



Vol. 806 Rs. 15

# Shiva Parvati



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India

# Shiva Parvati

The Puranas are full of legends about the victories of Shiva over the forces of evil. As Rudra or Bhairava, he is the destroyer of evil. As Shankara or Shiva "the auspicious" – he restores that which is destroyed. He is also the ideal Mahayogi, a great ascetic, engaged in meditation.

According to Puranic legends, Sati, the daughter of Daksha, is his consort. Daksha however, does not hold his ascetic son-in-law in high esteem. Daksha performs a Mahayajna, to which he invites all except Shiva. Sati finds it difficult to bear the insult meted out to her lord. And when Daksha deliberately slights Shiva, unable to bear the humiliation, Sati enters the sacred fire. She is reborn as Parvati, daughter of Himavat.

Kumara Sambhava of Kalidasa, on which this illustrated classic is based, narrates the enduring love of Parvati for Shiva and her efforts at winning over her beloved by penances and austerities. To this day, the abiding love of Parvati for Shiva is the theme of many a folk song in Indian languages.

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Written by: Kamala Chendekar

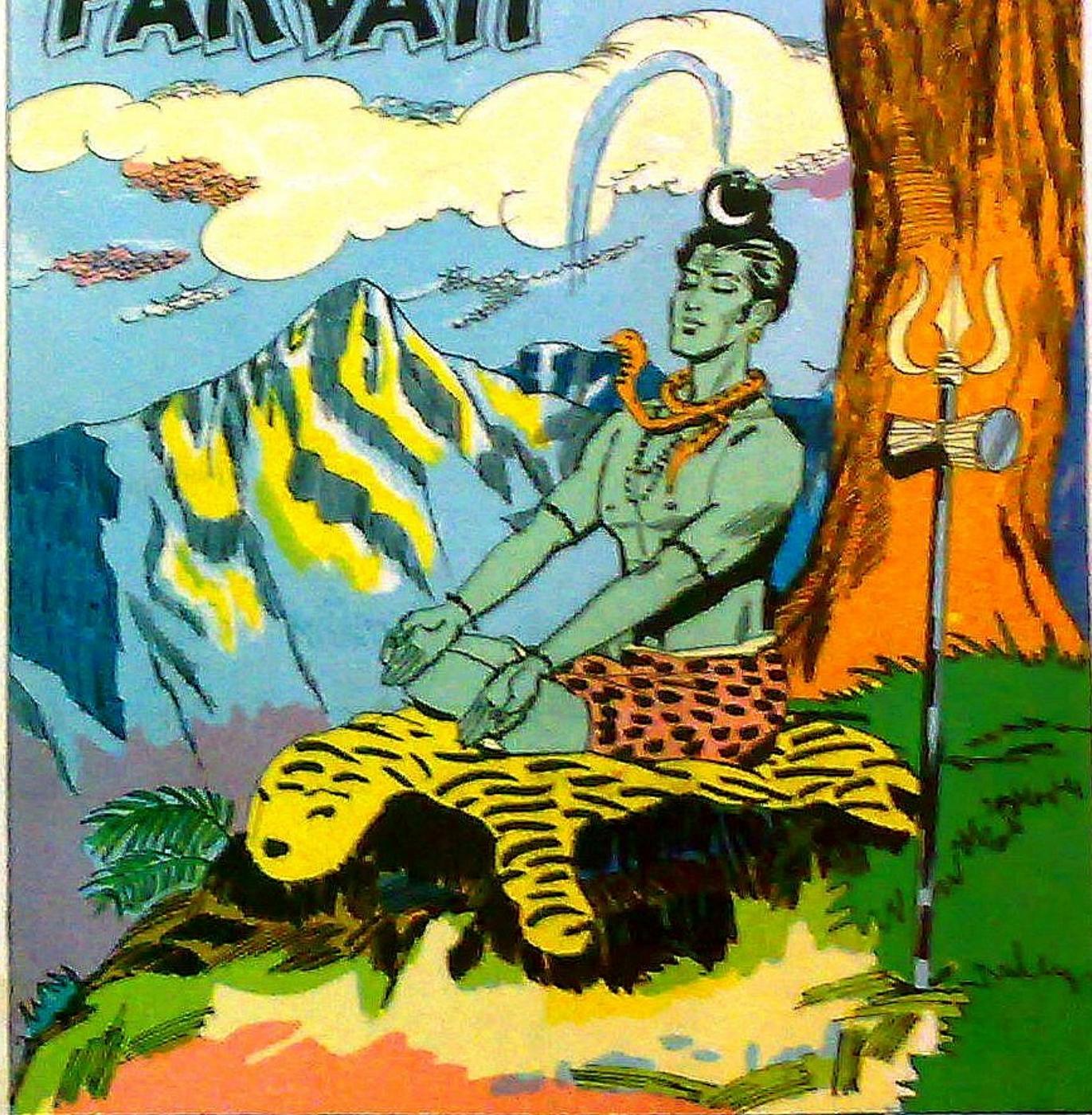
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# SHIVA PARVATI

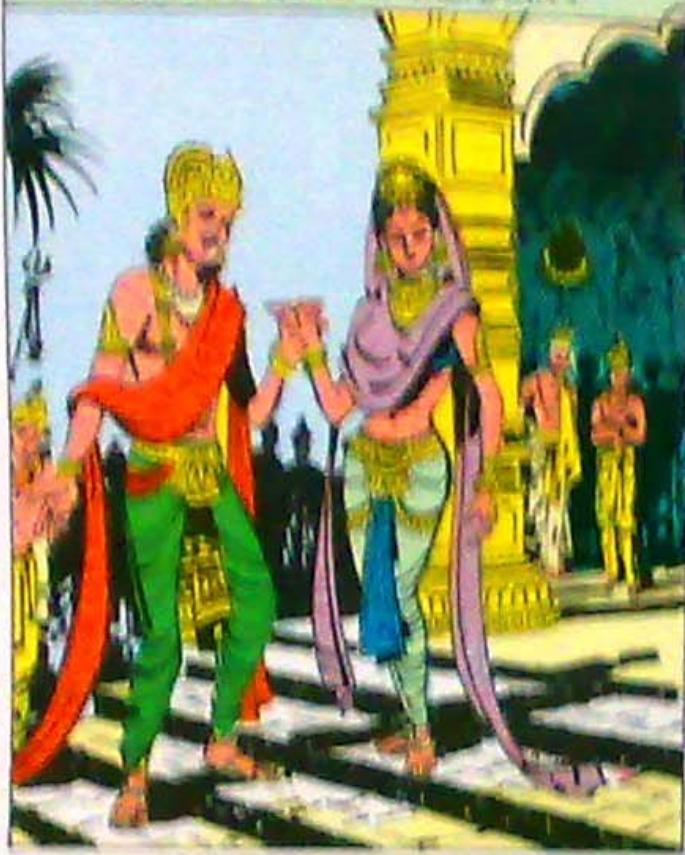


SHIVA'S FATHER-IN-LAW, DAKSHA, FOR SOME REASON DISLIKED HIM AND NEVER LOST AN OPPORTUNITY TO INSULT HIM. SATTI, SHIVA'S WIFE, ASHAMED OF BEING THE DAUGHTER OF SUCH A FATHER, GAVE UP HER BODY. AFTER SATTI'S DEATH, SHIVA WENT BACK TO HIS MEDITATION ON THE HIMALAYAS.

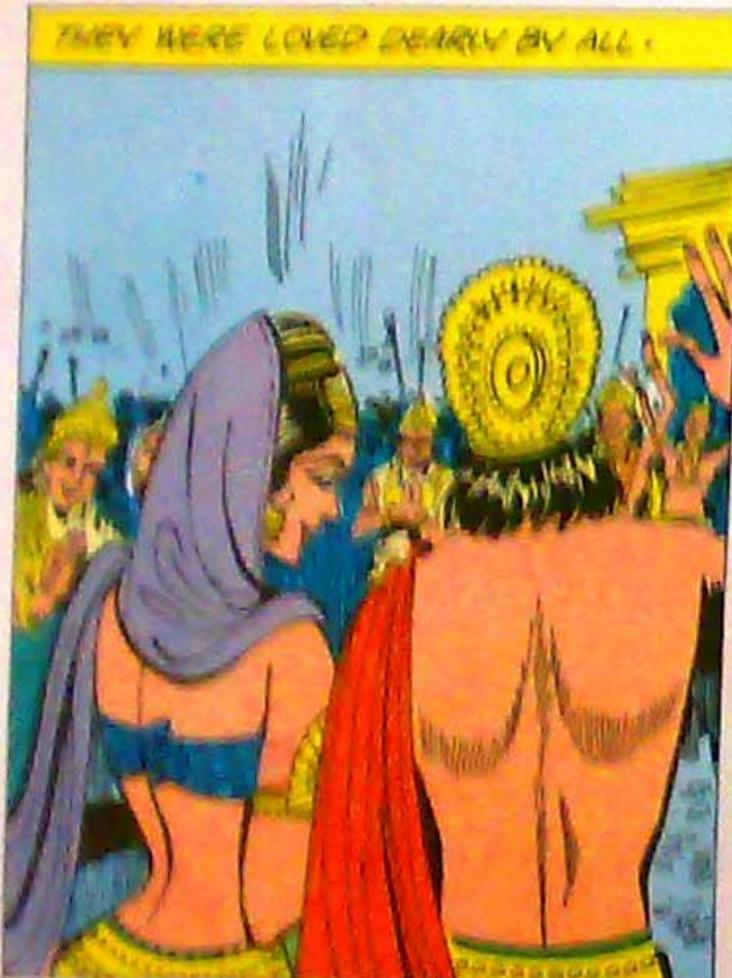
Very near the grove where  
Shiva meditated, lived the  
great mountain king, HIMALAYA.



HE HAD MARRIED THE  
HEAVENLY Nymph MENAKA.



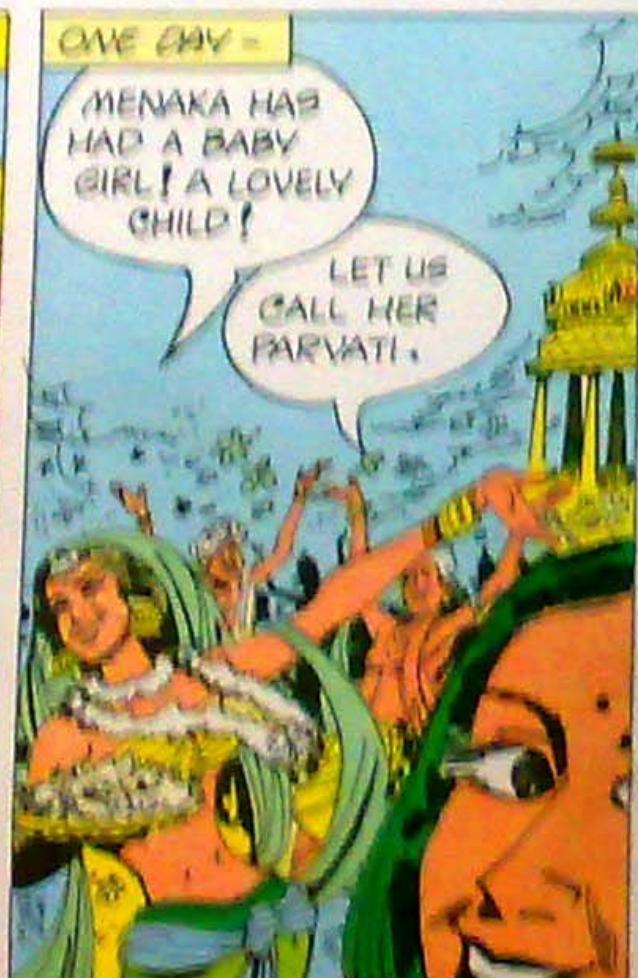
THEY WERE LOVED DEARLY BY ALL.



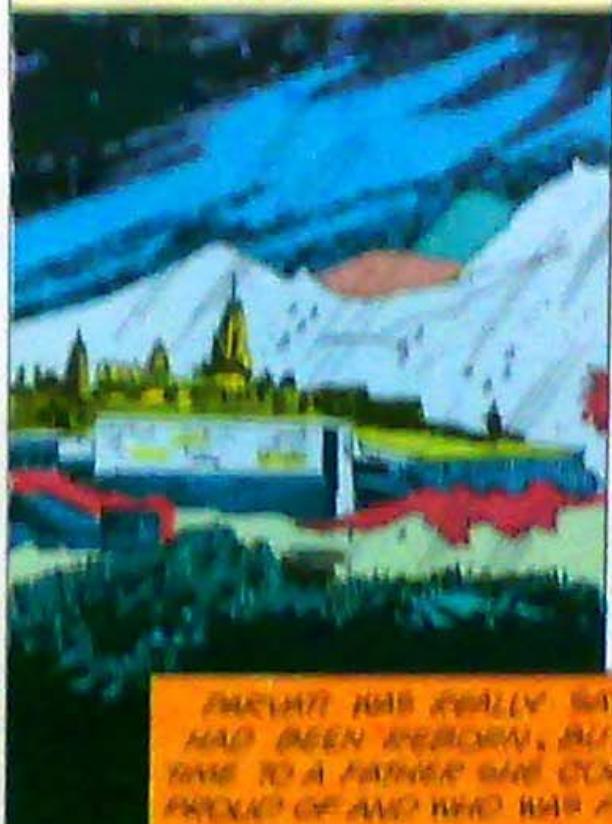
ONE DAY -

MENAKA HAS  
HAD A BABY  
GIRL! A LOVELY  
CHILD!

LET US  
CALL HER  
PARVATI.



NATURE TOO REJOICED  
AT PARVATHI'S BIRTH.



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL  
CHILD  
SHE IS!

HUSH! DO  
NOT PROVOKE  
THE EVIL  
SPIRITS.



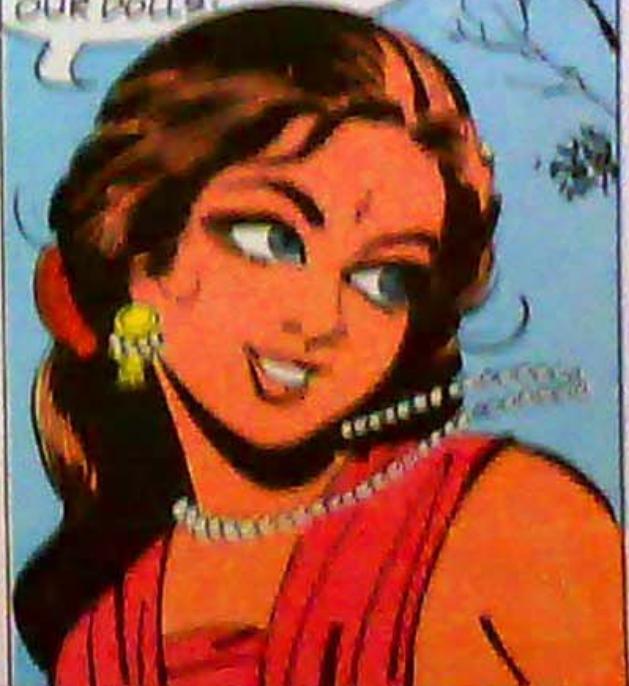
PARVATHI WAS A SPLENDID BABY WHO  
HAD BEEN WISHING, BUT THIS  
TIME TO A FATHER SHE COULD BE  
PROUD OF AND WHO WAS PROUD OF HER.

SHE WAS AS LIVELY AS SHE WAS LOVELY AND HAD MANY FRIENDS.

PARVATHI! CATCH  
HA! HA!  
YOU MISSED  
AGAIN.



I HAVE HAD ENOUGH  
OF THIS GAME.  
COME LET US GO  
HOME AND PLAY WITH  
OUR DOLLS.



THE YEARS FLEW BY AND PARVATI GREW UP TO BE A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN.

PARVATI, MY CHILD,  
IT IS TIME YOU  
WERE MARRIED!

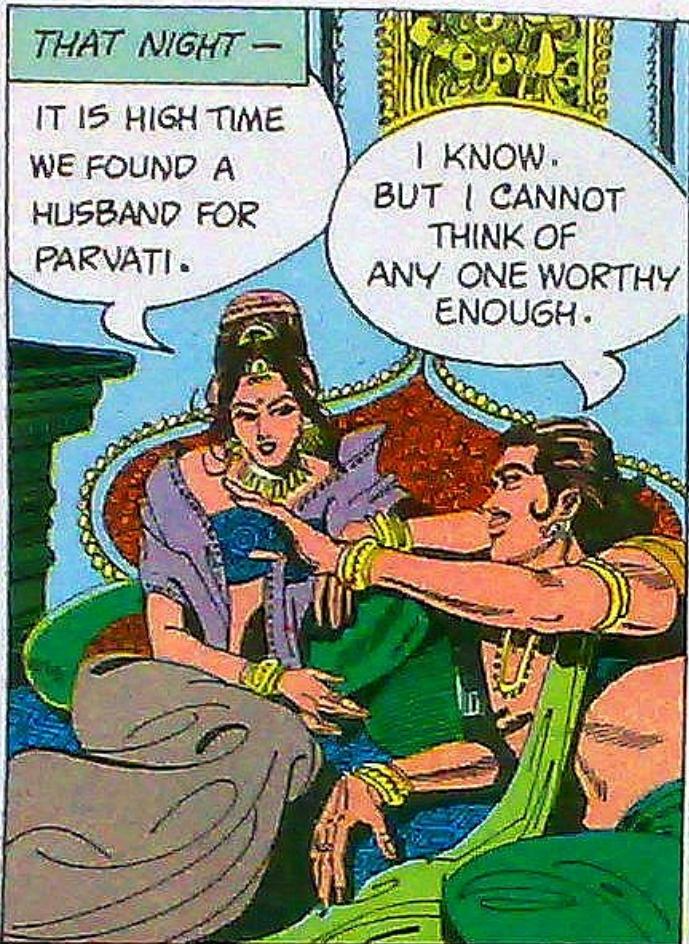
MOTHER!



THAT NIGHT -

IT IS HIGH TIME  
WE FOUND A  
HUSBAND FOR  
PARVATI.

I KNOW.  
BUT I CANNOT  
THINK OF  
ANY ONE WORTHY  
ENOUGH.



HIMAVAT DOTTED ON HIS DAUGHTER.  
ONLY THE BEST WAS GOOD  
ENOUGH FOR HER.

I WILL GIVE MY  
PEERLESS CHILD  
TO ONE WORTHY  
OF HER IN  
EVERY  
RESPECT.



ONE DAY THE SAGE NARADA  
VISITED HIMAVAT.

NARAYANA!  
NARAYANA!

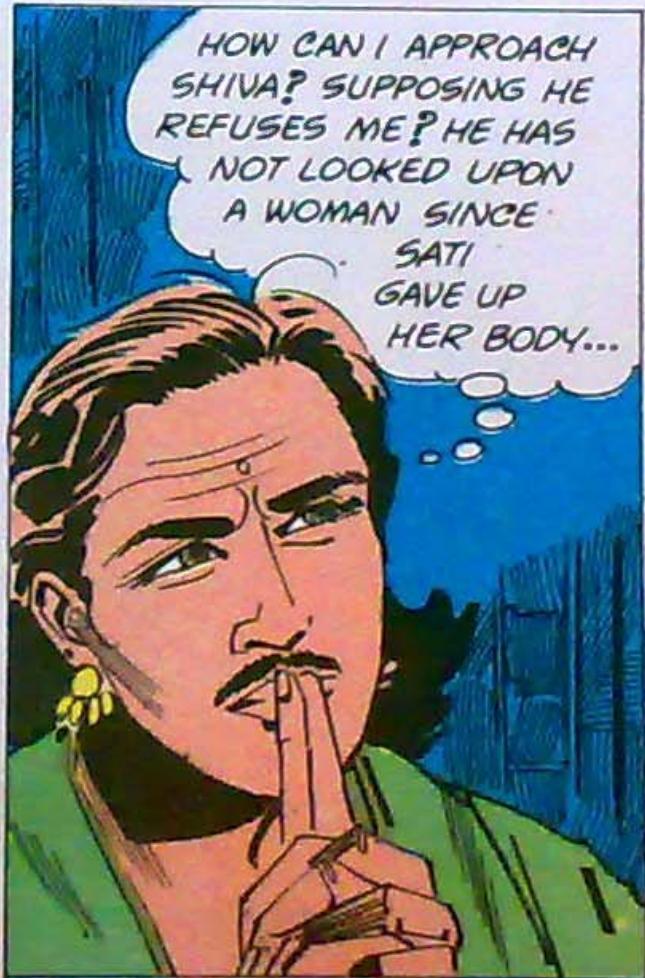
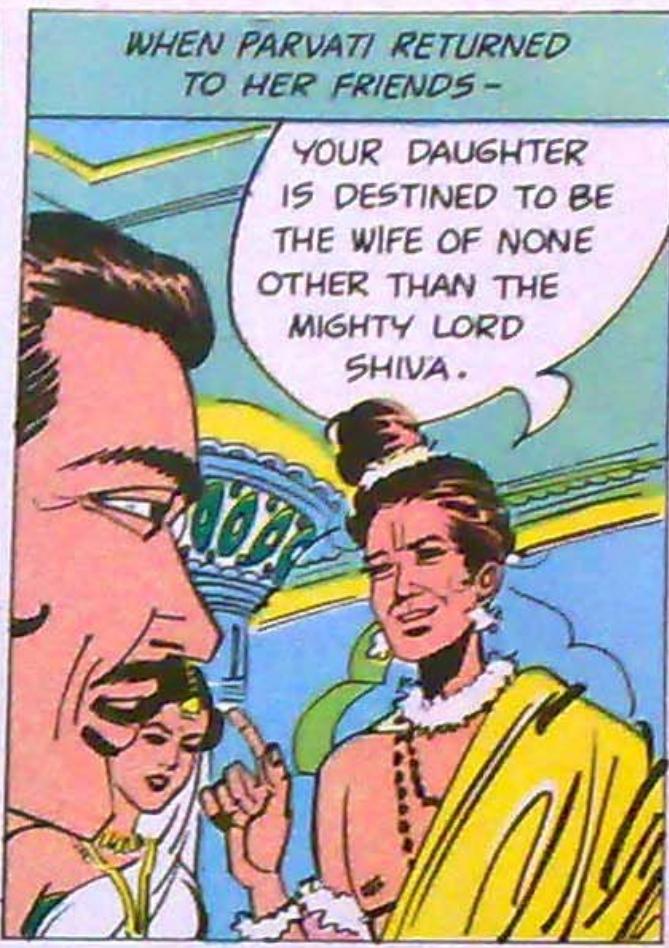
PARVATI !  
COME  
HERE.

COMING,  
FATHER.

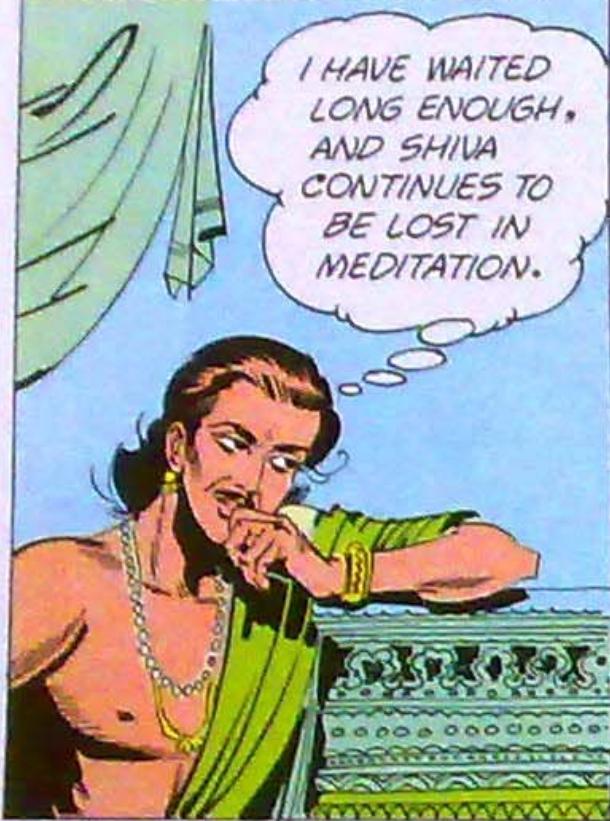




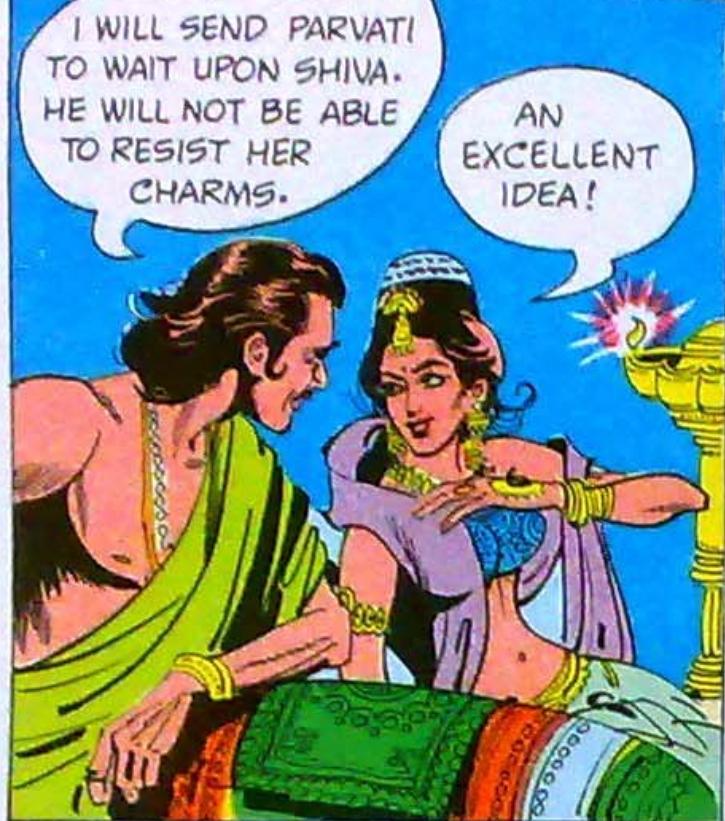
WHEN PARVATI RETURNED  
TO HER FRIENDS -



SO HIMAVAT WAITED.  
BUT ONE FINE DAY -

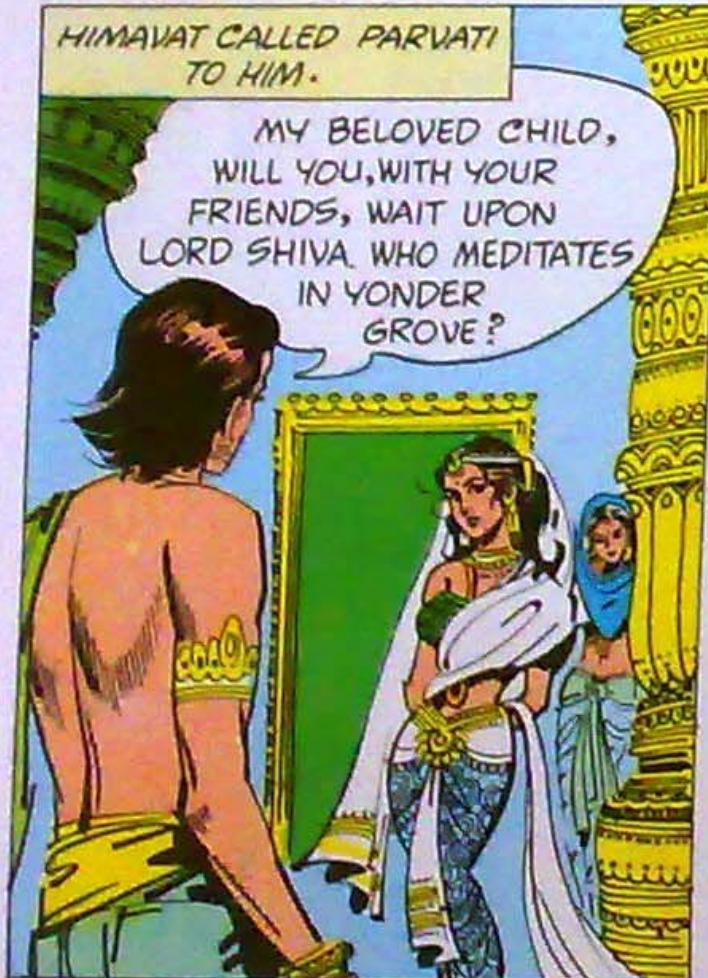


SUDDENLY AN IDEA STRUCK HIM.  
HE WENT TO MENAKA.



HIMAVAT CALLED PARVATI  
TO HIM.

MY BELOVED CHILD,  
WILL YOU, WITH YOUR  
FRIENDS, WAIT UPON  
LORD SHIVA, WHO MEDITATES  
IN YONDER  
GROVE?



WE HAVE OFTEN SEEN HIM,  
FATHER. WE SHALL  
GO.

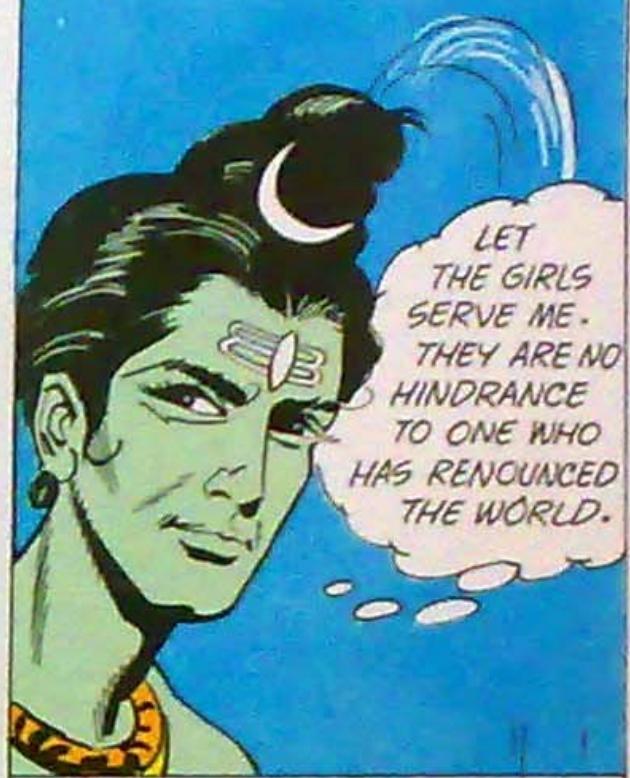


HIMAVAT TOOK PARVATI AND TWO OF HER FRIENDS AND WENT UP TO SHIVA.



LORD, YOU HAVE NONE TO HELP YOU FOR YOUR RITUALS. MY DAUGHTER CAN.

SHIVA LOOKED AT THEM CALMLY FOR A FEW SECONDS.



LET THE GIRLS SERVE ME. THEY ARE NO HINDRANCE TO ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED THE WORLD.

THEN HE ADDRESSED HIMAVAT.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL GESTURE. LET THE MAIDS SERVE ME AS THEY WILL.



HIMAVAT WAS JUBILANT AS HE LEFT THE MAIDS AND WENT.

NARADA'S PROPHECY WILL COME TRUE VERY SHORTLY. I AM ASSURED OF PARVATI'S FUTURE.



PARVATI BEGAN TO ATTEND ON SHIVA.

PARVATI,  
HAVE YOU  
COLLECTED THE  
FLOWERS FOR  
TODAY'S  
WORSHIP?

HERE  
THEY ARE,  
MY LORD.

PARVATI,  
COME ON.  
LET US FEED  
THE DEER.

A MOMENT.  
LET ME FINISH  
CLEANING  
THE LORD'S  
PRAYER SEAT.



SHE CAREFULLY CHOSE THE "KUSA"  
GRASS FOR HIS RITES...

COME FARTHER!  
THE BEST GRASS  
GROWS THERE.

OH! PARVATI,  
WE ARE  
TIRED.

... AND FANNED HIM GENTLY WHEN  
THE DAY GREW WARM.



PARVATI!  
HAVEN'T YOU  
FINISHED?  
COME!

MY FRIENDS  
CALL ME  
BUT I WOULD  
RATHER  
SERVE  
THE  
LORD.

WHEN I AM TIRED  
I ONLY HAVE TO GAZE  
AT THE PALE MOON  
ON HIS FOREHEAD  
AND I AM REVIVED.  
WHAT POWER  
IS THIS?

THUS PARVATI GREW TO LOVE  
SHIVA WITH ALL HER HEART.

MEANWHILE  
THERE WAS TROUBLE  
IN HEAVEN.  
THE GODS LED BY  
INDRA  
CAME TO BRAHMA.

WELCOME,  
MY SONS.  
BUT WHY DO YOU  
LOOK  
SO SAD AND  
GLOOMY?

INDRA SIGNALLED TO BRIHASPATI,  
THEIR CHIEF PRIEST, TO SPEAK.

TARAKA,  
THE WICKED ASURA,  
HAS BECOME  
A MENACE.

HE HAS SEIZED HEAVEN,  
OUR ABODE  
AND  
IS TERRORIZING  
OUR  
PEOPLE.

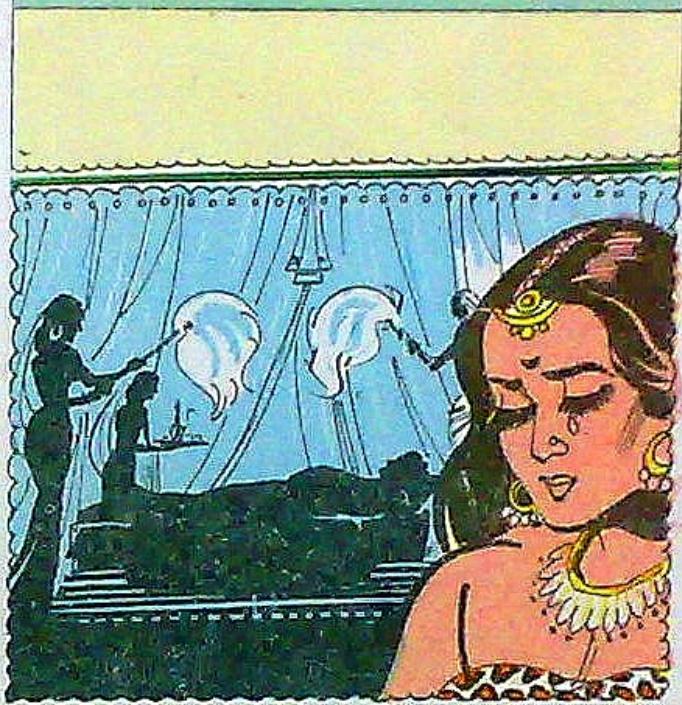
INDRA STEPPED FORWARD —

I EVEN  
SEND HIM  
GIFTS  
TO FLATTER  
HIM AND  
WIN HIS  
GOODWILL.

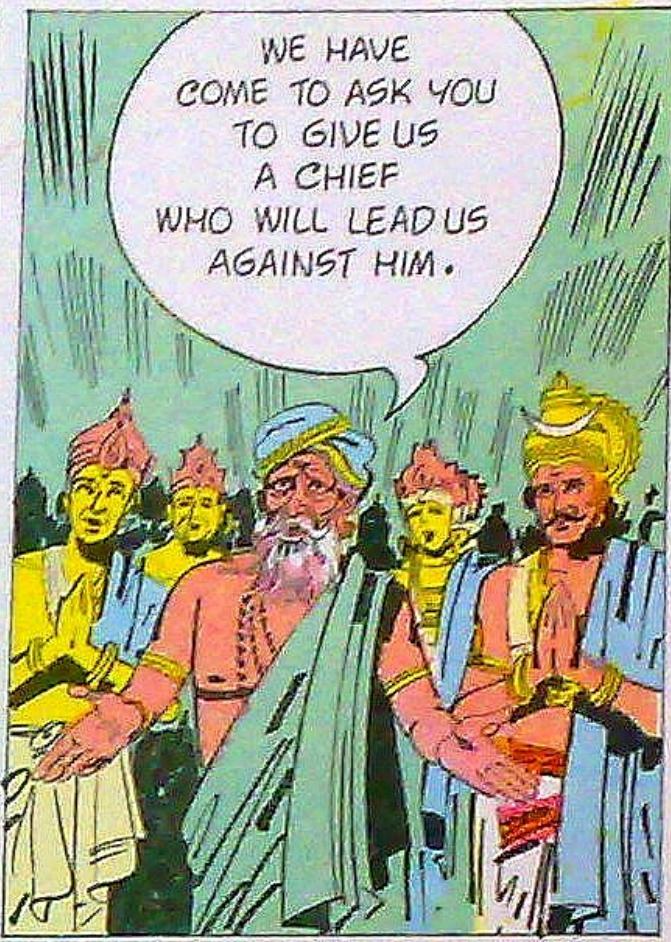
THEN BRIHASPATI  
CONTINUED —

BUT THE MORE WE TRY TO  
PLEASE HIM THE MORE  
RUTHLESS HE BECOMES.

"HE HAS LAID WASTE ALL OUR BEAUTIFUL GARDENS AND OUR CAPTIVE WOMENFOLK TEARFULLY FAN HIM WHILE HE SLEEPS."



WE HAVE COME TO ASK YOU TO GIVE US A CHIEF WHO WILL LEAD US AGAINST HIM.



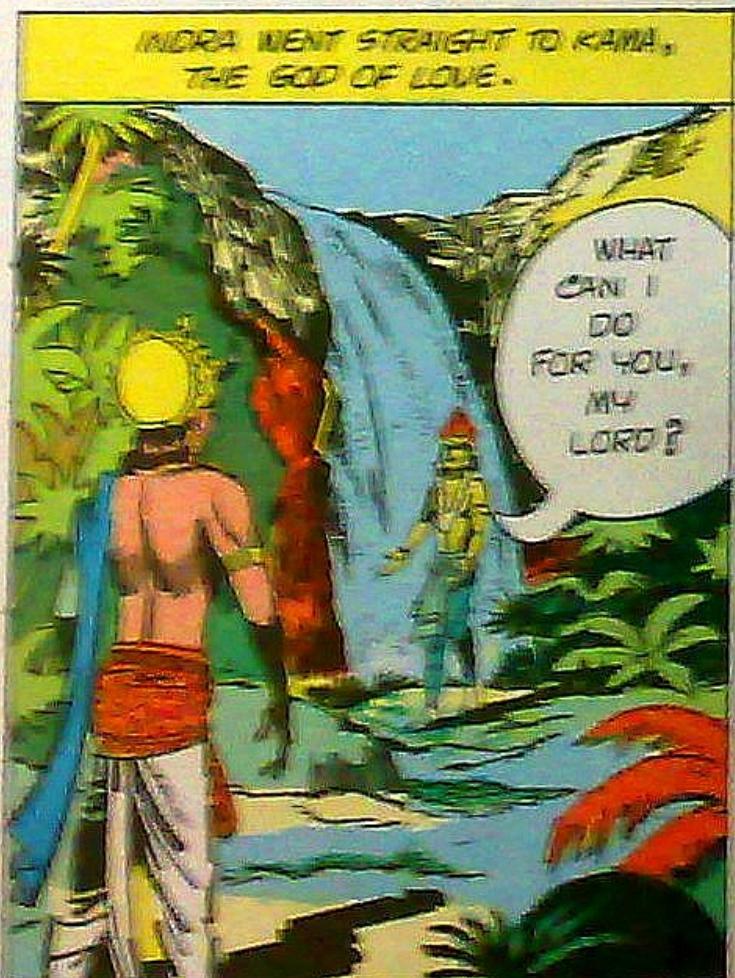
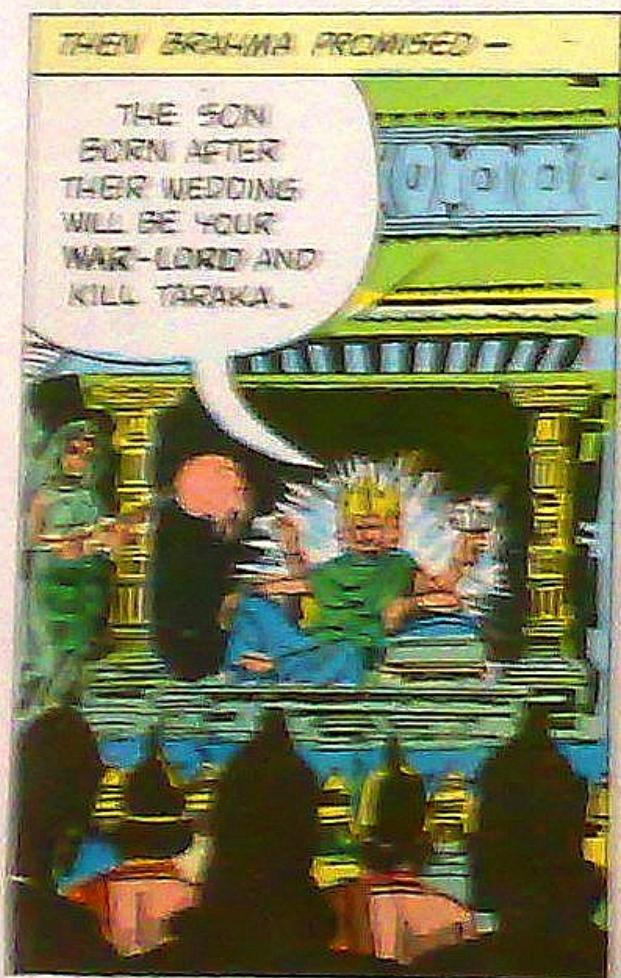
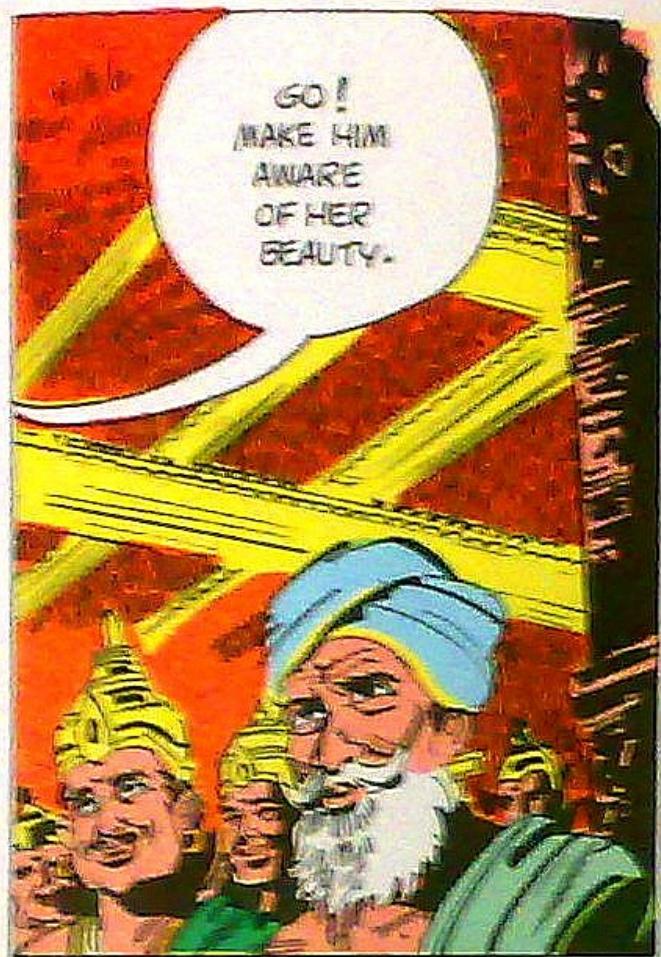
BRAHMA WAS HELPLESS.

DEAR SONS,  
MUCH AS I WANT  
TO HELP YOU,  
I CAN'T.



TARAKA HAS BECOME POWERFUL BY VIRTUE OF THE BOON I ONCE GRANTED HIM. SO I CANNOT DESTROY HIM.





I WANT YOU TO  
LURE SHIVA INTO  
MARRYING PARVATI.

IT  
SHALL BE  
DONE.

COME RATA,  
MY BELOVED WIFE  
AND SPRING,  
MY BOSOM COMPANION.  
LET US GO TO SHIVA'S  
GROVE.

BUT AS THEY APPROACHED SHIVA'S  
GROVE AND RAMA SAW THE MIGHTY  
SHIVA -

AT THAT MOMENT PARVATI PASSED  
BY AND RAMA REGAINED  
CONFIDENCE.

MY  
COURAGE  
FAILS ME!

WITH SUCH AN ALLY  
I CANNOT  
FAIL.

PARVATI BOWED AND PLACED SOME FLOWERS BEFORE SHIVA, WHO HAD JUST COME OUT OF A DIVINE TRANCE.



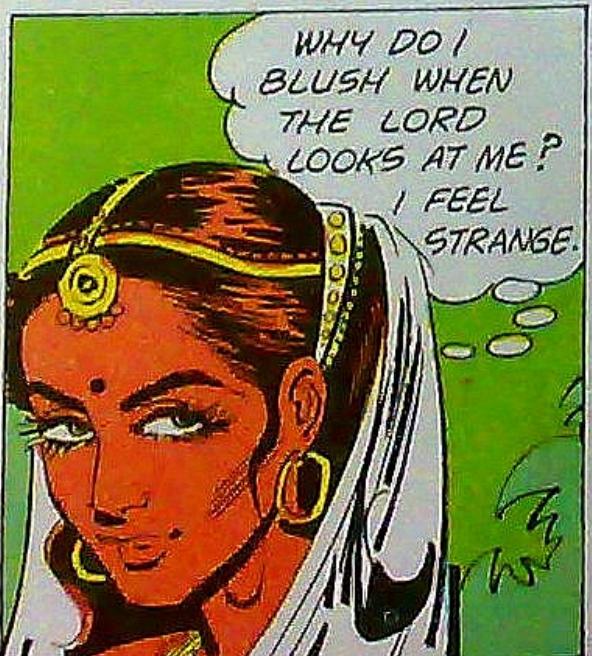
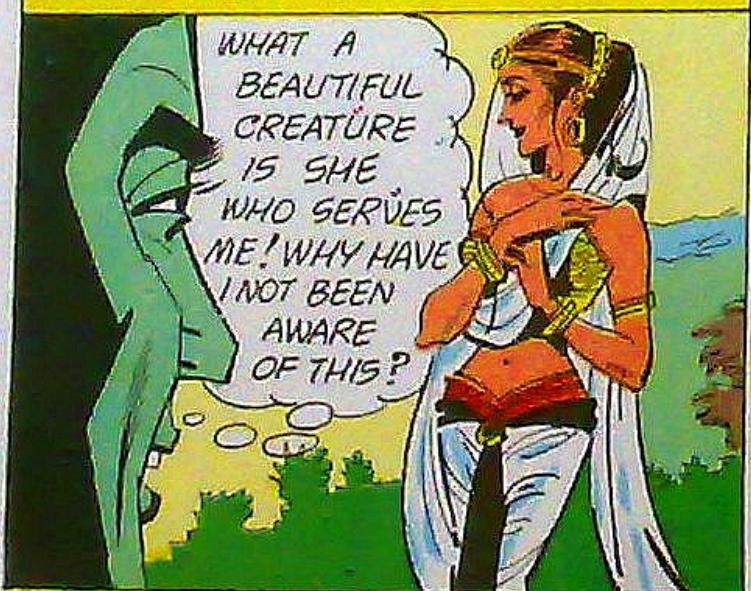
SHIVA HAS SPOKEN )  
AND HE CANNOT LIE.  
I AM SO HAPPY.



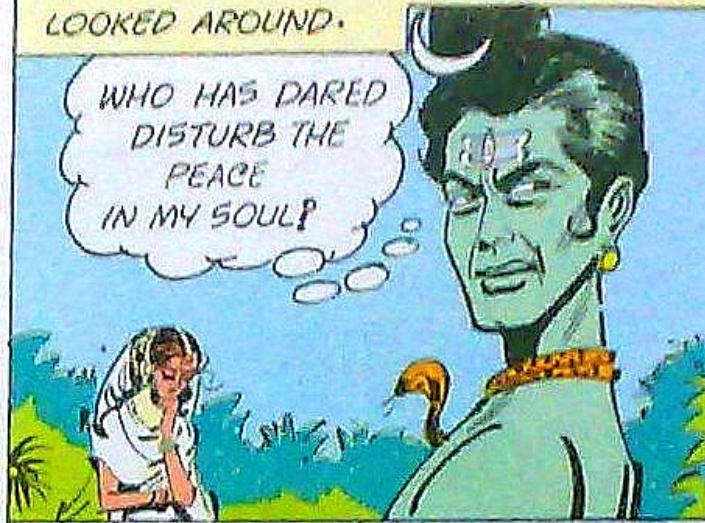
PARVATI WAS ABOUT TO PLACE A LOTUS GARLAND AROUND SHIVA'S NECK WHEN ...



KAMA'S ARROW FOUND IT'S MARK.



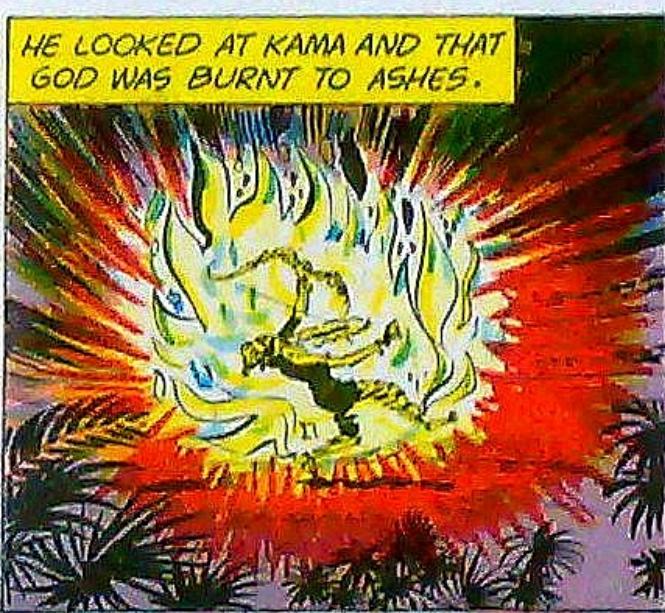
BUT WITH A GREAT EFFORT SHIVA BROUGHT HIS EMOTIONS UNDER CONTROL, AND LOOKED AROUND.



HE SAW KAMA AND ANGER FILLED HIS BEING.



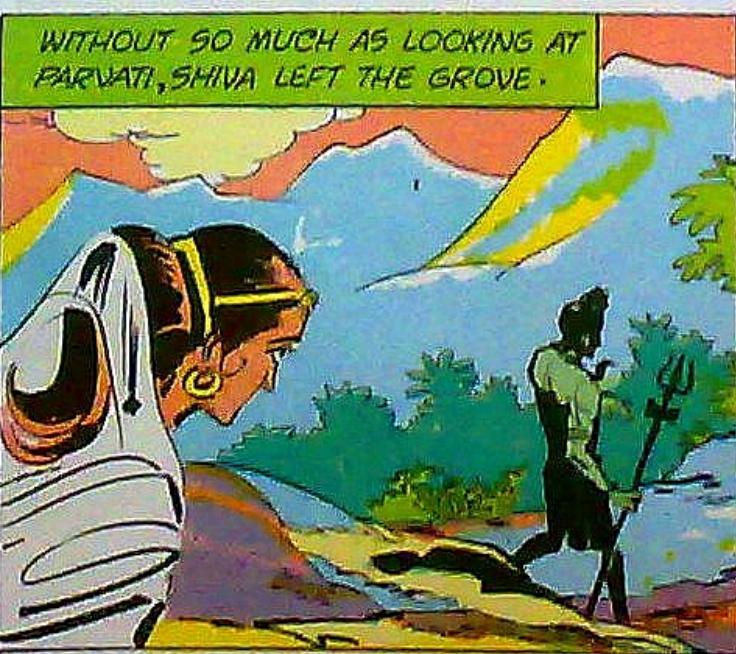
HE LOOKED AT KAMA AND THAT GOD WAS BURNT TO ASHES.



ONE LOOK AT HIM AND RATI FAINTED.



WITHOUT SO MUCH AS LOOKING AT PARVATI, SHIVA LEFT THE GROVE.



PARVATI WAS OVERCOME WITH GRIEF AND SHAME.

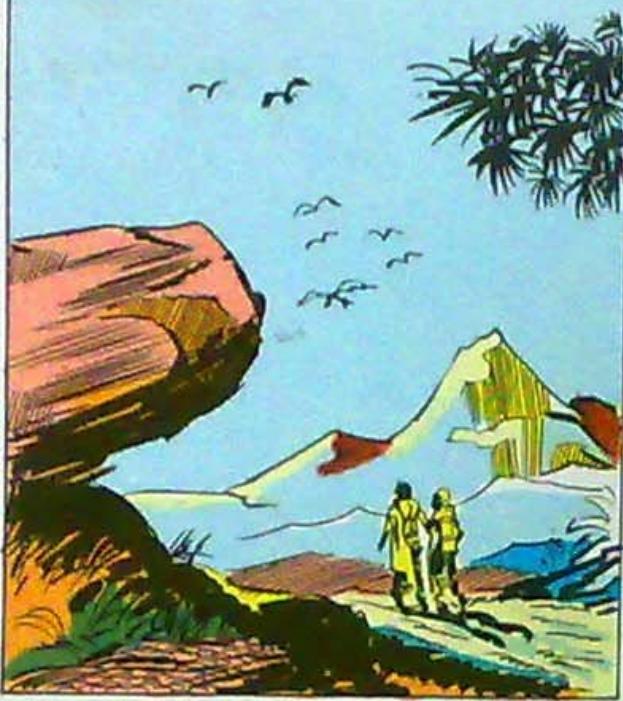
NOT ONLY HAVE I LOVED IN VAIN BUT MY BELOVED HAS SPURNED ME BEFORE MY PLAYMATES!



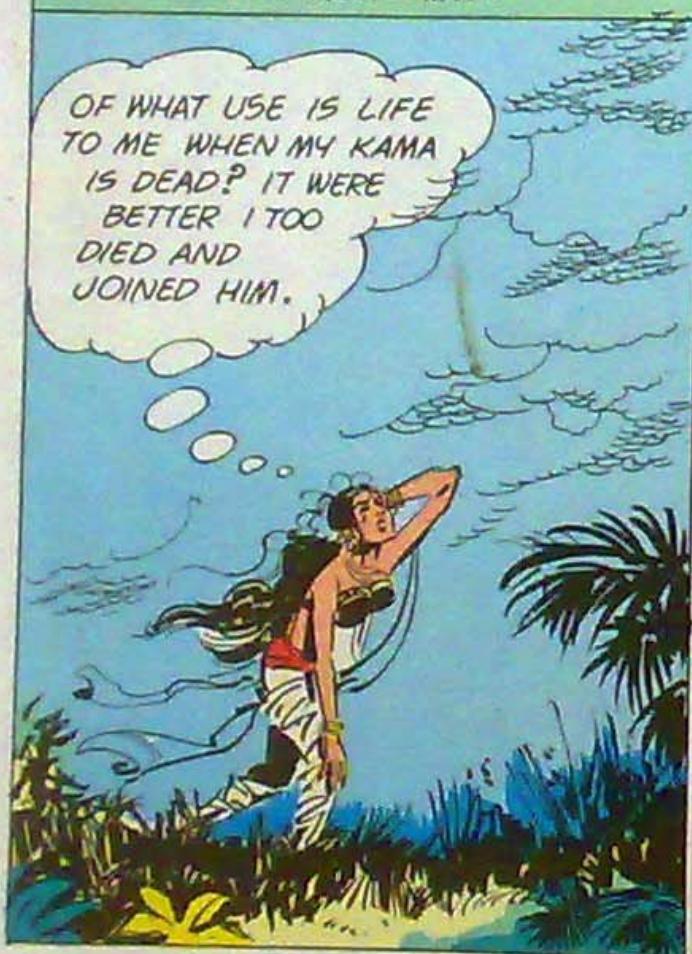
HIMAVAT CAME AND PARVATI RAN TO HIM. HE HELD HER TENDERLY.



THEY MADE THEIR WAY HOMeward, SLOWLY AND SADLY.

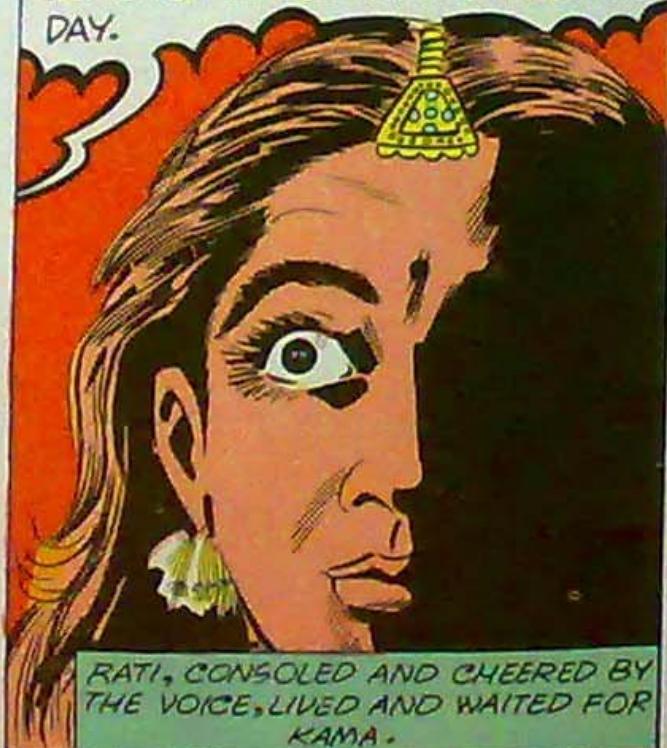


IN THE MEANWHILE RATI WOKE UP FROM HER FAINT.



BUT A HEAVENLY VOICE STOPPED HER.

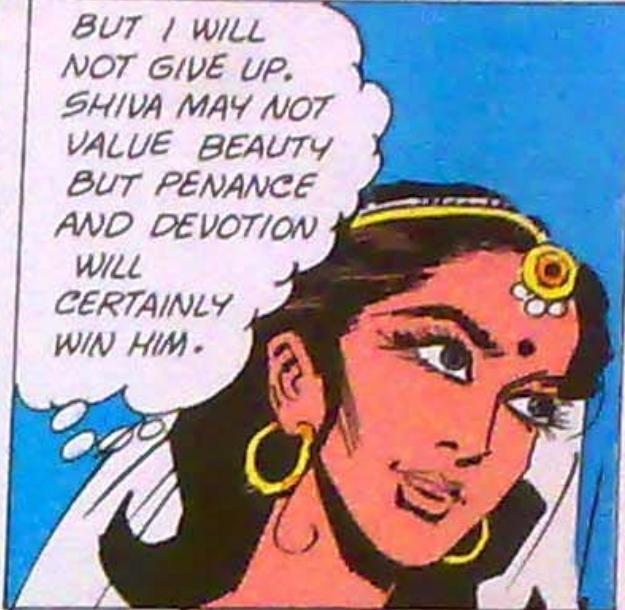
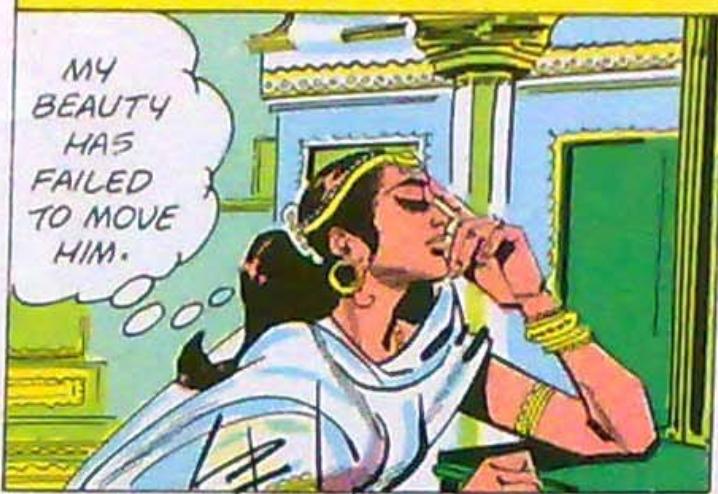
LIVE OH WIDOWED LADY. PARVATI WILL YET WIN SHIVA BY PENANCE, AND YOUR HUSBAND WILL BE RESTORED TO YOU ON THEIR WEDDING DAY.



RATI, CONSOLED AND CHEERED BY THE VOICE, LIVED AND WAITED FOR KAMA.

PARVATI WAS EXTREMELY PAINED BY SHIVA'S BEHAVIOUR BUT SHE CONTINUED TO LOVE HIM.

BUT I WILL NOT GIVE UP. SHIVA MAY NOT VALUE BEAUTY BUT PENANCE AND DEVOTION WILL CERTAINLY WIN HIM.



SHE TOLD HER MOTHER OF HER DECISION.

BUT WHY, MY CHILD? ARE THERE NO GODS TO LOVE YOU HERE? GIVE HIM UP.

MOTHER, YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND. I HAVE DECIDED. PLEASE BLESS ME.



AND MENAKA SHAKING HER HEAD BLESSED PARVATI.

PARVATI THEN WENT TO HIMAVAT.

FATHER, GIVE ME YOUR CONSENT AND A GROVE THAT I MIGHT SPEND MY DAYS IN PENANCE AND PRAYER.

SO BE IT, MY BELOVED CHILD.



CASTING OFF HER FINE CLOTHES AND JEWELLERY, PARVATI ENTERED THE GROVE HER FATHER GAVE HER.

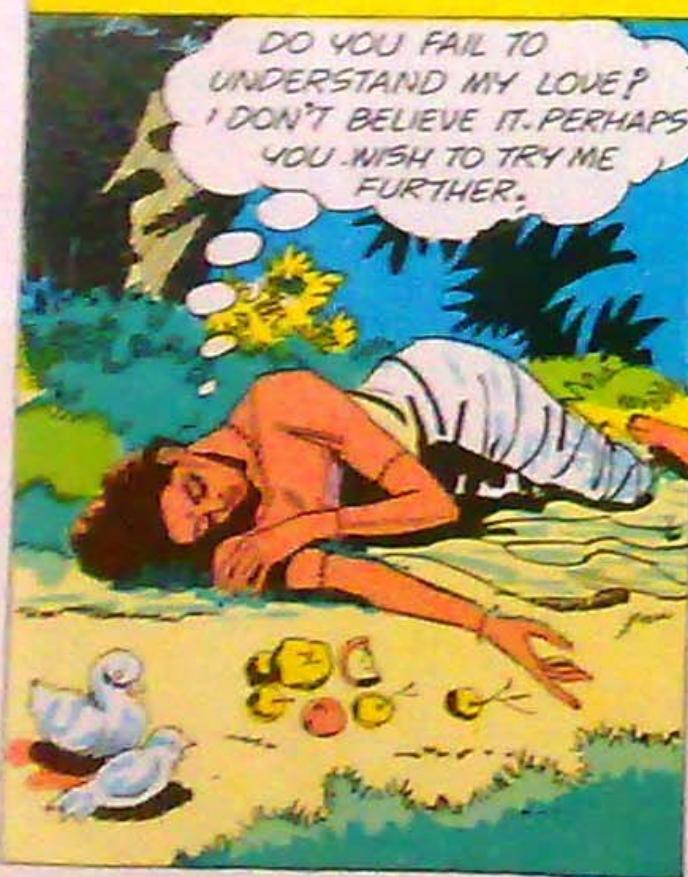


THE DEER IN THE GROVE LOVED HER.

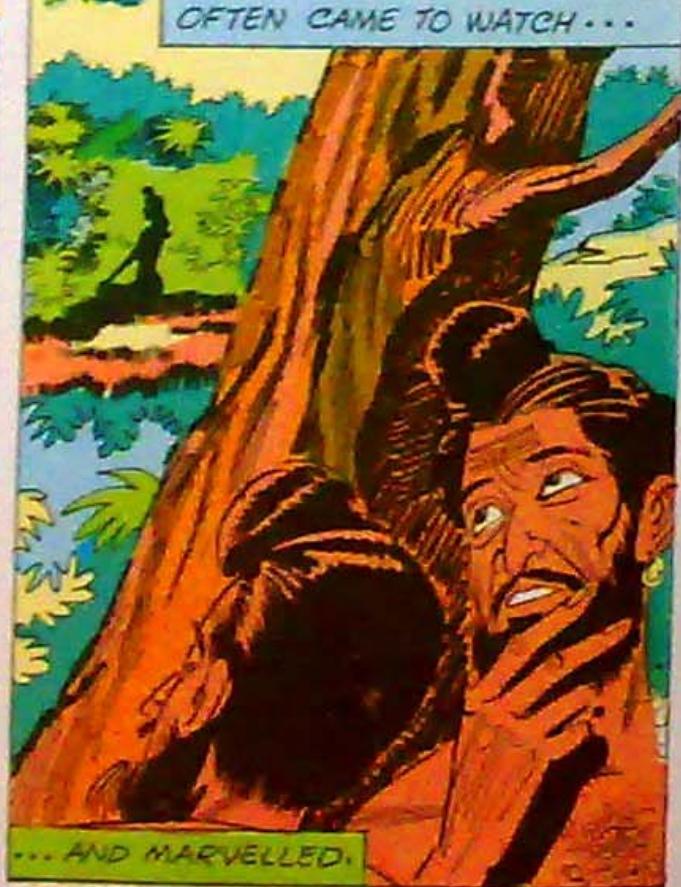


SHE SLEPT ON THE COLD DAMP GROUND AND BARELY ATE ANYTHING.

DO YOU FAIL TO UNDERSTAND MY LOVE?  
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. PERHAPS YOU WISH TO TRY ME FURTHER.



AS SHE PERFORMED HER RITES, THE HERMITS NEARBY OFTEN CAME TO WATCH...



GRADUALLY SHE GAVE UP EVEN THE LITTLE SHE ATE.

SHE HAS EATEN NOTHING SINCE WEEKS.

SHE IS "APARNA"

\* LADY OF THE UNBROKEN FAST.

I WILL SUBSIST ON YOUR NAME RESTING ON MY LIPS.

SHE SAT IN AN ICY POOL, HER LIPS QUIVERING, AND CONCENTRATED ON HER LORD.

TRULY SHE IS THE ASCETIC OF ASCETICS.

YOUR IMAGE FIXED IN MY HEART SHALL WARM ME.

MANY YEARS PASSED BUT PARVATI NEVER ONCE GAVE UP HOPE.

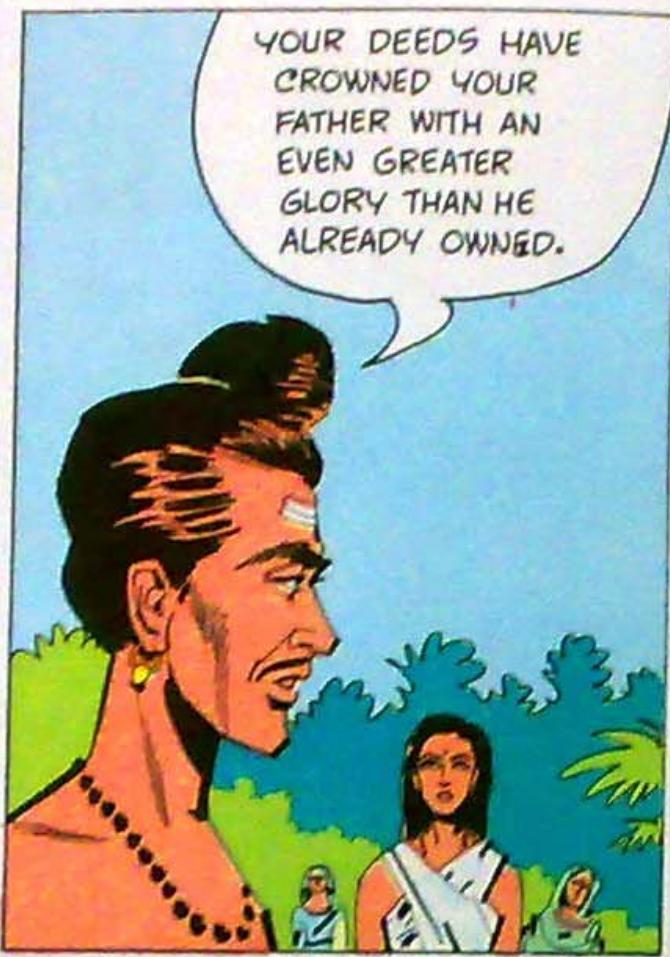
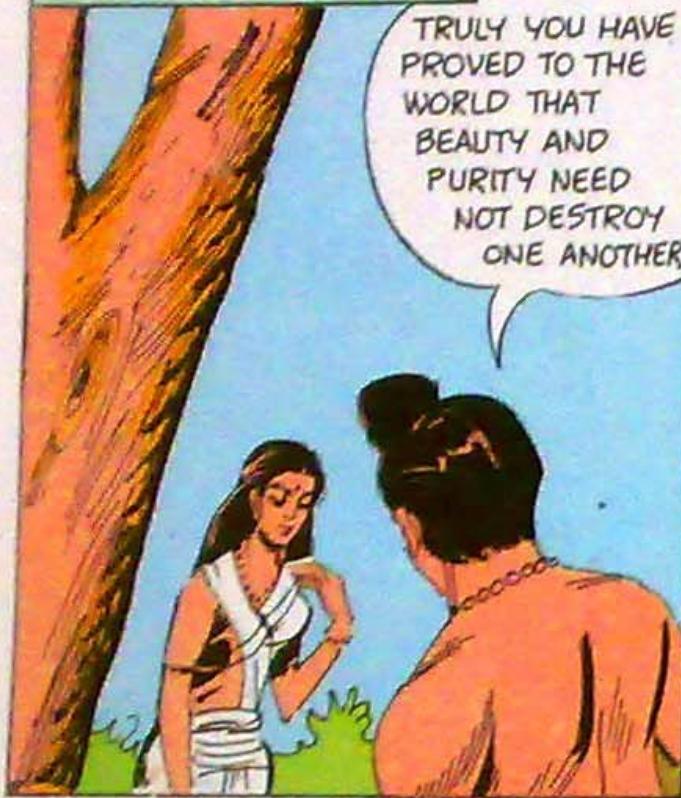
ONE DAY WHILE SHE WAS PERFORMING HER RITUALS BEFORE ENTERING THE POOL, A YOUNG HERMIT CAME TO SEE HER. PARVATI BOWED TO HIM.

HOW CAN YOUR TENDER FRAME CARRY OUT THE TASK YOUR SPIRIT HAS SET IT?

ALL HER AUSTERITY HAD  
ONLY ENHANCED PARVATI'S  
EXQUISITE BEAUTY.

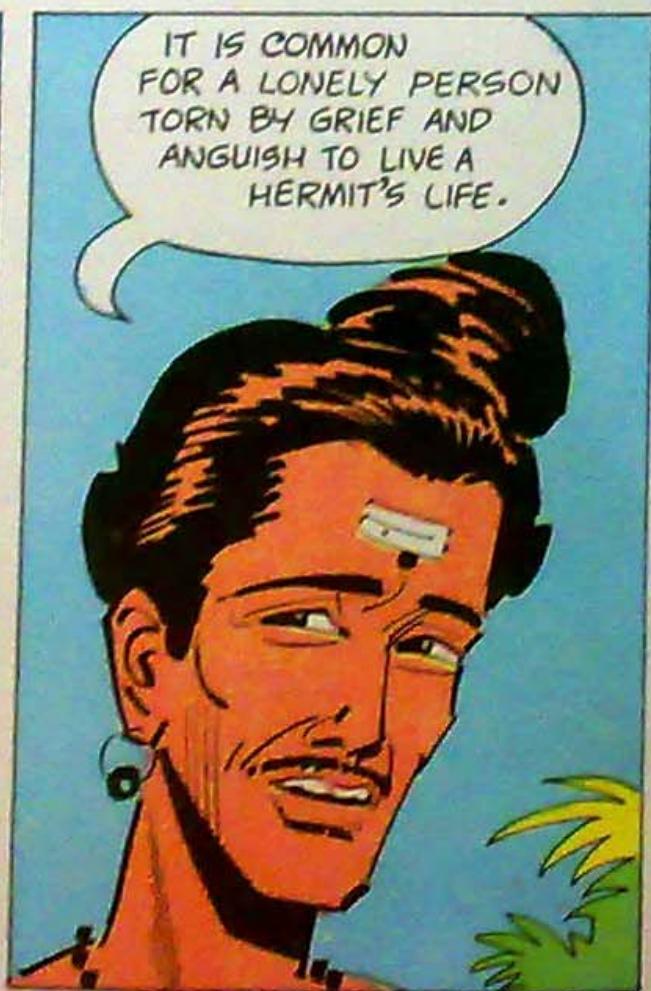
TRULY YOU HAVE  
PROVED TO THE  
WORLD THAT  
BEAUTY AND  
PURITY NEED  
NOT DESTROY  
ONE ANOTHER.

YOUR DEEDS HAVE  
CROWNED YOUR  
FATHER WITH AN  
EVEN GREATER  
GLORY THAN HE  
ALREADY OWNED.



NOBLE MAIDEN,  
WHY HAVE YOU  
UNDERTAKEN  
SUCH SEVERE  
PENANCE ?

IT IS COMMON  
FOR A LONELY PERSON  
TORN BY GRIEF AND  
ANGUISH TO LIVE A  
HERMIT'S LIFE.



BUT WHY SHOULD YOU  
OH FAULTLESS ONE,  
LOVED AND CHERISHED  
BY ALL,  
DO SO?

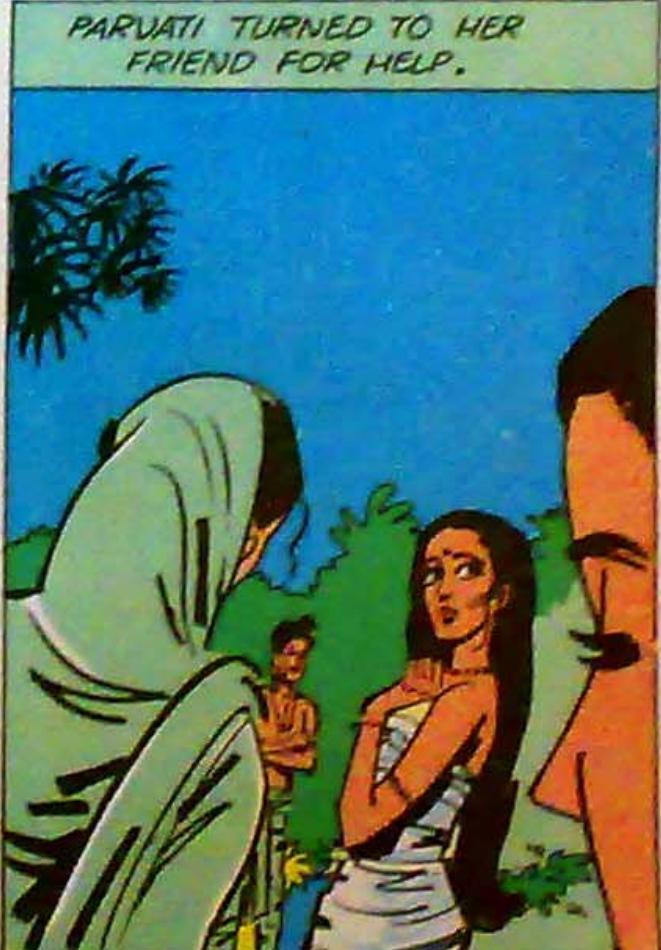
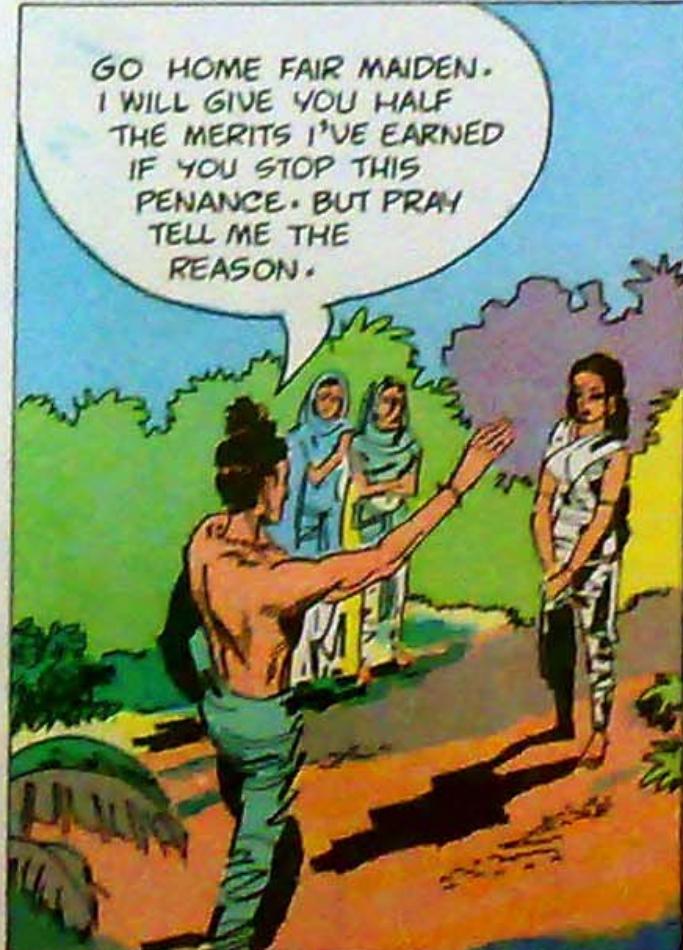
AH! IS IT  
BECAUSE OF  
UNREQUITED LOVE?  
NO, THAT'S NOT  
POSSIBLE.  
A PRICELESS GEM  
LIKE YOU IS  
SOUGHT AND  
DOES NOT  
SEEK.



HEARING THIS PARVATI HEAVED A HEAVY SIGH.

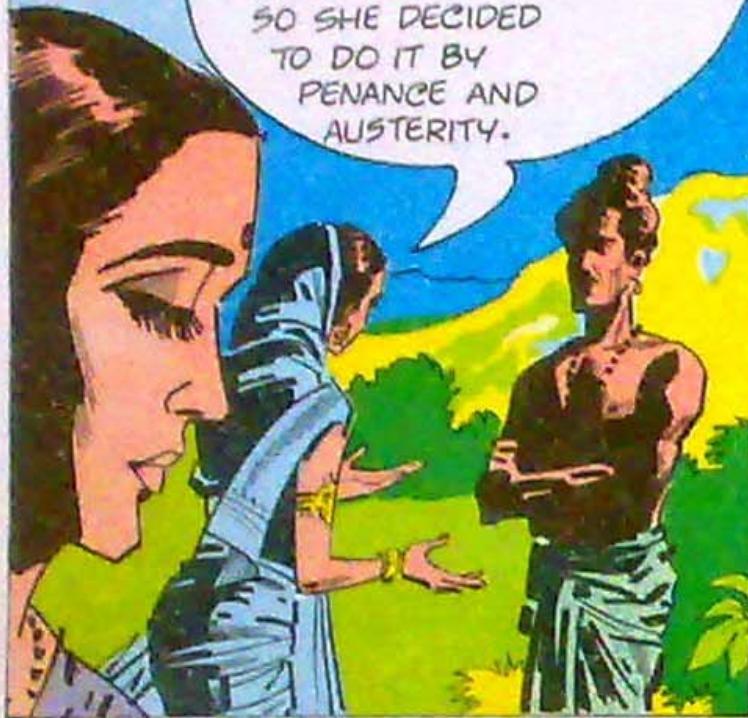
GO HOME FAIR MAIDEN.  
I WILL GIVE YOU HALF  
THE MERITS I'VE EARNED  
IF YOU STOP THIS  
PENANCE. BUT PRAY  
TELL ME THE  
REASON.

PARVATI TURNED TO HER  
FRIEND FOR HELP.

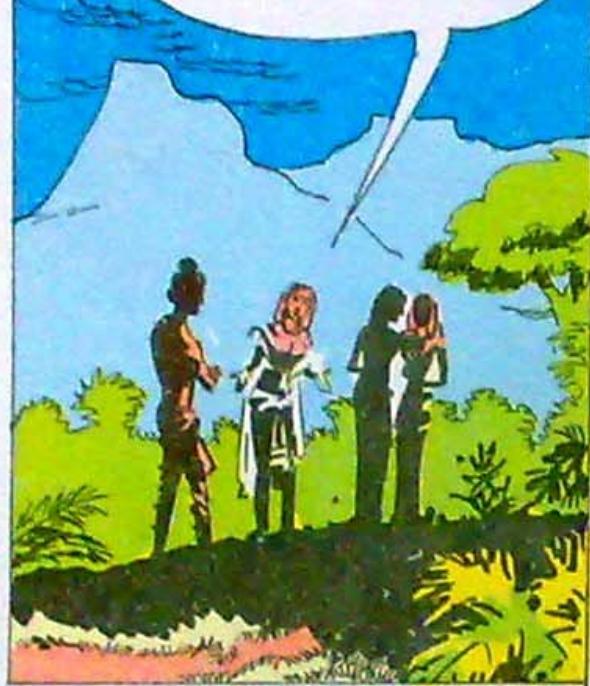


THE MAID TOLD ALL .

SHE HAD SET HER  
HEART ON WINNING SHIVA'S  
LOVE. SHE FAILED TO WIN  
HIM BY HER BEAUTY.  
SO SHE DECIDED  
TO DO IT BY  
PENANCE AND  
AUSTERITY.

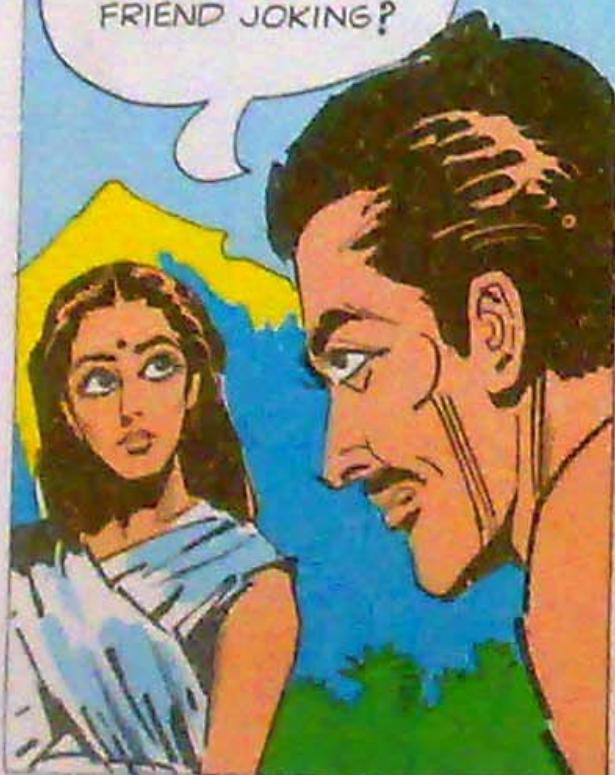


SHE OFTEN CRIES  
OUT TO HIM BUT SHIVA  
HAS REMAINED DEAF  
TO HER APPEALS.



THE HERMIT TURNED TO PARVATI.

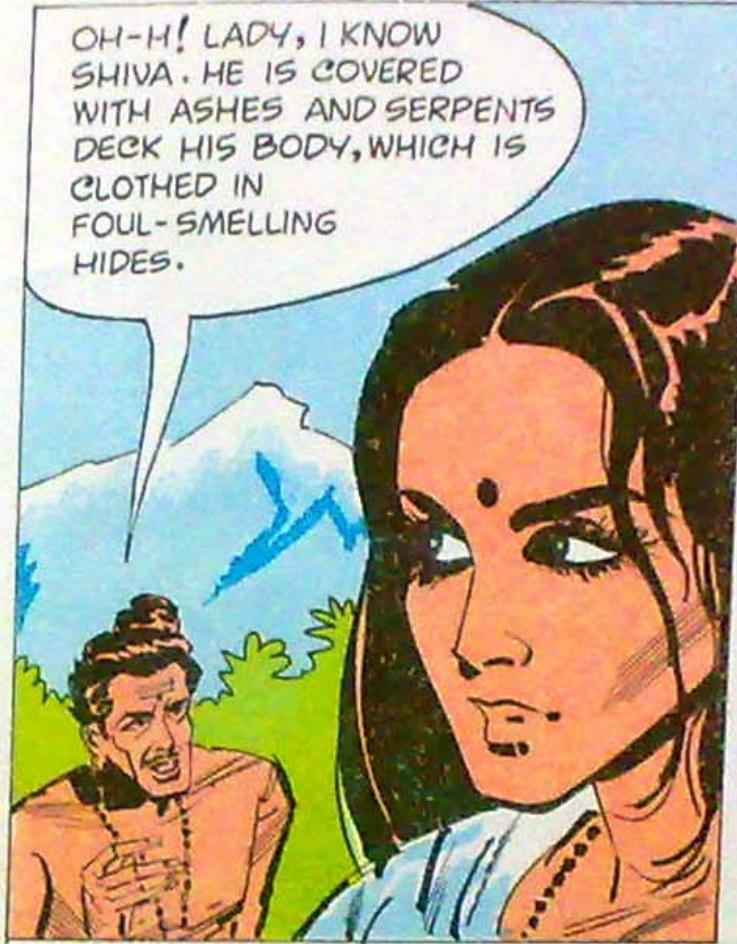
IS THIS TRUE?  
OR IS YOUR  
FRIEND JOKING?



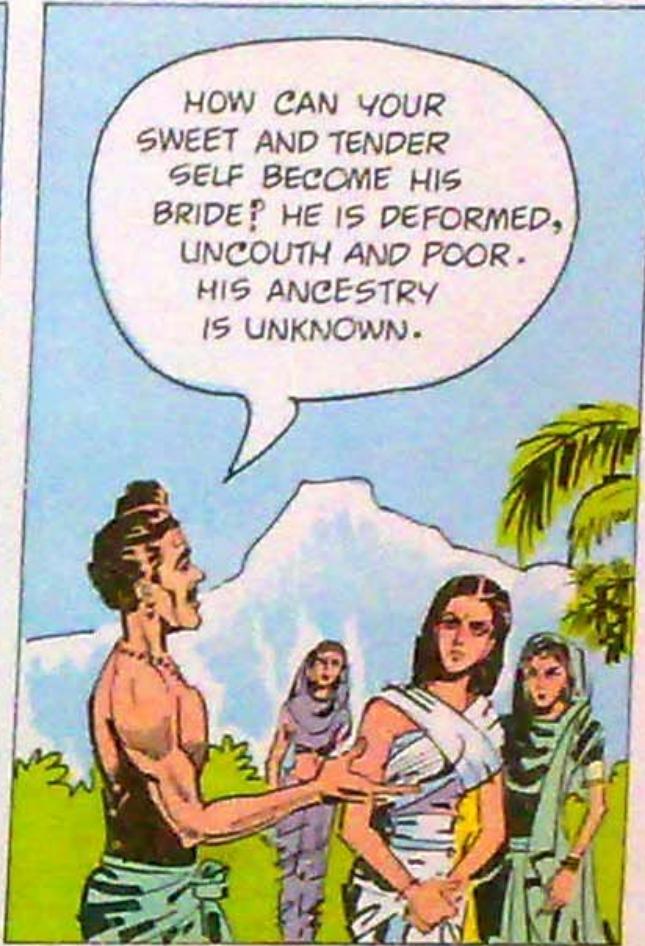
OH HOLY ONE, IT IS TRUE!  
I ADORE GREAT SHIVA.  
I AM SURE, I WILL WIN  
HIS LOVE BY MY  
PENANCE AND  
DEVOTION.



OH-H! LADY, I KNOW SHIVA. HE IS COVERED WITH ASHES AND SERPENTS DECK HIS BODY, WHICH IS CLOTHED IN FOUL-SMELLING HIDES.

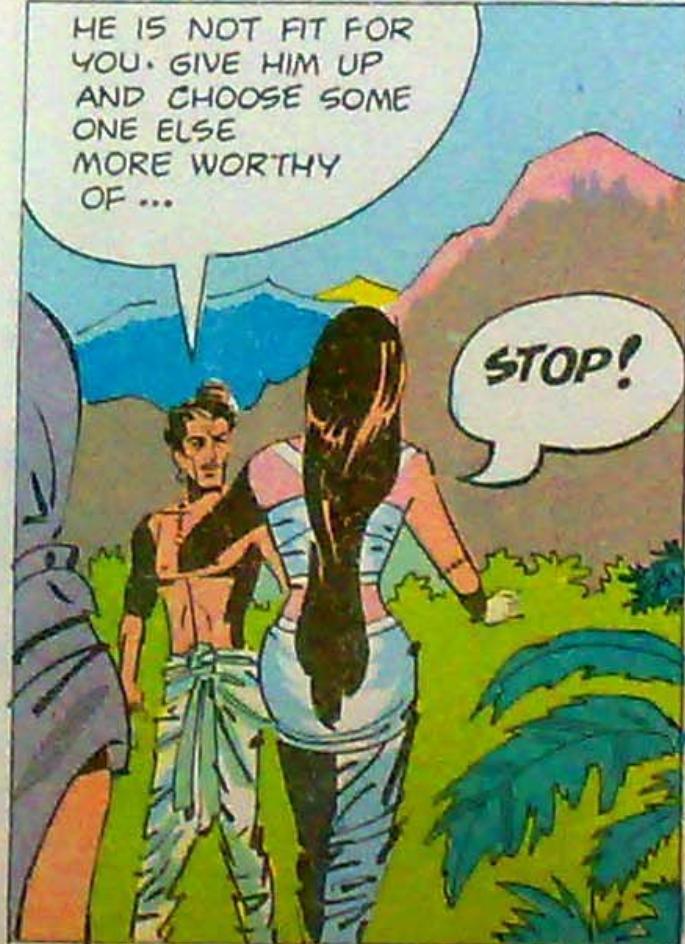


HOW CAN YOUR SWEET AND TENDER SELF BECOME HIS BRIDE? HE IS DEFORMED, UNGOUTH AND POOR. HIS ANCESTRY IS UNKNOWN.



HE IS NOT FIT FOR YOU. GIVE HIM UP AND CHOOSE SOME ONE ELSE MORE WORTHY OF ...

STOP!



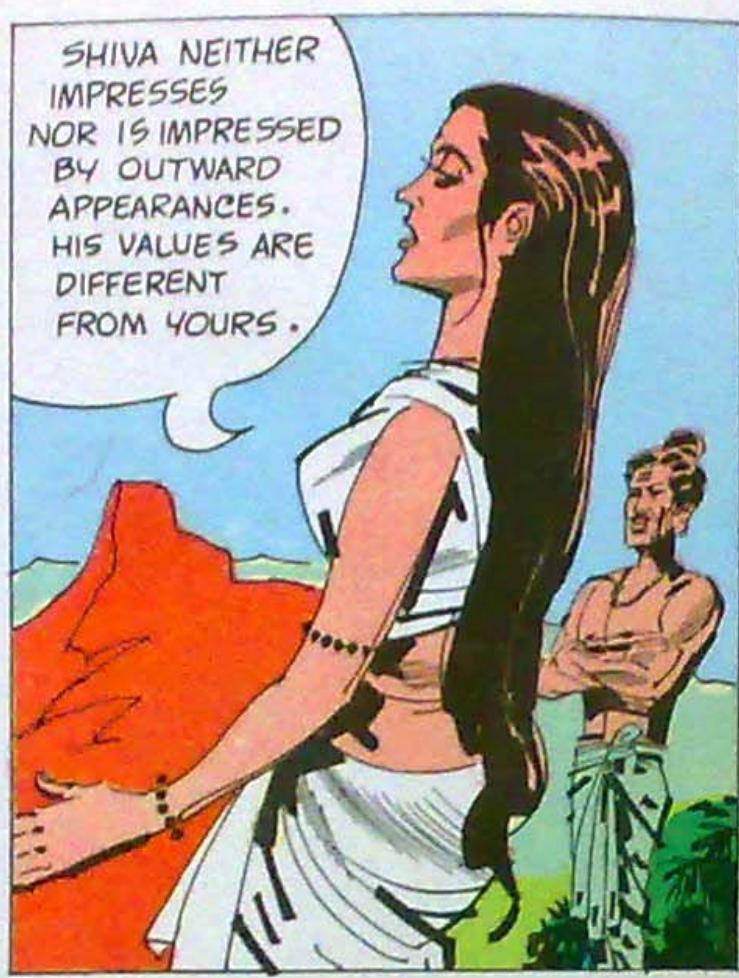
PARVATI COULD NO LONGER CONTROL HER ANGER.

IT TAKES A GREAT SOUL TO KNOW A GREAT SOUL.

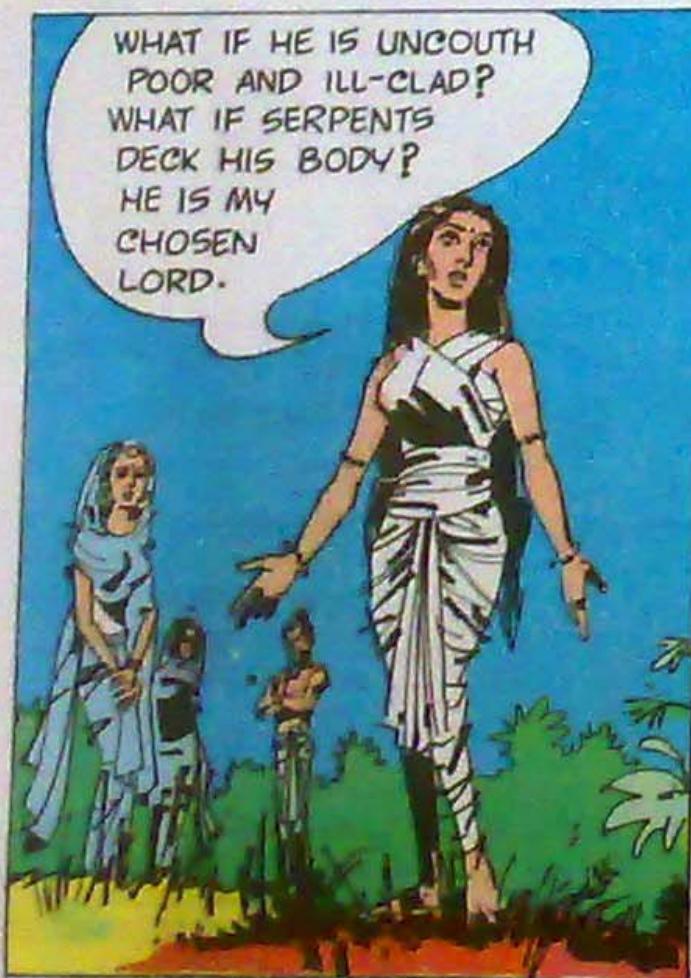


LOW CREATURES CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND LOFTY MOTIVES. YOUR TONGUE GIVES AWAY YOUR EVIL MIND.

SHIVA NEITHER IMPRESSES NOR IS IMPRESSED BY OUTWARD APPEARANCES. HIS VALUES ARE DIFFERENT FROM YOURS.



WHAT IF HE IS UNGOUTH POOR AND ILL-CLAD?  
WHAT IF SERPENTS DECK HIS BODY?  
HE IS MY CHOSEN LORD.

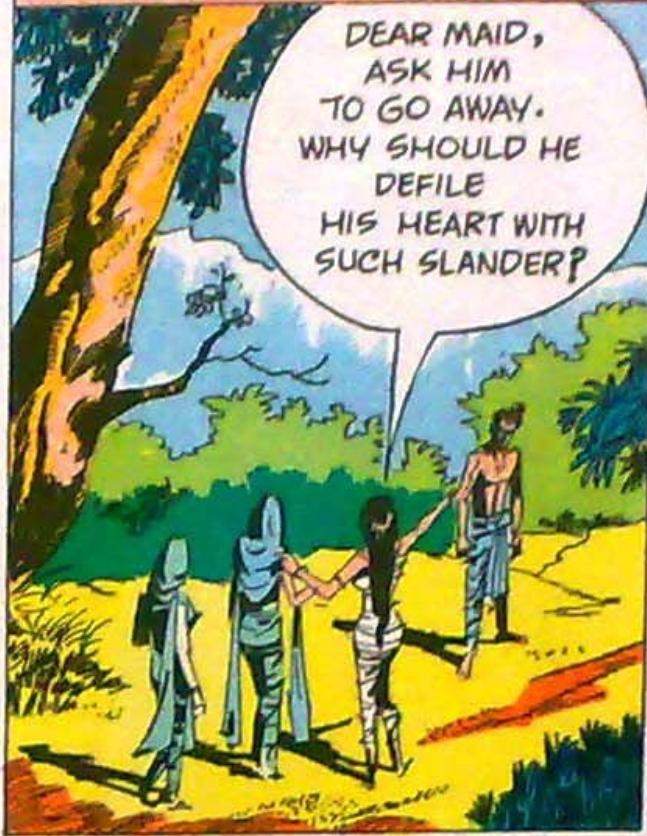


HIS FAILINGS MAY BE MANY AND HIS VIRTUES FEW, BUT I LOVE HIM.

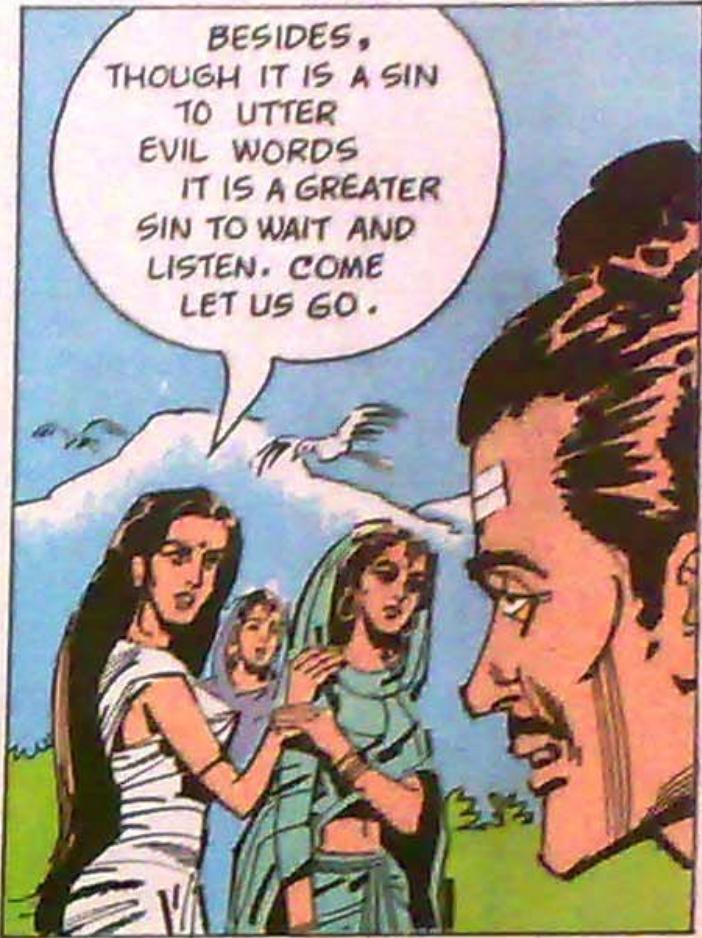


THEN PARVATI TURNED TO HER FRIEND WHO LISTENED IN AWE.

DEAR MAID,  
ASK HIM  
TO GO AWAY.  
WHY SHOULD HE  
DEFILE  
HIS HEART WITH  
SUCH SLANDER?



BESIDES,  
THOUGH IT IS A SIN  
TO UTTER  
EVIL WORDS  
IT IS A GREATER  
SIN TO WAIT AND  
LISTEN. COME  
LET US GO.



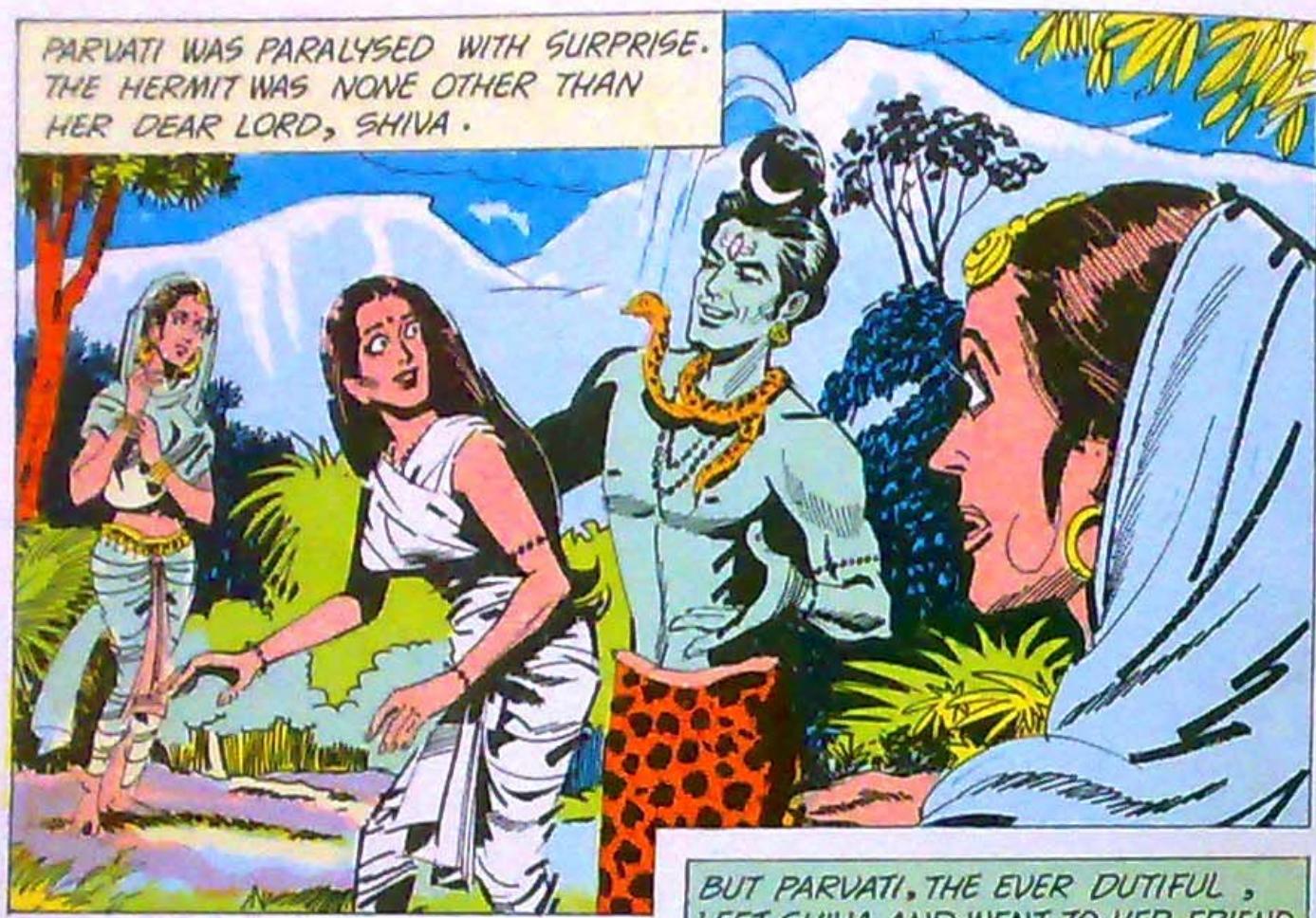
AS PARVATI TURNED  
ANGRILY AWAY ...



... THE HERMIT RUSHED FORWARD AND  
BLOCKED HER PATH.



PARVATI WAS PARALYSED WITH SURPRISE.  
THE HERMIT WAS NONE OTHER THAN  
HER DEAR LORD, SHIVA.



OH ! GENTLE MAIDEN,  
YOUR PENAENCE AND  
DEVOTION HAVE WON  
ME. I BOW TO  
YOU, YOUR  
WILLING SLAVE.

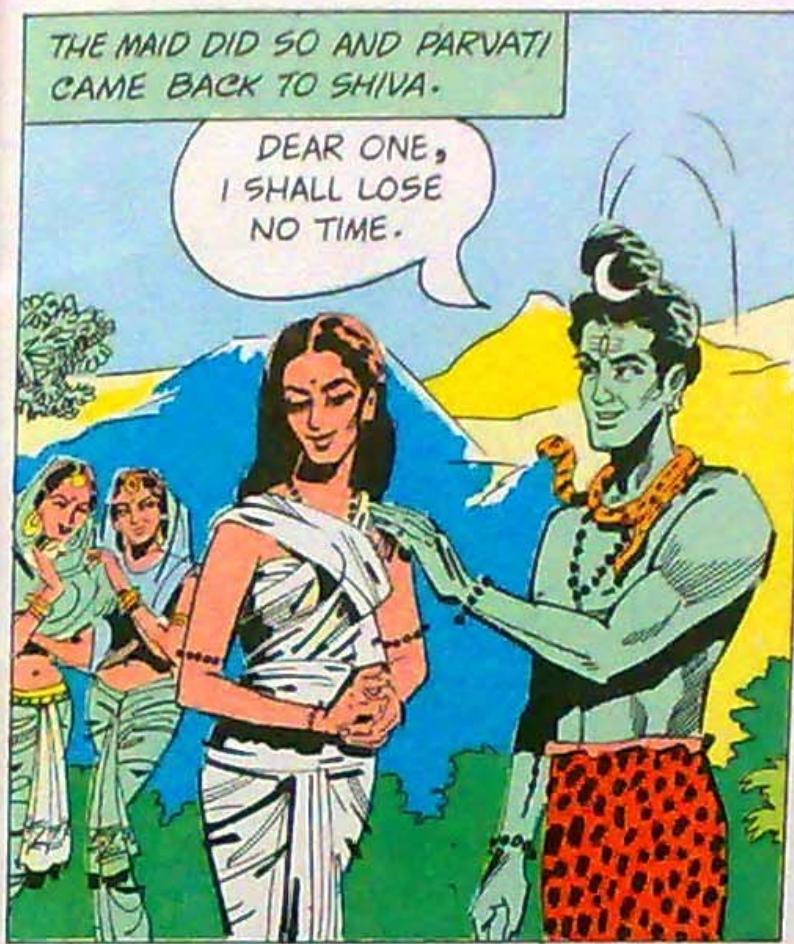
BUT PARVATI, THE EVER DUTIFUL,  
LEFT SHIVA AND WENT TO HER FRIEND.

TELL HIM THAT  
MY FATHER SHOULD  
BE APPROACHED  
FOR MY  
HAND.

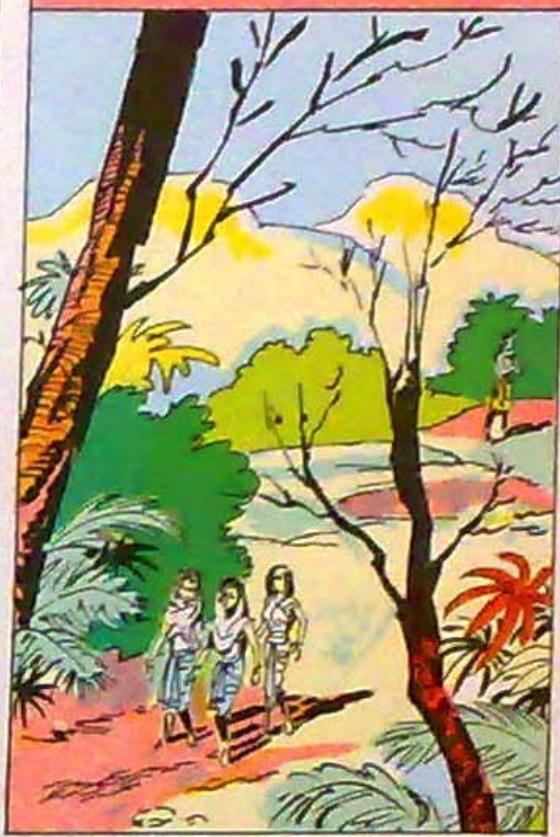


THE MAID DID SO AND PARVATI CAME BACK TO SHIVA.

DEAR ONE,  
I SHALL LOSE NO TIME.

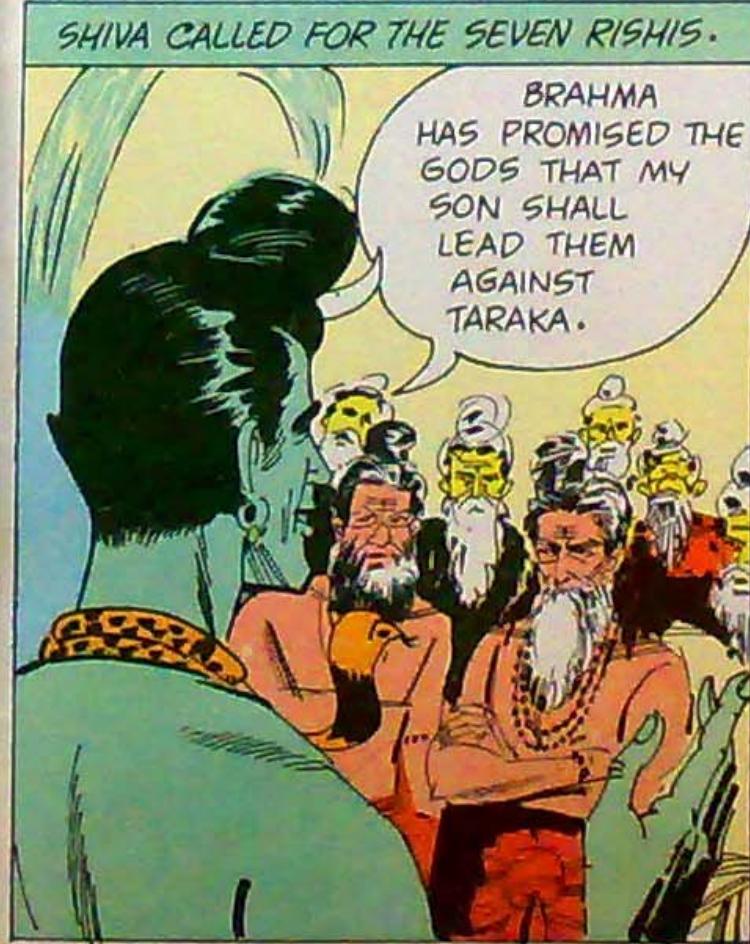


THUS ASSURED, PARVATI WITH HER FRIEND TURNED HOMeward.

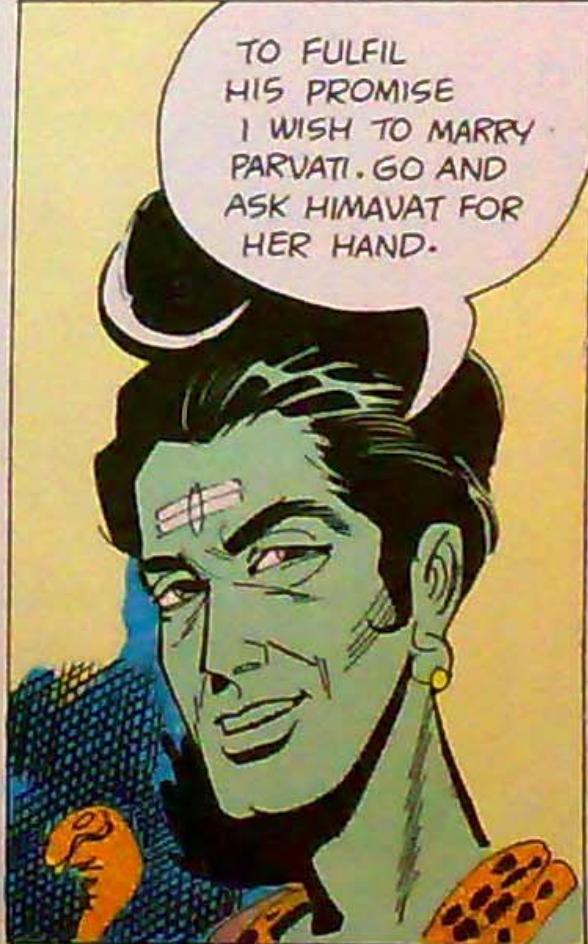


SHIVA CALLED FOR THE SEVEN RISHIS.

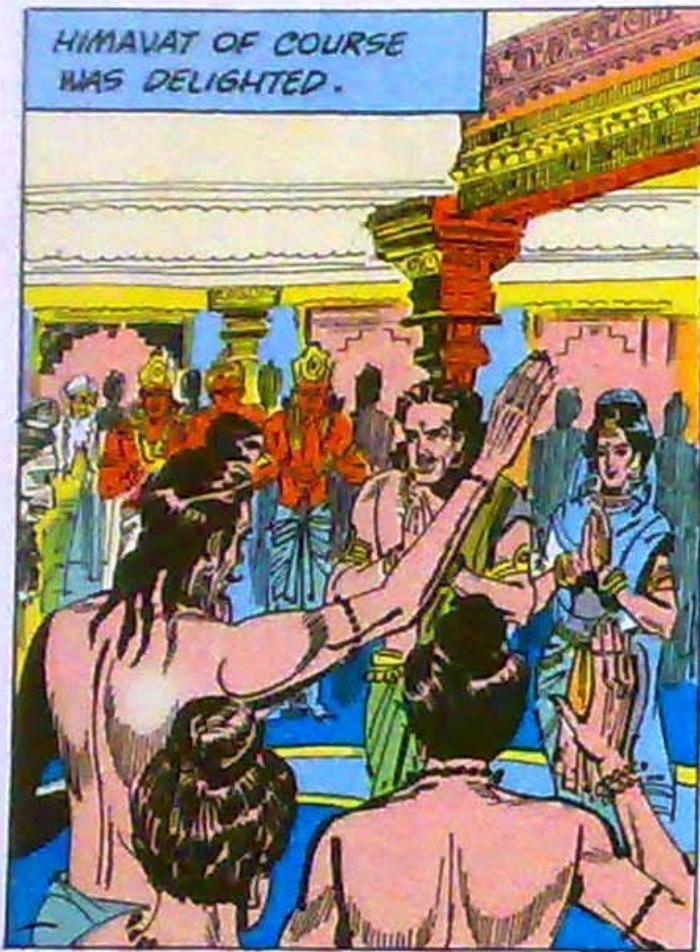
BRAHMA HAS PROMISED THE GODS THAT MY SON SHALL LEAD THEM AGAINST TARAKA.



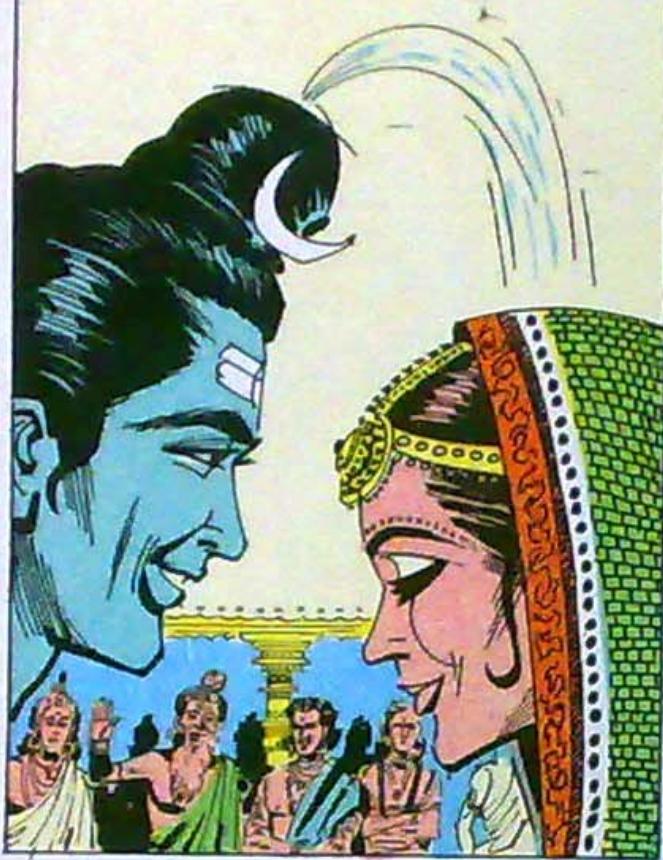
TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE I WISH TO MARRY PARVATI. GO AND ASK HIMAVAT FOR HER HAND.



HIMAVAT OF COURSE  
HAS DELIGHTED.



AND THE WEDDING TOOK PLACE.

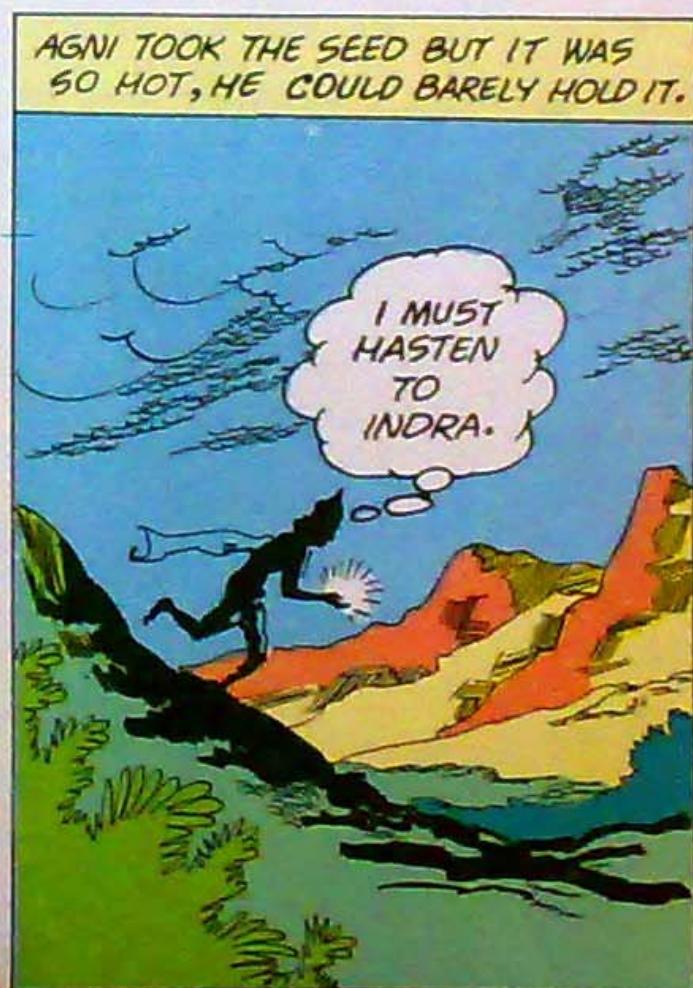
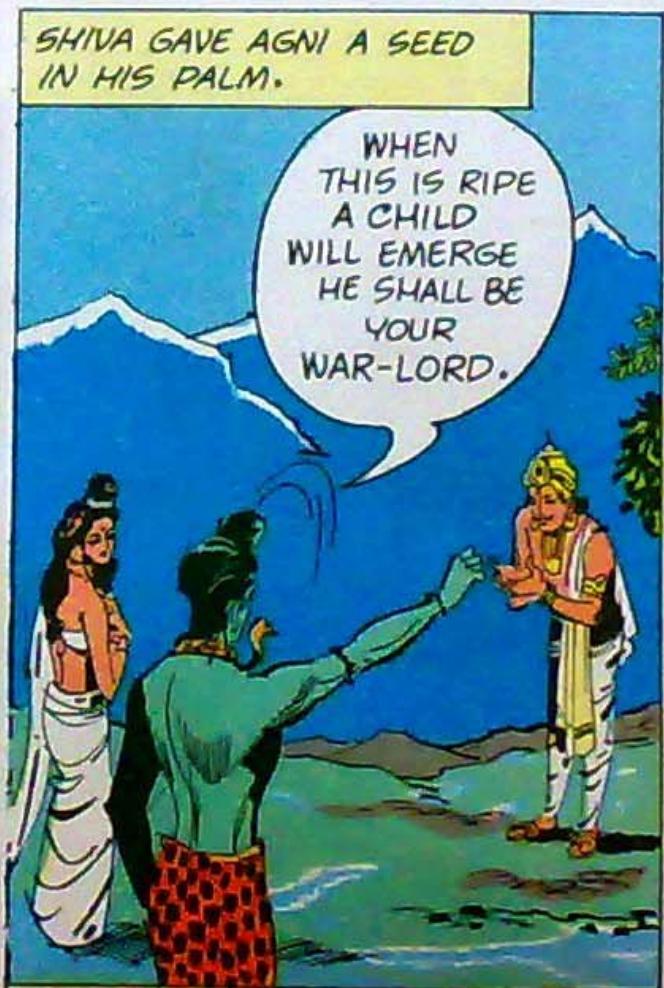
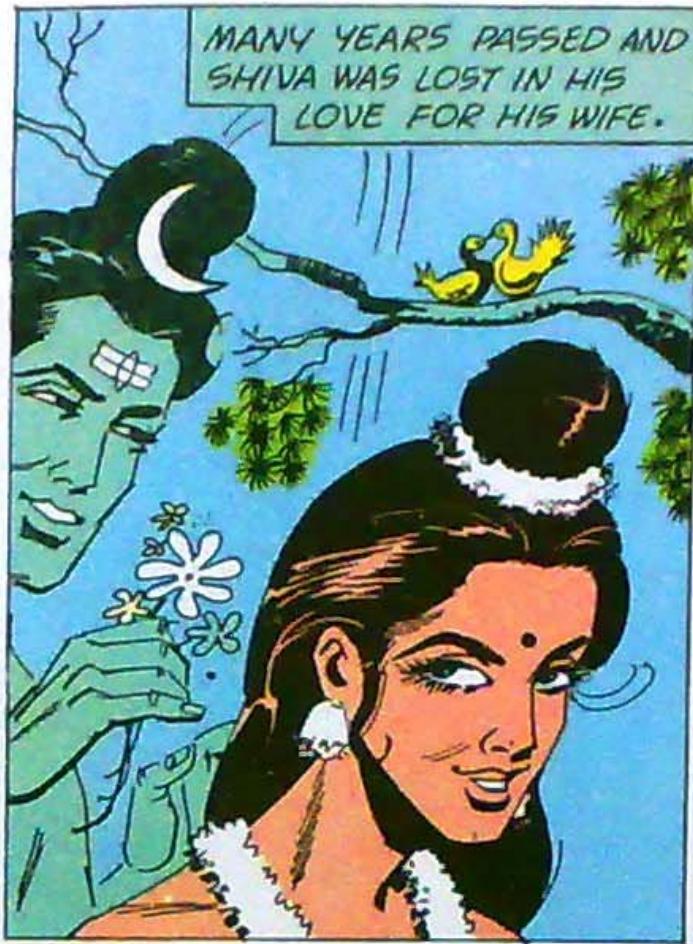


WHEN THE CEREMONY WAS OVER,  
THE GODS CAME TO SHIVA.

WE BEG YOU TO RESTORE KAMA  
TO RATI. FOR THE SAKE OF  
YOUR LOVELY BRIDE, HAVE  
PITY ON THE TENDER GOD  
AND HIS MOURNING WIFE.

I WILL. AM I  
NOT KAMA'S SLAVE  
TOO, NOW?



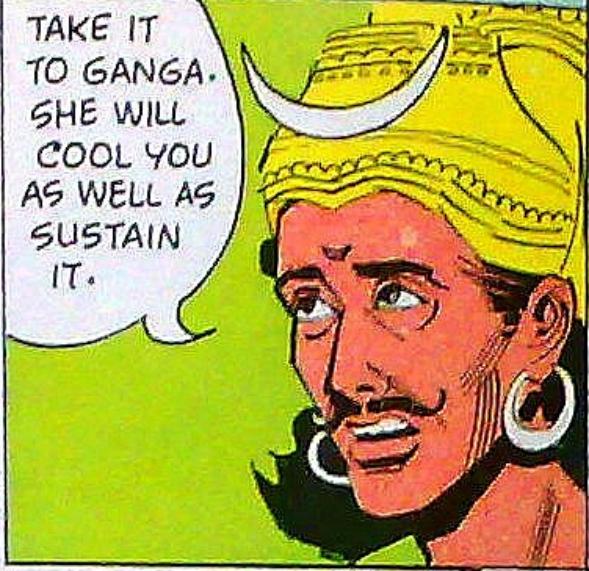


BY THE TIME HE REACHED INDRA, HE BECAME PALE WITH DISCOMFORT.

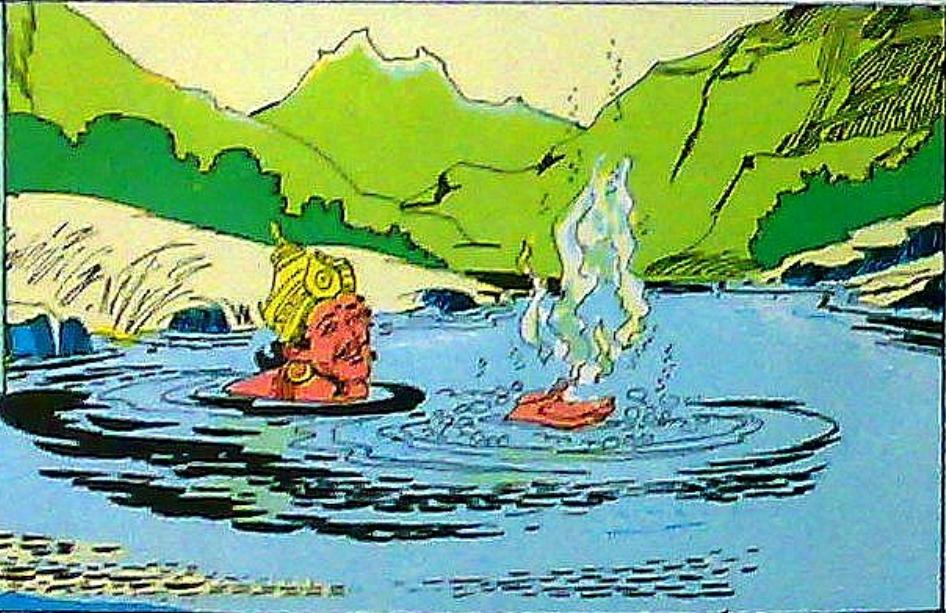


INDRA FELT SORRY FOR HIM.

TAKE IT TO GANGA. SHE WILL COOL YOU AS WELL AS SUSTAIN IT.



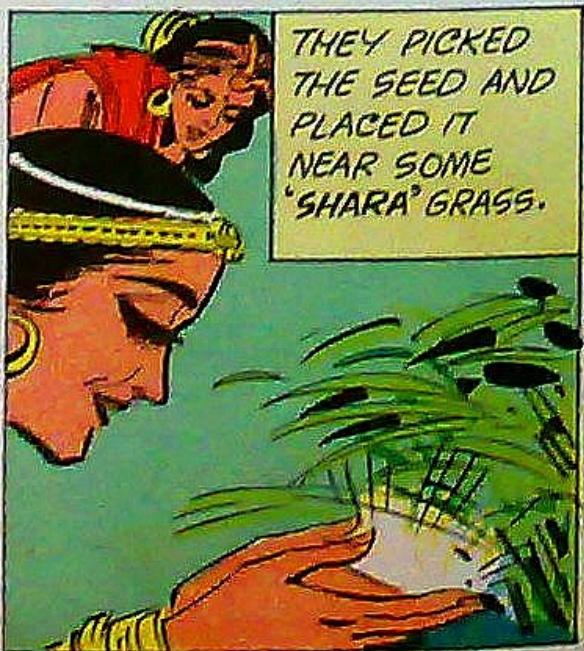
AGNI WENT TO GANGA. BUT WHEN HE DIPPED HIMSELF AND THE SEED IN HER COOL WATERS, SHE BUBBLED AND BOILED OVER, AND THE SEED WAS THROWN ASHORE.



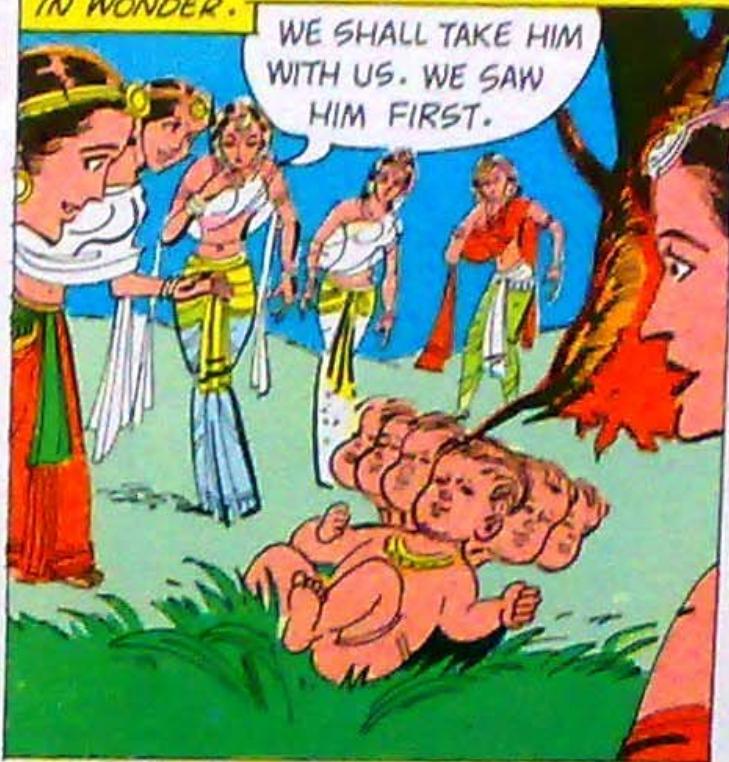
JUST THEN SIX CELESTIAL NYMPHS CAME TO BATHE IN THE GANGA.



THEY PICKED THE SEED AND PLACED IT NEAR SOME 'SHARA' GRASS.



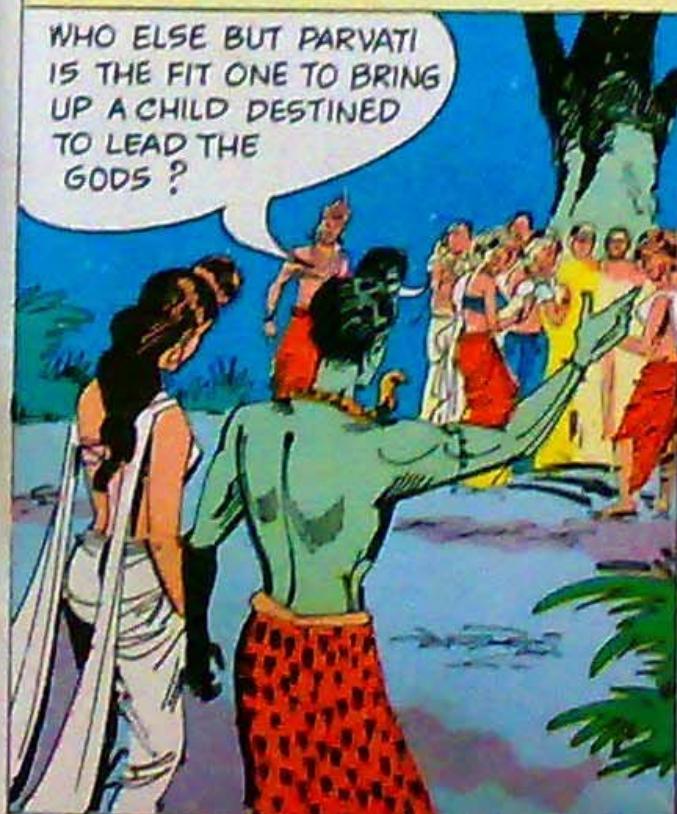
THE SEED AT THAT MOMENT WAS RIPE AND KARTIKEYA EMERGED. THE CHILD GREW SIX FACES TO CHUCKLE AT EACH OF THE SIX NYMPHS WHO GAZED AT IT IN WONDER.



JUST THEN GANGA CAME OUT IN THE FORM OF A WOMAN AND AGNI TOO APPEARED.



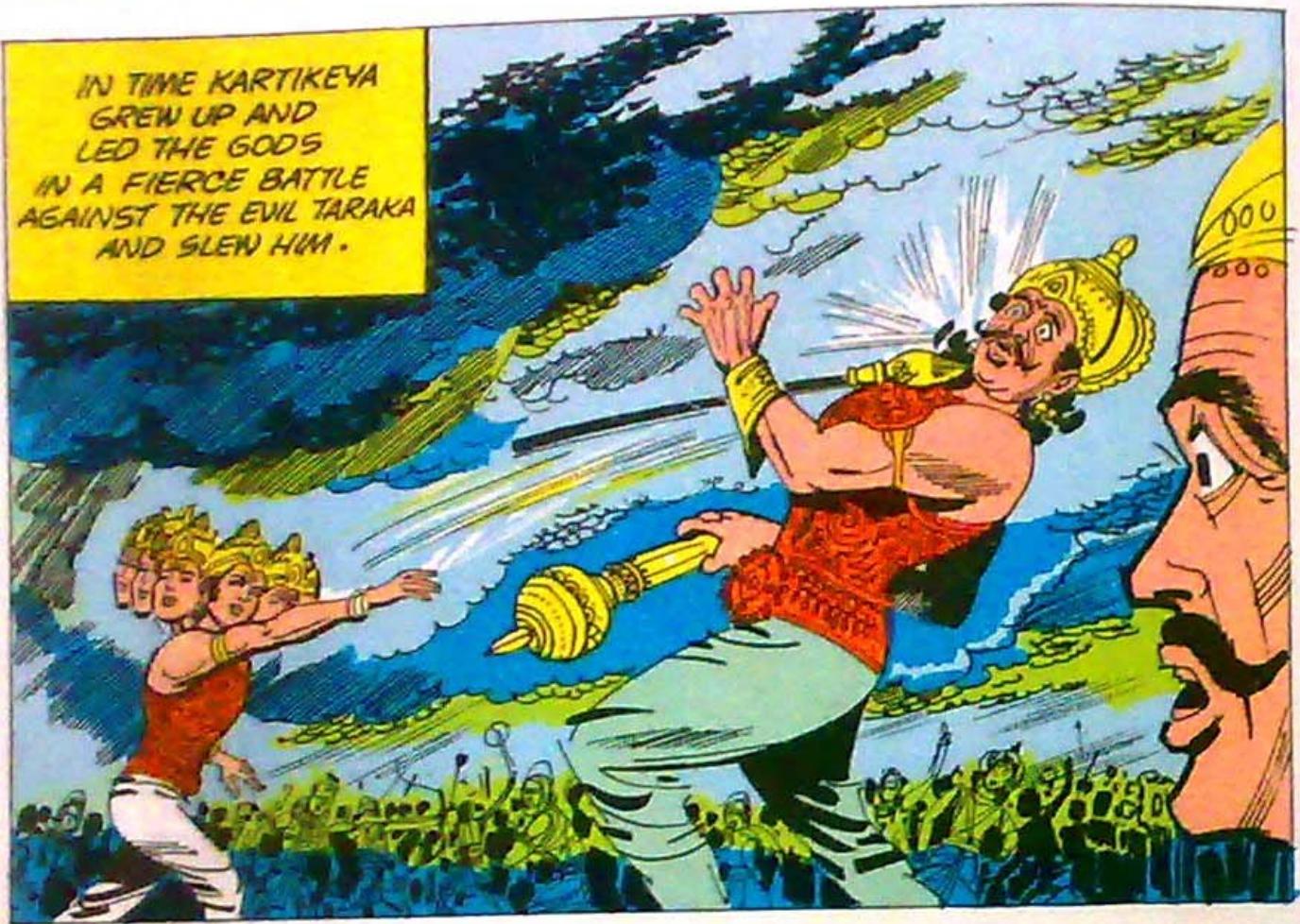
AT THAT MOMENT SHIVA AND PARVATI REACHED THE SCENE. SHIVA SETTLED THE MATTER.



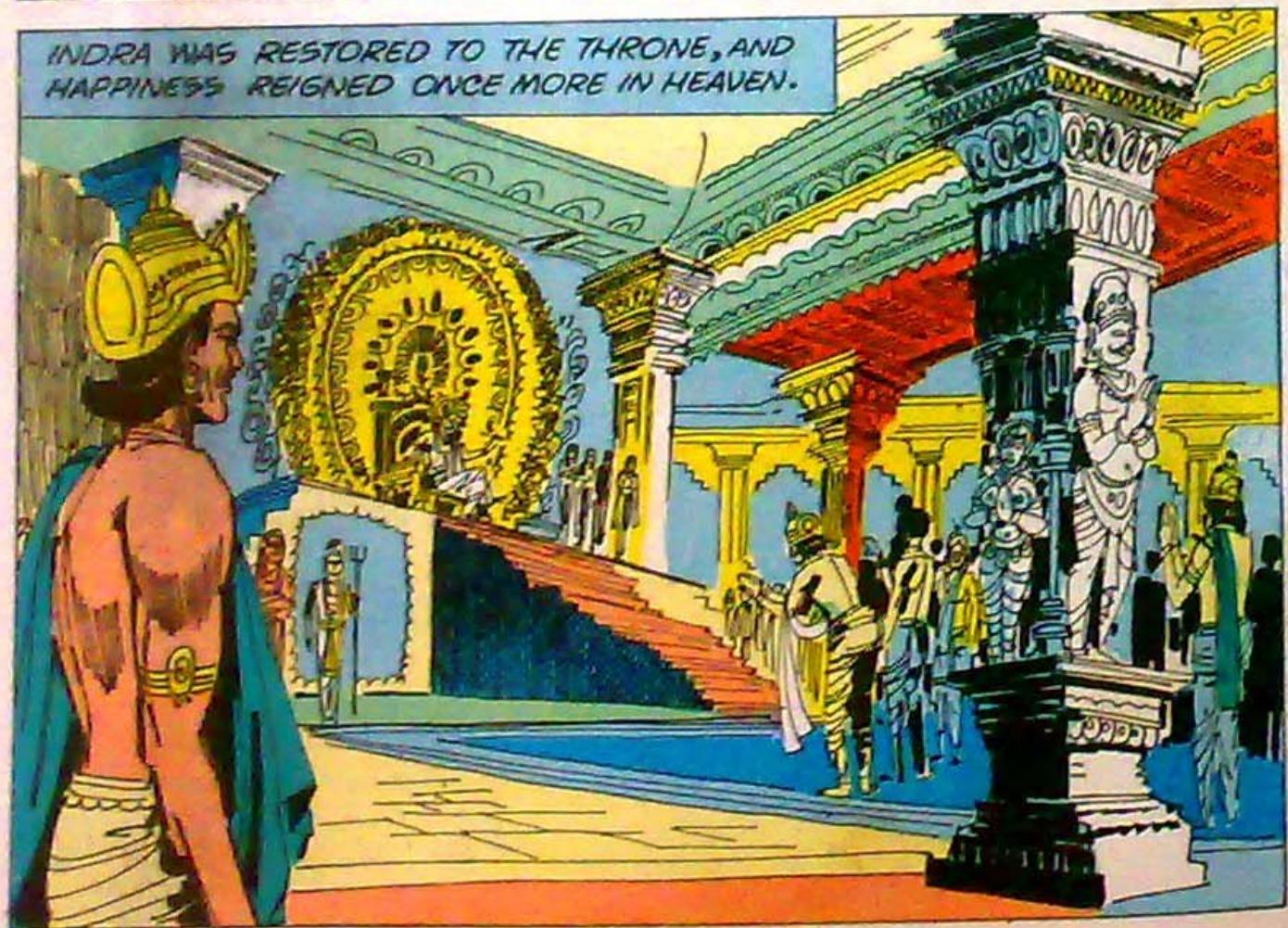
PARVATI PICKED THE CHILD UP TENDERLY AND CLASPED IT TO HER.



IN TIME KARTIKEYA  
GREW UP AND  
LED THE GODS  
IN A FIERCE BATTLE  
AGAINST THE EVIL TARAKA  
AND SLEW HIM.



INDRA WAS RESTORED TO THE THRONE, AND  
HAPPINESS REIGNED ONCE MORE IN HEAVEN.





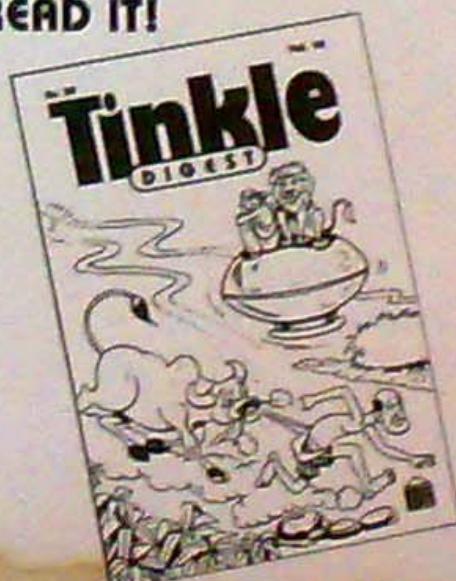
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