



# SAVITRI

THE PERFECT WIFE

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**Script**  
Anant Pai

**Illustrations**  
Ram Waeerkar

**Editor**  
Anant Pai

*Cover illustration by: Pratap Mulick*

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# SAVITRI



LONG AGO, IN THE KINGDOM OF  
MADRA RULED A KING CALLED ASVAPATI.  
HE WAS A RIGHTEOUS KING.



HE HAD MANY WIVES - AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE DAYS.  
THE PALACE ECHOED WITH THEIR HAPPY VOICES.



BUT ASVAPATI WAS  
UNHAPPY. HE HAD  
NO CHILDREN.

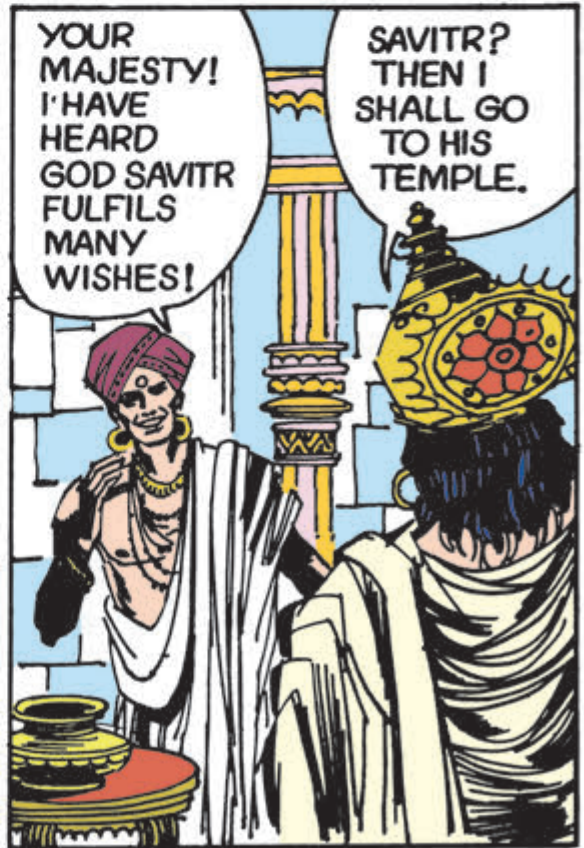
WHY  
ARE YOU  
SAD,  
YOUR  
MAJESTY?

I HAVE  
WORSHIPPED  
THE GODS  
BUT STILL  
HAVE NO  
CHILD.



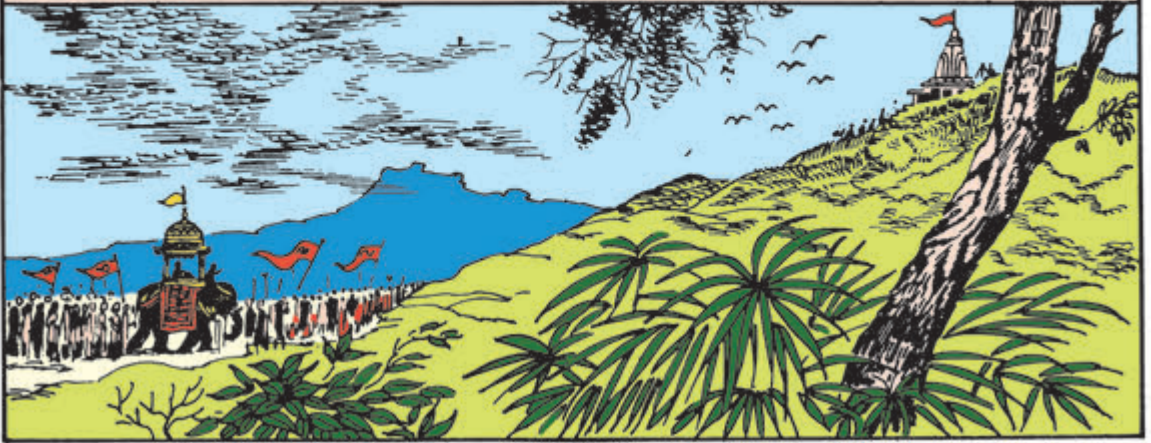
YOUR  
MAJESTY!  
I'VE  
HEARD  
GOD SAVITR  
FULFILLS  
MANY  
WISHES!

SAVITR?  
THEN I  
SHALL GO  
TO HIS  
TEMPLE.





SOON A ROYAL PROCESSION WOUND ITS WAY TO THE SAVITR TEMPLE...



FROM THIS  
HOLY FIRE THE  
GOD WILL  
ACCEPT YOUR  
OFFERING!

WILL HE  
FULFIL MY  
HEART'S  
DESIRE?



THEN THE TEMPLE WAS BATHED  
IN LIGHT AND THE GOD  
APPEARED BEFORE THE KING.

YOU ARE PURE  
IN HEART!  
YOUR WISH  
WILL BE  
FULFILLED!

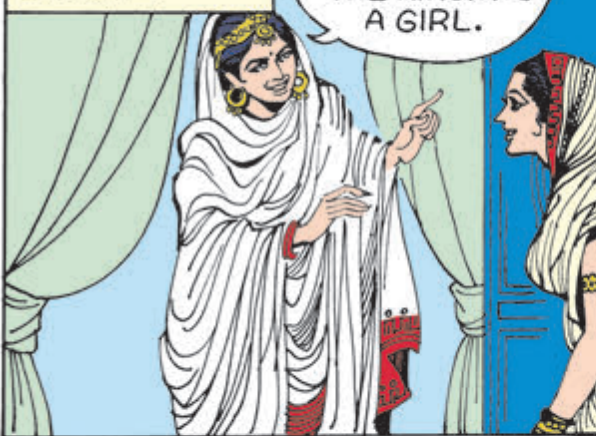




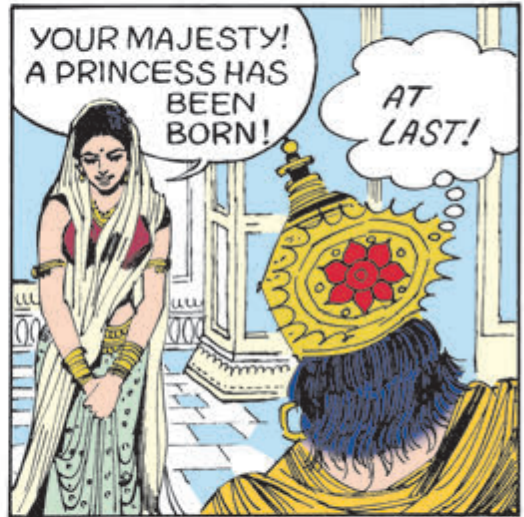
THE MONTHS PASSED, ON THE DAY OF THE CHILD'S BIRTH, THE PEOPLE GATHERED OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATES WAITING FOR THE NEWS.



IN THE PALACE, LATER -



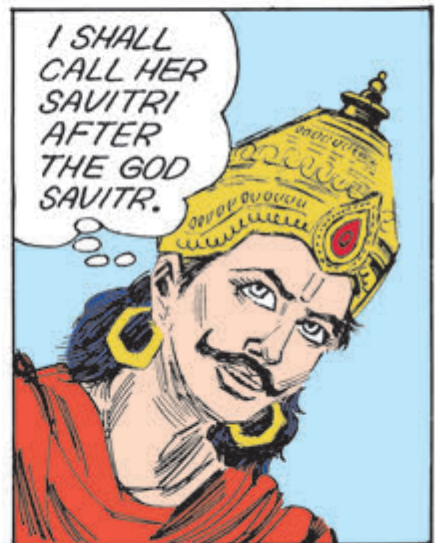
YOUR MAJESTY! A PRINCESS HAS BEEN BORN!



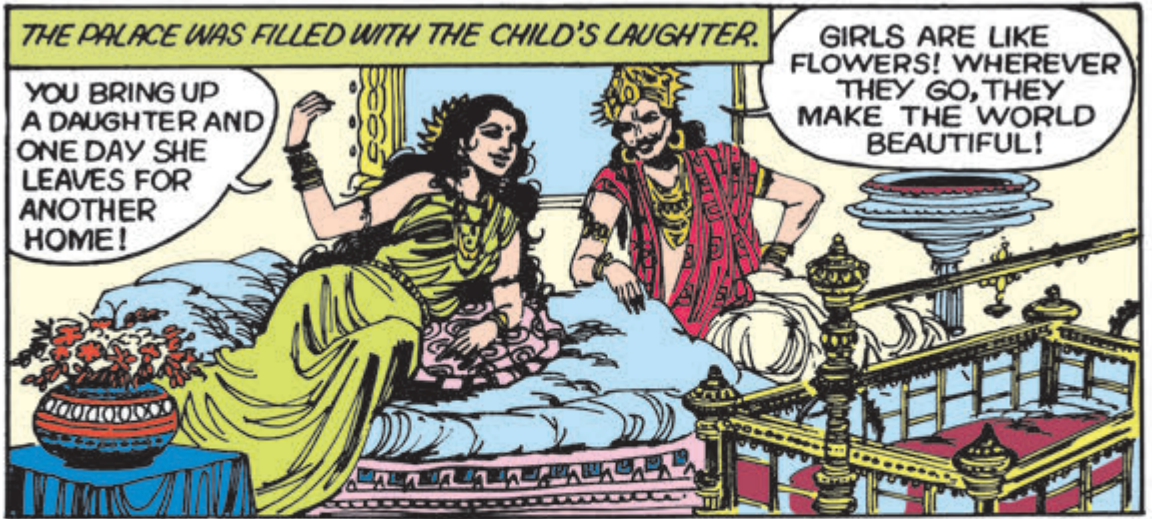
THE WHOLE KINGDOM REJOICED. THE KING GAVE AWAY CLOTHES AND JEWELS.



I SHALL CALL HER SAVITRI AFTER THE GOD SAVITR.









BUT TIME PASSED... SAVITRI HAD GROWN TO BE A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN. ONE DAY SHE CAME TO HER FATHER.

FATHER! MAY I GO TO THE TEMPLE?

ALL ALONE? WELL, YES! YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH!



IN THE QUIET STILLNESS OF THE TEMPLE SITUATED ON A HILL TOP, SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.

WHY DIDN'T I COME HERE BEFORE?



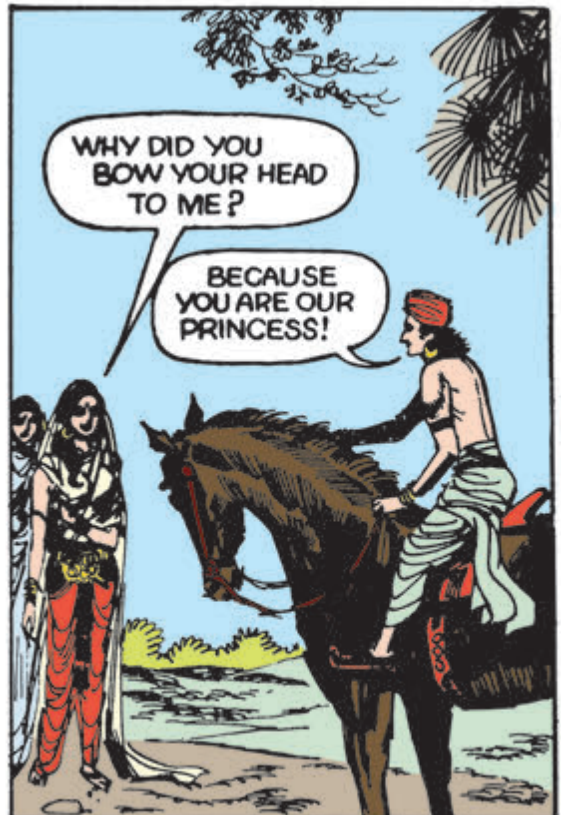
ON HER WAY BACK SAVITRI SAW A GROUP OF YOUNG OFFICERS RIDING NEAR THE PALACE GATE.

GOOD DAY, PRINCESS!

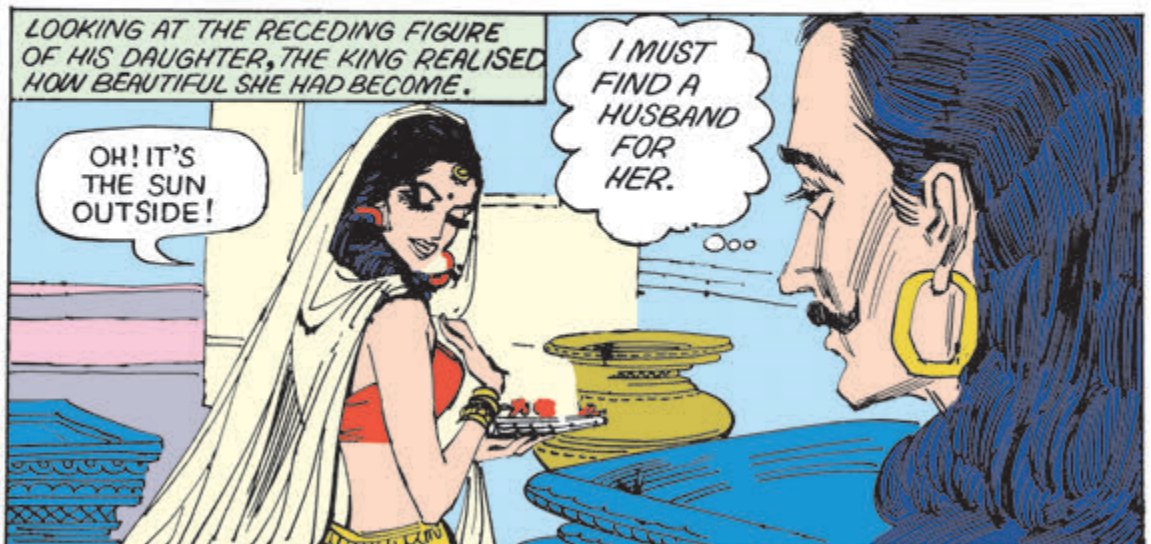
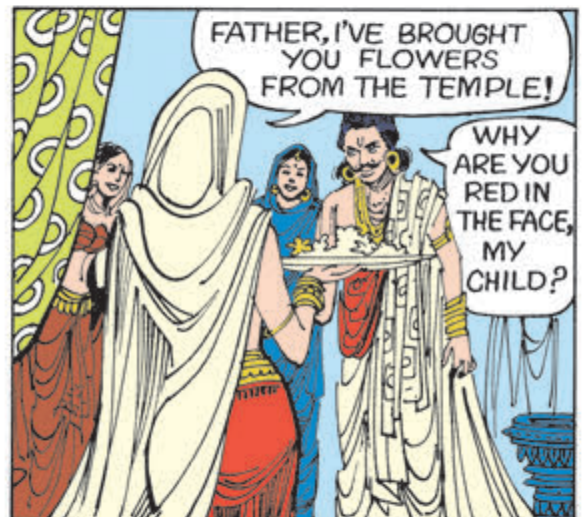
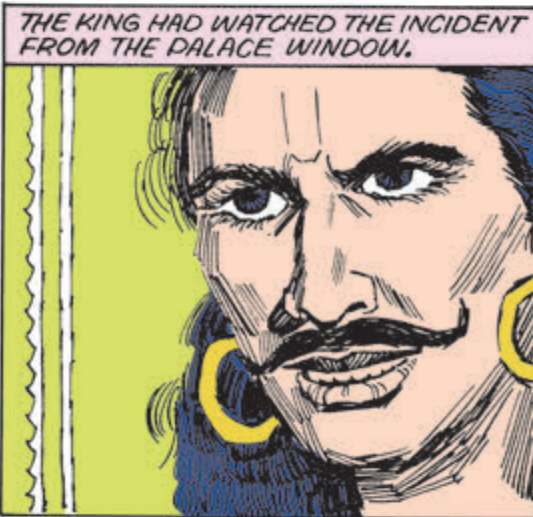
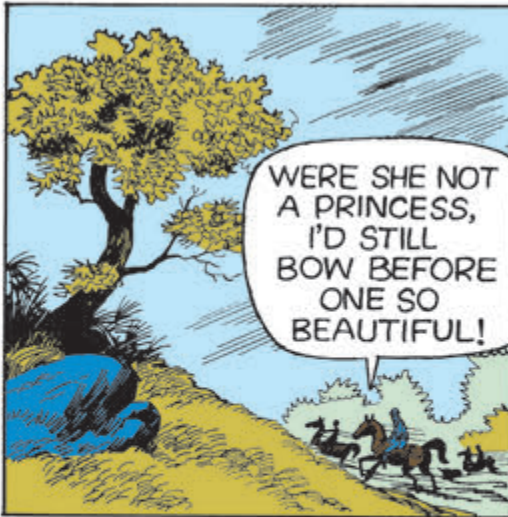


WHY DID YOU BOW YOUR HEAD TO ME?

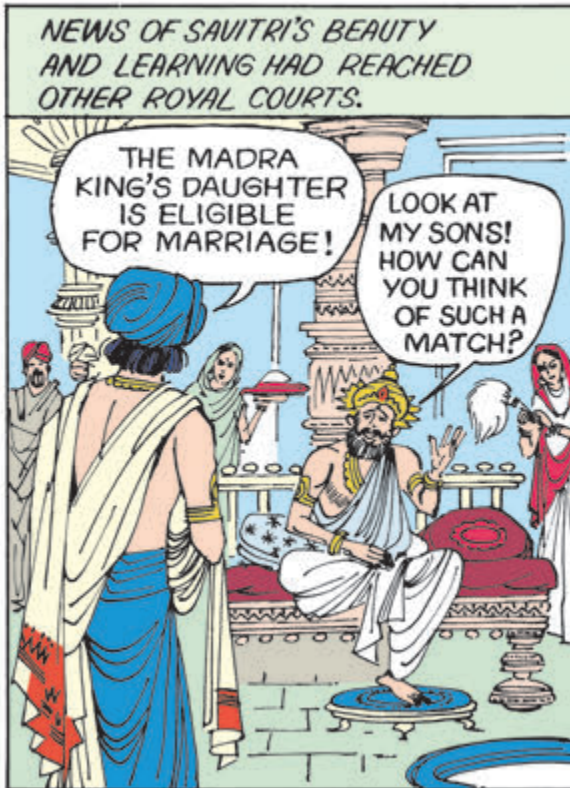
BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR PRINCESS!













THE COURT JESTER CAME OUT WITH ANOTHER IDEA...



THE KING LIKED THE IDEA. HE CALLED SAVITRI TO HIS ROOM. SAVITRI WAS RELUCTANT.



IT IS SAID, A FATHER, WHO DOES NOT GIVE HIS DAUGHTER IN MARRIAGE, IS A SINNER.



ALL RIGHT, FATHER! I SHALL DO WHAT YOU SAY.





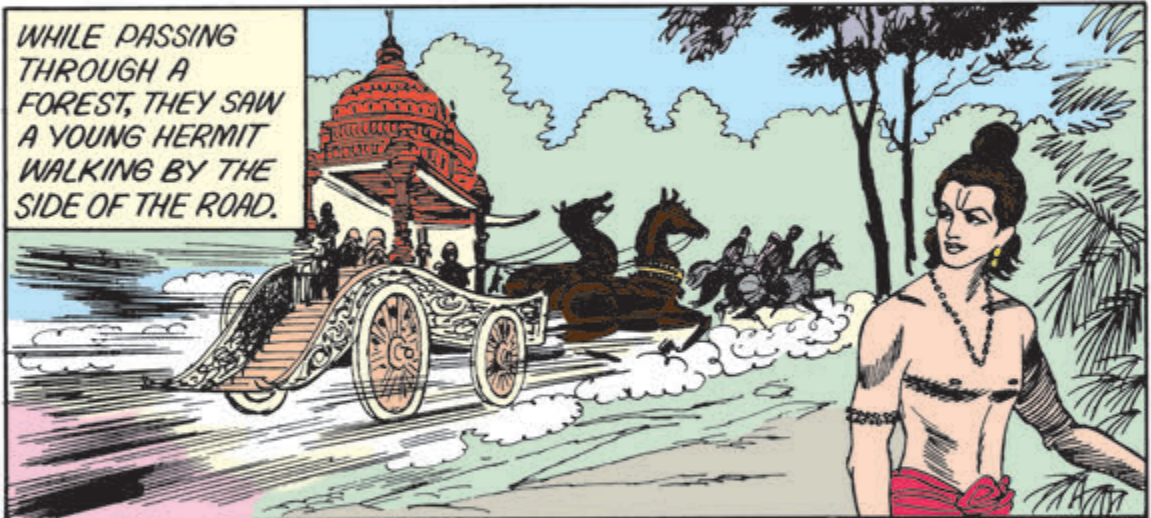
IT WAS ARRANGED THAT SAVITRI WOULD GO ON A TRIP THROUGH MANY KINGDOMS. THE MINISTER WOULD ACCOMPANY HER.



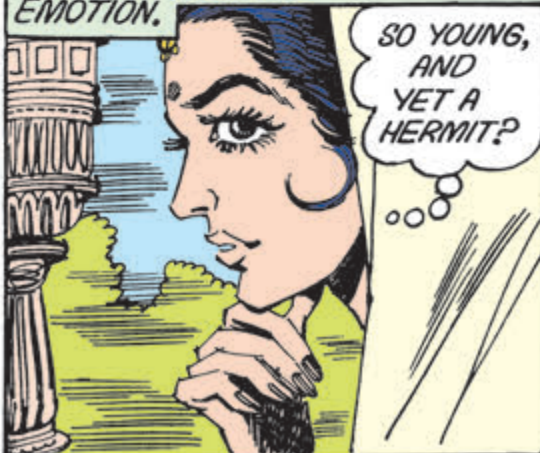
SAVITRI WAS THRILLED WITH THE JOURNEY—SHE WOULD VISIT SO MANY HOLY PLACES.



WHILE PASSING THROUGH A FOREST, THEY SAW A YOUNG HERMIT WALKING BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.



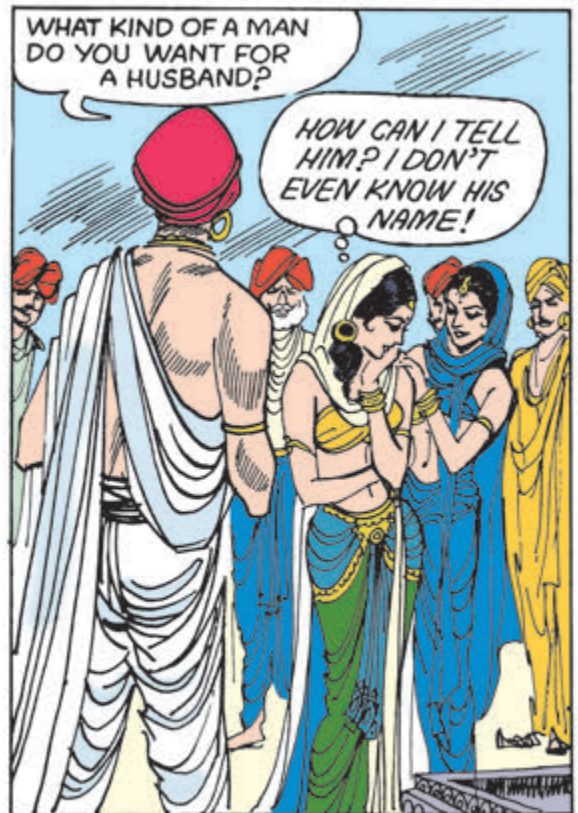
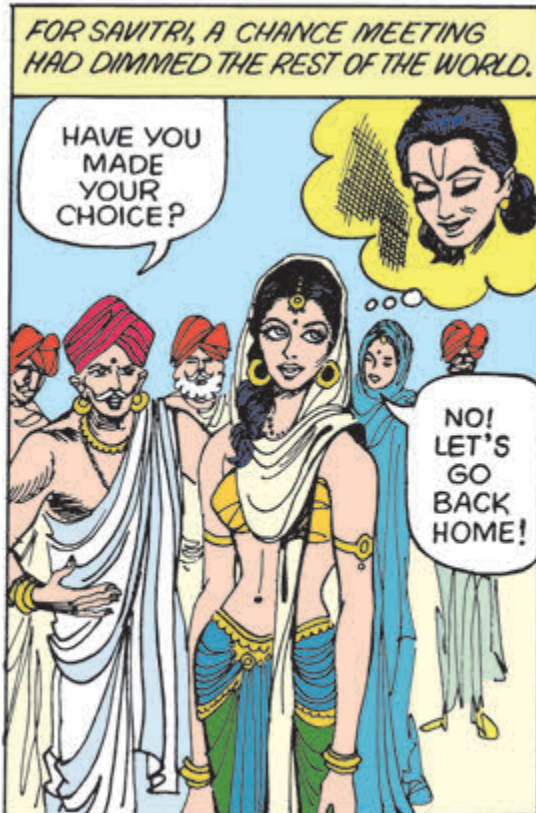
SAVITRI'S EYES FELL ON THE YOUNG MAN'S FACE AND SHE FELT A STRANGE EMOTION.



THE FACE WAS IMPRINTED ON HER MEMORY.









THE CHARIOT PASSED THROUGH THE FOREST AGAIN. SAVITRI SENSED THAT SHE WOULD MEET HIM AGAIN.



SOON SHE WAS STARTLED BY A WARM YOUTHFUL VOICE...



SAVITRI KNEW SHE HAD TO KNOW THE TRUTH! SHE COULD NOT GO AWAY.

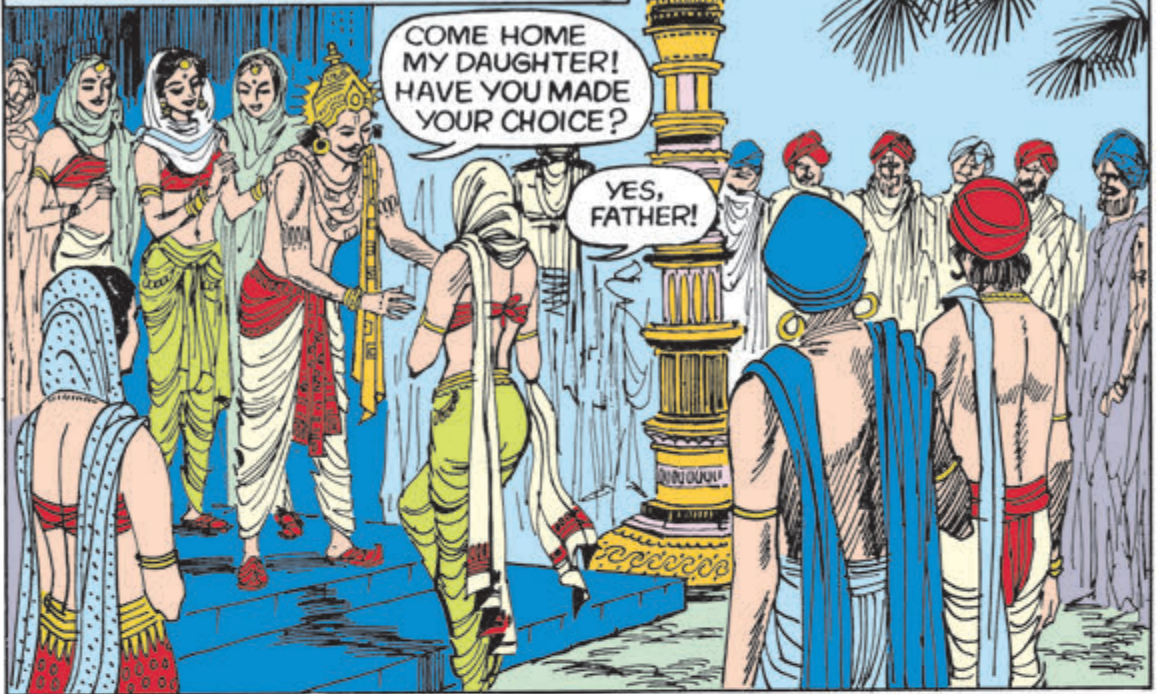


SOON THE MINISTER RETURNED.

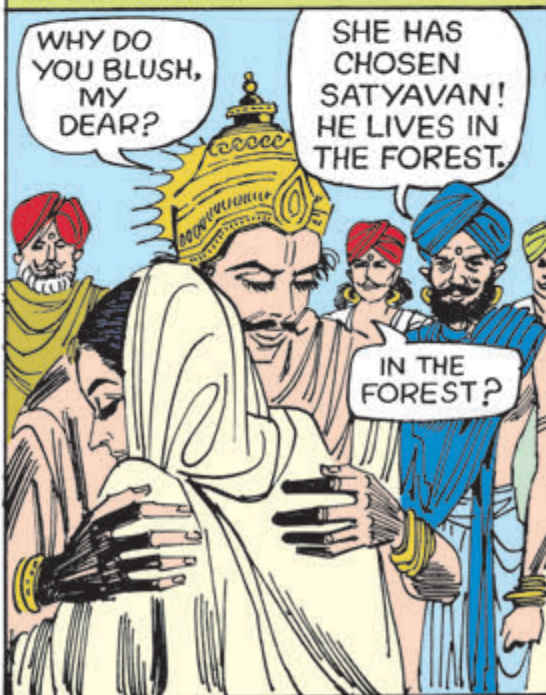




AT LAST SAVITRI RETURNED TO HER FATHER'S PALACE. THE KING CAME OUT TO GREET HER...



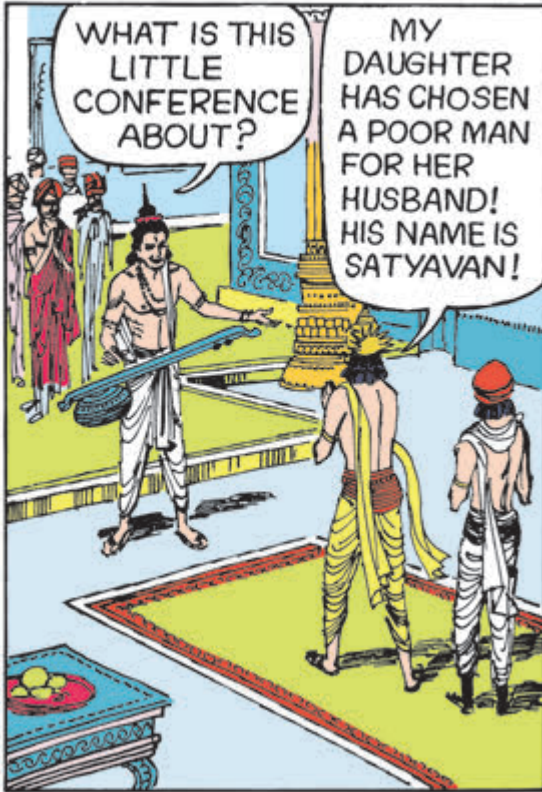
BUT SAVITRI WAS SOON OVERCOME WITH EMBARRASSMENT... SHE COULD NOT SPEAK...



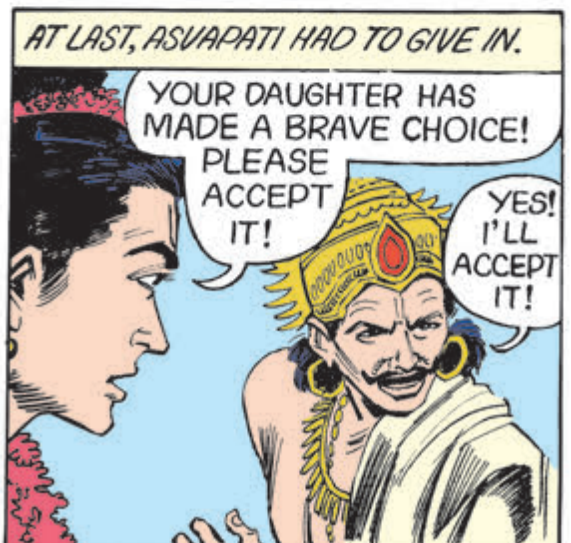
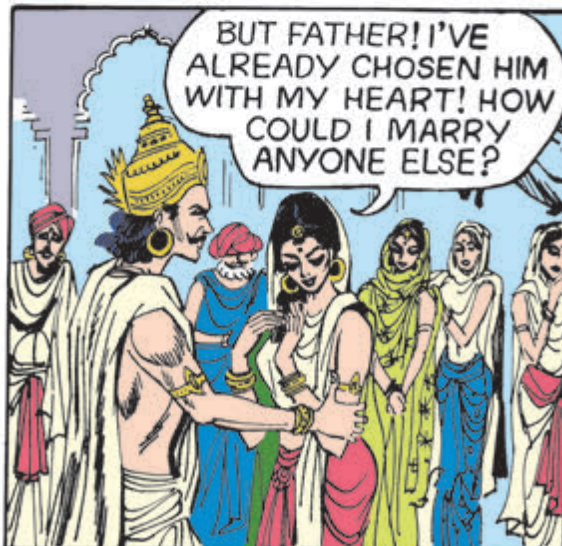
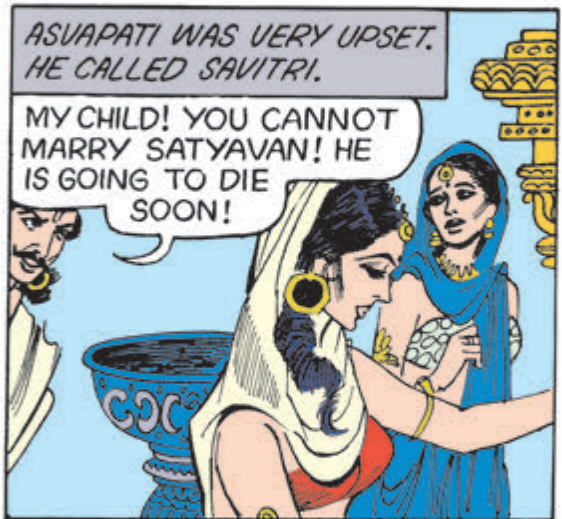
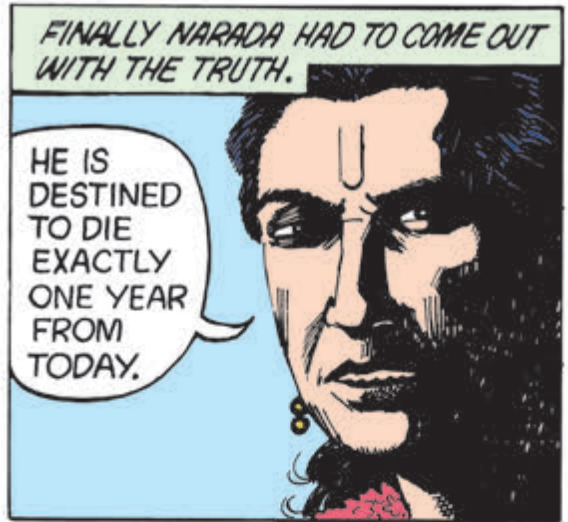
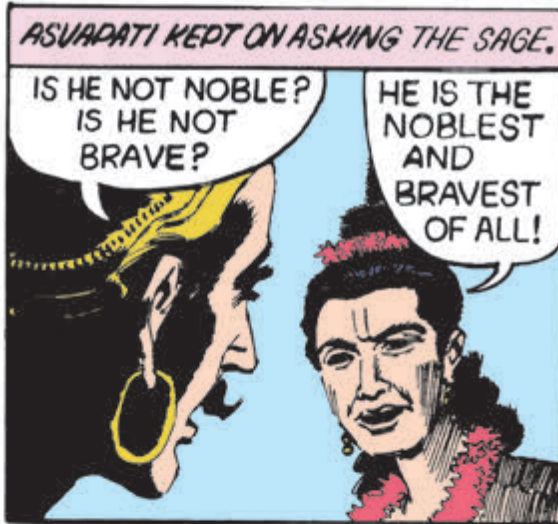
...BUT THE CONVERSATION WAS SOON INTERRUPTED.













ONE DAY SOON AFTER, A BRIDAL PROCESSION REACHED THE FOREST...  
THE HERMITS CAME FORWARD TO RECEIVE AND WELCOME THEM.



AT FIRST, DYUMATSENA WAS HESITANT.

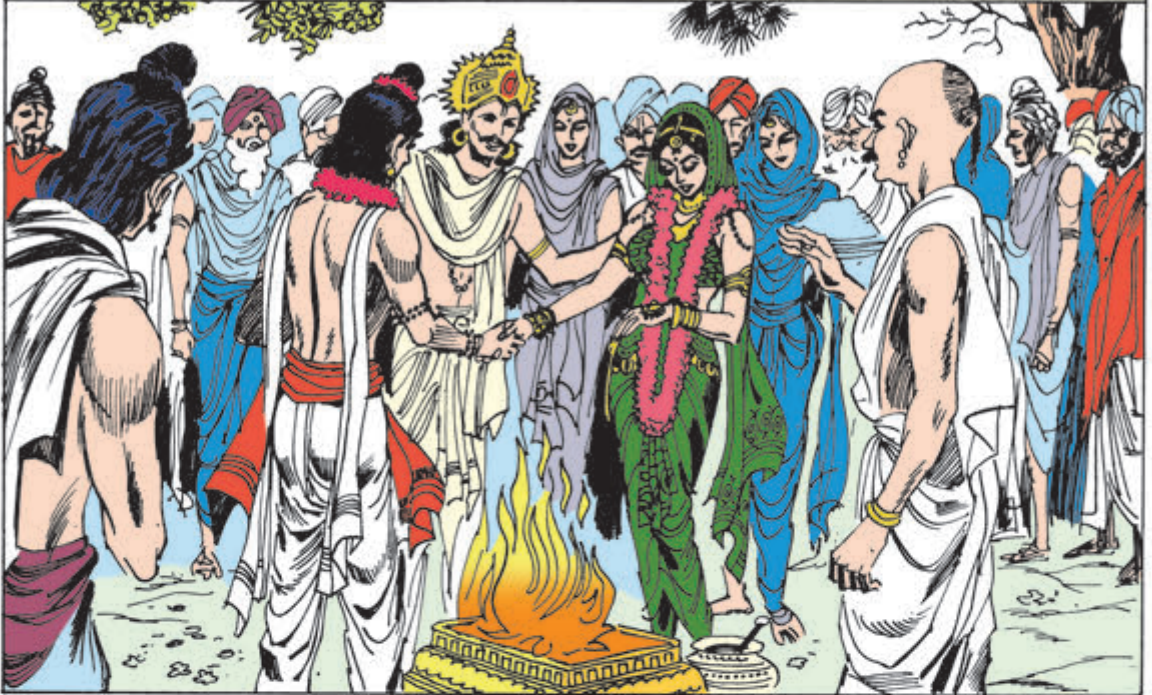


HER FRIENDS DRESSED SAVITRI BEAUTIFULLY.





CHANTING THE SACRED MANTRA OF MARRIAGE, ASVAPATI  
GAVE AWAY HIS DAUGHTER TO SATYAVAN.

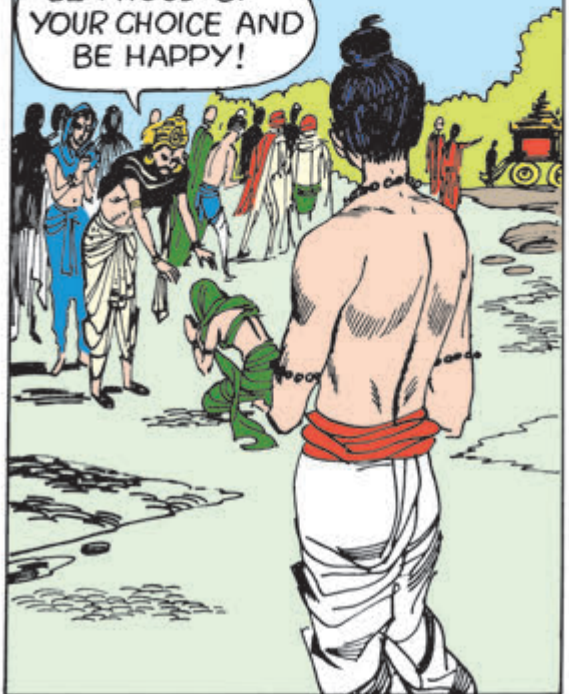


THE BRIDE AND GROOM WALKED  
AROUND THE SACRED FIRE SEVEN  
TIMES. THEY WERE MARRIED NOW.



THEN IT WAS TIME FOR FAREWELL.

BE PROUD OF  
YOUR CHOICE AND  
BE HAPPY!





AS SOON AS HER PARENTS LEFT, SAVITRI TOOK OFF ALL HER JEWELS AND CLOTHED HERSELF IN CLOTHES OF BARK.



SATYAVAN TOOK OUT A BEAUTIFUL RING HE HAD KEPT FOR HER.





SAVITRI WAS EXTREMELY DEVOTED TO HER PARENTS-IN-LAW! SHE LOOKED AFTER THEM LIKE A DUTIFUL DAUGHTER.



AS THE DAYS PASSED, A SECRET AGONY GREW WITHIN HER HEART.



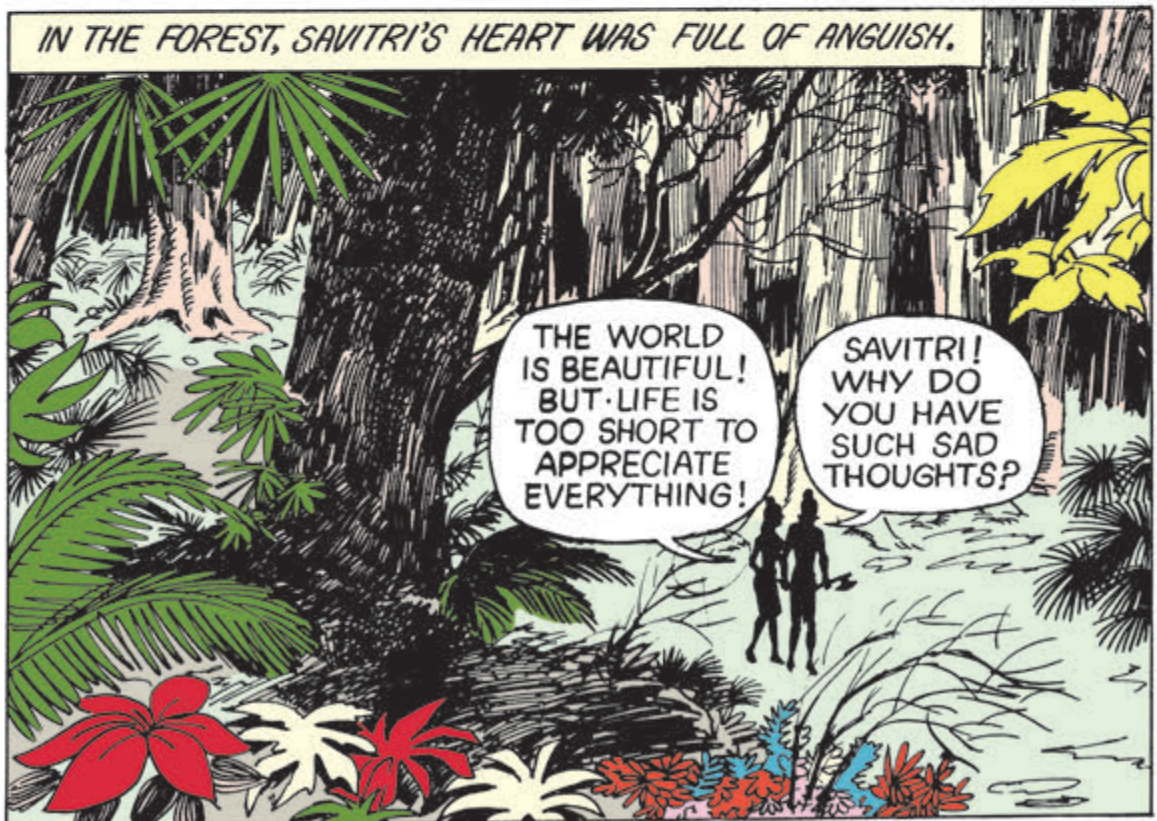
AT LAST, THE YEAR WENT BY. THREE DAYS BEFORE THE FATEFUL DAY, SAVITRI BEGAN FASTING.



ON THE LAST NIGHT SHE COULD NOT SLEEP. ONLY ONE THOUGHT KEPT ON HAUNTING HER.









EVERY SECOND, HER HEART BEATS BECAME LOUDER! EVERY BLADE OF GRASS SMELLED OF LURKING DEATH.

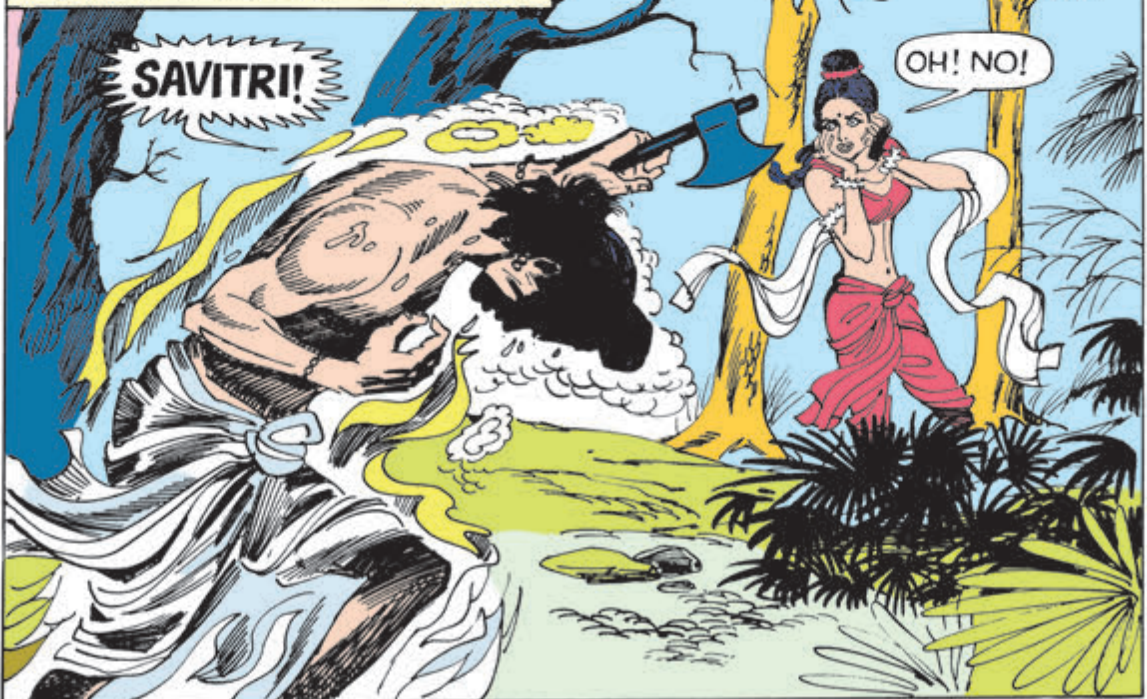


WILL YOU PLUCK SOME FRUIT? I HAVE TO CUT BRANCHES FOR FIREWOOD!

YES, I WILL!



SUDDENLY, SATYAVAN'S BODY WAS BATHED IN PERSPIRATION... THEN A TERRIBLE PAIN SHOT THROUGH HIS LIMBS.





SAVITRI RAN TOWARDS HER HUSBAND...

SAVITRI, MY LIMBS ARE LOSING ALL SENSATION! LET ME SLEEP FOR A WHILE!



SOON, SATYAVAN'S BODY BECAME STILL.

SO THIS IS THE END?



THE FOREST AROUND HER HAD DARKENED... A HEAVY STILLNESS FILLED THE AIR... SAVITRI LIFTED HER HEAD AND SAW A DARK FIGURE CLAD IN RED, A CROWN SHINING ON HIS HEAD.

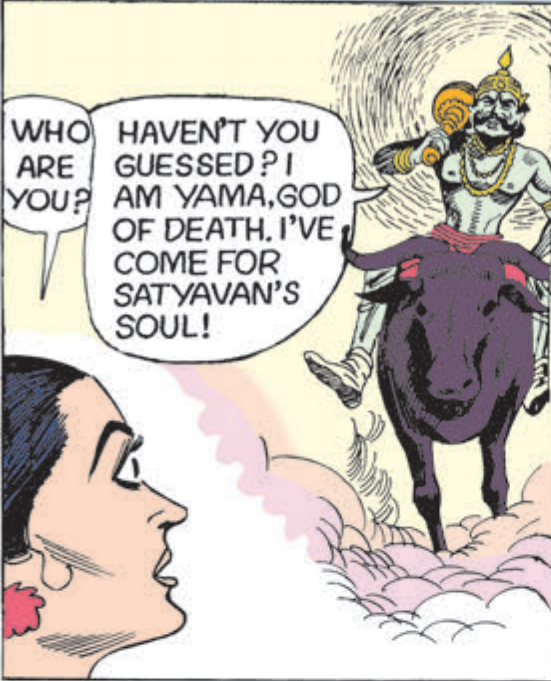




SAVITRI WAS TROUBLED, BUT SHE FELT NO FEAR. SHE WANTED TO SPEAK TO HIM...

WHO ARE YOU?

HAVEN'T YOU GUESSED? I AM YAMA, GOD OF DEATH. I'VE COME FOR SATYAVAN'S SOUL!



MY LORD! I'VE HEARD, YOUR ASSISTANTS DO THIS JOB. WHY HAVE YOU COME YOURSELF?

SATYAVAN WAS NO ORDINARY PERSON. HE WAS PURE. THAT'S WHY I HAVE COME!



YAMA TOOK OUT A SMALL NOOSE. HE SLIPPED IT AROUND SATYAVAN'S BODY AND STARTED BACK.



SAVITRI SAW THAT SATYAVAN'S FACE HAD ASSUMED THE STILLNESS OF A CORPSE.

MY BELOVED HUSBAND IS DEAD! I HAVE NOTHING LEFT NOW IN LIFE! LET ME FOLLOW LORD YAMA!

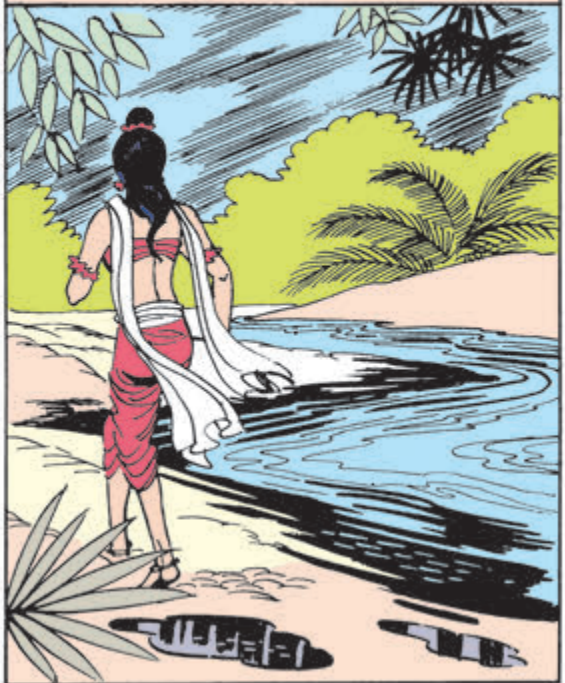




SAVITRI FOLLOWED YAMA FROM A DISTANCE! THE TALL SOFT GRASS OF THE FOREST MUFFLED THE SOUND OF HER ANKLETS.



SOON THEY CAME UPON A STREAM. HERE TOO THE WATER SOFTENED THE SOUND OF HER FOOTSTEPS.



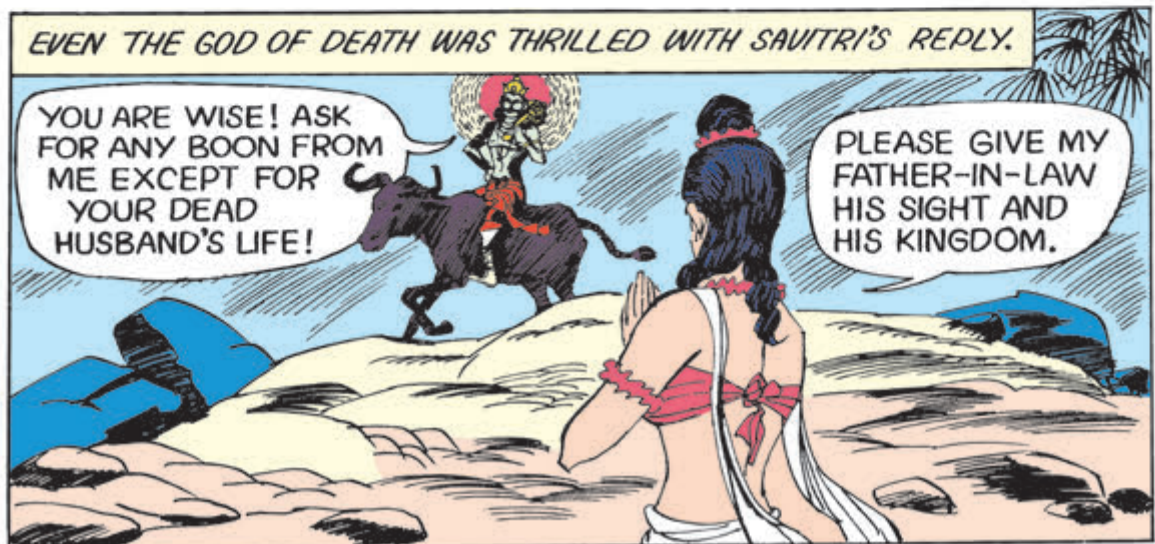
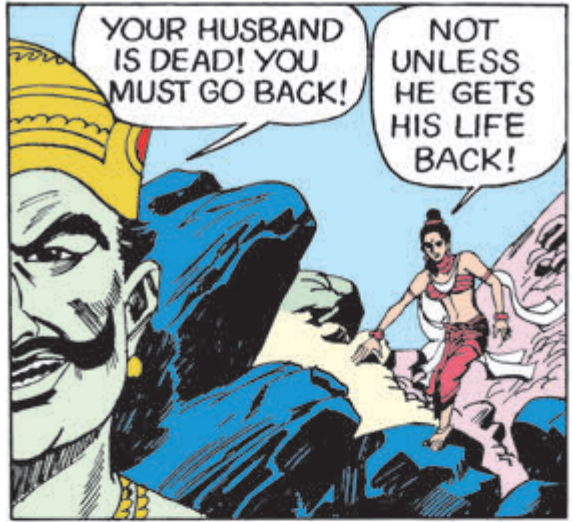
ON THE HARD GROUND, HER ANKLETS FILLED THE AIR WITH A MOURNFUL SOUND...



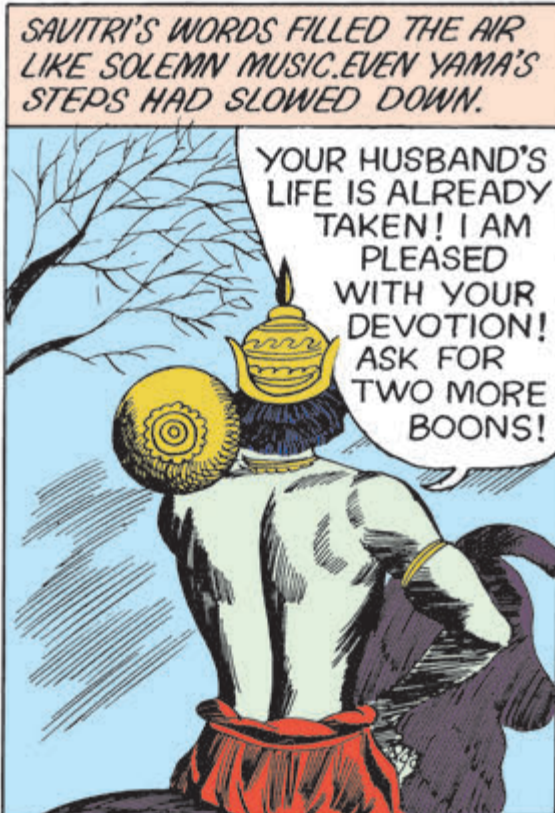
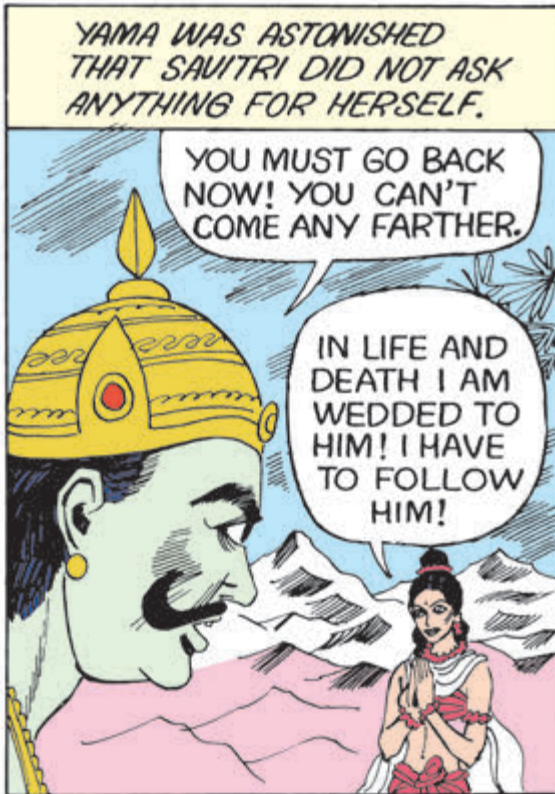
...WHICH SOON REACHED YAMA'S EARS! THE GOD OF DEATH PAUSED TO LISTEN TO THE STRANGE SOUND.















*YAMA STARTED TO GO! AFTER A FEW STEPS HE TURNED TO HAVE A LAST GLIMPSE OF SAVITRI.*





IN GREAT JOY, SAVITRI RAN BACK TO WHERE SATYAVAN LAY IN THE FOREST.



HE WAS LYING THERE AS SHE HAD LEFT HIM, STILL, MOTIONLESS. SAVITRI HAD A DOUBT.



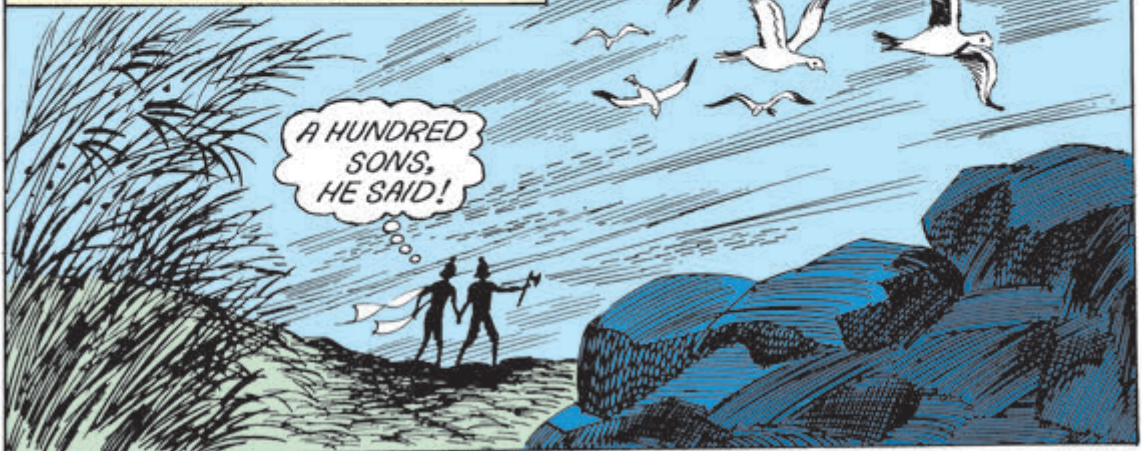
SAVITRI KNEW THAT A POLISHED STONE BECOMES MISTY WITH A MAN'S BREATH. SHE TOOK OFF HER RING AND HELD IT NEAR HIS NOSE.



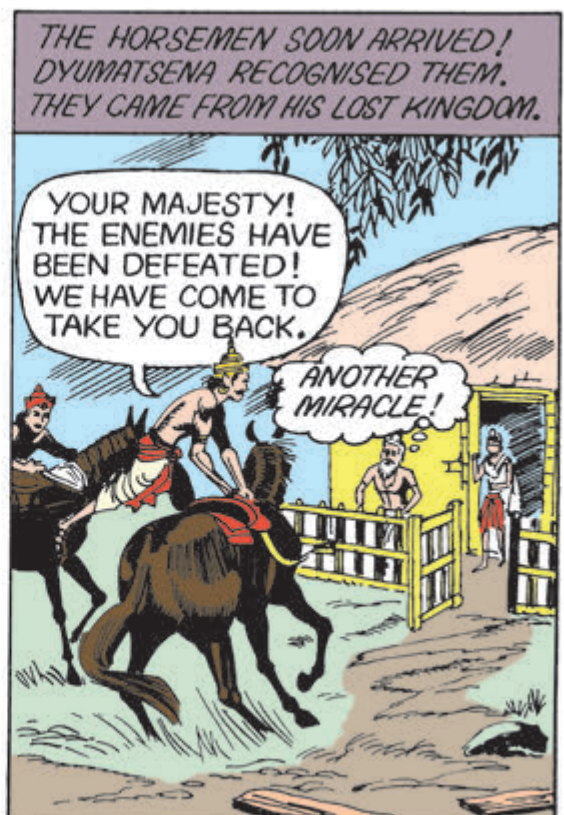
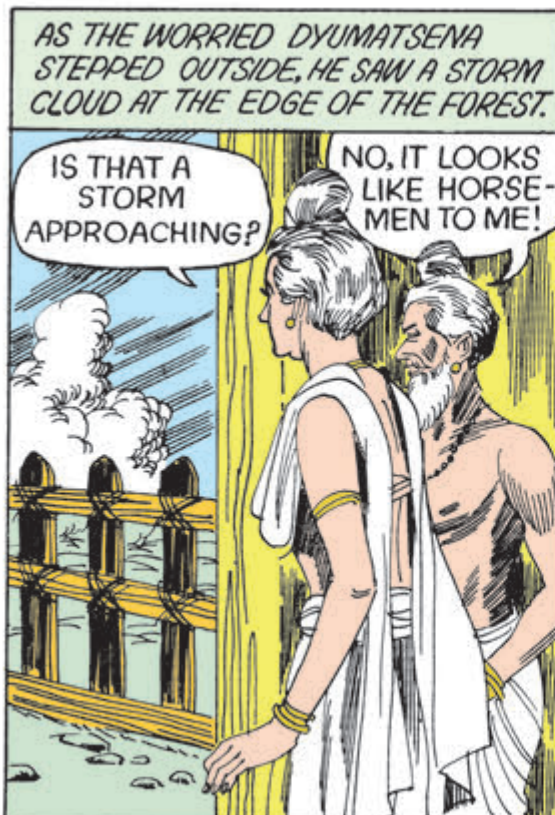
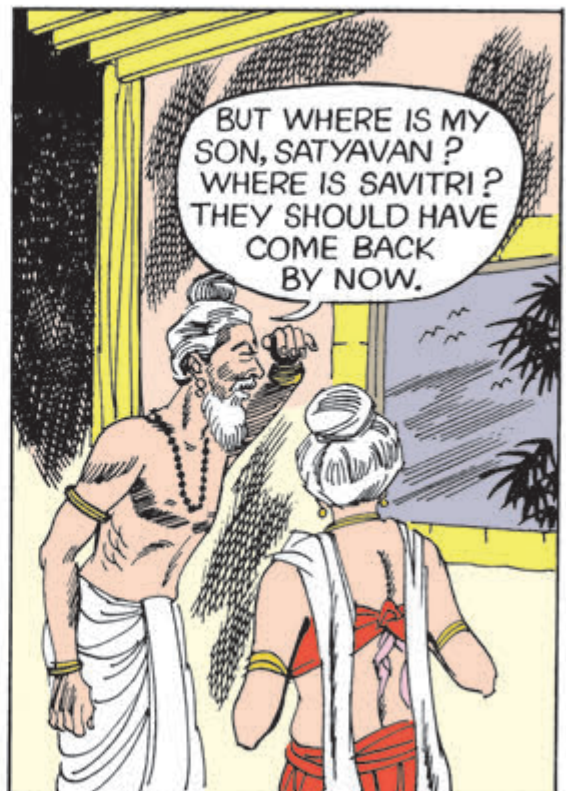
SATYAVAN SOON OPENED HIS EYES.



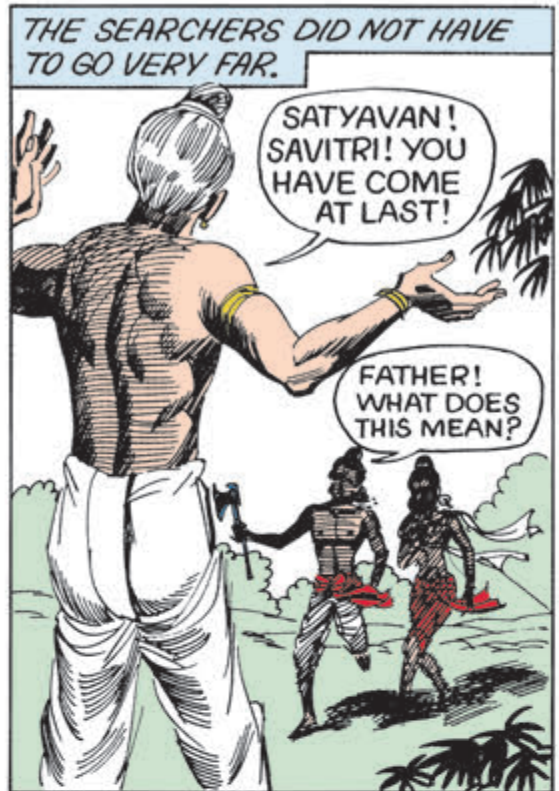
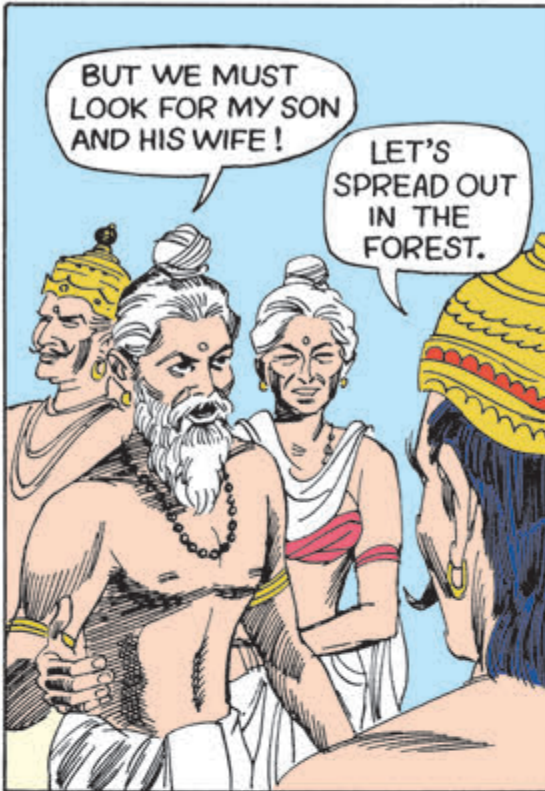
THE HAPPY COUPLE STARTED FOR THEIR HOME! SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.





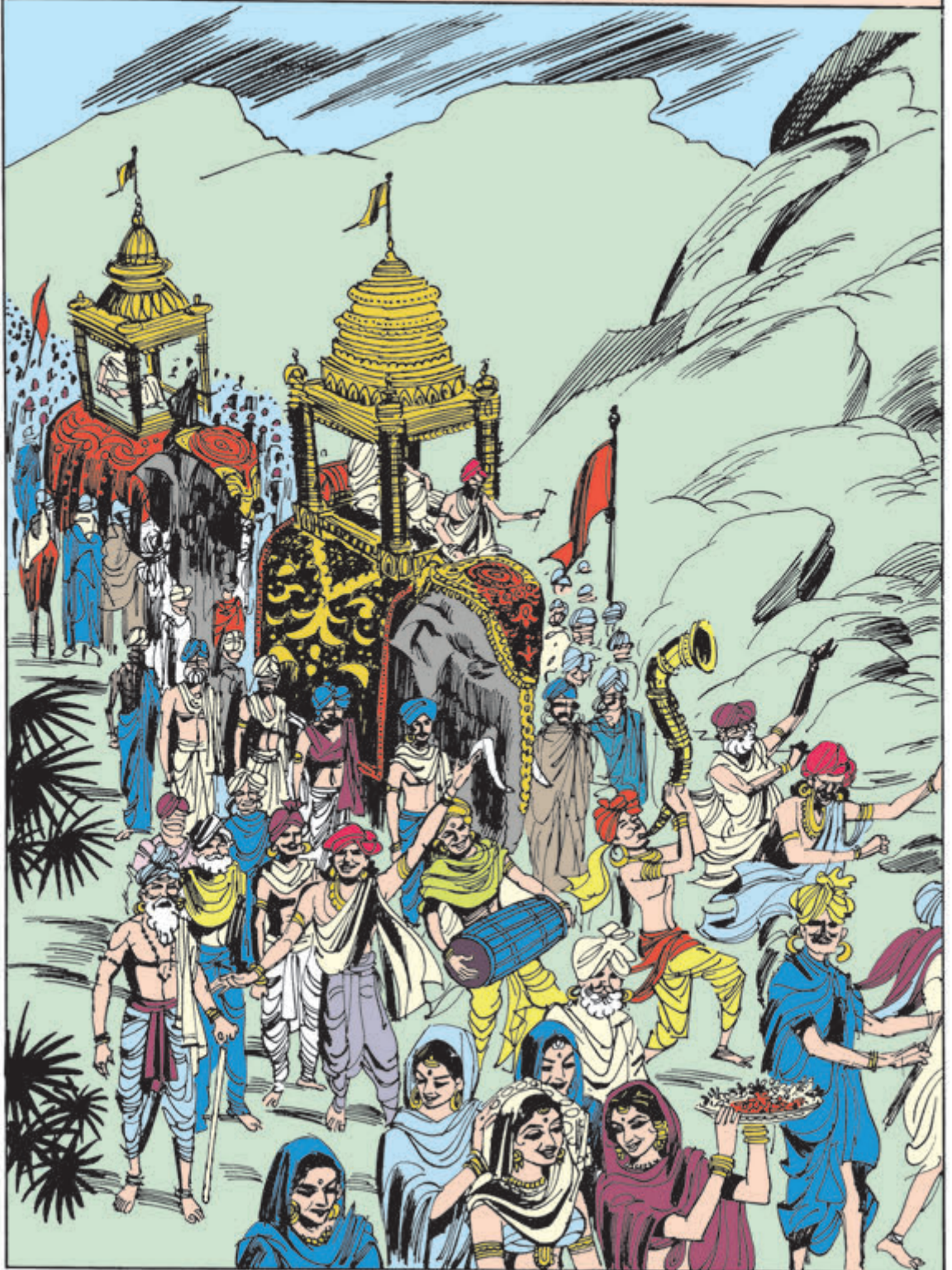








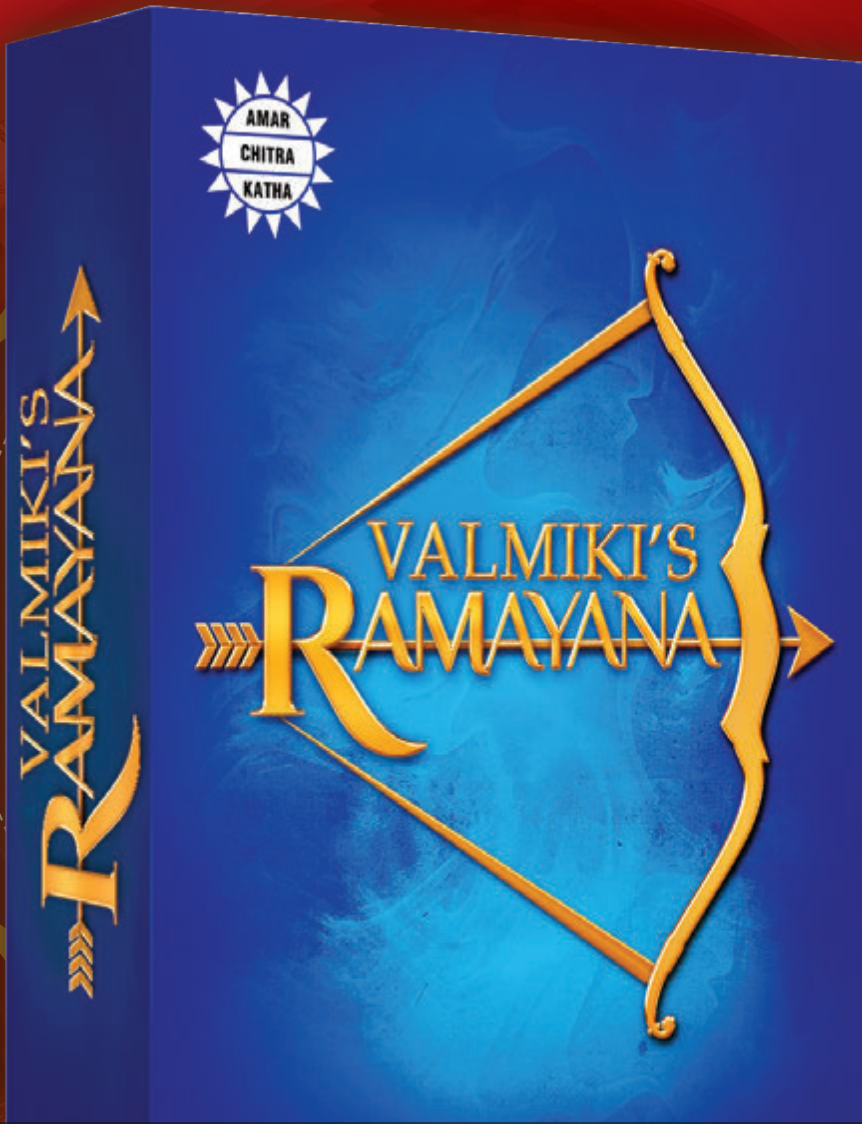
THE EXILES STARTED FOR THEIR KINGDOM.  
IT WAS A JOYOUS JOURNEY FOR ALL.







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Krishna And Narakasura  
Krishna And Rukmini  
Krishna And Shishupala  
Krishna And The False  
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Dhola And Maru  
Friends And Foes  
Gopal And The Cowherd  
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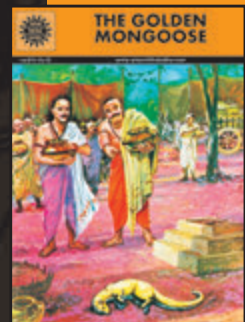
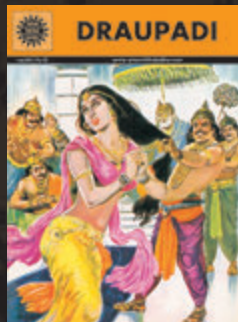
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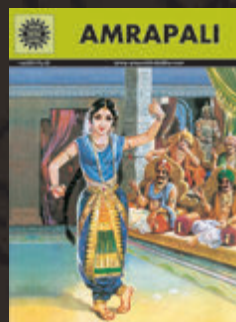
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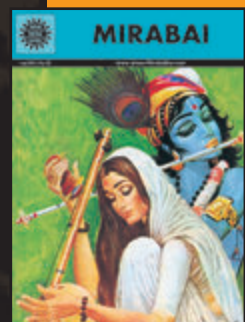
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