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# Udayan and Vasavadatta



# UDAYAN AND VASAVADATTA

Spite cannot be tamed by spite. Enemies die but animosity continues for generations. The strength of love, goodwill, and humbleness is required to end spite and animosity. The story of Udayan and Vasavadatta reveals this eternal truth.

Shatanik, the king of Kaushambi, and Chandapradhyot, the king of Ujjayini, were married to two sisters. However, in spite of being related thus, they became enemies due to territorial ambitions and carnal desires of Chandapradhyot, who finally decided to destroy Kaushambi. But queen Mrigavati changed Chandapradhyot's attitude with the strength of her farsightedness, understanding serenity and love.

Once again, during the reign of Udayan, Chandapradhyot wanted to destroy Kaushambi. But hatred between the two kingdoms was forever ended by the stream of love created by Udayan and Vasavadatta.

The story of Udayan is available in Trishashtishalaka Purush Charitra. Many Vedic and Buddhist authors have also written epics and plays based on this story; one of the better known works being the play 'Svapna Vasavadatta' by the great Sanskrit poet Bhasa.

This picture story is based on the Jain version of the story of Udayan and Vasavadatta. It has been adapted for this picture story by Pravartak Shri Ramesh Muni ji M., a senior ascetic of the Shraman Sangh, and edited by Shri Vijaya Muni ji 'Vikas'. We are indebted to them.

—Shrichand Surana 'Saras'

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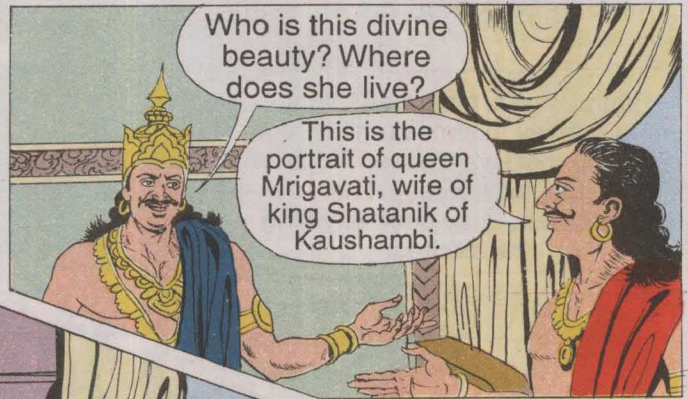
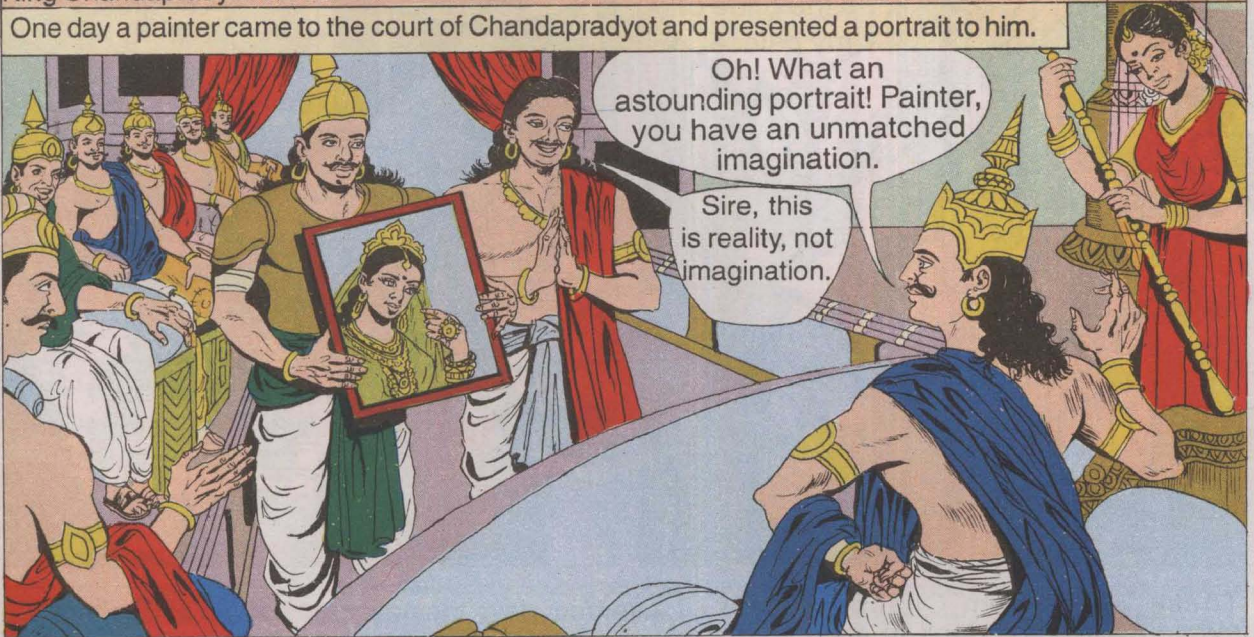
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# UDAYAN AND VASAVADATTA

Vaishali was the capital of the ancient Indian republic of Vajji. Chetak, the king of Vaishali had seven daughters. The third daughter, Mrigavati, was married to King Shatanik of Kaushambi. Queen Mrigavati was considered the most beautiful woman of that period. The fifth daughter, Shiva Devi was the wife of King Chandapradhyot of Avanti.

One day a painter came to the court of Chandapradhyot and presented a portrait to him.



Chandapradhyot looked at the picture for long and said to his prime minister—

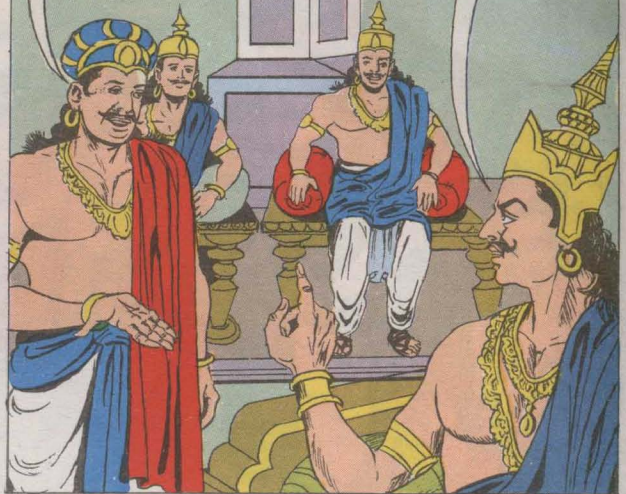
Minister, the best among the women should be the pride of my palace.



The perplexed prime minister looked at the king.

But, sire, king Shatanik is husband of your wife's sister ?

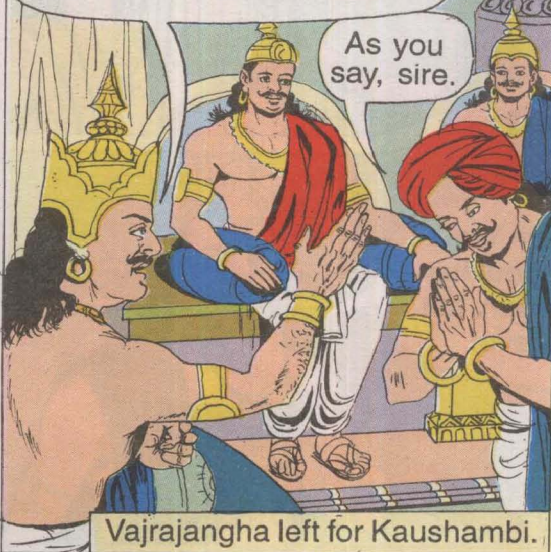
Relations are no hurdles in the way of Chandapradhyot's desires.



These words from Chandapradhyot forced everyone to look at each other. The king beckoned his emissary from his seat—

Vajrajangha, go to Kaushambi and convey this message to king Shatanik that I want queen Mrigavati. He should, therefore, gift her to me. In return he may seek anything he desires.

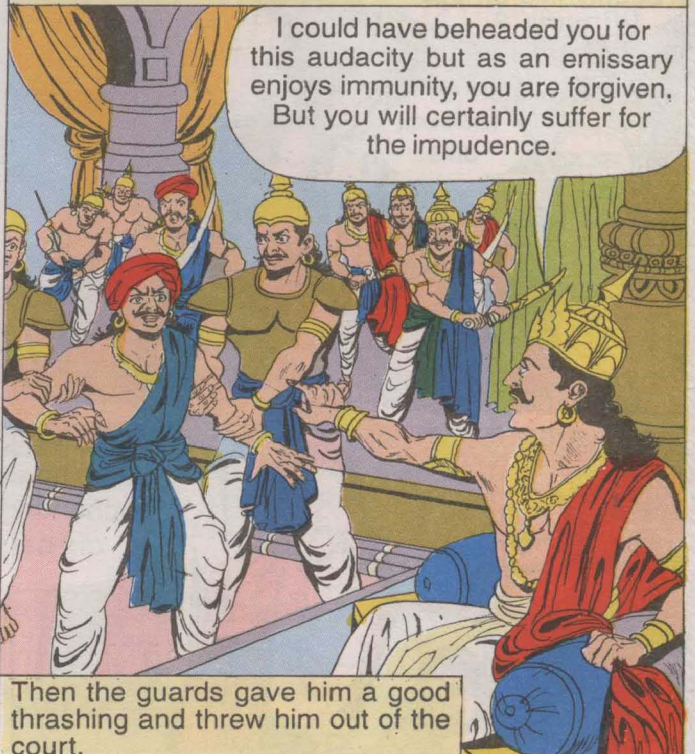
As you say, sire.



Vajrajangha left for Kaushambi.

After four days the emissary arrived at Shatanik's court in Kaushambi and gave Chandapradhyot's message. Shatanik lost his temper and said—

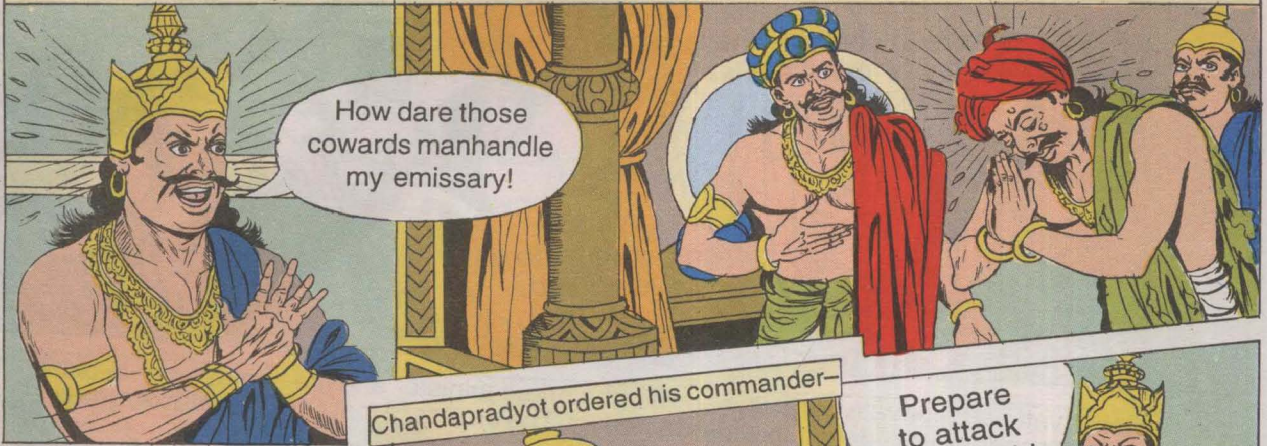
I could have beheaded you for this audacity but as an emissary enjoys immunity, you are forgiven. But you will certainly suffer for the impudence.



Then the guards gave him a good thrashing and threw him out of the court.

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

With torn clothes and in wounded condition the emissary came to Chandapradhyot in Avanti and reported.



Chandapradhyot's army laid a siege on Kaushambi. A terrible battle ensued.



The ministers and commanders of Kaushambi deliberated—



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

The queen said—

Expedience is as essential as bravery in politics. We will have to combine these two in our actions.

We are prepared to do as you guide.

Queen Mrigavati had a private consultation with the prime minister and the commander-in-chief. She then sent a man of confidence to Chandapradhyot. The emissary met Chandapradhyot, greeted him, and said—

May the king be victorious. I have brought a special message from queen Mrigavati.

Chandapradhyot gestured everyone to leave. Finding privacy the emissary said—

Sire, queen Mrigavati has conveyed that the people of Kaushambi are without the protection of a king. Prince Udayan is a child of five years. Now you are our only protector.

Chandapradhyot was pleased to hear these words.

I was confident that the queen is wise and will come to this conclusion. I also don't want a war.

The queen said that she has yet to come to terms with the demise of the king. It takes some time for such wounds to heal. After that we all are your subjects. What other alternative we have?

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Chandapradhyot thought—

Great ! The peacock called and it rained.

He at once summoned the commander and instructed—

Stop the battle. No soldier will touch even a single brick in Kaushambi.

Chandapradhyot then said to the emissary—

Tell the queen that I will protect her in every manner. I neither require the kingdom nor wealth. I only desire her.

Sire, the queen also thinks so. With passage of time everything will become normal.

I am prepared to do anything for the queen. If she says so, my army will retreat tomorrow itself.

The emissary conveyed Chandapradhyot's answer to queen Mrigavati. She smiled.

Now the camel has come down the mountain.

Next day the queen's emissary again came to Chandapradhyot—

Queen Mrigavati sends her greetings to the Lord of Avanti.

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Chandapradyot called the emissary into privacy and asked—

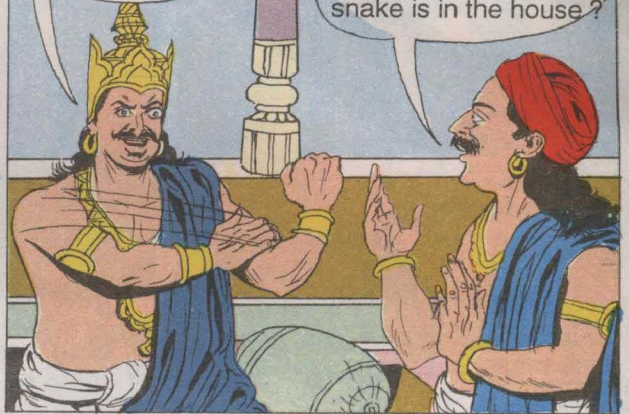
What is the message from the queen ?

Sire, Kaushambi has lost everything in the battle including the fort, weapons, and army. If you leave it in this condition it would be an easy target for rival kings who will find it defenceless.



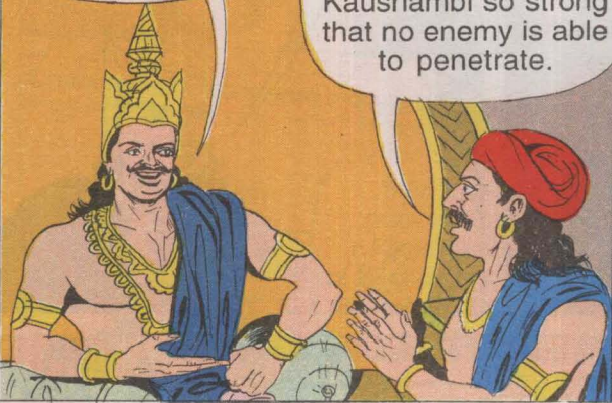
Who will dare have evil designs for a kingdom under my protection ?

The queen is aware of this, but you will be far away and the enemies are all around. It takes no effort for thieves to enter an abandoned house. Of what use is a herb from far away Himalayas when a snake is in the house ?



Then what the queen wants ?

You should make the security system of Kaushambi so strong that no enemy is able to penetrate.

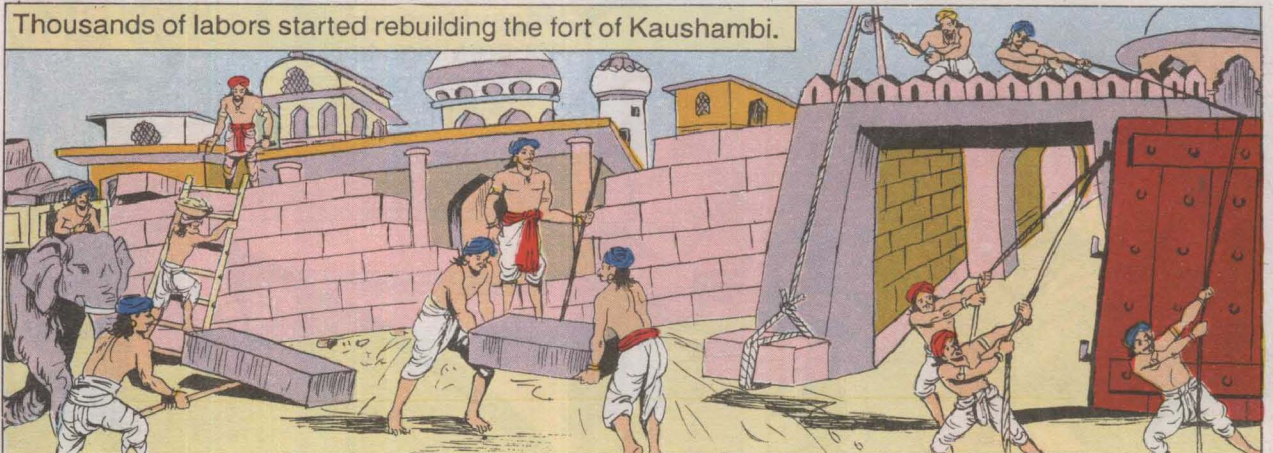


Chandapradyot called his commander and gave instructions—

Rebuild the fort, parapets etc. of Kaushambi and make them well equipped and invincible.



Thousands of labors started rebuilding the fort of Kaushambi.





## Udayan and Vasavadatta

In a few days the construction work was over. The queen herself went for inspection.

See, your highness, the walls of this fort have been made from the strong bricks and stone from Ujjayini. They will bear even the shock of an earthquake. Large canons have been installed on the parapet walls. Look there, the city gates have been made rock hard.

Indeed, you have made it really impregnable.



Next morning an emissary from Chandapradhot came to queen Mrigavati—

Hail to the queen ! Our king wants to know when will you leave with him for Ujjayini ?

Tell the king that I will soon inform him.



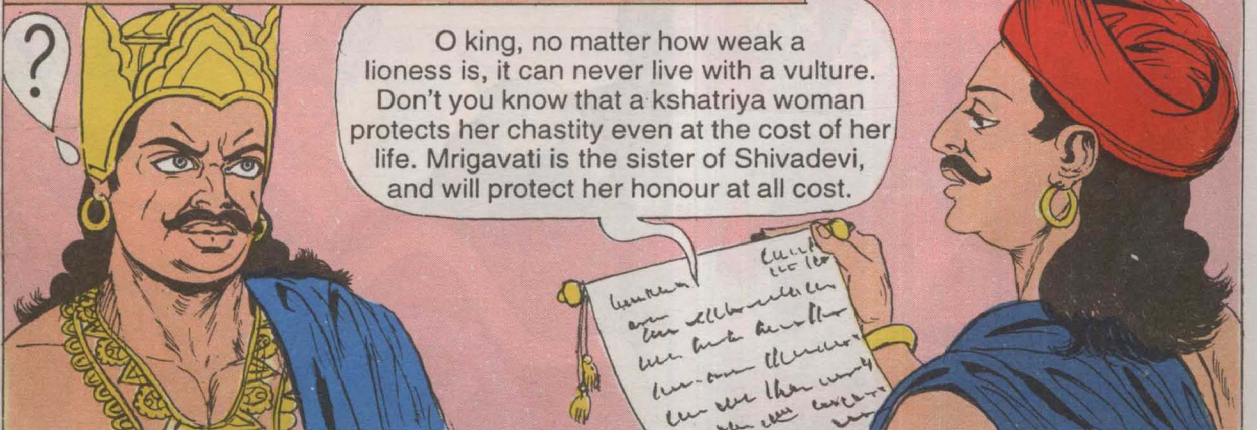
That very night the queen called her commander-in-chief and gave instructions—

Close all the four city gates. Depute soldiers on the city walls all around and tell them to be alert and on guard.



And next day queen Mrigavati sent a letter to Chandapradhot.

O king, no matter how weak a lioness is, it can never live with a vulture. Don't you know that a kshatriya woman protects her chastity even at the cost of her life. Mrigavati is the sister of Shivadevi, and will protect her honour at all cost.



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Chandapradhyot's nostrils flared with anger—

I have been cheated. A great deception. Conniving Mrigavati has made a fool of me. Attack Kaushambi once again. Surround it and blow it to bits.



The army of Avanti again surrounded Kaushambi. All efforts were made to crash the gates open using mad elephants. But not a single gate could be smashed. The impregnable fort was constructed by Chandapradhyot's own army. Chandapradhyot was utterly disappointed.



Oh! What treachery.

Defeated and disappointed, Chandapradhyot's army camped just outside the fort.

One morning divine drums sounded in the sky and gods pronounced—

Tomorrow Shraman Bhagavan Mahavir, the Lord of three worlds, is coming to the garden in Kaushambi.

It seems that the final moment has arrived.



Next morning, accompanied by thousands of white-clad women, queen Mrigavati, with a white flag in her hand, came out of the city gates and proceeded towards the Samavasaran# of Bhagavan Mahavir. Chandapradhyot was a helpless witness.

Hail Bhagavan Mahavir, the apostle of compassion.

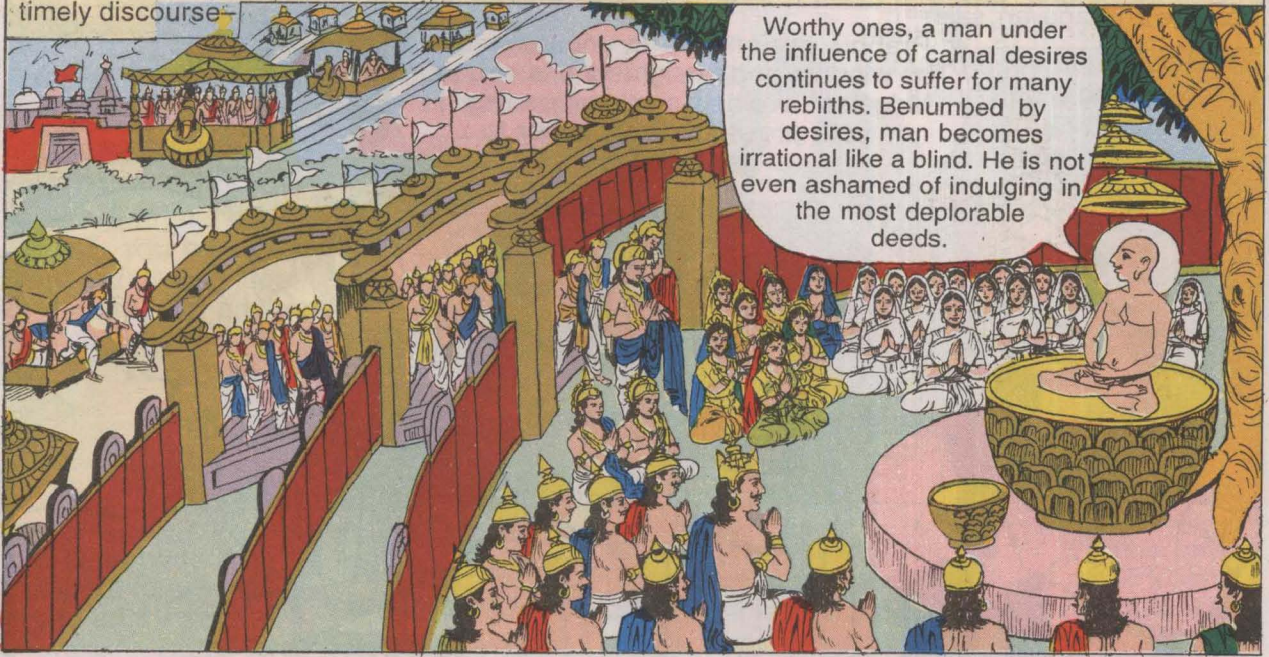
Oh! Now I can't even arrest them.



# The divine religious assembly.

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Chandapradhyot also came to the Samavasaran to listen to the sermon. Bhagavan Mahavir gave a timely discourse—



Worthy ones, a man under the influence of carnal desires continues to suffer for many rebirths. Benumbed by desires, man becomes irrational like a blind. He is not even ashamed of indulging in the most deplorable deeds.

At the conclusion of the sermon queen Mrigavati got up and requested—

Bhante, I want to get initiated after taking permission from king Chandapradhyot.

Beloved of gods, do as you please.



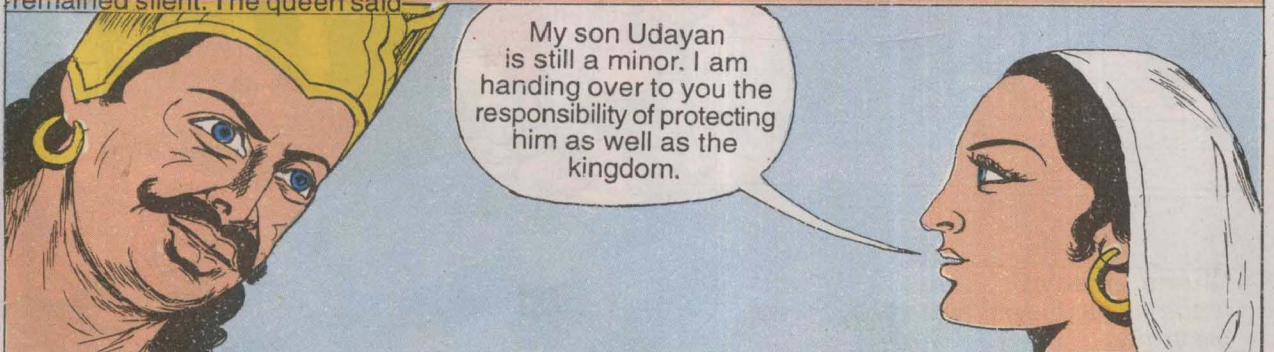
Mrigavati approached Chandapradhyot and joining her palms said—

If you give permission I want to get initiated at Prabhu's# feet.



Under the influence of Bhagavan's pious presence Chandapradhyot's passions got pacified. He remained silent. The queen said—

My son Udayan is still a minor. I am handing over to you the responsibility of protecting him as well as the kingdom.

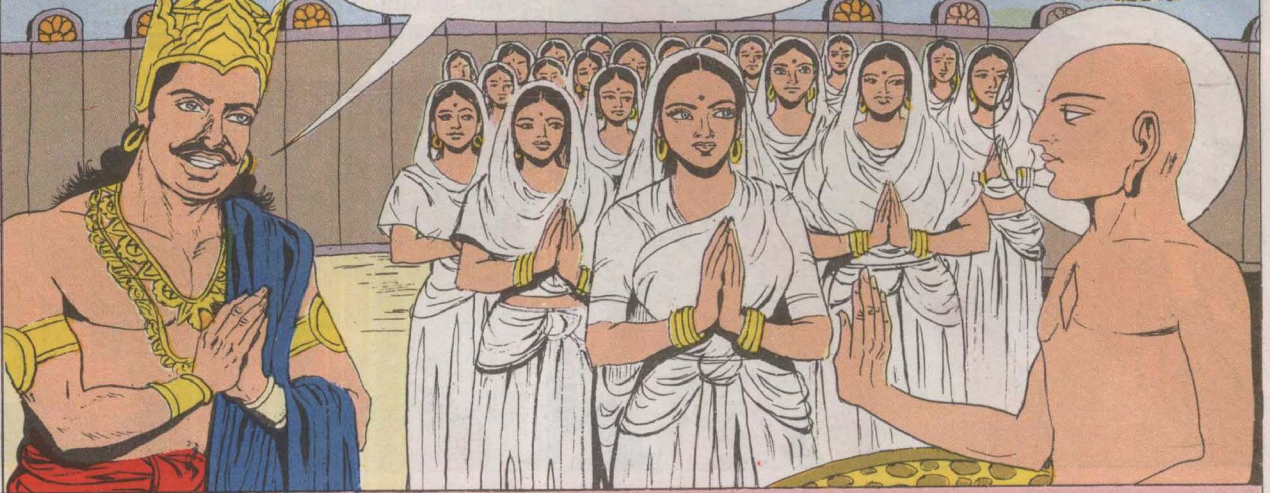


# A term of address for revered ones.

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Hearing Mrigavati's humble words Chandapradhyot was filled with shame. He got up and, after paying homage to Bhagavan, said—

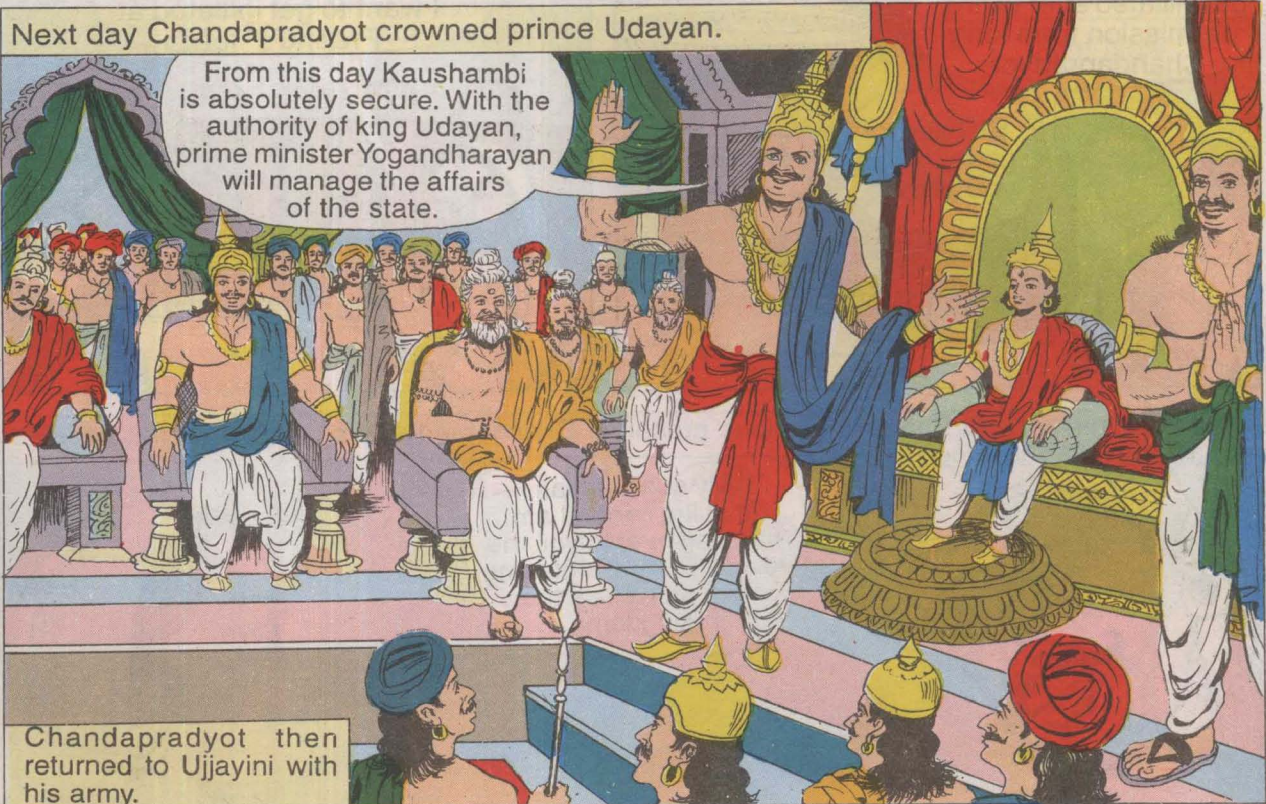
Prabhu, my offense is unpardonable. The wisdom and farsightedness of queen Mrigavati avoided a mishappening. In your presence, I allow her to get initiated.



Mrigavati then went into seclusion to change to ascetic garb. With her Angaravati and many other queens of Chandapradhyot also got initiated to become disciples of Mahasati Chandanbala.

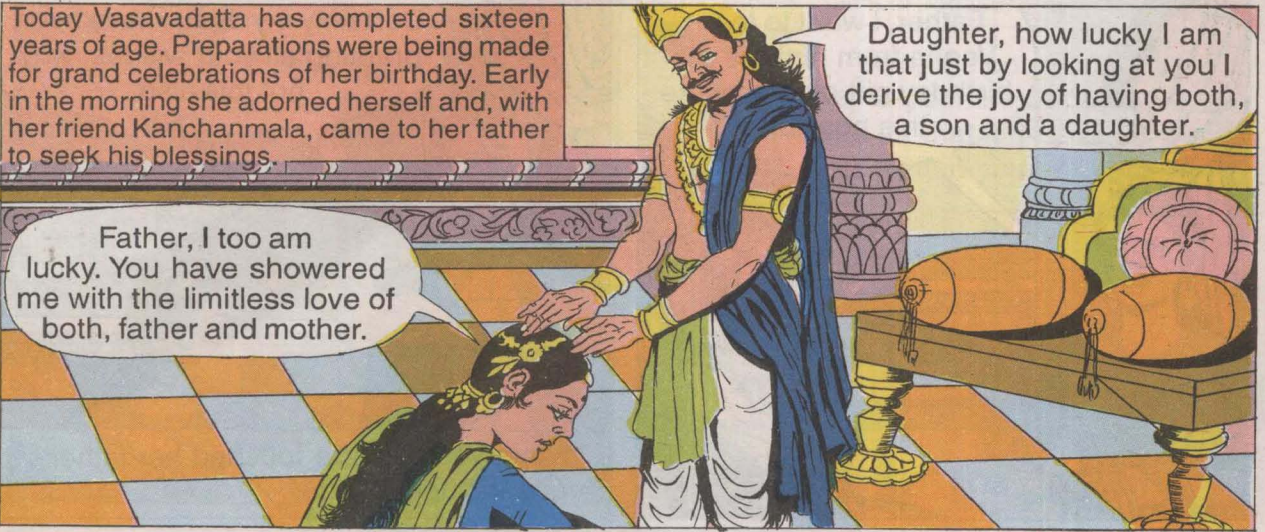
Next day Chandapradhyot crowned prince Udayan.

From this day Kaushambi is absolutely secure. With the authority of king Udayan, prime minister Yogandharayan will manage the affairs of the state.



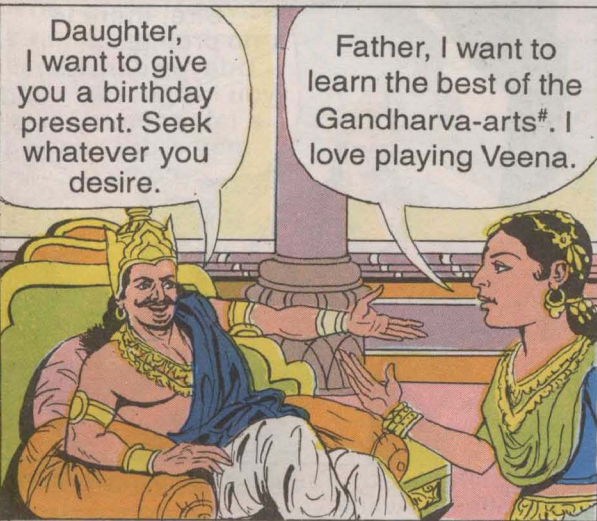
Chandapradhyot then returned to Ujjayini with his army.

Today Vasavadatta has completed sixteen years of age. Preparations were being made for grand celebrations of her birthday. Early in the morning she adorned herself and, with her friend Kanchanmala, came to her father to seek his blessings.



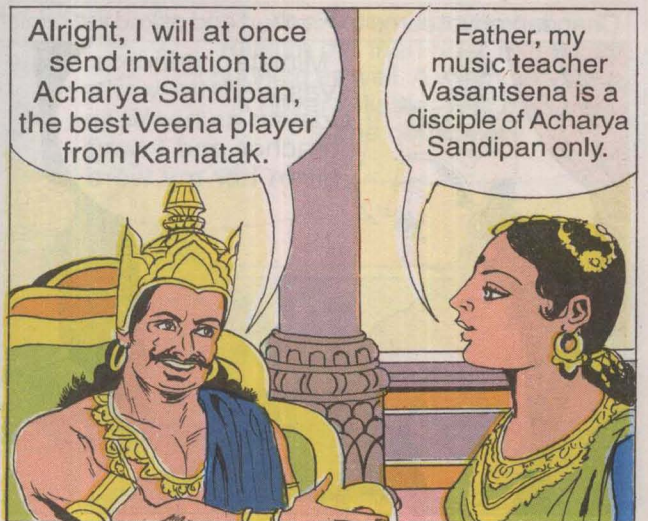
Daughter, how lucky I am that just by looking at you I derive the joy of having both, a son and a daughter.

Father, I too am lucky. You have showered me with the limitless love of both, father and mother.



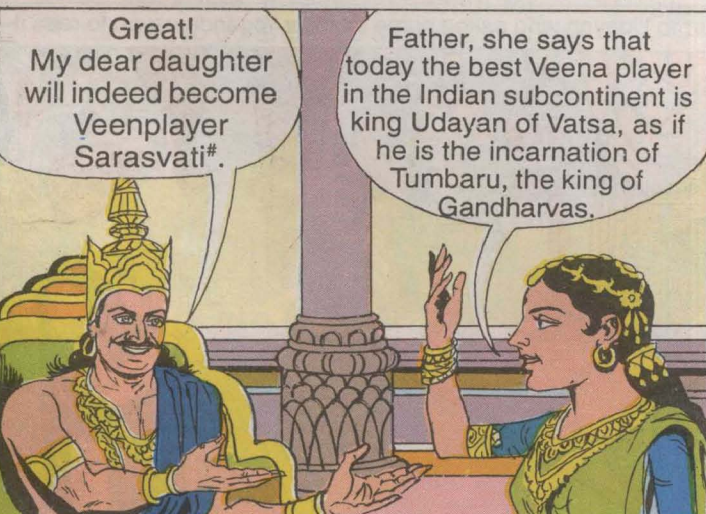
Daughter, I want to give you a birthday present. Seek whatever you desire.

Father, I want to learn the best of the Gandharva-arts#. I love playing Veena.



Alright, I will at once send invitation to Acharya Sandipan, the best Veena player from Karnatak.

Father, my music teacher Vasantsena is a disciple of Acharya Sandipan only.



Great! My dear daughter will indeed become Veenplayer Sarasvati#.

Father, she says that today the best Veena player in the Indian subcontinent is king Udayan of Vatsa, as if he is the incarnation of Tumbaru, the king of Gandharvas.

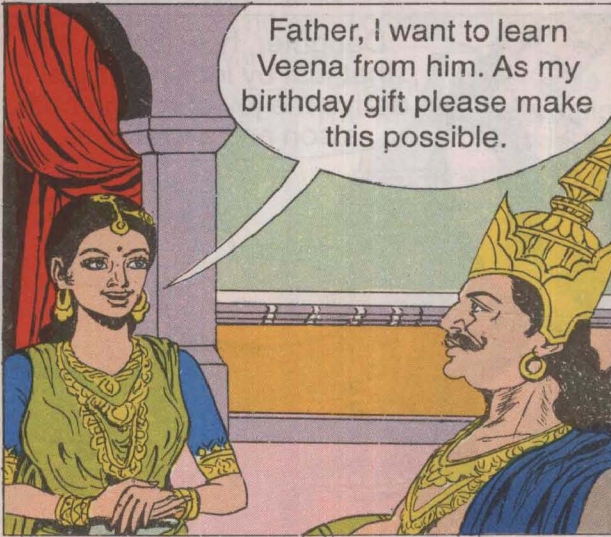


Yes, I have also heard that.

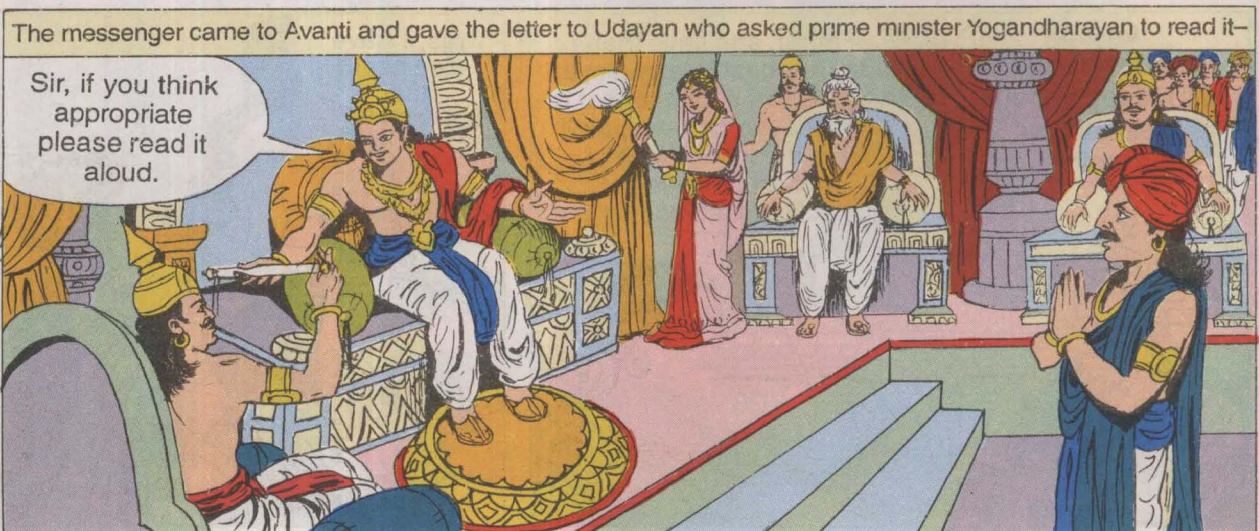
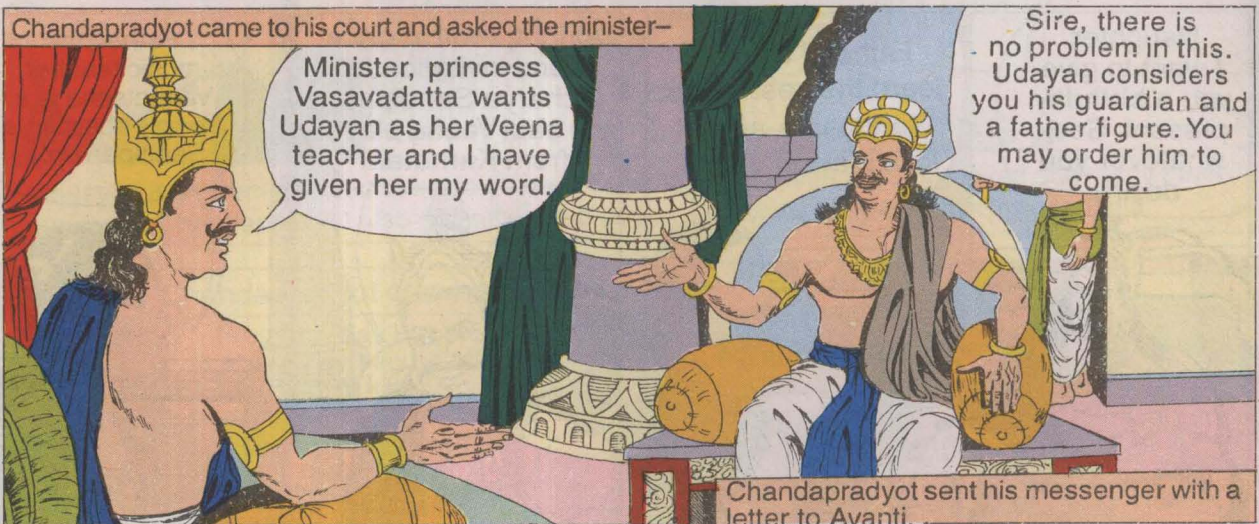
# She was the daughter of Angaravati who became an ascetic when she was only three years old. Chandrapradyot brought her up showering motherly love. She was divinely beautiful, wise, and intelligent. She was also accomplished in dance, music and many other arts and skills.

# Gandharvas are the musicians of gods and best of their arts is playing veena, a Sitar-like instrument.

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

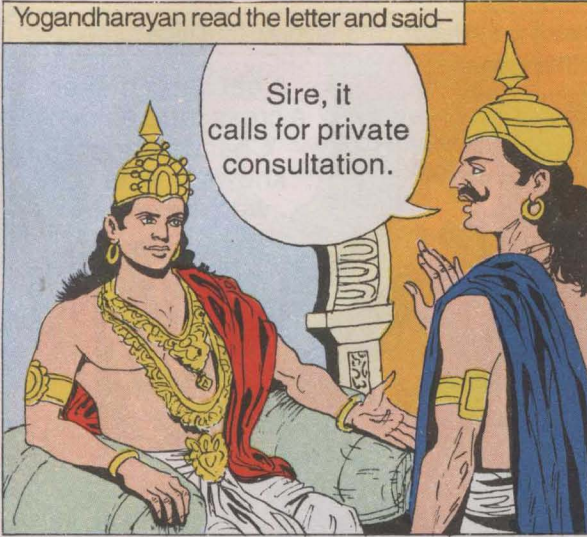


Joyous Vasavadatta touched her father's feet and hugged him.

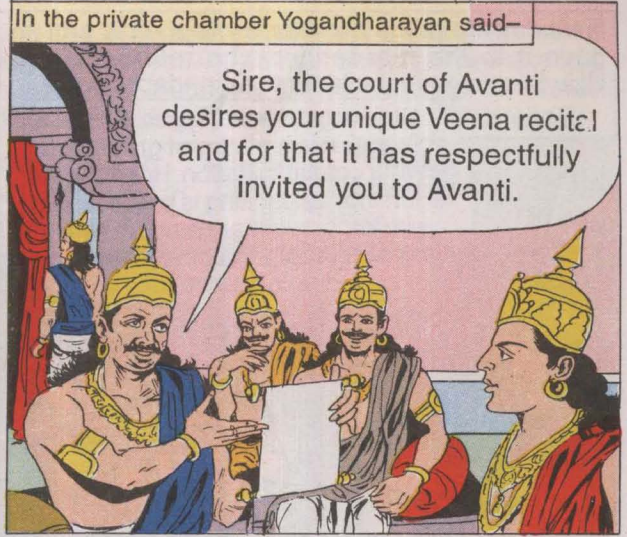


## Udayan and Vasavadatta

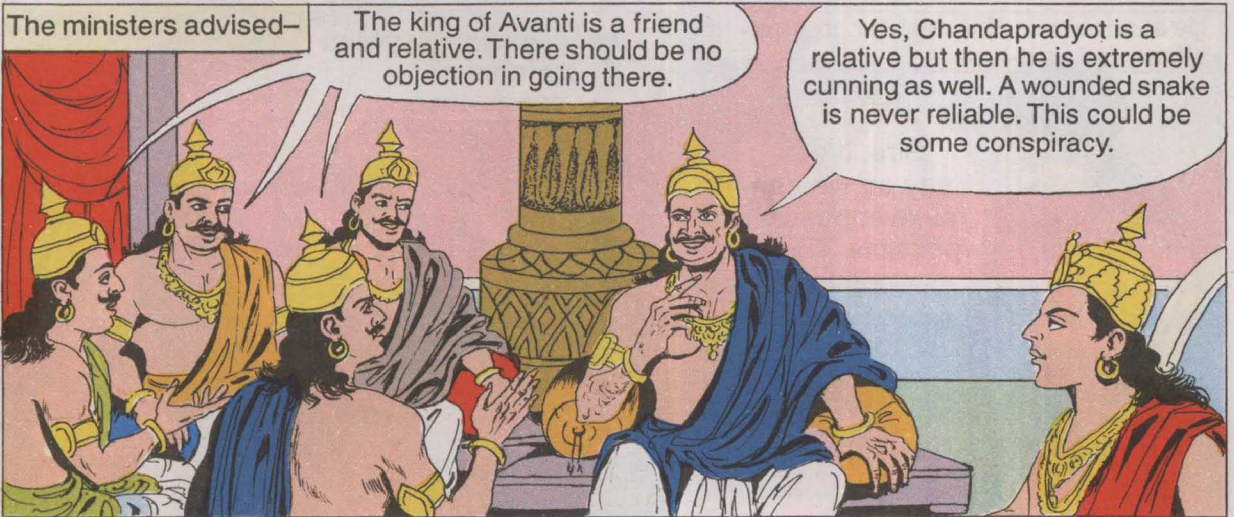
Yogandharayan read the letter and said—



In the private chamber Yogandharayan said—



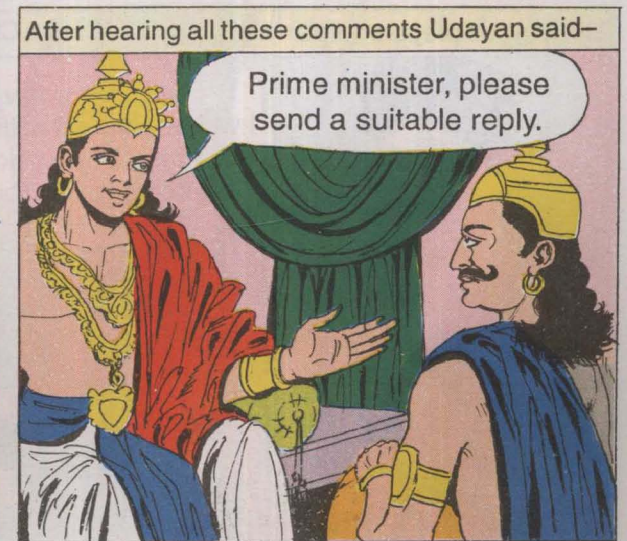
The ministers advised—



Moreover, it is disrespectful for our king to go and give a recital in some other kingdom.



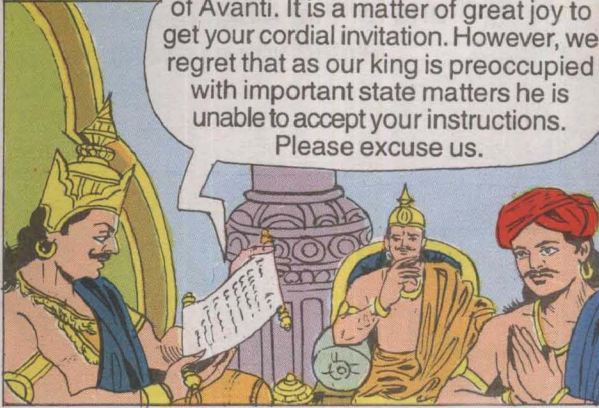
After hearing all these comments Udayan said—



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

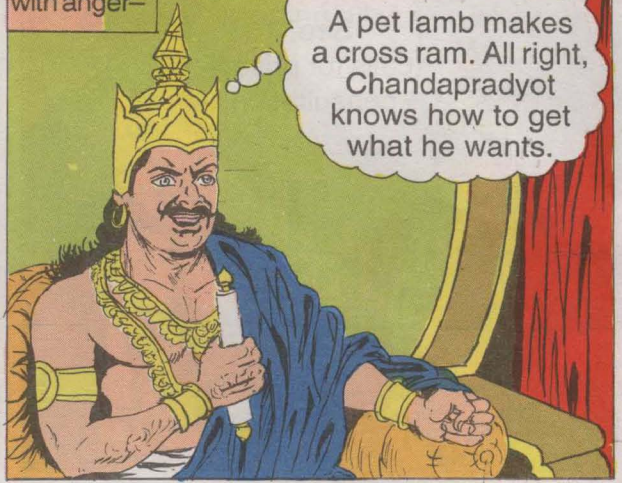
Next day the prime minister wrote a reply and gave it to the messenger who returned to Ujjayini and gave the letter to Chandapradhyot.

Greetings to the respected king of Avanti. It is a matter of great joy to get your cordial invitation. However, we regret that as our king is preoccupied with important state matters he is unable to accept your instructions. Please excuse us.



Reading the letter, Chandapradhyot's face turned red with anger—

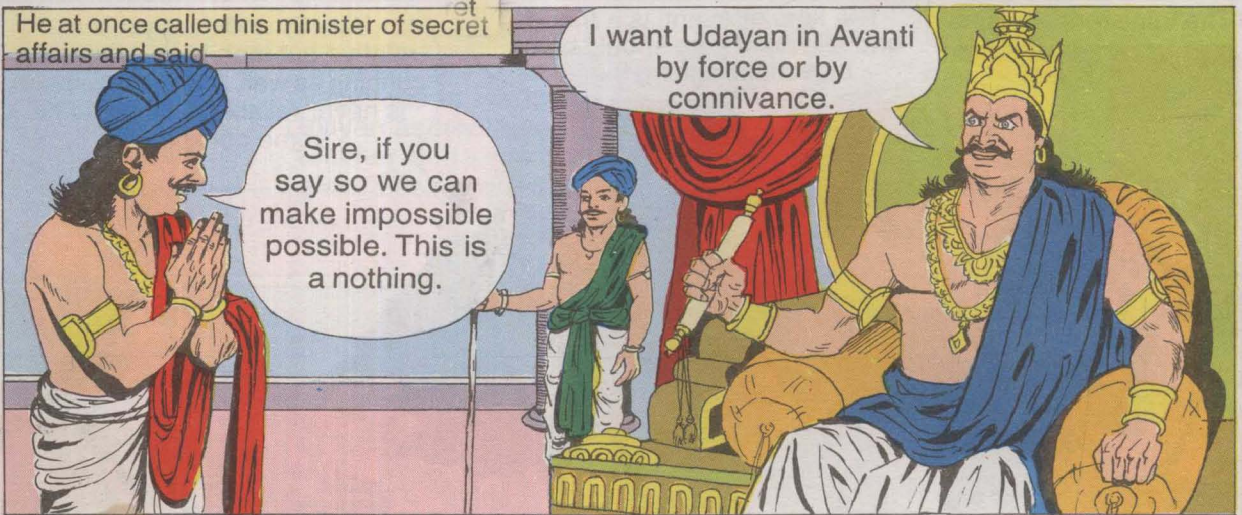
A pet lamb makes a cross ram. All right, Chandapradhyot knows how to get what he wants.



He at once called his minister of secret affairs and said—

Sire, if you say so we can make impossible possible. This is a nothing.

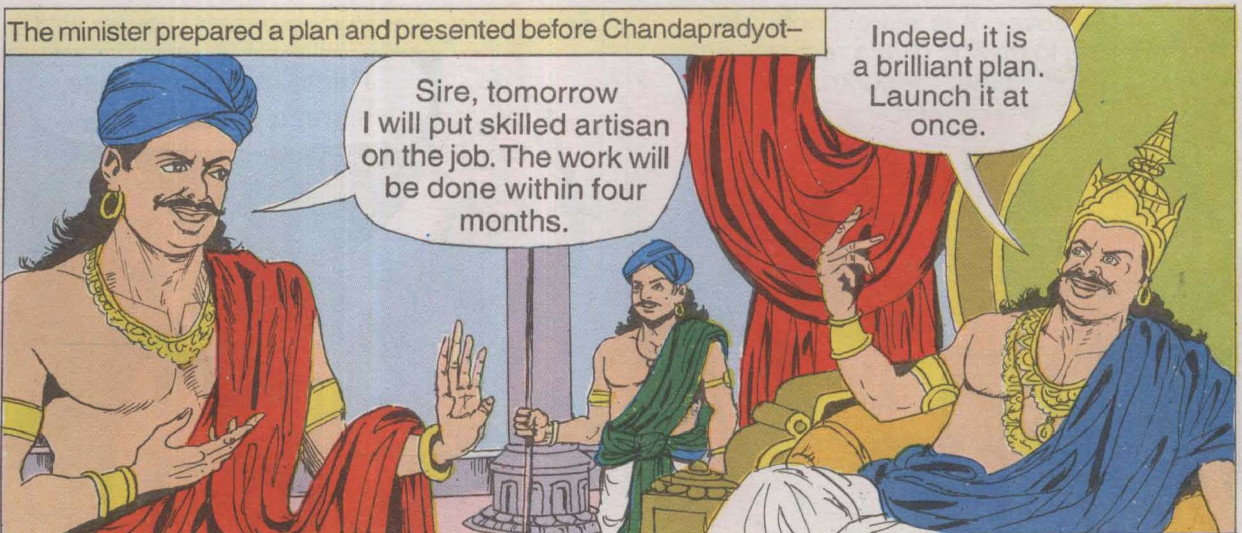
I want Udayan in Avanti by force or by connivance.



The minister prepared a plan and presented before Chandapradhyot—

Sire, tomorrow I will put skilled artisan on the job. The work will be done within four months.

Indeed, it is a brilliant plan. Launch it at once.

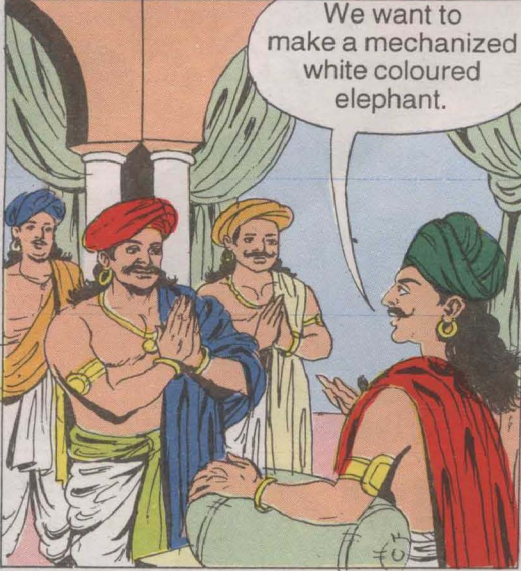




## Udayan and Vasavadatta

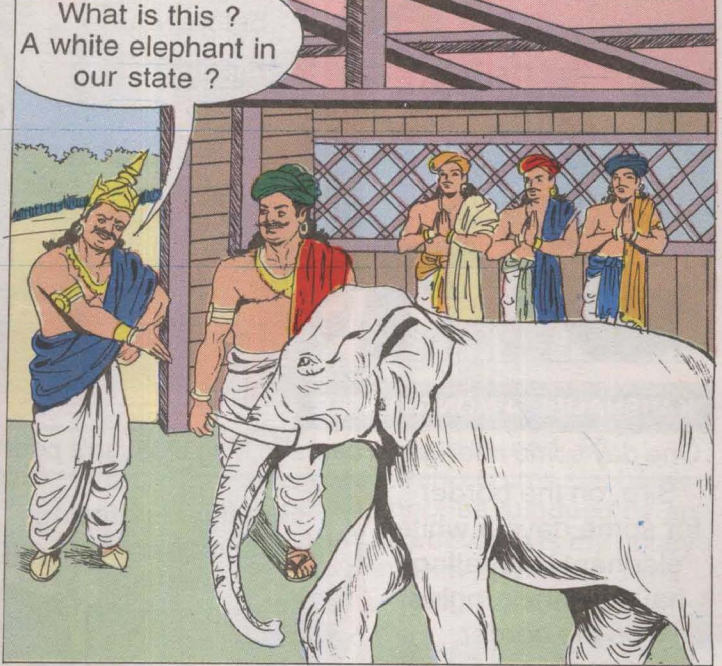
Next morning the minister called artisans and explained his plan—

We want to make a mechanized white coloured elephant.



Working day and night the artisans made a wonderful mechanized elephant. The minister brought Chandapradhyot to the workshop. Suddenly a white elephant came and stood before the king. Chandapradhyot was taken aback.

What is this ?  
A white elephant in our state ?

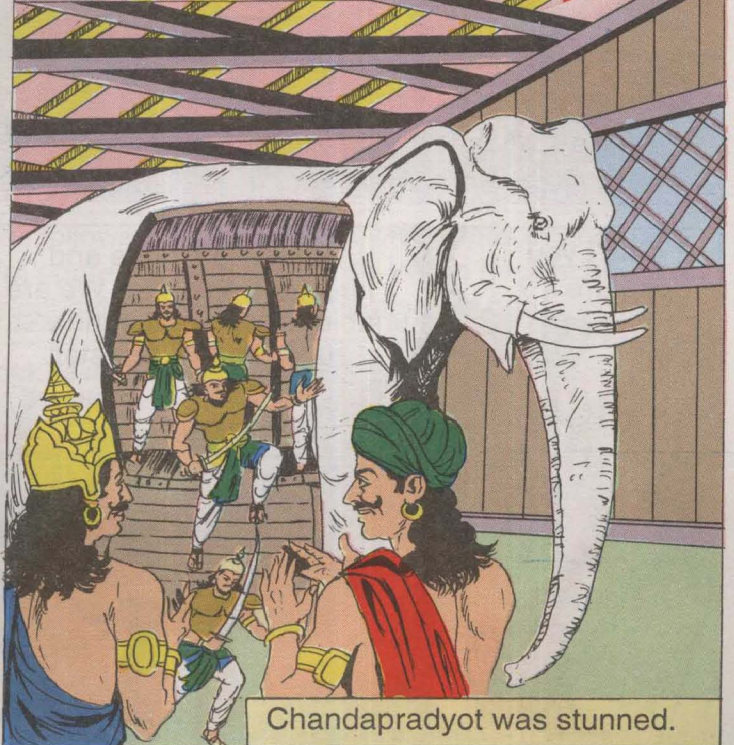


The minister laughed—

Sire, this is not a real elephant. It is made of wood and is driven mechanically. The driver sitting inside controls all its movements including walking, turning, jumping, moving its head, and even trumpeting. Look here.



The moment the minister clapped, a door opened in the belly and guards came out.

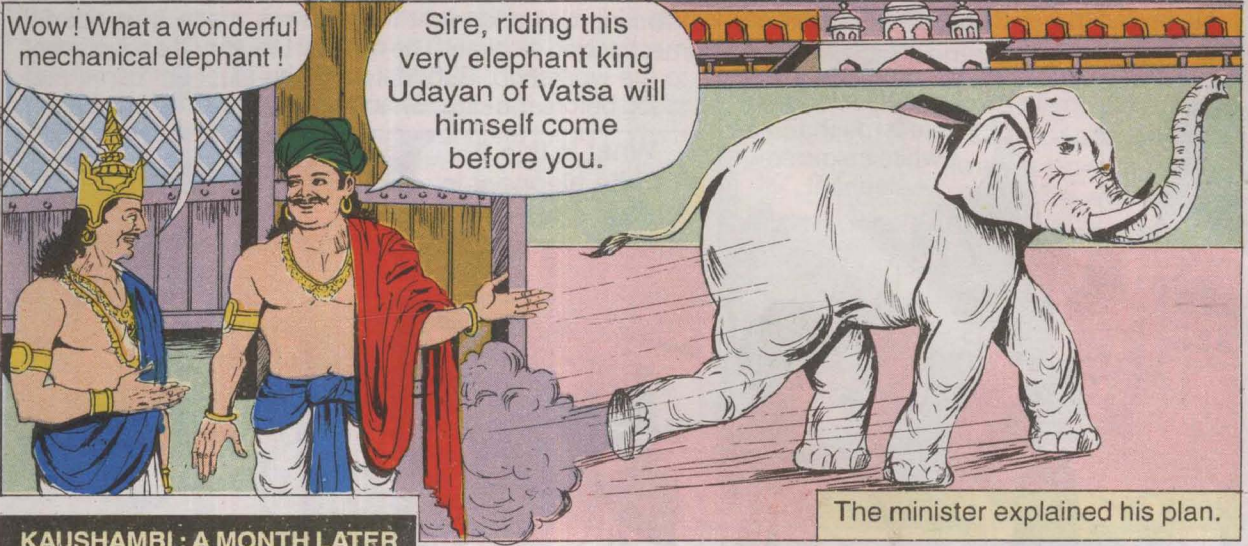


Chandapradhyot was stunned.

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Wow ! What a wonderful mechanical elephant !

Sire, riding this very elephant king Udayan of Vatsa will himself come before you.



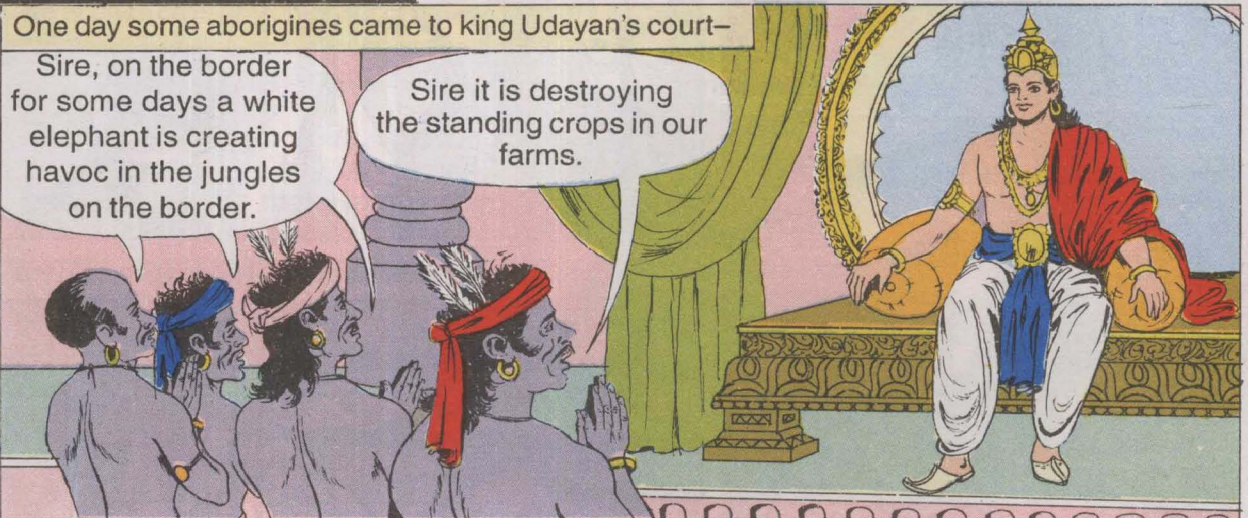
The minister explained his plan.

**KAUSHAMBI : A MONTH LATER**

One day some aborigines came to king Udayan's court—

Sire, on the border for some days a white elephant is creating havoc in the jungles on the border.

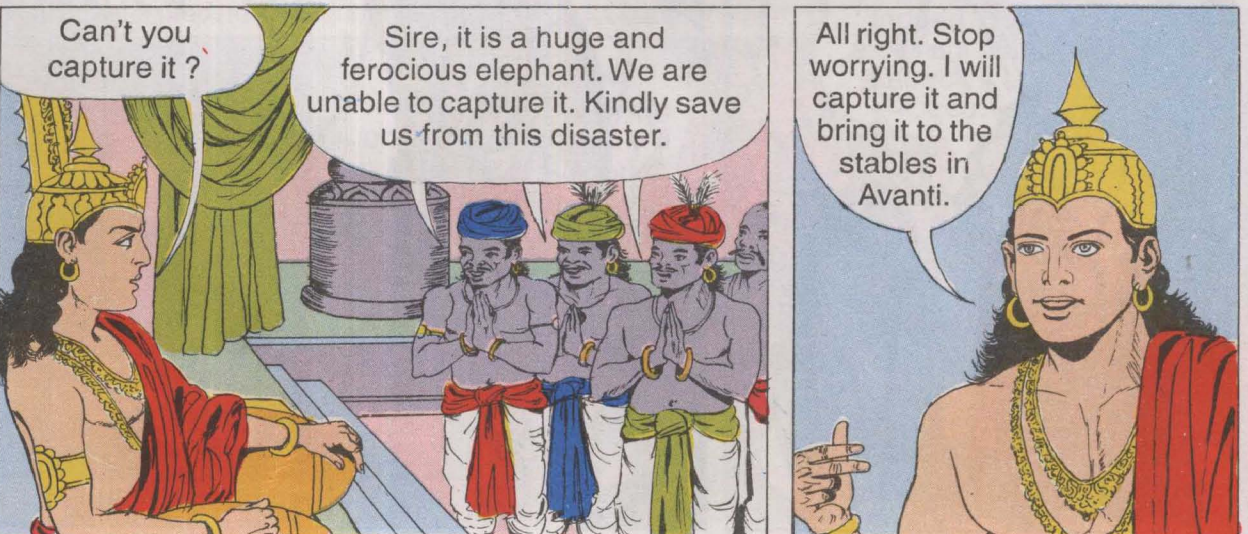
Sire it is destroying the standing crops in our farms.



Can't you capture it ?

Sire, it is a huge and ferocious elephant. We are unable to capture it. Kindly save us from this disaster.

All right. Stop worrying. I will capture it and bring it to the stables in Avanti.



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Udayan said to his assistant—

Vasantak, take my Ghoshvati Veena and come along. We have to subdue an elephant.

Please wait, sire. We do believe that your Veena has the power to subdue mad elephants with its melody, but....

Why do you worry then ?

But, sire, there are times when a mad elephant turns extremely dangerous. Therefore you should take some soldiers along.

Udayan laughed—

Rest assured. My Veena can control elephants that cannot be subdued by an army. Moreover, it is my hobby to play with elephants. I will return soon.

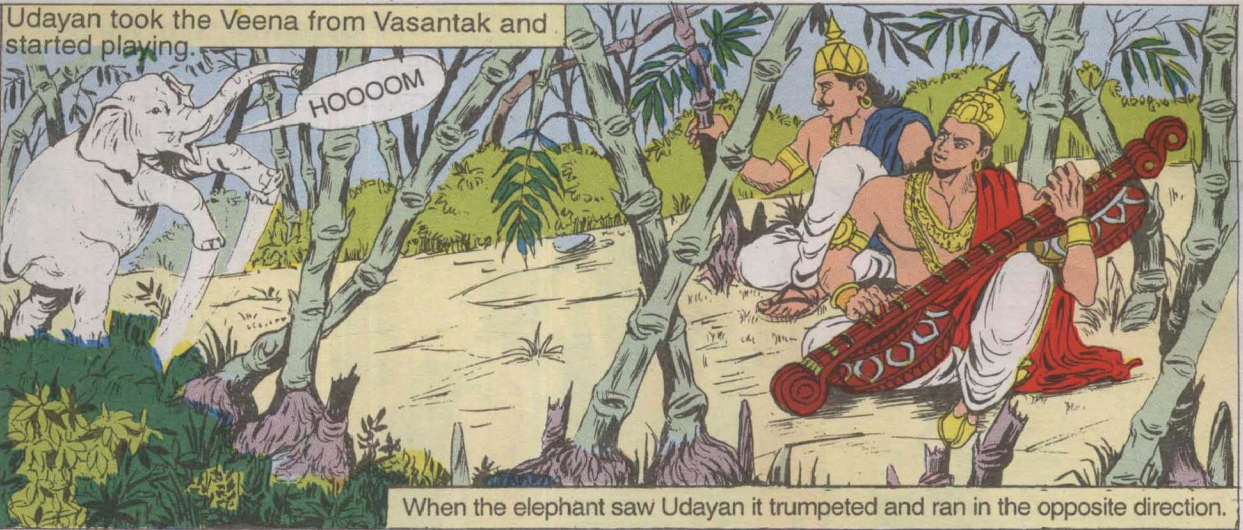
Udayan rode his white horse. Vasantak followed on horse back with reigns in one hand and the Veena in the other. Behind him came two armed guards. When he reached the borders of Kaushambi he saw a white elephant jumping and trumpeting in a dense jungle of bamboo and banana trees.

Look Vasantak, the mad elephant.

Sire, it looks like Airavat, the elephant of Indra, the king of gods, has landed on the earth.

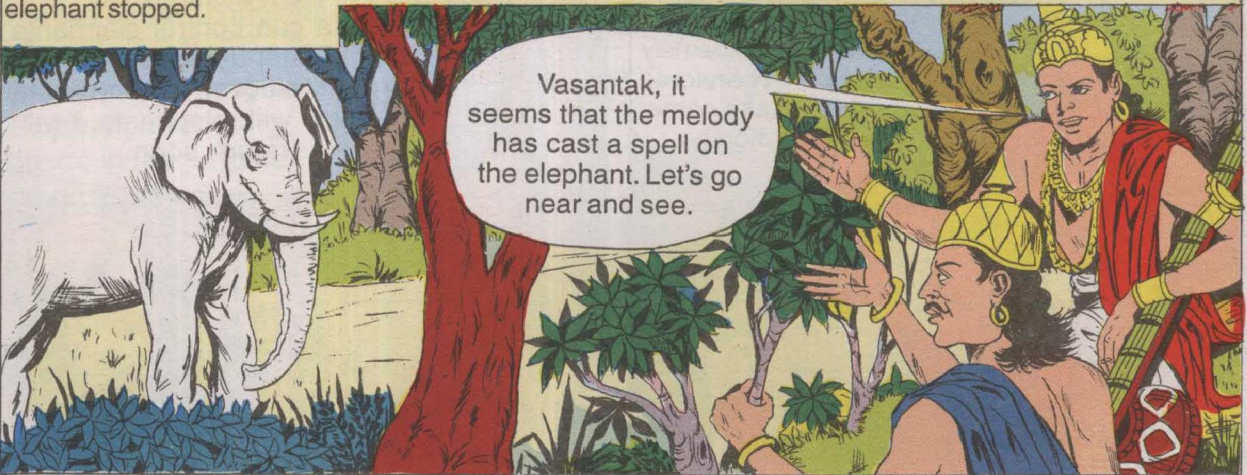
## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Udayan took the Veena from Vasantak and started playing.



When the elephant saw Udayan it trumpeted and ran in the opposite direction.

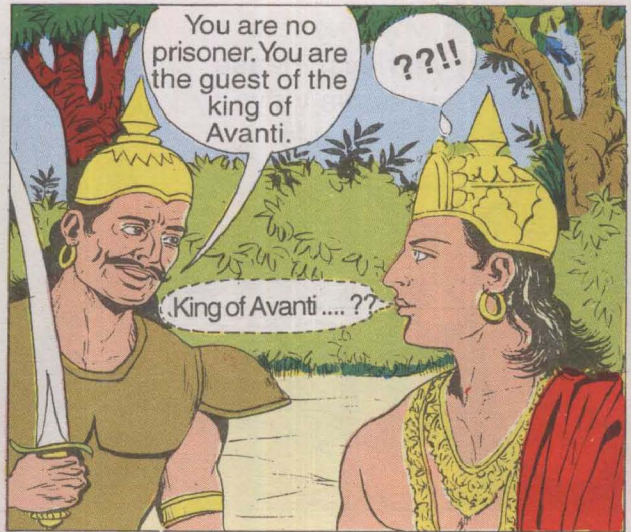
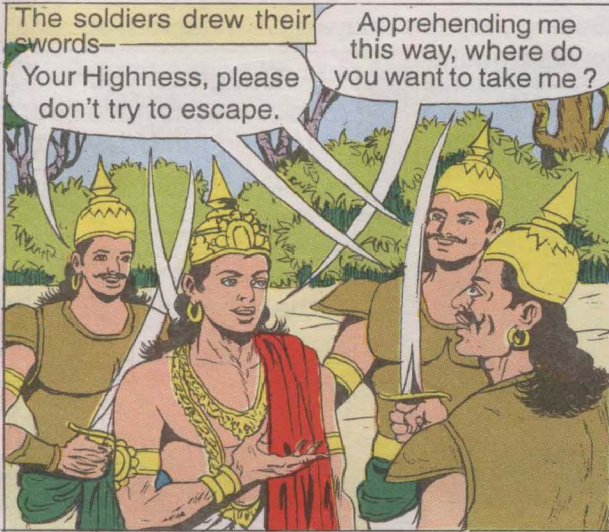
Udayan pursued the elephant deeper into the jungle. Finding a place to hide, he started playing Veena. The elephant stopped.



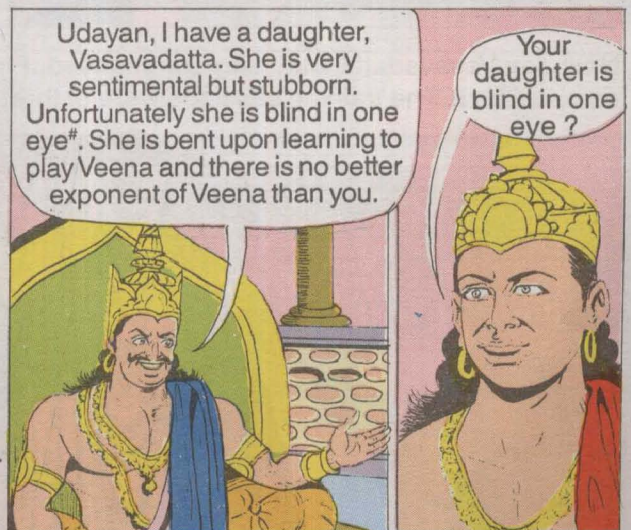
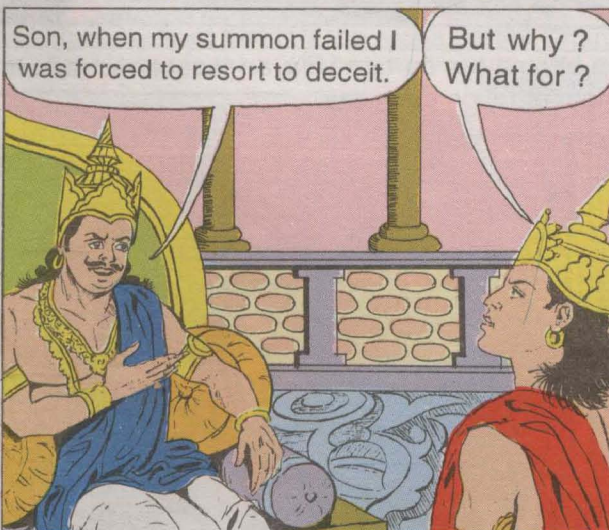
As soon as Udayan came near the elephant, its belly opened and soldiers rushed out.



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

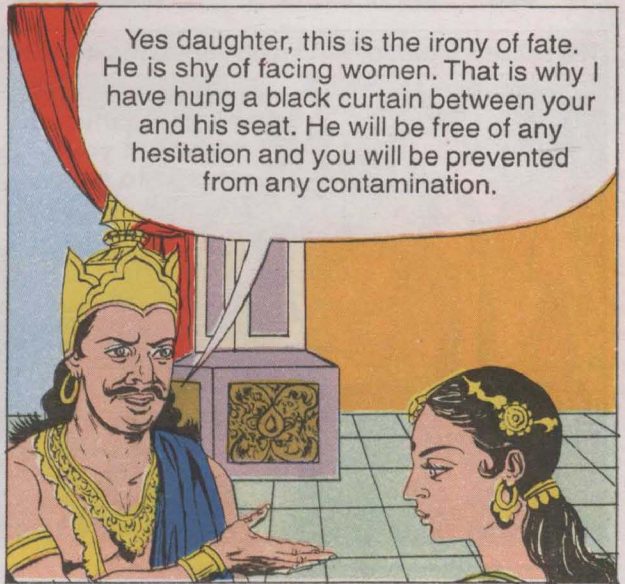
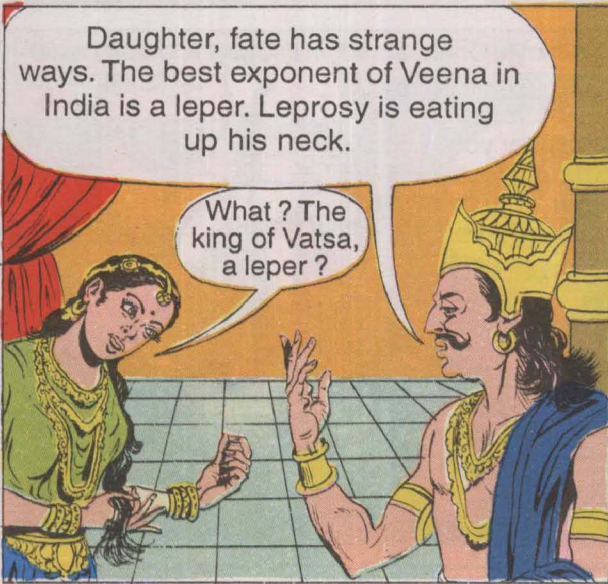
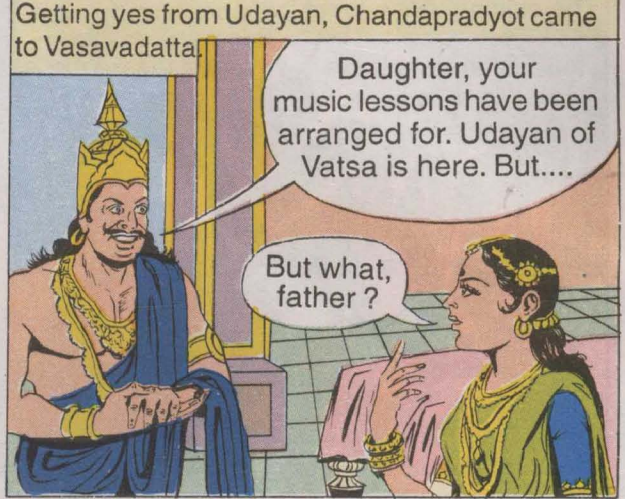
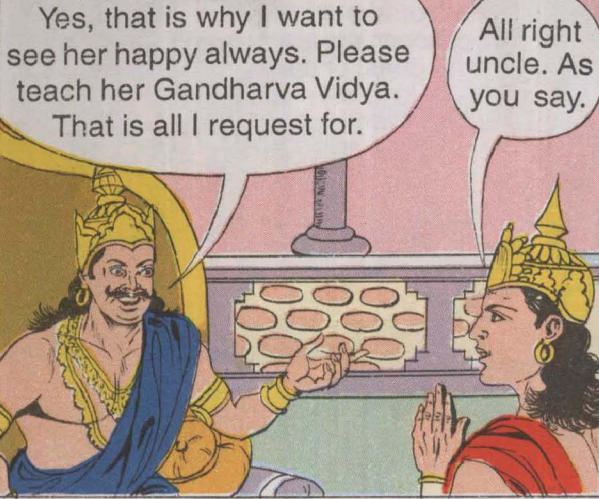


The soldiers took Udayan inside the elephant and brought him to Chandrapadyot in Ujjayini. Udayan said—



# Completely blind according to some sources. 19

## Udayan and Vasavadatta



Next day Vasavadatta's training commenced. From behind the curtain Udayan taught her various compositions. The training sessions were of three hour duration each day.



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

One day Udayan was giving lessons on some divine composition.

Princess the fifth string of the Veena is loose. The note does not have the right tone.

Vasavadatta tightened the string, but she was still missing the proper rendering again and again.

Udayan said with irritation—

Hey one-eyed princess, can't you see the strings? Be attentive in your practice.

Being called one-eyed, Vasavadatta got angry—

You leper, you could not appreciate the beauty of my deep blue eyes, is that why you call me one-eyed?

A leper? Who?

Udayan realized that this too was a part of Chandrapradyot's conspiracy. He at once drew the curtain apart. He came face to face with Vasavadatta and was stunned by her beauty.

Why this striking beauty was said to be one-eyed?

Oh! He is an Adonis and not a leper.

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Both stared at each other for quiet some time.

O divine beauty, this veil of confusion between us is the work of your father. Is it not ?

Arya#, what he feared has happened. Isn't it ?

Gradually the attraction between the two increased and one day Udayan said—

O dear, now that we love each other how long can we remain apart ?

Arya, my father will never let us meet. Therefore you will have to take some step.

All right, you arrange for a fast moving she-elephant. I will do the rest.

A few days later Vasantak, in disguise, came to meet Udayan.

Vasantak, you! Here ?

Sire, prime minister Yogandharayan is also here. He is making plans for your release.

Vasantak, princess Vasavadatta will accompany me to Kaushambi. Tell the prime minister to make arrangements.



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Vasantak informed the prime minister—

Minister Sir,  
The princess loves  
Udayan. She will also  
accompany  
the king.

Great! Eye for an  
eye. Chandapadyot  
kidnapped our king but  
we will take his daughter  
openly and after  
announcement.

The very next day Yogandharayan, disguised as a mad man, started roaming around the markets of Ujjayini. With disheveled hair and torn clothes, he cried and shouted loudly—

I am minister Yogandharayan  
of Kaushambi. Chandapadyot has  
kidnapped my king. I am taking  
away his princess.

Brother, he is possessed  
by some ghost.

Talking nonsense. Go  
away. Do your work.

He is mentally deranged.

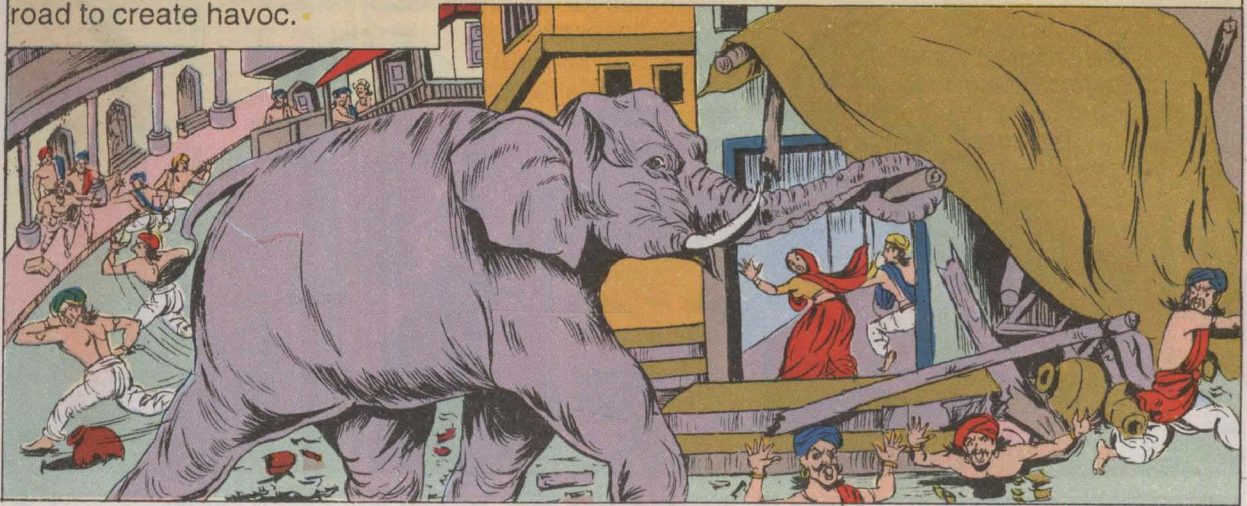
One day Chandapadyot was riding an elephant and passing through the market. Yogandharayan blocked the way and uttered with a loud laughter—

Listen to me, I am prime  
minister Yogandharayan.  
This Chandapadyot has  
kidnapped my king. I will free  
him and take him back along  
with princess Vasavadatta.  
Ha .... Ha .... Ha ....

Appears to  
be a mad man.  
Under some spell.  
Whip him twice  
and let go.

The mad man spat and went away laughing.

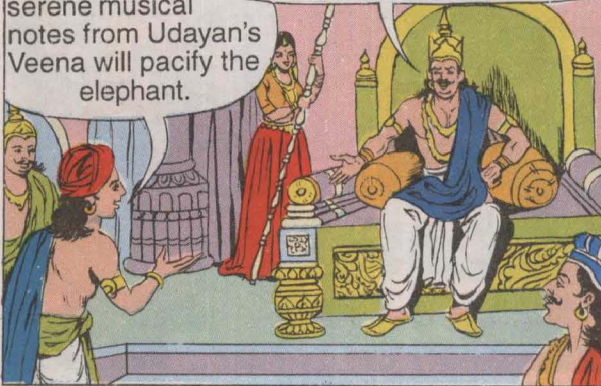
One day elephant Analgiri became mad. He broke chains and poles and came to the main road to create havoc.



Guards informed the king who asked Abhaya Kumar--

Sire, the serene musical notes from Udayan's Veena will pacify the elephant.

Abhaya# what to do? Please tell how to pacify the elephant.



The king asked Udayan--

Son, it is in your hands to save the people. I will be indebted. Please pacify the elephant.

Sire, now the princess has also become an expert. We will play Veena jointly.



Udayan and Vasavadatta rode an elephant and started playing Veena. When the mad elephant heard the music it stopped where it stood.

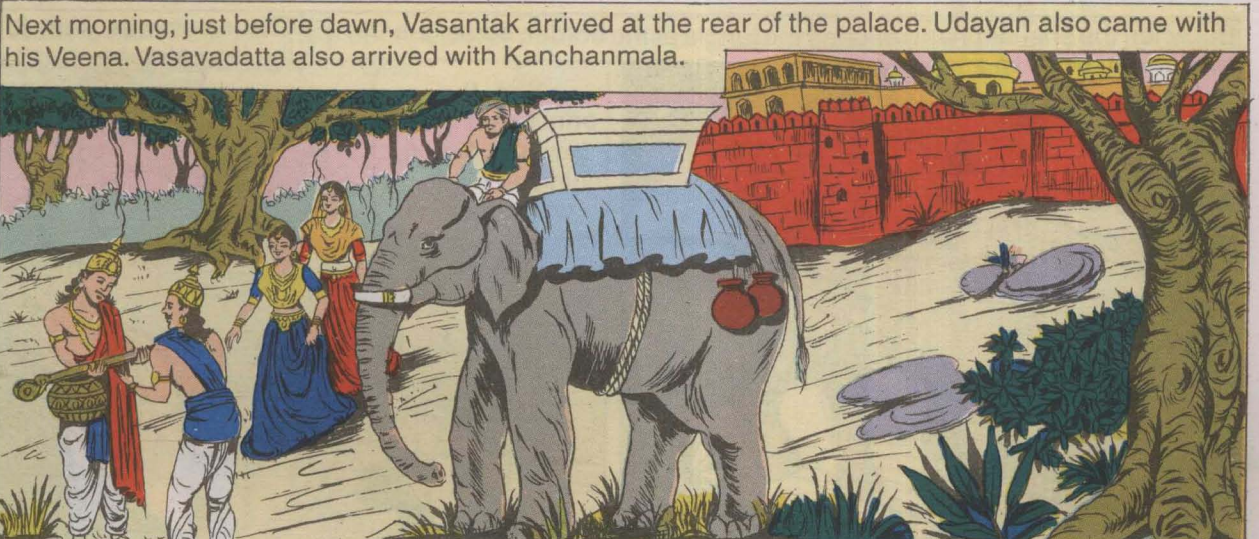
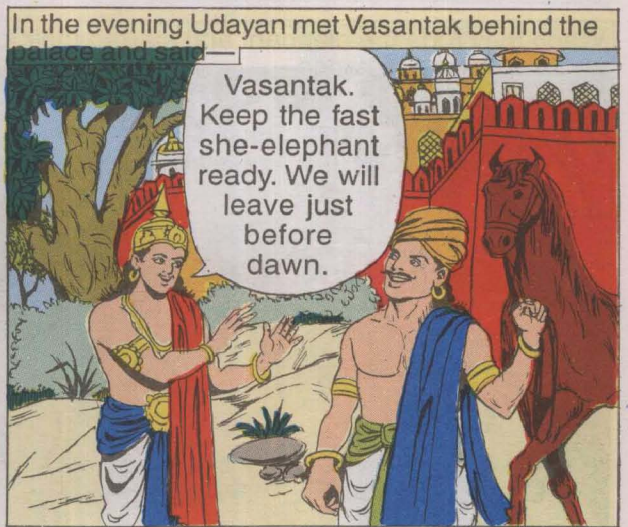
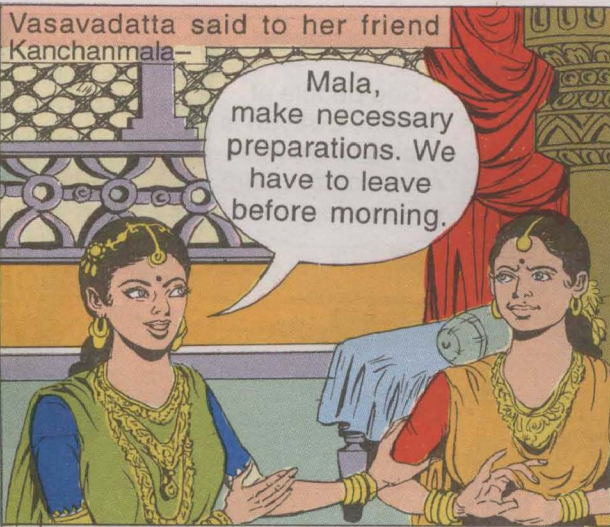
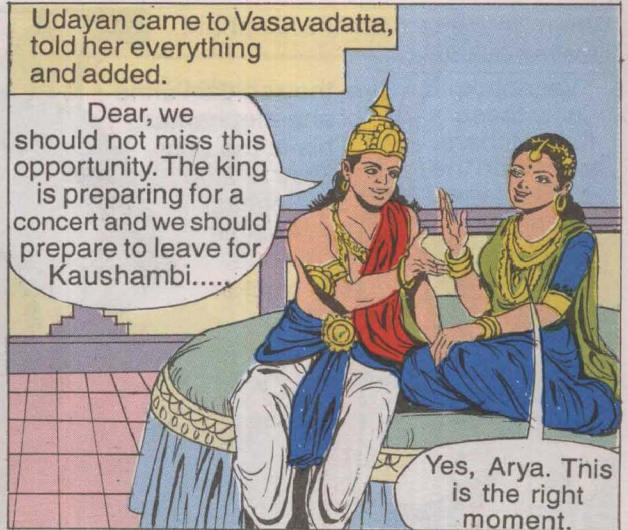
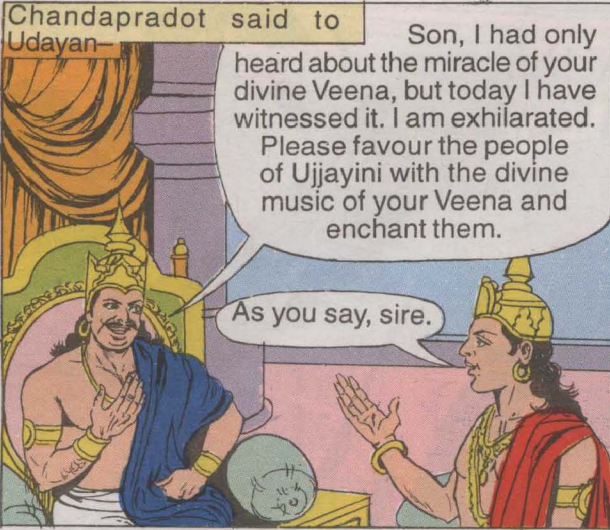
Great! What a magic in music of veena.



The elephant keepers took the elephant to the yard and chained it.

# As part of his revenge, Chandrapradyot had also kidnapped Abhaya Kumar and detained him in Ujjayini but with due honour.

## Udayan and Vasavadatta

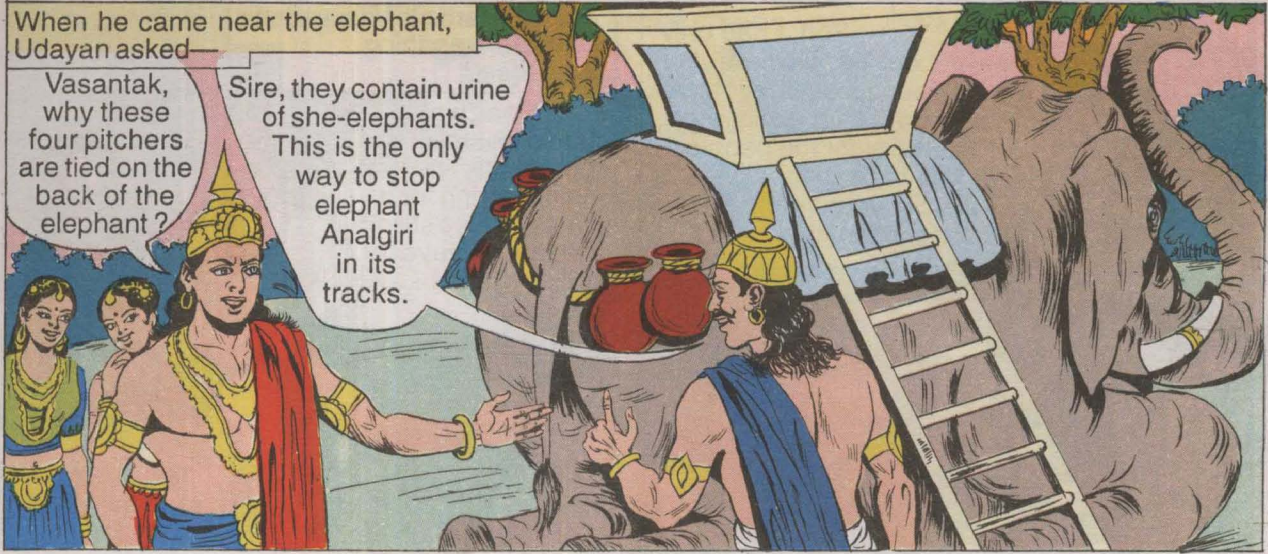


# Udayan and Vasavadatta

When he came near the elephant, Udayan asked—

Vasantak, why these four pitchers are tied on the back of the elephant?

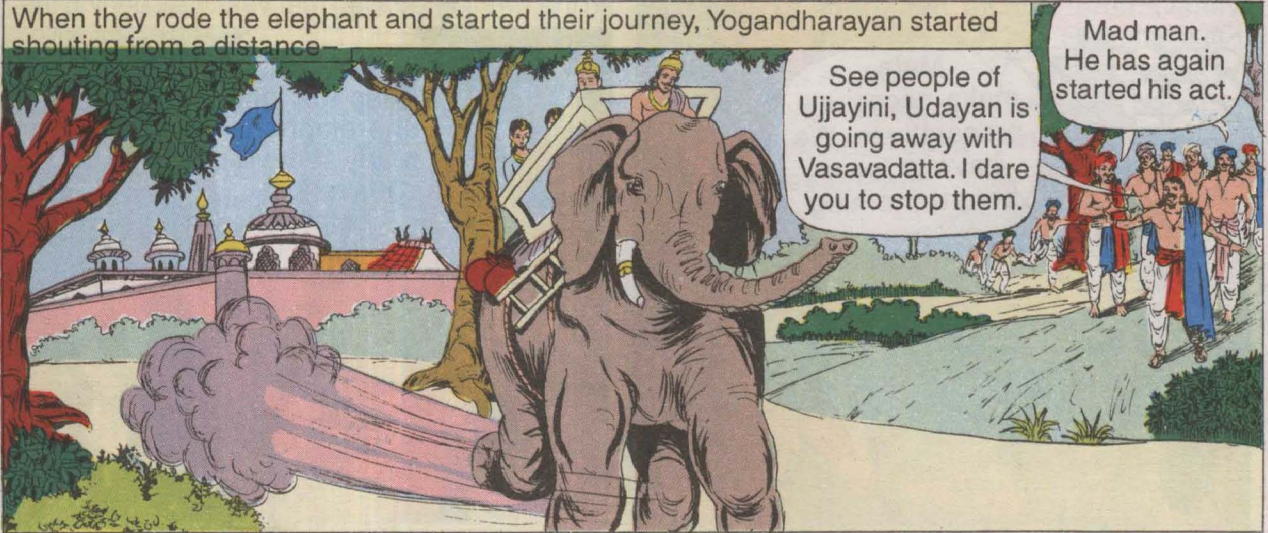
Sire, they contain urine of she-elephants. This is the only way to stop elephant Analgiri in its tracks.



When they rode the elephant and started their journey, Yogandharayan started shouting from a distance—

See people of Ujjayini, Udayan is going away with Vasavadatta. I dare you to stop them.

Mad man. He has again started his act.



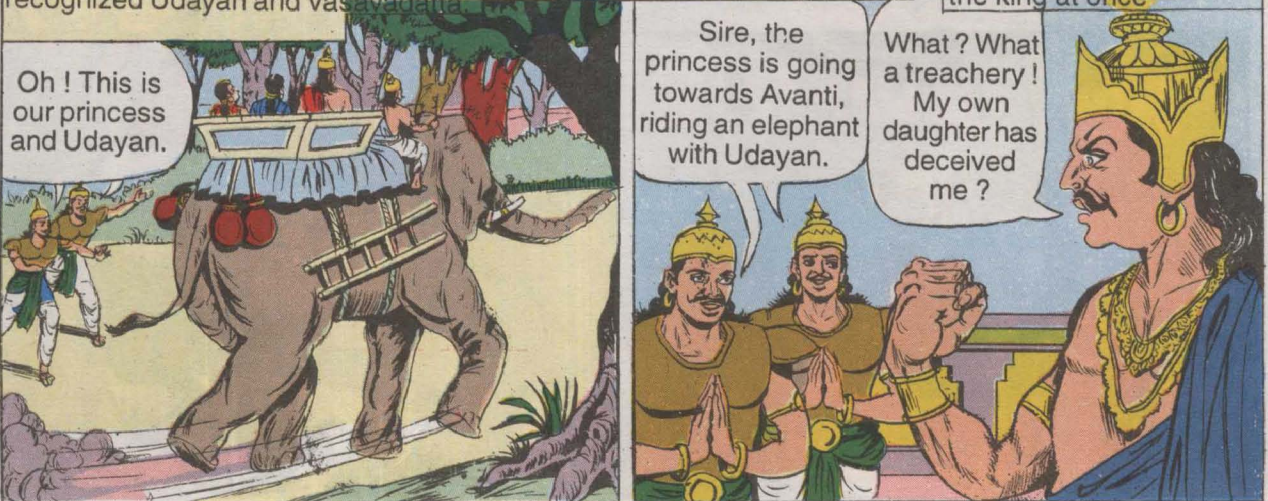
But when the she-elephant reached the jungle at the border, some guards recognized Udayan and Vasavadatta—

The news was sent to the king at once—

Oh! This is our princess and Udayan.

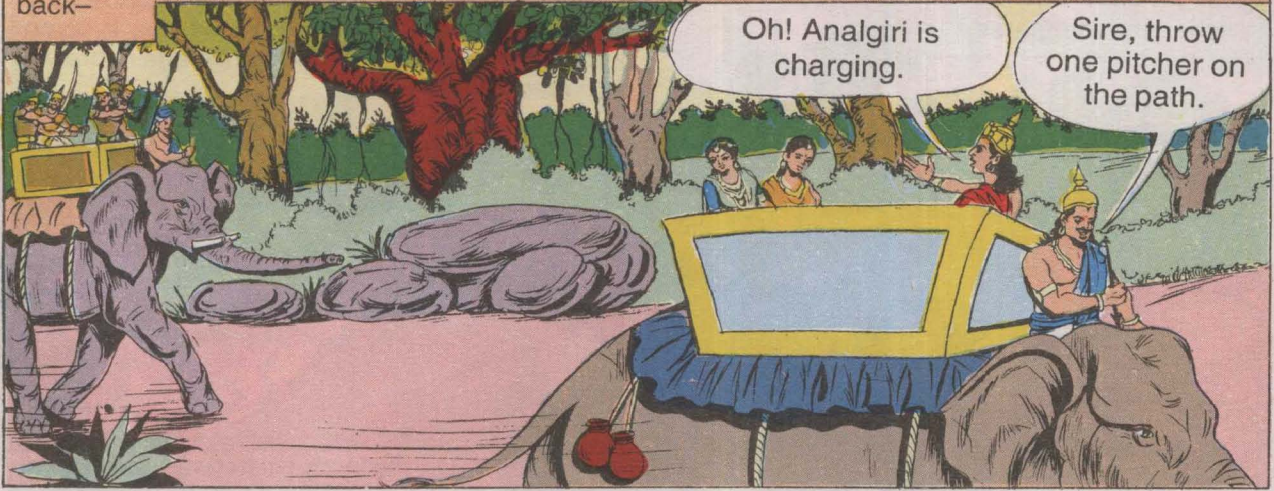
Sire, the princess is going towards Avanti, riding an elephant with Udayan.

What? What a treachery! My own daughter has deceived me?



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

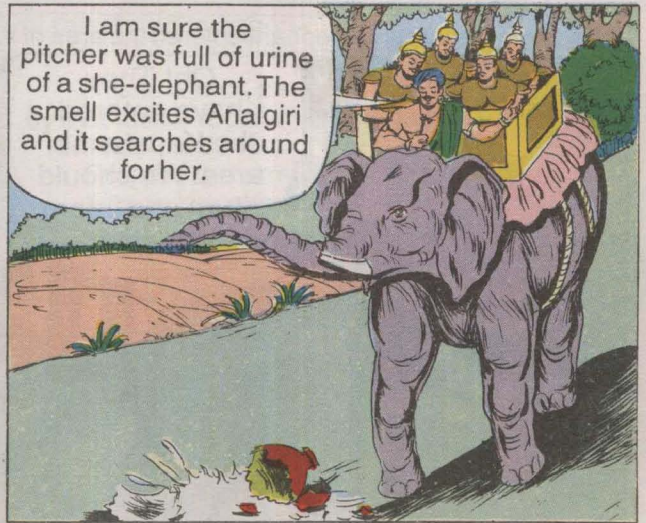
On orders of Chandapradhyot, some soldiers, riding elephant Analgiri, chased Udayan. Udayan looked back—



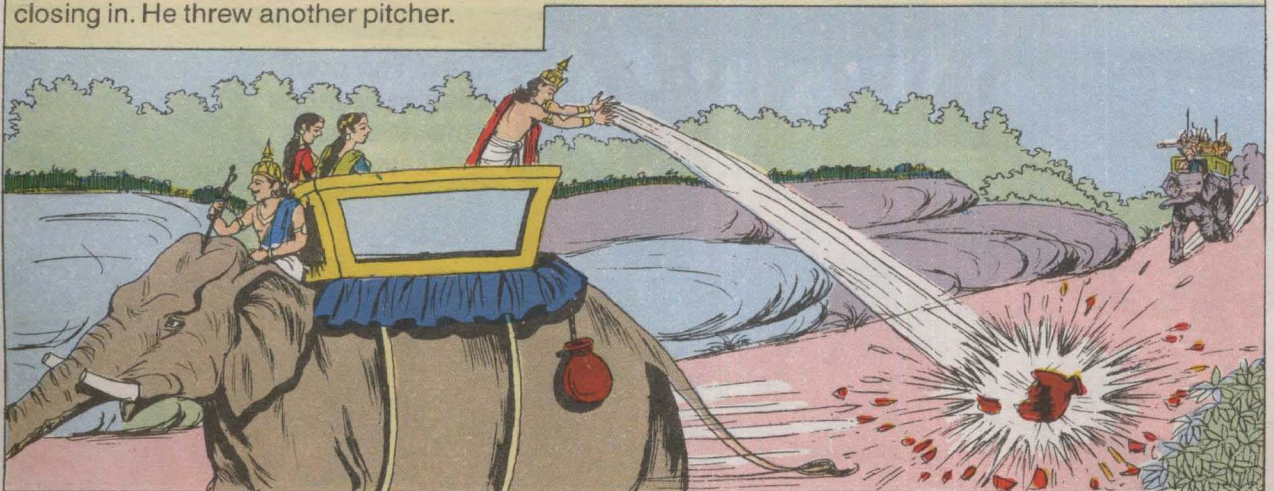
Udayan picked a pitcher and threw it down. When Analgiri came near the broken pitcher it stopped and sniffed. It became a little excited.



I am sure the pitcher was full of urine of a she-elephant. The smell excites Analgiri and it searches around for her.



Goading with his lance, the elephant driver again made it run. After a few hours Udayan saw Analgiri closing in. He threw another pitcher.



## Udayan and Vasavadatta

Analgiri once again stopped near the broken pitcher and trumpeted.

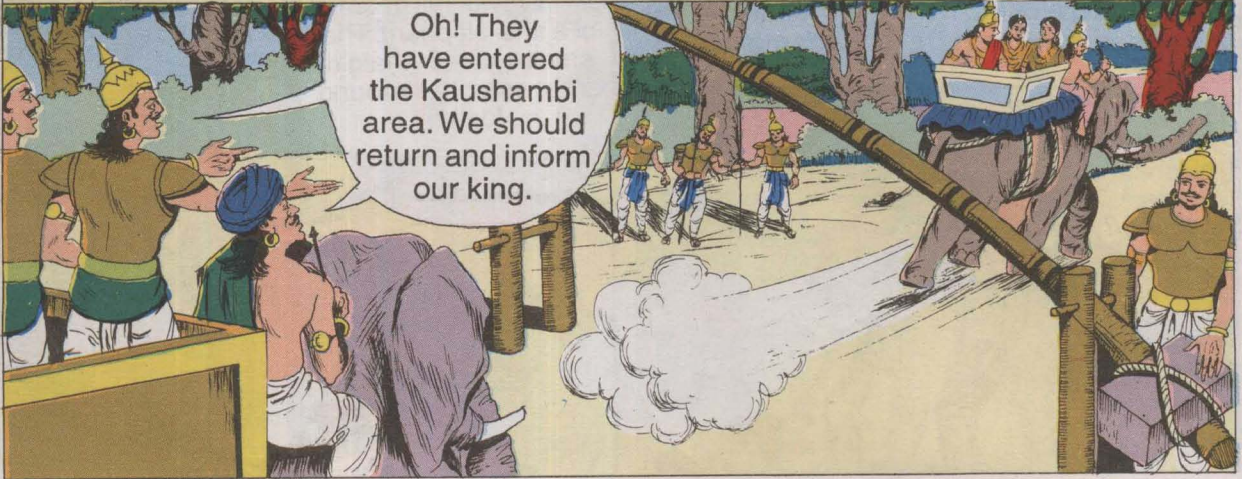


With great difficulty the driver again goaded it to run. After covering about 100 miles, it again caught up with Udayan who once again threw a pitcher.

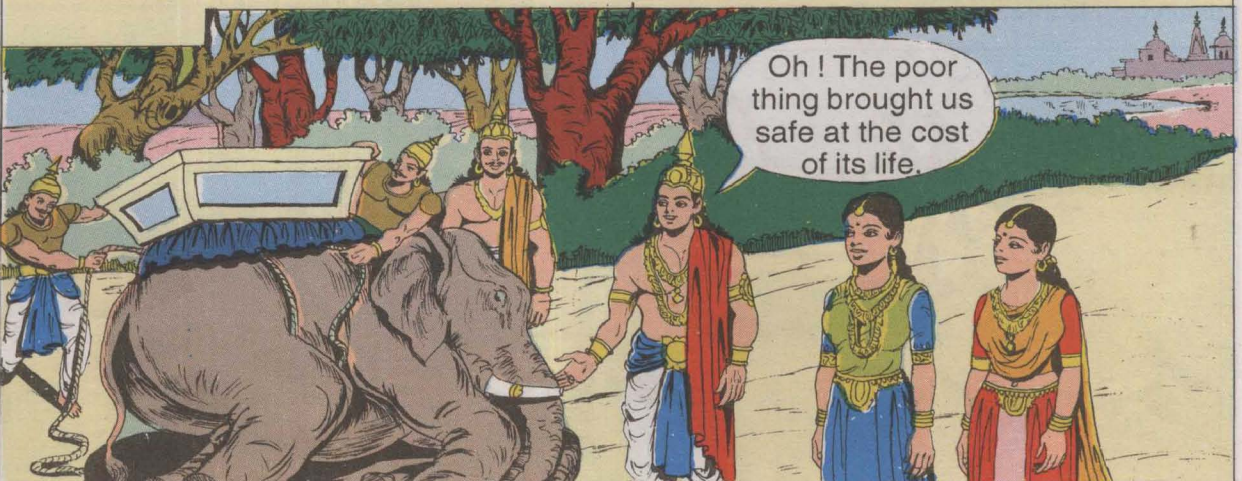


At last the fourth pitcher was also thrown.

By evening the fast she-elephant entered the area of Kaushambi. Chandapradyyot's soldiers were left behind.

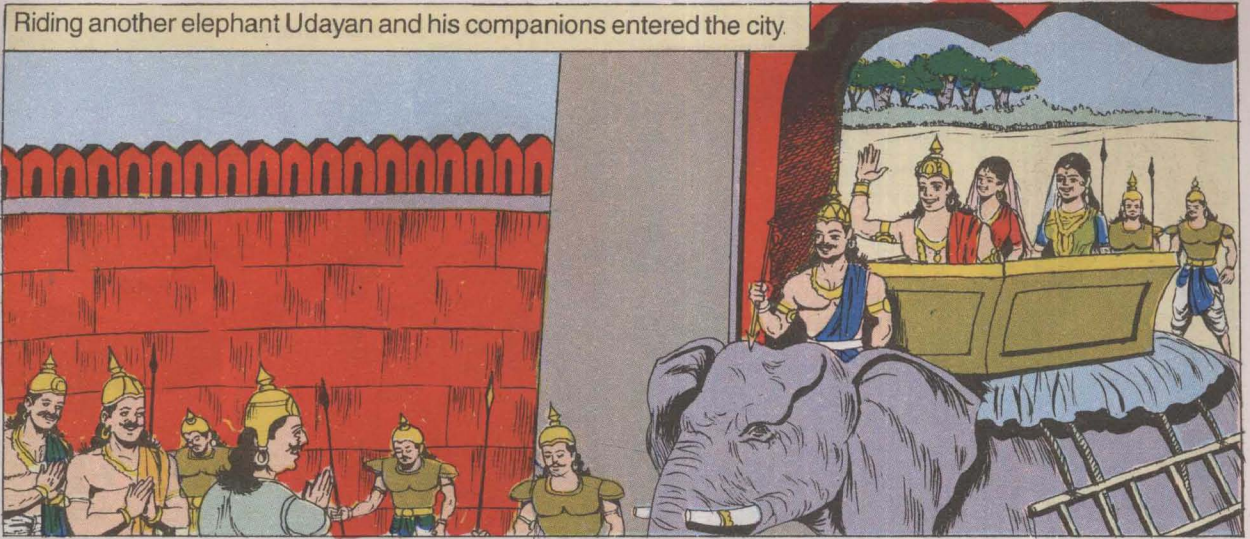


The running elephant was so exhausted that it fell dead as soon as it entered Kaushambi.

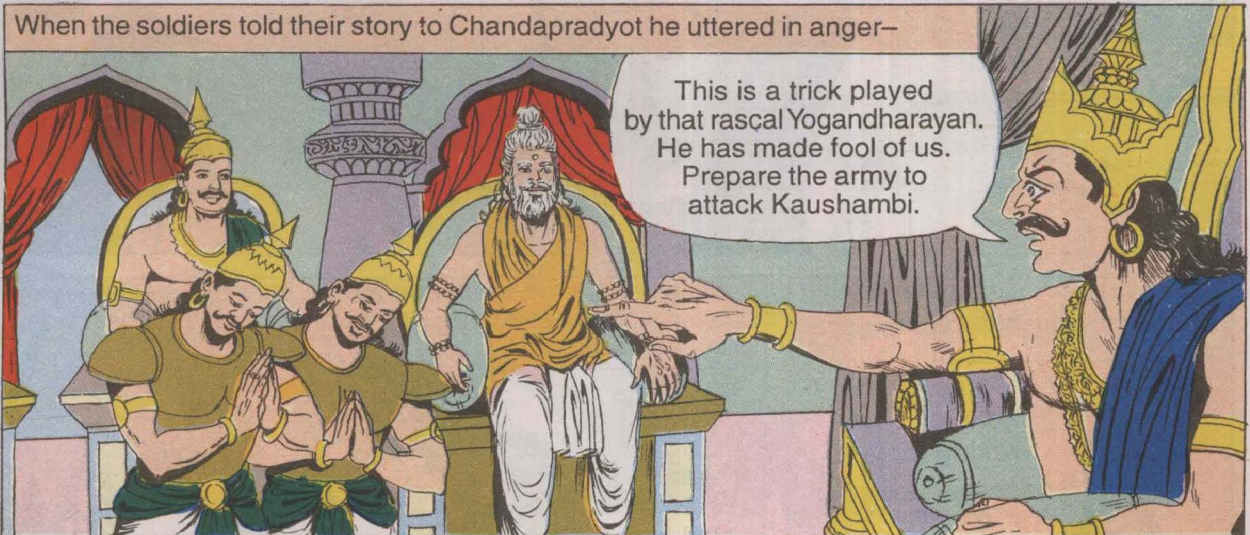


## Udayan and Vasavadatta

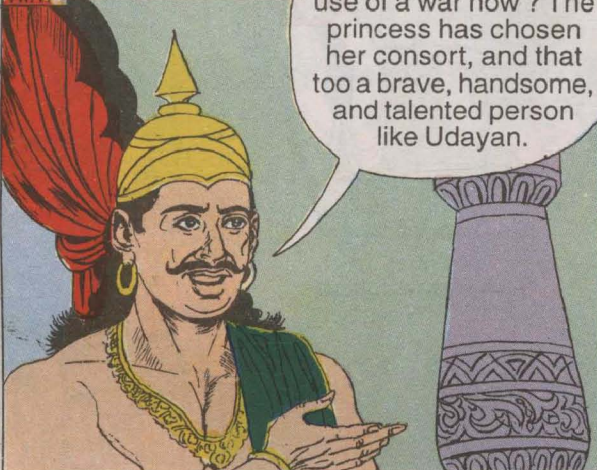
Riding another elephant Udayan and his companions entered the city.



When the soldiers told their story to Chandapadyot he uttered in anger—

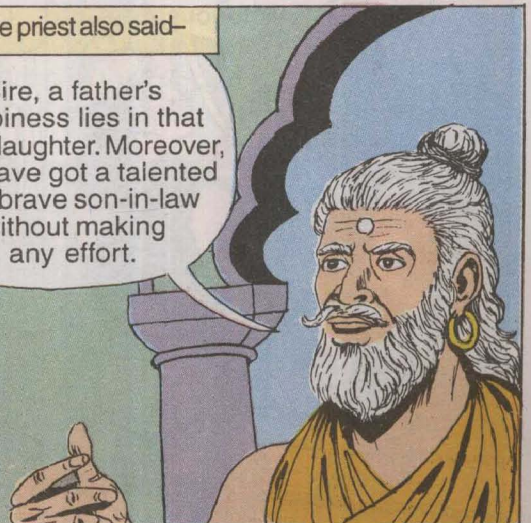


His ministers pacified him—

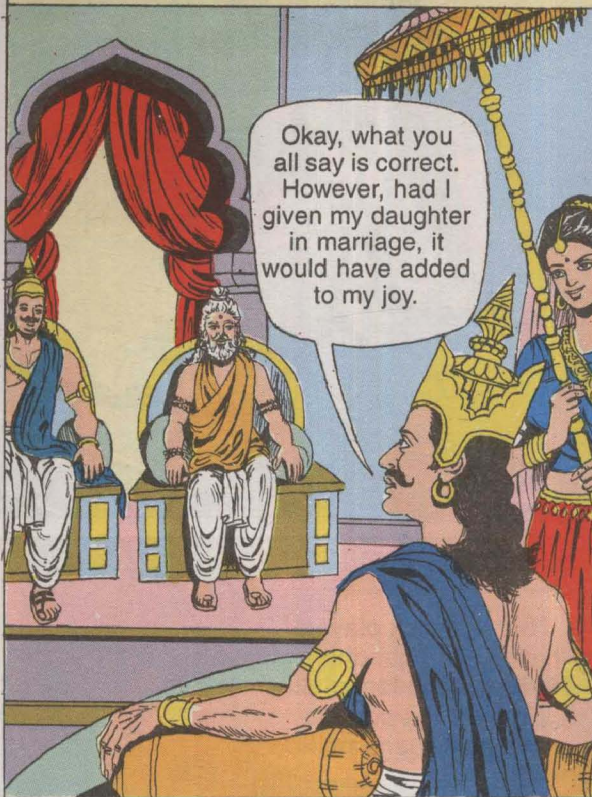


The state priest also said—

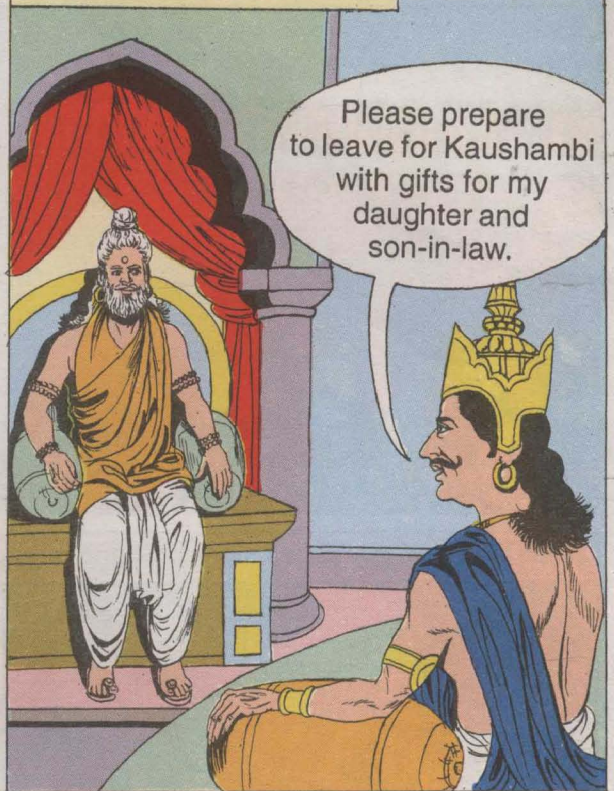
Sire, a father's happiness lies in that of his daughter. Moreover, you have got a talented and brave son-in-law without making any effort.



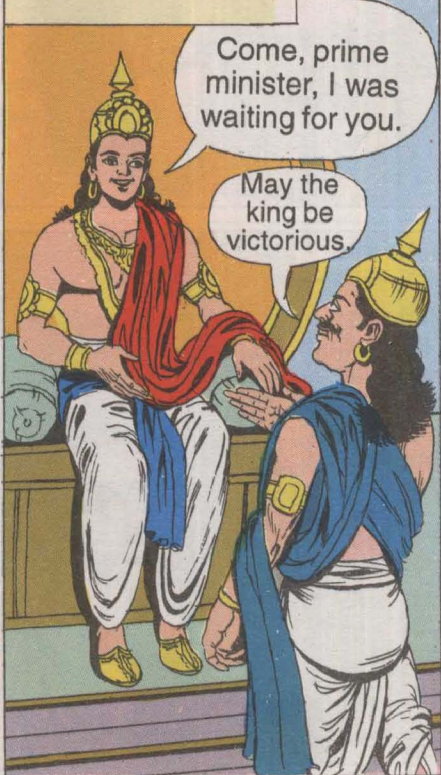
Persuaded by all, Chandapradhyot calmed down.



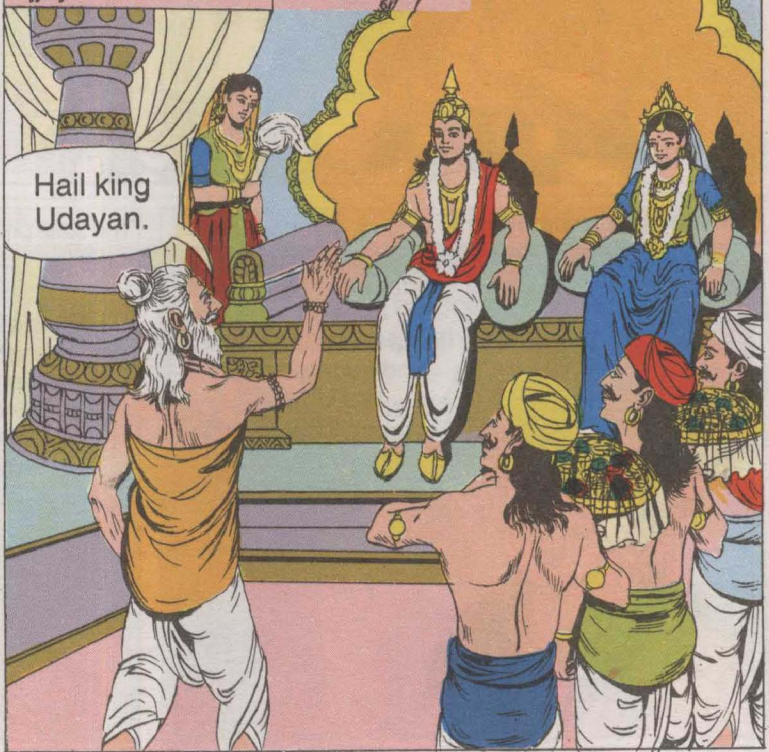
He instructed his state priest—



Two days later Yogandharayan also returned to Kaushambi.

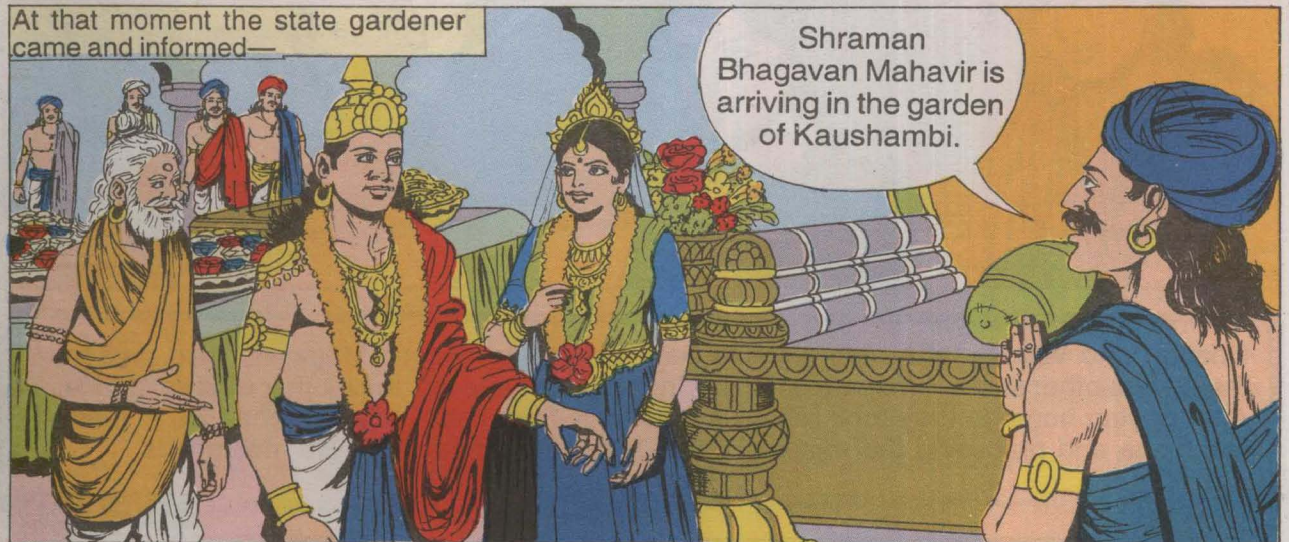
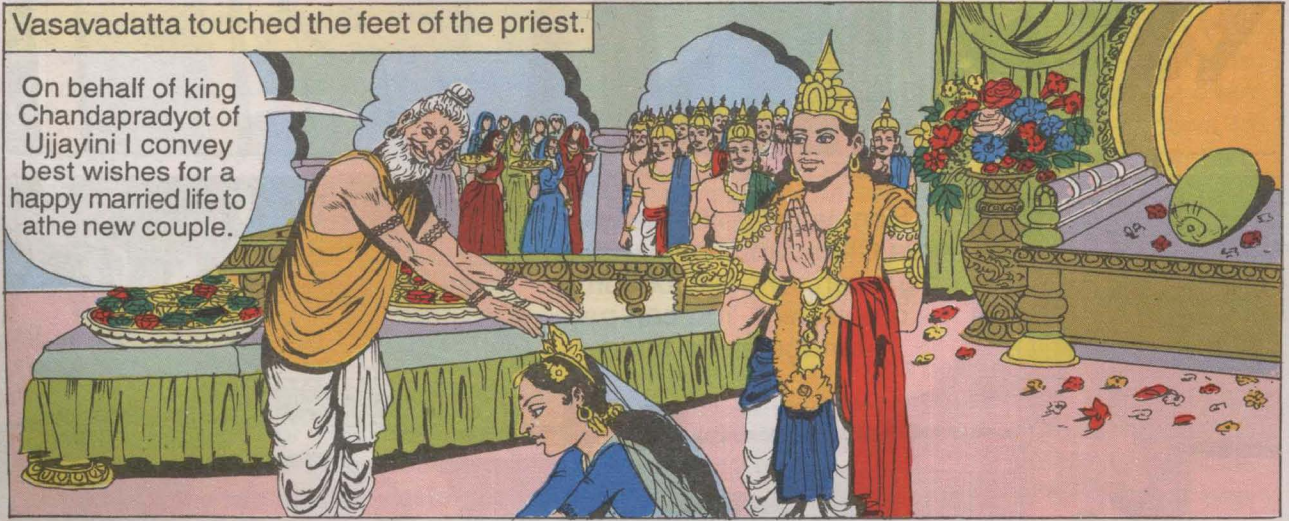


Kaushambi started preparing for the marriage ceremony of Udayan and Vasavadatta. At that time the state priest from Ujjayini also arrived.

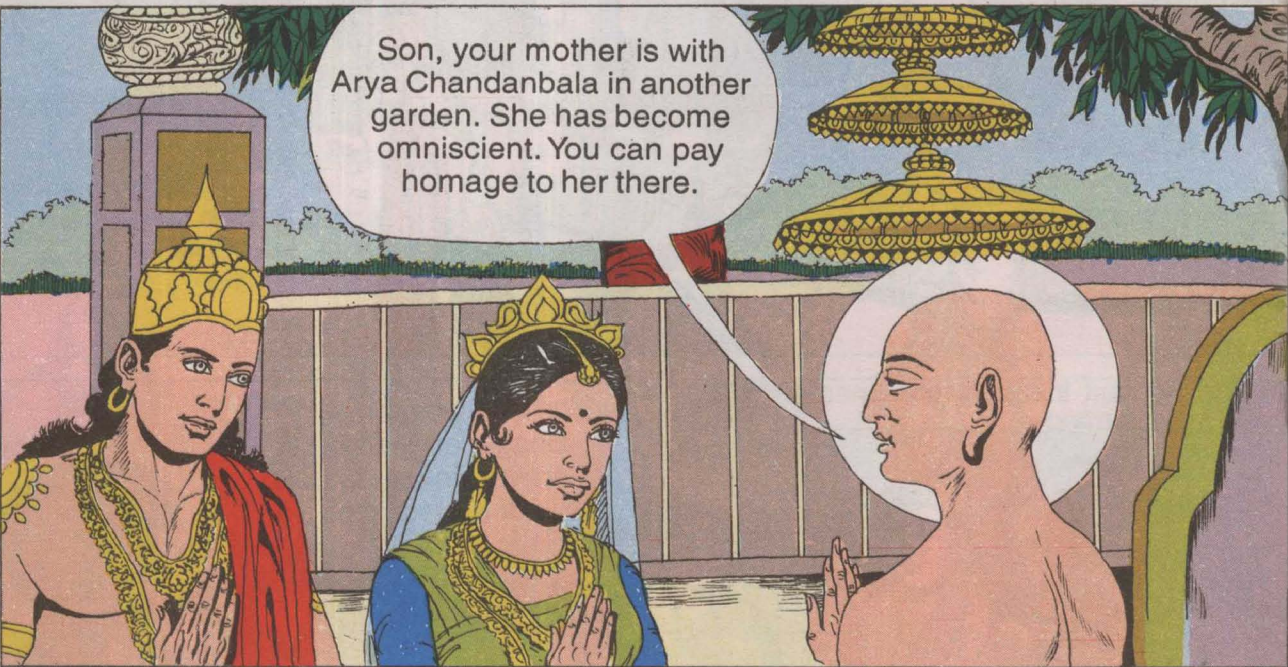
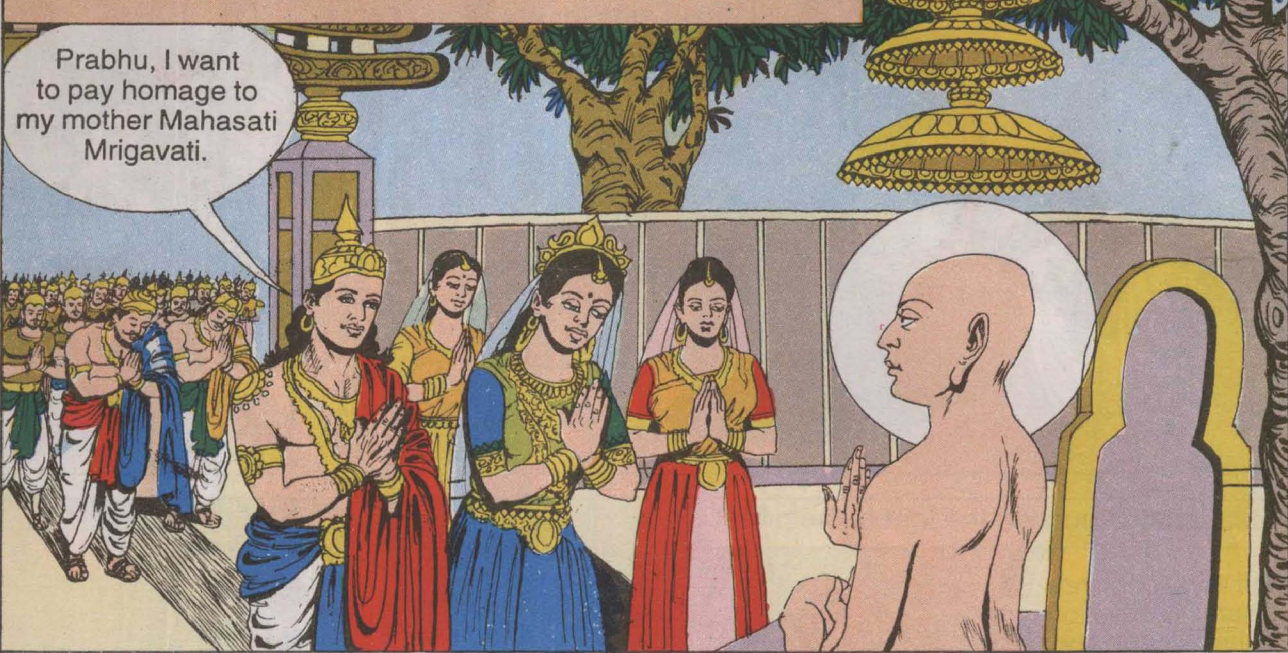




## Udayan and Vasavadatta



Next day with their large army Udayan and Vasavadatta went to pay homage to Bhagavan Mahavir and listened to his sermons. After the discourse Udayan requested



Udayan and Vasavadatta both went to pay homage to ascetic Mrigavati. Also present there were other sadhvis [female ascetics] including Angaravati, the mother of Vasavadatta. After paying homage they took religious teachings from them. Adapting their life to these teachings and practising the religion of the Jinas, they made their life meritorious.

**THE END**

# 101 Reasons Why I'm A Vegetarian

contd. ....

16. So called "redskins" are those chickens which, on the conveyer belt to their deaths, missed not only the brine-filled electrified stunning trough, but the knife that was to cut their throats. Their deaths occurred in the scald tank where feathers are loosened before plucking. Piles of them are thrown aside every day.
17. Chicken feed today is routinely laced with hormones and antibiotics. Only by maintaining the birds on drugs, a practice which began about mid-century, is agribusiness allowed the luxury and efficiency of massive flocks and intensive confinement. Today's medicated feed also pumps out market weight birds in half the time from two-thirds the feed of 50 years ago.
18. Meat-centered diets are linked to many kinds of cancer, most notably cancer of the colon, breast, cervix, uterus, ovary, prostate, and lung.
19. Livestock in the U.S. produce 20 times the excrement of the entire U.S. population. Since farm animals today spend much or all of their in factory sheds or feedlots, their waste no longer serves to fertilize pastures a little at a time. Eighty-two tons of waste per week is produced in a hen house of 60,000 birds; it will be carted away by the truckload. The livestock operator may properly store, disperse or degrade animal waste. Or he may simply flush it away, dangerously raising ammonia and nitrate levels in our drinking water. Becoming a vegetarian does more to clean up our nation's water than any other single action.
20. The human intestine is not designed to digest meat. Where a natural carnivore's bowel is relatively short (3 times the length of its body) and smooth inside, a human's bowel is 12 times the length of the body and deeply twisted and puckered. Having no fiber of its own, meat quite arduously inches itself through the long convoluted human digestive tract. Before it gets to the end it has become putrid and toxic to the body.
21. In the words of John Robbins, author of *Diet for a New America*, a dairy cow living in today's modern milk factory "is bred, fed, medicated, inseminated and manipulated to a single purpose—maximum milk production at minimum cost." She lives with an unnaturally swelled up and sensitive udder, is kept inside a stall her entire life, is milked up to 3 times a day, and is kept pregnant nearly all of the time with her young taken from her almost immediately after birth. "Contented" is the characteristic most often attributed to the cow. However, cows in factories are fed tranquilizers to calm their frazzled nerves.
22. Calorie for calorie, spinach has 14 times the iron of sirloin steak. Iron requires vitamin C for absorption, of which animal products are totally deficient.
23. Male cattle in the beef industry are castrated to make them more docile. Castration also promotes a fatter (more profitable) animal. Castration can be done radically, all at once, or over a longer period of time with a ring, causing the testicles to eventually fall away. Anesthetics are rarely used.
24. The typical egg factory may hold 80,000 hens per warehouse. It is not unusual in the factory farm for 4 or 5 layer hens to be squeezed into a 12" x 18" cage. It is standard procedure for poultry producers to de-beak their chicks with hot-knife machines. Debeaking prevents most of the harm from the crazed pecking the birds will inflict upon one another in response to their intense confinement.
25. The National Cancer Research Institute found that women who eat meat on a daily basis are almost 4 times more likely to get

breast cancer than those women who eat little or no meat.

26. Today's milk factory may have one worker tending 800 calves in 45 minutes, a job in the barnyard of old which would have taken several workers an entire day. According to Peter Singer, author of *Animal Liberation*, "Cows are sensitive creatures who naturally develop strong bonds with their caretakers."
27. At the expense of their own hungry populations, exporters in poor countries will produce luxury foods such as meat for sale to rich countries. Meat is much more profitable to produce than subsistence crops of rice, beans and vegetables.
28. The 1.28 billion cattle in the world are responsible for 12% of the methane emissions into the atmosphere. Methane is one of the four greenhouse gasses contributing to the environmental trend toward "global warming." One methane molecule traps 25 time more solar heat than one molecule of carbon dioxide.
29. Pigs in today's factory indoor facilities are likely to be stacked two and three decks high, each solitarily imprisoned in a bin. For their entire lives they will live in space just big enough to fit in. They stand on metal or concrete slats which will painfully cripple the legs of half of them before slaughter.
30. The milk from a nursing woman who eats a diet rich in animal sources is so high in toxic substances that were it to be sold across state lines would be subject to confiscation and destruction by the FDA.
31. Two hundred years ago, American cropland had topsoil that averaged 21 inches in depth. Today, only about 6 inches remain. Every year in the U.S. an area the size of Connecticut is lost to topsoil erosion—85% of this erosion is associated with livestock production.
32. Fish are living magnets for toxic chemicals. According to *Consumer Reports* (Feb., 92), a notable incidence of unacceptable levels of PCB's and mercury were found in certain species of fish that were tested. Ingesting PCB's is considered a chief reason for the sperm count among American men to be 70% of what it was 30 years ago. Today, half the world's fish catch is fed to cattle.
33. Drug addicted animals in our factory sheds are supposed to have their drug intakes stopped at a certain interval before slaughter. Withdrawal schedules, however, are not always properly followed, if at all. Troughs of old, drug-laden feed may not be cleaned away when withdrawal should begin. Also, since animals are often fed animal waste and flesh, drug and pesticide residues continue to be recycled.
34. The common cold, as well as allergies to dust, cats and pollen, are more likely to go away when milk is taken out of the diet. No other mammal in nature drinks milk after weaning, nor drinks the milk of other species, as do humans.
35. USDA meat inspection today is virtually non-existent in several of the giant meat packing plants. A new inspection process approved of during the "deregulation 1980's" nearly eliminates the role of the federal meat inspector. Dubbed S.I.S. (Streamlined Inspection System), this unprecedented inspection process speeds on-line production by up to 40%. Sometimes as few as 3 out of 1,000 carcasses are checked. Federal inspectors are not allowed to stop the assembly line if a problem is sighted. They may only complain.

**To be contd. ....**

**Content Courtesy :**  
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(We regret the omission of her name in the previous issue.)

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## ***GODS BESEACHING BHAGAVAN MAHAVIRA TO ESTABLISH THE RELIGIOUS ORDER***

Prince Vardhamana led a very simple and disciplined life for one year. When he realised that he had now exactly one more year of a householder's life left, he undertook very severe and rigid austerities. If one wishes to lead the whole world and guide it along the proper path, then one must be equipped with omniscience and perfect code of conduct. Prince Vardhamana was accordingly trying to equip himself for the spiritual leadership of the universe. Just at this juncture, nine Lokantika gods approach him, bow down to him and hail and greet him. They are seen here requesting and entreating him to establish a religious order that will save all creatures and lead them to eternal bliss and salvation.