PETTY COMICS
No. 18
Rs. 3

THE LAST LAUGH

THE EIGHTEENTH HUNTER

SEVENTEEN TIMES,
SHE LAUGHED LAST.

FIVE STARS. ONE GHOST.

BIKER BURNT ON HIGHWAY 18

TEMPLE BELLS MIDNIGHT

ANOTHER RIDER NEAR AGNI DWAR

POLICE BLAME SPEEDING

BLACKOUTS BLAMES MONKEYS

VILLAGERS BLAME CHUDAIL

VEERU. TWENTY. SEVENTEENTH RIDER LOST AT AGNI DWAR.

AN OLD AIR FORCE NUMBER.

I MAY NEED A LIFT.

A WEEK EARLIER.
THE OLD PILGRIM ROAD.

COME OUT, WITCH!
THIS IS SHIVA'S ROAD!

VEERU. TWENTY.
CHHOTU'S BROTHER.

HEE-HEE-HEEE!

HE LOOKED.

fssssss...

AGNI DWAR.
THE FIRE GATES.
COLD TILL MIDNIGHT.

CHAI'S ON ME. GOSSIP'S ON YOU.

RADHE RADHE!

NOBODY SLEEPS TILL SHE'S DANCED.

SHE ONLY TAKES THE ONES WHO LOOK.

SUGAR?

ASK BAPU. AT THE DHABA.

WHOA...

WRONG TURN, SON.

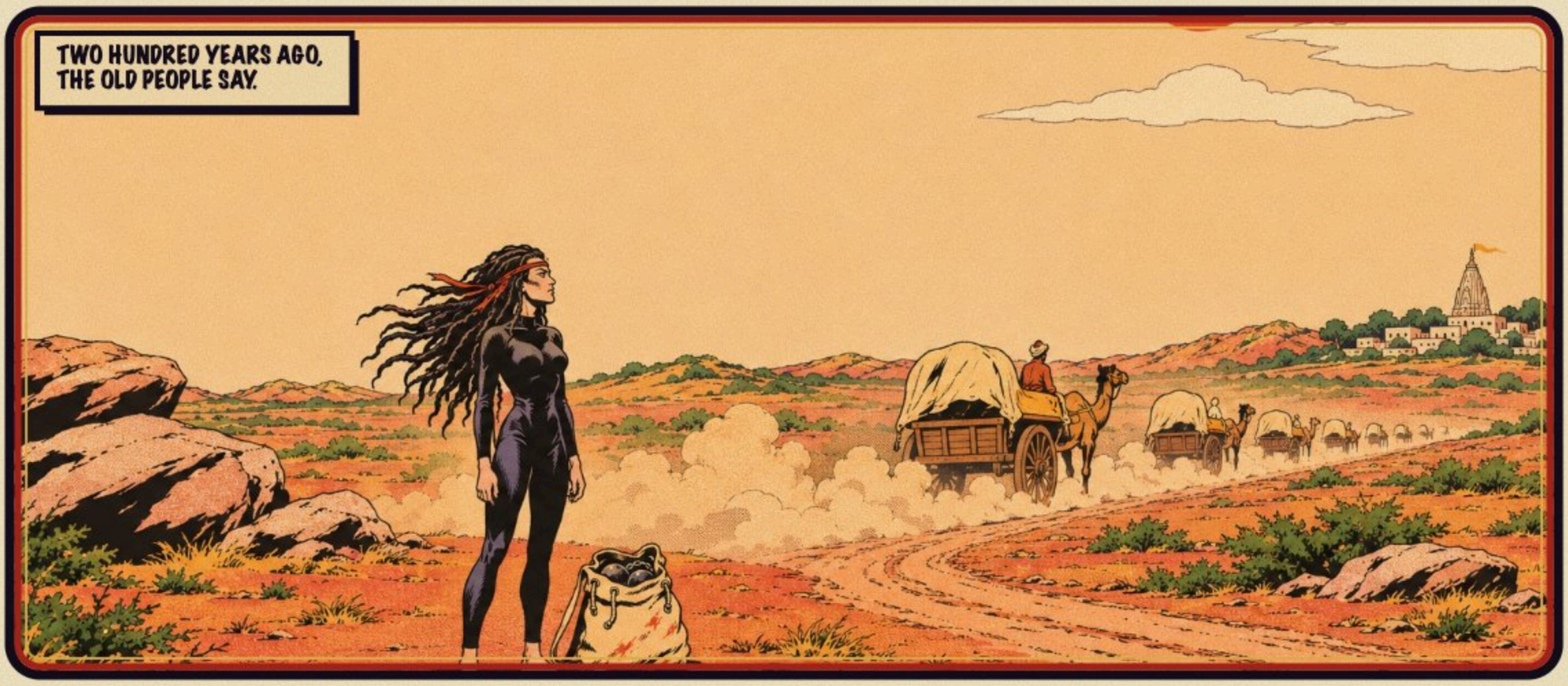
CHAI.
AND HER STORY.

THIS WAS VEERU'S.
MY BROTHER'S.

I'LL OPEN
THAT ROAD AGAIN.

DON'T SAY IT
UNLESS YOU MEAN IT.


SHE WAS A DANCER.


TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO,
THE OLD PEOPLE SAY.




FATTU FOUND HER RHYTHM.


YOU'RE LATE.
YOU CHANGED THE BEAT.

SHE DANCED FOR THE RAJA HIMSELF.

RAHU.
WHAT SHE STEALS
WILL STICK
IN HER THROAT.

THE RAJA NEVER LOOKED.

SHE HAD MADE
THE GRAVE HER HIDING PLACE.
THEN SHE TOOK ITS STONE.


SHE WORE IT CLOSE.


THEN THE DUCKS VANISHED.
THEY BLAMED HER.


IRENA.
COME HOME.


FWOOMP!


DAKAN!


THE VILLAGE CHASED HER BACK TO HER HIDING PLACE.




THEY CAUGHT HER THERE.
THEY LIT THE PYRE.


KRRAKK



HA-HA-HA-HAAA!

SEVEN GRANDFATHERS AGO, MINE CARRIED A TORCH.

EVERY MIDNIGHT.

radhe...
radhe...

DONNG... DONNG...

THREE NIGHTS.

KEROSENE.

DRIP...

IRON.

KLING... KLANG...

MIDNIGHT.
SAME ROUTE.

00:00

THIRD NIGHT.
SAME STEP.

GOT YOU.

THAT'S IT?

THAT'S IT.

1. MIDNIGHT — first arch
2. TRAP — hook + chain
3. TRICK — light + sand

SHE KNOWS THAT ROAD.

SO DO I.

KLANK

VEERU HAD A PLAN TOO.

THAT'S WHY I WATCHED FIRST.

MIDNIGHT.

A LITTLE LIGHT FOR ME?

HELLO, IRENA.

KLIK!

KRASSH!

I'VE WATCHED EVERY STEP.

THEN WATCH THIS.

glk.

FWOOOOOOSH!

SKRRRRT!

FIRE NEEDS AIR, MA'AM.

FSSHHH

COME DANCE, EIGHTEEN!

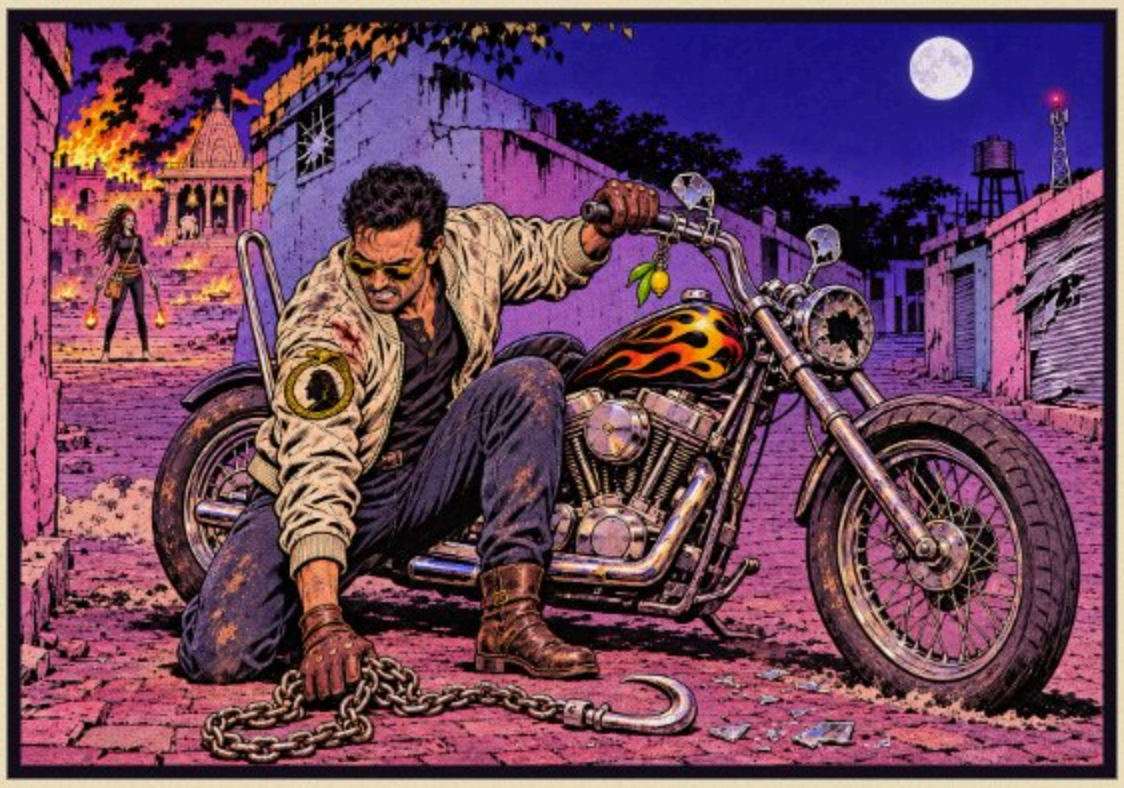
ONE LITTLE LOOK WON'T KILL YOU.


HE LOOKED.




WRONG ONE!
HEE-HEE-HEE


HA-HA-HA-HAAAAA!
KRASSH!
SKRRAANG!





LATER THAT NIGHT.
MOKSHA BHUMI.

I WATCHED HER STEPS.
THE LAUGH MADE ME LOOK.

IF SHE FINISHES HER DANCE...

SO THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING.

AND THE STONE?

IRENA WAS THE DANCER. THE LAUGH WAS OLDER.

FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO,
BABA YAGA CAME TO THIS LAND.

SHE CALLED HERSELF A YOGINI.
SHE WANTED WORSHIP.

WHERE NO ONE COULD SEE.

a hundred ducks.
one mani.

THE HUNDREDTH.

IT KEPT ITS WORD.

BY DAWN, THE POND WAS EMPTY.

SHE HID THE MANI IN HER THROAT.

HER FIRE ROSE.
THE STOLEN POWER TURNED INWARD.

THE LAUGH MADE THEM LOOK.
THE LOOK SET THEM ALIGHT.

HA-HA-HA-HAAAA!

HA-HA-HAAA!

DHOOOOM

THEY HEARD THE SHELL.
NO MORTAL SAW THEM.

THEN HE BOUND
WHAT WORE THE BODY.

THE MANI LOCKED THE GRAVE.
THE CLAY HELD BABA YAGA.

IRENA TOOK THE LOCK.
THE PYRE BROKE THE SEAL.

IRENA'S BODY.
BABA YAGA'S LAUGH.

RETURN THE MANI.
THEIR BOND ENDS.

TONIGHT THE ECLIPSE
LETS HER CROSS THE LAST STEP.

1. FOLLOW THE REAL BODY
2. BIND HER
3. CALL A FRIEND
4. RETURN THE MANI

THAT NIGHT. THE ECLIPSE.

NOT YOUR NUMBER.

YOU AGAIN, EIGHTEEN?

girls...
we have a guest.

krrk...

POOR BABY

...SO TIRED.

ha-ha-ha...

NICE MASKS.

KLANG!

SO THAT'S WHAT KEEPS YOU PRETTY.

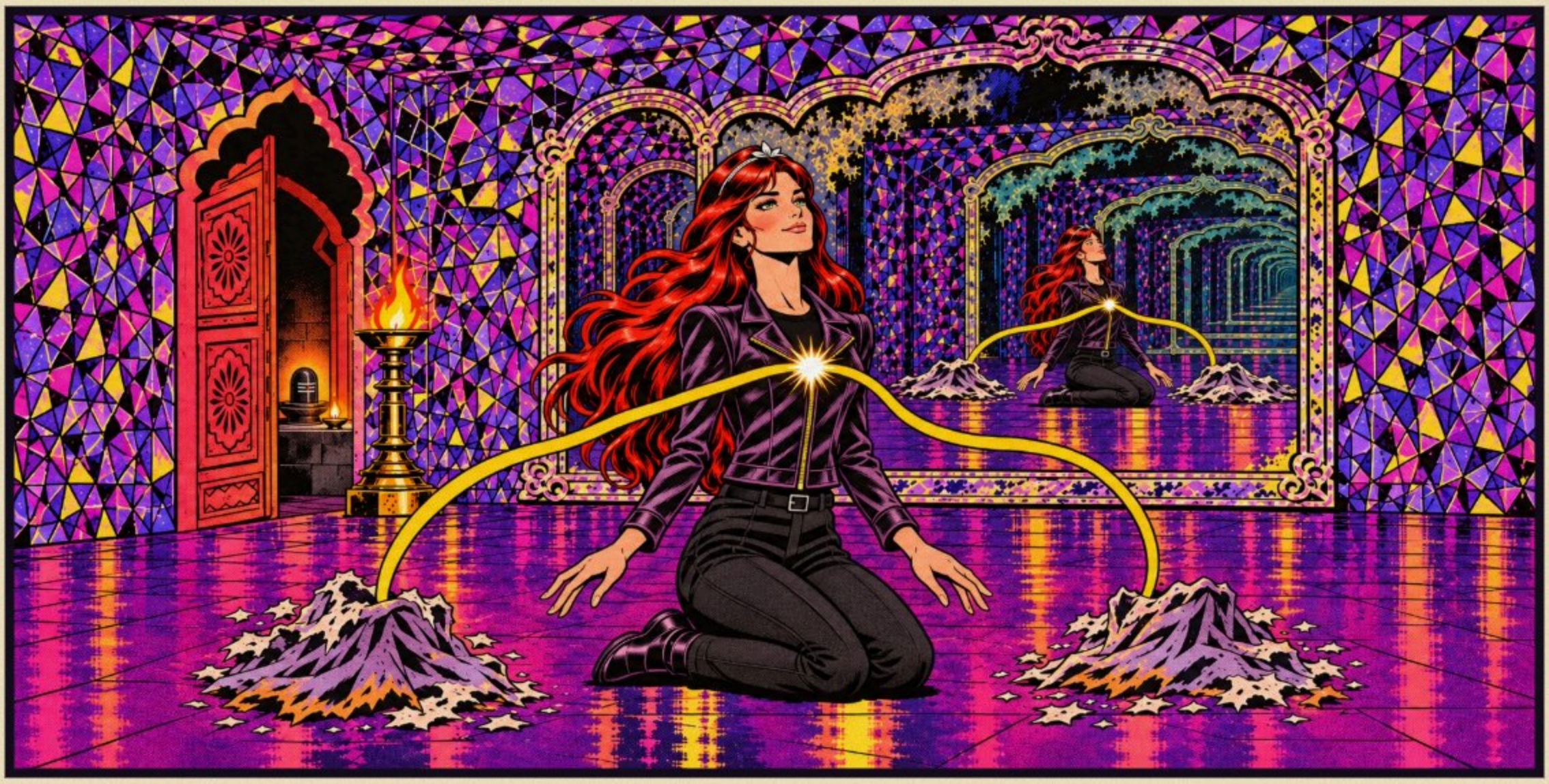
SNAP!

SKREEEE!

LADIES...
YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING
ON YOUR FACE.


SMILE.


FWASSSH!



RADHE KRISHNA.

I WAS BORN HERE.
THEY CALLED ME SNOW WHITE.
THE CURSE SPLIT ME.
NOT MY PRAYER.

A MOMENT.
PLEASE.

KRASSH!

WHOOMPH!

tik.

ALL THAT PLANNING.
SAME ROAD. SAME END.

ROOM FOR ONE MORE.

HA-HA-HAAA!

YEARS AGO.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHAT TO DO, GURUJI?

ALWAYS LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE DRIPPING KEROSENE.

HA! WHY DO I EVEN SAY SUCH THINGS?

...THE DRIPPING KEROSENE.

drip... drip...

KRANNNG!

NNNGH—

RRRIP

A BLIND MAN?!

I'M LISTENING.

WHICH ONE IS ME?

THE ONE THAT DRIPS.

SSS...

KLING...

KLANG...

drip... drip...

NICE THROW.

FWEEEE

HOW?!

БЛЯДЬ! (FUCK!)

KRUNCH

AAH!

DRIP

GOOD THING I CAN AFFORD BOOTS.

GOODNIGHT, IRENA.


WHOOOOOOSH!


FOUND YOU.
VRRRAAAAM!


WHIRR-WHIRR...
SHHK!


SHKLANG!

YOU CAN'T CARRY ME BACK THERE. NOT ALONE.

GOOD THING I HAVE FRIENDS.

YOUR CUE.

READY WHEN YOU ARE.

A. DIXIT

HOLD ON, SWEETHEART.

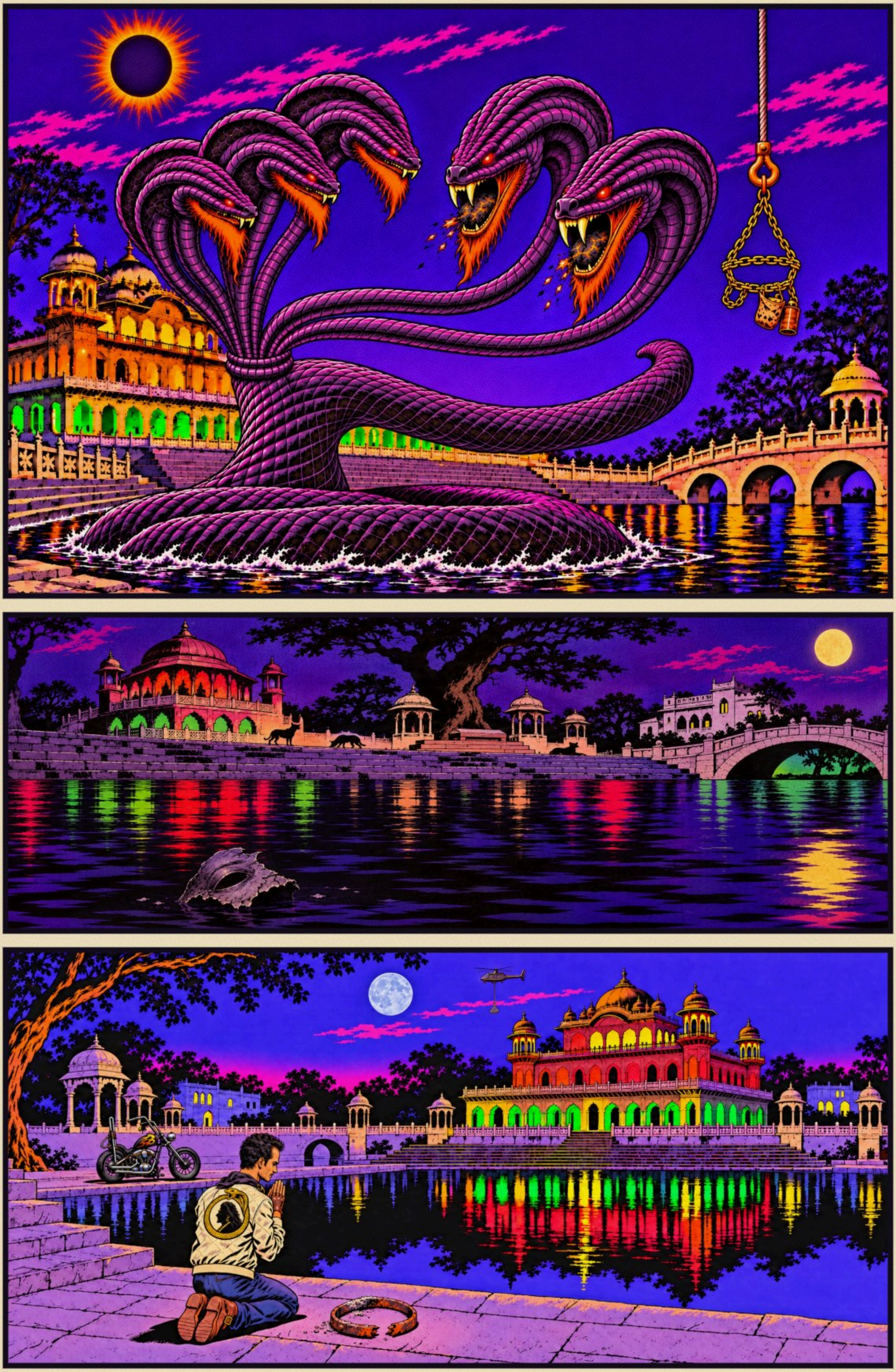
STRAIGHT ON.
I'LL TAKE YOU IN.

OVER THE KUND.

SHESH NAG.

GLLLK.

AAAIIIEEEE—

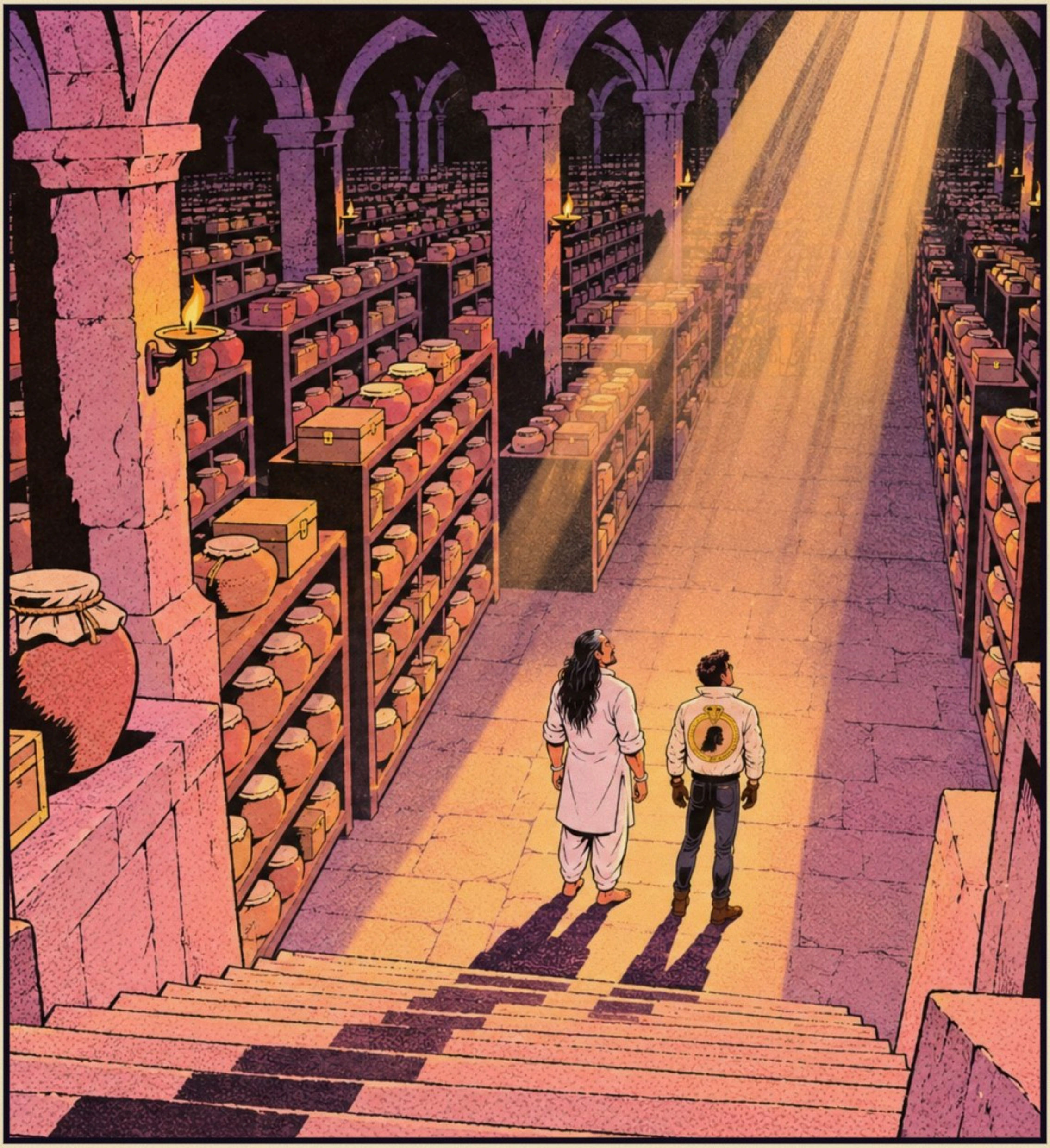


VEERU.
BYE, BHAIYA.

DONNG...




WHAT DO I PUT IN THE REPORT?



YEARS AGO.

I HAVE A GARDEN.
IT NEEDS SWEEPING.

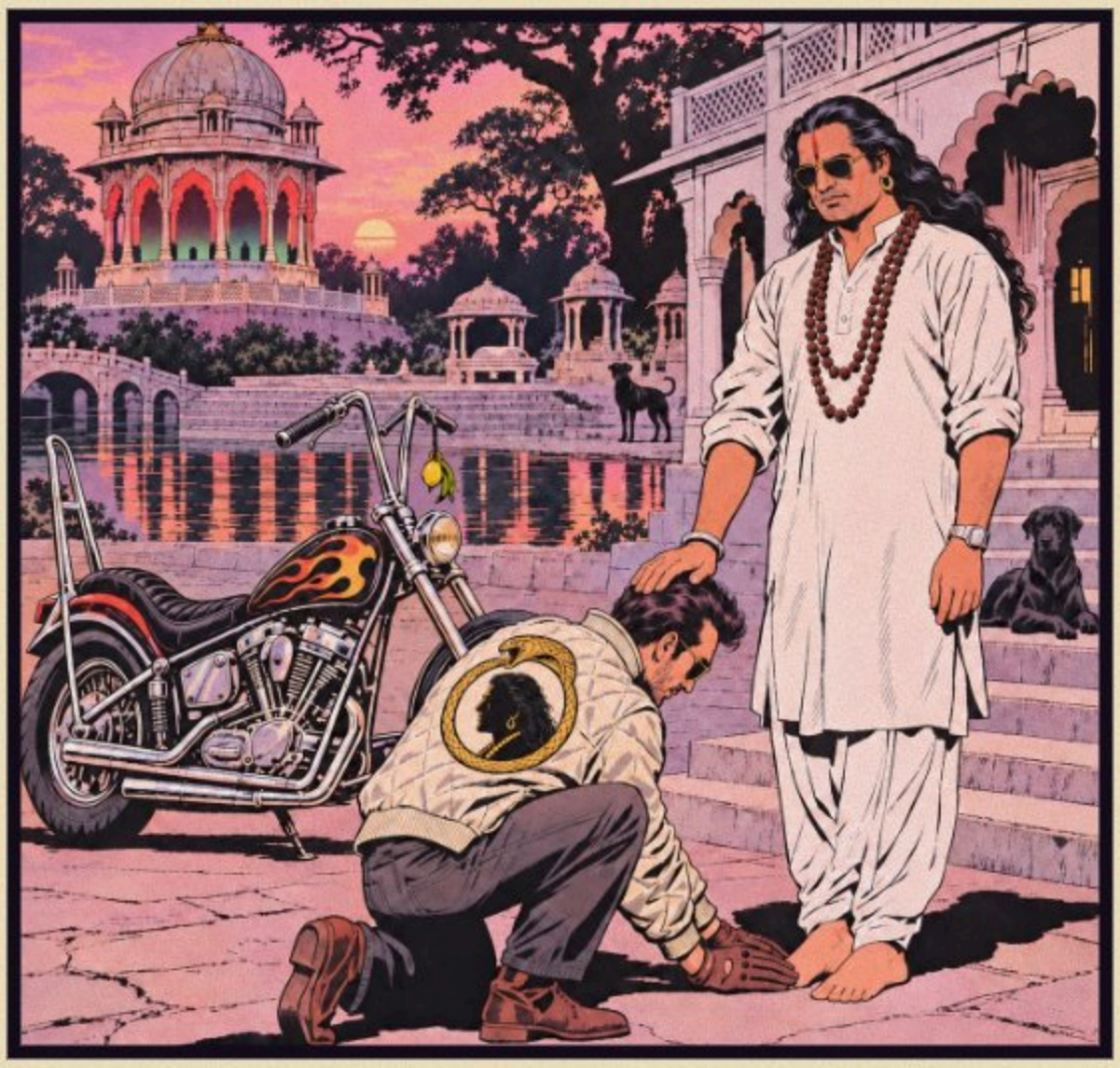
I'LL SERVE YOU, GURUJI.
I'LL BEHAVE.
I'LL HAUNT NO ONE.

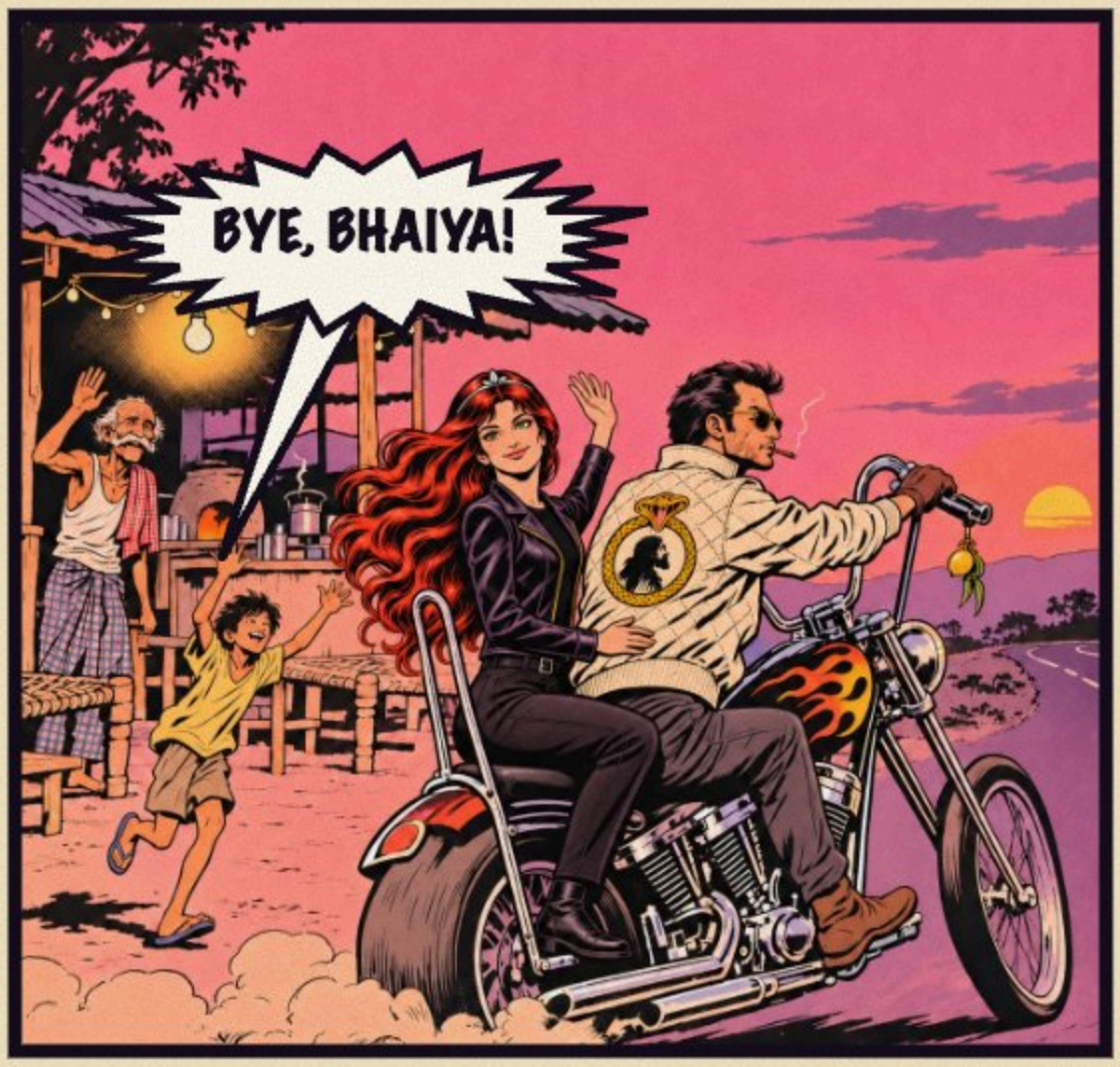
THE POT KEEPS HIS ESSENCE.
THE GARDEN KEEPS HIM.

NOW.

SOME NEVER GIVE THEIR WORD.
THOSE GET SILVER.

LATER, NOBODY SAID NOW.




BYE, BHAIYA!


DO YOU ALWAYS TELL IT FROM YOUR SIDE?
ONLY TILL SOMEONE INTERRUPTS.



I'LL RISK IT.

THEN I'LL START WITH THE MIRRORS.

RADHE RADHE!

HIGHWAY 18.
NO DEATHS
THIS YEAR.

HIS VERSION
DIDN'T SURVIVE THE RIDE.