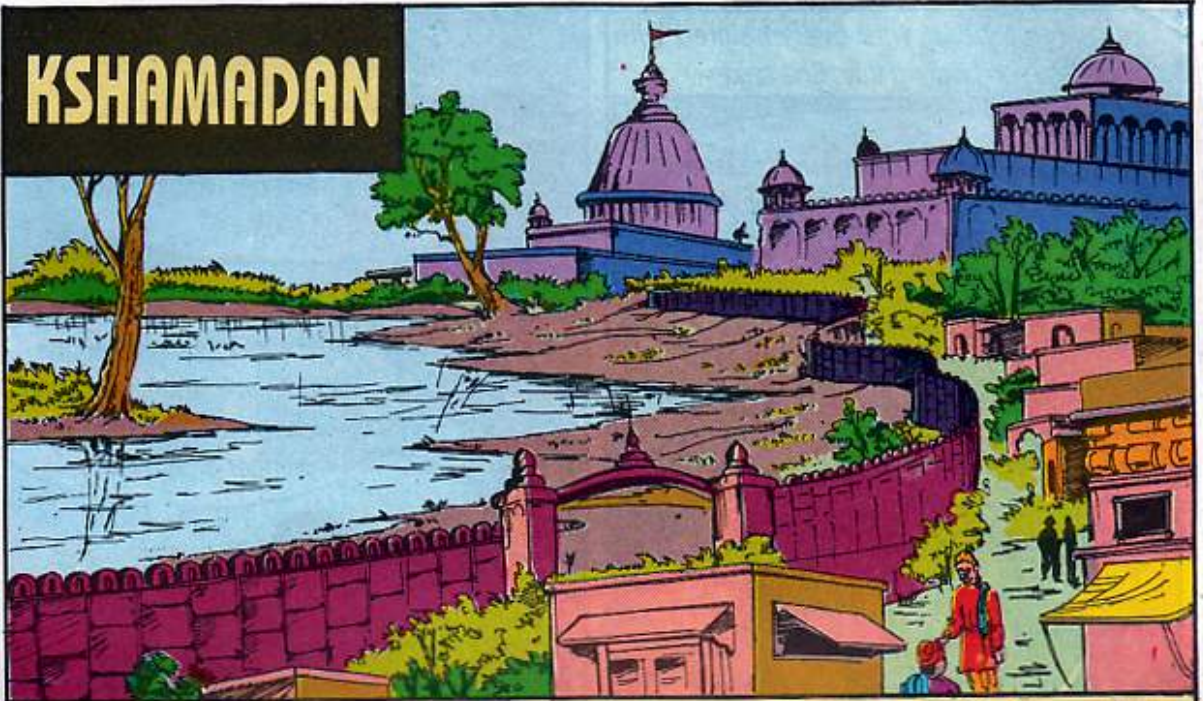
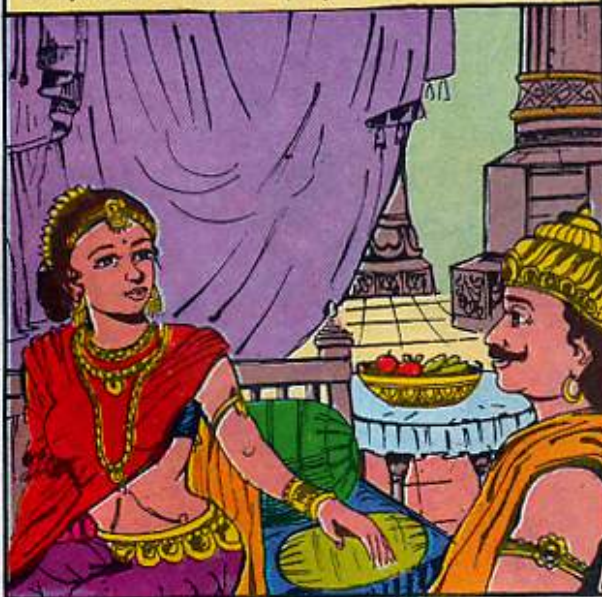


KSHAMADAN



Vitbhay Pattan was a beautiful kingdom on the banks of river Sindhu. It was ruled by the very bold and adventurous King Udayan. An ardent devotee of Goddess Bhawani Devi, he was very generous and religious. He had extended his kingdom by conquering 16 neighbouring states.

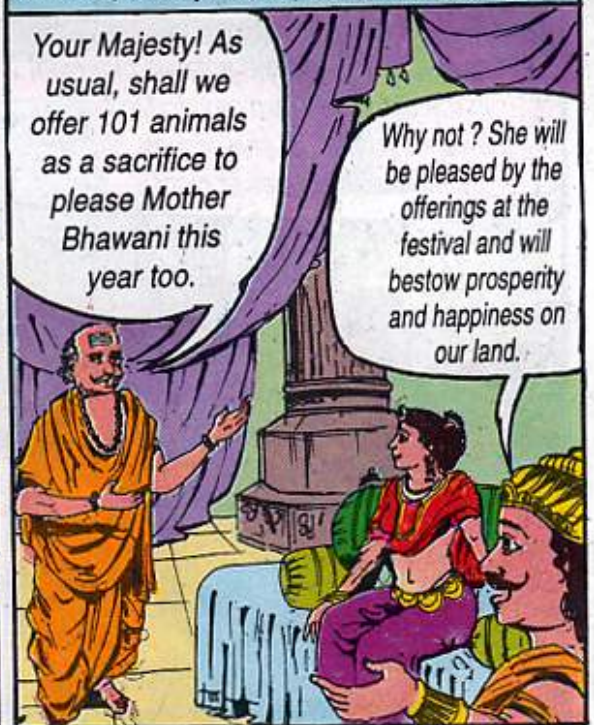
He was happily married to Queen Prabhavati, the daughter of King Chetak of Magadh. Prabhavati was a kind lady. She followed the principles preached by Bhagwan Mahavir. King Udayan loved his wife very much.



Once while the royal couple was sitting in the king's chamber, the Raj Purohit (royal priest) entered.

Your Majesty! As usual, shall we offer 101 animals as a sacrifice to please Mother Bhawani this year too.

Why not? She will be pleased by the offerings at the festival and will bestow prosperity and happiness on our land.



The queen's heart was overwhelmed with compassion on hearing this. She said—

Your Highness! Such a large massacre Maa Bhawani is the mother of the universe. How can she be happy by such an offering? You please don't indulge in this mass killing.



Oh, Queen ! But this is our ancestral tradition. How can we break it ?

By avoiding the offering the Goddess will be offended and will cast a curse of famine and hunger on our land.



The queen responded—

Let us see by leaving the animals overnight in the slaughter yard next to Mother Bhawani's temple. If she wishes, she will take their lives at night.

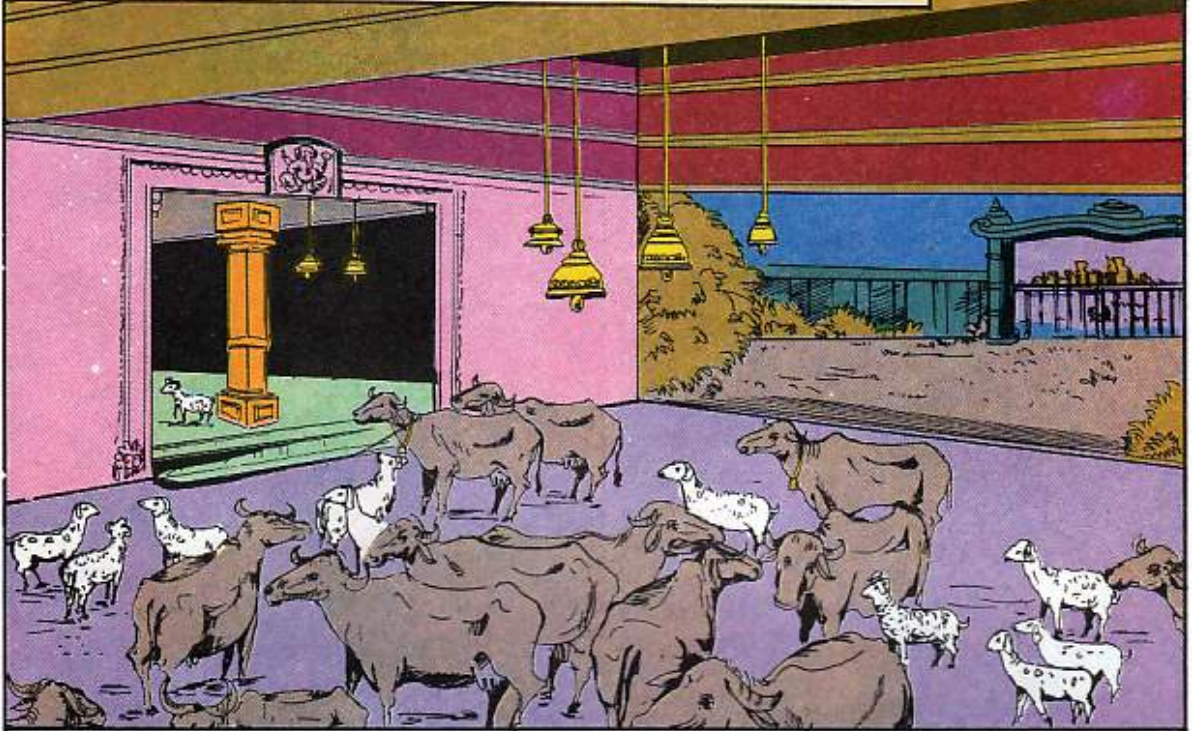


And if they are alive next day, please take it as her wish not to massacre the innocent animals and stop the practice.

All right Queen, we accept your suggestion.



That night, by the king's order, all the animals brought for sacrifice were locked in the slaughter yard under tight security.



Next morning all the people curiously gathered outside the temple to see what had happened to the animals. When the door was opened, they saw all the animals strolling alive in the compound. All were astonished.



Surprising! All the animals are alive!

And happy too...!

May be, mother is annoyed and didn't accept our erings.