



KRISHNA AND RUKMINI

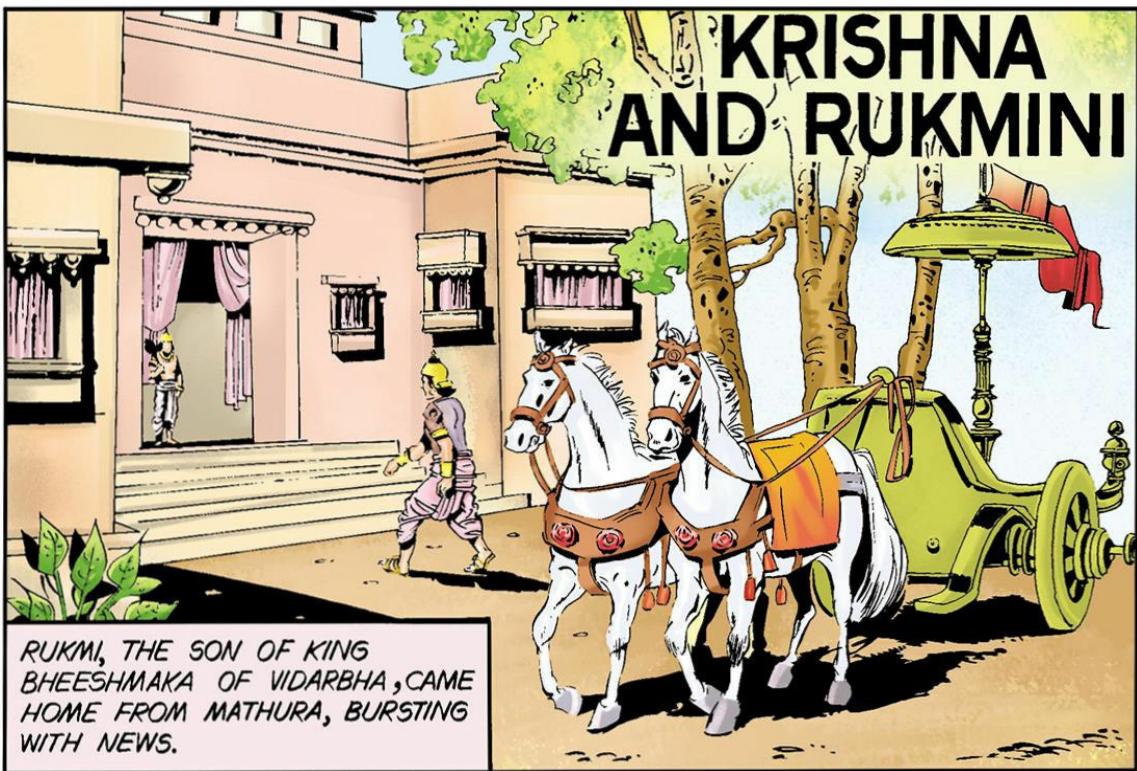
A LOVE THAT WILL NOT BE DENIED

Vol 516

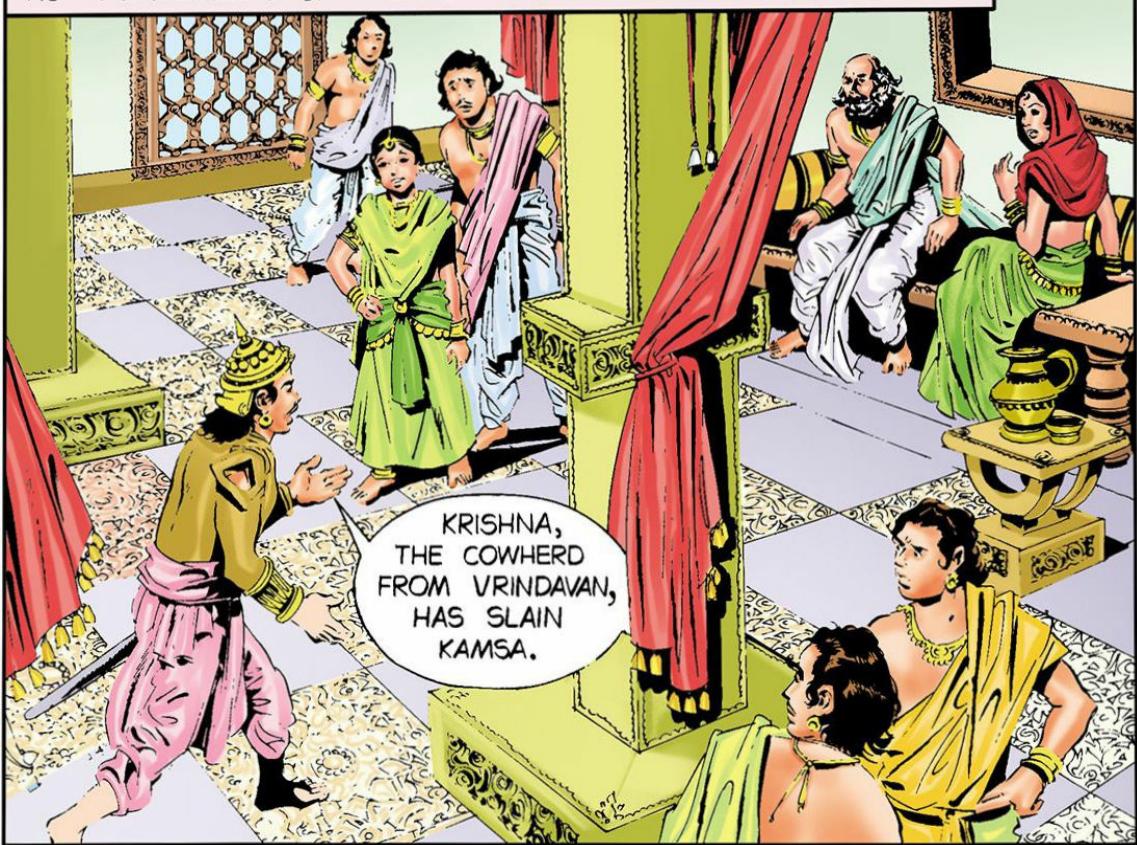
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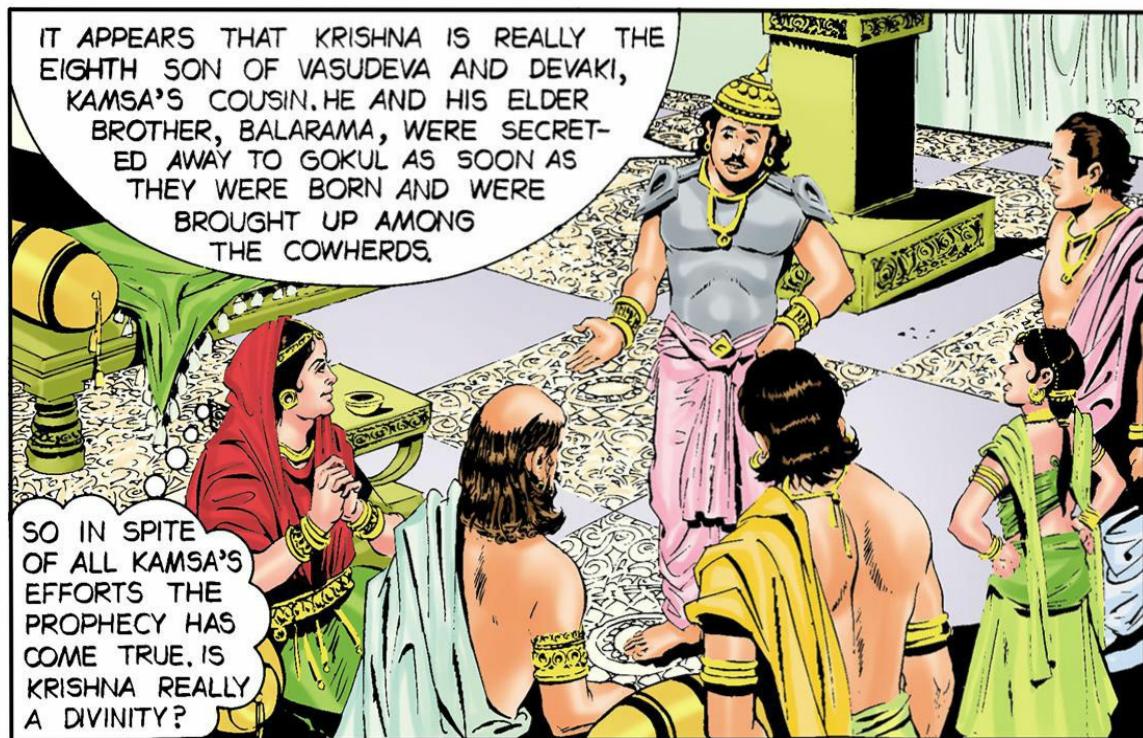
KRISHNA AND RUKMINI



AS THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD SURROUNDED HIM—

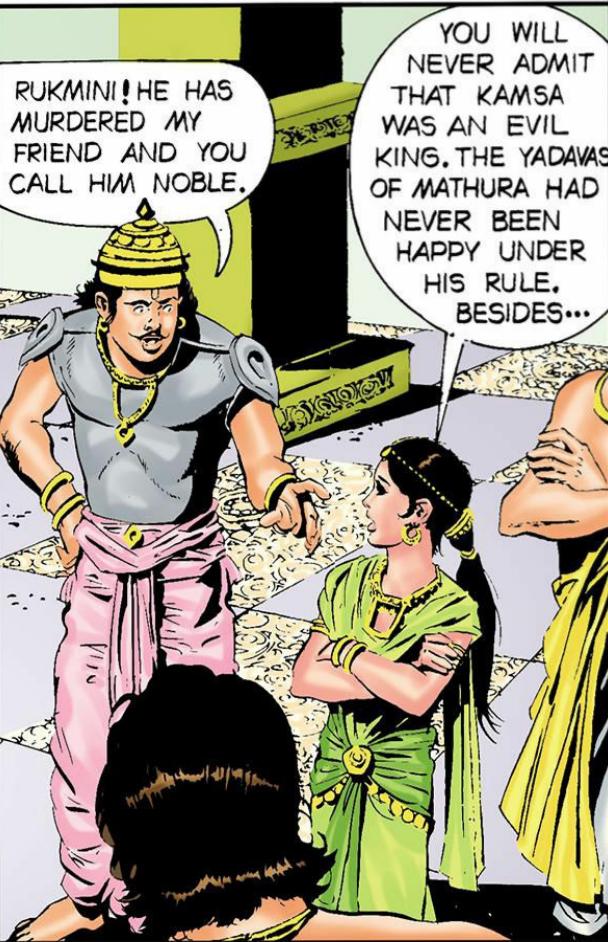


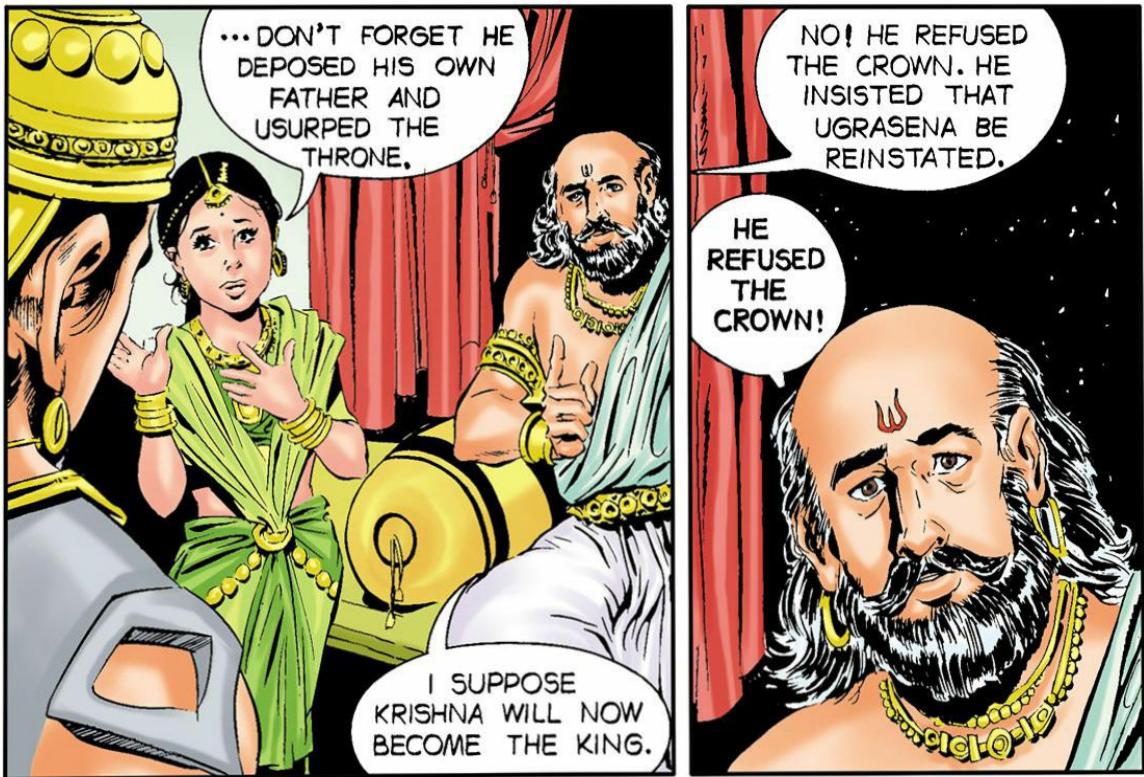
IT APPEARS THAT KRISHNA IS REALLY THE EIGHTH SON OF VASUDEVA AND DEVAKI, KAMSA'S COUSIN. HE AND HIS ELDER BROTHER, BALARAMA, WERE SECRETED AWAY TO GOKUL AS SOON AS THEY WERE BORN AND WERE BROUGHT UP AMONG THE COWHERDS.



RUKMI'S SISTER, RUKMINI, WAS A FORTHRIGHT GIRL.

THEN HE IS NO COWHERD BUT A NOBLE YADAVA!



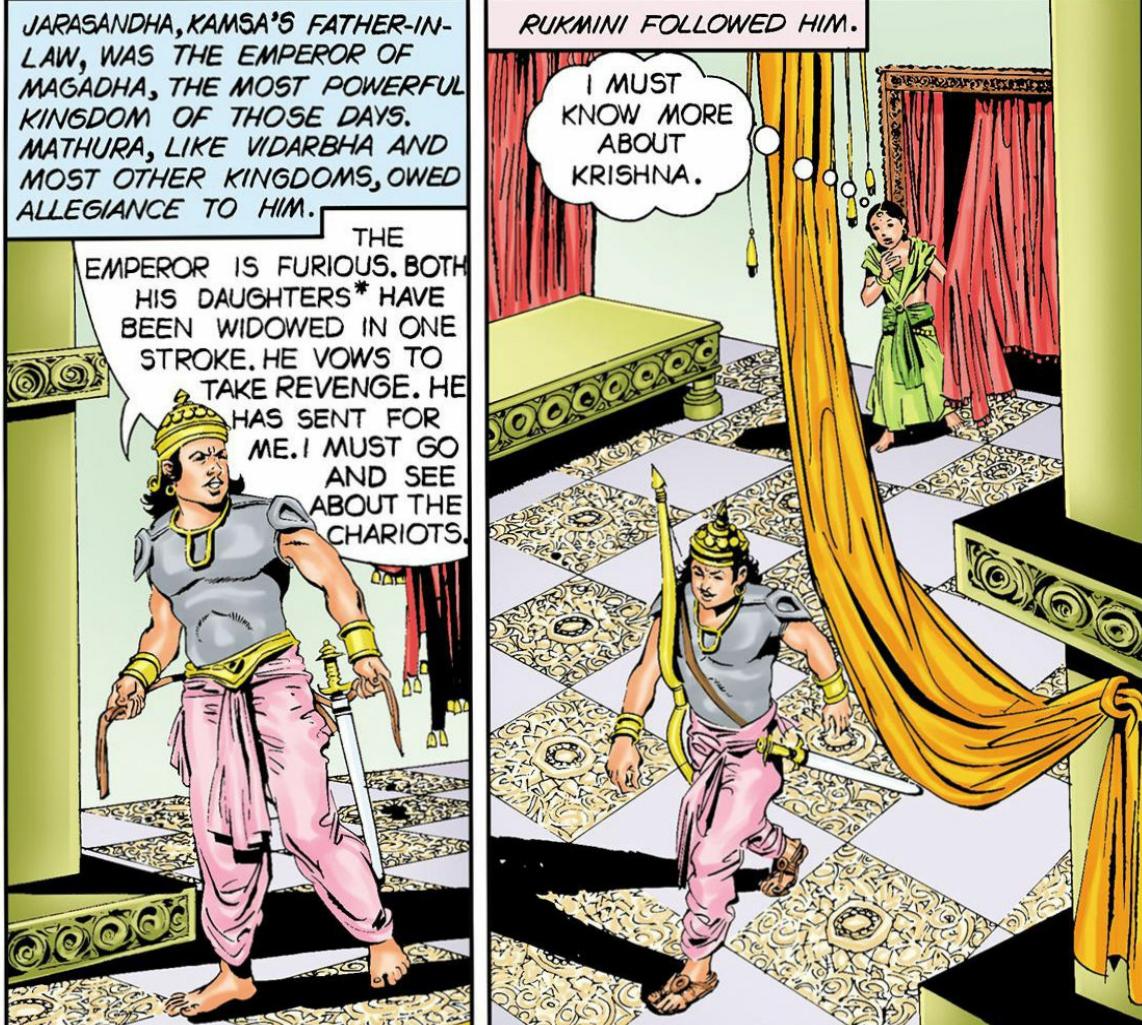


JARASANDHA, KAMSA'S FATHER-IN-LAW, WAS THE EMPEROR OF MAGADHA, THE MOST POWERFUL KINGDOM OF THOSE DAYS. MATHURA, LIKE VIDARBHA AND MOST OTHER KINGDOMS, OWED ALLEGIANCE TO HIM.

THE EMPEROR IS FURIOUS. BOTH HIS DAUGHTERS* HAVE BEEN WIDOWED IN ONE STROKE. HE VOWS TO TAKE REVENGE. HE HAS SENT FOR ME. I MUST GO AND SEE ABOUT THE CHARIOTS.

RUKMINI FOLLOWED HIM.

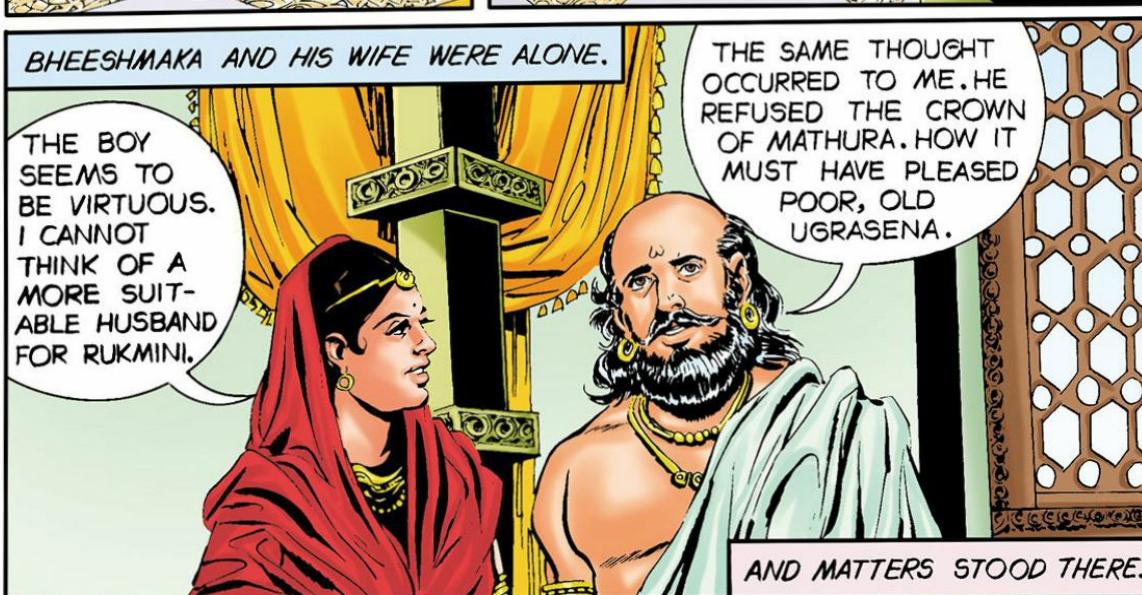
I MUST KNOW MORE ABOUT KRISHNA.



BHEESHMAKA AND HIS WIFE WERE ALONE.

THE BOY SEEMS TO BE VIRTUOUS. I CANNOT THINK OF A MORE SUITABLE HUSBAND FOR RUKMINI.

THE SAME THOUGHT OCCURRED TO ME. HE REFUSED THE CROWN OF MATHURA. HOW IT MUST HAVE PLEASED POOR, OLD UGRASENA.

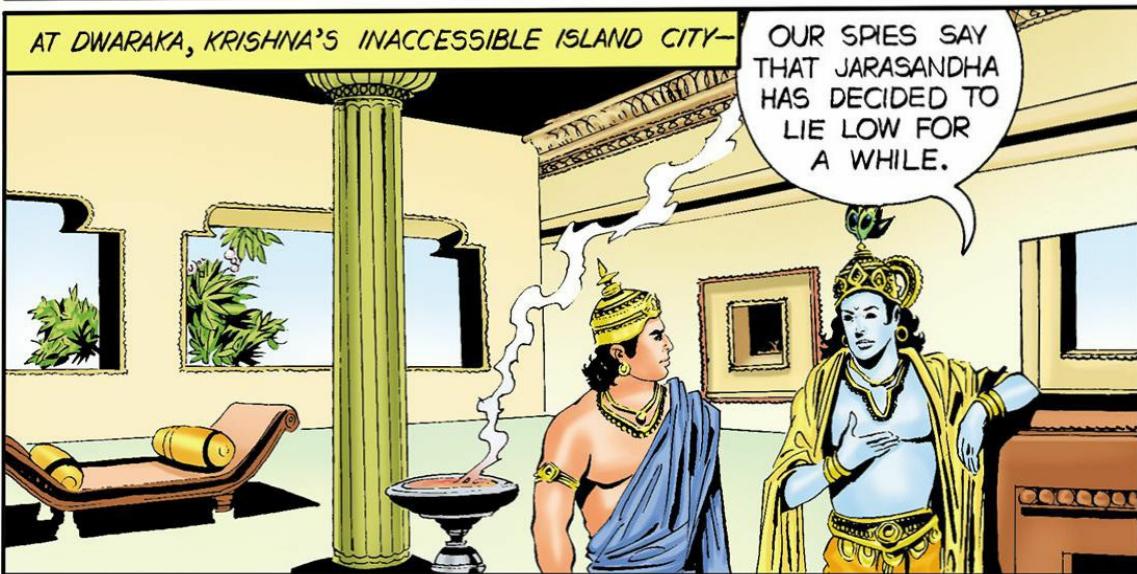


*KAMSA'S WIVES

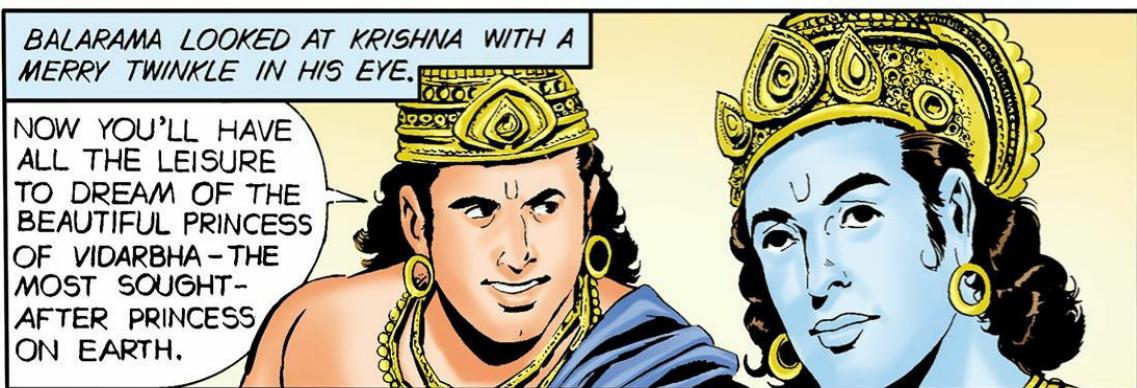
MEANWHILE, WITH THE HELP OF RUKMI AND OTHER ALLIES, JARASANDHA MADE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF HIS SON-IN-LAW, BUT IN VAIN. AFTER THE EIGHTEENTH ATTEMPT—



THE VILE YADAVA AND HIS BROTHER HAVE DODGED US AGAIN. WE WILL HAVE TO BIDE OUR TIME. LET MY FRIENDS RETURN TO THEIR CAPITALS FOR THE PRESENT.

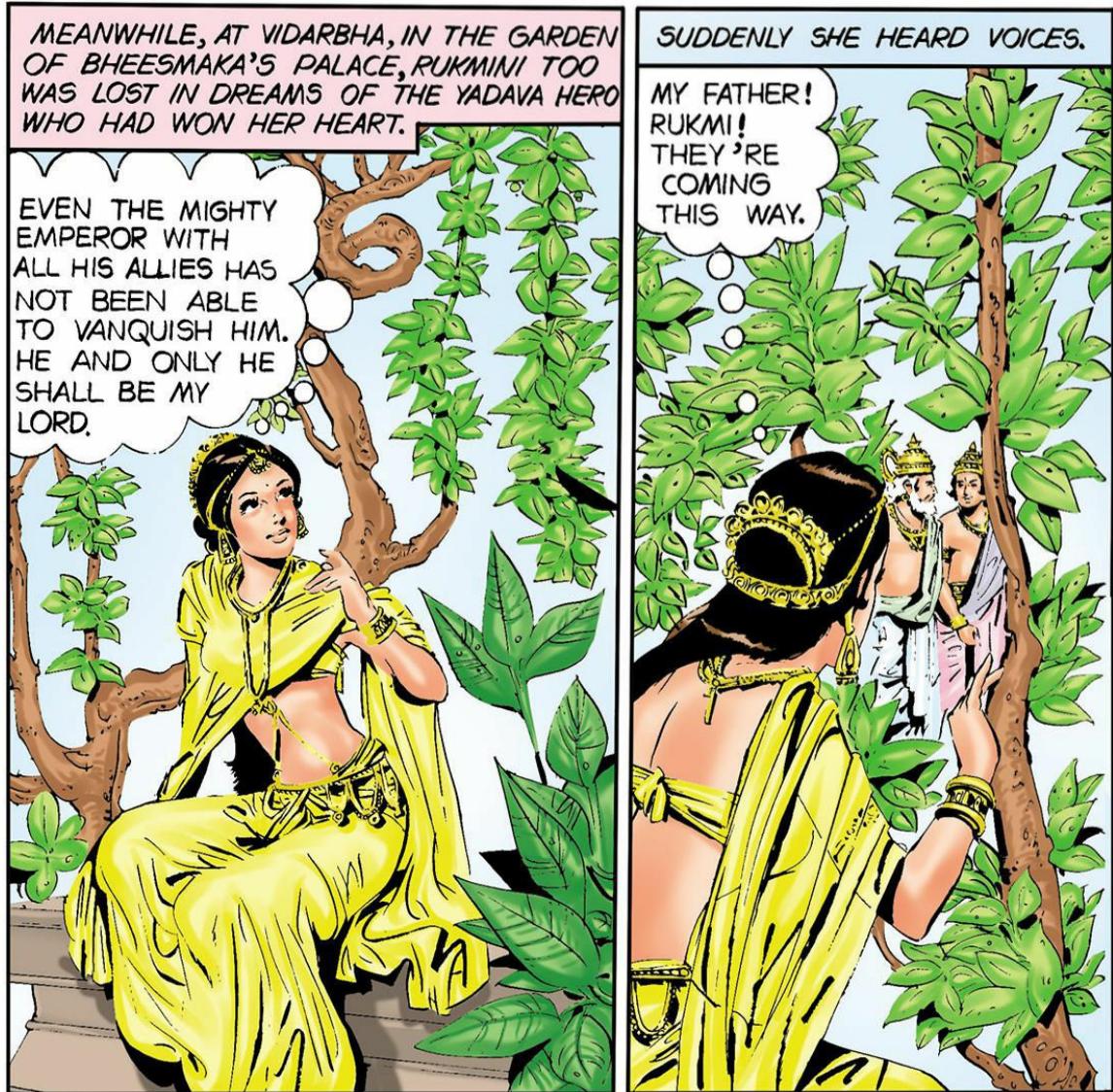


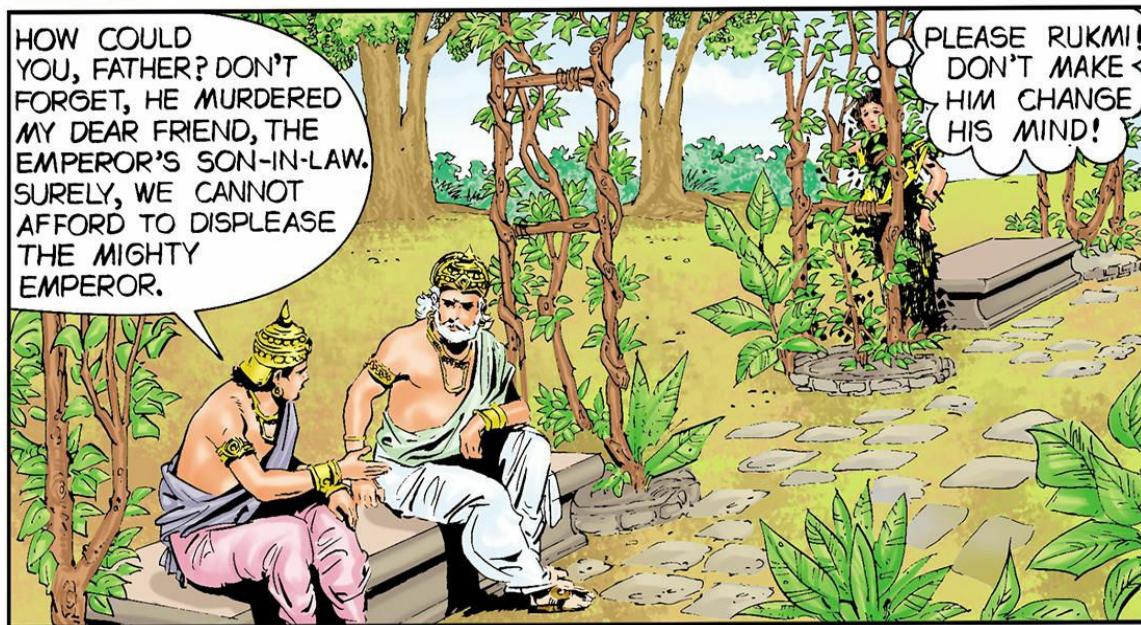
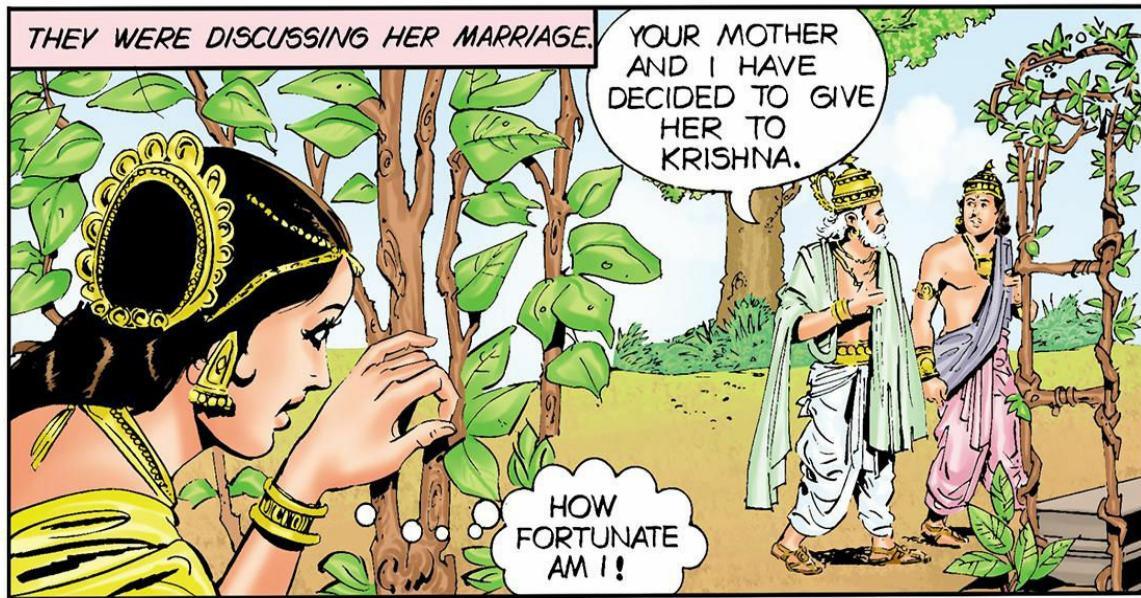
OUR SPIES SAY THAT JARASANDHA HAS DECIDED TO LIE LOW FOR A WHILE.

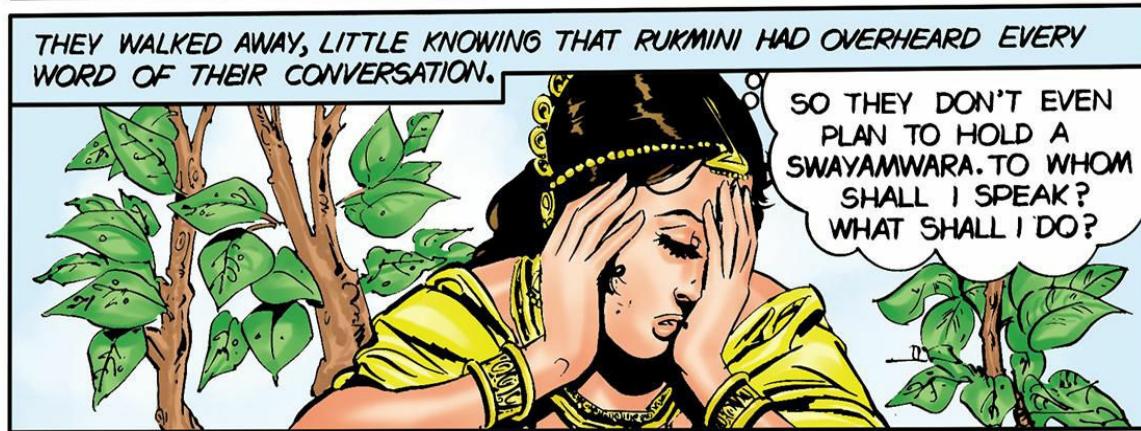
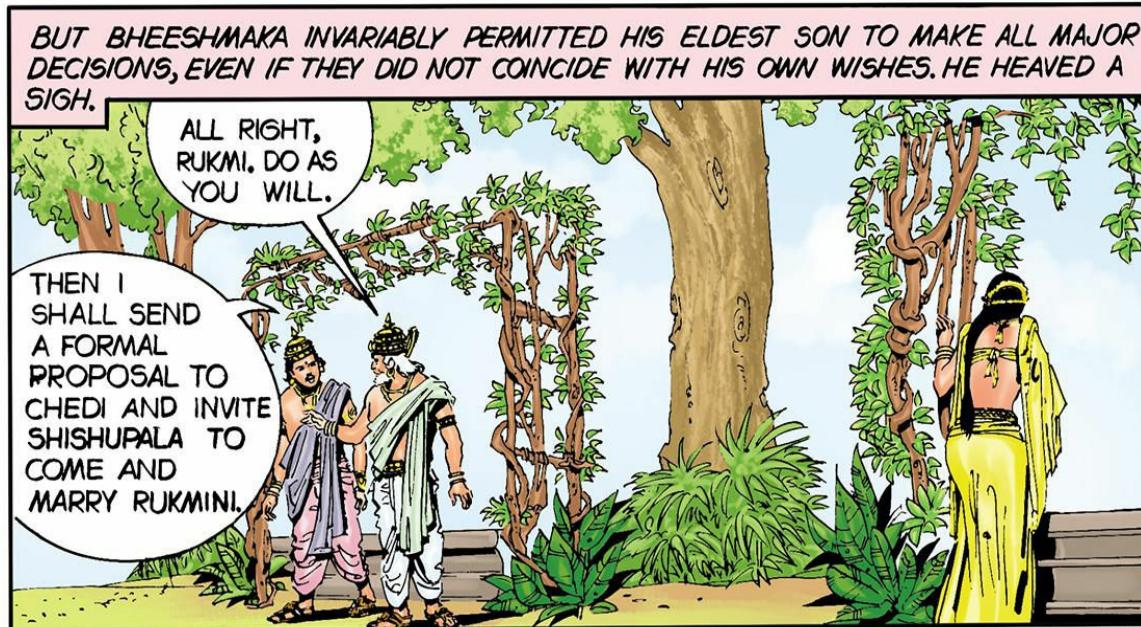
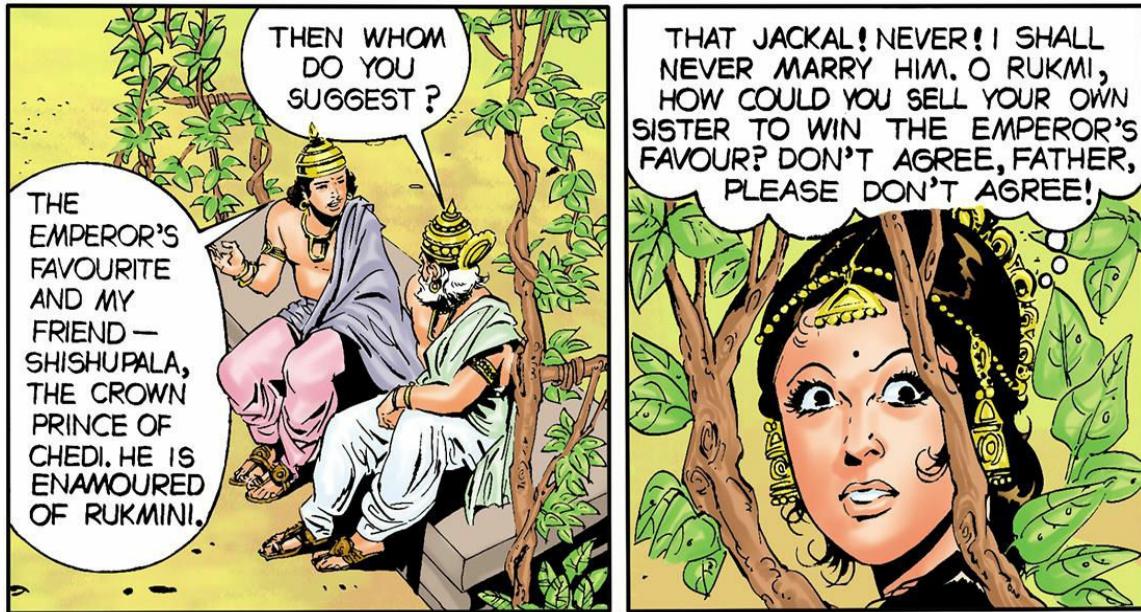


BALARAMA LOOKED AT KRISHNA WITH A MERRY TWINKLE IN HIS EYE.

NOW YOU'LL HAVE ALL THE LEISURE TO DREAM OF THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS OF VIDARBHA - THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER PRINCESS ON EARTH.







SUDDENLY AN IDEA OCCURRED TO HER.

WHY NOT! WHY SHOULDN'T I? AFTER ALL MY PARENTS ARE FOR IT.



SHE WENT INTO THE PALACE AND SENT FOR SUNANDA-A BRAHMAN WHOM SHE TRUSTED AND WHO WAS DEVOTED TO HER. WHEN HE CAME—

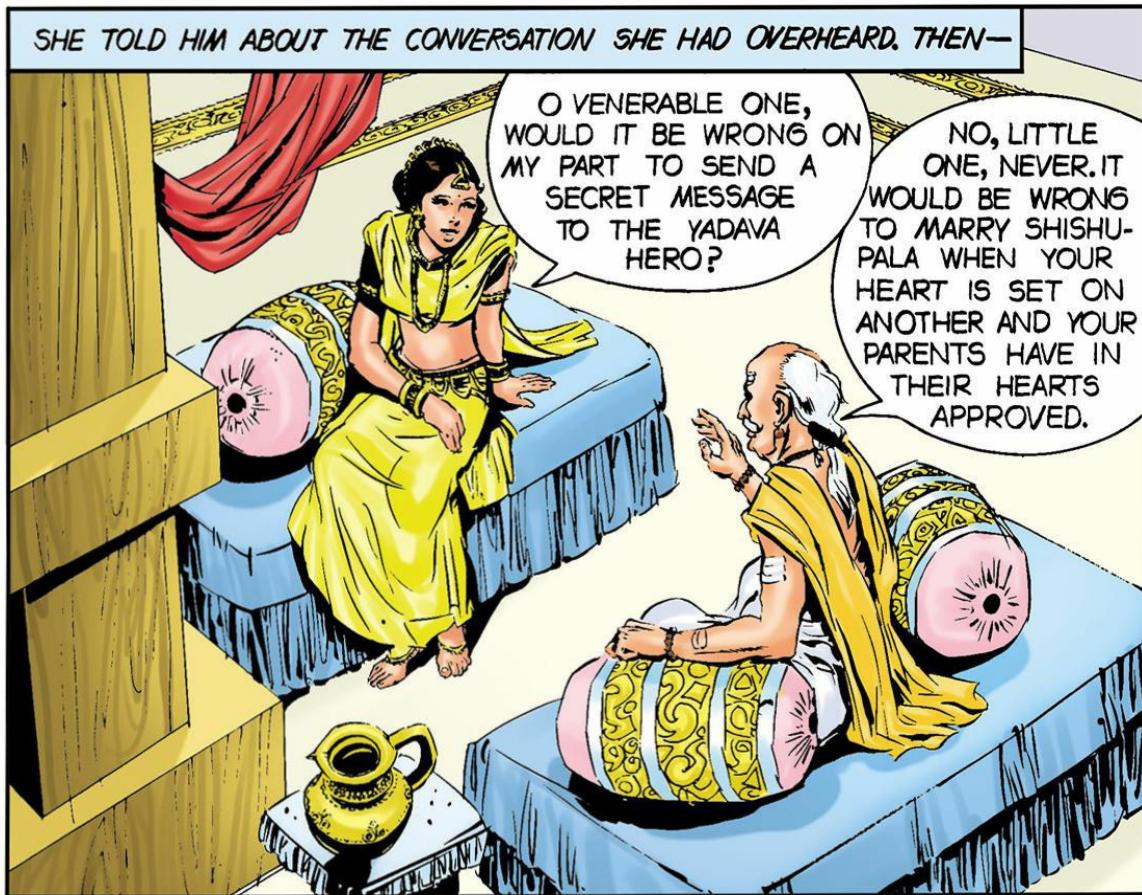
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO PALE, MY LITTLE ONE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

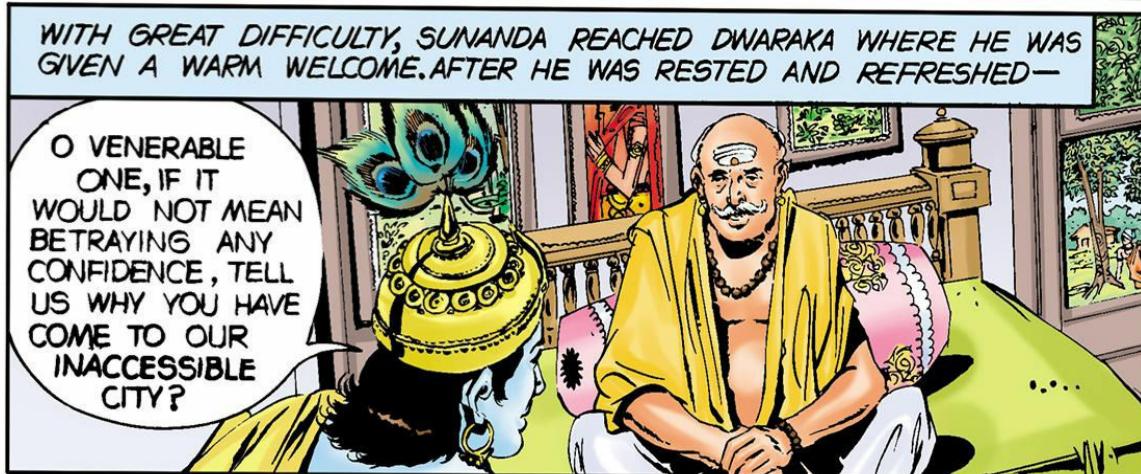
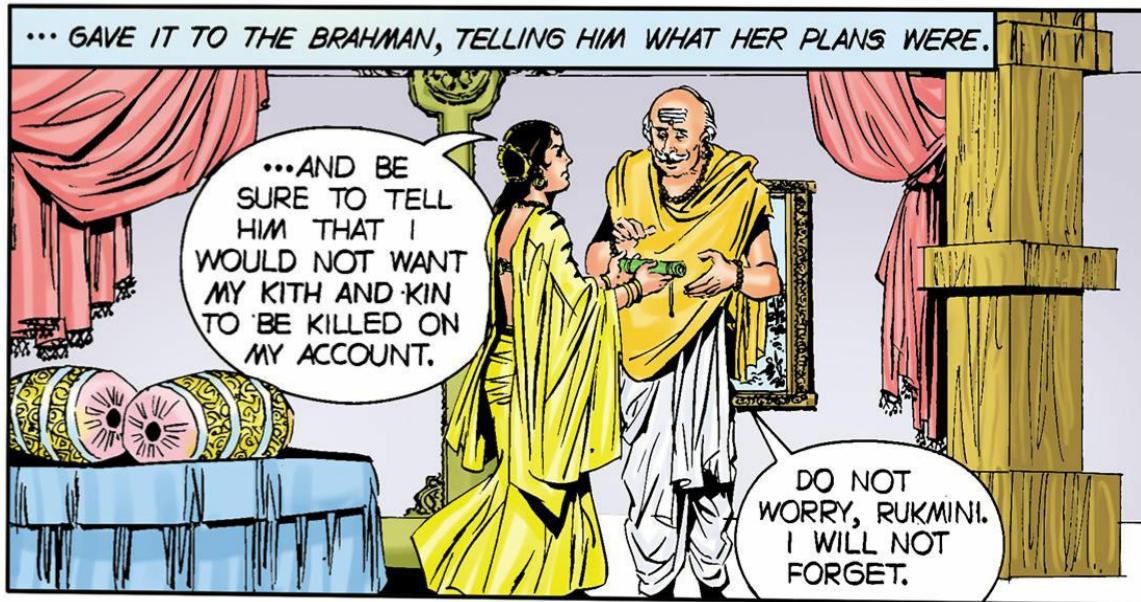


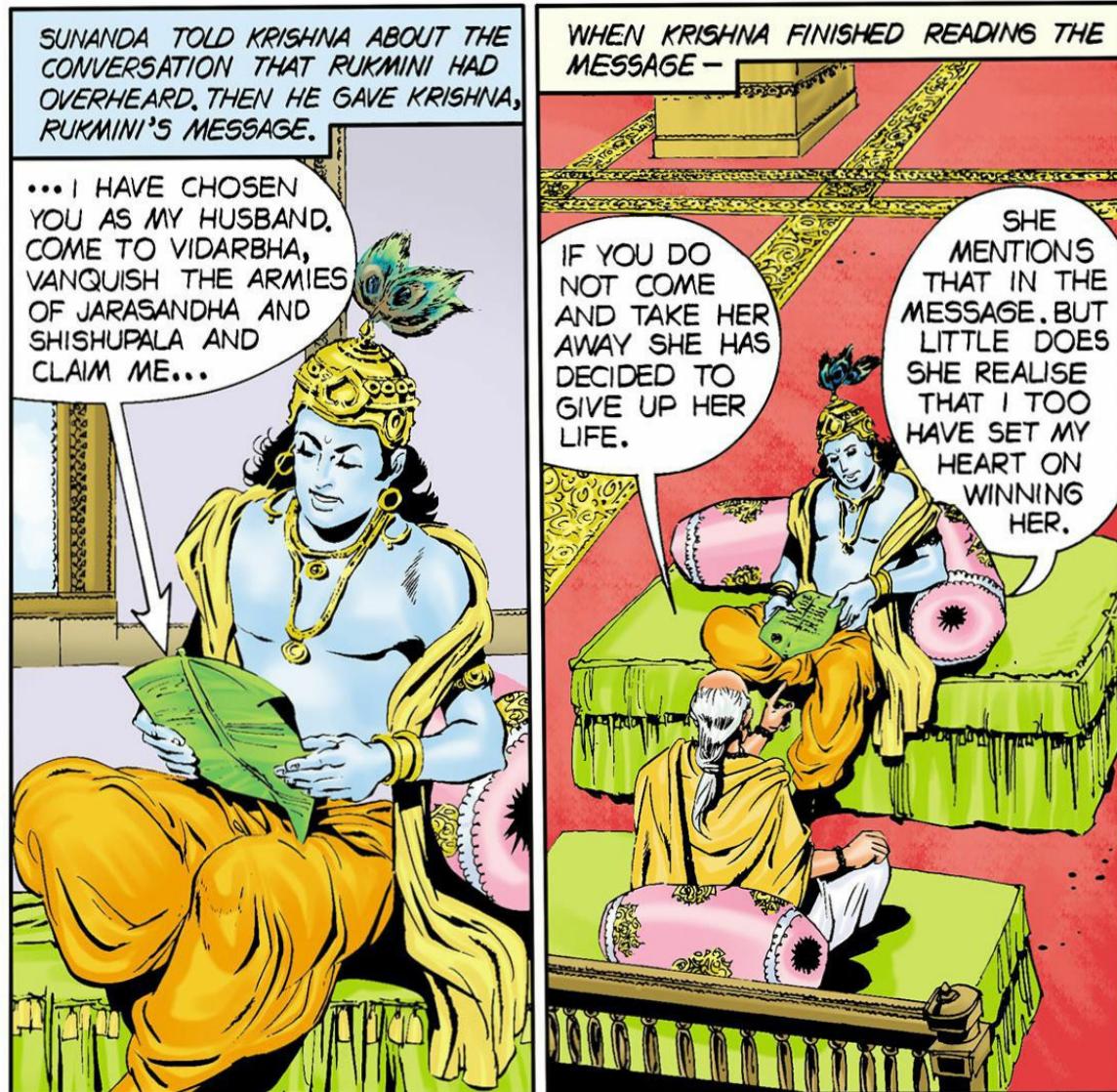
SHE TOLD HIM ABOUT THE CONVERSATION SHE HAD OVERHEARD. THEN—

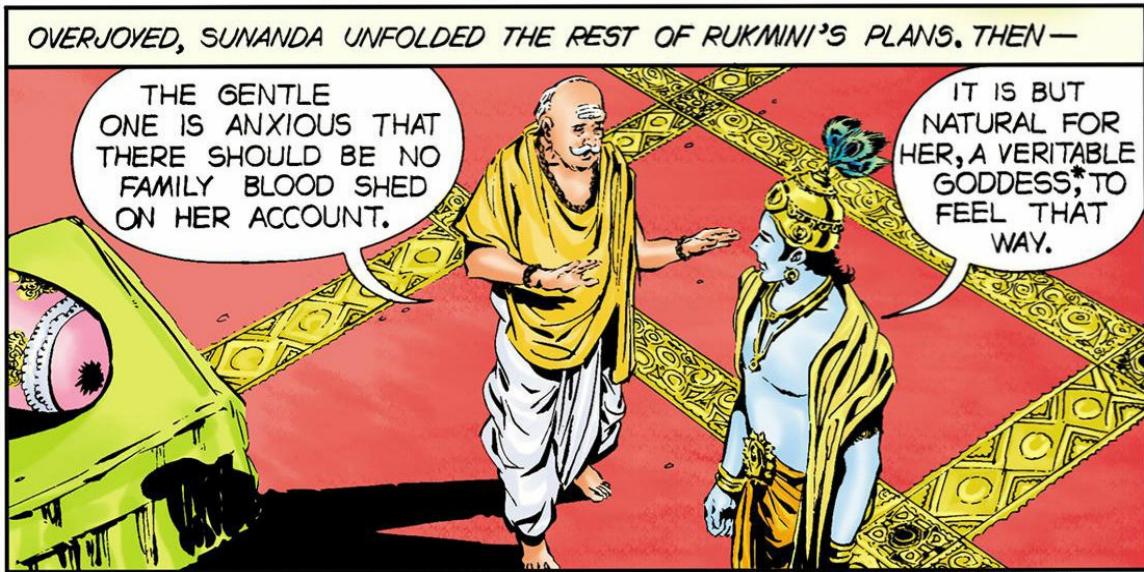
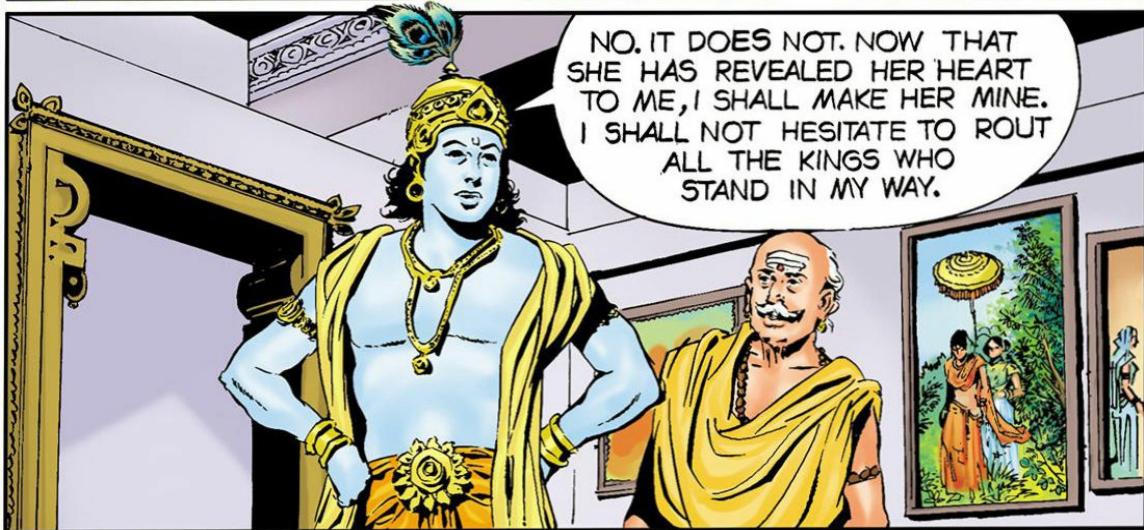
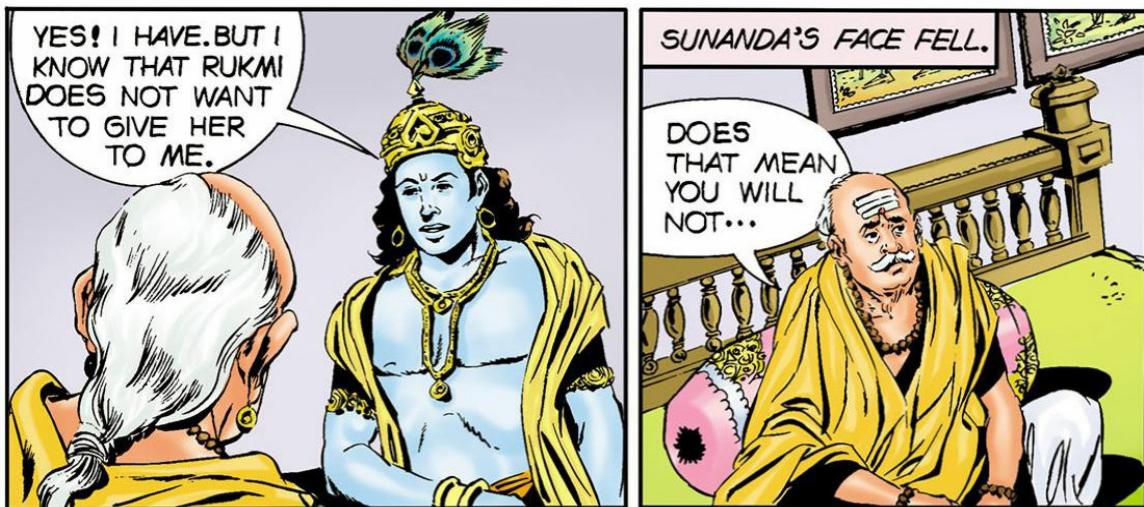
O VENERABLE ONE, WOULD IT BE WRONG ON MY PART TO SEND A SECRET MESSAGE TO THE YADAVA HERO?

NO, LITTLE ONE, NEVER. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO MARRY SHISHUPALA WHEN YOUR HEART IS SET ON ANOTHER AND YOUR PARENTS HAVE IN THEIR HEARTS APPROVED.







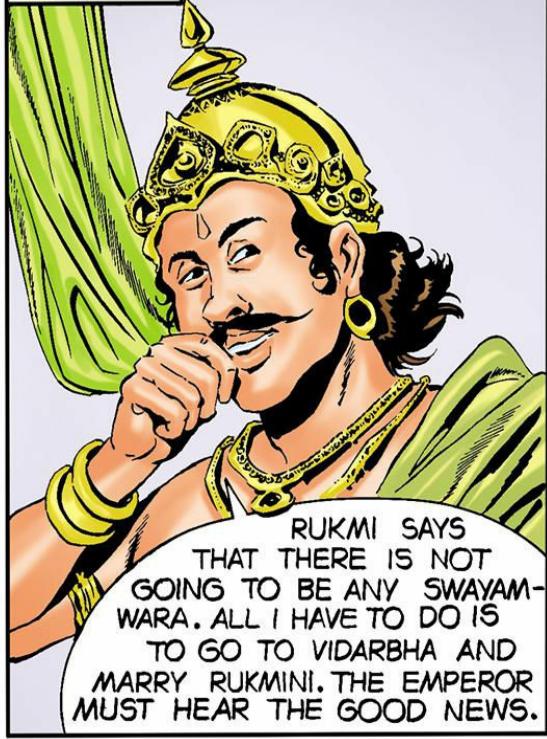


* RUKMINI IS BELIEVED TO BE THE GODDESS LAXMI REBORN ON EARTH.

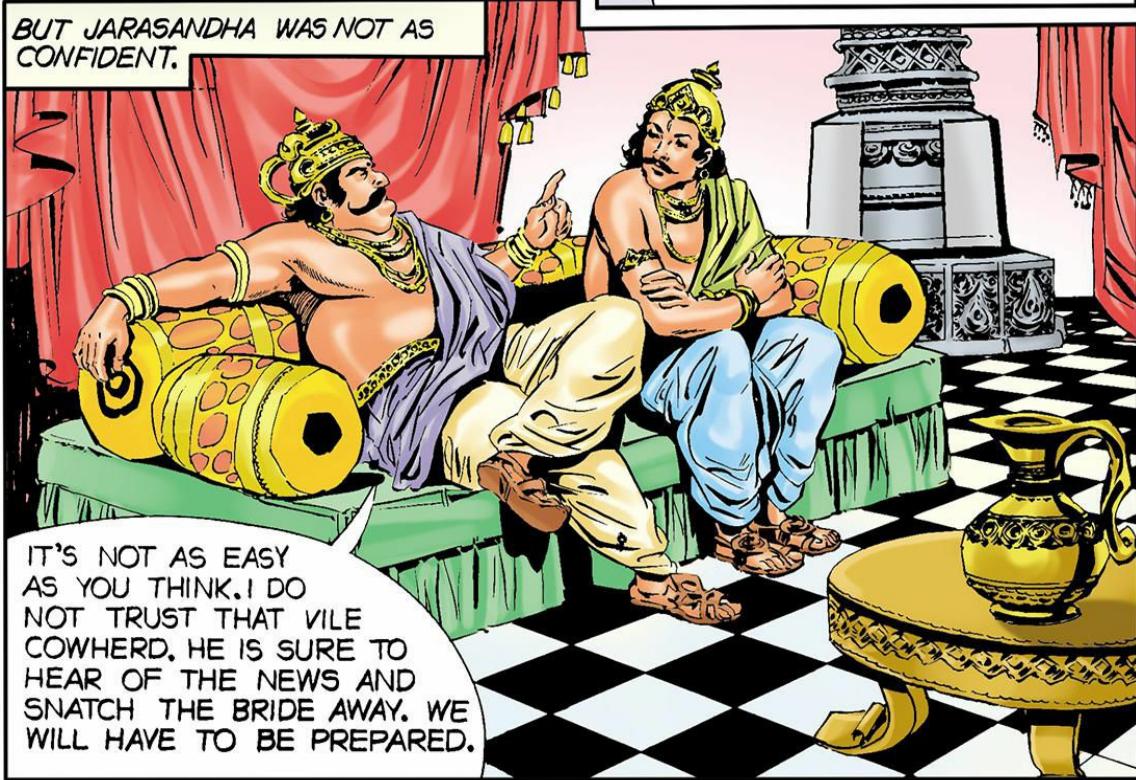
KRISHNA SENT FOR HIS CHARIOTEER. WHEN HE CAME—



MEANWHILE, RUKMI'S FORMAL PROPOSAL AND INVITATION HAD REACHED SHISHUPALA. HE WAS JUBILANT.

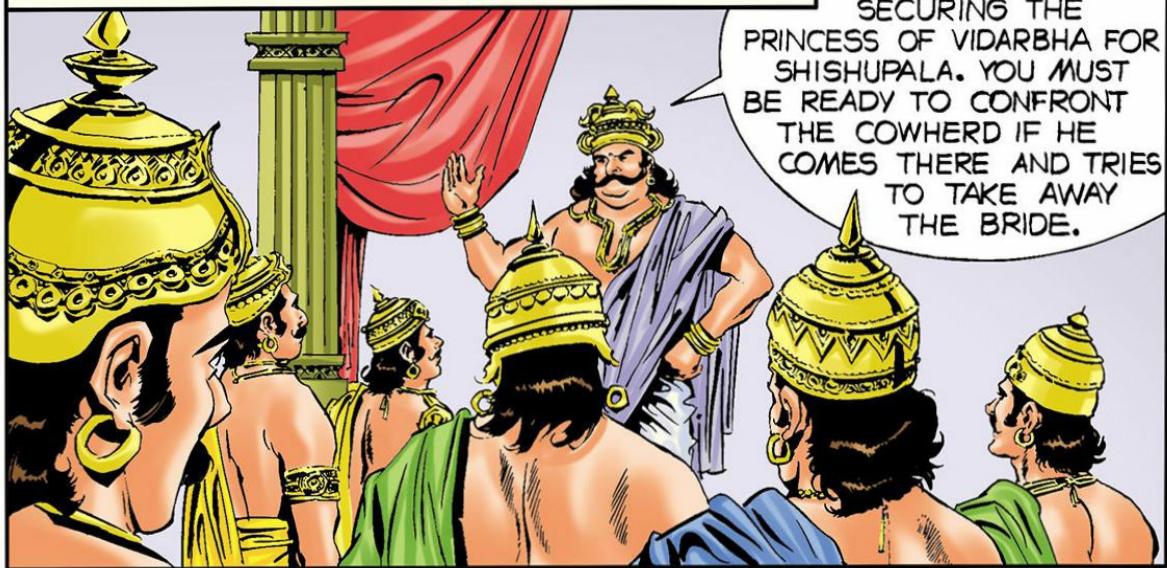


BUT JARASANDHA WAS NOT AS CONFIDENT.



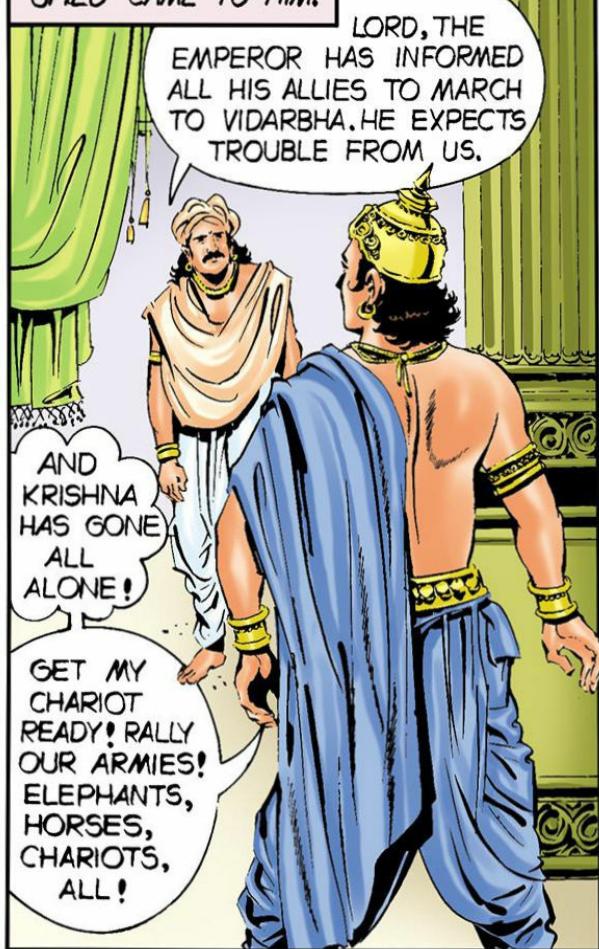
JARASANDHA SENT FOR ALL HIS VASSALS AND ALLIES.

I AM BENT ON SECURING THE PRINCESS OF VIDARBHA FOR SHISHUPALA. YOU MUST BE READY TO CONFRONT THE COWHERD IF HE COMES THERE AND TRIES TO TAKE AWAY THE BRIDE.



MEANWHILE, AS SOON AS KRISHNA HAD LEFT DWARAKA, ONE OF BALARAMA'S SPIES CAME TO HIM.

LORD, THE EMPEROR HAS INFORMED ALL HIS ALLIES TO MARCH TO VIDARBHA. HE EXPECTS TROUBLE FROM US.



AND KRISHNA HAS GONE ALL ALONE!

GET MY CHARIOT READY! RALLY OUR ARMIES! ELEPHANTS, HORSES, CHARIOTS, ALL!

AT VIDARBHA, RUKMINI'S ANXIETY, INCREASED WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT.

THE HOUR IS DRAWING NEARER. WHY HAS MY LORD NOT YET COME?



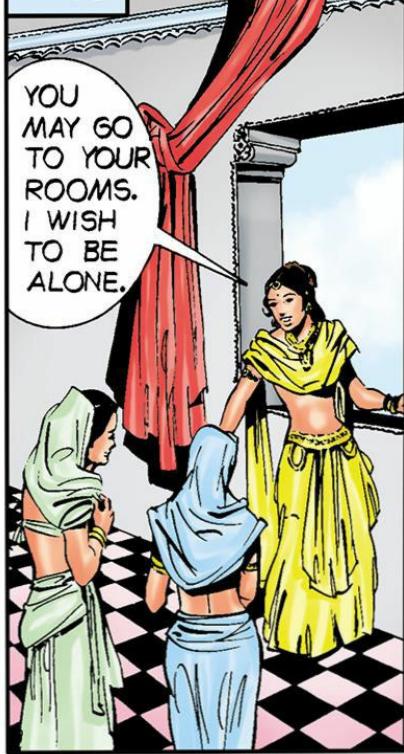
DID MY MESSAGE DISGUST HIM? IF SO, THEN WHY HASN'T SUNANDA RETURNED?



AS SHE LOOKED OUT OF THE WINDOW FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME, SHE SAW SUNANDA ENTER THE PALACE.



SHE TURNED TO HER MAIDS.



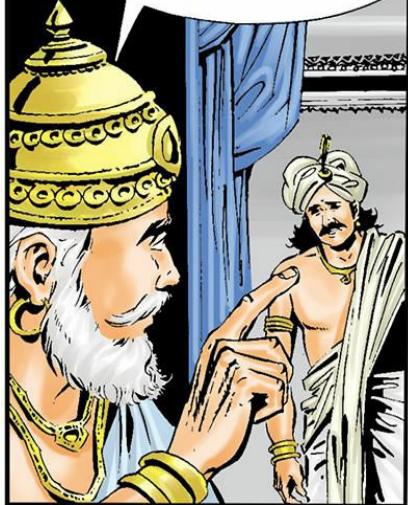
WHEN THEY LEFT, SHE RAN TO THE DOOR OF THE ROOM AND STOOD WAITING FOR THE BRAHMAN.



NEWS OF KRISHNA'S ARRIVAL REACHED BHEESHPAKA, TOO.

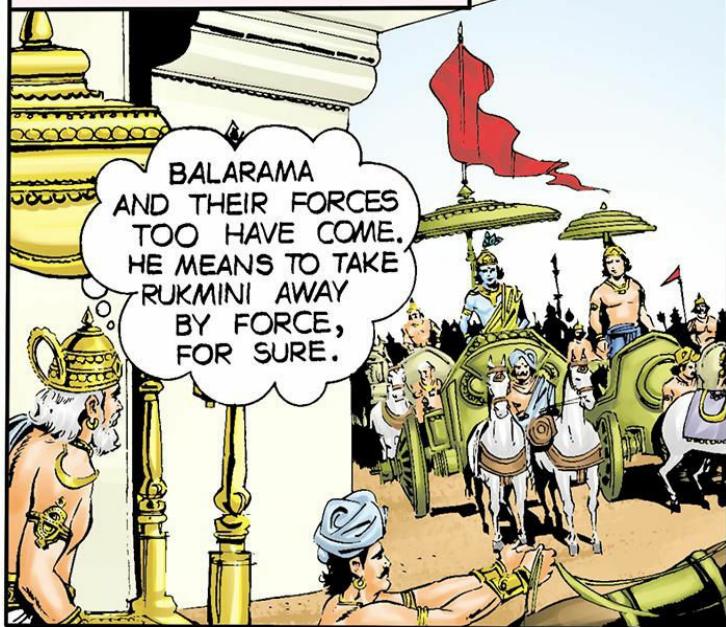


HAVE A MANSION READY
FOR HIM. FURNISH IT
WITH EVERY LUXURY.
I SHALL RIDE OUT
TO RECEIVE HIM,

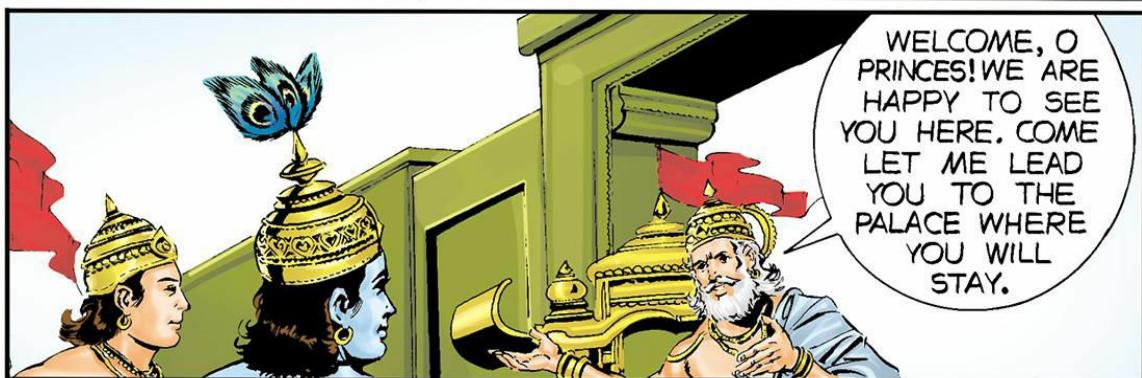


AT THE GATES OF THE CITY—

BALARAMA
AND THEIR FORCES
TOO HAVE COME.
HE MEANS TO TAKE
RUKMINI AWAY
BY FORCE,
FOR SURE.



WELCOME, O
PRINCES! WE ARE
HAPPY TO SEE
YOU HERE. COME
LET ME LEAD
YOU TO THE
PALACE WHERE
YOU WILL
STAY.



AS THEY RODE INTO THE CITY, THEY PASSED THE SHRINE OF GODDESS
PARVATI, THE FAMILY DEITY OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

AH! THAT IS THE TEMPLE
RUKMINI WROTE ABOUT.
HOW ANXIOUS MY
DEAR ONE
MUST BE.



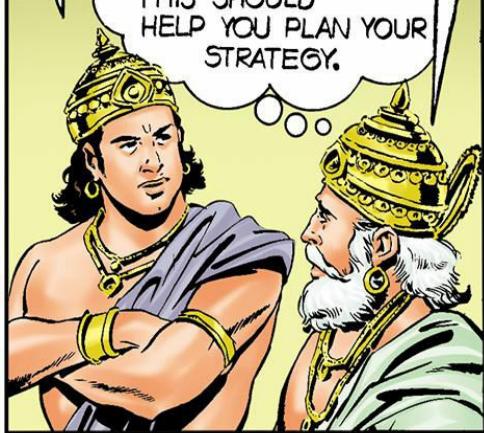
*IN THOSE DAYS, A KSHATRIYA COULD CARRY
AWAY HIS BRIDE, ESPECIALLY IF SHE SO DESIRED.

BALARAMA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT OTHER THINGS. HE TURNED TO BHEESHMAKA.

THE EMPEROR AND HIS MEN HAVE FLOODED THE CITY.

SHISHUPALA IS THE EMPEROR'S FAVOURITE. AND THE EMPEROR HAS MANY ALLIES.

THIS SHOULD HELP YOU PLAN YOUR STRATEGY.



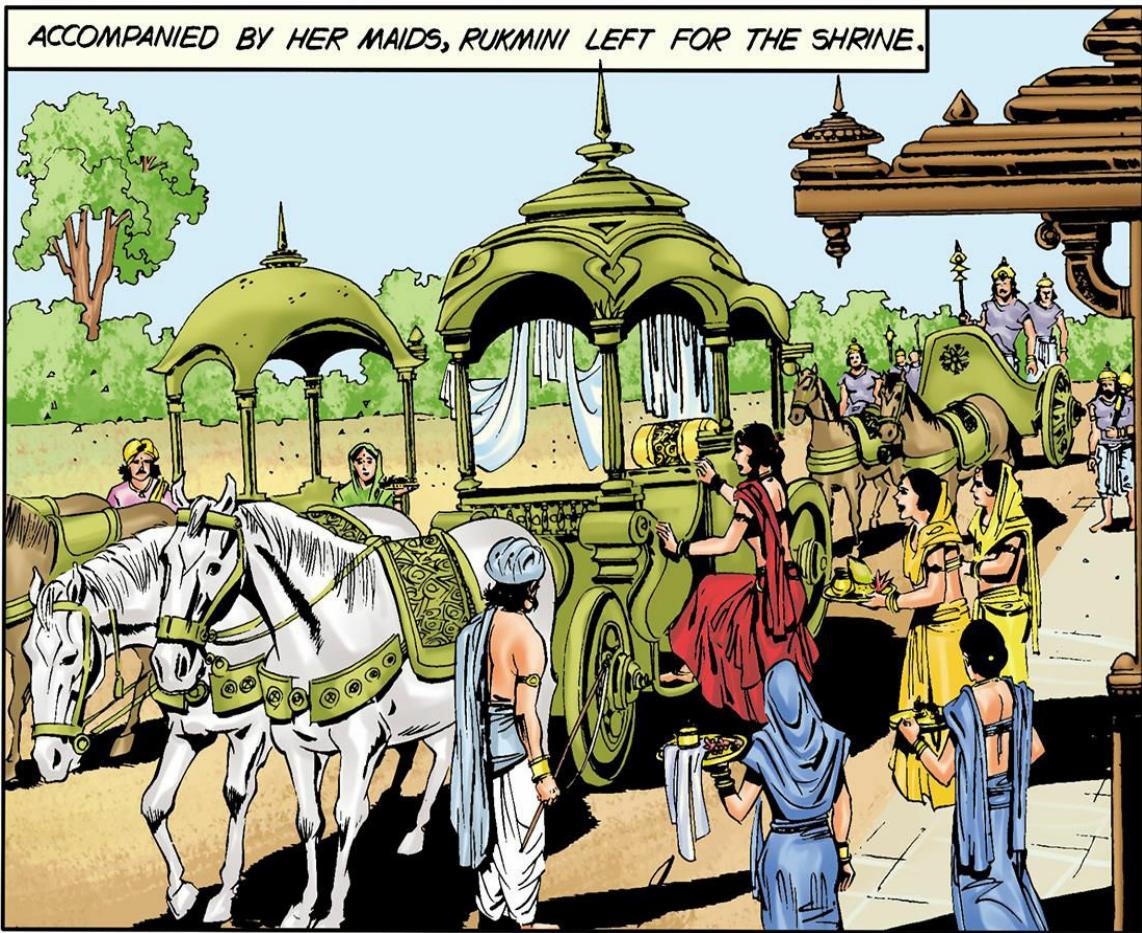
MEANWHILE AT THE PALACE—

RUKMINI, YOUR CHARIOT HAS ARRIVED. ARE YOU READY?

I AM. LET US LEAVE.



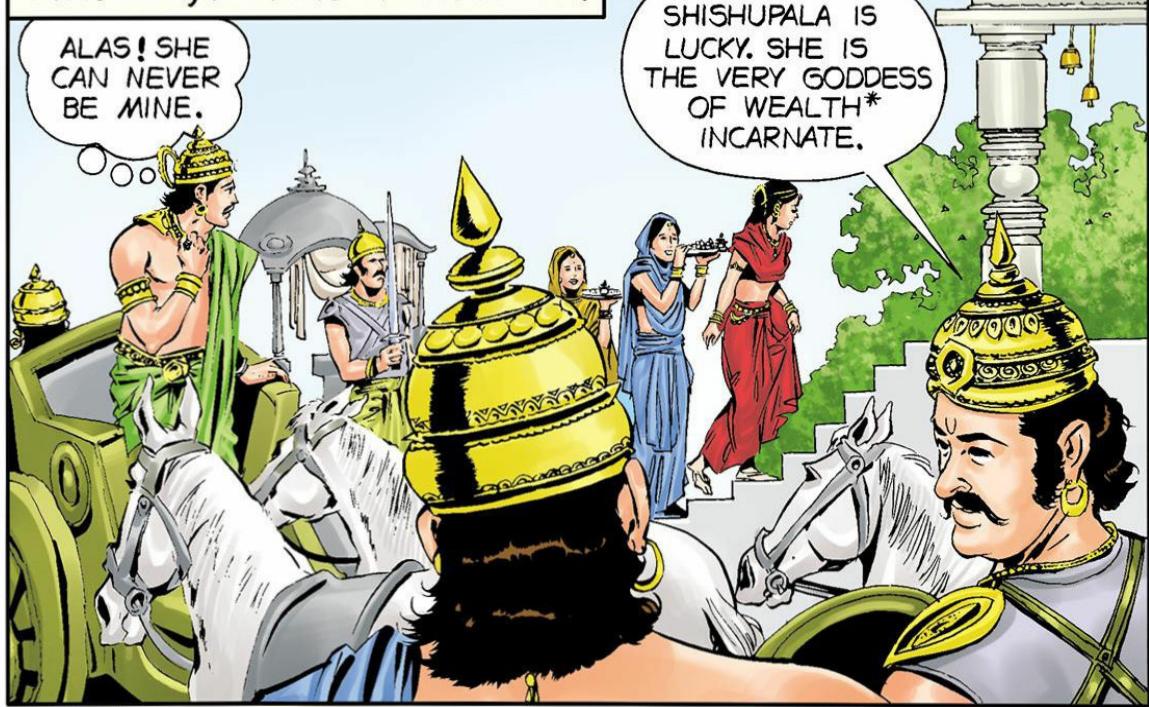
ACCOMPANIED BY HER MAIDS, RUKMINI LEFT FOR THE SHRINE.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE GATES OF THE TEMPLE COURTYARD, SHE STEPPED OUT OF HER CHARIOT.



AS SHE WALKED TO THE TEMPLE, A MYRIAD EYES FOLLOWED HER EVERY MOVEMENT, DRINKING IN HER BEAUTY.



* LAXMI

INSIDE THE TEMPLE-



SHE WASHED THE GODDESS' FEET
AND...



...PLACED OFFERINGS BEFORE HER.



THEN, OVERCOME BY THE THOUGHT THAT FILLED HER BEING, SHE PLEADED WITH THE GODDESS.

O GODDESS,
PLEASE LET KRISHNA AND
ONLY KRISHNA WIN AND
WED ME.



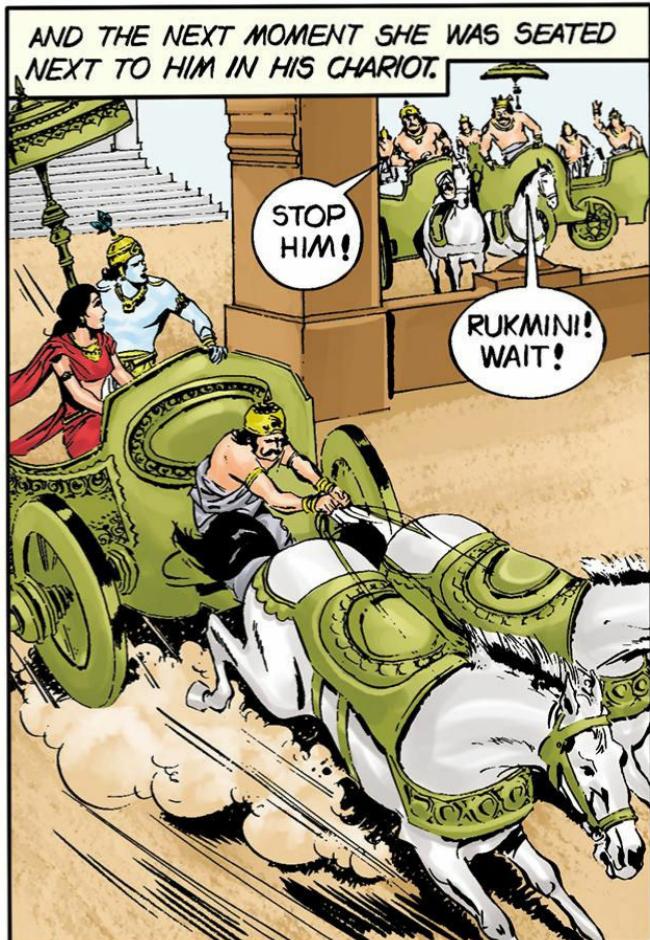
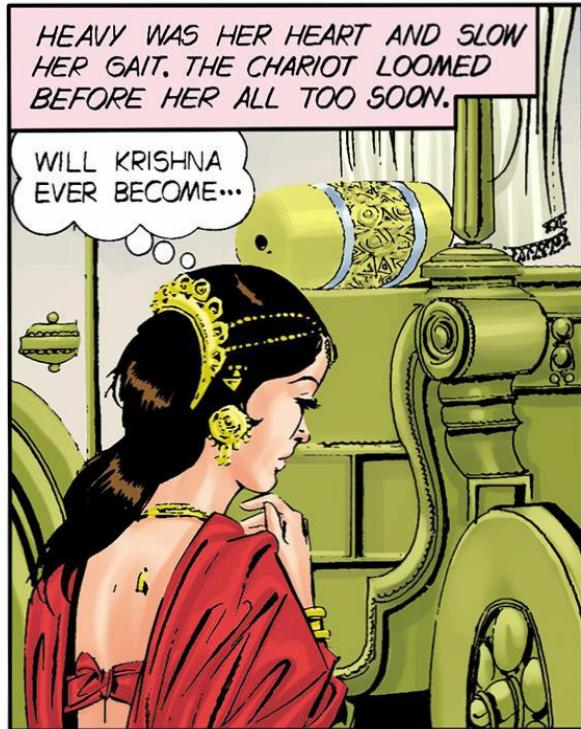
HER WORSHIP OVER, SHE CAME OUT OF THE TEMPLE.



AS SHE WALKED TOWARDS THE GATE, HER EYES ANXIALLY SCANNED THE ASSEMBLY OF KINGS.

I DO NOT SEE HIM ANYWHERE.



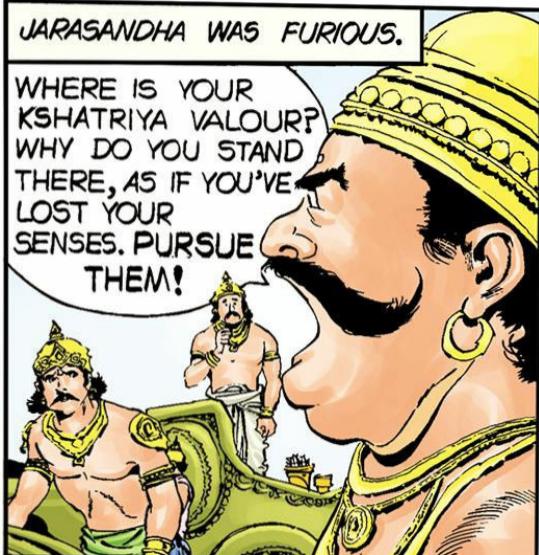


BUT KRISHNA'S CHARIOT SPED AWAY BLOWING DUST INTO THE EYES OF THE BEMUSED KINGS.



JARASANDHA WAS FURIOUS.

WHERE IS YOUR
KSHATRIYA VALOUR?
WHY DO YOU STAND
THERE, AS IF YOU'VE
LOST YOUR
SENSES. PURSUE
THEM!



JERKED INTO ACTION, THE KINGS
CHARGED FORWARD.



BALARAMA TURNED TO KRISHNA.

THEY'RE
GIVING CHASE.
YOU RIDE ON.
WE'LL FALL
BACK AND
DEAL WITH
THEM.



WHEN RUKMINI LOOKED UP IN TERROR AT KRISHNA, HE LAUGHED HEARTILY AND ALLAYED HER FEARS.

DON'T BE ALARMED.
OUR ARMIES WILL SOON
ROUT THE ENEMY. BALA-
RAMA WILL NOT LOSE
HIS DEAR
SISTER-IN-LAW
SO EASILY.



HE WAS RIGHT.

CHASE THE JACKALS AWAY, MY MEN!
SHOOT THEIR HORSES!
DESTROY THEIR CHARIOTS!



WHILE BALARAMA WAS BUSY TACKLING JARASANDHA, SHISHUPALA AND THEIR Hordes, RUKMINI charged ahead after Krishna's vanishing chariot.

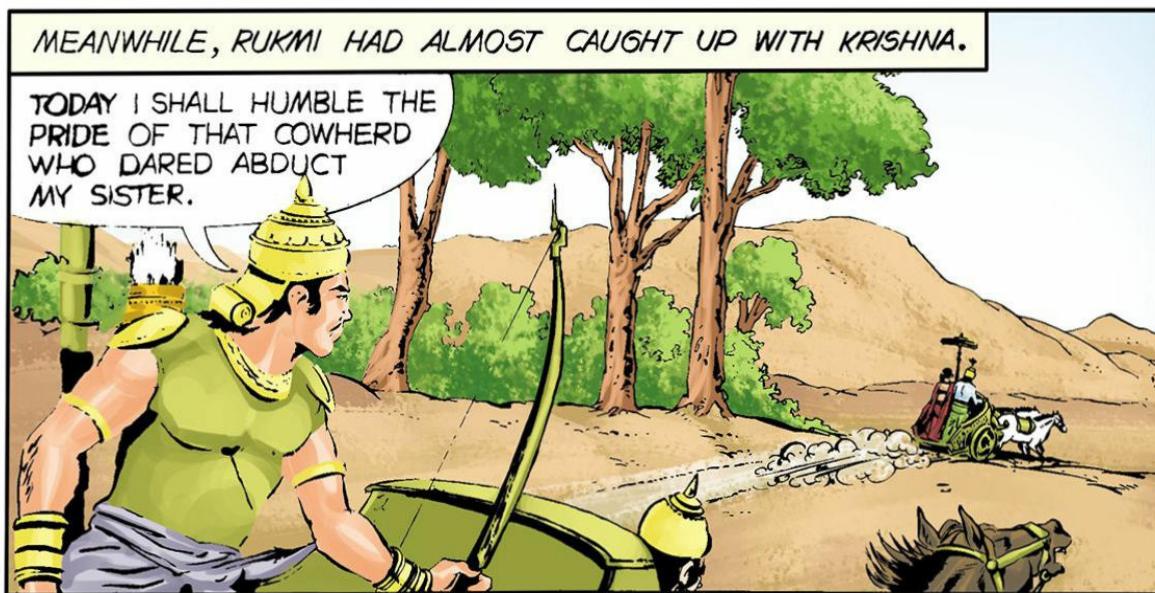
I WILL NOT RE-ENTER
THE CAPITAL WITHOUT
RUKMINI.

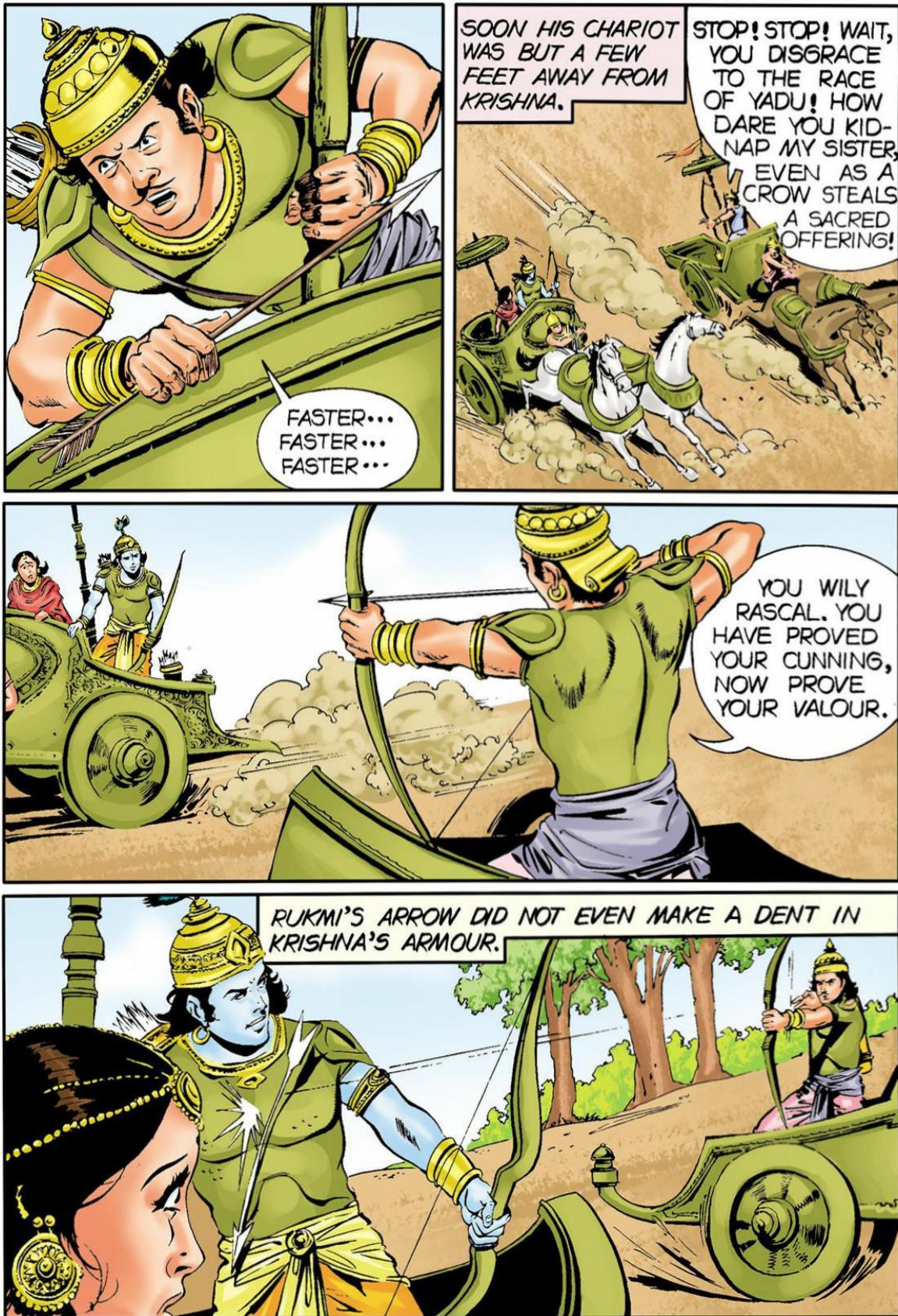


BALARAMA DID NOT TRY TO STOP HIM.

KRISHNA CAN DEAL
WITH HIM, EVEN
WITH RUKMINI IN
HIS CHARIOT.



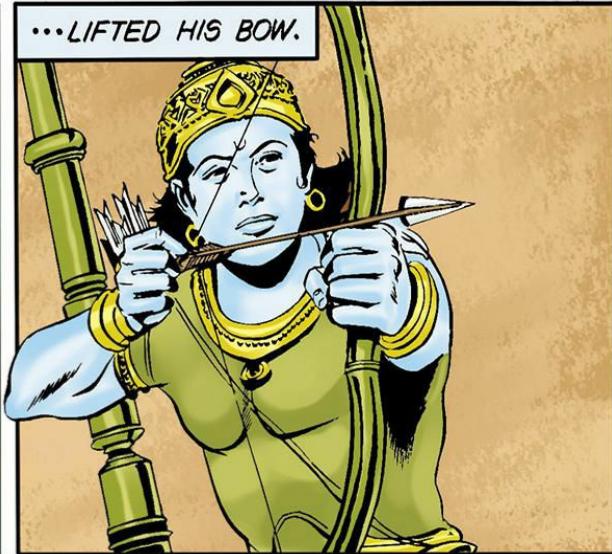




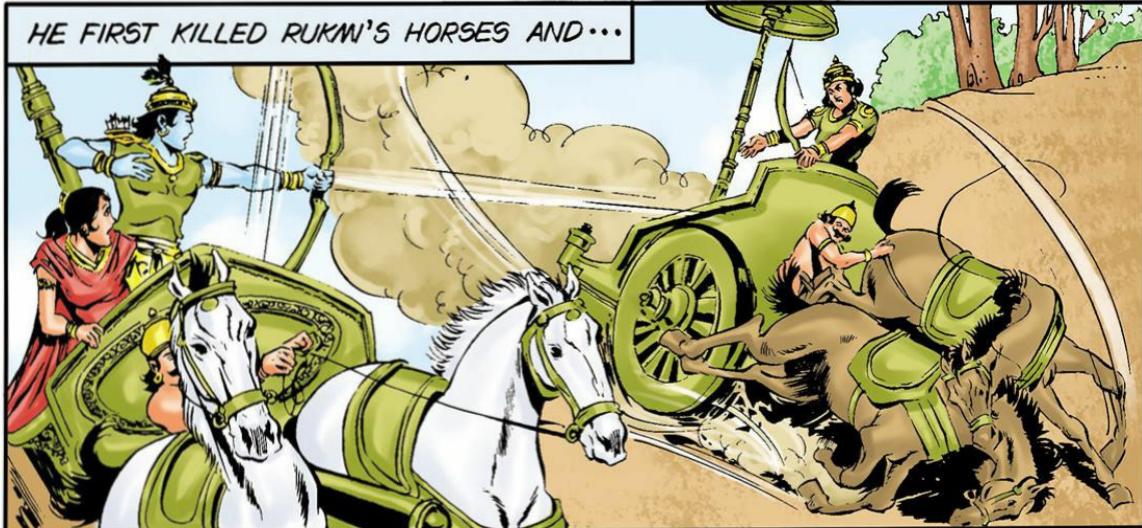
KRISHNA PULLED OUT AN ARROW
AND...



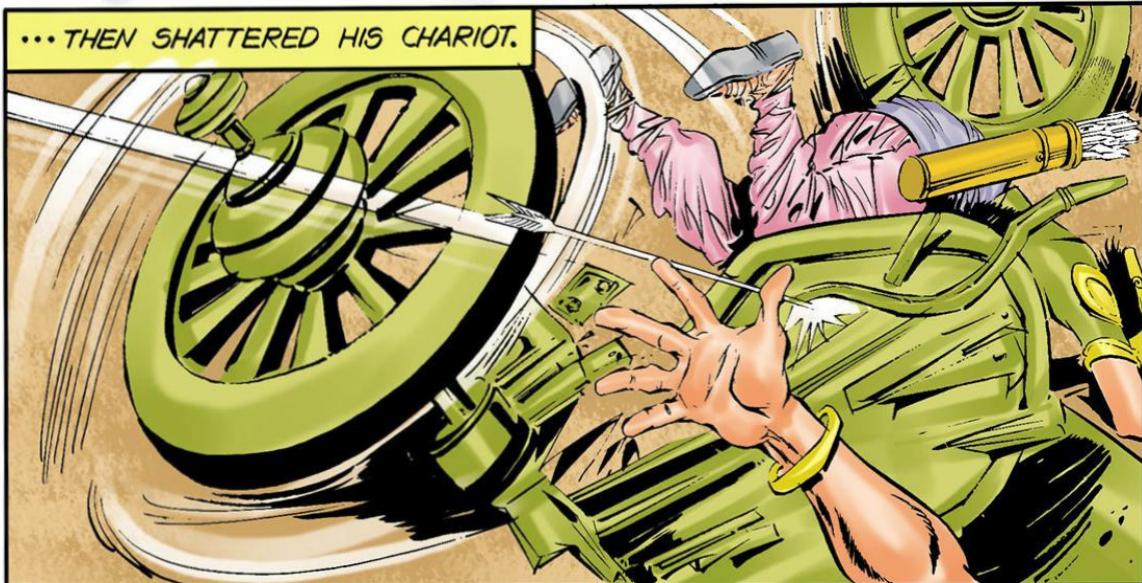
...LIFTED HIS BOW.

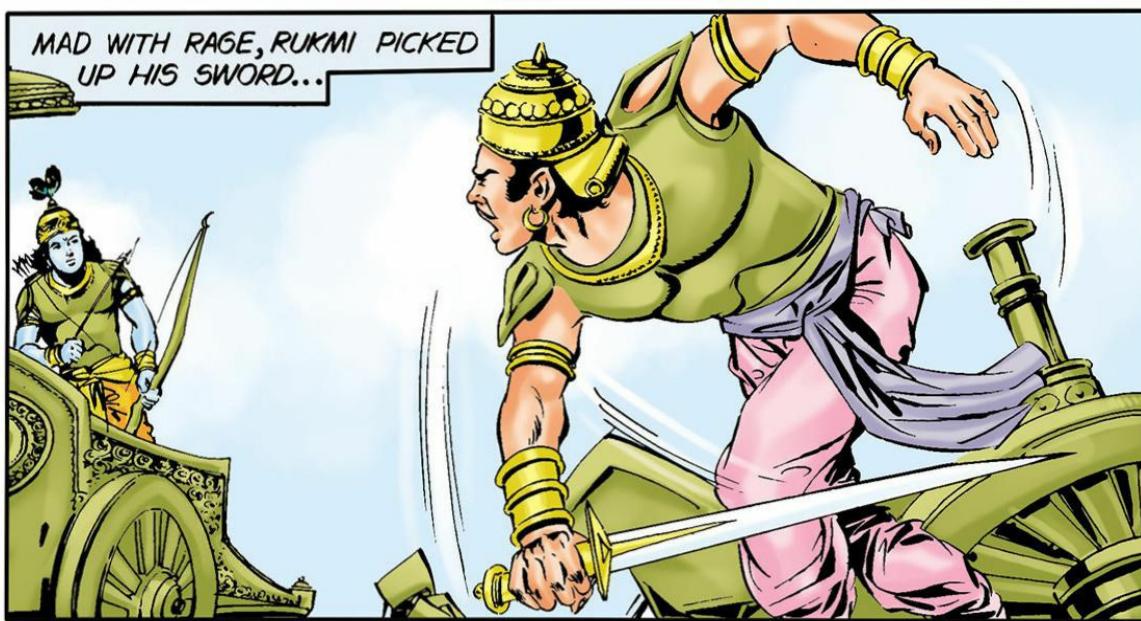
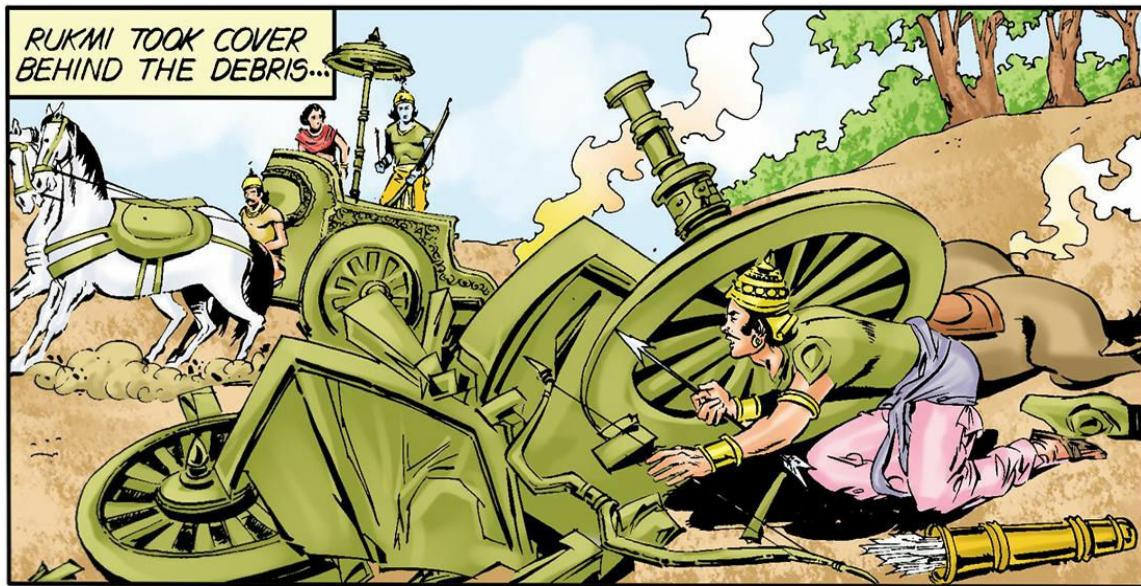


HE FIRST KILLED RUKMINI'S HORSES AND...

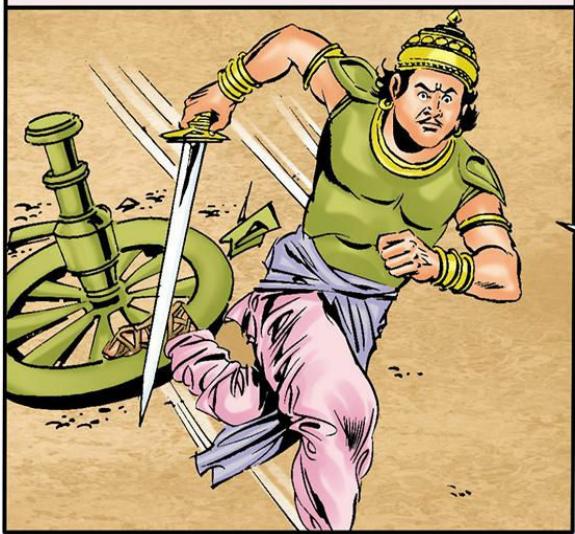


...THEN SHATTERED HIS CHARIOT.





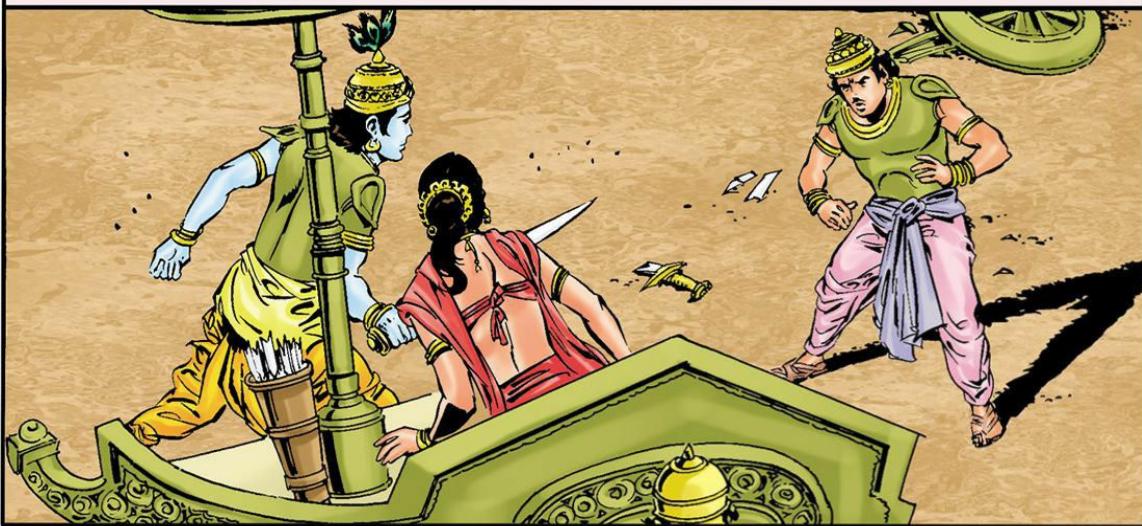
...AND RUSHED TOWARDS KRISHNA.



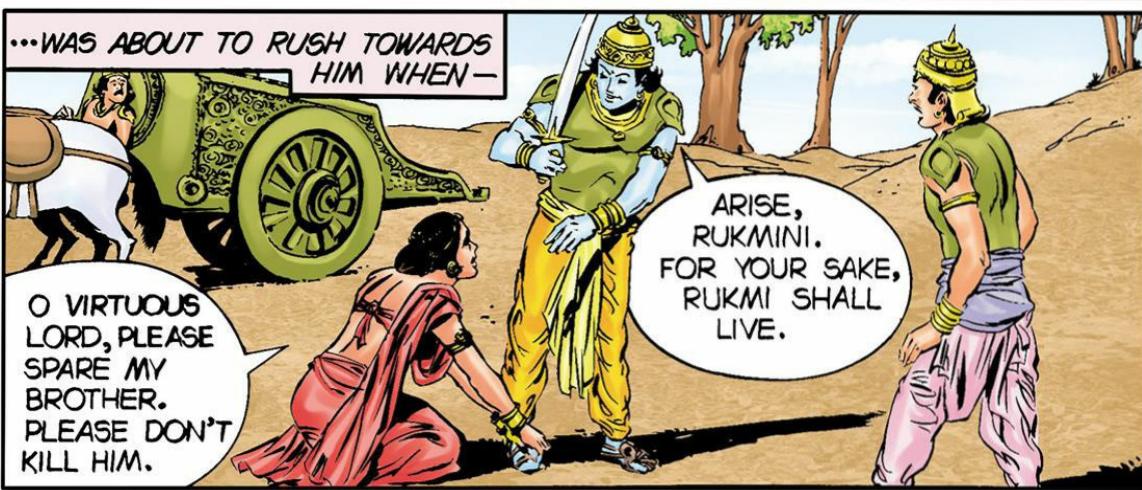
THE NEXT MOMENT, HOWEVER FOUND HIM HOLDING BUT THE HILT.



AS HE THREW IT AWAY IN DISGUST, KRISHNA PICKED UP HIS SWORD AND ...



...WAS ABOUT TO RUSH TOWARDS HIM WHEN -

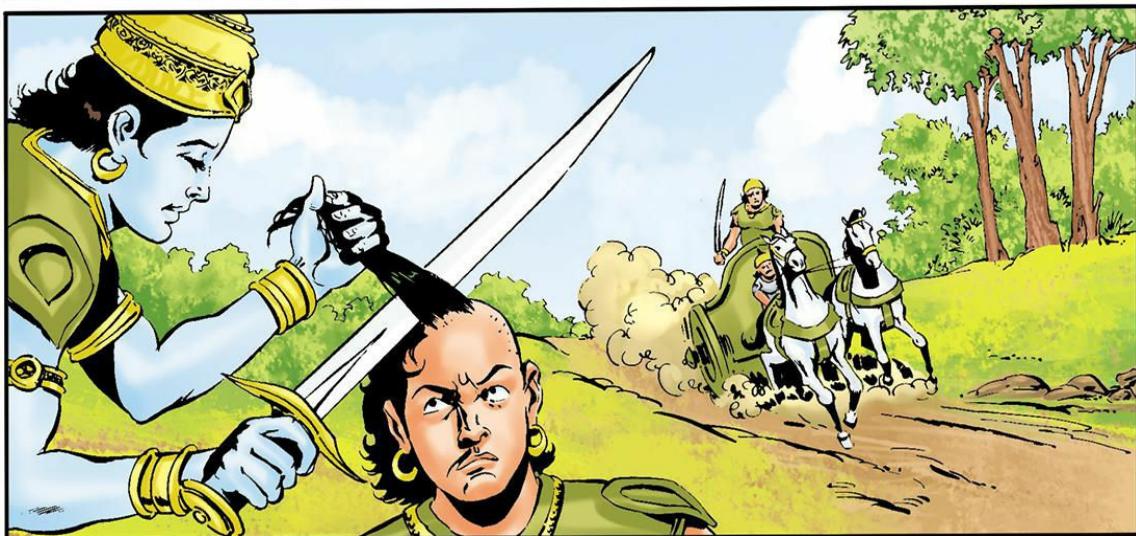


O VIRTUOUS LORD, PLEASE SPARE MY BROTHER. PLEASE DON'T KILL HIM.

ARISE, RUKMINI. FOR YOUR SAKE, RUKMI SHALL LIVE.

HE WENT UP TO RUKMI AND BOUND
HIM WITH HIS OWN PRAPATA.*

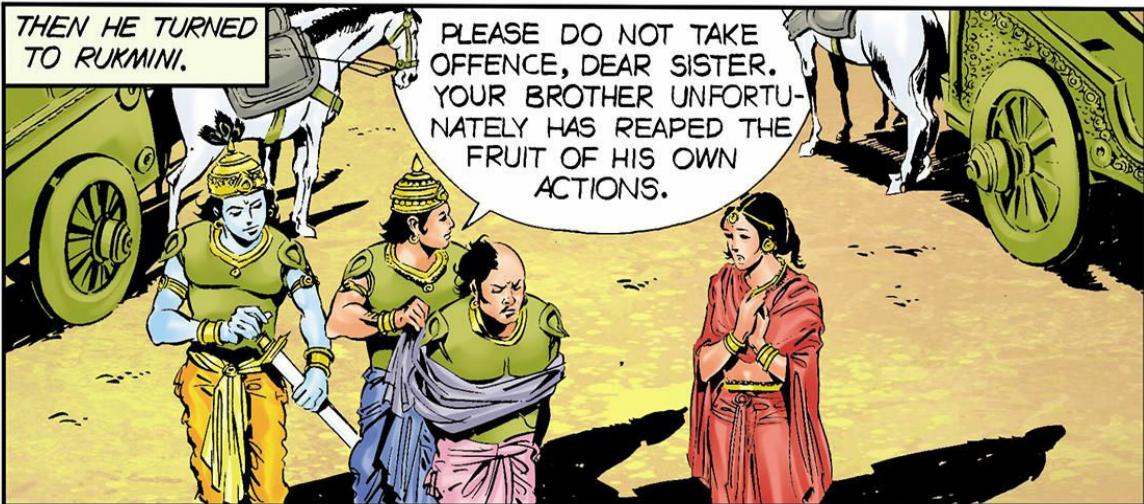
I SHALL SHAVE OFF
HALF HIS HAIR AND HALF
HIS MOUSTACHE WITH THE
BLADE OF MY SWORD. THERE
COULD BE NO GREATER
PUNISHMENT FOR A
WARRIOR.



BALARAMA WAS HORRIFIED.

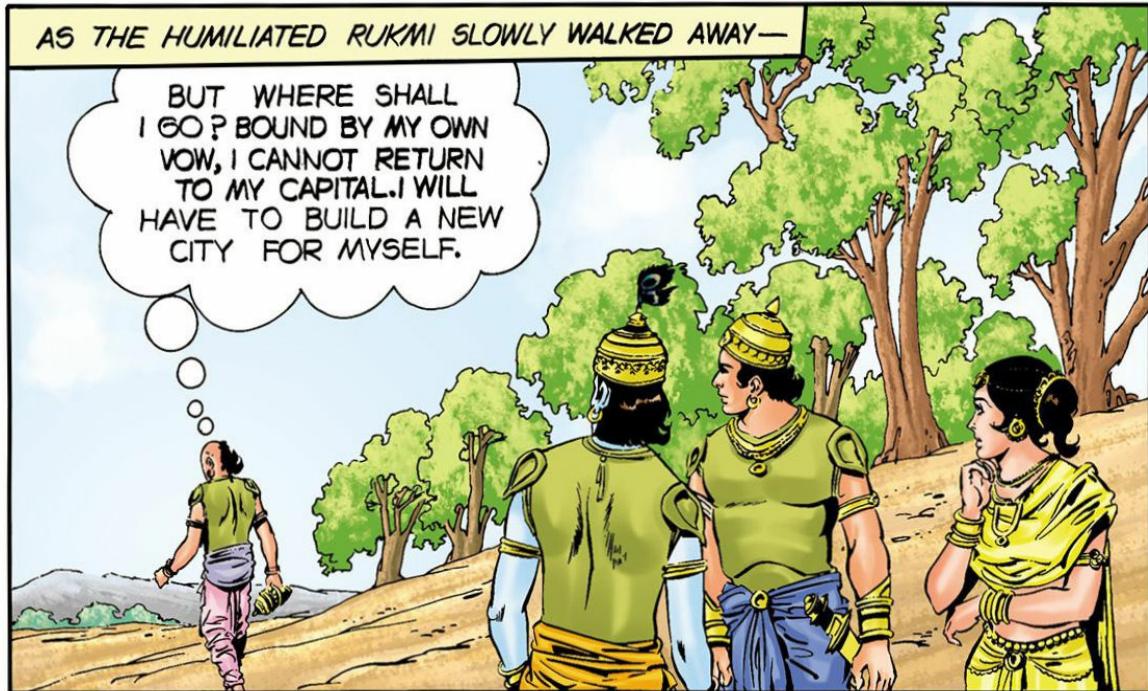


* CUMMERBUND.



AS THE HUMILIATED RUKMI SLOWLY WALKED AWAY—

BUT WHERE SHALL I GO? BOUND BY MY OWN VOW, I CANNOT RETURN TO MY CAPITAL. I WILL HAVE TO BUILD A NEW CITY FOR MYSELF.



COME INTO THE CHARIOT, RUKMINI. WE MUST HURRY TO DWARAKA AND HAVE OUR WEDDING SOLEMNISED BY RITUALS.



A FEW DAYS LATER AT DWARAKA, KRISHNA WAS MARRIED TO RUKMINI WITH GREAT POMP AND CEREMONY.

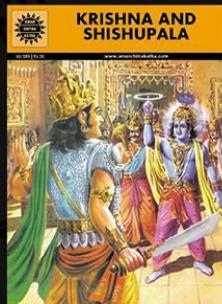


EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

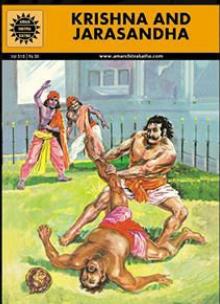
KRISHNA AND RUKMINI

The beautiful Princess Rukmini, they said, was the goddess of wealth herself. No wonder kings and emperors wanted her as their wife. Her brother Rukma wanted her to marry Shishupala for political expediency. But Rukmini had set her heart on the valiant Krishna, the prince who was Lord Vishnu himself. Now, Krishna had to whisk her away from under the noses of his enemies. Would his prowess be equal to his love? And would Rukmini win the happiness for which she had prayed?

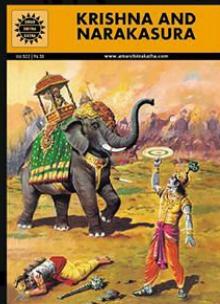
OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



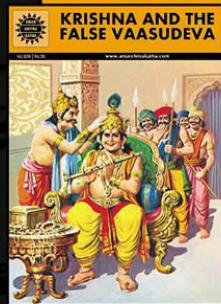
KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA



KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA



KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA



KRISHNA AND THE FALSE VAASUDEVA

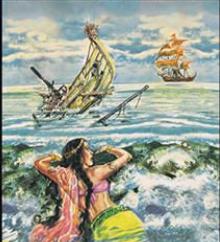
ALSO LOOK FOR:



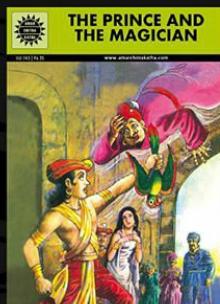
TIPU SULTAN



RATNAVALI



THE PRINCE AND THE MAGICIAN

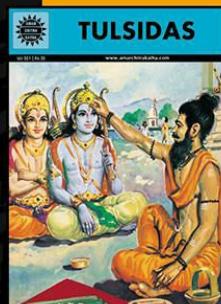


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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS