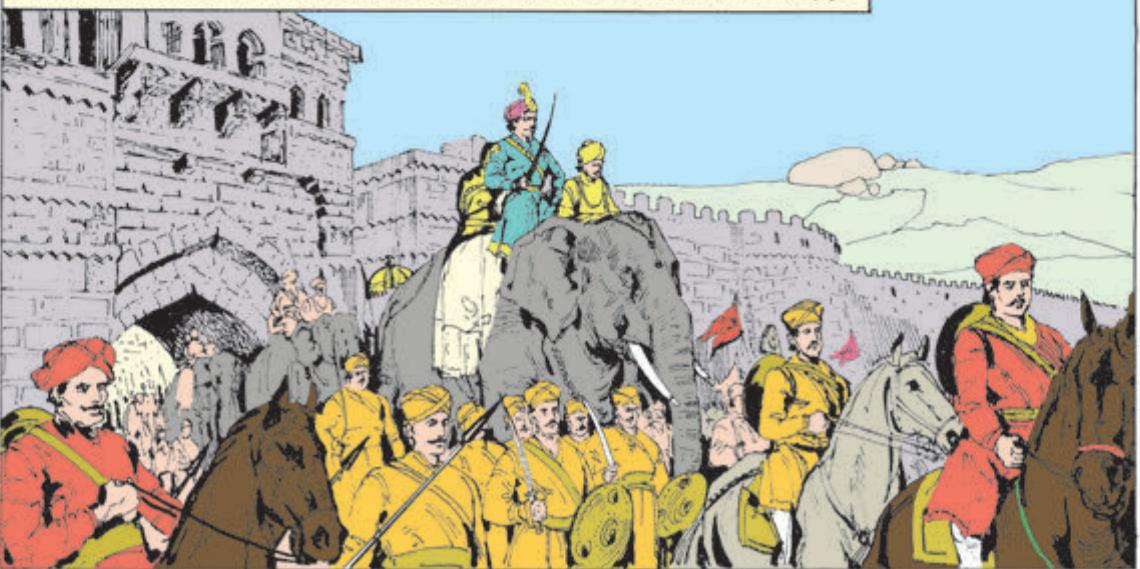
KRISHNADEVA RAYA RETURNED TO THE SIEGE OF RAICHUR. AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, A PORTUGUESE FRIEND OF HIS HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



CHRISTOVO AND HIS MUSKETEERS GUNNED DOWN THE GUARDS AND THE CHIEF OF THE FORT.



AND KRISHNADEVA RAYA AND HIS ARMY ENTERED RAICHUR.



ADIL KHAN SENT AN AMBASSADOR TO KRISHNADEVA RAYA.

OUR KING REQUESTS  
YOU TO GIVE BACK  
HIS TERRITORIES.

THAT I WILL,  
WHEN ADIL  
KHAN COMES  
TO ME AND  
FALLS AT MY  
FEET.



ADIL KHAN NATURALLY DIDN'T TURN UP. KRISHNADEVA RAYA'S ARMY MARCHED  
TOWARDS GULBARGA.



GULBARGA SOON FELL. KRISHNADEVA RAYA GAVE ASSURANCES TO THE CITIZENS.

YOUR LIVES AND  
PROPERTY WILL  
COME TO NO  
HARM.

MAY GOD  
BLESS YOU,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY.



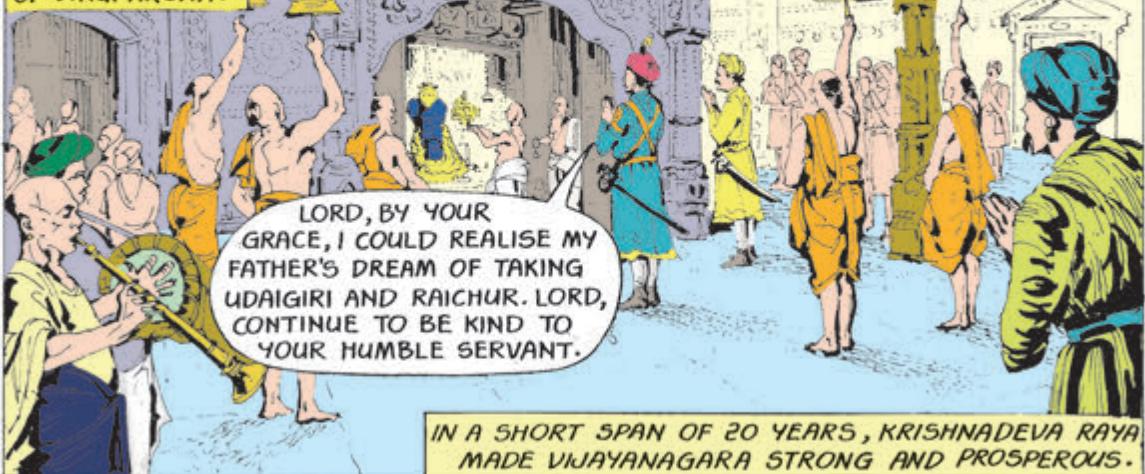
THE FIRST THING KRISHNADEVA RAYA DID AT GULBARGA WAS TO SET FREE THE THREE SONS OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING.



KRISHNADEVA RAYA MADE THE FIRST SON OF MAHMOOD SHAH, THE BAHMANI KING OF THE DECCAN.



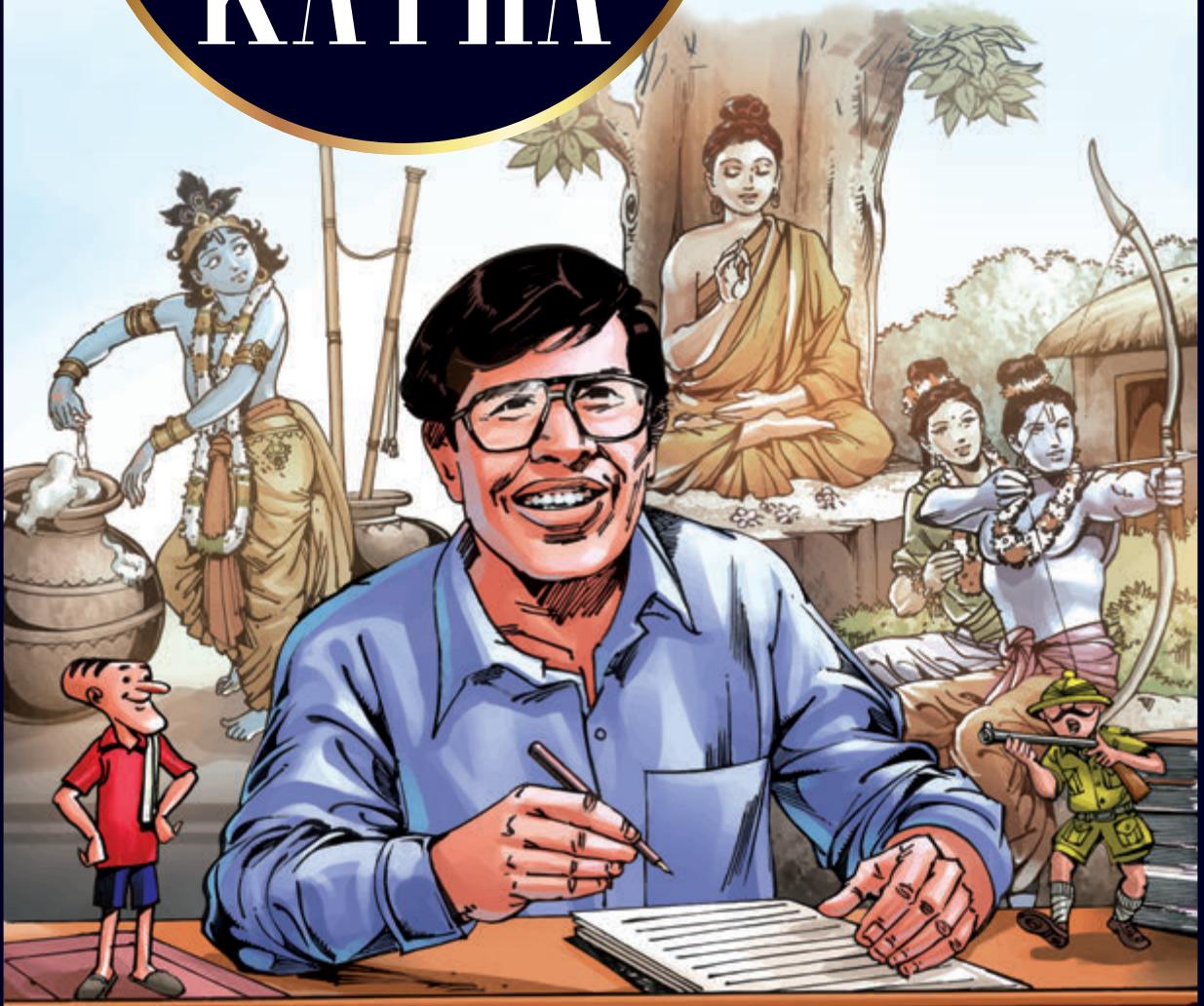
ON HIS RETURN TO VIJAYANAGARA, KRISHNADEVA RAYA VISITED THE TEMPLE OF VIRUPAKSHA.



# THE STORY OF AMAR CHITRA KATHA



A YEAR-LONG  
CELEBRATION OF  
FIVE DECADES  
OF STORYTELLING



WE PROUDLY PRESENT A SERIALISED RETELLING OF HOW OUR BELOVED FOUNDER, UNCLE PAI, FIRST STARTED AMAR CHITRA KATHA AND TINKLE!

LOOK OUT FOR A ONE-PAGE COMIC IN EVERY ISSUE THIS YEAR!

## WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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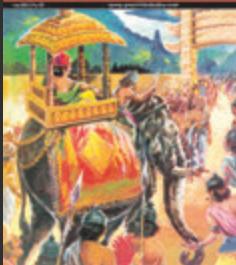
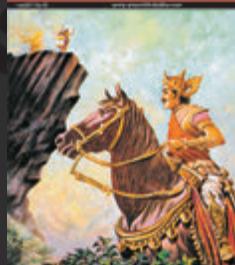


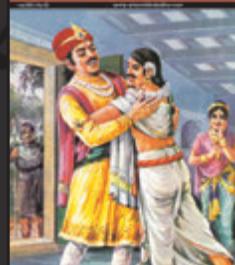
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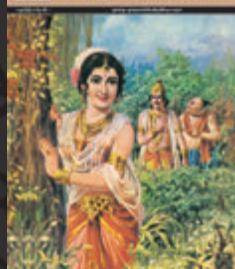
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