



# TALES FROM THE UPANISHADS

TALES OF PEACE AND WISDOM

Vol 649





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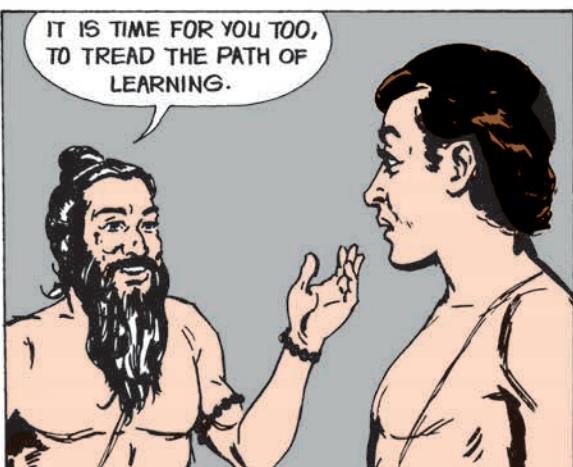
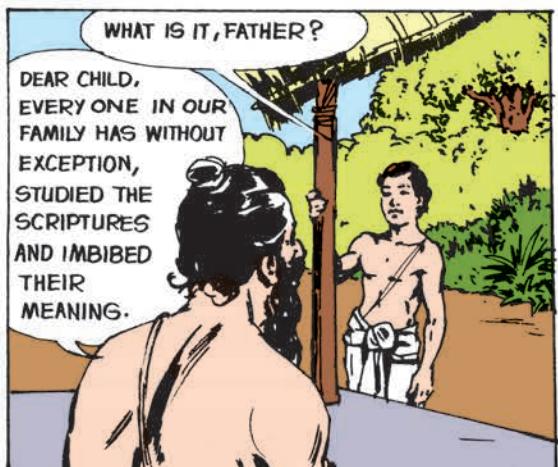
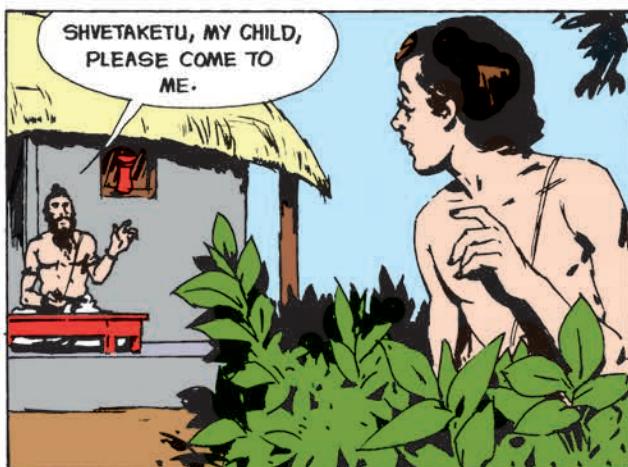
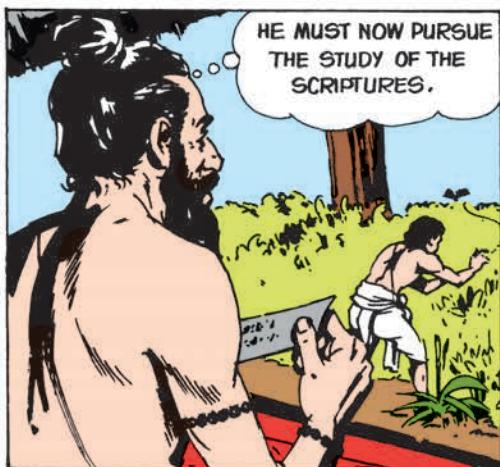
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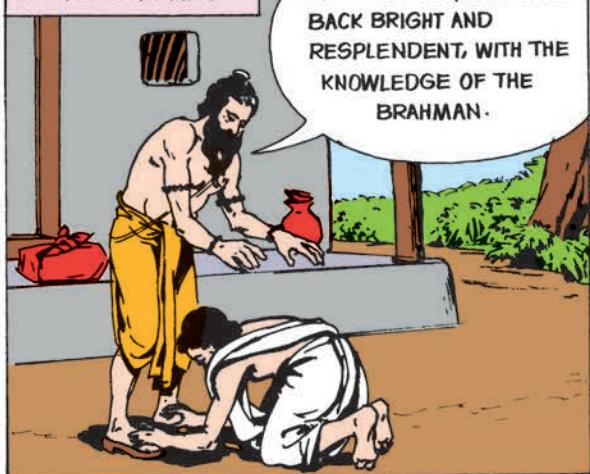
# SHVETAKETU\*

IN A HERMITAGE DEEP IN THE FOREST LIVED THE LEARNED SAGE, UDDALAKA ARUNI, WITH HIS SON, SHVETAKETU.

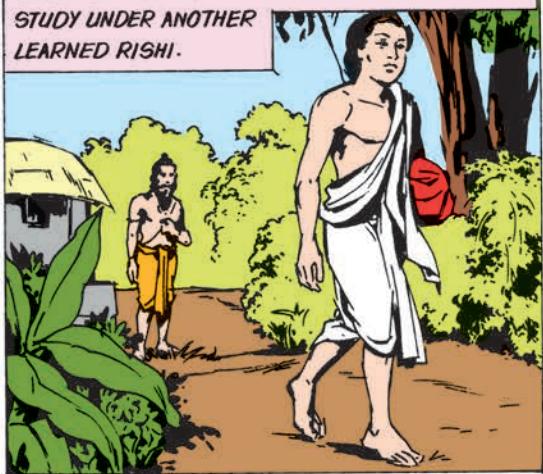


SOON AFTERWARDS—

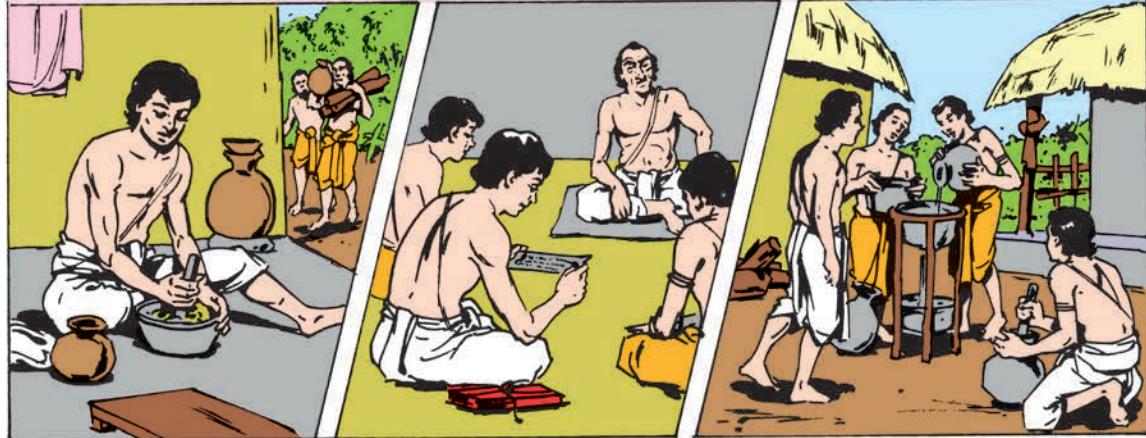
GO FORTH SON, AND COME BACK BRIGHT AND RESPLENDENT, WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE BRAHMAN.



SHVETAKETU LEFT HIS FATHER'S HERMITAGE TO STUDY UNDER ANOTHER LEARNED RISHI.

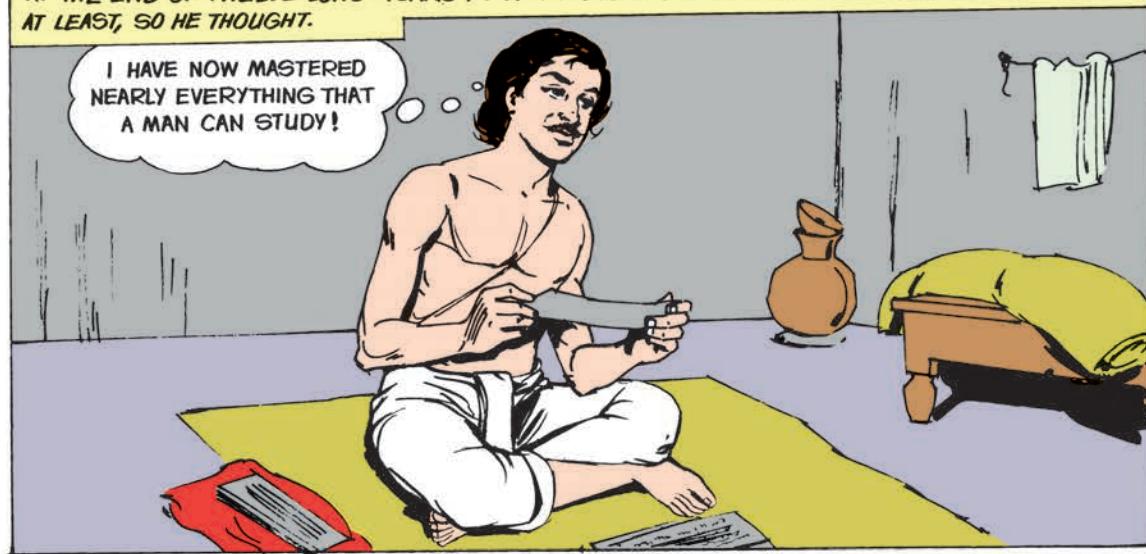


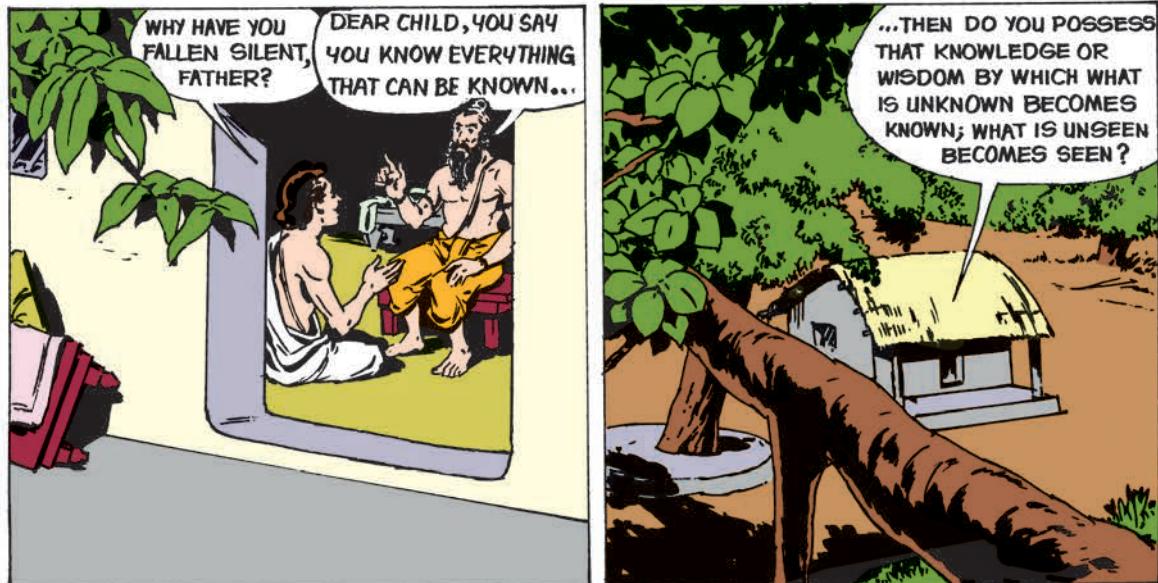
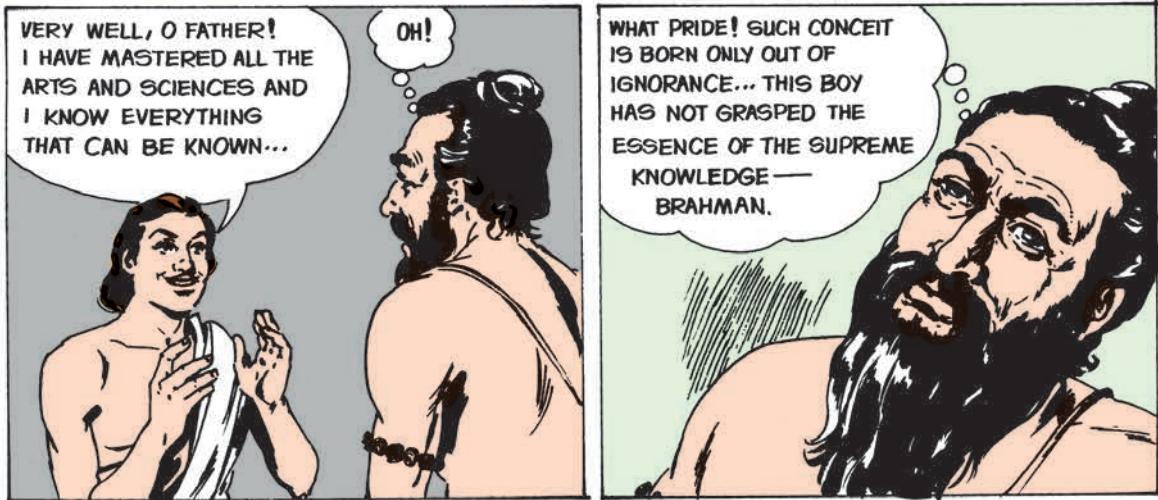
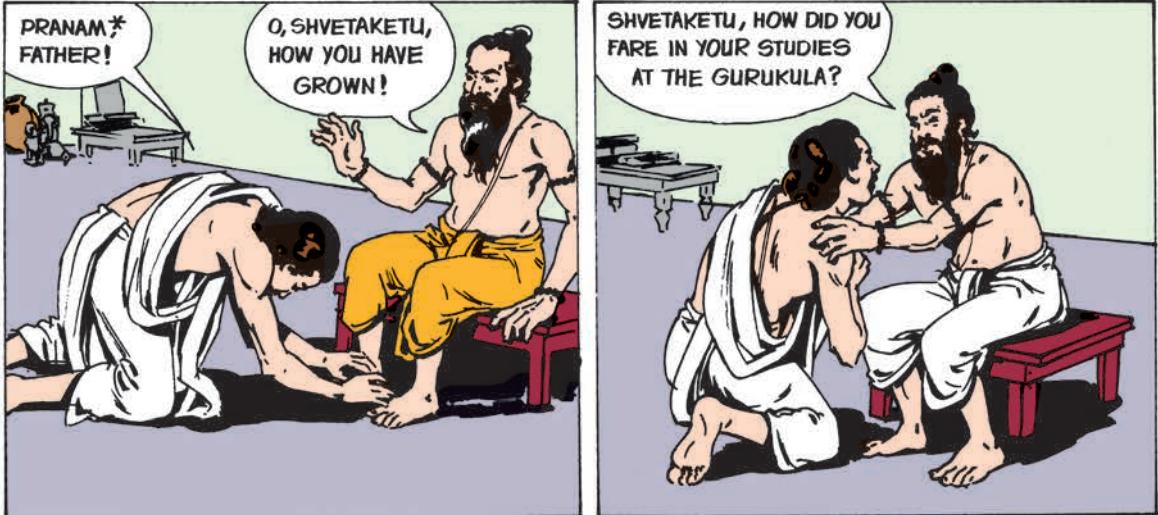
UNDER HIS ABLE GURU, SHVETAKETU READ THE SCRIPTURES AND LEARNT THE SCIENCES; STUDIED PHILOSOPHY AND MASTERED THE ARTS.

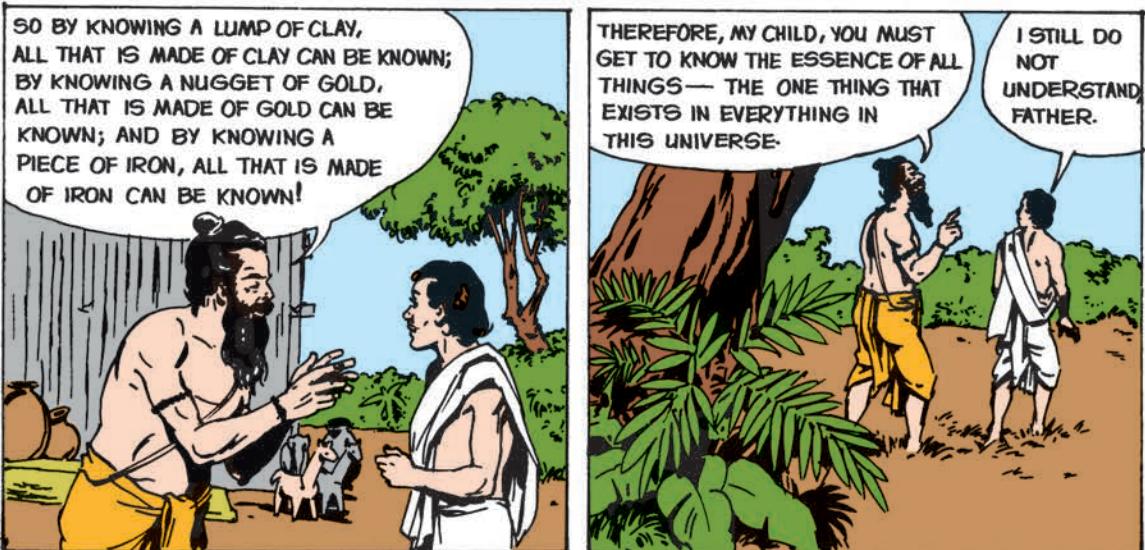
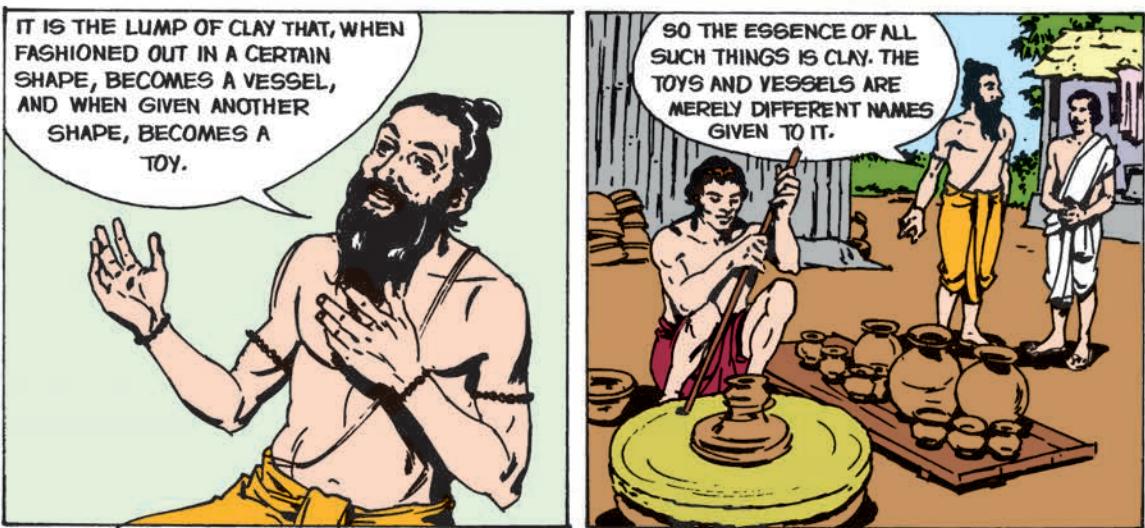
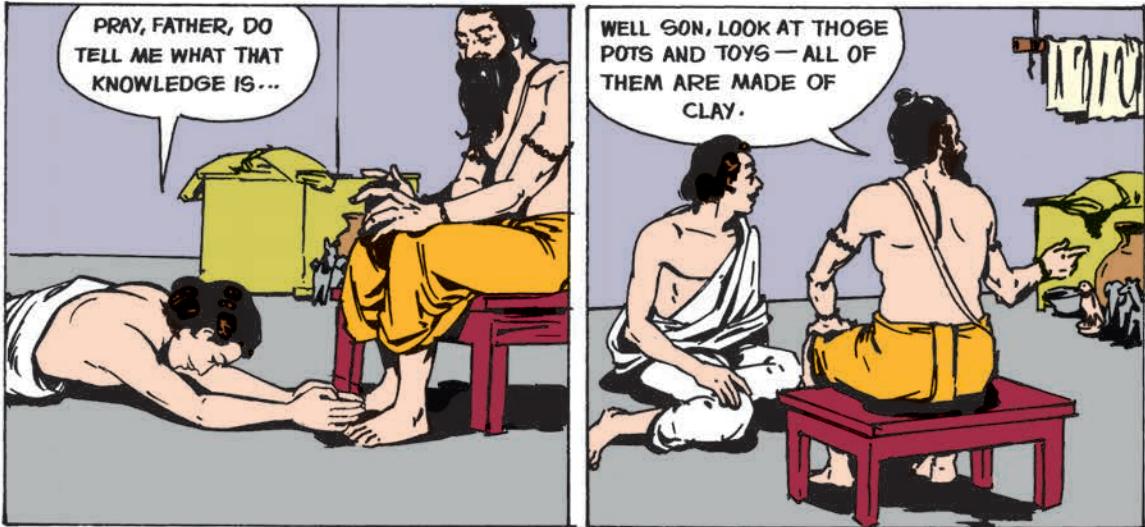


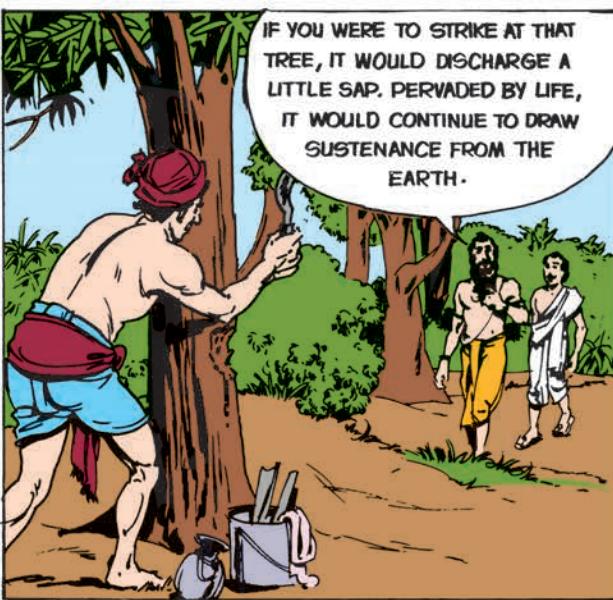
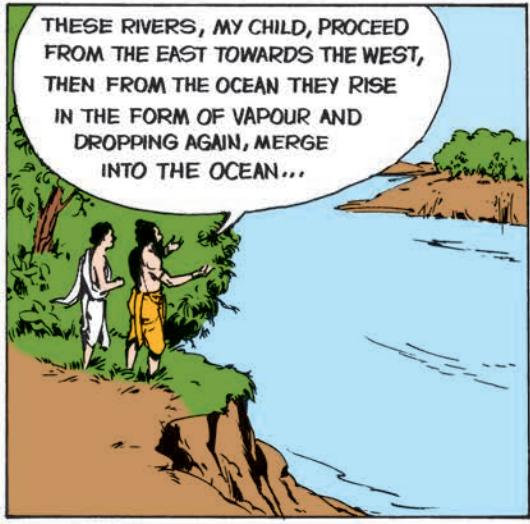
AT THE END OF TWELVE LONG YEARS, SHVETAKETU HAD LEARNT ALL THAT THERE WAS TO LEARN—AT LEAST, SO HE THOUGHT.

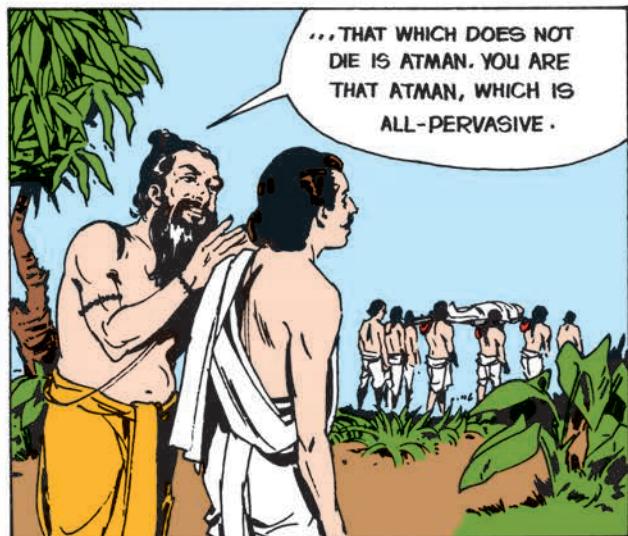
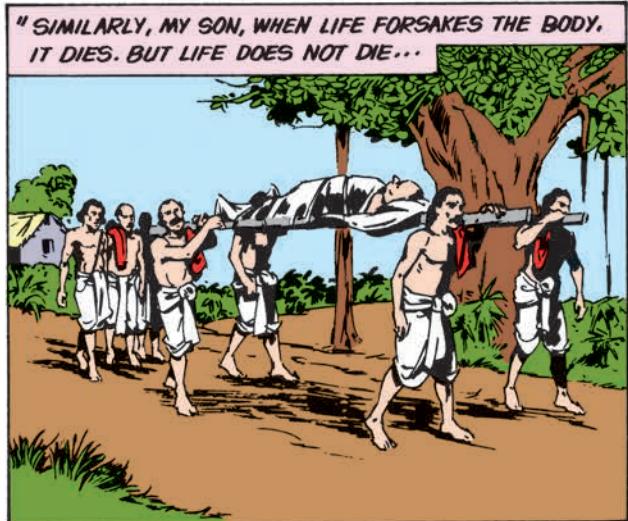
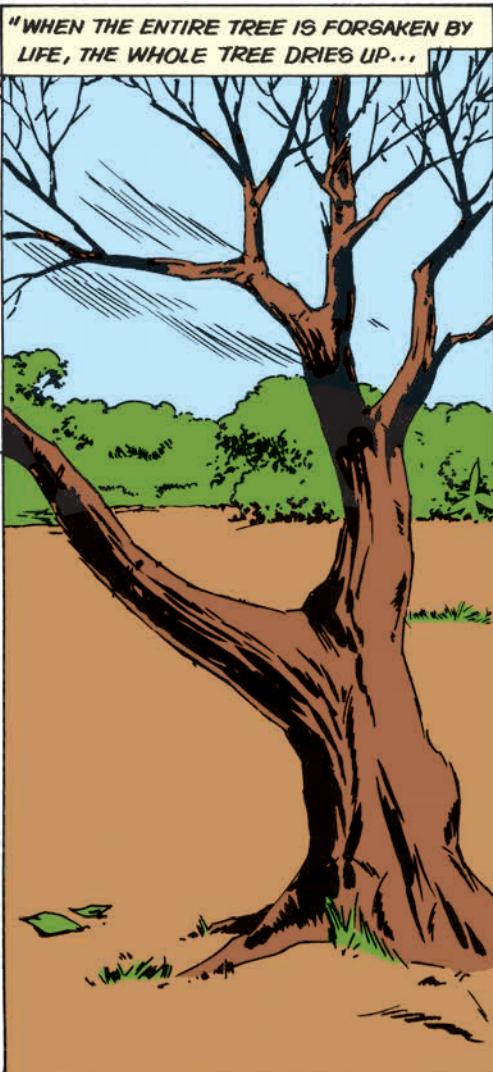
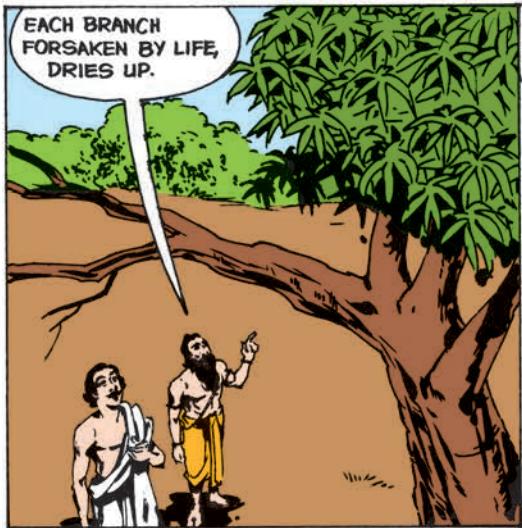
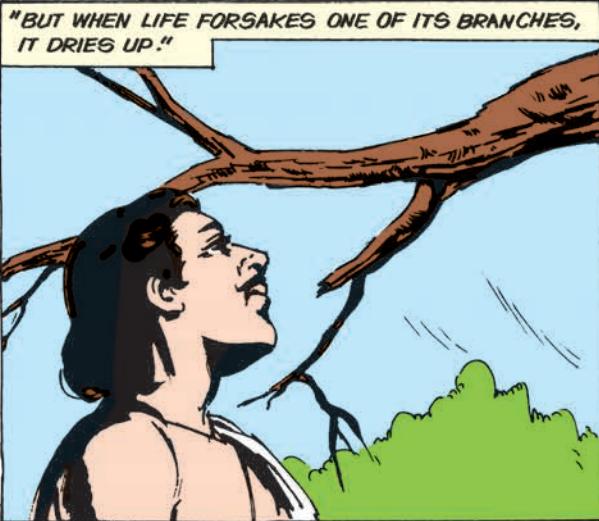
I HAVE NOW MASTERED NEARLY EVERYTHING THAT A MAN CAN STUDY!

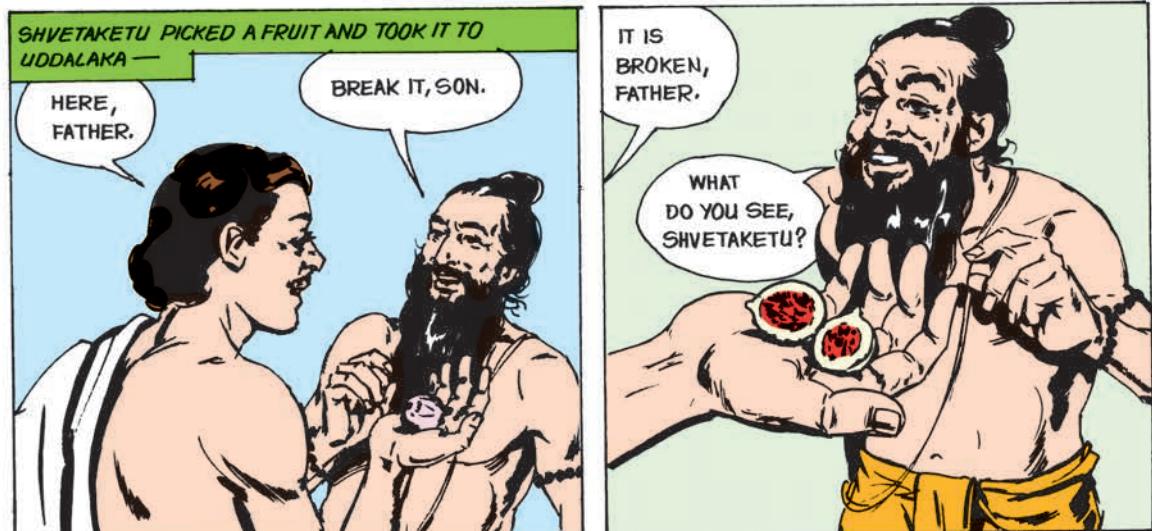
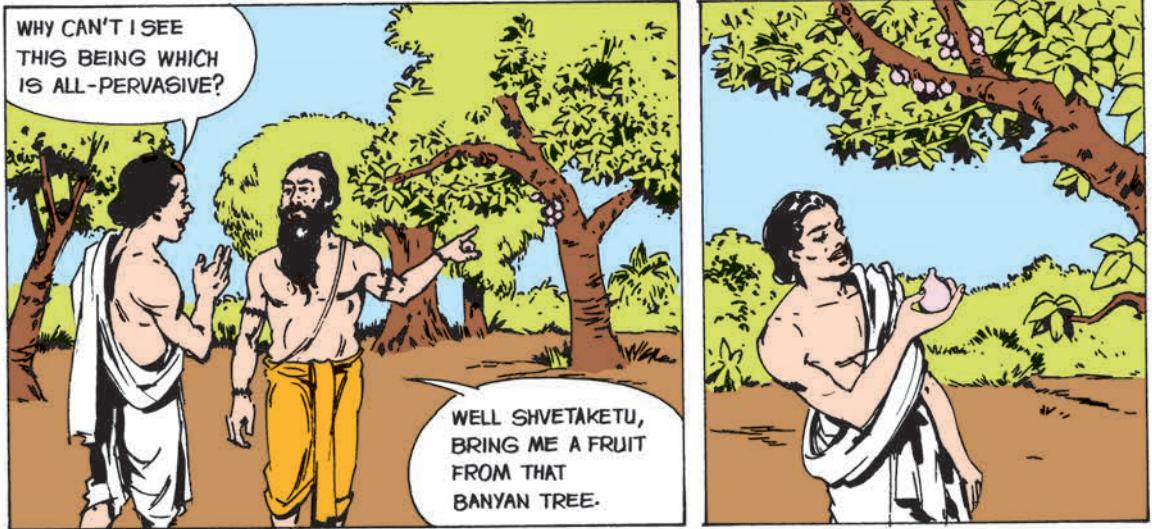


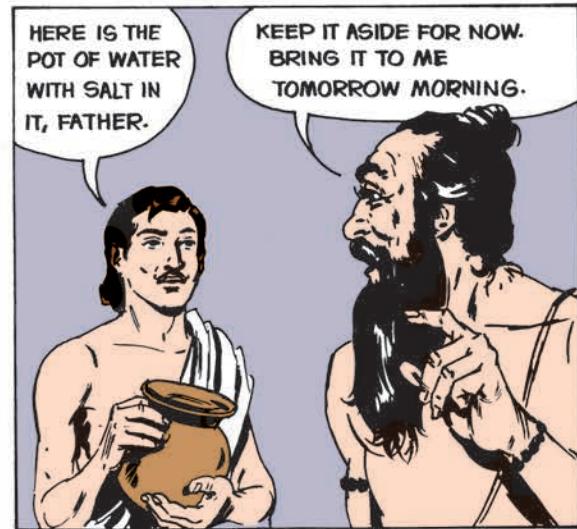
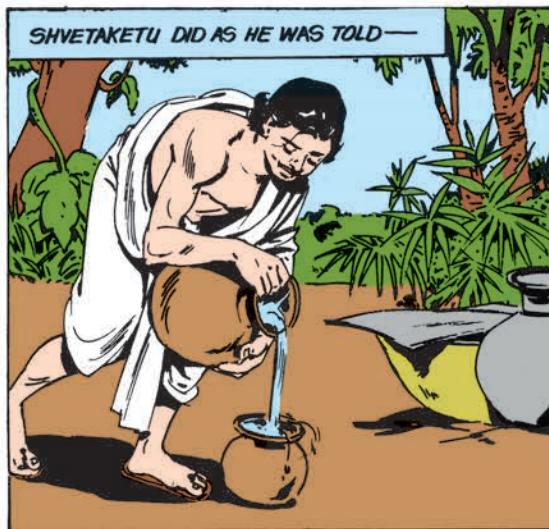
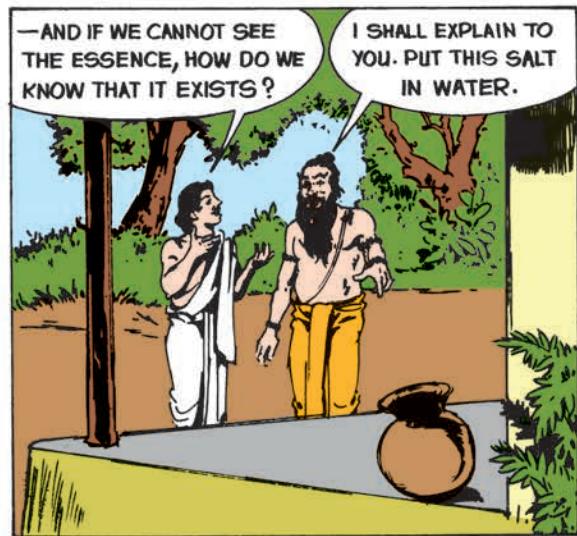
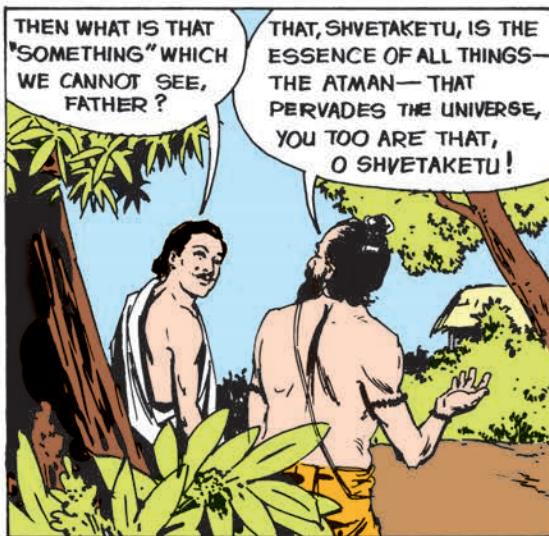
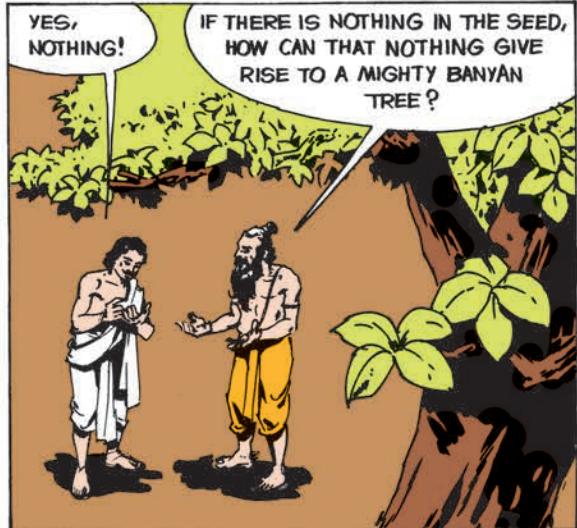




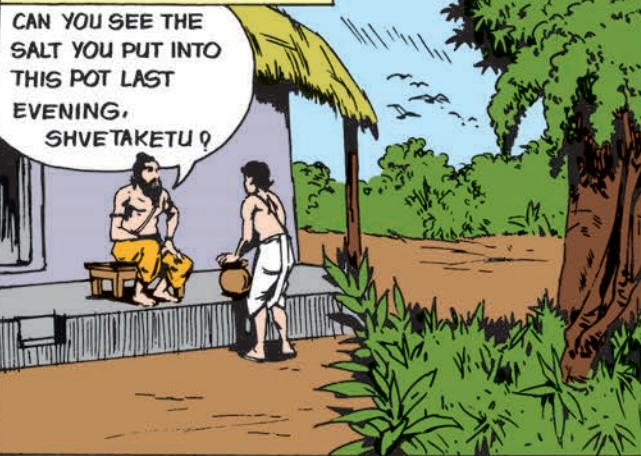




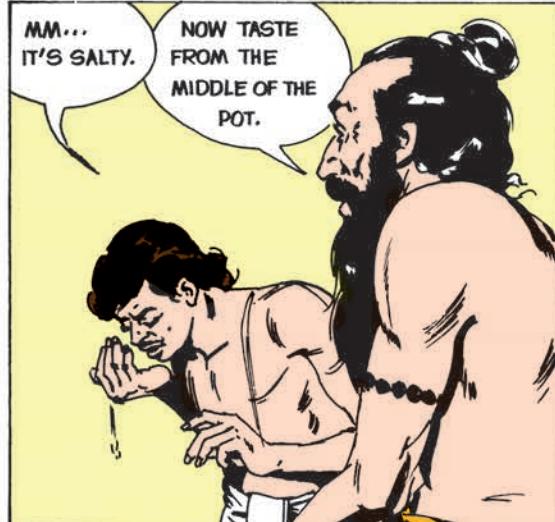
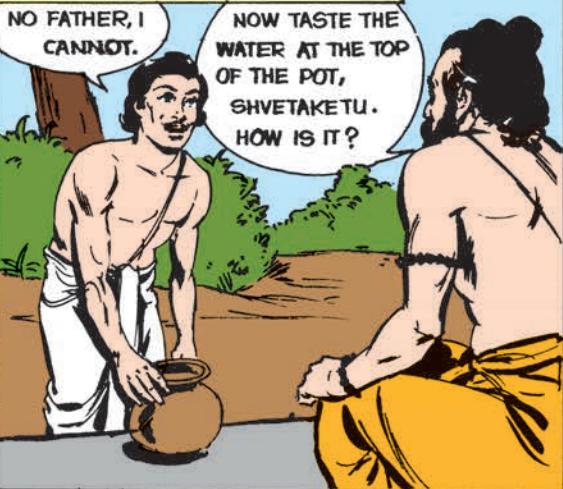




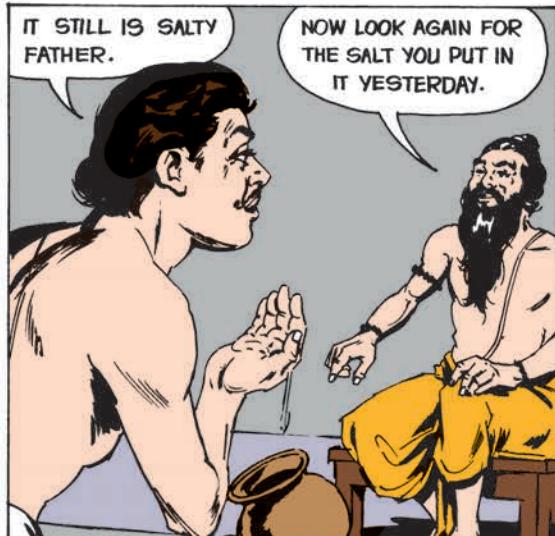
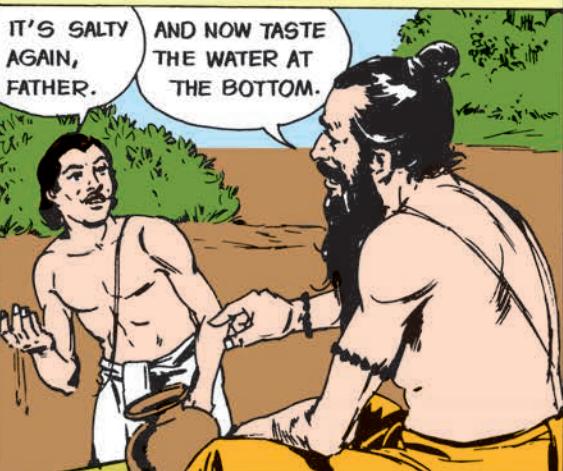
**EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, SHVETAKETU WENT TO HIS FATHER WITH THE POT—**

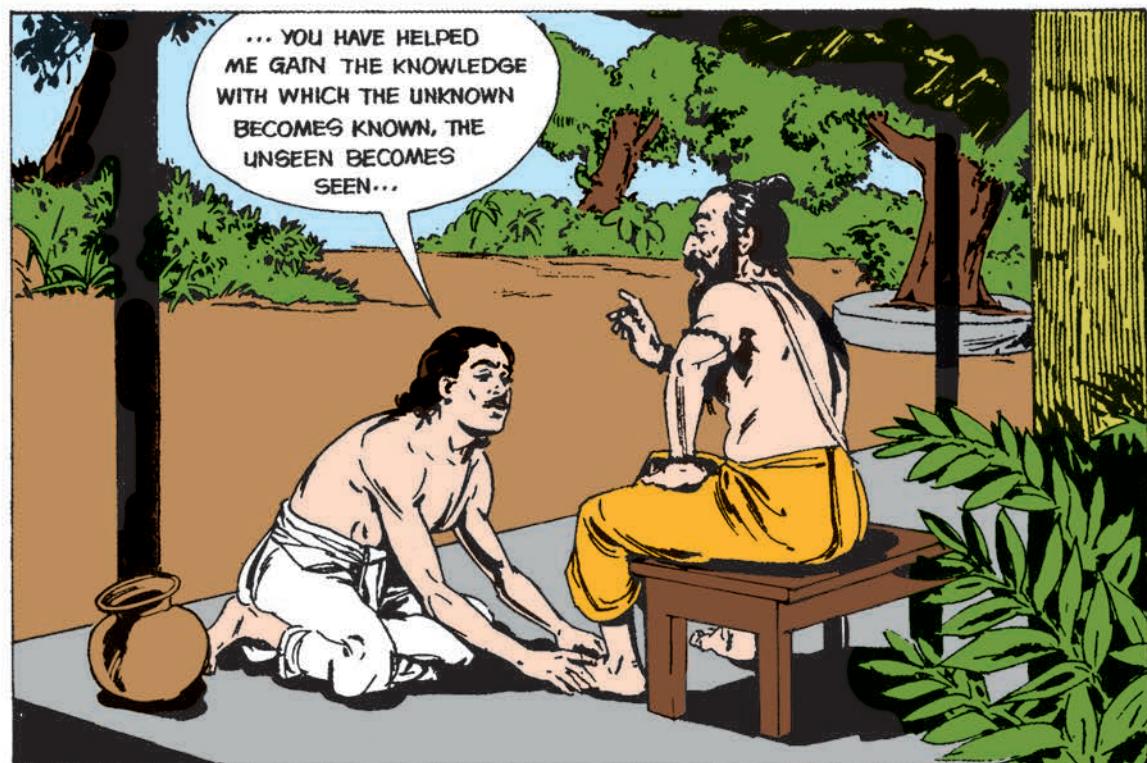
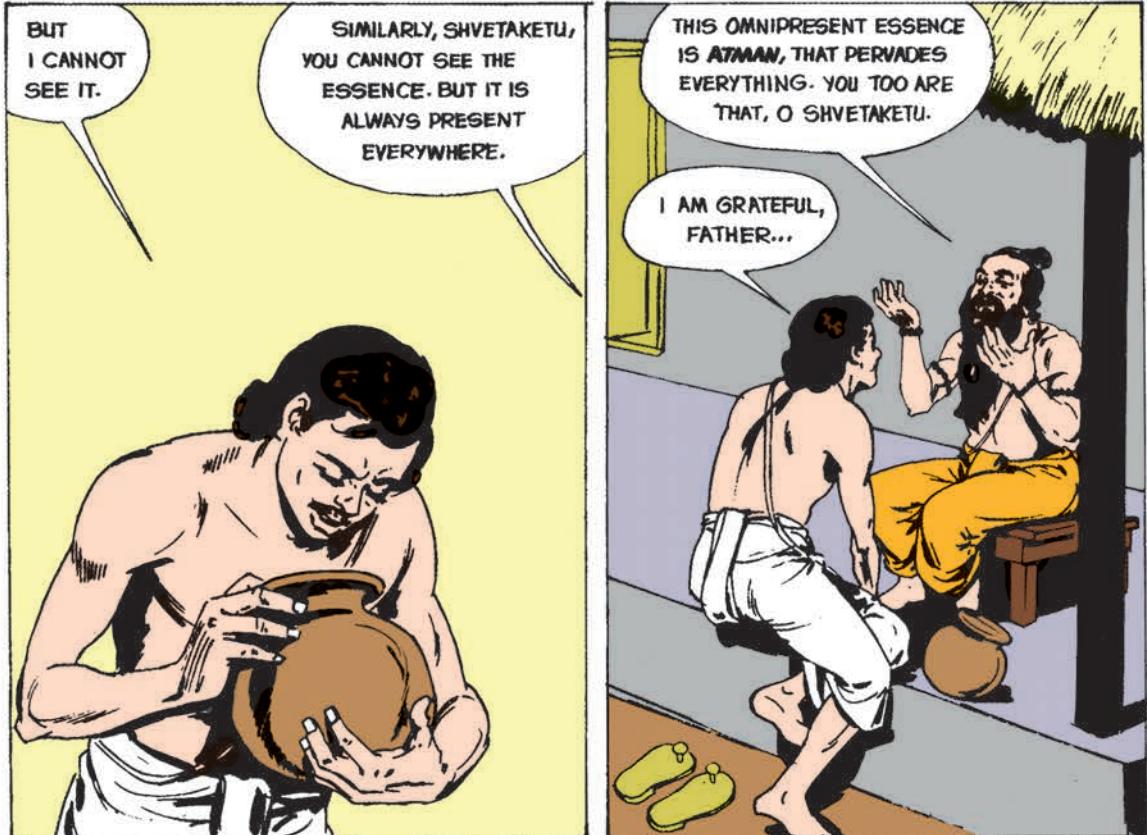


**THE SALT HAD DISSOLVED.**



**SHVETAKETU DIPPED A FINGER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE POT AND TASTED THE WATER.**



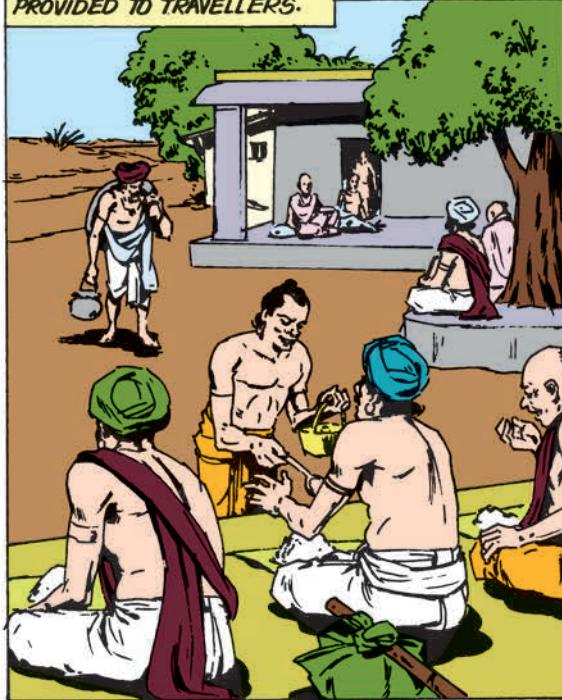


# RAIKVA THE CARTMAN\*

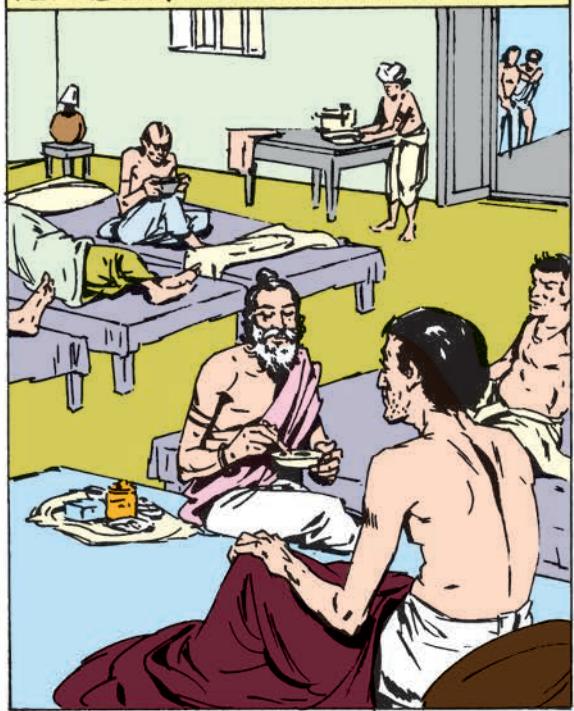


JANASHRUTI, THE KING OF MAHARASHA WAS A BENEVOLENT AND GENEROUS RULER.

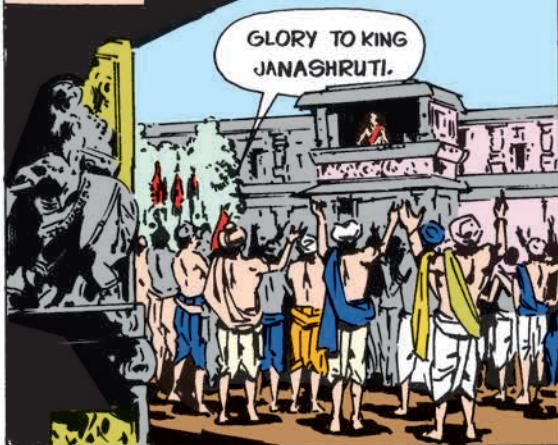
HE BUILT REST HOUSES ALONG THE ROADS OF HIS KINGDOM, WHERE FREE FOOD AND LODGING WERE PROVIDED TO TRAVELLERS.



HE ALSO BUILT HOSPITALS AND HOMES TO CARE FOR THE SICK, THE NEEDY AND THE AGEING.

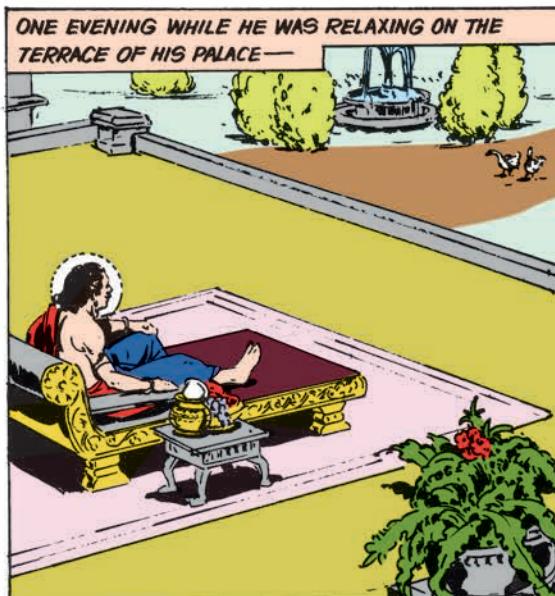


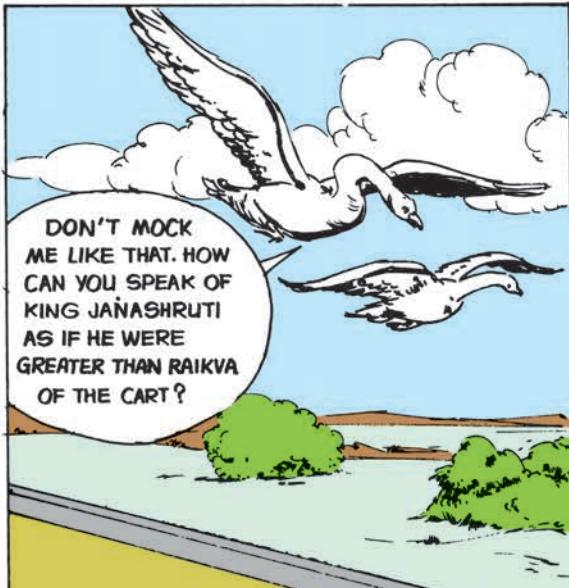
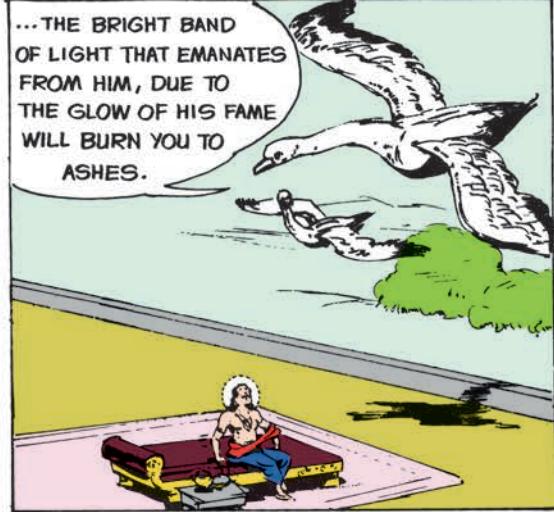
...AND HE TAXED HIS SUBJECTS FAIRLY. QUITE NATURALLY JANASHRUTI WAS PLEASED WITH HIMSELF FOR HAVING DONE SO MUCH FOR HIS KINGDOM.



HIS FAME SPREAD FAR BEYOND THE BORDERS OF MAHARASHA. UNFORTUNATELY IT DID NOT TAKE LONG TO TURN HIM INTO A VAIN MAN.

AH ! IT IS I WHO AM PROVIDING FOOD TO ALL THESE PEOPLE. HOW MUCH MERIT I HAVE EARNED. THE DEVAS TOO MUST BE PLEASED WITH ME...





JANASHRUTI FELT RESTLESS THAT NIGHT.



EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, THE ELABORATE RITUAL TO WAKE UP THE ROYAL PERSONAGE BEGAN —



WAKE UP, O SAVIOUR OF THE MASSES!

ARISE, O PROVIDER OF THE MILLIONS!!

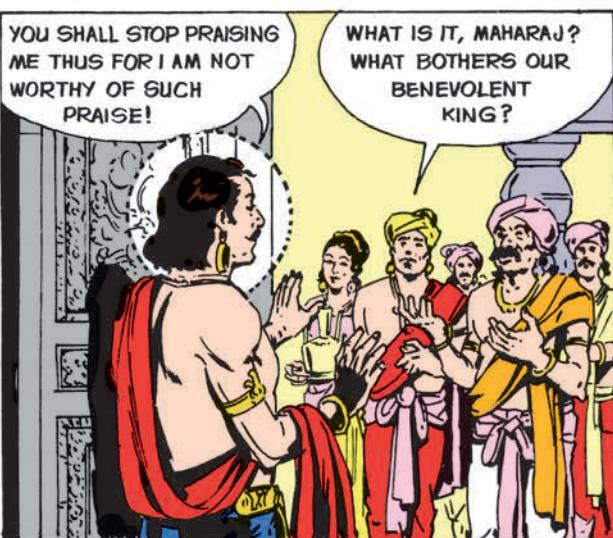
ARISE O CELESTIAL AMONG MEN!



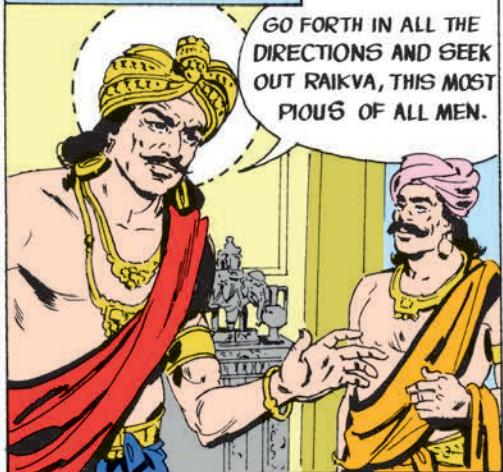
STOP !  
STOP ALL THIS FALSE PRAISE !

YOU SHALL STOP PRAISING ME THUS FOR I AM NOT WORTHY OF SUCH PRAISE !

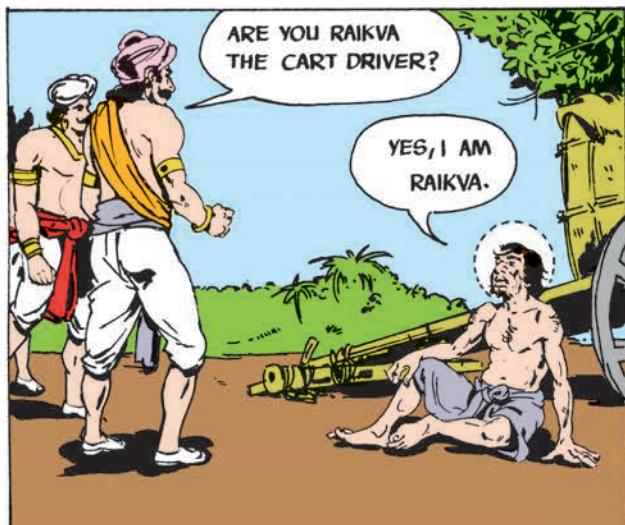
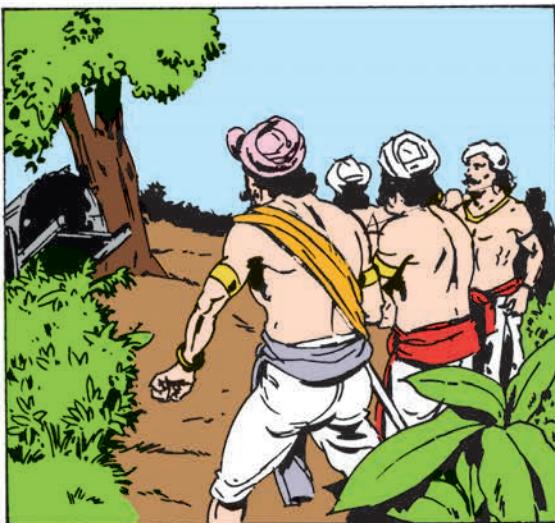
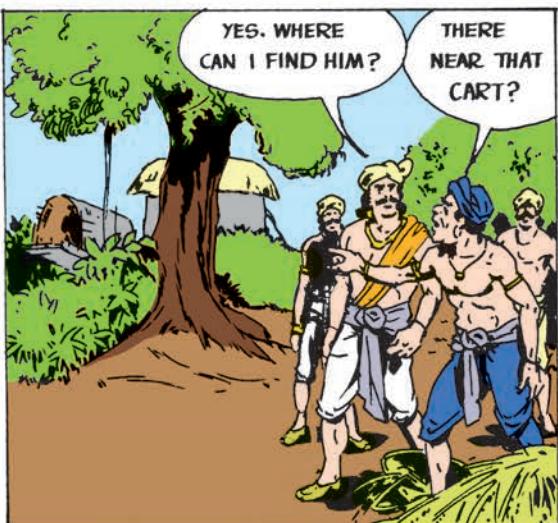
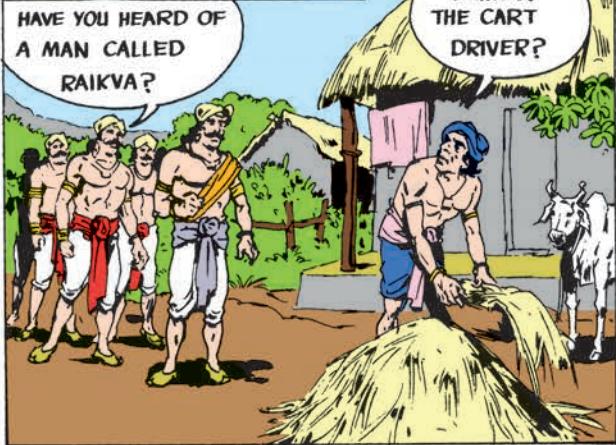
WHAT IS IT, MAHARAJ ?  
WHAT BOthers OUR BENEVOLENT KING ?

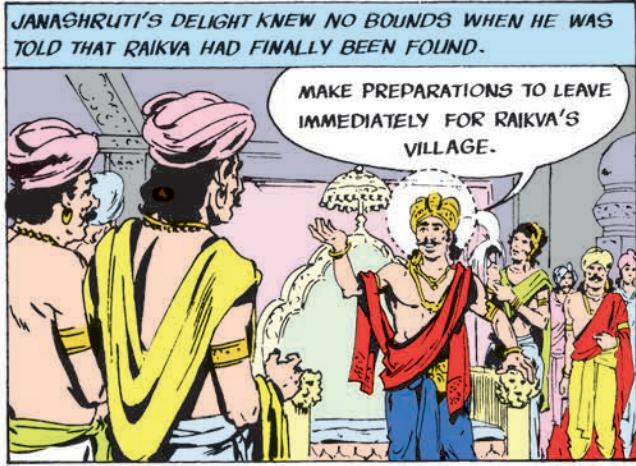
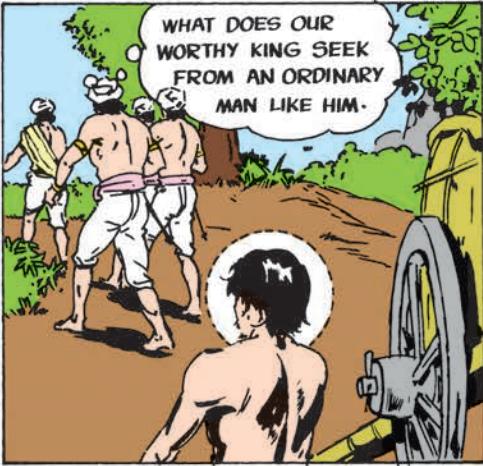


JANASHRUTI TOLD THE BARD ALL ABOUT THE SWANS' CONVERSATION.



A MASSIVE SEARCH WAS SOON LAUNCHED TO LOCATE RAIKVA. THE KING'S MEN COMBED THE KINGDOM FOR MANY DAYS. AT LAST, ONE DAY—

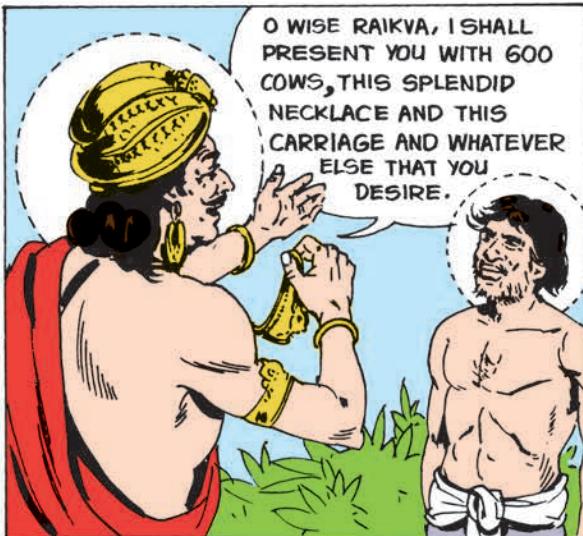
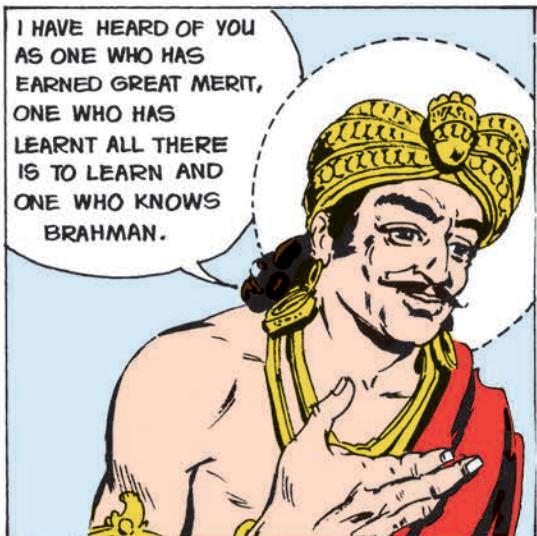


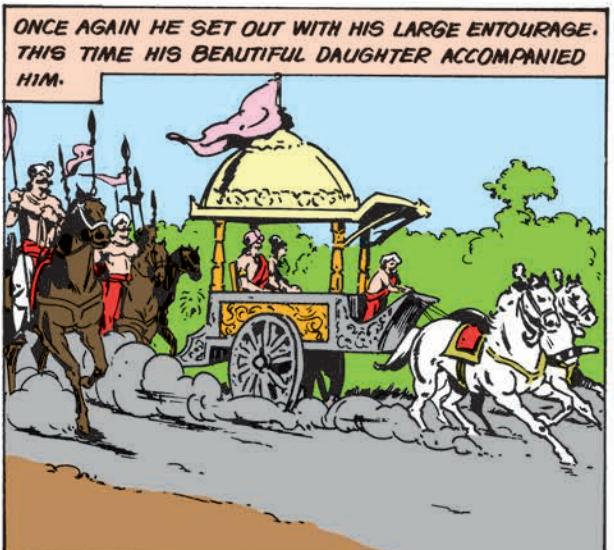
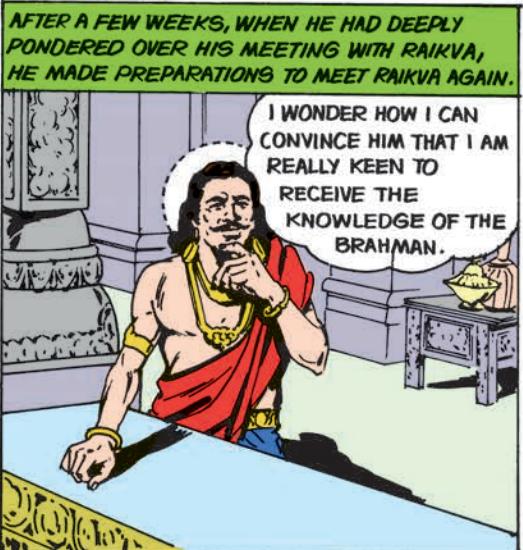
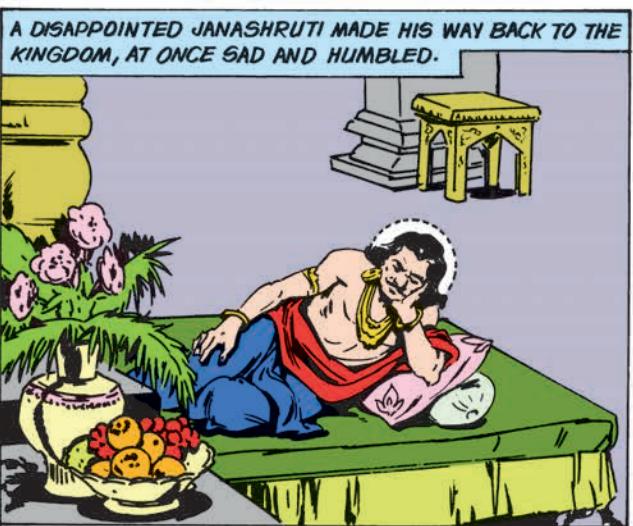
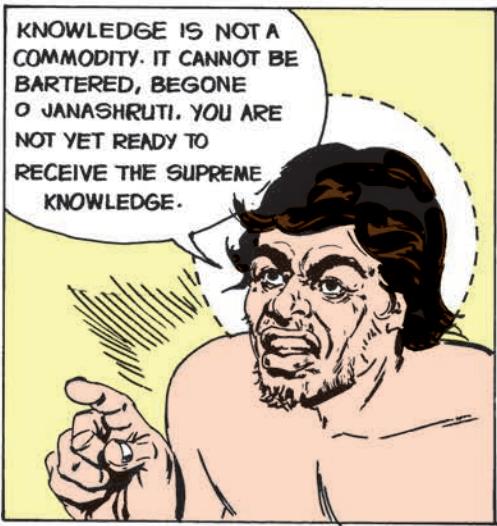
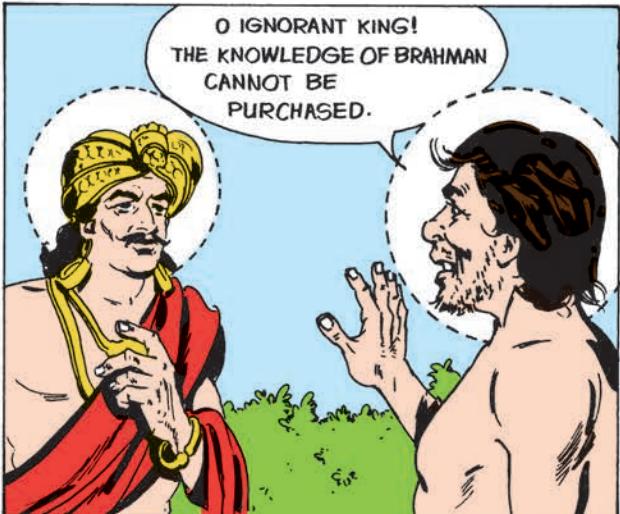
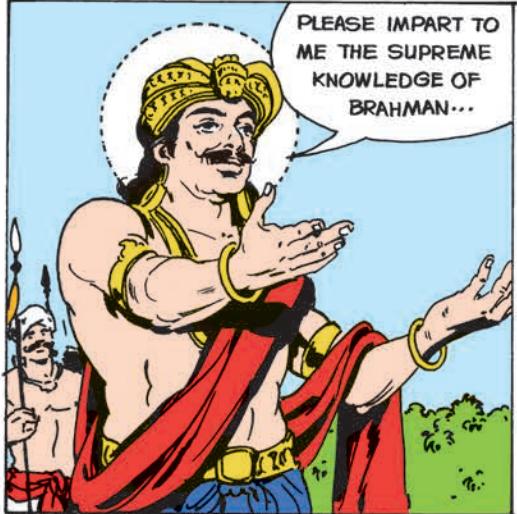


NEXT MORNING, JANASHRUTI STARTED FOR RAIKVA'S VILLAGE WITH AN ENTOURAGE OF HIS MEN. HE TOOK WITH HIM AN IMPRESSIVE ARRAY OF 600 COWS, A GOLD NECKLACE AND A CARRIAGE AS A GIFT TO RAIKVA.



ARRIVING AT THE VILLAGE, JANASHRUTI INTRODUCED HIMSELF.—

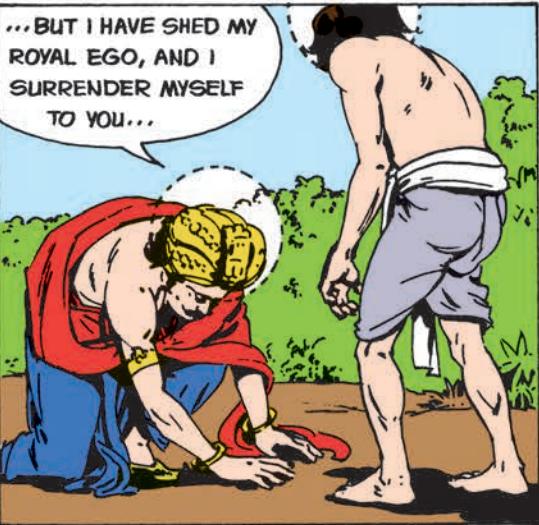




ON REACHING THE VILLAGE, HE PROSTRATED BEFORE THE WISE RUSTIC.

O WISE RAIKVA, LAST TIME I CAME TO YOU AS A KING...

...BUT I HAVE SHED MY ROYAL EGO, AND I SURRENDER MYSELF TO YOU...

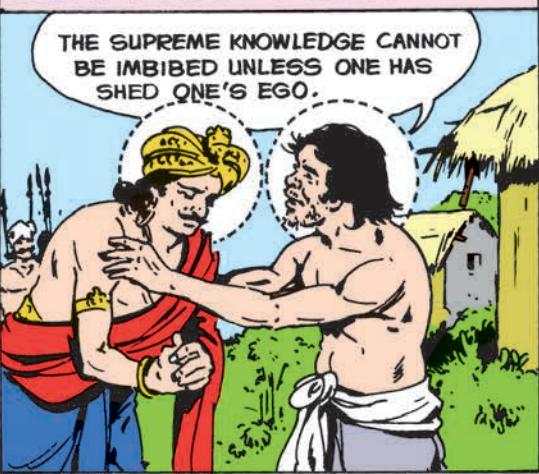


THIS TIME, RAIKVA SAW THAT THE KING HAD LOST ALL HIS VANITY AND THE GENUINE DESIRE FOR KNOWLEDGE WAS EVIDENT FROM HIS EYES.

I BLESS YOU, O VIRTUOUS JANASHRUTI. ALL THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IS MINE SHALL NOW BE YOURS.

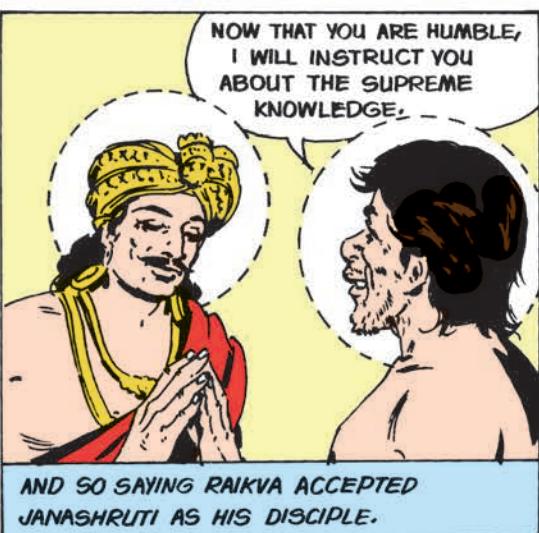
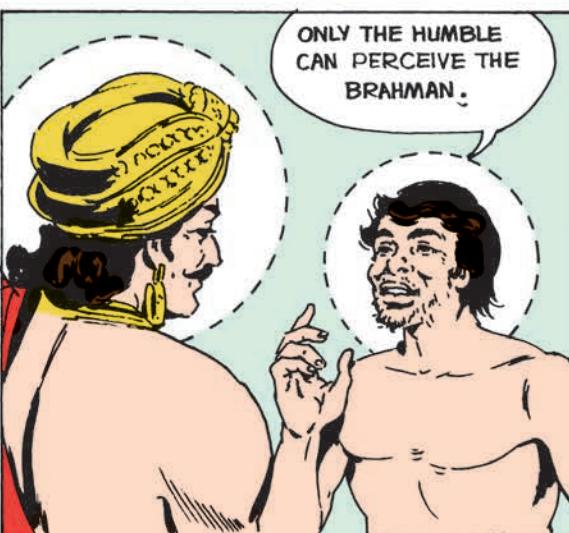
AND THEN RAIKVA, DRAWING JANASHRUTI CLOSE TO HIM, SPOKE AT LENGTH —

THE SUPREME KNOWLEDGE CANNOT BE IMBIBED UNLESS ONE HAS SHED ONE'S EGO.



ONLY THE HUMBLE CAN PERCEIVE THE BRAHMAN.

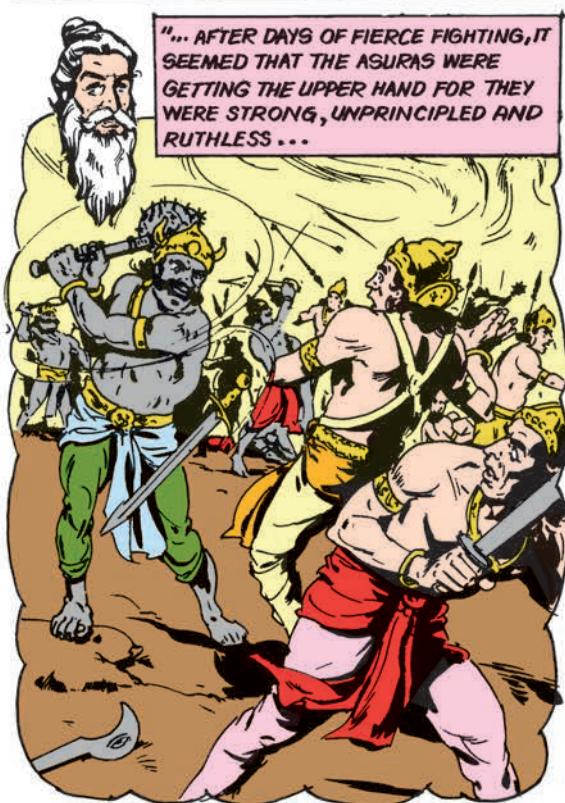
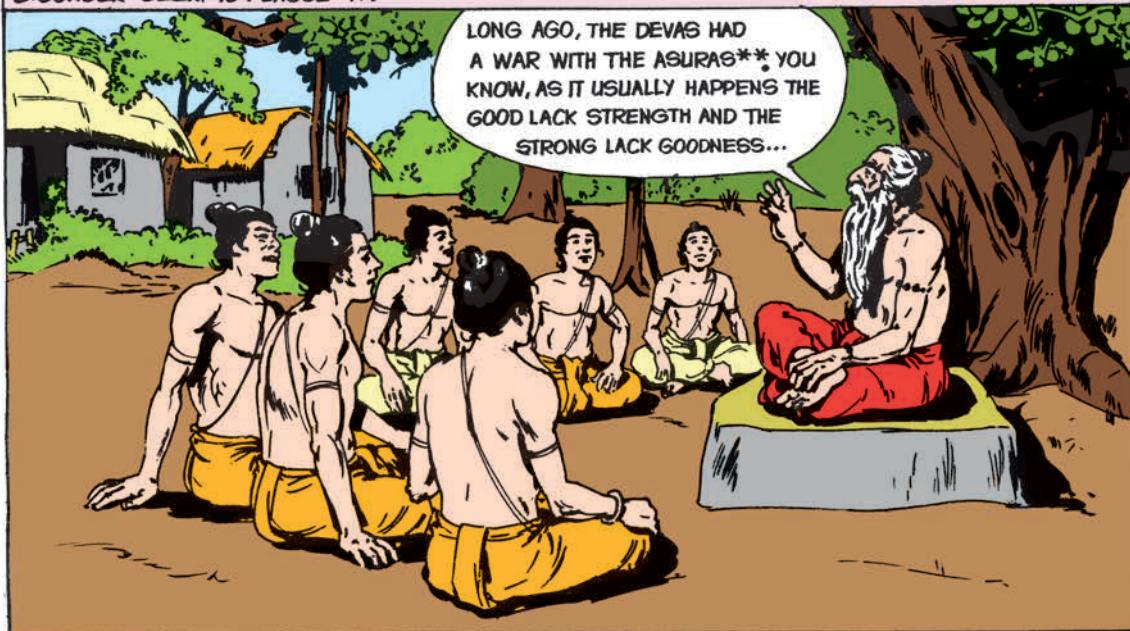
NOW THAT YOU ARE HUMBLE, I WILL INSTRUCT YOU ABOUT THE SUPREME KNOWLEDGE.



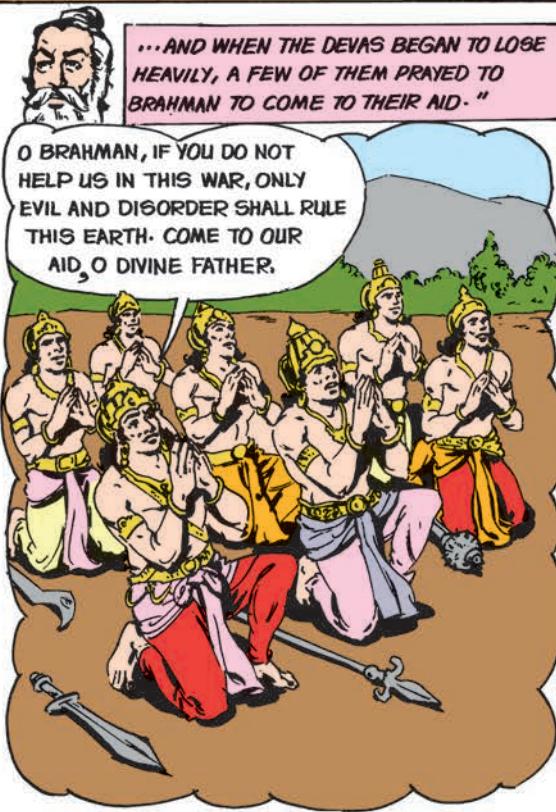
AND SO SAYING RAIKVA ACCEPTED JANASHRUTI AS HIS DISCIPLE.

# WHEN THE DEVAS WERE HUMBLED\*

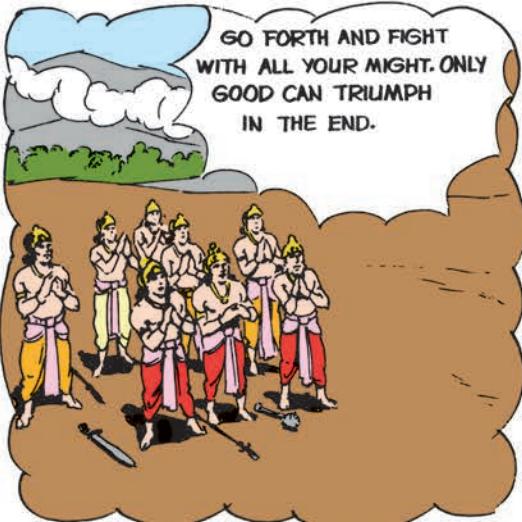
THIS STORY WAS TOLD BY AN ANCIENT RISHI TO HIS DISCIPLES TO ILLUSTRATE HOW BRAHMAN, THE SELF-EXISTING, ALL-PERVADING POWER, RESTORES ORDER IN THE WORLD WHENEVER EVIL AND DISORDER SEEM TO PLAGUE IT.



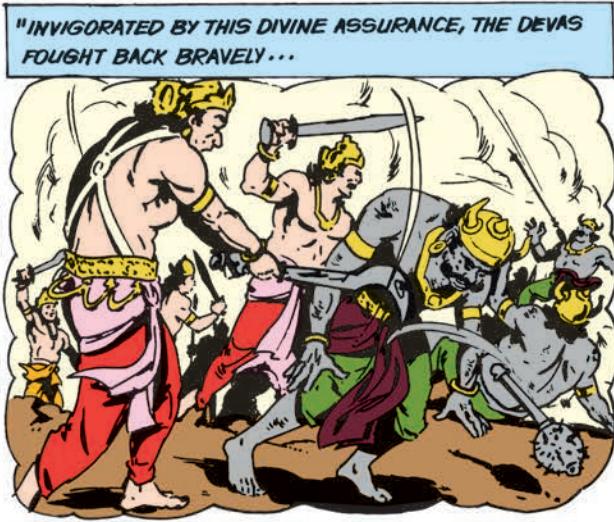
"... AFTER DAYS OF FIERCE FIGHTING, IT  
SEEMED THAT THE ASURAS WERE  
GETTING THE UPPER HAND FOR THEY  
WERE STRONG, UNPRINCIPLED AND  
RUTHLESS ..."



O BRAHMAN, IF YOU DO NOT  
HELP US IN THIS WAR, ONLY  
EVIL AND DISORDER SHALL RULE  
THIS EARTH. COME TO OUR  
AID, O DIVINE FATHER.



GO FORTH AND FIGHT  
WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT. ONLY  
GOOD CAN TRIUMPH  
IN THE END.



"INVIGORATED BY THIS DIVINE ASSURANCE, THE DEVAS  
FOUGHT BACK BRAVELY...

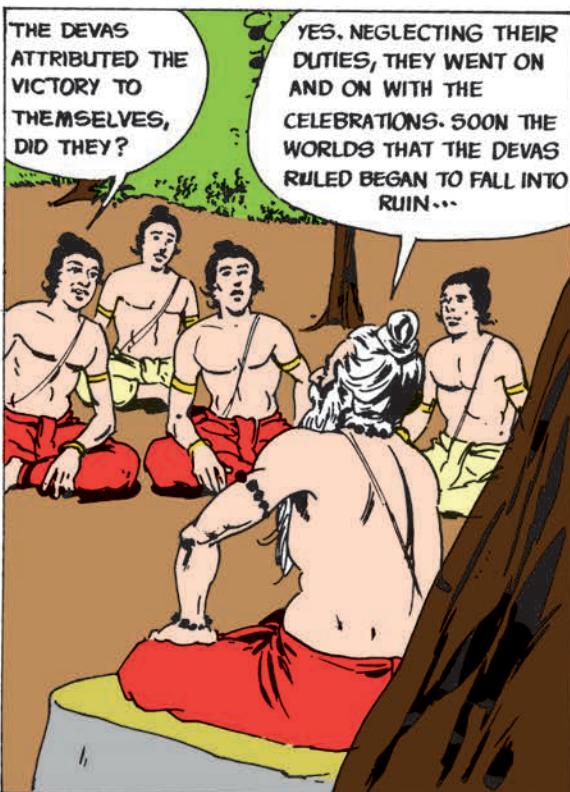
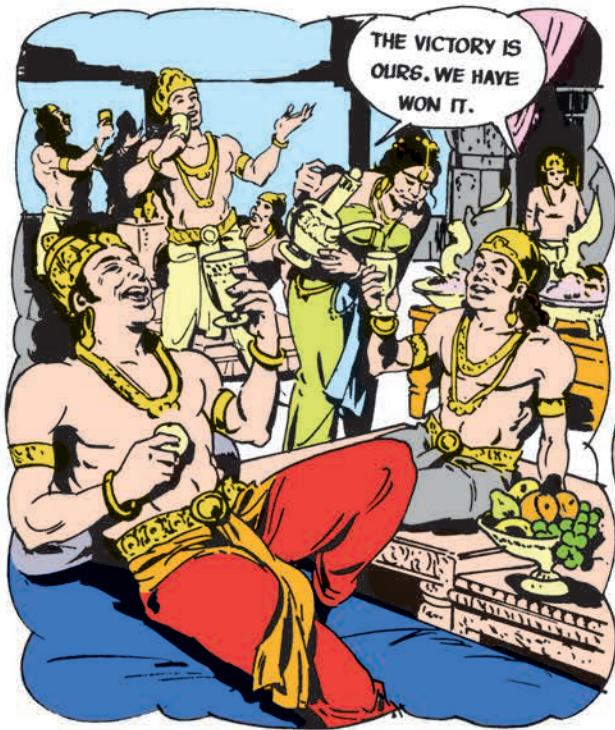


"...AND WITH DIVINE HELP, IT DID NOT TAKE THEM LONG TO VANQUISH THE ASURAS.

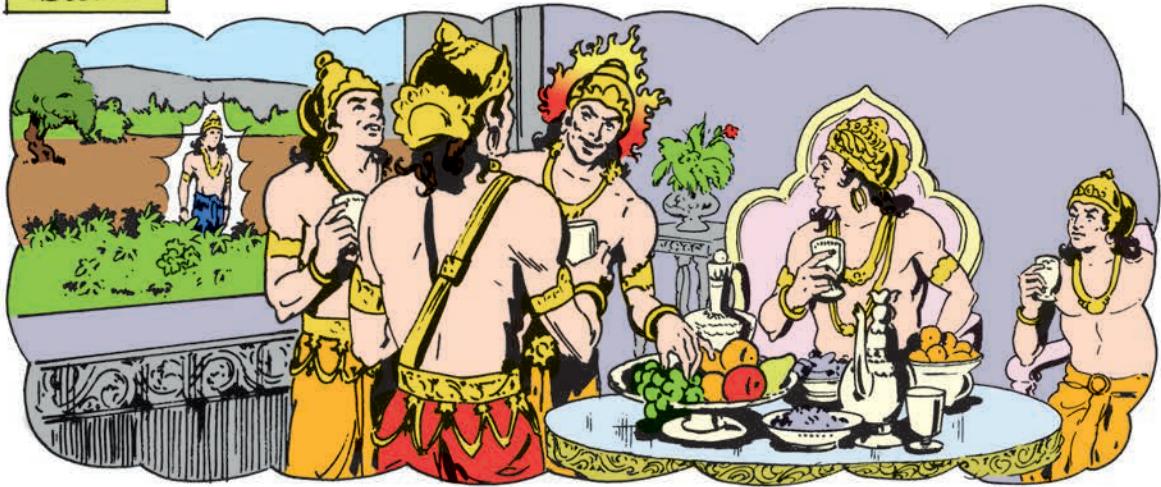


THEY ATE, DRANK AND MADE MERRY FOR DAYS, WEEKS, AND MONTHS...

"... UNTIL THEY WERE INTOXICATED BY THEIR SUCCESS—



"ONE DAY AS THE DEVAS WERE IMMersed IN THEIR MERRY MAKING, A YAKSHA\* CAME OUTSIDE THEIR ABODE..."

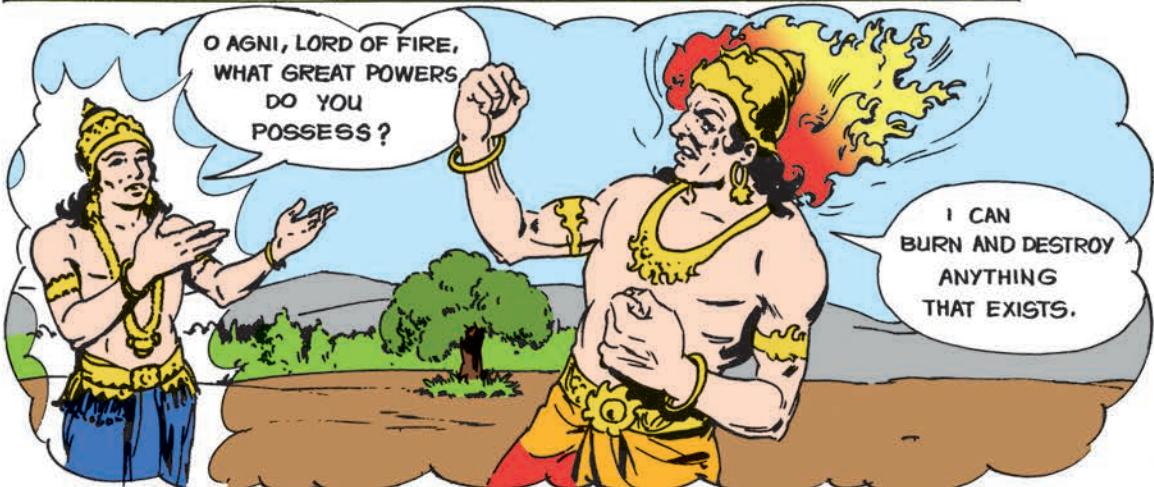


"THE YAKSHA SOON CAUGHT INDRA'S EYE."

"AGNI APPROACHED THE YAKSHA AND SPOKE FIRST—



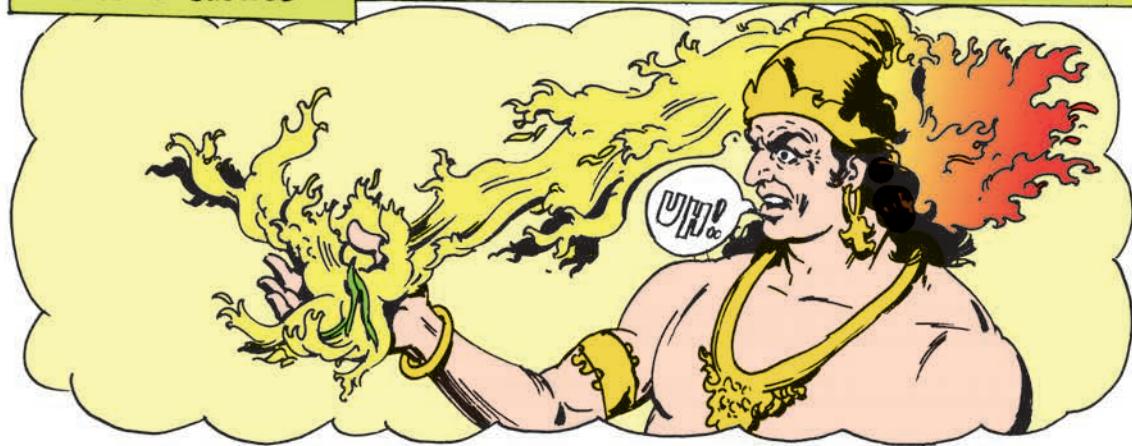
"BEFORE AGNI COULD FINISH HIS SENTENCE, THE YAKSHA ASKED HIM A QUESTION —



\* DIVINE BEING



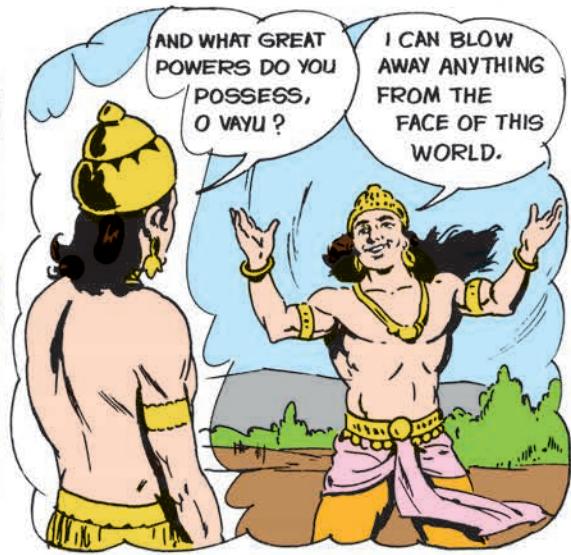
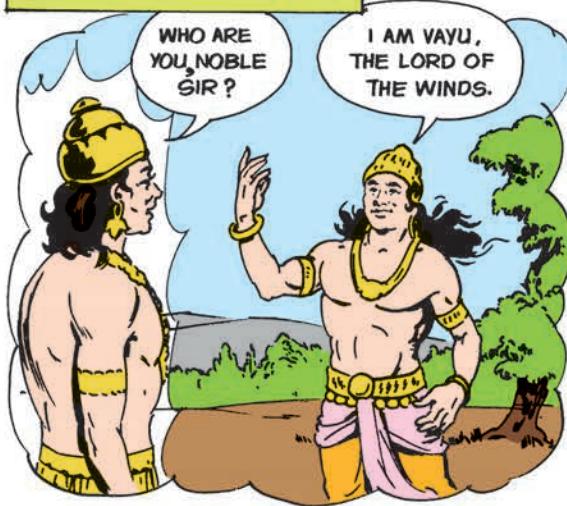
AGNI RAGED AND THE FLAMES ENGULFED THE BLADE OF GRASS BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIED, HE COULD NOT SUCCEED—



"AFTER HAVING FAILED TO INCINERATE THAT SINGLE BLADE, HE WALKED BACK TO THE PALACE DEJECTED AND HUMBLED. HE WONDERED WHO THIS STRANGE POWERFUL BEING WAS.



"INDRA THEN SENT VAYU —



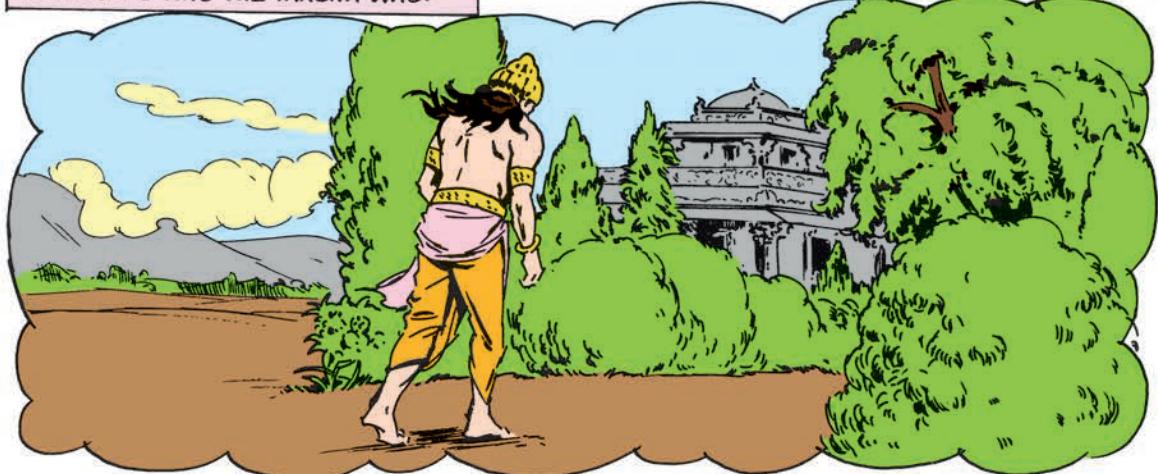
"VAYU SUMMONED THE FIERCEST OF WINDS AND AGAIN NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIED...



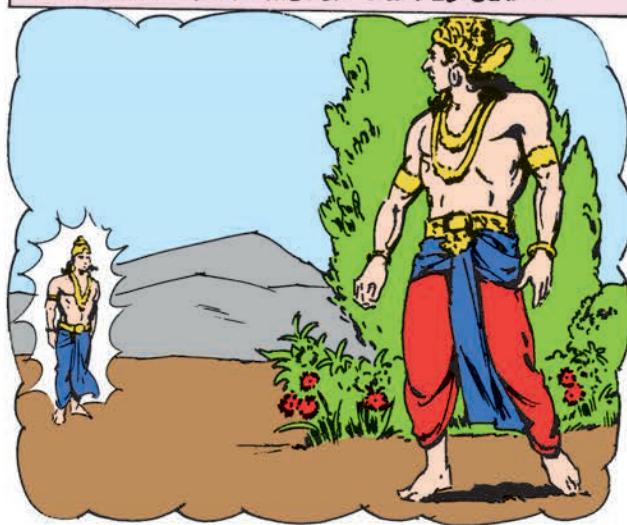
"...THE BLADE OF GRASS JUST WOULD NOT BUDGE."



"VAYU TOO WENT BACK TO THE PALACE THE WAY AGNI HAD — FATIGUED AND HUMBLED BUT NOT REALISING WHO THE YAKSHA WAS."



"... AND THEN INDRA HIMSELF STEPPED OUT —

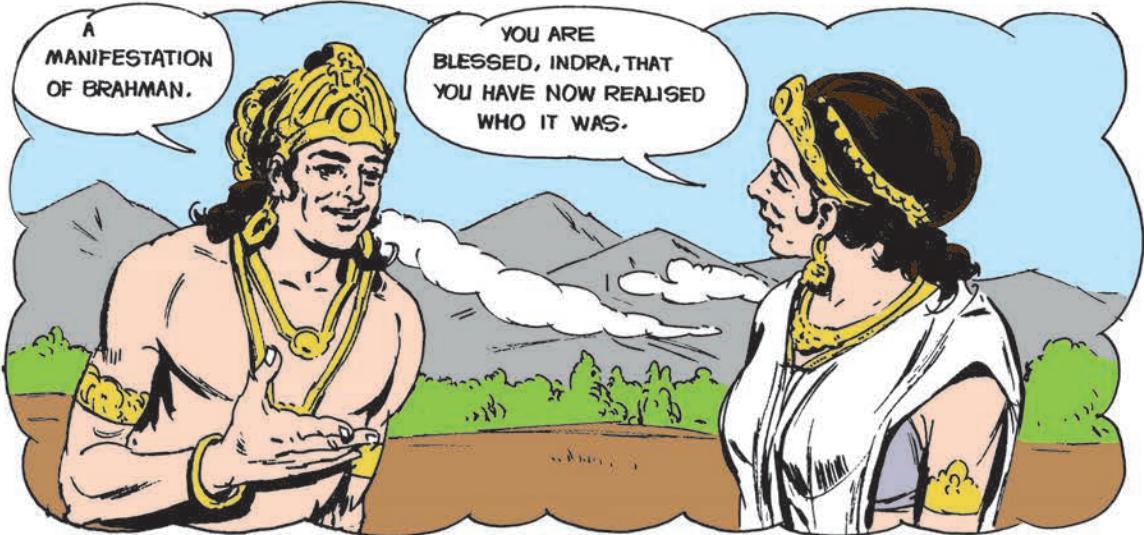
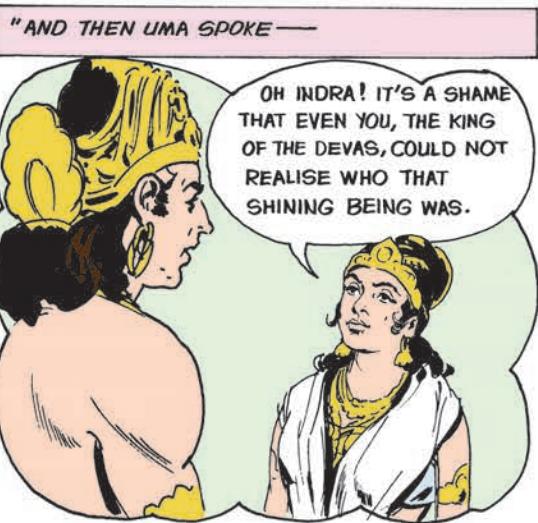
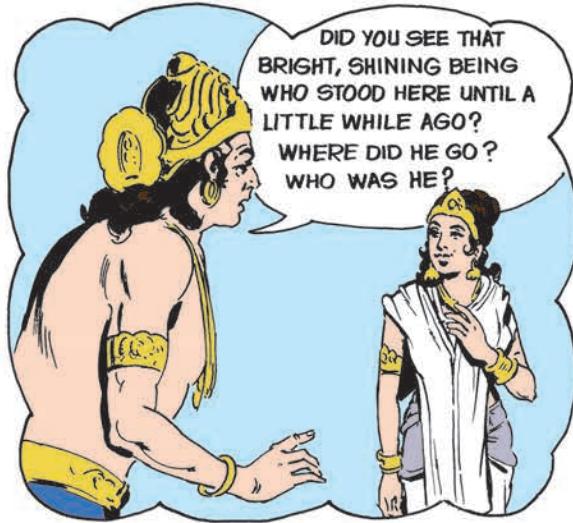


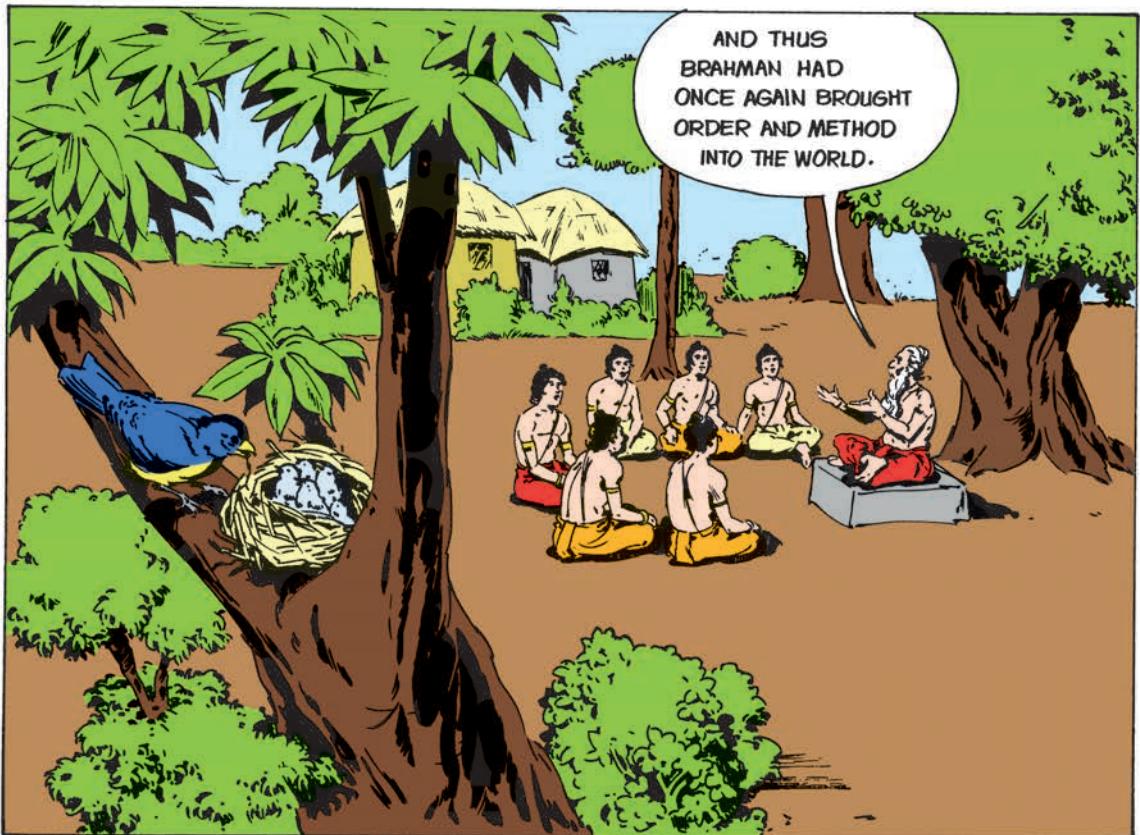
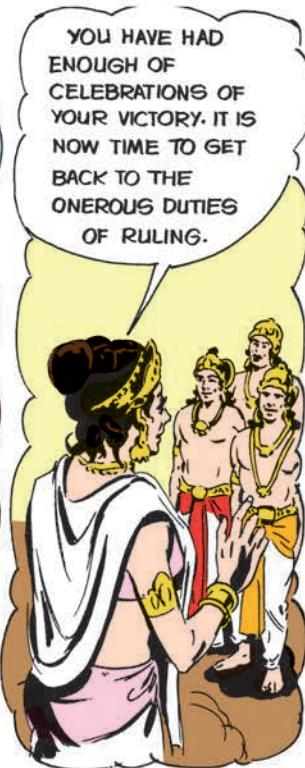
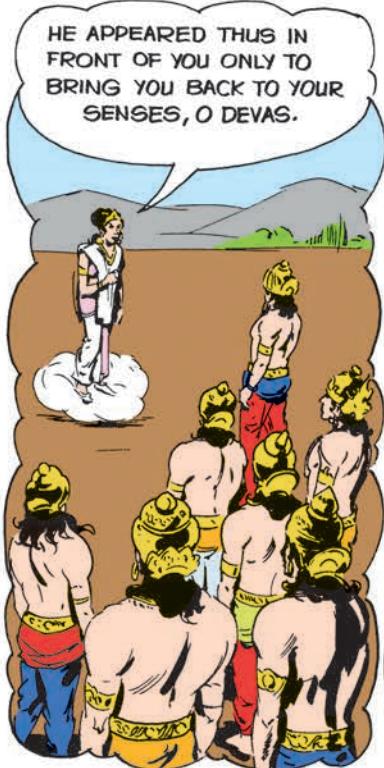
"SUDDENLY THE YAKSHA DISAPPEARED."



"INDRA LOOKED HERE AND THERE FOR THE YAKSHA BUT COULD NOT FIND HIM. INSTEAD HIS EYES FELL UPON UMA, THE GODDESS OF SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE, WHO HAPPENED TO PASS BY ..."

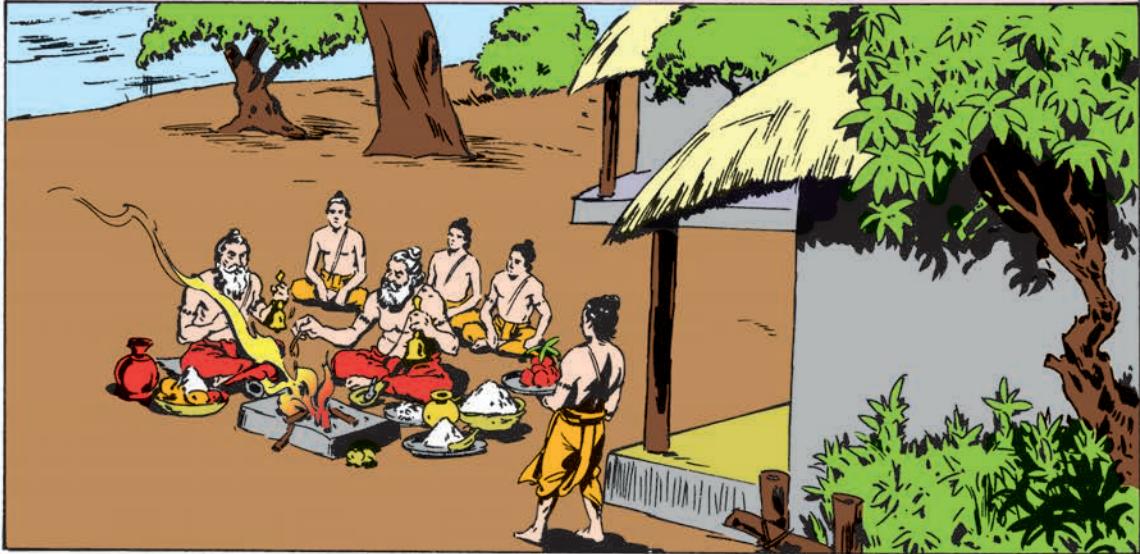




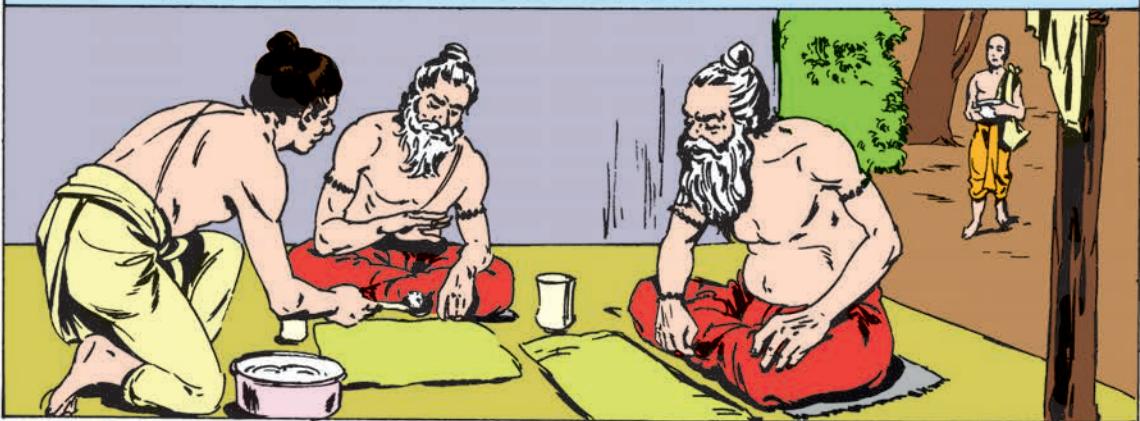


# THE BOLD BEGGAR\*

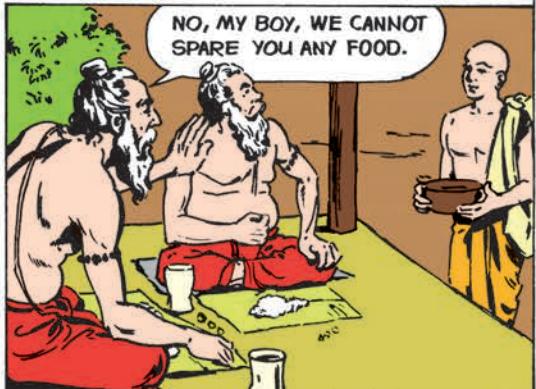
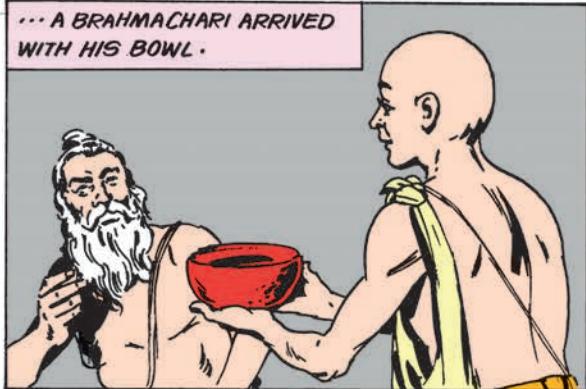
SHAUNAKA KAPEYA AND ABHIPRATARIN KAKSHASENI WERE TWO SAGES WHO LIVED IN A HERMITAGE IN THE FOREST. THEY SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME WORSHIPPING VAYU, THE GOD OF WIND.

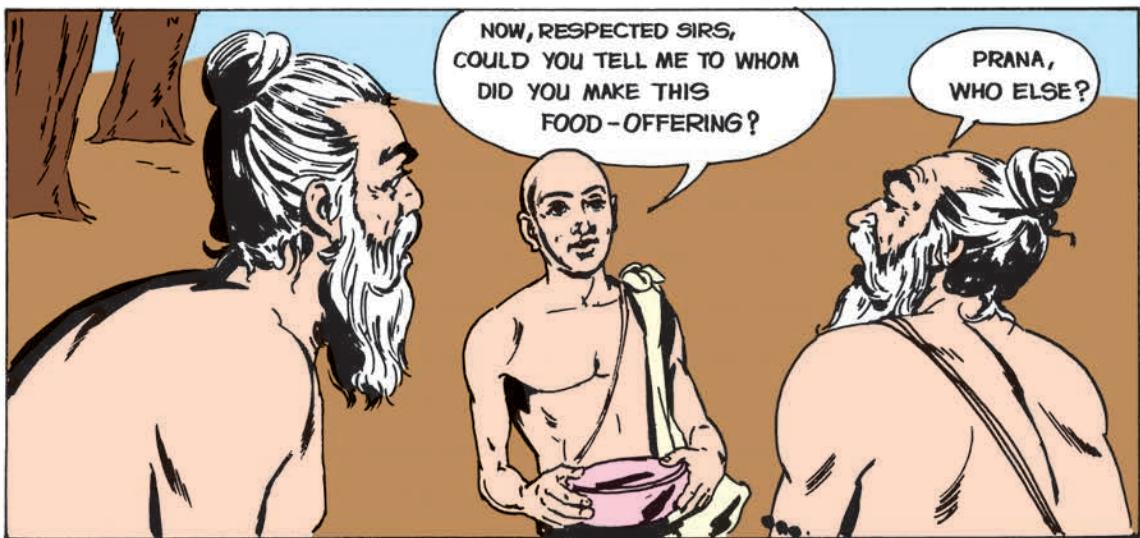
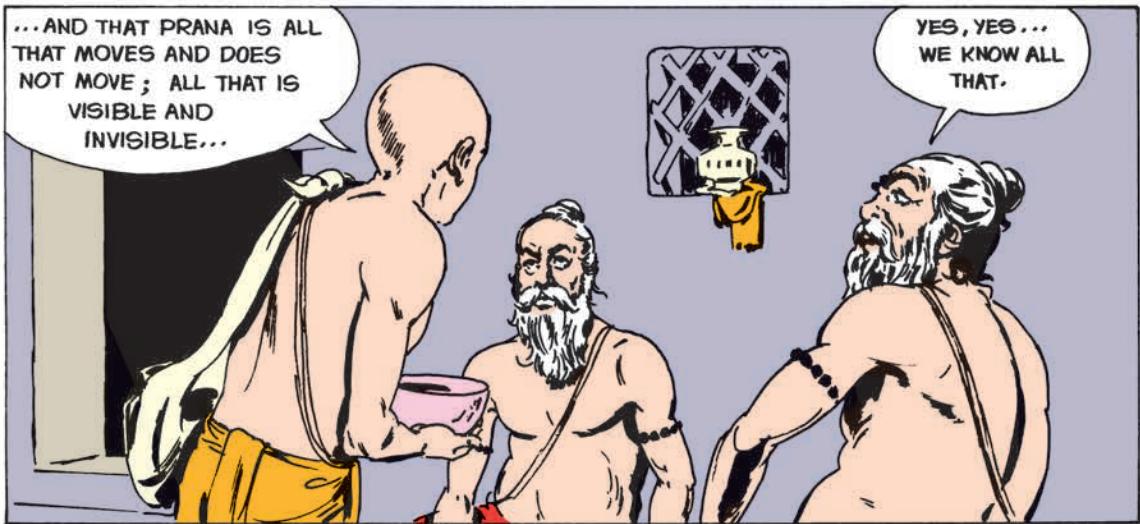
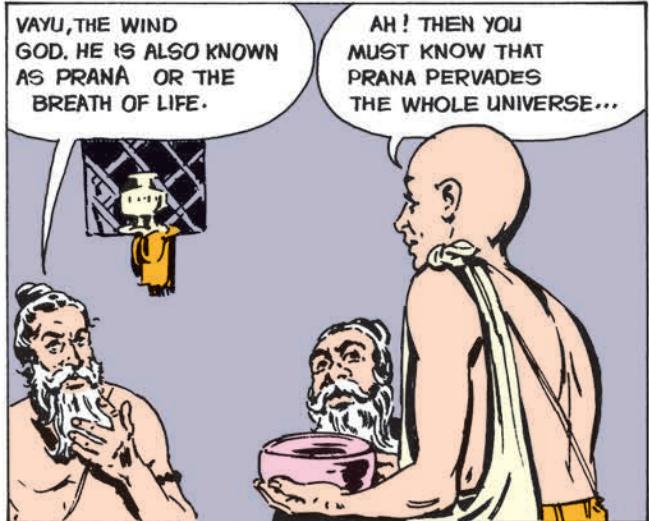
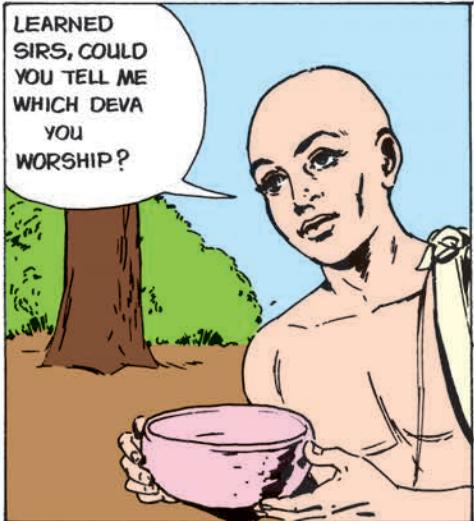


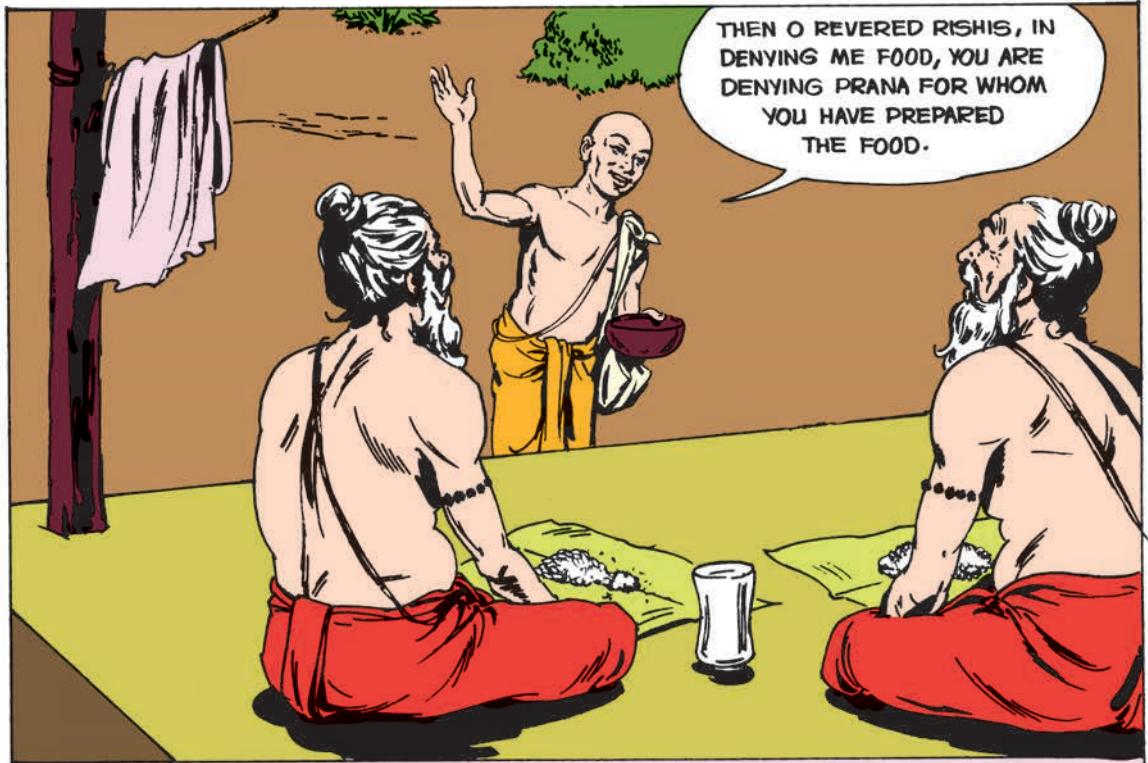
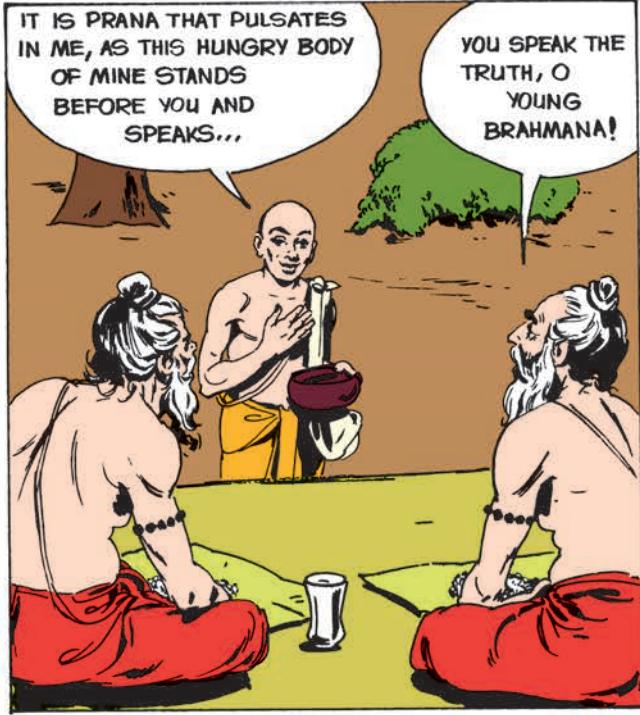
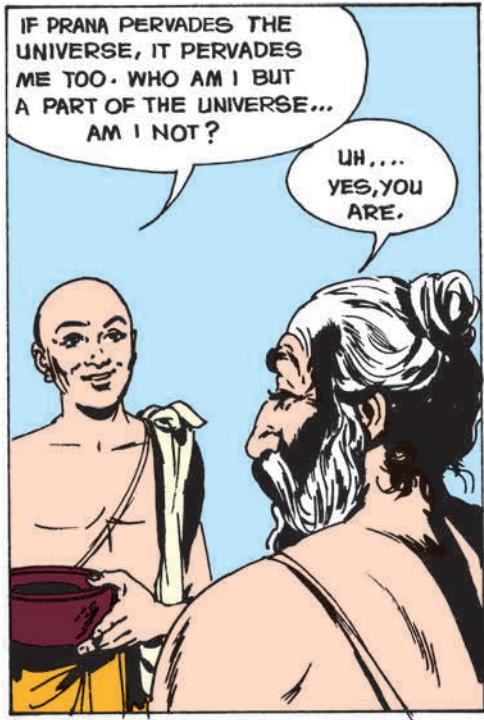
ONE AFTERNOON, AS THE SAGES WERE TO BEGIN THEIR MEAL...



... A BRAHMACHARI ARRIVED WITH HIS BOWL.







AND THE SAGES, WHO SO FAR HAD ONLY UNDERSTOOD THE LITERAL MEANING OF THE SCRIPTURES, REALISED THEN THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE WORDS. ASHAMED AT THEIR IGNORANCE, THEY GLADLY SHARED THEIR FOOD WITH THE YOUNG BRAHMANA!

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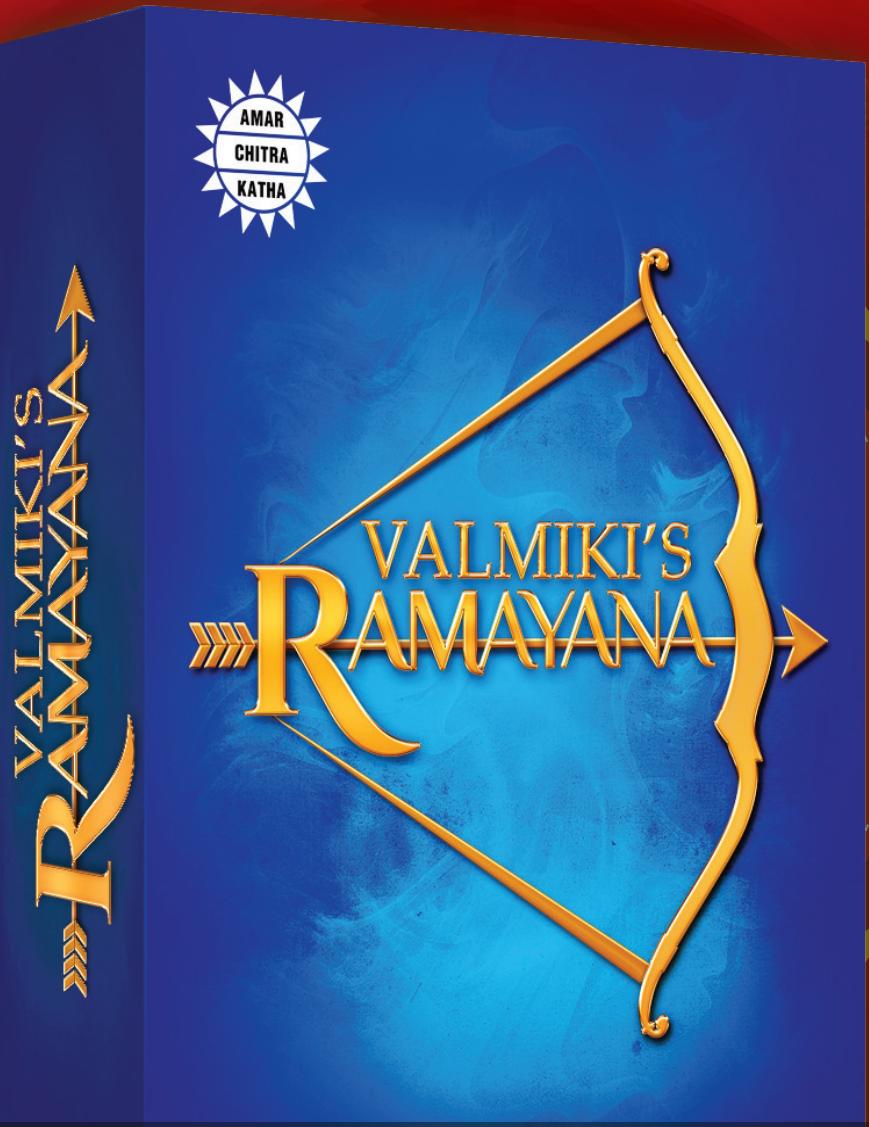


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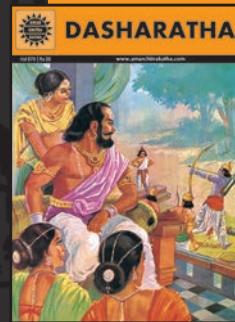
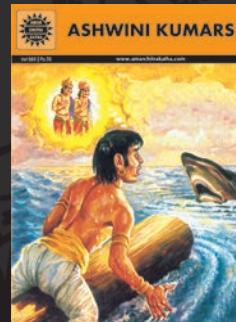
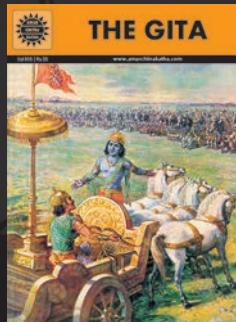
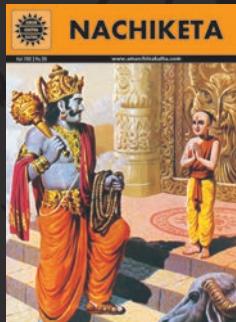


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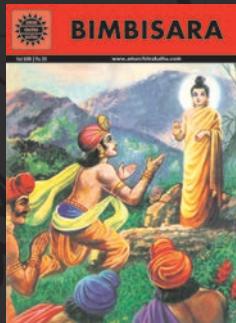
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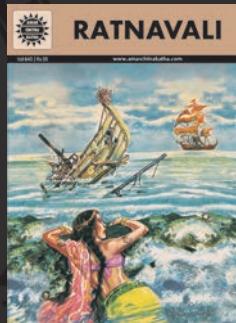
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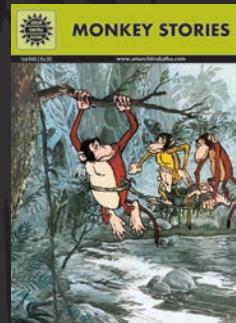
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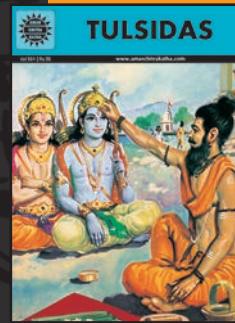
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