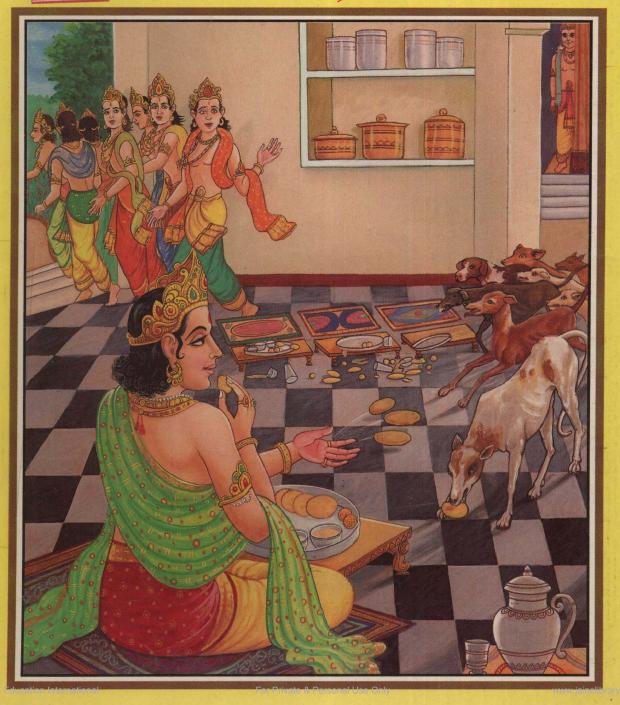
A Mahavir Seva Trust Presentation



PRINCE SHRENIK

Vol. 15 Rs. 25.00



Shrenik, the king of Magadh was the leading king amongst the followers of Bhagwan Mahavir. He was the king from the generation of Shishunag, well known personality in history.

Jain history knows him as Shrenik Bhambhasar, while a historian writes him as Bimbisar Shrenik. According to the jain literature, Shrenik saved Bhambha (royal symbol) when the palace caught fire and thus he was famous as "Bhambhasar".

Shrenik's father, king Prasenjit was the follower of Bhagwan Parshwanath. Shrenik's religion by heredity was Jain, but during the period of refugee from Magadh, he was impressed by good behaviour of a Buddha Acharya and as he had predicted that Shrenik will become the king of Magadh, Shrenik remained under his impression for some time. This is the reason which kept him away from jain religion during his wedding with the daughter of king Chetak but later due to Chelana's efforts and contact with Anathi Muni he again came closer to Jain religion. And he became the devotee of Bhagwan Mahavir.

Shrenik was very intelligent, brave, adventurous and an expert ruler. Before he became the king, he had to wander and for a long period he disappeared. A merchant's daughter, Nanda married him by getting impressed by his sharp intellect and the qualities of coming from good family. Nanda herself was very intelligent and religious minded. Abhaykumar, Nanda's son inherited good qualities from her mother.

Jain literature gives many interesting stories related to the lives of Shrenik Abhaykumar. The given picture story is limited till Shrenik becomes the king. The credit of making Rajgruh a prosperous city of East India also goes to Shrenik.

This interesting historical story is composed by Acharya Shree Devendra Muni ji. We are thankful to him.

Written by:

Acharya Shree Devendra Muni ji

Compilation:
Srichand Surana 'Saras'

Managing Editors:

Dr. Mansukhbhai Jain, Sanjay Surana

Art Work:

Shyamal Mitra

PUBLISHERS

MAHAVIR SEVA TRUST

C/o DR. M. B. JAIN, B-29/30, YOJANA APTS., S. V. ROAD, MALAD (WEST), MUMBAI-400 064 TEL.: 8892121/8811397

FEDERATION OF JAIN ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA (JAINA)

C/o DR. P. B. GADA, 4410, 50TH STREET, LUBBOCK, TEXAS-79414 (U.S.A.)

DIWAKAR PRAKASHAN

A-7, AWAGARH HOUSE, OPP. ANJNA CINEMA, M. G. ROAD, AGRA-282 002 TEL.: 351165, 51789

JAIN SOCIAL GROUPS FEDERATION

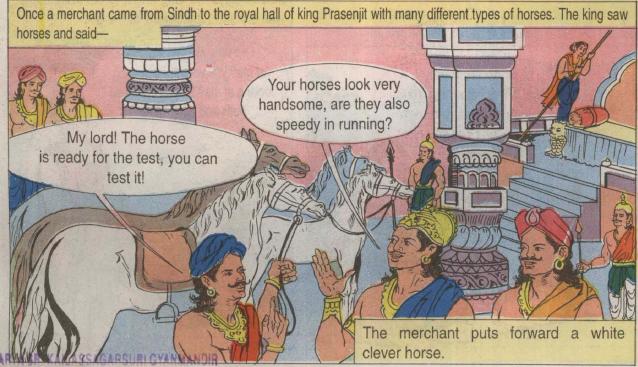
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PRINCE SHRENIK

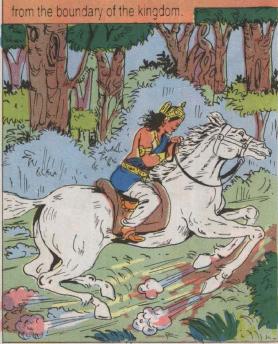


Kushagrapur was the capital of Magadh and was located at the feet of five mountains named Vaibhavgiri etc. King Prasenjit ruled over it. He was the follower of twenty third Tirthankar Bhagwan Parshwanath and he was a brave warrior. Prasenjit had many queens but Kalavati was favourite. Shrenik was eldest son amongst the hundred sons of the king.



SRI MAHAVIR JAIN ARADHANA KENDRA

Keba Gandhinagar-382 009. hone: (079) 23276252, 23276204-05 Prasenjit rides on the horse. The king gave signal with the ankle and the horse was flying in the air. In no time the horse reached to a wild forest far away



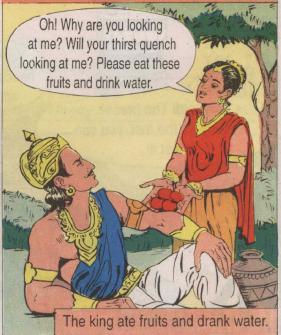
Prasenjit was frightened with the fast speed of the horse and thus pulled the reins to control it, the horse stopped with a jerk. Prasenjit fell on the ground.



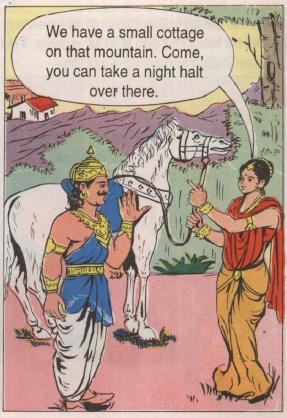
A beautiful girl was passing by from there with a pot filled with water. She saw the king lying on the floor fainted, so she sprinkled cold water on the king's face. The king opened his eyes. He couldn't talk due to thirst. He explained with the gesture—

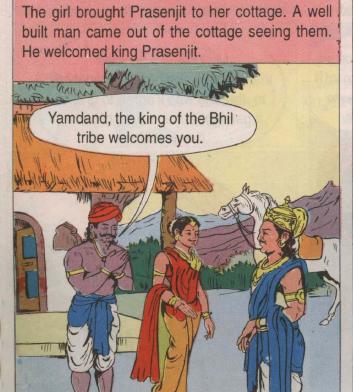


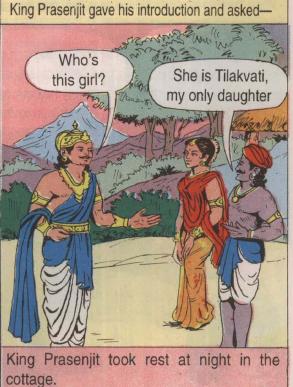
The girl plucked some fruits from the nearby tree quickly. The king forgot to eat fruits as he was admiring the beauty of the girl.



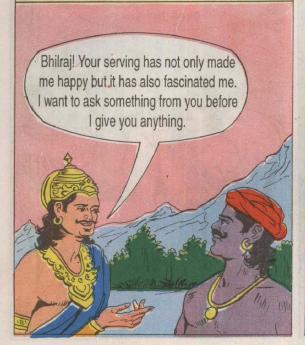


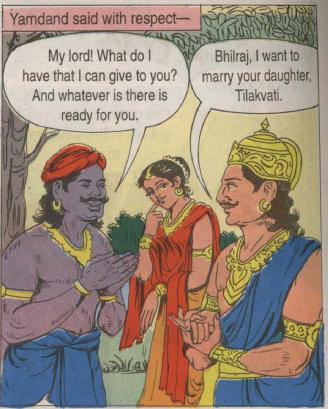


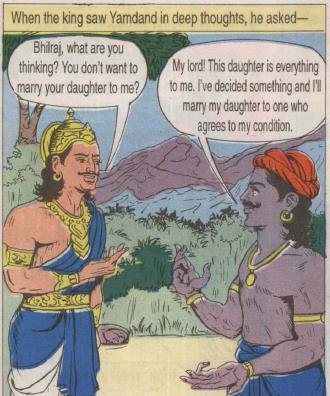


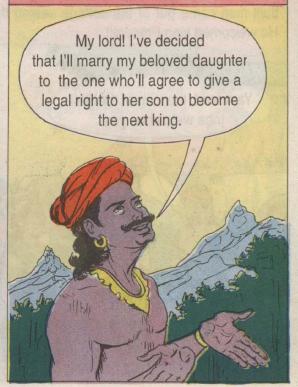


Tilakvati served Prasenjit so well that he not only liked her beauty but also liked her qualities. King Prasenjit told Yamdand in the morning—

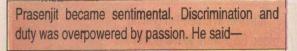


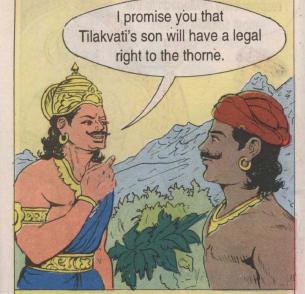






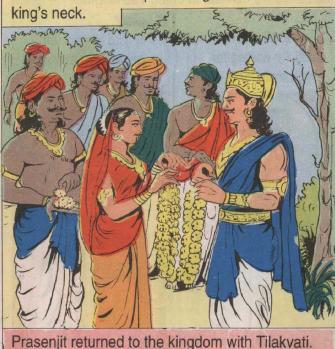
Then Yamdand looked at the sky and said-





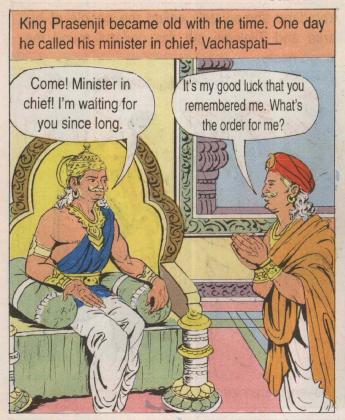
Yamdand was satisfied with Prasenjit's promise.

Yamdand immediately called the people of his area and Tilakvati put the garland round the

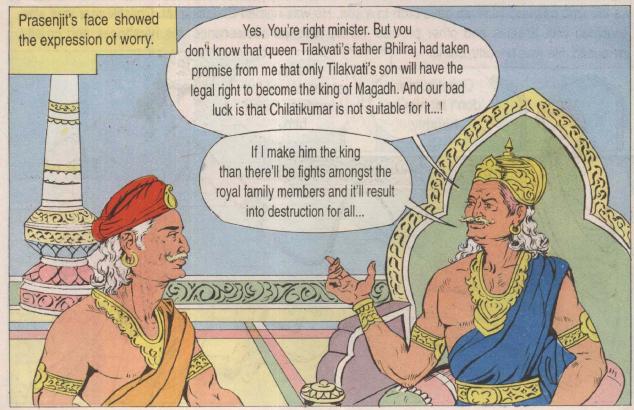


As the time passed, Tilakvati gave birth to a son. He was named Chilatikumar. Chilatikumar was also educated with Shrenik and other princes. As he reached adolescence, his harshness and cruelty

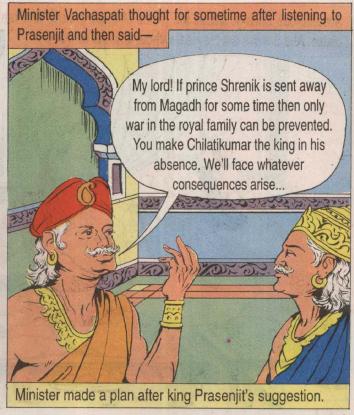


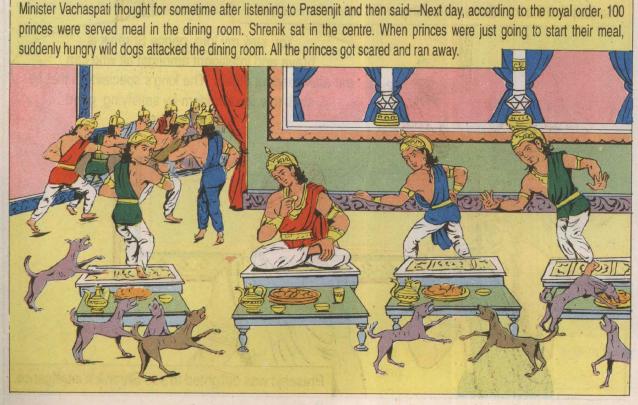




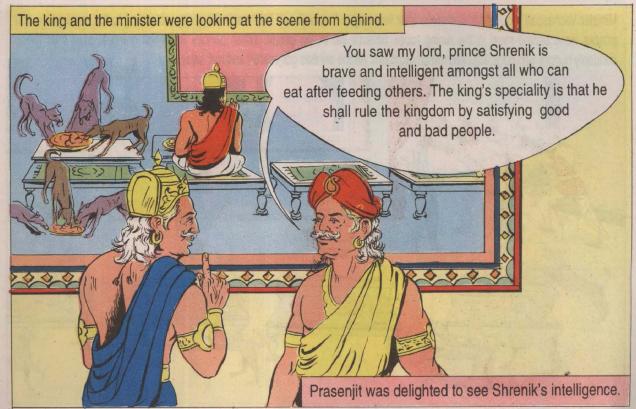






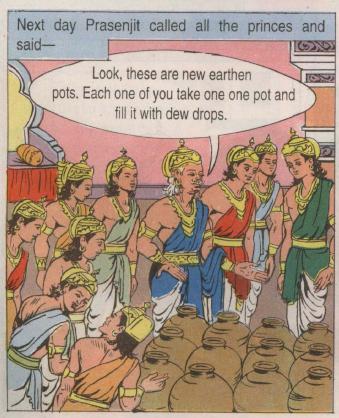


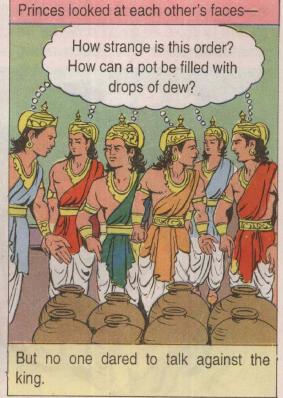








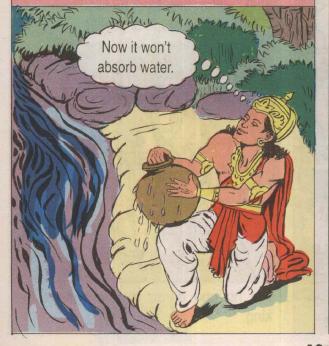




Next day all the princes reached the garden before sun rise. They tried to fill the pot by putting the drops of dew into the pot.

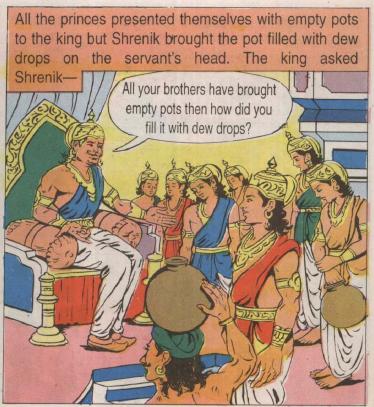
But the pot absorbed all those drops of water and remained dry. Forget filling the pot, it didn't even become wet.

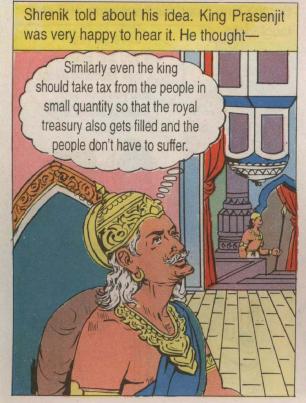
Prince Shrenik also reached the river bank with earthen pot. First he dipped the dry pot in the river water, he removed it after sometime, the whole pot was wet.

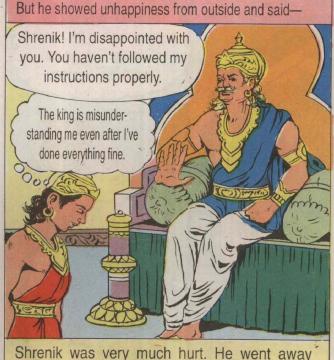




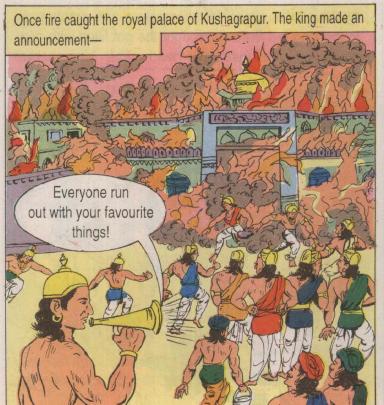
He squeezed the water from the bedsheet in the pot. By repeating the whole process again and again the pot was filled with the dew drops.







quietly.





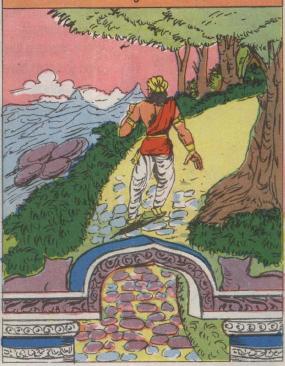




Shrenik was very angry from within. But he went away quietly respecting his father. He thought sitting alone

I should not stay here anymore where my intellect is joked about.

Shrenik took decision, he changed his dress and went out of the kingdom towards the west.



Shrenik felt bored walking alone for sometime.
Then he saw an elderly person walking ahead.
He was a merchant, Subhadra from Venatat.
Shrenik walked fast and reached near him and

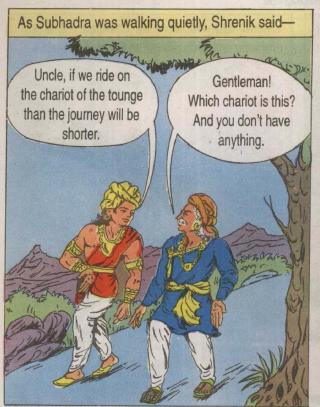


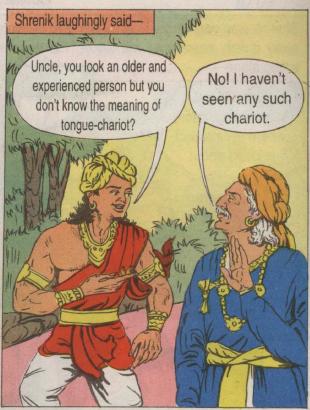
Surprised to hear uncle, he stopped. By then Shrenik also reached near him and said

Uncle, we both are going in the same direction. If we walk together, journey will be easy.

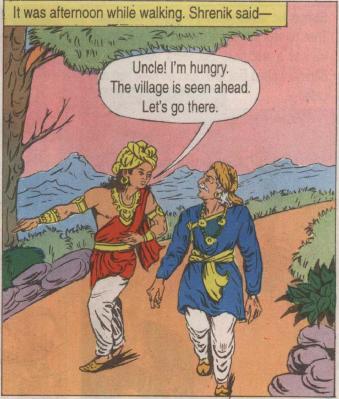
To get a good colleague is good luck. Fine. Two are better than one.

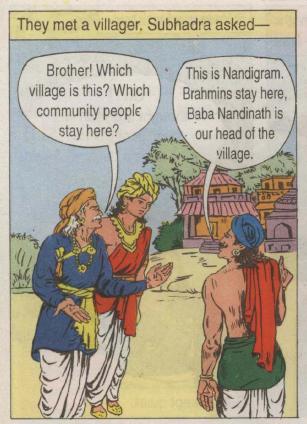
Merchant Subhadra was surprised and looked back. He was

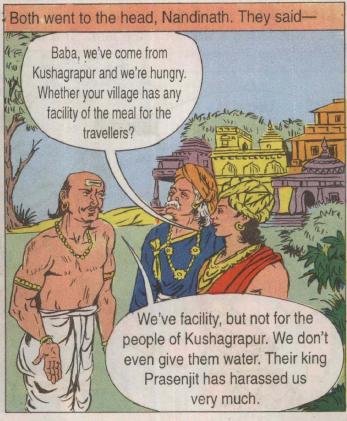




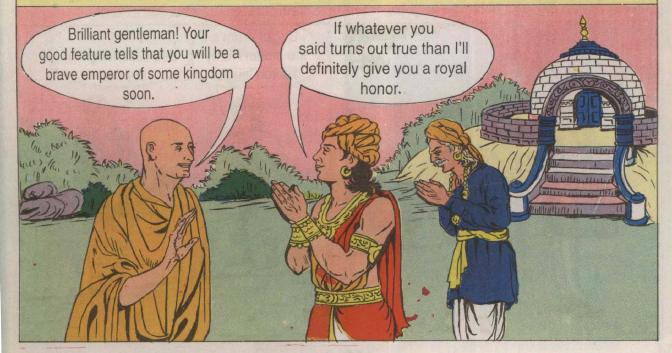






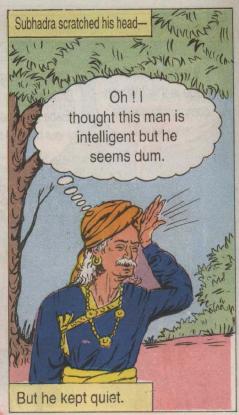


Shrenik and the merchant Subhadra moved ahead after that insult. They saw a Buddha monastery on the way. Both reached the monastery. The monk there welcomed both the travellers lovingly and gave them meals. When both were to move ahead after a short halt, the monk blessed Shrenik and said—



When both the travellers moved ahead, they saw that a man was hitting a woman in the farm. The woman was crying. Shrenik asked—

Uncle! Is this woman tied up or free?



They reached near a river after walking for a while. The river had less water and more sand on both the banks. Shrenik took his shoes in his hand while walking in the sand. Subhadra laughed.

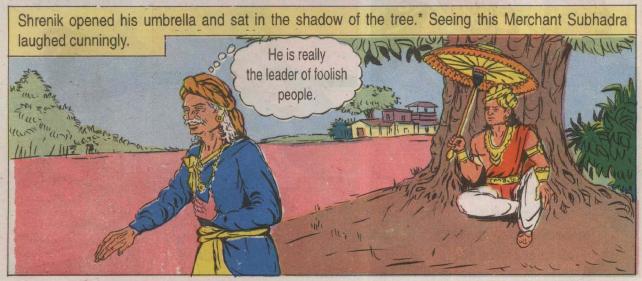


When water came, Subhadra removed his shoes but Shrenik wore shoes in his feet. Seeing this Subhadra laughed very loudly. Shrenik understood but still asked—



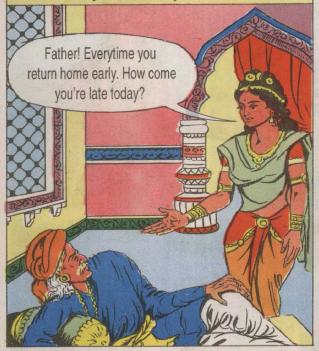


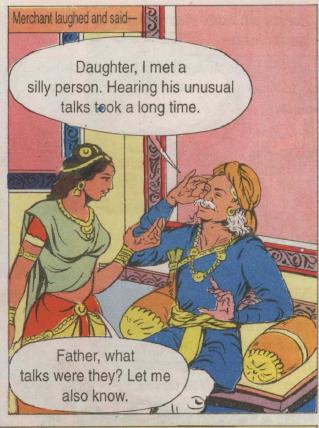




* The reason of sitting under a mango tree with open umbrella is that- one can be prevented from the excrement of those birds sitting on the tree.

Merchant Subhadra reached his home. His beautiful daughter, Nanda brought warm water in a pot. He washed his hands and legs and was taking rest. Nanda asked—



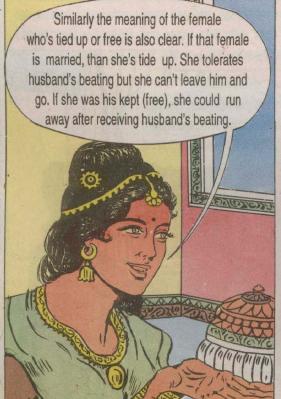








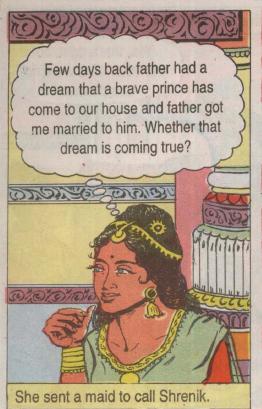


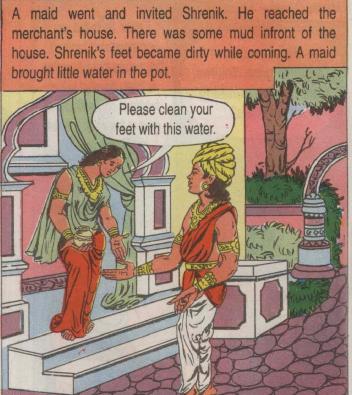




When Nanda told the meaning of all the events, the merchant

** Walking in the sand without shoes is cleverness because the sand enters in the shoes and makes it heavy and walking difficult. While walking in the water with shoes can prevent one's feet from insect bites and hurt from stones and thorns etc.

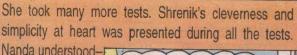


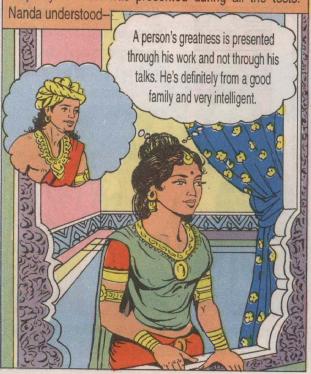


Shrenik saw there was little water in the pot. How the feet can be cleaned with little water? He looked here and there and he found a small, thin bamboo stick. A thin cloth was also kept nearby. Shrenik smiled—









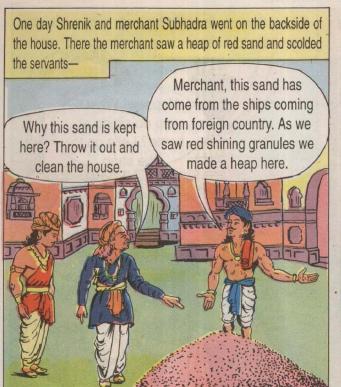


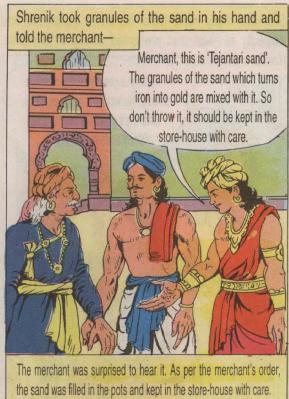
Shrenik went with the merchant to the shop. That day many big merchants came from far away to the merchant's shop. The merchant returned home in the evening with the bag of money and told her daughter—

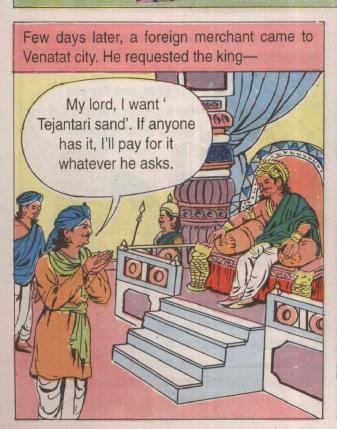


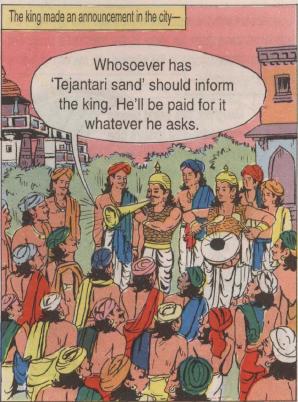


Shrenik. Shrenik stayed there as son-in-law.







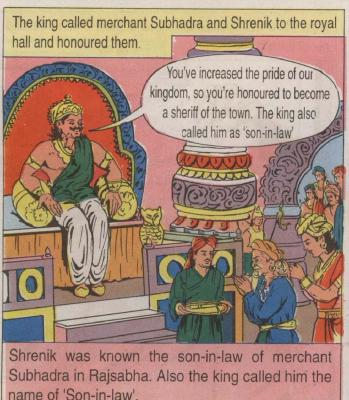




The merchant accepted the king's offer. Next day the foreign merchant came to merchant Subhadra. The merchant brought him to his store-house along with Shrenik.

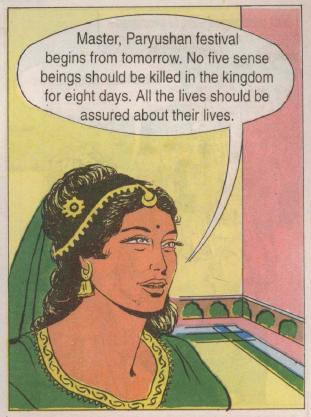


The foreign merchant paid whatever Subhadra said and took away the pots.



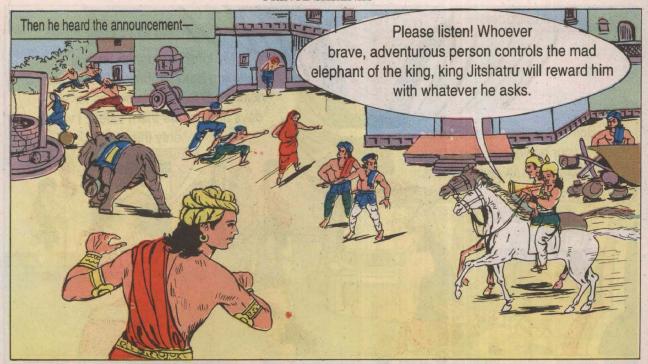






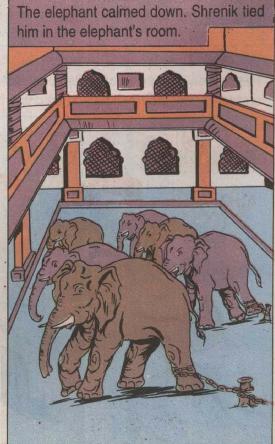


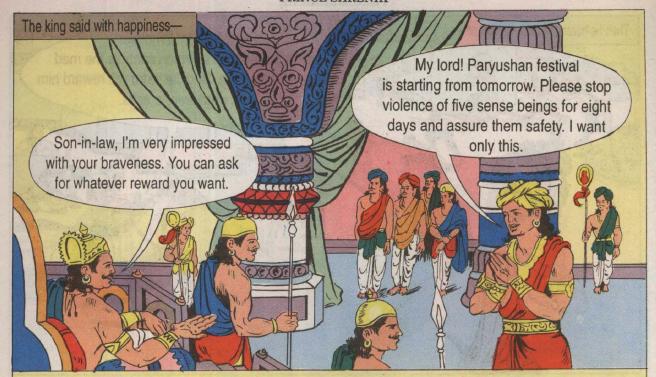




Shrenik who was expert in the elephant's tactics came infront. He first made the elephant run alot. Then he climbed on it and controlled it.



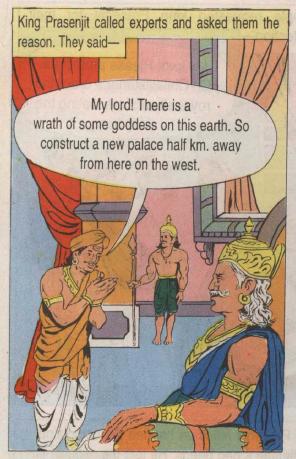




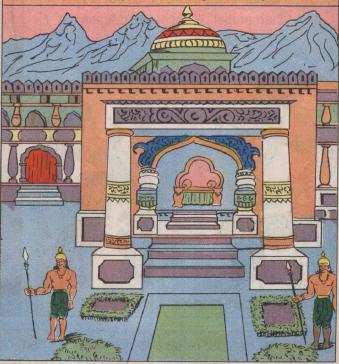
According to the king's order, the five sense beings were saved from killing for eight days in the kingdom. Nanda was very happy to see her keen desire getting fulfilled.

On other side, after Shrenik left Kushagrapur, as if the nature's wrath fell on the people. Repeatedly hundreds of houses caught fire. One day Prasenjit had just left the palace and he suddenly saw the royal palace catching fire. The royal palace burnt in no time.



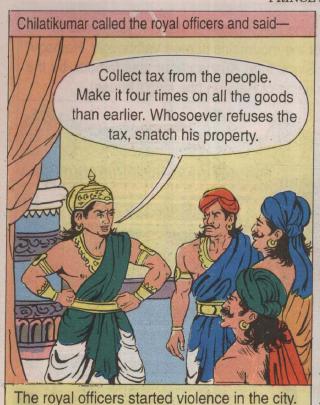


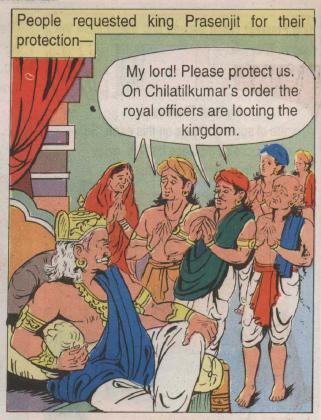
The king constructed a grand royal palace in the lap of the mountains named Vaibhavgiri, Ratnagiri etc. Since then Kushagrapur was famous by the new name of Rajgruh (the king's house).

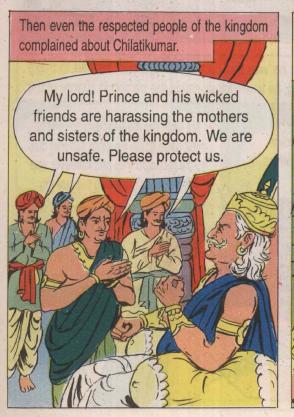


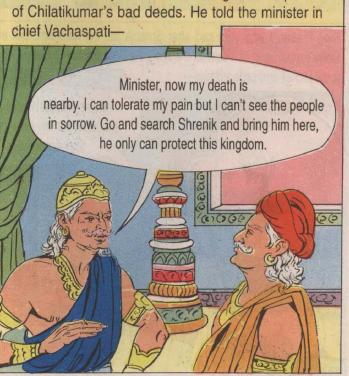
King Prasenjit was very sad after Shrenik left the kingdom. But as he was tied up with the promise, he had to make Chilatikumar, son of Tilakvati the king. As Chilatikumar became king, he immediately called the person in charge of the







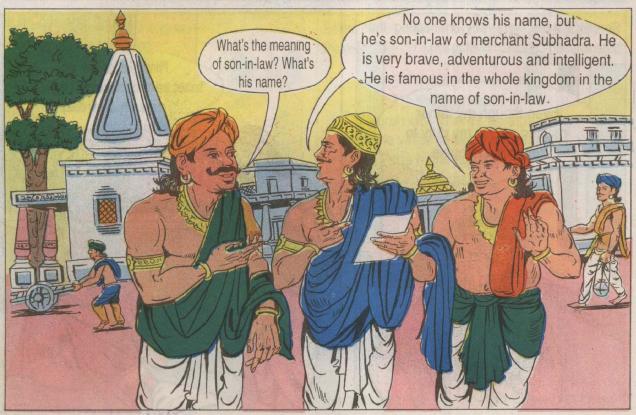


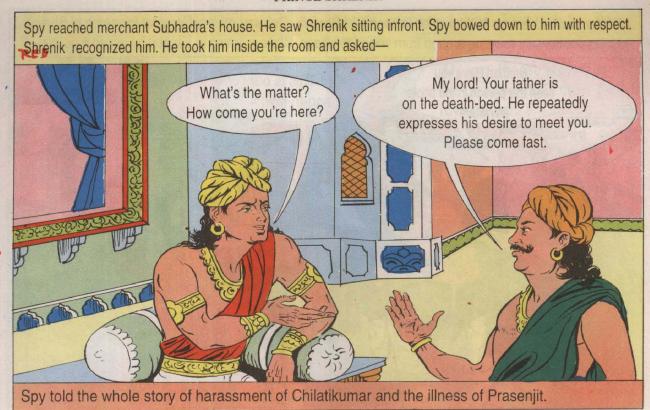


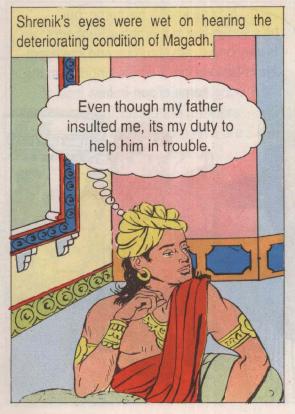
Sad, old Prasenjit fell ill on hearing the complaints

Minister in chief sent his faithful spies in search of Shrenik. One spy reached Venatat in search of Shrenik with his photo while roaming around from village to village. While roaming in venatat he asked a person—







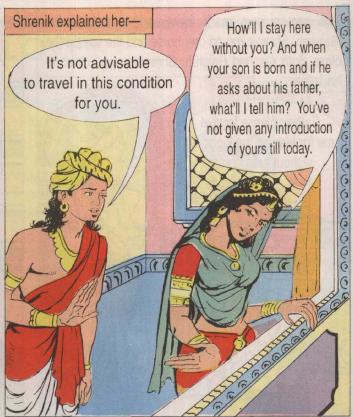




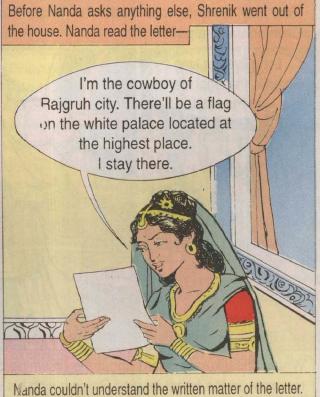
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SRI MAHAVIR JAIN ARADHANA KENDRA Koba, Gandhinangaria Bary 909



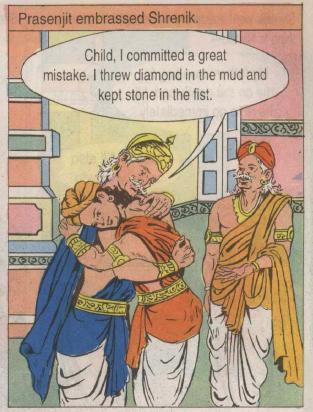


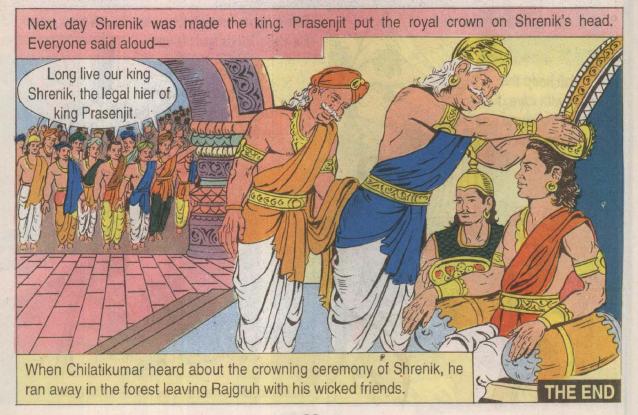




Two horses were ready below a tree outside the kingdom. Shrenik rod on one horse and the spy on the other. Both reached Rajgrüh. Shrenik bowed down to his father.

Father, please forgive me for leaving the kingdom without asking you.





LOVE

What is love? Inspite of all that the philosophers have told us, we do not want to understand the true nature of the most potent force in the world. We believe in the movie myth that love means

physical beauty and poetic passion. All that, may well be a thrilling experience but that is not love, that is conditional love. When the condition is gone, frustration sets in and love disappears. Although we all are capable of unconditional love—the essence of Bhagwan Mahavir's teaching, loving with conditions is far more common with human-beings.



When we love another because he or she meets our needs, we are loving conditionally. Similarly,

when we give to get, we are placing conditions on our love. This is the way love is usually defined and the way most of us are brought up to understand it. But respecting others by seeing and accepting them as they are is an expression of unconditional love.

The nature of consciousness is unconditional love. We love people when we love them, for what they are and not for being young or old, beautiful or wealthy. Love is the greatest of all soul forces. It is the feeling of fullness that grows inside us from self respect and love, until it over flows and must be given away. It is the silver link that binds all living hearts together in unity and harmony. Love is the vision that helps us to see ourself in all life force and all in ourself—microcosm in macrocosm and macrocosm in microcosm.

When in today's world people are intoxicated and under the spell of prejudices, hatred, envy, jealousy greed etc., the spirit of infinite love is most needed. "Love is the foundation and the apex of the pyramid of our existence", says Wilferd A. Peterson. Today we have made pieces of love and have lost our peace. Throwing pieces of love here and there we are splitting ourself within. When we have love for few chosen that means we exclude others. This is conditional love. This condition roots from our inability to love ourself completely and our inability to receive love from others. There is nothing more painful than being alone together.

The essence of love is relatedness. Relatedness to a person, to one's self, or to any life form. To relate means 'to carry back together'. So relatedness in love means to bring back together what is one but seemingly has become separate. That which separates us from the feeling of oneness with all life force is our ego and our greed. That is the reason when we do not love we disconnect ourself from others and become separate. When we are disconnected we can do anything to hurt others. When we are connected we can understand the feelings of others and experience a sense of wholeness and unity. Mr. Leonard Laskow, M. D. says, "Love has the power to create an energy field that affects all that enters it. It is said that loving field of Christ and Buddha was so powerful that people were healed in their presence".

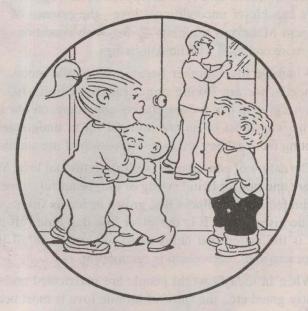
Love has three aspects to it: awareness, feeling, and action. Love is our awareness of the inherent connection that we share with all life; we experience it as a feeling; and we express it as an action.

The story which you are about to read describes all three aspects of love found in one person.

LOVE FOR HATE

It was a blistering hot day in the mid-summer month, when a man with the unmistakable stamp of divinity on his face, was walking along a path covered with sharp stones and thorns. His eyes shone with infinite kindness and his face was radiant as the moon.

A herdsman coming from the opposite direction addressed him respectfully, "Master, why do you go this way? It is lonely way where even beasts are afraid to go. There lives a terrible king cobra called Chandakaushik that waylays the wayfarers." However, the great man went his way despite the warning. Some distance away there was an ant-hill. The land around it looked lonely and deserted. The man halted and looked around. The scent of a human being drew the terrible snake out of the ant-hill. Even as he darted out at lightening speed, he was amazed at the fearlessness of the man who dared to stand at the very mouth of his dwelling! Mad with rage, the cobra bit the man's foot, emptying his fangs of their deadly poison, and raising his head, watched his victim. To his surprise he saw milk tricking out of the wound.



"Aspirin is okay for headaches, but lovin' is best for heartaches."

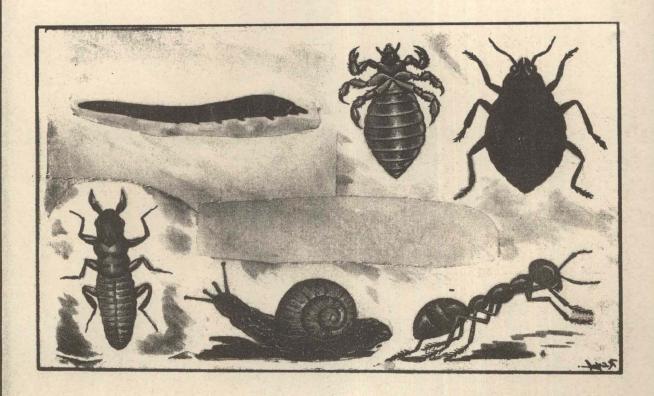
Has anyone ever seem milk instead of blood, tricking out of a living being? Ah, yes! Does not the blood in a woman's breasts change into milk when she becomes a mother? It is because of her love for her new born baby that causes this transformation. How could the cobra comprehend the fact that every cell of this great man Bhagwan Mahavir was filled with all pervading love for every living being on earth and the blood in his body was transformed into milk by this miracle of love. LOVE EVER GIVES AND FORGIVES.

The three aspects of love seen in Bhagwan Mahavir's life depicted in this story is very obvious. Through his long inner search and self-realization he came to awareness that all life is potentially same. This awareness unlocked the loving feeling towards all-friend of foe, and the loving feeling lead to loving action. So when the cobra bit him he did not get angry but instead showered loving compassion by his unthreatening presence. This is the true portrayal of unconditional love.

Jai Jinendra —PRAMODA CHITRABHANU



WE ARE

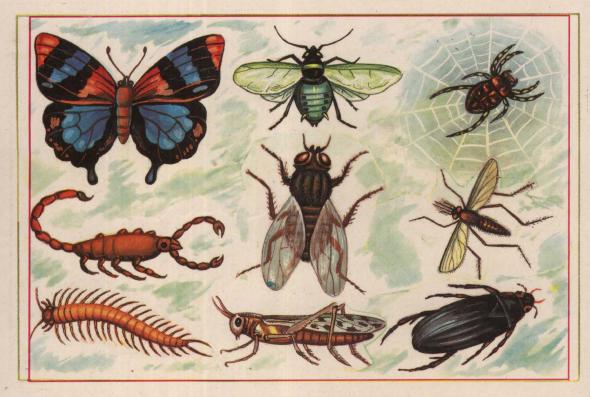


THREE-SENSED LIVING BEINGS

WE ARE LIVING BEINGS.
WE HAVE THREE SENSES.
THESE THREE SENSES ARE
TOUCH, TASTE AND SMELL.



WE ARE



FOUR-SENSED LIVING BEINGS

WE ARE LIVING BEINGS.

WE HAVE FOUR SENSES.

THESE FOUR SENSES ARE

TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL AND VISION.



All those having three senses or four senses have Jeeva (Soul) like us. So treat them as you wish to be treated.