



# NALA DAMAYANTI

THE STEADFAST LOVERS

Vol 507 |

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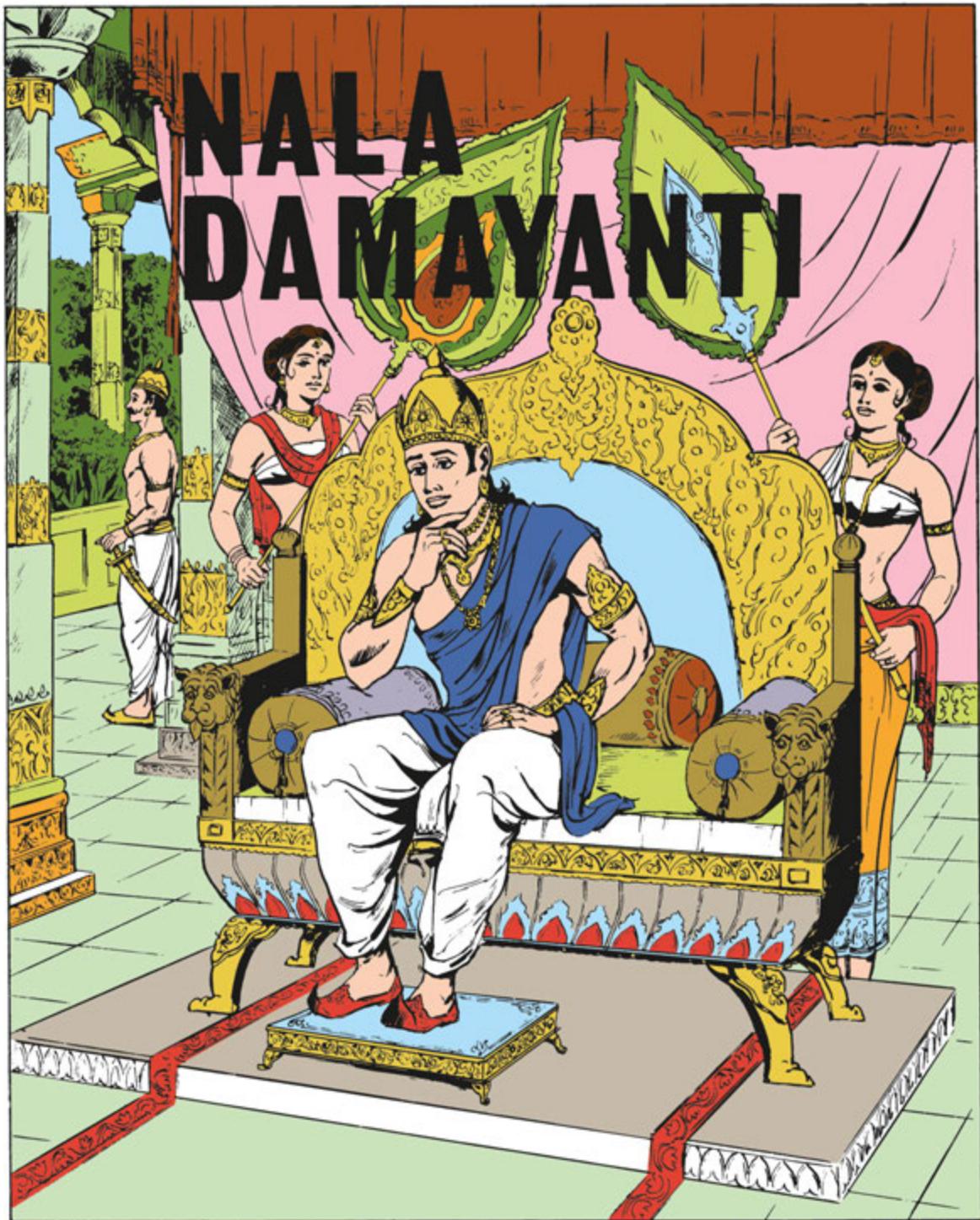
© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1971, Reprinted January 2012, ISBN 978-81-89999-29-2

Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., The Forum, 3rd Floor,  
Raghuvanshi Mill Compound, S.B.Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai- 400 013. India

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# NALA DA MAYANTI



THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, NALA RULED OVER THE KINGDOM OF NISHADA. HE WAS GENEROUS AND NOBLE AND WAS LOVED BY HIS SUBJECTS. BUT HE WAS ALWAYS SAD. HIS FATHER HAD GONE TO A FOREST TO SPEND THE LAST YEARS OF HIS LIFE.

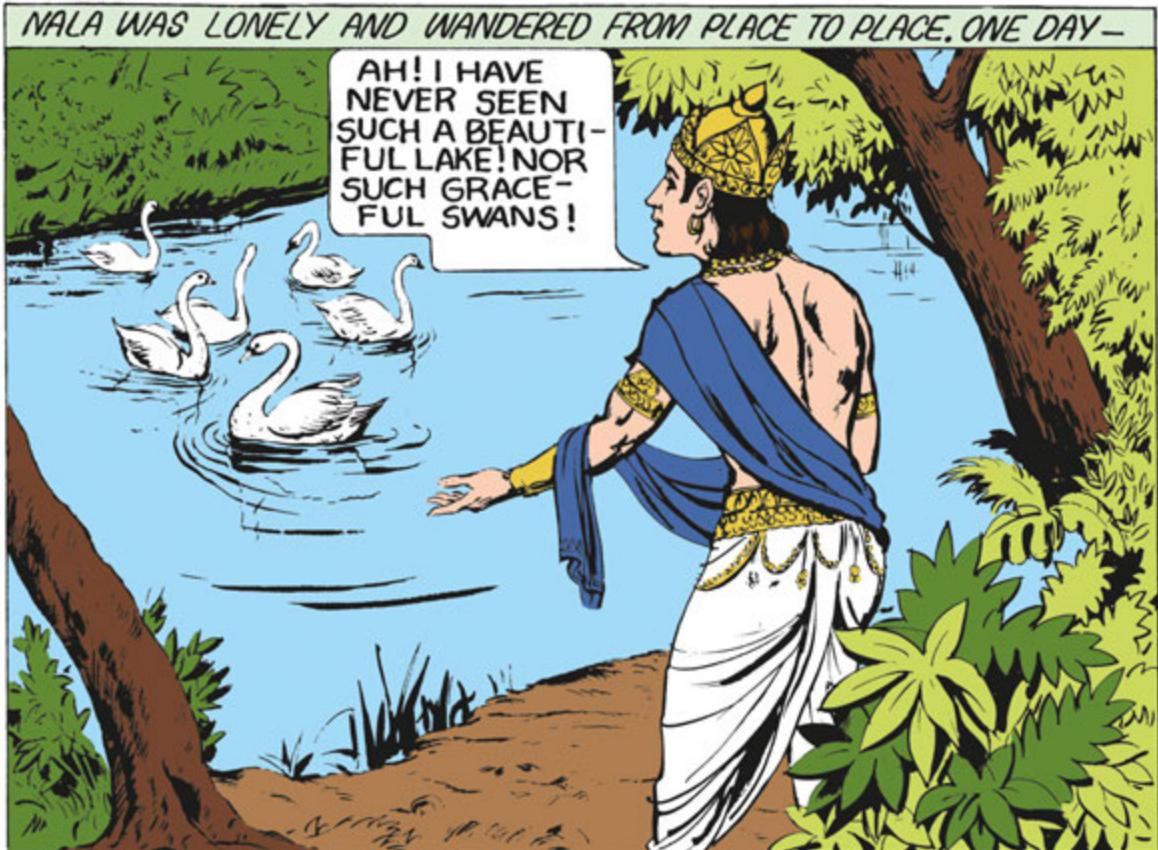
NALA'S COUSIN, PUSHKARA, ENVIED HIM HIS FAME.

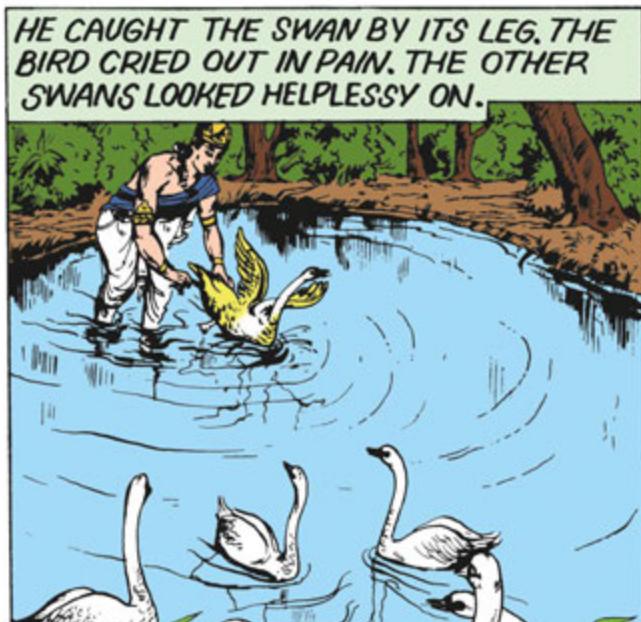
NALA! I AM TIRED OF THE PEOPLE HERE AND HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE.



NALA WAS LONELY AND WANDERED FROM PLACE TO PLACE. ONE DAY—

AH! I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL LAKE! NOR SUCH GRACEFUL SWANS!





THE SWAN CONSOLED HIS WAILING MATES.

I HAVE TO GO WITH THE KING TO KEEP A PROMISE I MADE IN MY LAST BIRTH. I SHALL RETURN THE MOMENT MY WORK IS DONE.

NALA BROUGHT THE SWAN TO HIS PALACE. ONE DAY -

WHY ARE YOU WEEPING, O KING?

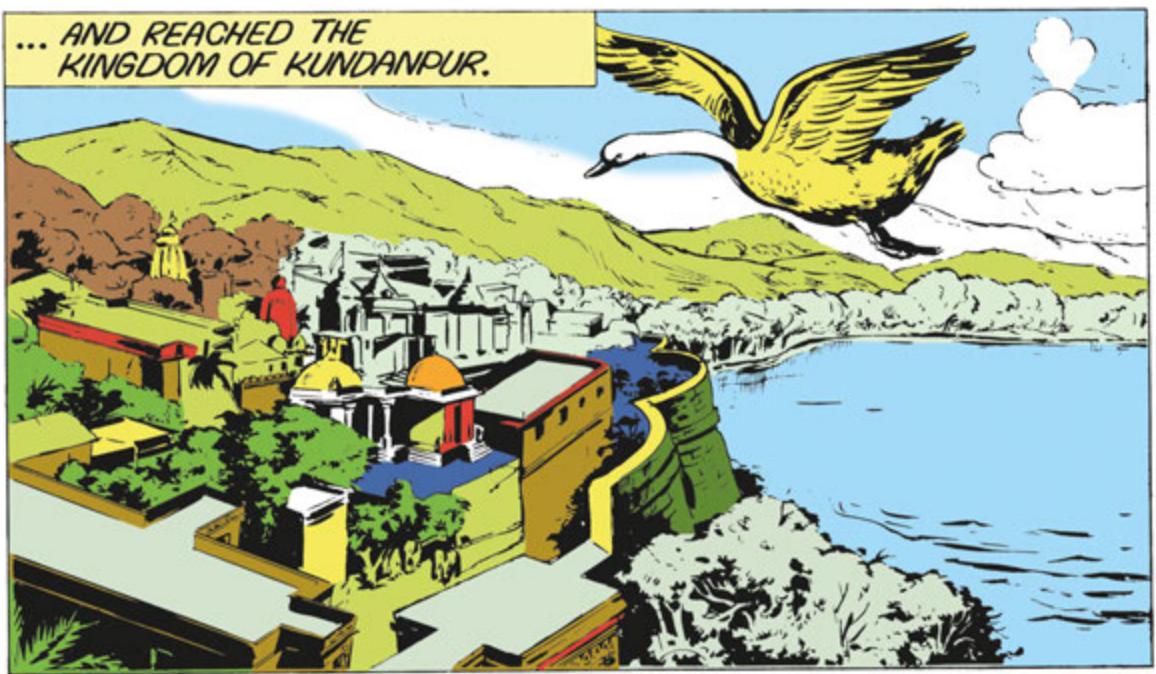
I HAVE BEEN AN UNHAPPY MAN FOR MANY MONTHS.

ONCE NARADA SPOKE TO ME ABOUT DAMAYANTI, THE CHARMING DAUGHTER OF KING BHEEMA OF KUNDANPUR. AND I DECIDED THEN AND THERE TO MARRY HER AND NO ONE ELSE.



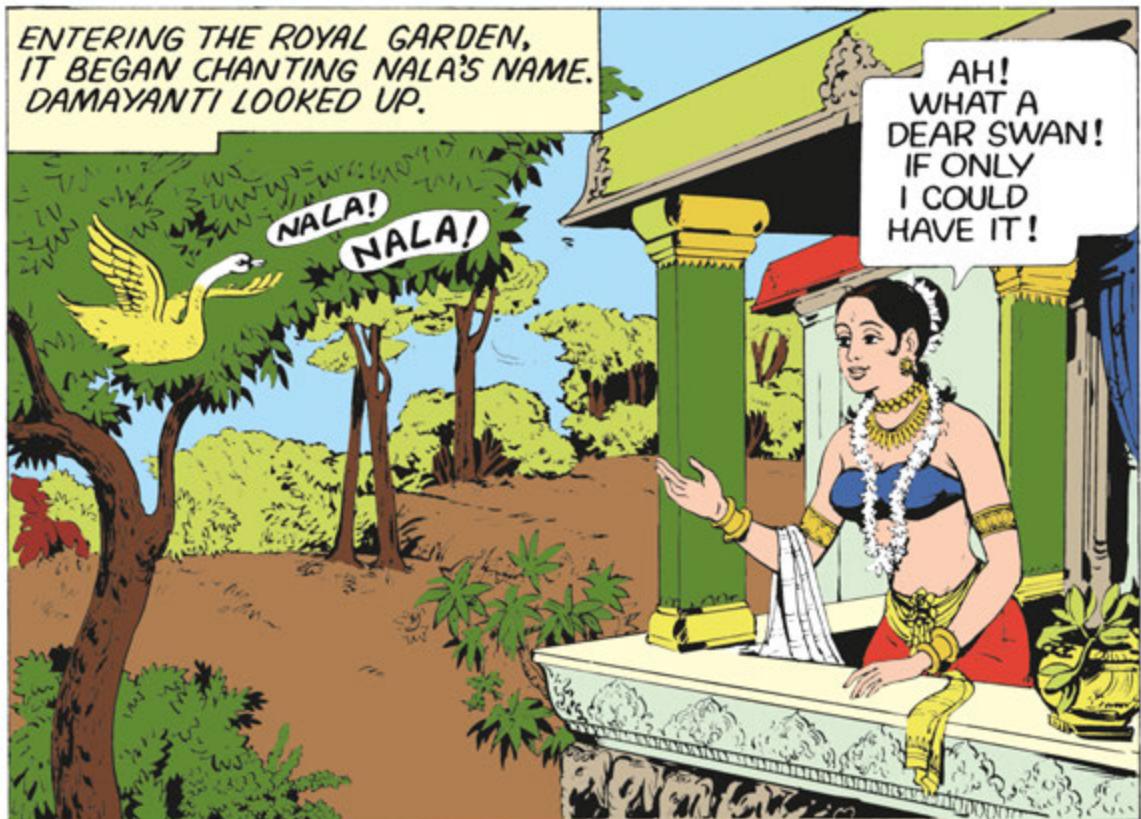
IS THAT ALL THAT TROUBLES YOU? MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WEDDING AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME. I'LL RETURN IN A WEEK.

THE SWAN FLEW AWAY INTO THE SKY...



... AND REACHED THE KINGDOM OF KUNDANPUR.

ENTERING THE ROYAL GARDEN,  
IT BEGAN CHANTING NALA'S NAME.  
DAMAYANTI LOOKED UP.

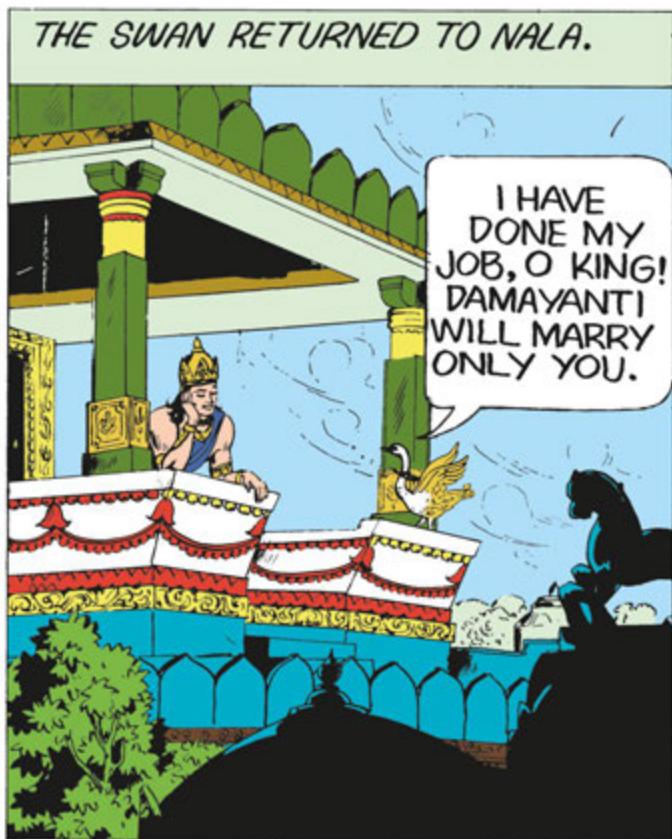


AS DAMAYANTI WENT FORWARD TO  
CATCH THE SWAN, IT MOVED  
FARTHER AWAY.

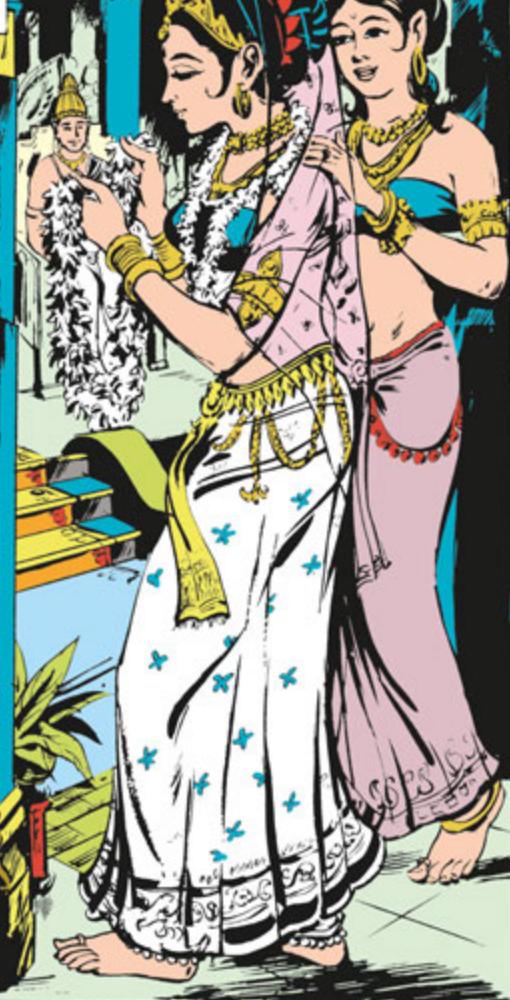


AT LAST, WITH A SWIFT  
MOVEMENT, SHE CAUGHT IT.





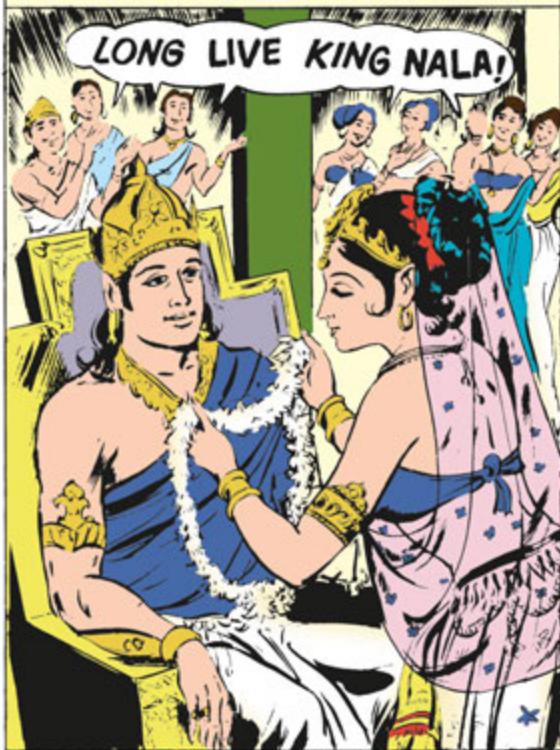
NALA WAS SOON INVITED TO DAMAYANTI'S SWAYAMVARA.



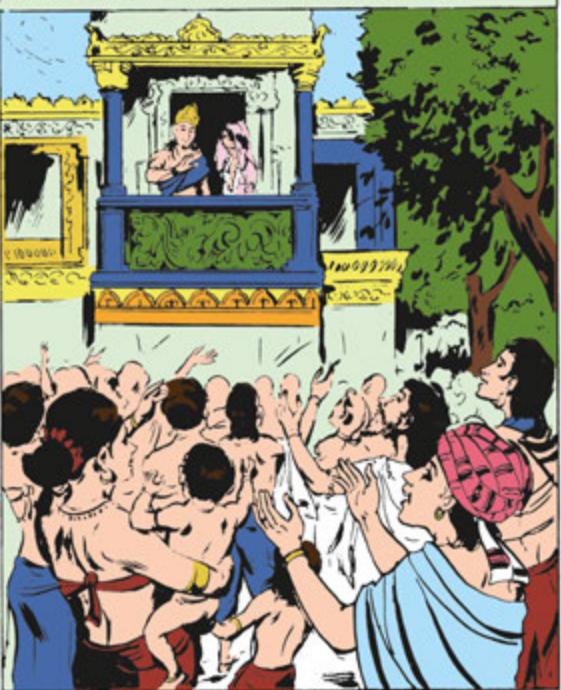
PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR HAD GATHERED IN THE SWAYAMVARA HALL. DAMAYANTI ENTERED WITH THE GARLAND. THE PRINCES WERE RESTLESS. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT DAMAYANTI'S GARLAND WAS MEANT ONLY FOR NALA.

DAMAYANTI GARLANDED NALA.

LONG LIVE KING NALA!



NALA BROUGHT DAMAYANTI TO HIS PALACE. PEOPLE, YOUNG AND OLD, DANCED WITH JOY.

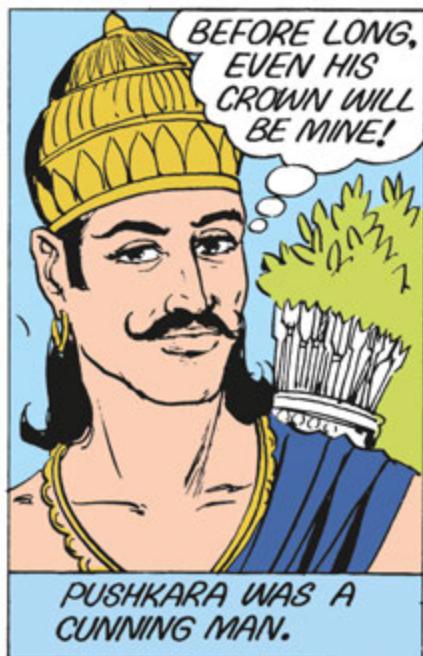
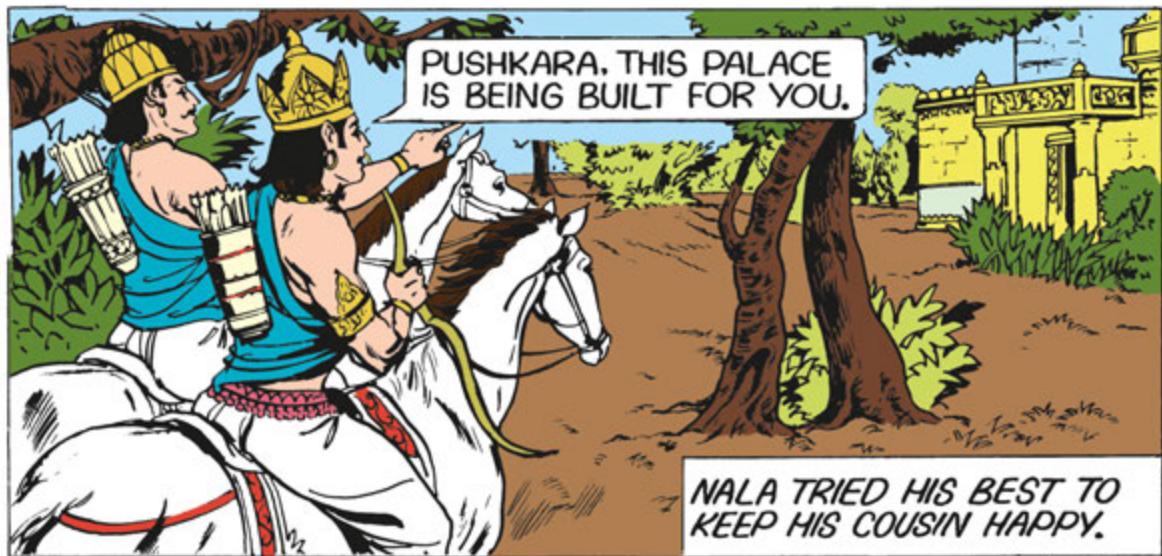
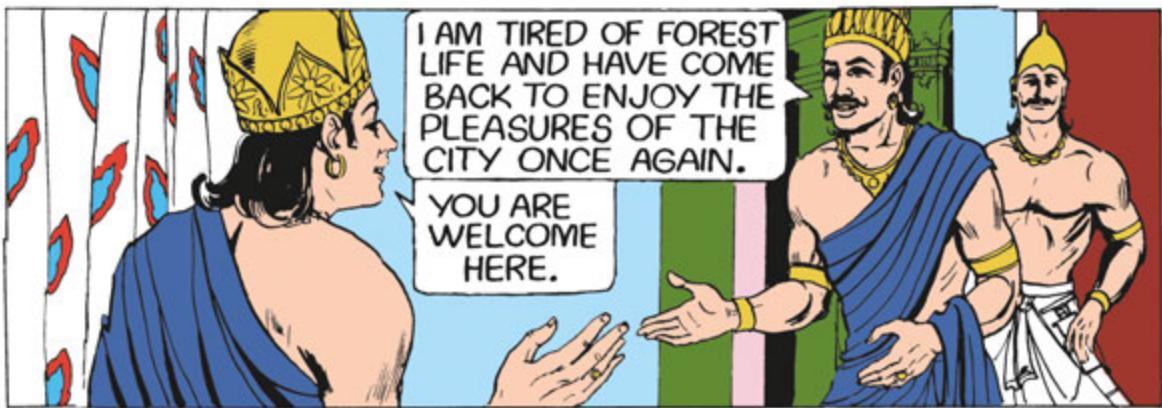


HAPPY TIMES PASS QUICKLY. SOON, TWELVE YEARS WERE OVER.  
ONE DAY-

WHO ARE YOU?

DON'T YOU RE-MEMBER ME? I'M PUSHKARA, YOUR COUSIN.





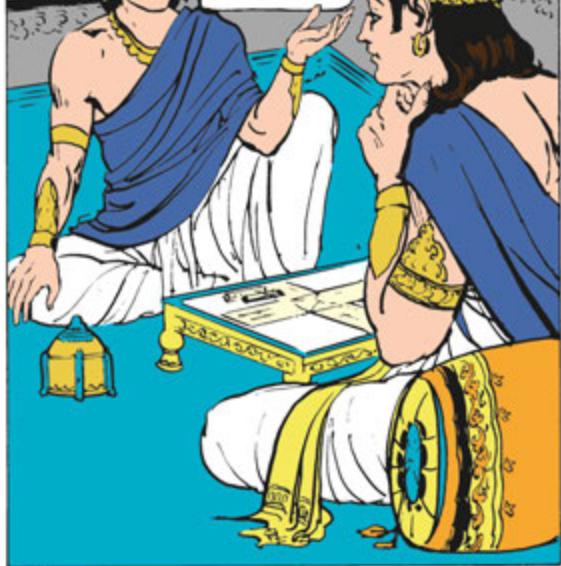
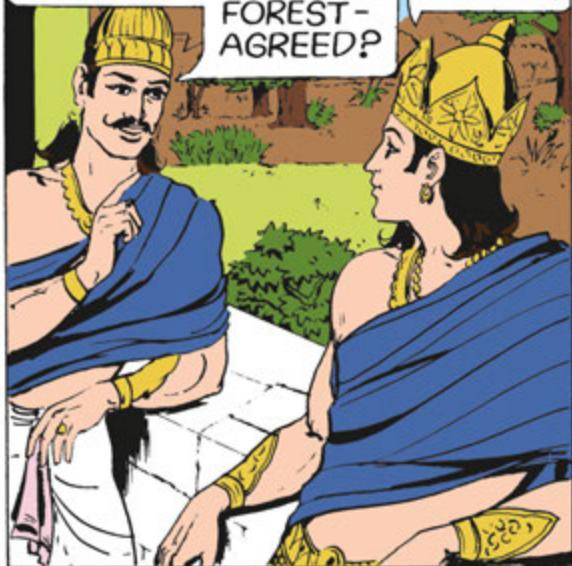
BUT NALA KEPT ON LOSING.

NOW FOR THE LAST ROUND. THE WINNER GETS THE CROWN AND THE LOSER SPENDS THREE YEARS IN THE FOREST - AGREED?

AGREED!

THE DICE WERE CAST.

I HAVE WON! HA... HA... HA...!  
I'M THE RULER NOW!



NALA GAVE UP THE KINGDOM. DAMAYANTI SENT THE CHILDREN TO HER PARENTS AND WENT AWAY WITH NALA.



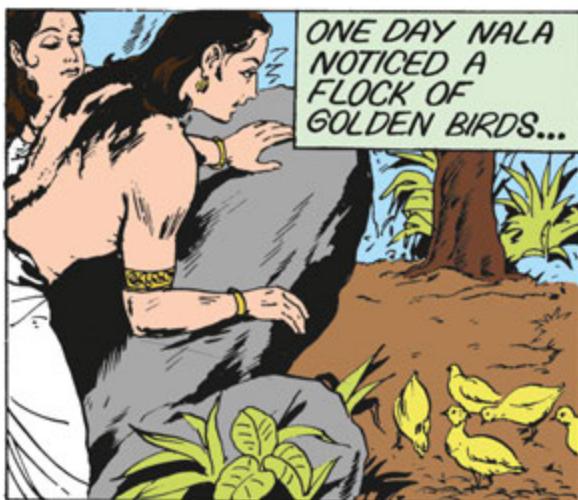
THEY WANDERED IN THE FOREST  
WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER.



AS HE LEANED FORWARD, THE  
BIRDS FLEW AWAY WITH THE  
GARMENT - NALA'S ONLY  
BELONGING!

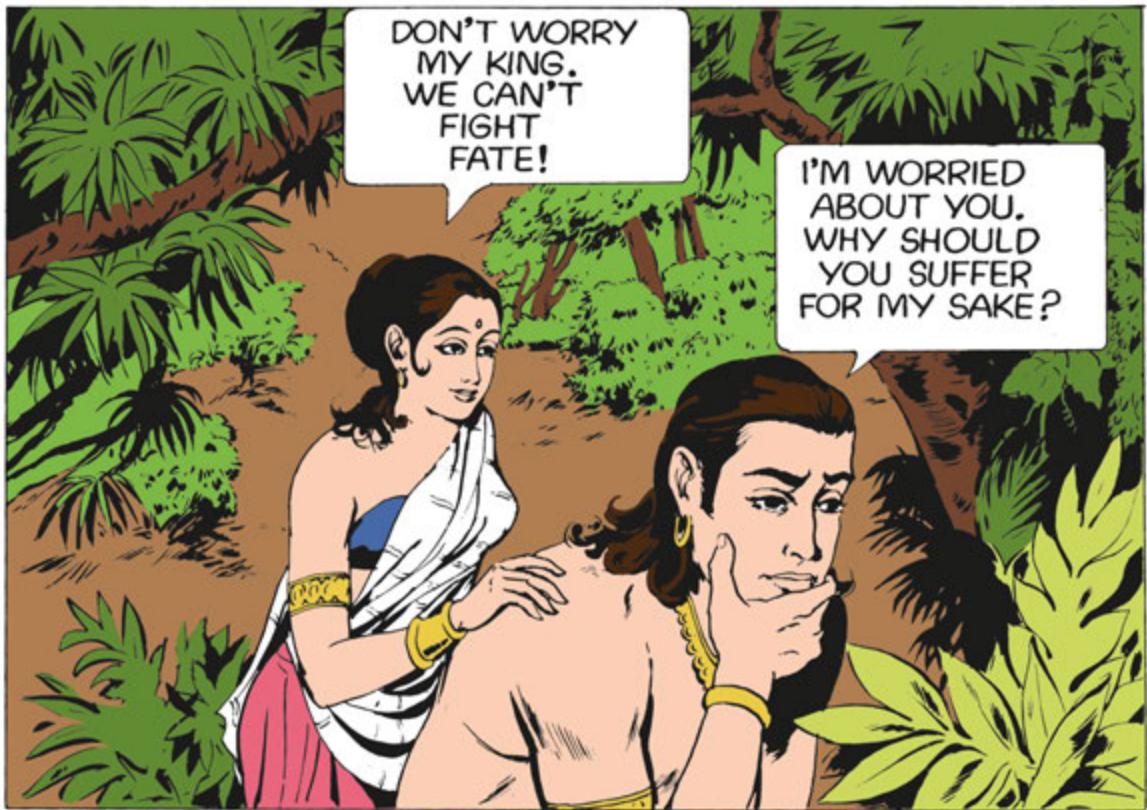


ONE DAY NALA  
NOTICED A  
FLOCK OF  
GOLDEN BIRDS...



... AND THREW  
HIS GARMENT  
OVER THE BIRDS  
TO TRAP THEM.





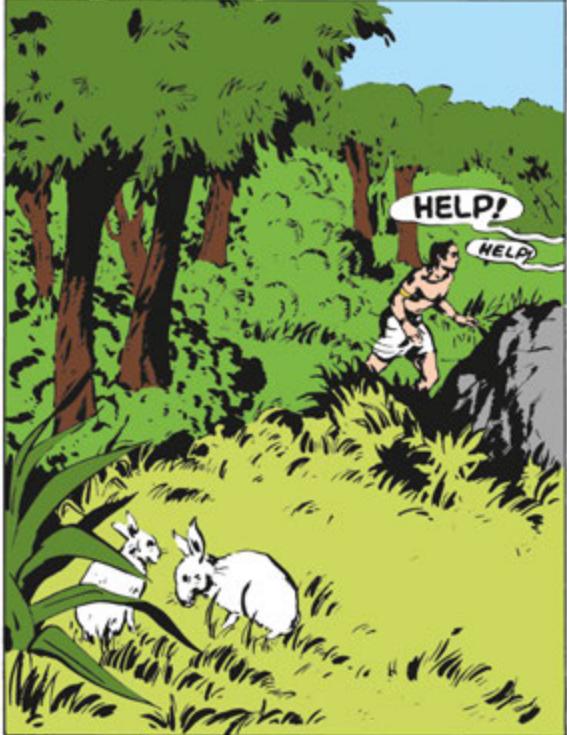
AT NIGHT THEY SLEPT ON THE BARE GROUND COVERED BY DAMAYANTI'S SARI.



EARLY NEXT MORNING, WHEN NALA WOKE UP, HE TORE A PIECE FROM DAMAYANTI'S SARI. WRAPPING HIMSELF IN IT, HE QUIETLY WALKED AWAY.



HE WALKED FOR A LONG TIME.  
SUDDENLY—



OH, HERE  
IS THE  
SERPENT  
GOD.



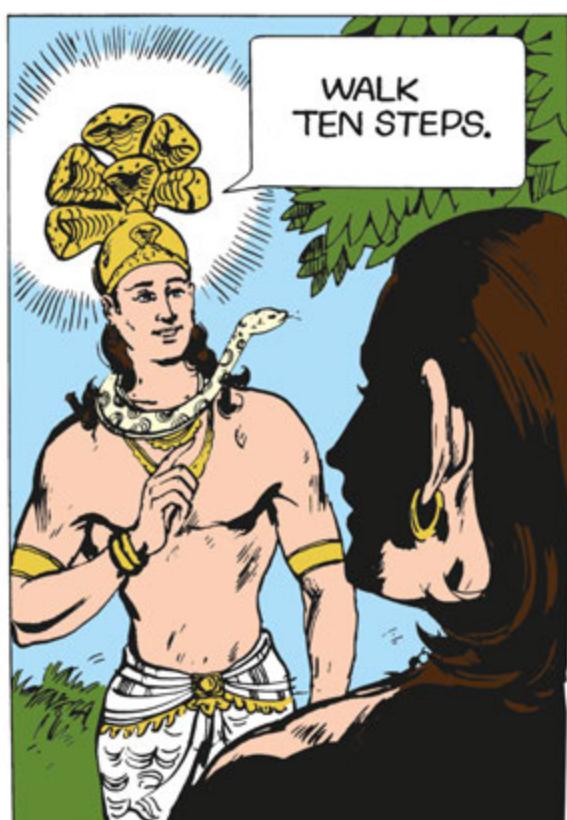
NALA JUMPED INTO THE FIRE.

A LITTLE LATER—

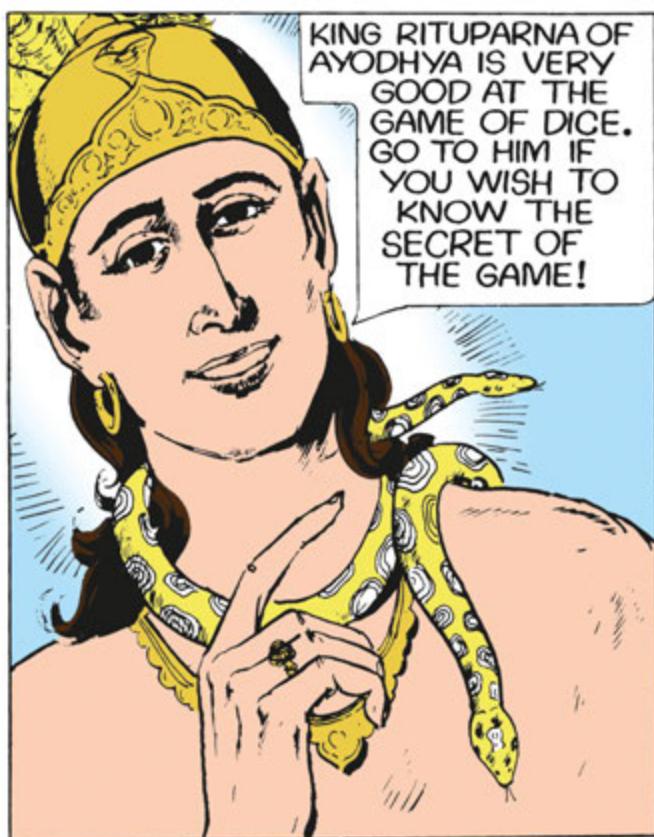
YOU'VE SAVED  
MY LIFE. I SHALL  
GIVE YOU  
SOMETHING  
IN RETURN.



WALK  
TEN STEPS.



NALA WALKED TEN STEPS AND—



MEANWHILE DAMAYANTI WOKE UP.

WHERE HAS  
NALA GONE?  
WHY HAS HE  
LEFT ME ALONE  
IN THE FOREST?



NALA! OH, NALA!

DAMAYANTI ASKED THE ANIMALS  
AND BIRDS.



DAMAYANTI WANDERED IN  
THE FOREST CRYING FOR NALA.

O JUMPING  
DEER!  
O LITTLE  
SPARROW!  
HAVE YOU  
SEEN MY  
NALA?



A DEADLY PYTHON SAW DAMA-  
YANTI AND OPENED ITS JAWS.

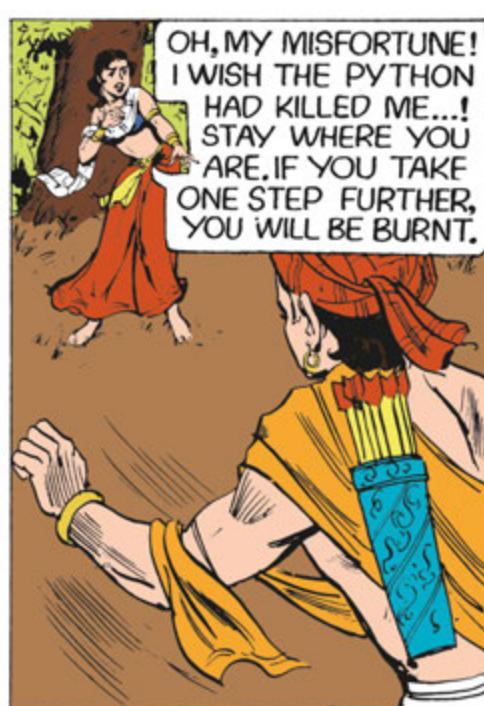
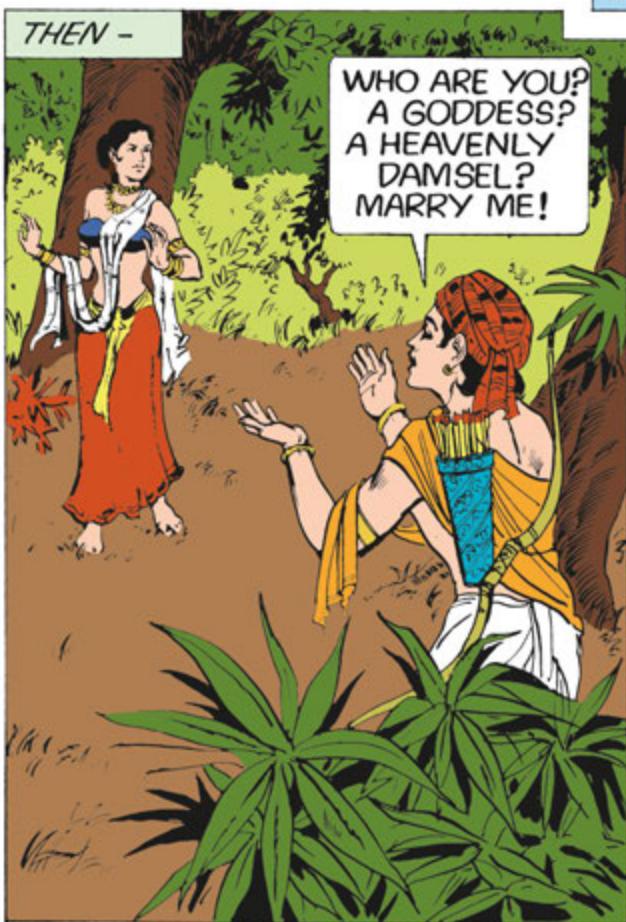


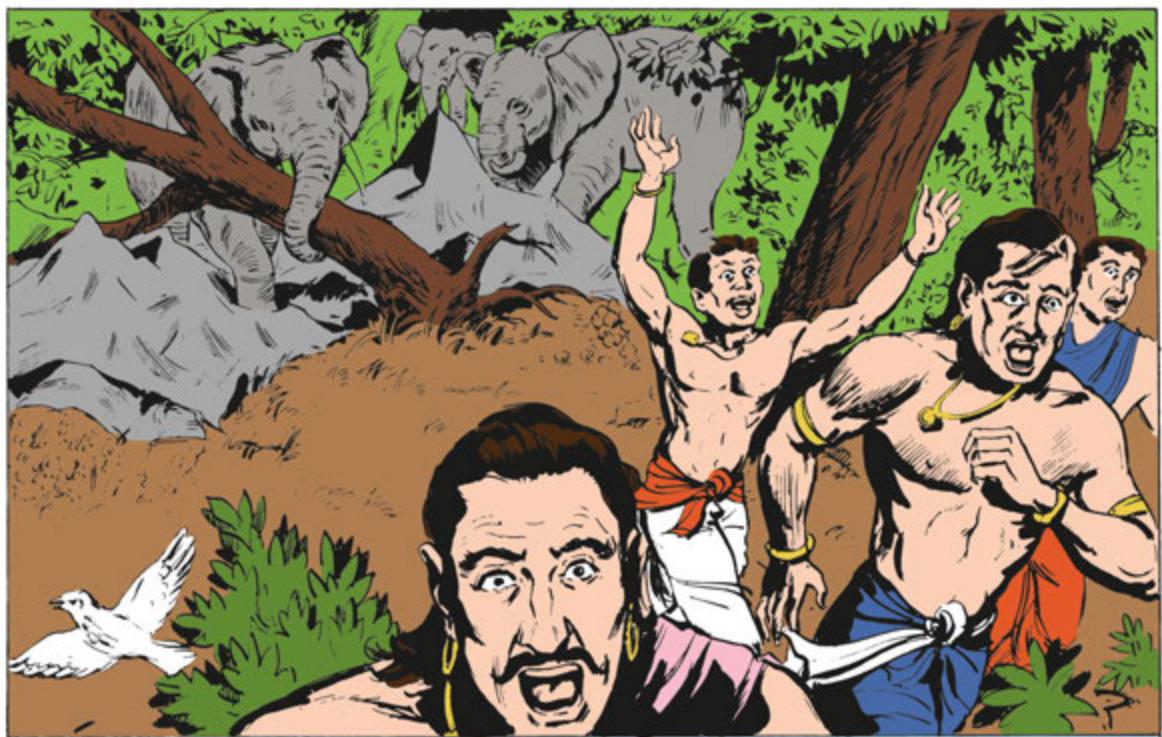
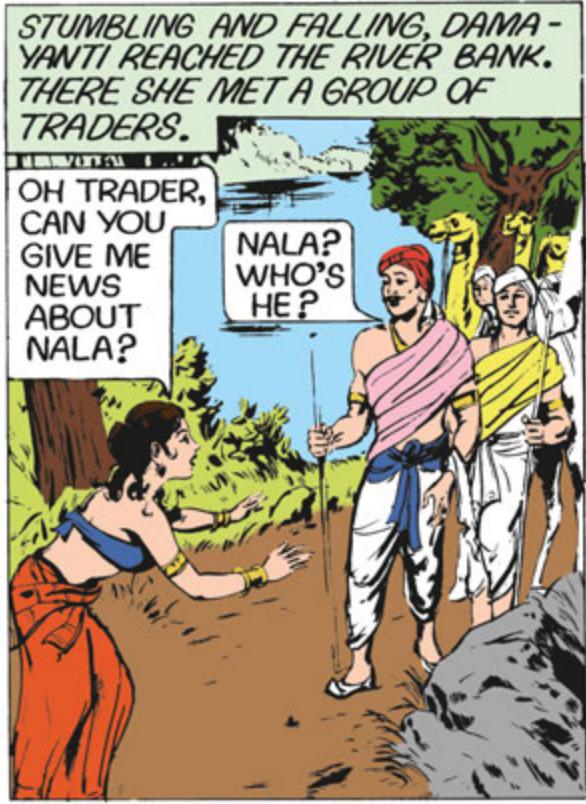
IT CAUGHT DAMAYANTI'S LEG.



SUDDENLY A HUNTER'S ARROW HIT AND KILLED THE PYTHON.

THEN -





WE'VE LOST EVERYTHING!  
THIS WOMAN HAS BROUGHT  
US ILL  
LUCK.

BEAT  
HER!

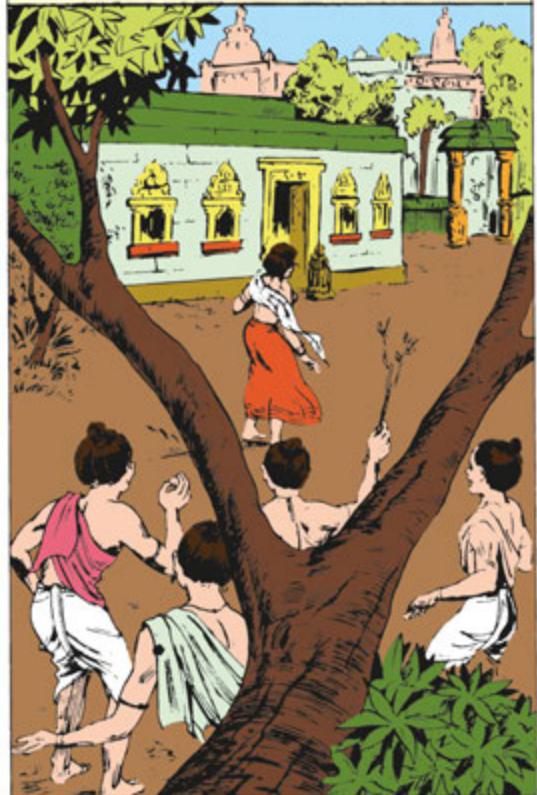
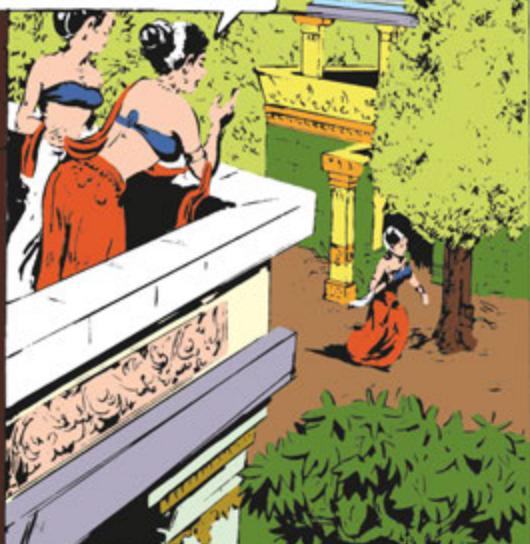
BEAT  
HER!

DAMAYANTI RUNNING FOR  
HER LIFE, REACHED THE  
KINGDOM OF VIPRAPUR.  
CHILDREN TEASED HER  
AND CALLED HER MAD.

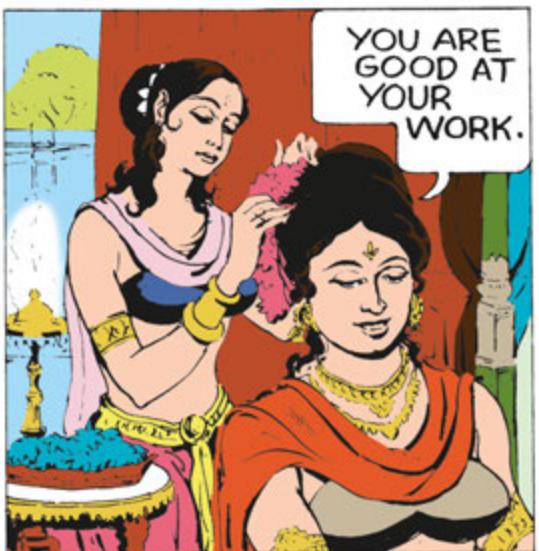


QUEEN BHANUMATI SAW HER  
FROM THE  
TERRACE.

SHE SEEMS TO BE A  
WOMAN FROM A GOOD  
FAMILY. CALL HER!



YOU ARE  
GOOD AT  
YOUR  
WORK.

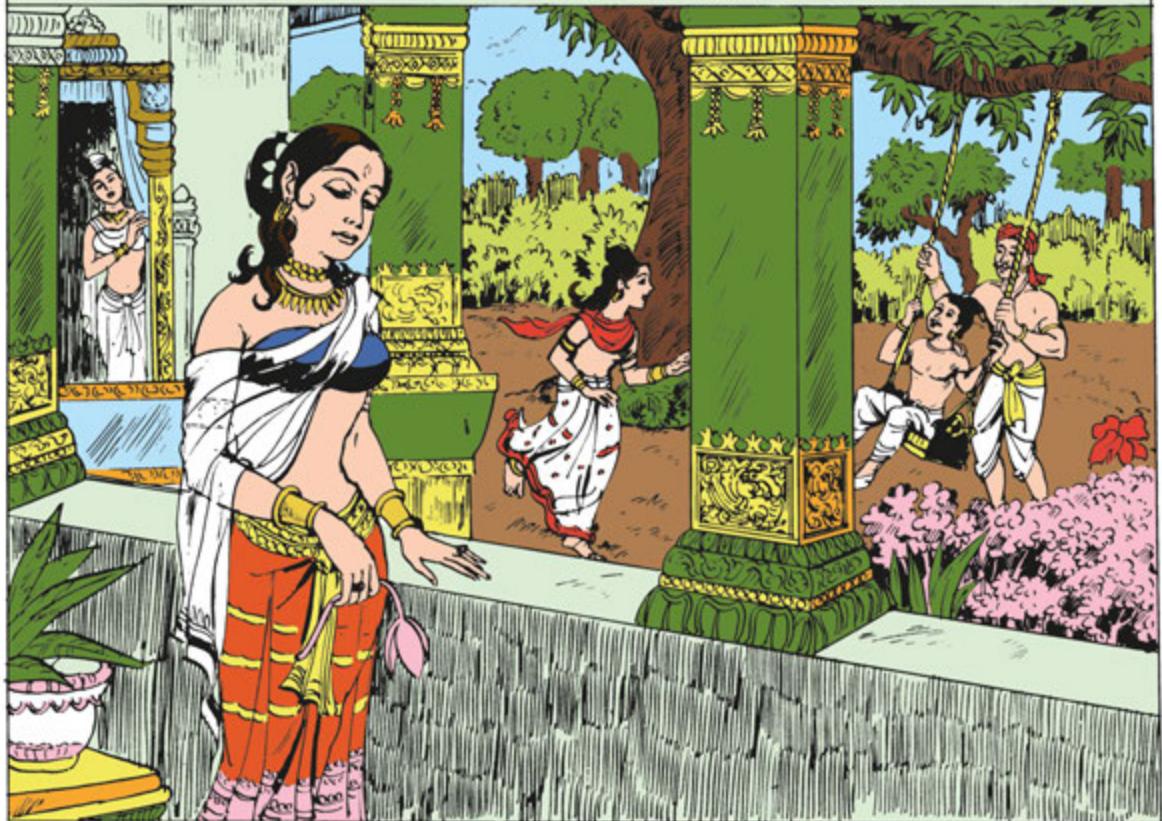


SHE ENGAGED DAMAYANTI AS  
A MAID NOT KNOWING WHO  
SHE REALLY WAS

ONE DAY, THE MINISTER OF KUNDANPUR CAME TO VIPRAPUR.



DAMAYANTI CAME TO KUNDANPUR. HER CHILDREN HAD GROWN UP. SHE WATCHED THEM AT PLAY AND MISSED NALA.

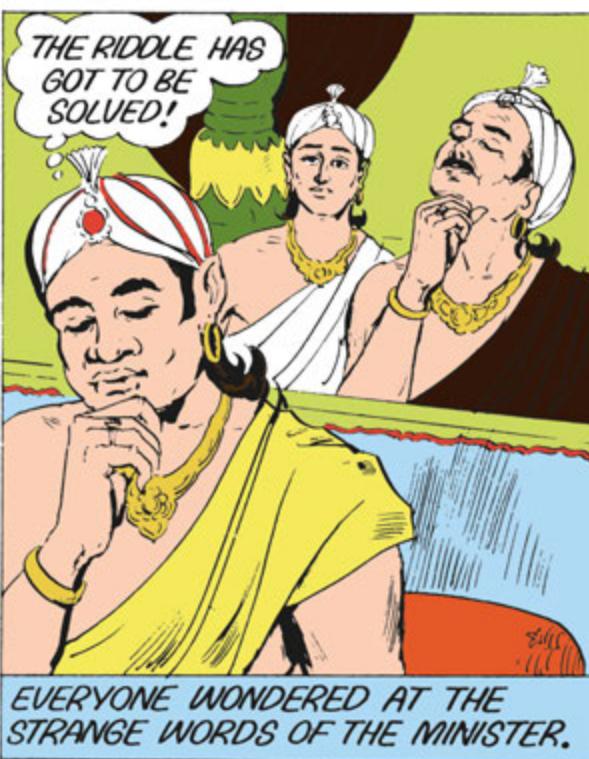




AT KING RITUPARNA'S COURT, THE  
MINISTER SAID...

"A KING RAN  
AWAY. IN DUST  
THE JEWEL LAY.  
WHY HE RAN AWAY,  
THE JEWEL COULD  
NOT SAY."

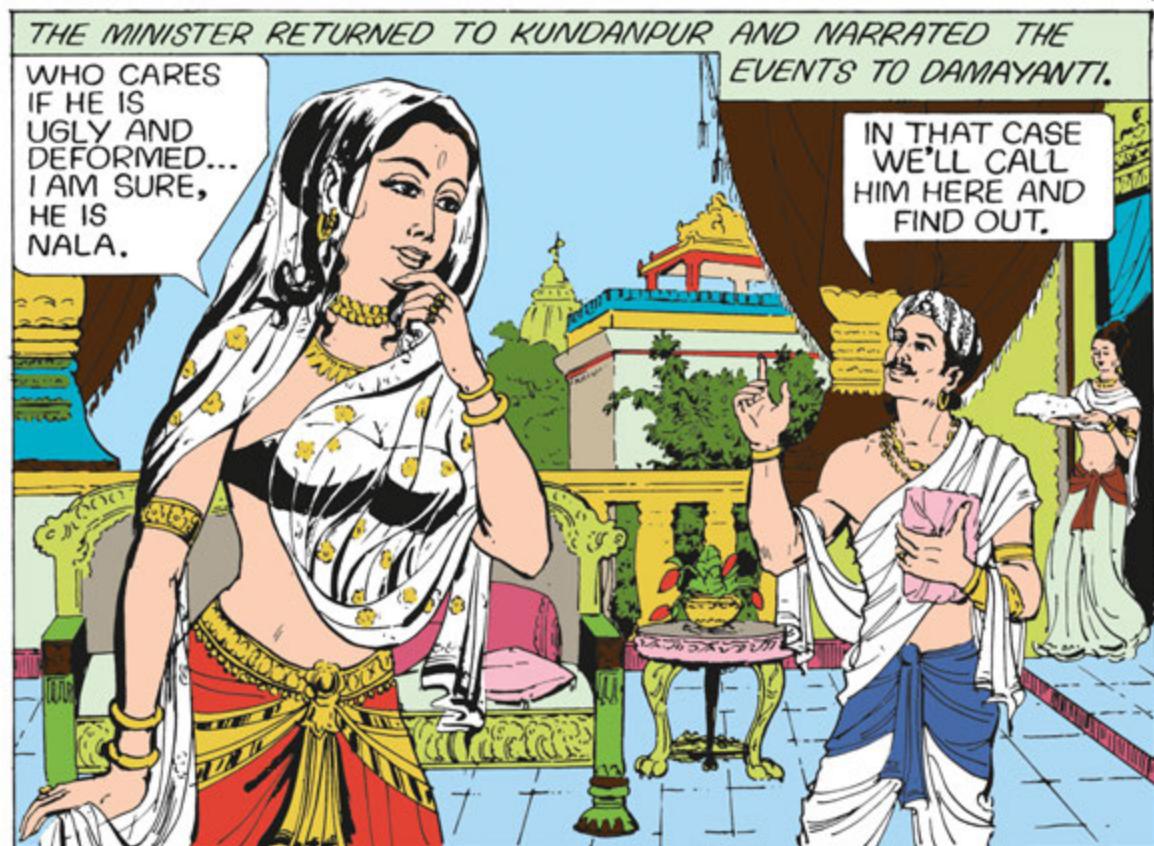
A GOOD RIDDLE,  
INDEED! LET'S SEE  
WHO CAN  
SOLVE IT.



SUDDENLY-

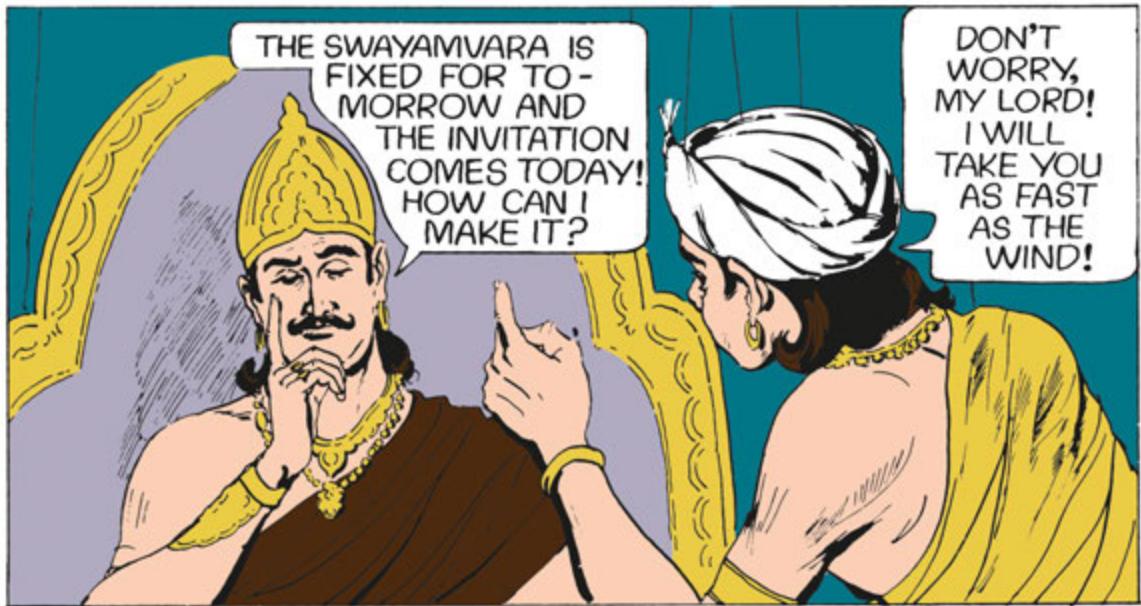
MY LORD!  
PERMIT  
ME...

IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN  
NALA, WHO HAD ASSUMED  
THE NAME OF BAAHUK.

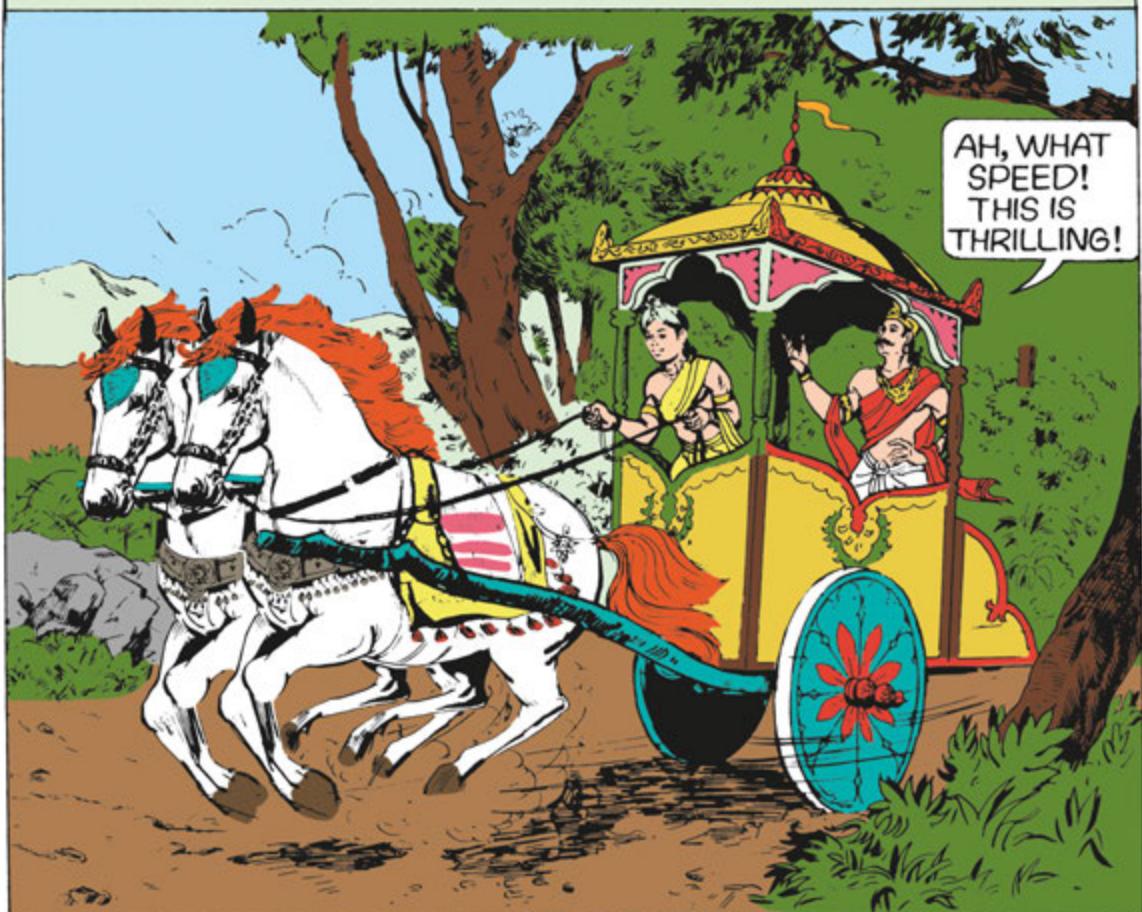


THE MINISTER AGAIN WENT TO AYODHYA.





AND SURELY ENOUGH, THE HORSES SEEMED TO FLY IN  
THE AIR. NALA WAS A GREAT CHARIOTEER.



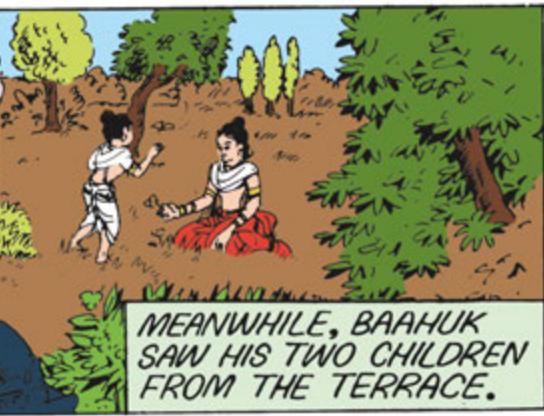
BAAHUK, TEACH ME THE SECRET OF DRIVING HORSES SO FAST AND I'LL SHOW YOU MY TRICKS IN THE GAME OF DICE.

CERTAINLY, MY LORD!

BY THE TIME THEY REACHED KUNDANPUR, THEY HAD EXCHANGED THEIR SECRETS.

NO BRIDE AND NO SWAYAMVARA! IS THE SWAYAMVARA ARRANGED IN A DIFFERENT CITY?

OH, NO!  
THERE  
ARE NO FESTIVITIES  
BECAUSE IT IS THE  
SECOND SWAYAMVARA!



MEANWHILE, BAAHUK  
SAW HIS TWO CHILDREN  
FROM THE TERRACE.



HE RAN UP TO THEM  
AND HUGGED THEM.

DAMAYANTI OBSERVED THIS FROM  
THE PALACE. SHE CAME RUNNING  
TO MEET HIM.

I'M SURE  
YOU ARE  
NALA! HOW  
CAN I  
THANK  
YOU FOR  
COMING!



BUT WERE  
YOU GOING  
TO MARRY  
AGAIN,  
DAMAYANTI?

NO. IT  
WAS A TRICK  
TO GET YOU  
HERE. WHO  
ELSE BUT YOU  
COULD TRAVEL  
SUCH A LONG  
DISTANCE  
IN ONE DAY?

NALA PUT ON THE MAGIC DRESS AND -



SEEING NALA SAFE AND SOUND, THE PEOPLE WENT CRAZY WITH JOY.

NALA RETURNED TO HIS PALACE WITH DAMAYANTI AND THE CHILDREN.



PUSHKARA! I HAVE SPENT MY THREE YEARS IN THE FOREST. COME, LET'S HAVE ANOTHER GAME OF DICE.

VERY WELL! THE WINNER WILL HAVE THE KINGDOM. AND THE LOSER WILL GO TO THE FOREST.

THEY SETTLED DOWN TO THE GAME. NALA HAD MASTERED THE GAME OF DICE WITH THE HELP OF KING RITUPARNA. IT WAS PUSHKARA'S TURN TO LOSE.

AND HE DID.

PUSHKARA!  
I'VE WON!  
I'VE WON!

BUT, I WON'T SEND YOU TO THE FOREST. YOU MAY CONTINUE TO LIVE HERE!

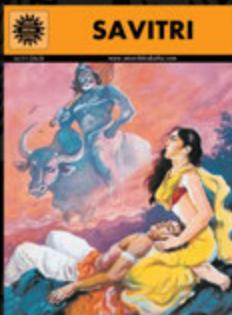


ONCE AGAIN, NALA WORE THE CROWN. DAMAYANTI WAS HIS QUEEN. THEY LIVED HAPPILY FOR MANY YEARS AND RULED THE COUNTRY WELL.

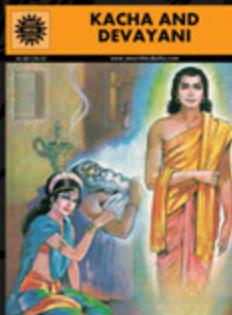
## NALA DAMAYANTI

King Nala's life is idyllic – until a cunning cousin tricks him out of his kingdom. Can the love of his beautiful Damayanti survive such a calamity? Will they be able to win back happiness? Full of twists and turns, the story of this ideal couple is told in the Mahabharata.

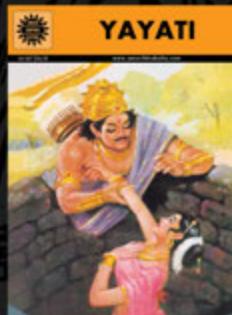
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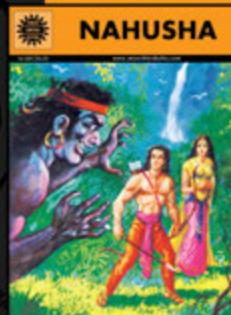
SAVITRI



KACHA AND  
DEVAYANI



YAYATI



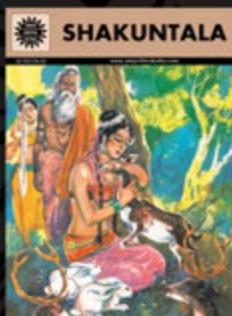
NAHUSHA

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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

