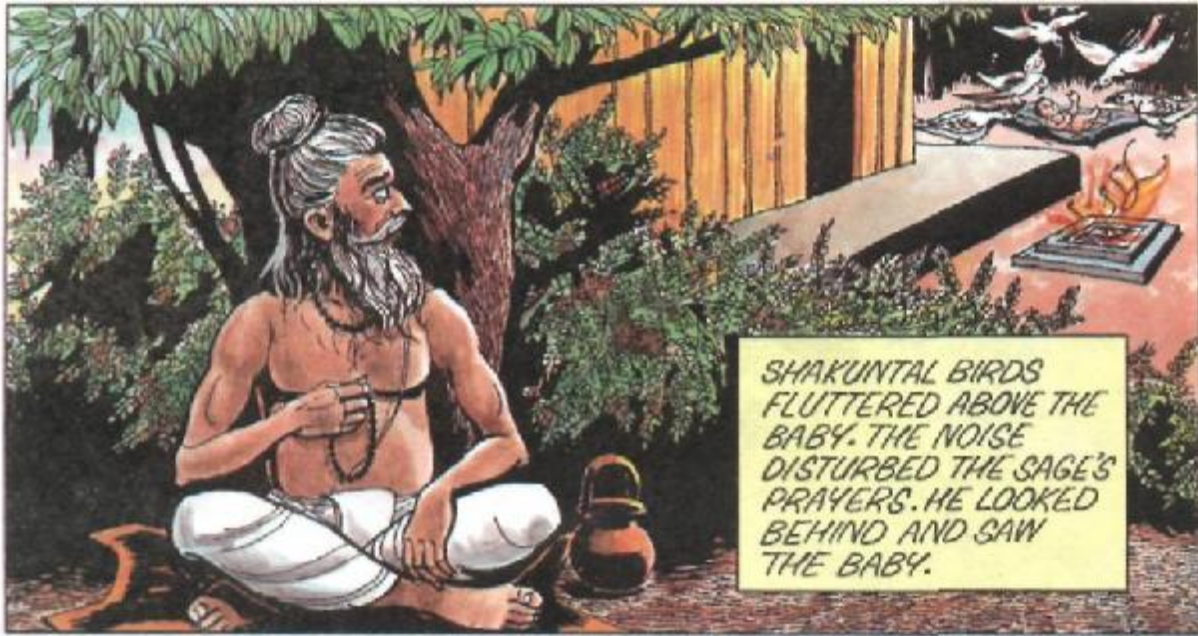


SHAKUNTALA

*Menaka,
A HEAVENLY
NYMPH, LEFT
HER NEW-BORN
BABY NEAR
SAGE KANVA'S
HERMITAGE.*



SHAKUNTAL BIRDS
FLUTTERED ABOVE THE
BABY. THE NOISE
DISTURBED THE SAGE'S
PRAYERS. HE LOOKED
BEHIND AND SAW
THE BABY.

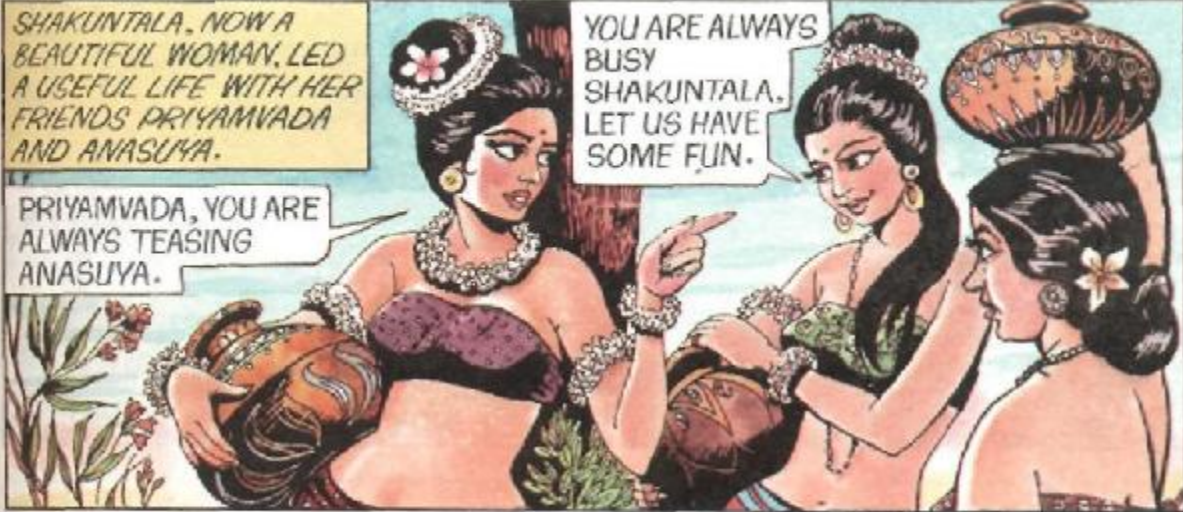


THE SAGE PICKED IT UP.

I SHALL ADOPT
THE BABY-GIRL
AND CALL HER
SHAKUNTALA.



THE BABY GREW UP
AND MADE FRIENDS
WITH THE ANIMALS
AROUND HER.

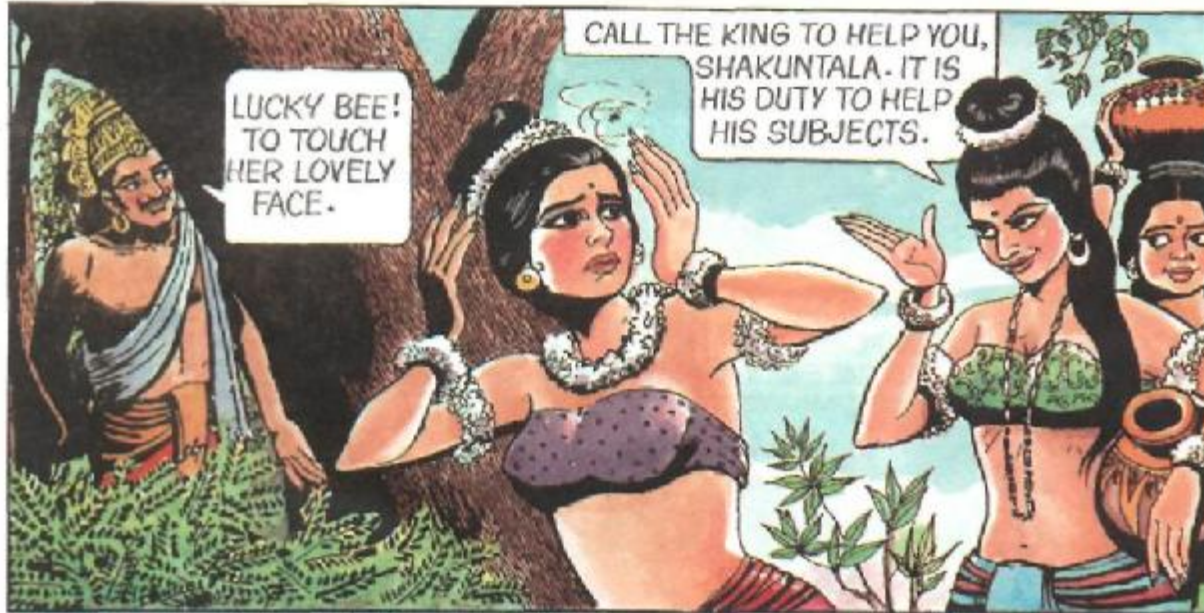


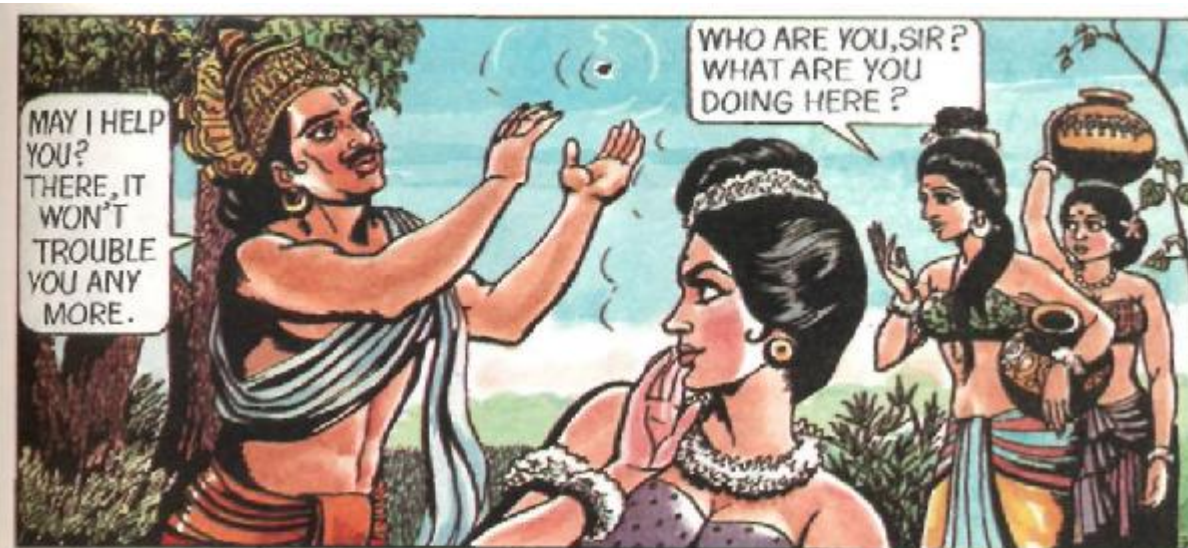
ONE DAY, YOUNG KING DUSHYANT OF HASTINAPUR, CAME TO THAT FOREST TO HUNT.



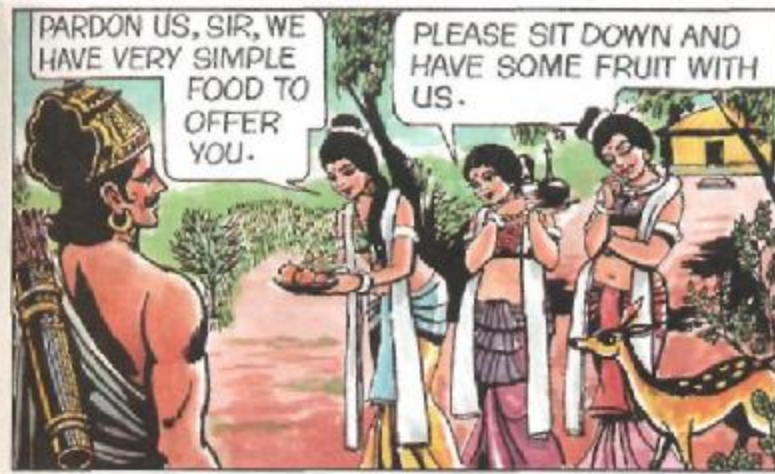


WHEN THE KING HEARD VOICES, HE HID BEHIND A TREE.







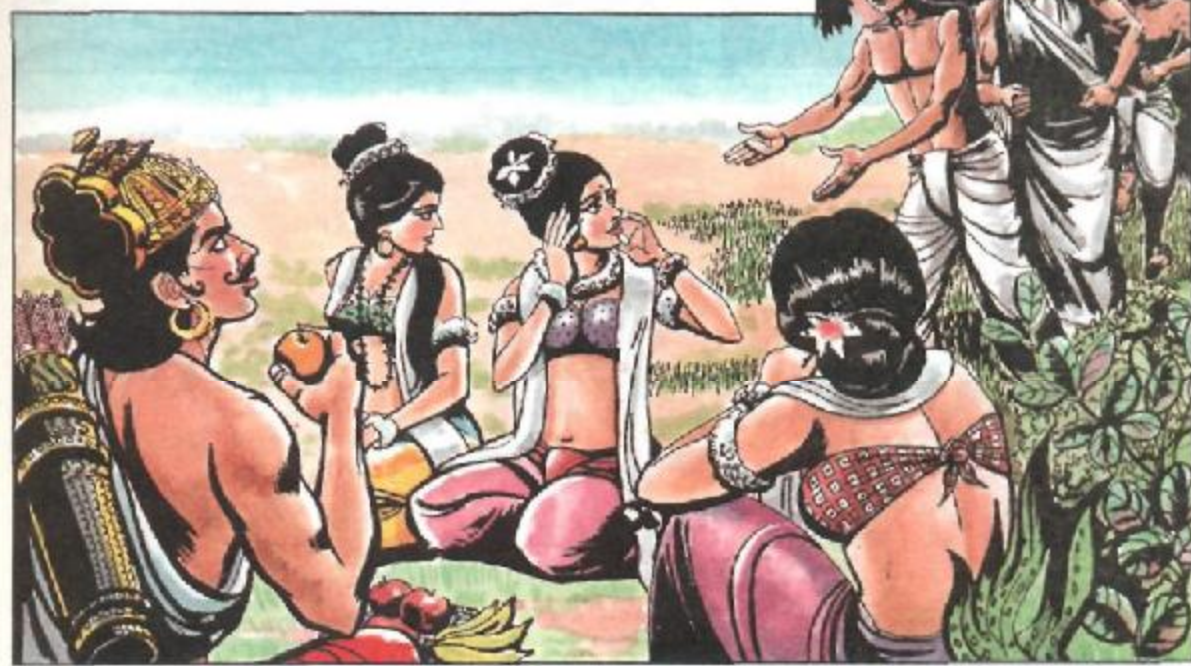


PARDON US, SIR, WE HAVE VERY SIMPLE FOOD TO OFFER YOU.

PLEASE SIT DOWN AND HAVE SOME FRUIT WITH US.

WHILE THE KING WAS EATING, SOME HERMITS CAME ALONG.

WON'T YOU PROTECT US FROM THE DEMONS OF THIS FOREST? THEY DISTURB OUR PRAYERS.



DON'T WORRY, I SHALL REMAIN HERE TILL I DESTROY ALL THE DEMONS.

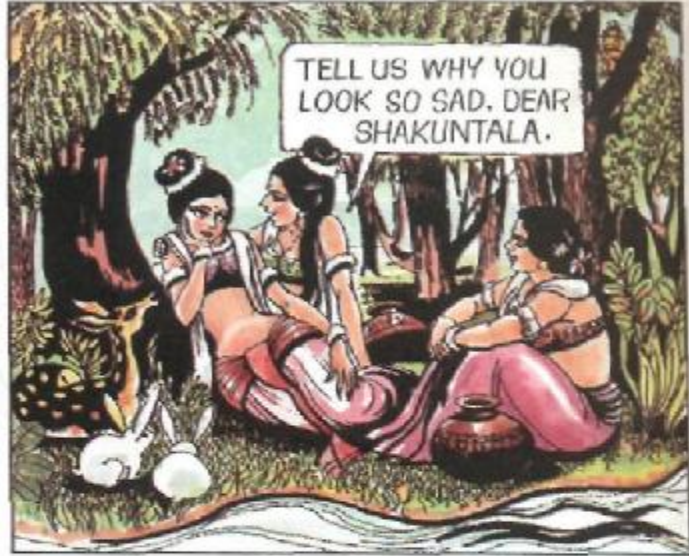
WE SHALL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO YOU.

AFTER SOME DAYS WHEN THE KING WAS KEEPING WATCH FOR THE DEMONS, HE HEARD VOICES.

LET ME HIDE HERE AND LISTEN.

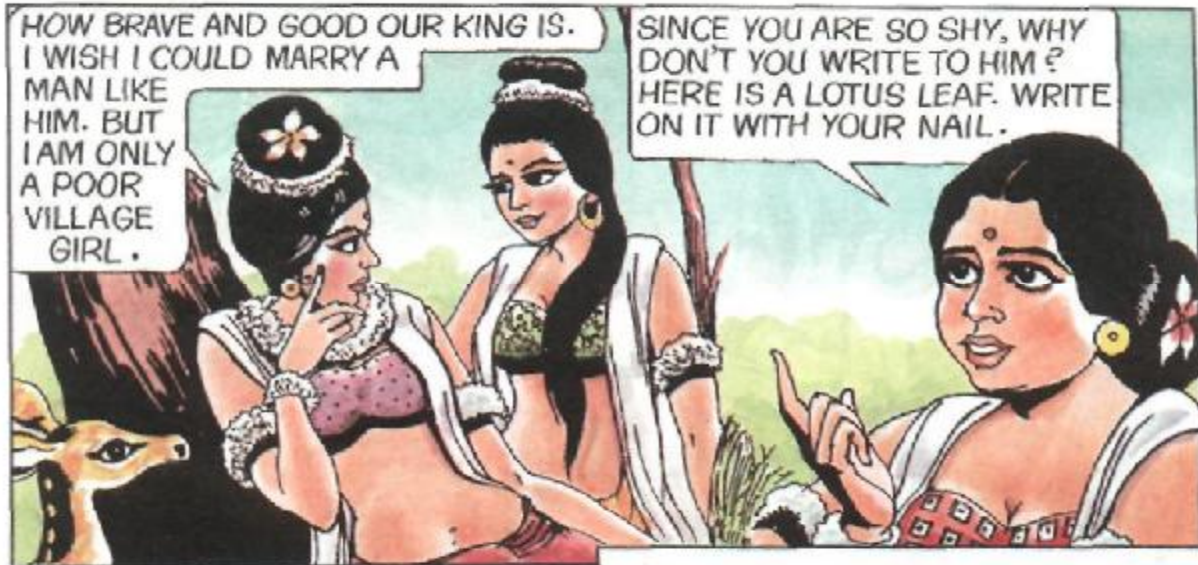


TELL US WHY YOU LOOK SO SAD, DEAR SHAKUNTALA.



HOW BRAVE AND GOOD OUR KING IS. I WISH I COULD MARRY A MAN LIKE HIM. BUT I AM ONLY A POOR VILLAGE GIRL.

SINCE YOU ARE SO SHY, WHY DON'T YOU WRITE TO HIM? HERE IS A LOTUS LEAF. WRITE ON IT WITH YOUR NAIL.

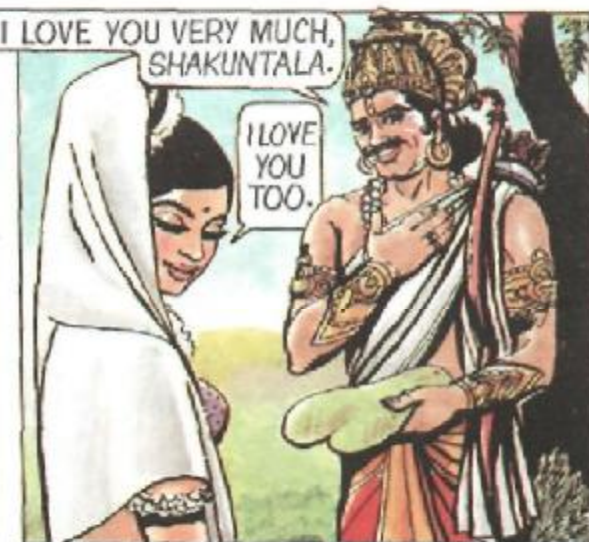
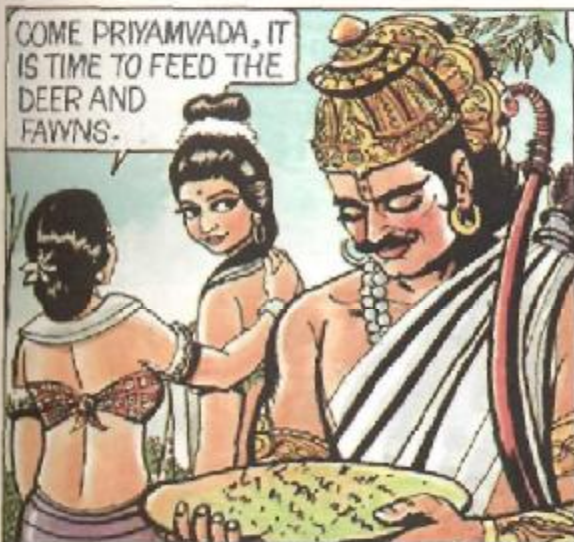


I do not know what you think of me, but I think you are the most wonderful man on earth

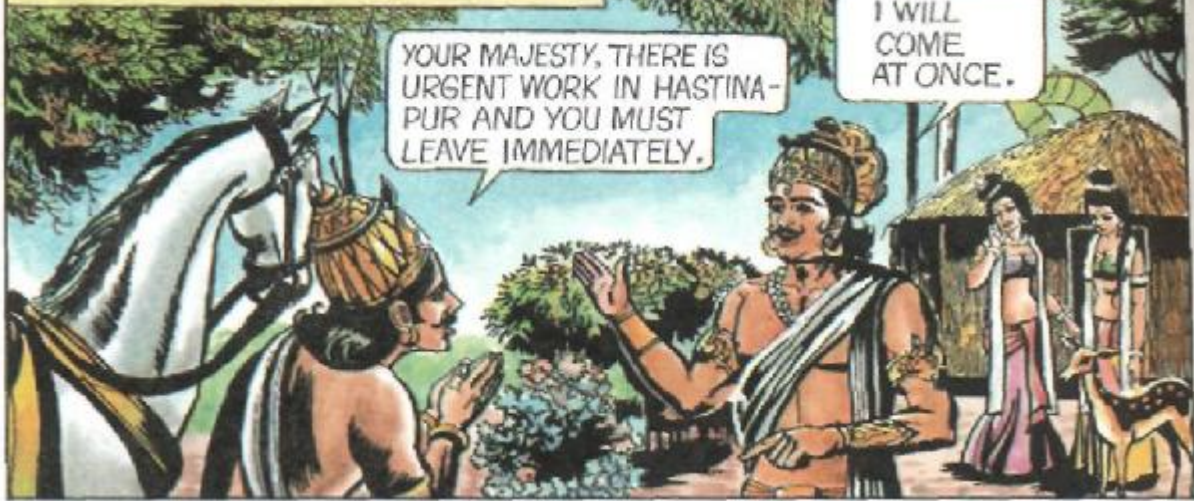


I MUST TAKE THIS LETTER TO THE KING.



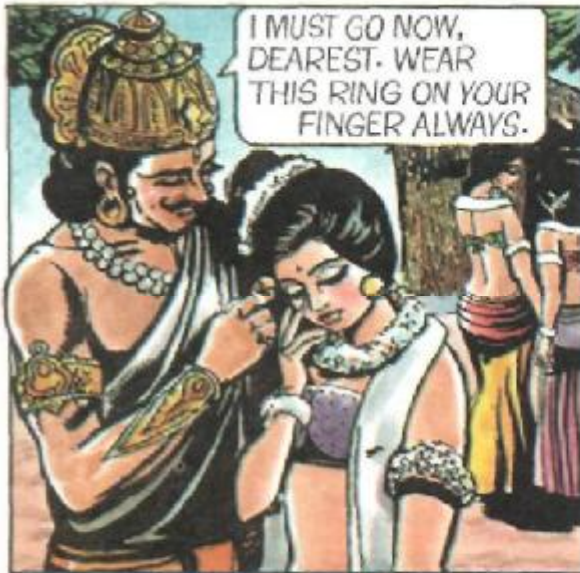


A FEW DAYS LATER, A MESSENGER CAME.



YOUR MAJESTY, THERE IS URGENT WORK IN HASTINAPUR AND YOU MUST LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

I WILL COME AT ONCE.



I MUST GO NOW, DEAREST. WEAR THIS RING ON YOUR FINGER ALWAYS.



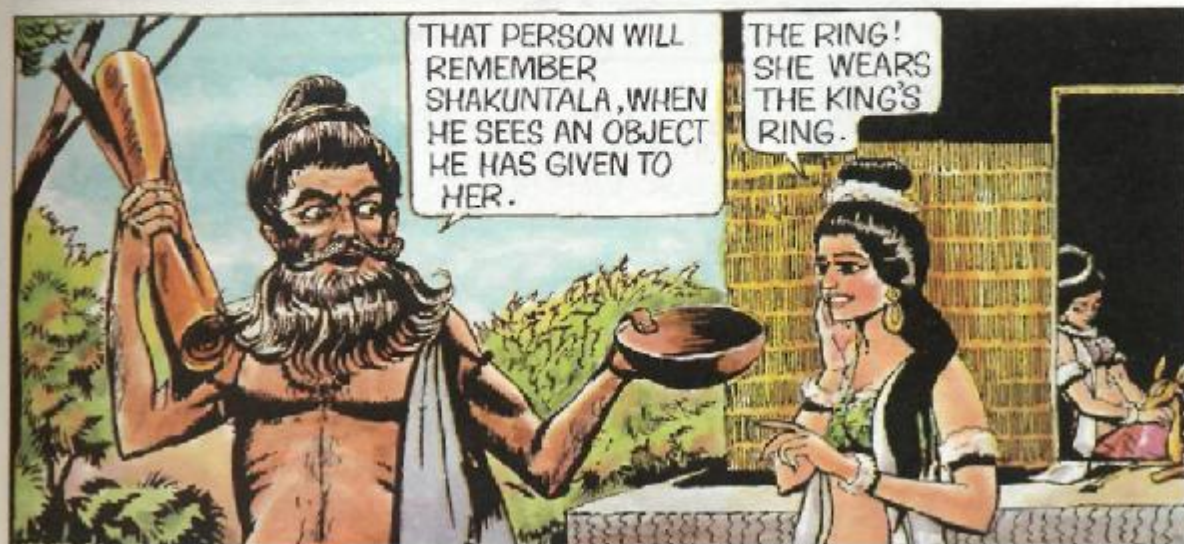
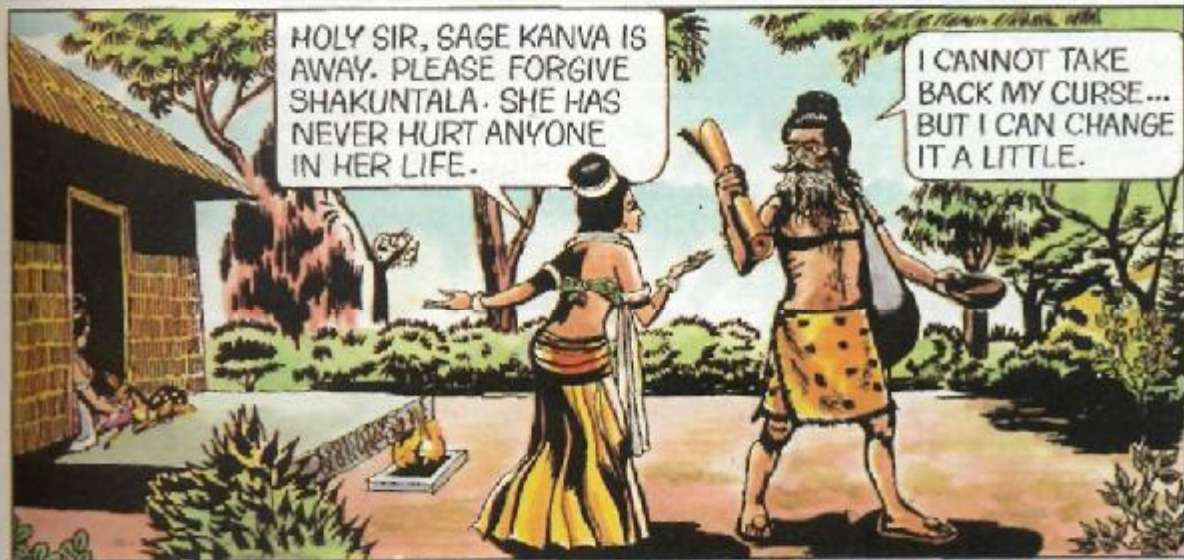
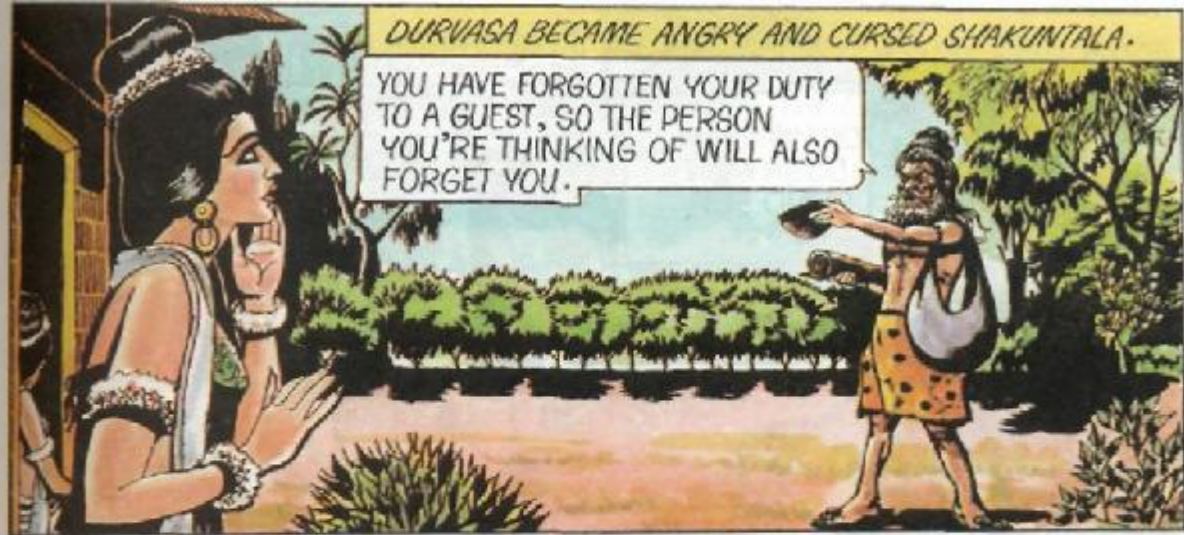
GOOD-BYE, SHAKUNTALA! I SHALL SOON SEND MY MINISTERS TO BRING YOU TO MY PALACE.

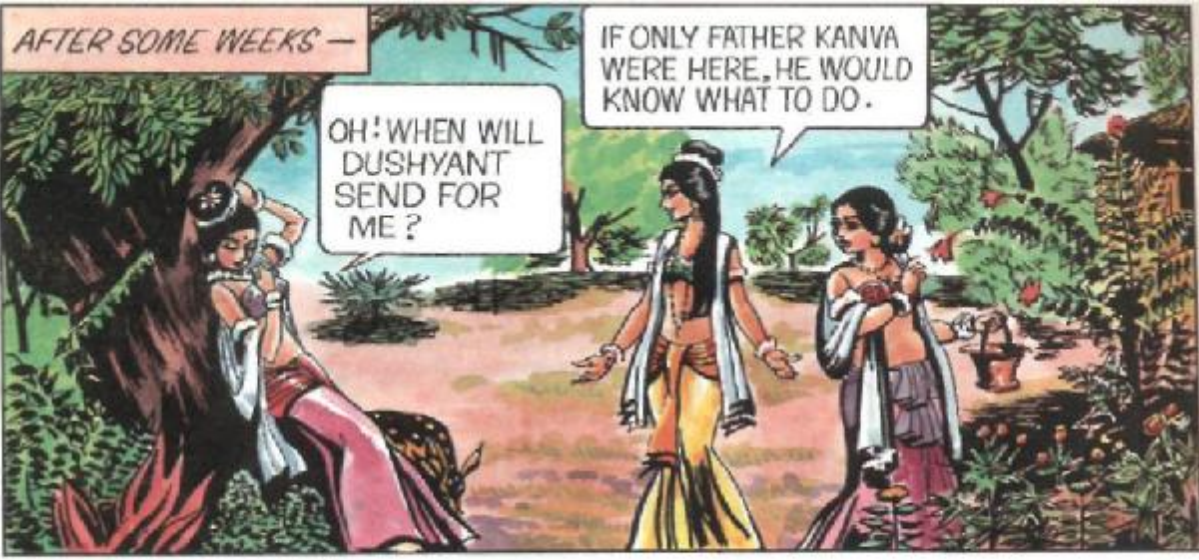
SOMETIME LATER, SAGE DURVASA PAID A VISIT TO THE HERMITAGE. SHAKUNTALA WAS THINKING ABOUT HER HUSBAND.



WHERE'S MY FRIEND KANVA? DOES NO ONE WELCOME A GUEST IN THIS PLACE?

SHAKUNTALA WAS THINKING ABOUT HER HUSBAND.





AFTER SOME WEEKS —

OH! WHEN WILL DUSHYANT SEND FOR ME?

IF ONLY FATHER KANVA WERE HERE, HE WOULD KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHEN SAGE KANVA RETURNED TO HIS HERMITAGE, HE HEARD A HEAVENLY VOICE.



“O SAGE, REJOICE! SHAKUNTALA IS MARRIED TO A MAN WORTHY OF HER. SHE WILL SOON HAVE A SON WHO WILL BE A GREAT EMPEROR.”



THE SAGE WAS WELCOMED BY THE GIRLS.

I HAVE HEARD THE GOOD NEWS. NOW WE MUST SEND YOU TO YOUR HUSBAND.

GAUTAMI, AN OLD LADY, WAS LIKE A MOTHER TO SHAKUNTALA. SHE MADE PREPARATIONS FOR SHAKUNTALA TO LEAVE.

OUR SHAKUNTALA DOES NOT HAVE CLOTHES AND JEWELS FIT FOR A BRIDE.

THE GODS ALWAYS HELP THE GOOD.



SUDDENLY A MIRACLE HAPPENED.

OH LOOK! WHAT LOVELY CLOTHES ARE HERE!

ON EVERY BRANCH THERE'S A SHINING JEWEL.



OH SHAKUNTALA, HOW LOVELY YOU LOOK IN THESE CLOTHES.

NOW THAT YOU WILL BE LIVING IN A PALACE, YOU WILL FORGET YOUR POOR FRIENDS.



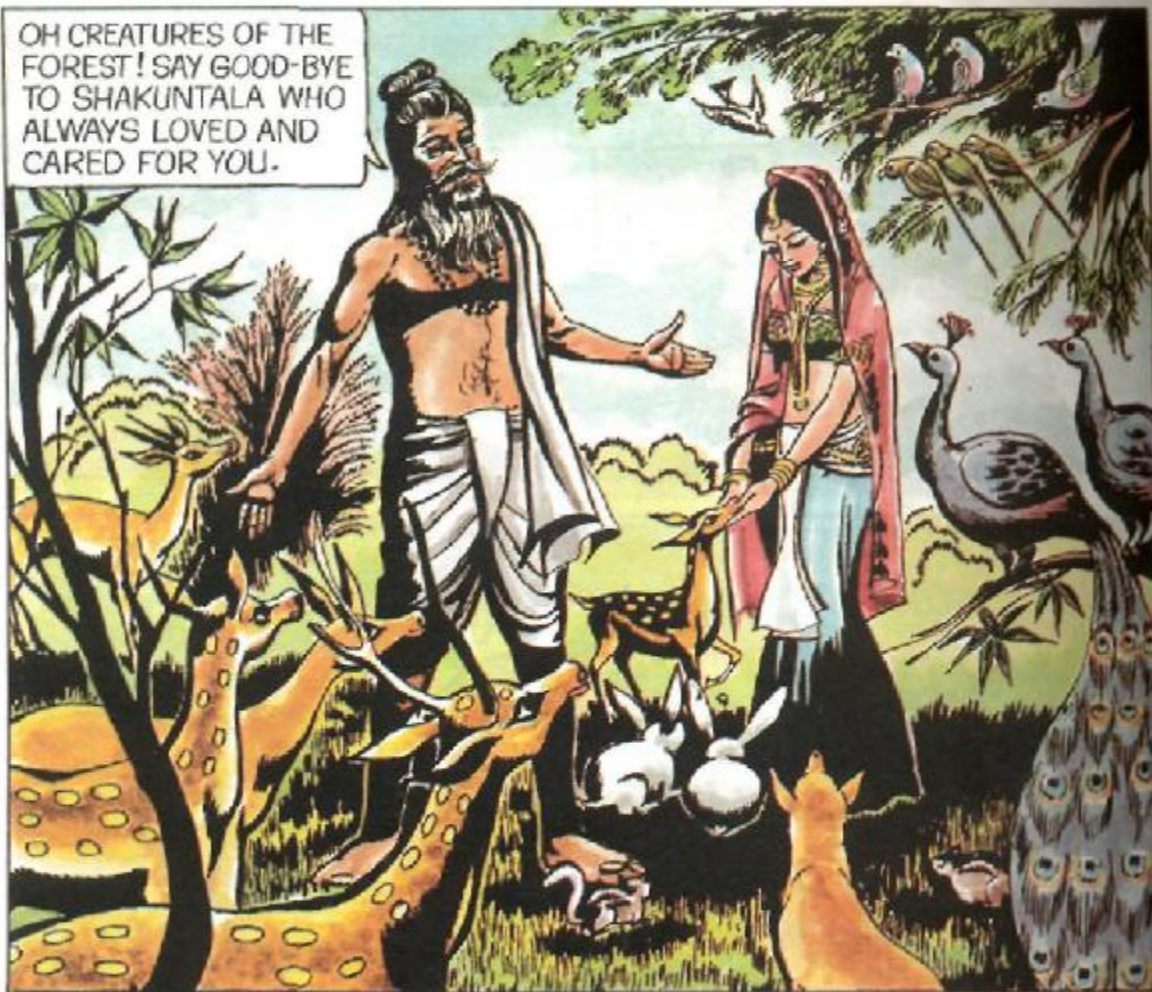
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.
I WILL COME TO MEET YOU
OFTEN.



SAD AT PARTING, THE PLANT CLUNG TO
HER. TAKE CARE OF MY FAWN AND ALL
MY OTHER PETS.

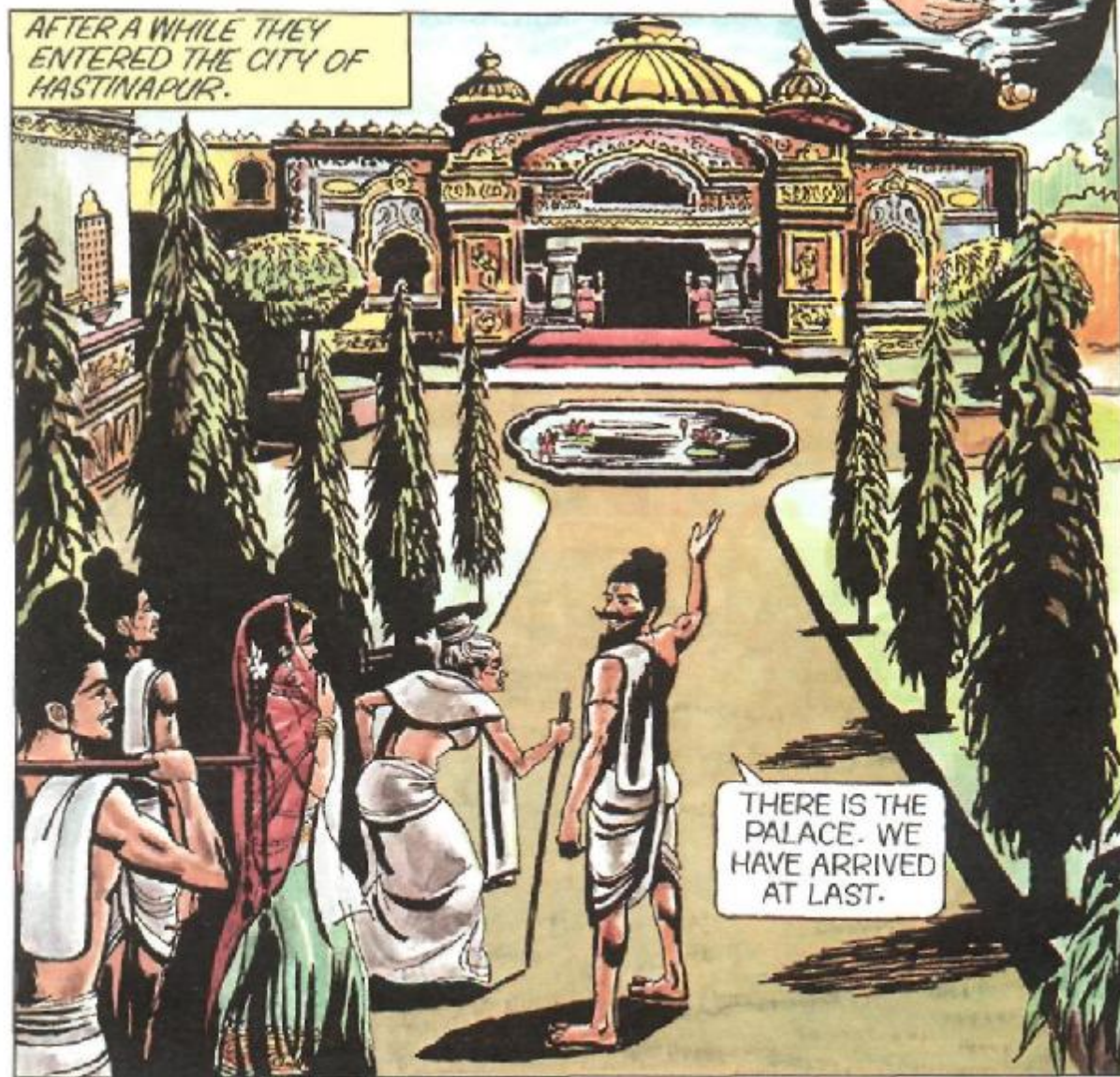
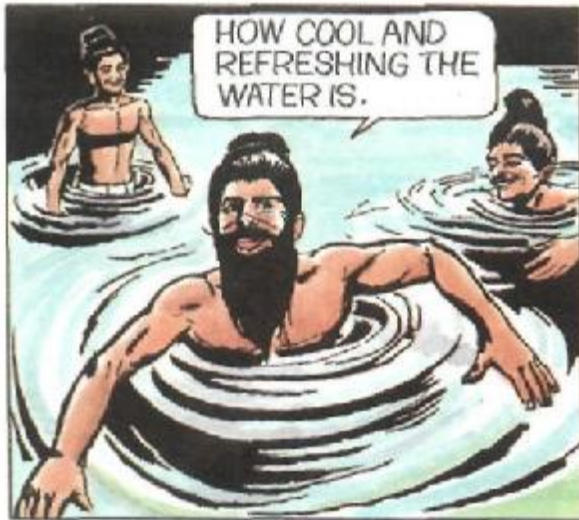


OH CREATURES OF THE
FOREST! SAY GOOD-BYE
TO SHAKUNTALA WHO
ALWAYS LOVED AND
CARED FOR YOU.



FATHER KANVA WAS ALSO SAD. THE TREES SHED TEARS IN THE FORM OF
LEAVES. PEACOCKS STOPPED DANCING AND THE DEER FORGOT TO EAT.

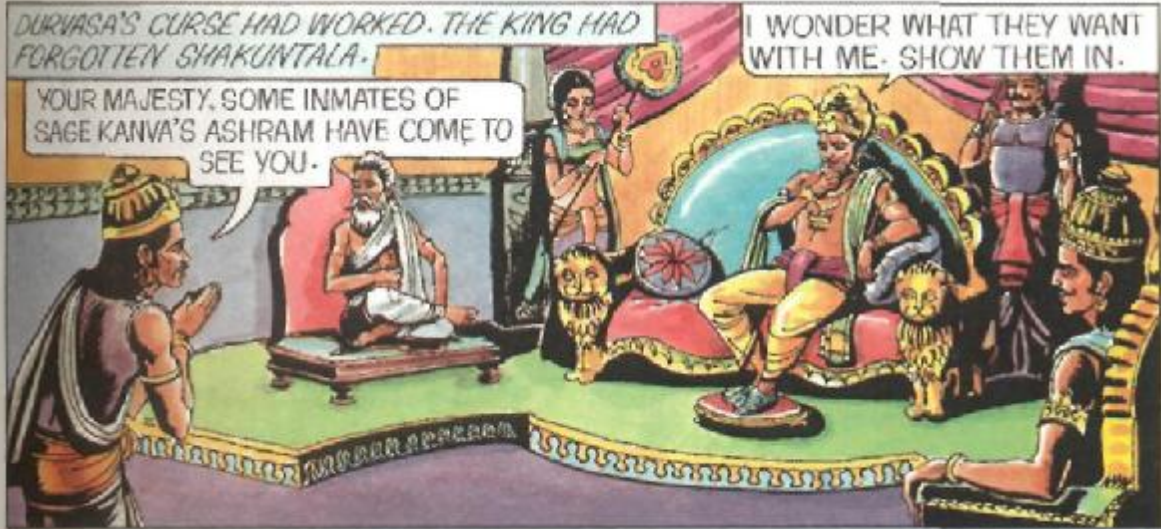




DURVASA'S CURSE HAD WORKED. THE KING HAD FORGOTTEN SHAKUNTALA.

I WONDER WHAT THEY WANT WITH ME. SHOW THEM IN.

YOUR MAJESTY, SOME INMATES OF SAGE KANVA'S ASHRAM HAVE COME TO SEE YOU.

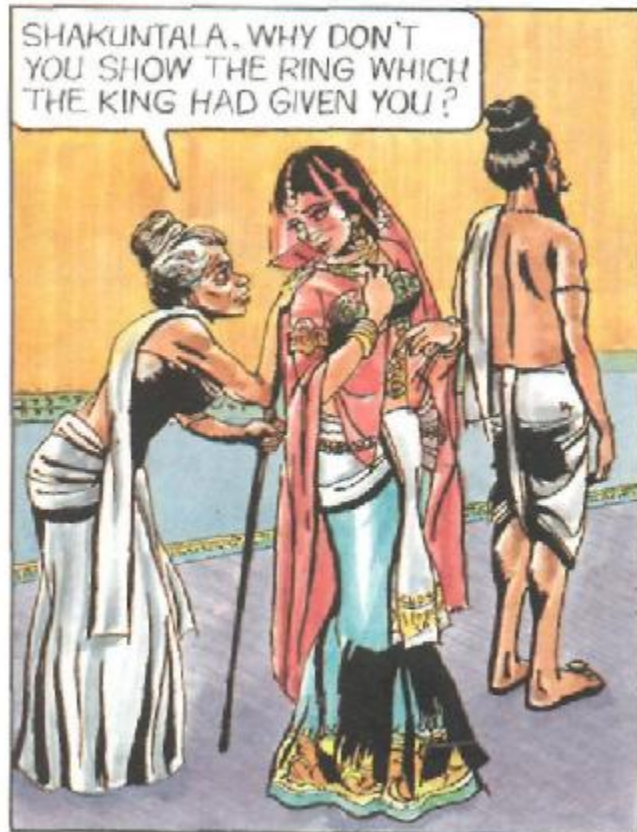
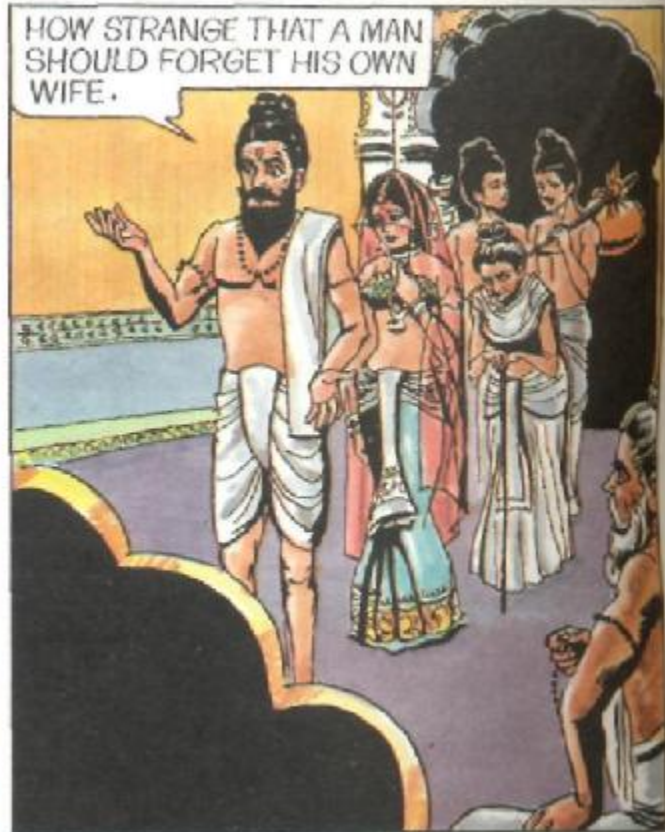


SAGE KANVA GREET'S YOU AND HAS SENT SHAKUNTALA, YOUR WIFE, WHO WILL SOON BE A MOTHER.



THE KING LOOKED SURPRISED. DON'T YOU REMEMBER YOUR WIFE, SHAKUNTALA?





THE RING MUST HAVE FALLEN SOMEWHERE. LET US LOOK FOR IT.



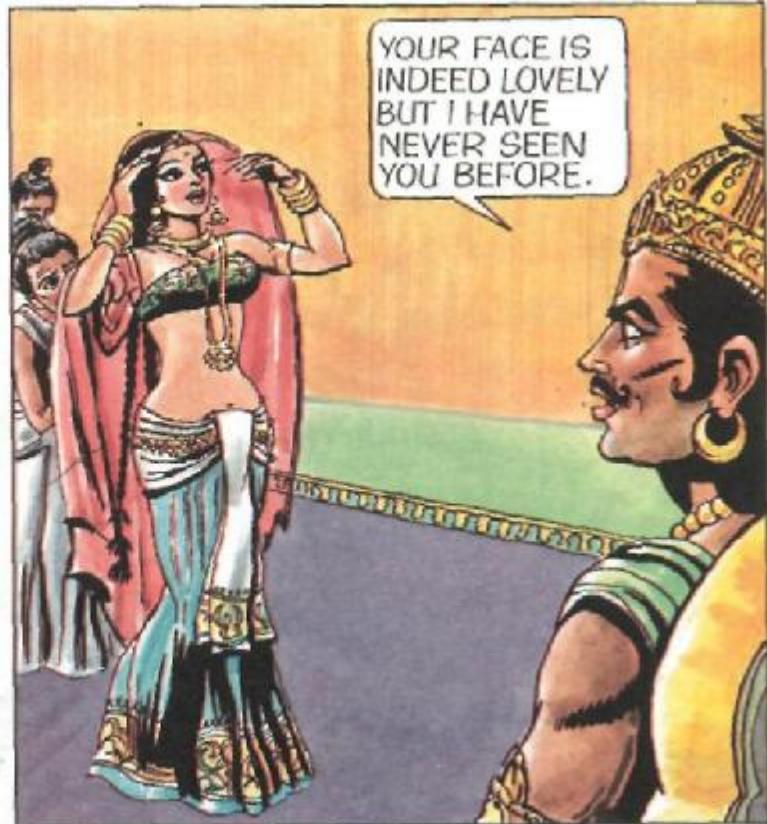
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.



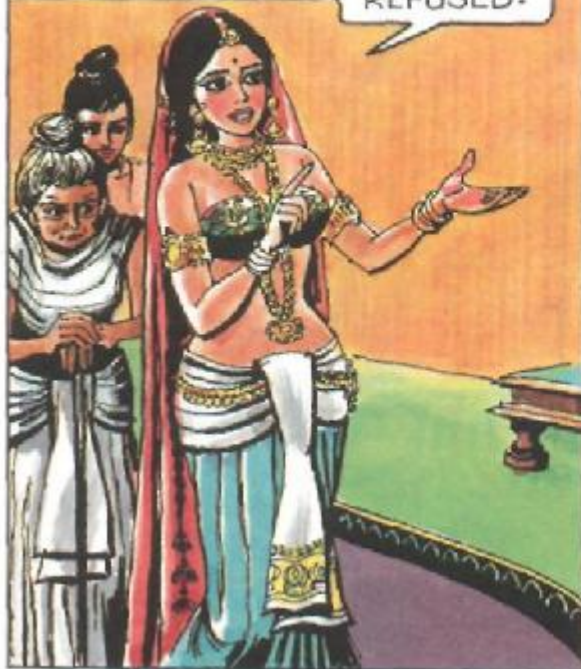
SHAKUNTALA, RAISE YOUR VEIL. THE KING WILL SURELY REMEMBER YOU WHEN HE SEES YOUR FACE.



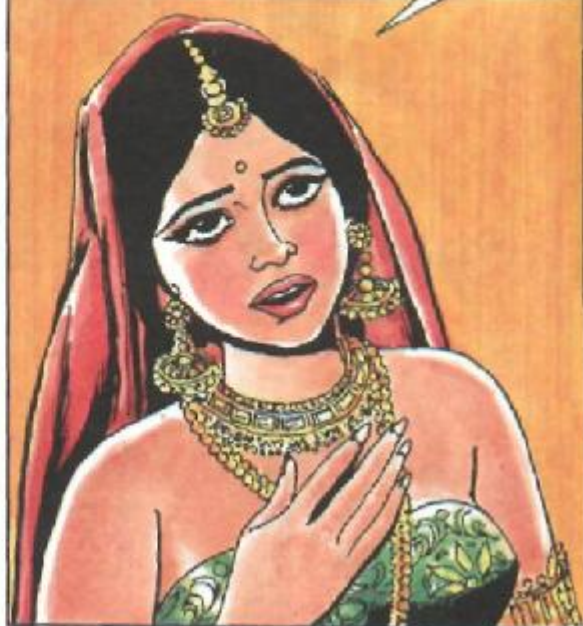
YOUR FACE IS INDEED LOVELY BUT I HAVE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE.



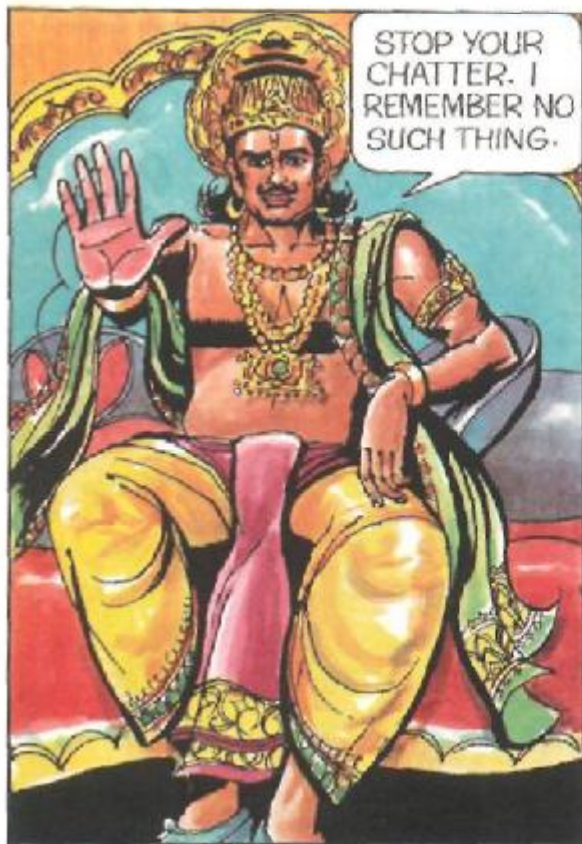
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW ONE DAY YOU COLLECTED RAIN-WATER IN A LOTUS FLOWER AND GAVE IT TO MY PET FAWN TO DRINK BUT SHE REFUSED.



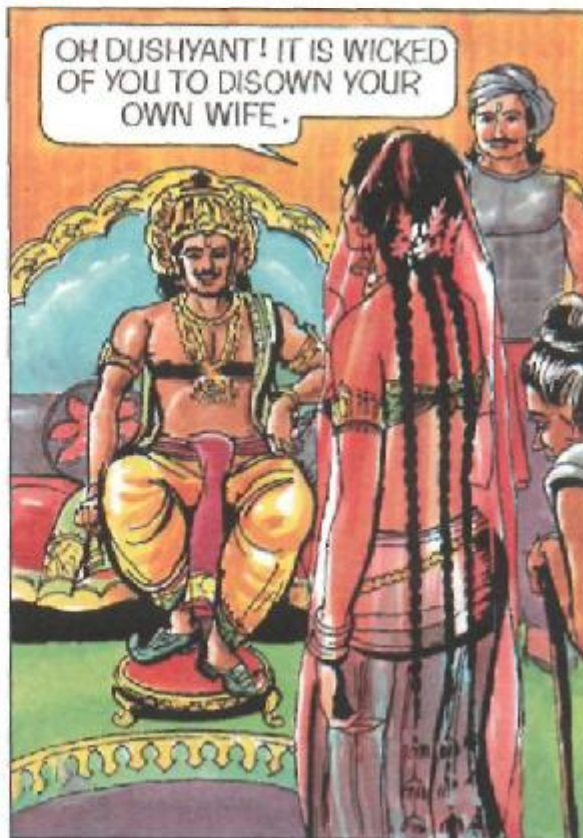
YET WHEN I OFFERED IT, SHE DRANK IT GLADLY. SO YOU SAID - YOU ARE BOTH CHILDREN OF THE FOREST AND TRUST EACH OTHER... AND...

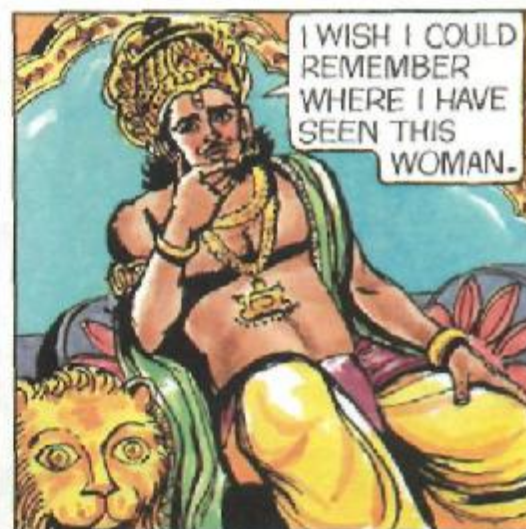
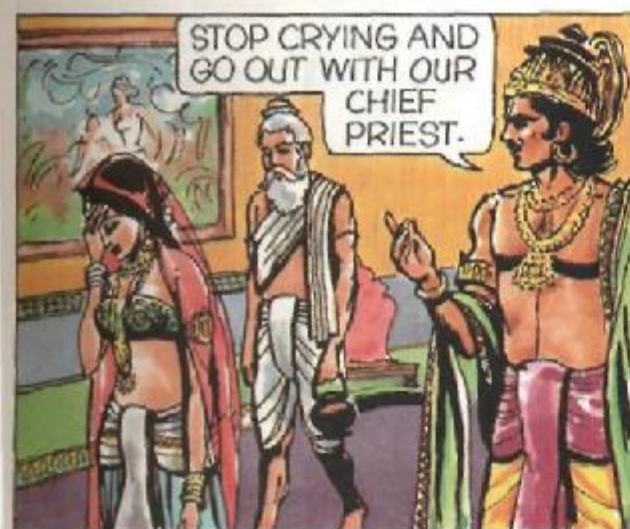
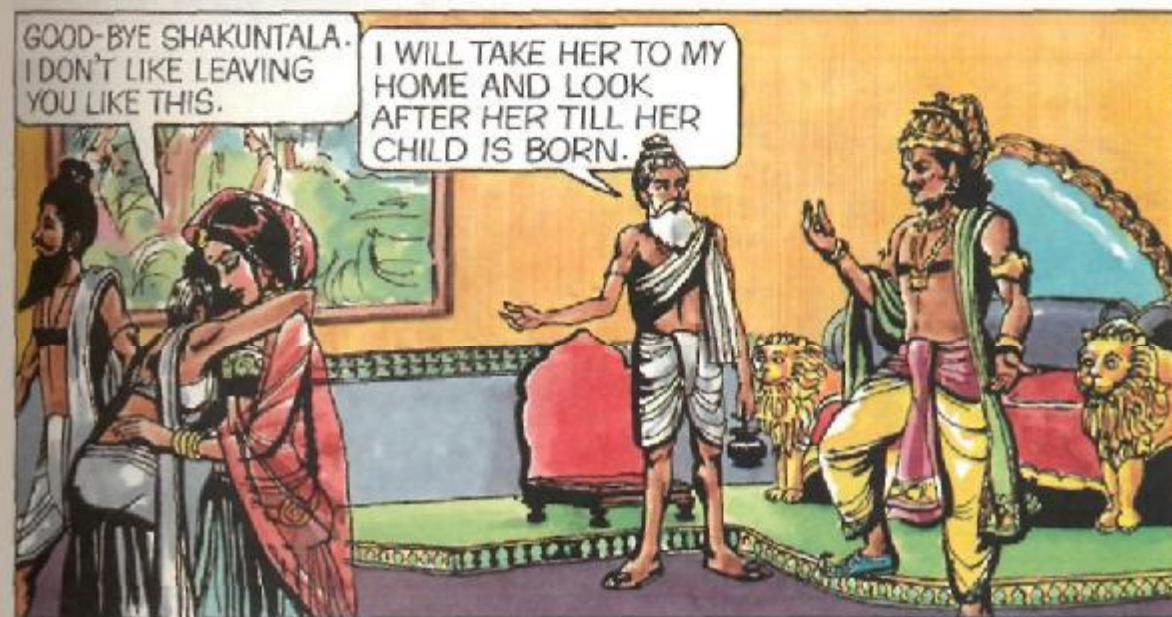


STOP YOUR CHATTER. I REMEMBER NO SUCH THING.



OH DUSHYANT! IT IS WICKED OF YOU TO DISOWN YOUR OWN WIFE.

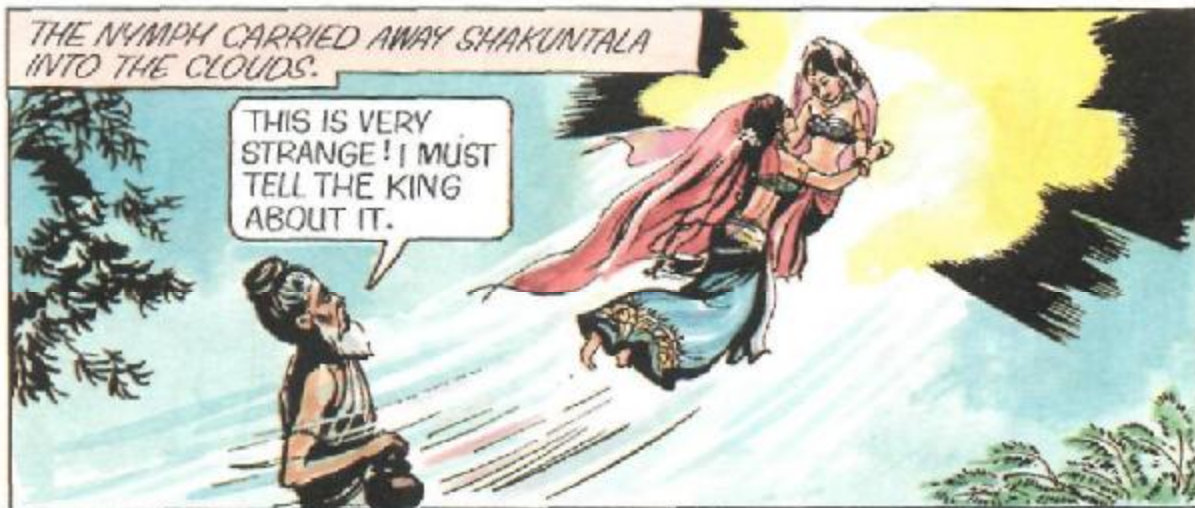




SUDDENLY THERE WAS A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SKY.
SHAKUNTALA'S MOTHER APPEARED.

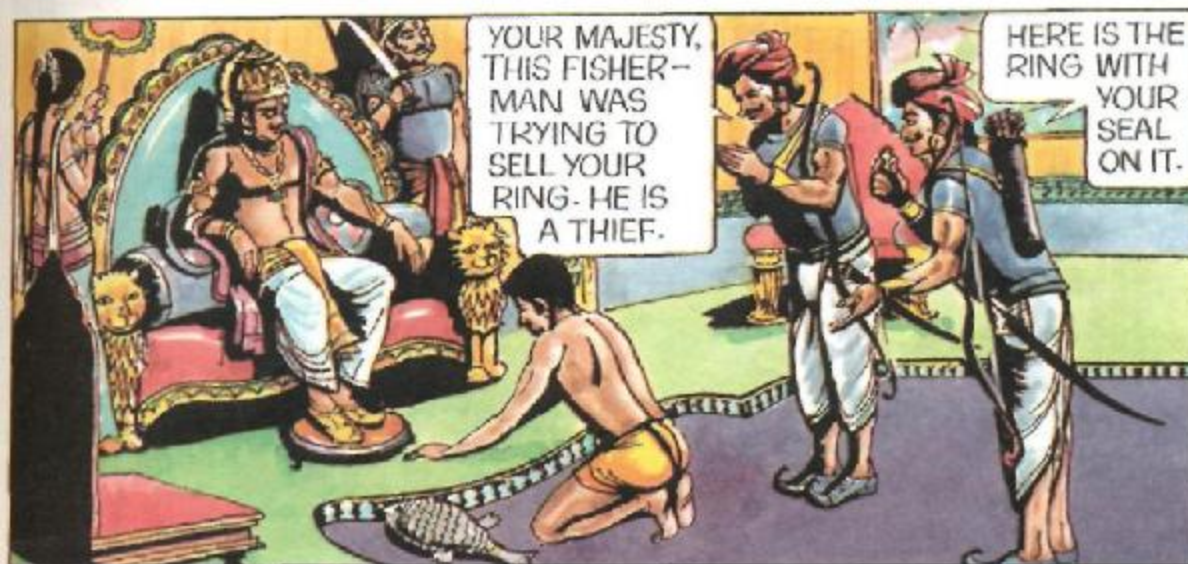
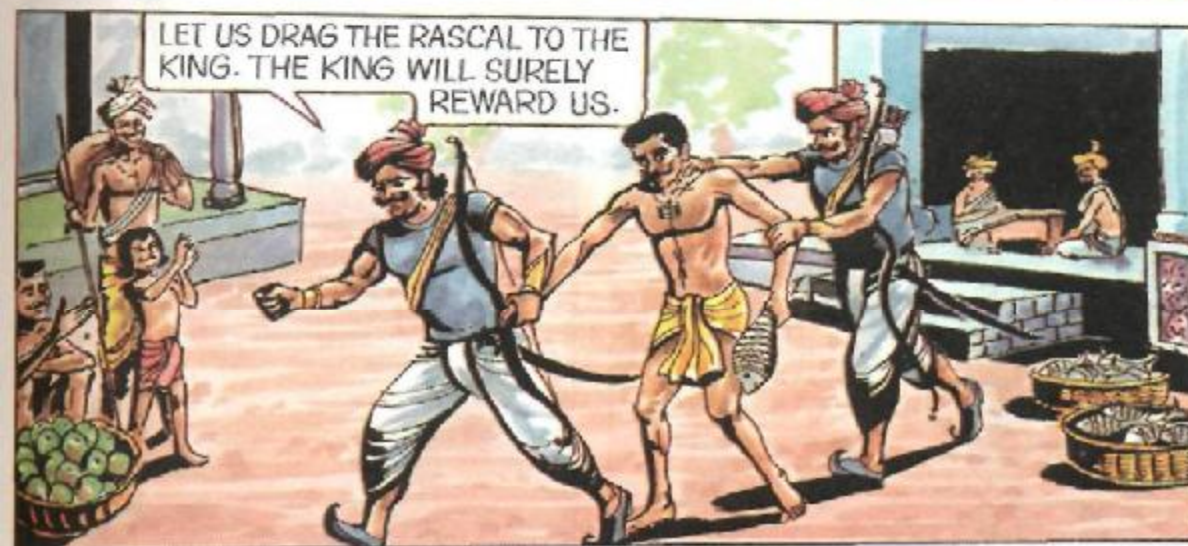
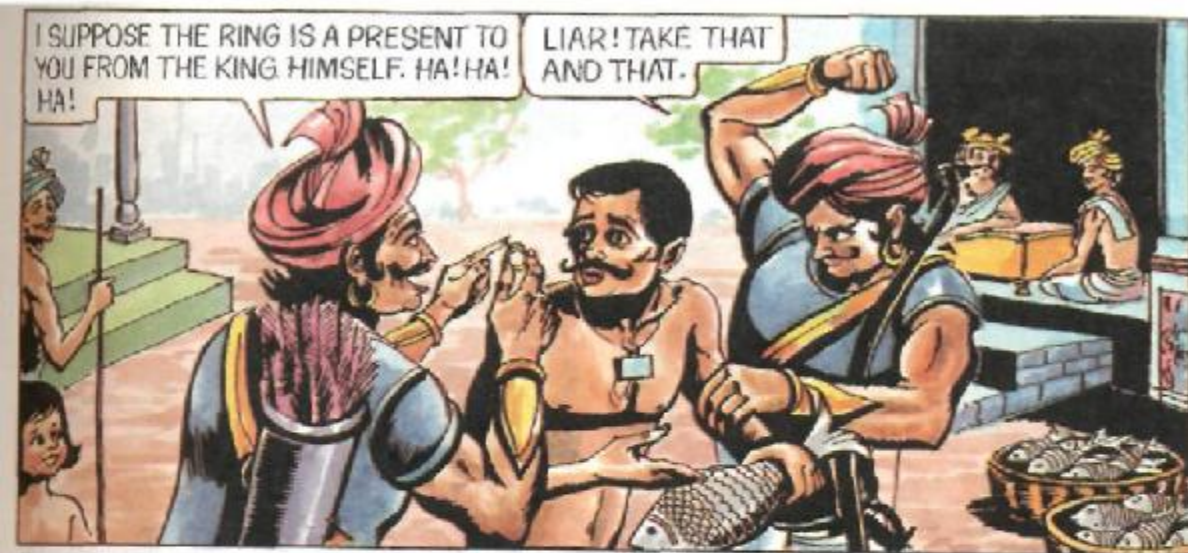


THE NYMPH CARRIED AWAY SHAKUNTALA INTO THE CLOUDS.

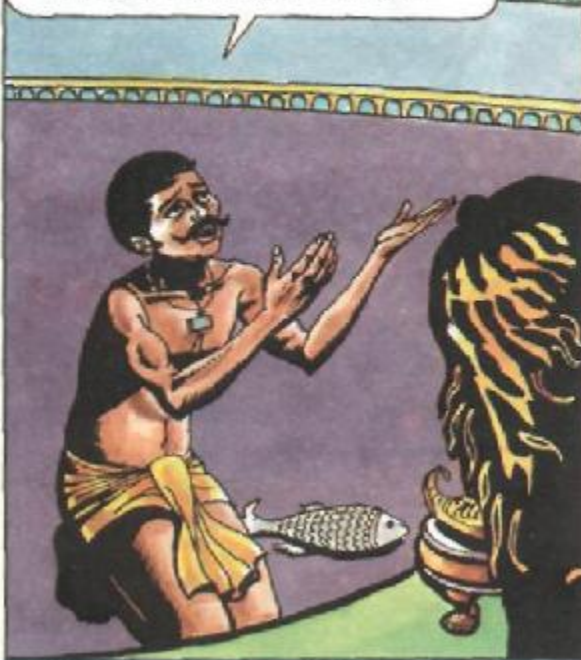


A FEW DAYS LATER A FISHERMAN WAS ARRESTED IN THE BAZAAR.





OH KING, DO NOT KILL ME. I AM TELLING THE TRUTH. I FOUND THIS RING IN THE BODY OF A FISH I CAUGHT TODAY.



OH, NOW I REMEMBER EVERYTHING. THIS IS THE RING I HAD GIVEN TO SHAKUNTALA, MY WIFE, WHEN I LEFT HER.



GIVE THE FISHERMAN A BAG OF GOLD FOR HE HAS DONE ME A GREAT SERVICE.



THE FISHERMAN GOT HIS REWARD.

OH MOST GENEROUS KING! I SHALL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS TO ME.

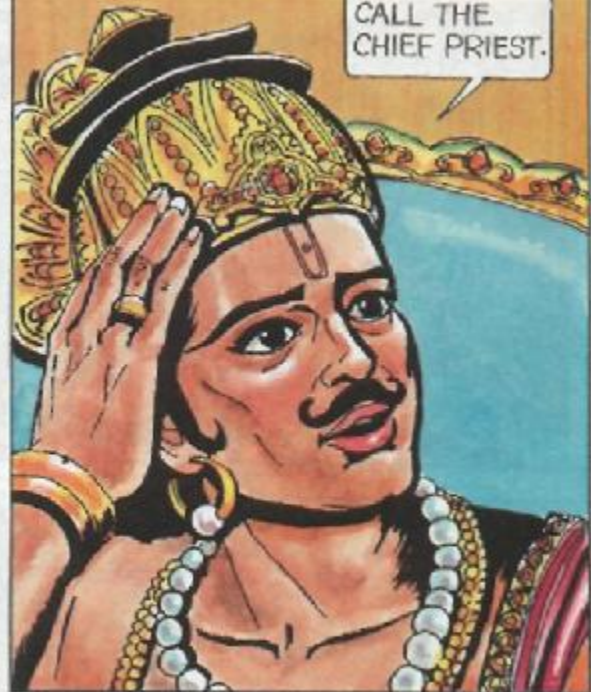


THE KING WAS VERY SAD.

OH SHAKUNTALA ! HOW CRUELLY I HAVE TREATED YOU . HOW COULD I FORGET YOU ?



CALL THE CHIEF PRIEST.



WHERE IS MY WIFE SHAKUNTALA ? WHO WILL BRING MY BELOVED BACK TO ME ?

A NYMPH CARRIED HER AWAY AND SHE IS LOST FOR EVER.



TO LESSEN HIS GRIEF, THE KING PAINTED SHAKUNTALA'S PICTURE.



HERE IS LOVELY SHAKUNTALA IN THE GARDEN. HERE IS HER JASMINE CREEPER AND THERE IS HER PET FAWN ...

FOR A FEW YEARS THE KING LED A QUIET LIFE THINKING OF SHAKUNTALA ALL THE TIME. ONE DAY -



GOD INDRA HAS SENT MATALI WITH A MESSAGE.

SHOW HIM IN.



THE GODS WANT YOUR HELP IN A WAR AGAINST THE DEMONS.

I AM READY TO HELP.

THE KING HEARD A CHILD'S VOICE.

I WONDER WHO THIS CHILD IS. WHAT IS HE DOING WITH A LION CUB?

OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE AND LET ME COUNT YOUR TEETH.



TWO WOMEN CAME FROM BEHIND THE TREES.

YOU ARE A NAUGHTY LITTLE FELLOW. LET THE CUB GO OR THE LIONESS WILL COME AND KILL YOU.

I WILL GIVE YOU A NICE TOY IF YOU LET THE CUB GO.

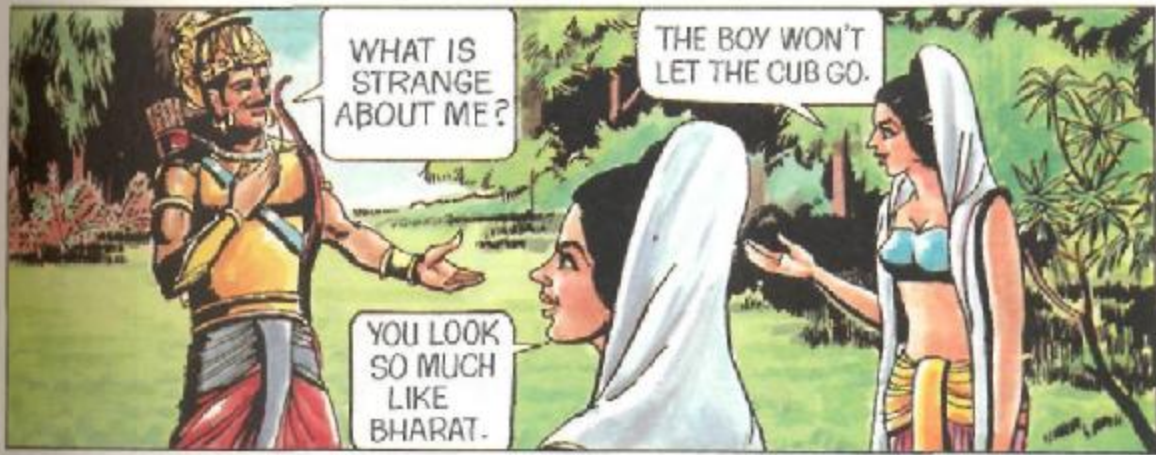


WHAT A BRAVE AND HAND-SOME BOY HE IS!

GIVE ME THE TOY FIRST AND THEN WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THE CUB.

STRANGE! VERY STRANGE!





THE KING REACHED OUT FOR THE AMULET.

