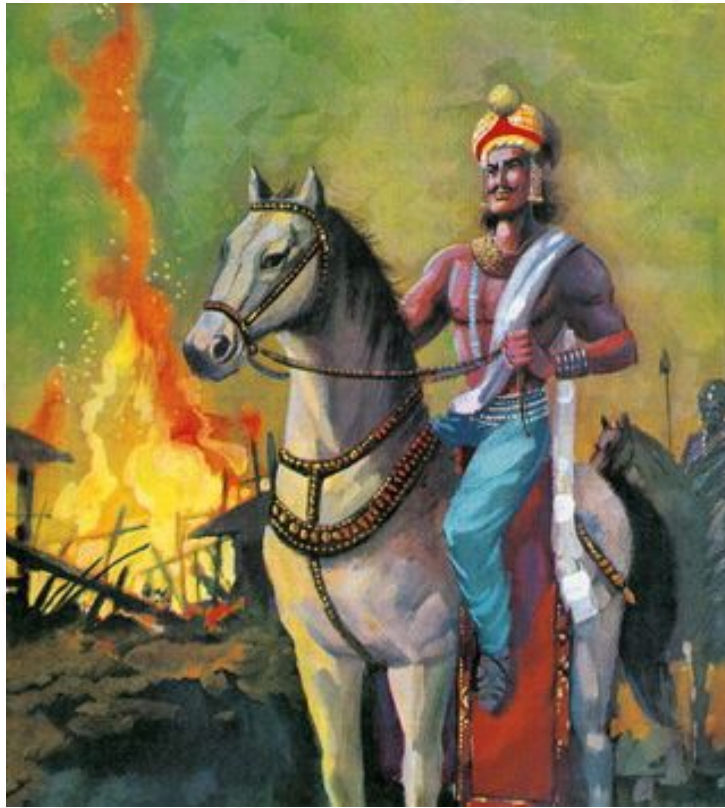


Ashoka: The Great Indian Emperor



Vocabulary

Edict: (in this context) a public order given by an authority.

Astute: able to understand a situation quickly and see how to take advantage of it.

Expansive: covering a large area.

Emissary: a person sent by one government or political leader to another to take messages or to take part in discussions.

Spawn: to cause something new, or many new things, to grow or start suddenly.

Feudal: relating to the social system of western Europe in the Middle Ages or any society that is organized according to rank. In a feudal society, people at one level of society receive land to live and work on from those higher than them in rank, and in return have to work for them and fight for them if necessary, sometimes also giving them some of the food they produce.

Tenet: (in this context) one of the principles on which a belief or theory is based.

Capital: (in this context) in architecture, the top part of a column.