

Vol. 517 Rs 25

Vivekananda



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



Vivekananda

Indian culture has an amazing vitality which has enabled it to withstand and overcome the shocks of millennia of history. That vitality lies in the rational and universal dimension of her spirituality, which evaluates man, not in terms of the external variables of his creed, race or nationality, but in terms of that which is inalienable in him, namely, the Atman, the divine Self in all.

In her long history of over 5,000 years, India has sometimes fallen from this high vision and policy, but her inner spiritual vitality has thrown up great teachers who have helped her to regain her national health and strength. To this class belong Krishna, Buddha, Shankaracharya and a large number of other luminaries.

In the modern period also, we are living through another challenging era of national decline as well as national rejuvenation. After a halting and defensive response to the challenge of the modern world, in the first part of the 19th century, India rose to her full spiritual stature in two unique teachers, Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda.

The following pages will give the reader the fascinating story of Vivekananda (1863-1902), who roused his nation from its sleep of centuries and gave to it a man-making and nation-building faith and resolve. At the same time, he imparted, to the waiting peoples of the West, the rational and universal message of India's Vedanta philosophy. He also forged the unity of East and West – and all this within ten brief working years, from 1893 when he began his work to 1902 when he passed away.

Ranganathananda

(SWAMI RANGANATHANANDA)

Illustrations: T. Kesava Rao & Souren Roy

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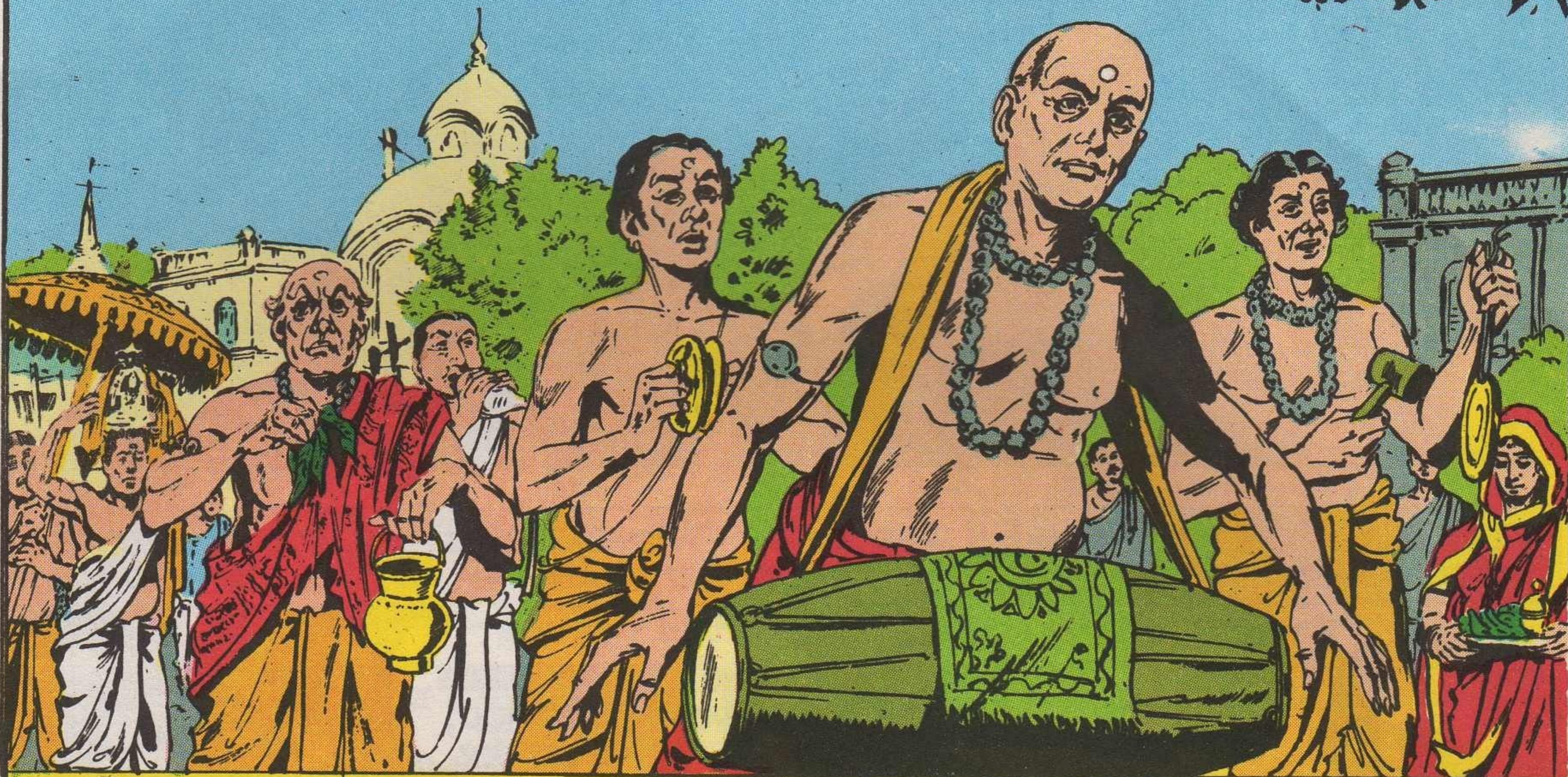
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VIVEKANANDA



NINETEENTH CENTURY INDIA. THE SPIRIT OF HINDUISM LAY HIDDEN UNDER A DEBRIS OF RITUALS — RITUALS DISOWNED BY THE INDIAN INTELLECTUALS AND SCORNE 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.



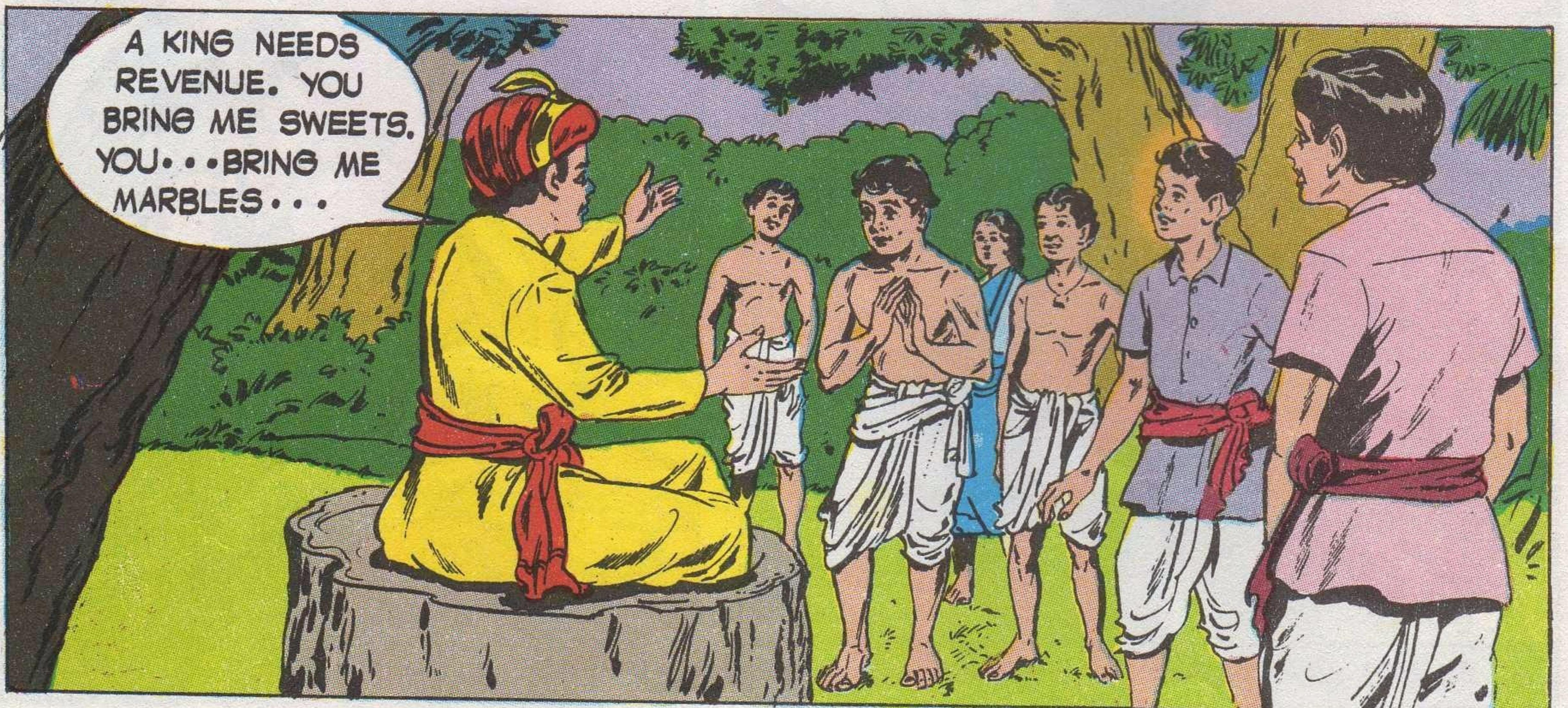
THE MAGIC OF THE NAME IMMEDIATELY QUIETENED NARENDRANATH.



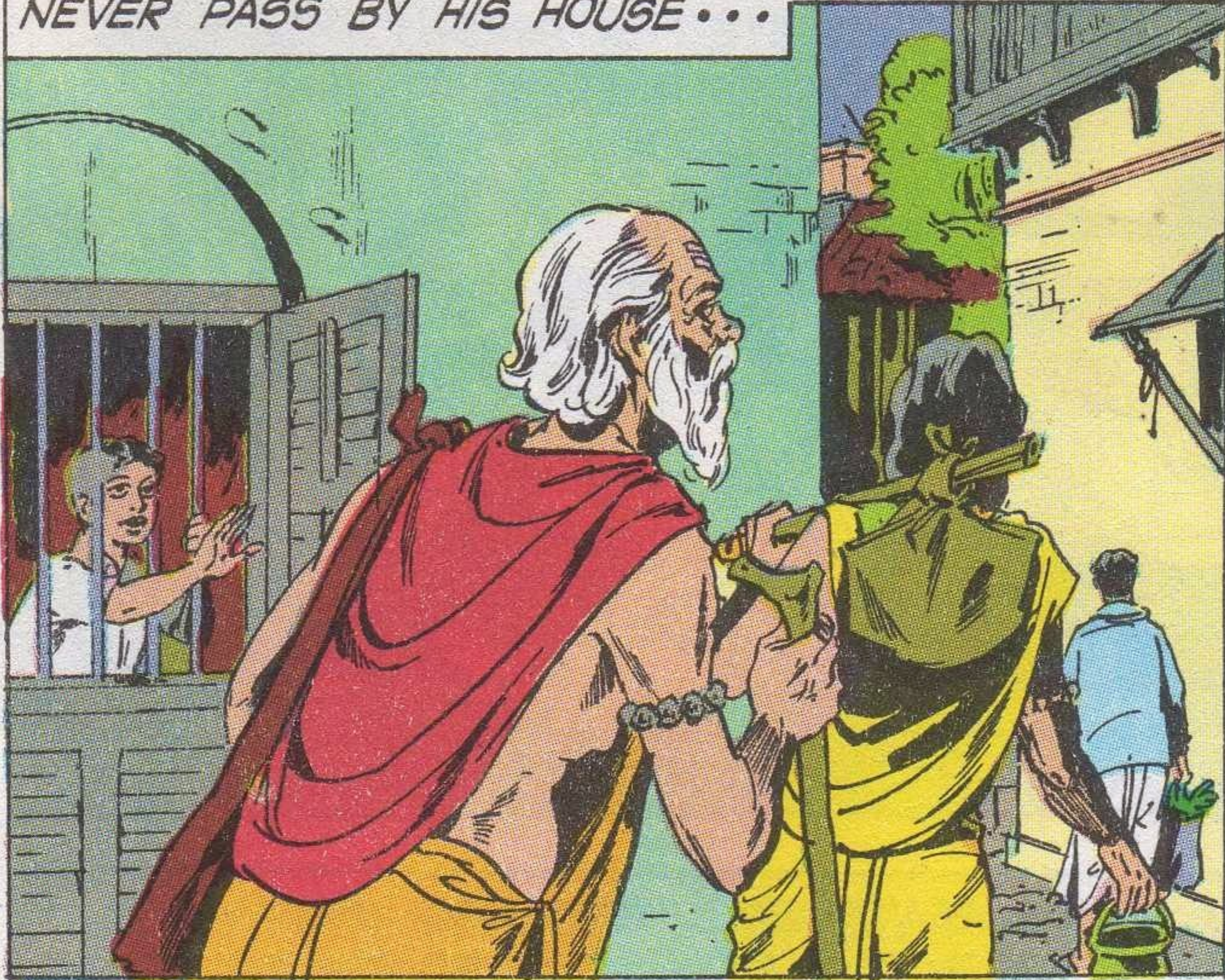
NARENDRANATH WAS A BORN LEADER, NOT ONLY TO HIS TWO BROTHERS AND TWO SISTERS, BUT TO ALL THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CHILDREN.



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...



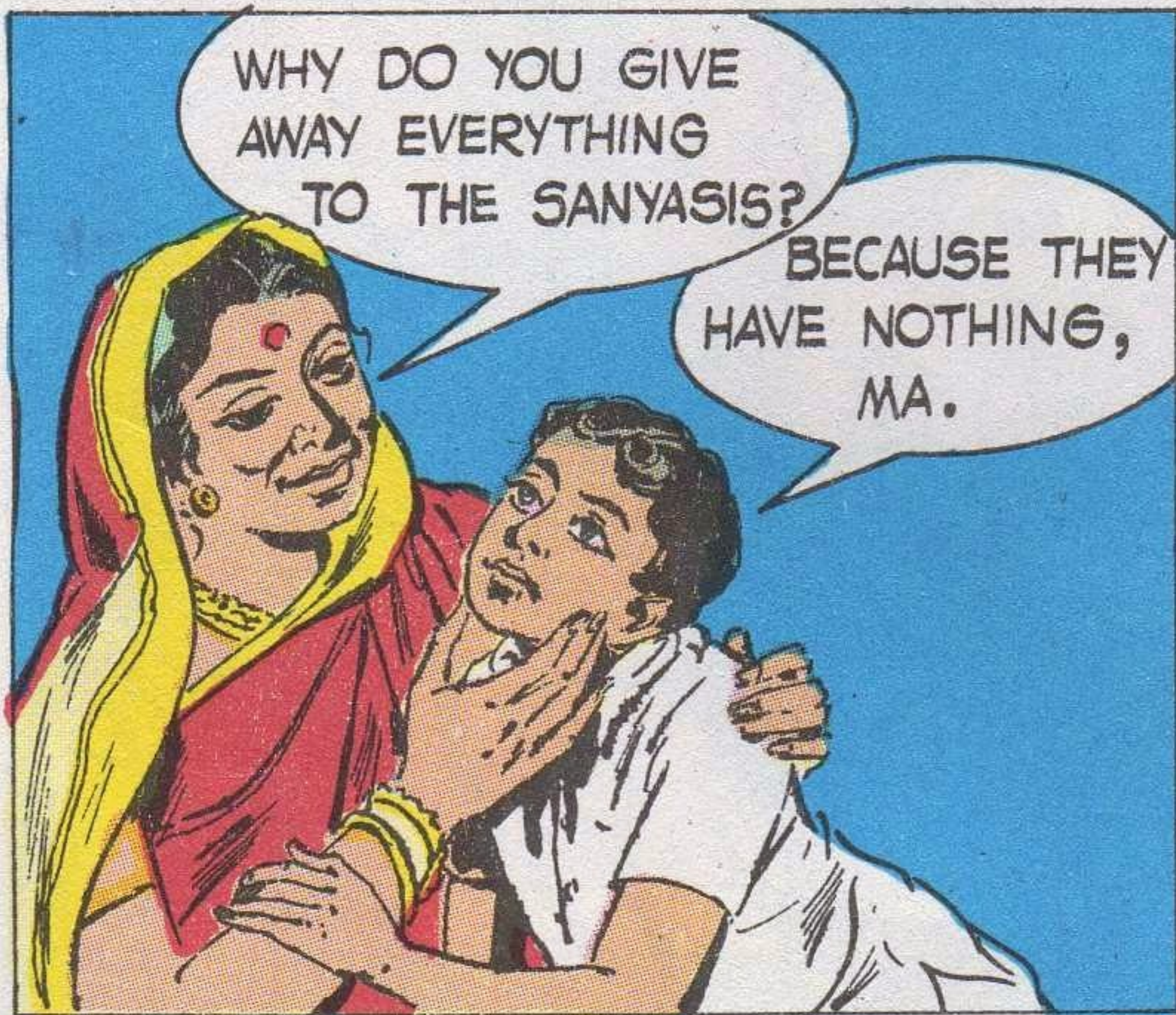
...WITHOUT RECEIVING EVERYTHING THAT WAS WITHIN HIS REACH.

GOD BLESS YOU, CHILD.



WHY DO YOU GIVE AWAY EVERYTHING TO THE SANYASIS?

BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOTHING, MA.



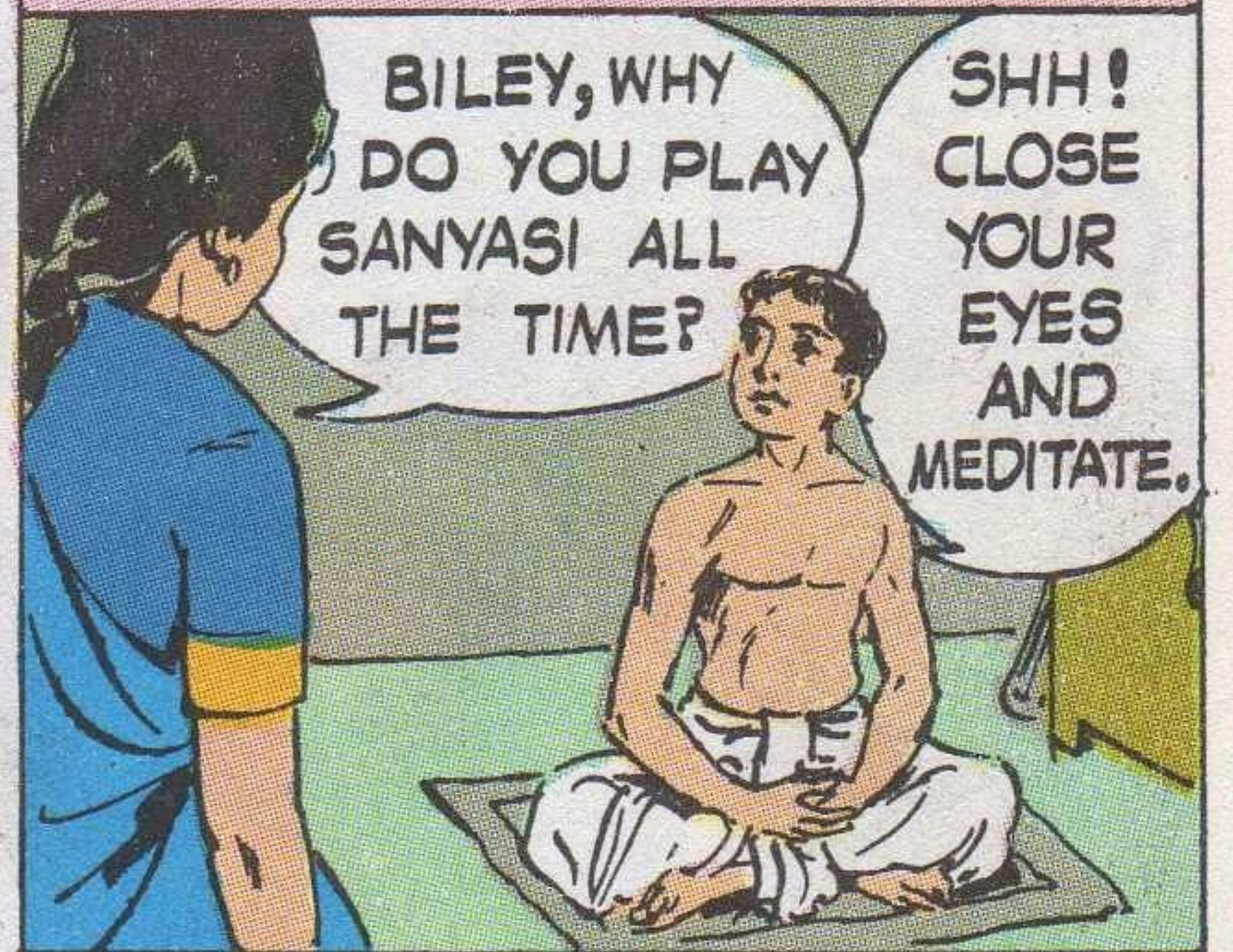
I TOO SHALL BE A SANYASI.



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 —

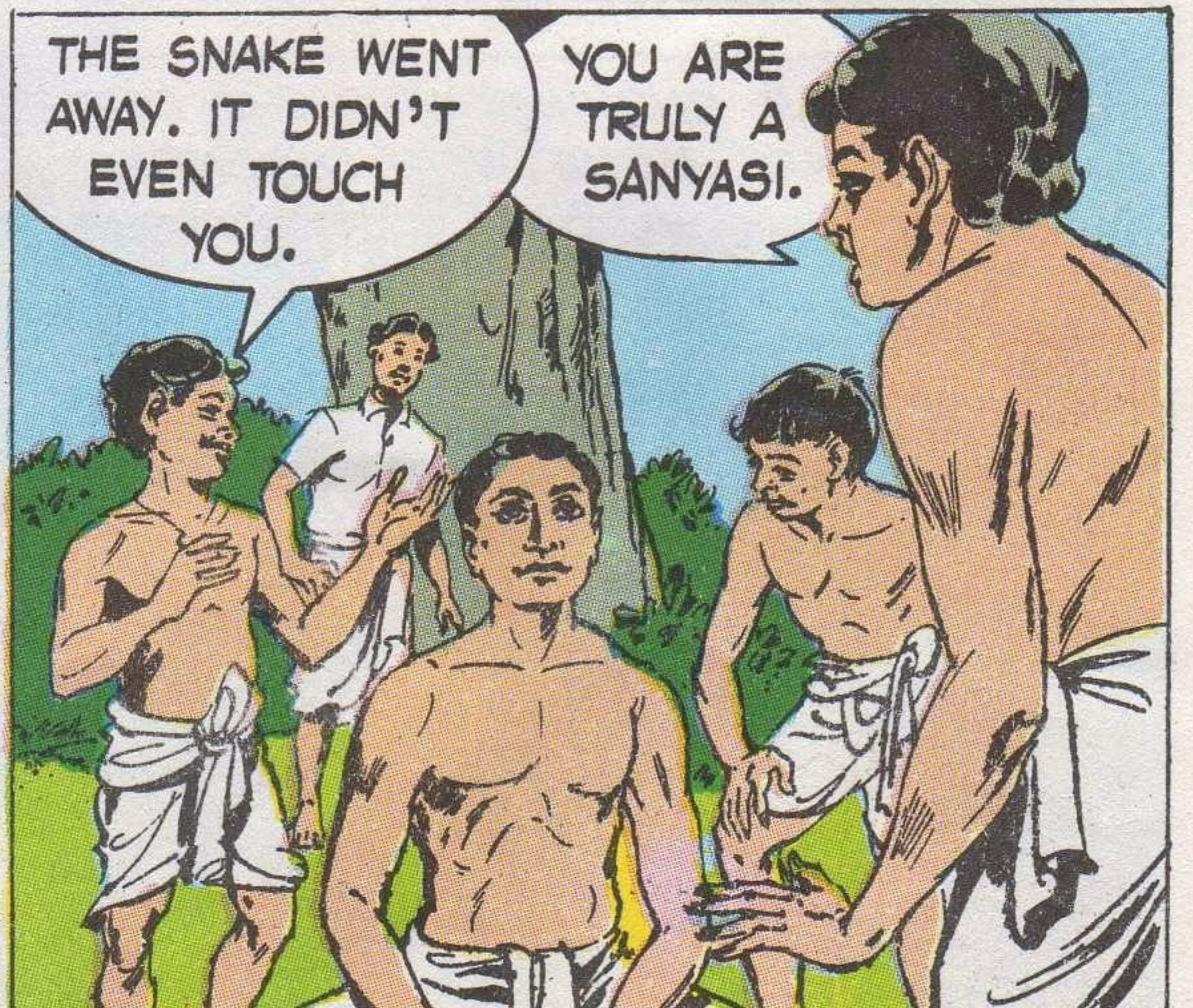
BILEY, RUN!



BUT NAREN SAT WHERE HE WAS.

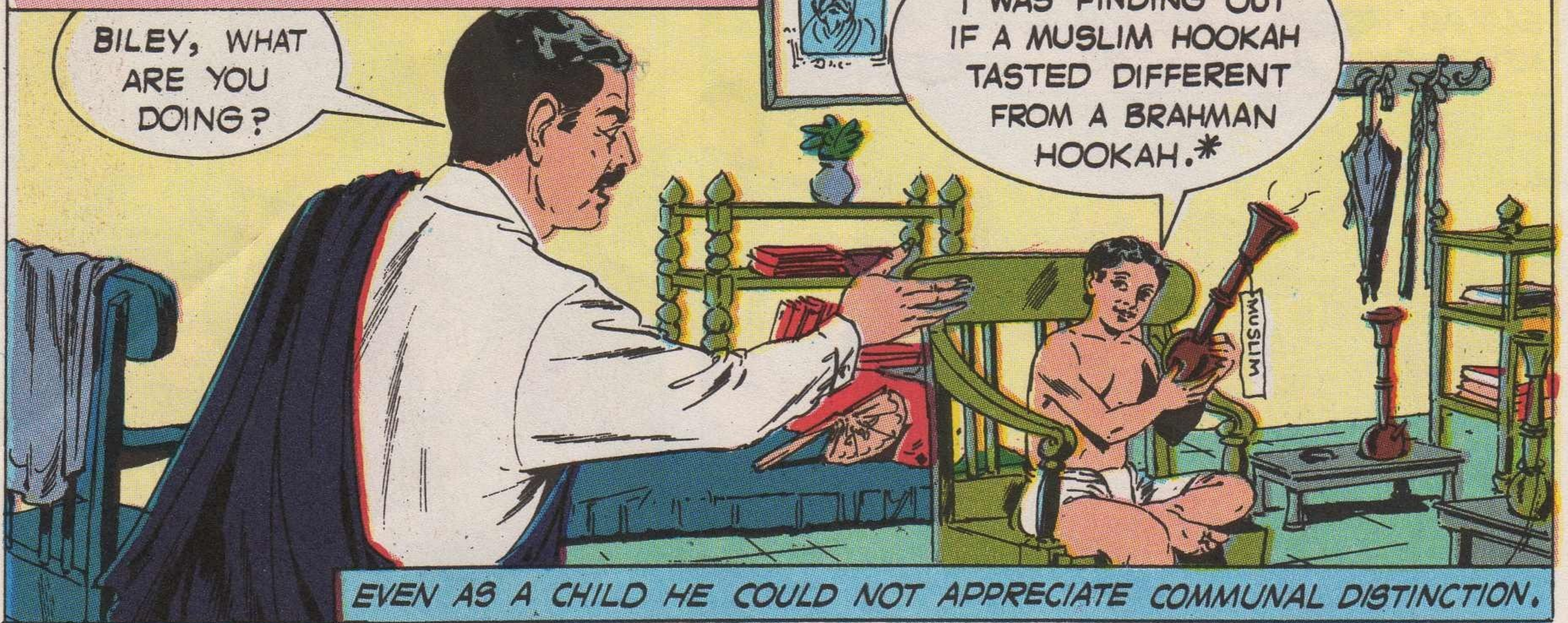
THE SNAKE WENT AWAY. IT DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH YOU.

YOU ARE TRULY A SANYASI.

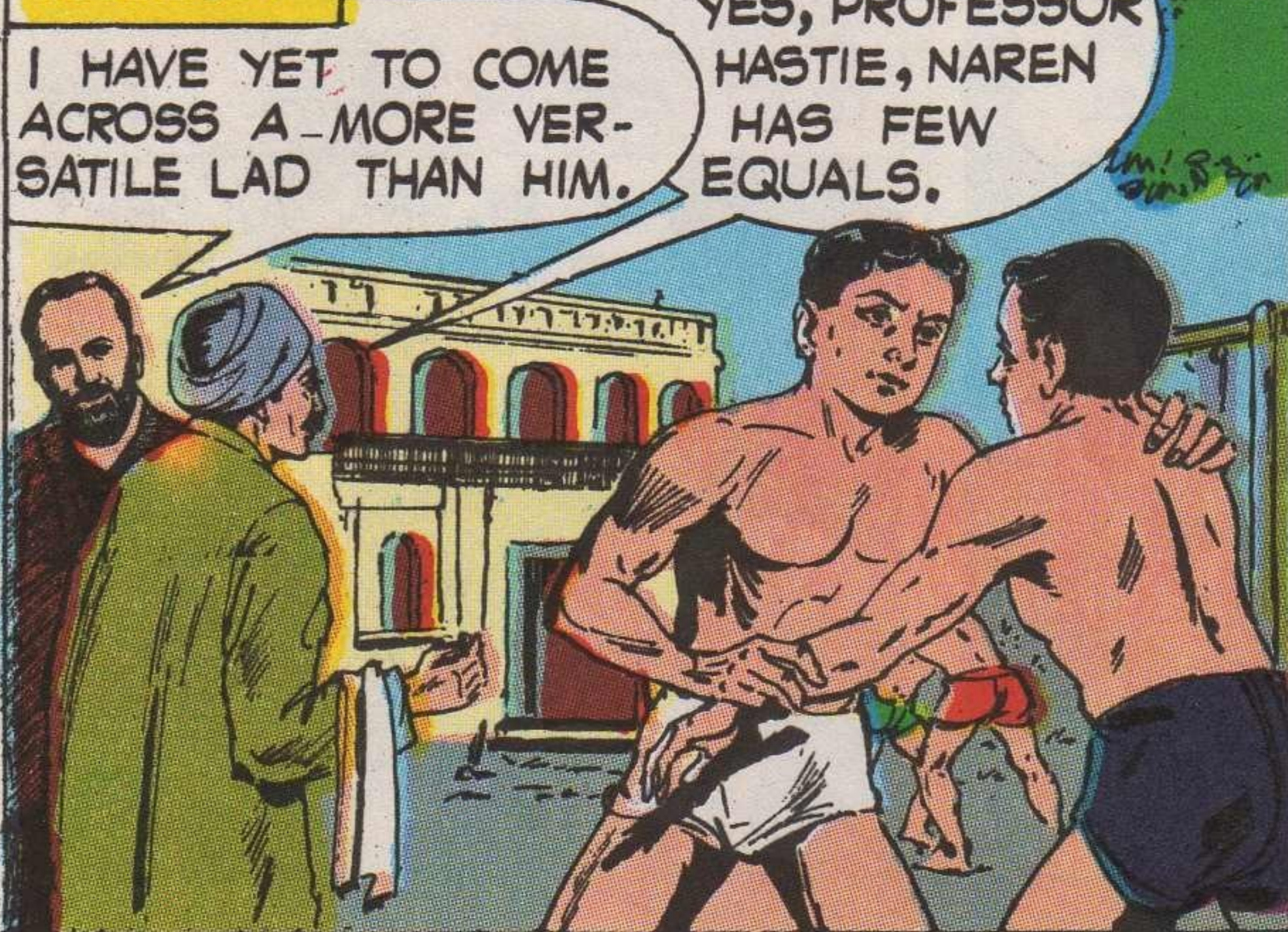


*WANDERING MONK.

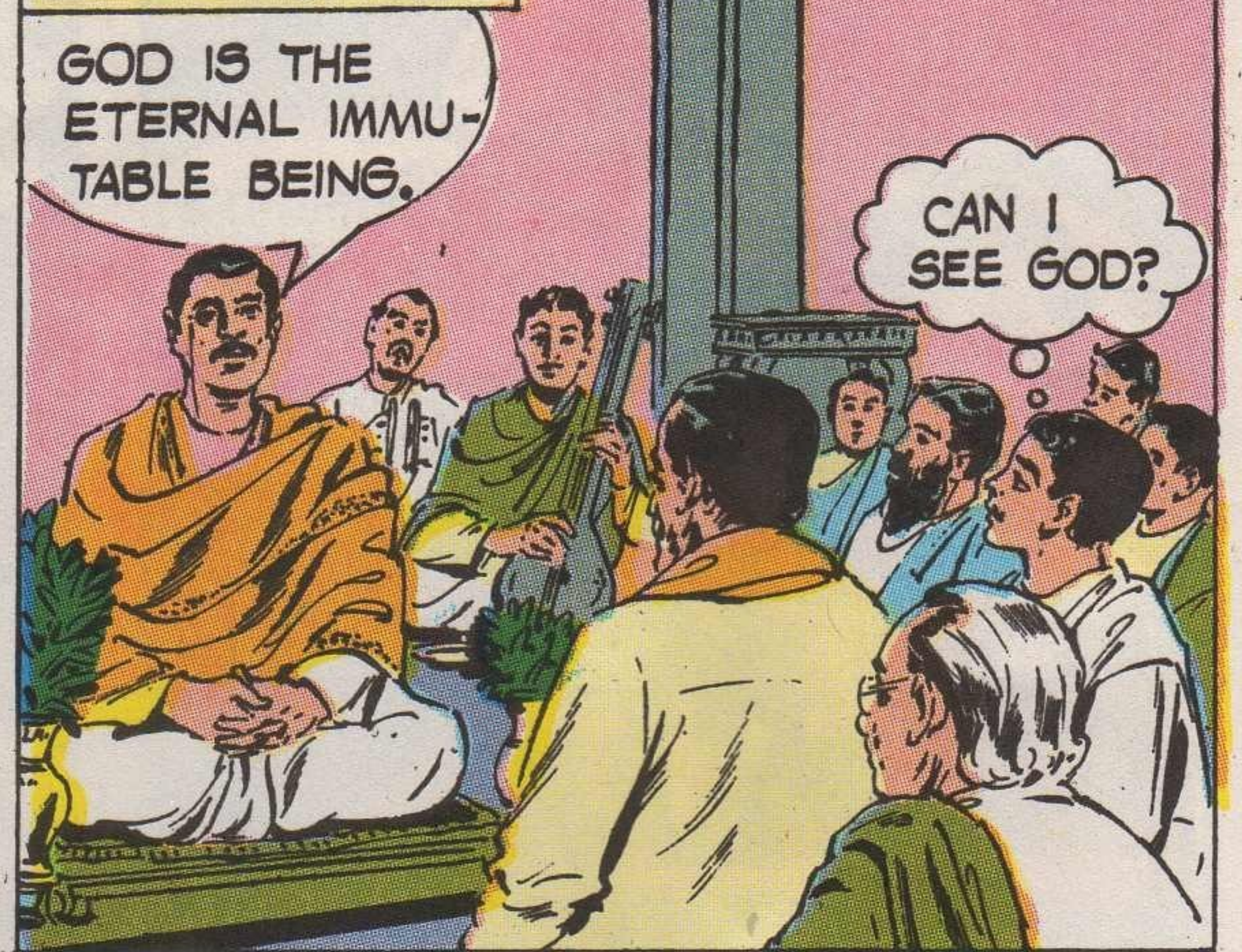
FORTHRIGHT LIKE MANY CHILDREN, NAREN WAS BOLD TOO. ONE DAY, HIS FATHER WAS SHOCKED TO FIND HIM NEAR HIS HOOKAHS.



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.*

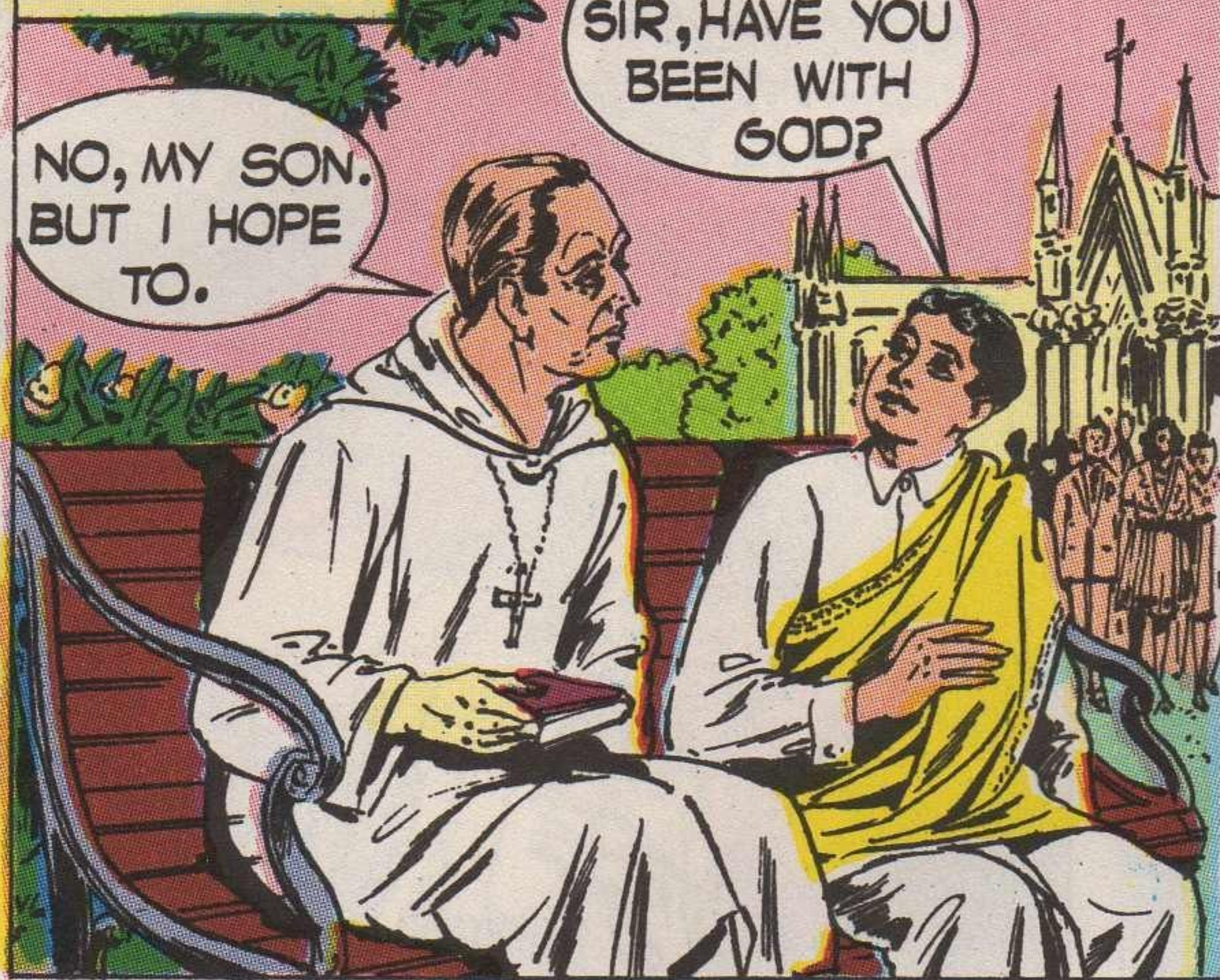


SOON, HE WAS BURNING WITH THE DESIRE TO KNOW AND EXPERIENCE GOD. ONE DAY, WHILE HE WAS ALONE WITH DEVENDRANATH TAGORE, THE LEADER OF THE BRAHMO SAMAJ—

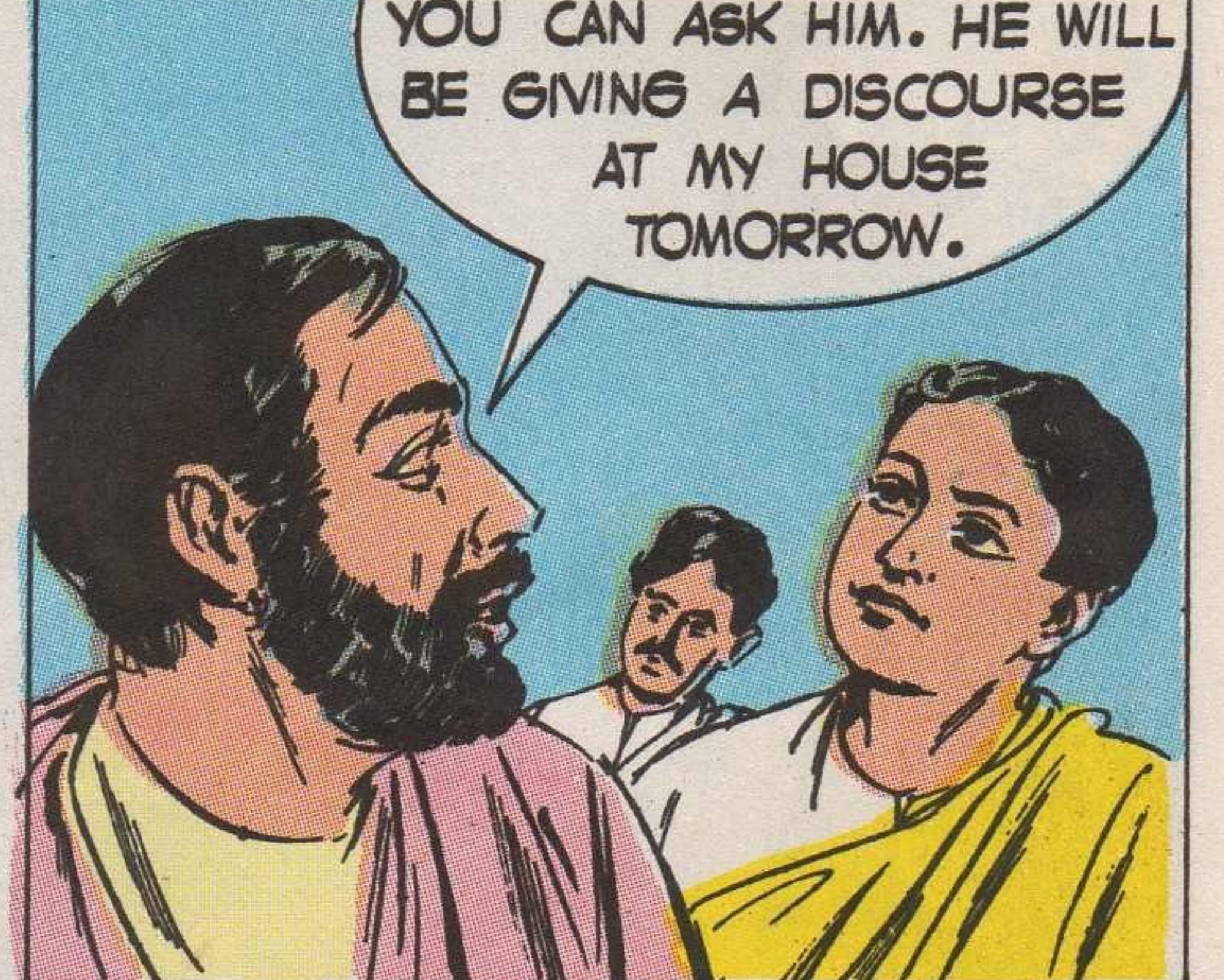
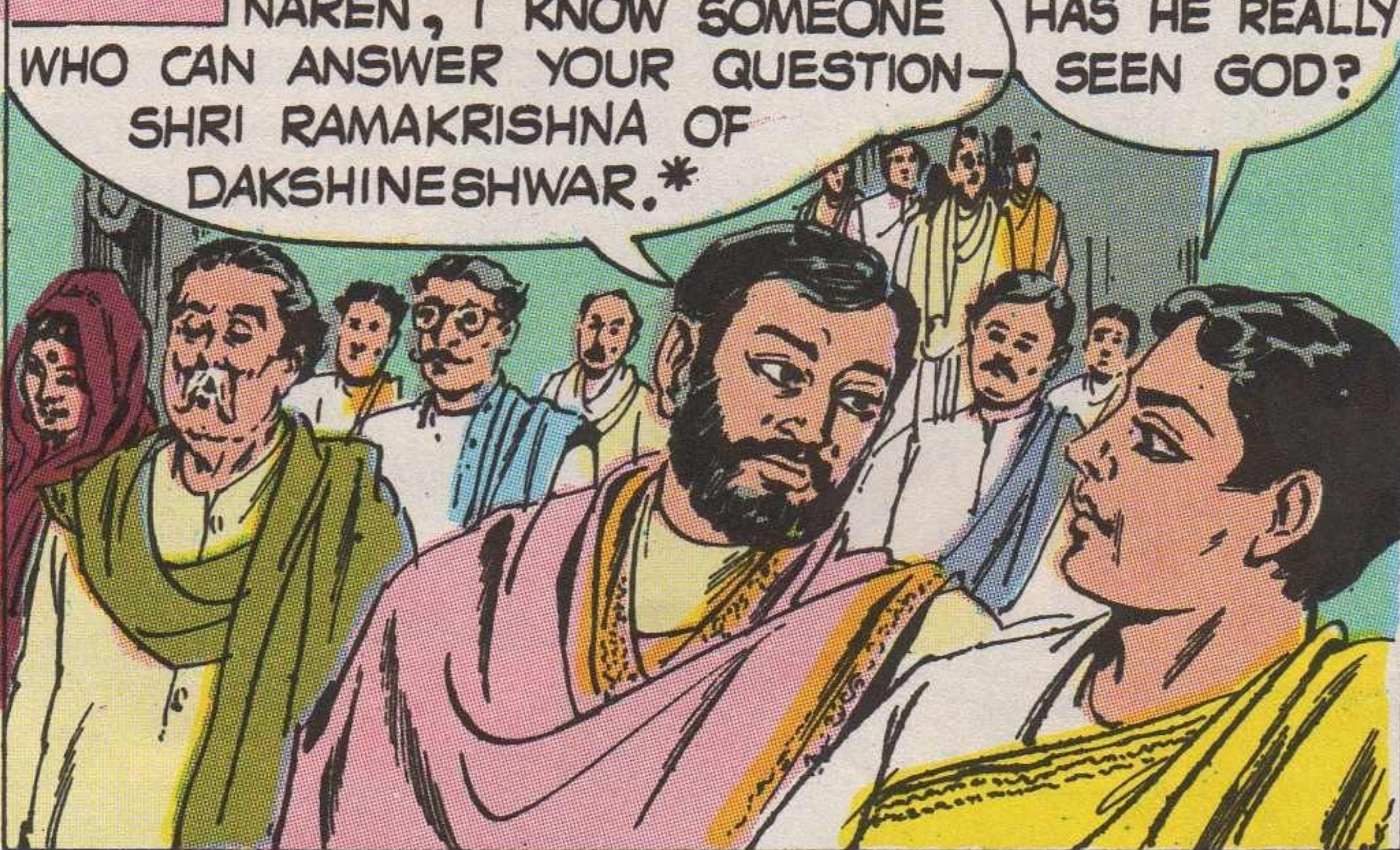


* A REFORMIST SECT FOUNDED BY RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY.

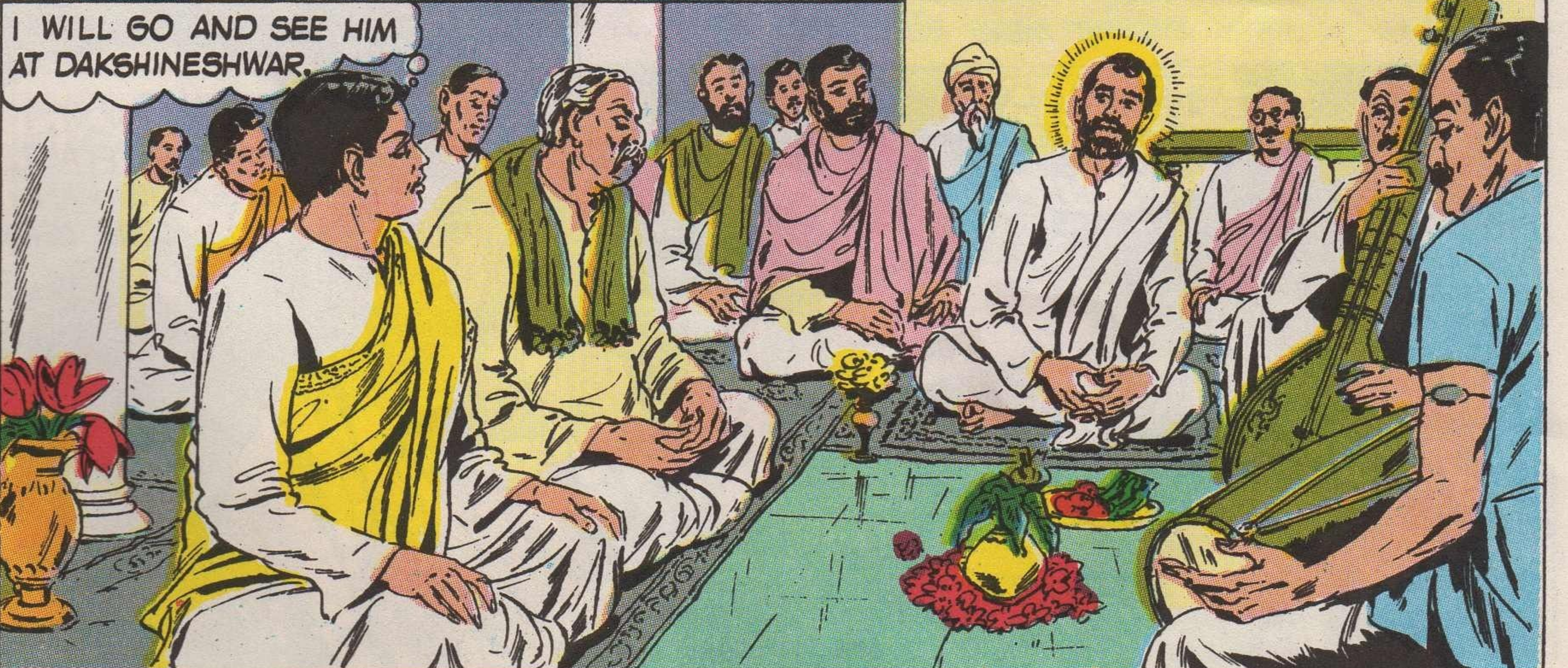
IN HIS CEASELESS AND INSISTENT QUEST FOR GOD, HE APPROACHED MANY A PARSON AND PANDIT.



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.

WHEN NAREN WENT TO DAKSHINESHWAR TO MEET RAMAKRISHNA —



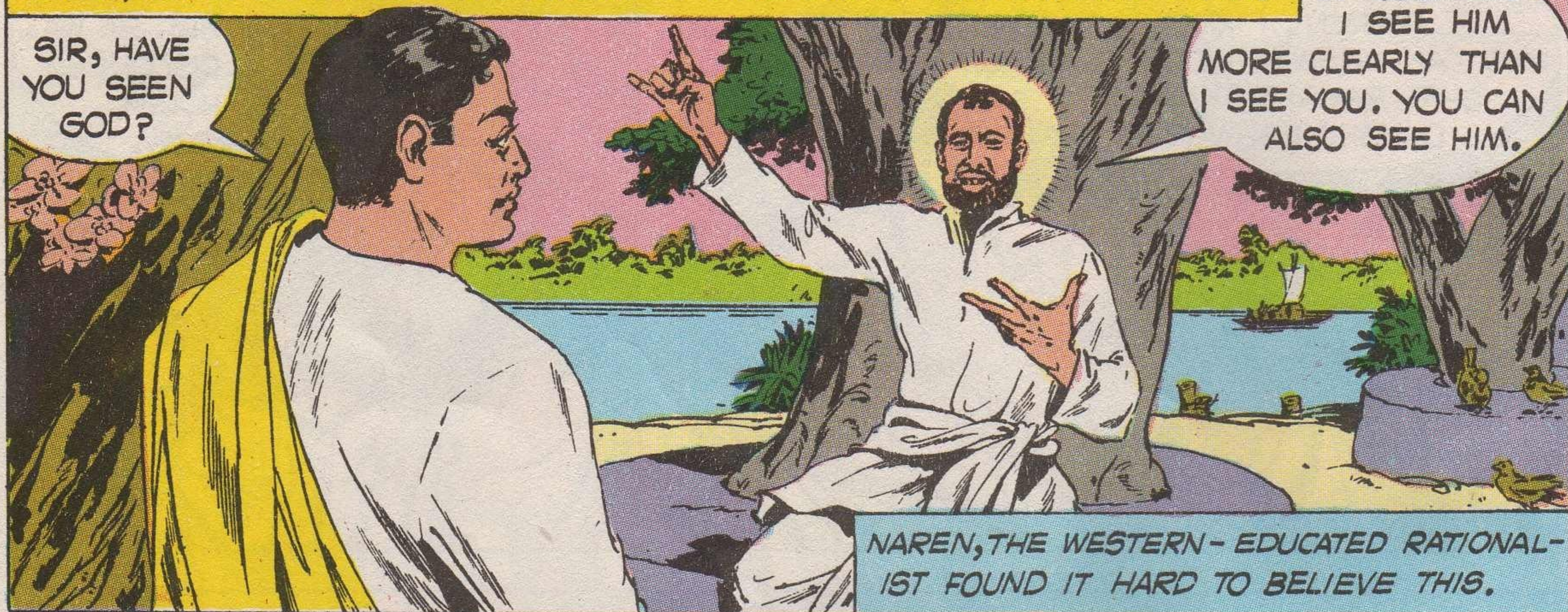
AH, YOU HAVE COME AT LAST! HE TALKS AS IF HE KNOWS ME.
WHY DID YOU KEEP ME WAITING SO LONG?

I KNOW YOU. YOU ARE NARAYANA, COME DOWN TO HELP HUMANITY.

WHAT DOES HE MEAN? I AM VISHWANATH DATTA'S SON.



LATER, NAREN ASKED HIM THE QUESTION THAT HAUNTED HIM DAY AND NIGHT.



SIR, HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

OF COURSE. I SEE HIM MORE CLEARLY THAN I SEE YOU. YOU CAN ALSO SEE HIM.

NAREN, THE WESTERN-EDUCATED RATIONALIST FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THIS.

LATER, WHEN MITRA AND HE WERE RETURNING HOME —



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF RAMAKRISHNA?

I DON'T KNOW. I LIKE THE PLACE. I LIKE THE MAN. I WILL COME AGAIN.

A FEW DAYS LATER —

NAREN, NEXT SATURDAY
I'LL BE GOING TO
DAKSHINESHWAR.

I WILL
JOIN YOU.

ON THEIR WAY TO DAKSHINESHWAR —

NAREN, DO
YOU ACCEPT
ALL THAT RAMA-
KRISHNA SAYS?

NO. HOW
CAN I?

THE FACE OF THE MAN WHO HAD SEEN GOD, HAUNTED NAREN. HE BEGAN VISITING DAKSHINESHWAR
FREQUENTLY. ONE DAY —

NAREN, WHY DO
YOU SMILE? MAY
I SHARE YOUR
JOKE?

SHH!

WHEN RAMAKRISHNA SAT ON THE BED
AS USUAL, HE GOT UP WITH A START.

OH, IT'S BURNING! MY
WHOLE BODY
IS BURNING.

WHO PUT THIS SILVER COIN
UNDER MY MATTRESS?

I DID. YOU HAD SAID
YOU COULDN'T STAND
THE TOUCH OF MONEY.
I WANTED TO TEST
YOU.

VISHWANATH DATTA THOUGHT THAT THE MEETING WITH RAMAKRISHNA MADE HIS SON EVEN MORE RESTLESS.

NAREN, I WANT YOU TO MARRY AND SETTLE DOWN. I HAVE CHOSEN A GIRL FOR YOU.

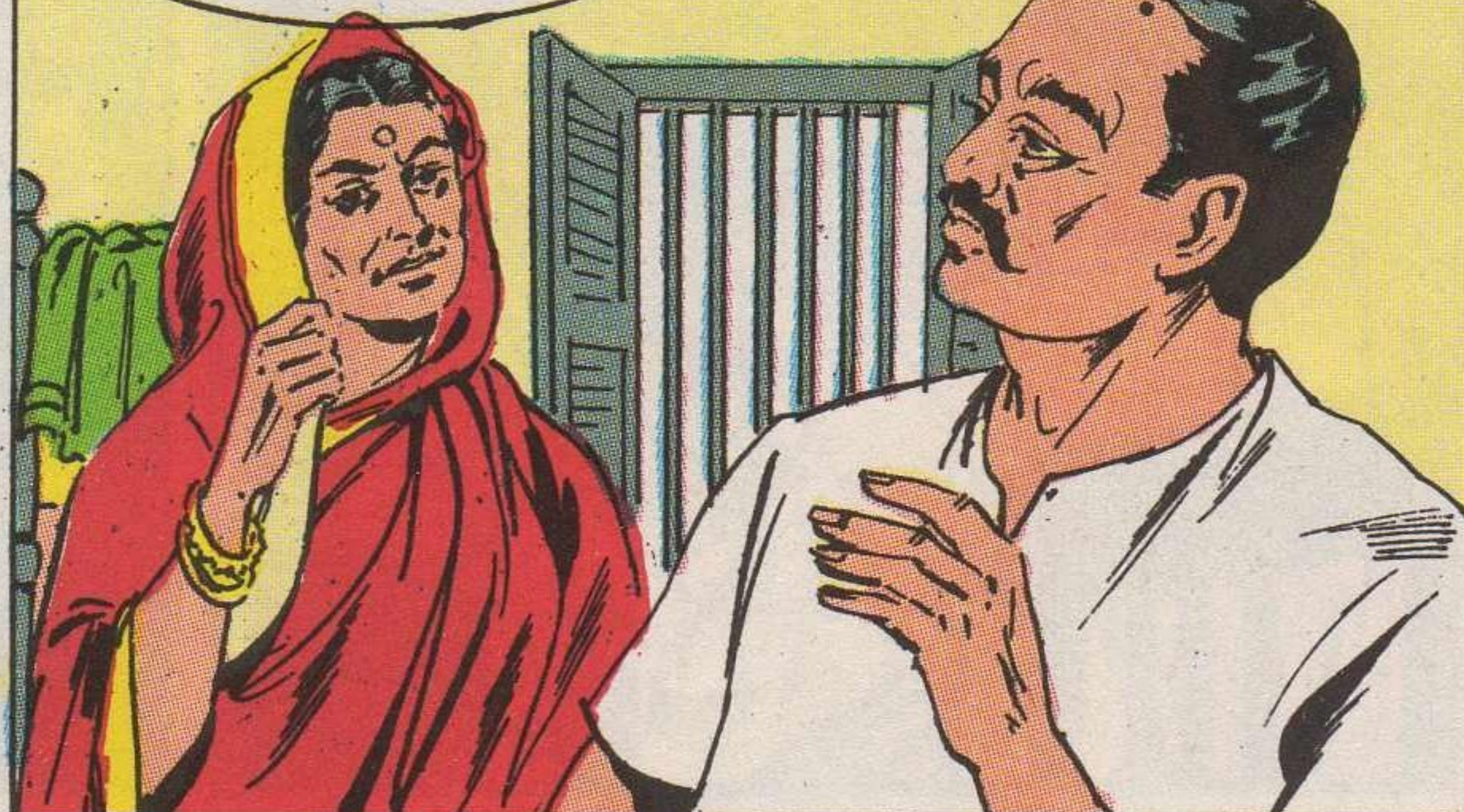
MARRIAGE IS NOT YET FOR ME, FATHER!



A FEW DAYS LATER, BHUVANESHWARI CAME TO VISHWANATH WITH A SUGGESTION.

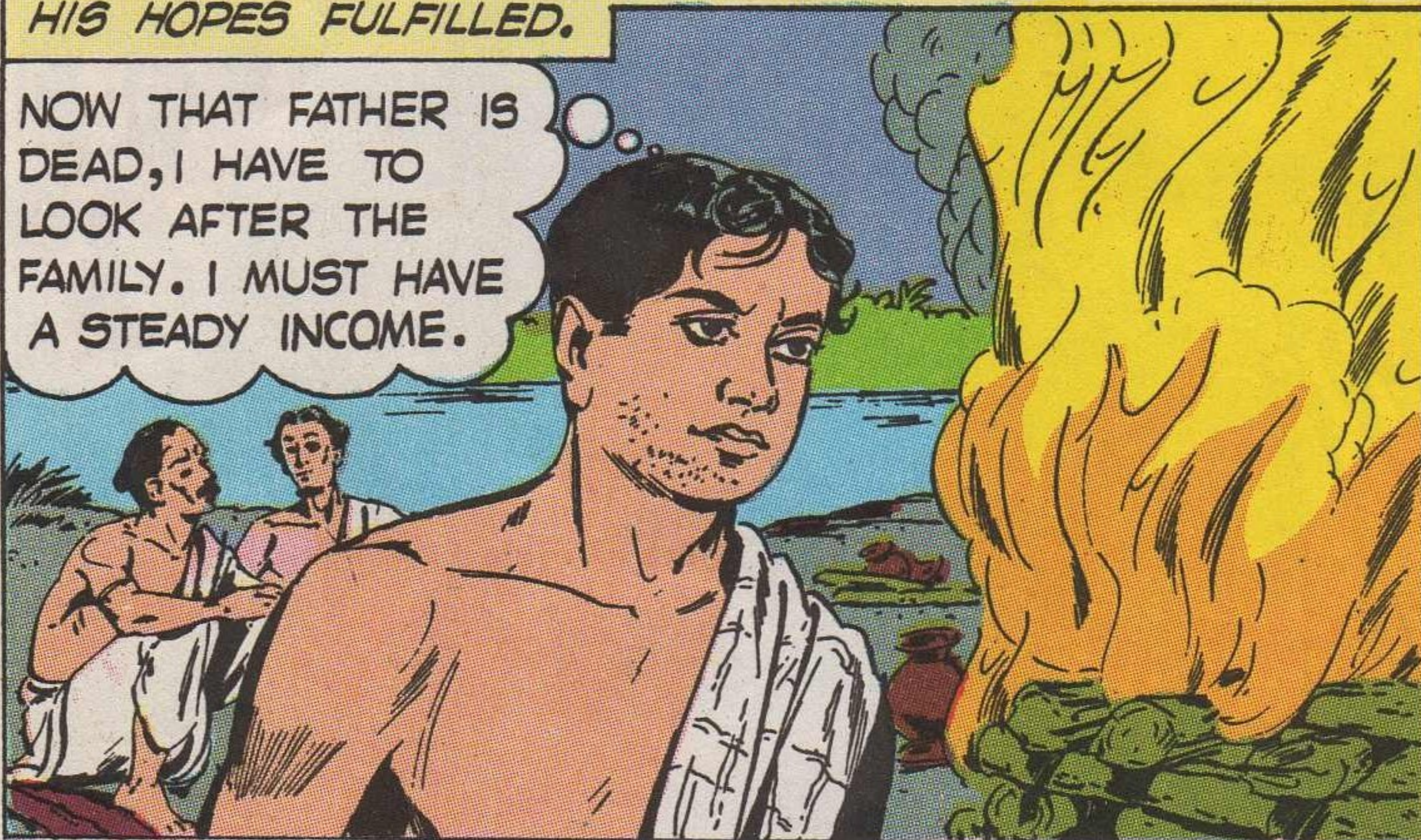
WE ARE GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES. I THINK NAREN SHOULD GET A JOB AND HELP YOU.

HAVE PATIENCE, MY DEAR. I EXPECT GREAT THINGS OF HIM.



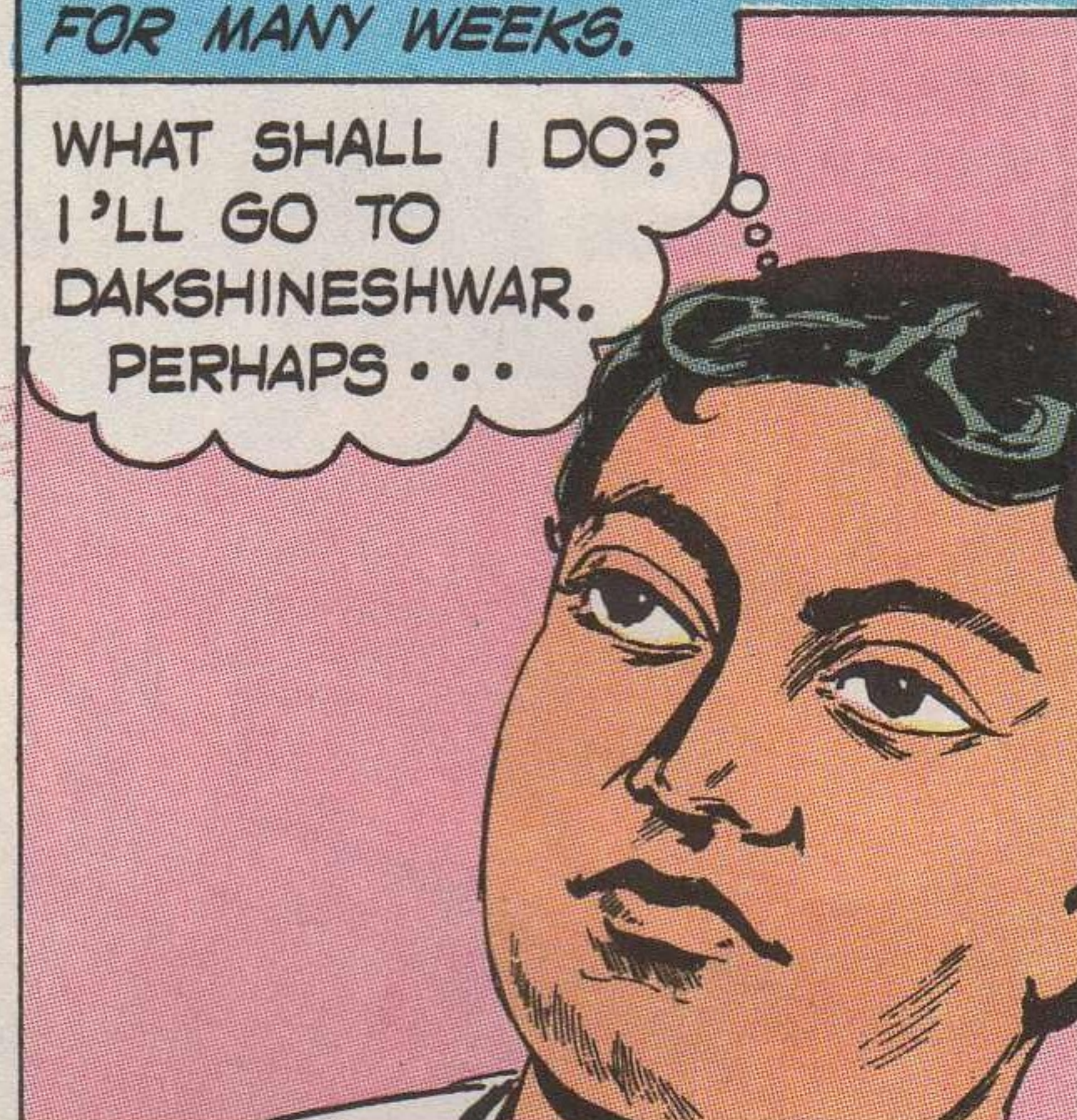
VISHWANATH DATTA DID NOT LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO SEE HIS HOPES FULFILLED.

NOW THAT FATHER IS DEAD, I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER THE FAMILY. I MUST HAVE A STEADY INCOME.



BUT HE COULD NOT GET A JOB FOR MANY WEEKS.

WHAT SHALL I DO? I'LL GO TO DAKSHINESHWAR. PERHAPS...

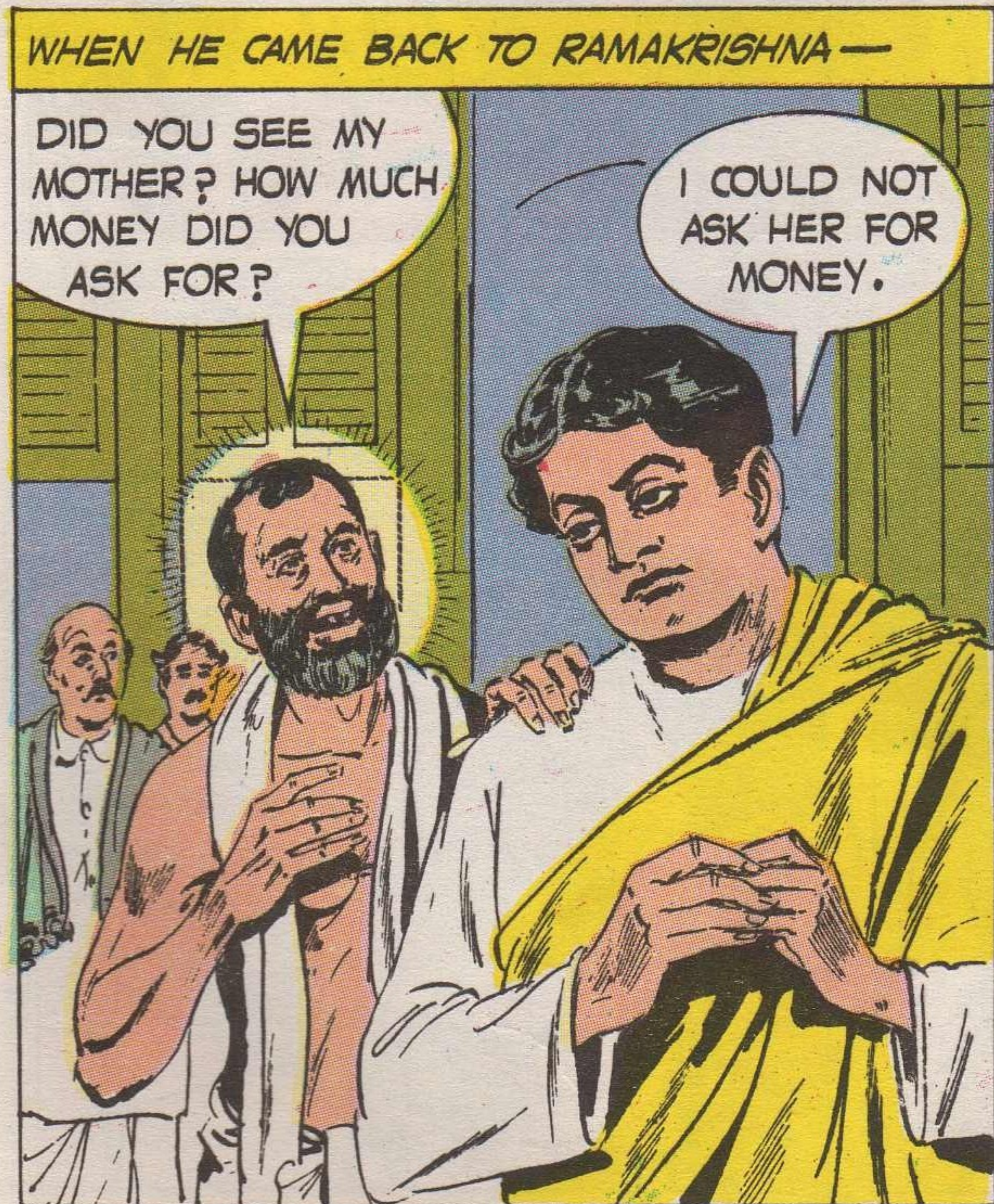


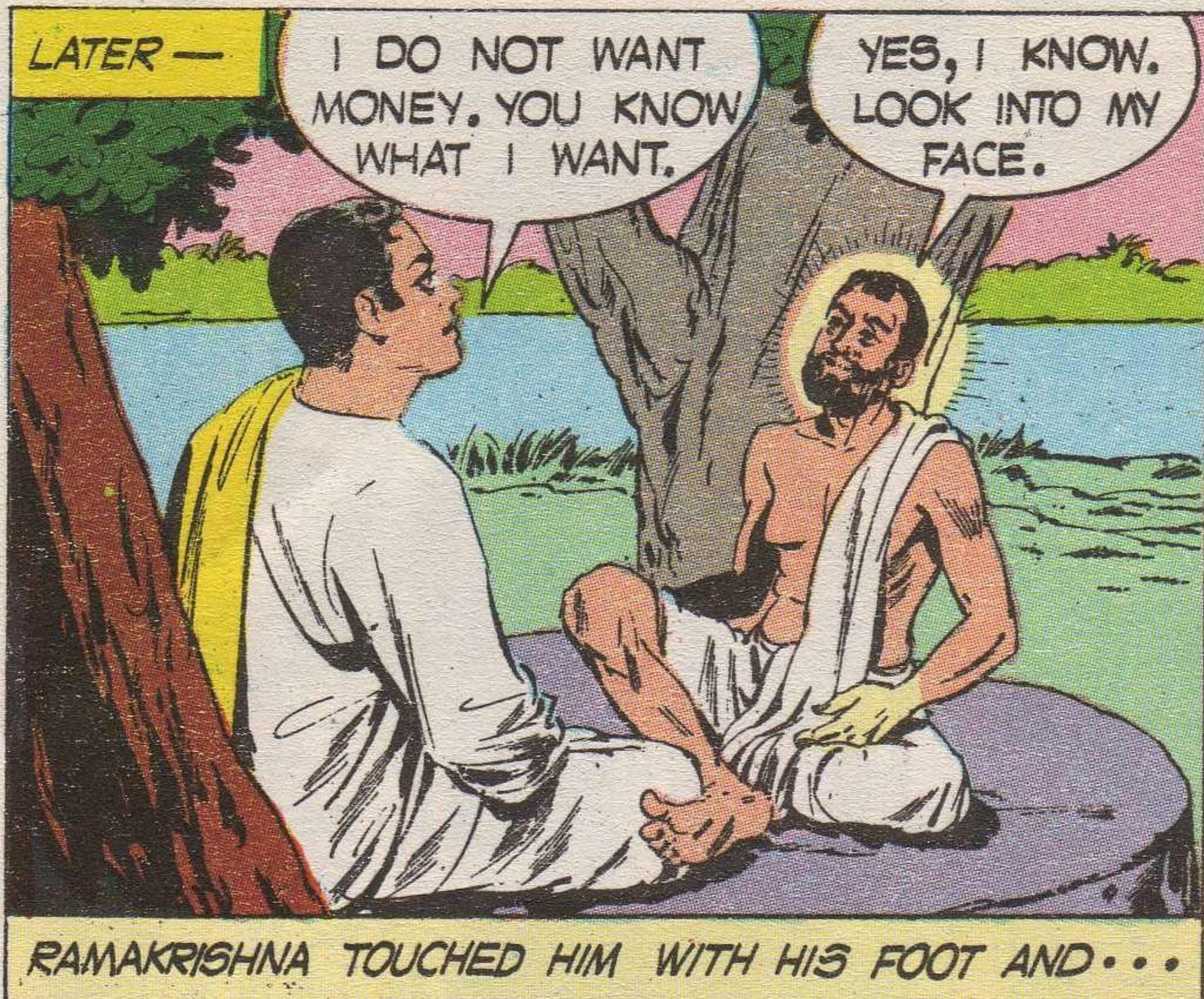
WHEN HE WENT TO DAKSHINESHWAR —

NAREN, WHY ARE YOU SO PALE? ARE YOU ILL?

TELL ME SOMETHING! DOES YOUR MOTHER KALI GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU ASK FOR?



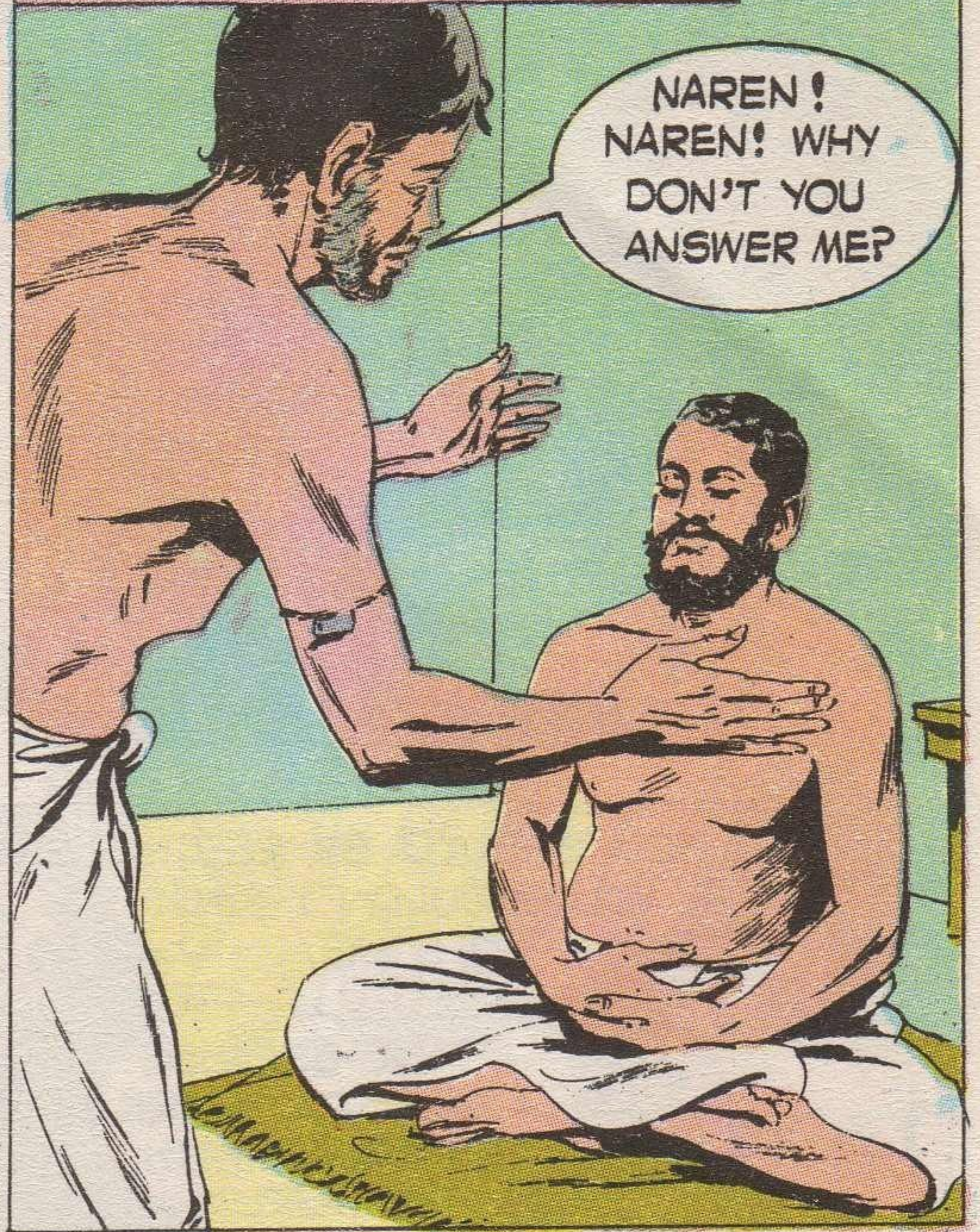




AFTER HIS FIRST SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE, NAREN WAS A CHANGED MAN. AT DAKSHINESHWAR —



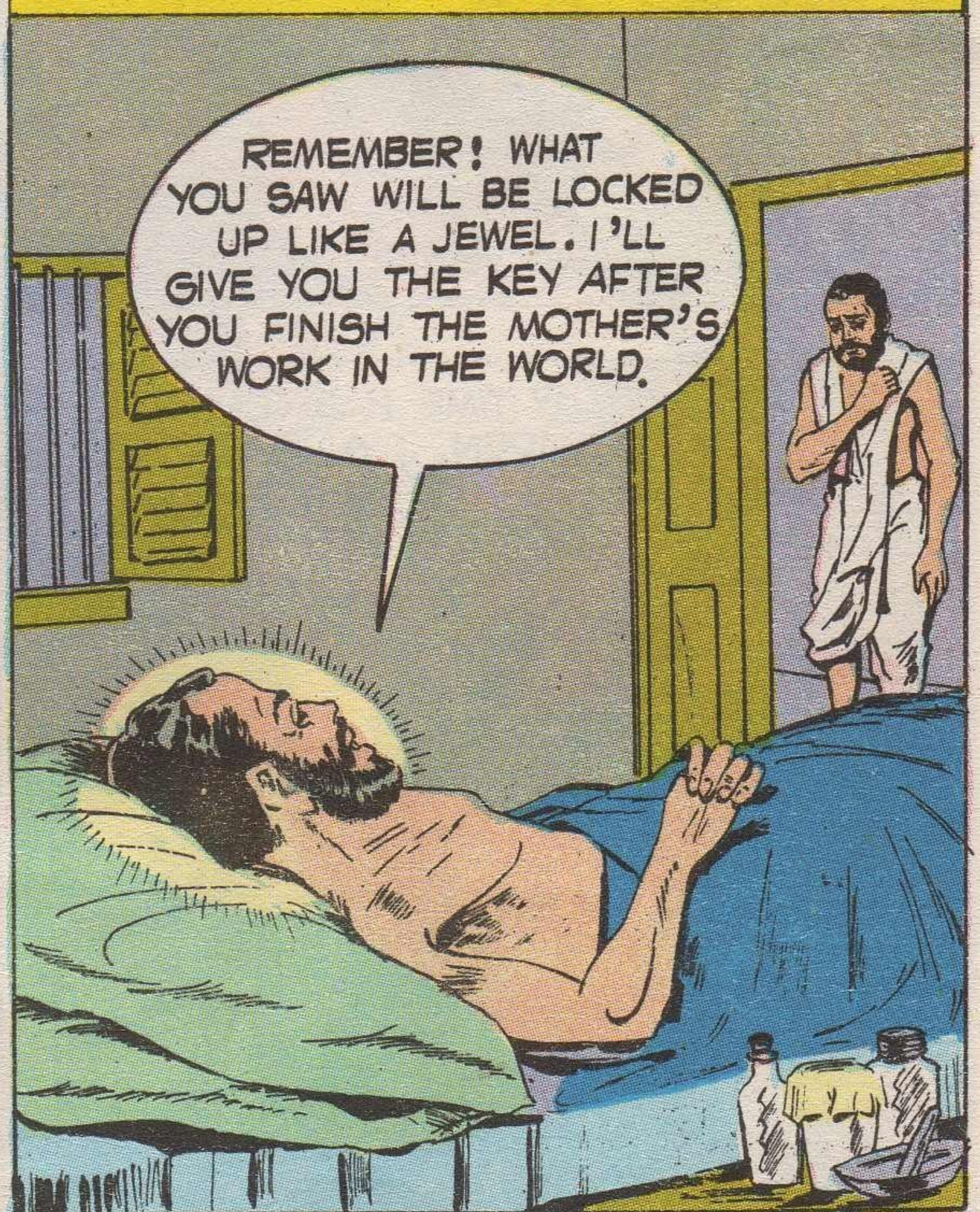
HE BEGAN SPENDING MORE TIME WITH RAMAKRISHNA, WHO WAS THEN UNDER MEDICAL OBSERVATION AT A HOUSE IN NORTH CALCUTTA. ONE DAY —

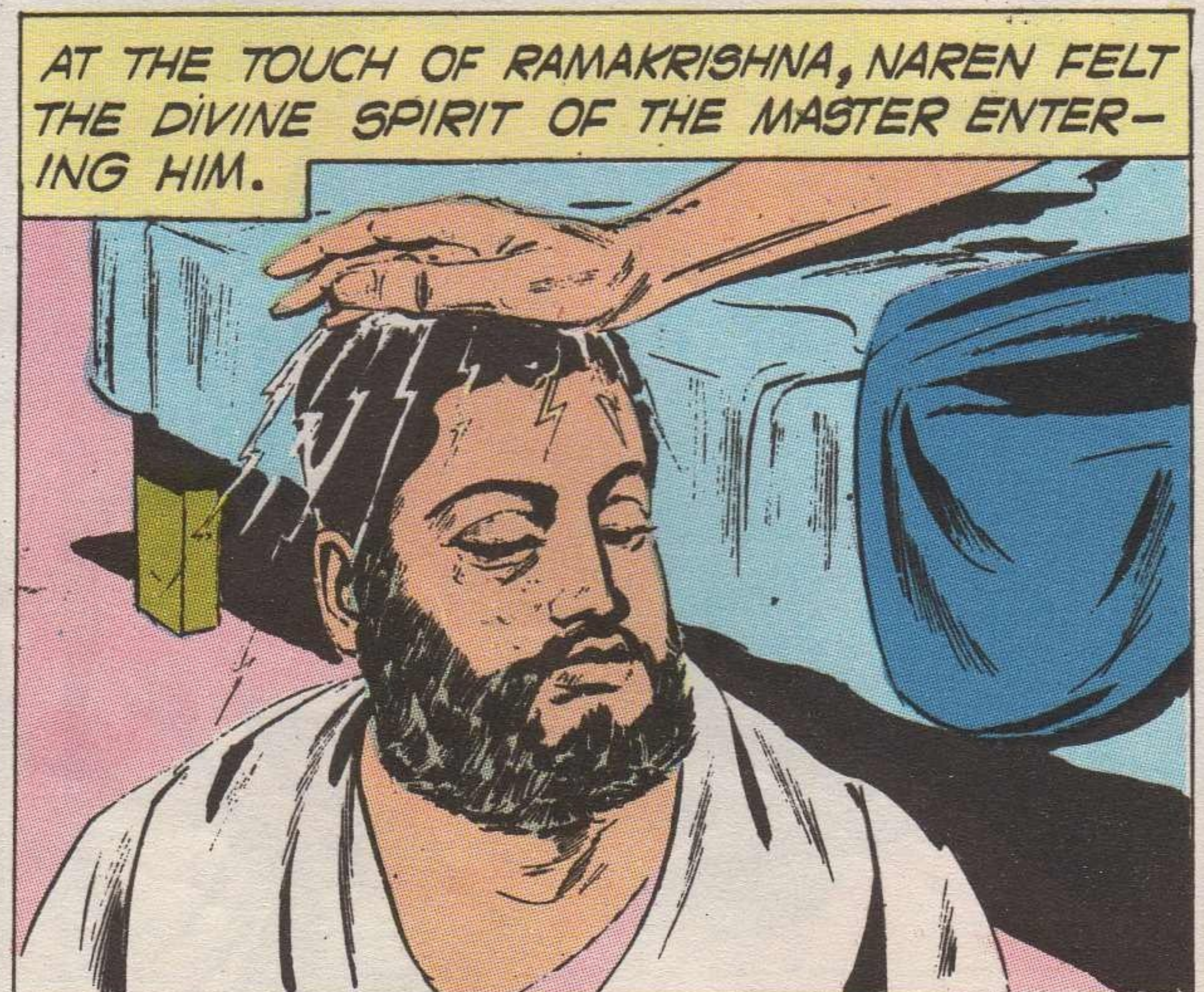
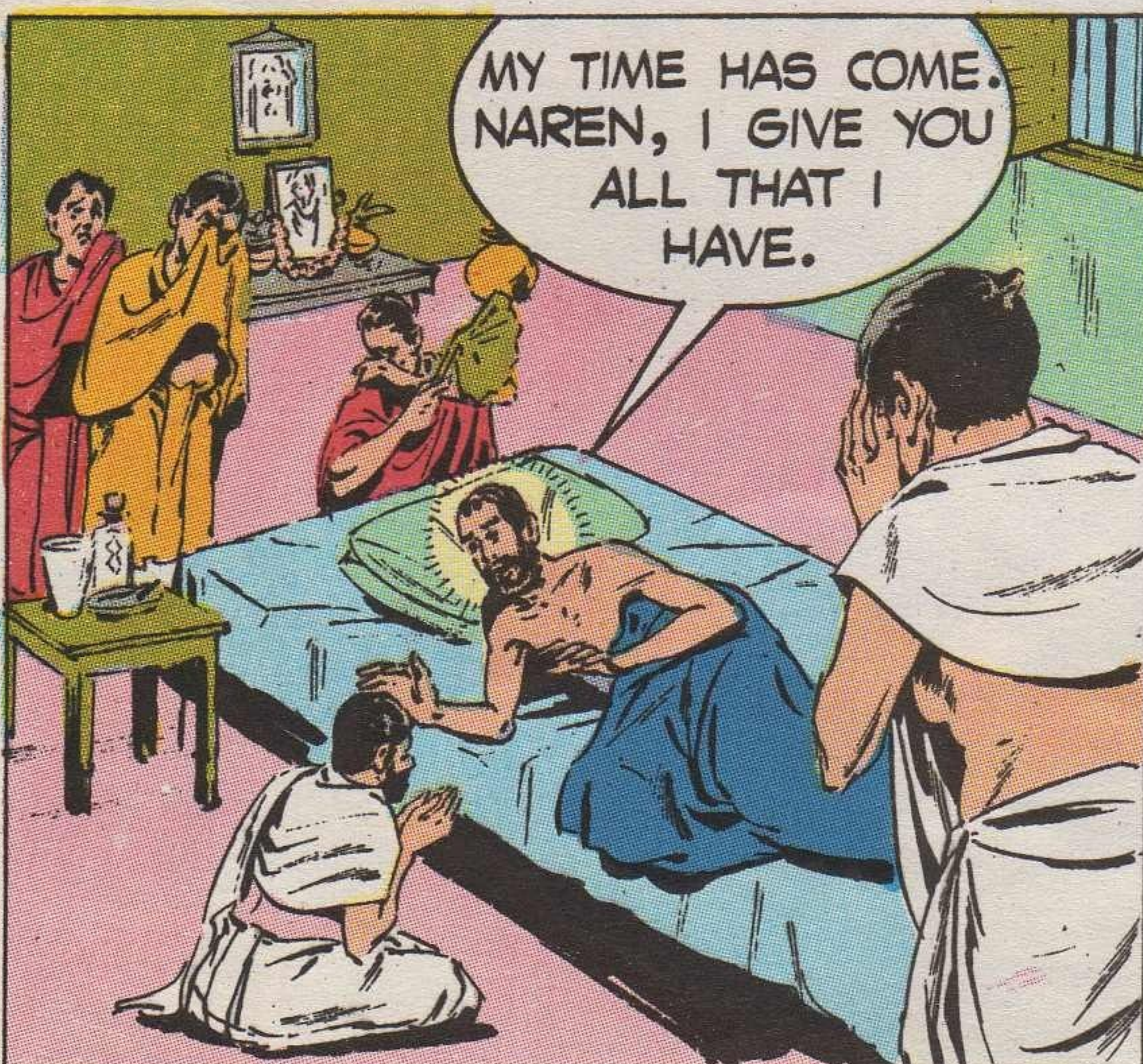
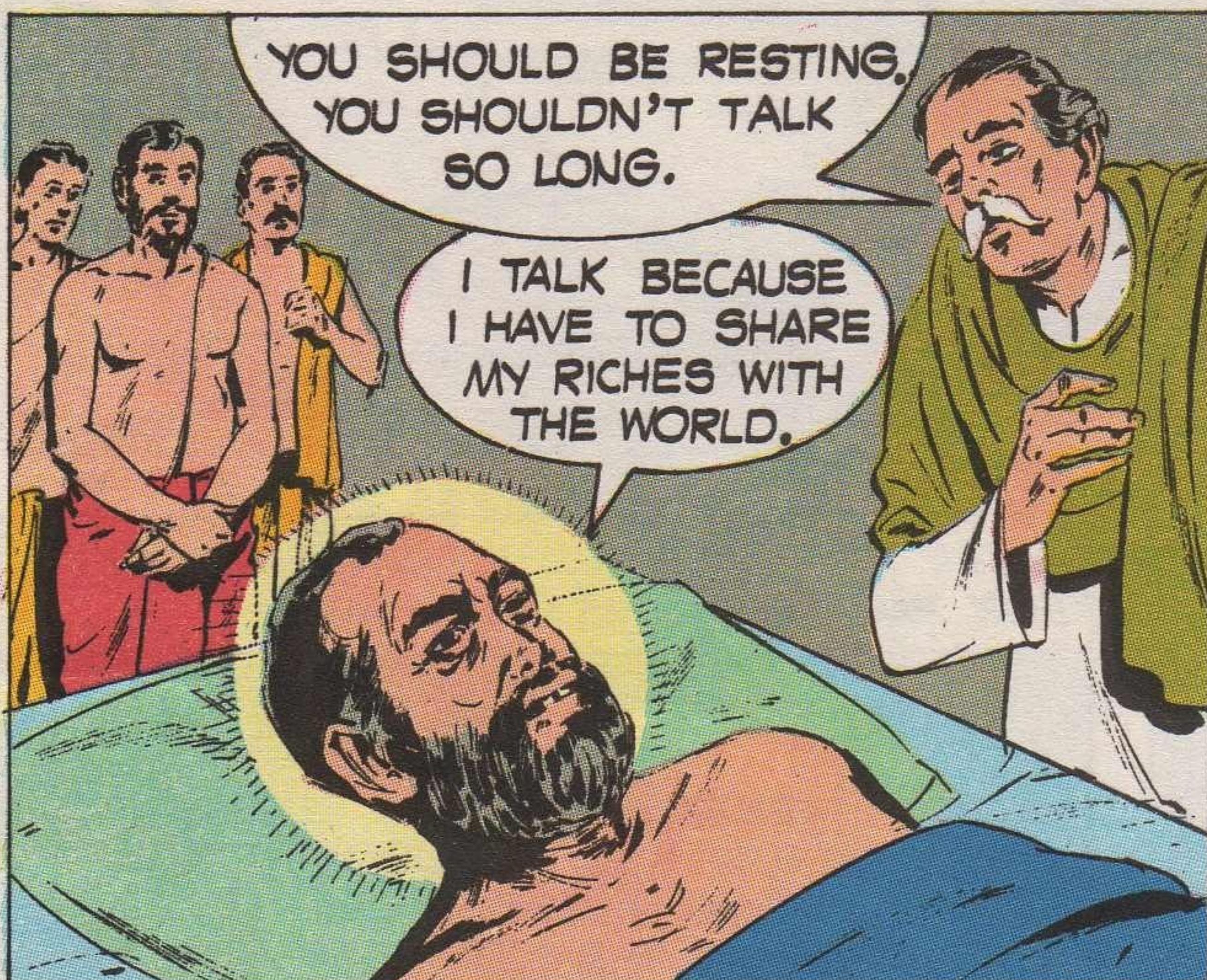
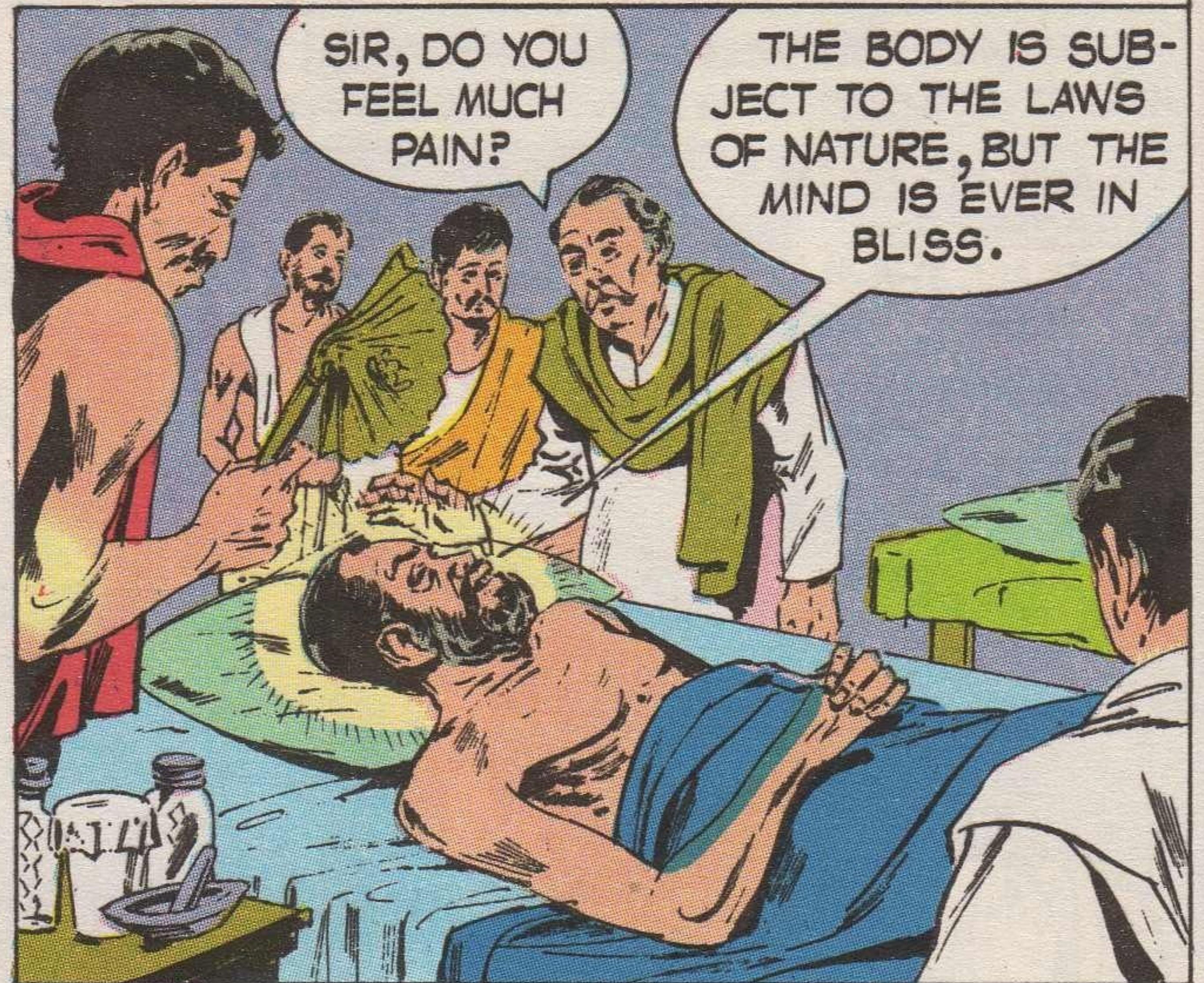
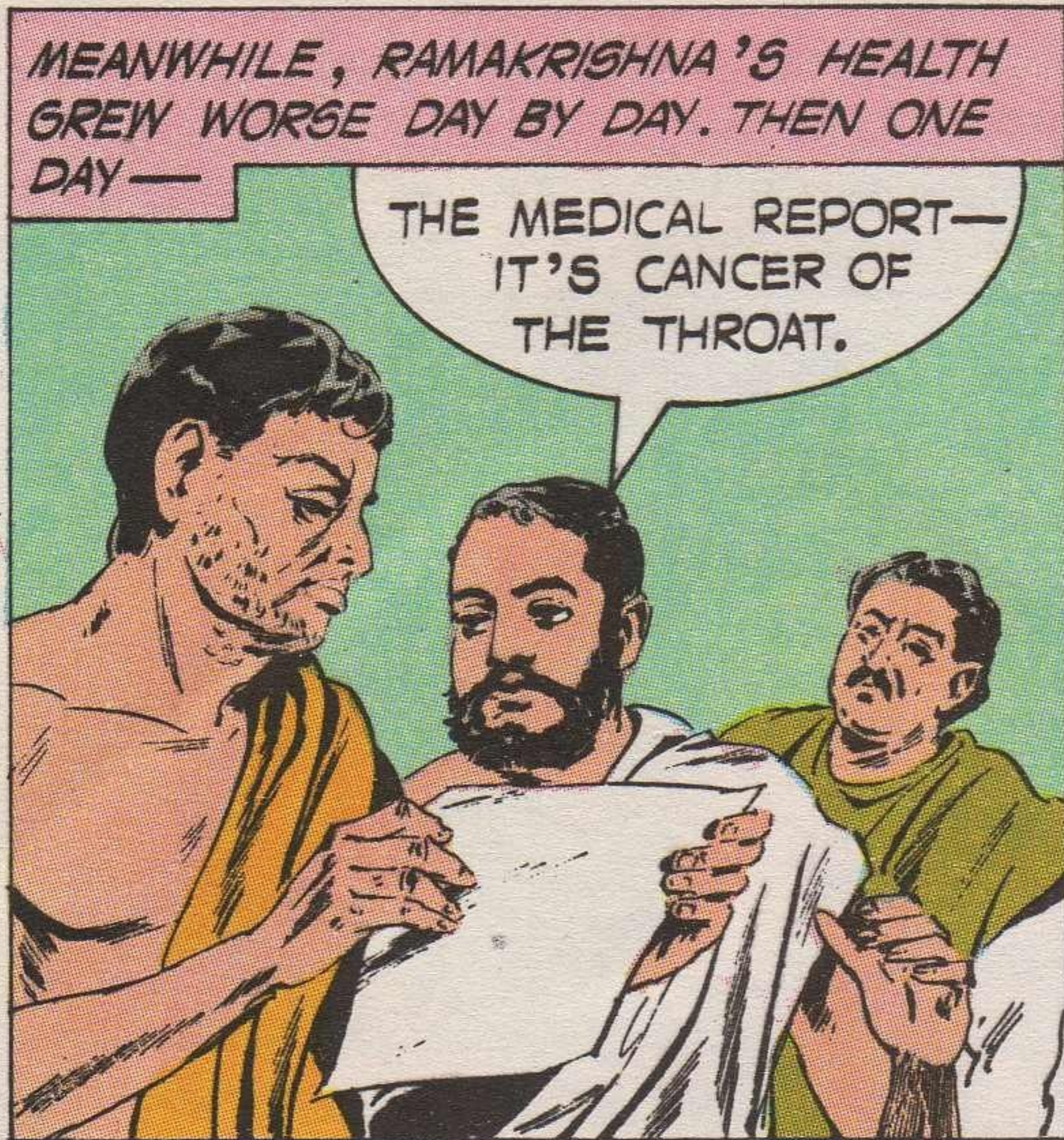


HIS FRIEND RAN UP TO INFORM RAMAKRISHNA.

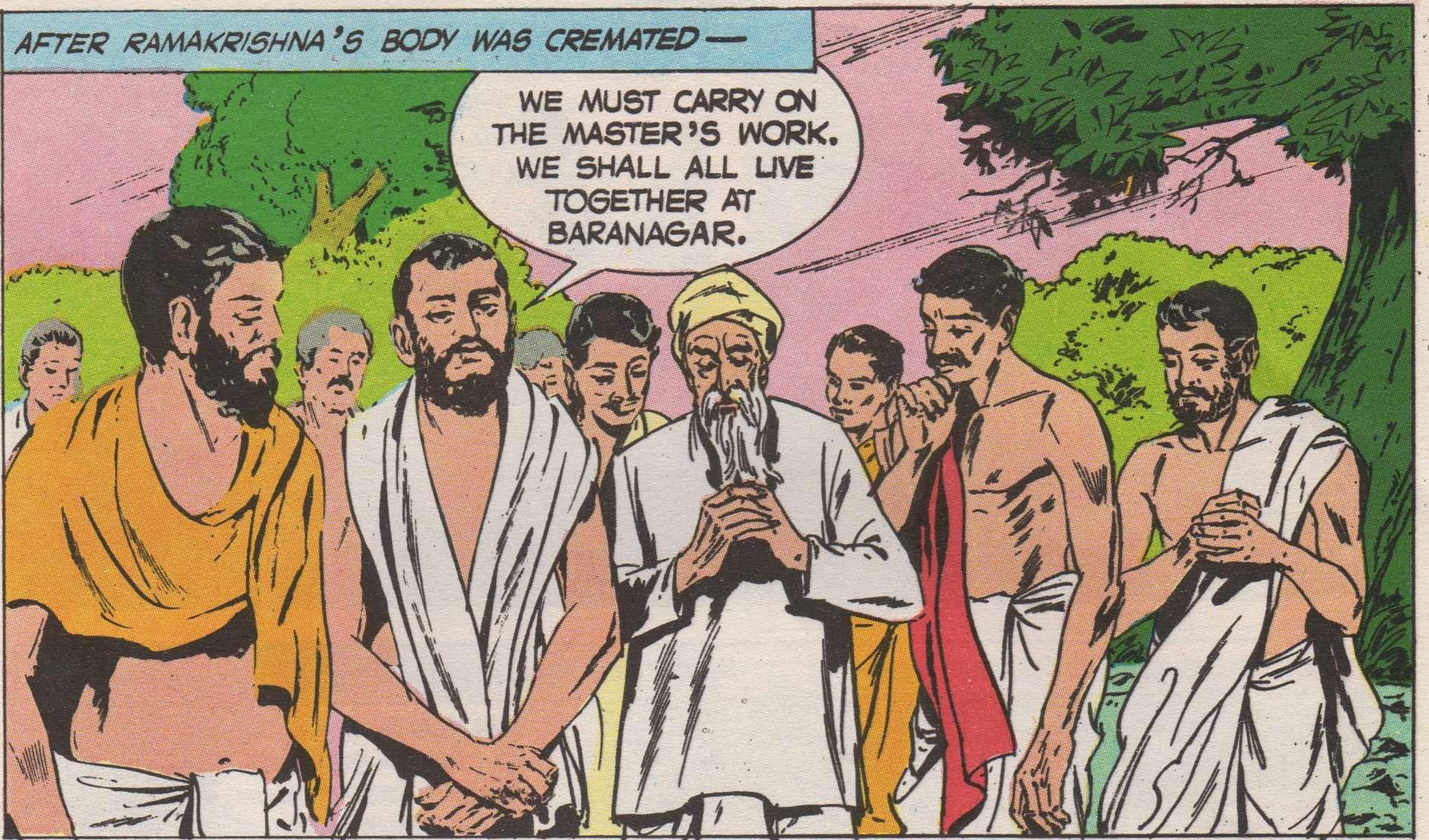


AFTER A WHILE, WHEN NAREN ENTERED SHRI RAMAKRISHNA'S ROOM —

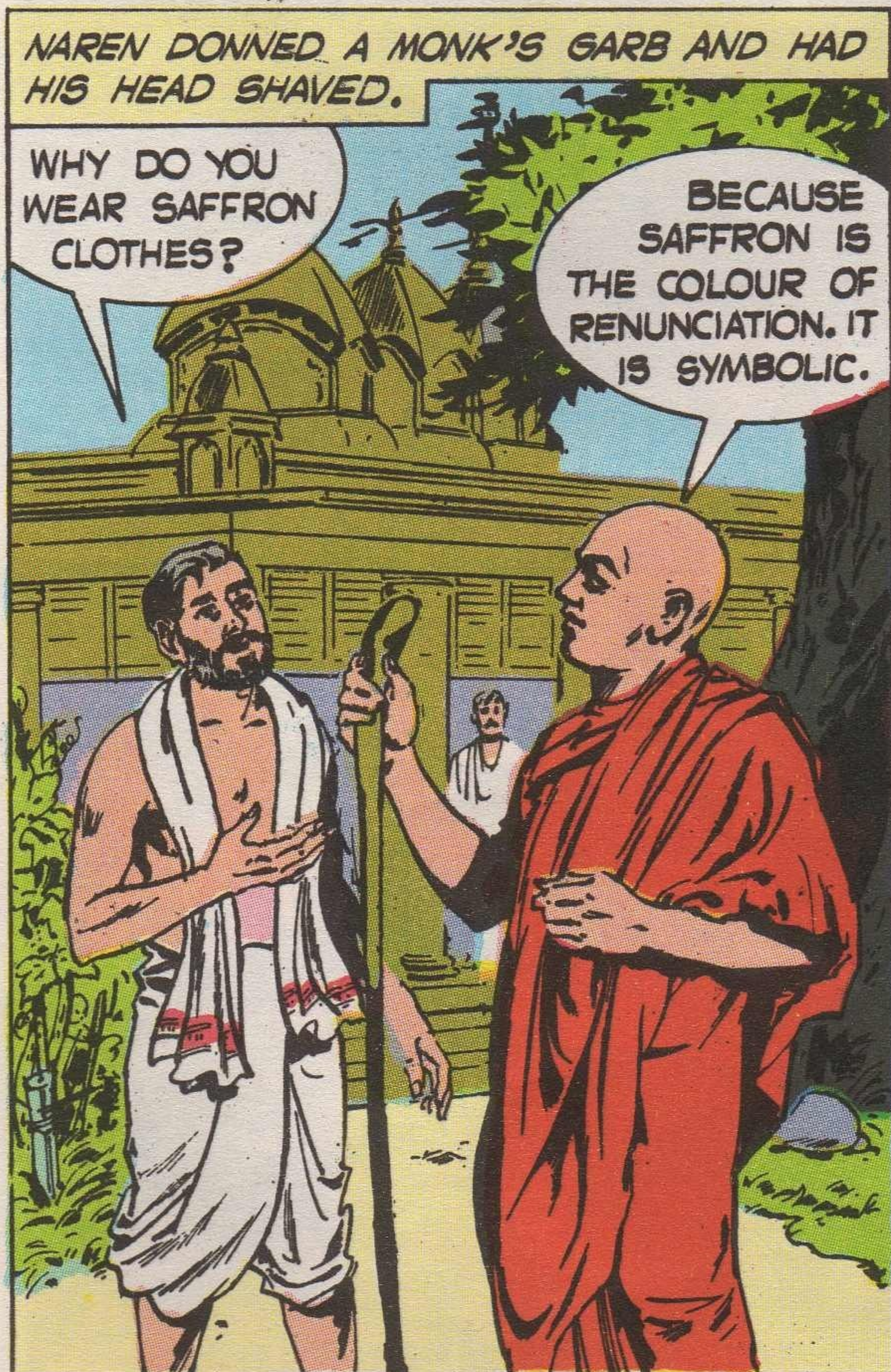




AFTER RAMAKRISHNA'S BODY WAS CREMATED —



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



HE THEN WENT TO SARADA DEVI.*

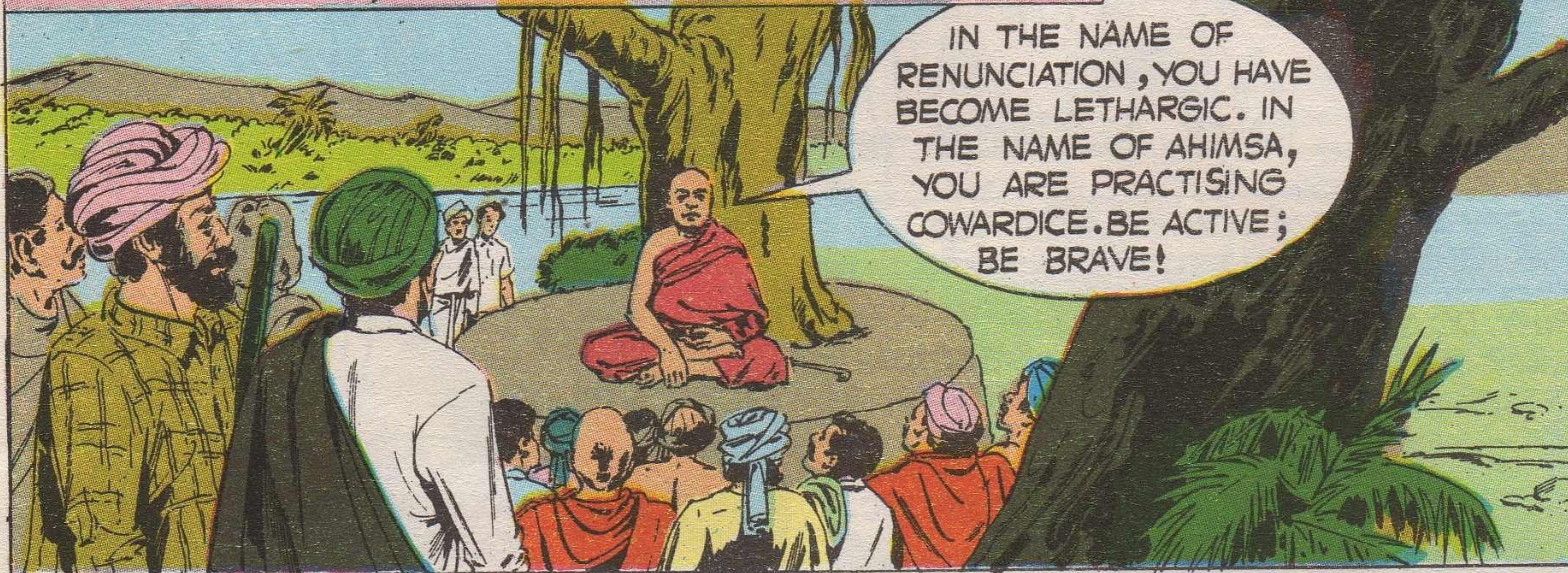


* SRI RAMAKRISHNA'S WIFE

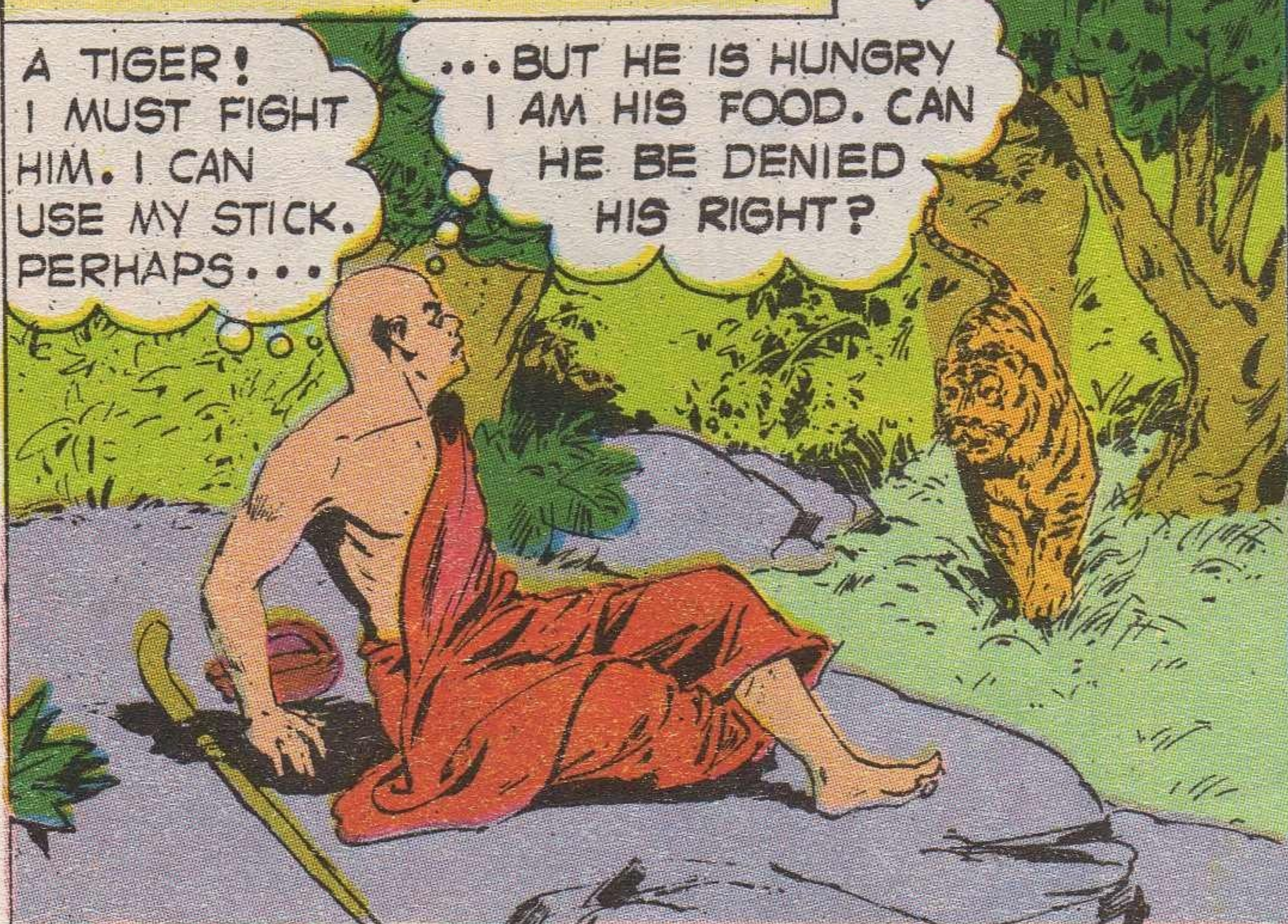
THUS THE SANYASI WITH STAFF IN HAND, STARTED ON HIS PILGRIMAGE.



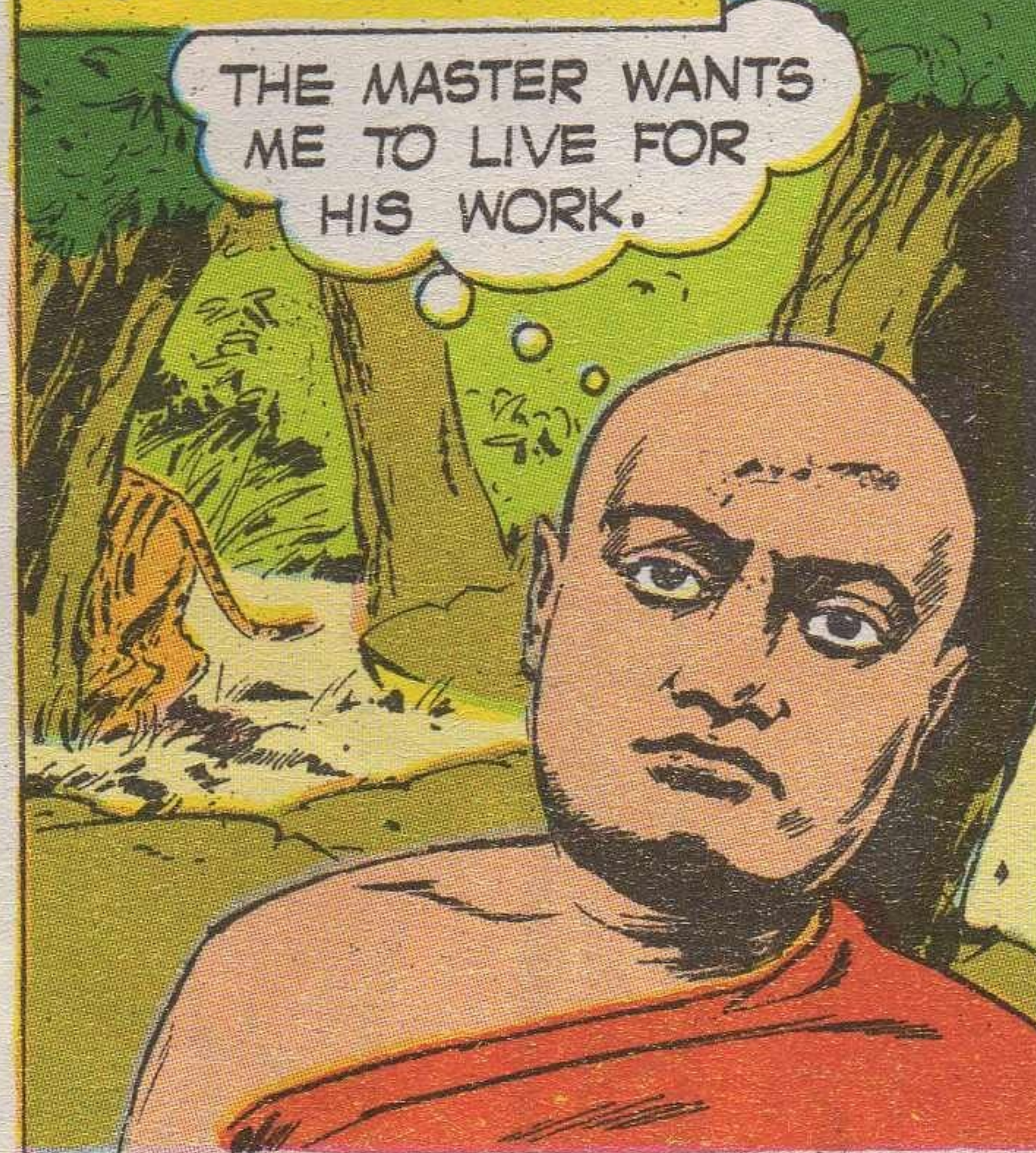
WHEREVER HE WENT, PEOPLE RUSHED TO HEAR HIM SPEAK.



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

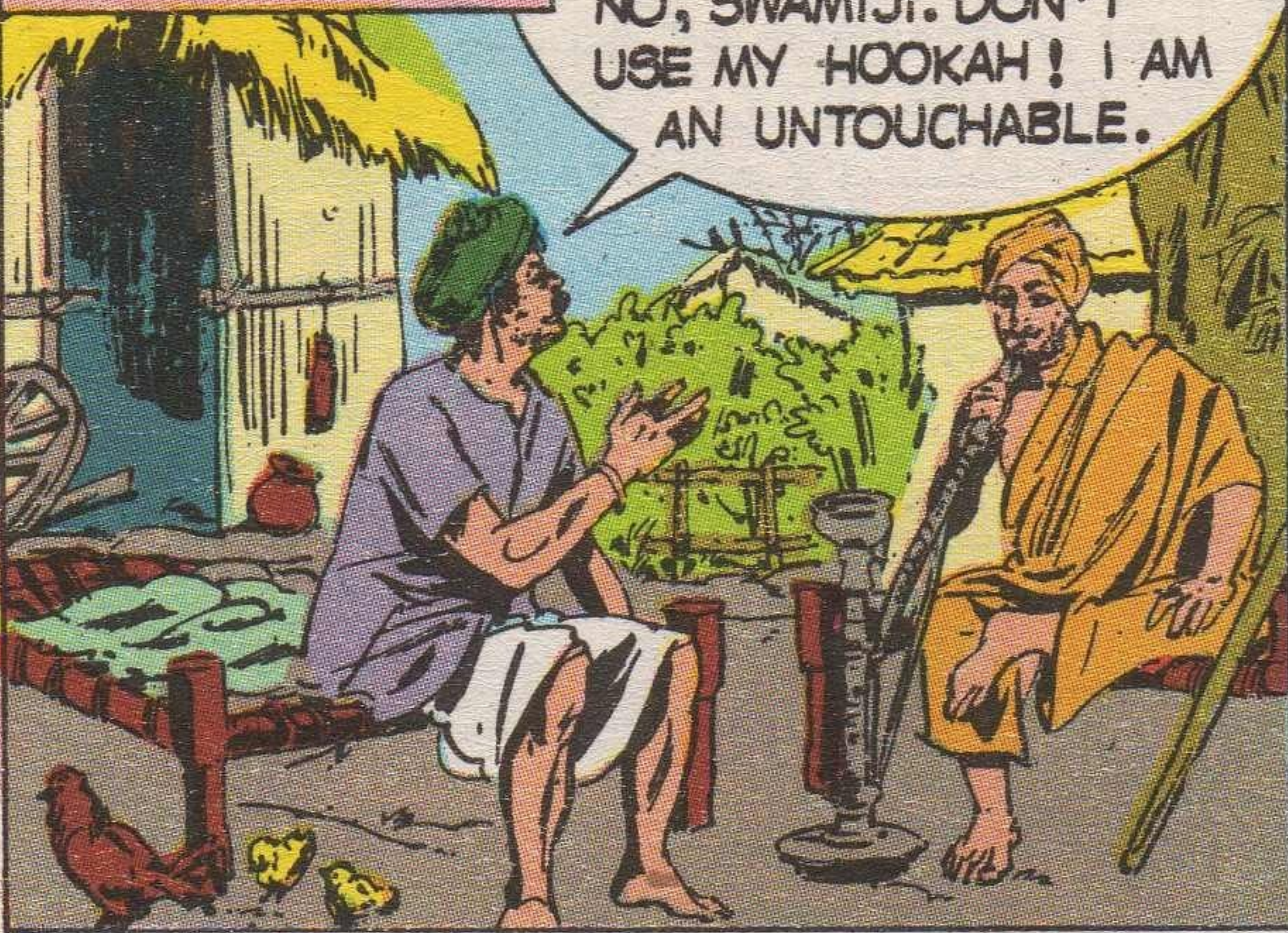


THE TIGER LOOKED AT HIM AND SLOWLY WENT AWAY.

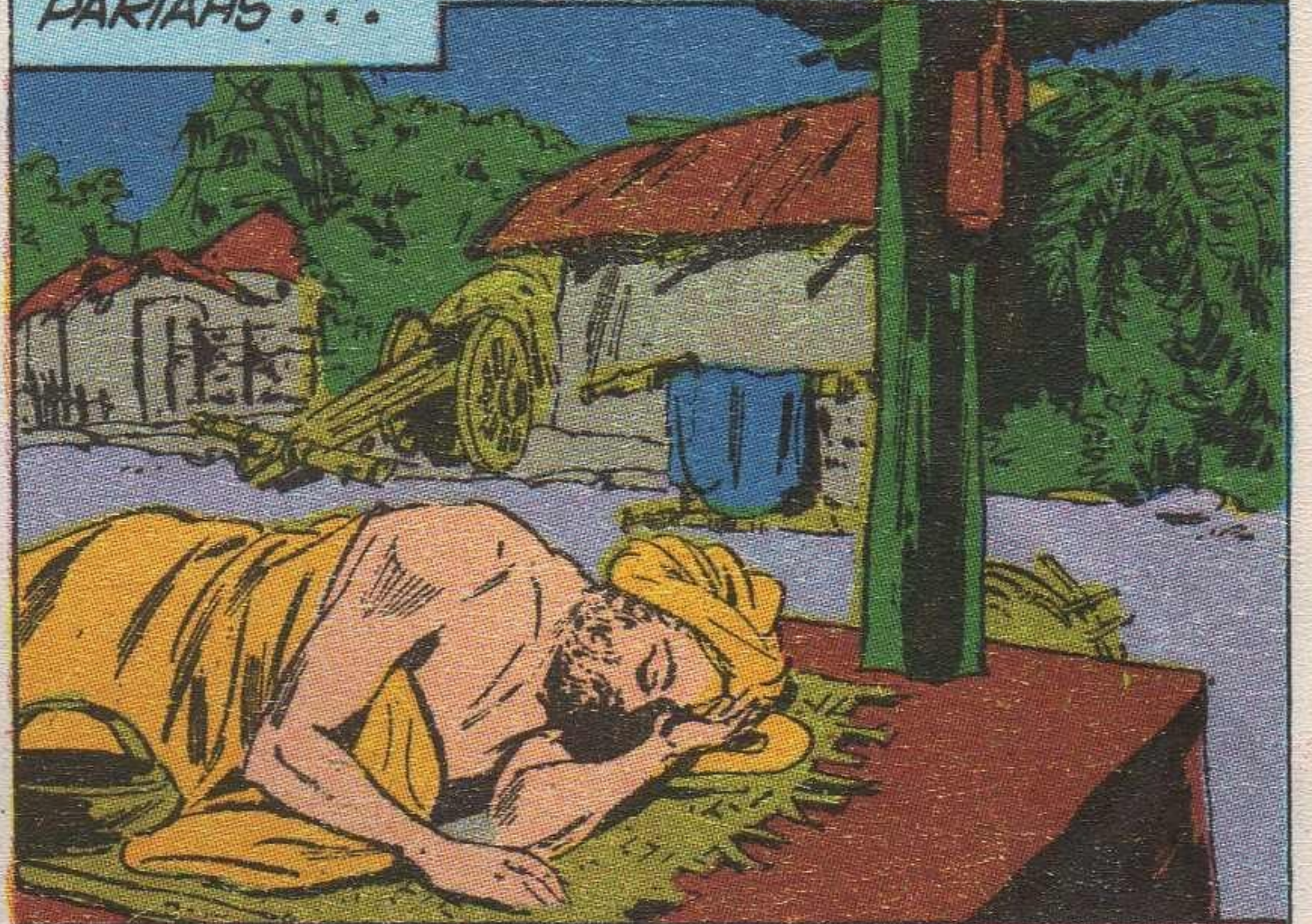


DURING HIS LONG TRAVELS IN INDIA, HE KNEW MANY MEN.

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



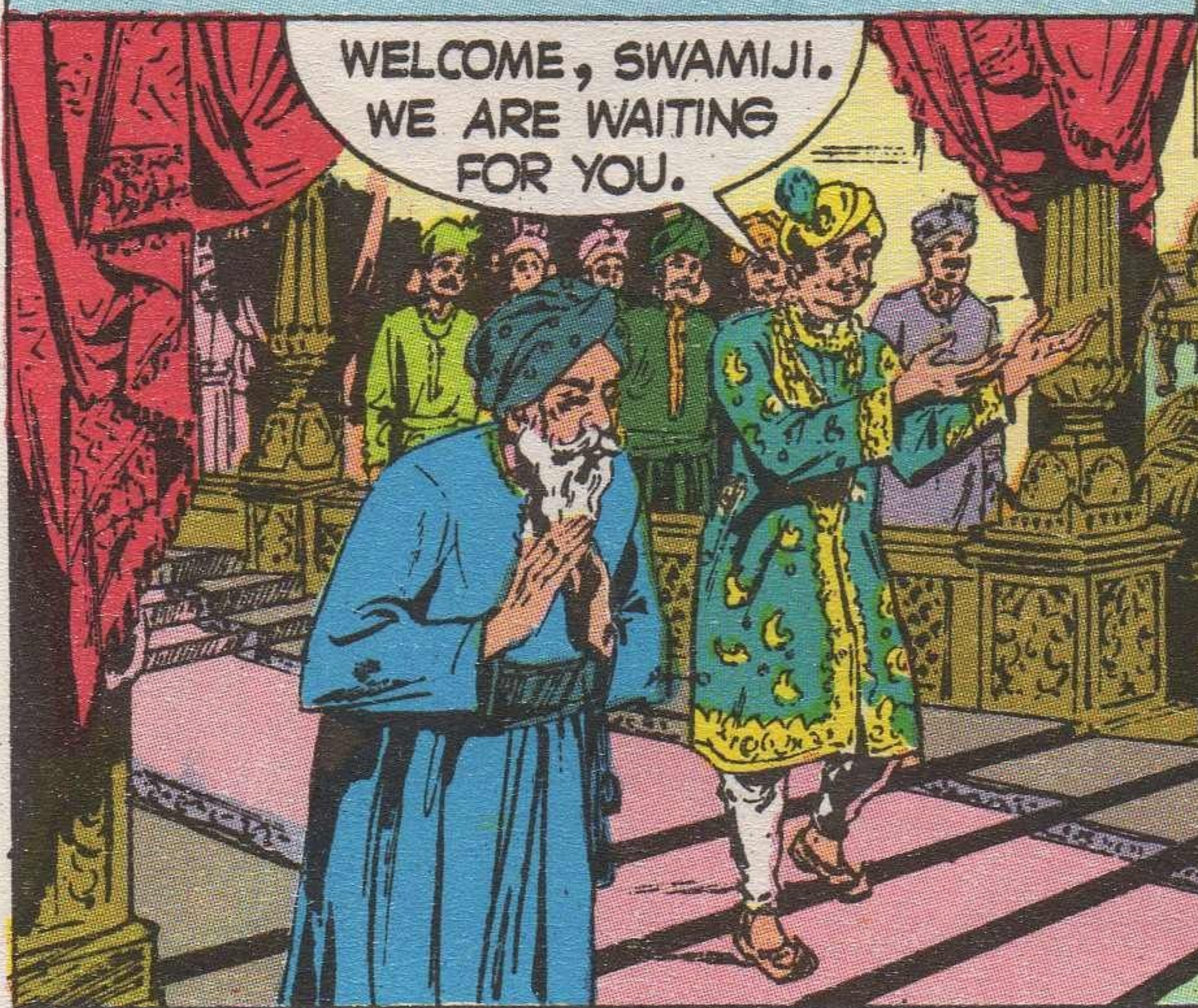
HE WOULD SLEEP IN THE HUTS OF PARIAHS...



...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.



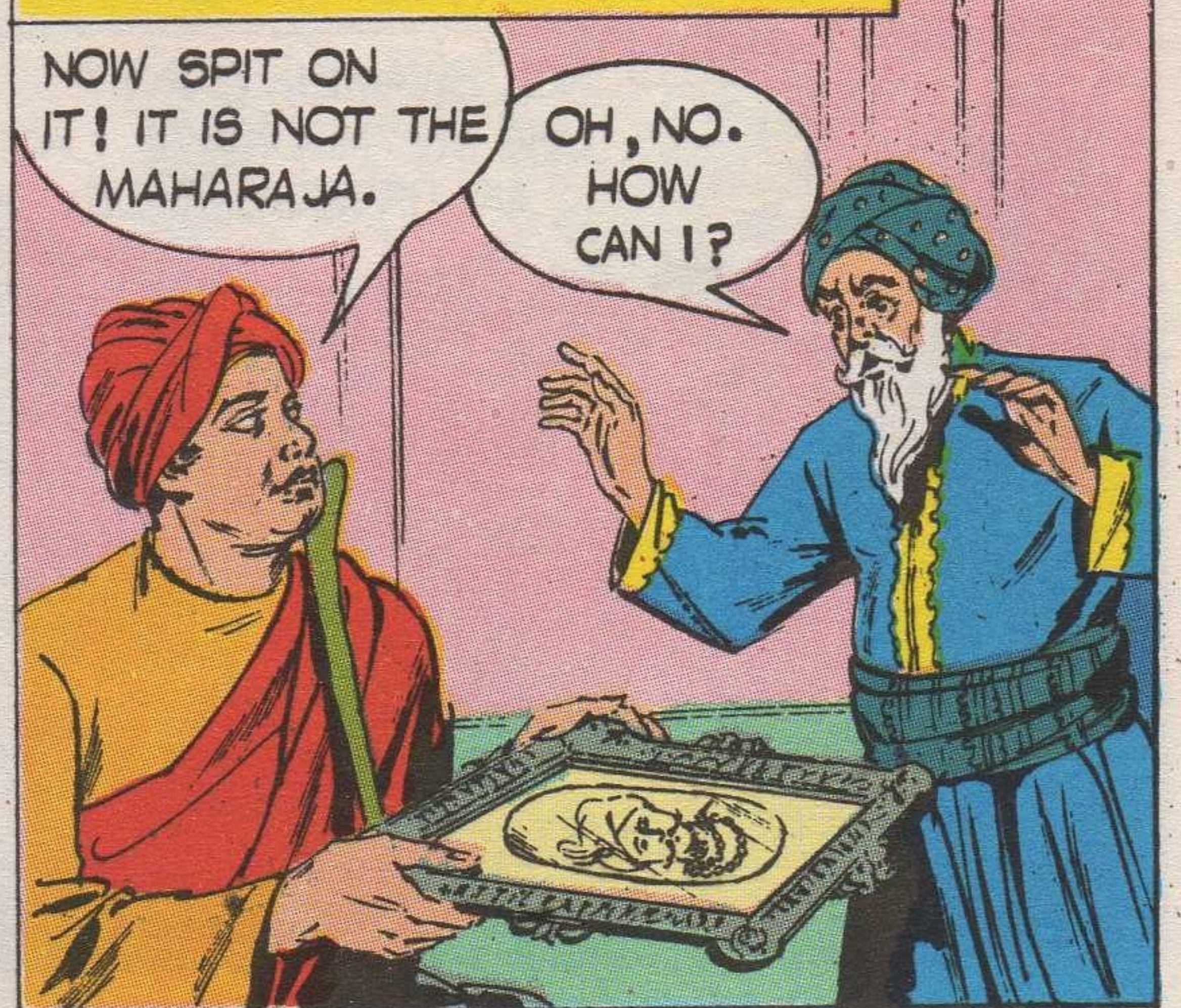
BUT HOW CAN GOD BE A THING MADE OF STONE?



SWAMIJI TURNED TO THE PRIME MINISTER.



WHEN THE MINISTER DID SO —



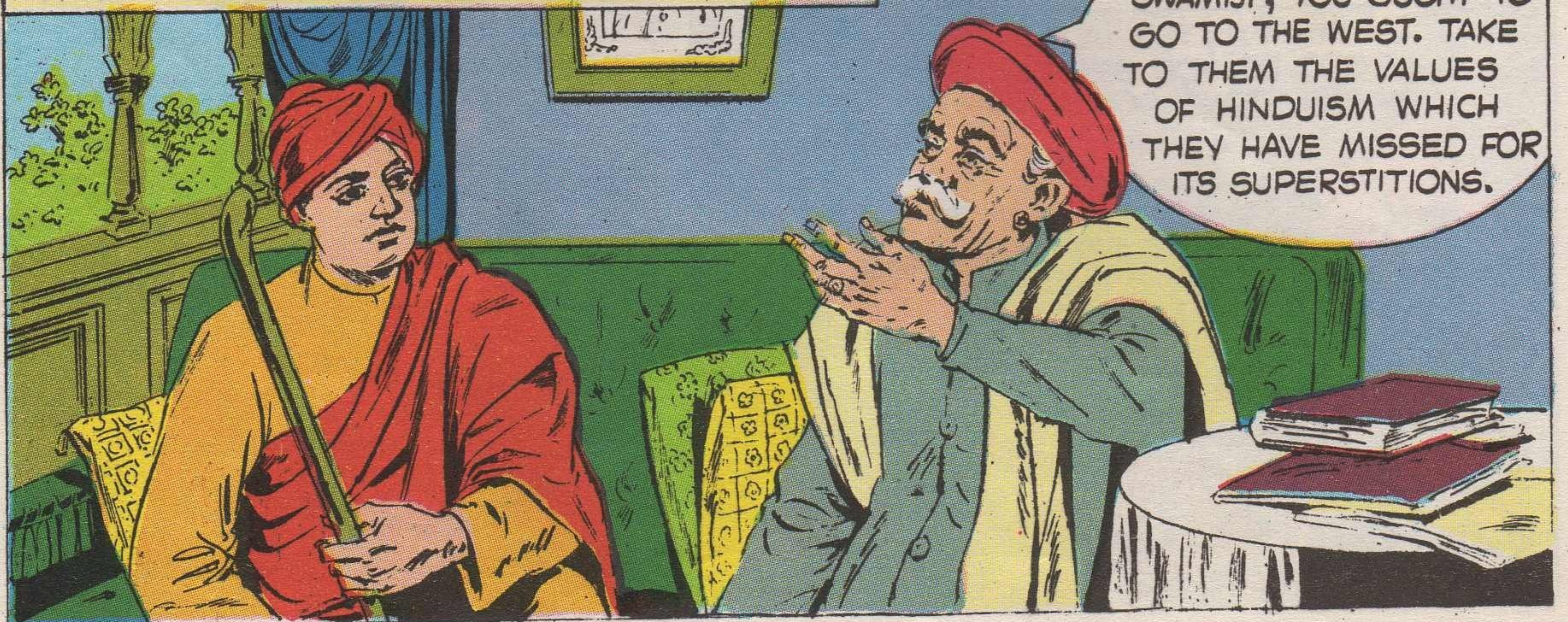
SWAMIJI TURNED TO THE MAHARAJA.



AT MOUNT ABU, HE WAS INVITED TO DINNER BY A MUSLIM OFFICER.



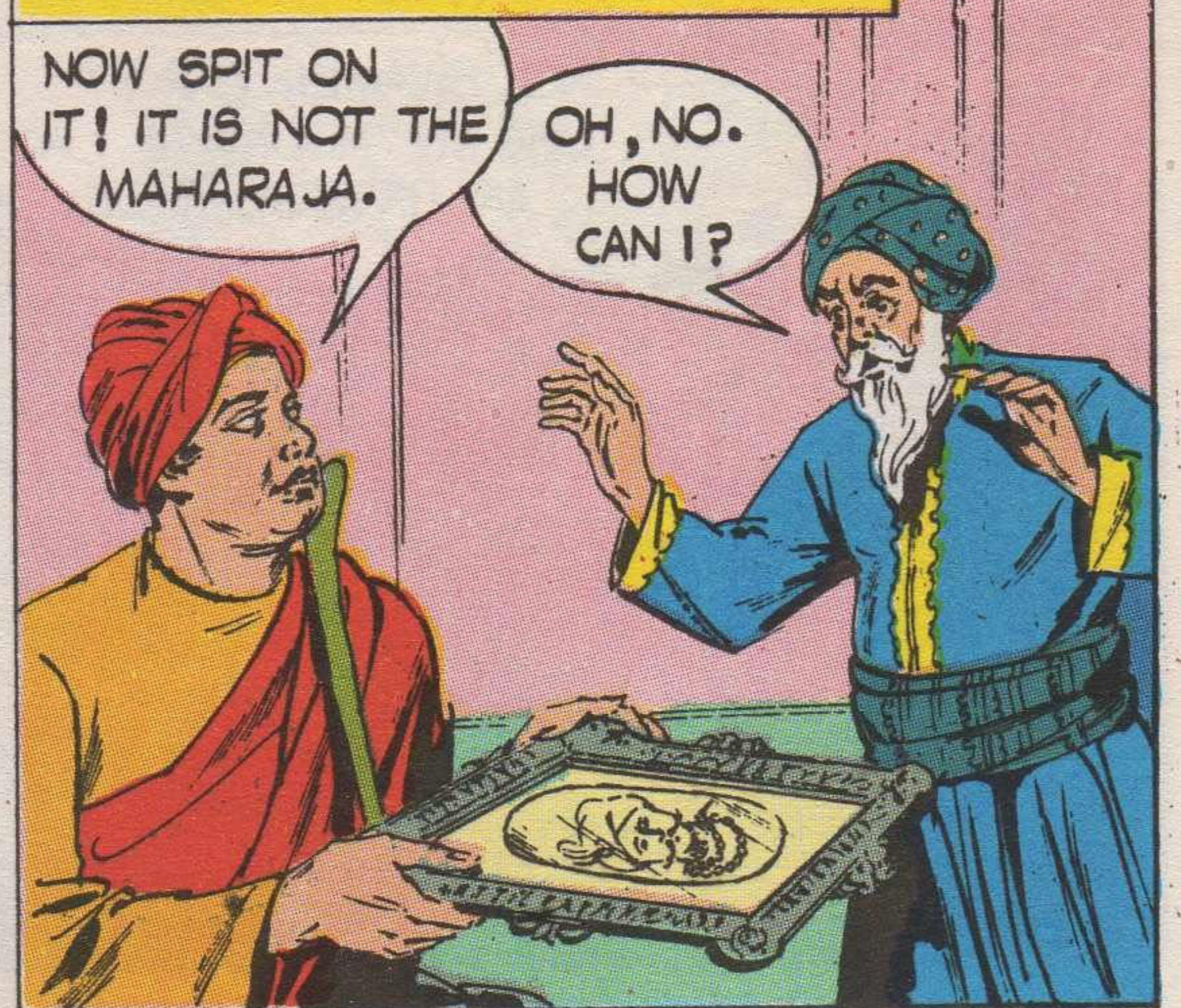
FROM ABU HE WENT TO GUJARAT. AT PORBANDAR, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE STATE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE TEACHINGS OF SWAMIJI.



SWAMIJI TURNED TO THE PRIME MINISTER.



WHEN THE MINISTER DID SO —



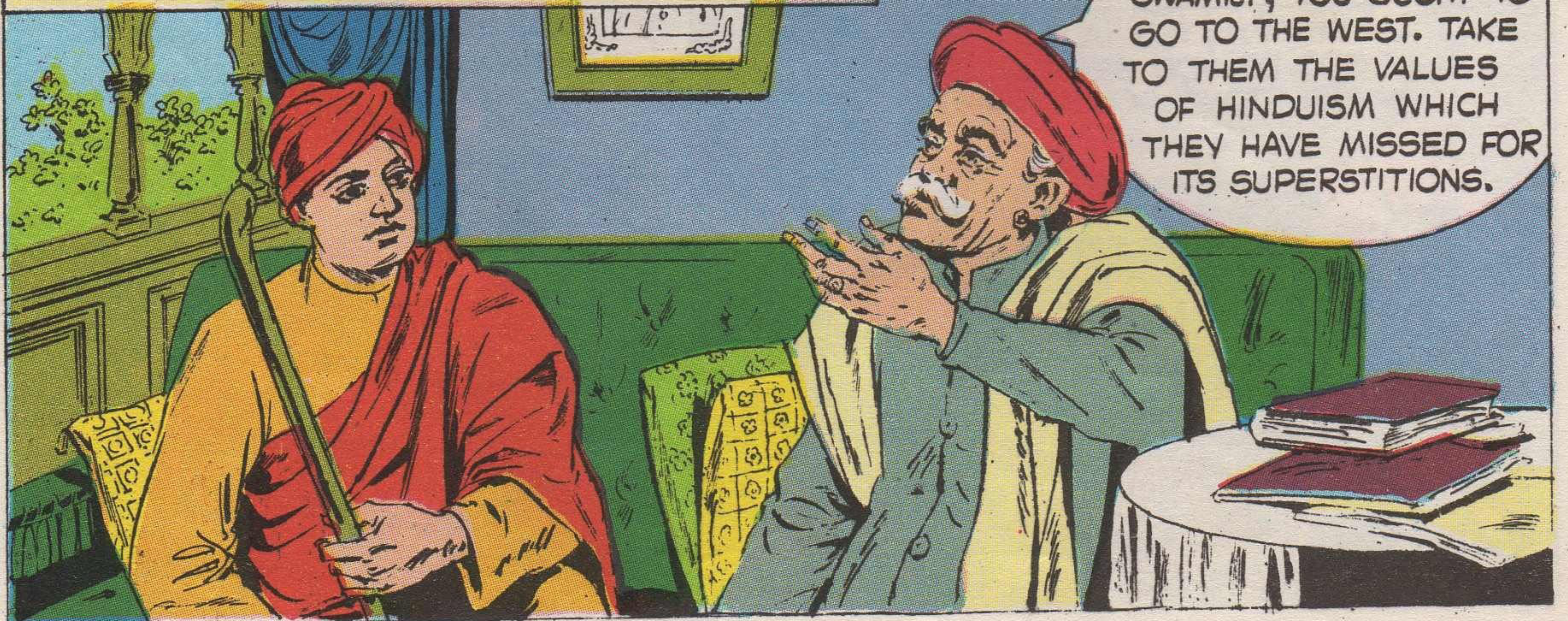
SWAMIJI TURNED TO THE MAHARAJA.



AT MOUNT ABU, HE WAS INVITED TO DINNER BY A MUSLIM OFFICER.



FROM ABU HE WENT TO GUJARAT. AT PORBANDAR, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE STATE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE TEACHINGS OF SWAMIJI.



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

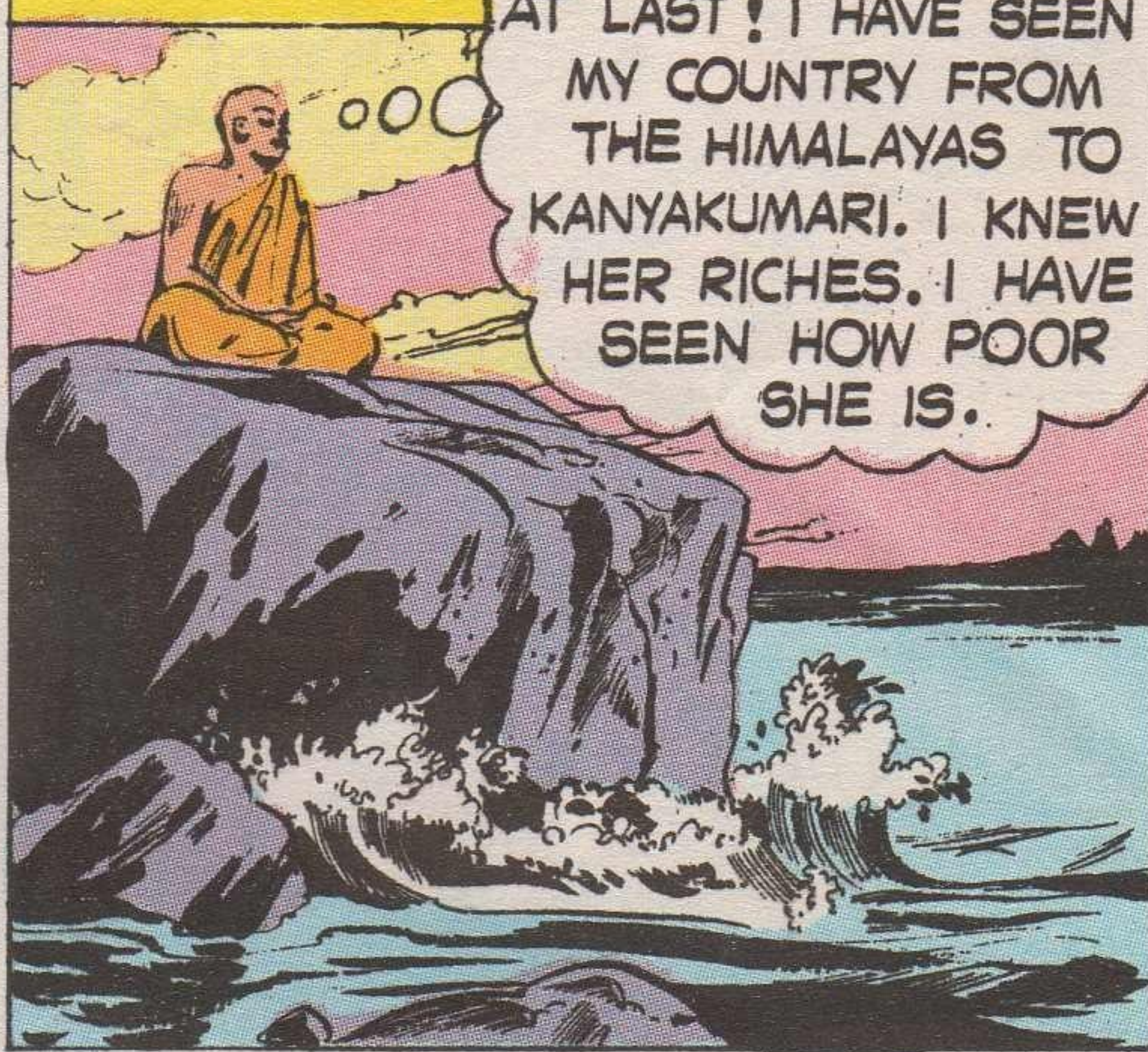
SWAMIJI, WILL YOU GO TO CHICAGO TO ATTEND THE PARLIAMENT?

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 —

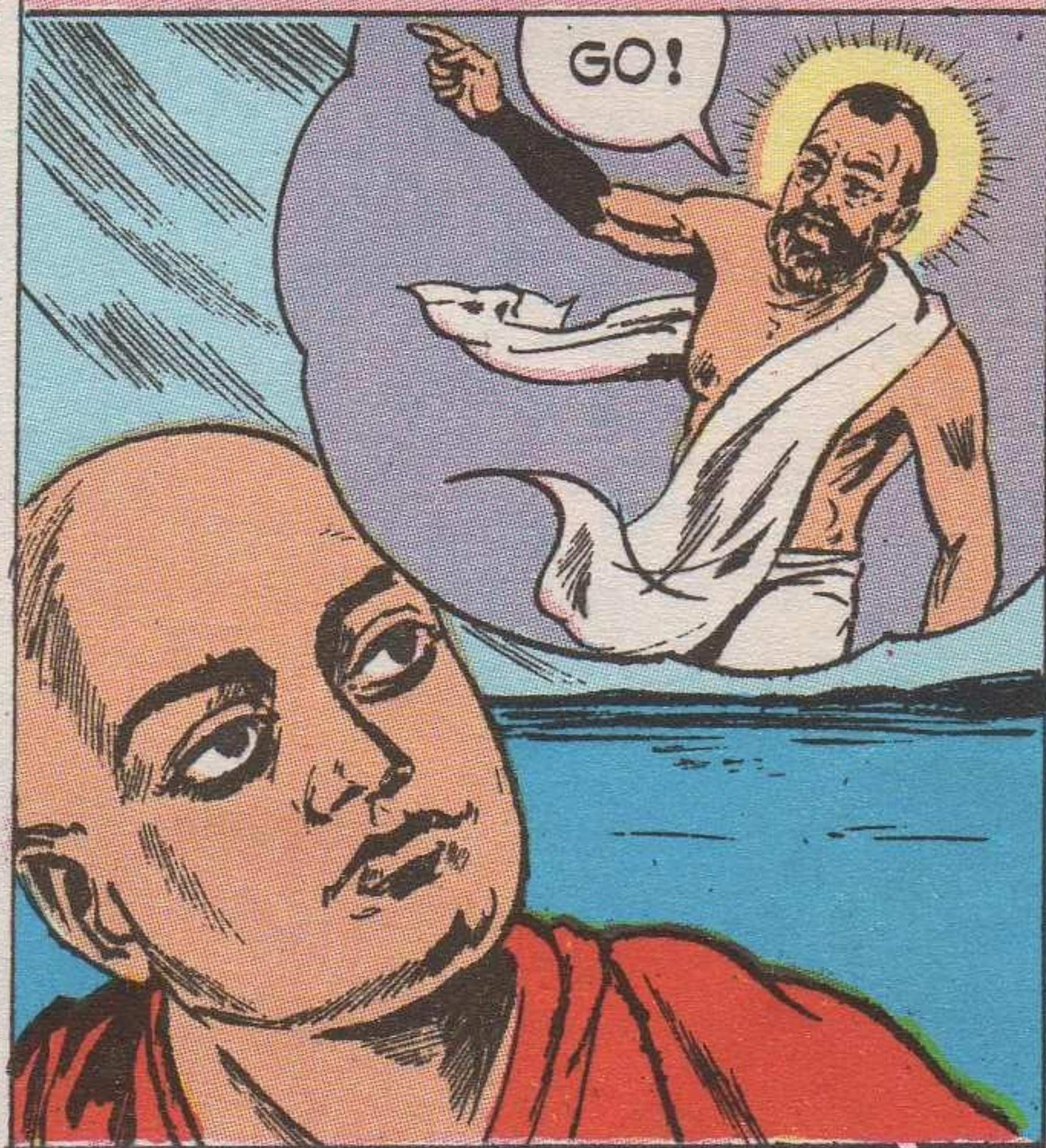
SWAMIJI, WE HAVE COLLECTED THE FUNDS TO SEND YOU TO THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS.

BUT I HAVEN'T YET DECIDED TO GO.



THEN ONE DAY, HE HAD A VISION —

GO!



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

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

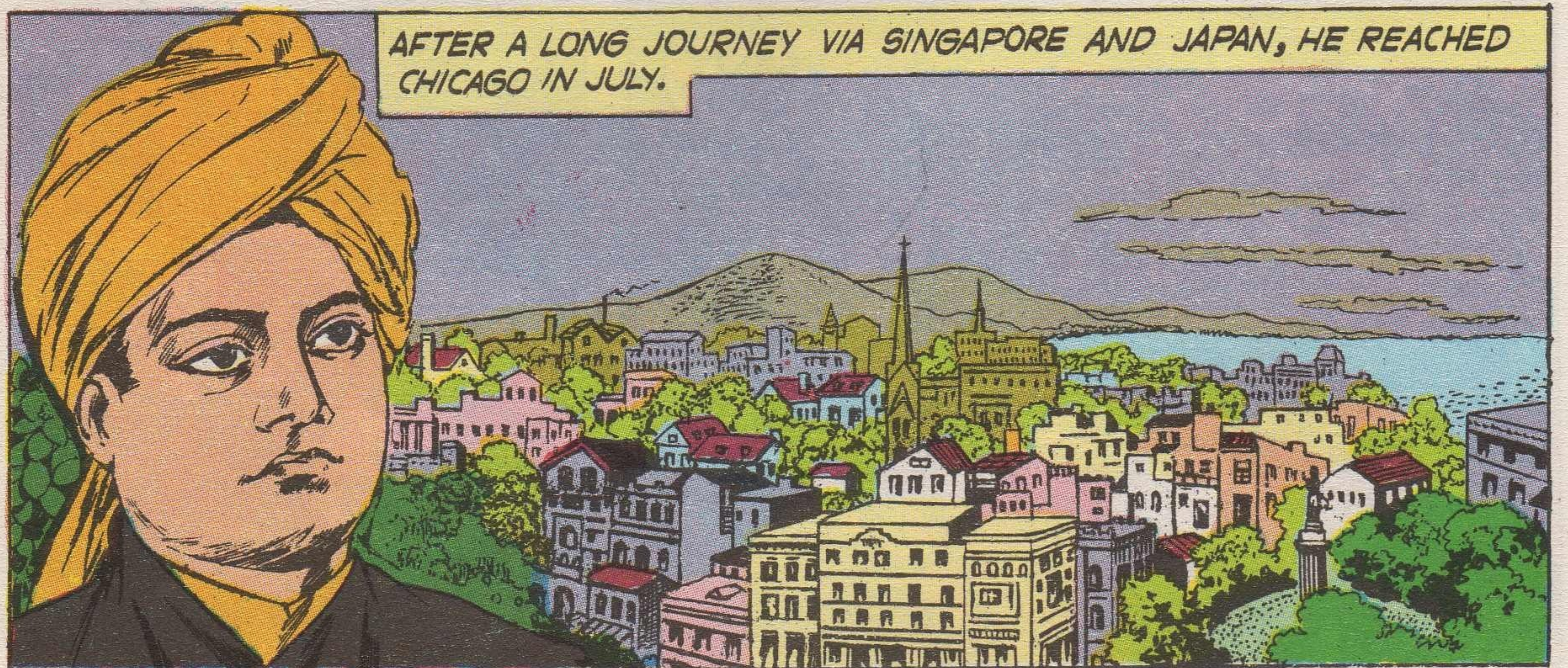


AT KHETRI —

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.



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

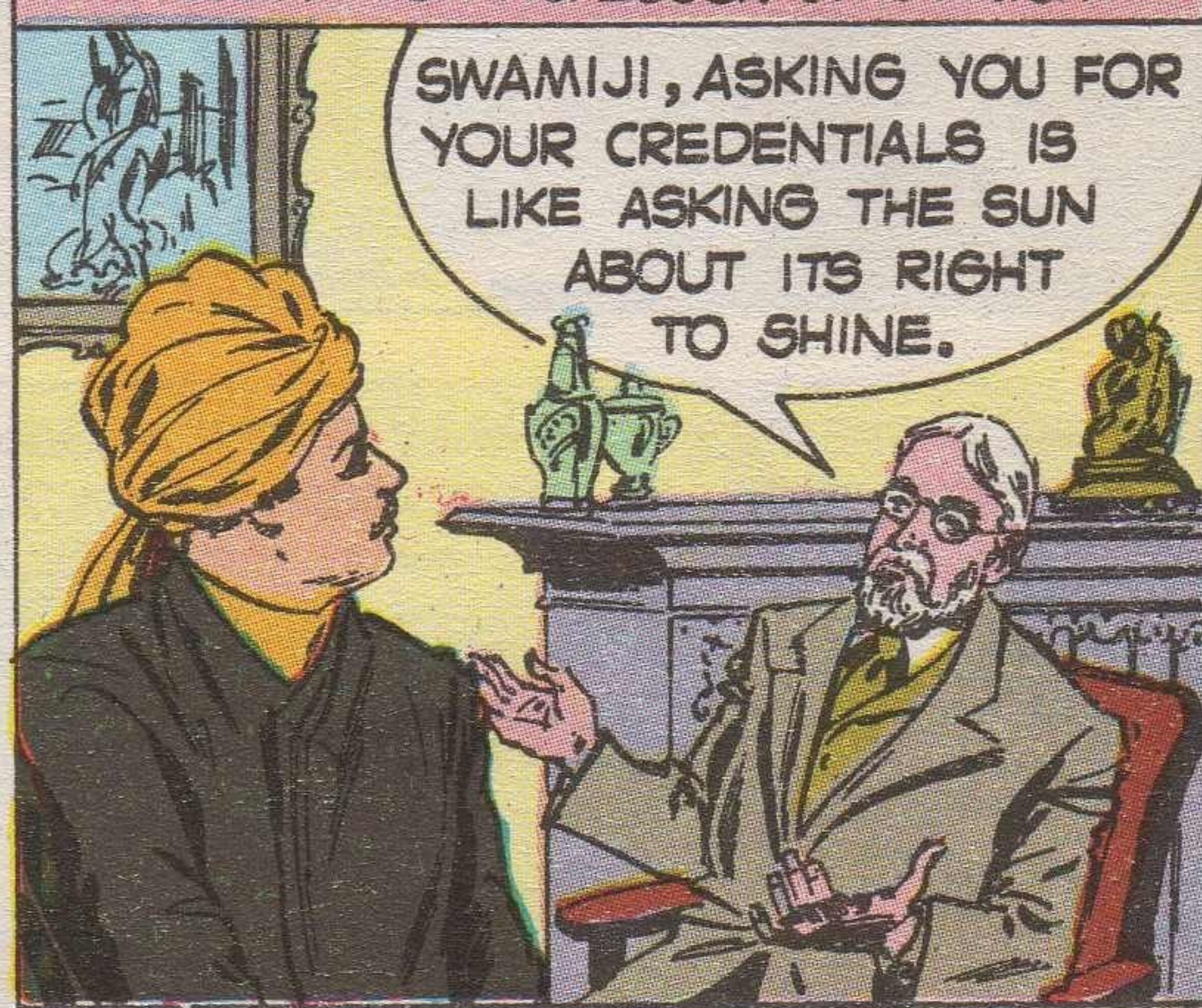


THE INVITATION CAME AS A BOON TO SWAMIJI BECAUSE HE HAD LITTLE MONEY LEFT WITH HIM.

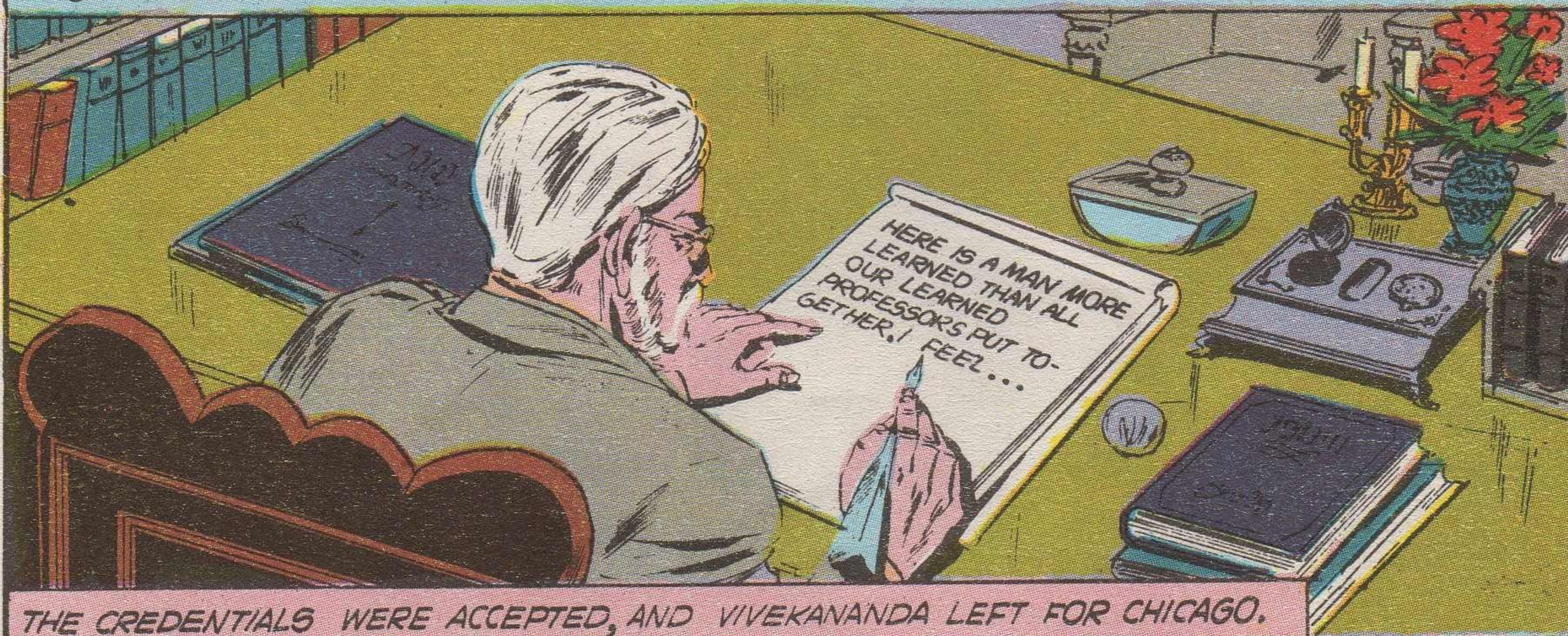
AT MISS SANBORN'S HOME, ONE DAY —

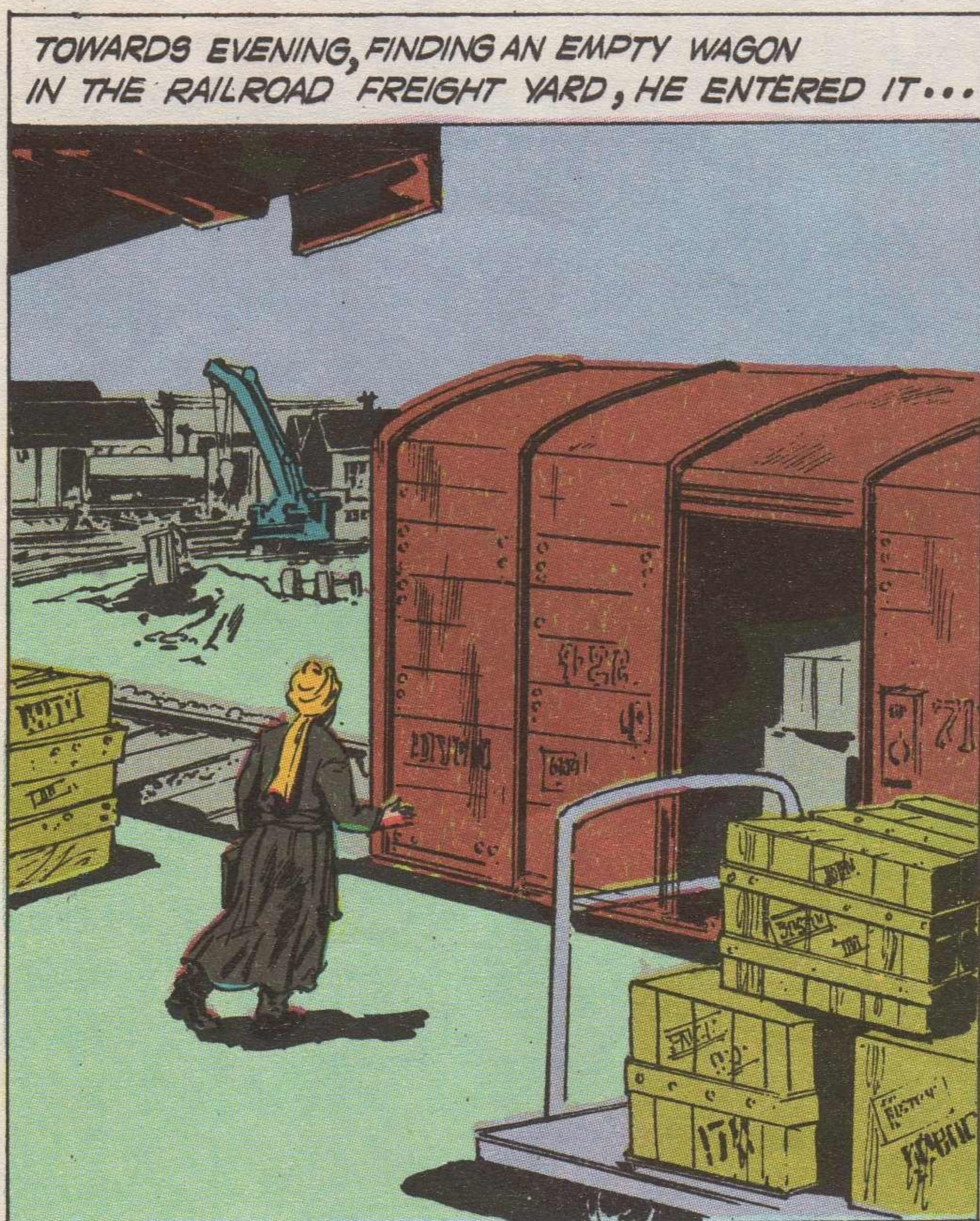
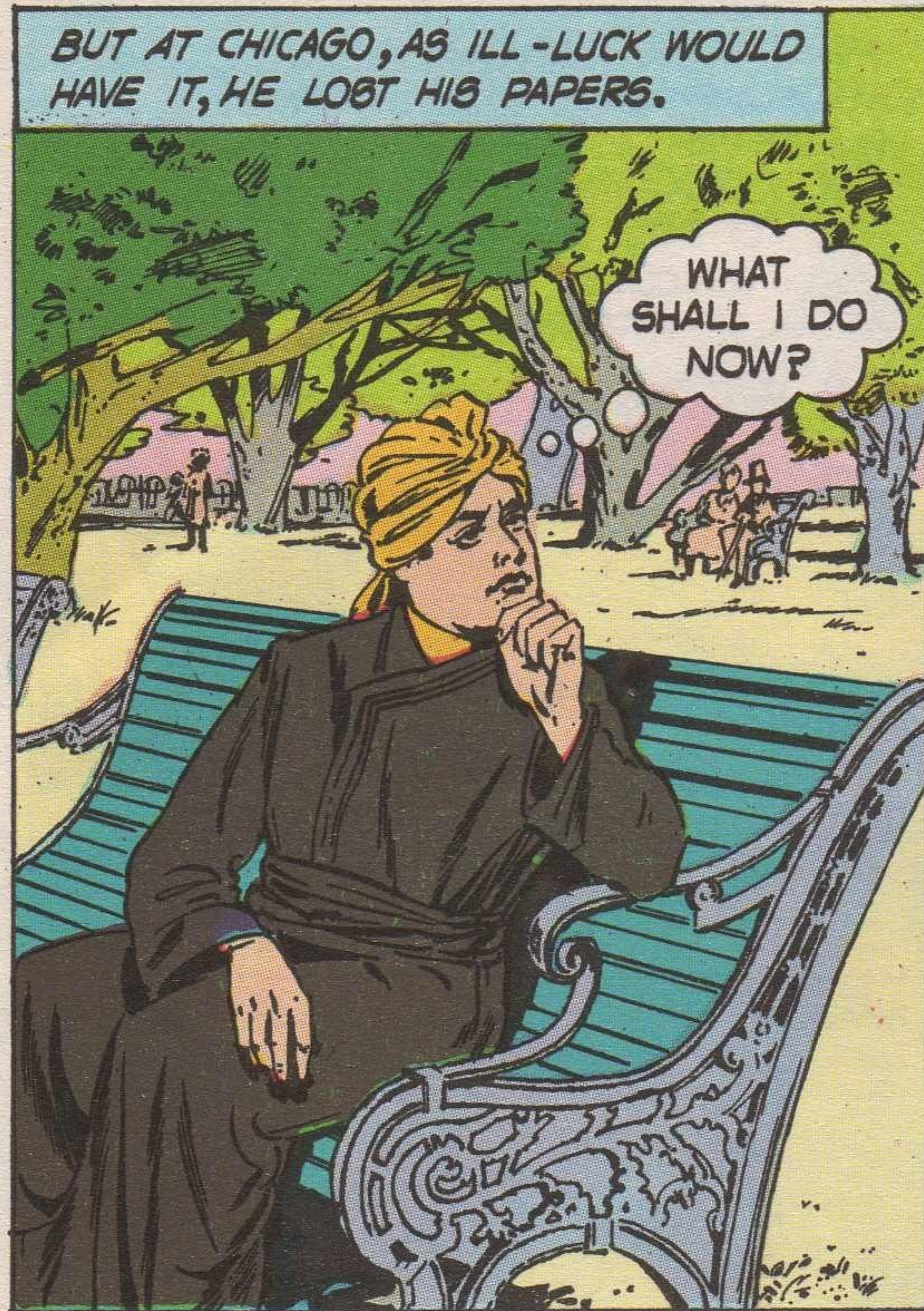


WHEN VIVEKANANDA EXPLAINED HIS DIFFICULTY TO PROFESSOR J. H. WRIGHT —



PROFESSOR WRIGHT WROTE TO THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT.





NEXT MORNING —

HEY, YOU NIGGER!
THIS IS NO PLACE
TO SLEEP! GET
OUT!

THE INSULT STUNG HIM.



IS THIS THE FATE
OF MY MISSION TO
THE WEST? I HAVE
LOST THE ADDRESS
OF THE PARLIAMENT
OF RELIGIONS AND
ALL THE MONEY
I HAD.



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?

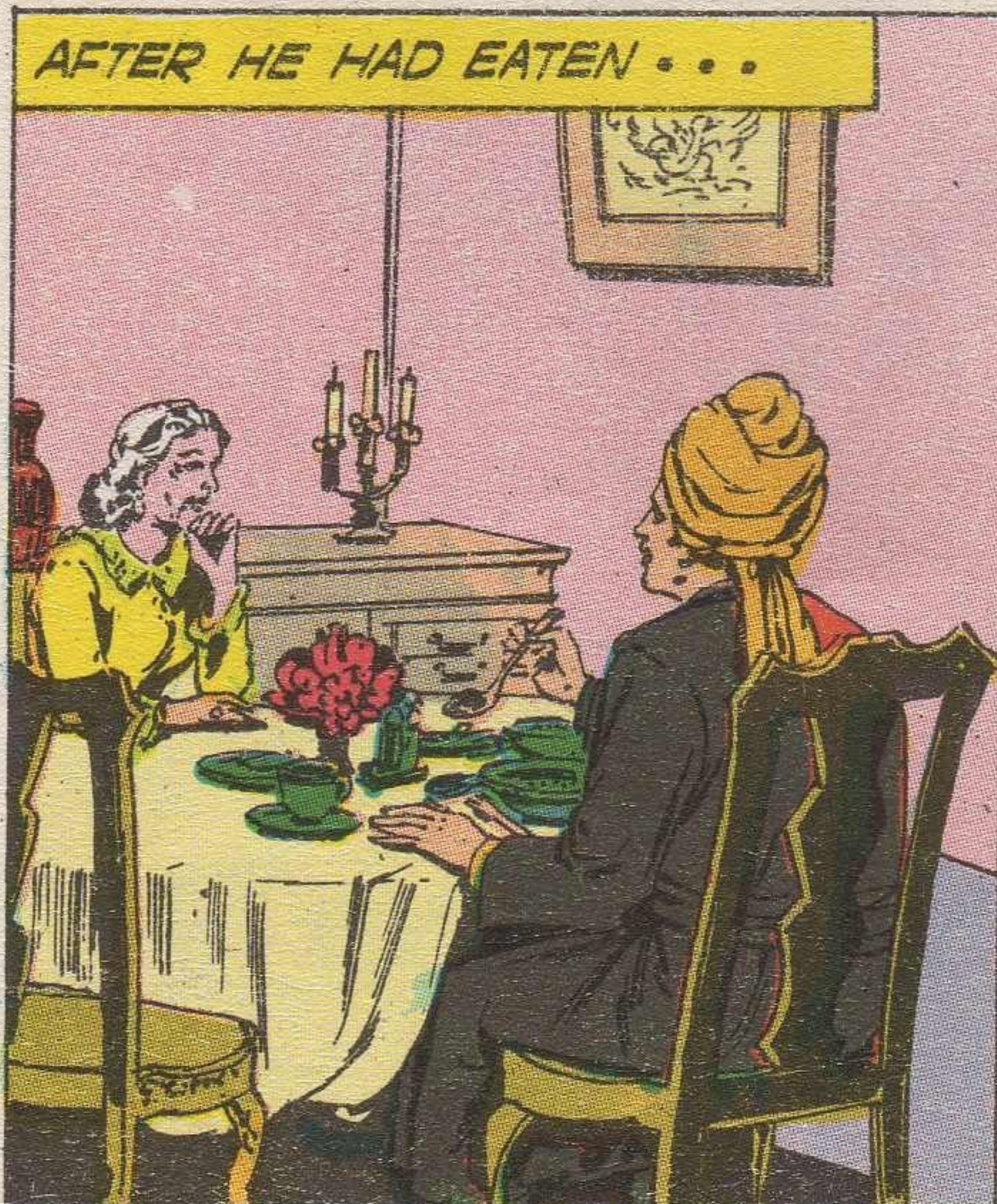


WHEN VIVEKANANDA EXPLAINED HIS DIFFICULTIES —

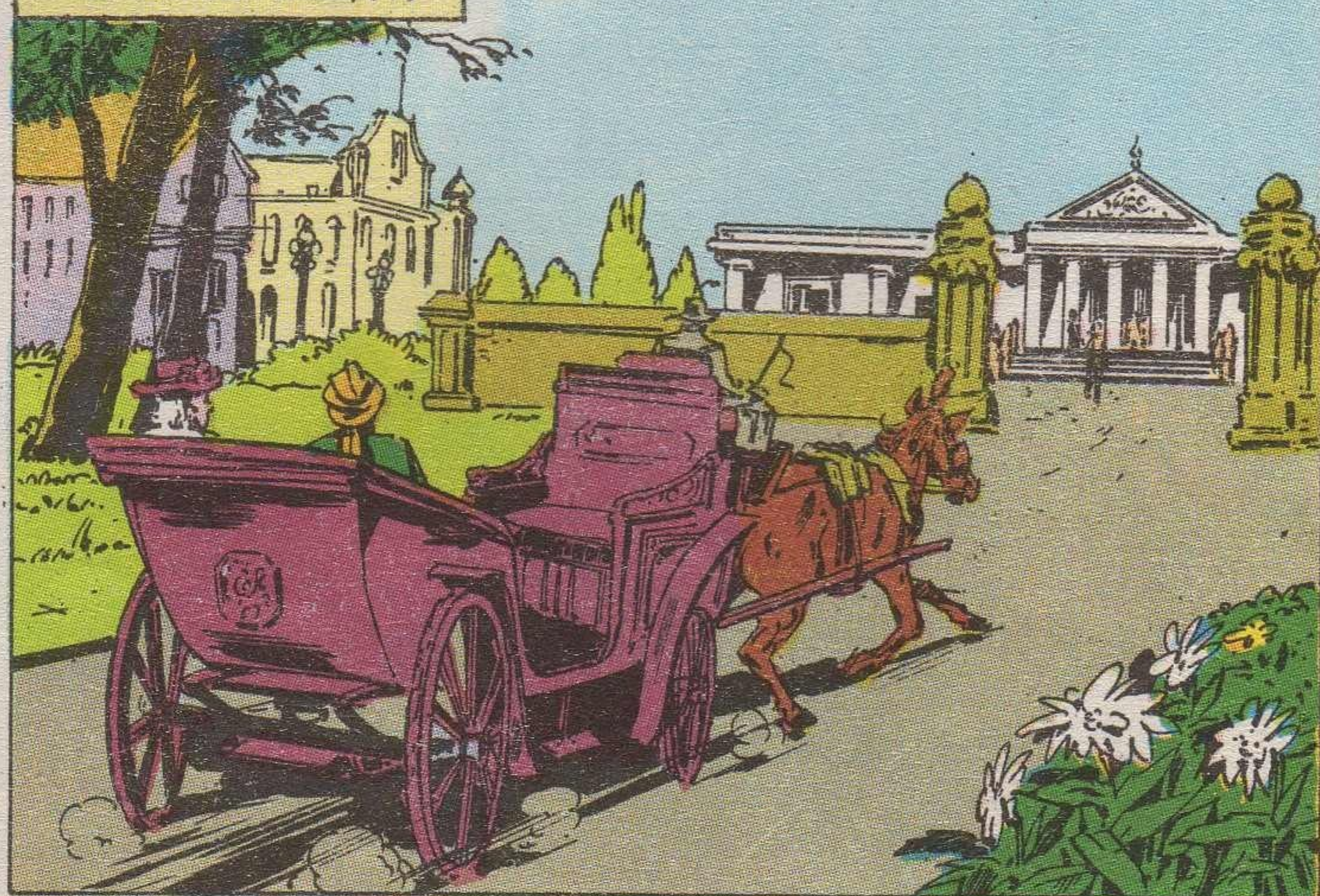
PLEASE COME HOME WITH ME.



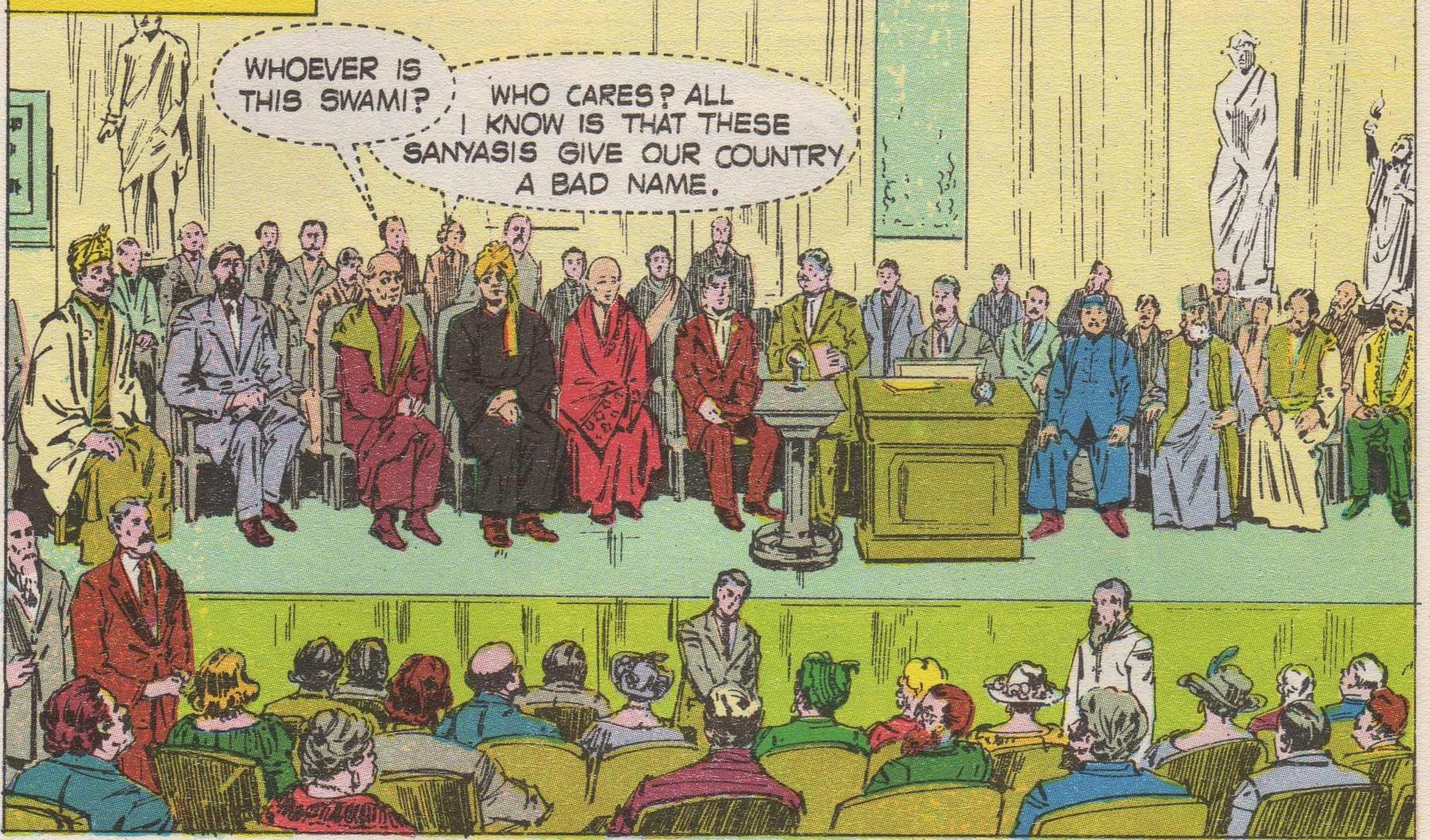
AFTER HE HAD EATEN . . .



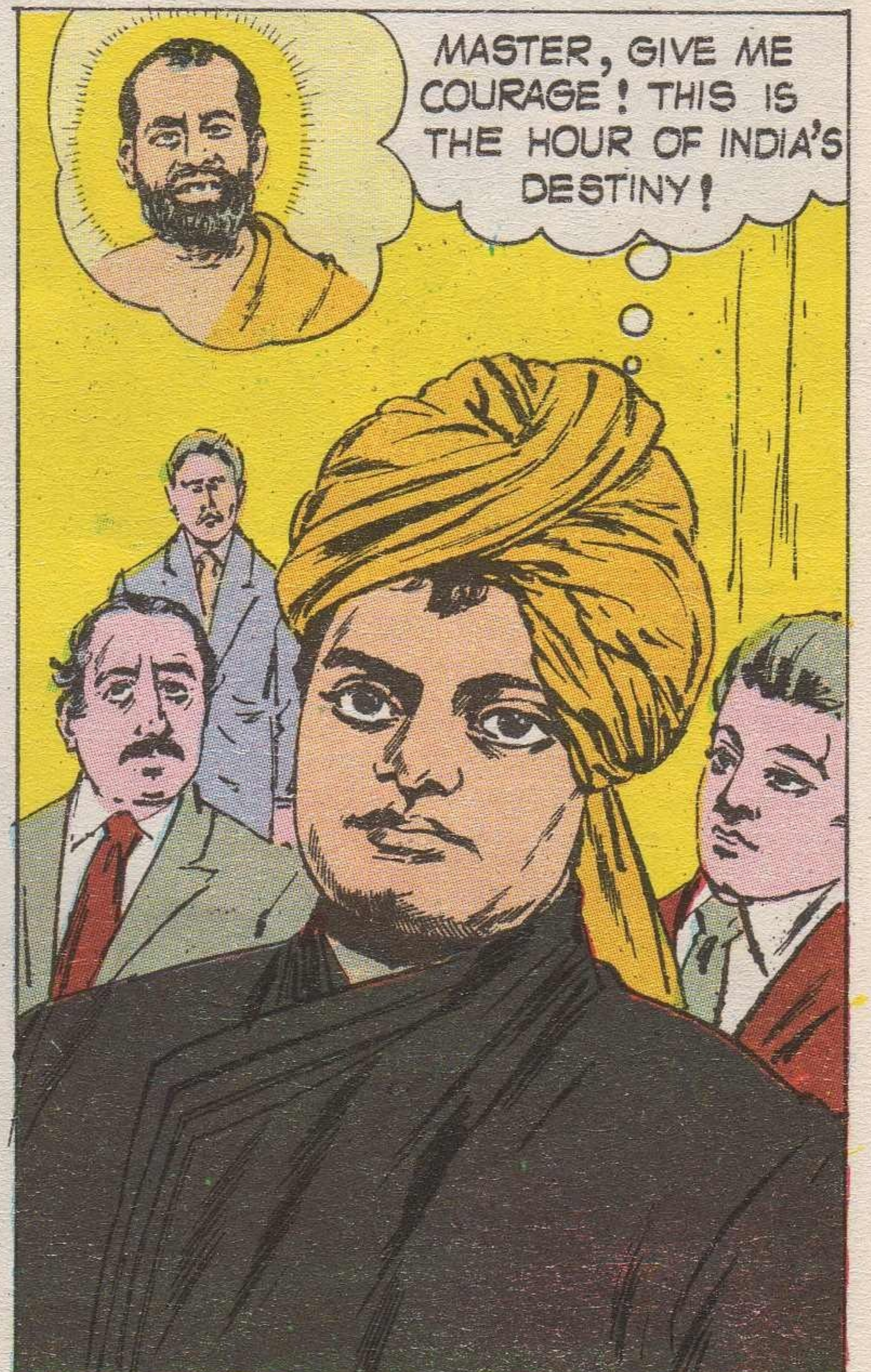
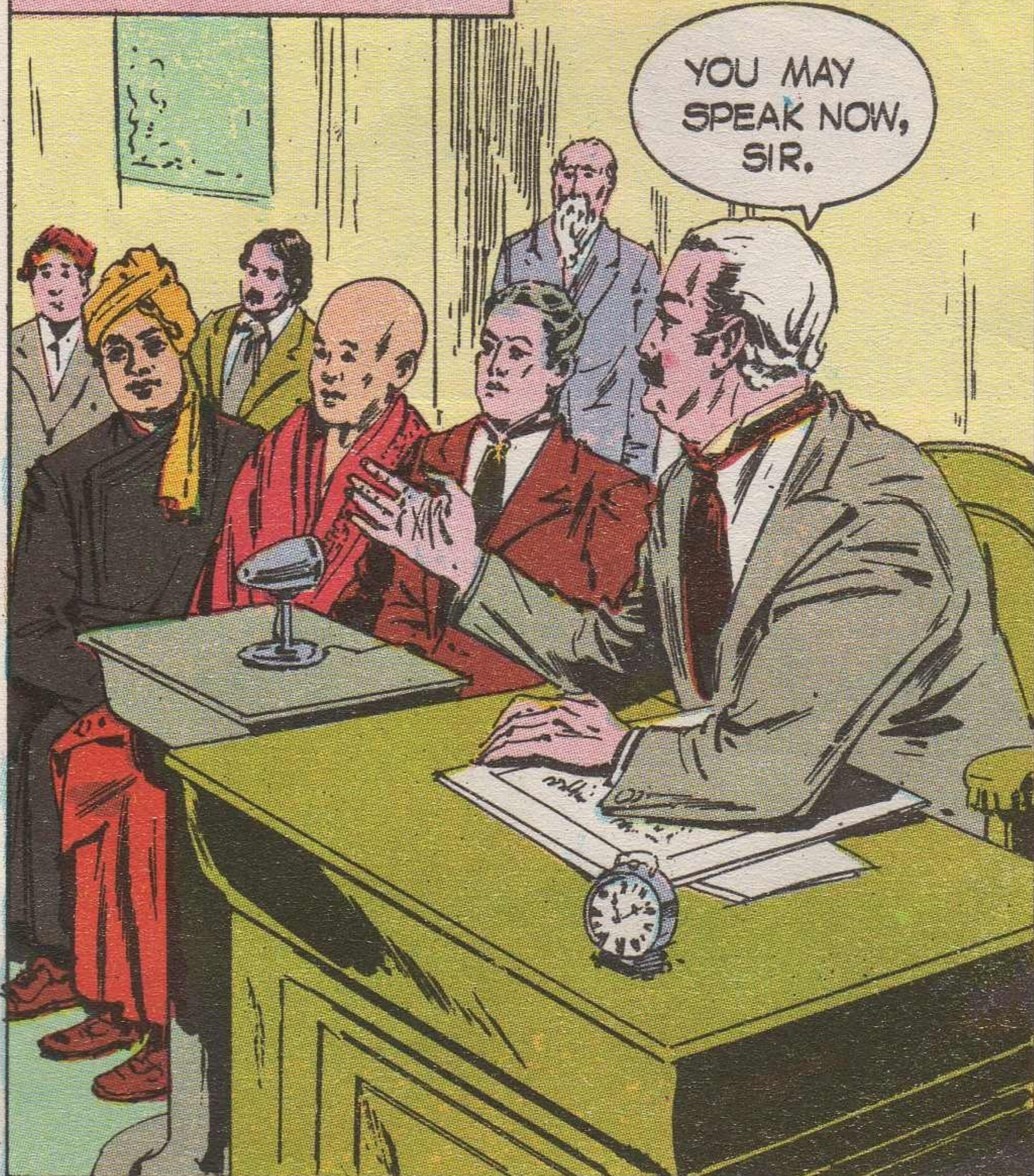
. . . AND RESTED, SHE TOOK HIM TO THE OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT.



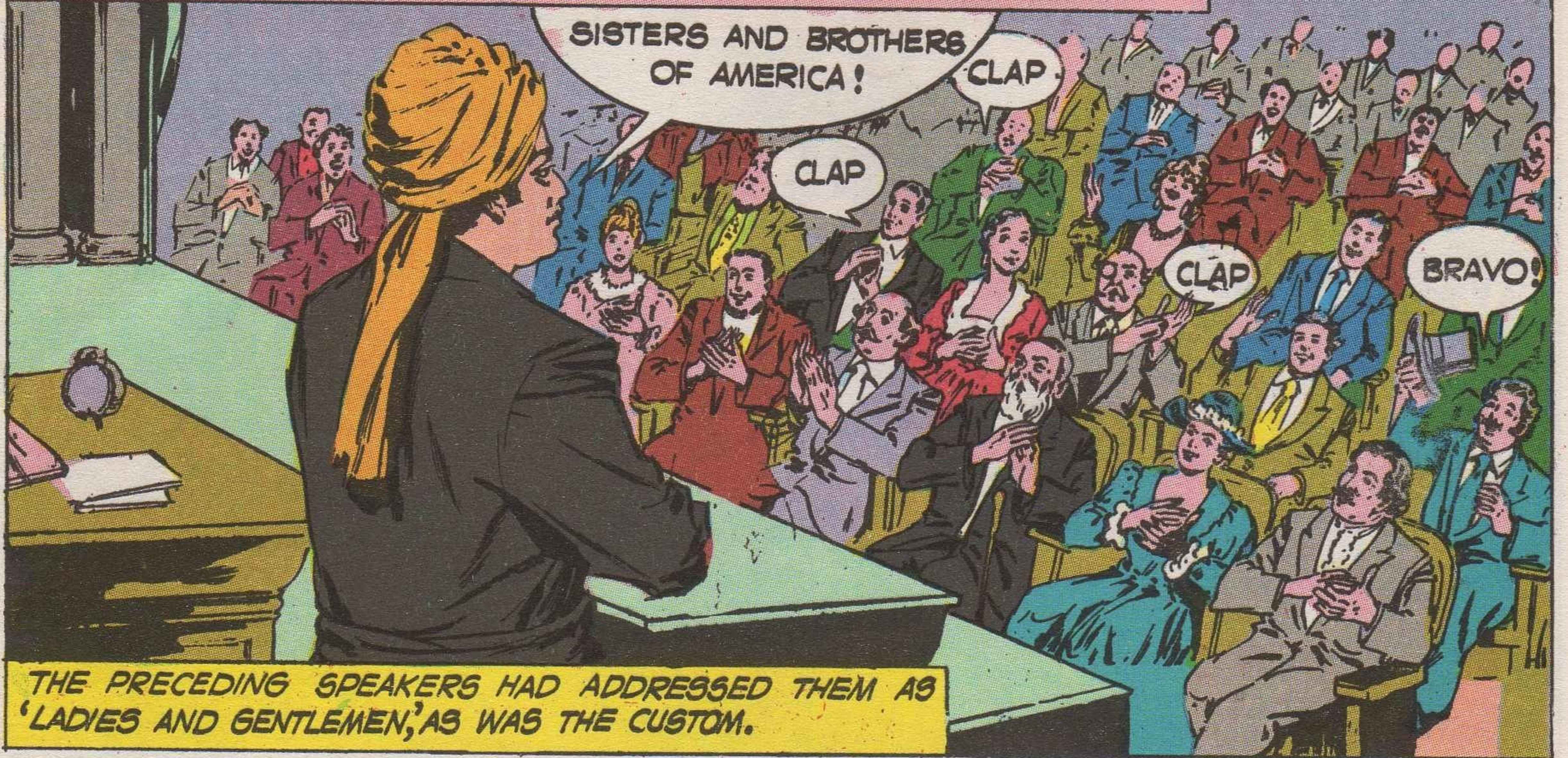
AT THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS, THE OFFICIAL DELEGATES FROM INDIA RESENTED HIS PRESENCE THERE.



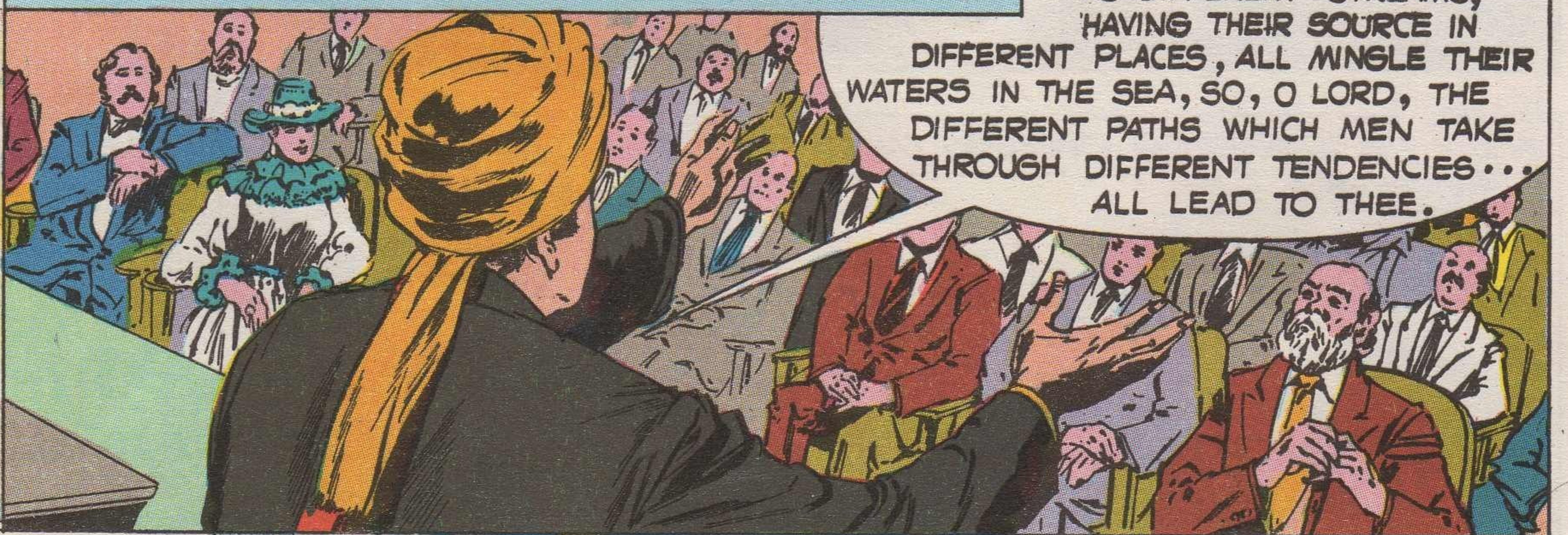
AFTER THE LONG-WINDED SPEECHES CAME VIVEKANANDA'S TURN.



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



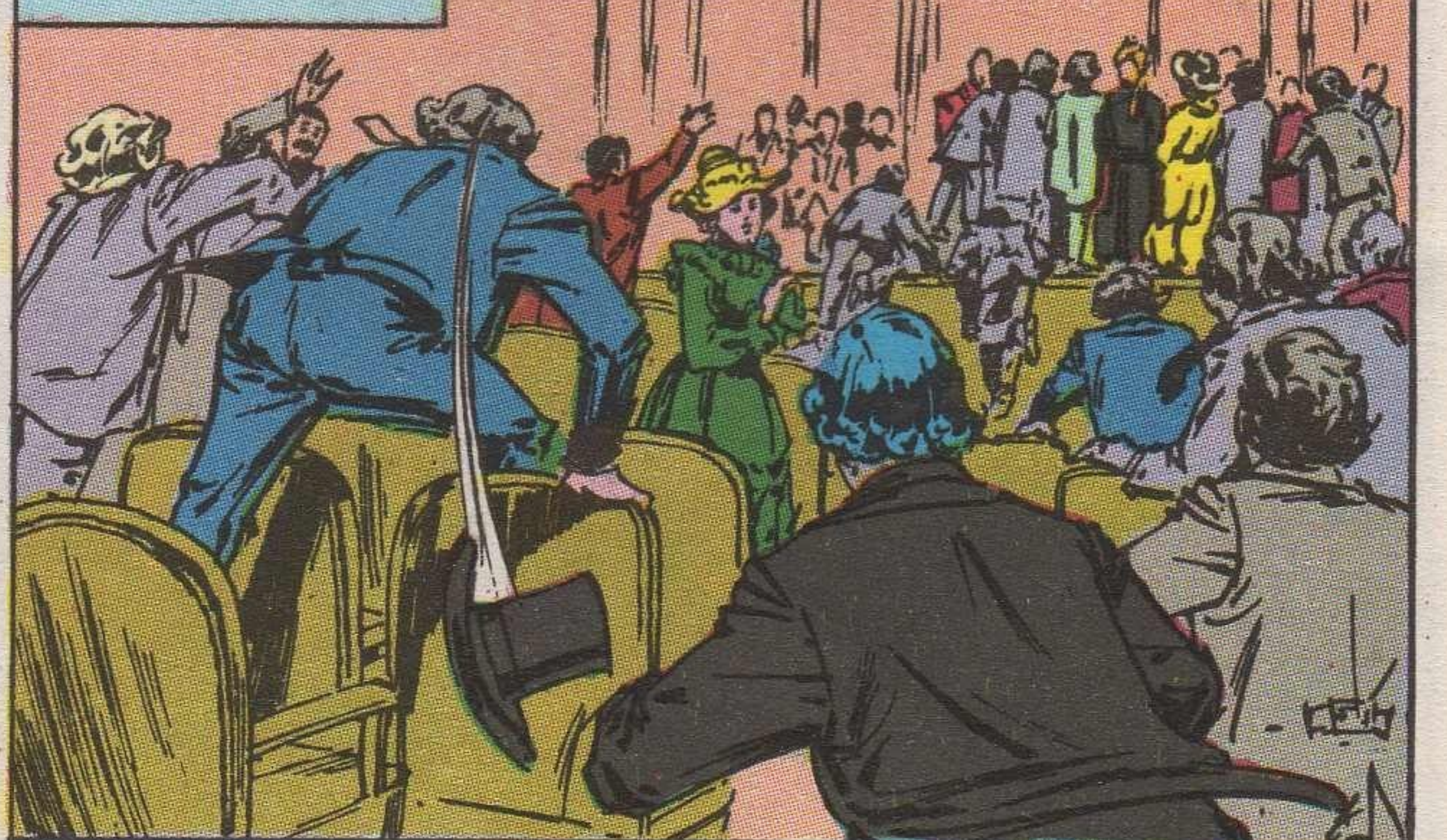
IT TOOK FULL TWO MINUTES BEFORE THE TUMULT SUBSIDED.



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

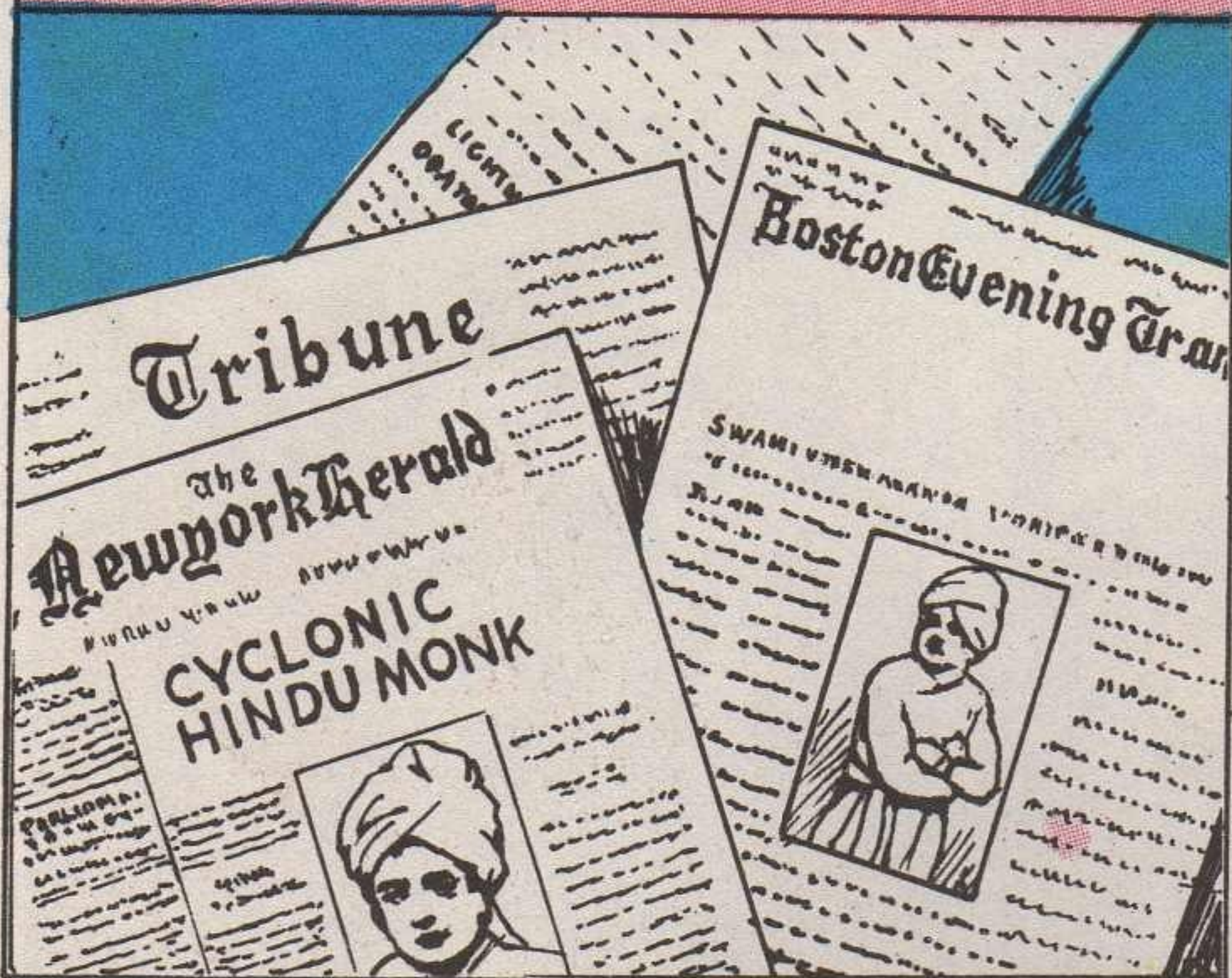


WHEN IT WAS OVER, SCORES OF MEN AND WOMEN WALKED OVER THE BENCHES IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO MEET HIM.



* HINDU GODDESS OF WISDOM.

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

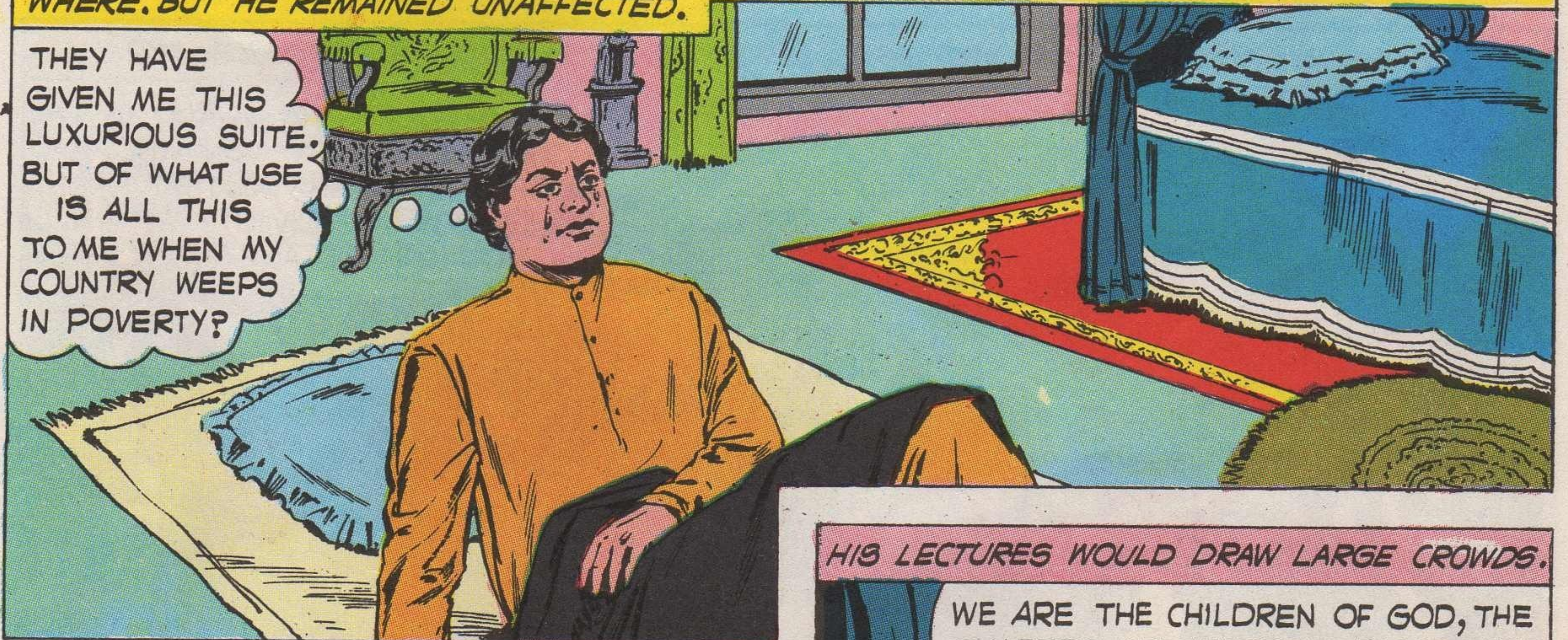


HE WAS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION EVERYWHERE.



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?



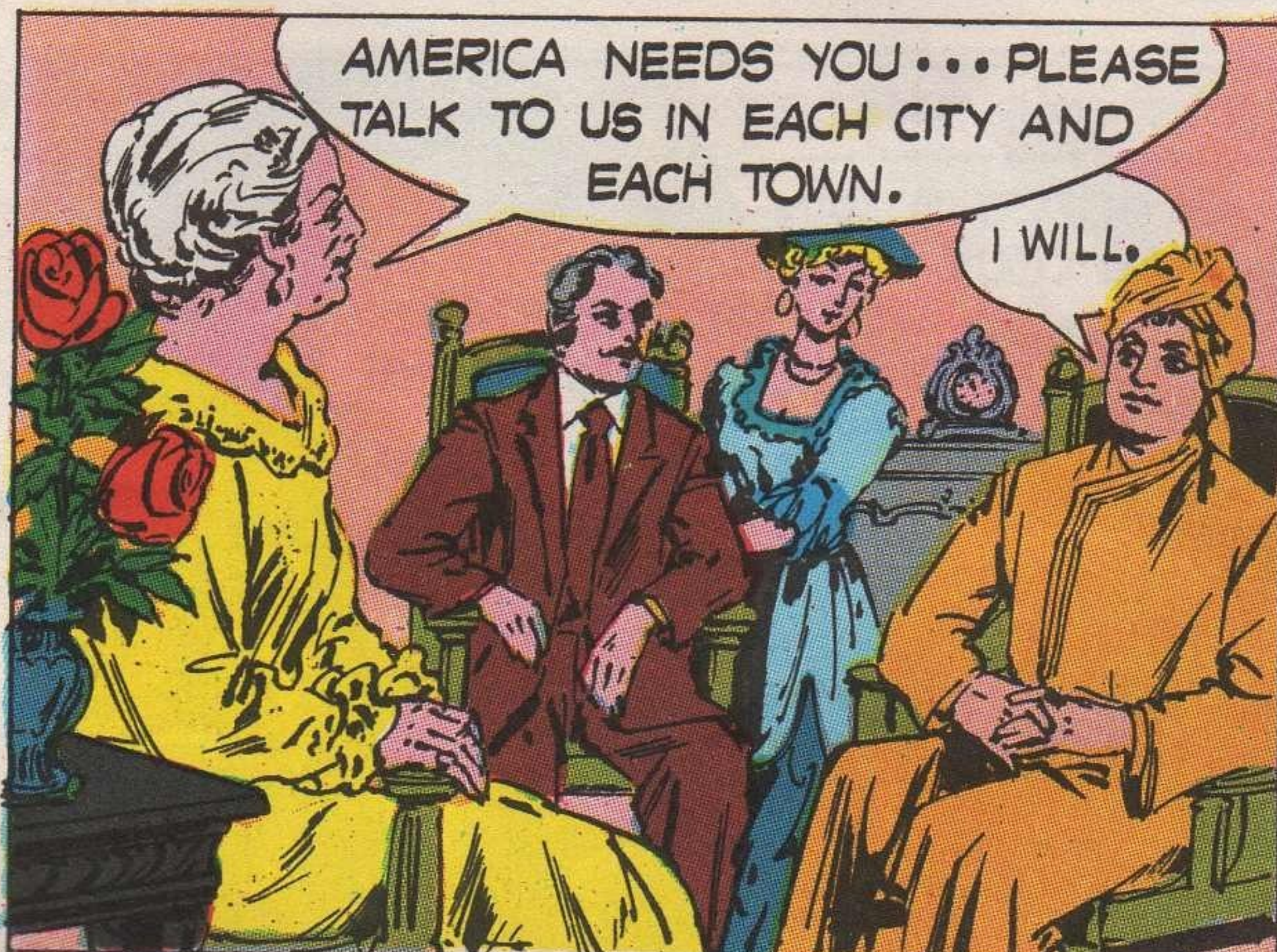
HIS LECTURES WOULD DRAW LARGE CROWDS.

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, BLEST AND ETERNAL.



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

I WILL.



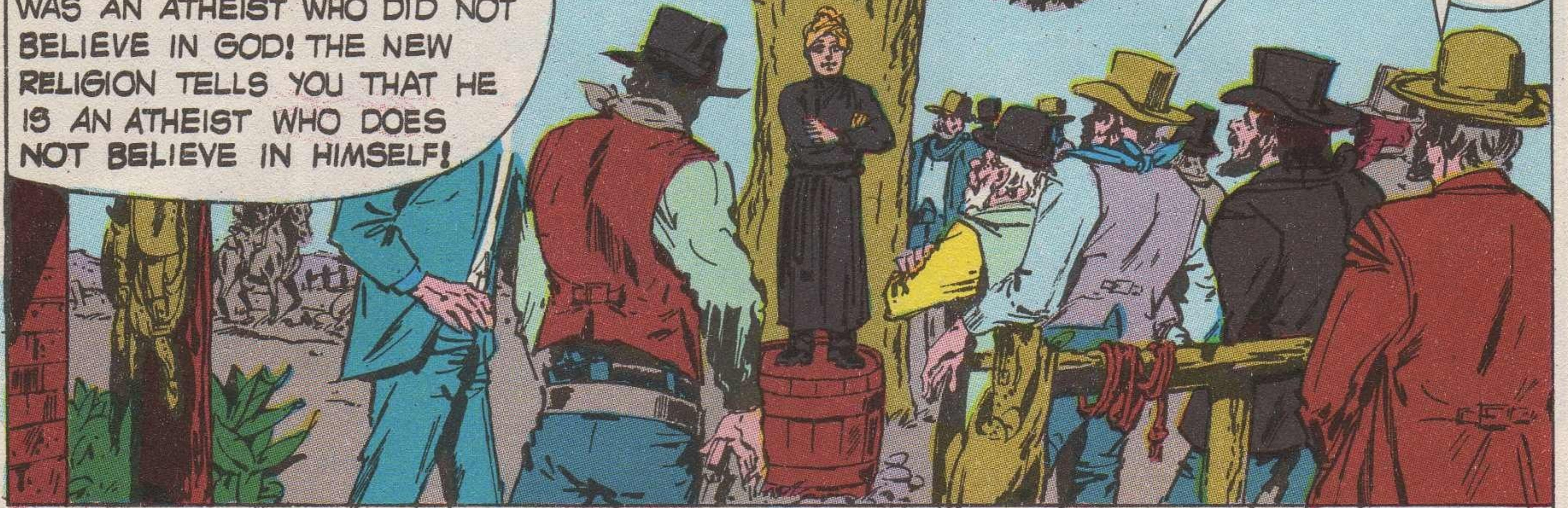
VIVEKANANDA WENT FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER AND SPOKE WHENEVER REQUESTED TO DO SO.

ONE DAY IN TEXAS, INSTIGATED 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!

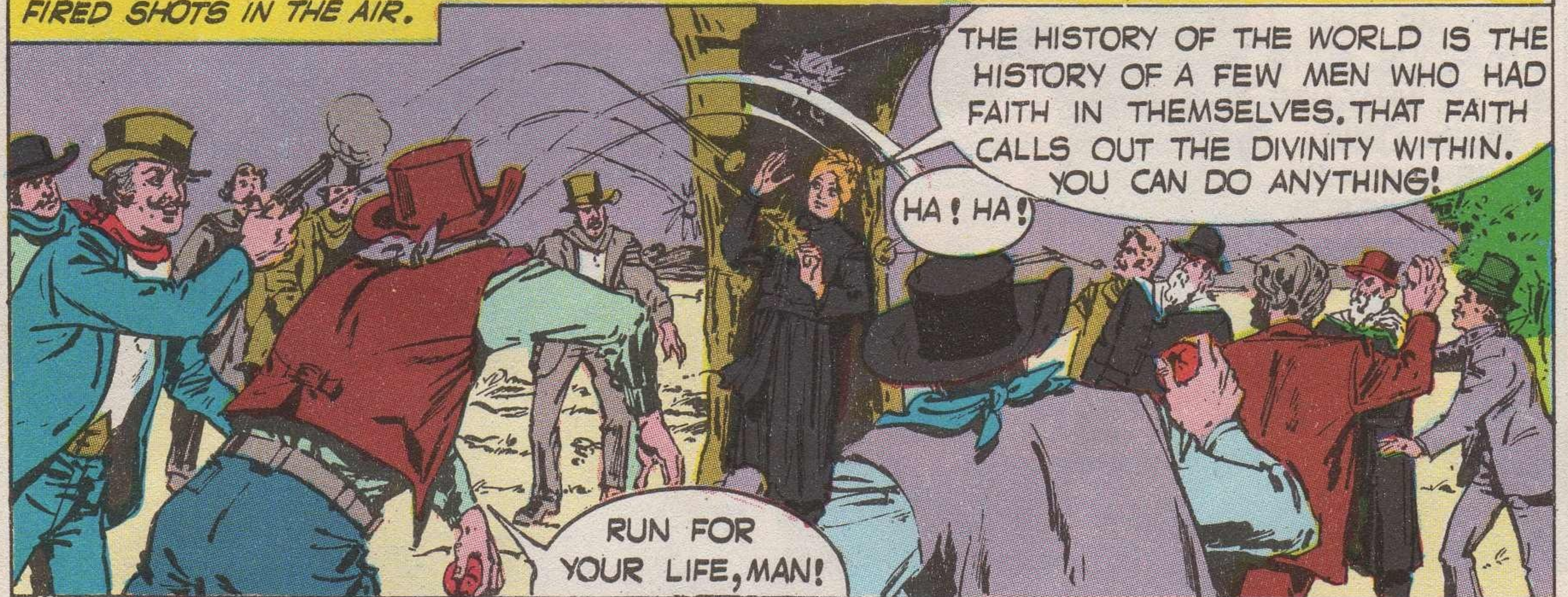


HE WAS PELTED WITH TOMATOES AND EGGS. SOME EVEN TOOK OUT THEIR PISTOLS AND FIRED SHOTS IN THE AIR.

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!

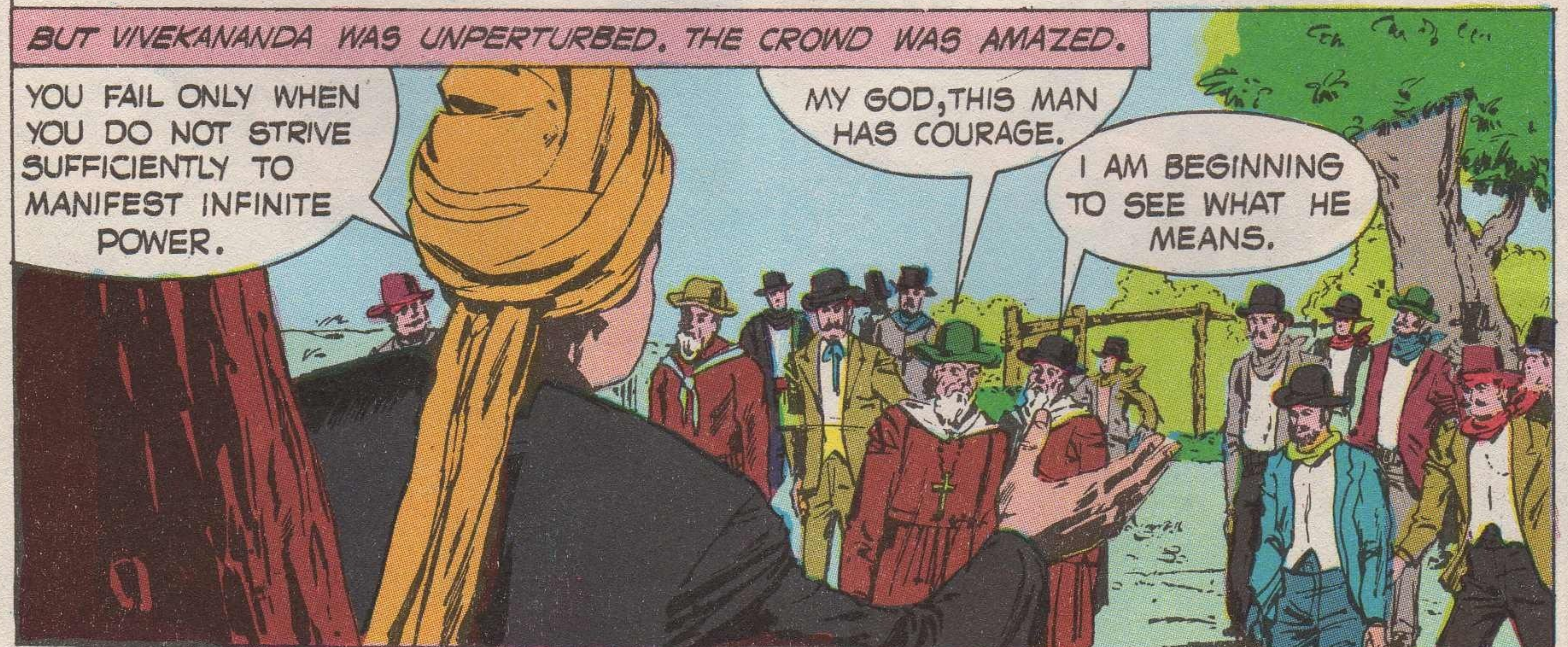


BUT VIVEKANANDA WAS UNPERTURBED. THE CROWD WAS AMAZED.

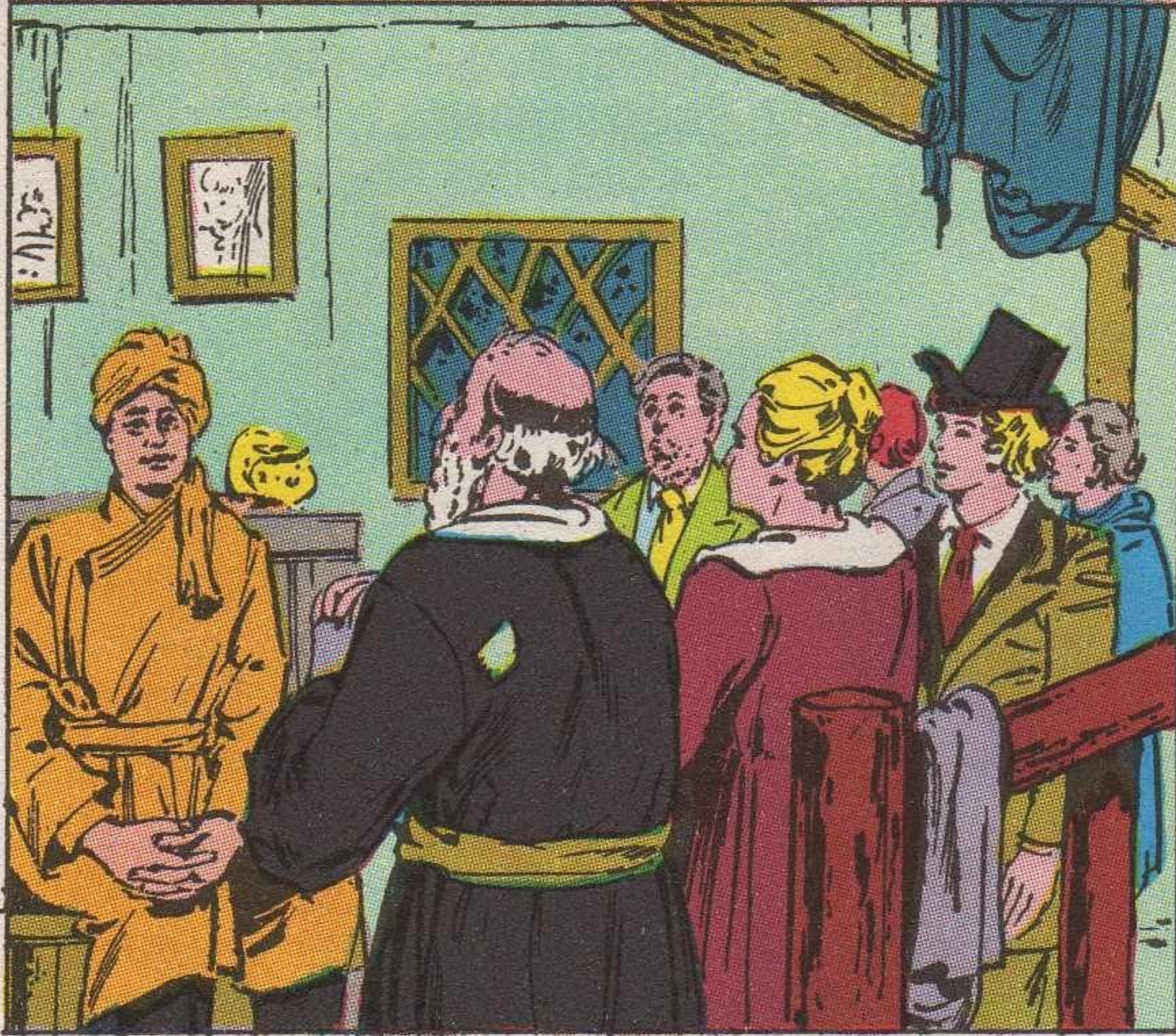
YOU FAIL ONLY WHEN YOU DO NOT STRIVE SUFFICIENTLY TO MANIFEST INFINITE POWER.

MY GOD, THIS MAN HAS COURAGE.

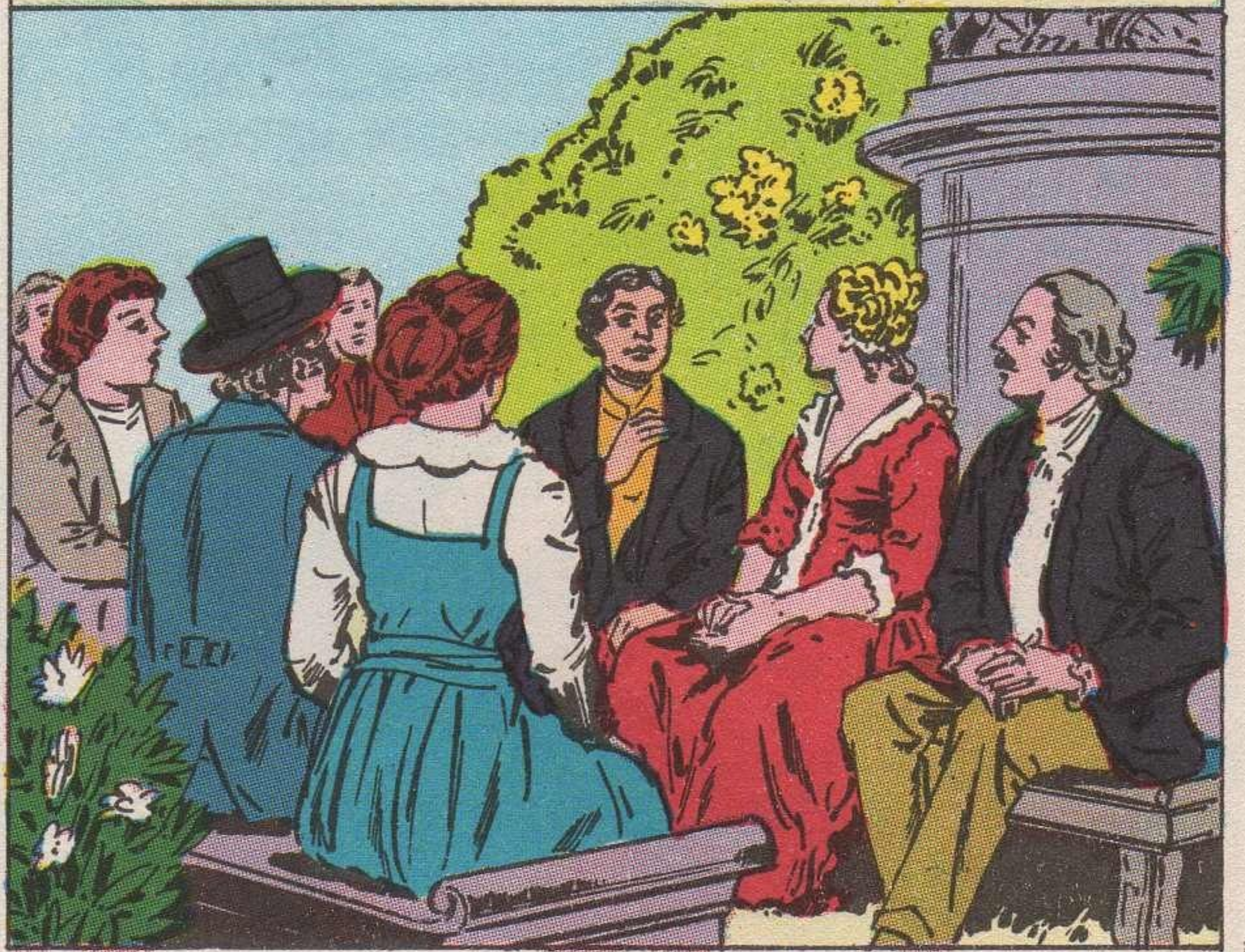
I AM BEGINNING TO SEE WHAT HE MEANS.



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.

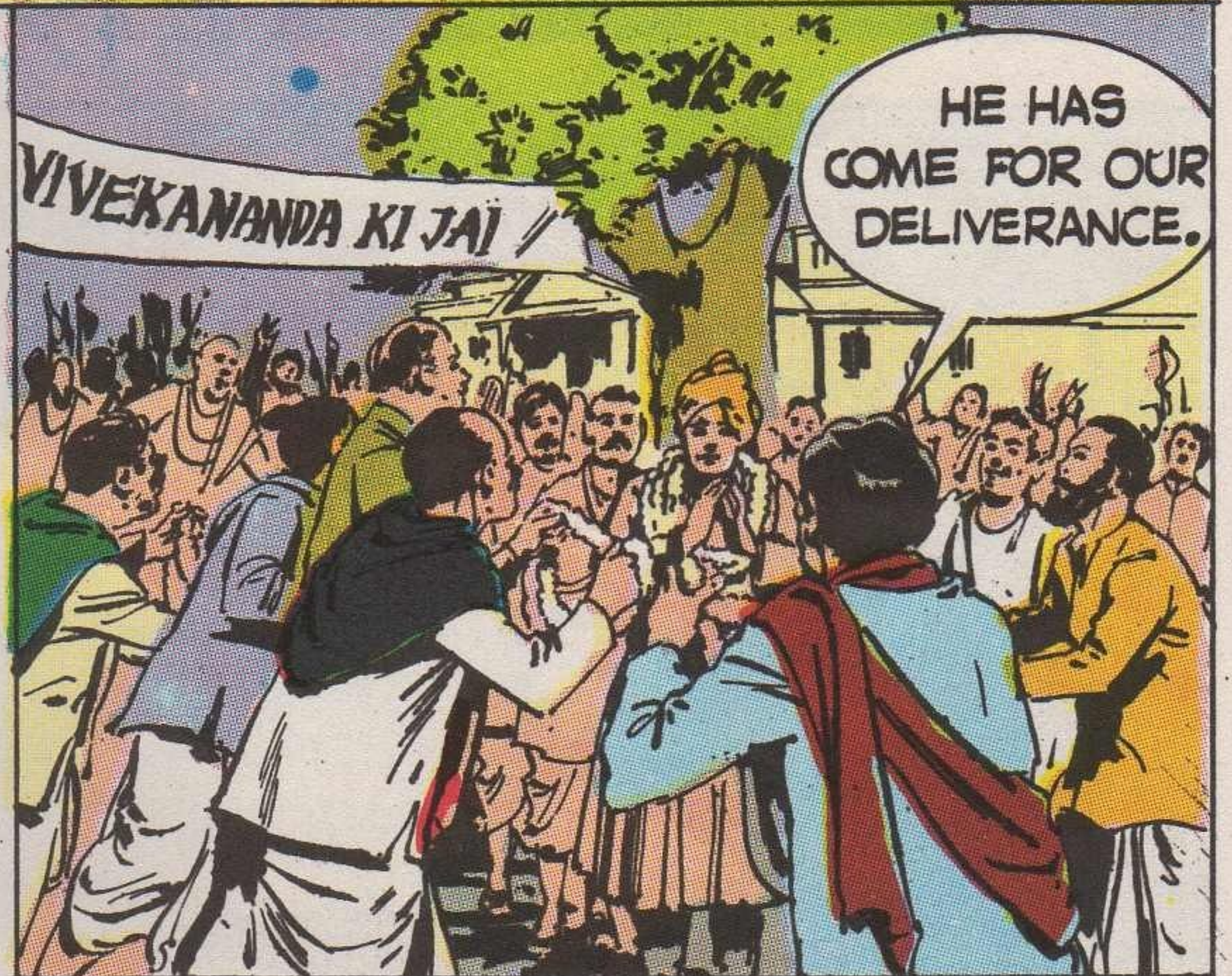
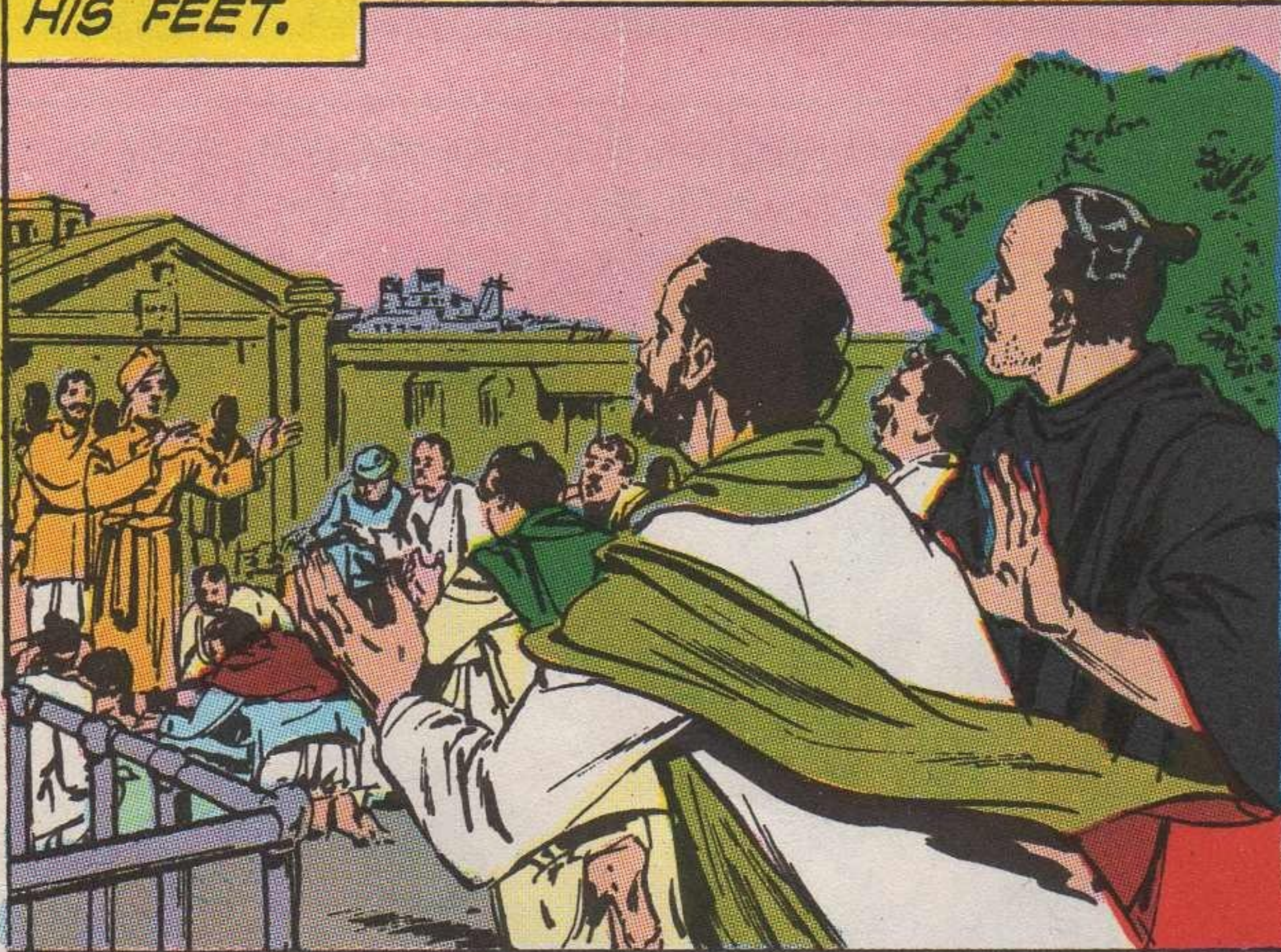
HE RETURNED TO ENGLAND, AND FOUND ANOTHER OF HIS BROTHER DISCIPLES AWAITING HIM THERE.



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!

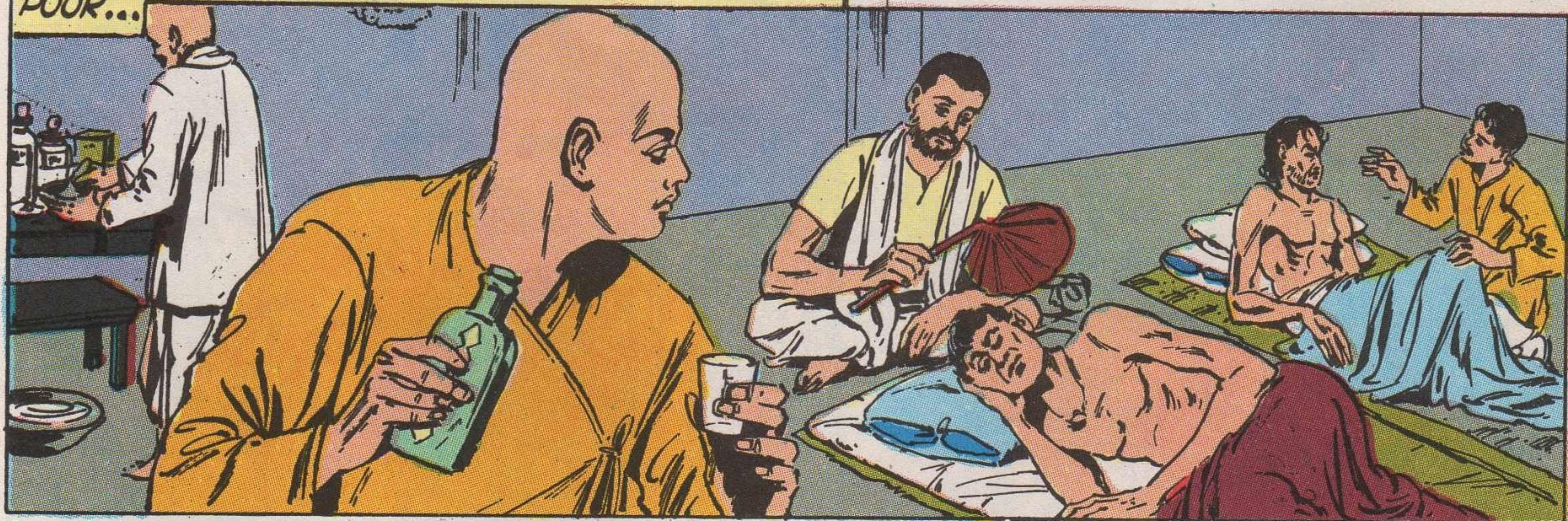


FROM RAMNAD TO MADRAS AND TO CALCUTTA, WHEREVER HE WENT, THE CROWDS YEARNED TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF HIM. THE YOUNG MEN OF THE COUNTRY WERE INSPIRED BY HIS WORDS.

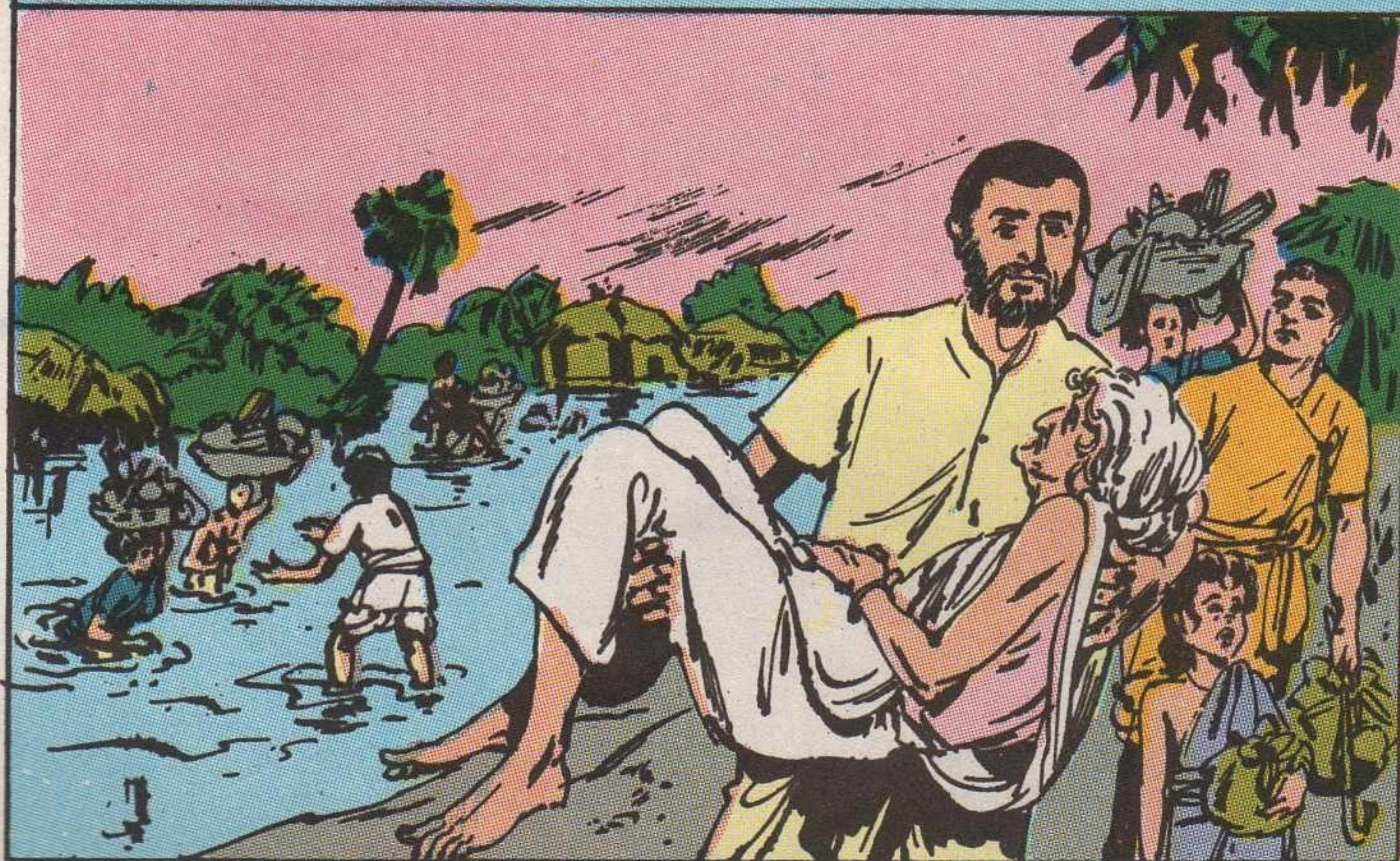
NONE IS REALLY WEAK... STAND UP! ASSERT YOURSELF, PROCLAIM THE GOD WITHIN YOU! DO NOT DENY HIM! ARISE! AWAKE! AND STOP NOT TILL THE GOAL IS REACHED!



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.





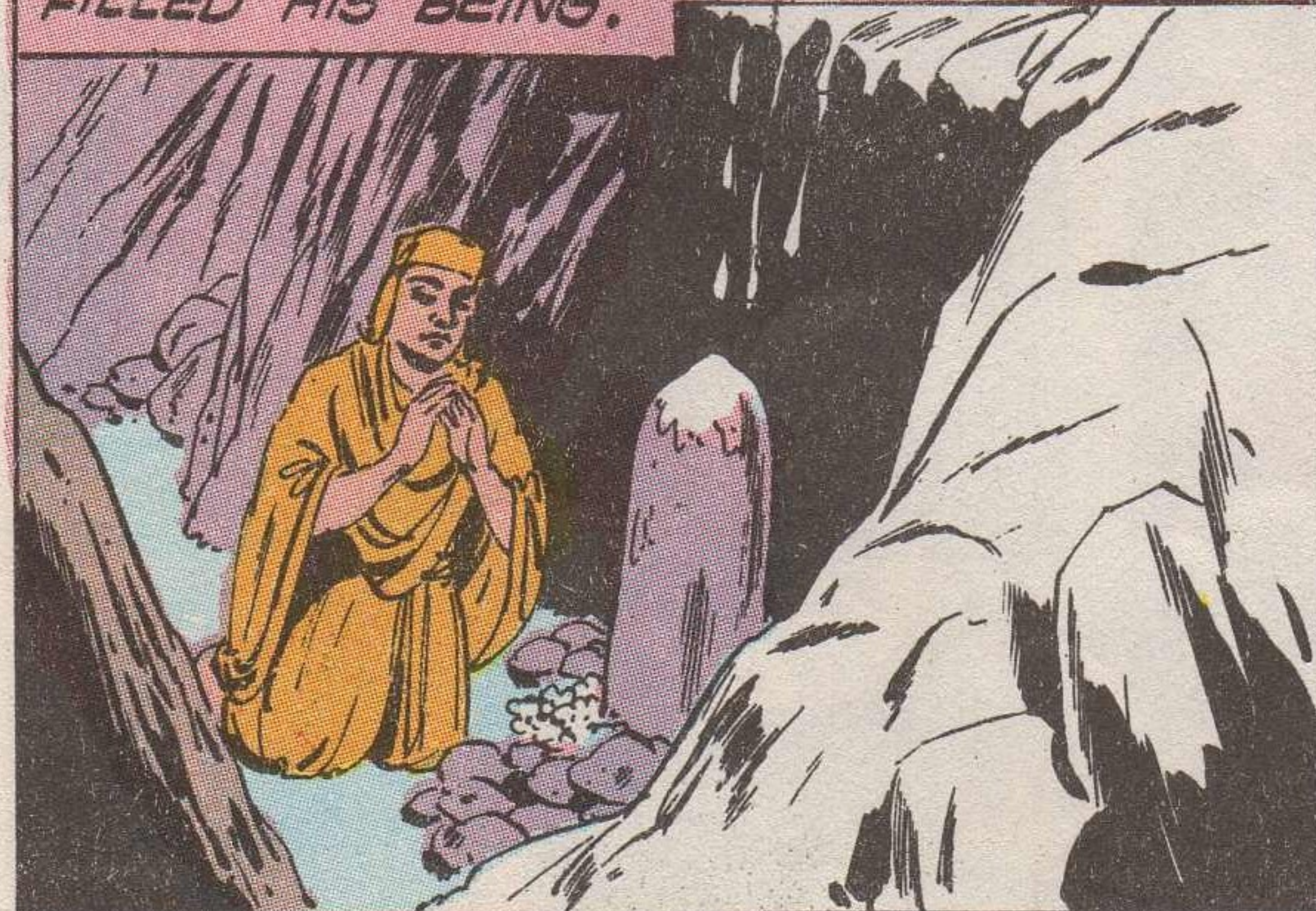
MEANWHILE, VIVEKANANDA TRAVELLED ALL OVER INDIA REVIVING THE SPIRIT OF HINDUISM.



MANY DISCIPLES CAME FROM ABROAD. HE TOOK THEM WITH HIM DURING HIS TRAVELS. ONE DAY, AT AMARNATH, IN THE HIMALAYAS—



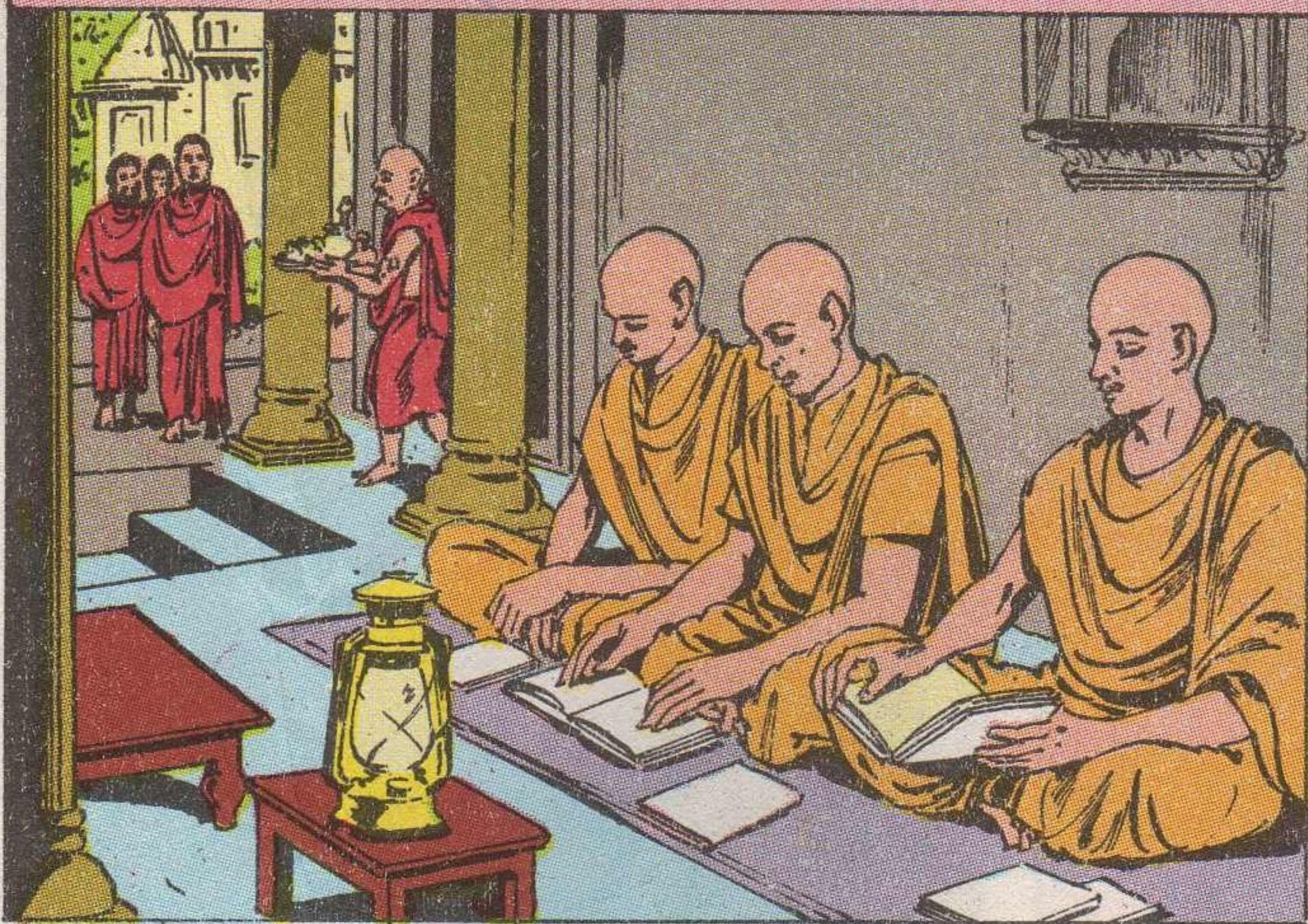
WHILE IN THE CAVE, VIVEKANANDA HAD A VISION OF SHIVA AND INFINITE ENERGY FILLED HIS BEING.



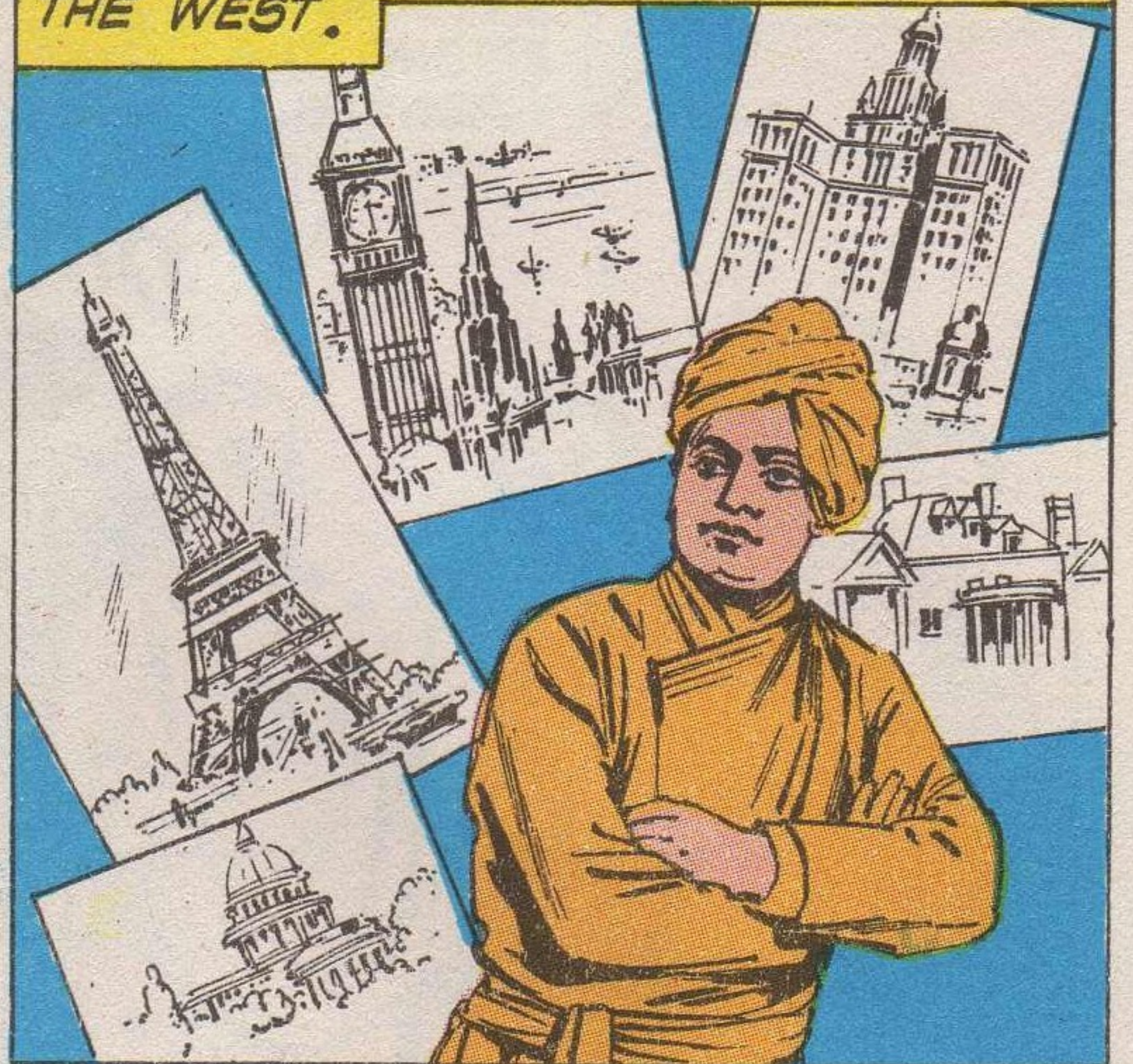
HE CAME BACK TRANSFORMED.



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.

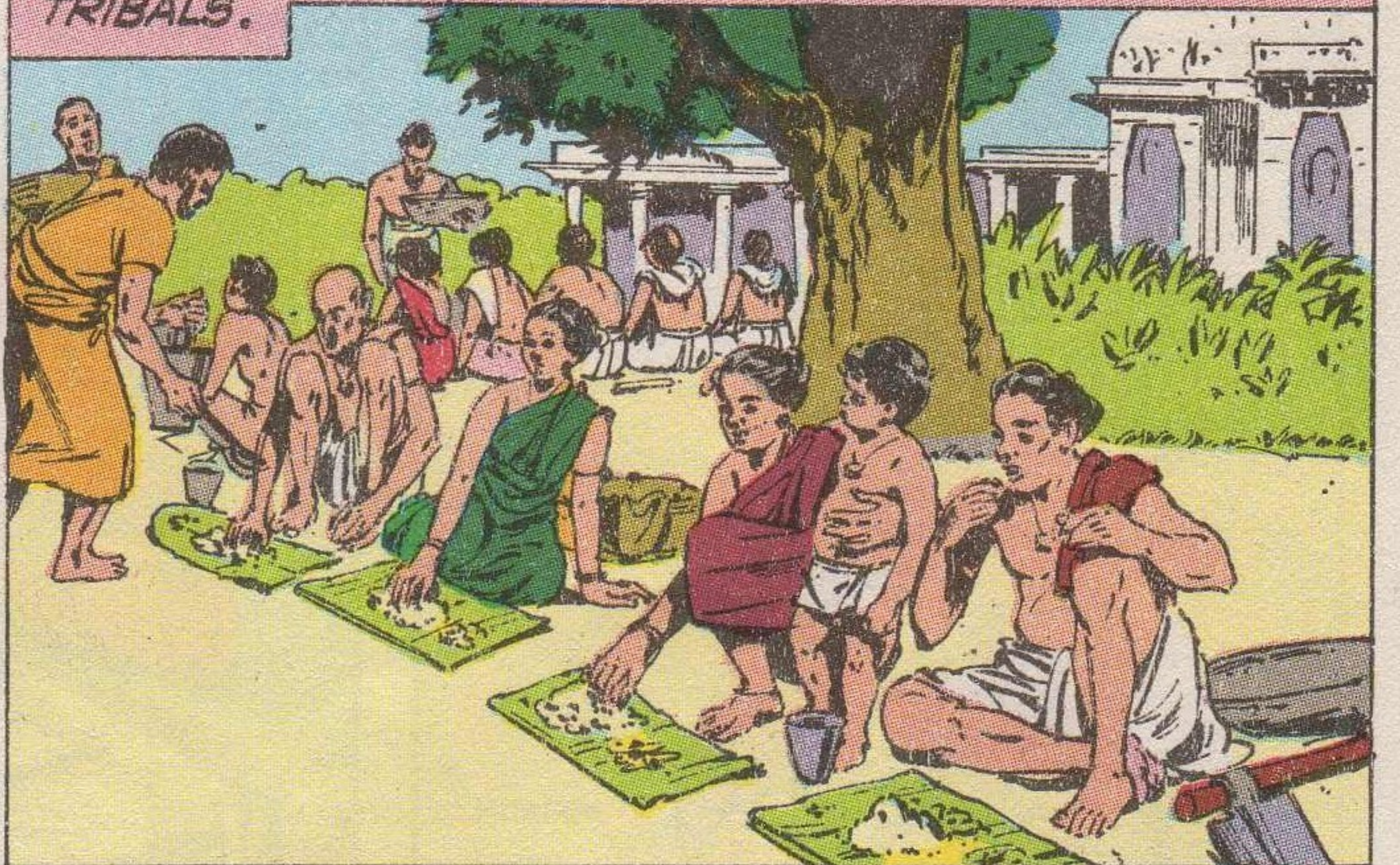


MEANWHILE, THE RAMAKRISHNA ORDER DEVOTED ITSELF TO THE SERVICE OF THE POOR.

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

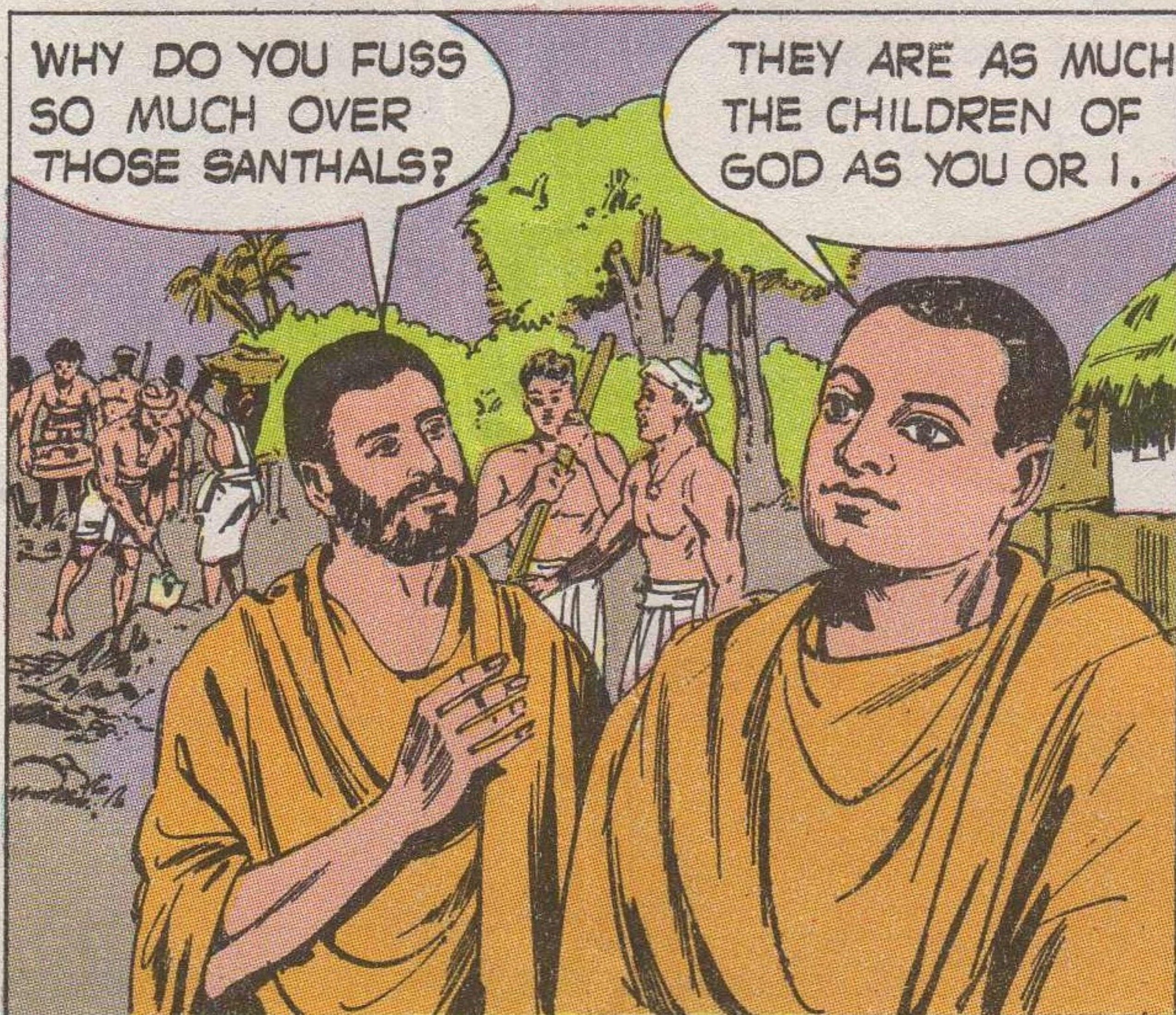


THEY FED THE POOR, MANY OF WHOM WERE SANTHAL TRIBALS.

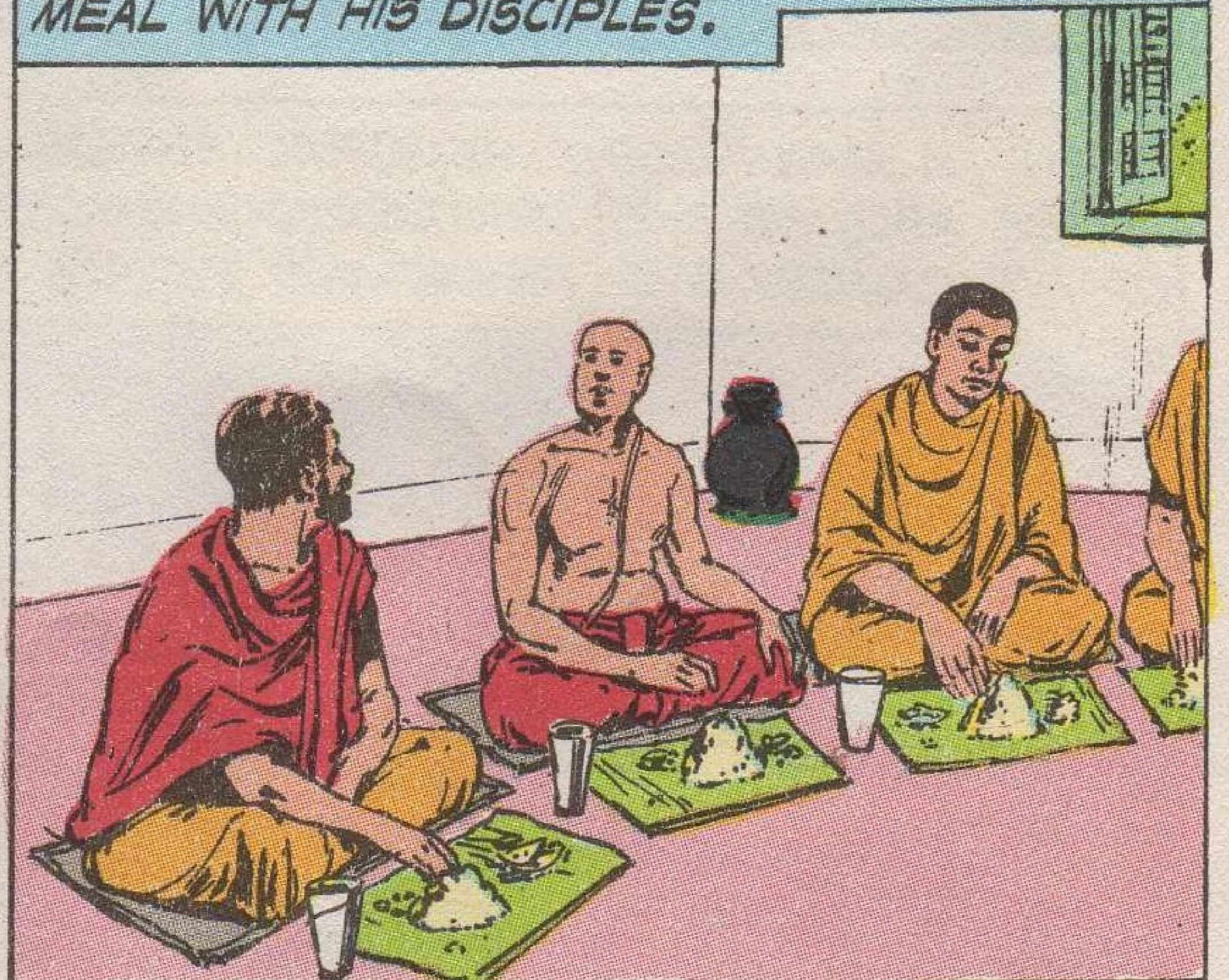


WHY DO YOU FUSS SO MUCH OVER THOSE SANTHALS?

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.



AT SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING THE BELL RANG FOR WORSHIP.

PLEASE GO AND ATTEND THE PRAYERS.

DING TING

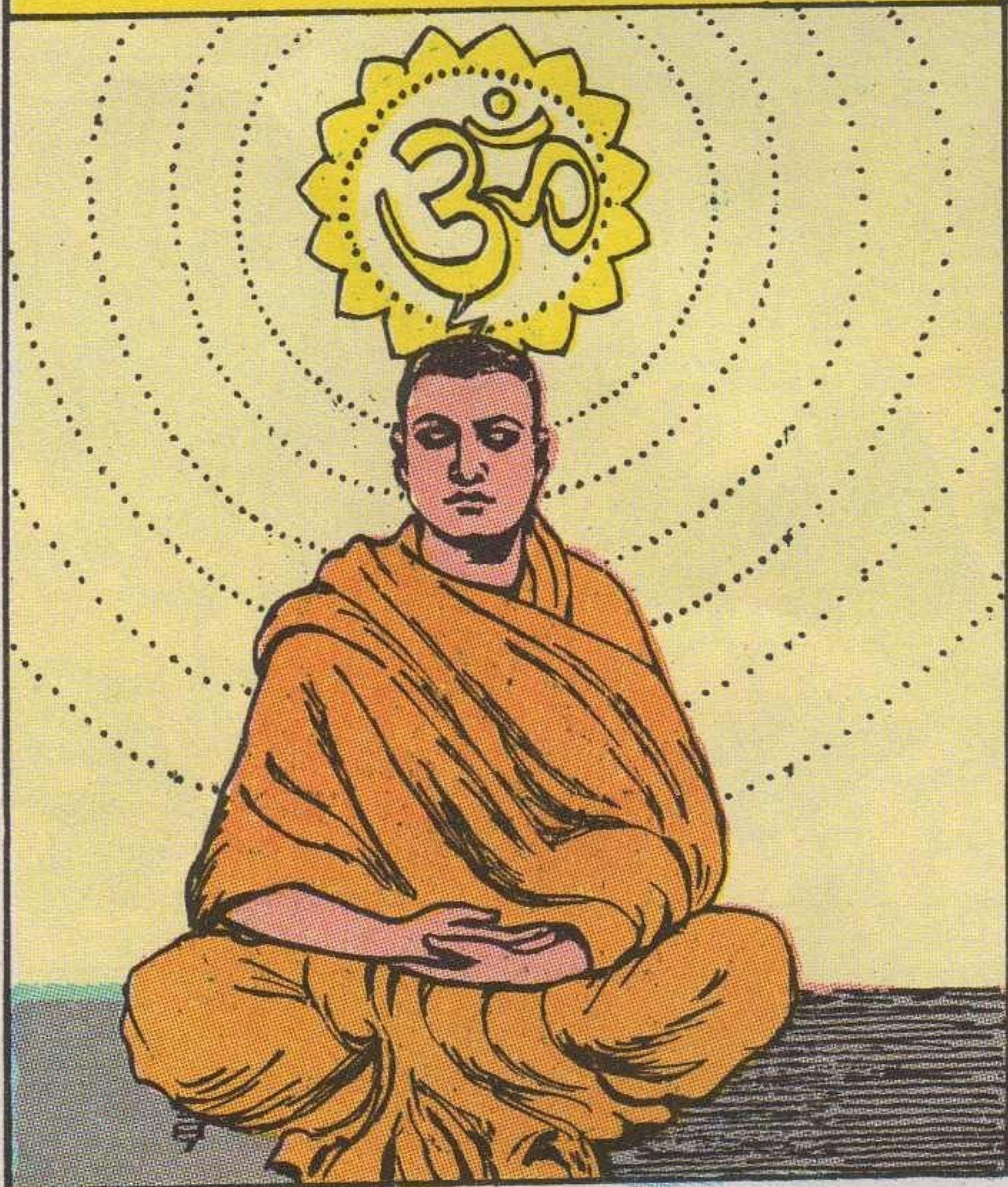


HE WENT TO HIS ROOM.

NONE SHOULD COME TO ME, UNLESS CALLED FOR.



HE SPENT AN HOUR IN MEDITATION.



THEN HE CALLED THE DISCIPLE WHO ATTENDED ON HIM AND LAY QUIETLY IN BED.



BY THE TIME THE OTHERS CAME, HE HAD CAST OFF HIS BODY. HE HAD A DIVINE EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE. HE WAS NOT YET FORTY.

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.

