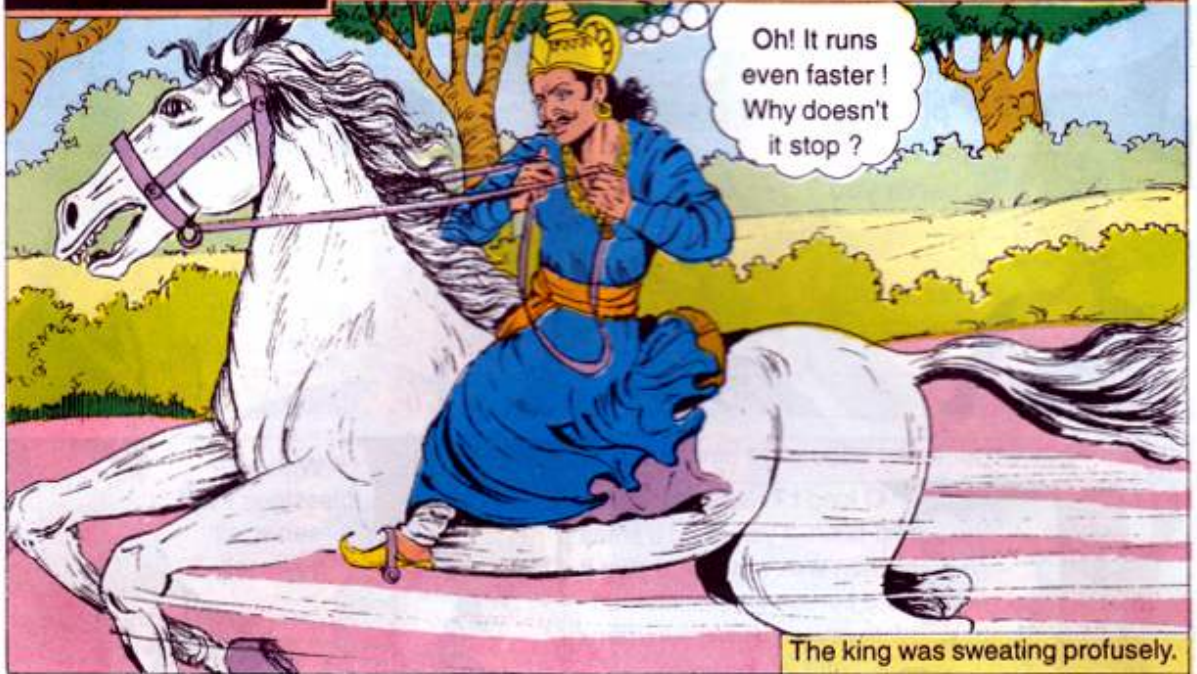


RISHIDATTA

King Harishen of Tambavati city was very fond of horse riding. He had a stable full of fast horses. Once a horse merchant gifted him a very fast horse. The king went riding that horse. After covering a long distance in a jungle beyond the border of his state he tried to stop the horse —



The king entered the hermitage. An old sage was sitting there in meditation. The king paid him homage —



The king told his story and added—

I was destined to behold you this day. That is why my life was saved.

Please tell me how can I serve you ?

O king ! Serving the masses is the highest service.

O Sage ! I am ever ready to serve my people.

Impressed by the king, the sage gave him a herb and said

O king ! This herb is an anti-toxin. If you grind a small portion with water and give it to a person who is infected with poison. It will cure him and save his life.

With your blessings I will serve all selflessly.

The king took the herb from the sage. He rested for some time in the hermitage and then returned to his city.

The very next day the king made an announcement

A hermit has favoured the king with an anti-toxin herb. Whoever suffers from any sort of poisoning may come and get cured.

Next day there was a long queue of people suffering from poisoning. The king himself started grinding the herb in water and treating the patients.



As the news spread, hundreds of patients from far and near poured in and the king was busy treating them.

One day a snake bit the princess of Mangalavati, a neighbouring kingdom. On getting the news King Harishen came to Mangalavati. He put a few drops of the medicinal water in the mouth of the princess.



In no time the princess regained consciousness. All present there thanked King Harishen. The queen joined her palms and requested—

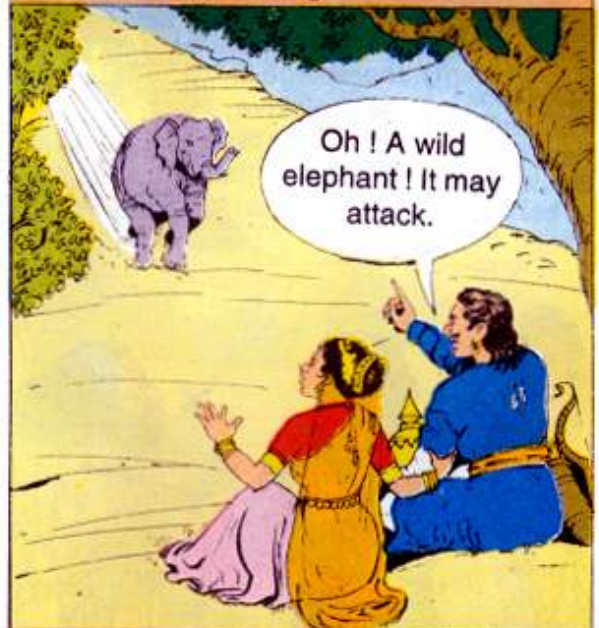
Sire! We had declared that the princess will be married to the noble person who cures her of the poison.



When Harishen gave his consent Pritimati was married to him with great pomp and show.



One day king Harishen and queen Pritimati went for an outing. When the royal couple was resting under a tree on the bank of a river they saw a wild elephant approaching—



The queen hid behind the king's back.