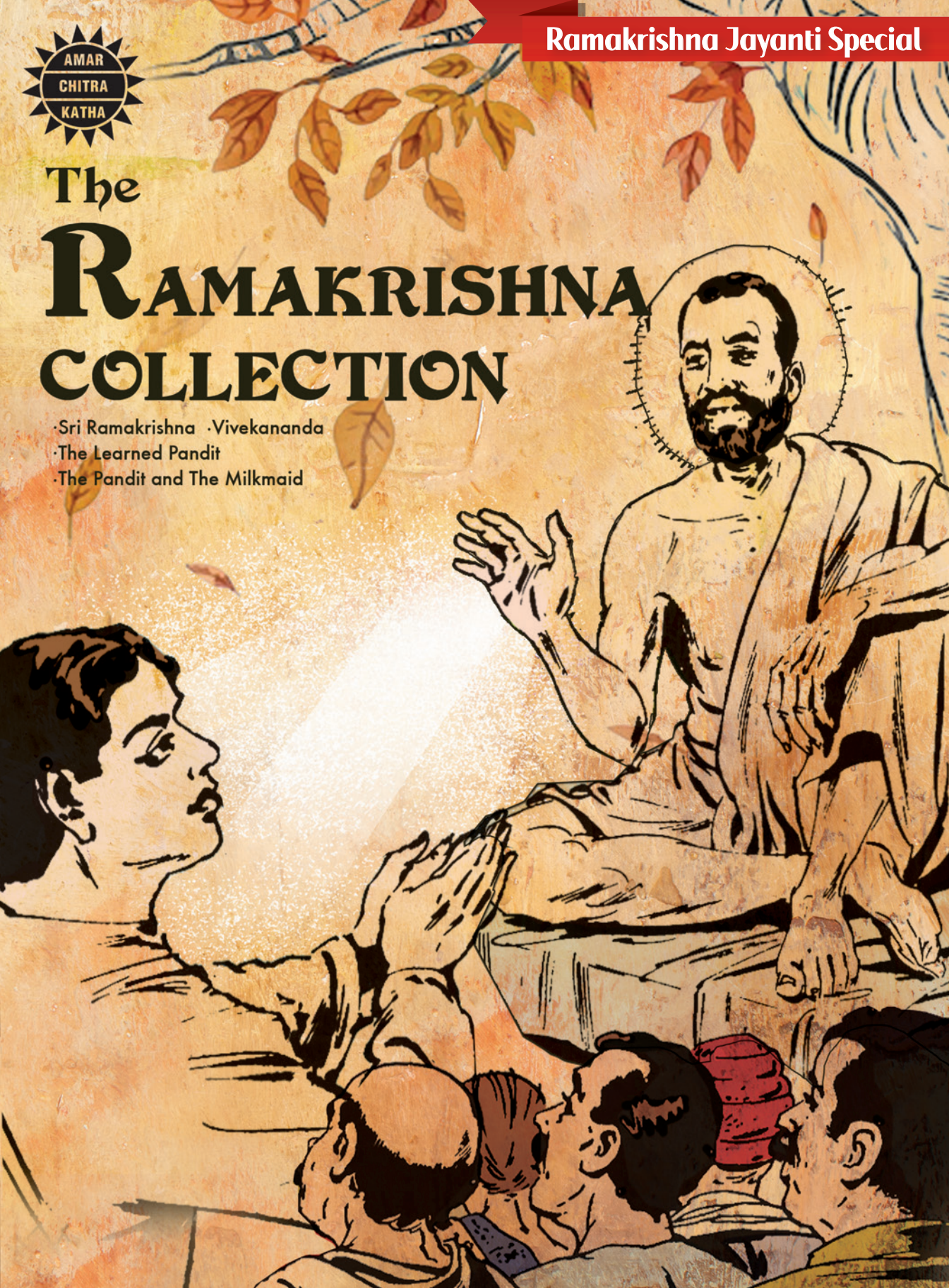




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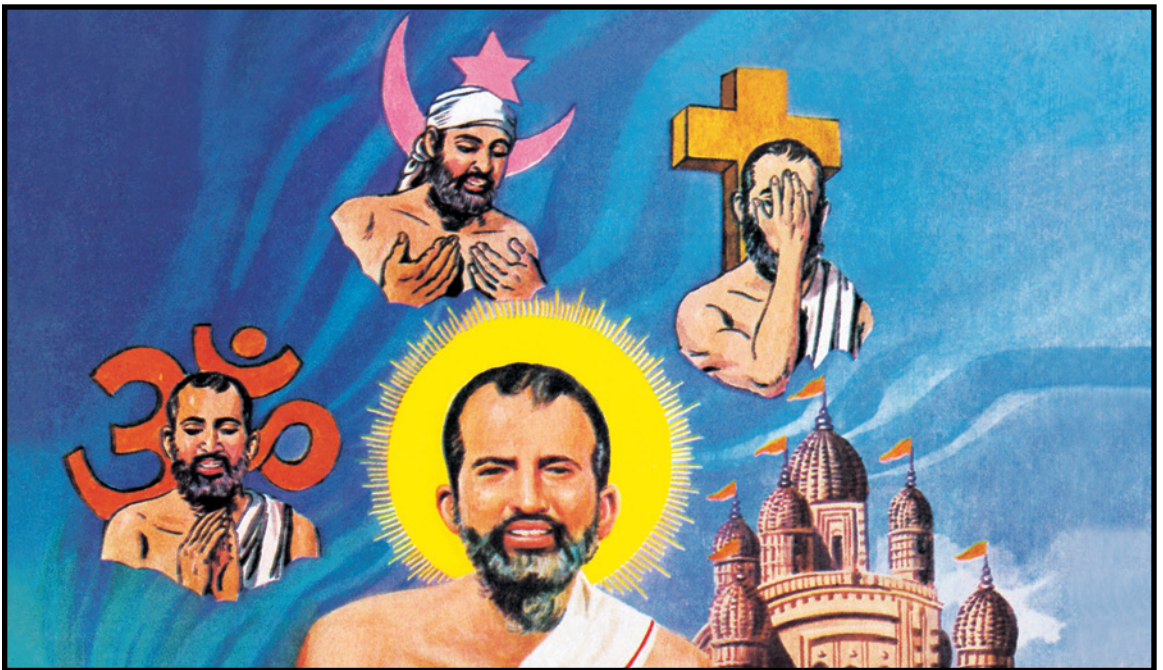
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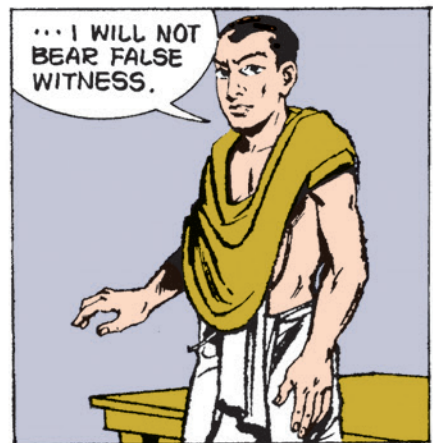
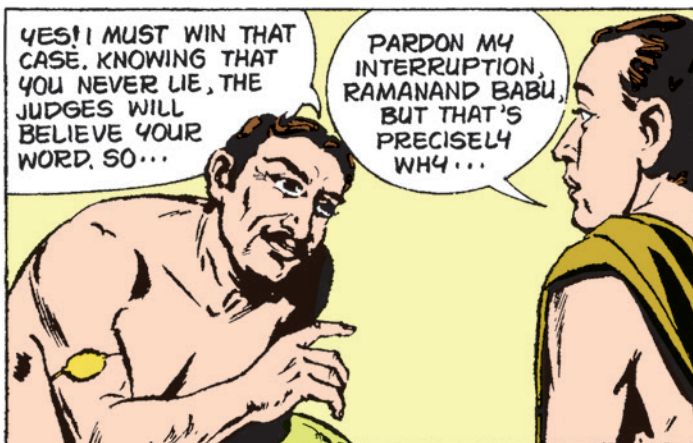
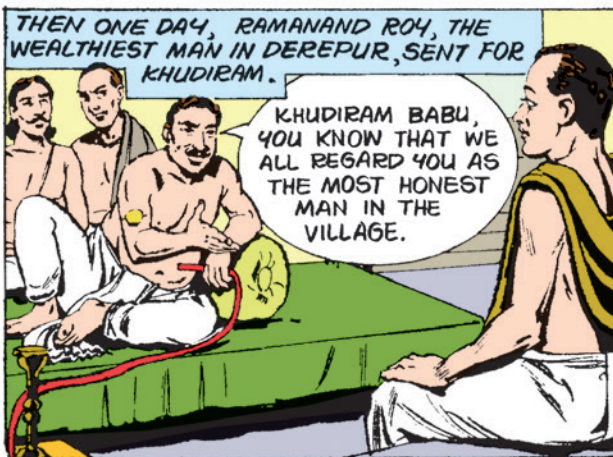
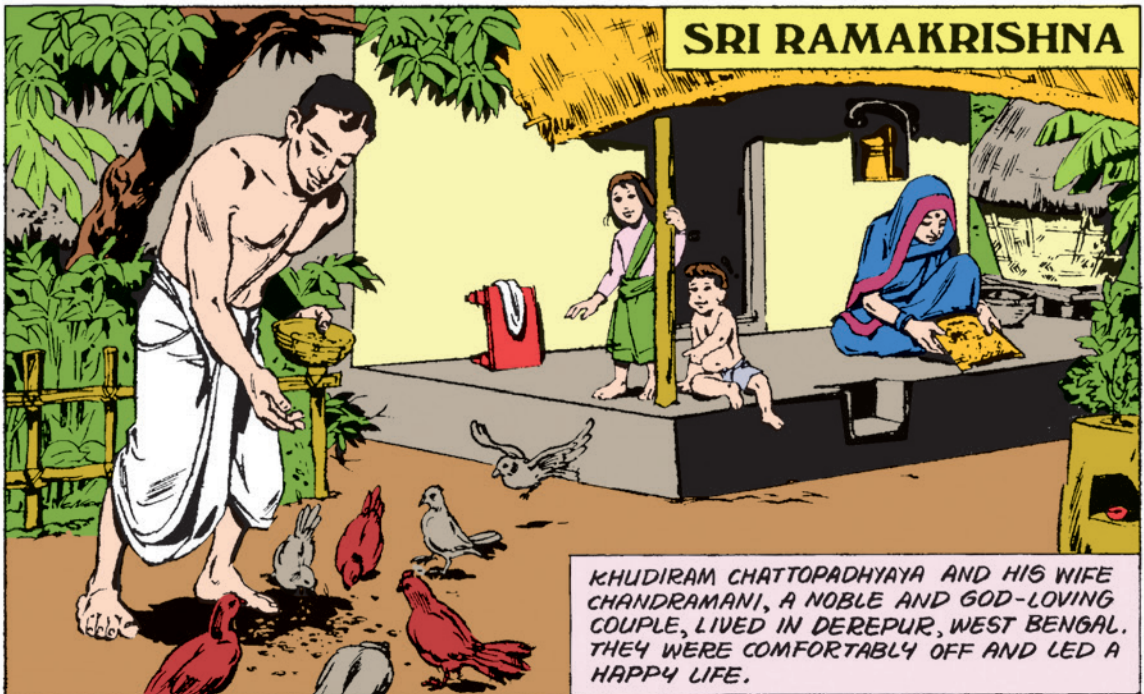
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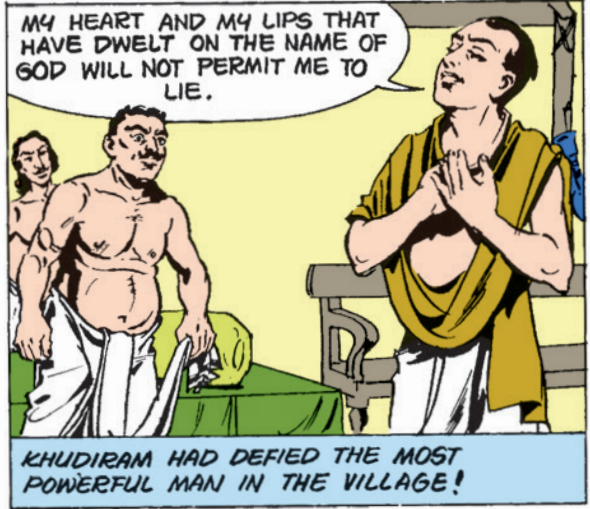
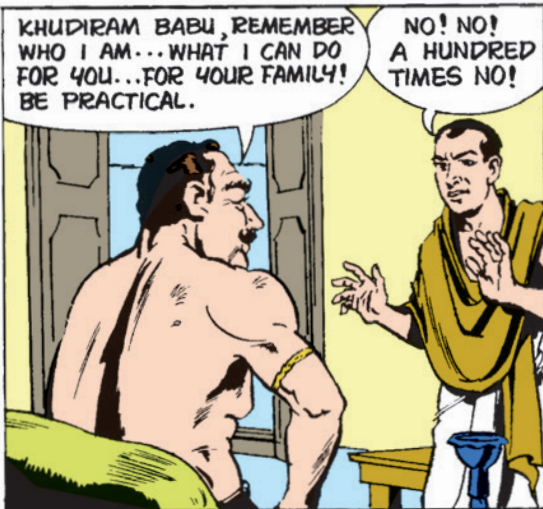
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SRI RAMAKRISHNA

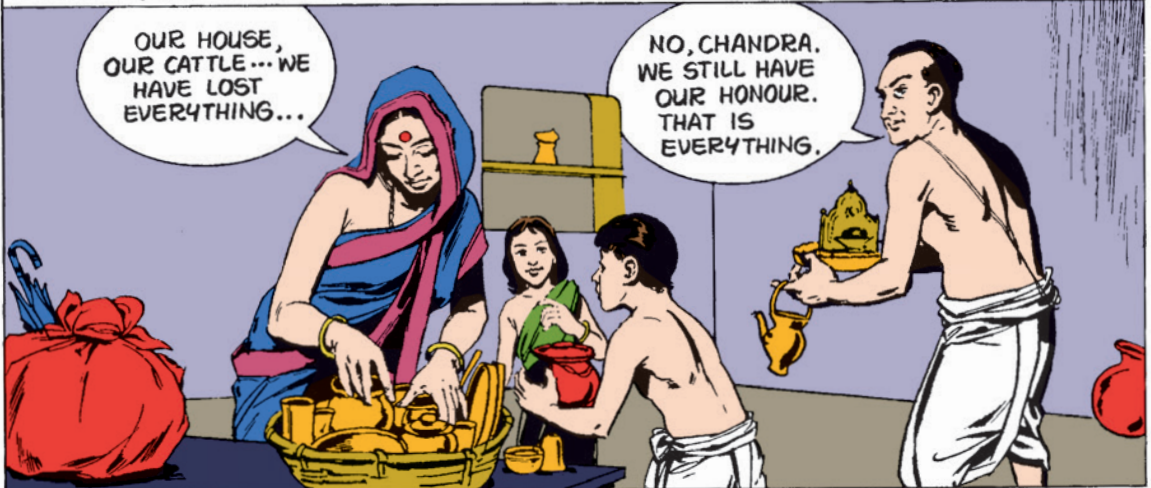
THE SAINT OF DAKSHINESWAR



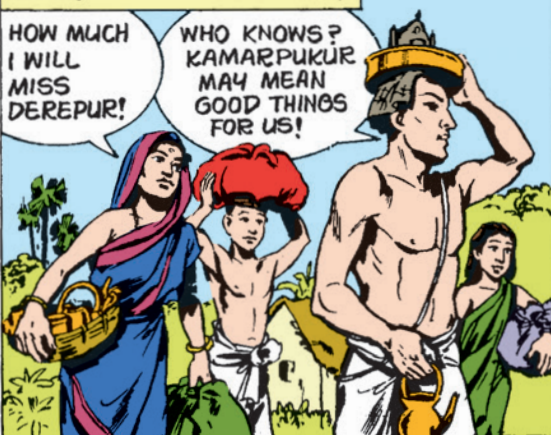




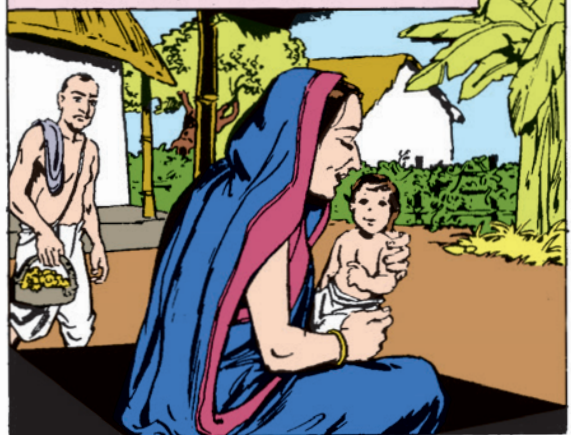
AND KHUDIRAM HAD TO PAY FOR IT. RAMANAND BROUGHT A FALSE CASE AGAINST HIM THIS TIME, AND WON IT BY UNFAIR MEANS. KHUDIRAM HAD TO FORFEIT ALL HIS PROPERTY.

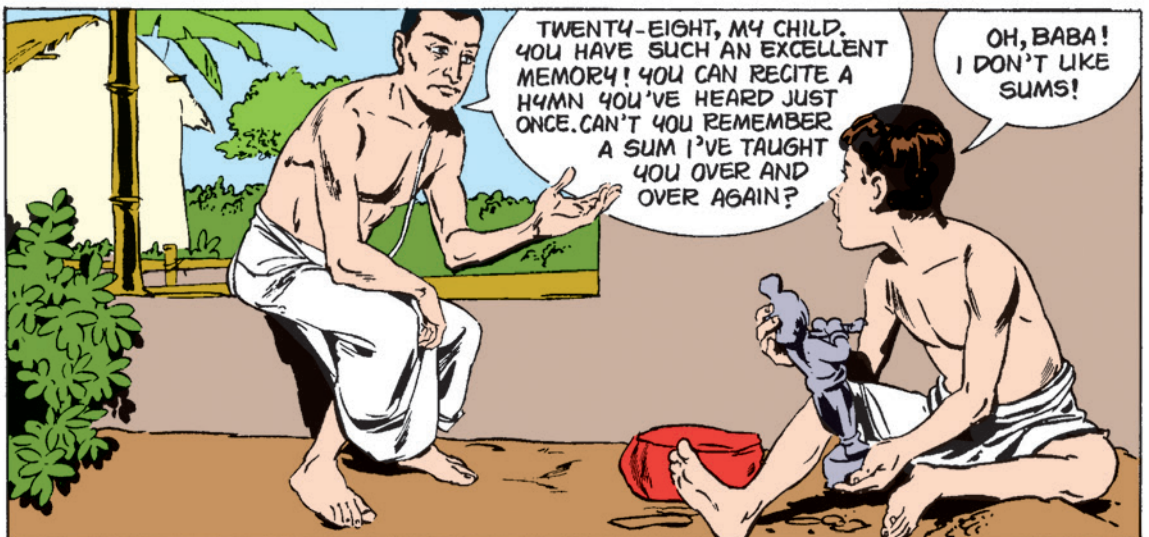
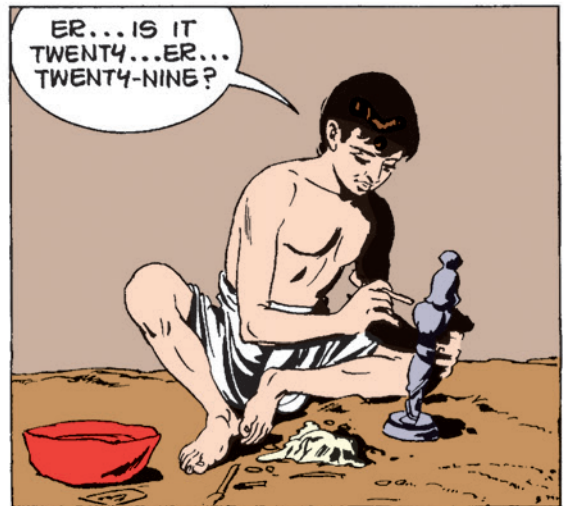
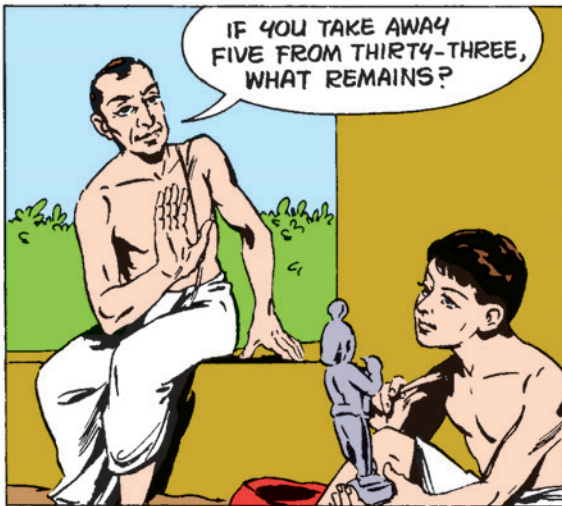
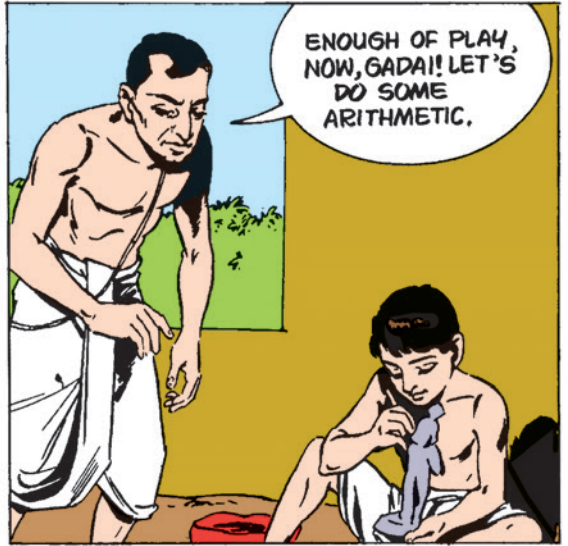
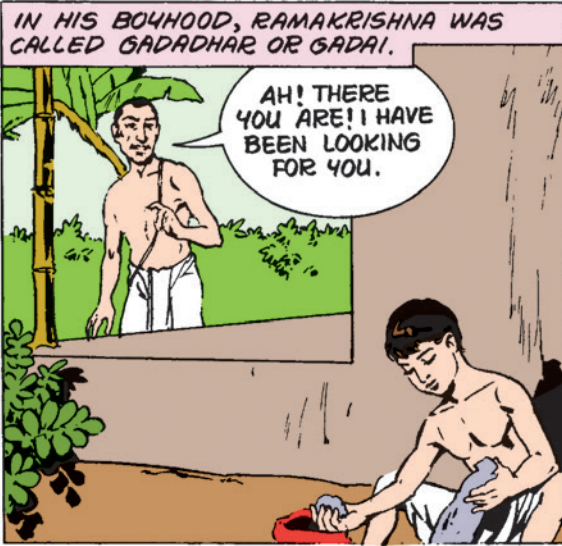


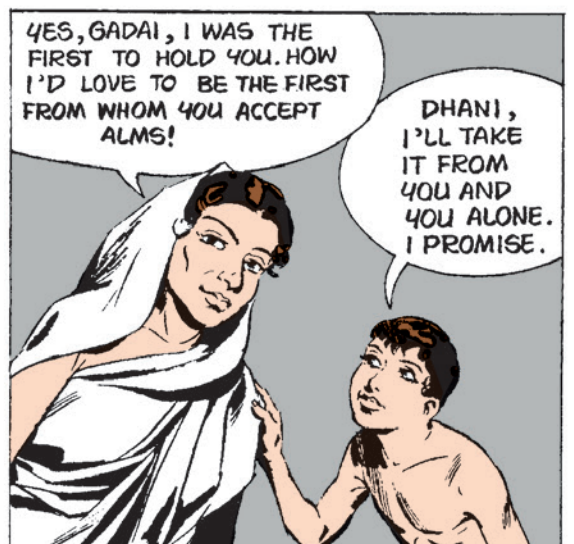
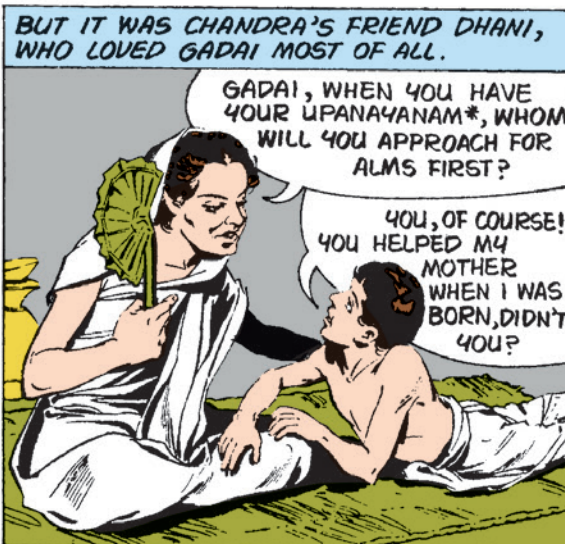
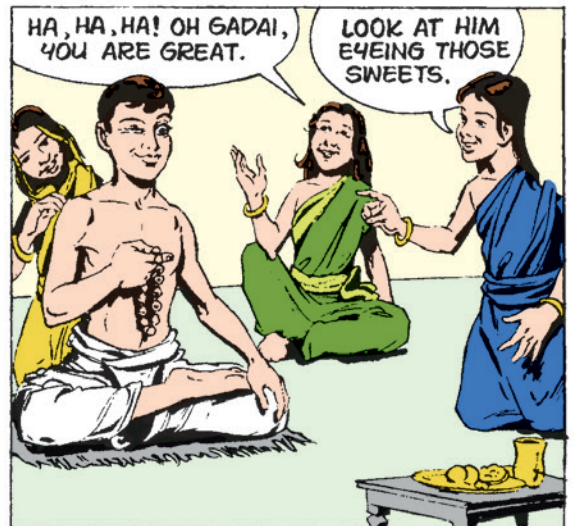
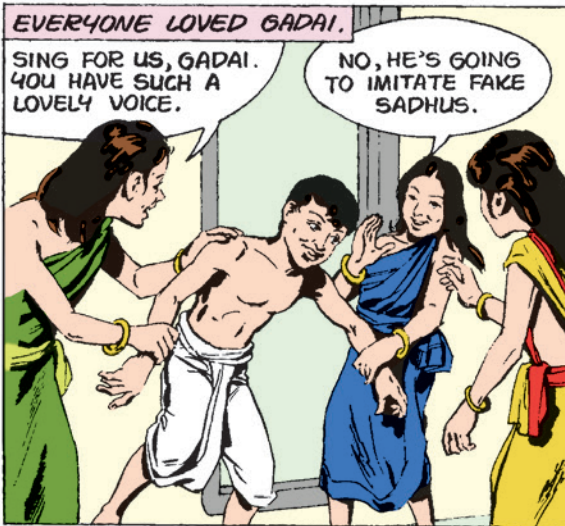
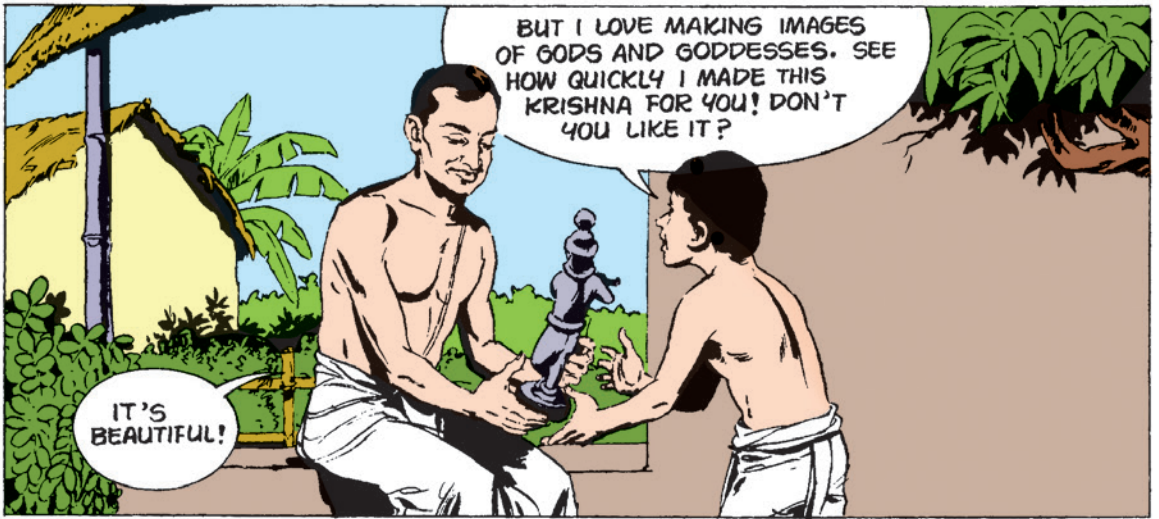
FORTUNATELY, ONE OF KHUDIRAM'S FRIENDS OFFERED THEM A HOUSE AT THE VILLAGE OF KAMARPUKUR.



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

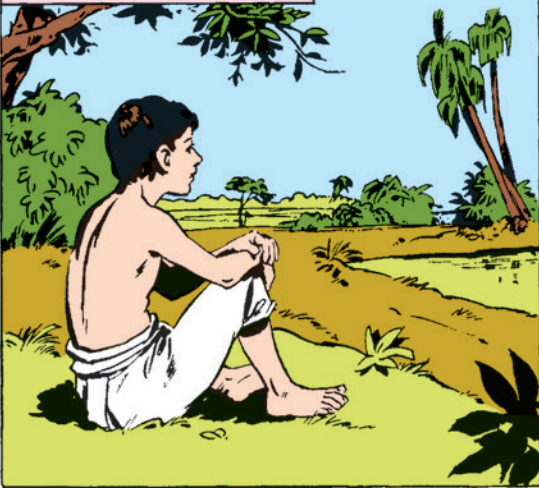




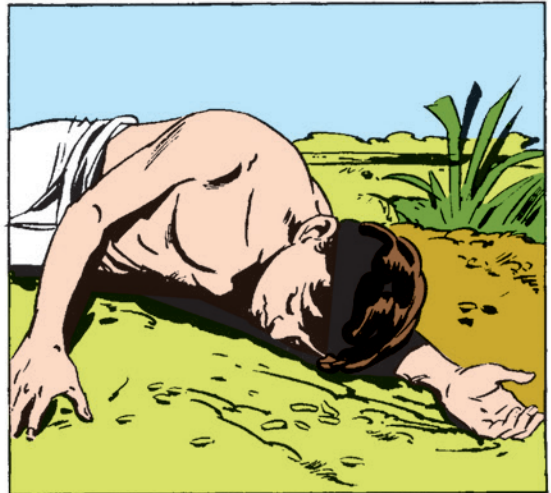
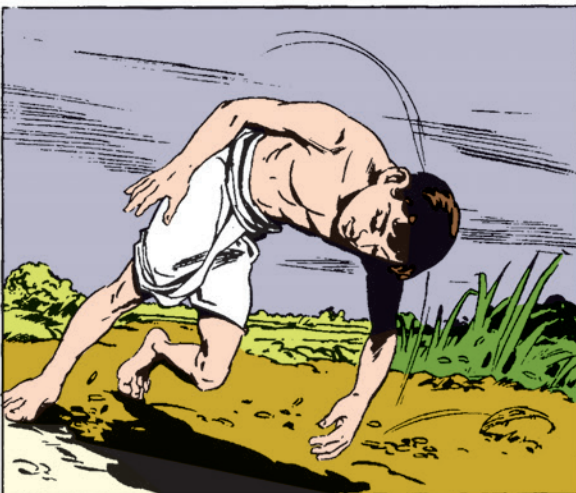
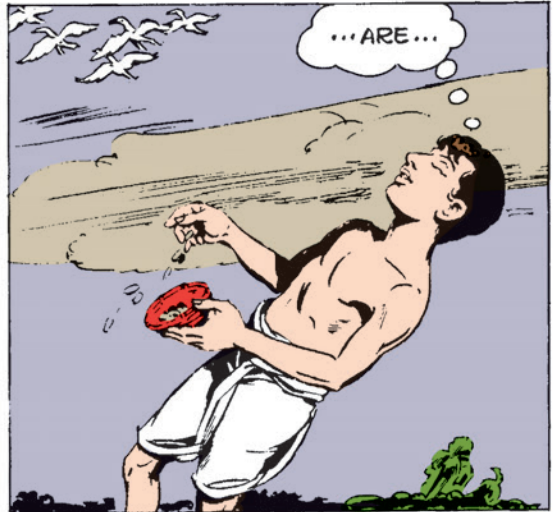
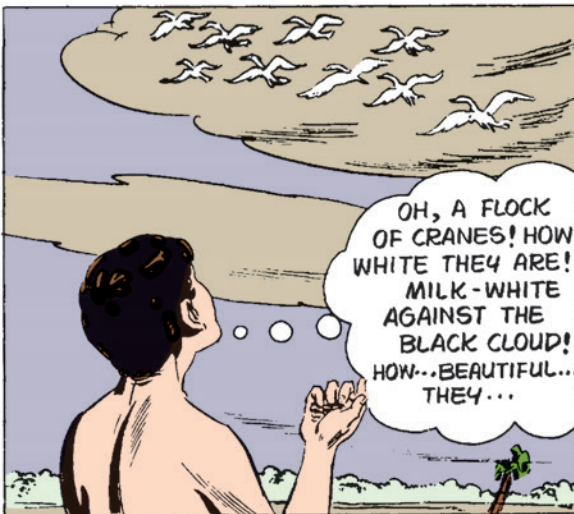
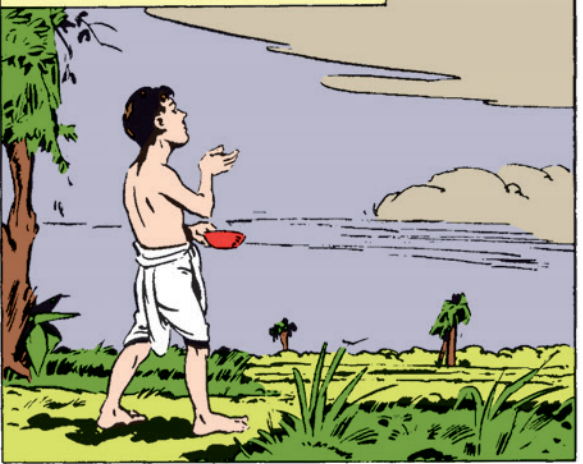


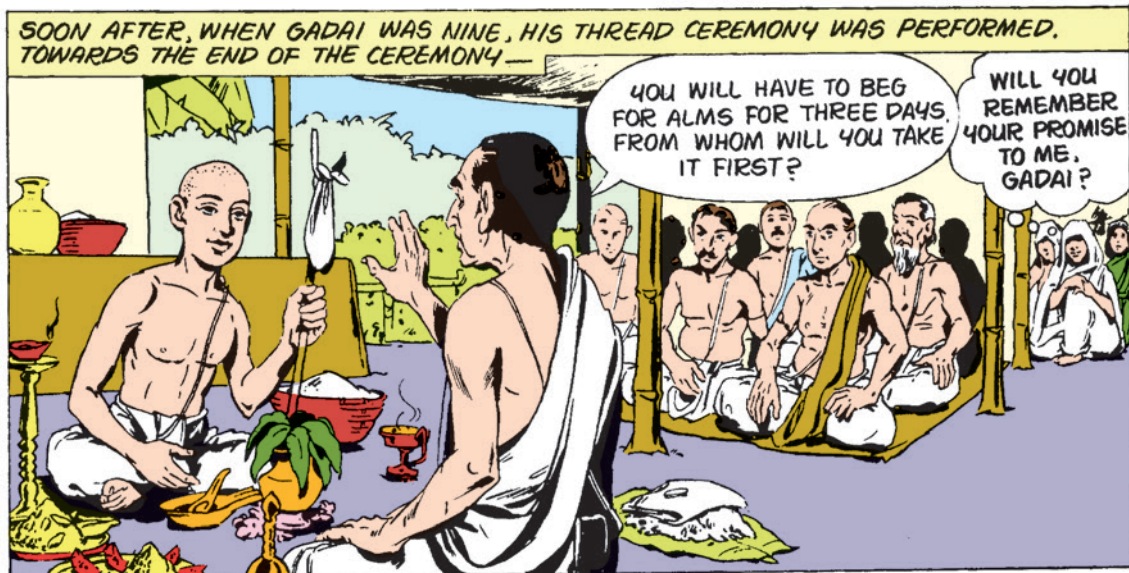
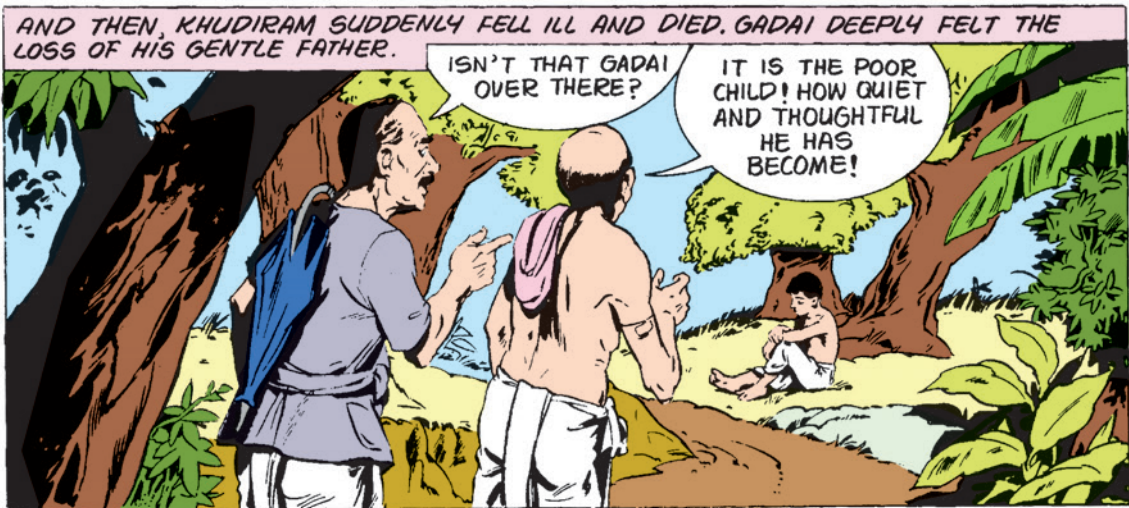
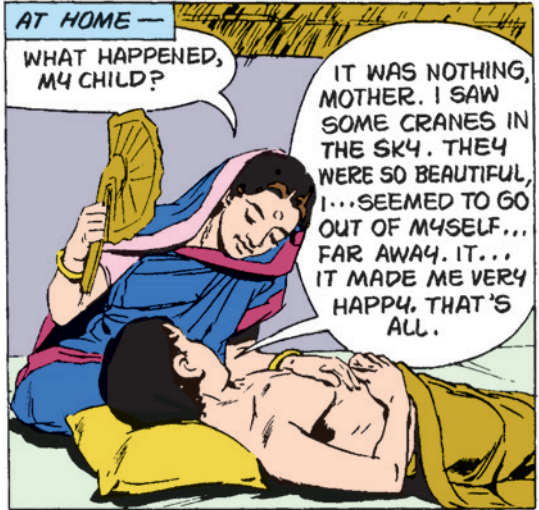
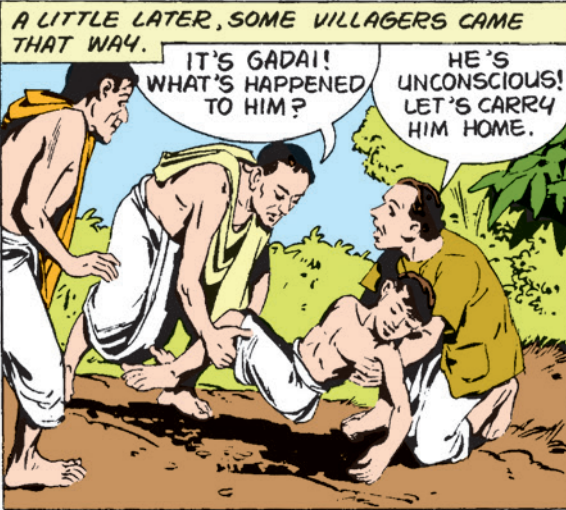
* THREAD CEREMONY

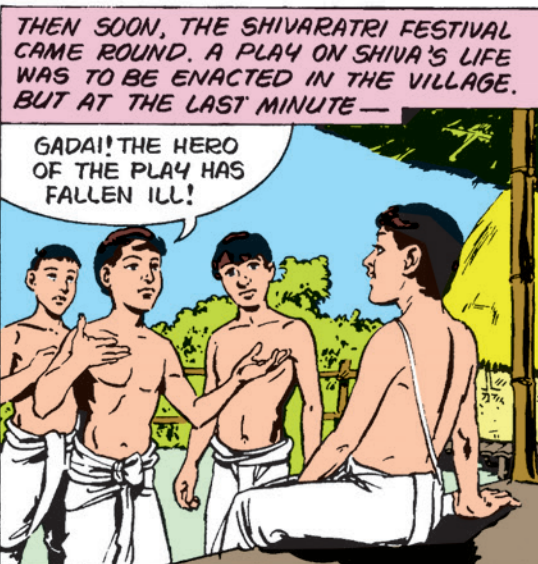
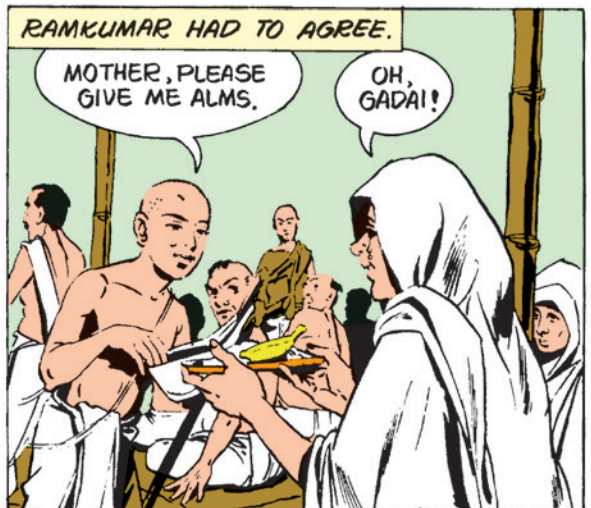
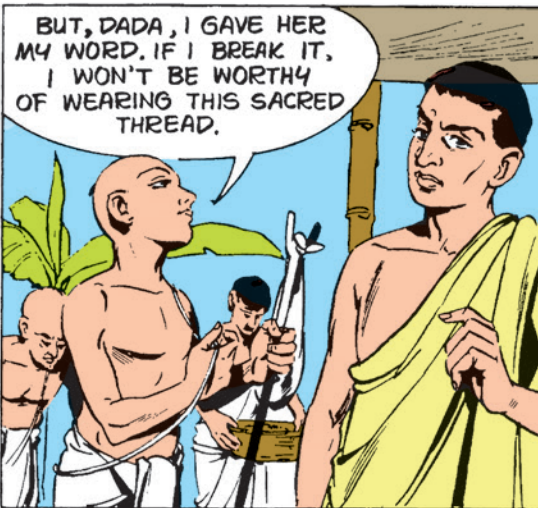
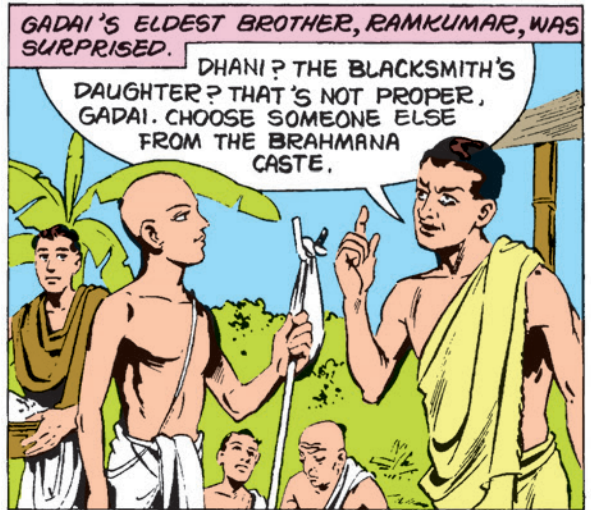
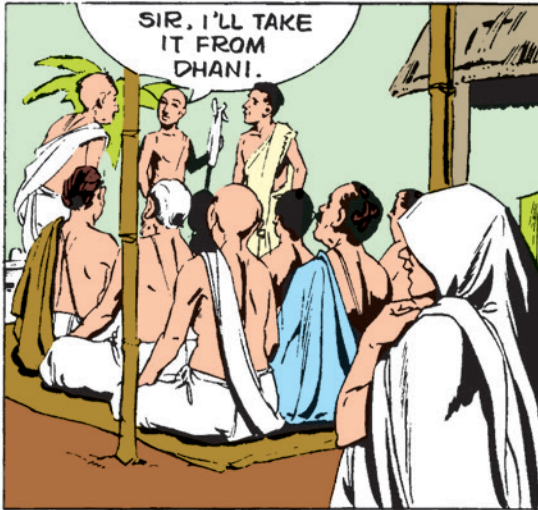
THOUGH FULL OF FUN, GADAI OFTEN LIKED TO BE ALONE WITH THE BEAUTY AND SERENITY OF NATURE.

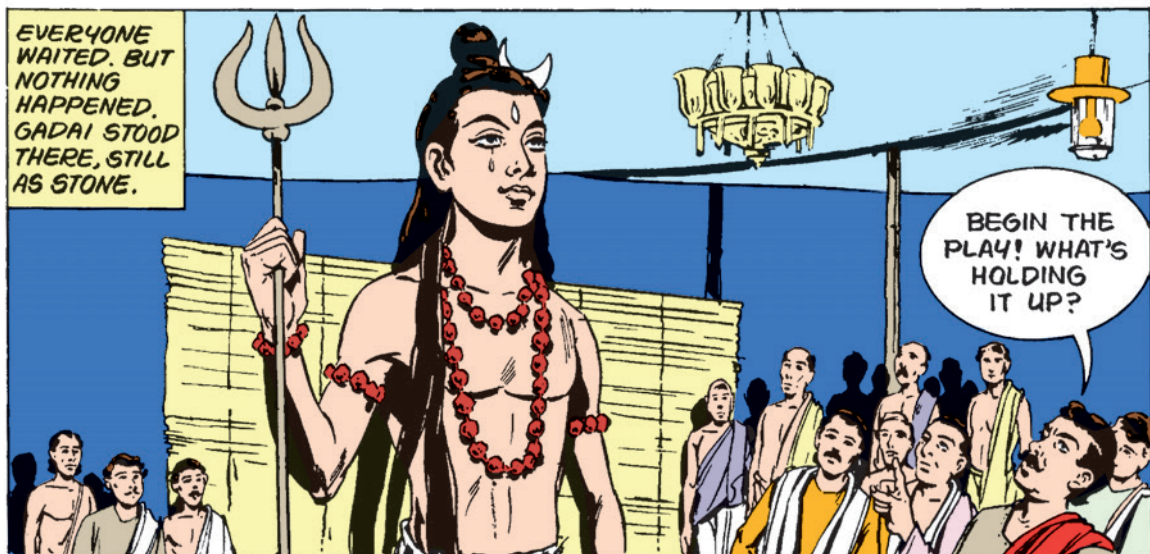
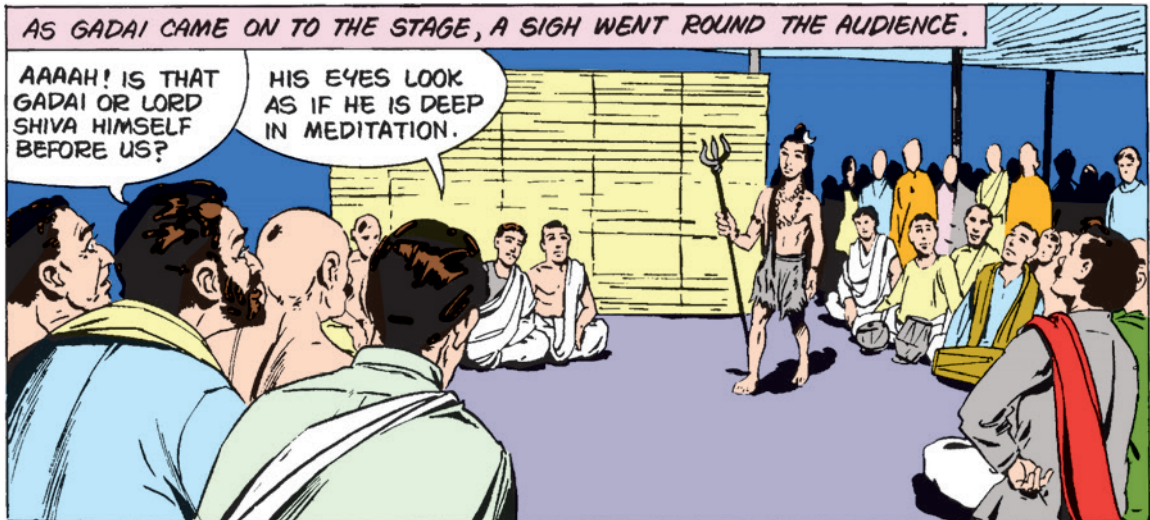
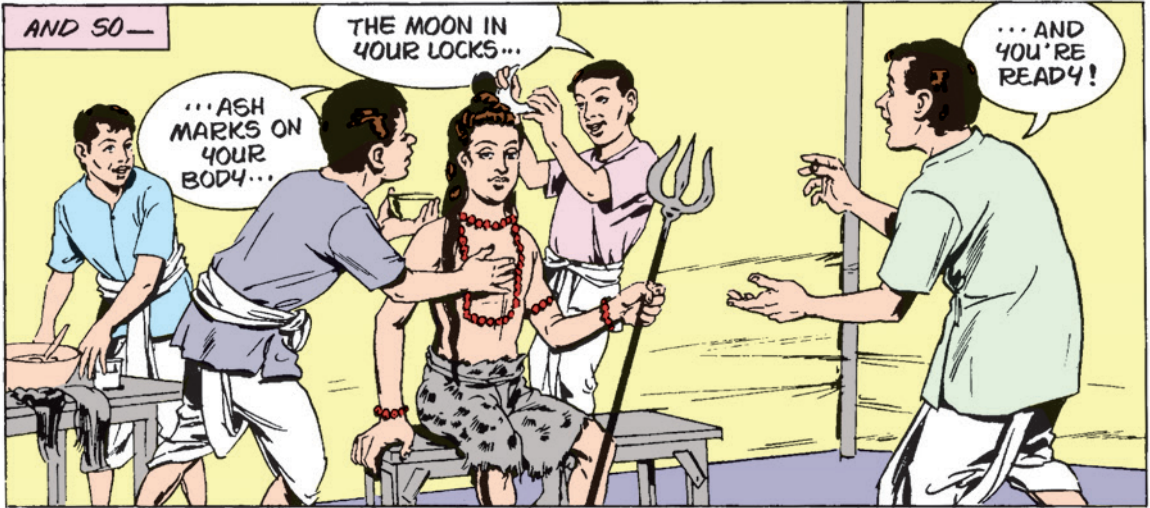


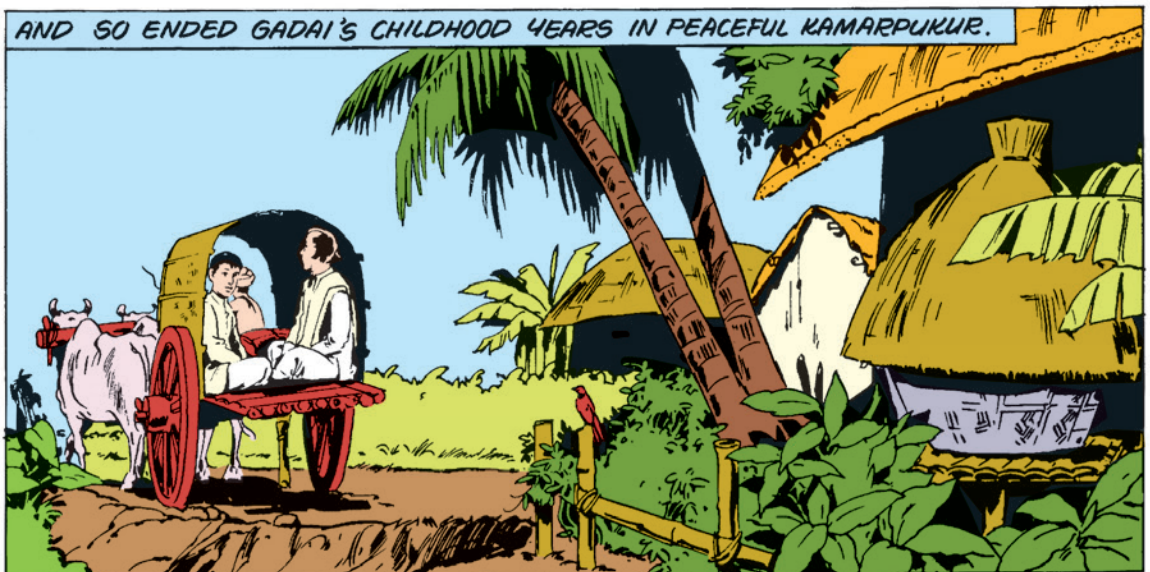
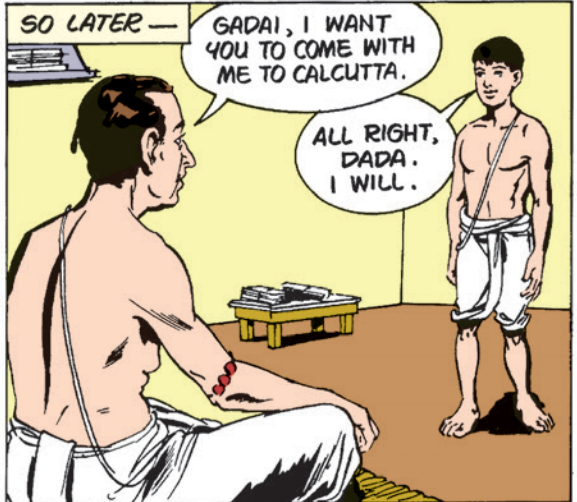
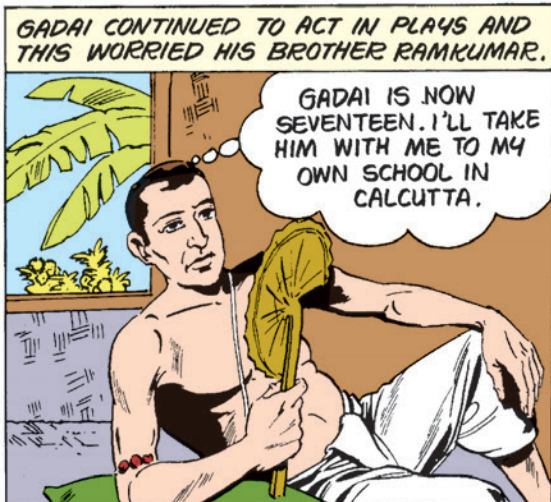
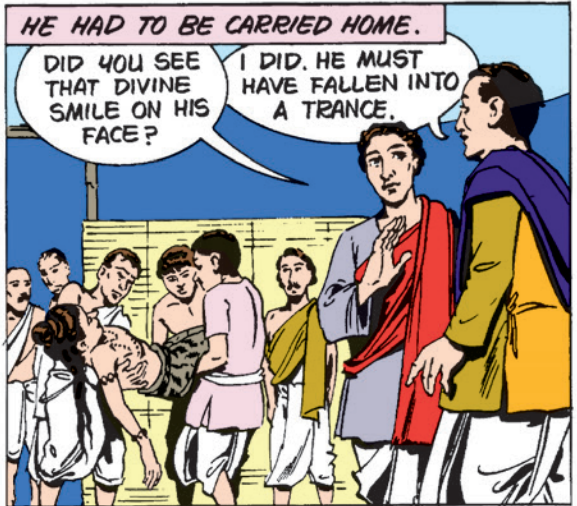
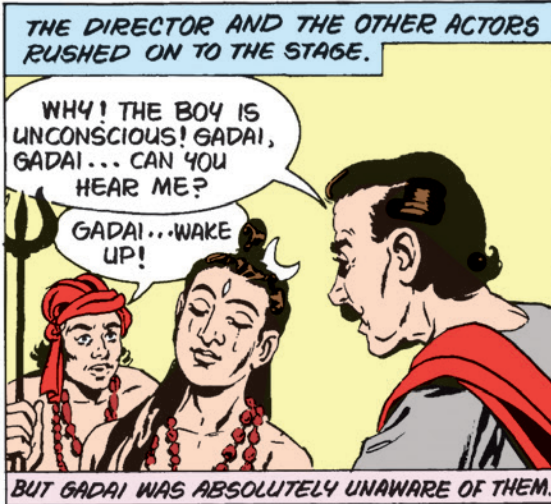
ONE DAY, AS HE WAS WALKING ALONG THE RIDGES OF THE FIELDS, EATING PARCHED RICE, A THUNDER-CLOUD DARKENED THE SKY. HE STOPPED TO GAZE AT IT.

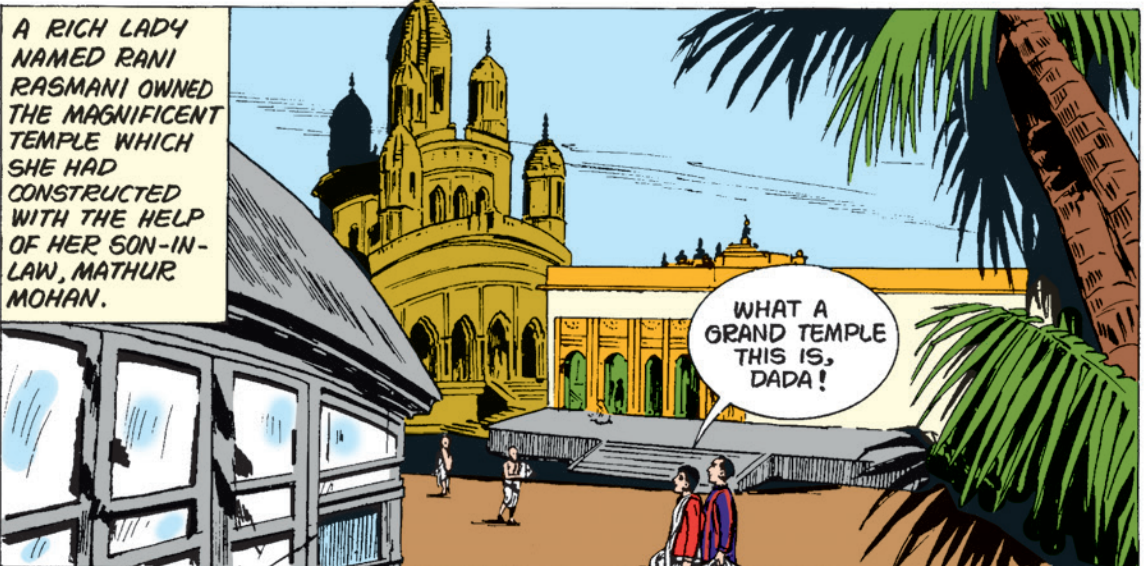
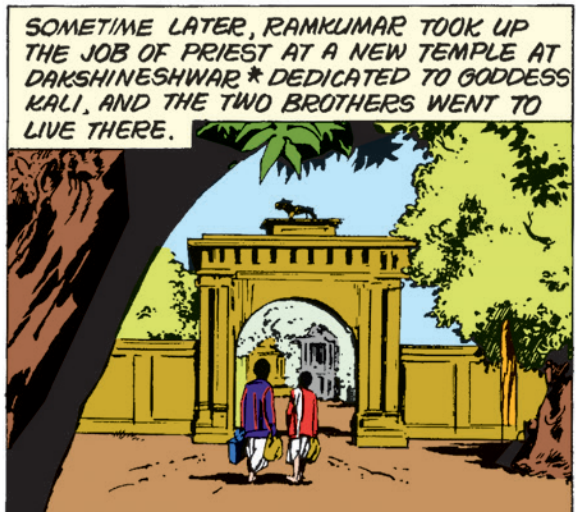
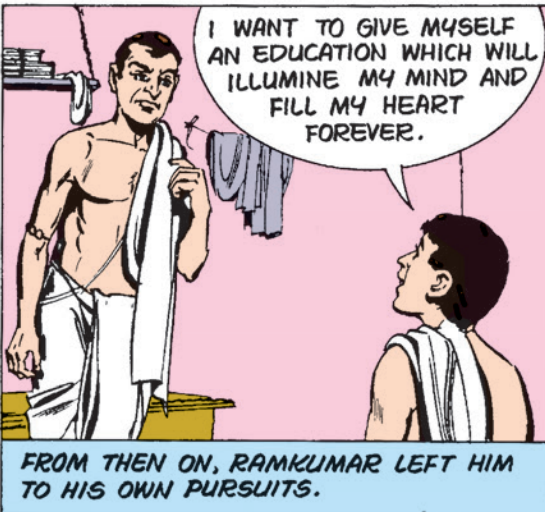
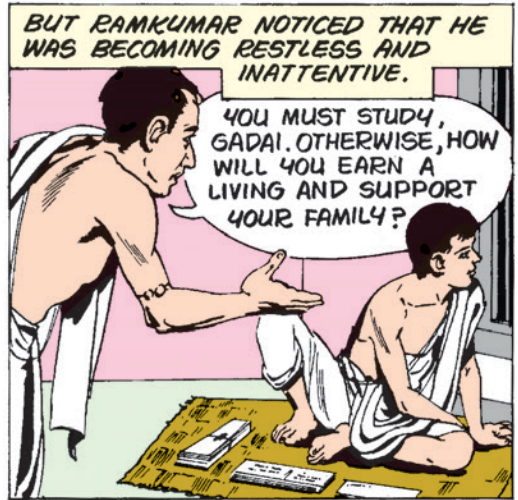
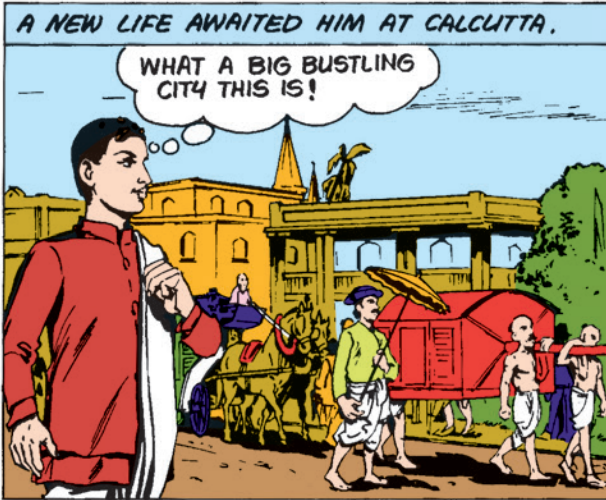




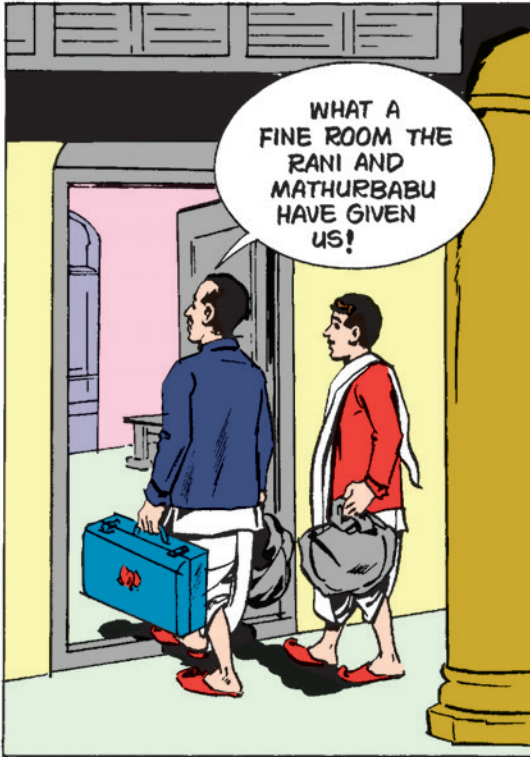




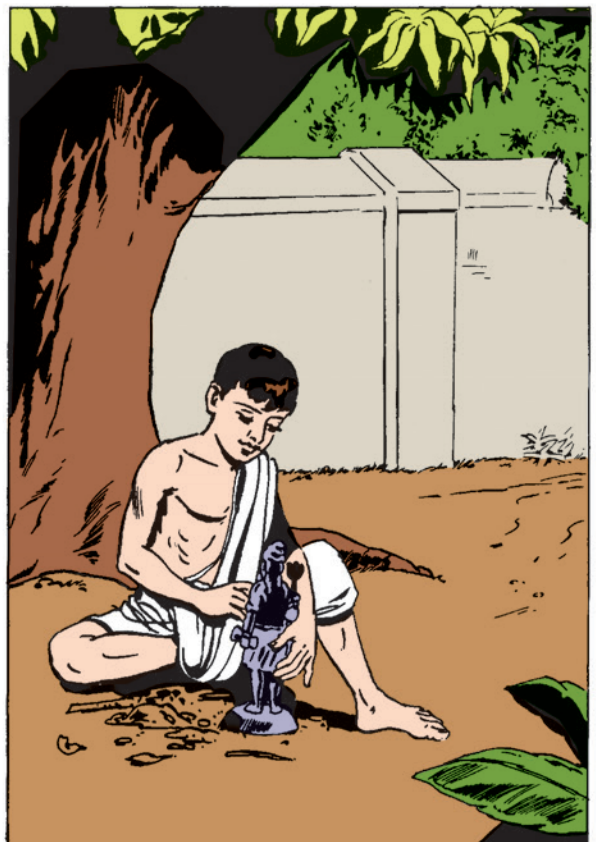


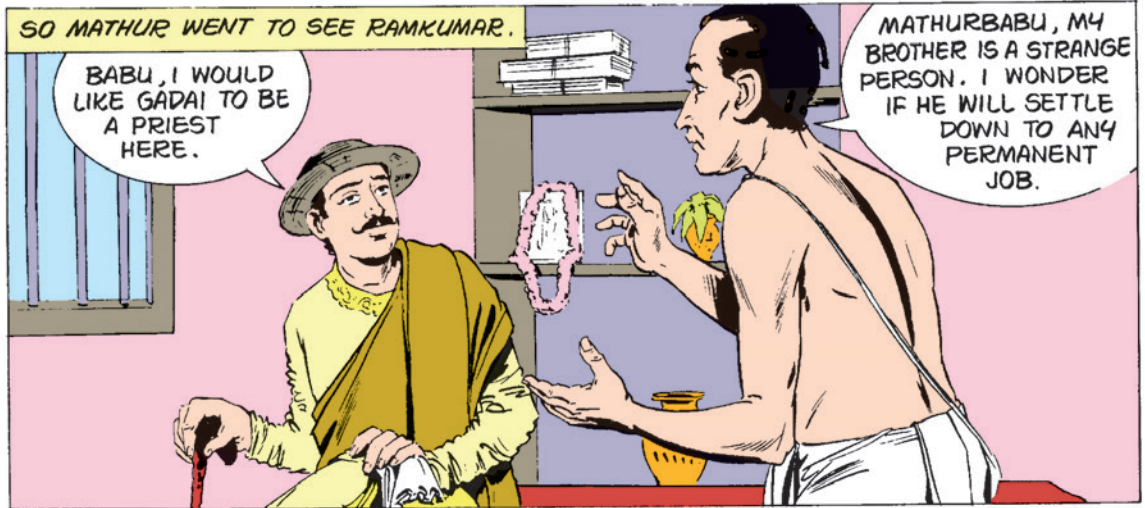
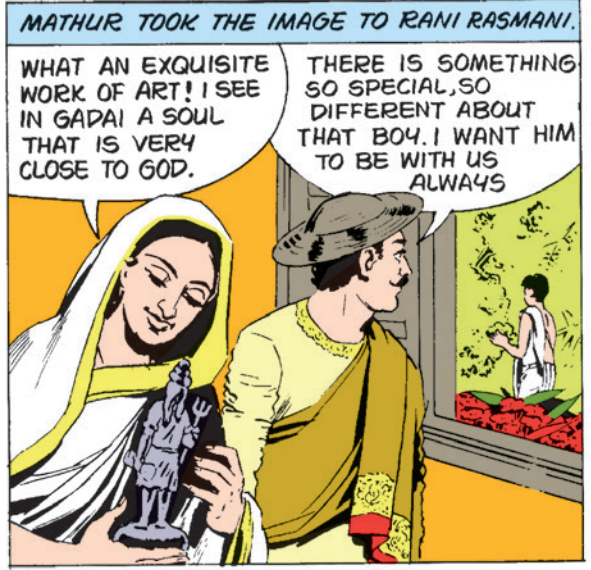
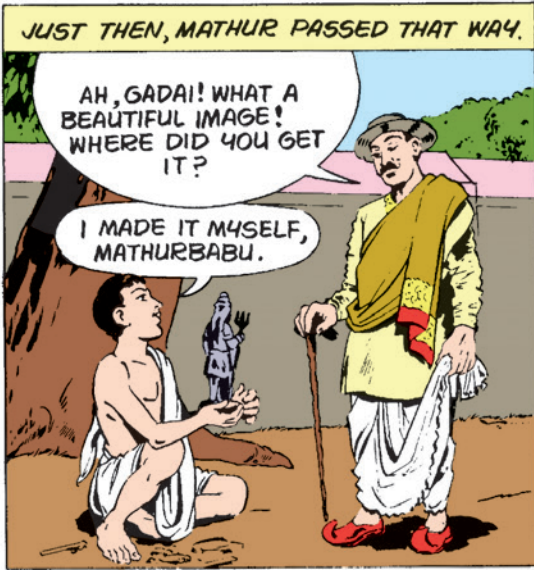


* FOUR MILES NORTH OF CALCUTTA



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

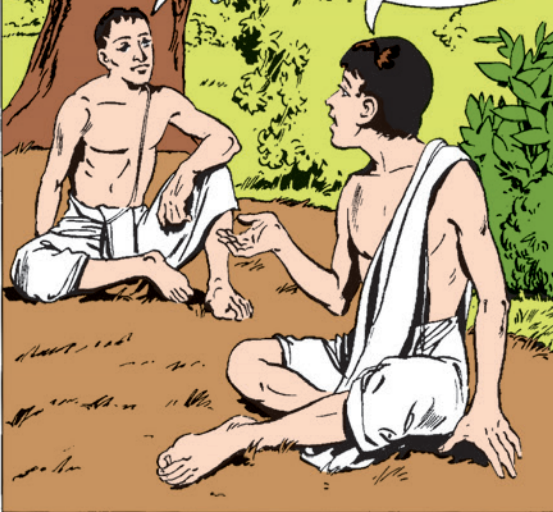




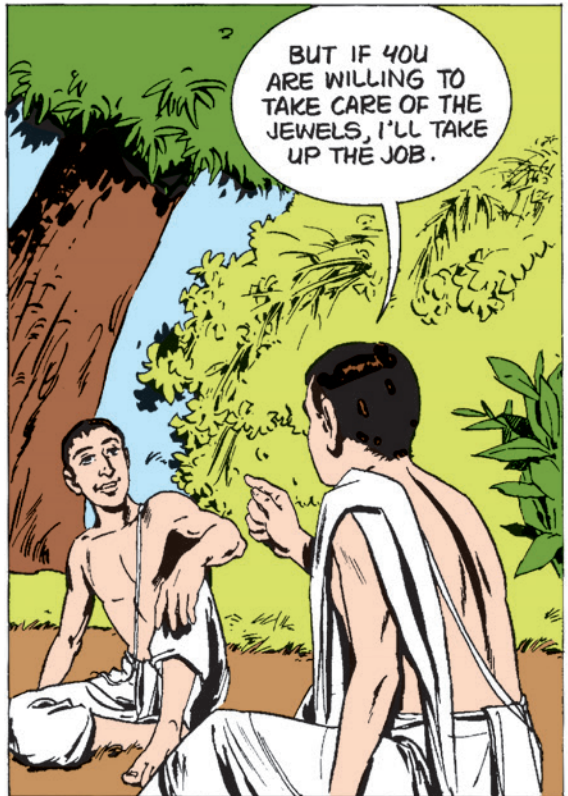
HRIDAY WAS SURPRISED AT GADAI'S BEHAVIOUR.

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

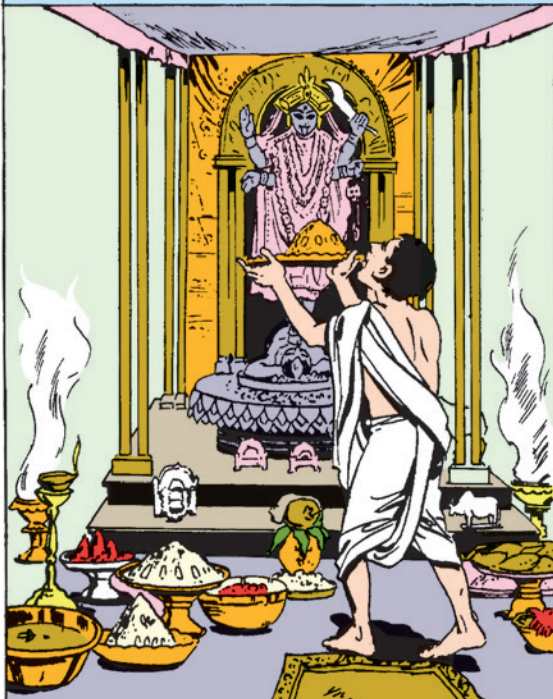
HRIDAY, IF I TAKE THE JOB, I'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE GODDESS'S JEWELS, I DON'T WANT THAT RESPONSIBILITY.



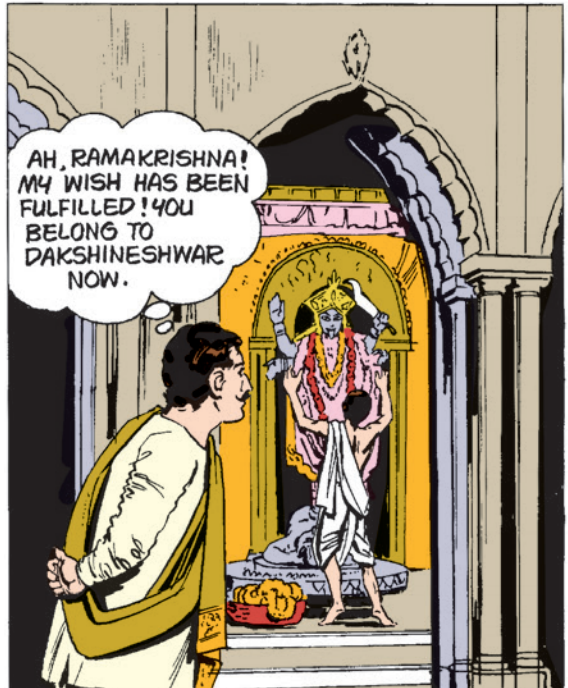
BUT IF YOU ARE WILLING TO TAKE CARE OF THE JEWELS, I'LL TAKE UP THE JOB.



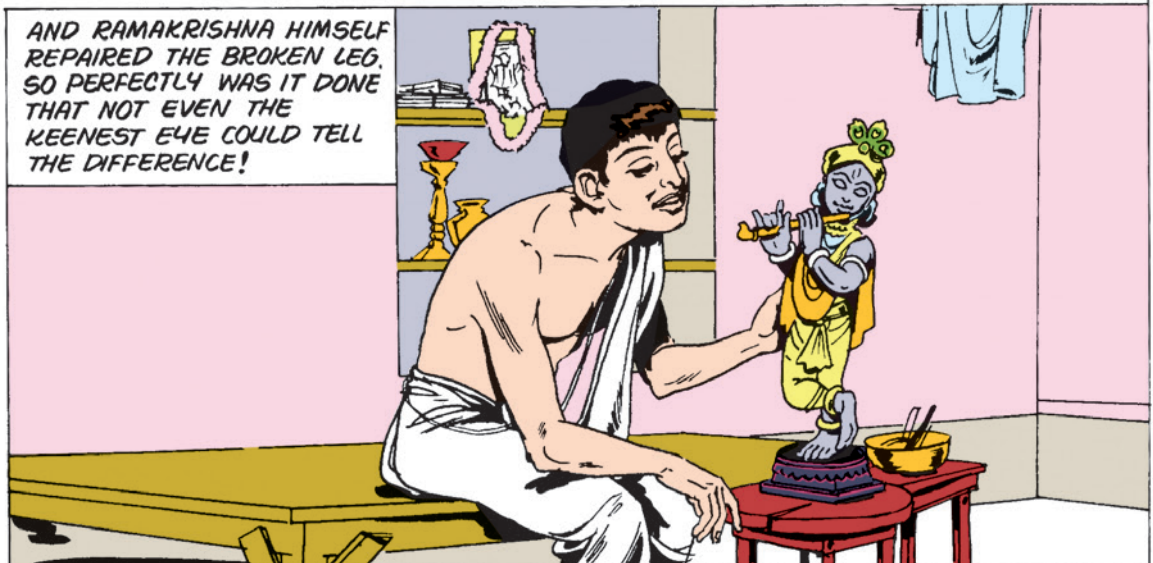
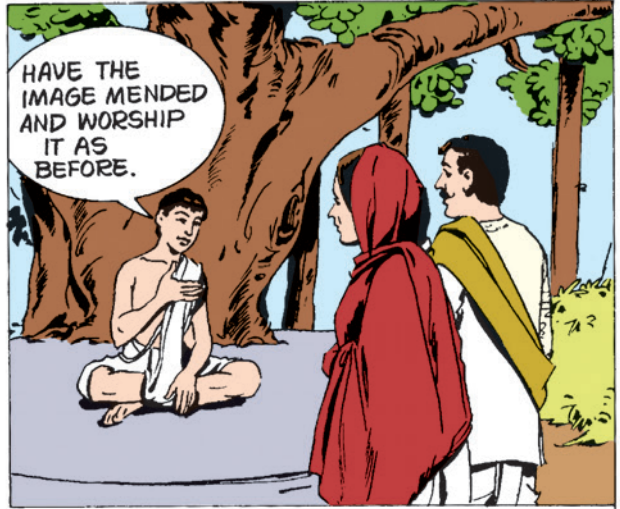
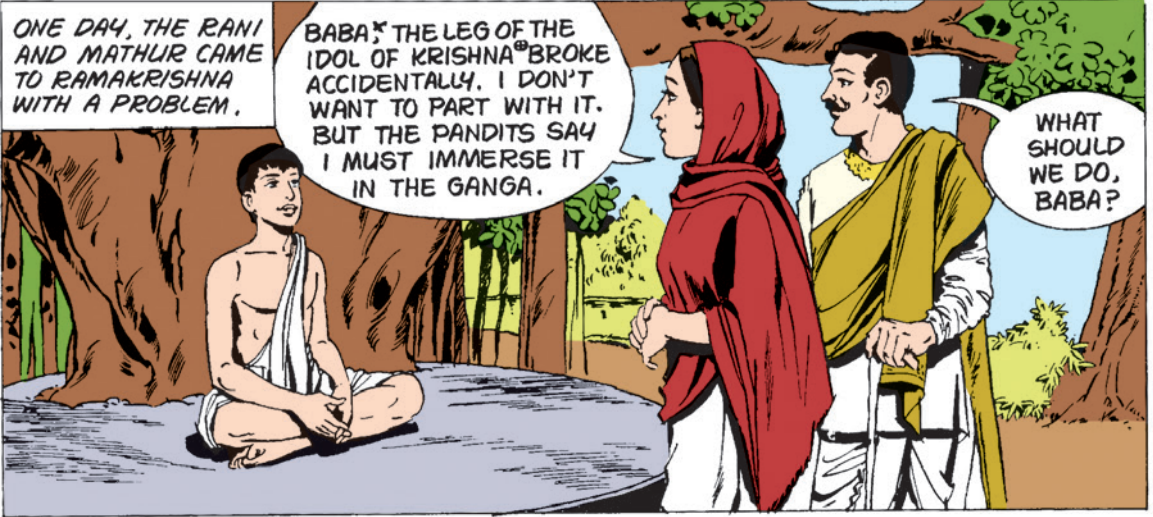
HRIDAY AGREED. SO GADAI BECAME ASSISTANT PRIEST OF THE KALI SHRINE UNDER RAMKUMAR AND BEGAN TO SERVE KALI WITH LOVE AND REVERENCE.



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



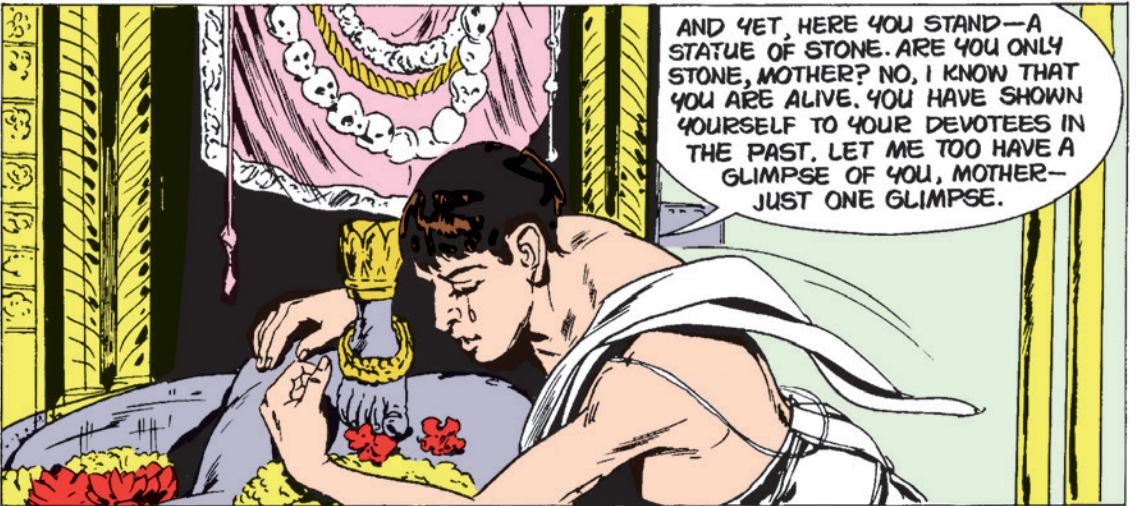
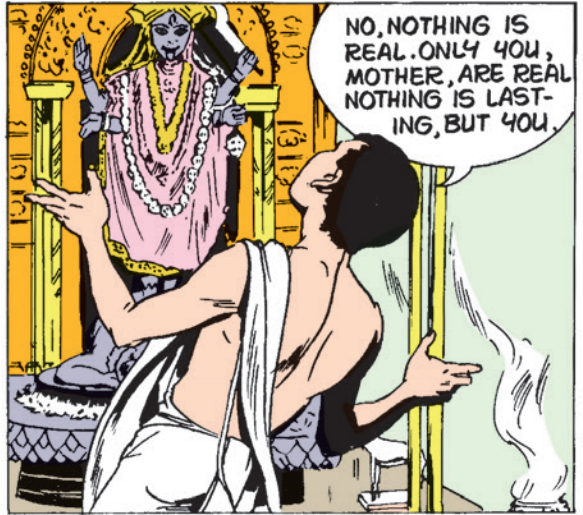
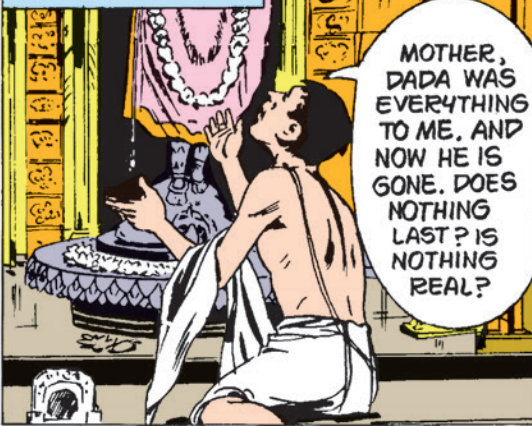
IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT GADAI CAME TO BE CALLED RAMAKRISHNA. MATHUR IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GIVEN HIM THIS NAME.



* 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.



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

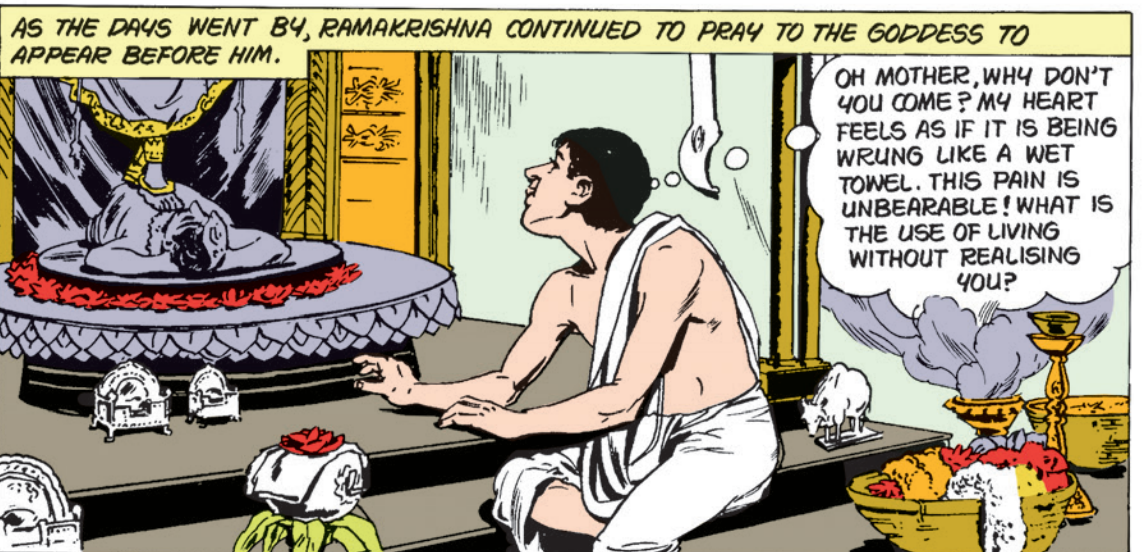
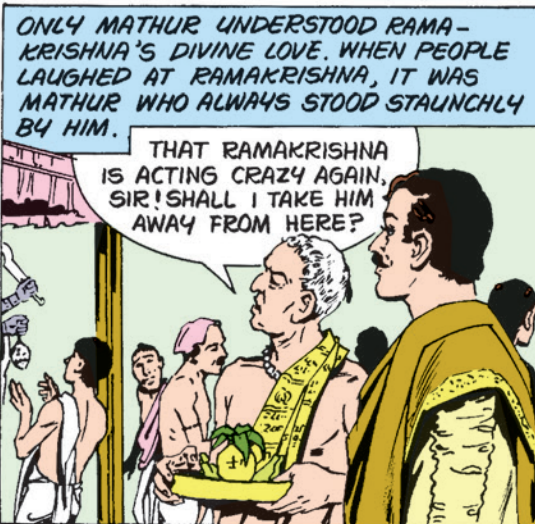
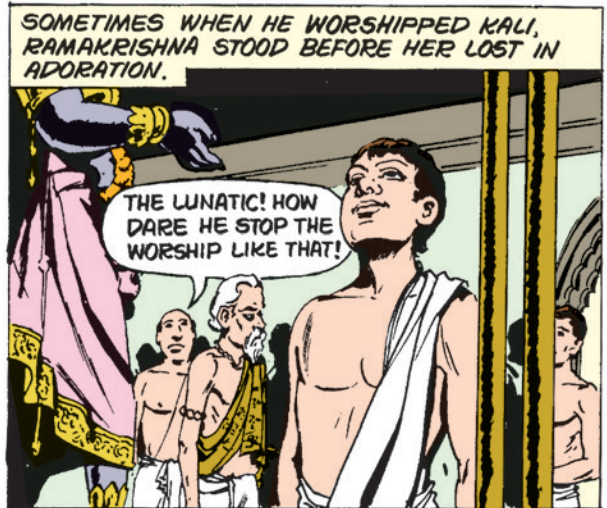
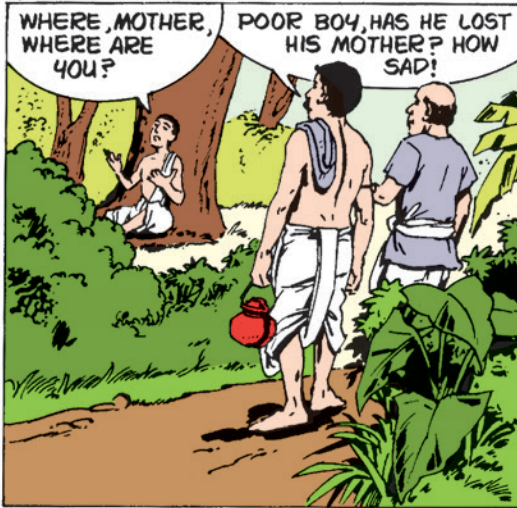


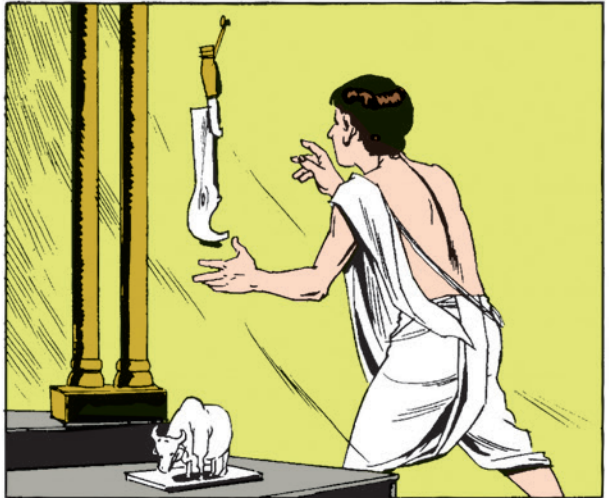
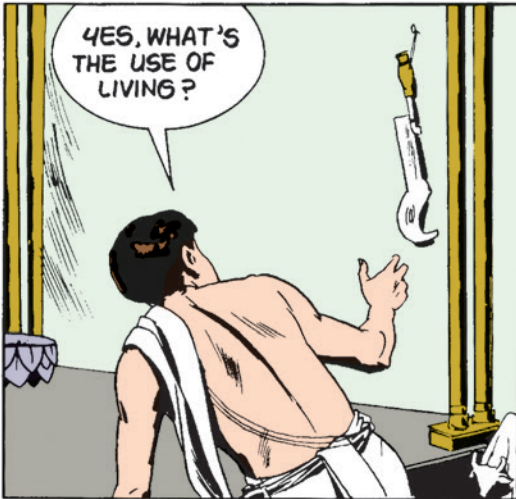
...AND NIGHTS WENT BY.



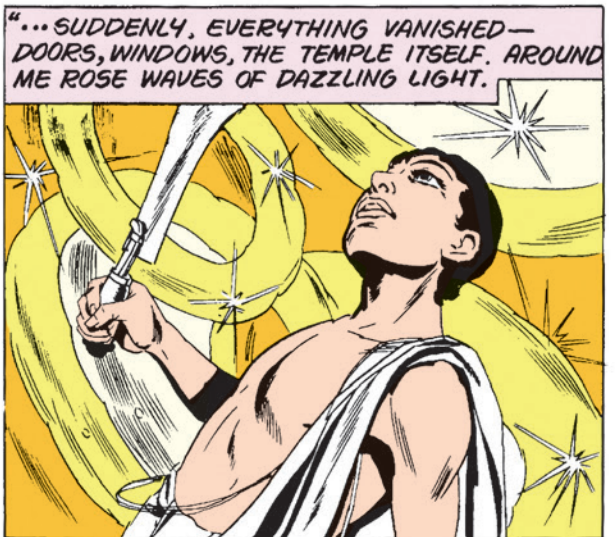
THEN ONE DAY—





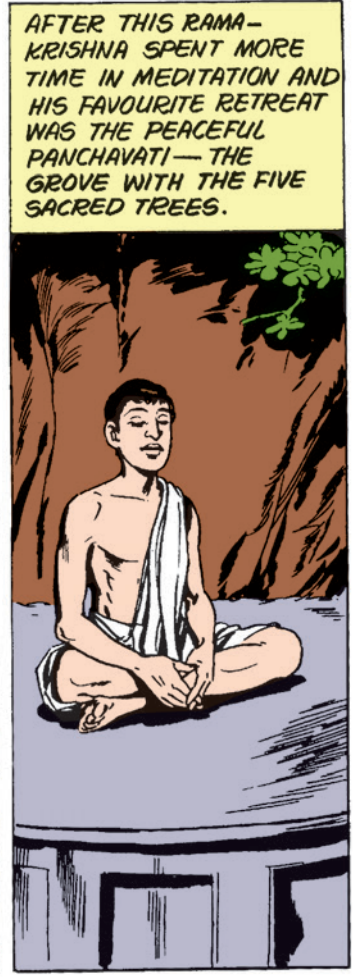
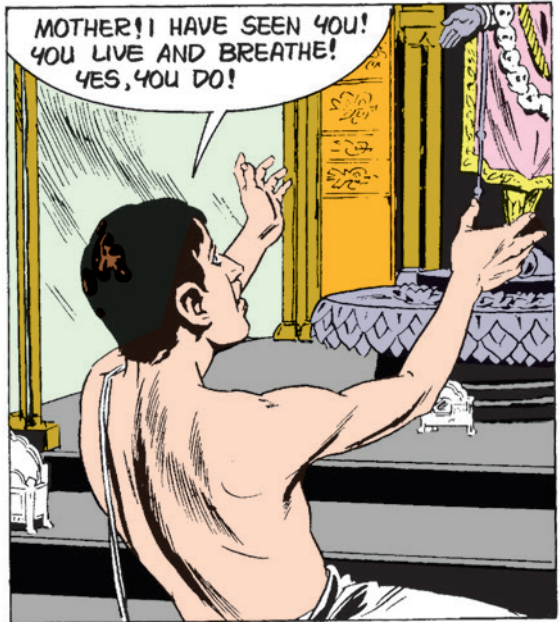


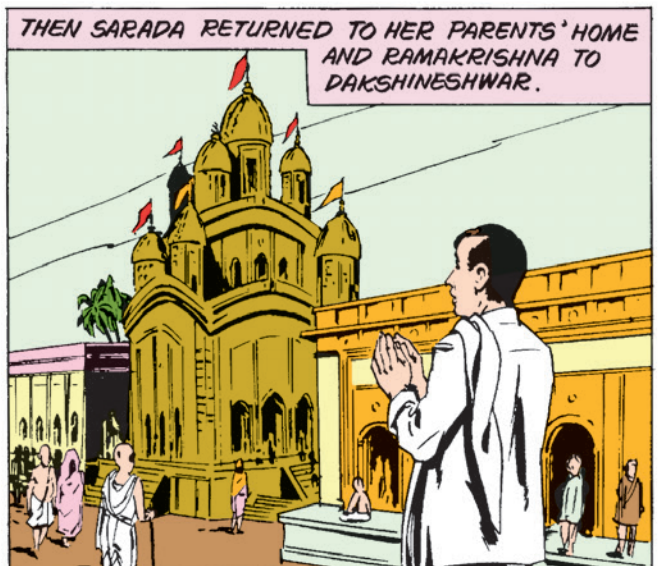
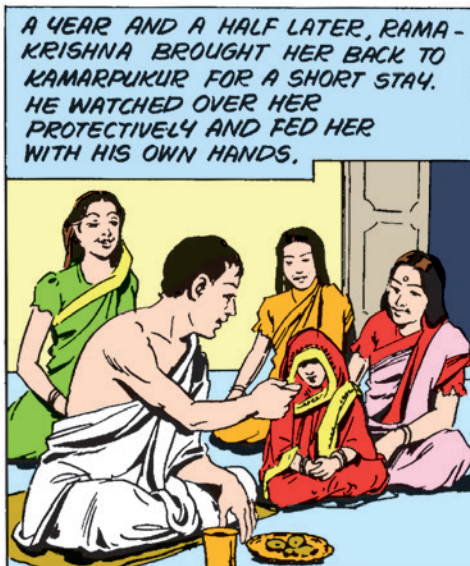
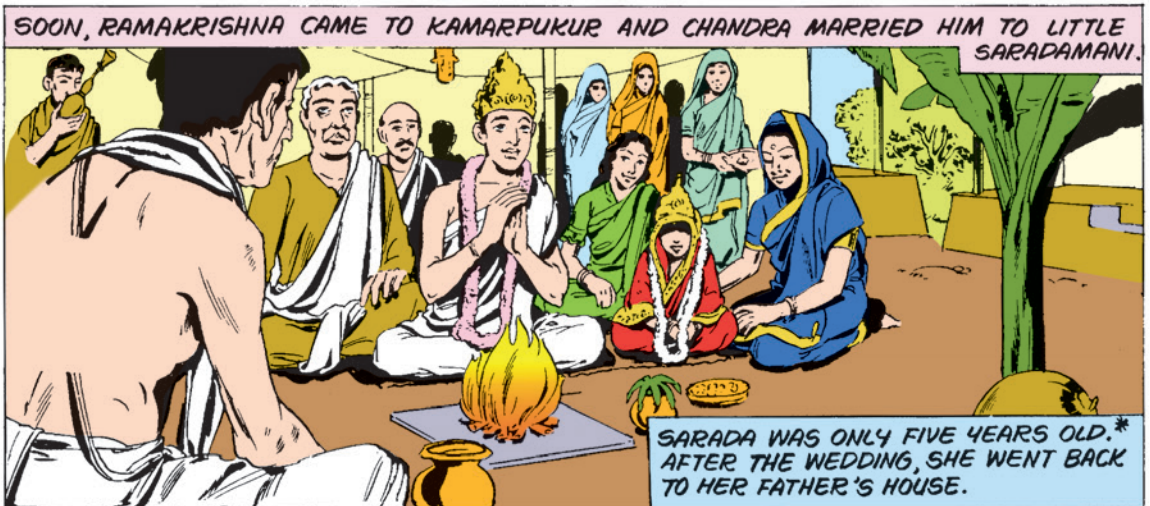
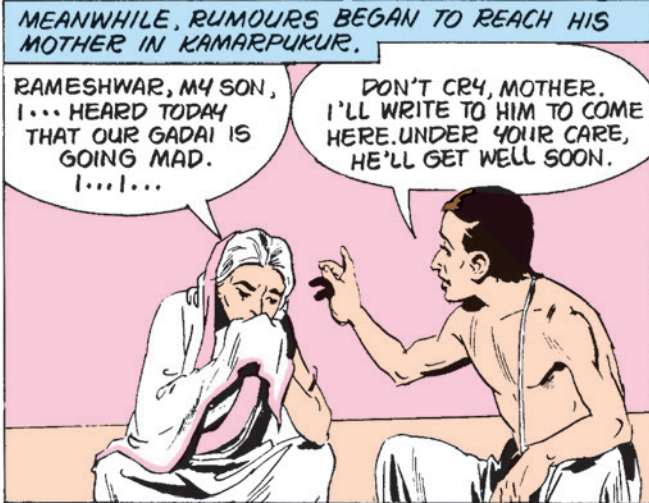
BEFORE RAMAKRISHNA COULD ACT ANY FURTHER, THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN. AS HE HIMSELF WAS TO DESCRIBE IT LATER...



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

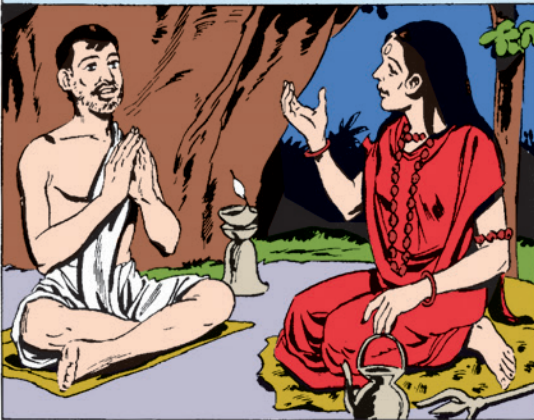






* IN THOSE DAYS GIRLS WERE MARRIED AT A VERY YOUNG AGE.

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.

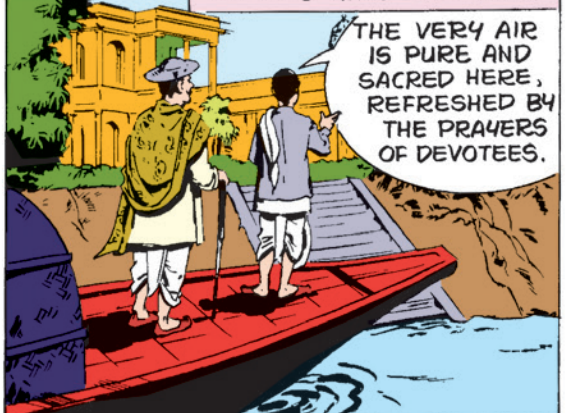
BUT...BUT, BABA, THIS PILGRIMAGE IS GOING TO COST ME A LOT. IF I SPEND SO MUCH ON THEM, I MIGHT HAVE NO MONEY LEFT!

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.

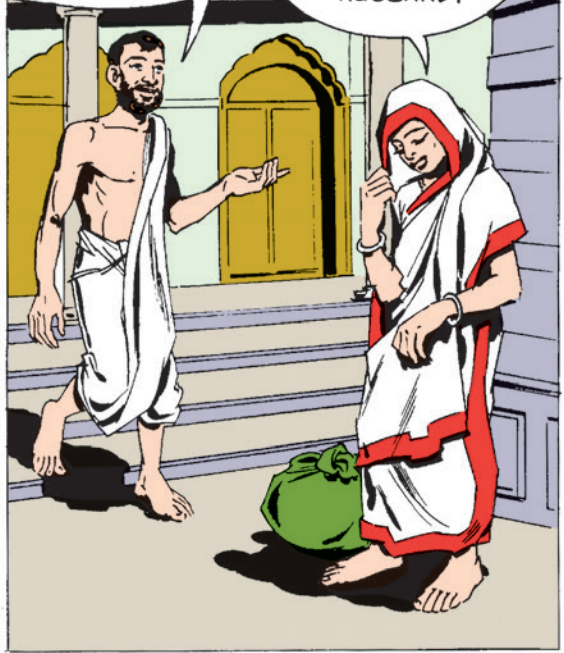
ALL THIS WHILE, LITTLE SARADAMANI WAS GROWING UP. SHE WAS NOW SEVENTEEN. SHE TOO HAD HEARD THE RUMOURS ABOUT RAMAKRISHNA.



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.

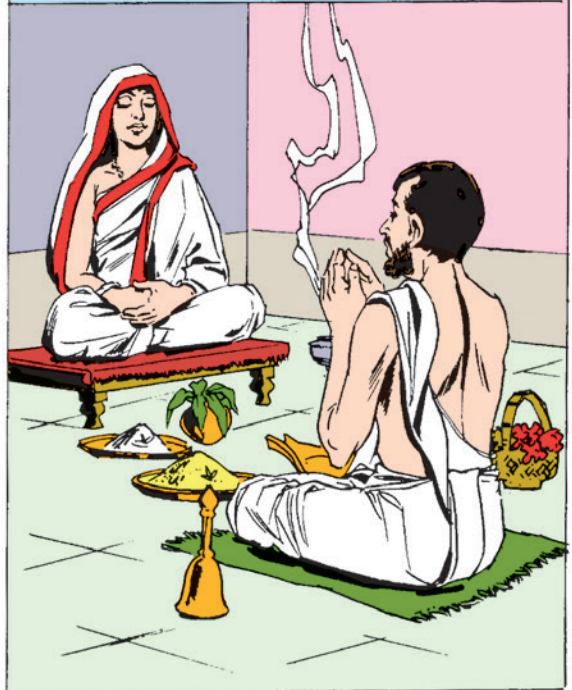


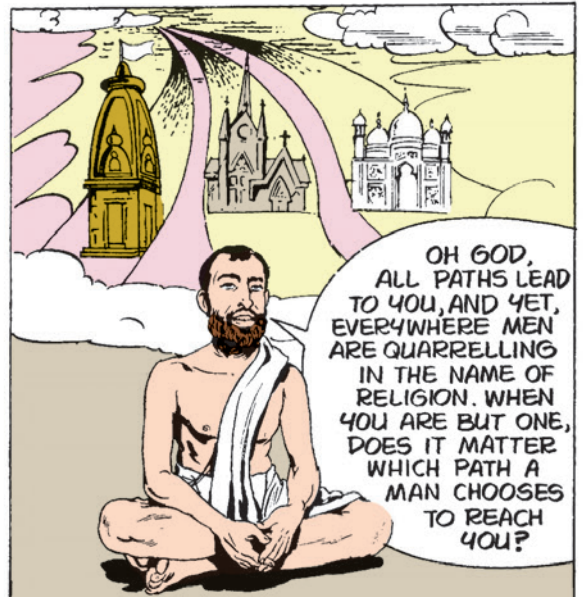
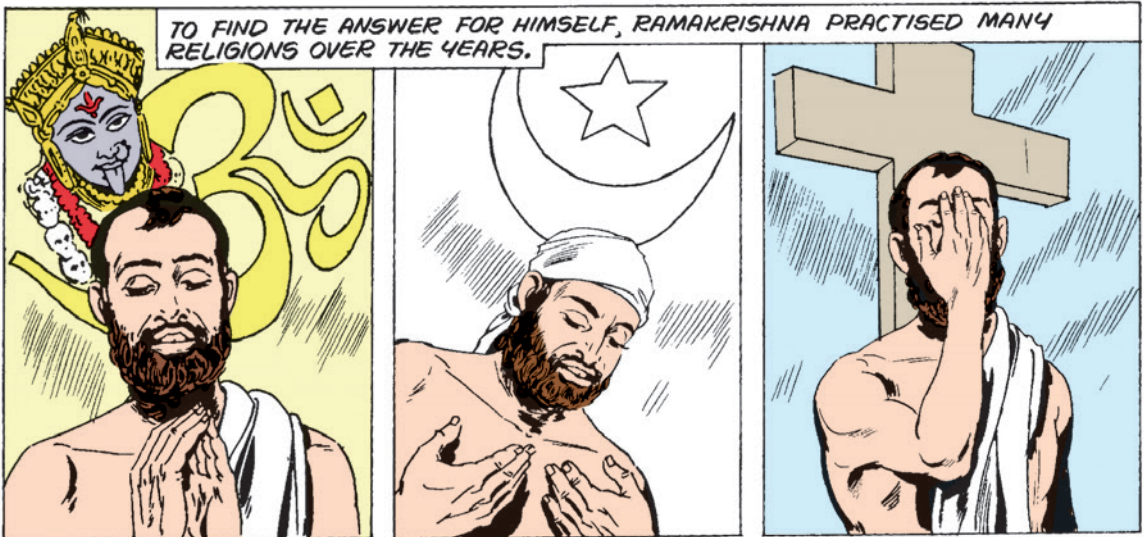
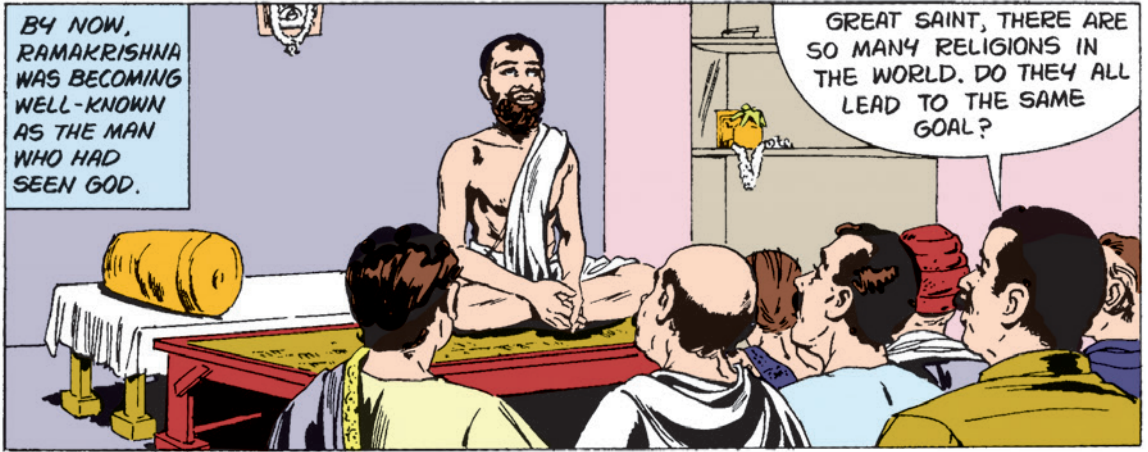
WHAT AM I TO YOU?

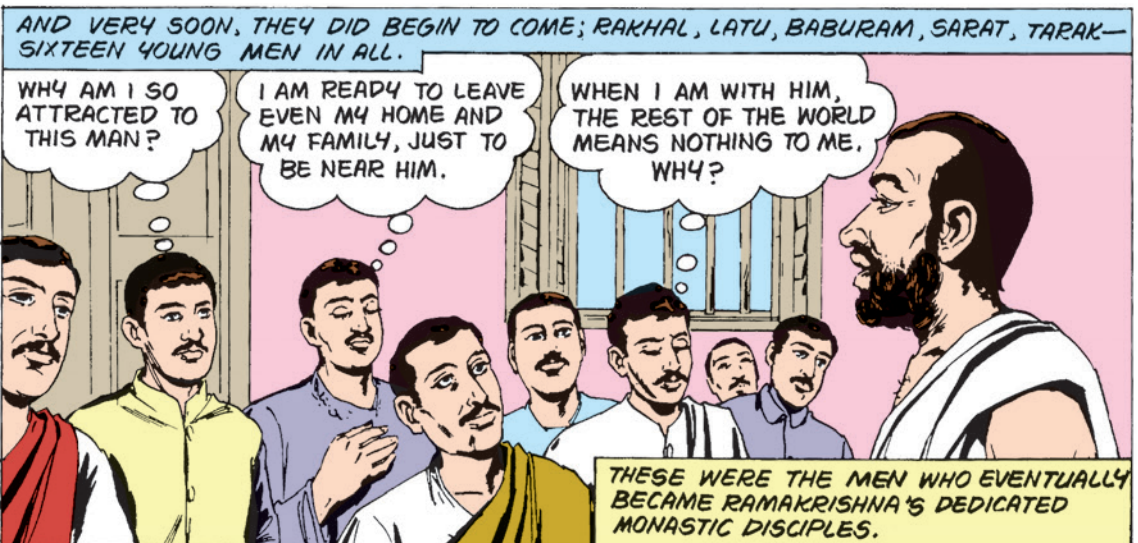
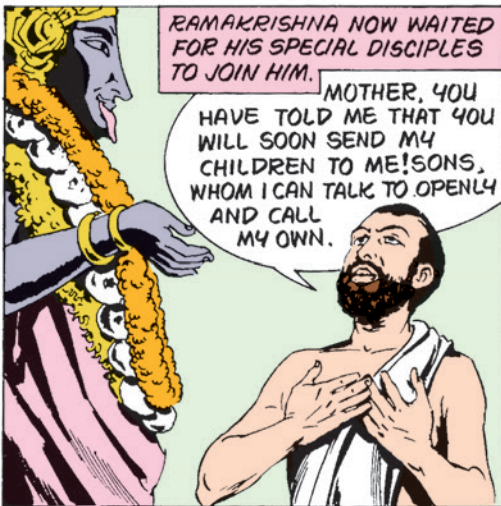
THE SAME MOTHER WHO IS IN THE TEMPLE, THE SAME MOTHER WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME— THAT SAME MOTHER IS JUST NOW, PRESSING MY FEET. TO ME, YOU ARE THE DIVINE MOTHER HERSELF.



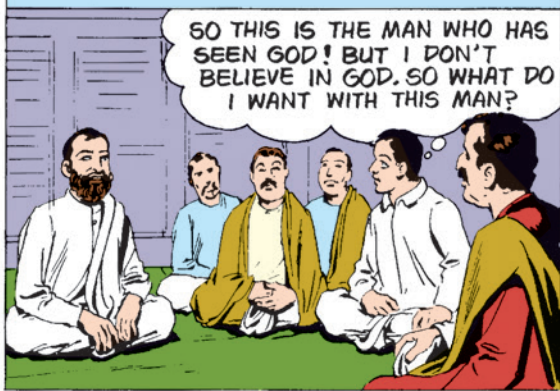
AND ONE DAY, RAMAKRISHNA PLACED SARADA ON A SEAT MEANT FOR THE GODDESS AND WORSHIPPED HER.



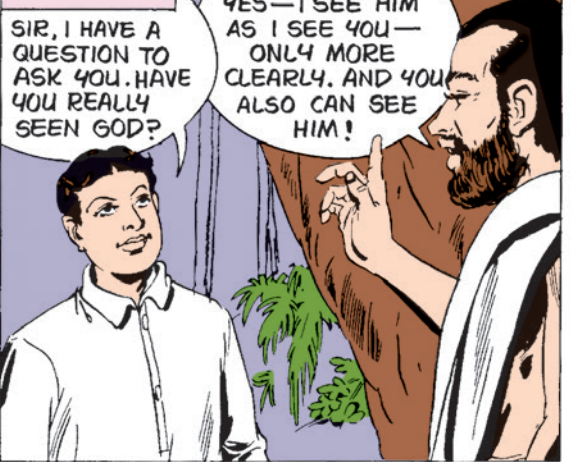




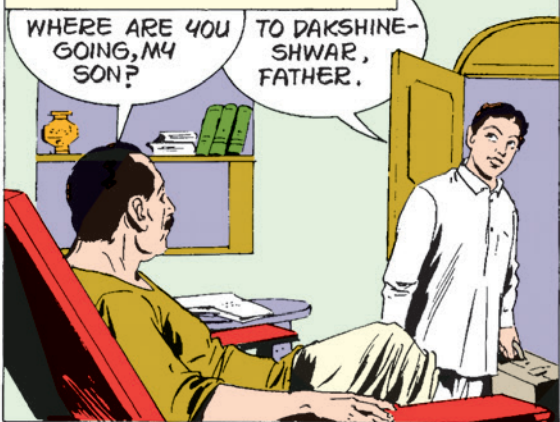
AND AMONG THEM WAS NAREN*, THE BOY WHO WOULD ONE DAY MAKE RAMAKRISHNA'S NAME KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WHEN NAREN FIRST MET RAMAKRISHNA, HE WAS A YOUNG MAN FACED WITH A DILEMMA.



THE DOUBTING NAREN, HOWEVER COULD NOT KEEP AWAY.



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



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.

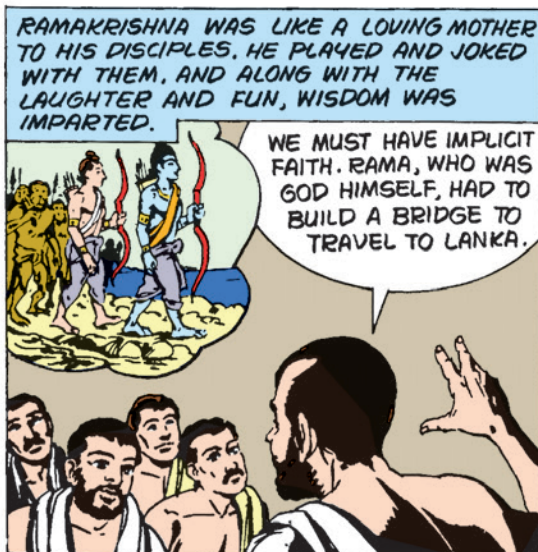
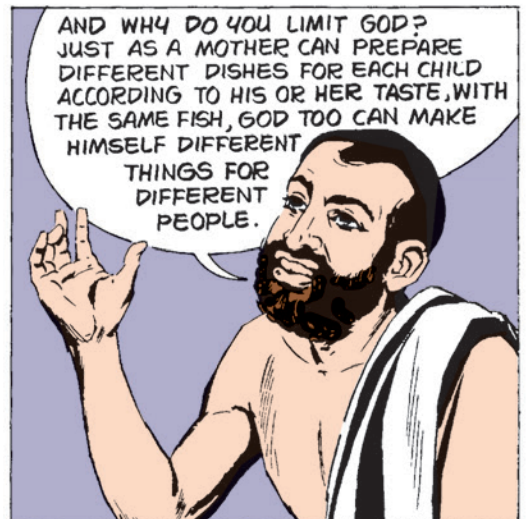
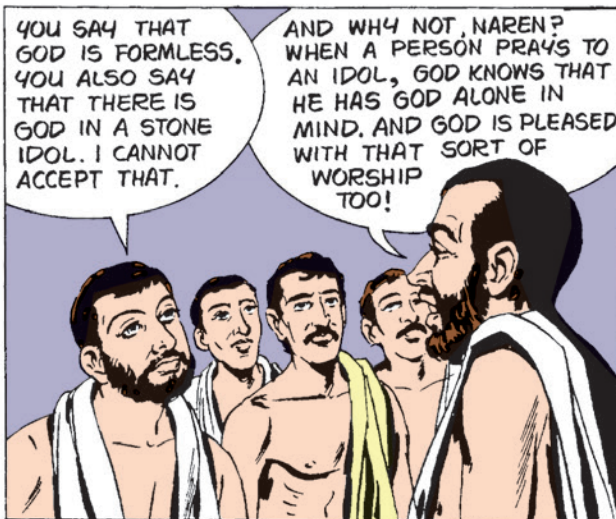
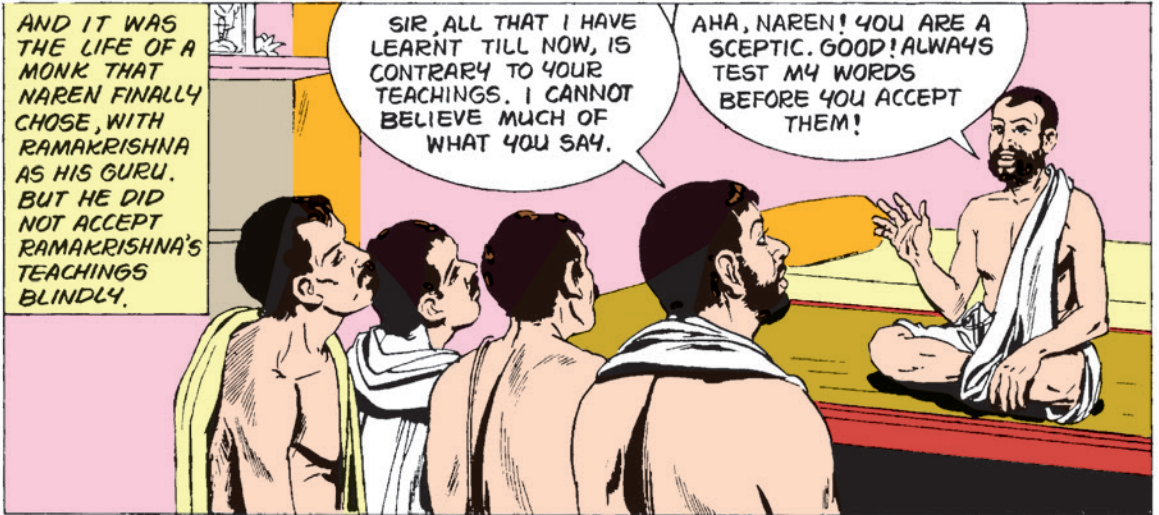


I USED TO HAVE TWO IDEALS BEFORE ME. ONE, OF BECOMING A RICH MAN SURROUNDED BY VAST WEALTH; THE OTHER OF BECOMING A WANDERING MONK.



NOW, SOMEHOW...





AND THE DISCIPLES TOO, RETURNED RAMAKRISHNA'S LOVE. ONE DAY, A DISCIPLE NAMED 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?

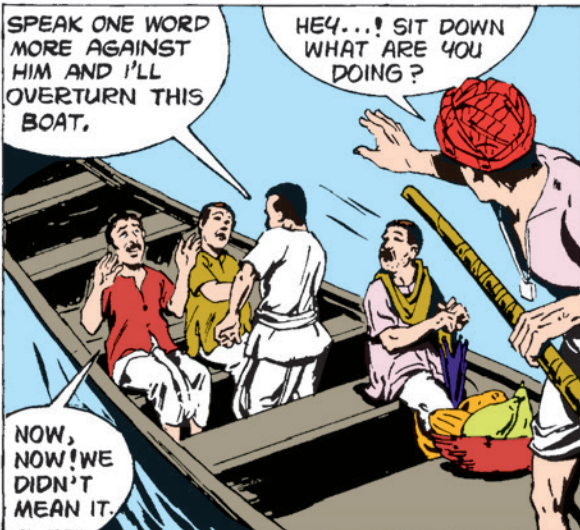
YOU ARE A FOOL TO ACCEPT ALL THAT MADMAN SAYS!



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

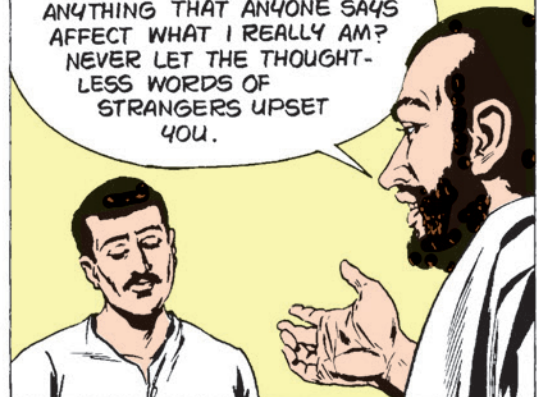
HEY...! SIT DOWN WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

NOW, NOW! WE DIDN'T MEAN IT.

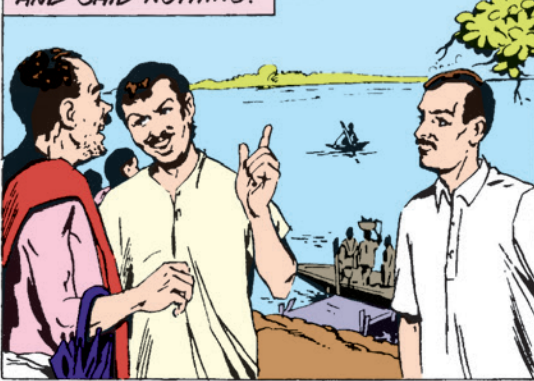


WHEN NIRANJAN TOLD RAMAKRISHNA WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON THE BOAT—

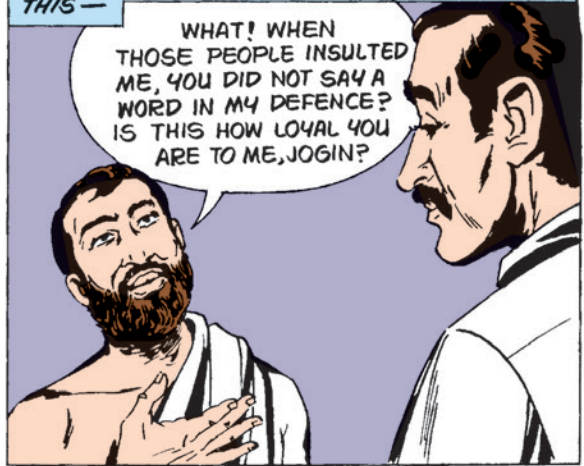
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO LOSE YOUR TEMPER LIKE THAT? CAN ANYTHING THAT ANYONE SAYS AFFECT WHAT I REALLY AM? NEVER LET THE THOUGHTLESS WORDS OF STRANGERS UPSET YOU.



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 —



WHEN NIRANJAN HEARD OF THIS INCIDENT, HE WAS SURPRISED.

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

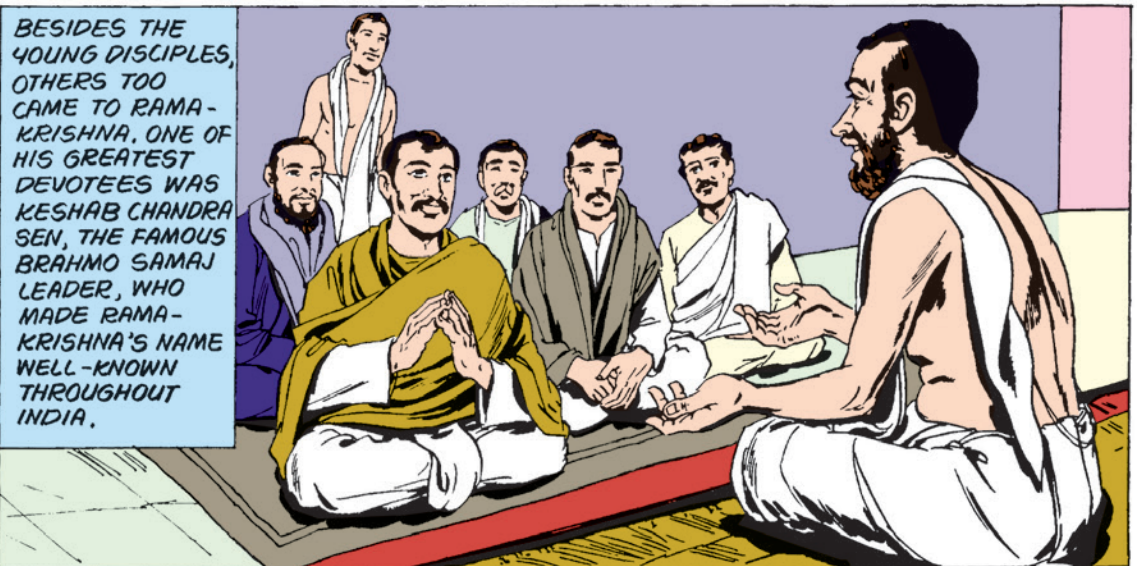
CAN'T YOU SEE? HE IS MOULDING OUR INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERS.



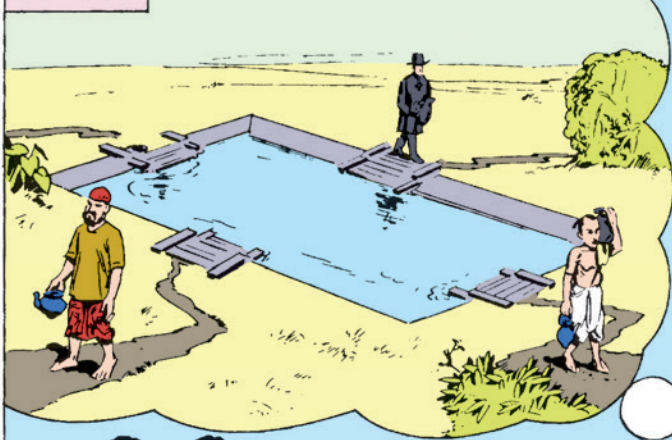
YOU ARE FIERY LIKE A RED CHILLI. HE WANTS TO CALM YOU DOWN. JOGIN IS LIKE A MOUSE — TOO TIMID AND EASILY BULLIED. HE WANTS TO PUT SOME SPIRIT INTO HIM.



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.

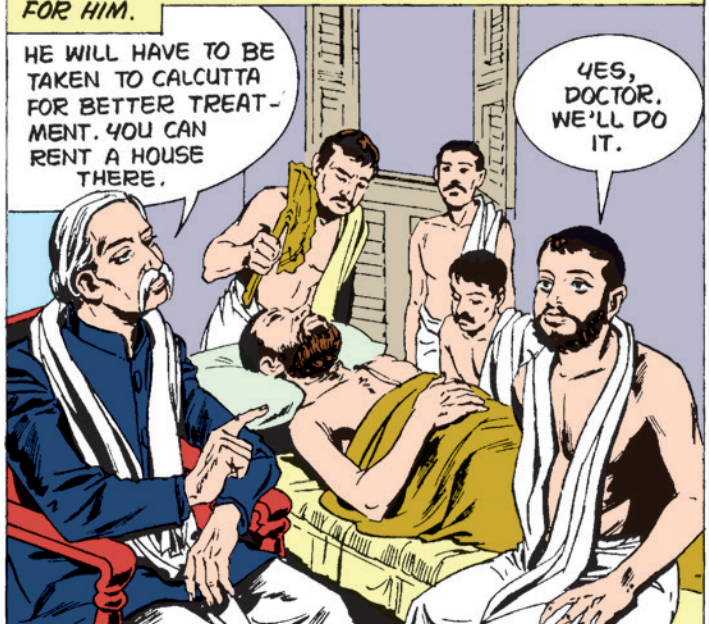


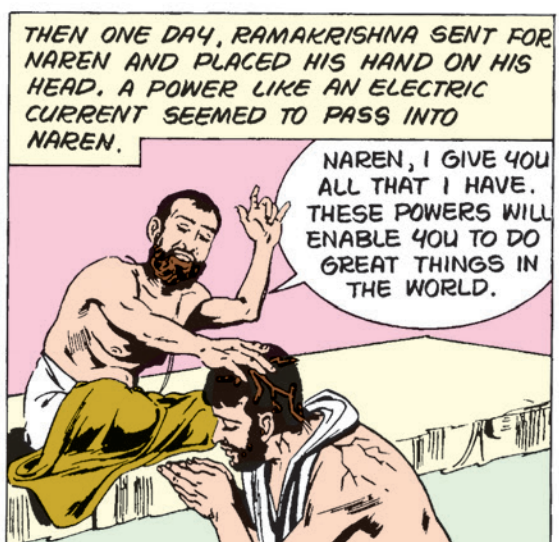
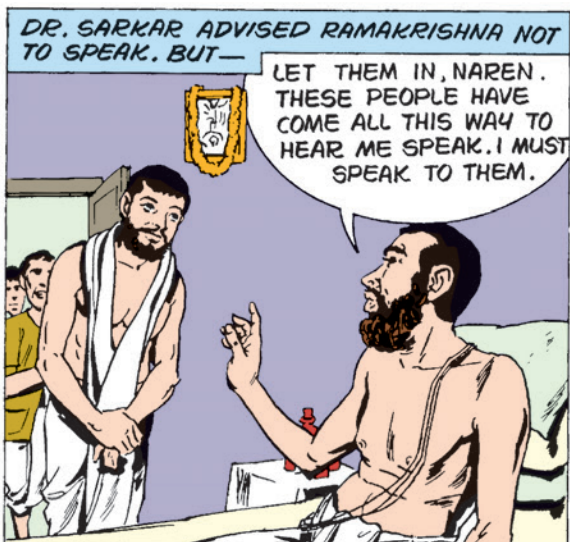
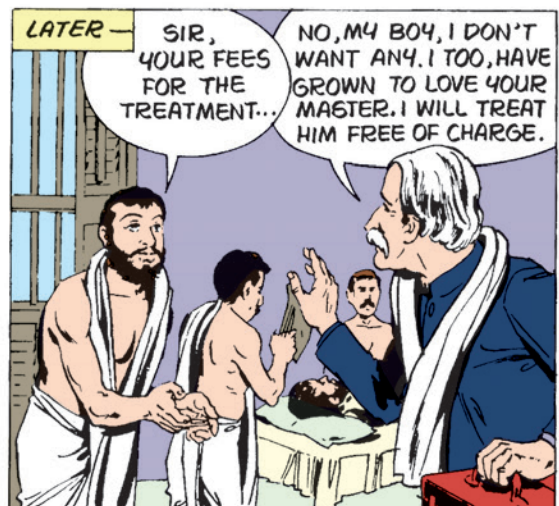
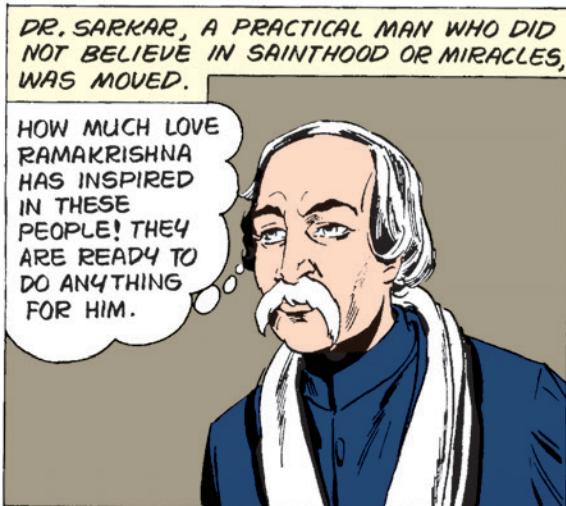
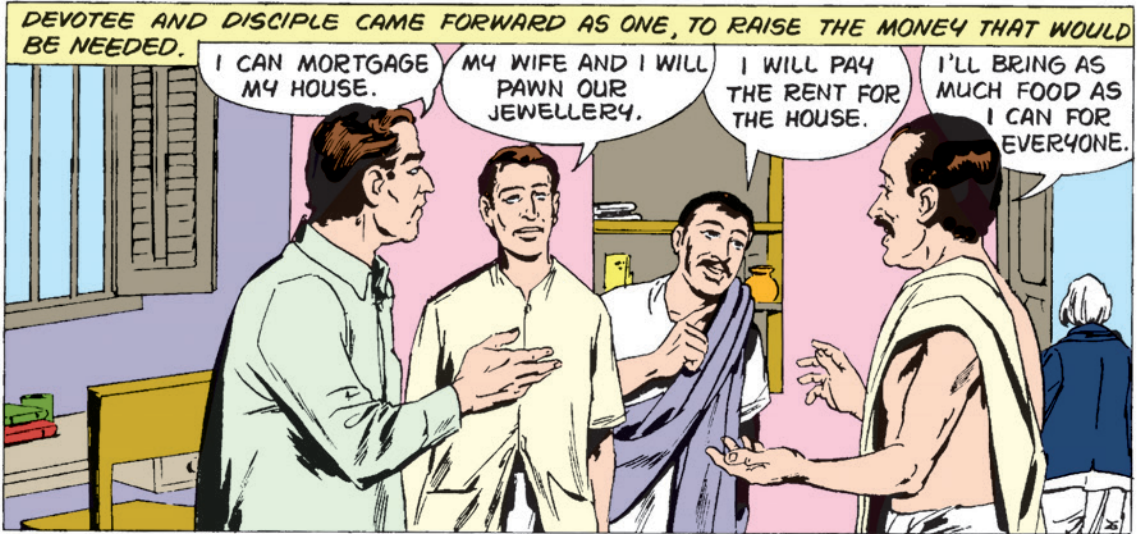
GOD IS THE OCEAN, WE ARE HIS WAVES. GOD IS THE FIRE, WE ARE HIS SPARKS. INSIDE EACH OF US, IS THE SEED OF GOD.

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.





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

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

YES,
MASTER.

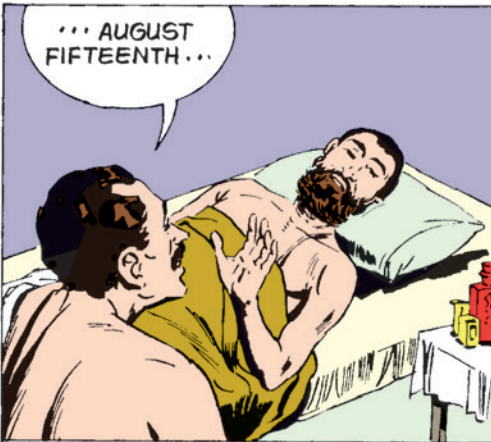


JOGIN BEGAN.

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



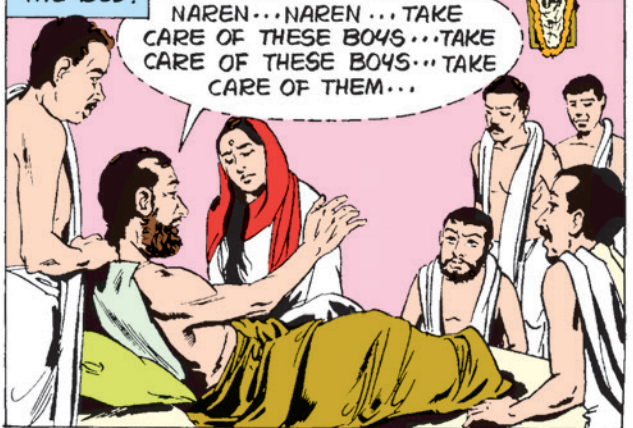
... AUGUST
FIFTEENTH...



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!



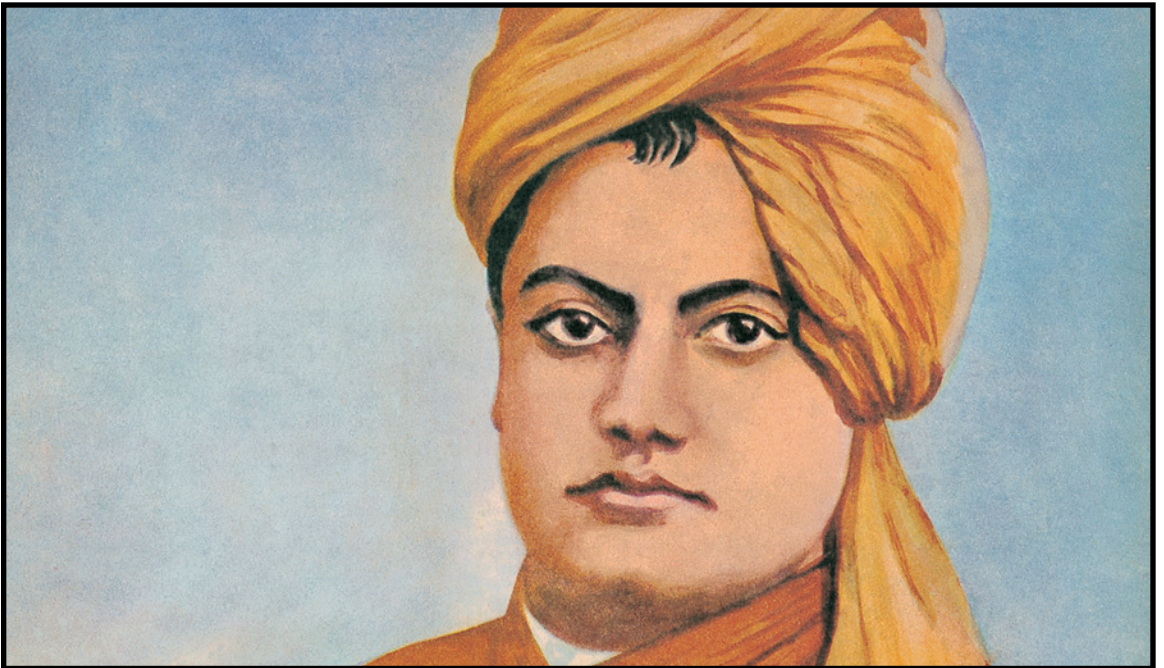
AND SLOWLY, HE FELL INTO A COMA. EVERYONE
WAITED FOR HIM TO COME BACK TO CONSCIOUS-
NESS, BUT HE DID NOT RETURN.



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

VIVEKANANDA

HE KINDLED THE SPIRIT OF MODERN INDIA



VIVEKANANDA



NINETEENTH CENTURY INDIA. THE SPIRIT OF HINDUISM LAY HIDDEN UNDER A DEBRIS OF RITUALS — RITUALS DISOWNED BY THE INDIAN INTELLECTUALS AND SCORNFUL BY THE RULING BRITISH. AT SUCH A TIME WAS BORN TO VISHWANATH DATTA AND BHUVANESHWARI OF CALCUTTA, A SON WHOM THEY NAMED NARENDRANATH.

AS A BOY, NARENDRANATH WAS STRONG-WILLED BUT RESTLESS. ONE DAY —



BILEY WAS NARENDRANATH'S PET-NAME.



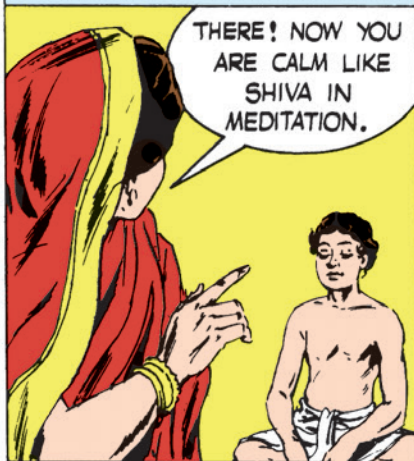
WHEN THE DOLL WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM —



BUT HIS MOTHER KNEW OF A WAY TO CONTROL HIM.



THE MAGIC OF THE NAME IMMEDIATELY QUIETENED NARENDRANATH.



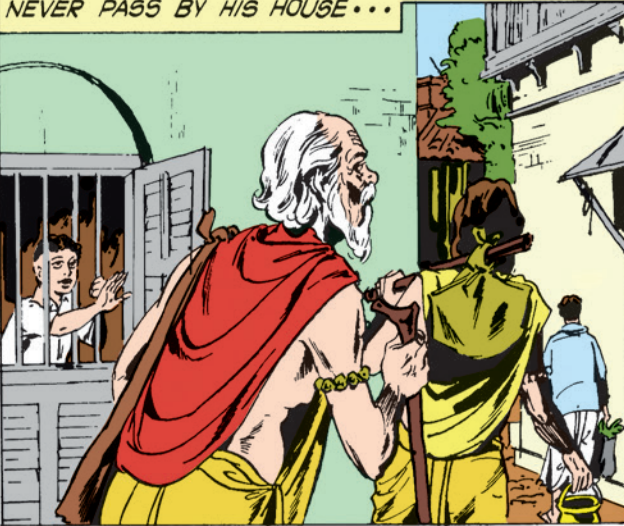
NARENDRANATH WAS A BORN LEADER, NOT ONLY TO HIS TWO BROTHERS AND TWO SISTERS, BUT TO ALL THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHILDREN.



A KING NEEDS REVENUE. YOU BRING ME SWEETS. YOU...BRING ME MARBLES...



THOUGH HE LOVED TO PLAY KING, WHAT FASCINATED HIM MOST WERE THE SANYASIS* IN THEIR SAFFRON ROBES. THESE WANDERING MONKS COULD NEVER PASS BY HIS HOUSE...



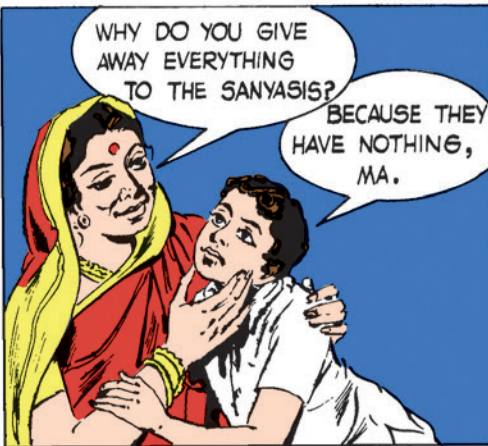
... WITHOUT RECEIVING EVERYTHING THAT WAS WITHIN HIS REACH.

GOD BLESS YOU, CHILD.



WHY DO YOU GIVE AWAY EVERYTHING TO THE SANYASIS?

BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOTHING, MA.



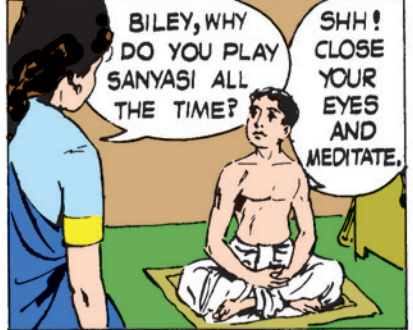
I TOO SHALL BE A SANYASI



AND HE WOULD GO AND SIT CROSSLEGGED IN SOME QUIET CORNER OF THE HOUSE.

BILEY, WHY DO YOU PLAY SANYASI ALL THE TIME?

SHH! CLOSE YOUR EYES AND MEDITATE.



ONE DAY, WHILE NAREN WAS AT THIS GAME —

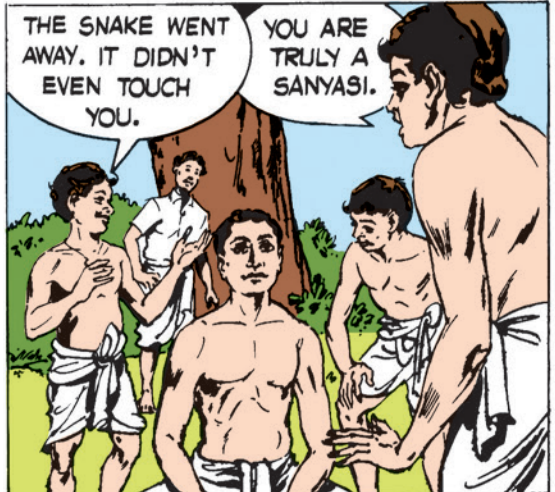
BILEY, RUN!



BUT NAREN SAT WHERE HE WAS.

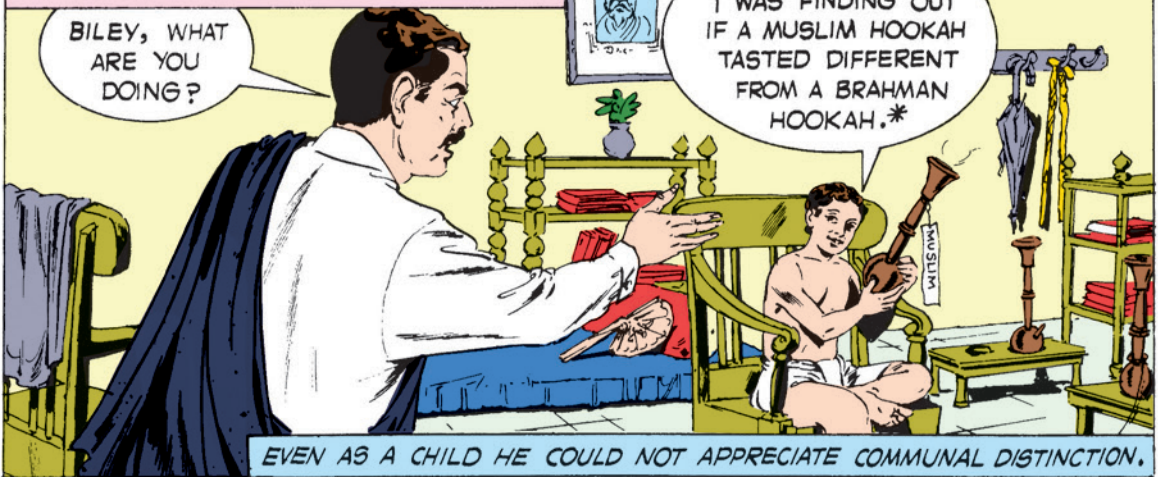
THE SNAKE WENT AWAY. IT DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH YOU.

YOU ARE TRULY A SANYASI.

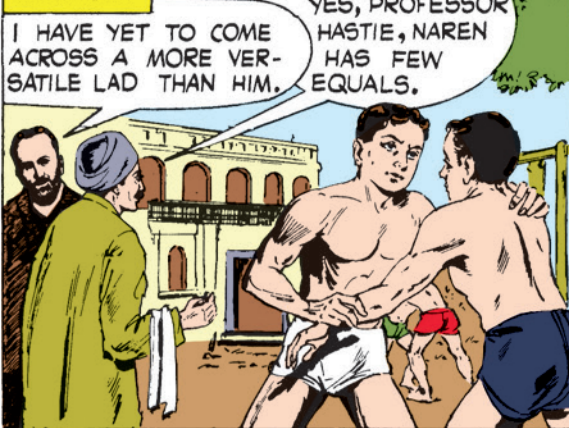


* WANDERING MONK.

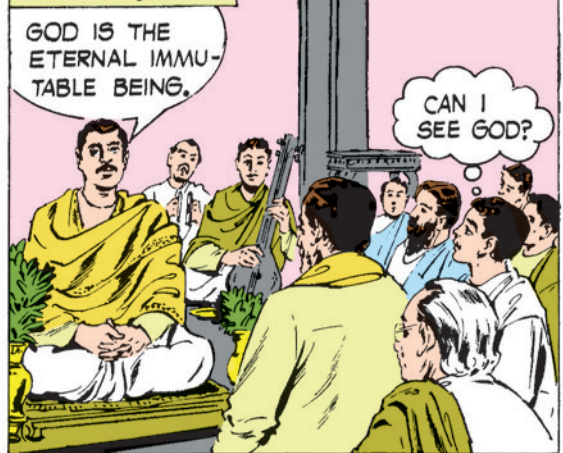
FORTHRIGHT LIKE MANY CHILDREN, NAREN WAS BOLD TOO. ONE DAY, HIS FATHER WAS SHOCKED TO FIND HIM NEAR HIS HOOKAHS.



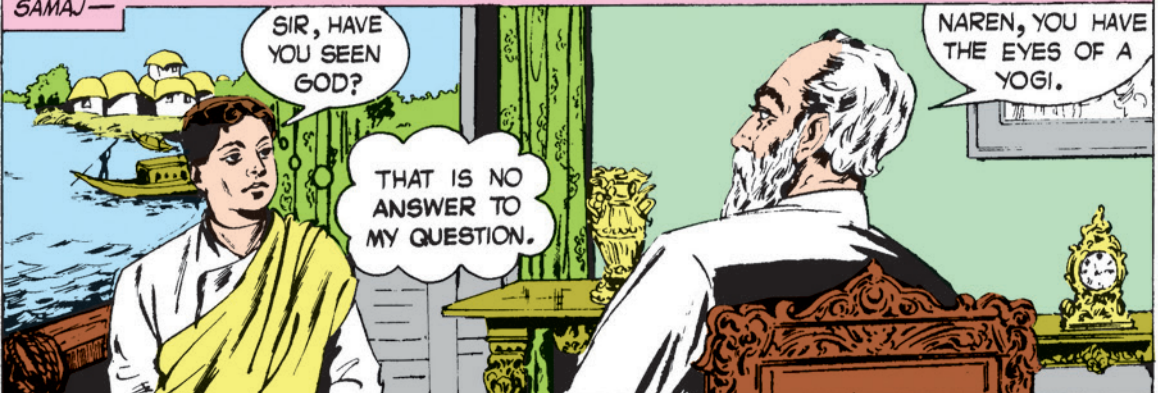
AS THE BOY GREW UP, HE TOOK CARE TO DEVELOP HIS BODY AND HIS MIND. HIS PERSONALITY STOOD OUT IN SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.



NAREN'S ENQUIRING MIND SOON REJECTED IDOLS AND LED HIM TO THE BRAHMO SAMAJ.*

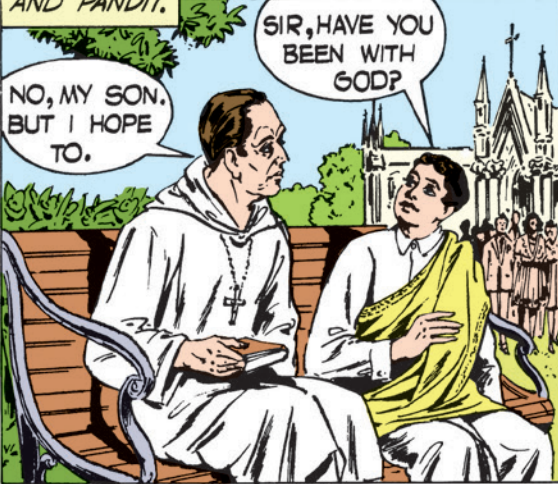


SOON, HE WAS BURNING WITH THE DESIRE TO KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD. ONE DAY, WHILE HE WAS ALONE WITH DEVENDRANATH TAGORE, THE LEADER OF THE BRAHMO SAMAJ—

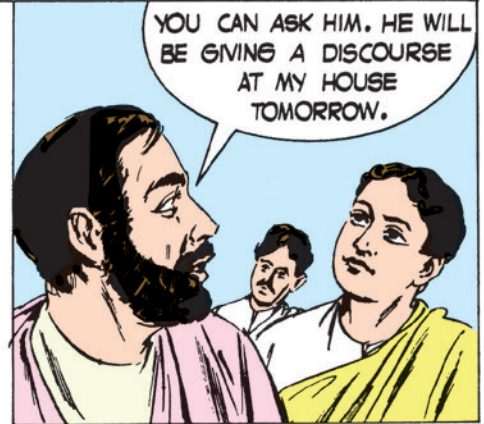
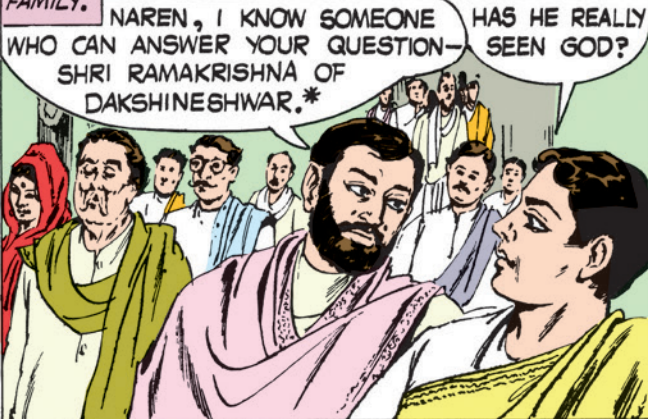


* A REFORMIST SECT FOUNDED BY RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY.

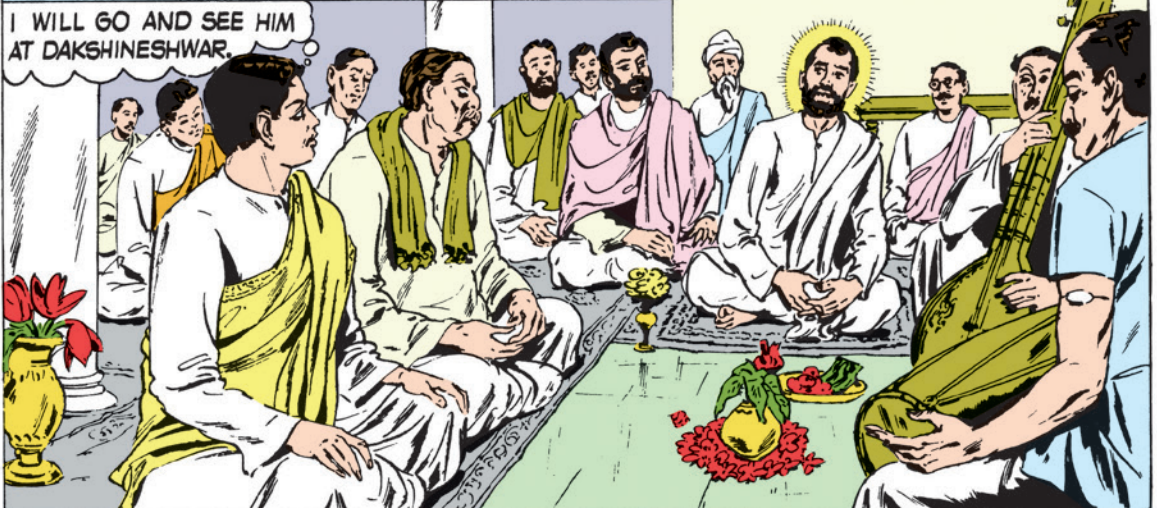
IN HIS CEASELESS AND INSISTENT QUEST FOR GOD, HE APPROACHED MANY A PARSON AND PANDIT.



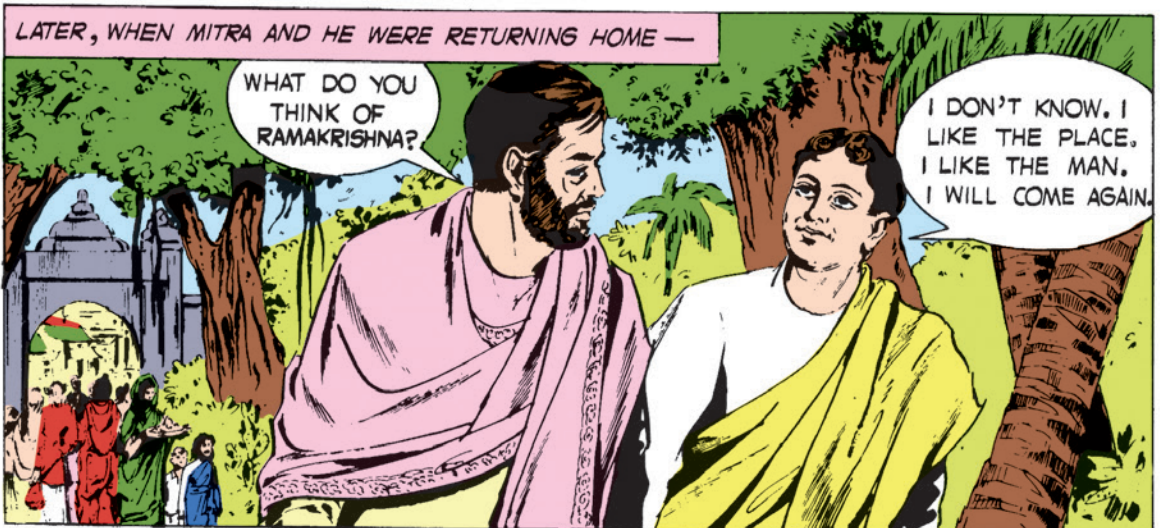
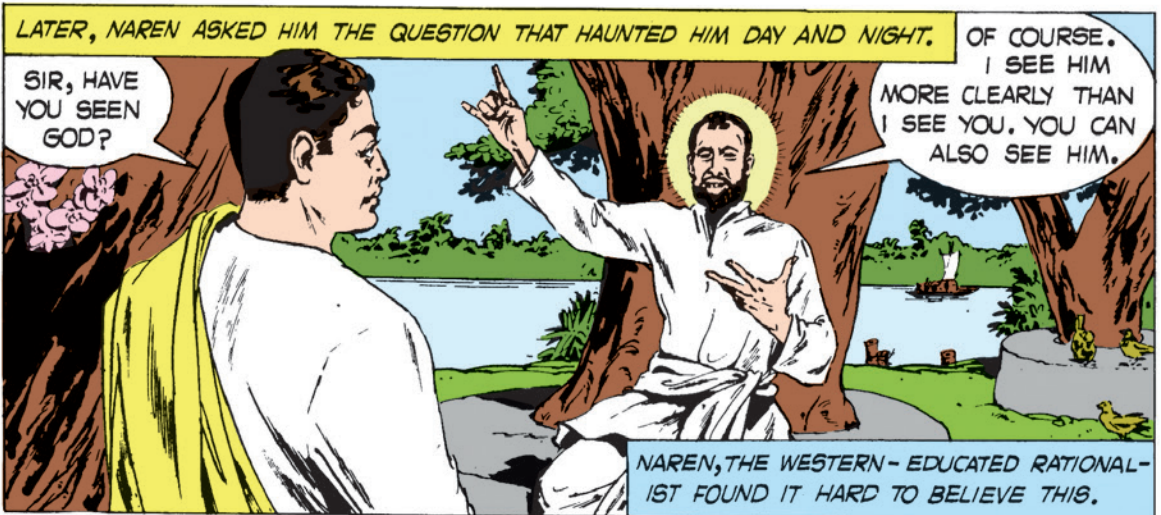
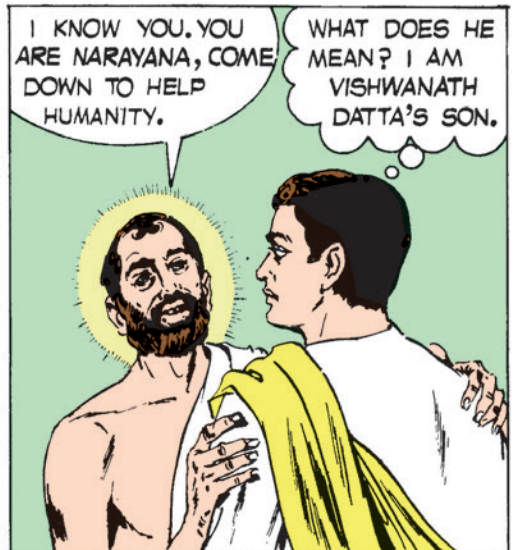
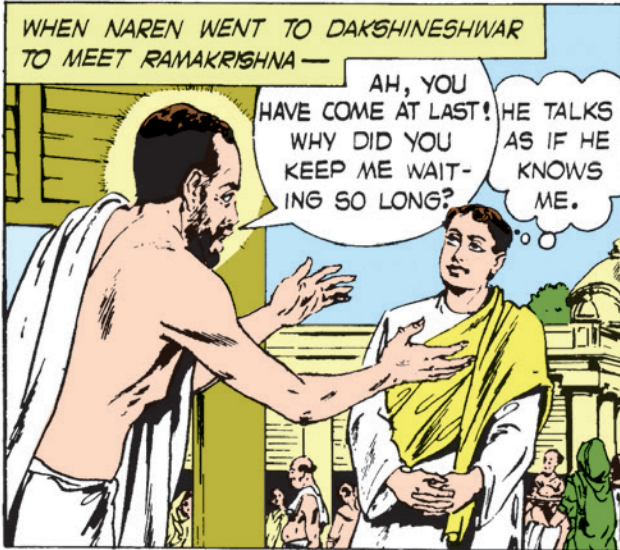
ONE DAY, AT A RELIGIOUS MEETING, HE MET SURENDRANATH MITRA, A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.

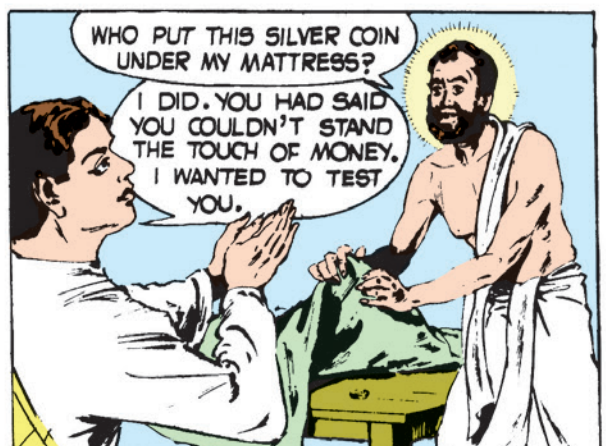
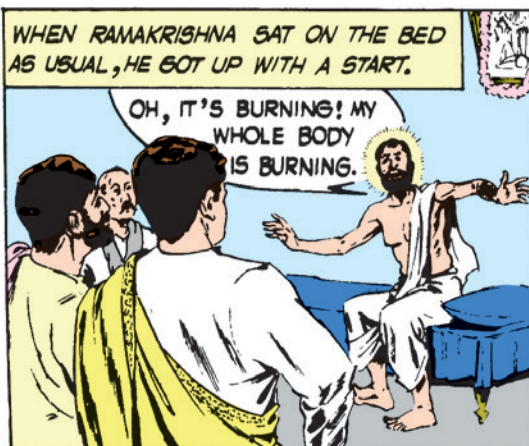
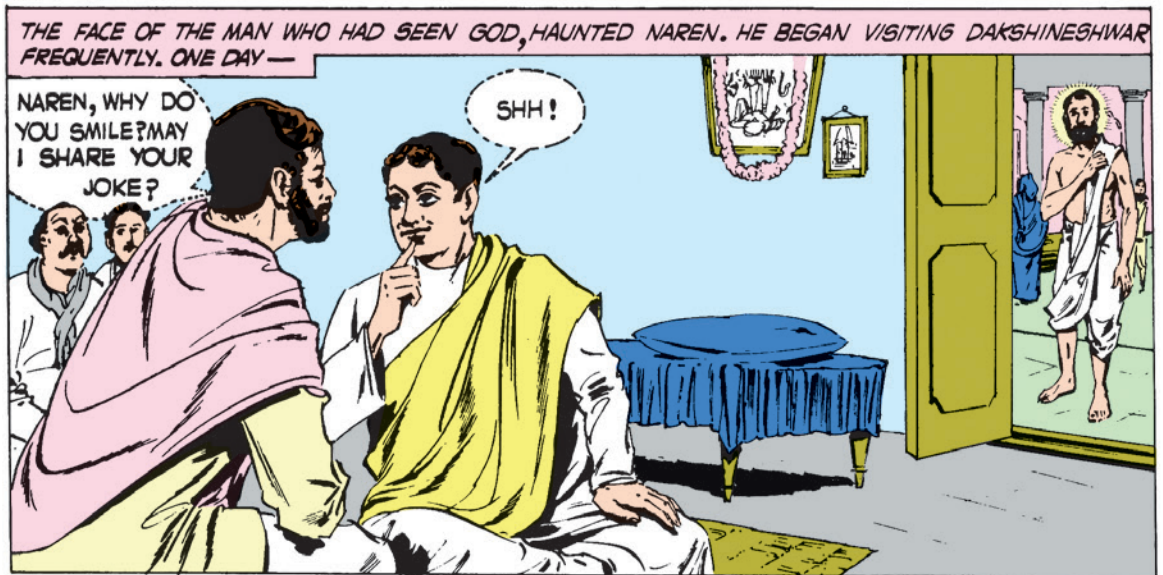
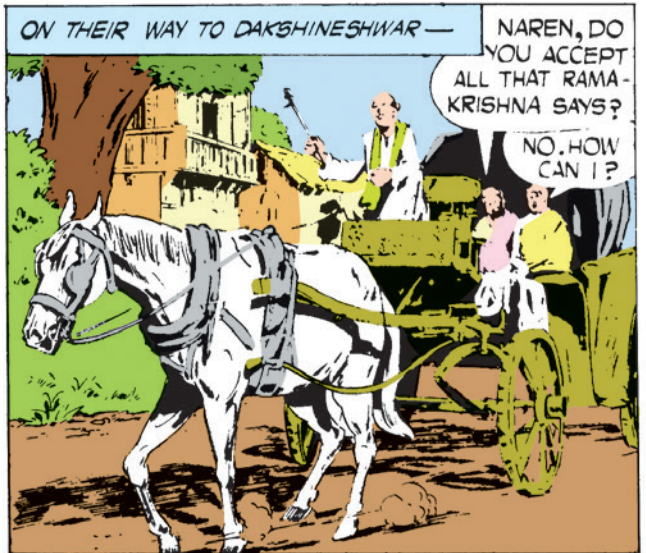


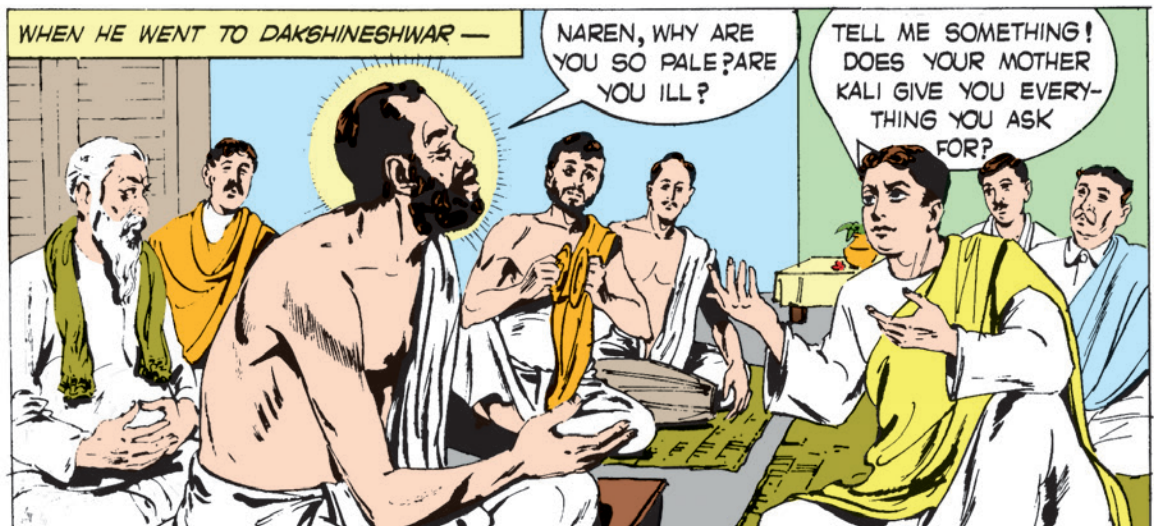
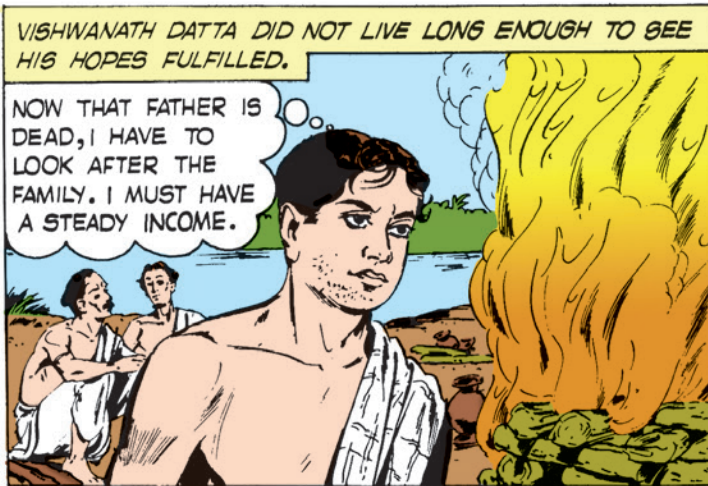
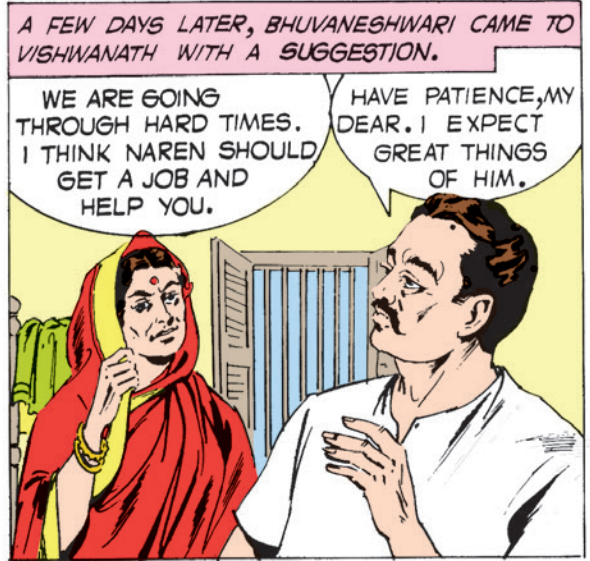
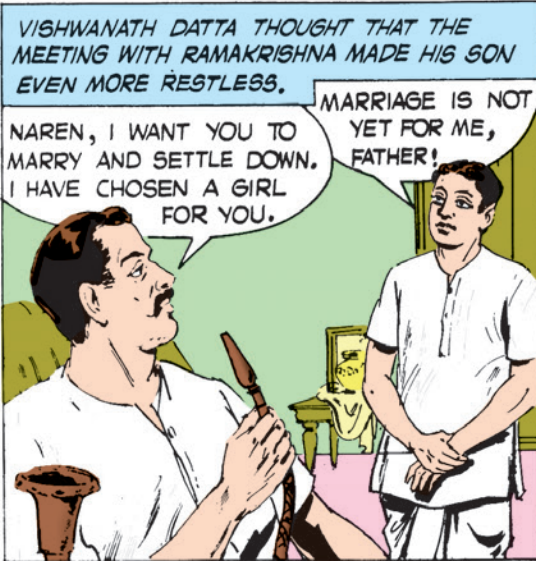
THE NEXT DAY, AT SURENDRANATH MITRA'S PLACE —

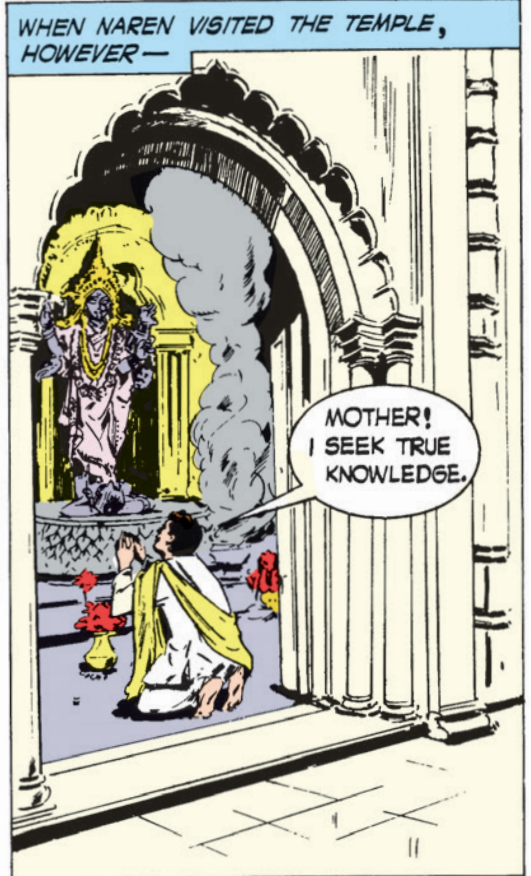


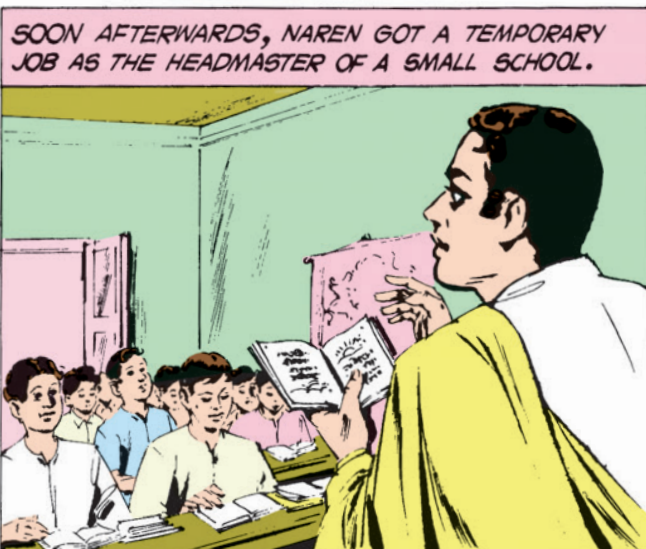
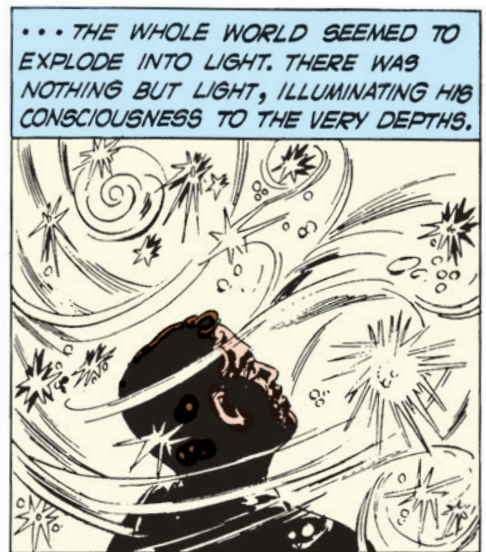
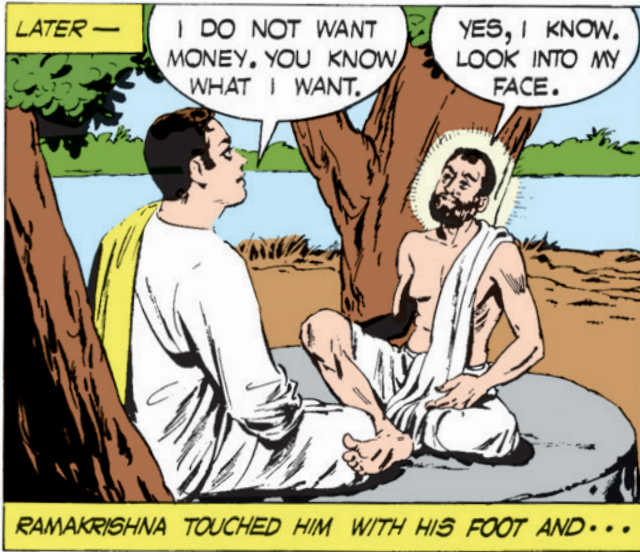
* A PLACE FOUR MILES TO THE NORTH OF CALCUTTA.

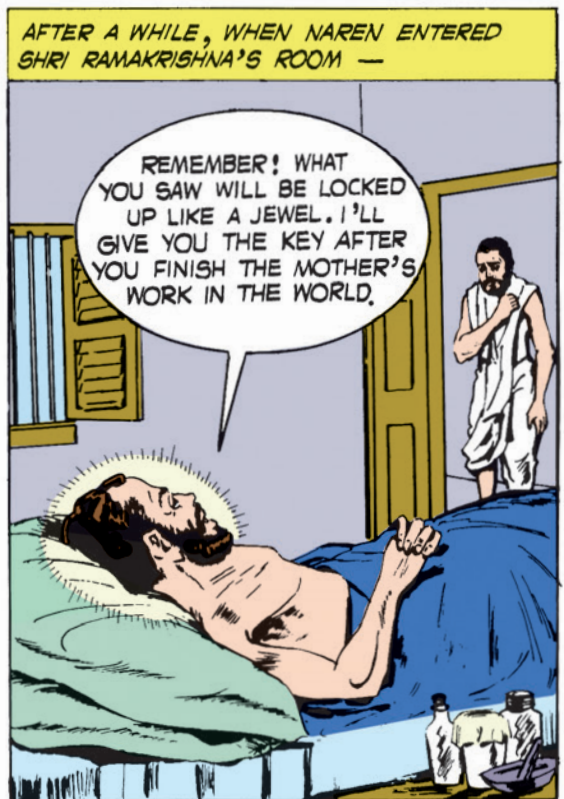
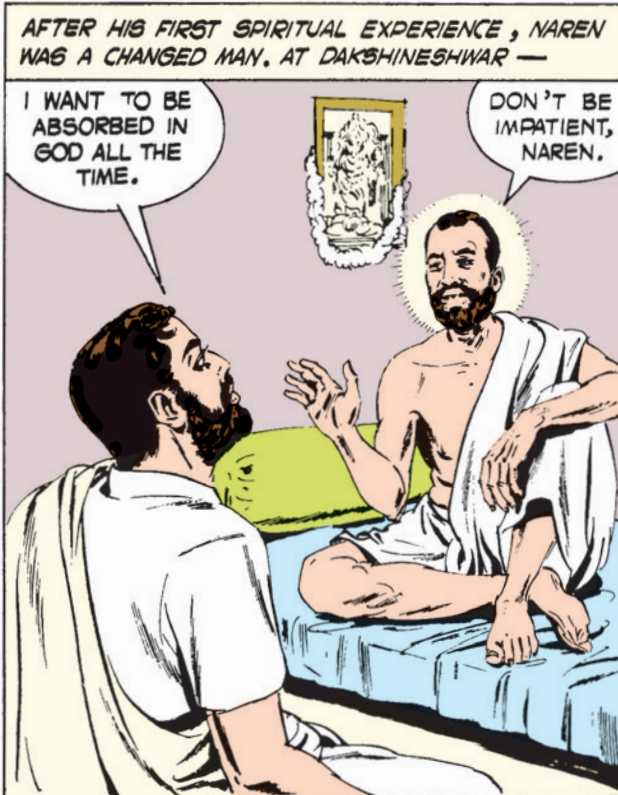


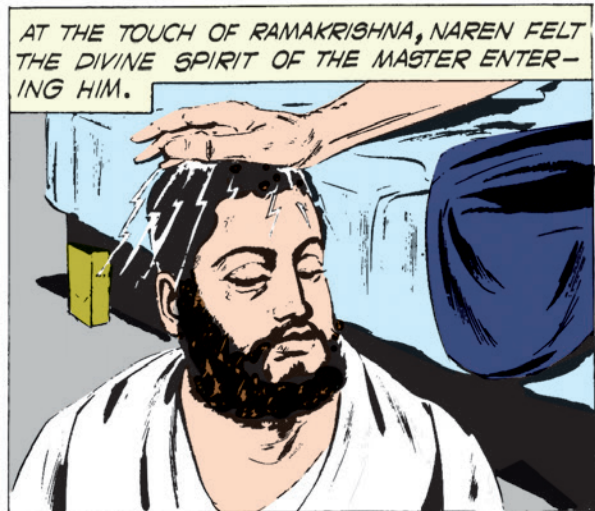
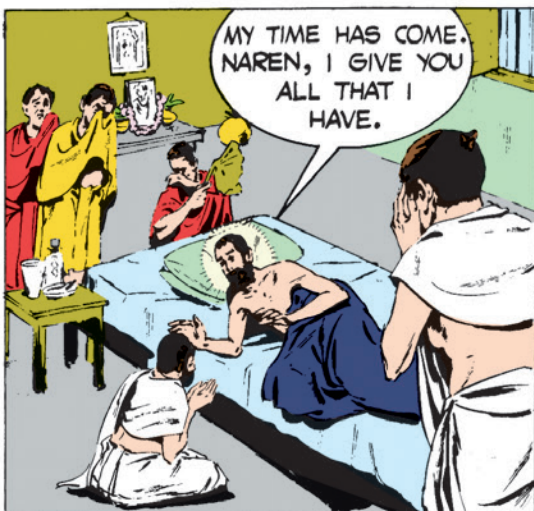
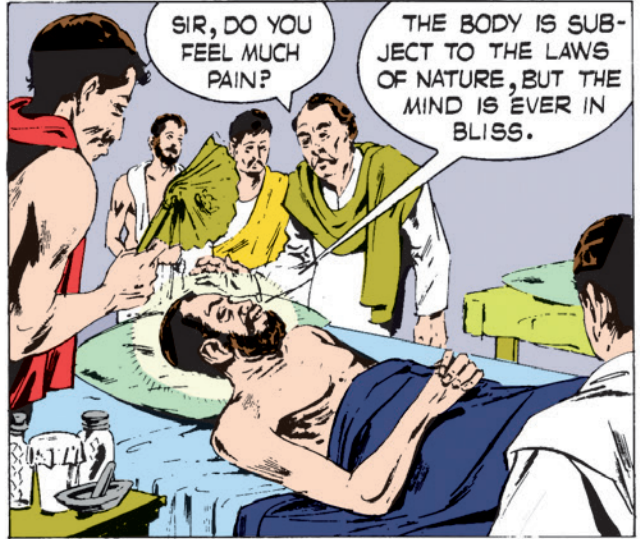
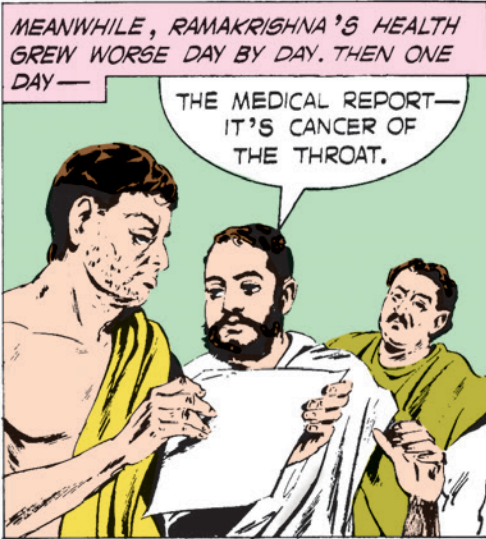






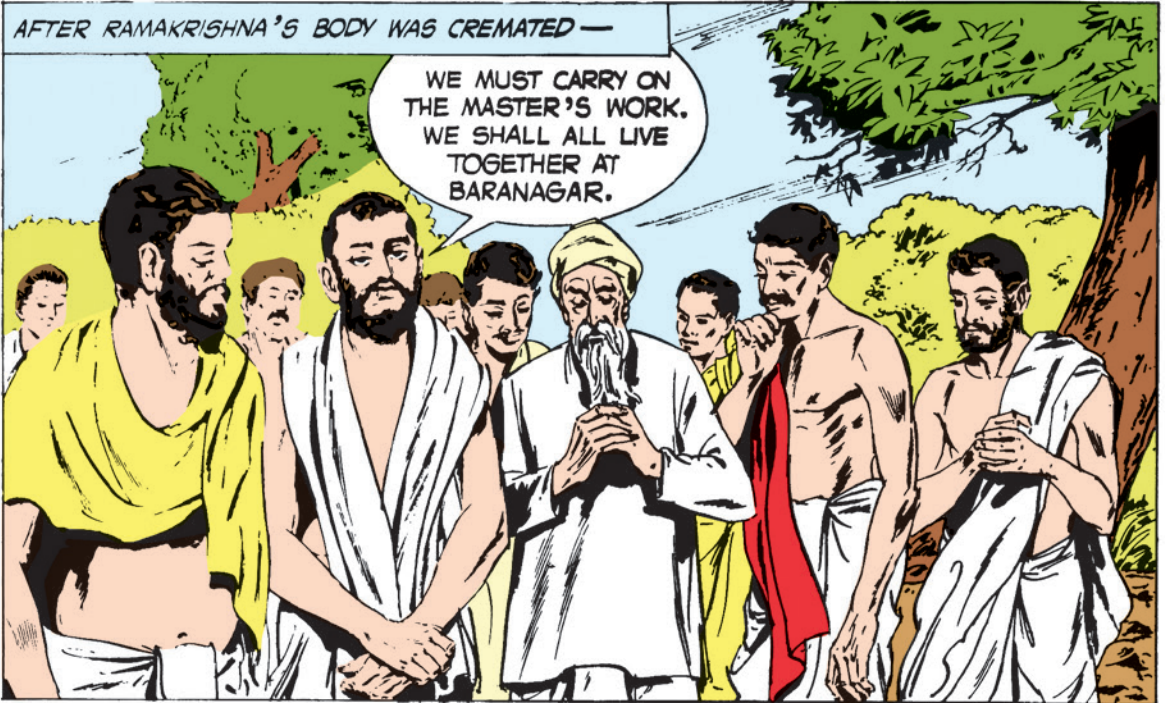






AFTER RAMAKRISHNA'S BODY WAS CREMATED —

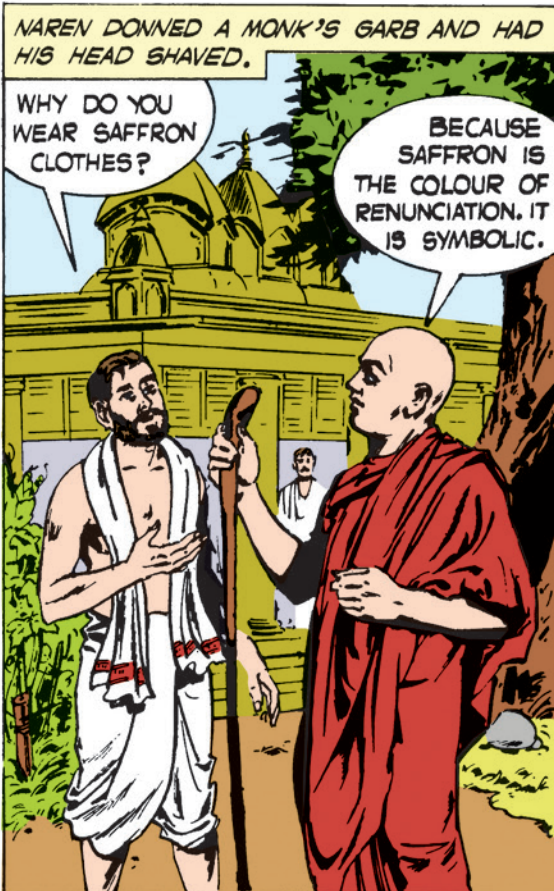
WE MUST CARRY ON
THE MASTER'S WORK.
WE SHALL ALL LIVE
TOGETHER AT
BARANAGAR.



NAREN DONNED A MONK'S GARB AND HAD
HIS HEAD SHAVED.

WHY DO YOU
WEAR SAFFRON
CLOTHES?

BECAUSE
SAFFRON IS
THE COLOUR OF
RENUNCIATION. IT
IS SYMBOLIC.



HE THEN WENT TO SARADA DEVI.*

I MUST NOW
LEAVE YOU, MOTHER.
I HAVE WORK
TO DO.

MAY ALL
SUCCESS BE
YOURS IN YOUR
CHOSEN
MISSION.

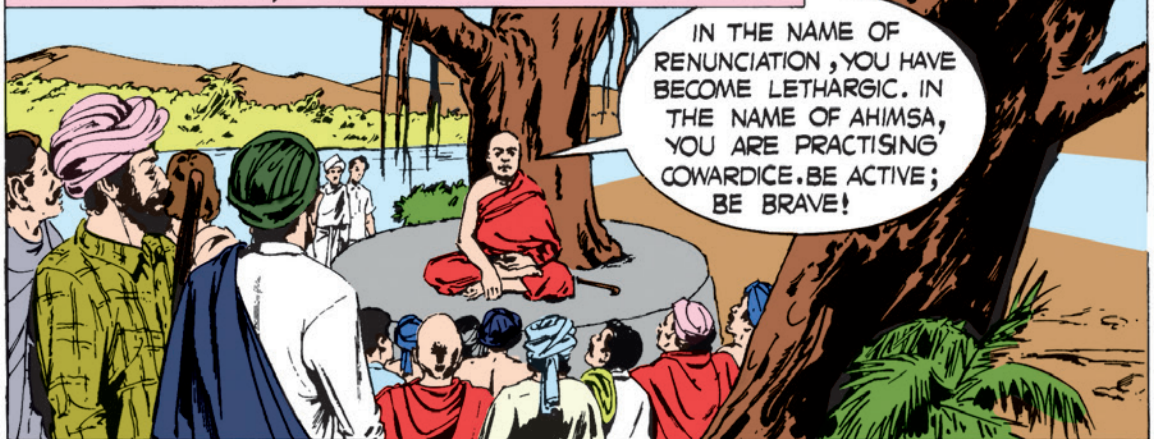


* SRI RAMAKRISHNA'S WIFE

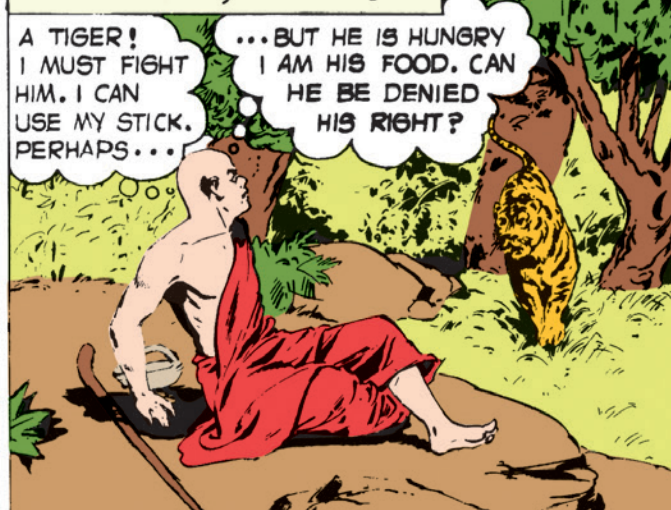
THUS THE SANYASI WITH STAFF IN HAND, STARTED ON HIS PILGRIMAGE.



WHEREVER HE WENT, PEOPLE RUSHED TO HEAR HIM SPEAK.



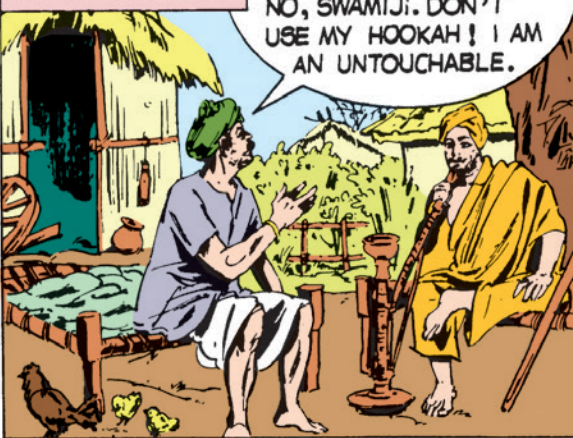
ONE DAY, AS HE WAS RESTING AFTER A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY, IN A FOREST —



THE TIGER LOOKED AT HIM AND SLOWLY WENT AWAY.



DURING HIS LONG TRAVELS IN INDIA, HE KNEW MANY MEN.



NO, SWAMIJI. DON'T USE MY HOOKAH! I AM AN UNTOUCHABLE.

HE WOULD SLEEP IN THE HUTS OF PARIAHS...



...AND CONVERSE ON EQUAL TERMS WITH MAHARAJAS.

ONE DAY, AT THE ROYAL COURT OF ALWAR—



WELCOME, SWAMIJI. WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU.

GOD BLESS YOU!



THE YOUNG, WESTERNISED MAHARAJA WAS A SCEPTIC.

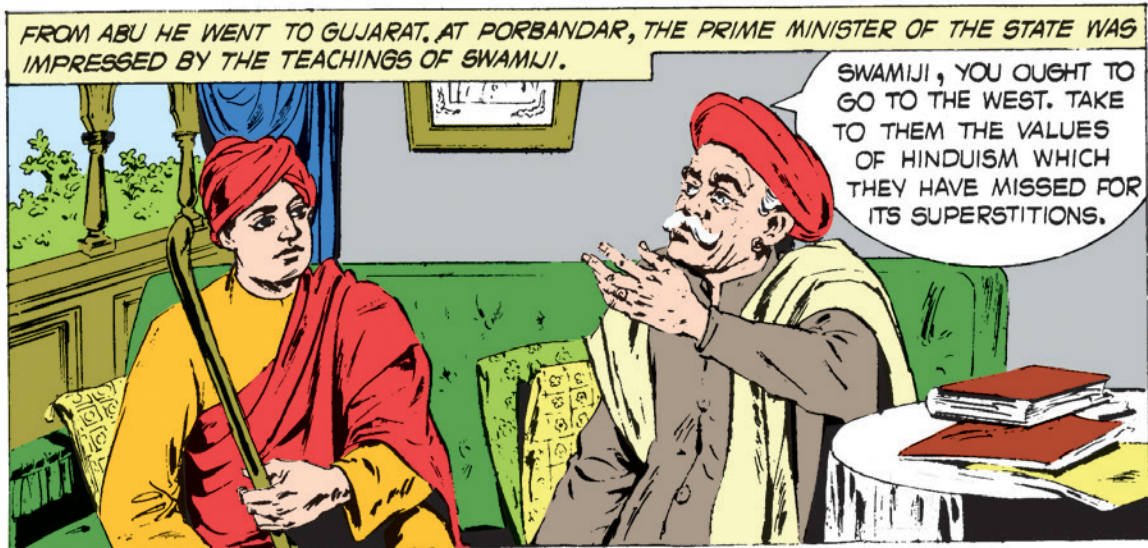
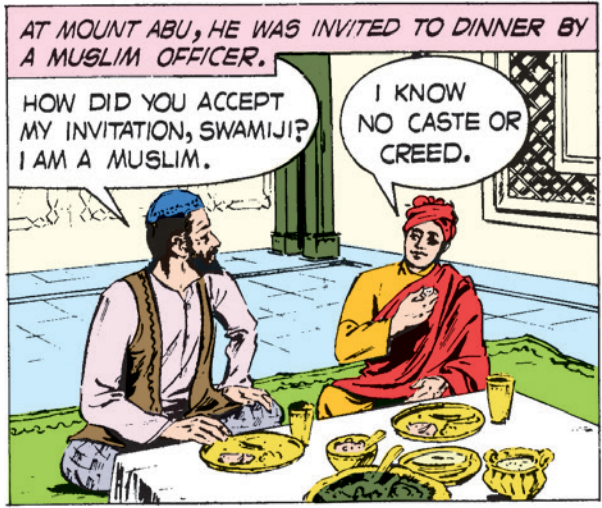


SWAMIJI, YOU TALK OF GOD. DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE STONE GODS IN THE TEMPLES?

YES.

BUT HOW CAN GOD BE A THING MADE OF STONE?





WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD IN MIND WAS THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO. ONE DAY —

SWAMIJI, WILL YOU GO TO CHICAGO TO ATTEND THE PARLIAMENT?

PERHAPS IT WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE MY COUNTRY. BUT I'LL DECIDE LATER.



DOWN SOUTH, SWAMIJI REACHED KANYAKUMARI.

AT LAST ! I HAVE SEEN MY COUNTRY FROM THE HIMALAYAS TO KANYAKUMARI. I KNEW HER RICHES. I HAVE SEEN HOW POOR SHE IS.



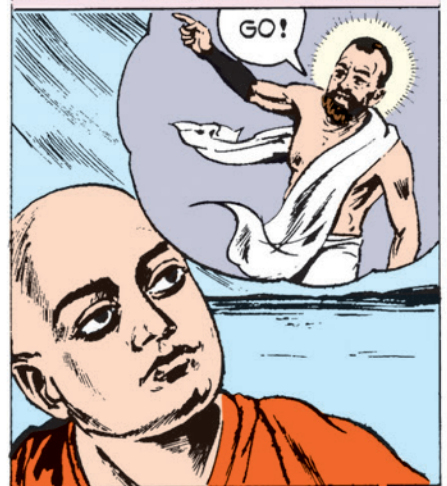
SWAMIJI, STARTED HIS JOURNEY NORTHWARDS. AT MADRAS BEACH —

SWAMIJI, WE HAVE COLLECTED THE FUNDS TO SEND YOU TO THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS.

BUT I HAVEN'T YET DECIDED TO GO.



THEN ONE DAY, HE HAD A VISION —



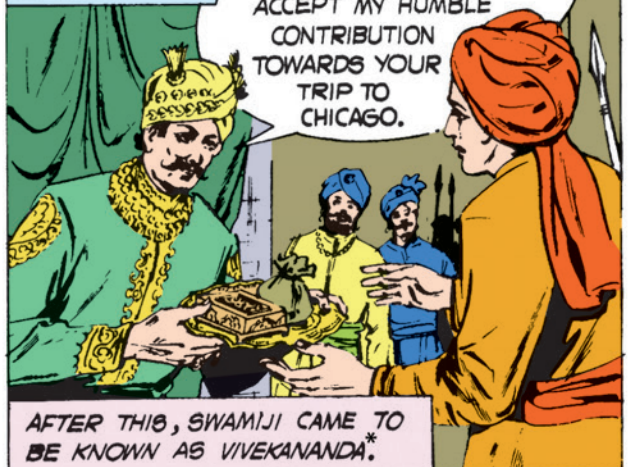
HE THEN MADE UP HIS MIND. HELP CAME FROM UNEXPECTED QUARTERS.

SWAMIJI, THE MAHARAJA OF KHETRI HAS REQUESTED YOU TO SEE HIM.

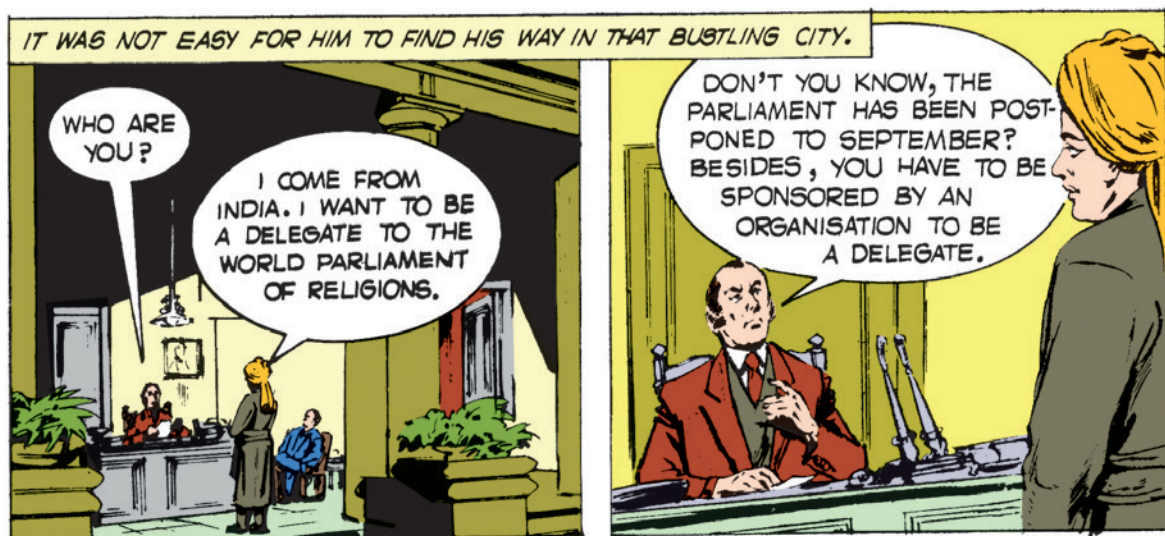
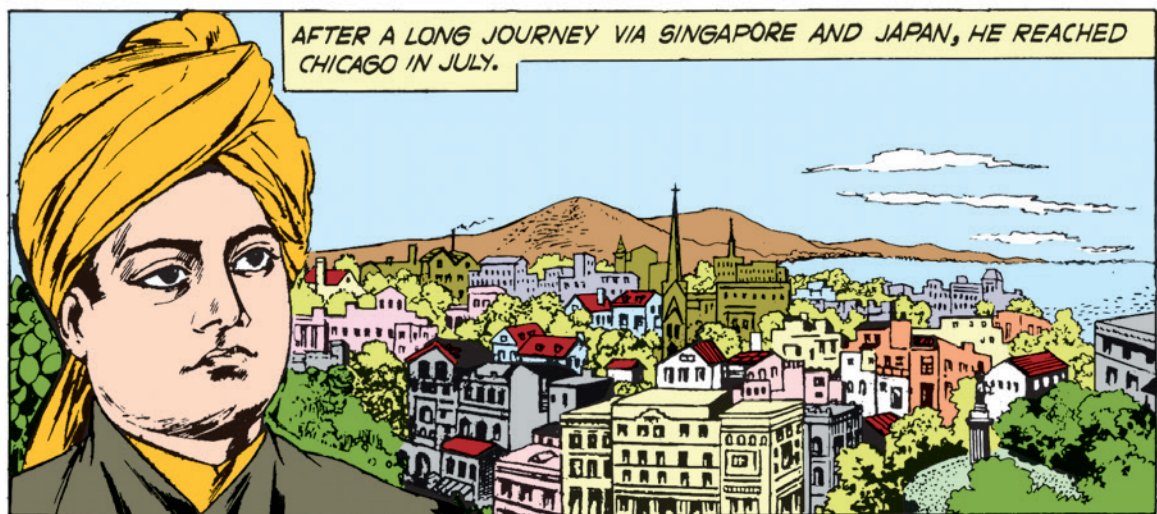


AT KHETRI —

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA ! PLEASE ACCEPT MY HUMBLE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS YOUR TRIP TO CHICAGO.



AFTER THIS, SWAMIJI CAME TO BE KNOWN AS VIVEKANANDA*.



BUT VIVEKANANDA DID NOT WORRY.

I AM HERE AMONG
THE CHILDREN OF THE
SON OF MARY.
LORD JESUS WILL
HELP ME.



ON THE TRAIN WHICH TOOK HIM FROM CHICAGO
TO BOSTON, HE MET MISS KATE SANBORN.

I TOO AM GOING
TO BOSTON. YOU ARE
WELCOME TO STAY
AT MY RESIDENCE.

THANK
YOU, SISTER.



THE INVITATION CAME AS A BOON TO SWAMIJI
BECAUSE HE HAD LITTLE MONEY LEFT WITH HIM.

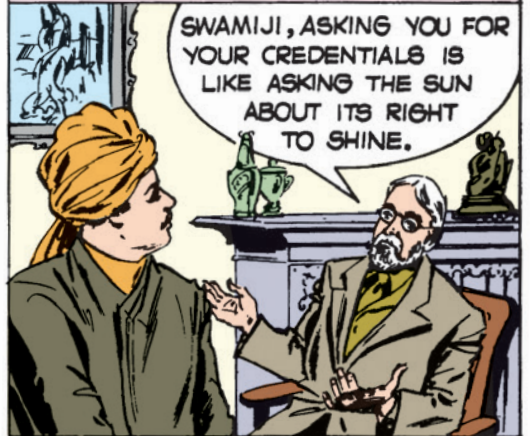
AT MISS SANBORN'S HOME, ONE DAY —

PROFESSOR WRIGHT
IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

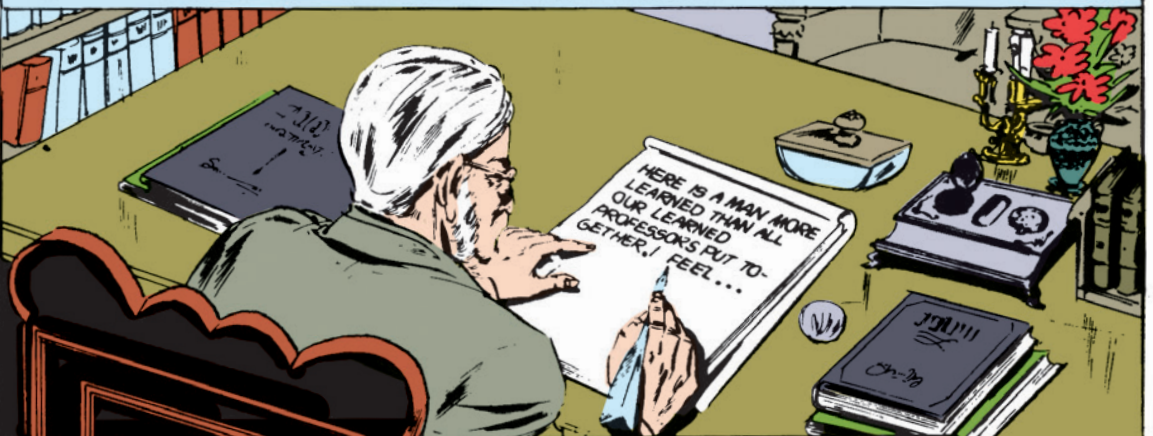


WHEN VIVEKANANDA EXPLAINED HIS
DIFFICULTY TO PROFESSOR J. H. WRIGHT —

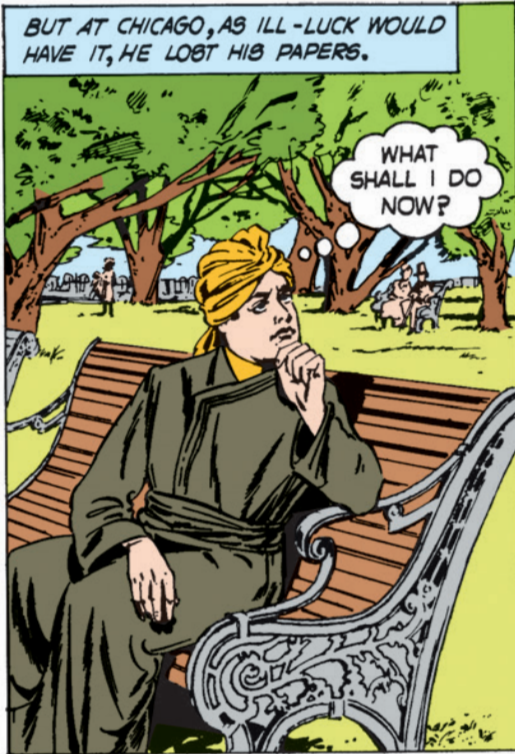
SWAMIJI, ASKING YOU FOR
YOUR CREDENTIALS IS
LIKE ASKING THE SUN
ABOUT ITS RIGHT
TO SHINE.

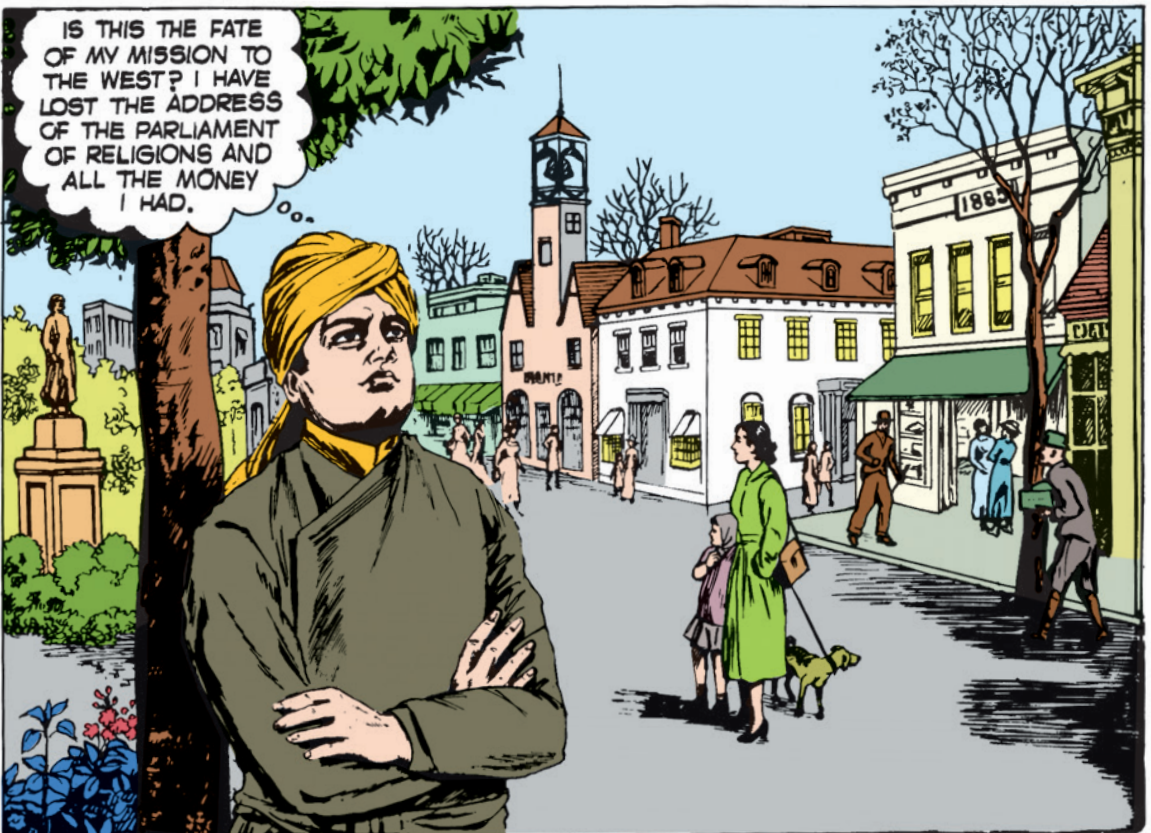


PROFESSOR WRIGHT WROTE TO THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT.



THE CREDENTIALS WERE ACCEPTED, AND VIVEKANANDA LEFT FOR CHICAGO.





HE WALKED UP TO MANY A HOUSE ALONG THE FASHIONABLE STREETS OF CHICAGO AND MET WITH MANY A REBUFF.



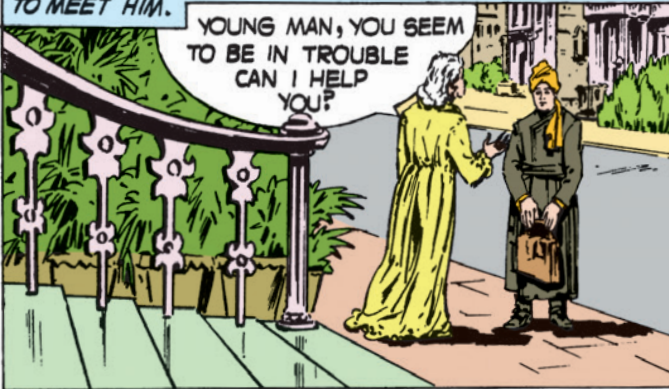
WILL YOU PLEASE GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT?

GO AWAY.



AT LAST, OBSERVING ALL THIS FROM A WINDOW OF HER APARTMENT, MRS. HALE, A KIND OLD LADY, CAME DOWN TO MEET HIM.

YOUNG MAN, YOU SEEM TO BE IN TROUBLE CAN I HELP YOU?

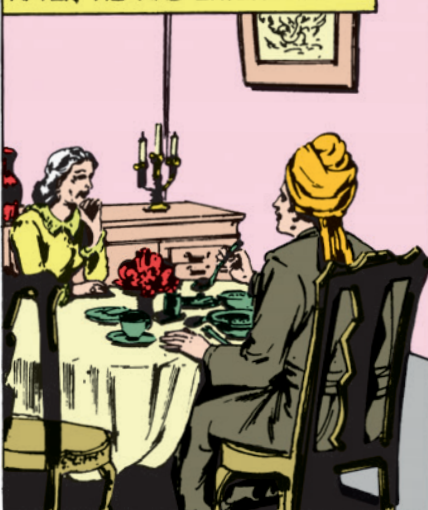


WHEN VIVEKANANDA EXPLAINED HIS DIFFICULTIES —

PLEASE COME HOME WITH ME.



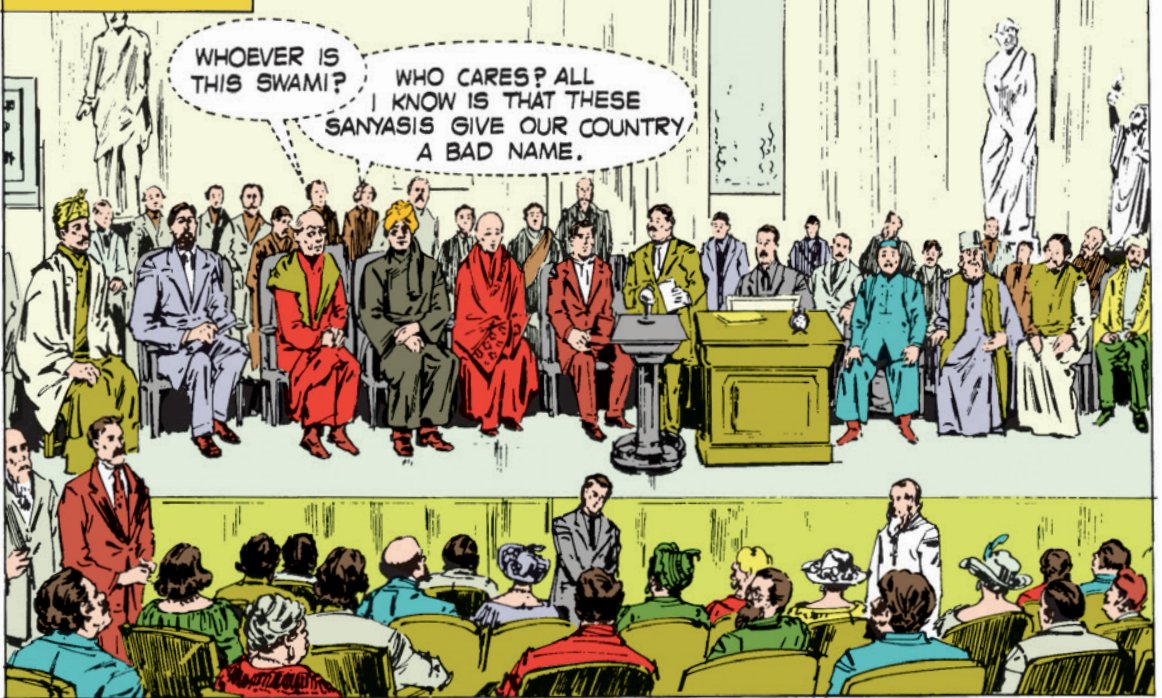
AFTER HE HAD EATEN . . .



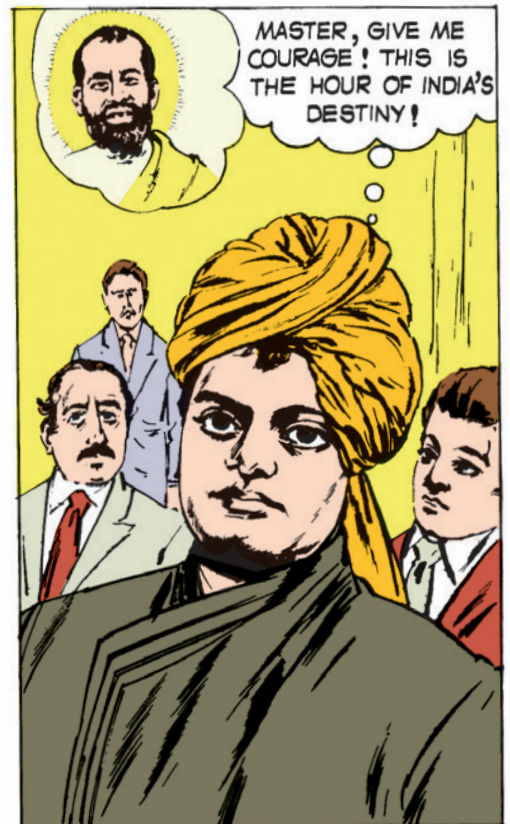
. . . AND RESTED, SHE TOOK HIM TO THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT.



AT THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS, THE OFFICIAL DELEGATES FROM INDIA RESENTED HIS PRESENCE THERE.



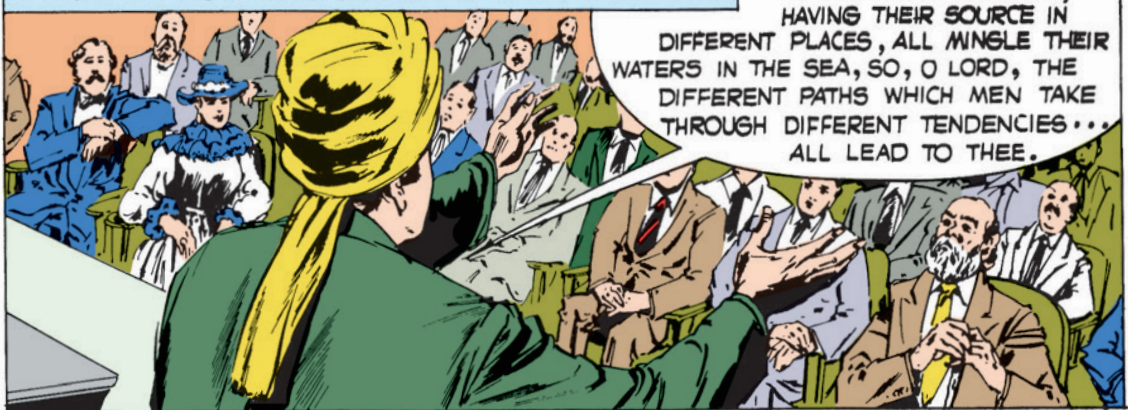
AFTER THE LONG-WINDED SPEECHES CAME VIVEKANANDA'S TURN.



WITH TREMBLING HEART AND A SILENT PRAYER TO SARASWATI*, VIVEKANANDA ROSE TO SPEAK. THE VAST AUDIENCE WAS THRILLED BY HIS VERY FIRST WORDS.



IT TOOK FULL TWO MINUTES BEFORE THE TUMULT SUBSIDED.



VIVEKANANDA HAD SUCCEEDED IN EXPLAINING WHAT GOD MEANT TO THE HINDU MIND. IT WAS A LUCID EXPLANATION. IT MOVED THE LISTENERS.

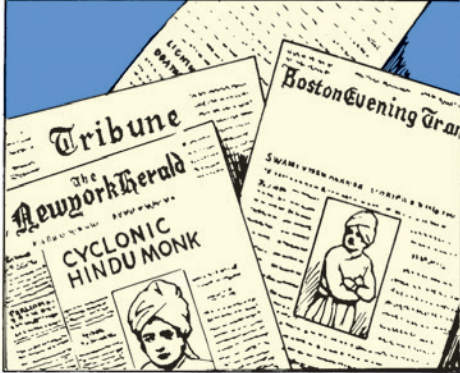


WHEN IT WAS OVER, SCORES OF MEN AND WOMEN WALKED OVER THE BENCHES IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO MEET HIM.

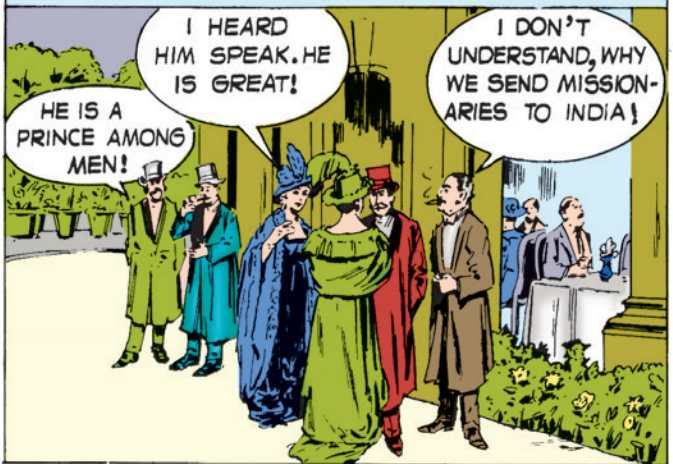


* HINDU GODDESS OF WISDOM.

THE NEXT DAY, THE NEWSPAPERS CARRIED GLOWING HEADLINES ABOUT THE SWAMI WHO HAD CAPTURED EVERYBODY'S IMAGINATION.

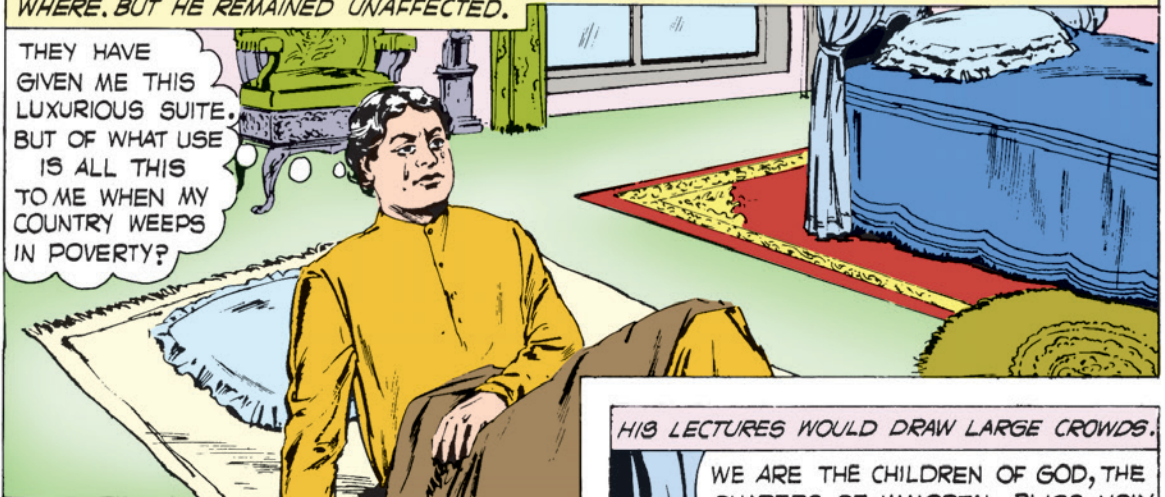


HE WAS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION EVERYWHERE.



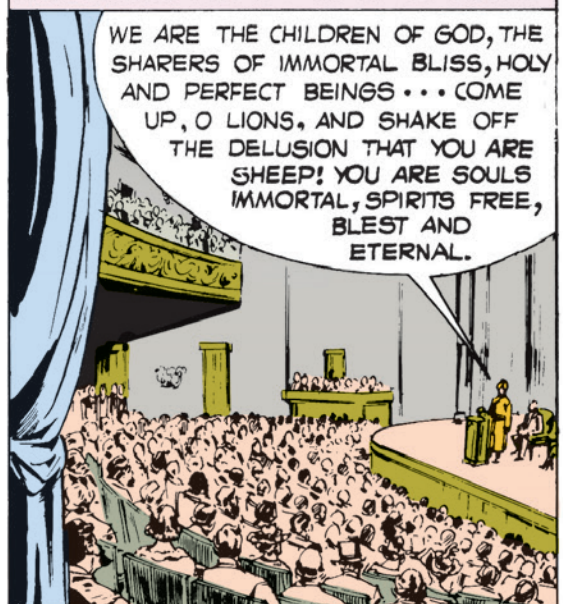
THAT WAS THE END OF VIVEKANANDA'S TROUBLES IN THE U.S.A. HE WAS LIONISED EVERYWHERE, BUT HE REMAINED UNAFFECTED.

THEY HAVE GIVEN ME THIS LUXURIOUS SUITE, BUT OF WHAT USE IS ALL THIS TO ME WHEN MY COUNTRY WEEPS IN POVERTY?



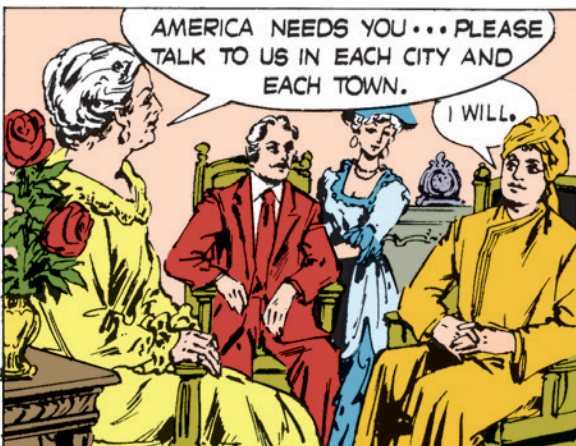
HIS LECTURES WOULD DRAW LARGE CROWDS.

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD, THE SHARERS OF IMMORTAL BLISS, HOLY AND PERFECT BEINGS... COME UP, O LIONS, AND SHAKE OFF THE DELUSION THAT YOU ARE SHEEP! YOU ARE SOULS IMMORTAL, SPIRITS FREE, BLESSED AND ETERNAL.



AMERICA NEEDS YOU... PLEASE TALK TO US IN EACH CITY AND EACH TOWN.

I WILL.



VIVEKANANDA WENT FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER AND SPOKE WHENEVER REQUESTED TO DO SO.

ONE DAY IN TEXAS, INSPIGATED BY SOME FANATIC CHRISTIANS, THE AUDIENCE BECAME ROUGH. THEY MADE HIM STAND ON A BARREL AND SPEAK.

HE IS AN ATHEIST WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN HIMSELF! THE OLD RELIGIONS SAID THAT HE WAS AN ATHEIST WHO DID NOT BELIEVE IN GOD! THE NEW RELIGION TELLS YOU THAT HE IS AN ATHEIST WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE IN HIMSELF!

LET'S SEE IF HE PRACTISES WHAT HE PREACHES.

YEAH! YEAH!

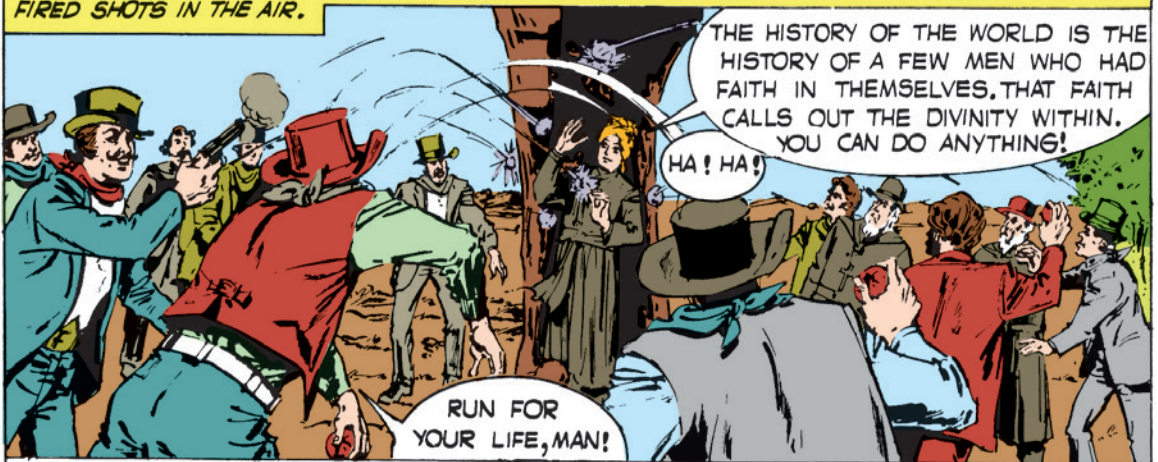


HE WAS PELTED WITH TOMATOES AND EGGS. SOME EVEN TOOK OUT THEIR PISTOLS AND FIRED SHOTS IN THE AIR.

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IS THE HISTORY OF A FEW MEN WHO HAD FAITH IN THEMSELVES. THAT FAITH CALLS OUT THE DIVINITY WITHIN. YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!

HA! HA!

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, MAN!

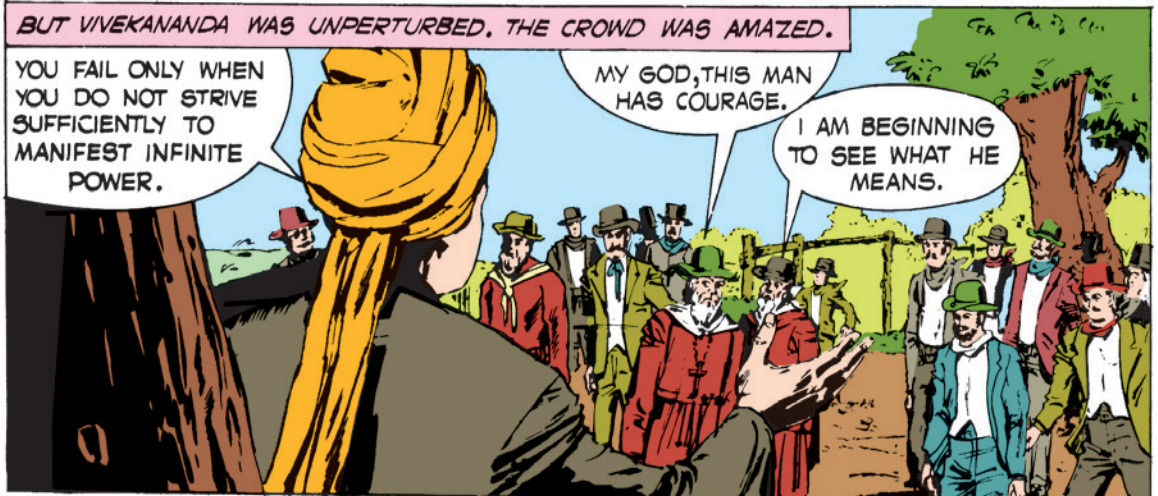


BUT VIVEKANANDA WAS UNPERTURBED. THE CROWD WAS AMAZED.

YOU FAIL ONLY WHEN YOU DO NOT STRIVE SUFFICIENTLY TO MANIFEST INFINITE POWER.

MY GOD, THIS MAN HAS COURAGE.

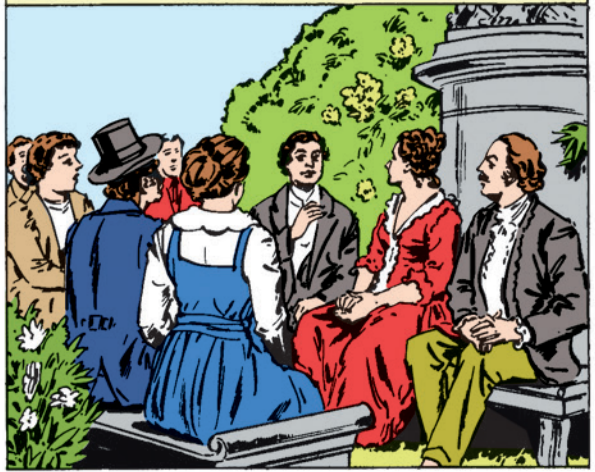
I AM BEGINNING TO SEE WHAT HE MEANS.



THE SWAMI TALKED TO MEN AND WOMEN, THE RICH AND THE POOR ALIKE.



AT THOUSAND ISLAND PARK, HE EXPLAINED THE PROFOUND PHILOSOPHY OF YOGA AND VEDANTA TO TWELVE SELECTED DISCIPLES.*



FROM THE U.S.A., VIVEKANANDA PROCEEDED TO ENGLAND WHERE HE LECTURED EXTENSIVELY. ONE DAY, AT A SMALL MEETING —



HER NAME IS MARGARET NOBLE. SHE RUNS A SMALL SCHOOL.

WHY ARE YOU SHY, SISTER?

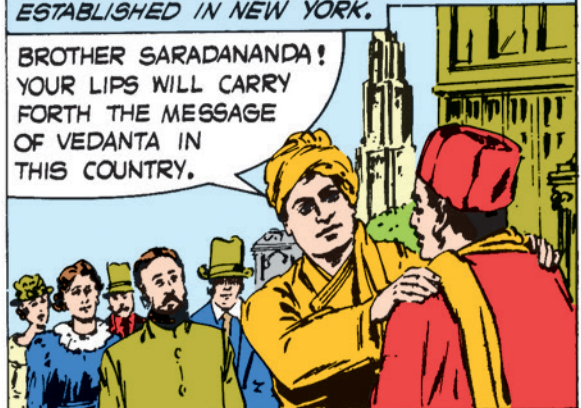


FOR MISS NOBLE, THE SWAMI SOON BECAME AN OBJECT OF REVERENCE.



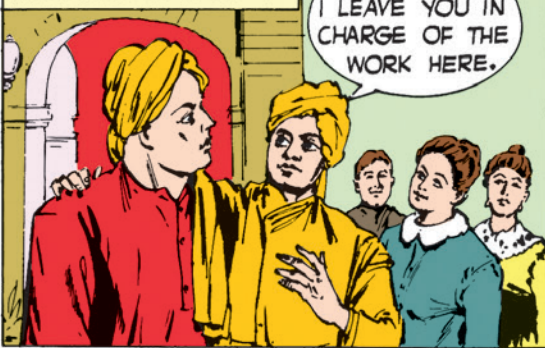
DURING HIS SECOND VISIT TO AMERICA, HE ESTABLISHED HIS WORK ON A MORE SOLID FOUNDATION. A VEDANTA SOCIETY WAS ESTABLISHED IN NEW YORK.

BROTHER SARADANANDA! YOUR LIPS WILL CARRY FORTH THE MESSAGE OF VEDANTA IN THIS COUNTRY.

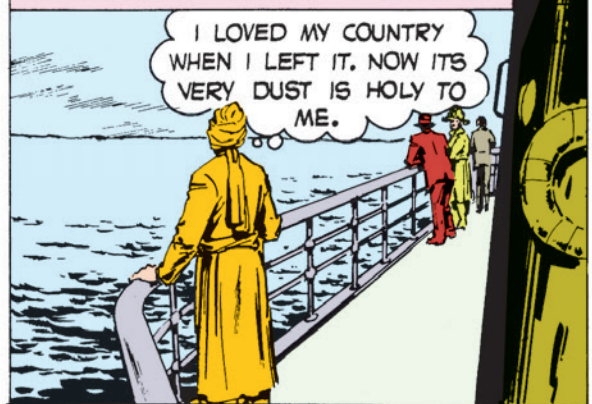


* IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT HIS FAMOUS WORK, RAJA YOGA WAS WRITTEN.

HE RETURNED TO ENGLAND, AND FOUND ANOTHER OF HIS BROTHER DISCIPLES AWAITING HIM THERE.



ON HIS RETURN JOURNEY TO INDIA —



HE FIRST REACHED COLOMBO ON JANUARY 15, 1897. THE WELCOME THERE WAS WARM, TRIUMPHANT AND TUMULTUOUS. THOUSANDS FLUNG THEMSELVES ON THE GROUND TO TOUCH HIS FEET.

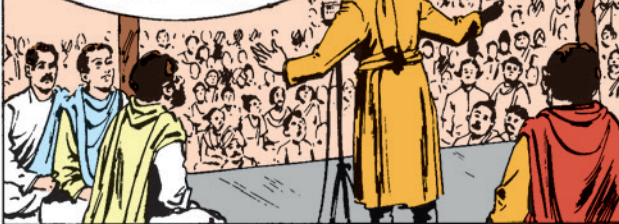


HIS DEPARTURE FROM INDIA WAS UNANNOUNCED; HIS RETURN, A NATIONAL EVENT. AT RAMNAD, SOME EAGER MEN REMOVED THE HORSES FROM HIS CARRIAGE AND PULLED IT THEMSELVES. THE RAJA OF RAMNAD WAS ONE OF THEM.



THE WORDS HE SPOKE AT RAMNAD STIRRED THE SOUL OF THE NATION.

THE SLEEPING CORPSE APPEARS TO BE AWAKENING... INDIA, THIS MOTHERLAND OF OURS, FROM DEEP, LONG SLEEP... NEVER IS SHE GOING TO SLEEP ANY MORE! NO OUTSIDE POWERS CAN HOLD HER BACK ANY MORE! FOR THE INFINITE GIANT IS RISING TO HER FEET!



FROM RAMNAD TO MADRAS AND TO CALCUTTA, WHEREVER HE WENT, THE CROWDS YEARNED TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF HIM. THE YOUNG MEN OF THE COUNTRY WERE INSPIRED BY HIS WORDS.

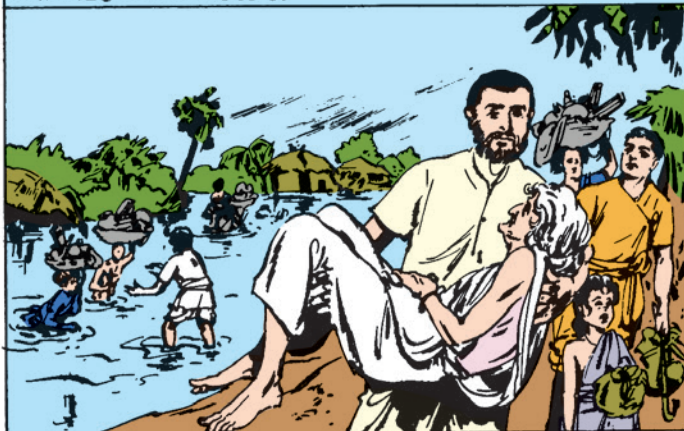
NONE IS REALLY WEAK... STAND UP! ASSERT YOURSELF, PROCLAIM THE GOD WITHIN YOU! DO NOT DENY HIM! ARISE! AWAKE! AND STOP NOT TILL THE GOAL IS REACHED!



VIVEKANANDA ORGANISED HIS FELLOW SANYASIS INTO A DEDICATED BAND OF SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL WORKERS. THEY NURSED THE SICK, FED THE POOR...



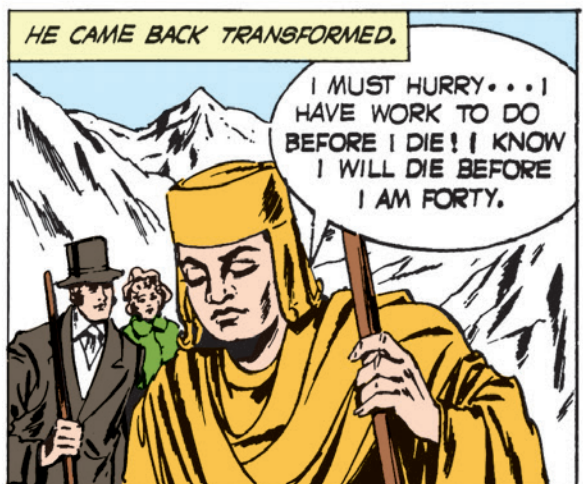
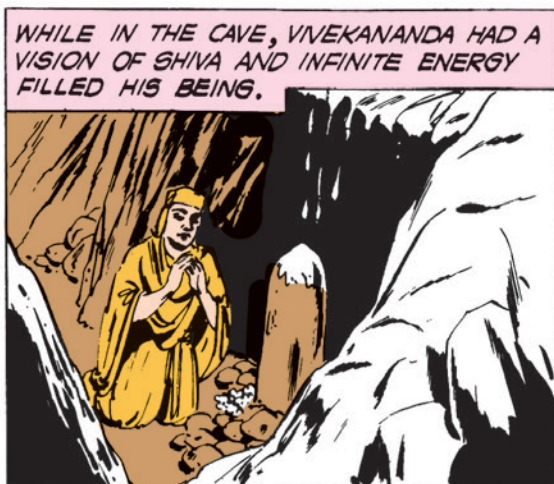
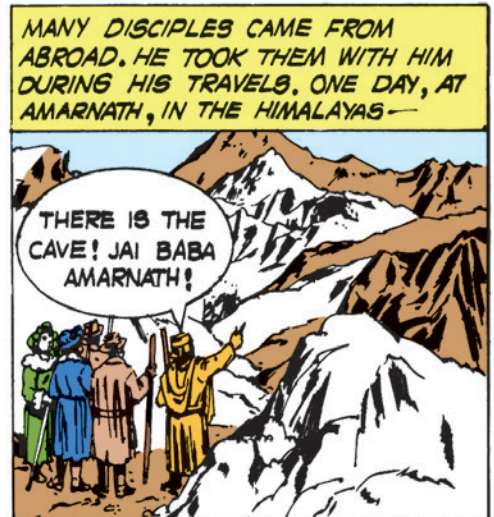
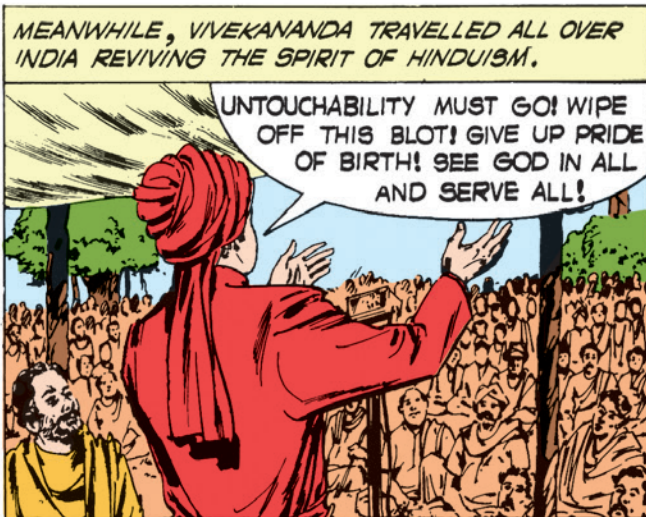
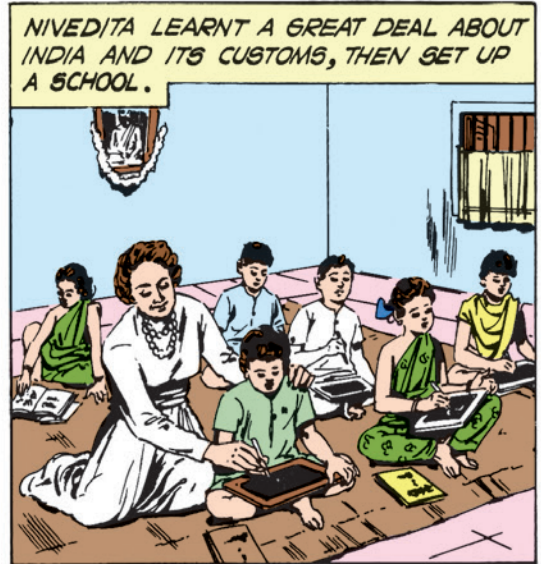
...AND RENDERED HELP TO THE NEEDY DURING FAMINES AND FLOODS.



ONE DAY, A VISITOR FROM ENGLAND ARRIVED.

SWAMIJI, REMEMBER ME? I AM MARGARET. I HAVE COME TO DEDICATE MYSELF TO YOU AND TO YOUR GREAT MISSION.





WHILE IN CALCUTTA, HE FORMALLY CONSECRATED THE RAMAKRISHNA MONASTERY AT BELUR AS THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE RAMAKRISHNA ORDER.



AND THEN PAID A VISIT TO THE SPIRITUAL CENTRES ESTABLISHED BY HIM IN THE WEST.

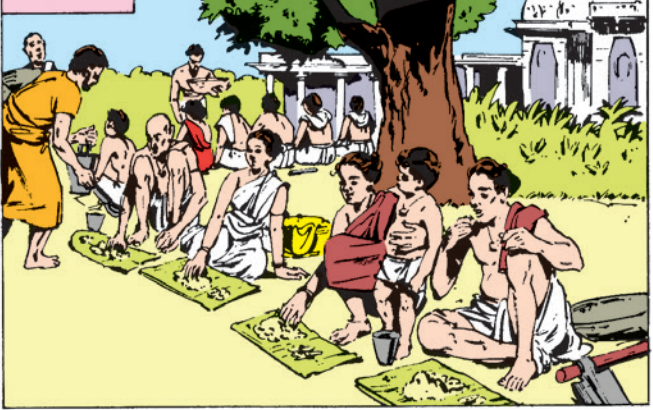


MEANWHILE, THE RAMAKRISHNA ORDER DEVOTED ITSELF TO THE SERVICE OF THE POOR.

ALAS, IN OUR COUNTRY THE POOR REMAIN WRETCHED. BUT THEY ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR NATION.



THEY FED THE POOR, MANY OF WHOM WERE SANTHAL TRIBALS.



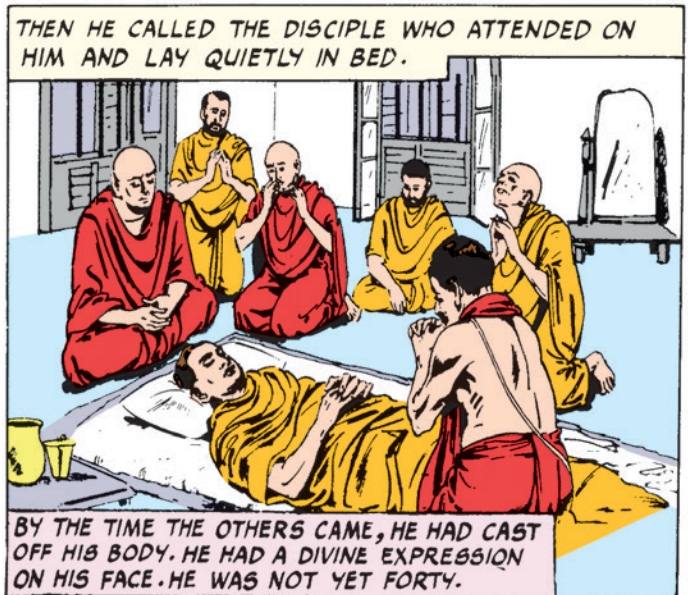
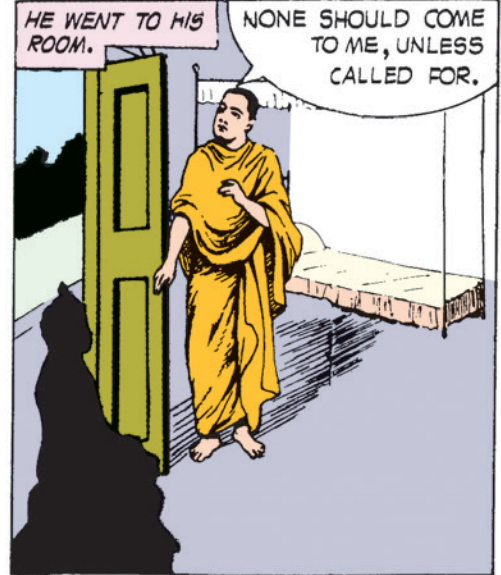
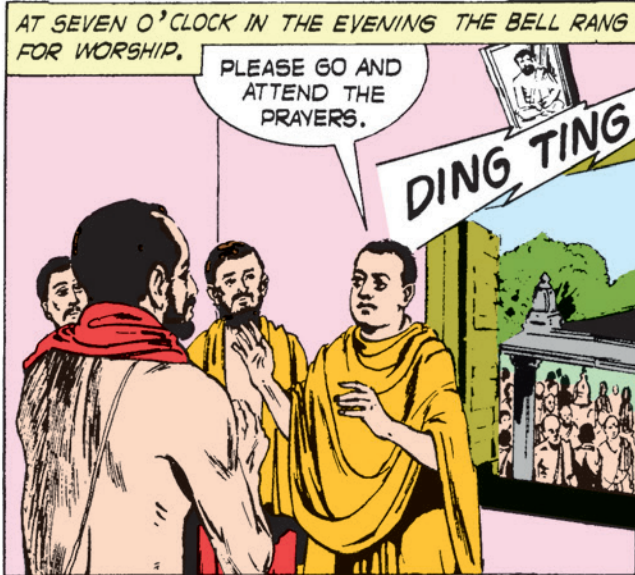
WHY DO YOU FUSS SO MUCH OVER THOSE SANTHALS?

THEY ARE AS MUCH THE CHILDREN OF GOD AS YOU OR I.

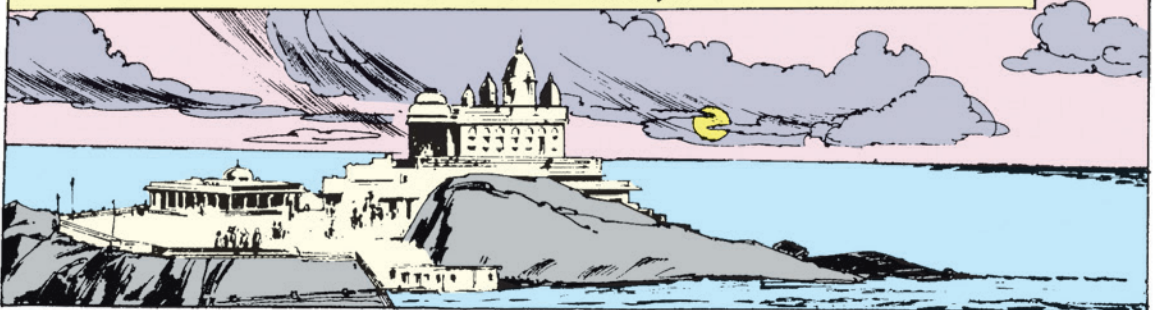


HIS HEALTH HAD BEGUN TO FAIL. ON JULY 4, 1902, HE PARTOOK OF THE NOON MEAL WITH HIS DISCIPLES.



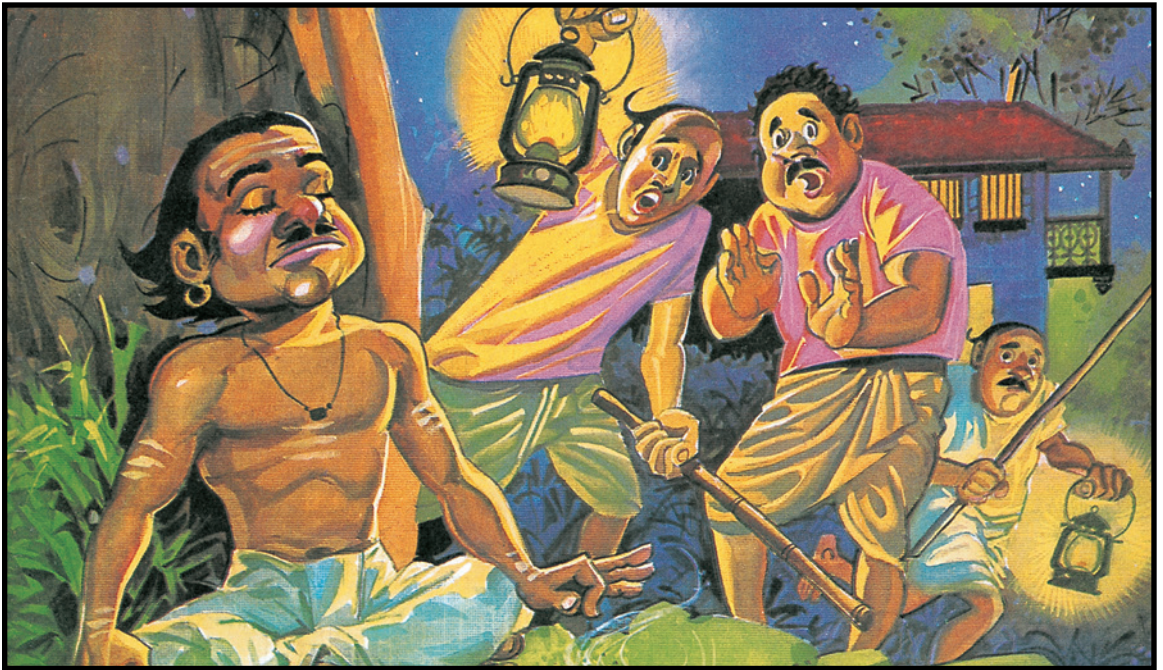


TODAY, A MAGNIFICENT MEMORIAL STANDS AT KANYAKUMARI, AT THE VERY SPOT WHERE, MANY YEARS AGO, HE HAD DISCOVERED HIS LIFE'S TWIN MISSION OF ELEVATING THE MASSES OF HIS COUNTRY AND PREACHING INDIA'S UNIVERSAL, SPIRITUAL MESSAGE ABROAD.

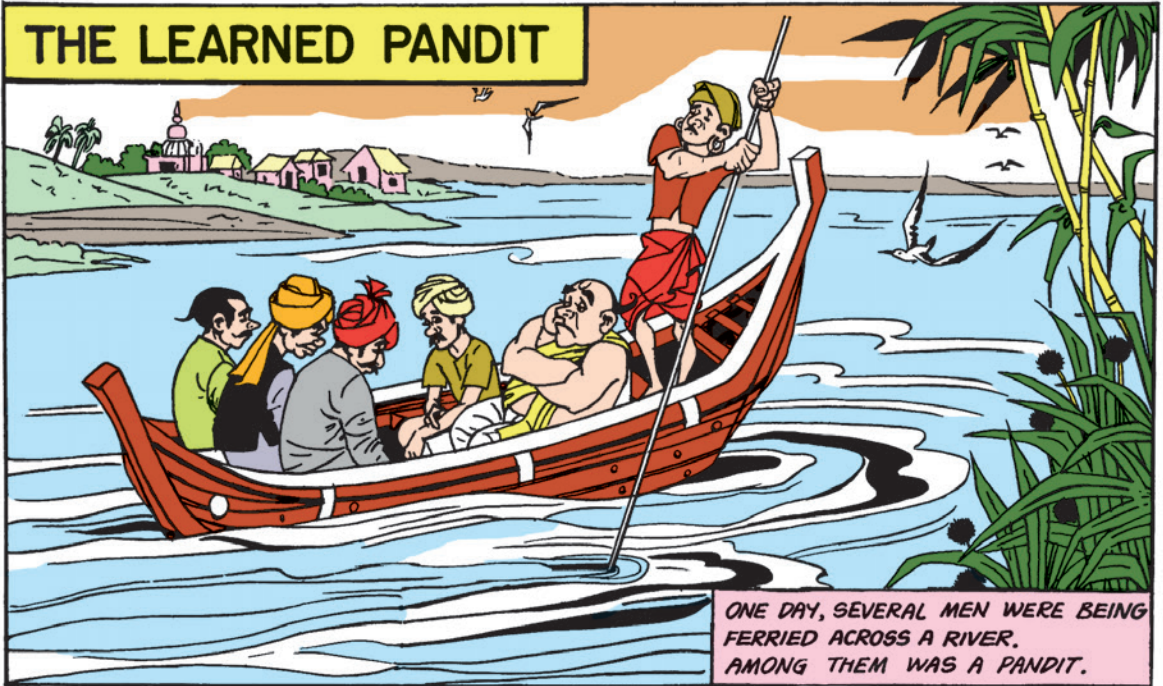


THE LEARNED PANDIT

TALES TOLD BY SRI RAMAKRISHNA

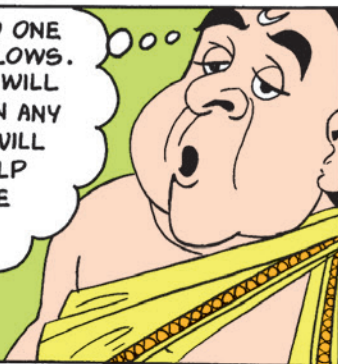


THE LEARNED PANDIT

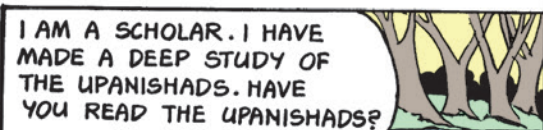


ONE DAY, SEVERAL MEN WERE BEING
FERRIED ACROSS A RIVER.
AMONG THEM WAS A PANDIT.

I'LL TALK TO ONE
OF THOSE FELLOWS.
NOT THAT IT WILL
BENEFIT ME IN ANY
WAY BUT IT WILL
AT LEAST HELP
ME PASS THE
TIME.

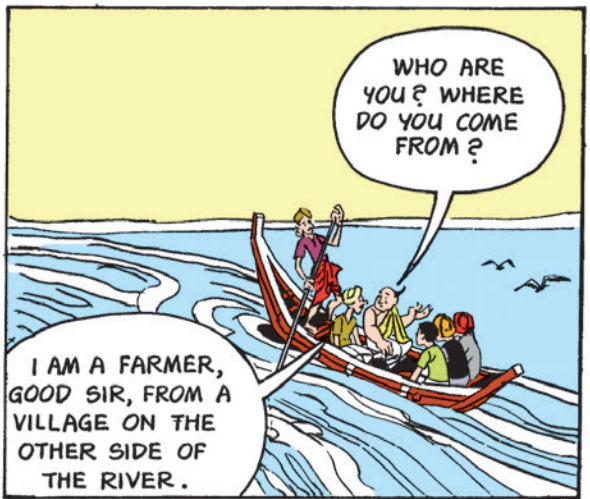


I AM A SCHOLAR. I HAVE
MADE A DEEP STUDY OF
THE UPANISHADS. HAVE
YOU READ THE UPANISHADS?

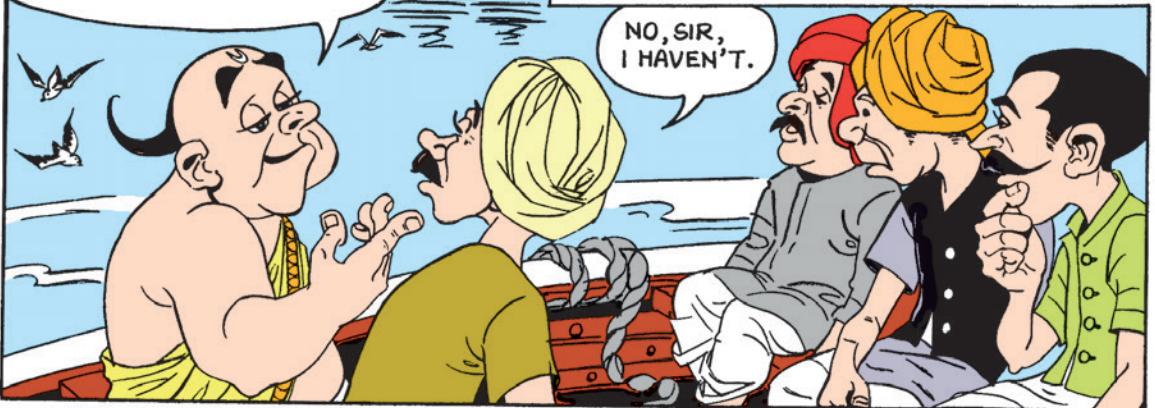


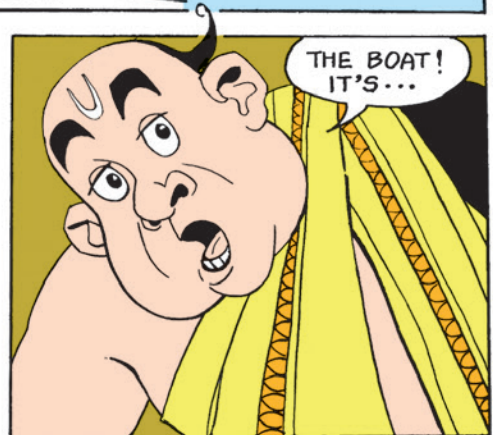
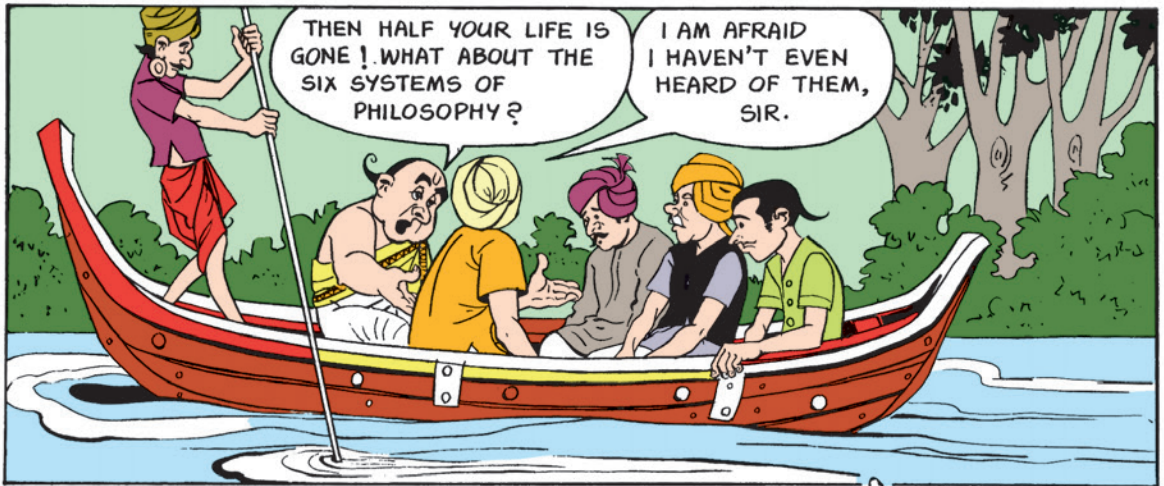
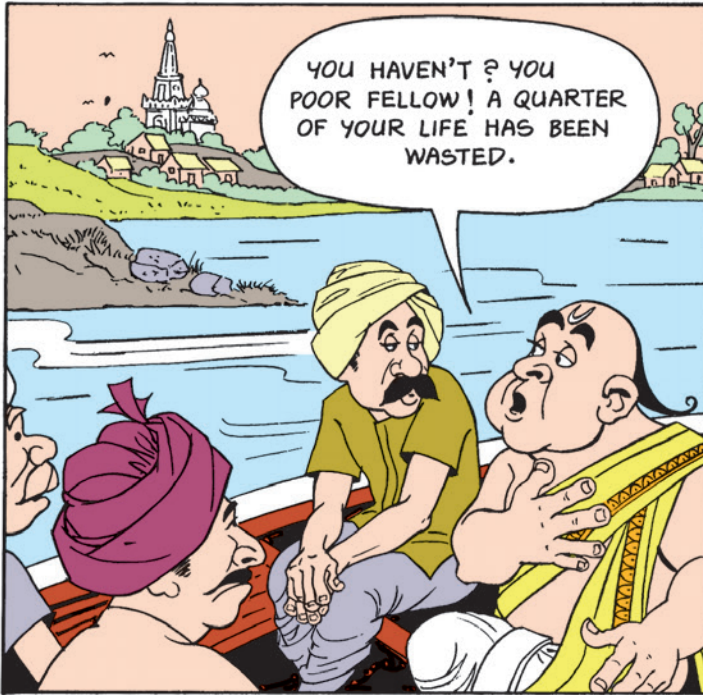
WHO ARE
YOU? WHERE
DO YOU COME
FROM?

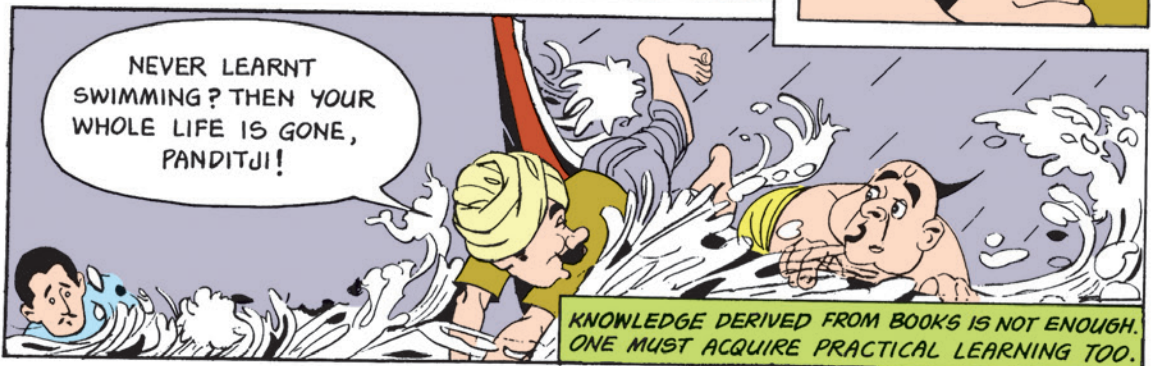
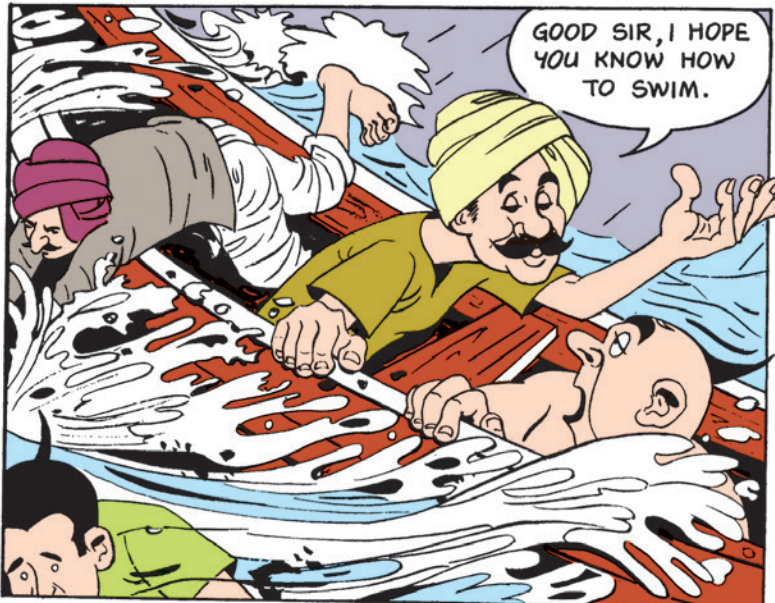
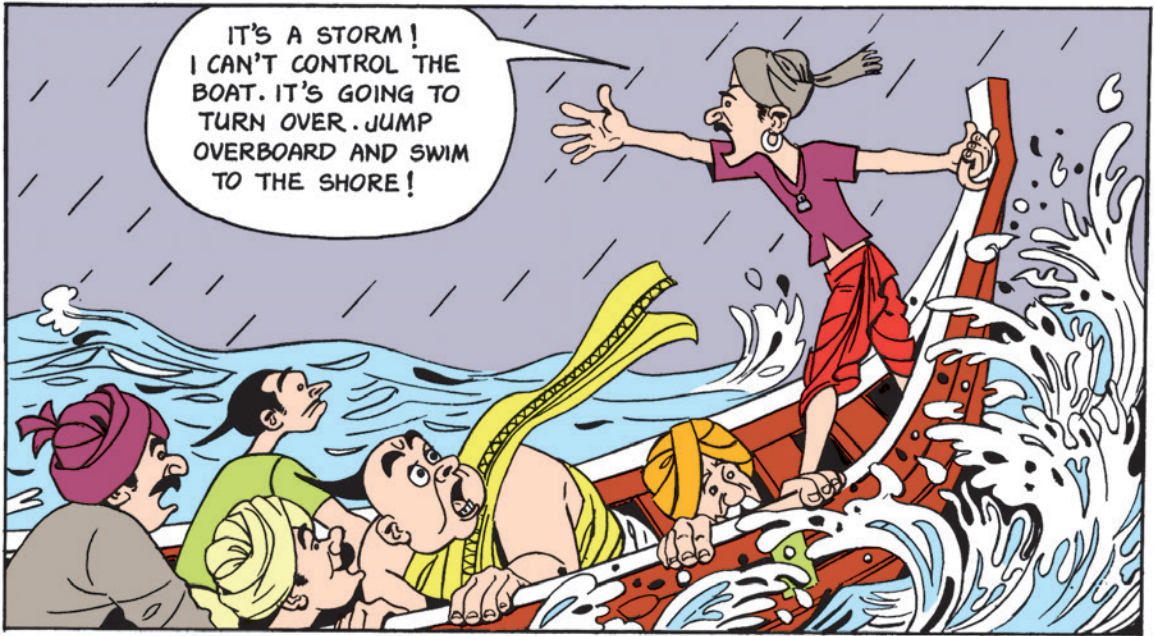
I AM A FARMER,
GOOD SIR, FROM A
VILLAGE ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF
THE RIVER.



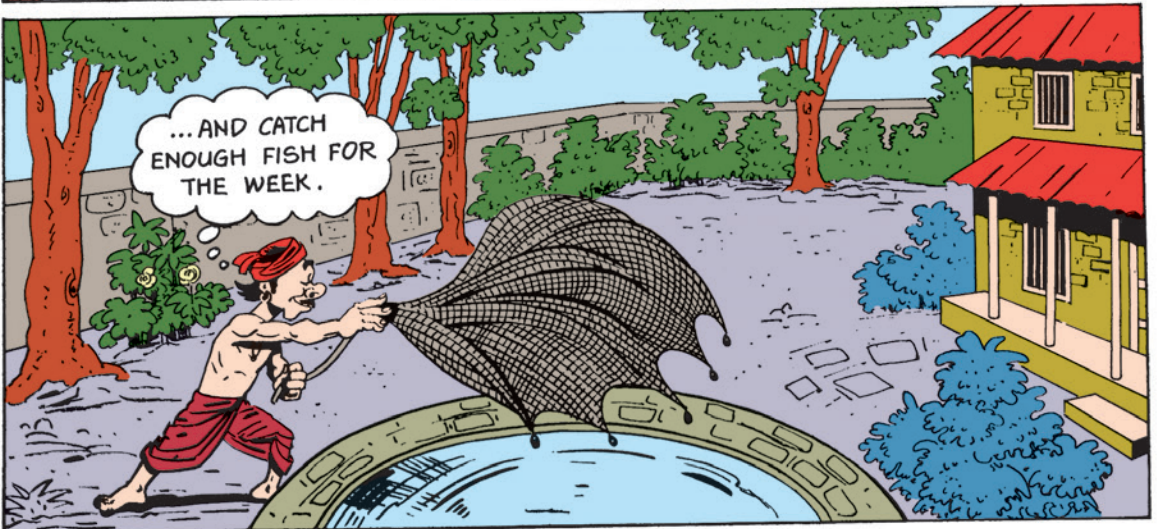
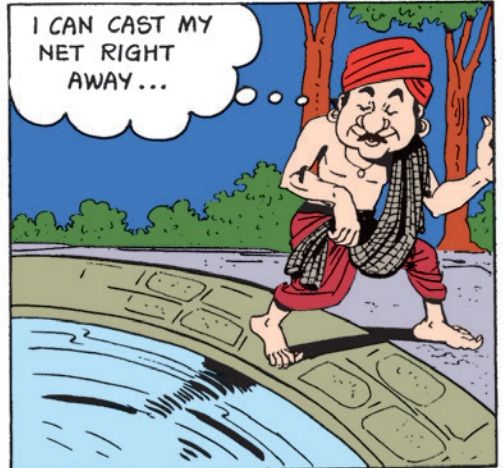
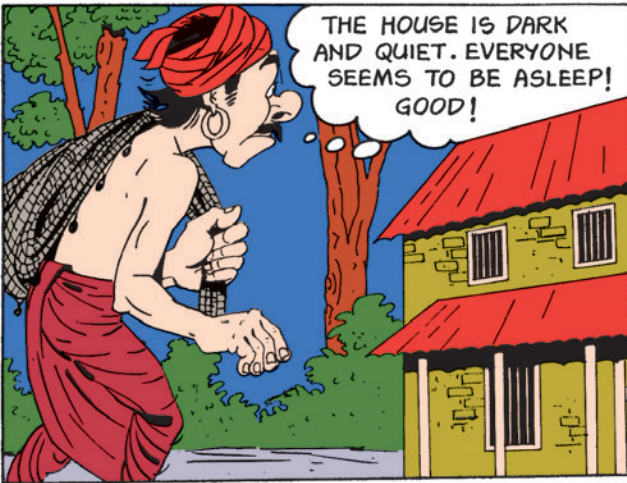
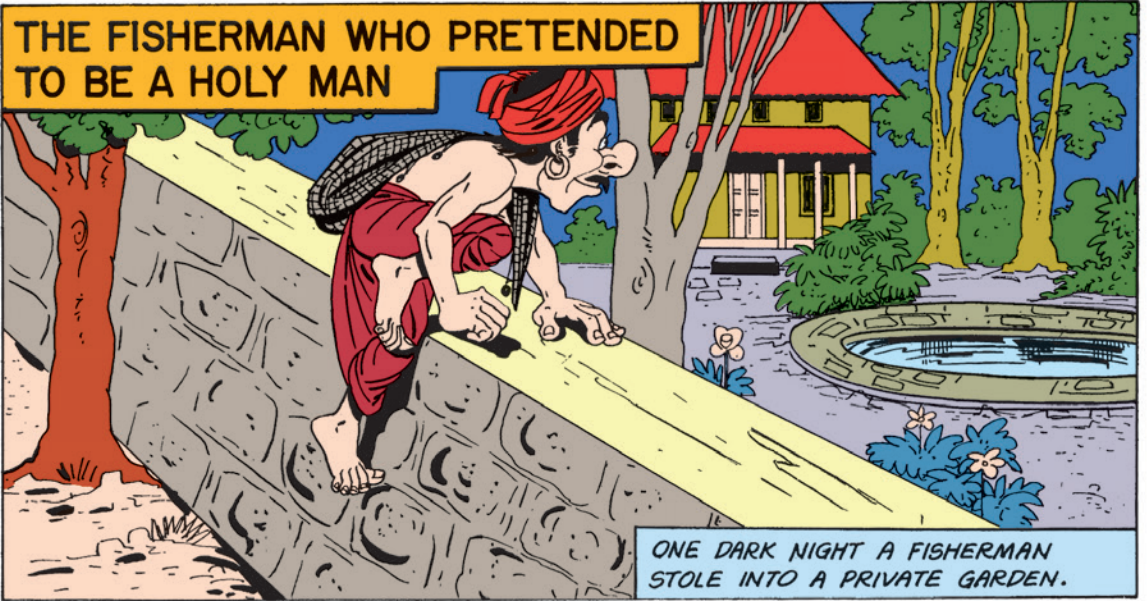
NO, SIR,
I HAVEN'T.

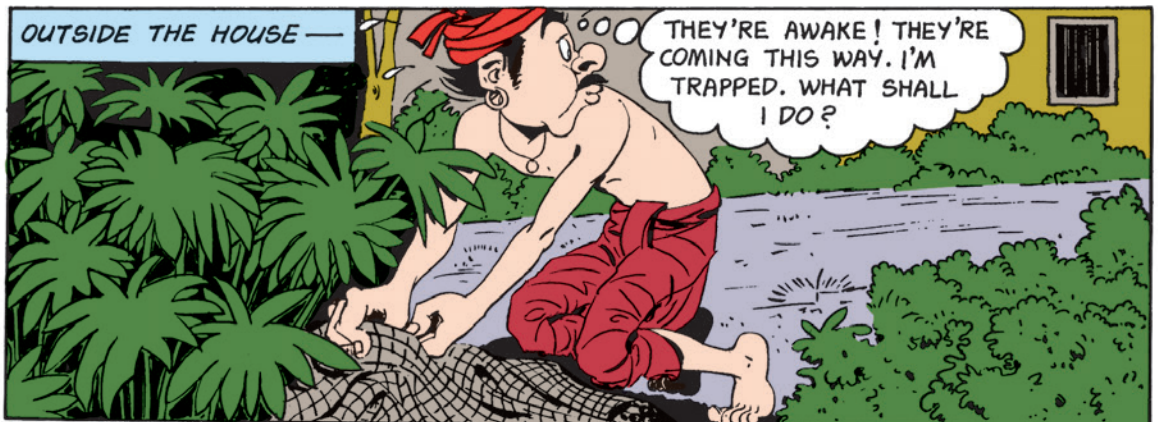
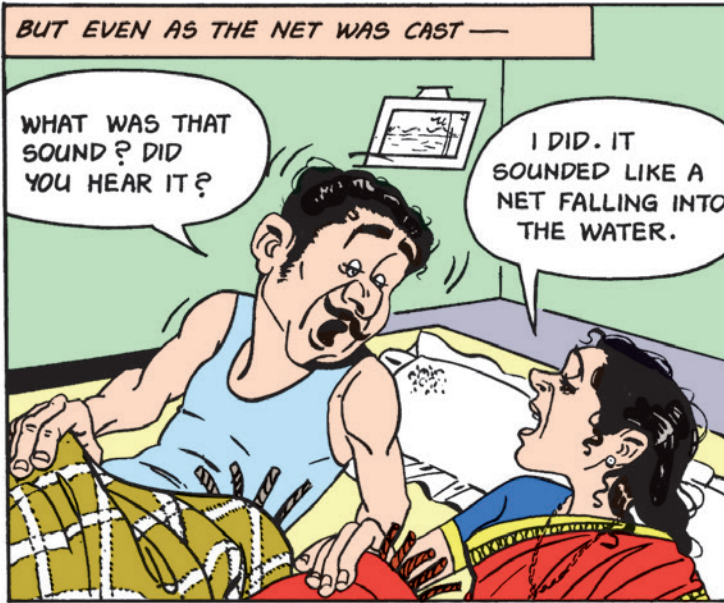






THE FISHERMAN WHO PRETENDED TO BE A HOLY MAN





AS HE LOOKED DESPERATELY ABOUT, SOMETHING CAUGHT HIS EYE.

A SMOULDERING BONFIRE! FATE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN K.NDER!



HE PULLED OFF HIS TURBAN AND SMEARED SOME ASH ON HIS ARMS AND FOREHEAD.

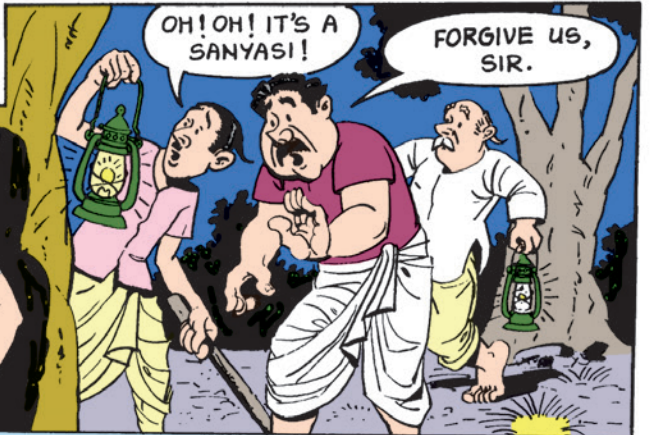
I HOPE THIS DISGUISE WORKS!

LOOK! CAN YOU SEE A MAN THERE?



OH! OH! IT'S A SANYASI!

FORGIVE US, SIR.

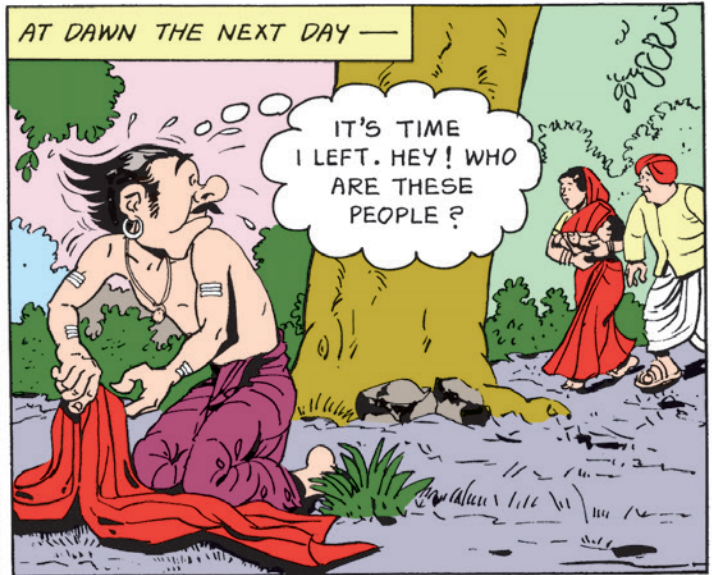
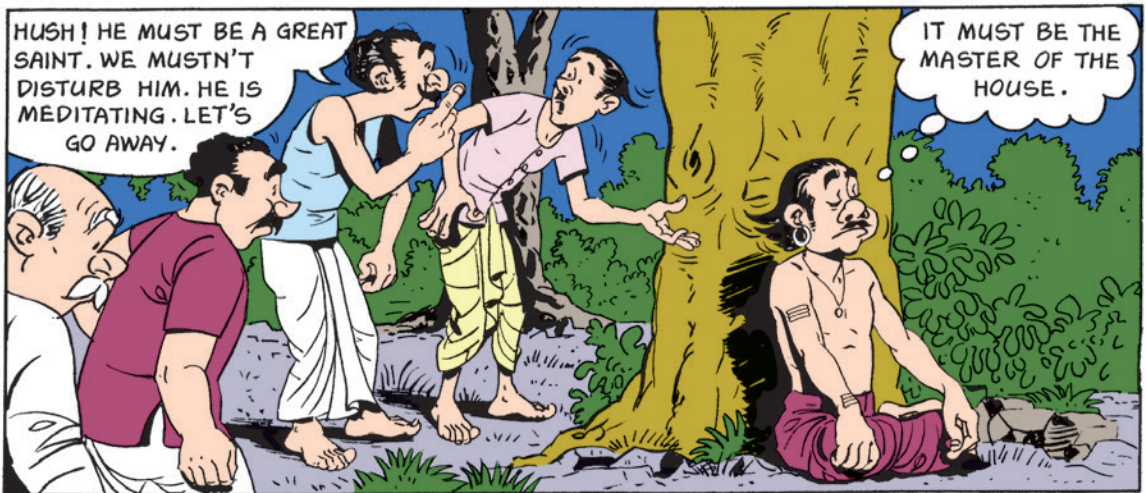
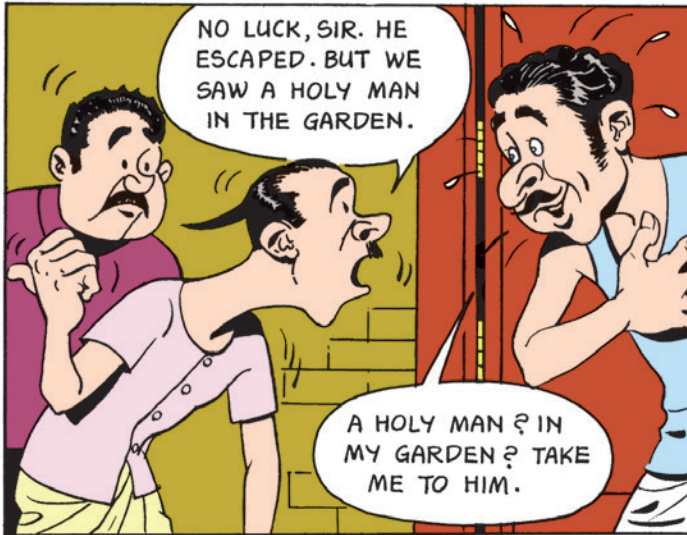


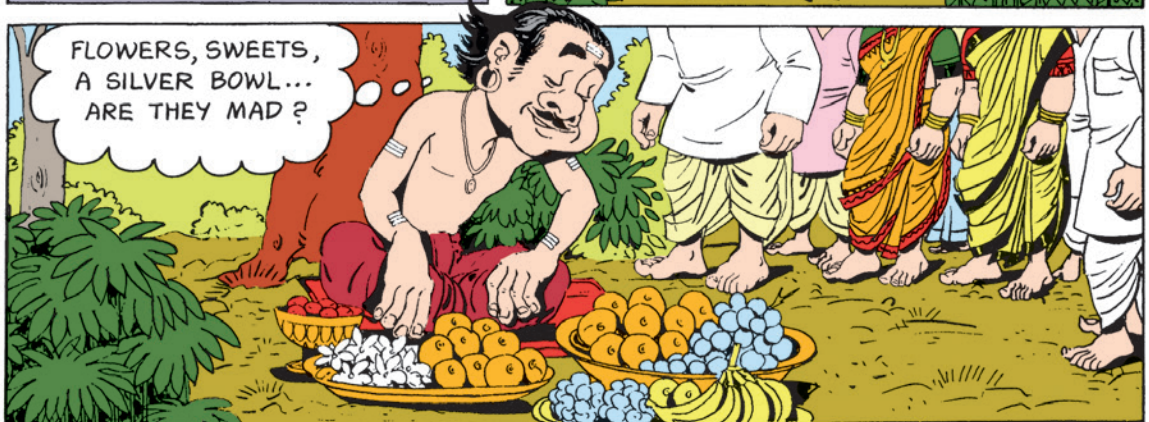
AND THE SERVANTS CONTINUED THEIR SEARCH.

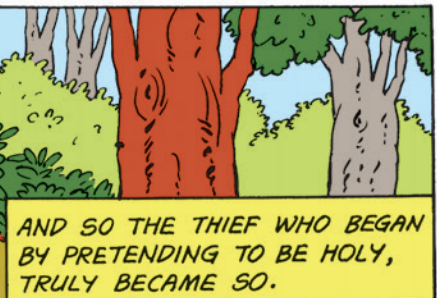
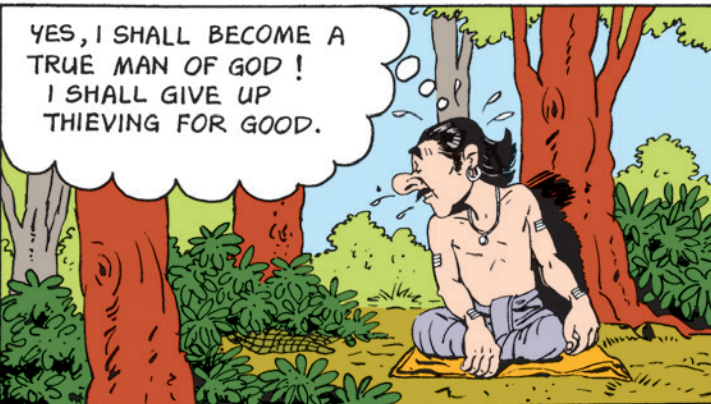
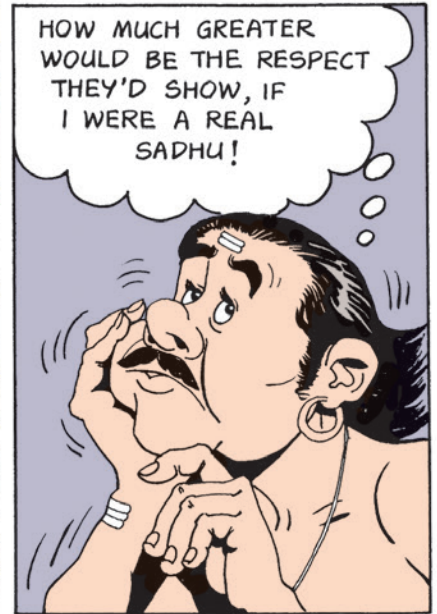
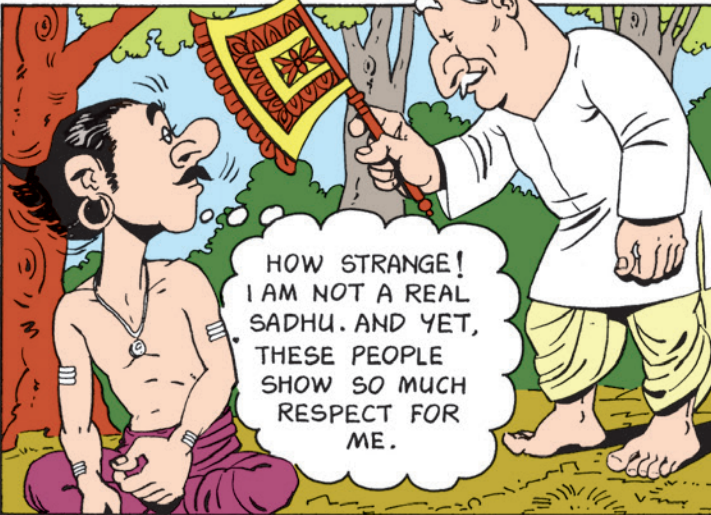
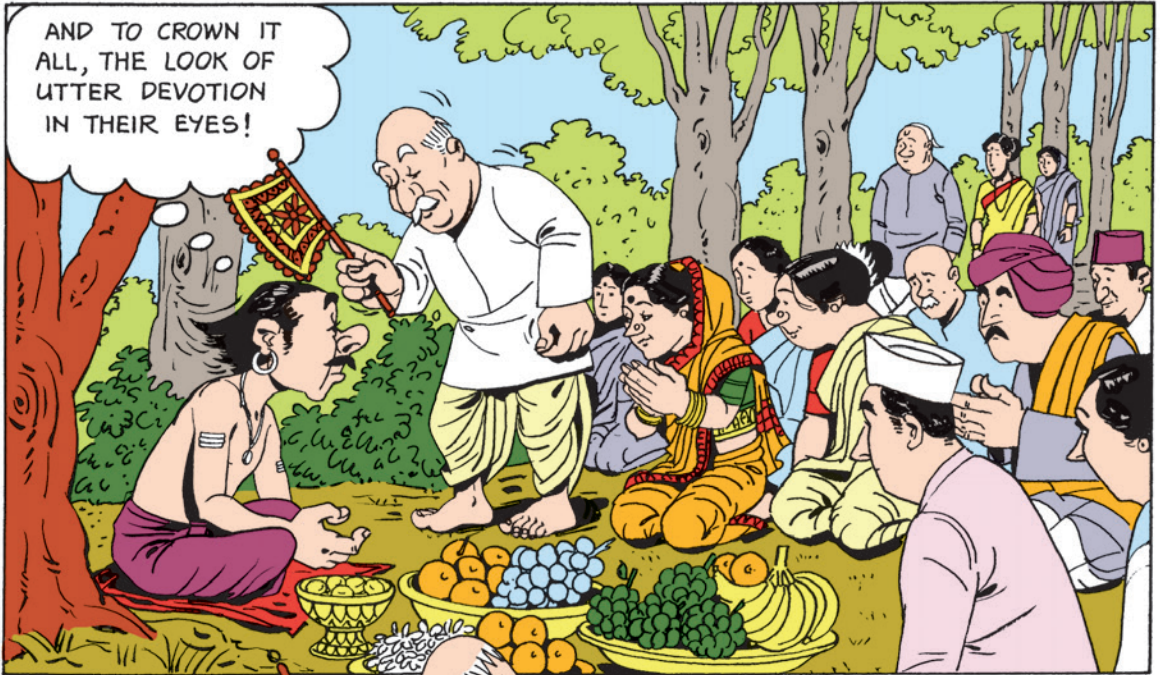
AFTER A WHILE, THEY CAME BACK TO THEIR MASTER.

WELL, WHAT HAPPENED? HAVE YOU FOUND HIM?

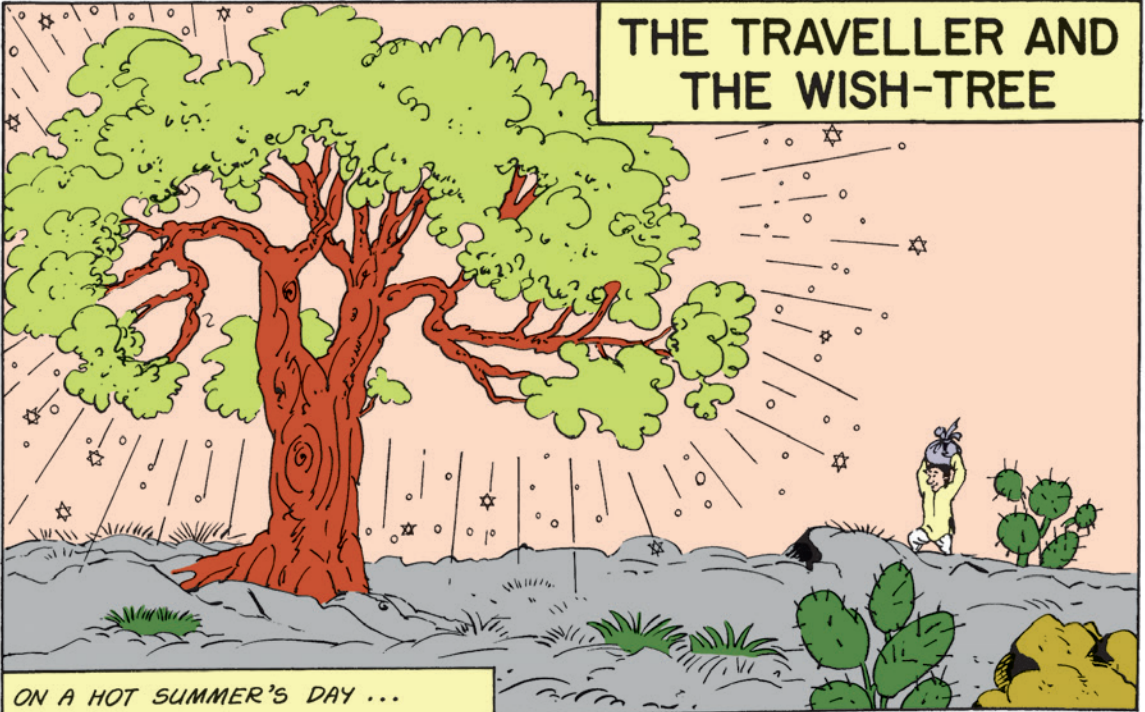








THE TRAVELLER AND THE WISH-TREE

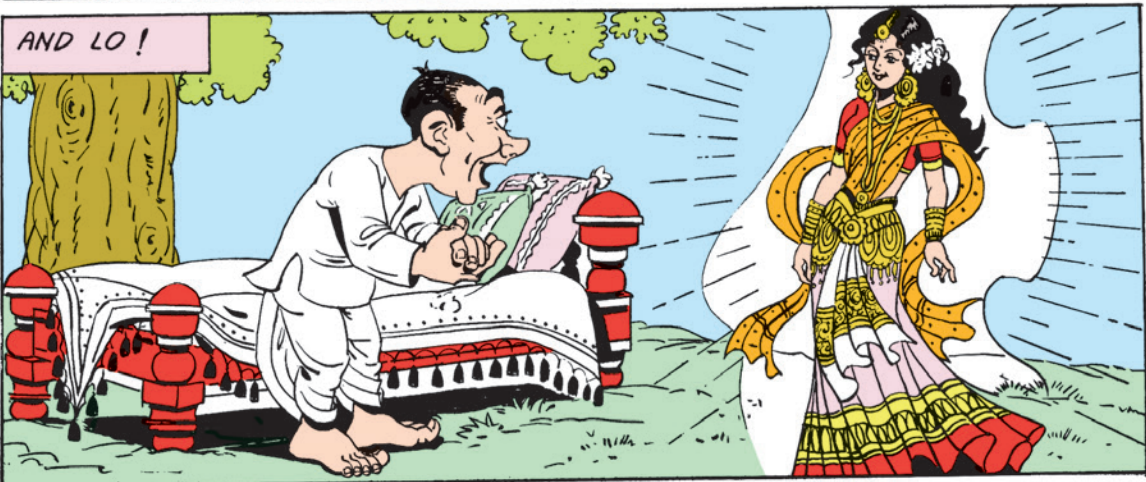
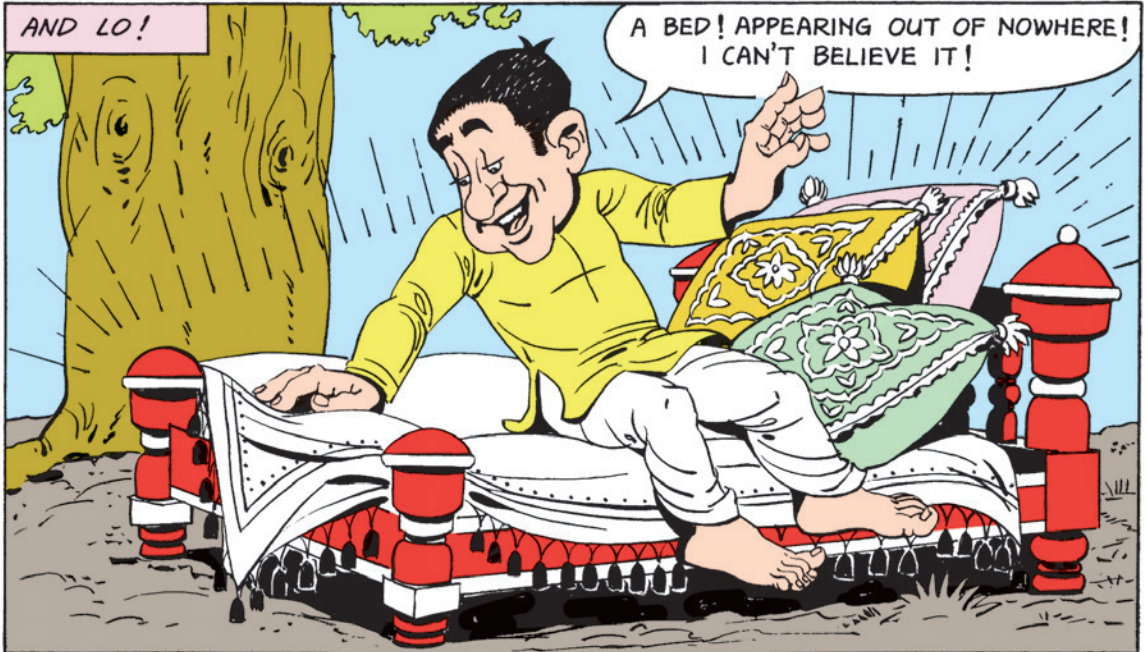


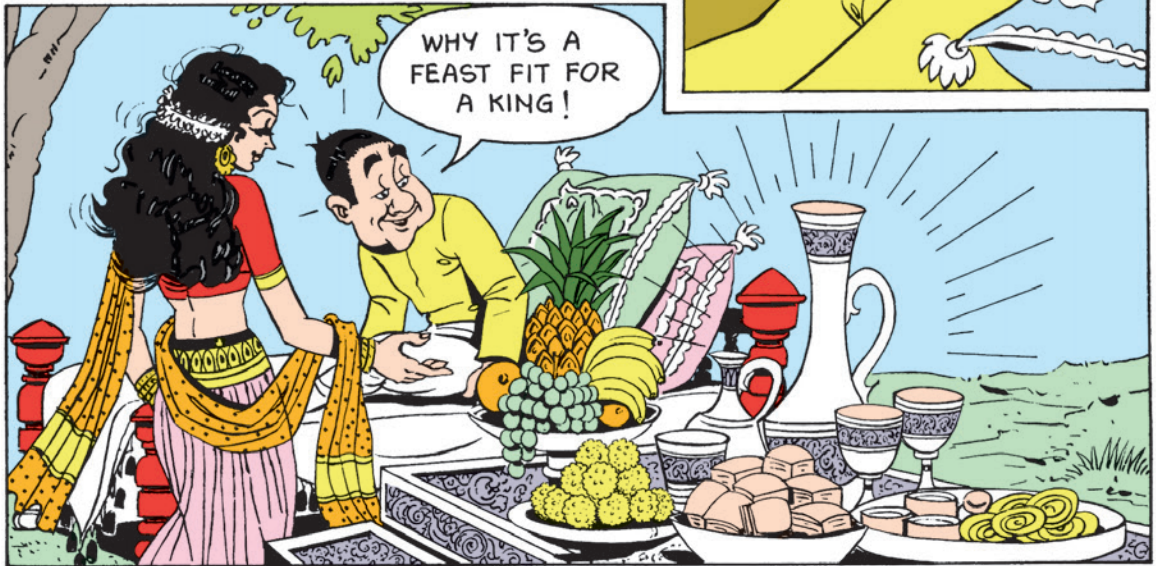
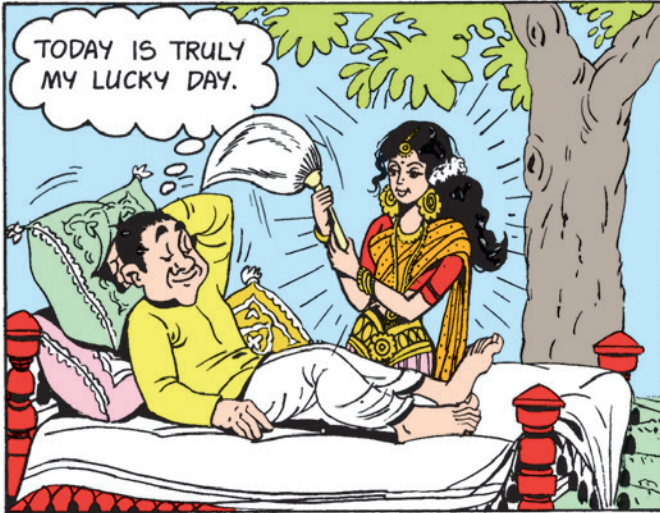
... A TRAVELLER STOPPED UNDER A SHADY TREE .

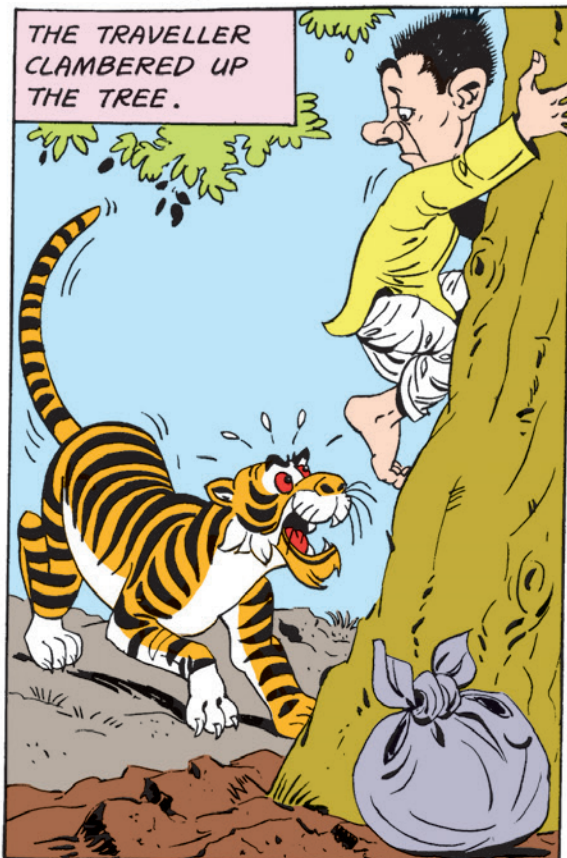


LITTLE DID HE REALISE THAT THE TREE WAS A SPECIAL ONE .









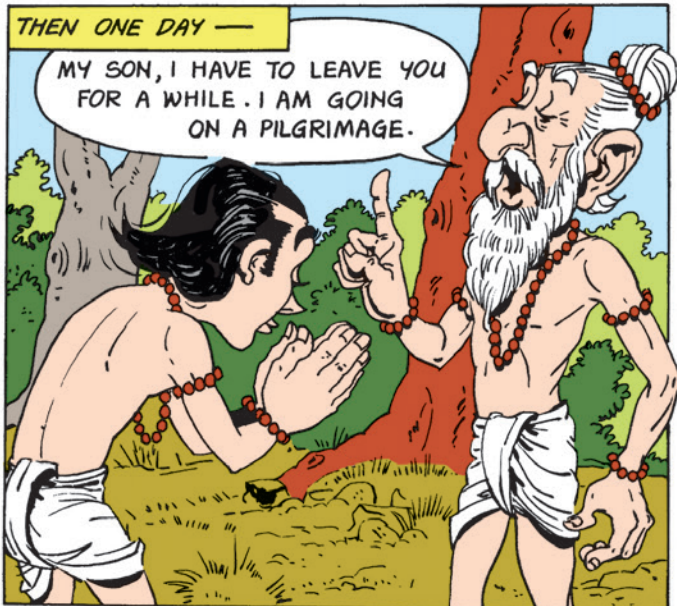
THE ASCETIC AND HIS LOIN-CLOTH



IN A FOREST NEAR A VILLAGE THERE LIVED A GURU AND HIS DISCIPLE WHO SPENT ALL THEIR TIME IN PRAYER AND MEDITATION.

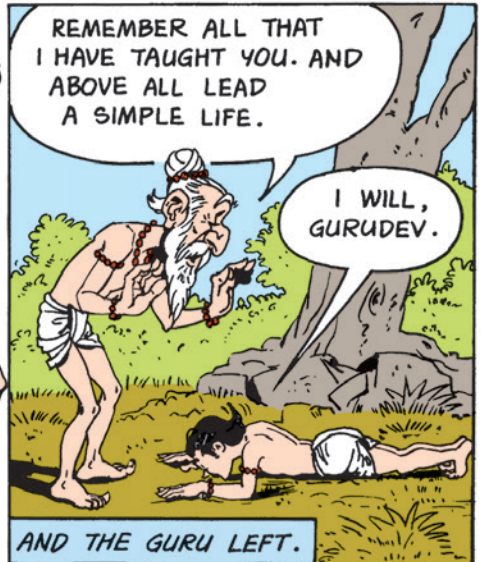
THEN ONE DAY —

MY SON, I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU FOR A WHILE. I AM GOING ON A PILGRIMAGE.



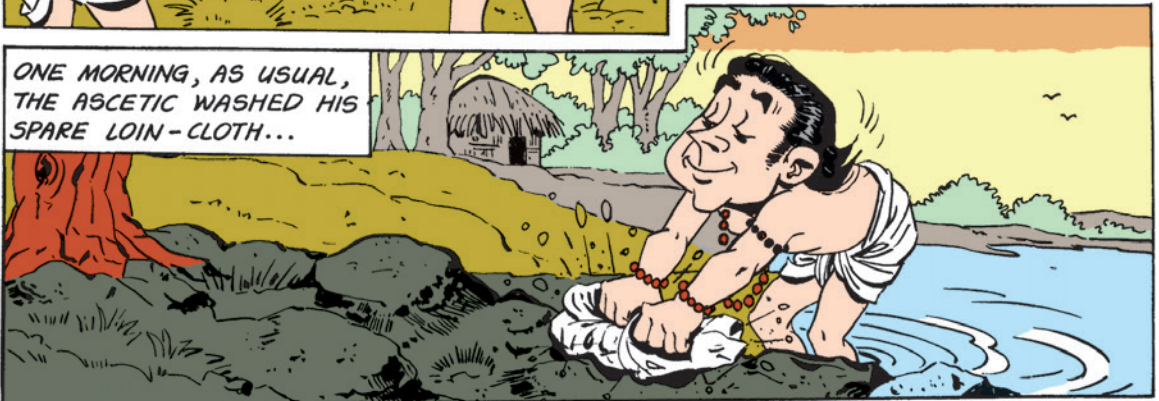
REMEMBER ALL THAT I HAVE TAUGHT YOU. AND ABOVE ALL LEAD A SIMPLE LIFE.

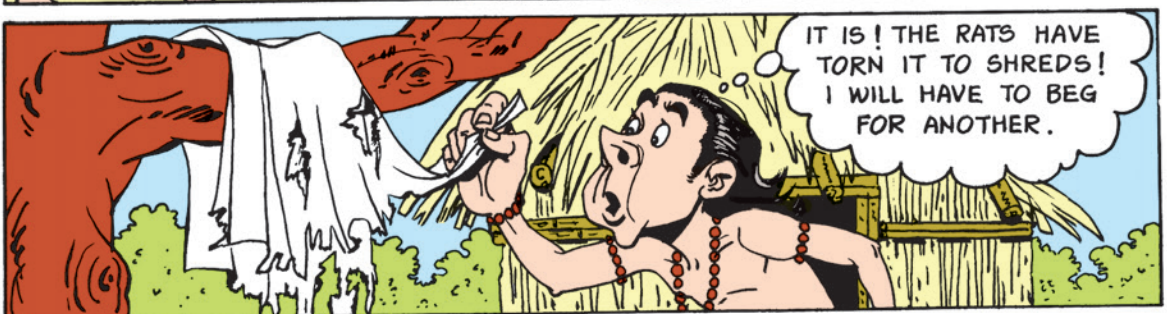
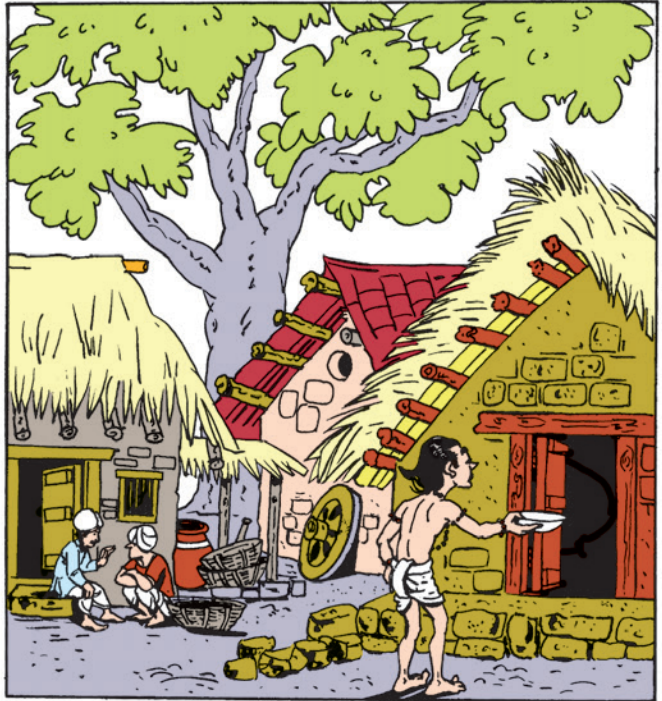
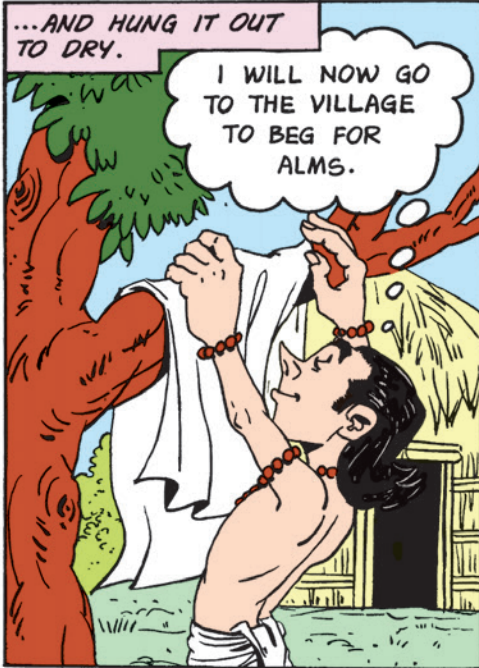
I WILL, GURUDEV.



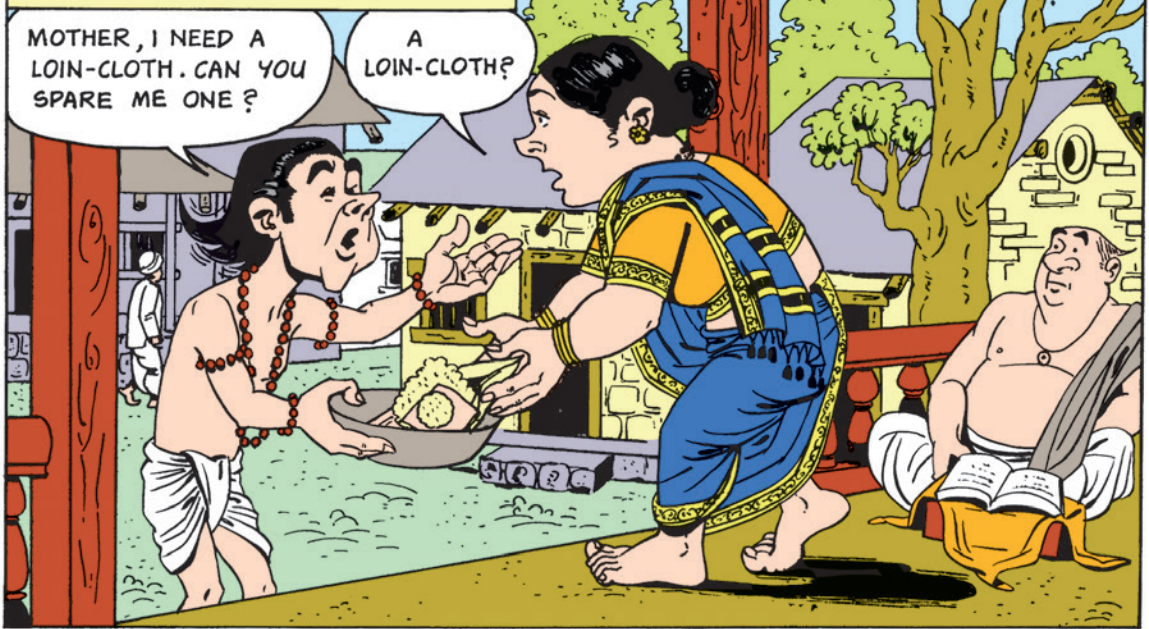
AND THE GURU LEFT.

ONE MORNING, AS USUAL, THE ASCETIC WASHED HIS SPARE LOIN-CLOTH...

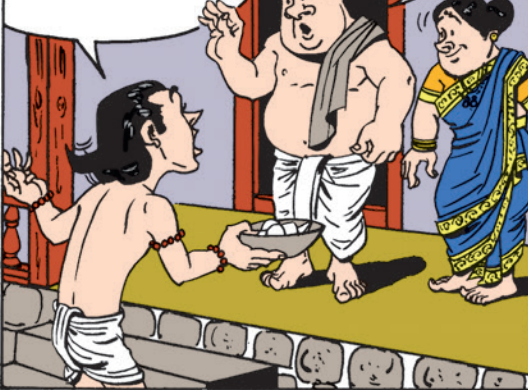




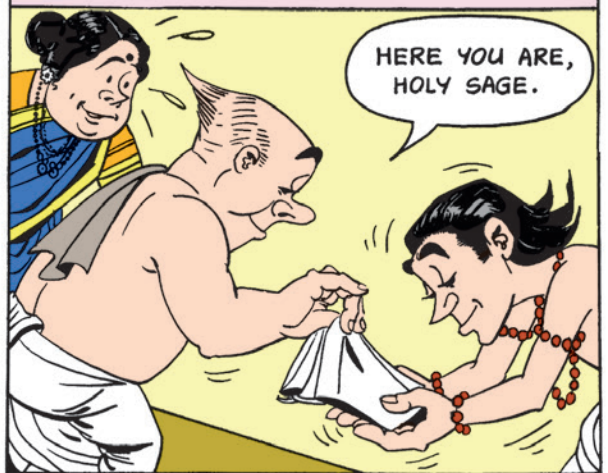
THE NEXT DAY AT THE VILLAGE —



THE RATS GOT AT MINE AND TORE IT UP. I NEED ANOTHER.



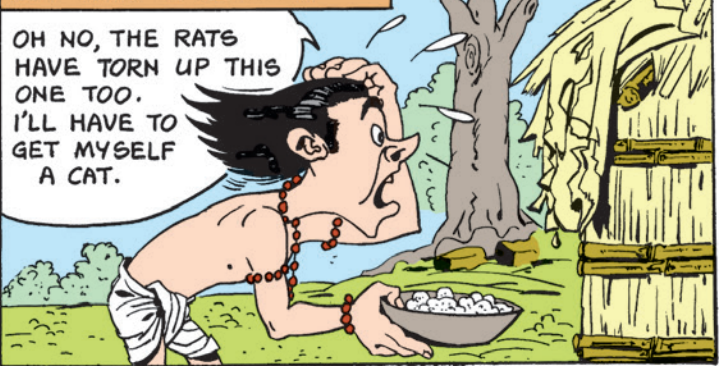
THE MAN WENT IN AND CAME BACK WITH IT.



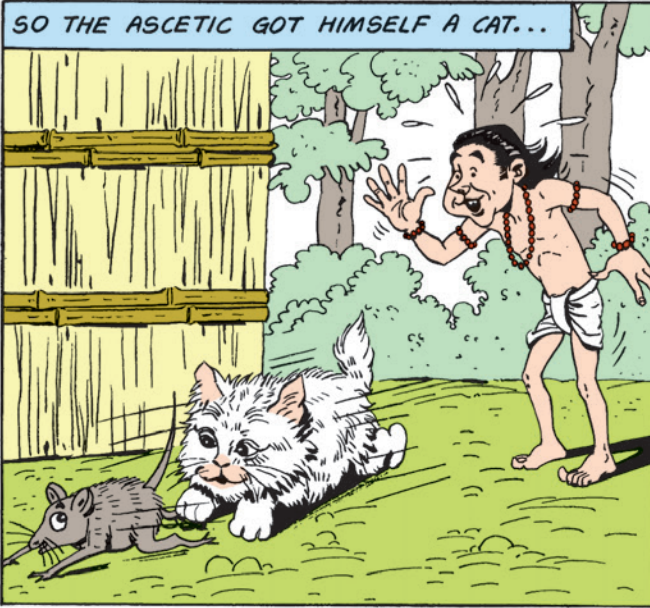
THE NEXT MORNING —



BUT THAT AFTERNOON —



SO THE ASCETIC GOT HIMSELF A CAT...

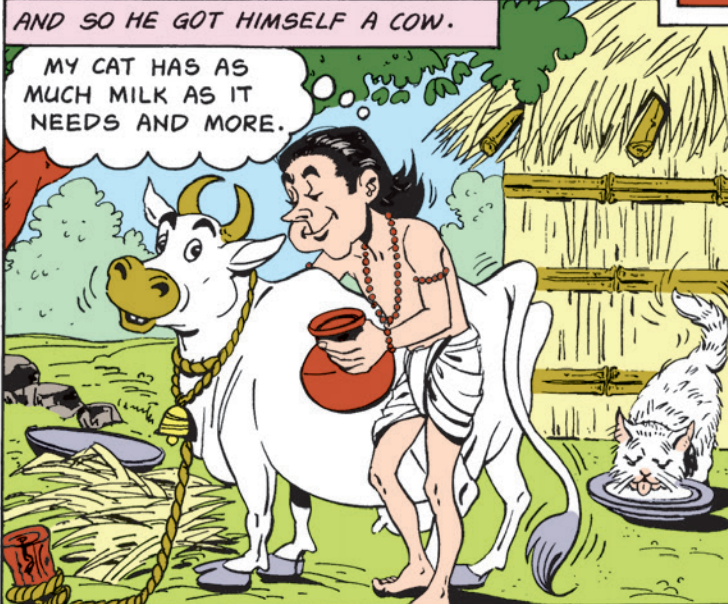


...AND SOON, THE RATS STOPPED TROUBLING HIM.



AND SO HE GOT HIMSELF A COW.

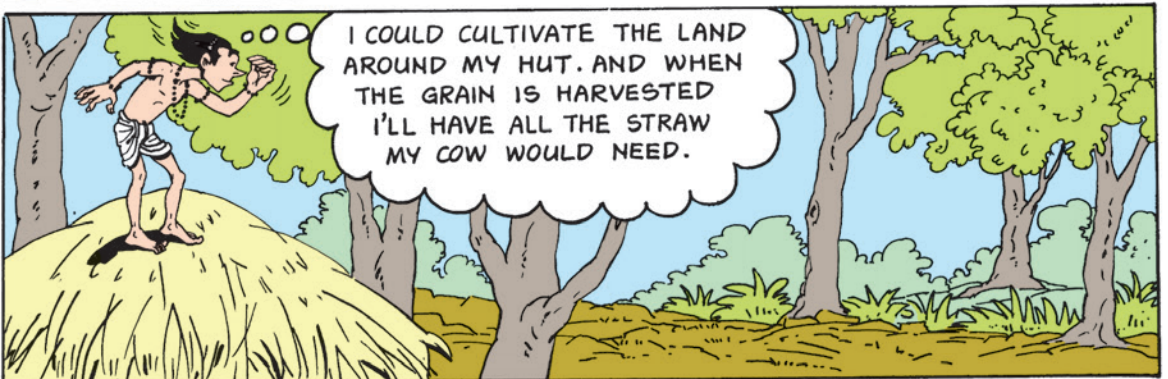
MY CAT HAS AS MUCH MILK AS IT NEEDS AND MORE.



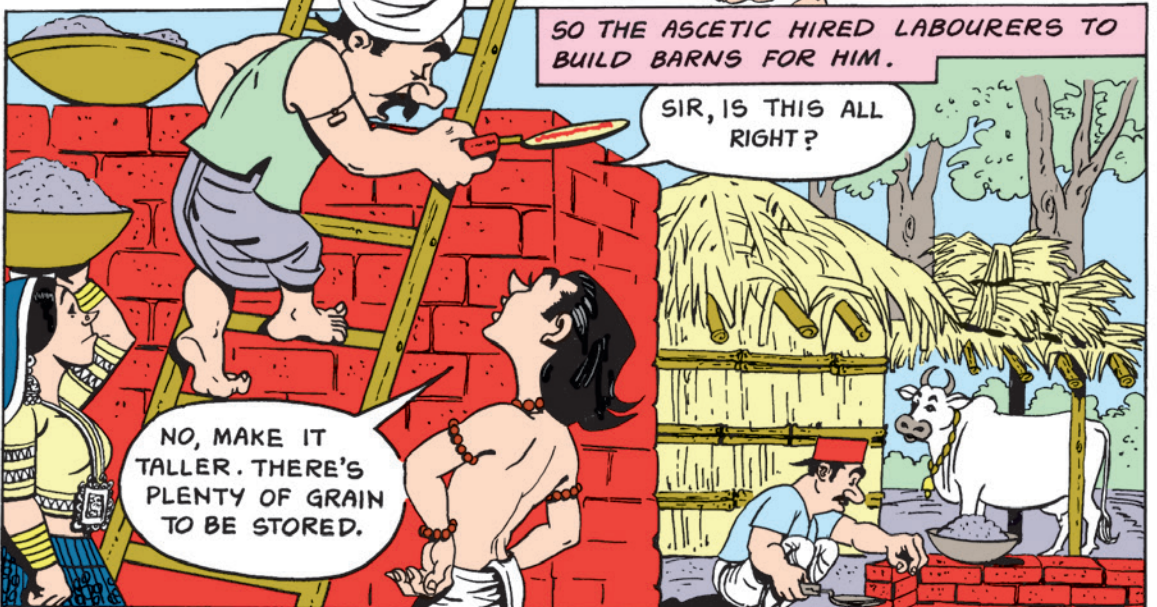
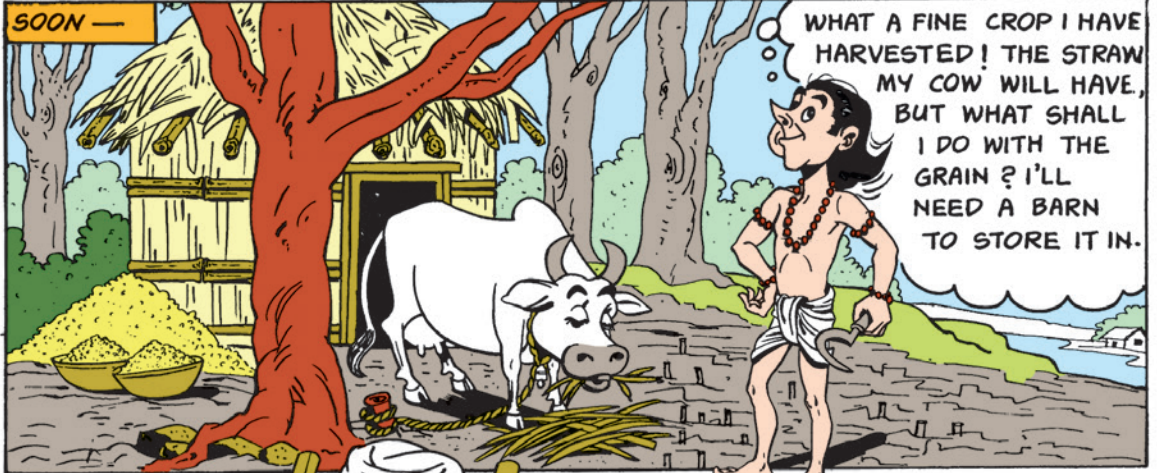
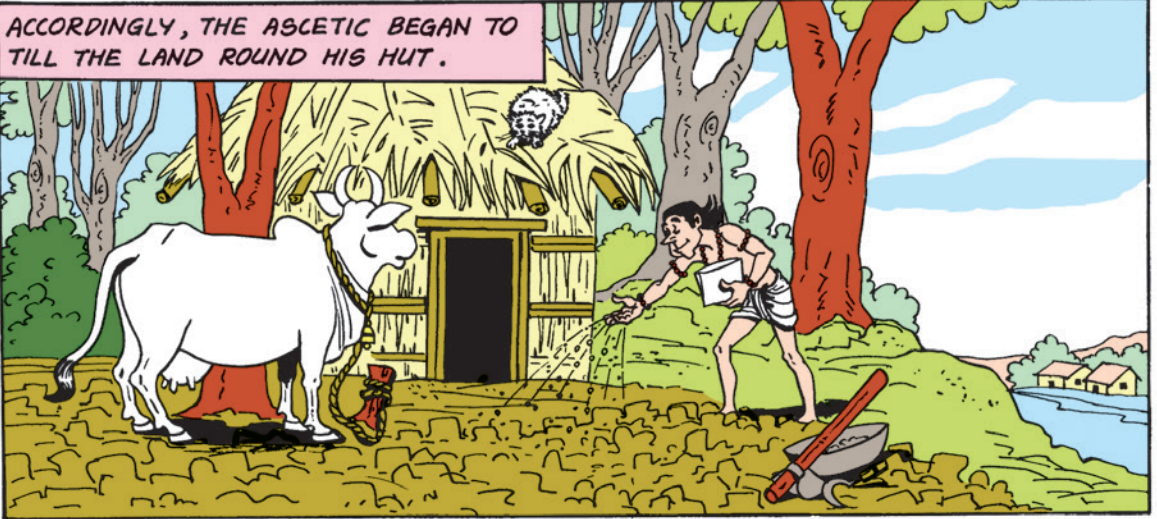
BUT I NEED STRAW TO FEED MY COW. HOW SHALL I GO ABOUT GETTING THAT?

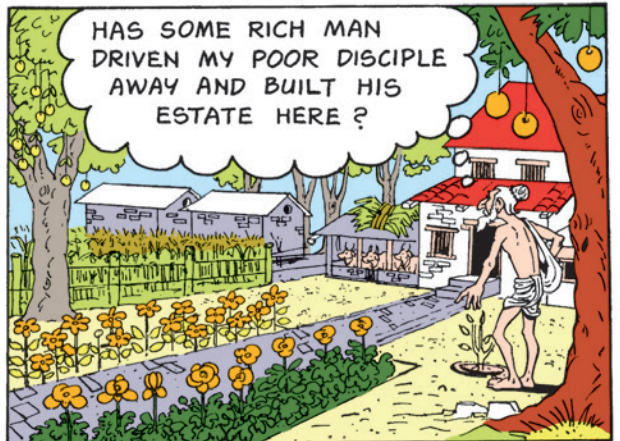
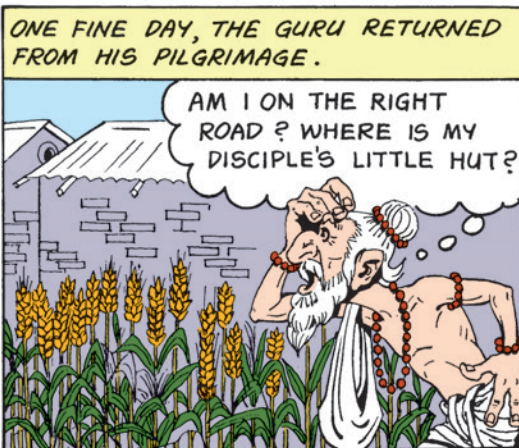
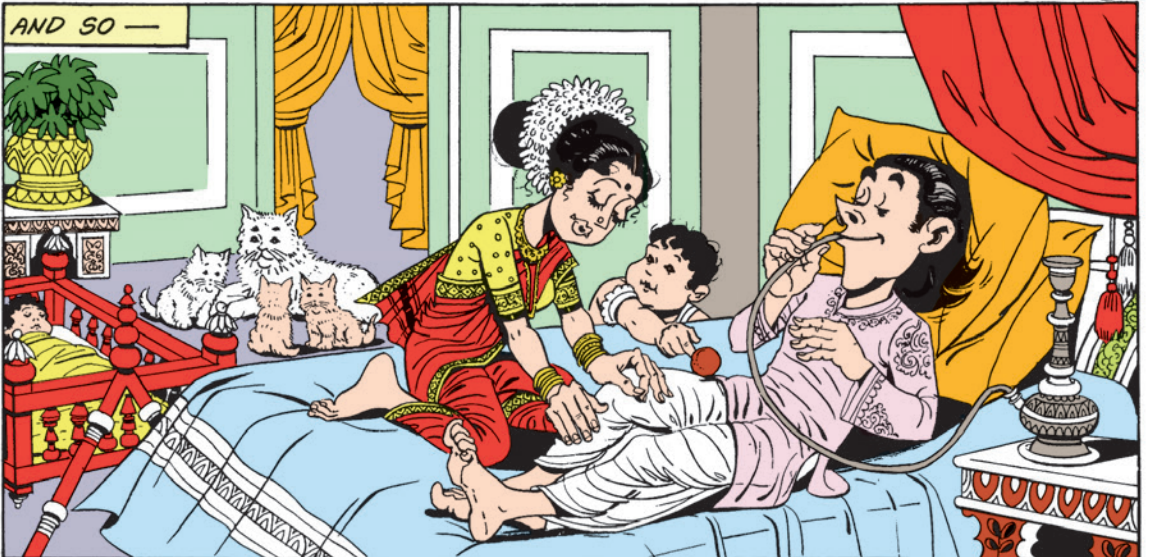
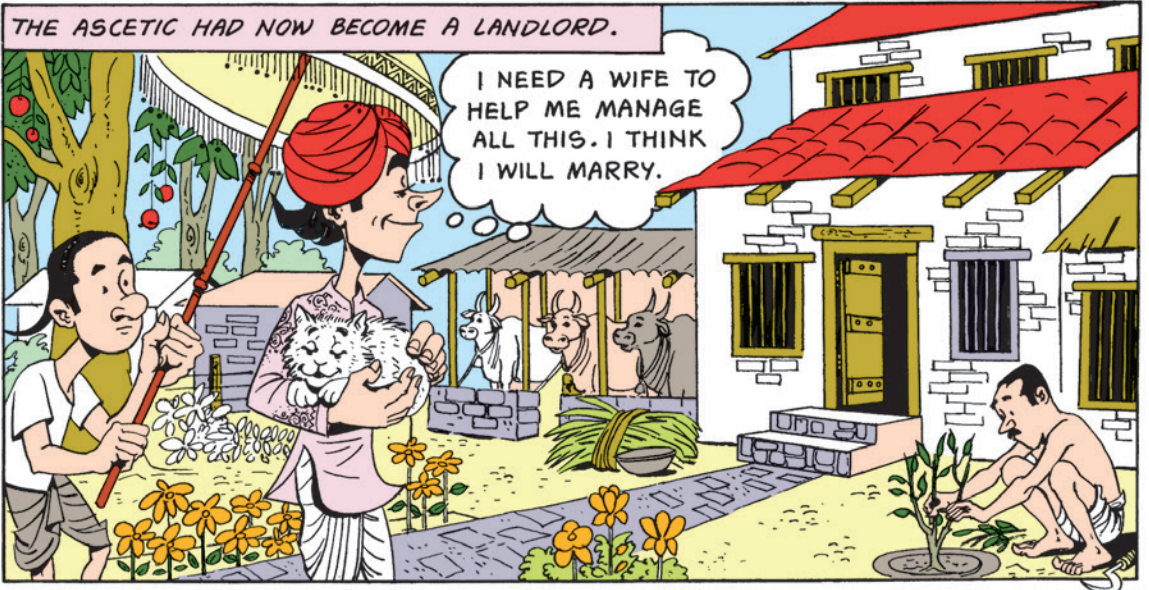


I COULD CULTIVATE THE LAND AROUND MY HUT. AND WHEN THE GRAIN IS HARVESTED I'LL HAVE ALL THE STRAW MY COW WOULD NEED.



ACCORDINGLY, THE ASCETIC BEGAN TO TILL THE LAND ROUND HIS HUT.





WHEN A SERVANT CAME OUT OF THE HOUSE, THE GURU WENT UP TO HIM.

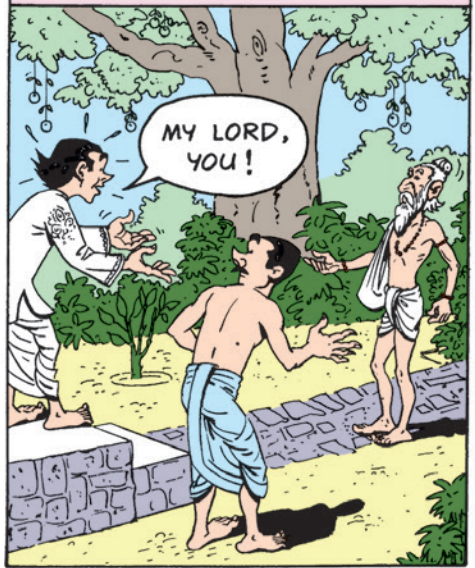
MY GOOD MAN, AN ASCETIC USED TO LIVE HERE ONCE. DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW ?

ER...I... HE...



JUST THEN, THE SERVANT'S MASTER HIMSELF CAME OUT.

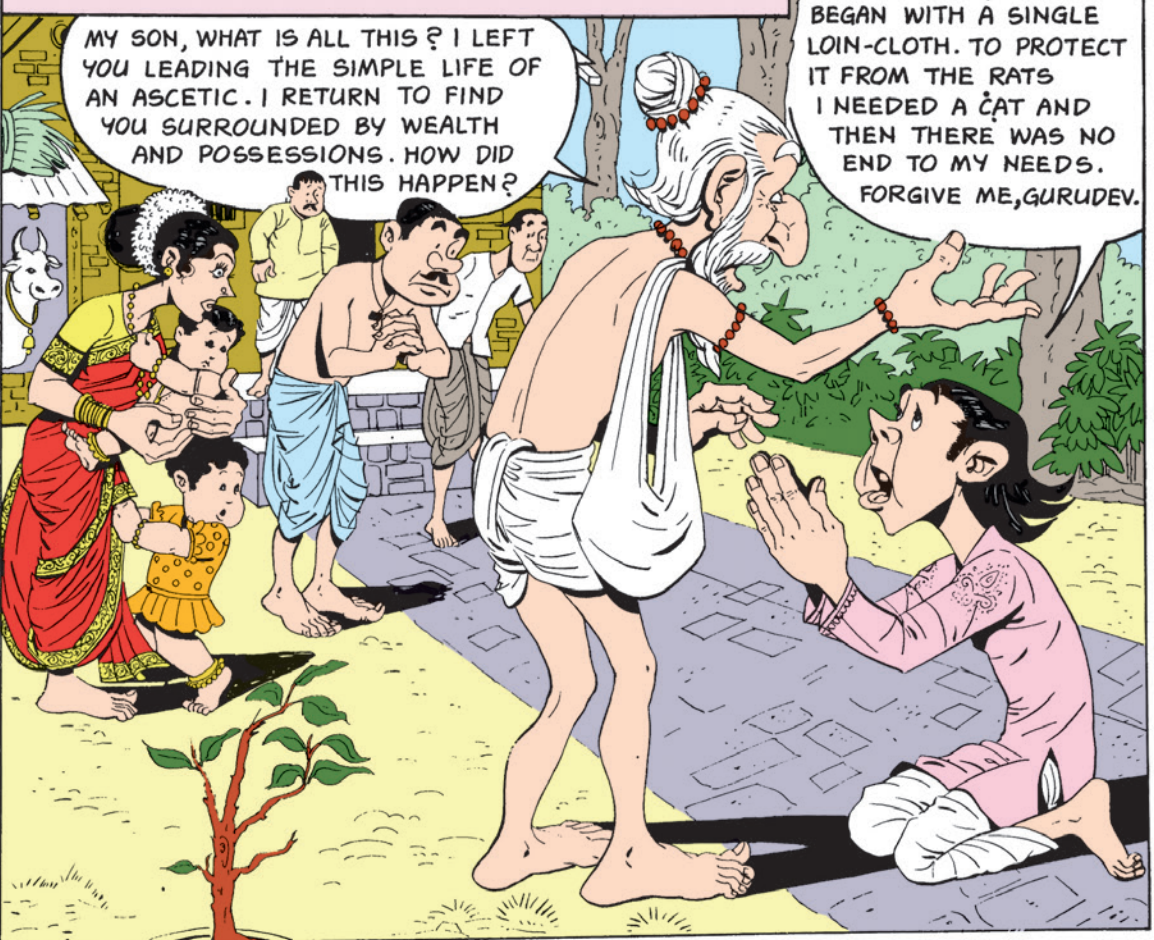
MY LORD, YOU!

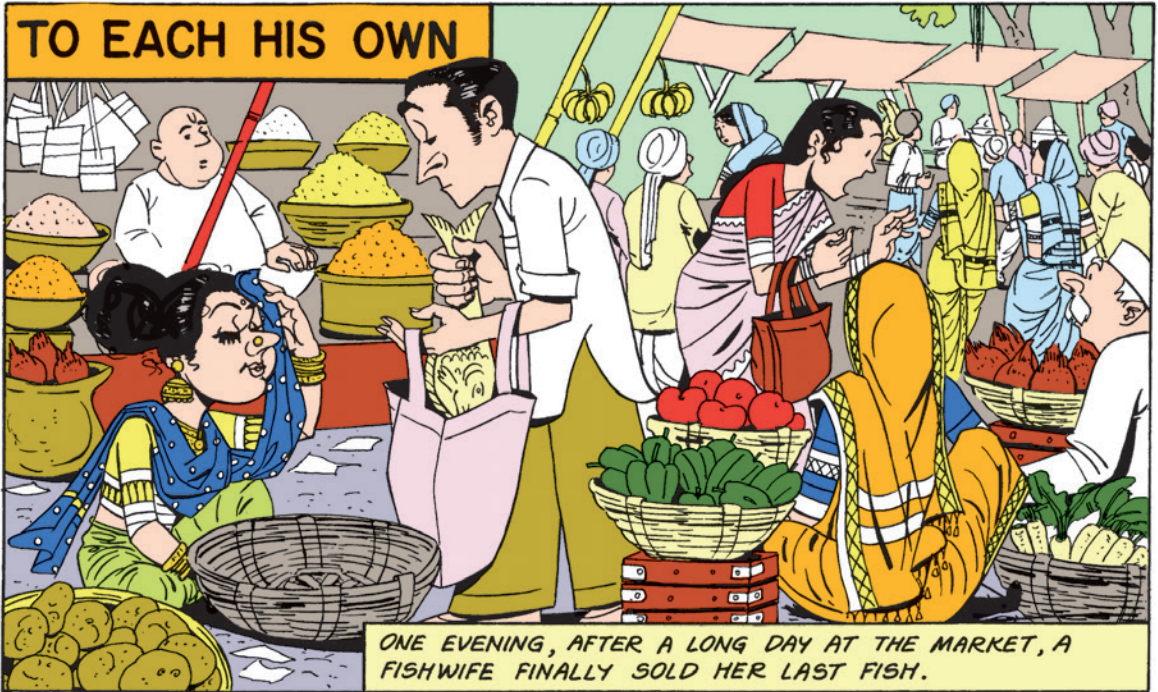


HE RUSHED FORWARD AND FELL AT HIS GURU'S FEET.

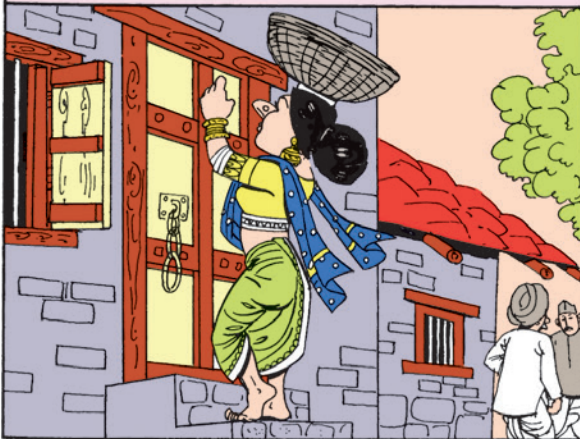
MY SON, WHAT IS ALL THIS ? I LEFT YOU LEADING THE SIMPLE LIFE OF AN ASCETIC. I RETURN TO FIND YOU SURROUNDED BY WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS. HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

OH GURUDEV, IT ALL BEGAN WITH A SINGLE LOIN-CLOTH. TO PROTECT IT FROM THE RATS I NEEDED A CAT AND THEN THERE WAS NO END TO MY NEEDS. FORGIVE ME, GURUDEV.



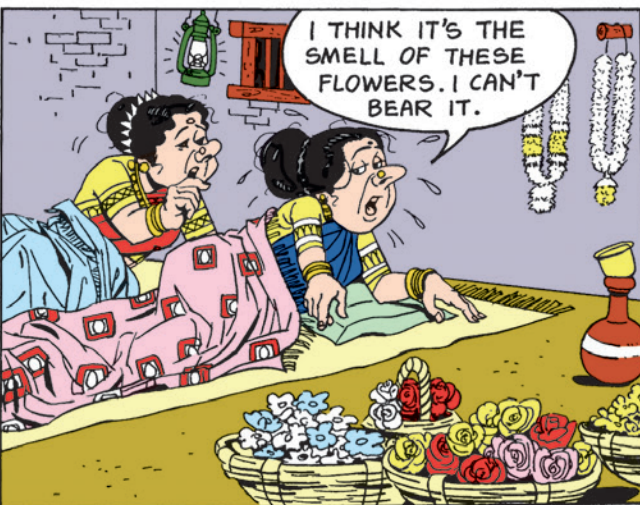
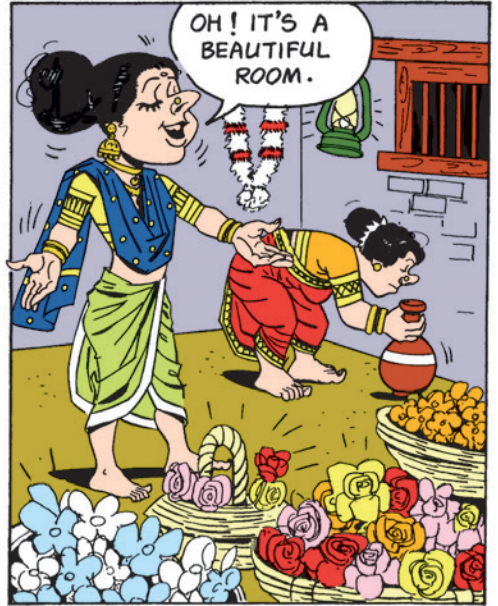
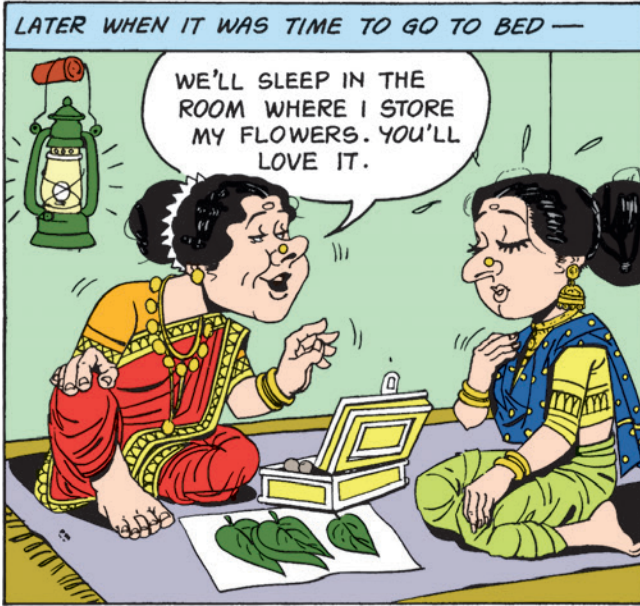


ON HER WAY HOME, SHE STOPPED AT HER FRIEND'S HOUSE AND KNOCKED.

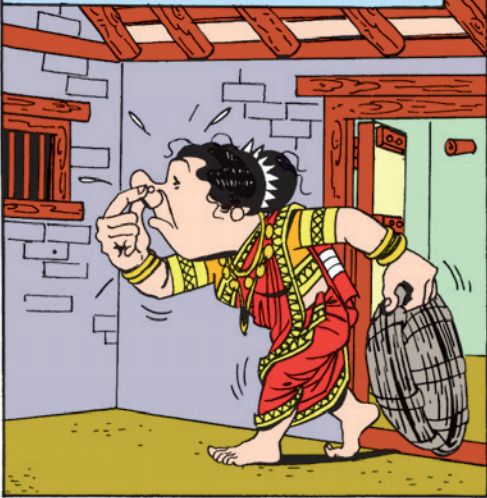


HER FRIEND, WHO WAS A FLOWER-GIRL, ANSWERED THE DOOR.

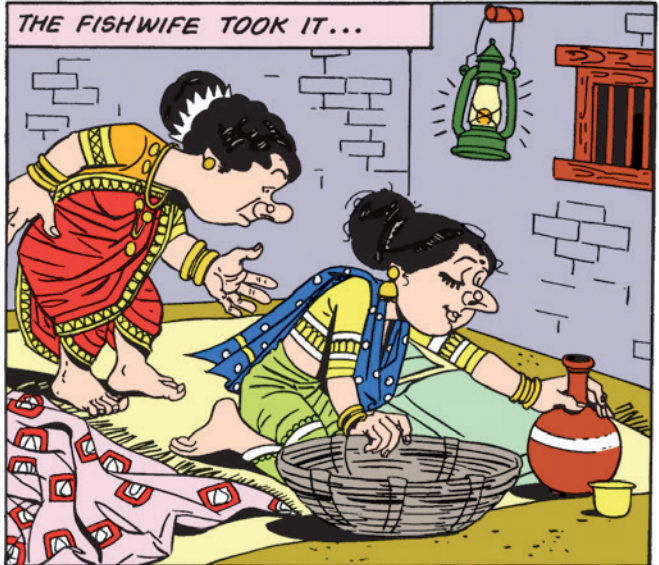




THE FRIEND WENT OUT AND RETURNED WITH THE BASKET.

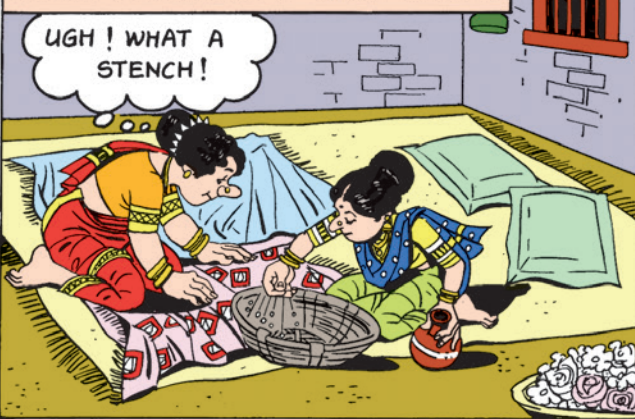


THE FISHWIFE TOOK IT...



...AND SPRINKLED IT WITH WATER.

UGH! WHAT A STENCH!

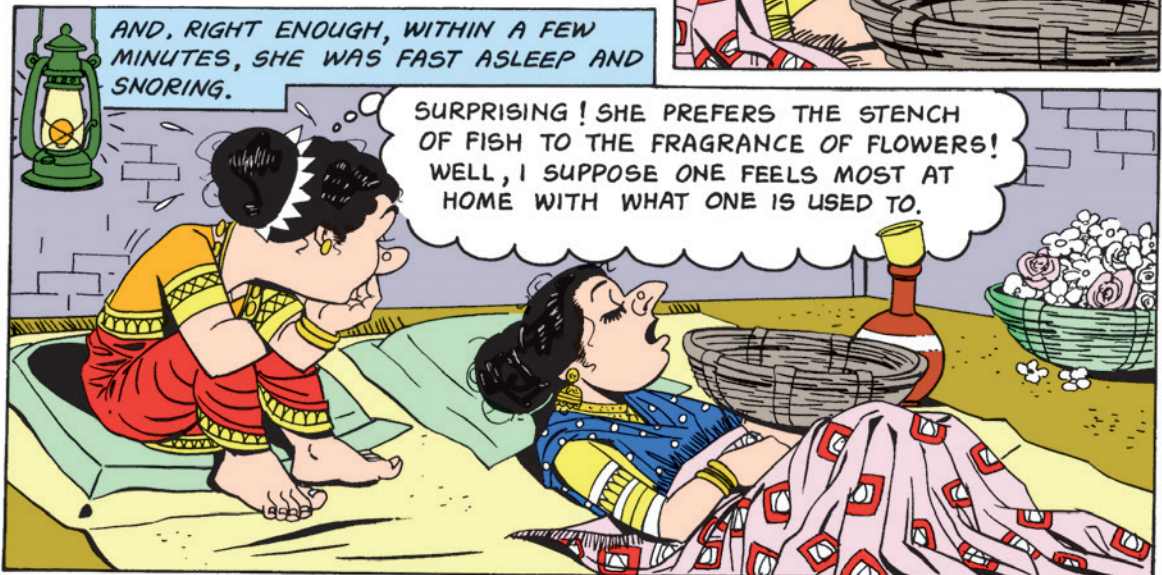


AH! THIS IS MUCH BETTER. NOW I SHALL SLEEP LIKE A LOG.

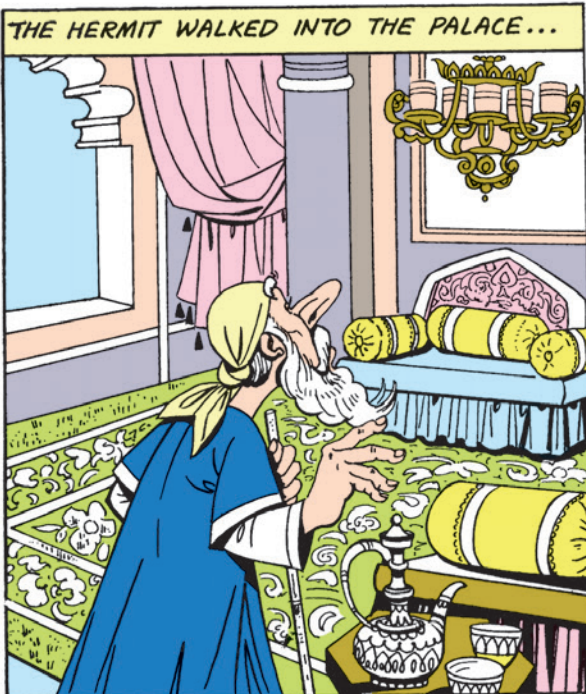
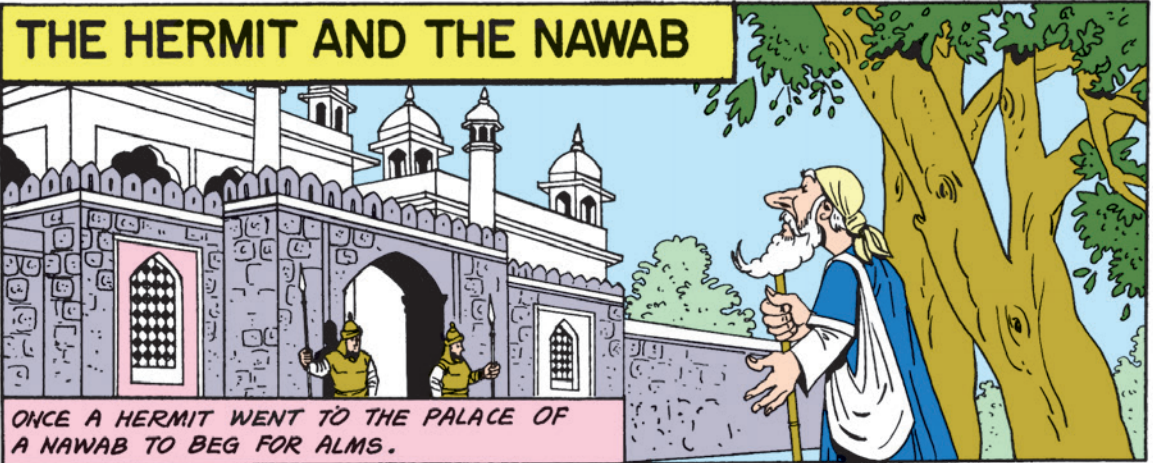


AND, RIGHT ENOUGH, WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, SHE WAS FAST ASLEEP AND SNORING.

SURPRISING! SHE PREFERS THE STENCH OF FISH TO THE FRAGRANCE OF FLOWERS! WELL, I SUPPOSE ONE FEELS MOST AT HOME WITH WHAT ONE IS USED TO.



THE HERMIT AND THE NAWAB



THE NAWAB ENDED HIS PRAYERS WITH THE USUAL REQUEST FOR PROSPERITY.

O LORD,
I SALUTE YOU
WITH DEVOTION.
GIVE ME MONEY,
GIVE ME RICHES,
GIVE ME FAME
AND FORTUNE...

OH! OH! I'VE
COME TO THE
WRONG PLACE!

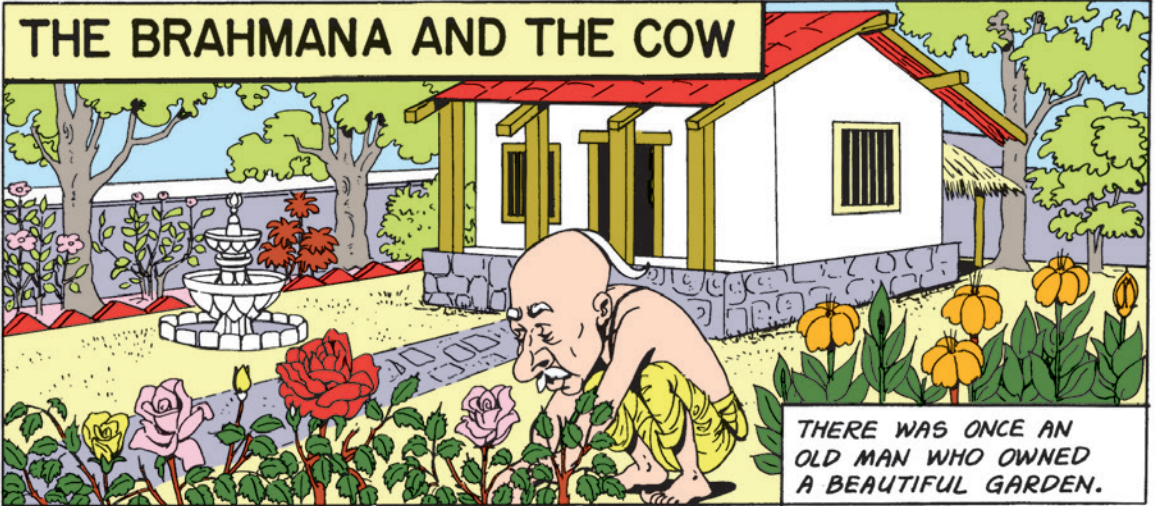
AS HE TURNED TO WALK AWAY, THE
NAWAB SAW HIM.

WAIT, MY GOOD MAN!
YOU CAME TO SEE ME.
WHY ARE YOU GOING
AWAY WITHOUT EVEN
SPEAKING TO
ME?

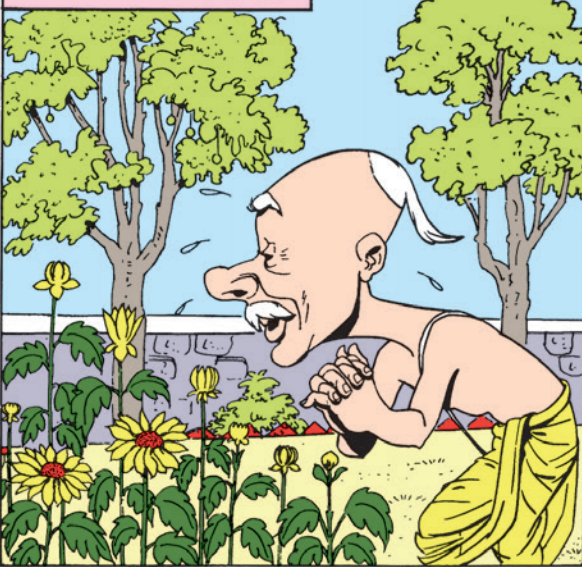
I CAME TO
ASK YOU FOR
MONEY, BUT WHEN
I HEARD YOU
BEGGING FOR
MONEY AND
RICHES FROM
GOD, I CHANGED
MY MIND.

WHY SHOULD I BEG FROM
ONE WHO IS HIMSELF
A BEGGAR? IF I MUST
BEG, LET ME BEG
FROM GOD.

THE BRAHMANA AND THE COW

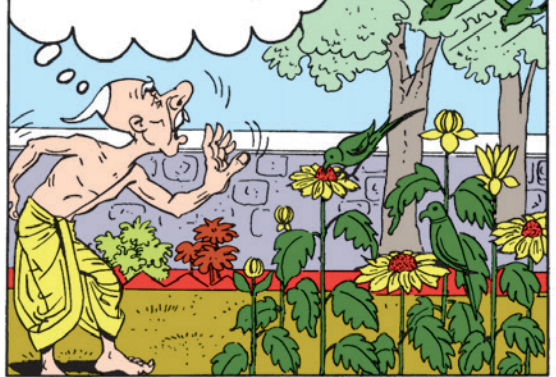


HE LOVED IT DEARLY AND SPENT A LOT OF TIME TENDING IT.



BUT HE WAS VERY SELFISH. HE DID NOT WANT TO SHARE HIS BEAUTIFUL GARDEN WITH ANYONE. NOT EVEN THE BIRDS!

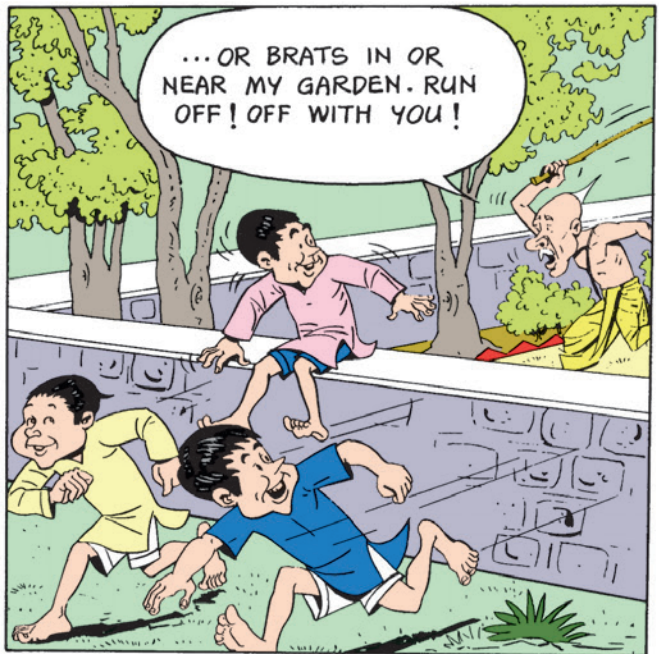
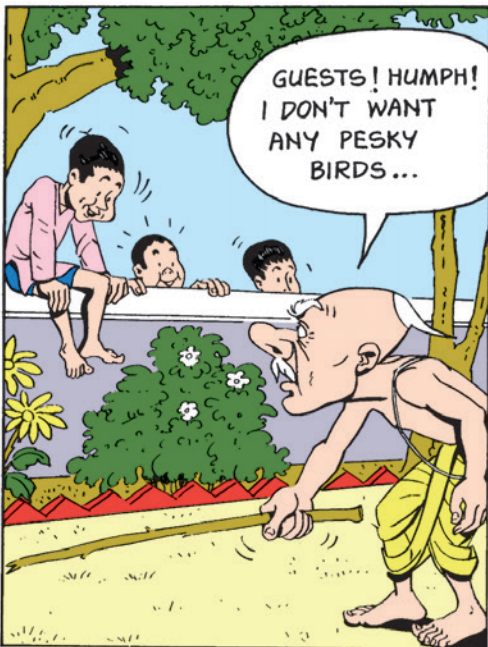
PAROTS IN MY GARDEN! SITTING ON MY SUNFLOWERS! HOW DARE THEY!



THE MISCHIEVOUS BOYS OF THE VILLAGE LIKED TO TEASE THE OLD MAN.

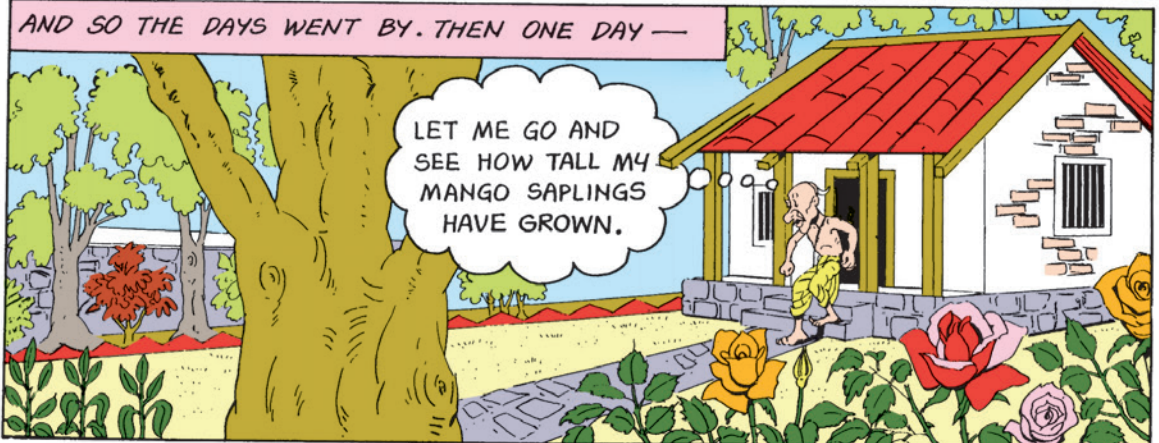
BE A SPORT, SIR. PARROTS LOVE TO EAT SUNFLOWER SEEDS. WHY DID YOU SHOO THEM AWAY?

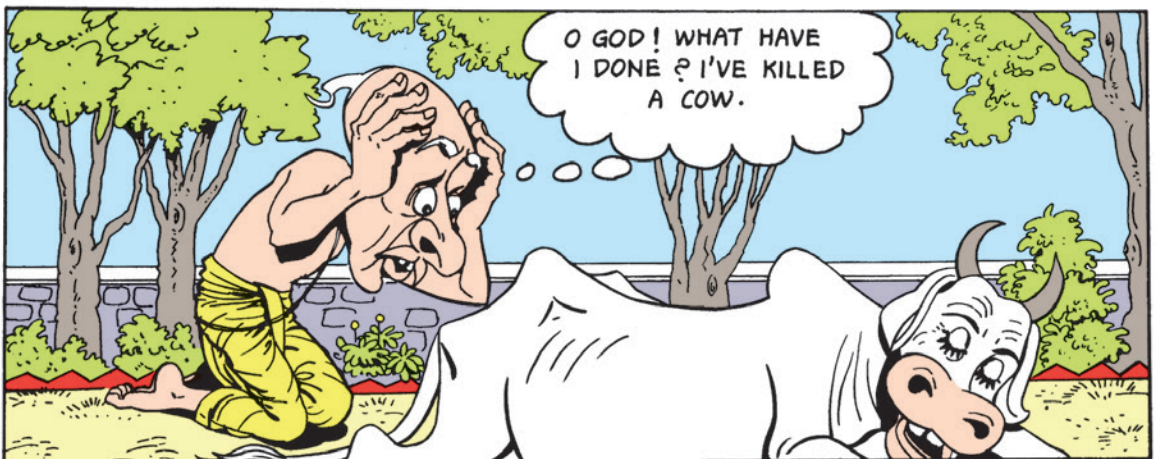
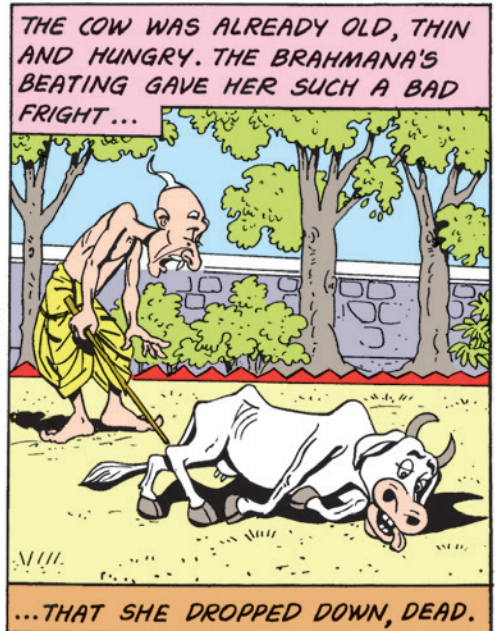
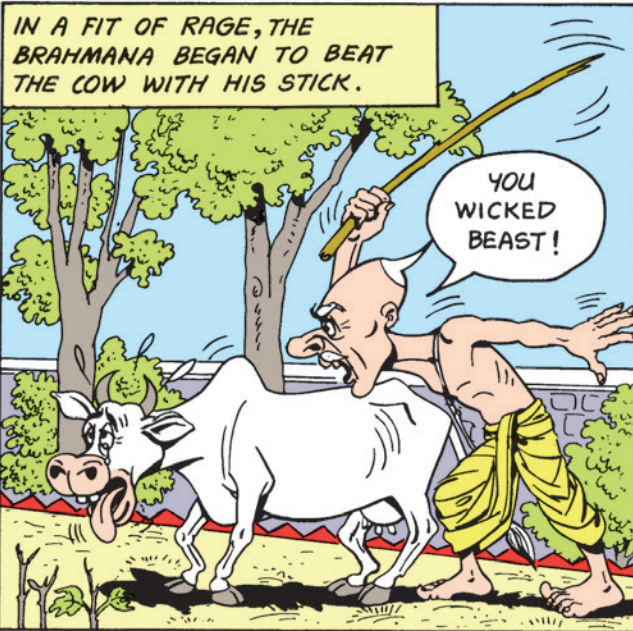
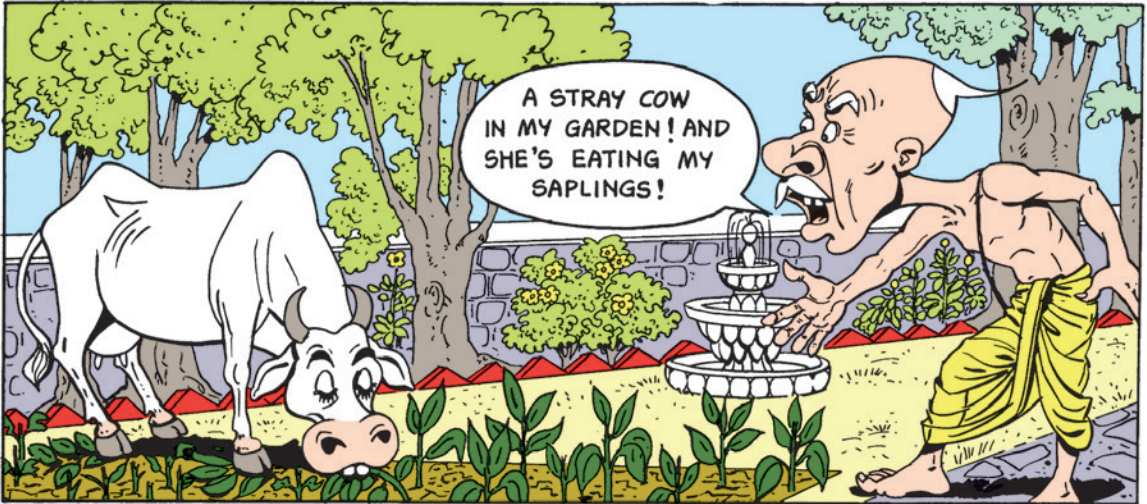
BESIDES, YOU ARE A BRAHMANA, SIR. YOU MUST NOT BE RUDE TO YOUR GUESTS.



AND SO THE DAYS WENT BY. THEN ONE DAY —

LET ME GO AND SEE HOW TALL MY MANGO SAPPLINGS HAVE GROWN.

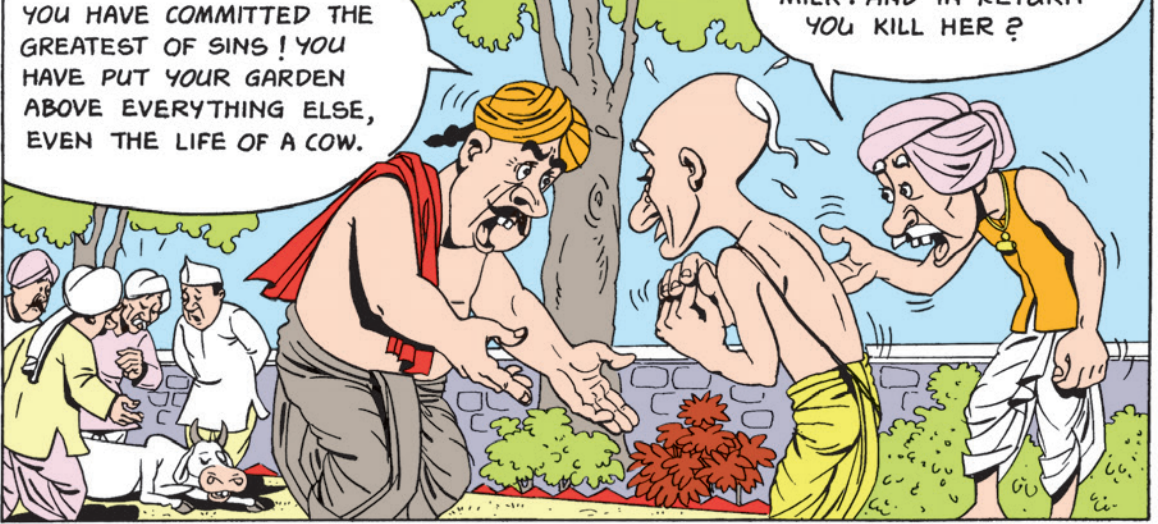




THE BRAHMANA HAD TO FACE THE VILLAGERS WHO HAD COME TO KNOW OF WHAT HE HAD DONE.

YOU HAVE COMMITTED THE GREATEST OF SINS! YOU HAVE PUT YOUR GARDEN ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE, EVEN THE LIFE OF A COW.

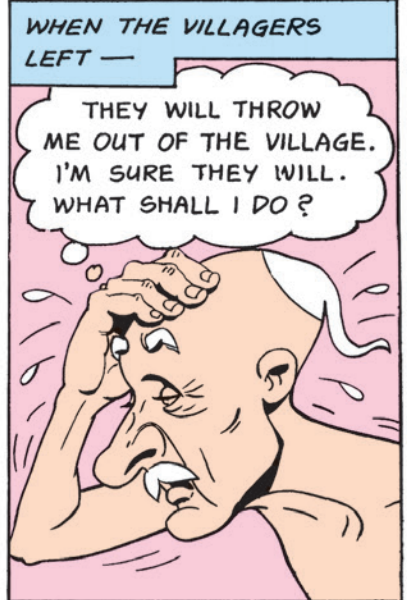
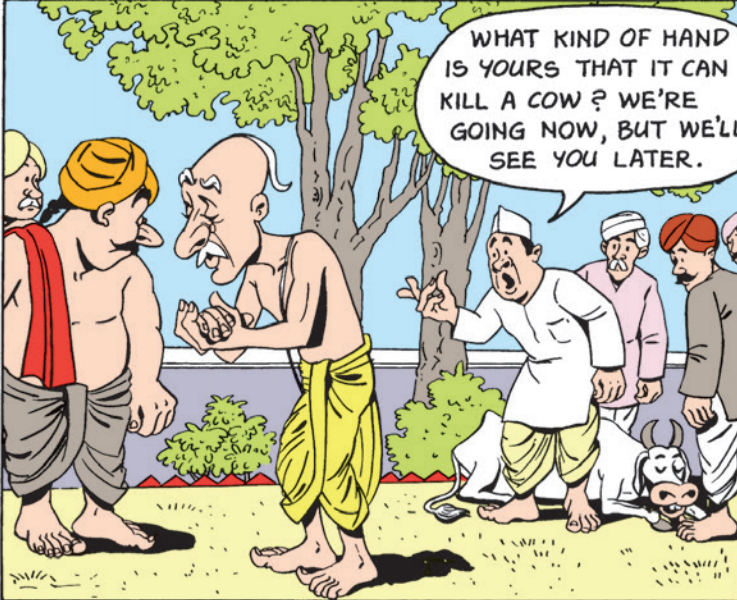
THE COW GIVES US HER SWEET AND NOURISHING MILK. AND IN RETURN YOU KILL HER?



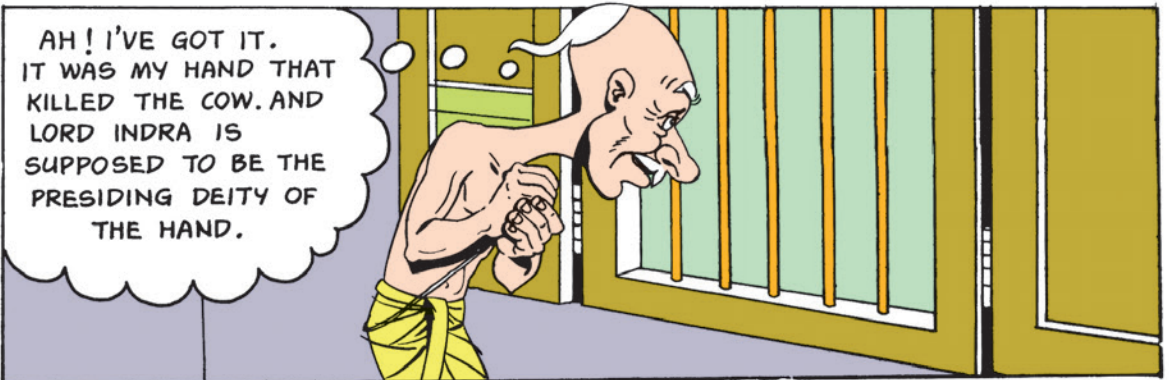
WHAT KIND OF HAND IS YOURS THAT IT CAN KILL A COW? WE'RE GOING NOW, BUT WE'LL SEE YOU LATER.

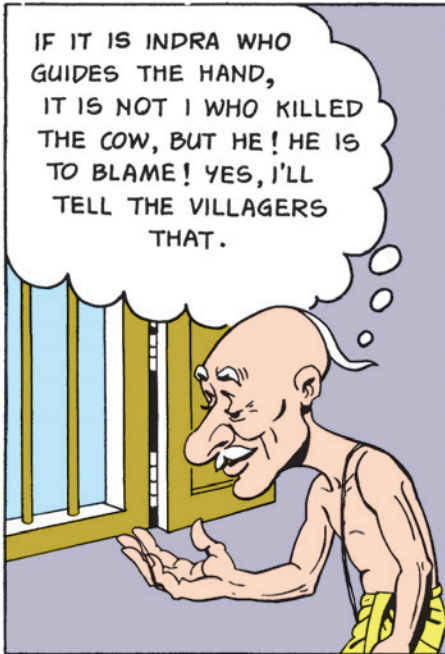
WHEN THE VILLAGERS LEFT —

THEY WILL THROW ME OUT OF THE VILLAGE. I'M SURE THEY WILL. WHAT SHALL I DO?

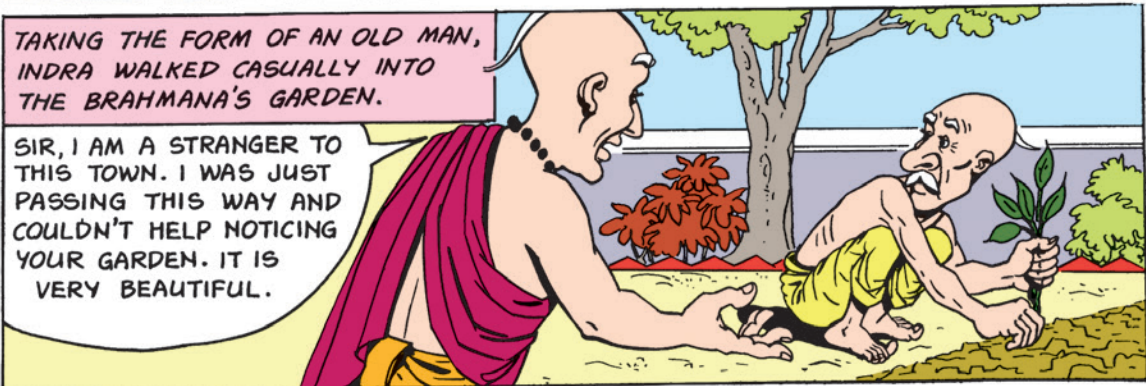
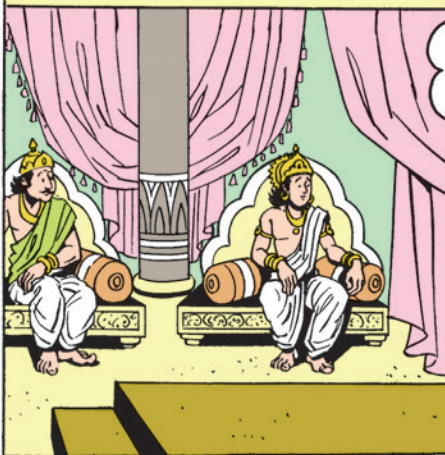


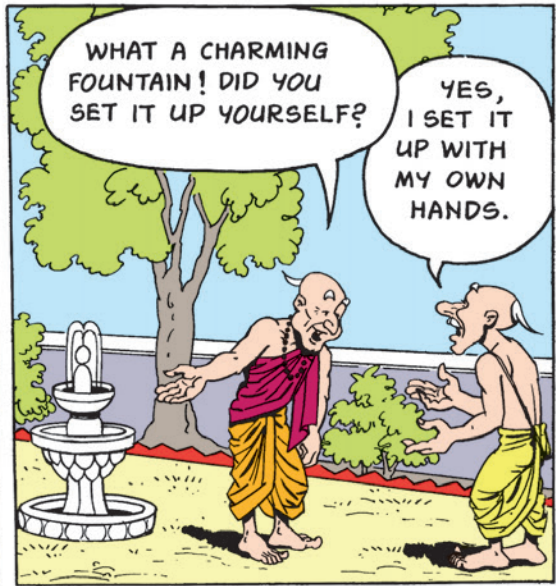
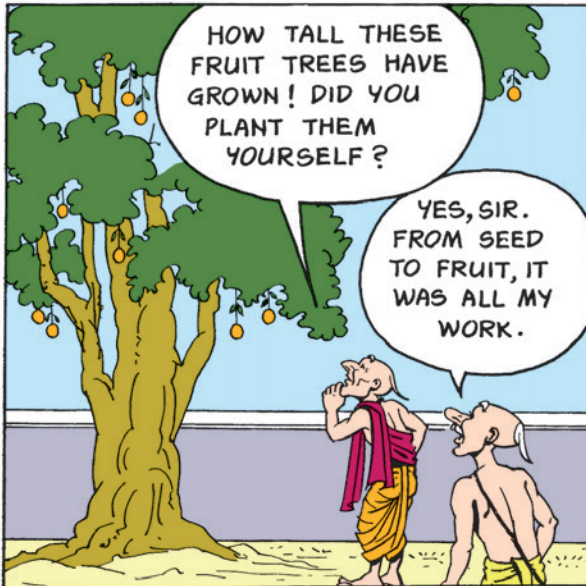
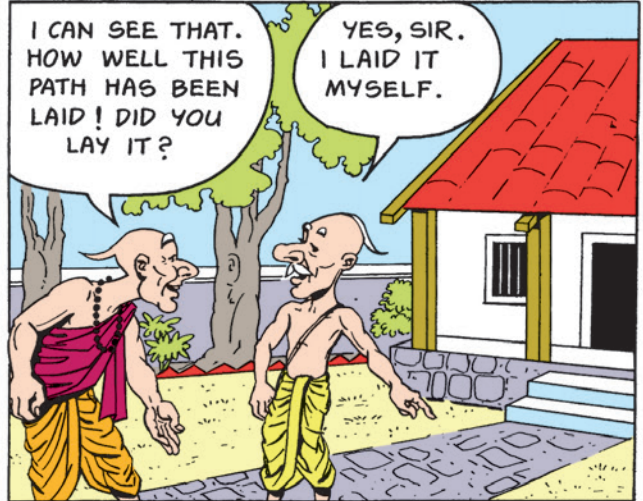
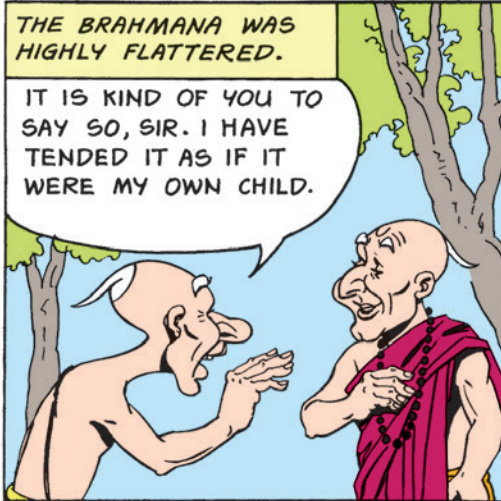
AH! I'VE GOT IT. IT WAS MY HAND THAT KILLED THE COW. AND LORD INDRA IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE PRESIDING DEITY OF THE HAND.





THIS NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILD-FIRE, TILL IT REACHED THE EARS OF INDRA HIMSELF.



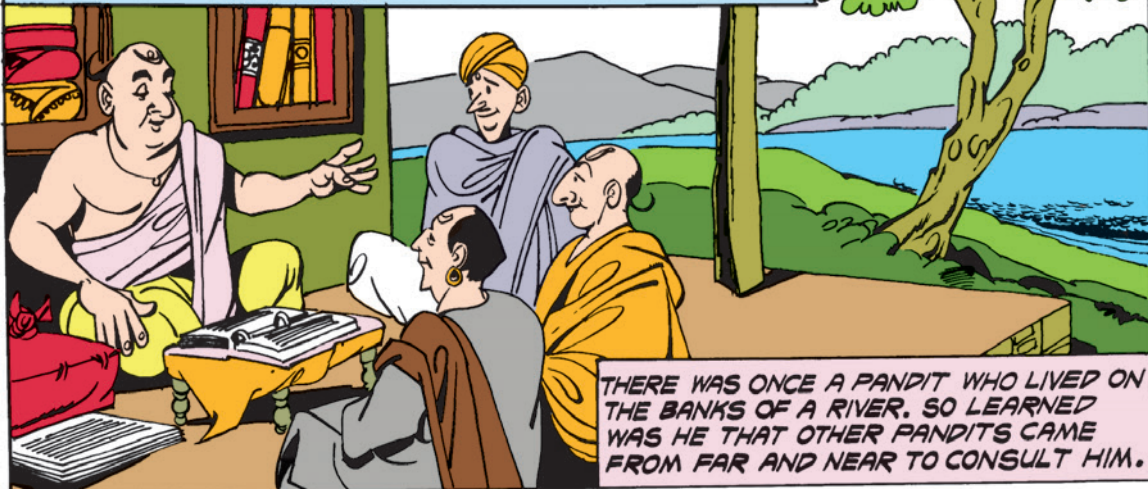


THE PANDIT AND THE MILKMAID

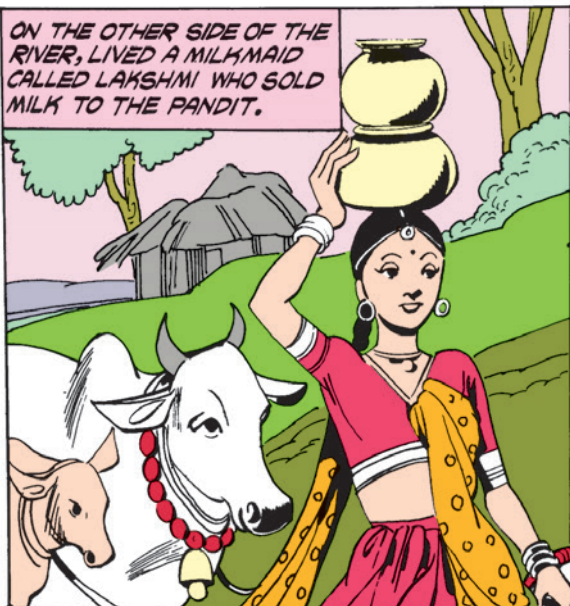
TALES TOLD BY SRI RAMAKRISHNA



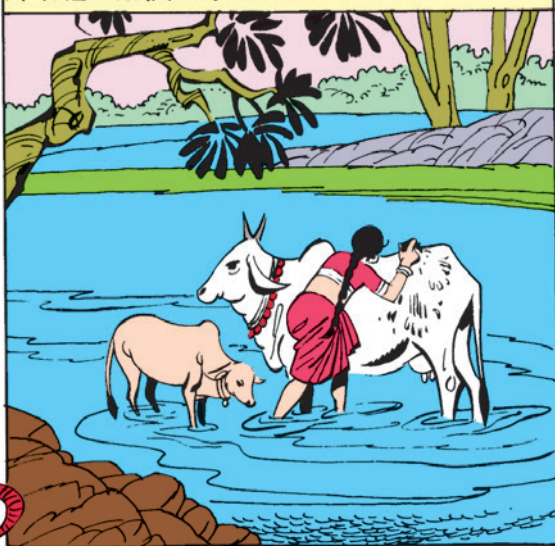
THE PANDIT AND THE MILKMAID

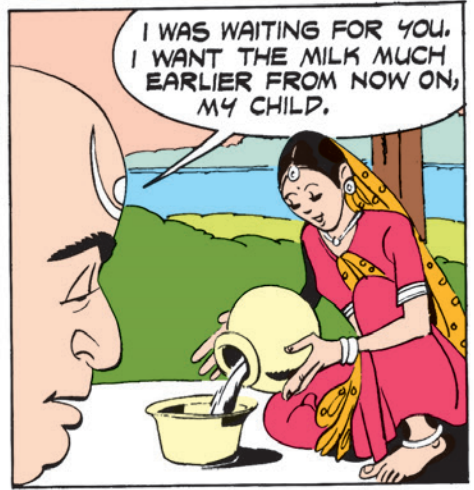
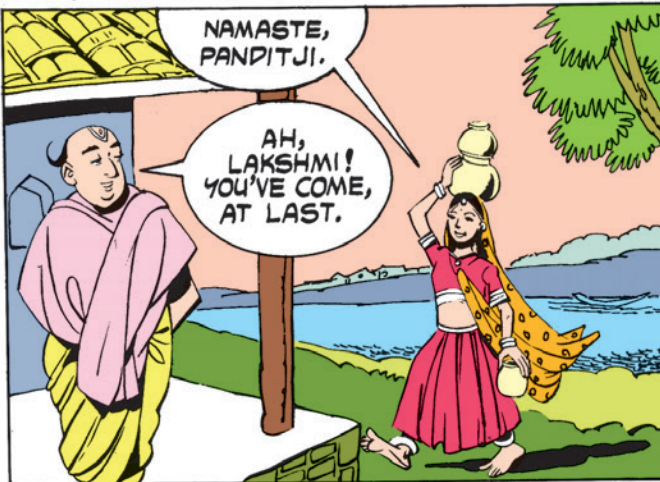
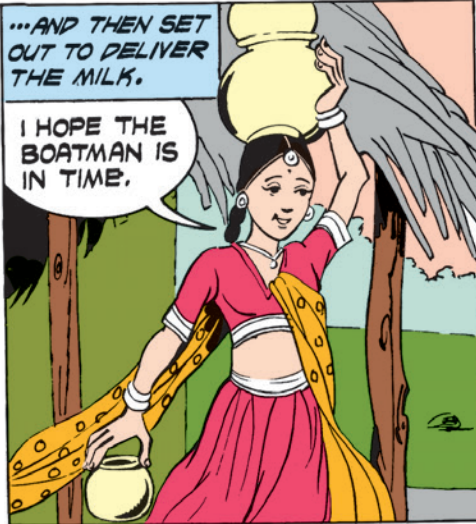
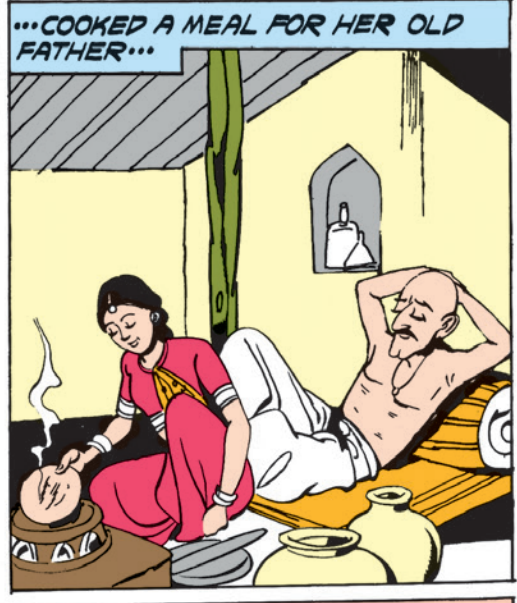
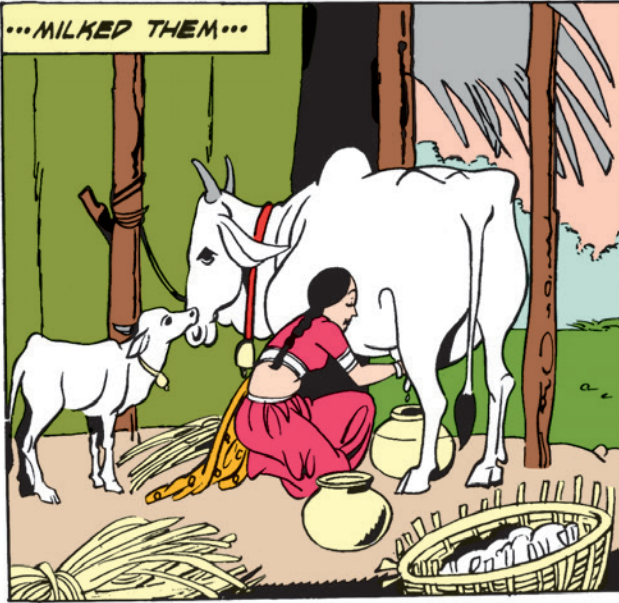


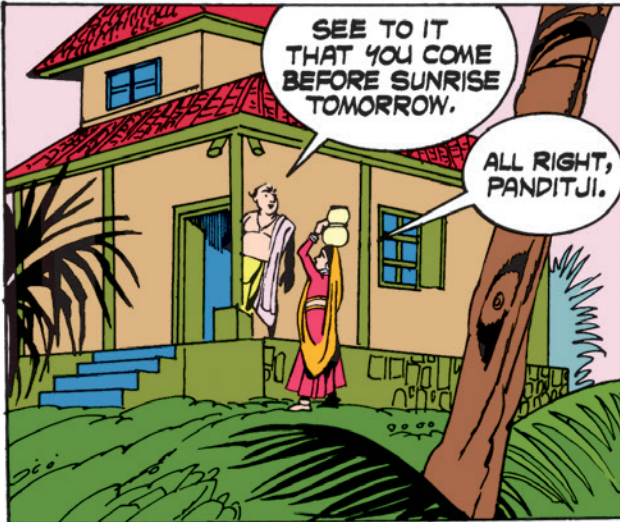
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER, LIVED A MILKMAID CALLED LAKSHMI WHO SOLD MILK TO THE PANDIT.



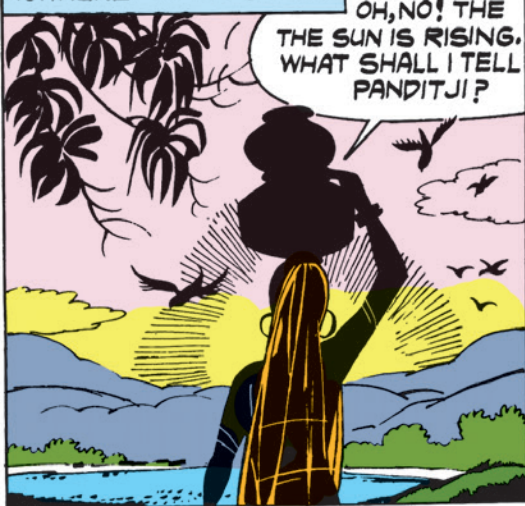
HERS WAS A BUSY DAY. SHE WOKE EARLY IN THE MORNING, BATHED HER COWS...



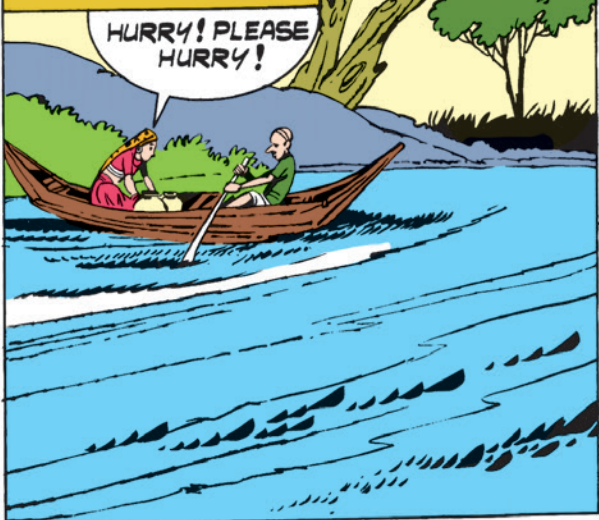




THE EASTERN SKY BEGAN TO BRIGHTEN, BUT STILL THE BOATMAN WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.

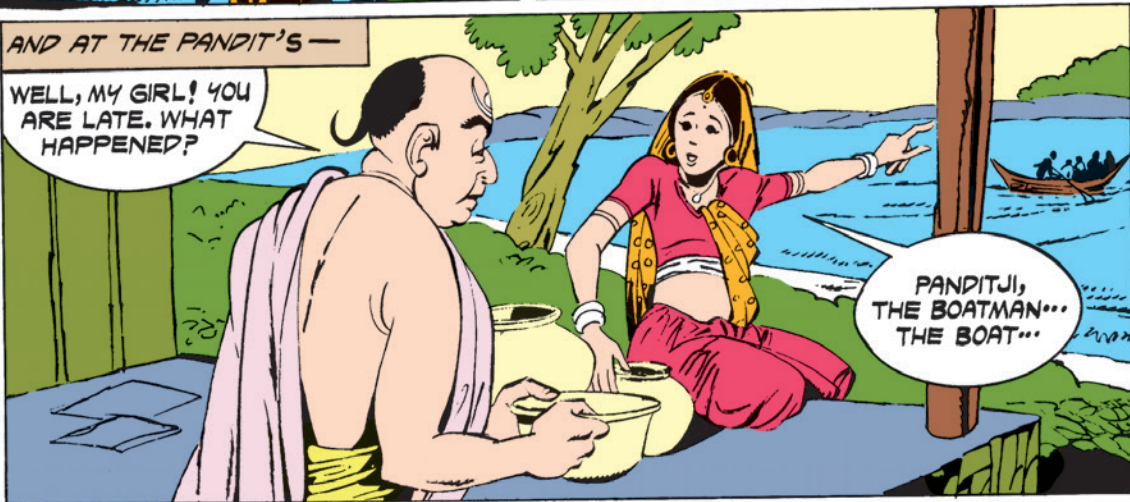


FINALLY, WHEN THE BOATMAN DID COME—



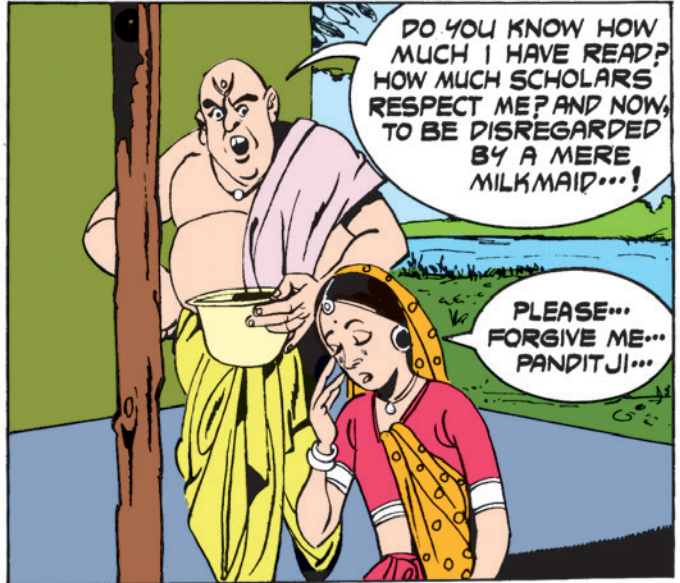
AND AT THE PANDIT'S —

WELL, MY GIRL! YOU ARE LATE. WHAT HAPPENED?



THE PANDIT WAS IN A BAD MOOD THAT DAY.

DON'T GIVE ME EXCUSES! HOW DARE YOU DISREGARD MY WISHES! DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?



DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HAVE READ? HOW MUCH SCHOLARS RESPECT ME? AND NOW, TO BE DISREGARDED BY A MERE MILKMAID...!

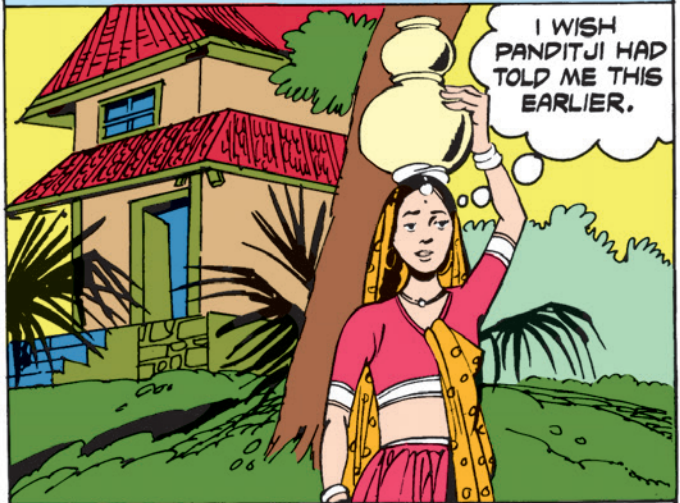
PLEASE... FORGIVE ME... PANDITJI...

PEOPLE CROSS THE OCEAN OF LIFE BY CHANTING THE NAME OF HARI. AND YOU CAN'T MANAGE EVEN A SMALL RIVER.



THE PANDIT UTTERED THESE WORDS, JUST FOR THE SAKE OF UTTERING THEM.

BUT LAKSHMI TOOK HIM VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY.

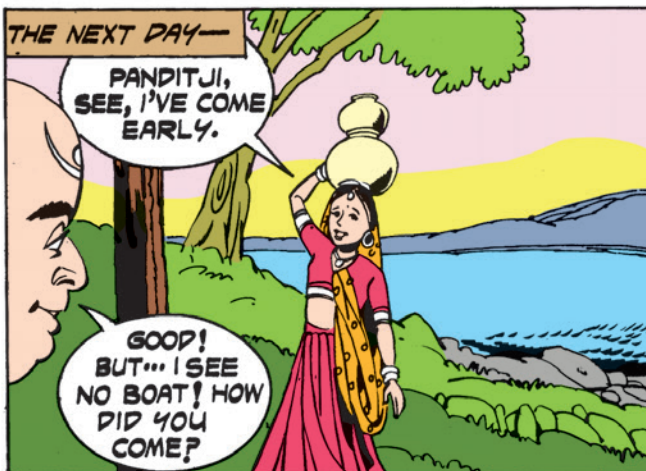


I WISH PANDITJI HAD TOLD ME THIS EARLIER.

THE NEXT DAY—

PANDITJI, SEE, I'VE COME EARLY.

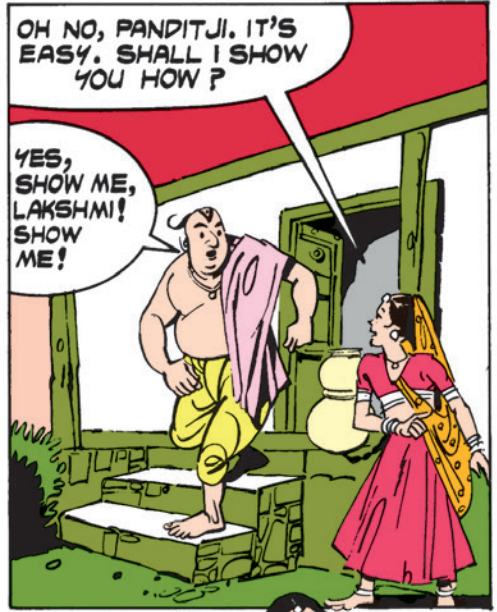
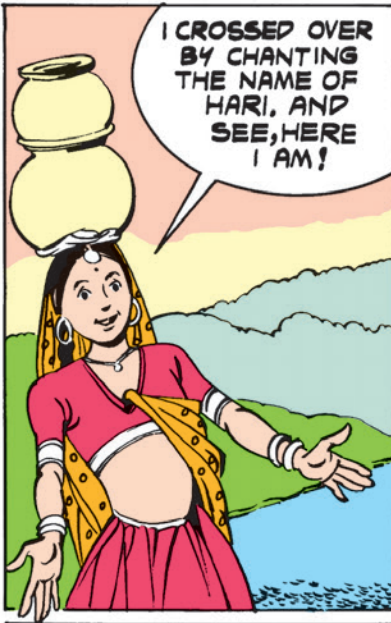
GOOD! BUT... I SEE NO BOAT! HOW DID YOU COME?



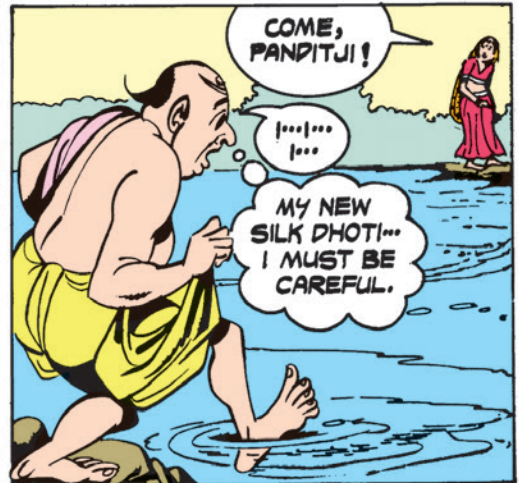
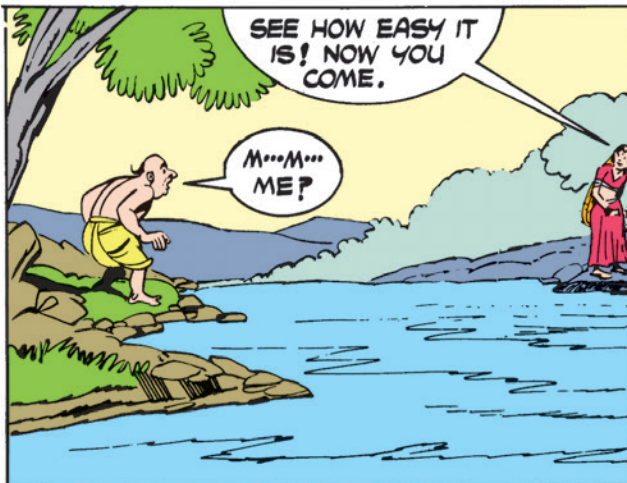
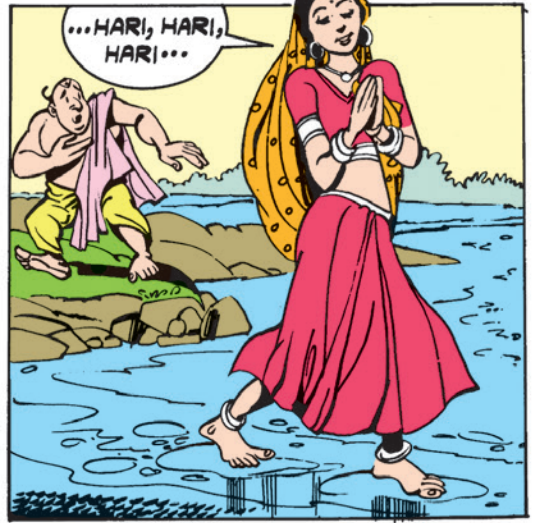
THE WAY YOU TOLD ME TO, PANDITJI.

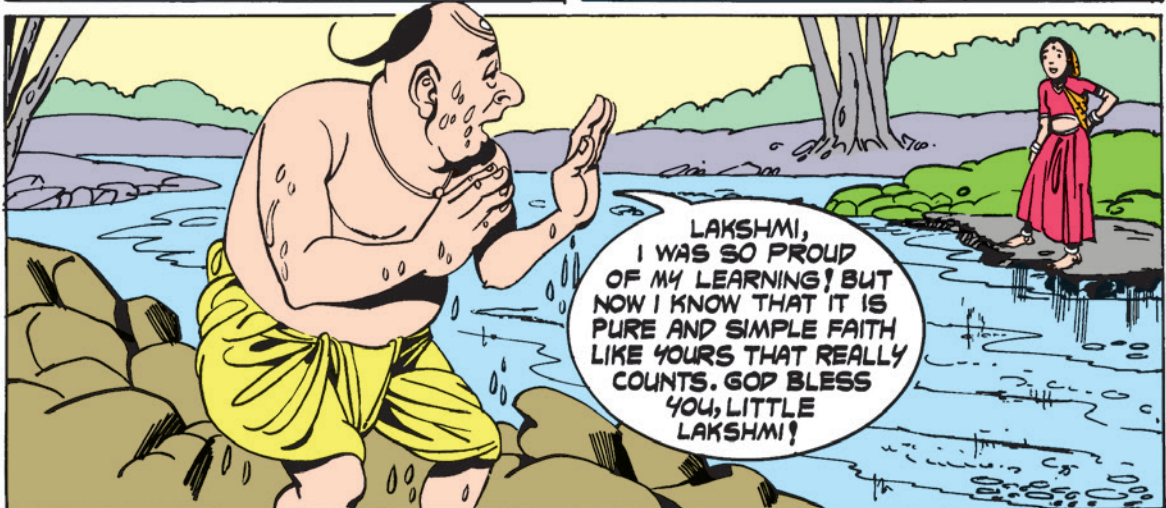
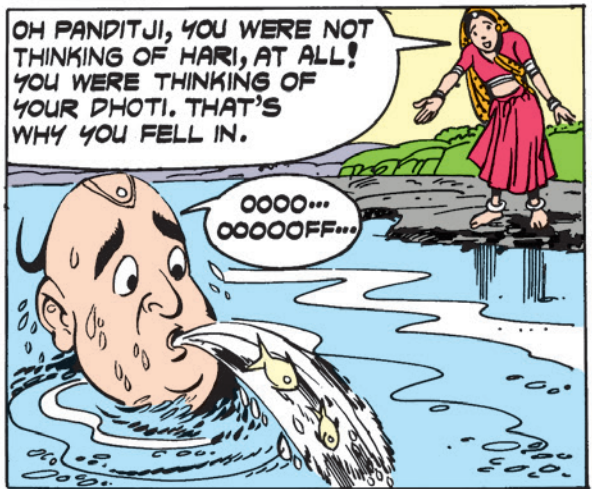
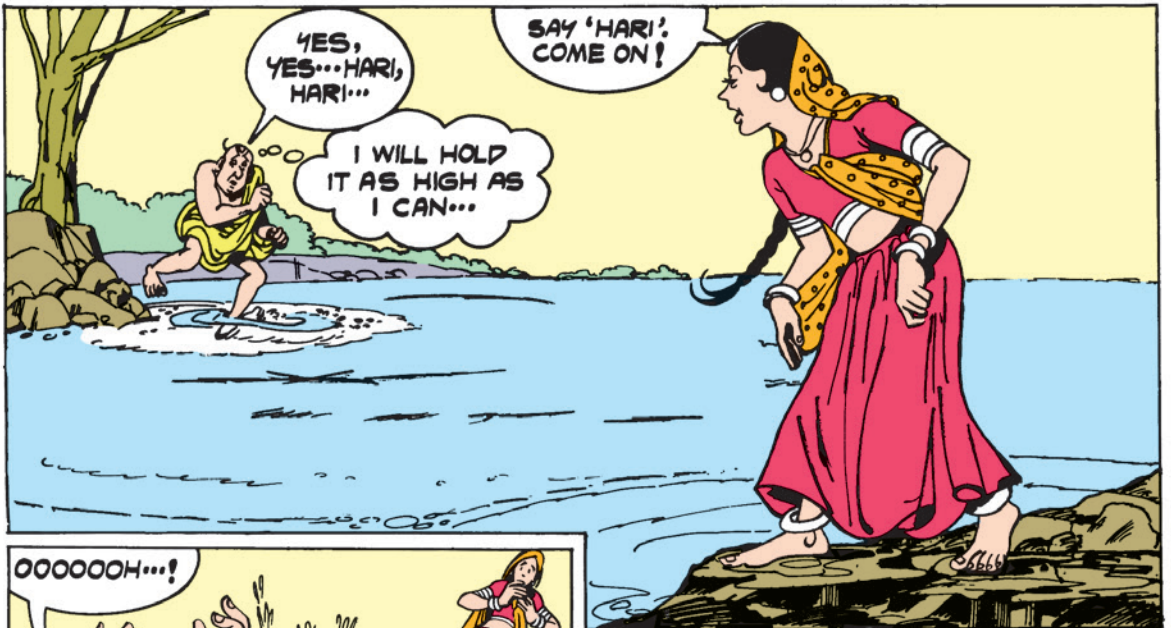
THE WAY I TOLD YOU? WHAT WAY IS THAT?



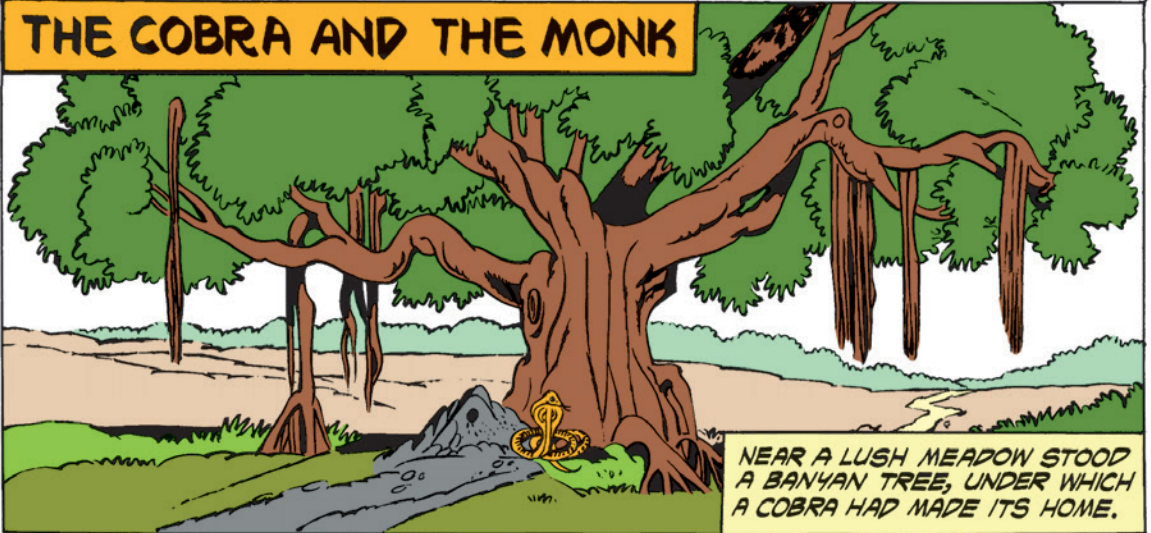


LAKSHMI LED THE PANDIT DOWN TO THE RIVER.





THE COBRA AND THE MONK

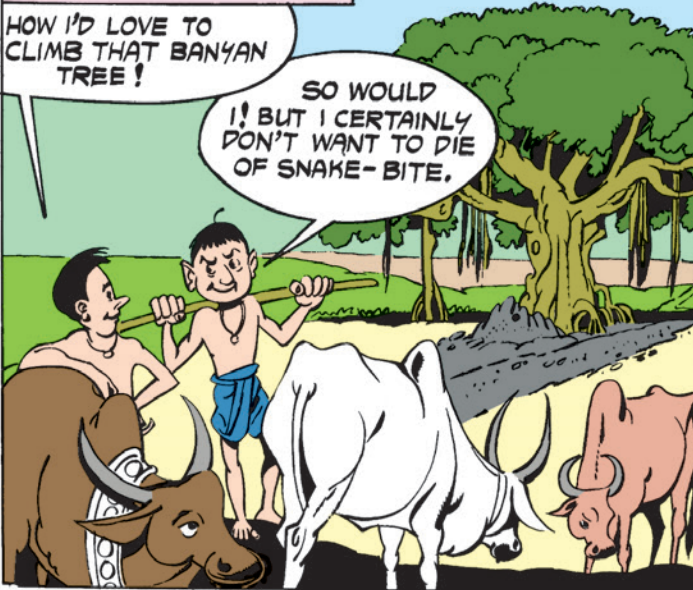


NEAR A LUSH MEADOW STOOD A BANYAN TREE, UNDER WHICH A COBRA HAD MADE ITS HOME.

COWHERDS OFTEN CAME THERE TO GRAZE THEIR COWS.

HOW I'D LOVE TO CLIMB THAT BANYAN TREE!

SO WOULD I! BUT I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO DIE OF SNAKE-BITE.



ONE DAY, A MONK PASSED THAT WAY.

WAIT, HOLY SIR.

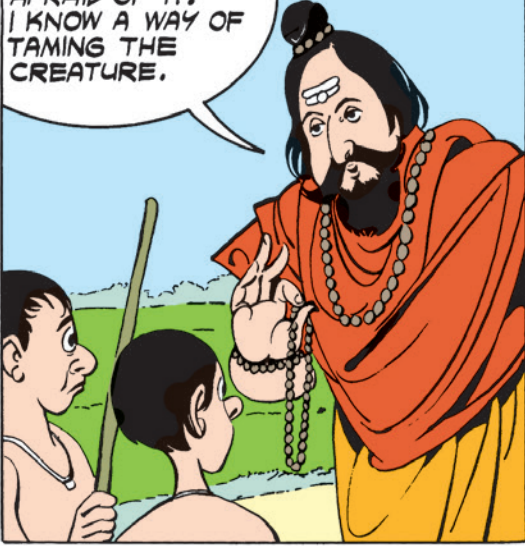


IF YOU ARE TAKING THIS PATH, BE CAREFUL. IT PASSES BY A DANGEROUS COBRA'S HOLE.

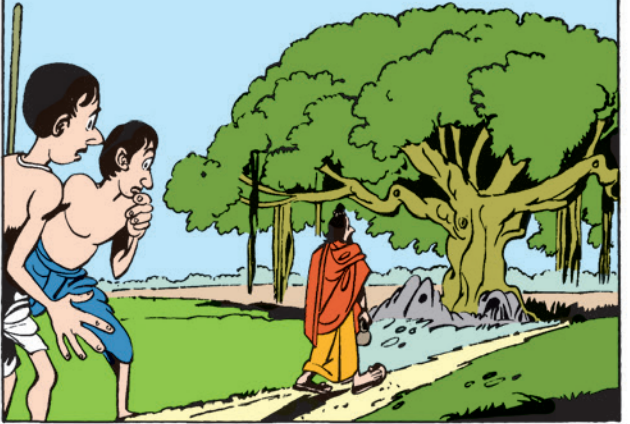
THAT WICKED SNAKE HAS BITTEN MANY PEOPLE.



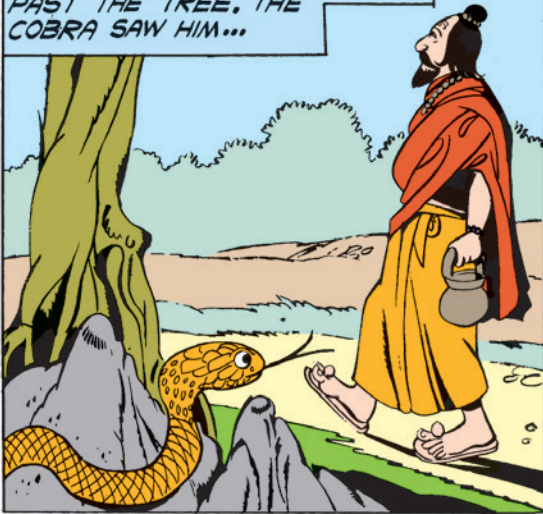
DON'T WORRY, MY BOYS. I AM NOT AFRAID OF IT. I KNOW A WAY OF TAMING THE CREATURE.



AND TO THE BOYS' ASTONISHMENT...



...THE MONK WALKED CALMLY PAST THE TREE. THE COBRA SAW HIM...



...AND PUFFING OUT ITS HOOD, SPRANG FORWARD, HISSING.

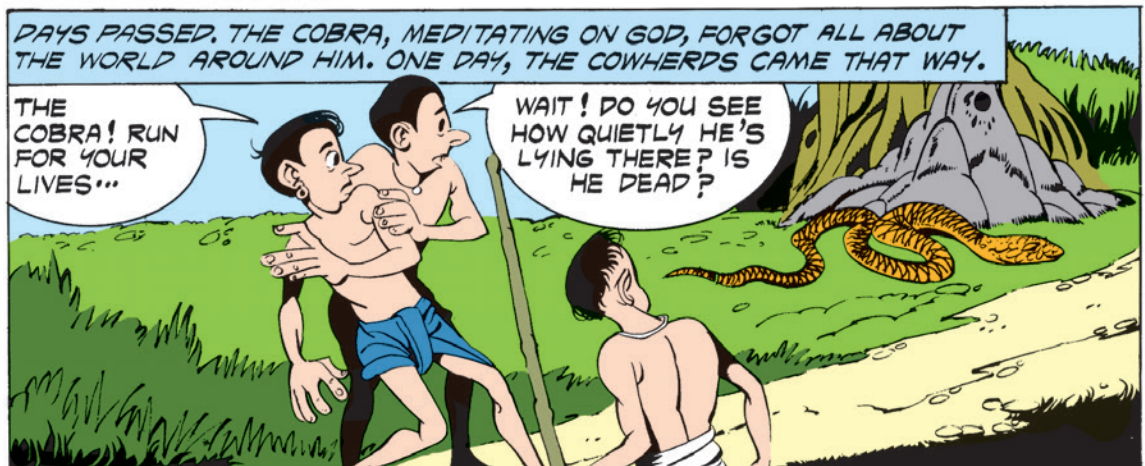
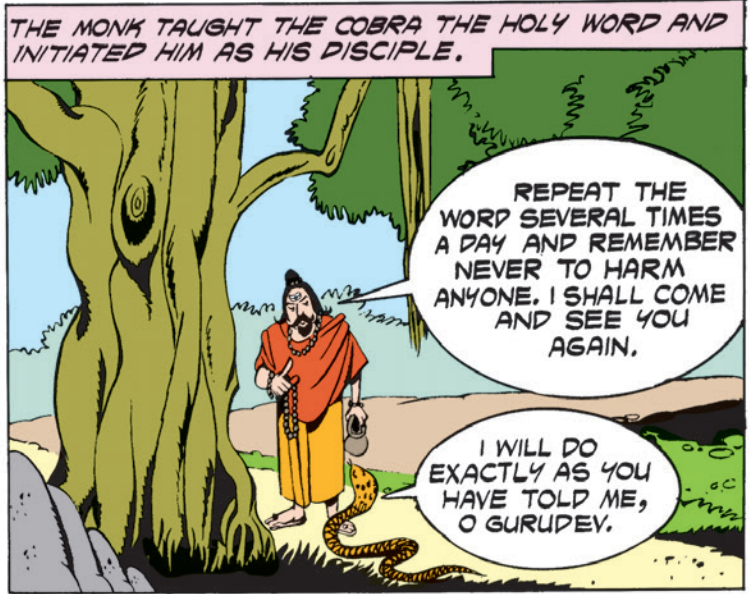
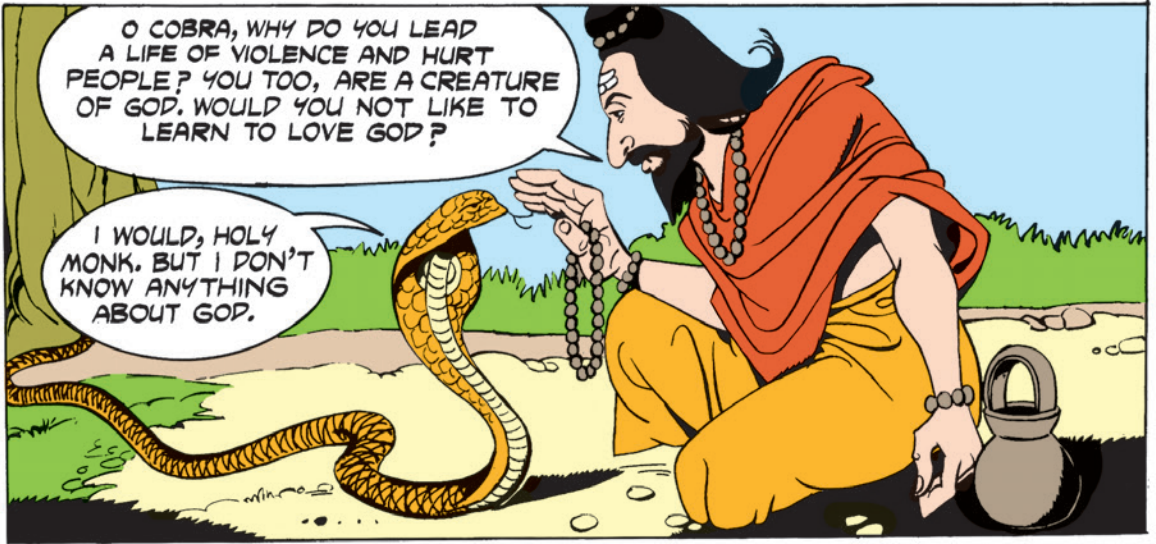


GENTLY, THE MONK RAISED HIS HAND AND CHANTED A MANTRA.



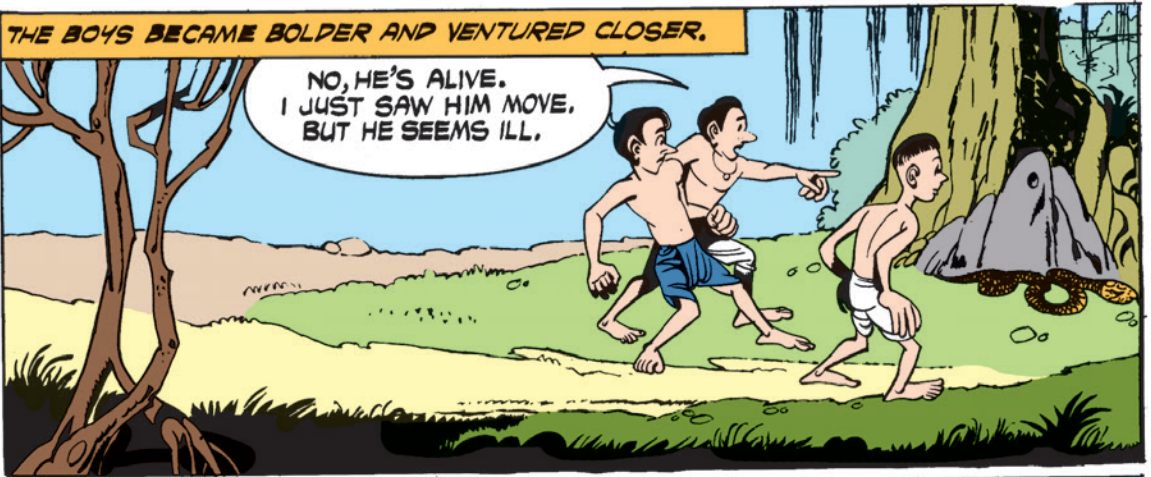
INSTANTLY, THE SNAKE LOWERED ITS HOOD AND LAY AS HARMLESS AS AN EARTHWORM AT THE MONK'S FEET.





THE BOYS BECAME BOLDER AND VENTURED CLOSER.

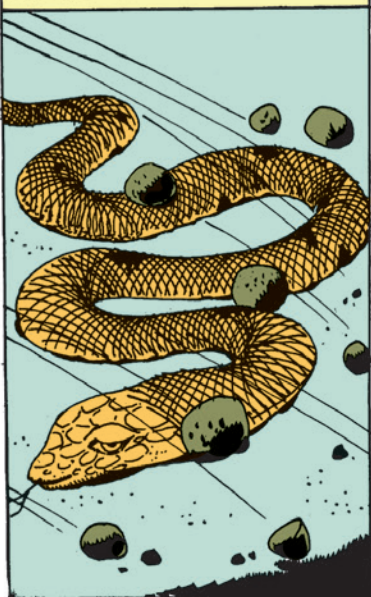
NO, HE'S ALIVE.
I JUST SAW HIM MOVE,
BUT HE SEEMS ILL.



THE BOYS BEGAN TO THROW STONES AT IT...



...BUT EVEN THEN THE
COBRA DID NOTHING.

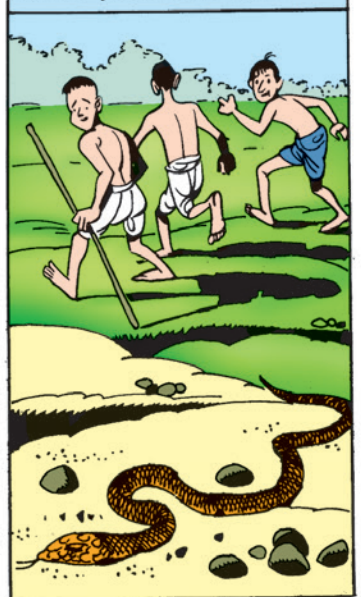


SUDDENLY, ONE BOY RAN UP,
TOOK THE COBRA BY THE
TAIL...

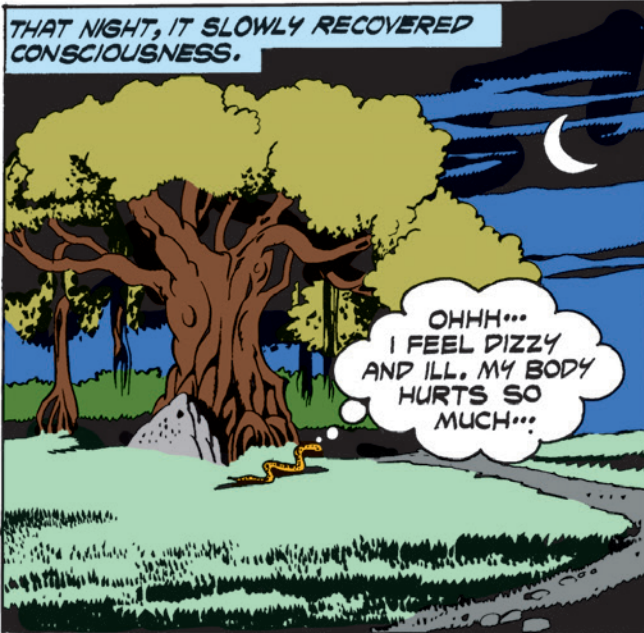


...AND WHIRLING IT ROUND
AND ROUND, PASHED IT
AGAINST THE GROUND.

THE POOR SNAKE LAY
THERE, SENSELESS.

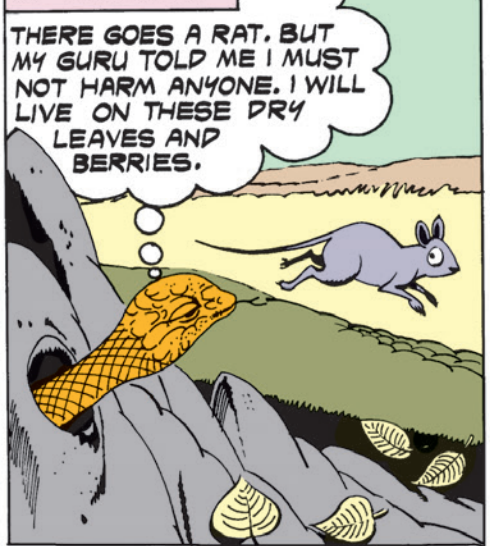


THAT NIGHT, IT SLOWLY RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS.



DRAGGING ITSELF PAINFULLY TO ITS HOLE, IT MANAGED TO LIVE ON SOMEHOW.

THERE GOES A RAT. BUT
MY GURU TOLD ME I MUST
NOT HARM ANYONE. I WILL
LIVE ON THESE DRY
LEAVES AND
BERRIES.



THE COBRA SOON BECAME THIN AND GAUNT.



ONE DAY, THE SAME MONK CAME TO SEE THE COBRA. HE WAS ASTONISHED AT THE SNAKE'S PLIGHT.

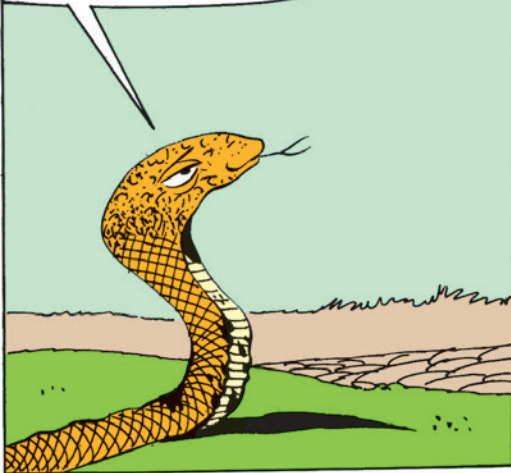


O GURU, YOU ASKED ME
NOT TO HARM ANYONE. SO
I HAVE BEEN LIVING ON LEAVES
AND BERRIES. THAT MUST
HAVE MADE ME
THIN.





I...YES, YES...I REMEMBER FAINTLY NOW... SOME BOYS... POOR THINGS. THEY DID IT IN IGNORANCE. THEY DID NOT KNOW OF THE CHANGE THAT HAD COME OVER ME.

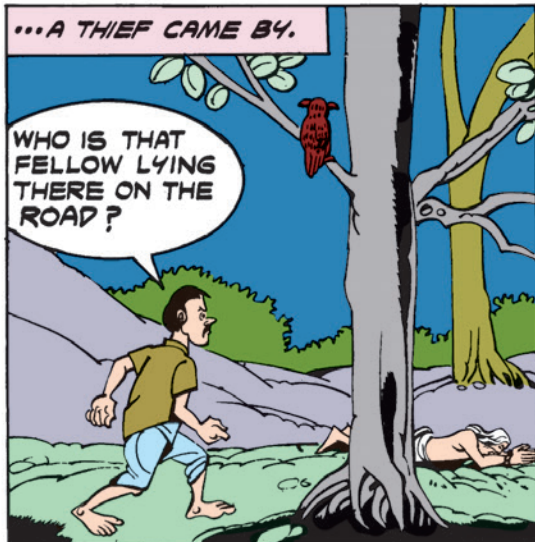
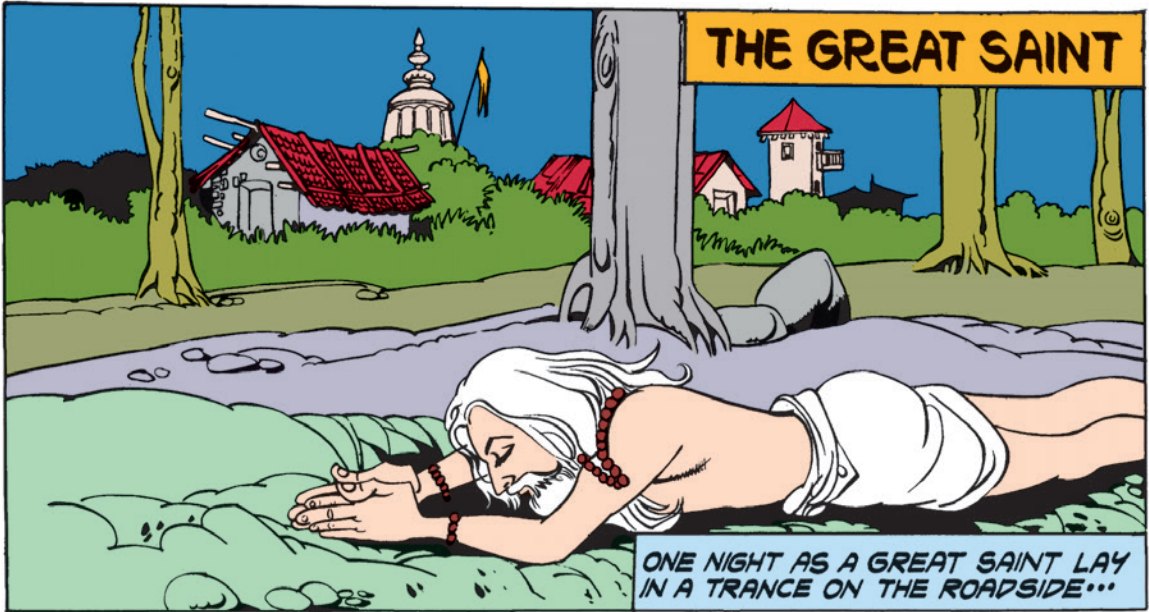


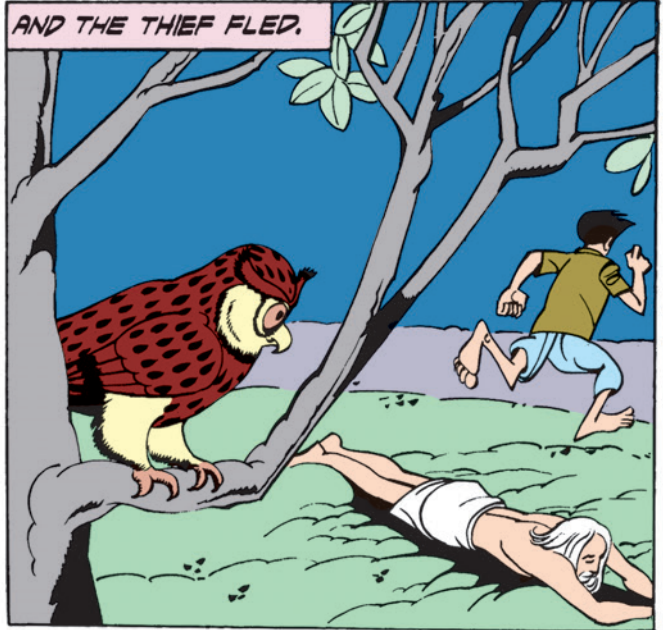
I AM GLAD THAT YOU HAVE CONQUERED ANGER BUT WHY DID YOU ALLOW THE BOYS TO HURT YOU?



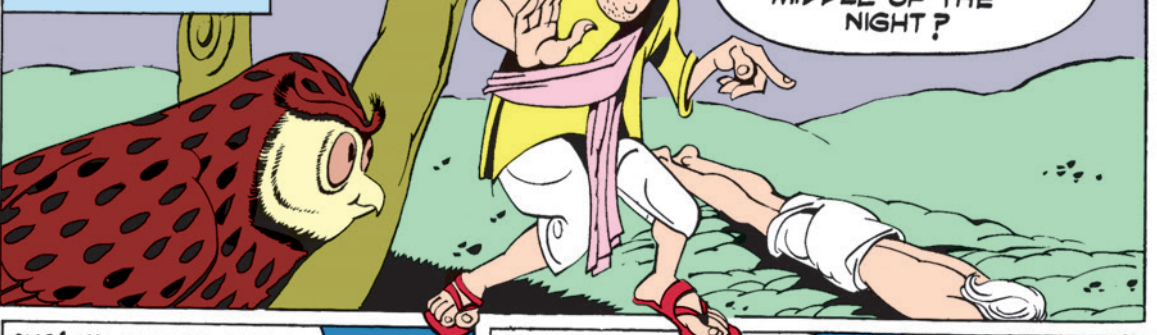
I ASKED YOU NOT TO BITE, BUT SURELY I DIDN'T ASK YOU NOT TO HISS!







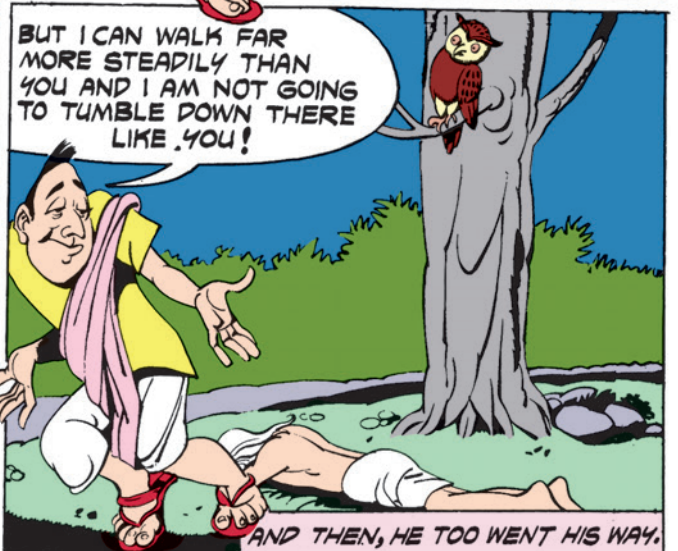
A WHILE LATER, A MAN WHO HAD HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK CAME STAGGERING ALONG AND SAW THE SAINT.



AHA! MY FRIEND, I THINK YOU HAVE HAD A SIP TOO MUCH... AND YOU HAVE FALLEN INTO THIS DITCH.



BUT I CAN WALK FAR MORE STEADILY THAN YOU AND I AM NOT GOING TO TUMBLE DOWN THERE LIKE YOU!

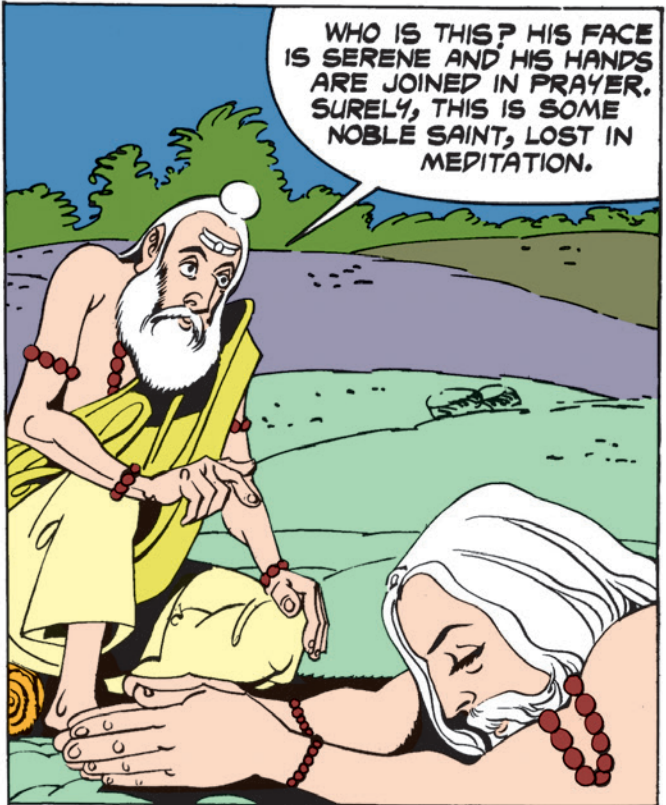


AND THEN, HE TOO WENT HIS WAY.

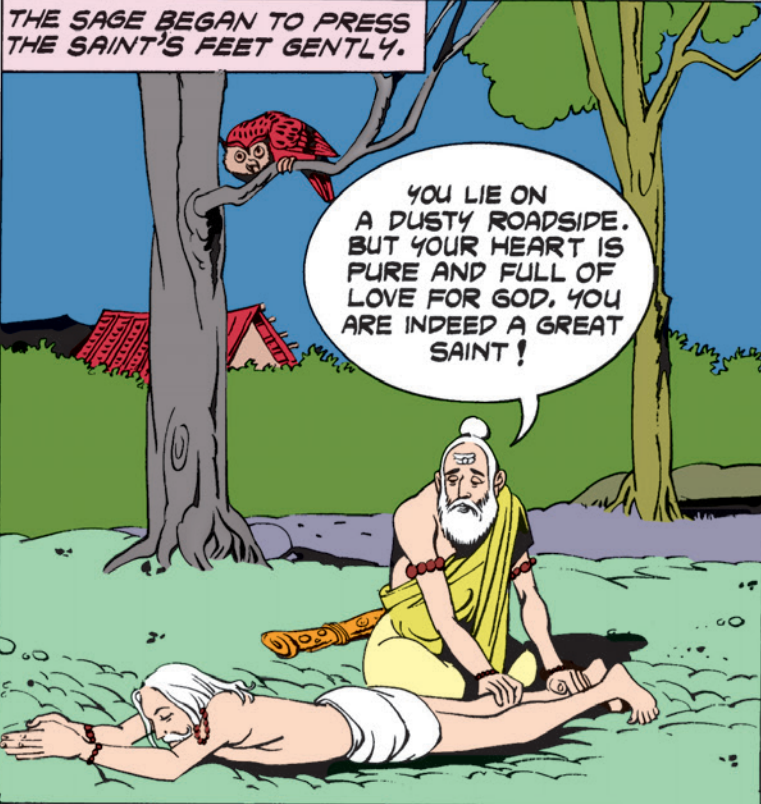
SOON, ANOTHER SAGE CAME THAT WAY.



WHO IS THIS? HIS FACE IS SERENE AND HIS HANDS ARE JOINED IN PRAYER. SURELY, THIS IS SOME NOBLE SAINT, LOST IN MEDITATION.



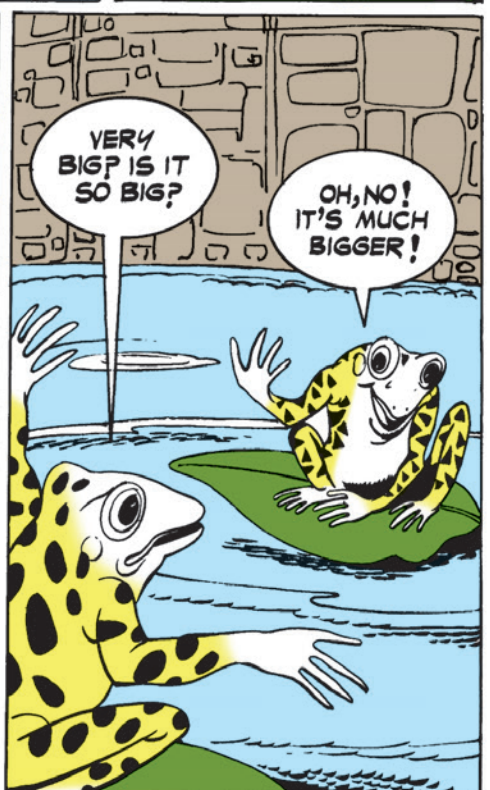
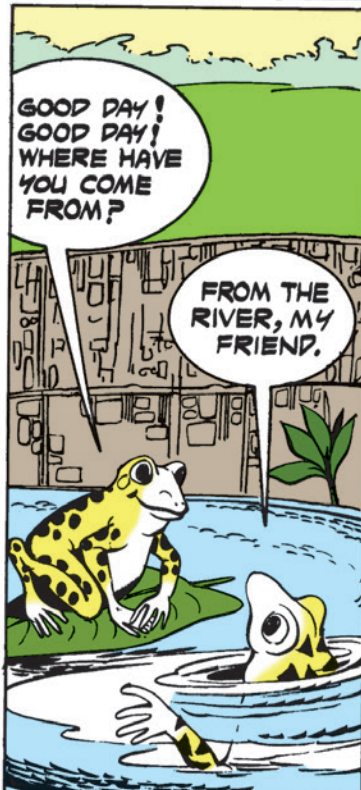
THE SAGE BEGAN TO PRESS THE SAINT'S FEET GENTLY.

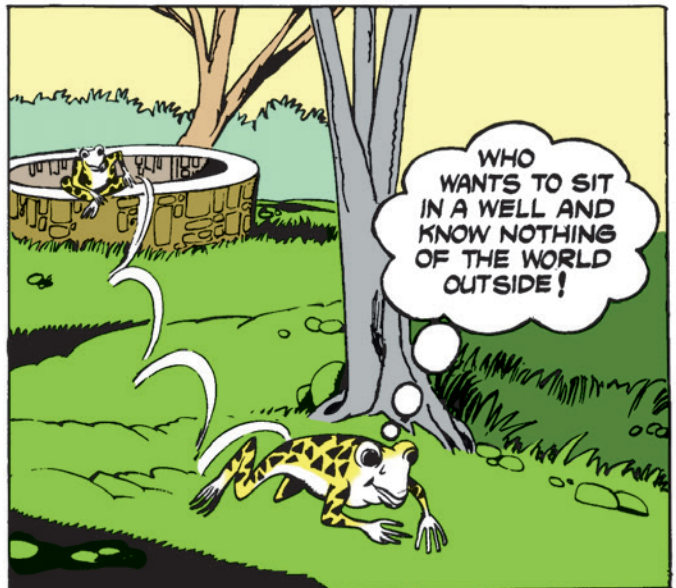
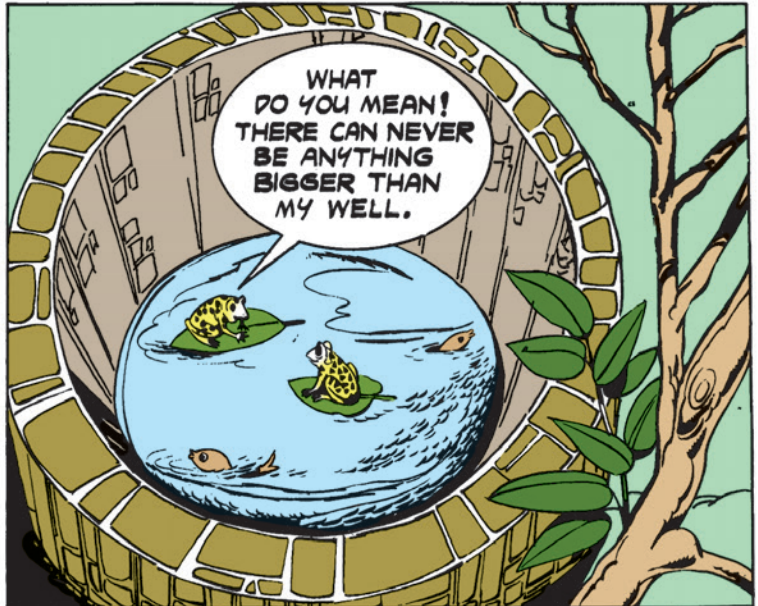


YOU LIE ON A DUSTY ROADSIDE. BUT YOUR HEART IS PURE AND FULL OF LOVE FOR GOD, YOU ARE INDEED A GREAT SAINT!

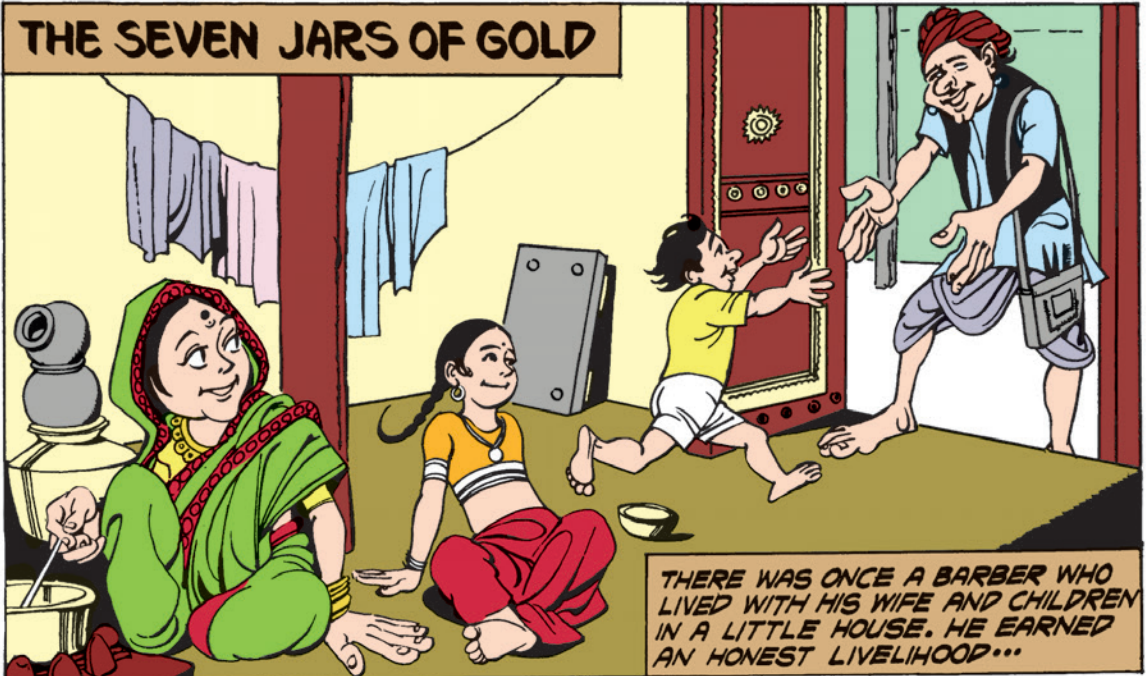
AND SO IS HE, FOR WE SEE IN OTHERS, WHAT WE ARE OURSELVES.







THE SEVEN JARS OF GOLD

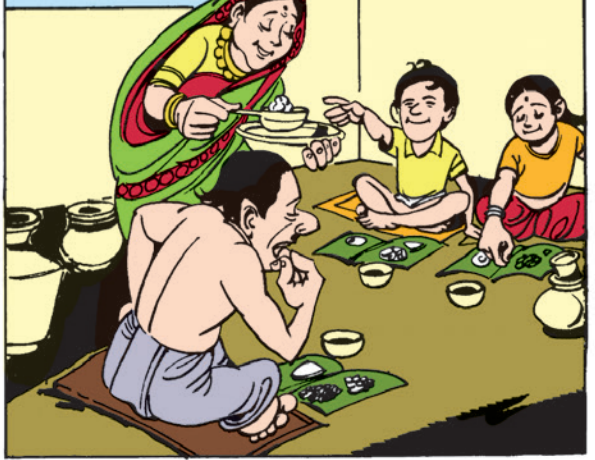


THERE WAS ONCE A BARBER WHO LIVED WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN IN A LITTLE HOUSE. HE EARNED AN HONEST LIVELIHOOD...

...HIS CHILDREN WERE HEALTHY...



...AND HIS WIFE WAS CONTENT WITH WHAT HE COULD PROVIDE.



THEY WERE A HAPPY, CARE-FREE FAMILY.



ONE DAY, THE KING OF THE LAND SUMMONED THE BARBER TO HIS PALACE.



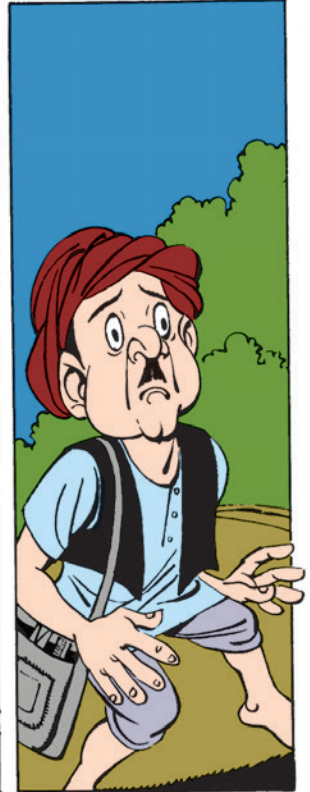
THE BARBER RETURNED HOME, FULL OF JOY.

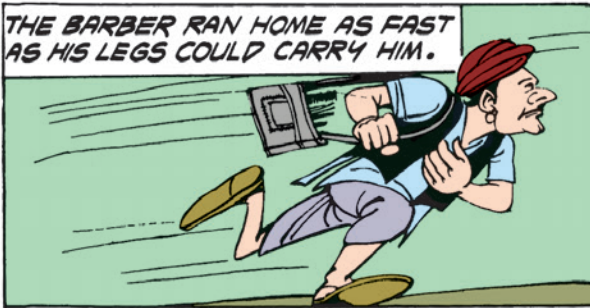
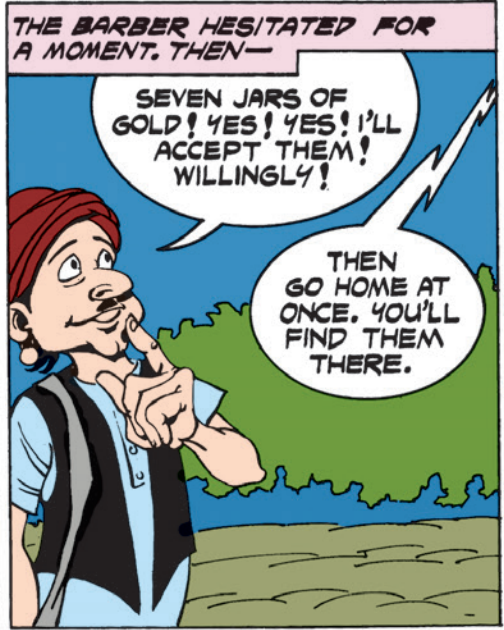


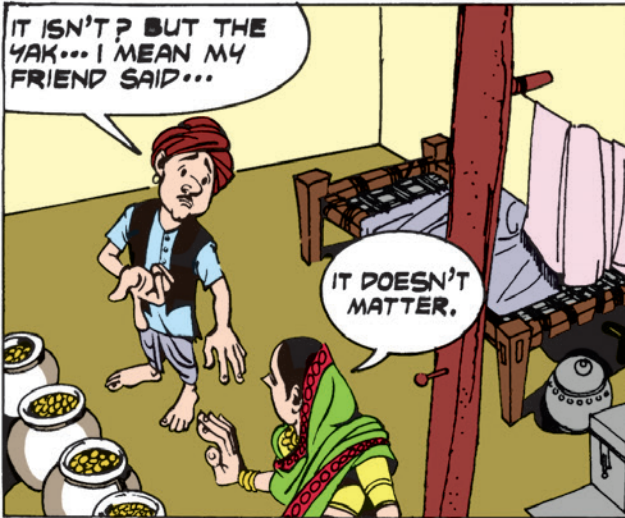
THE BARBER SERVED THE KING WELL AND THE KING IN TURN GREW QUITE FOND OF THE BARBER.



THEN, ONE NIGHT, THE BARBER HAPPENED TO PASS THROUGH A FOREST. IT WAS A STILL, DARK NIGHT. SUDDENLY —





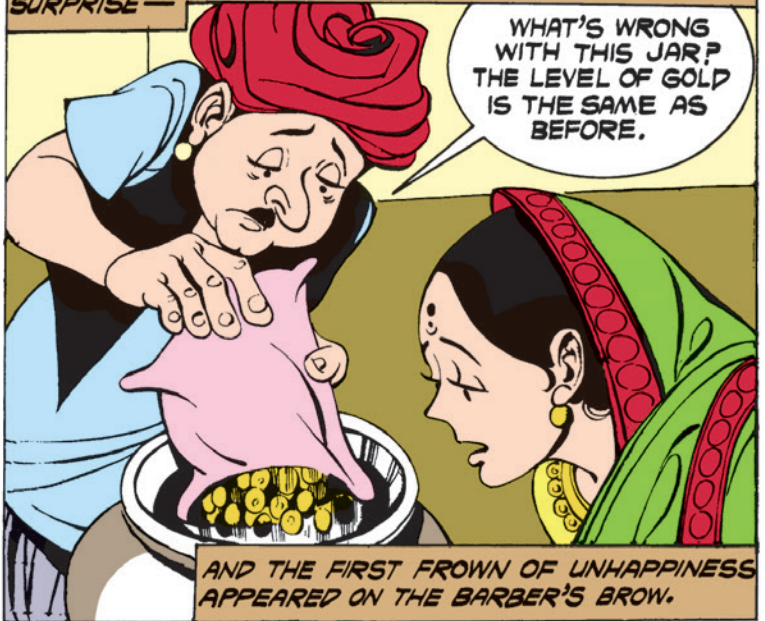


THE BARBER TOOK THE MONEY HE HAD GIVEN HIS WIFE TO RUN THE HOME, EXCHANGED IT FOR GOLD COINS, AND EMPTIED THEM INTO THE SEVENTH JAR. BUT—

WE NEED MUCH MORE TO FILL IT. BRING ME THE BAG THAT HAS MY SAVINGS.



ALL THE MONEY THE BARBER HAD SAVED OVER THE YEARS WAS ALSO PUT INTO THE JAR. BUT, TO THE BARBER'S SURPRISE—



HE BEGAN TO BORROW FROM HIS FRIENDS.

I'M RUNNING SHORT OF MONEY THIS MONTH. COULD YOU LEND ME SOME?

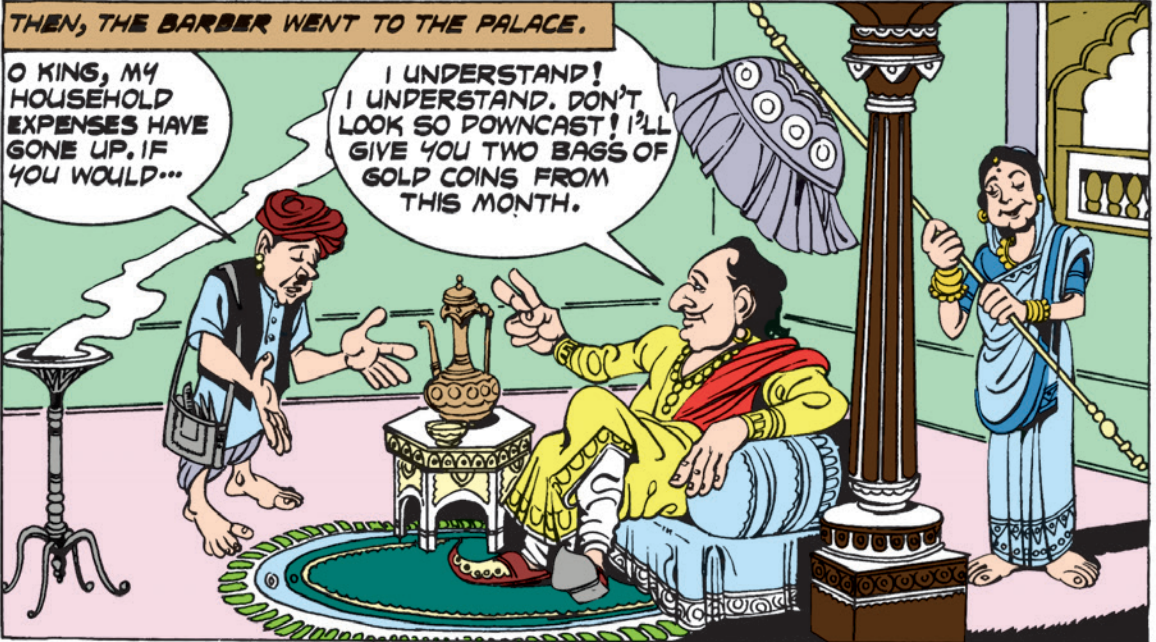
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I'VE NEVER KNOWN YOU TO BORROW MONEY BEFORE! ANYWAY... I'LL LEND YOU WHAT I CAN SPARE.



THEN, THE BARBER WENT TO THE PALACE.

O KING, MY HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES HAVE GONE UP. IF YOU WOULD...

I UNDERSTAND! I UNDERSTAND. DON'T LOOK SO DOWNCAST! I'LL GIVE YOU TWO BAGS OF GOLD COINS FROM THIS MONTH.

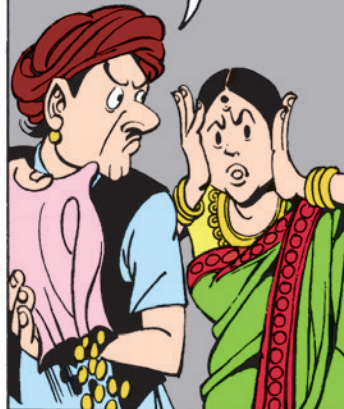


THE BARBER SOON COLLECTED A BIG SUM. AS HE WAS ABOUT TO EMPTY IT INTO THE JAR—

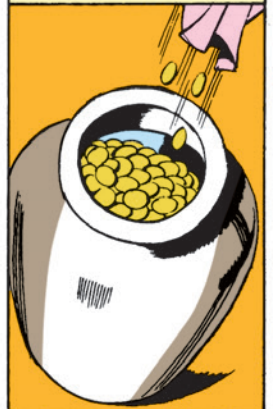
WAIT! DON'T PUT EVERYTHING IN! I NEED SOME MONEY TO BUY GROCERIES.



THAT CAN WAIT. I MUST FILL THIS JAR TO THE BRIM, FIRST.

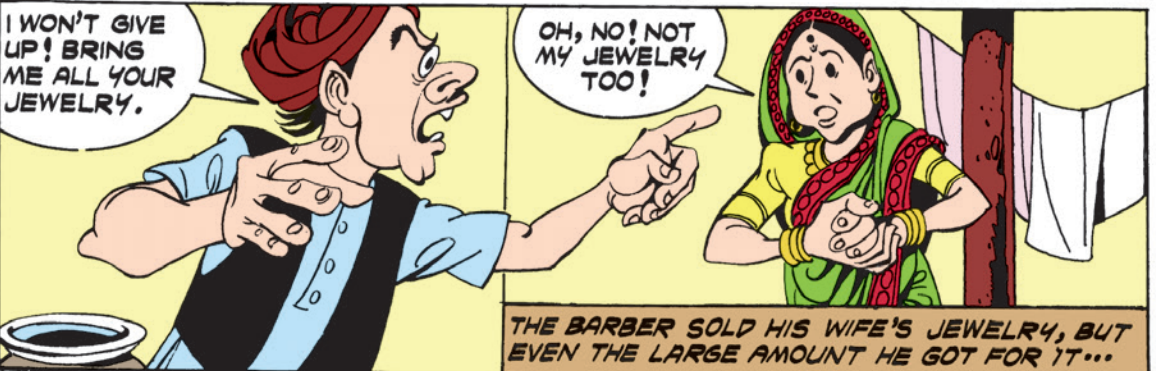


BUT STILL, THE LEVEL OF GOLD IN THE MYSTERIOUS SEVENTH JAR REMAINED THE SAME AS BEFORE.



I WON'T GIVE UP! BRING ME ALL YOUR JEWELRY.

OH, NO! NOT MY JEWELRY TOO!



THE BARBER SOLD HIS WIFE'S JEWELRY, BUT EVEN THE LARGE AMOUNT HE GOT FOR IT...

...WAS NOT ENOUGH FOR THE SEVENTH JAR. THE MORE IT WAS FED, THE GREEDIER IT SEEMED TO BECOME.

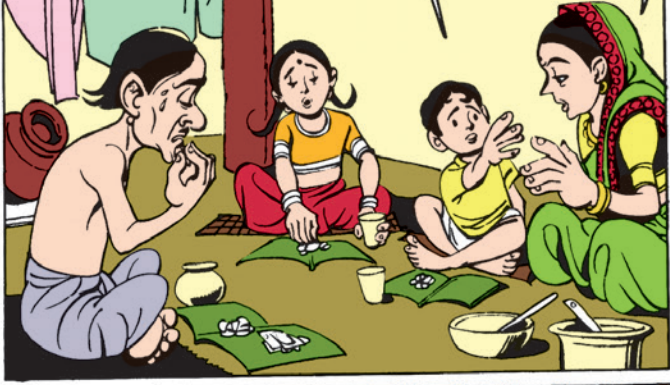
THIS JAR IS DRIVING ME MAD! UNTIL I SEE IT FULL, I WILL HAVE NO PEACE.



AND SO —

I'M STILL HUNGRY, MOTHER. CAN I HAVE SOME MORE?

THERE ISN'T ANY LEFT, MY CHILD.



AT NIGHT —

IT'S TWO IN THE MORNING AND YOU'RE STILL NOT ASLEEP.

LEAVE ME ALONE!

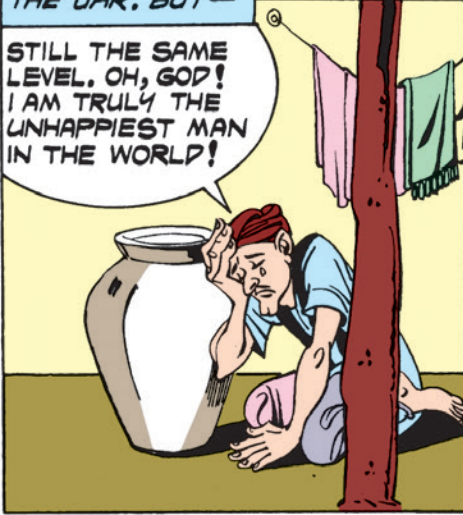


IF I SELL THE COW, I'LL GET A GOOD SUM. THE SILVER PLATES WILL ALSO FETCH A GOOD PRICE. I WILL ALSO SELL THE...



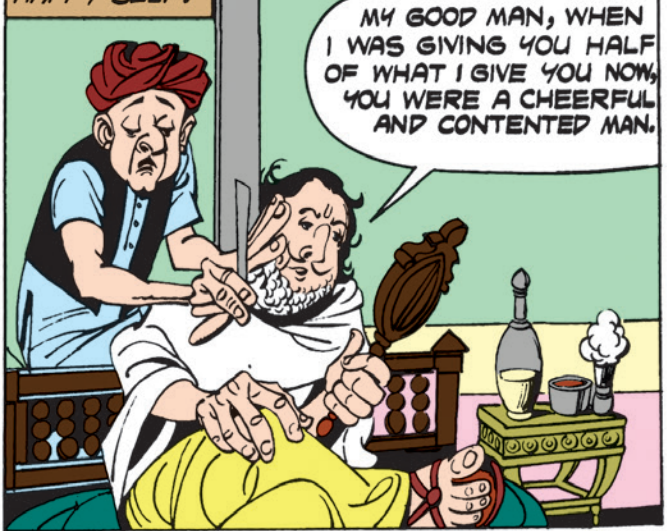
AND SO IT WENT ON. EVERY BIT OF MONEY THE BARBER COULD LAY HIS HANDS ON, WENT INTO THE JAR. BUT—

STILL THE SAME LEVEL. OH, GOD! I AM TRULY THE UNHAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD!



ALL THIS TIME, THE KING HAD BEEN NOTICING THAT THE BARBER WAS NO LONGER HIS OLD HAPPY SELF.

MY GOOD MAN, WHEN I WAS GIVING YOU HALF OF WHAT I GIVE YOU NOW, YOU WERE A CHEERFUL AND CONTENTED MAN.



NOW YOUR FACE HAS A PERPETUAL FROWN. YOU SEEM TO BE MISERABLE. HAVE YOU BY ANY CHANCE GOT THE SEVEN JARS?



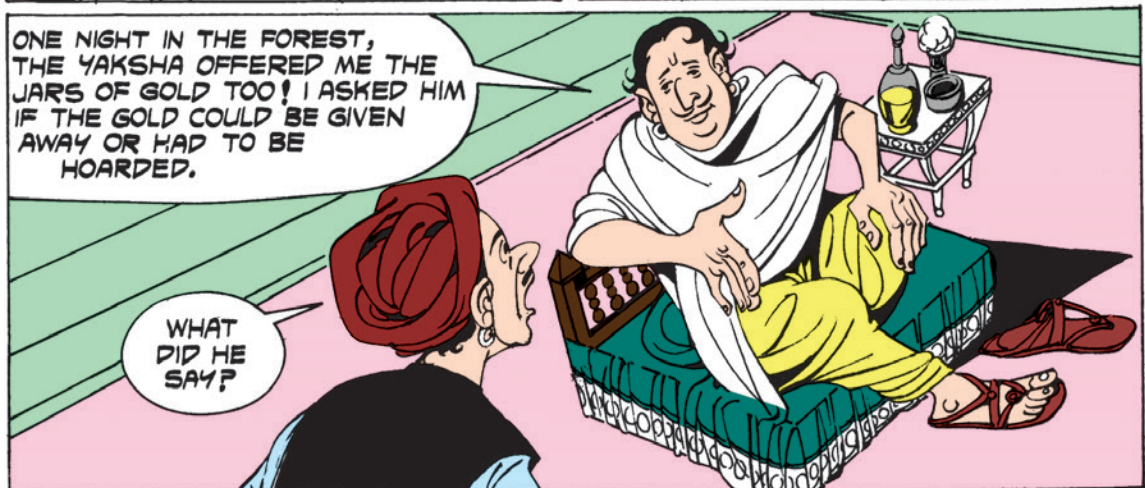
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE THEM, MAHARAJ?

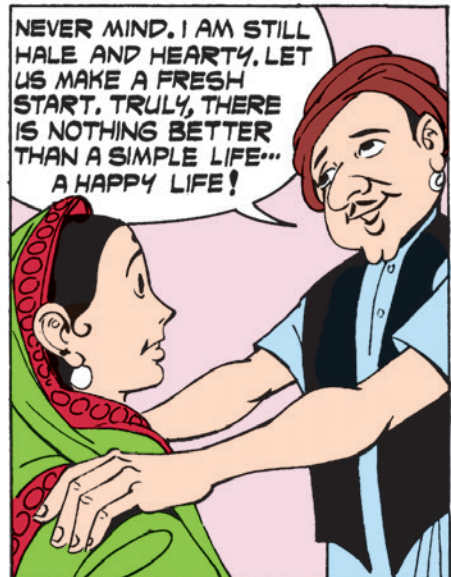
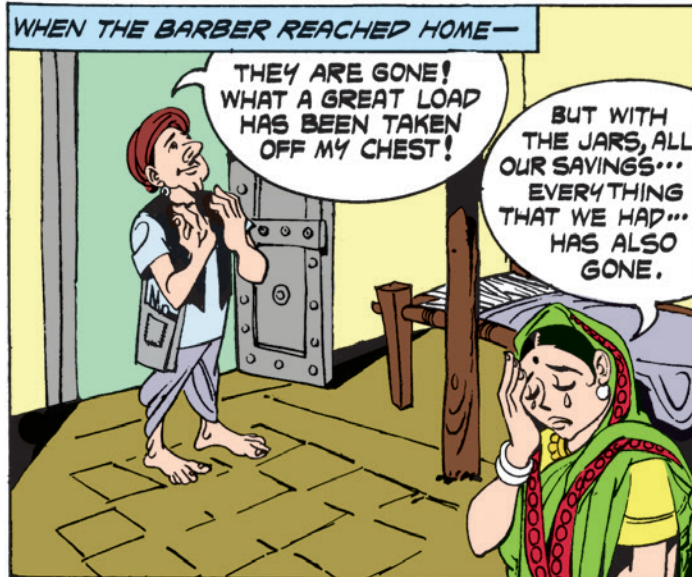
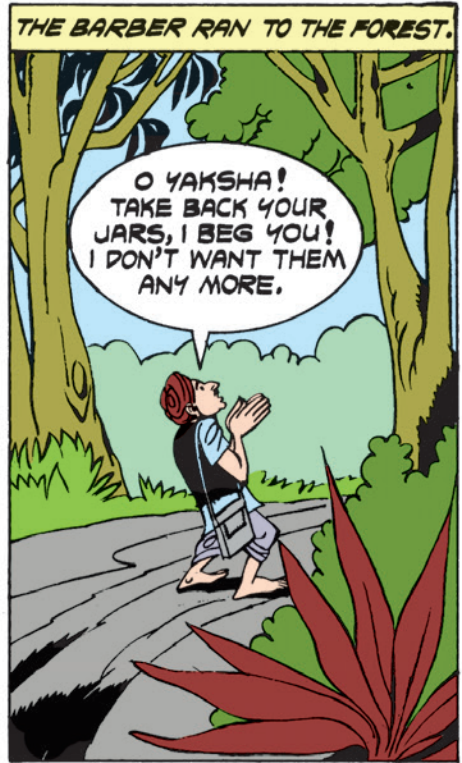
THESE SIGNS OF UNHAPPINESS AND DISCONTENT THAT I SEE ON YOUR FACE ARE ALL SIGNS OF OWNING THE SEVEN JARS.



ONE NIGHT IN THE FOREST, THE YAKSHA OFFERED ME THE JARS OF GOLD TOO! I ASKED HIM IF THE GOLD COULD BE GIVEN AWAY OR HAD TO BE HOARDED.

WHAT DID HE SAY?



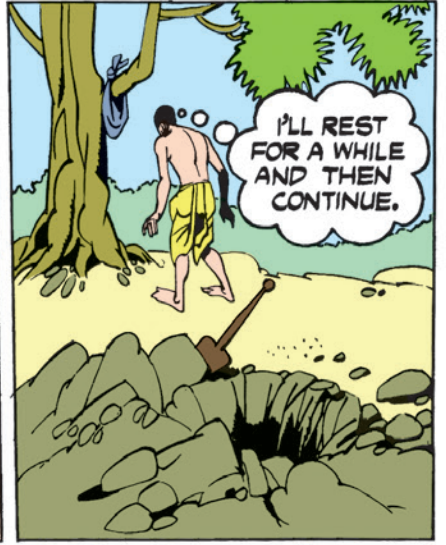
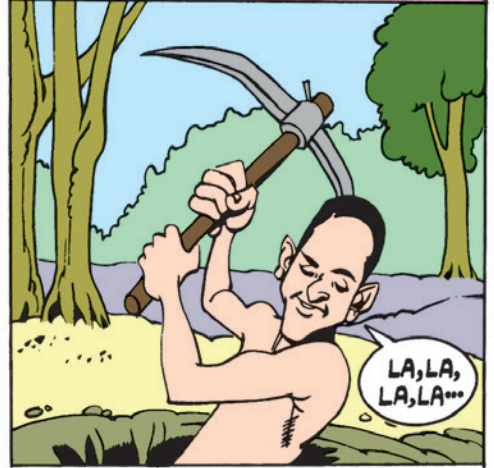


THE MAN WHO WANTED TO DIG A WELL

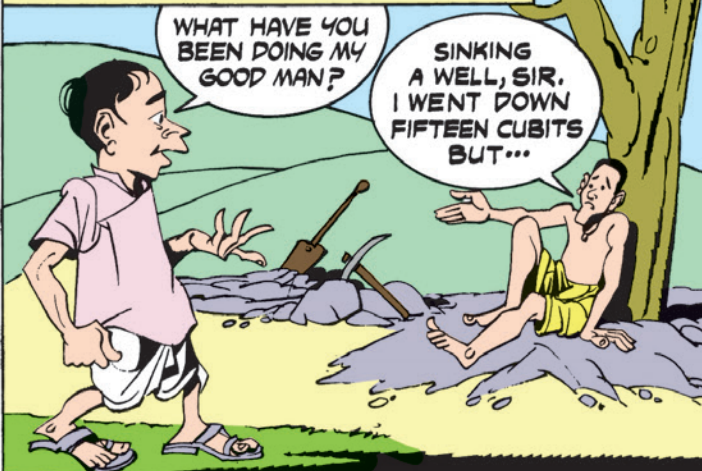


A MAN ONCE SET OUT TO DIG A WELL.

HE SELECTED A GOOD SPOT AND CHEERFULLY SET TO WORK.

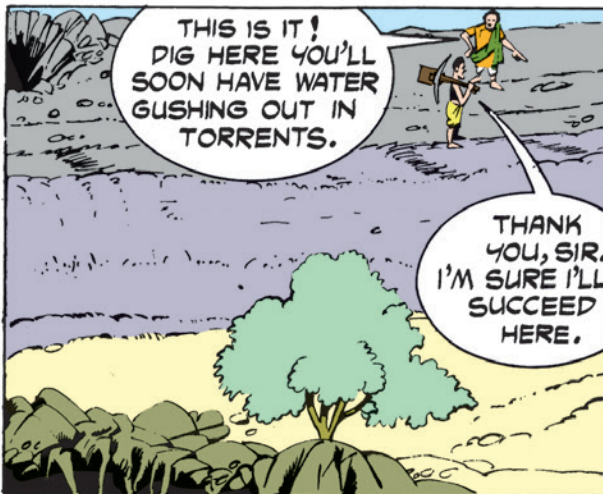
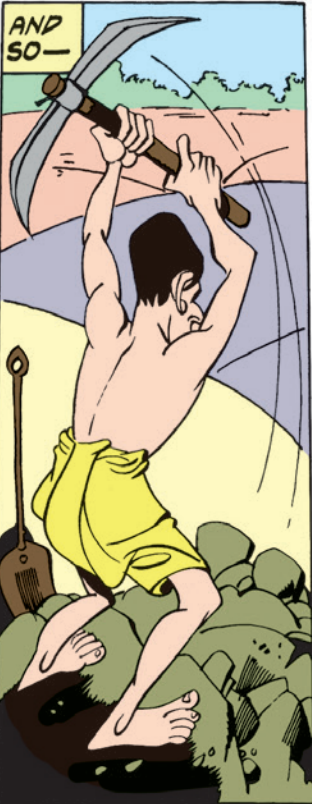


JUST THEN, ANOTHER MAN CAME ALONG.

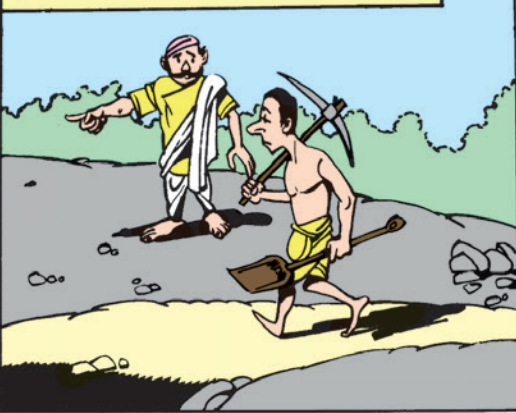


OH! I WISH I HAD PASSED THIS WAY EARLIER. I WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU WHERE TO DIG. ANYWAY, COME WITH ME.

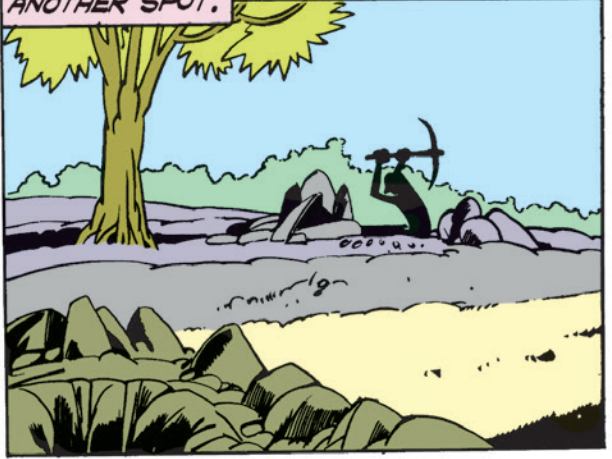




THOUGH WATER WAS SCARCE, ADVISERS WERE NOT. ON THE ADVICE OF ANOTHER PASSERBY...



...THE MAN SUNK TWENTY MORE CUBITS AT ANOTHER SPOT.



BUT—

NOT EVEN A TRICKLE!
I AM SICK OF
THE WHOLE
BUSINESS!



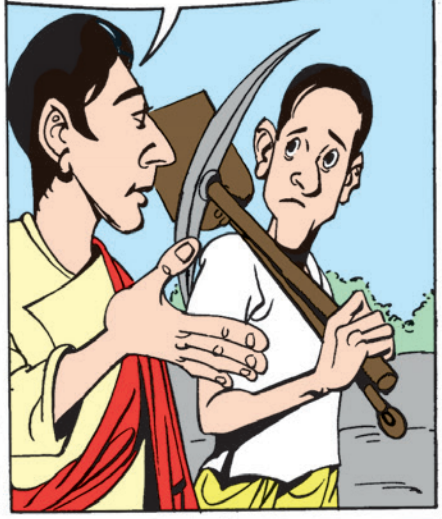
JUST THEN, A FRIEND CAME
BY AND HEARD THE WHOLE
STORY.

...SO, CAN
YOU IMAGINE,
I HAVE SUNK
EIGHTY-FIVE CUBITS
ALTOGETHER.

EIGHTY-FIVE
CUBITS?

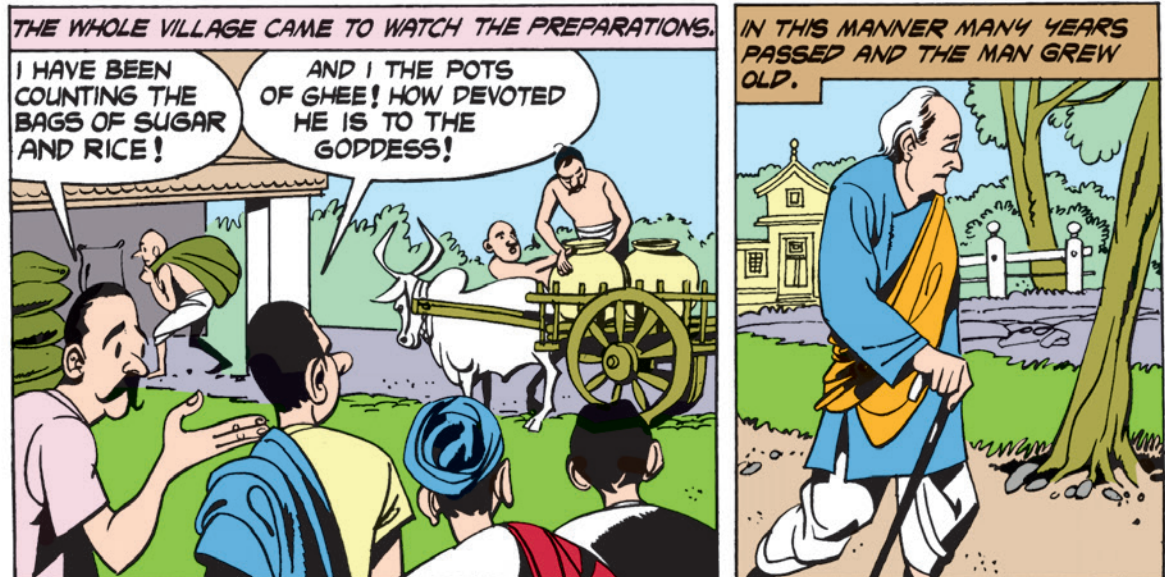
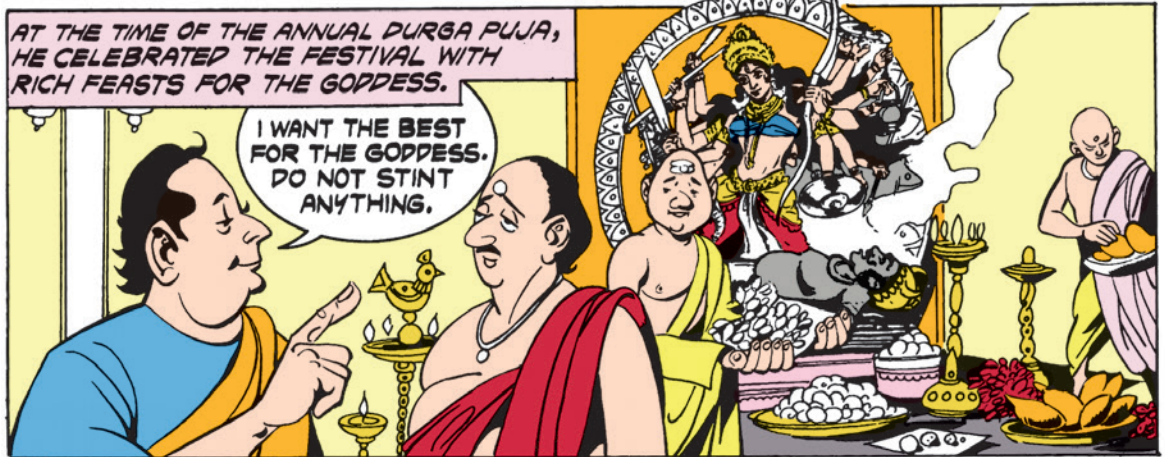
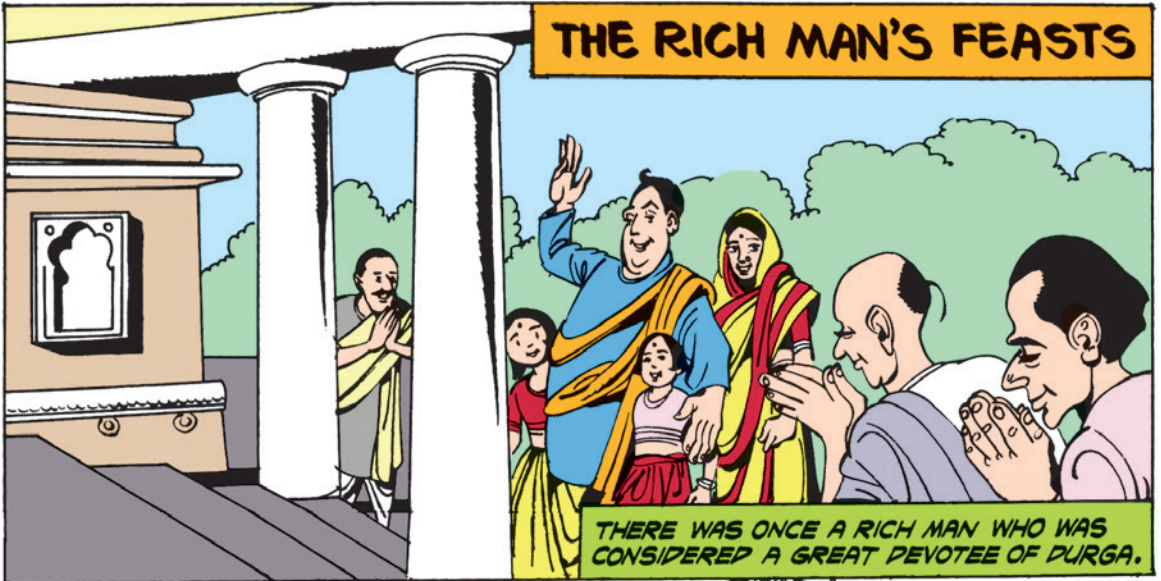


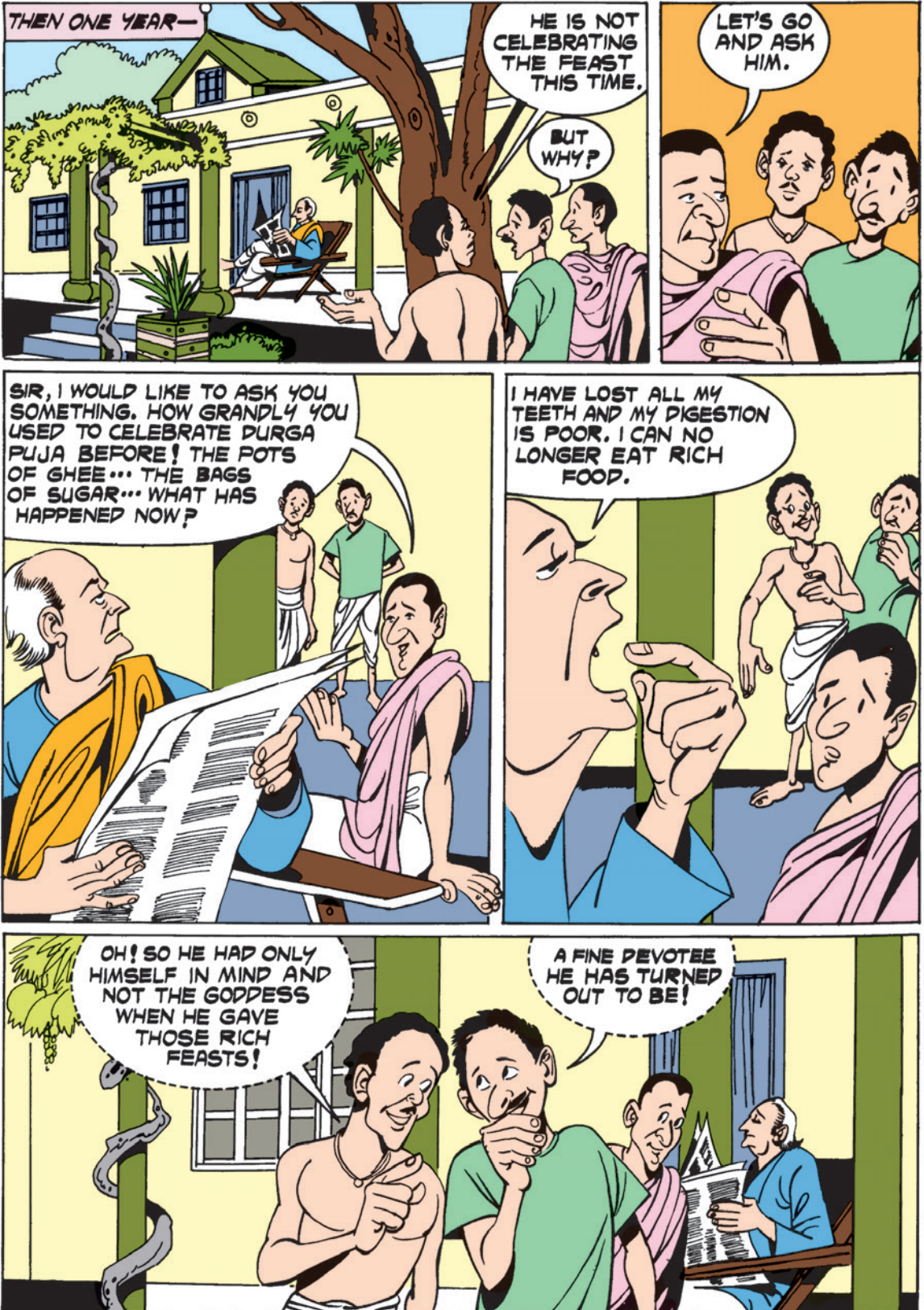
IF YOU HAD SUNK THOSE
EIGHTY-FIVE CUBITS IN ONE
PLACE, YOU WOULD HAVE
STRUCK WATER ANYWHERE
IN THIS AREA, EVEN BELOW
THAT ROCKY SURFACE.



HE'S RIGHT! I HAVE
LEARNT MY LESSON.
I'LL START PIGGING
AGAIN TOMORROW
AND STICK TO ONE
SPOT, NO MATTER
WHAT ANYONE
SAYS.









The RAMAKRISHNA COLLECTION

As a young boy, Gadadhar, or Gadai to his loved ones, was a happy child who enjoyed acting in plays and disliked doing sums. Years later, this boy turned to the path of spirituality and became Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the guru of many great minds like Swami Vivekananda.

On the occasion of Ramakrishna Jayanti, Amar Chitra Katha presents The Ramakrishna Collection, a special selection of our titles Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda, coupled with two collections of stories told by Sri Ramakrishna, titled The Learned Pandit and The Pandit and the Milkmaid. Through his life and teachings, Ramakrishna continues to enlighten the minds of his followers with the power of faith.

