



# TALES OF DURGA

TALES OF THE MOTHER GODDESS

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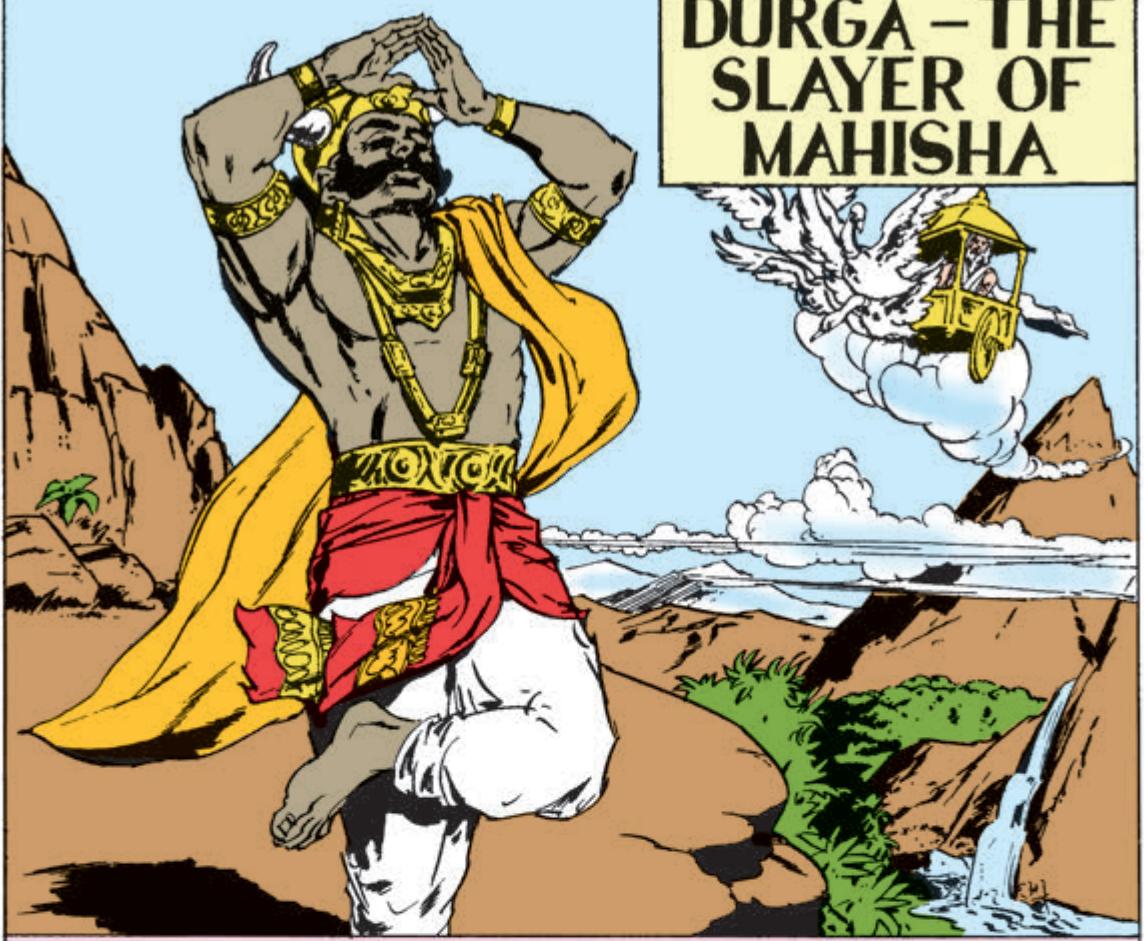
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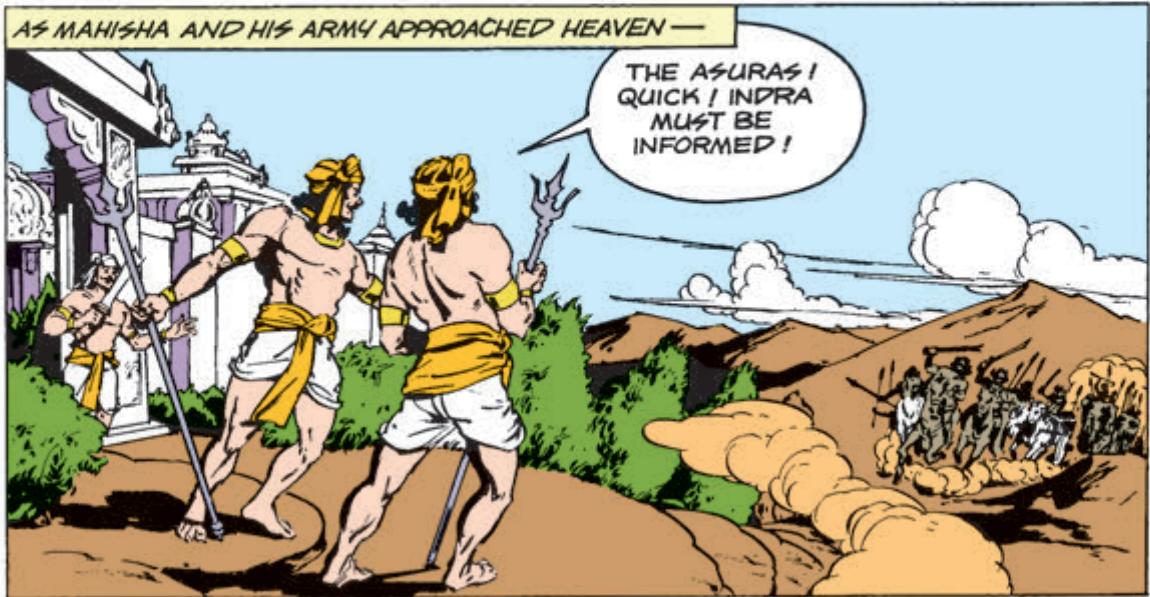
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# DURGA – THE SLAYER OF MAHISHA



THE ASURA, MAHISHA, ONCE PERFORMED SEVERE PENANCES TO PROPITIATE BRAHMA. PLEASED WITH HIS AUSTERITIES, BRAHMA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.





A LITTLE LATER, INDRA RUSHED OUT OF AMARAVATI, HIS CAPITAL.



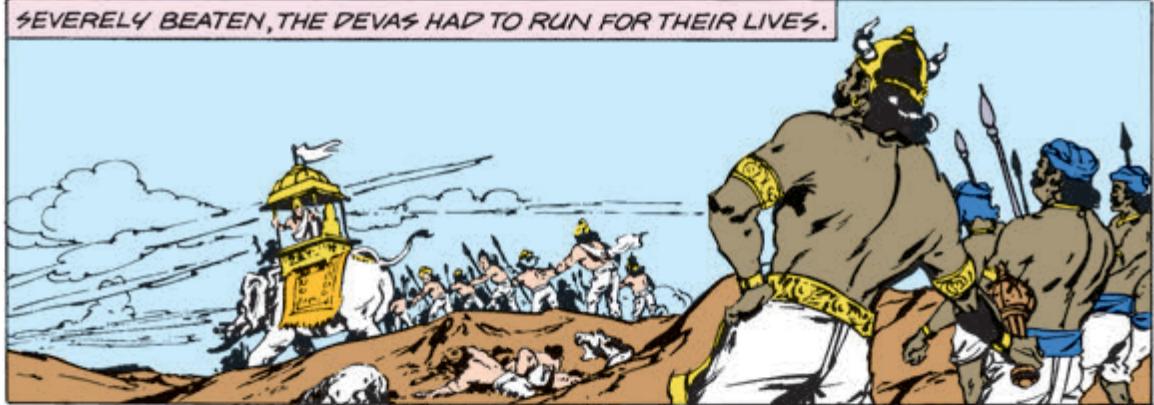
STUNG BY MAHISHA'S WORDS, INDRA DARTED FORWARD, BRANDISHING HIS WEAPON — THE THUNDERBOLT.



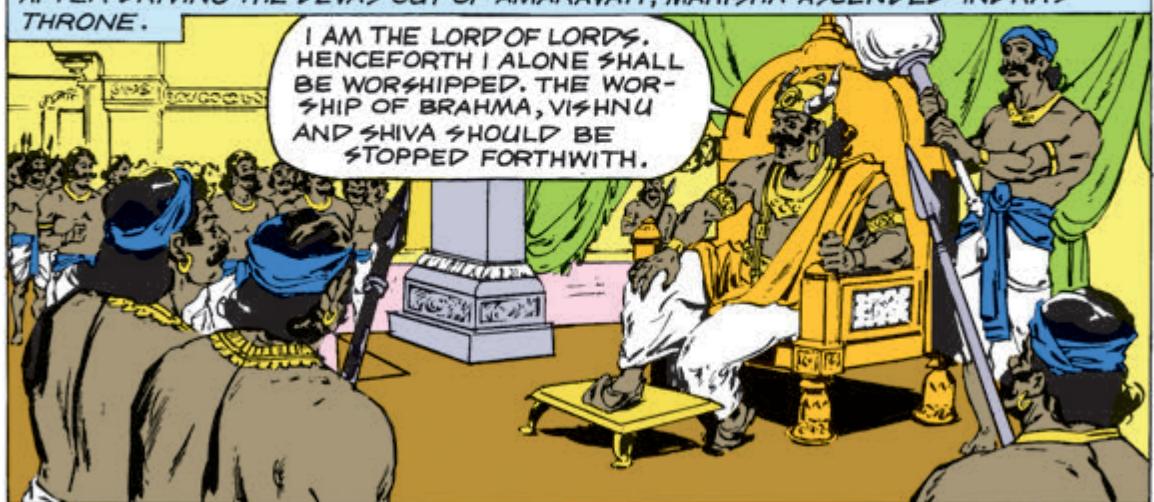
THEN ENSUED A FIERCE BATTLE BETWEEN THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS.



SEVERELY BEATEN, THE DEVAS HAD TO RUN FOR THEIR LIVES.



AFTER DRIVING THE DEVAS OUT OF AMARAVATI, MAHISHA ASCENDED INDRA'S THRONE.



MAHISHA'S MEN BEGAN TO HARASS THOSE PIous MEN WHO CONTINUED TO WORSHIP VISHNU OR SHIVA.



\* A FORM IN WHICH SHIVA IS WORSHIPPED

MEANWHILE, UNKNOWN TO THEM, THE DEVAS HAD ALREADY ASSEMBLED AT KAILAS, THE ABODE OF LORD SHIVA.

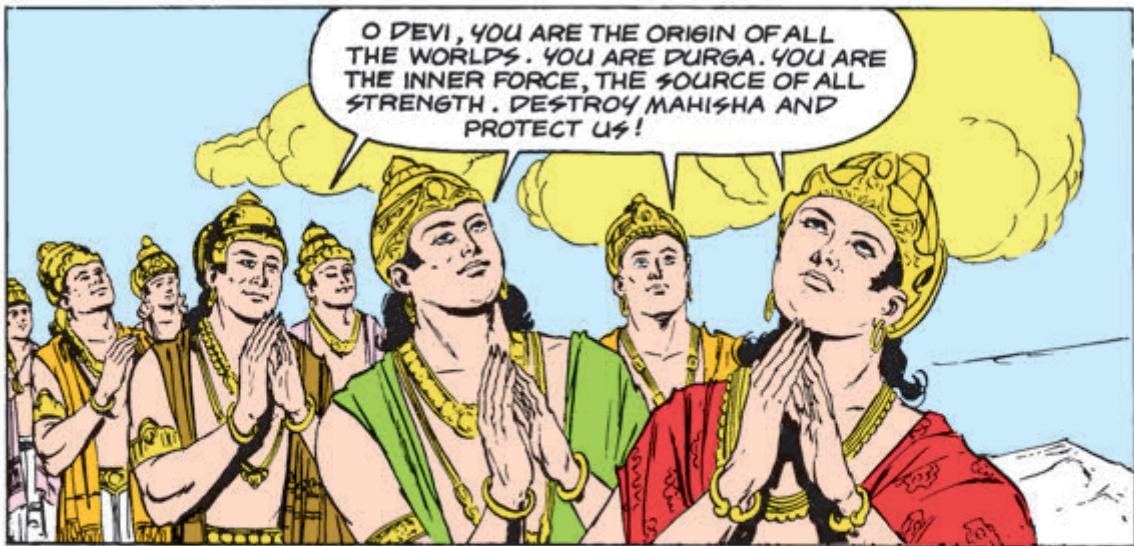


EVEN AS THE DEVAS SPOKE, AN INTENSE LIGHT ISSUED FORTH FROM THE ENRAGED FACES OF SHIVA, VISHNU AND BRAHMA.



IT WAS JOINED BY SIMILAR RAYS OF LIGHT FROM INDRA AND OTHER DEVAS. AND LO! THE NEXT MOMENT, OUT OF THAT LIGHT A FEMALE FORM WITH A THOUSAND ARMS CAME INTO BEING ! IT WAS DEVI DURGA .

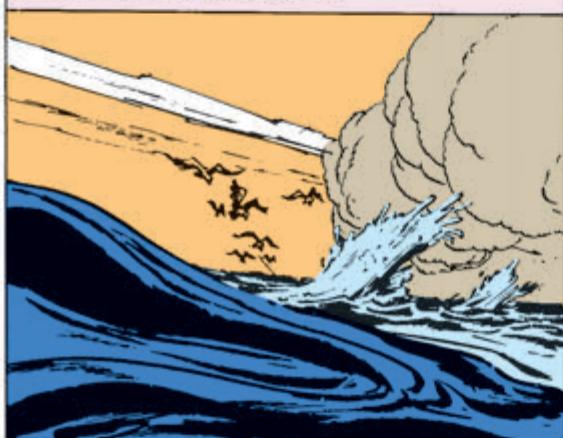




ARMED WITH THE CELESTIAL WEAPONS AND MOUNTED ON A LION, DURGA EMITTED A BLOOD-CURDLING ROAR.



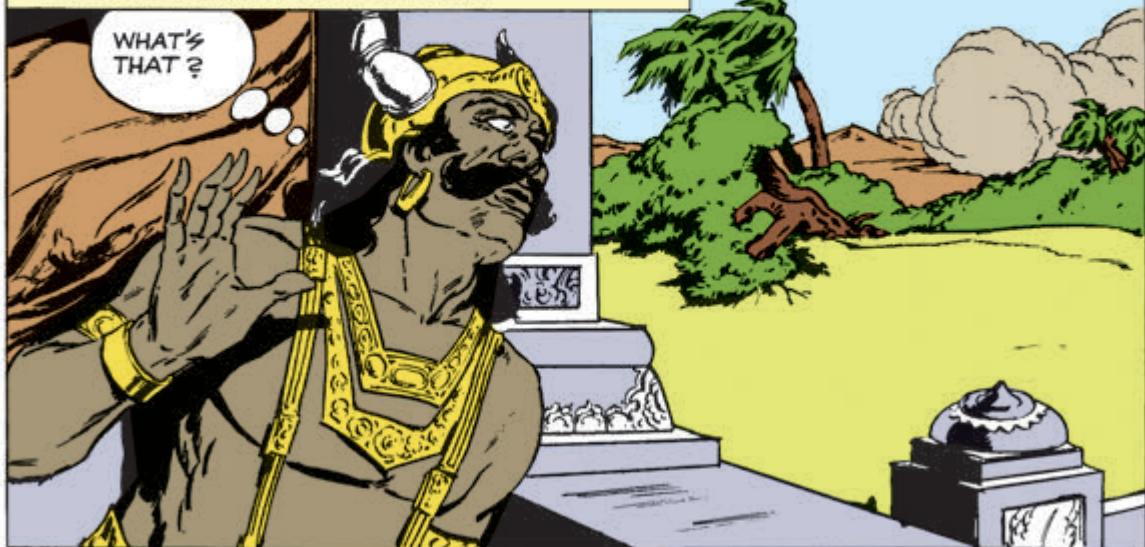
THE SEAS TREMBLED...



...THE EARTH SHOOK AND THE MOUNTAINS ROCKED.

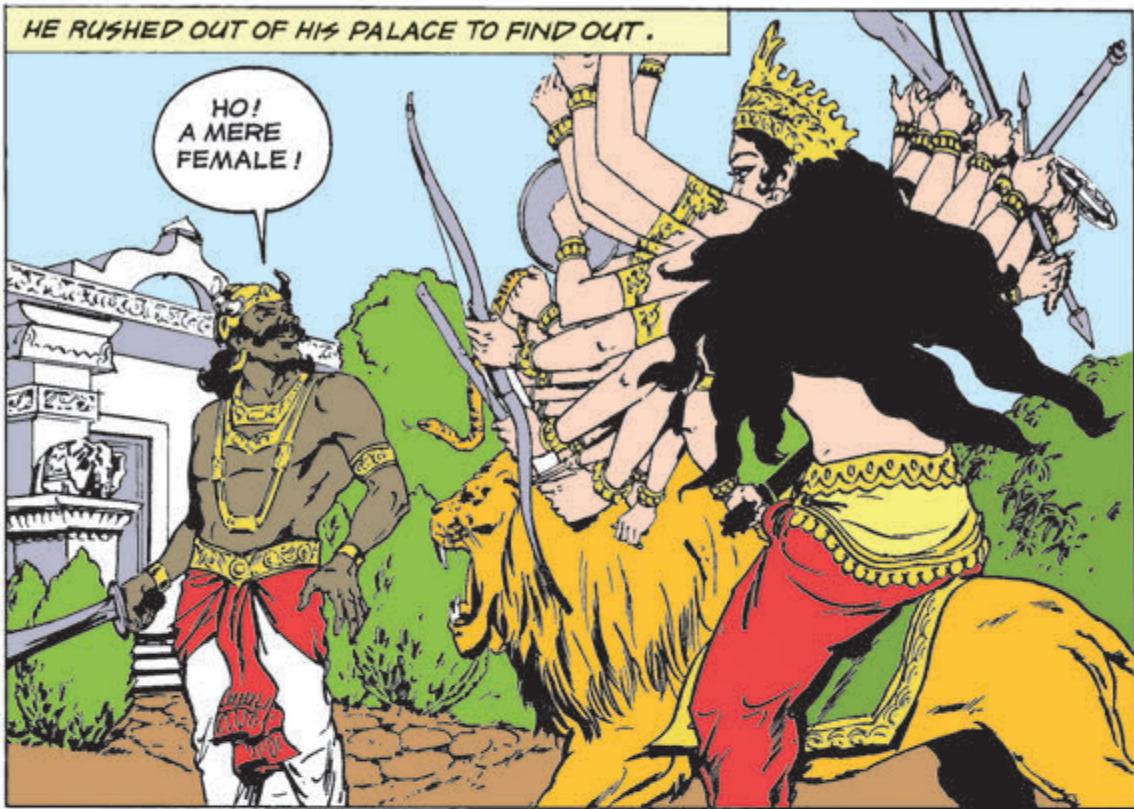


MAHISHA'S HEART MISSED A BEAT.



HE RUSHED OUT OF HIS PALACE TO FIND OUT.

HO!  
A MERE  
FEMALE!



NO! I AM NO  
MERE FEMALE!  
I HAVE COME TO  
FULFIL BRAHMA'S  
BOON. YOU WANT-  
ED TO DIE AT THE  
HANDS OF A  
WOMAN, DIDN'T  
YOU?

MAHISHA HASTILY STEPPED BACK  
AND CALLED TO HIS MEN.



AS THE ASURAS HURLED VARIOUS WEAPONS AT HER, DURGA BREATHED HARD.



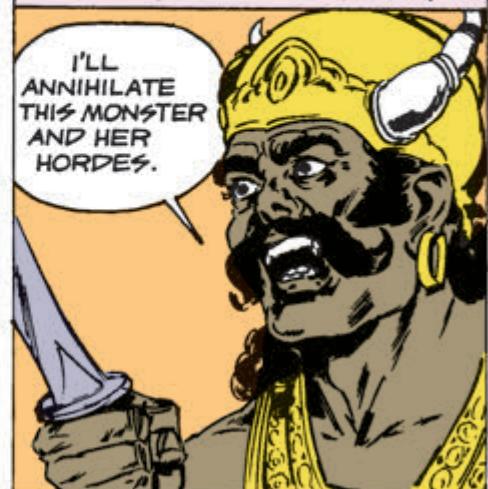
AS SHE BREATHED, THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS CAME INTO BEING AND FOUGHT AT HER SIDE.



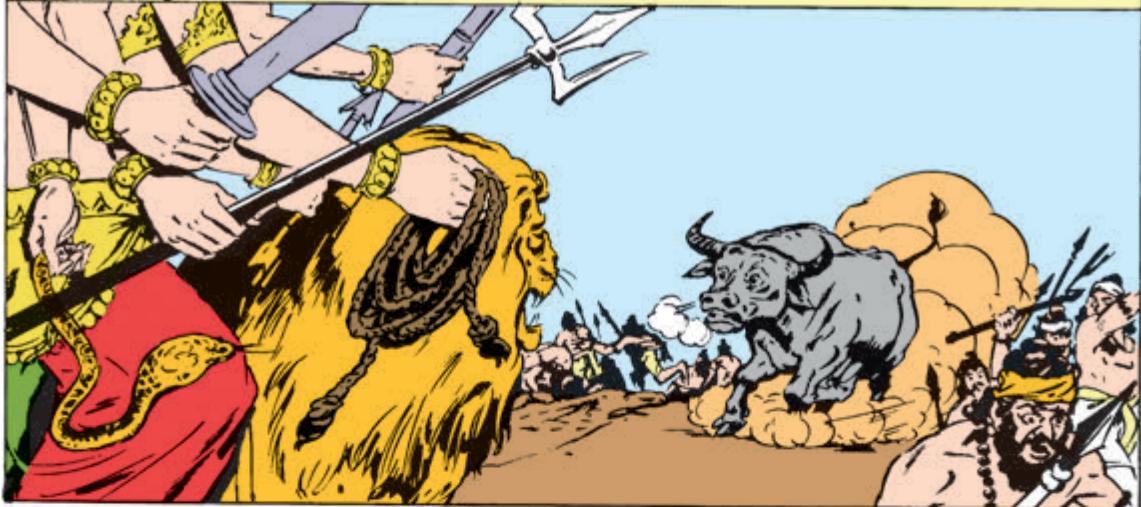
HER MOUNT STRODE THROUGH MAHISHA'S ARMY, DESTROYING THOUSANDS OF ASURAS.



MAHISHA SEETHED WITH FURY.



ASSUMING THE FORM OF A BUFFALO, MAHISHA CHARGED FORTH SNORTING AND BELLOWING.



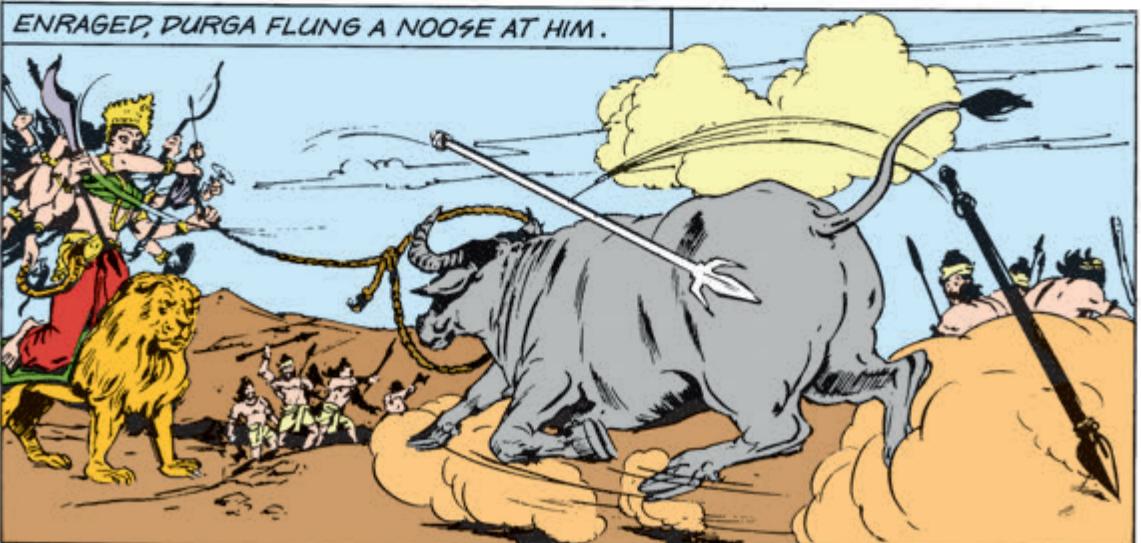
HE TRAMPLED UPON DURGA'S MEN . . .



. . . AND LASHED AT THEM WITH HIS TAIL .



ENRAGED, DURGA FLUNG A NOOSE AT HIM.



MAHISHA SHOOK HIMSELF WITH ALL HIS MIGHT ...



... TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A LION AND POUNCED UPON DURGA.



AS DURGA CHOPPED OFF THE HEAD OF THE LION ...



... MAHISHA ROSE IN HIS OWN FORM AND CHARGED.



LATER HE ASSUMED THE FORM OF AN ELEPHANT AND TUGGED AT DURGA'S MOUNT WITH HIS TRUNK.



DURGA LOPPED OFF THE TRUNK WITH HER SWORD.



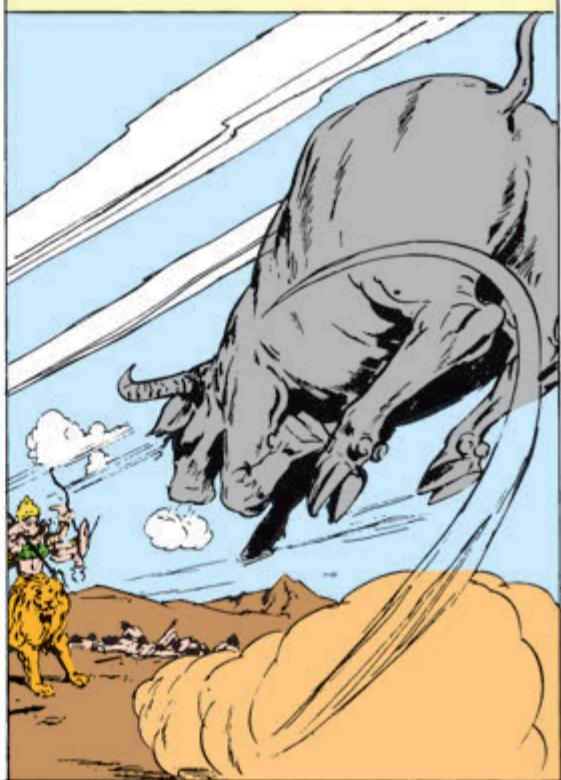
MAHISHA AGAIN ASSUMED THE FORM OF A BUFFALO AND SNORTED WITH RAGE.



DURGA LOOKED AT HIM WITH CONTEMPT.



ENRAGED, MAHISHA RUSHED AT HER.



BUT DURGA LEAPED UPON HIM AND PINNED HIM DOWN.



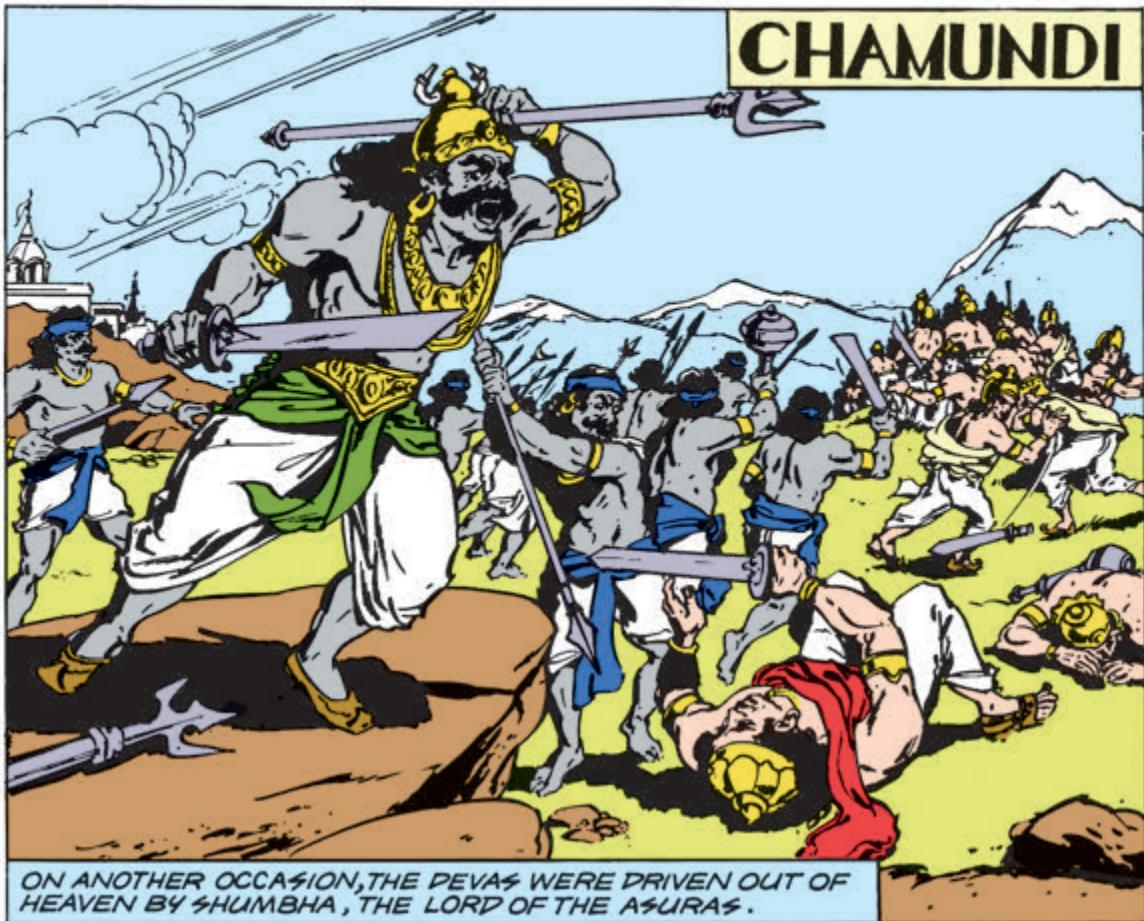
MAHISHA STRUGGLED TO FREE HIMSELF. AS HALF OF HIM EMERGED FROM THE MOUTH OF THE BUFFALO, DURGA RAISED HER SWORD.



THE NEXT MOMENT, MAHISHA FELL DEAD, AT THE FOOT OF DURGA. THE DEVAS WERE OVERJOYED.



# CHAMUNDI



ON ANOTHER OCCASION, THE DEVAS WERE DRIVEN OUT OF HEAVEN BY SHUMBHA, THE LORD OF THE ASURAS.



JUST THEN PARVATI, SHIVA'S CONSOFT, WHO WAS ON HER WAY TO THE RIVER, HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



AND LO! THE NEXT MOMENT, GODDESS AMBIKA SPRANG FORTH FROM THE BODY OF PARVATI.



WHEN CHANDA AND MUNDA RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF SHUMBHA AND DESCRIBED AMBIKA TO HIM.



\* AN INCARNATION OF DURGA

CHANDA AND MUNDA RUSHED BACK TO MOUNT HIMAVAT.



I'VE TAKEN A VOW THAT I'LL MARRY ONLY HIM WHO CAN CONQUER ME IN BATTLE AND HUMBLE MY PRIDE.



WHEN CHANDA AND MUNDA CONVEYED AMBIKA'S MESSAGE TO SHUMBHA —



THEN HE TURNED TO ANOTHER OF HIS COMMANDERS, DHUMRALOCHANA.



DHUMRALOCHANA TOOK AN ARMY TO MOUNT HIMAVAT AND CONFRONTED AMBIKA.



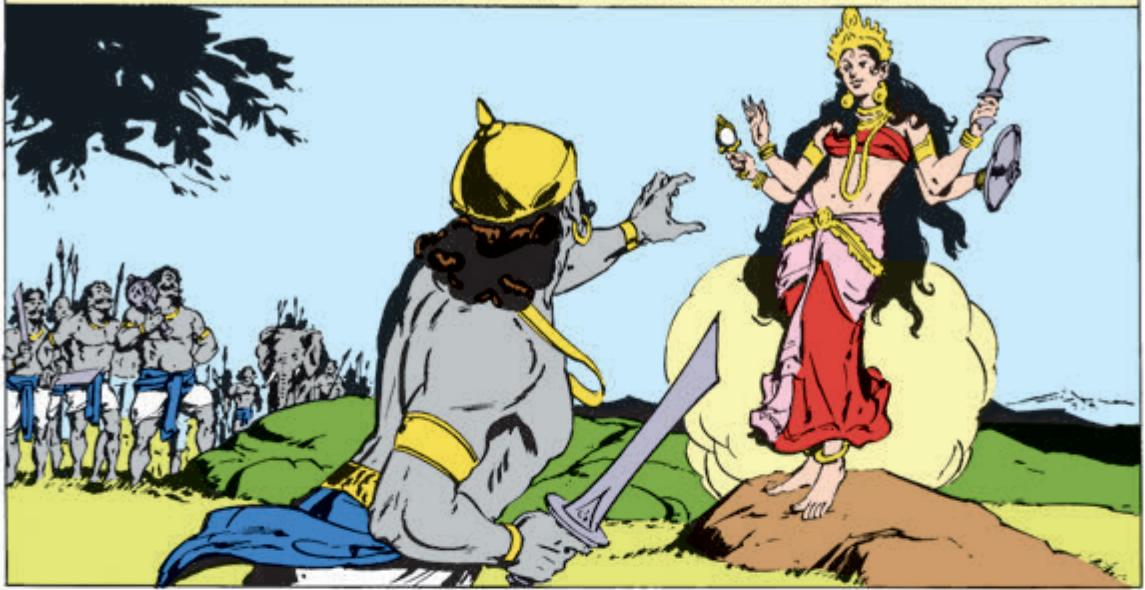
AMBIKA PRETENDED TO BE AFRAID.



THEN MARRY OUR LORD!



WITHOUT WASTING ANOTHER WORD, DHUMRALOCHANA RUSHED TOWARDS HER.



WITH UTTER CONTEMPT FOR THE ASURA, AMBIKA UTTERED A SINGLE SYLLABLE.



THE NEXT MOMENT, A HANDFUL OF ASHES SHOULDERED WHERE THE MIGHTY ASURA ONCE STOOD.



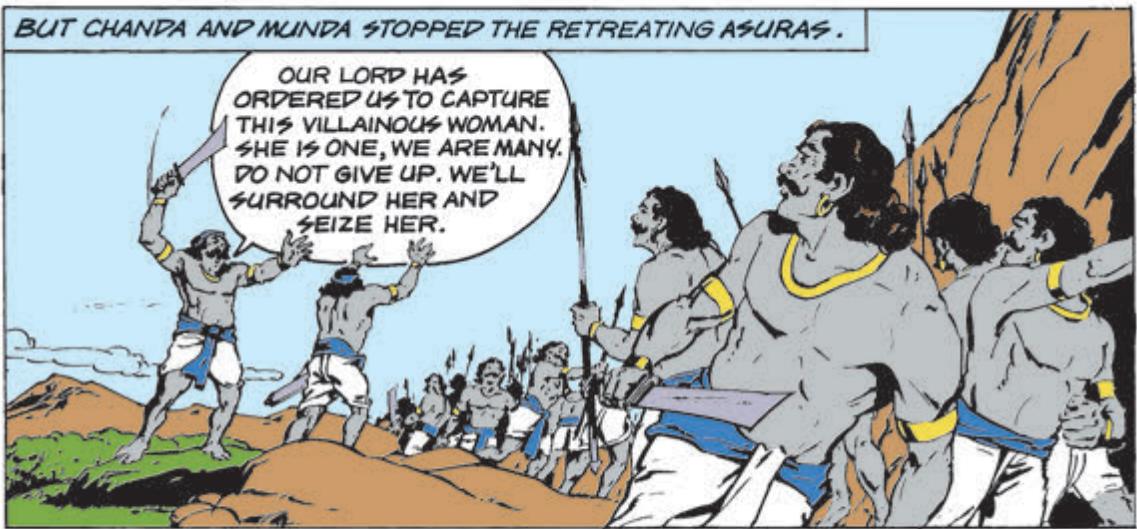
FLEE!

FLEE!



BUT CHANDA AND MUNDA STOPPED THE RETREATING ASURAS.

OUR LORD HAS ORDERED US TO CAPTURE THIS VILLAINOUS WOMAN. SHE IS ONE, WE ARE MANY. DO NOT GIVE UP. WE'LL SURROUND HER AND SEIZE HER.



WHEN THE ASURAS CLOSED IN ON AMBIKA, WHO WAS NOW SEATED ON A LION . . .



. . . SHE FROWNED.



OUT CAME KALI\* FROM HER FOREHEAD . . .



\* AN INCARNATION OF DURGA

... AND CHARGED AT THE ASURAS.



SNATCHING AN ELEPHANT WITH ONE HAND...



... SHE HURLED IT AT THE ASURAS AND CRUSHED THEM TO DEATH.



CHANDA RUSHED AT KALI.



I WILL  
KILL YOU  
AND PROVIDE  
A FEAST FOR  
THE VULTURES!

KALI SEIZED HIM BY THE HAIR...



... AND BEHEADED HIM.

BLIND WITH FURY, MUNDA RUSHED FORTH.



... ONLY TO MEET WITH THE SAME FATE!

AMBIKA SMILED AT KALI.

YOU HAVE KILLED  
CHANDA AND MUNDA.  
HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL  
ALSO BE KNOWN AS  
CHAMUNDI.



# HOW DURGA SLEW SHUMBHA



WHEN SHUMBHA LEARNED THAT CHANDA AND MUNDA HAD BEEN KILLED, HE CAME IN PERSON TO DEAL WITH AMBIKA. HIS HUGE ARMY SURROUNDED AMBIKA AND KALI.

THEN THE SHAKTIS — THE INNER FORCE OF VARIOUS GODS — ISSUED FORTH ASSUMING FEMALE FORMS\*. OUT OF BRAHMA EMERGED BRAHMANI ...

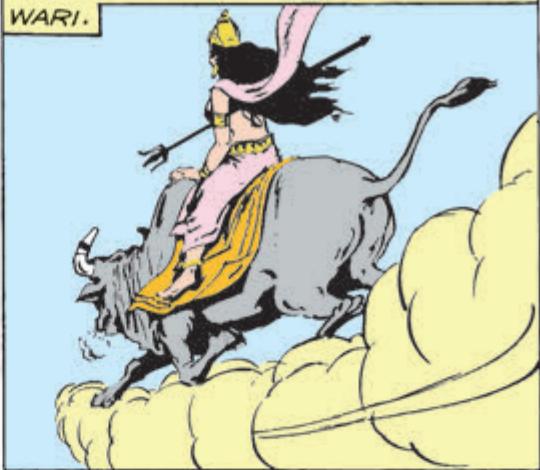


\* EACH OF THESE FORMS IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN INCARNATION OF DURGA.

...OUT OF VISHNU, VAISHNAVI ...



...AND OUT OF MAHESHWARA, MAHESH WARI.



FINALLY OUT OF AMBIKA EMERGED CHANDIKA. SOON THE SKY WAS FILLED WITH HUNDREDS OF SHAKTIS.\*



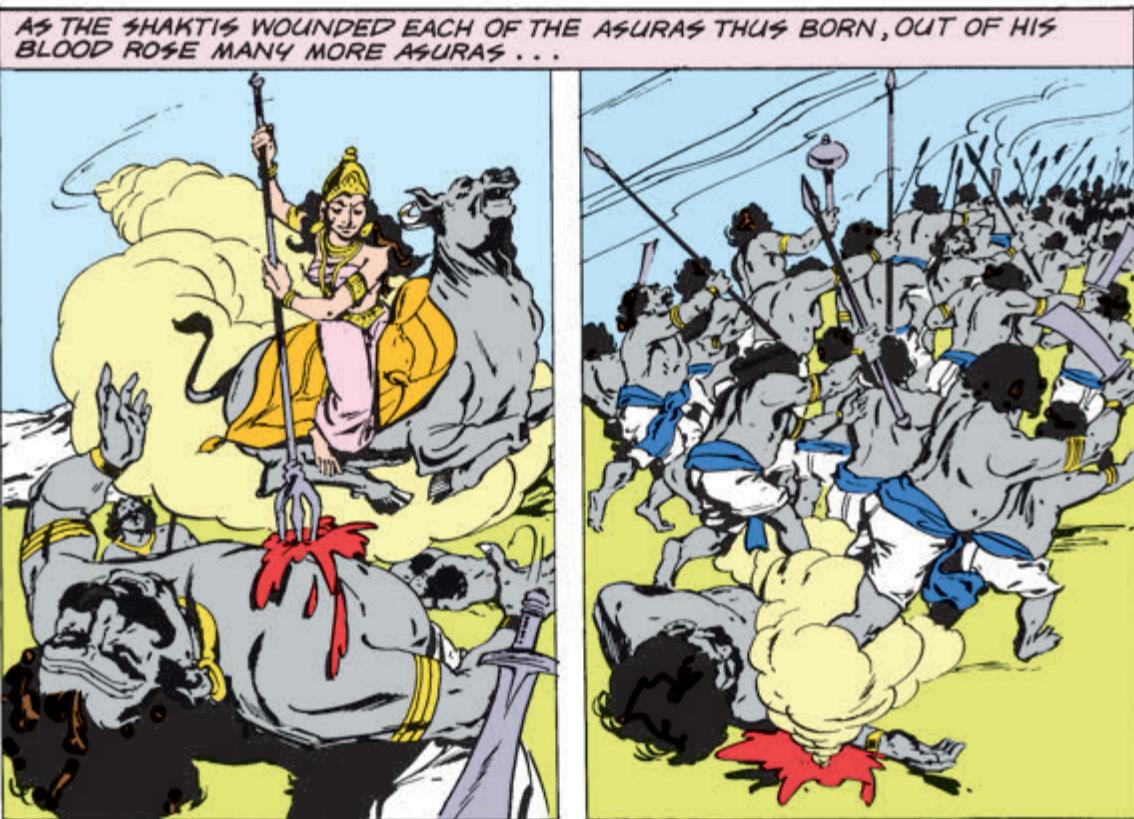
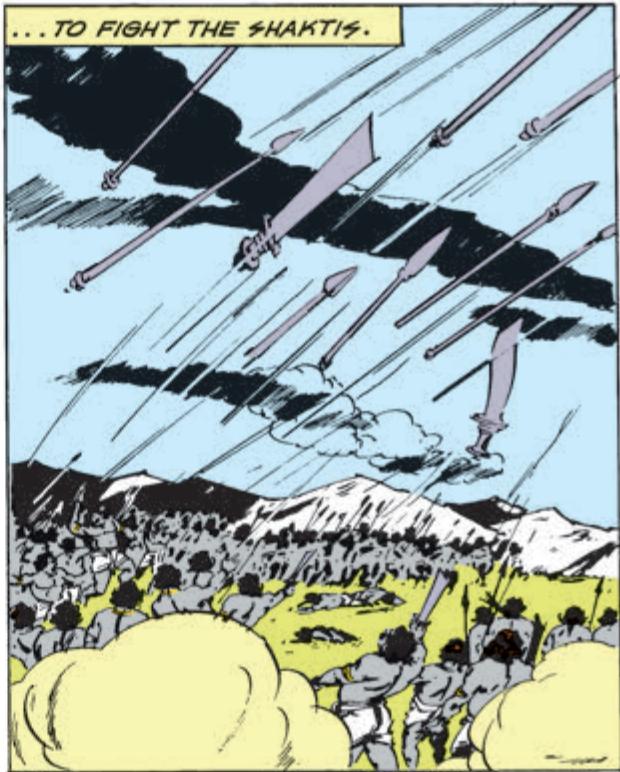
IN THE GREAT BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, BRAHMAMI SPRINKLED WATER FROM HER KAMANDALU ON THE ENEMIES, MAKING THEM WEAK AND INERT.



\* SHAKTI = ENERGY

VAISHNAVI FOUGHT WITH THE DISCUS, MAHESHWARI WITH THE TRIDENT, AND VARIOUS OTHER SHAKTIS WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE WEAPONS. UNABLE TO FACE THIS ONSLAUGHT, THE ASURAS BEGAN TO FLEE.





...AND SOON THE BATTLE SCENE WAS FILLED WITH THOUSANDS OF RAKTABEEJAS, WHO FOUGHT THE SHAKTIS.



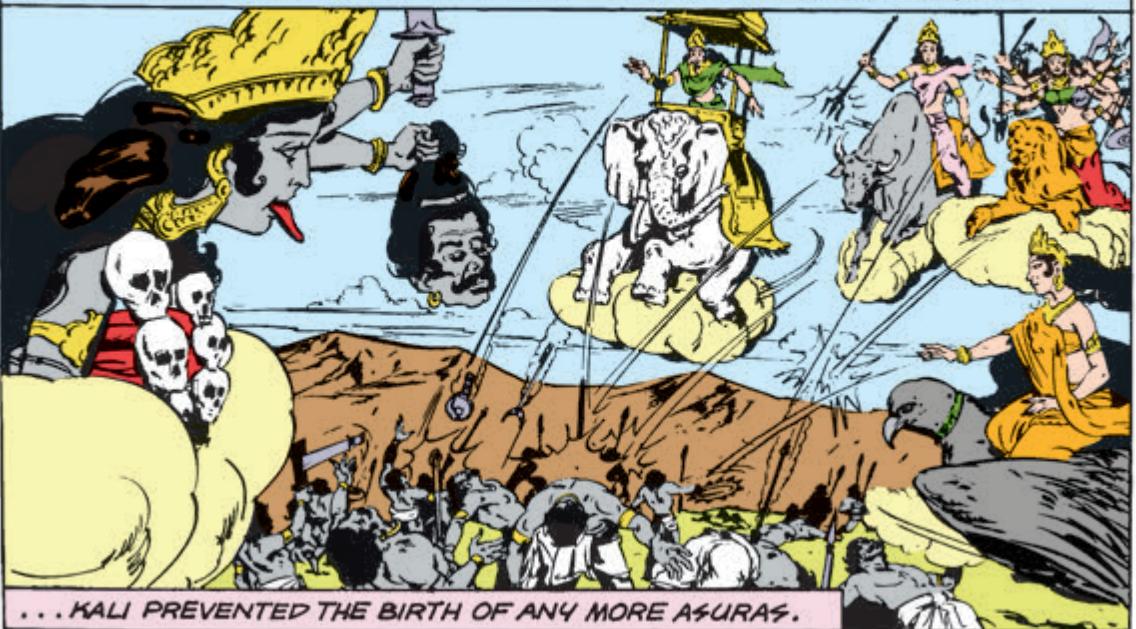
CHANDIKA TURNED TO KALI.

O CHAMUNDI,  
THESE RAKTA-  
BEEJAS CAN BE  
ANNIHILATED ONLY  
IF WE PREVENT  
THEIR BLOOD FROM  
FALLING TO  
THE GROUND.

LEAVE IT TO  
ME. NOT A DROP  
OF THEIR BLOOD  
SHALL STAIN  
THE EARTH  
AGAIN.



AS CHANDIKA AND THE OTHER SHAKTIS ATTACKED THE RAKTABEEJAS . . .



... KALI PREVENTED THE BIRTH OF ANY MORE ASURAS.

SOON THE HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF RAKTABEEJAS THAT HAD ARisen WERE WIPEd OUT.  
RAKTABEEJA WAS FURIOUS.

I MUST KILL  
HER BEFORE SHE  
STRIKES THE FATAL  
BLOW.



AND RAKTABEEJA RUSHED TOWARDS CHANDIKA.



AS CHANDIKA STRUCK HIM . . .



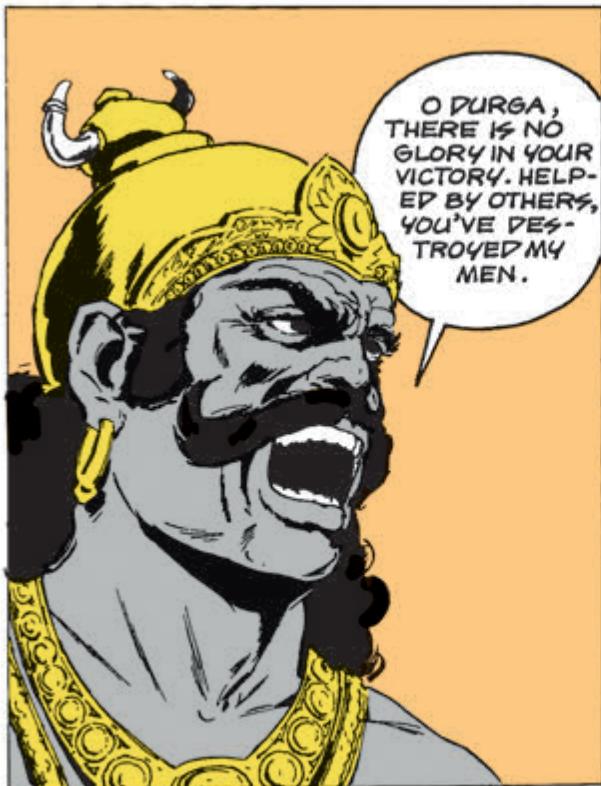
... AND RAKTABEEJA FELL DEAD, TO THE JOY OF THE DEVAS.



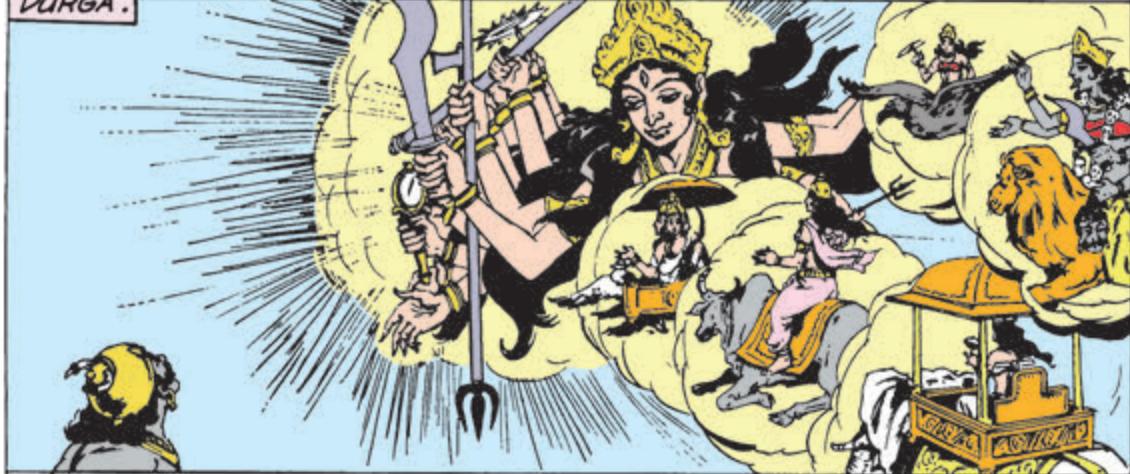
SHUMBHA AND HIS BROTHER NISHUMBHA WERE STUNNED WHEN THEY HEARD THE NEWS.



BUT THE MOST POWERFUL ASURA, NISHUMBHA, WAS NO MATCH FOR CHANDIKA.



THEN TO THE AMAZEMENT OF SHUMBHA, THE VARIOUS SHAKTIS MERGED INTO DURGA.



SEIZING DURGA, SHUMBHA ROSE INTO THE SKY.



AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE IN MID-AIR, DURGA FLUNG THE ASURA DOWN ...



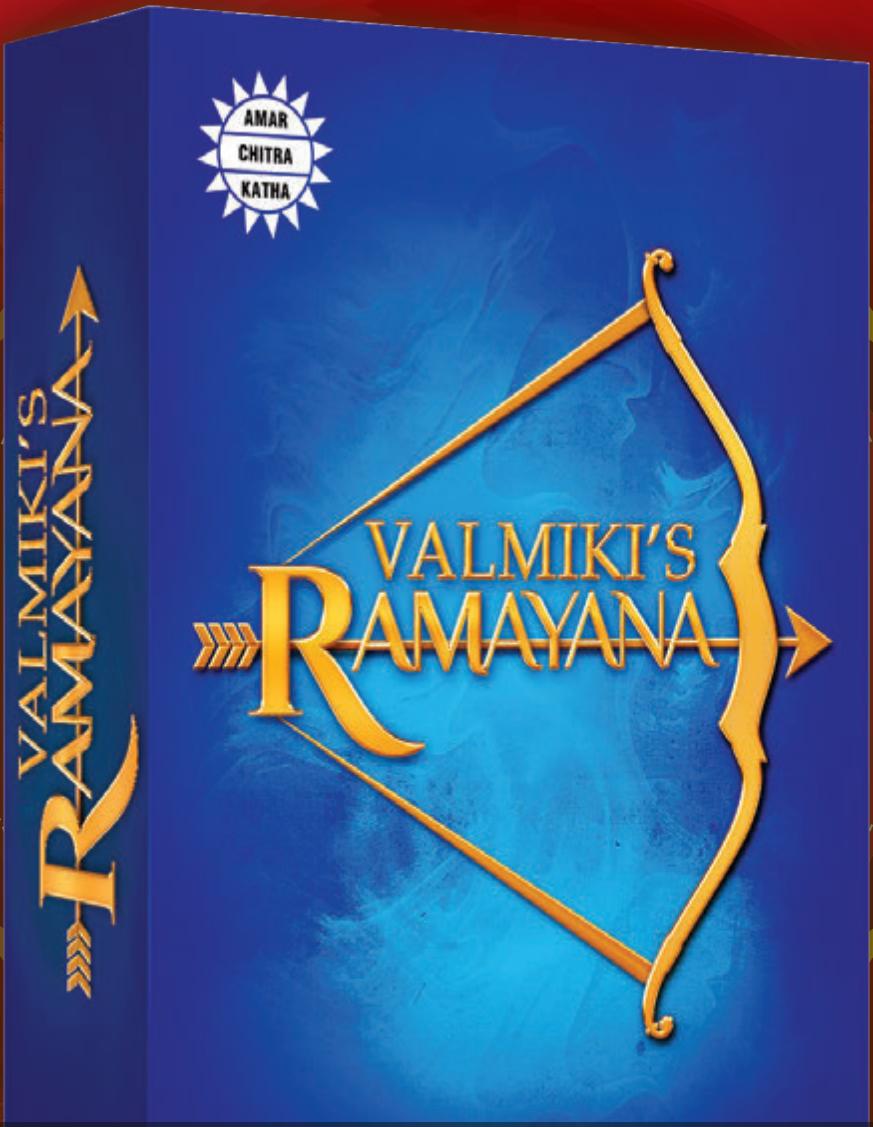
... AND SLEW HIM WITH HER SPEAR. REJOICING, THE DEVAS HEADED BY INDRA APPEARED ON THE SCENE.



WE SALUTE YOU, O MOTHER DURGA, DESTROYER OF EVIL.



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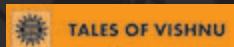


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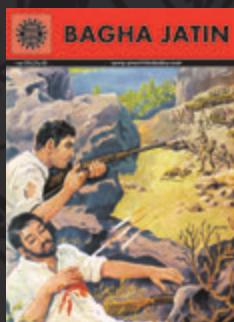


SHIVA PARVATI



SATI AND SHIVA

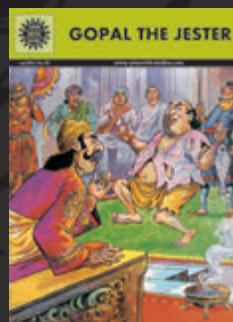
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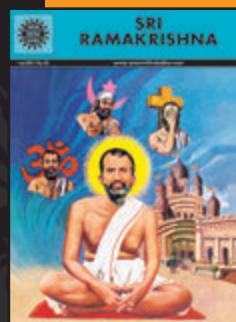
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