



GOPAL AND THE COWHERD

A DELIGHTFUL BENGALI FOLKTALE

Vol 641 | ₹ 70





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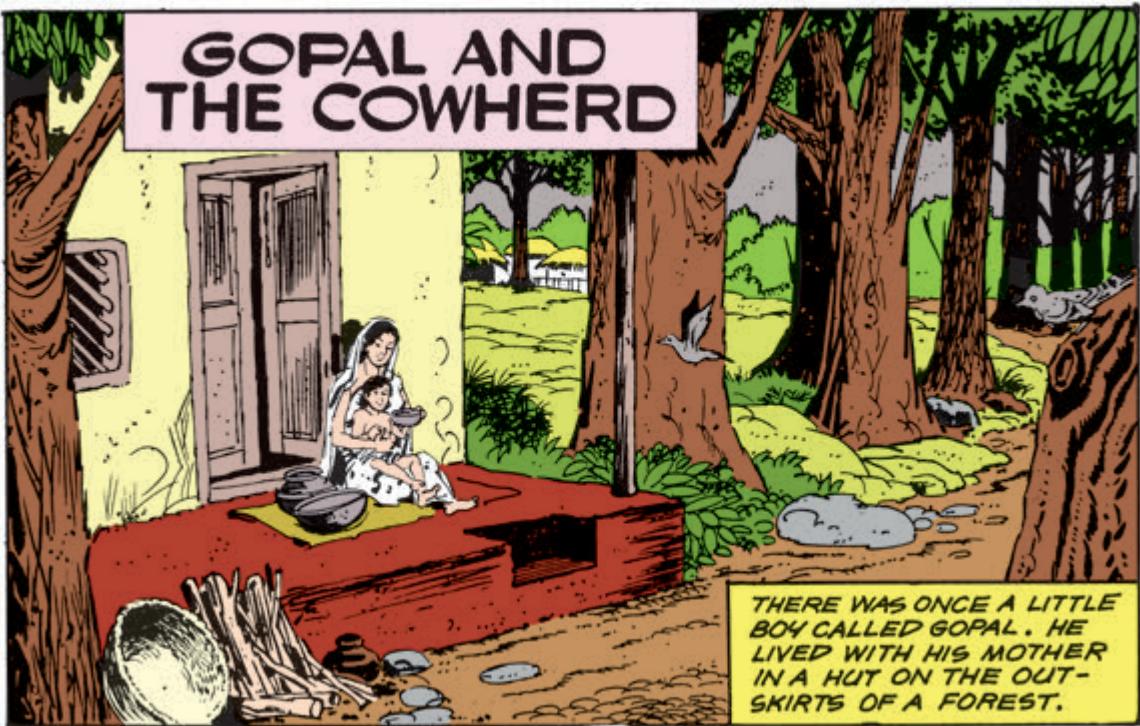
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GOPAL AND THE COWHERD



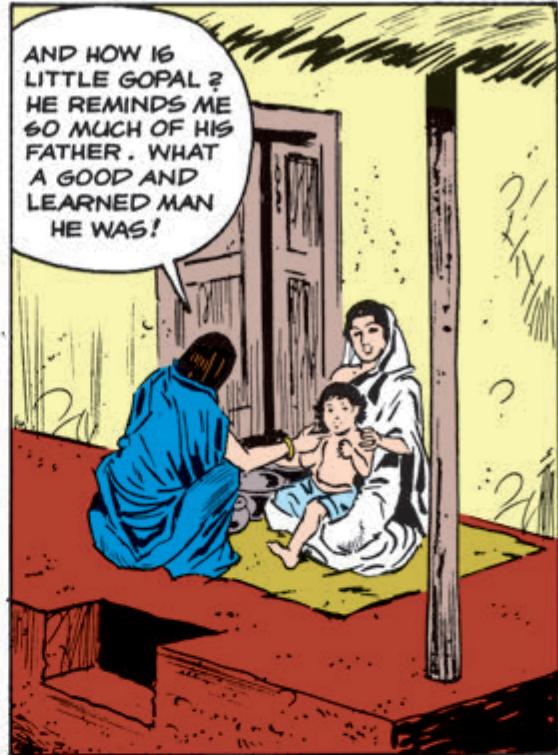
THERE WAS ONCE A LITTLE BOY CALLED GOPAL. HE LIVED WITH HIS MOTHER IN A HUT ON THE OUT-SKIRTS OF A FOREST.

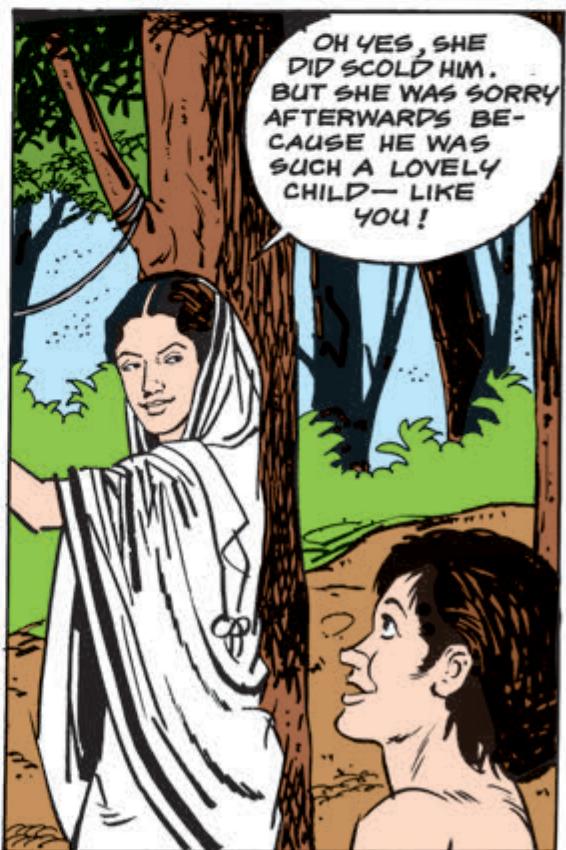
GOPAL'S FATHER HAD DIED BEFORE GOPAL WAS BORN. SO MOTHER AND SON HAD NO ONE TO SUPPORT THEM.



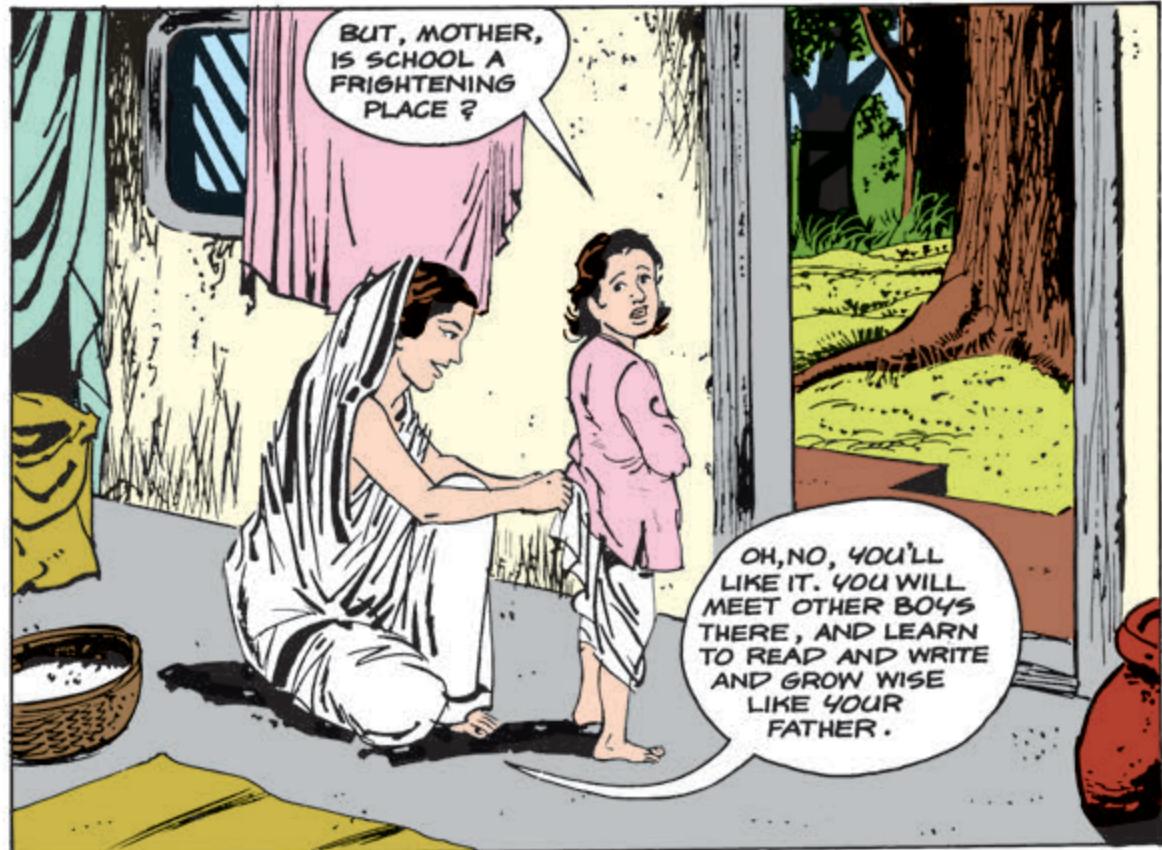
BUT THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE WERE VERY HELPFUL.

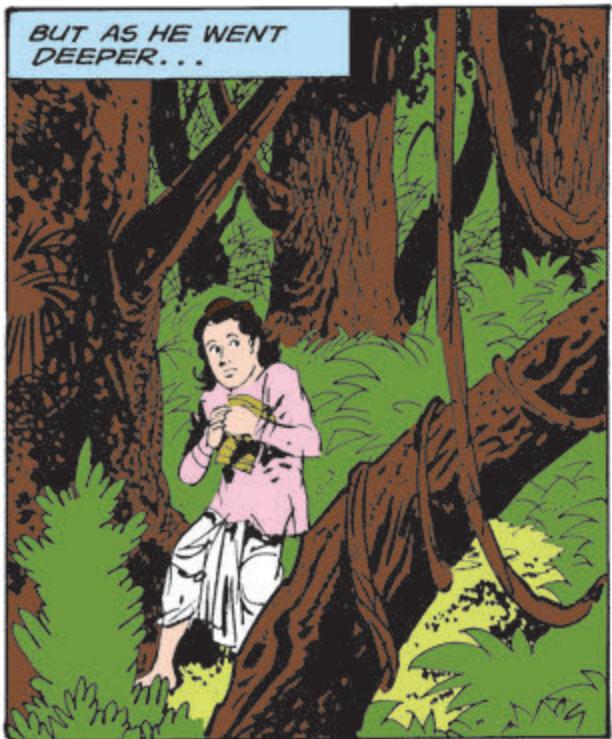


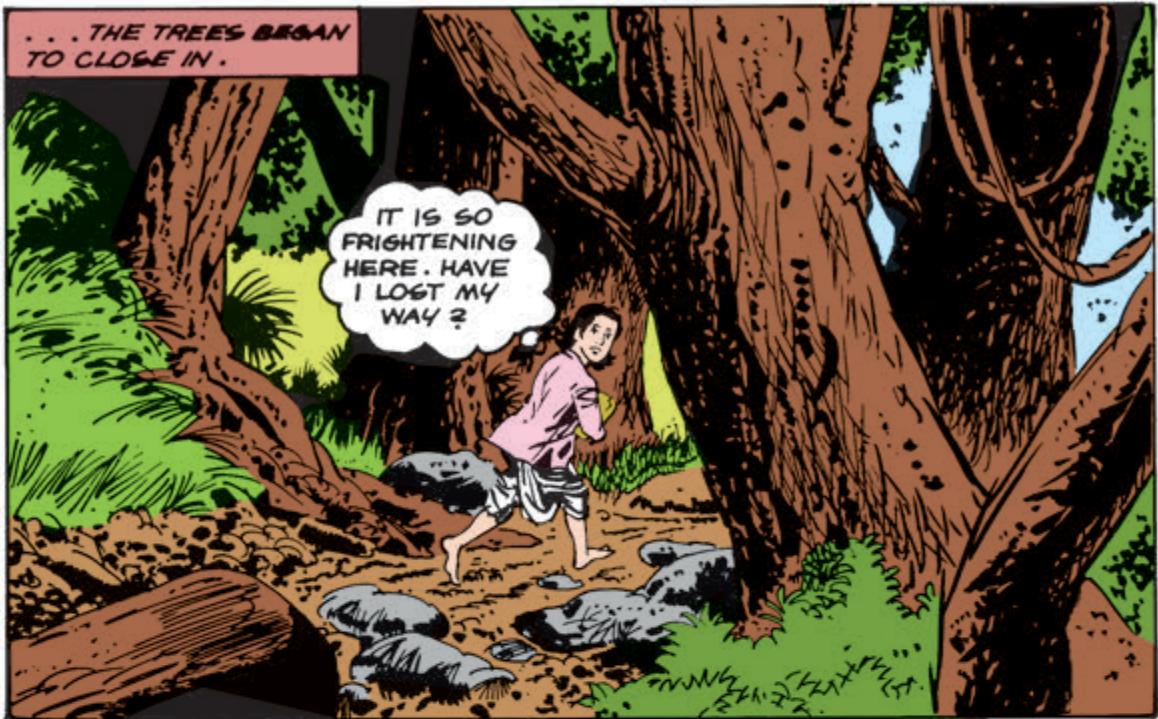


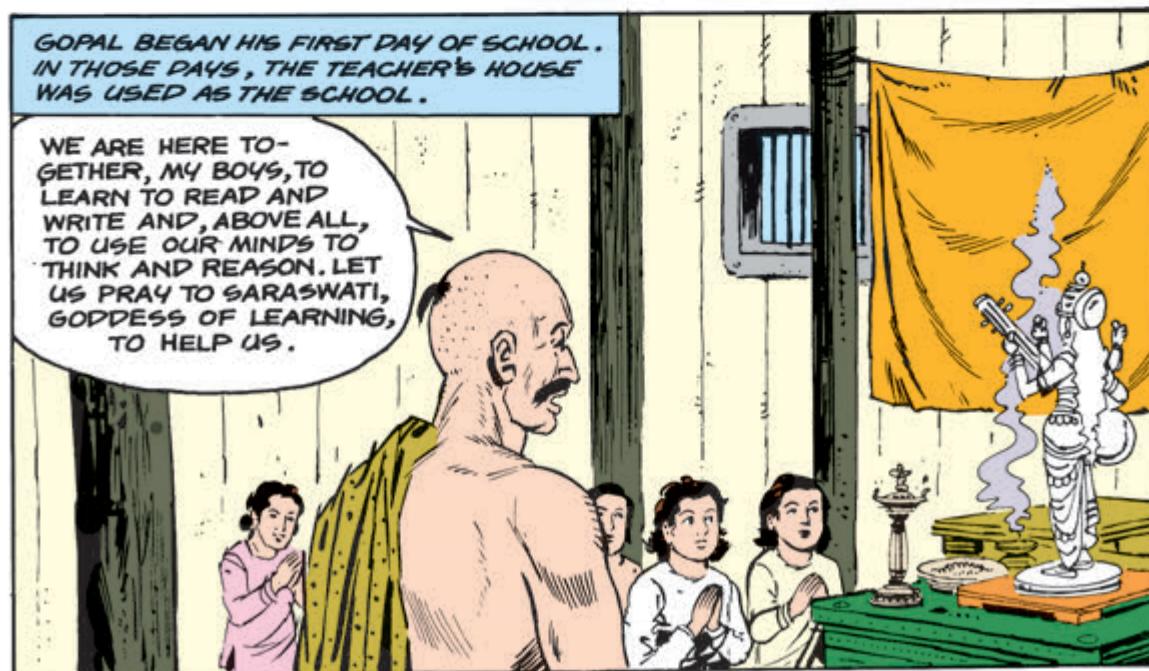
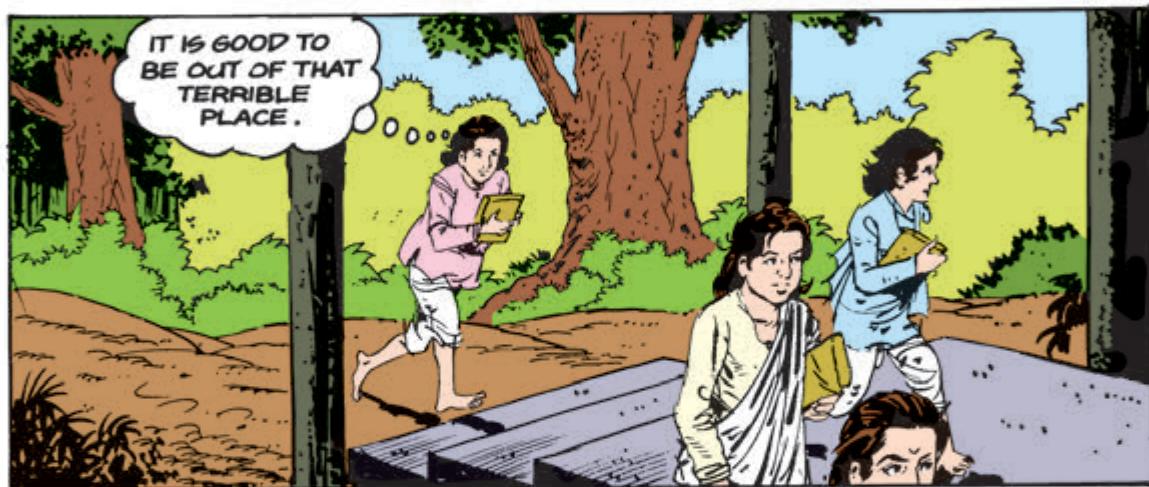












GOPAL HAD A GOOD DAY, ENJOYING ALL THAT HE WAS LEARNING.



IT WAS THE PRACTICE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO WRITE THEIR FIRST LETTERS IN SAND. LATER, THEY WROTE ON STIFF PALMYRA LEAVES.

GOPAL MADE FRIENDS WITH THE OTHER BOYS AND THEY PLAYED TOGETHER AFTER THEIR LESSONS.



BUT AS EVENING APPROACHED —

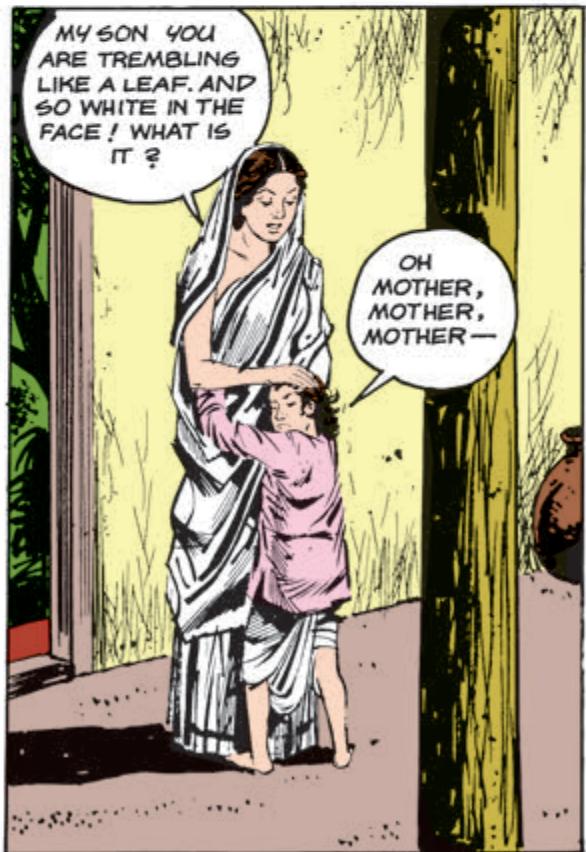
OH, I'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE FOREST AGAIN

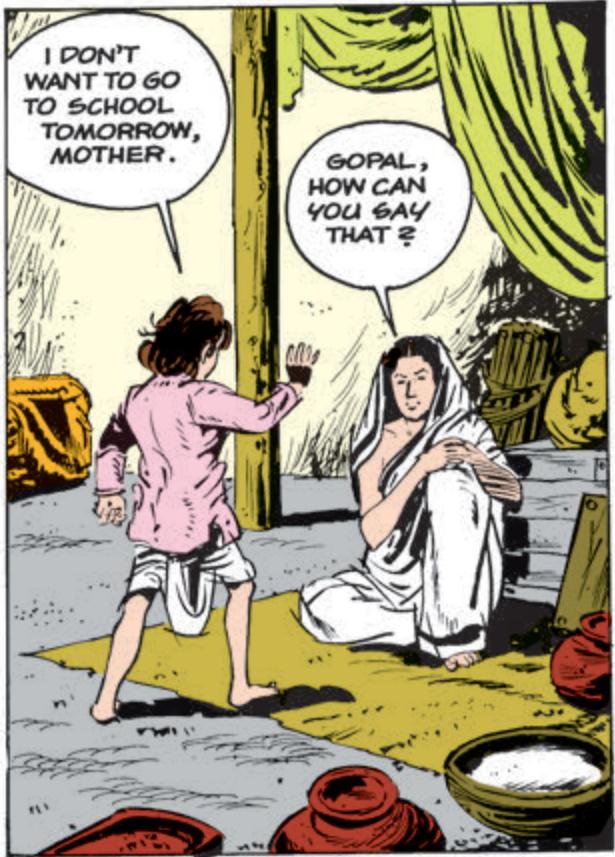


AS HE WALKED HOME, HIS FOOTSTEPS BEGAN TO SLOW DOWN.

I AM SO AFRAID.







AND GOPAL STOOD THERE, LOOKING ASHAMED AND MISERABLE.



THAT NIGHT, GOPAL'S MOTHER WAS VERY WORRIED.



THE NEXT MORNING—

OTHER CHILDREN HAVE BROTHERS, UNCLEs OR SERVANTS TO TAKE THEM TO SCHOOL. WHO DO WE HAVE, MY POOR GOPAL?

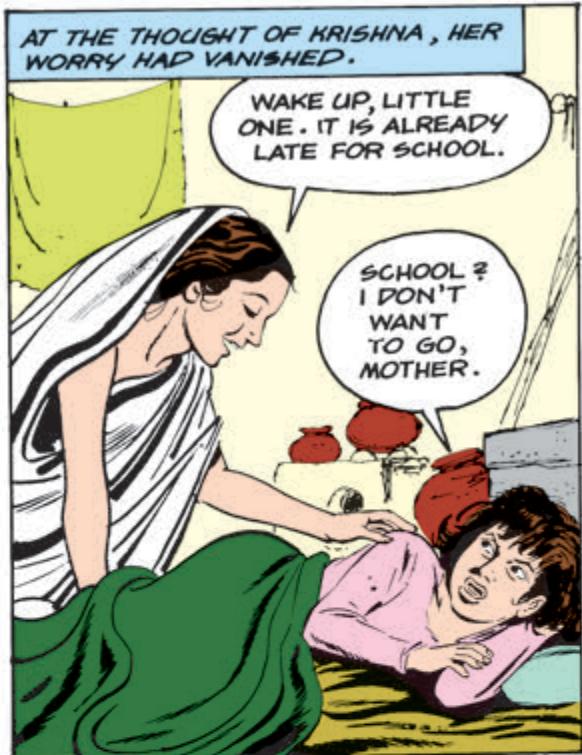


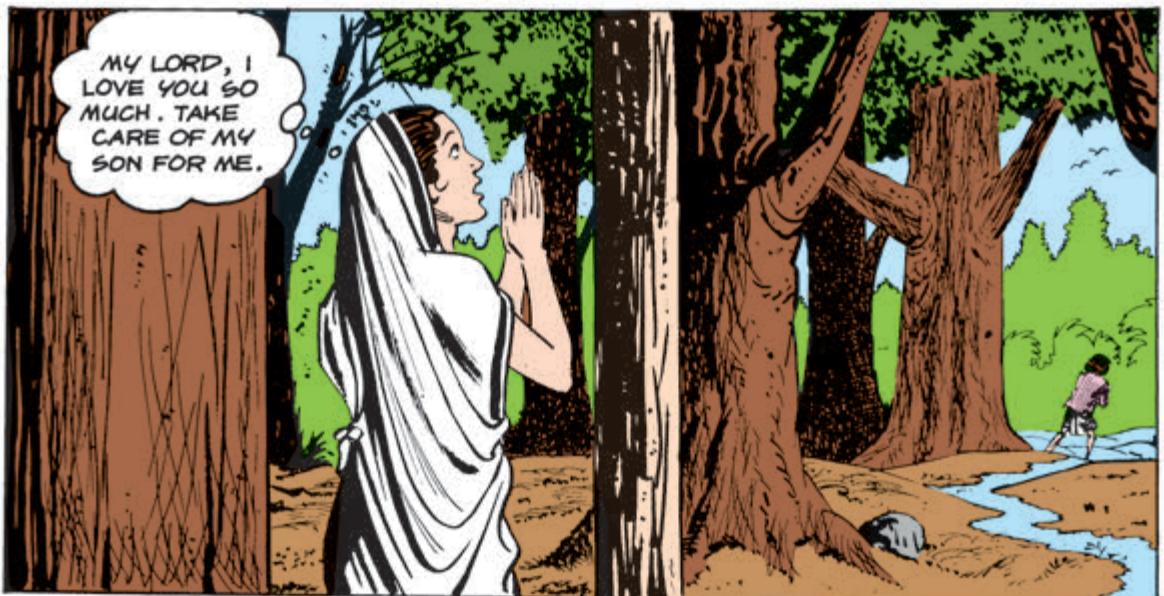
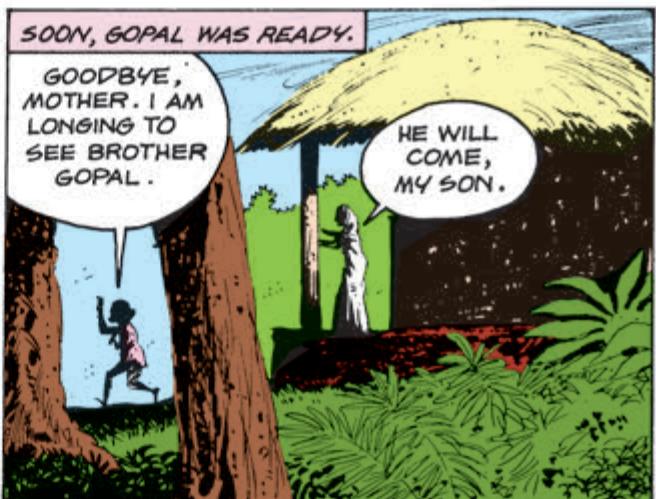
WHO DO WE HAVE? YES, OF COURSE! WE HAVE LORD KRISHNA! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF HIM BEFORE?



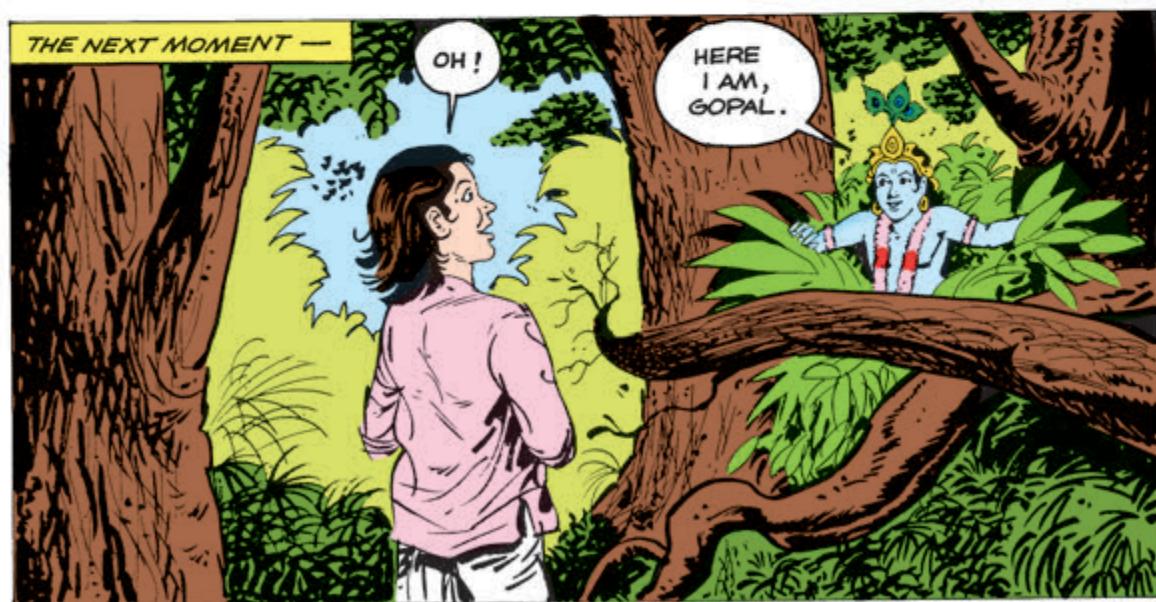
DEAR LORD, YOU ARE THE FATHER OF THE POOR. YOU PROTECT ALL. I KNOW YOU WILL PROTECT MY GOPAL.

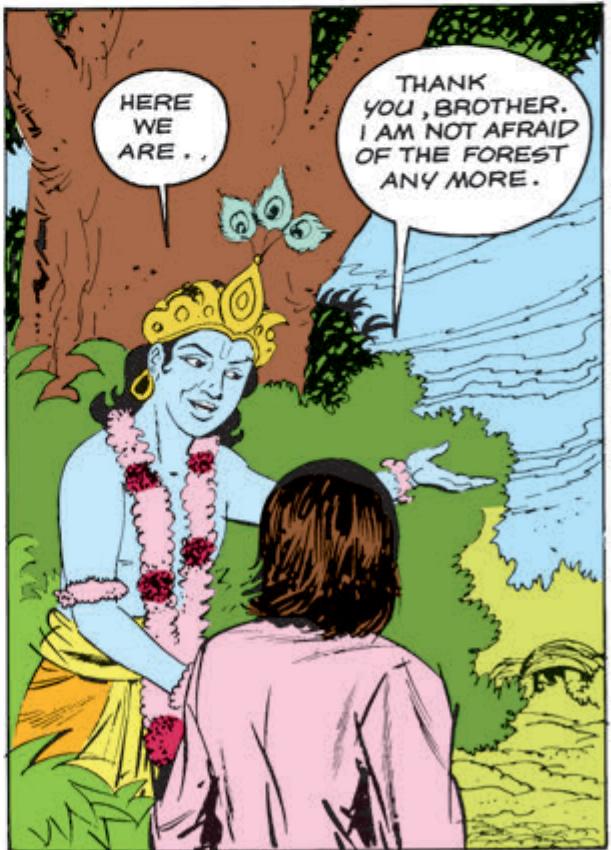
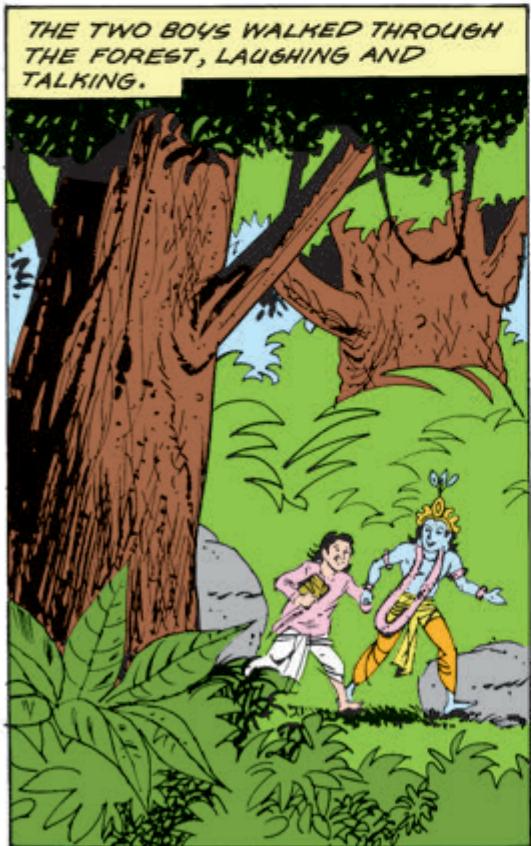
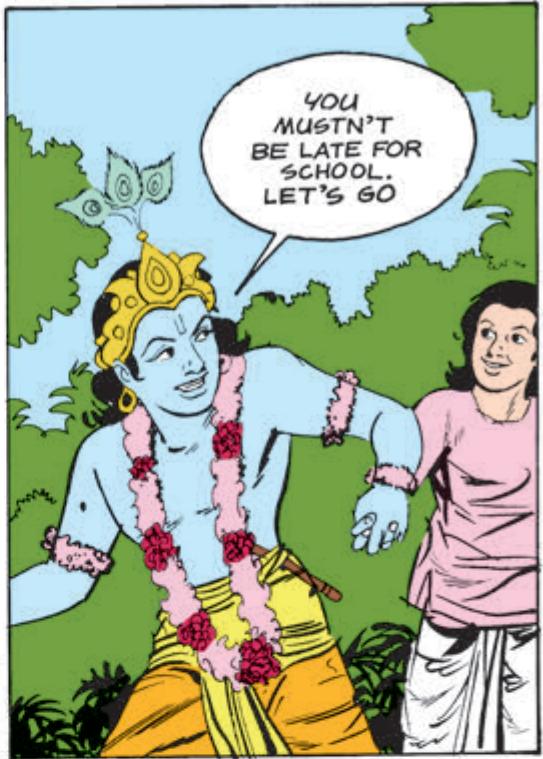
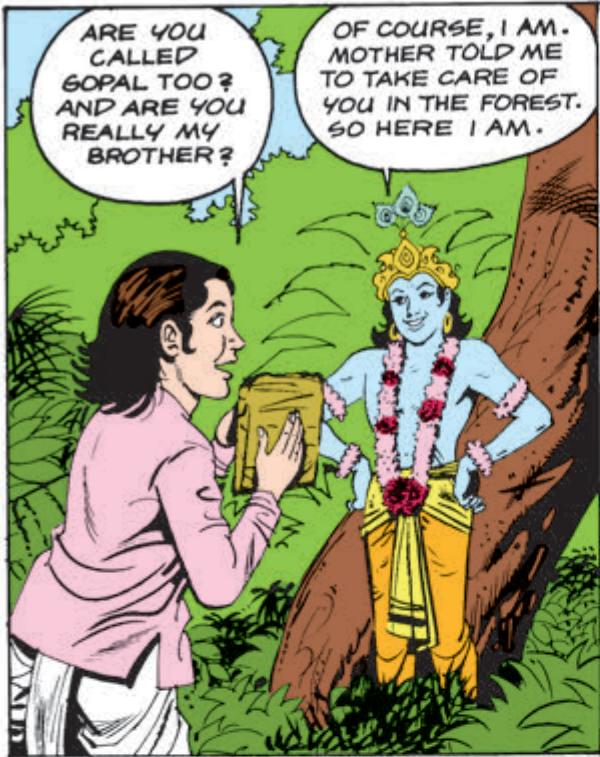




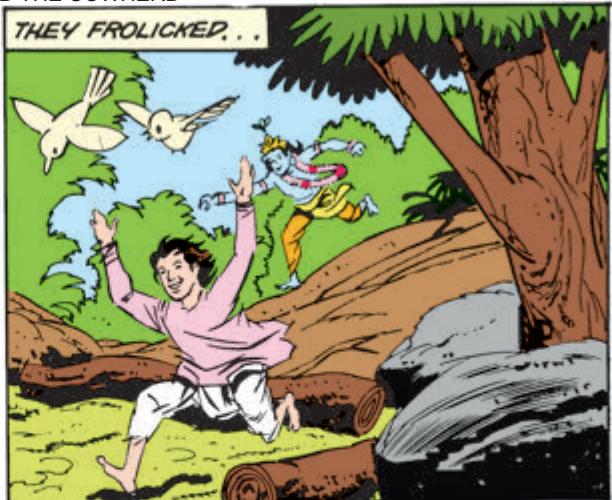






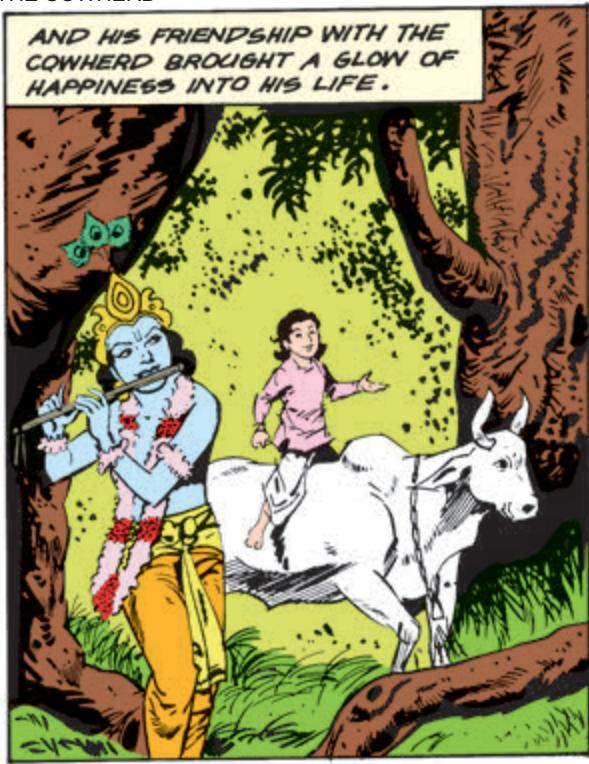


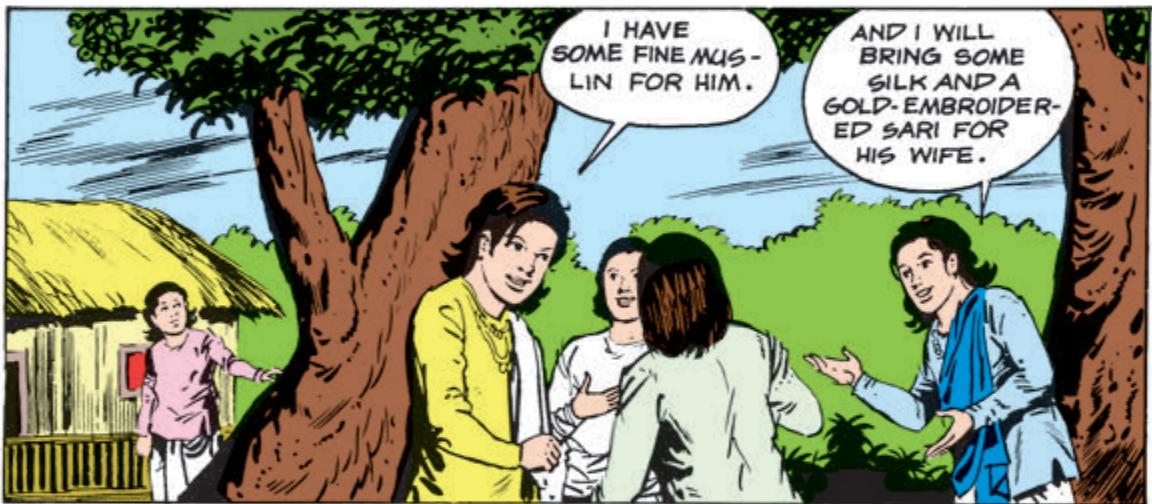


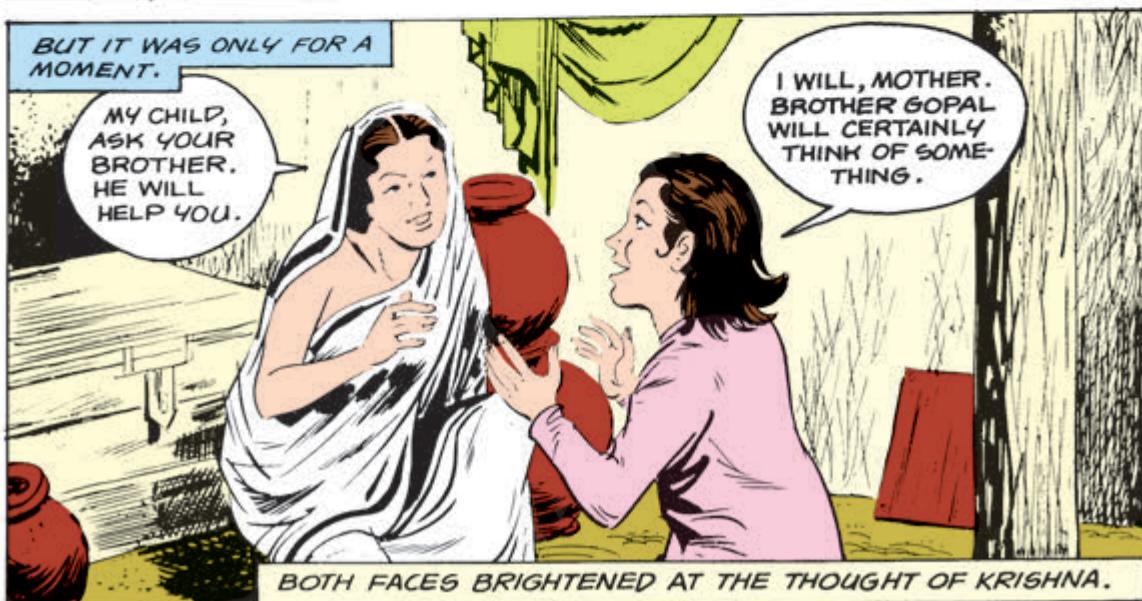
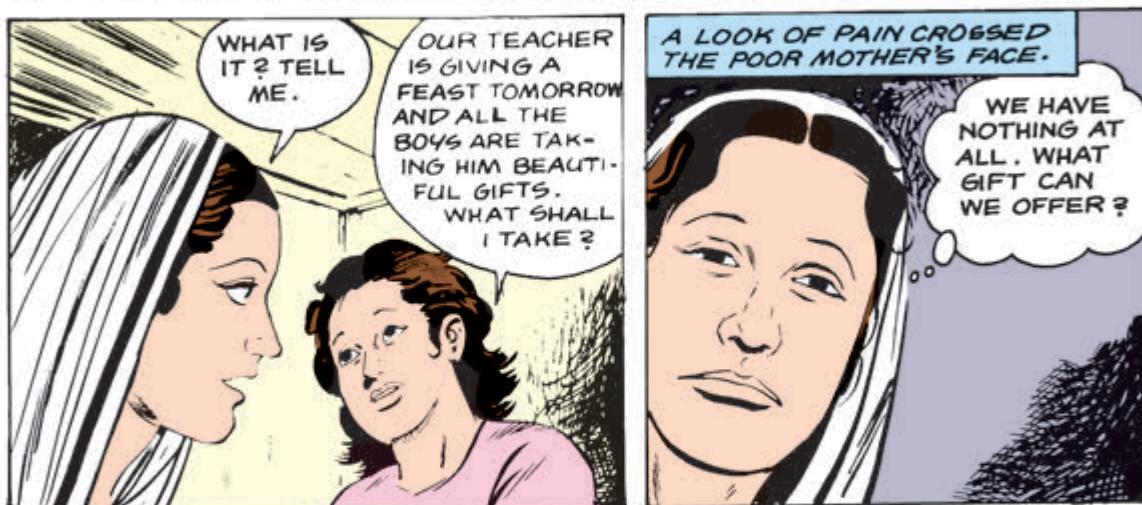


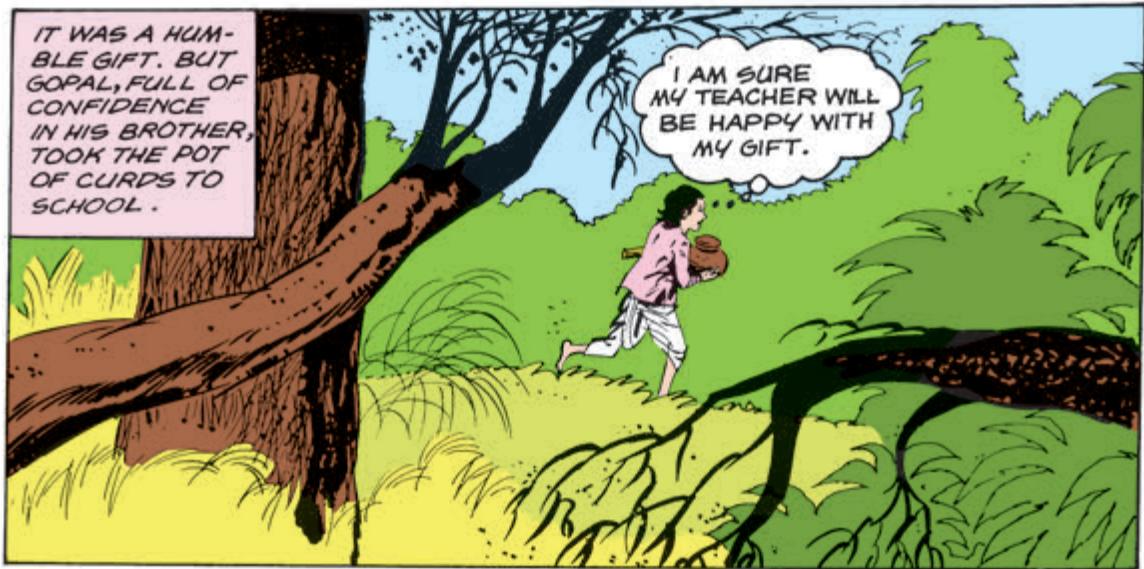


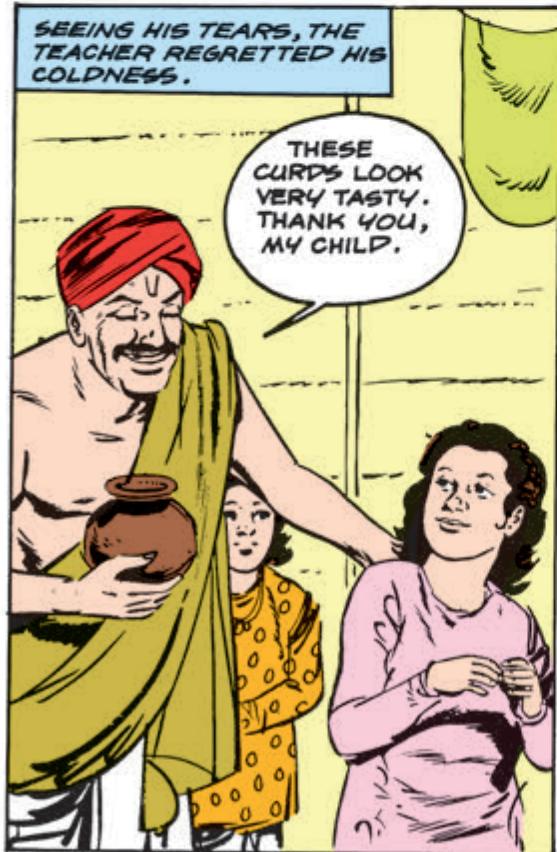
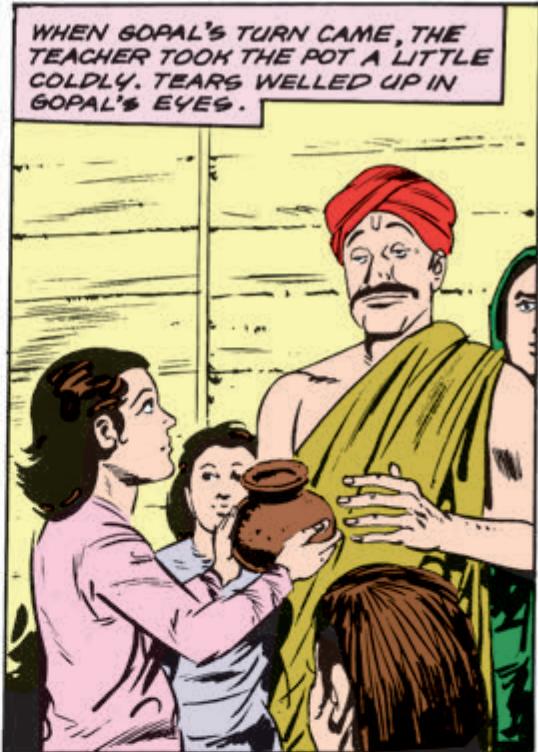
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THE TEACHER SERVED THE CHILDREN AGAIN AND AGAIN.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE POT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EMPTY BY NOW.

I HAVE SERVED EVERYONE SEVERAL HELPINGS OF CURDS. YET THERE IS MORE LEFT. THE MORE I SERVE, THE MORE THERE IS.

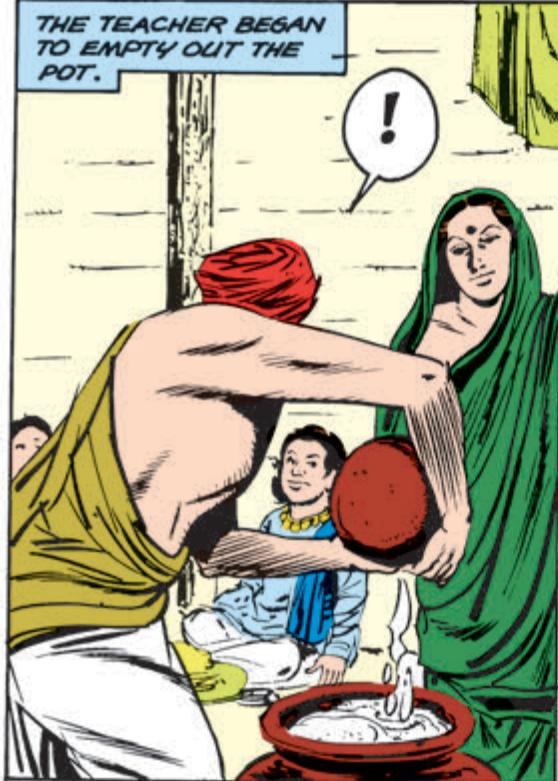
SO MUCH FROM SUCH A SMALL POT? WHY DON'T WE EMPTY WHAT'S LEFT INTO ANOTHER DISH?



THE TEACHER BEGAN TO EMPTY OUT THE POT.

!

WHAT IS THIS? THE POT IS STILL FULL? IMPOSSIBLE!

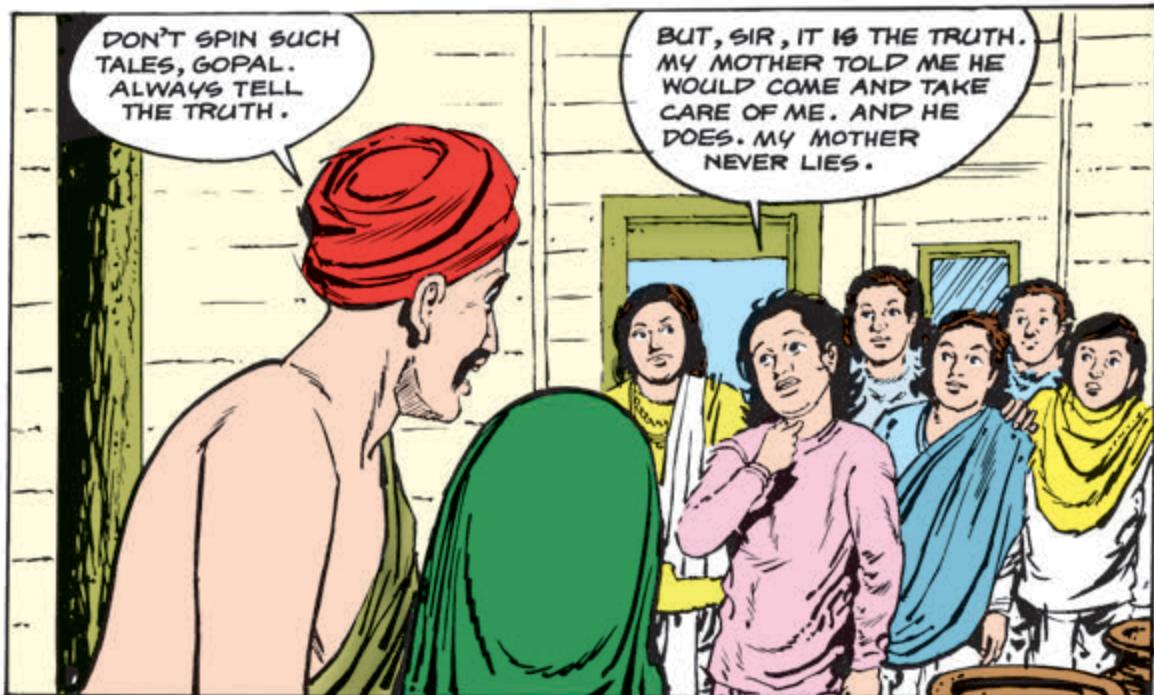
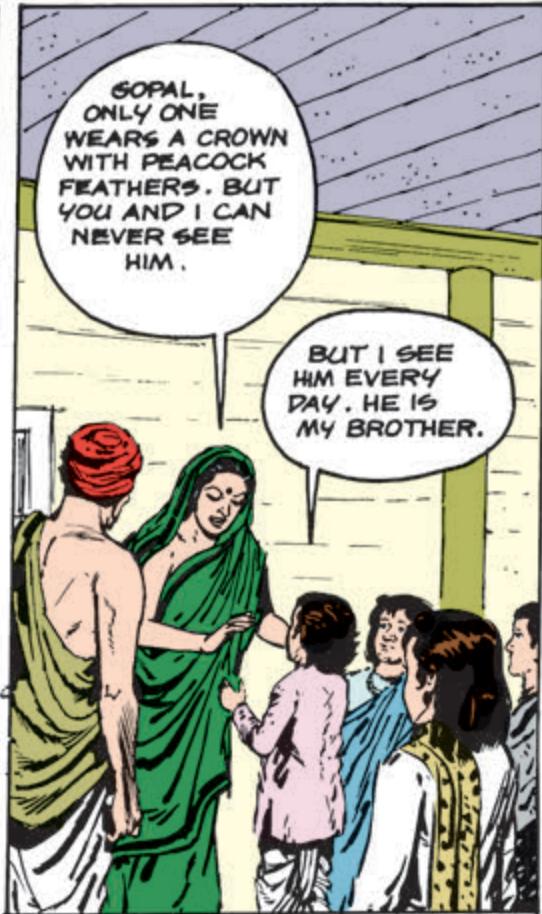


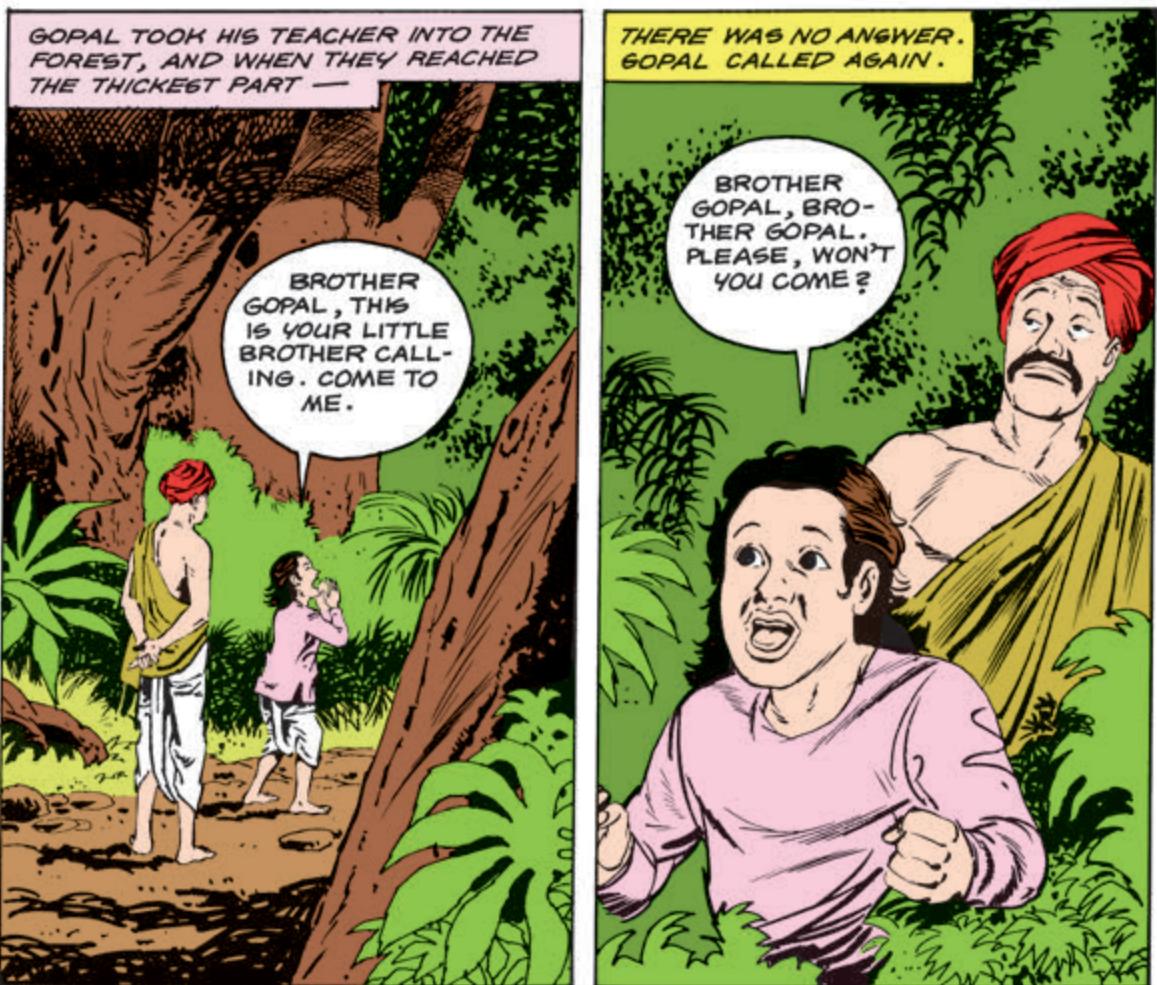
THE TEACHER POURED AND POURED, BUT STILL THE POT OF CURDS REMAINED FULL.



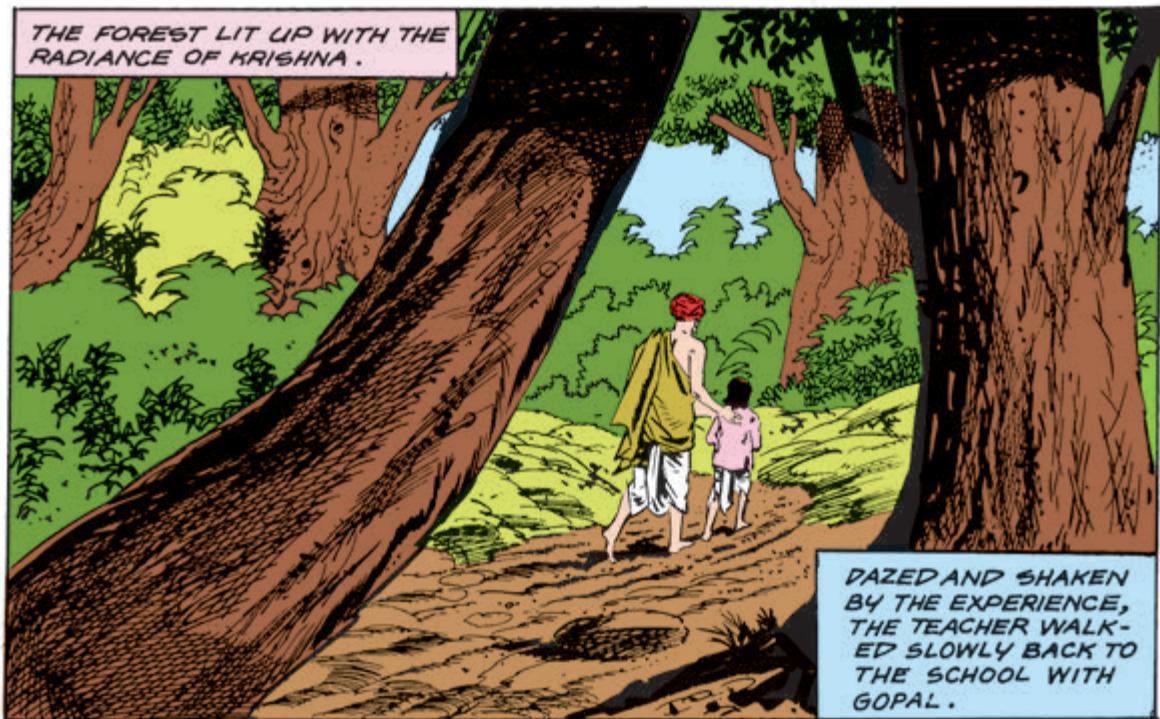
DUMFOUNDED, THE TEACHER TURNED TO GOPAL.











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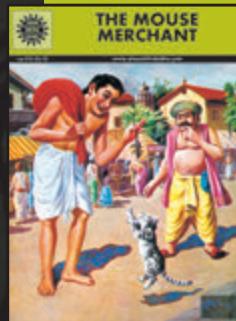
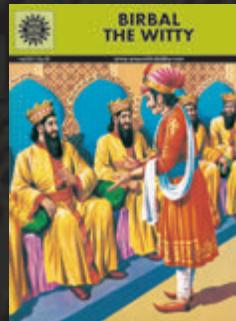
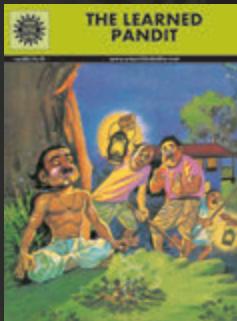
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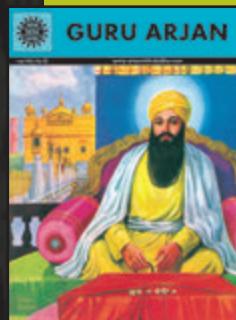
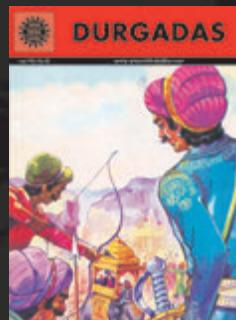
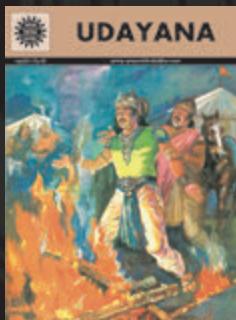
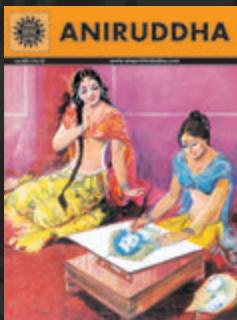
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Little Gopal is afraid to walk alone through the forest to school. His mother tells him, "Call out to your cowherd brother. He will come and protect you". When Gopal calls out, to his delight, a cowherd with dancing eyes appears and escorts him to school...

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