



JAGANNATHA OF PURI

DREAMT BY A KING, SCULPTED BY THE GODS

Vol 709





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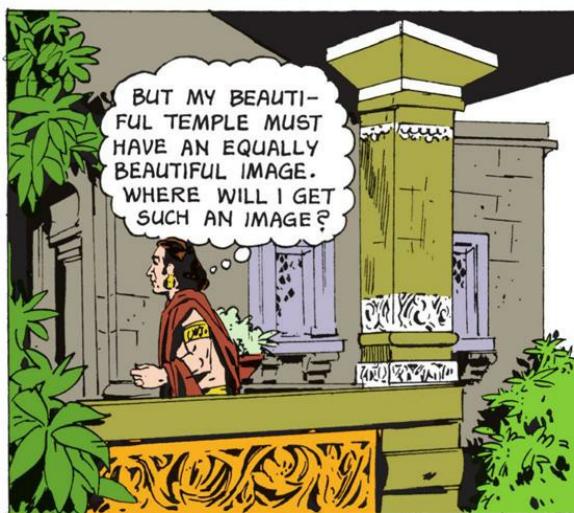
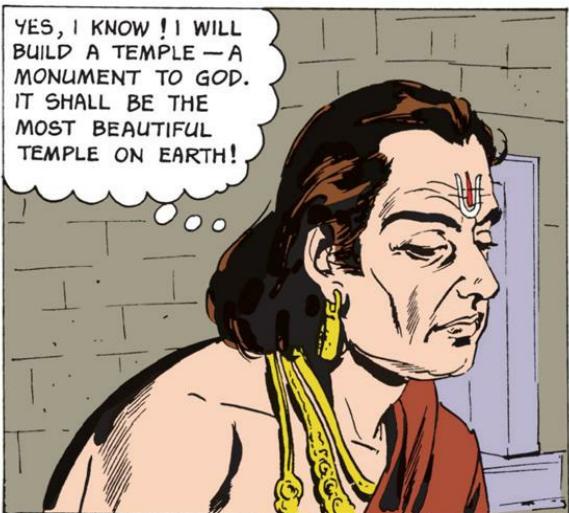
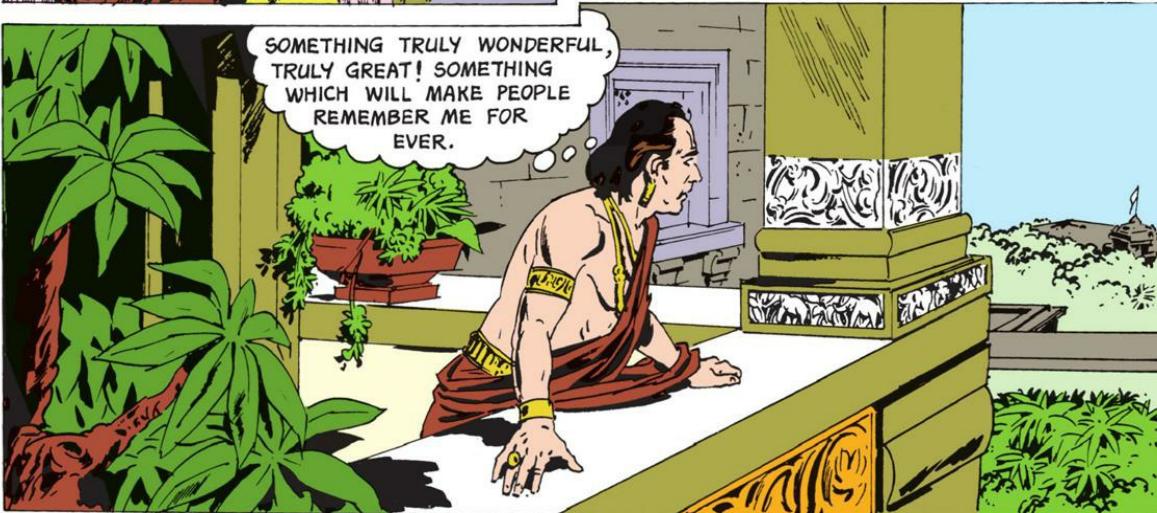
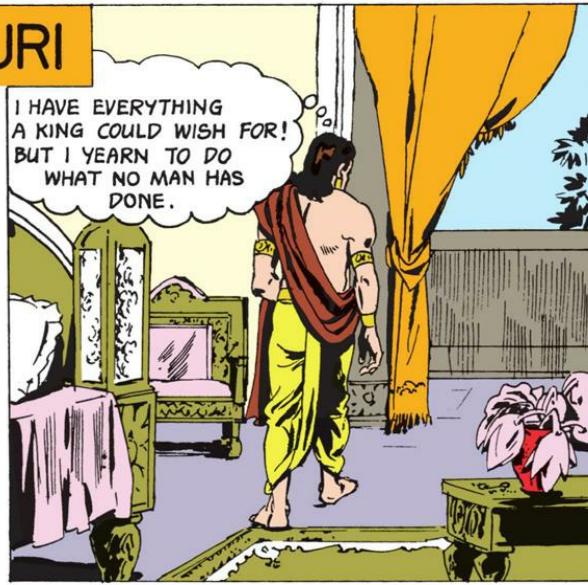
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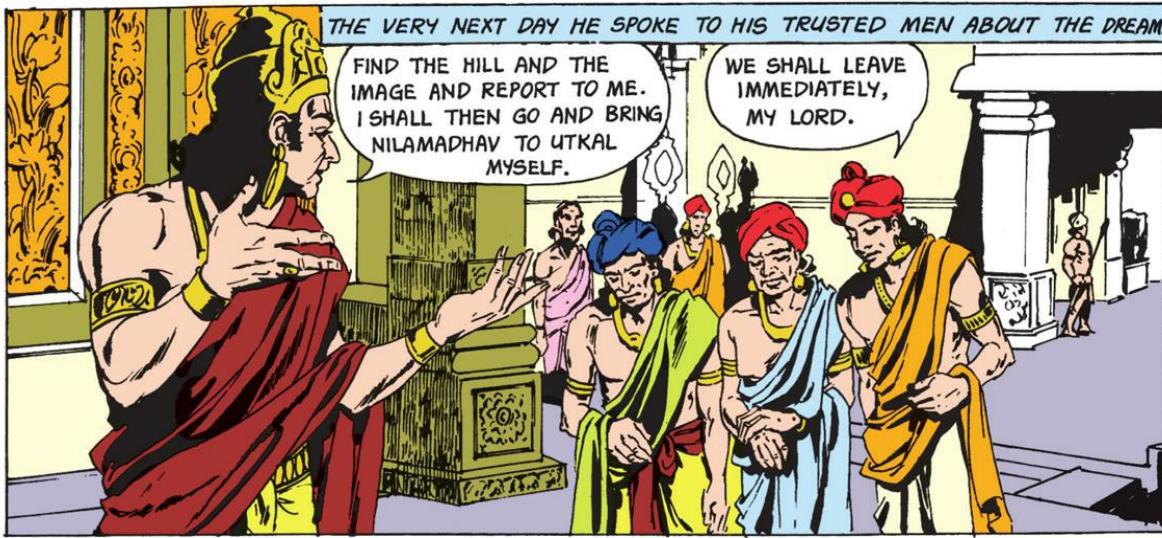
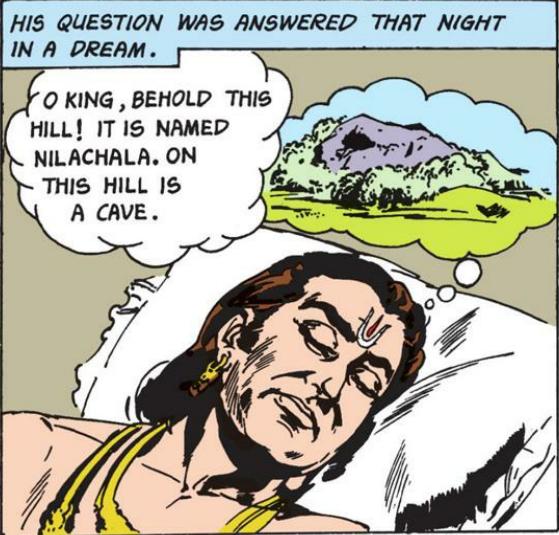
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JAGANNATHA OF PURI

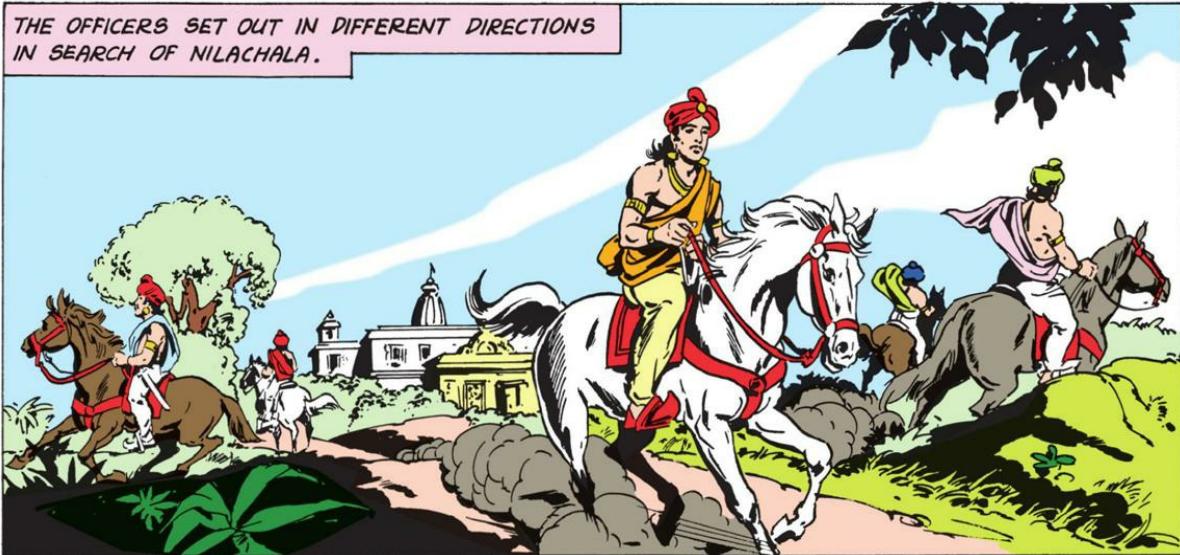
LONG LONG AGO, KING INDRADYUMNA OF THE SUN DYNASTY RULED OVER UTKAL*. HE HAD CONQUERED MANY LANDS AND WON GREAT FAME, BUT STILL HE WAS NOT HAPPY.



* ANCIENT ORISSA



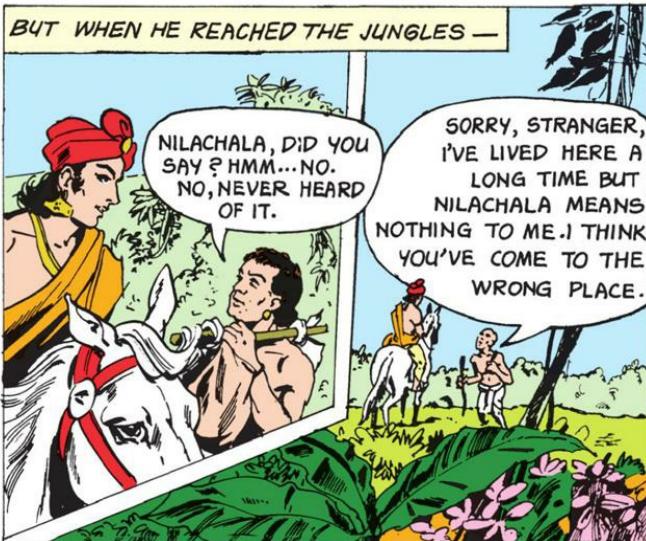
THE OFFICERS SET OUT IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS
IN SEARCH OF NILACHALA.



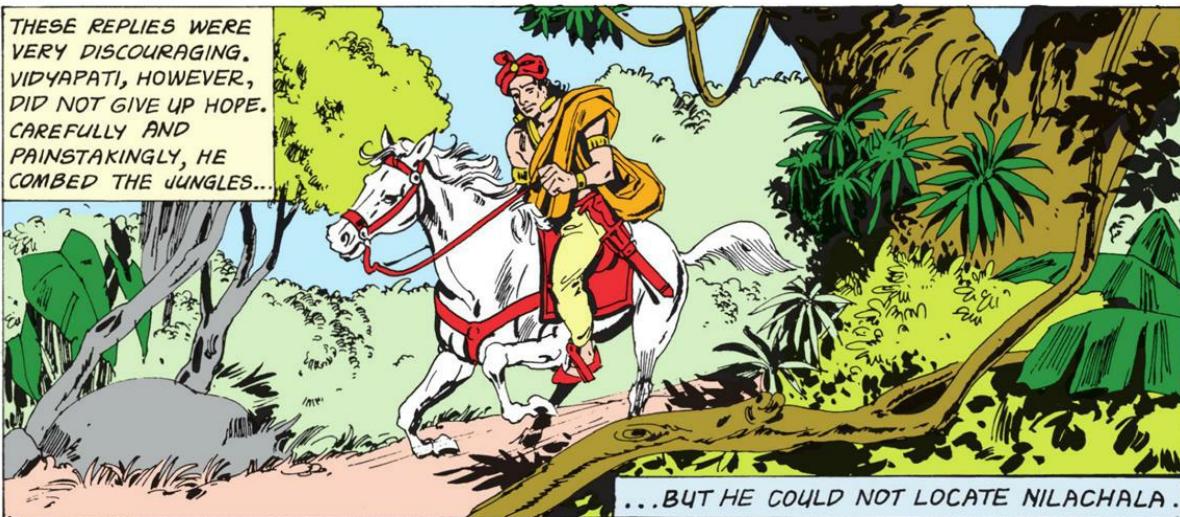
AMONG THEM WAS A YOUNG MAN NAMED
VIDYAPATI.



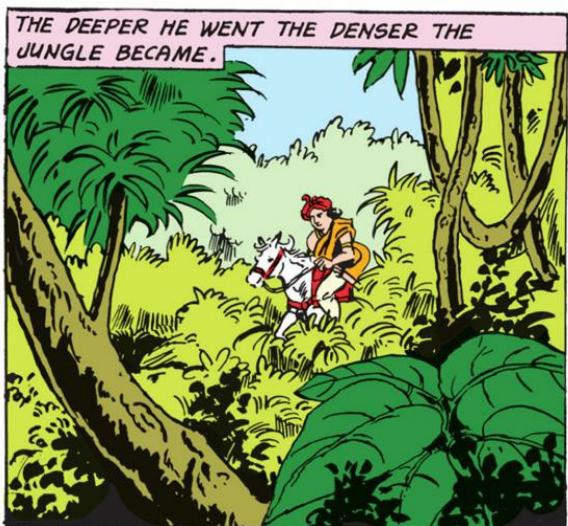
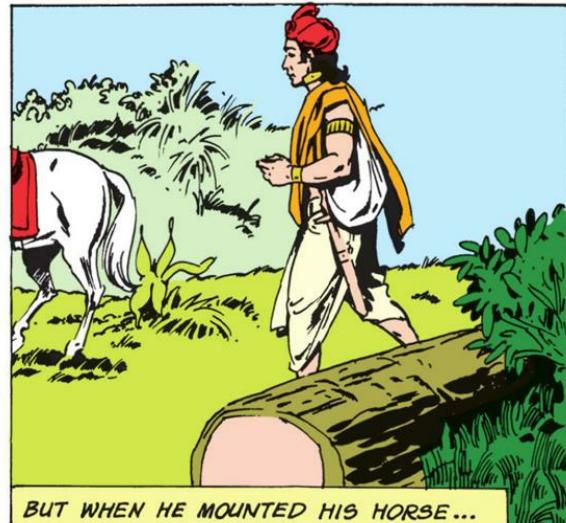
BUT WHEN HE REACHED THE JUNGLES —



THESE REPLIES WERE
VERY DISCOURAGING.
VIDYAPATI, HOWEVER,
DID NOT GIVE UP HOPE.
CAREFULLY AND
PAINSTAKINGLY, HE
COMBED THE JUNGLES...



...BUT HE COULD NOT LOCATE NILACHALA.



AT LAST, AFTER DAYS, HE MANAGED TO FIND HIS WAY OUT OF THE JUNGLE.



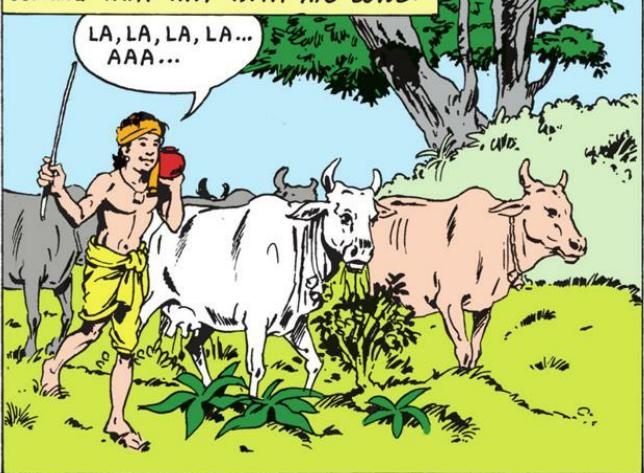
FAINT WITH HUNGER AND THIRST, HE STAGGERED UP TO A TREE...



...AND LOWERED HIMSELF TO THE GROUND. SUDDENLY...



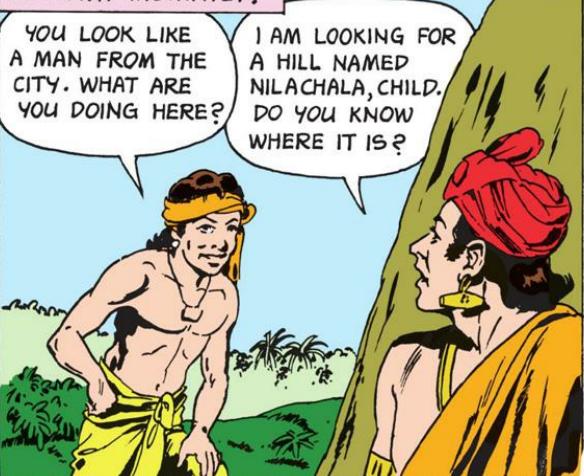
IT WAS NOT A DREAM. IT WAS A REAL COWHERD COMING THAT WAY WITH HIS COWS.

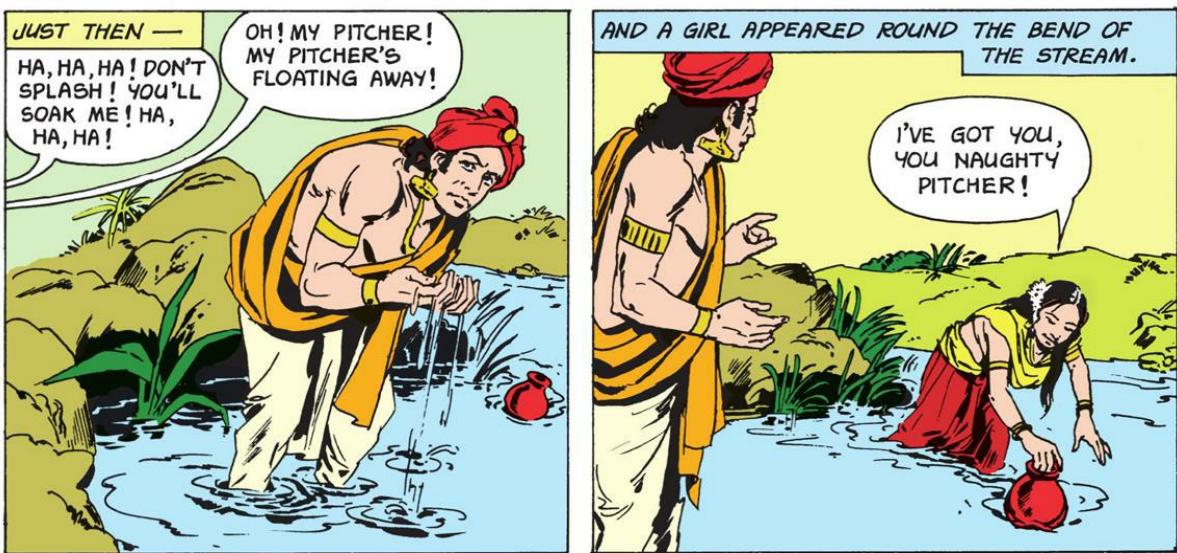
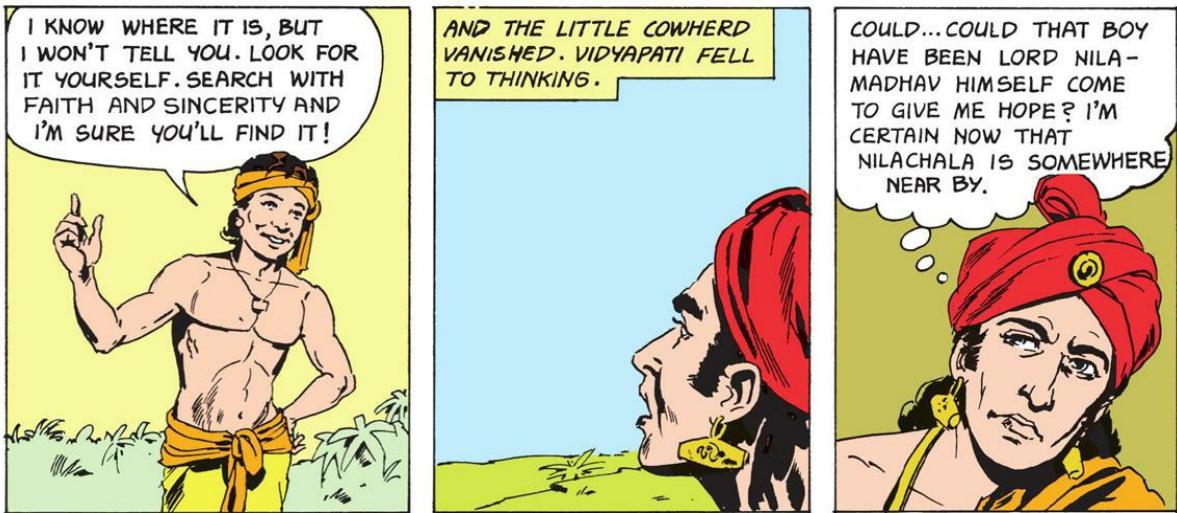


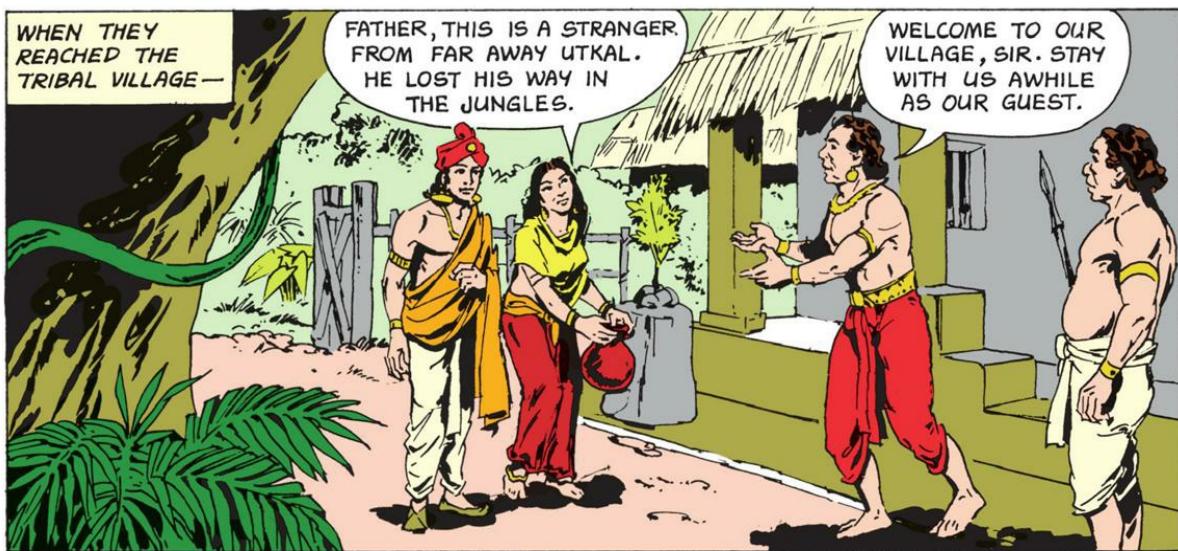
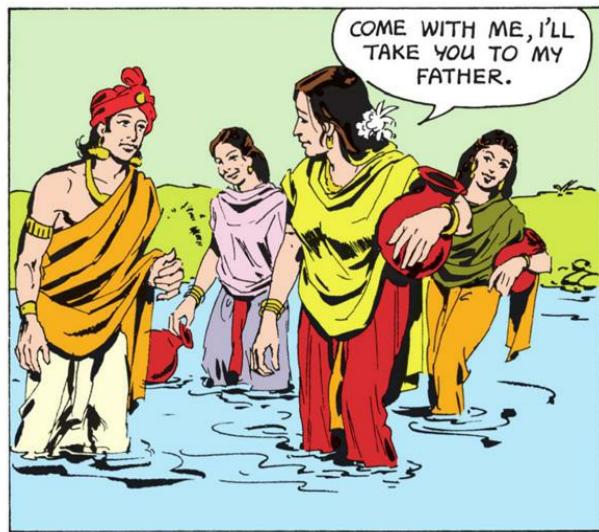
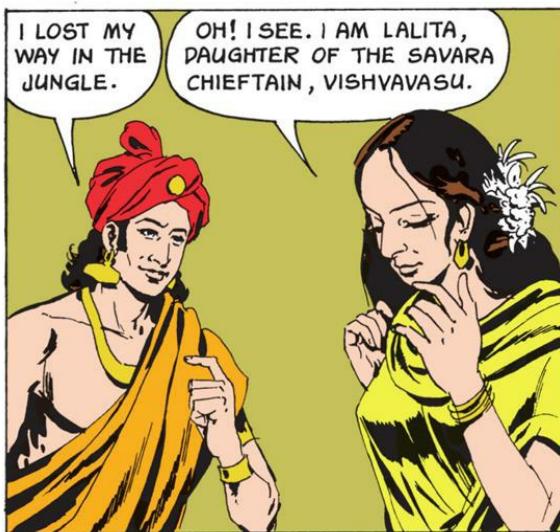
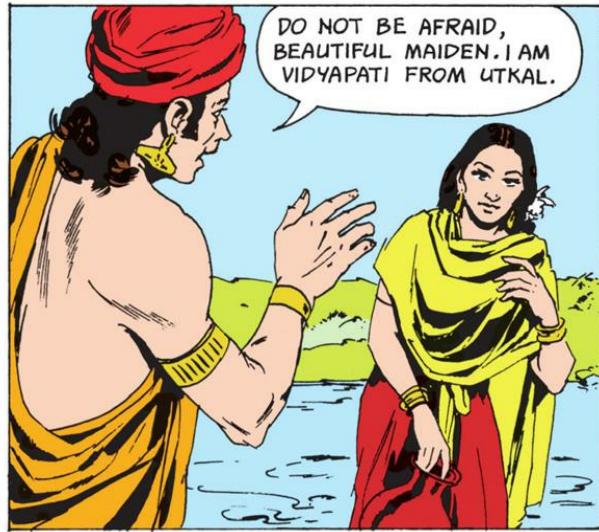
WHEN THE BOY SAW VIDYAPATI HE RAN UP TO HIM.



THE MILK WAS SWEET AND WARM AND REVIVED VIDYAPATI INSTANTLY!







VIDYAPATI, AFTER HIS DAYS OF LONELY WANDER-
ING, WAS ONLY TOO GLAD TO STAY WITH THE
SAVARAS.

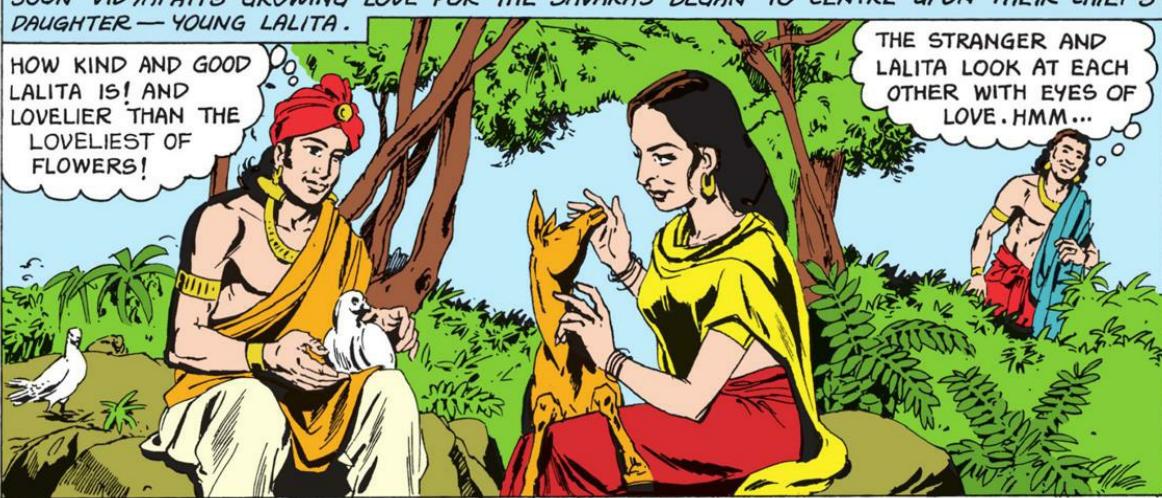


SHOULD I TELL
THEM ABOUT MY
SEARCH FOR
NILAMADHAV?
NOT YET,
PERHAPS.

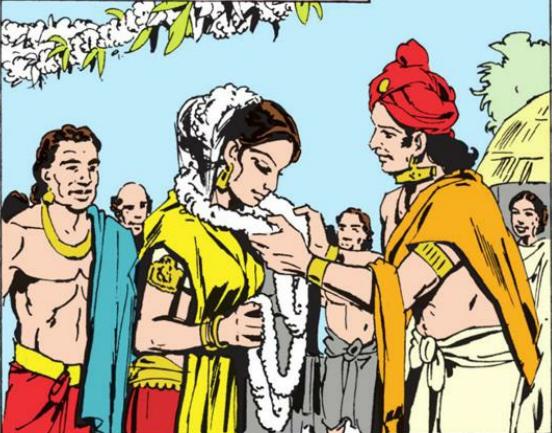


SOON VIDYAPATI'S GROWING LOVE FOR THE SAVARAS BEGAN TO CENTRE UPON THEIR CHIEF'S DAUGHTER — YOUNG LALITA.

HOW KIND AND GOOD
LALITA IS! AND
LOVELIER THAN THE
LOVELIEST OF
FLOWERS!



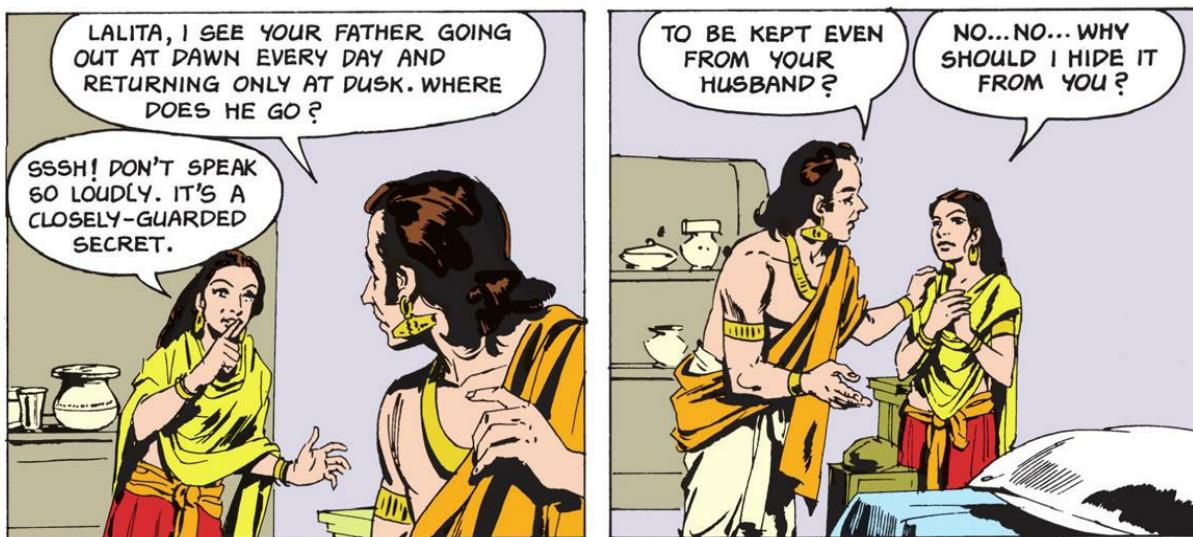
WHEN VIDYAPATI AND LALITA EXPRESSED
THEIR WISH TO BE MARRIED, VISHVAVASU
HEARTILY GAVE HIS CONSENT AND HIS
BLESSINGS. AND SOON —

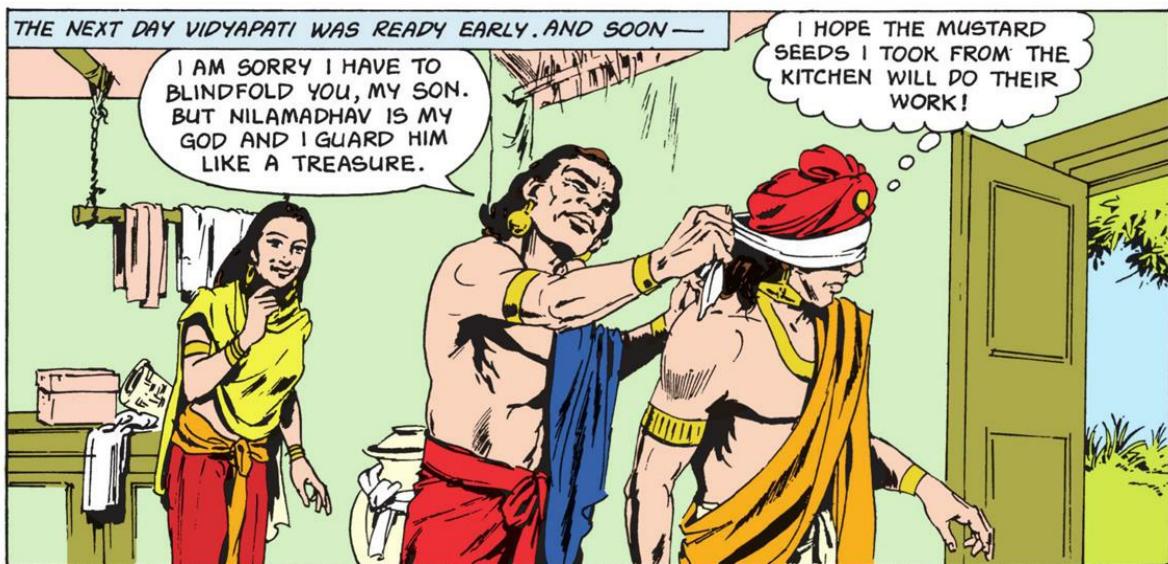
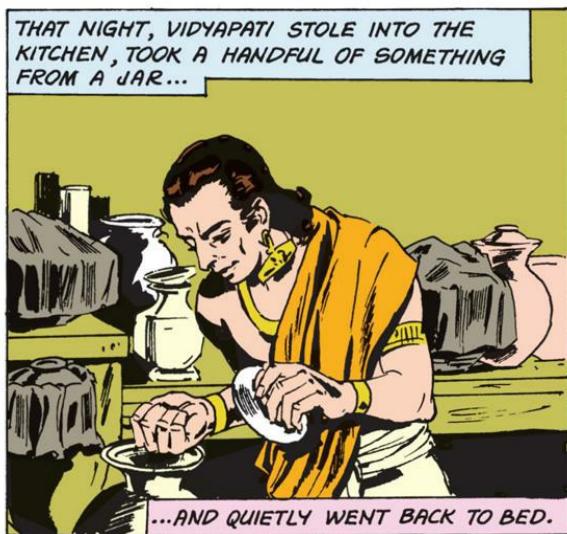
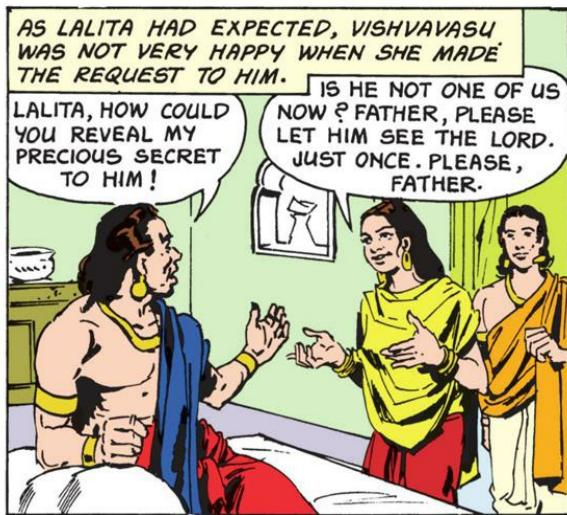
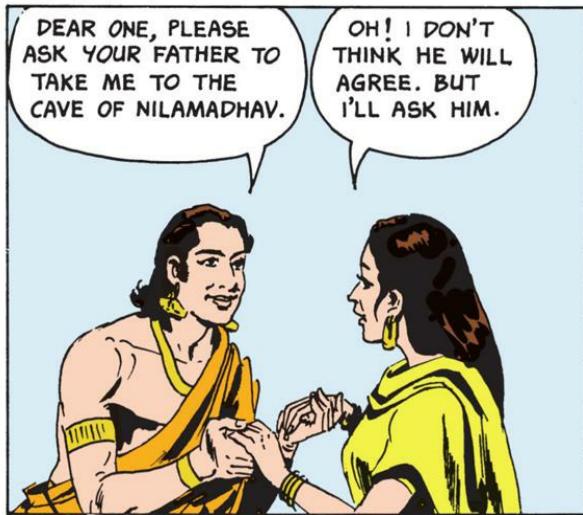


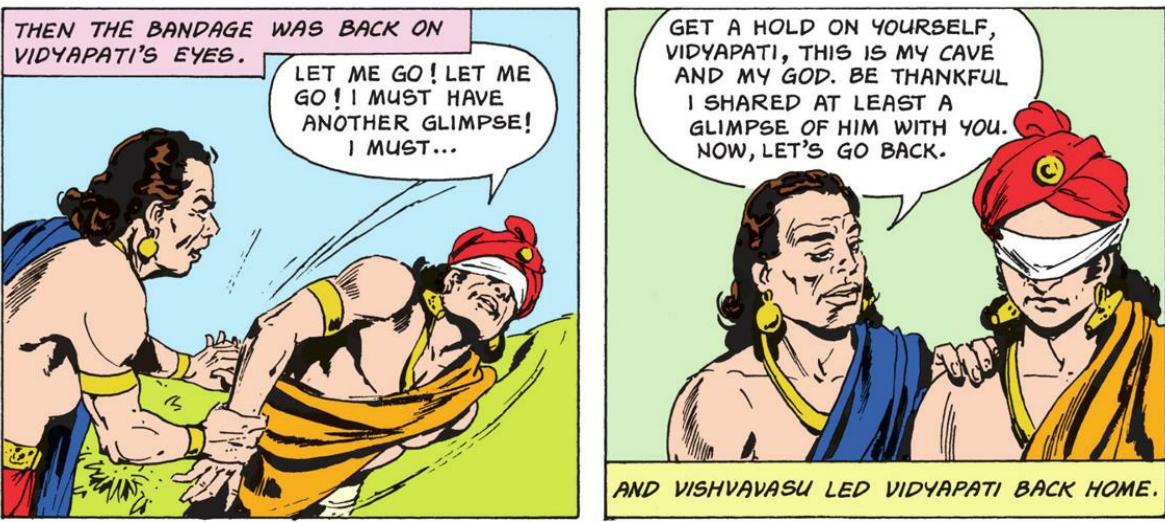
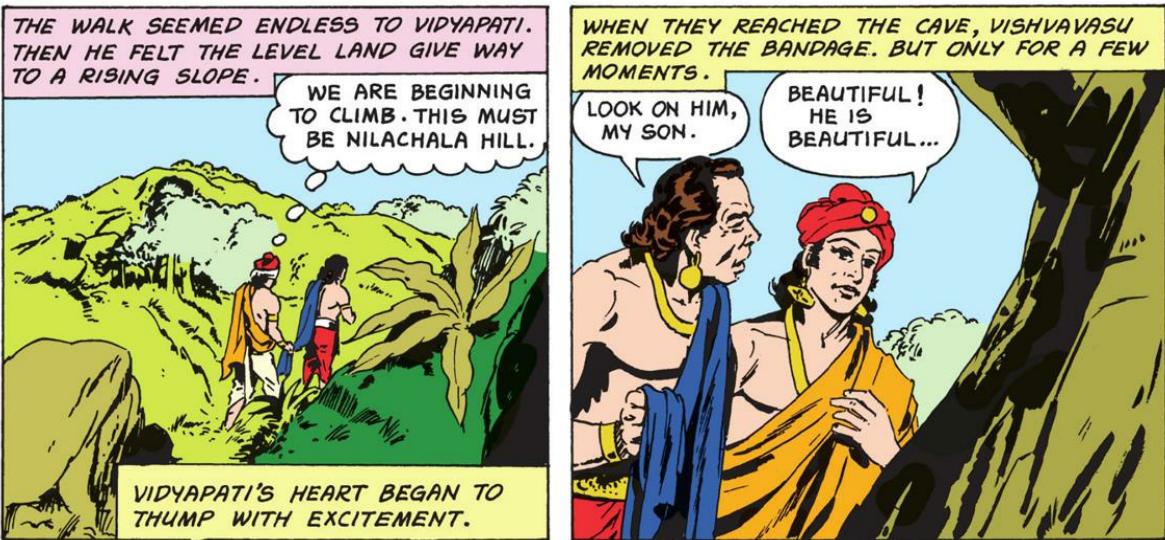
THE MARRIED COUPLE SPENT
MANY HAPPY HOURS TOGETHER.

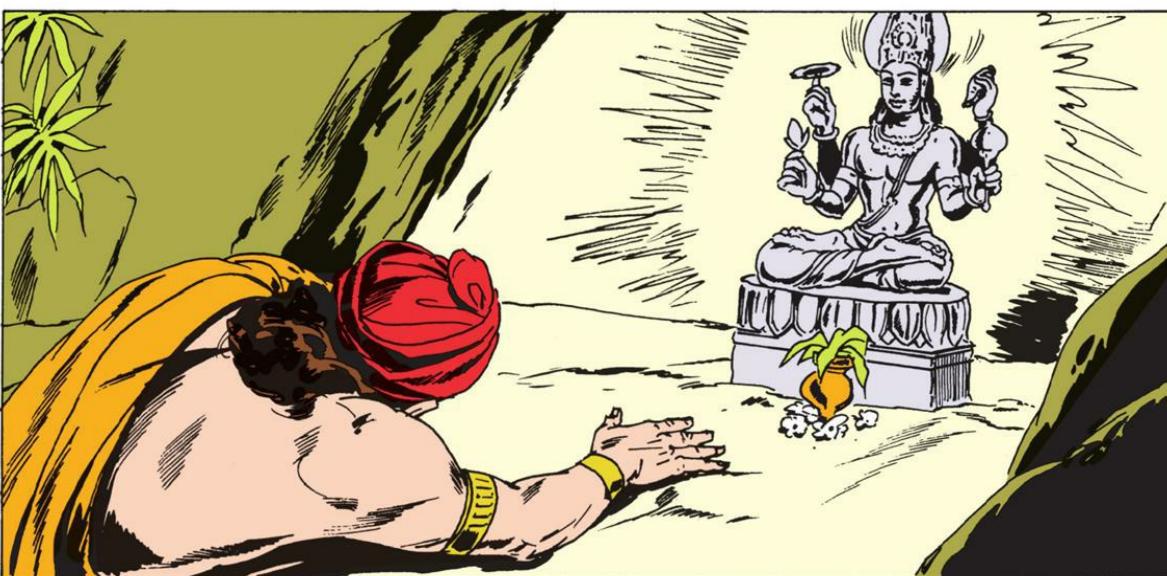
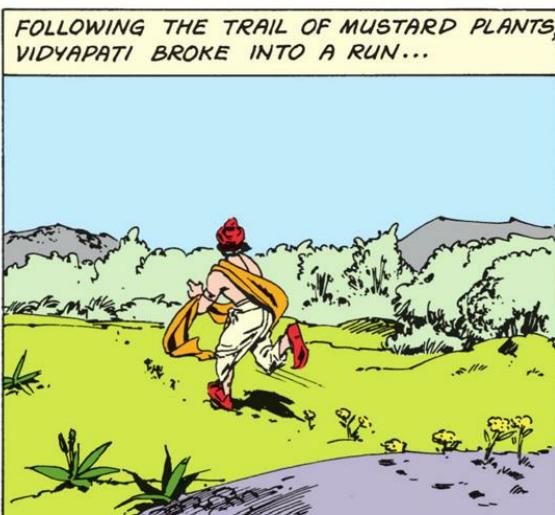
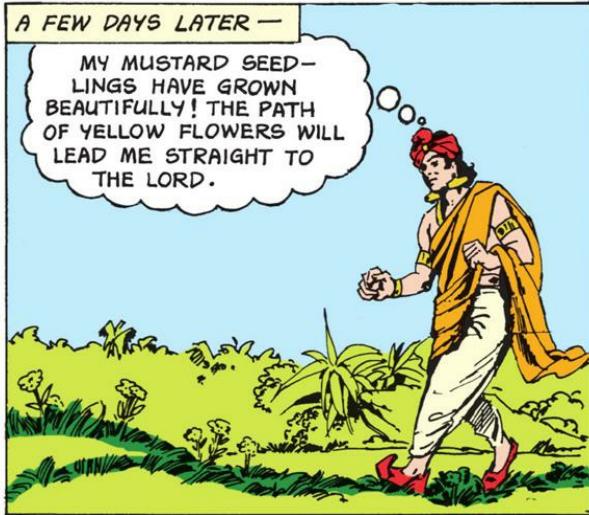
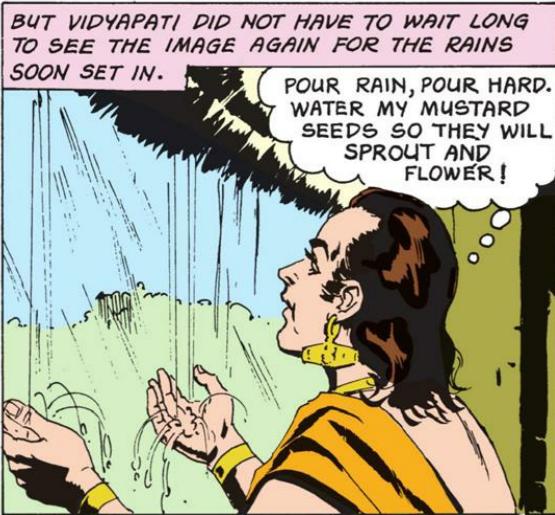


IT WAS AROUND THAT TIME THAT VIDYAPATI NOTICED SOMETHING WHICH INTRIGUED HIM.





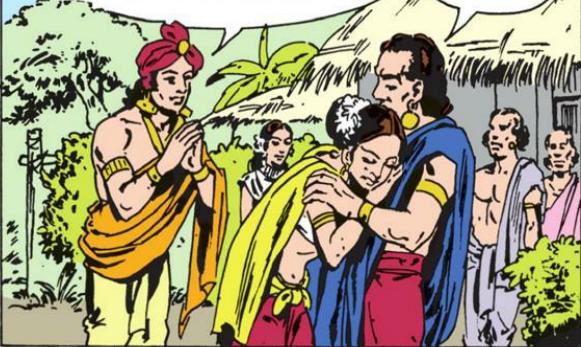




VIDYAPATI HAD FOUND NILAMADHAV FOR HIS KING ! REJOICING, HE RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE AND TOOK LEAVE OF THE SAVARA CHIEF.

SIR, I MUST NOW RETURN TO MY OWN KINGDOM.
PLEASE GIVE LALITA AND ME YOUR BLESSINGS.

I WILL MISS YOU.



WHEN THEY REACHED UTKAL, VIDYAPATI WENT STRAIGHT TO THE PALACE.

MY LORD, I HAVE FOUND NILACHALA AND NILAMADHAV.

LEAD ME TO NILACHALA AT ONCE, DEAR VIDYAPATI !



SOON, WITH VIDYAPATI LEADING THE WAY, INDRADYUMNA AND HIS QUEEN, GUNDICHA DEVI, SET OUT FOR NILACHALA.



ON THE WAY — MY QUEEN, CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? I, INDRADYUMNA, WILL BE THE ONE WHO DISCOVERED NILAMADHAV FOR THE OUTSIDE WORLD! I WILL TAKE HIM AWAY FROM THAT SELFISH VISHVAVASU AND MAKE HIM MINE ALONE!



MY LORD — DON'T SPEAK SO! DON'T THINK SO! GOD BELONGS TO EVERYONE.



VIDYAPATI HAS TOLD US HOW POSSESSIVE THE SAVARA CHIEFTAIN IS TOWARDS NILAMADHAV. NOW YOU TOO WANT TO MAKE NILAMADHAV YOURS ALONE. BEWARE, MY LORD, OF SUCH THOUGHTS.



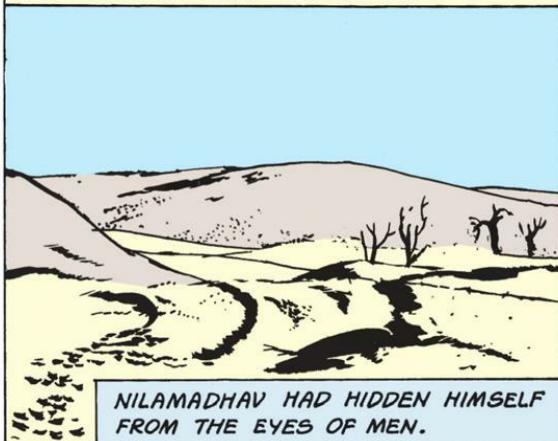
BUT THE DAMAGE WAS DONE. ALL GUNDICHA'S WISE WORDS COULD NOT PREVENT THE EFFECT OF INDRADYUMNA'S UNWORTHY THOUGHTS ON NILAMADHAV. THE GENTLE WINDS THAT TILL THEN HAD CARESSED NILACHALA...



...IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, TURNED INTO A FURIOUS SANDSTORM.



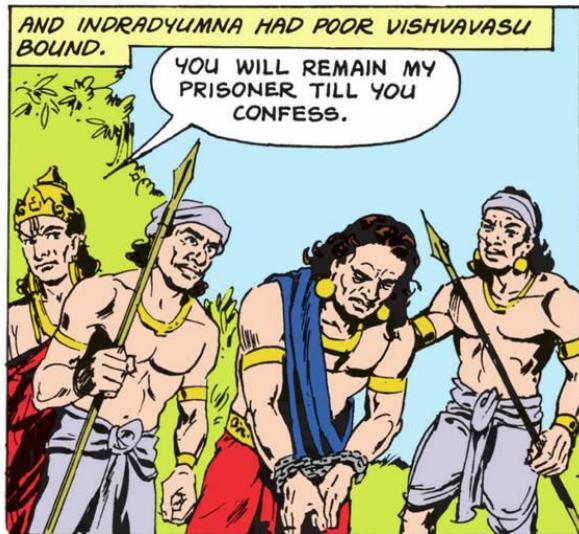
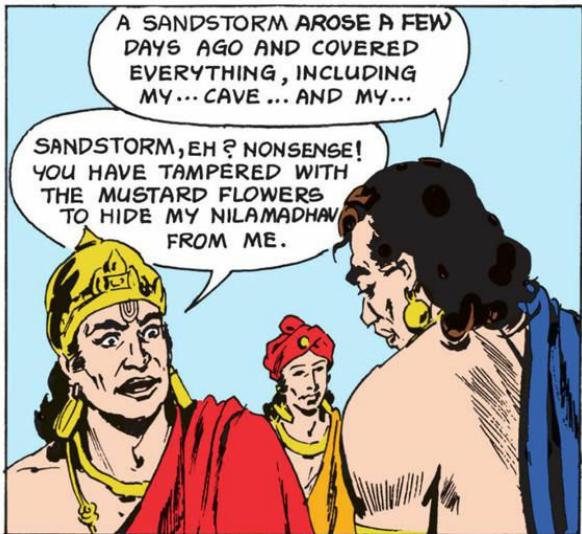
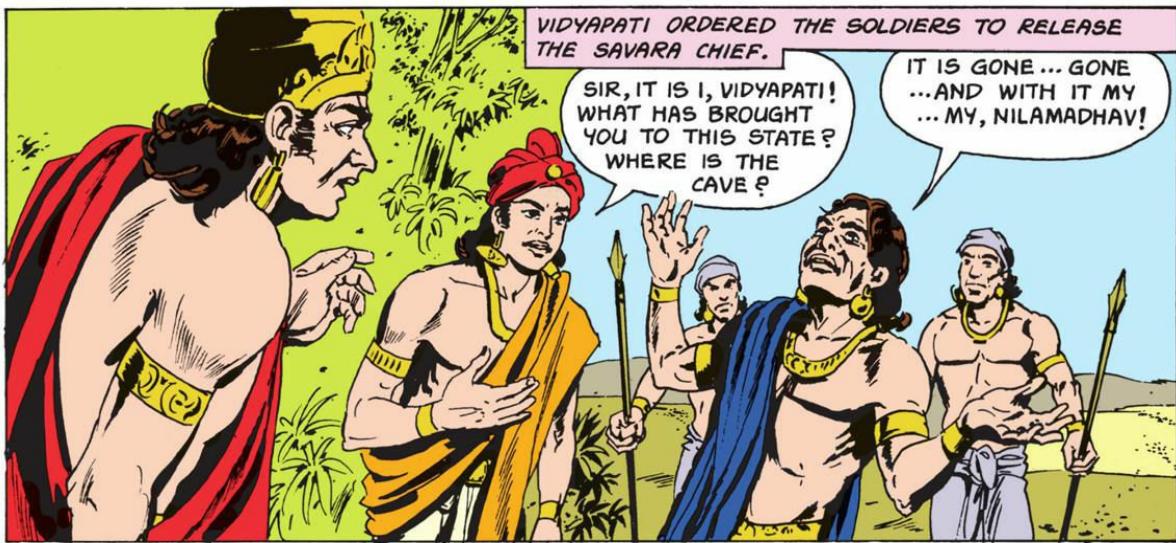
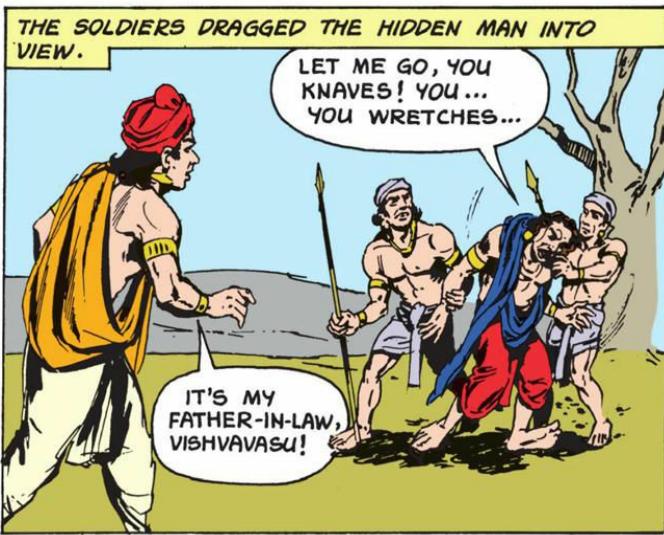
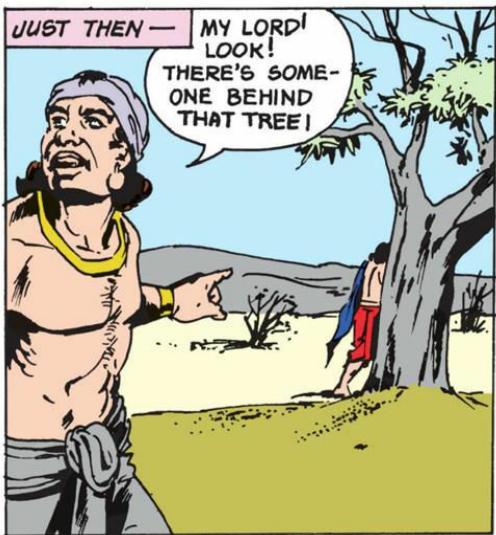
THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS IT HAD BEGUN, THE STORM ABATED. BUT THE HILL, THE CAVE AND EVEN THE MUSTARD PLANTS WITH THE YELLOW FLOWERS HAD VANISHED.

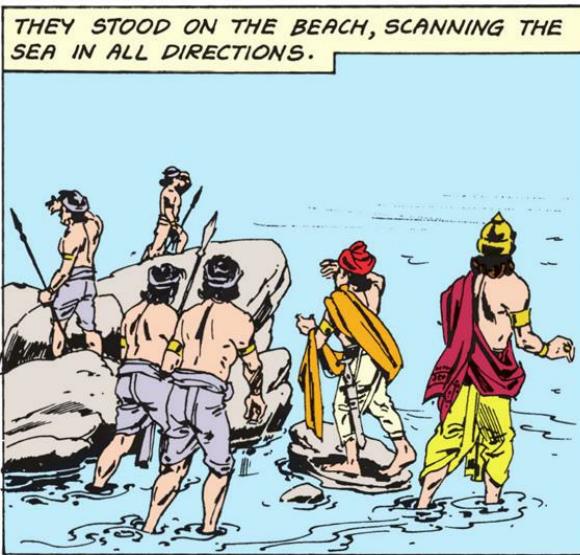
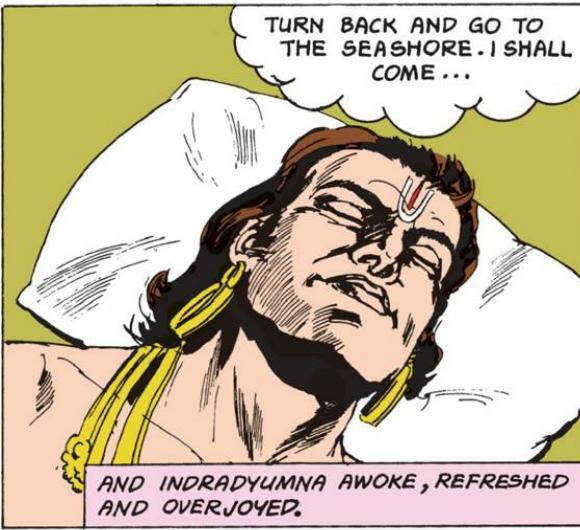
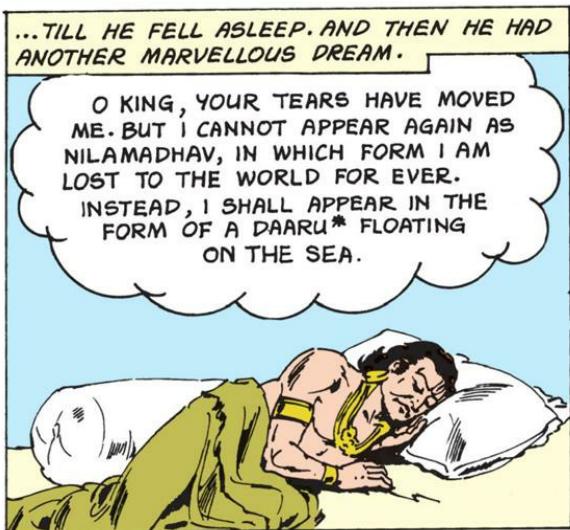
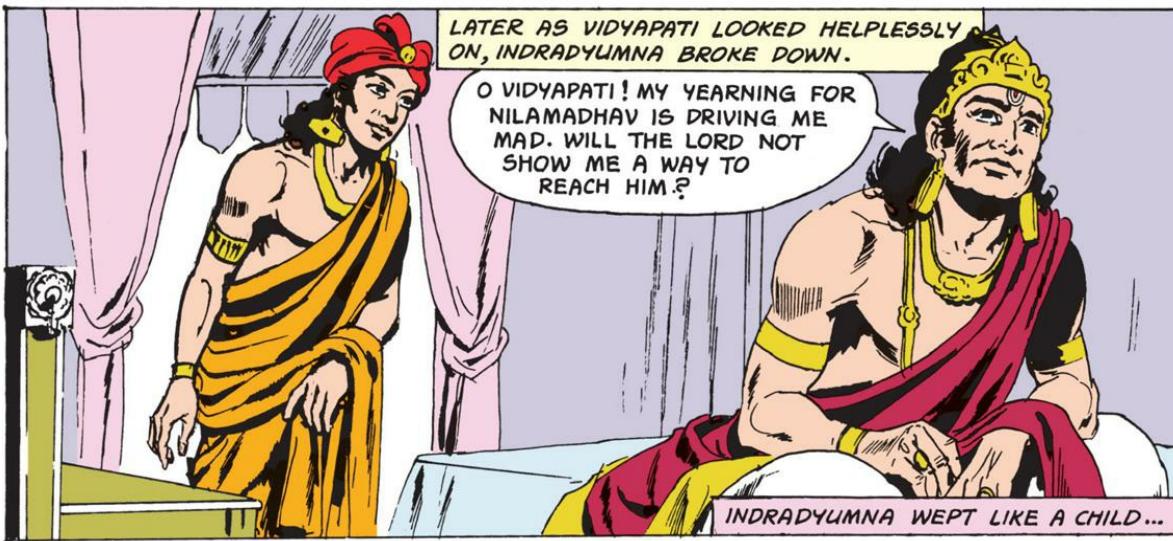


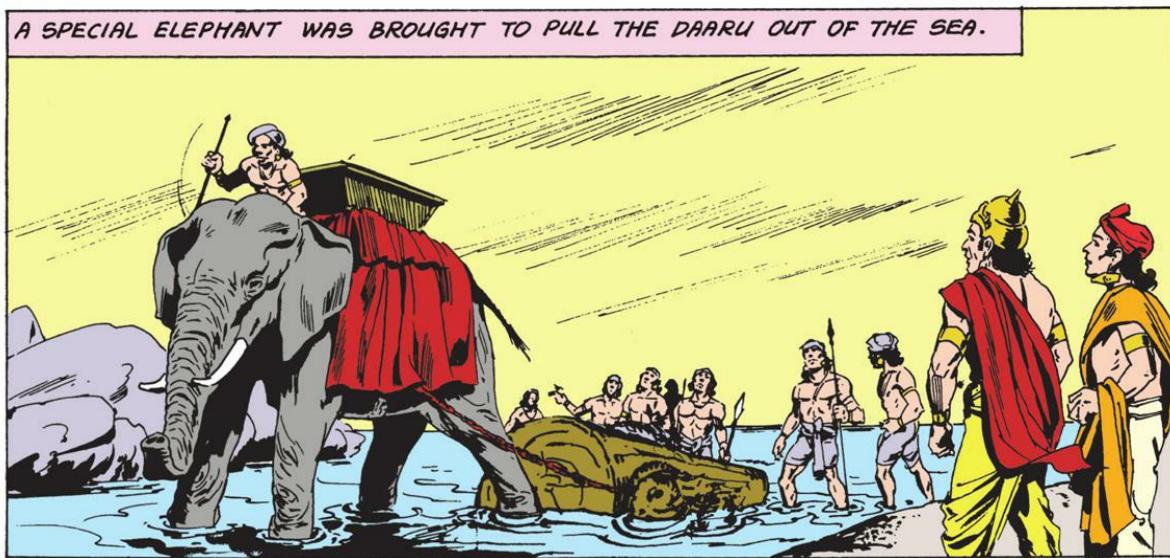
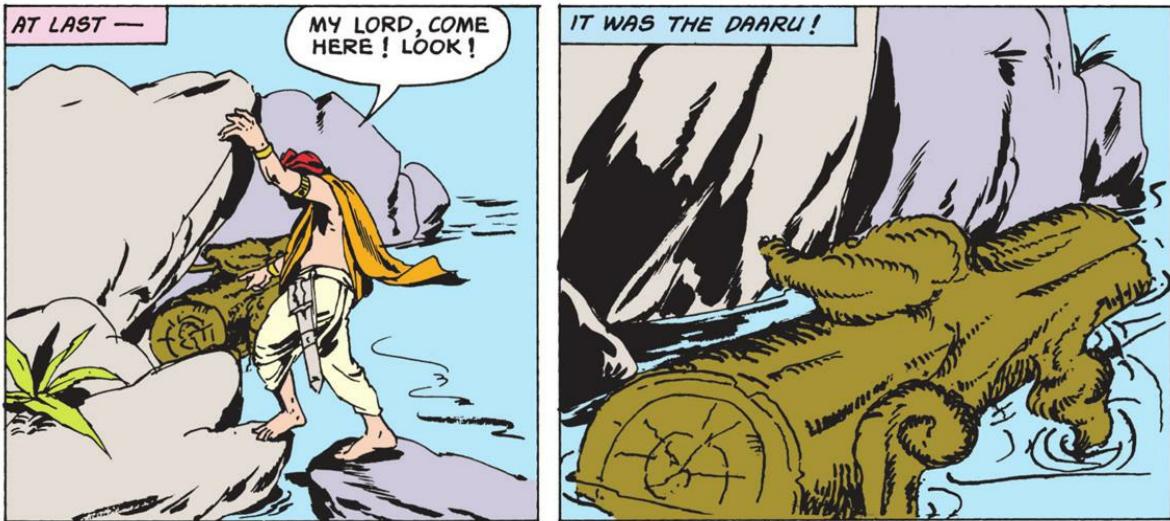
NILAMADHAV HAD HIDDEN HIMSELF FROM THE EYES OF MEN.

LATER, WHEN INDRADYUMNA AND VIDYAPATI ARRIVED THERE —

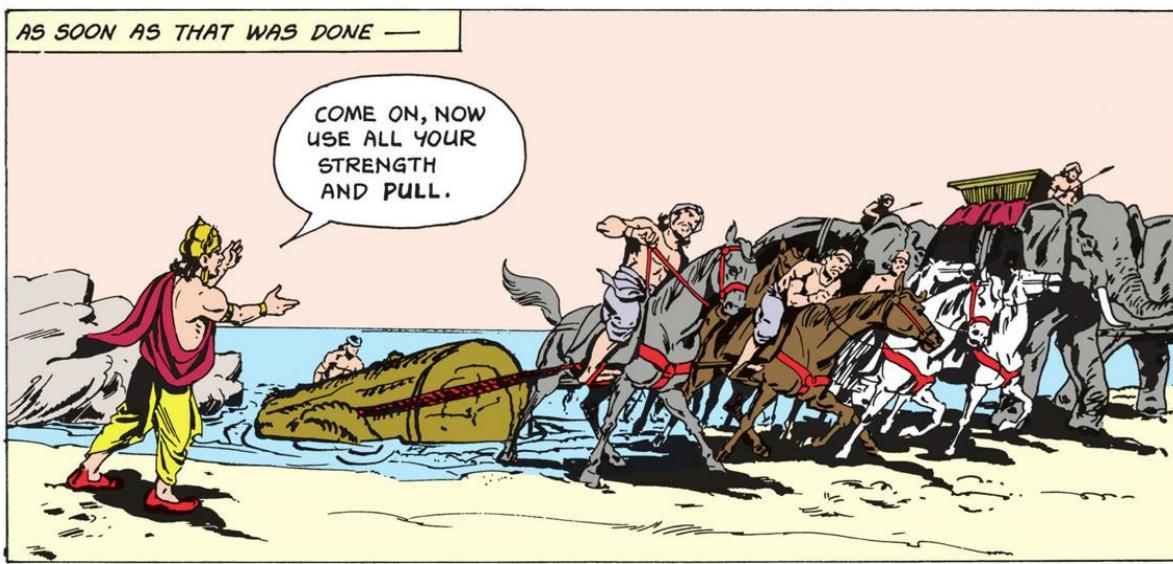
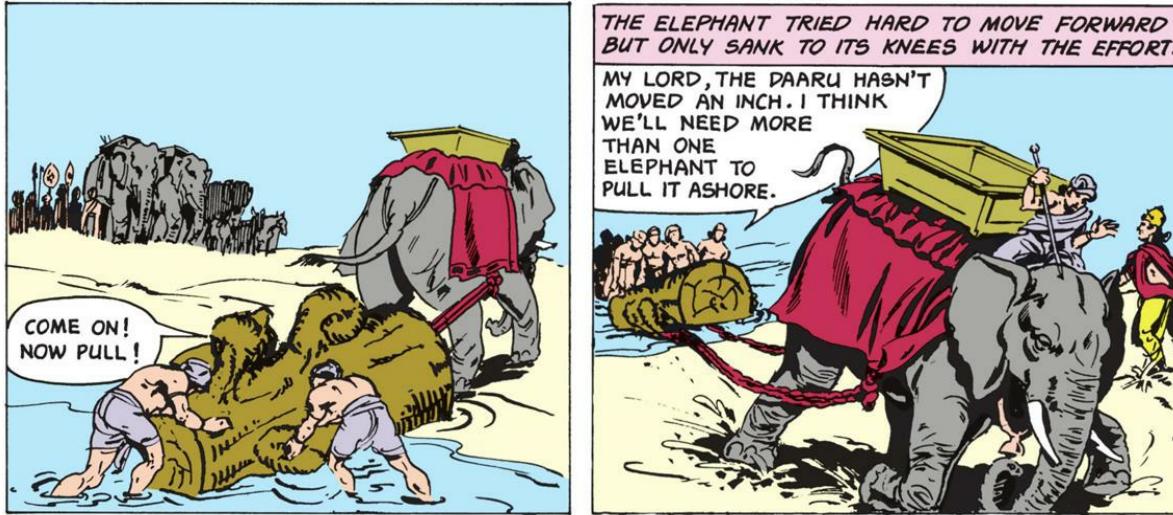


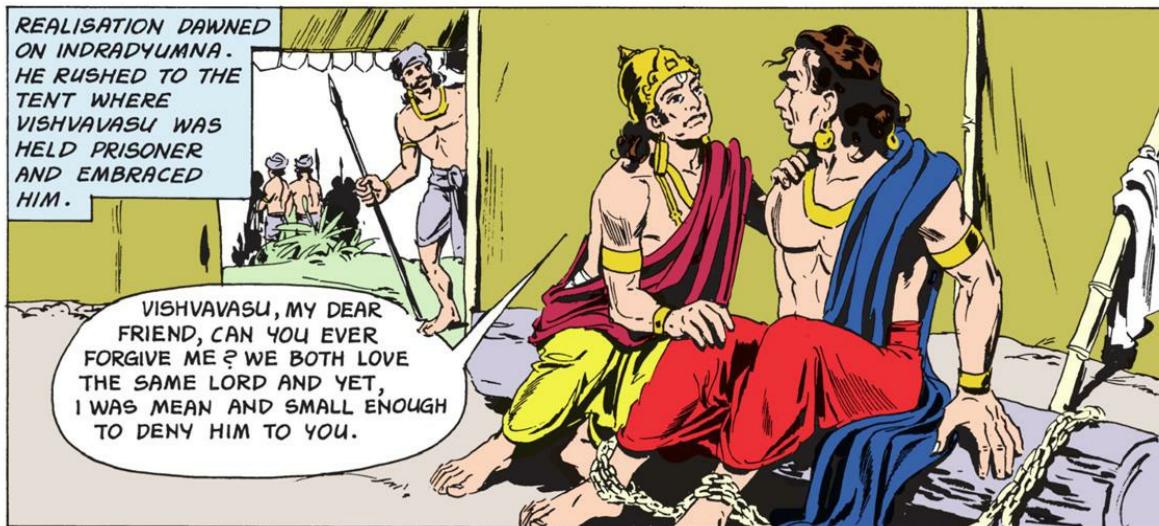
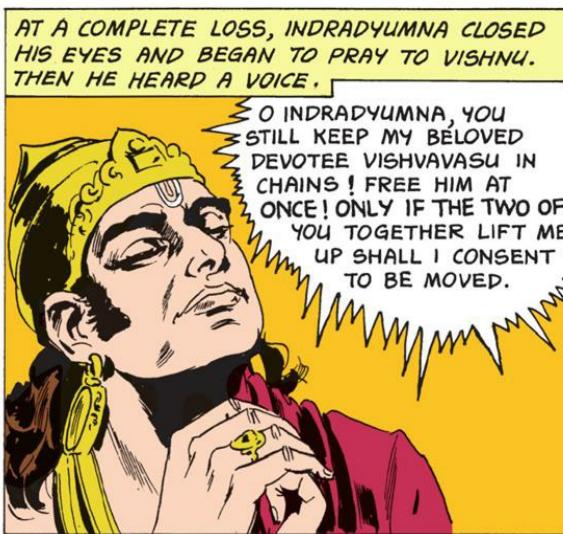
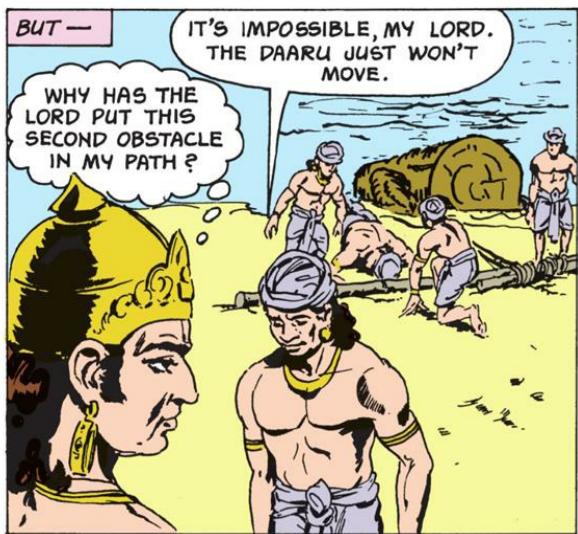






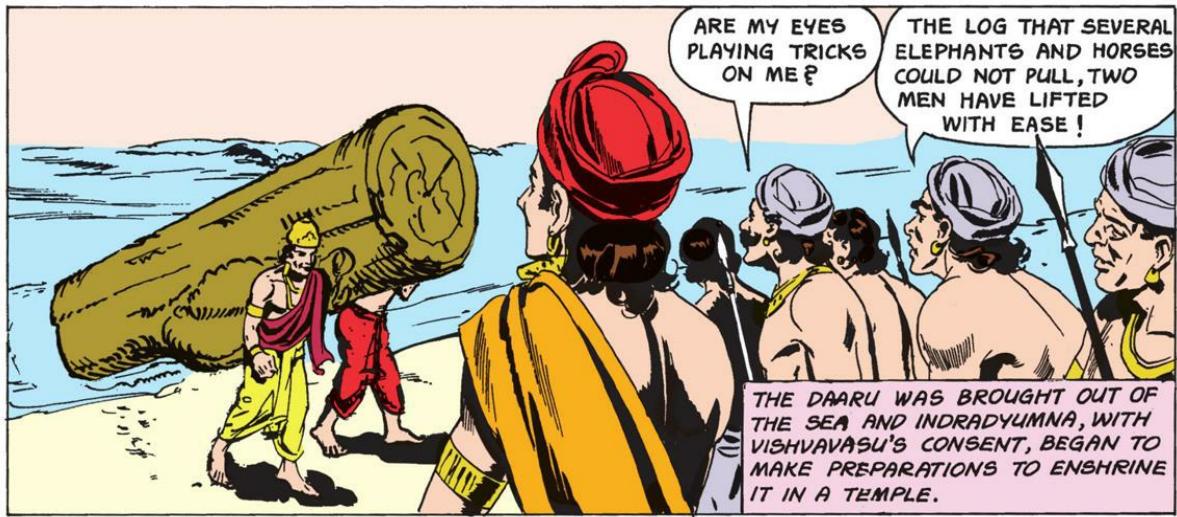
* THE CONCH, WHEEL, MACE AND LOTUS, THE FOUR SYMBOLS OF VISHNU

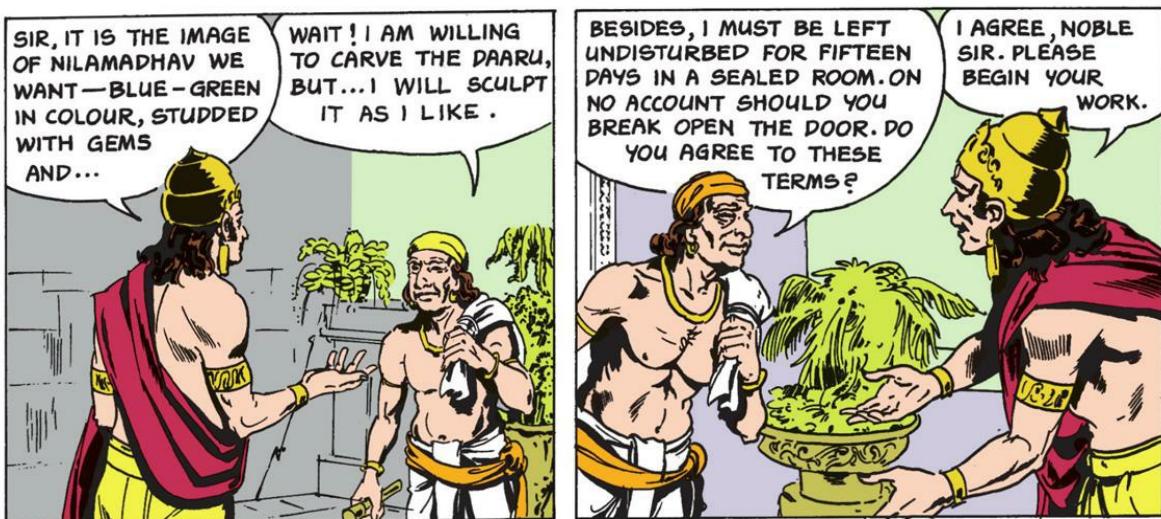




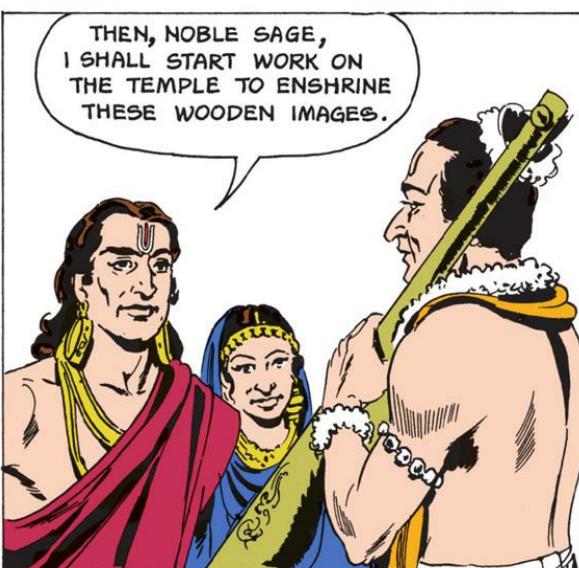
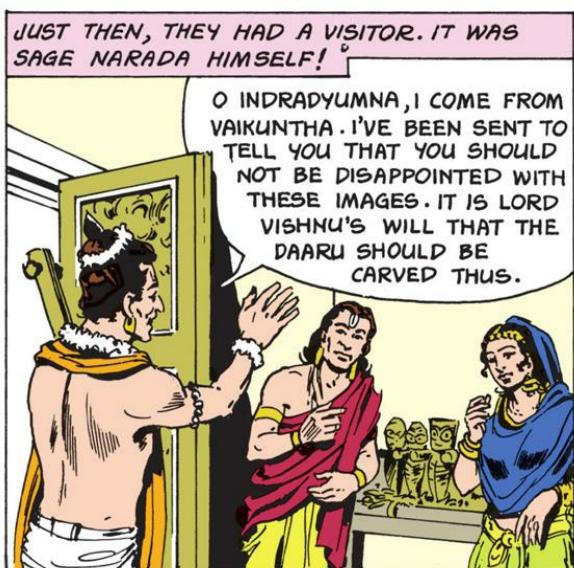
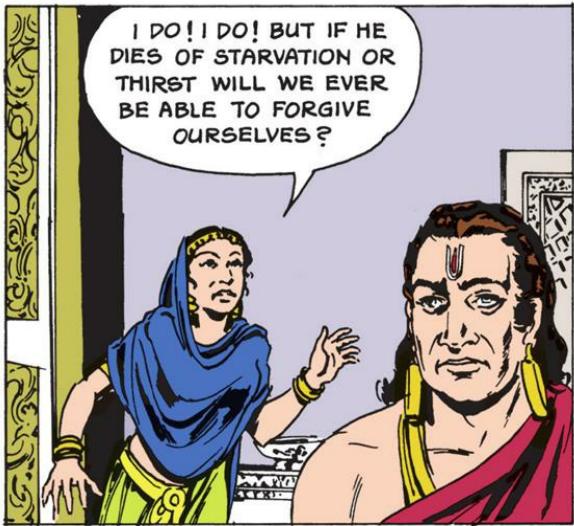
AND INDRADYUMNA TOLD VISHVAVASU ABOUT ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED. THE TWO RIVAL DEVOTEES NOW BROUGHT TOGETHER IN LOVE, WENT UP TO THE DAARU.

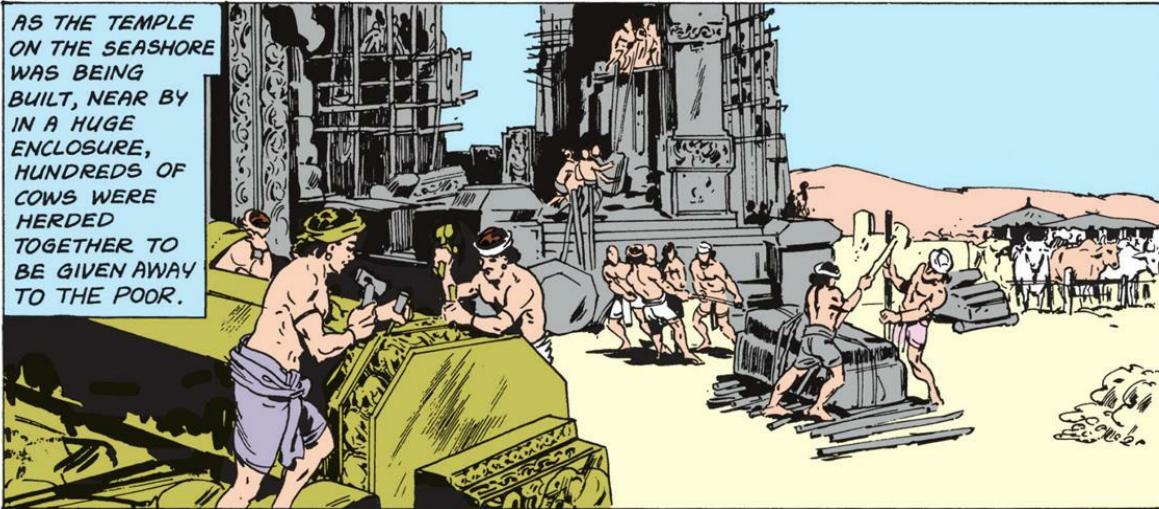




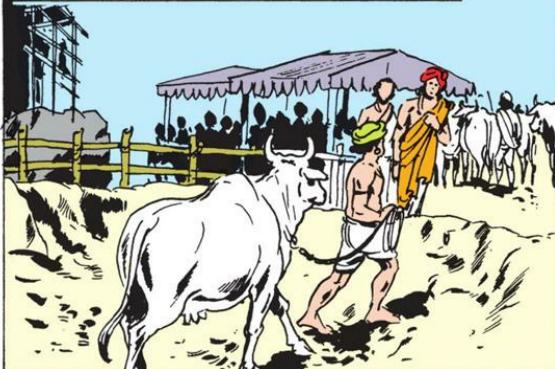


* great altar

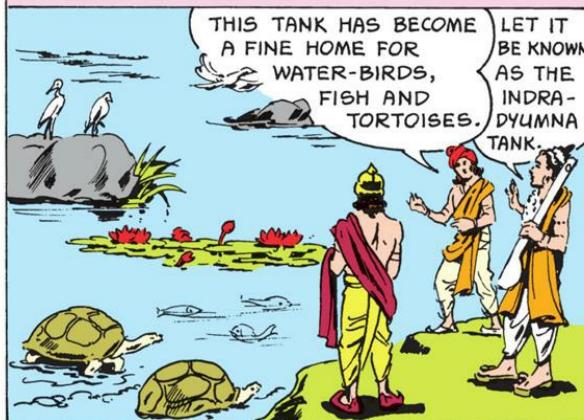




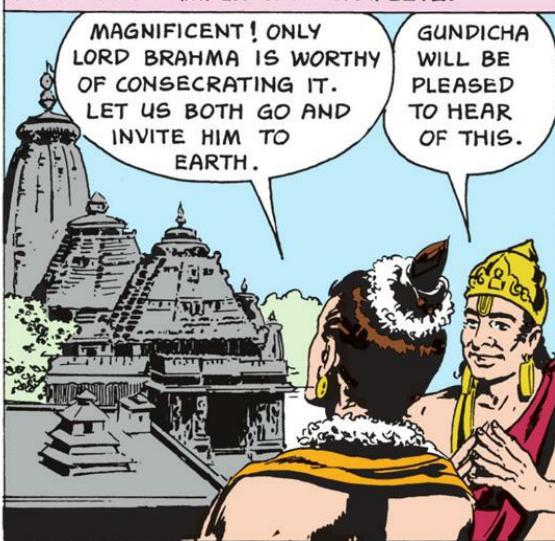
WHEN THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE WAS ABOUT TO BE COMPLETED AND THE COWS HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, A HUGE CRATER, LEFT BY THE IMPACT OF THEIR HOOVES, WAS FOUND IN THE ENCLOSURE.



UNDERGROUND STREAMS ROSE TO THE SURFACE AND FED IT WITH CLEAR, SWEET WATER, CREATING A POND.

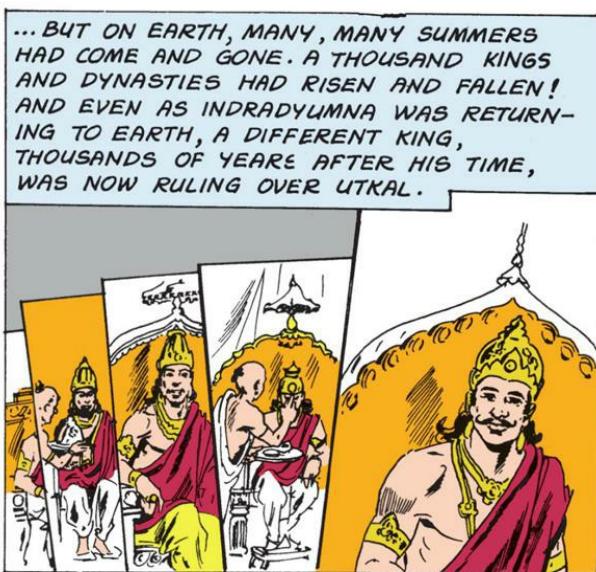
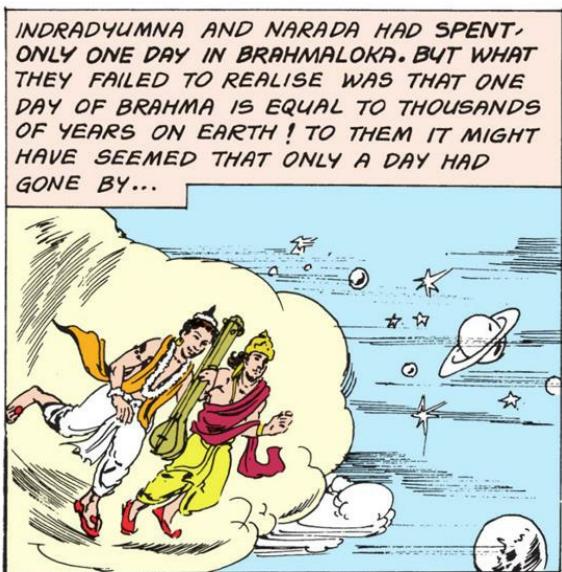
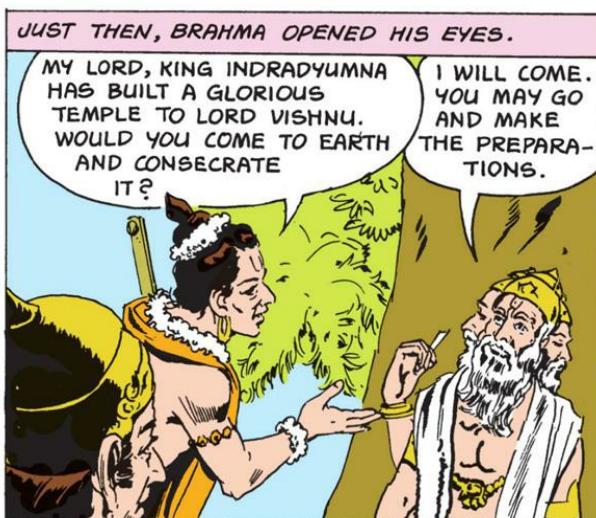
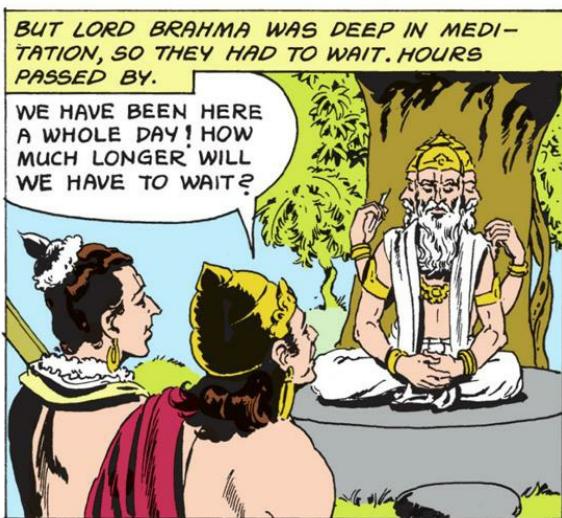
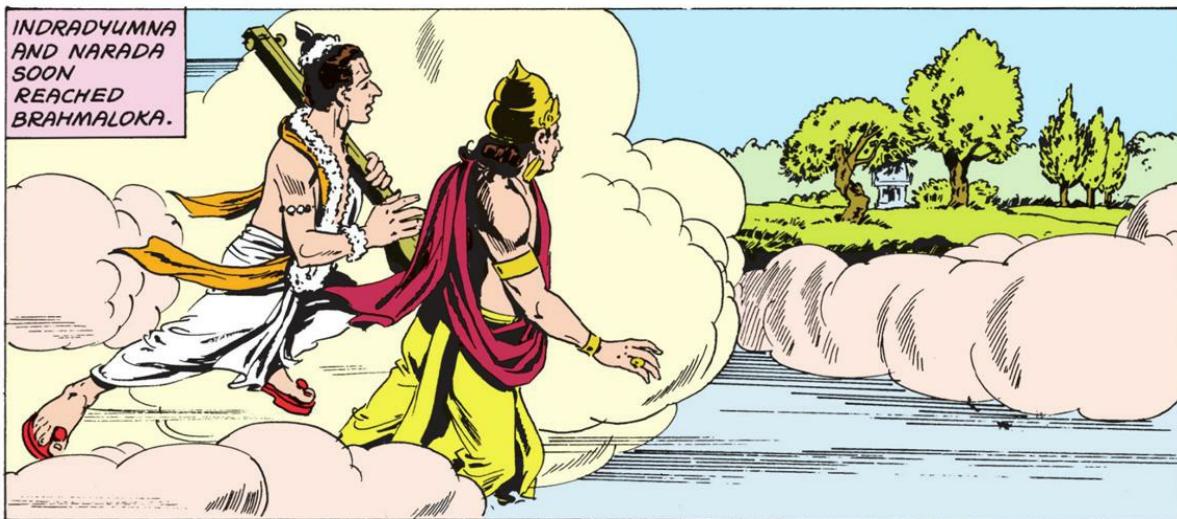


WHEN THE TEMPLE WAS COMPLETED —



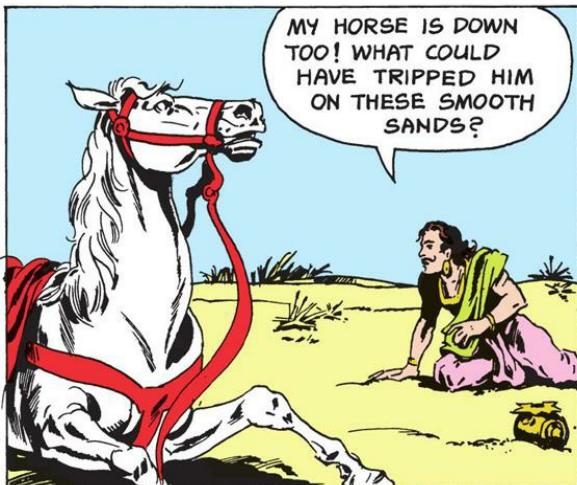
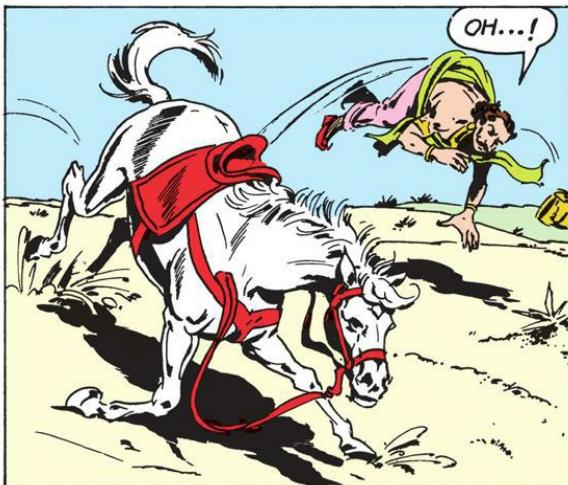
BUT GUNDICHA WAS FAR FROM PLEASED.





THIS KING WAS GALA MADHAV.
ONE DAY AS HE WAS RIDING
ALONG THE SANDS OF A DESERT—

HISTORIANS SAY
THAT UNDER THESE SANDS
AN ANCIENT CIVILISATION
ONCE FLOURISHED.
I WONDER...

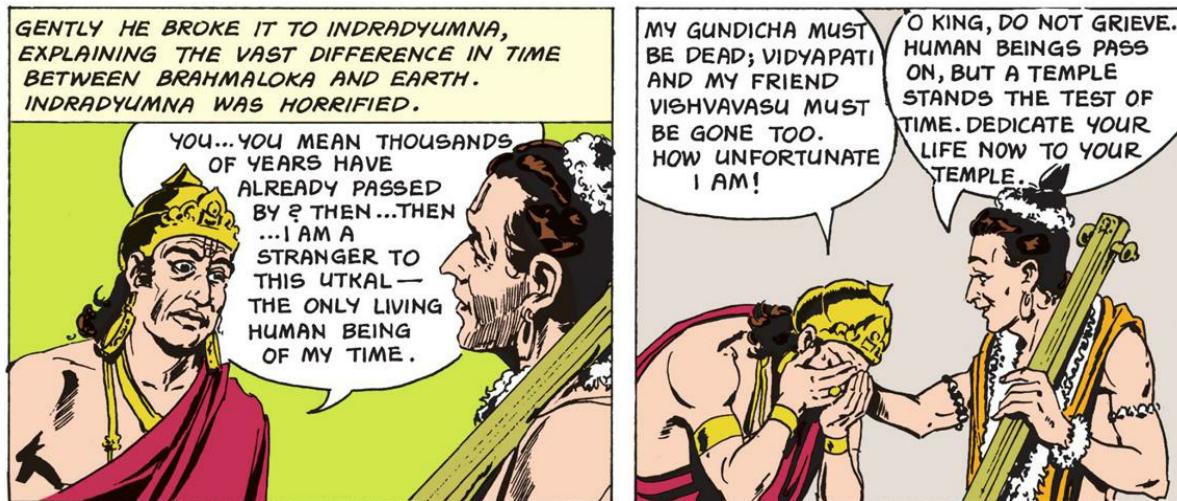
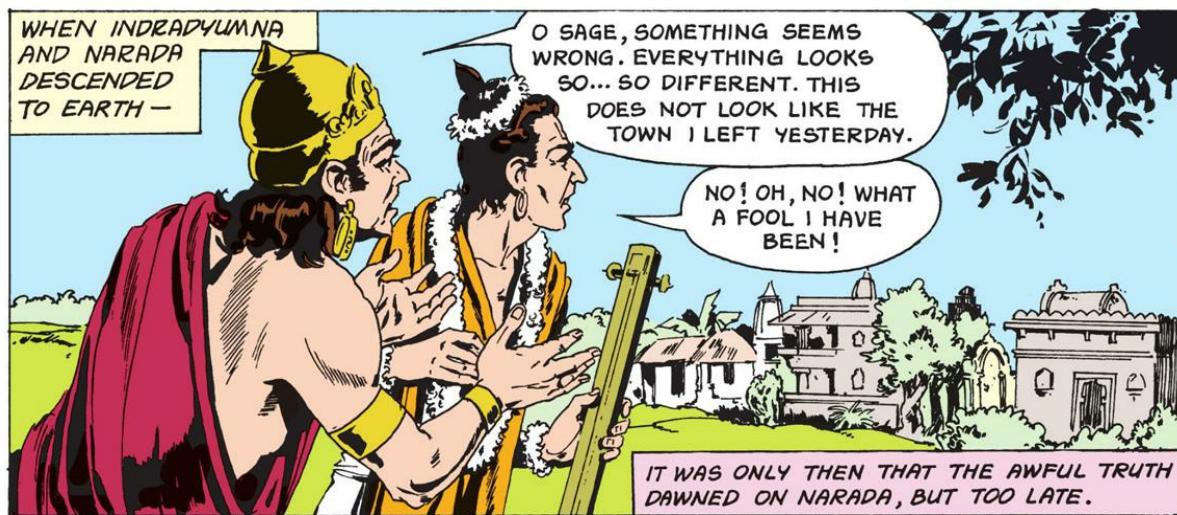
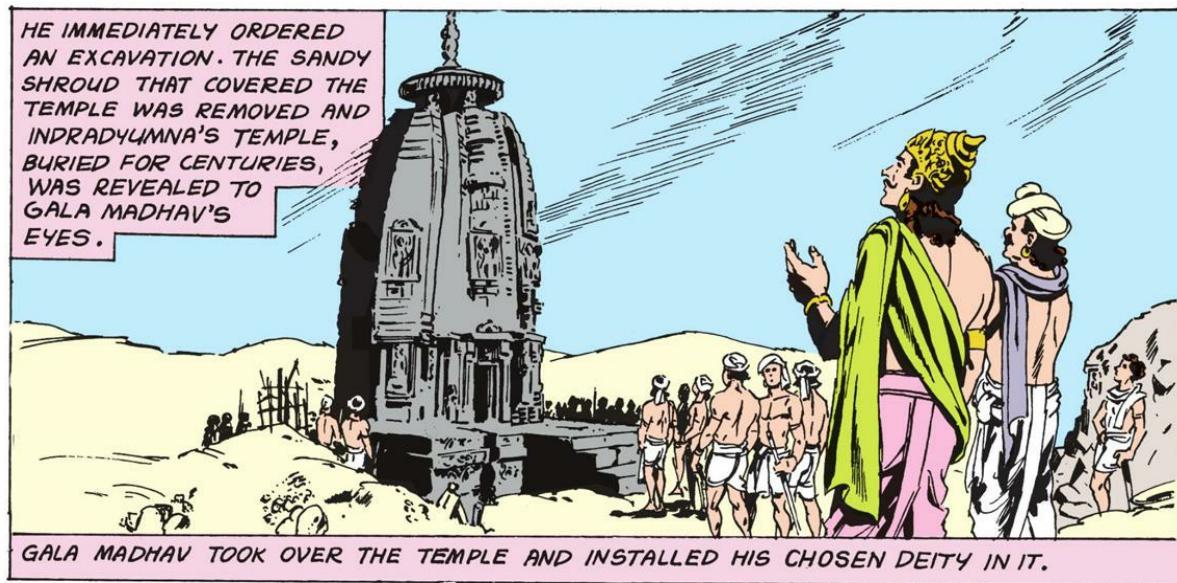


GALA MADHAV BEGAN TO SEARCH THE GROUND NEAR HIS HORSE. THEN HE SAW AN OBJECT JUTTING OUT OF THE SAND.

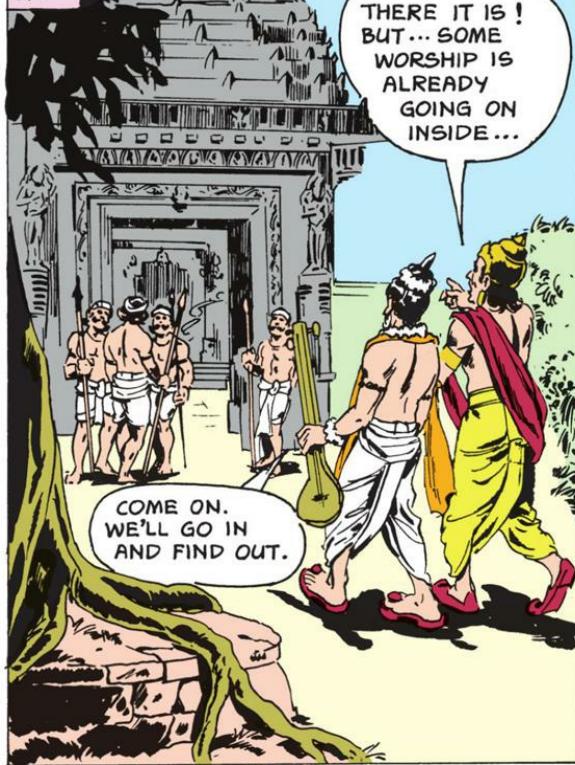


WITH MOUNTING EXCITEMENT GALA MADHAV BEGAN TO PUSH AWAY THE SAND FROM AROUND THE PIECE OF CARVING AND SOON—





INDRADYUMNA AND NARADA BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE TEMPLE. THEY SOON FOUND IT.



STRUGGLING PAST THE GUARDS AT THE DOOR, THEY RUSHED INTO THE SANCTUM AND THERE —



I, INDRADYUMNA, AM THE KING OF UTKAL. AND THIS TEMPLE IS MINE!

OH! SO WE HAVE A MADMAN HERE!

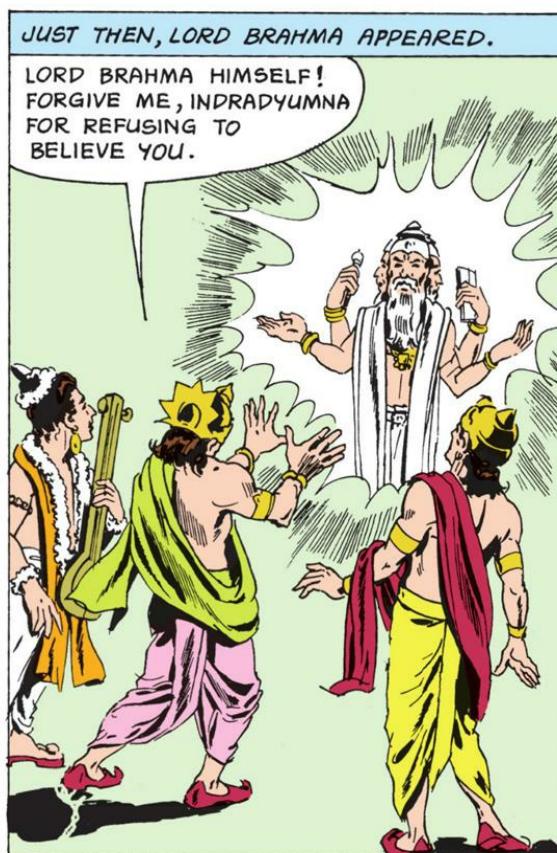
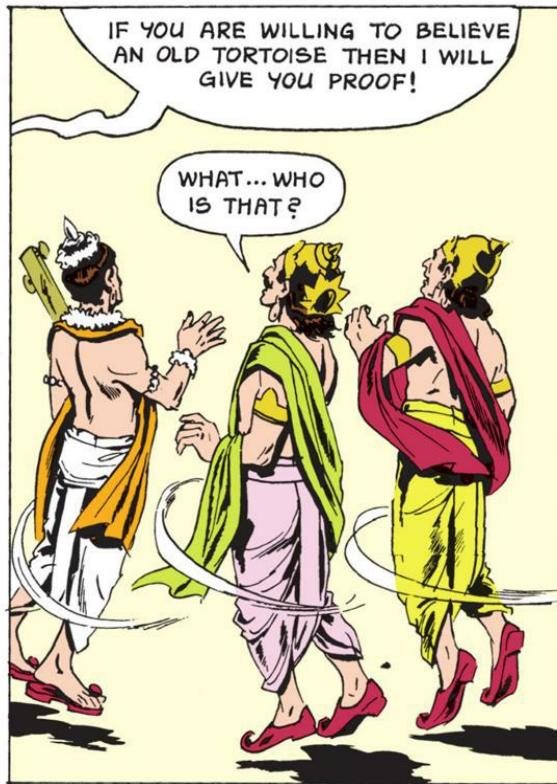
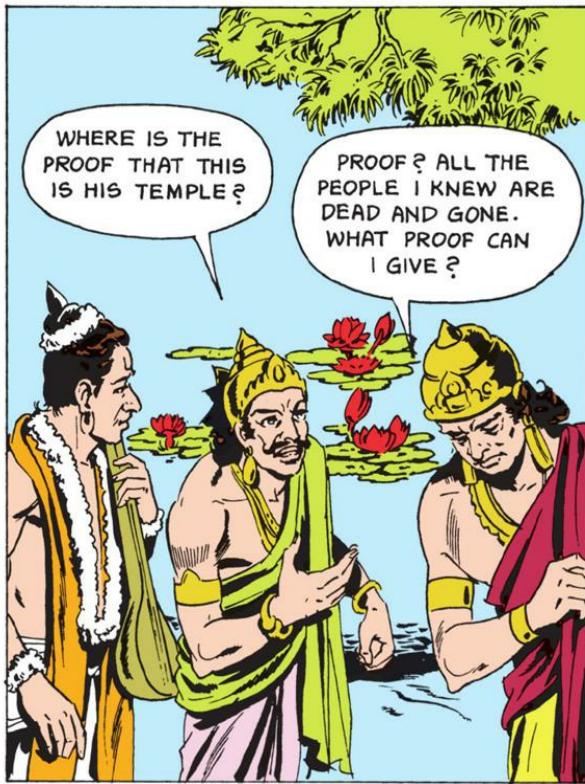


AS INDRADYUMNA STOOD TONGUE-TIED AND CONFUSED, NARADA LED GALA MADHAV OUTSIDE.

LISTEN, GALA MADHAV, THIS MAN IS THE KING WHO ORIGINALLY BUILT THIS TEMPLE. HE REIGNED HERE A LONG, LONG AGO. YOU MUST GIVE BACK HIS TEMPLE TO HIM.

ARE... ARE YOU MAD TOO? A KING FROM LONG AGO? THEN HOW IS HE STILL ALIVE TODAY? WHAT KIND OF STORY ARE YOU TELLING ME?

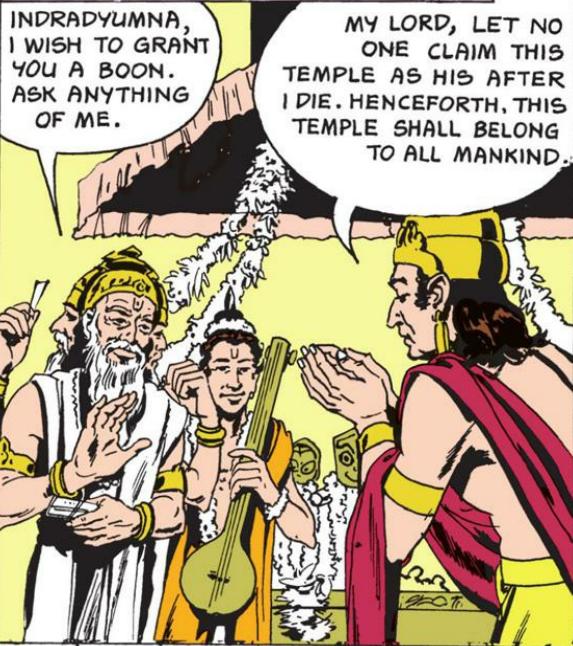




THE TEMPLE NOW HIS, INDRADYUMNA BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE THREE IMAGES. THEY TOO HAD BEEN BURIED AND FORGOTTEN. BUT SOON—



THE IMAGES WERE ENSHRINED IN THE TEMPLE, AND BRAHMA PERFORMED THE PRANAPRATISHTHA POOJA*. LATER—



BRAHMA WAS VERY PLEASED WITH INDRADYUMNA'S SELFLESS GESTURE.

NOBLE KING, YOUR FAME WILL LIVE ON! AS YOU HAVE GIVEN OVER THIS TEMPLE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, IT SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE SHRINE OF "JAGANNATHA"—LORD OF THE UNIVERSE.



THAT IS HOW THE DEITY IN THE TEMPLE BY THE SEA AT PURI CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "JAGANNATHA".

INDRADYUMNA, YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH MUCH IN YOUR DEVOTION TO NILAMADHAV. YOU HAVE EARNED A PLACE IN HEAVEN.

I AM BLESSED, MY LORD.



INDRADYUMNA IS REMEMBERED IN ORISSA TO THIS DAY. THOSE WHO HELPED HIM IN HIS EFFORTS ARE NOT FORGOTTEN EITHER. MEMORIES OF GUNDICHA DEVI, VIDYAPATI, LALITA AND VISHVAVASU STILL LIVE ON IN THE MAGNIFICENT CAR FESTIVAL OF JAGANNATHA — THE RATHA YATRA.

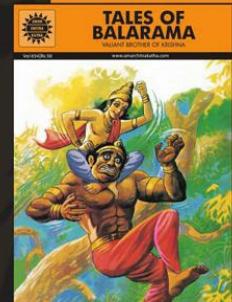
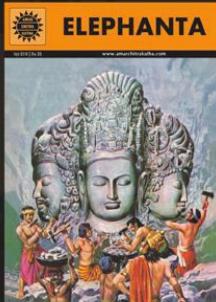
* INSTALLATION CEREMONY

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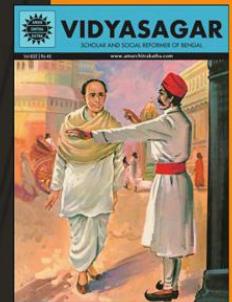
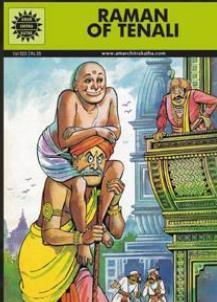
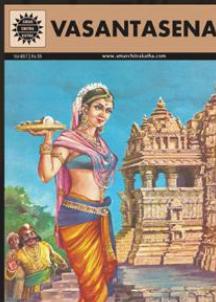
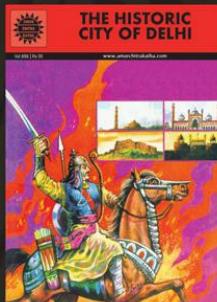
JAGANNATHA OF PURI

King Indradymna of Utkal had only one wish – to be able to build a temple that would be the most beautiful in the world. His quest was for the image of the blue-coloured Krishna or Nilamadhav. The king came very close to achieving his goal but his pride and arrogance snatched it away from him leaving him groping once more in the dark. Contained in this Amar Chitra Katha is the legend behind the temple of Jagannathapuri in Orissa and the images enshrined in it.

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