

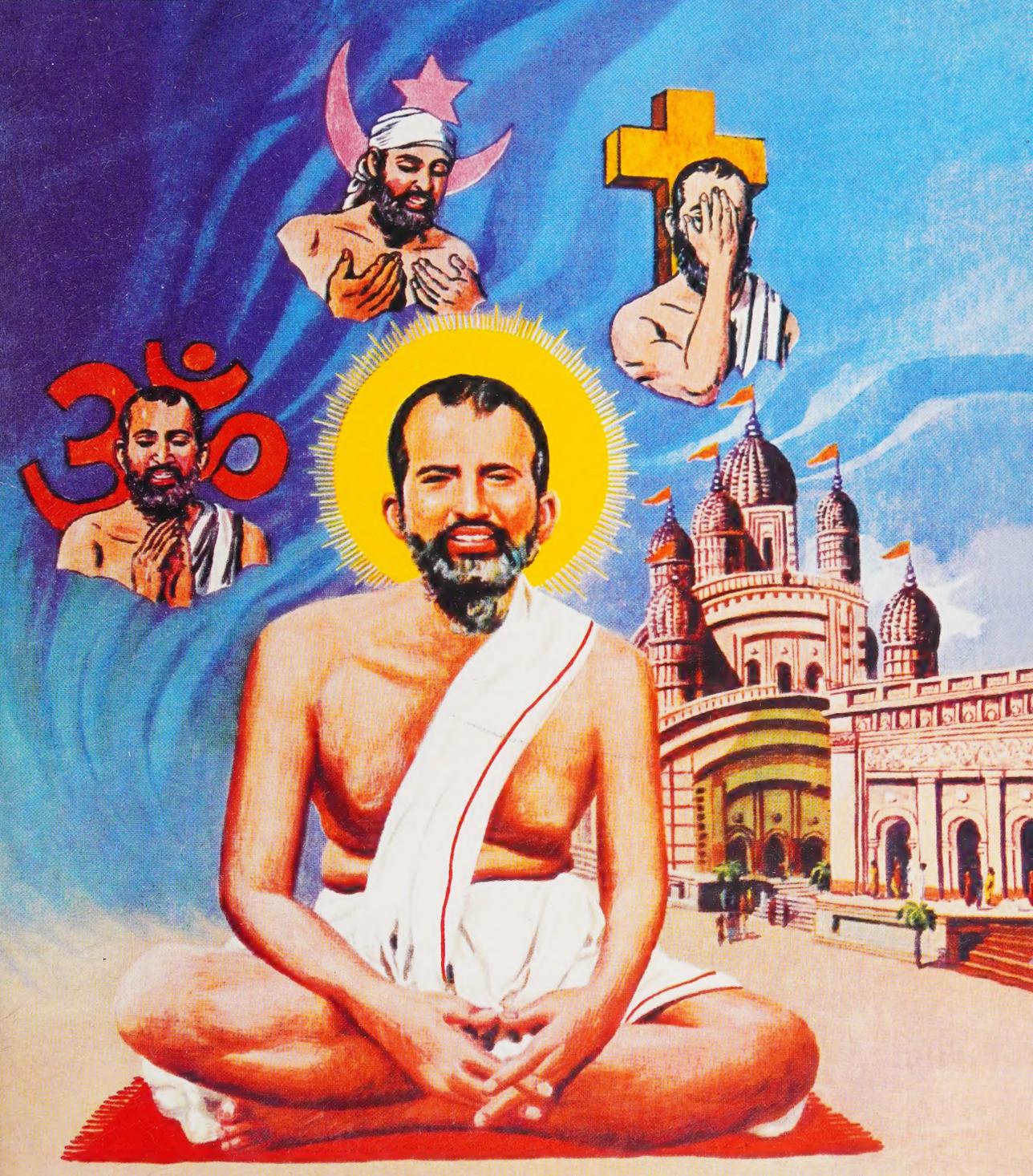


SRI RAMAKRISHNA

THE SAINT OF DAKSHINESWAR

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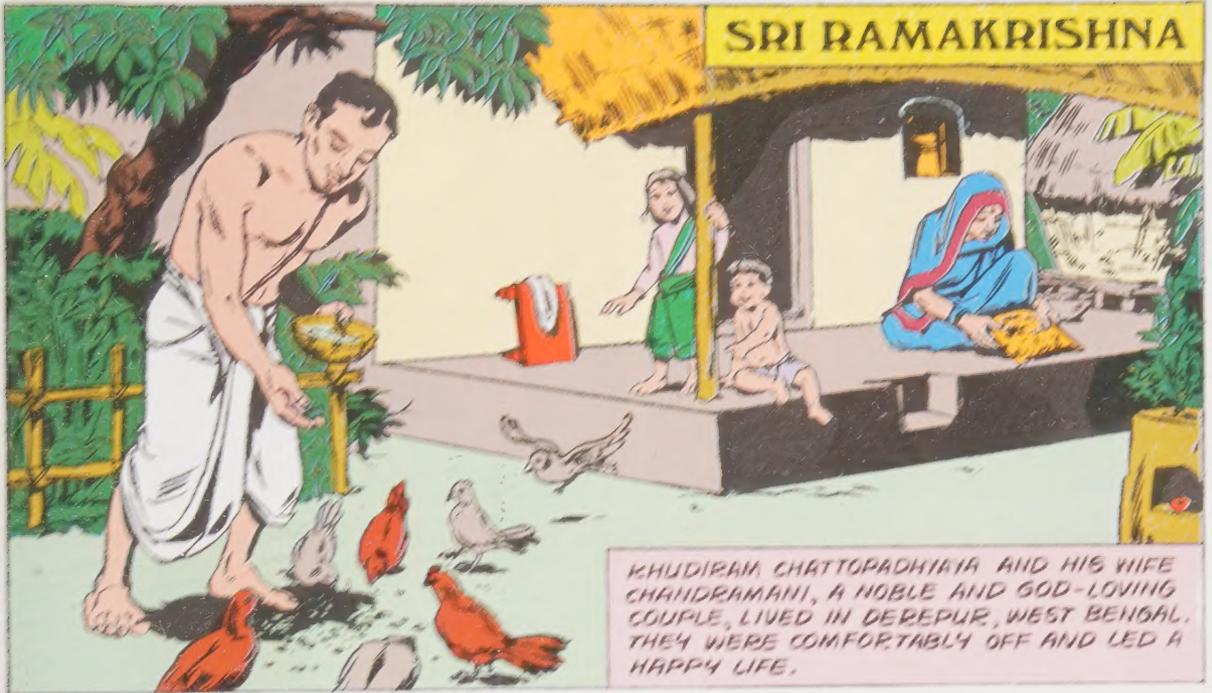
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Anant Pai

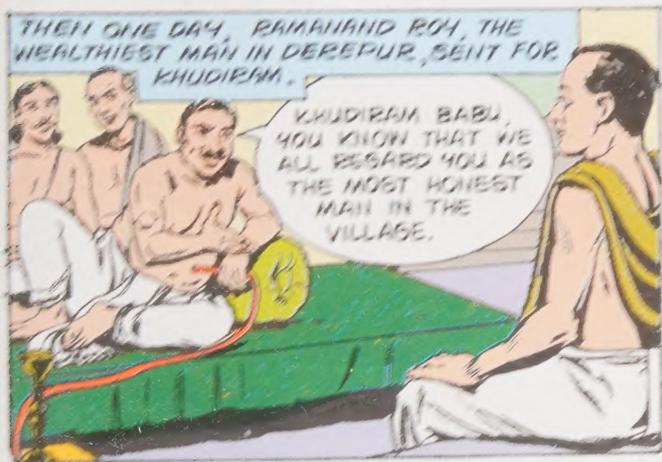
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SRI RAMAKRISHNA

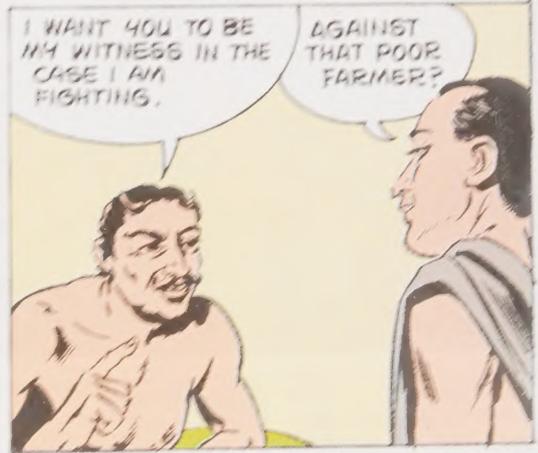


KHUDIRAM CHATTOPADHYAYA AND HIS WIFE CHANDRAMANI, A NOBLE AND GOD-LOVING COUPLE, LIVED IN DEREPUR, WEST BENGAL. THEY WERE COMFORTABLY OFF AND LED A HAPPY LIFE.



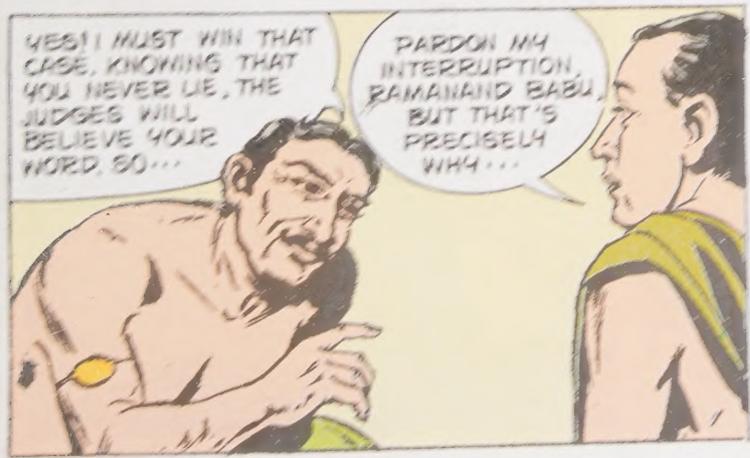
THEN ONE DAY, RAMANAND ROY, THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN DEREPUR, SENT FOR KHUDIRAM.

KHUDIRAM BABU, YOU KNOW THAT WE ALL REGARD YOU AS THE MOST HONEST MAN IN THE VILLAGE.



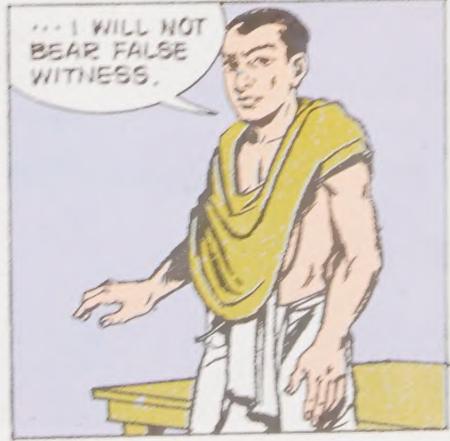
I WANT YOU TO BE MY WITNESS IN THE CASE I AM FIGHTING.

AGAINST THAT POOR FARMER?

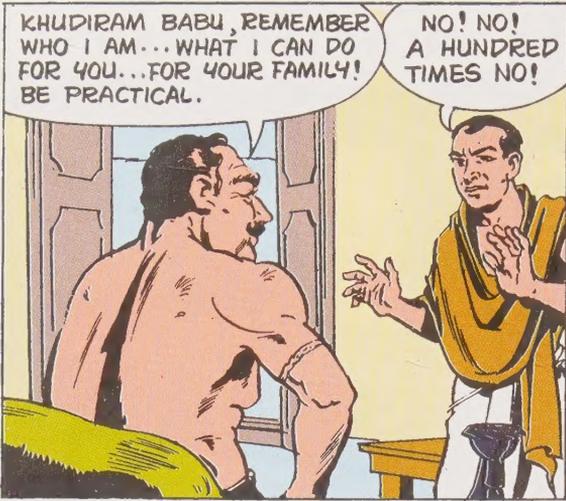


YES! I MUST WIN THAT CASE, KNOWING THAT YOU NEVER LIE, THE JUDGES WILL BELIEVE YOUR WORD, SO...

PARDON MY INTERRUPTION, RAMANAND BABU, BUT THAT'S PRECISELY WHY...

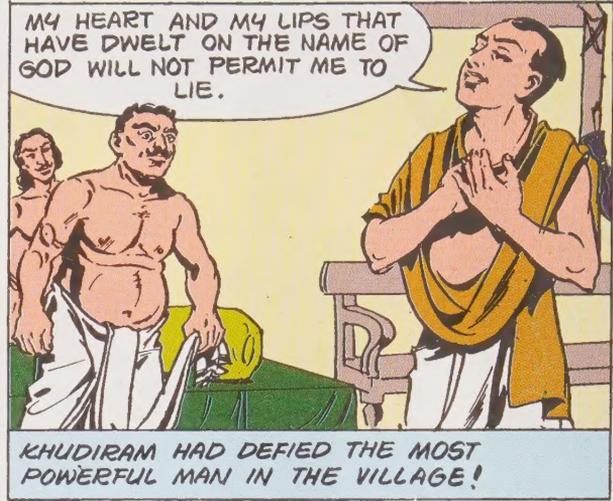


... I WILL NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS.



KHUDIRAM BABU, REMEMBER WHO I AM...WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU...FOR YOUR FAMILY! BE PRACTICAL.

NO! NO! A HUNDRED TIMES NO!



MY HEART AND MY LIPS THAT HAVE DWELT ON THE NAME OF GOD WILL NOT PERMIT ME TO LIE.

KHUDIRAM HAD DEFIED THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE VILLAGE!

AND KHUDIRAM HAD TO PAY FOR IT. RAMANAND BROUGHT A FALSE CASE AGAINST HIM THIS TIME, AND WON IT BY UNFAIR MEANS. KHUDIRAM HAD TO FORFEIT ALL HIS PROPERTY.



OUR HOUSE, OUR CATTLE... WE HAVE LOST EVERYTHING...

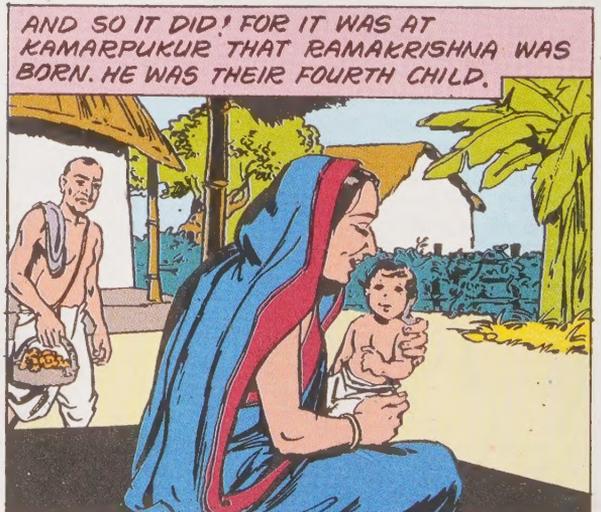
NO, CHANDRA. WE STILL HAVE OUR HONOUR. THAT IS EVERYTHING.



FORTUNATELY, ONE OF KHUDIRAM'S FRIENDS OFFERED THEM A HOUSE AT THE VILLAGE OF KAMARPUKUR.

HOW MUCH I WILL MISS DEREPUR!

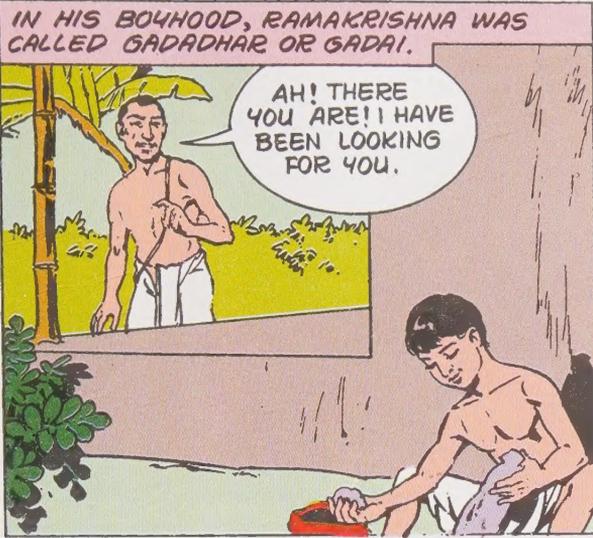
WHO KNOWS? KAMARPUKUR MAY MEAN GOOD THINGS FOR US!



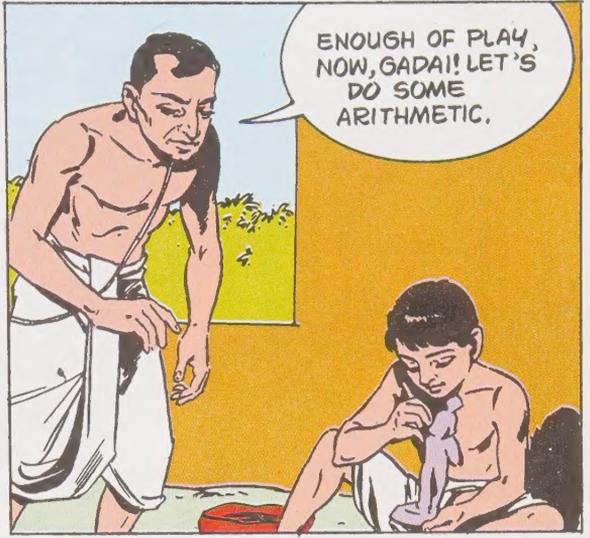
AND SO IT DID! FOR IT WAS AT KAMARPUKUR THAT RAMAKRISHNA WAS BORN. HE WAS THEIR FOURTH CHILD.

IN HIS BOYHOOD, RAMAKRISHNA WAS CALLED GADADHAR OR GADAI.

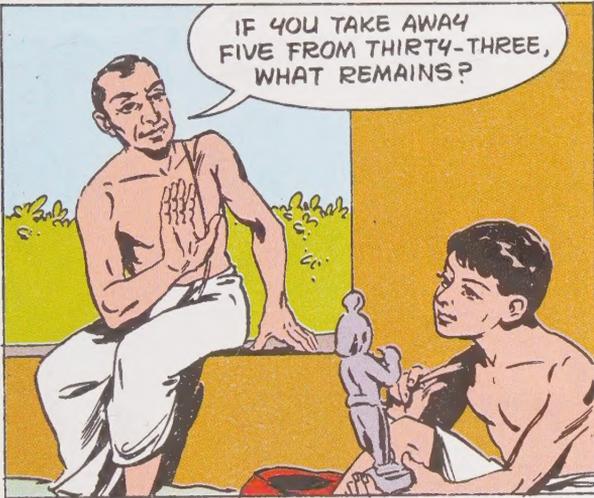
AH! THERE YOU ARE! I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.



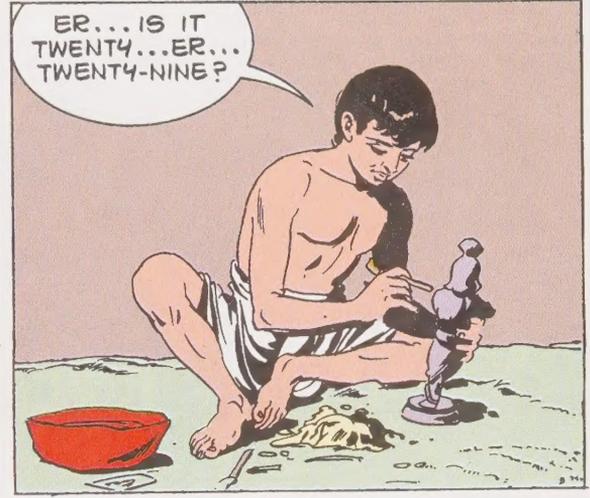
ENOUGH OF PLAY, NOW, GADAI! LET'S DO SOME ARITHMETIC.



IF YOU TAKE AWAY FIVE FROM THIRTY-THREE, WHAT REMAINS?

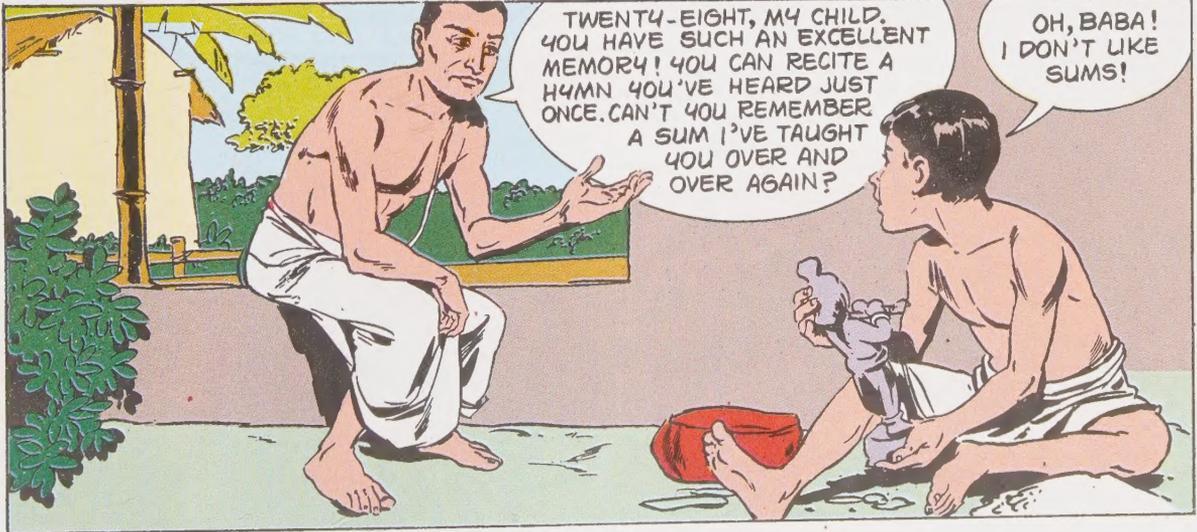


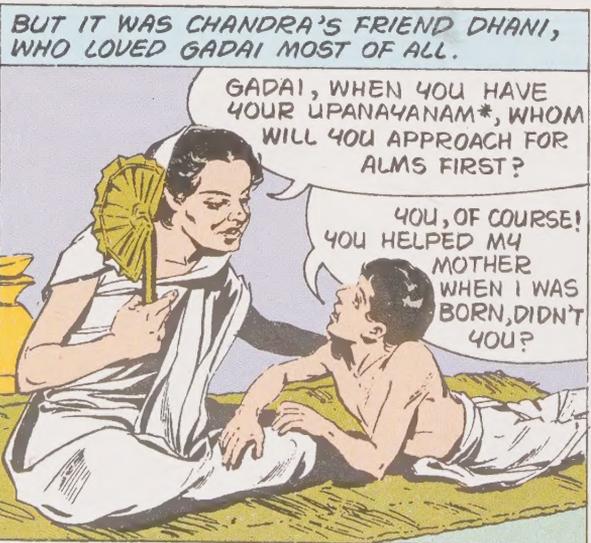
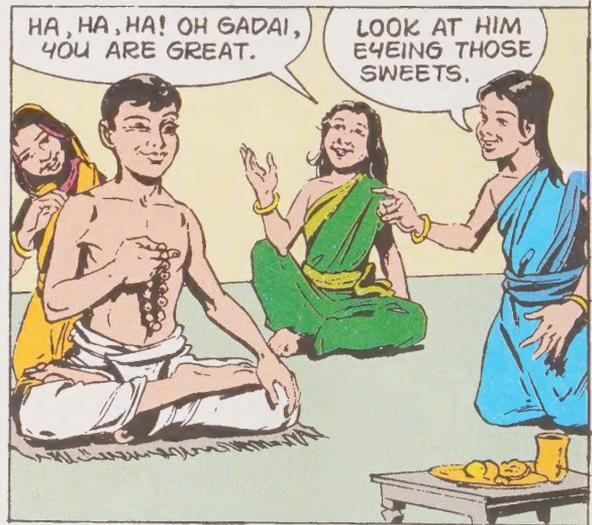
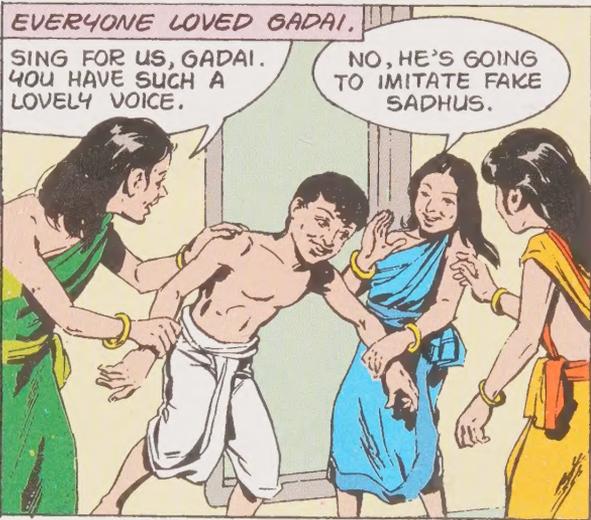
ER... IS IT TWENTY... ER... TWENTY-NINE?



TWENTY-EIGHT, MY CHILD. YOU HAVE SUCH AN EXCELLENT MEMORY! YOU CAN RECITE A HYMN YOU'VE HEARD JUST ONCE. CAN'T YOU REMEMBER A SUM I'VE TAUGHT YOU OVER AND OVER AGAIN?

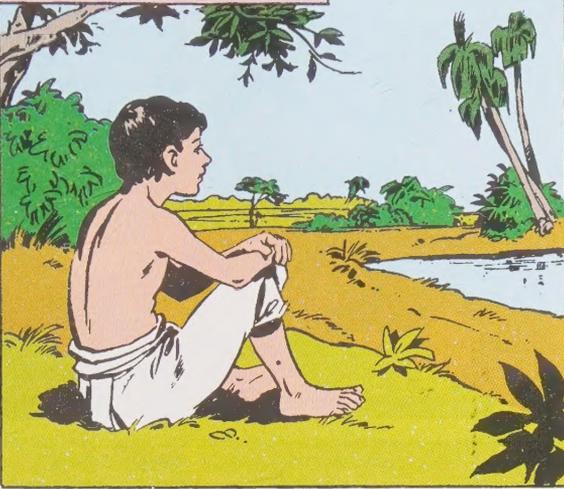
OH, BABA! I DON'T LIKE SUMS!



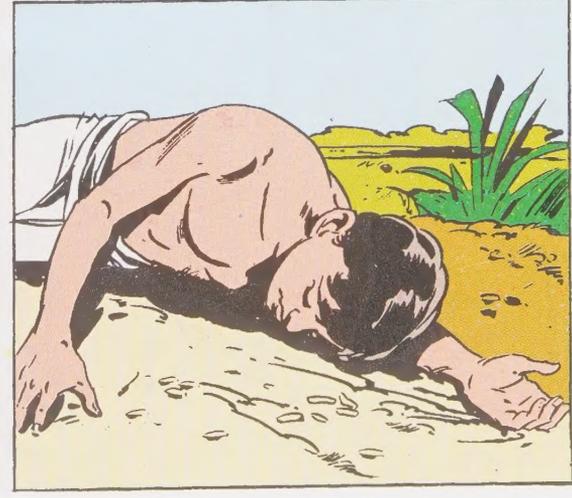
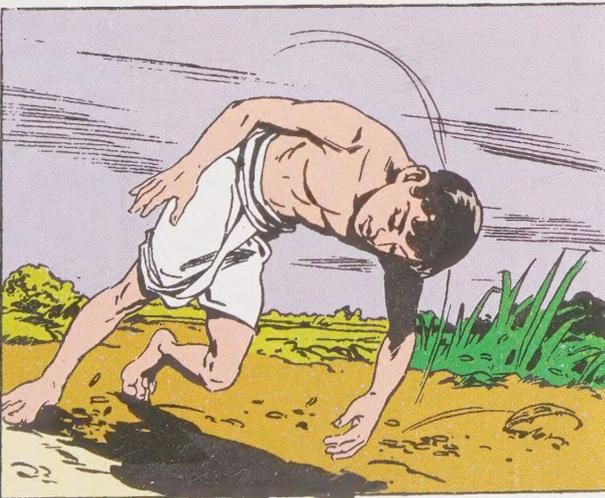
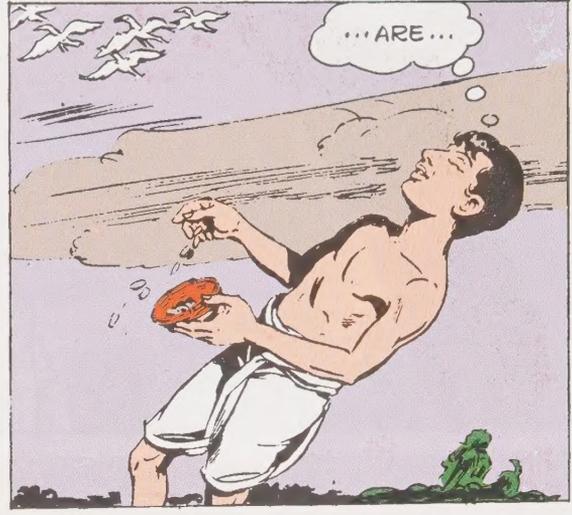
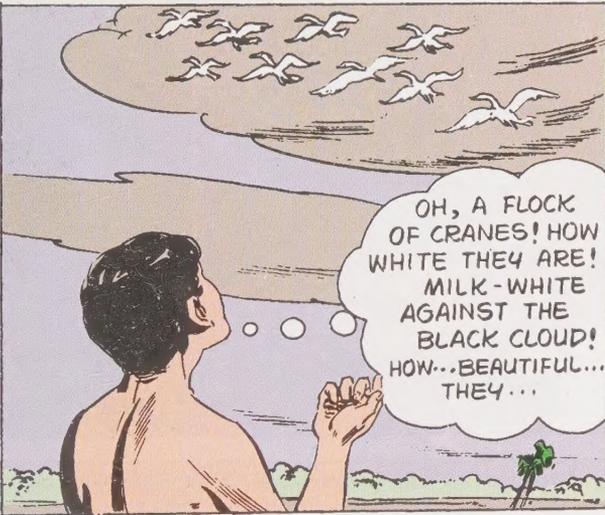
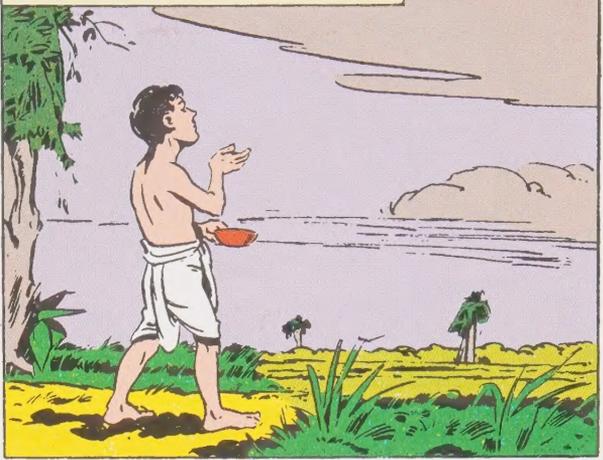


* THREAD CEREMONY

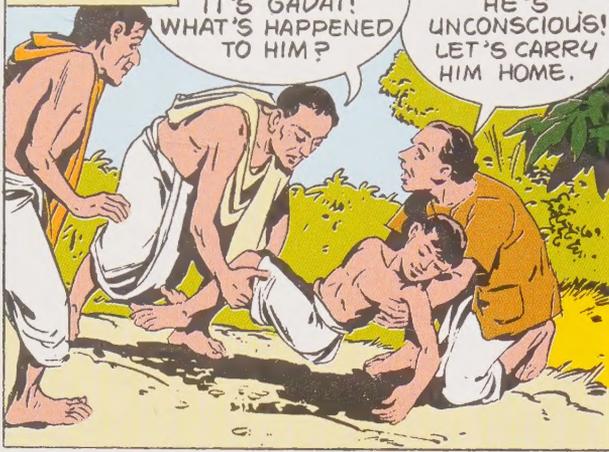
THOUGH FULL OF FUN, GADAI OFTEN LIKED TO BE ALONE WITH THE BEAUTY AND SERENITY OF NATURE.



ONE DAY, AS HE WAS WALKING ALONG THE RIDGES OF THE FIELDS, EATING PARCHED RICE, A THUNDER-CLOUD DARKENED THE SKY. HE STOPPED TO GAZE AT IT.



A LITTLE LATER, SOME VILLAGERS CAME THAT WAY.

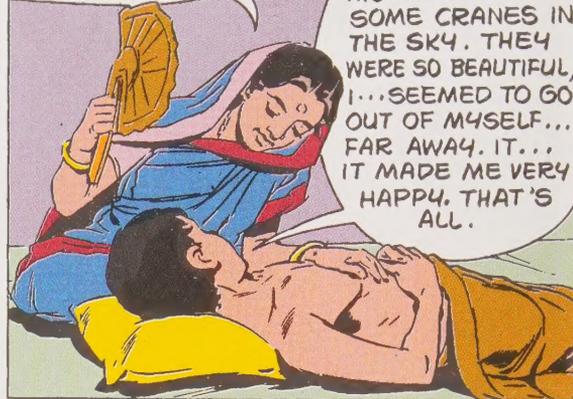


IT'S GADAI!
WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO HIM?

HE'S
UNCONSCIOUS!
LET'S CARRY
HIM HOME.

AT HOME —

WHAT HAPPENED,
MY CHILD?



IT WAS NOTHING,
MOTHER. I SAW
SOME CRANES IN
THE SKY. THEY
WERE SO BEAUTIFUL,
I... SEEMED TO GO
OUT OF MYSELF.,
FAR AWAY. IT...
IT MADE ME VERY
HAPPY. THAT'S
ALL.

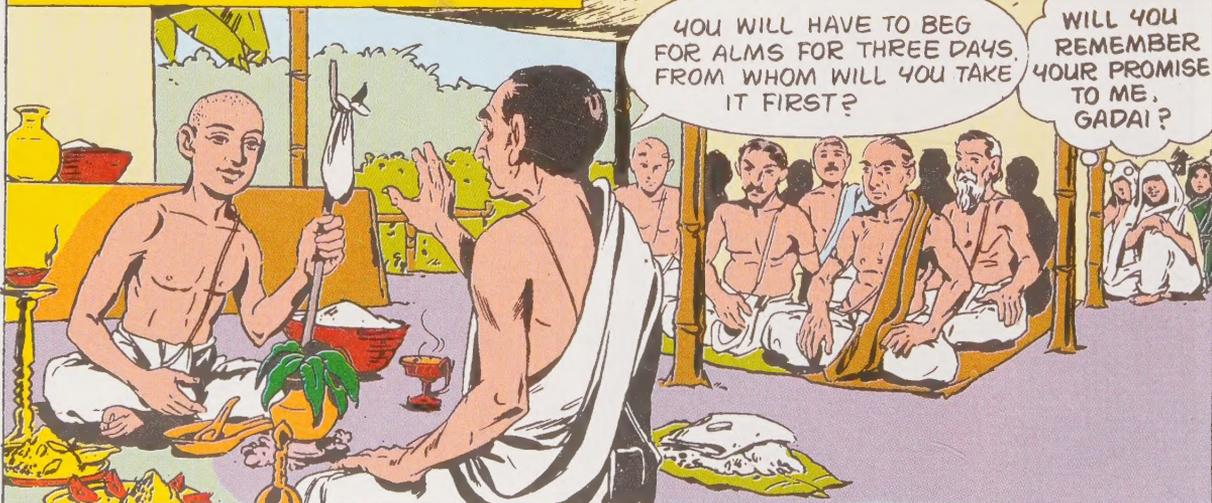
AND THEN, KHUDIRAM SUDDENLY FELL ILL AND DIED. GADAI DEEPLY FELT THE LOSS OF HIS GENTLE FATHER.



ISN'T THAT GADAI
OVER THERE?

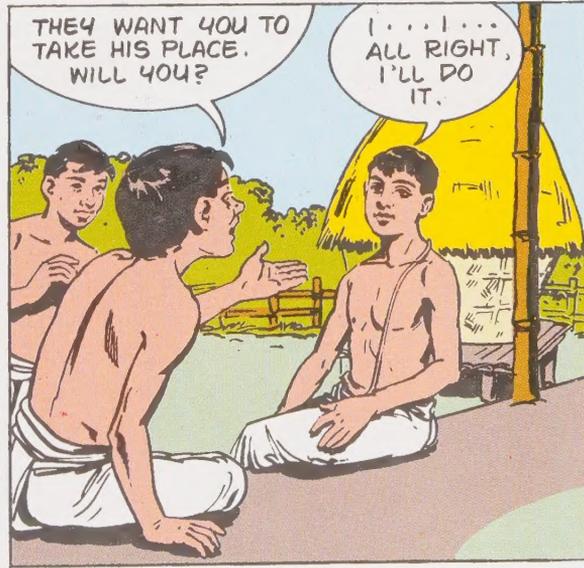
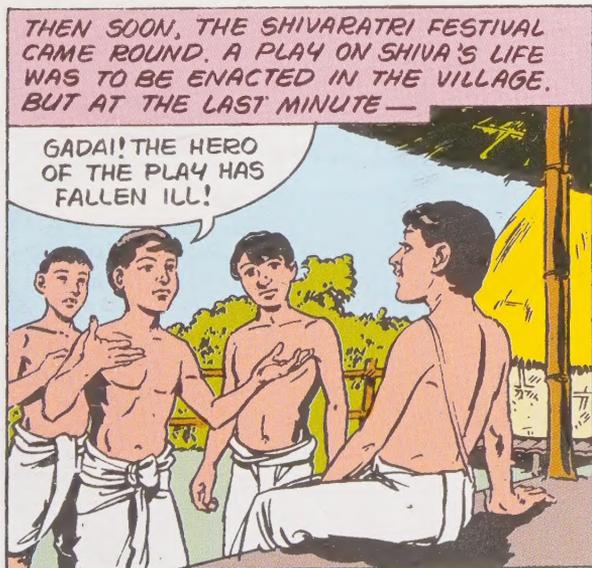
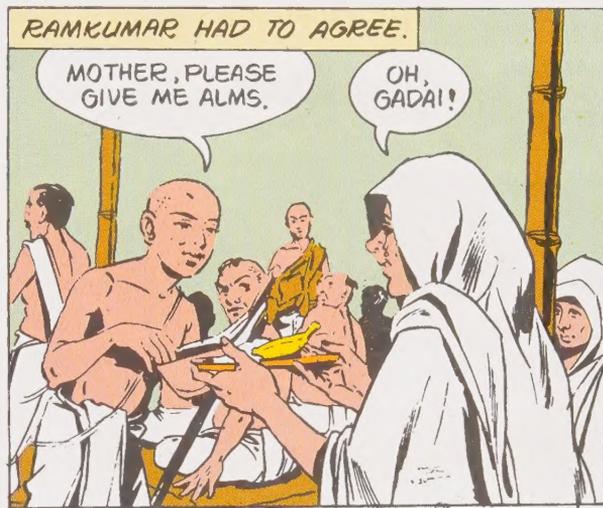
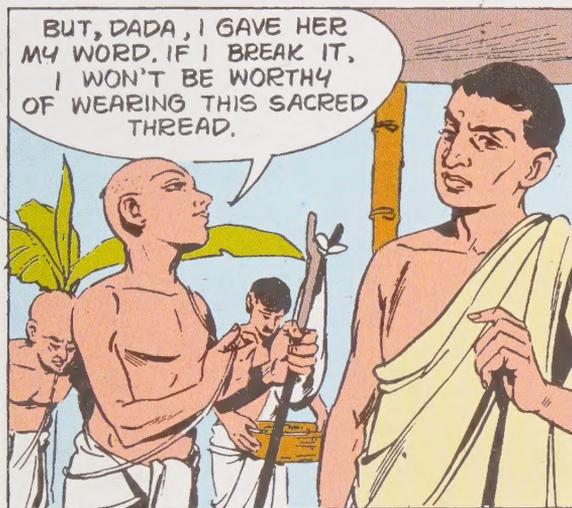
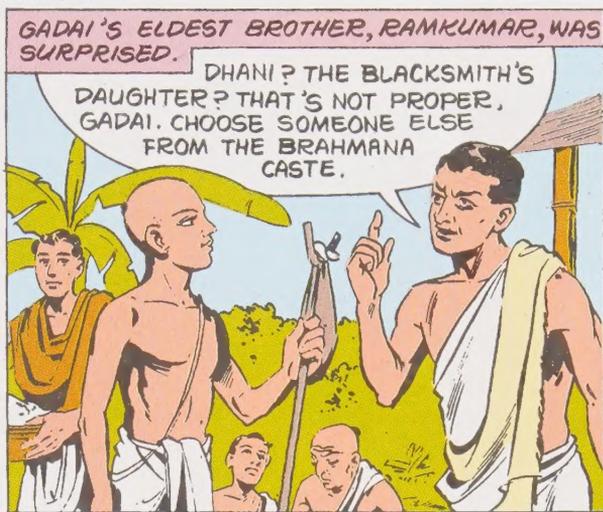
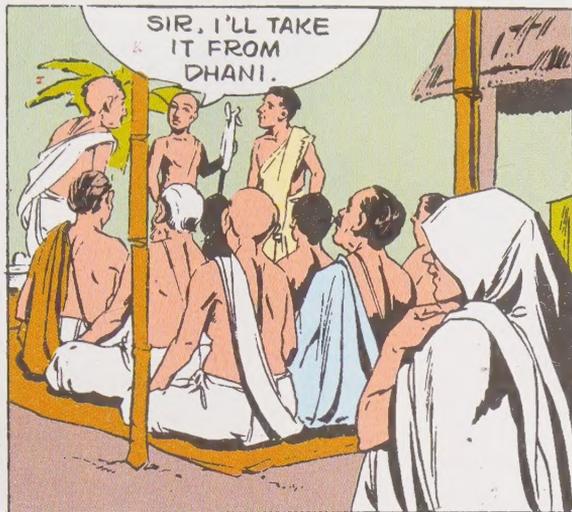
IT IS. THE POOR
CHILD! HOW QUIET
AND THOUGHTFUL
HE HAS
BECOME!

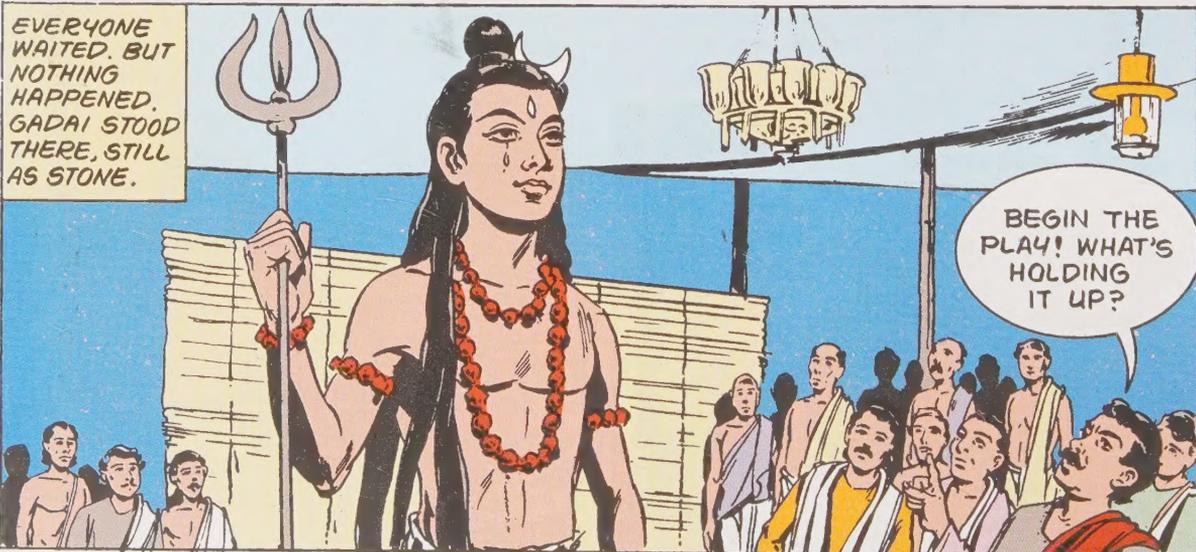
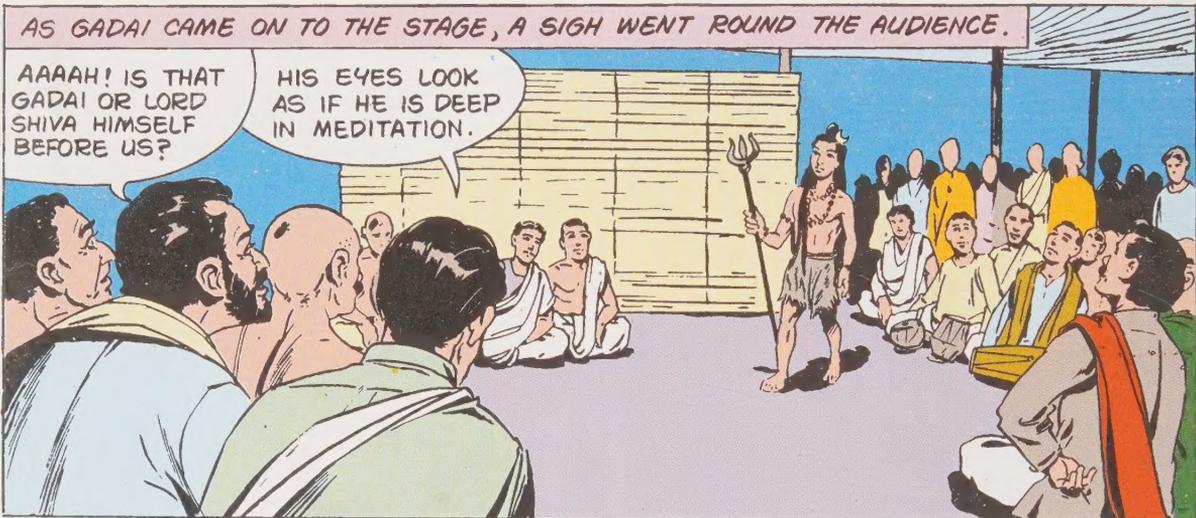
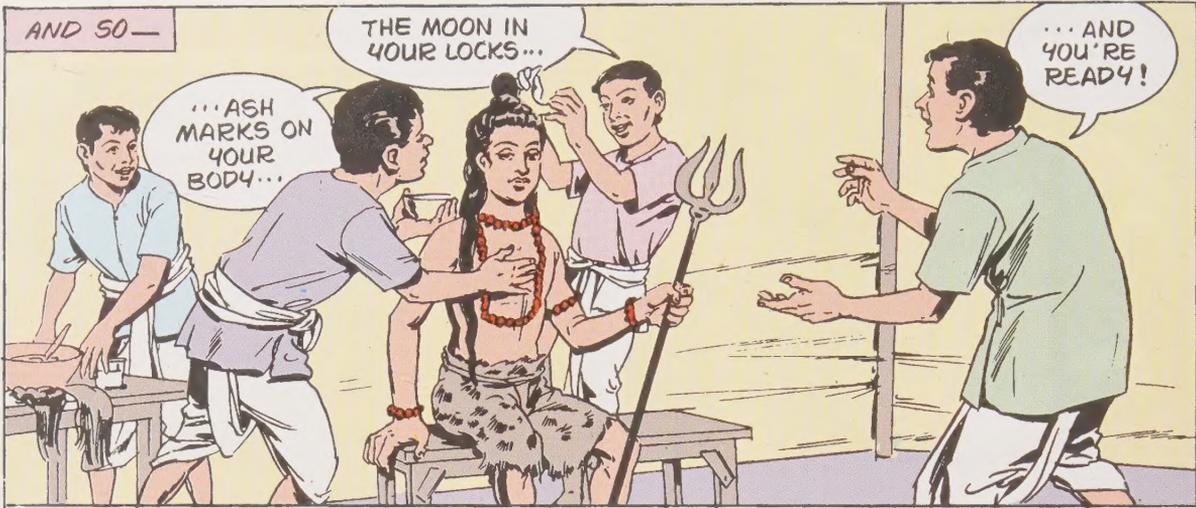
SOON AFTER, WHEN GADAI WAS NINE, HIS THREAD CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED. TOWARDS THE END OF THE CEREMONY —



YOU WILL HAVE TO BEG
FOR ALMS FOR THREE DAYS.
FROM WHOM WILL YOU TAKE
IT FIRST?

WILL YOU
REMEMBER
YOUR PROMISE
TO ME,
GADAI?

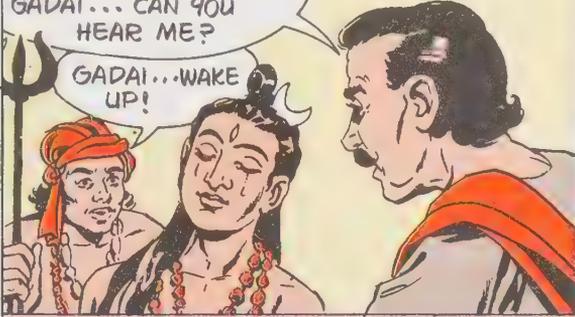




THE DIRECTOR AND THE OTHER ACTORS RUSHED ON TO THE STAGE.

WHY! THE BOY IS UNCONSCIOUS! GADAI, GADAI... CAN YOU HEAR ME?

GADAI...WAKE UP!



BUT GADAI WAS ABSOLUTELY UNAWARE OF THEM.

HE HAD TO BE CARRIED HOME.

DID YOU SEE THAT DIVINE SMILE ON HIS FACE?

I DID. HE MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO A TRANCE.



GADAI CONTINUED TO ACT IN PLAYS AND THIS WORRIED HIS BROTHER RAMKUMAR.

GADAI IS NOW SEVENTEEN. I'LL TAKE HIM WITH ME TO MY OWN SCHOOL IN CALCUTTA.



SO LATER —

GADAI, I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME TO CALCUTTA.

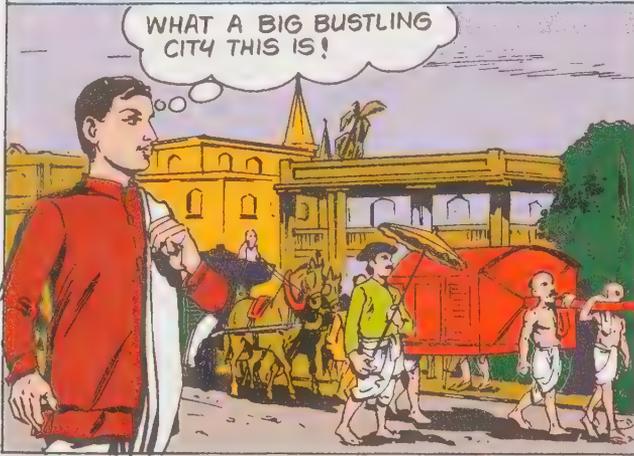
ALL RIGHT, DADA. I WILL.



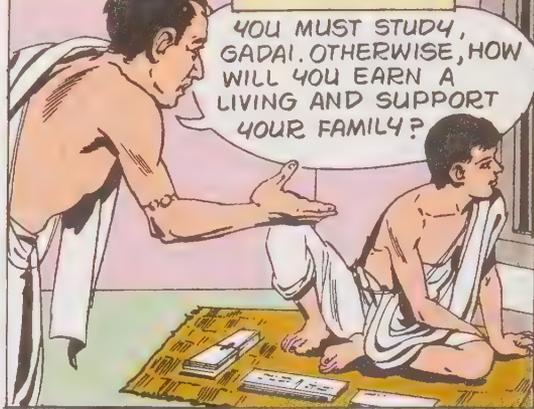
AND SO ENDED GADAI'S CHILDHOOD YEARS IN PEACEFUL KAMARPUKUR.



A NEW LIFE AWAITED HIM AT CALCUTTA.



BUT RAMKUMAR NOTICED THAT HE WAS BECOMING RESTLESS AND INATTENTIVE.



FROM THEN ON, RAMKUMAR LEFT HIM TO HIS OWN PURSUITS.

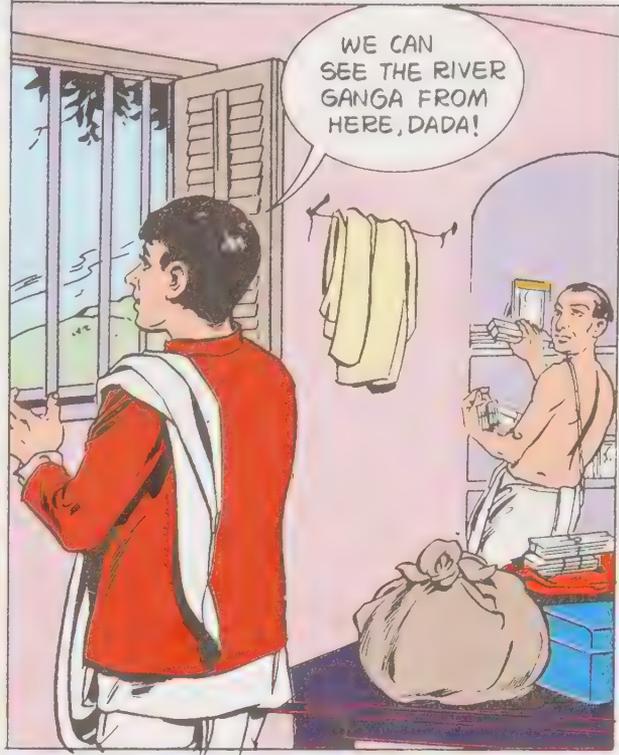
SOMETIME LATER, RAMKUMAR TOOK UP THE JOB OF PRIEST AT A NEW TEMPLE AT DAKSHINESHWAR * DEDICATED TO GODDESS KALI, AND THE TWO BROTHERS WENT TO LIVE THERE.



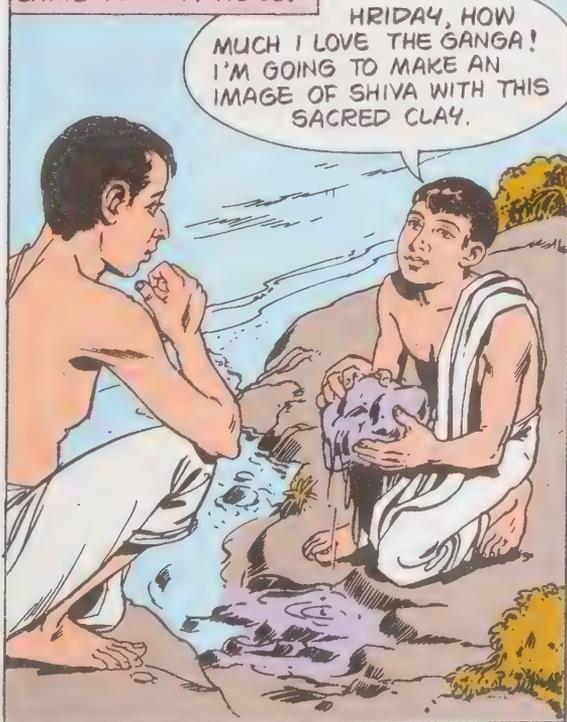
A RICH LADY NAMED RANI RASMANI OWNED THE MAGNIFICENT TEMPLE WHICH SHE HAD CONSTRUCTED WITH THE HELP OF HER SON-IN-LAW, MATHUR MOHAN.



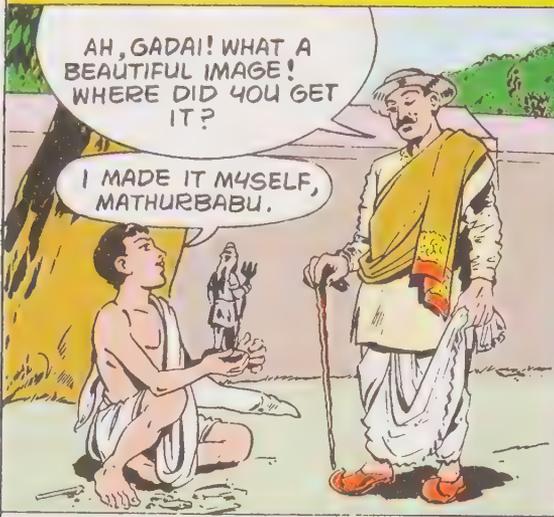
* FOUR MILES NORTH OF CALCUTTA



IF GADAI HAD BEEN RESTLESS BEFORE, NOW AT DAKSHINESHWAR, HE WAS HAPPY. HRIDAY RAM, GADAI'S NEPHEW, ALSO CAME TO STAY HERE.



JUST THEN, MATHUR PASSED THAT WAY.



AH, GADAI! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL IMAGE! WHERE DID YOU GET IT?

I MADE IT MYSELF, MATHURBABU.

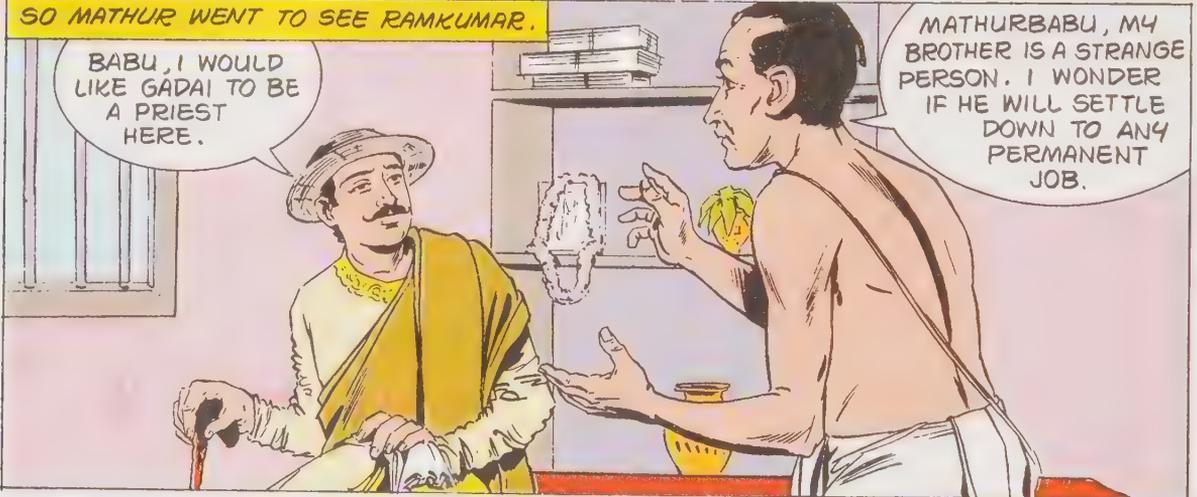
MATHUR TOOK THE IMAGE TO RANI RASMANI.



WHAT AN EXQUISITE WORK OF ART! I SEE IN GADAI A SOUL THAT IS VERY CLOSE TO GOD.

THERE IS SOMETHING SO SPECIAL, SO DIFFERENT ABOUT THAT BOY. I WANT HIM TO BE WITH US ALWAYS.

SO MATHUR WENT TO SEE RAMKUMAR.



BABU, I WOULD LIKE GADAI TO BE A PRIEST HERE.

MATHURBABU, MY BROTHER IS A STRANGE PERSON. I WONDER IF HE WILL SETTLE DOWN TO ANY PERMANENT JOB.

GADAI LEARNT OF MATHUR'S INTEREST IN HIM FROM RAMKUMAR. BUT WHEN MATHUR TRIED TO APPROACH HIM —

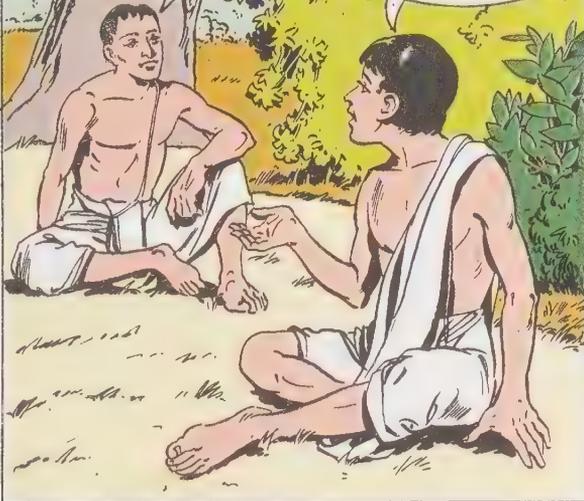


GADAI! GADAI, WAIT! I WANT TO ASK YOU... OH, HE'S GONE!

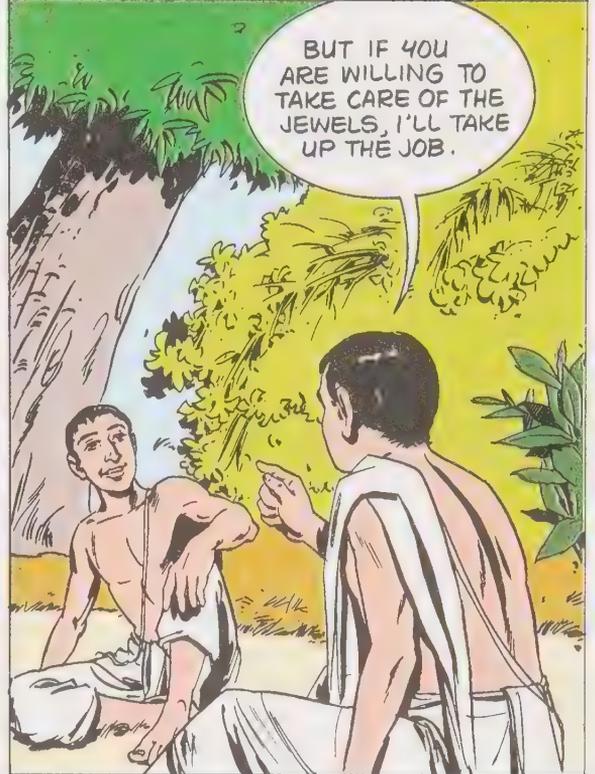
HRIDAY WAS SURPRISED AT GADAI'S BEHAVIOUR.

WHY DO YOU AVOID MATHUR? WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A PRIEST? YOU ARE ALWAYS THINKING OF GOD, IN ANY CASE!

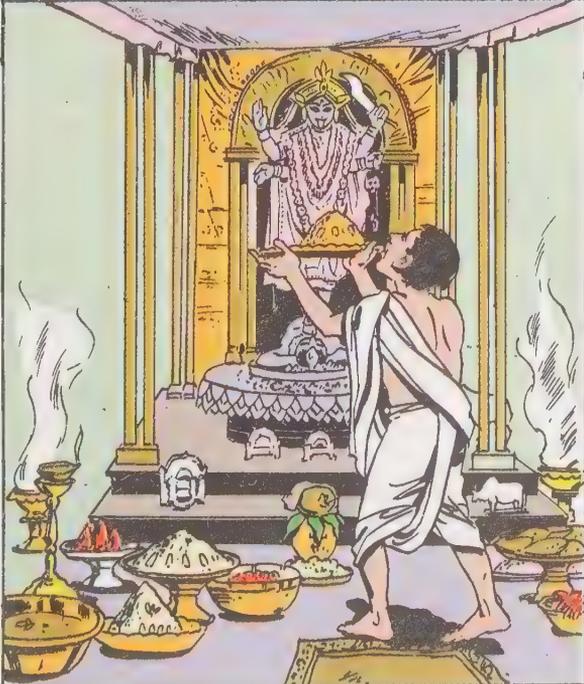
HRIDAY, IF I TAKE THE JOB, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE GODDESS'S JEWELS. I DON'T WANT THAT RESPONSIBILITY.



BUT IF YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE CARE OF THE JEWELS, I'LL TAKE UP THE JOB.



HRIDAY AGREED, SO GADAI BECAME ASSISTANT PRIEST OF THE KALI SHRINE UNDER RAMKUMAR AND BEGAN TO SERVE KALI WITH LOVE AND REVERENCE.



AH, RAMAKRISHNA! MY WISH HAS BEEN FULFILLED! YOU BELONG TO DAKSHINESHWAR NOW.



IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT GADAI CAME TO BE CALLED RAMAKRISHNA. MATHUR IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GIVEN HIM THIS NAME.

ONE DAY, THE RANI AND MATHUR CAME TO RAMAKRISHNA WITH A PROBLEM.

BABA* THE LEG OF THE IDOL OF KRISHNA[⊕] BROKE ACCIDENTALLY. I DON'T WANT TO PART WITH IT. BUT THE PANDITS SAY I MUST IMMERSIVE IT IN THE GANGA.

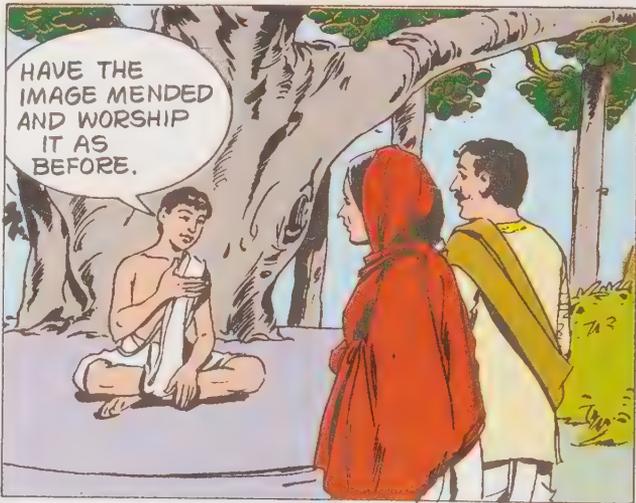
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, BABA?



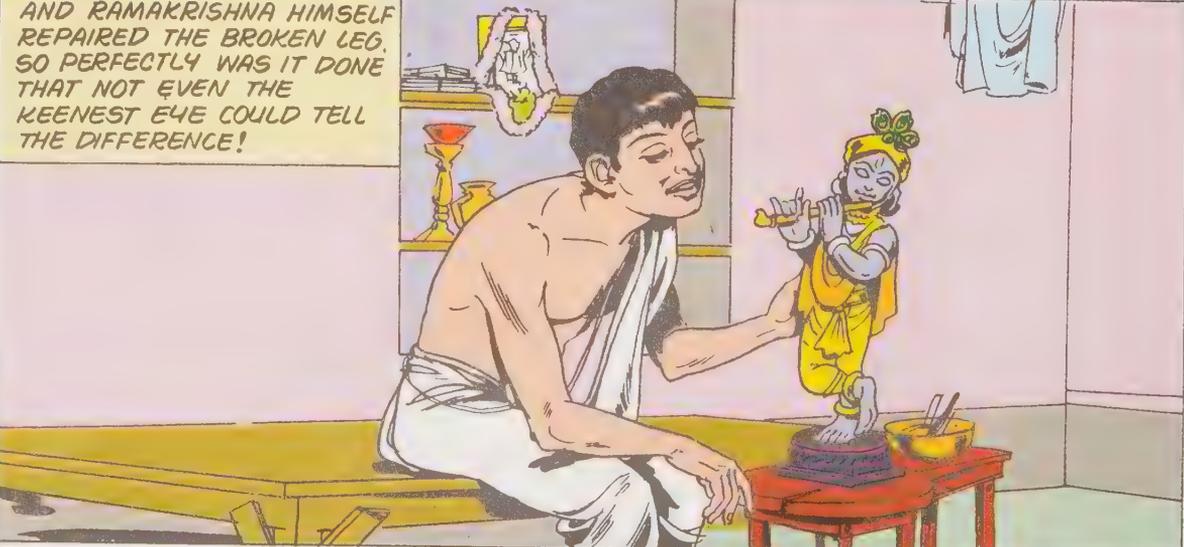
RAMAKRISHNA WAS SILENT FOR A MOMENT. THEN—

IF ONE OF THE RANI'S SONS-IN-LAW WERE TO BREAK A LEG, WOULD SHE THROW HIM AWAY?

HAVE THE IMAGE MENDED AND WORSHIP IT AS BEFORE.



AND RAMAKRISHNA HIMSELF REPAIRED THE BROKEN LEG, SO PERFECTLY WAS IT DONE THAT NOT EVEN THE KEENEST EYE COULD TELL THE DIFFERENCE!



* LITERALLY FATHER — A TERM OF RESPECT

⊕ THERE WAS A SHRINE OF KRISHNA TOO AT DAKSHINESHWAR.

A FEW DAYS LATER RAMKUMAR DIED. THE BEREAVEMENT WAS A GREAT SHOCK TO RAMAKRISHNA.



MOTHER, DADA WAS EVERYTHING TO ME. AND NOW HE IS GONE. DOES NOTHING LAST? IS NOTHING REAL?

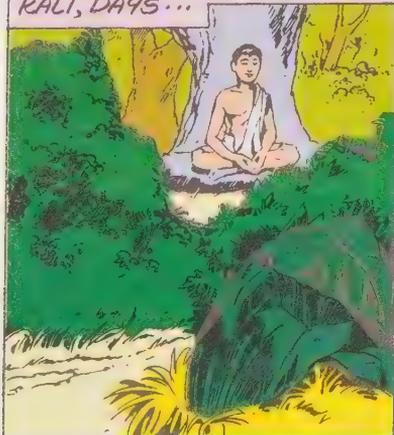


NO, NOTHING IS REAL. ONLY YOU, MOTHER, ARE REAL. NOTHING IS LASTING, BUT YOU.



AND YET, HERE YOU STAND—A STATUE OF STONE. ARE YOU ONLY STONE, MOTHER? NO, I KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALIVE. YOU HAVE SHOWN YOURSELF TO YOUR DEVOTEES IN THE PAST. LET ME TOO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF YOU, MOTHER—JUST ONE GLIMPSE.

AND RAMAKRISHNA FORGOT ABOUT EATING AND ABOUT SLEEPING. AS HE SAT PRAYING TO HIS BELOVED KALI, DAYS...



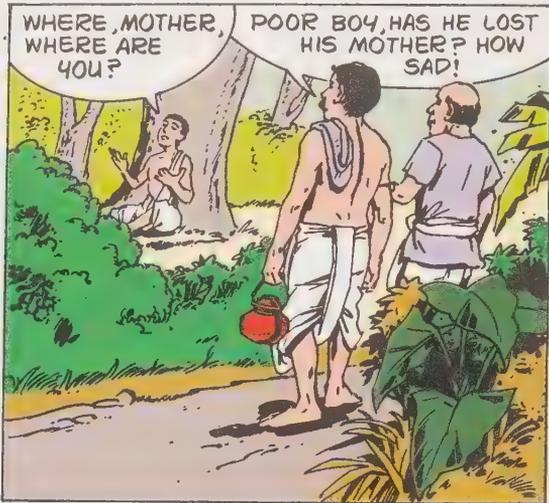
...AND NIGHTS WENT BY.



THEN ONE DAY—

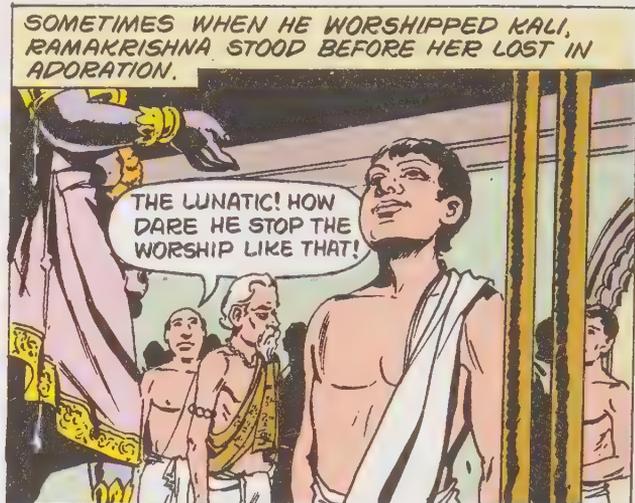


OH... IS IT EVENING? YES, THE TEMPLE BELLS ARE RINGING. ANOTHER DAY HAS GONE BY, MOTHER, AND I HAVE NOT SEEN YOU.



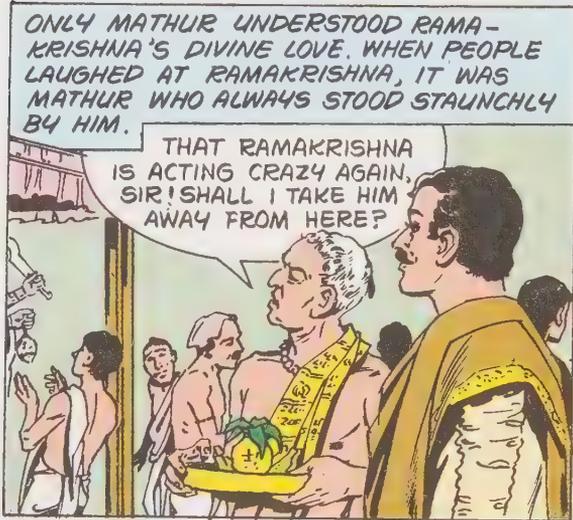
WHERE, MOTHER, WHERE ARE YOU?

POOR BOY, HAS HE LOST HIS MOTHER? HOW SAD!



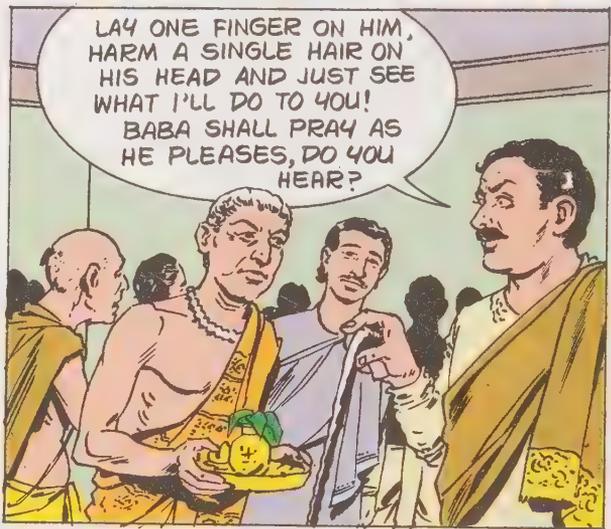
SOMETIMES WHEN HE WORSHIPPED KALI, RAMAKRISHNA STOOD BEFORE HER LOST IN ADORATION.

THE LUNATIC! HOW DARE HE STOP THE WORSHIP LIKE THAT!



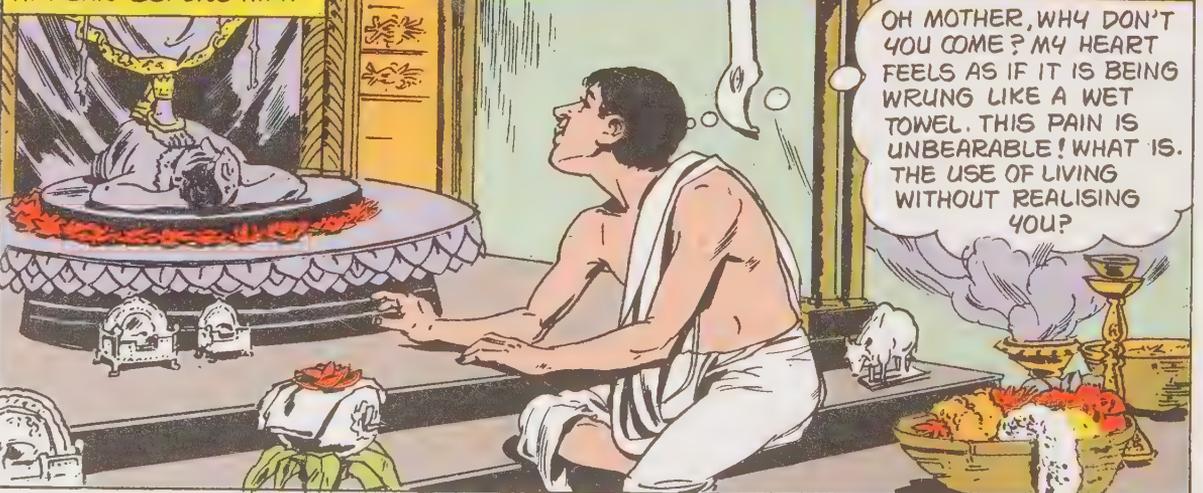
ONLY MATHUR UNDERSTOOD RAMAKRISHNA'S DIVINE LOVE. WHEN PEOPLE LAUGHED AT RAMAKRISHNA, IT WAS MATHUR WHO ALWAYS STOOD STAUNCHLY BY HIM.

THAT RAMAKRISHNA IS ACTING CRAZY AGAIN, SIR! SHALL I TAKE HIM AWAY FROM HERE?

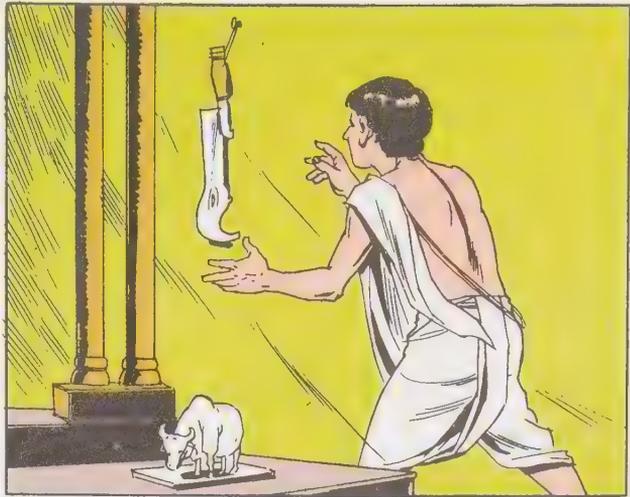


LAY ONE FINGER ON HIM, HARM A SINGLE HAIR ON HIS HEAD AND JUST SEE WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU! BABA SHALL PRAY AS HE PLEASES, DO YOU HEAR?

AS THE DAYS WENT BY, RAMAKRISHNA CONTINUED TO PRAY TO THE GODDESS TO APPEAR BEFORE HIM.



OH MOTHER, WHY DON'T YOU COME? MY HEART FEELS AS IF IT IS BEING WRUNG LIKE A WET TOWEL. THIS PAIN IS UNBEARABLE! WHAT IS THE USE OF LIVING WITHOUT REALISING YOU?



"...SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING VANISHED— DOORS, WINDOWS, THE TEMPLE ITSELF. AROUND ME ROSE WAVES OF DAZZLING LIGHT.



BEFORE RAMAKRISHNA COULD ACT ANY FURTHER, THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN. AS HE HIMSELF WAS TO DESCRIBE IT LATER...

"THEY GREW AND GREW, AND THEN THIS GREAT OCEAN OF LIGHT FLOWED OVER ME, ENGULFING AND SUFFOCATING ME."

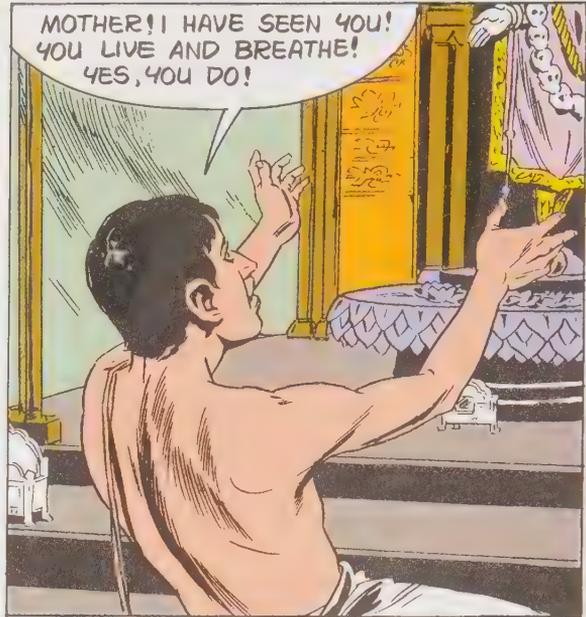


THEN SLOWLY, AS HE REVIVED—

MOTHER,
MOTHER...



MOTHER! I HAVE SEEN YOU!
YOU LIVE AND BREATHE!
YES, YOU DO!



IN RAMAKRISHNA'S EYES,
KALI WAS NO LONGER A STONE
IMAGE BUT THE EMBODIMENT
OF PURE CONSCIOUSNESS. TO
OFFER FOOD TO HER...



EAT,
MOTHER...

...OR TO A STRAY CAT,
BECAME ONE AND THE SAME
THING FOR HIM, FOR NOW HE
SAW GOD IN EVERYTHING.



COME, WON'T
YOU EAT THIS
FOOD
MOTHER?

AFTER THIS RAMA-
KRISHNA SPENT MORE
TIME IN MEDITATION AND
HIS FAVOURITE RETREAT
WAS THE PEACEFUL
PANCHAVATI— THE
GROVE WITH THE FIVE
SACRED TREES.



MEANWHILE, RUMOURS BEGAN TO REACH HIS MOTHER IN KAMARPUKUR.

RAMESHWAR, MY SON, I... HEARD TODAY THAT OUR GADAI IS GOING MAD. I... I...

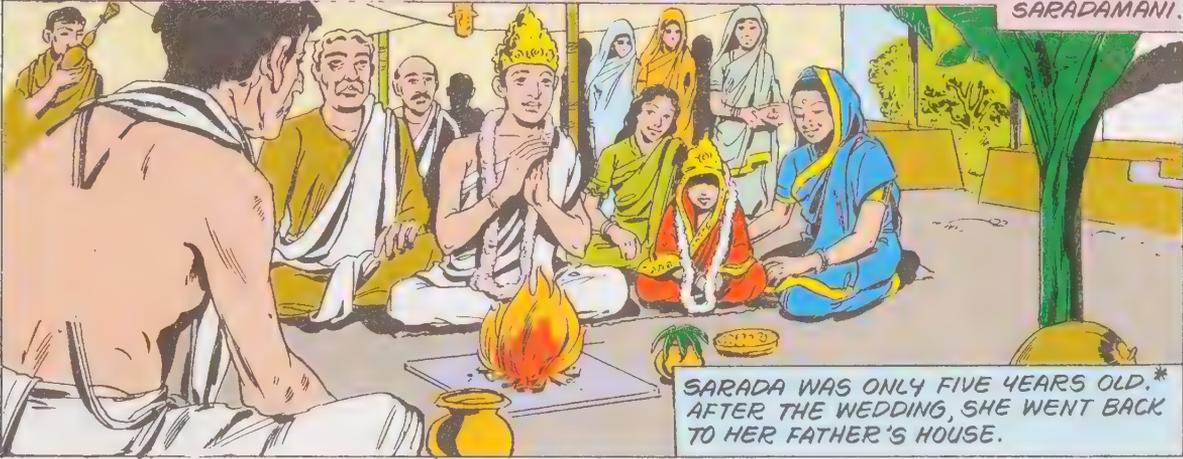
DON'T CRY, MOTHER. I'LL WRITE TO HIM TO COME HERE. UNDER YOUR CARE, HE'LL GET WELL SOON.



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU, GADAI? I KNOW! I'LL GET YOU MARRIED THEN YOU WILL NEVER BE ILL AGAIN.



SOON, RAMAKRISHNA CAME TO KAMARPUKUR AND CHANDRA MARRIED HIM TO LITTLE SARADAMANI.



SARADA WAS ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD.* AFTER THE WEDDING, SHE WENT BACK TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE.

A YEAR AND A HALF LATER, RAMAKRISHNA BROUGHT HER BACK TO KAMARPUKUR FOR A SHORT STAY. HE WATCHED OVER HER PROTECTIVELY AND FED HER WITH HIS OWN HANDS.



THEN SARADA RETURNED TO HER PARENTS' HOME AND RAMAKRISHNA TO DAKSHINESHWAR.



* IN THOSE DAYS GIRLS WERE MARRIED AT A VERY YOUNG AGE.

AT DAKSHINESHWAR, TWO TEACHERS CAME TO RAMAKRISHNA; THE BHAIRAVI BRAHMANI, A LEARNED WANDERING NUN...



...AND TOTA PURI, A GREAT NAGA YOGI FROM THE PUNJAB.



SOON AFTER, RAMAKRISHNA ACCOMPANIED MATHUR ON A PILGRIMAGE. AT THE TOWN OF DEOGADH, WHEN RAMAKRISHNA SAW THE POVERTY OF THE VILLAGERS —

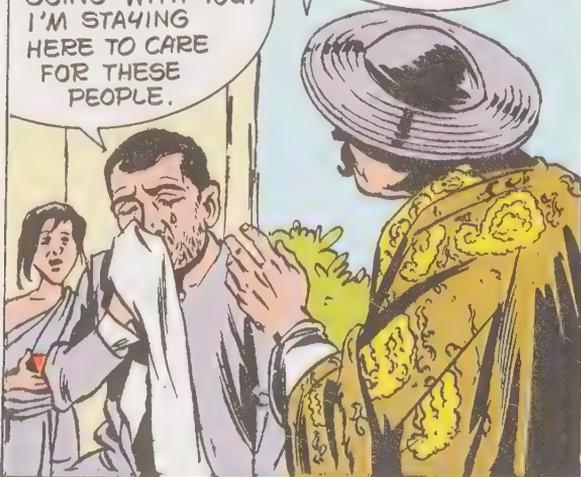
MATHUR BABU, MOTHER HAS GIVEN YOU SO MUCH WEALTH. LET'S FEED AND CLOTHE THESE PEOPLE.

BUT... BUT, BABA, THIS PILGRIMAGE IS GOING TO COST ME A LOT. IF I SPEND SO MUCH ON THEM, I MIGHT HAVE NO MONEY LEFT!

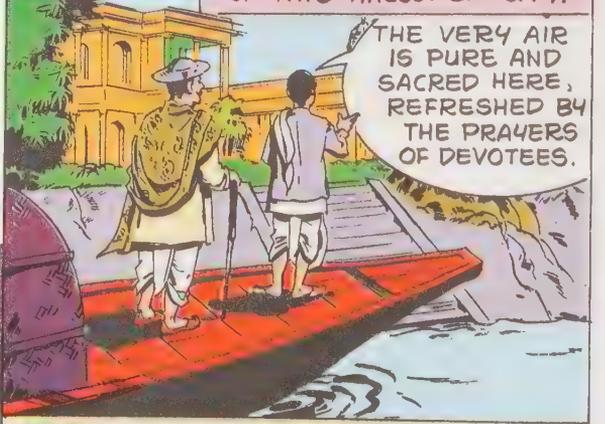


I KNOW YOU HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, BABU. I'M NOT GOING WITH YOU. I'M STAYING HERE TO CARE FOR THESE PEOPLE.

BABA, PLEASE FORGIVE ME, I'LL DO AS YOU SAY.



FROM DEOGADH, THE PILGRIMS WENT ON TO VARANASI. RAMAKRISHNA WAS THRILLED AT THE SIGHT OF THE BEAUTIFUL TEMPLES OF THIS HALLOWED CITY.



THE VERY AIR IS PURE AND SACRED HERE, REFRESHED BY THE PRAYERS OF DEVOTEES.

AFTER MUCH TRAVELLING, THE PILGRIMS RETURNED TO DAKSHINESHWAR.

ALL THIS WHILE, LITTLE SARADAMANI WAS GROWING UP. SHE WAS NOW SEVENTEEN. SHE TOO HAD HEARD THE RUMOURS ABOUT RAMAKRISHNA.

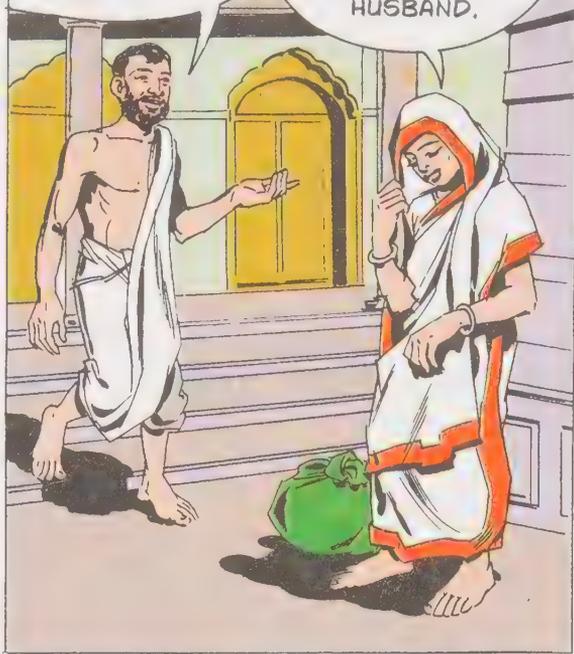


EVERYONE SAYS MY HUSBAND IS MAD, BUT I KNOW THAT HE IS ONLY MAD FOR GOD.

ONE DAY, SHE SUDDENLY MADE UP HER MIND TO GO TO DAKSHINESHWAR.

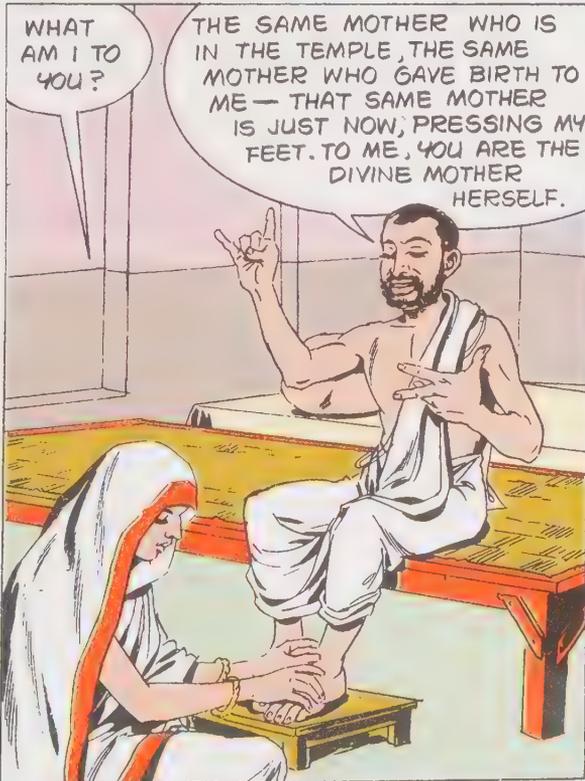
SARADA—YOU! HOW GLAD I AM TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

I HAVE COME TO BE WITH YOU AND TO SERVE YOU, MY HUSBAND.

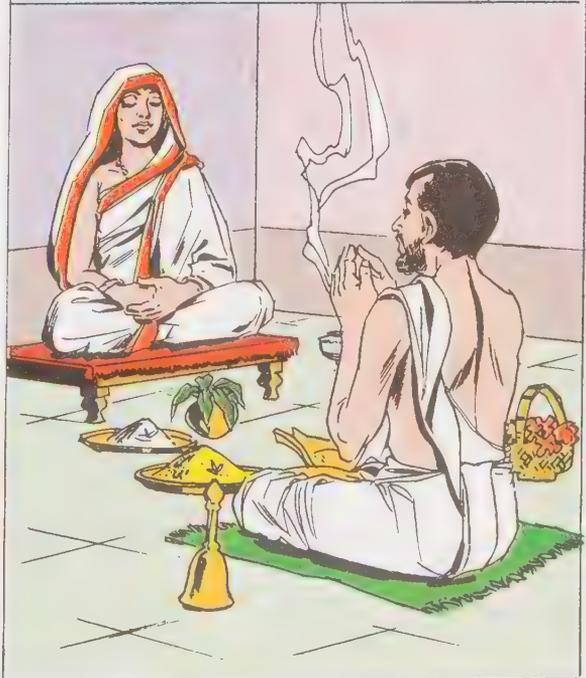


WHAT AM I TO YOU?

THE SAME MOTHER WHO IS IN THE TEMPLE, THE SAME MOTHER WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME— THAT SAME MOTHER IS JUST NOW, PRESSING MY FEET. TO ME, YOU ARE THE DIVINE MOTHER HERSELF.



AND ONE DAY, RAMAKRISHNA PLACED SARADA ON A SEAT MEANT FOR THE GODDESS AND WORSHIPPED HER.



BY NOW, RAMAKRISHNA WAS BECOMING WELL-KNOWN AS THE MAN WHO HAD SEEN GOD.

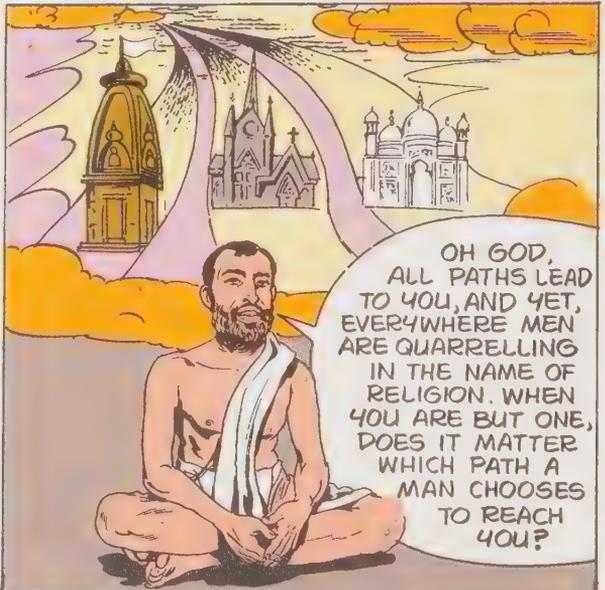
GREAT SAINT, THERE ARE SO MANY RELIGIONS IN THE WORLD. DO THEY ALL LEAD TO THE SAME GOAL?



TO FIND THE ANSWER FOR HIMSELF, RAMAKRISHNA PRACTISED MANY RELIGIONS OVER THE YEARS.

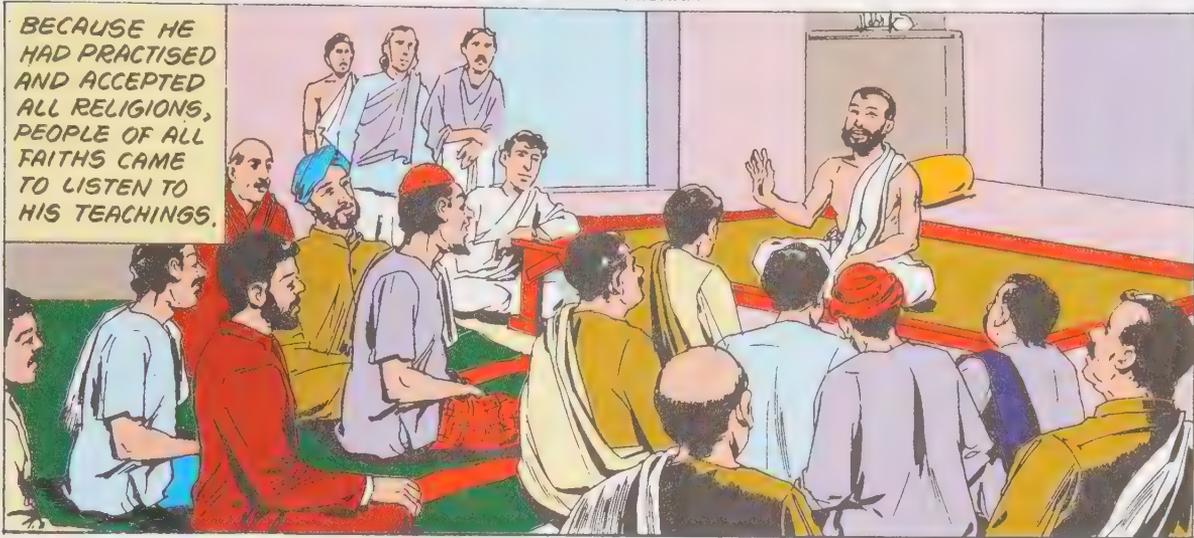


AND EACH TIME, HE ATTAINED THE SAME GOAL — THE ONE GOD.



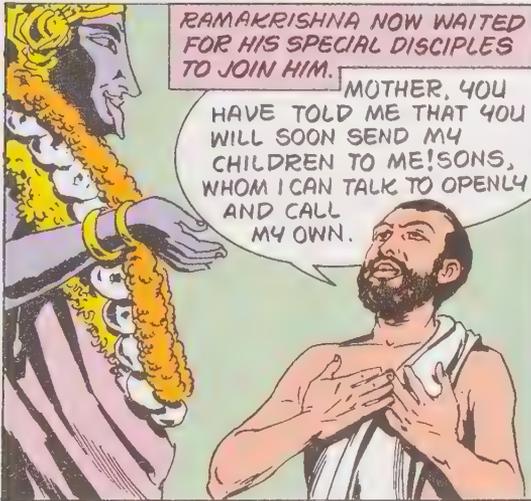
OH GOD, ALL PATHS LEAD TO YOU, AND YET, EVERYWHERE MEN ARE QUARRELLING IN THE NAME OF RELIGION. WHEN YOU ARE BUT ONE, DOES IT MATTER WHICH PATH A MAN CHOOSES TO REACH YOU?

BECAUSE HE HAD PRACTISED AND ACCEPTED ALL RELIGIONS, PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS CAME TO LISTEN TO HIS TEACHINGS.

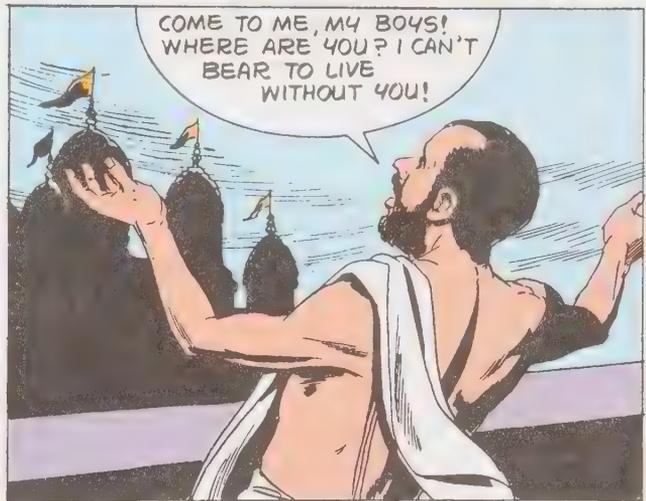


RAMAKRISHNA NOW WAITED FOR HIS SPECIAL DISCIPLES TO JOIN HIM.

MOTHER, YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT YOU WILL SOON SEND MY CHILDREN TO ME! SONS, WHOM I CAN TALK TO OPENLY AND CALL MY OWN.



COME TO ME, MY BOYS! WHERE ARE YOU? I CAN'T BEAR TO LIVE WITHOUT YOU!

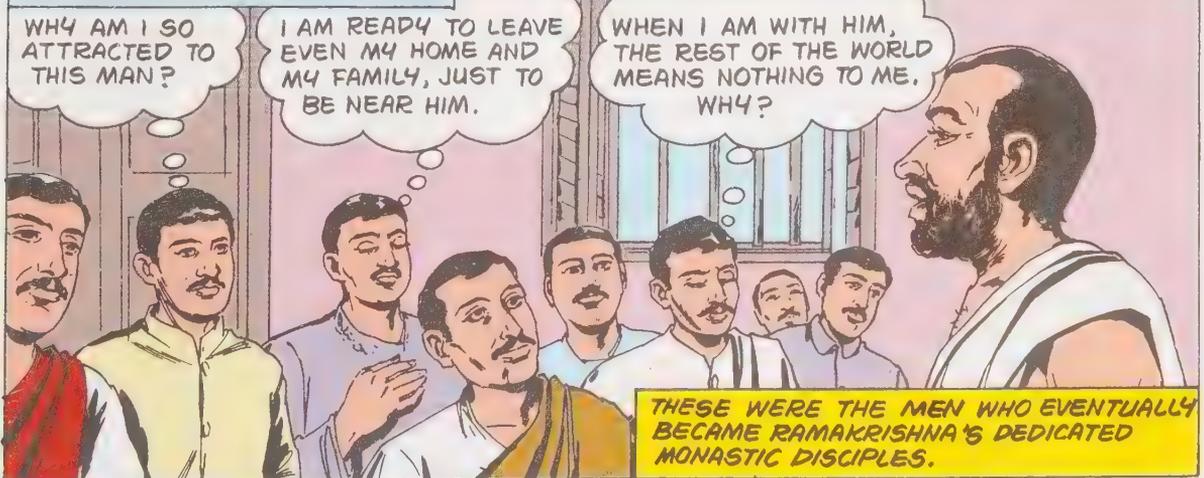


AND VERY SOON, THEY DID BEGIN TO COME; RAKHAL, LATU, BABURAM, SARAT, TARAK—SIXTEEN YOUNG MEN IN ALL.

WHY AM I SO ATTRACTED TO THIS MAN?

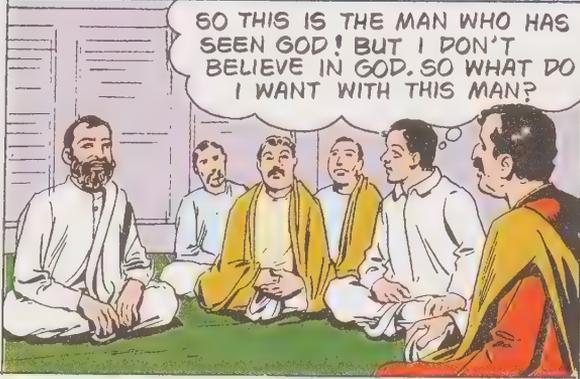
I AM READY TO LEAVE EVEN MY HOME AND MY FAMILY, JUST TO BE NEAR HIM.

WHEN I AM WITH HIM, THE REST OF THE WORLD MEANS NOTHING TO ME. WHY?



THESE WERE THE MEN WHO EVENTUALLY BECAME RAMAKRISHNA'S DEDICATED MONASTIC DISCIPLES.

AND AMONG THEM WAS NAREN*, THE BOY WHO WOULD ONE DAY MAKE RAMAKRISHNA'S NAME KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WHEN NAREN FIRST MET RAMAKRISHNA, HE WAS A YOUNG MAN FACED WITH A DILEMMA.



SO THIS IS THE MAN WHO HAS SEEN GOD! BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD. SO WHAT DO I WANT WITH THIS MAN?

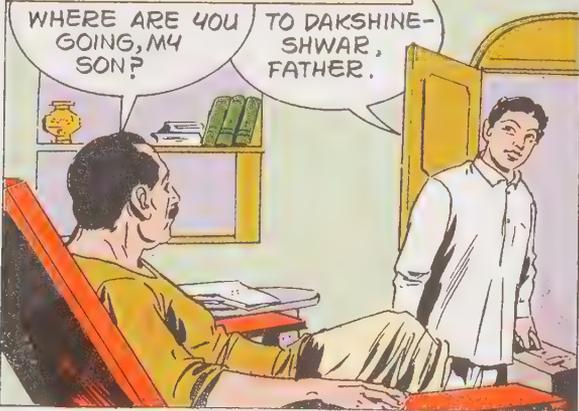
THE DOUBTING NAREN, HOWEVER COULD NOT KEEP AWAY.

SIR, I HAVE A QUESTION TO ASK YOU. HAVE YOU REALLY SEEN GOD?



YES—I SEE HIM AS I SEE YOU— ONLY MORE CLEARLY. AND YOU ALSO CAN SEE HIM!

SLOWLY, THE SAME MAGNETISM THAT HAD ATTRACTED THE OTHER DISCIPLES BEGAN TO ATTRACT NAREN AS WELL.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MY SON?

TO DAKSHINESHWAR, FATHER.

TO SEE RAMAKRISHNA? AGAIN? SON, I HAVE GREAT PLANS FOR YOU. I DREAM OF SEEING YOU JOIN THE I.C.S. DO NOT LET YOUR GROWING AFFECTION FOR A SADHU SPOIL IT ALL.



YES... I MEAN ... NO, FATHER.

I USED TO HAVE TWO IDEALS BEFORE ME. ONE, OF BECOMING A RICH MAN SURROUNDED BY VAST WEALTH; THE OTHER OF BECOMING A WANDERING MONK.



NOW, SOMEHOW...



AND IT WAS THE LIFE OF A MONK THAT NAREN FINALLY CHOSE, WITH RAMAKRISHNA AS HIS GURU. BUT HE DID NOT ACCEPT RAMAKRISHNA'S TEACHINGS BLINDLY.

SIR, ALL THAT I HAVE LEARNT TILL NOW, IS CONTRARY TO YOUR TEACHINGS. I CANNOT BELIEVE MUCH OF WHAT YOU SAY.

AHA, NAREN! YOU ARE A SCEPTIC. GOOD! ALWAYS TEST MY WORDS BEFORE YOU ACCEPT THEM!

YOU SAY THAT GOD IS FORMLESS. YOU ALSO SAY THAT THERE IS GOD IN A STONE IDOL. I CANNOT ACCEPT THAT.

AND WHY NOT, NAREN? WHEN A PERSON PRAYS TO AN IDOL, GOD KNOWS THAT HE HAS GOD ALONE IN MIND. AND GOD IS PLEASED WITH THAT SORT OF WORSHIP TOO!

AND WHY DO YOU LIMIT GOD? JUST AS A MOTHER CAN PREPARE DIFFERENT DISHES FOR EACH CHILD ACCORDING TO HIS OR HER TASTE, WITH THE SAME FISH, GOD TOO CAN MAKE HIMSELF DIFFERENT THINGS FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

RAMAKRISHNA WAS LIKE A LOVING MOTHER TO HIS DISCIPLES. HE PLAYED AND JOKED WITH THEM, AND ALONG WITH THE LAUGHTER AND FUN, WISDOM WAS IMPARTED.

WE MUST HAVE IMPLICIT FAITH. RAMA, WHO WAS GOD HIMSELF, HAD TO BUILD A BRIDGE TO TRAVEL TO LANKA.

BUT HANUMAN, RELYING ON THE POWER OF RAMA'S NAME ALONE, JUMPED ACROSS THE SEA TO LANKA. HE DIDN'T NEED THE BRIDGE!

HA, HA, HA!

AND THE DISCIPLES TOO, RETURNED RAMAKRISHNA'S LOVE. ONE DAY, A DISCIPLE NAME NIRANJAN WAS CROSSING THE RIVER GANGA IN A BOAT.

HAVE YOU SEEN THAT RAMAKRISHNA OF DAKSHINESHWAR? ANOTHER GOD-MAN WHOM PEOPLE ARE RUNNING AFTER!

THEY SAY HE EATS LIKE A WRESTLER. THAT'S ALL HE MUST BE CARING ABOUT!

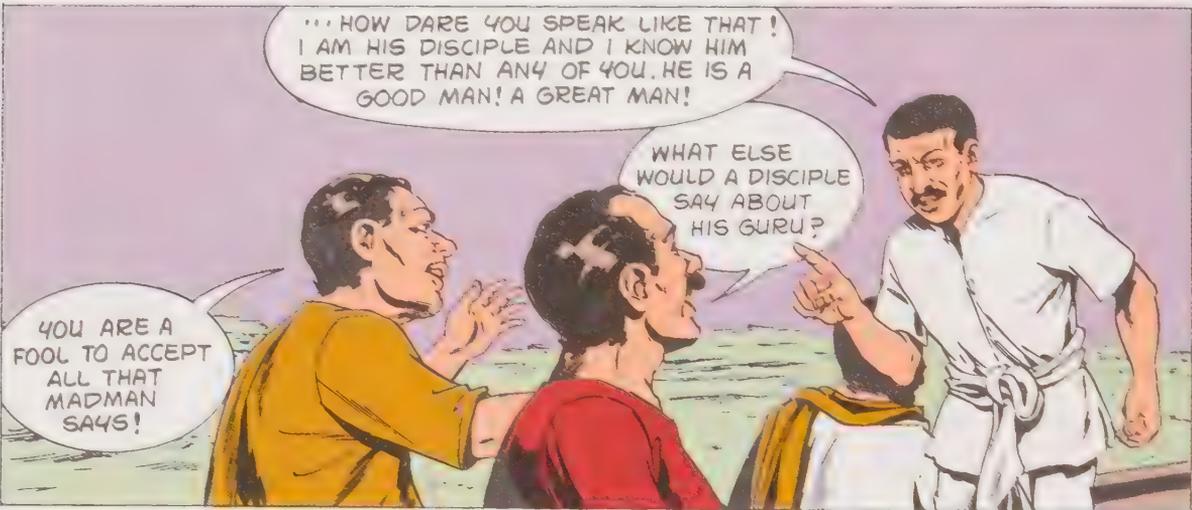
LOOK HERE...



... HOW DARE YOU SPEAK LIKE THAT! I AM HIS DISCIPLE AND I KNOW HIM BETTER THAN ANY OF YOU. HE IS A GOOD MAN! A GREAT MAN!

WHAT ELSE WOULD A DISCIPLE SAY ABOUT HIS GURU?

YOU ARE A FOOL TO ACCEPT ALL THAT MADMAN SAYS!



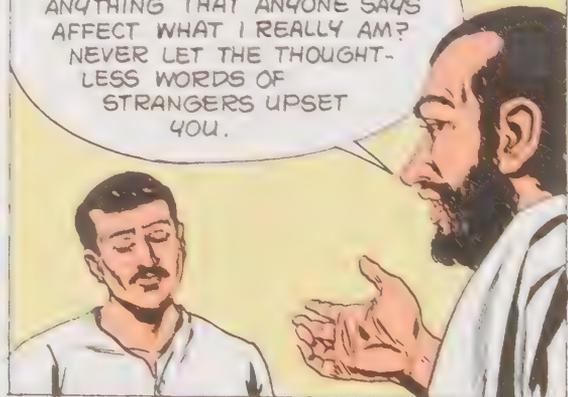
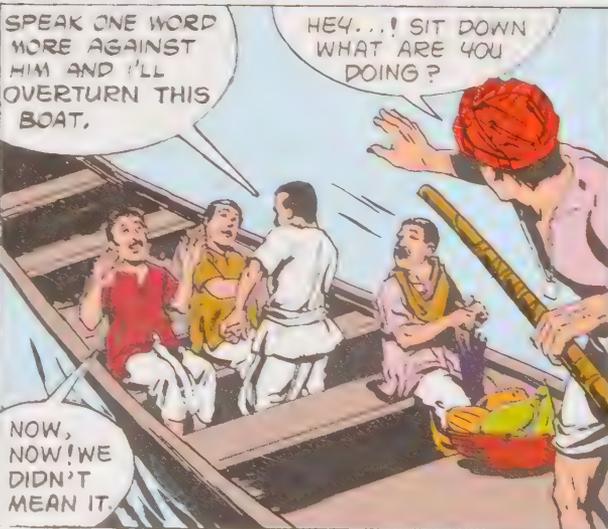
SPEAK ONE WORD MORE AGAINST HIM AND I'LL OVERTURN THIS BOAT.

HEY...! SIT DOWN WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHEN NIRANJAN TOLD RAMAKRISHNA WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON THE BOAT—

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO LOSE YOUR TEMPER LIKE THAT? CAN ANYTHING THAT ANYONE SAYS AFFECT WHAT I REALLY AM? NEVER LET THE THOUGHTLESS WORDS OF STRANGERS UPSET YOU.

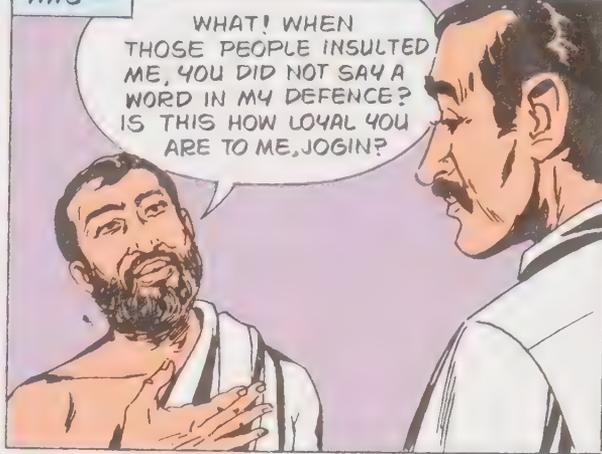
NOW, NOW! WE DIDN'T MEAN IT.



ON ANOTHER OCCASION, SOME PEOPLE SPOKE AGAINST RAMAKRISHNA IN THE PRESENCE OF JOGIN, ANOTHER DISCIPLE. BUT JOGIN WAS A SHY, RETIRING BOY AND SAID NOTHING.



WHEN RAMAKRISHNA CAME TO KNOW OF THIS —



WHAT! WHEN THOSE PEOPLE INSULTED ME, YOU DID NOT SAY A WORD IN MY DEFENCE? IS THIS HOW LOYAL YOU ARE TO ME, JOGIN?

WHEN NIRANJAN HEARD OF THIS INCIDENT, HE WAS SURPRISED.

BUT THE MASTER TOLD ME SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT WHEN I BLEW UP THE OTHER DAY!

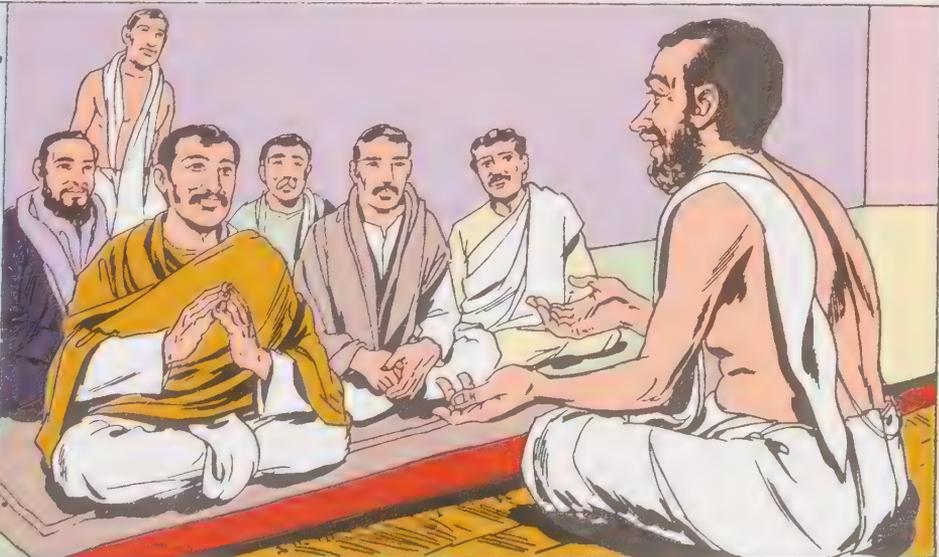
CAN'T YOU SEE? HE IS MOULDING OUR INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERS.



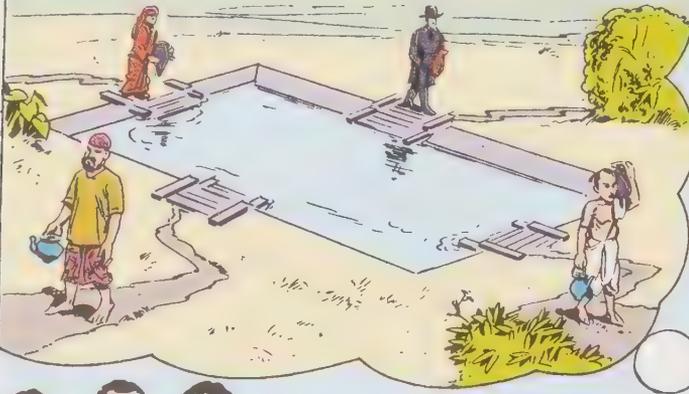
YOU ARE FIERY LIKE A RED CHILLI. HE WANTS TO CALM YOU DOWN. JOGIN IS LIKE A MOUSE — TOO TIMID AND EASILY BULLIED. HE WANTS TO PUT SOME SPIRIT INTO HIM.



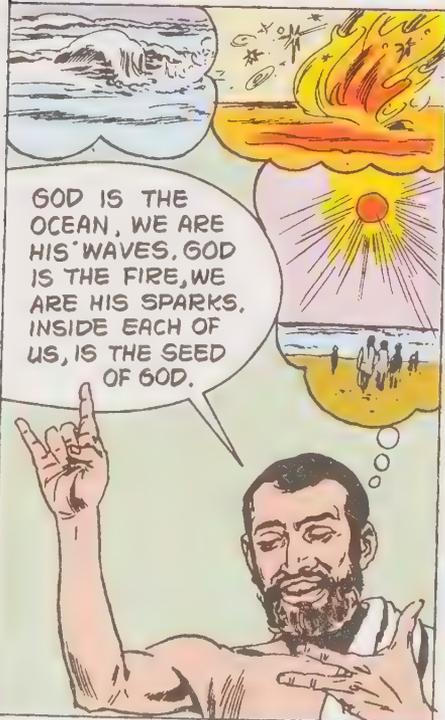
BESIDES THE YOUNG DISCIPLES, OTHERS TOO CAME TO RAMAKRISHNA. ONE OF HIS GREATEST DEVOTEES WAS KESHAB CHANDRA SEN, THE FAMOUS BRAHMO SAMAJ LEADER, WHO MADE RAMAKRISHNA'S NAME WELL-KNOWN THROUGHOUT INDIA.



THE WISDOM AND BEAUTY OF RAMAKRISHNA'S TEACHINGS TOUCHED THE HEARTS OF ALL.



A TANK HAS MANY GHATS. AT ONE, HINDUS DRAW WATER IN PITCHERS AND CALL IT 'JAL'; AT ANOTHER MUSSALMANS DRAW WATER IN LEATHER BOTTLES AND CALL IT 'PANI'; AT A THIRD ARE CHRISTIANS AND THEY CALL IT WATER. CAN WE SAY THAT THE THING DRAWN IS NOT 'JAL' BUT ONLY 'PANI' OR WATER? THE SUBSTANCE IS ONE, ONLY THE NAMES VARY.



GOD IS THE OCEAN, WE ARE HIS WAVES. GOD IS THE FIRE, WE ARE HIS SPARKS. INSIDE EACH OF US, IS THE SEED OF GOD.

AND THEN ONE DAY, RAMAKRISHNA FELL ILL WITH A FATAL PAIN IN HIS THROAT. A WELL-KNOWN PHYSICIAN, DR. MAHENDRALAL SARKAR, WAS ENGAGED FOR HIM.

HE WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO CALCUTTA FOR BETTER TREATMENT. YOU CAN RENT A HOUSE THERE.

YES, DOCTOR. WE'LL DO IT.

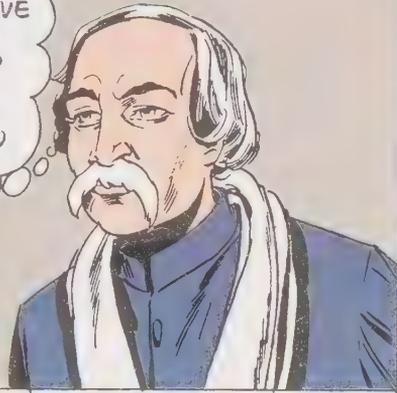


DEVOTEE AND DISCIPLE CAME FORWARD AS ONE, TO RAISE THE MONEY THAT WOULD BE NEEDED.



DR. SARKAR, A PRACTICAL MAN WHO DID NOT BELIEVE IN SAINTHOOD OR MIRACLES, WAS MOVED.

HOW MUCH LOVE RAMAKRISHNA HAS INSPIRED IN THESE PEOPLE! THEY ARE READY TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIM.



LATER —

SIR, YOUR FEES FOR THE TREATMENT...

NO, MY BOY, I DON'T WANT ANY. I TOO, HAVE GROWN TO LOVE YOUR MASTER. I WILL TREAT HIM FREE OF CHARGE.



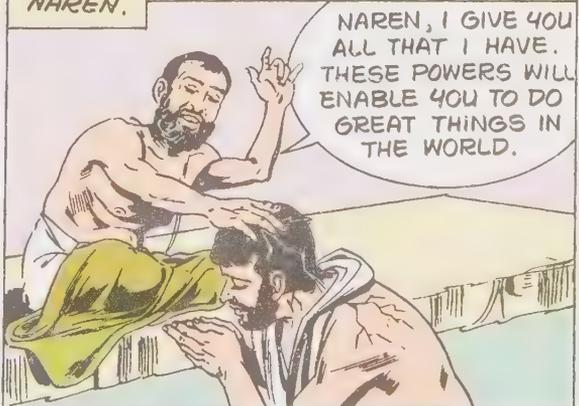
DR. SARKAR ADVISED RAMAKRISHNA NOT TO SPEAK. BUT —

LET THEM IN, NAREN. THESE PEOPLE HAVE COME ALL THIS WAY TO HEAR ME SPEAK. I MUST SPEAK TO THEM.



THEN ONE DAY, RAMAKRISHNA SENT FOR NAREN AND PLACED HIS HAND ON HIS HEAD. A POWER LIKE AN ELECTRIC CURRENT SEEMED TO PASS INTO NAREN.

NAREN, I GIVE YOU ALL THAT I HAVE. THESE POWERS WILL ENABLE YOU TO DO GREAT THINGS IN THE WORLD.



NOT LONG AFTER THAT, ONE DAY, IN EARLY AUGUST—

JOGIN, CALL OUT THE DATES OF THE MONTH OF AUGUST.

YES, MASTER.



JOGIN BEGAN.

... AUGUST TWELFTH, AUGUST THIRTEENTH, AUGUST FOURTEENTH...



... AUGUST FIFTEENTH ...



AT THAT POINT, RAMAKRISHNA STOPPED HIM WITH A SIGN.

ON THE FIFTEENTH OF AUGUST 1886, SARADA DEVI AND THE DISCIPLES STOOD ROUND THE BED.

NAREN...NAREN...TAKE CARE OF THESE BOYS...TAKE CARE OF THESE BOYS...TAKE CARE OF THEM...



AND THEN RAMAKRISHNA CALLED OUT IN A RINGING VOICE THAT HIS THROAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCAPABLE OF PRODUCING.

KALI! KALI! KALI!



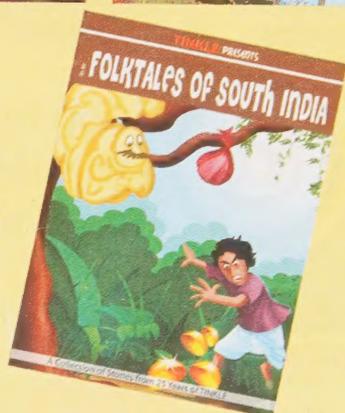
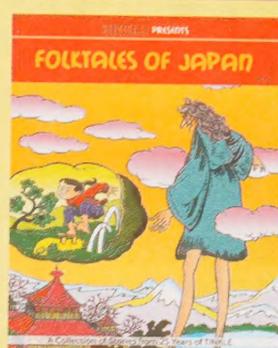
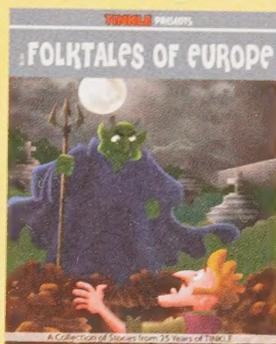
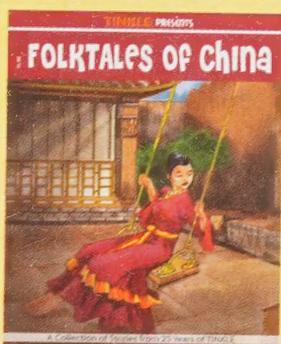
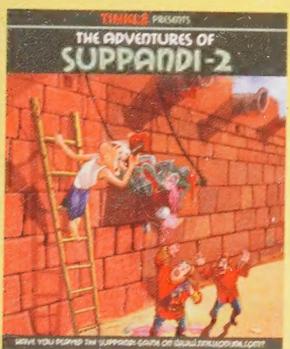
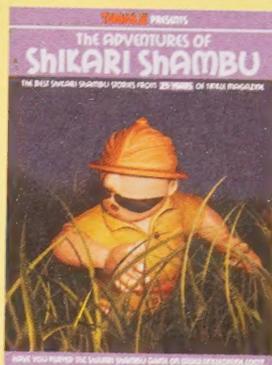
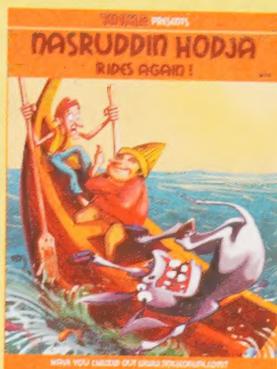
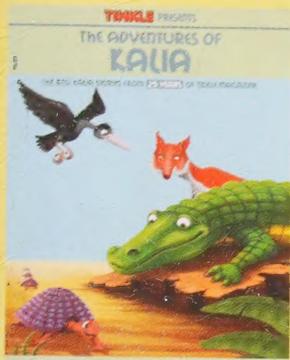
AND SLOWLY, HE FELL INTO A COMA. EVERYONE WAITED FOR HIM TO COME BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS, BUT HE DID NOT RETURN.



AS RAMAKRISHNA HIMSELF ONCE PUT IT, HE HAD CROSSED FROM ONE ROOM INTO ANOTHER.

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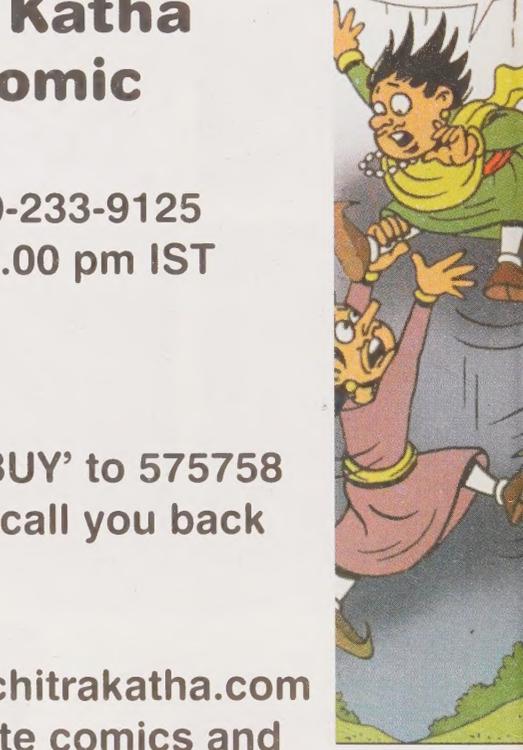
PANDI, I WANT
TO THE MARKET
SOME PROVISIONS
FIFTY RUPEES
RUPEES FOR
EXPENSE



WAS NOT A HAPPY ONE F

PLEASE
MY NAME
THE F

TINKLE
WHERE LEARNING MEETS FUN



'DID YOU THROW YOUR
? I KNEW YOU WOULD
JL WHEN YOU ACCIDEN
AGAINST ME UP THER
DN'T EXPECT YOU TO C
AFTER ME LIKE THIS!

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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BHEEMA AND HANUMAN
BHEESHMA
CHANDRAHASA
CHURNING OF THE OCEAN
DASHARATHA
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ELEPHANTA
GANDHARI
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GANGA
GARUDA
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GITA, THE
GOLDEN MONGOOSE, THE
HANUMAN
HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE
HARISCHANDRA
INDRA AND SHACHI
INDRA AND SHIBI
JAGANNATHA OF PURI
JAYADRATHA
KACHA AND DEVAYANI
KARNA
KARTTIKEYA
KRISHNA
KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA
KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA
KRISHNA AND RUKMINI
KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA
KRISHNA AND THE FALSE
VAASUDEVA
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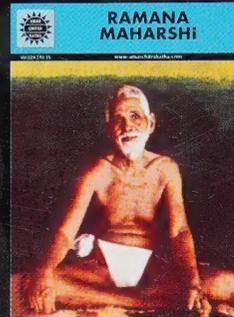
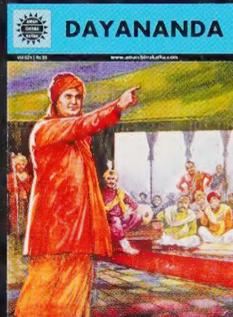


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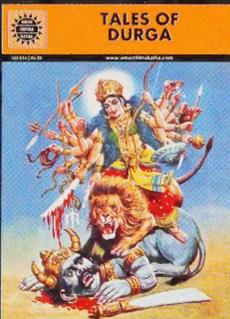
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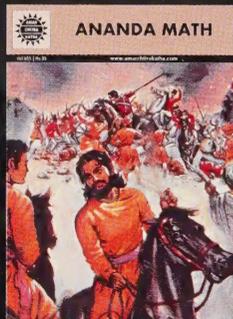
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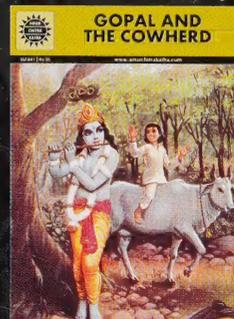
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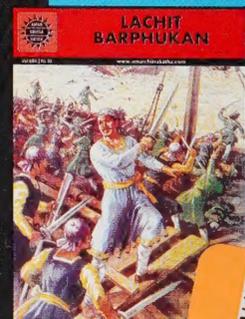
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