

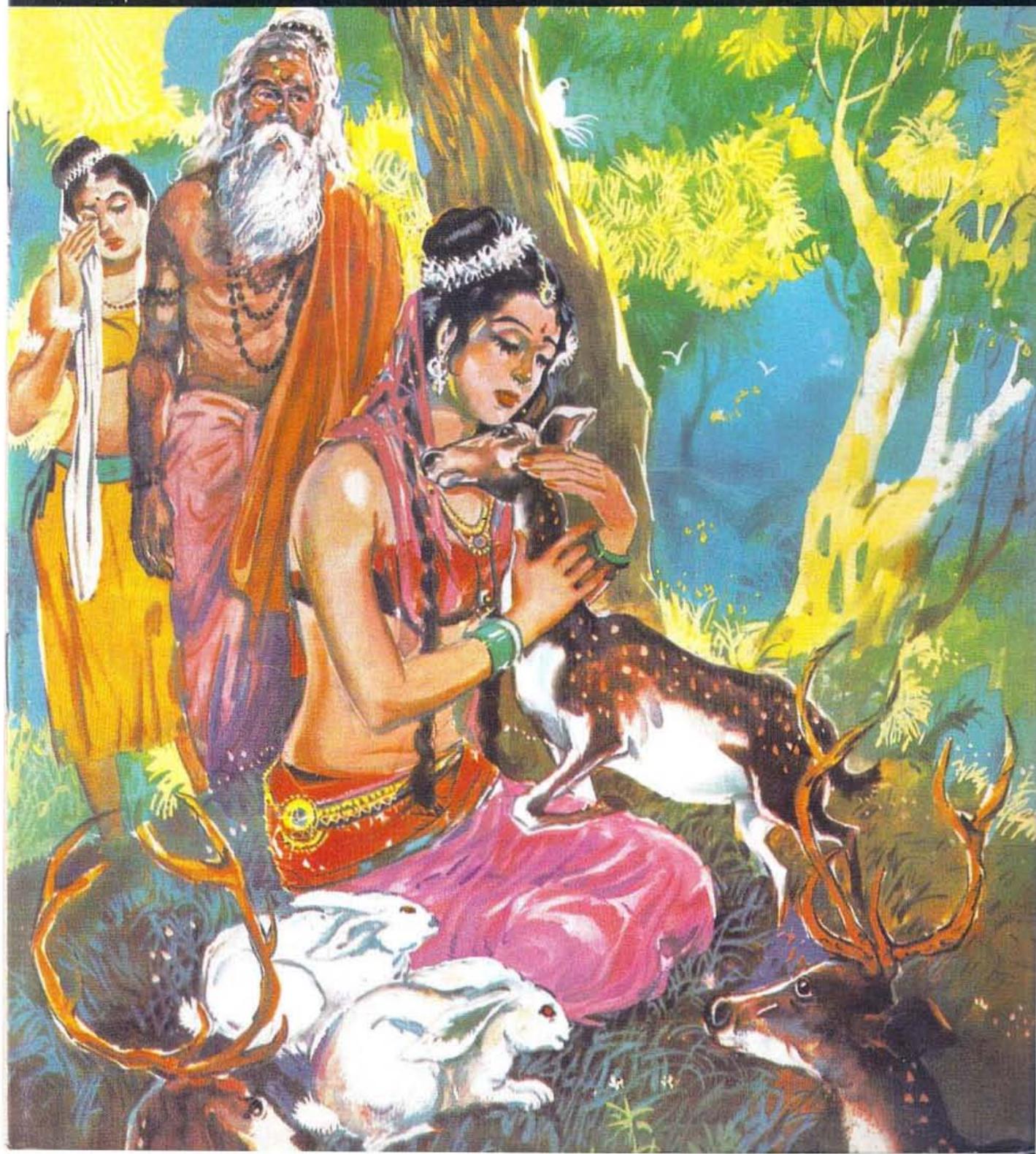


SHAKUNTALA

THE FORGOTTEN WIFE

Vol 530 | Rs 35

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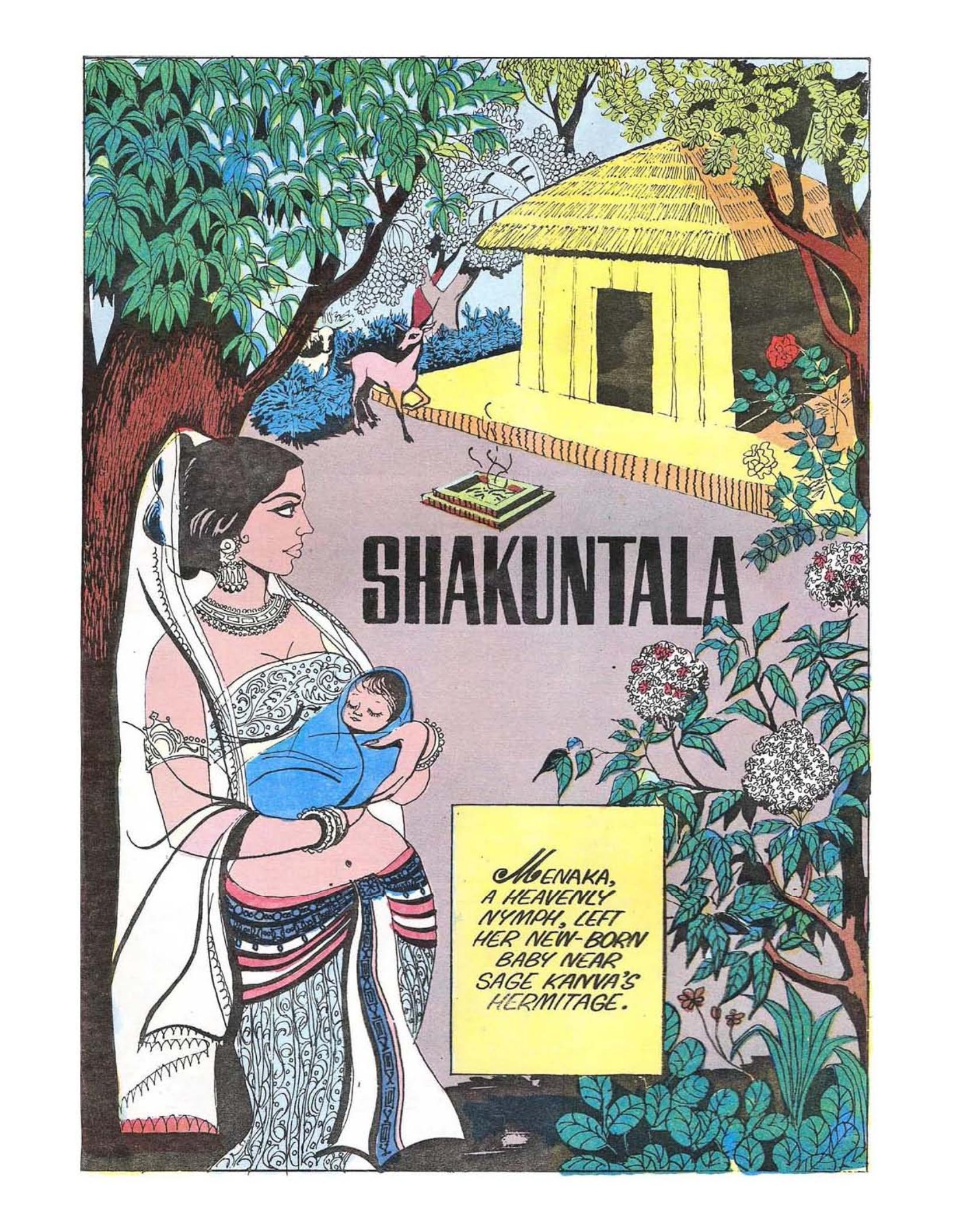
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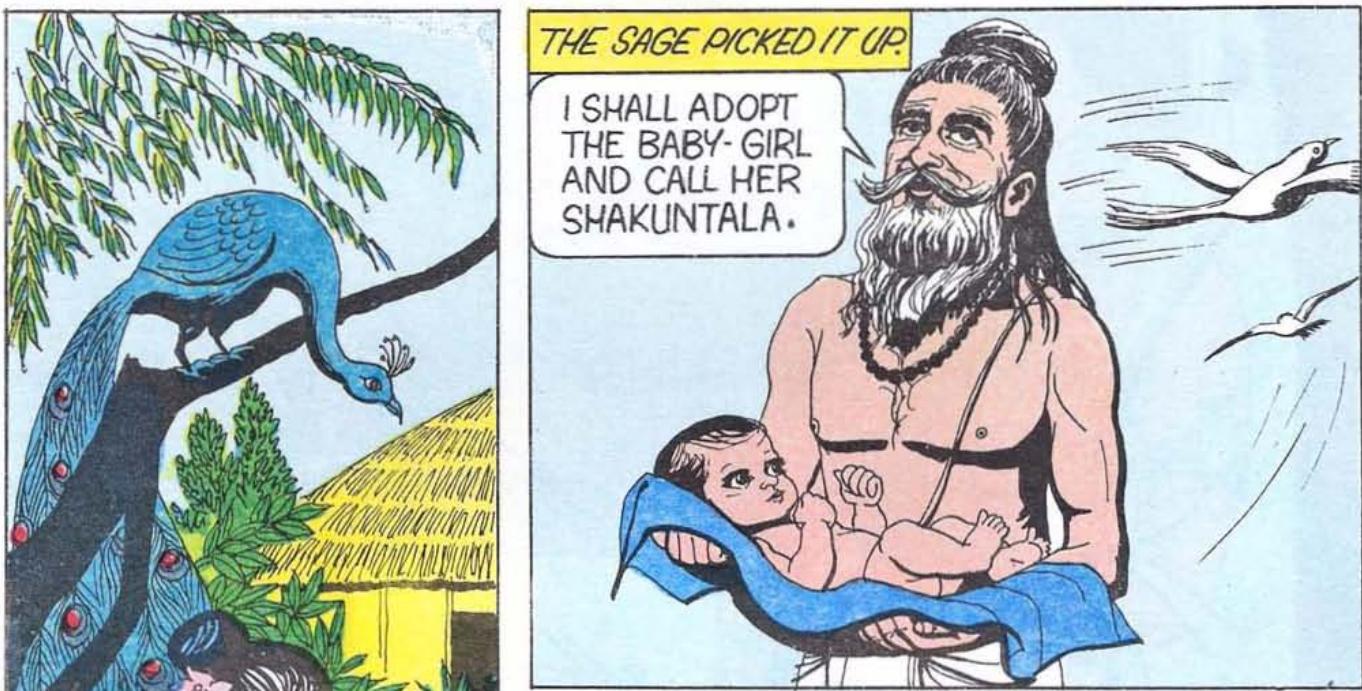
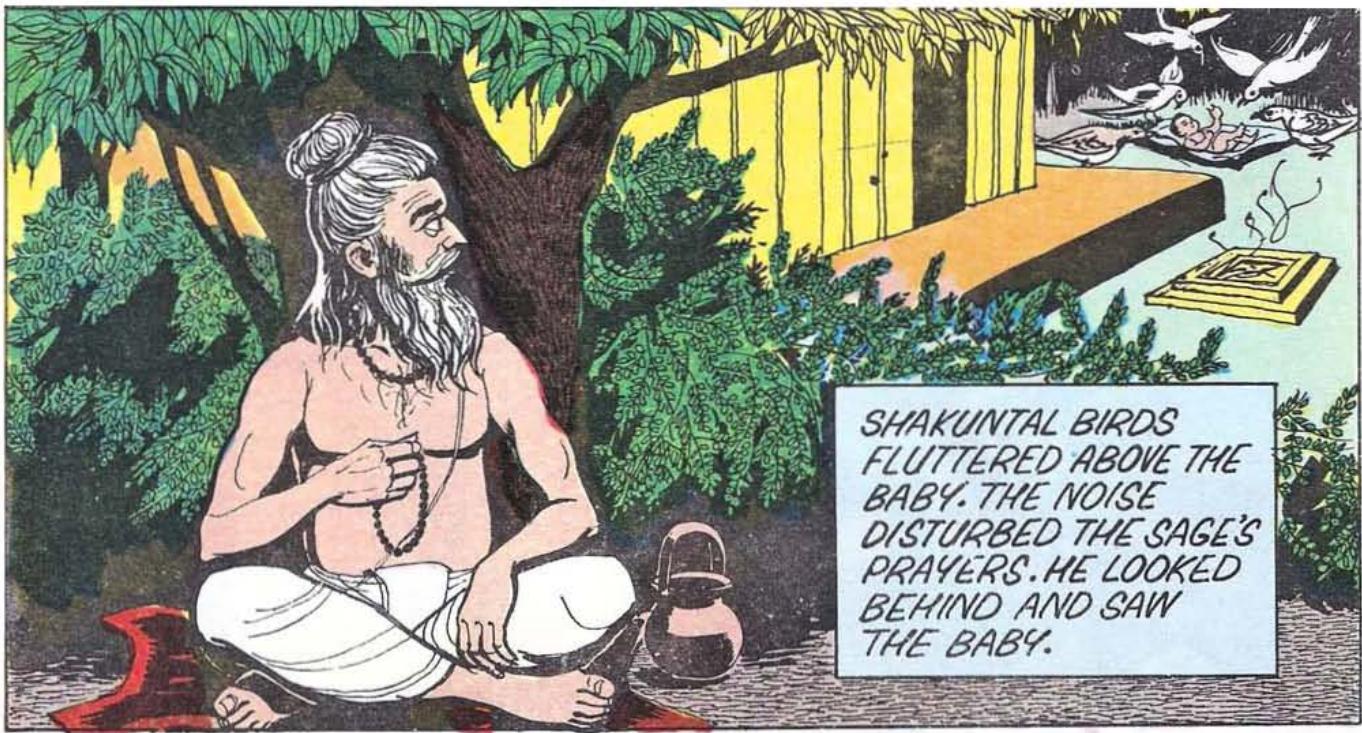
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SHAKUNTALA

MENAKA,
A HEAVENLY
NYMPH, LEFT
HER NEW-BORN
BABY NEAR
SAGE KANVA'S
HERMITAGE.



SHAKUNTALA, NOW A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, LED A USEFUL LIFE WITH HER FRIENDS PRIYAMVADA AND ANASUYA.

PRIYAMVADA, YOU ARE ALWAYS TEASING ANASUYA.

YOU ARE ALWAYS BUSY SHAKUNTALA, LET US HAVE SOME FUN.



ONE DAY, YOUNG KING DUSHYANT OF HASTINAPUR, CAME TO THAT FOREST TO HUNT.

LOOK! THERE IS A FINE STAG JUST AHEAD OF US.

WE WILL GO LIKE THE WIND AND HUNT IT DOWN.

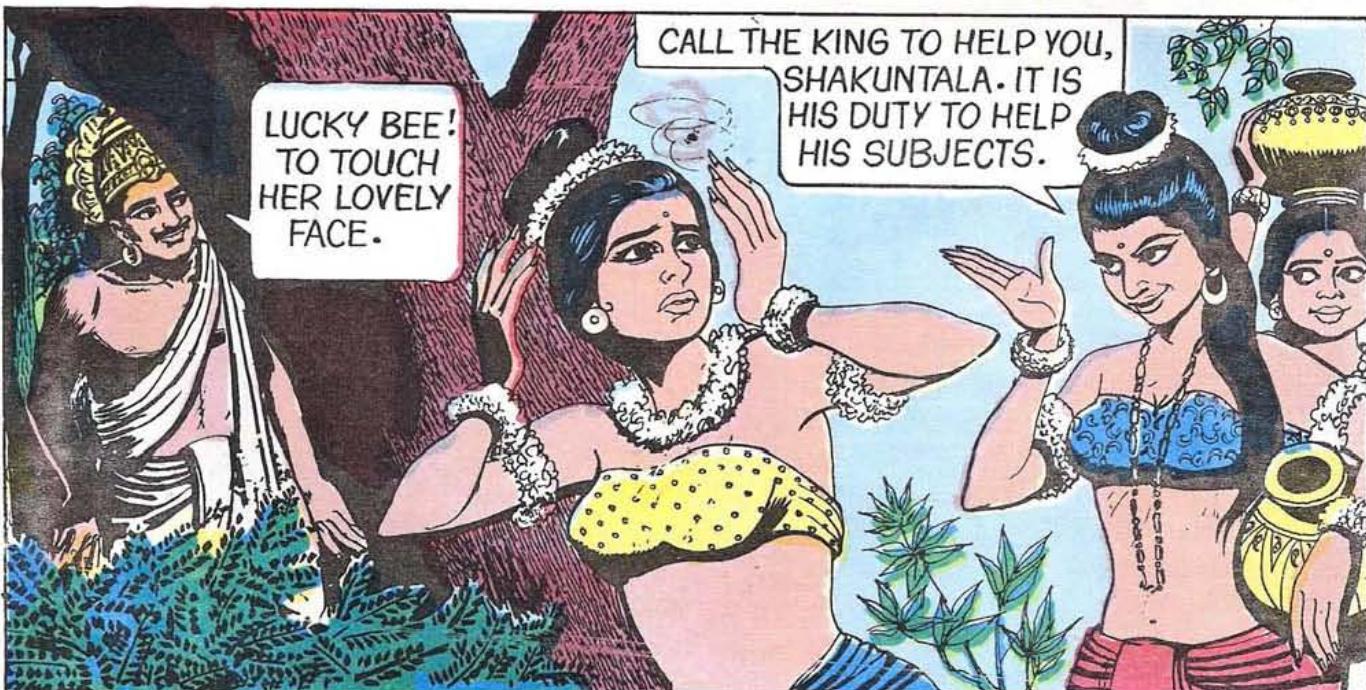
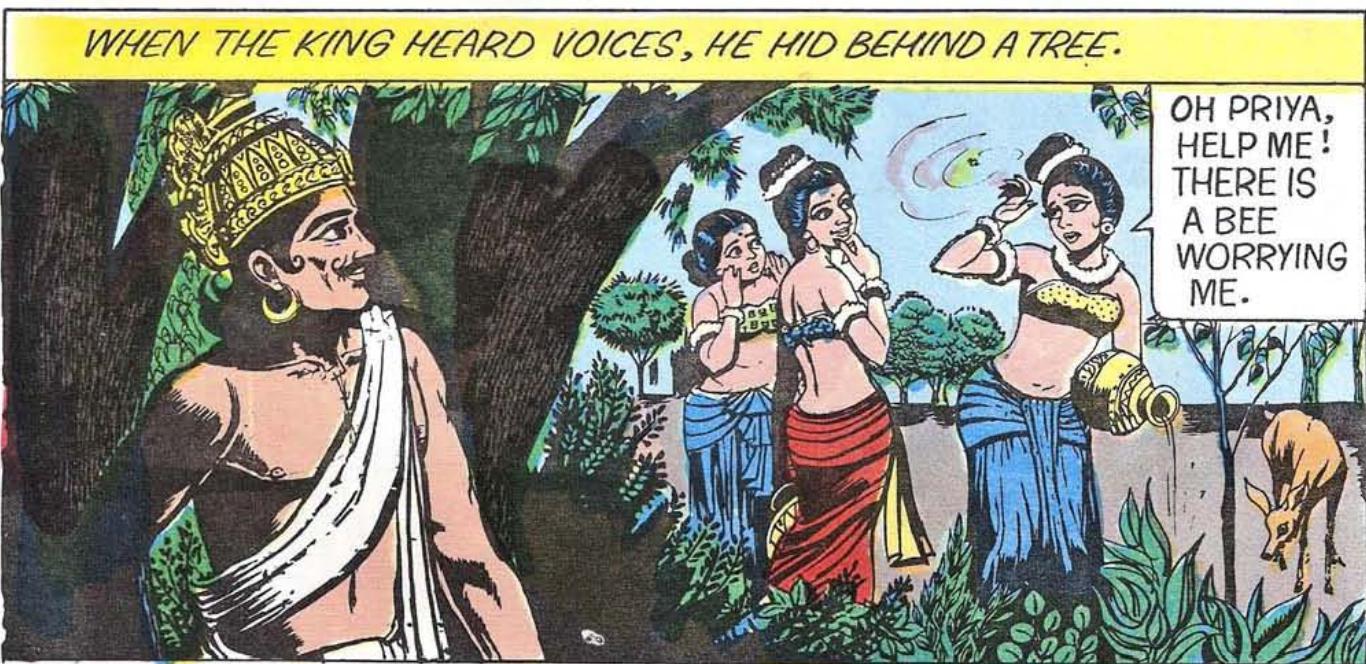


I SHALL HUNT NO MORE, BUT GO FOR THE BLESSING OF THE SAGE.



STOP! THE FAWN BELONGS TO SAGE KANVA.







THE RING HAD THE KING'S SEAL ON IT.

OH ! OUR
GUEST IS
THE KING
HIMSELF.

WE ARE
HONOUR-
ED BY
YOUR
VISIT.

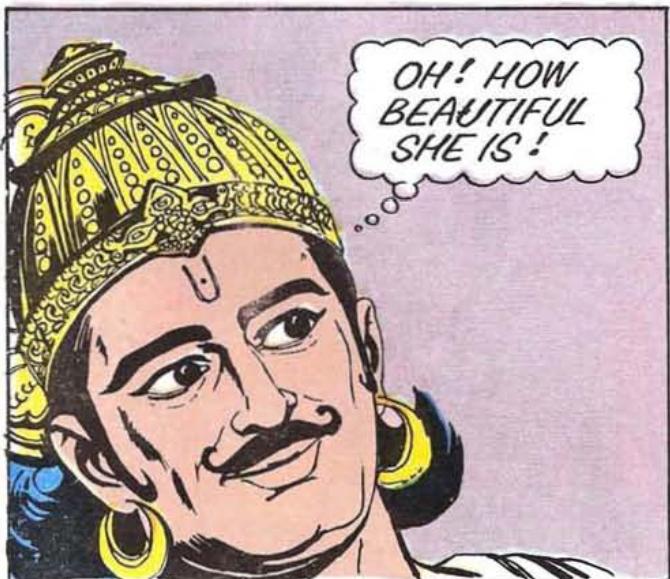


LET US GO
AND GET
SOME
FRUIT AND
HONEY
FOR THE
KING.



OH ! HOW
BEAUTIFUL
SHE IS !

WHAT A
HAND-
SOME
MAN
HE IS !



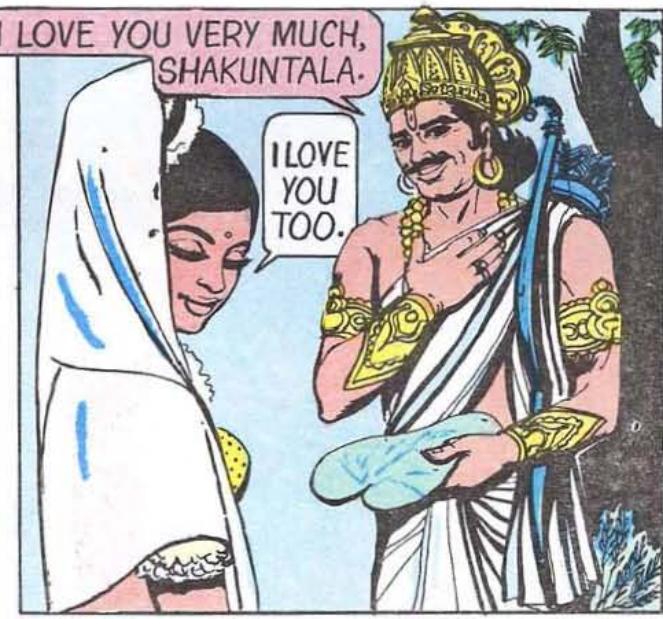
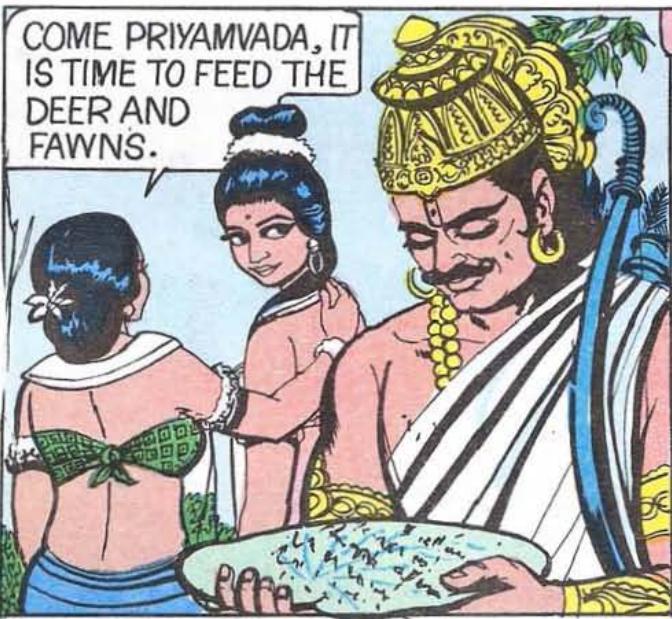
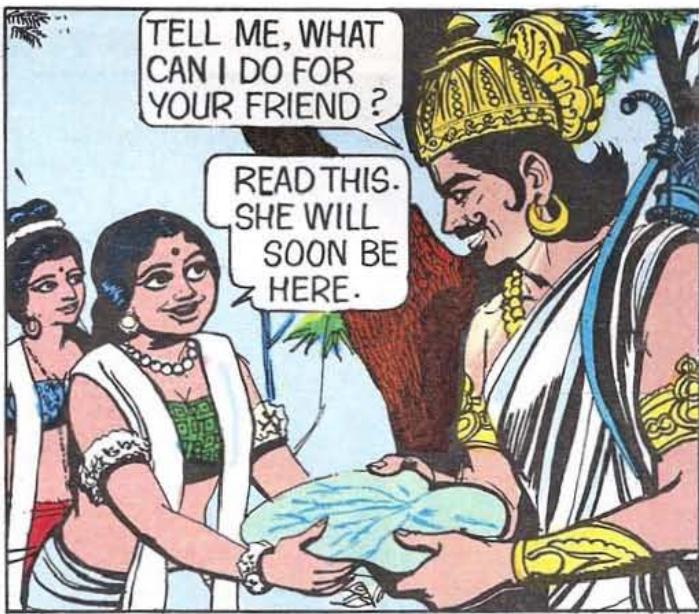
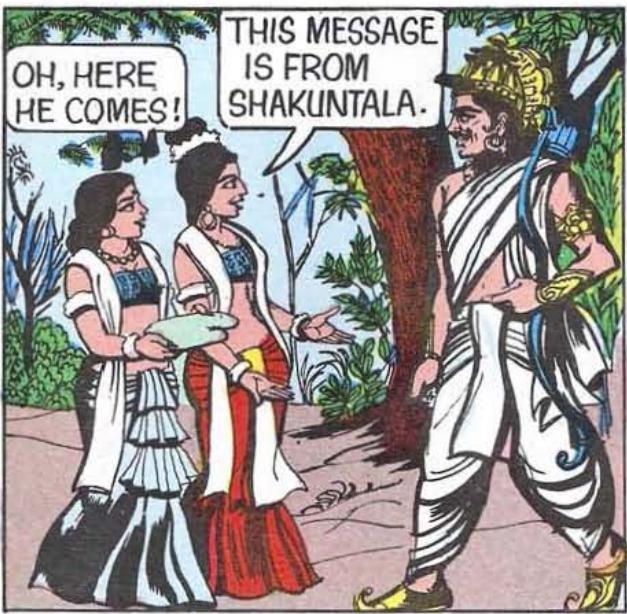


WHILE THE KING WAS EATING, SOME HERMITS CAME ALONG.

WON'T YOU PROTECT US FROM THE DEMONS OF THIS FOREST ? THEY DISTURB OUR PRAYERS.





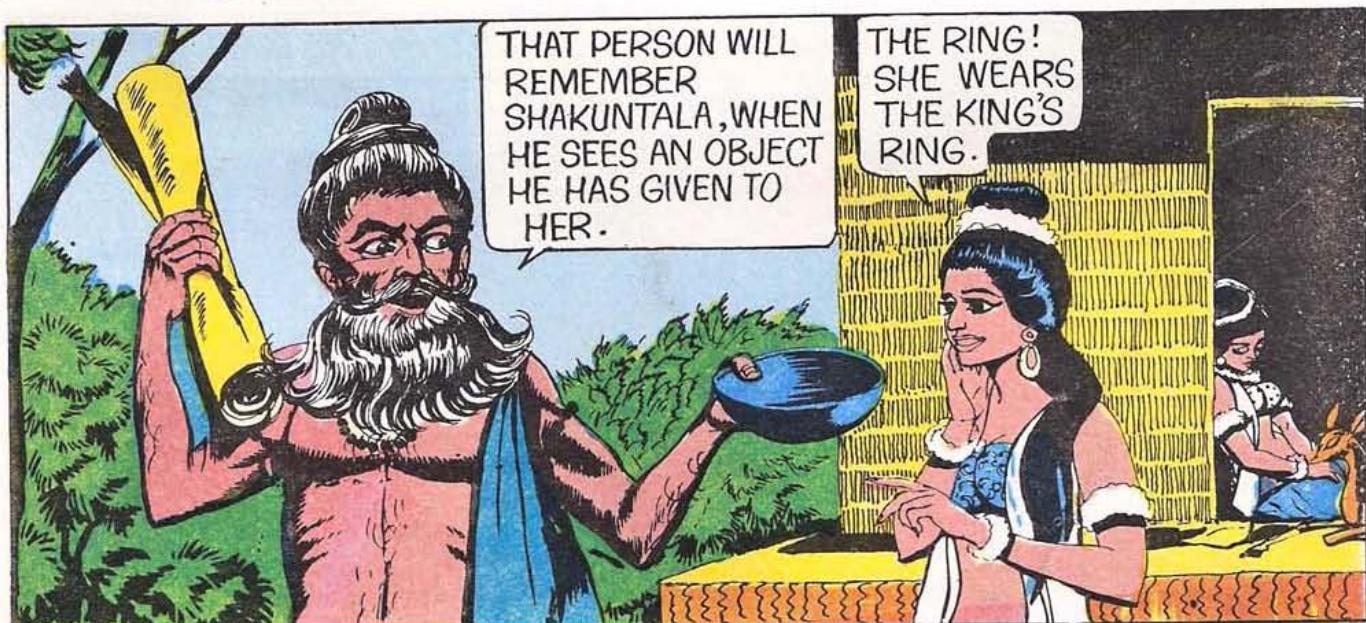
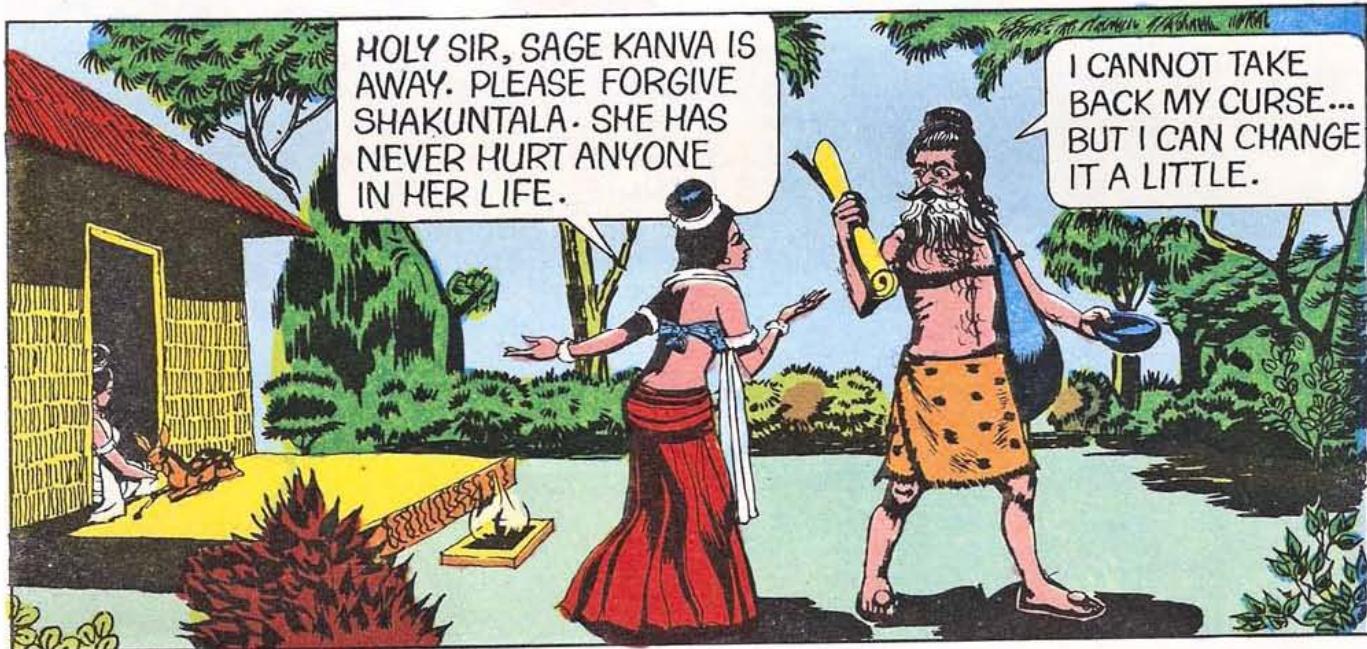


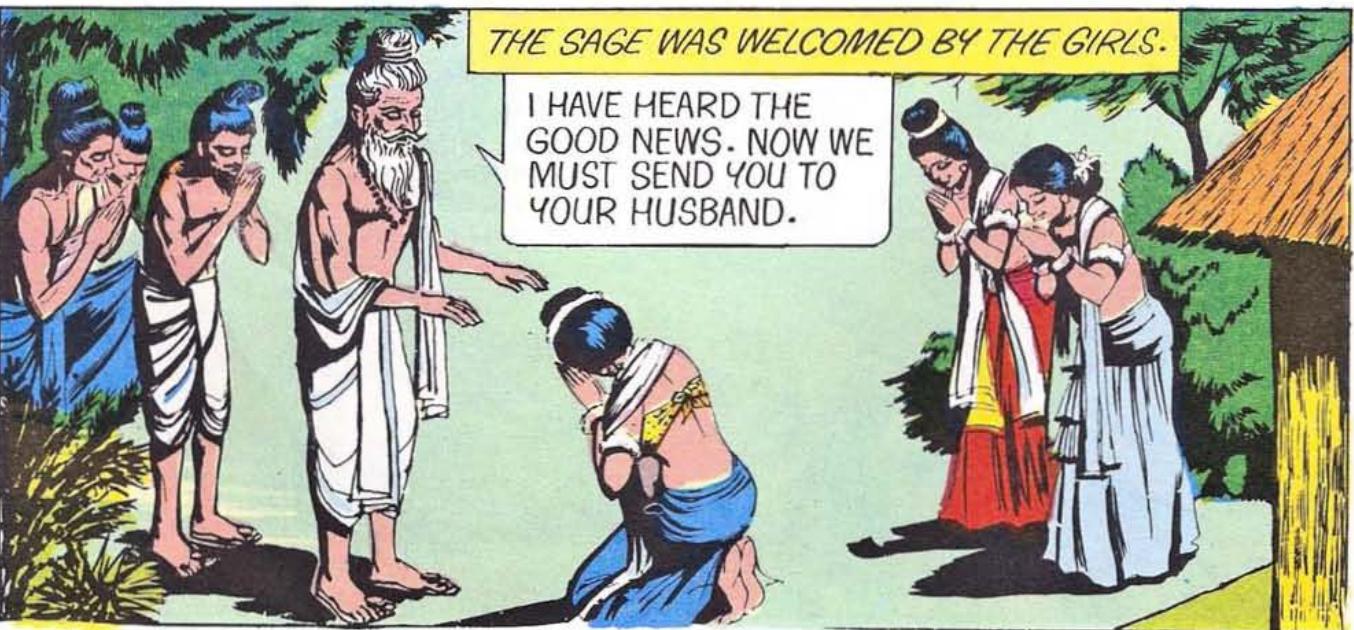
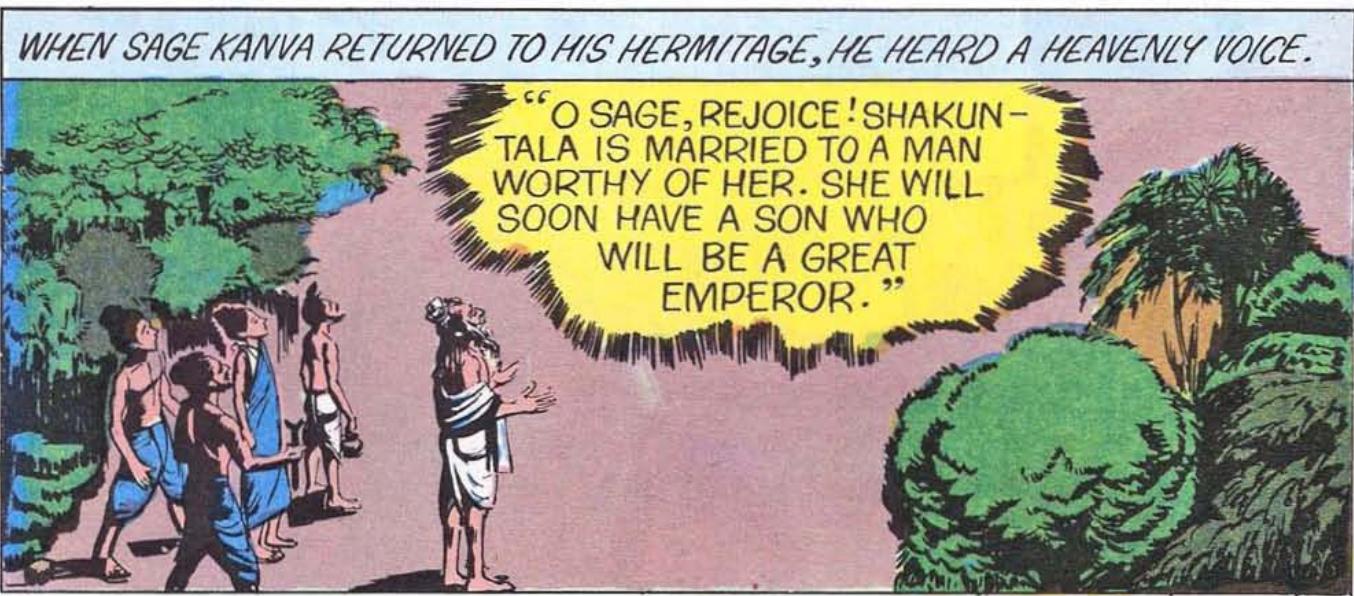
A FEW DAYS LATER, A MESSENGER CAME.



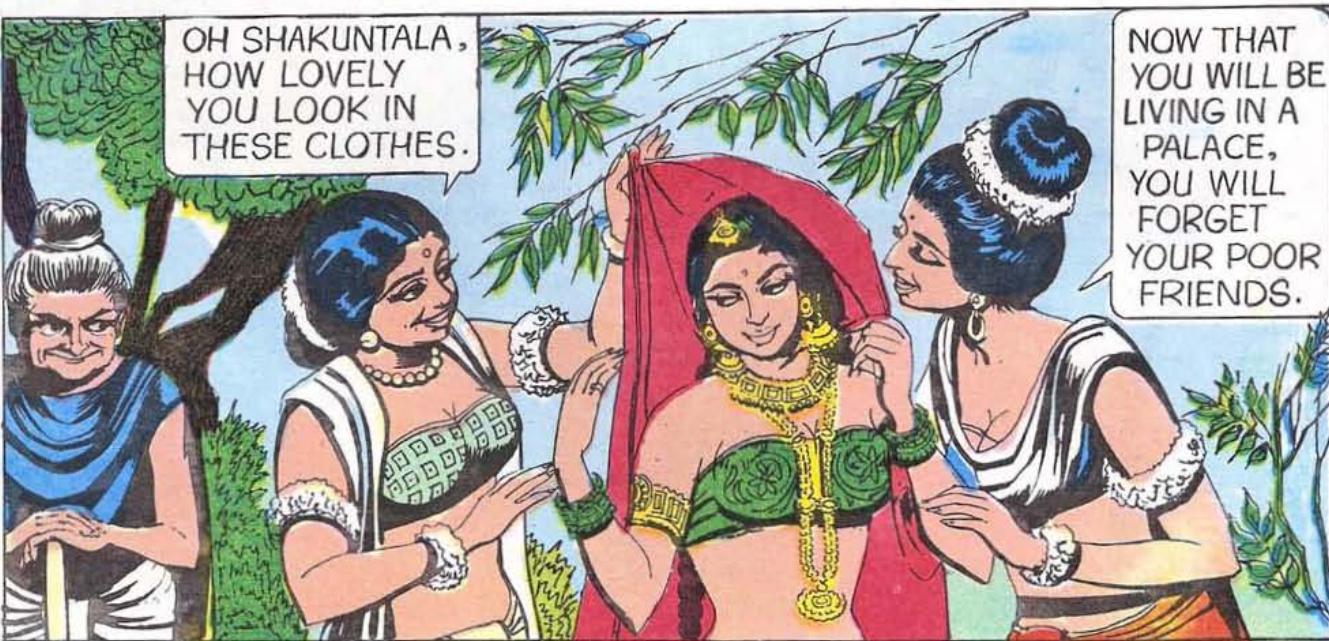
SOMETIME LATER, SAGE DURVASA PAID A VISIT TO THE HERMITAGE. SHAKUNTALA WAS THINKING ABOUT HER HUSBAND.







GAUTAMI, AN OLD LADY, WAS LIKE A MOTHER TO SHAKUNTALA. SHE MADE PREPARATIONS FOR SHAKUNTALA TO LEAVE.



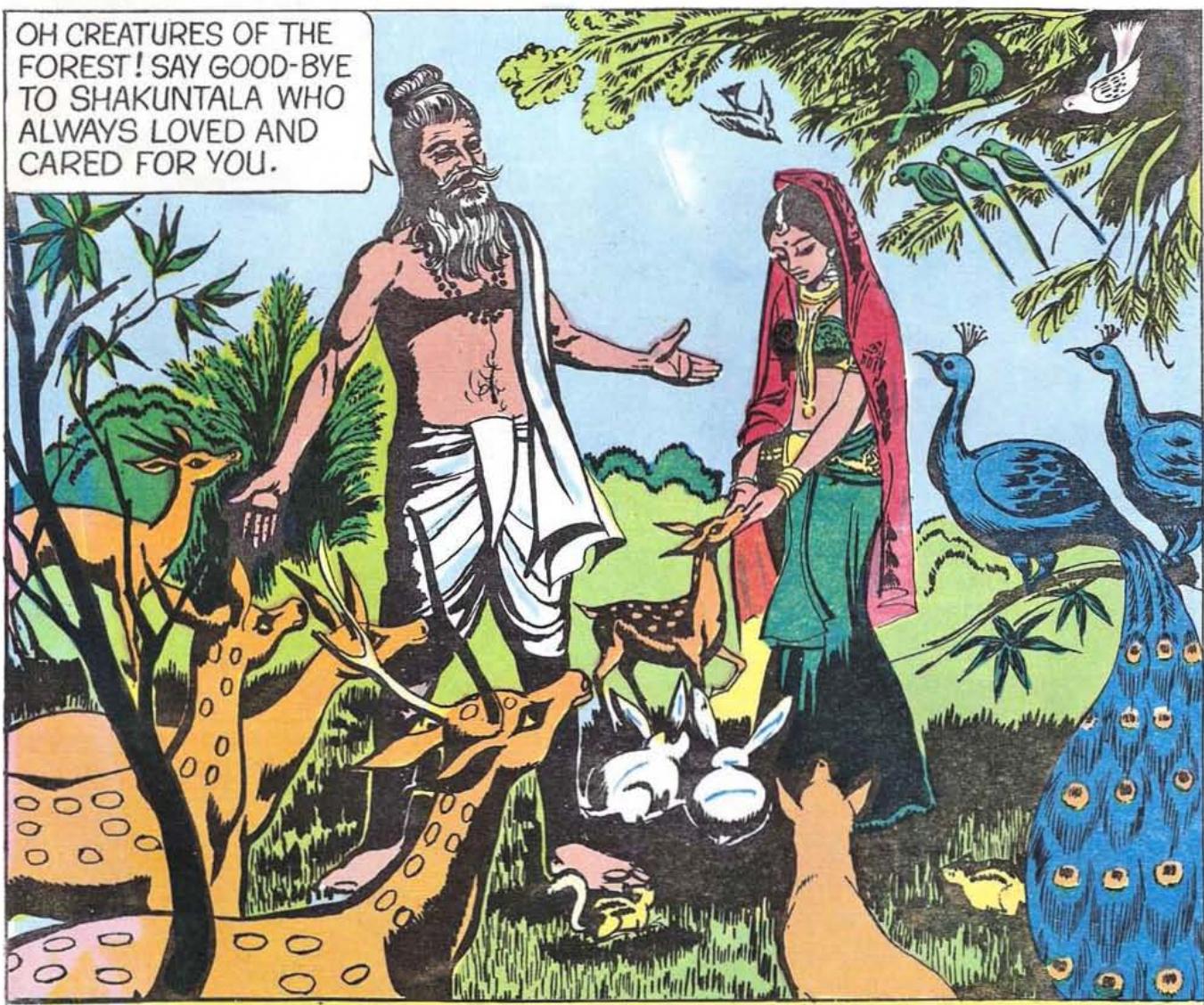
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.
I WILL COME TO MEET YOU
OFTEN.



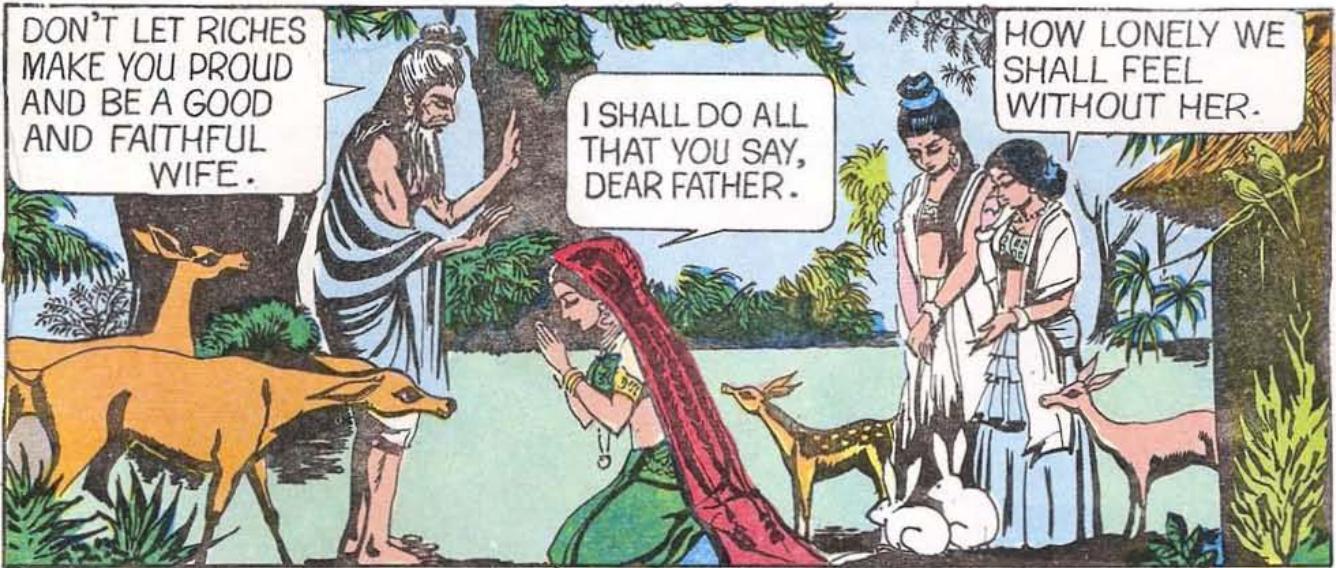
SAD AT PARTING, THE PLANT CLUNG TO
HER. TAKE CARE OF MY FAWN AND ALL
MY OTHER PETS.

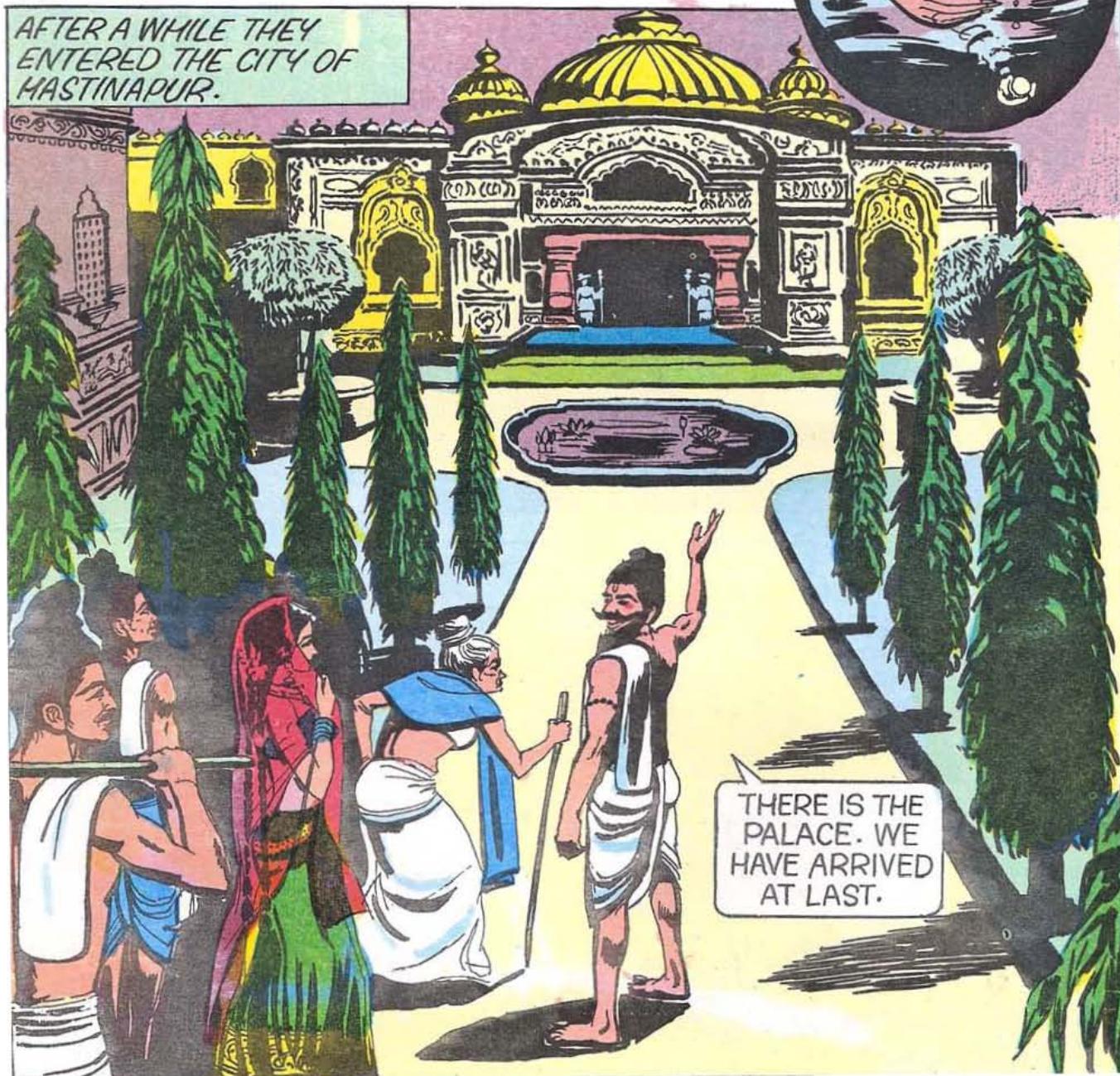
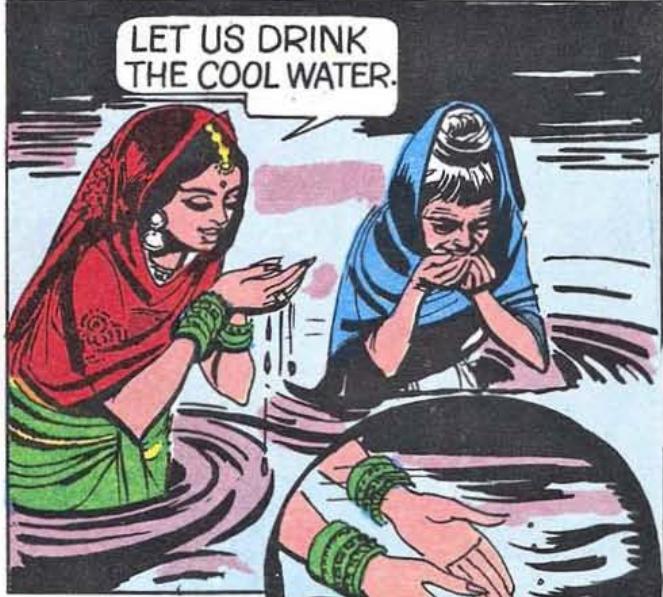
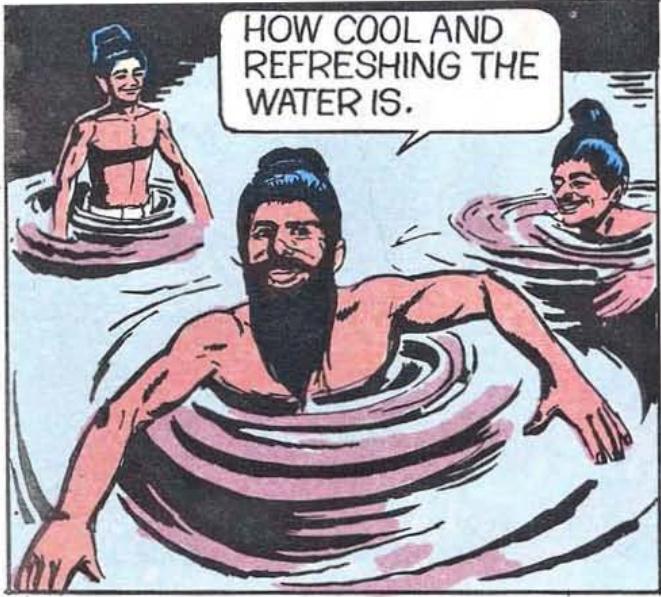


OH CREATURES OF THE
FOREST! SAY GOOD-BYE
TO SHAKUNTALA WHO
ALWAYS LOVED AND
CARED FOR YOU.



FATHER KANVA WAS ALSO SAD. THE TREES SHED TEARS IN THE FORM OF
LEAVES. PEACOCKS STOPPED DANCING AND THE DEER FORGOT TO EAT.

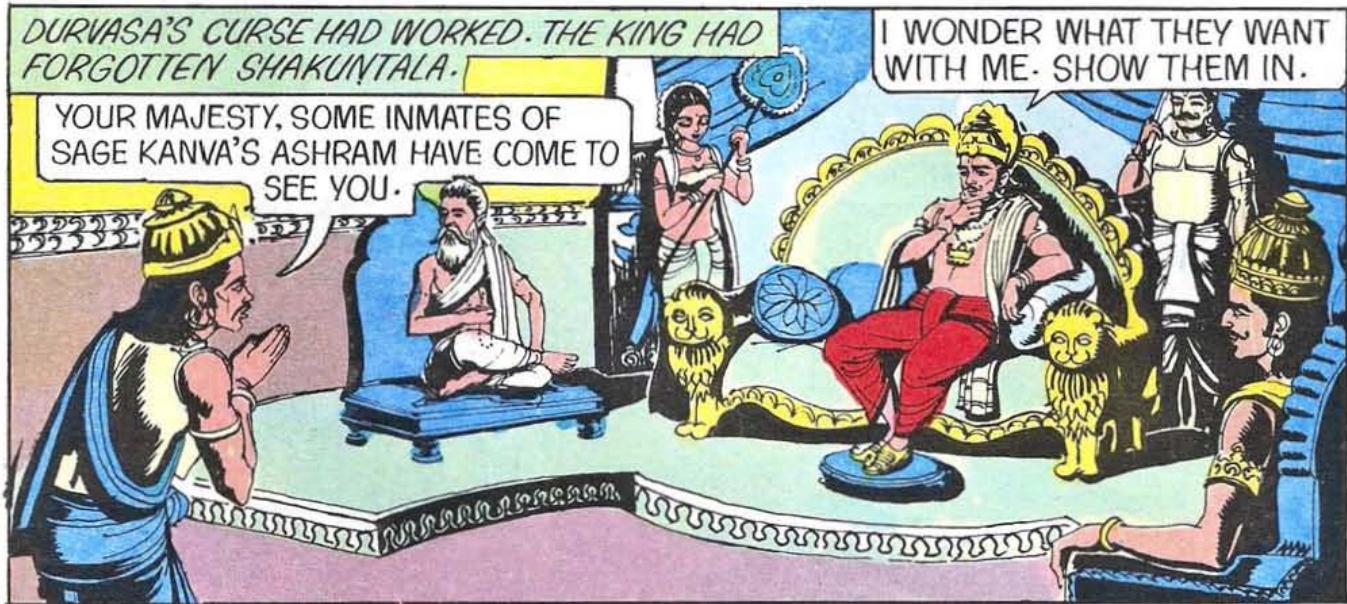




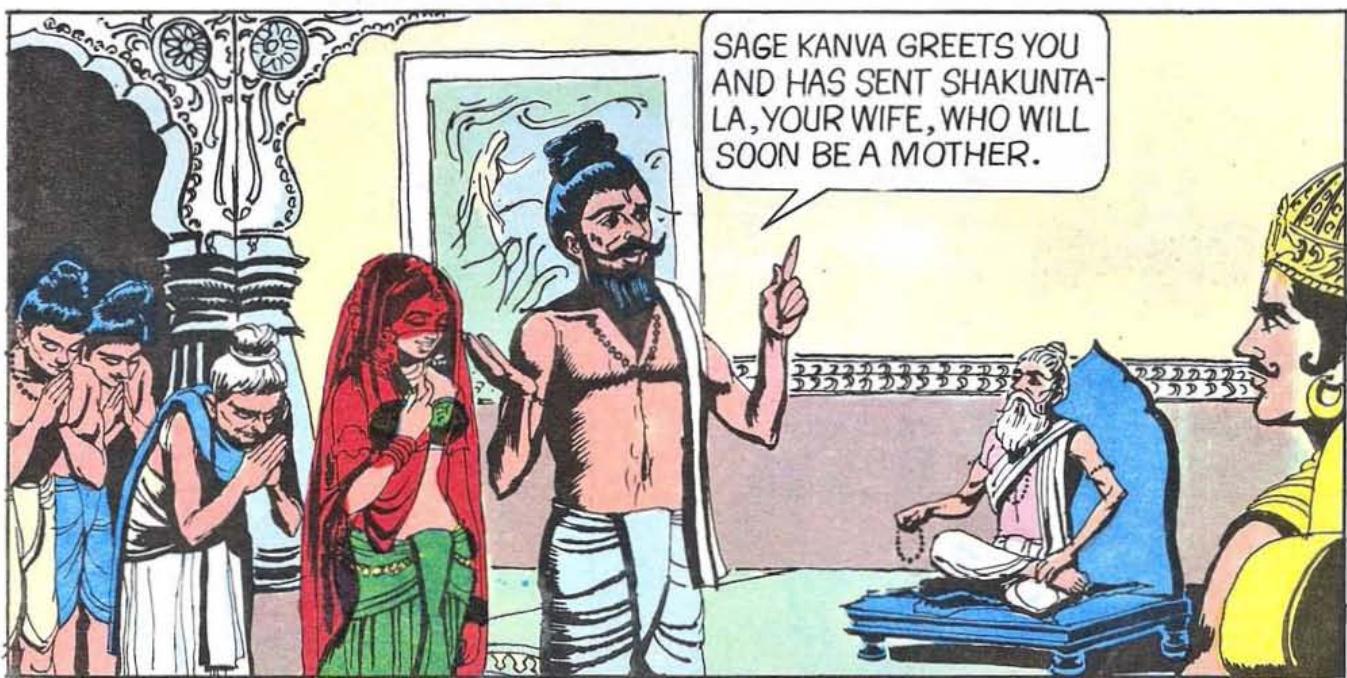
DURVASA'S CURSE HAD WORKED. THE KING HAD FORGOTTEN SHAKUNTALA.

I WONDER WHAT THEY WANT WITH ME. SHOW THEM IN.

YOUR MAJESTY, SOME INMATES OF SAGE KANVA'S ASHRAM HAVE COME TO SEE YOU.

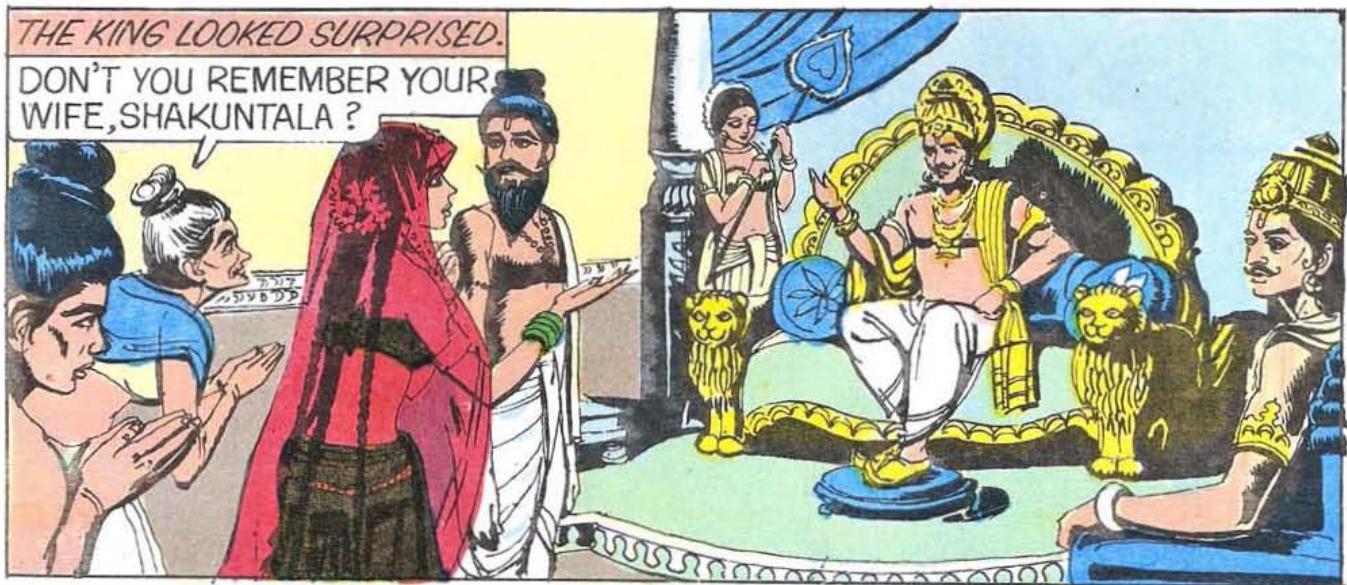


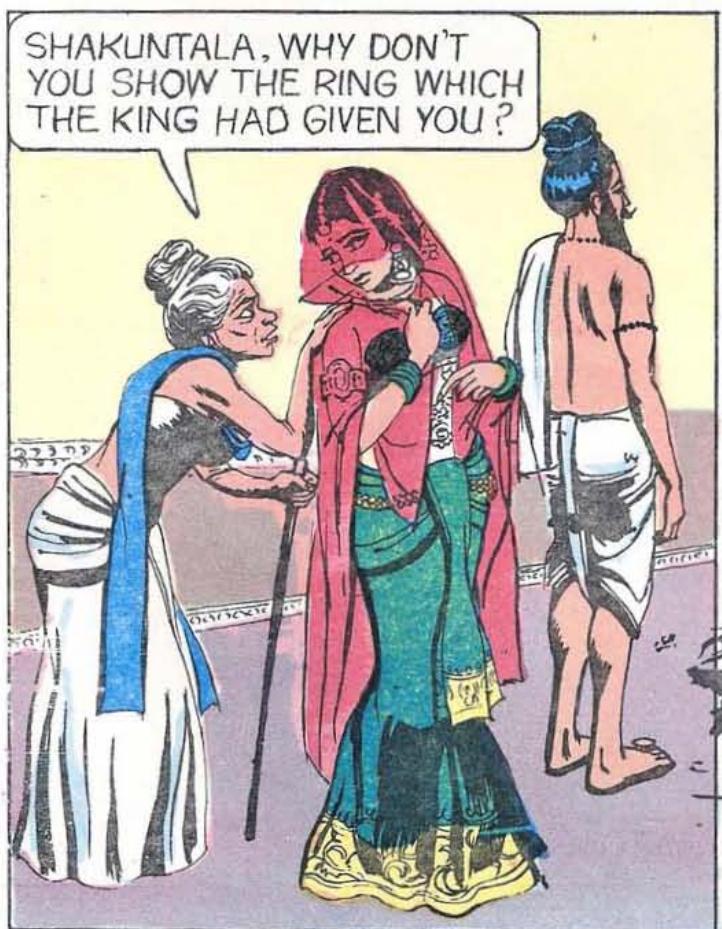
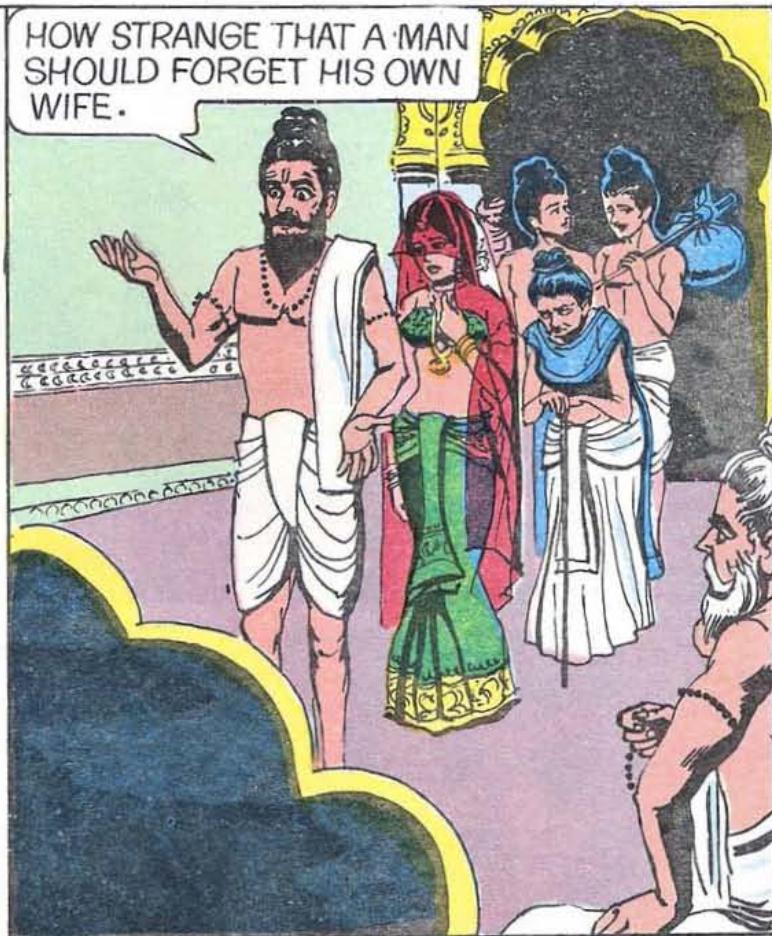
SAGE KANVA GREETS YOU AND HAS SENT SHAKUNTALA, YOUR WIFE, WHO WILL SOON BE A MOTHER.

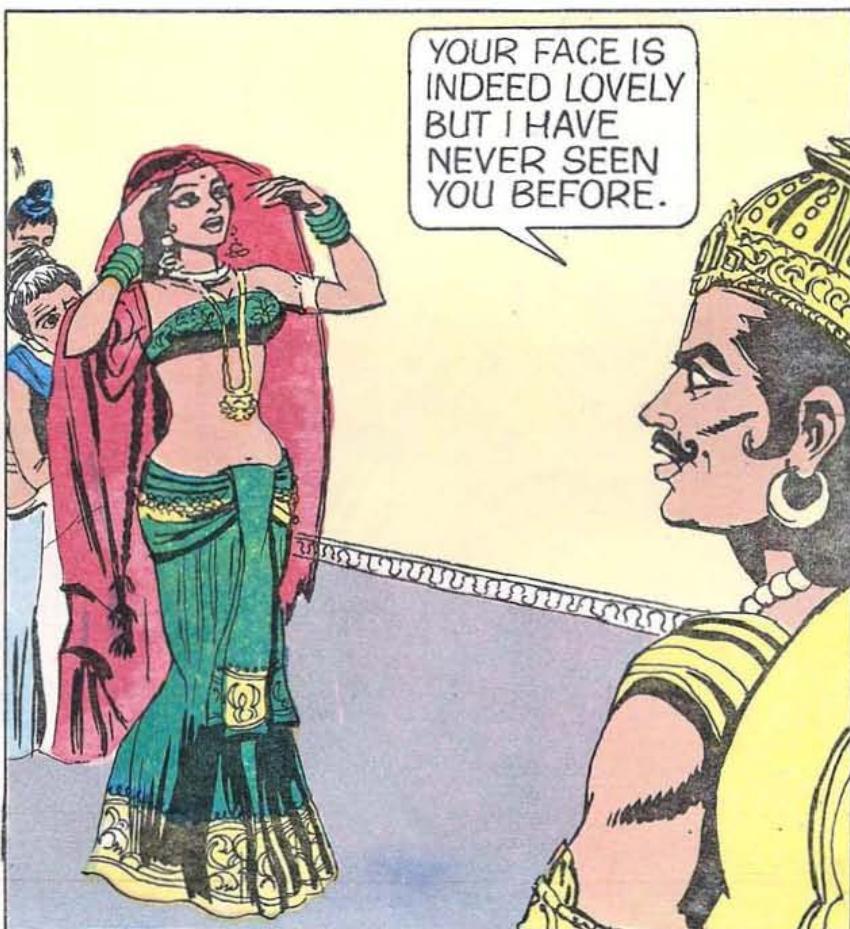
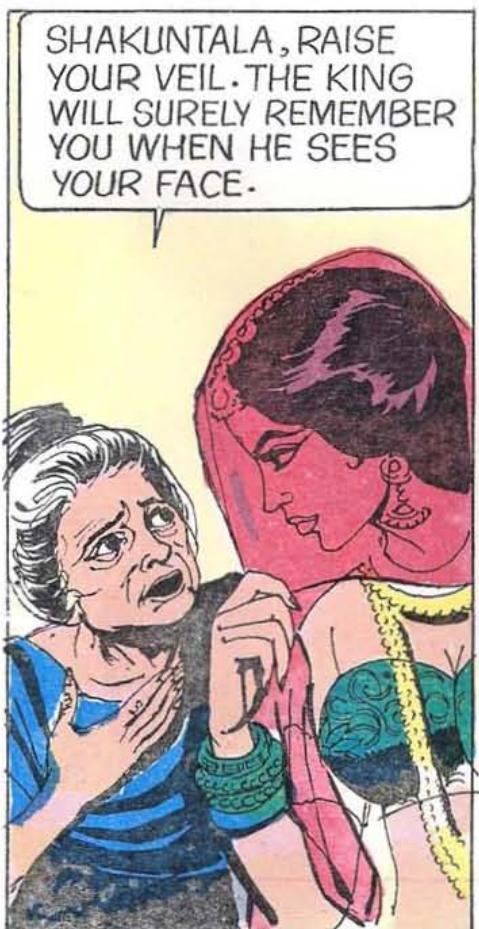
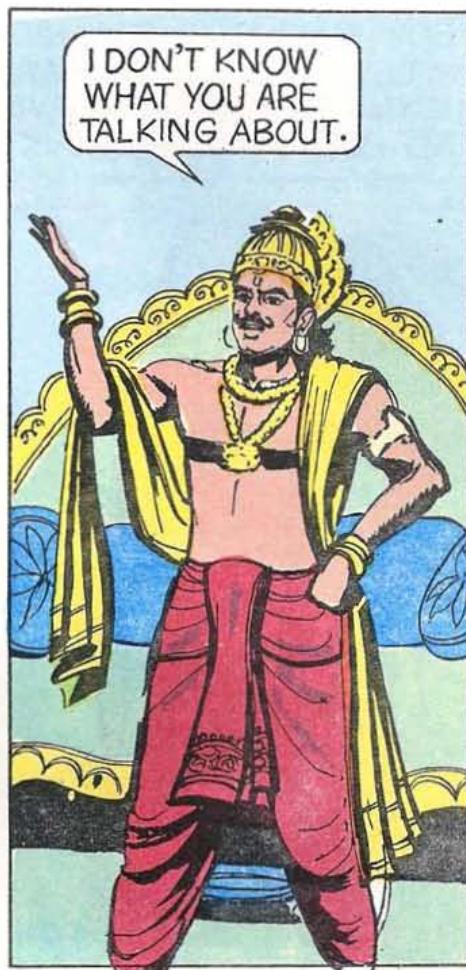


THE KING LOOKED SURPRISED.

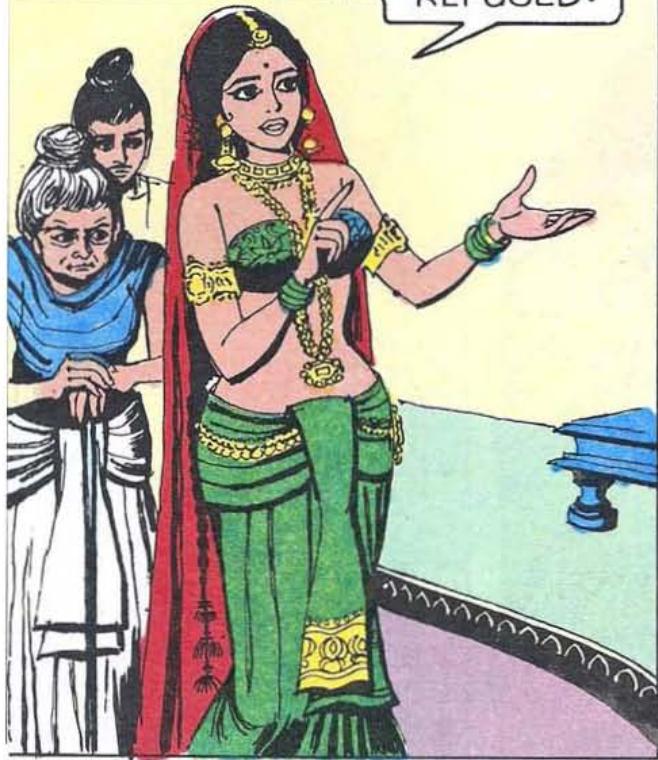
DON'T YOU REMEMBER YOUR WIFE, SHAKUNTALA?



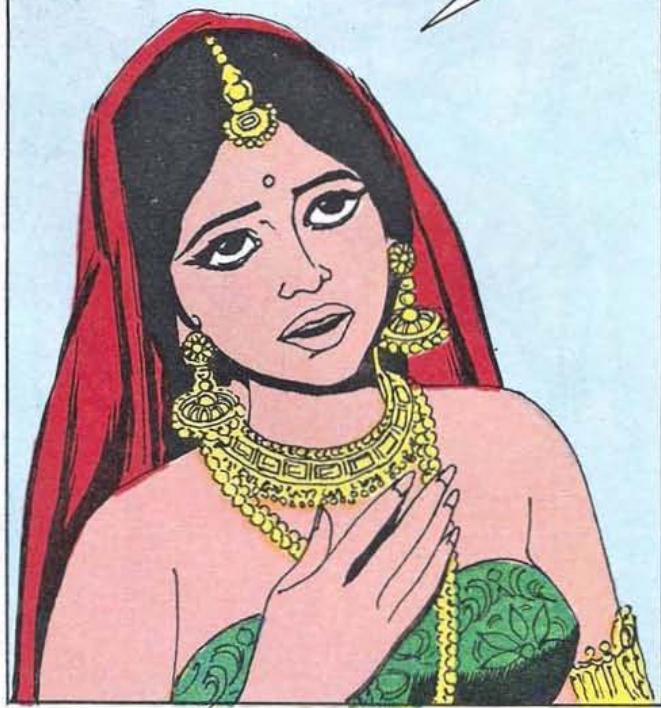




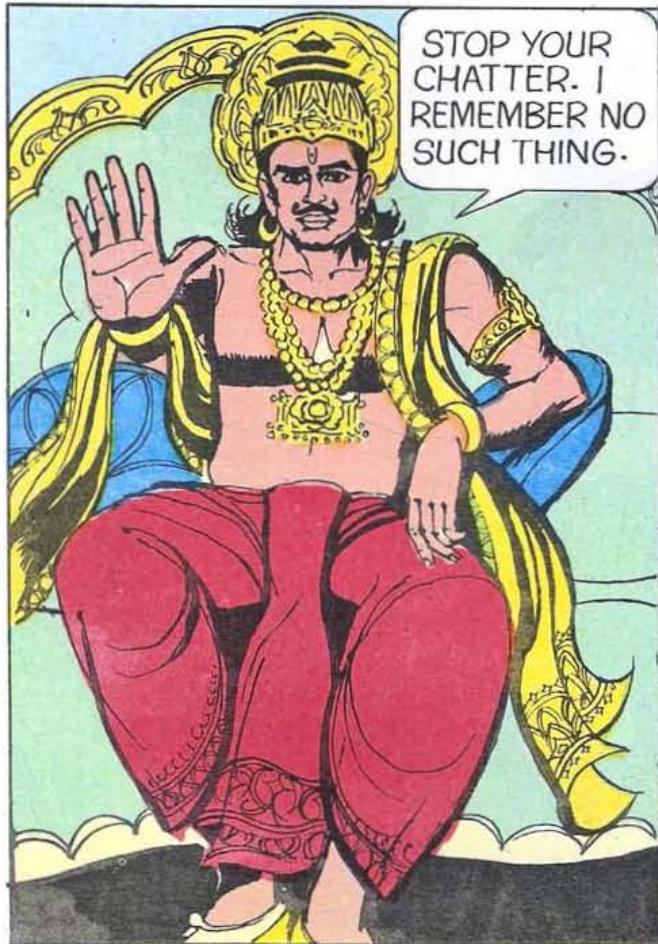
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW ONE DAY
YOU COLLECTED RAIN-WATER IN A
LOTUS FLOWER AND GAVE IT TO
MY PET FAWN TO DRINK BUT SHE
REFUSED.



YET WHEN I OFFERED IT, SHE DRANK
IT GLADLY. SO YOU SAID — YOU ARE
BOTH CHILDREN OF THE FOREST
AND TRUST EACH OTHER...AND...

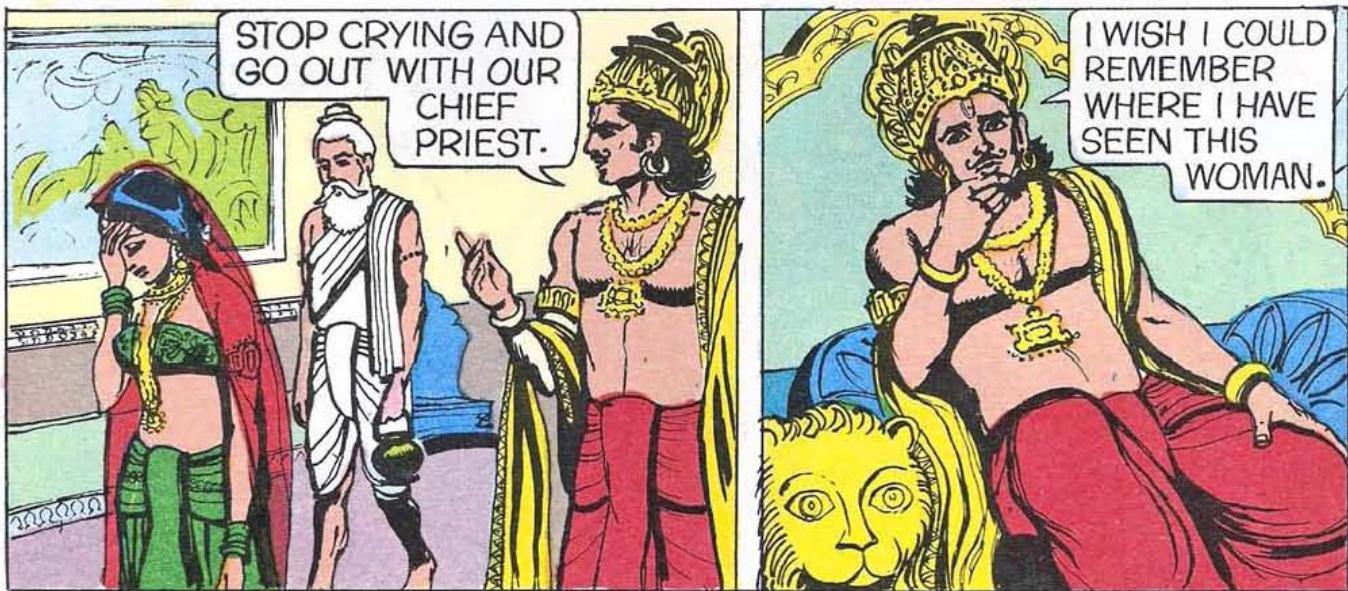
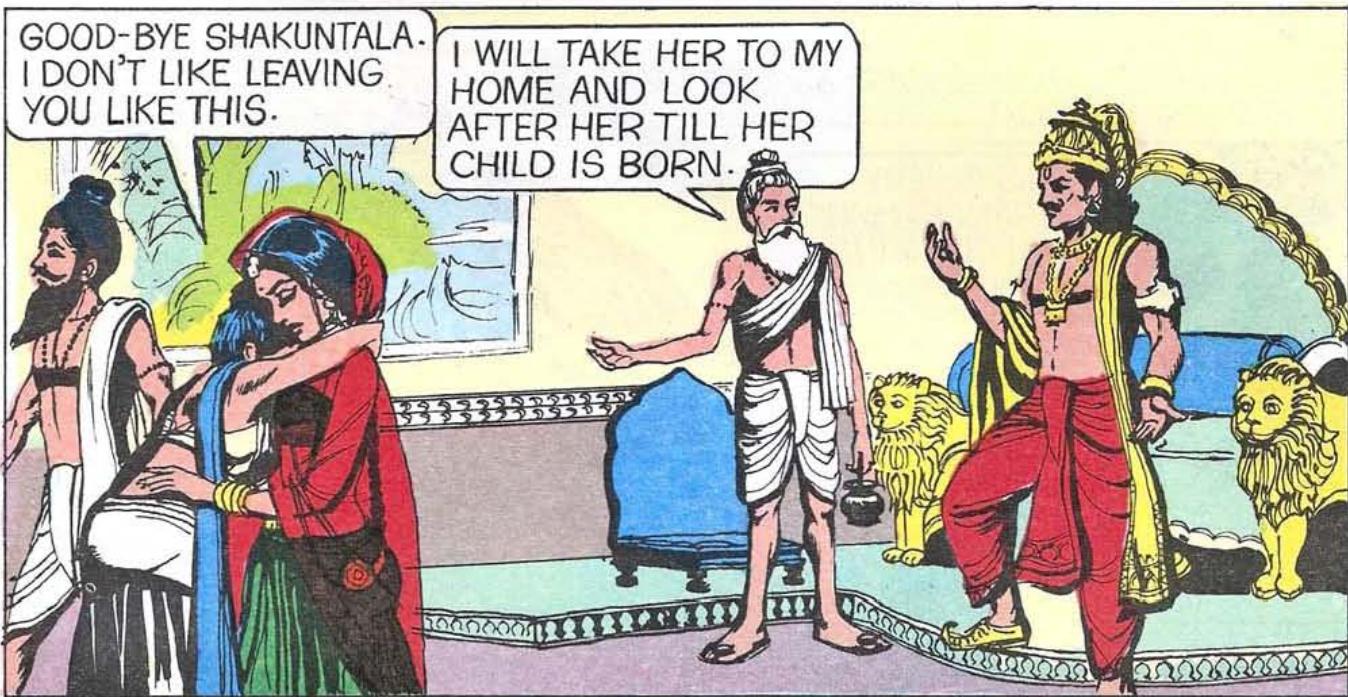
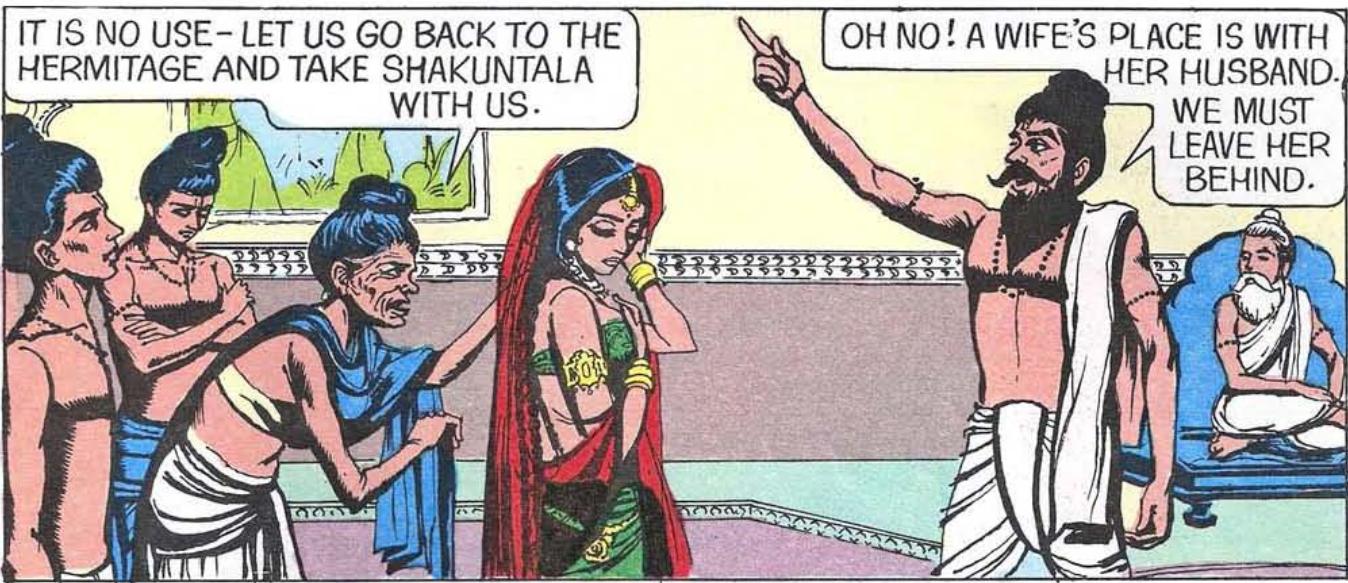


STOP YOUR
CHATTER. I
REMEMBER NO
SUCH THING.

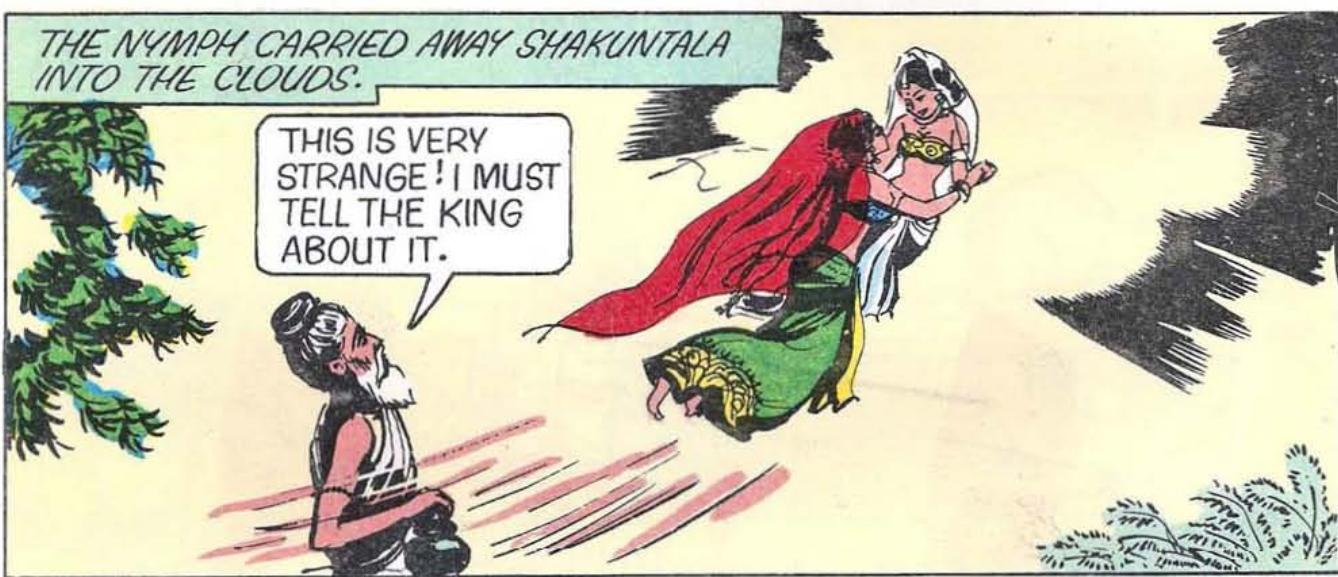
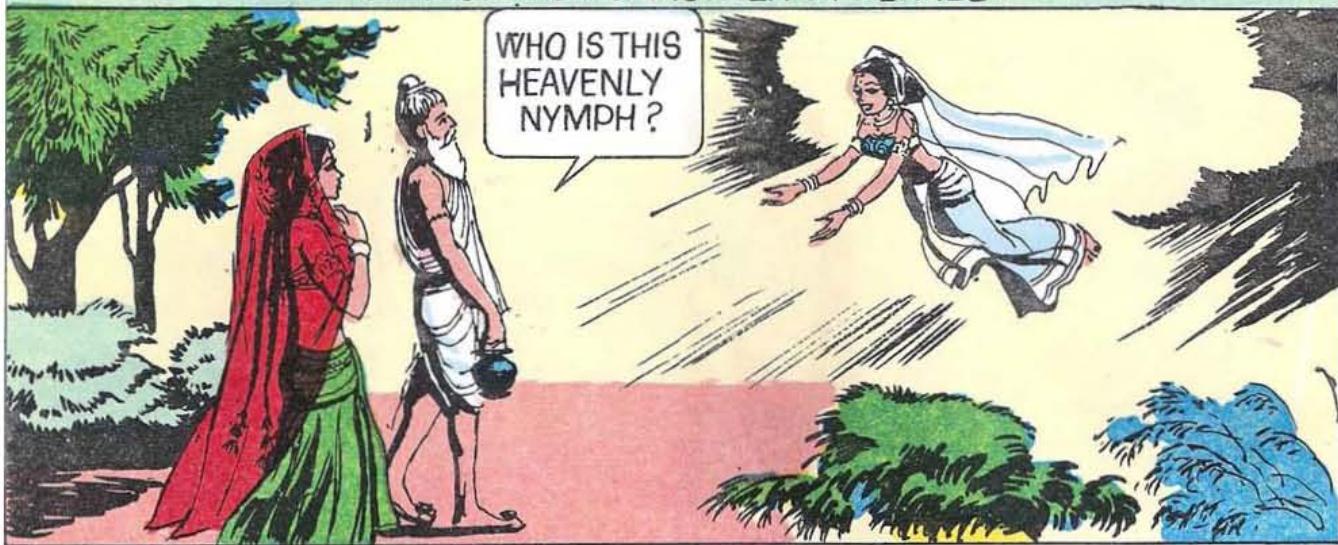


OH DUSHYANT! IT IS WICKED
OF YOU TO DISOWN YOUR
OWN WIFE.

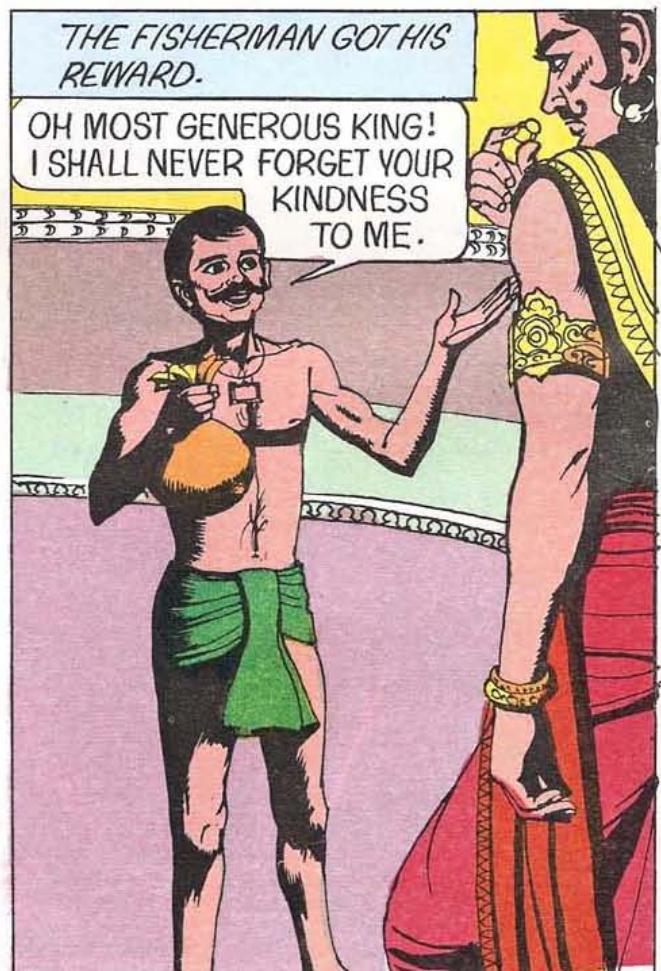




SUDDENLY THERE WAS A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SKY.
SHAKUNTALA'S MOTHER APPEARED.



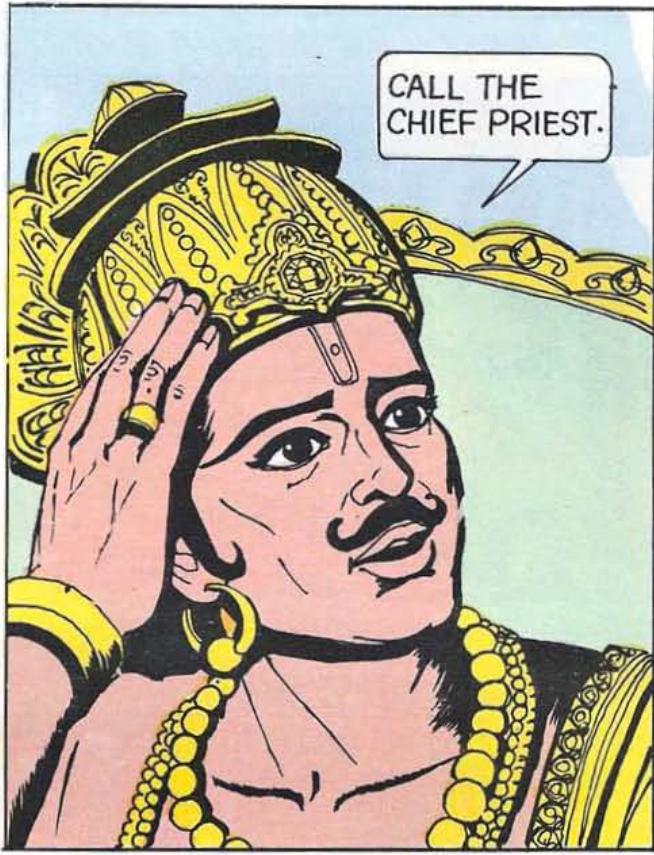
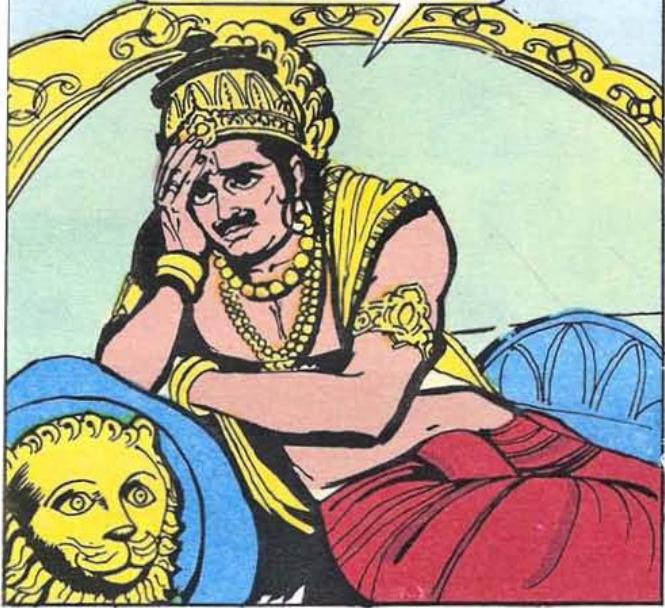




THE KING WAS VERY SAD.

OH SHAKUNTALA ! HOW CRUELLY I HAVE TREATED YOU. HOW COULD I FORGET YOU ?

CALL THE CHIEF PRIEST.



WHERE IS MY WIFE SHAKUNTALA ? WHO WILL BRING MY BELOVED BACK TO ME ?

A NYMPH CARRIED HER AWAY AND SHE IS LOST FOR EVER.



TO LESSEN HIS GRIEF, THE KING PAINTED SHAKUNTALA'S PICTURE.

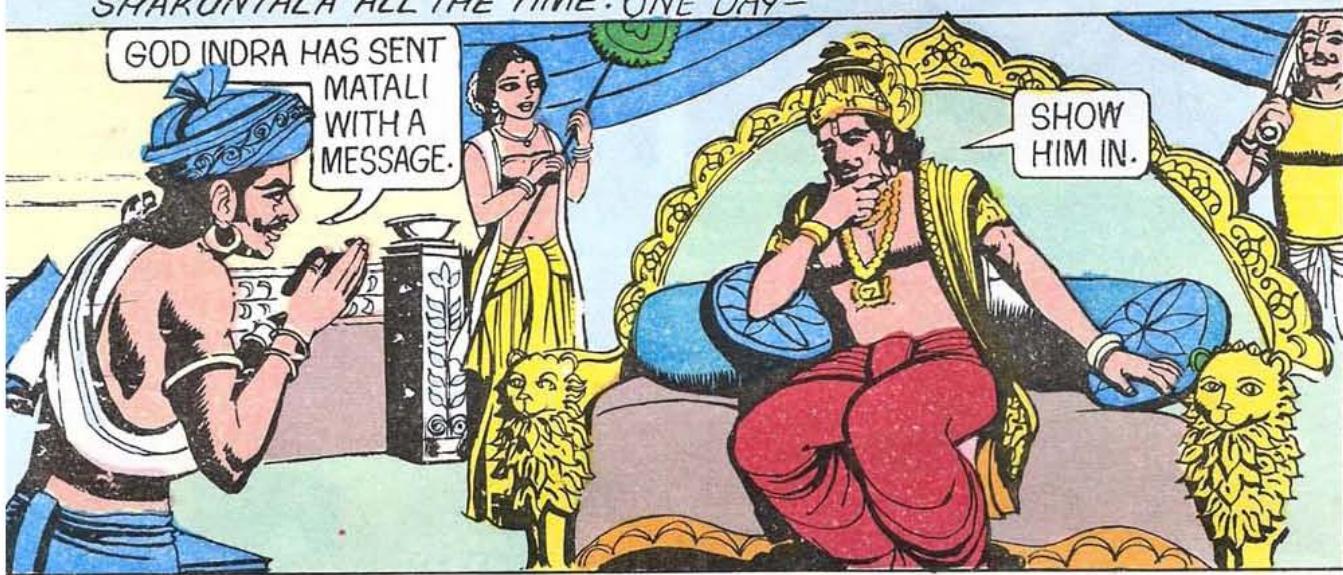
HERE IS LOVELY SHAKUNTALA IN THE GARDEN.
HERE IS HER JASMINE CREEPER AND THERE IS
HER PET FAWN ...



FOR A FEW YEARS THE KING LED A QUIET LIFE THINKING OF
SHAKUNTALA ALL THE TIME. ONE DAY—

GOD INDRA HAS SENT
MATALI
WITH A
MESSAGE.

SHOW
HIM IN.



THE GODS WANT
YOUR HELP IN A
WAR AGAINST
THE DEMONS.

I AM READY
TO HELP.



A TERRIBLE WAR WAS FOUGHT BETWEEN THE DEMONS AND THE GODS.



THE GODS WON THE WAR AND DUSHYANT CAME BACK TO EARTH IN MATALI'S FLYING CHARIOT.

WHAT LOVELY SCENERY!
HOW HAPPY THE CREATURES OF THE EARTH LOOK. I ALONE AM UNHAPPY.



GOOD-BYE
DUSHYANT!
MAY THE
GODS
REWARD YOU
FOR YOUR BRAVERY.

WHERE AM I? THIS IS A STRANGE PLACE WHICH I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.



THE KING HEARD A CHILD'S VOICE.

I WONDER WHO
THIS CHILD IS.
WHAT IS HE DOING
WITH A LION CUB?

OPEN YOUR
MOUTH WIDE
AND LET ME
COUNT YOUR
TEETH.

TWO WOMEN CAME FROM BEHIND THE TREES.

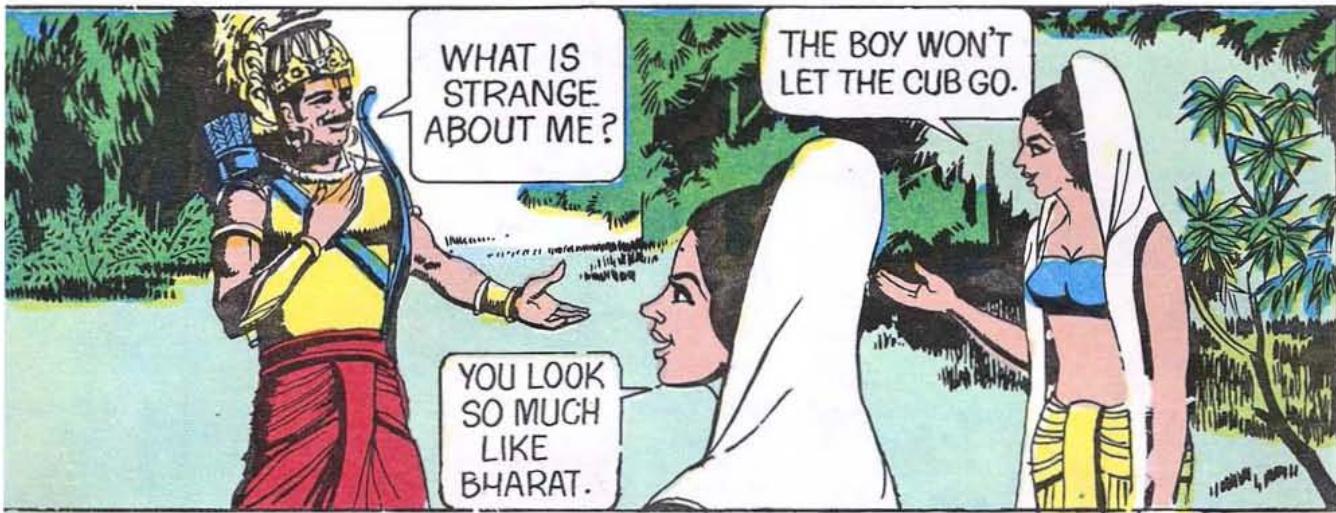
YOU ARE A NAUGHTY LITTLE
FELLOW. LET THE CUB GO
OR THE LIONESS WILL
COME AND KILL YOU.

I WILL GIVE YOU A
NICE TOY IF YOU LET
THE CUB GO.

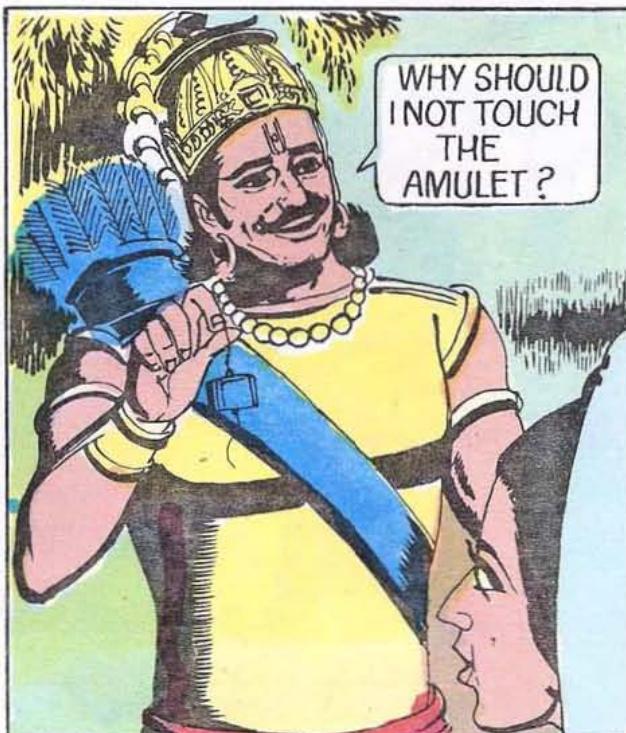
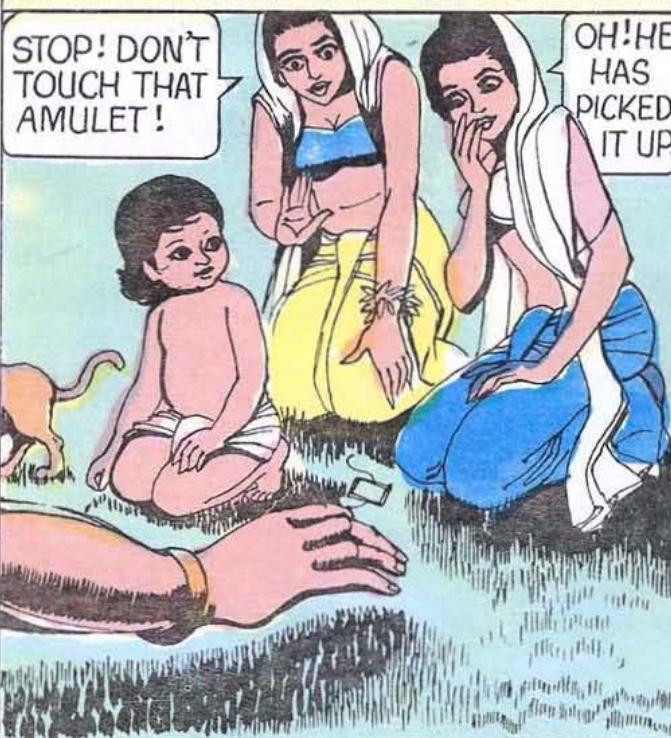
WHAT A BRAVE AND
HAND-
SOME
BOY
HE IS!

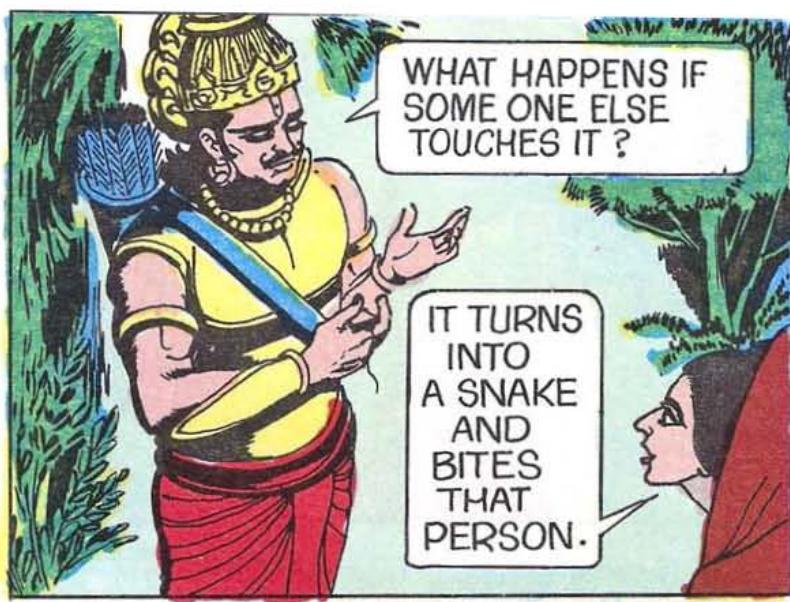
GIVE ME THE TOY
FIRST AND THEN
WE SHALL SEE
ABOUT THE CUB.

STRANGE! VERY
STRANGE!

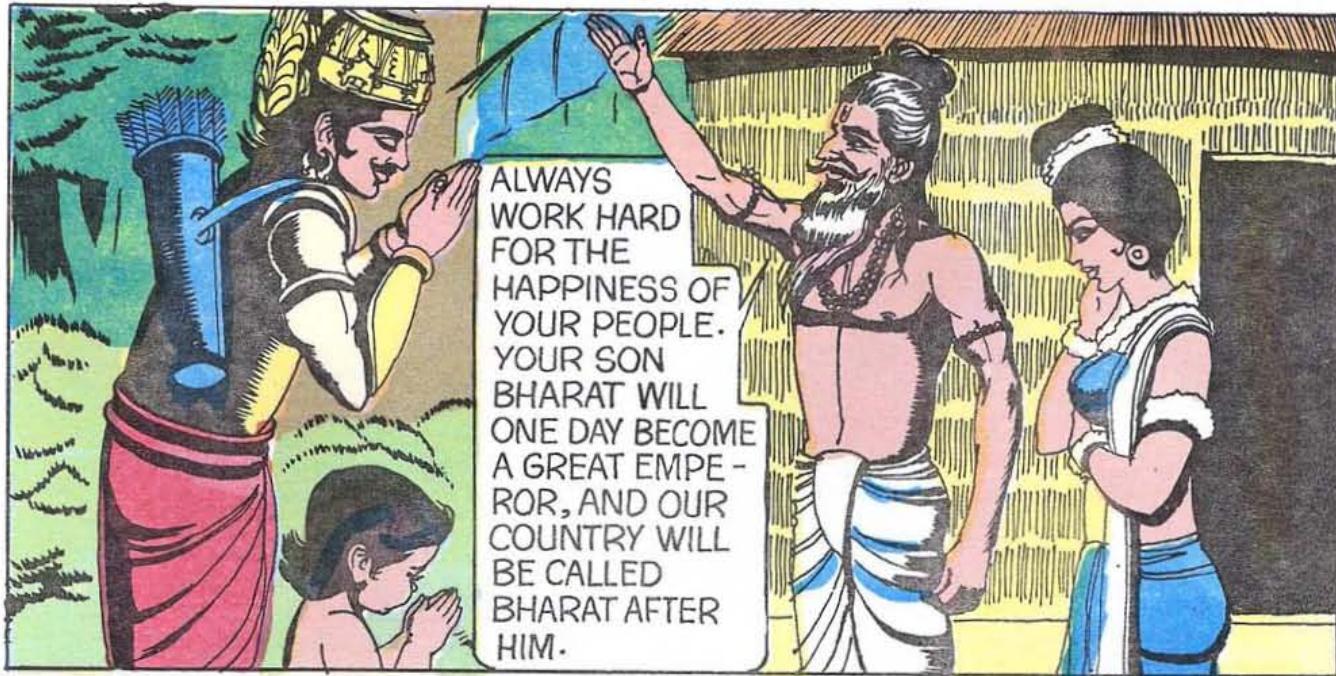
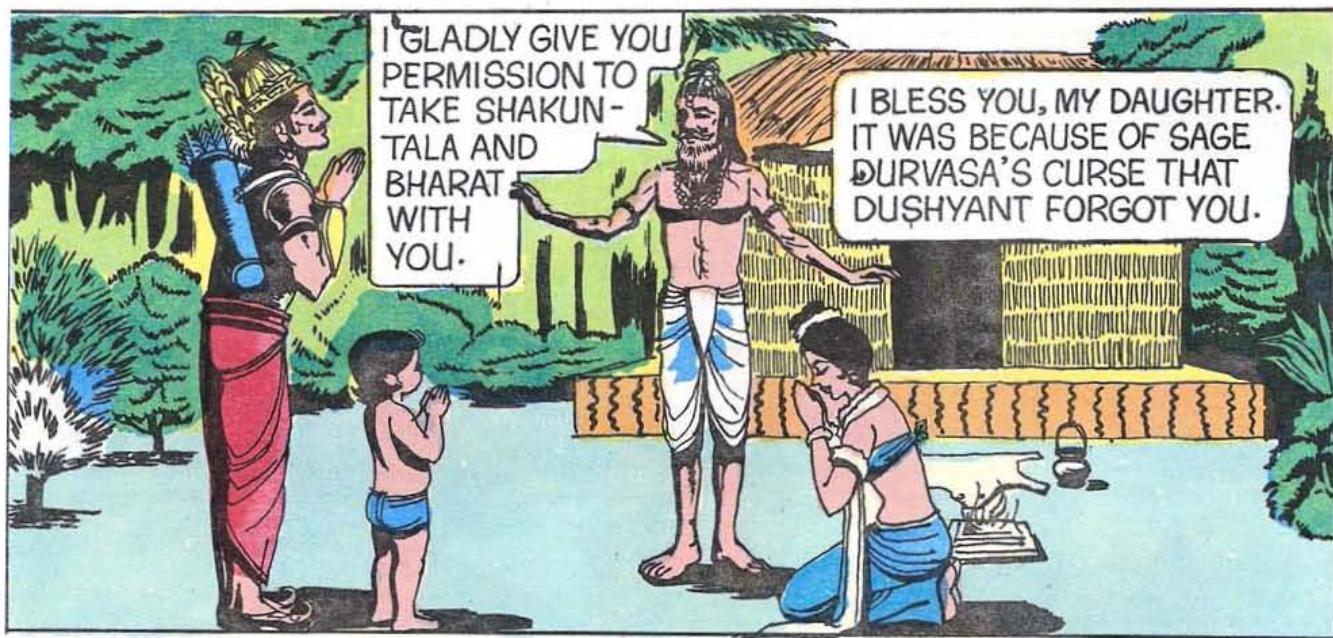
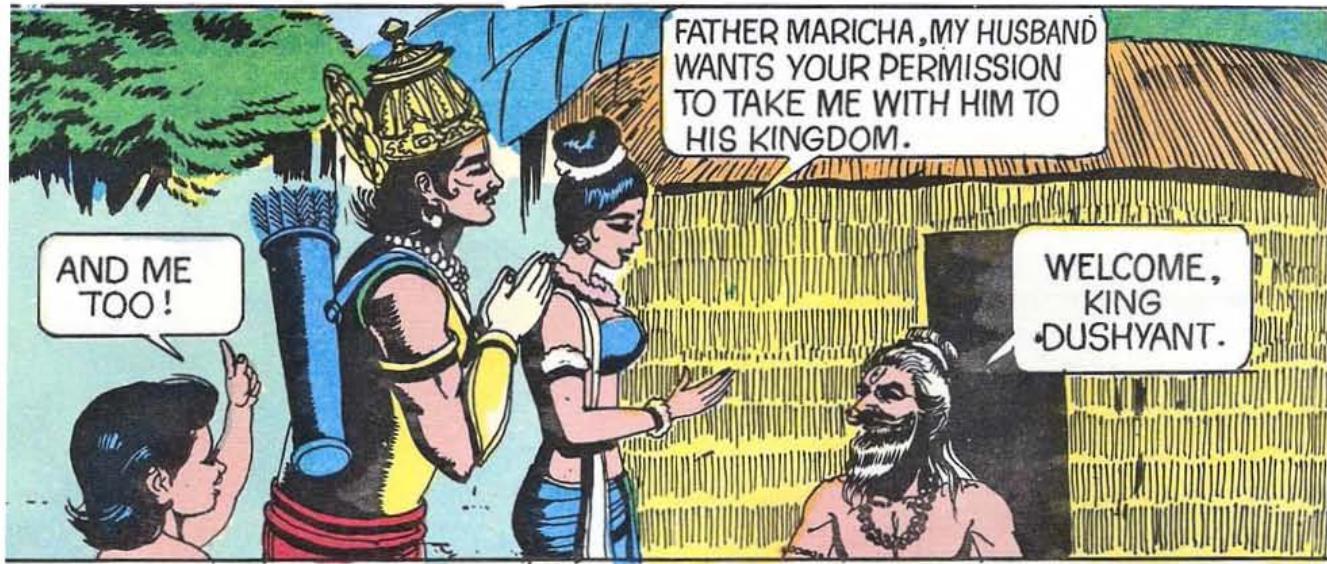


THE KING REACHED OUT FOR THE AMULET.









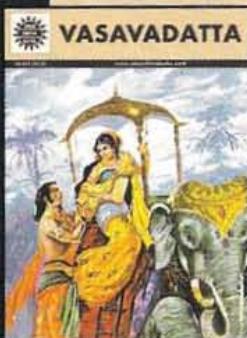
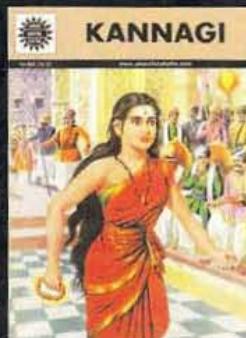
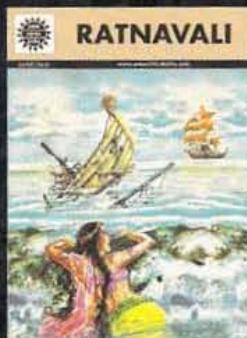
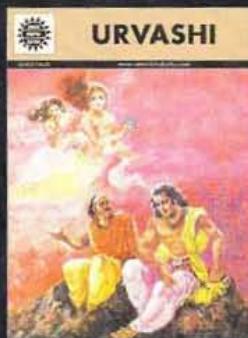
INDIAN
CLASSICS

SHAKUNTALA

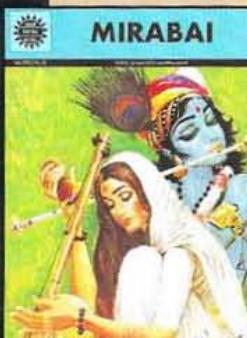
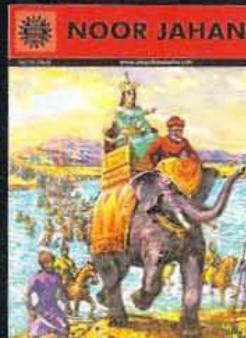
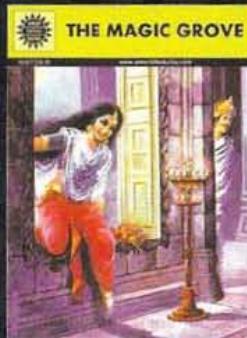
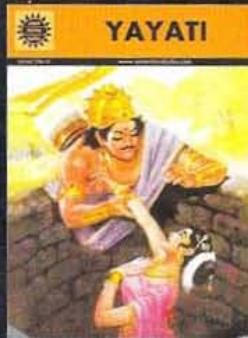
When King Dushyanta first saw Shakuntala, he was struck by her incomparable beauty and gentle character. He made her his wife and vowed to take her back to his palace. But a curse from the sage Durvasa erased her memory so completely from his mind that he failed to recognise her. Much later, when the curse was broken he realised his mistake but it was too late....or so it seemed to be.

The story of Shakuntala first appeared in the Mahabharata. It was later adapted into a play by the Sanskrit dramatist and poet, Kalidasa.

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