



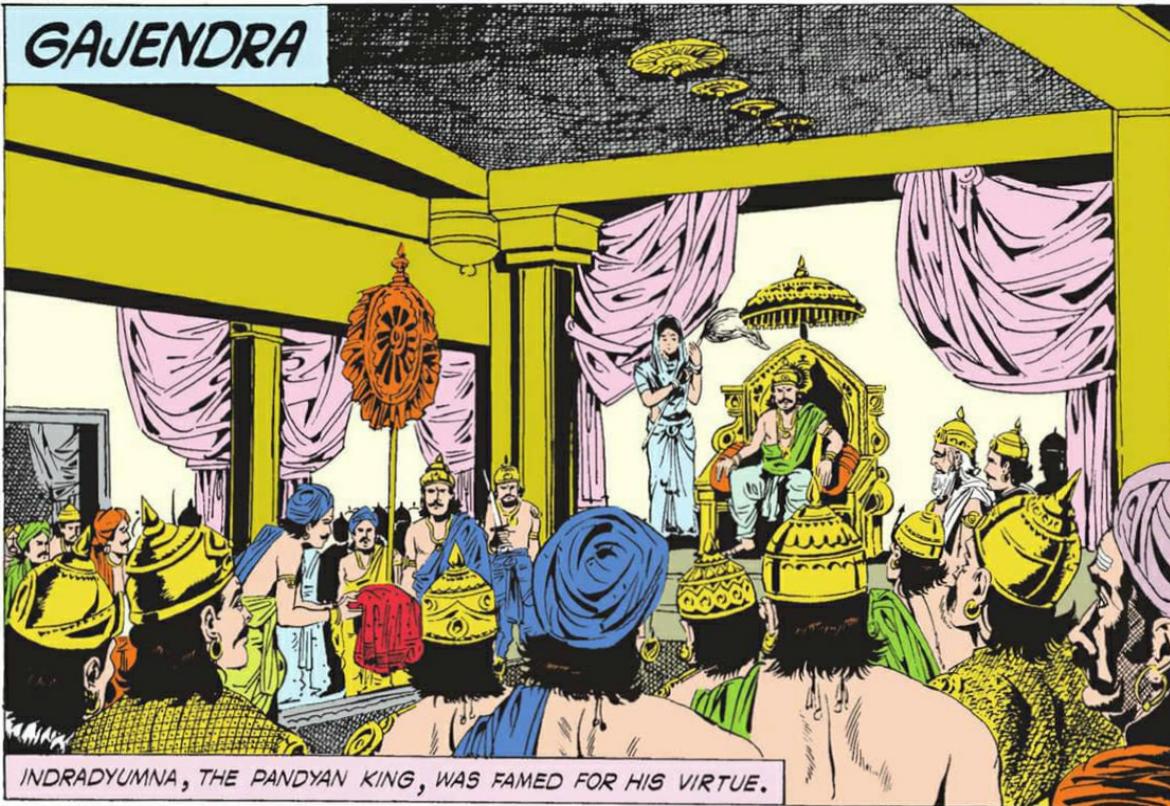
TALES OF VISHNU

THE GENTLE GOD

Vol 512



GAJENDRA



INDRADYUMNA, THE PANDYAN KING, WAS FAMED FOR HIS VIRTUE.

ONE DAY, HE CALLED A MEETING OF HIS COUNSELLORS.

I HAVE DECIDED TO RETIRE TO THE FOREST AND DEVOTE ALL MY TIME TO THE WORSHIP OF THE LORD.

BUT, YOUR MAJESTY...
THE KINGDOM...



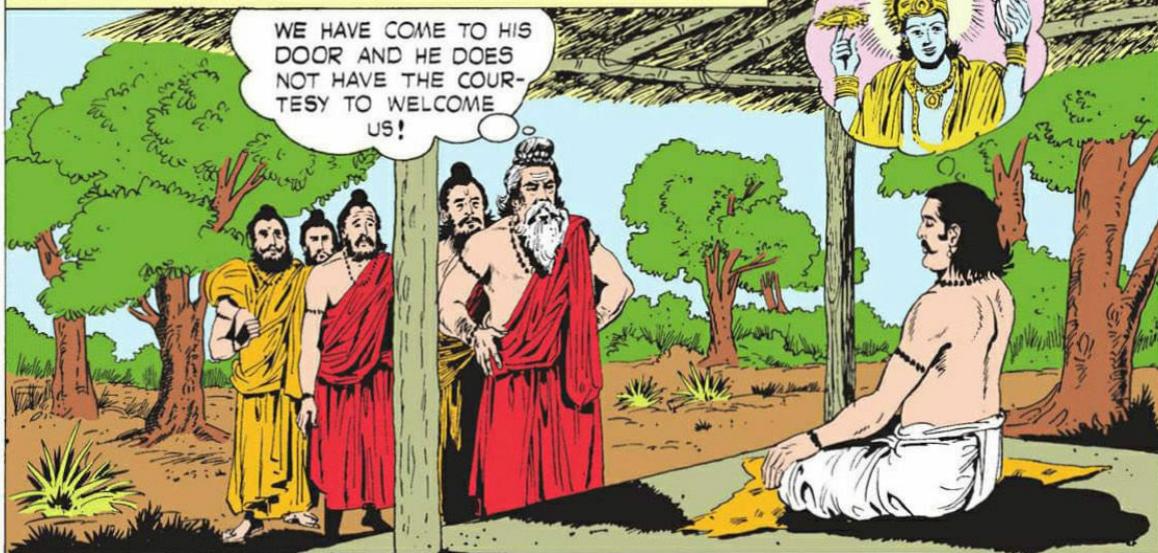
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN AND WILL TAKE CARE OF THE KINGDOM.



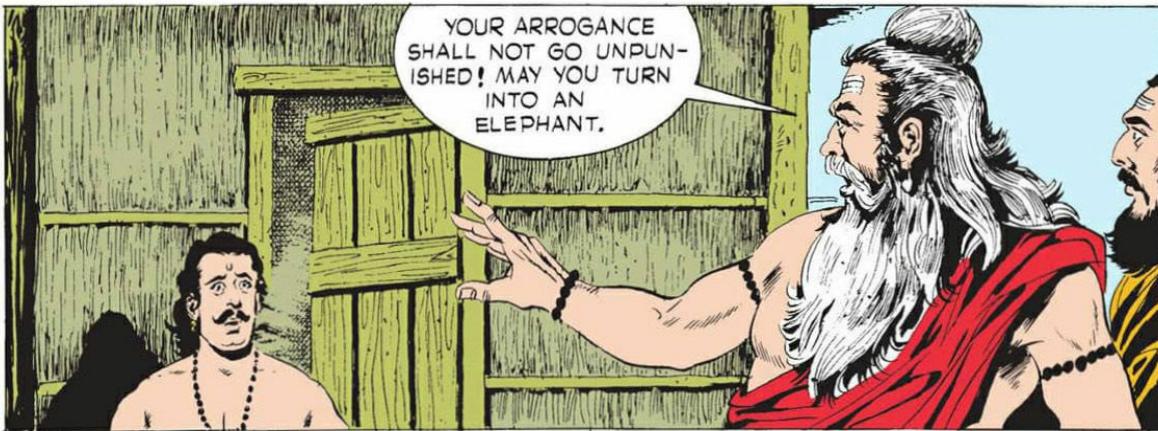
INDRADYUMNA THEN RETIRED TO THE KULACHALA MOUNTAINS WHERE HE BUILT A COTTAGE FOR HIMSELF, OBSERVING THE VOW OF SILENCE, HE SAT WITH HIS MIND DWELLING UPON LORD VISHNU.



ONE DAY, SAGE AGASTYA CAME THAT WAY WITH HIS DISCIPLES.



YOUR ARROGANCE
SHALL NOT GO UNPUN-
ISHED! MAY YOU TURN
INTO AN ELEPHANT.

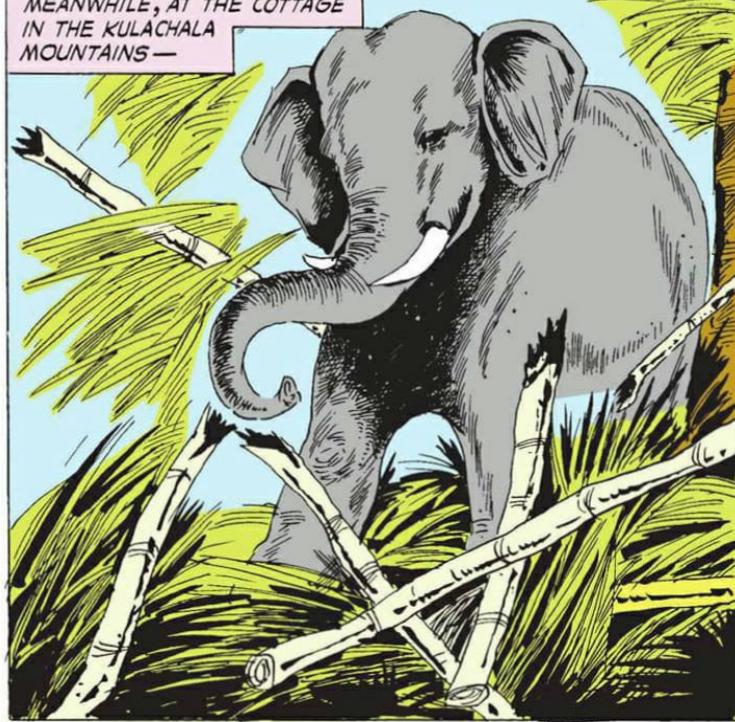


IN HIS CELESTIAL ABODE, LORD VISHNU SMILED WHEN HE HEARD THE CURSE OF AGASTYA.

AGASTYA, YOU HAVE UNKNOWINGLY DONE MY DEVOTEE A GREAT SERVICE!

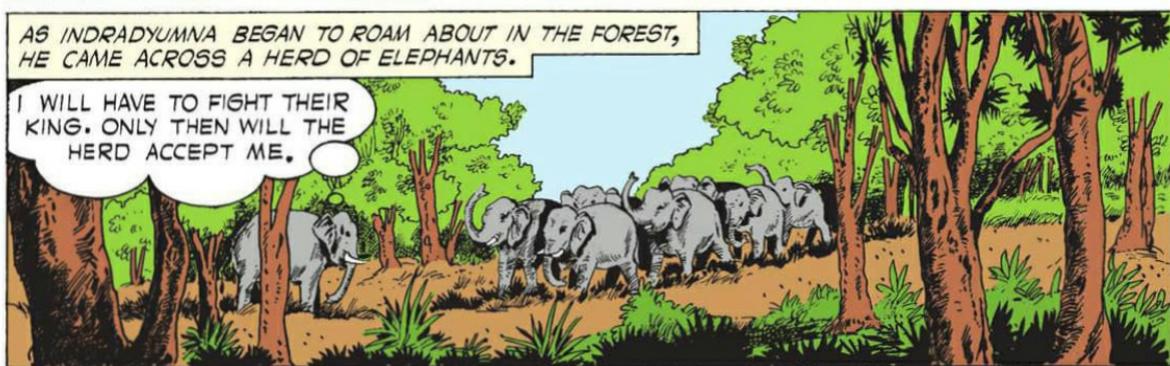


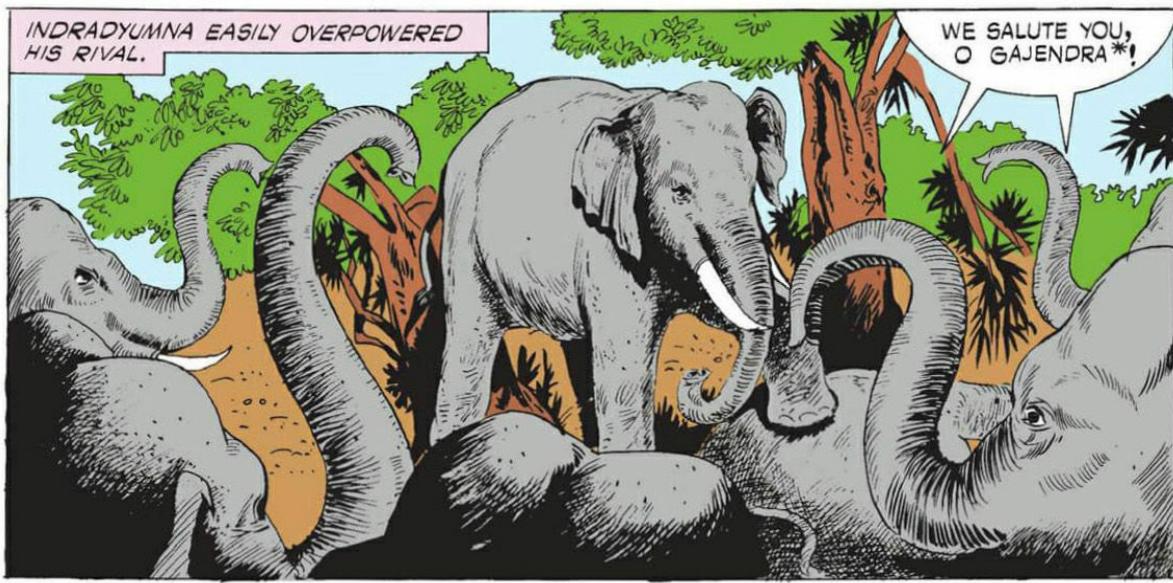
MEANWHILE, AT THE COTTAGE IN THE KULACHALA MOUNTAINS—



AS INDRADYUMNA BEGAN TO ROAM ABOUT IN THE FOREST, HE CAME ACROSS A HERD OF ELEPHANTS.

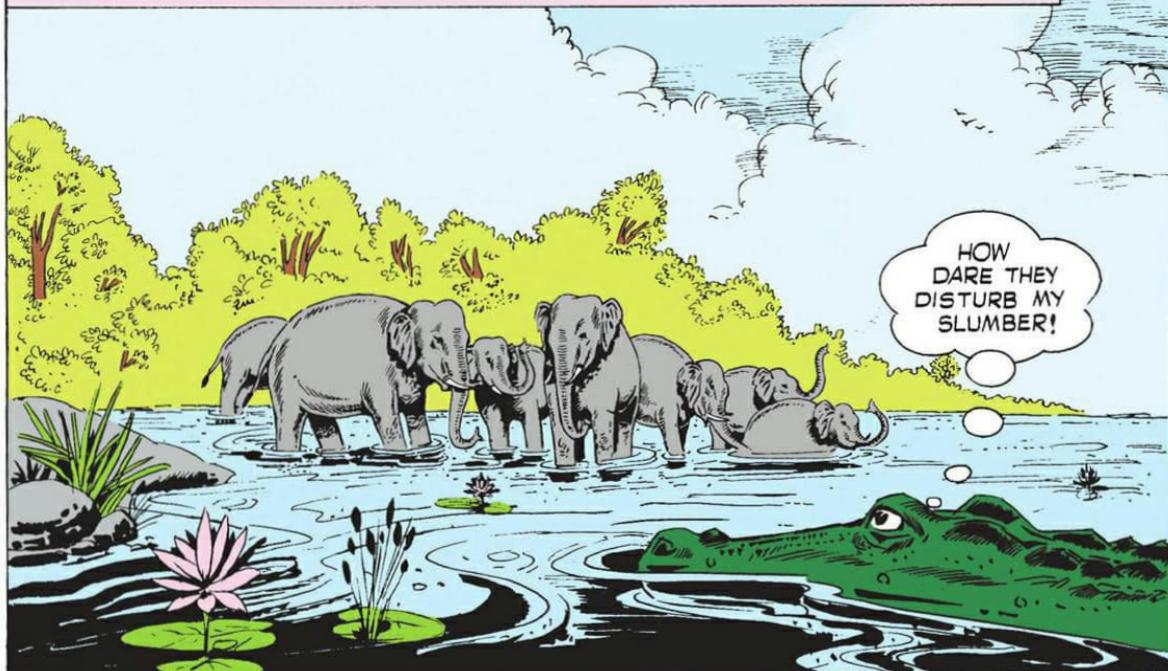
I WILL HAVE TO FIGHT THEIR KING. ONLY THEN WILL THE HERD ACCEPT ME.



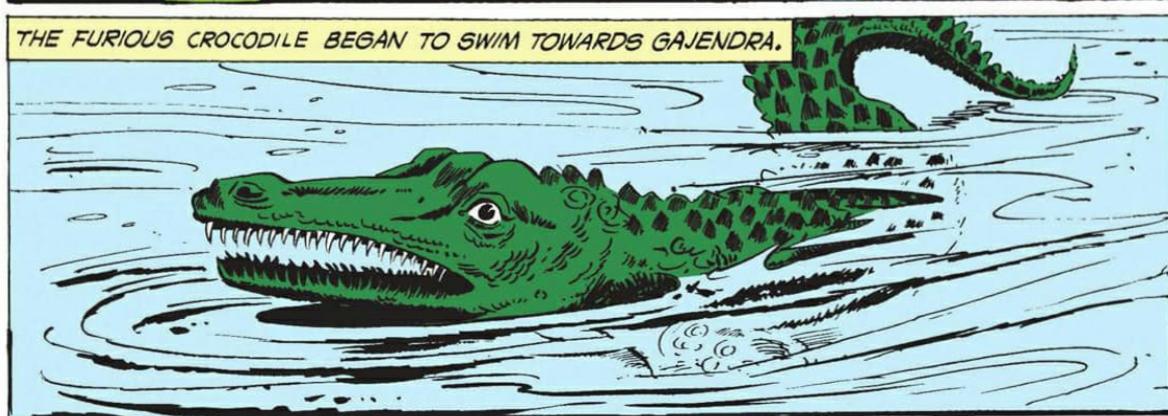


* KING ELEPHANT

THE ELEPHANTS THEN ENTERED A LAKE, WHICH WAS THE ABODE OF A CROCODILE.



THE FURIOUS CROCODILE BEGAN TO SWIM TOWARDS GAJENDRA.

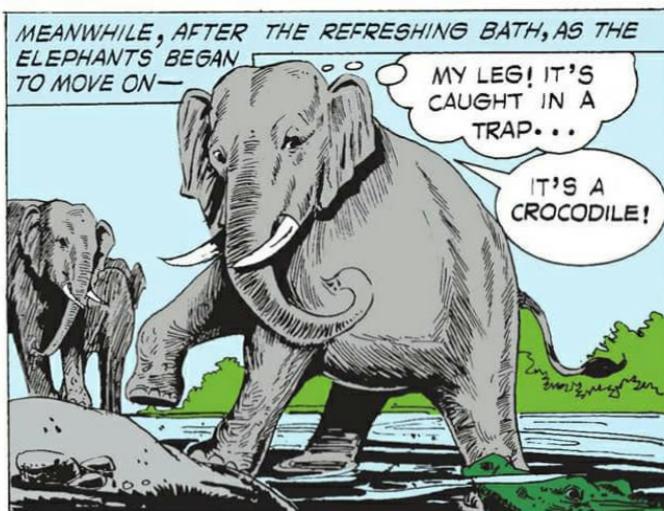


I'LL TEACH THE
KING ELEPHANT
TO KEEP OUT OF
MY LAKE!

MEANWHILE, AFTER THE REFRESHING BATH, AS THE
ELEPHANTS BEGAN
TO MOVE ON—

MY LEG! IT'S
CAUGHT IN A
TRAP...

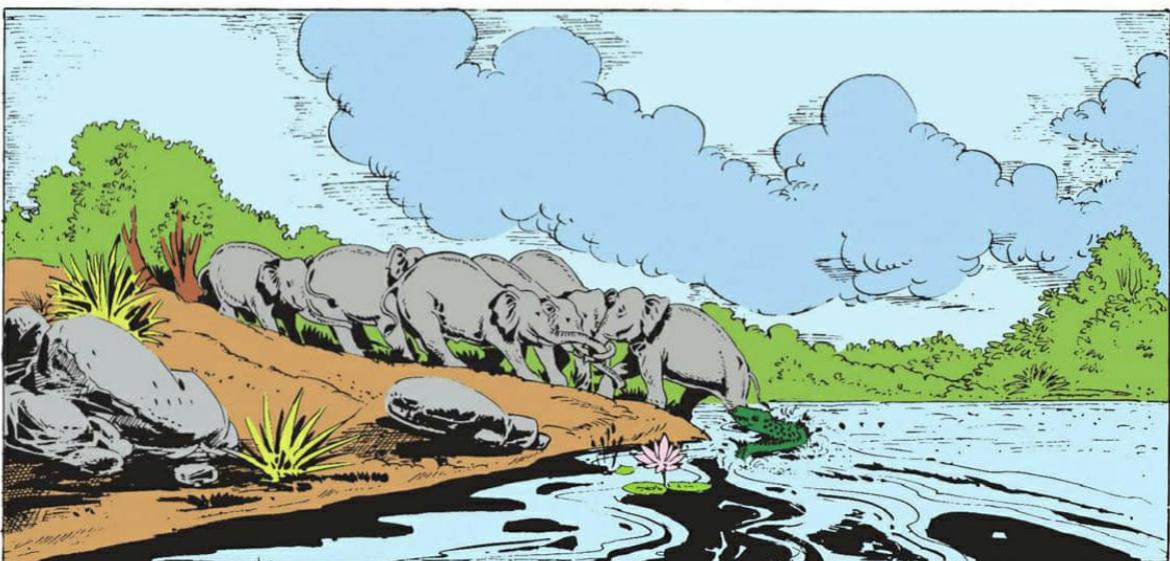
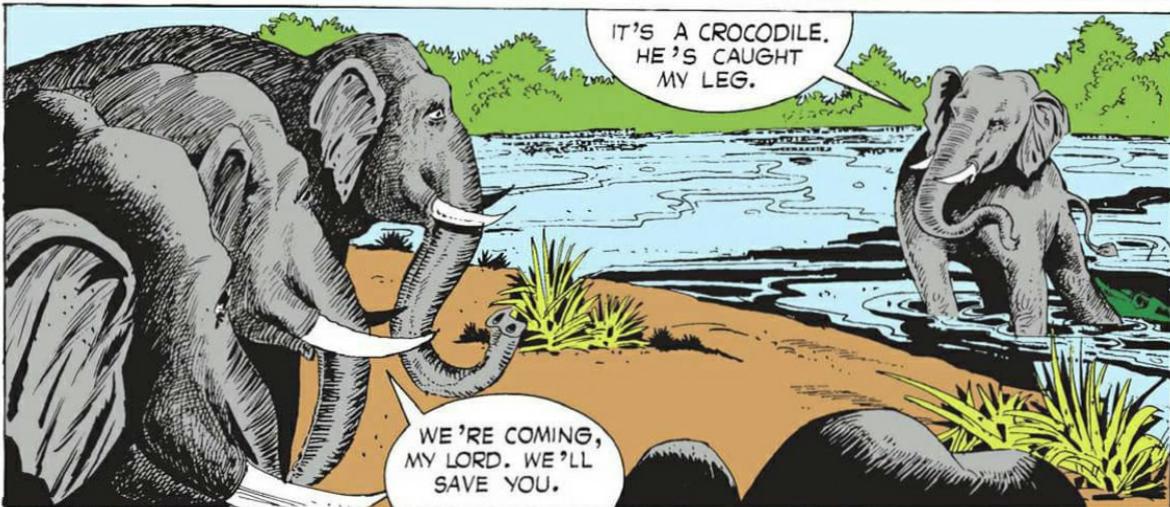
IT'S A
CROCODILE!



TRUMPETING LOUDLY, HE TRIED TO SHAKE OFF THE CROCODILE.



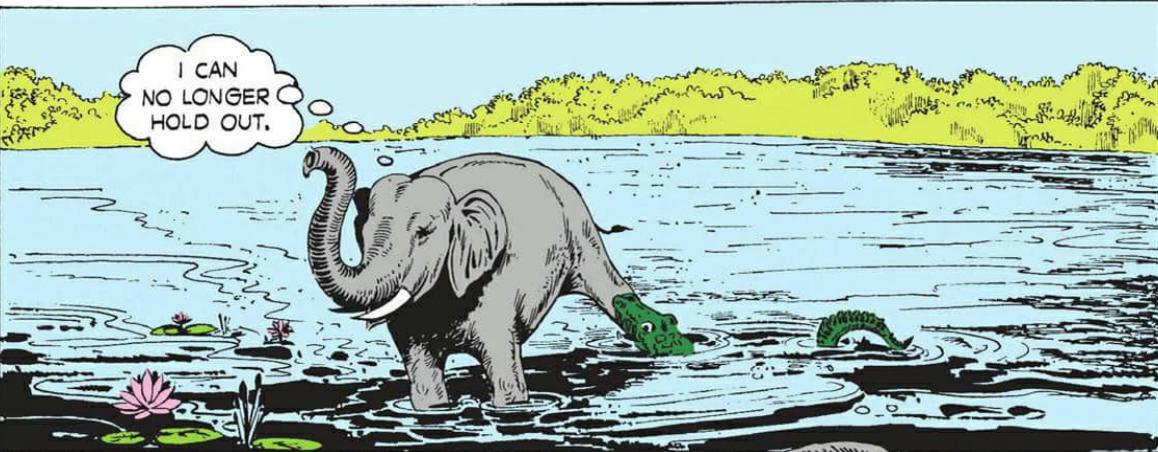
BUT ALL HIS EFFORTS WERE IN VAIN.



BUT THE HERD SOON HAD TO GIVE UP.

IT'S A PITY, BUT
WE'LL HAVE TO
DESERT OUR
LEADER.

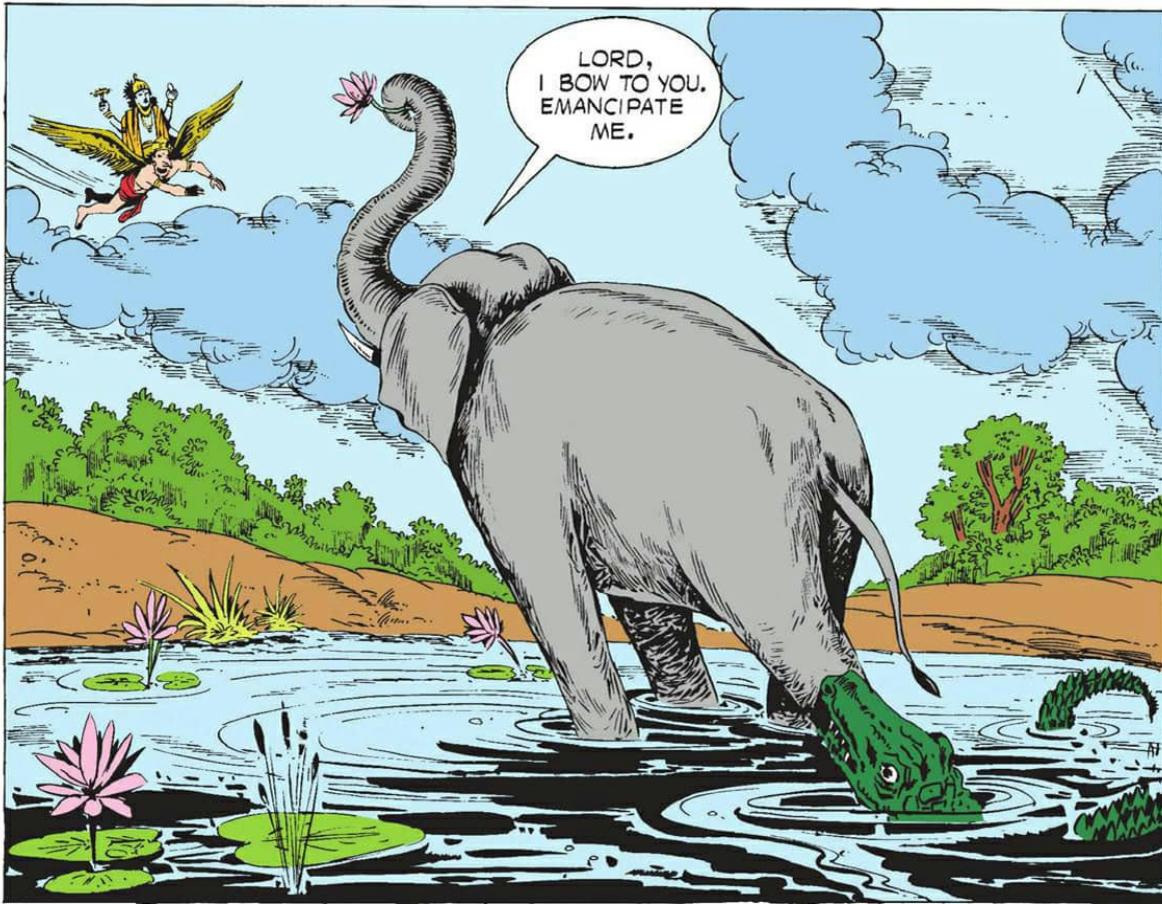
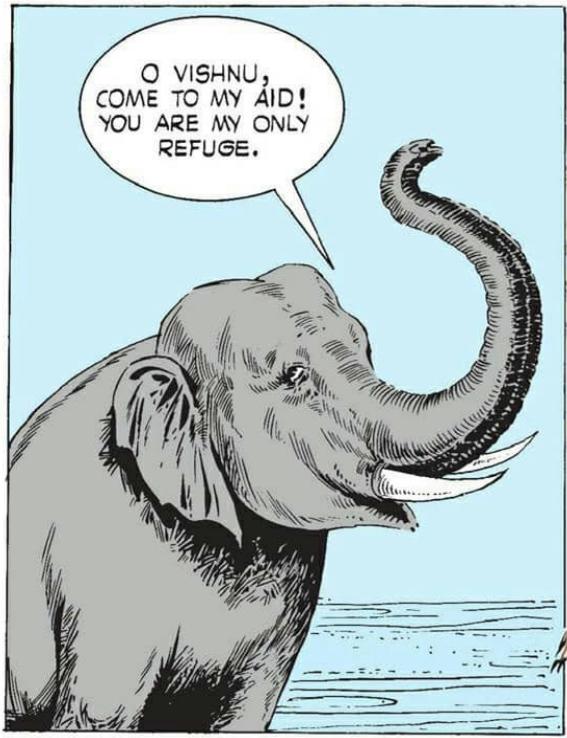
THE CROCODILE
SEEMS TO HAVE
DIVINE
STRENGTH.

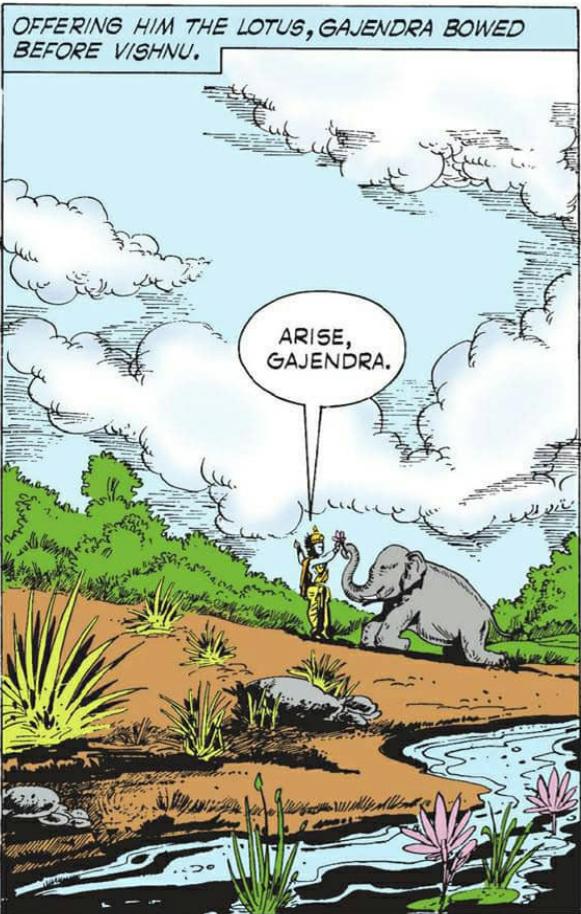
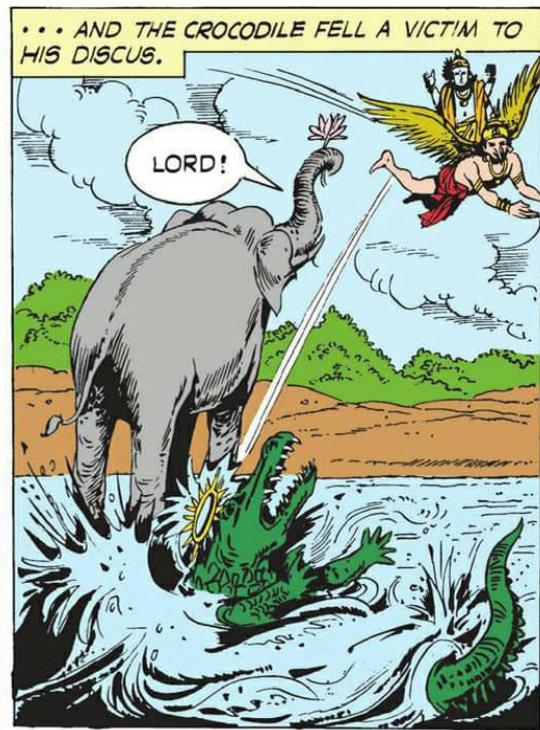
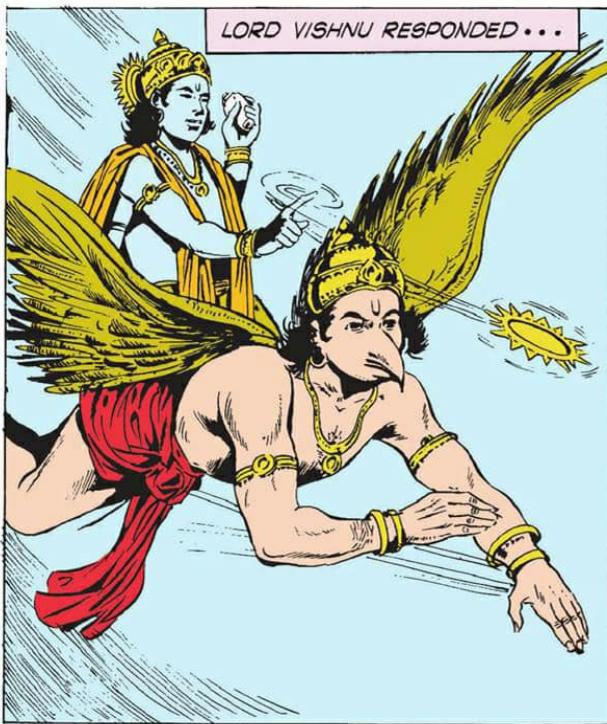


GAJENDRA BECAME DESPERATE.

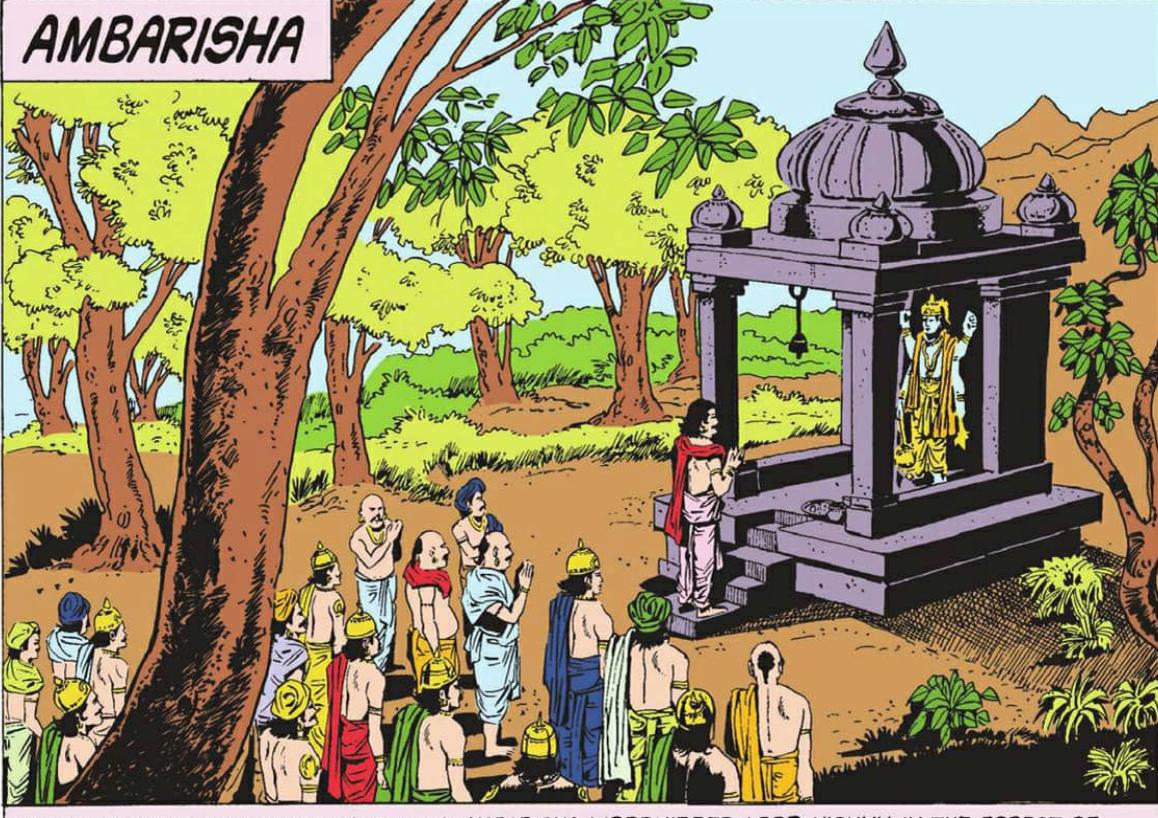
WHAT SHALL
I DO?



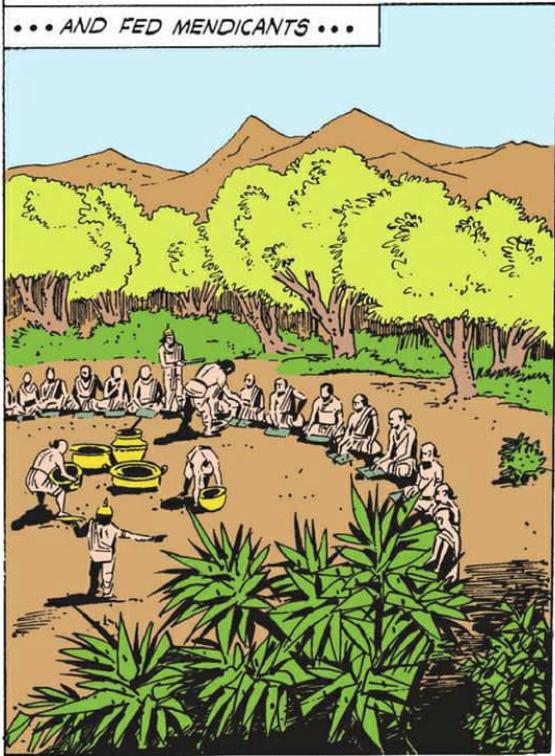
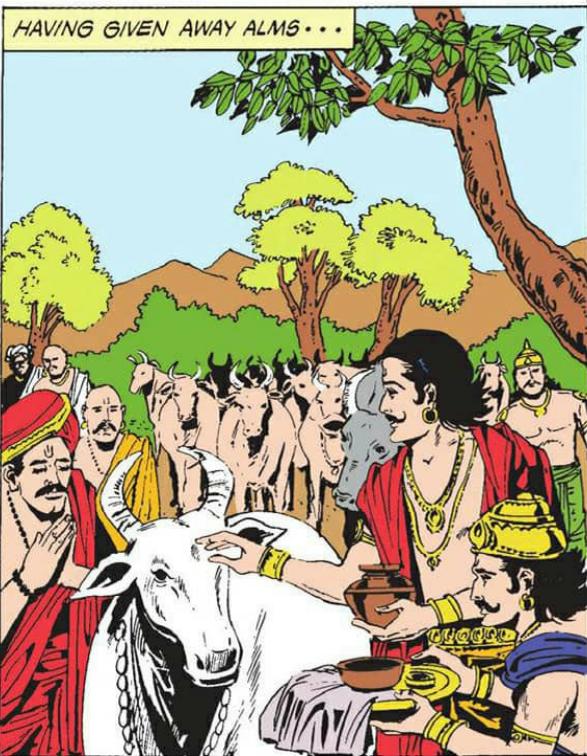




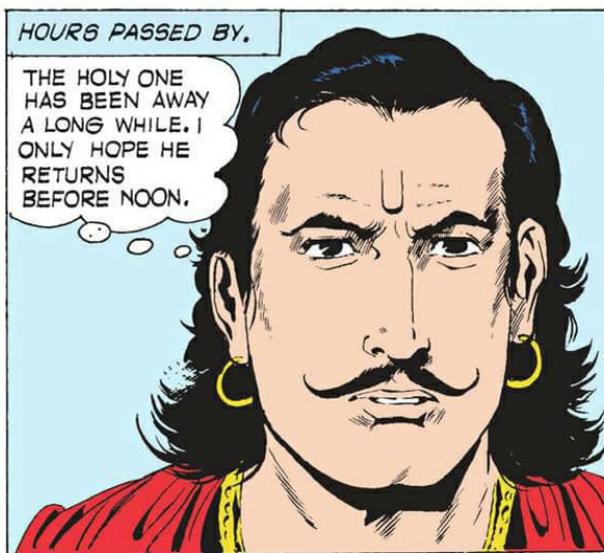
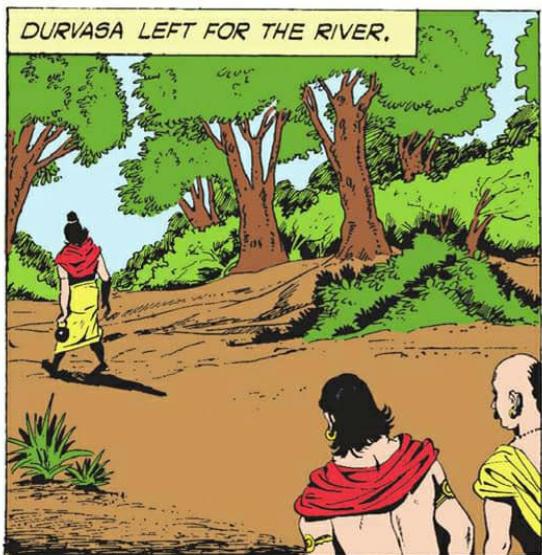
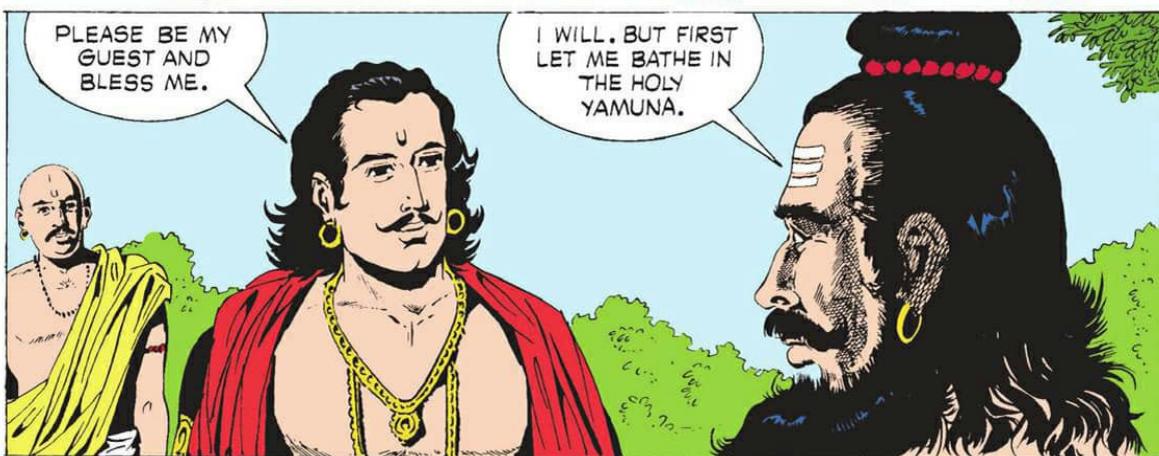
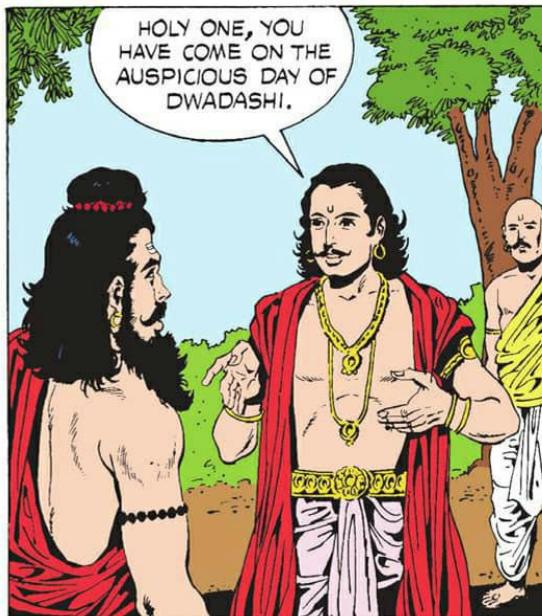
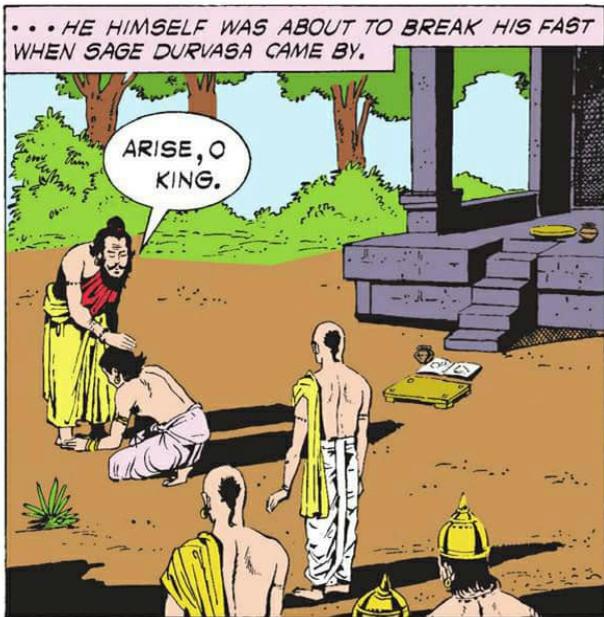
AMBARISHA



AFTER FASTING FOR THREE DAYS, KING AMBARISHA WORSHIPPED LORD VISHNU IN THE FOREST OF MADHUVANA*. HE WAS TO BREAK HIS FAST ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF DWADASHI.†

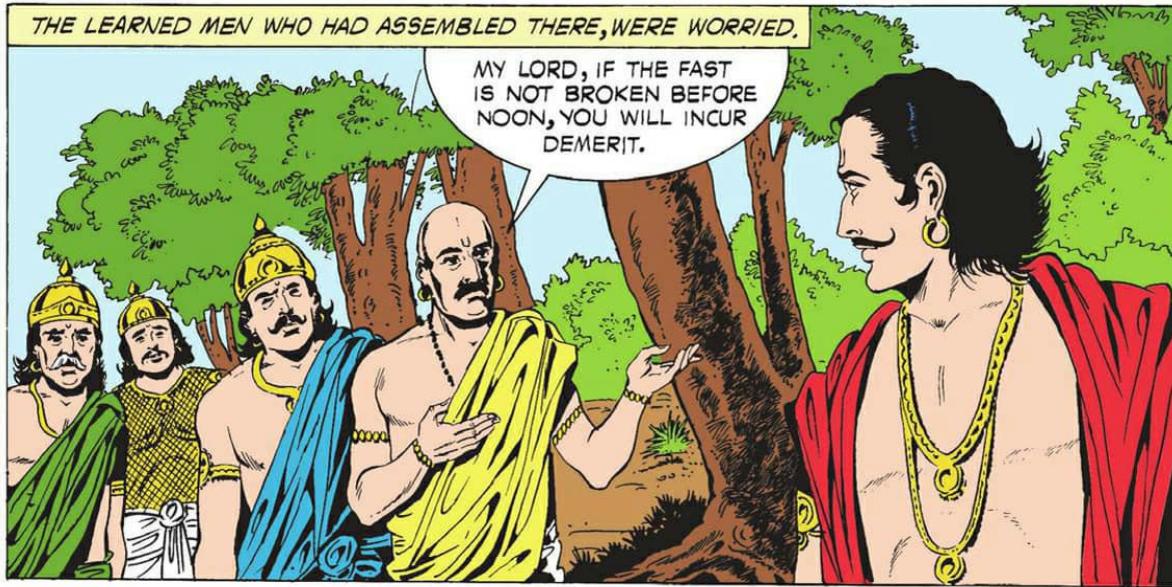


* THE FOREST REGION AROUND MATHURA + THE TWELFTH DAY OF THE FORTNIGHT



THE LEARNED MEN WHO HAD ASSEMBLED THERE, WERE WORRIED.

MY LORD, IF THE FAST IS NOT BROKEN BEFORE NOON, YOU WILL INCUR DEMERIT.



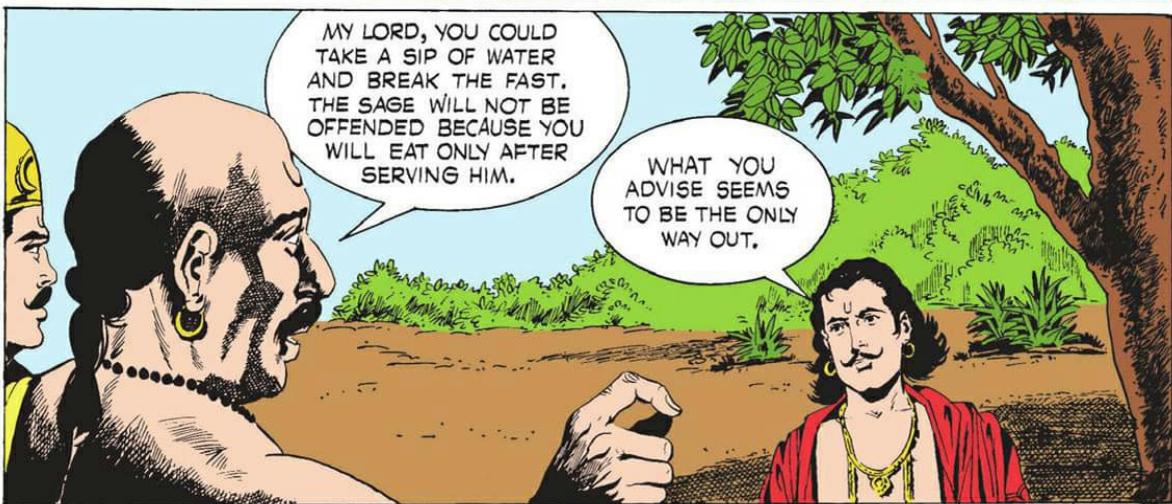
AND IF I DON'T WAIT FOR THE SAGE, I'LL INCUR HIS WRATH.

THIS IS A FINE PREDICAMENT, INDEED! WHAT SHALL I DO?

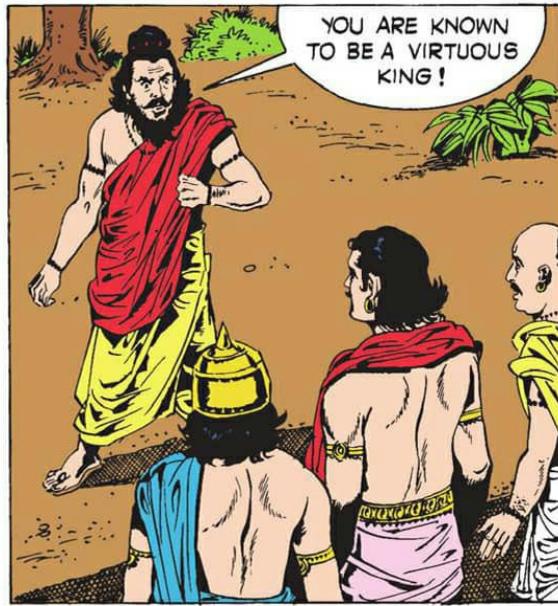
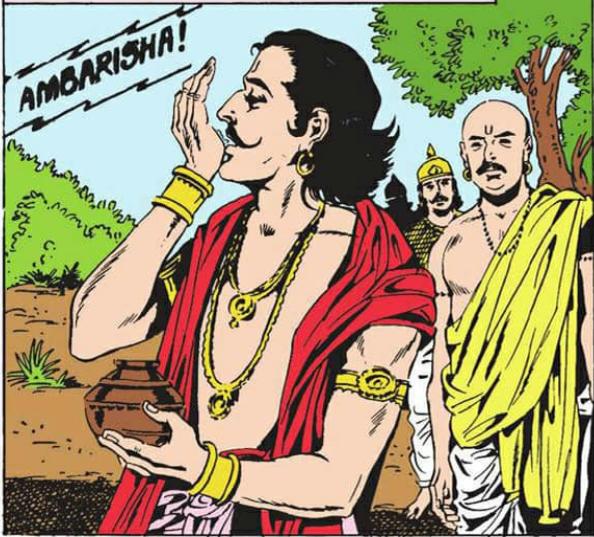


MY LORD, YOU COULD TAKE A SIP OF WATER AND BREAK THE FAST. THE SAGE WILL NOT BE OFFENDED BECAUSE YOU WILL EAT ONLY AFTER SERVING HIM.

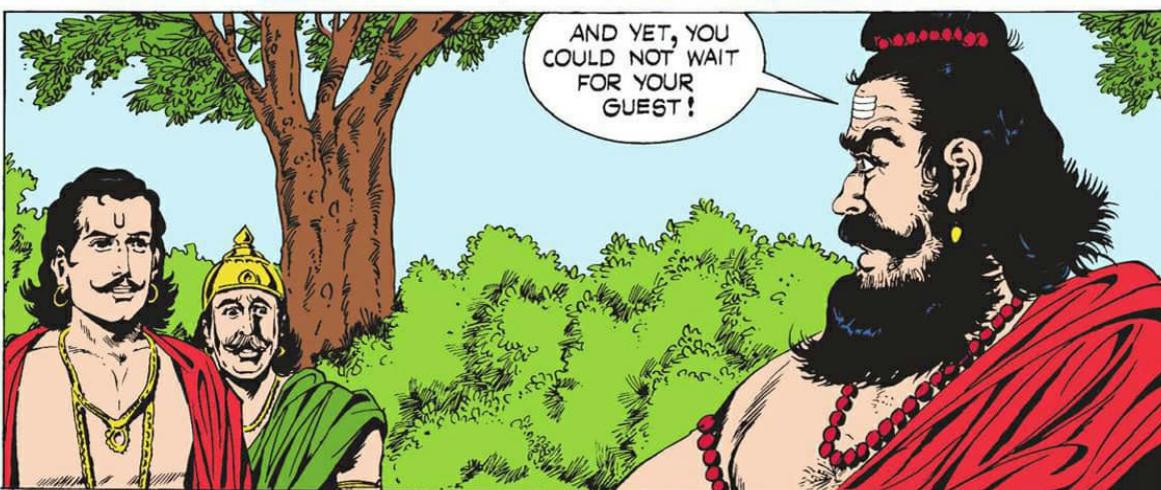
WHAT YOU ADVISE SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY WAY OUT.



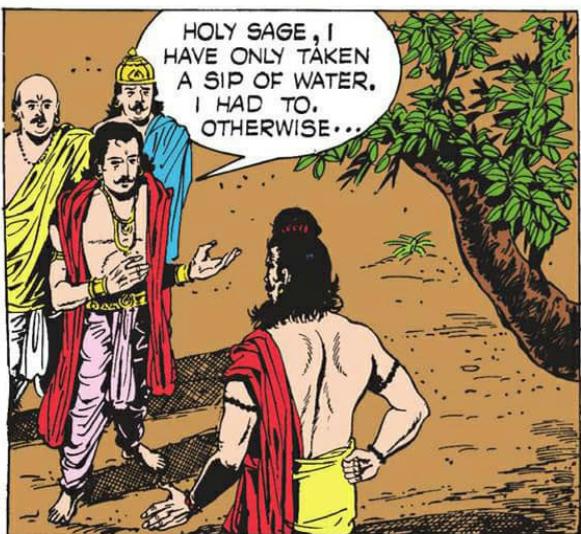
AS AMBARISHA POURED A LITTLE WATER INTO HIS PALM AND RAISED IT TO HIS LIPS —



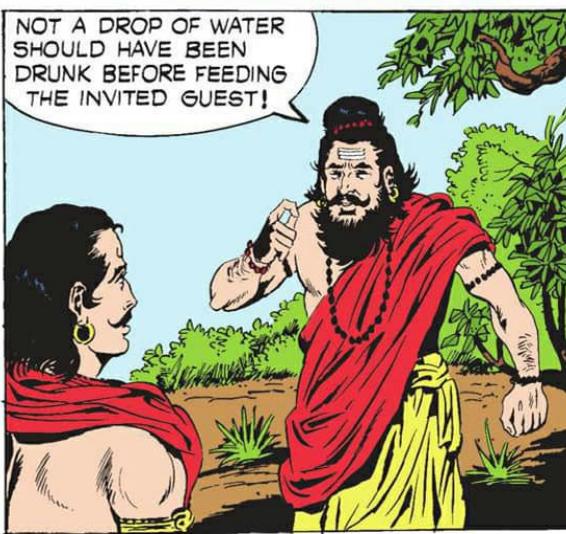
AND YET, YOU COULD NOT WAIT FOR YOUR GUEST!

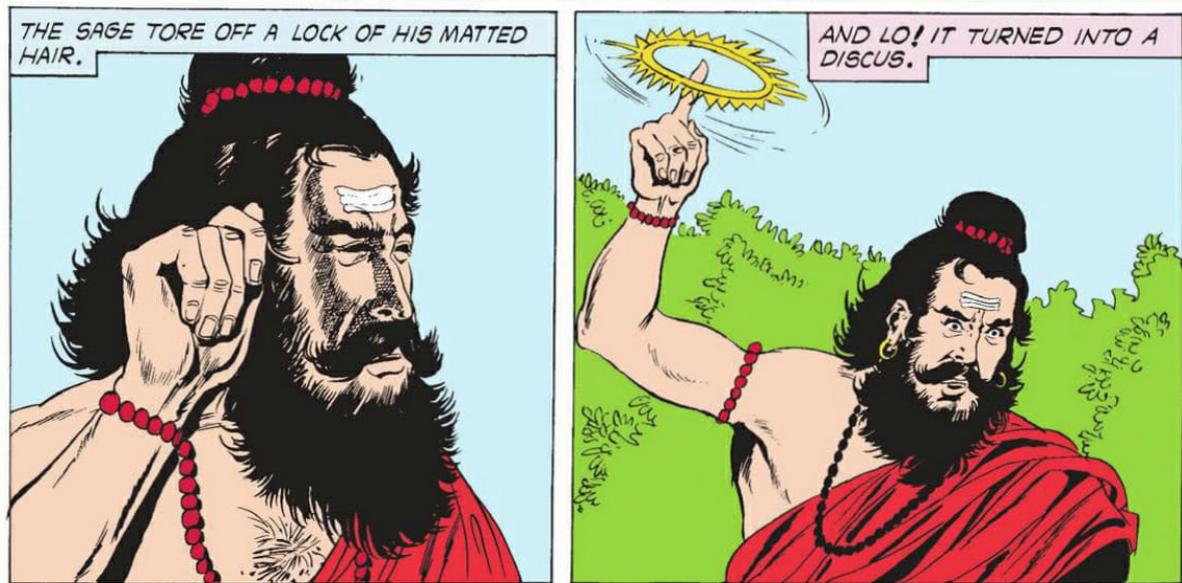
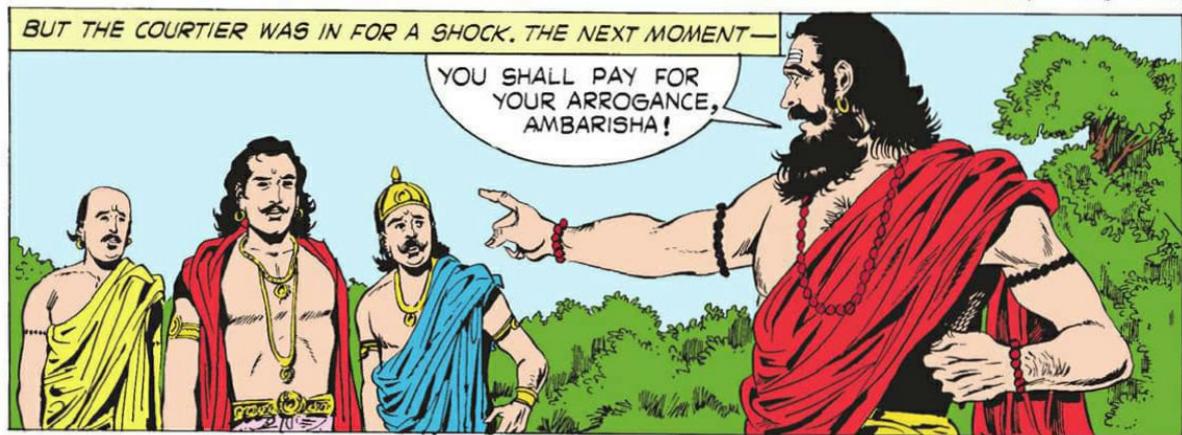
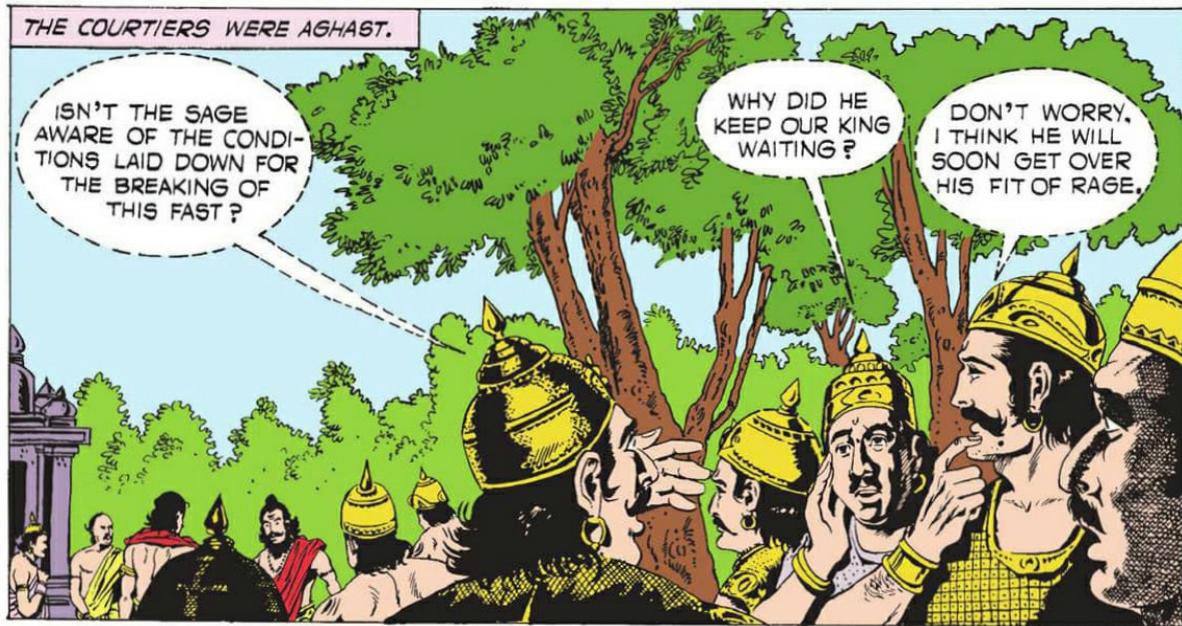


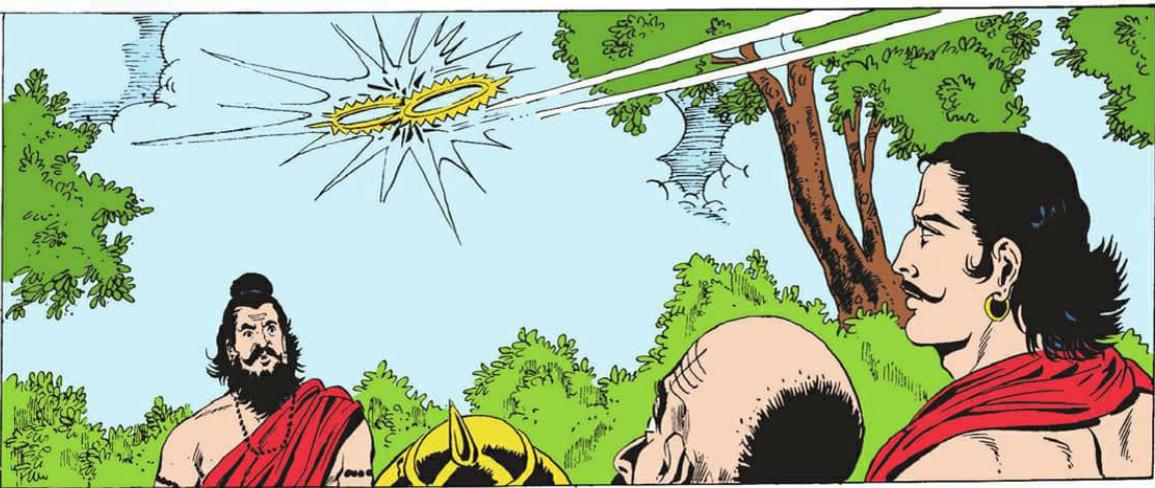
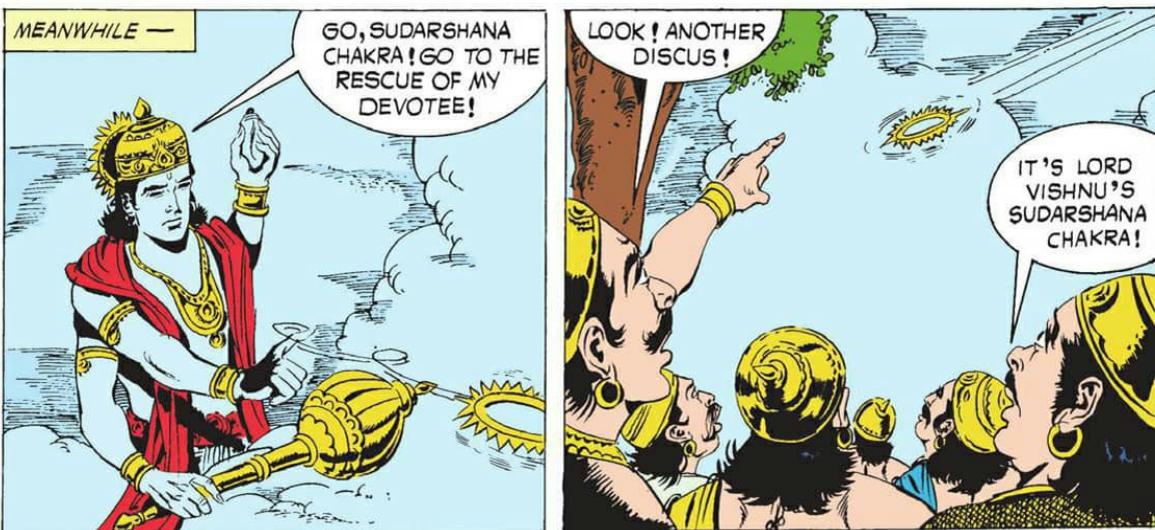
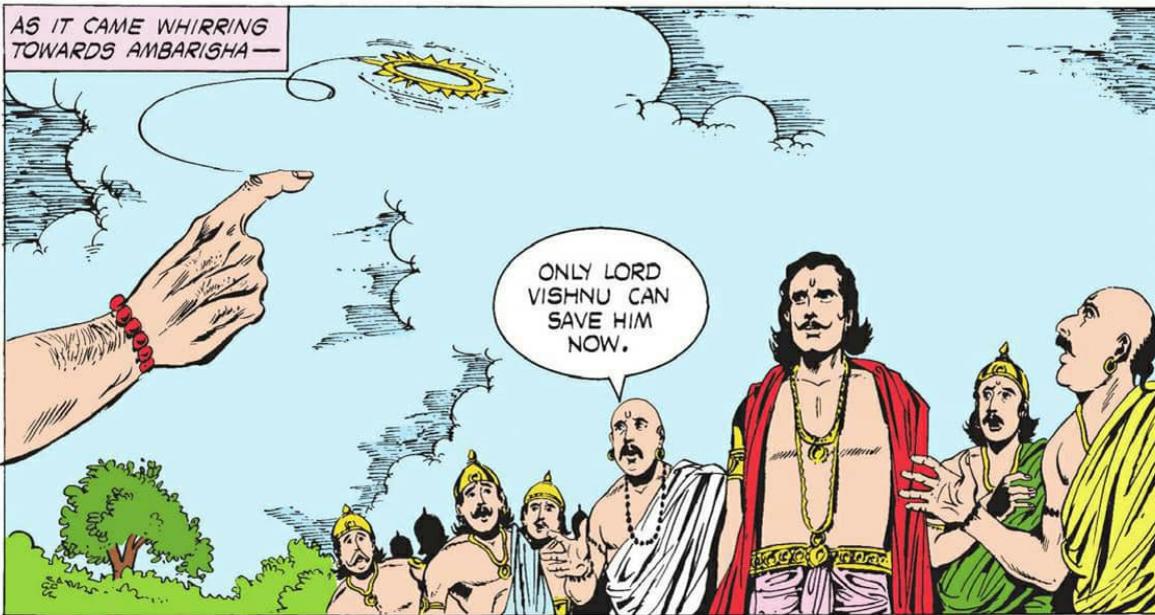
HOLY SAGE, I HAVE ONLY TAKEN A SIP OF WATER. I HAD TO, OTHERWISE...



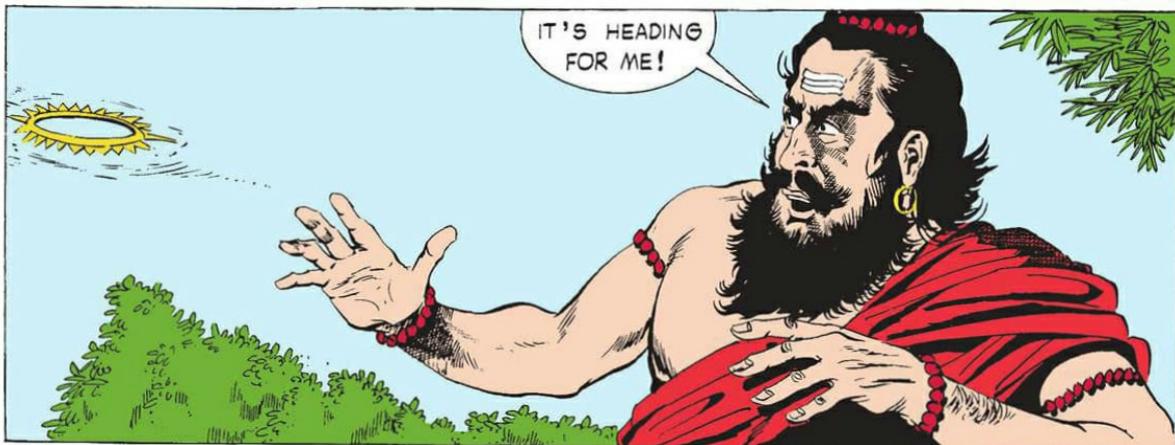
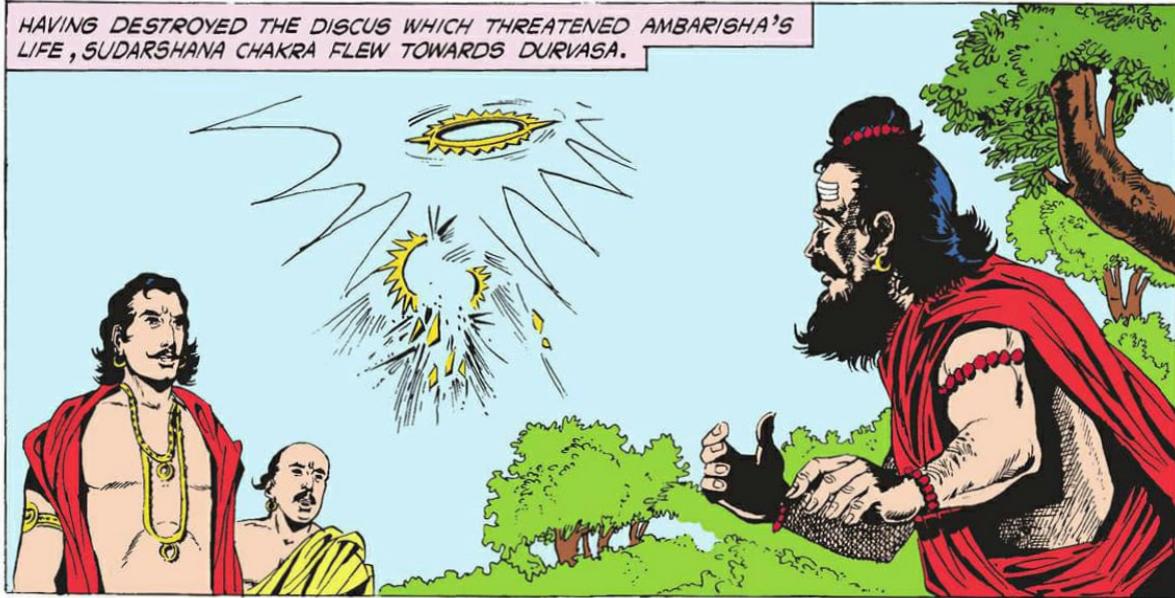
NOT A DROP OF WATER SHOULD HAVE BEEN DRUNK BEFORE FEEDING THE INVITED GUEST!



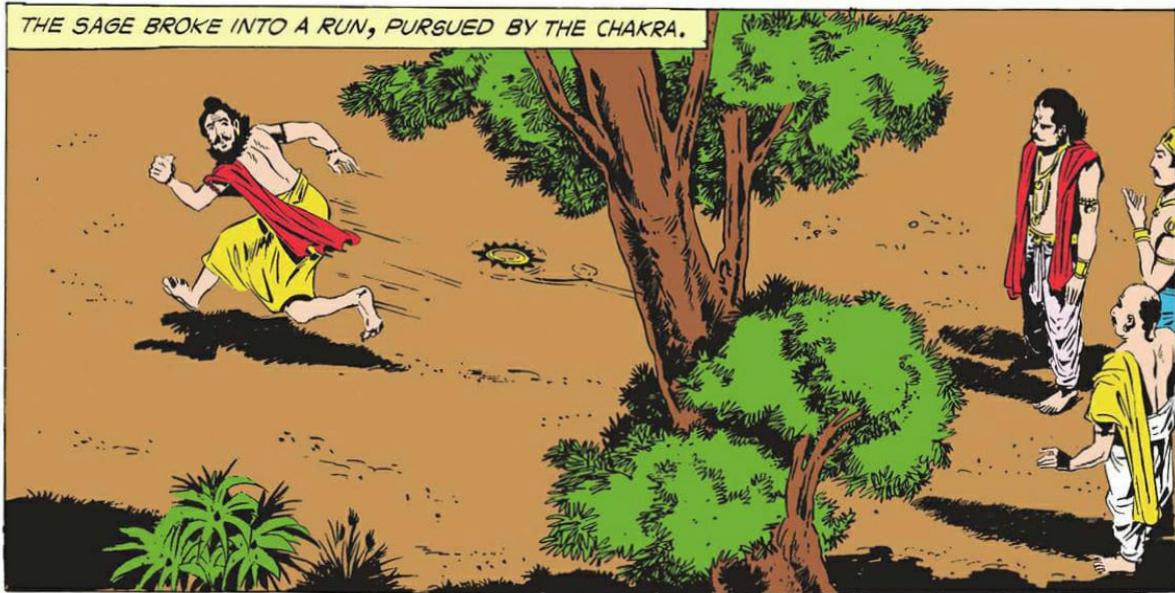


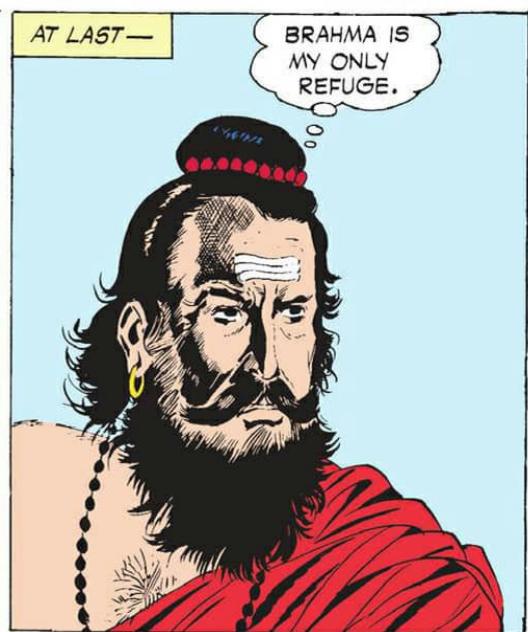
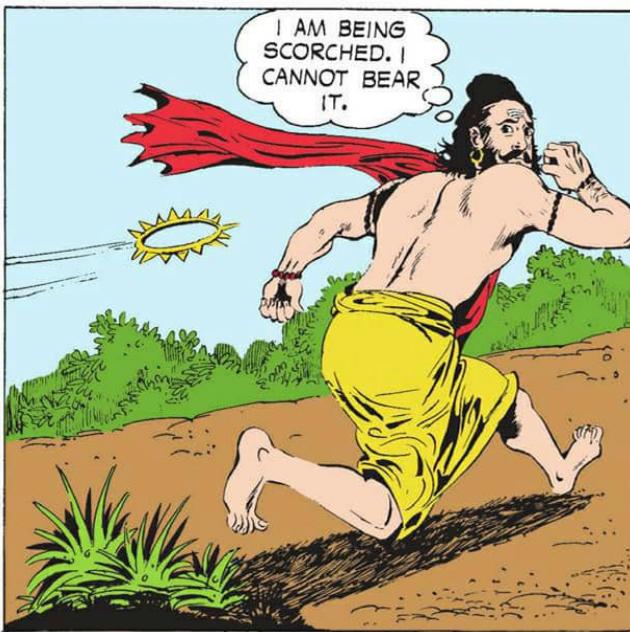
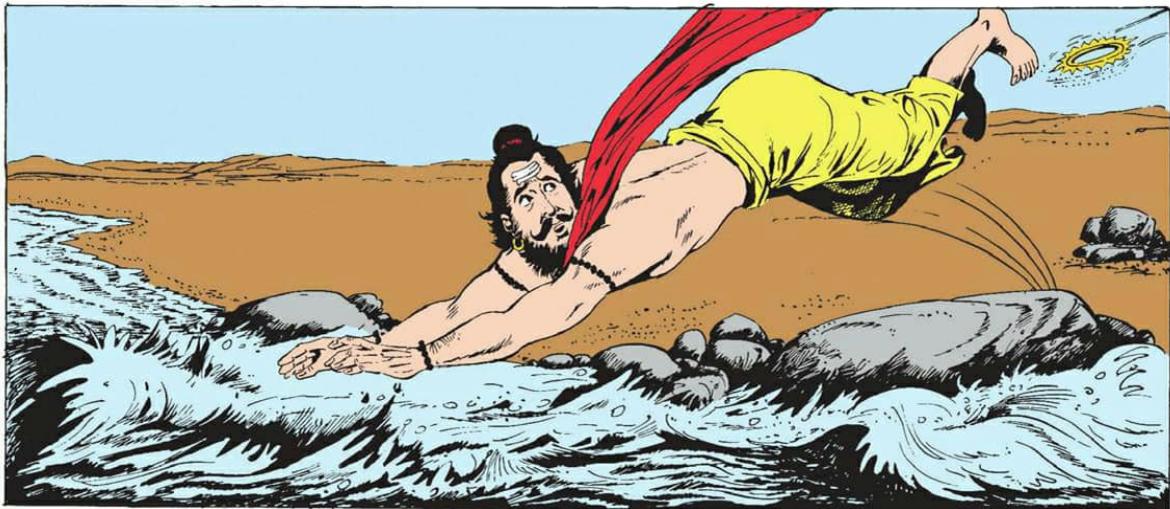
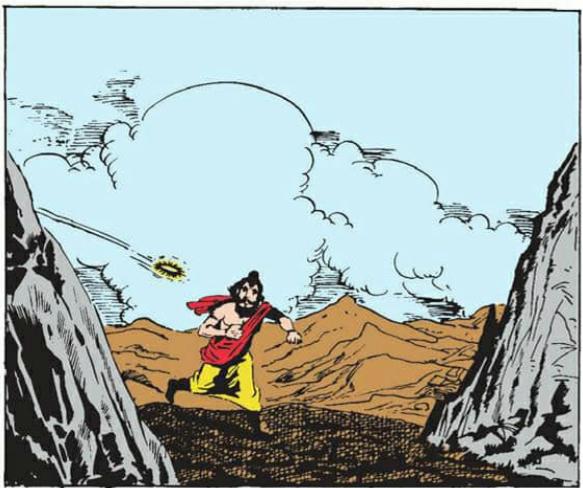


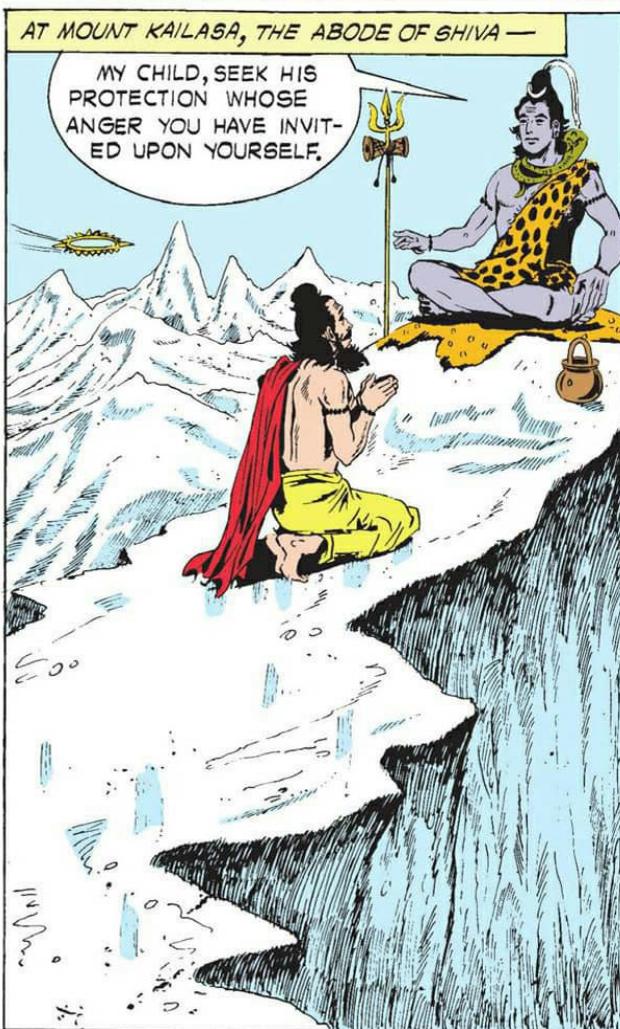
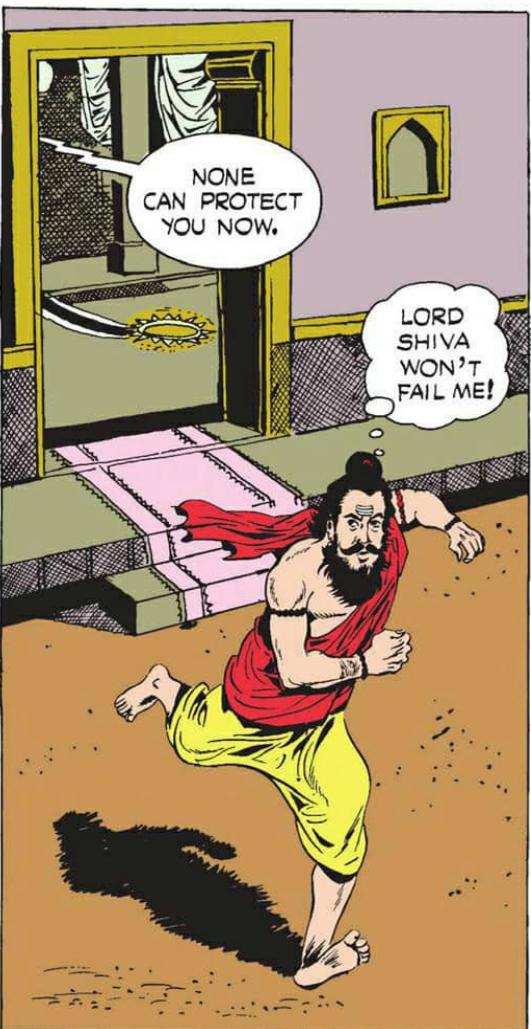
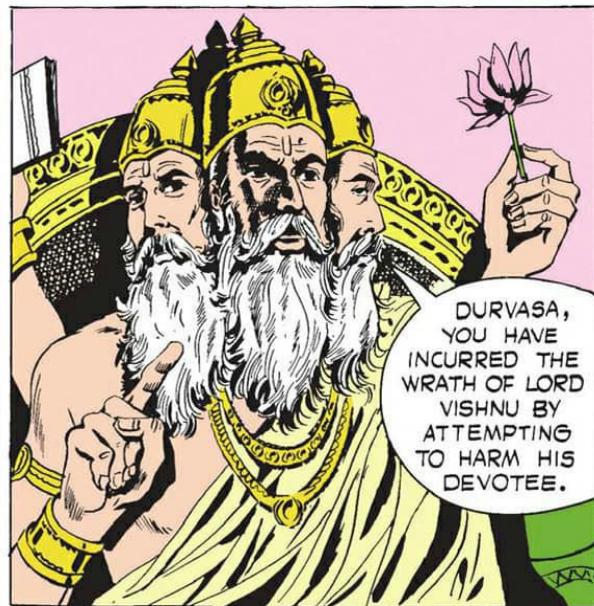
HAVING DESTROYED THE DISCUS WHICH THREATENED AMBARISHA'S LIFE, SUDARSHANA CHAKRA FLEW TOWARDS DURVASA.



THE SAGE BROKE INTO A RUN, PURSUED BY THE CHAKRA.

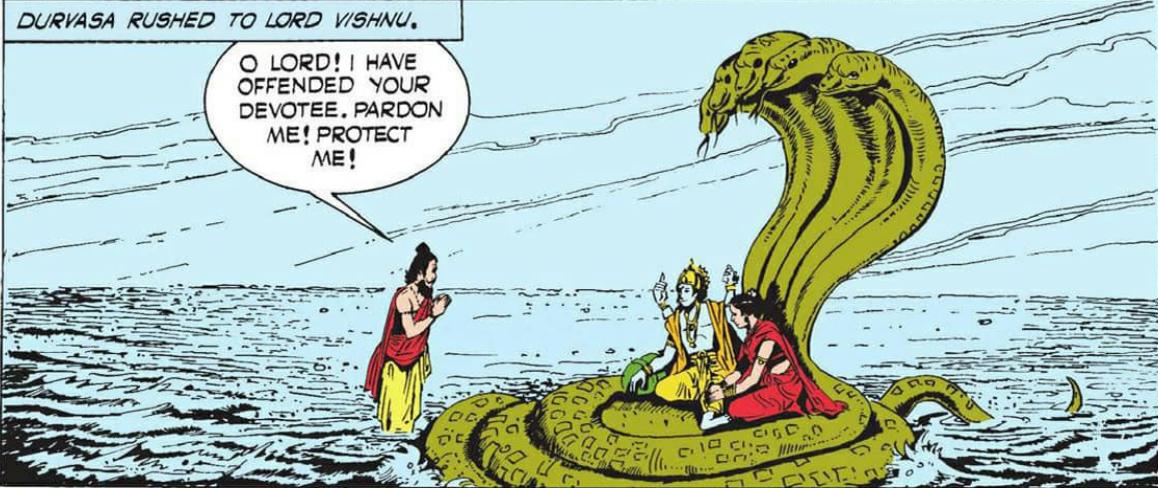






DURVASA RUSHED TO LORD VISHNU.

O LORD! I HAVE OFFENDED YOUR DEVOTEE. PARDON ME! PROTECT ME!



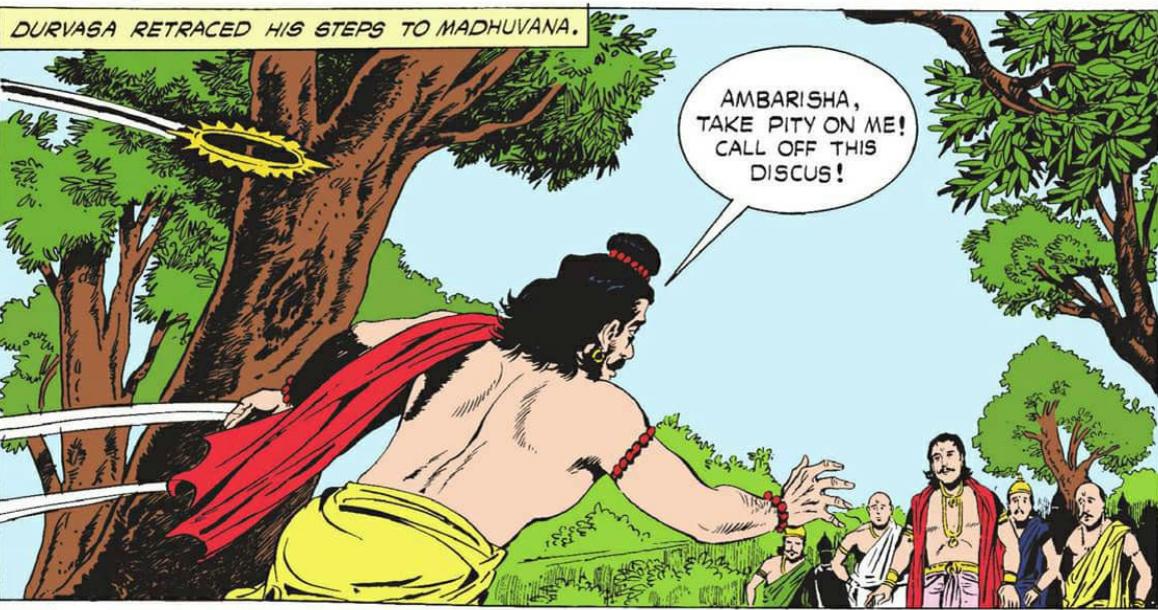
O SAGE, HE WHO EMPLOYS HIS POWER TO INJURE THE VIRTUOUS, INVITES EVIL UPON HIMSELF.

ONLY AMBARISHA HAS THE POWER TO SAVE YOU. SEEK HIS PROTECTION.

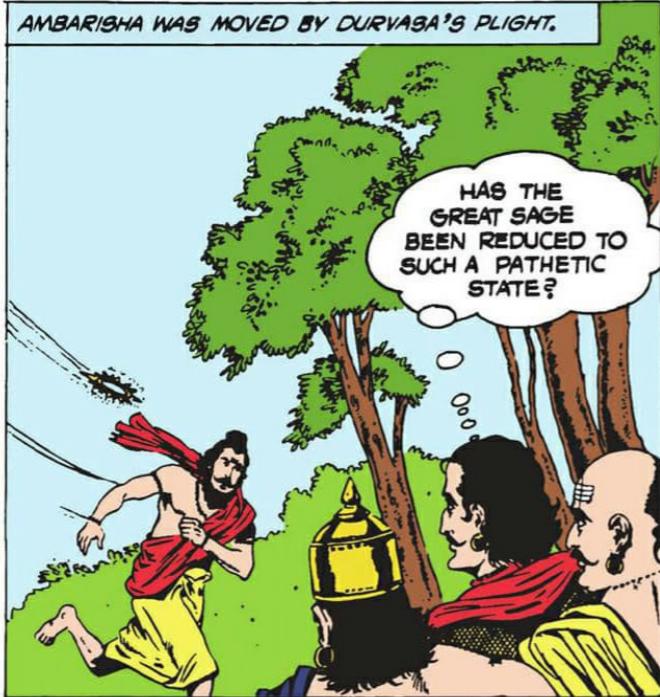


DURVASA RETRACED HIS STEPS TO MADHUVANA.

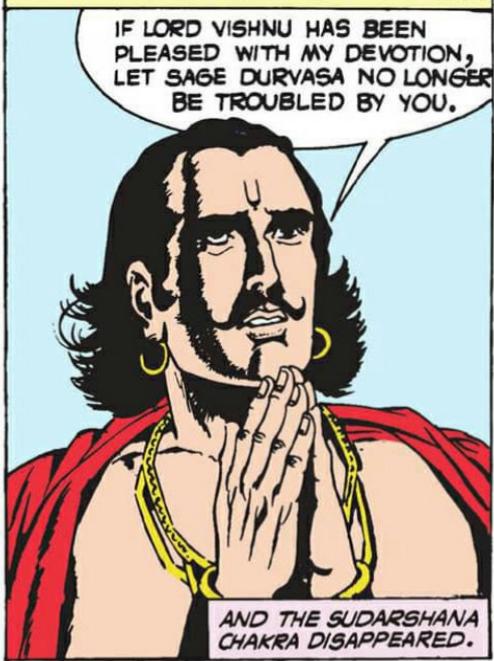
AMBARISHA, TAKE PITY ON ME! CALL OFF THIS DISCUS!



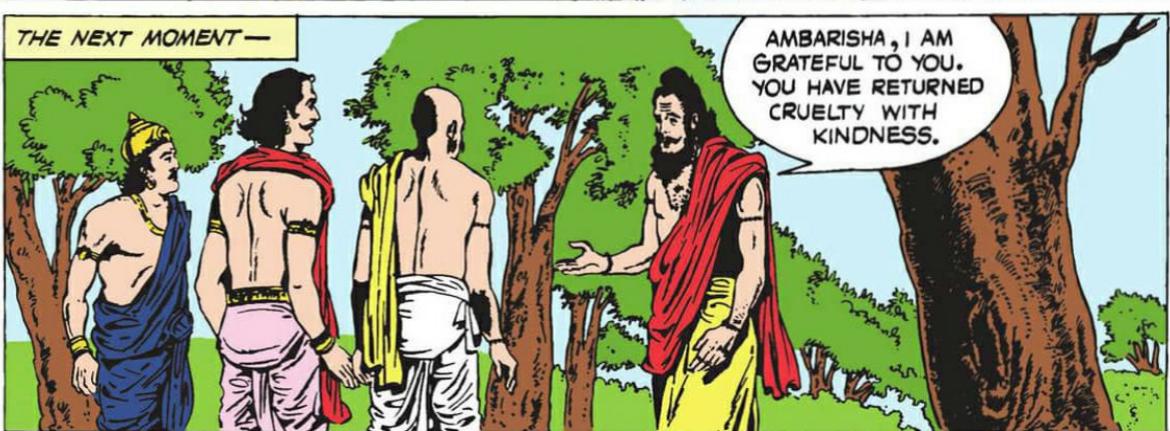
AMBARISHA WAS MOVED BY DURVASA'S PLIGHT.



HE APPEALED TO SUDARSHANA CHAKRA.



THE NEXT MOMENT—

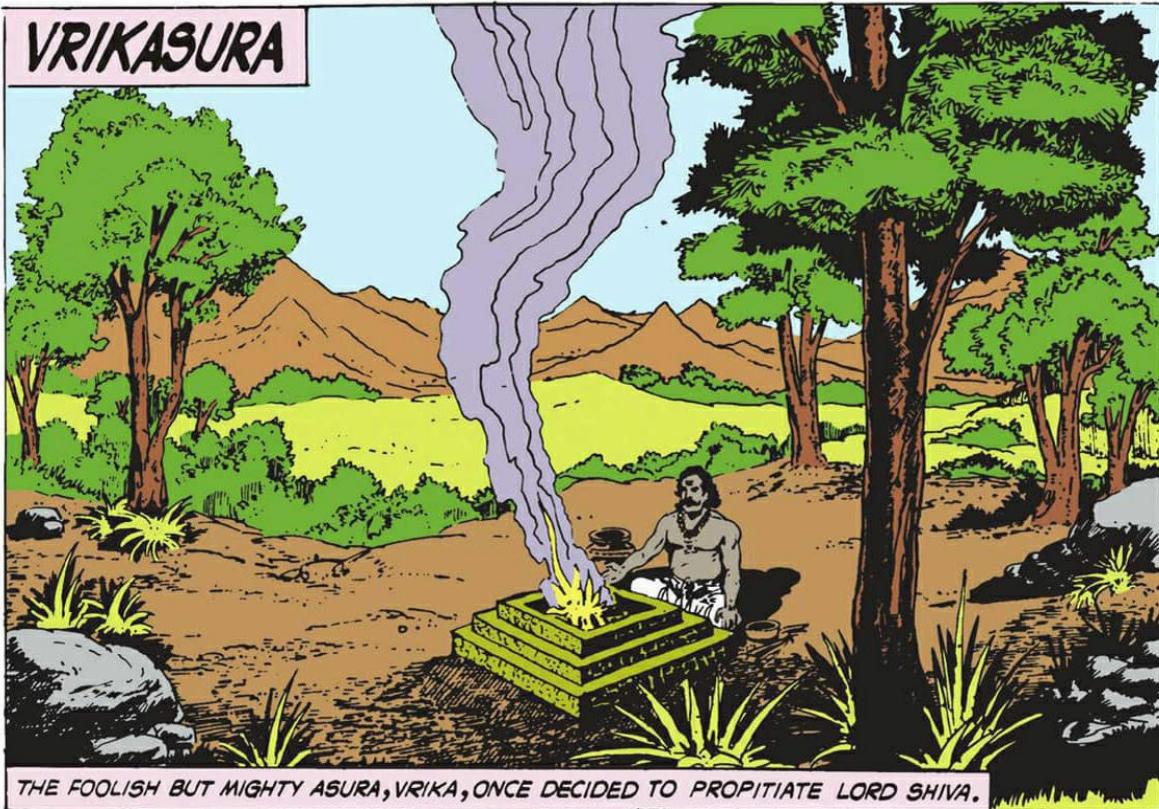


THE DISCUS OF VISHNU WHICH COULD NOT BE CONTROLLED BY EITHER SHIVA OR BRAHMA, RESPECTS YOUR WORDS. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF YOUR POWER?

THE LOVE OF LORD VISHNU.

THUS DID VISHNU DEMONSTRATE HIS LOVE FOR HIS DEVOTEES.

VRIKASURA



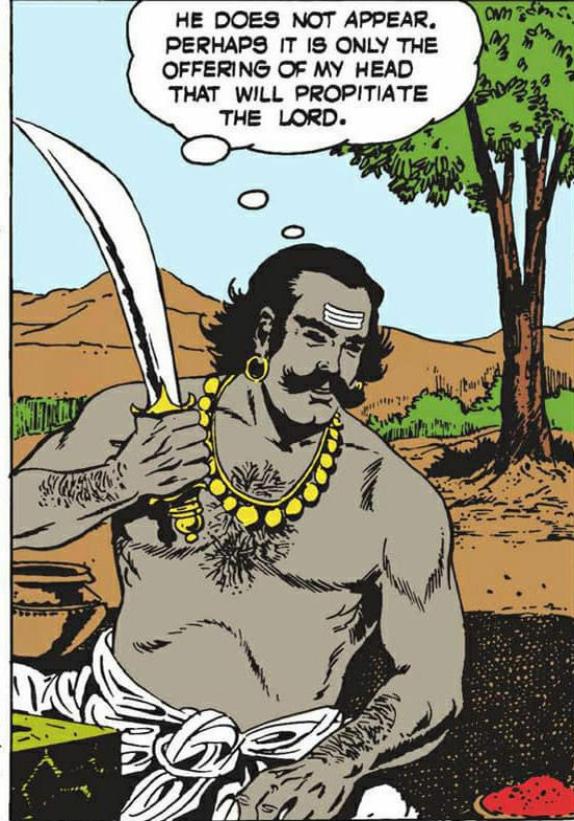
THE FOOLISH BUT MIGHTY ASURA, VRIKA, ONCE DECIDED TO PROPITIATE LORD SHIVA.

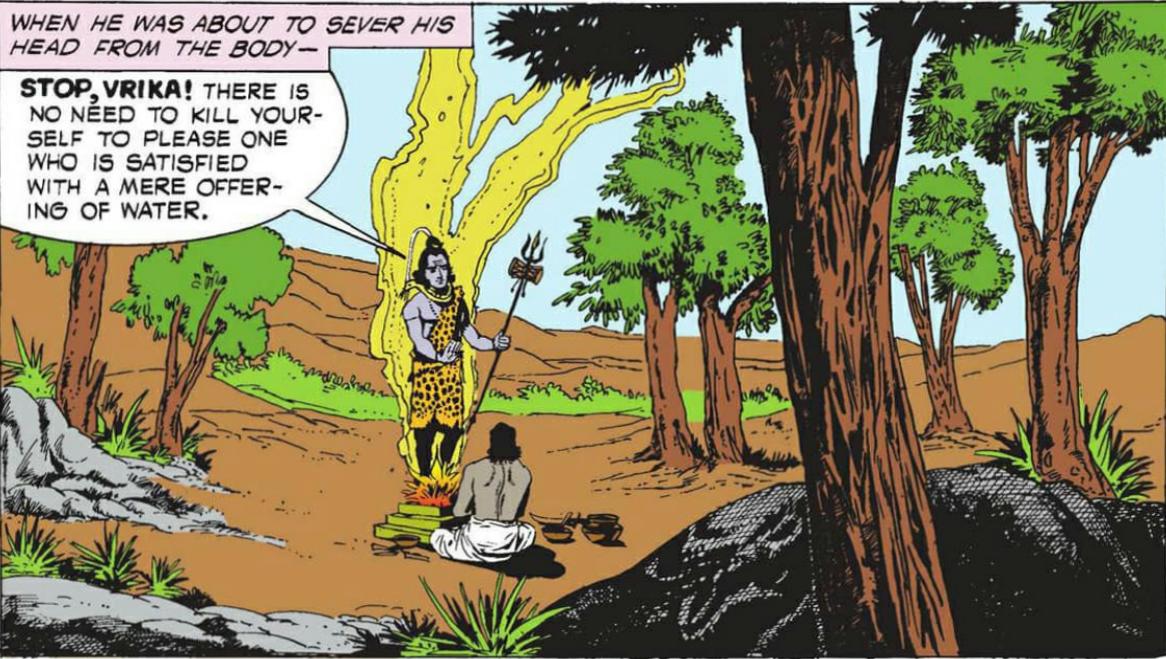
HE CUT OFF HIS FLESH AND OFFERED IT TO THE LORD.

LORD, WITH THIS OFFERING, MAY YOU APPEAR BEFORE ME.

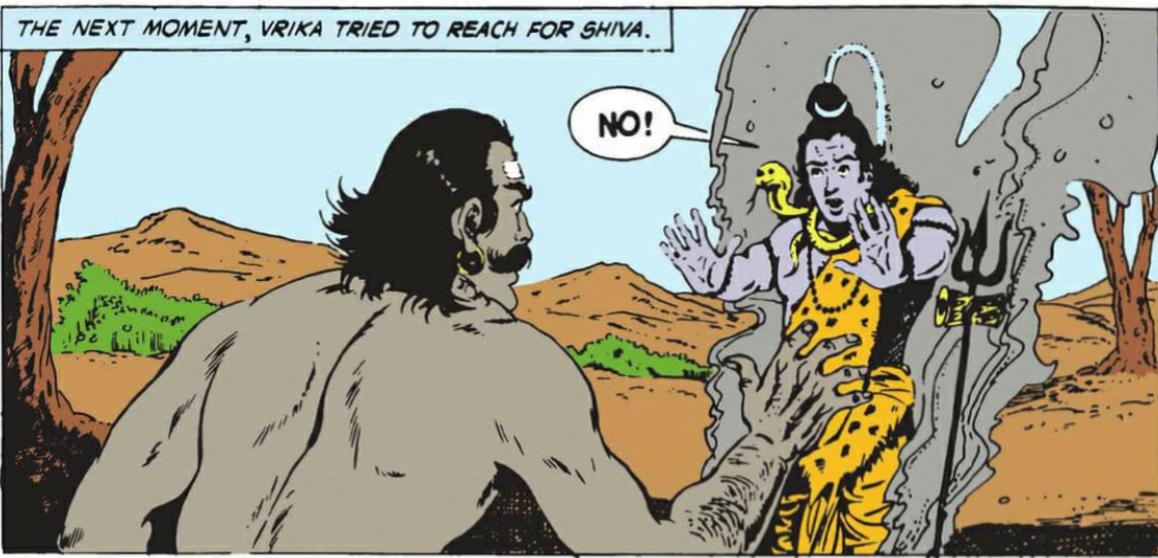


HE DOES NOT APPEAR. PERHAPS IT IS ONLY THE OFFERING OF MY HEAD THAT WILL PROPITIATE THE LORD.

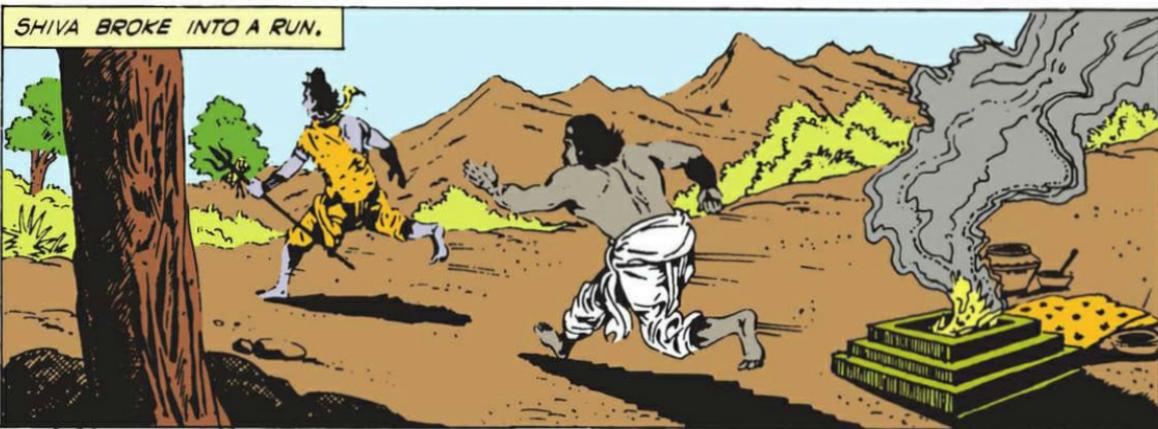




THE NEXT MOMENT, VRINKA TRIED TO REACH FOR SHIVA.



SHIVA BROKE INTO A RUN.



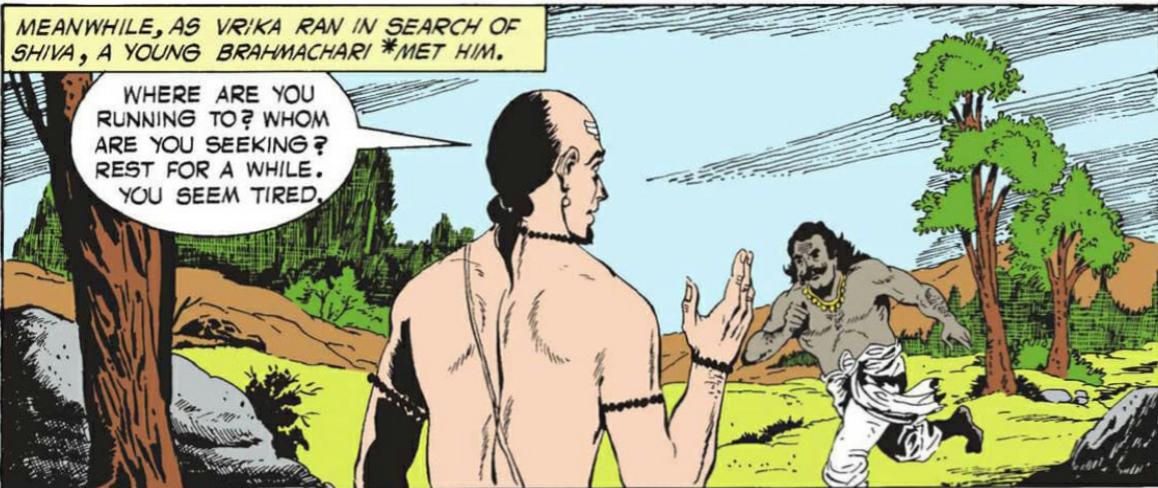
HE SOUGHT OUT LORD VISHNU.

PROTECT ME
FROM THE WICKED
ASURA.

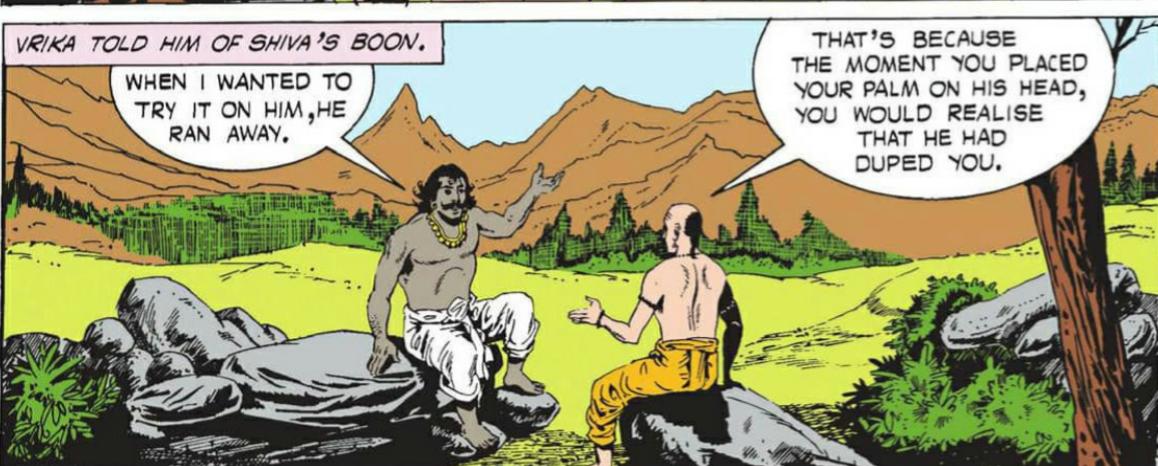
LEAVE
HIM TO
ME.



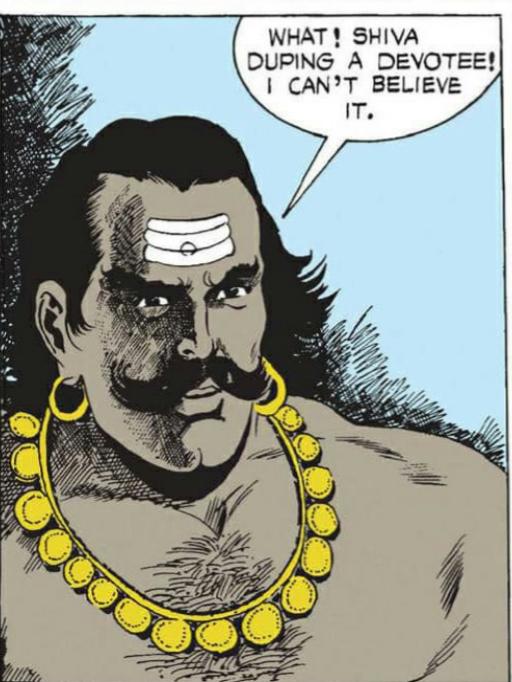
MEANWHILE, AS VRINKA RAN IN SEARCH OF SHIVA, A YOUNG BRAHMACHARI *MET HIM.



VRINKA TOLD HIM OF SHIVA'S BOON.

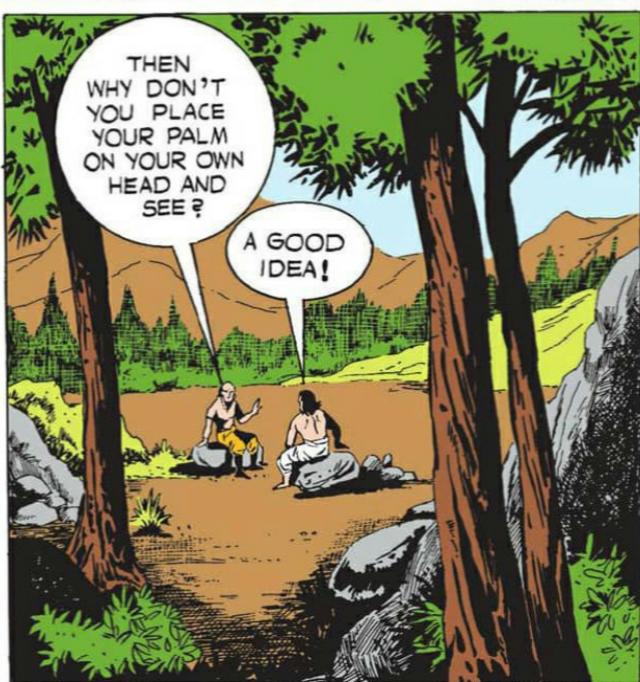


WHAT! SHIVA DUPING A DEVOTEE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.



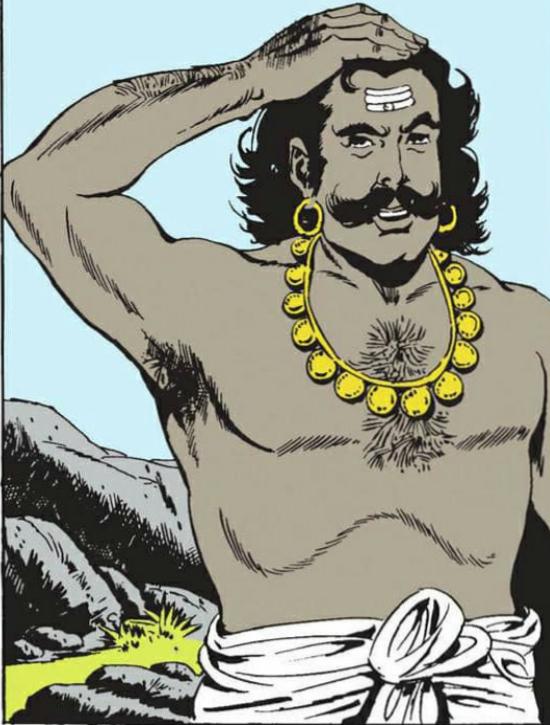
THEN WHY DON'T YOU PLACE YOUR PALM ON YOUR OWN HEAD AND SEE?

A GOOD IDEA!

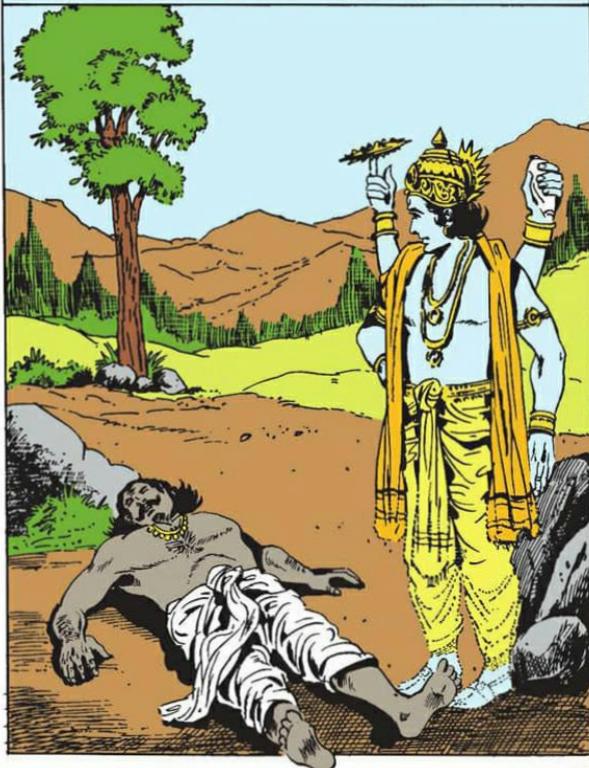


*CELIBATE

WITHOUT STOPPING TO THINK, THE FOOLISH ASURA PLACED HIS PALM ON HIS HEAD.



THE NEXT MOMENT, HE FELL DEAD. THE CLEVER BRAHMACHARI WAS NONE OTHER THAN VISHNU.



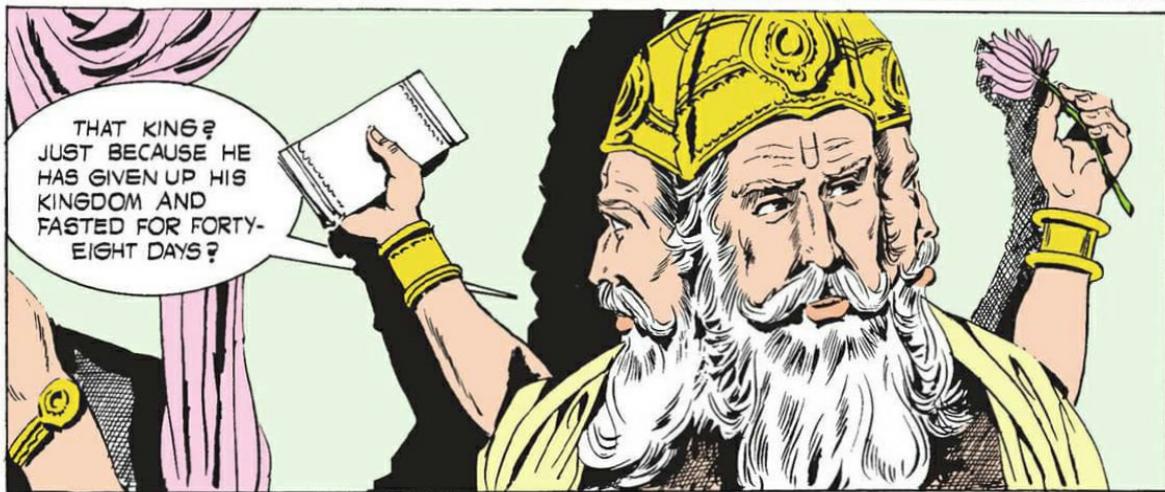
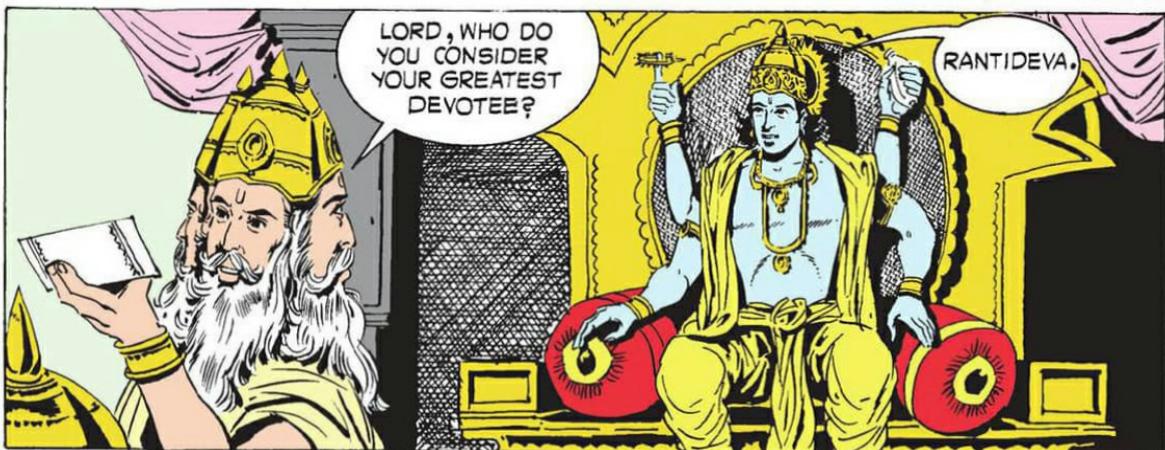
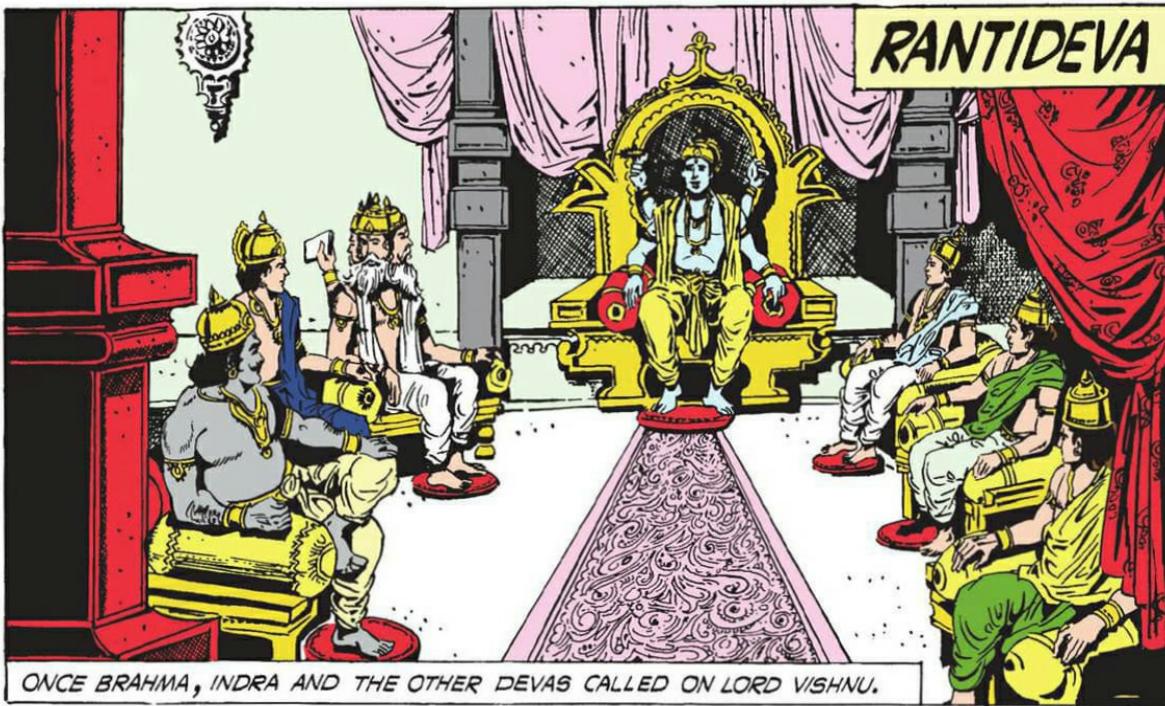
JUST THEN, SHIVA APPEARED.

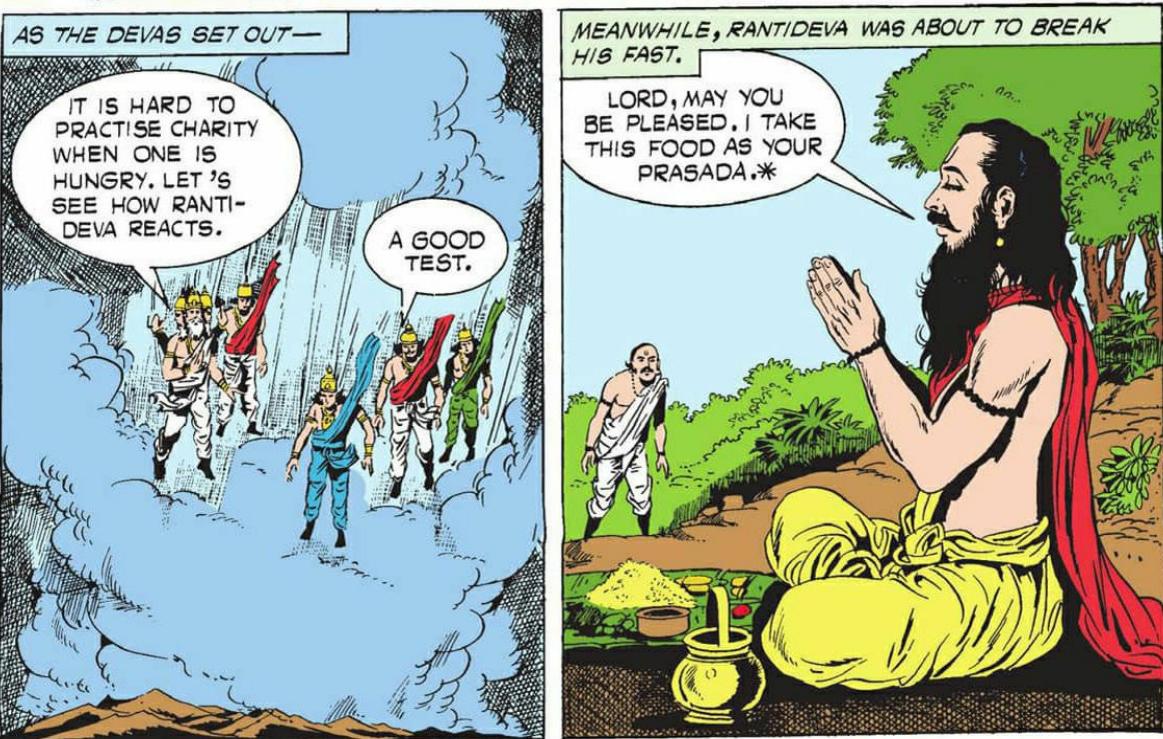
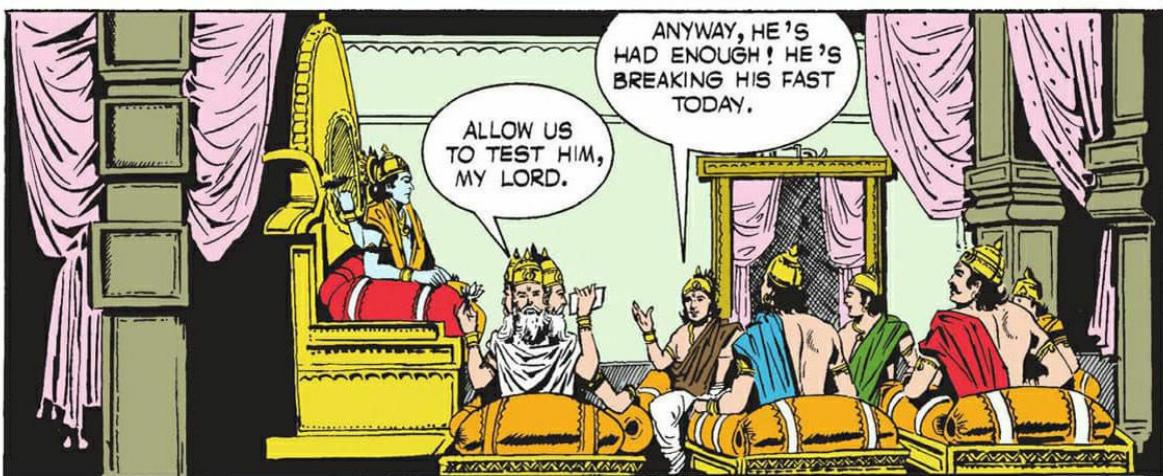
I AM SORRY THAT THE UNFORTUNATE ASURA HAD TO DIE.

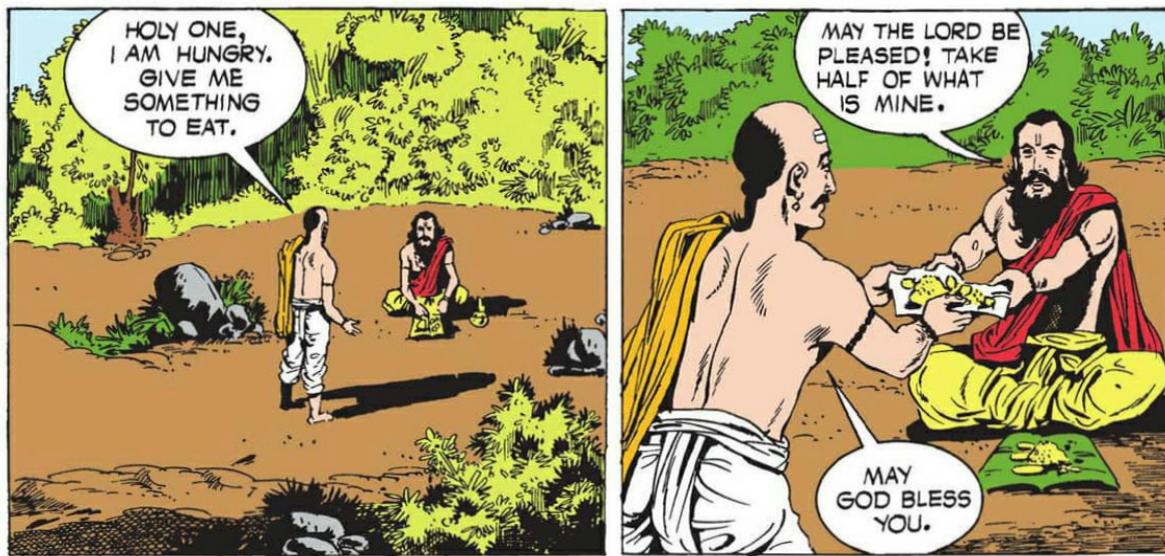
IT WAS INEVITABLE. HE WHO SECURES A BOON TO DESTROY OTHERS SEEKS HIS OWN DESTRUCTION.



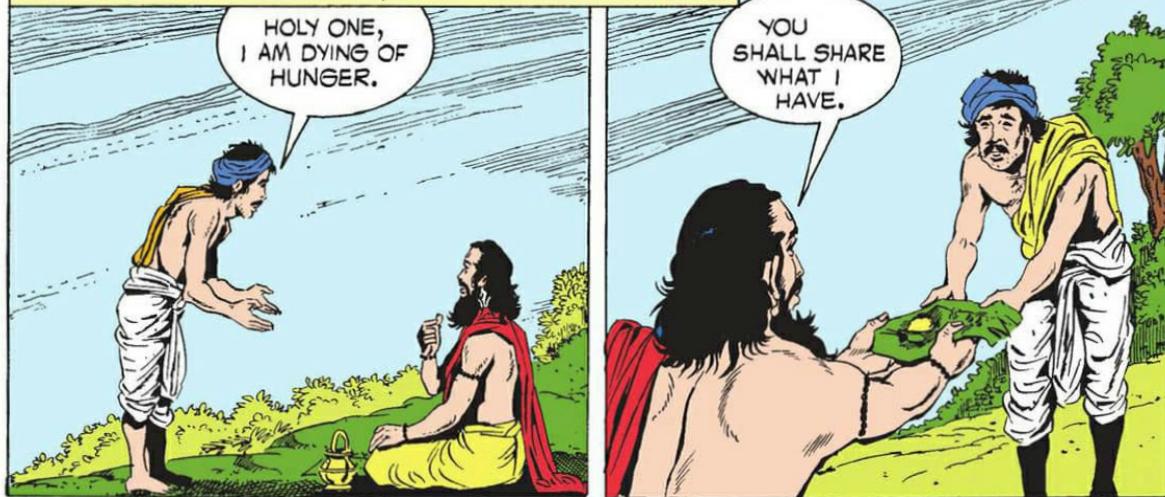
RANTIDEVA



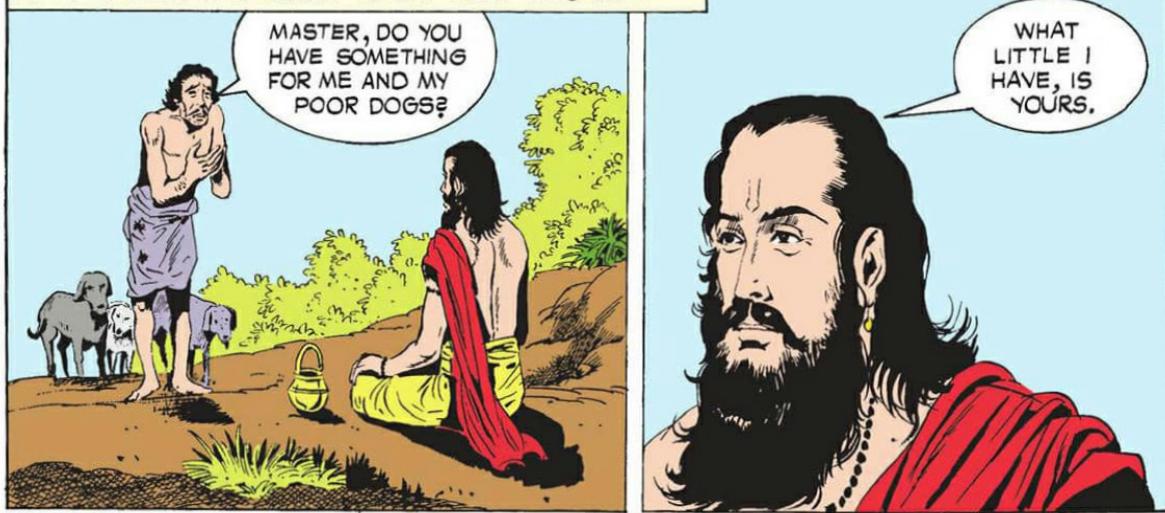


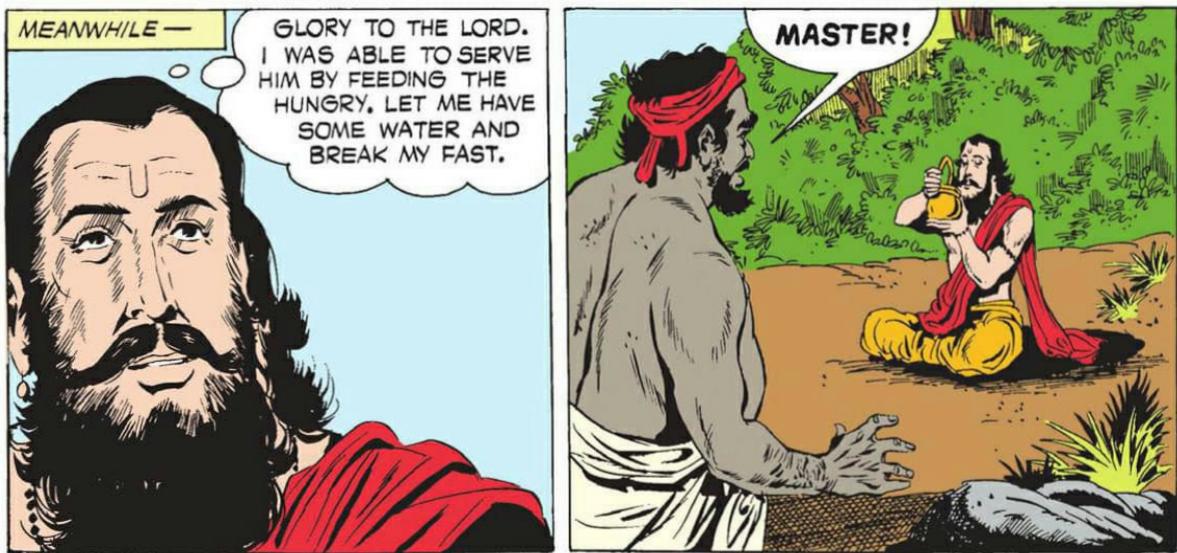
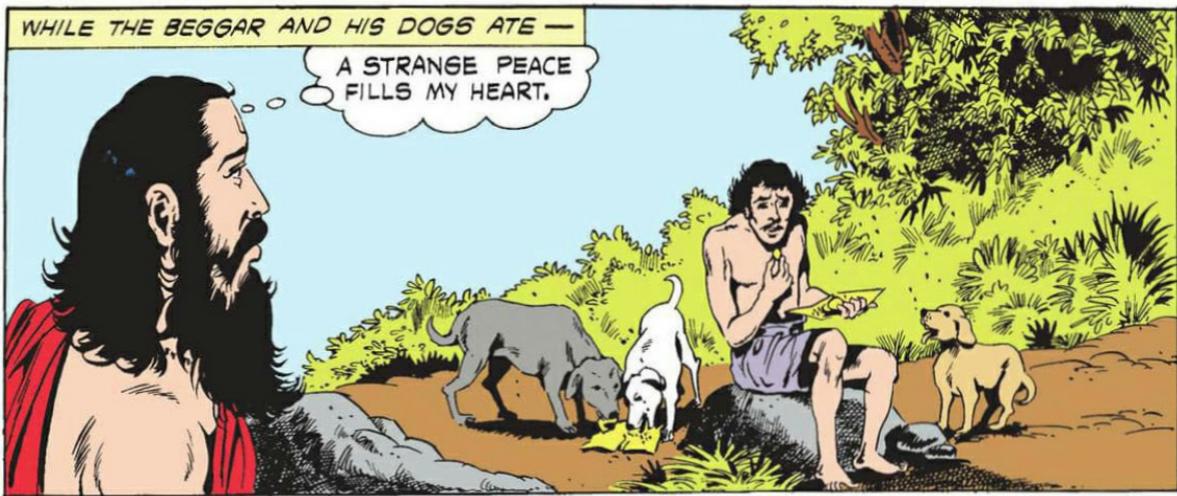


AS THE BRAHMAN WENT AWAY, A FARMER CAME ALONG.

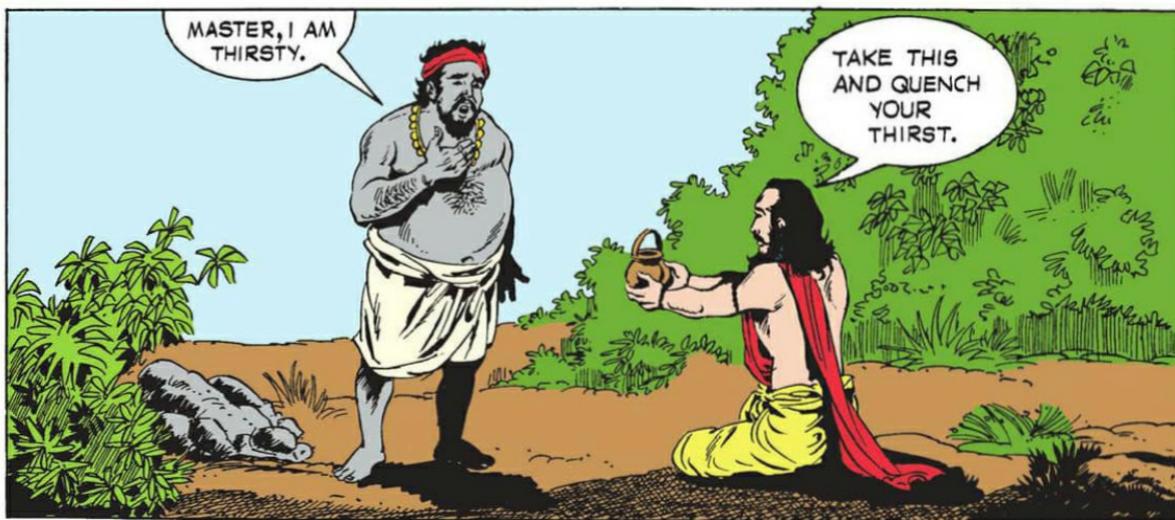


AS RANTIDEVA WAS ABOUT TO EAT WHAT WAS LEFT —





*CELESTIAL BEING



* EMANCIPATION OF THE SOUL



THE NEXT MOMENT, VISHNU AND THE OTHER DEVAS APPEARED BEFORE RANTIDEVA.

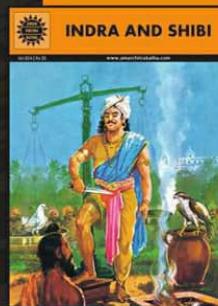
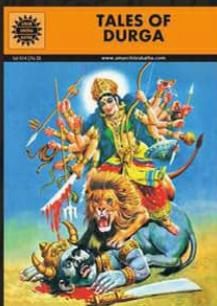
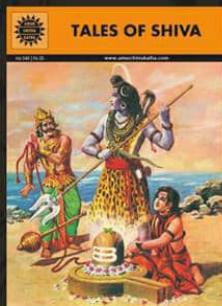


EPICS &
MYTHOLOGY

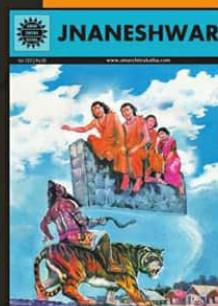
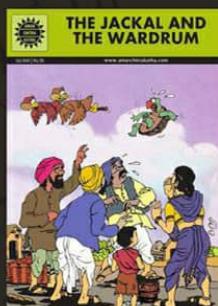
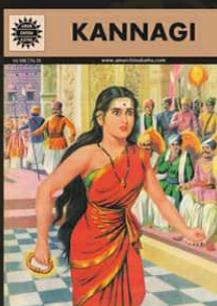
TALES OF VISHNU

Vishnu, they say, is just one of a powerful threesome – the highest lords of the universe. However, though Brahma has created the universe and Shiva can destroy it, it is up to the great god Vishnu to keep all creatures within it well and happy. Always compassionate, he is also the wisest of the trinity. It is he who good-naturedly sorts out the mess the others create. And above all, Vishnu always favours the good and the pure.

OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



ALSO LOOK FOR:



BRAVEHEARTS

INDIAN CLASSICS

FABLES & HUMOUR

VISIONARIES

Buy online at www.amarchitrakatha.com

"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

ISBN 81-89999-33-8

A standard linear barcode representing the ISBN number.

9 788189 999339