

amar
chitra
katha
No. 14 Rs. 2.00

SAVITRI



The story of Savitri and Satyavan appears in the Mahabharat. It is one of the many stories told by the sage Markandeya to the Pandavas, in exile. Yudhishtira, the eldest Pandava is depressed by having to witness the trials and tribulations of their common wife Draupadi, whose devotion to her husbands only brought her suffering. Markandeya tells him that regardless of what they may have to suffer, chaste and devoted wives will ultimately bring triumph to their loved ones and themselves.

Draupadi's goodness would ultimately deliver them from their misfortunes, just as the chaste Savitri's staunch devotion to her husband Satyavan brought good fortune, not only to her parents and her husband's parents, but also to her own self. For it was her intense devotion that gave her the strength to influence the very God of Death to release Satyavan from his clutches.

SAVITRI

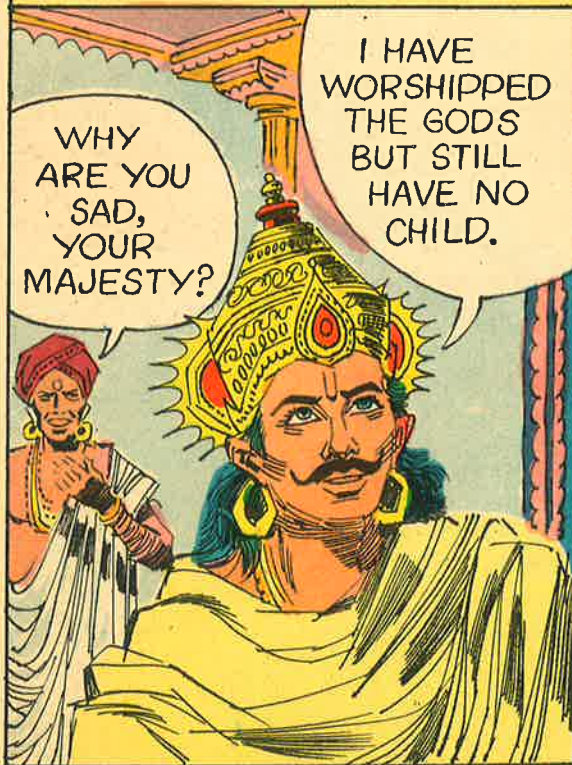


LONG AGO, IN THE KINGDOM OF
MADRA RULED A KING CALLED ASVAPATI.
HE WAS A RIGHTEOUS KING.

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.



YOUR
MAJESTY!
I HAVE
HEARD
GOD SAVITR
FULFILS
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?

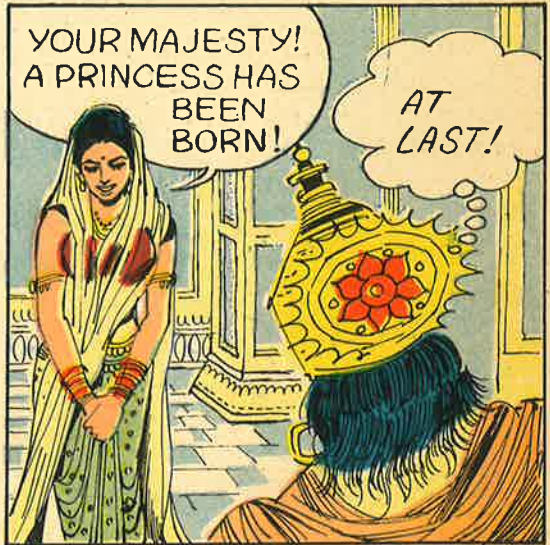


THEN THE TEMPLE WAS BATHED IN LIGHT AND THE GOD APPEARED BEFORE THE KING.

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.



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



THE PALACE WAS FILLED WITH THE CHILD'S LAUGHTER.

YOU BRING UP A DAUGHTER AND ONE DAY SHE LEAVES FOR ANOTHER HOME!

GIRLS ARE LIKE FLOWERS! WHEREVER THEY GO, THEY MAKE THE WORLD BEAUTIFUL!



AS SHE GREW UP, SAVITRI LEARNT MUSIC, PHILOSOPHY...



... AND ASTRONOMY...

DO STARS RULE OUR FATE?



... THEN TO THE GROWING GIRL CAME THE KNOWLEDGE OF PAIN... OF SEPARATION.

FATHER! MY FRIENDS SAY A GIRL MUST MARRY AND GO AWAY! I WILL NOT GO ANYWHERE!

HA! HA! IT'S NOT TIME YET FOR THAT, MY DEAR!



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.

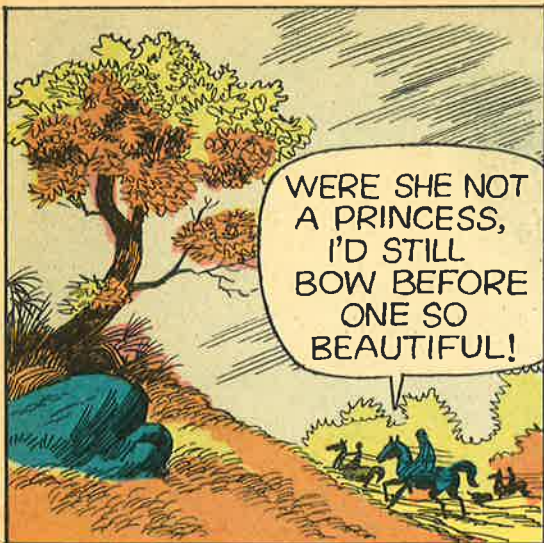
GOOD DAY, PRINCESS!



WHY DID YOU BOW YOUR HEAD TO ME?

BECAUSE YOU ARE OUR PRINCESS!





WERE SHE NOT A PRINCESS, I'D STILL BOW BEFORE ONE SO BEAUTIFUL!

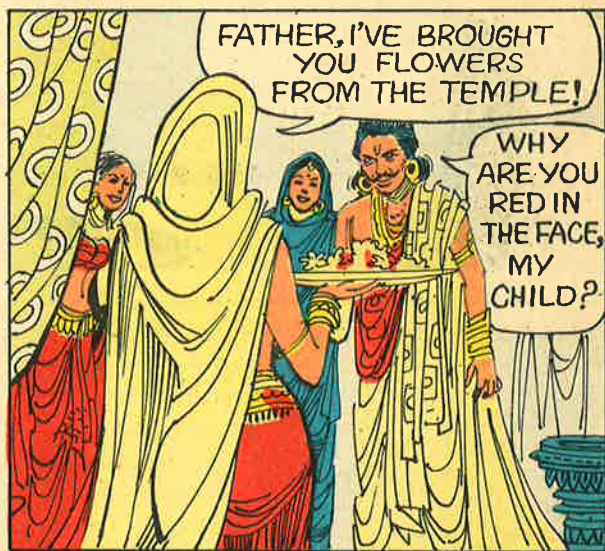
SAVITRI OVERHEARD THE REMARK OF THE YOUNG OFFICER AND BLUSHED RED IN THE FACE.



SUCH BEAUTIFUL HORSES!

COME, SAVITRI, WE'RE GETTING LATE!

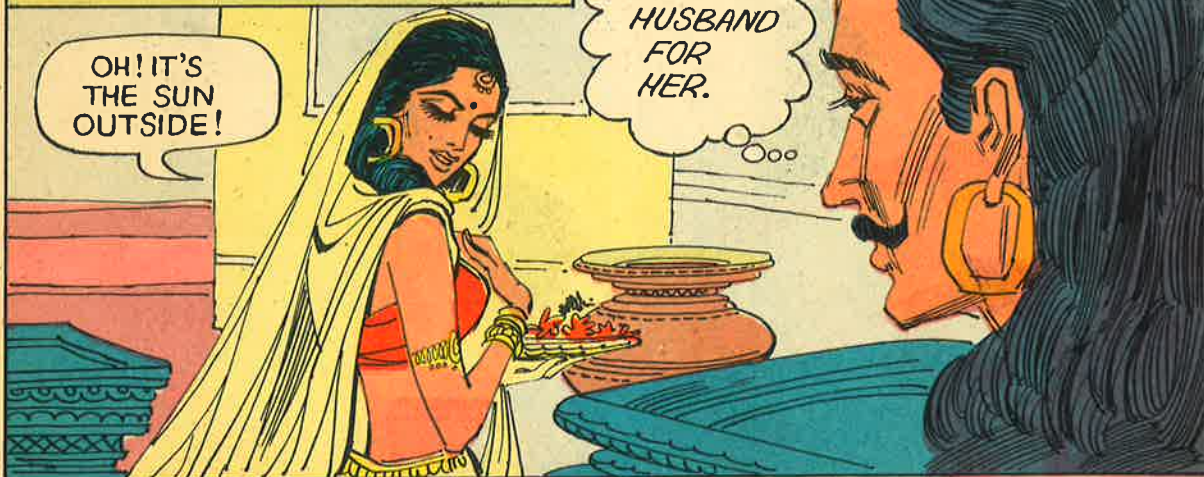
THE KING HAD WATCHED THE INCIDENT FROM THE PALACE WINDOW.



FATHER, I'VE BROUGHT YOU FLOWERS FROM THE TEMPLE!

WHY ARE YOU RED IN THE FACE, MY CHILD?

LOOKING AT THE RECEDING FIGURE OF HIS DAUGHTER, THE KING REALISED HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE HAD BECOME.



OH! IT'S THE SUN OUTSIDE!

I MUST FIND A HUSBAND FOR HER.

NEWS OF SAVITRI'S BEAUTY AND LEARNING HAD REACHED OTHER ROYAL COURTS.

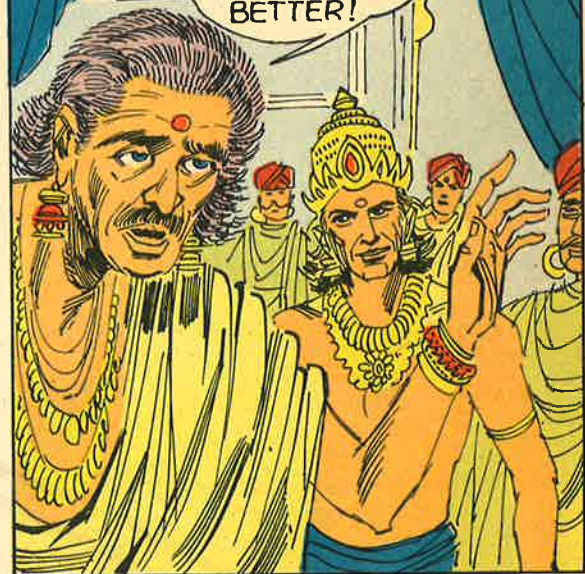
THE MADRA KING'S DAUGHTER IS ELIGIBLE FOR MARRIAGE!

LOOK AT MY SONS! HOW CAN YOU THINK OF SUCH A MATCH?



ANOTHER KING'S COURT...

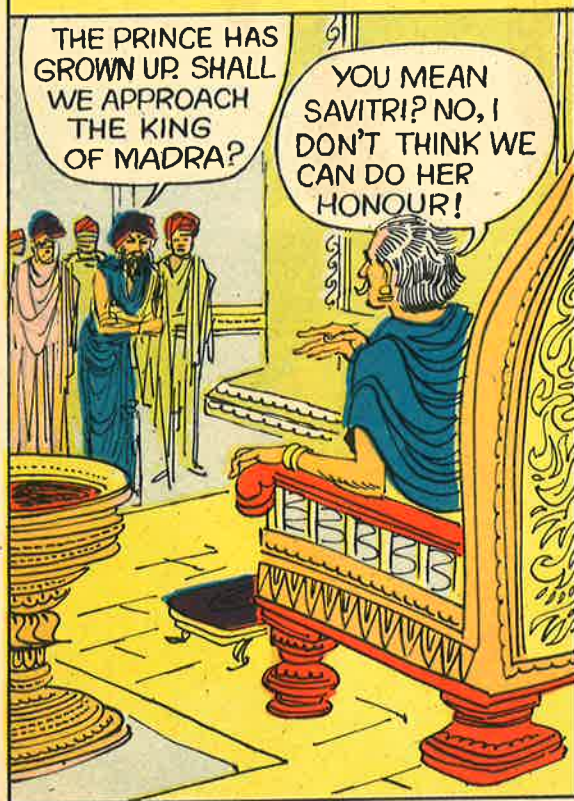
NO, NOT MY SON! A LEARNED WOMAN LIKE HER DESERVES SOMEONE BETTER!



IT WAS THE SAME STORY EVERYWHERE...

THE PRINCE HAS GROWN UP. SHALL WE APPROACH THE KING OF MADRA?

YOU MEAN SAVITRI? NO, I DON'T THINK WE CAN DO HER HONOUR!



...NO ONE DARED ASK FOR SAVITRI'S HAND.

HAVE WE RECEIVED ANY PROPOSALS FOR SAVITRI?

NO, YOUR MAJESTY!



THE COURT JESTER CAME OUT WITH ANOTHER IDEA...



WHY NOT LET HER CHOOSE HERSELF?

ARE YOU JOKING?

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



I DON'T WISH TO MARRY! WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEND ME AWAY?



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.

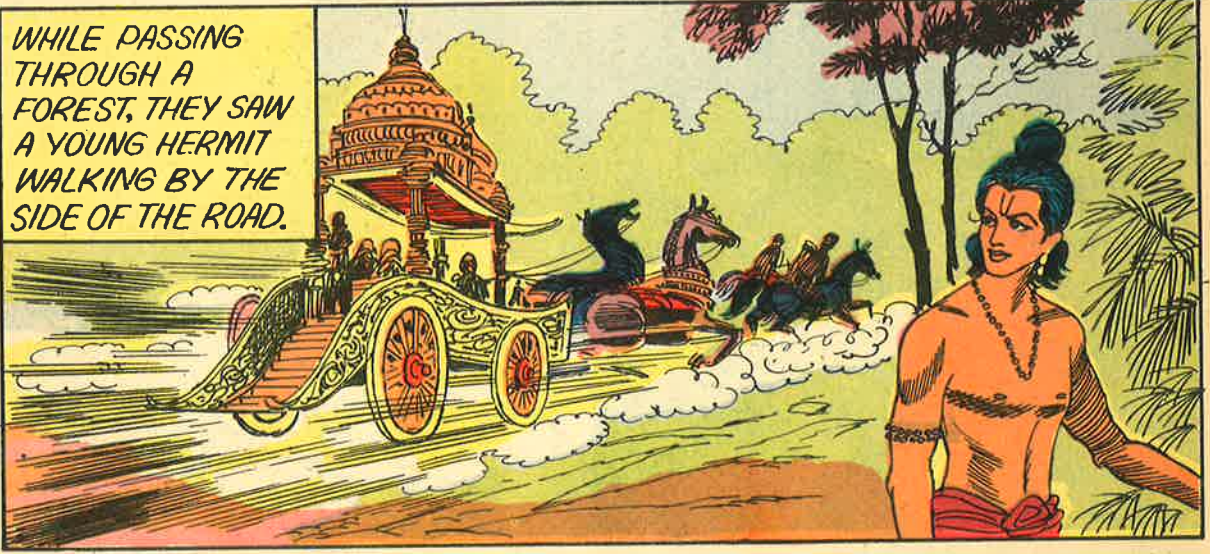


LOOK FOR A HUSBAND WHO WILL BE YOUR EQUAL.

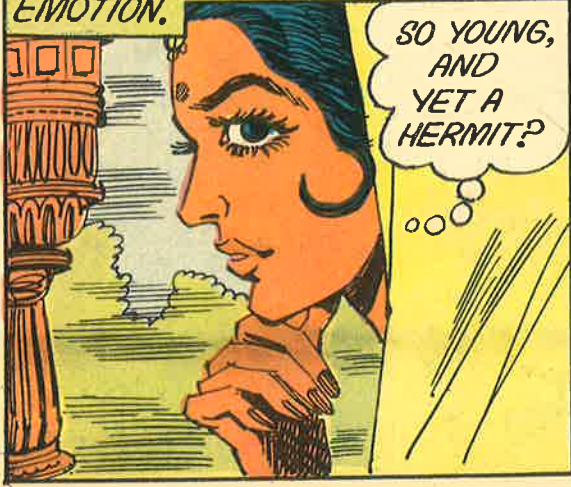
SAVITRI WAS THRILLED WITH THE JOURNEY— SHE WOULD VISIT SO MANY HOLY PLACES.



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.



SO YOUNG, AND YET A HERMIT?

THE FACE WAS IMPRINTED ON HER MEMORY.



TOMORROW WE SHALL BE THE GUESTS OF THE KING OF VARANASI!

AT VARANASI—



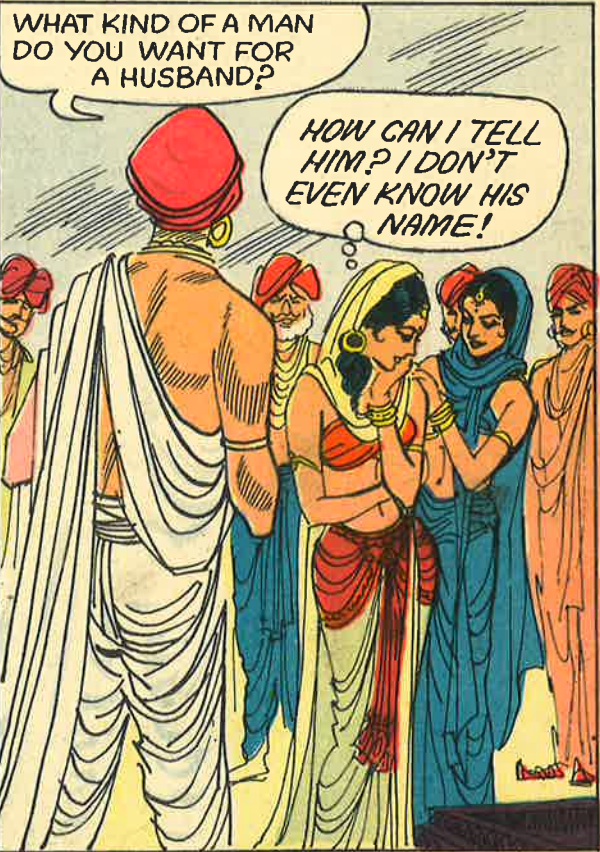
MY SONS ARE
BRAVE AND
STRONG! YOU
MAY MAKE YOUR
CHOICE, MY
CHILD.

FOR SAVITRI, A CHANCE MEETING
HAD DIMMED THE REST OF THE WORLD.



HAVE YOU
MADE
YOUR
CHOICE?

NO!
LET'S
GO
BACK
HOME!



WHAT KIND OF A MAN
DO YOU WANT FOR
A HUSBAND?

HOW CAN I TELL
HIM? I DON'T
EVEN KNOW HIS
NAME!

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



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



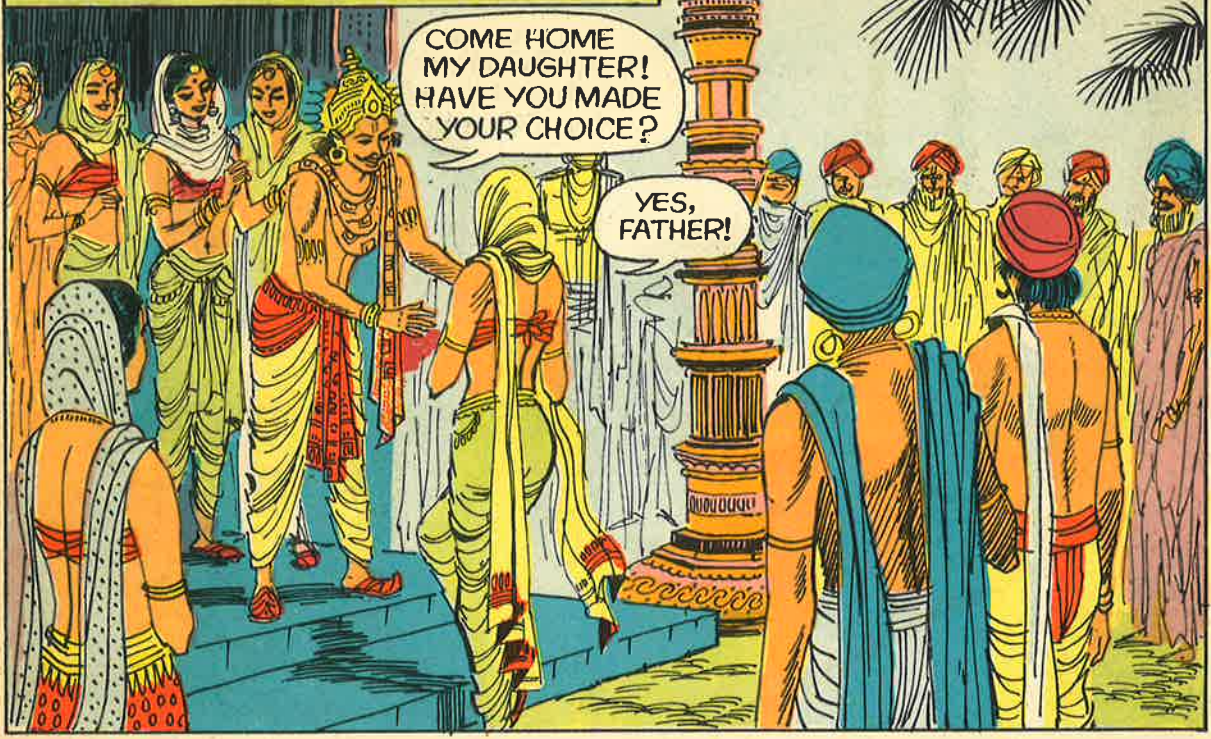
SAVITRI KNEW SHE HAD TO KNOW THE TRUTH! SHE COULD NOT GO AWAY.



SOON THE MINISTER RETURNED.



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



COME HOME MY DAUGHTER! HAVE YOU MADE YOUR CHOICE?

YES, FATHER!

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



WHY DO YOU BLUSH, MY DEAR?

SHE HAS CHOSEN SATYAVAN! HE LIVES IN THE FOREST.

IN THE FOREST?

... BUT THE CONVERSATION WAS SOON INTERRUPTED.



YOUR MAJESTY! SAGE NARADA SEEKS YOUR AUDIENCE!

OH! I MUST GO AND WELCOME HIM!



WHAT IS THIS LITTLE CONFERENCE ABOUT?

MY DAUGHTER HAS CHOSEN A POOR MAN FOR HER HUSBAND! HIS NAME IS SATYAVAN!



SATYAVAN?

WHY DID SHE HAVE TO CHOOSE HIM?



THE KING HAD SEEN THE LOOK OF SADNESS IN NARADA'S EYES.

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

YES! HIS FATHER DYUMATSENA WAS KING OF SALVA! AFTER HE BECAME BLIND, HE LOST HIS KINGDOM!



THEN WHY ARE YOU SILENT? IS IT BECAUSE THEY LIVE IN THE FOREST NOW?

NO, NOT THAT!

HOW CAN I TELL HIM THE REAL REASON!

ASVAPATI KEPT ON ASKING THE SAGE.

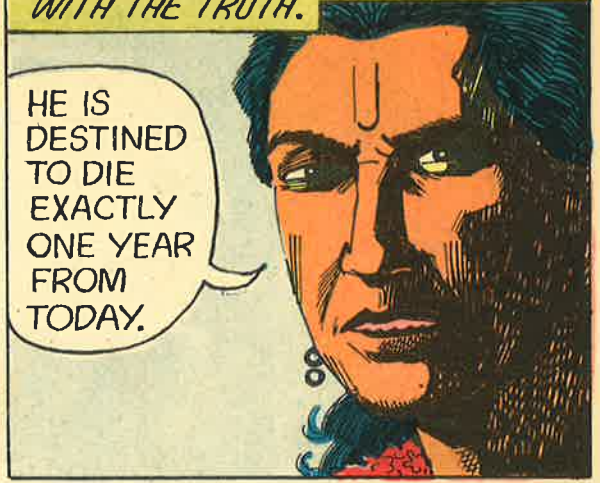
IS HE NOT NOBLE?
IS HE NOT
BRAVE?

HE IS THE
NOBLEST
AND
BRAVEST
OF ALL!



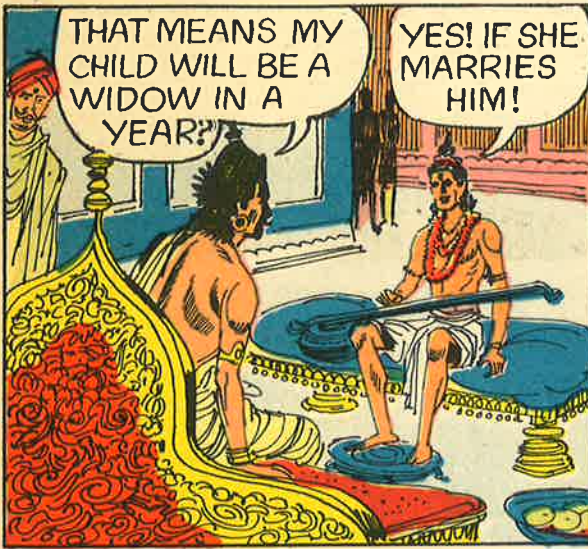
FINALLY NARADA HAD TO COME OUT WITH THE TRUTH.

HE IS
DESTINED
TO DIE
EXACTLY
ONE YEAR
FROM
TODAY.



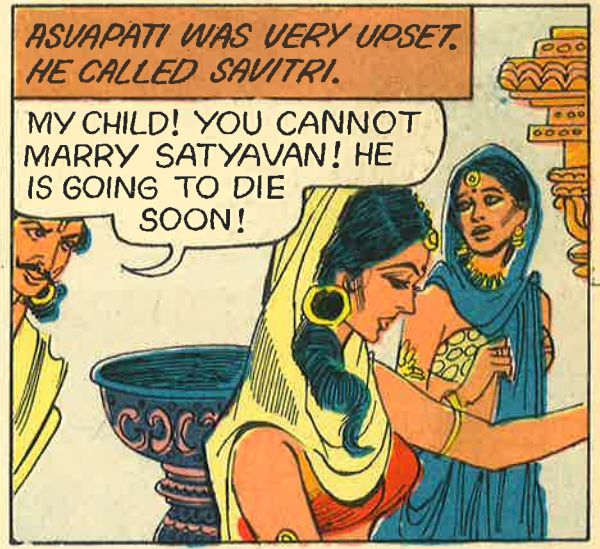
THAT MEANS MY
CHILD WILL BE A
WIDOW IN A
YEAR?

YES! IF SHE
MARRIES
HIM!

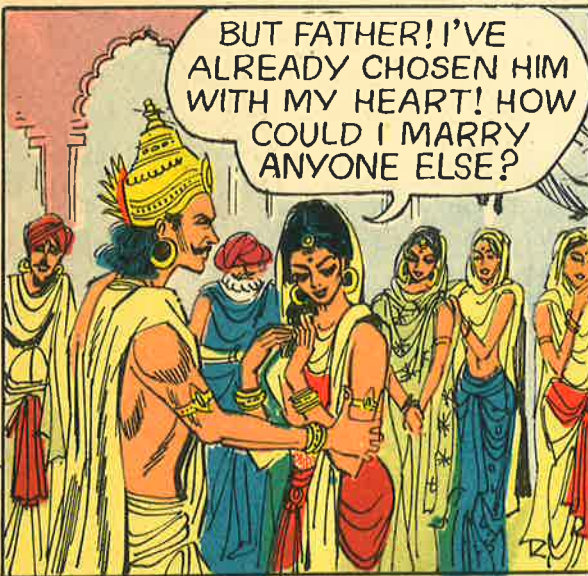


*ASVAPATI WAS VERY UPSET.
HE CALLED SAVITRI.*

MY CHILD! YOU CANNOT
MARRY SATYAVAN! HE
IS GOING TO DIE
SOON!



BUT FATHER! I'VE
ALREADY CHOSEN HIM
WITH MY HEART! HOW
COULD I MARRY
ANYONE ELSE?



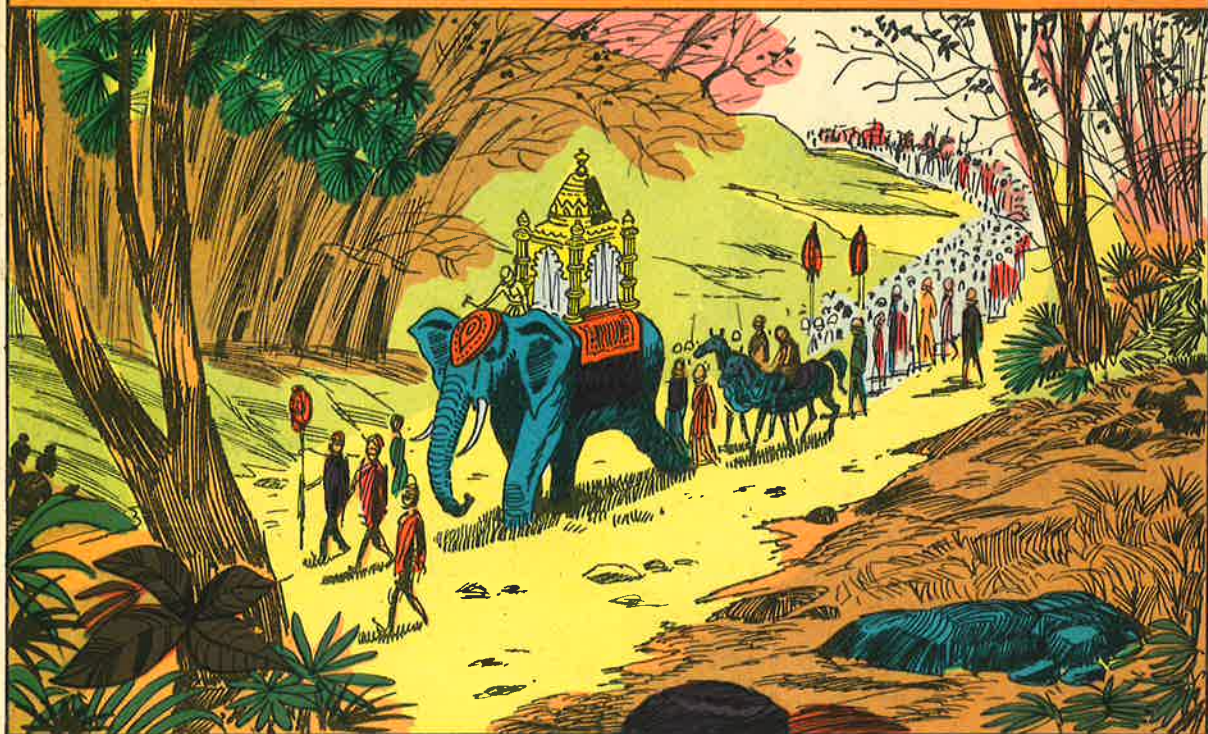
AT LAST, ASVAPATI HAD TO GIVE IN.

YOUR DAUGHTER HAS
MADE A BRAVE CHOICE!
PLEASE
ACCEPT
IT!

YES!
I'LL
ACCEPT
IT!



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



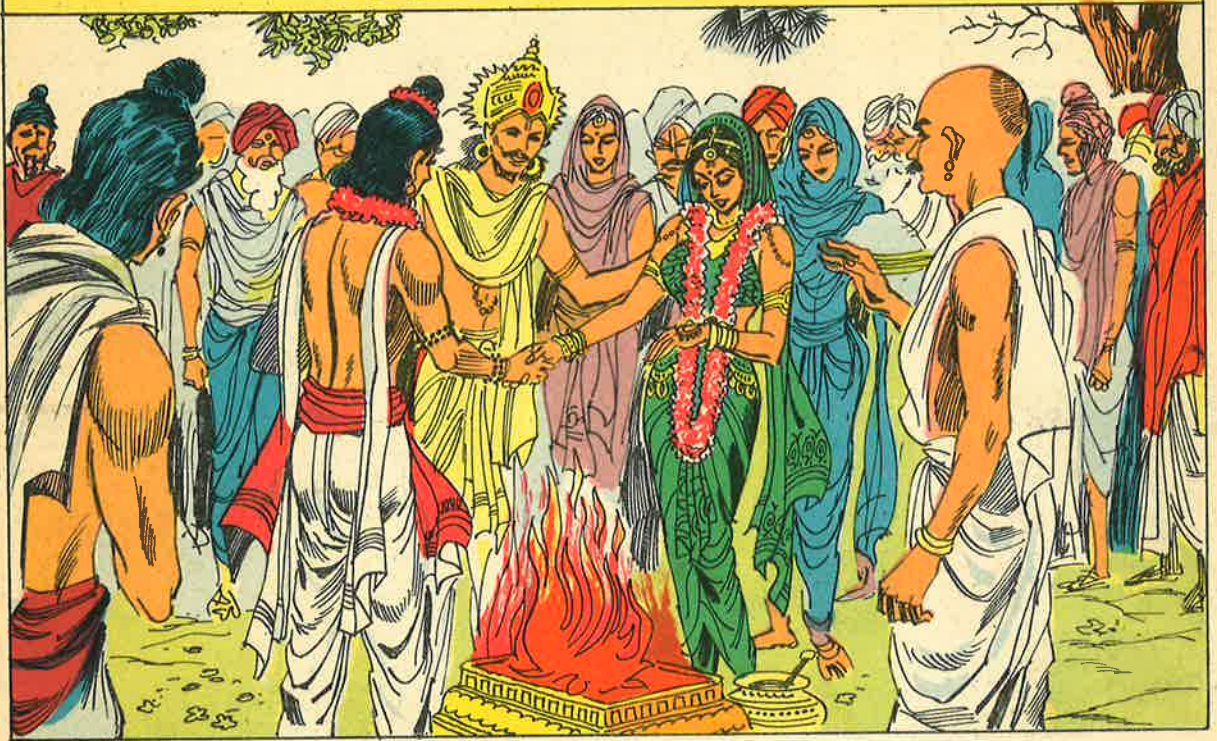
AT FIRST, DYUMATSENA WAS HESITANT.



HER FRIENDS DRESSED SAUITRI BEAUTIFULLY.



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

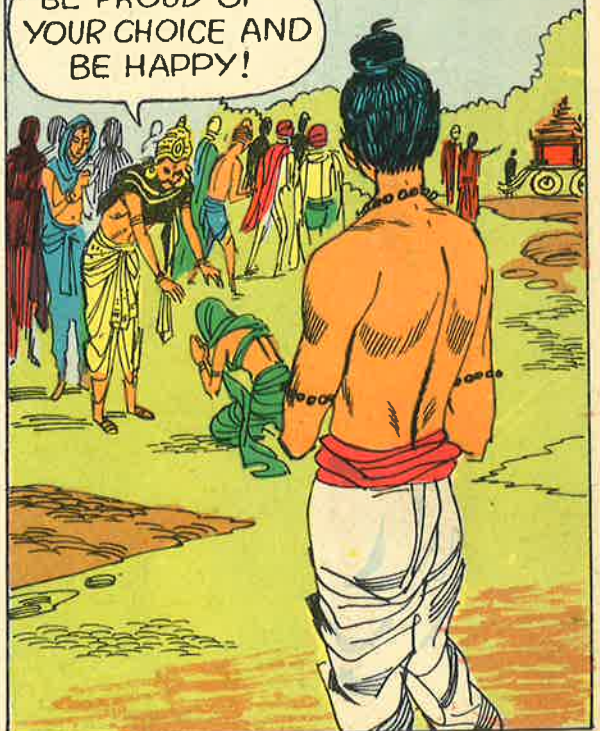


THE BRIDE AND GROOM WALKED
AROUND THE SACRED FIRE SEVEN
TIMES. THEY WERE MARRIED NOW.



THEN IT WAS TIME FOR FAREWELL.

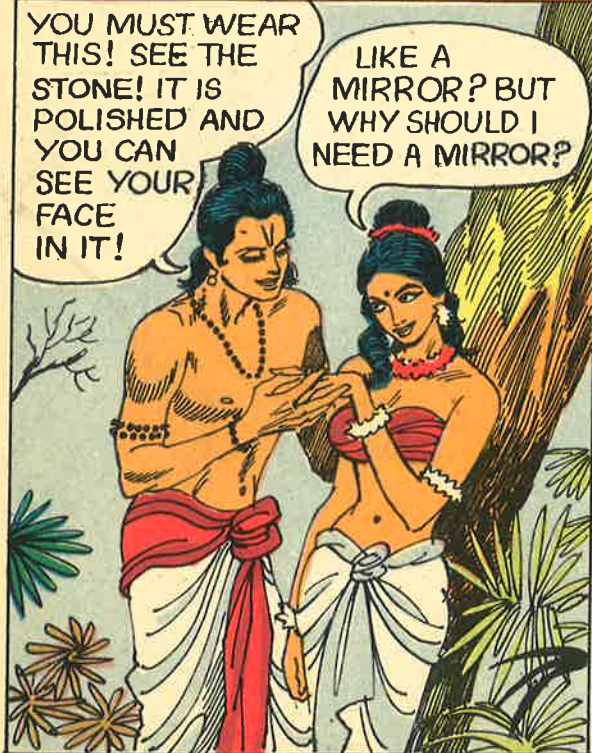
BE PROUD OF
YOUR CHOICE AND
BE HAPPY!



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.



IN THE MORNING —

PLEASE LET
ME GO WITH
YOU TODAY.

WHY
SAVITRI?

I JUST WANT
TO GO!

ALL
RIGHT,
COME
WITH
ME!

HER SMILING FACE
HID THE AGONY IN
HER HEART. SATYAVAN
WAS HAPPY...

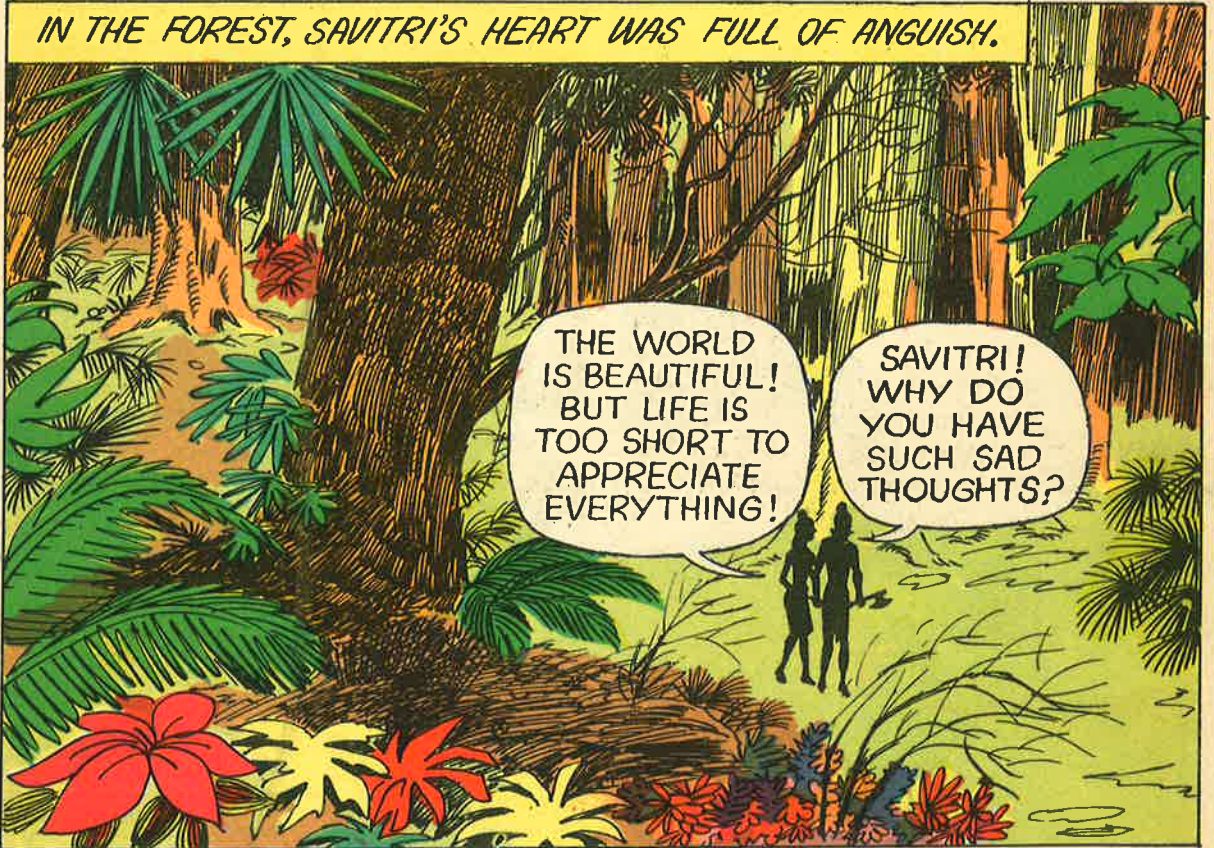
BUT YOU MUST
WEAR YOUR
ANKLETS!
I WANT TO
HEAR YOUR
FOOTSTEPS!



IN THE FOREST, SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FULL OF ANGUISH.

THE WORLD
IS BEAUTIFUL!
BUT LIFE IS
TOO SHORT TO
APPRECIATE
EVERYTHING!

SAVITRI!
WHY DO
YOU HAVE
SUCH SAD
THOUGHTS?



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.



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.

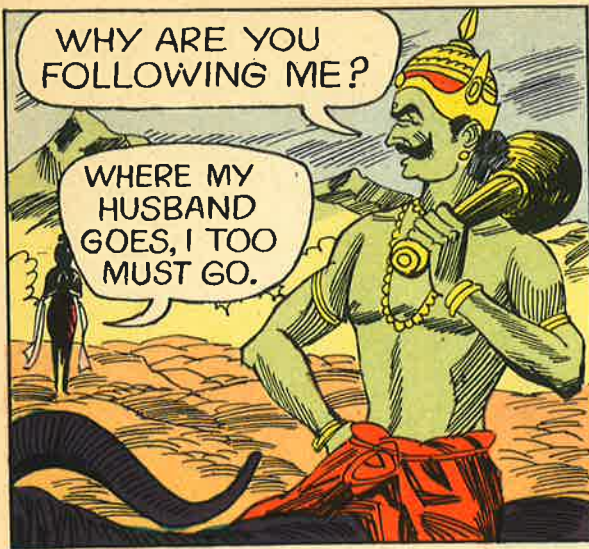


ON THE HARD GROUND, HER ANKLETS FILLED THE AIR WITH A MOURNFUL SOUND...



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





WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

WHERE MY HUSBAND GOES, I TOO MUST GO.



YOUR HUSBAND IS DEAD! YOU MUST GO BACK!

NOT UNLESS HE GETS HIS LIFE BACK!



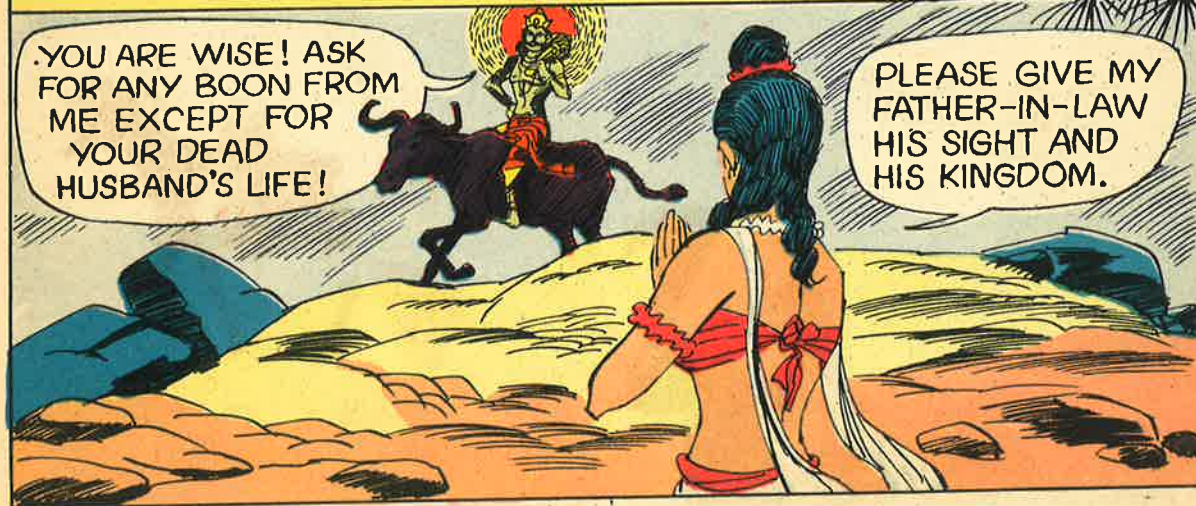
YOU ARE ASKING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE! BUT FIRST, TELL ME WHY I SHOULD HELP YOU!

THERE WAS A TWINKLE OF AMUSEMENT IN YAMA'S EYES!



IT IS SAID, WALKING SEVEN STEPS TOGETHER, MAKES FRIENDS. I'VE WALKED MORE THAN SEVEN STEPS WITH YOU!

EVEN THE GOD OF DEATH WAS THRILLED WITH SAUITRI'S REPLY.



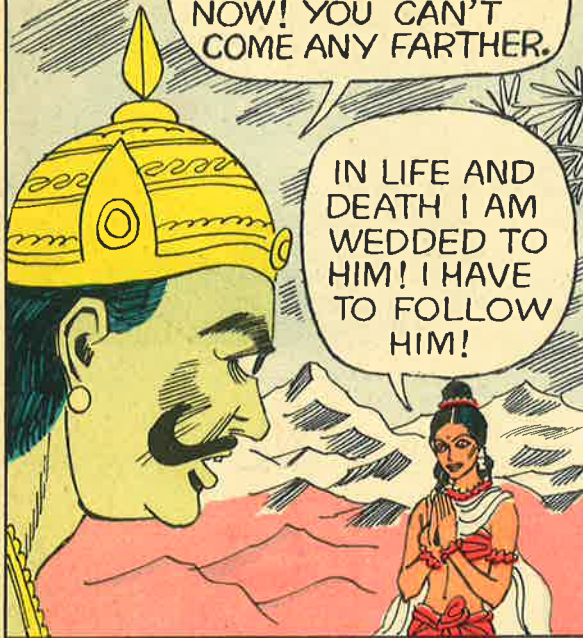
.YOU ARE WISE! ASK FOR ANY BOON FROM ME EXCEPT FOR YOUR DEAD HUSBAND'S LIFE!

PLEASE GIVE MY FATHER-IN-LAW HIS SIGHT AND HIS KINGDOM.

YAMA WAS ASTONISHED THAT SAVITRI DID NOT ASK ANYTHING FOR HERSELF.

YOU MUST GO BACK NOW! YOU CAN'T COME ANY FARTHER.

IN LIFE AND DEATH I AM WEDDED TO HIM! I HAVE TO FOLLOW HIM!



BUT HE IS LYING THERE IN THE FOREST. YOU SHOULD ARRANGE FOR HIS FUNERAL!

WHY DO YOU TEST ME? WHAT GOOD IS THE BODY WHEN THE SOUL LEAVES IT?



SAVITRI'S WORDS FILLED THE AIR LIKE SOLEMN MUSIC. EVEN YAMA'S STEPS HAD SLOWED DOWN.

YOUR HUSBAND'S LIFE IS ALREADY TAKEN! I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR DEVOTION! ASK FOR TWO MORE BOONS!



SAVITRI KNEW SHE COULD NOT ASK FOR SATYAVAN'S LIFE DIRECTLY! BUT SHE FOUND A WAY!

MY FATHER HAS NO SONS TO CARRY ON HIS LINE! WILL YOU GRANT HIM SONS?

IT WILL BE DONE! WHAT ELSE DO YOU ASK?

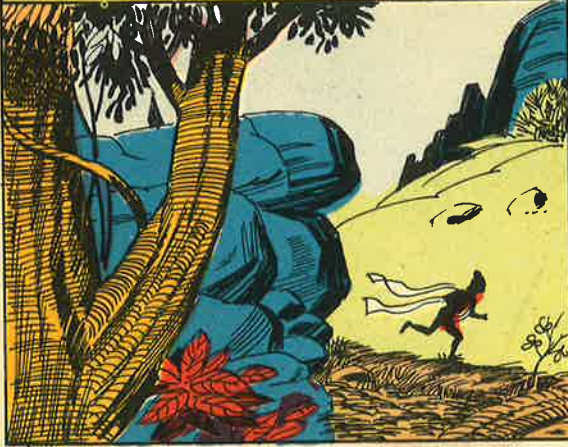




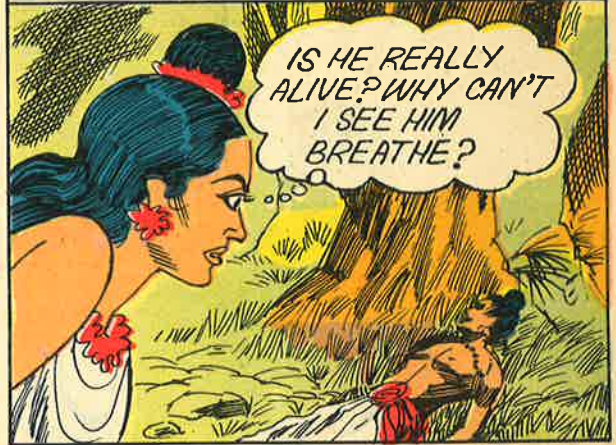
YAMA STARTED TO GO! AFTER A FEW STEPS HE TURNED TO HAVE A LAST GLIMPSE OF SAVITRI.



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.



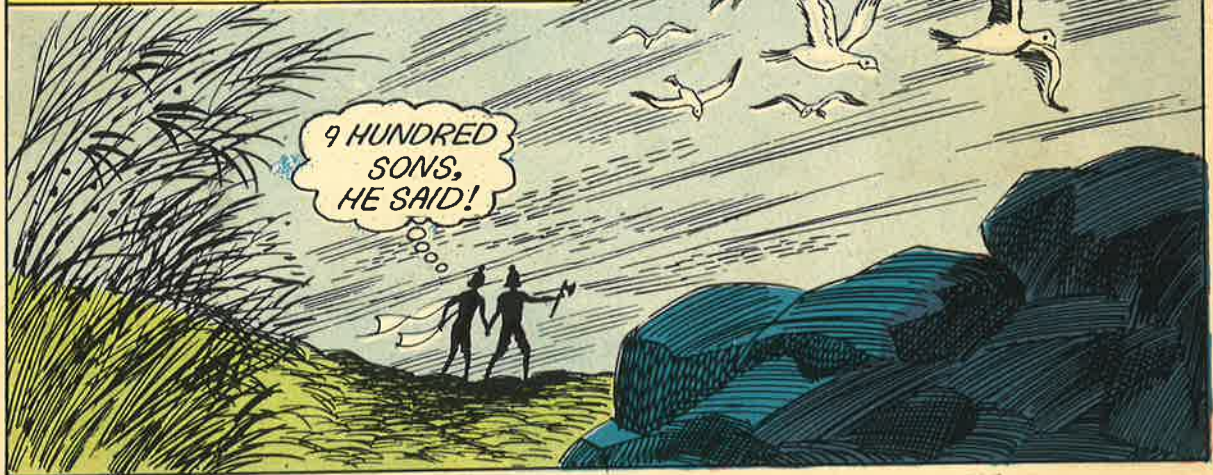
SAVITRI KNEW THAT A POLISHED STONE BECOMES MISTY WITH A MAN'S BREATH. SHE TOOK OFF HER RING AND HELD IT NEAR HIS NOSE.



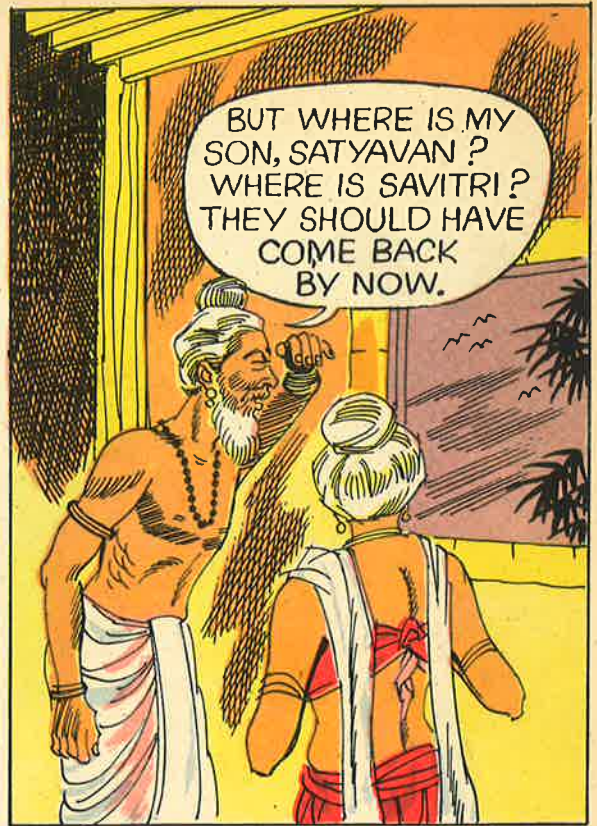
SATYAVAN SOON OPENED HIS EYES.



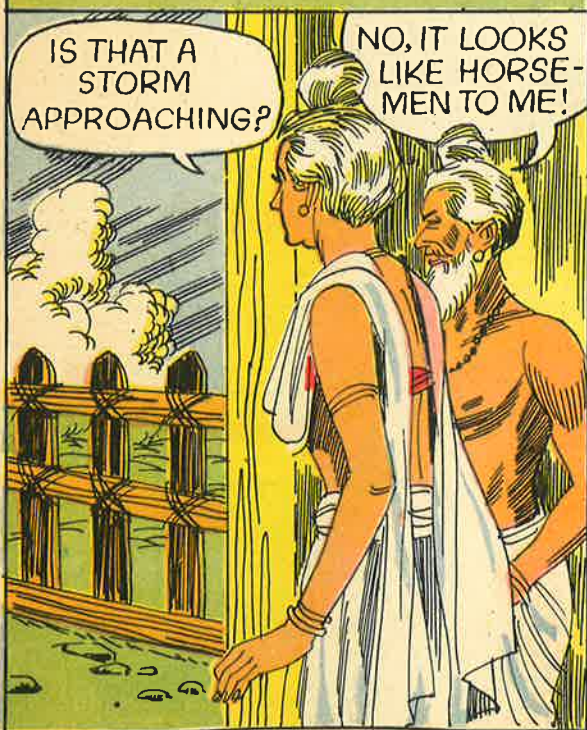
THE HAPPY COUPLE STARTED FOR THEIR HOME! SAVITRI'S HEART WAS FILLED WITH HAPPINESS.



MEANWHILE... DYUMATSENA
HAD GOT BACK HIS SIGHT.



AS THE WORRIED DYUMATSENA
STEPPED OUTSIDE, HE SAW A STORM
CLOUD AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST.



THE HORSEMEN SOON ARRIVED!
DYUMATSENA RECOGNISED THEM.
THEY CAME FROM HIS LOST KINGDOM.



MEANWHILE... DYUMATSENA
HAD GOT BACK HIS SIGHT.

WHY ARE YOU
LOOKING AT ME
LIKE THAT ?

BECAUSE I
CAN SEE YOU!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
MY WIFE!



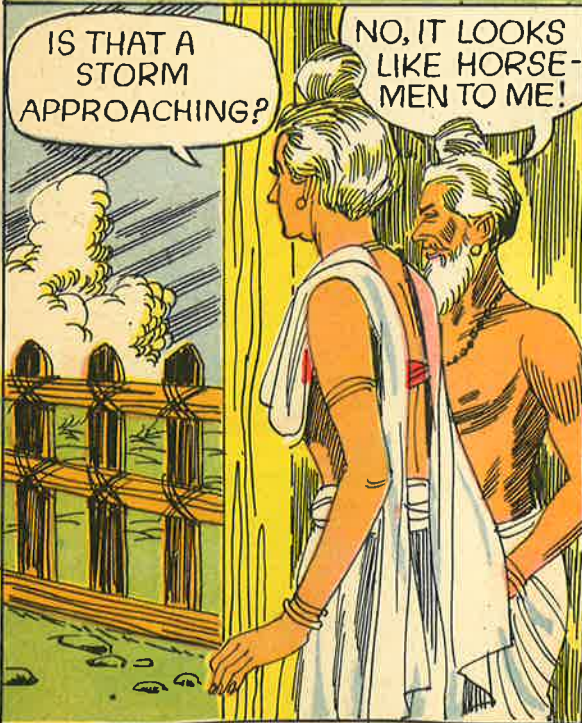
BUT WHERE IS MY
SON, SATYAVAN ?
WHERE IS SAVITRI ?
THEY SHOULD HAVE
COME BACK
BY NOW.



AS THE WORRIED DYUMATSENA
STEPPED OUTSIDE, HE SAW A STORM
CLOUD AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST.

IS THAT A
STORM
APPROACHING?

NO, IT LOOKS
LIKE HORSE-
MEN TO ME!

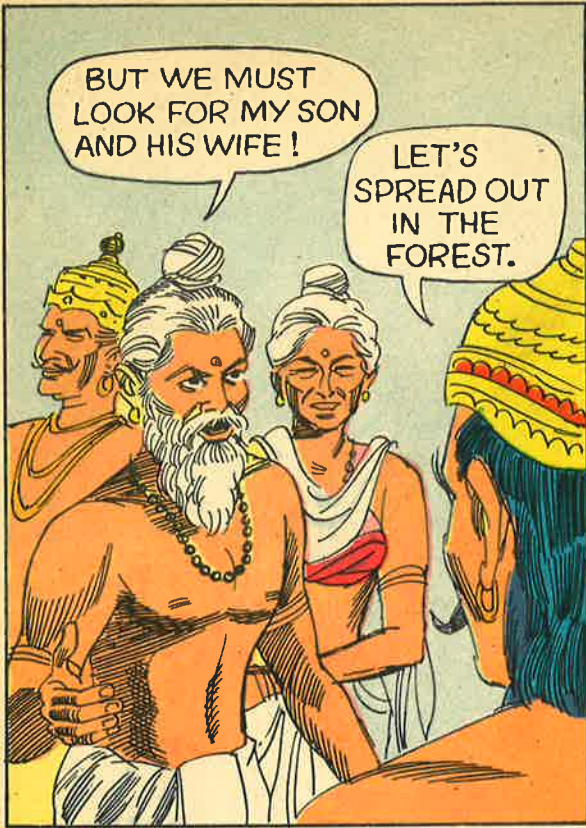


THE HORSEMEN SOON ARRIVED!
DYUMATSENA RECOGNISED THEM.
THEY CAME FROM HIS LOST KINGDOM.

YOUR MAJESTY!
THE ENEMIES HAVE
BEEN DEFEATED!
WE HAVE COME TO
TAKE YOU BACK.

ANOTHER
MIRACLE!





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



NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME AMAR CHITRA KATHA OFFERS STORIES BASED ON IMMORTAL INDIAN CLASSICS AND HISTORY IN COLOURFUL PICTURES!

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

TITLES ON SALE:
THE STORY OF KRISHNA
SHAKUNTALA
THE PANDAVA PRINCES
SAVITRI
THE STORY OF RAMA
NALA DAMAYANTI
HARISCHANDRA

THE SONS OF RAMA
HANUMAN
MAHABHARATA
CHANAKYA
BUDDHA
SHIVAJI
GURU GOBIND SINGH
PRITHVIRAJ CHAUHAN
RANA PRATAP

FOR HEALTHY & WHOLESOME ENTERTAINMENT

**PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH HINDI KANNADA
GUJARATI TELUGU MARATHI & TAMIL**



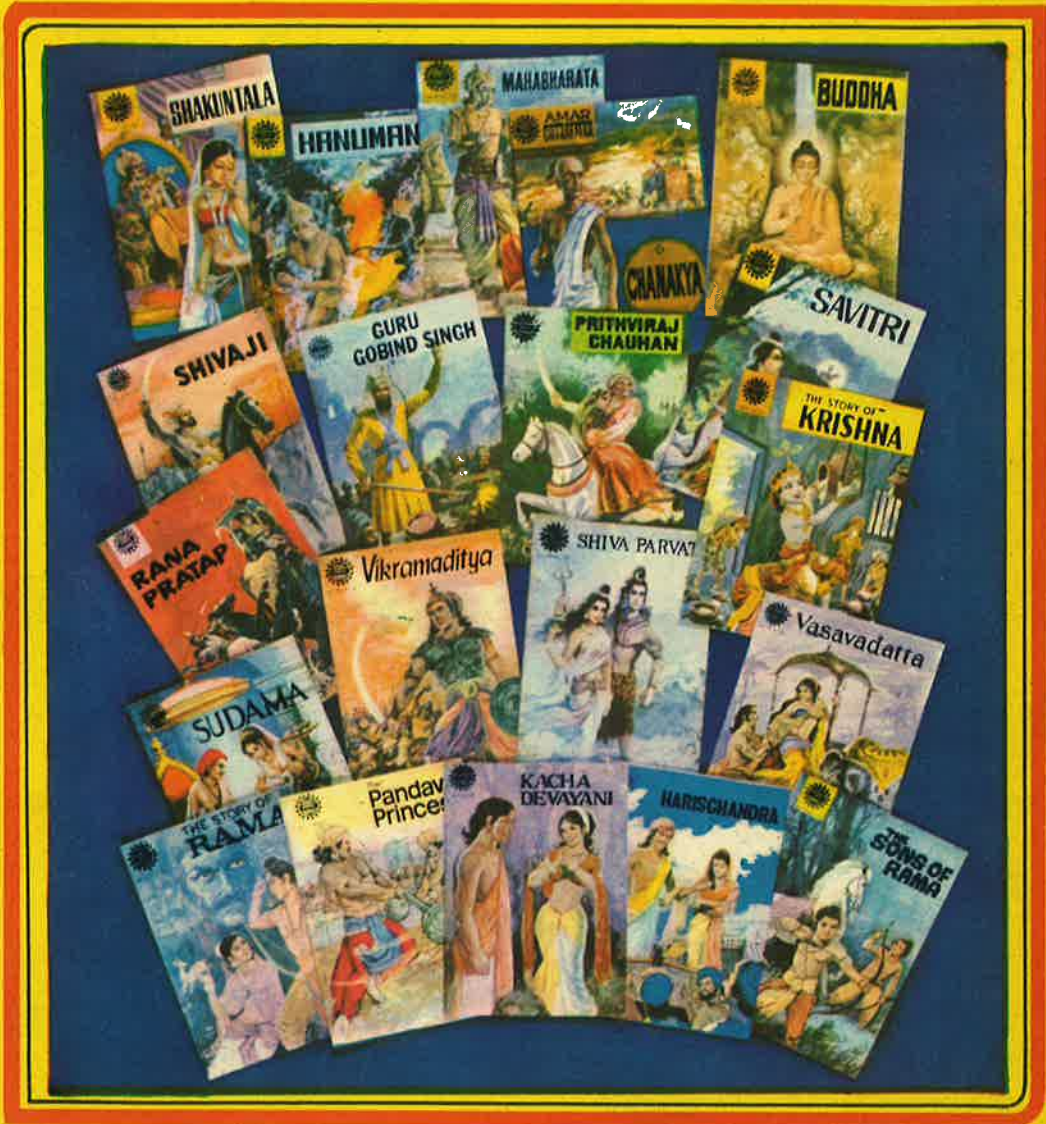
INDIA BOOK HOUSE

Bombay 26, Calcutta 16, New Delhi 1, Madras 2, Bangalore 9, Hyderabad 29,
Patna 4, Nagpur 1, Lucknow & Trivandrum



AMAR CHITRA KATHA

Immortal Pictorial Classics
From Indian History and Mythology



PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH, HINDI, MARATHI, GUJARATI, TELUGU,
TAMIL, MALAYALAM, KANNADA AND BENGALI.

WRITE FOR FREE CATALOGUE

AVAILABLE AT ALL BOOKSTALLS

OR

INDIA BOOK HOUSE

Secunderabad 3