

**AMAR  
CHITRA  
KATHA**

No. 252

# KARTTIKEYA



*C.M. Vitankar*

ADOPTED FROM THE SKANDA-PURANA-SAMHITA

APPROVED  
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COMICS  
CODE  
AUTHORITY

Karttikeya, the commander-in-chief of the celestial army, is also known as Subrahmanya, Skanda, Guha and Kumara. In the southern states of India, Subrahmanya is a popular deity even today. Among the Tamil-speaking people he is better known as Murukan or Murugan. In the North, he is largely unknown; but he is worshipped in the East, especially in Bengal, where women pray to him for worthy sons. Like Ganesha, he too is a son of Shiva and Parvati, miraculously born. If Ganesha was created by Parvati, Karttikeya was the creation of Shiva, nurtured by Agni, Ganga and Kritikas in turn.

Six-headed, twelve-armed and seated on his vahana or vehicle, the peacock, Karttikeya is the symbol of youth, beauty and valour. In the South he also symbolises the supreme wisdom since, according to legend, he taught his father, thereby earning the name of Svaminatha.

Karttikeya though usually depicted as a bachelor is also mentioned as having two wives: Valli and Devasena.

The story of Karttikeya is found in the Mahabharata, in the Shiva, Skanda and Brahmanda puranas, and in the Ramayana. Our story is based on the Tamil version of the Skanda-Purana-Samhita.

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# KARTTIKEYA

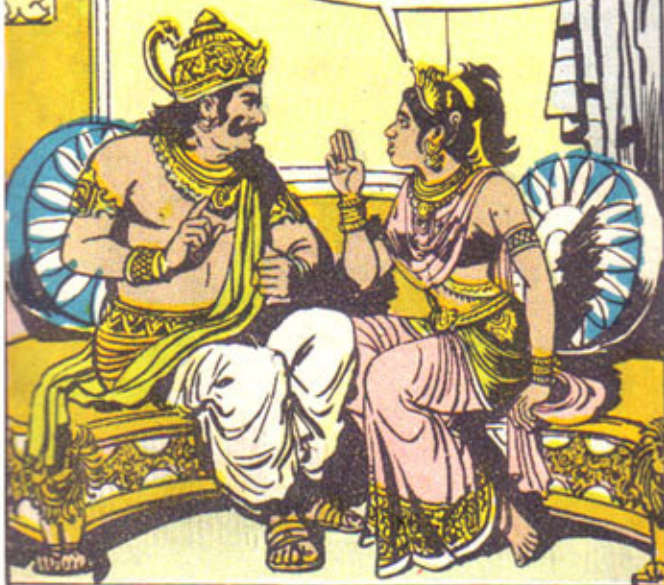


IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS WERE FOREVER AT WAR AND OFTEN IT WAS THE ASURAS WHO WERE DEFEATED.

AFTER ONE CRUSHING DEFEAT, AN ASURA KING NAMED AKHIRSEN WENT TO HIS DAUGHTER, MAYA, A SORCERESS.

THE DEVAS ARE VICTORIOUS AGAIN. O THE SHAME OF IT!

DON'T WORRY, FATHER. I WILL NOT REST TILL I TEACH THE DEVAS A LESSON!



TAKING THE FORM OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN MAYA WENT TO THE FOREST WHERE THE GREAT SAGE KASHYAPA SAT DEEP IN MEDITATION.

I WILL MARRY THIS SAGE AND BRING FORTH CHILDREN MORE POWERFUL THAN THE DEVAS.



HER MAGIC CHANGED THE PLACE INTO A PRETTY GARDEN WHERE SHE DANCED AND SANG MELODIOUSLY...



...TILL THE SAGE LOOKED UP.

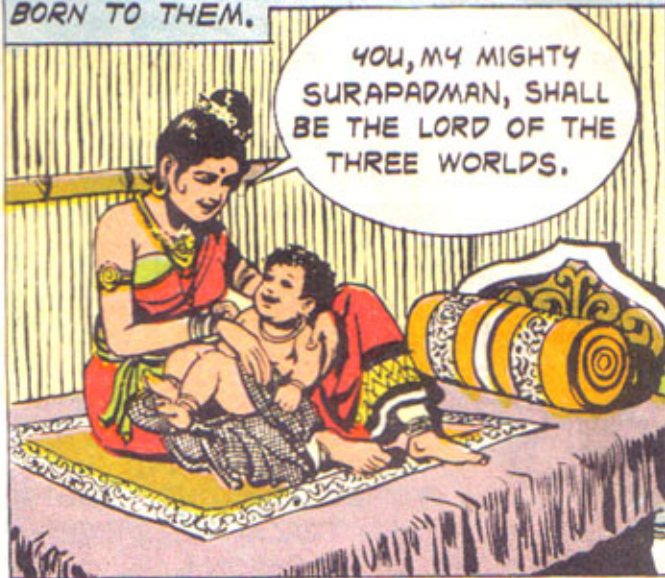
PLEASE LET ME SERVE YOU AS YOUR WIFE, O HOLY ONE.



HOW CAN I REFUSE YOU, NOBLE MAIDEN!

SAGE KASHYAPA AND THE ASURA PRINCESS LIVED HAPPILY IN THE FOREST. IN DUE COURSE A SON WAS BORN TO THEM.

YOU, MY MIGHTY SURAPADMAN, SHALL BE THE LORD OF THE THREE WORLDS.



LATER MAYA GAVE BIRTH TO TWO MORE SONS WHOM SHE NAMED SIMHAMUKHA AND TARAKA.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE DAY WHEN YOU WILL CONQUER THE DEVAS AND MAKE THEM OUR SLAVES.



THE VIRTUOUS SAGE OF COURSE WAS IGNORANT OF MAYA'S DESIGNS.

SO WHEN THE BOYS CAME OF AGE —



I AM GOING AWAY, MY SONS. TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOTHER, LEAD A VIRTUOUS LIFE AND BE DEVOTED TO THE LORD.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT. PROPITIATE LORD SHIVA AND OBTAIN BOONS WHICH WILL MAKE YOU INVINCIBLE.



AS YOU WISH, MOTHER.

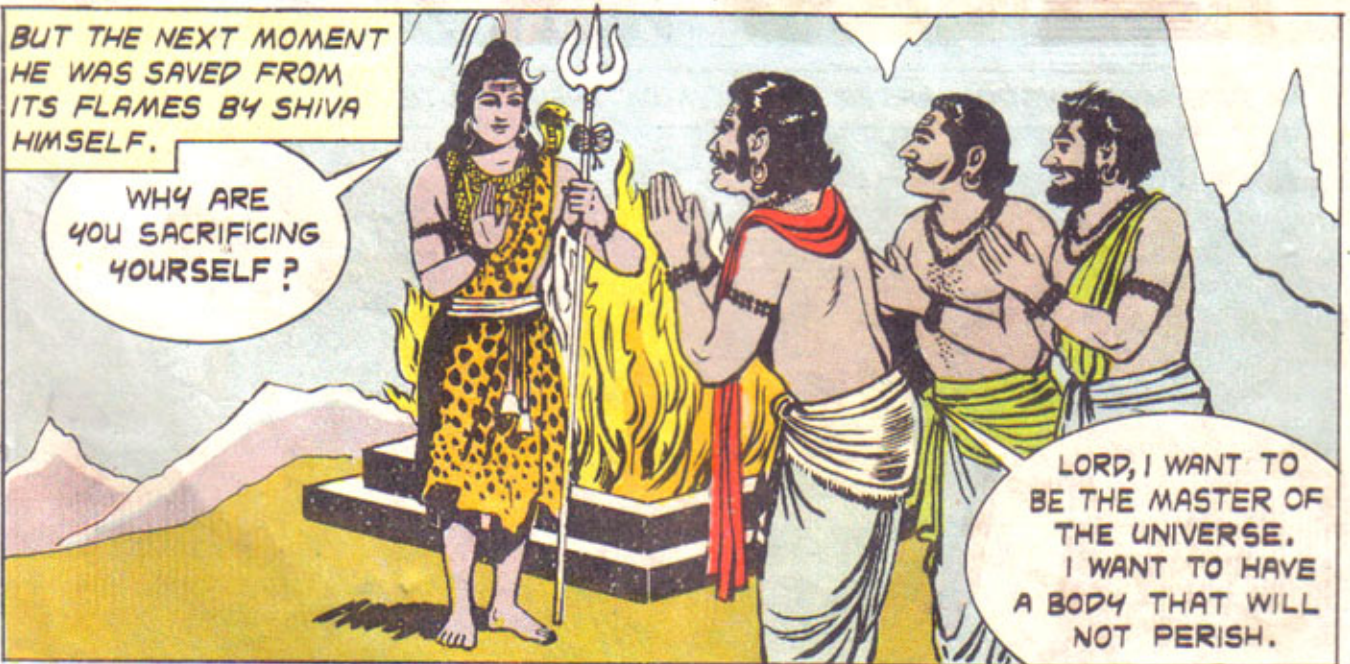
THE THREE LEFT HOME AND PERFORMED SEVERE PENANCES TO WIN THE GRACE OF SHIVA.



BUT THEIR EFFORTS DID NOT BEAR FRUIT. SO SURAPADMAN, THE ELDEST, JUMPED INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.



BUT THE NEXT MOMENT HE WAS SAVED FROM ITS FLAMES BY SHIVA HIMSELF.



WHY ARE YOU SACRIFICING YOURSELF ?

LORD, I WANT TO BE THE MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE. I WANT TO HAVE A BODY THAT WILL NOT PERISH.



NO ONE CAN HAVE AN IMMORTAL BODY. BUT YOU WILL BE INVINCIBLE AND RULE THE UNIVERSE FOR A LONG TIME TO COME.



YOU SHALL NOT BE DEFEATED BY ANY POWER EXCEPT MINE.

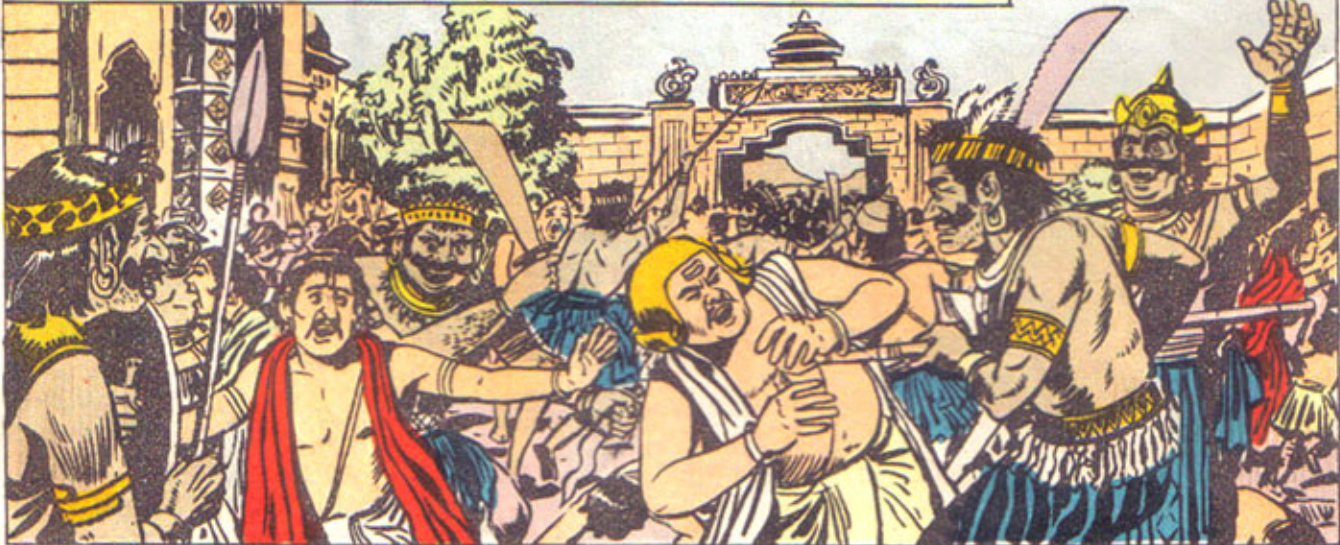
INTOXICATED WITH TRIUMPH, THE THREE BROTHERS RETURNED HOME AND TOLD THEIR MOTHER ABOUT SHIVA'S BOON.



AT LAST MY DREAM WILL COME TRUE.

YES, WE DON'T HAVE TO FEAR ANYONE. WE'LL SOON DRIVE THE DEVAS OUT OF HEAVEN.

THEN, RAVAGING KINGDOM AFTER KINGDOM ON THEIR ROUTE...



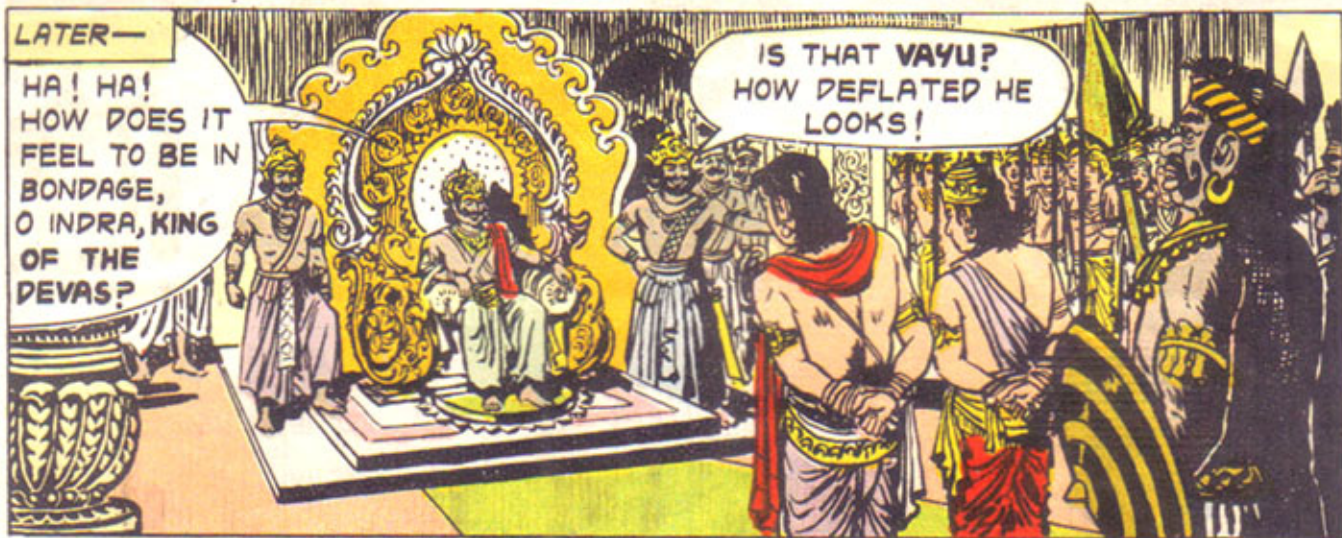
... THEY CAME TO DEVALOKA. THERE, IN THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, THE DEVAS WERE ROUTED...



...AND TAKEN CAPTIVE.

LATER—

HA! HA!  
HOW DOES IT  
FEEL TO BE IN  
BONDAGE,  
O INDRA, KING  
OF THE  
DEVAS?



IS THAT VAYU?  
HOW DEFLATED HE  
LOOKS!

WHAT SHOULD WE  
DO WITH THEM,  
BROTHER?

WE'LL MAKE  
THEM OUR SLAVES.  
INDRA WILL BE OUR  
FISHERMAN, AND  
VAYU OUR SWEEPER.  
AND...

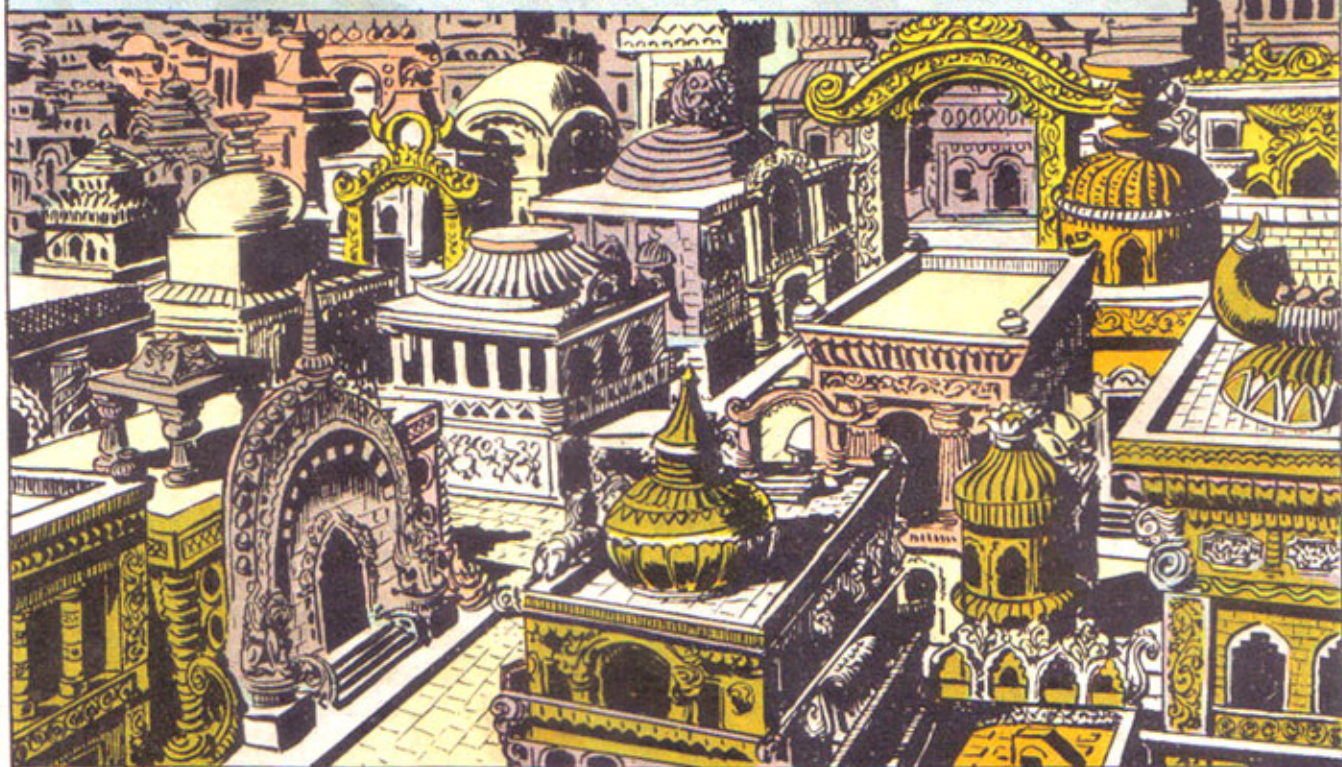


... SURYA WILL MAKE  
A FINE BALL FOR OUR  
CHILDREN.

A BRILLIANT IDEA!  
HAHAHA!



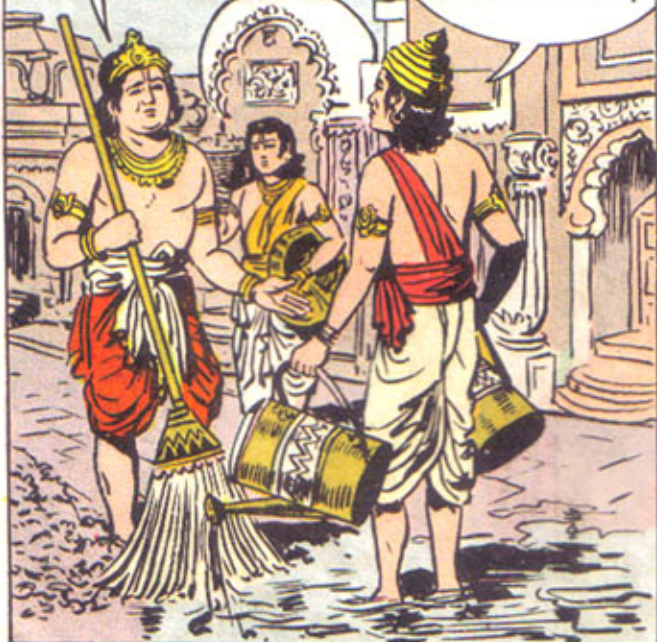
SURAPADMAN HAD A MAGNIFICENT CITY BUILT BY VISHWAKARMA, THE ARCHITECT OF THE DEVAS. HE CALLED IT MAHENDRAPURI AND MADE IT HIS CAPITAL.



THE DEVAS MEANWHILE WERE LAMENTING THEIR FATE.

THEY HAVE IMPRISONED EVEN THE VALIANT JAYANTA\*! WHAT SHALL WE DO?

HOW LONG CAN WE SUFFER THIS HUMILIATION?



SHIVA HAD PROMISED TO HELP US.

THAT WAS LONG AGO.



\* INDRA'S SON



LET'S GO TO KAILAS  
ONCE MORE AND  
PRAY TO HIM.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN  
WHAT HAPPENED TO  
KAMA WHEN WE LAST  
VISITED KAILAS ?

KAMA, THE GOD OF LOVE, HAD BEEN BURNT TO ASHES WHEN HE HAD TRIED TO  
DISTURB SHIVA'S PENANCE. LATER, HOWEVER, HE WAS RESTORED TO LIFE.

SHIVA, HAPPILY  
MARRIED TO PARVATI  
NOW, IS MORE  
COMPASSIONATE AND  
WILL SURELY LISTEN  
TO OUR PRAYER.

YES. LET'S GO TO KAILAS  
ONCE MORE.

AT KAILAS —

LORD, DRUNK WITH  
POWER THE MEAN ASURAS  
HAVE MADE US THEIR  
SLAVES. MY SON, JAYANTA  
IS THEIR PRISONER !

BE PATIENT !  
YOUR MISERIES  
WILL SOON END  
BECAUSE THEIR  
DAYS ARE  
NUMBERED.

THEN SHIVA ASSUMED A FORM WITH SIX FACES...



...FROM WHICH SIX DIVINE SPARKS SHOT FORTH...

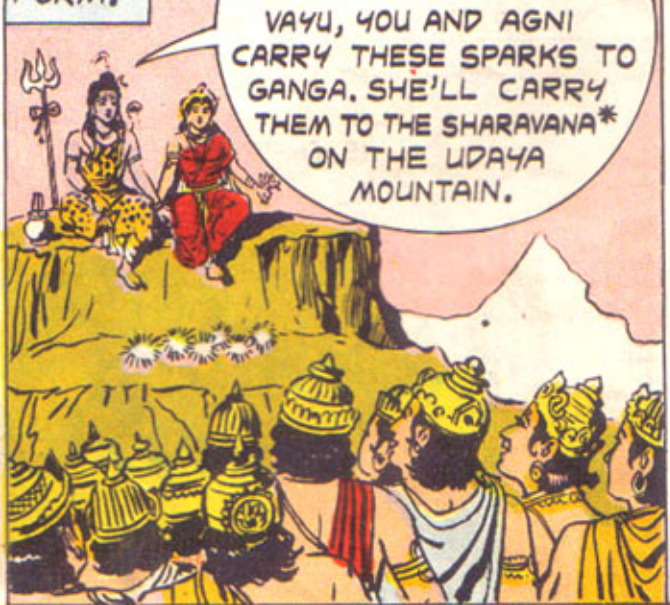


...DAZZLING THE DEVAS WITH THEIR SPLENDOUR.



THE CHILD BORN OUT OF THESE SPARKS WILL SLAY THE ASURAS.

SHIVA THEN ASSUMED HIS ORIGINAL FORM.



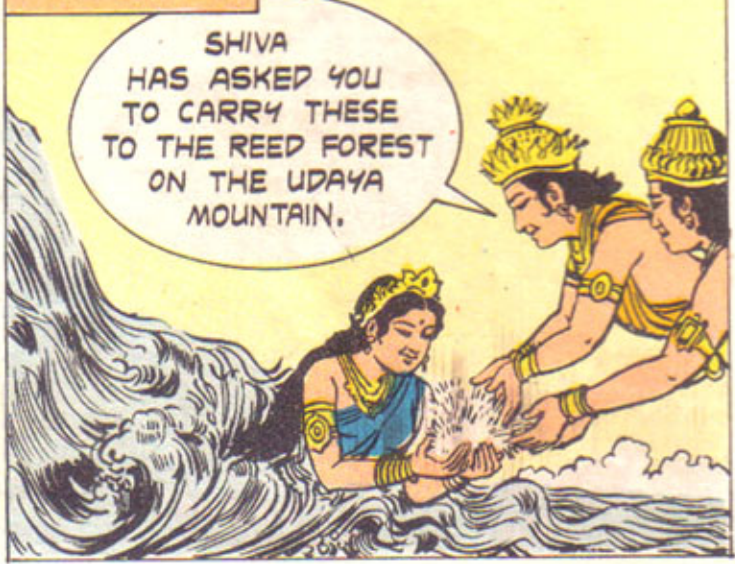
VAYU, YOU AND AGNI CARRY THESE SPARKS TO GANGA. SHE'LL CARRY THEM TO THE SHARAVANA\* ON THE UDAYA MOUNTAIN.

\*FOREST OF REEDS

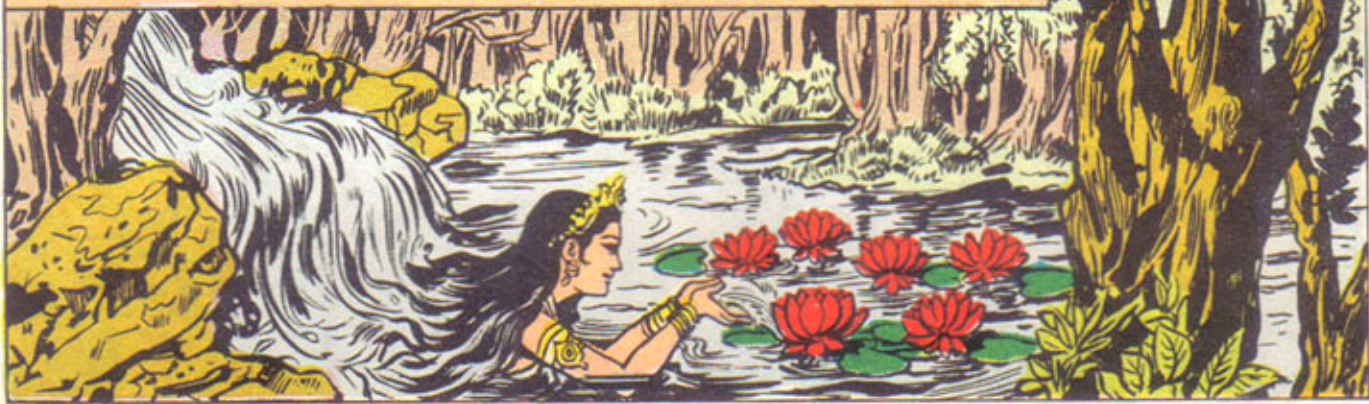
AGNI AND VAYU FLEW WITH THE SPARKS...



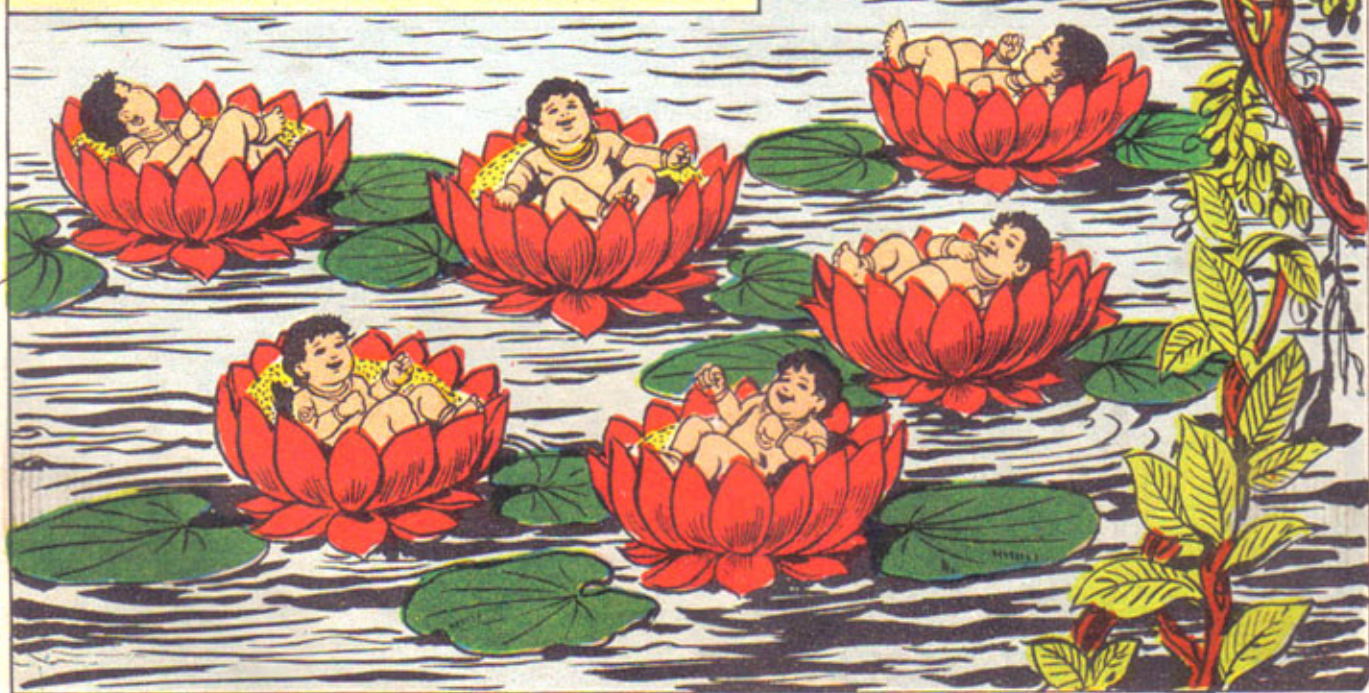
... TO GANGA.



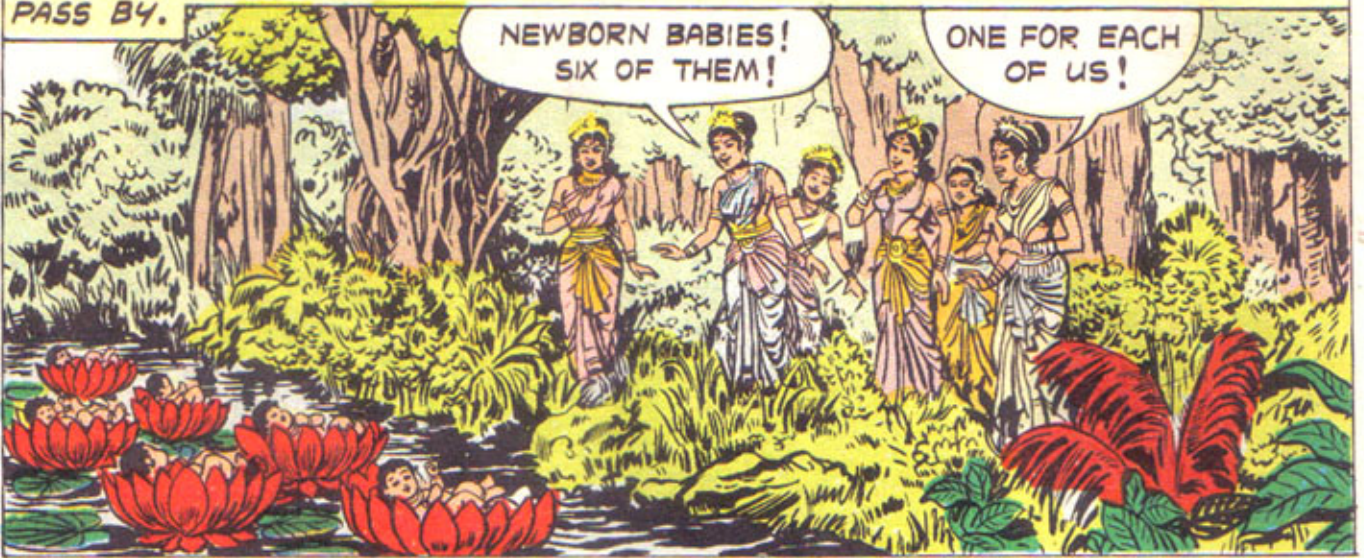
AS SOON AS GANGA BROUGHT THEM INTO THE SHARAVANA...



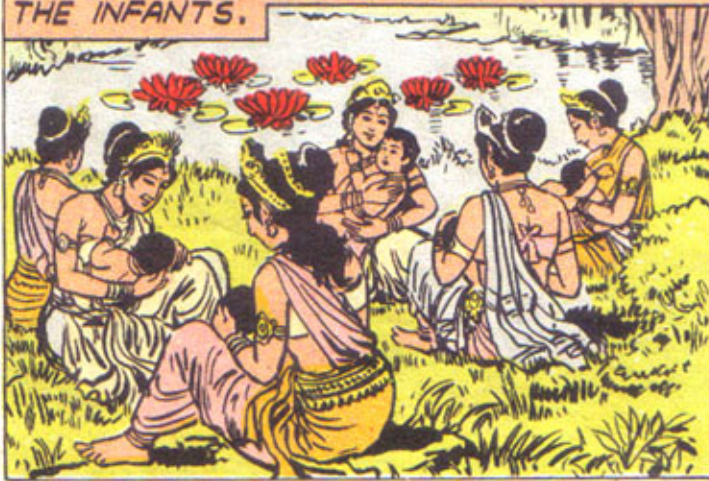
... THE SPARKS TURNED INTO SIX BABIES!



JUST THEN SIX CELESTIAL NYMPHS CALLED THE KRITTIKAS HAPPENED TO PASS BY.



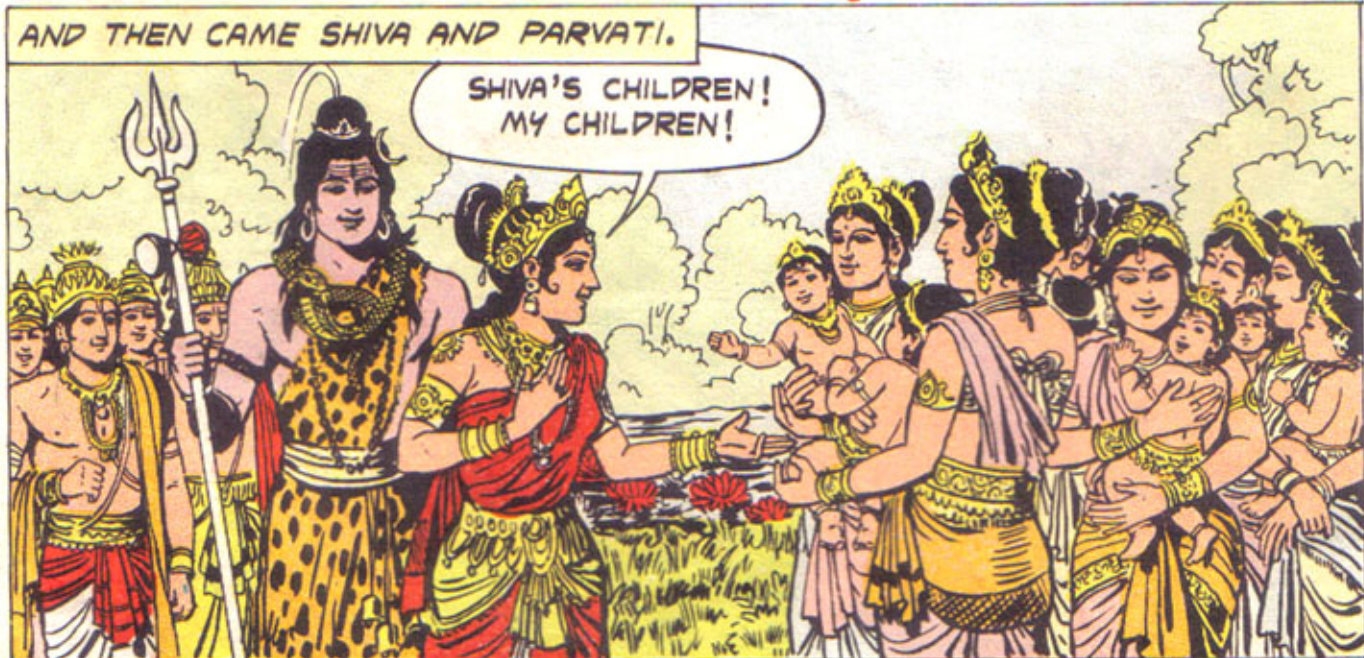
AND THE KRITTIKAS BEGAN TO CUDDLE THE INFANTS.



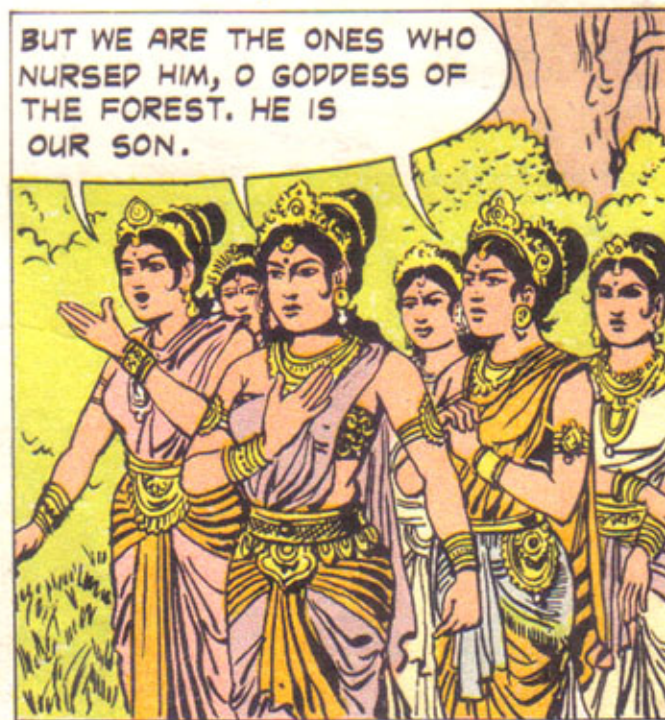
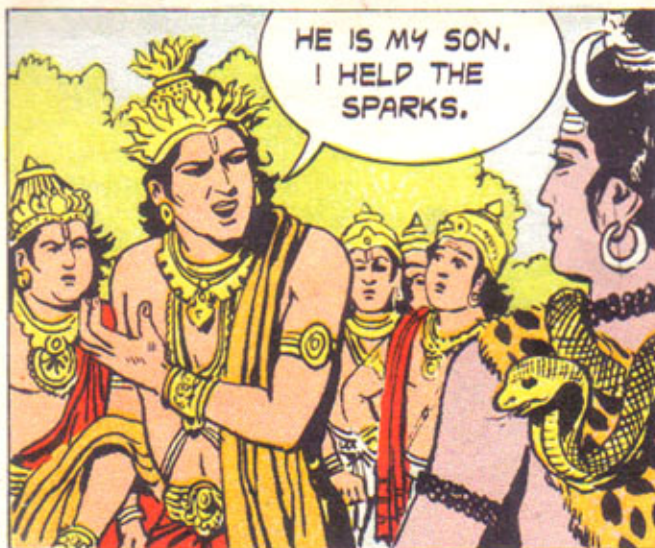
THE DEVAS CAME ON THE SCENE A LITTLE LATER.

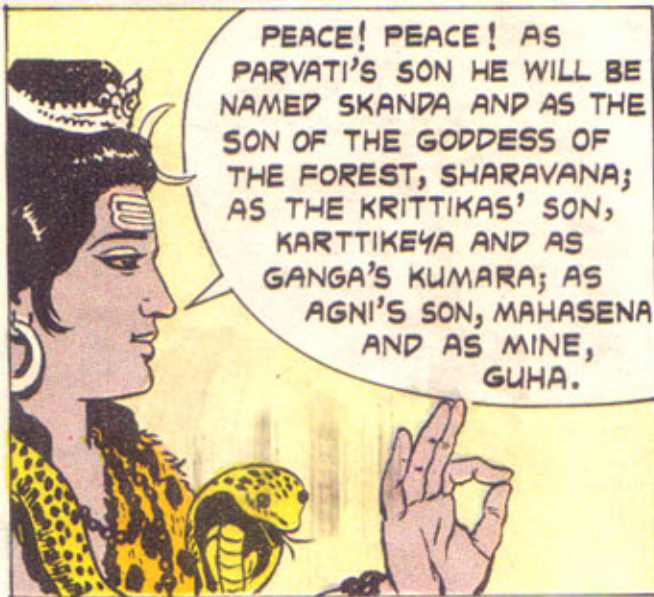


AND THEN CAME SHIVA AND PARVATI.

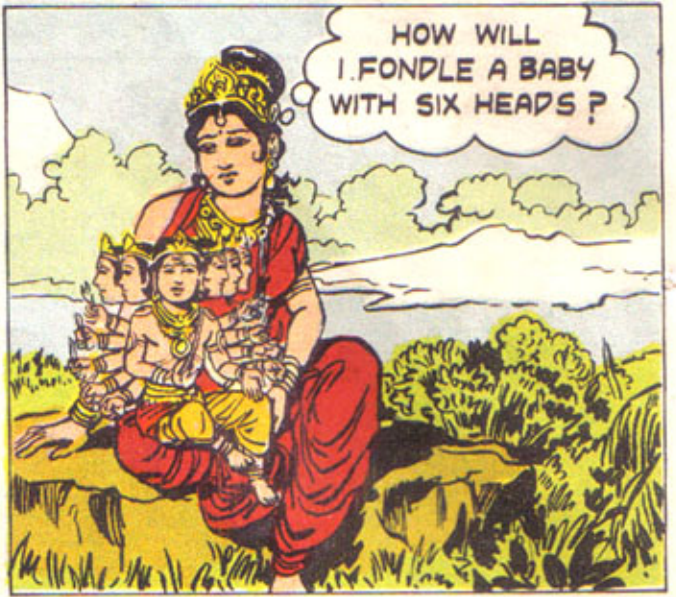


AS PARVATI STEPPED CLOSER, THE BABIES MERGED INTO ONE.





PEACE! PEACE! AS  
 PARVATI'S SON HE WILL BE  
 NAMED SKANDA AND AS THE  
 SON OF THE GODDESS OF  
 THE FOREST, SHARAVANA;  
 AS THE KRITTIKAS' SON,  
 KARTTIKEYA AND AS  
 GANGA'S KUMARA; AS  
 AGNI'S SON, MAHASENA  
 AND AS MINE,  
 GUHA.



HOW WILL  
 I FONDLE A BABY  
 WITH SIX HEADS ?



MY SON!

KARTTIKEYA WAS NOW  
 LIKE ANY OTHER CHILD.



SOON, NINE DIVINE BEINGS EMERGED  
 FROM THE LAKE.

THOSE  
 ARE YOUR GANAS—  
 VEERABAHU AND  
 HIS COMPANIONS.

THEN, AFTER THE DEVAS HAD  
 WORSHIPPED LORD KARTTIKEYA...



... SHIVA TOOK HIM  
 TO HIS OWN ABODE,  
 AT MOUNT KAILASA.

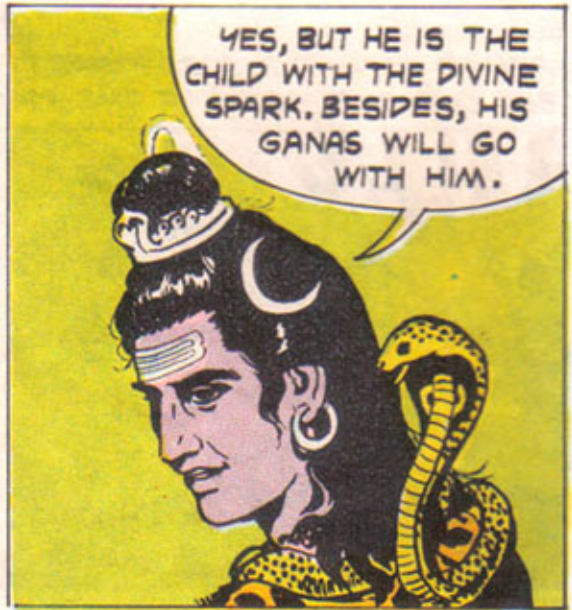
ONE DAY AT KAILASA —

PARVATI, THE TIME HAS COME FOR KARTTIKEYA TO SUBDUE TARAKASURA, SIMHAMUKHA, AND SURAPADMAN.

BUT HE IS JUST A CHILD, MY LORD, AND THEY ARE MIGHTY WARRIORS.



YES, BUT HE IS THE CHILD WITH THE DIVINE SPARK. BESIDES, HIS GANAS WILL GO WITH HIM.



SHIVA SUMMONED KARTTIKEYA AND VEERABAHU.

GET READY TO ATTACK SURAPADMAN AND HIS BROTHERS.

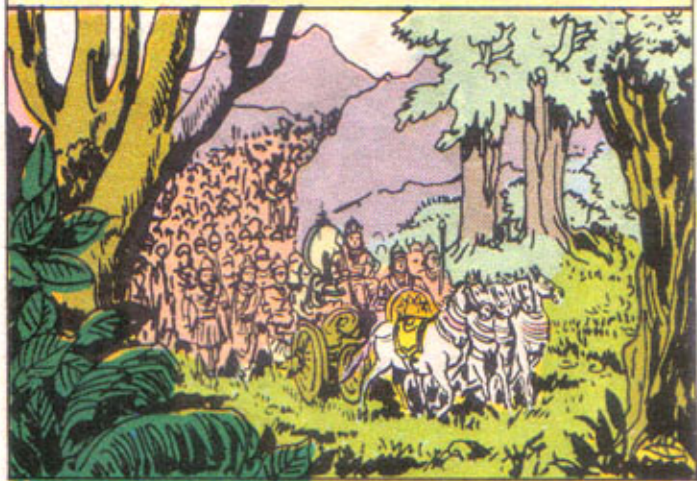


WHEN THE PREPARATIONS WERE COMPLETED —

YOU SHALL LEAD THE DEVAS TO VICTORY. CRUSH THE ASURAS AND LIBERATE THE DEVAS. HERE IS THE MATCHLESS VEL, YOUR SPEAR. MAY SUCCESS BE YOURS!



ARMED WITH THE SPEAR, KARTTIKEYA SET OUT IN PURSUIT OF THE ASURAS.



AFTER HE HAD COVERED SOME DISTANCE —

YOU WILL HAVE TO FACE ME, YOUNG BOY, BEFORE YOU PROCEED FURTHER.



IT WAS THE ASURA, KRALINCHA IN THE FORM OF A MOUNTAIN.

WITHOUT A WORD, KARTTIKEYA HURLED HIS SPEAR...



...AND KRALINCHA WAS NO MORE.





WHEN THE NEWS REACHED TARAKA —

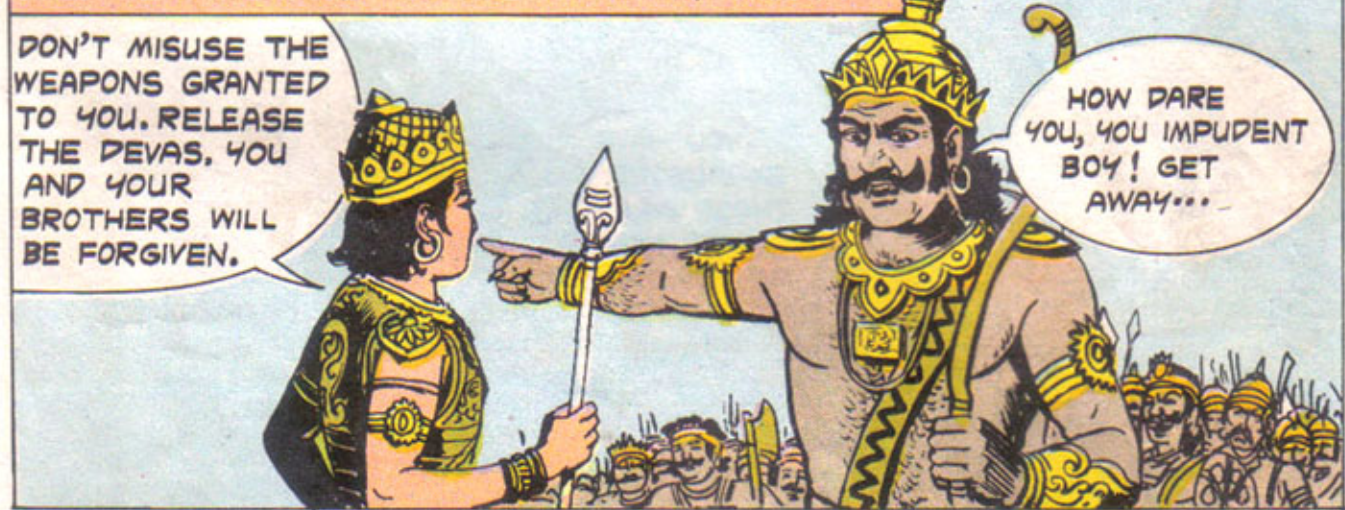


KRAUNCHA DESTROYED?  
BY A SLIP OF  
A BOY?

WELL, WELL, LET  
ME GO AND  
SIZE HIM  
UP.



WHEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH KARTTIKEYA —



DON'T MISUSE THE  
WEAPONS GRANTED  
TO YOU. RELEASE  
THE DEVAS. YOU  
AND YOUR  
BROTHERS WILL  
BE FORGIVEN.

HOW DARE  
YOU, YOU IMPUDENT  
BOY! GET  
AWAY...

...BEFORE I KILL  
YOU!



VICTORY TO  
SHIVA!





LATER—

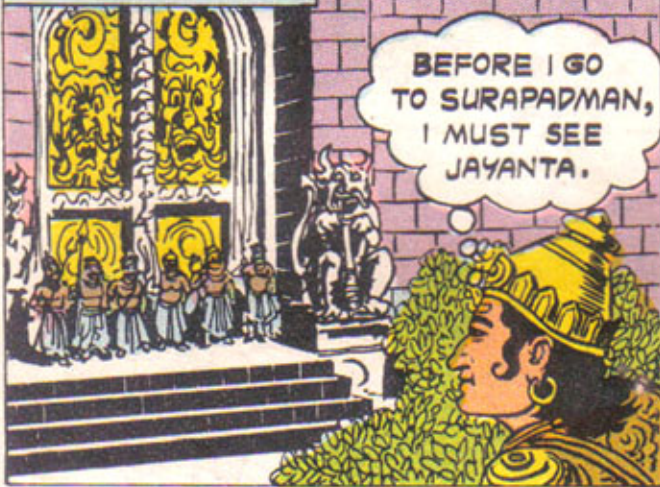
VEERABAHU,  
TARAKASURA'S DEATH MAY  
HAVE BROUGHT HIS BROTHERS  
TO THEIR SENSES. GO AS MY  
ENVOY TO SURAPADMAN  
AND ASK HIM TO STOP  
PERSECUTING THE  
DEVAS.

AS YOU  
COMMAND,  
MY LORD.

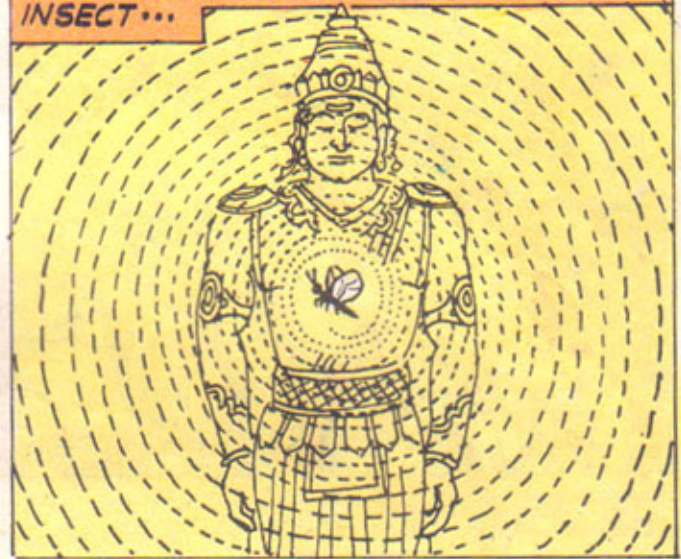


WHEN VEERABAHU REACHED  
SURAPADMAN'S CAPITAL,  
MAHENDRAPURI—

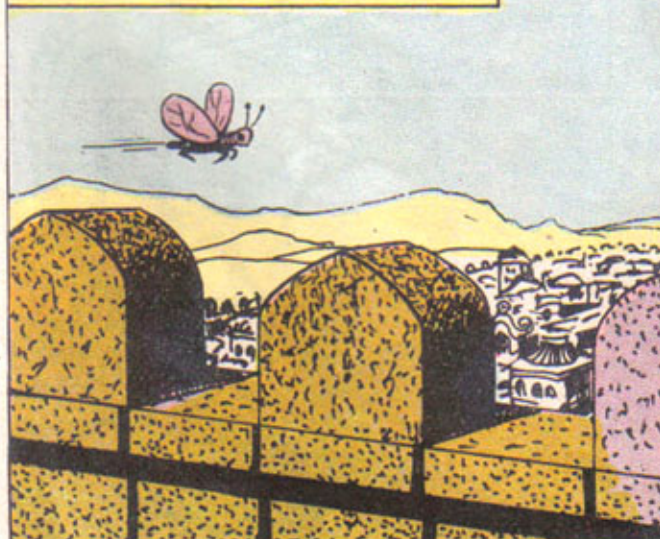
BEFORE I GO  
TO SURAPADMAN,  
I MUST SEE  
JAYANTA.



HE CHANGED HIMSELF INTO A TINY  
INSECT...



...AND FLEW INTO THE CITY.

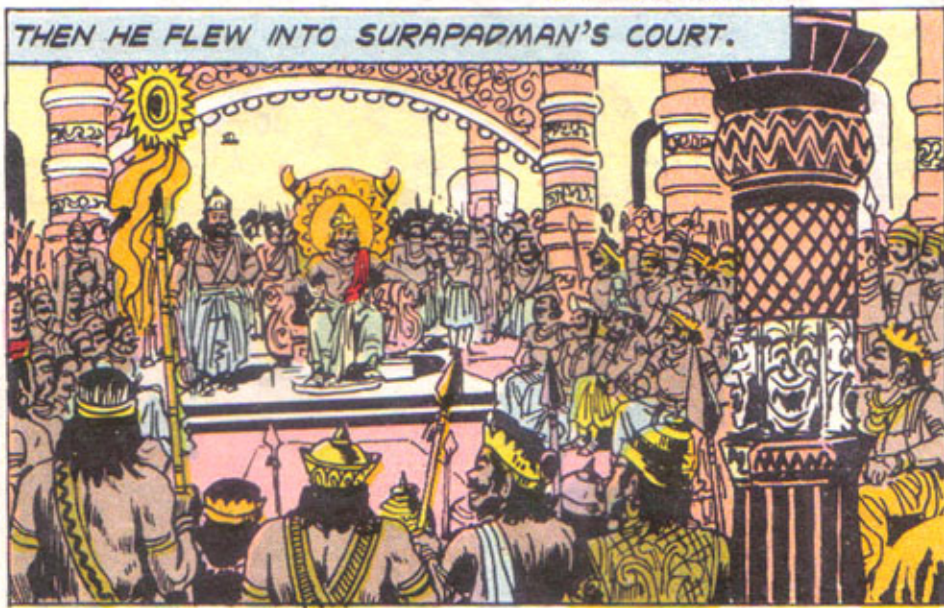


IN THE PRISON—

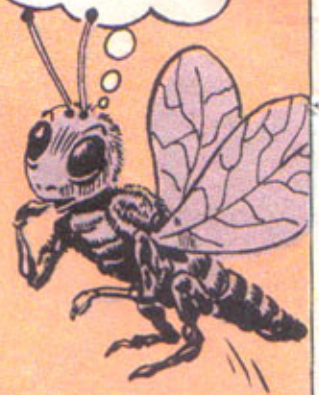
JAYANTA,  
TARAKASURA IS DEAD.  
LORD KARTTIKEYA  
WILL SOON RESCUE  
YOU.



THEN HE FLEW INTO SURAPADMAN'S COURT.



I WILL ASSUME MY OWN FORM NOW. WILL SURAPADMAN OFFER ME A SEAT?



THE NEXT MOMENT —



A THRONE FOR ME! IT MUST BE THE WORK OF LORD KARTTIKEYA!



WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

I AM LORD KARTTIKEYA'S MESSENGER.



KARTTIKEYA! THE BOY WHO SLEW MY BROTHER!





YES, LORD KARTTIKEYA WANTS YOU TO RELEASE JAYANTA AND STOP TORTURING THE DEVAS OR ELSE...



... YOU WILL MEET WITH THE SAME FATE AS YOUR BROTHER!

A MERE CHILD DARES THREATEN ME! I'LL I'LL...

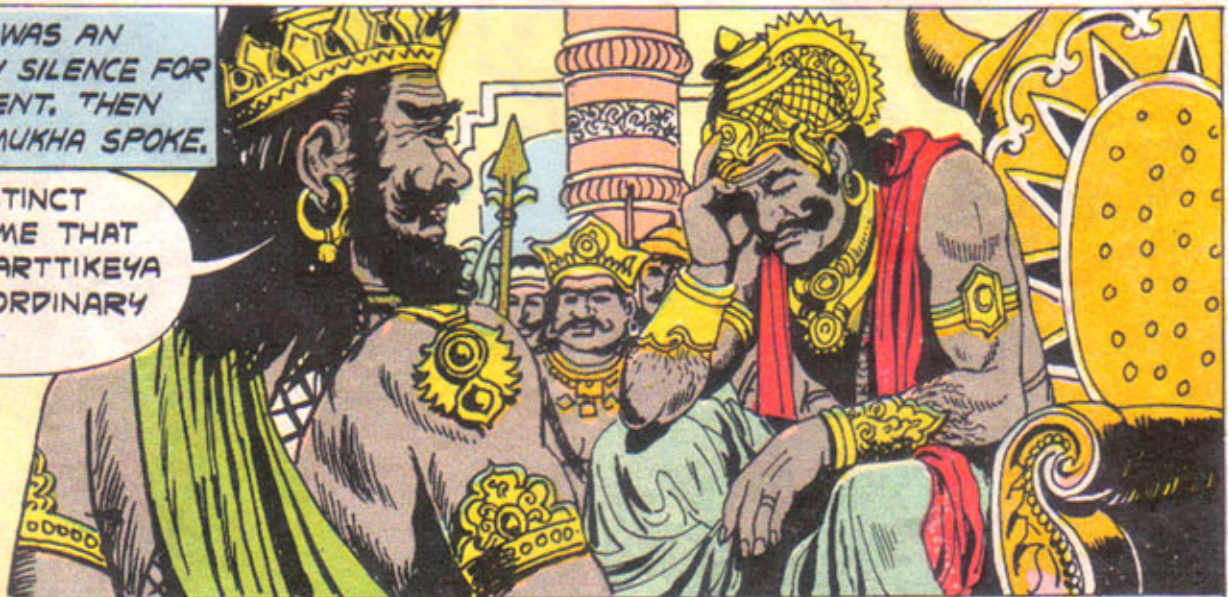


WHERE HAS HE GONE?

HE... HE'S VANISHED!

THERE WAS AN UNEASY SILENCE FOR A MOMENT, THEN SIMHAMUKHA SPOKE.

MY INSTINCT TELLS ME THAT THIS KARTTIKEYA IS NO ORDINARY BOY.





MEANWHILE VEERABAHU HAD REACHED KARTTIKEYA'S CAMP.

IT'S NO USE.  
SURAPADMAN WANTED  
TO CAPTURE ME TOO!



WELL, WE'LL  
MEET THEM IN BATTLE.  
PREPARE TO MARCH TO  
MAHENDRAPURI.

WHEN KARTTIKEYA'S ARMY REACHED  
THE OUTSKIRTS OF MAHENDRAPURI,  
SURAPADMAN SENT HIS SON  
BANUKOPAN TO SUBDUE THEM.

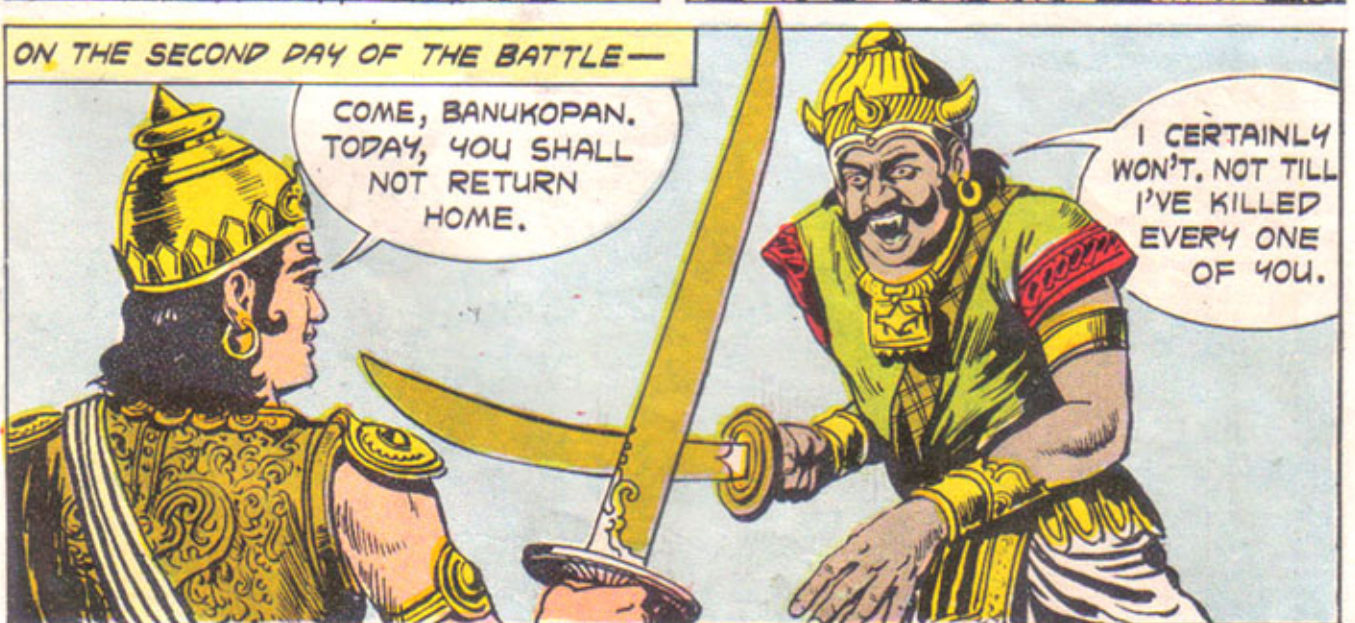


BANUKOPAN FELL UPON THE DEVA ARMY.



ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE BATTLE—

COME, BANUKOPAN.  
TODAY, YOU SHALL  
NOT RETURN  
HOME.

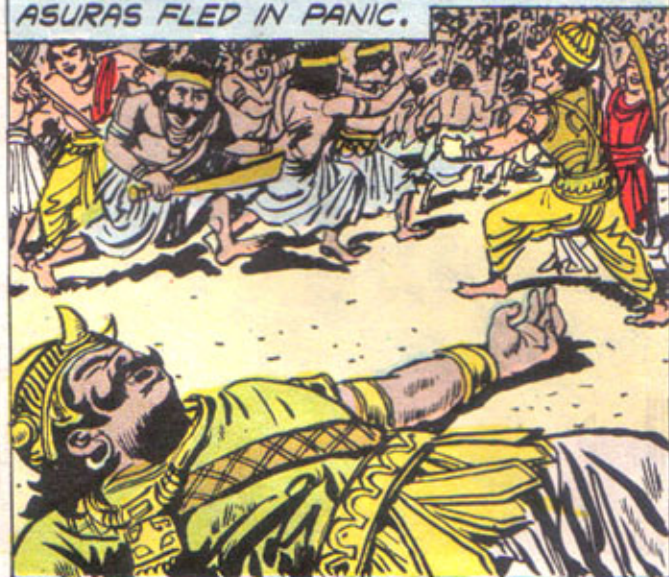


I CERTAINLY  
WON'T. NOT TILL  
I'VE KILLED  
EVERY ONE  
OF YOU.

VEERABAHU RUSHED AT HIM AND THE TWO FOUGHT LONG AND HARD.



AT LAST BANUKOPAN FELL AND THE ASURAS FLED IN PANIC.



THE DEATH OF BANUKOPAN SHOOK SURAPADMAN.



SO THE NEXT DAY SIMHAMUKHA LED THE ATTACK. THE ARMY OF THE DEVAS REELED UNDER HIS ONSLAUGHT.

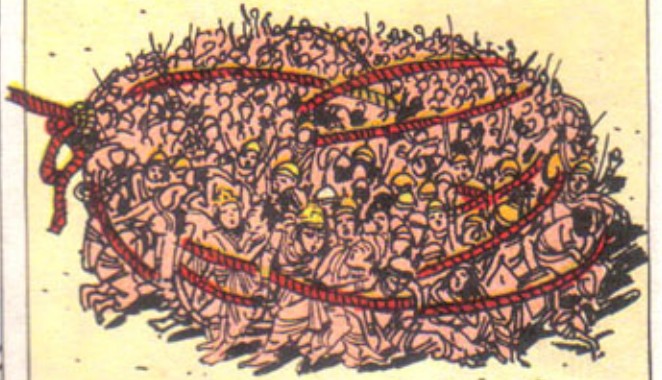




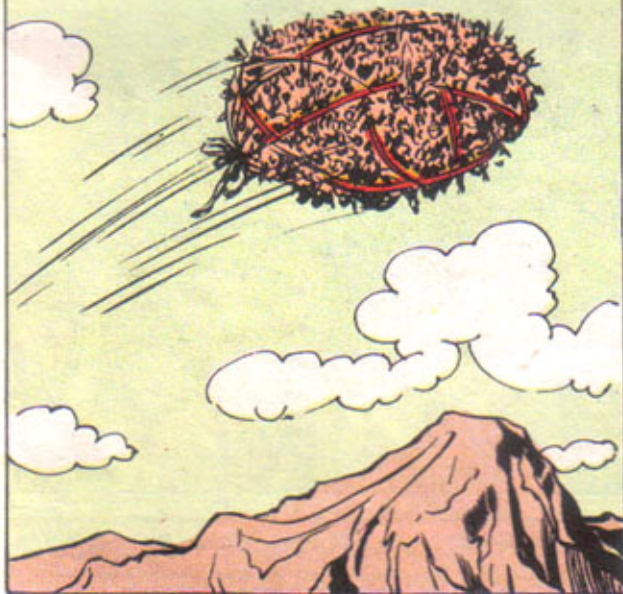
THEN SIMHAMUKHA SENT A MISSILE...



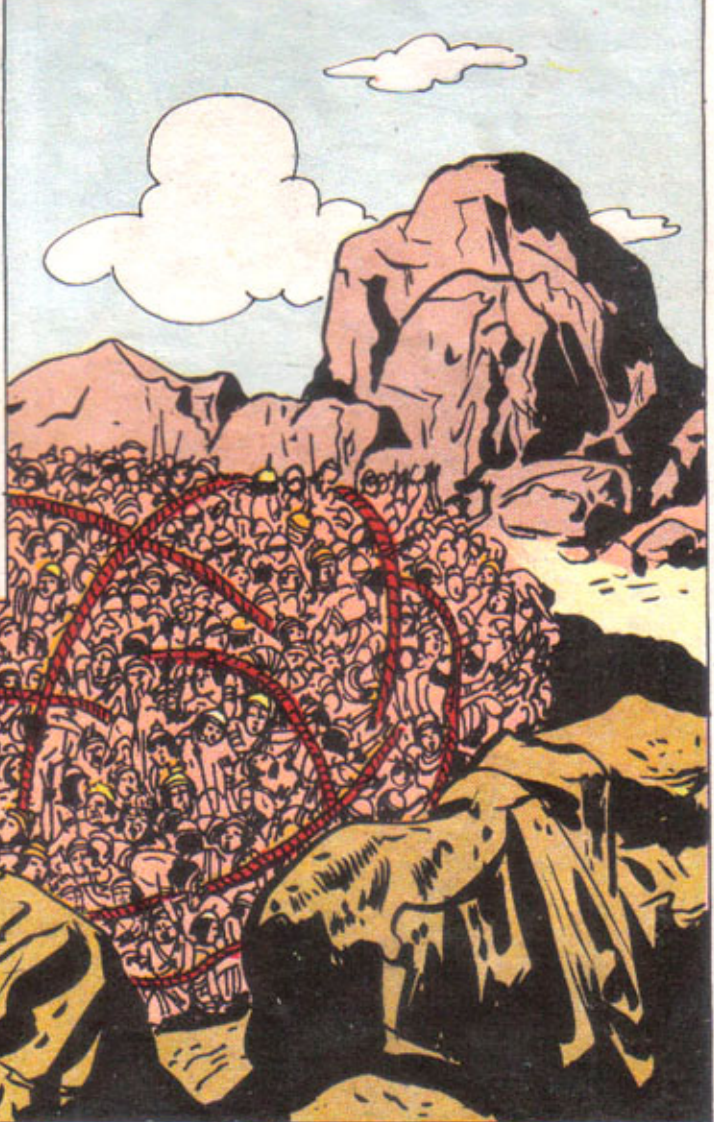
... WHICH WOUND ITSELF AROUND VEERABAHU, HIS BROTHER AND THE REST OF THE ARMY...



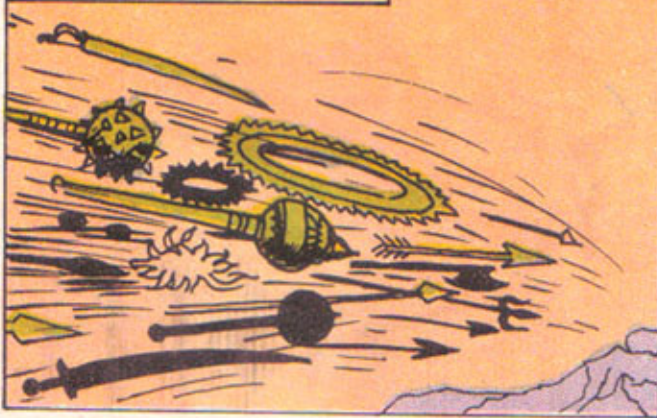
... AND HURLED THEM...



... FAR, FAR AWAY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD.



BUT KARTTIKEYA MEANWHILE HAD SENT FORTH SEVERAL MISSILES TO COUNTER THE MOVE.



SOON —



THEN KARTTIKEYA TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO SIMHAMUKHA.



YOU SHOULD NOT MISUSE THE POWERS ACQUIRED BY YOU. YOU SHOULD...

HAVE YOU COME HERE TO FIGHT OR TO PREACH?

AFTER A FIERCE BATTLE KARTTIKEYA HURLED INDRAYUDHA\* AT SIMHAMUKHA.



AS SIMHAMUKHA FELL —

YOUR WEAPON HAS SHATTERED MY EGO. NOW I SEE YOU IN ALL YOUR GLORY. O LORD, BLESS ME.



THE MERCIFUL KARTTIKEYA BLESSED SIMHAMUKHA.

YOU SHALL SERVE GODDESS KALI AS HER VEHICLE.



\*INDRA'S WEAPON, THE THUNDERBOLT

THE NEXT DAY SURAPADMAN HIMSELF LED THE ASURAS TO THE BATTLEFIELD.

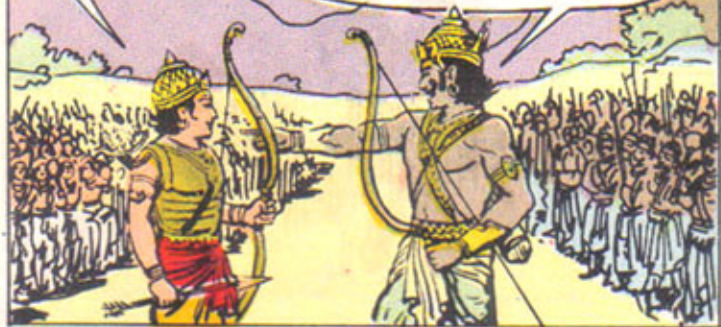


WE MUST DEFEAT KARTTIKEYA!  
SHOW YOUR METTLE  
TODAY.

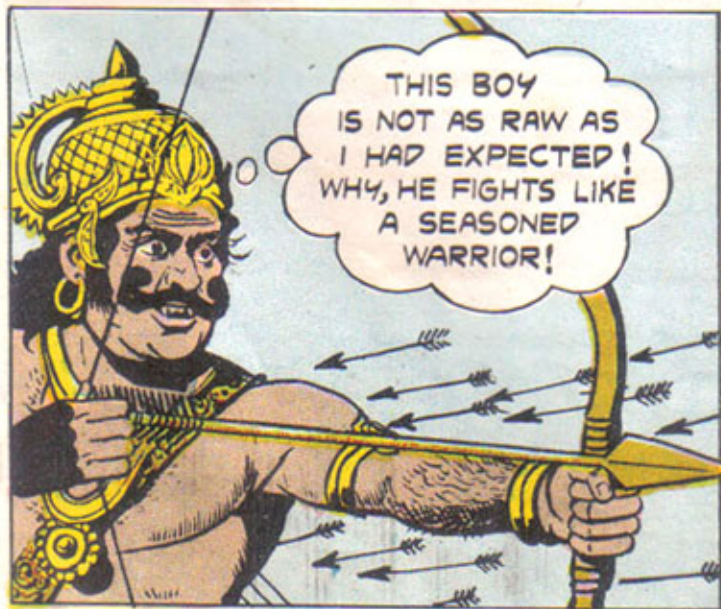
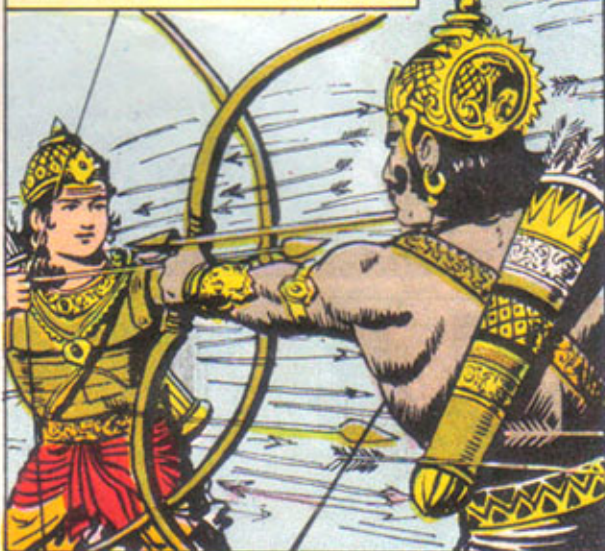
WHEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH  
KARTTIKEYA—

MERCY  
OR DOOM?  
CHOOSE!

IMPUDENT CHILD! I HAVE  
COME TO SILENCE YOU ONCE  
AND FOR ALL.



THE TWO FOES MET.



THIS BOY  
IS NOT AS RAW AS  
I HAD EXPECTED!  
WHY, HE FIGHTS LIKE  
A SEASONED  
WARRIOR!



I'LL HAVE  
TO RESORT TO  
SORCERY. THAT'S  
THE ONLY WAY TO  
QUELL HIM!

THE NEXT MOMENT SHOWED ALL THE DEAD ASURAS ON THEIR FEET AND SURAPADMAN UP IN THE SKY IN A CHARIOT.

MY BRAVE ASURAS ARE UP AGAIN, KARTTIKEYA! SAVE YOURSELF NOW!



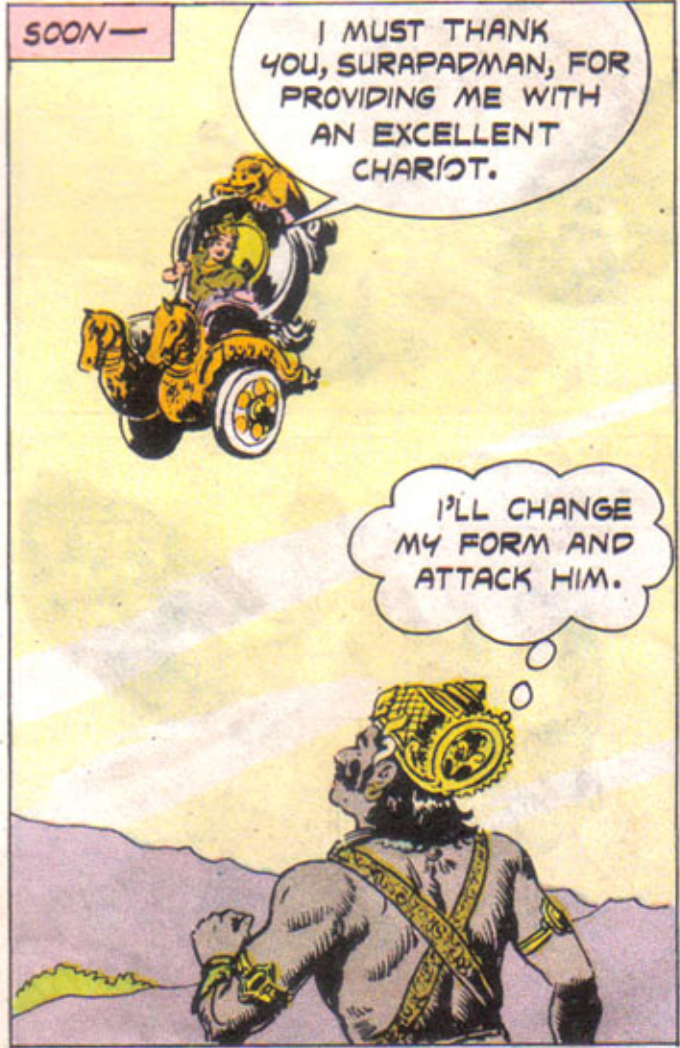
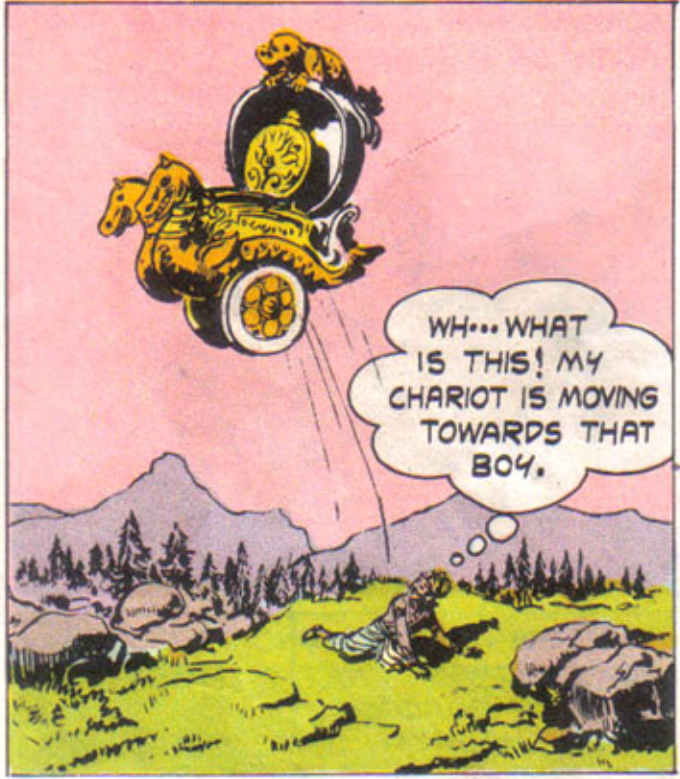
THIS ASTRA WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR ASURAS!



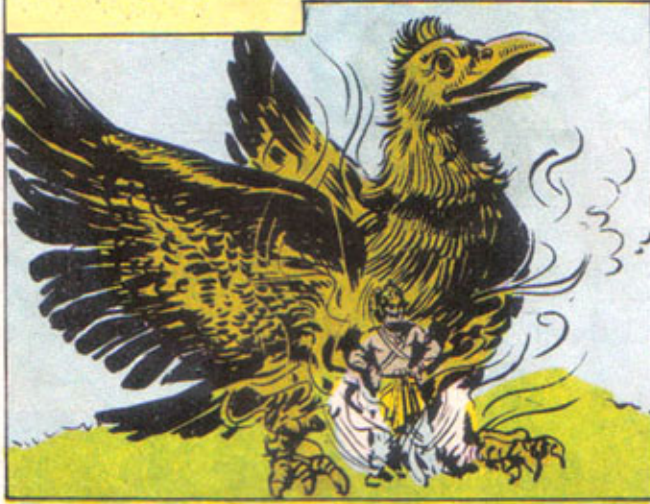
AND THIS — OF YOUR CHARIOT!



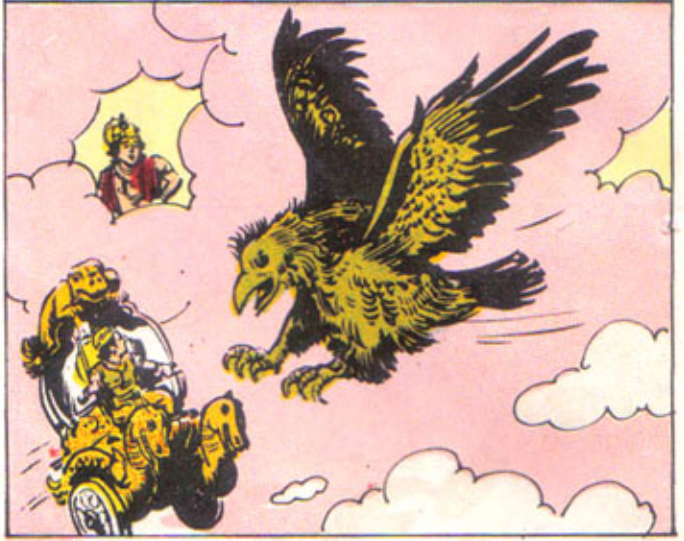
THE NEXT MOMENT —



**SURAPADMAN QUICKLY ASSUMED THE FORM OF A HUGE BIRD ...**



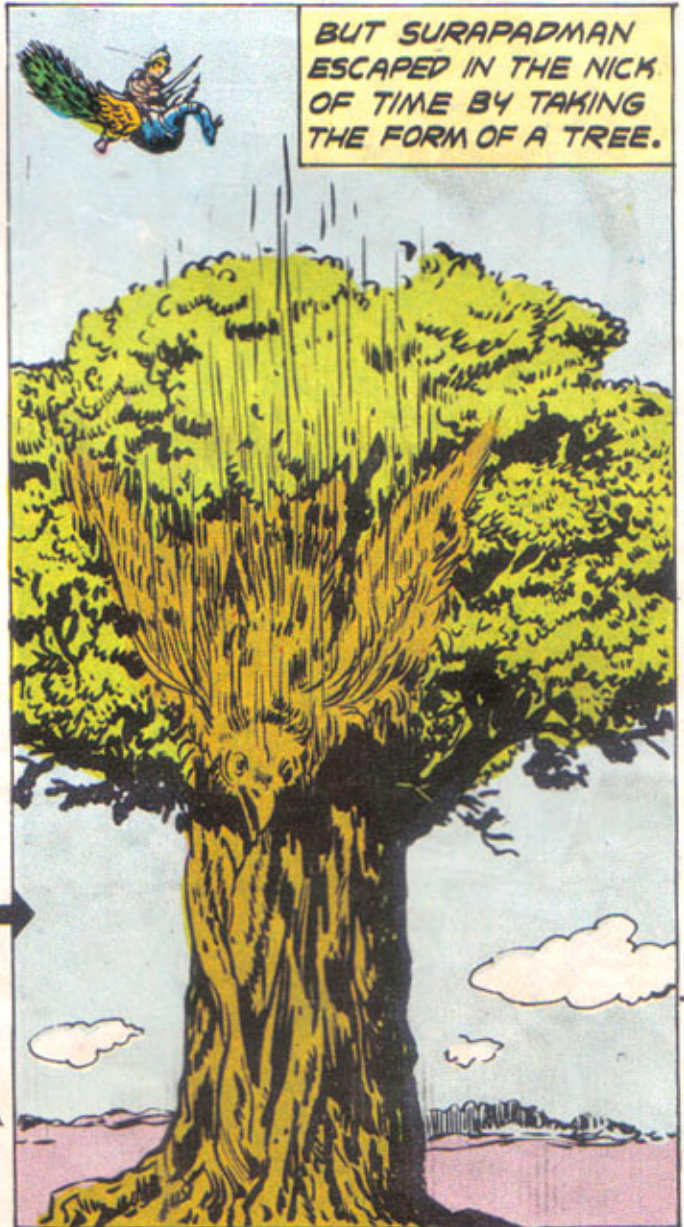
**...AND CHARGED AT KARTTIKEYA.**



**KARTTIKEYA HOWEVER USING INDRA IN THE FORM OF PEACOCK AS HIS MOUNT ...**



**BUT SURAPADMAN ESCAPED IN THE NICK OF TIME BY TAKING THE FORM OF A TREE.**



**...LASHED OUT AT HIM.**



LEARN, O BLIND ONE! DARKNESS CANNOT HIDE BEFORE LIGHT!



AS THE SPEAR CUT THE TREE IN TWO, SURAPADMAN EMERGED UNSCATHED IN HIS NATURAL FORM.



I'LL CRUSH HIM WITH MY BULK!

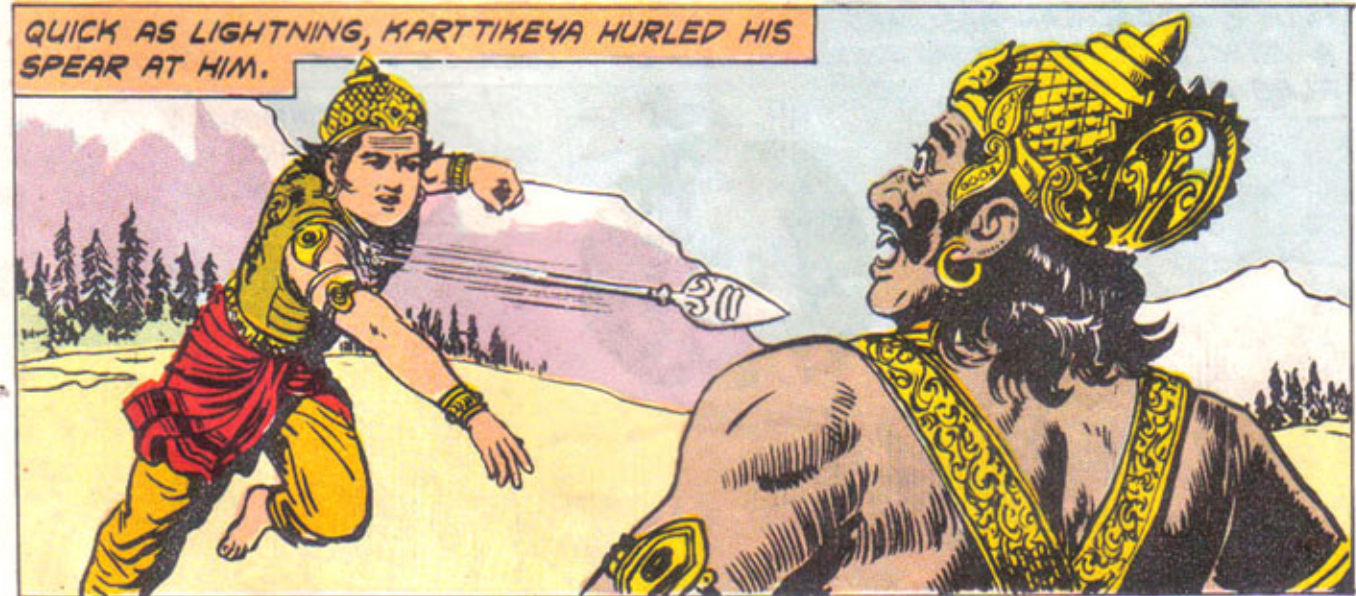


SURAPADMAN CHARGED TOWARDS KARTTIKEYA.

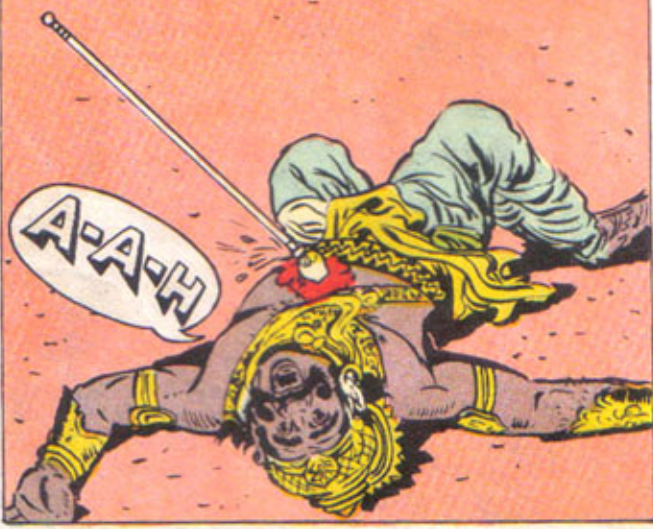


I'LL CRUSH YOU UNDERFOOT. AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF YOU.

QUICK AS LIGHTNING, KARTTIKEYA HURLED HIS SPEAR AT HIM.



AND —



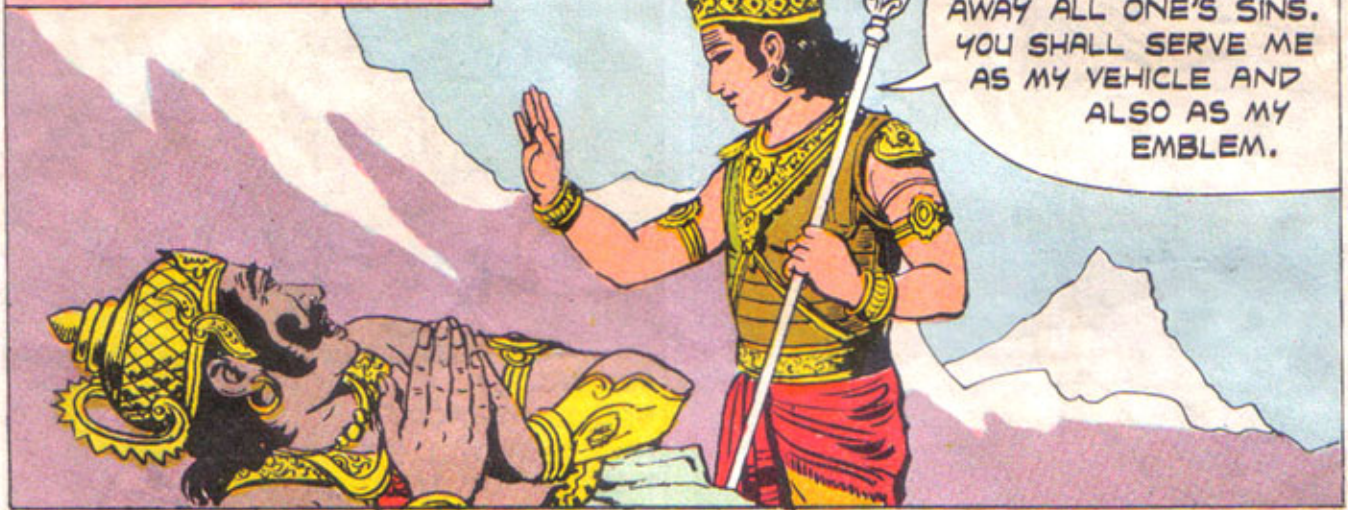
AS HE FELL, A GREAT CHANGE CAME OVER SURAPADMAN.

LORD, PARDON ME. I REPENT FOR MY EVIL ACTS. LORD, I SEEK REFUGE IN YOU.



KARTTIKEYA LOOKED AT THE FALLEN ASURA WITH COMPASSION.

SURAPADMAN, REPENTANCE WASHES AWAY ALL ONE'S SINS. YOU SHALL SERVE ME AS MY VEHICLE AND ALSO AS MY EMBLEM.



THUS SURAPADMAN ASSUMED TWO FORMS — ONE OF A PEACOCK TO SERVE AS A VEHICLE TO THE LORD AND ANOTHER OF A COCK TO ADORN KARTTIKEYA'S FLAG POST.

O KARTTIKEYA, WE BOW TO YOU IN REVERENCE.





# Jeevan and Hanu conclude that Health is Wealth



Whew! Isn't life strange, Jeevan?

Why do you say that?

Look, so far we have learned about great mental achievements and physical feats. I am wondering whether I will ever attain such glory.

Cheer up, Hanu! It's not necessary for you to make the pages of the World Records book right away. Why not just aim to have a sound mind and body to begin with?

If I do, will I get a medal, or a bunch of bananas at least?

Why, you might get something better than that!  
For a start you'll have a longer life...

Hey, wait a minute! Hasn't longevity something to do with life insurance?

It certainly does, Hanu. As a matter of fact the science of life insurance is based on the study of the life expectancy of a large group of people.

Well, anyway I'm only a kid. I shouldn't have to bother about life insurance, I suppose.

No, you should. Or I should, as your guardian.

How come?

I have a duty... protecting your future. There are many plans of life insurance like the **Children's Anticipated Policy**, the **Children's Deferred Assurance Policy**, the **Educational Annuity Policy**, the **Marriage Endowment Policy**, etc. All parents and guardians should know about these policies.

How can they do that?

By asking the **L.I.C.** agent about these plans and how they work.

Then take me to see an **L.I.C.** agent now!



## Life Insurance Corporation of India