



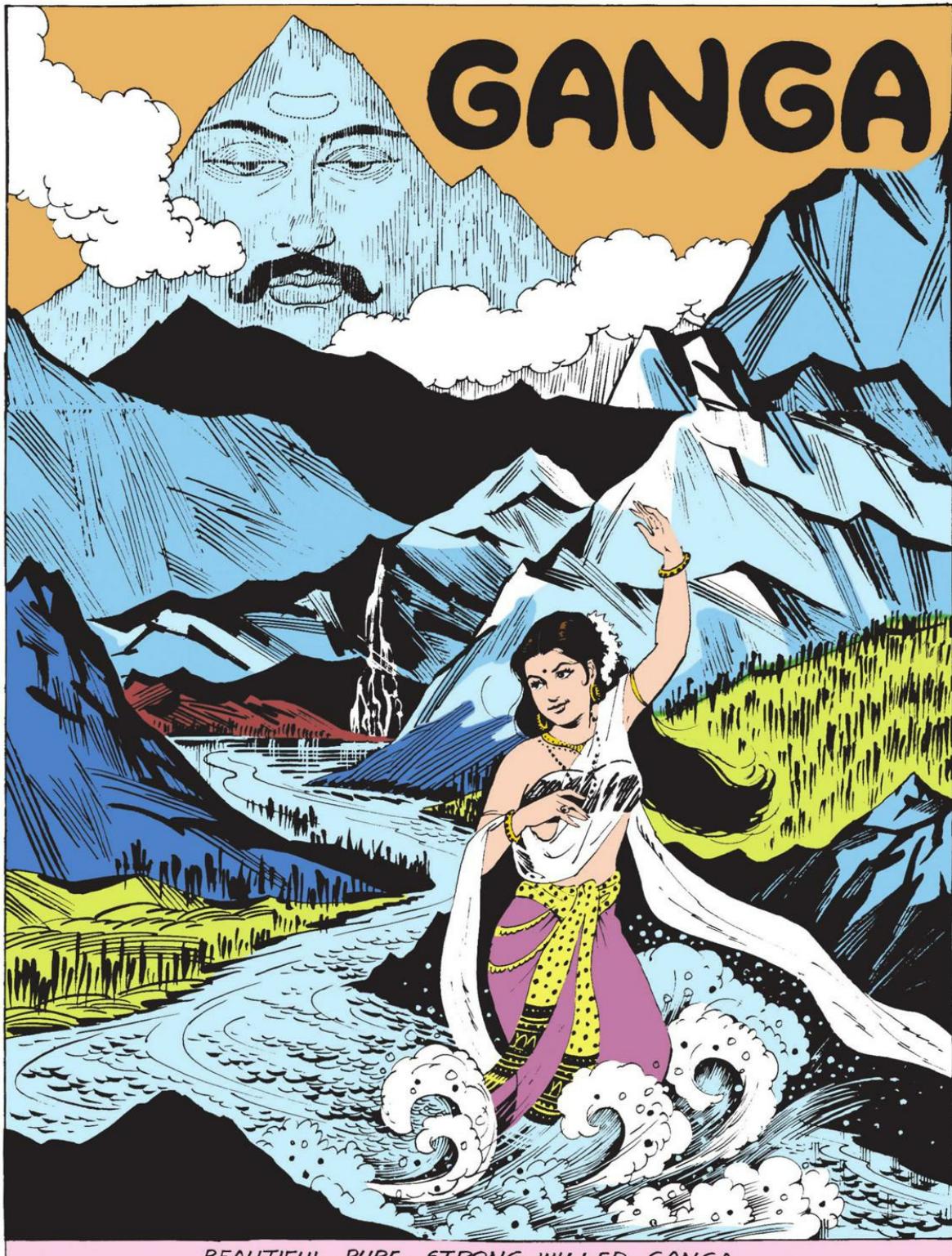
GANGA

THE DIVINE BEAUTY

Vol 515

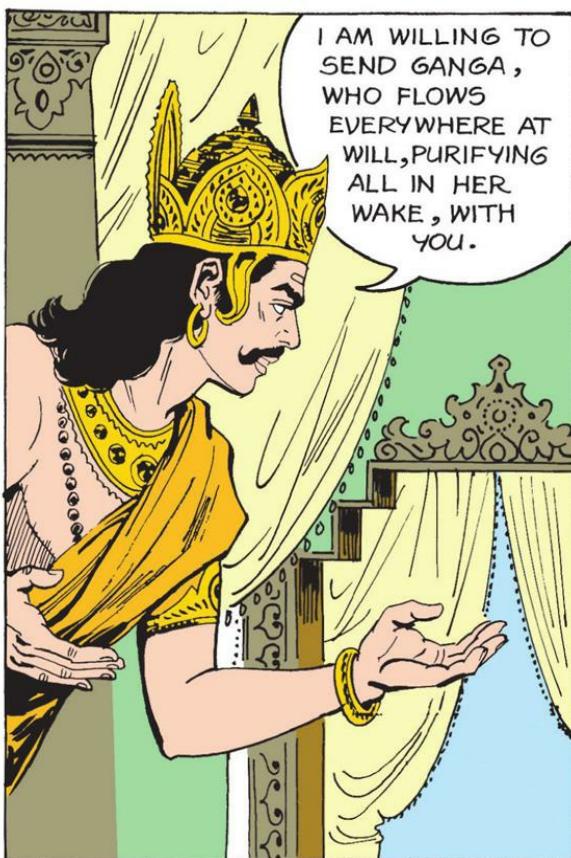


GANGA



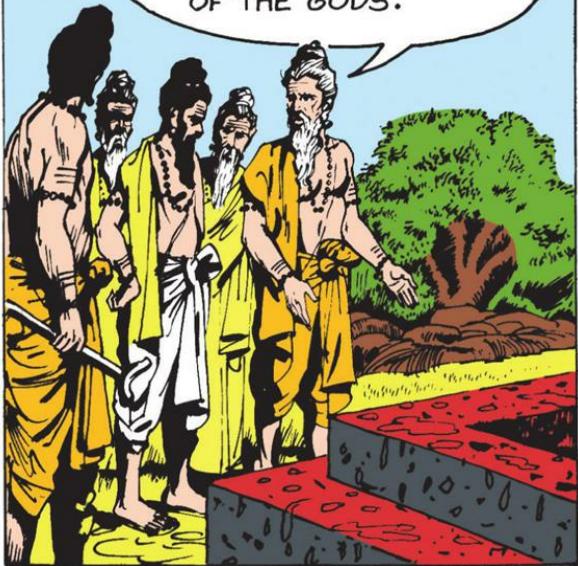
BEAUTIFUL, PURE, STRONG-WILLED GANGA
WAS THE ELDER DAUGHTER OF MOUNT HIMAVAN. SHE HAD
THE POWER OF PURIFYING ANYTHING THAT
TOUCHED HER.

ONE DAY, THE DEVAS, LED BY BRAHMA, CAME TO MOUNT HIMAVAN.



AT ABOUT THAT TIME, LIFE ON EARTH WAS BECOMING IMPOSSIBLE FOR ALL RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE.

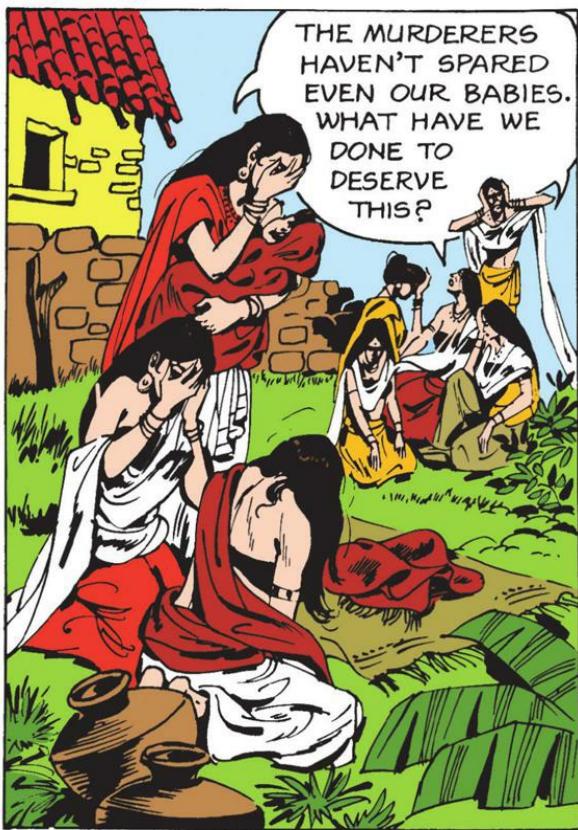
OUR SACRIFICE HAS BEEN RUINED ONCE AGAIN. AT THIS RATE WE WILL INCUR THE DISPLEASURE OF THE GODS.



MONTHS OF HARD LABOUR WASTED. OUR CROPS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED IN A SINGLE NIGHT.



THE MURDERERS HAVEN'T SPARED EVEN OUR BABIES. WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO DESERVE THIS?



AT LAST -

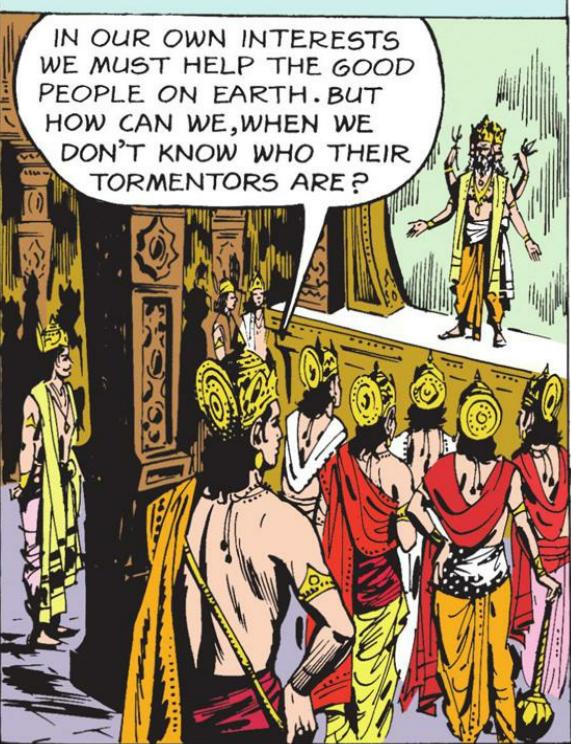
WE ARE HELPLESS AGAINST ENEMIES, WHO DON'T SHOW THEMSELVES. LET THOSE OF US, WHO HAVE SURVIVED, HIDE IN THE CAVES.



THEIR MYSTERIOUS TORMENTORS WERE A GROUP OF ASURAS * WHO HID IN THE OCEAN BY DAY AND CAME OUT TO HARASS THEM AT NIGHT.



IN HEAVEN, THE DEVAS WERE PERTURBED BY THE PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE. THEY HELD COUNCIL.



BRAHMA MADE A SUGGESTION.



* A RACE CONSTANTLY AT WAR WITH THE SURAS OR DEVAS.

SO THEY WENT TO VISHNU.

LORD, HOW CAN WE DESTROY
THE MYSTERIOUS ENEMIES OF
THE GOOD MEN ON EARTH?
WHERE DO THEY HIDE BY DAY?

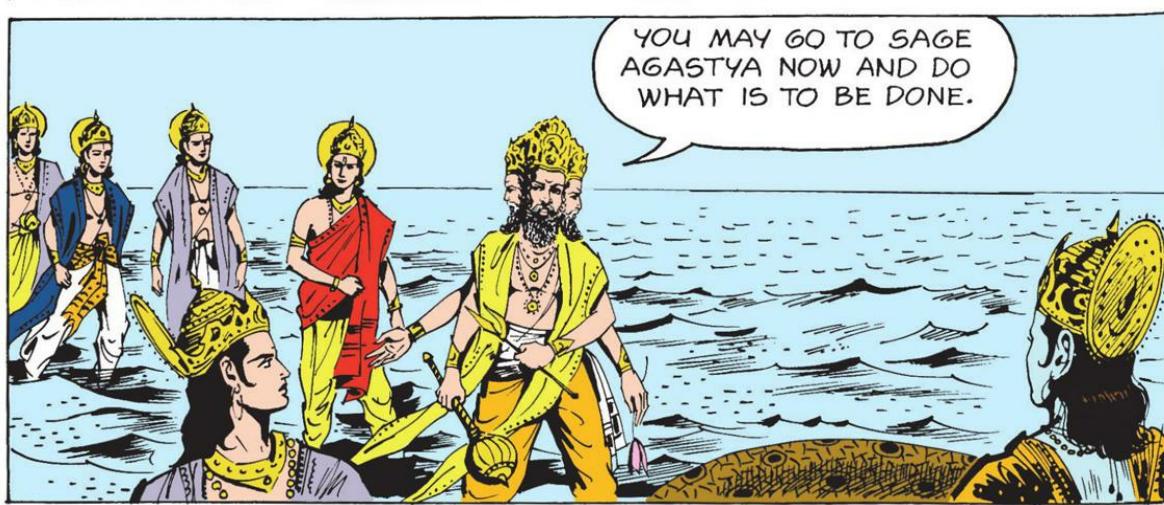
IN THE
OCEAN BED.



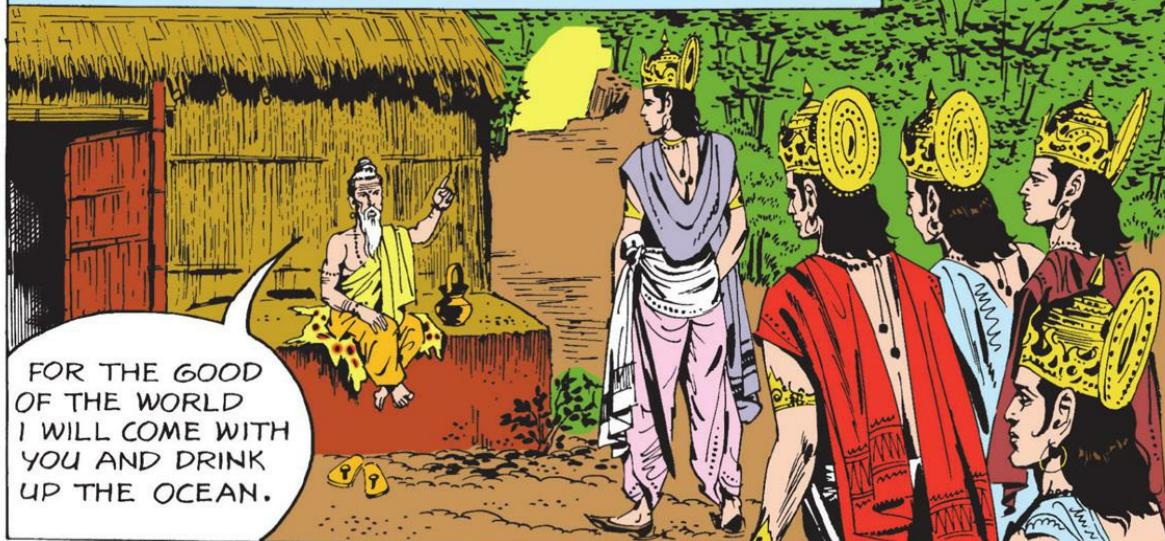
TO KILL THEM YOU WILL
HAVE TO DRY UP THE
OCEAN. GO TO SAGE
AGASTYA. HE ALONE
CAN HELP YOU.



YOU MAY GO TO SAGE
AGASTYA NOW AND DO
WHAT IS TO BE DONE.

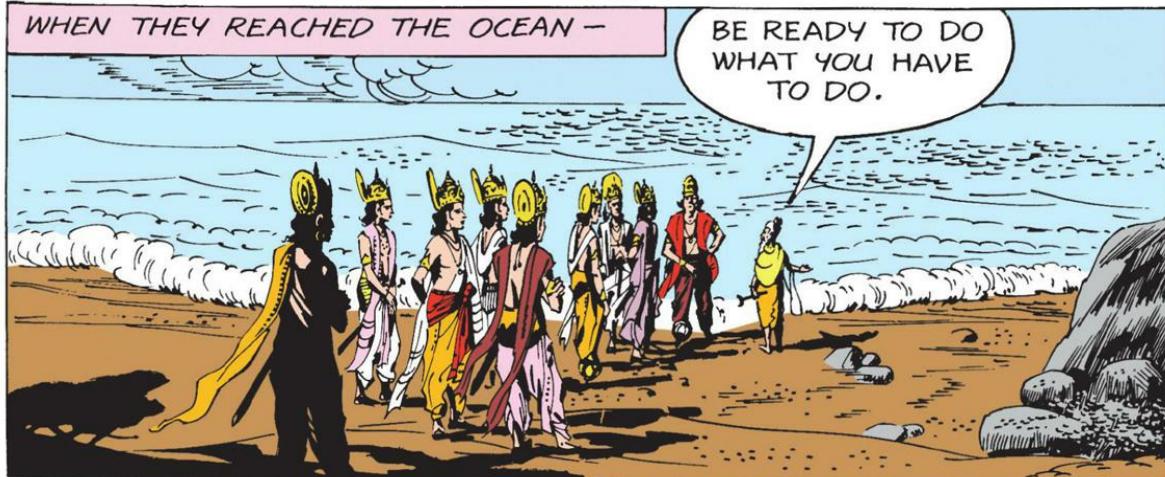


WHEN AGASTYA HAD HEARD THE WHOLE STORY -



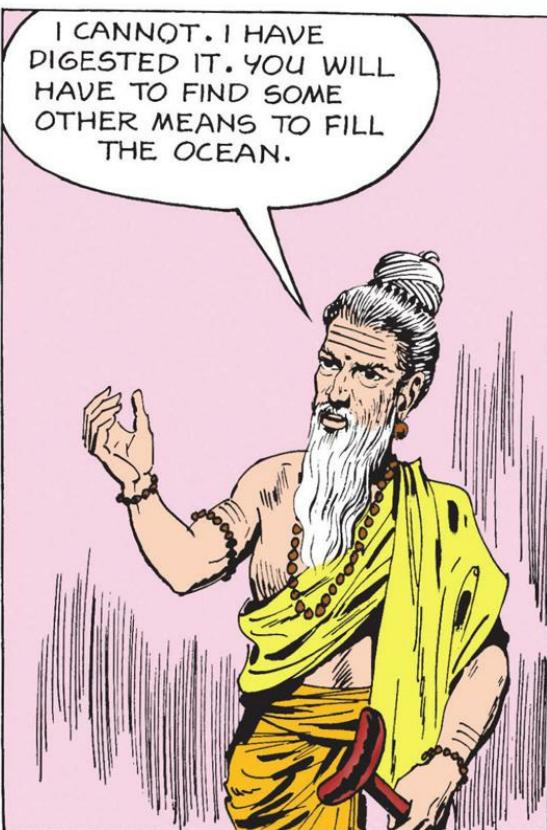
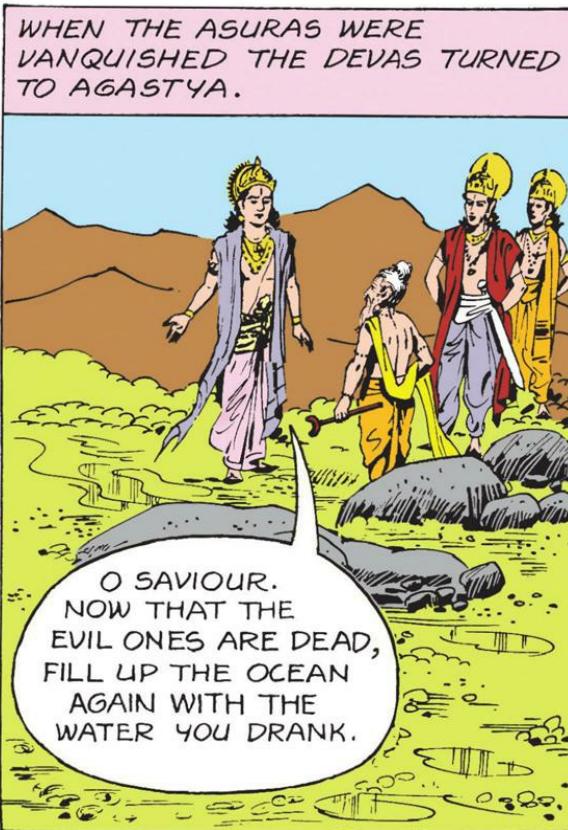
WHEN THEY REACHED THE OCEAN -

BE READY TO DO
WHAT YOU HAVE
TO DO.



AS AGASTYA BENT DOWN AND BEGAN TO DRINK UP THE OCEAN,
THE EVIL ASURAS WERE EXPOSED -





THE DEVAS DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO. THEY WENT TO BRAHMA.



THE DEVAS WAITED A NUMBER OF YEARS AND STILL NOTHING HAPPENED. SO THEY WENT TO VISHNU AGAIN. THERE -

DO NOT WORRY. KING SAGARA AND HIS DESCENDANTS WILL CAUSE THE OCEAN TO BE FILLED UP AGAIN.

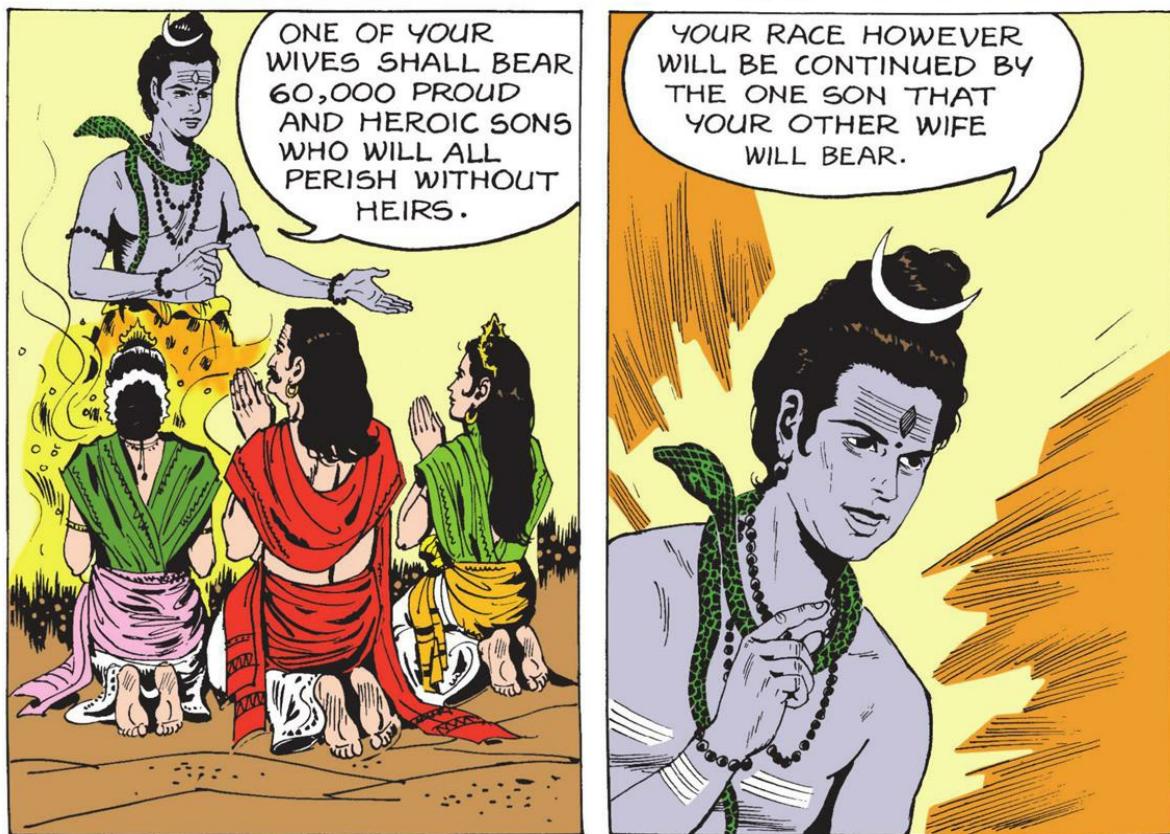
BUT SAGARA HAS NO SONS.



HE HAS ALREADY BEGUN PENANCES TO OBTAIN THEM.



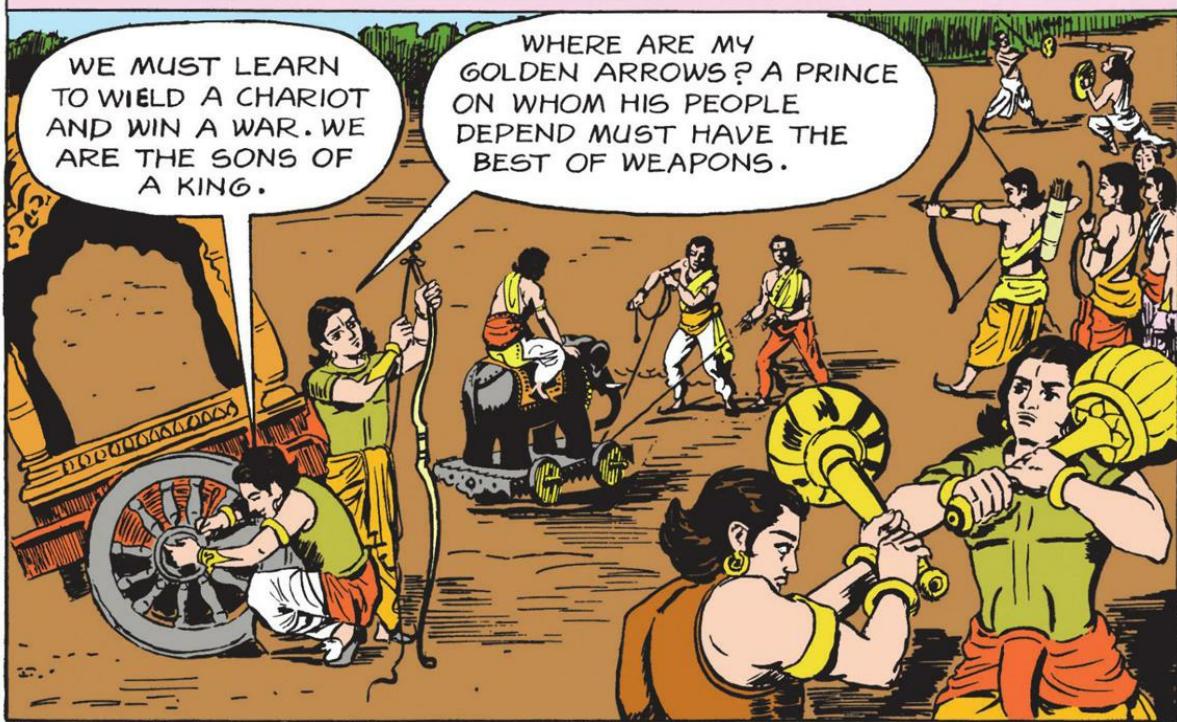
AT THAT MOMENT ON EARTH, LORD SHIVA APPEARED BEFORE KING SAGARA AND HIS QUEENS, KESHINI AND SUMATI.



ACCORDINGLY, IN COURSE OF TIME, BOTH WIVES BORE CHILDREN. KING SAGARA WAS OVERJOYED AND GAVE MANY GIFTS TO THE POOR.



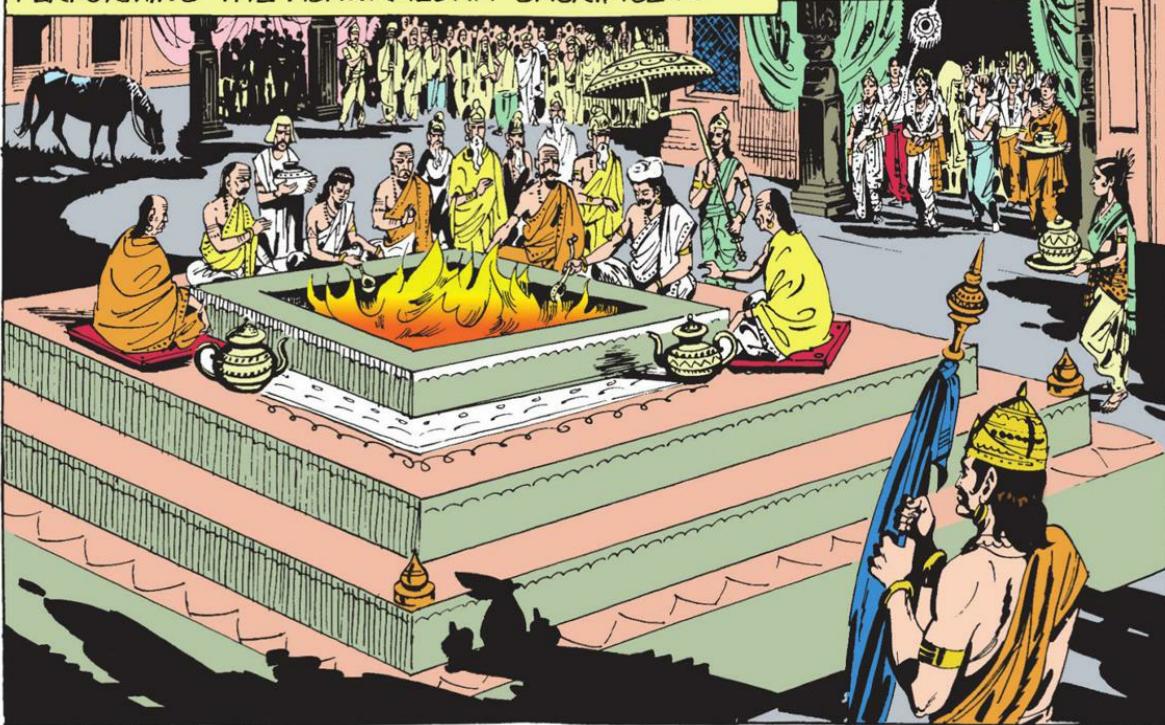
DAYS PASSED AND THE BOYS GREW UP. THE 60,000 SONS OF SUMATI WERE BRAVE, STRONG LADS, WHO WERE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR ROYAL STATUS.



QUEEN KESHINI'S SON ASAMANJA, HOWEVER, GREW UP TO BE A WICKED PRINCE.



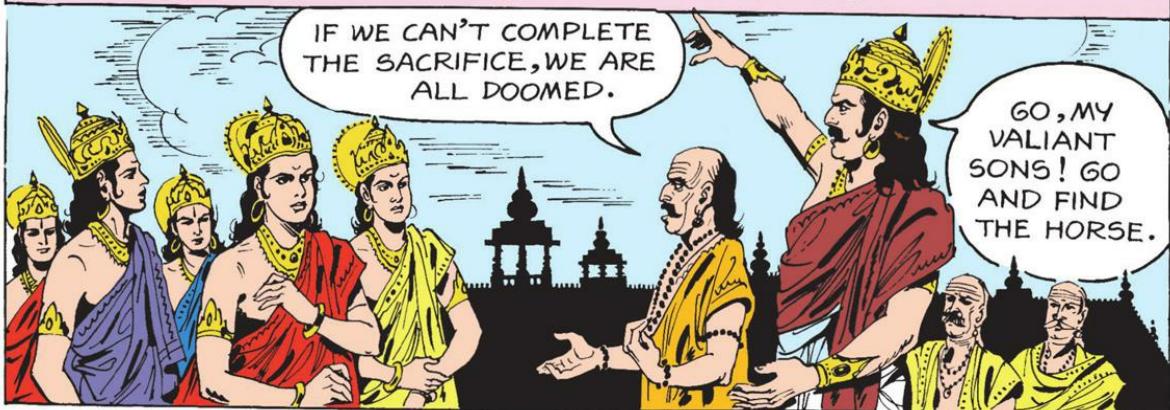
BUT ASAMANJA'S SON AMSUMAN WAS A VERY KIND AND CONSIDERATE BOY AND THE PEOPLE LOVED HIM. ONCE, WHEN KING SAGARA WAS PERFORMING THE ASHWAMEDHA SACRIFICE ...



... INDRA STOLE THE SACRIFICIAL HORSE.



WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THAT THE HORSE WAS STOLEN, THE OFFICIATING PRIEST AND SAGARA TURNED TO THE 60,000 PRINCES.



THE SONS OF SAGARA SEARCHED THE WHOLE EARTH BUT COULD NOT FIND THE HORSE. AT LAST —



WHEN THEY REACHED THE NETHER WORLD-



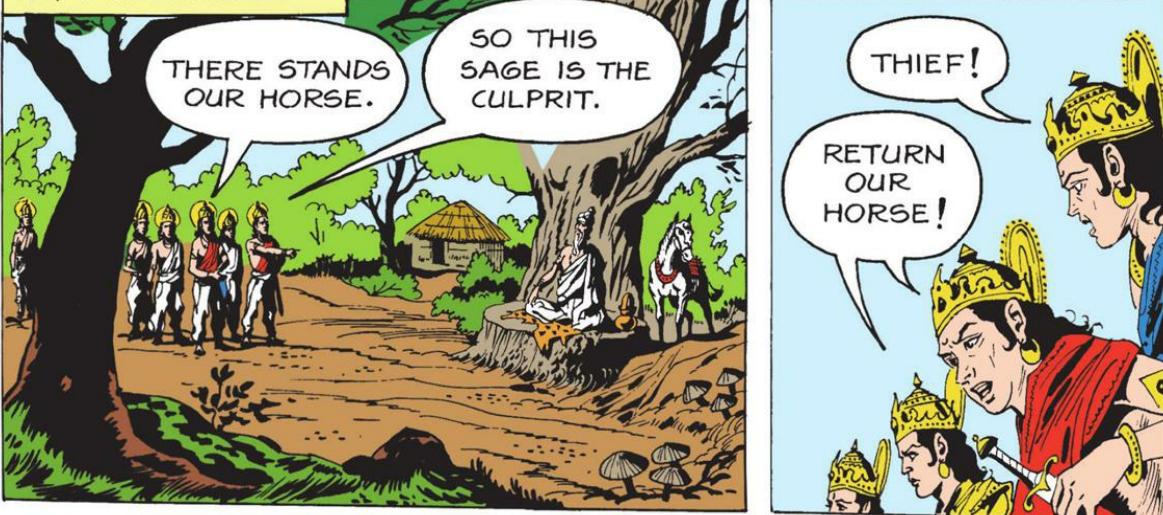
THEY SEARCHED FOR A WHILE. THEN -



WHEN THE SAGARAS HAD DUG THE EARTH TO TUNNEL THEIR WAY TO THE NETHER WORLD, THE PANIC-STRICKEN INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH RAN HITHER AND THITHER. THE ELEPHANT TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF THEIR WEIGHT, MOVED, CAUSING A TREMENDOUS EARTHQUAKE.



MEANWHILE, OBLIVIOUS OF THE HARM THAT THEY HAD DONE, THE SONS OF SAGARA MOVED ON AND CAME TO WHERE SAGE KAPILA SAT MEDITATING.

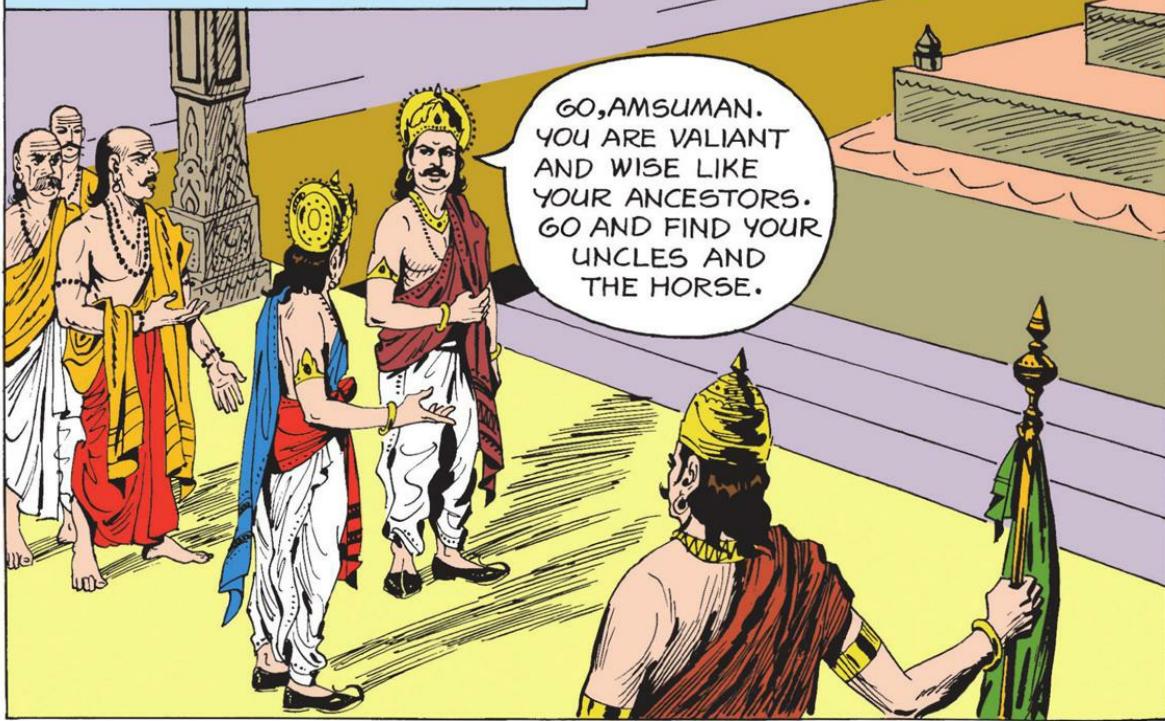


AS THE ENRAGED PRINCES WERE ABOUT TO ATTACK HIM -

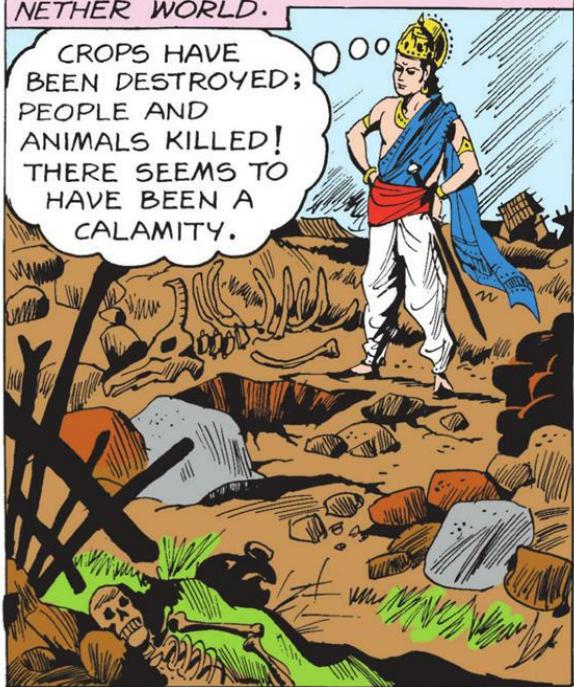


ANGERED BY THEIR AUDACITY, THE POWERFUL KAPILA BURNED THE 60,000 PRINCES TO ASHES BY UTTERING BUT ONE SYLLABLE.

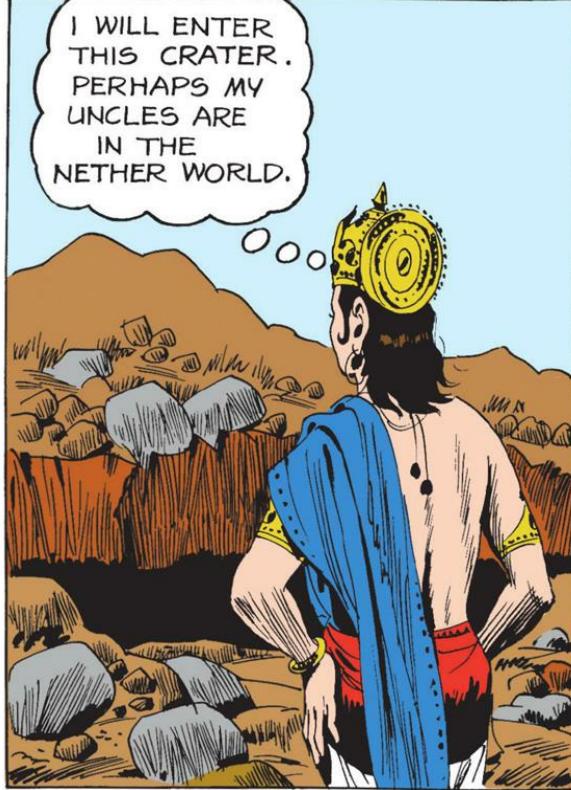
MEANWHILE, AT THE SACRIFICE, WHEN THE PRINCES DID NOT RETURN, SAGARA REMEMBERED SHIVA'S WORDS. HE TURNED TO AMSUMAN, HIS BELOVED GRANDSON.

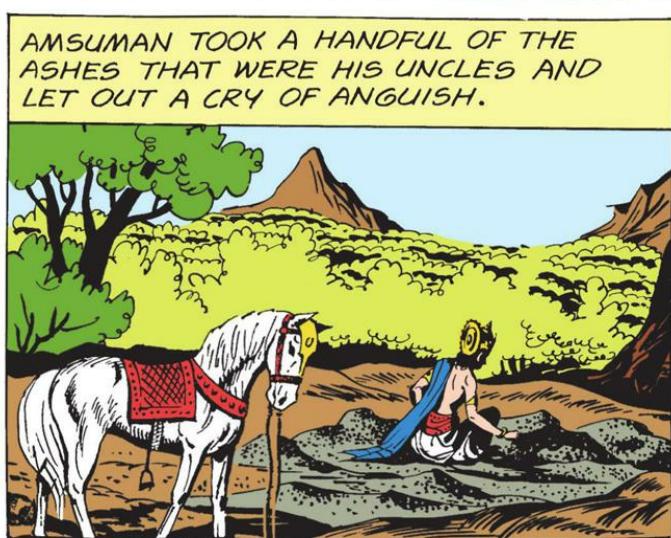
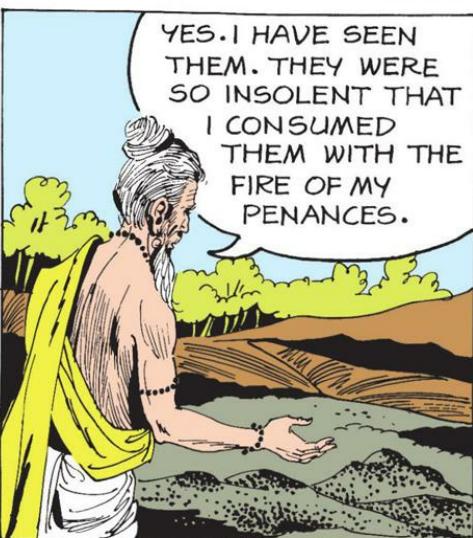
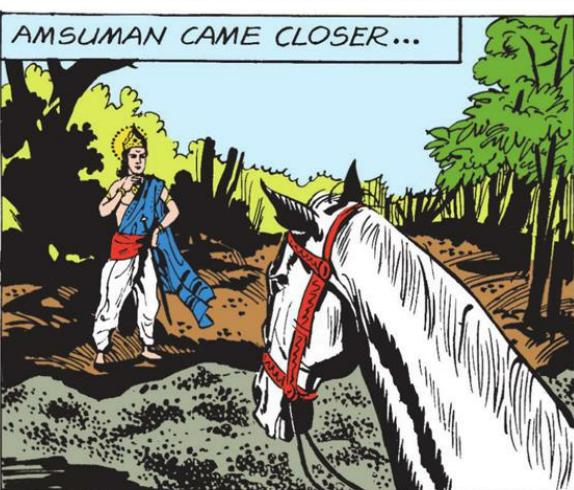
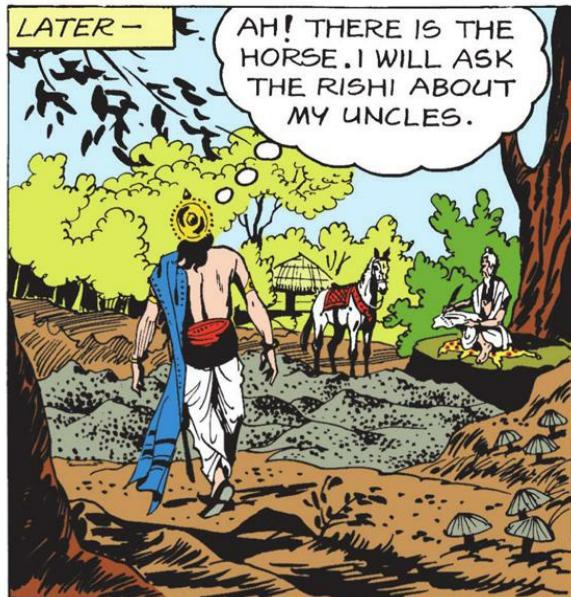
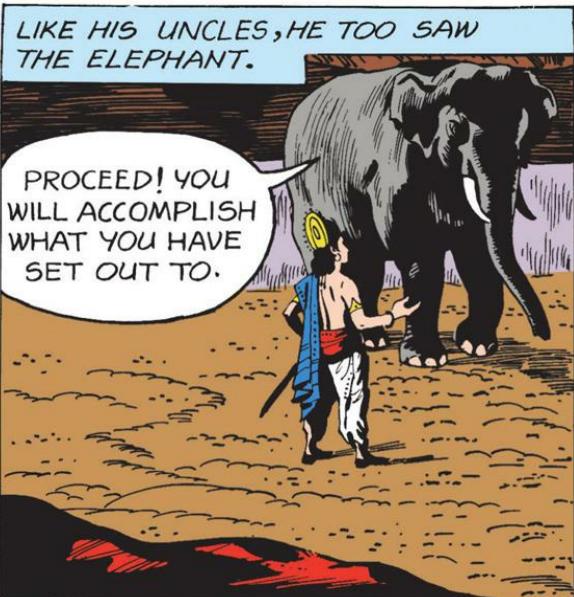


AMSUMAN SET OUT AND SOON CAME UPON THE PLACE WHERE HIS UNCLEs HAD ENTERED THE NETHER WORLD.

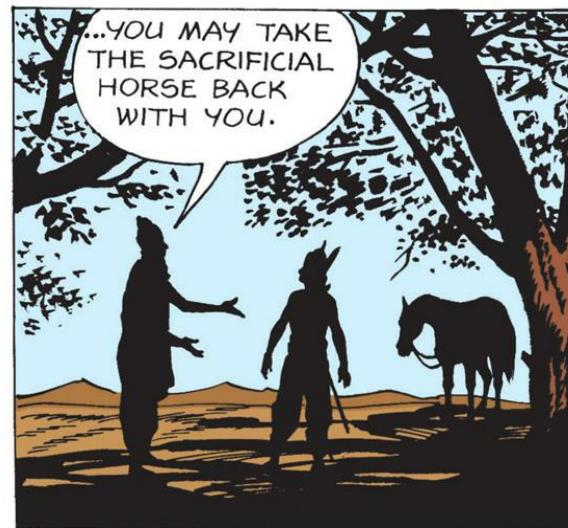
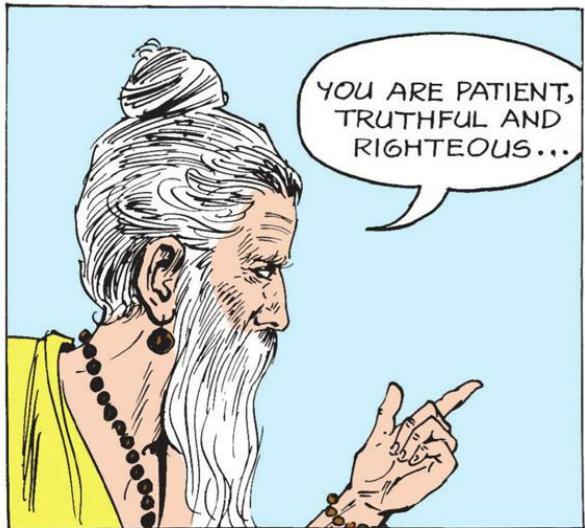
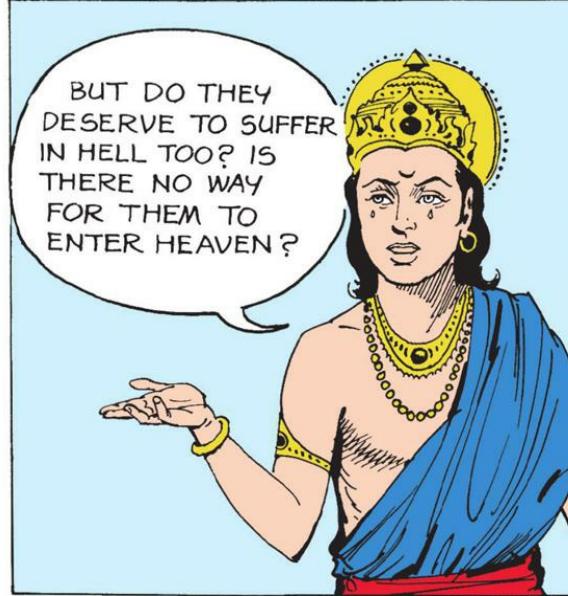
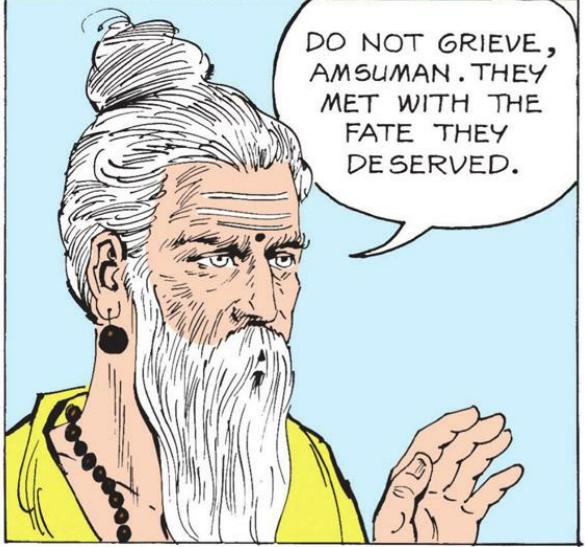


I WILL ENTER THIS CRATER. PERHAPS MY UNCLEs ARE IN THE NETHER WORLD.





THE SAGE TRIED TO CONSOLE HIM.



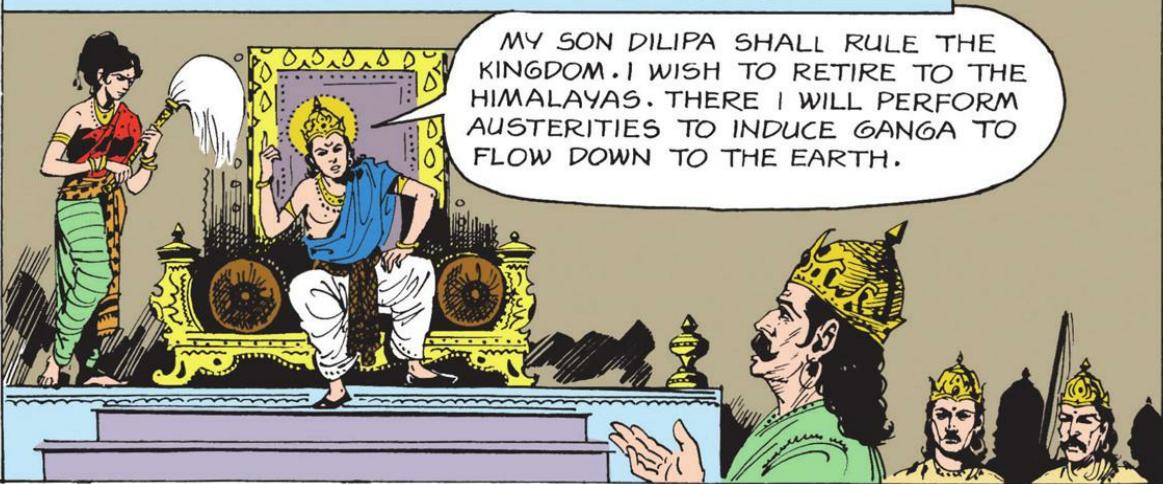
AMSUMAN RETURNED WITH THE HORSE.



LATER, AT THE PALACE, WHEN AMSUMAN TOLD SAGARA WHAT THE SAGE HAD SAID -



WHEN SAGARA DIED, AMSUMAN BECAME KING. BUT -



AMSUMAN HOWEVER DIED WITHOUT SUCCEEDING IN HIS ATTEMPTS.
HIS SON DILIPA WAS OVERCOME BY GRIEF.



DAY AND NIGHT HE THOUGHT ABOUT THE FATE OF HIS ANCESTORS AND HOW HE MIGHT REDEEM THEIR SOULS. BUT—



AT LAST EVEN DILIPA WAS ON HIS DEATHBED, LEAVING THE TASK UNACCOMPLISHED. HIS SON BHAGIRATHA, HOWEVER, MADE A VOW IN THE DYING KING'S PRESENCE.



ACCORDINGLY, WHEN DILIPA DIED,
BHAGIRATHA ADDRESSED THE
MINISTERS.

I WILL BE KING
ONLY AFTER GANGA
FLOWS ON EARTH.
I ENTRUST THE
KINGDOM TO YOU.



I AM LEAVING
FOR THE FOREST
WHERE I WILL
UNDERGO THE
MOST SEVERE
PENANCES.



FOR YEARS BHAGIRATHA CONTINUED
HIS PENANCES AND MEDITATION.



AT LAST, PLEASED BY HIS SINGLE-MINDEDNESS, BRAHMA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.

ASK FOR A BOON,
O STEADFAST
ONE, AND IT
SHALL BE
GRANTED TO
YOU.

THEN LET
GANGA FLOW DOWN
TO EARTH FROM
THE HEAVEN AND
DELIVER THE
SOULS OF MY
ANCESTORS.

YOUR AIM IS A LOFTY
ONE. BUT THE EARTH
CANNOT SUSTAIN
THE FORCE OF HER
FALL. ONLY SHIVA
CAN WITHSTAND IT.

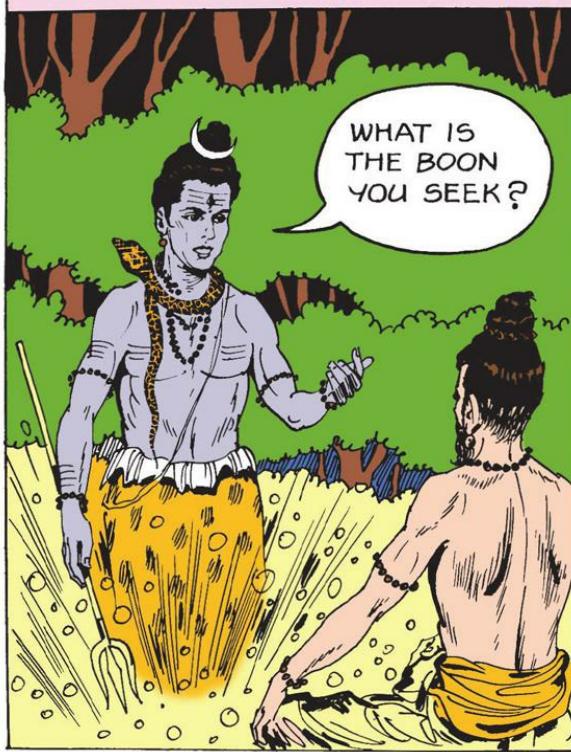
FOR A YEAR
BHAGIRATHA
ADORED SHIVA.

AND BRAHMA DISAPPEARED.

THEN I SHALL
PERFORM
PENANCES
TO PLEASE
SHIVA.



SHIVA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.

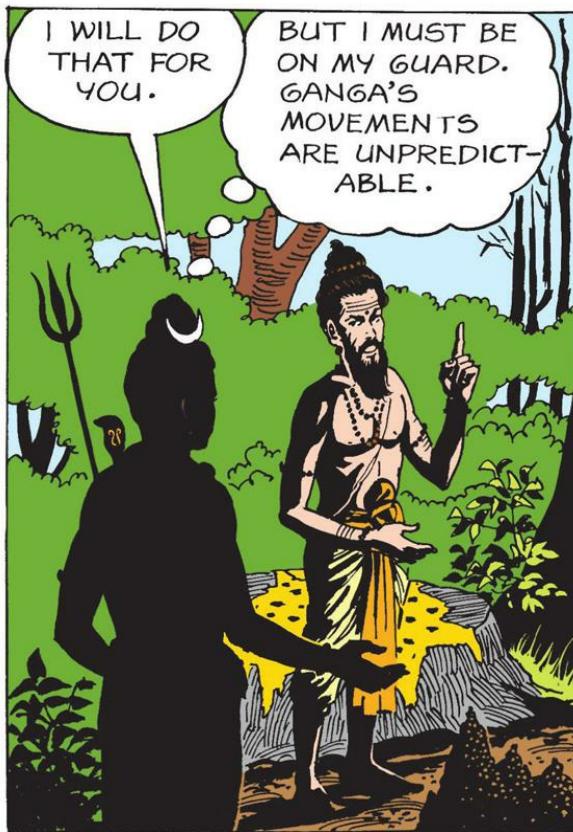


LORD, PLEASE RECEIVE THE FORCE OF GANGA AS SHE DESCENDS TO EARTH.



I WILL DO THAT FOR YOU.

BUT I MUST BE ON MY GUARD. GANGA'S MOVEMENTS ARE UNPREDICTABLE.



YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE CARE WHILE CONDUCTING GANGA ON EARTH. SHE IS ACCUSTOMED TO FLOWING ANYWHERE AT WILL.

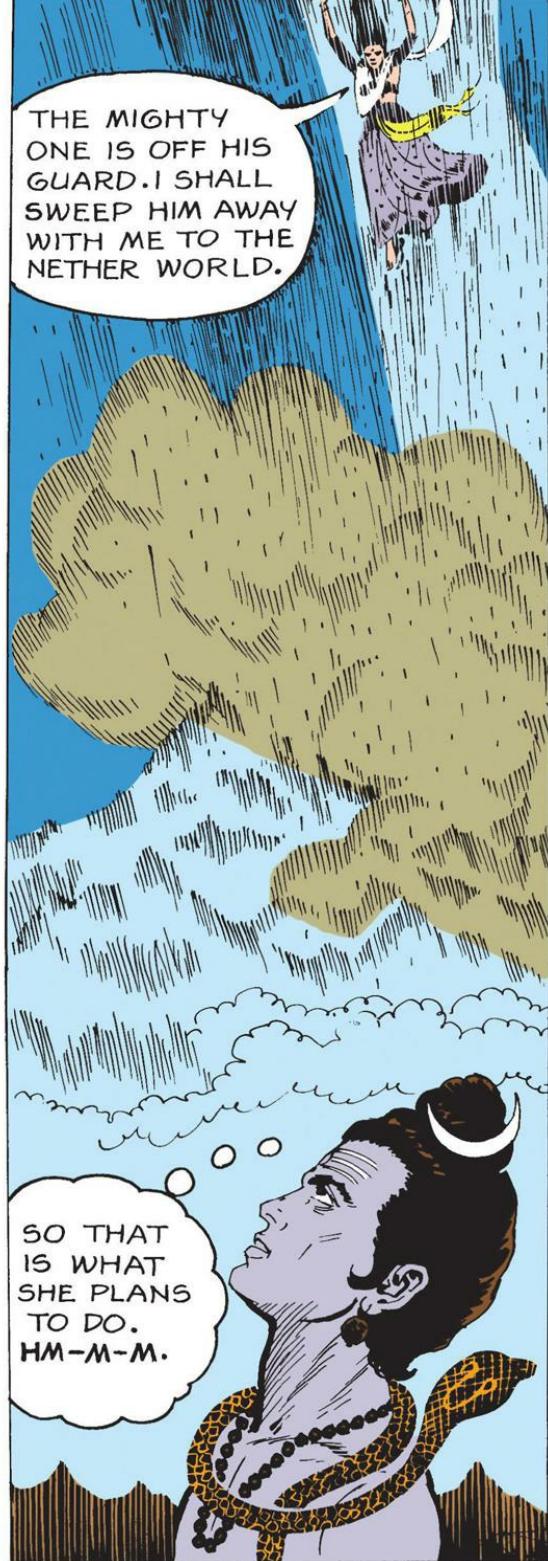
I WILL TAKE CARE, MY LORD.



IN HEAVEN, GANGA MADE READY TO DESCEND.



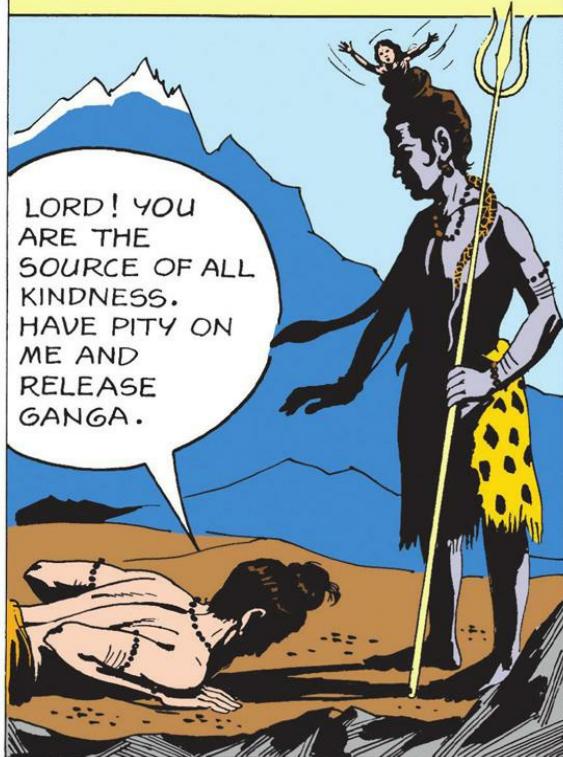
HALFWAY DOWN, A THOUGHT SUDDENLY OCCURRED TO HER.



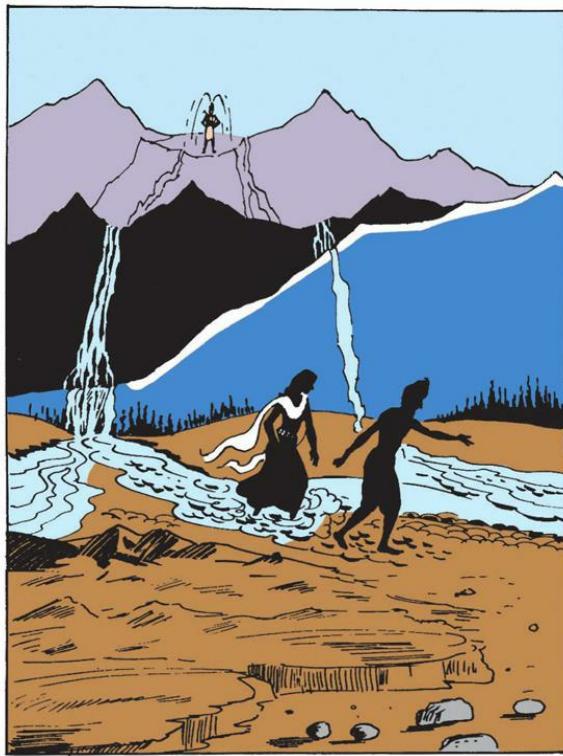
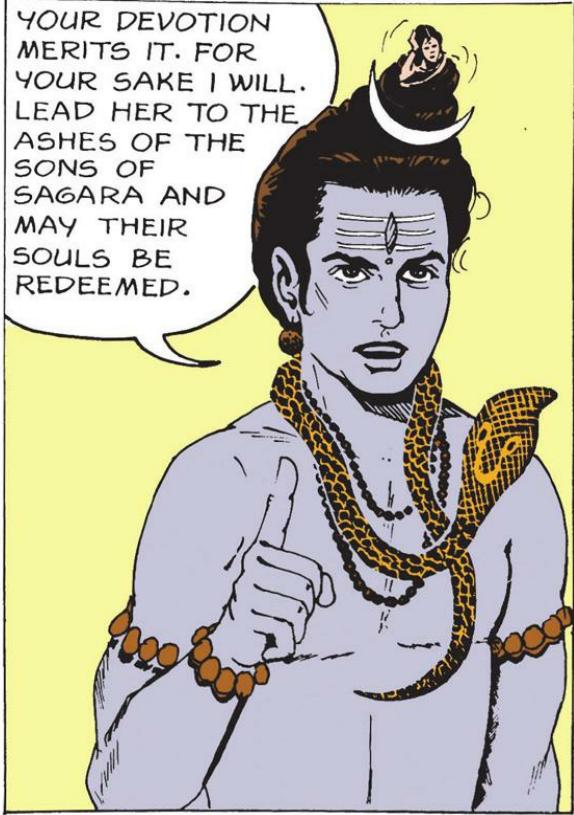
AS GANGA FELL, SHIVA IMPRISONED HER IN HIS MATTED LOCKS. SHE SWIRLED ABOUT IN HER PRISON FOR MANY A YEAR, UNABLE TO ESCAPE.



BHAGIRATHA ONCE AGAIN ADORED SHIVA AND THE MIGHTY GOD APPEARED BEFORE HIM.



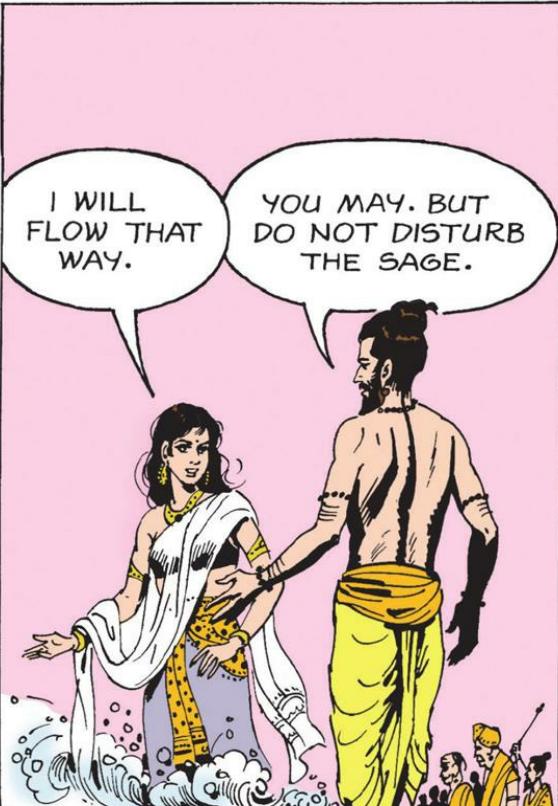
YOUR DEVOTION MERITS IT. FOR YOUR SAKE I WILL. LEAD HER TO THE ASHES OF THE SONS OF SAGARA AND MAY THEIR SOULS BE REDEEMED.



GANGA BECAME FURTHER PURIFIED BY HER CONTACT WITH THE LORD'S HEAD. PEOPLE RAN TO HER TO CLEANSE THEMSELVES OF ALL SINS.



BUT BHAGIRATHA'S TRIALS WERE NOT YET OVER. THE NETHER WORLD BEYOND THE OCEAN WAS STILL FAR AWAY. ON THE WAY—

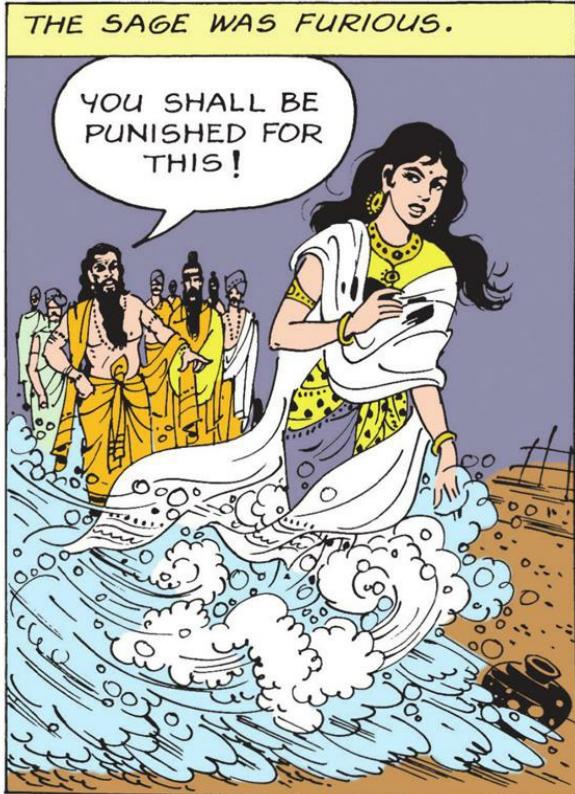


BUT THE IRREPRESSIBLE GANGA RUSHED FORWARD.

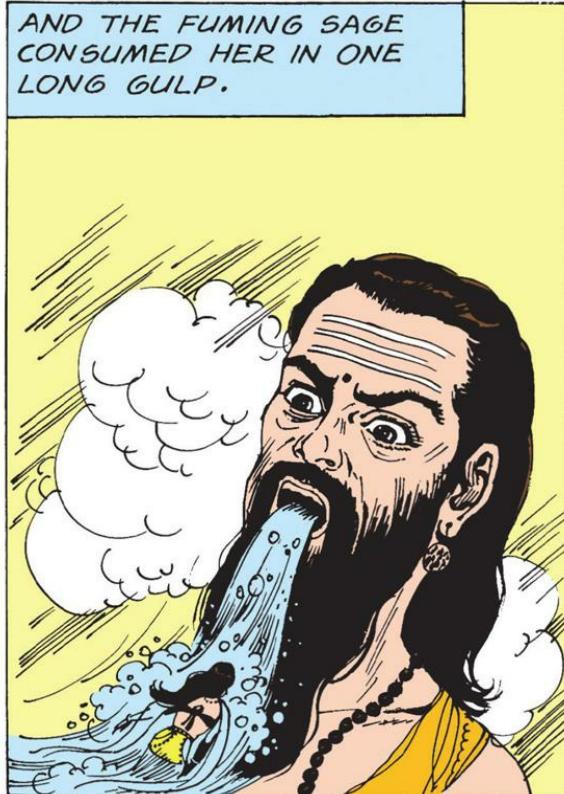


THE SAGE WAS FURIOUS.

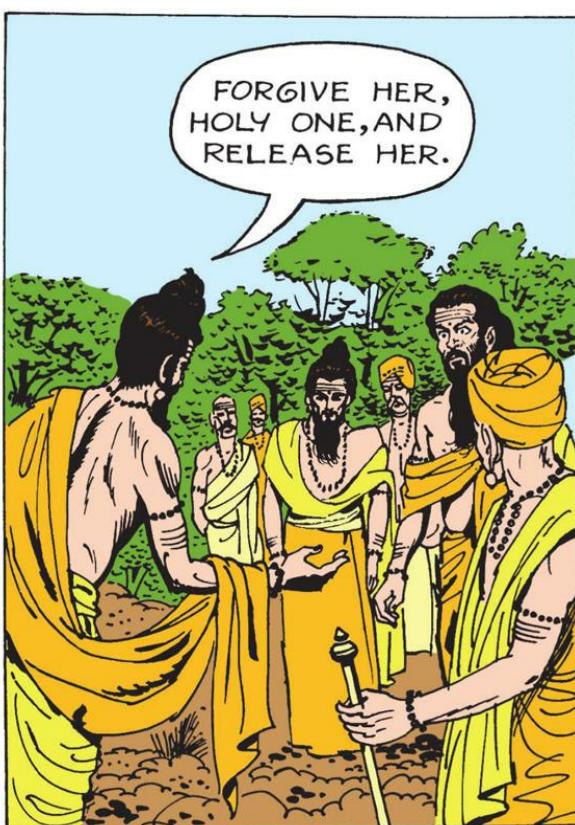
YOU SHALL BE
PUNISHED FOR
THIS!



AND THE FUMING SAGE
CONSUMED HER IN ONE
LONG GULP.



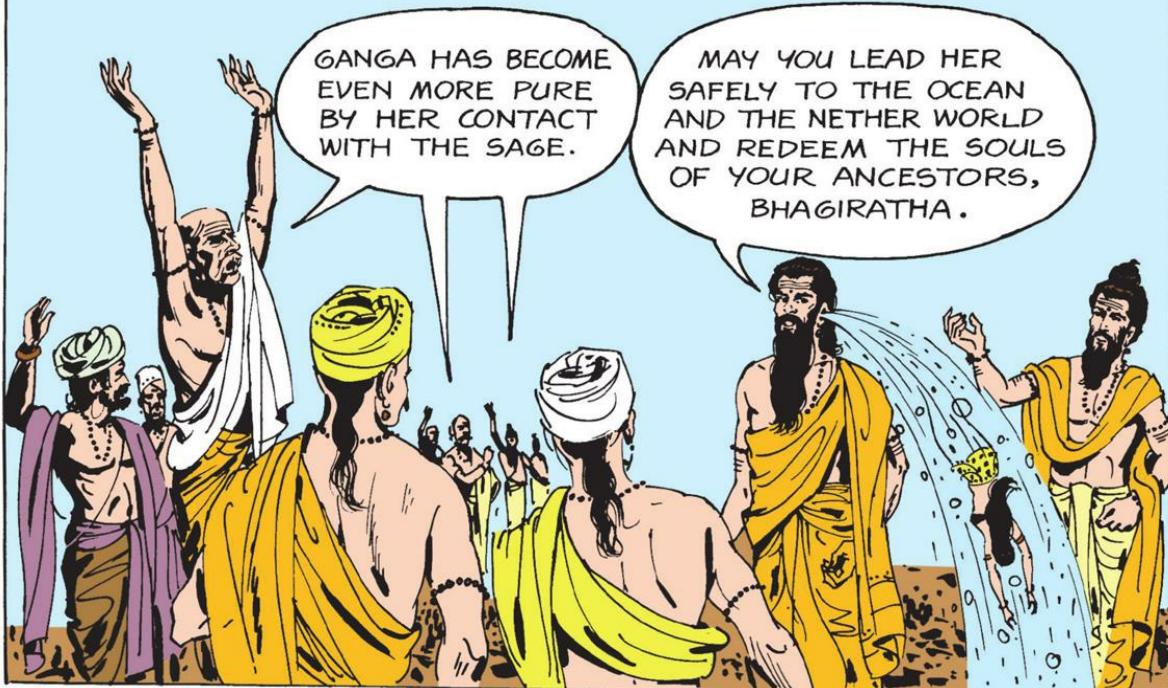
FORGIVE HER,
HOLY ONE, AND
RELEASE HER.



YES, O HOLY
ONE. LET NOT
THE ENDEAVOURS
OF BHAGIRATHA
BE WASTED.



OUT OF RESPECT FOR BHAGIRATHA'S PENANCES, JAHNU RELEASED GANGA.



AT LAST, BHAGIRATHA AND GANGA REACHED THE OCEAN AND THE NETHER WORLD BEYOND. GANGA FLOWED OVER THE ASHES OF THE SONS OF SAGARA AND ONTO THE OCEAN BED. FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS, THE OCEAN CAME TO BE KNOWN AS "SAGARA."



HIS PROMISE FULFILLED,
BRAHMA APPEARED BEFORE
BHAGIRATHA.

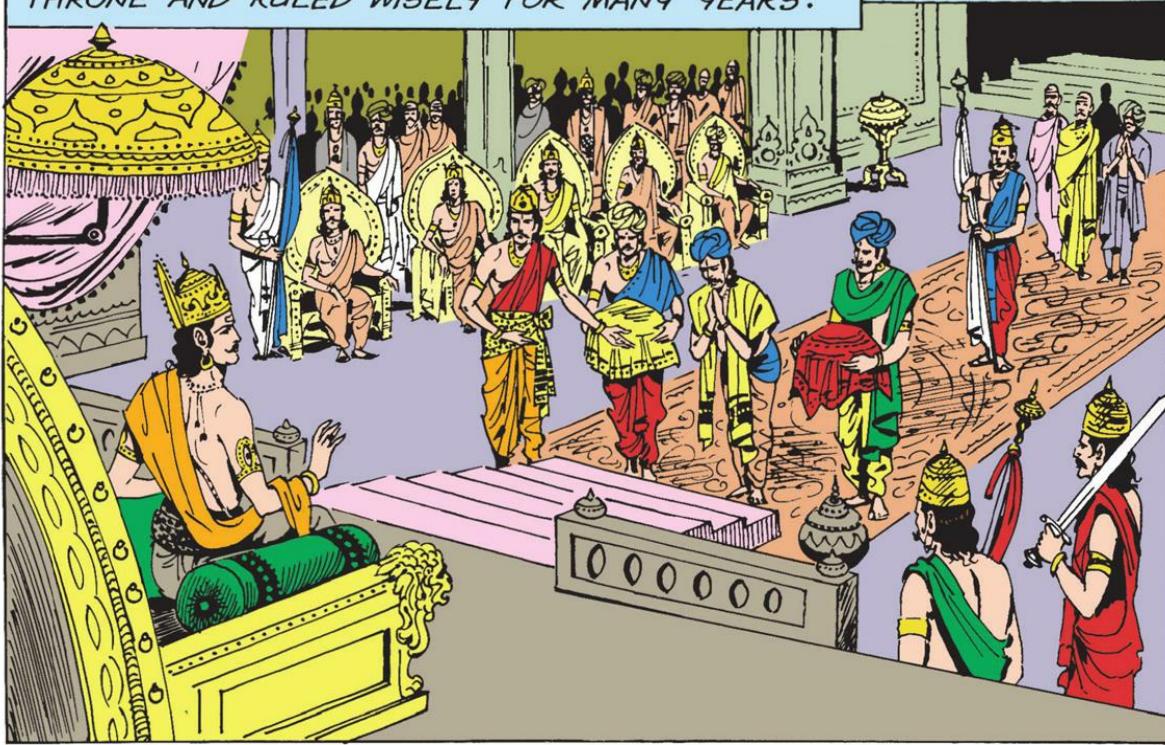
THE SONS OF SAGARA
ARE IN HEAVEN AND WILL
REMAIN THERE AS LONG
AS GANGA FLOWS ON
THE EARTH.



SINCE YOU
BROUGHT GANGA
TO EARTH BY
YOUR PENANCES,
SHE SHALL BE
KNOWN AS
BHAGIRATHI
— YOUR
DAUGHTER.



THEN BHAGIRATHA RETURNED TO HIS KINGDOM, ASCENDED THE THRONE AND RULED WISELY 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 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 	<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 Pandavas In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syamantaka Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vall Vishwamitra Yayati 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swami Chinmayananda Swami Pranavananda Tales Of Sai Baba Tansen Tulsidas Vidyasagar Vivekananda Zarathustra <p style="text-align: center;">INDIAN CLASSICS <i>Enchanting tales from Indian literature</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Vasanthesena Vasavadatta Veer Dhaval <p style="text-align: center;">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 Huen 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. S. Subbulakshmi Madhvacharya Mahavira Marie And Pierre Curie Megasthenes Mirabai Mother Teresa Narayan Guru Rabindranath Tagore Ram Shastri Ramana Maharshi Ramanuja Salim Ali Shankar Dev Soordas Sri. Ramakrishna Srinivasa Ramanujan Subramania Bharati 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mouse Merchant True Friends Kanwal And Kehar Kesari The Flying Thief King Kusha Manduka <p style="text-align: center;">PANCHATANTRA TALES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Sahasramalla 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 Viduy Chora Vikramaditya's Throne <p style="text-align: center;">FABLES AND HUMOUR <i>Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Bag Of Gold Coins Amrapali Andher Nagari Angulimala Bikal The Terrible Birbal The Clever Birbal The Genius Birbal The Just Birbal The Wise Birbal The Witty Birbal To The Rescue The Inimitable Birbal Chandalalat Dhola And Maru Friends And Foes Gopal And The Cowherd Gopal The Jester <p style="text-align: center;">BIRBAL STORIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birbal The Just Birbal The Witty Birbal To The Rescue The Inimitable Birbal Chandalalat Dhola And Maru Friends And Foes Gopal And The Cowherd Gopal The Jester <p style="text-align: center;">HITOPADESHA TALES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 style="text-align: center;">BRAVEHEARTS <i>Stirring tales of brave men and women of India</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Nation Awakes Ahilyabai Holkar Ajatasatru Akbar Amar Singh Rathor Ashoka Babur Bagha Jatin Bajirao I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Ranjit Singh Rash Bihari Bose Roopmati Sambhaji Samudra Gupta Sea Route To India Shah Jahan Shalivahana Shantala Sher Shah Shivaji Subhas Chandra Bose Sultana Razia Surjya 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 style="text-align: center;">CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS <i>(New Category)</i> <i>The best of modern Indian literature</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Blue Umbrella
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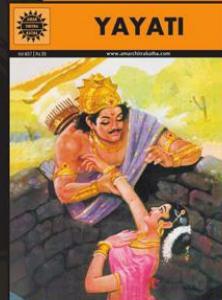
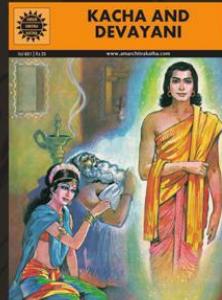
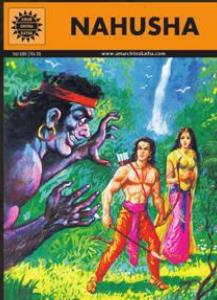
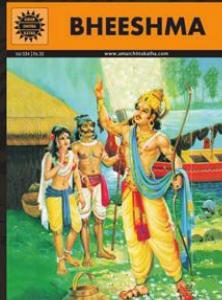
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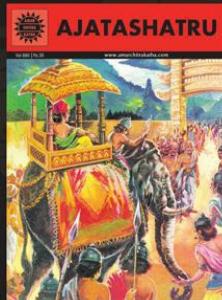
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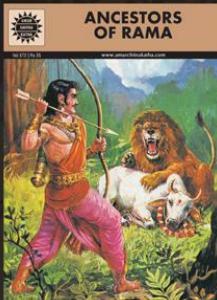
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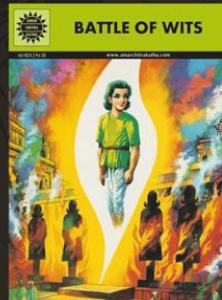
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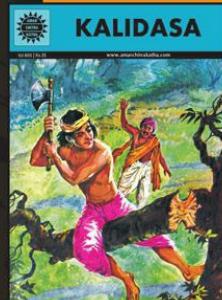
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