



BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR

HE DARED TO FIGHT

Vol 611 | Rs 50

www.amarchitrakatha.com





The route to your roots

When they look back at their formative years, many Indians nostalgically recall the vital part Amar Chitra Katha picture books have played in their lives. It was **ACK – Amar Chitra Katha** – that first gave them a glimpse of their glorious heritage.

Since they were introduced in 1967, there are now **over 400 Amar Chitra Katha** titles to choose from. **Over 90 million copies** have been sold worldwide.

Now the Amar Chitra Katha titles are even more widely available in **1000+ bookstores all across India**. Log on to www.ack-media.com to locate a bookstore near you. If you do not have access to a bookstore, you can buy all the titles through our online store www.amarchitrakatha.com. We provide quick delivery anywhere in the world.

To make it easy for you to locate the titles of your choice from our treasure trove of titles, the books are now arranged in five categories.

Epics and Mythology

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Indian Classics

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Fables and Humour

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

Bravehearts

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

Visionaries

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Script
S S Rege

Illustrations
Dilip Kadam

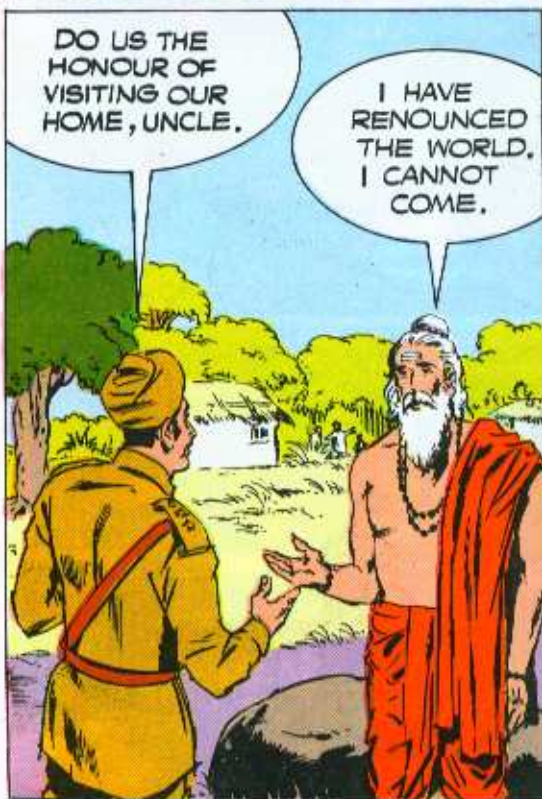
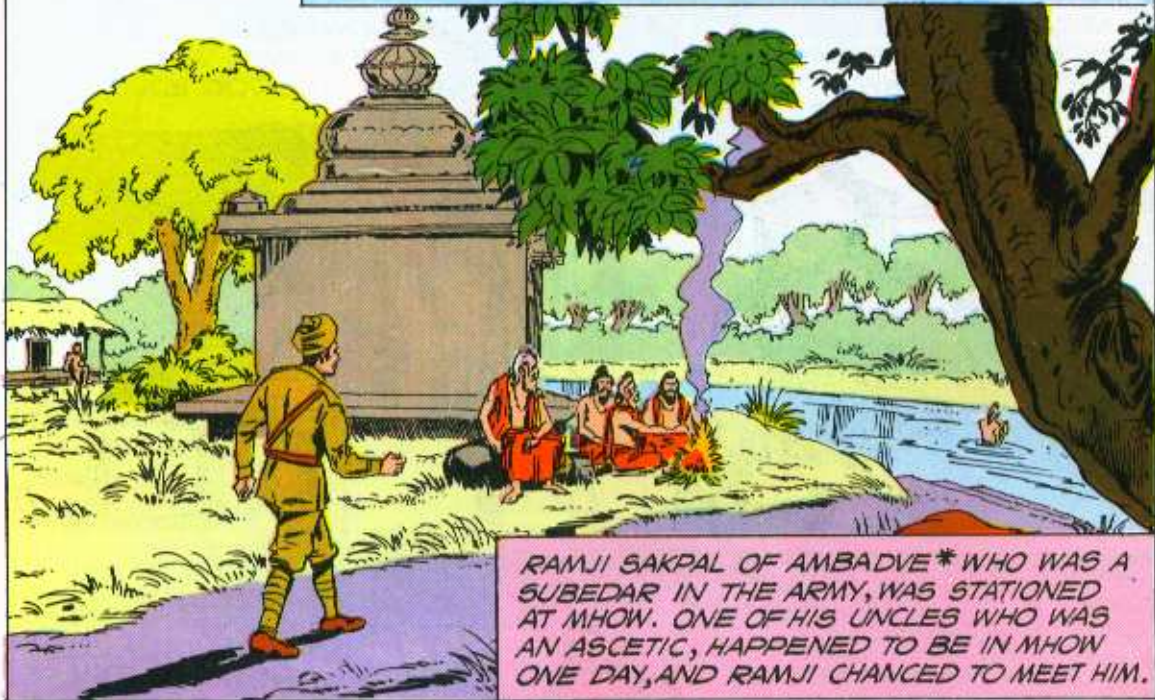
Editor
Anant Pai

Cover illustration by: P G Shirur

Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd

© Amar Chitra Katha Pvt Ltd, 1979, Reprinted August 2011, ISBN 81-8482-181-6
Published & Printed by Amar Chitra Katha Pvt. Ltd., The Forum, 3rd Floor,
Raghuvanshi Mill Compound, S.B.Marg, Lower Parel (W), Mumbai- 400 013. India

BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR

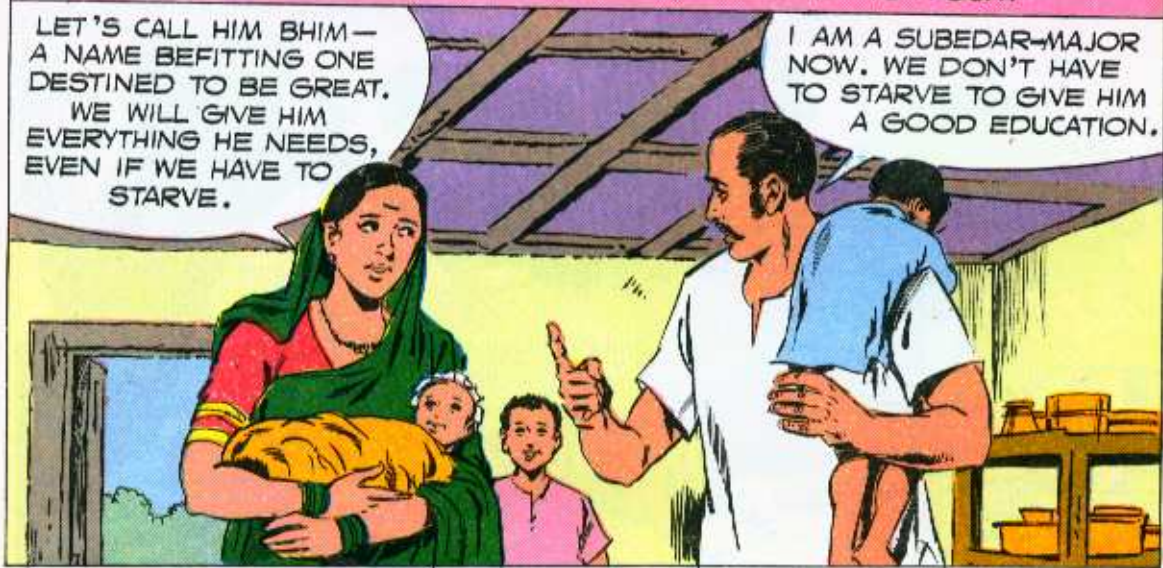


* IN RATNAGIRI DISTRICT.

ON APRIL 14, 1891, RAMJI'S WIFE, BHIMABAI, GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.

LET'S CALL HIM BHIM—
A NAME BEFITTING ONE
DESTINED TO BE GREAT.
WE WILL GIVE HIM
EVERYTHING HE NEEDS,
EVEN IF WE HAVE TO
STARVE.

I AM A SUBEDAR-MAJOR
NOW. WE DON'T HAVE
TO STARVE TO GIVE HIM
A GOOD EDUCATION.



TWO YEARS LATER, RAMJI RETIRED FROM THE ARMY AND MOVED WITH HIS FAMILY TO DAPOLI IN THE KONKAN. BHIM WAS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL WHEN HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD.

HOW CAN WE AFFORD
TO EDUCATE BHIM ON
THE SMALL PENSION
YOU GET?

DON'T WORRY! ALL
WILL BE WELL. SOME
FRIENDS HAVE PROMIS-
ED TO HELP ME
TO FIND A JOB.



RAMJI SOON GOT A JOB IN SATARA AND THEIR HOPES ROSE AGAIN. BUT TRAGEDY STRUCK THE FAMILY. BHIMABAI, WHO HAD BEEN AILING, DIED.

WHO WILL LOOK
AFTER MY MOTHER-
LESS CHILDREN?

BROTHER, DO NOT WORRY.
I WILL LOOK AFTER THEM,
AND LITTLE BHIM
SHALL HAVE MY
SPECIAL ATTENTION.



SO RAMJI'S SISTER, MIRA, TOOK CHARGE OF THE CHILDREN.

RAMJI, WHO WAS A TRAINED TEACHER, LOOKED AFTER THE EDUCATION OF HIS SONS.



HE ALSO READ STORIES FROM THE MAHABHARATA AND RAMAYANA AND SANG DEVOTIONAL SONGS TO HIS FAMILY.

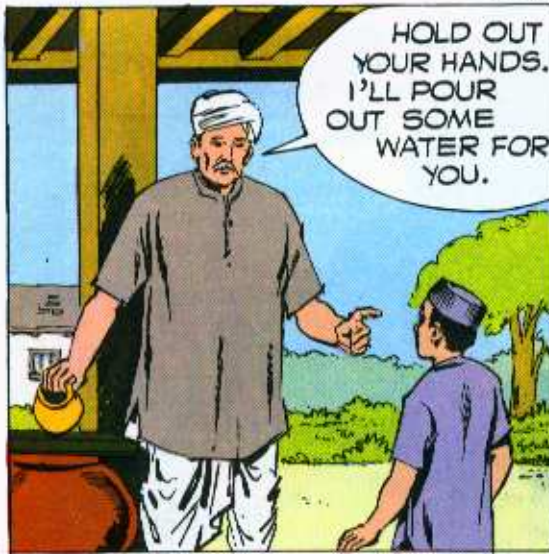


WHEN BHIM COMPLETED HIS PRIMARY EDUCATION, HE WAS ADMITTED TO HIGH SCHOOL. HE WAS MADE TO SIT IN A CORNER OF THE CLASS, SEGREGATED FROM THE OTHER STUDENTS.



WHEN THE RECESS BELL RANG, ALL THE BOYS RAN OUT TO PLAY AND TO DRINK WATER. BHIM, WHO WAS THIRSTY TOO, REACHED FOR THE CUP —





HOLD OUT YOUR HANDS. I'LL POUR OUT SOME WATER FOR YOU.



WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME? WHY SHOULD I BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY?

ONCE BHIM AND HIS ELDER BROTHER HAD TO TRAVEL TO KOREGAON, WHERE RAMJI WORKED AS A CASHIER. THEY GOT DOWN AT MASUR STATION AND WAITED FOR THEIR FATHER.



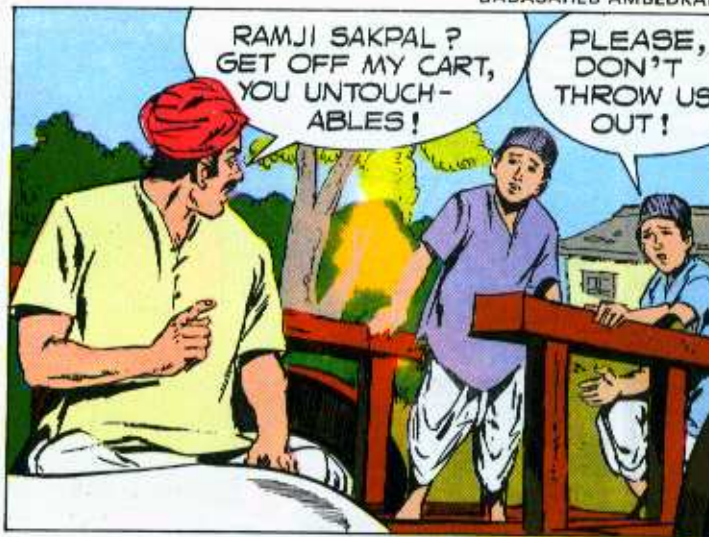
WHY HASN'T BABA COME?

AFTER WAITING FOR A LONG TIME, THEY HIRED A BULLOCK-CART WITH THE HELP OF THE STATION MASTER.



WHOSE CHILDREN ARE YOU?

WE ARE RAMJI SAKPAL'S CHILDREN. WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO MEET HIM.



THE CARTMAN'S GREED GOT THE
BETTER OF HIS HORROR OF POLLUTION.



ALL THROUGH THE JOURNEY, BHIM
BROODED OVER THE INCIDENT.



LITTLE BHIM MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN THE INCIDENT, BUT A FEW DAYS AFTER HE RETURNED TO SATARA, ON HIS WAY FROM SCHOOL ANOTHER SIMILAR INCIDENT TOOK PLACE.



MY THROAT IS PARCHED. I'LL DRAW SOME WATER FROM THAT WELL.



HEY, LOOK AT THAT UNTOUCHABLE!

HE HAS POLLUTED OUR WATER!

THE NEXT MOMENT—



LEAVE ME ALONE! WHAT WRONG HAVE I DONE?

YOU WRETCH! HOW DARE YOU TALK BACK!

BHIM WEPT BITTERLY.



AS HE GREW UP, SUCH INSULTS WERE EXPERIENCED MORE FREQUENTLY.



BHIM, YOUR HAIR NEEDS CUTTING. LET ME DO IT FOR YOU.

WHY CAN'T I GO TO A BARBER LIKE THE OTHER BOYS IN MY SCHOOL?



ONCE WHILE THE TWO OF THEM WERE HAVING LUNCH TOGETHER —



ONE NIGHT, MIRA CALLED THE THREE BOYS TO HER.



THREE NIGHTS HE TRIED WITHOUT SUCCESS. ON THE FOURTH NIGHT—



HE EAGERLY OPENED THE PURSE —



WHAT! ONLY ONE SMALL COIN! MY POOR AUNT! AND I WAS GOING TO ROB HER OF THIS!

BHIM PUT THE PURSE WITH THE MONEY BACK, AND WENT TO BED.



GOD! FORGIVE ME FOR MY SIN. I SHALL MEND MY WAYS. I'LL STUDY HARD AND MAKE HER HAPPY WHEN I GROW UP.

BHIM PUT HIS HEART AND SOUL INTO HIS STUDIES AND WON THE ADMIRATION OF HIS TEACHERS.



RAMJI, YOUR SON IS VERY INTELLIGENT. HE DESERVES THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION.

I'LL TRY TO GIVE IT TO HIM, SIR.

RAMJI MOVED WITH HIS CHILDREN TO BOMBAY. HE TOOK UP A ROOM IN A CHAWL IN THE MILL AREA AT PAREL. THE ROOM SERVED AS KITCHEN, BEDROOM AND STUDY.



BHIM, YOU CAN'T STUDY IN ALL THIS NOISE. GO TO BED NOW. I'LL WAKE YOU UP AT TWO IN THE MORNING.

ALL RIGHT, FATHER.

AND BHIM SLEPT ON THE FLOOR.



AT TWO IN THE MORNING —



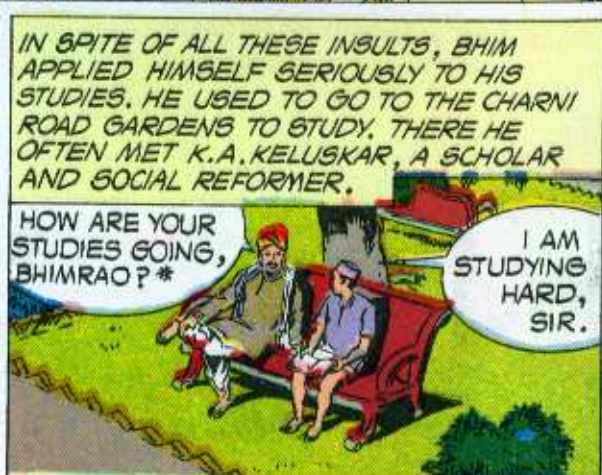
BHIM STUDIED WHILE THE OTHERS SLEPT.



ONE DAY AT ELPHINSTONE HIGH SCHOOL, IN BOMBAY —



CASTEISM WAS PREVALENT EVEN IN THE LARGE METROPOLIS.



BHIM WAS THE FIRST IN HIS COMMUNITY TO PASS THE MATRICULATION EXAMINATION. HIS COMMUNITY CONVENED A MEETING TO HONOUR HIM. SHRI KELUSKAR WAS ALSO PRESENT TO FELICITATE HIM. SHRI S.K. BOLE, A WELL-KNOWN SOCIAL REFORMER, PRESIDED.



* RAO IS AN HONORIFIC, USED IN MAHARASHTRA.

AFTER THE MEETING—

RAMJI, WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE NEXT FOR YOUR BRILLIANT SON?

HIS MARRIAGE WILL HAVE TO BE ARRANGED FIRST, KELUSKAR SAHEB.

EARLY MARRIAGE WAS COMMON IN THOSE DAYS.

BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS EDUCATION?

OF COURSE I WILL EDUCATE HIM, NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS.

BHIM WAS MARRIED TO RAMABAI.



RAMJI CONTINUED TO PAY FOR HIS EDUCATION, EVEN THOUGH IT PUT A GREAT STRAIN ON HIS RESOURCES. BUT WHEN BHIM PASSED THE INTER-MEDIATE ARTS EXAMINATION—

FATHER, YOU HAVE NOT YET GIVEN ME MY COLLEGE FEES.

SON, I HAVE NO MONEY.

WHAT SHALL I DO, FATHER? THE COLLEGE HAS WARNED ME ABOUT IT TWICE ALREADY AND I DON'T WANT TO GO TODAY WITHOUT THE FEES.

IN THAT DESPERATE SITUATION RAMJI REMEMBERED KELUSKAR'S EARLIER KINDNESS AND APPROACHED HIM FOR HELP. HIS RESPONSE WAS IMMEDIATE.



DON'T WORRY, RAMJI. I'LL TAKE BHIMRAO TO MAHARAJA SAYAJI RAO GAEKWAD OF BARODA. I AM SURE, HE WILL HELP.

AND SOON—

FATHER, MAHARAJA GAEKWAD HAS GRANTED ME A MONTHLY SCHOLARSHIP OF TWENTY-FIVE RUPEES. YOU WON'T NEED TO WORRY ANY MORE.



VERY GOOD. I MUST GO AND THANK SHRI KELUSKAR.

BHIM PASSED HIS B. A. IN 1912.



I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A JOB IN THE BARODA STATE SERVICES, BUT THE SALARY IS MEAGRE.

BHIM WENT TO BARODA. BARELY FIFTEEN DAYS LATER, BAD NEWS REACHED HIM—



"BABA SERIOUSLY ILL. COME AT ONCE."

BHIM RETURNED TO BOMBAY AND WAS AT HIS FATHER'S SIDE WHEN HE DIED ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 1913.



FATHER, WE ARE ORPHANED. TO WHOM SHALL WE TURN NOW FOR ADVICE?

BUT RAMJI HAD LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR HIS SON'S FUTURE ACHIEVEMENTS.

BHIMRAO WENT AGAIN TO SHRI KELUSKAR FOR GUIDANCE.



I SUGGEST YOU SEE THE MAHARAJA OF BARODA. HIS STATE HAS PLANS TO SEND A FEW STUDENTS ABROAD FOR FURTHER STUDIES.

SOON—



I HAVE JUST COME FROM BARODA. I HAVE BEEN SELECTED. BUT I HAD TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO SERVE BARODA STATE FOR TEN YEARS ON COMPLETION OF MY STUDIES.

BHIMRAO ARRIVED IN NEW YORK IN JULY 1913.



I FEEL SO FREE HERE. THERE ARE NO SOCIAL RESTRAINTS ON ME. I CAN DO ALMOST ANYTHING I PLEASE.

THE FREEDOM AND EQUALITY IN THE U.S.A. WAS A NOVEL EXPERIENCE FOR BHIMRAO.

HE WORKED ALMOST EIGHTEEN HOURS A DAY.



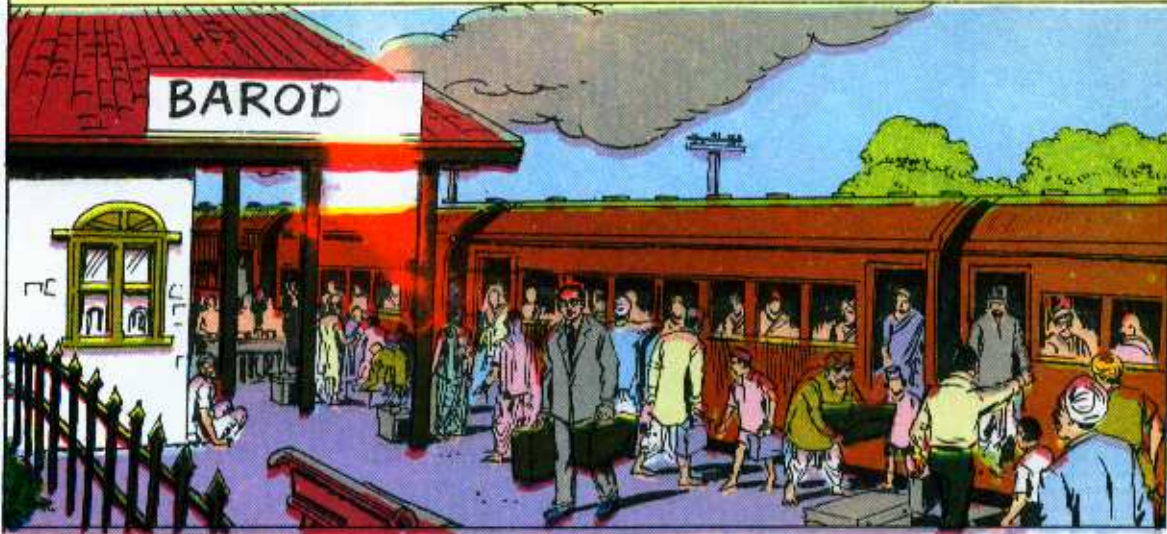
IN 1915 HE TOOK HIS M.A. DEGREE AND GOT HIS PH.D. THE NEXT YEAR.

HAVING COMPLETED HIS STUDIES IN THE U.S.A. IN LESS THAN THE STIPULATED TIME, HE PROCEEDED TO LONDON.



I MUST HAVE A DEGREE IN LAW AND I MUST UNDERTAKE FURTHER STUDIES IN ECONOMICS.

BUT AMBEDKAR WAS RECALLED TO INDIA BY THE DEWAN OF BARODA. WHEN HE ARRIVED AT BARODA, NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL RECEIVED HIM AT THE STATION.



HE WENT FROM HOTEL TO HOTEL, LOOKING FOR A ROOM. BUT NO ONE WOULD TAKE HIM IN.

YOU ARE THE NEW OFFICER, AREN'T YOU? SORRY, WE HAVE NO ROOMS FOR UNTOUCHABLES.



AT LAST HE FOUND ACCOMMODATION IN A PARSİ GUEST HOUSE, BUT IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE HE TOOK CARE TO KEEP HIS IDENTITY A SECRET.

WHEN HE ENTERED HIS OFFICE THE NEXT DAY, THE PEON ROLLED UP THE CARPET LEST IT SHOULD BE POLLUTED.



HE WAS GIVEN A TABLE IN A CORNER. THE PEON WOULD NOT GO NEAR HIM EVEN TO HAND OVER FILES.



WHEN THE PARSIS IN THE GUEST HOUSE CAME TO KNOW OF HIS IDENTITY—



AMBEDKAR WAS THROWN OUT. NO ONE IN THE CITY WOULD GIVE HIM SHELTER.



IN DISGUST, AMBEDKAR LEFT BARODA AND WENT TO BOMBAY. HE STARTED A FIRM OFFERING ADVICE IN STOCKS AND SHARES. BUT —

ARE YOU CONSULTING AMBEDKAR?

YES, HE IS AN EXPERT.

DON'T YOU KNOW HE IS AN UNTOUCHABLE?

UNTOUCHABLE! I WON'T GO TO HIM HEREAFTER.

SO AMBEDKAR HAD TO CLOSE DOWN HIS FIRM.

HE SECURED A JOB AS LECTURER IN SYDENHAM COLLEGE IN NOVEMBER 1918.

HE IS THE BEST TEACHER IN THIS COLLEGE.

YES. HE IS A BRILLIANT SCHOLAR.

ALTHOUGH HE EARNED A REASONABLE SALARY HE LIVED FRUGALLY.

I'M SORRY. I CAN'T SPARE MORE FOR THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES. I WANT TO SAVE MONEY TO GO TO LONDON TO CONTINUE MY STUDIES.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL MANAGE.

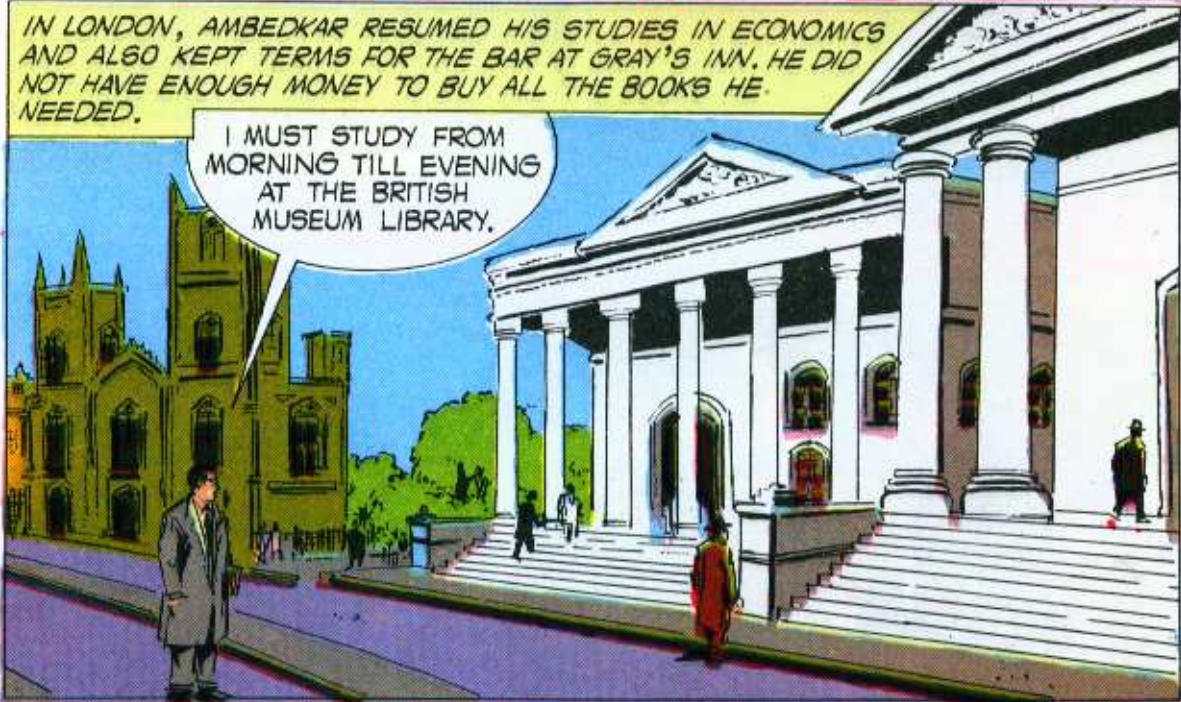
PIOUS RAMABAI SAW TO IT THAT AMBEDKAR WAS NOT DISTURBED.

NO, I WON'T TELL HIM THAT LITTLE YASHWANT IS ILL. LET HIM STUDY IN PEACE.

TWO YEARS LATER—



IN LONDON, AMBEDKAR RESUMED HIS STUDIES IN ECONOMICS AND ALSO KEPT TERMS FOR THE BAR AT GRAY'S INN. HE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY ALL THE BOOKS HE NEEDED.



HE DID NOT HAVE MONEY TO GO OUT AND HAVE LUNCH IN A RESTAURANT. HE WOULD TAKE SANDWICHES TO THE LIBRARY AND EAT THEM THERE. ONE DAY—





THE LIBRARIAN WAS MOVED TO LEARN OF THE SAD PLIGHT OF THIS YOUNG STUDENT WHO WAS DISCIPLINED AND DEVOTED TO LEARNING.



DR. AMBEDKAR GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED THE ENGLISHMAN'S OFFER.

IN 1923, HE RETURNED TO INDIA, QUALIFIED AS A BARRISTER AND A SCHOLAR IN ECONOMICS. BUT —

MY QUALIFICATIONS MEAN NOTHING. UNTOUCHABILITY IS AN OBSTACLE EVEN IN MY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. I MUST WORK FOR THE UPLIFT OF MY COMMUNITY.



SOME TIME LATER A GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVE ANNOUNCED THAT NO INSTITUTION AIDED BY PUBLIC FUNDS COULD REFUSE ADMISSION TO UNTOUCHABLES.

THIS IS ALL THE WORK OF THAT UNTOUCHABLE — AMBEDKAR.

WHY BLAME HIM WHEN ONE OF OUR OWN MEN, S. K. BOLE, MOVED THE BILL?



AMBEDKAR FOUNDED AN ASSOCIATION CALLED BAHISHKRIT HITAKARINI SABHA AND UNDER ITS AUSPICES STARTED HOSTELS, SCHOOLS AND FREE LIBRARIES. ONE DAY—

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NOMINATION TO THE BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL! I KNOW YOU WILL DO GOOD WORK.

I WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THE UNTOUCHABLES.

ON MARCH 19, 1927, BABASAHEB, AS AMBEDKAR CAME TO BE KNOWN, PRESIDED OVER A CONFERENCE OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES AT MAHAD.

IT IS TIME WE ROOTED OUT OF OUR MINDS THE IDEAS OF HIGH AND LOW. WE CAN ATTAIN SELF-ELEVATION ONLY IF WE LEARN SELF-HELP AND REGAIN OUR SELF-RESPECT.

LIBERTY IS NEVER GIFTED AWAY; IT HAS TO BE FOUGHT FOR. THE MAHAD MUNICIPALITY THREW OPEN THE TANK FOUR YEARS AGO. BUT SO FAR NOT ONE OF US HAS DRAWN WATER FROM THE TANK. TODAY WE SHALL.

AMBEDKAR LED HIS MEN TO THE CHOWDAR TANK.

DRAW WATER FROM THE TANK? DO WE DARE DO THAT?

LET'S SEE WHAT BABASAHEB WILL DO.



AT THE TANK, AMBEDKAR TOOK SOME WATER IN HIS CUPPED HANDS...



... AND DRANK IT.

HE HAS DONE IT.



THE GESTURE HAD A REMARKABLE EFFECT. AMBEDKAR HAD EXORCIZED FEAR FROM THE MINDS OF HIS PEOPLE. THOUSANDS OF THEM DRANK WATER FROM THE PUBLIC TANK AND MADE HISTORY.



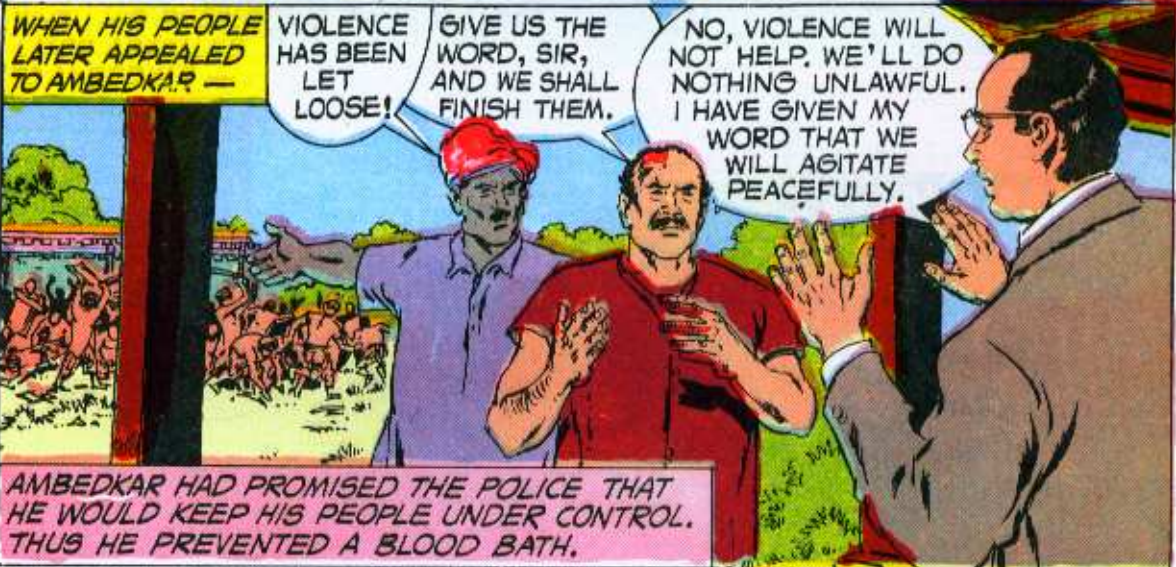
AFTER THEY HAD DISPERSED, SOME CASTE HINDUS HAD A MEETING.



ARMED WITH STONES, THE CASTE HINDUS WENT TO THE VENUE OF THE CONFERENCE. MANY DELEGATES HAD ALREADY LEFT AND MANY OTHERS WERE PREPARING TO LEAVE.



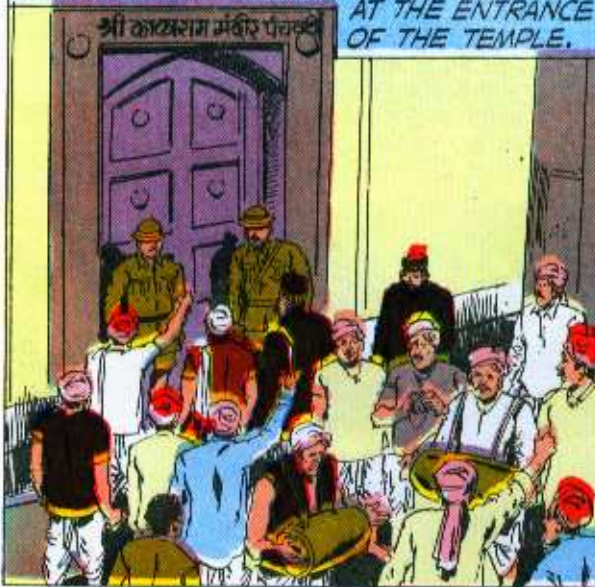
WHEN HIS PEOPLE LATER APPEALED TO AMBEDKAR —



AMBEDKAR HAD PROMISED THE POLICE THAT HE WOULD KEEP HIS PEOPLE UNDER CONTROL. THUS HE PREVENTED A BLOOD BATH.

IN THE PAGES OF HIS NEWLY STARTED JOURNAL, BAHISHKRIT BHARAT, HE EXHORTED HIS PEOPLE TO ENTER THE KALA RAM TEMPLE AT NASIK. ON MARCH 3, 1930, HIS FOLLOWERS WENT ON SATYAGRAHA

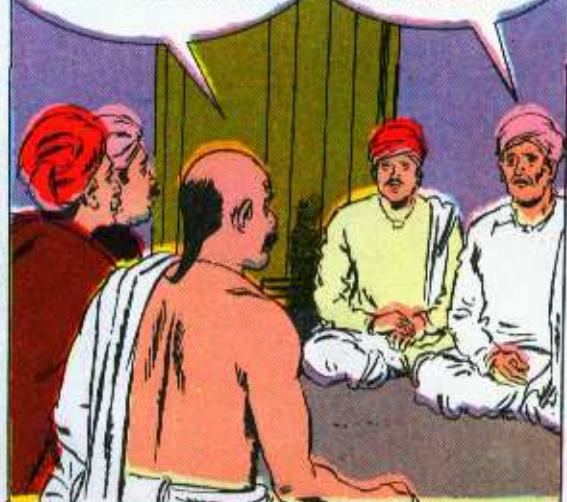
AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE TEMPLE.



THE SATYAGRAHA CONTINUED FOR A MONTH, TILL THE EVE OF THE ANNUAL PROCESSION OF THE TEMPLE CHARIOT—

ALL RIGHT, LET THE STRONG MEN FROM BOTH THE SIDES DRAW THE CHARIOT.

IN THAT CASE WE SHALL CALL OFF THE SATYAGRAHA.



BUT AMBEDKAR'S MEN WERE DECEIVED BECAUSE THE CHARIOT WAS PUSHED PAST THEM AT GREAT SPEED.



THEY ARE PELTING US WITH STONES.

LET THEM DO SO. WE SHALL REMAIN FIRM.

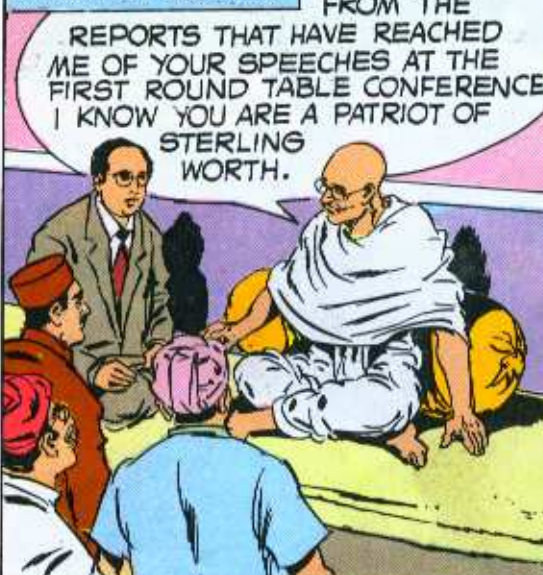
AMBEDKAR'S FOLLOWERS CONTINUED TO AGITATE AND THE TEMPLE REMAINED CLOSED FOR ABOUT A YEAR.

MEANWHILE THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT HAD GAINED MOMENTUM UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MAHATMA GANDHI. IN 1930, A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE WAS HELD BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN LONDON TO FRAME A CONSTITUTION FOR INDIA. AMBEDKAR REPRESENTED THE DEPRESSED CLASSES.



THE DEPRESSED CLASSES OF INDIA ALSO JOIN IN THE DEMAND FOR REPLACING THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BY A GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE AND BY THE PEOPLE.... OUR WRONGS HAVE REMAINED AS OPEN SORES AND THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RIGHTED ALTHOUGH 150 YEARS OF BRITISH RULE HAVE ROLLED AWAY. OF WHAT GOOD IS SUCH A GOVERNMENT TO ANYBODY?

SOON AFTERWARDS, A SECOND ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE WAS CALLED. MAHATMA GANDHI WHO HAD BOYCOTTED THE FIRST CONFERENCE AGREED TO REPRESENT THE CONGRESS PARTY. BEFORE PROCEEDING FOR LONDON, AT GANDHI'S REQUEST, AMBEDKAR VISITED HIM AT MANI BHUVAN IN BOMBAY.



FROM THE REPORTS THAT HAVE REACHED ME OF YOUR SPEECHES AT THE FIRST ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE I KNOW YOU ARE A PATRIOT OF STERLING WORTH.

AT THE SECOND ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE IN LONDON —



I ASK FOR A SEPARATE ELECTORATE FOR THE DEPRESSED CLASSES OF INDIA. HINDUISM HAS GIVEN US ONLY INSULTS, MISERY AND HUMILIATION.

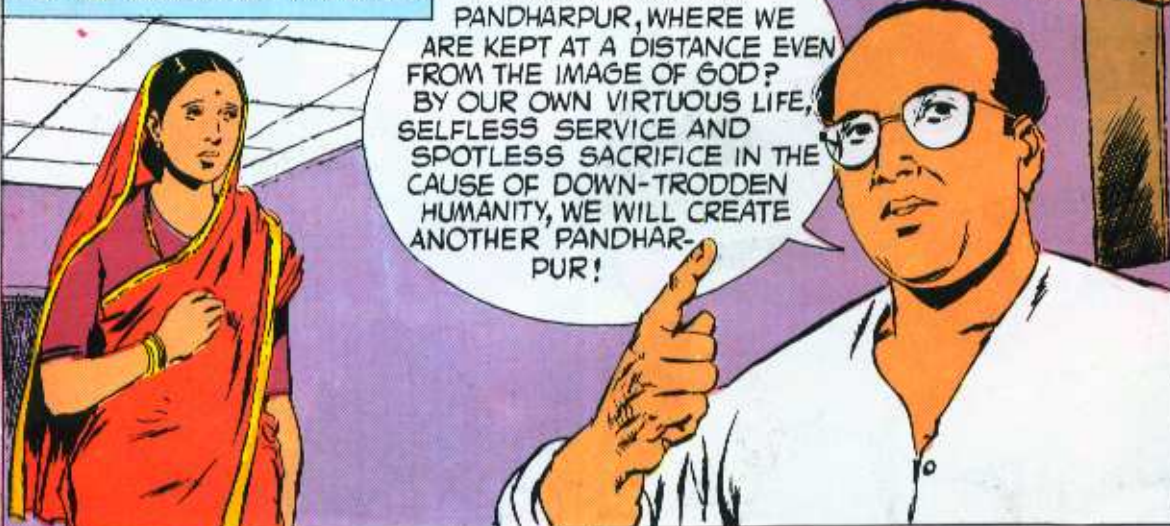
THE CONFERENCE ENDED IN A STALEMATE. BUT AMBEDKAR WAS LIONISED ON HIS RETURN TO BOMBAY BECAUSE HE HAD BROUGHT THE PLIGHT OF THE UNTOUCHABLES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD.



AMBEDKAR'S WIFE WAS DEEPLY RELIGIOUS.



BUT HE CONSOLED HIS WIFE.



HIS HOUSE HAD INDEED BECOME A PANDHARPUR FOR THE UNTOUCHABLES, WHO LOOKED UPON AMBEDKAR AS THEIR LIBERATOR.

BABASAHEB, THE GOVERNMENT HAS AWARDED SEPARATE ELECTORATES FOR US.

GOOD, WE HAVE WON THE FIRST ROUND.



AMBEDKAR EXPLAINED HIS STAND.

I SHALL NOT BETRAY THE JUST AND LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF MY PEOPLE, EVEN IF YOU HANG ME FROM THE NEAREST LAMP POST.



BUT GANDHIJI WAS OPPOSED TO THE DIVISION OF ELECTORATES ON THE BASIS OF CASTE. TO PROTEST, GANDHIJI, WHO WAS IN THE YERAVDA JAIL AT THE TIME, BEGAN A FAST. AT A MEETING OF NATIONAL LEADERS IN BOMBAY—

DR. AMBEDKAR, YOU ALONE CAN SAVE GANDHI'S LIFE. PLEASE AGREE TO HIS PLEA.



LATER HE VISITED GANDHIJI AT THE YERAVDA JAIL.

WE MUST BE ONE AND INDIVISIBLE. GIVE HINDUISM A LAST CHANCE TO MAKE A VOLUNTARY EXPIATION FOR ITS SINFUL PAST.

I WILL THINK IT OVER.



NO SOLUTION SEEMED POSSIBLE. AT LAST, AMBEDKAR AGREED TO SIGN THE POONA PACT, UNDER WHICH, INSTEAD OF SEPARATE ELECTORATES, MORE REPRESENTATION WAS TO BE GIVEN TO THE DEPRESSED CLASSES.

THE DIVISION OF THE PEOPLE ON CASTE LINES HAS BEEN AVERTED.



THOUGH POLITICALLY ACTIVE, HE ALWAYS REMAINED A SCHOLAR FIRST. HE HAD AMASSED A UNIQUE LIBRARY OF OVER 50,000 BOOKS FOR WHICH HE BUILT A SUITABLE HOUSE AT DADAR* AND NAMED IT RAJAGRIHA.



IN MAY 1935, A PERSONAL TRAGEDY BEFELL AMBEDKAR. HIS BELOVED WIFE, RAMABAI, DIED.



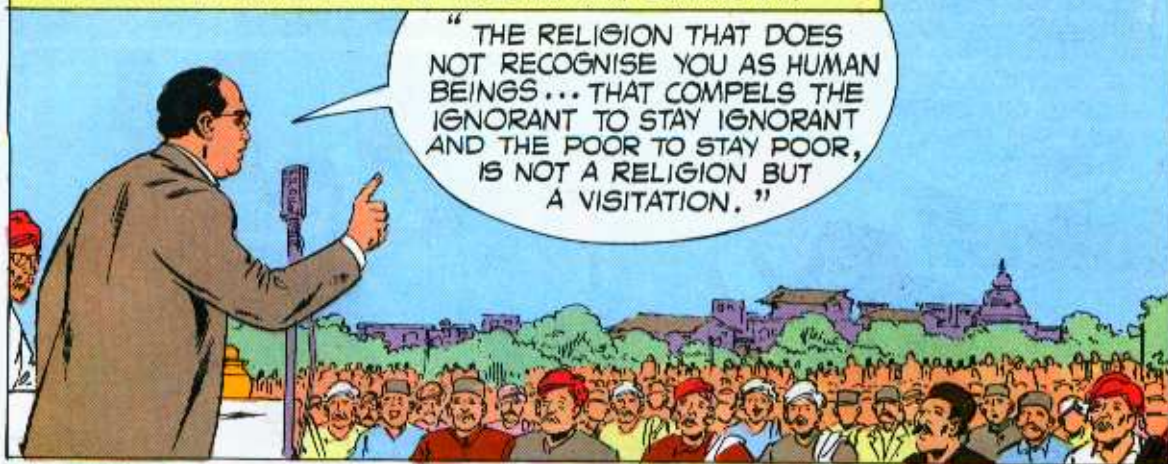
MEANWHILE, THE POONA PACT REMAINED A MERE DOCUMENT. AMBEDKAR WAS UNHAPPY. AT A CONFERENCE OF UNTOUCHABLES, HELD IN YEOLA —



WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SECURE THE BAREST OF HUMAN RIGHTS I AM BORN A HINDU. I COULDN'T HELP IT. BUT I SOLEMNLY ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL NOT DIE A HINDU.

* IN NORTH BOMBAY

ADDRESSING A CONFERENCE OF THE MAHAR COMMUNITY —



THE FIRST ELECTIONS, UNDER THE 1935 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, BEGAN.



AMBEDKAR AND FOURTEEN OTHERS OF THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY WERE ELECTED TO THE BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

IN 1939, THE SECOND WORLD WAR BROKE OUT. THE CONGRESS MINISTRIES RESIGNED. IN JULY 1942, THE VICEROY APPOINTED AMBEDKAR AS LABOUR MINISTER IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. AT A RECEPTION, GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR —

I WAS BORN OF THE POOR. I WAS BROUGHT UP AMONG THEM, HAVE LIVED AMONG THEM. I HAVE SLEPT LIKE THEM ON DAMP FLOORS COVERED WITH SACK-CLOTH AND SHARED THE SORROWS OF MY PEOPLE. I WILL REMAIN ABSOLUTELY UNCHANGED IN MY ATTITUDE TO MY FRIENDS AND TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



HE FORMED THE ALL INDIA SCHEDULED CASTES FEDERATION IN 1942. IN SPITE OF HIS HARD WORK THE FEDERATION FARED BADLY AT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 1945.

IN 1946, AMBEDKAR WAS ELECTED TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. HIS FIRST SPEECH AGAIN REVEALED A NOBLE SOUL.

...AND WITH ALL OUR CASTES AND CREEDS I HAVE NOT THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION IN SAYING THAT WE SHALL IN SOME FORM BE A UNITED PEOPLE.



THE THIRD SESSION OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION MAKING UNTOUCHABILITY AN OFFENCE.

WHEN INDIA BECAME INDEPENDENT IN AUGUST 1947, AMBEDKAR BECAME THE FIRST LAW MINISTER OF INDEPENDENT INDIA.

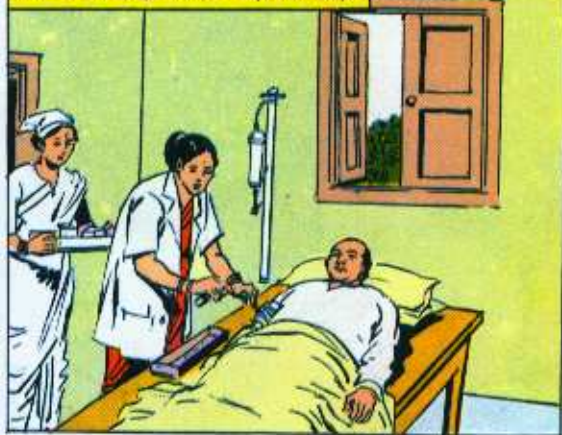
WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT! THIS GREAT MAN WILL LEAD HIS COMMUNITY TO HONOUR AND DIGNITY.



THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MADE DR. AMBEDKAR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO DRAFT THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA. AND THE BURDEN OF PREPARING A CONSTITUTION FOR THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY FELL UPON DR. AMBEDKAR.



AFTER COMPLETING THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION, AMBEDKAR FELL ILL. AT THE NURSING HOME IN BOMBAY HE MET DR. SHARDA KABIR.



HE MARRIED HER IN APRIL 1948.



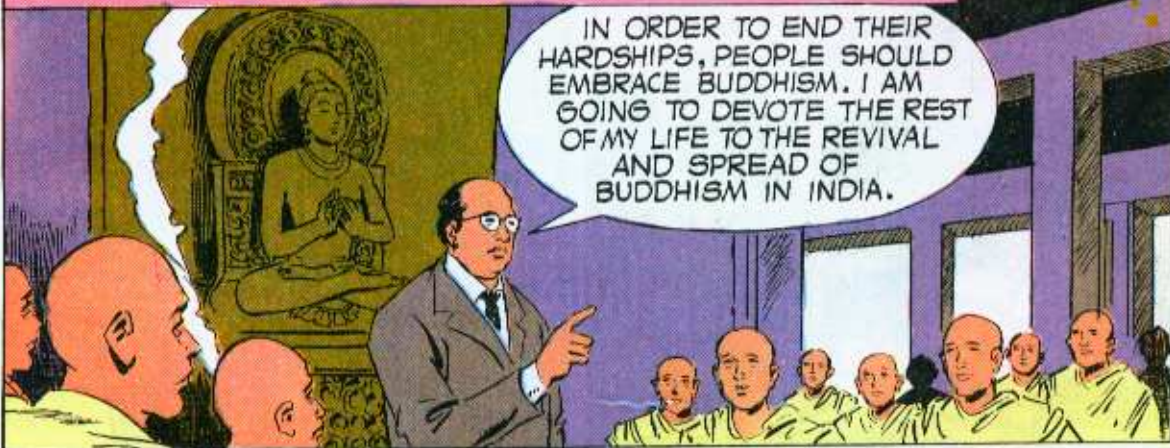
ON NOVEMBER 4, 1948, DR AMBEDKAR PRESENTED THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

...AND I APPEAL TO ALL INDIANS TO BE A NATION BY DISCARDING CASTES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT SEPARATION IN SOCIAL LIFE AND CREATED JEALOUSY AND HATRED.

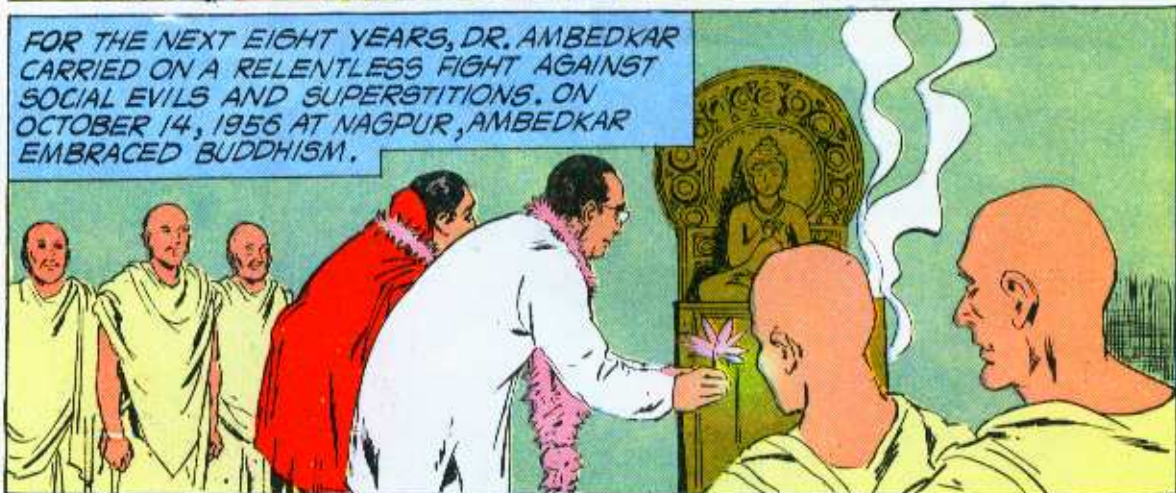


ON NOVEMBER 26, 1949, THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE CONSTITUTION IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF INDIA.

DR. AMBEDKAR WAS INVITED TO THE BUDDHIST CONFERENCE AT CEYLON. ON HIS RETURN HE SPOKE IN BOMBAY AT THE BUDDHA TEMPLE.



FOR THE NEXT EIGHT YEARS, DR. AMBEDKAR CARRIED ON A RELENTLESS FIGHT AGAINST SOCIAL EVILS AND SUPERSTITIONS. ON OCTOBER 14, 1956 AT NAGPUR, AMBEDKAR EMBRACED BUDDHISM.

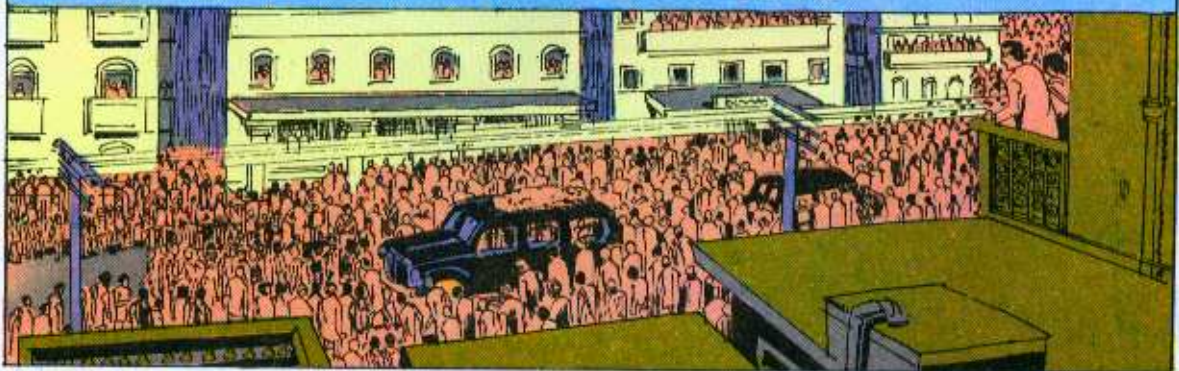


LATER HE INITIATED A VAST CROWD OF FOLLOWERS, NUMBERING OVER THREE LAKHS, INTO BUDDHISM.

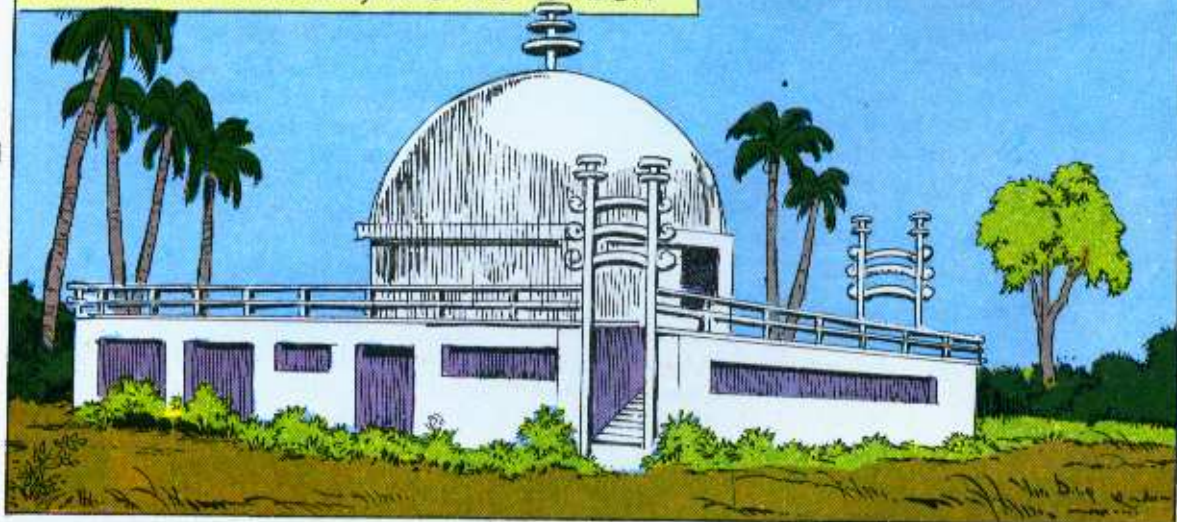
BUDDHAM
SARANAM
GACCHAMI.



SEVEN WEEKS LATER ON DECEMBER 6, 1956, AT HIS DELHI RESIDENCE, DR. AMBEDKAR BREATHED HIS LAST. HIS BODY WAS TAKEN TO BOMBAY THE NEXT DAY. A TWO-MILE LONG CROWD THROGGED AT THE FUNERAL. BOMBAY HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH A FUNERAL PROCESSION BEFORE.



AT THE DADAR CEMETERY THAT EVENING, EMINENT LEADERS PAID THEIR LAST TRIBUTES TO BABASAHEB. THE PYRE WAS LIT ACCORDING TO BUDDHIST RITES AND A GREAT SON OF MOTHER INDIA, WHO HAD FOUGHT VALIANTLY FOR HER OPPRESSED CHILDREN, WAS LAID TO REST.



TRIBUTES TO BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR



"Ambedkar was the architect of our Constitution and his services in various capacities, particularly for the uplift of the Depressed Classes, cannot be exaggerated."

-Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

"Ambedkar was a thoroughly upright person and a man with a keen jurist sense, a proud and irreconcilable heart, great learning and when approached in right spirit, full of friendliness."

-C. Rajagopalachari.

"Ambedkar was known and honoured throughout the world chiefly as a champion of the untouchables. What is perhaps not so well known is that he put a profound impress upon India's major legal structures."

-The New York Times.

"I imagine that the way he will be remembered most will be as a symbol of the revolt against all the oppressive features of Hindu society. He rebelled against something against which all ought to rebel and we have, in fact, rebelled in various degrees."

I have no doubt, whether we agree with him or not in many matters, that perseverance, that persistence, and that, if I may use the word, sometime virulence of his opposition to all this, did keep the people's mind awake and did not allow them to become complacent about matters which could not be forgotten, and helped in rousing up those groups in our country which had suffered for so long in the past."

-Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

ACK EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

ABHIMANYU
ANDHAKA
ANIRUDDHA
ARJUNA, TALES OF
ARJUNI AND UTTANKA
ASHWINI KUMARS
AYYAPPAN
BAHUBALI
BALARAMA, TALES OF
BHEEMA AND HANUMAN
BHEESHMA
CHANDRAHASA
CHURNING OF THE OCEAN
DASHARATHA
DHRIYA AND ASHTAVAKRA
DRAUPADI
DRONA
DURGA, TALES OF
ELEPHANTA
GANDHARI
GANESHA
GANGA
GARUDA
GHATOTKACHA
GITA, THE
GOLDEN MONGOOSE, THE
HANUMAN
HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE
HARISCHANDRA
INDRA AND SHACHI
INDRA AND SHIBI
JAGANNATHA OF PURI
JAYADRATHA
KACHA AND DEVAYANI
KARNA
KARTTIKEYA
KRISHNA
KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA
KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA
KRISHNA AND RUKMINI
KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA
KRISHNA AND THE FALSE
VAASUDEVA
KUMBHAKARNA
LORD OF LANKA, THE
MAHABHARATA
MAHARAVANA
NACHIKETA
NAHUSA
NALA DAMAYANTI
NARADA, TALES OF
PANDAVA PRINCES, THE
PANDAVAS IN THE HIDING, THE
PRAHLAD
RAMA
RAYANA HUMBLER
SATI AND SHIVA
SAVITRI
SHIVA PARVATI
SHIVA, TALES OF
SONS OF RAMA, THE
SUDAMA
SURYA
SYAMANTAKA GEM, THE
TRIPURA
ULOOPI
UPANISHADS, TALES FROM
VALI
VISHNU, TALES OF
VISHVAMITRA

YAYATI
YUDHISHTHIRA, TALES OF

ACK INDIAN CLASSICS

Enchanting tales from Indian literature

ANANDA MATH
ANCESTORS OF RAMA
DEVI CHOUDHURANI
KANNAGI
KAPALA KUNDALA
MALAVIKA
RATNAVALI
SHAKUNTALA
UDAYANA
URVASHI
VASANTASENA
VASAVADATTA

ACK FABLES AND HUMOUR

Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

ACROBAT AND OTHER
BUDDHIST TALES, THE
ADVENTURES OF
AGAD DATTA, THE
ADVENTURES OF
BADDU AND CHHOTU, THE
AMRAPALI
ANGULIMALA
BAG OF GOLD COINS, A
BATTLE OF WITS
BIKAL THE TERRIBLE

BIRBAL STORIES

BIRBAL THE CLEVER
BIRBAL THE GENIUS
BIRBAL THE JUST
BIRBAL THE WISE
BIRBAL THE WITTY
BIRBAL TO THE RESCUE
THE INIMITABLE BIRBAL
CELESTIAL NECKLACE, THE
CHANDRALALAT
COWHERD OF ALAWI, THE
FEARLESS BOY AND OTHER
BUDDHIST TALES, THE
FOOL'S DISCIPLES, THE
FRIENDS AND FOES
GOPAL AND THE COWHERD
GOPAL THE JESTER

HITOPADESHA TALES

CHOICE OF FRIENDS
HOW FRIENDS ARE PARTED

JATAKA TALES

BIRD STORIES
DEADLY FEAST, THE
DEER STORIES
ELEPHANT STORIES
GIANT & THE DWARF, THE
HIDDEN TREASURE, THE
JACKAL STORIES
MAGIC CHANT, THE
MONKEY STORIES
MOUSE MERCHANT, THE
NANDIVISHALA
STORIES OF COURAGE
STORIES OF WISDOM
TALES OF MISERS
TRUE FRIENDS
KESARI THE FLYING THIEF
KING KUSHA
LEARNED PANDIT, THE

MAGIC GROVE, THE
MARYADA RAMA, TALES OF
PANCHATANTRA TALES

BRAHMIN & THE GOAT
CROW'S AND OWLS
DULLARD AND OTHER
STORIES
GREEDY MOTHER-IN-LAW, THE
HOW THE JACKAL ATE THE
ELEPHANT
JACKAL & THE
WAR DRUM, THE
PRICELESS GEM, THE
PRINCE AND THE
MAGICIAN
QUEEN'S NECKLACE, THE
PANDIT AND THE MILKMAID
RAMAN OF TENALI
RAMAN THE MATCHLESS WIT
SAKSHI GOPAL -
SHRENIK
TIGER & THE WOODPECKER,
TIGER-EATER, THE
VIKRAMADITYA'S THRONE

ACK BRAVEHEARTS

Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

AJATASHATRU
AKBAR
AMAR SINGH RATHOR
ASHOKA
BAGHA JATIN
BAJI RAO I
BALADITYA & YASHODHARMA
BANDA BAHADUR
BAPPA RAWAL
BENI MADHO AND FIR AU
BHAGAT SINGH
BIMBARA
CHAND BIBI
CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD
CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA
DURGADAS
ELLORA CAVES
HARSHA
HISTORIC CITY OF DELHI, THE
JAHANGIR
JALIANWALA BAGH
KALPANA CHAWLA
KRISHNADEVA RAYA
KUNWAR SINGH
LAHIT BARPHUKAN
LAUTADITYA
MANGAL PANDE
NOOR JAHAN
PADMINI
PANNA AND HADI RANI
PAURAVA AND ALEXANDER
PRITHVIRAJ CHAUHAN
RAJA BHOJA
RAJA RAJA CHOLA
RANA KUMBHA
RANA PRATAP
RANA SANGA
RANI ABBAKKA
RANI DURGAVATI
RANI OF JHANSI
RANJIT SINGH
RASH BEHARI BOSE
SAMUDRA GUPTA
SEA ROUTE TO INDIA
SHAH JAHAN
SHALIVAHANA

SHER SHAH
SHIVAJI
SHIVAJI, TALES OF
SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
SULTANA RAZIA
TANAJI
THE RANI OF KITTUR
TIPU SULTAN
VEER HAMMIR
VEER SAVARKAR
VELU THAMPI
VIKRAMADITYA

ACK VISIONARIES

Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

ADI SHANKARA
AMBEDKAR, BABASAHEB
BASAVESHWARA
BIRLA G.D.
BUDDHA
CHANAKYA
CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU
CHINMAYANANDA, SWAMI
CHOKHA MELA
DAYANANDA
DESHBANDHU
CHITTANRANJAN DAS
FA HEN
GURU ARJAN
GURU GOBIND SINGH
GURU NANAK
GURU TEGH BAHADUR
HIJEN TSANG
J.R.D. TATA
JAGADIS CHANDRA BOSE
JAMSETJI TATA
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN
JNANESHWAR
KABIR
KALIDASA
LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI
LOKAMANYA TILAK
MADHVACHARYA
MAHAVIRA
MEGASTHENES
MIRABAI
MOTHER TERESA
PRANAYANANDA, SWAMI
RABINDRANATH TAGORE
RAMAKRISHNA, SRI
RAMANA MAHARSHI
RAMANUJIA
RAM SHASTRI
SAIBABA, TALES OF
SHANKAR DEV
SOORDAS
SUBRAMANIAM BHARATI
TANSEN
TULSIDAS
VIDYASAGAR
VIVEKANANDA
ZARATHUSHTRA

ACK SPECIAL ISSUES

BHAGAWAT - THE KRISHNA AVATAR
DASHA AVATAR
JESUS CHRIST
MAHABHARATA
MAHATMA GANDHI
RAM CHARIT MANAS
VALMIKI'S RAMAYANA

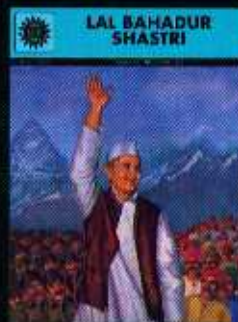
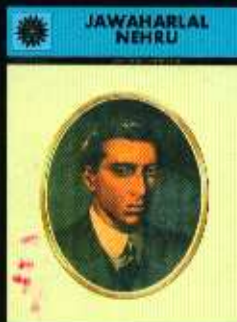


All titles available on www.AmarChitraKatha.com

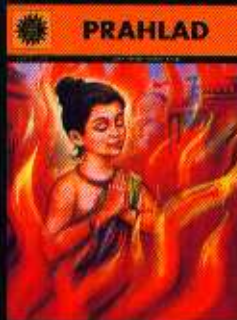
BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR

He was from a respectable family, well-educated and a lawyer, yet many Indians thought of him as 'untouchable'. It was up to BR Ambedkar to teach his 'depressed' community to fight the injustices that it faced each day. Hard working and wise, he became the icon of the underprivileged. History, however, will remember him as the architect of India's Constitution.

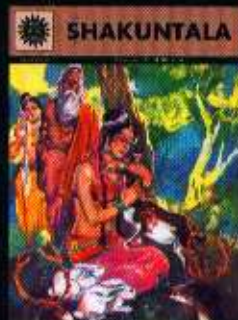
OTHER ACK VISIONARIES:



ALSO LOOK FOR:



EPICS & MYTHOLOGY



INDIAN CLASSICS



FABLES & HUMOUR



BRAVEHEARTS

www.ack-media.com

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

ISBN 81-8482-181-6



9 788184 821819