



PAREEKSHIT

SON OF ABHIMANYU

Vol 762 |

www.amarchitrakatha.com





The route to your roots

When they look back at their formative years, many Indians nostalgically recall the vital part Amar Chitra Katha picture books have played in their lives. It was **ACK – Amar Chitra Katha** – that first gave them a glimpse of their glorious heritage.

Since they were introduced in 1967, there are now **over 400 Amar Chitra Katha titles** to choose from. **Over 90 million copies** have been sold worldwide.

Now the Amar Chitra Katha titles are even more widely available in **500+ bookstores all across India**. Log on to www.ack-media.com to locate a bookstore near you. If you do not have access to a bookstore, you can buy all the titles through our online store www.theackshop.com. We provide quick delivery anywhere in the world.

To make it easy for you to locate the titles of your choice from our treasure trove of titles, the books are now arranged in five categories.

Epics and Mythology

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Indian Classics

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Fables and Humour

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

Bravehearts

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

Visionaries

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Script

B. R. Bhagwat

Illustrations

Prabhakar Khanolkar

Editor

Anant Pai

Cover illustration by: C. M. Vitankar

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

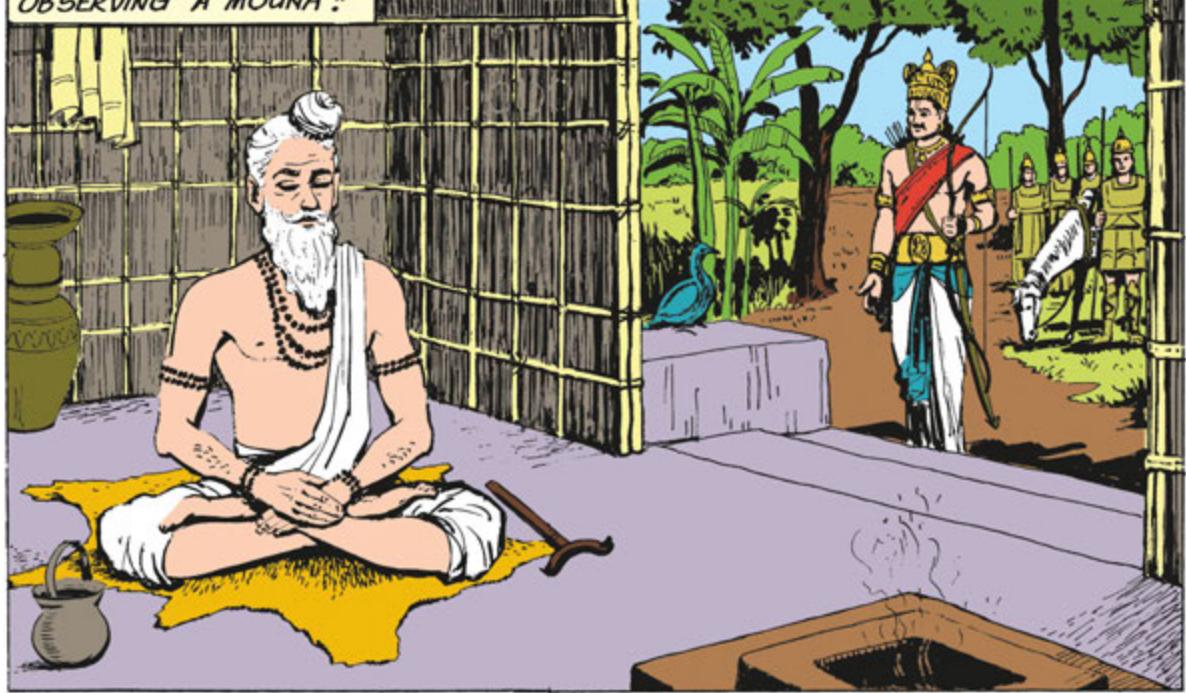
© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd., 1976, Reprinted March 2010, ISBN 81-8482-342-8
Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., 14 Marthanda, 4th floor,
84 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Mumbai 400 018, India

PAREEKSHIT



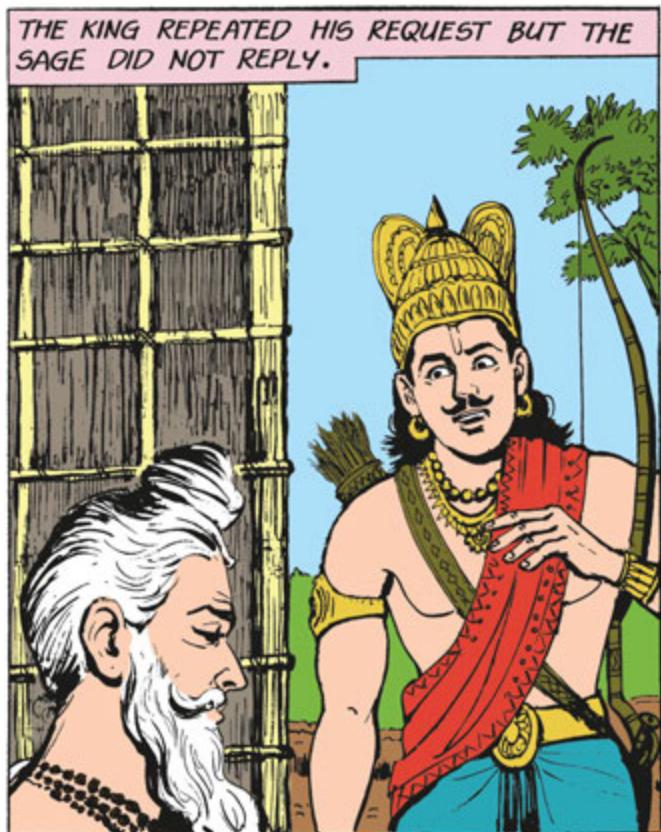
TWO GENERATIONS AFTER THE GREAT MAHABHARATA WAR, HASTINAPURA WAS RULED BY KING PAREEKSHIT, SON OF THE VALIANT ABHIMANYU AND GRANDSON OF THE PANDAVA PRINCE, ARJUNA. HE WAS FOND OF HUNTING.

ONCE, WHILE ON A DEER HUNT IN A FOREST, THE TIRED AND THIRSTY KING CAME TO THE HERMITAGE OF A SAGE. HE DID NOT KNOW THAT THE SAGE WAS OBSERVING A MOUNA*.



REVERED SIR, I AM THIRSTY. MAY I HAVE SOME MILK?

THE KING REPEATED HIS REQUEST BUT THE SAGE DID NOT REPLY.

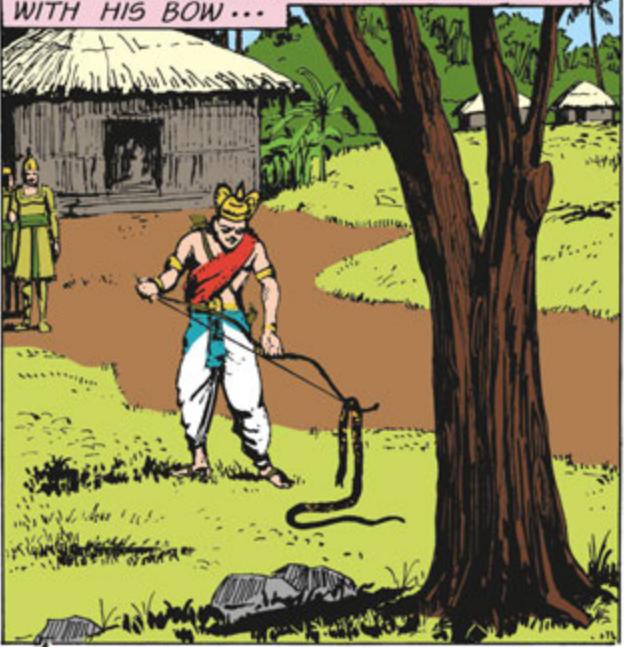


* THE VOW OF SILENCE.

THE KING FELT SLIGHTED.

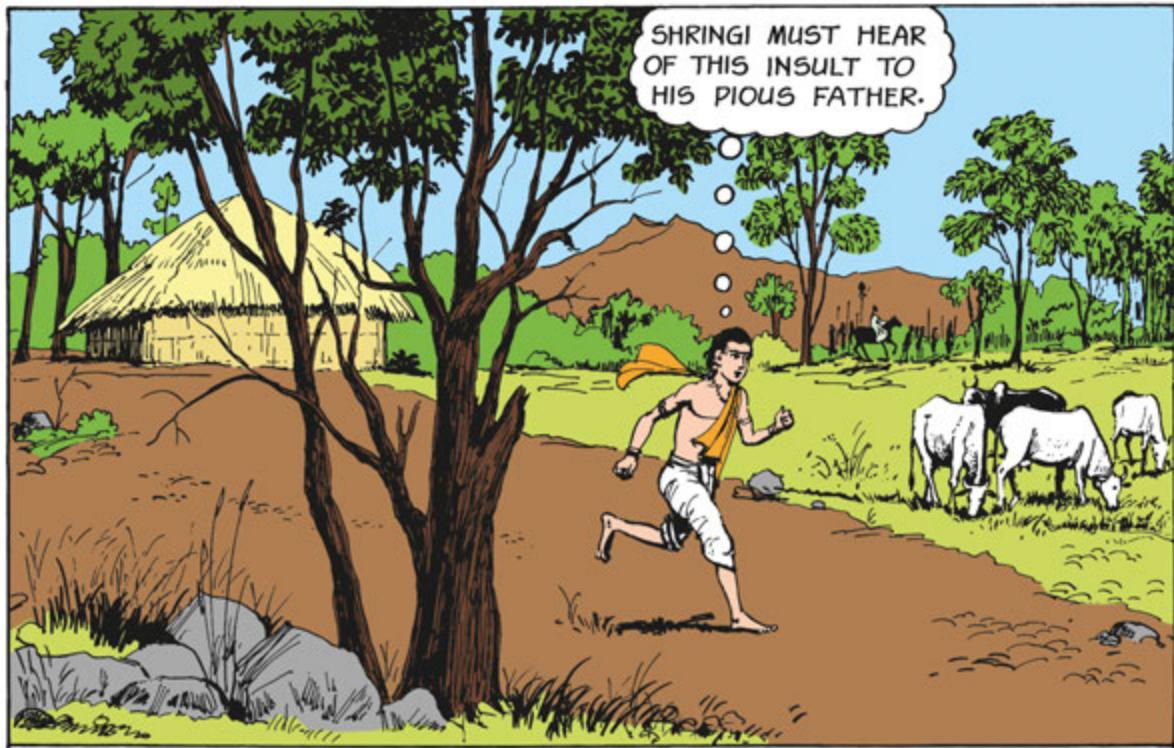


AS HE WALKED OUT OF THE HERMITAGE,
HE SAW A DEAD SERPENT. LIFTING IT
WITH HIS BOW...

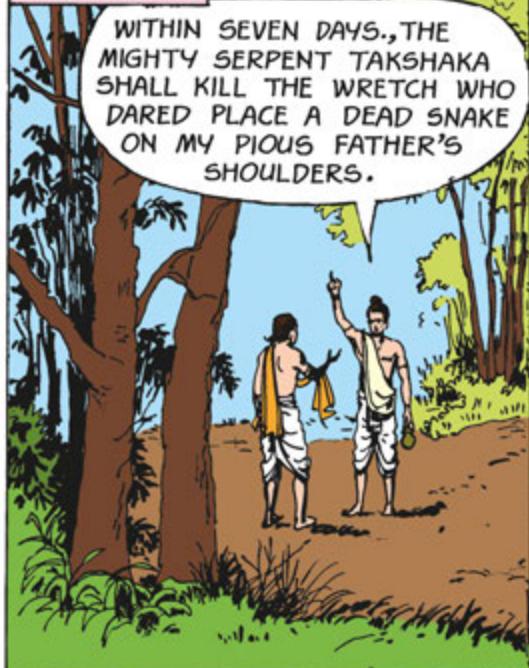


...HE WENT BACK AND LAID
IT AROUND THE HOLY MAN'S
SHOULDERS.

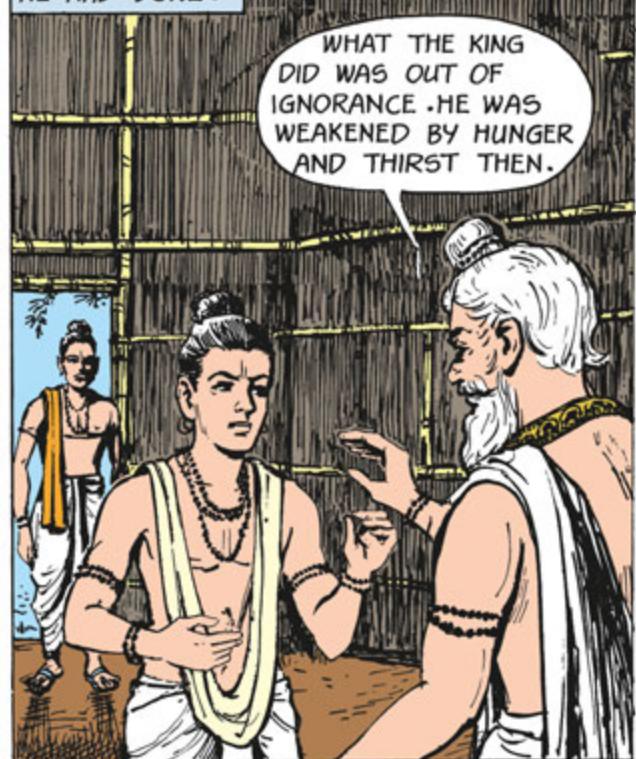


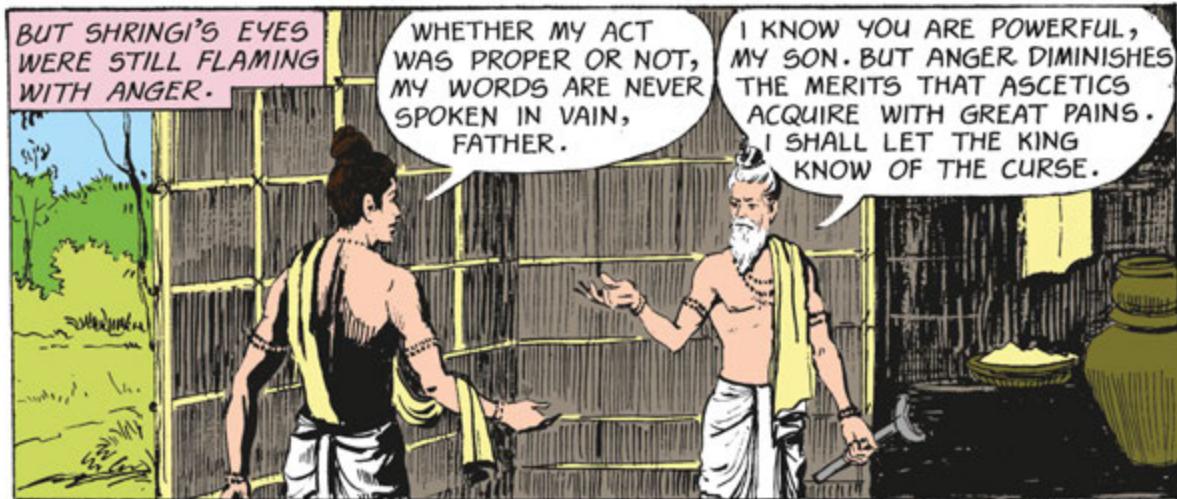
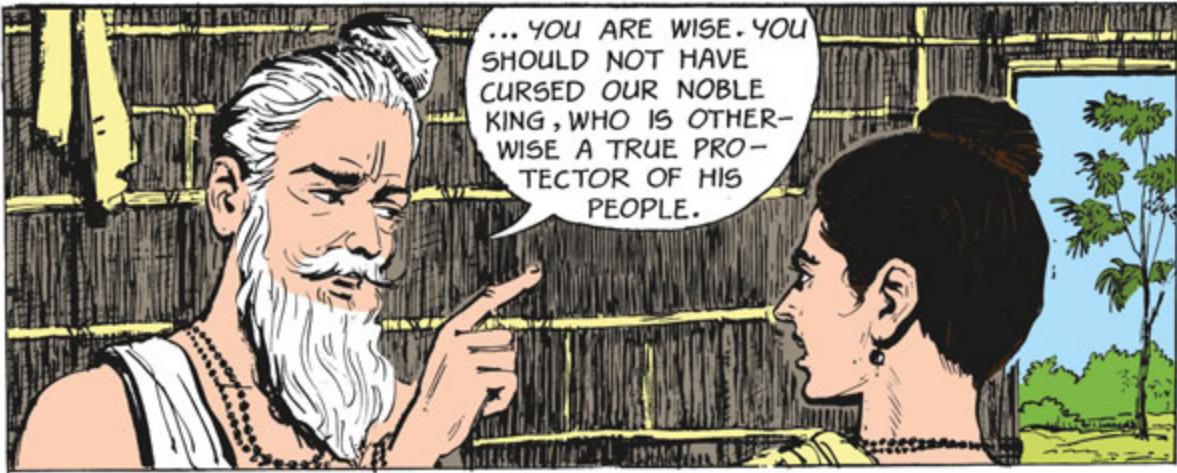


THOUGH A MERE LAD, SHRINGI HAD ACQUIRED GREAT POWER BY HIS PENANCES. BUT HE HAD NOT CONTROLLED HIS GREATEST ENEMY - ANGER. AND IN A RAGE, HE CURSED PAREEKSHIT.

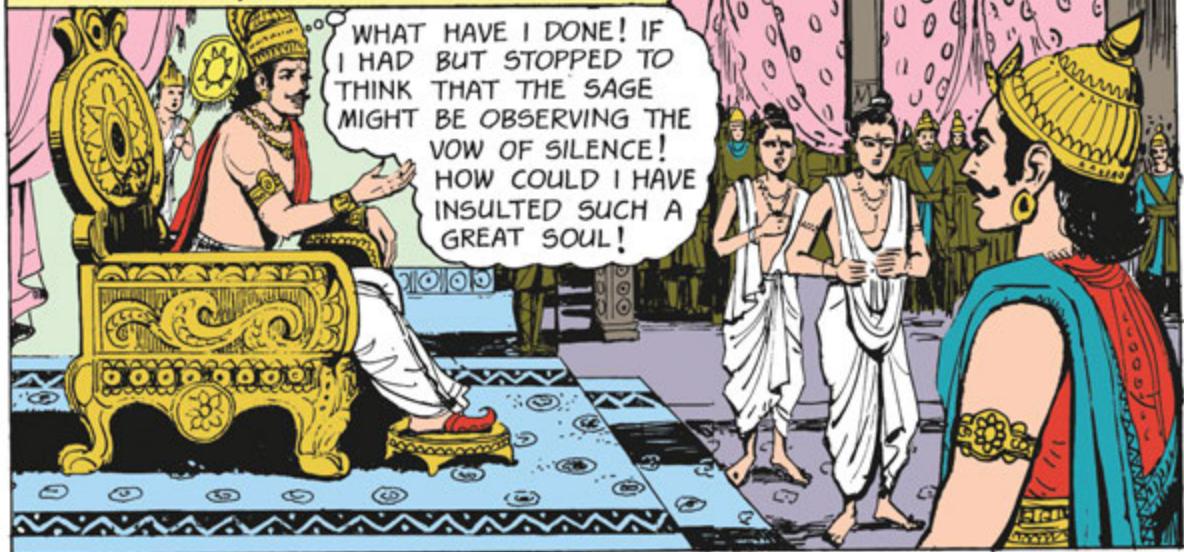


LATER, WHEN THE SAGE HAD BROKEN HIS VOW OF SILENCE, SHRINGI TOLD HIM WHAT HE HAD DONE.





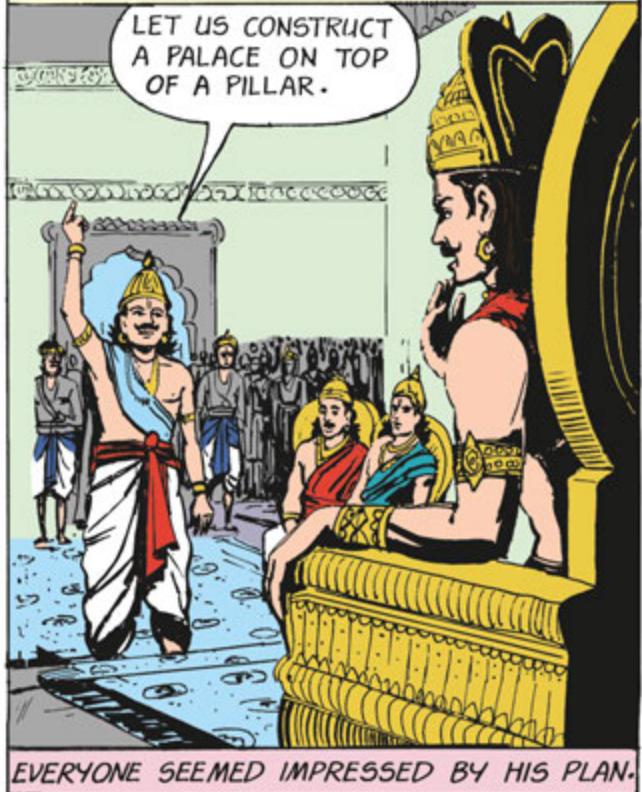
WHEN THE KING WAS TOLD OF THE CURSE, AND WHY THE SAGE HAD NOT ANSWERED HIM, HE WAS FULL OF REMORSE.

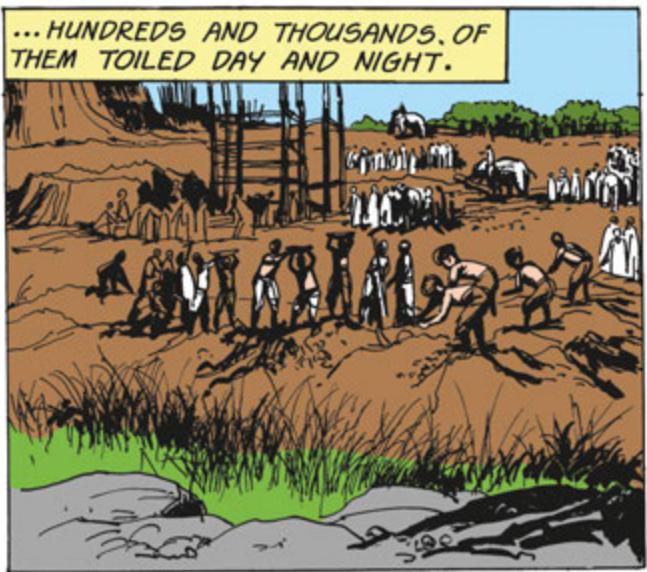
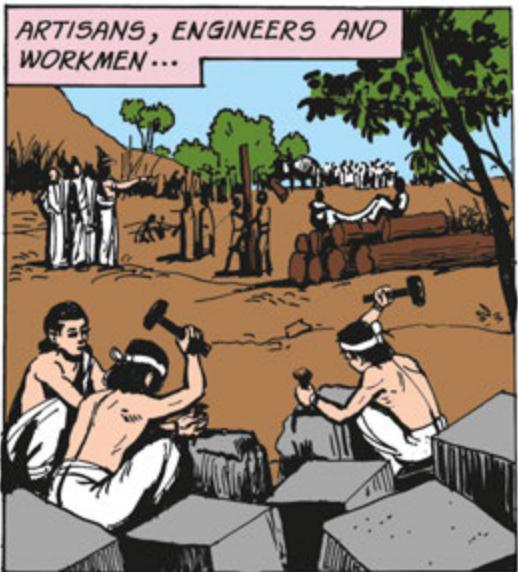


THE KING CALLED A MEETING OF HIS COUNCILLORS AND TOLD THEM THE WHOLE STORY.

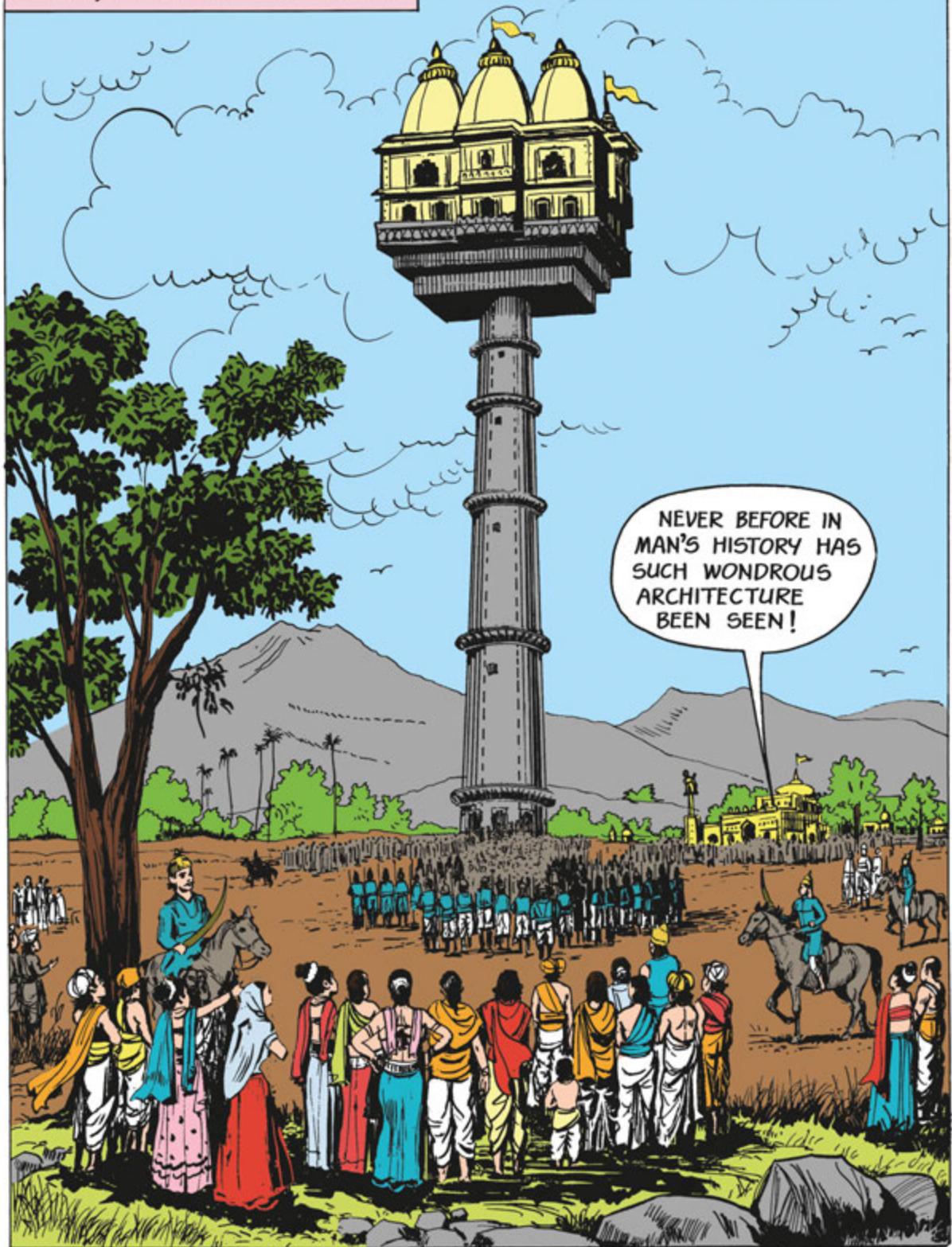


ONE OF THE COUNCILLORS STEPPED FORWARD.





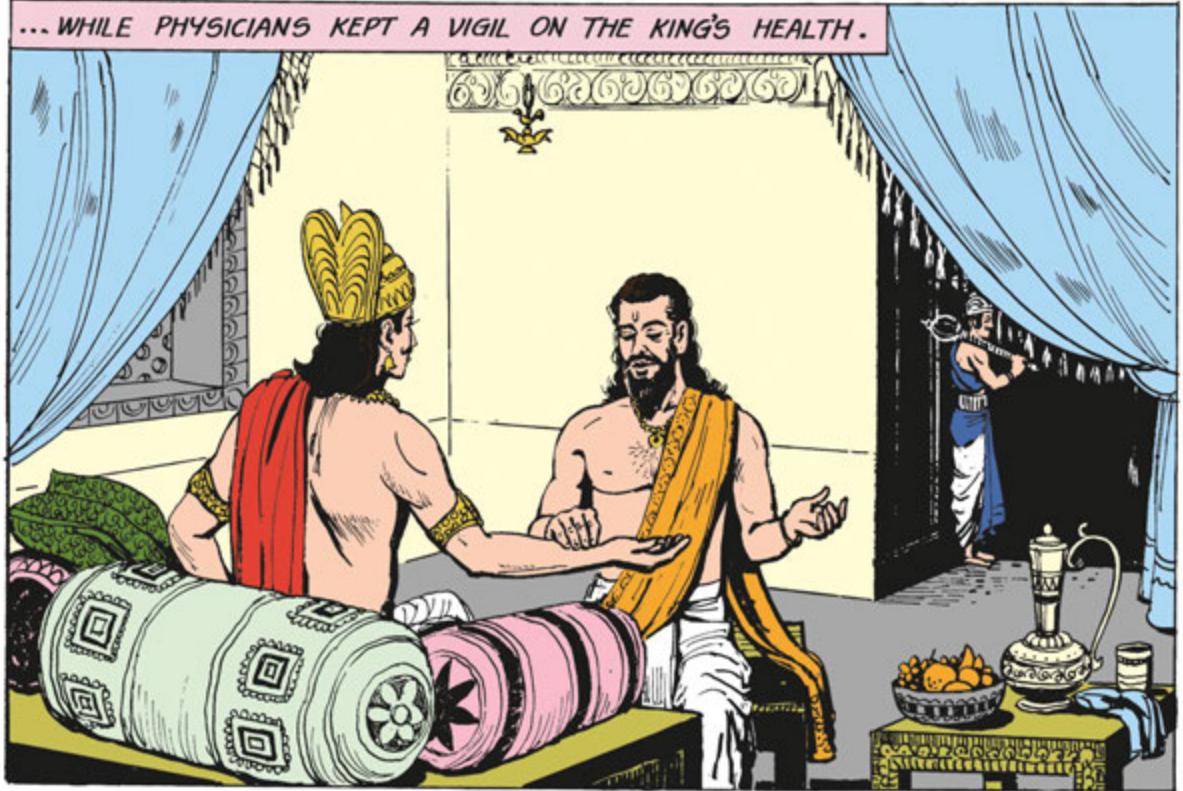
SOON A TALL, IMPOSING PILLAR OF MARBLE, TOPPED BY A MAGNIFICENT PALACE, ROSE INTO THE SKIES.



WITHIN THE PALACE, HUNDREDS OF PRIESTS CHANTED PRAYERS ...



... WHILE PHYSICIANS KEPT A VIGIL ON THE KING'S HEALTH.



EVERY ARTICLE OF FOOD WAS FIRST TASTED BY EXPERTS ...



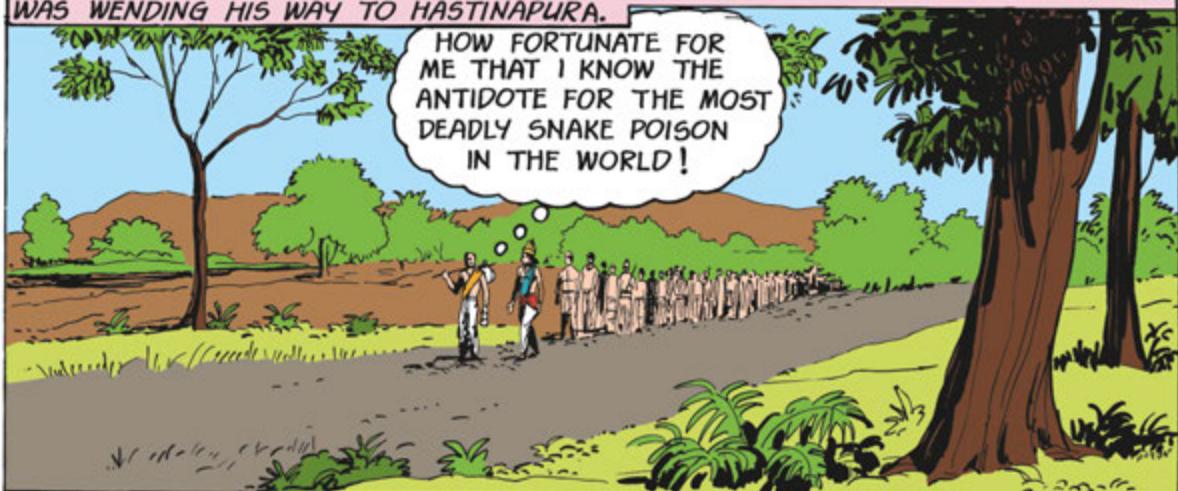
... BEFORE IT WAS SERVED TO THE KING.

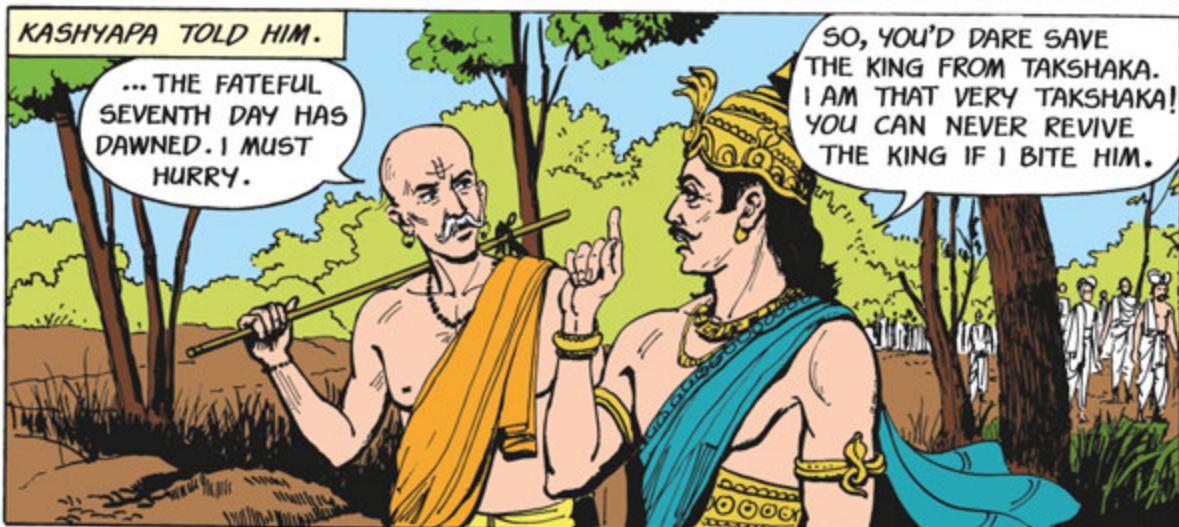
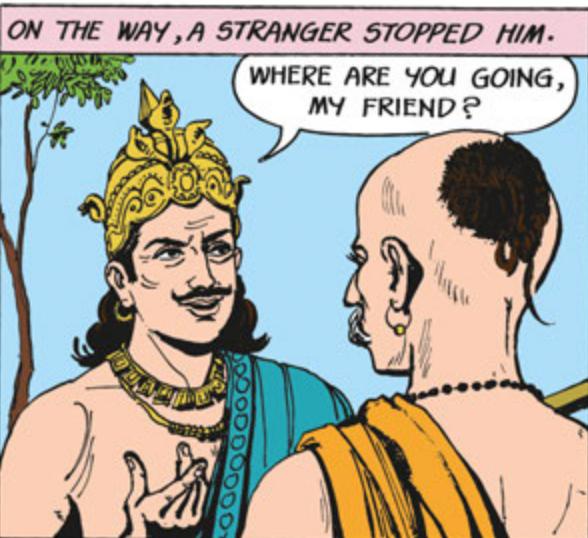
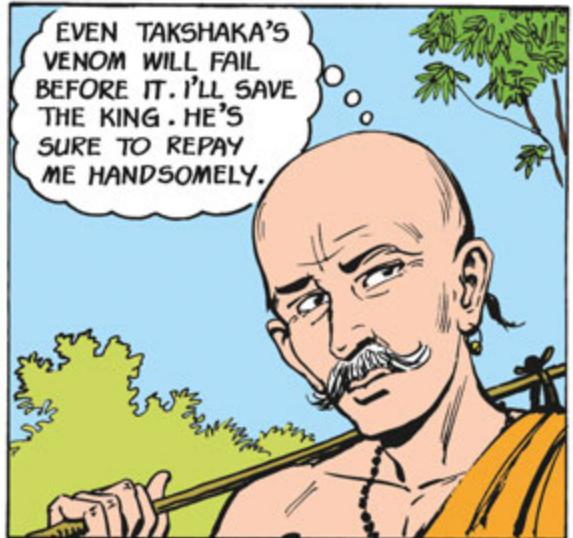


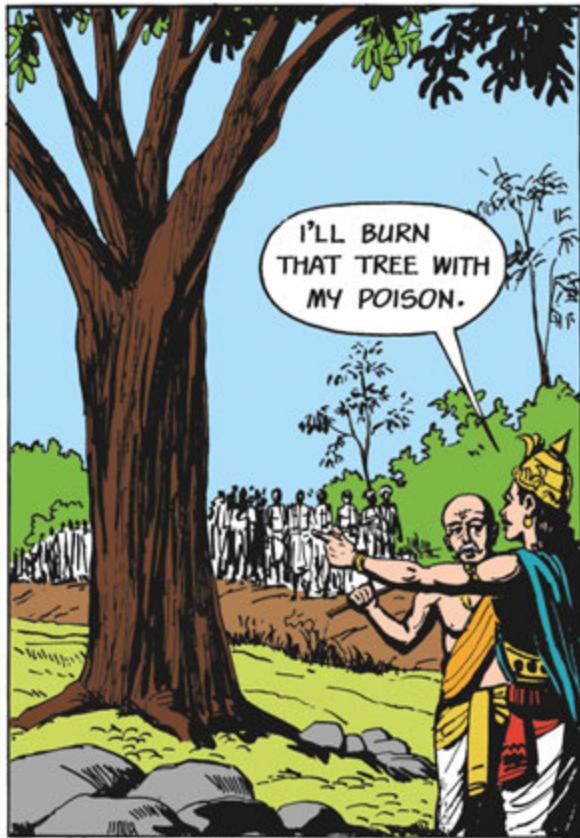
STRICT SECURITY WAS MAINTAINED ROUND THE TOWER.



AS THOUSANDS OF VISITORS WERE TURNED AWAY, KASHYAPA, A POOR BRAHMAN, WAS WENDING HIS WAY TO HASTINAPURA.







COLLECTING THE ASHES, HE SPRINKLED A LIQUID ON THEM, CHANTING MANTRAS ALL THE WHILE.



THE ASHES HAVE TURNED INTO CHARCOAL!

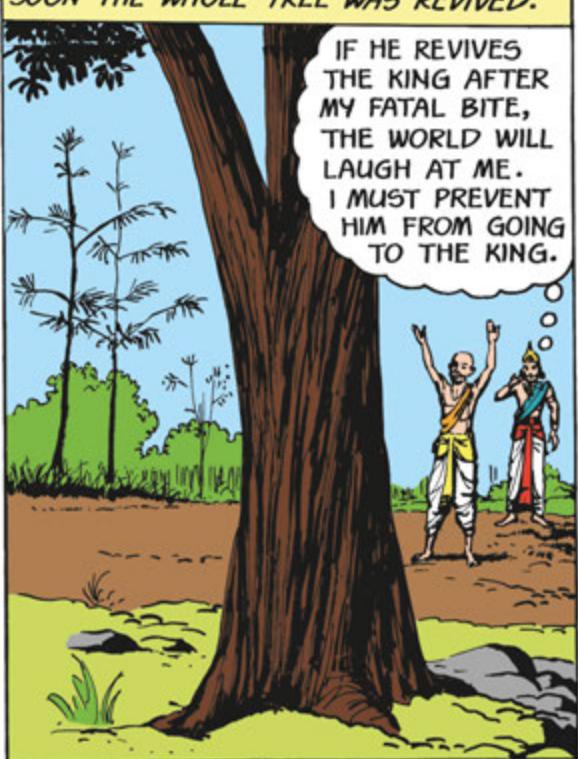


THE CHARCOAL IS BECOMING WOOD... BRANCHES HAVE FORMED!



SOON THE WHOLE TREE WAS REVIVED.

IF HE REVIVES THE KING AFTER MY FATAL BITE, THE WORLD WILL LAUGH AT ME. I MUST PREVENT HIM FROM GOING TO THE KING.



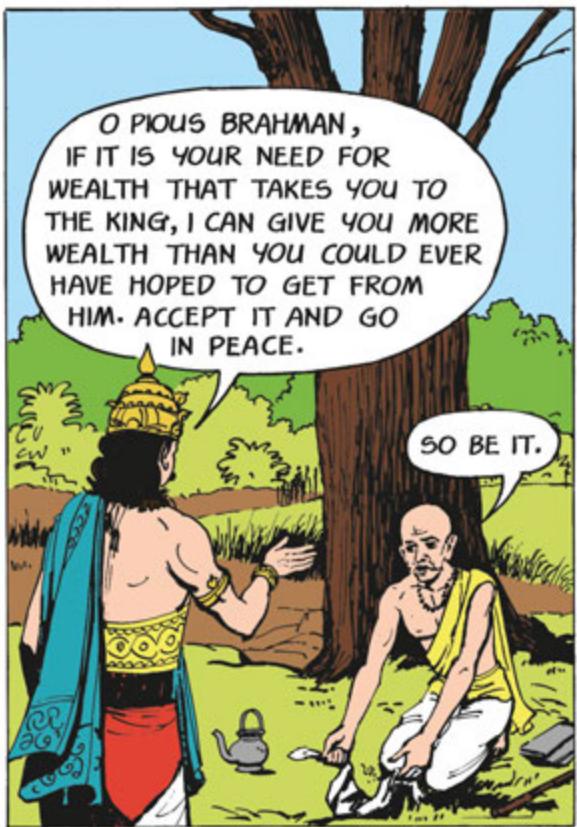
TAKSHAKA WAS WORRIED. BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

THIS BRAHMAN IS IN NEED OF WEALTH. I CAN YET MAKE HIM TURN BACK.



O PIous BRAHMAN,
IF IT IS YOUR NEED FOR
WEALTH THAT TAKES YOU TO
THE KING, I CAN GIVE YOU MORE
WEALTH THAN YOU COULD EVER
HAVE HOPED TO GET FROM
HIM. ACCEPT IT AND GO
IN PEACE.

SO BE IT.



THE BARGAIN WAS MADE. AS SOON AS THE POOR BRAHMAN HAD LEFT —

O LOYAL SUBJECTS AND BRETHREN, I COMMAND
YOU TO APPEAR
BEFORE ME!

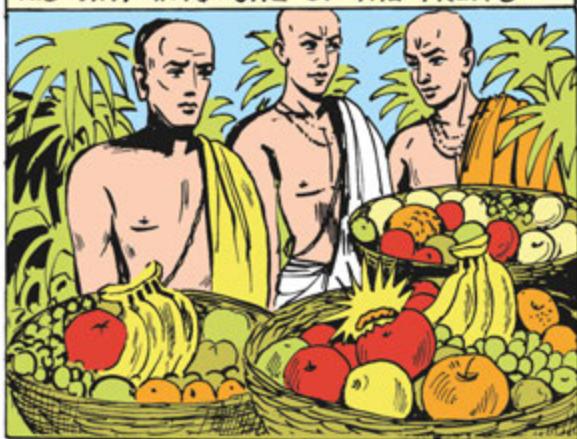


AS THE SNAKES IN THE VICINITY BEGAN TO MAKE THEIR APPEARANCE —

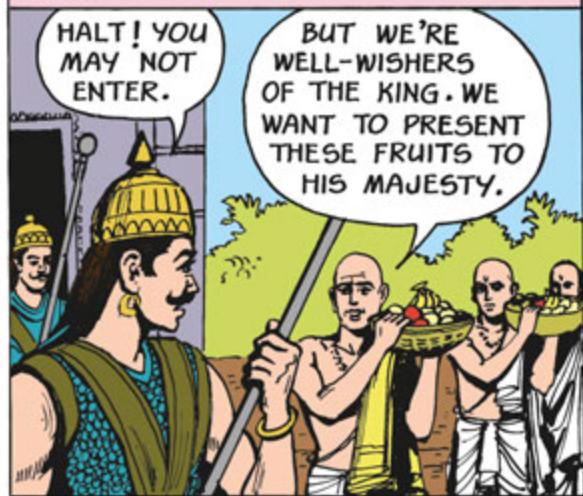
YOU SHALL BECOME BRAHMANS AND CARRY BASKETS OF FRUITS FOR THE KING !



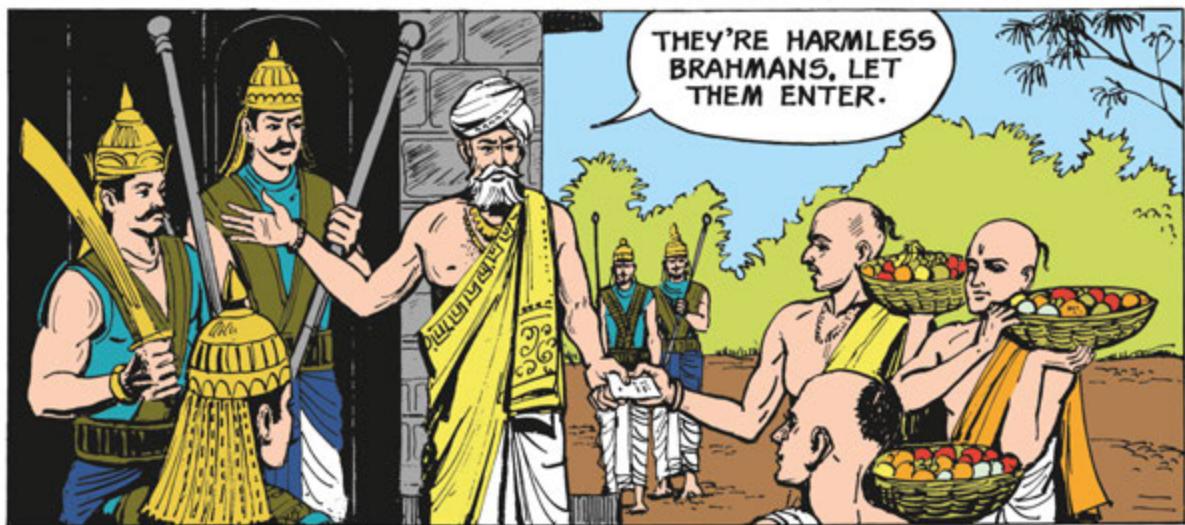
TAKSHAKA THEN REDUCED HIMSELF TO THE SIZE OF A WORM AND BORED HIS WAY INTO ONE OF THE FRUITS.

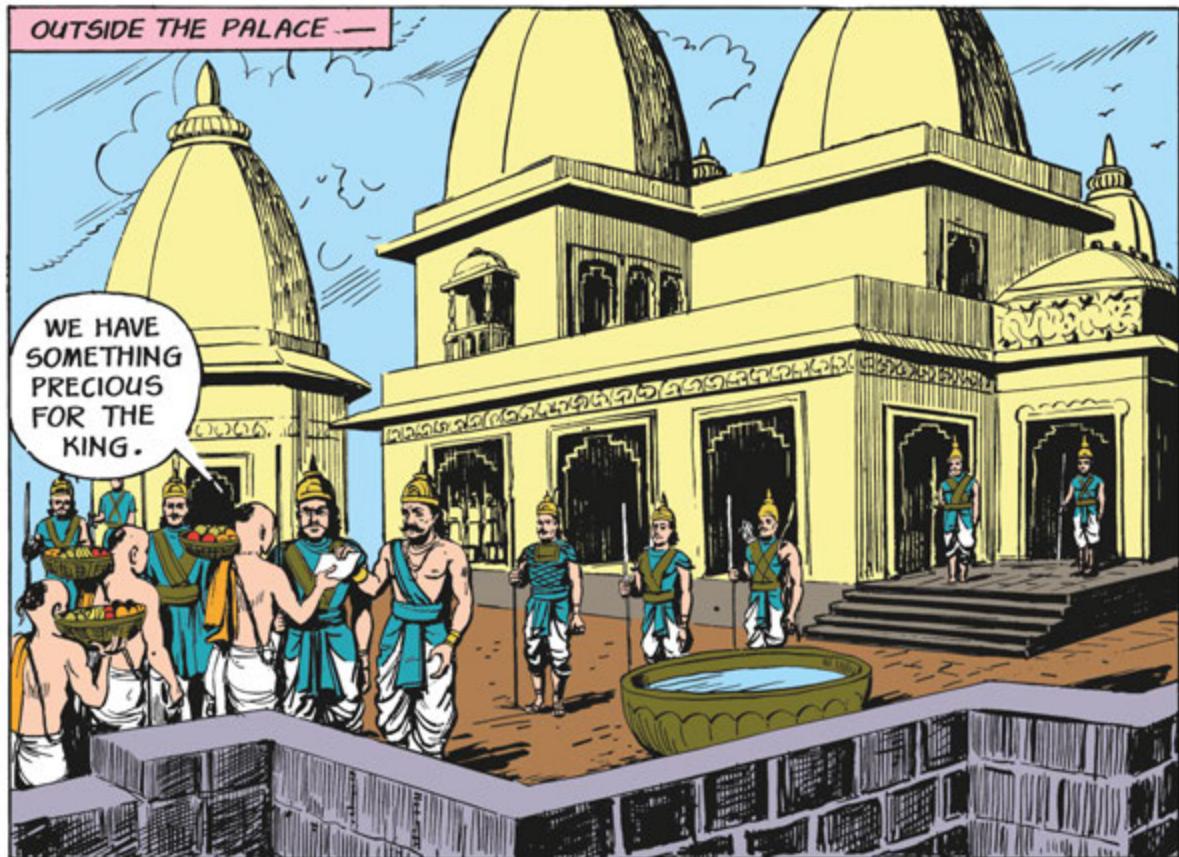
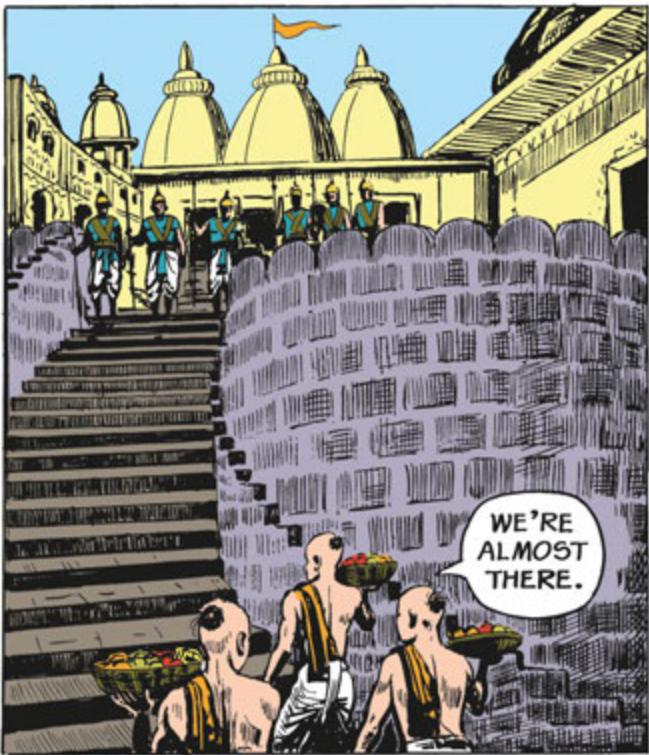
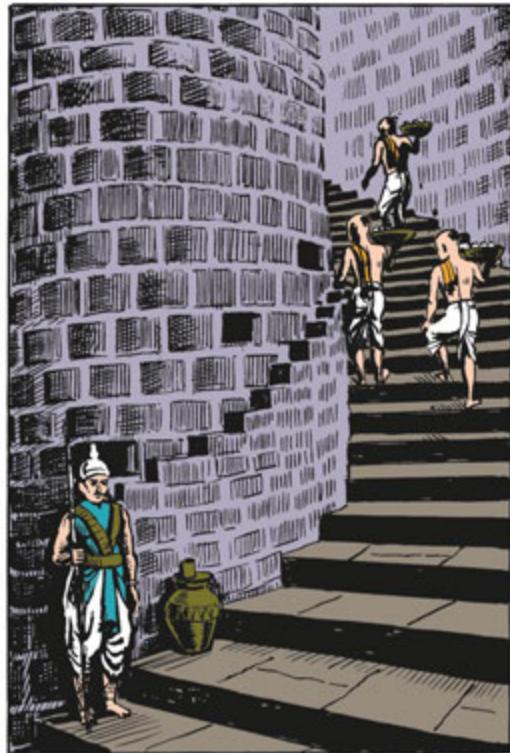


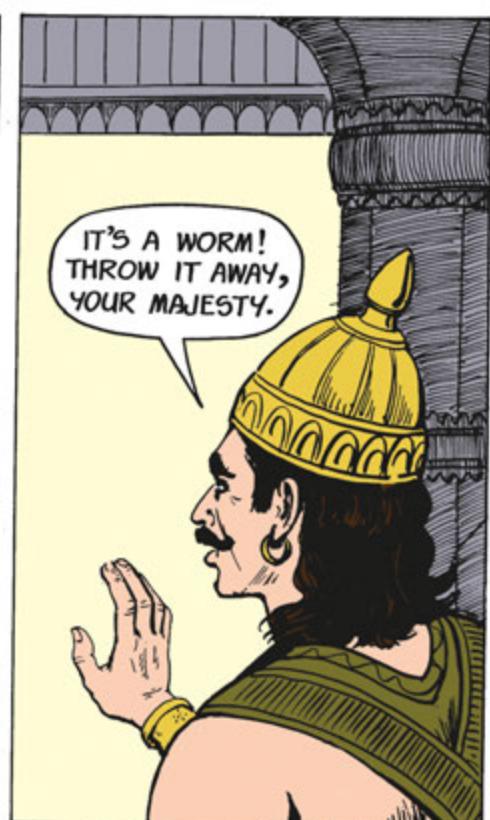
LATER, AT THE BASE OF THE PILLAR —

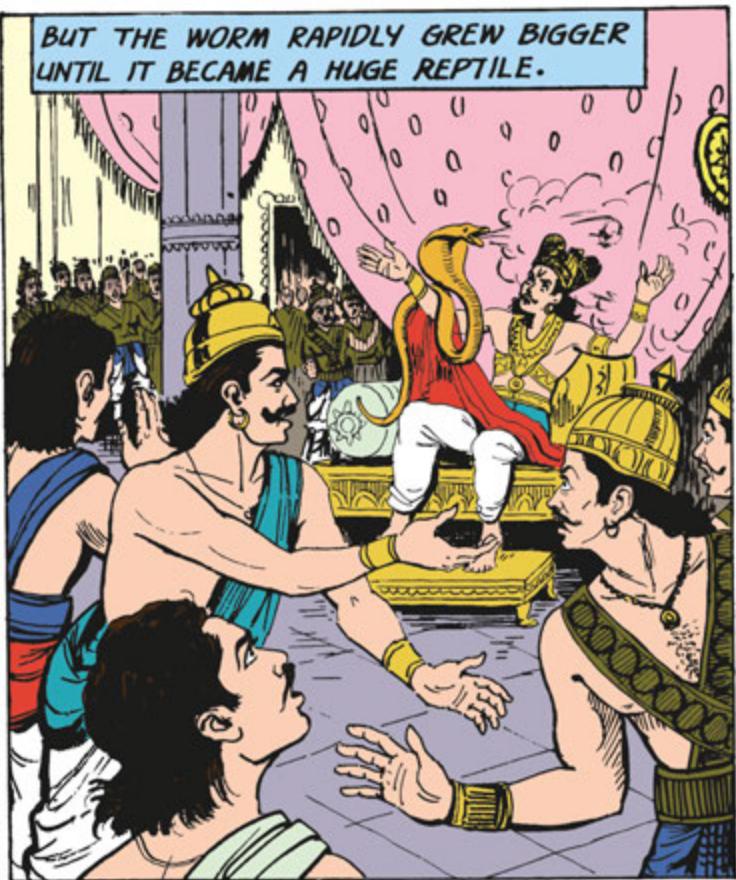


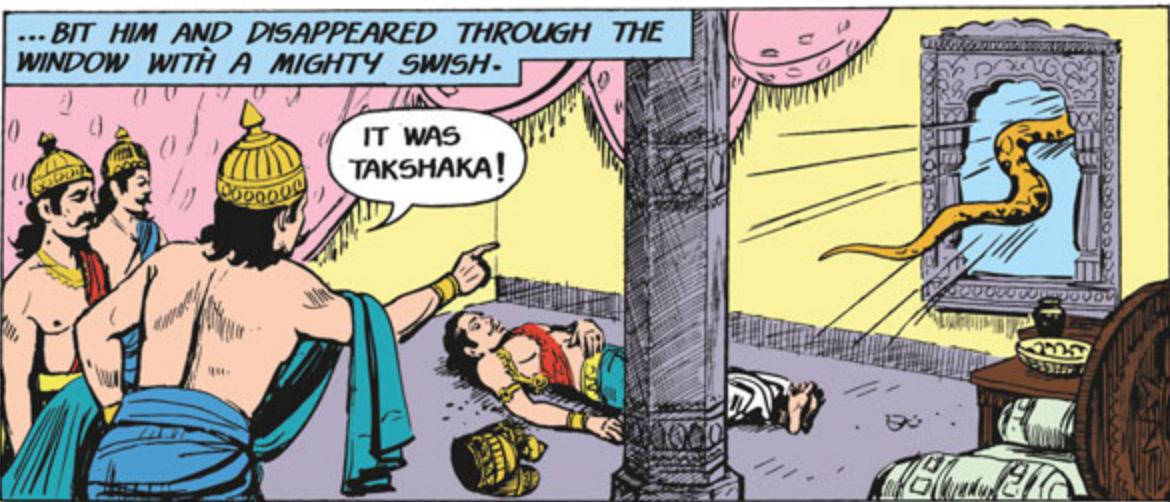
THEY'RE HARMLESS BRAHMANS, LET THEM ENTER.



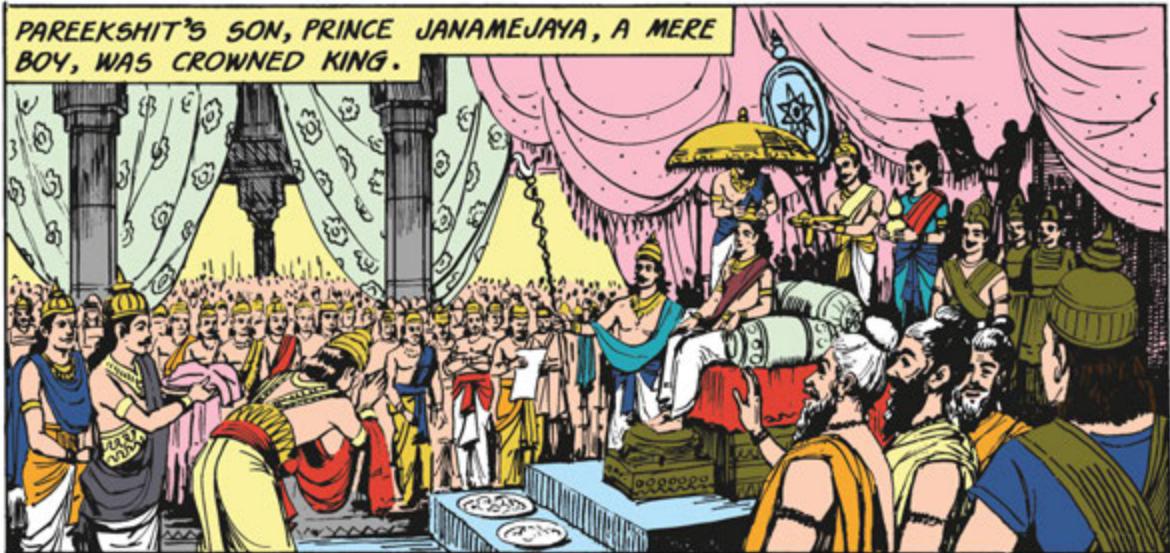




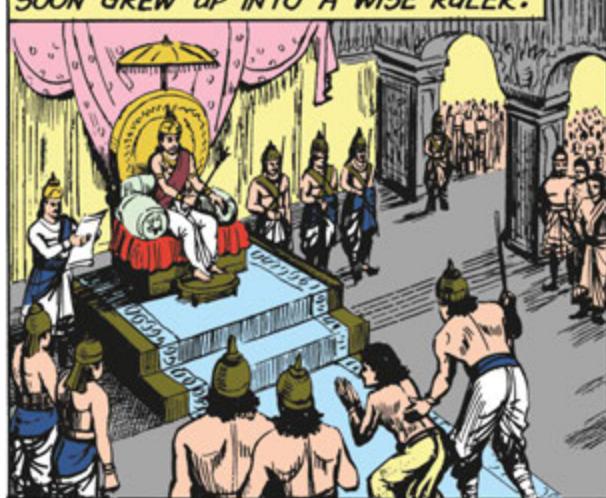




PAREEKSHIT'S SON, PRINCE JANAMEJAYA, A MERE BOY, WAS CROWNED KING.



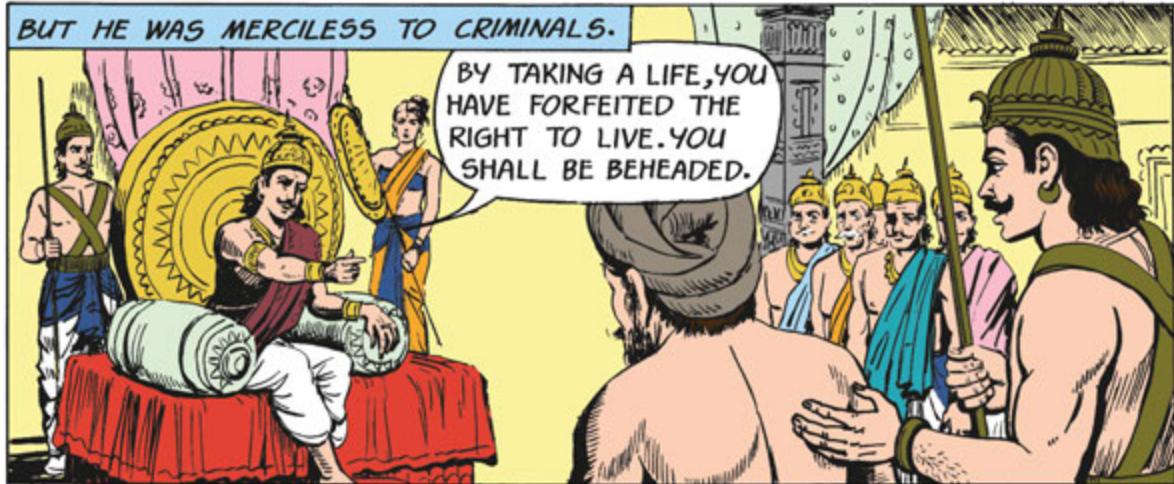
THE INTELLIGENT LAD, JANAMEJAYA SOON GREW UP INTO A WISE RULER.



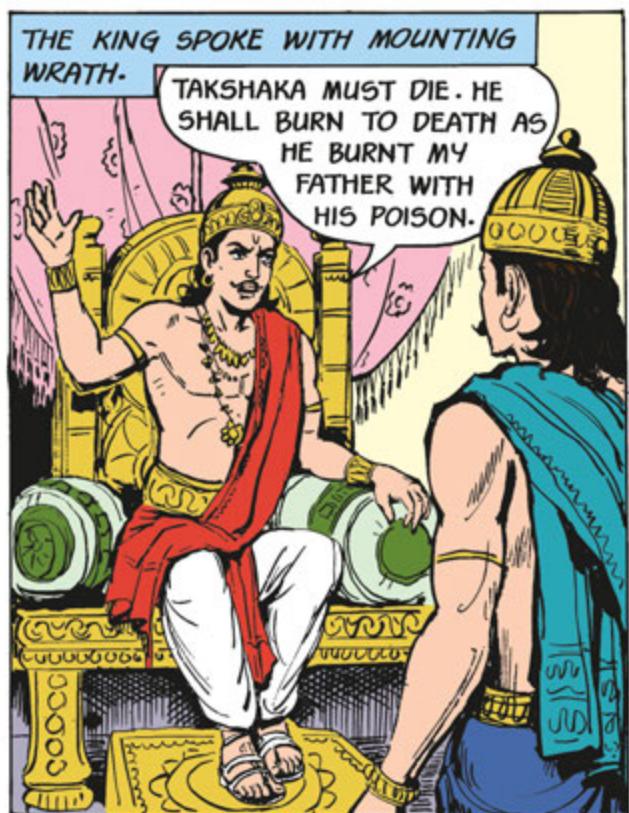
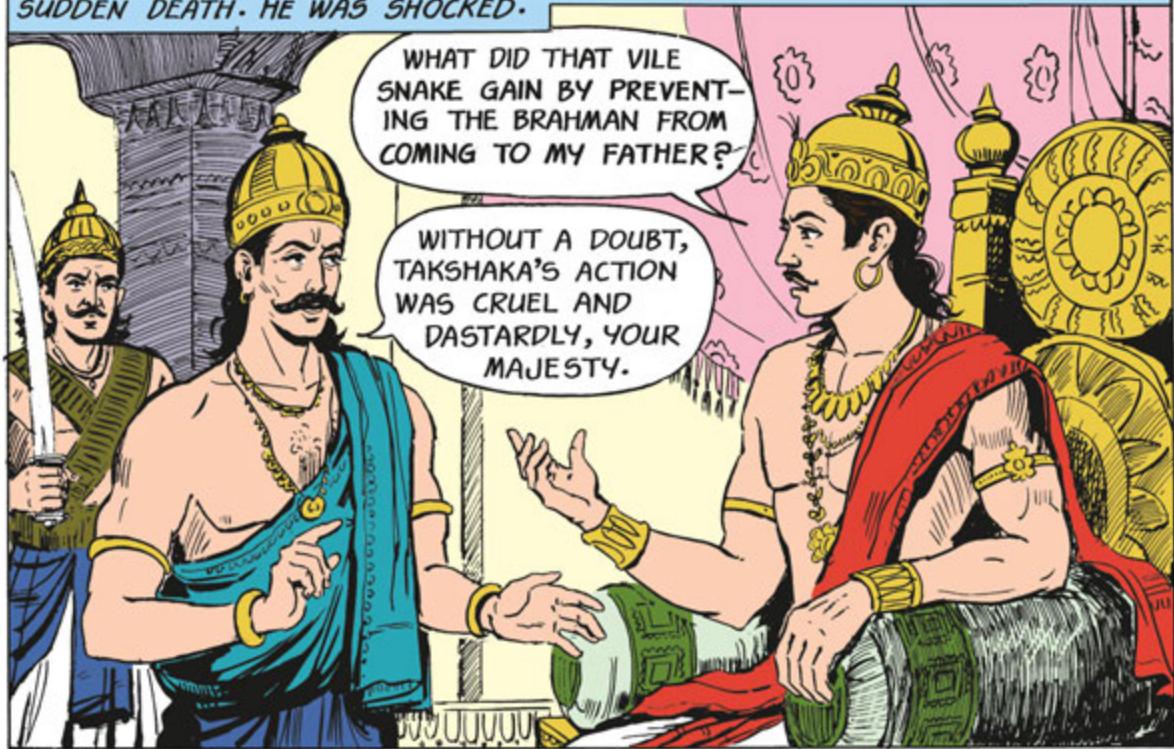
HE WAS GOOD TO ALL HIS SUBJECTS AND DEALT KINDLY WITH PETTY FAULTS.



BUT HE WAS MERCILESS TO CRIMINALS.



ONE DAY, HE HEARD FROM HIS MINISTERS THE WHOLE STORY OF HIS FATHER'S SUDDEN DEATH. HE WAS SHOCKED.

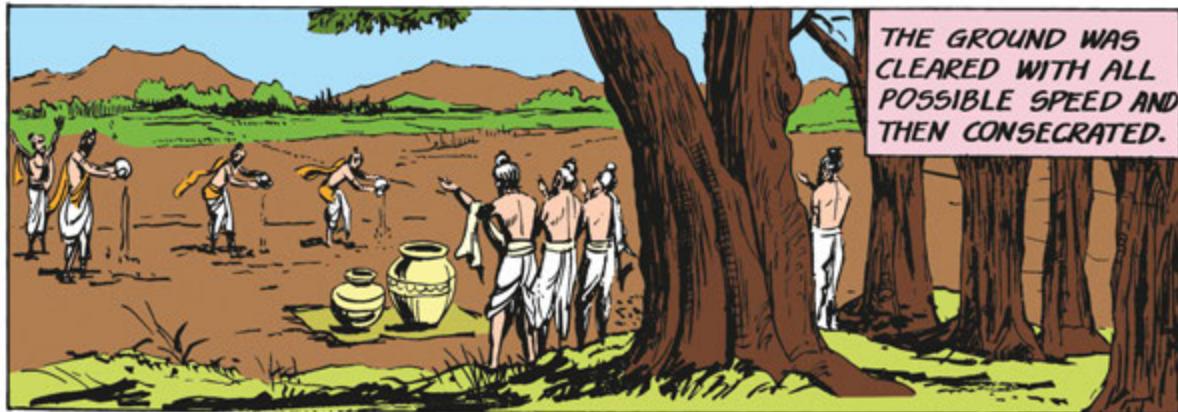
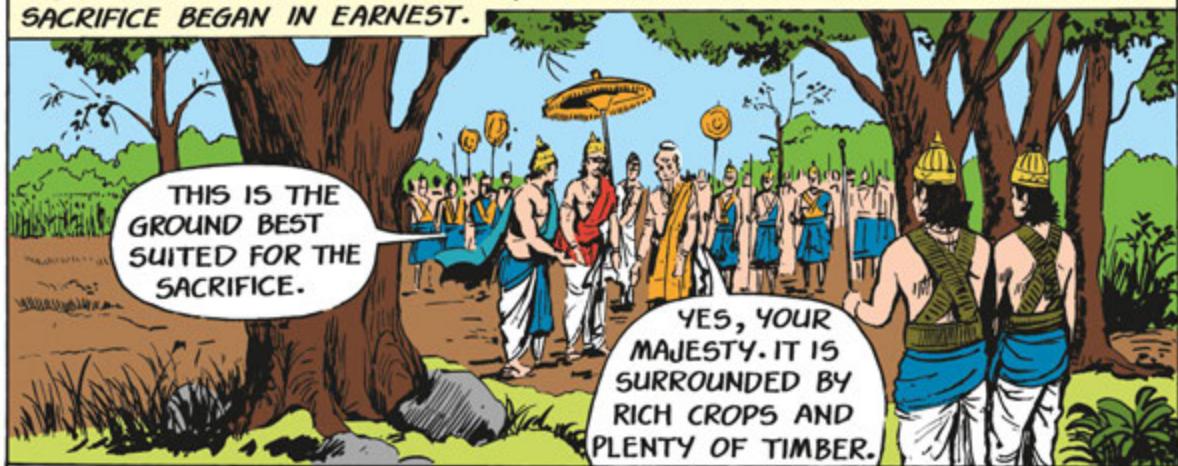


* SERPENT.

WHEN HIS ANGER HAD SUBSIDED, THE KING CONSULTED HIS PRIESTS.

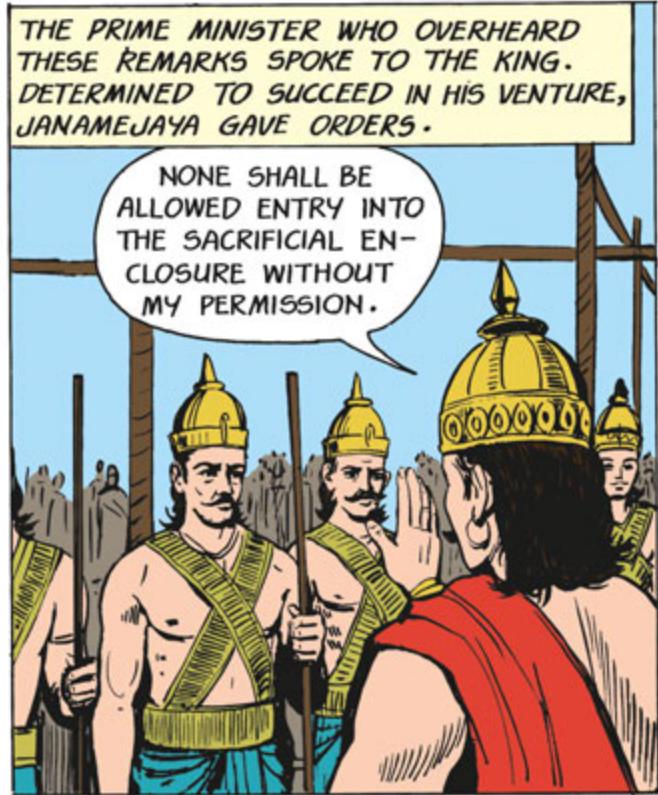
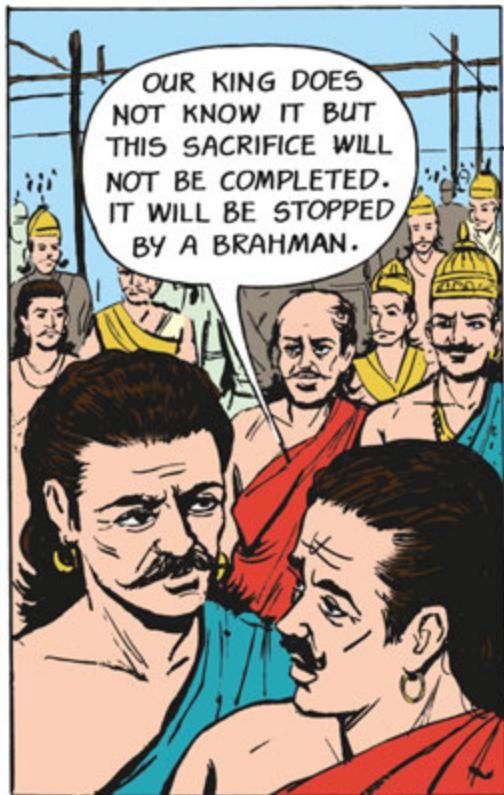


THE KING APPROVED OF THE IDEA, AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE GREAT SNAKE SACRIFICE BEGAN IN EARNEST.

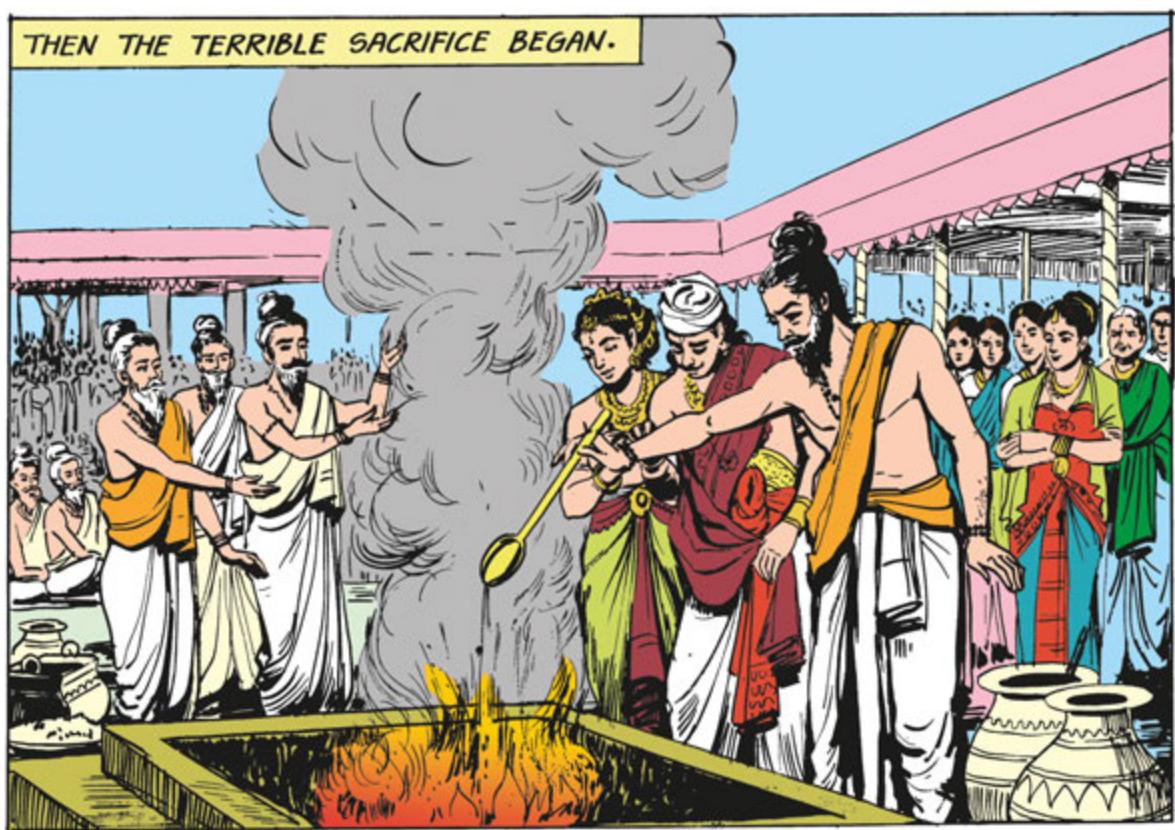


* THE SNAKE SACRIFICE.

MASONS AND CARPENTERS STARTED BUILDING THE HOLY ALTAR, HOUSED IN A MAGNIFICENT MANDAP.



THEN THE TERRIBLE SACRIFICE BEGAN.



REPEAT WITH ME; O NAGAS,
I CHARGE YOU TO COME
AS OFFERINGS TO THE
ALL-POWERFUL AGNI.



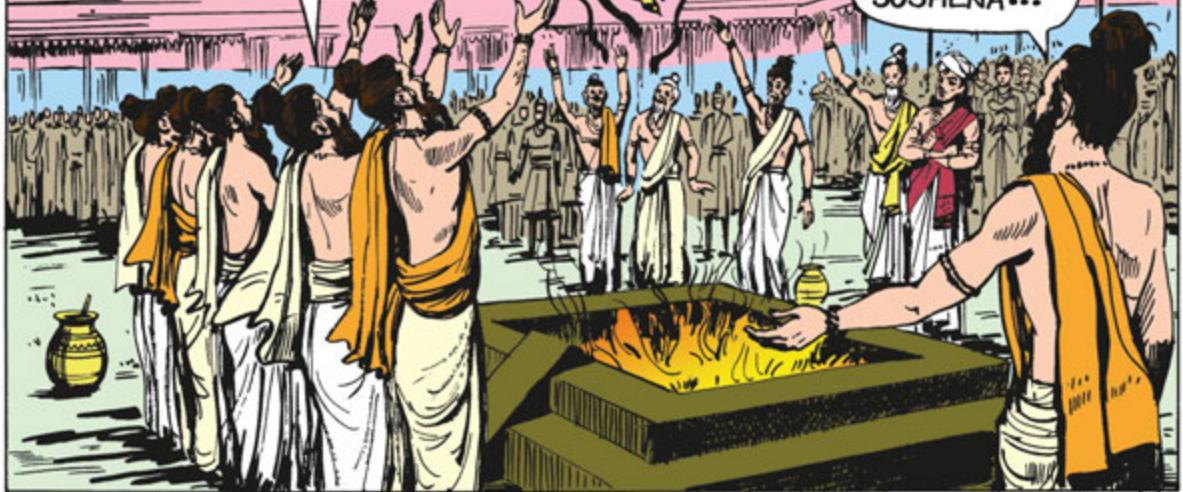
O NAGAS,
I CHARGE
YOU ...



AS THE NAME OF EACH NAGA WAS UTTERED, HE WAS DRAGGED BY THE POWER OF THE MANTRAS INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.

COME, O KALADANTAKA!
COME HITHER, MANDALAKA,
BILWATEJAS, SHARABHA,
KUNDALA, SUSHENA...

KUNDALA,
SUSHENA...

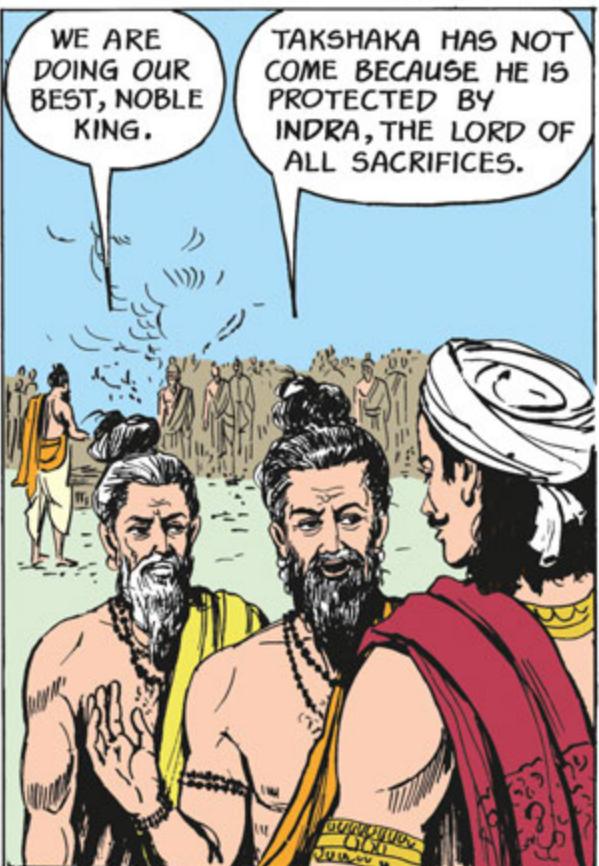
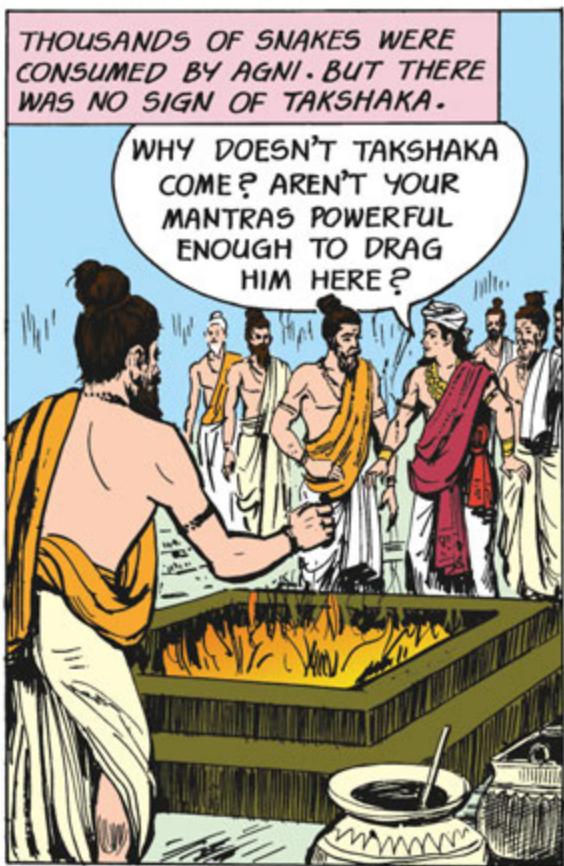


THOUSANDS OF SNAKES WERE CONSUMED BY AGNI. BUT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF TAKSHAKA.

WHY DOESN'T TAKSHAKA COME? AREN'T YOUR MANTRAS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DRAG HIM HERE?

WE ARE DOING OUR BEST, NOBLE KING.

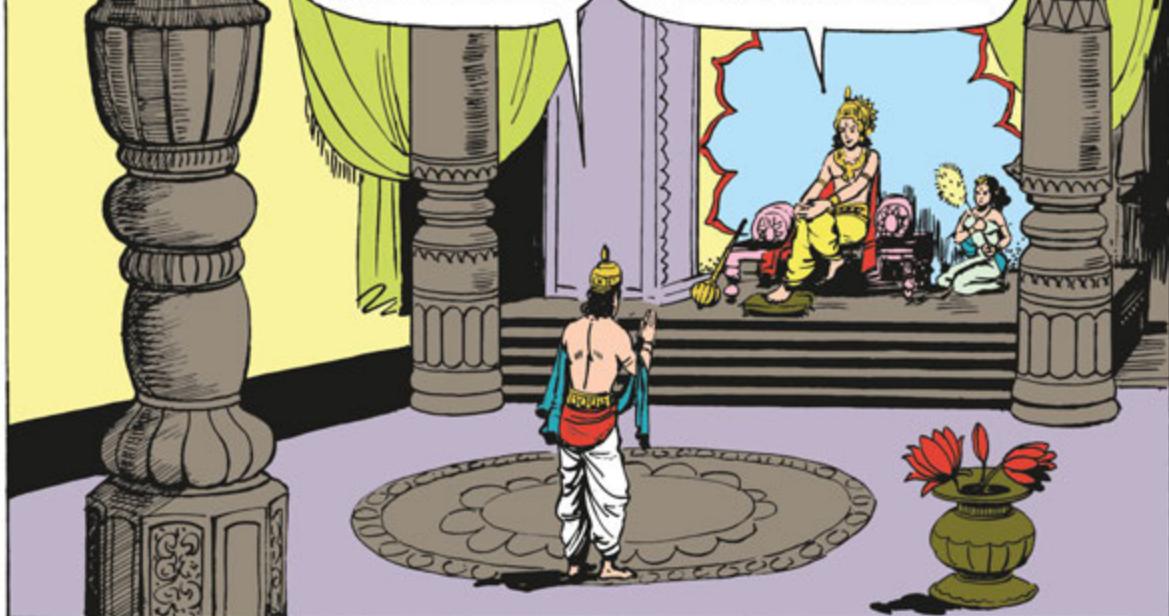
TAKSHAKA HAS NOT COME BECAUSE HE IS PROTECTED BY INDRA, THE LORD OF ALL SACRIFICES.



SHAKING WITH FEAR, TAKSHAKA HAD INDEED FLED TO INDRA, KING OF THE DEVAS.

LORD! PROTECT
ME FROM THE FIRE OF
JANAMEJAYA'S
TERRIBLE SACRIFICE!

DO NOT FEAR! BRAHMA
HAS ALREADY ORDAINED
HOW THIS DESTRUCTION OF
THE NAGA RACE SHALL END!



THE YOUNG
SAGE ASTIKA
SHALL BE YOUR
SAVIOUR.

ASTIKA WAS THE SON OF JARATKARU,
A BRAHMAN, AND HIS NAGA WIFE.*



* VASUKI'S SISTER.

VASUKI WAS THE KING OF THE NAGAS. HE RAN TO ASTIKA WITH HIS TALE OF WOE.

ALL THE NAGAS,
INCLUDING ME, WILL
BE CONSUMED.

YOU ALONE
CAN STOP THIS
DISASTER!

I SHALL TRY
MY BEST TO
SAVE THE
SNAKES.

I SHALL GO THIS
VERY MINUTE, PLEASE
JANAMEJAYA WITH MY
WORDS AND STOP
THE SACRIFICE.

BUT WHEN ASTIKA REACHED THE VENUE
OF THE YAGNA —

NO ONE MAY ENTER
THE SACRIFICIAL EN-
CLOSURE WITHOUT
THE KING'S
PERMISSION.

INSIDE, THE PRIESTS WERE CHANTING THEIR MANTRAS WITH MOUNTING VEHEMENCE.



TAKSHAKA AND HIS MIGHTY PROTECTOR WERE DRAGGED TOWARDS THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.



INDRA LOOKED DOWN ANXIOLUS WHILE TAKSHAKA CLUNG DESPERATELY TO HIS SHAWL.



TAKSHAKA BEGAN FALLING.



AND INDRA FLED.

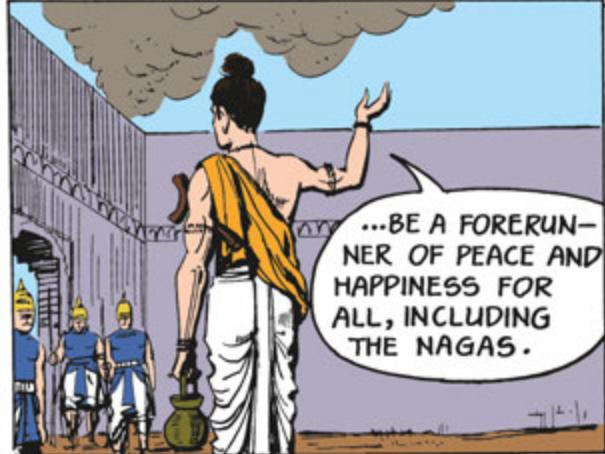
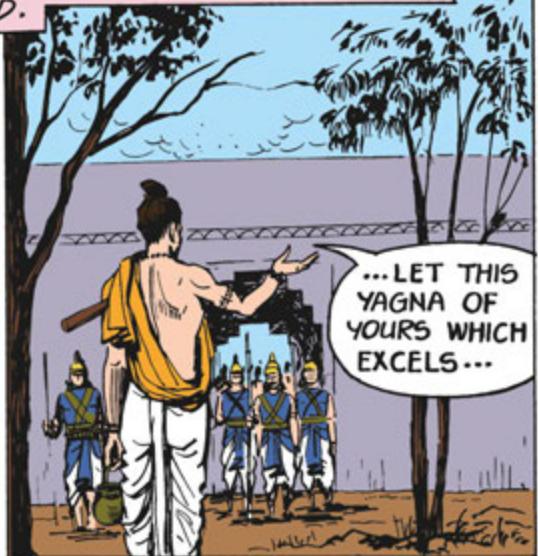
IT WAS ASTIKA.

* STAY! STAY!

THEN ASTIKA STOOD ON THE SPOT AND BLESSED THE KING. HIS WORDS WERE SWEET MUSIC TO ALL WHO LISTENED.

OH JANAMEJAYA, KING OF KINGS, AS GLORIOUS AS BHEESHMA, AS PEACE-LOVING AS VASISHTHA AND AS DAUNTLESS AS PARASHURAMA ...

...LET THIS YAGNA OF YOURS WHICH EXCELS...

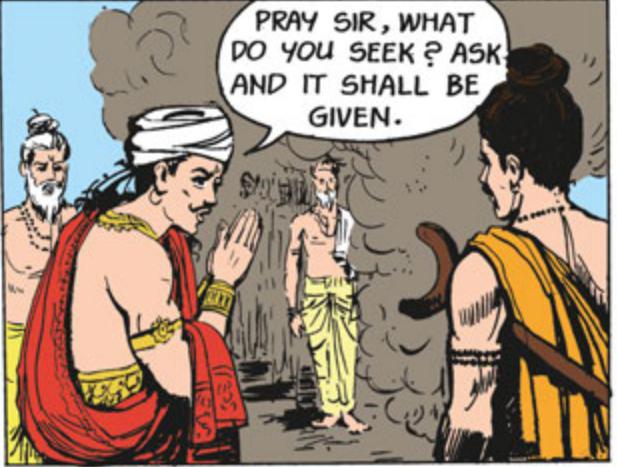


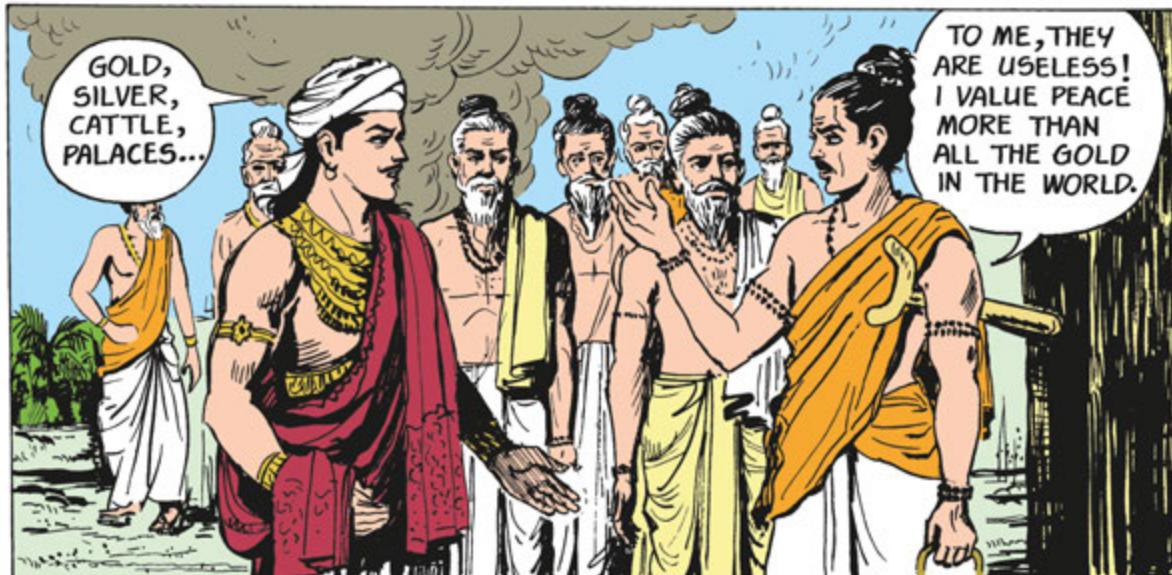
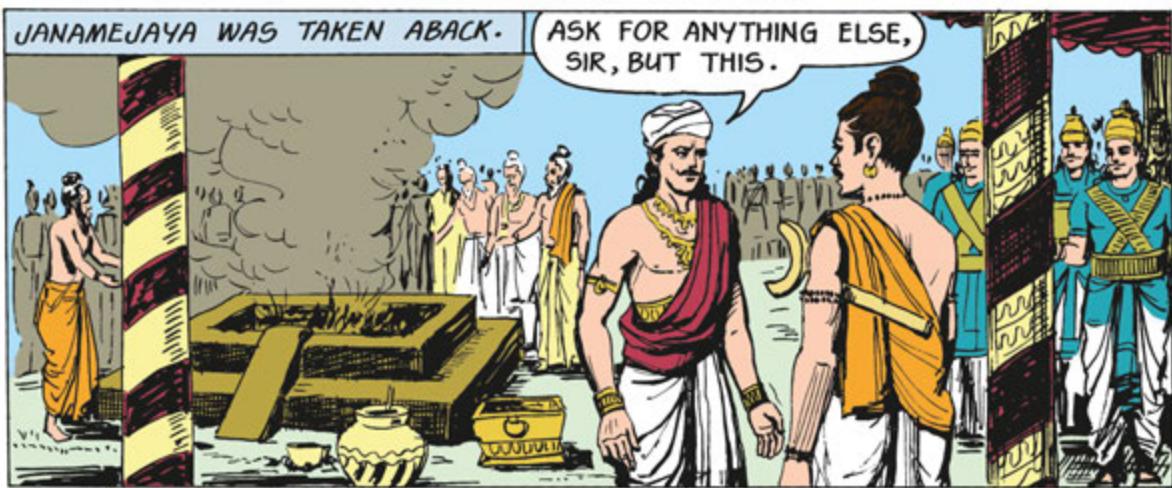
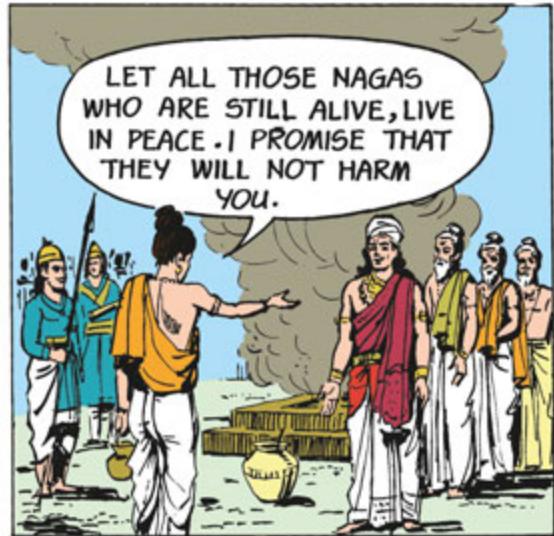
THESE WORDS REACHED THE EARS OF JANAMEJAYA. HE TURNED TO HIS GUARDS.

USHER IN THE WISE YOUTH.



PRAY SIR, WHAT DO YOU SEEK ? ASK AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN.



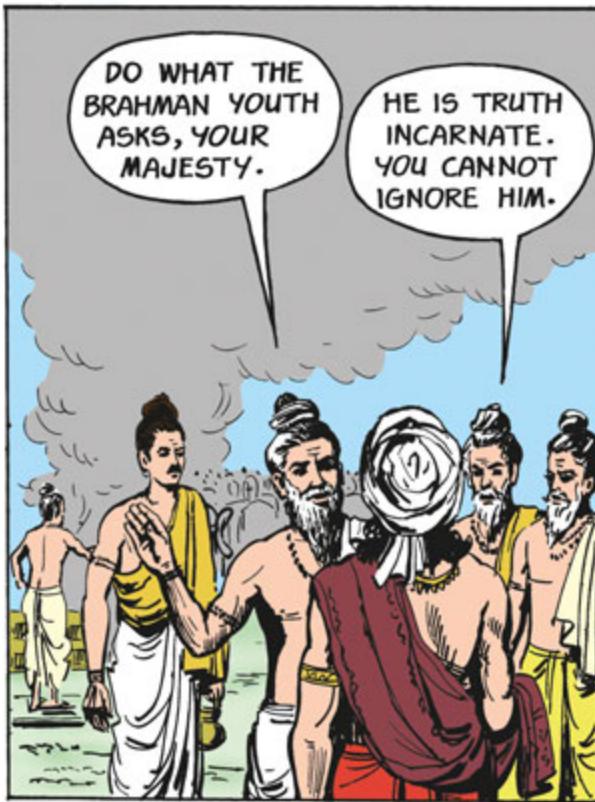


DO WHAT THE BRAHMAN YOUTH ASKS, YOUR MAJESTY.

HE IS TRUTH INCARNATE. YOU CANNOT IGNORE HIM.

HEEDING THE WORDS OF HIS SPIRITUAL ADVISERS, JANAMEJAYA GAVE ORDERS.

STOP THE SACRIFICE.



EVERYONE PRESENT REJOICED, AND JANAMEJAYA KNEW A HAPPINESS HE HAD NEVER KNOWN BEFORE.

WHEN ASTIKA RETURNED HOME, HE WAS HAILED LOVINGLY BY THE NAGAS WHOSE LIVES HE HAD SAVED.

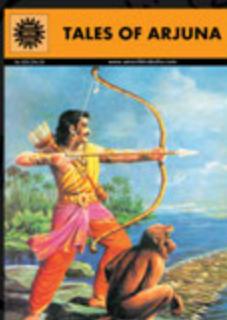
GLORY BE TO ASTIKA!



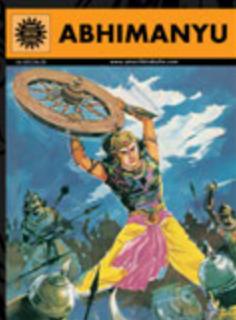
PAREEKSHIT

Pareekshit, grandson of Arjuna, ascended the throne of Hastinapura the year in which Krishna left the earth for Vaikuntha. It was said to be the beginning of Kali Yuga. This Amar Chitra Katha tells the story of the curse which dooms Pareekshit to die at the hands of the Serpent King, Takshaka, and how his son, Janamejaya, avenges his death.

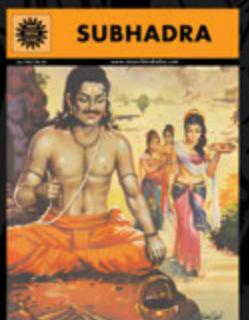
OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



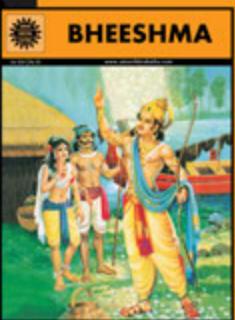
TALES OF ARJUNA



ABHIMANYU



SUBHADRA



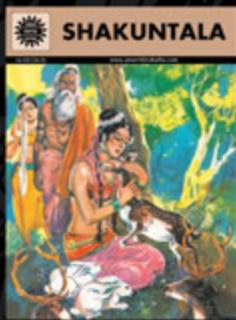
BHEESHMA

ALSO LOOK FOR:



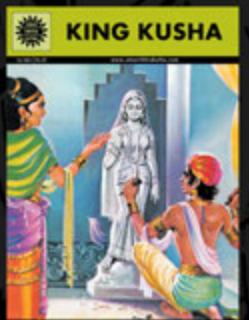
AKBAR

BRAVEHEARTS



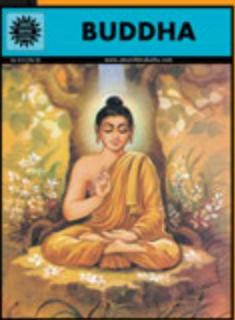
SHAKUNTALA

INDIAN CLASSICS



KING KUSHA

FABLES & HUMOUR



BUDDHA

VISIONARIES

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

www.ack-media.com

ISBN 81-8482-342-8



9 788184 823424