

Angulimāla the Arahant

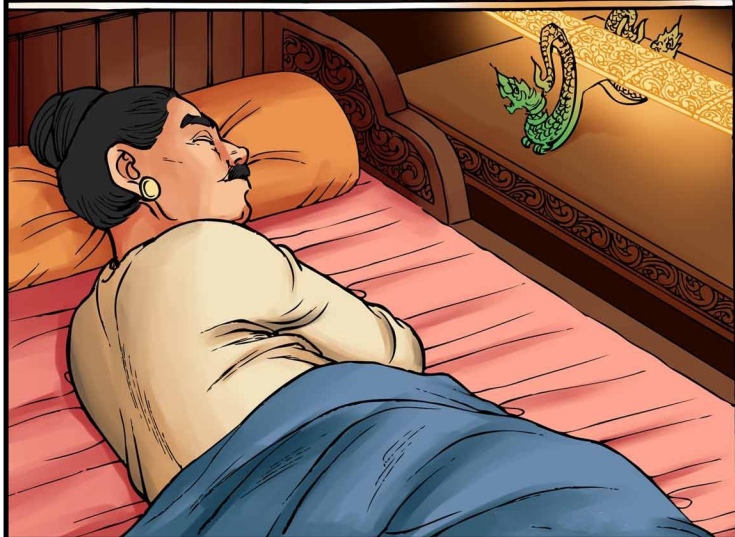
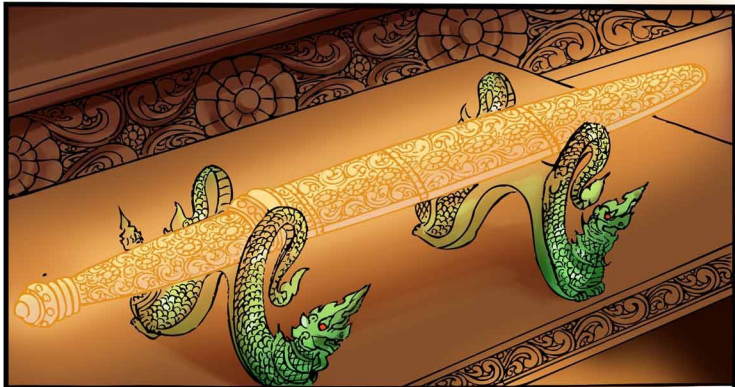
CHAPTER 1

Putet Comics

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In the palace of Savatthi,
Kosala kingdom, a strange
thing happened one night.



The king Kosala had a habit of keeping his weapon beside his bed whenever he slept.



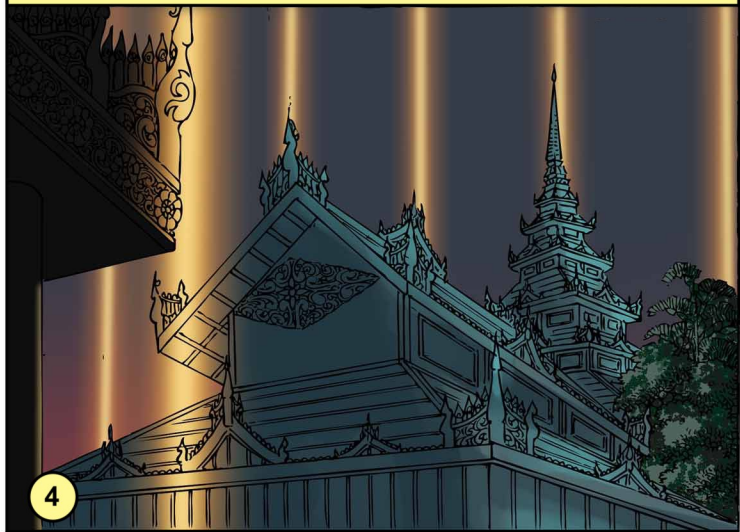
His weapon flashed on one particular night and that frightened the King.



The king didn't get a good night sleep and he was agitated with different thoughts.



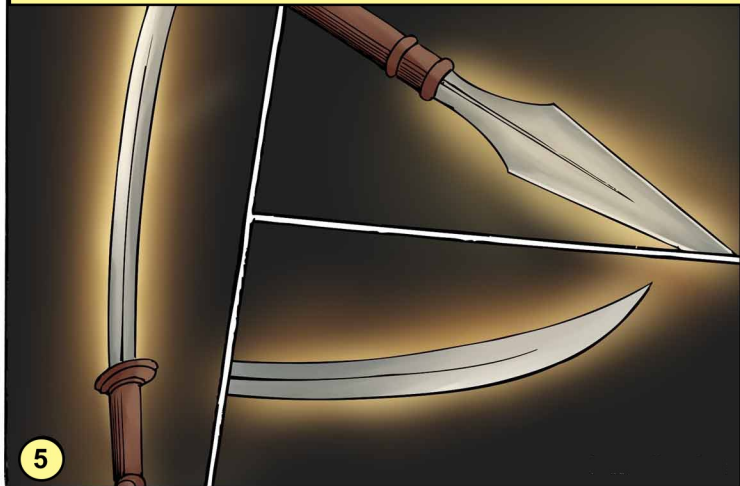
Unknown to him, all the weapons in the city flashed and glowed, not just his weapon.

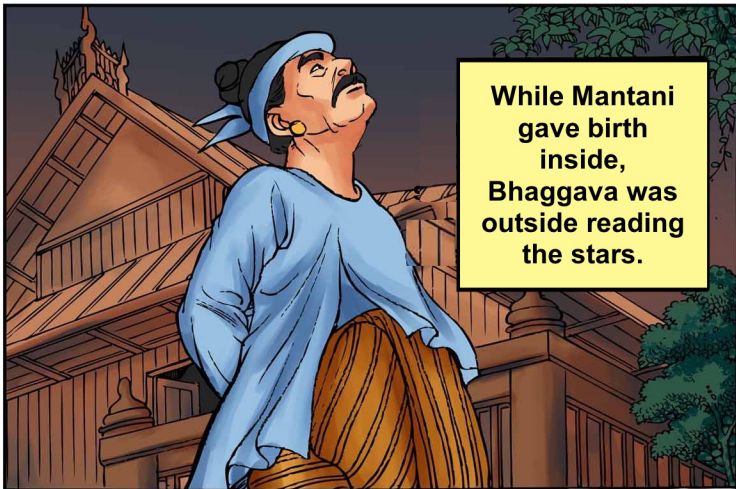


The cause of that incident was that, the king's advisor Bhaggava and his wife Mantani gave birth to a son.



The potential power of the newly born child had made all the weapons to glow.



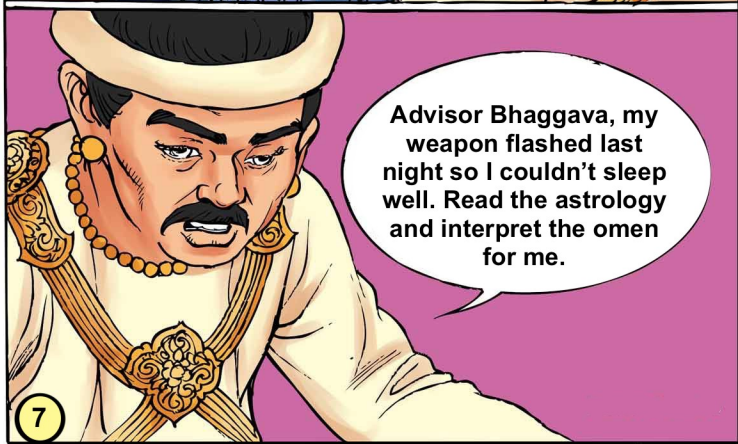


While Mantani gave birth inside, Bhaggava was outside reading the stars.

The time of our child's birth coincides with "omen of thieves". He is destined to be a bandit.

I should report it to the King. Whatever happens after, is the fate of our child.

The next morning, Bhaggava went to the King.






Do not be worried,
your Majesty. My wife
gave birth to a son last
night. The potential
power of our child is
the reason why all the
weapons of the city
flashed.



Respectable
advisor, What might
be the destiny of
this child?





If your son's destiny is to be a lone bandit, let's spare his life. What happens in the future is his fate.

Your mercy is boundless, my King.

As the child's birth frightened the king, they initially named him "Himsaka". They later changed it to "Ahimsaka".

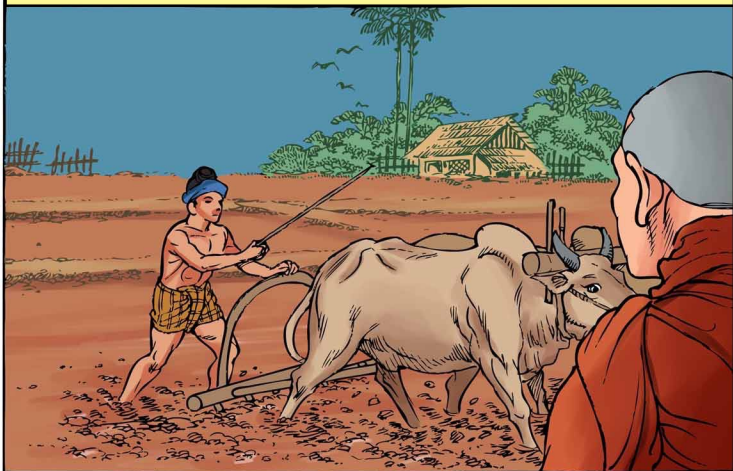


**Ahimsaka grew up to be
a strong man with a
strength equivalent to
that of seven huge
elephants!**



**He had such strength
due to his good deeds
from one of his previous
lives.**

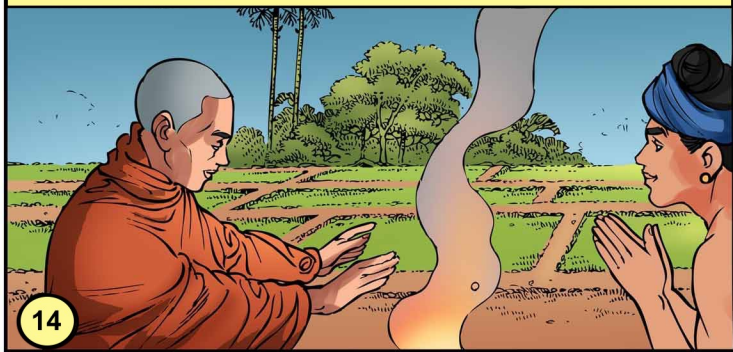
He was a farmer in one of his past lives when he saw
a PachchekaBuddha while ploughing the field.



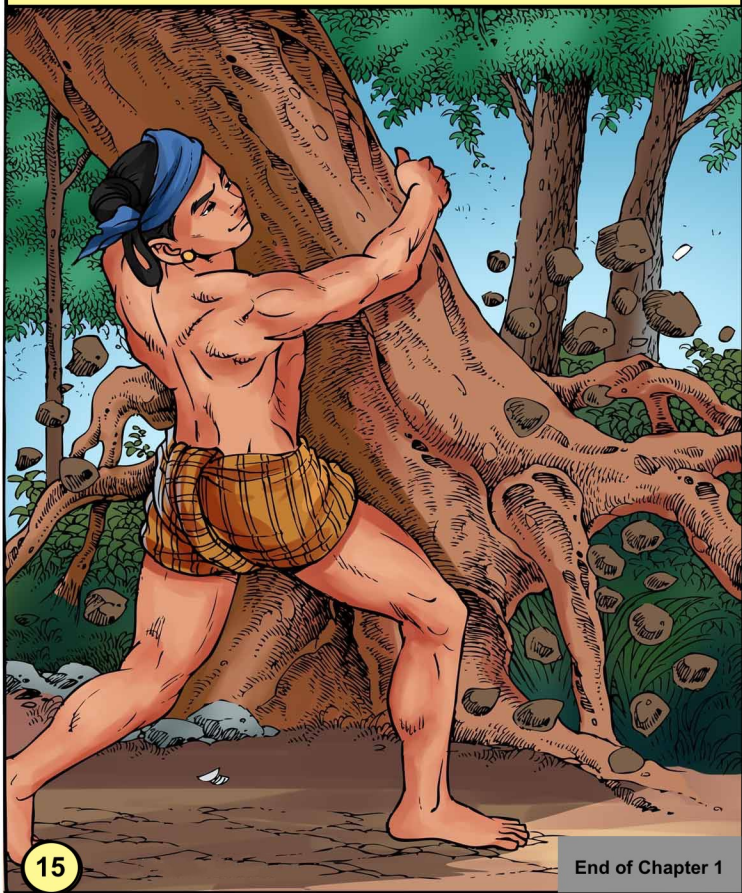
The
PachchekaBuddha
got caught in the
rain so his robes
were all soaked
and was shivering
a lot.



The farmer made a bonfire to warm the PachchekaBuddha and dried his robes.



This good deed done by him resulted in getting a strong body for every life thereafter. In this life, Ahimsaka got the strength equivalent to seven huge elephants.



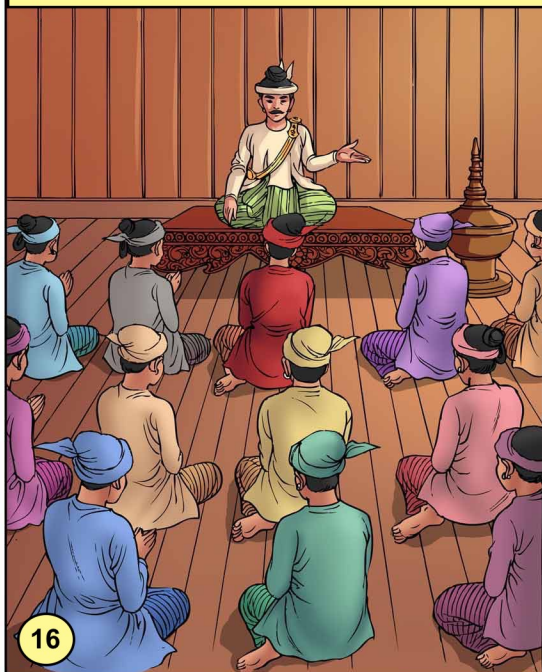
Angulimāla the Arahant

Chapter 2

Putet Comics

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Ahimsaka went to Takhsila and studied under a well known teacher.





He studied as a resident student at his teacher's house.



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He was energetic, active and well-behaved. He wasn't lazy and served humbly to his teacher and teacher's wife.

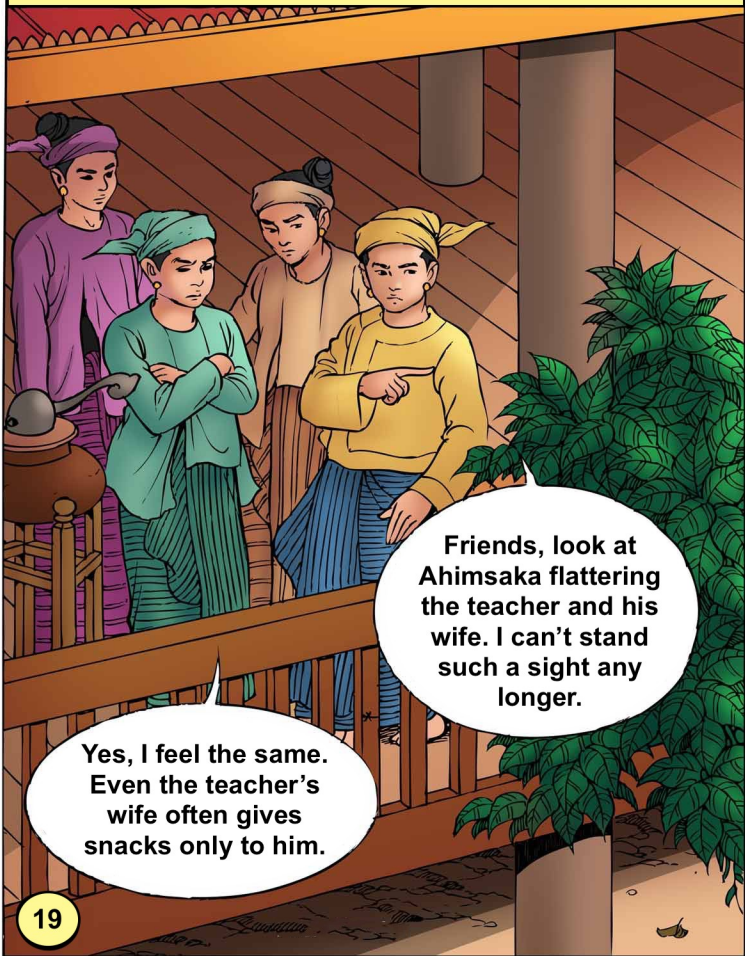
Such behaviour made the teacher and his wife love him a lot.



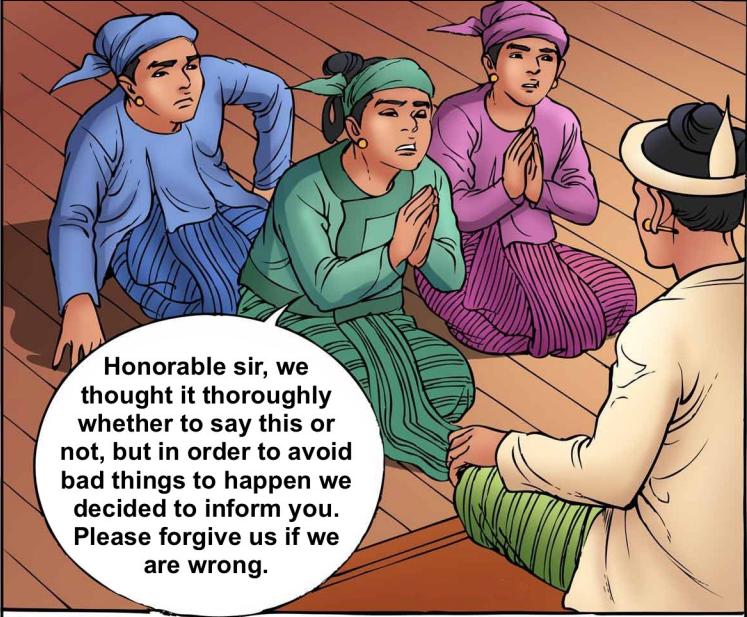
The teacher's wife usually gave snacks to Ahimsaka with kindness.




As time goes on, Ahimsaka's friends and other students grew jealous of him



The jealousy students decided to create misunderstanding between Ahimsaka and the teacher, so they went to the teacher and said.



Honorable sir, we thought it thoroughly whether to say this or not, but in order to avoid bad things to happen we decided to inform you. Please forgive us if we are wrong.



How strange?
What do you guys want to say?



All of us think that
your wife and
Ahimsaka's
relationship is no
longer pure.

It can't be true, you guys
must have misunderstood
something. Ahimsaka is well-
behaved and respects me and
my wife. My wife loves him
like our son.

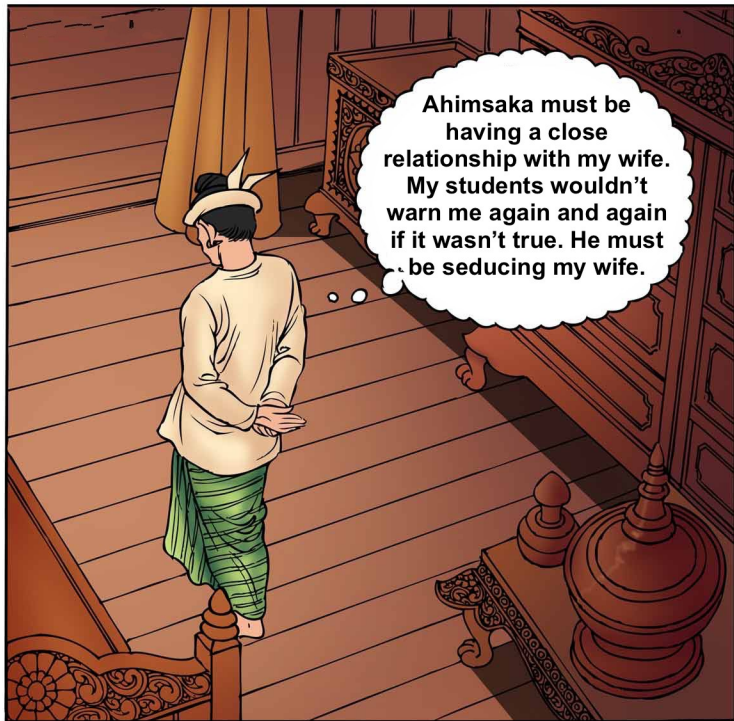


The teacher didn't doubt Ahimsaka even though the jealousy students tried to turn the teacher against him for a few times.



But hearing such things again and again made the teacher to eventually suspect Ahimsaka.





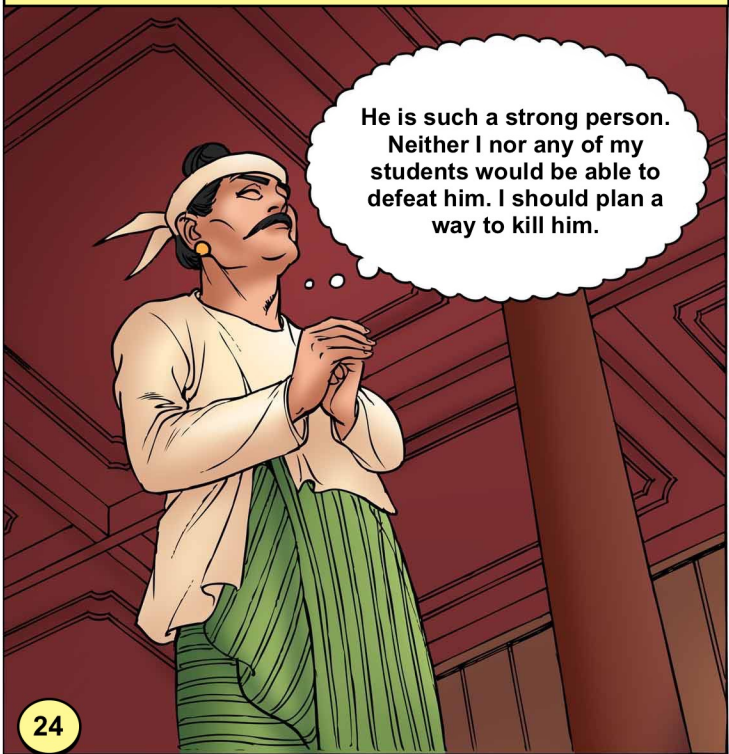
Ahimsaka must be having a close relationship with my wife. My students wouldn't warn me again and again if it wasn't true. He must be seducing my wife.

The teacher's doubt grew enormously and decide to teach Ahimsaka a lesson.





The teacher doubt made him hate Ahimsaka to the extent of wanting to kill him.



**He is such a strong person.
Neither I nor any of my
students would be able to
defeat him. I should plan a
way to kill him.**

The teacher thought different plans but when he got the perfect one, an evil smile appeared on his face.



Many seasons passed by....





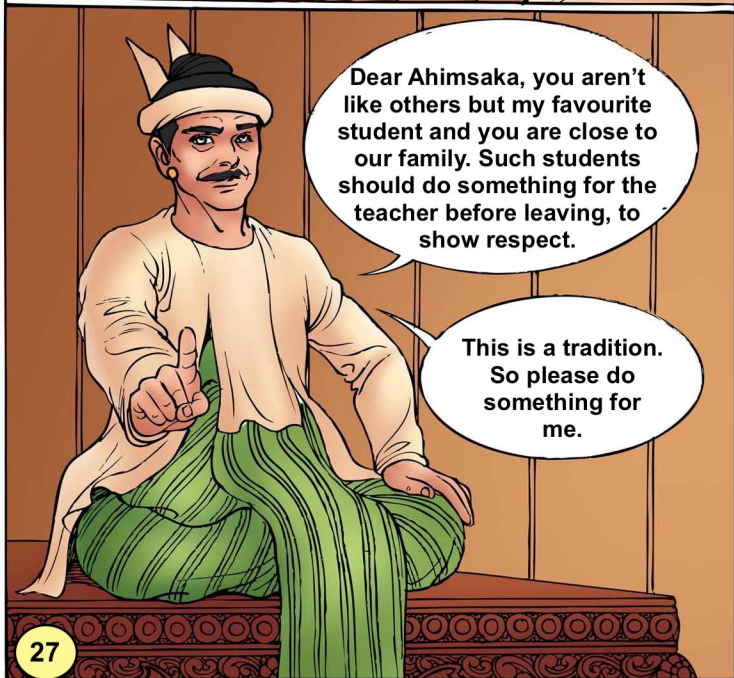
One after another, all the graduated students went back to their respective cities.



Ahimsaka requested permission from his teacher to go back to his place.




Honorable sir,
please allow me
to go back now.




Dear Ahimsaka, you aren't
like others but my favourite
student and you are close to
our family. Such students
should do something for the
teacher before leaving, to
show respect.

This is a tradition.
So please do
something for
me.




Honorable sir,
please tell me what
I should do for
you.

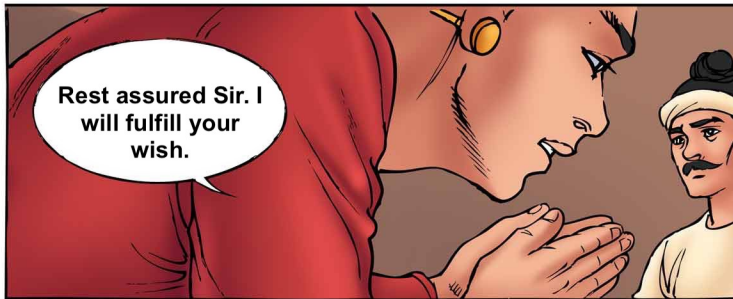


Bring me thousand
fingers from
thousand different
people!!

Now he would have to kill thousand people to fulfill
his teachers's wish.

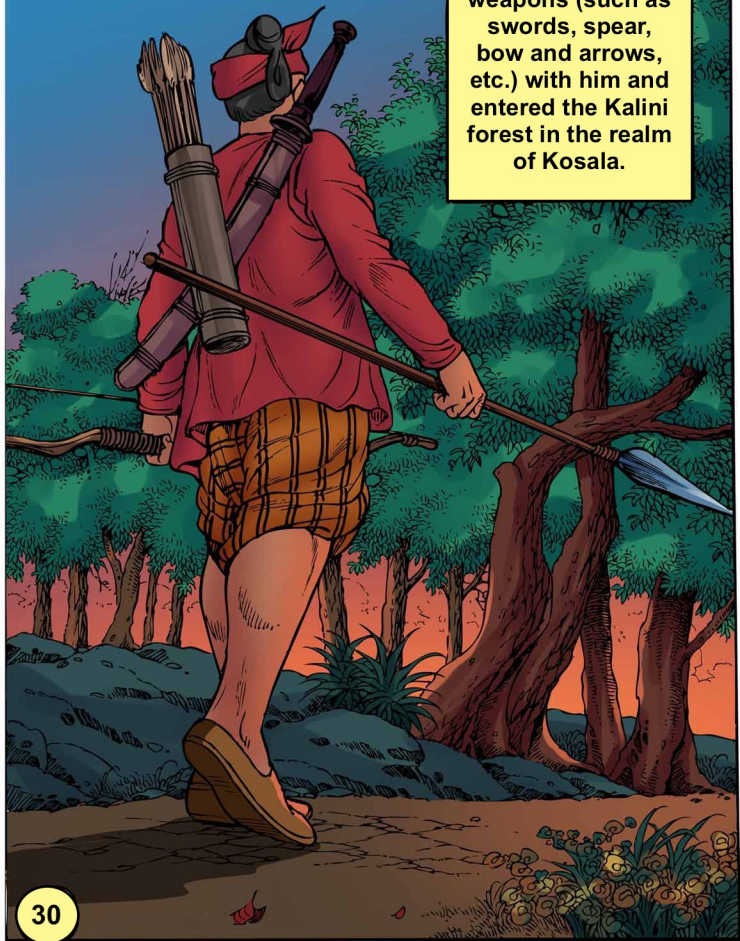


Hopefully by getting him
to kill so many people,
someone might be able
to kill him off.



The ignorant Ahimsaka didn't think of the dangers but only thought of completing the task given to him out of utmost respect for his teacher.

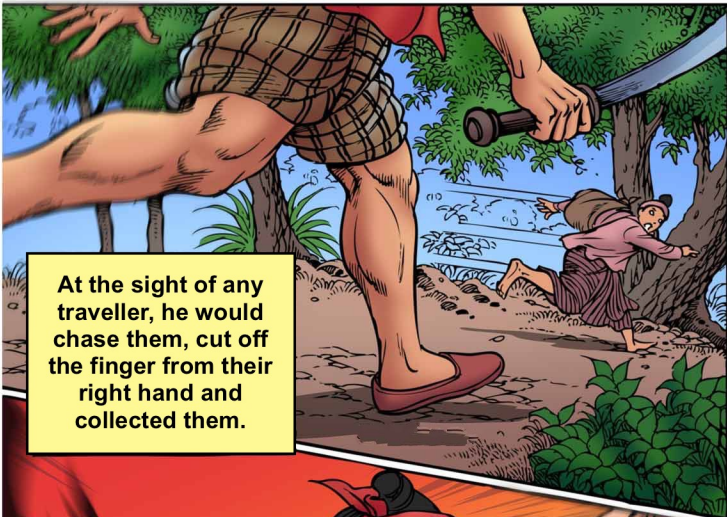
Ahimsaka took five weapons (such as swords, spear, bow and arrows, etc.) with him and entered the Kalini forest in the realm of Kosala.



He lived on a cliff that overlooked the passage below.

Everyday, Ahimsaka stood on the cliff and look out for travellers.





At the sight of any traveller, he would chase them, cut off the finger from their right hand and collected them.



Ahimsaka hung the
fingers he had
collected on a tree.



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End of Chapter 1

While birds like vulture and crows began to eat
those fingers.

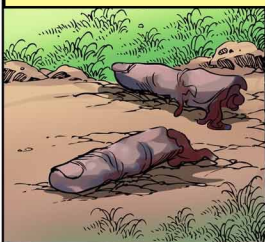
Angulimāla the Arahant

Chapter 3

Putet Comics

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While some fell on the earth and got rotten.



Ahimsaka couldn't remember the exact number of fingers he had collected.



How should I keep track of collected fingers?



**So he hanged the
fingers on his shoulder
like a garland.**



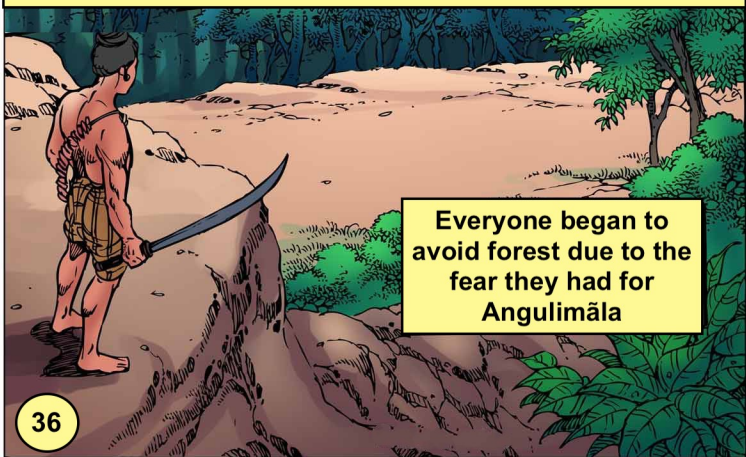
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**Since then, his real
name faded and people
started calling him
“Angulimāla”**



Angulimāla's killings resulted in the death of many in and around Kalini forest.



Everyone began to avoid forest due to the fear they had for Angulimāla

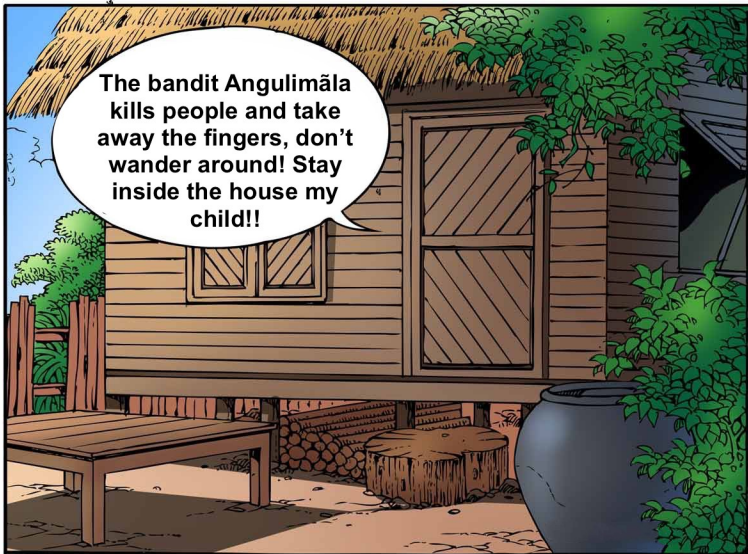


Thus, people avoided traveling even near the forest so, Angulimāla ambushed people near villages.



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He hid near the village and killed all those that wandered around and took their fingers.

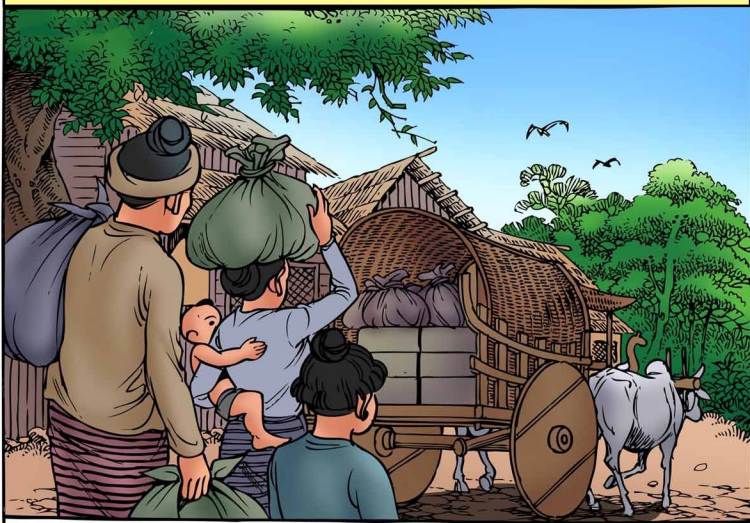


The bandit Angulimāla kills people and take away the fingers, don't wander around! Stay inside the house my child!!



Be alert while you are out, Angulimāla is indeed really scary!!

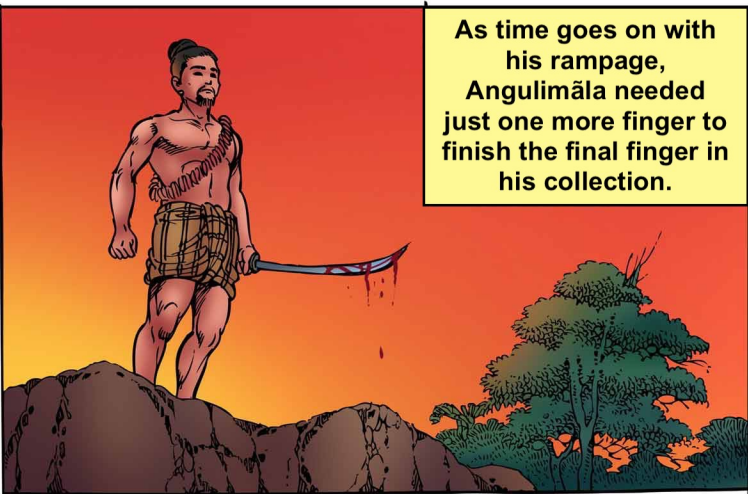
The villagers lives were no longer safe so they abandoned their villages and migrated to other places like cities.





Many villages became deserted gradually with no sign of life any longer.

As time goes on with his rampage, Angulimāla needed just one more finger to finish the final finger in his collection.



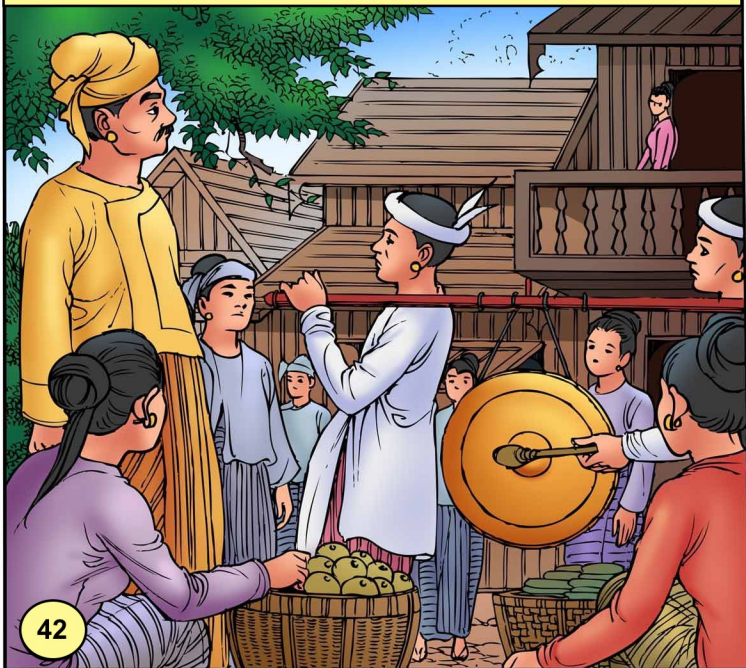
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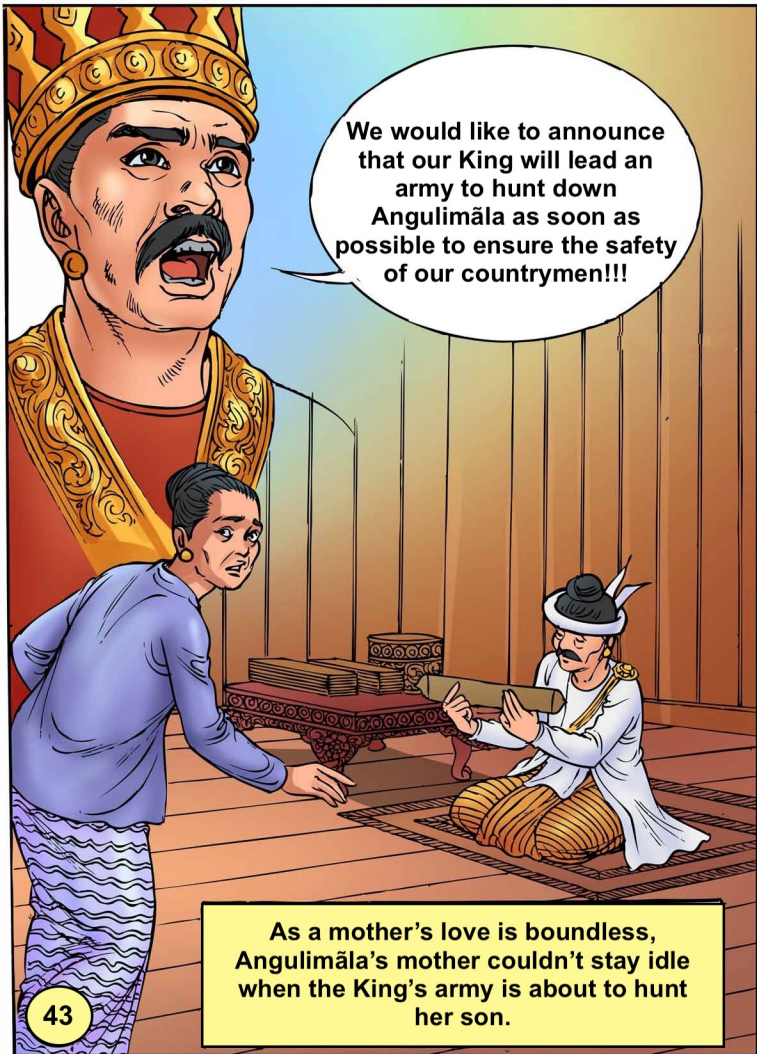
The villagers that migrated to cities complained and begged the King to hunt down Angulimāla.



The king couldn't turn down the wishes of his countrymen though he felt bad for his Advisor Bhaggava.


In the morning, the King sent his men to make an announcement in the city.





We would like to announce
that our King will lead an
army to hunt down
Angulimāla as soon as
possible to ensure the safety
of our countrymen!!!

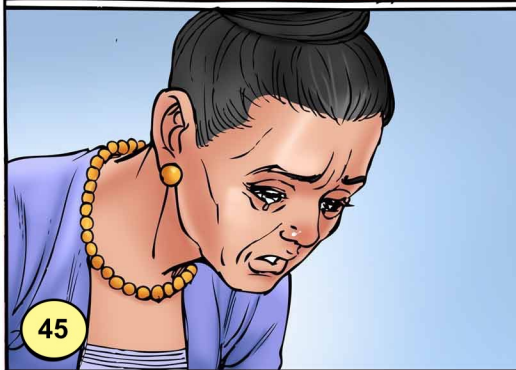
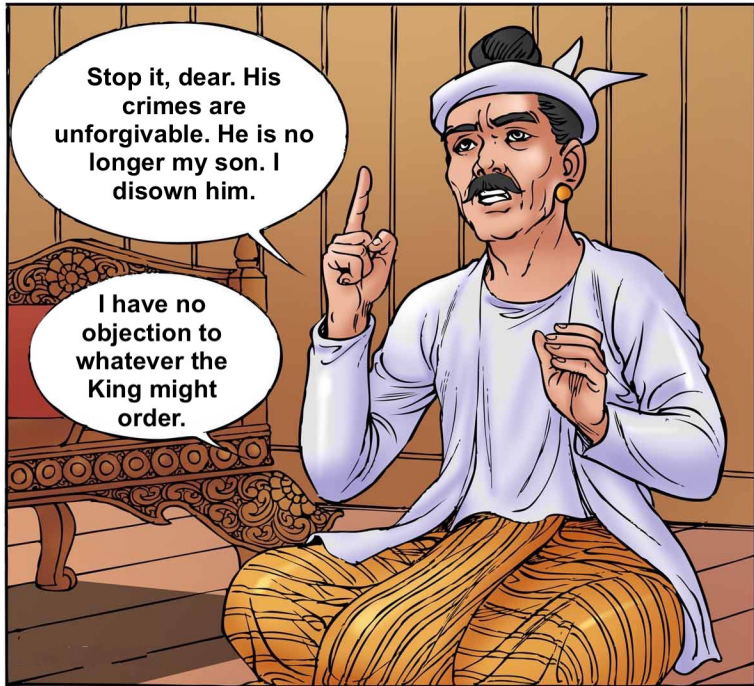
As a mother's love is boundless,
Angulimāla's mother couldn't stay idle
when the King's army is about to hunt
her son.



Mantani tried to persuade her husband Bhaggava.

Our son has become a psychopath, please go and stop our son from committing such crimes.

If it continues like this, the King's army will kill him. Please do something!!



She felt depressed to hear such angry words from her husband.



But due to the love she had for her son, she packed up her needs and sets out to the forest to find her son.



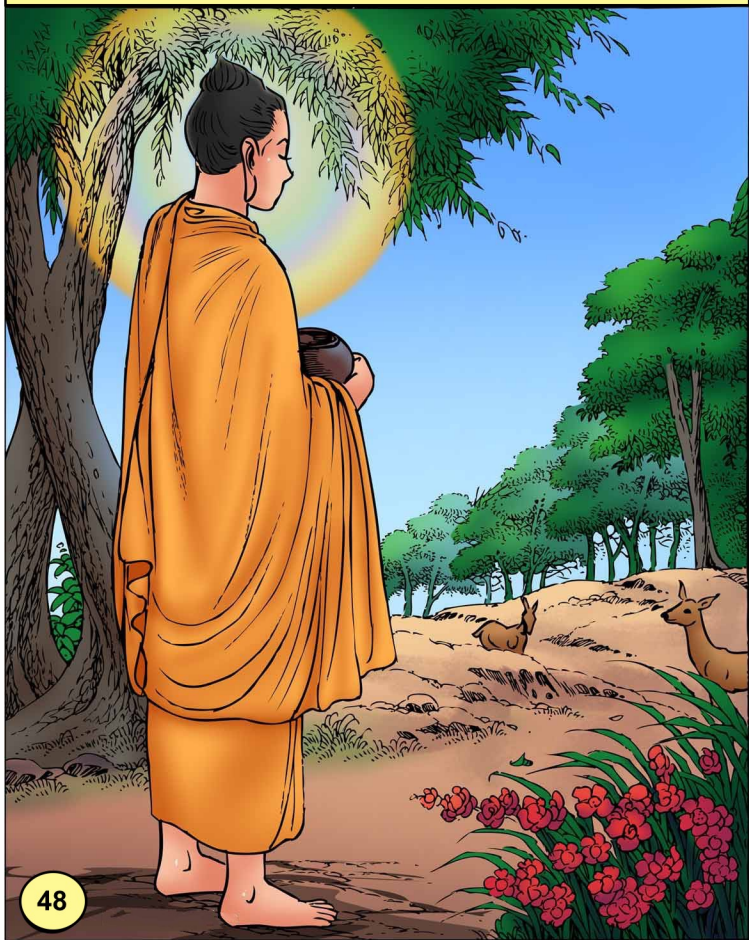
One morning, Lord Gautama Buddha saw Angulimāla through his meditative vision.



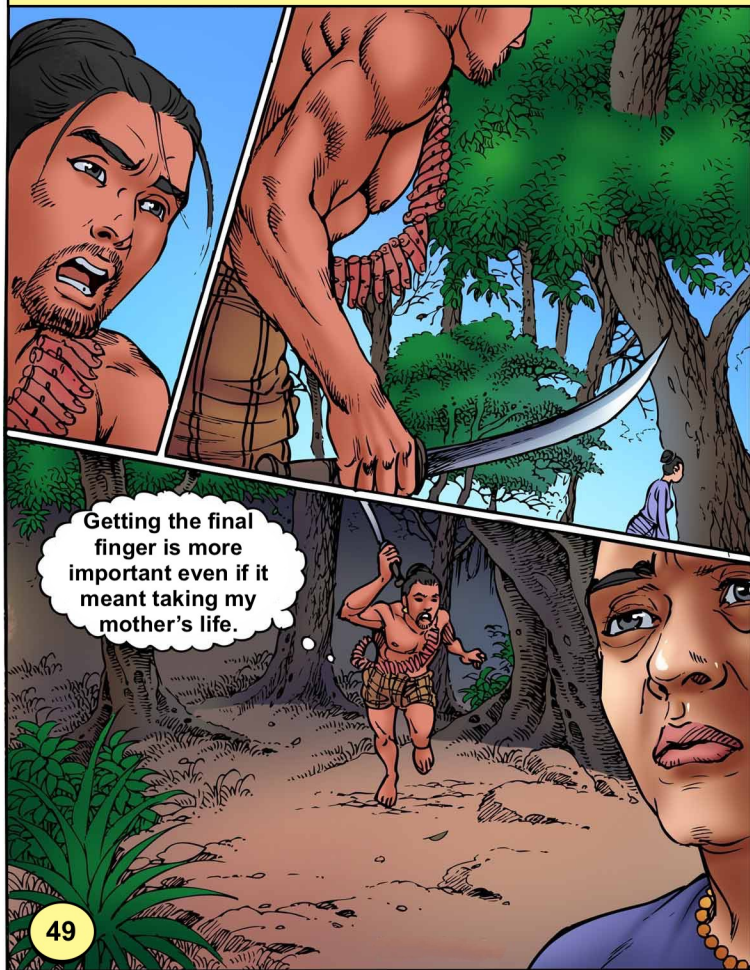
Mantani went to find her son with a hope to persuade him but if she and her son meet, Angulimāla would commit matricide.

If I were to meet him today, he would gradually become an arahant but if he committed matricide, he cannot be saved from the hell.

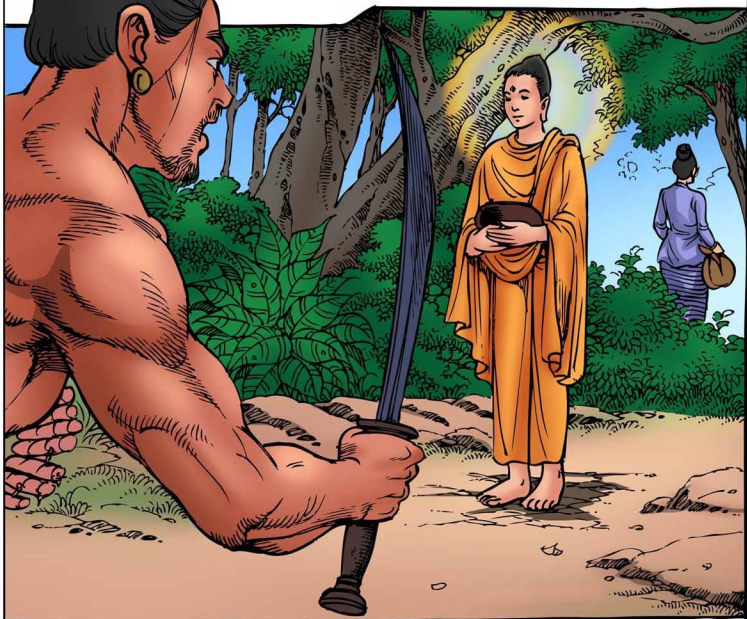
After the morning meal, Lord Buddha sets off alone to the Kalini forest.



At the sight of his mother, Angulimāla chased her.



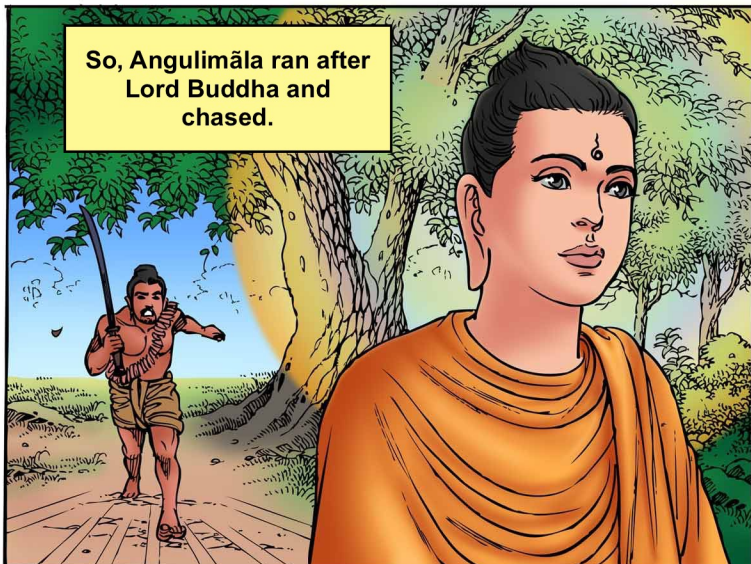
Lord Buddha appeared between Angulimāla and his mother, that changed his focus and mind.



It is of no use taking my mother's life for a finger. I prefer to kill this monk instead.

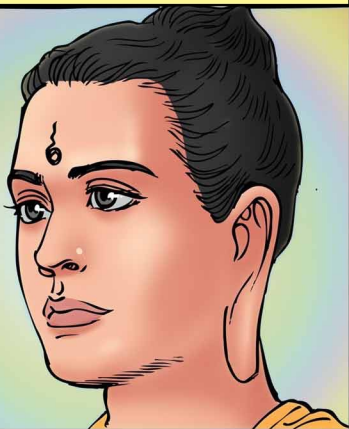


**So, Angulimāla ran after
Lord Buddha and
chased.**

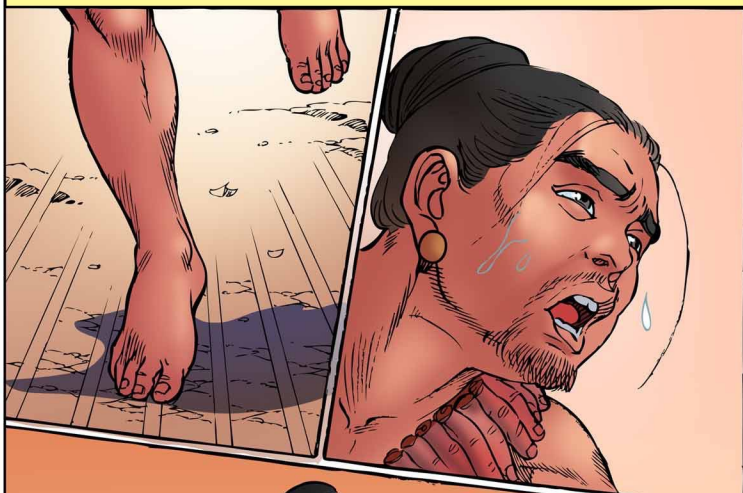


**But Lord Buddha spoke out and made a
resolution(adhittana) using his power**

**I will walk at normal
phase but as he
charges ferociously at
me, may he not catch
up with me.**



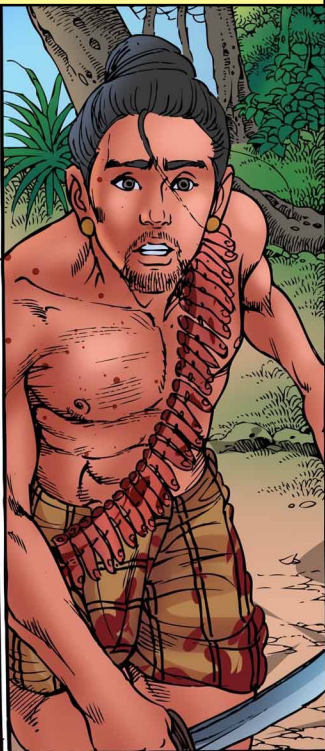
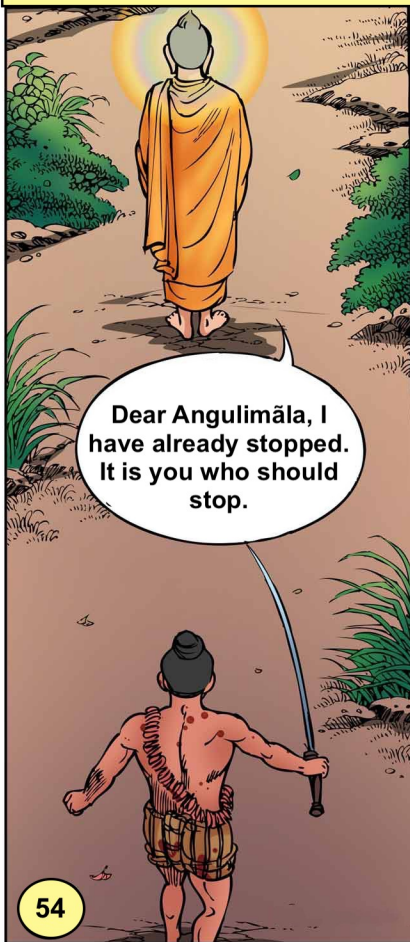
Charging ferociously made Angulimāla to lose stamina and he slowly became weak.



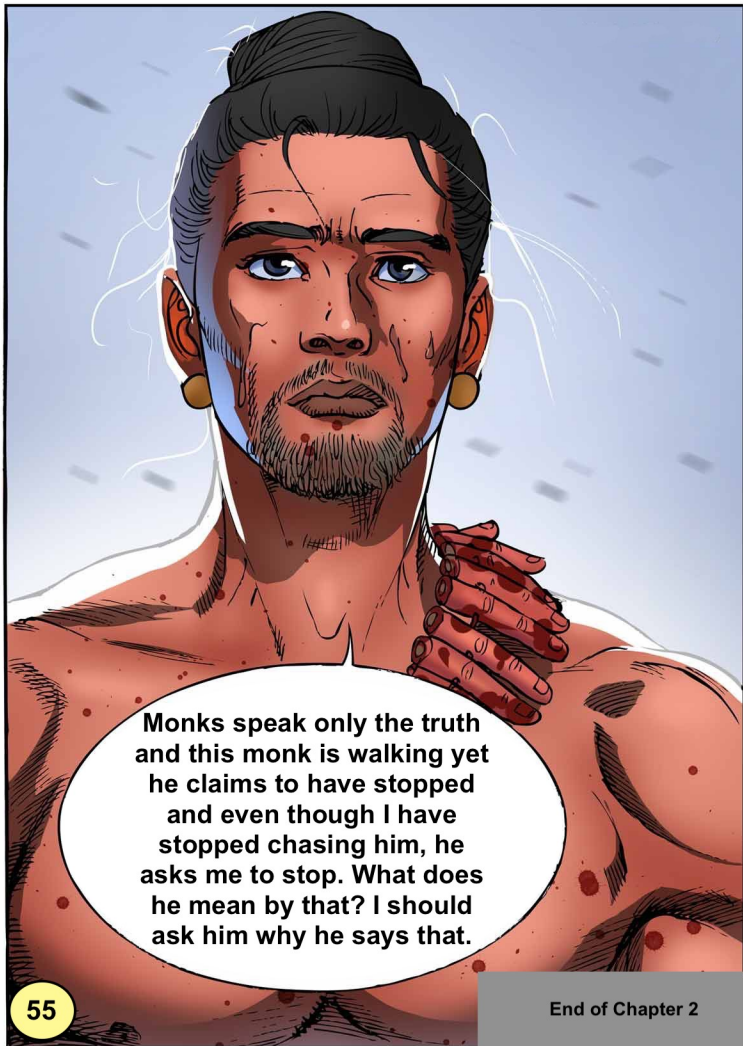
Angulimāla was all soaked with sweat when he suddenly stopped and said,

Stop
running,
monk!!
Stop!

Lord Buddha who was walking calmly replied..



Angulimāla got confused when he heard that and said,



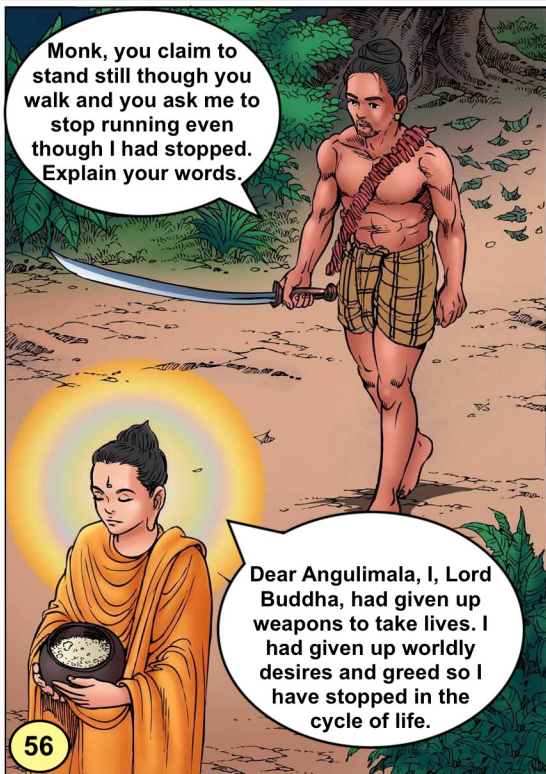
Monks speak only the truth and this monk is walking yet he claims to have stopped and even though I have stopped chasing him, he asks me to stop. What does he mean by that? I should ask him why he says that.

Angulimāla the Arahant

Chapter 4 (final chapter)

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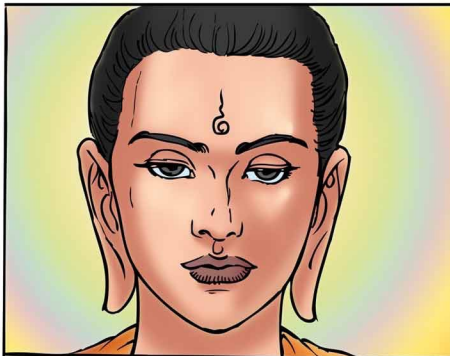


Listening to Lord Buddha's words made him to realize his mistakes and understand the truth.

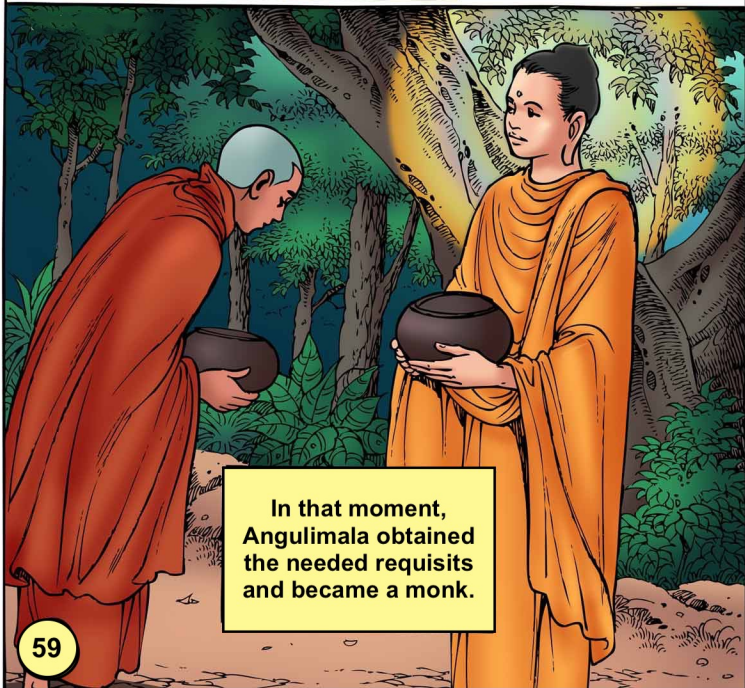


He laid down his weapons and bowed down to Lord Buddha with immense reverence.





**Lord Buddha,
himself accepted
Angulimāla's
request and
decided to ordain
him as a monk.**

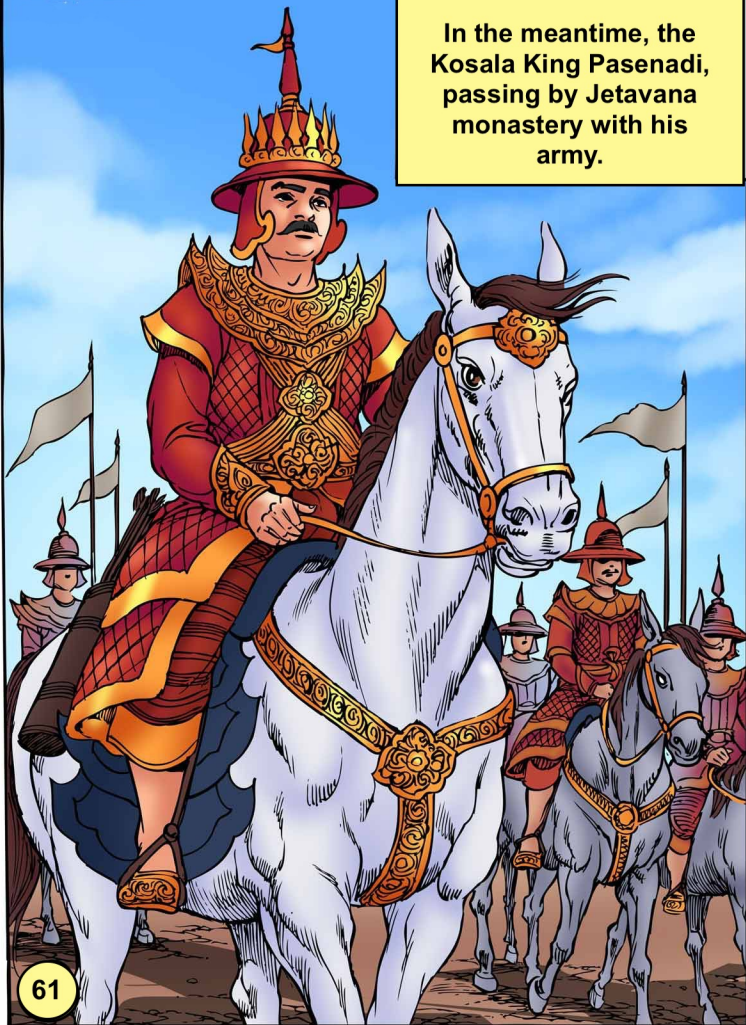


**In that moment,
Angulimala obtained
the needed requisits
and became a monk.**

He then followed Lord Buddha to Jetavana monastery.

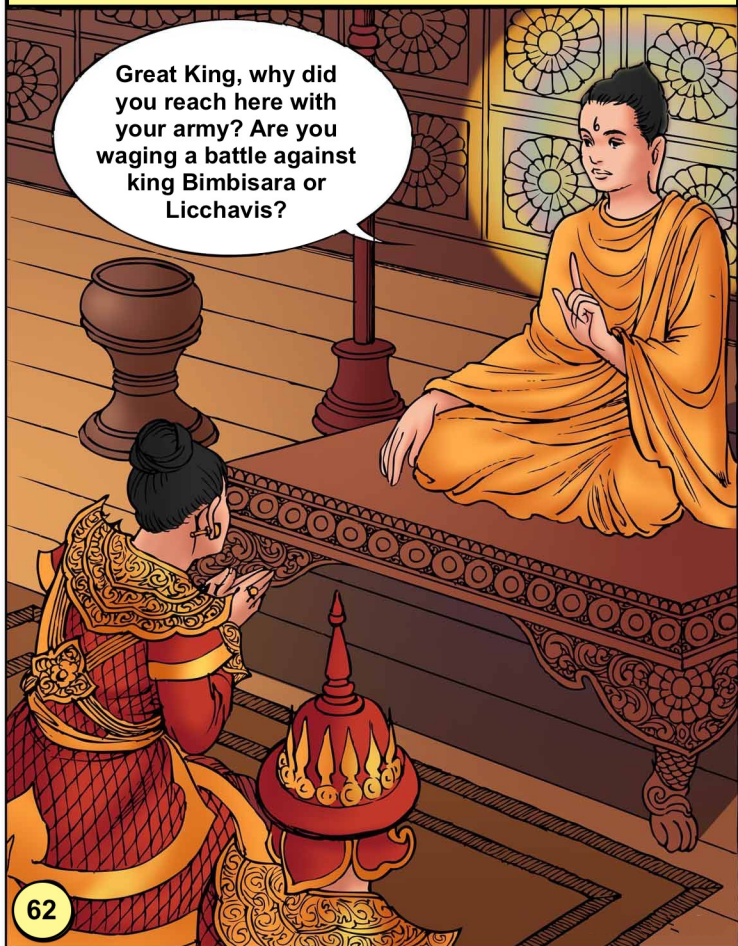


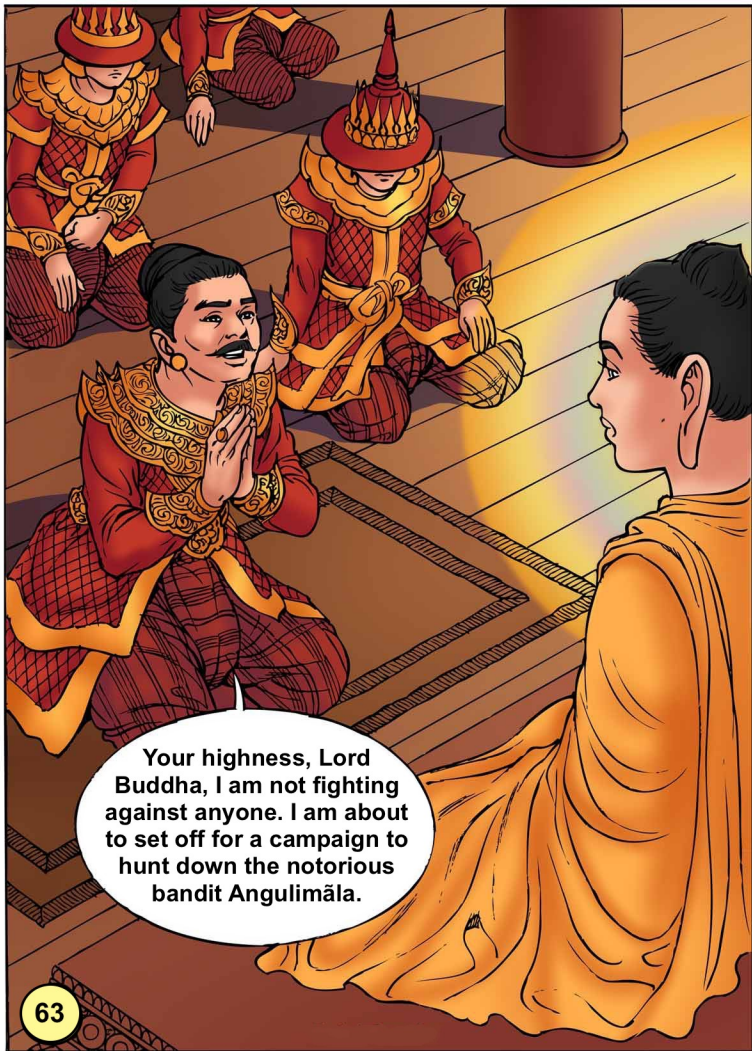
In the meantime, the
Kosala King Pasenadi,
passing by Jetavana
monastery with his
army.




King Pasenadi entered Jetavana monastery to pay homage to Lord Buddha.

Great King, why did you reach here with your army? Are you waging a battle against king Bimbisara or Licchavis?






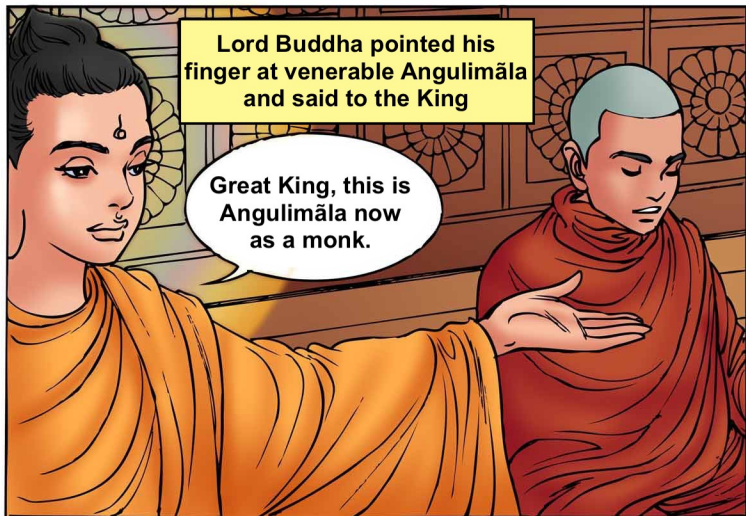
Your highness, Lord Buddha, I am not fighting against anyone. I am about to set off for a campaign to hunt down the notorious bandit Angulimāla.



How would you respond if you were to discover that Angulimāla had shaved his hair and wore robes and is living as a monk?

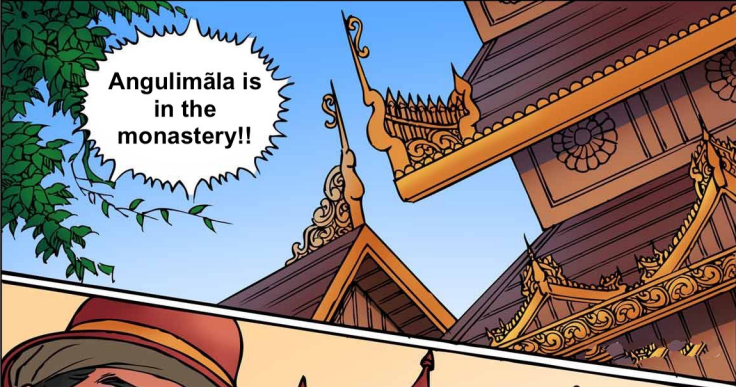


Your highness, it is impossible that he would choose a monk life for he is such a brutal bandit.



Upon hearing
about
Angulimala
sitting
peacefully
beside them,
the King got
frightened and
scared!!





Angulimāla is
in the
monastery!!



The soldiers ran away upon knowing that Angulimāla is in
the monastery.

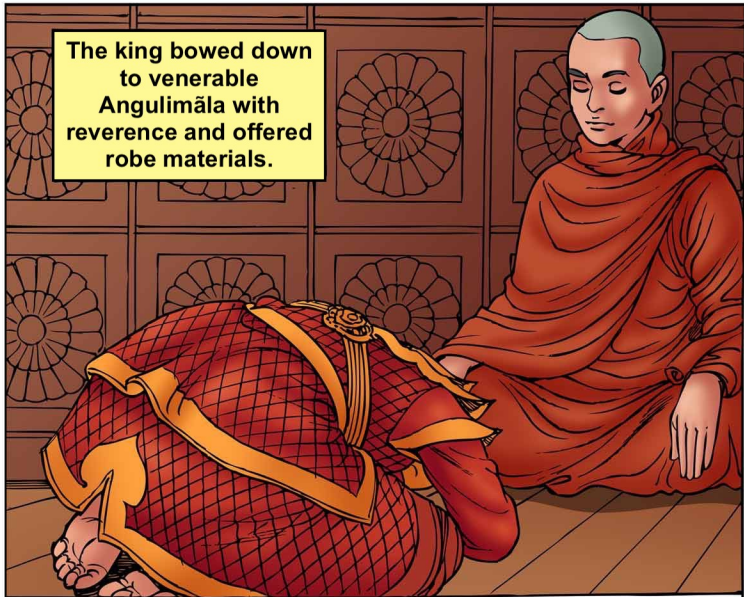


Lord Buddha
told the King
not to be
frightened.

Don't be scared,
Great King.
Angulimāla is now a
peaceful monk.



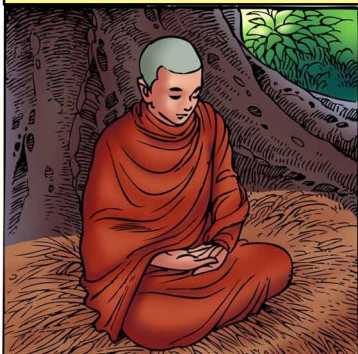
The king bowed down
to venerable
Angulimāla with
reverence and offered
robe materials.



After that, the King
returned to his
palace.



Venerable Angulimāla practiced meditation and later became an arahant!



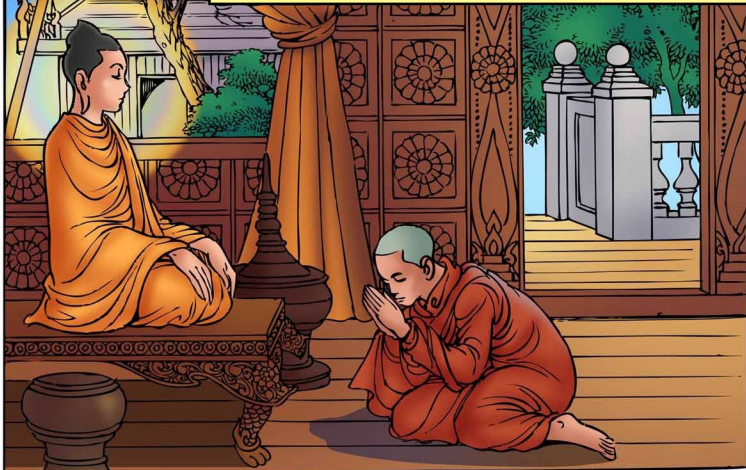
However when he went to the city to collect alms, the relatives of those who died due to Angulimāla were still resentful and threw stones and sticks at him.



So, his bowl got broken and he suffered injuries that even shedded blood.

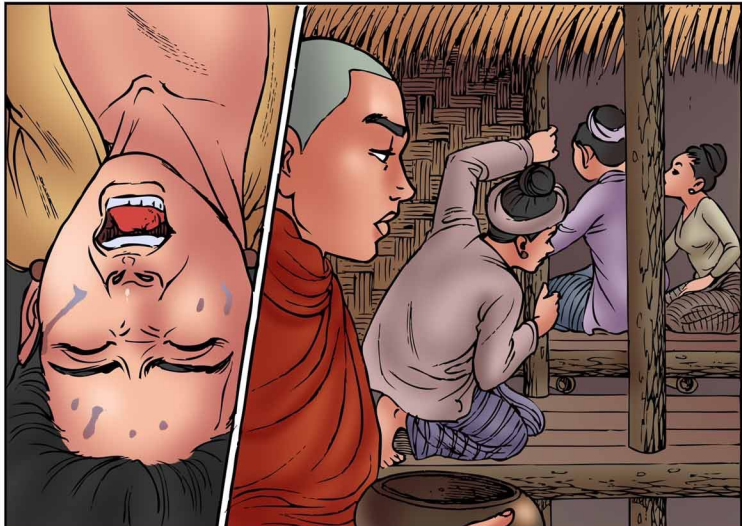


He reported to Lord Buddha about it but
was told to endure it.



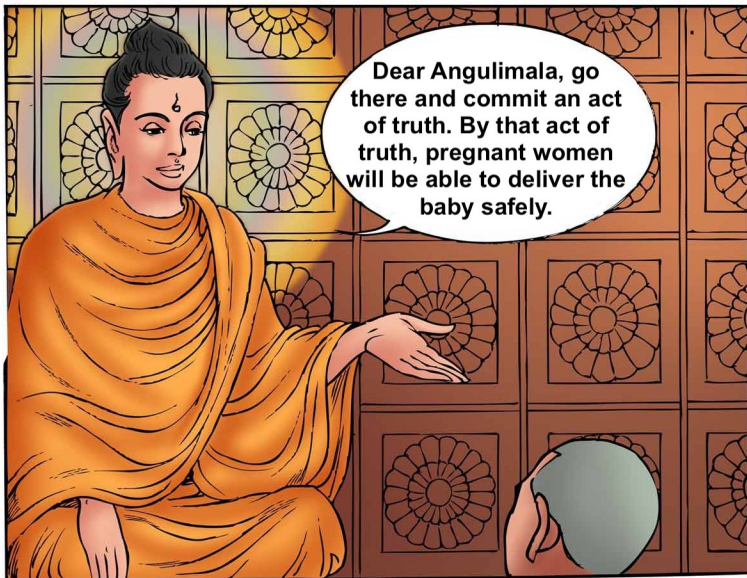
Dear Angulimāla,
endure the pains and
spread meththa to
others. As this is the
fruit of your karma.





In a latter day, during his alms round he came across a pregnant woman who was experiencing difficult labour and screaming with pain. He informed Lord Buddha about it.



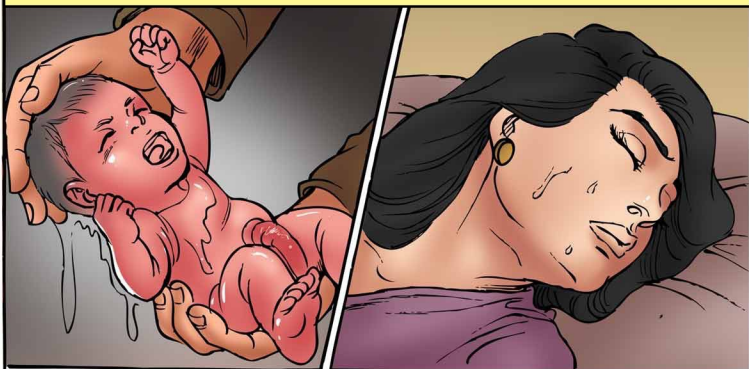


*parittam yam bhanantassa,
nisinnatthanadhovanam;
udakampi vinaseti, sabbameva
parissayam. sotthina
gabbhavuthanam, yanca sadheti
tankhane; therassa
Angulimalassa, Lokanathena
bhasitam; kappatthayim
mahatejam, parittam tam bhanama
he. yato' ham bhagini ariyaya
jatiya jato, nabhijanami sancicca
panam jivita voropeta; tena
saccena sotthi te hotu sotthi
gabbhassa*



Sister, from the time of my
“noble birth”, I do not recall that
I have ever intentionally killed
any living being. By this truth,
may there be well-being for you
and for the baby inside your
womb.

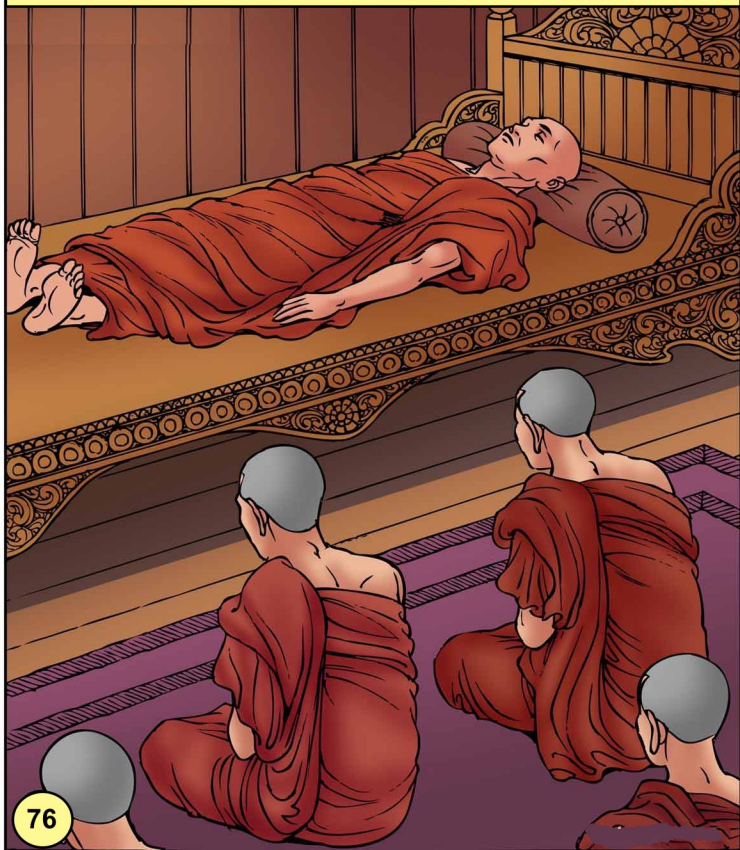
After reciting that verse, the pregnant woman gave birth safely.



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That act of truth verse said by venerable Angulimāla was so powerful that till this day, people recites the verse for pregnant women to have safe labour.

Later, arahant Angulimāla peacefully passed away into parinirvana.



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This story is based on Buddhist scriptures.