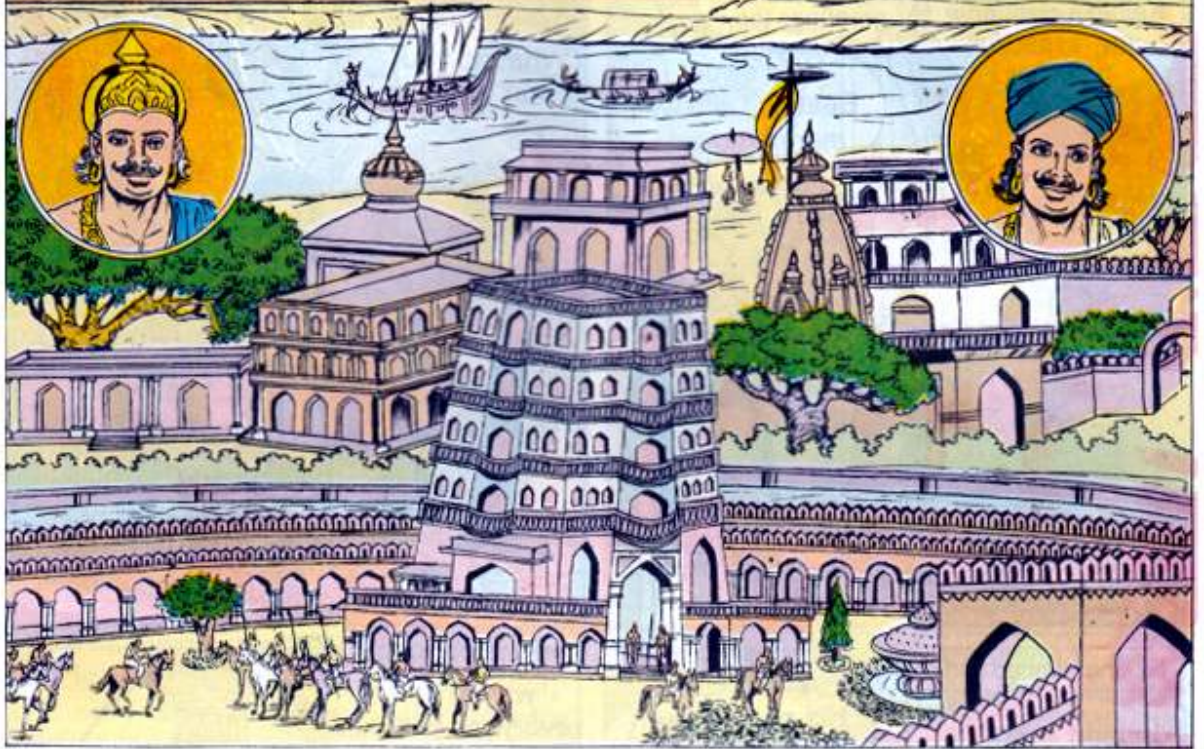
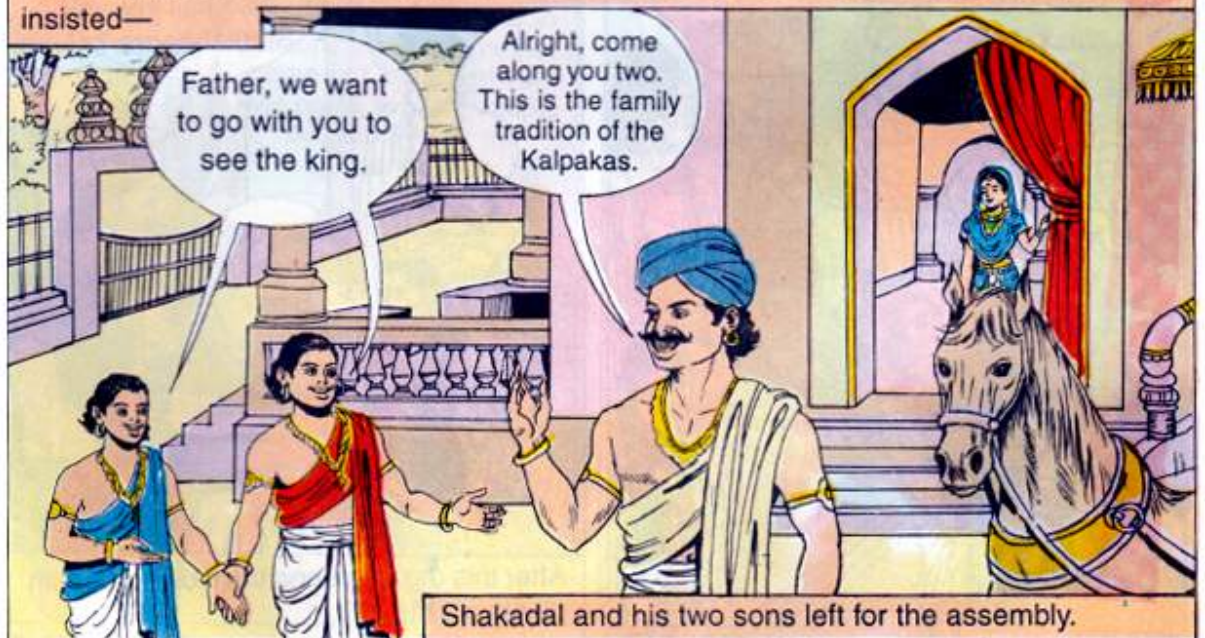


ARYA STHULABHADRA

Pataliputra, the beautiful capital of Magadha on the banks of the Ganges, had huge palaces, large mansions, and many grand Jain and Shiva temples. Ghananand the ninth king of the Nand dynasty ruled there. Shakadal was the prime-minister.



One day when minister Shakadal was ready to go to the assembly his two sons insisted—



In the assembly, Shakadal greeted the king. His two sons followed his suit—

I, Priyankara, son of prime-minister Shakadal of Kalpaka clan, offer my respectful greetings.

I am Shriyankara. Please accept my greetings too.

How sweet! Beautiful and well-mannered kids.



The king asked Priyankara to come near and brushed his hair. Looking at his sweet chubby body the king teased—

What do you eat, son!

Sweets cooked by mother.



The king laughed and said—

Indeed, that's why you are so plump (sthula).

His plumpness too looks good (bhadra). Isn't it minister!



Yes, that is why at home everyone calls him Sthulabhadra.

Should I also call you Sthulabhadra?

As you wish, Sire!



After this the king send the kids home with plenty of gifts.

After Shriyankara came seven daughters to Shakadal and his wife Lakshmidēvi. Their names were—Yaksha, Yakshadīna, Bhuta, Bhutadīna, Sena, Vena, and Rēna.



When Sthulabhadra was eight years, Shakadal told his wife—

We should send Sthulabhadra to the gurukul (residential school) of Takshashila for his education. Many princes study there.

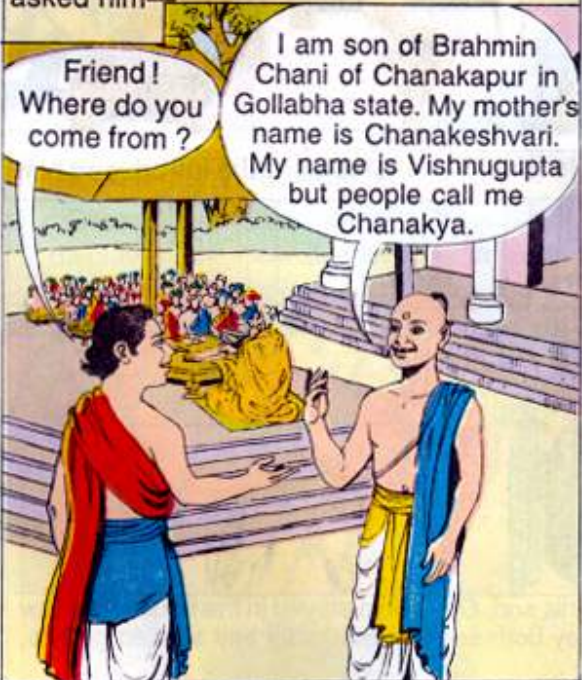
Yes, my Lord, a prodigal child like him should get a teacher like Brihaspati, the guru of gods.



On an auspicious day Sthulabhadra was sent to Takshashila. There he met a sharp and witty Brahmin youth. Sthulabhadra asked him—

Friend! Where do you come from?

I am son of Brahmin Chani of Chanakapur in Gollabha state. My mother's name is Chanakeshvari. My name is Vishnugupta but people call me Chanakya.



Tell me, what happened to your tooth?

According to my mother, I had this tooth since my birth. When a Nirgranth Shraman* saw this tooth he told my mother that this child will rule a kingdom.



A Jain ascetic.