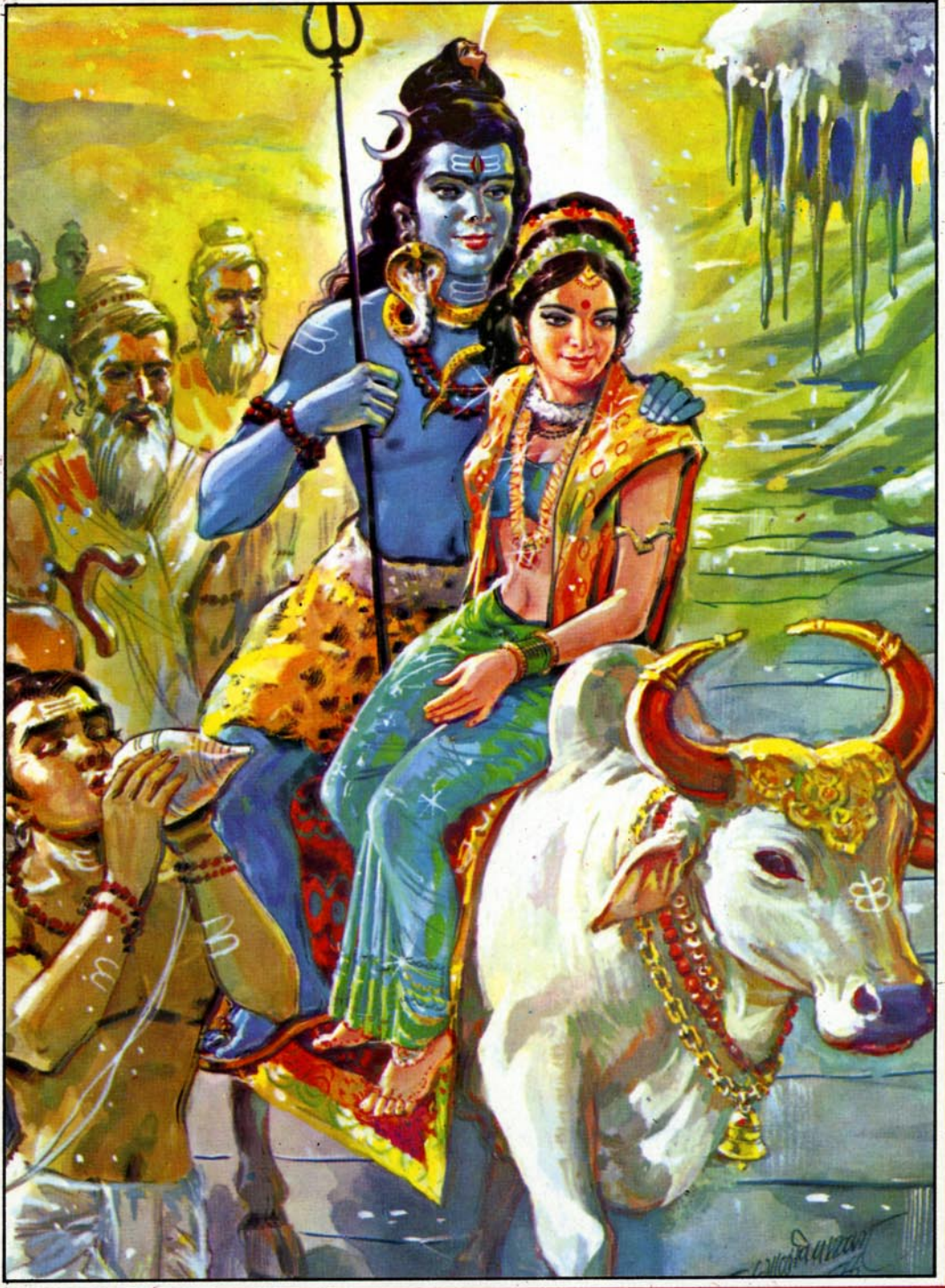




Vol. 550 Rs. 25

Sati and Shiva



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



Sati and Shiva

The story of Shiva's marriage is symbolic of the perfect fusion of the male and the female principles which, according to a Hindu view of life, are the moving powers behind the universe.

Shiva (the male principle), the Supreme Consciousness, will acquire the power to create and destroy the elements only in conjunction with Shakti (the female principle). That was why Vishnu and others were keen to see Shiva married.

Though the word Shiva rarely occurs in the Vedas (it does in the Yajurveda) there are adequate references to show Rudra (another name for Shiva) as the Supreme Consciousness. The Kenopanishad mentions UMA as the maya or the manifestation of the Supreme Consciousness.

The story of Sati brings home to us in simple terms, the truth and beauty of a lofty vedic concept.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
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SATI AND SHIVA



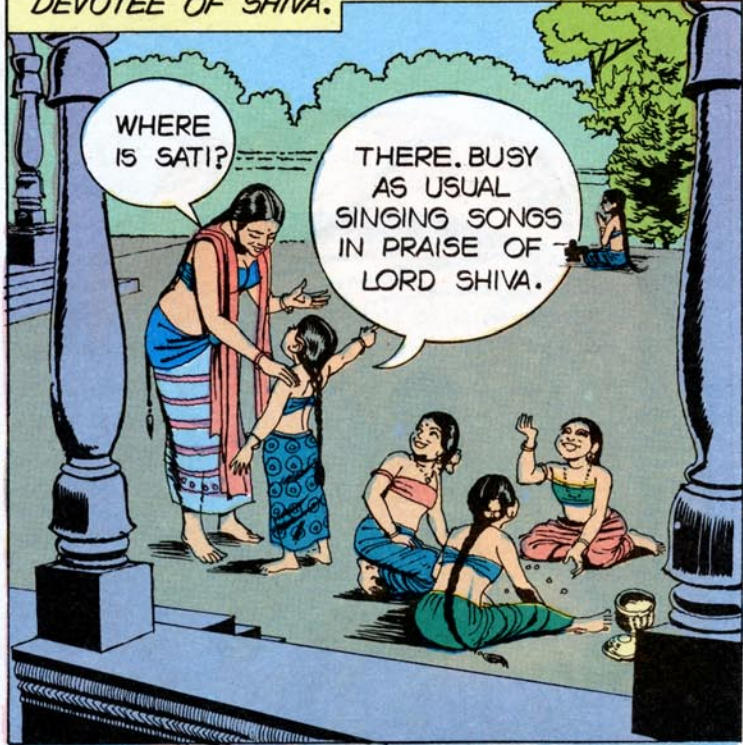
BRAHMA WANTED THE ASCETIC SHIVA TO GET MARRIED. VISHNU ADVISED HIM TO SERVE THE GODDESS UMA, BEG HER TO TAKE BIRTH ON EARTH, AND BECOME SHIVA'S CONSORT.

BRAHMA DID AS HE WAS ADVISED AND UMA WAS BORN TO HIS SON-THE CHIEF PRAJAPATI, DAKSHA.



SHE SHALL BE CALLED SATI.

EVEN AS A YOUNG GIRL, SATI WAS A STAUNCH DEVOTEE OF SHIVA.



WHERE IS SATI?

THERE. BUSY AS USUAL SINGING SONGS IN PRAISE OF LORD SHIVA.

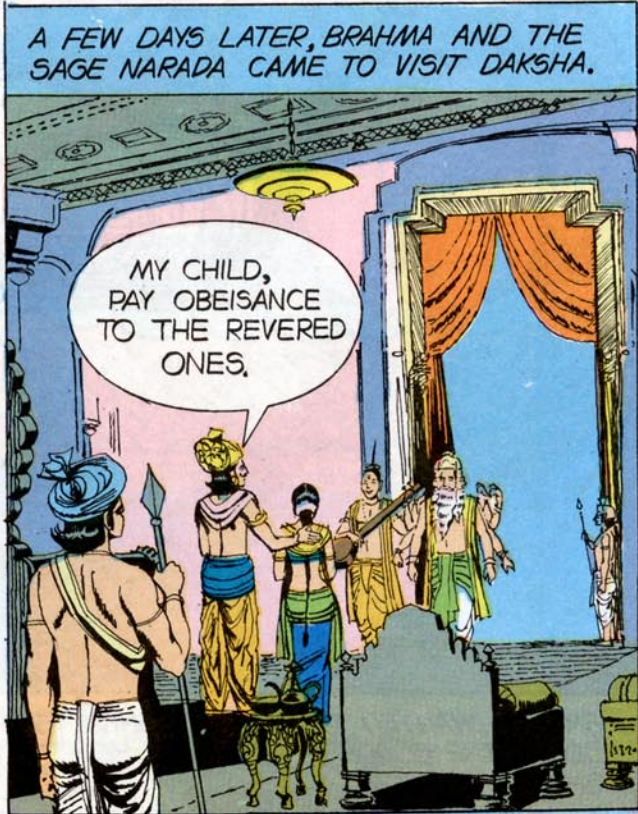
SATI SOON GREW UP.



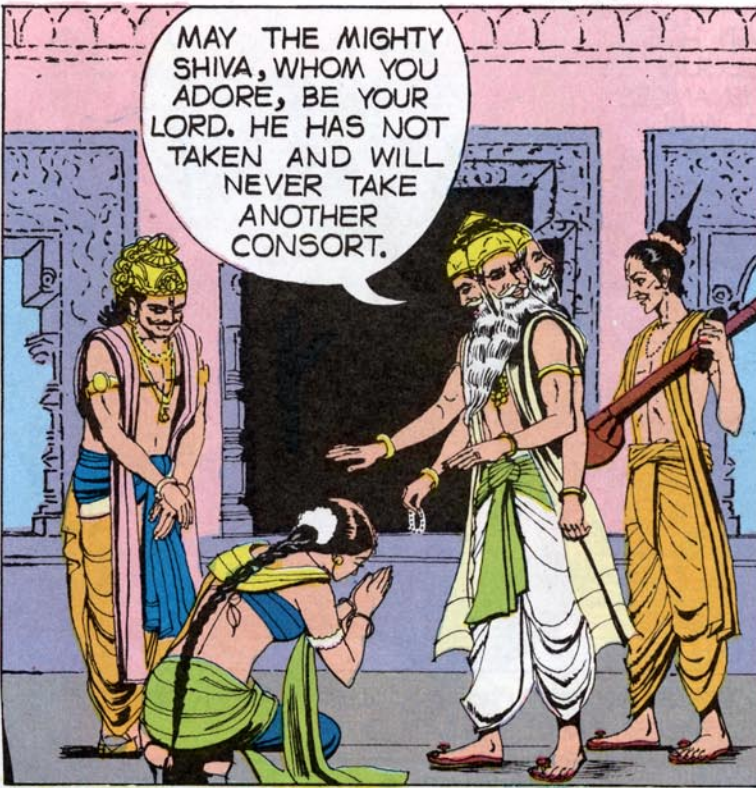
HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR DAUGHTER IS. SHE SHOULD BE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE TO ONE WHO IS HER EQUAL.

ONLY THE WORTHYEST ONE IN ALL THE THREE WORLDS SHALL BECOME HER HUSBAND.

A FEW DAYS LATER, BRAHMA AND THE SAGE NARADA CAME TO VISIT DAKSHA.



MY CHILD, PAY OBEISANCE TO THE REVERED ONES.



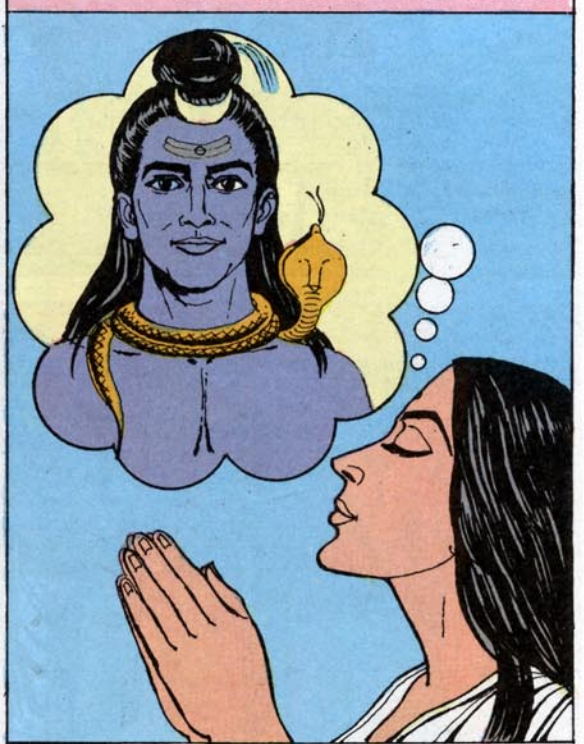
SHE BEGAN BY FASTING AND CHANTING SACRED MANTRAS.



THEN, IN DRIPPING WET CLOTHES, SHE WORSHIPPED HIM ON THE BANK OF A RIVER.



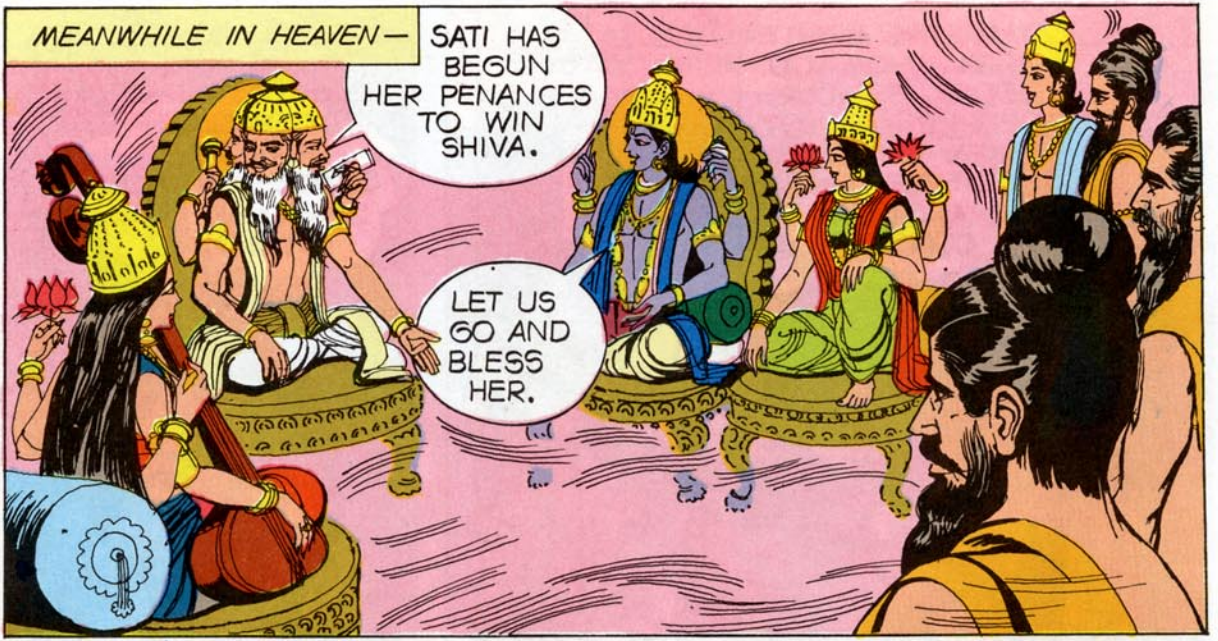
HER WHOLE BEING WAS CONCENTRATED ON SHIVA. SHE KNEW NOTHING ELSE.



MEANWHILE IN HEAVEN—

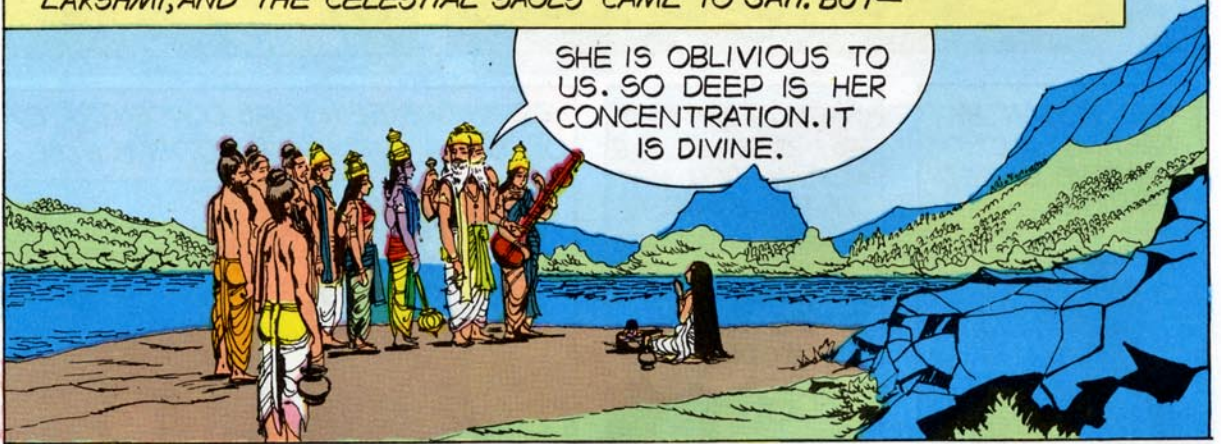
SATI HAS
BEGUN
HER PENANCES
TO WIN
SHIVA.

LET US
GO AND
BLESS
HER.



SO BRAHMA AND HIS CONSORT SARASWATI, VISHNU AND HIS CONSORT LAKSHMI, AND THE CELESTIAL SAGES CAME TO SATI. BUT—

SHE IS OBLIVIOUS TO
US. SO DEEP IS HER
CONCENTRATION. IT
IS DIVINE.

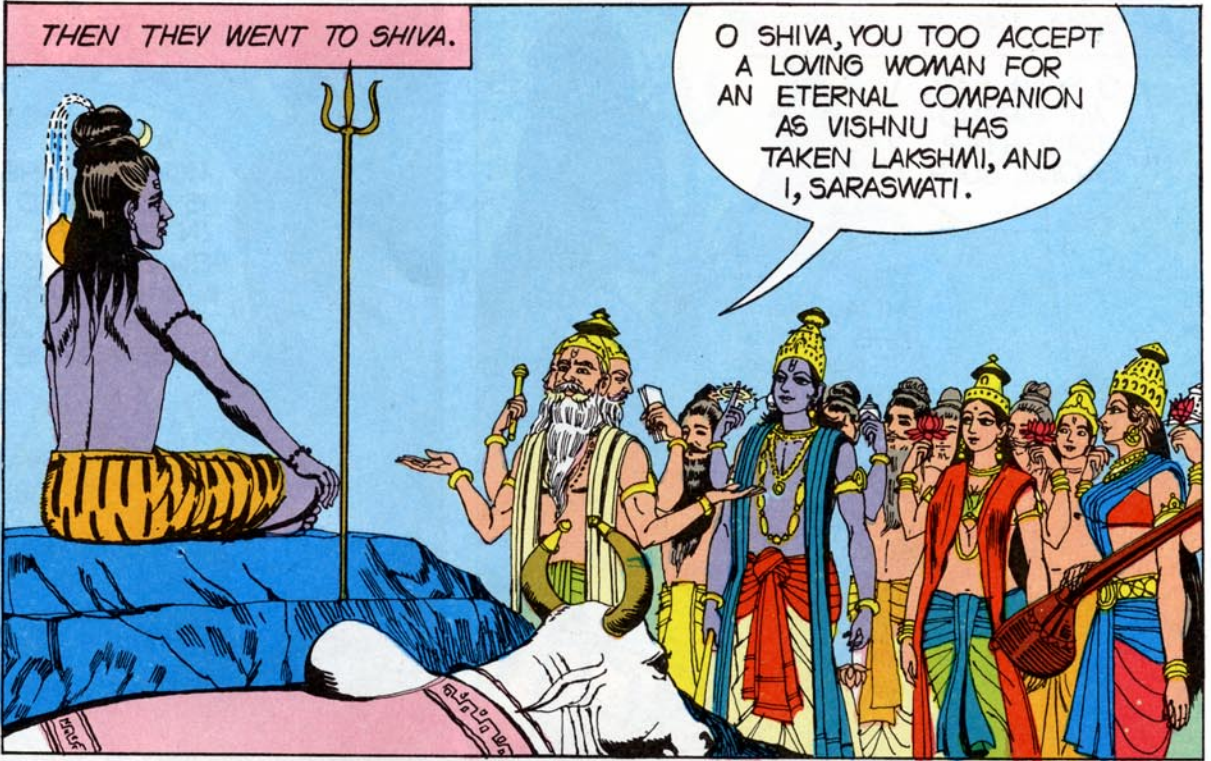


THEY WHO HAD COME TO BLESS HER SOUGHT HER BLESSINGS, INSTEAD.



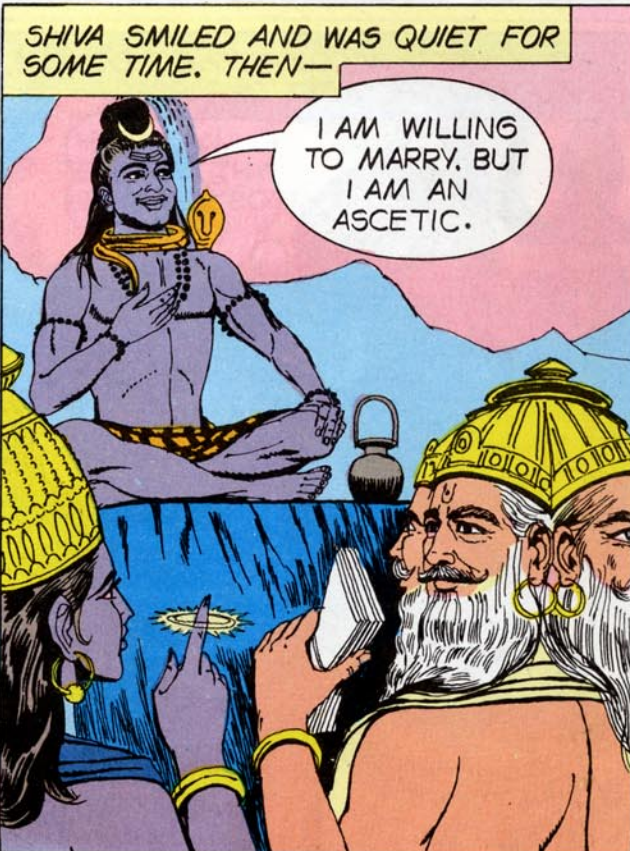
THEN THEY WENT TO SHIVA.

O SHIVA, YOU TOO ACCEPT A LOVING WOMAN FOR AN ETERNAL COMPANION AS VISHNU HAS TAKEN LAKSHMI, AND I, SARASWATI.



SHIVA SMILED AND WAS QUIET FOR SOME TIME. THEN—

I AM WILLING TO MARRY, BUT I AM AN ASCETIC.



IS THERE A WOMAN WHO WILL BE A YOGINI WHEN I PRACTISE YOGA AND A LOVING HOUSEWIFE WHEN I AM A HOUSEHOLDER?



BRAHMA WAS DELIGHTED.



O SHIVA, SATI,
MY GRAND-
DAUGHTER
IS ONE SUCH.

YES
SHIVA,
SHE
IS!

WHERE IS
SHE?



AT THIS
MOMENT SHE
IS ENGAGED
IN SEVERE
PENANCES TO
WIN YOU. HER
CONCENTRATION
IS UNSWERVING.

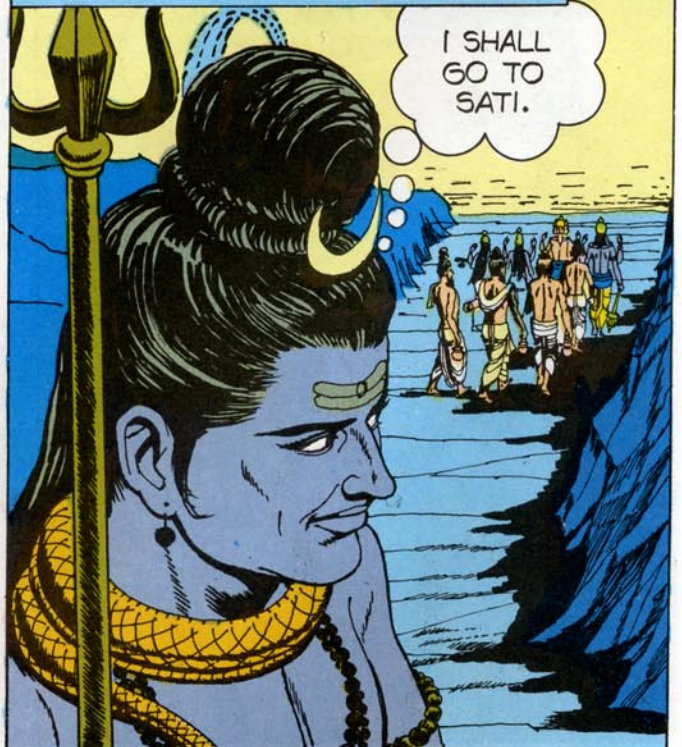
THEN VISHNU PLEADED.



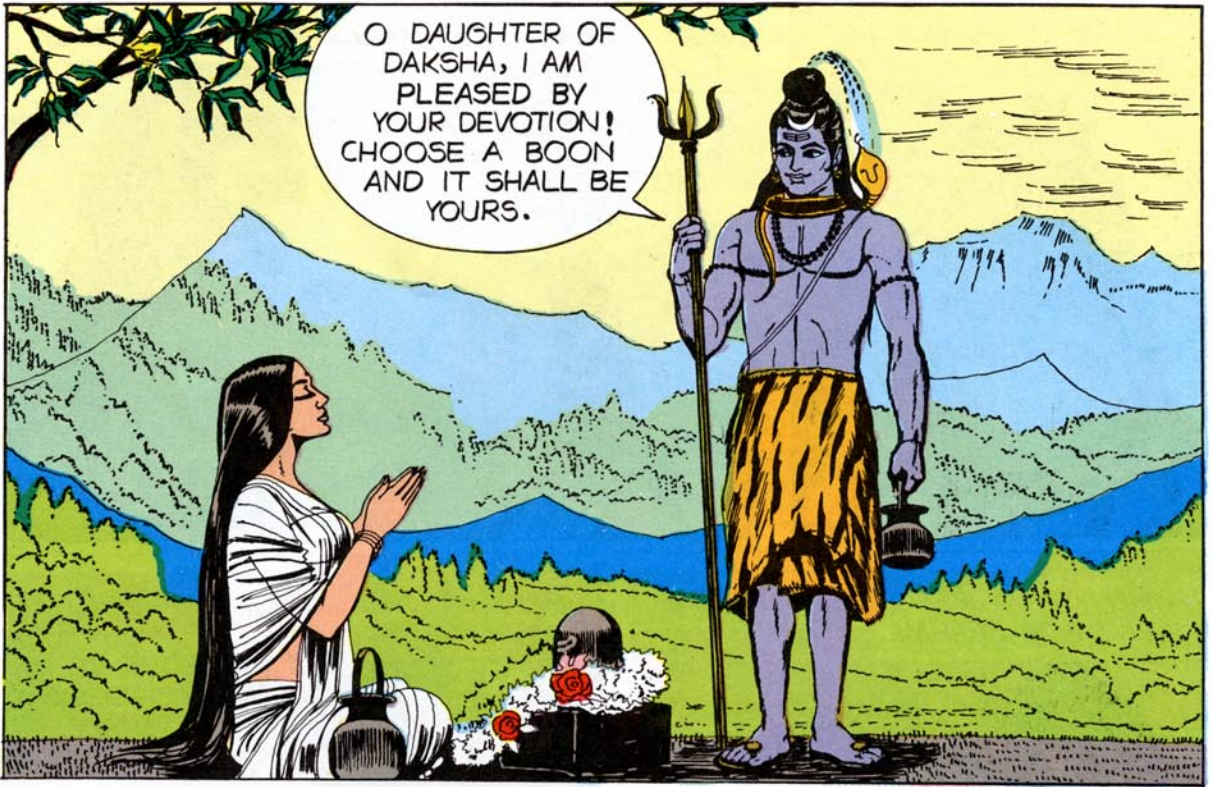
O SHIVA, GRANT HER THE
BOON SHE SEEKS AND
MARRY HER.

SO BE
IT!

**THEIR MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, BRAHMA,
VISHNU AND THE REST DEPARTED.**



I SHALL
GO TO
SATI.



THOUGH SHIVA KNEW WHAT THE BOON WOULD BE, HE WANTED TO HEAR HER SPEAK.



SATI HESITATED BUT FOR A SECOND. THEN —



BUT SHIVA DID NOT LET
HER COMPLETE HER
QUESTION.



BE MY
CONSORT,
SATI.

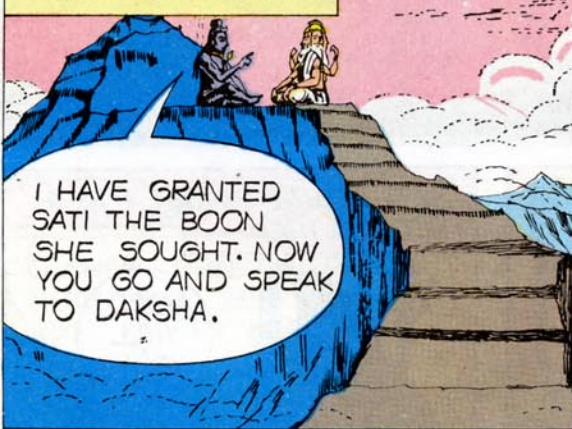
FOR A WHILE SATI STOOD SMILING SWEETLY
AT HIM. THEN —



LORD, PLEASE TAKE ME
WITH THE CONSENT AND
THE BLESSINGS OF MY
FATHER.

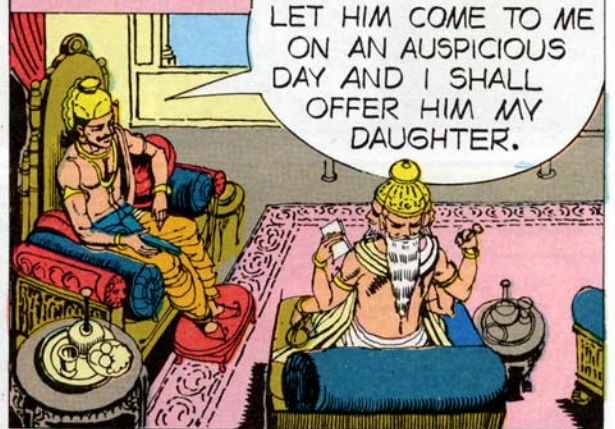
SO
BE IT!

WHEN SHIVA REACHED KAILAS, HE
SENT FOR BRAHMA.



I HAVE GRANTED
SATI THE BOON
SHE SOUGHT. NOW
YOU GO AND SPEAK
TO DAKSHA.

BRAHMA SUCCEEDED IN PERSUAD-
ING DAKSHA.

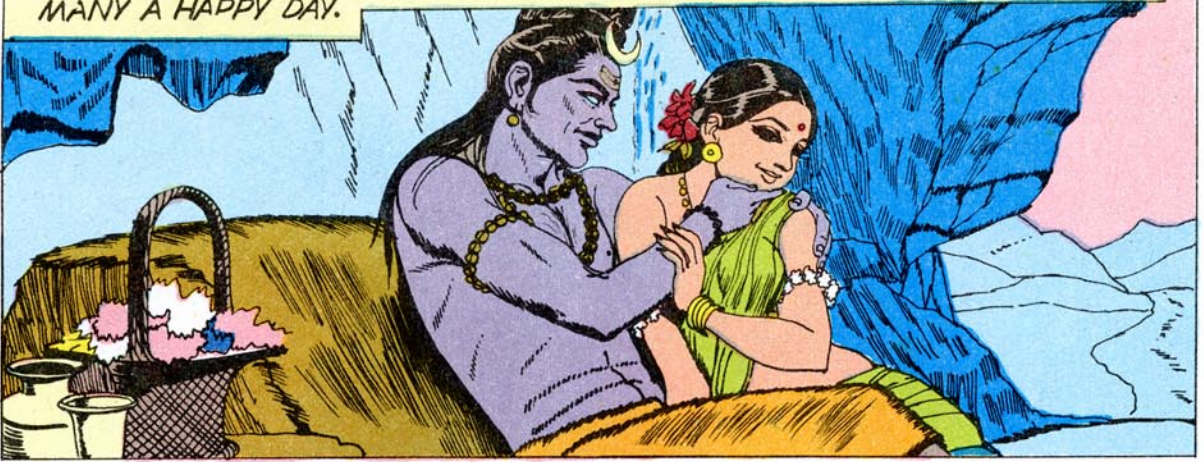


LET HIM COME TO ME
ON AN AUSPICIOUS
DAY AND I SHALL
OFFER HIM MY
DAUGHTER.

AND SATI WAS MARRIED TO
SHIVA.



AFTER THE WEDDING, SHIVA TOOK SATI TO KAILAS WHERE THEY SPENT MANY A HAPPY DAY.



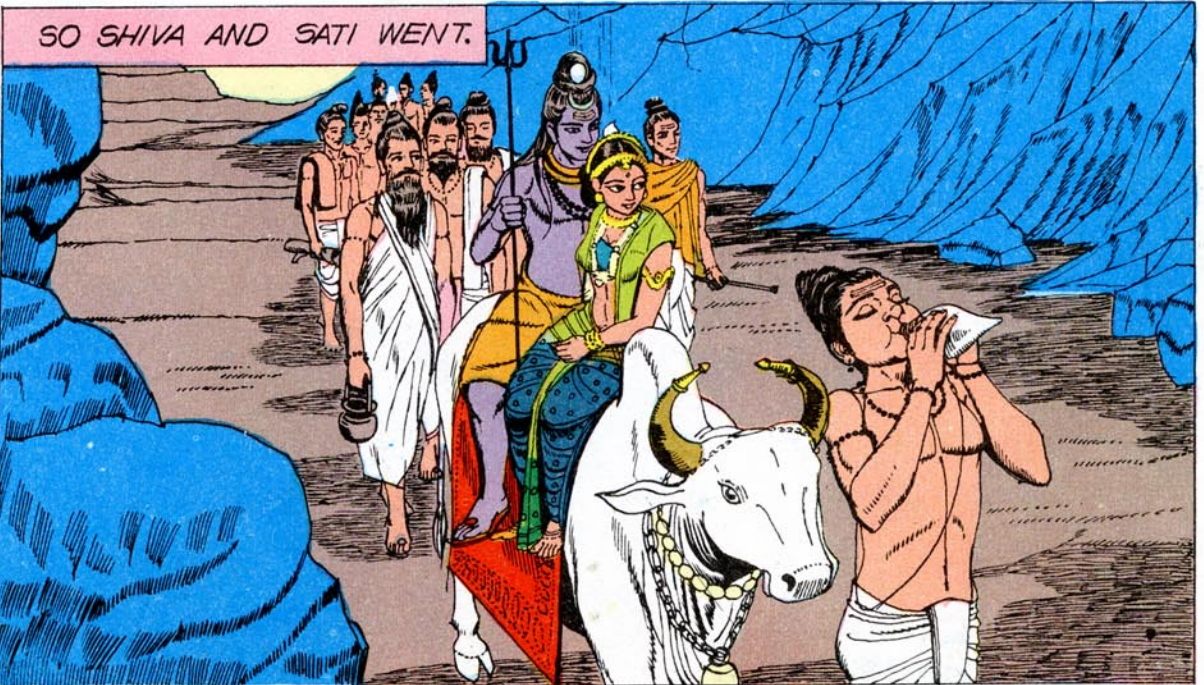
THEN ONE DAY—

THE SAGES AT PRAYAG ARE PERFORMING A GRAND YAGNA. ALL THE CELESTIAL BEINGS HAVE BEEN INVITED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?

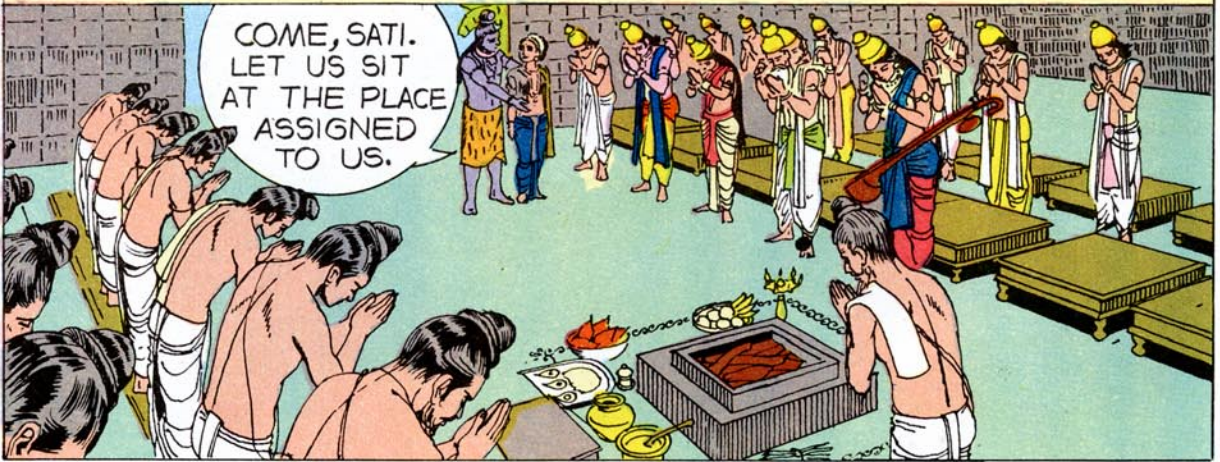
I WOULD, MY LORD!



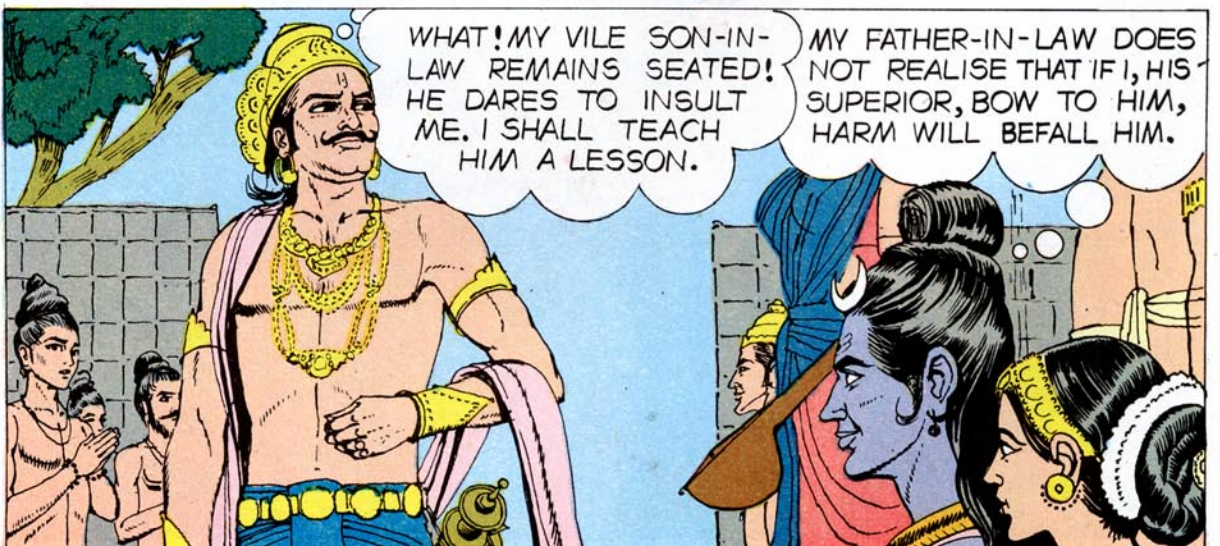
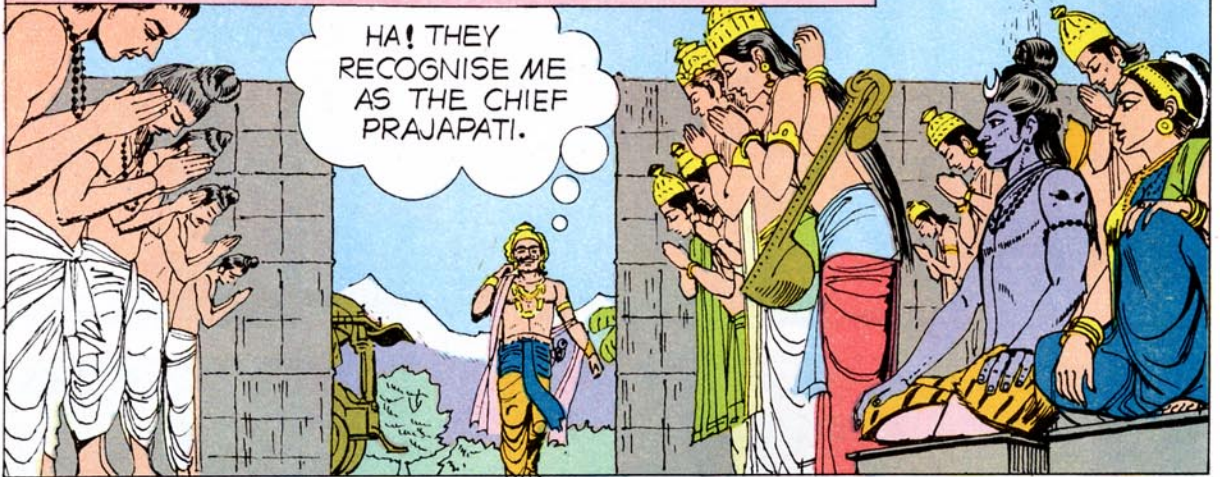
SO SHIVA AND SATI WENT.



WHEN THEY ENTERED THE GROUNDS, THE DEVAS AND SAGES BOWED TO THEM.

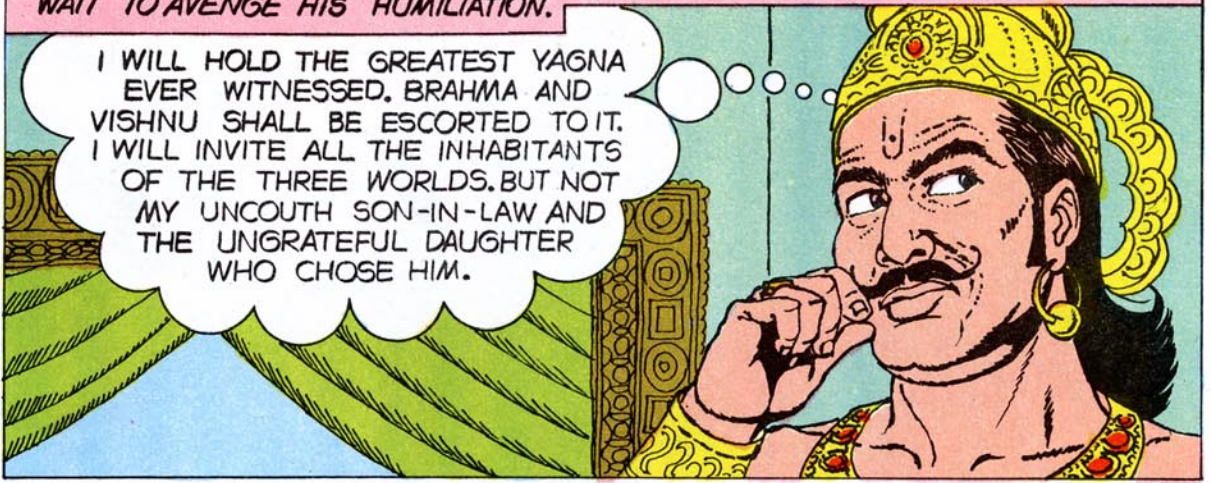


AS SOON AS THEY WERE SEATED, DAKSHA ENTERED.



AFTER THE SACRIFICE WHEN DAKSHA REACHED HIS ABODE, HE COULD HARDLY WAIT TO AVENGE HIS HUMILIATION.

I WILL HOLD THE GREATEST YAGNA EVER WITNESSED. BRAHMA AND VISHNU SHALL BE ESCORTED TO IT. I WILL INVITE ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE THREE WORLDS. BUT NOT MY UNCOUTH SON-IN-LAW AND THE UNGRATEFUL DAUGHTER WHO CHOSE HIM.



A FEW DAYS LATER—

WHERE ARE THEY GOING IN SUCH HASTE—AND DECKED IN THEIR FINEST ATTIRE?

I'LL FIND OUT.



WHEN SHE LEARNT THAT THEY WERE ON
THEIR WAY TO DAKSHA'S GRAND YAGNA —



SHE RETURNED TO SATI.



SATI WAS SURPRISED.



SHE WENT TO SHIVA AND TOLD HIM ABOUT
THE SACRIFICE.



SHIVA LOOKED LOVINGLY AT HER.



WE CANNOT, DEAR ONE. DAKSHA CONSIDERS ME HIS ENEMY. WE HAVE DELIBERATELY BEEN OVERLOOKED.

BUT SATI PERSISTED.

ALL THE SAME I WOULD LIKE TO GO.

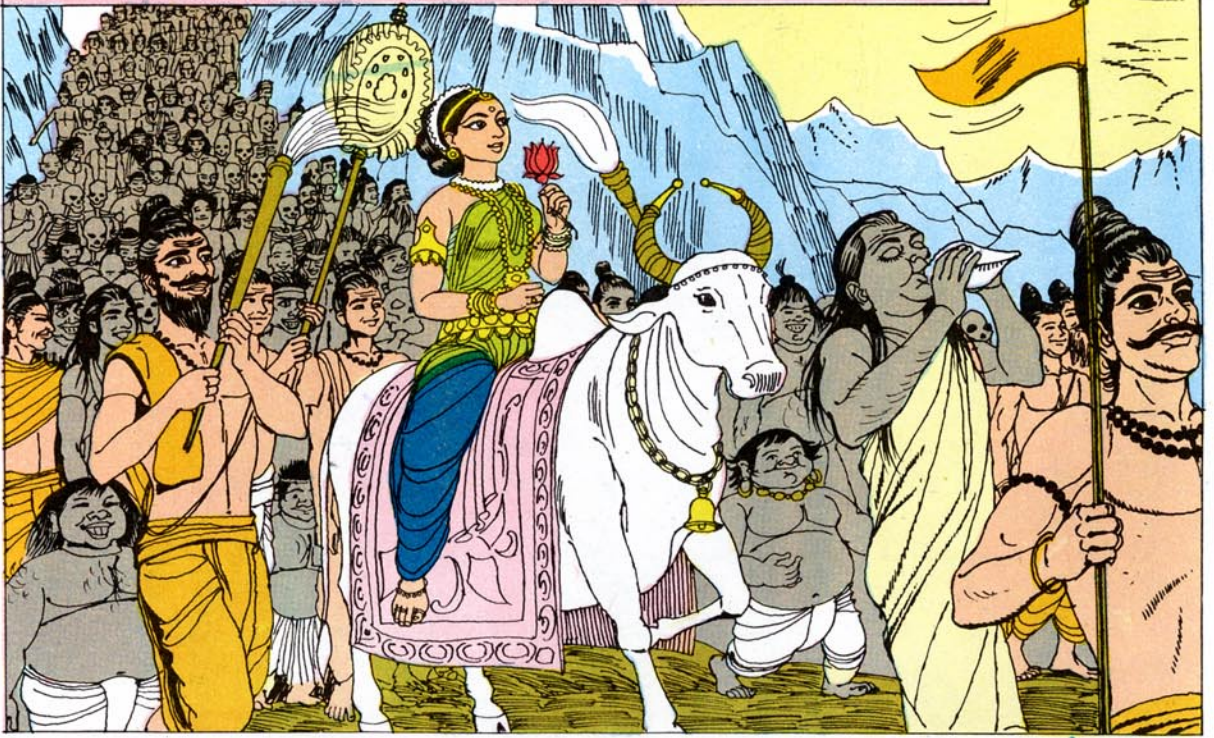


SHIVA KNEW THAT NO GOOD WOULD COME OF HER VISIT. BUT SHE WAS HIS EQUAL.

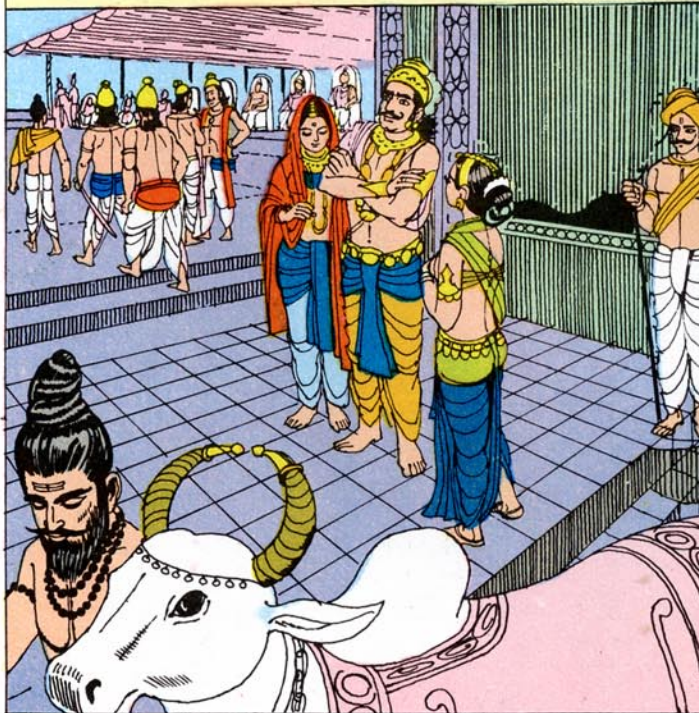
I WILL NOT COME. BUT IF YOU REALLY MUST GO, I WILL WILLINGLY SEND YOU -AND IN ROYAL SPLENDOR. NANDI, MY ATTENDANT, WILL CARRY YOU THERE.



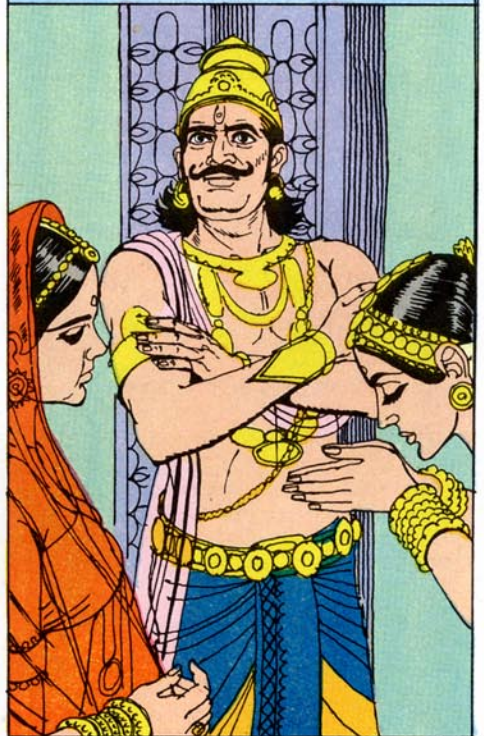
SO SATI SET OUT ON NANDI, SHIVA'S FAVOURITE ATTENDANT.

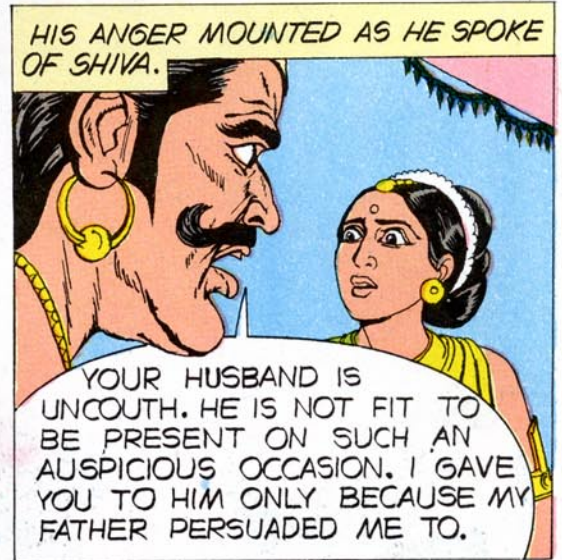
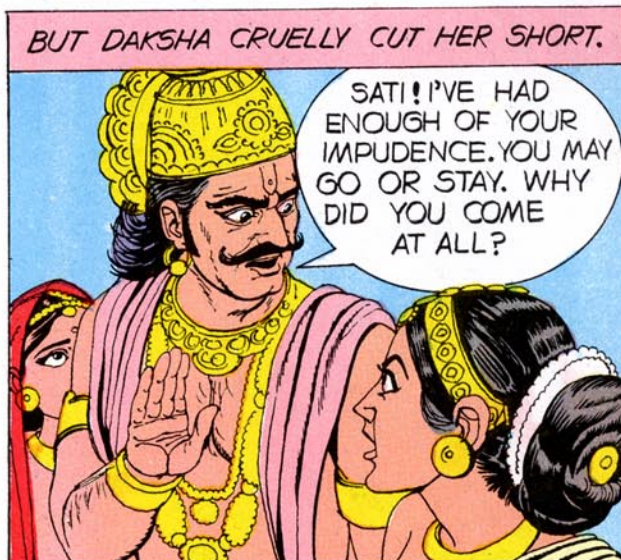
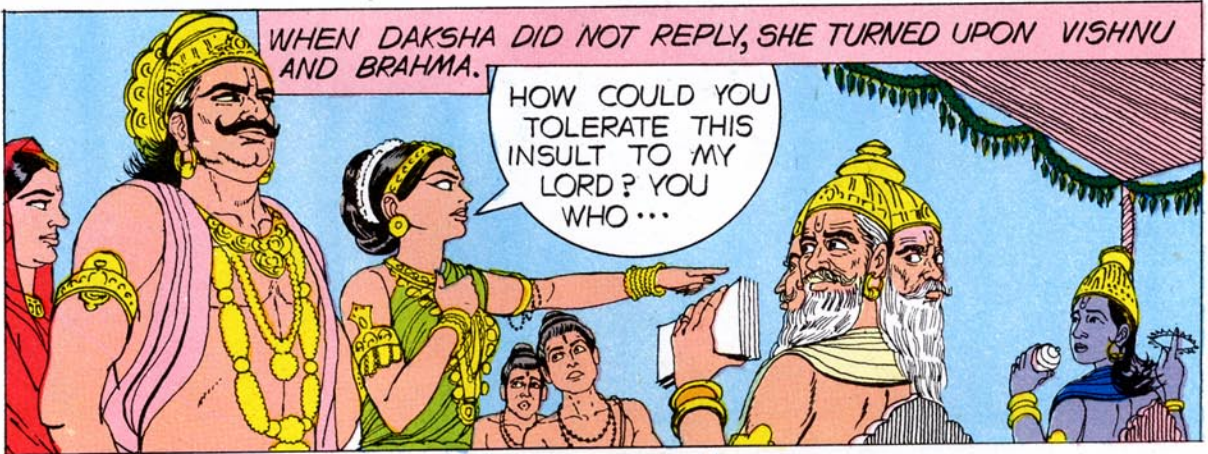
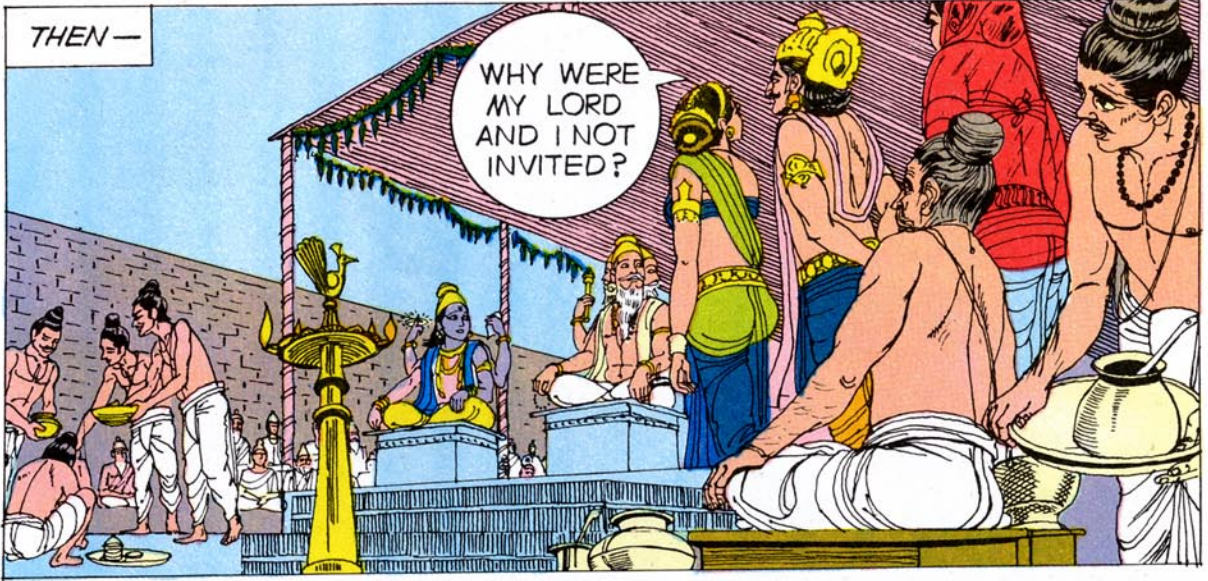


AT THE GATES OF DAKSHA'S ABODE, SATI DISMOUNTED AND WALKED UP TO HER FATHER. BUT HE IGNORED HER PRESENCE.



YET SATI, EVER DUTIFUL, BOWED TO HER PARENTS.





THEN HE BECAME CALMER.

ANYWAY, NOW THAT YOU HAVE COME, FORGET HIM. SIT DOWN AND ACCEPT A SHARE OF THE SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS.



SATI, FOR A MOMENT, STOOD SPEECHLESS WITH SHAME AND ANGER.

WHY? OH WHY DID I INSIST ON COMING?



THEN SHE TURNED UPON HER FATHER.

YOU ARE VAIN AND WICKED. I AM ASHAMED TO CALL MYSELF YOUR DAUGHTER.



I WILL CAST OFF THIS BODY OF MINE AS A WORTHLESS CORPSE.

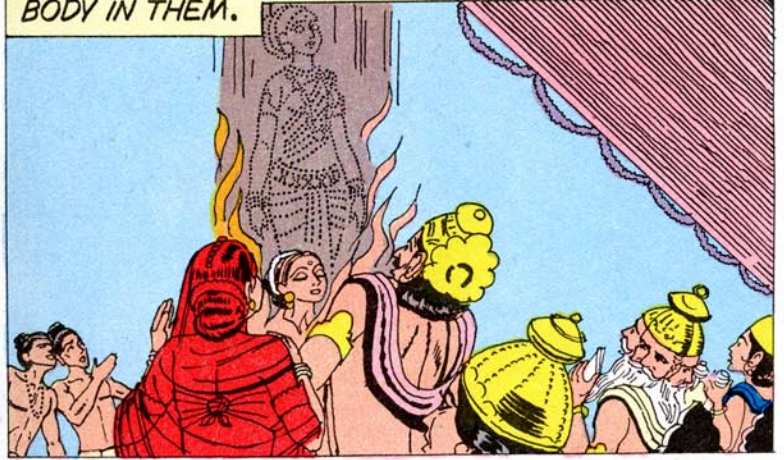


THEN, BECOMING CALMER, SHE FIXED HER MIND ON HER LORD.

MY LORD,
I SHALL COME BACK
TO YOU WHEN I AM RE-
BORN OF A FATHER I CAN
RESPECT.



AND INVOKING YOGIC FLAMES, SATI IMMOLATED HER BODY IN THEM.

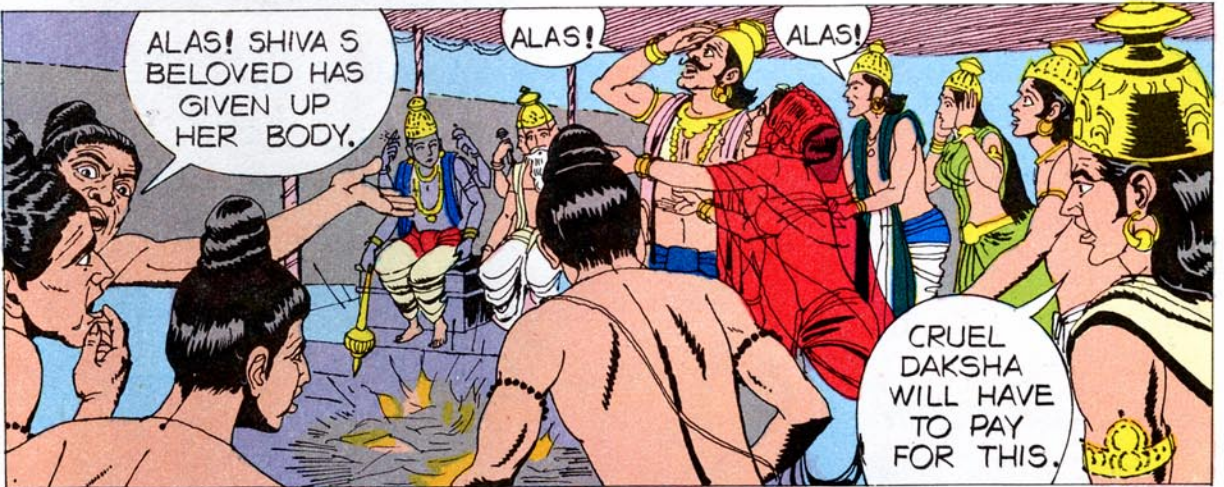


ALAS! SHIVA'S
BELOVED HAS
GIVEN UP
HER BODY.

ALAS!

ALAS!

CRUEL
DAKSHA
WILL HAVE
TO PAY
FOR THIS.



HER ATTENDANTS, WHO WERE WAITING OUTSIDE, HEARD THESE CRIES AND CHARGED IN.

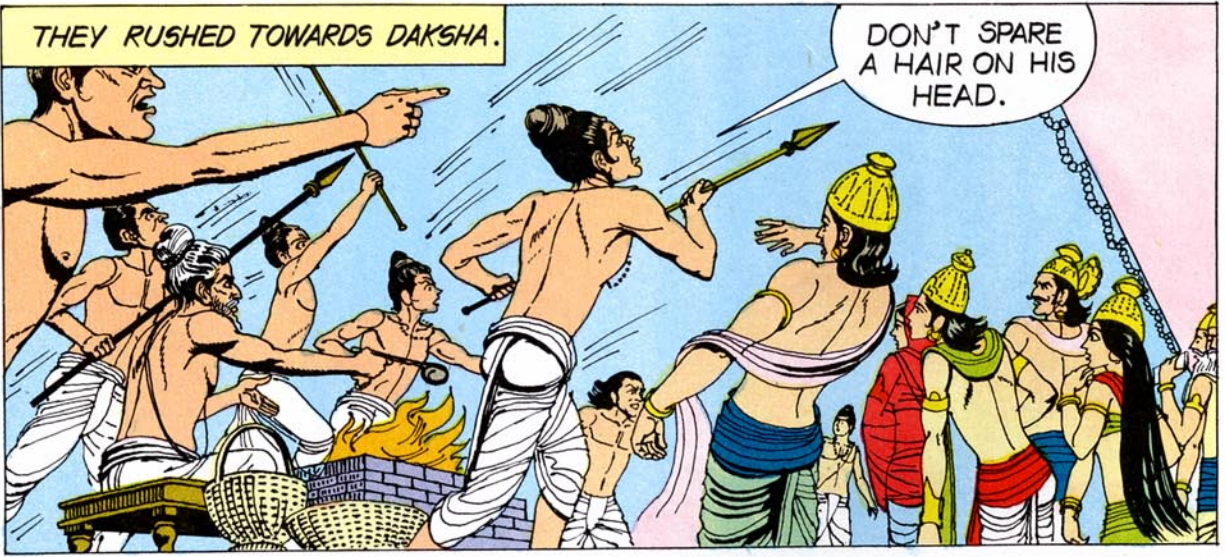
FIE ON THE
EVIL
PRAJAPATI!

WHERE
IS HE?

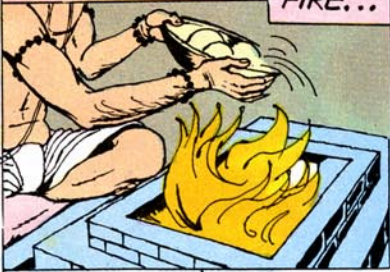


THEY RUSHED TOWARDS DAKSHA.

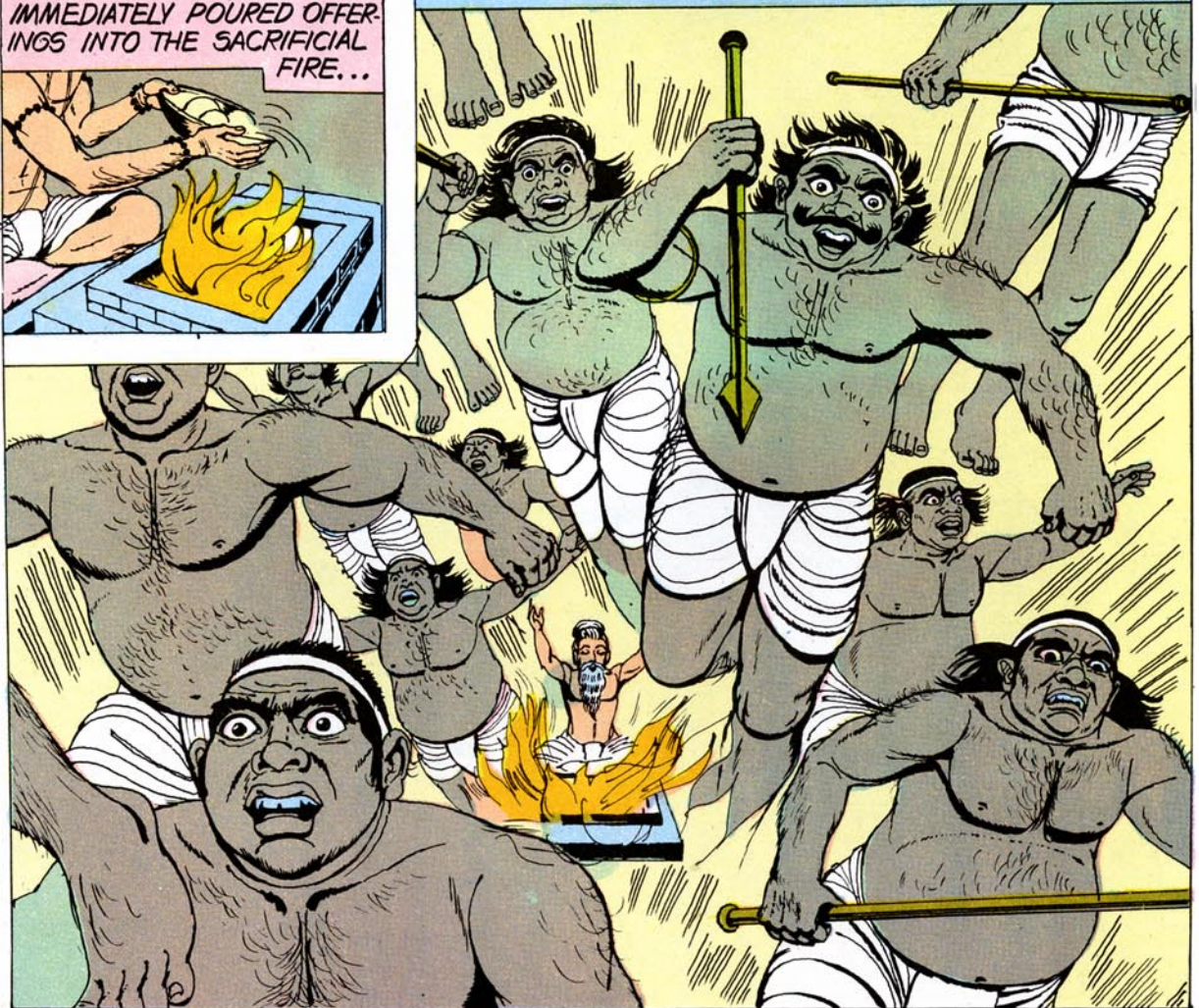
DON'T SPARE
A HAIR ON HIS
HEAD.



BUT THE SAGE, BHRIGU,
IMMEDIATELY POURED OFFER-
INGS INTO THE SACRIFICIAL
FIRE...



... AND INVOKED THOUSANDS OF POWERFUL DEMONS.



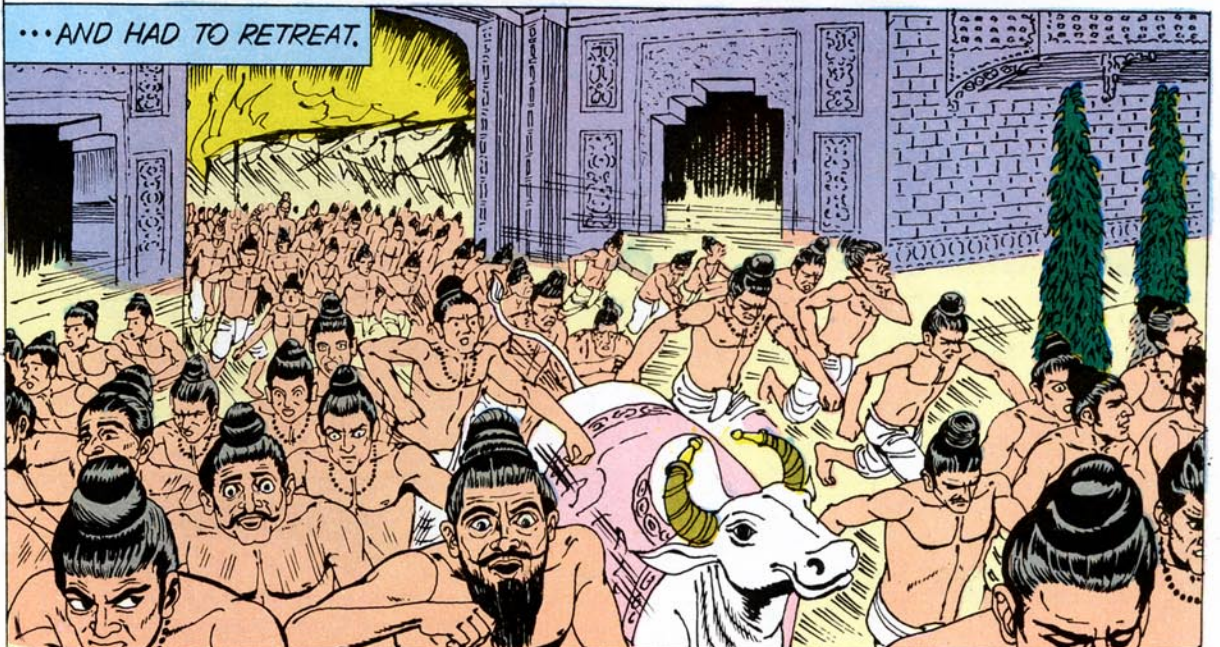
A TERRIBLE FIGHT ENSUED.



SHIVA'S ATTENDANTS WERE DEFEATED...



...AND HAD TO RETREAT.

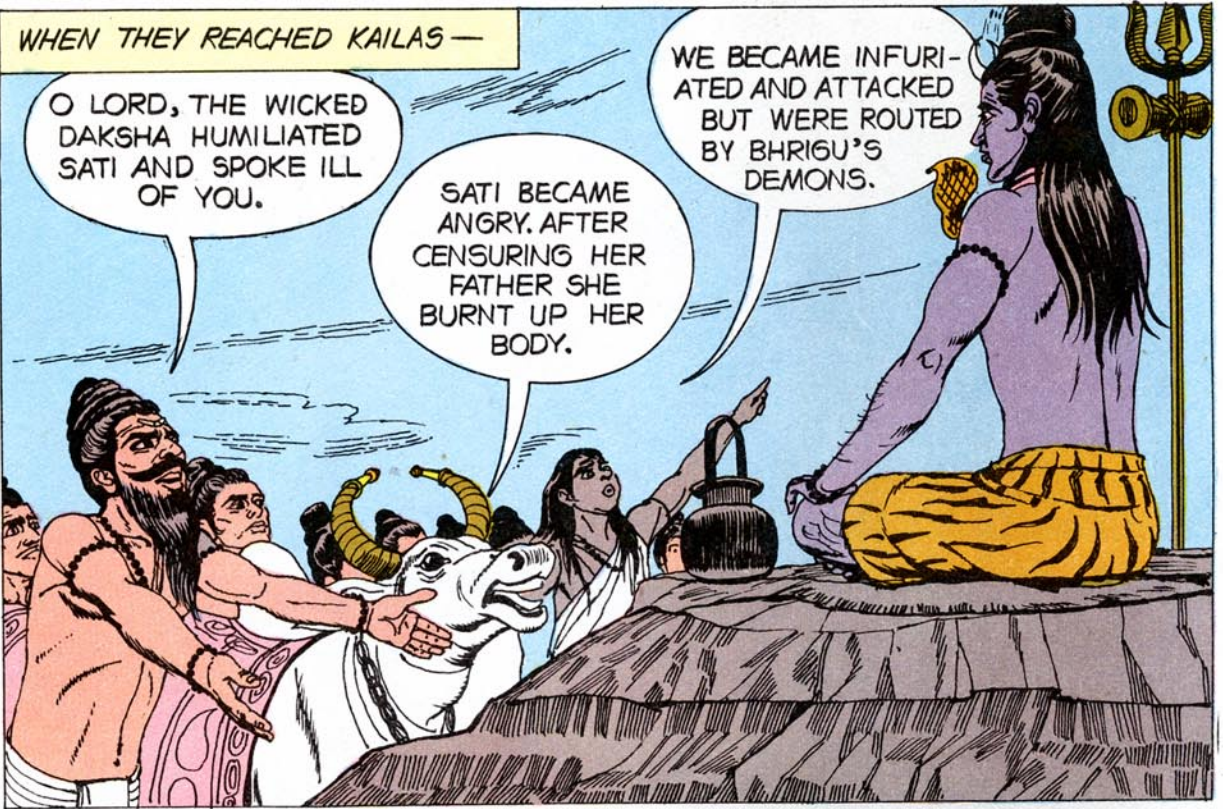


WHEN THEY REACHED KAILAS —

O LORD, THE WICKED
DAKSHA HUMILIATED
SATI AND SPOKE ILL
OF YOU.

SATI BECAME
ANGRY. AFTER
CENSURING HER
FATHER SHE
BURNT UP HER
BODY.

WE BECAME INFURI-
ATED AND ATTACKED
BUT WERE ROUTED
BY BHRIGU'S
DEMONS.



SHIVA WAS FURIOUS.

HE PLUCKED OUT A CLUSTER OF HIS
MATTED HAIR AND...



...DASHED IT TO THE GROUND.



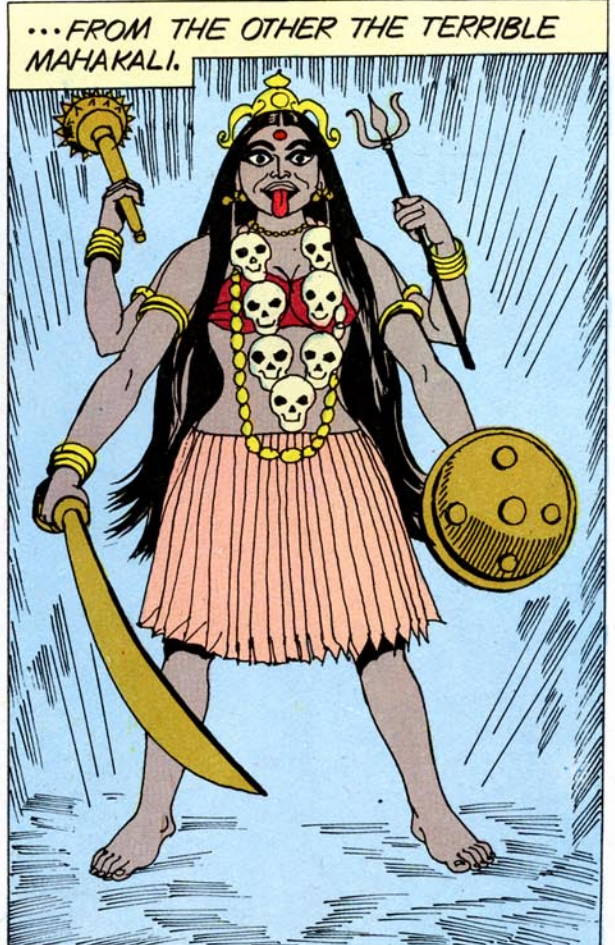
THE CLUSTER SPLIT IN TWO.

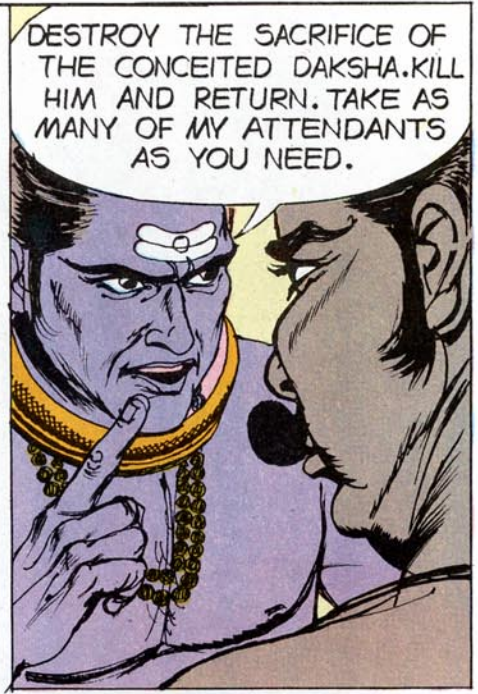


FROM ONE HALF AROSE THE POWERFUL VIRABHADRA AND...



...FROM THE OTHER THE TERRIBLE MAHAKALI.





EAGER TO CARRY OUT THE COMMAND, VIRABHADRA SET OFF AT ONCE FOR DAKSHA'S ABODE WITH MAHA KALI LEADING THE HORDES.



WHILE VIRABHADRA ADVANCED, A NUMBER OF BAD OMENS WERE SEEN BY DAKSHA AND HIS GUESTS. A CELESTIAL VOICE CURSED DAKSHA.

FIE UPON
YOUR LIFE NOW,
DAKSHA! GREAT
MISERY WILL
BEFALL YOU.

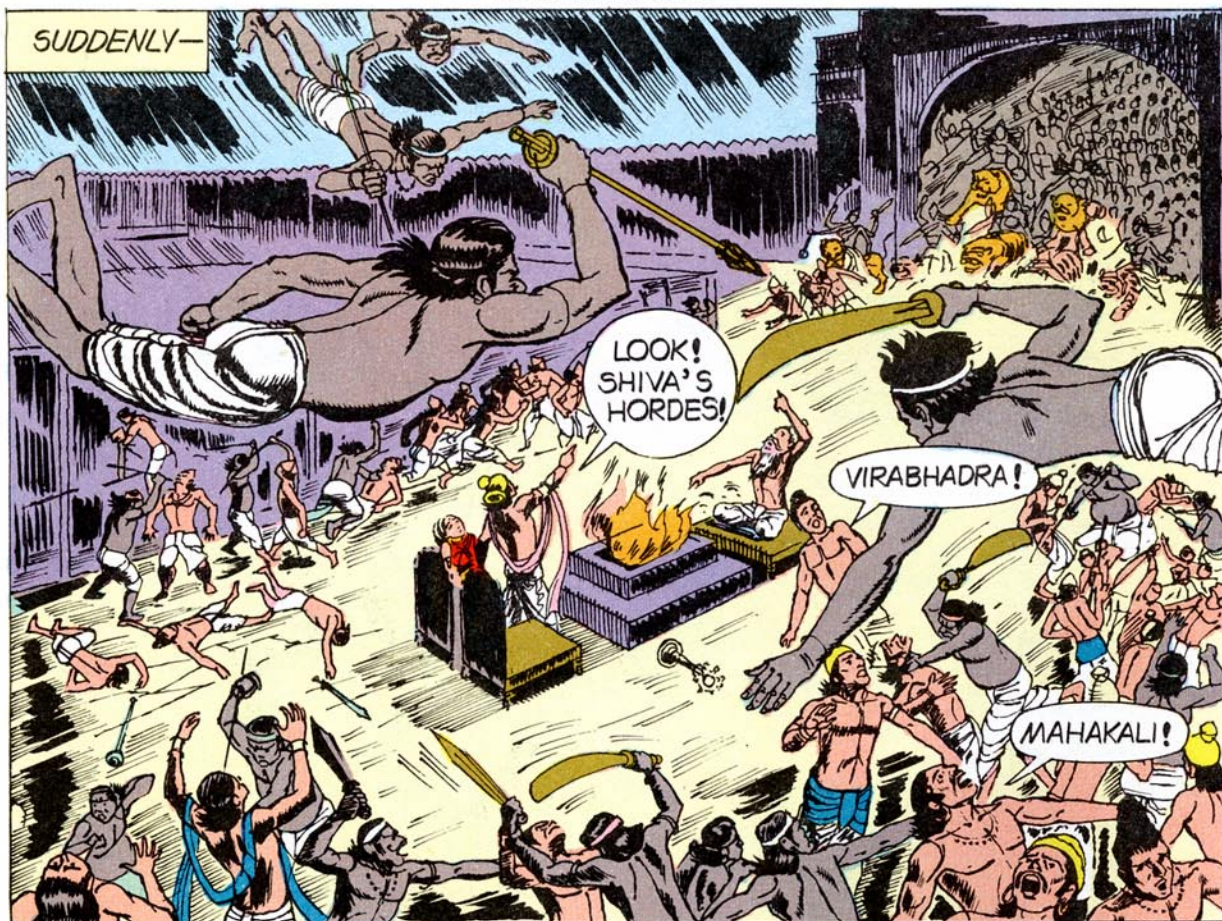
JACKALS!
CAN YOU HEAR
THEM HOWL?

MY LEFT EYE,
ARM AND THIGH
THROB. THE THREE
BAD OMENS. I
AM DOOMED.

E-E-E-E-OW

THE SACRIFICIAL
PLATFORM. IT'S
BEING BLOWN
UP BY THE WIND.
SAVE IT!
SAVE IT!

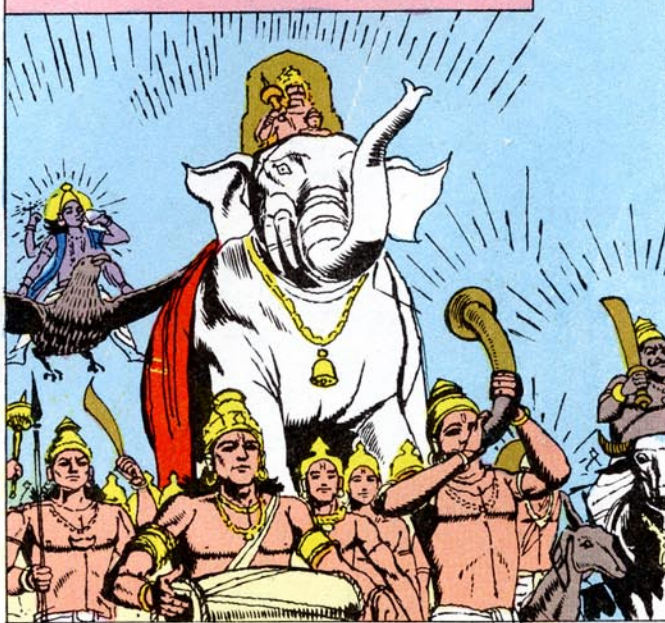
SUDDENLY—



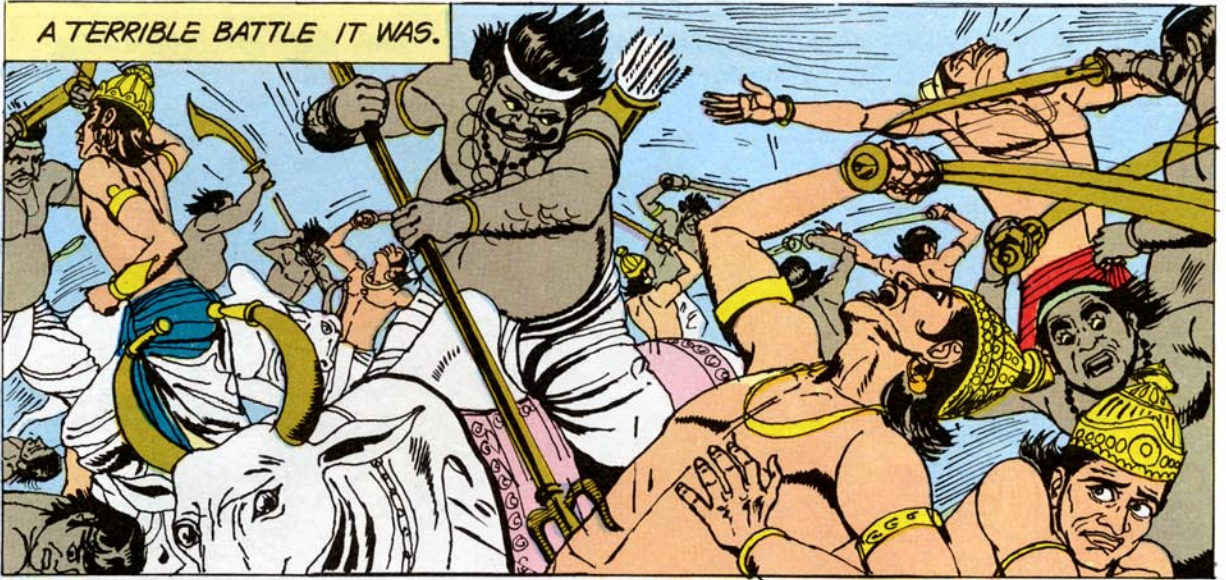
DAKSHA APPEALED TO INDRA,
KING OF THE DEVAS.



INDRA IMMEDIATELY MOUNTED HIS ELEPHANT AND LED THE DEVAS.



A TERRIBLE BATTLE IT WAS.



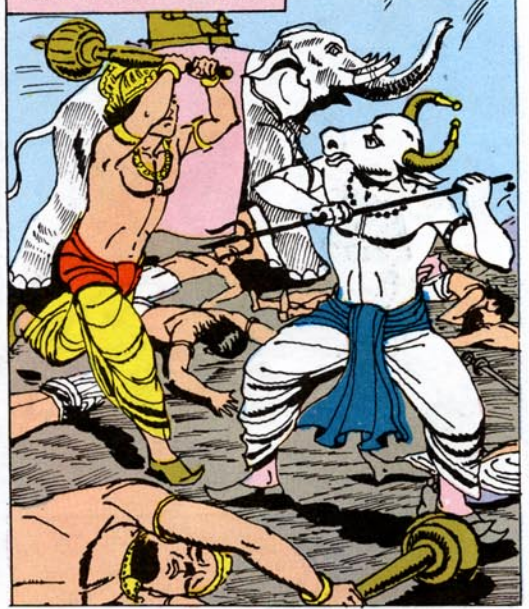
BHRIGU ONCE AGAIN INVOKED HIS DEMONS. BUT THEY WERE QUELLED.



MANY OF THE DEVAS AND CELESTIAL SAGES DESERTED AND FLED TO HEAVEN.



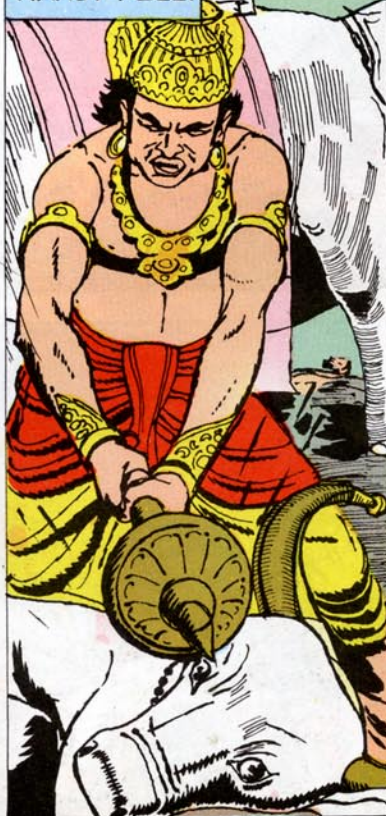
BUT INDRA DID NOT GIVE UP. HE ATTACKED NANDI.



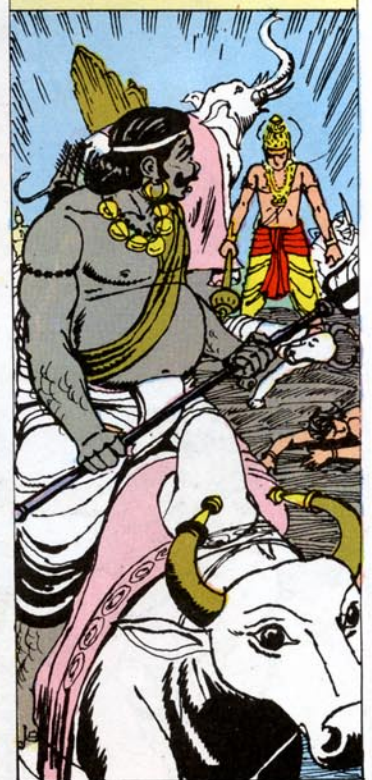
NANDI PIERCED HIM WITH HIS TRIDENT.



INDRA RETALIATED WITH HIS THUNDERBOLT, AND NANDI FELL.



VIRABHADRA WAS FURIOUS TO SEE SHIVA'S FAVOURITE LYING UNCONSCIOUS.



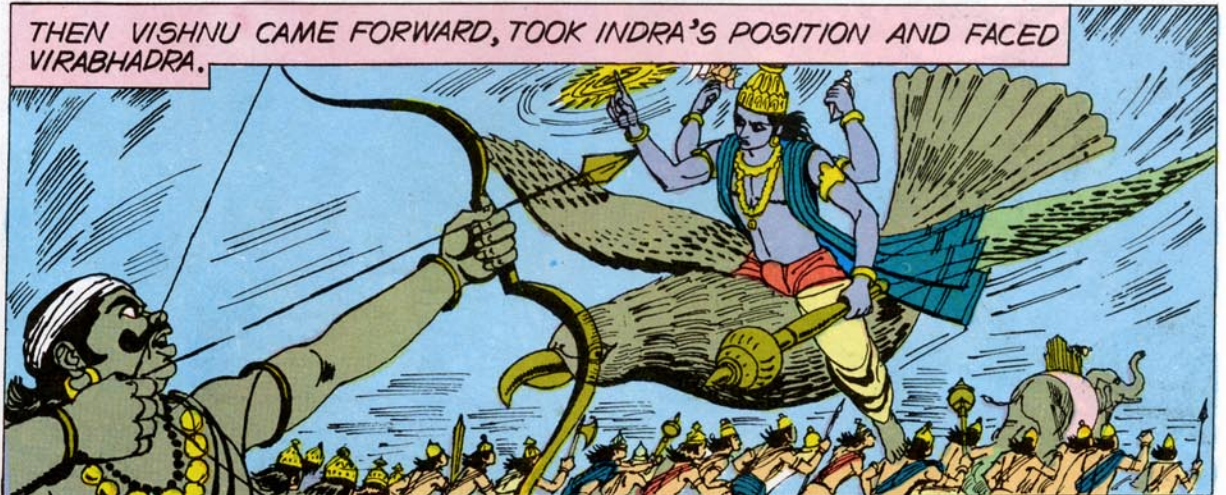
HE DREW HIS BOW AND LET FLY HIS DEADLY ARROWS.



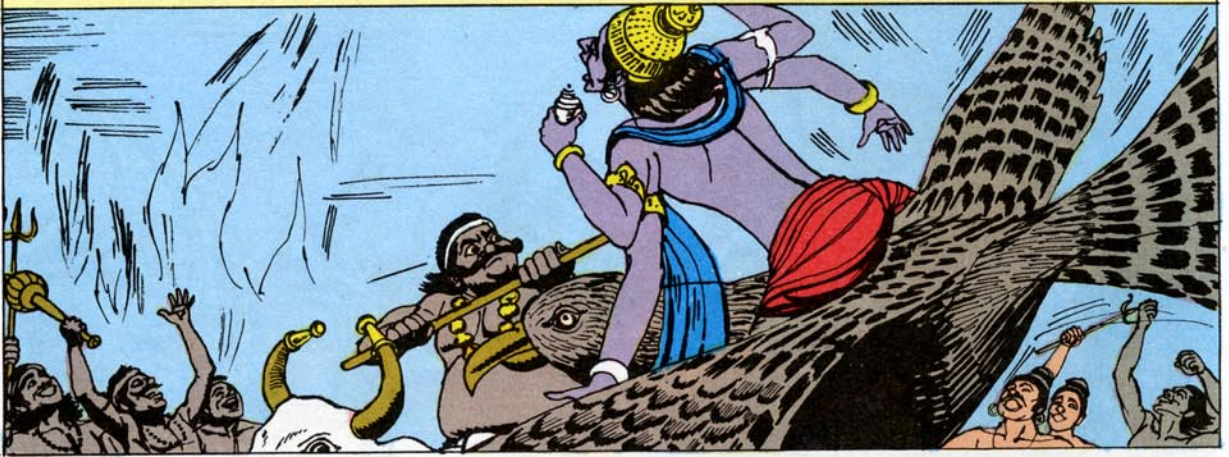
SEVERELY WOUNDED, EVEN INDRA HAD TO FLEE.



THEN VISHNU CAME FORWARD, TOOK INDRA'S POSITION AND FACED VIRABHADRA.



BUT VIRABHADRA CHARGED WITH HIS TRIDENT AND VISHNU FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



LEAVING HIM THERE, VIRABHADRA WENT IN SEARCH OF DAKSHA.



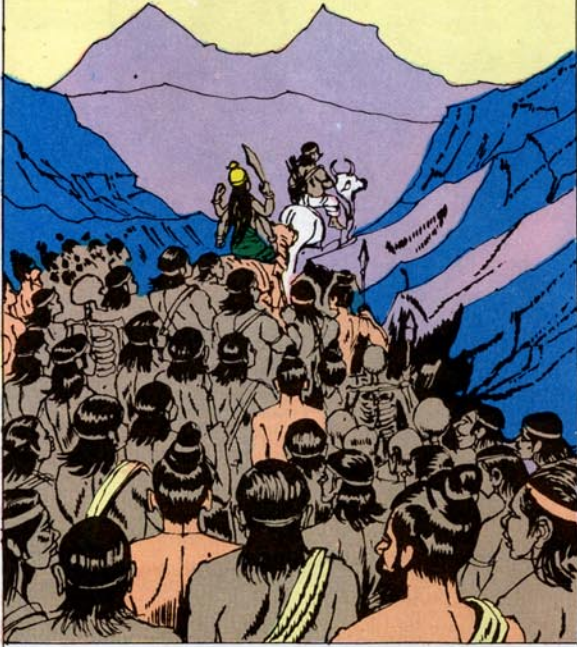
HE TORE OFF DAKSHA'S HEAD AND...



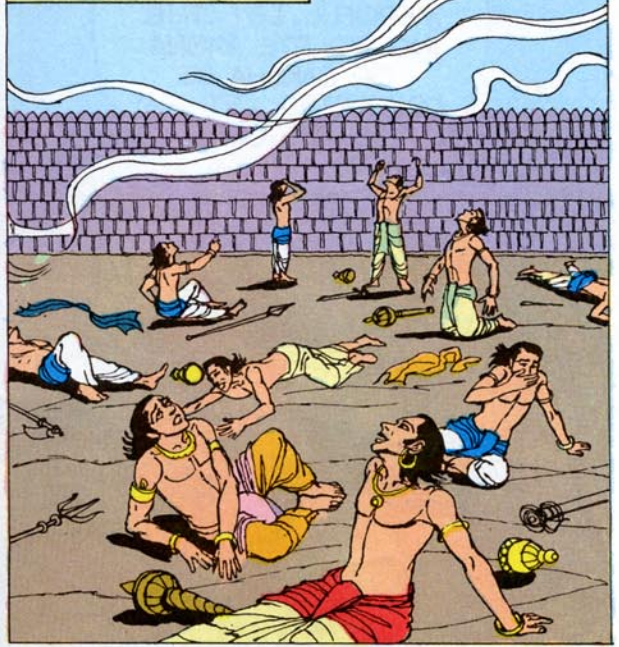
...THREW IT INTO THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE.



HIS TASK ACCOMPLISHED, HE RETURNED TO KAILAS.



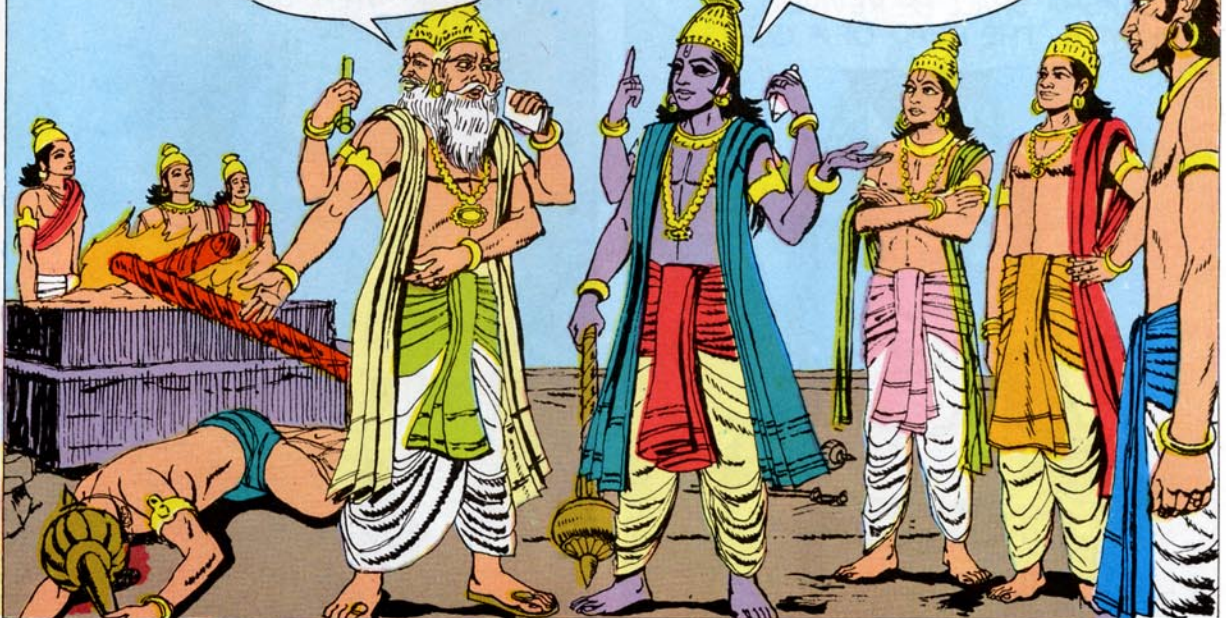
AS VIRABHADRA LEFT, COOL FRAGRANT BREEZES BLEW, REVIVING ALL THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN.



BRAHMA CAME UP TO VISHNU.

MY SON MUST BE BROUGHT TO LIFE AND THE YAGNA COMPLETED. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

LET'S GO TO SHIVA'S ABODE AND PROPITIATE HIM.



WHEN THEY REACHED SHIVA'S ABODE ON MOUNT KAILAS —

GREAT ONE ! YOU ARE
MERCIFUL. LET THE
INCOMPLETE YAGNA
OF DAKSHA BE
COMPLETED. LET HIM
BE RESTORED
TO LIFE.



DAKSHA ALLOWED HATE TO BECOME
HIS MASTER. IF ONE HATES ANOTHER
IT WILL RECOIL ON ONESELF.
DAKSHA SHALL BE REVIVED, BUT
WITH THE HEAD OF A GOAT.



THEN COME TO
THE SACRIFICIAL
ALTAR WITH US,
O LORD.

I SHALL.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE VENUE OF THE SACRIFICE—

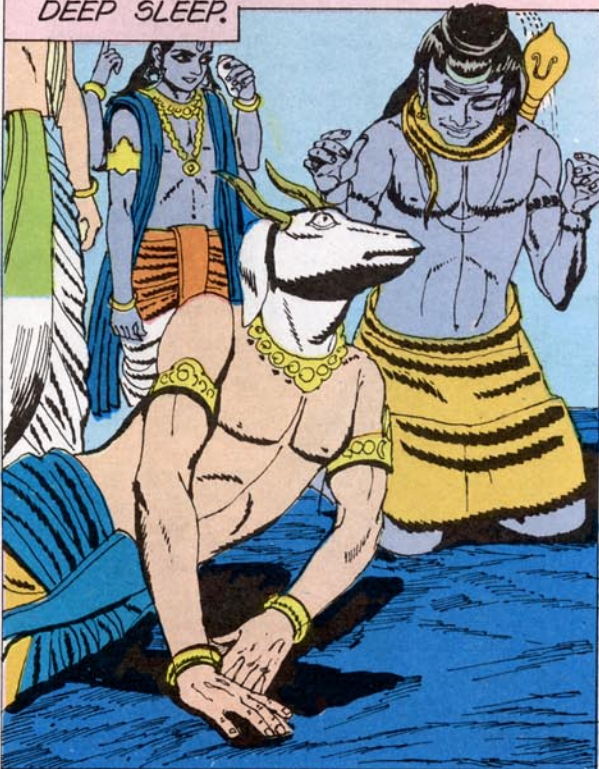
BRING ME THE HEAD OF THE SACRIFICIAL GOAT.



THE HEAD WAS BROUGHT. SHIVA JOINED IT TO DAKSHA'S NECK.

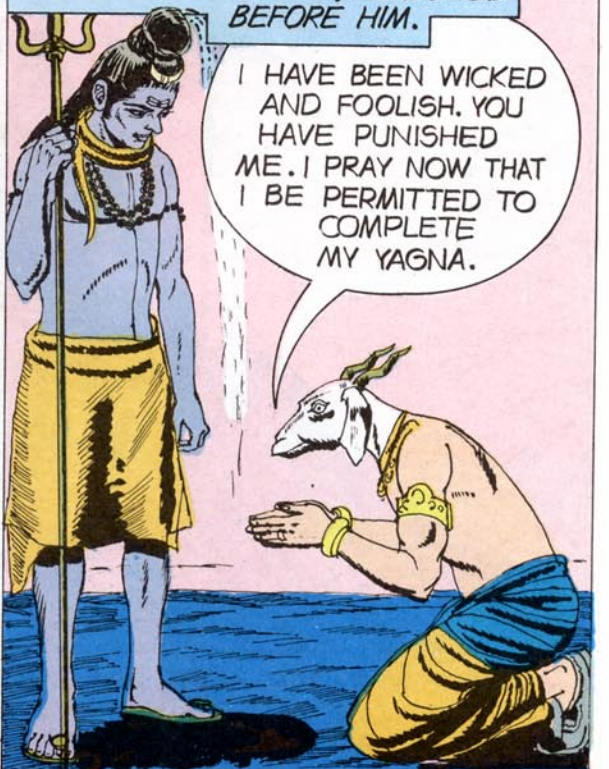


DAKSHA SLOWLY AROSE AS IF FROM A DEEP SLEEP.

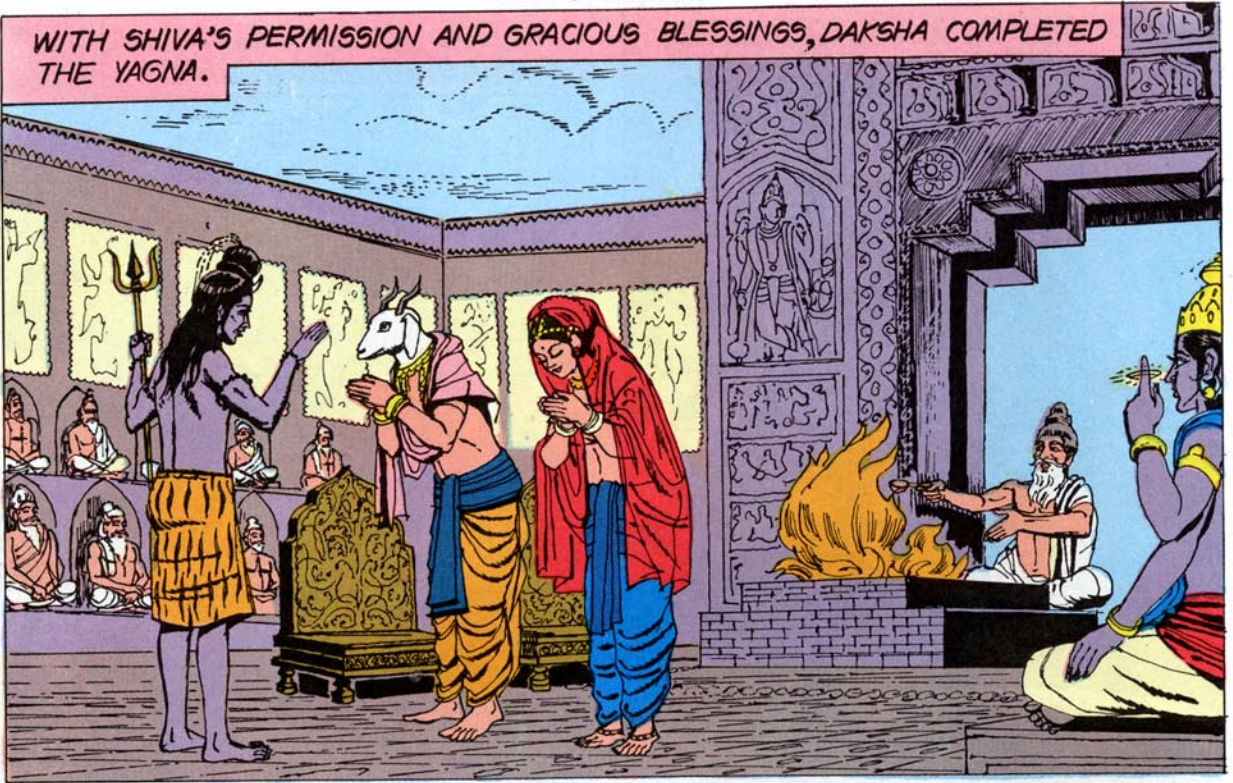


WHEN HE SAW SHIVA, HE BOWED BEFORE HIM.

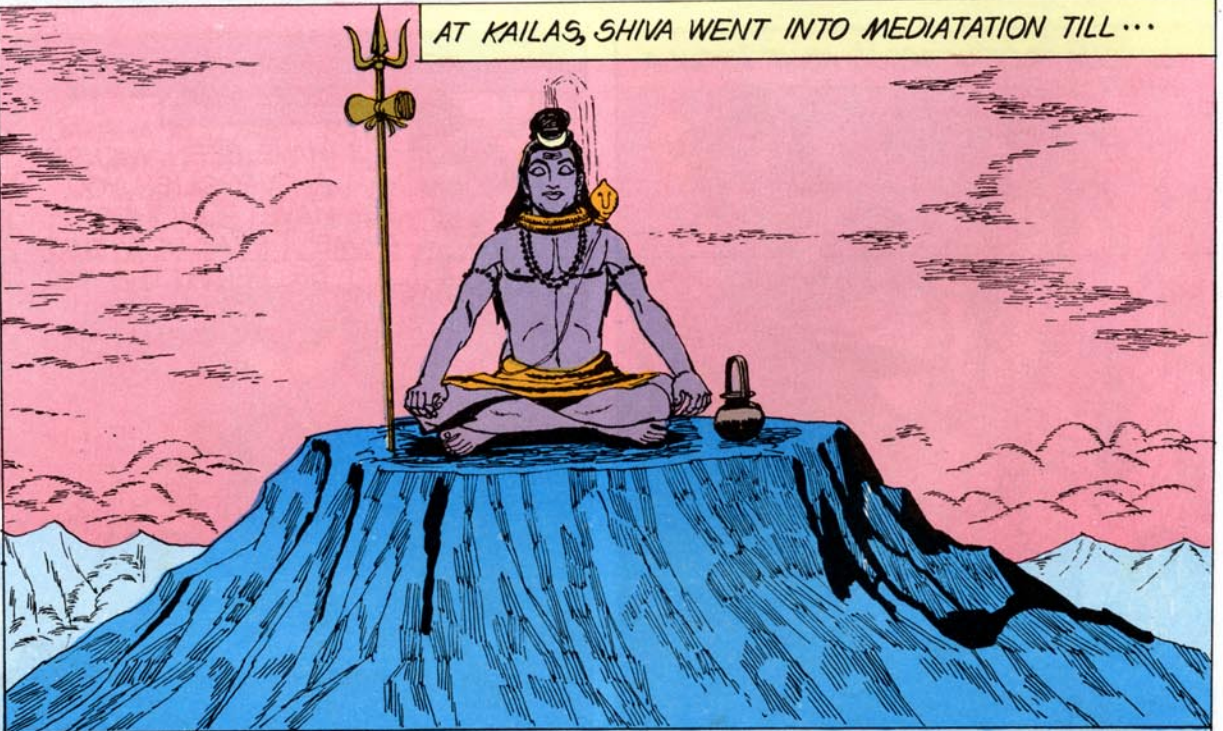
I HAVE BEEN WICKED AND FOOLISH. YOU HAVE PUNISHED ME. I PRAY NOW THAT I BE PERMITTED TO COMPLETE MY YAGNA.



WITH SHIVA'S PERMISSION AND GRACIOUS BLESSINGS, DAKSHA COMPLETED THE YAGNA.



AT KAILAS, SHIVA WENT INTO MEDITATION TILL ...



...SATI, TRUE TO HER WORD, WAS REBORN AS PARVATI TO HIMAVAN, A FATHER SHE COULD LOVE AND RESPECT AND WHO LOVED AND RESPECTED HER. AND AS PARVATI SHE WOODED AND WON SHIVA, NEVER TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIM AGAIN.