



PRAHLAD

A TALE OF DEVOTION FROM THE BHAGAWAT PURANA

Vol 537





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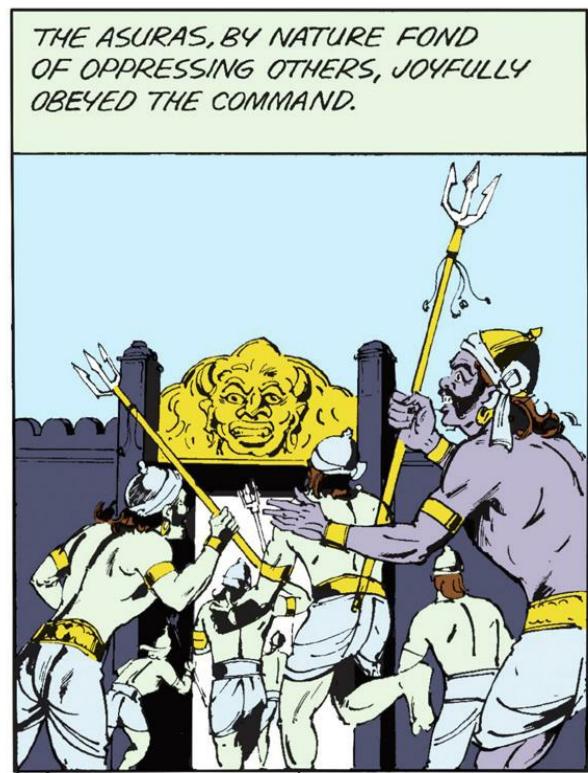
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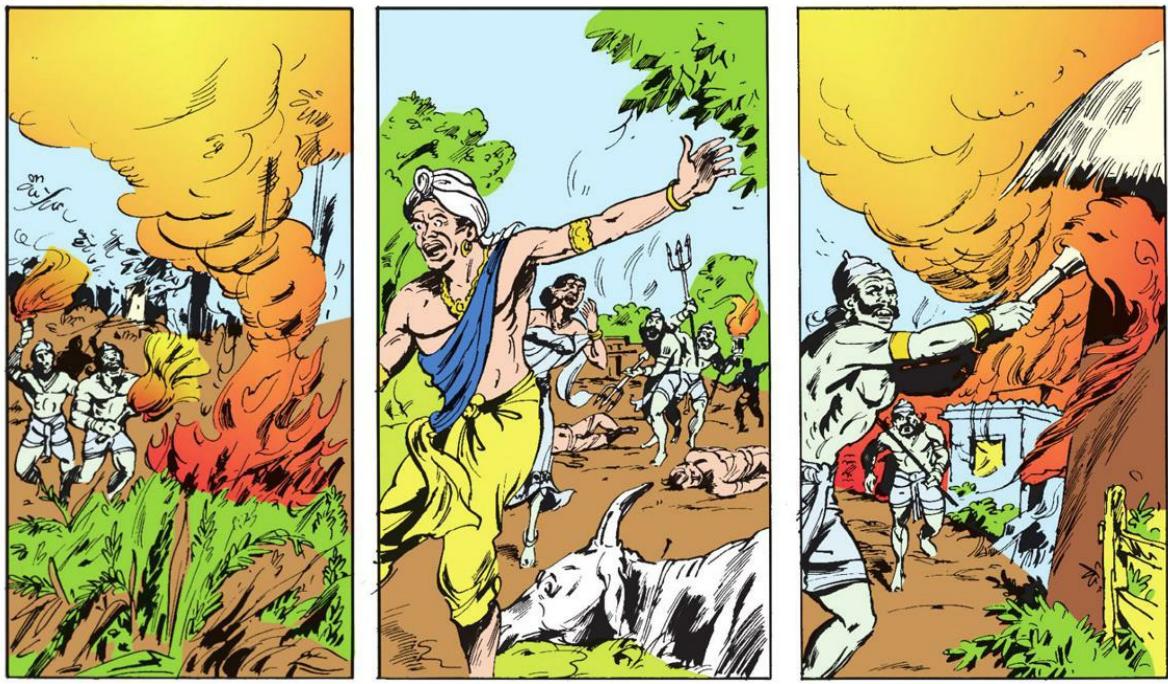
PRAHLAD



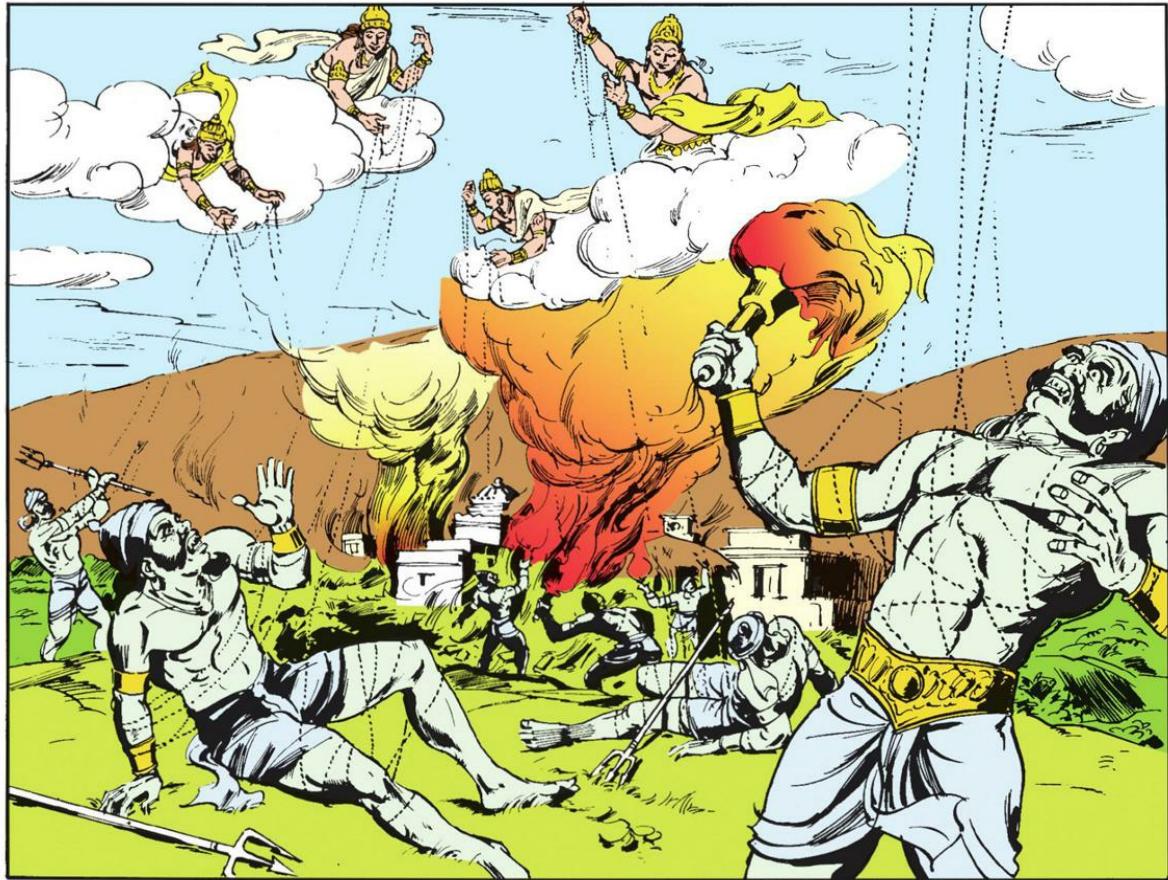
PRAHLAD WAS THE SON OF THE ASURA, HIRANYAKASHIPU.

HIRANYAKASHIPU'S BROTHER HIRANYAKSHA HAD BEEN SLAIN BY VISHNU.





WHILE THE ASURAS WERE BUSY HARASSING THE DEVOTEES OF VISHNU,
THE GODS WENT ABOUT PROTECTING THEM.

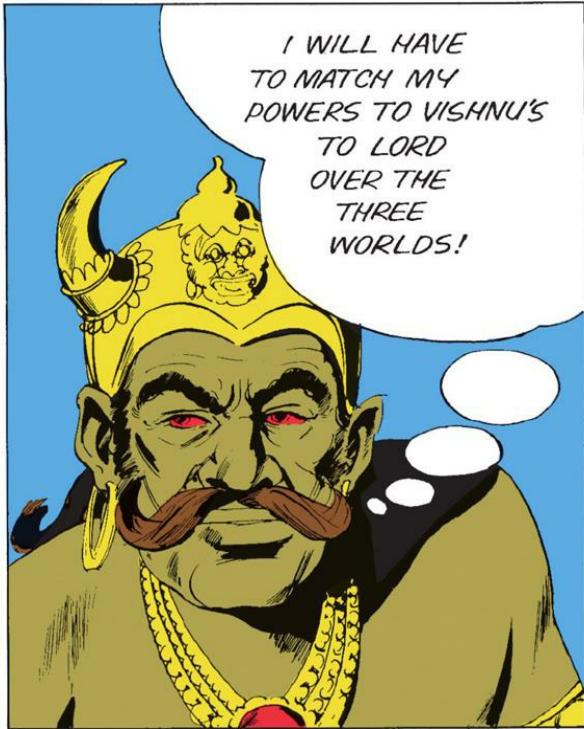


THE ASURAS RETURNED TO MIRANYAKASHIPU.

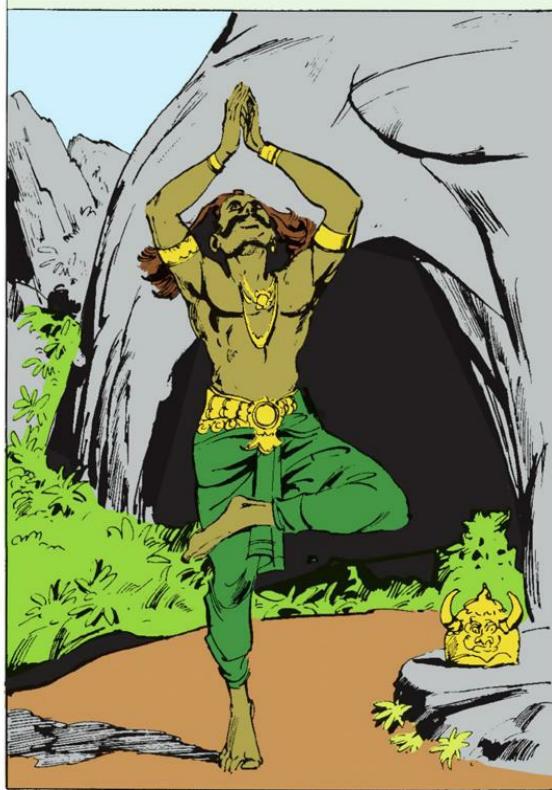
LORD! WE CANNOT CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS. THE SERVANTS OF VISHNU THWART OUR EFFORTS.



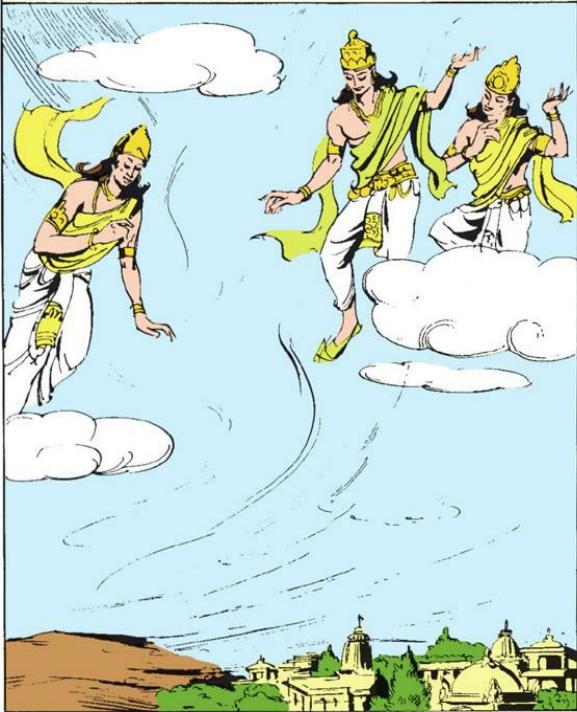
I WILL HAVE TO MATCH MY POWERS TO VISHNU'S TO LORD OVER THE THREE WORLDS!



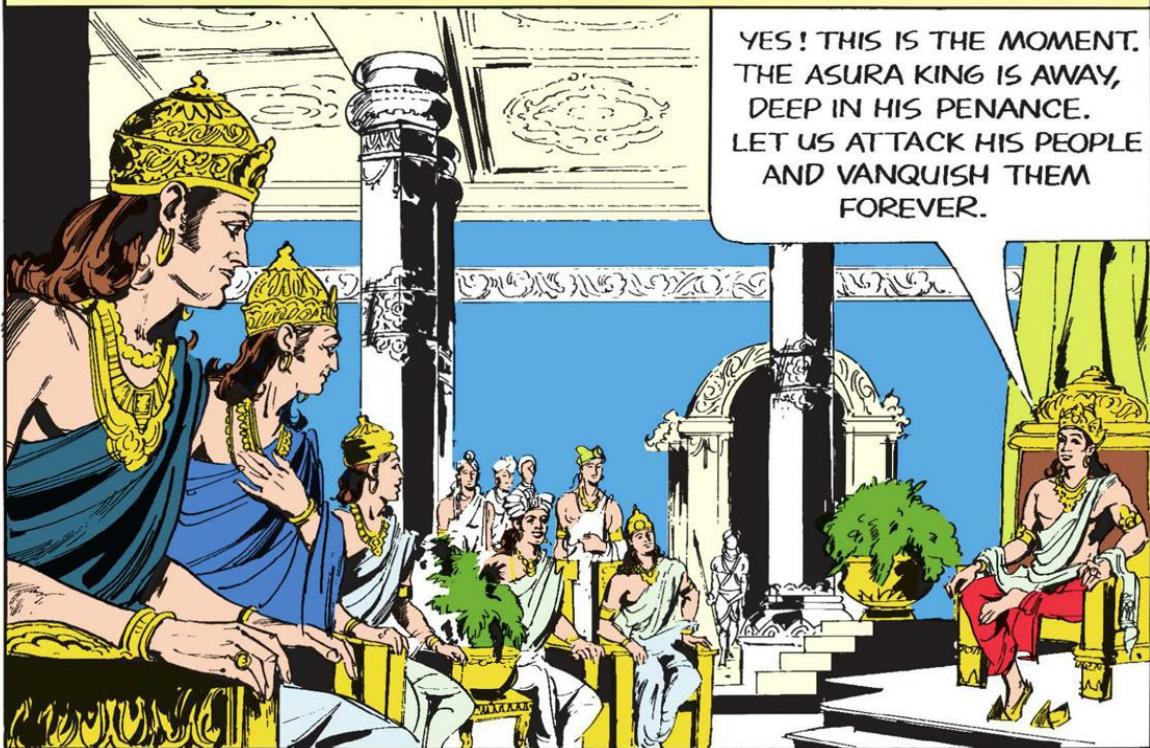
SO HE BEGAN TO PERFORM SEVERE PENANCES.



WHEN THE GODS FOUND THAT VISHNU'S DEVOTEES NO LONGER NEEDED THEIR PROTECTION THEY RETURNED TO THEIR HEAVENLY ABODE.



THERE THEY HELD COUNCIL.



THE ASURAS WERE PANIC-STRICKEN.

THE GODS ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK US. WITHOUT OUR LORD WE ARE HELPLESS.

FLEE!

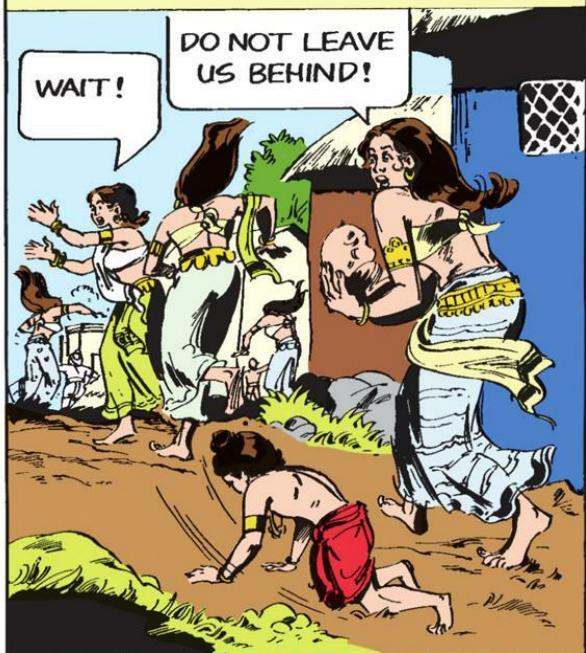
FLEE!



IN THEIR HASTE AND ANXIETY TO SAVE THEIR OWN LIVES, THEY DID NOT BOther TO TAKE EVEN THEIR WIVES, CATTLE OR MONEY.

WAIT!

DO NOT LEAVE US BEHIND!



THE GODS RANSACKED THE ASURA CITY AND DESTROYED HIRANYA-KASHIPU'S PALACE.

AH! I HAVE THE GREATEST BOOTY OF THE ASURAS - HIRANYAKASHIPU'S QUEEN.



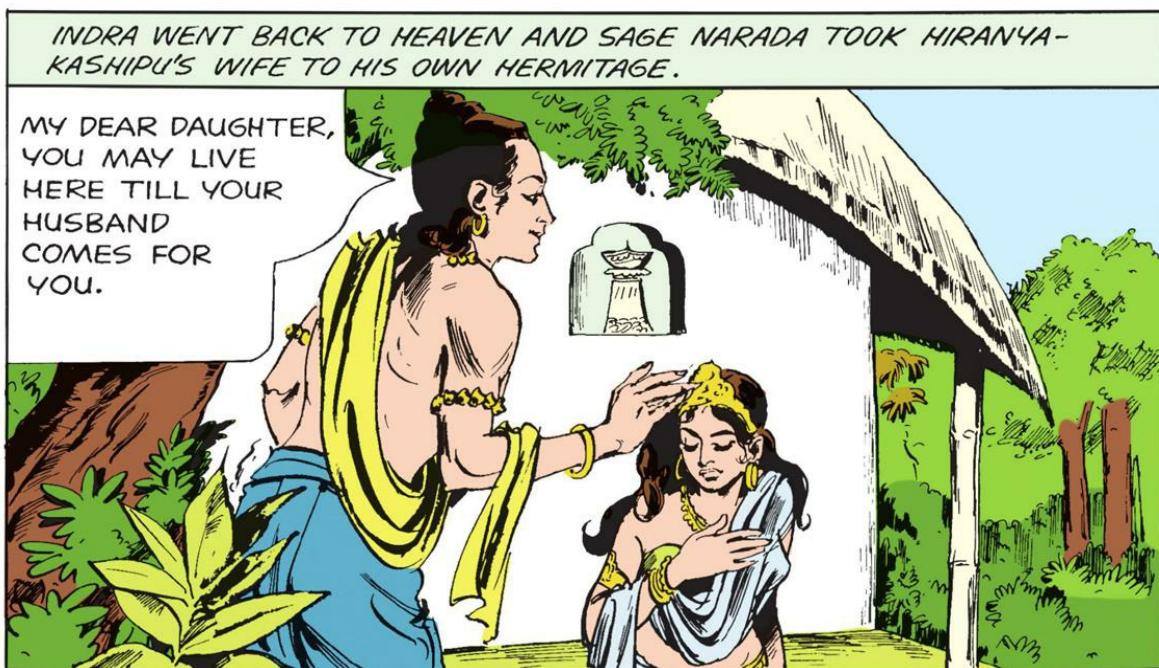
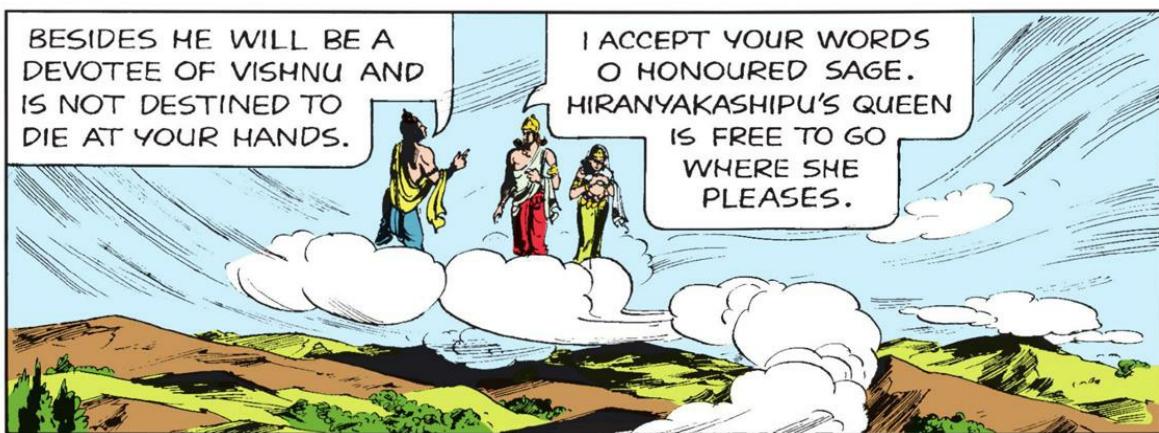
WHILE INDRA WAS TRANSPORTING HER TO HEAVEN, HE MET SAGE NARADA.

WAIT! YOU SHOULD NOT CARRY OFF THIS GUILTYLESS QUEEN, THE CHASTE WIFE OF ANOTHER.



SHE IS GOING TO BE THE MOTHER OF HIRANYA-KASHIPU'S SON. SHE SHALL BE WITH ME TILL THE CHILD IS BORN!





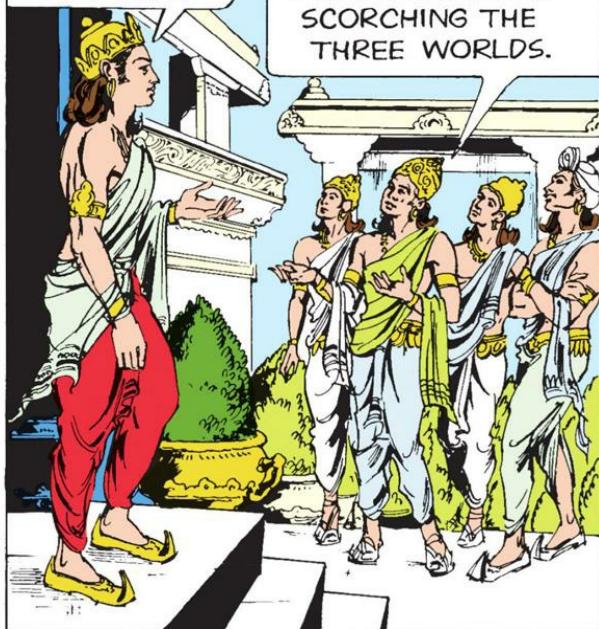
SHE LIVED IN THE ASHRAM OF THE GREAT SAGE AND LEARNED ABOUT RELIGION AND THE GLORY OF VISHNU FROM HIM. THE CHILD WITHIN HER, PRAHLAD, TOO, ABSORBED ALL THIS KNOWLEDGE.

VISHNU IS THE SOUL OF ALL CREATED THINGS AND IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE.

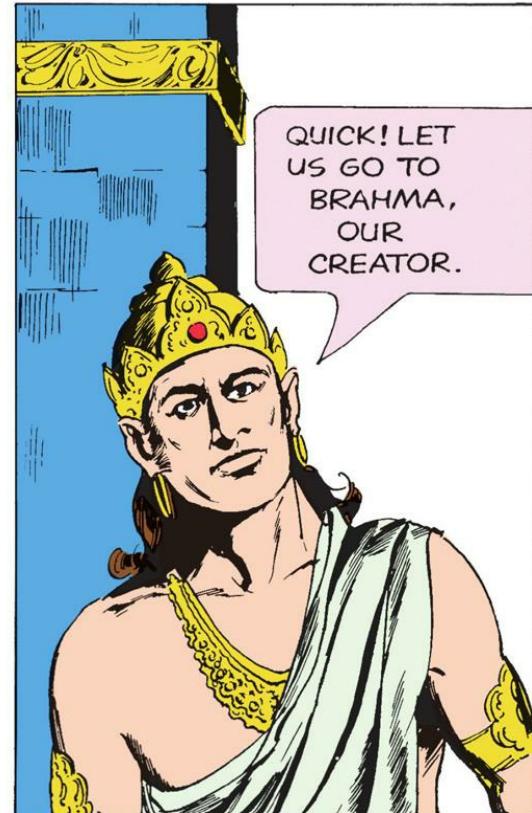


IN THE MEANWHILE, WHEN INDRA REACHED HEAVEN—

WHAT'S THE MATTER?



HIRANYAKASHIPU'S AUSTERITIES ARE SCORCHING THE THREE WORLDS.

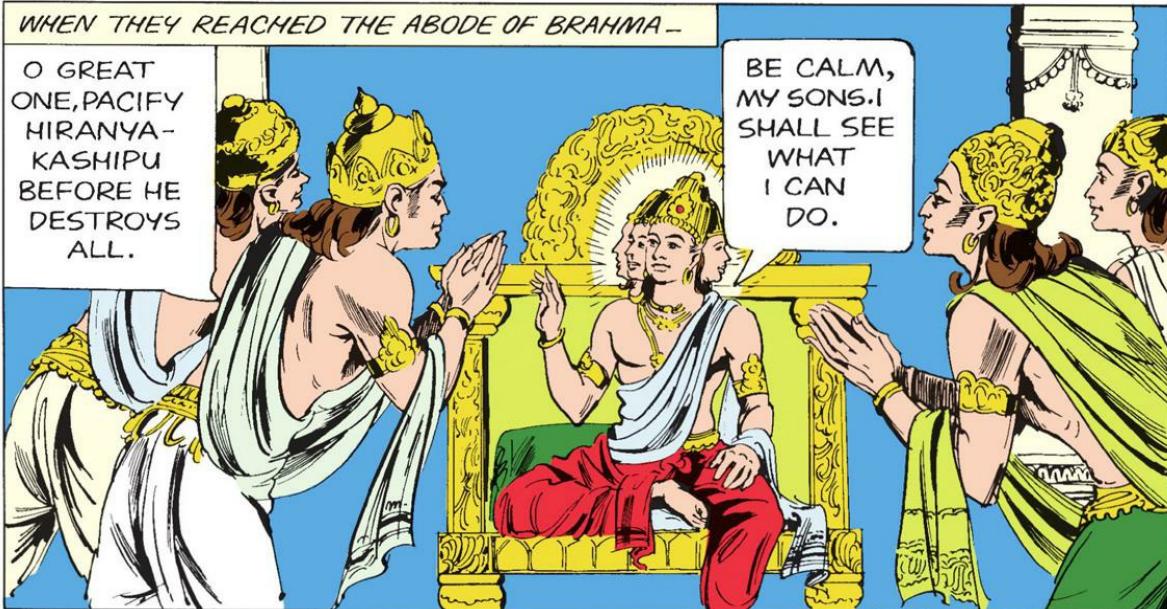


QUICK! LET US GO TO BRAHMA, OUR CREATOR.

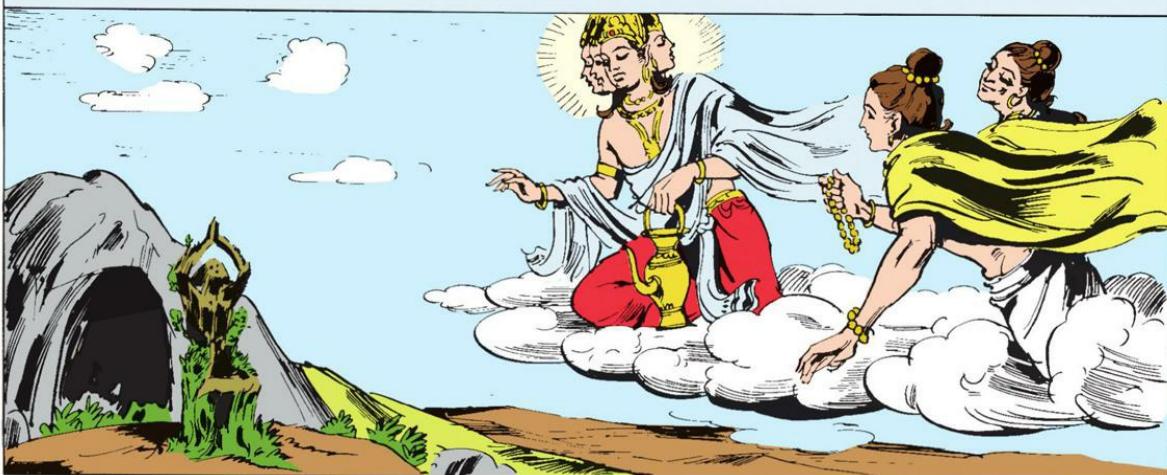
WHEN THEY REACHED THE ABODE OF BRAHMA -

O GREAT
ONE, PACIFY
HIRANYA-
KASHIPU
BEFORE HE
DESTROYS ALL.

BE CALM,
MY SONS. I
SHALL SEE
WHAT
I CAN
DO.

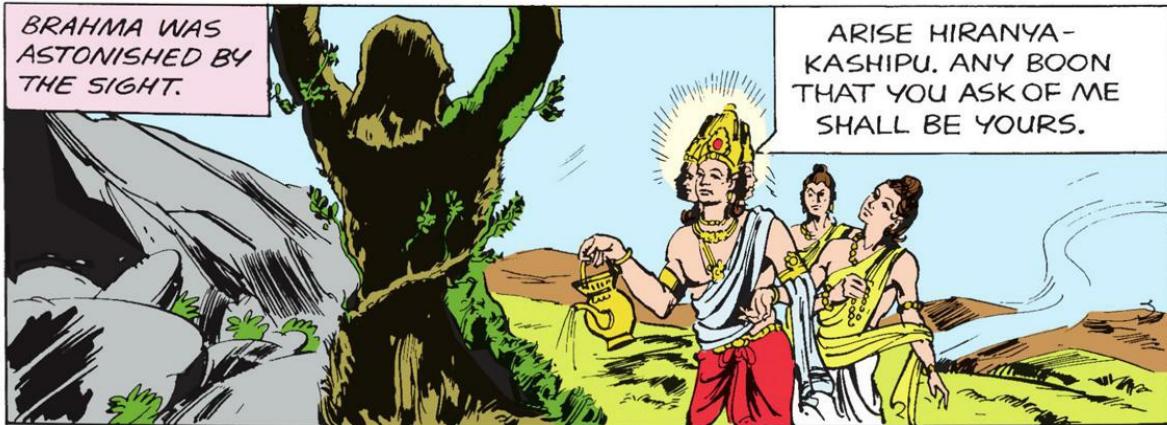


THE MIGHTY BRAHMA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CELESTIAL SAGES, WENT
TO HIRANYAKASHIPU'S HERMITAGE.



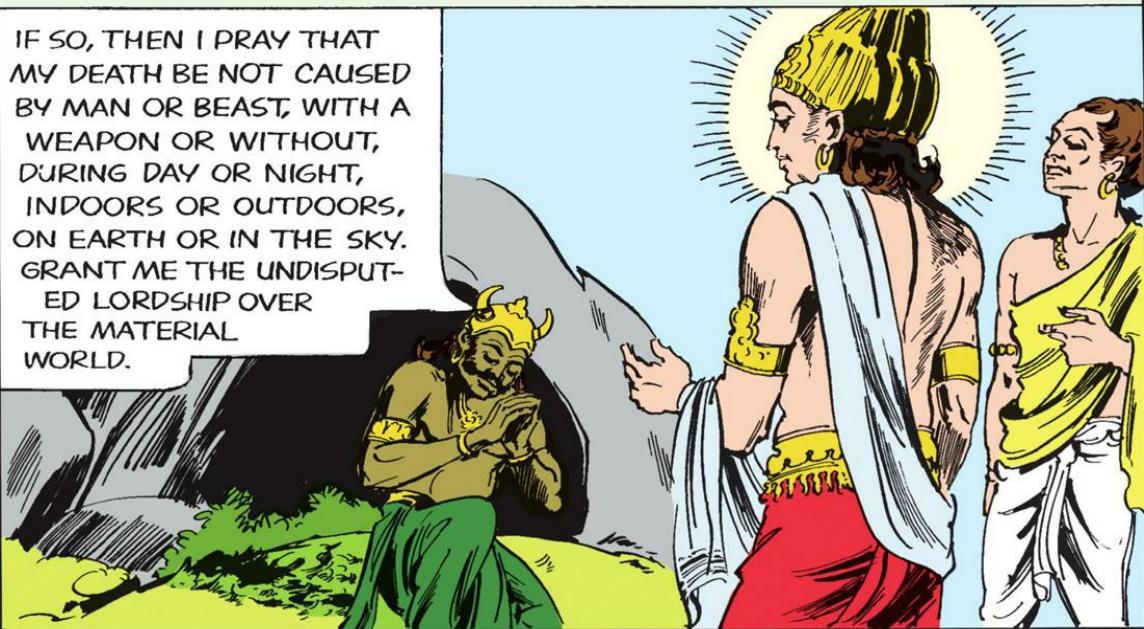
BRAHMA WAS
ASTONISHED BY
THE SIGHT.

ARISE HIRANYA-
KASHIPU. ANY BOON
THAT YOU ASK OF ME
SHALL BE YOURS.

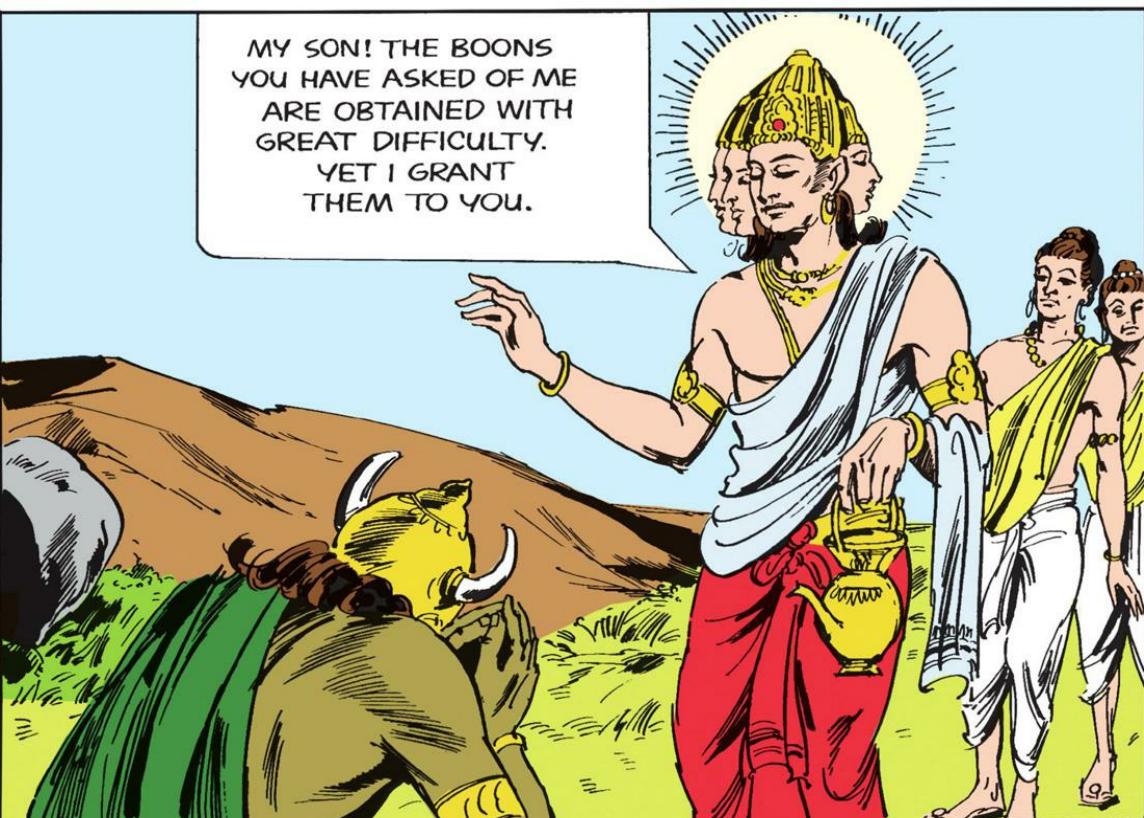


AS SOON AS THE DROPS OF BRAHMA'S HOLY WATER TOUCHED HIM, HIRANYAKASHIPU CAME OUT OF HIS TRANCE AND SALUTED BRAHMA.

IF SO, THEN I PRAY THAT
MY DEATH BE NOT CAUSED
BY MAN OR BEAST, WITH A
WEAPON OR WITHOUT,
DURING DAY OR NIGHT,
INDOORS OR OUTDOORS,
ON EARTH OR IN THE SKY.
GRANT ME THE UNDISPUTED
LORDSHIP OVER
THE MATERIAL
WORLD.



MY SON! THE BOONS
YOU HAVE ASKED OF ME
ARE OBTAINED WITH
GREAT DIFFICULTY.
YET I GRANT
THEM TO YOU.



BRAHMA DEPARTED AND HIRANYAKASHIPU WAS OVERJOYED.

HIRANYAKASHIPU BROUGHT HIS WIFE BACK TO THEIR CITY WHERE PRAHLAD WAS BORN.



HIRANYAKASHIPU, WITH HIS NEW POWERS, RENEWED HIS HOSTILITIES AGAINST VISHNU AND HIS FOLLOWERS.



HE DROVE THE GODS OUT OF THEIR ABODE AND ESTABLISHED HIMSELF IN HEAVEN.



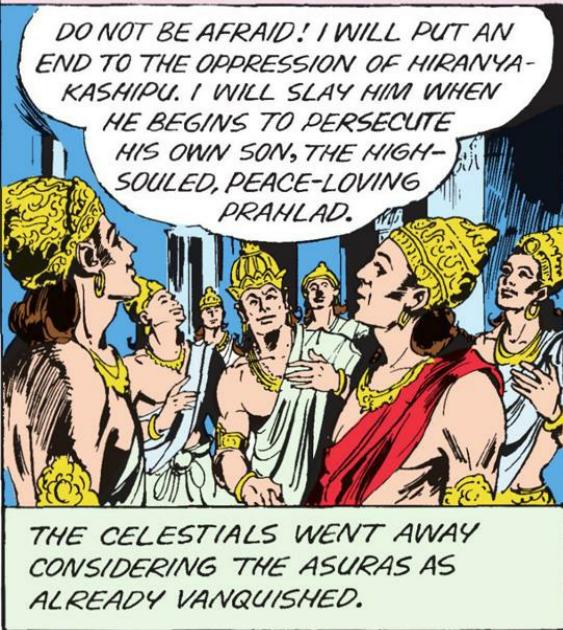
ALL THE GODS IN HEAVEN EXCEPT BRAHMA, VISHNU AND SHIVA, BEGAN TO WORSHIP THE INTOXICATED HIRANYAKASHIPU.



AT LAST THE OPPRESSED GODS AND DEVOTEES OF VISHNU APPEALED TO HIM.



AFTER A FEW DAYS...



PRAHLAD IN THE MEANWHILE WAS GROWING UP AND WAS HIRANYAKASHIPU'S DELIGHT. ONE DAY—

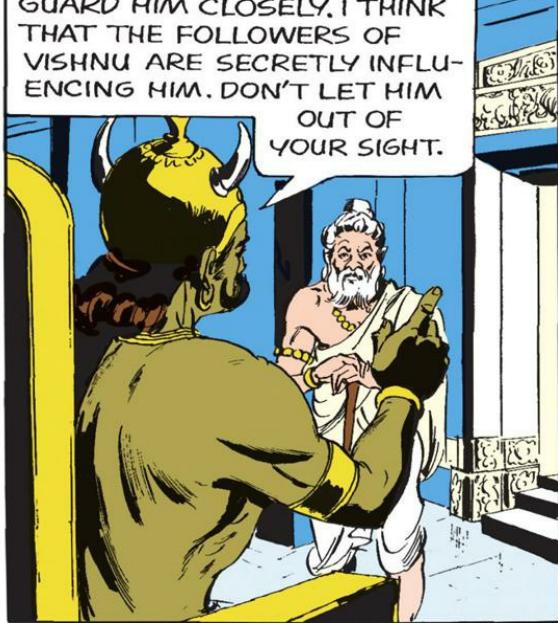
DEAR SON! TELL ME WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST THING IN LIFE?

TO RENOUNCE THE WORLD AND SEEK REFUGE IN VISHNU.



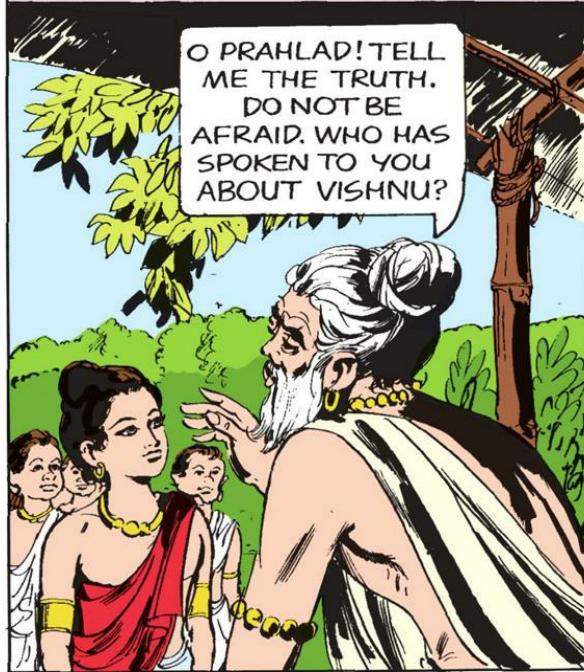
HIRANYAKASHIPU LAUGHED. THEN HE CALLED HIS SON'S TEACHER TO HIM.

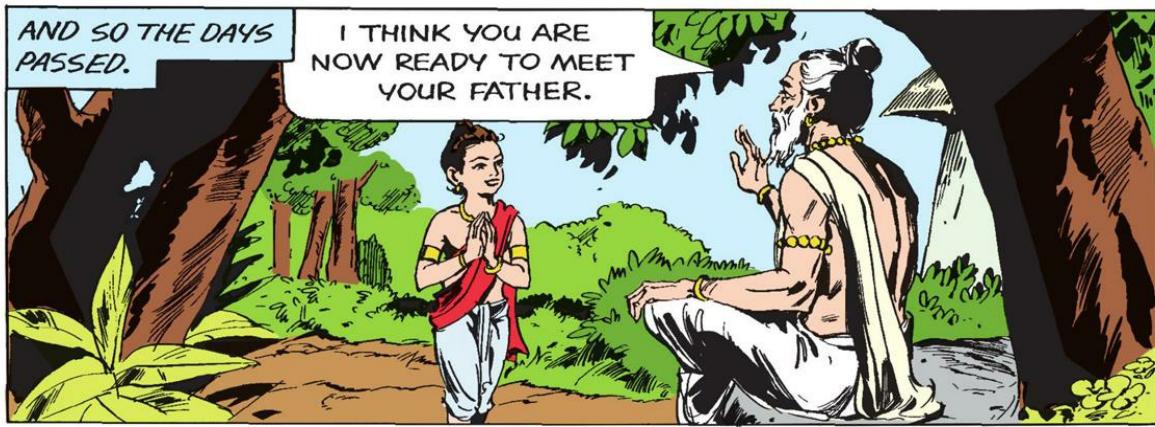
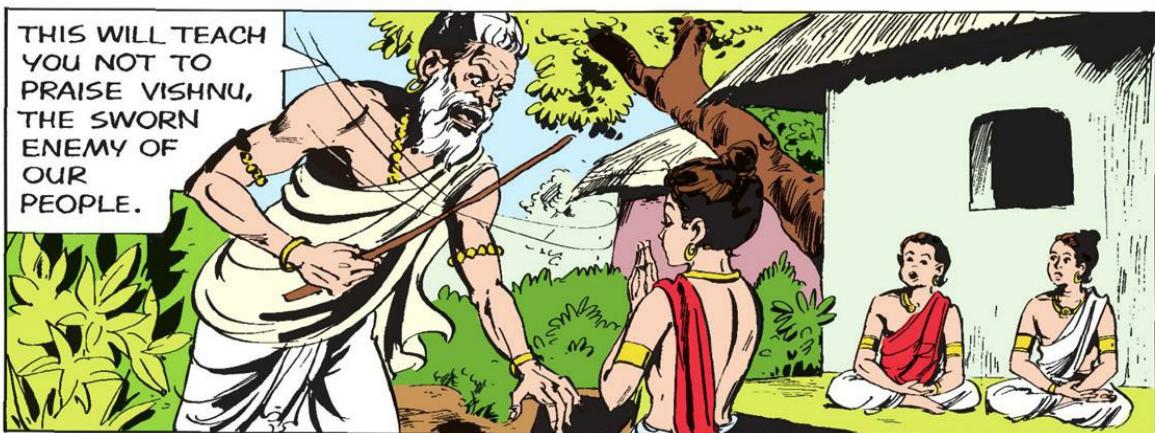
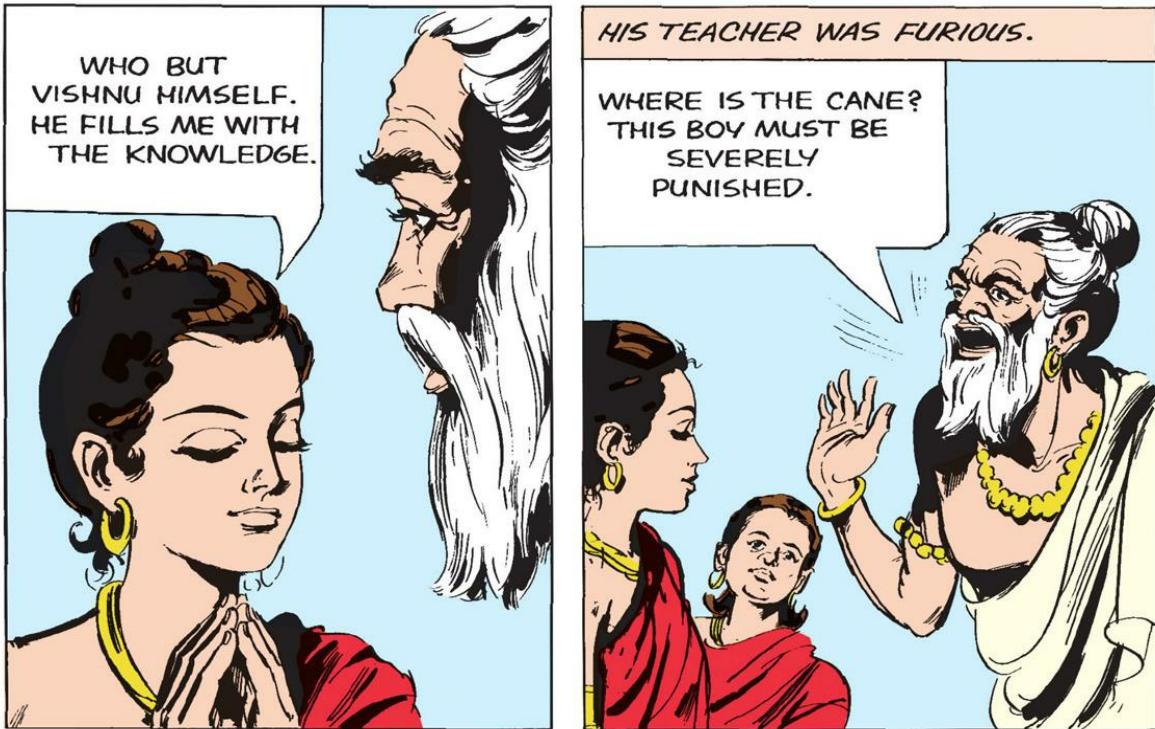
GUARD HIM CLOSELY. I THINK THAT THE FOLLOWERS OF VISHNU ARE SECRETLY INFLUENCING HIM. DON'T LET HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.



PRAHLAD WENT TO LIVE IN THE HOUSE OF HIS TEACHER.

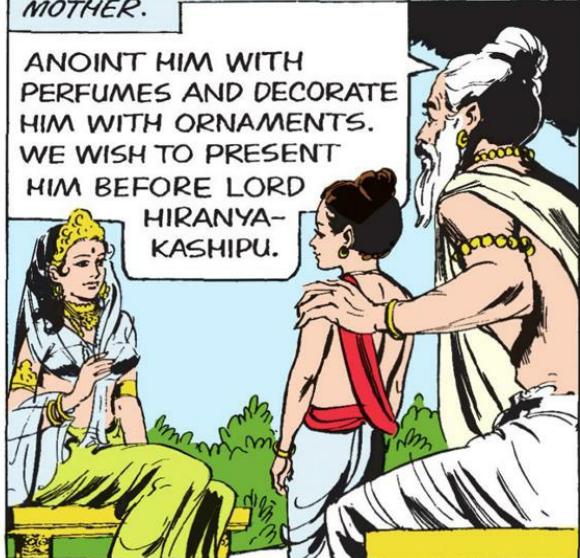
O PRAHLAD! TELL ME THE TRUTH. DO NOT BE AFRAID. WHO HAS SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT VISHNU?



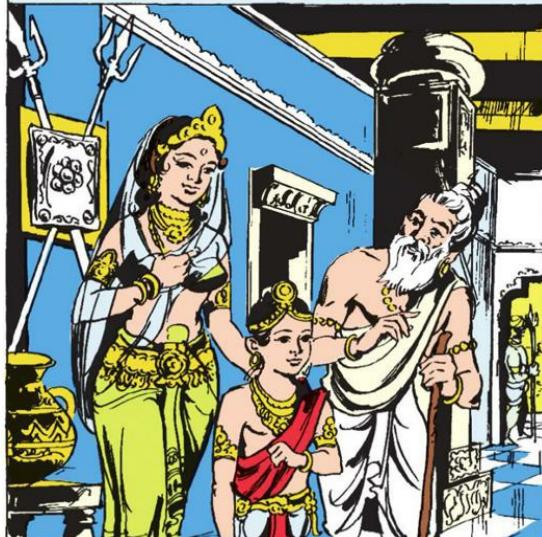


THE TEACHER THEN SENT FOR PRAHLAD'S MOTHER.

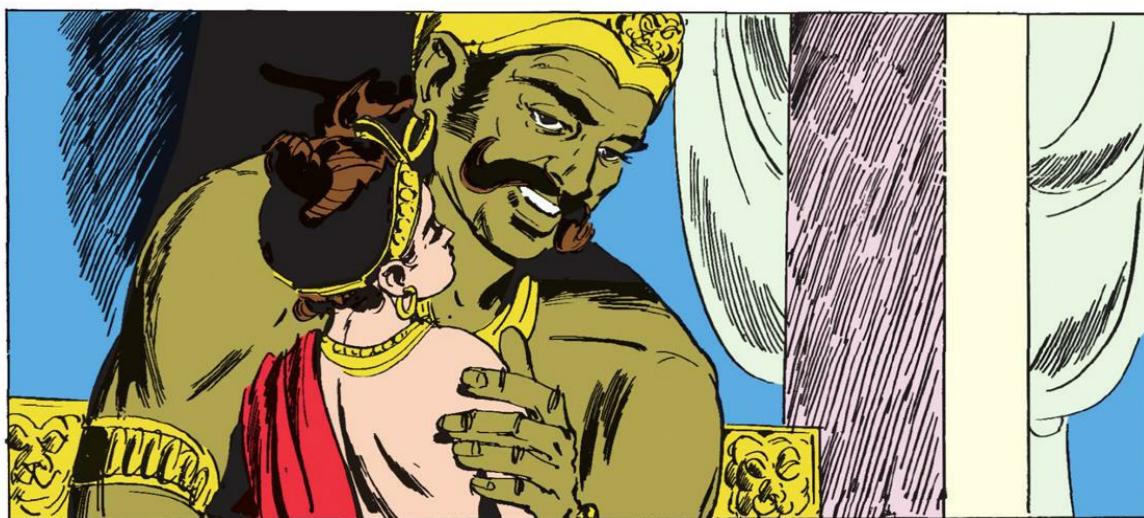
ANOINT HIM WITH
PERFUMES AND DECORATE
HIM WITH ORNAMENTS.
WE WISH TO PRESENT
HIM BEFORE LORD
HIRANYAKASHIPU.



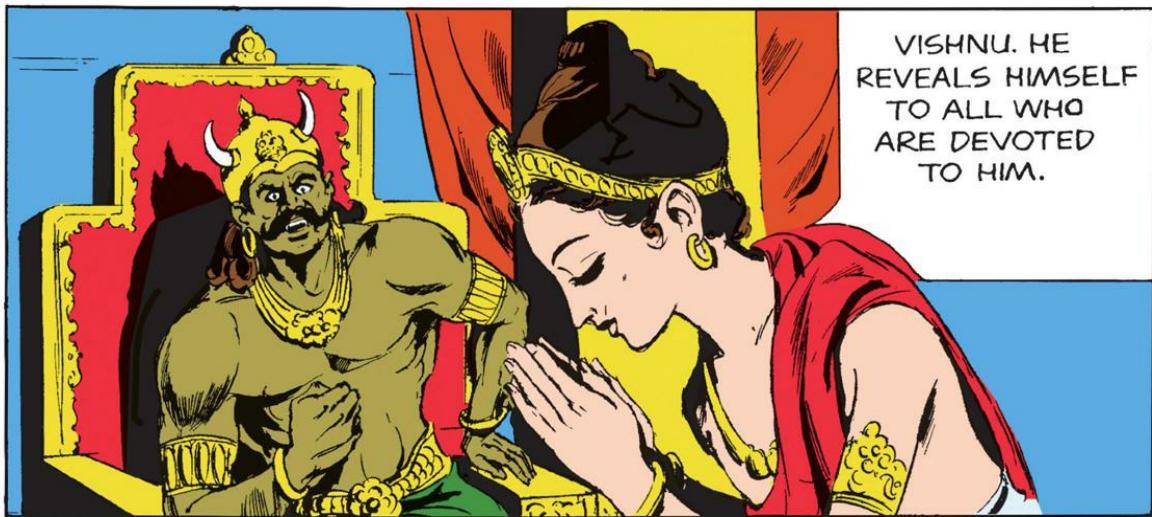
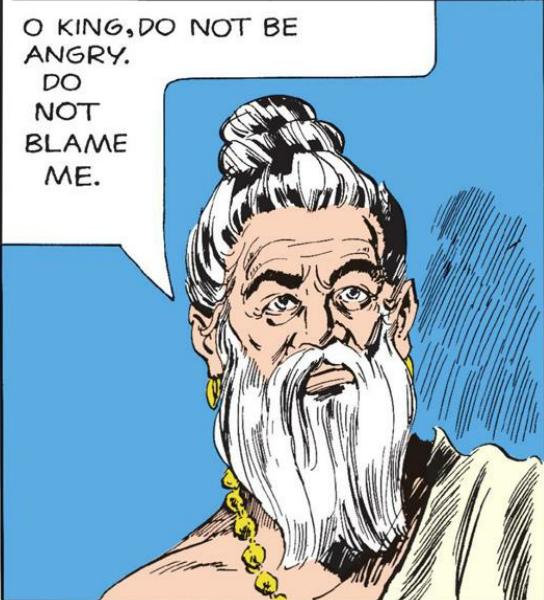
THE BEDECKED PRAHLAD WAS
THEN LED TO HIRANYAKASHIPU.



O MY SON!
MAY YOU
LIVE
LONG.





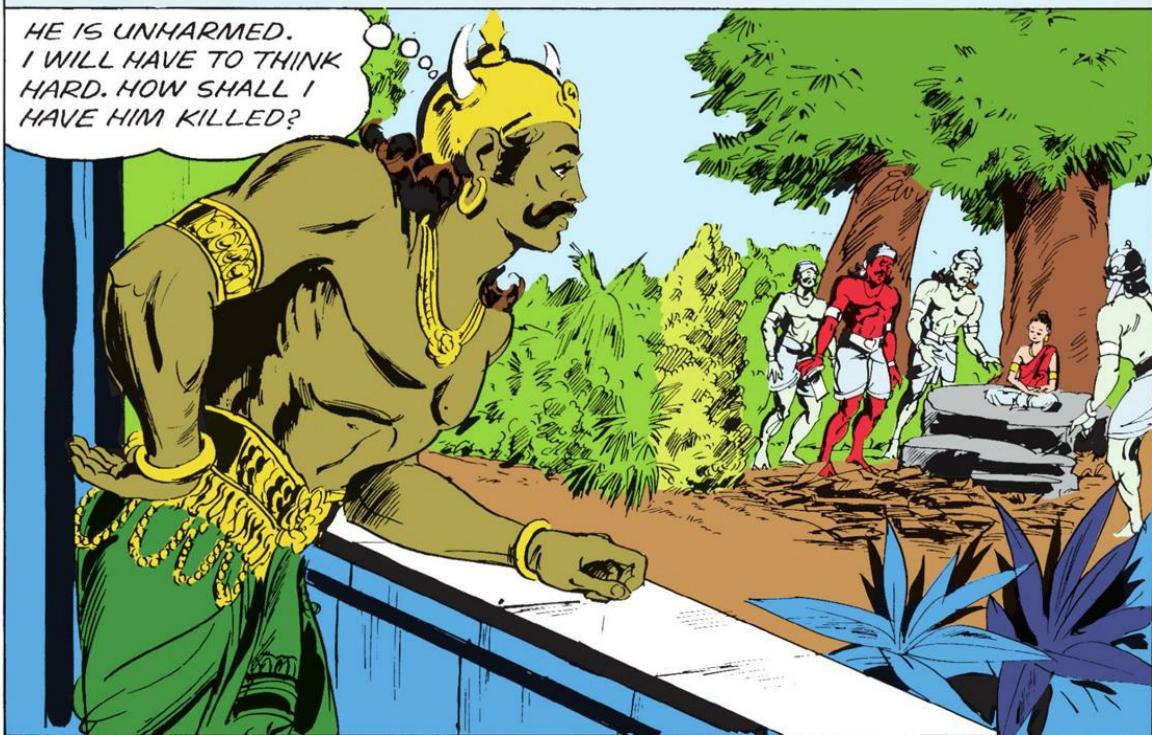




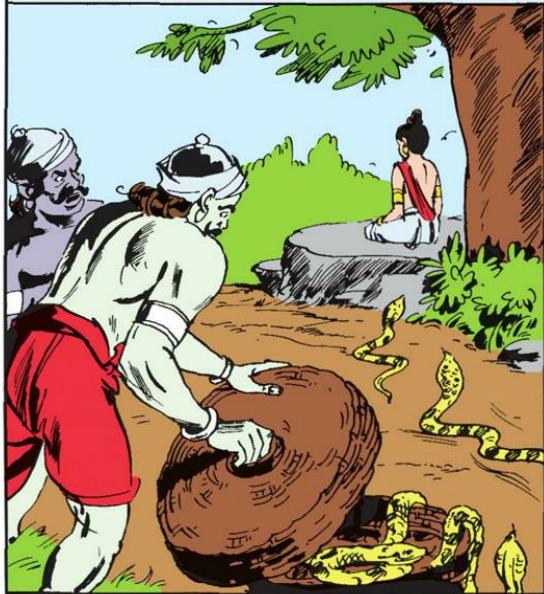
THUS COMMANDED BY HIRANYAKASHIPU, THE ASURAS BEGAN TO ATTACK PRAHLAD.



BUT THEIR STROKES WERE OF NO AVAIL FOR PRAHLAD WAS DEEPLY ENGROSSED IN HIS ADORATION OF VISHNU.



HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD THE MOST DEADLY SERPENTS BROUGHT. THEY WERE LET LOOSE ON PRAHLAD. BUT THEIR FANGS TURNED IMPOTENT.



HIRANYAKASHIPU THEN CALLED FOR MIGHTY ELEPHANTS AND MADE THEM TRAMPLE UPON PRAHLAD. BUT ONCE AGAIN IT WAS THE ELEPHANTS THAT WERE INJURED.



THEN HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD HIM PUSHED OFF A CLIFF AND...

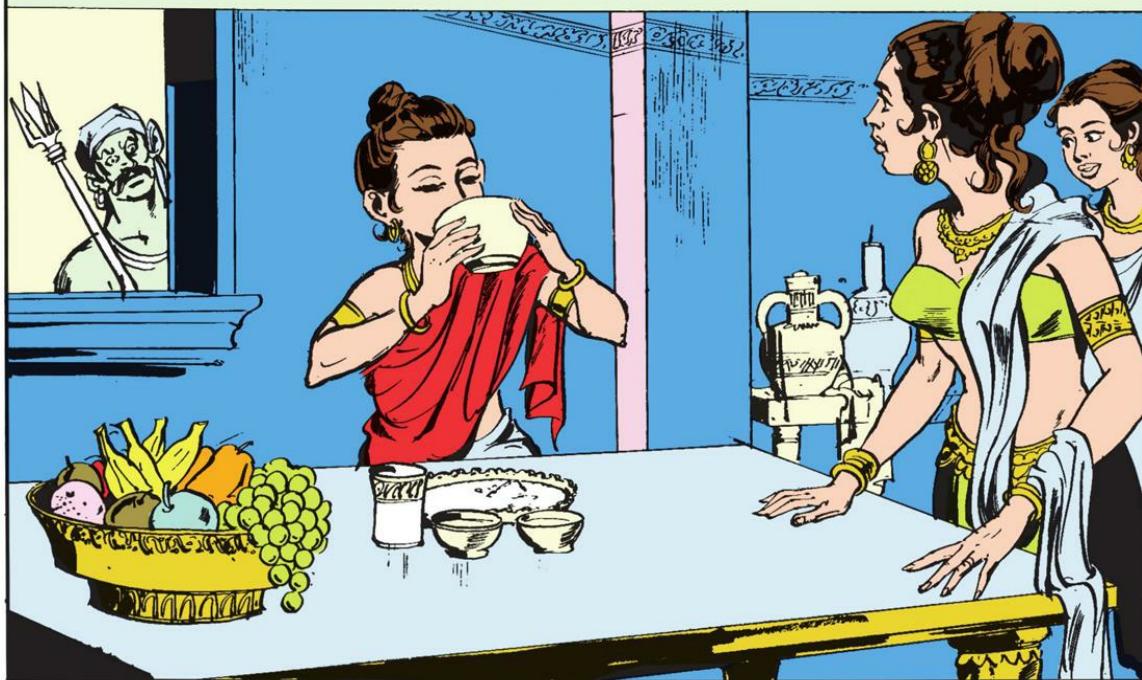


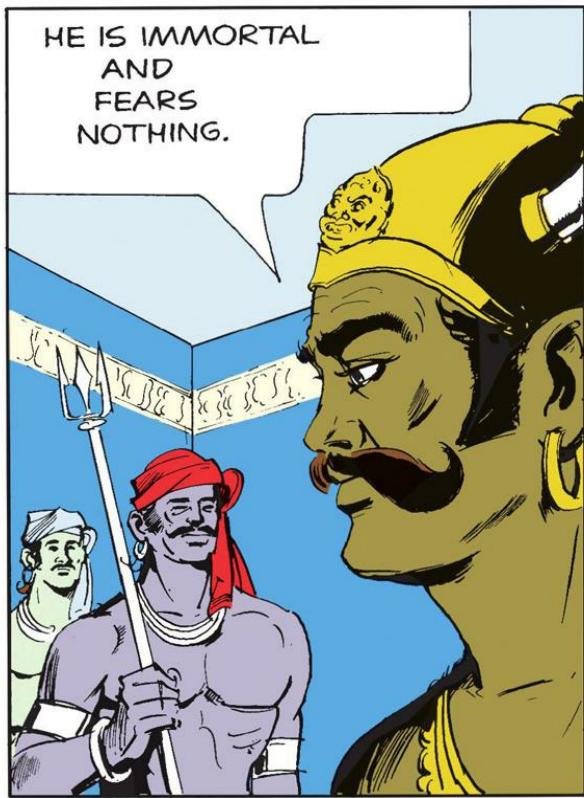
...THROWN INTO A BLAZING FIRE.



BUT NOT A HAIR ON PRAHLAD'S HEAD WAS SINGED.

IN DESPERATION HIRANYAKASHIPU HAD HIM FED WITH A DEADLY POISON BUT IT TURNED INTO NECTAR IN PRAHLAD'S MOUTH.

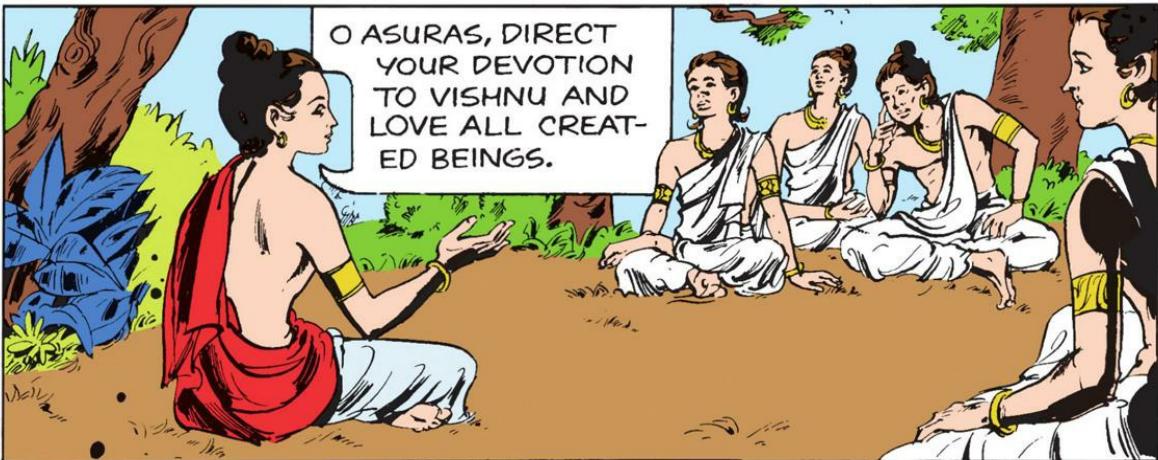




THIS TIME THE TEACHER TRIED TO GET PRAHLAD INTERESTED IN THE MEANS FOR ACQUIRING WEALTH AND PHYSICAL PLEASURES. BUT—



WHILE PRAHLAD WAS ENGAGED IN SUCH THOUGHTS, OTHER PUPILS CAME AND JOINED HIM.



TELL US,
PRAHLAD,
WHERE
DID YOU
LEARN
ALL
THIS?

FROM
THE
SAGE
NARADA.



THE ASURA LADS LISTENED TO PRAHLAD AND ACCEPTED ALL HIS TEACHINGS.

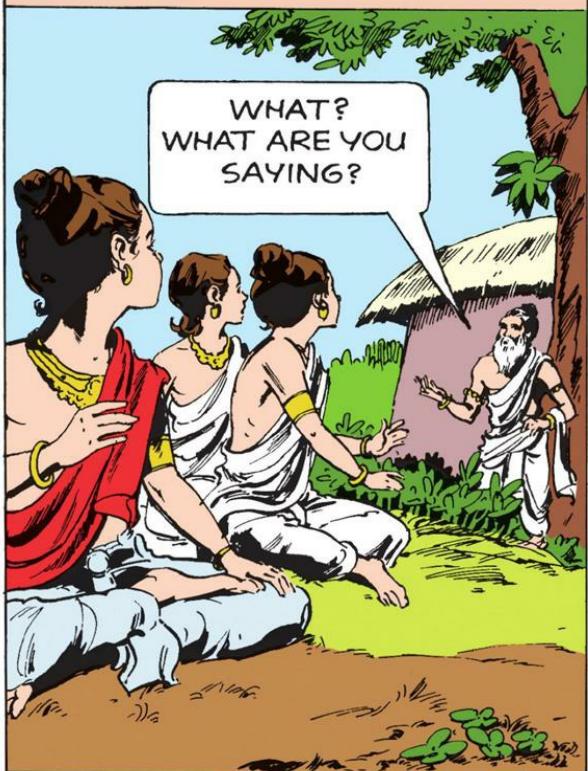
WHAT OUR GURU HAS TAUGHT US IS NOT TRUE.

VISHNU IS THE SOUL...

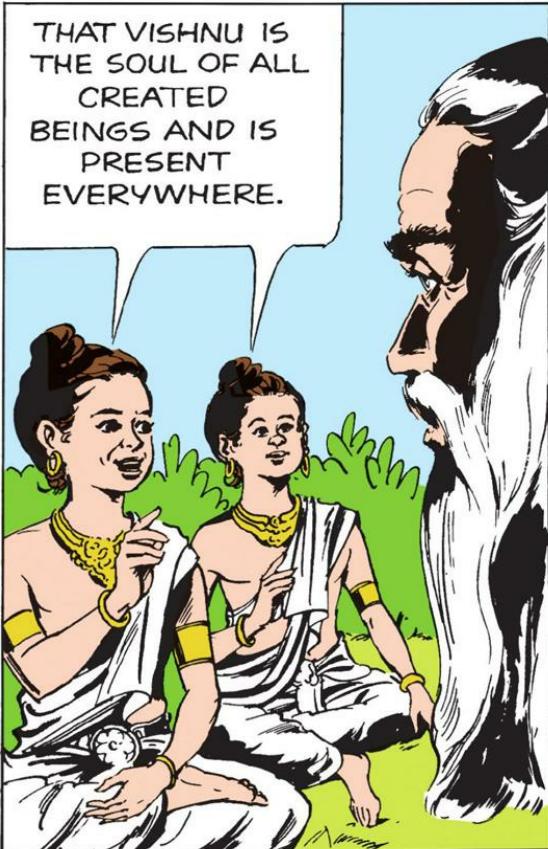


AT THAT MOMENT THE TEACHER CAME OUT.

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



THAT VISHNU IS THE SOUL OF ALL CREATED BEINGS AND IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE.



THE TEACHER WENT STRAIGHT TO HIRANYAKASHIPU.

O LORD,
WE MUST DO
SOMETHING
BEFORE ANY
MORE
HARM IS
DONE.



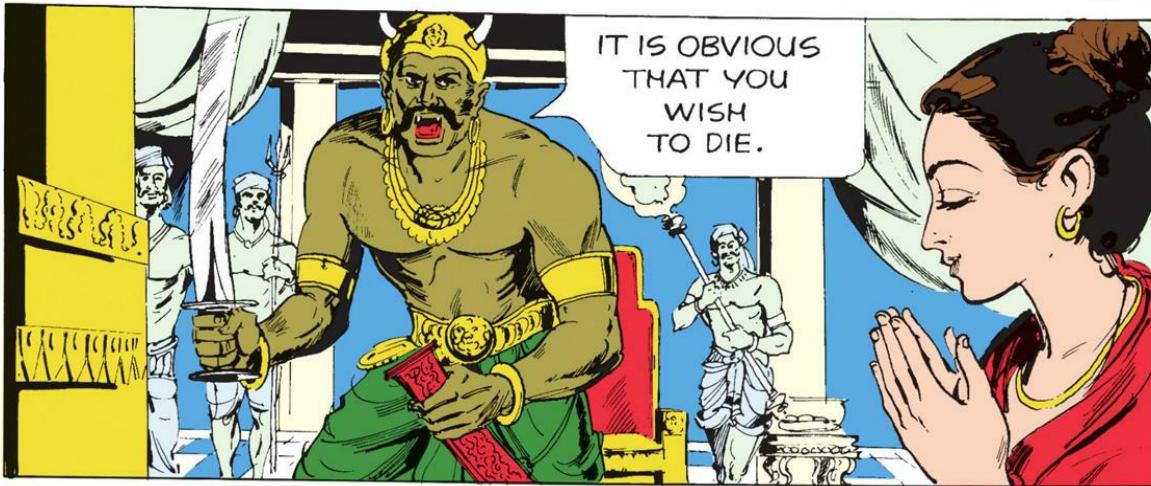
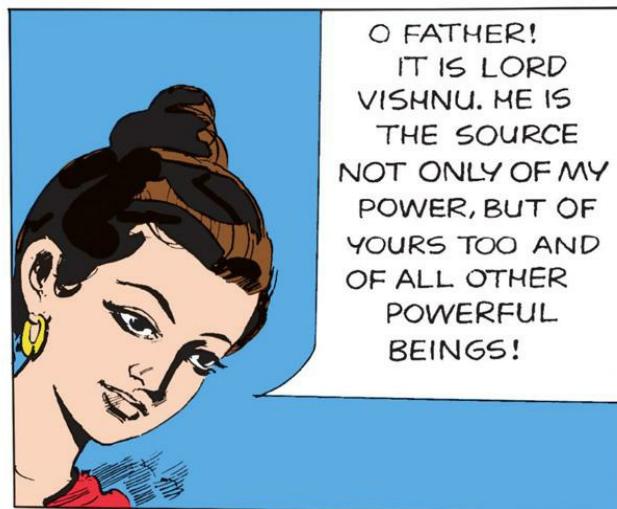
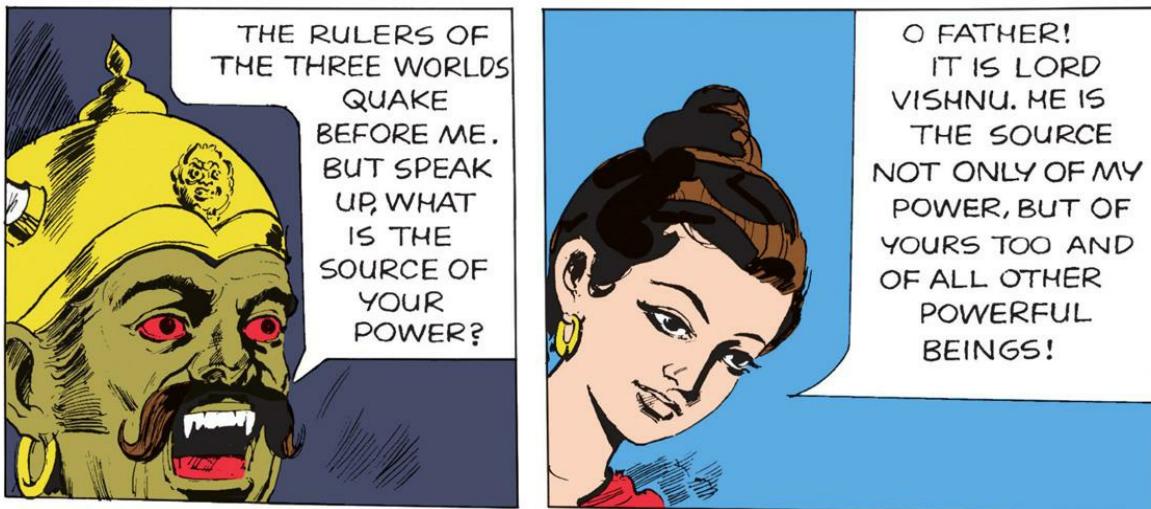
YOUR
SON IS
SPREADING
HIS
VILE
BELIEFS
AMONG
MY
PUPILS!

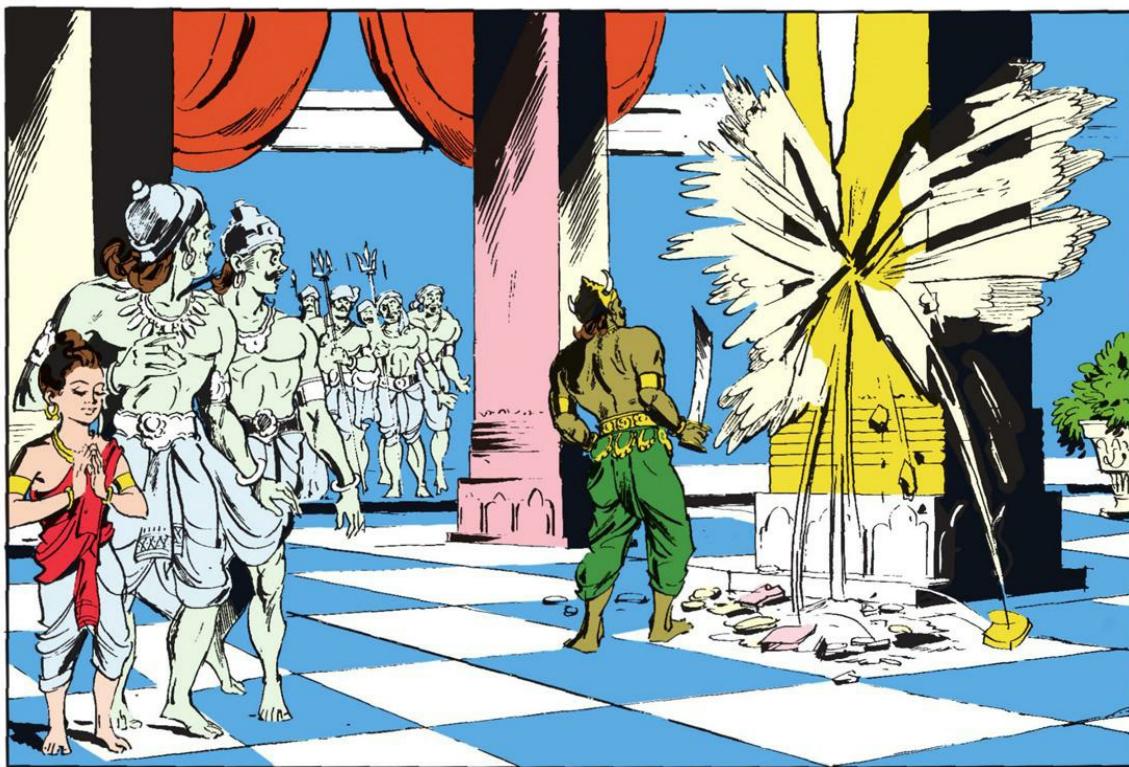


HIRANYAKASHIPU SENT FOR PRAHLAD.

YOU WICKED WRETCH!
ARE YOU TRYING TO
DESTROY ME
AND MY RACE?

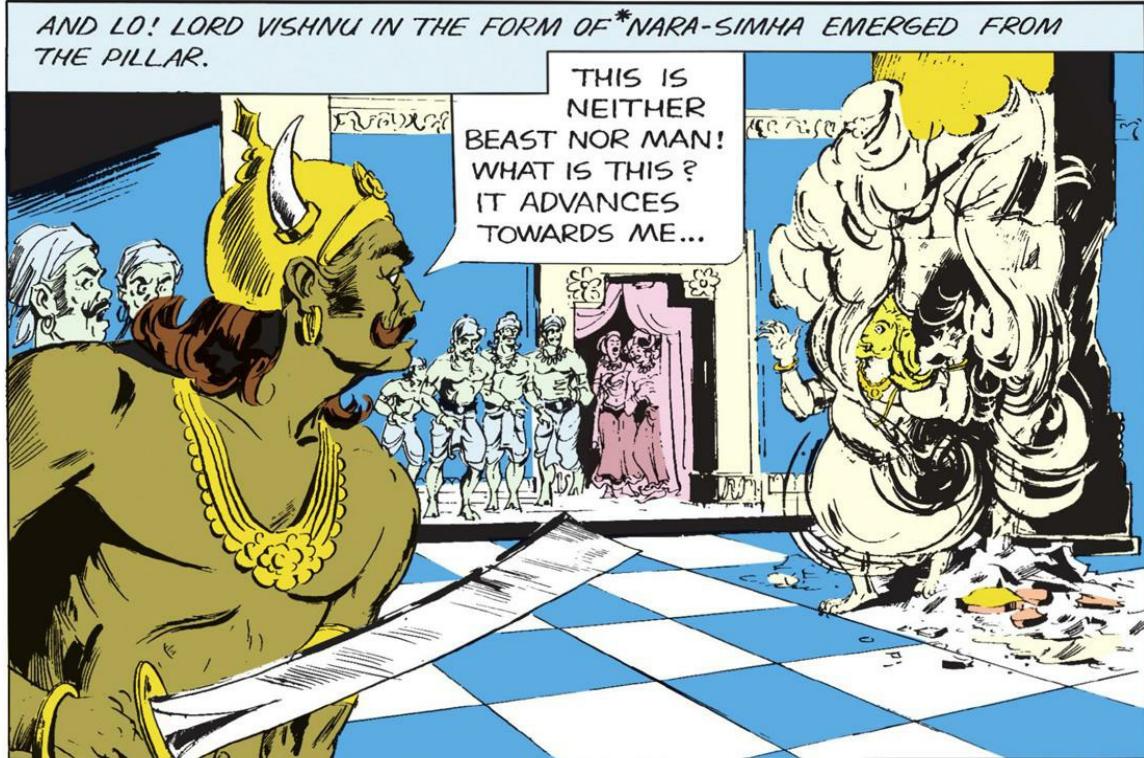






AND LO! LORD VISHNU IN THE FORM OF *NARA-SIMHA EMERGED FROM THE PILLAR.

THIS IS
NEITHER
BEAST NOR MAN!
WHAT IS THIS?
IT ADVANCES
TOWARDS ME...



NARA-SIMHA CAUGHT HIRANYAKASHIPU AND...

IT IS THE
TWILIGHT
HOUR.
I AM
DOOMED.

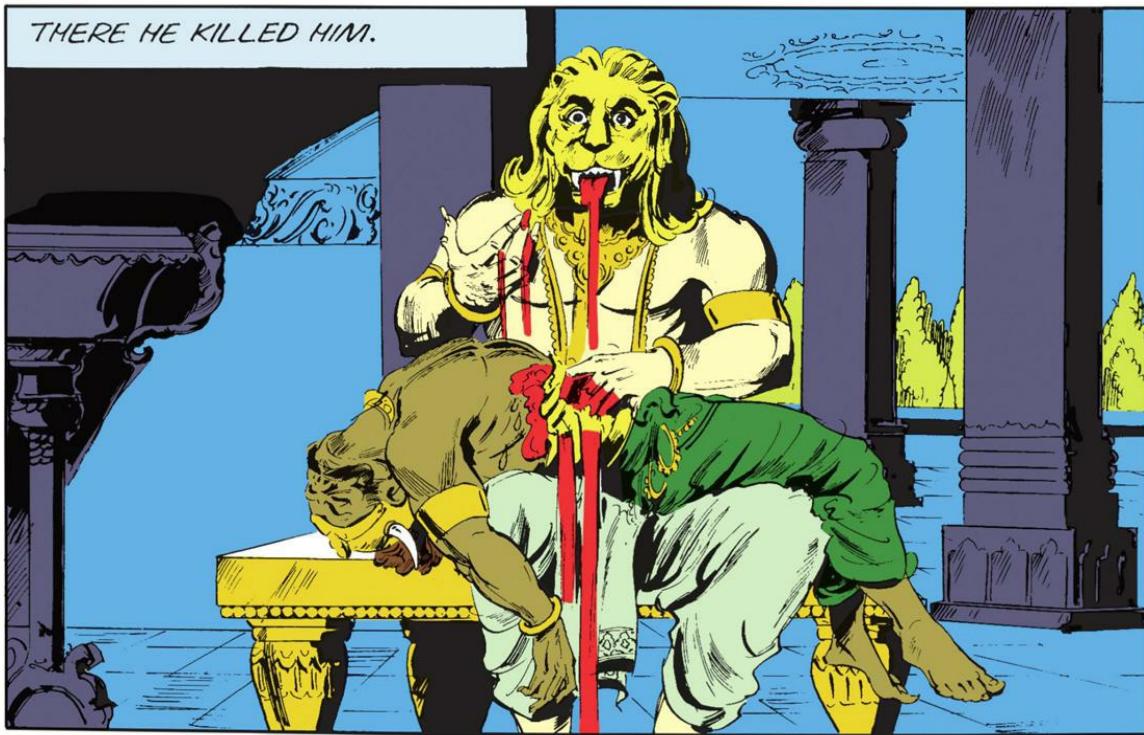


...CARRIED HIM TO THE THRESHOLD OF THE COURTROOM.

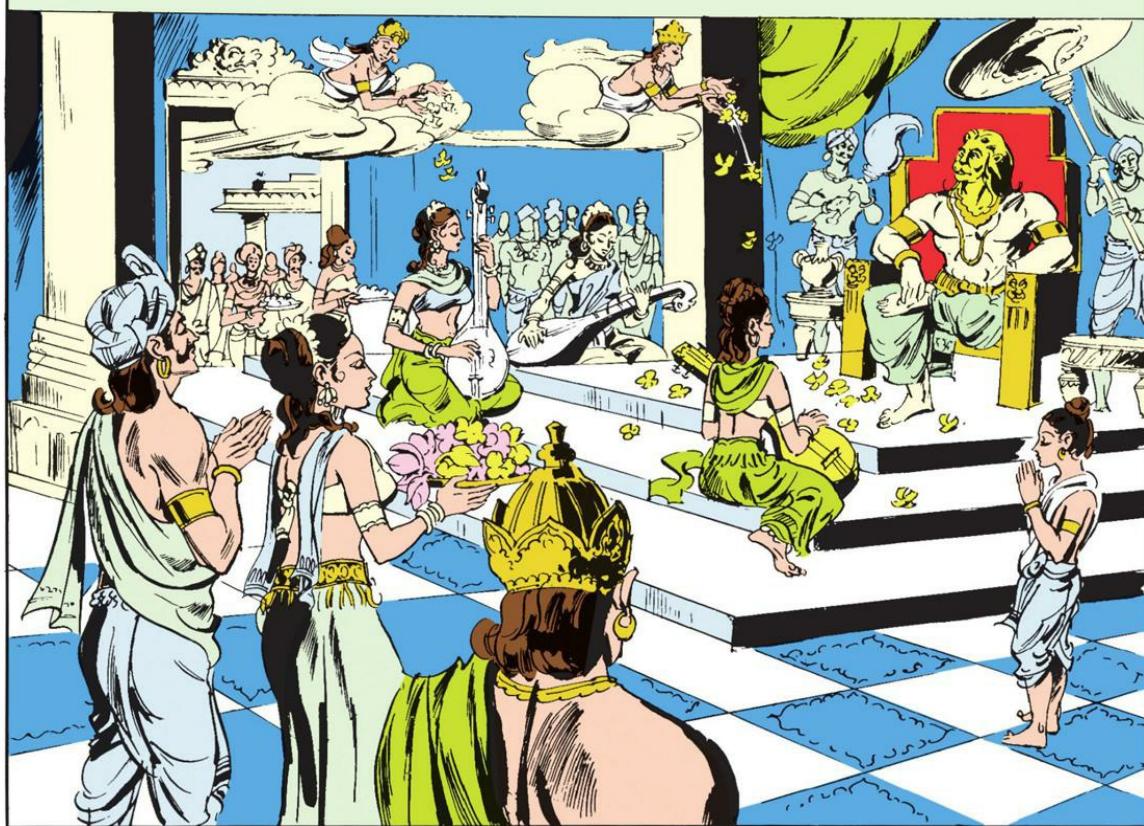
ALAS WE
ARE NEITHER
INDOORS NOR
OUTDOORS.



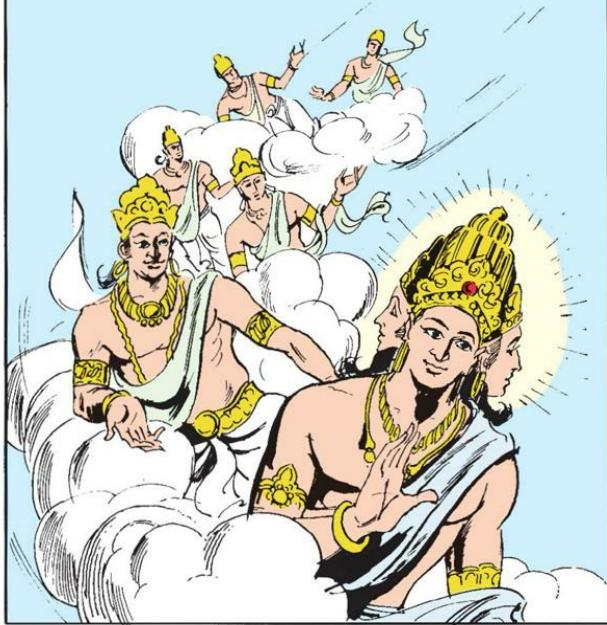
THERE HE KILLED HIM.



THEN NARA-SIMHA SEATED HIMSELF ON HIRANYAKASHIPU'S THRONE.



BRAHMA AND INDRA CAME TO PAY HOMAGE TO HIM.

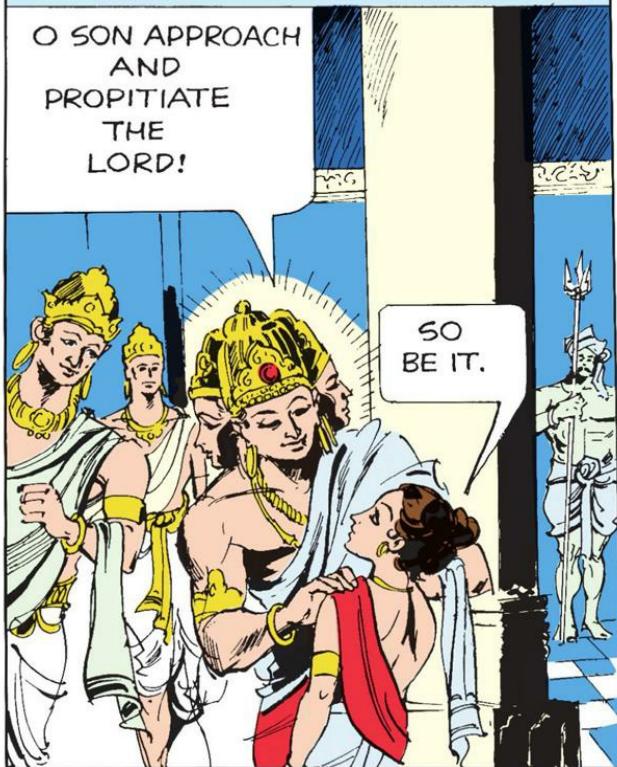


BUT WERE WARY OF APPROACHING VISHNU IN THIS TERRIFYING ASPECT.



THEN BRAHMA WENT TO PRAHLAD WHO WAS STANDING NEARBY.

O SON APPROACH AND PROPITIATE THE LORD!



NARA-SIMHA WAS TOUCHED.



BUT NARA-SIMHA INSISTED.

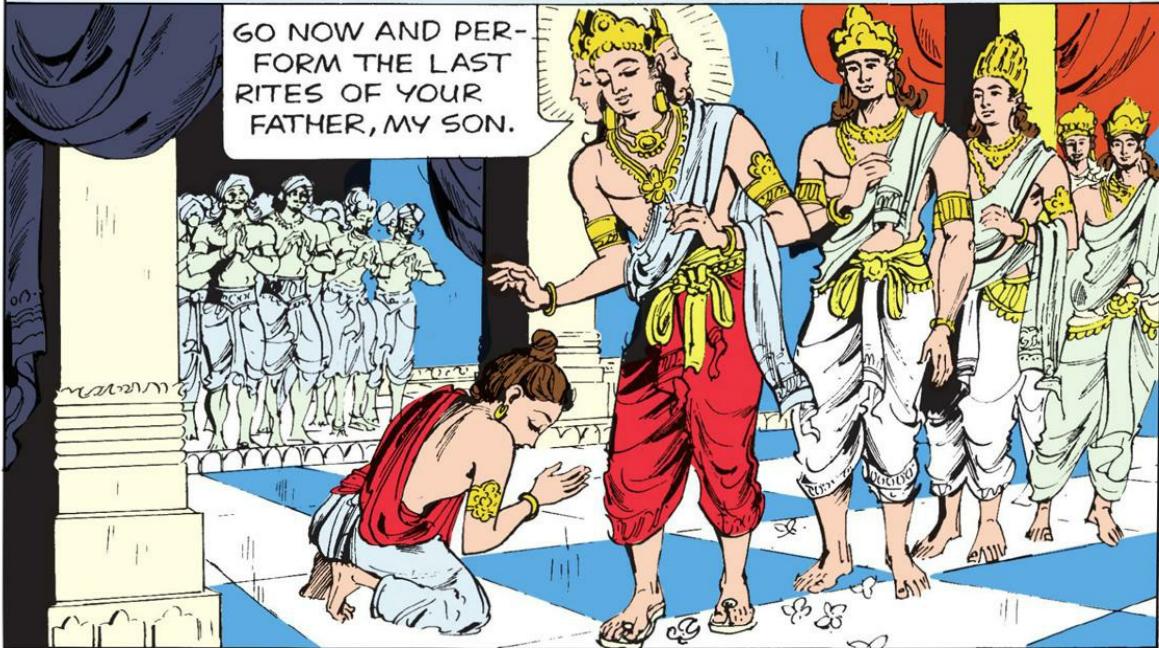


BEING YOUR FATHER HE IS ALREADY PURIFIED. REIGN IN HIS PLACE AND DO YOUR DUTIES.

SO BE IT.



NARA-SIMHA VANISHED. AND PRAHLAD BOWED TO BRAHMA AND TO THE OTHER CELESTIALS.



AFTER THE LAST RITES OF HIS FATHER WERE OVER, THE GODS WITH THE HELP OF THE ASURAS INSTALLED PRAHLAD ON THE THRONE AS LORD OF THE ASURAS. AND HE RULED WISELY AND WELL FOR MANY YEARS.



WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayyappan Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheesma Chandrahasa Dasharatha Dhruba And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephantta 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 Vritra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Karttikaya 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 Padmanavati 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Pandavs In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syamantaka Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vall Vishwamitra Yayati <p>VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Har Gobind Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaprakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. 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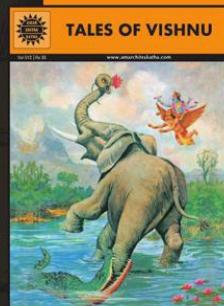
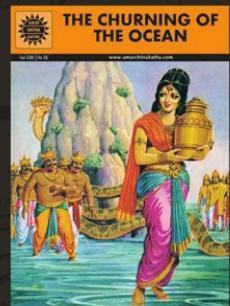
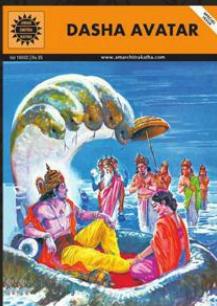
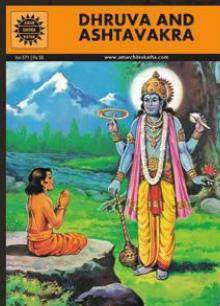
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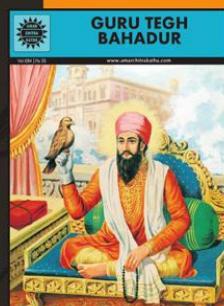
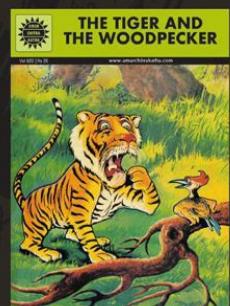
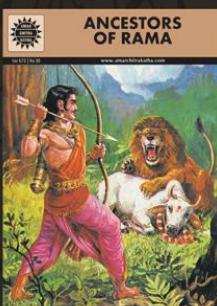
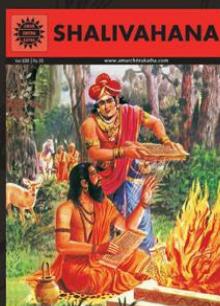
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