



TALES OF NARADA

TALES OF DEVOTION AND RIVALRY

Vol 520 | ₹ 90





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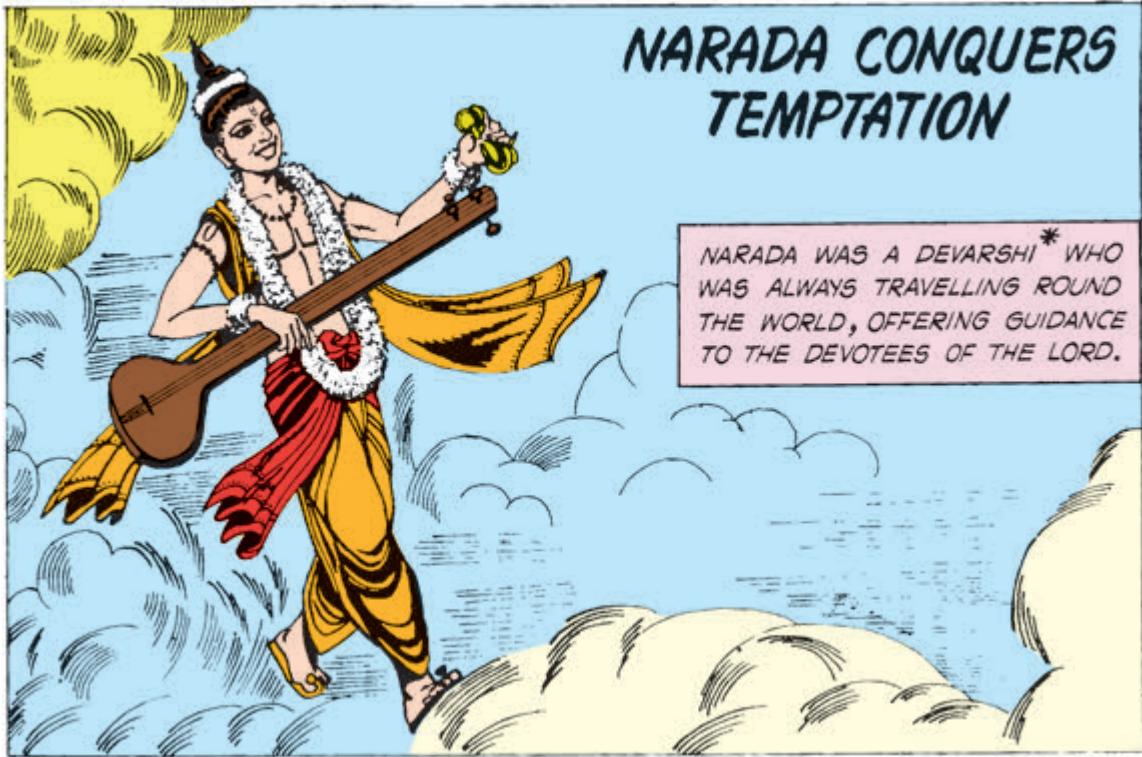
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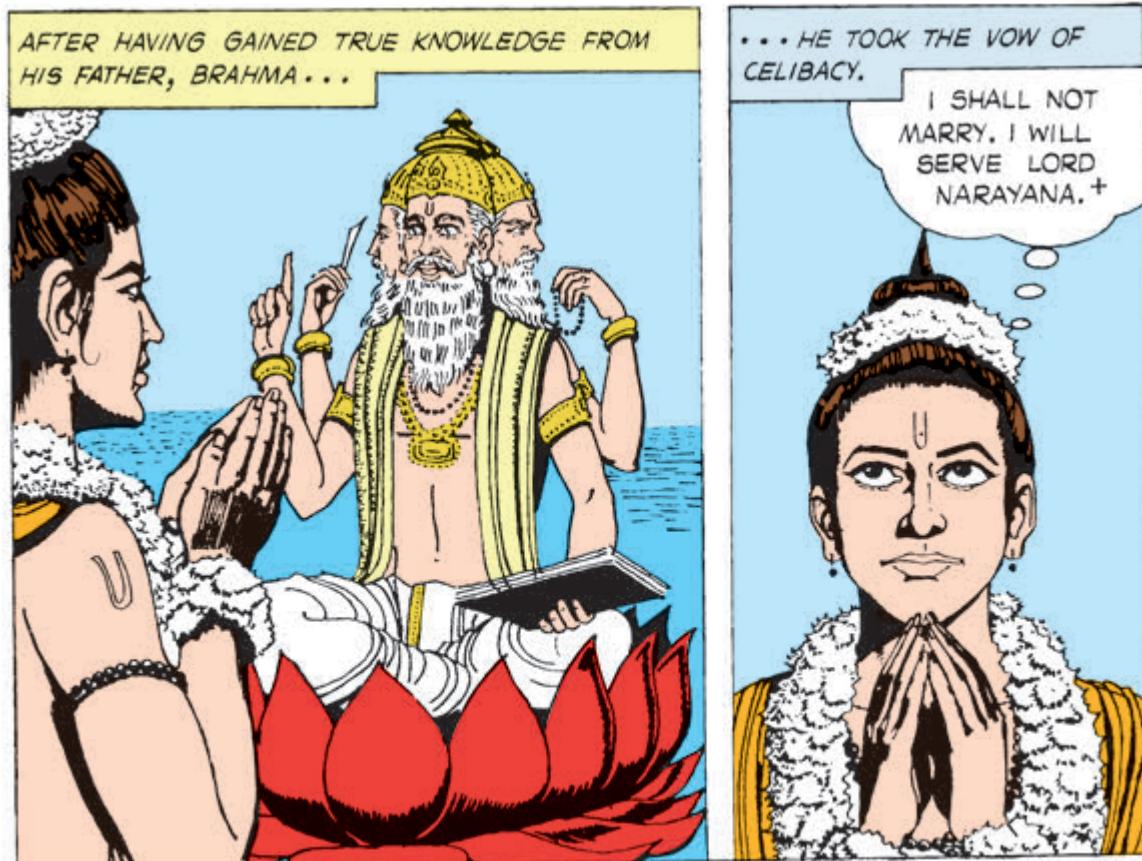
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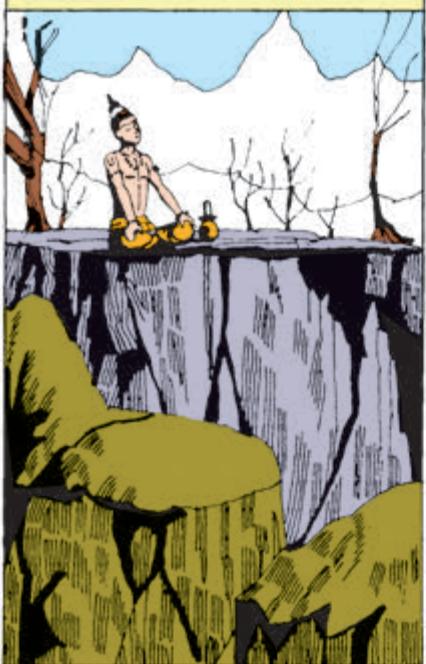
NARADA CONQUERS TEMPTATION



NARADA WAS A DEVARSHI* WHO WAS ALWAYS TRAVELLING ROUND THE WORLD, OFFERING GUIDANCE TO THE DEVOTEES OF THE LORD.



NARADA PRACTISED SEVERE AUSTERITIES IN THE HIMALAYAS.



INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS, BECAME SUSPICIOUS OF NARADA'S MOTIVES. HE SPOKE TO BRIHASPATI * ABOUT IT.



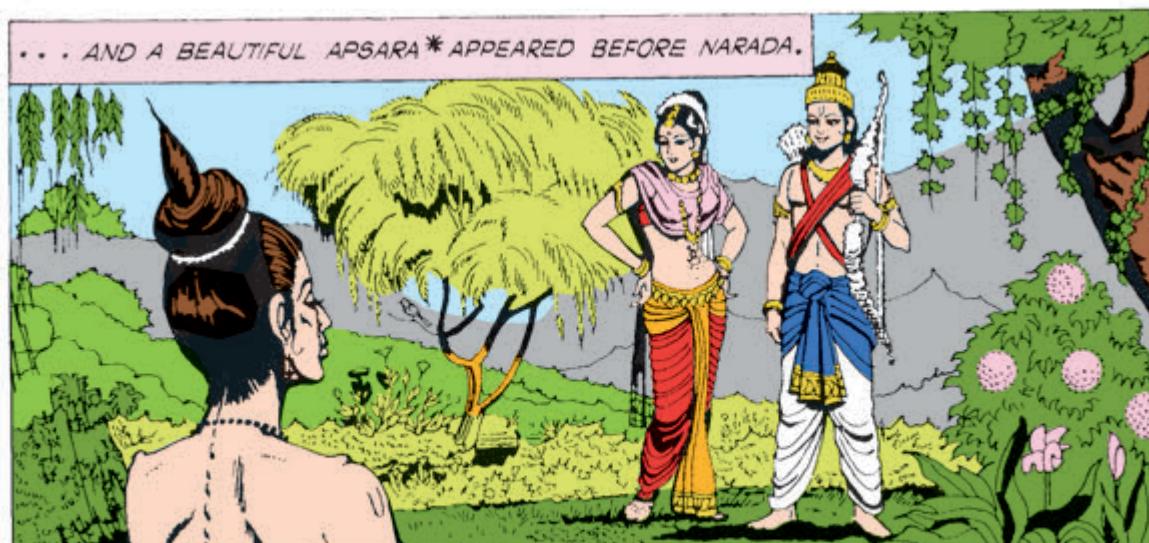
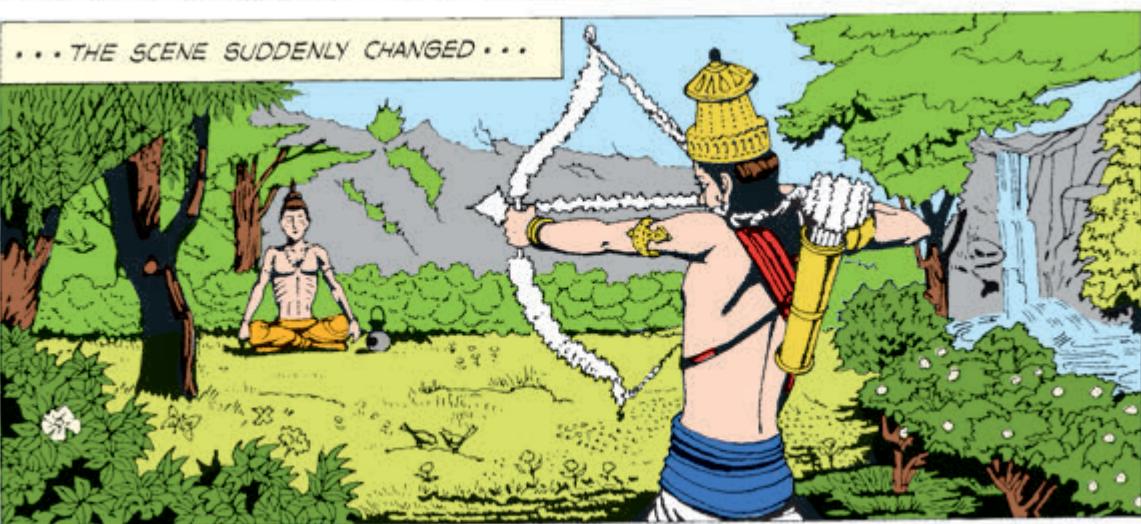
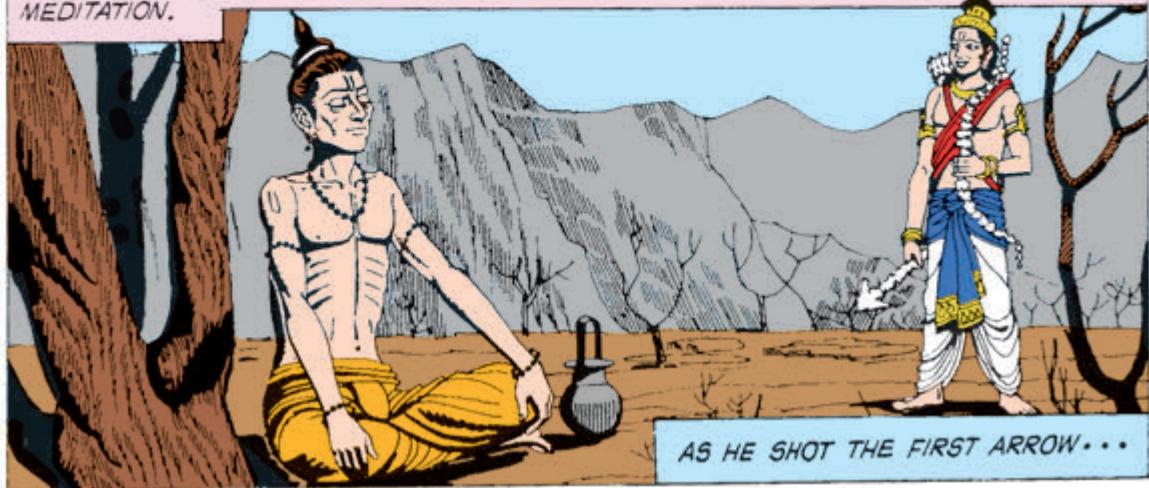
WHAT SHALL I DO?
AH! I COULD TEMPT HIM
WITH WORLDLY PLEASURES
AND MAKE HIM SWERVE
FROM HIS PATH.



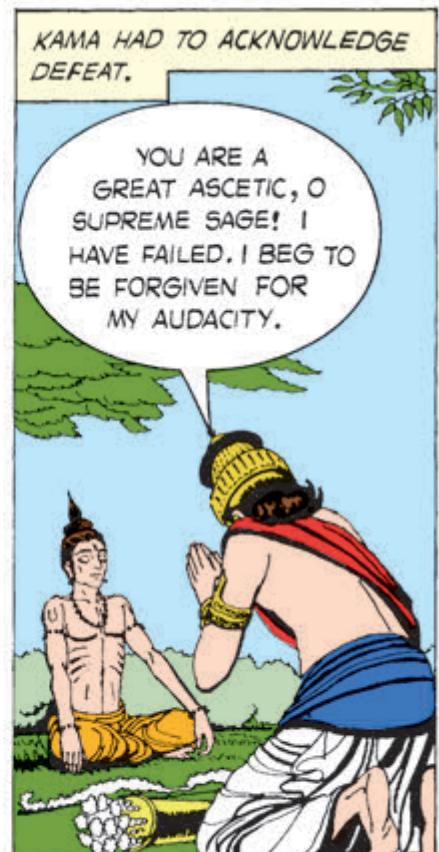
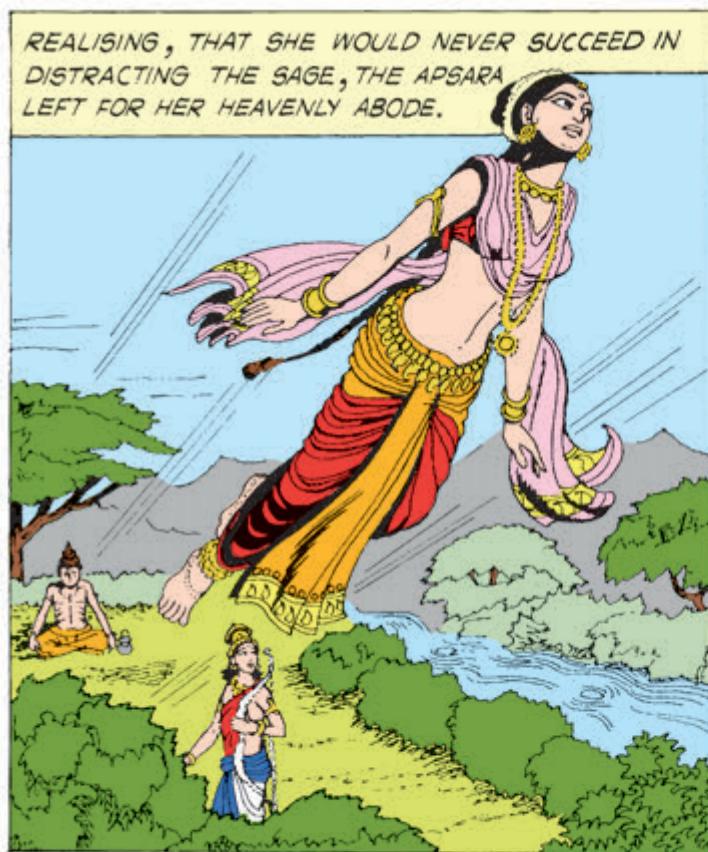
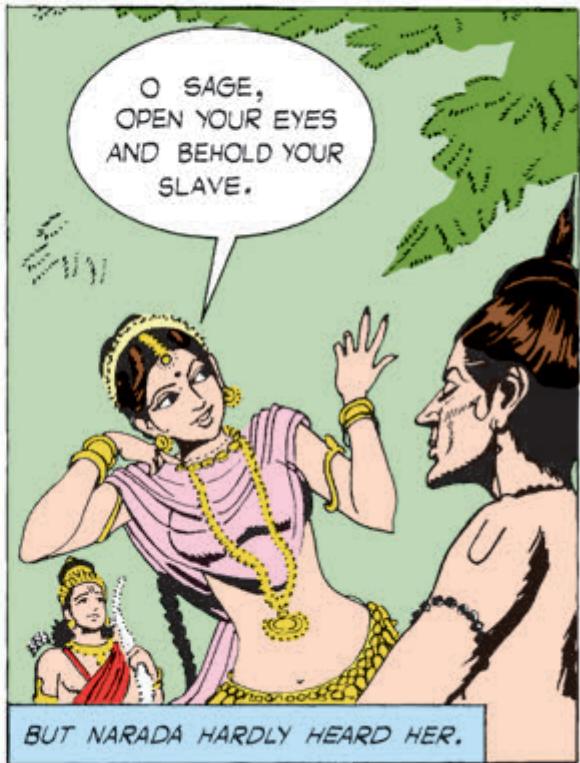
WITH THIS IN MIND, INDRA SENT FOR KAMADEVA.**

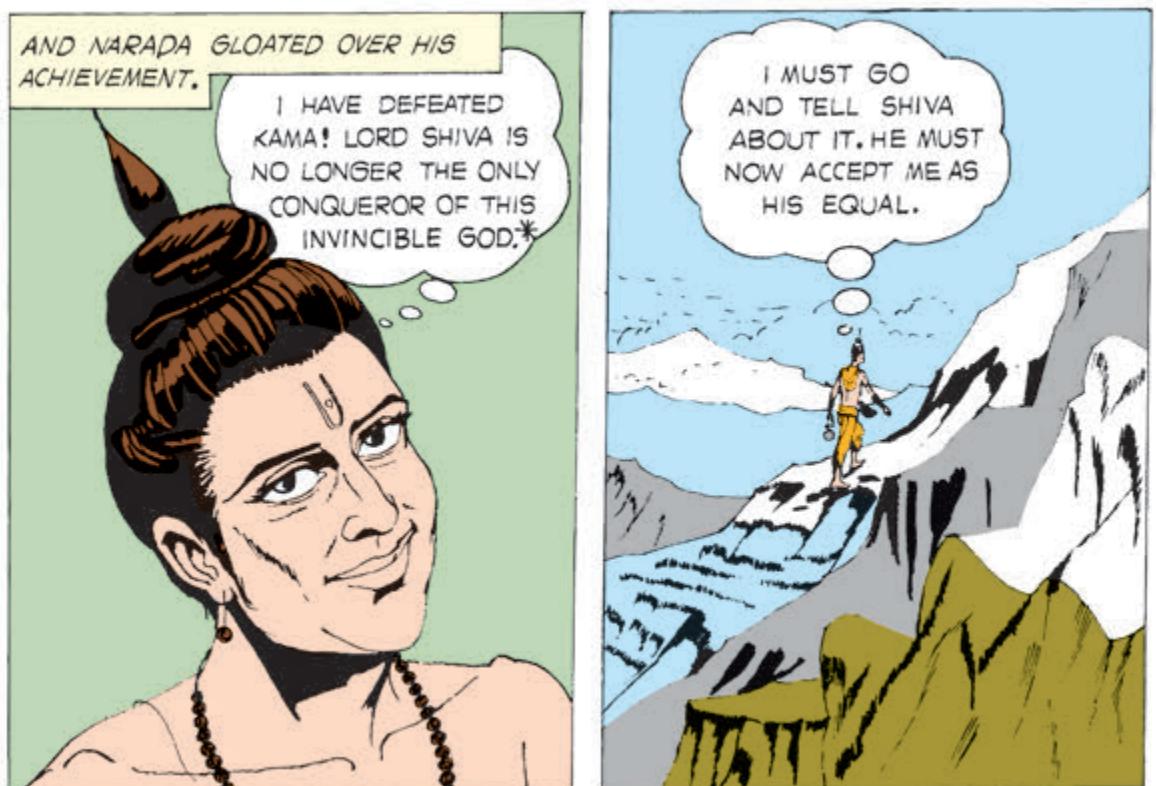


KAMA CAME TO THE COLD, BARREN SPOT WHERE NARADA WAS SITTING, DEEP IN MEDITATION.



* CELESTIAL DAMSEL





AT KAILAS, THE ABODE OF SHIVA —

SALUTATIONS
TO LORD SHIVA!

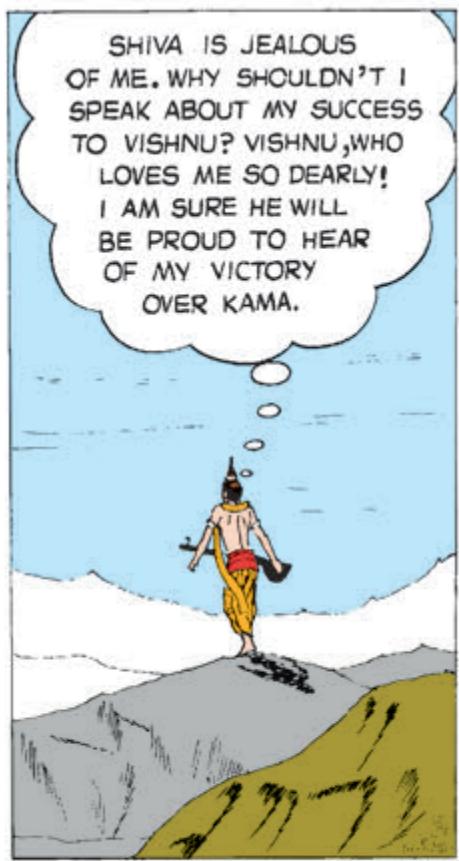
COME, NARADA!
YOU SEEM PLEASED,
WHAT'S THE
REASON?

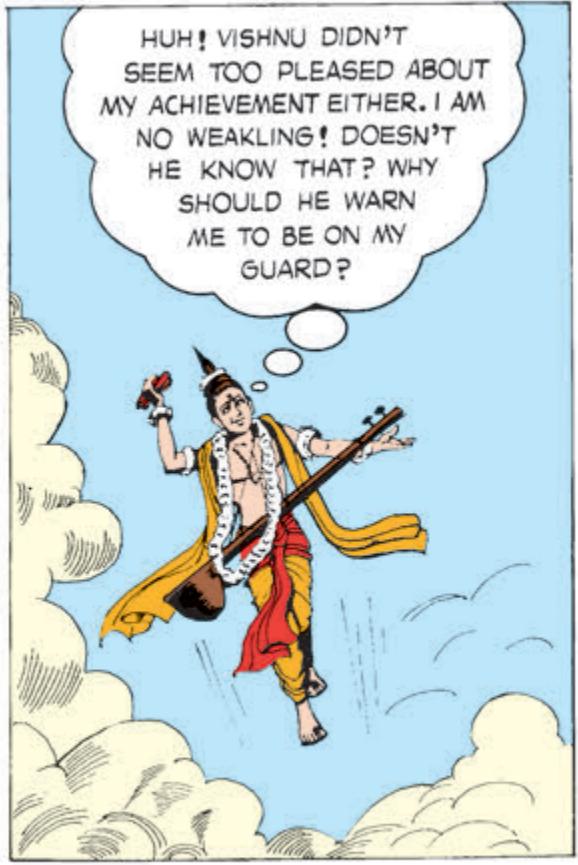
I HAVE CONQUERED
KAMADEV! INDRA SENT
HIM TO TEMPT ME. BUT
KAMA FAILED!



I AM GLAD TO KNOW THAT!
BUT KEEP THE MATTER
TO YOURSELF. IN ANY
CASE, NEVER BRAG
ABOUT IT TO LORD
VISHNU!

SHIVA IS JEALOUS
OF ME. WHY SHOULDN'T I
SPEAK ABOUT MY SUCCESS
TO VISHNU? VISHNU, WHO
LOVES ME SO DEARLY!
I AM SURE HE WILL
BE PROUD TO HEAR
OF MY VICTORY
OVER KAMA.





AS NARADA MOVED ON, SUDDENLY—

WHAT'S THAT? WHAT A WONDERFUL CITY! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE LIKE IT BEFORE! I MUST VISIT IT.



WHEN HE REACHED THE CITY—

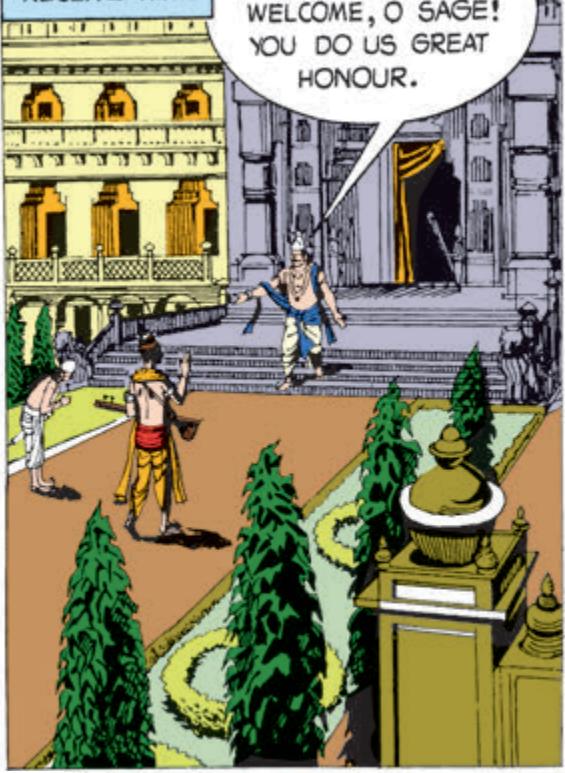
WHO IS THE RULER OF THIS BIG AND CHARMING CITY?

DON'T YOU KNOW? IT BELONGS TO THE GLORIOUS KING, SHEELANIDHI! YOU'LL FIND HIM IN HIS PALACE.



HEARING THAT NARADA HAD COME TO VISIT HIM, THE KING CAME OUT TO RECEIVE HIM.

WELCOME, O SAGE!
YOU DO US GREAT HONOUR.



JUST THEN THE PRINCESS CAME ON THE SCENE.



AS WAS THE CUSTOM, SHRIMATI BOWED TO THE SAGE.



SHE IS READY FOR MARRIAGE. I PLAN TO HOLD A SWAYAMVARA FOR HER SOON.



NARADA GAZED AT THE PRINCESS.

YOUR DAUGHTER IS GODDESS LAXMI* INCARNATE. ONE NO LESS THAN HARI[®] IN GLORY AND POWER, SHALL BE HER HUSBAND.



YOUR WORDS FILL OUR HEARTS WITH JOY. I CANNOT WAIT TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE OF HER SWAYAMVARA.



IF I CAN GET THIS PRINCESS FOR A WIFE, THERE WILL BE NONE MORE FORTUNATE AND POWERFUL IN ALL THE UNIVERSE. BUT HOW SHALL I WIN HER?

NARADA PRAYED FERVENTLY TO LORD VISHNU.



AT LAST, WHEN LORD VISHNU APPEARED BEFORE HIM —

LORD, LET MY FACE RESEMBLE HARI'S.*

YOU SHALL CERTAINLY HAVE THE FACE OF HARI.

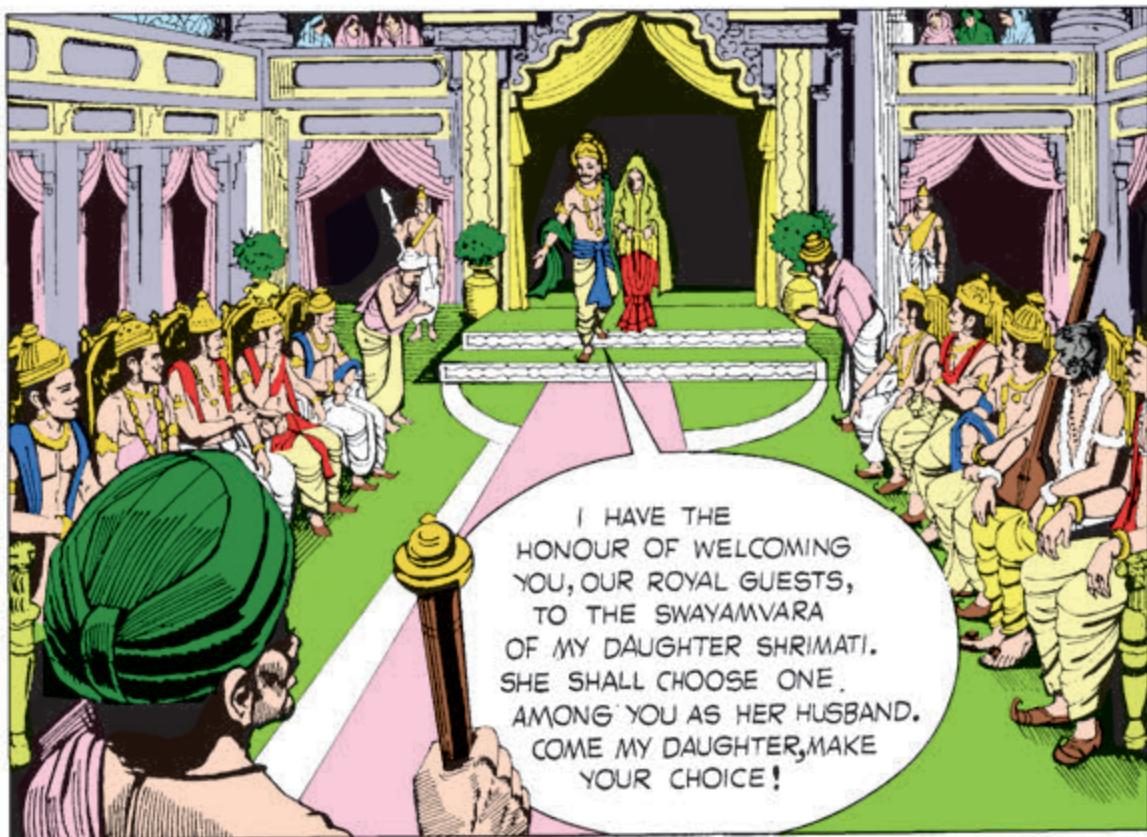
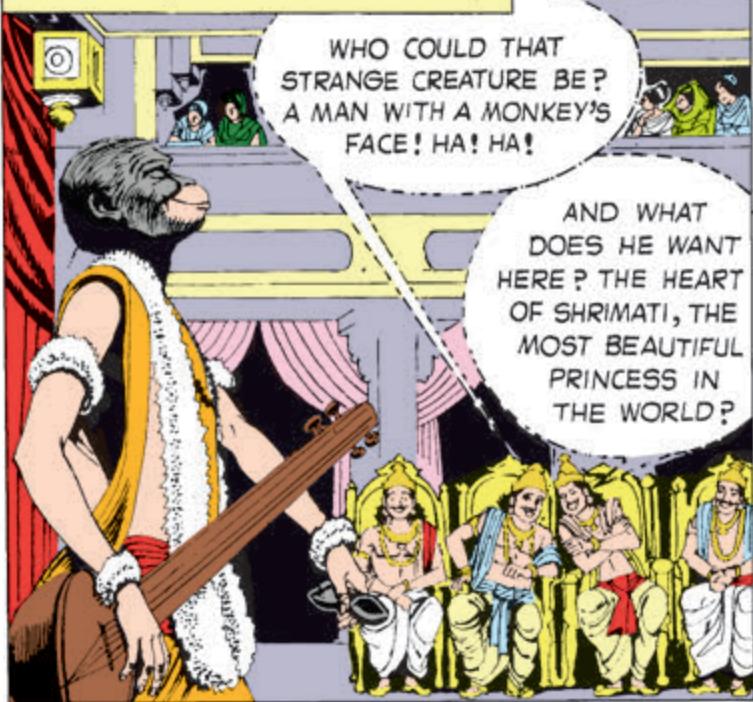
BUT NOT THE HARI YOU'RE THINKING OF.

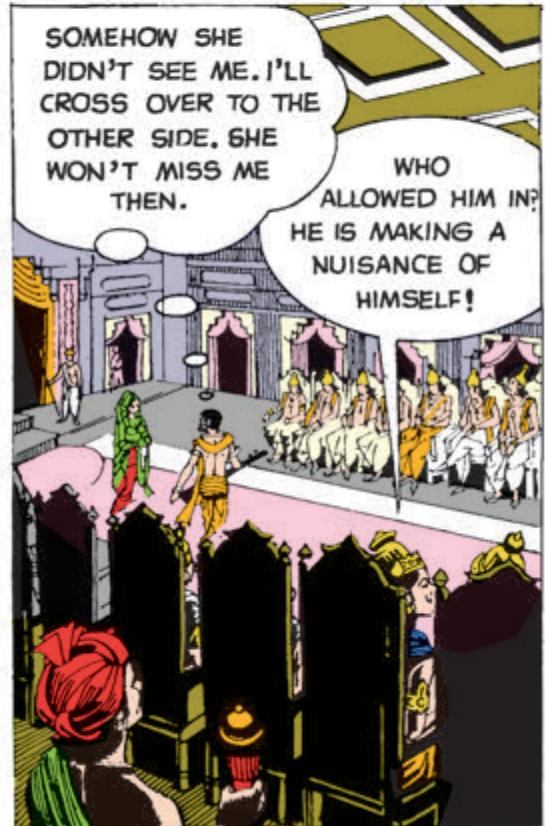


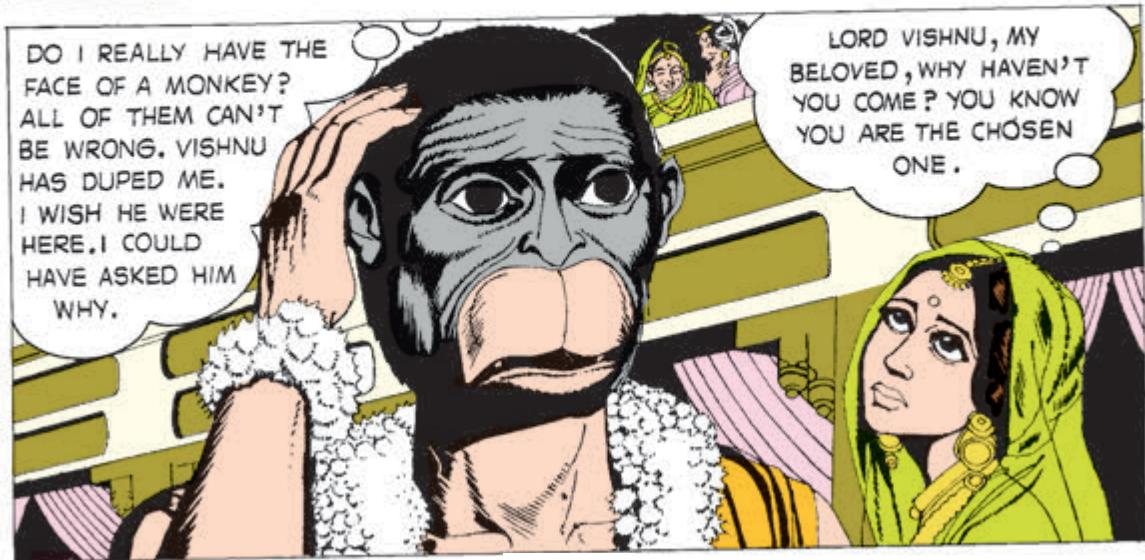
WHEN NARADA MADE HIS REQUEST HE HAD FORGOTTEN THAT THE WORD HARI ALSO MEANT A MONKEY! AND HE COULD NOT SEE HIS OWN FACE.

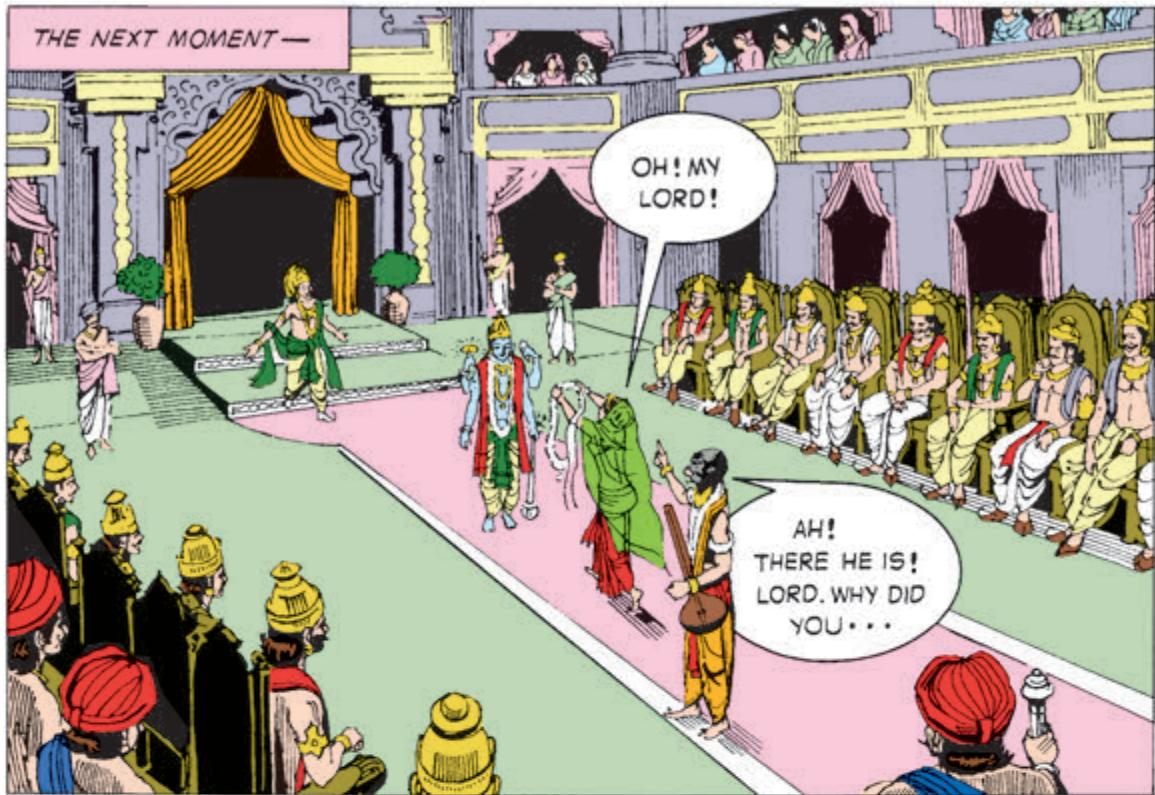


HE WENT TO THE SWAYAMVARA HALL FULL OF CONFIDENCE, SURE OF HIS VICTORY.



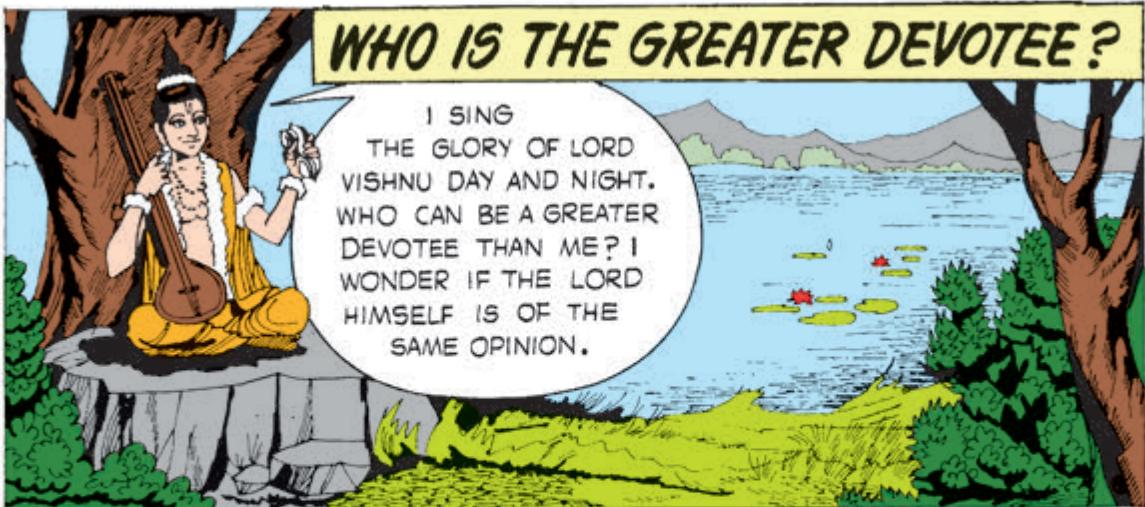




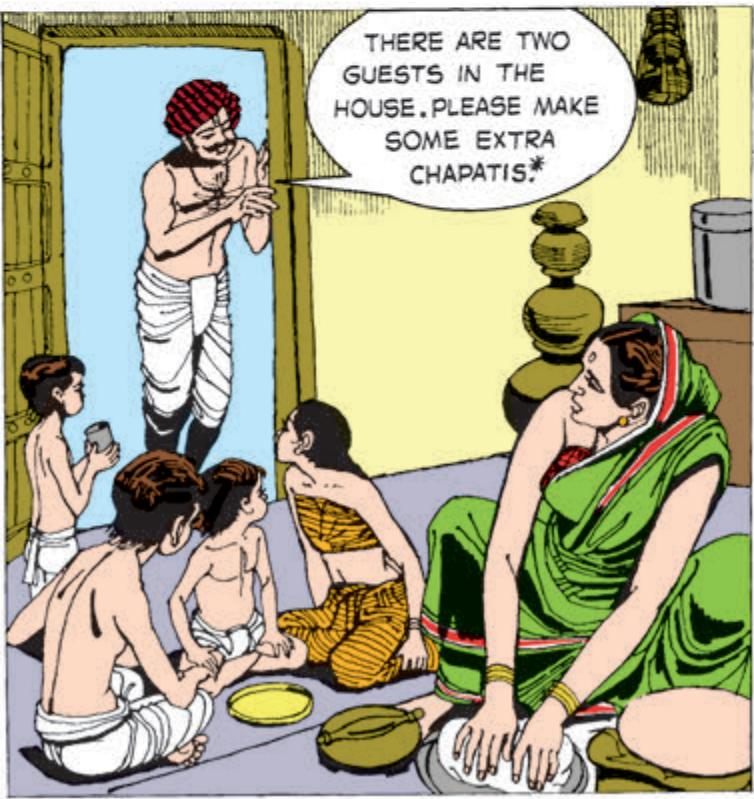


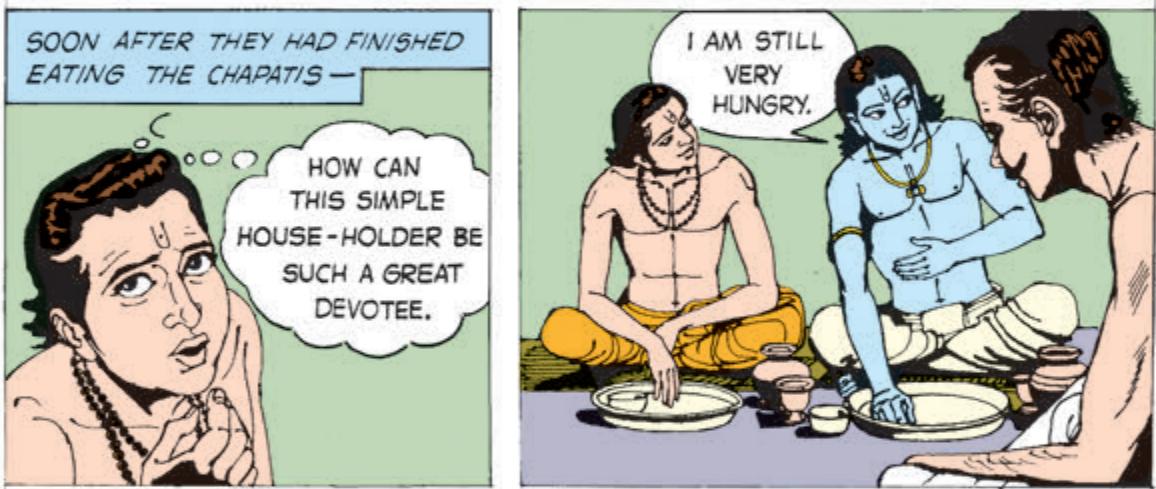


WHO IS THE GREATER DEVOTEE?









VISHNU AND NARADA FINISHED THAT TOO. THE FARMER AND HIS FAMILY HAD TO GO TO BED HUNGRY.

I CAN'T SLEEP. I AM SO HUNGRY. WHY DID YOU GIVE THEM OUR GRUEL, FATHER?



BECAUSE BY FEEDING A GUEST I AM FEEDING VISHNU HIMSELF.

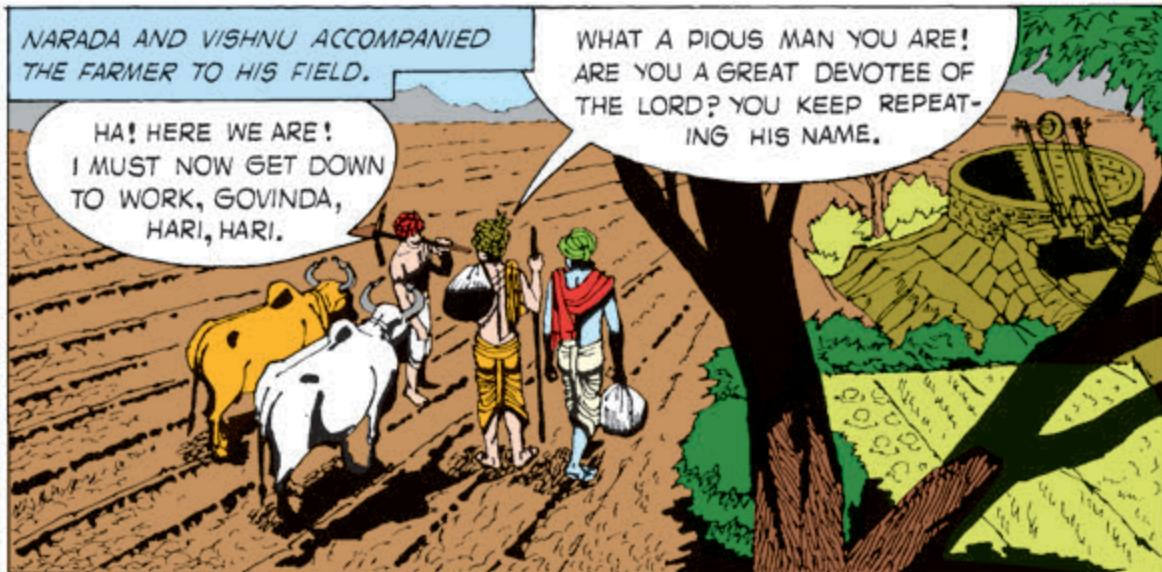


SEE, NARADA, THE FARMER AND HIS FAMILY HAVE EATEN NOTHING THIS EVENING; AND YET HE SINGS MY GLORY.

THAT'S NOTHING! I HAVE REMAINED WITHOUT FOOD FOR DAYS AND STILL REMEMBERED YOU!







AFTER THEY HAD TAKEN LEAVE OF THE FARMER—

HE THINKS OF YOU AT NIGHT, IN THE MORNING AND A FEW TIMES IN BETWEEN. WHILE I THINK OF YOU ALL THE TIME. AND YET YOU CALL HIM ONE OF YOUR GREATEST DEVOTEES!



VISHNU GAVE NARADA A VESSEL FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH OIL.

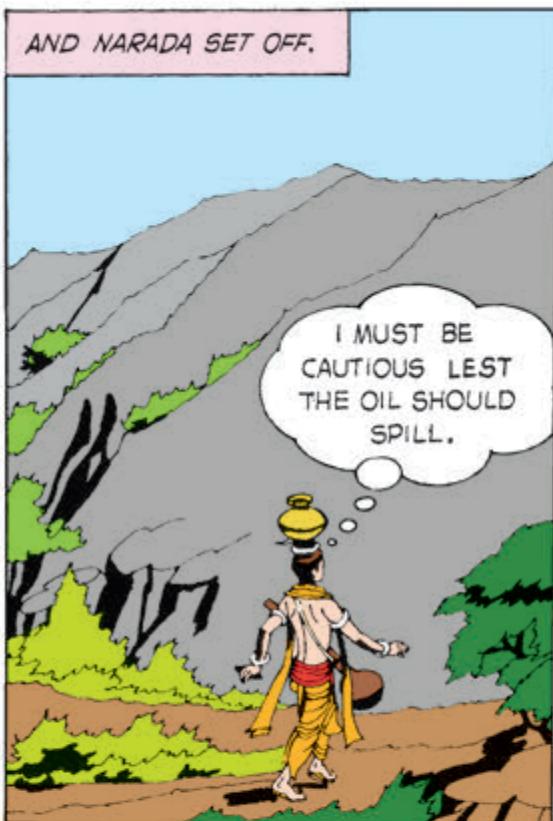
BALANCE THIS VESSEL ON YOUR HEAD, WALK ROUND THAT HILL AND COME BACK HERE WITHOUT SPILLING A DROP OF THE OIL.



IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT WITH YOUR GRACE IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED?



AND NARADA SET OFF.



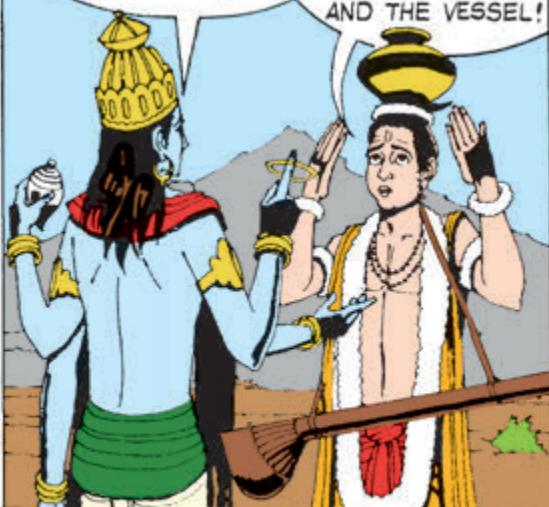
AH! AH! THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL! HAD I SLIPPED, THE OIL WOULD HAVE SPILT. I MUST BE MORE CAREFUL.



WHEN NARADA SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE ROUND—

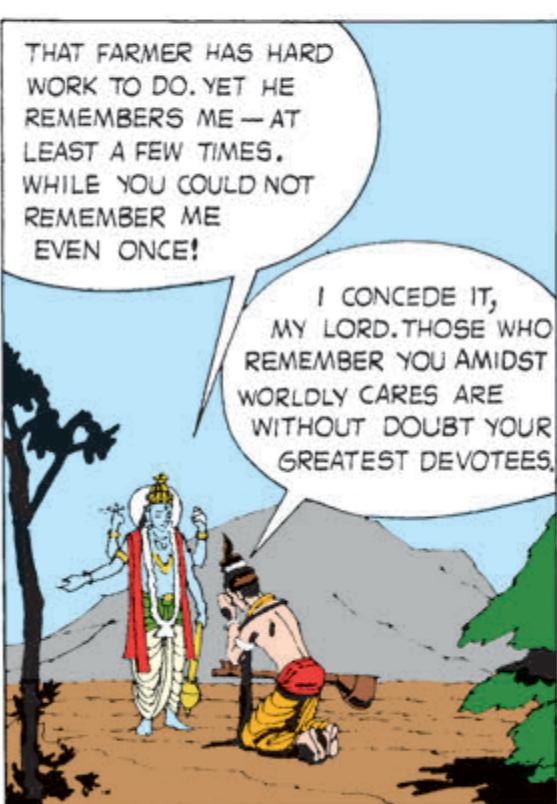
YOU'RE BACK. GOOD!
BUT TELL ME HOW MANY
TIMES DID YOU REMEM-
BER ME DURING
THE WALK?

NOT ONCE, I'M
AFRAID. HOW
COULD I?
ALL MY ATTEN-
TION WAS FIX-
ED ON THE OIL
AND THE VESSEL!

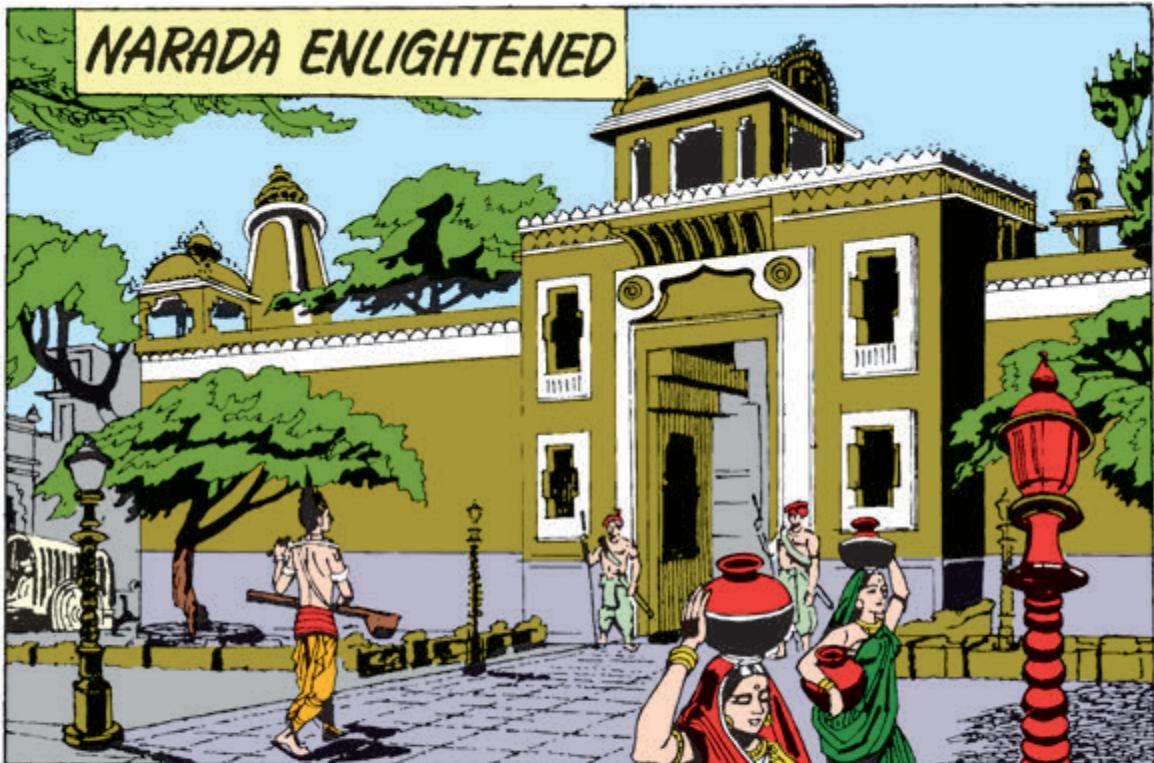


THAT FARMER HAS HARD
WORK TO DO. YET HE
REMEMBERS ME — AT
LEAST A FEW TIMES.
WHILE YOU COULD NOT
REMEMBER ME
EVEN ONCE!

I CONCEDE IT,
MY LORD. THOSE WHO
REMEMBER YOU AMIDST
WORLDLY CARES ARE
WITHOUT DOUBT YOUR
GREATEST DEVOTEES.



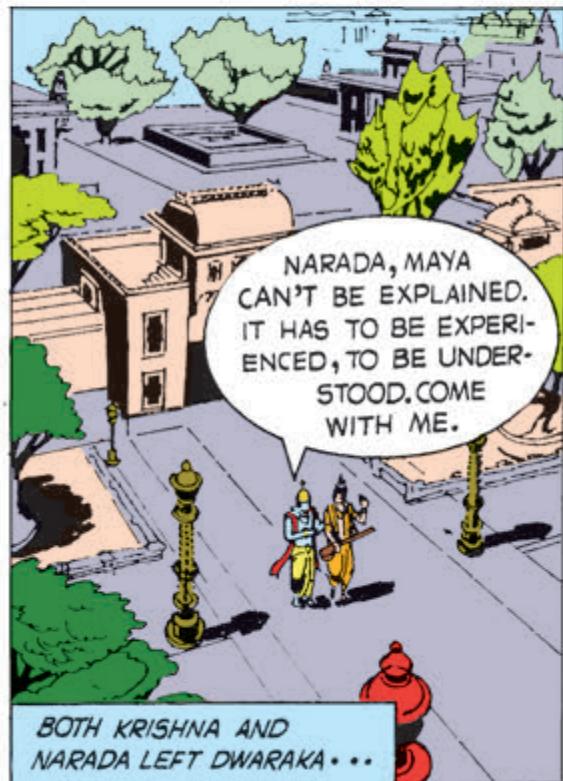
NARADA ENLIGHTENED



THE CELESTIAL SAGE, NARADA, ONCE CAME TO DWARAKA, TO SEE LORD KRISHNA.



KRISHNA,
I WANT TO KNOW
WHAT MAYA* IS?
CAN YOU
EXPLAIN?



BOTH KRISHNA AND
NARADA LEFT DWARAKA...

...AND KEPT WALKING TILL THEY CAME TO A DESERT.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
HOW CAN I EXPERIENCE
MAYA IN A DESERT,
KRISHNA?

BE PATIENT,
NARADA.

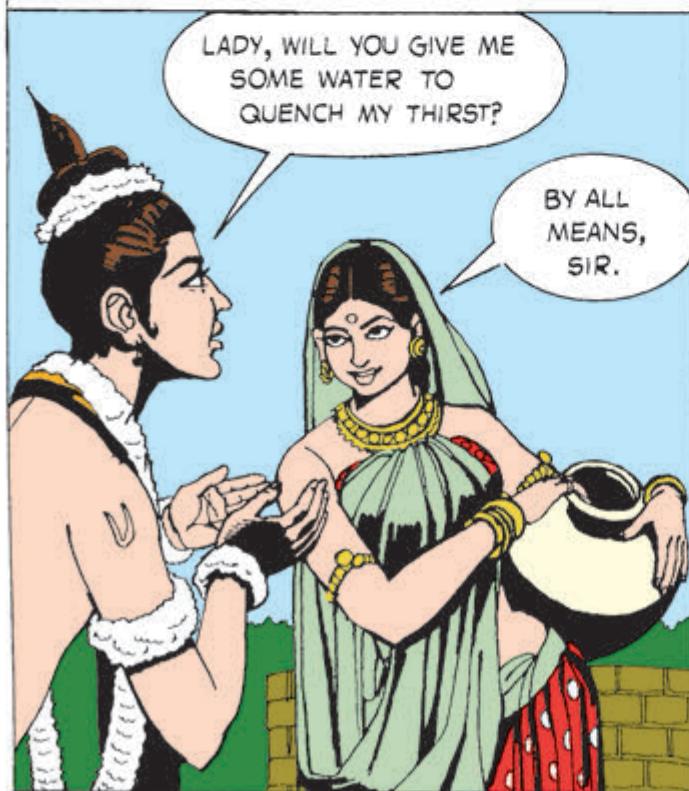
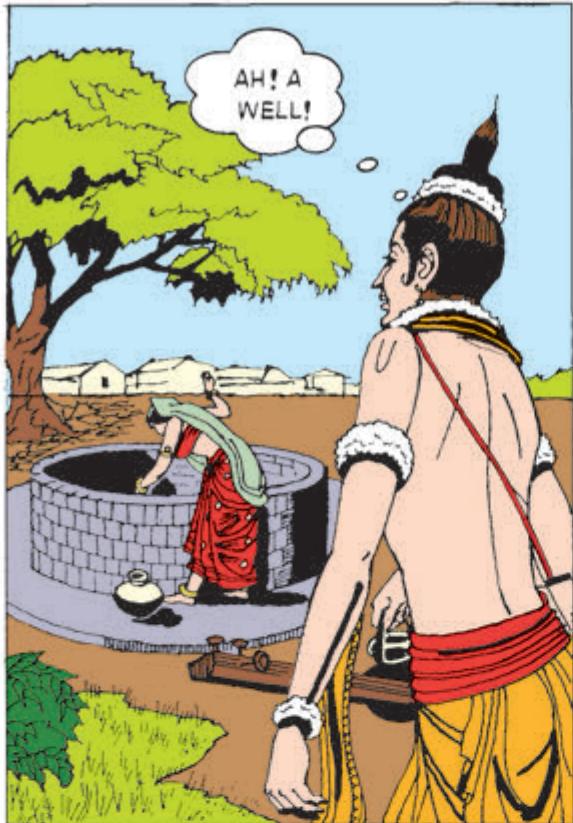


AFTER THEY HAD WALKED A GOOD DISTANCE, KRISHNA SUDDENLY STOPPED.

I CAN'T WALK ANY FURTHER, NARADA. MY THROAT IS PARCHED. TAKE THIS ... AND FETCH ME ... SOME ... WATER.

HOLD ON,
KRISHNA.
I'LL BE BACK SOON.





NARADA FOLLOWED THE DAMSEL...

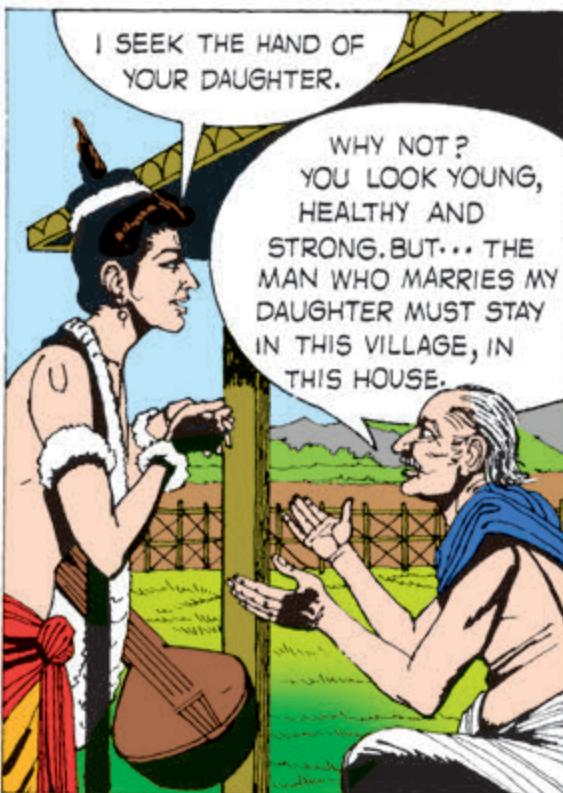


...TO HER HOUSE.



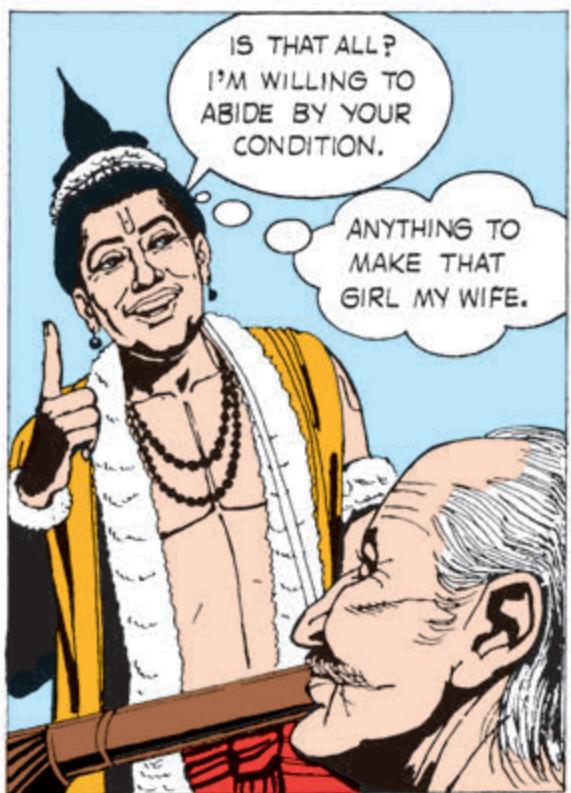
I SEEK THE HAND OF
YOUR DAUGHTER.

WHY NOT?
YOU LOOK YOUNG,
HEALTHY AND
STRONG. BUT... THE
MAN WHO MARRIES MY
DAUGHTER MUST STAY
IN THIS VILLAGE, IN
THIS HOUSE.



IS THAT ALL?
I'M WILLING TO
ABIDE BY YOUR
CONDITION.

ANYTHING TO
MAKE THAT
GIRL MY WIFE.



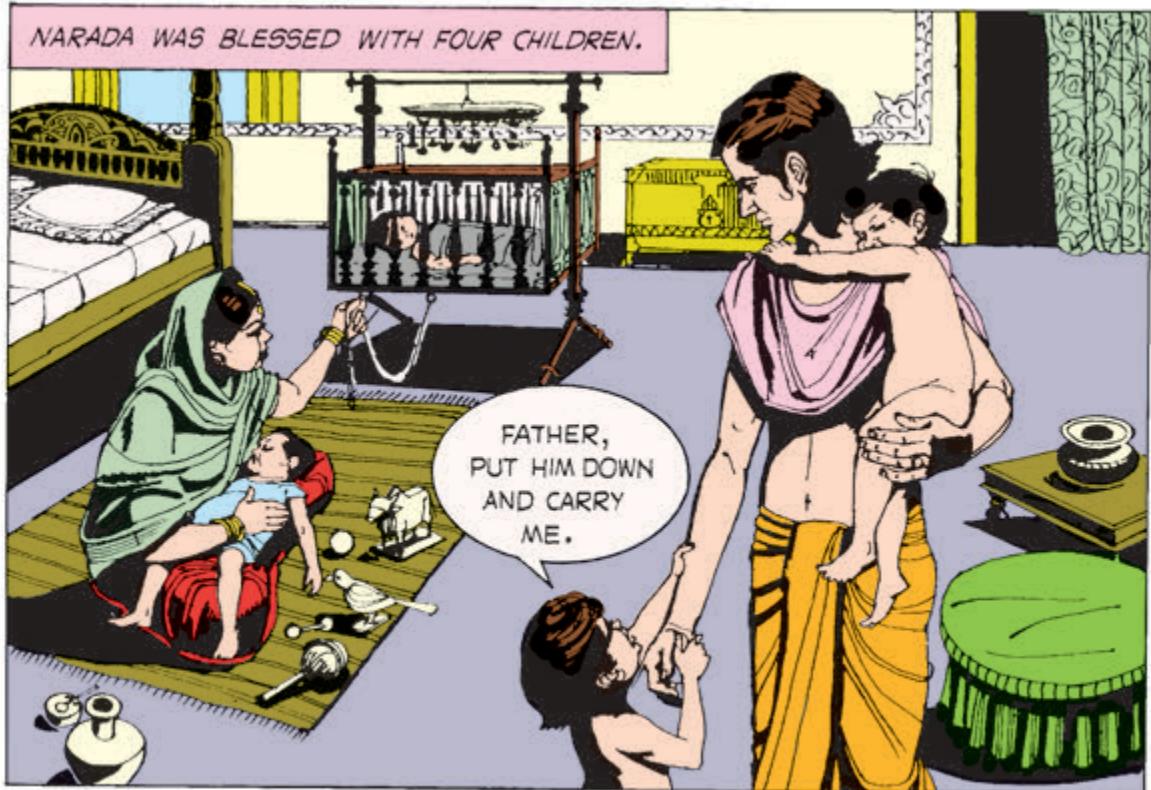
THE MARRIAGE SOON TOOK PLACE.



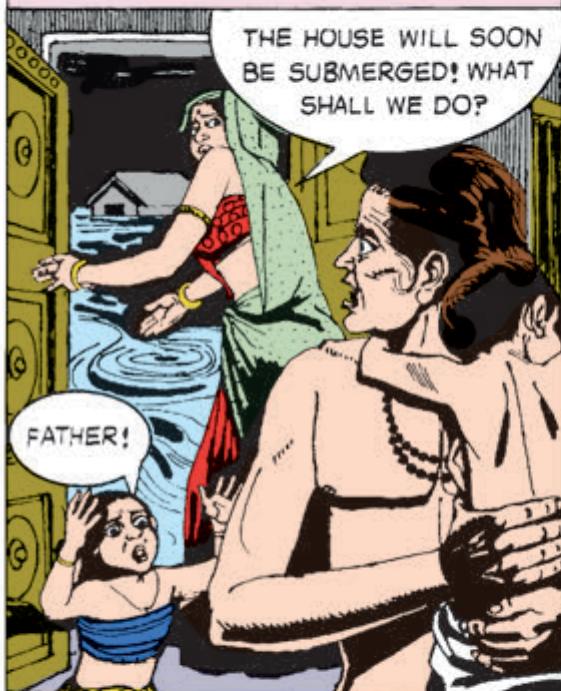
SOON AFTER THE MARRIAGE, THE OLD CHIEFTAIN DIED. NARADA HAD TO ASSUME HIS TITLE AND HIS RESPONSIBILITIES.



NARADA WAS BLESSED WITH FOUR CHILDREN.



WHEN NARADA WAS AT THE PEAK OF HIS SUCCESS, DISASTER CAME IN THE FORM OF CYCLONIC WINDS, RAIN AND FLOODS.



NARADA PUT HIS FAMILY INTO A BOAT AND TRIED TO KEEP AFLOAT, ON THE SWIRLING WATERS.



BUT THE BOAT CAPSIZED. NARADA TRIED IN VAIN TO SAVE HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.



A HUGE WAVE THREW NARADA ON TO THE SHORE.

MY WIFE GONE! MY CHILDREN DROWNED! HOW CAN I LIVE WITHOUT THEM?



SUDDENLY, HE HEARD A VOICE.

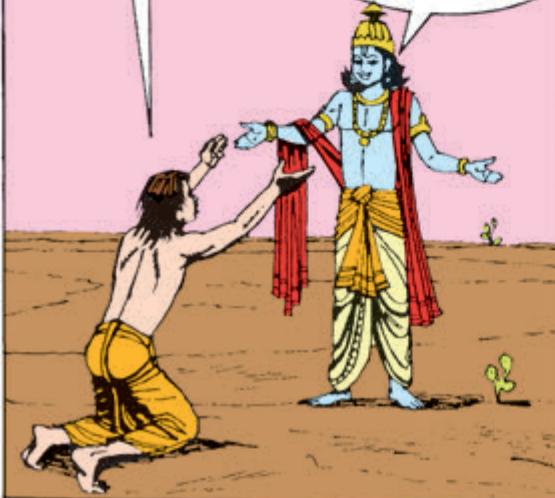
NARADA, I AM THIRSTY. WHERE IS THE WATER?



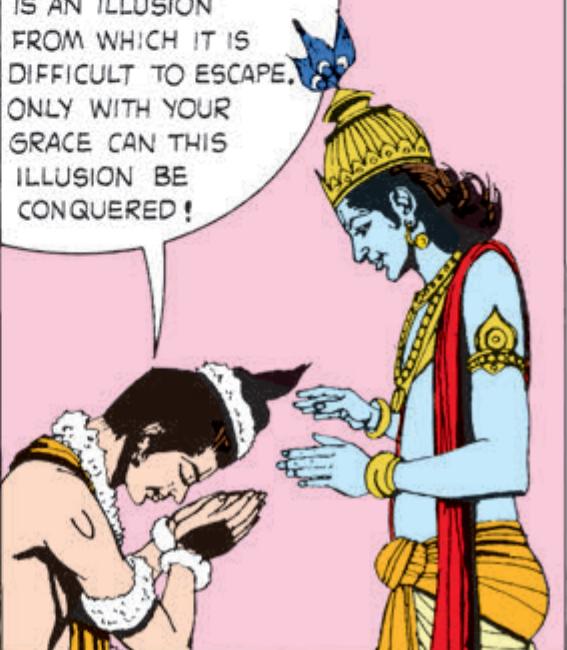
NARADA TURNED AND BEHELD KRISHNA.

KRISHNA! MY WIFE! MY CHILDREN! BRING THEM BACK TO LIFE.

COME TO YOUR SENSES, NARADA. THERE NEVER WAS ANY WIFE OR CHILDREN. IT WAS ALL MAYA.

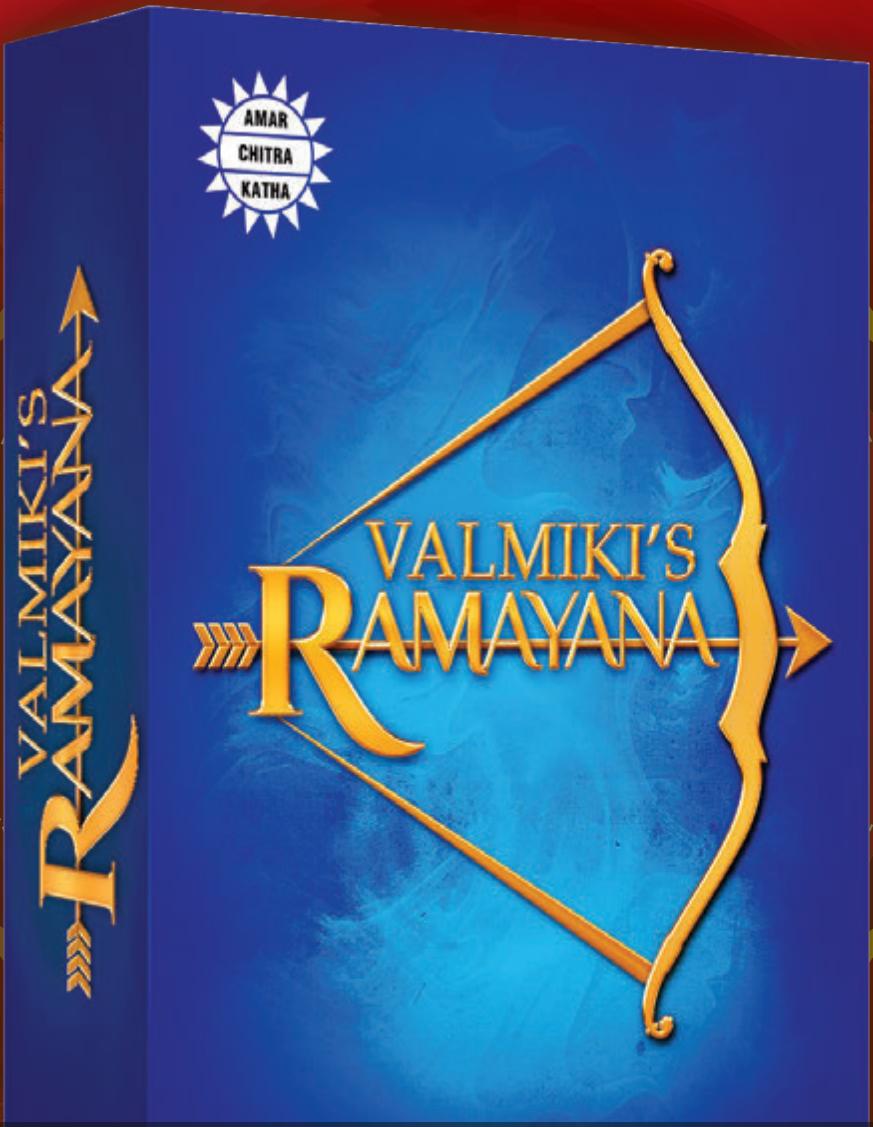


I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR ENLIGHTENING ME, KRISHNA. LIFE ITSELF IS AN ILLUSION FROM WHICH IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE. ONLY WITH YOUR GRACE CAN THIS ILLUSION BE CONQUERED!





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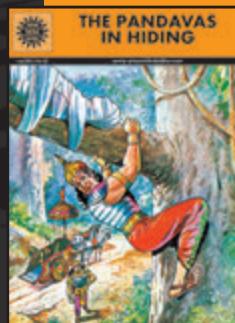
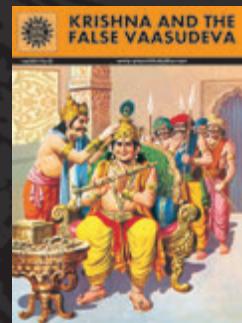
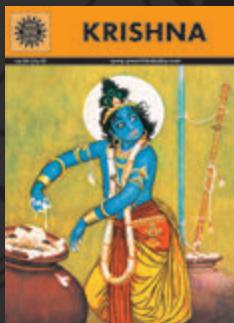


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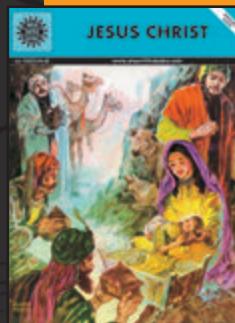
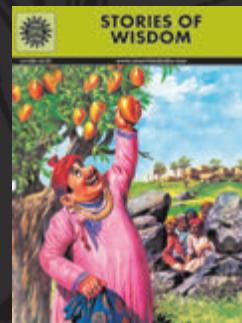
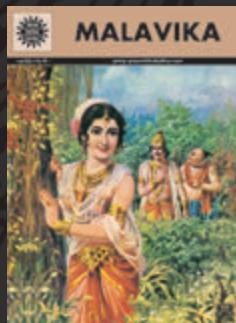
TALES OF NARADA

Sage Narada symbolises unqualified devotion to Lord Vishnu, also known as Narayana. He is inseparable from his veena and has the name of Lord Narayana always on his lips. In the Puranic stories, it is Narada who puts the Lord's devotees to test. But when he himself is put to test will the celestial sage emerge victorious?

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