



# KARTTIKEYA

A SON OF SHIVA

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# KARTTIKEYA



IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS WERE FOREVER AT WAR AND OFTEN IT WAS THE ASURAS WHO WERE DEFEATED.

AFTER ONE CRUSHING DEFEAT, AN ASURA KING NAMED AKHIRSEN WENT TO HIS DAUGHTER, MAYA, A SORCERESS.

THE DEVAS  
ARE VICTORIOUS AGAIN.  
O THE SHAME  
OF IT !

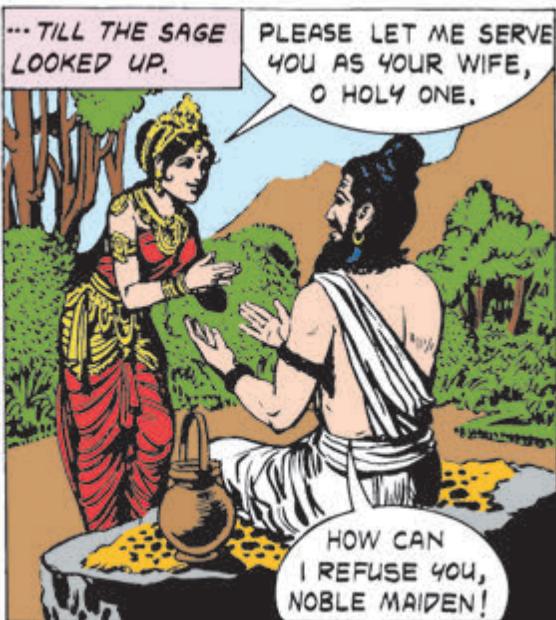
DON'T WORRY,  
FATHER. I WILL NOT REST  
TILL I TEACH THE DEVAS  
A LESSON !



TAKING THE FORM OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN  
MAYA WENT TO THE FOREST WHERE  
THE GREAT SAGE KASHYAPA SAT DEEP  
IN MEDITATION.

I WILL MARRY  
THIS SAGE AND BRING  
FORTH CHILDREN MORE  
POWERFUL THAN  
THE DEVAS.





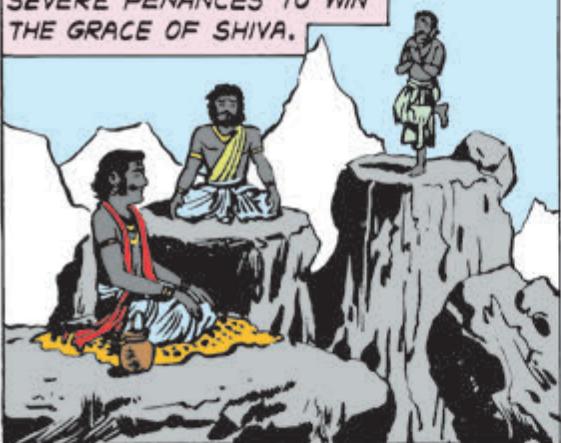
SO WHEN THE BOYS CAME OF AGE—

I AM GOING AWAY, MY SONS.  
TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOTHER,  
LEAD A VIRTUOUS LIFE AND  
BE DEVOTED TO THE  
LORD.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.  
PROPIKITATE LORD SHIVA  
AND OBTAIN BOONS  
WHICH WILL MAKE YOU  
INVINCIBLE.

AS YOU  
WISH,  
MOTHER.

THE THREE LEFT HOME AND PERFORMED  
SEVERE PENANCES TO WIN  
THE GRACE OF SHIVA.



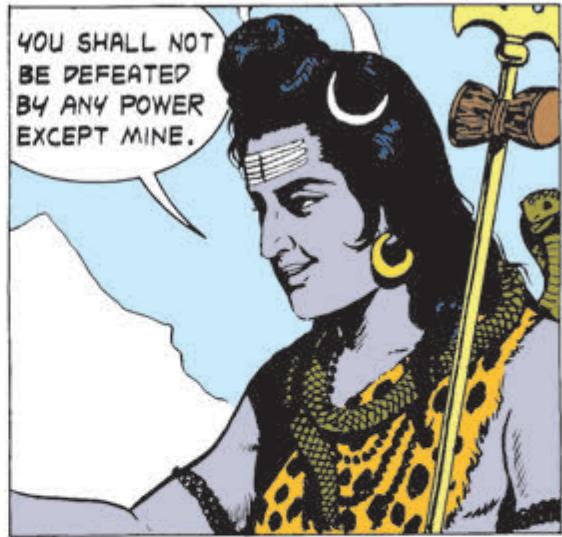
BUT THEIR EFFORTS DID NOT BEAR FRUIT.  
SO SURAPADMAN, THE ELDEST, JUMPED  
INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.



BUT THE NEXT MOMENT  
HE WAS SAVED FROM  
ITS FLAMES BY SHIVA  
HIMSELF.

WHY ARE  
YOU SACRIFICING  
YOURSELF?





INTOXICATED WITH TRIUMPH, THE THREE BROTHERS RETURNED HOME AND TOLD THEIR MOTHER ABOUT SHIVA'S BOON.



THEN, RAVAGING KINGDOM AFTER KINGDOM ON THEIR ROUTE...



...THEY CAME TO DEVALOKA. THERE, IN THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, THE DEVAS WERE ROUTED...



...AND TAKEN CAPTIVE.



SURAPADMAN HAD A MAGNIFICENT CITY BUILT BY VISHWAKARMA, THE ARCHITECT OF THE DEVAS. HE CALLED IT MAHENDRAPURI AND MADE IT HIS CAPITAL.



THE DEVAS MEANWHILE WERE LAMENTING THEIR FATE.

THEY HAVE IMPRISONED EVEN THE VALIANT JAYANTA!\* WHAT SHALL WE DO?

HOW LONG CAN WE SUFFER THIS HUMILIATION?



SHIVA  
HAD PROMISED  
TO HELP US.

THAT  
WAS LONG  
AGO.



\* INDRA'S SON

LET'S GO TO KAILAS  
ONCE MORE AND  
PRAY TO HIM.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
KAMA WHEN WE LAST  
VISITED KAILAS?

KAMA, THE GOD OF LOVE, HAD BEEN BURNT TO ASHES WHEN HE HAD TRIED TO DISTURB SHIVA'S PENAENCE. LATER, HOWEVER, HE WAS RESTORED TO LIFE.

SHIVA, HAPPILY MARRIED TO PARVATI NOW, IS MORE COMPASSIONATE AND WILL SURELY LISTEN TO OUR PRAYER.

YES. LET'S GO TO KAILAS ONCE MORE.

AT KAILAS—

LORD, DRUNK WITH POWER THE MEAN ASURAS HAVE MADE US THEIR SLAVES. MY SON, JAYANTA IS THEIR PRISONER !

BE PATIENT ! YOUR MISERIES WILL SOON END BECAUSE THEIR DAYS ARE NUMBERED.

THEN SHIVA ASSUMED A FORM WITH  
SIX FACES...



...FROM WHICH SIX DIVINE SPARKS  
SHOT FORTH...

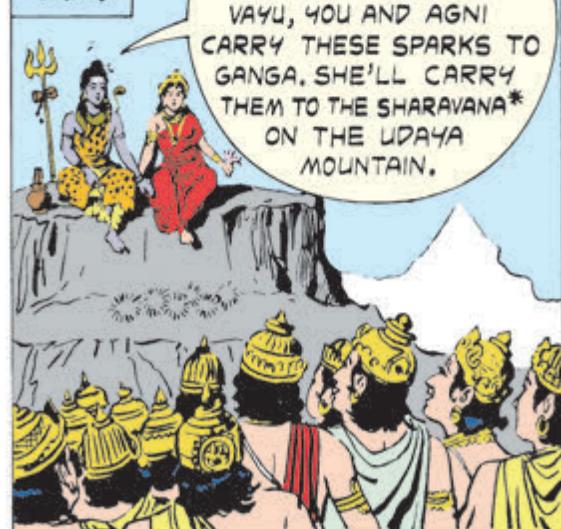


...DAZZLING THE DEVAS WITH THEIR SPLENDOUR.



THE CHILD BORN  
OUT OF THESE  
SPARKS WILL SLAY  
THE ASURAS.

SHIVA THEN ASSUMED HIS ORIGINAL  
FORM.



\*FOREST OF REEDS

AGNI AND VAYU FLEW WITH THE SPARKS...



... TO GANGA.

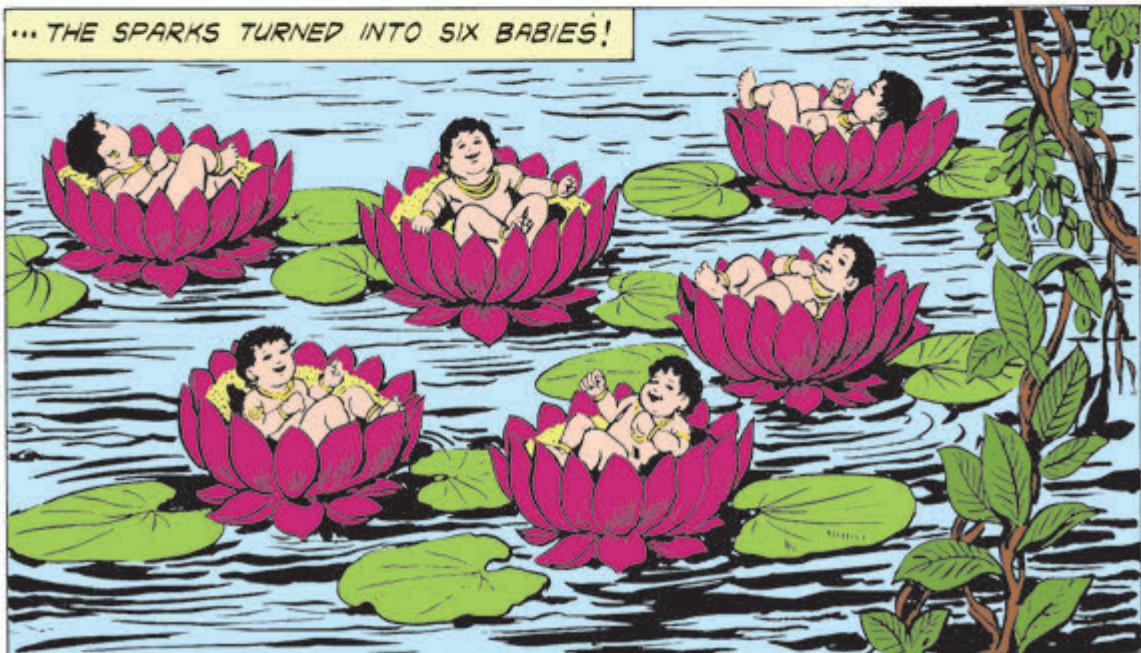
SHIVA  
HAS ASKED YOU  
TO CARRY THESE  
TO THE REED FOREST  
ON THE UDAYA  
MOUNTAIN.



AS SOON AS GANGA BROUGHT THEM INTO THE SHARAVANA...



... THE SPARKS TURNED INTO SIX BABIES!



JUST THEN SIX CELESTIAL NYMPHS CALLED THE KRITTIKAS HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



AND THE KRITTIKAS BEGAN TO CUDDLE THE INFANTS.



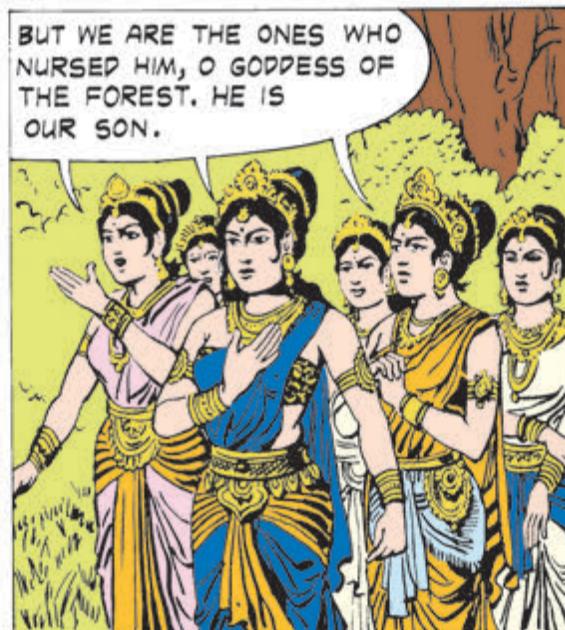
THE DEVAS CAME ON THE SCENE A LITTLE LATER.

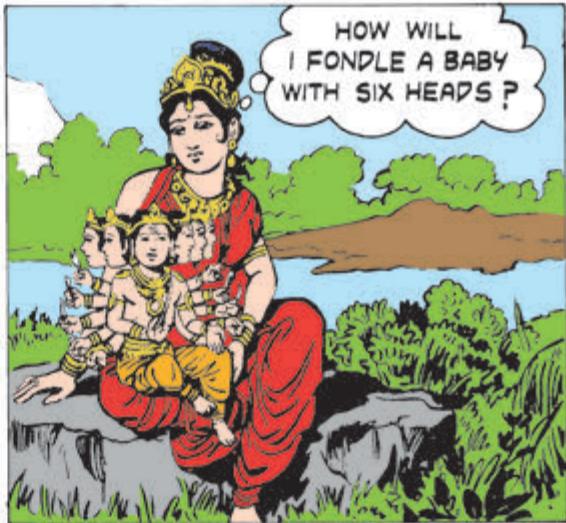
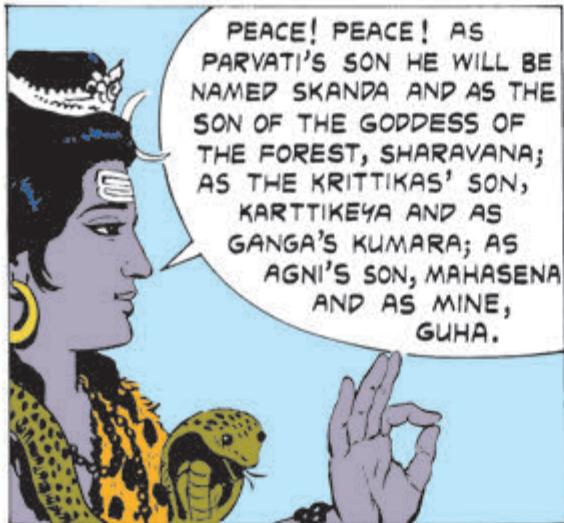


AND THEN CAME SHIVA AND PARVATI.



AS PARVATI STEPPED CLOSER, THE BABIES MERGED INTO ONE.





ONE DAY AT KAILASA—

PARVATI, THE TIME HAS COME FOR KARTTIKEYA TO SUBDUE TARAKASURA, SIMHAMUKHA, AND SURAPADMAN.

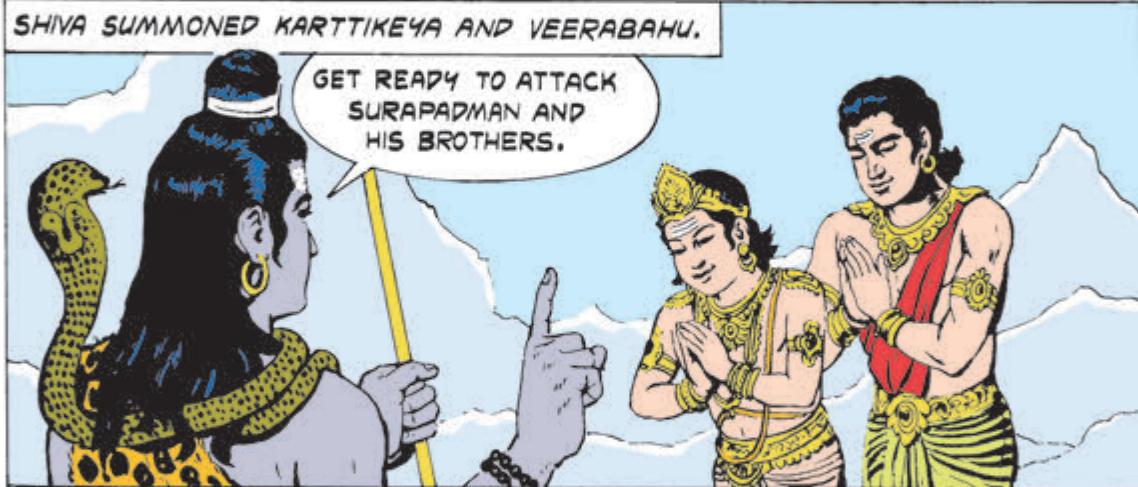


YES, BUT HE IS THE CHILD WITH THE DIVINE SPARK. BESIDES, HIS GANAS WILL GO WITH HIM.



SHIVA SUMMONED KARTTIKEYA AND VEERABAHU.

GET READY TO ATTACK SURAPADMAN AND HIS BROTHERS.

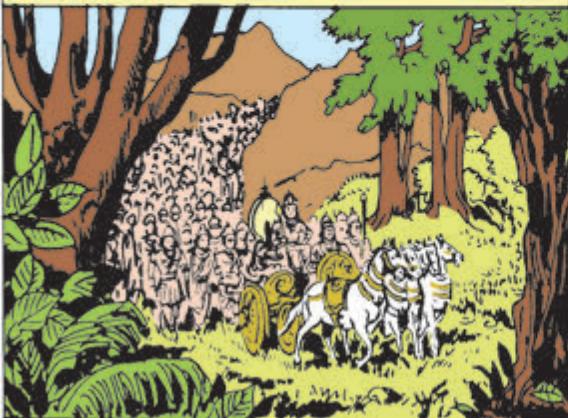


WHEN THE PREPARATIONS WERE COMPLETED—

YOU SHALL LEAD THE DEVAS TO VICTORY. CRUSH THE ASURAS AND LIBERATE THE DEVAS. HERE IS THE MATCHLESS VEL, YOUR SPEAR. MAY SUCCESS BE YOURS!



ARMED WITH THE SPEAR, KARTTIKEYA SET OUT IN PURSUIT OF THE ASURAS.



AFTER HE HAD COVERED SOME DISTANCE —

YOU WILL HAVE TO FACE ME, YOUNG BOY, BEFORE YOU PROCEED FURTHER.



IT WAS THE ASURA, KRAUNCHA IN THE FORM OF A MOUNTAIN.

WITHOUT A WORD, KARTTIKEYA HURLED HIS SPEAR...



...AND KRAUNCHA WAS NO MORE.



WHEN THE NEWS REACHED TARAKA—



WELL, WELL, LET  
ME GO AND  
SIZE HIM  
UP.

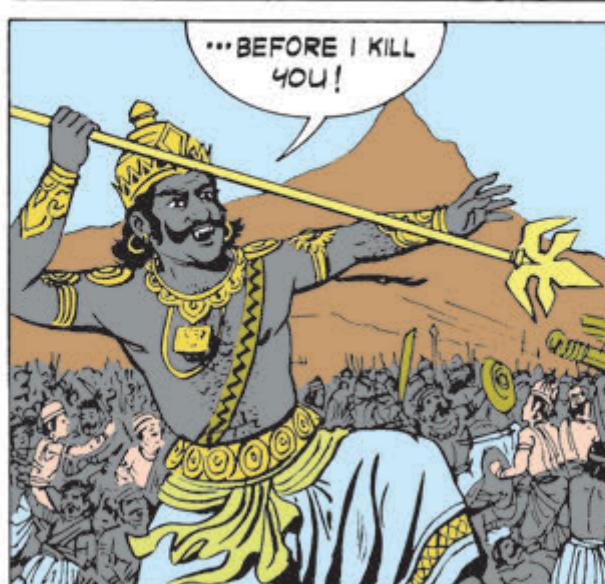


WHEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH KARTTIKEYA—

DON'T MISUSE THE WEAPONS GRANTED TO YOU. RELEASE THE DEVAS. YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS WILL BE FORGIVEN.

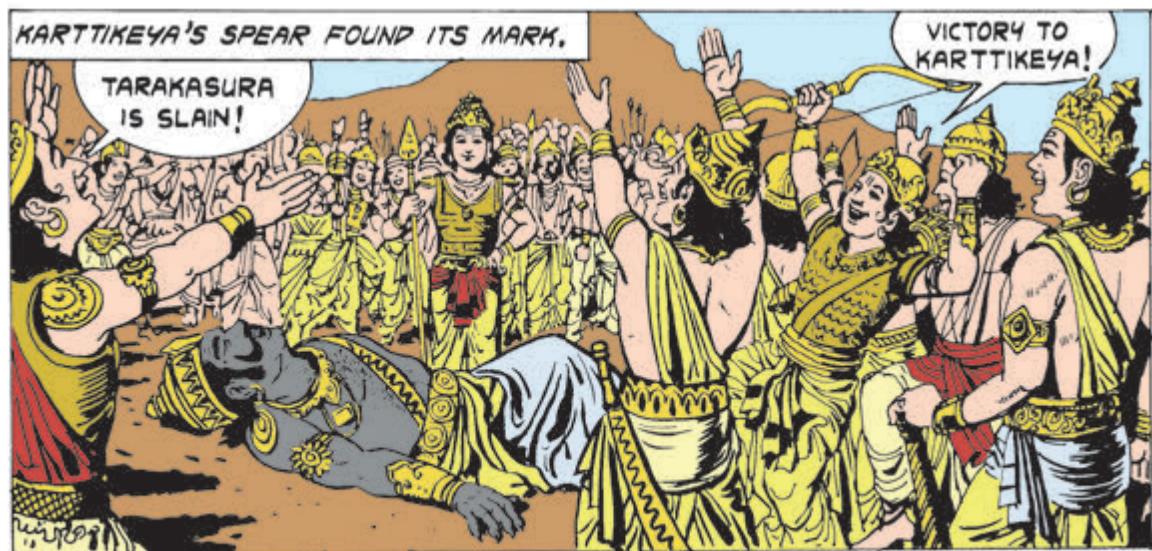
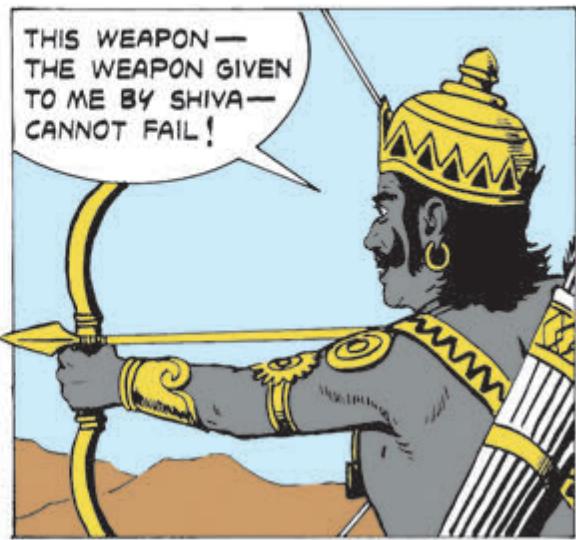


...BEFORE I KILL  
YOU!



VICTORY TO  
SHIVA!

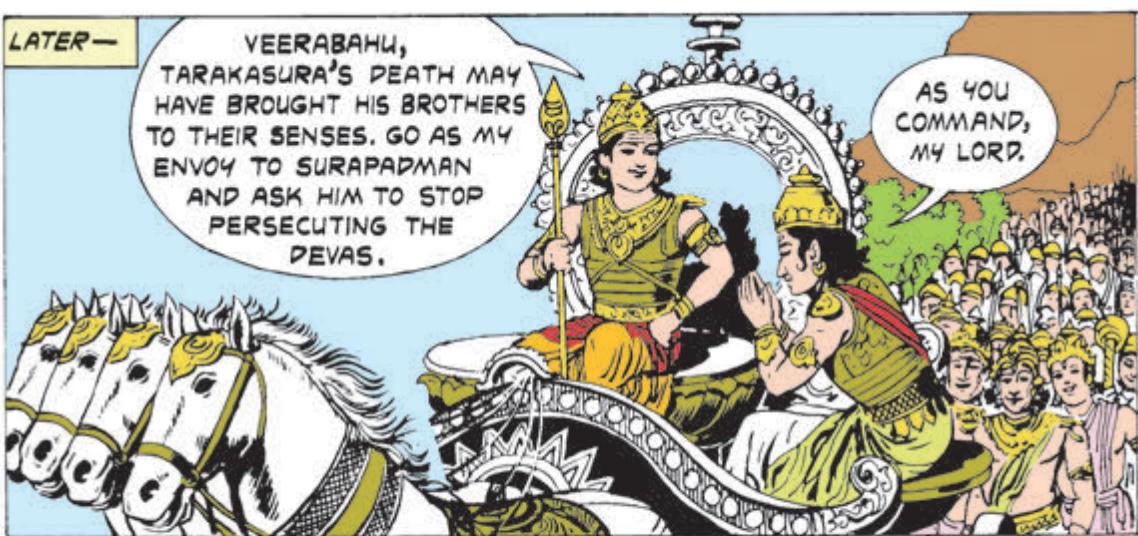




LATER—

VEERABAHU,  
TARAKASURA'S DEATH MAY  
HAVE BROUGHT HIS BROTHERS  
TO THEIR SENSES. GO AS MY  
ENVOY TO SURAPADMAN  
AND ASK HIM TO STOP  
PERSECUTING THE  
DEVAS.

AS YOU  
COMMAND,  
MY LORD.



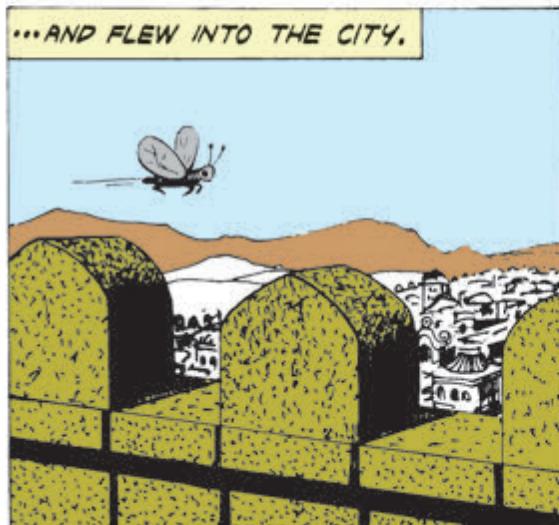
WHEN VEERABAHU REACHED  
SURAPADMAN'S CAPITAL,  
MAHENDRAPURI—



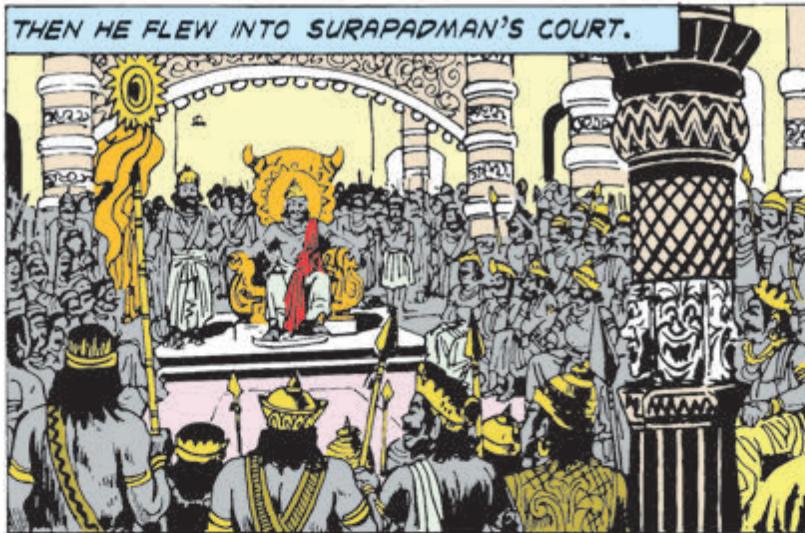
HE CHANGED HIMSELF INTO A TINY  
INSECT...



...AND FLEW INTO THE CITY.



THEN HE FLEW INTO SURAPADMAN'S COURT.



I WILL ASSUME  
MY OWN FORM NOW.  
WILL SURAPADMAN  
OFFER ME  
A SEAT?

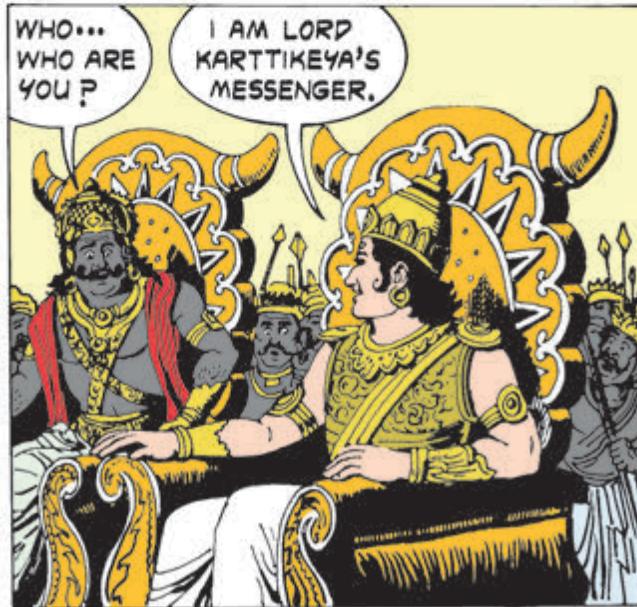
THE NEXT MOMENT—

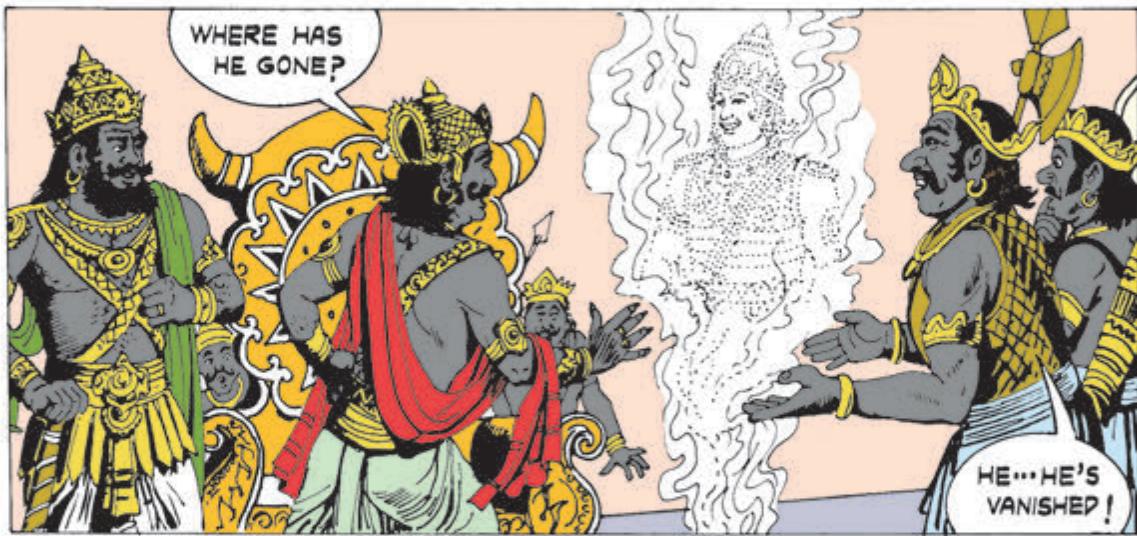


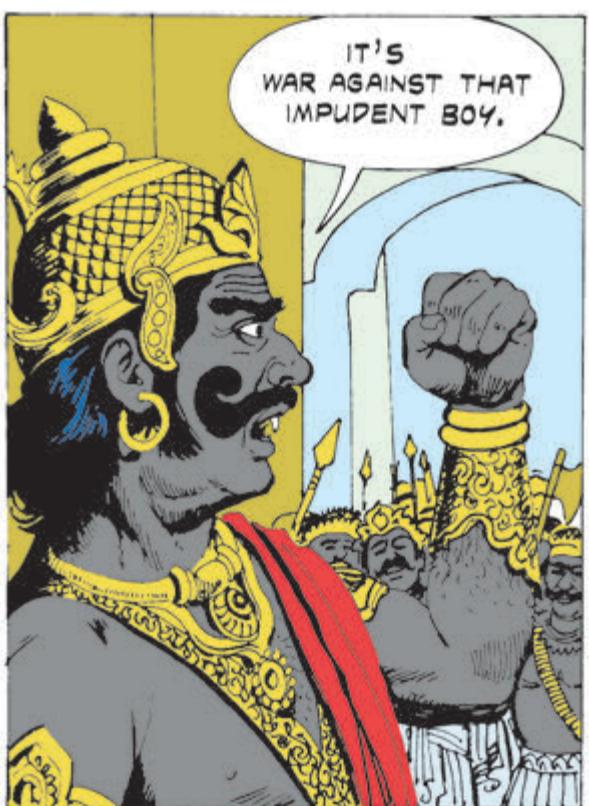
WHO...  
WHO ARE  
YOU?

I AM LORD  
KARTTIKEYA'S  
MESSENGER.

KARTTIKEYA!  
THE BOY WHO SLEW  
MY BROTHER!







MEANWHILE VEERABAHU HAD REACHED KARTTIKEYA'S CAMP.

IT'S NO USE.  
SURAPADMAN WANTED  
TO CAPTURE ME TOO!

WELL, WE'LL  
MEET THEM IN BATTLE.  
PREPARE TO MARCH TO  
MAHENDRAPURI.

WHEN KARTTIKEYA'S ARMY REACHED  
THE OUTSKIRTS OF MAHENDRAPURI,  
SURAPADMAN SENT HIS SON  
BANUKOPAN TO SUBDUЕ THEM.

BANUKOPAN FELL UPON THE DEVA ARMY.



ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE BATTLE—

COME, BANUKOPAN.  
TODAY, YOU SHALL  
NOT RETURN  
HOME.

I CERTAINLY  
WON'T. NOT TILL  
I'VE KILLED  
EVERY ONE  
OF YOU.



VEERABAHU RUSHED AT HIM AND THE TWO FOUGHT LONG AND HARD.



AT LAST BANUKOPAN FELL AND THE ASURAS FLED IN PANIC.



THE DEATH OF BANUKOPAN SHOOK SURAPADMAN.



SO THE NEXT DAY SIMHAMUKHA LED THE ATTACK. THE ARMY OF THE DEVAS REELED UNDER HIS ONSLAUGHT.



THEN SIMHAMUKHA SENT A MISSILE...



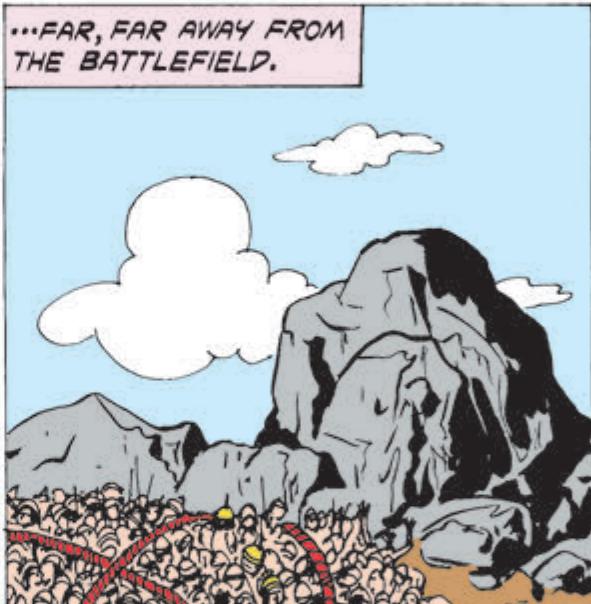
...WHICH WOUND ITSELF AROUND  
VEERABAHU, HIS BROTHER AND THE  
REST OF THE ARMY...



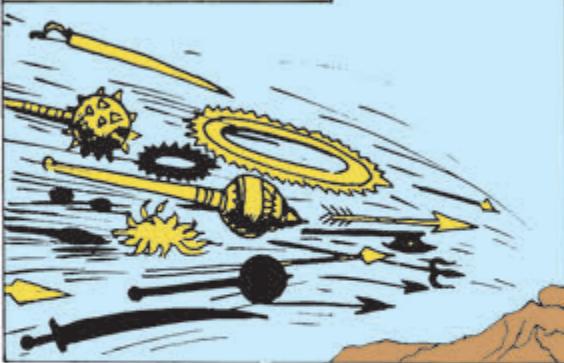
...AND HURLED THEM...



...FAR, FAR AWAY FROM  
THE BATTLEFIELD.



BUT KARTTIKEYA MEANWHILE HAD SENT FORTH SEVERAL MISSILES TO COUNTER THE MOVE.



SOON—



THEN KARTTIKEYA TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO SIMHAMUKHA.

YOU SHOULD NOT MISUSE THE POWERS ACQUIRED BY YOU. YOU SHOULD...



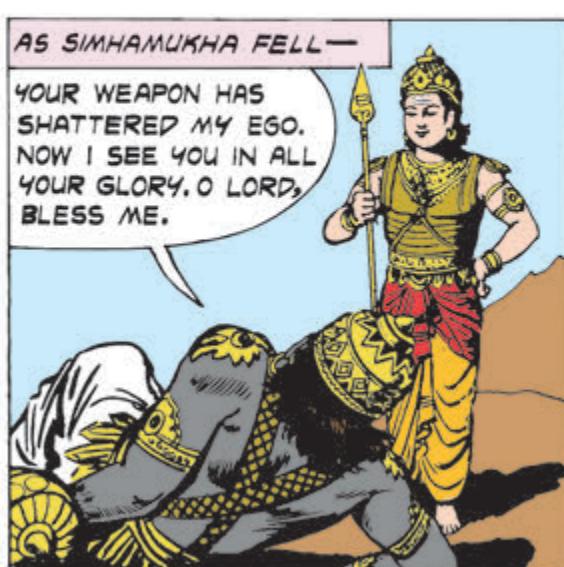
HAVE YOU COME HERE TO FIGHT OR TO PREACH?

AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE KARTTIKEYA HURLED INDRAYUDHA\* AT SIMHAMUKHA.



AS SIMHAMUKHA FELL—

YOUR WEAPON HAS SHATTERED MY EGO. NOW I SEE YOU IN ALL YOUR GLORY, O LORD, BLESS ME.



THE MERCIFUL KARTTIKEYA BLESSED SIMHAMUKHA.

YOU SHALL SERVE GODDESS KALI AS HER VEHICLE.



\*INDRA'S WEAPON, THE THUNDERBOLT

THE NEXT DAY SURAPADMAN HIMSELF LED THE ASURAS TO THE BATTLEFIELD.



WHEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH KARTTIKEYA—

MERCY OR DOOM? CHOOSE!

IMPUDENT CHILD! I HAVE COME TO SILENCE YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL.



THE TWO FOES MET.



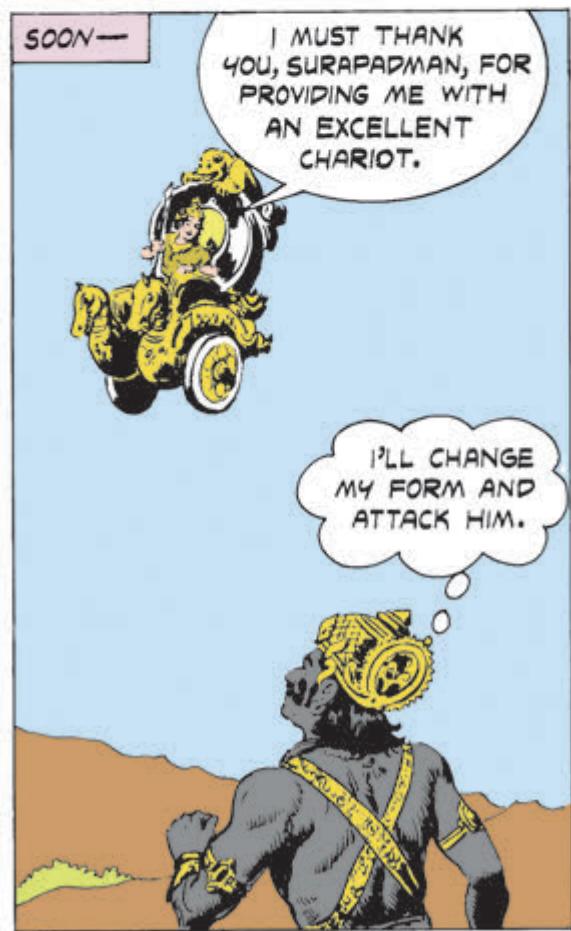
THE NEXT MOMENT SHOWED ALL THE DEAD ASURAS ON THEIR FEET AND SURAPADMAN UP IN THE SKY IN A CHARIOT.



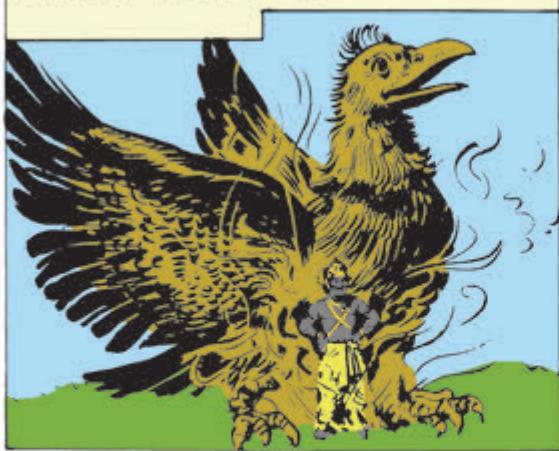
THE NEXT MOMENT—



SOON—



SURAPADMAN QUICKLY ASSUMED THE FORM OF A HUGE BIRD ..



...AND CHARGED AT KARTTIKEYA.



KARTTIKEYA HOWEVER USING INDRA IN THE FORM OF PEACOCK AS HIS MOUNT...

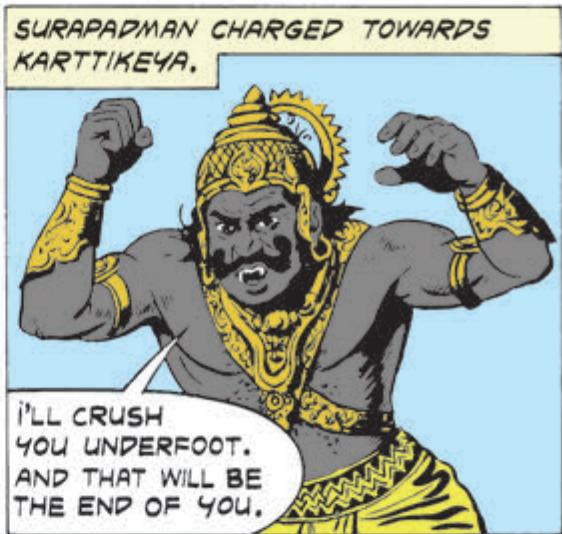
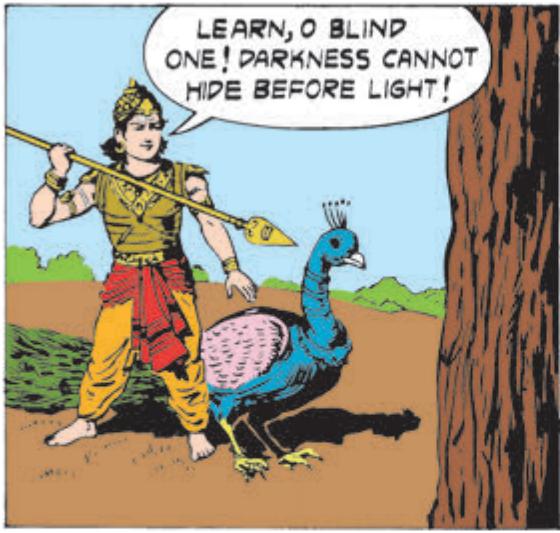


...LASHED OUT AT HIM.



BUT SURAPADMAN ESCAPED IN THE NICK OF TIME BY TAKING THE FORM OF A TREE.

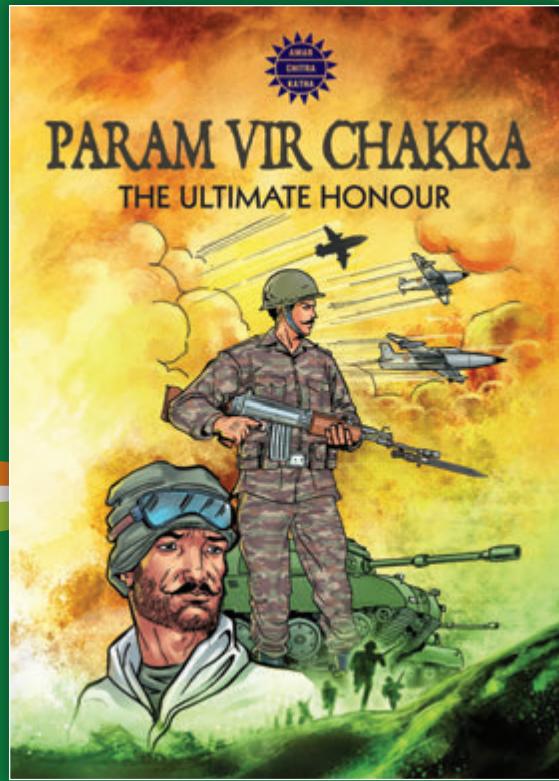








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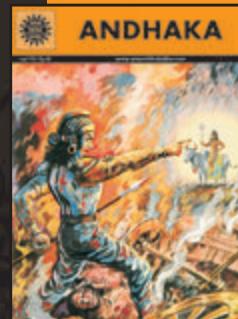
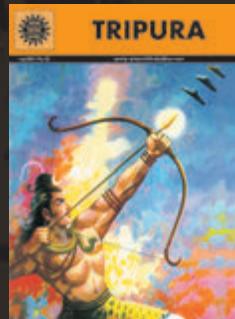
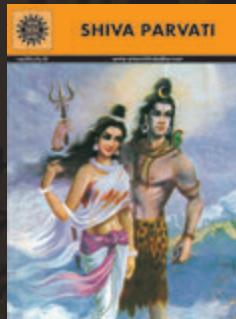
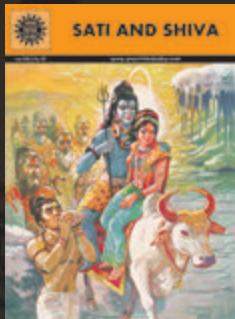


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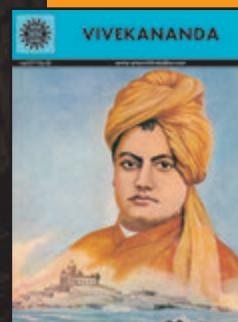
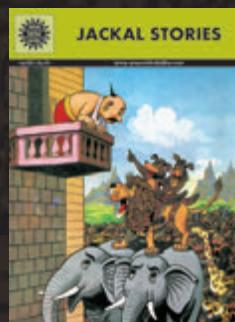
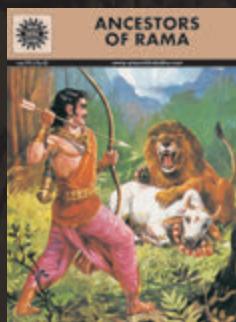
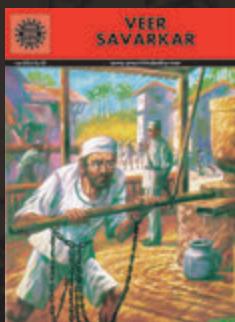
## KARTTIKEYA

The Puranas describe Karttikeya, a son of Shiva, as the commander-in-chief of the celestial army. He is also known as Subrahmanya, Skanda, Guha and Kumara. To the Tamil-speaking people he is Murugan. The six-headed, twelve-armed Karttikeya seated on a peacock is the symbol of youth, beauty, valour and supreme wisdom.

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