



SAVITRI

THE PERFECT WIFE

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Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

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ISBN 978-81-89999-03-2

Published by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., AFL House, 7th Floor,
Lok Bharati Complex, Marol Maroshi Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India.

Printed at Zirius Images Pvt. Ltd, Bhiwandi, Thane - 421 311.

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SAVITRI

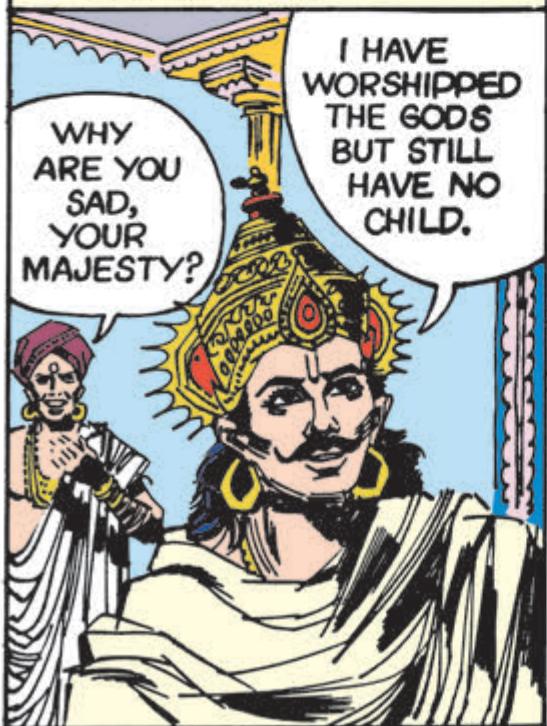


LONG AGO, IN THE KINGDOM OF MADRA RULED A KING CALLED ASVAPATI. HE WAS A RIGHTEOUS KING.

HE HAD MANY WIVES - AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE DAYS.
THE PALACE ECHOED WITH THEIR HAPPY VOICES.



BUT ASVAPATI WAS
UNHAPPY. HE HAD
NO CHILDREN.



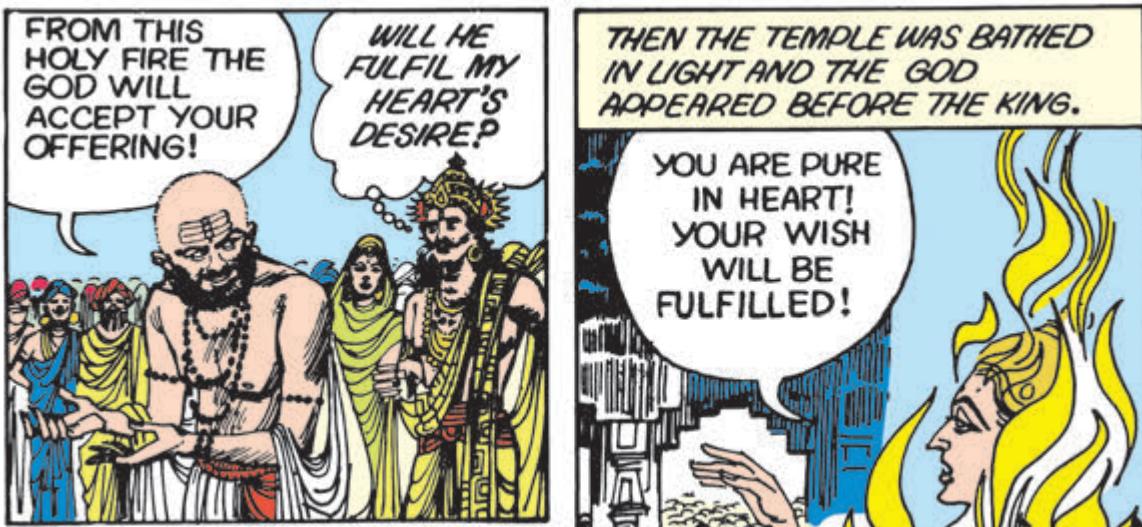
I HAVE
WORSHIPPED
THE GODS
BUT STILL
HAVE NO
CHILD.

YOUR
MAJESTY!
I HAVE
HEARD
GOD SAVITR
FULFILS
MANY
WISHES!

SAVITR?
THEN I
SHALL GO
TO HIS
TEMPLE.



SOON A ROYAL PROCESSION WOUND ITS WAY TO THE SAVITR TEMPLE...



THE MONTHS PASSED. ON THE DAY OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH, THE PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATES WAITING FOR THE NEWS.



THE PALACE WAS FILLED WITH THE CHILD'S LAUGHTER.

YOU BRING UP
A DAUGHTER AND
ONE DAY SHE
LEAVES FOR
ANOTHER
HOME!

GIRLS ARE LIKE
FLOWERS! WHEREVER
THEY GO, THEY
MAKE THE WORLD
BEAUTIFUL!



AS SHE GREW UP, SAVITRI LEARNT
MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY...



...AND ASTRONOMY...



...THEN TO THE
GROWING GIRL CAME
THE KNOWLEDGE
OF PAIN... OF
SEPARATION.

FATHER! MY
FRIENDS SAY A
GIRL MUST
MARRY AND GO
AWAY! I WILL
NOT GO
ANYWHERE!

HA! HA!
IT'S NOT TIME
YET FOR THAT,
MY DEAR!



BUT TIME PASSED... SAVITRI HAD GROWN TO BE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. ONE DAY SHE CAME TO HER FATHER.

FATHER! MAY I GO TO THE TEMPLE?

ALL ALONE?
WELL, YES!
YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH!



IN THE QUIET STILLNESS OF THE TEMPLE SITUATED ON A HILL TOP, SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.

WHY DIDN'T I COME HERE BEFORE?



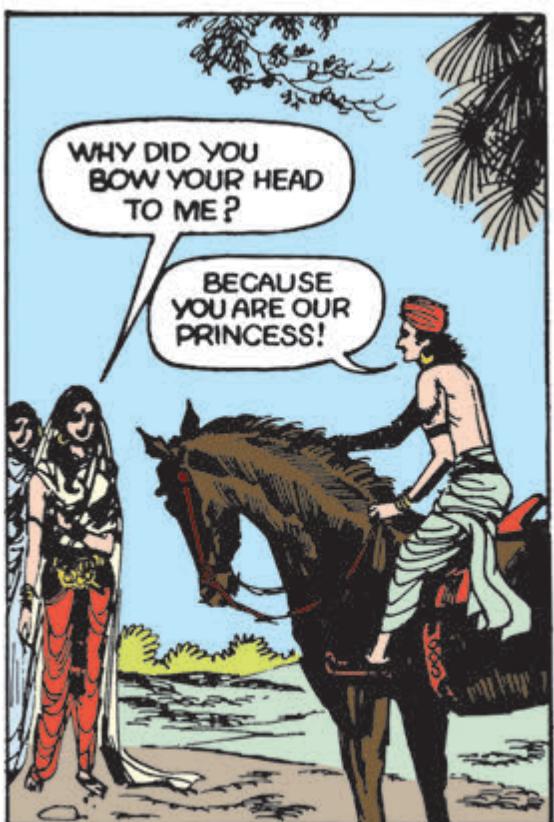
ON HER WAY BACK SAVITRI SAW A GROUP OF YOUNG OFFICERS RIDING NEAR THE PALACE GATE.

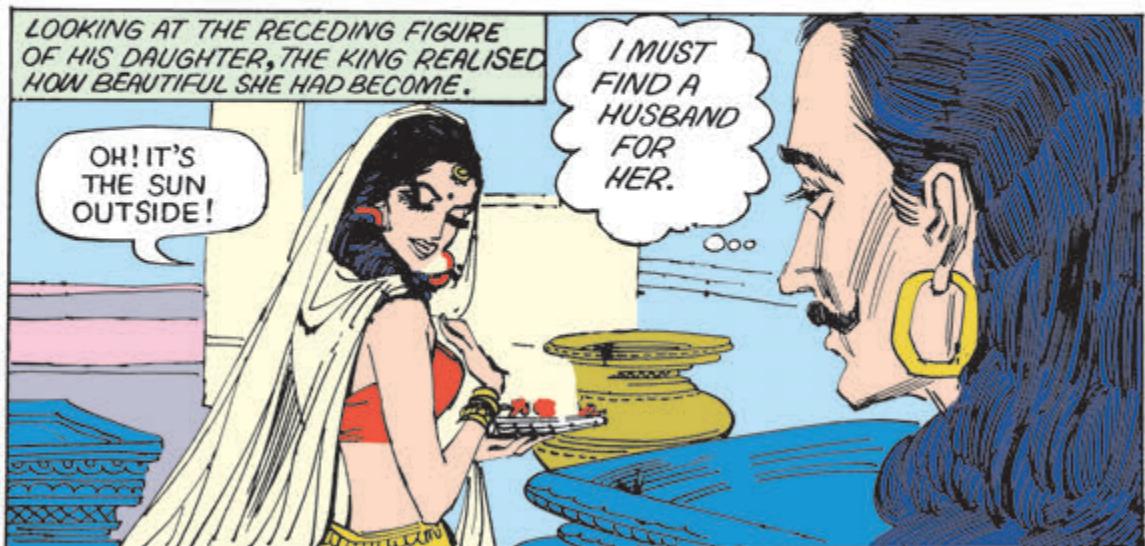
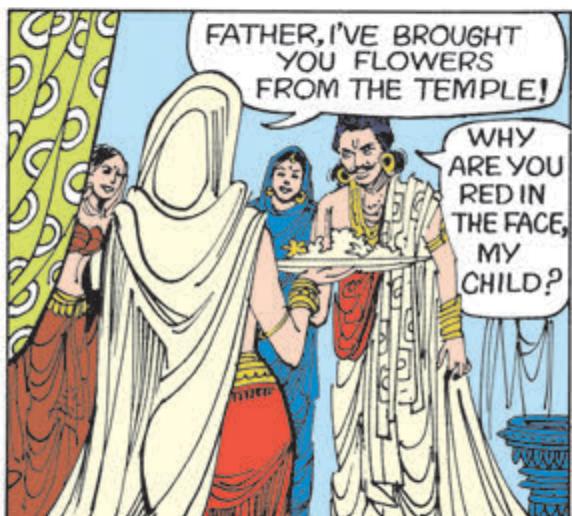
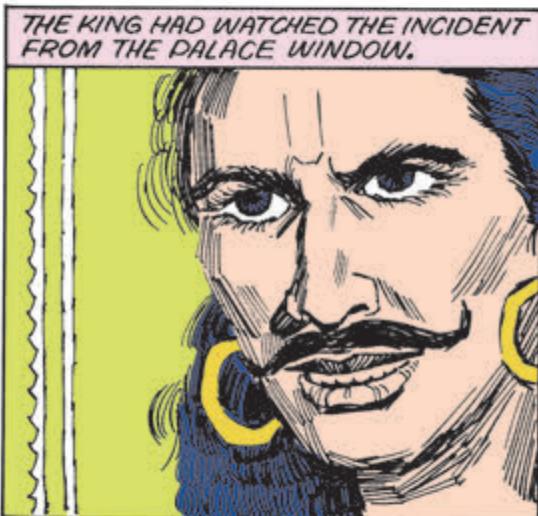
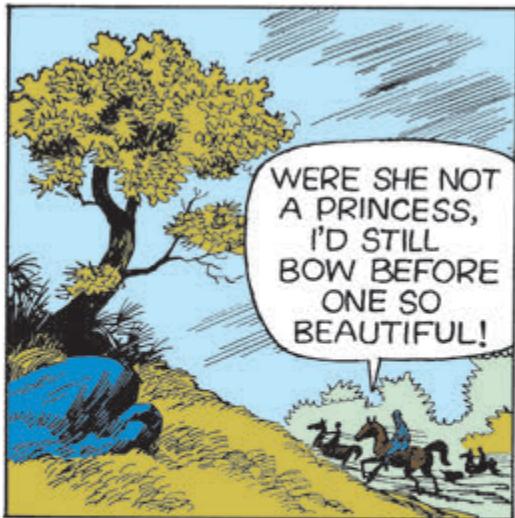
GOOD DAY, PRINCESS!

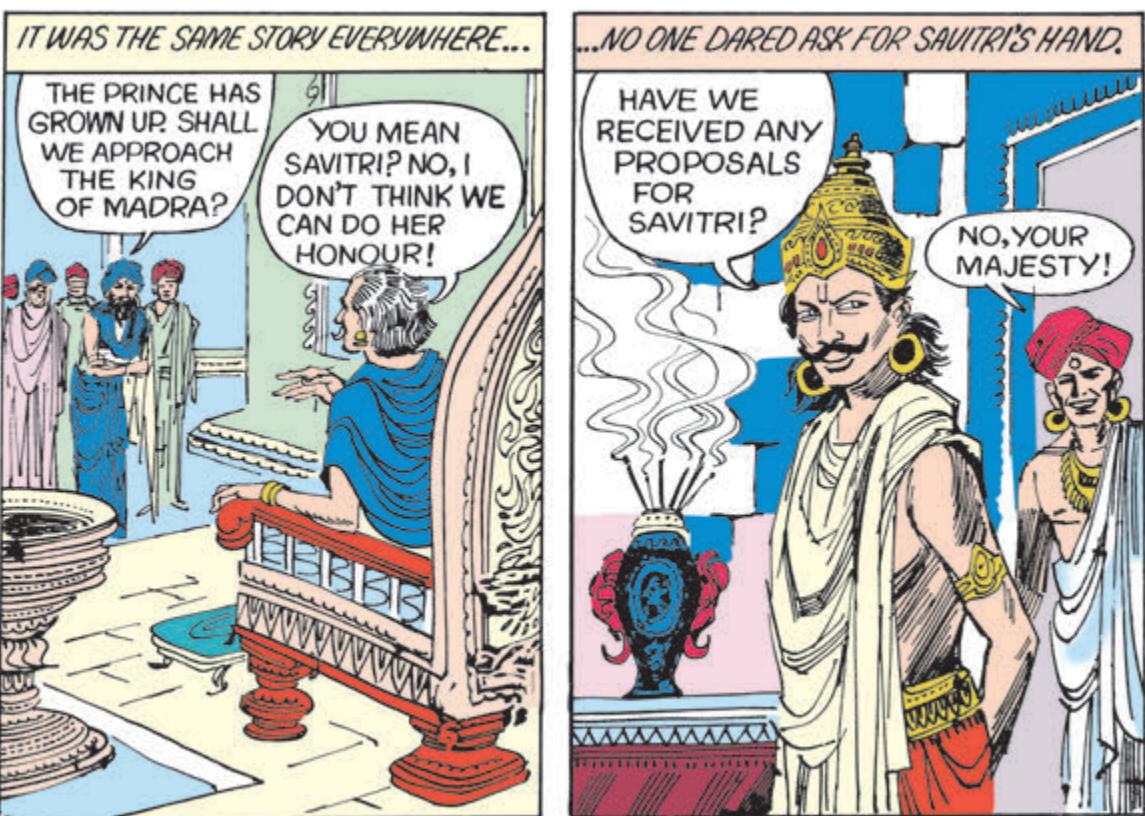
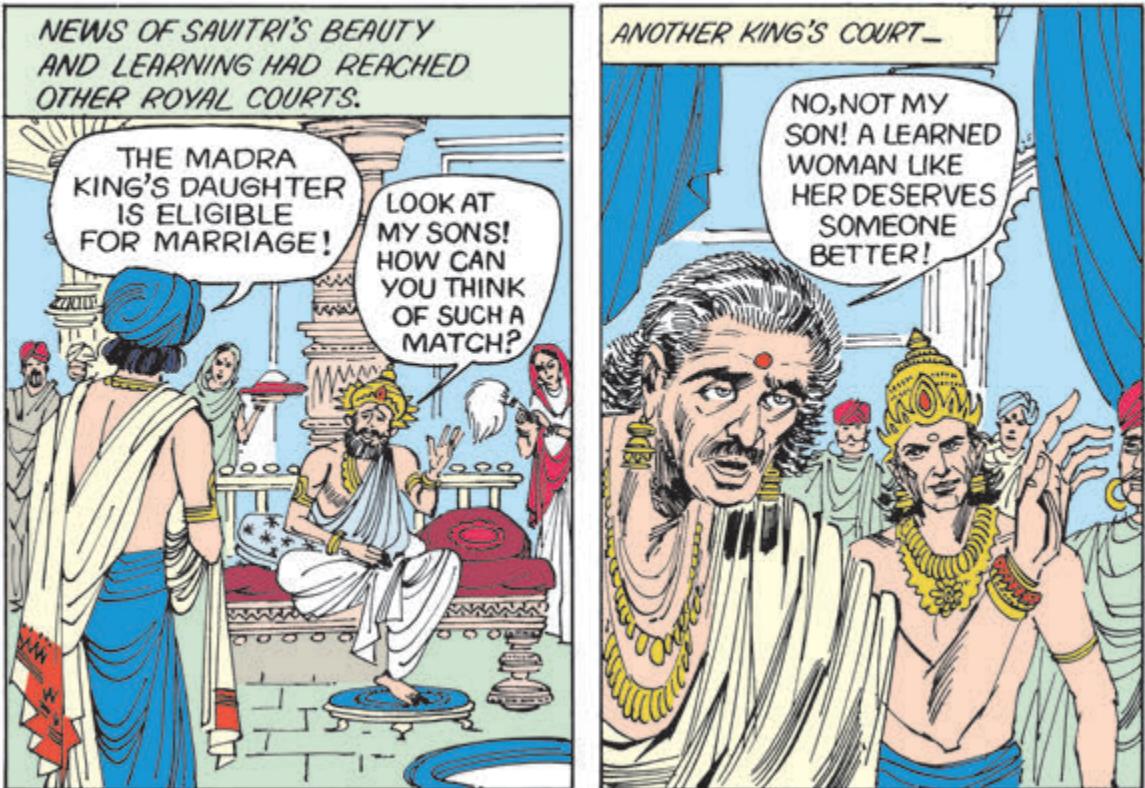


WHY DID YOU BOW YOUR HEAD TO ME?

BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR PRINCESS!







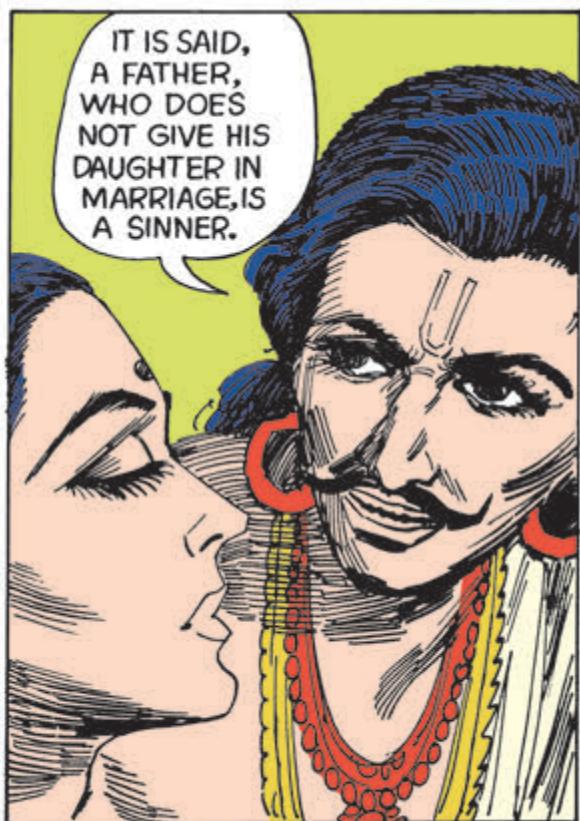
THE COURT JESTER CAME OUT WITH ANOTHER IDEA...



THE KING LIKED THE IDEA. HE CALLED SAVITRI TO HIS ROOM. SAVITRI WAS RELUCTANT.



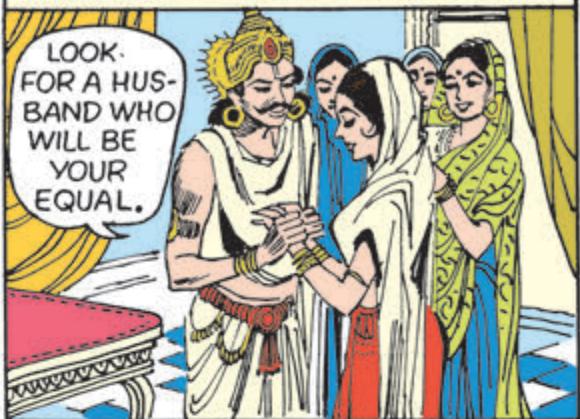
IT IS SAID,
A FATHER,
WHO DOES
NOT GIVE HIS
DAUGHTER IN
MARRIAGE, IS
A SINNER.



ALL RIGHT,
FATHER!
I SHALL DO
WHAT YOU SAY.



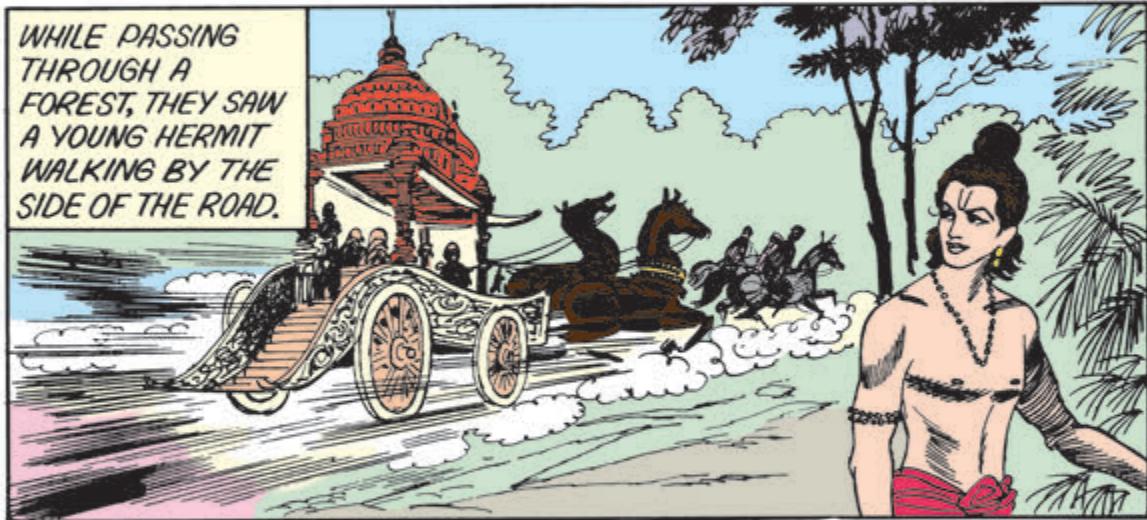
IT WAS ARRANGED THAT SAVITRI WOULD GO ON A TRIP THROUGH MANY KINGDOMS. THE MINISTER WOULD ACCOMPANY HER.



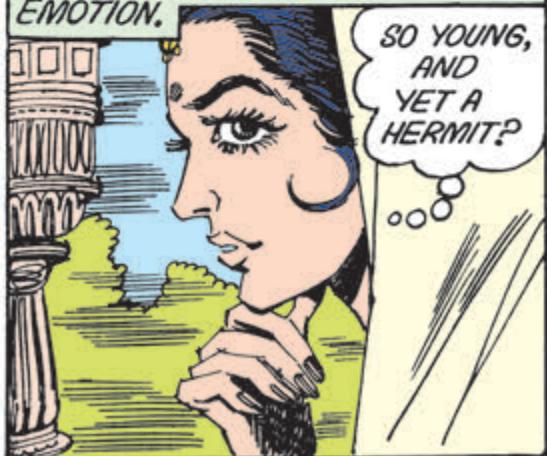
SAVITRI WAS THRILLED WITH THE JOURNEY— SHE WOULD VISIT SO MANY HOLY PLACES.



WHILE PASSING THROUGH A FOREST, THEY SAW A YOUNG HERMIT WALKING BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.

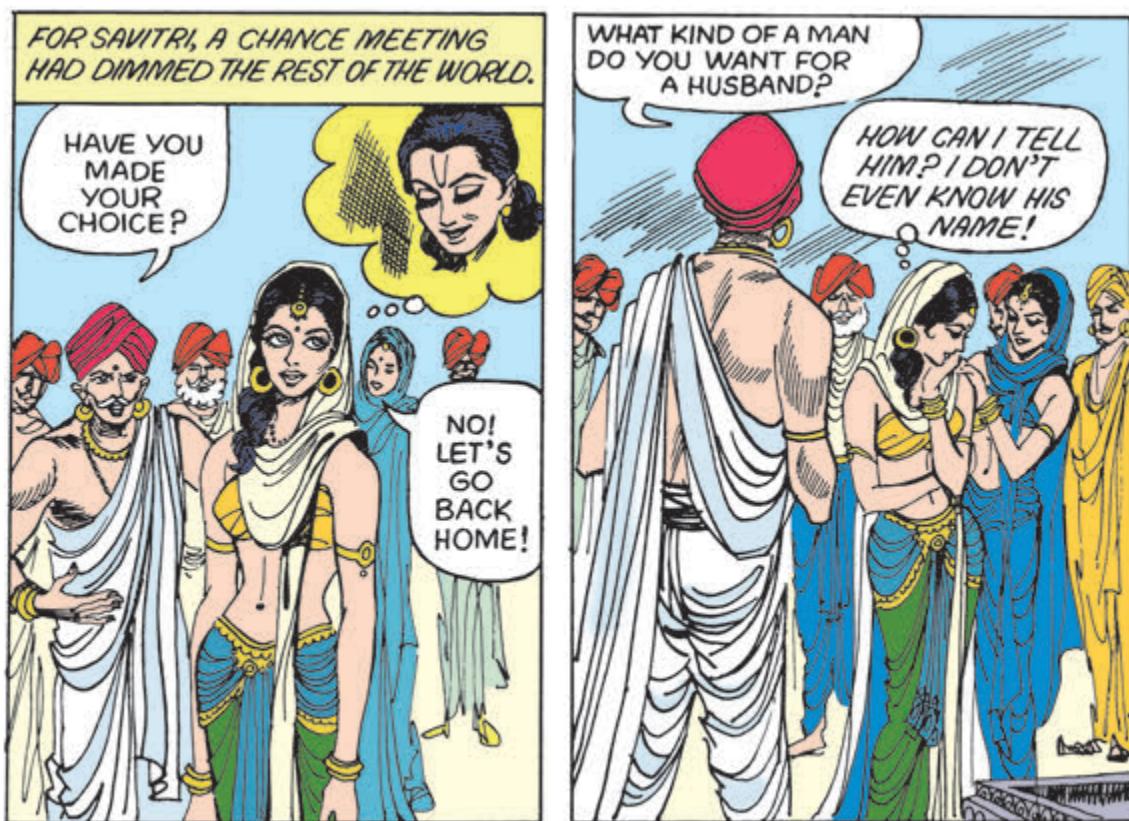


SAVITRI'S EYES FELL ON THE YOUNG MAN'S FACE AND SHE FELT A STRANGE EMOTION.



THE FACE WAS IMPRINTED ON HER MEMORY.





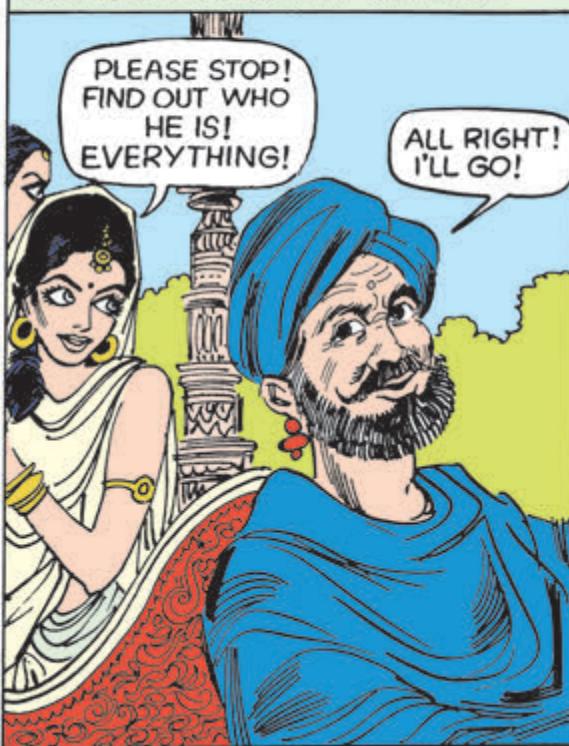
THE CHARIOT PASSED THROUGH THE FOREST AGAIN. SAVITRI SENSED THAT SHE WOULD MEET HIM AGAIN.



SOON SHE WAS STARTLED BY A WARM YOUTHFUL VOICE...



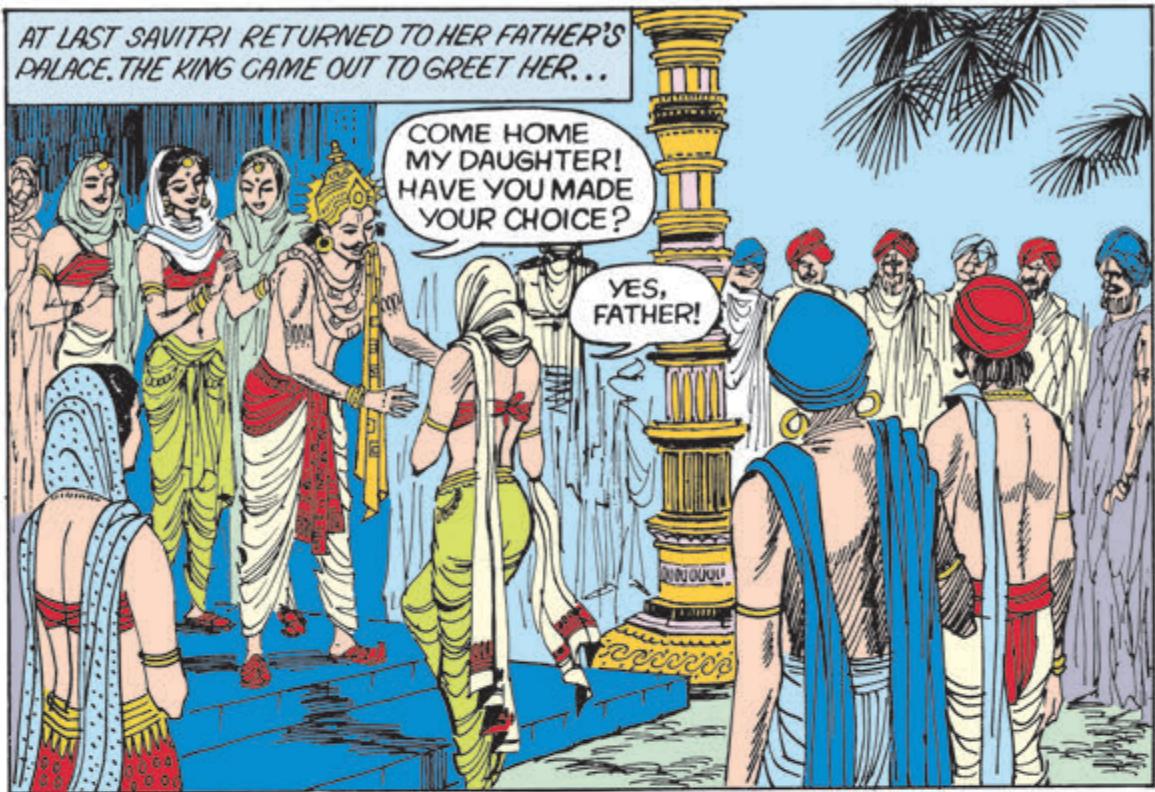
SAVITRI KNEW SHE HAD TO KNOW THE TRUTH! SHE COULD NOT GO AWAY.



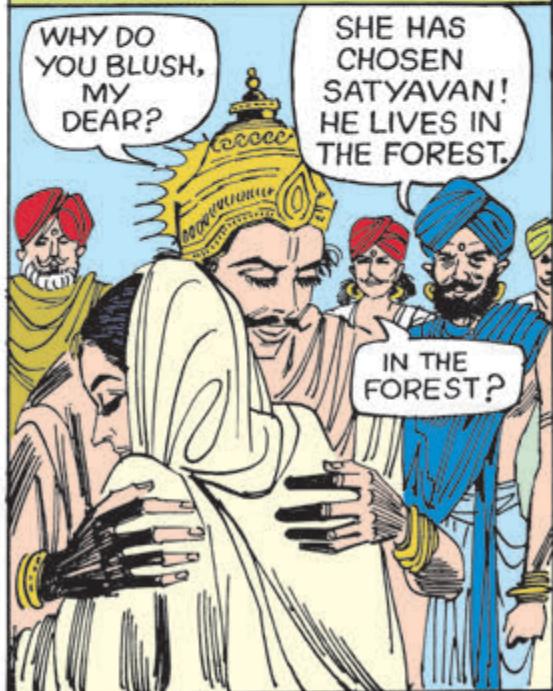
SOON THE MINISTER RETURNED.



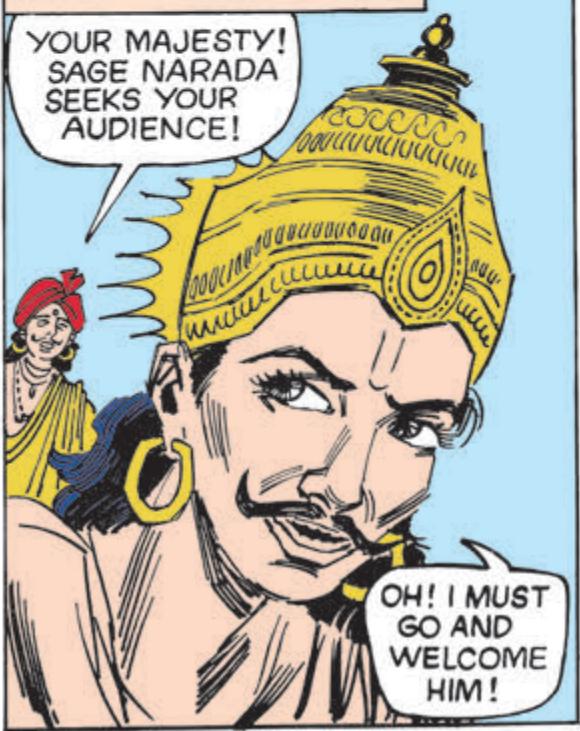
AT LAST SAVITRI RETURNED TO HER FATHER'S PALACE. THE KING CAME OUT TO GREET HER...

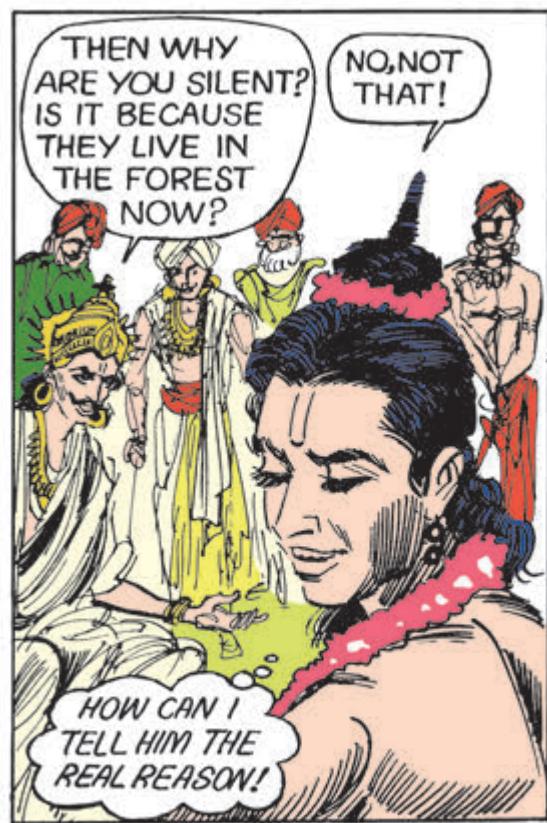
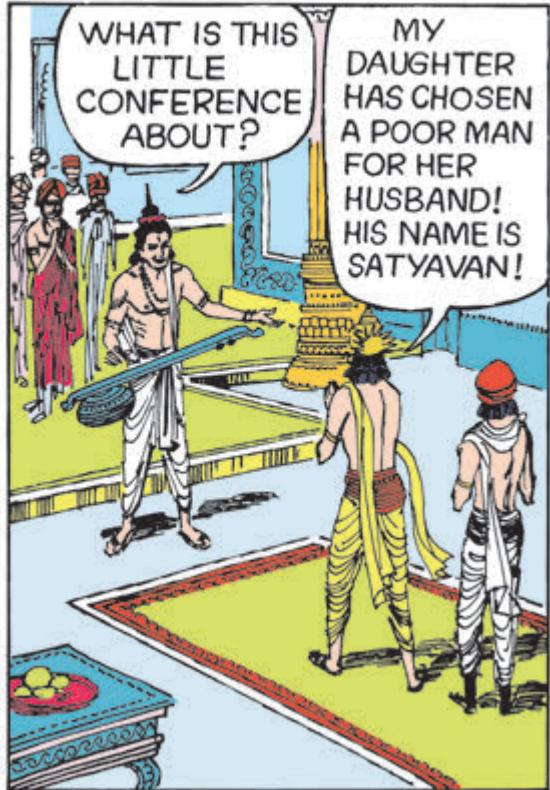


BUT SAVITRI WAS SOON OVERCOME WITH EMBARRASSMENT... SHE COULD NOT SPEAK...



...BUT THE CONVERSATION
WAS SOON INTERRUPTED.





ASUAPATI KEPT ON ASKING THE SAGE.

IS HE NOT NOBLE?
IS HE NOT BRAVE?

HE IS THE
NOBLES
AND
BRAVEST
OF ALL!

FINALLY NARADA HAD TO COME OUT
WITH THE TRUTH.

HE IS
DESTINED
TO DIE
EXACTLY
ONE YEAR
FROM
TODAY.

THAT MEANS MY
CHILD WILL BE A
WIDOW IN A
YEAR?

YES! IF SHE
MARRIES
HIM!

ASUAPATI WAS VERY UPSET.
HE CALLED SAVITRI.

MY CHILD! YOU CANNOT
MARRY SATYAVAN! HE
IS GOING TO DIE
SOON!

BUT FATHER! I'VE
ALREADY CHOSEN HIM
WITH MY HEART! HOW
COULD I MARRY
ANYONE ELSE?

AT LAST, ASUAPATI HAD TO GIVE IN.

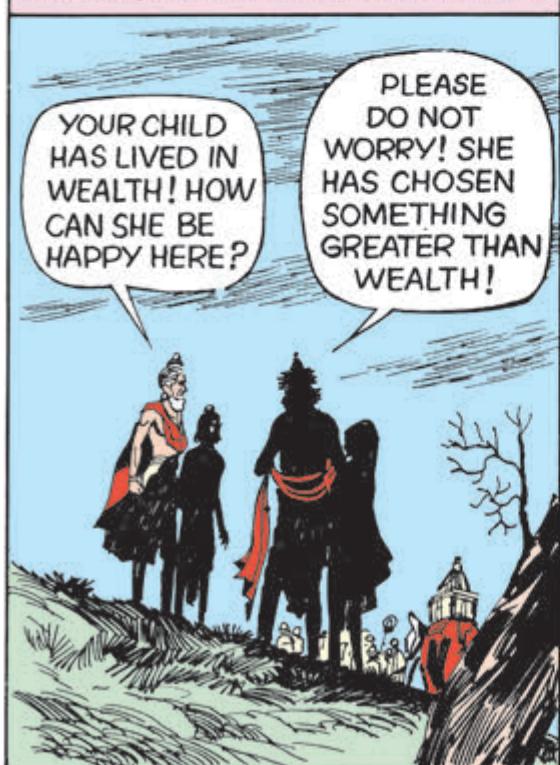
YOUR DAUGHTER HAS
MADE A BRAVE CHOICE!
PLEASE
ACCEPT
IT!

YES!
I'LL
ACCEPT
IT!

ONE DAY SOON AFTER, A BRIDAL PROCESSION REACHED THE FOREST...
THE HERMITS CAME FORWARD TO RECEIVE AND WELCOME THEM.



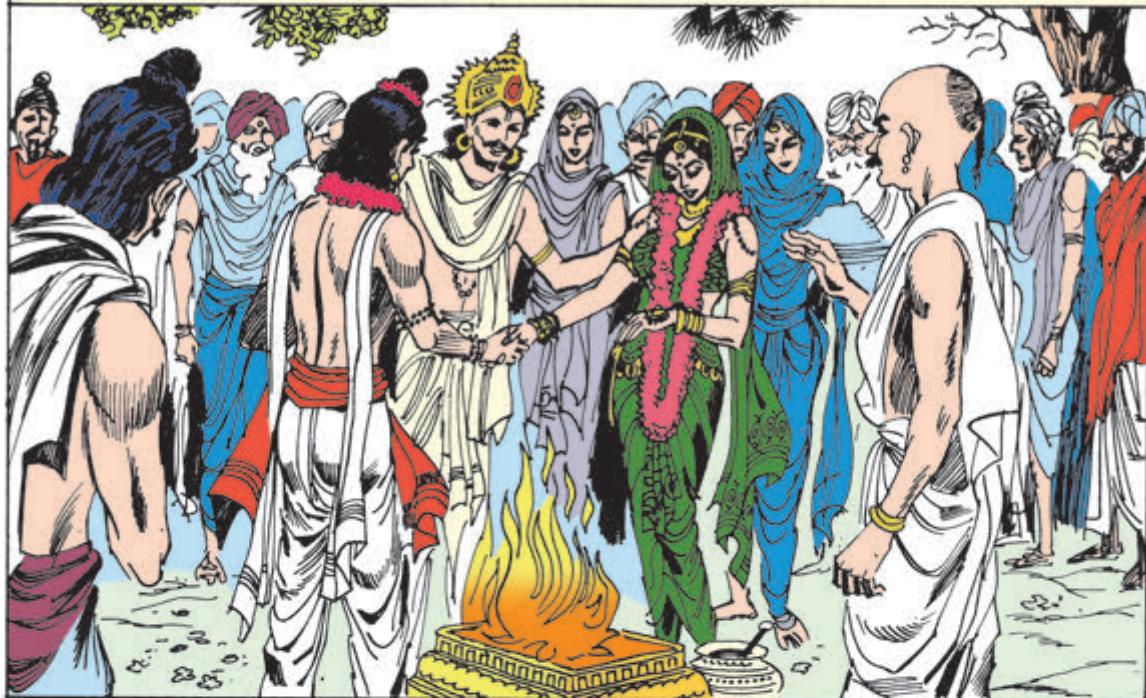
AT FIRST, DYUMATSENA WAS HESITANT.



HER FRIENDS DRESSED SAVITRI BEAUTIFULLY.



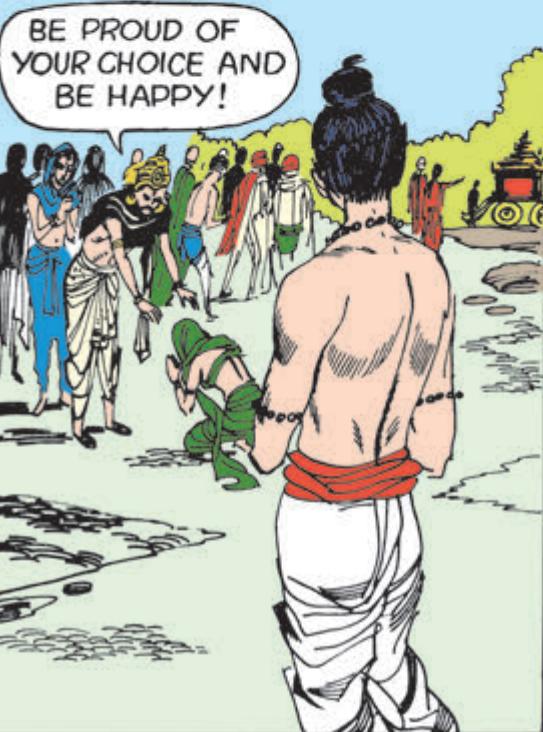
CHANTING THE SACRED MANTRA OF MARRIAGE, ASVAPATI GAVE AWAY HIS DAUGHTER TO SATYAVAN.



THE BRIDE AND GROOM WALKED AROUND THE SACRED FIRE SEVEN TIMES. THEY WERE MARRIED NOW.



THEN IT WAS TIME FOR FAREWELL.



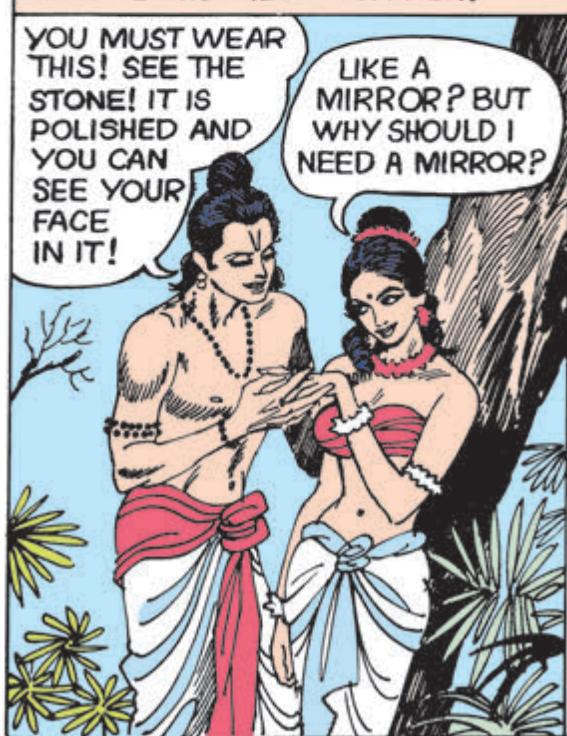
AS SOON AS HER PARENTS LEFT, SAVITRI TOOK OFF ALL HER JEWELS AND CLOTHED HERSELF IN CLOTHES OF BARK.



SATYAVAN TOOK OUT A BEAUTIFUL RING HE HAD KEPT FOR HER.

YOU MUST WEAR THIS! SEE THE STONE! IT IS POLISHED AND YOU CAN SEE YOUR FACE IN IT!

LIKE A MIRROR? BUT WHY SHOULD I NEED A MIRROR?



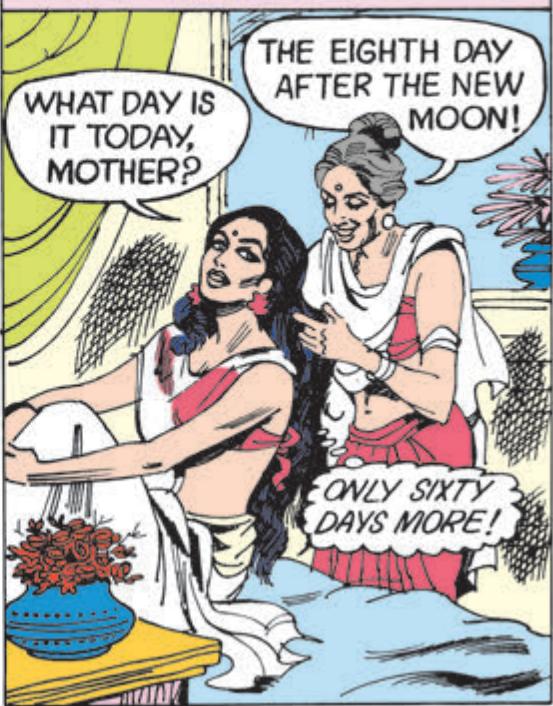
YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL FACE. LOOK AT IT!



SAVITRI WAS EXTREMELY DEVOTED TO HER PARENTS-IN-LAW! SHE LOOKED AFTER THEM LIKE A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER.



AS THE DAYS PASSED, A SECRET AGONY GREW WITHIN HER HEART.



AT LAST, THE YEAR WENT BY. THREE DAYS BEFORE THE FATEFUL DAY, SAVITRI BEGAN FASTING.



ON THE LAST NIGHT SHE COULD NOT SLEEP. ONLY ONE THOUGHT KEPT ON HAUNTING HER.



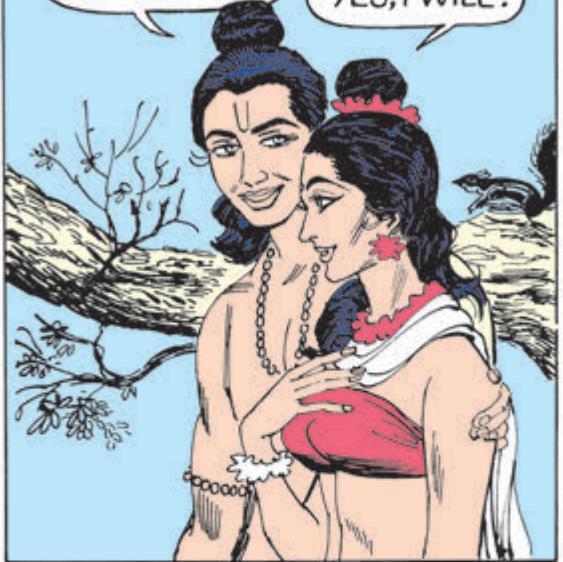
IN THE MORNING—**HER SMILING FACE HID THE AGONY IN HER HEART. SATYAVAN WAS HAPPY...****IN THE FOREST, SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FULL OF ANGUISH.**

EVERY SECOND, HER HEART BEATS BECAME LOUDER! EVERY BLADE OF GRASS SMELLED OF LURKING DEATH.

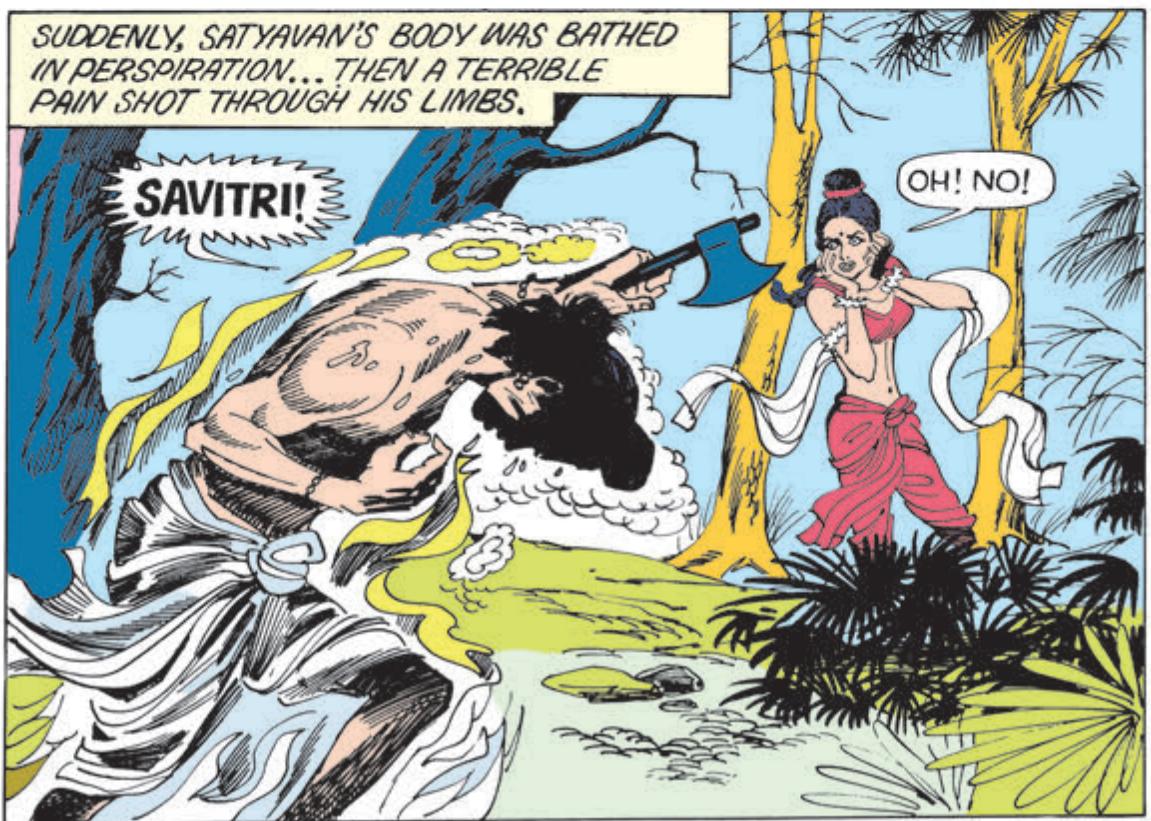


WILL YOU PLUCK SOME FRUIT? I HAVE TO CUT BRANCHES FOR FIREWOOD!

YES, I WILL!



SUDDENLY, SATYAVAN'S BODY WAS BATHED IN PERSPIRATION... THEN A TERRIBLE PAIN SHOT THROUGH HIS LIMBS.



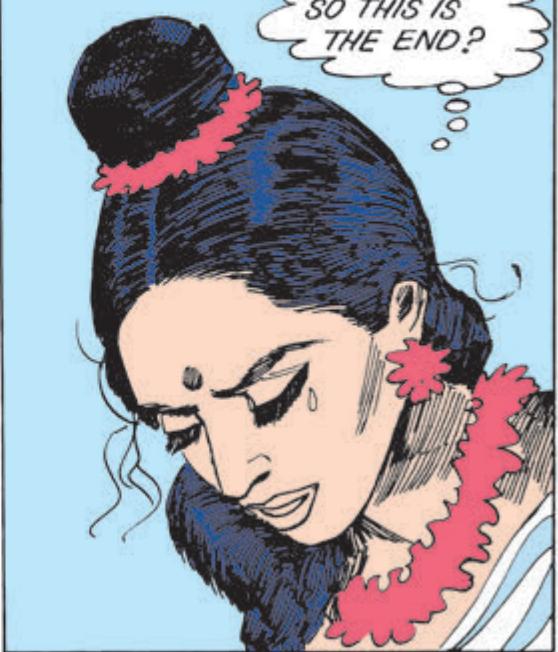
SAVITRI RAN TOWARDS HER HUSBAND...

SAVITRI, MY LIMBS ARE LOSING ALL SENSATION! LET ME SLEEP FOR A WHILE!



SOON, SATYAVAN'S BODY BECAME STILL.

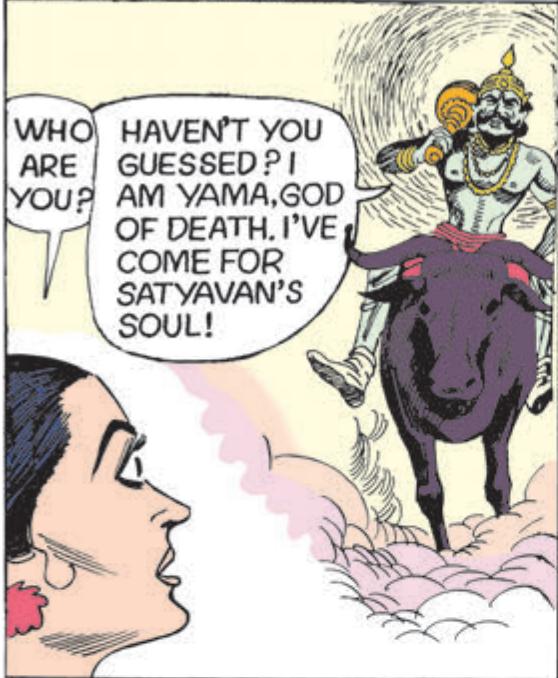
SO THIS IS THE END?



THE FOREST AROUND HER HAD DARKENED... A HEAVY STILLNESS FILLED THE AIR... SAVITRI LIFTED HER HEAD AND SAW A DARK FIGURE CLAD IN RED, A CROWN SHINING ON HIS HEAD.



SAVITRI WAS TROUBLED, BUT SHE FELT NO FEAR. SHE WANTED TO SPEAK TO HIM...



YAMA TOOK OUT A SMALL NOOSE. HE SLIPPED IT AROUND SATYAVAN'S BODY AND STARTED BACK.



SAVITRI SAW THAT SATYAVAN'S FACE HAD ASSUMED THE STILLNESS OF A CORPSE.

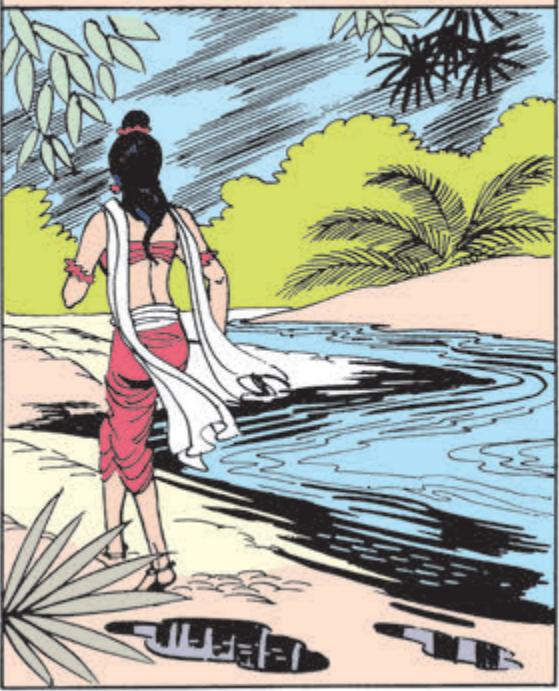
MY BELOVED HUSBAND IS DEAD! I HAVE NOTHING LEFT NOW IN LIFE! LET ME FOLLOW LORD YAMA!



SAVITRI FOLLOWED YAMA FROM A DISTANCE! THE TALL SOFT GRASS OF THE FOREST MUFFLED THE SOUND OF HER ANKLETS.



SOON THEY CAME UPON A STREAM. HERE TOO THE WATER SOFTENED THE SOUND OF HER FOOTSTEPS.

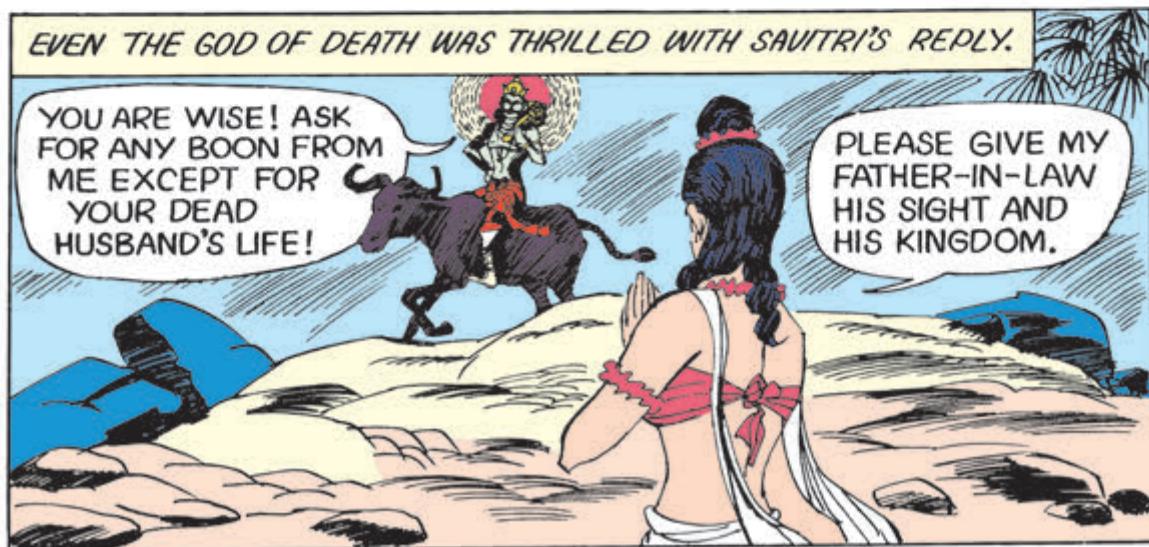
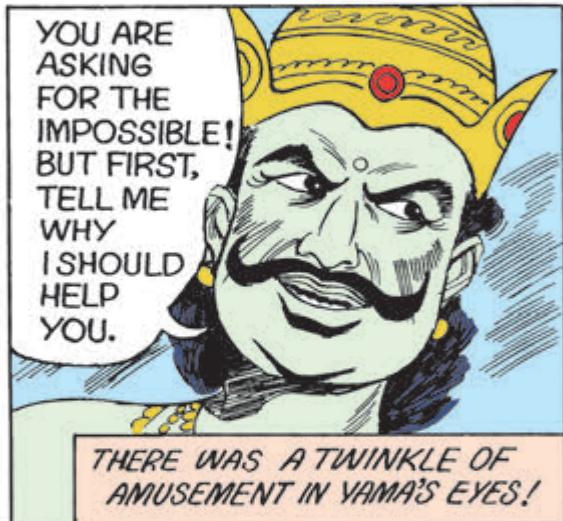
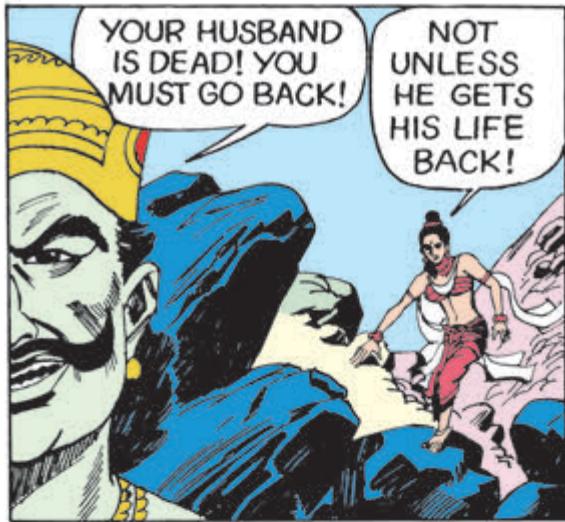


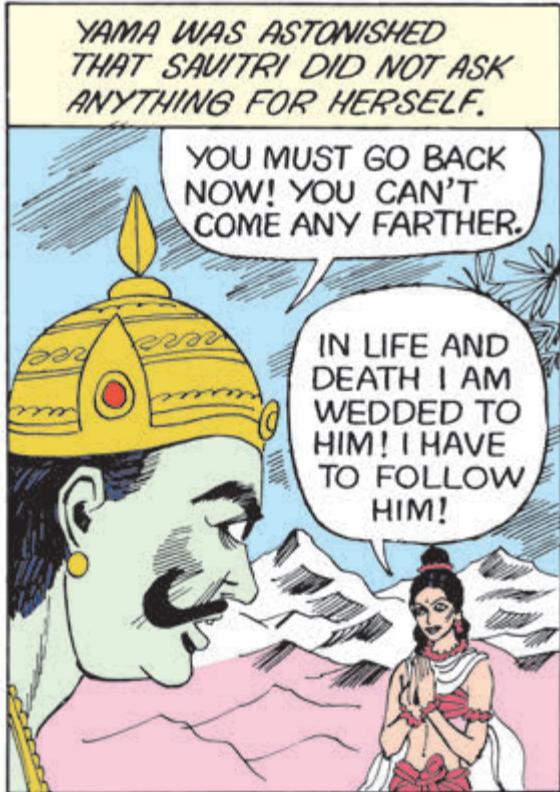
ON THE HARD GROUND, HER ANKLETS FILLED THE AIR WITH A MOURNFUL SOUND...



...WHICH SOON REACHED YAMA'S EARS! THE GOD OF DEATH PAUSED TO LISTEN TO THE STRANGE SOUND.





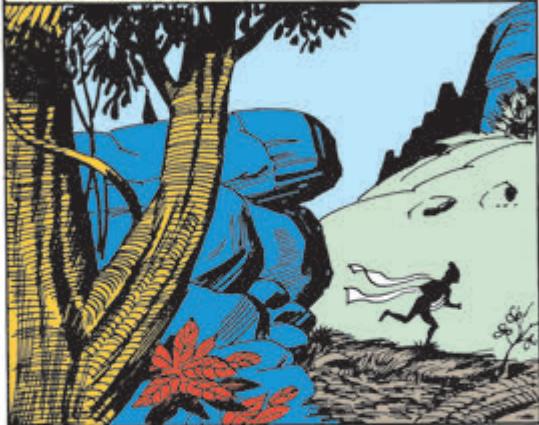




YAMA STARTED TO GO! AFTER A FEW STEPS HE TURNED TO HAVE A LAST GLIMPSE OF SAVITRI.



IN GREAT JOY, SAVITRI RAN BACK TO WHERE SATYAVAN LAY IN THE FOREST.



HE WAS LYING THERE AS SHE HAD LEFT HIM, STILL, MOTIONLESS. SAVITRI HAD A DOUBT.



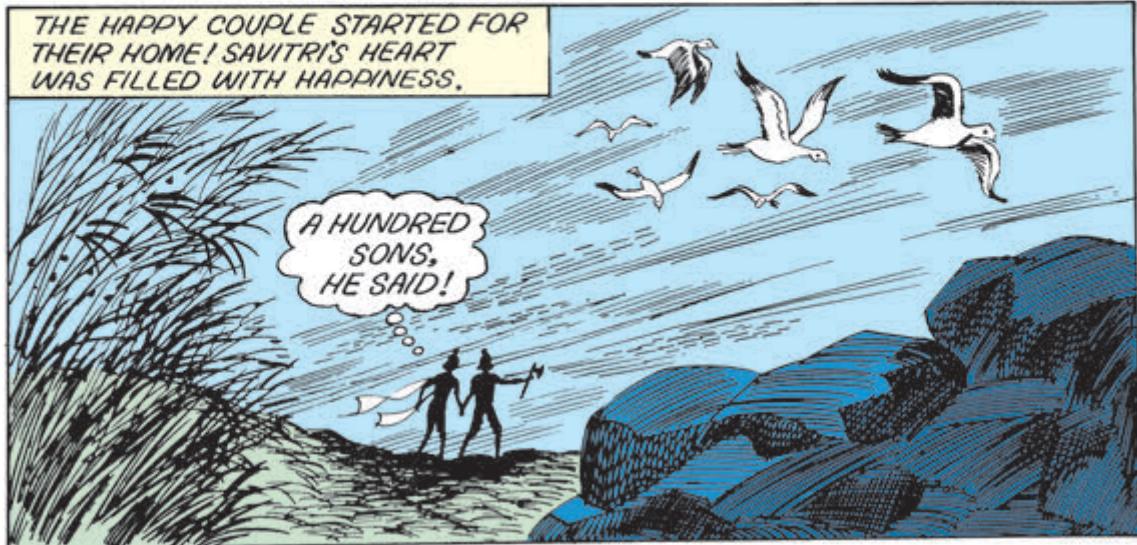
SAVITRI KNEW THAT A POLISHED STONE BECOMES MISTY WITH A MAN'S BREATH. SHE TOOK OFF HER RING AND HELD IT NEAR HIS NOSE.

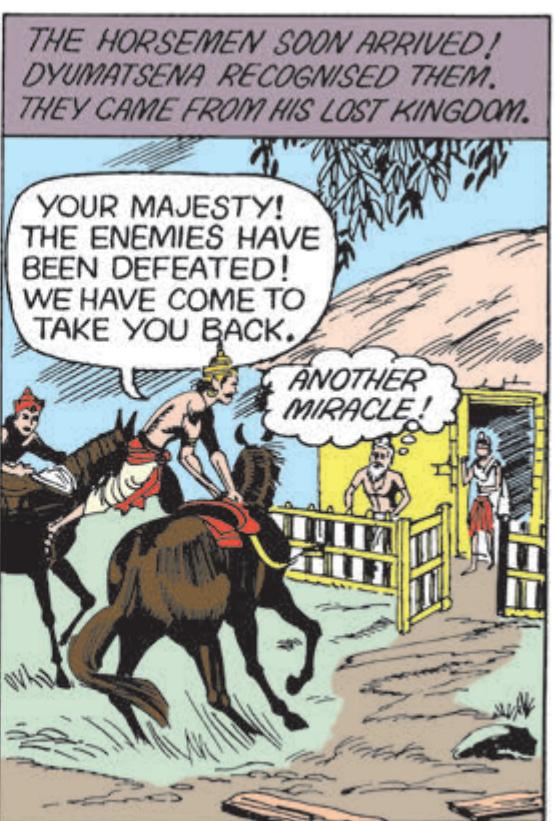
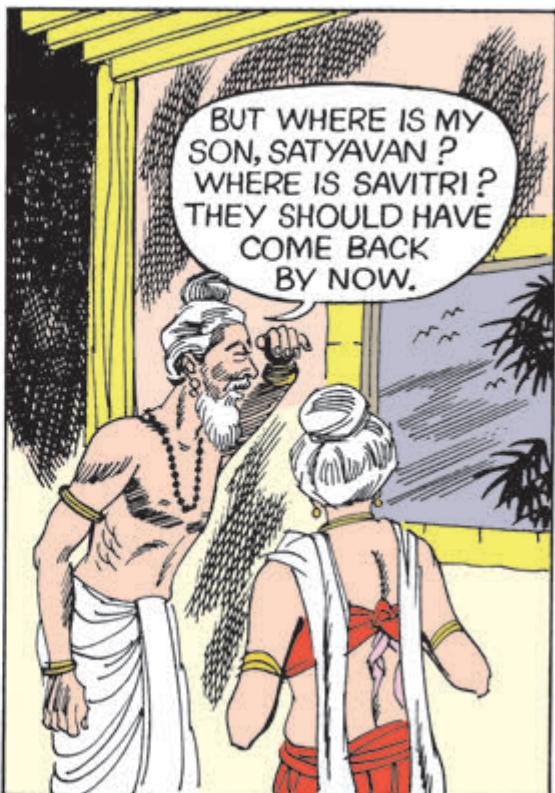


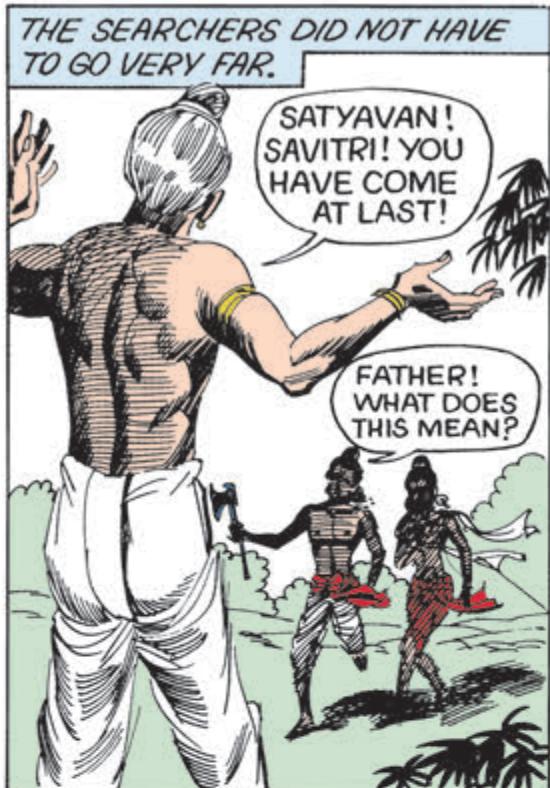
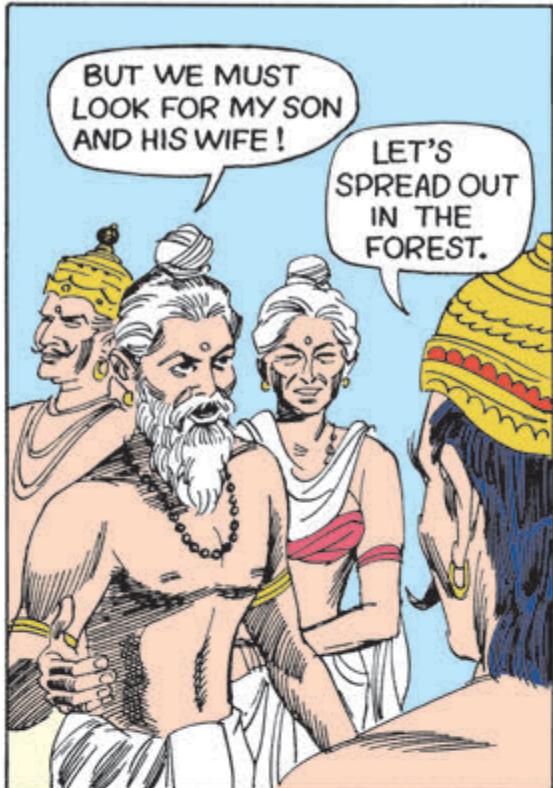
SATYAVAN SOON OPENED HIS EYES.



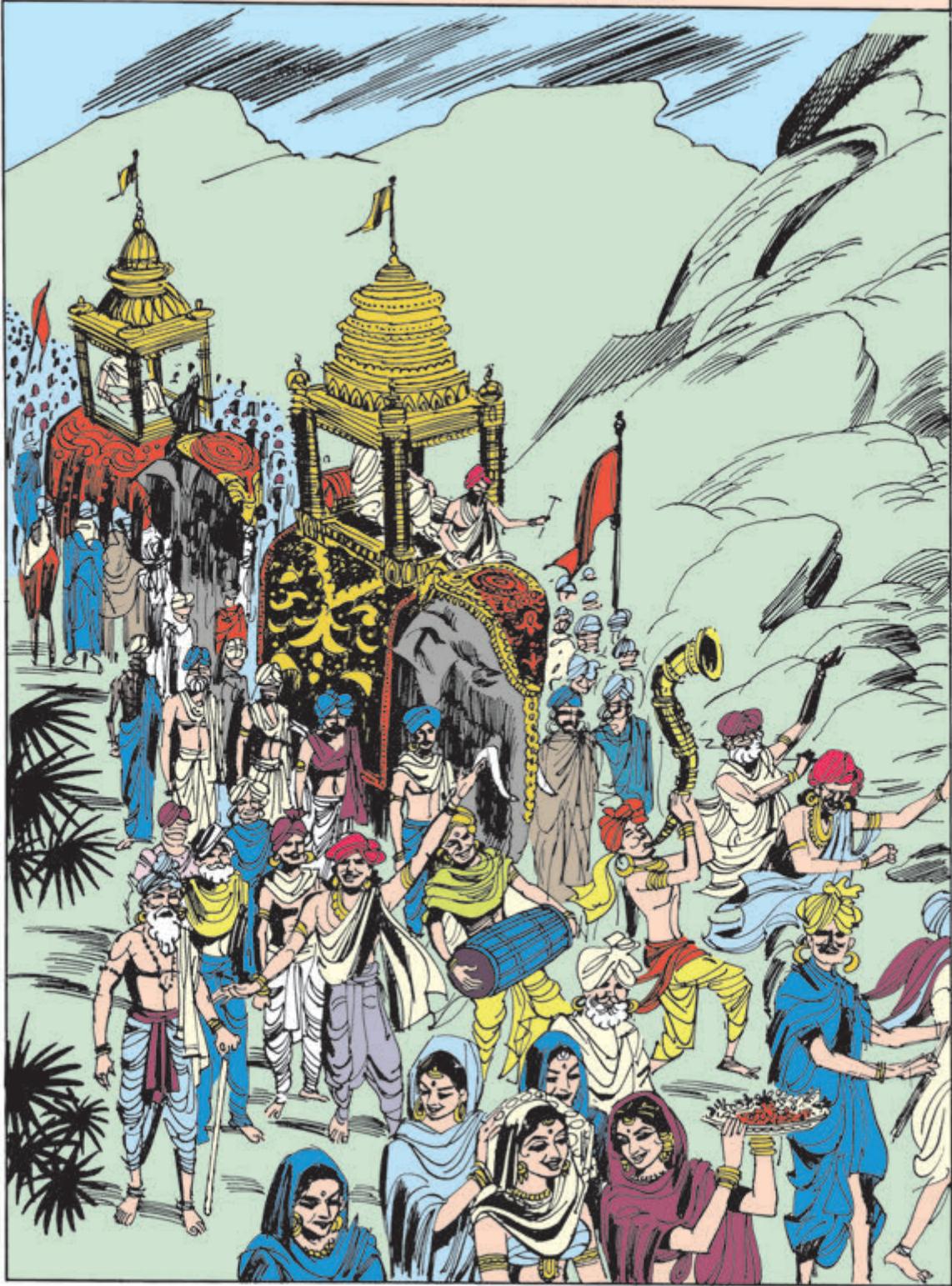
THE HAPPY COUPLE STARTED FOR THEIR HOME! SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.





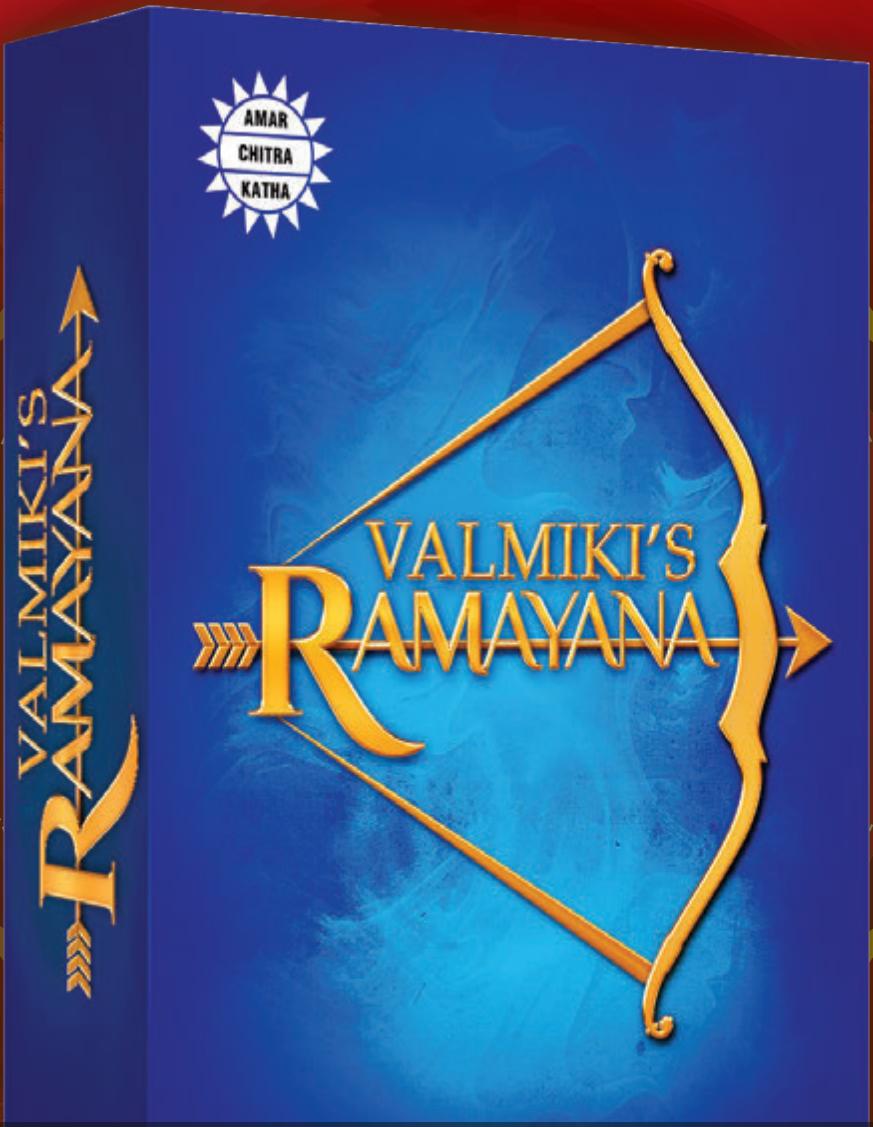


THE EXILES STARTED FOR THEIR KINGDOM.
IT WAS A JOYOUS JOURNEY FOR ALL.





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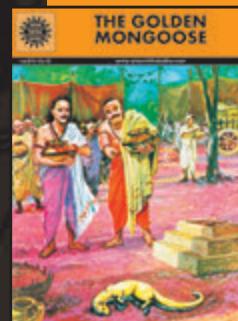
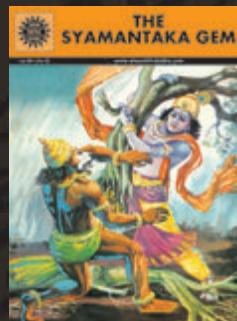
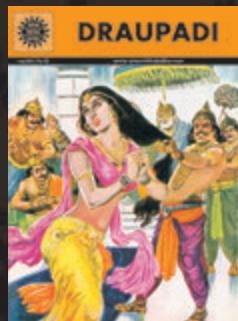
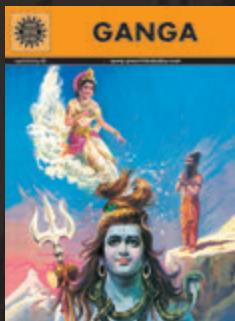


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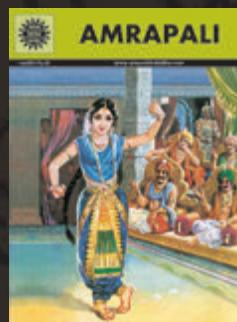
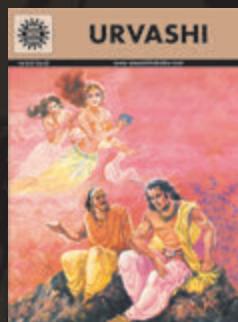
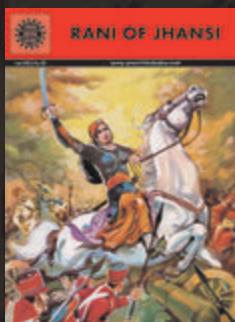
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