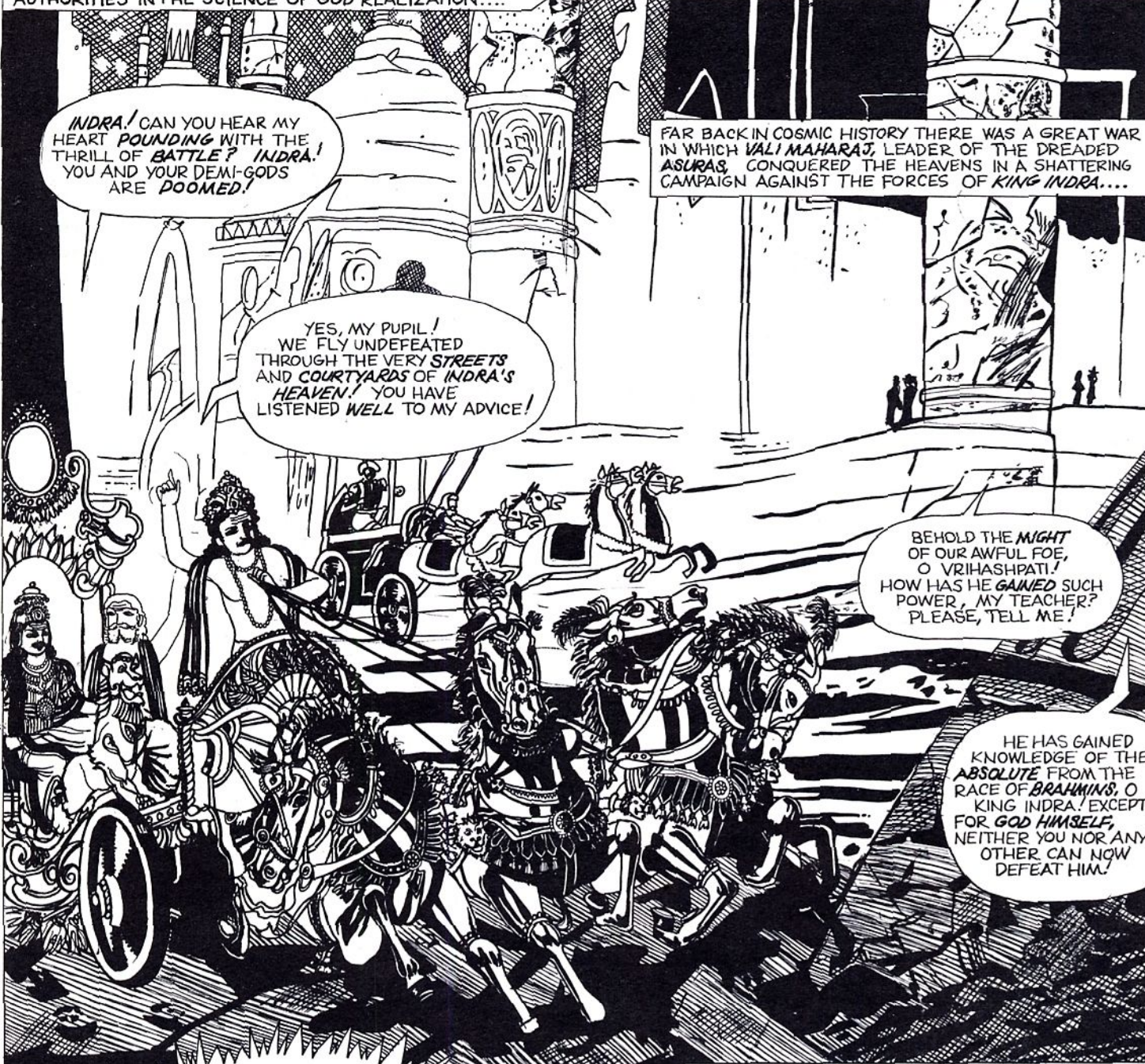


GREAT souls in krishna consciousness

MAHAJANS

VALI AND VAMANA

FROM THE SUBLIME SRIMAD BHAGWATAM COMES THE NARRATIVE OF VALI MAHARAJ--ONE OF THE MAHAJANS--THE GREAT AUTHORITIES IN THE SCIENCE OF GOD REALIZATION....



INDRA! CAN YOU HEAR MY HEART POUNDING WITH THE THRILL OF BATTLE? INDRA! YOU AND YOUR DEMI-GODS ARE DOOMED!

YES, MY PUPIL! WE FLY UNDEFEATED THROUGH THE VERY STREETS AND COURTYARDS OF INDRA'S HEAVEN! YOU HAVE LISTENED WELL TO MY ADVICE!

FAR BACK IN COSMIC HISTORY THERE WAS A GREAT WAR IN WHICH VALI MAHARAJ, LEADER OF THE DREADED ASURAS, CONQUERED THE HEAVENS IN A SHATTERING CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE FORCES OF KING INDRA....

BEHOLD THE MIGHT OF OUR AWFUL FOE, O VRIHASHPATI! HOW HAS HE GAINED SUCH POWER, MY TEACHER? PLEASE, TELL ME!

HE HAS GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF THE ABSOLUTE FROM THE RACE OF BRAHMINS, O KING INDRA! EXCEPT FOR GOD HIMSELF, NEITHER YOU NOR ANY OTHER CAN NOW DEFEAT HIM!

ATTACK! ATTACK! OH, SEE HOW THE CELESTIALS ARE STRICKEN WITH FEAR!

WRITTEN BY
ILLUSTRATED BY
LETTERED BY

SATSVARUPA DAS ADHIKARY
JADURANY DEVI DAS/
MADHUSUDAN DAS BRAHMACHARY



HE HAS ACQUIRED HIS POWERS BY SACRIFICE TO THE BRAHMINS-- THE MIGHTY ALL-WISE PRIESTS!

HE WILL SURELY BE CONSUMED BY HIS OWN MADNESS IN THE END! BUT FOR TODAY-- IT IS WE WHO MUST FLEE!

YOU ARE OUR SPIRITUAL MASTER, AND WE SHALL ABIDE BY YOUR DECISION! BUT THIS IS NO HAPPY CHOICE!

COME, MY PEOPLE! LET US ASSUME ANIMAL FORMS--AND LEAVE THESE HEAVENS AT OUR WILL! SURELY--IN TIME--WE WILL REGAIN OUR PLACE--BY THE GRACE OF THE LORD!

SOON AFTERWARDS, ADITI, WIFE OF THE GREAT SAGE KASYAPA, MOTHER OF INDRA AND THE OTHER CELESTIALS, BEWAILS THE EXILE OF HER CHILDREN....



I DO ADORE THEE, O HUSBAND! AS YOU ARE MY GURU, DO BE PLEASED TO THINK OF MY WELL BEING! DO GOOD TO MY SONS WHO HAVE BEEN ROBBED!

DO NOT ADORE THE HUSBAND OR THE SON, FOR THEY HAVE NO POWER TO HELP YOU, ADITI! JUST WORSHIP THE WORLD'S TRUE TEACHER, GOD HIMSELF--SRI VISHNU! ONLY HE CAN LEAD US TO SUCCESS!

LISTEN TO ME, AND I WILL TELL YOU THE CORRECT WAY TO PLEASE THE LORD, IF YOU SO DESIRE IT!

WITH REVERENCE, ADITI STEADFASTLY FOLLOWS KASYAPA'S INSTRUCTIONS....



SALUTATIONS UNTO THE ONE LORD, THE INVISIBLE GODHEAD, VISHNU! BE PLEASED BY MY PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS!

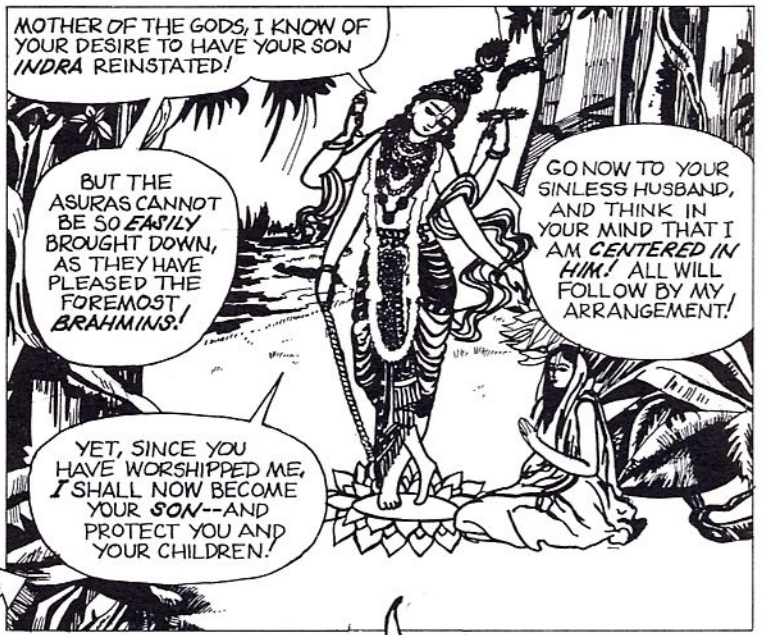
KINDLY TAKE THIS FOOD, GOOD BRAHMIN!

KASYAPA HAS TOLD ME THAT WHEN YOU ARE PLEASED, THE LORD IS MOST FULLY PLEASED!



AFTER 12 DAYS OF PENANCE, FASTING AND CONSTANT CHANTING, ADITI BEHOLDS THE ALMIGHTY PERSONALITY OF GODHEAD....

O INFINITE LORD!
GLORY TO YOU!



MOTHER OF THE GODS, I KNOW OF YOUR DESIRE TO HAVE YOUR SON INDRA REINSTATED!

BUT THE ASURAS CANNOT BE SO EASILY BROUGHT DOWN, AS THEY HAVE PLEASSED THE FOREMOST BRAHMINS!

GO NOW TO YOUR SINLESS HUSBAND, AND THINK IN YOUR MIND THAT I AM CENTERED IN HIM! ALL WILL FOLLOW BY MY ARRANGEMENT!

YET, SINCE YOU HAVE WORSHIPPED ME, I SHALL NOW BECOME YOUR SON--AND PROTECT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN!



SHORTLY....

REJOICE IN THE LORD, KASYAPA! I HAVE PERFORMED ALL THE SACRIFICES--AND HE WHO IS THE UNIVERSE HAS PROMISED TO APPEAR--AS OUR SON!

THE LORD IS HERE--WITHIN ME! BY MY YOGA POWER I CAN UNDERSTAND THE PART I AM TO PLAY!

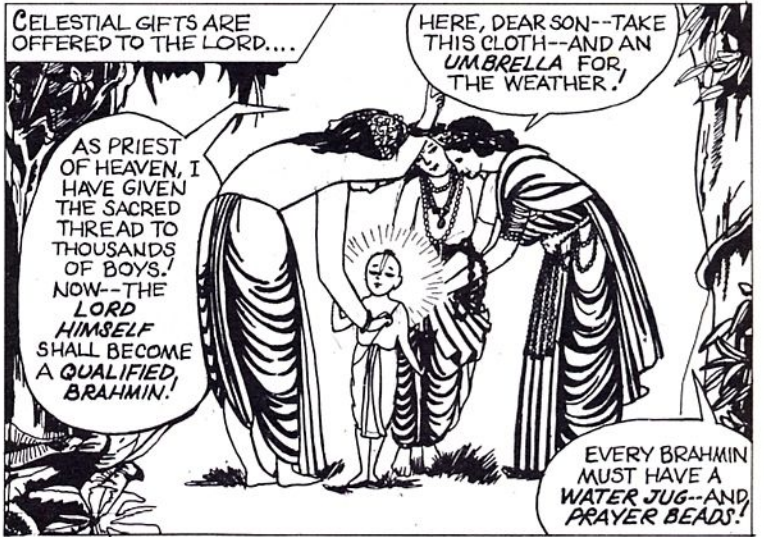
AND SO, THROUGH KASYAPA, THE SUPREME PERSONALITY OF GOD-HEAD IS BORN TO ADITI, WHILE THE GREAT PERSONALITIES OF THE SPIRITUAL WORLD APPEAR TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS....



GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

THOUGH YOU DWELL ABOVE THIS UNIVERSE, YOU HAVE COME HERE IN ANSWER TO ADITI'S PRAYER!

HE WHO IS BEYOND BIRTH AND DEATH HAS TAKEN HIS BIRTH AS VAMANA THE DWARF--SON OF THE BRAHMIN, KASYAPA!



CELESTIAL GIFTS ARE OFFERED TO THE LORD....

HERE, DEAR SON--TAKE THIS CLOTH--AND AN UMBRELLA FOR THE WEATHER!

AS PRIEST OF HEAVEN, I HAVE GIVEN THE SACRED THREAD TO THOUSANDS OF BOYS! NOW--THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL BECOME A QUALIFIED BRAHMIN!

EVERY BRAHMIN MUST HAVE A WATER JUG--AND PRAYER BEADS!

LATER....



MY DEAR PARENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE MADE SUCH A NICE CEREMONY!

NOW I CAN TELL YOU BRAHMAJI, THAT I AM GOING FORTH TO THE PLACE WHERE MAHARAJ VALI IS! HE IS OF THAT PRINCELY ORDER WHICH IS ALWAYS READY TO GIVE IN CHARITY!

I AM GOING TO APPROACH HIM--AND BEG SOMETHING! AND JUST SEE HOW THIS WILL COMPLETELY ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSE OF MY MOTHER!

MEANWHILE, AT THE PALACE OF THE ASURAS, KING VALI AND HIS TEACHER, SUKARA, ARE ENGAGED IN A NEW SACRIFICE....



HURRY ALONG! BRING OUT MORE RICE! ISN'T THE CLARIFIED BUTTER PREPARED YET?

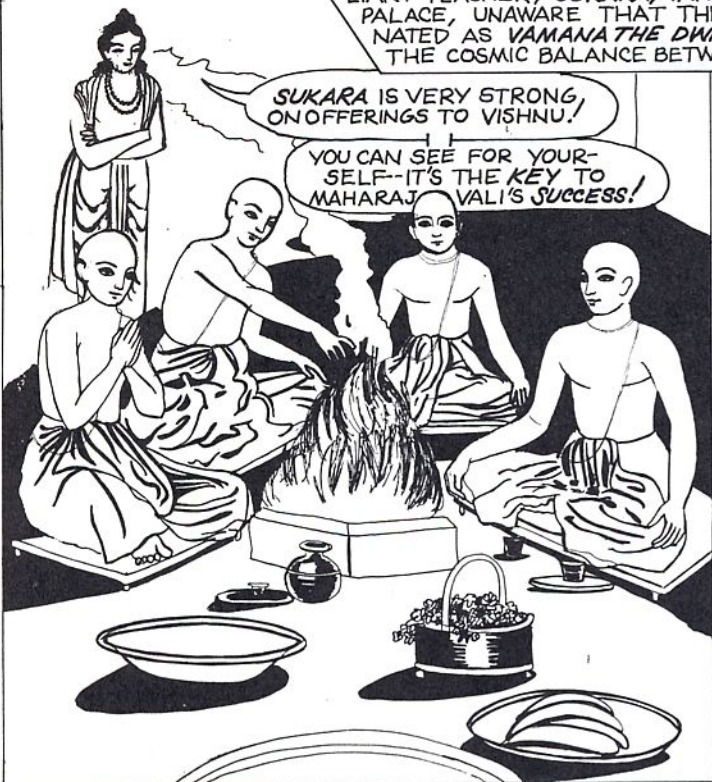
SUCH QUANTITIES OF GRAIN OFFERED INTO THE FIRE! THIS MAKES 100 SACRIFICES IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS! OUR KING VALI SHALL NEVER BE VANQUISHED!

OF COURSE, VALI AND HIS CONQUERING HORDES ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE--AND WE'RE IN FOR A DELIGHTFUL STORY--BUT SPACE WON'T PERMIT IT THIS ISSUE. WHY NOT JOIN US NEXT MONTH FOR MAHARAJ VALI'S CONFRONTATION WITH VAMANA THE DWARF?

MAHAJANS

great souls in krishna consciousness

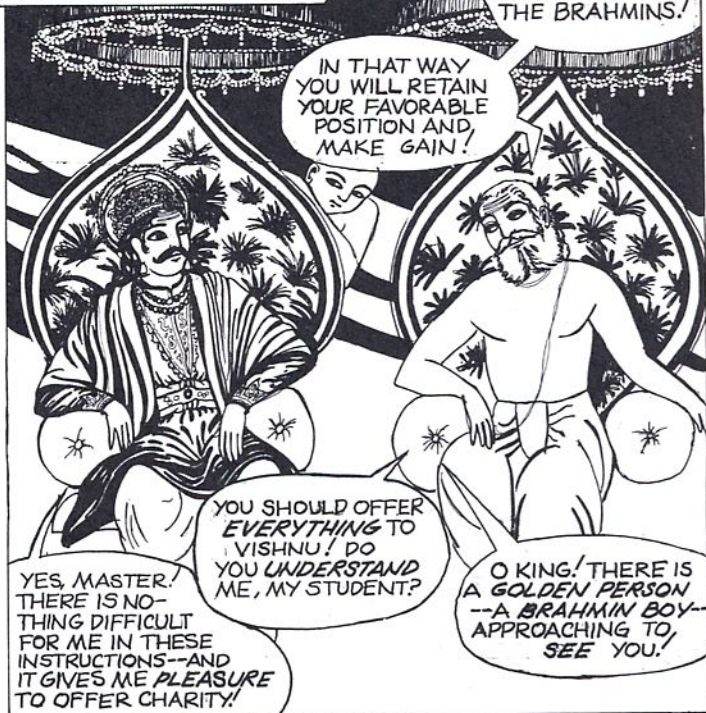
THE STORY OF VALI AND VAMANA—CONCLUSION: HAVING CONQUERED INDRA'S CELESTIAL KINGDOM, THE ASURA KING VALI AND HIS BRILLIANT TEACHER, SUKARA, TAKE RESIDENCE IN THE DEMIGOD'S PALACE, UNAWARE THAT THE SUPREME LORD HAS INCARNATED AS VAMANA THE DWARF IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE COSMIC BALANCE BETWEEN GODS AND DEMONS....



SUKARA IS VERY STRONG ON OFFERINGS TO VISHNU!

YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF--IT'S THE KEY TO MAHARAJ VALI'S SUCCESS!

I ADVISE YOU, MY DEAR VALI, TO KEEP UP THESE SACRIFICES TO VISHNU--AND TO THE BRAHMINS!



IN THAT WAY YOU WILL RETAIN YOUR FAVORABLE POSITION AND MAKE GAIN!

YOU SHOULD OFFER EVERYTHING TO VISHNU! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, MY STUDENT?

YES, MASTER! THERE IS NOTHING DIFFICULT FOR ME IN THESE INSTRUCTIONS--AND IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO OFFER CHARITY!

O KING! THERE IS A GOLDEN PERSON--A BRAHMIN BOY--APPROACHING YOU. SEE YOU!



WHO IS THIS? HAS THE SUN HIMSELF COME TO OUR SACRIFICE?

BEAUTIFUL BRAHMIN BOY! YOU APPEAR TO BE THE EPITOME OF THE BEST BRAHMINS!

HMMM! CAN THIS BE THE LORD HIMSELF--COME IN THE GUISE OF A BEGGAR TO TAKE EVERYTHING FROM US?



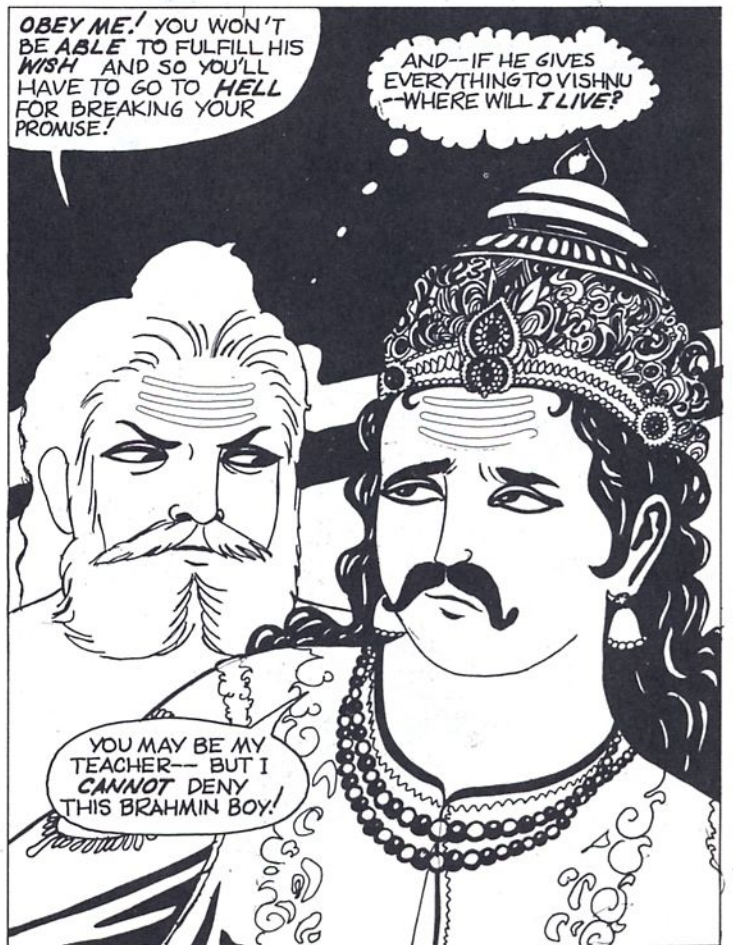
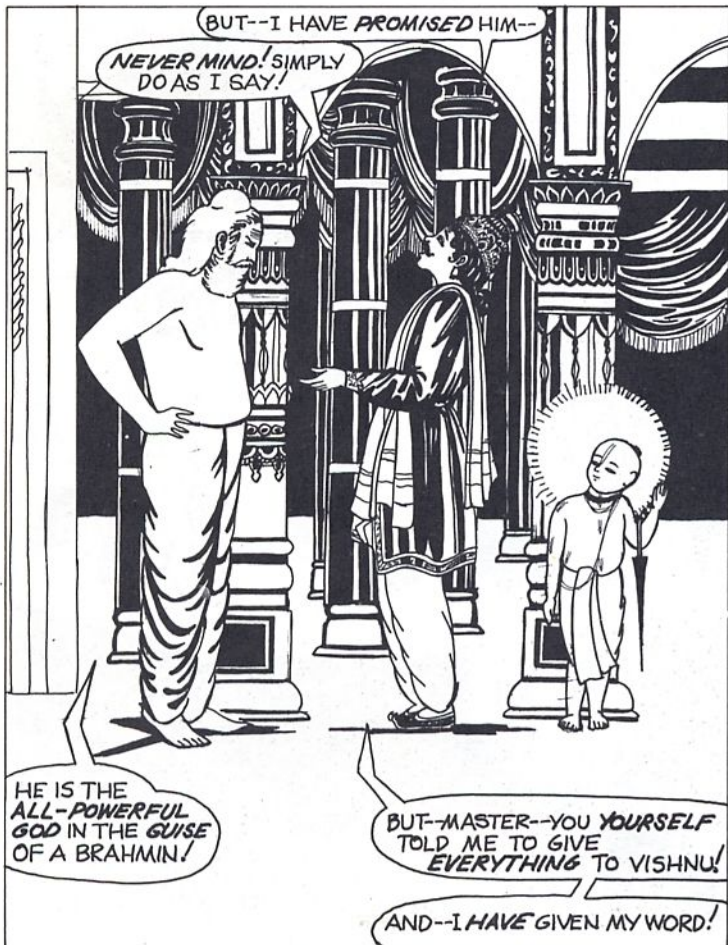
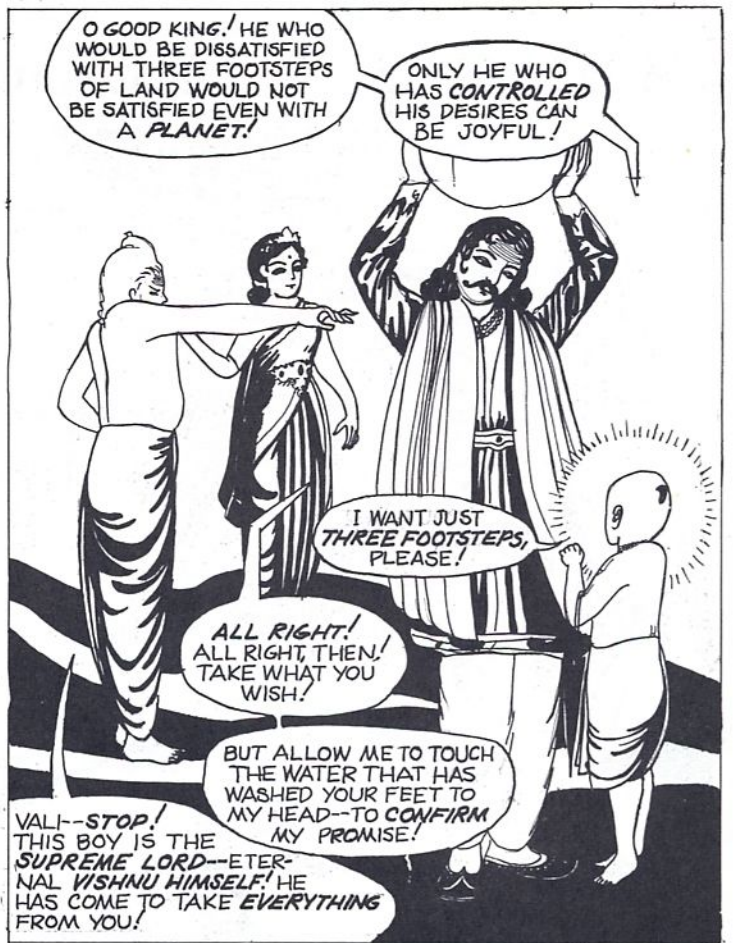
BRAHMIN BOY--I THINK YOU WISH SOMETHING OF ME!

SO, BE PLEASED! YOU HAVE COME TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST RULER!

THIS GROUND BELONGS TO ME-- BUT YOU HAVE BLESSED IT BY WALKING ON IT WITH YOUR FEET. COME NOW! TAKE GOLD, OR HOUSES, OR FOOD, OR GIRLS, OR ELEPHANTS-- WHATEVER YOU LIKE!

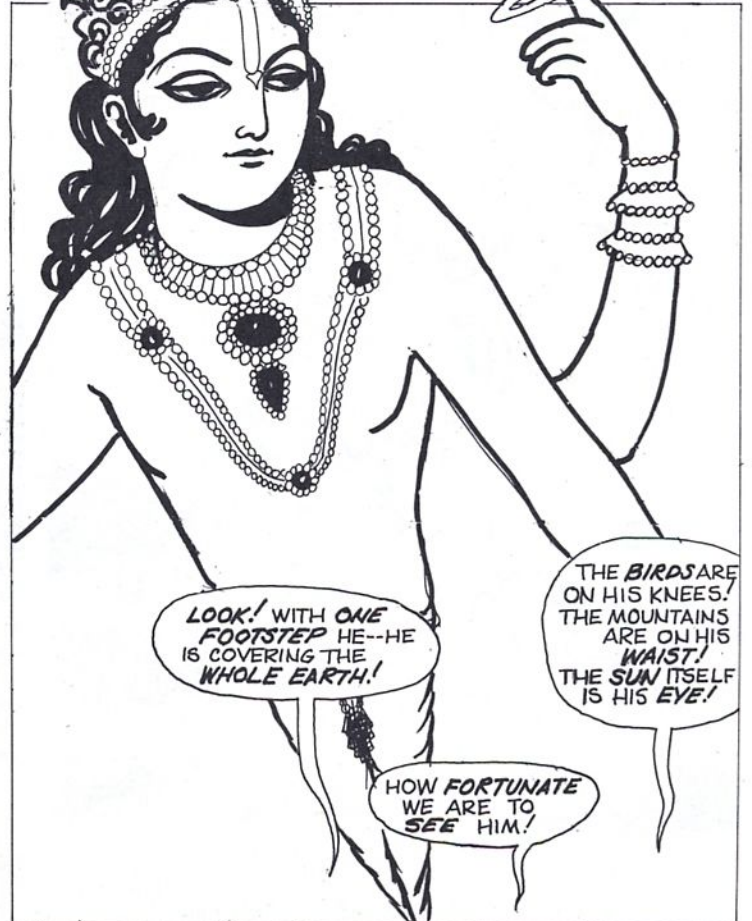
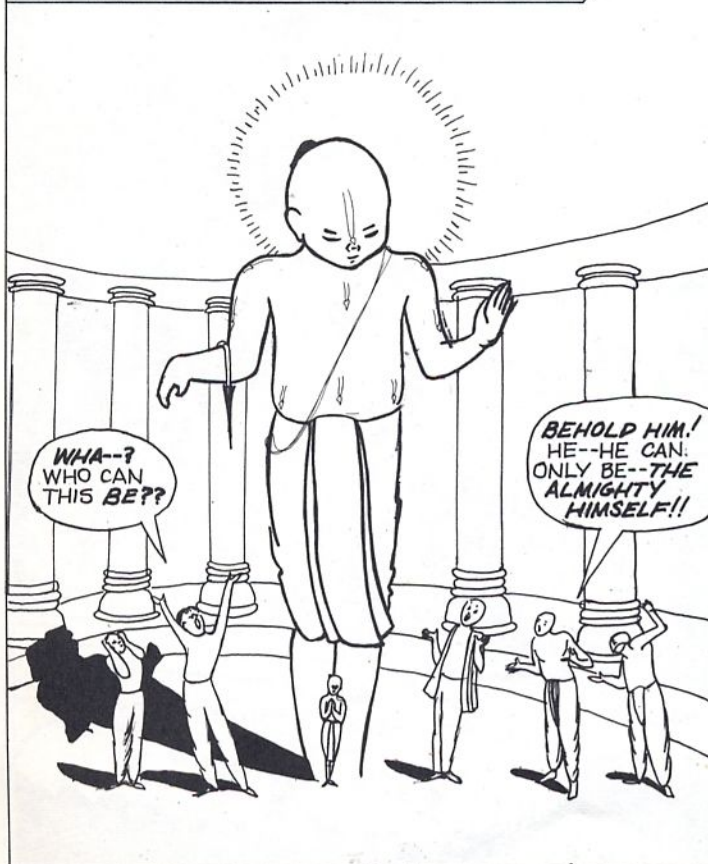
THE FOOL!

WRITTEN BY SATSVARUPA DAS ADHIKARY
ART BY JADURANY DEVI DAS!
LETTERED BY MADHUSUDAN DAS BRAHMACHARY





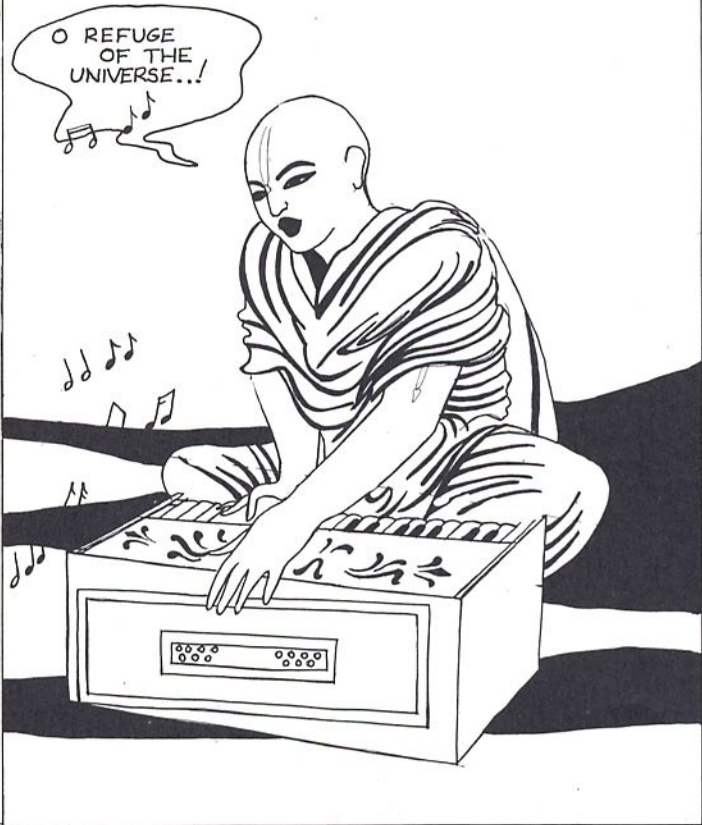
IMMEDIATELY, THE BRAHMIN BOY BEGINS TO GROW--TO TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO THE FORM OF THE COSMOS...





HIS SECOND FOOTSTEP HAS COVERED HEAVEN --AND HE'S REACHING RIGHT THROUGH TO THE TOP OF THE UNIVERSE -- THE HOME OF LORD BRAHMA!

THE GANDHARVAS, THE HEAVENLY SINGERS, PRAISE VAMANA WITH THEIR VOICES...



O REFUGE OF THE UNIVERSE...!



AS THEY BEHOLD THE LORD'S GIGANTIC FORM, THE DEMIGODS BEGIN TO SING HIS PRAISES...

JAI VISHNU!
JAI VISHNU!

VICTORY TO VISHNU!

THE MASTER OF ALL BEINGS HAS TAKEN ON THE UNIVERSAL FORM!
ALL GLORIES!

AS THE UNIVERSAL FORM OF VISHNU FULLY EXPANDS, THE AUSPICIOUS DEMIGOD, LORD SHIVA, ARRIVES TO OFFER HIS ADORATION...

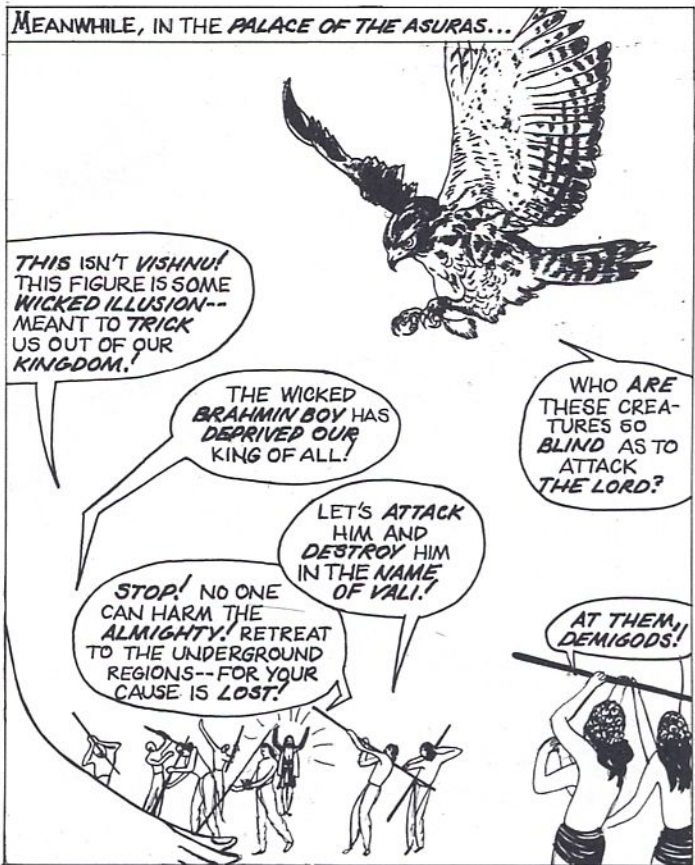


YOUR FOOT, ALMIGHTY LORD, HAS BROKEN THROUGH THE TOP OF THE UNIVERSE--AND SOME WATER FROM THE CAUSAL OCEAN HAS FALLEN THROUGH!

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO CARRY IT DOWN TO EARTH IN MY HAIR --LEST IT SMASH THAT WORLD TO PIECES!



DO SO--AND IT SHALL BE CALLED THE RIVER GANGES! TAKE CARE OF HER, GOOD SHIVA!



THIS ISN'T VISHNU! THIS FIGURE IS SOME WICKED ILLUSION-- MEANT TO TRICK US OUT OF OUR KINGDOM!

THE WICKED BRAHMIN BOY HAS DEPRIVED OUR KING OF ALL!

WHO ARE THESE CREATURES SO BLIND AS TO ATTACK THE LORD?

LET'S ATTACK HIM AND DESTROY HIM IN THE NAME OF VALI!

STOP! NO ONE CAN HARM THE ALMIGHTY! RETREAT TO THE UNDERGROUND REGIONS--FOR YOUR CAUSE IS LOST!

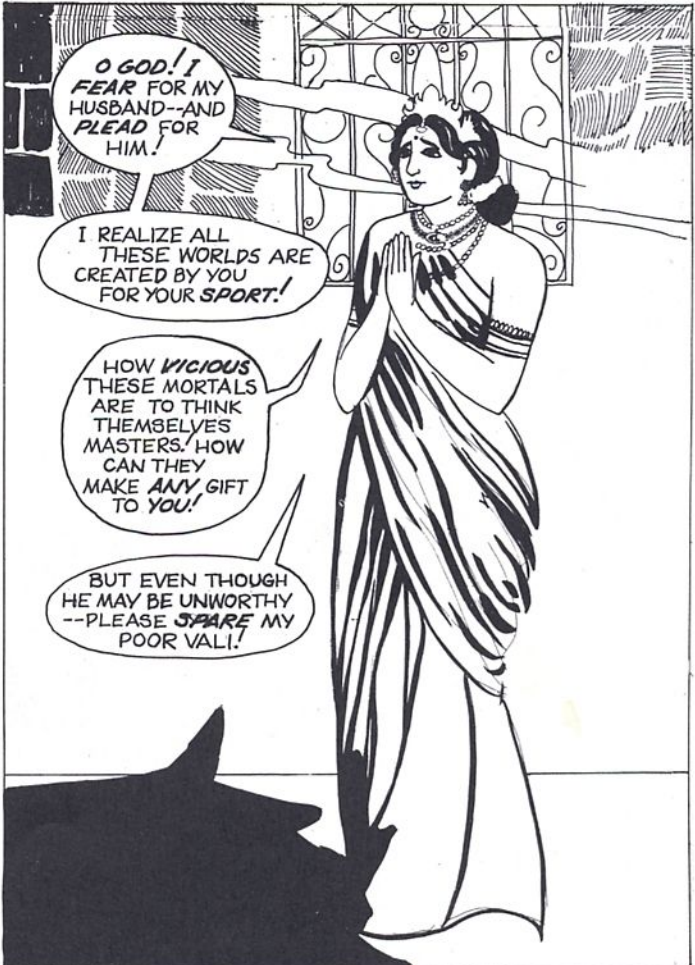
AT THEM, DEMIGODS!



AT THE COMMAND OF THE LORD, HIS EAGLE, GARUDA, BINDS VALI IN A NOOSE...

VALI--YOU'VE PROMISED ME THREE FOOTSTEPS! NOW MAKE GOOD YOUR WORD!

THIS EARTH I COVER WITH ONE FOOT! AND I SPAN THE HEAVENS WITH MY SECOND STEP! NOW--IF YOU HAVE NO MORE TO GIVE--THEN, YOUR WORD IS FALSE!



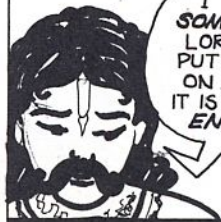
O GOD! I FEAR FOR MY HUSBAND--AND PLEAD FOR HIM!

I REALIZE ALL THESE WORLDS ARE CREATED BY YOU FOR YOUR SPORT!

HOW VICIOUS THESE MORTALS ARE TO THINK THEMSELVES MASTERS. HOW CAN THEY MAKE ANY GIFT TO YOU!

BUT EVEN THOUGH HE MAY BE UNWORTHY --PLEASE SPARE MY POOR VALI!

AT THAT MOMENT, VALI SPEAKS UP FOR HIMSELF...



I STILL HAVE SOMETHING, MY LORD! HERE-- PUT YOUR FOOT ON MY HEAD! IT IS NOW YOURS ENTIRELY!



AND THUS VALI'S PROMISE TO THE LORD IS KEPT...

AS VALI GIVES HIMSELF TO THE LORD, THE LORD RESUMES HIS GRACEFUL FORM AS THE BRAHMIN BOY...

I'M VERY PLEASED WITH YOU, VALI! CURSED BY YOUR FAMILY TEACHER, DEPRIVED OF YOUR WEALTH, DESERTED BY YOUR ARMY--BOUND-- AND YET YOU'RE NOT CONFUSED OR ANGRY!



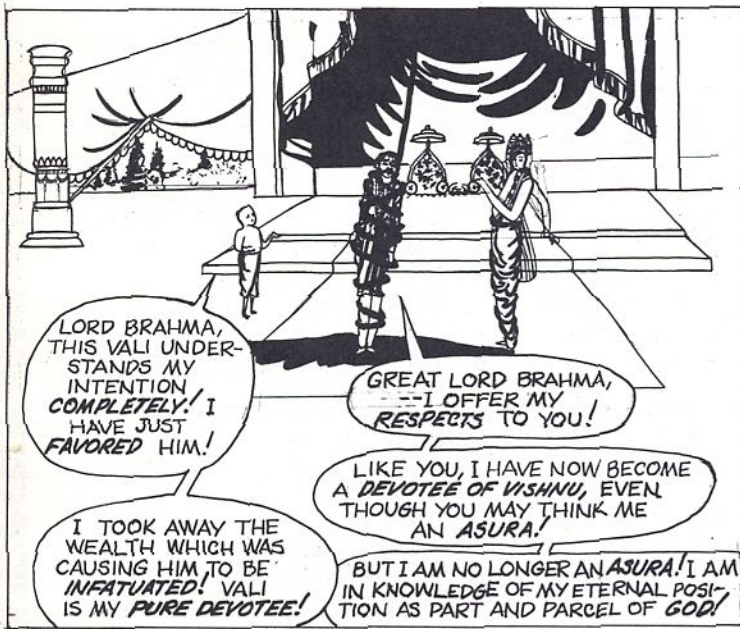
MY ONLY FEAR IS THAT I SHOULD BREAK MY PROMISE! I CAN SEE THAT ALL THIS WEALTH MEANS NOTHING!

AT THIS POINT BRAHMA, CHIEF OF THE DEMIGODS, STEPS FORWARD...

O YOU WHO POSSESS THE FORM OF THE UNIVERSES-- PLEASE RELEASE THIS GOOD MAN, THIS VALI!



WHY SHOULD HE BE SO BADLY TREATED?



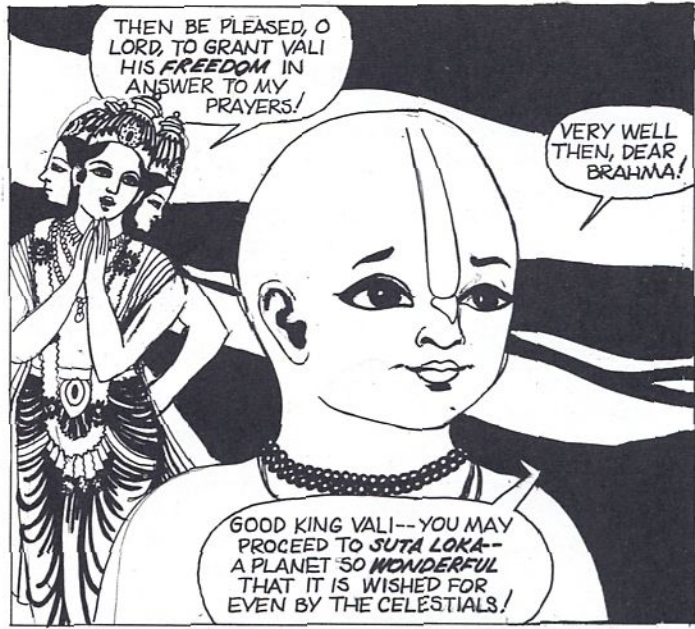
LORD BRAHMA, THIS VALI UNDERSTANDS MY INTENTION COMPLETELY! I HAVE JUST FAVORED HIM!

GREAT LORD BRAHMA, --I OFFER MY RESPECTS TO YOU!

LIKE YOU, I HAVE NOW BECOME A DEVOTEE OF VISHNU, EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY THINK ME AN ASURA!

I TOOK AWAY THE WEALTH WHICH WAS CAUSING HIM TO BE INFATUATED! VALI IS MY PURE DEVOTEE!

BUT I AM NO LONGER AN ASURA! I AM IN KNOWLEDGE OF MY ETERNAL POSITION AS PART AND PARCEL OF GOD!



THEN BE PLEASED, O LORD, TO GRANT VALI HIS FREEDOM IN ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS!

VERY WELL THEN, DEAR BRAHMA!

GOOD KING VALI-- YOU MAY PROCEED TO SUTA LOKA-- A PLANET SO WONDERFUL THAT IT IS WISHED FOR EVEN BY THE CELESTIALS!



YOU WILL ALWAYS SEE ME THERE-- AS LORD VISHNU!

AND, BY THE SIGHT OF ME, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HAPPY!

YOU SHOWER ME WITH MERCY! I WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR SERVANT!



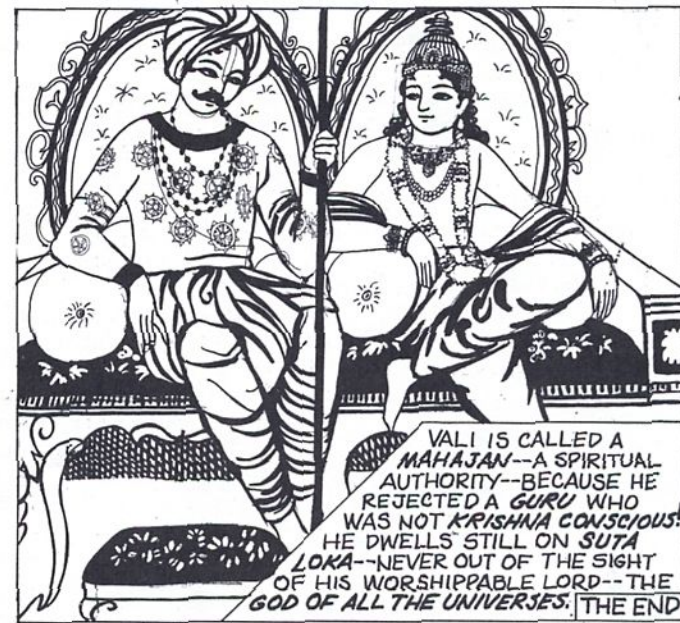
HAVING WON BACK THE HEAVENS, INDRA REQUESTS YAMANA THE DWARF TO RULE, FOR THE WELFARE OF ALL...

IF MY MOTHER, ADITI, AND MY FATHER, KASYAPA, WILL PERMIT-- AND IF IT IS THE PLEASURE OF ALL YOU GOOD SOULS-- THEN I MUST OBEY!



YES, YOU MAY GO, HOLY SON!

ALL GLORIES TO THE INCARNATION KNOWN AS YAMANA!



VALI IS CALLED A MAHAJAN--A SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY--BECAUSE HE REJECTED A GURU WHO WAS NOT KRISHNA CONSCIOUS! HE DWELLS STILL ON SUTA LOKA--NEVER OUT OF THE SIGHT OF HIS WORSHIPPABLE LORD--THE GOD OF ALL THE UNIVERSES. THE END

Courtesy:

**Back to Godhead
magazine**