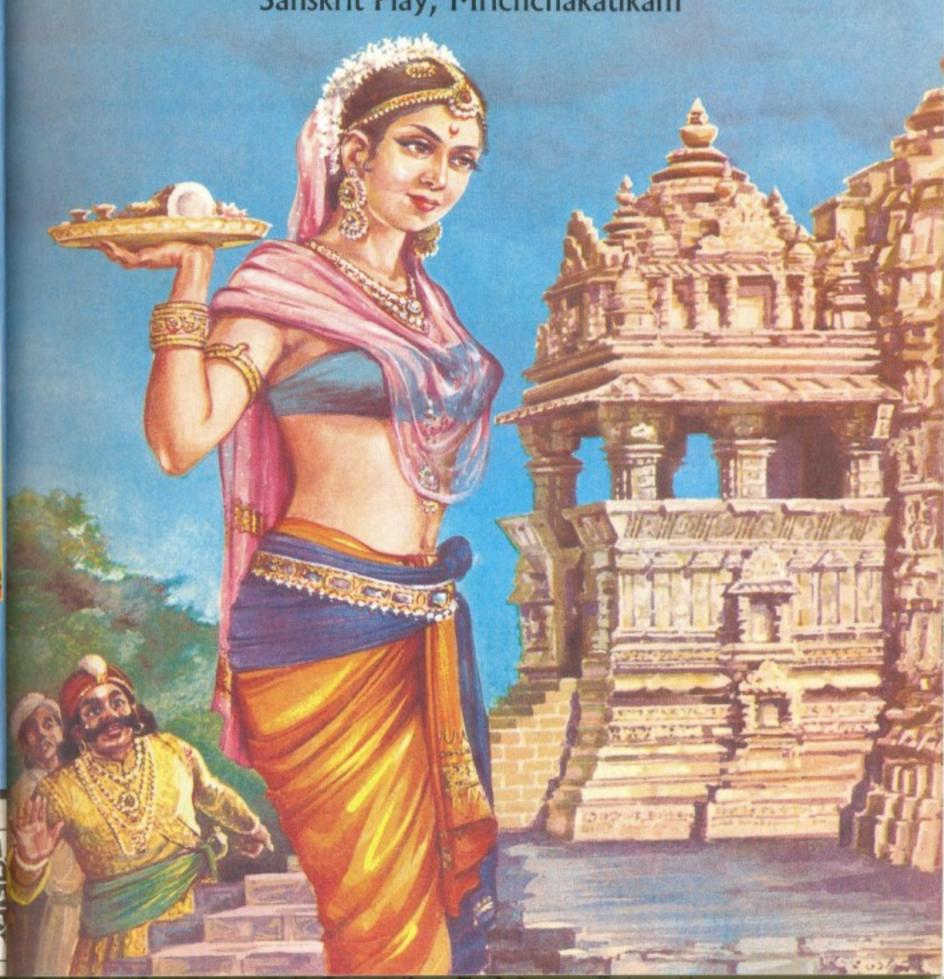
VASANTASENA



Vasantasena

An Adaptation of the Famous Sanskrit Play, Mrichchakatikam





Illustrated Classics From India

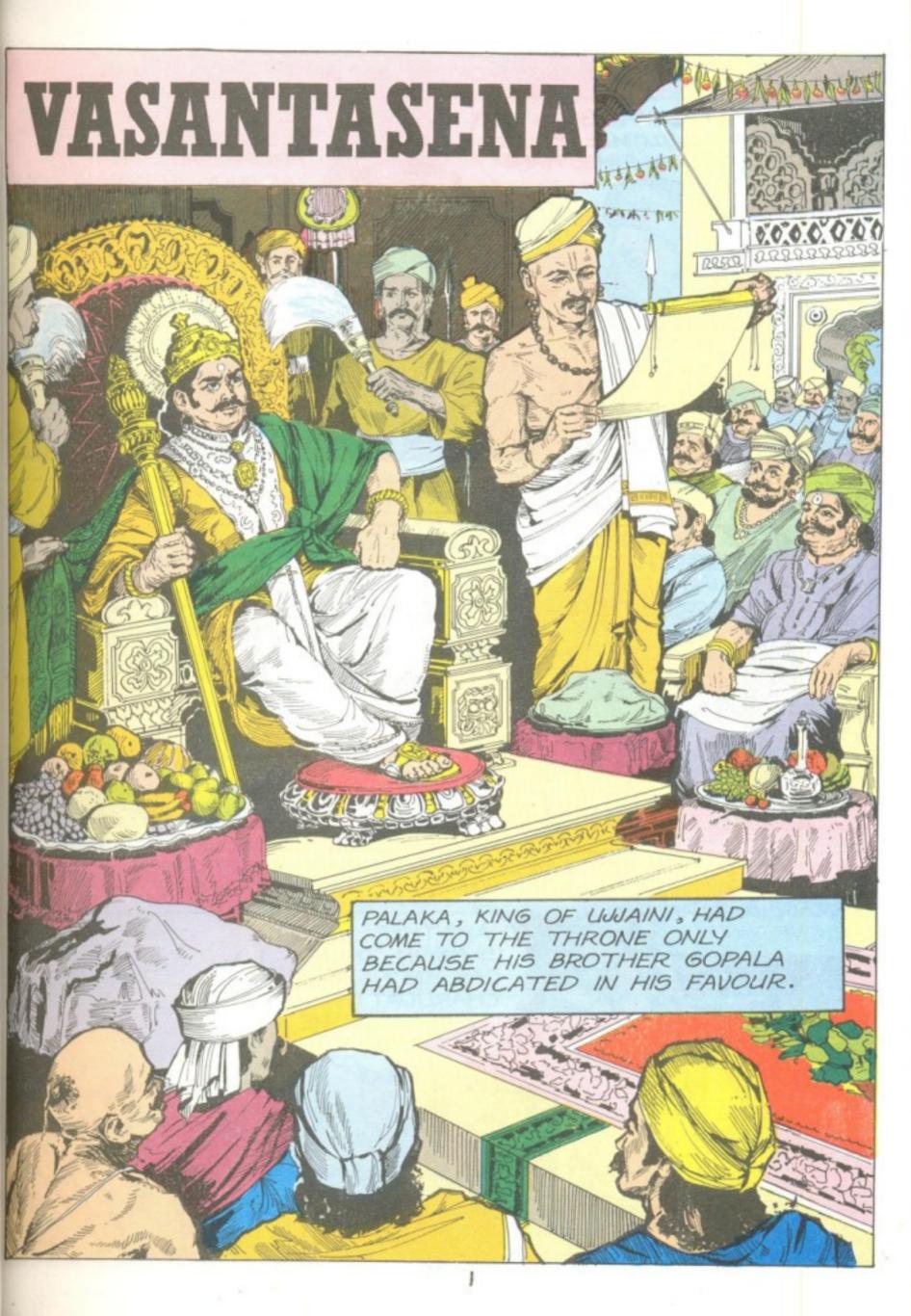
Vasantasena Adapted from Shudra's Mrichchakatikam

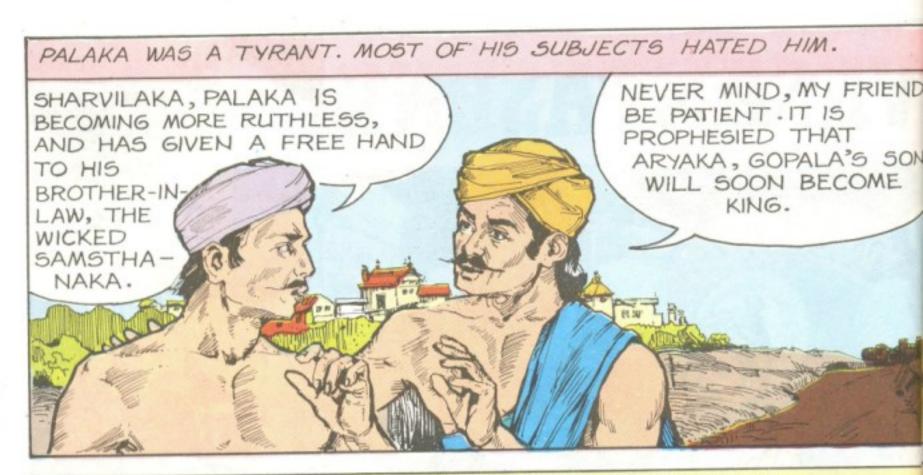
This Amar Chitra Katha has been adapted from Mrichchakatikam by Shudraka, which is regarded as one of the Sanskrit classics. Yet, it is unique in its plot and characterisation. The story tells of a king who is overthrown by a leader of the people. This assumes added significance especially since the author of the play, Shudraka, was a king. The play was written between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. It is an intriguing story with myriad twists and turns in the plot.

This tale contains a number of romantic and exciting characters like the wealthy and beautiful dancer Vasantasena who loves the noble but impoverished merchant Charudatta, and Vasantasena's faithful slave Madanika who is loved by the brave Sharvilaka, who in turn is involved in the usurped Prince Aryaka's struggle to regain his kingdom.

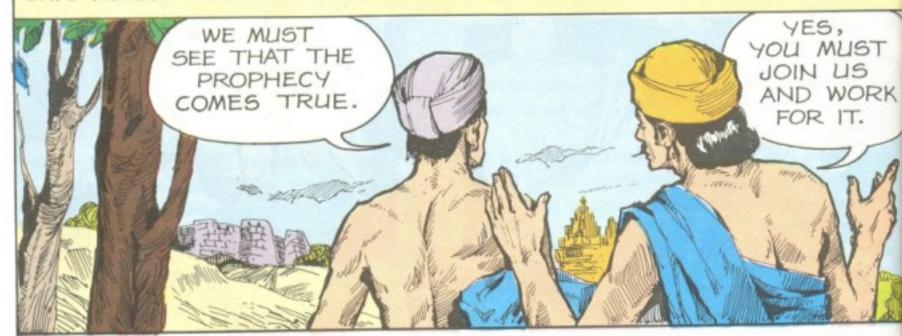
Mrichchakatikam literally means a "clay cart". It refers to the toy cart that Charudatta's son plays with. The play depicts a sufficiently advanced society. The political theme and secular treatment gives this play contemporary relevance. Vasantasena has been translated into English and French and successfully produced in its English version in the USA.

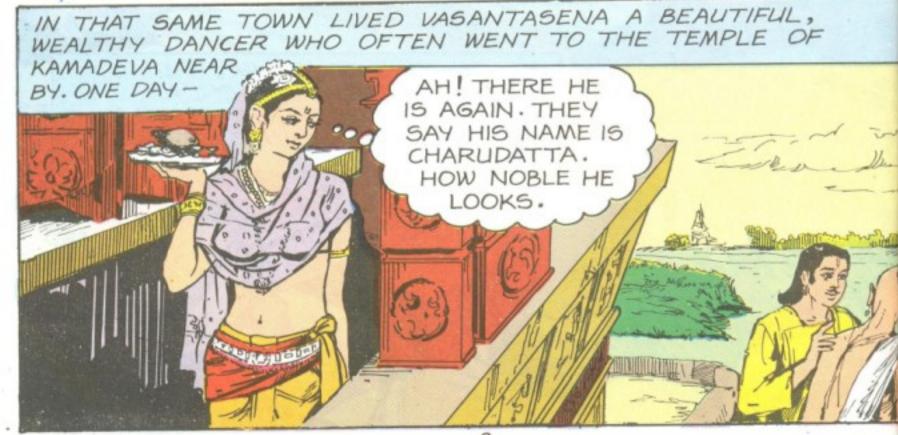
Script: Kamala Chandrakant Illustrations: G.R. Naik

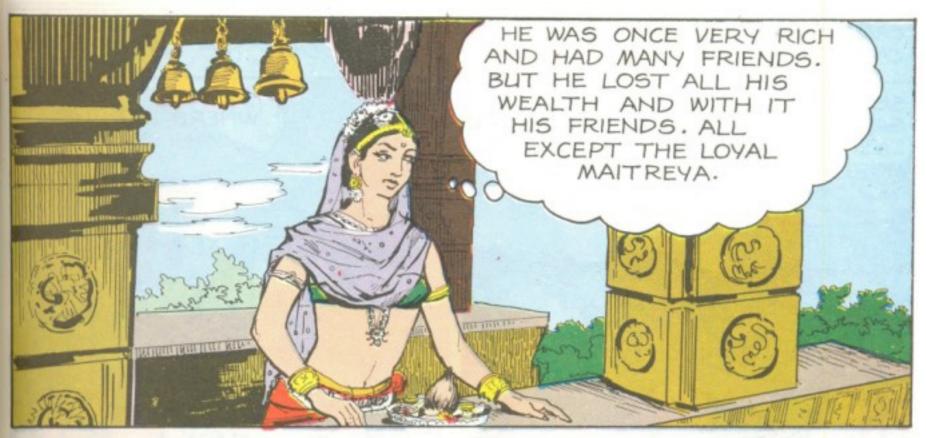


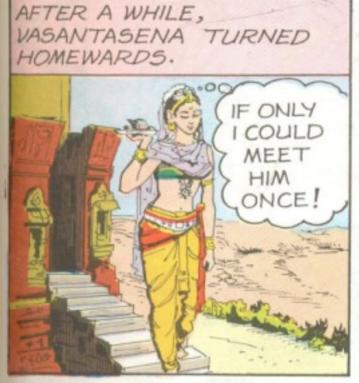


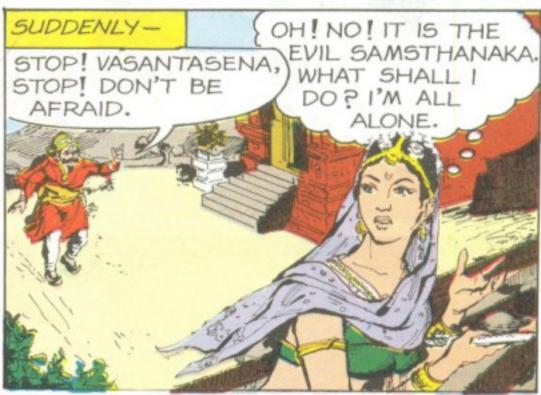
SHARVILAKA WAS A LEADER OF ARYAKA'S SUPPORTERS.

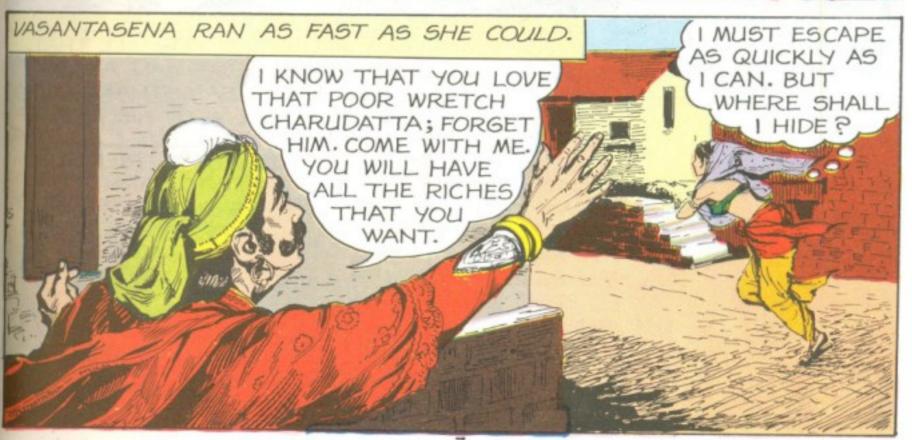


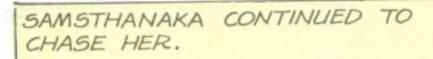






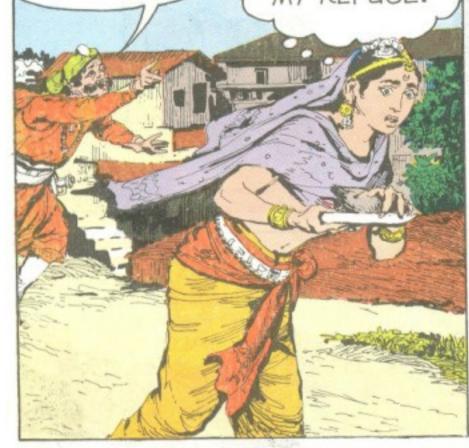






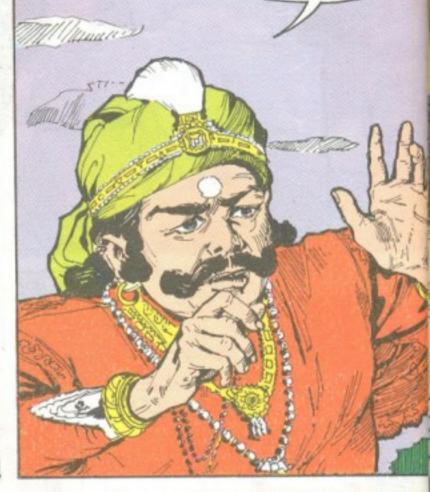
SEE THAT RICKETY GATE. BEYOND IT LIES HIS EVEN MORE WRETCHED HOUSE.

WHAT! CHARUDATTA'S HOUSE! THE EVIL FELLOW HAS SHOWN ME MY REFUGE.



VASANTASENA RAN STRAIGHT IN THROUGH THE GATE.

HEY! WAIT! NOW WHERE DID SHE VANISH?





IT IS VASANTA-

SENA. THE

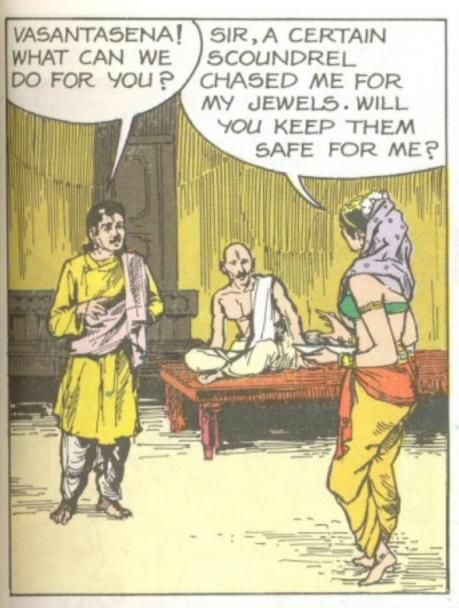
BUT BY THEN, VASANTASENA HAD ALMOST REACHED THE HOUSE.

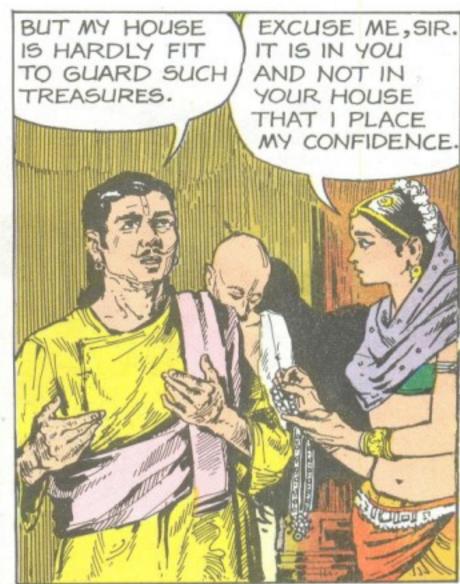
MAITREYA, WHO IS THAT BEAUTIFUL WOMAN?

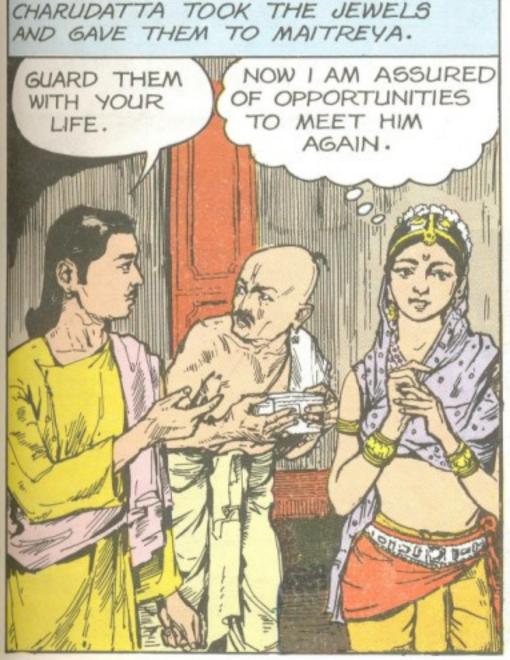
WHOLE OF IMIALLU KNOWS THAT SHE IS IN LOVE WITH YOU AND HAS REJECT-ED THE POWERFUL SAMSTHA-NAKA.

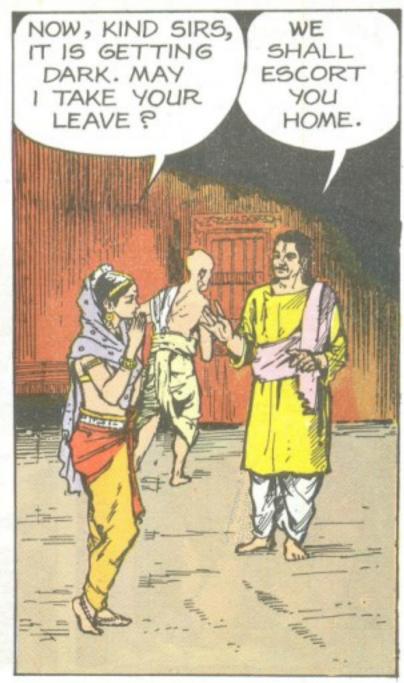
I AM TOO POOR FOR ALL THAT SHE IS A FINE WOMAN AND IT IS WRONG OF SAMSTHANAKA TROUBLE HER WITH HIS ATTEN TIONS.

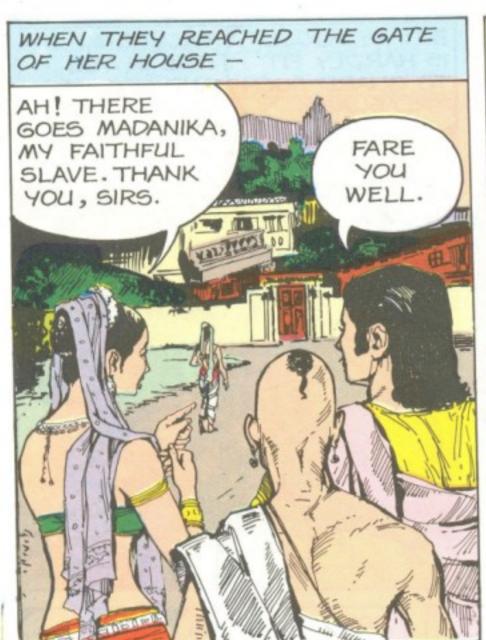
CAREFUL, MY FRIEND. DO YOU WANT TO EARN HIS UNDYING HATRED? AH! THERE SHE COMES.

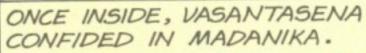














HOW WELL I UNDER—
STAND MY MISTRESS'S
FEELINGS! MY LOVE
FOR SHARVILAKA
WOULD HAVE MADE ME
DO THE SAME. HOW
I LONG FOR THE DAY
WHEN I MIGHT BECOME
HIS WIFE.

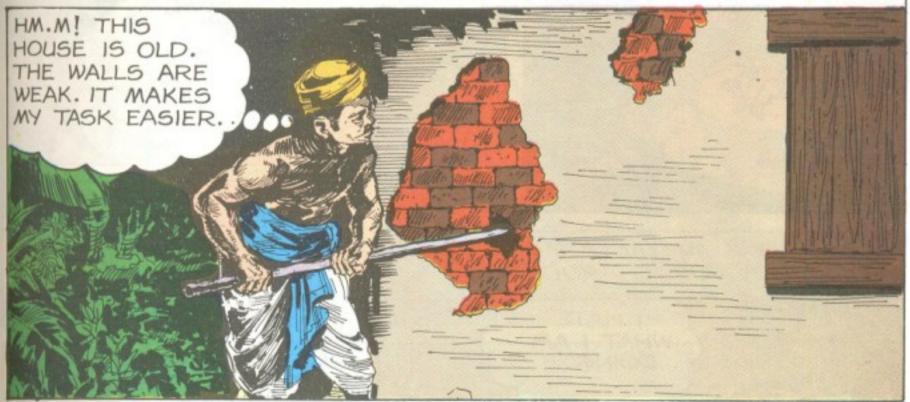


MEANWHILE , CHARUDATTA AND MAITREY, WERE RETIRING FOR THE NIGHT.



THAT NIGHT A FIGURE STOLE QUIETLY INTO CHARUDATTA'S GARDEN. IT WAS SHARVILAKA.





SHARVILAKA ENTERED THE ROOM WHERE CHARUDATTA AND MAITREYA WERE SLEEPING.





JUST THEN MAITREYA, HALF ASLEED SAW THE BREACH IN THE WALL.



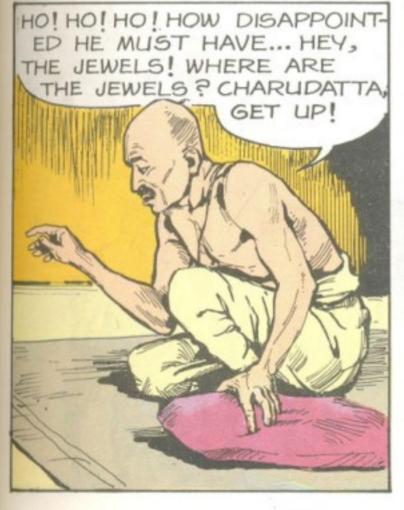
IN THE DARK MAITREYA MISTOOK SHARVILAKA FOR CHARUDATTA.

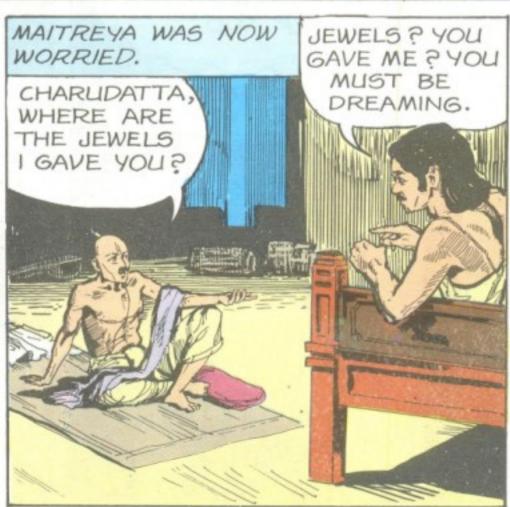


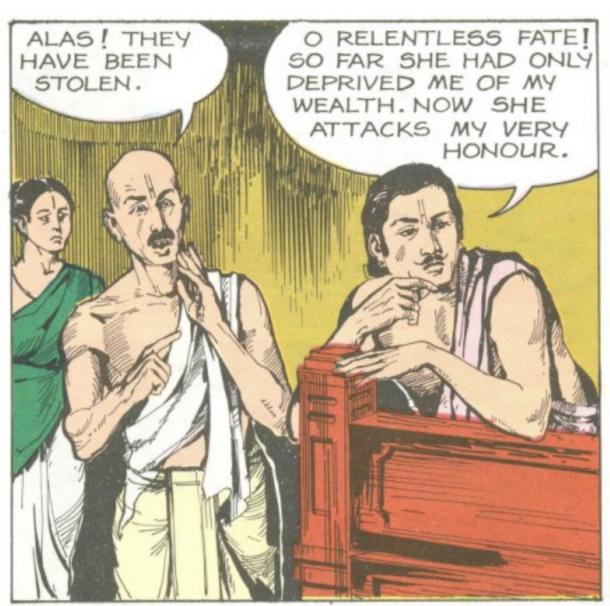
THE THOUGHT OF BEING ABLE TO BUY MADANIKA'S FREEDOM STILLED HIS UNEASY CONSCIENCE.



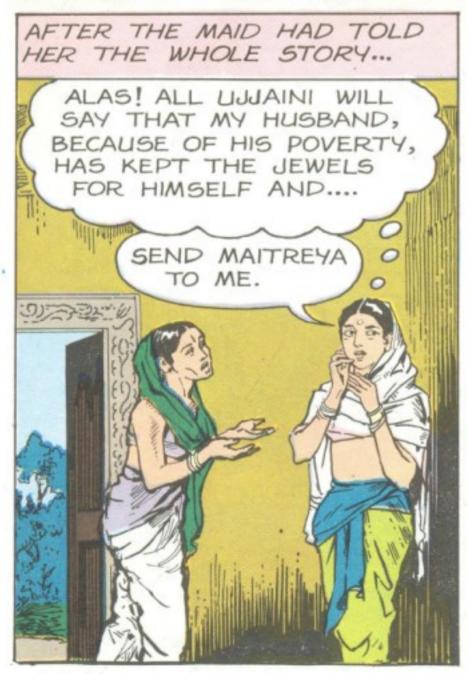




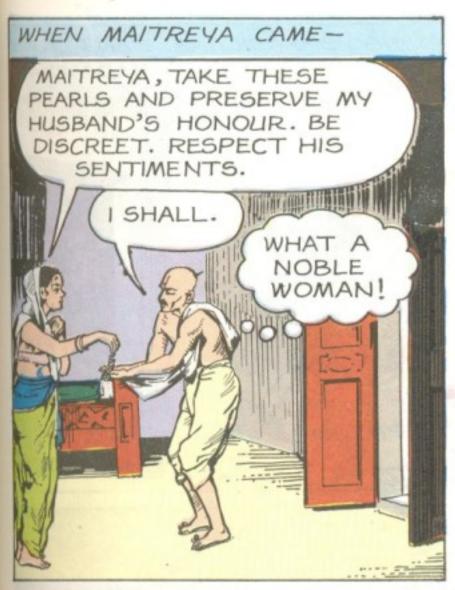






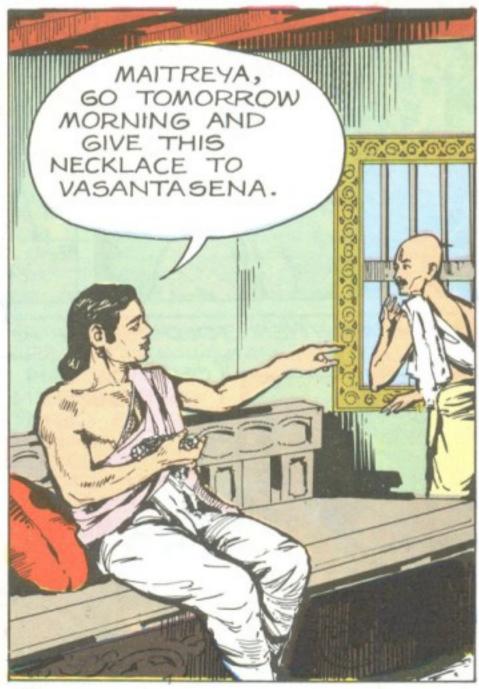














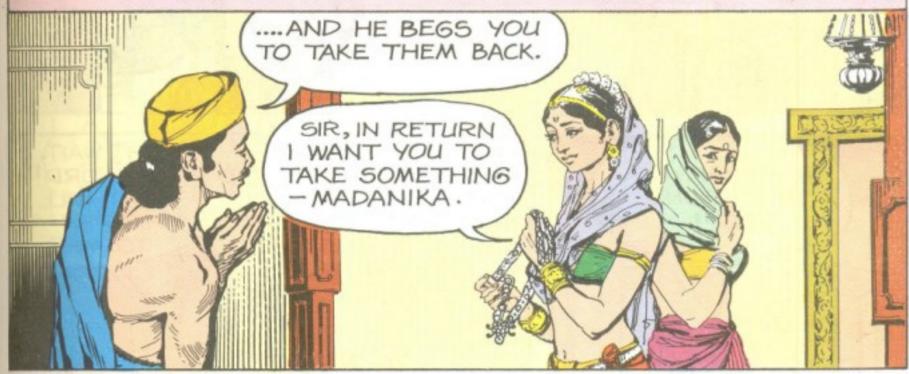


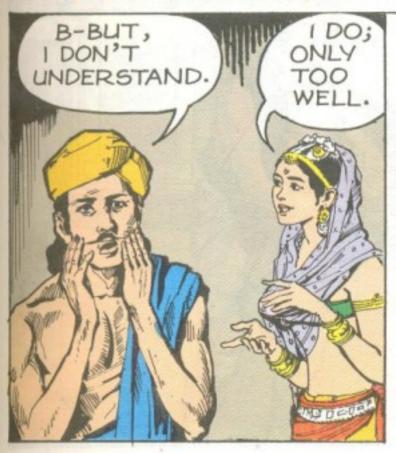






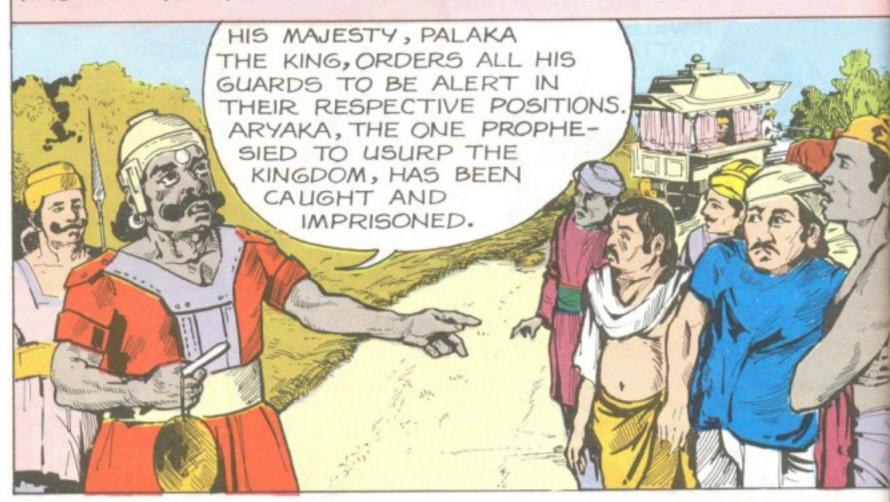
SHARVILAKA, NOT KNOWING THAT VASANTASENA HAD OVERHEARD THE CONVERSATION, DID EXACTLY AS MADANIKA ADVISED.

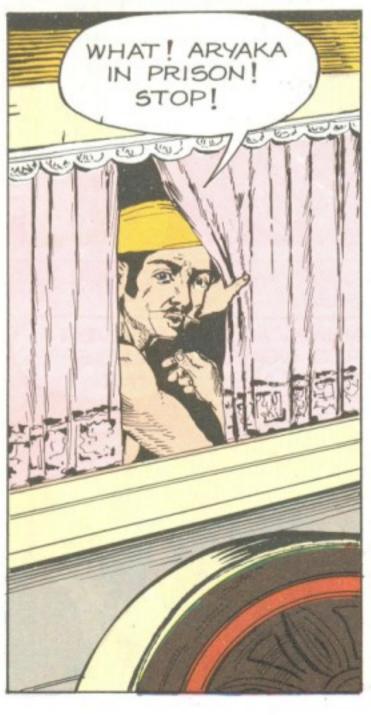




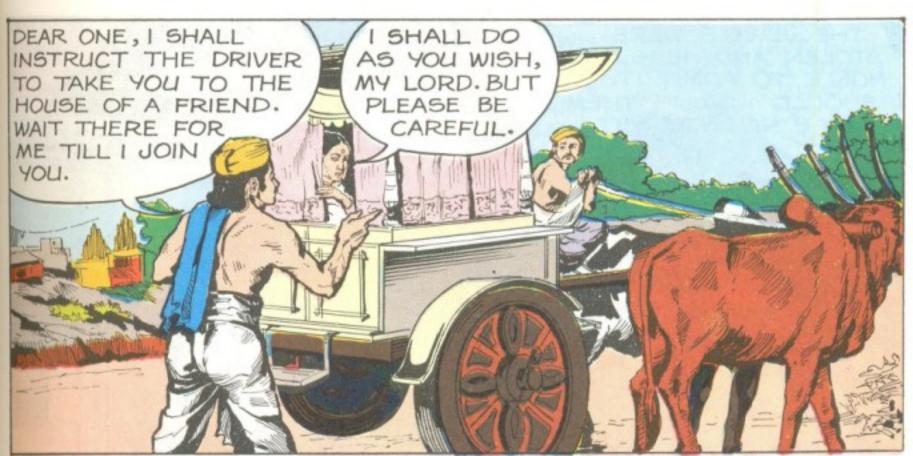


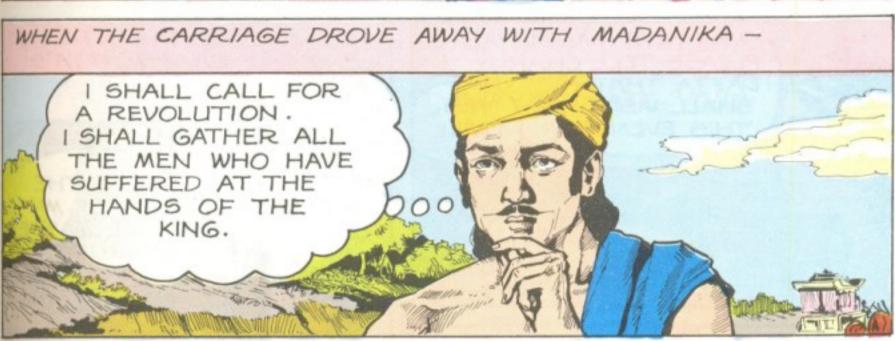
AS SHARVILAKA AND MADANIKA RODE ALONG, THE KING'S HERALD WAS OUT ON THE STREETS MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

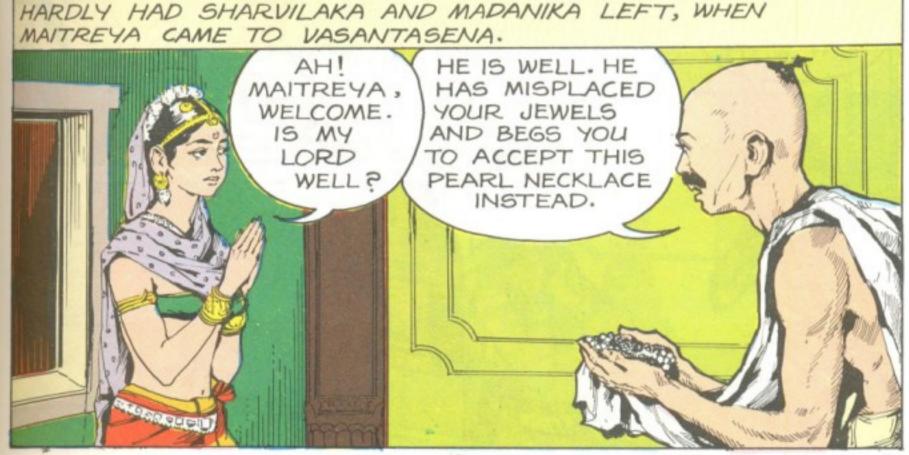


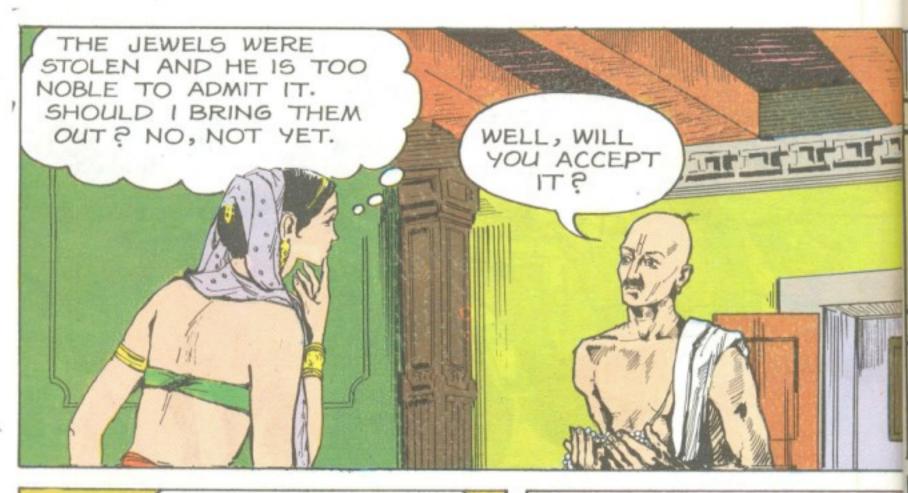












THAT EVENING VASANTASEN

WENT TO CHARUDATTA'S

HE IS THE

SON OF MY NOBLE MASTE CHARUDATTA

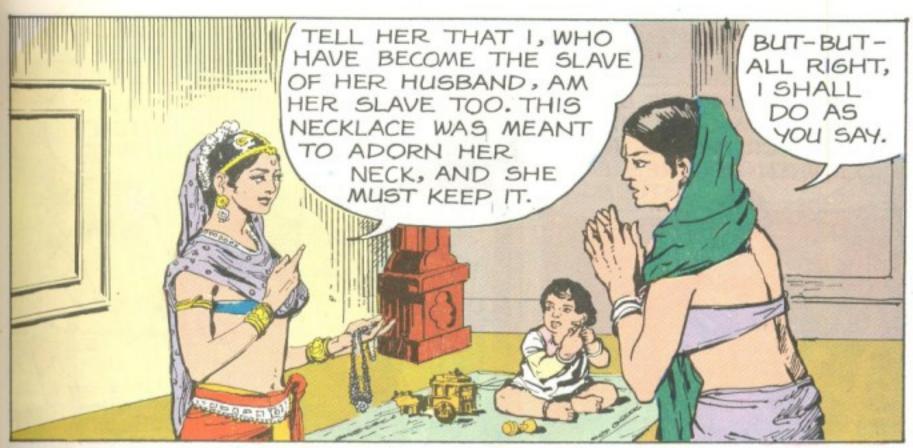
HOUSE.

WHO IS THIS

WHY IS HE

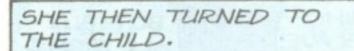




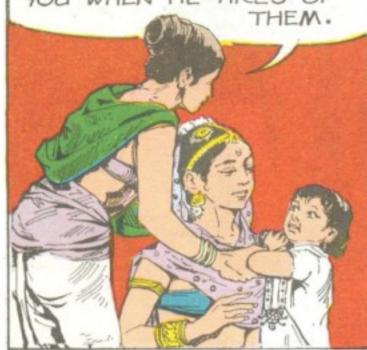




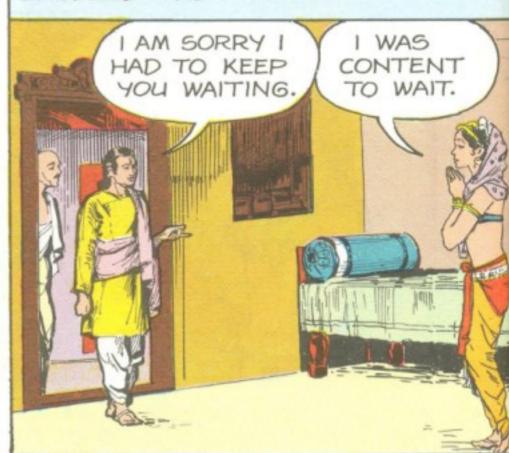




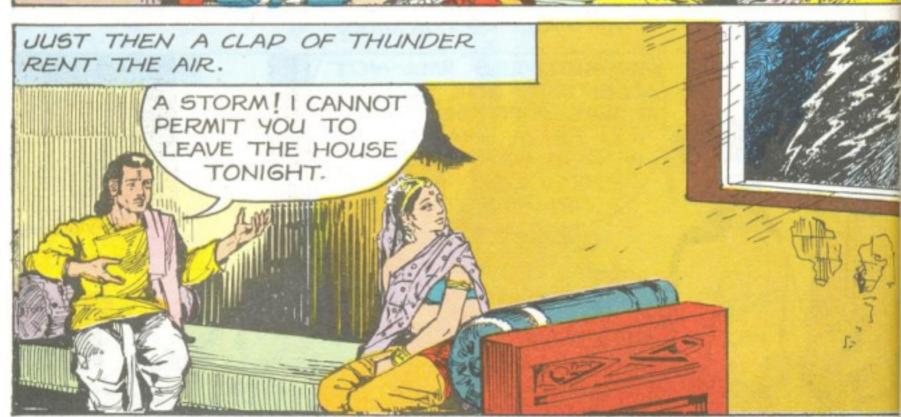
COME, MY SON, LET US GO AND PLAY, MADAM, I'LL BRING YOUR JEWELS TO YOU WHEN HE TIRES OF

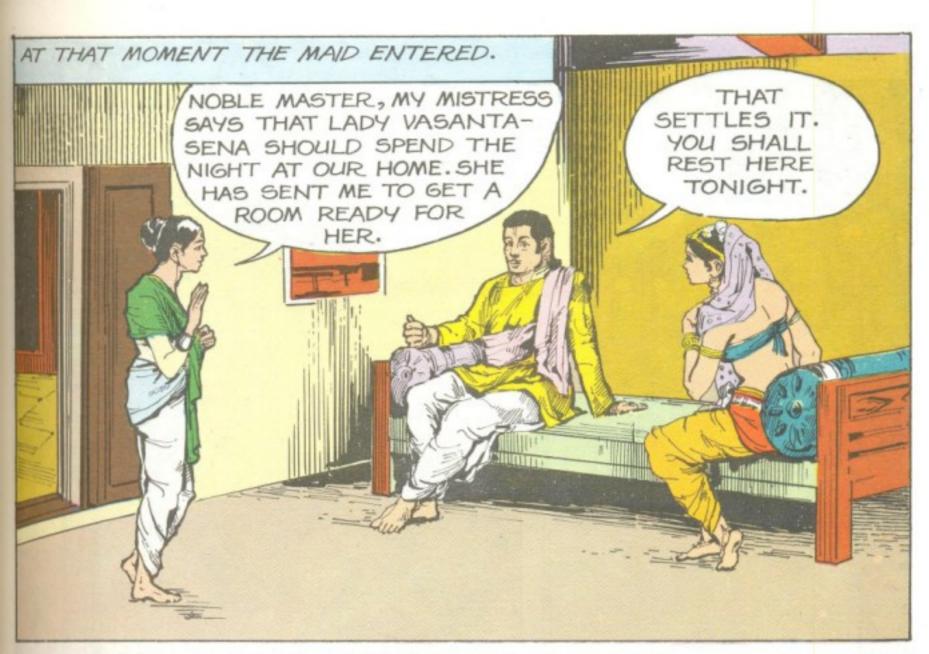


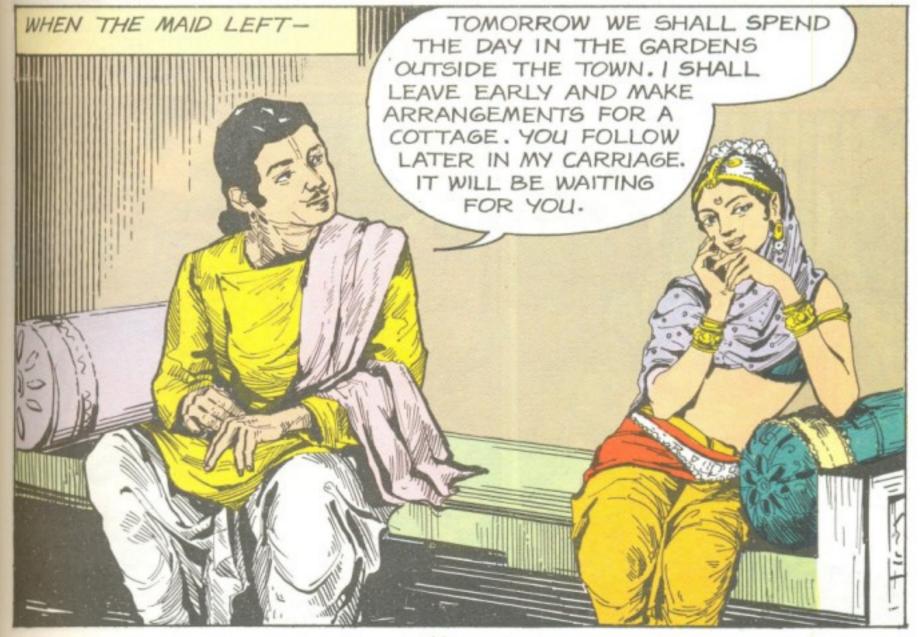
A FEW MINUTES LATER CHARUDATTA

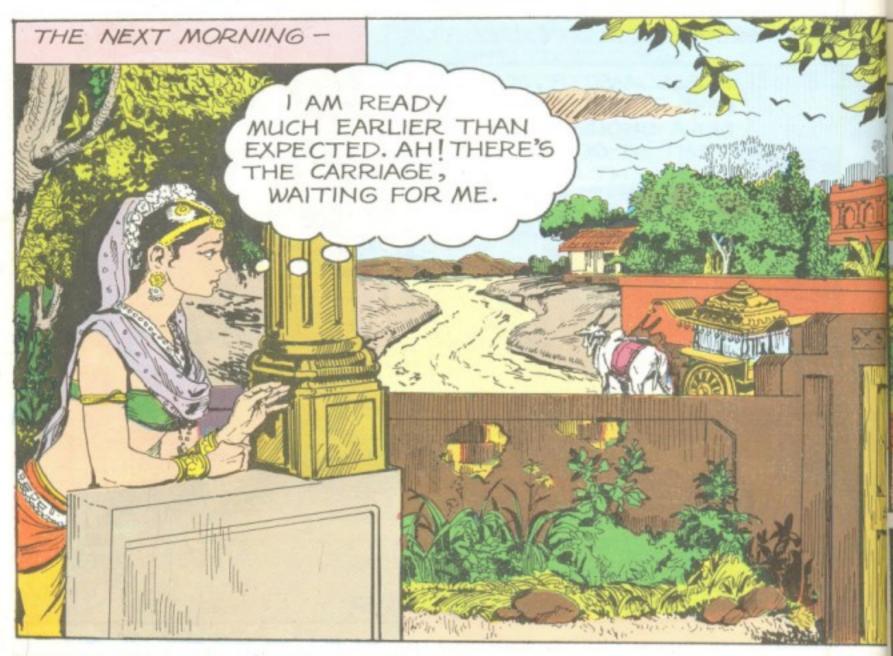


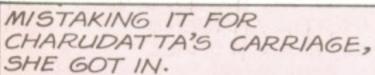






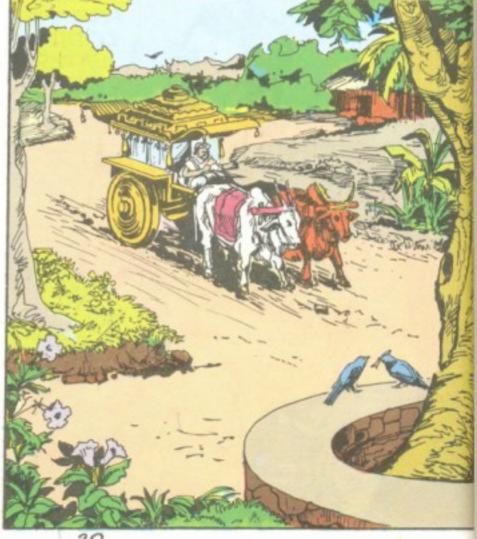




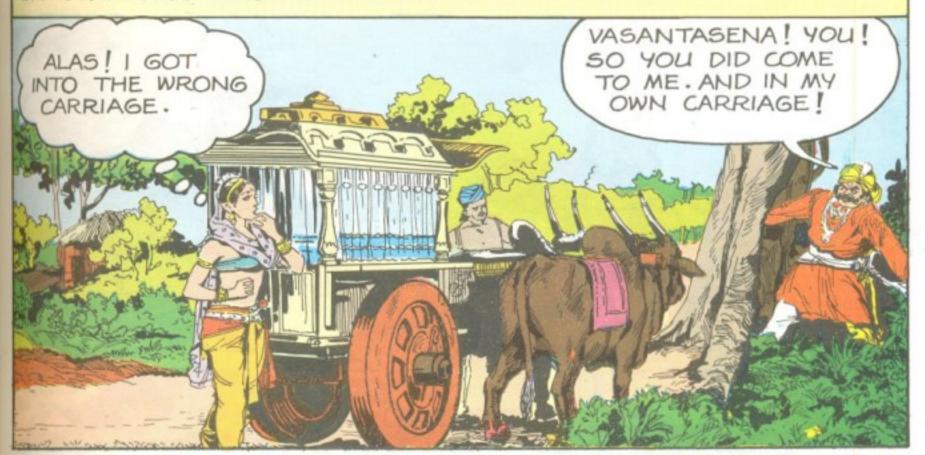




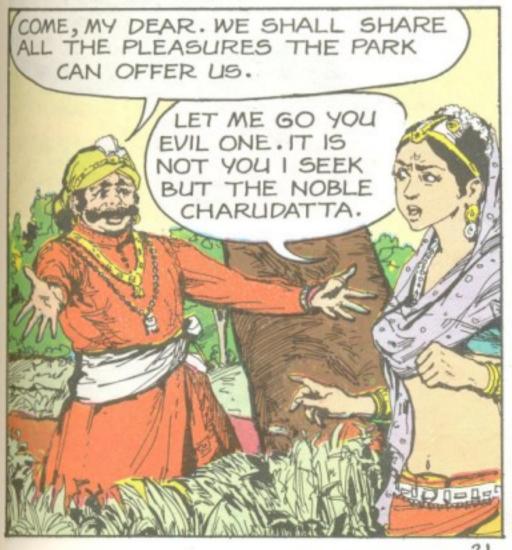
WHEN THE CARRIAGE ARRIVED AT THE PARK ...

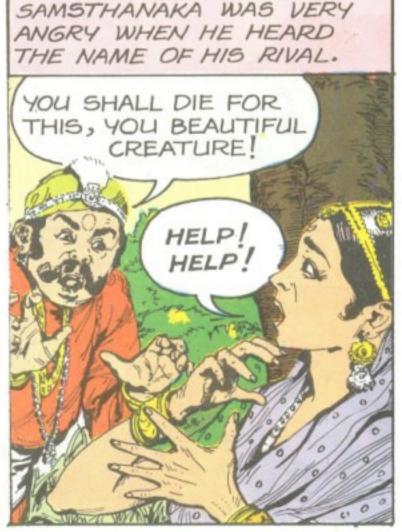


... TO VASANTASENA'S DISMAY, IT WAS NOT CHARUDATTA BUT SAMSTHANAKA WHOM SHE SAW.





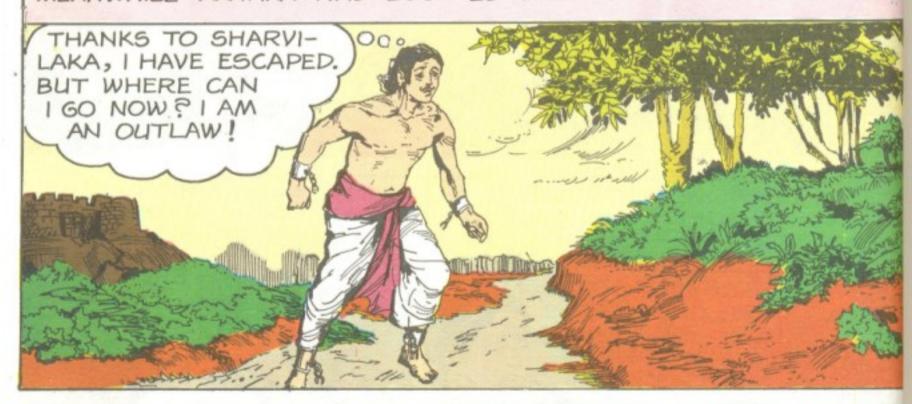




SAMSTHANAKA TRIED TO STRANGLE VASANTASENA AND, BELIEVING HER TO BE DEAD, RODE OFF IN



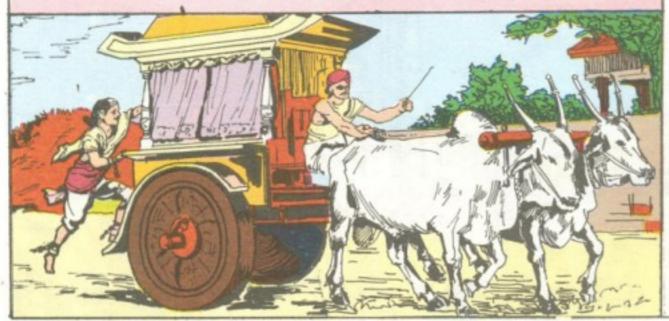
MEANWHILE ARYAKA HAD ESCAPED FROM PRISON.



JUST THEN HE SAW CHARUDATTA'S CARRIAGE WHICH WAS



THE DRIVER MISTOOK THE CLANKING OF ARYAKA'S CHAINS FOR THE TINKLE OF VASANTASENA'S ANKLETS.

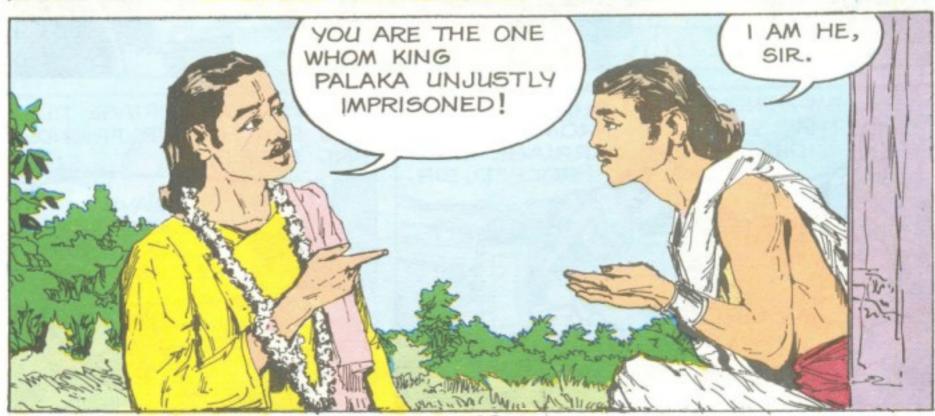


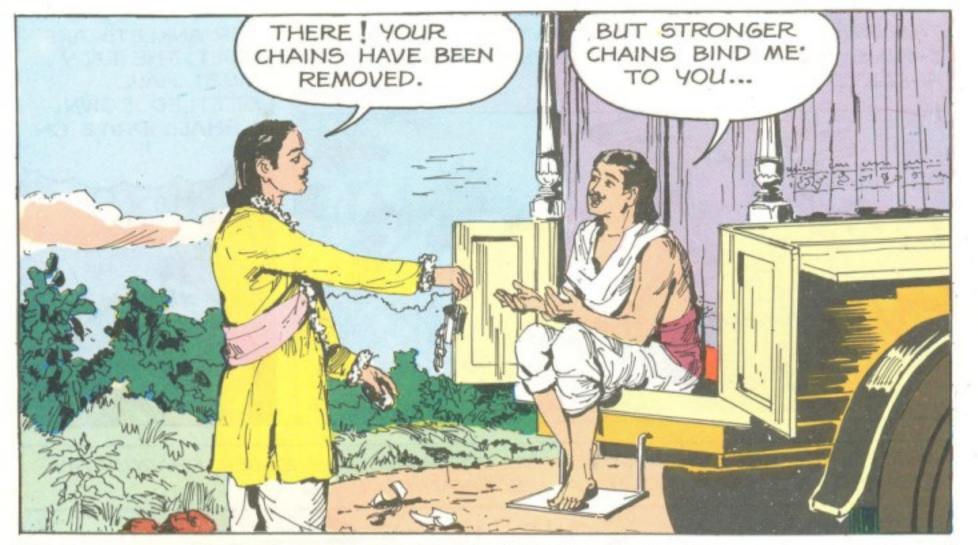
HER ANKLETS ARE
QUIET. THE LADY
MUST HAVE
SETTLED DOWN.
I SHALL DRIVE ON.



WHEN THE CARRIAGE ARRIVED AT THE PARK, THE EAGER CHARUDATTA



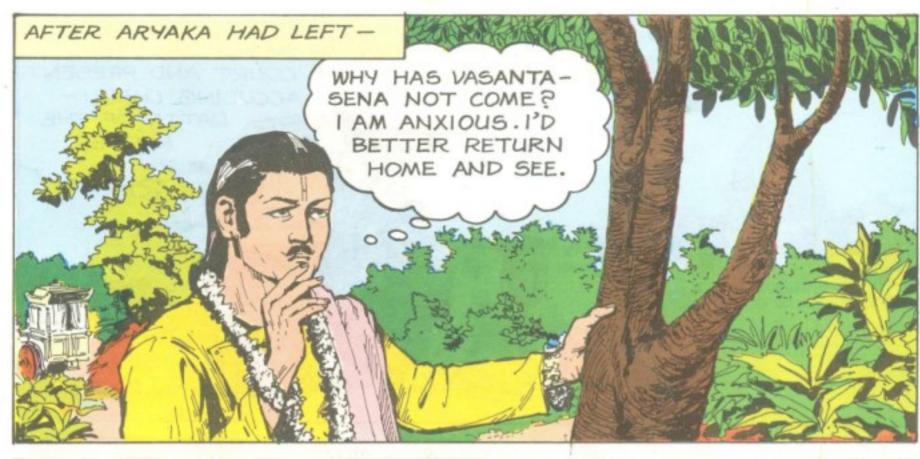




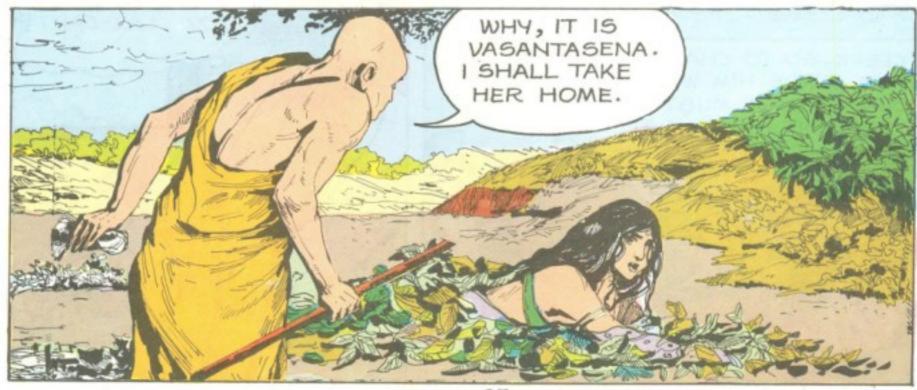








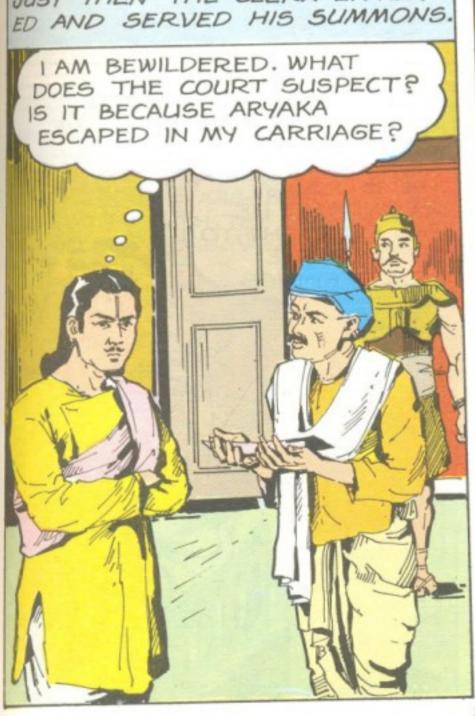












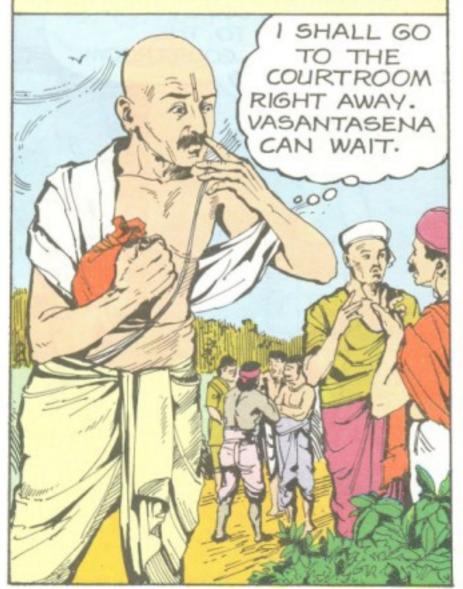
JUST THEN THE CLERK ENTER-



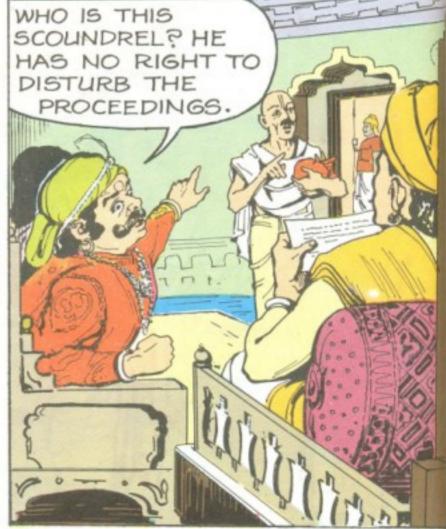
AT THE COURT THE MOMENT CHARUDATTA HEARD THE CHARGES READ OUT, HE LOST ALL INTEREST IN THE CASE.



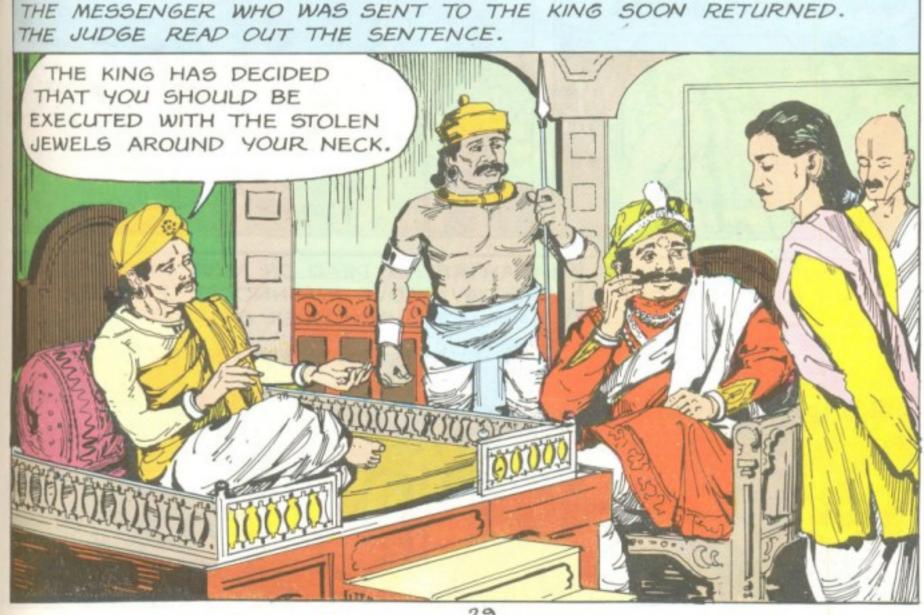
MAITREYA, ON HIS WAY TO VASANTASENA'S HOUSE, HEARD THE NEWS ABOUT CHARUDATTA FACING A TRIAL FOR MURDER.



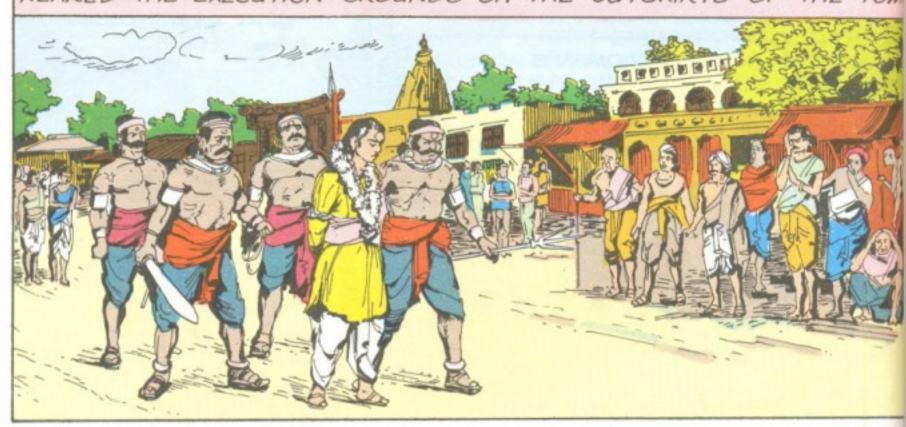
AS THE CASE PROCEEDED, MAITREYA BURST INTO THE COURTROOM.







AND SO CHARUDATTA WAS LED THROUGH THE STREETS, TILL THEY NEARED THE EXECUTION GROUNDS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOW



MEANWHILE THE MONK AND VASANTASENA, NOW FULLY REVIVED, WERE RETURNING TO THE TOWN.

WHAT A LARGE CROWD! WHAT A COMMOTION!

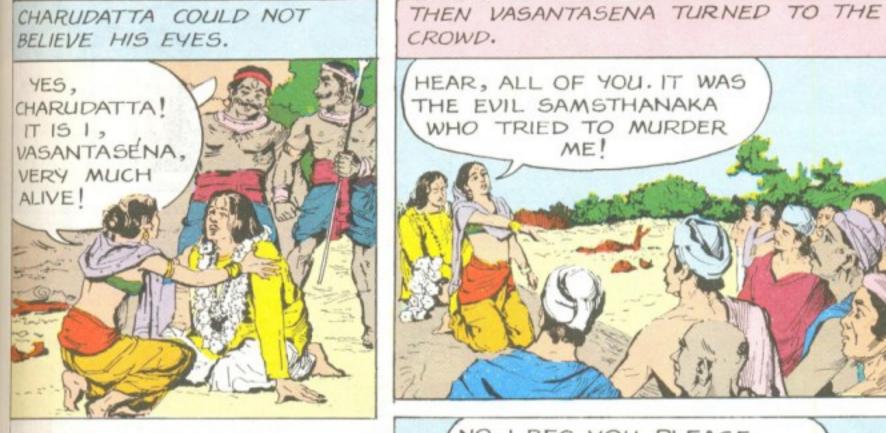


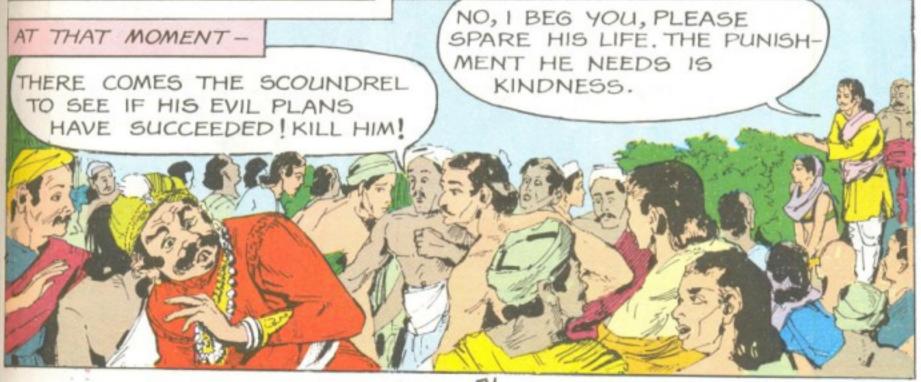
THE MONK SUDDENLY STOOD STILL.

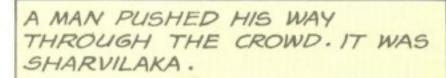
OH! WRETCH GOOD LORD! THEY SAY CHARUDATTA IS GOING THAT I AM. QUICK! QUICK! TO BE EXECUTED FOR MURDERING YOU. LEAD ME TO HIM,











I HAVE SLAIN PALAKA. ARYAKA IS NOW OUR KING.



CHARUDATTA LED VASANTASENA TO HIS WIFE WHO WELCOMED THE TALENTED YOUNG DANCER. KING ARYAKA HAS
NAMED YOU VICEROY OF KUSHAVATI. HE HAS ALSO CONFERRED
UPON NOBLE VASANTASENA THE
STATUS OF
"SECOND
WIFE TO
CHARUDATTA".

WORDS
SOUND.

