



Karttikeya



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!

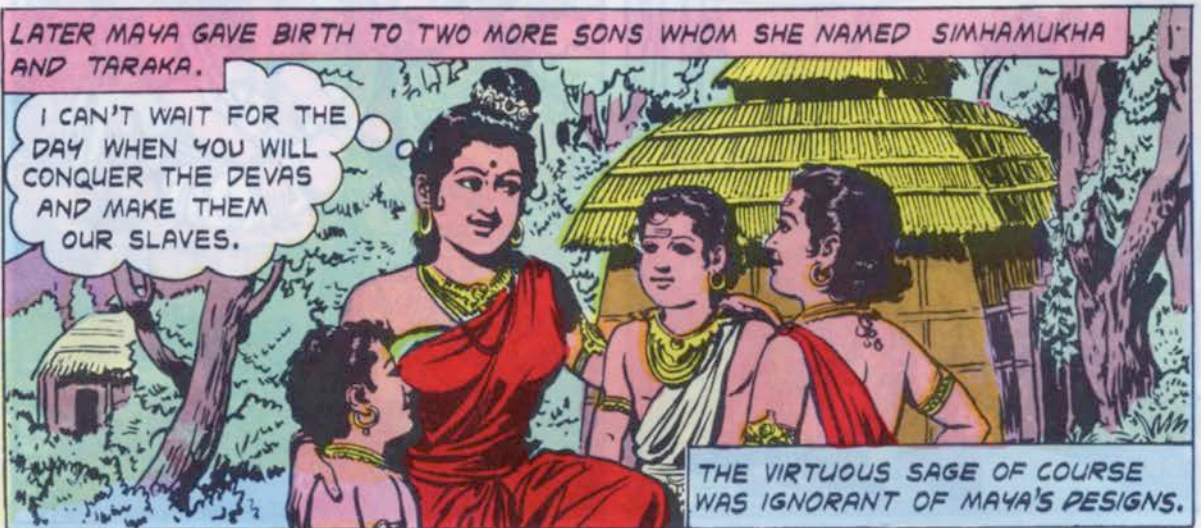
SAGE KASHYAPA AND THE ASURA
PRINCESS LIVED HAPPILY IN THE
FOREST. IN DUE COURSE A SON WAS
BORN TO THEM.



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.

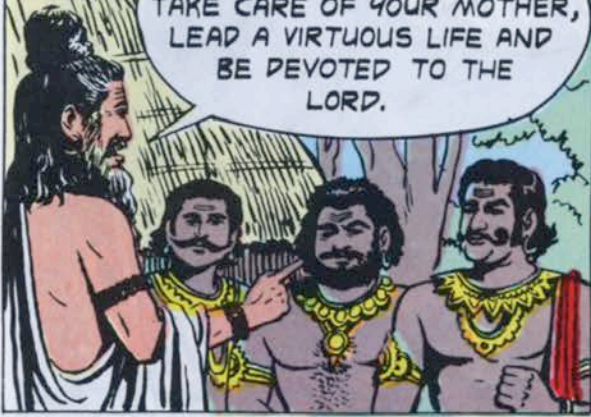
I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE
DAY WHEN YOU WILL
CONQUER THE DEVAS
AND MAKE THEM
OUR SLAVES.



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.

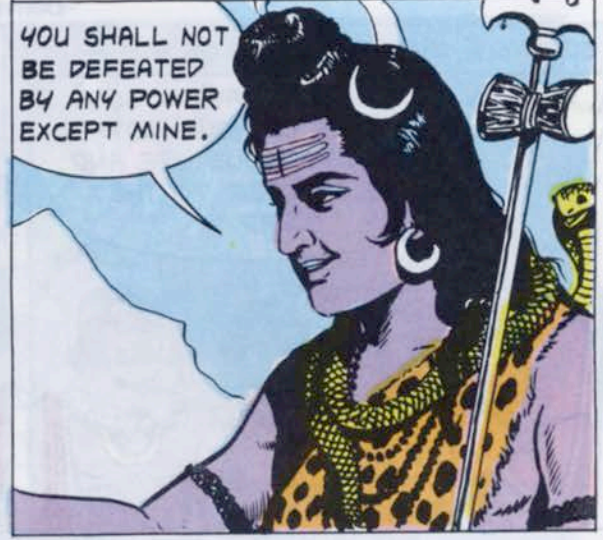


BUT THE NEXT MOMENT HE WAS SAVED FROM ITS FLAMES BY SHIVA HIMSELF.

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.



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

AT LAST MY DREAM WILL COME TRUE.



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?

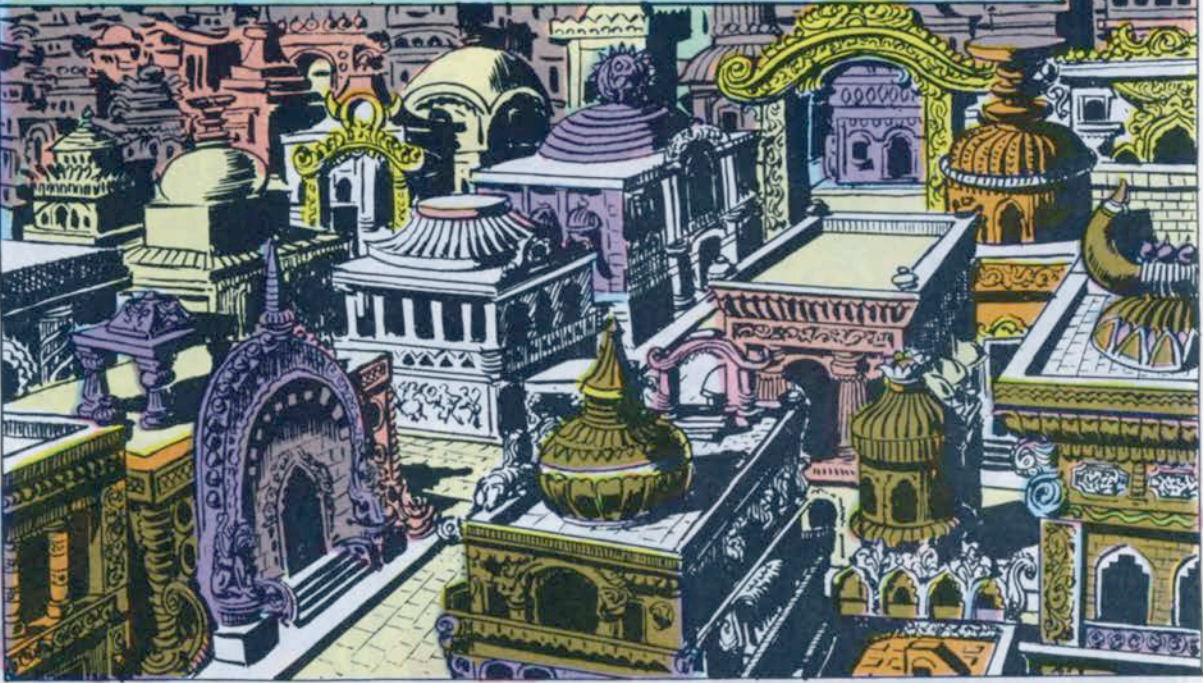
WE'LL MAKE
THEM OUR SLAVES.
INDRA WILL BE OUR
FISHERMAN, AND
VAYU OUR SWEEPER.
AND...

...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.



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 BURN'T 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.



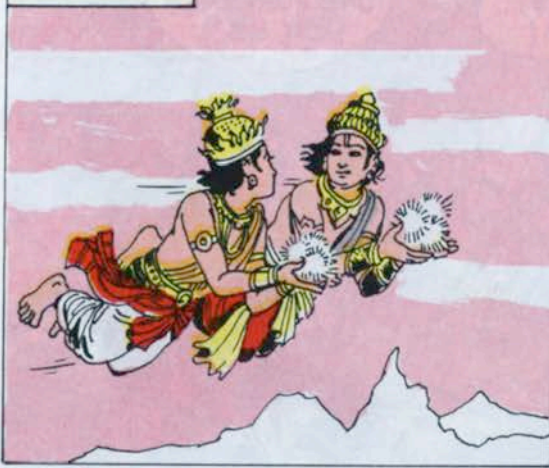
THE CHILD BORN
OUT OF THESE
SPARKS WILL SLAY
THE ASURAS.

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.



AGNI AND VAYU FLEW WITH THE SPARKS...



... TO GANGA.

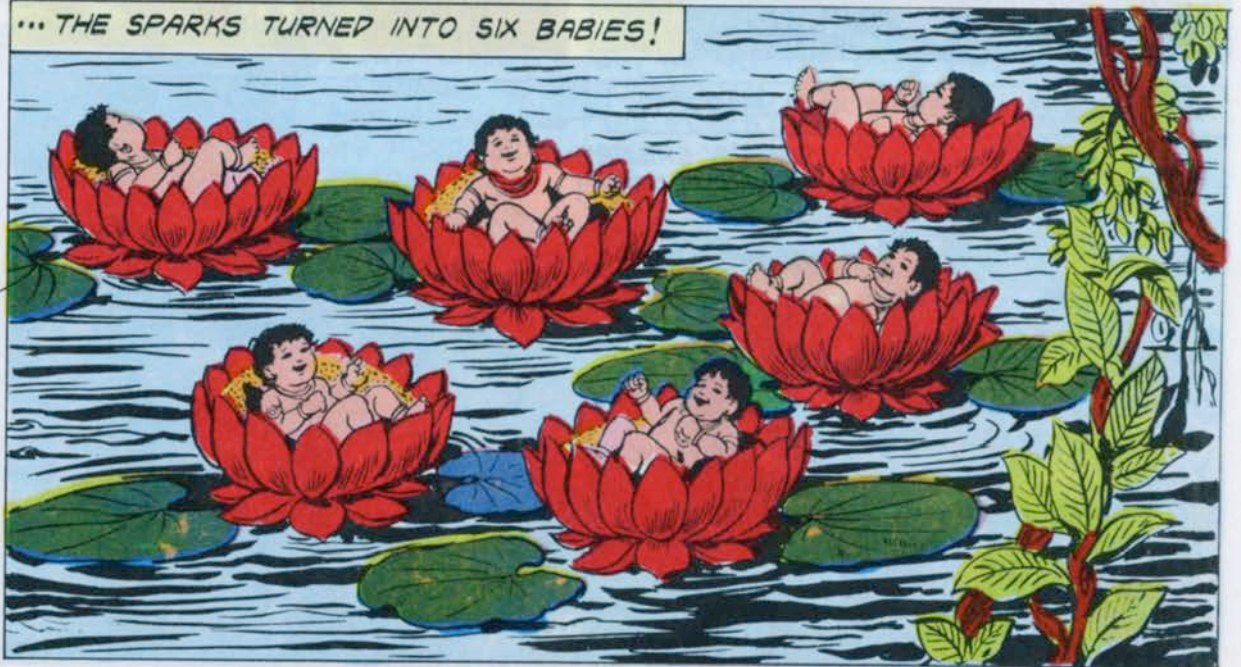
SHIVA
HAS ASKED YOU
TO CARRY THESE
TO THE REED FOREST
ON THE UDAYA
MOUNTAIN.



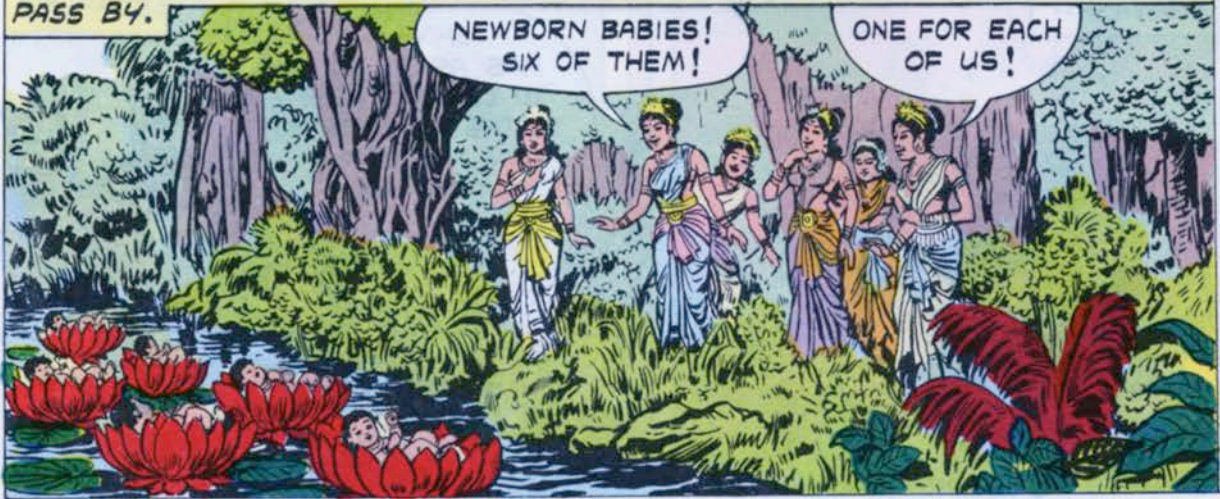
AS SOON AS GANGA BROUGHT THEM INTO THE SHARAVANA...



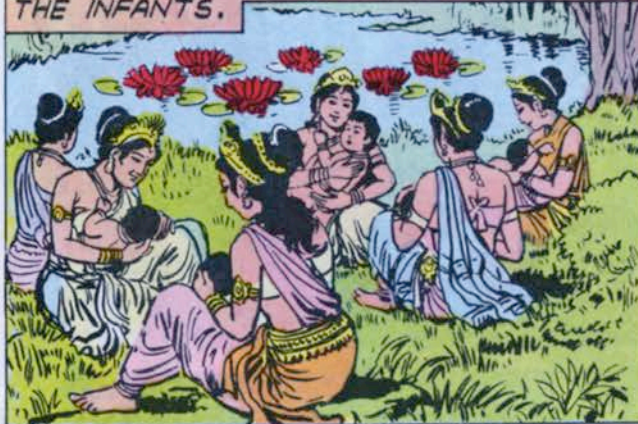
... THE SPARKS TURNED INTO SIX BABIES!



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.

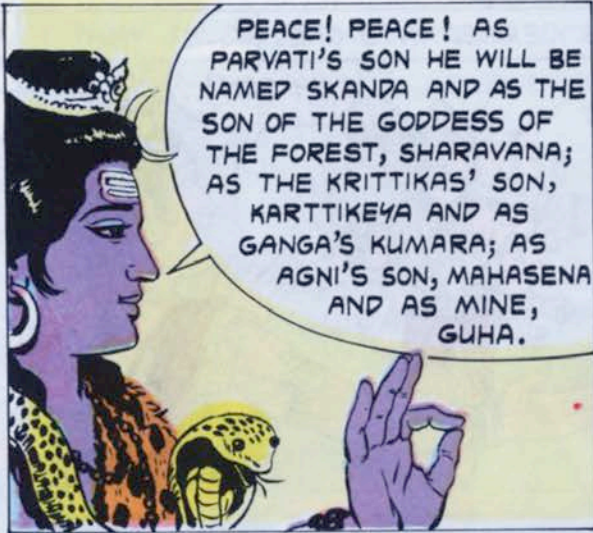


AND THEN CAME SHIVA AND PARVATI.



AS PARVATI STEPPED CLOSER, THE BABIES MERGED INTO ONE.





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



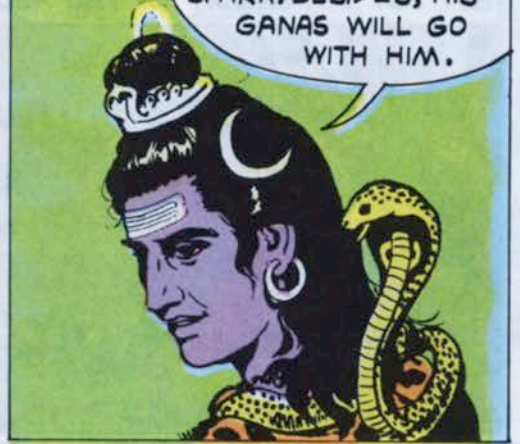
ONE DAY AT KAILASA—

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, KRAUNCHA
IN THE FORM OF A MOUNTAIN.

WITHOUT A WORD, KARTTIKEYA
HURLED HIS SPEAR...



...AND KRAUNCHA WAS NO MORE.



WHEN THE NEWS REACHED TARAKA—



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.

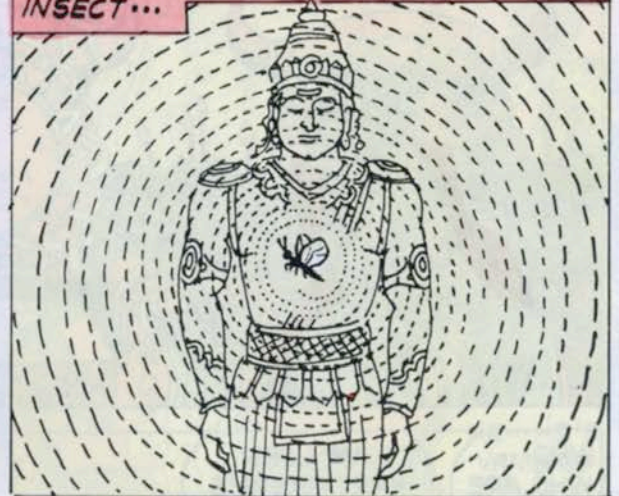


WHEN VEERABAHU REACHED
SURAPADMAN'S CAPITAL,
MAHENDRAPURI—

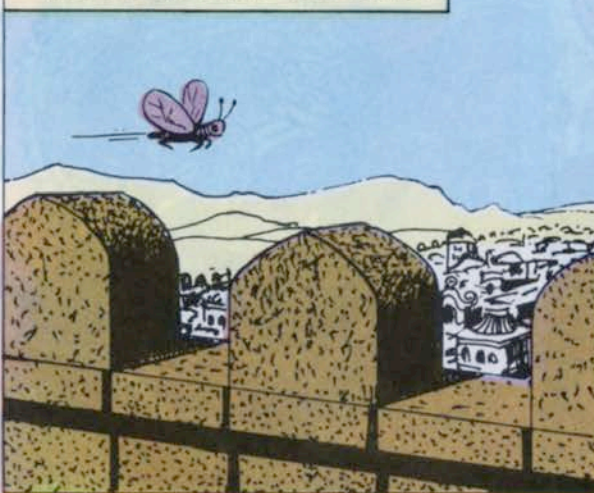
BEFORE I GO
TO SURAPADMAN,
I MUST SEE
JAYANTA.



HE CHANGED HIMSELF INTO A TINY
INSECT...



...AND FLEW INTO THE CITY.

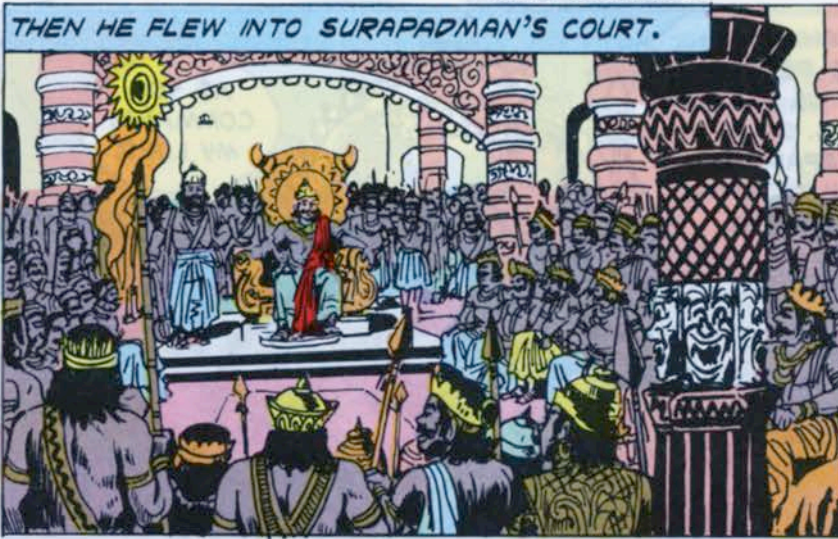


IN THE PRISON—

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



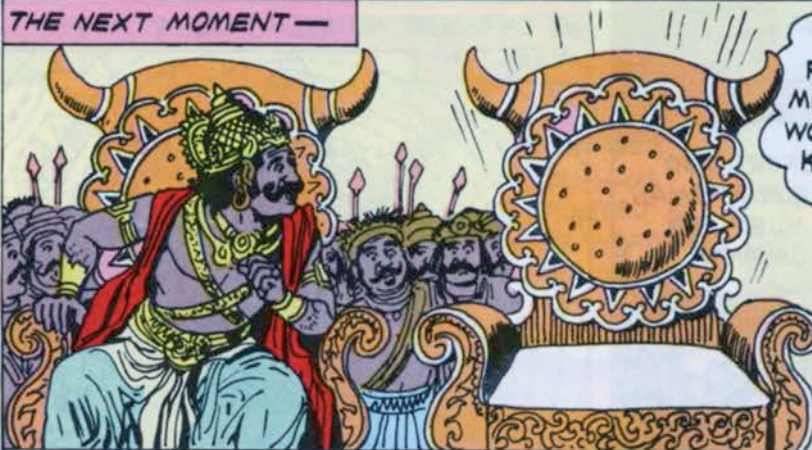
THEN HE FLEW INTO SURAPADMAN'S COURT.



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 !

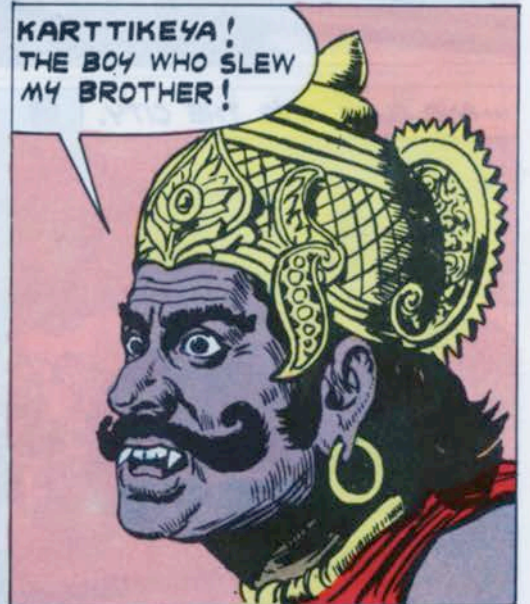


WHO...
WHO ARE
YOU ?

I AM LORD
KARTTIKEYA'S
MESSENGER.



KARTTIKEYA !
THE BOY WHO SLEW
MY BROTHER !







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.



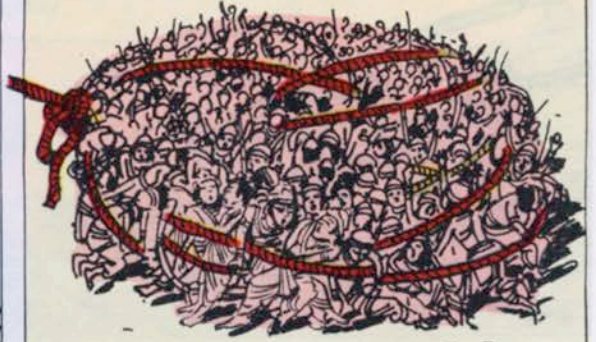
SO THE NEXT DAY SIMHAMUKHA LED THE ATTACK. THE ARMY OF THE DEVAS REELED UNDER HIS ONSLAUGHT.



THEN SIMHAMUKHA SENT A MISSILE...



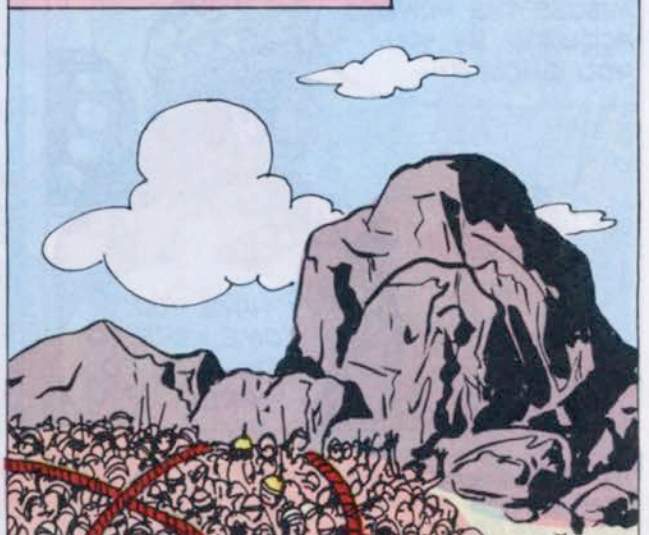
...WHICH WOUND ITSELF AROUND VEERABAHU, HIS BROTHER AND THE REST OF THE ARMY...



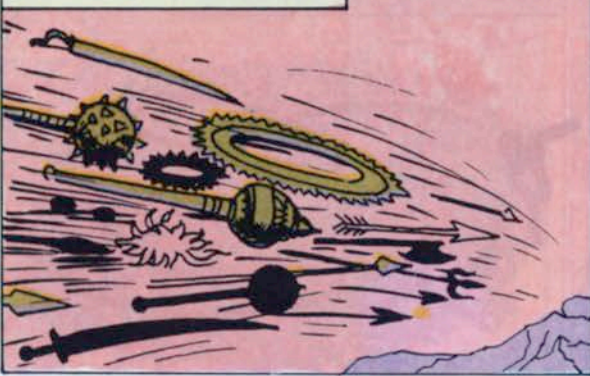
...AND HURLED THEM...



...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

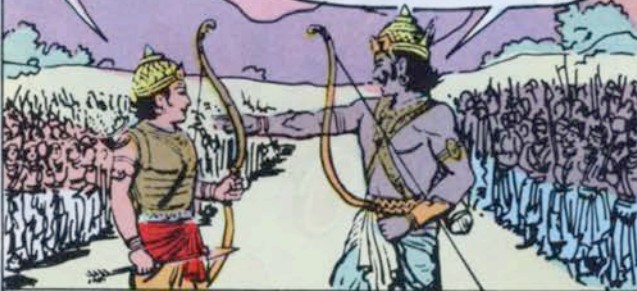
THE NEXT DAY SURAPADMAN HIMSELF LED THE ASURAS TO THE BATTLEFIELD.



WHEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH
KARTTIKEYA—

MERCY
OR DOOM?
CHOOSE!

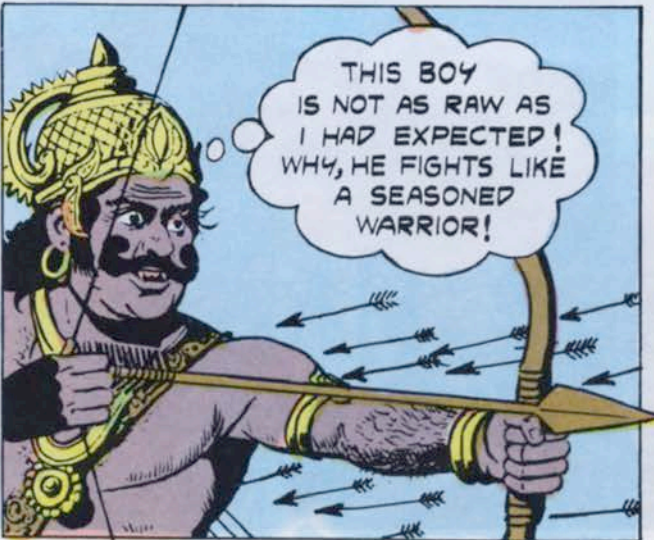
IMPUDENT CHILD! I HAVE
COME TO SILENCE YOU ONCE
AND FOR ALL.



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!



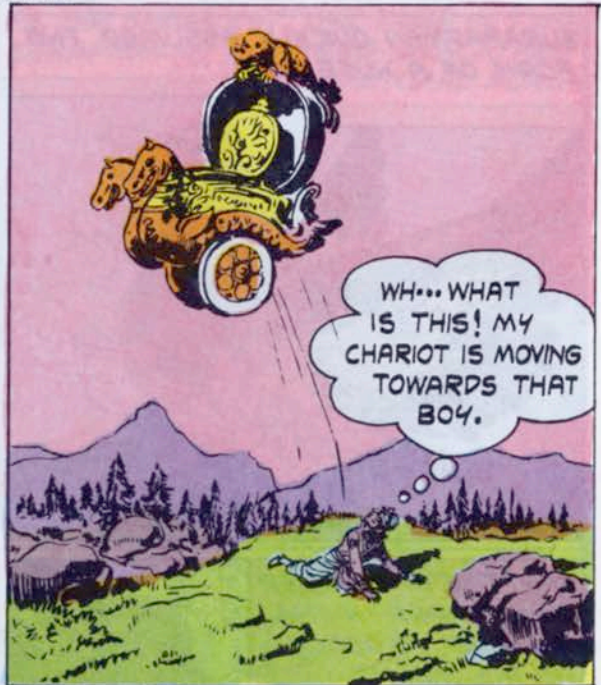
THIS ASTRA WILL TAKE CARE OF YOUR ASURAS!



AND THIS — OF YOUR CHARIOT!



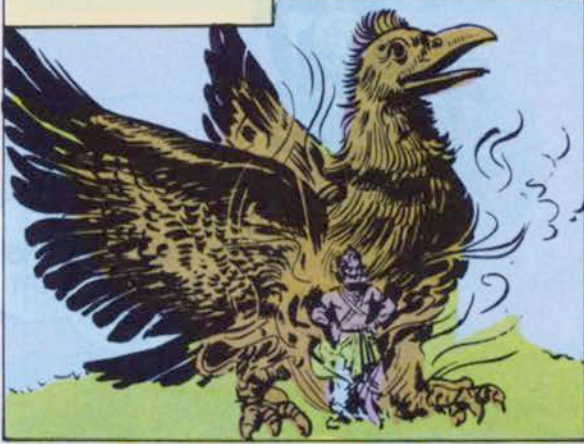
THE NEXT MOMENT —



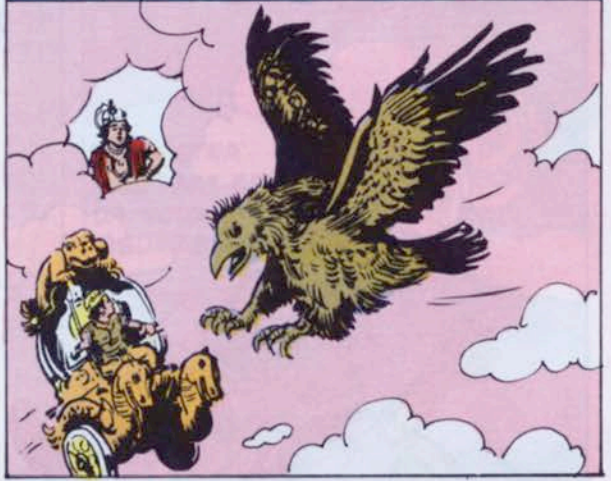
SOON —



SURAPADMAN QUICKLY ASSUMED THE FORM OF A HUGE BIRD ..



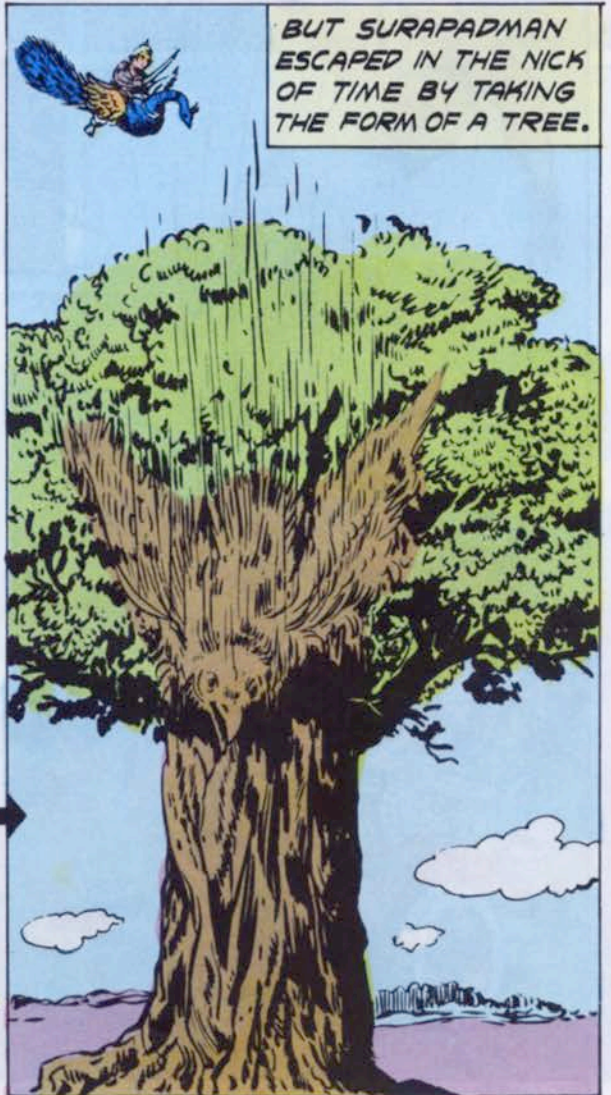
...AND CHARGED AT KARTTIKEYA.



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

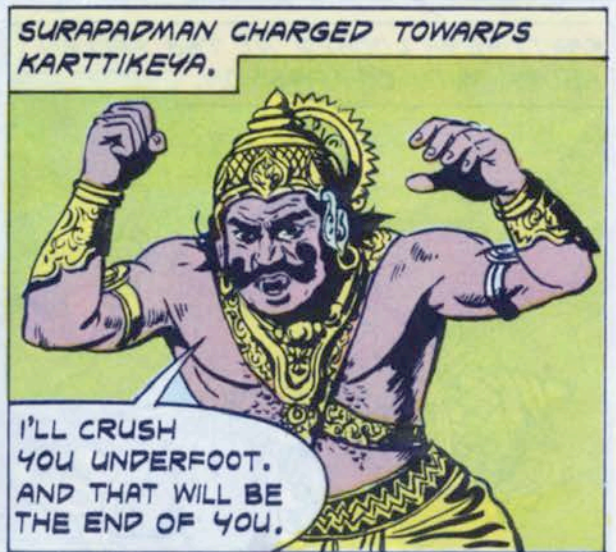


BUT SURAPADMAN ESCAPED IN THE NICK OF TIME BY TAKING THE FORM OF A TREE.

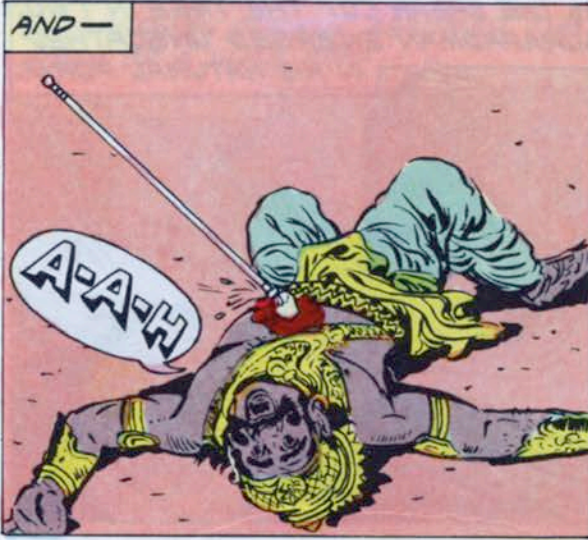


...LASHED OUT AT HIM.





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.



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.

