



SARASWATI

STORIES OF THE GODDESS OF WISDOM

Vol.840 | ₹90





The route to your roots

Founder Editor : Anant Pai

When they look back at their formative years, many Indians nostalgically recall the vital part Amar Chitra Katha picture books have played in their lives. It was **ACK – Amar Chitra Katha** – that first gave them a glimpse of their glorious heritage.

Since they were introduced in 1967, there are now **over 400 Amar Chitra Katha titles** to choose from. **Over 100 million copies** have been sold worldwide.

Now the Amar Chitra Katha titles are even more widely available in **1000+ bookstores all across India**. You can also buy all the titles through our online store www.amarchitrakatha.com. We provide quick delivery anywhere in the world.

To make it easy for you to locate the titles of your choice from our treasure trove of titles, the books are now arranged in five categories.

Epics and Mythology

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Indian Classics

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Fables and Humour

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

Bravehearts

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

Visionaries

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Contemporary Classics

The Best of Modern Indian literature

Script

Sanjana Kapur

Illustrations and Colour

Adarsh Achari

Assistant Colourist

Silambarasan K.

Layout

Sivajith S.

Editor

Reena Ittyerah Puri

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 2012, Reprinted January 2019,

ISBN 978-93-5085-120-3

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., AFL House, 7th Floor,
Lok Bharati Complex, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India.

Printed at M/S Asha Printery, Mumbai- 400 013.

For Consumer Complaints Contact Tel : +91-22 4918881/2

Email: customerservice@ack-media.com

This book is sold subject to the condition that the publication may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system (including but not limited to computers, disks, external drives, electronic or digital devices, e-readers, websites), or transmitted in any form or by any means (including but not limited to cyclostyling, photocopying, docutech or other reprographic reproductions, mechanical, recording, electronic, digital versions) without the prior written permission of the publisher, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

THE BIRTH OF SARASWATI

BRAHMA SAT ON HIS LOTUS IN DEEP MEDITATION.



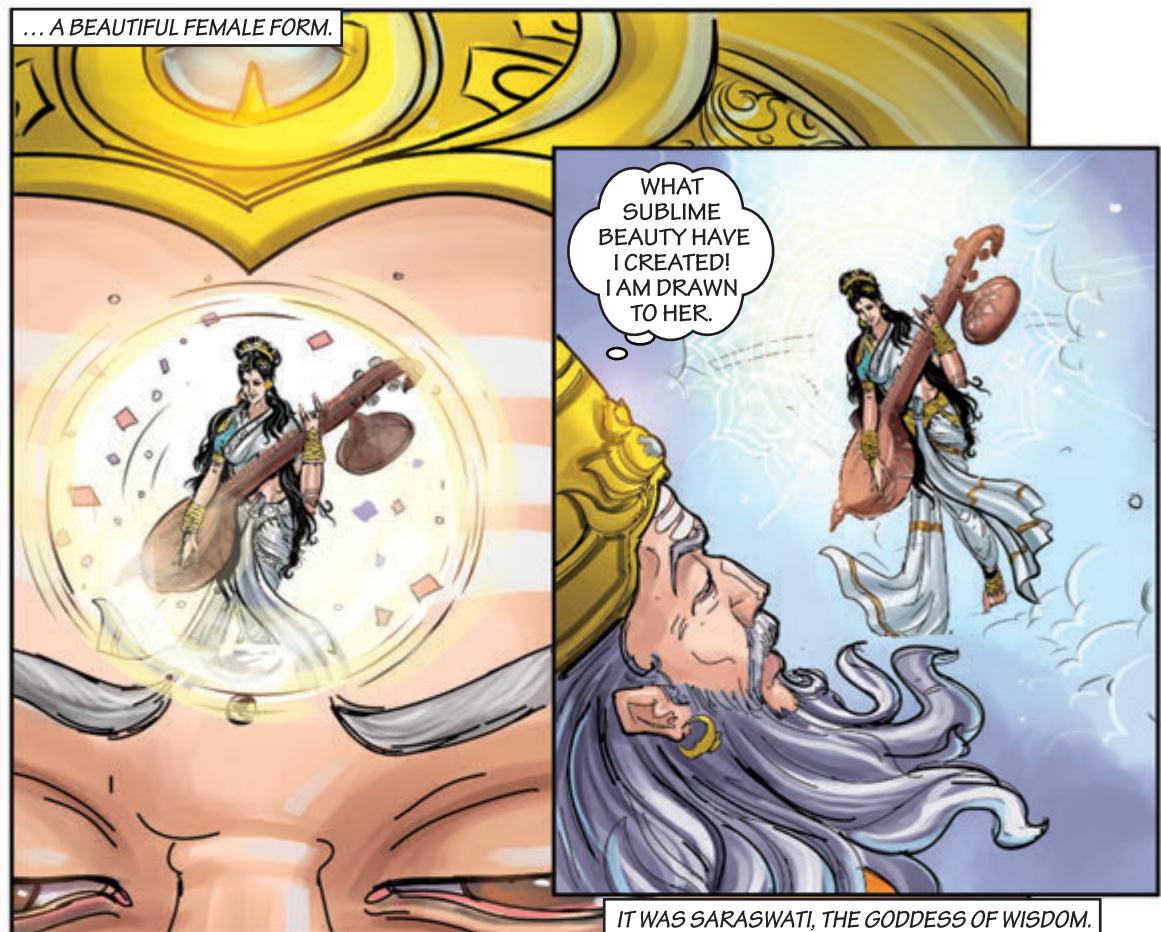
HE HAD JUST COMPLETED THE
CREATION OF THE THREE WORLDS.

AS HIS MIND SANK INTO COMPLETE
PEACE ...

...THERE EMERGED FROM IT...



... A BEAUTIFUL FEMALE FORM.



IT WAS SARASWATI, THE GODDESS OF WISDOM.



BRAHMA WAS TOO SPELLBOUND TO SPEAK.

NOT WANTING TO DISTRACT BRAHMA, SARASWATI MOVED TO HIS LEFT.

SARASWATI

BUT AS SHE MOVED, A SECOND HEAD SPRANG OUT ON BRAHMA'S LEFT.



SEEING BRAHMA STILL LOOKING AT HER,
SARASWATI MOVED TO HIS RIGHT, BUT -

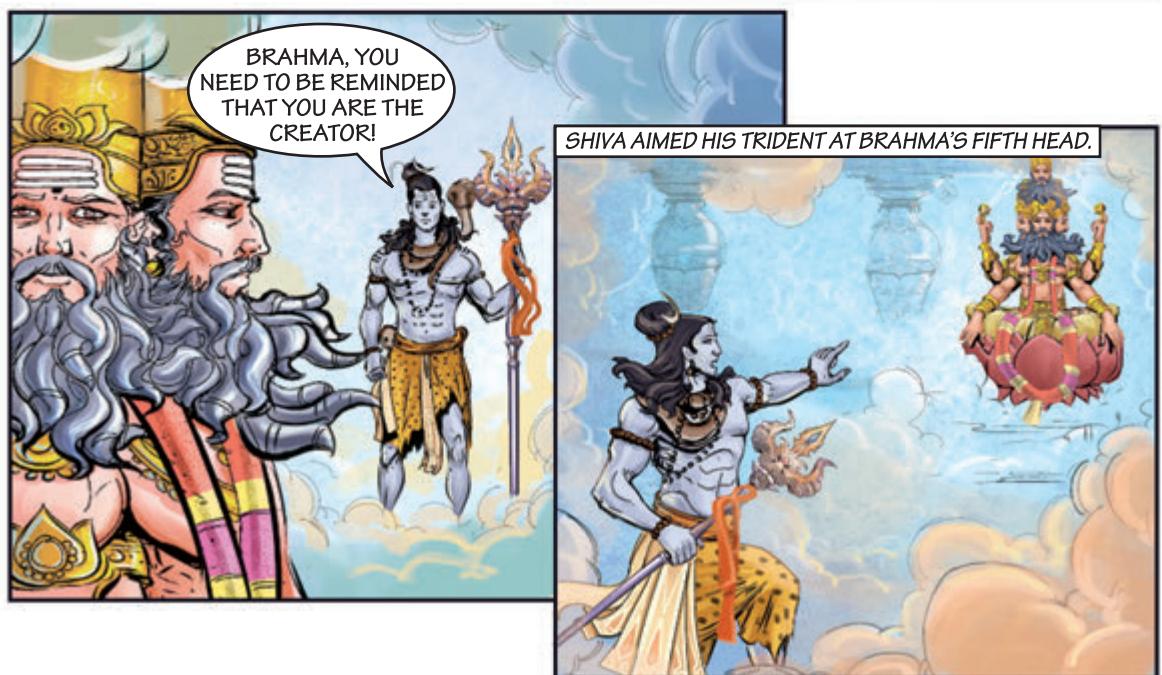
WHEREVER
IGO, BRAHMA'S
EYES FOLLOW ME.
WHAT SHOULD
I DO?

BRAHMA WAS SO CAPTIVATED BY SARASWATI'S
RADIANCE THAT HE LOOKED AT HER UNBLINKINGLY.



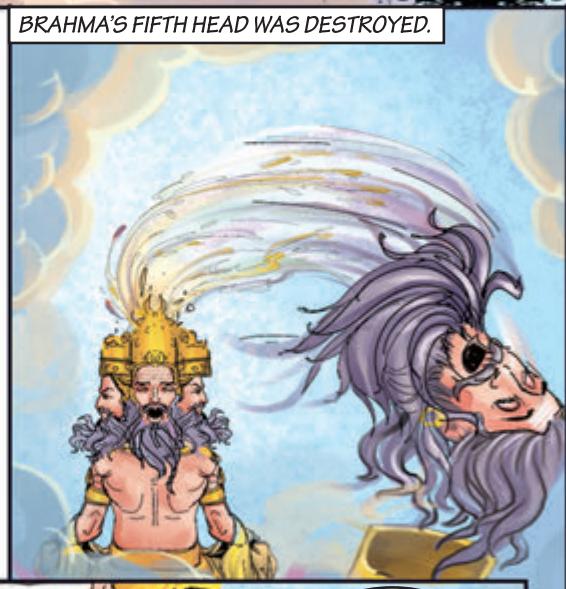
SARASWATI

ANNOYED AND UPSET, SARASWATI TURNED TO SHIVA FOR HELP.



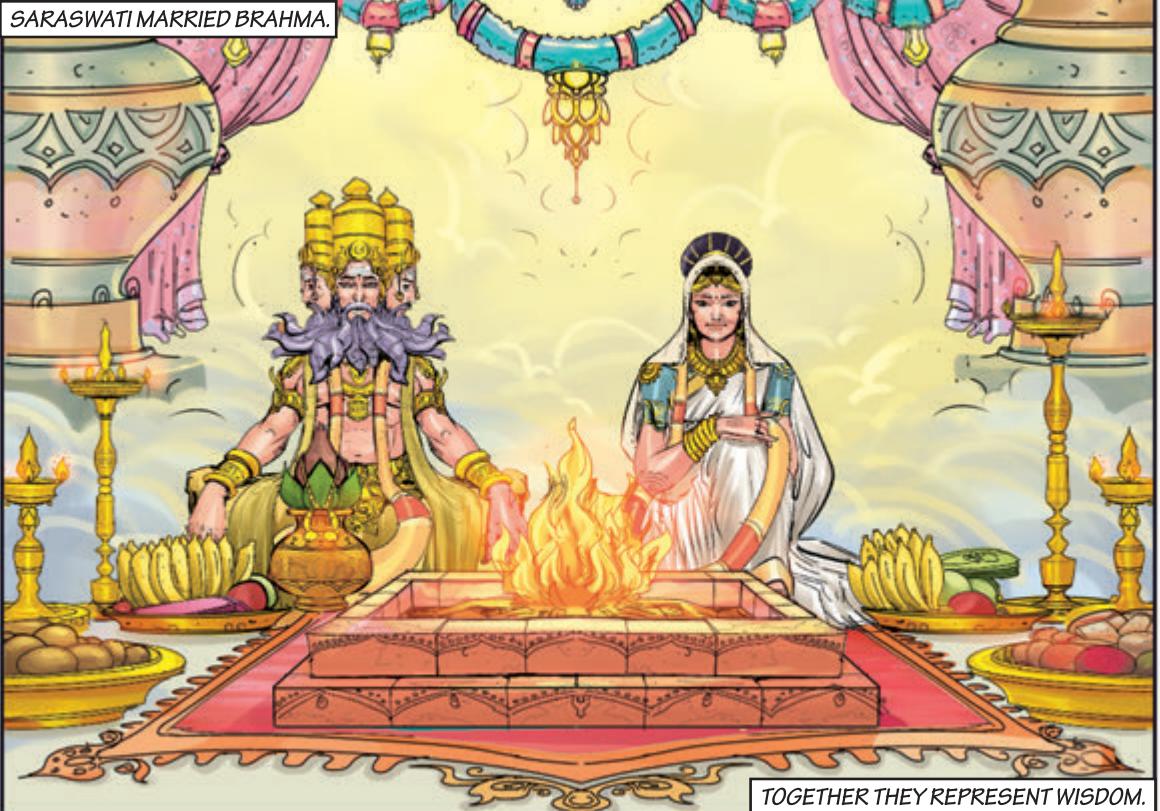
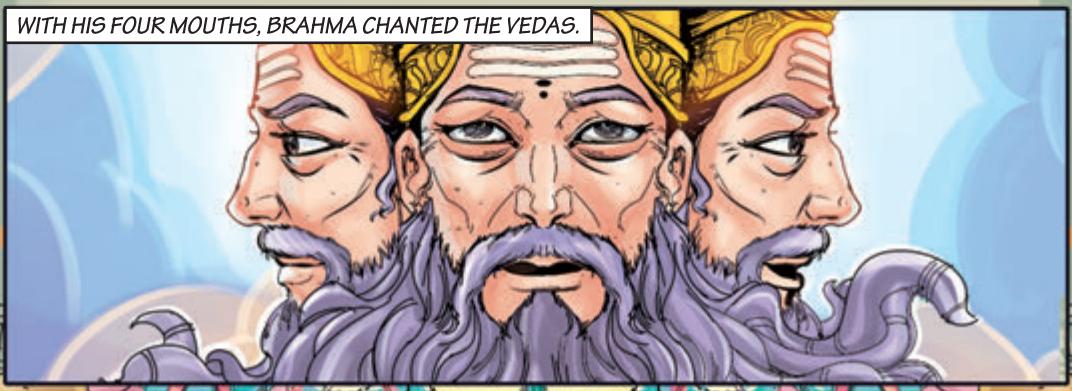


BRAHMA'S FIFTH HEAD WAS DESTROYED.



BRAHMA REALISED HIS MISTAKE.





SARASWATI BECOMES A RIVER

ONCE, DURING A TERRIBLE BATTLE BETWEEN THE BHARGAVAS AND THE HEHAYAS[^], VADAVAGNI* WAS BORN.



THE GODS WERE WORRIED -

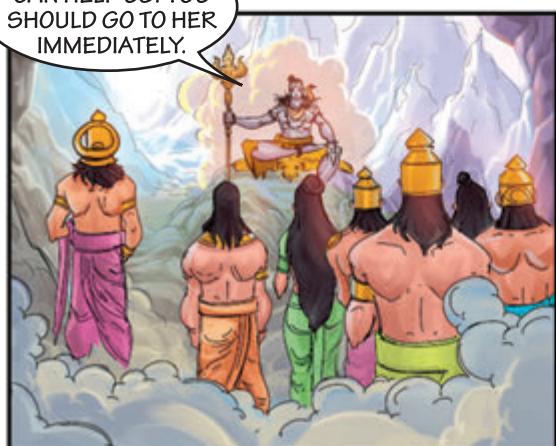
THE FIRE
WILL DESTROY
EVERYTHING.

WE MUST DO
SOMETHING.

SARASWATI
CAN HELP US. YOU
SHOULD GO TO HER
IMMEDIATELY.

I SHALL GIVE
HER THE VADAVAGNI,
WHICH SHE WILL
DEPOSIT IN THE
OCEAN.

AS YOU
SAY, LORD.

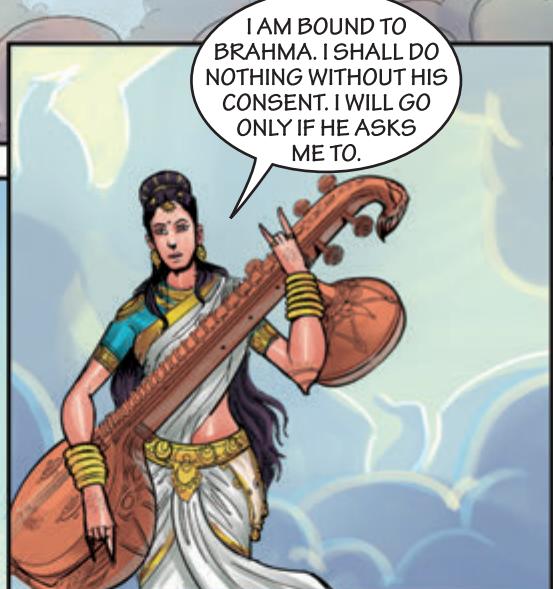
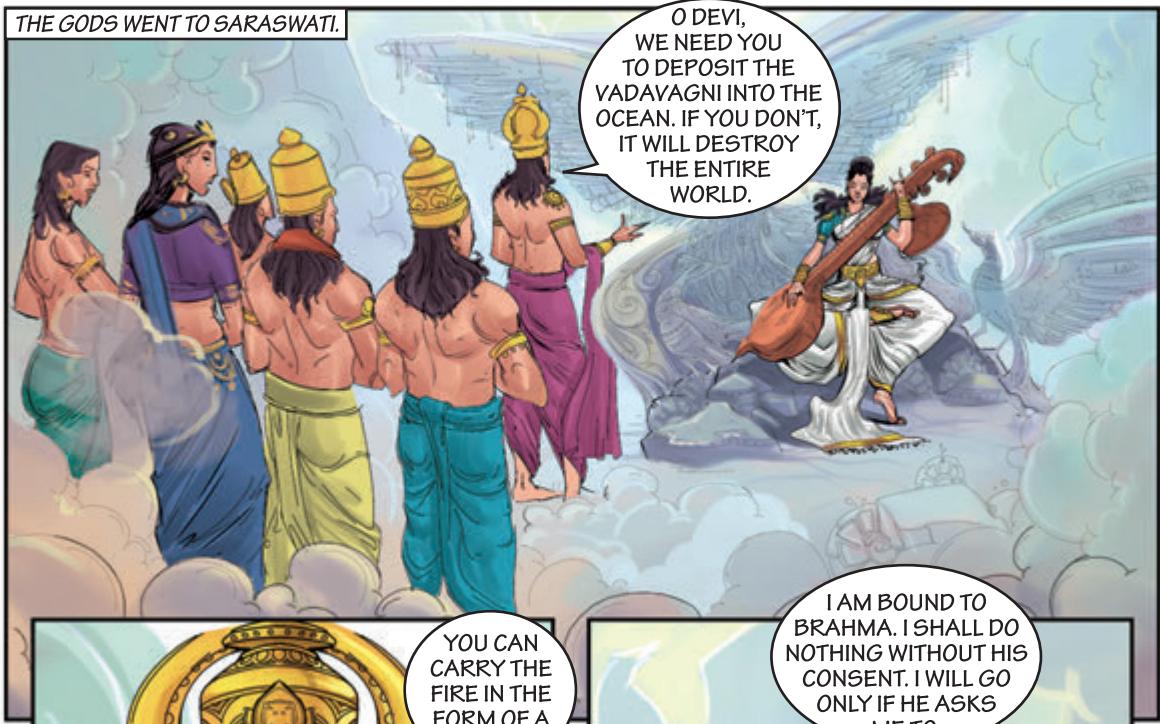


[^]THE BRAHMINS AND THE KSHATRIYAS

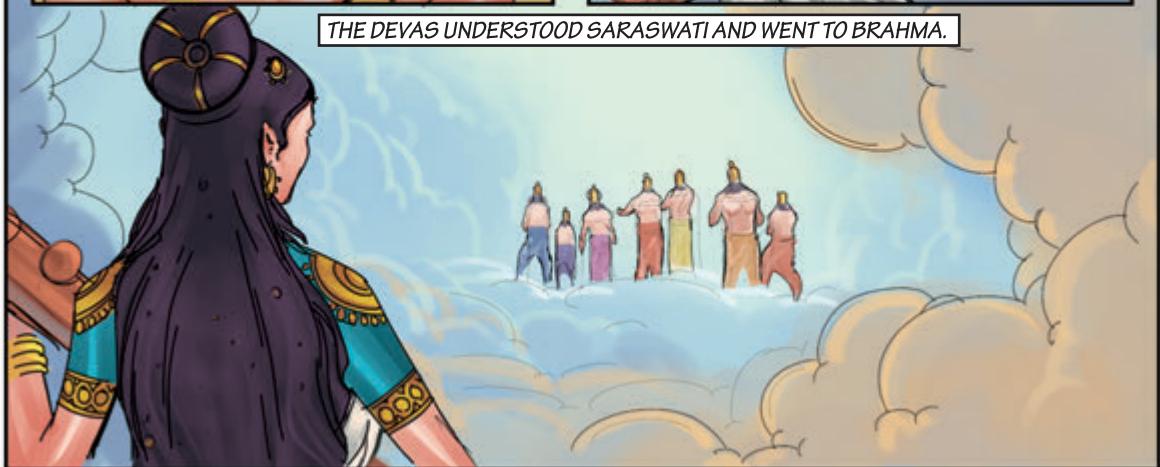
*ALL-CONSUMING FIRE, THAT DESTROYS
EVERYTHING IN ITS WAY

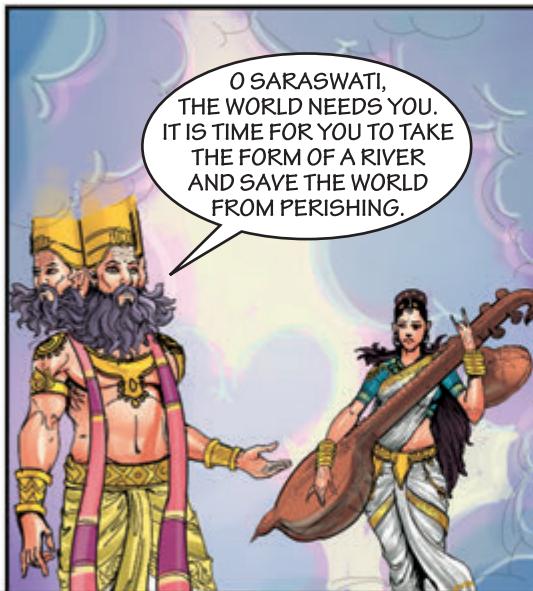
SARASWATI

THE GODS WENT TO SARASWATI.

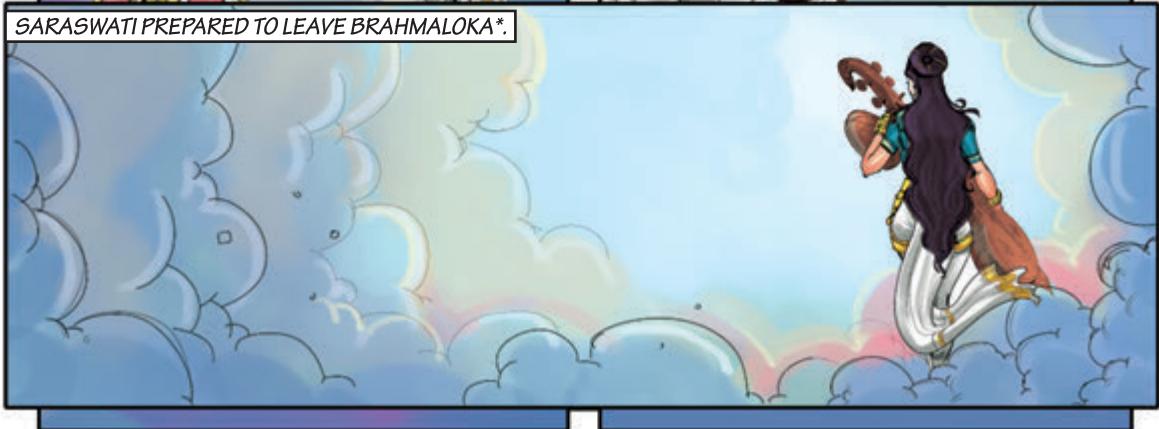


THE DEVAS UNDERSTOOD SARASWATI AND WENT TO BRAHMA.





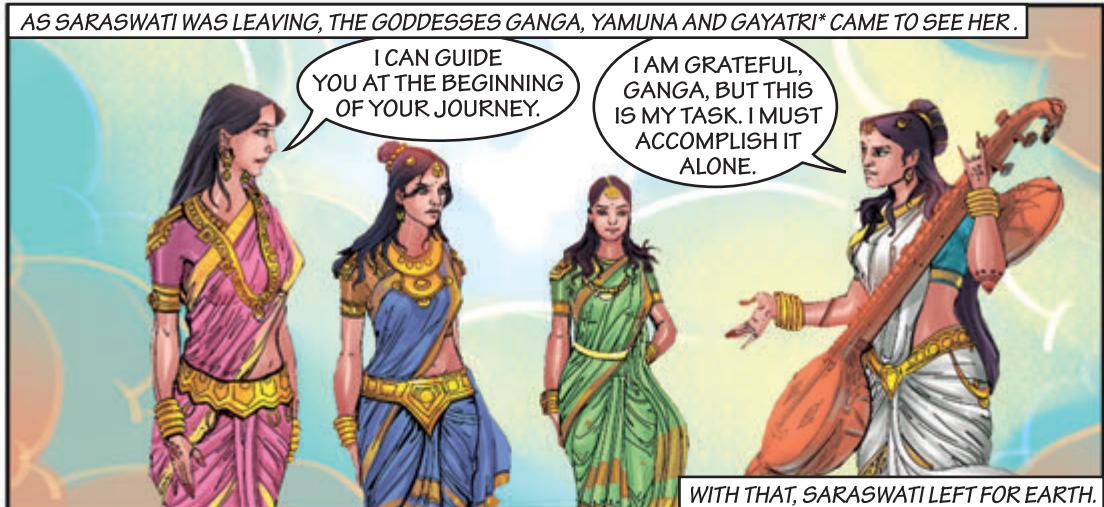
SARASWATI PREPARED TO LEAVE BRAHMALOKA.*



*ABODE OF BRAHMA

SARASWATI

AS SARASWATI WAS LEAVING, THE GODDESSES GANGA, YAMUNA AND GAYATRI* CAME TO SEE HER.



SHE ARRIVED AT THE ASHRAM OF SAGE UTTANKA...



...WHERE SHE MET SHIVA.

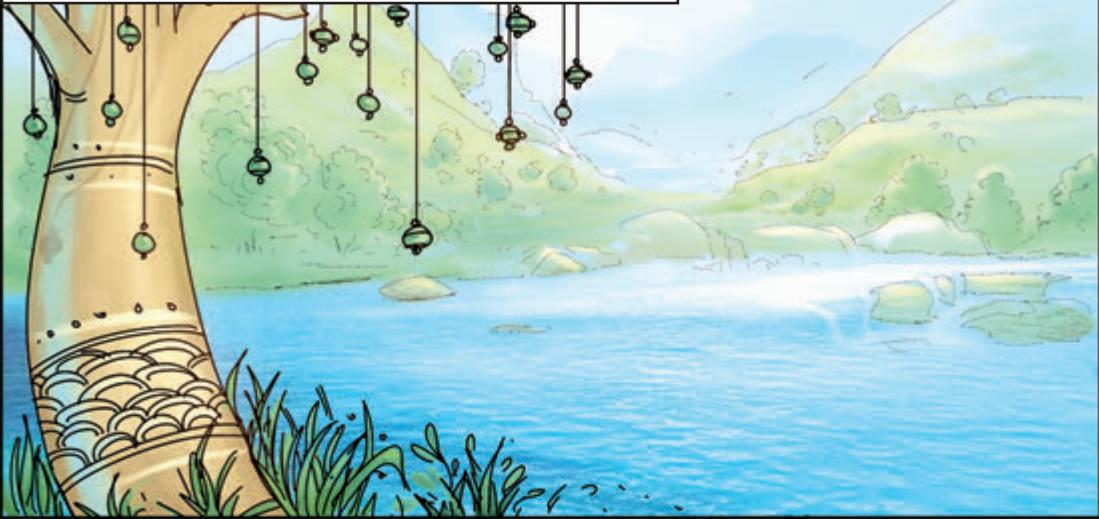
I GIVE YOU THE VADAVAGNI. JUST AS RIVER GANGA ORIGINATED FROM ME, YOU SHALL ORIGINATE FROM THE PLAKSHA TREE[^].



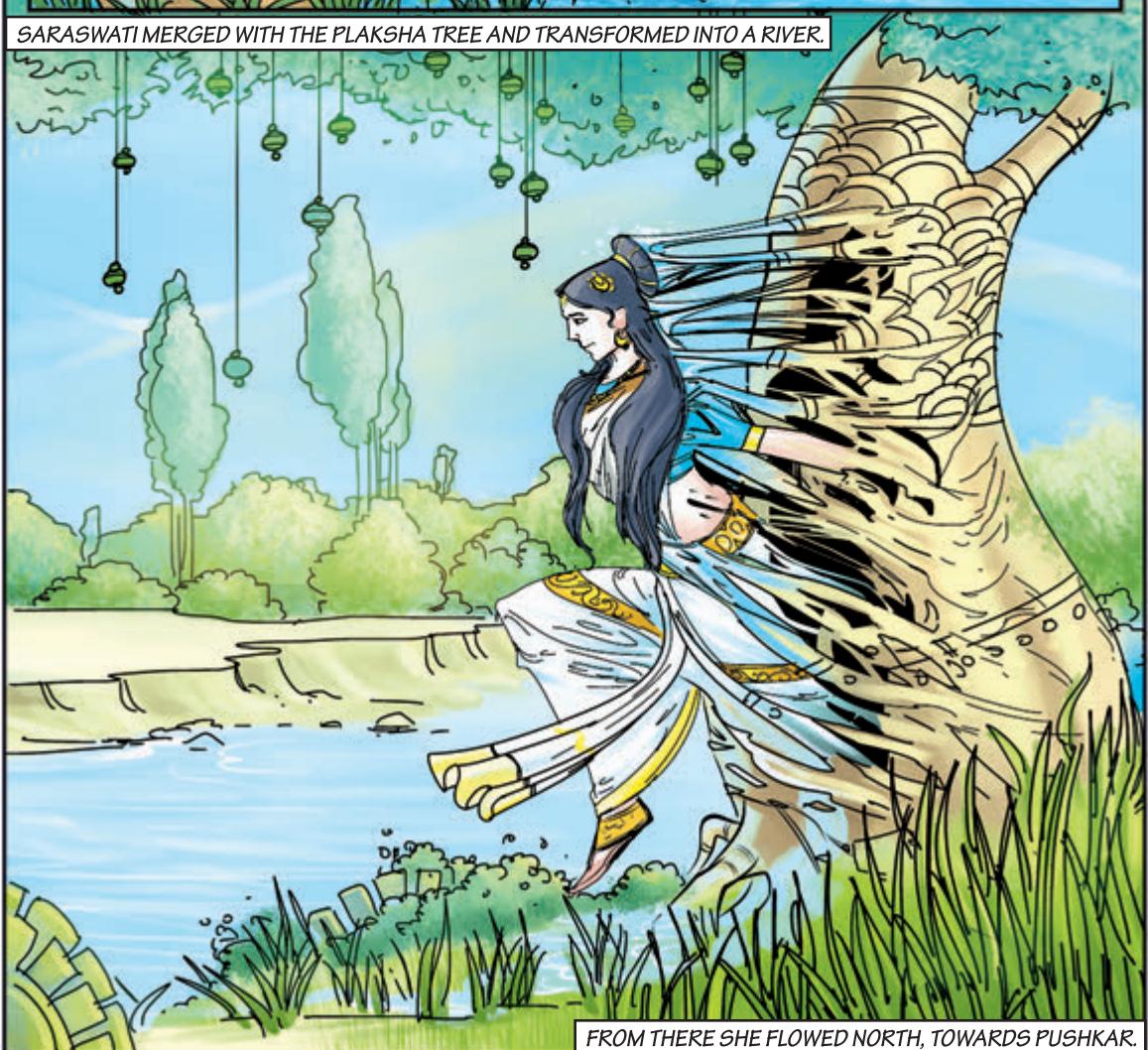
*THE GODDESS REPRESENTING THE SACRED GAYATRI CHANT

[^]THE SACRED FIG TREE

THE PLAKSHA TREE STOOD STRONG, READY TO BEAR SARASWATI.



SARASWATI MERGED WITH THE PLAKSHA TREE AND TRANSFORMED INTO A RIVER.



FROM THERE SHE FLOWED NORTH, TOWARDS PUSHKAR.

SARASWATI

SARASWATI REDEEMED THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE THERE.

MY WATERS
SHALL PURIFY YOU.
I GIVE YOU ALL A CHANCE
TO WASH AWAY
YOUR SINS.

IT IS BELIEVED TO THIS DAY THAT ANYONE WHO DRINKS THE WATER AT PUSHKAR WILL ATTAIN BRAHMALOKA.

FROM PUSHKAR, SARASWATI FLOWED WEST AND REACHED A PLACE WHERE SHE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS NANDA.

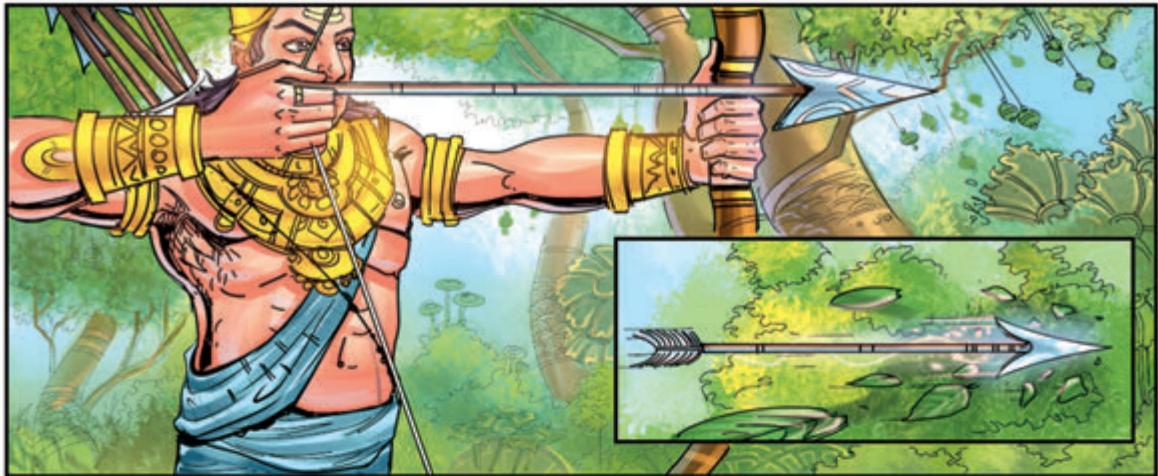


THE STORY ABOUT WHY SHE WAS CALLED NANDA GOES LIKE THIS:
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A KING CALLED PRABHANJANA.

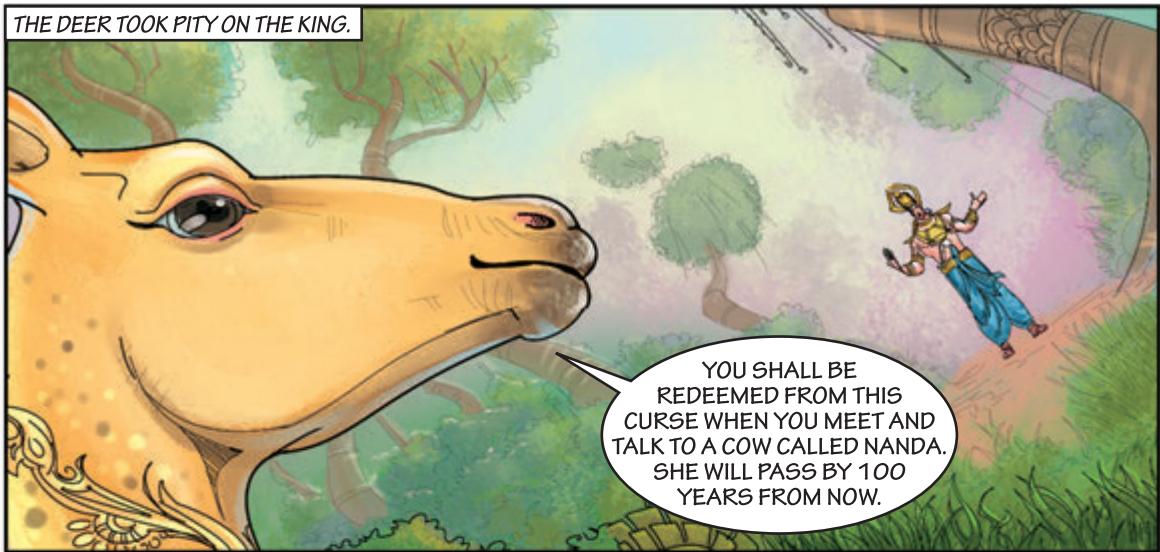
WHILE HE WAS OUT ON ONE OF HIS HUNTING TRIPS -

AH! I SEE
A DEER. IT WILL
MAKE A PERFECT
KILL.





THE DEER TOOK PITY ON THE KING.



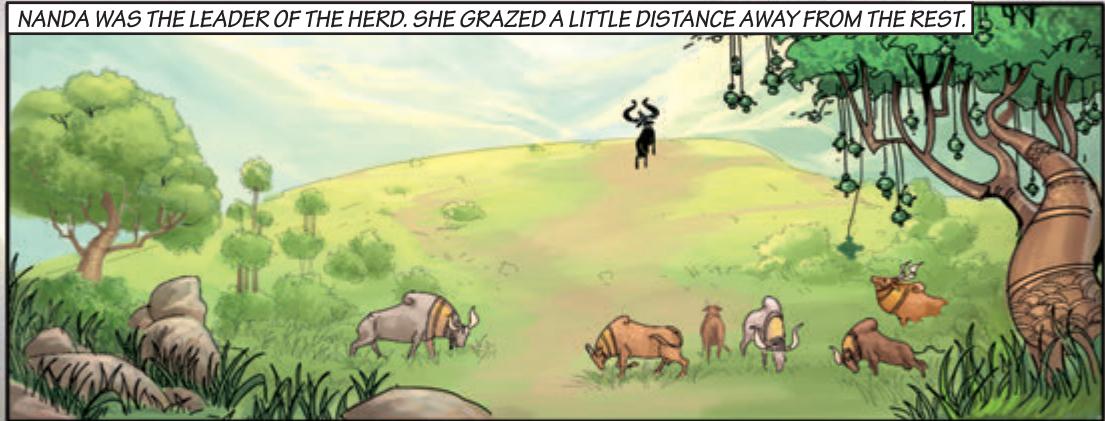
THE KING THEN TURNED INTO A
TIGER...



100 YEARS LATER, A HERD OF COWS CAME TO GRAZE NEAR THE FOREST.



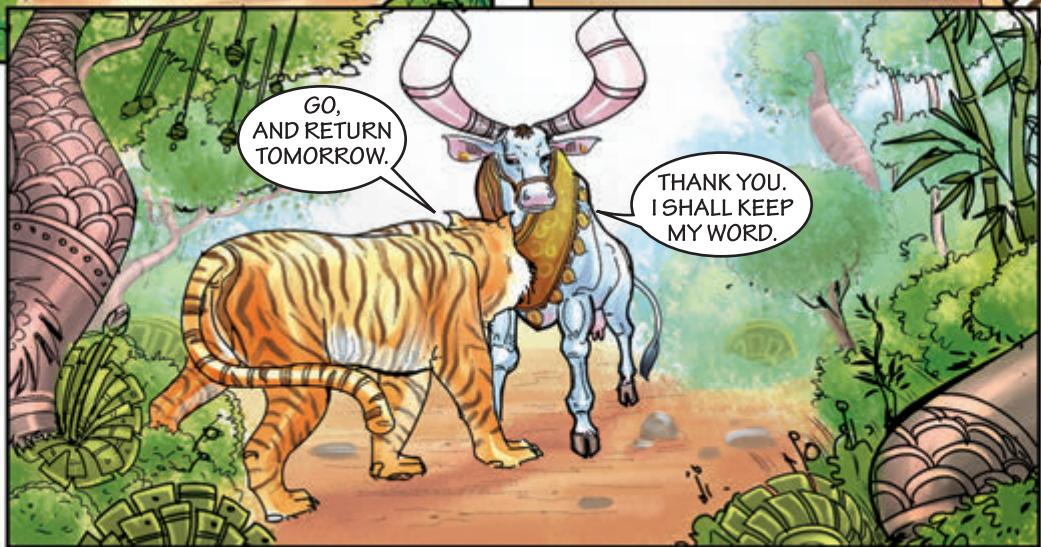
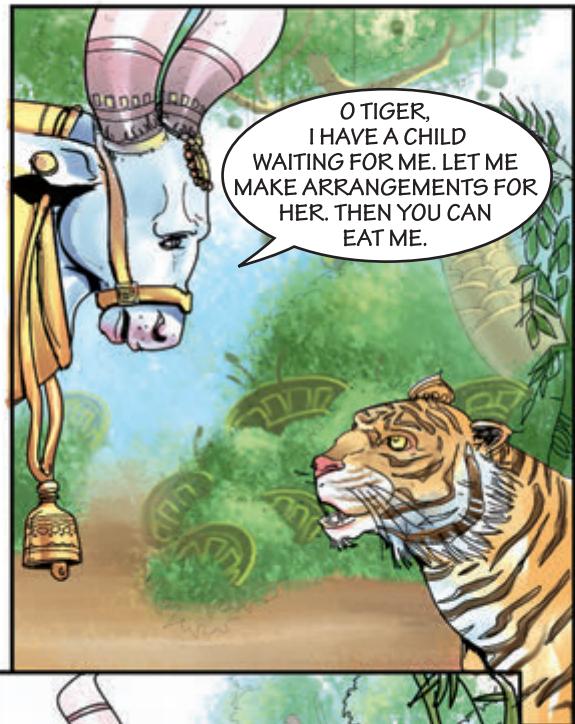
NANDA WAS THE LEADER OF THE HERD. SHE GRAZED A LITTLE DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE REST.



WITHOUT REALISING, NANDA STRAYED AWAY.



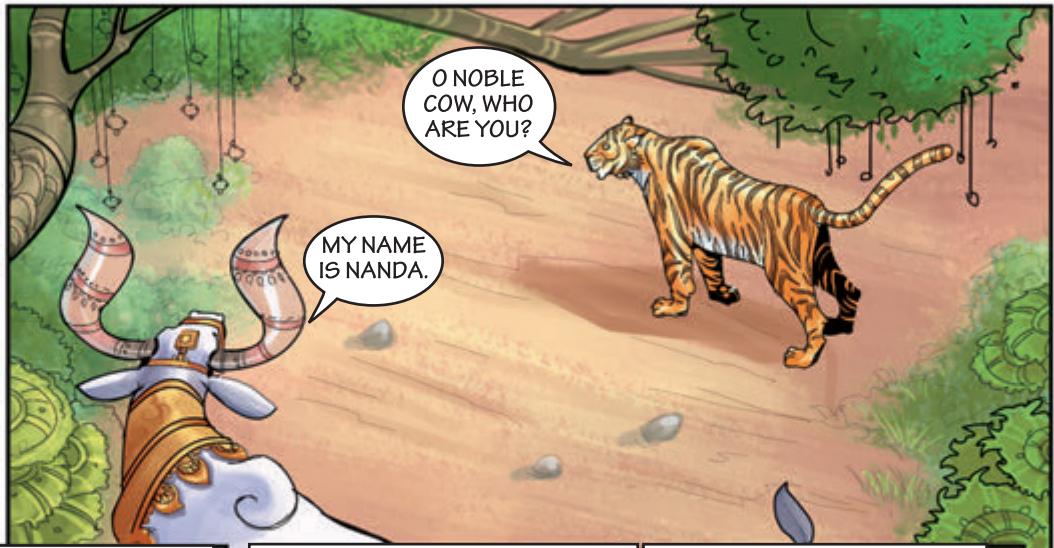
AS NANDA TURNED TO LEAVE -



THE NEXT DAY -



THE TIGER WAS SURPRISED BY NANDA'S HONESTY.



THE MOMENT NANDA SPOKE THOSE WORDS...



...THE DEER'S CURSE WAS BROKEN...



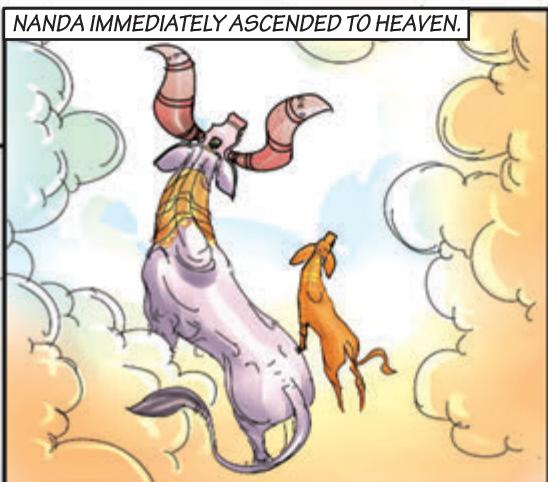
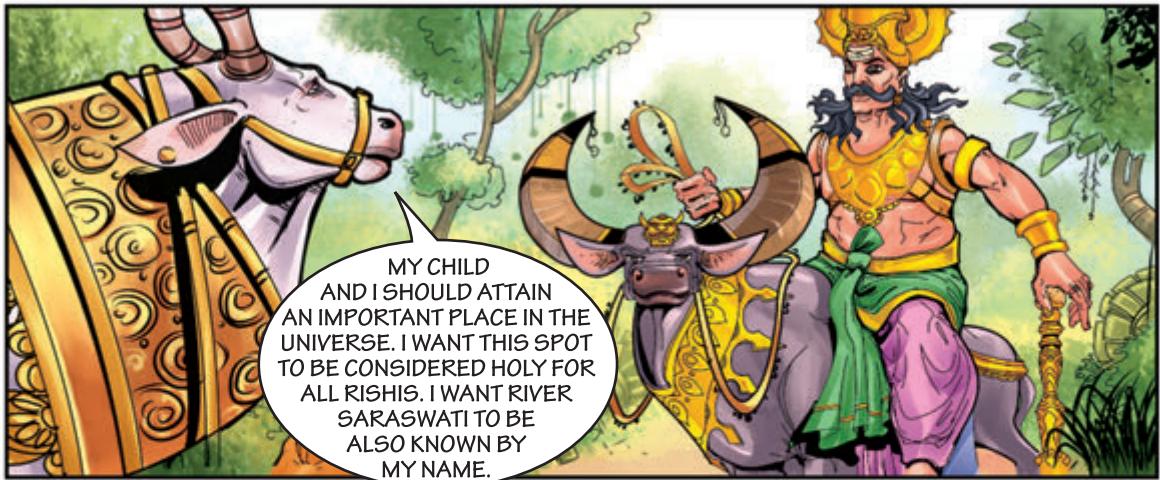
...AND THE TIGER TURNED BACK INTO PRABHANJANA.



DHARMA DEVÄ* APPEARED BEFORE NANDA -



*ALSO KNOWN AS YAMA, THE GOD OF DEATH



SARASWATI

SARASWATI TURNED NORTH AGAIN AND FLOWED TOWARDS THE OCEAN.



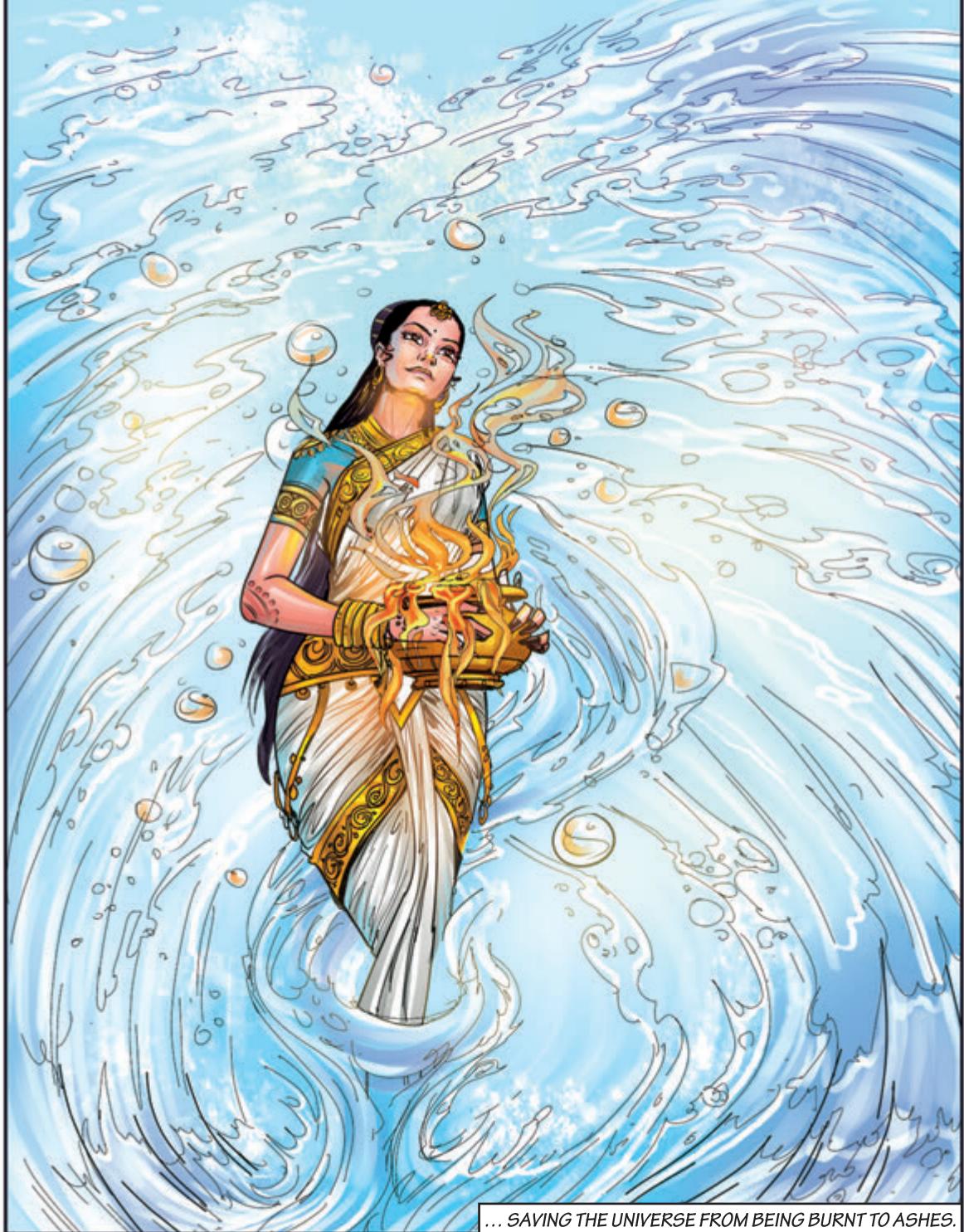
IT IS TIME
TO RELEASE
THE FIRE.



THE GODS WATCHED FROM ABOVE AS SARASWATI REACHED THE END OF HER JOURNEY.



SARASWATI DEPOSITED THE FIRE IN THE OCEAN'S WATERS ...

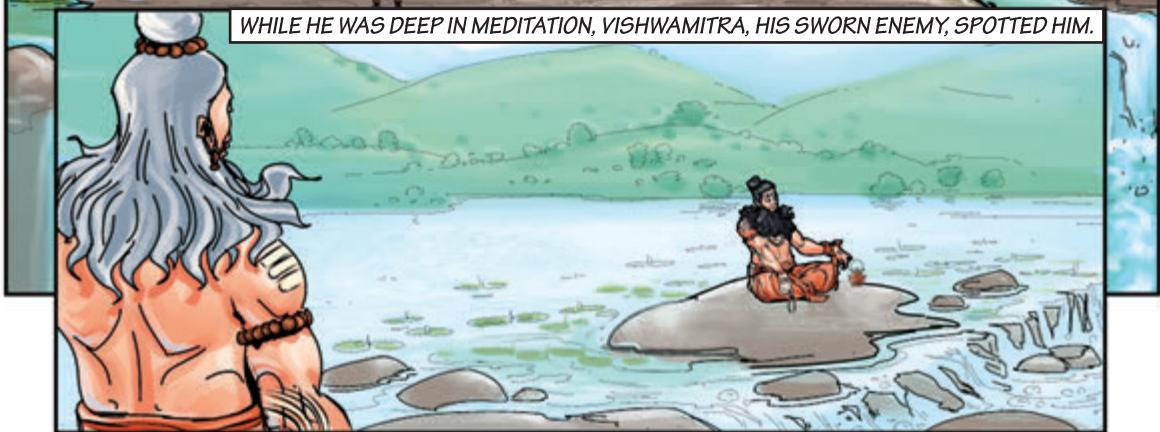


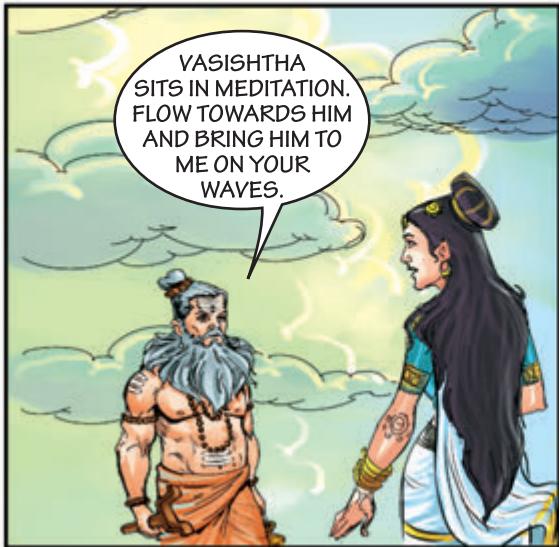
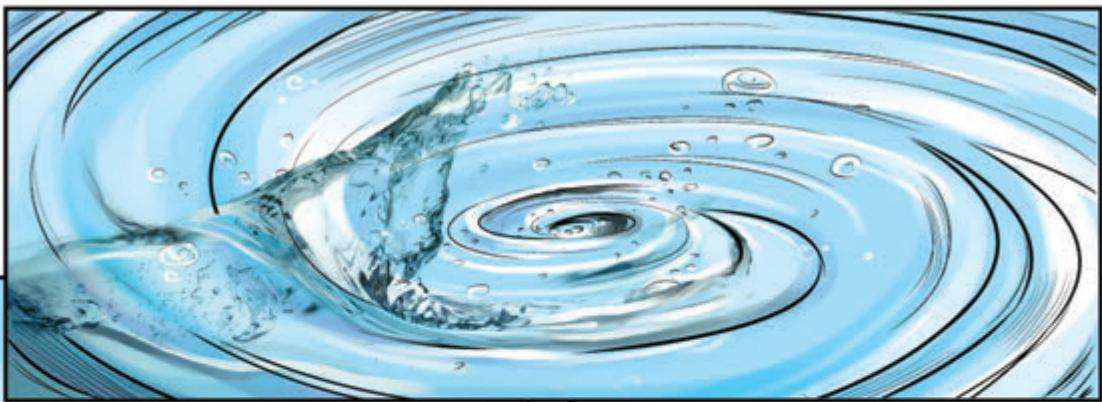
... SAVING THE UNIVERSE FROM BEING BURNT TO ASHES.

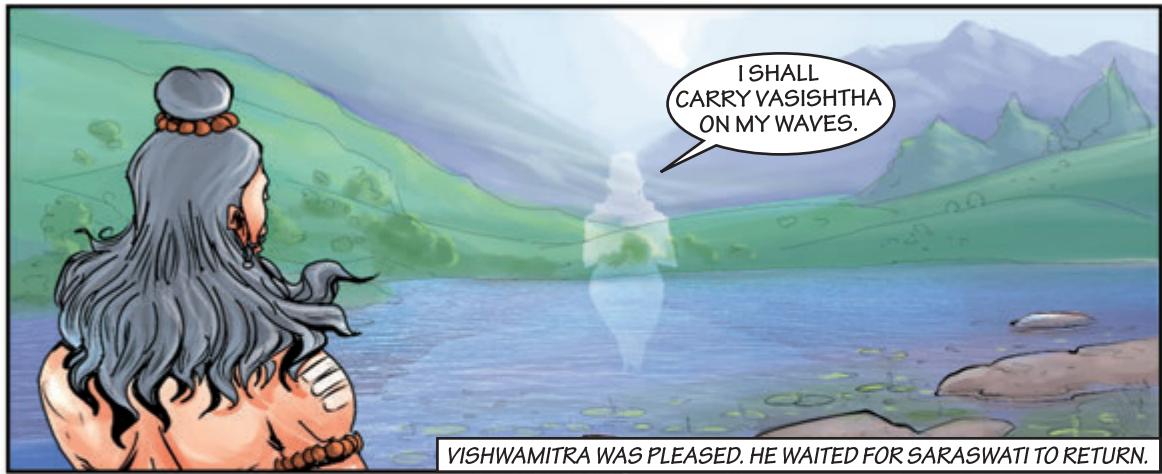
THE RIVER OF BLOOD



ONCE, THE GREAT SAGE VASISHTHA SAT ON THE BANKS OF THE SARASWATI, PERFORMING PENAeCE.



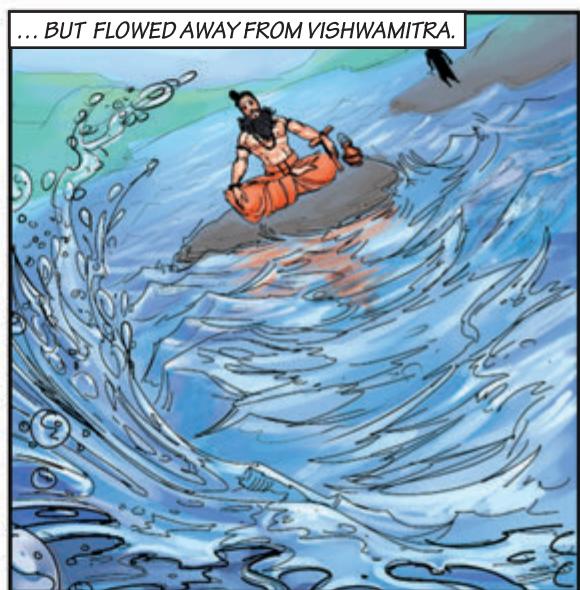




VISHWAMITRA WAS PLEASED. HE WAITED FOR SARASWATI TO RETURN.



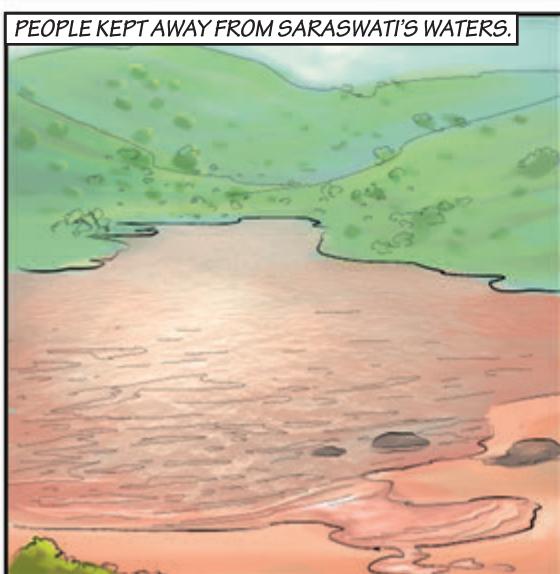
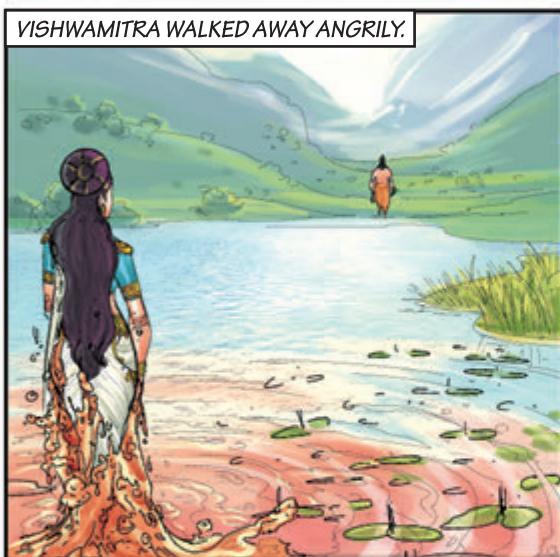
SARASWATI PICKED VASISHTHA UP AS SHE HAD SAID...

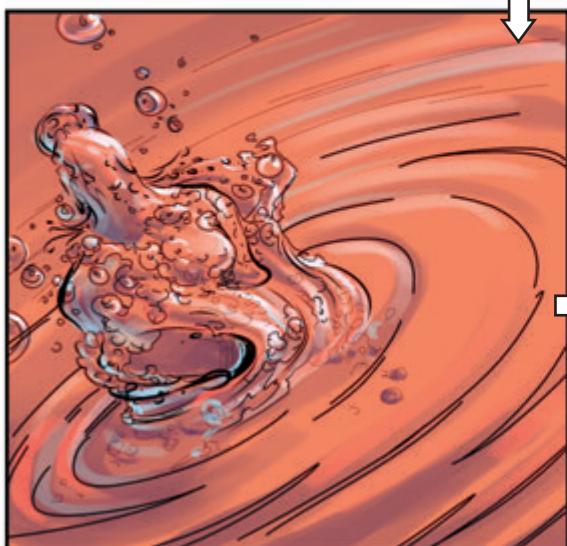
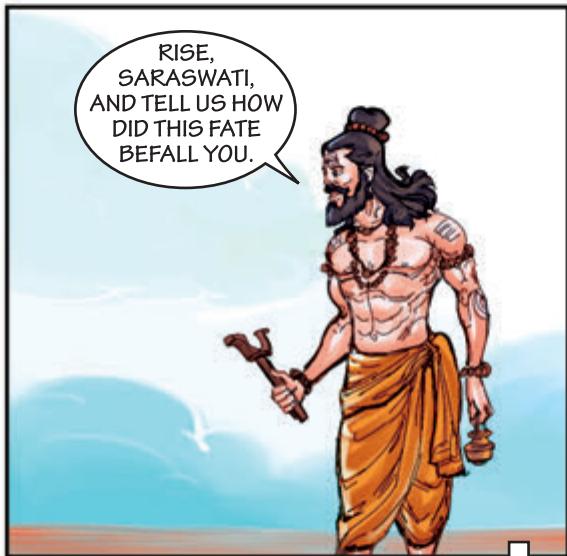
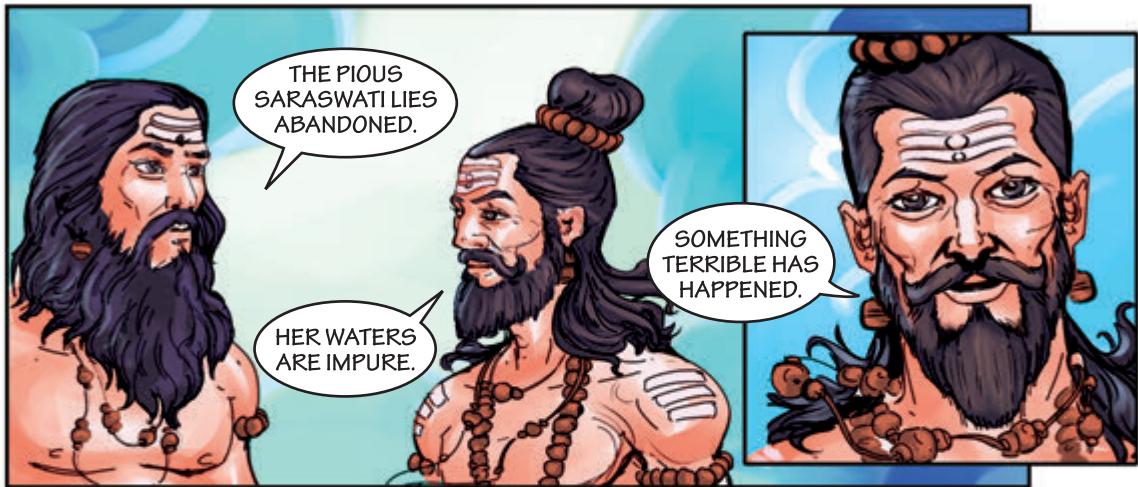


... BUT FLOWED AWAY FROM VISHWAMITRA.

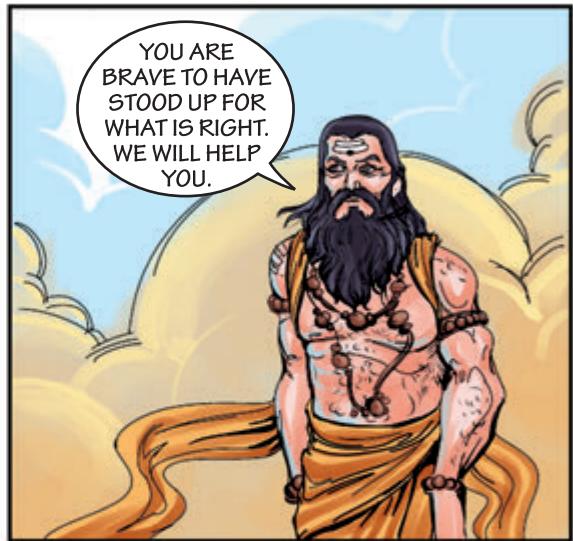


SARASWATI IS TAKING VASISHTHA AWAY! SHE IS PROTECTING HIM!





AS HER STORY ENDED -



THE SAGES FACED SARASWATI -



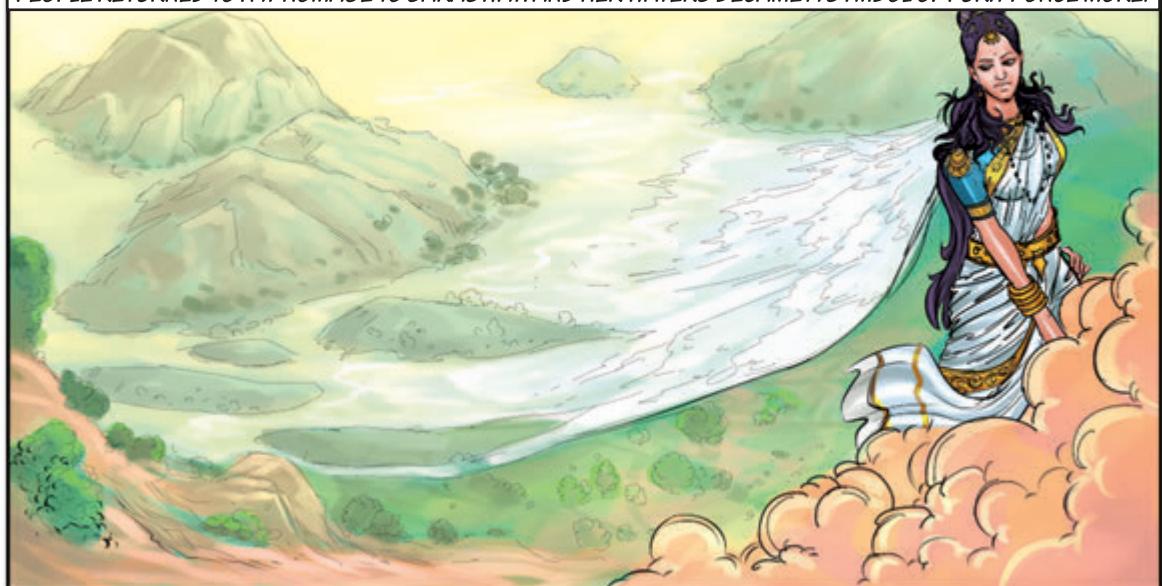
SARASWATI

WITH THEIR COLLECTIVE POWER, THEY CLEANSED SARASWATI'S WATERS* AND VISHWAMITRA'S CURSE WAS LIFTED.



THE GODS SHOWERED FLOWERS FROM ABOVE.

PEOPLE RETURNED TO PAY HOMAGE TO SARASWATI AND HER WATERS BECAME A SYMBOL OF PURITY ONCE MORE.



*SARASWATI IS SOMETIMES CALLED SHONAPUNYA, MEANING ONE WHO IS PURIFIED OF BLOOD.

MORE ABOUT SARASWATI

ANCIENT INDIAN SCRIPTURES DESCRIBE SARASWATI IN THREE FORMS - AS A GODDESS, AS A RIVER AND AS SPEECH.

THERE ARE SEVERAL VERSIONS OF THE STORY OF SARASWATI'S BIRTH IN INDIAN MYTHOLOGY. ONE VERSION SAYS THAT SHE WAS CREATED FROM BRAHMA'S MIND. WHEN BRAHMA ASKED HER WHO SHE WAS, SHE TOLD HIM THAT SINCE SHE WAS BORN FROM HIM, IT WAS FOR HIM TO GIVE HER A PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE. BRAHMA CALLED HER SARASWATI AND TOLD HER THAT SHE WOULD EXIST IN THREE FORMS. SHE WAS TO STAY ON THE TIP OF EVERYBODY'S TONGUE IN THE FORM OF SPEECH. ANOTHER PORTION OF HER WOULD STAY WITH HIM, AS PART OF HIS BEING. THE THIRD PART OF HER WOULD EXIST AS A RIVER ON EARTH.



THE RIVER SARASWATI IS MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES IN THE VEDAS. THE WATERS OF THE RIVER ARE SAID TO BE PURE AND PRISTINE. SARASWATISANGAMA, THE PLACE WHERE SARASWATI JOINS THE OCEAN, IS CONSIDERED HOLY. THERE ARE VARIOUS STORIES IN INDIAN MYTHOLOGY THAT TALK OF THIS PLACE. ONE SUCH STORY IS ABOUT CHANDRA, THE MOON GOD. CHANDRA MARRIED DAKSHA'S TWENTY-SEVEN DAUGHTERS, BUT HE LOVED ONE MORE THAN THE OTHERS. HER NAME WAS ROHINI. HIS OTHER WIVES FELT NEGLECTED AND COMPLAINED TO THEIR FATHER. DAKSHA CURSED CHANDRA TO SUFFER AND LOSE HIS RADIANCE. WITHOUT THE MOON'S LIGHT, THE WORLD FELL INTO DARKNESS AND PEOPLE WERE PANIC-STRICKEN. THE GODS WENT TO DAKSHA FOR HELP. CHANDRA APOLOGISED FOR HIS BEHAVIOUR. DAKSHA FORGAVE HIM AND SAID THAT IF HE TOOK A DIP IN THE SARASWATISANGAMA, HIS GLOW WOULD RETURN FOR HALF OF EVERY MONTH. CHANDRA DID AS HE WAS TOLD. THE WATERS OF THE SARASWATI PURIFIED HIM AND THE WORLD WAS SAVED FROM DARKNESS AND CHAOS.

SARASWATI'S WHITE CLOTHES REPRESENT PURITY OF THOUGHT. HER SIMPLE APPEARANCE SIGNIFIES THE FACT THAT WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE ARE BEYOND MATERIAL WEALTH. SARASWATI'S ATTIRE ALSO HAS HINTS OF BLUE. THE BLUE REFLECTS HER FORM AS A RIVER AND SIGNIFIES FLUIDITY.



Amar Chitra Katha's



EPICS & MYTHOLOGY



BRAVEHEARTS



VISIONARIES



ASHOKA
ABHIMANYU



FABLES & HUMOUR



INDIAN CLASSICS



CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS



EXCITING STORY CATEGORIES, ONE AMAZING DESTINATION.

From the episodes of Mahabharata to the wit of Birbal,

from the valour of Shivaji to the teachings of Tagore,

from the adventures of Pratapan to the tales of Ruskin Bond –

Amar Chitra Katha stories span across different genres to get you the best of literature.

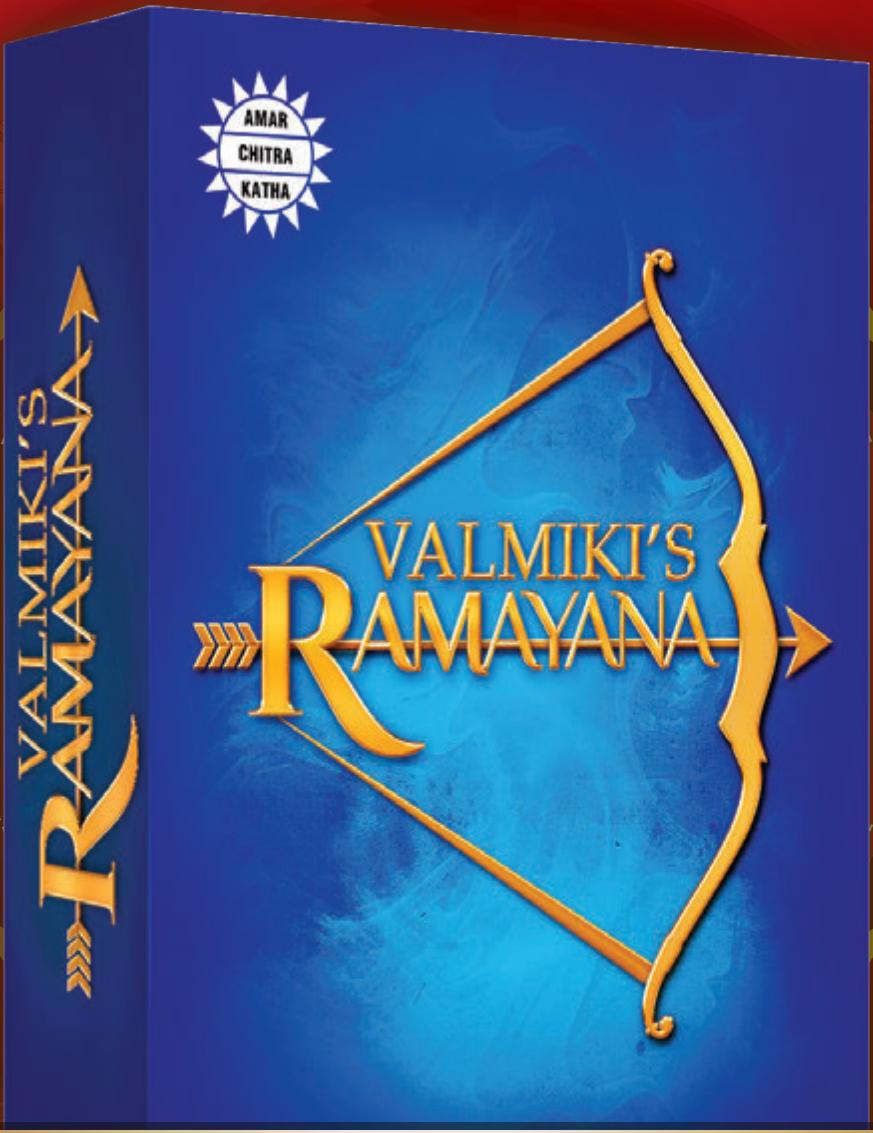
To buy/view our products go to

www.amarchitrakatha.com

or visit your nearest book store or call 022-49188881/2/3/4



SEVEN KANDS! One Legendary Tale!



TAKE AN EPIC JOURNEY
FROM AYODHYA TO LANKA AND BACK!

BUY ONLINE ON WWW.AMARCHITRAKATHA.COM

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <p>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayappan Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrahasa Dasharatha Dhruba And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Virtra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Kartikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vaasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Nala Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Prahlad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada</p> | <p>Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syanamanta Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati</p> <p>VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hsiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaparakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. S. Subbulakshmi Madhvacharya Mahavira Marie And Pierre Curie Megasthenes Mirabai Mother Teresa Narayan Guru Rabindranath Tagore Ram Shastri Rama Maharshi Ramanuja Salim Ali Shankar Dev Soordas Sri. Ramakrishna Srinivasa Ramanujan Subramania Bharati</p> | <p>Swami Chinmayananda Swami Pranavananda Tales Of Sai Baba Tansen Tulsidas Vidyasagar Vivekananda Zarathushtra</p> <p>INDIAN CLASSICS <i>Enchanting tales from Indian literature</i></p> <p>Ananda Math Ancestors Of Rama Devi Choudhurani Durgesh Nandini Kadambari Kannagi Kapala Kundala Kumanan Maarthanda Varma Malavika Manonmani Prince Jivaka Raj Singh Ratnavali Shakuntala The Adventures Of Pratapan The Elusive Kaka Udayana Urvashi Vasantasena Vasavadatta Veer Dhaval</p> <p>FABLES AND HUMOUR <i>Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour</i></p> <p>A Bag Of Gold Coins Amrapali Ander Nagari Angulimala Bikal The Terrible BIRBAL STORIES Birbal The Clever Birbal The Genius Birbal The Just Birbal The Wise Birbal The Witty Birbal To The Rescue The Inimitable Birbal Chandralalat Dhola And Maru Friends And Foes Gopal And The Cowherd Gopal The Jester HITOPADESHA TALES Choice Of Friends How Friends Are Parted Hothal JATAKA TALES Battle Of Wits Bird Stories Deer Stories Elephant Stories Jackal Stories Monkey Stories Nandi Vishala Stories Of Courage Stories Of Wisdom Tales Of Misers The Deadly Feast The Giant And The Dwarf The Hidden Treasure The Magic Chant</p> | <p>The Mouse Merchant True Friends Kanwal And Kehar Kesari The Flying Thief King Kusha Manduka</p> <p>PANCHATANTRA TALES</p> <p>Crows And Owls How The Jackal Ate The Elephant The Brahmin And The Goat The Dullard The Greedy Mother-in-law The Jackal And The Wardrum Raman Of Tenali Raman The Matchless Wit Sahasramala Sakshi Gopal Satwant Kaur Sharan Kaur Shrenik Sukhu And Dukhu Sundari Tales Of Maryada Rama The Acrobat The Adventures Of Agad Datta The Adventures Of Baddu And Chhotu The Bridegroom's Ring The Celestial Necklace The Clever Dancer The Cowherd Of Alawi The Fearless Boy The Fool's Disciples The Golden Sand The Green Demon The Unhappy Tiger The Learned Pandit The Lost Prince The Magic Grove The Miraculous Conch The Mystery Of The Missing Gift The Pandit And The Milkmaid The Pig And The Dog The Pious Cat The Priceless Gem The Prince And The Magician The Prophecy The Queen's Necklace The Rainbow Prince The Secret Of The Talking Bird The Silent Teacher The Tiger And The Woodpecker The Tiger Eater Thugsen Viduyut Chora Vikramaditya's Throne</p> <p>BRAVEHEARTS <i>Stirring tales of brave men and women of India</i></p> <p>A Nation Awakes Ahilyabai Holkar Ajatasatru Akbar Amar Singh Rathor Ashoka Babur Bagha Jatin Bajirao I</p> | <p>Baladitya And Yashodharma Balban Banda Bahadur Bappa Rawal Beni Madho And Pir Ali Bhagat Singh Bidhi Chand Bimbisara Chand Bibi Chandra Shekhar Azad Chandragupta Maurya Chennamma Of Keladi Dara Shukho And Aurangazeb Durgadas Ellora Caves Hakka And Bukka Hari Singh Nalwa Harsha Hemu Humayun Jahangir Jallianwala Bagh Kalpana Chawla Kochunni Krishnadeva Raya Kunwar Singh Lachit Barphukan Lalitaditya Mangal Pande Noor Jahan Padmini Panna And Hadi Rani Paurava And Alexander Prithviraj Chauhan Raja Bhoja Raja Raja Chola Rana Kumbha Rana Pratap Rana Sanga Rani Abbakka Rani Durgavati Rani Of Jhansi Ranji Singh Rash Bihari Bose Roopmati Sambhaji Samudra Gupta Sea Route To India Shah Jahan Shalivahana Shantala Sher Shah Shivaji Subhas Chandra Bose Sultana Razia Suriya Sen Tachcholi Othenan Tales Of Shivaji Tanaji Tenzing Norgay The Historic City Of Delhi The Rani Of Kittur Tipu Sultan Veer Hammir Veer Savarkar Velu Thampi Vikramaditya</p> <p>CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS <i>(New Category)</i> <i>The best of modern Indian literature</i></p> <p>The Blue Umbrella</p> |
|--|--|---|--|--|



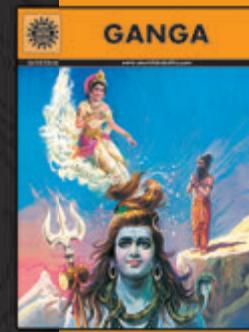
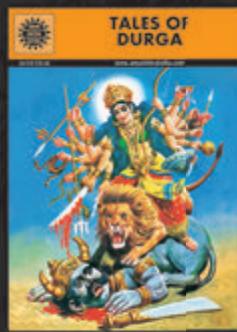
Titles available in English and other Regional languages on www.amarchitrakatha.com

As Brahma sinks into peaceful bliss, his radiance gives birth to a sublime form. Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom, emerges from Brahma's mind and enlightens the mighty creator.

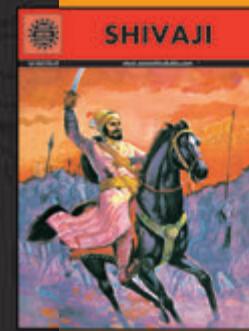
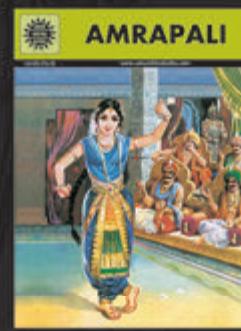
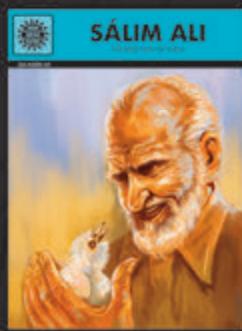
When the all-consuming fire, Vadavagni, is raging through the world the gods go to Saraswati for help. Saraswati agrees to carry the fire and save everyone from perishing. Shiva aids her in this quest, and she begins her epic course as a river.

Later, Saraswati finds herself the victim of a terrible curse when she gets drawn into the rivalry between the sages Vishwamitra and Vasishtha. Amar Chitra Katha follows the story of Saraswati, from her birth to her journey into the ocean.

OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY :



ALSO LOOK FOR:



VISIONARIES

CONTEMPORARY
CLASSICS

FABLES & HUMOUR

BRAVEHEARTS

Buy online at www.amarchitrakatha.com

ISBN 978-93-5085-120-3



9 789350 851203