



KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA

HE WAS FORGIVEN A HUNDRED TIMES

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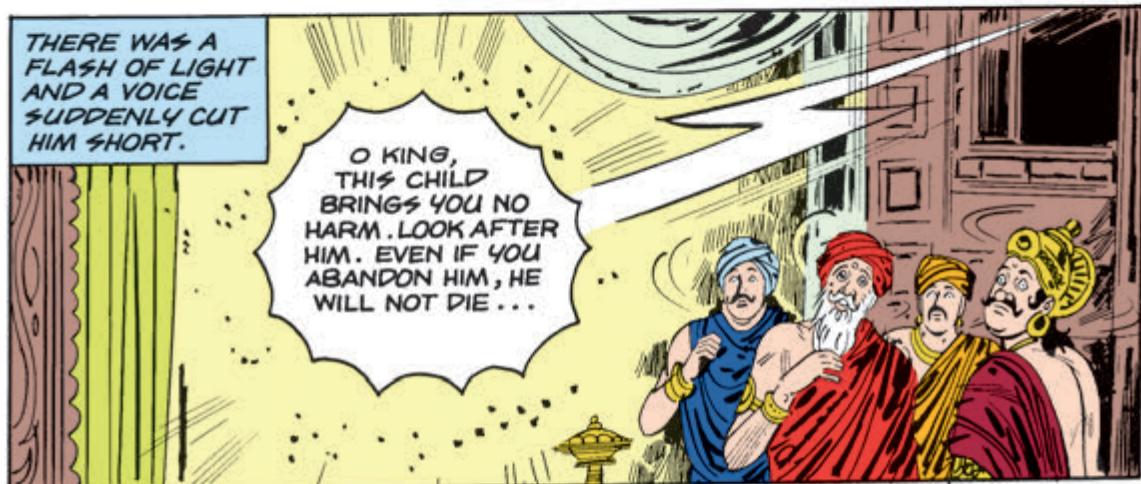
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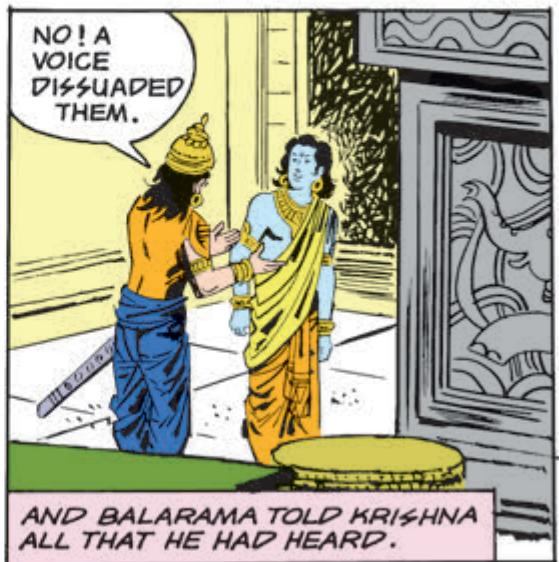
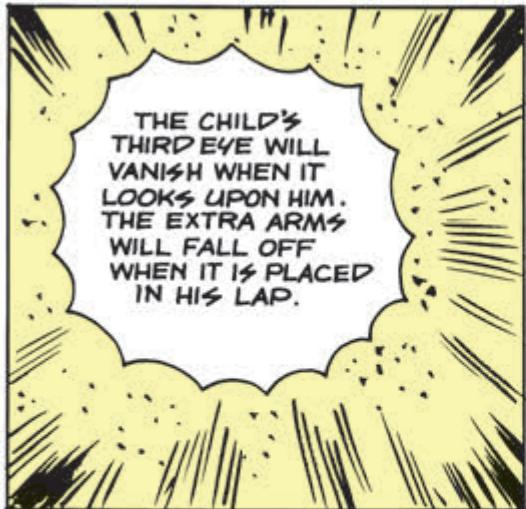
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KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA

THE HOUSE OF KING DAMAGHOSHA OF CHEDI* WAS STEEPED IN GLOOM. WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A JOYOUS EVENT TURNED OUT TO BE A NIGHTMARE. THE LONG-AWAITED SON, BORN TO DAMAGHOSHA AND HIS QUEEN, WAS A FREAK, WITH FOUR ARMS AND THREE EYES.







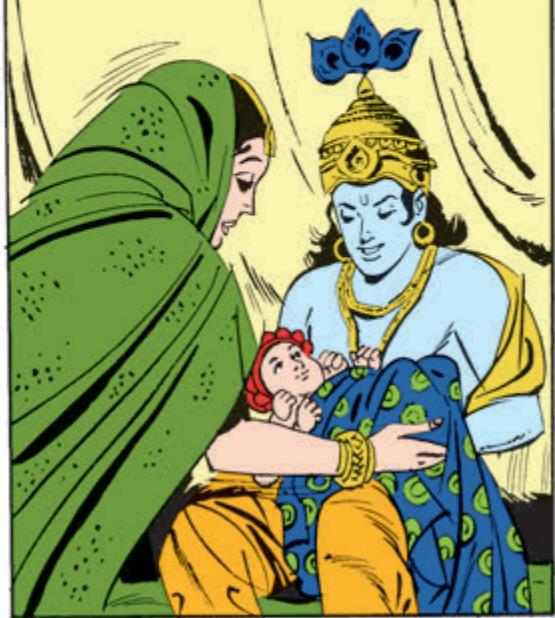


THE NEXT MOMENT —

IT'S GONE !
THE THIRD EYE IS
GONE !



DELIGHTED TO SEE HER SON'S FACE NORMAL, THE TREMBLING QUEEN PLACED HIM IN KRISHNA'S LAP.



THE ARMS
HAVE FALLEN
OFF ! HOW
CUTE A BABY
IS HE !



IN HER EXCESSIVE JOY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENT ESCAPED HER. BUT ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

KRISHNA,
TO THINK THAT
IT SHOULD BE
YOU ? HIS OWN
COUSIN !





BUT DAMAGHOSHA WAS NOT SO CERTAIN. LONG AFTER KRISHNA AND BALARAMA LEFT HE WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT.

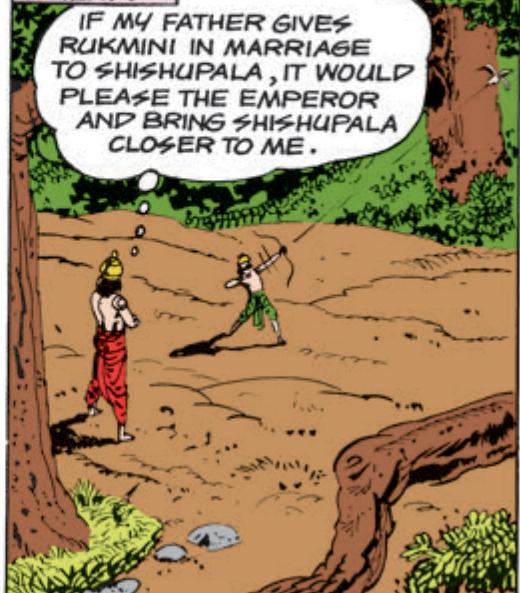
THE MIGHT OF KRISHNA IS MATCHED BY NONE BUT JARASANDHA, WHO IS NOW KRISHNA'S SWORN ENEMY. MY SON SHALL GROW UP AT THE COURT OF MAGADHA.

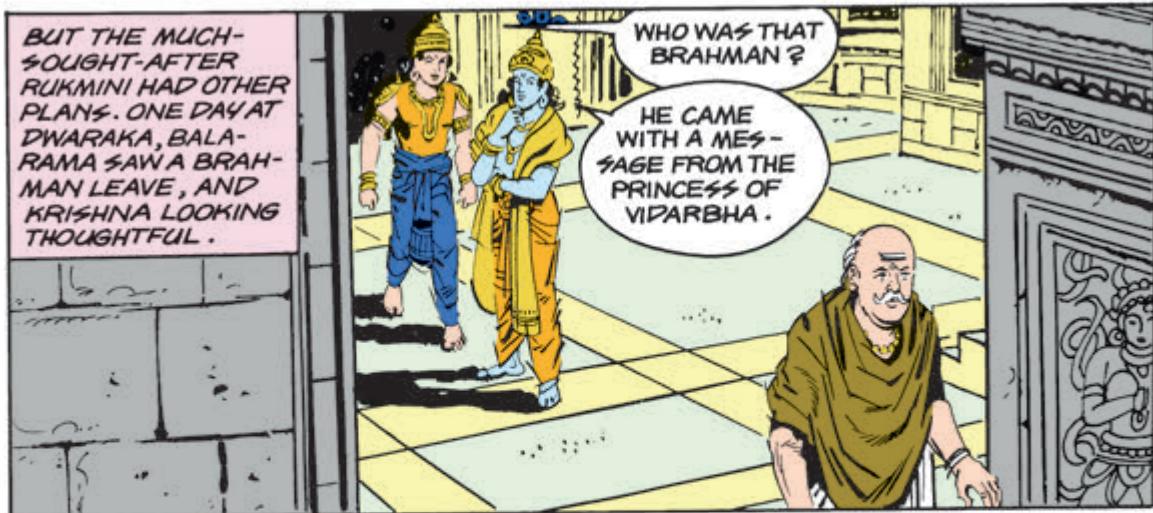
SO SHISHUPALA, AS THE CHILD WAS NAMED, WAS SENT TO MAGADHA.

A FINE BOY INDEED! I SHALL MAKE YOU A LION AMONG MEN.

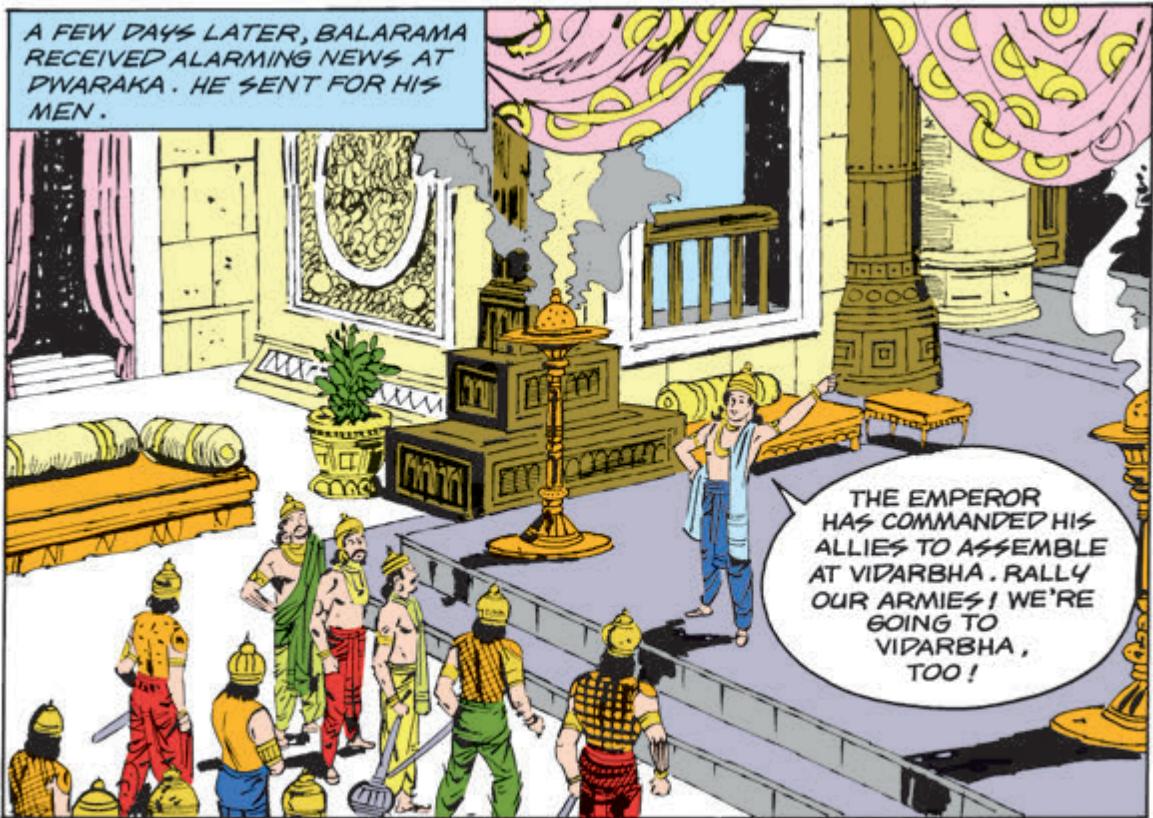
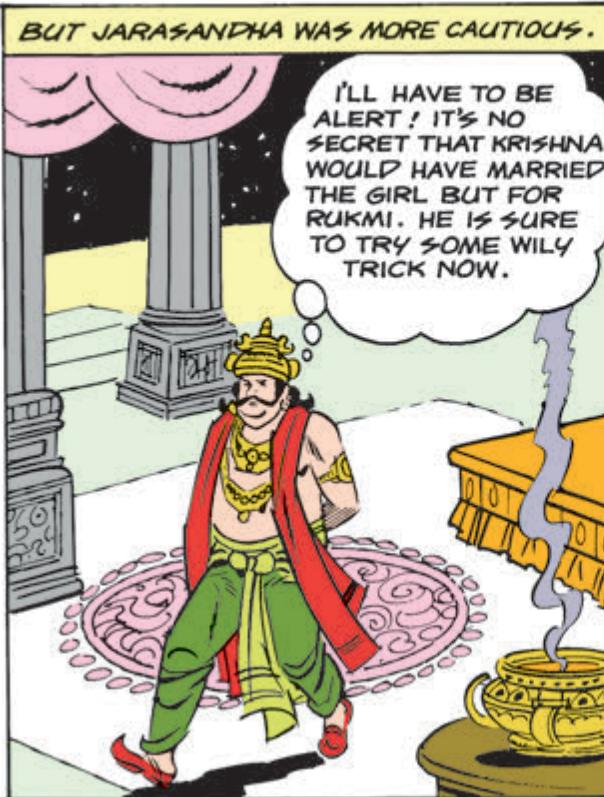
AS THE YEARS WENT BY, RUKMI AND SHISHUPALA BECAME CLOSE FRIENDS.

IF MY FATHER GIVES RUKMINI IN MARRIAGE TO SHISHUPALA, IT WOULD PLEASE THE EMPEROR AND BRING SHISHUPALA CLOSER TO ME.





* A CEREMONY WHERE A MAIDEN MAKES HER CHOICE, AMONG ASSEMBLED SUITORS, BY GARLANDING HIM.



THE DAY OF THE WEDDING DAWNED. THE ASSEMBLY OF KINGS WAITED OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE WHERE RUKMINI HAD GONE TO PRAY BEFORE THE CEREMONY.



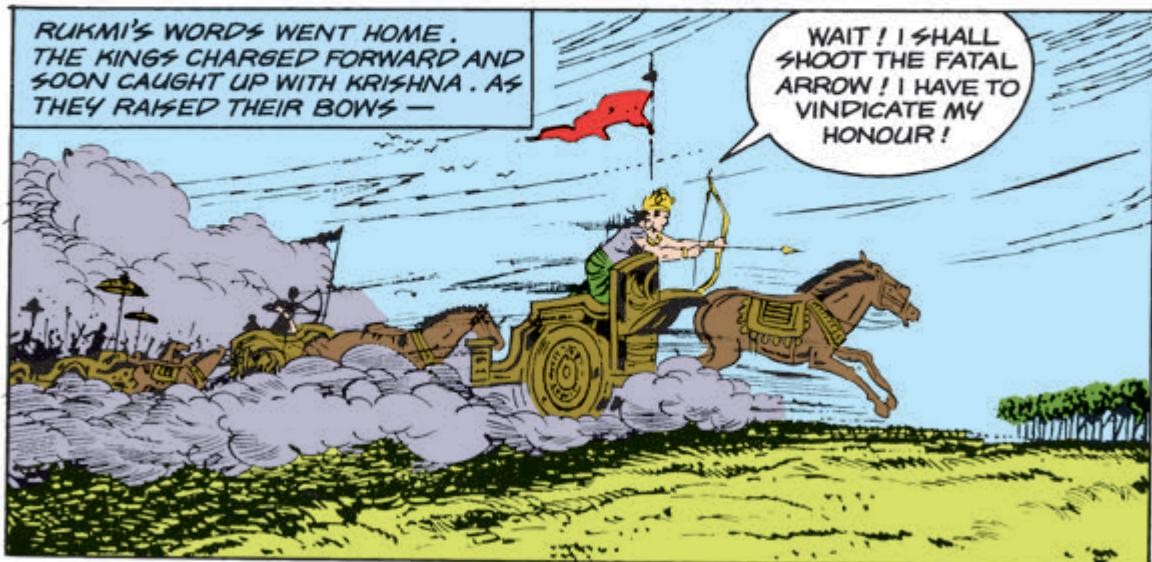
SUDDENLY—



SHISHUPALA WAS THE FIRST TO REACT.

IT'S THAT COWHERD, KRISHNA! HE'S CARRYING AWAY MY BRIDE! STOP HIM! STOP HIM!





BUT SHISHUPALA'S ARROW MISSED ITS MARK. HE RAISED HIS BOW AGAIN.

THIS TIME I WILL NOT MISS!



THE NEXT MOMENT—



AS KRISHNA SPED AWAY WITH RUKMI IN HOT PURSUIT, BALARAMA AND HIS ARMY HELD THE OTHERS AT BAY.



A FIERCE BATTLE ENSUED. THE EMPEROR AND HIS ALLIES WERE ROUTED.





DANTAVAKTRA, ANOTHER VASSAL, SUPPORTED HIM.

AND HE'LL
DO IT! COME,
SHISHUPALA.
DON'T GRIEVE.

TRYING TO CONSOLE THE DISTRAUGHT SUITOR AND BURNING WITH HATRED FOR HIS RIVAL ALL THE WHILE, THE VANQUISHED RETURNED TO THEIR CAPITALS.

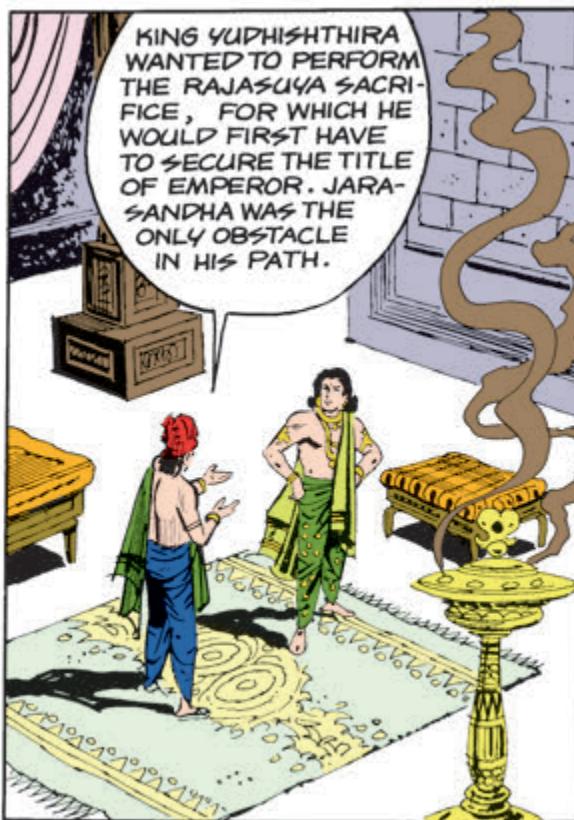
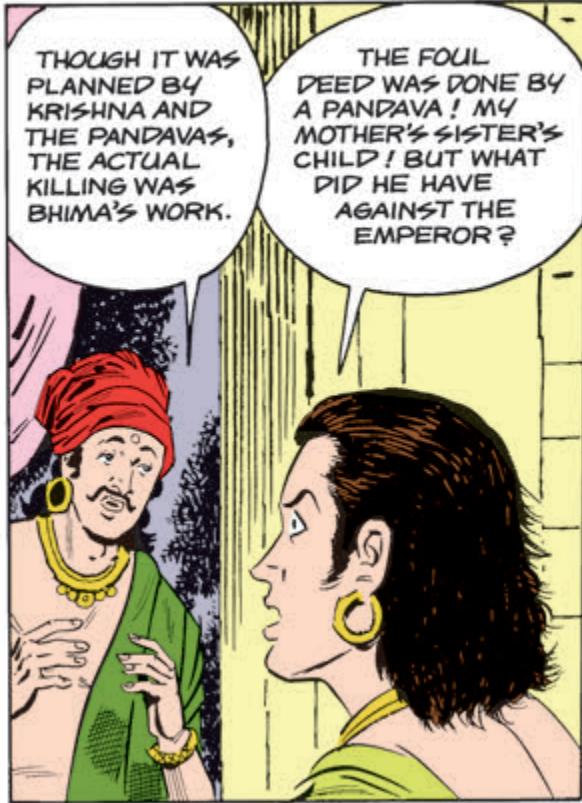
AS HIS FATHER WAS NOW BEGINNING TO AGE, SHISHUPALA RETURNED TO CHEDI. WHEN HE ENTERED THE CAPITAL —

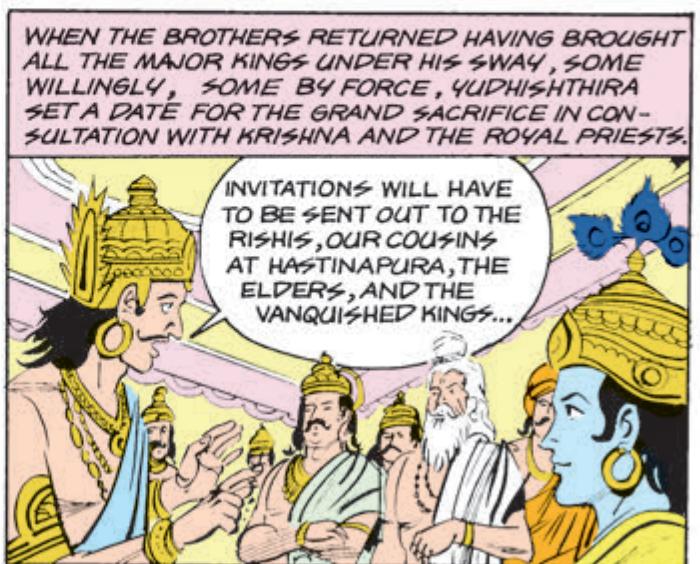
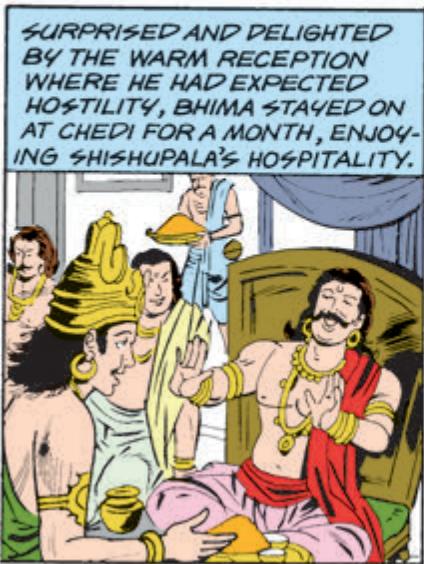
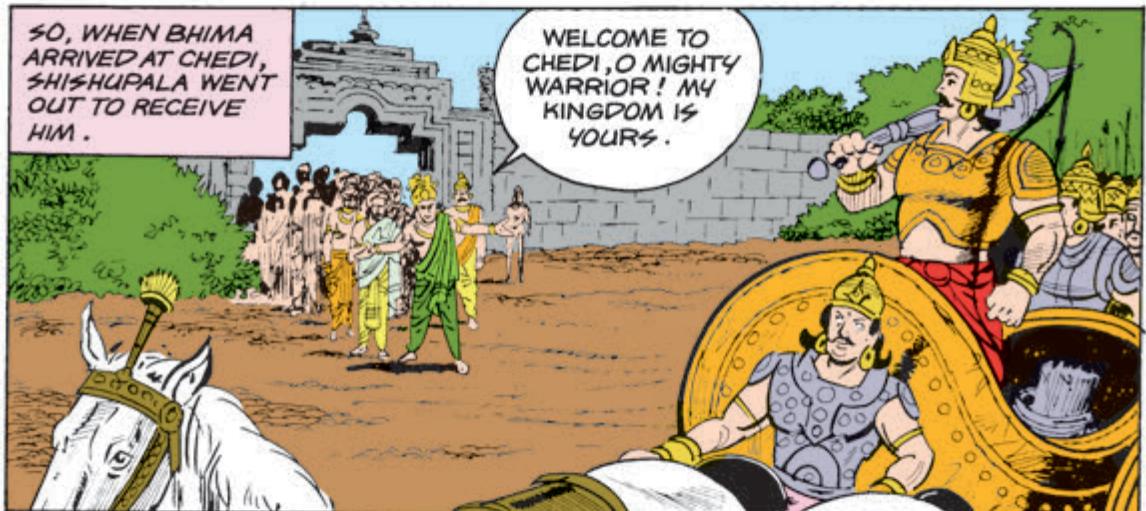
I HAD HOPED
TO RETURN WITH
A CHERISHED BRIDE
BUT ALL I HAVE
BROUGHT HOME
IS HUMILIATION.

UNDER JARASANDHA'S PROTECTION, IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, SHISHUPALA OFTEN DELIBERATELY COMMITTED OFFENCES AGAINST THE YADAVAS — BUT ESCAPED UNPUNISHED.

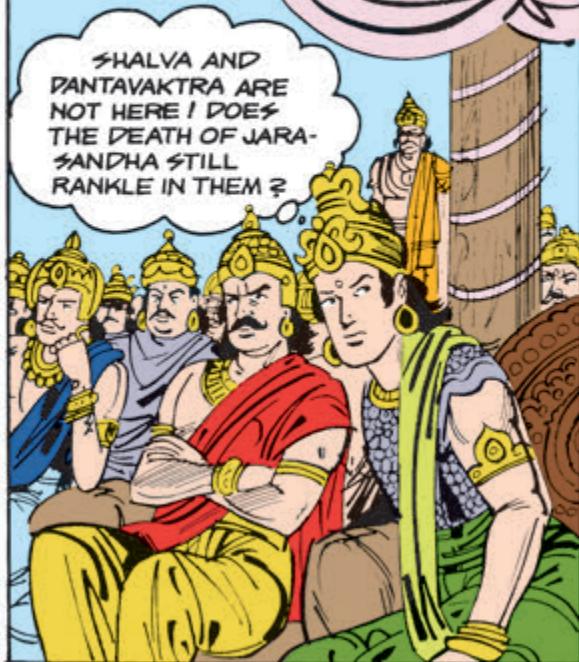
HERE IS
THAT RAT,
SHISHUPALA!
LET'S KILL
HIM.

LET HIM
GO, BALARAMA.
REMEMBER MY
PROMISE TO
HIS MOTHER.

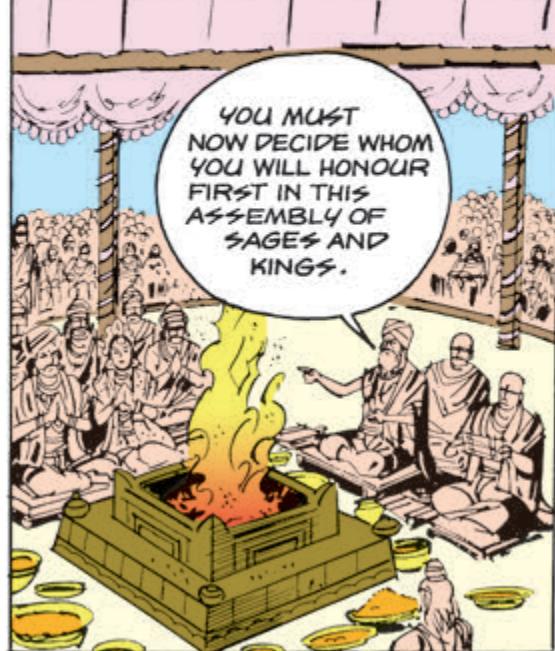




AT LAST THE GREAT DAY ARRIVED. THE SACRED RITUALS BEGAN. AS SHISHUPALA TOOK THE SEAT ASSIGNED TO HIM —



THE OFFICIATING PRIESTS GUIDED YUDHISHTHIRA THROUGH THE CEREMONIES TO THE FINAL DAY WHEN THE SOMA JUICE WAS EXTRACTED.



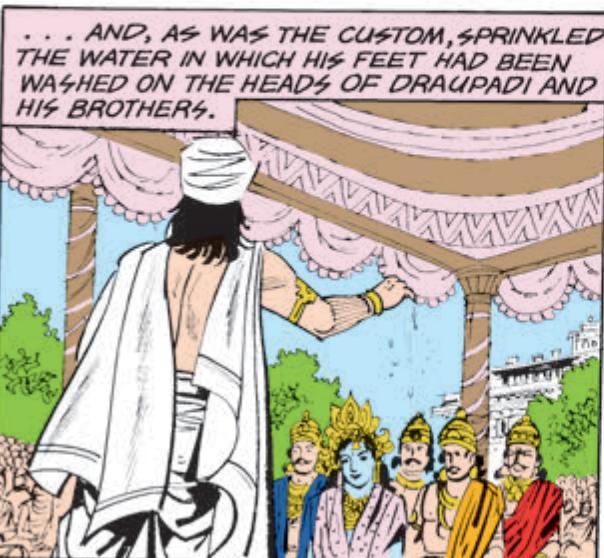
YUDHISHTHIRA WAS AT A LOSS. HE HAD THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING BUT THIS.

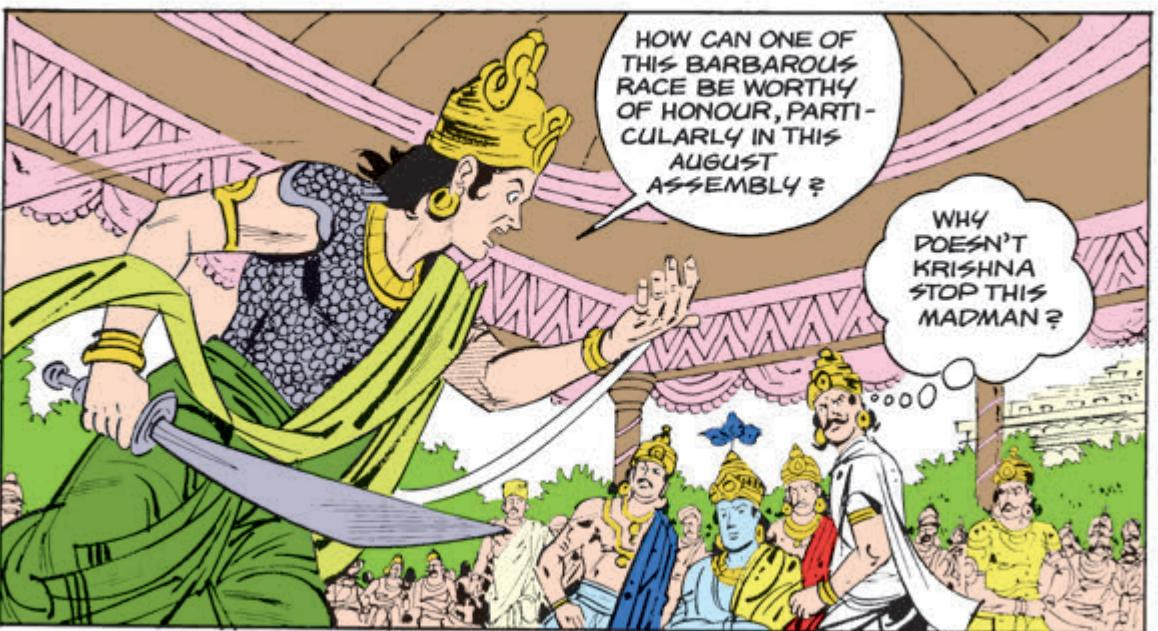


WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA DID NOT SPEAK, SAHADEVA, THE YOUNGEST PANDAVA, STOOD UP.

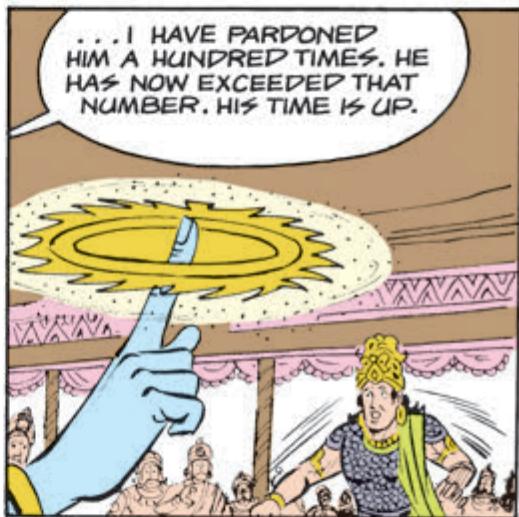
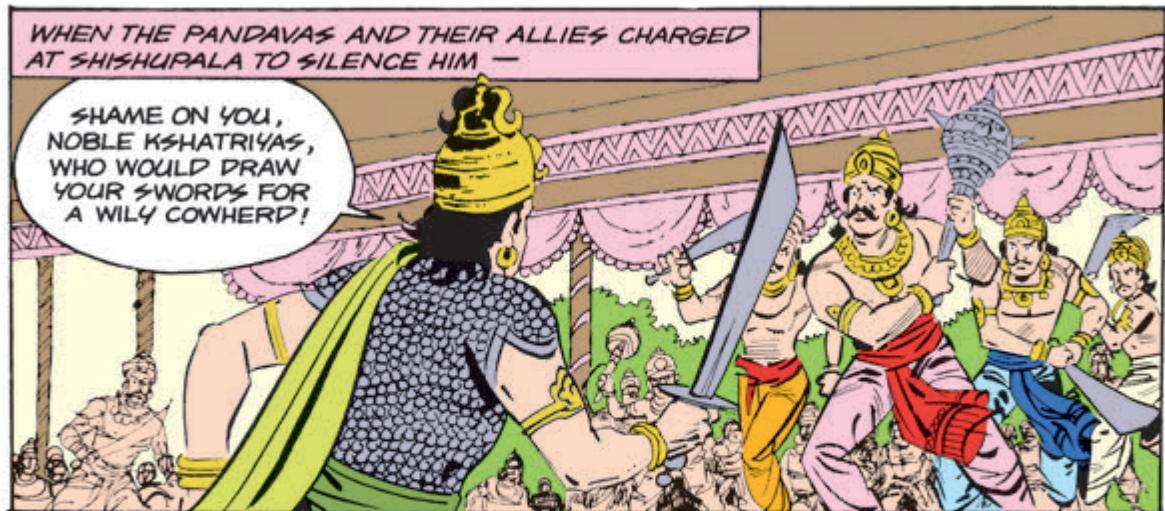


AS YUDHISHTHIRA WAITED TENSELY FOR THE REACTION OF THE ASSEMBLY—

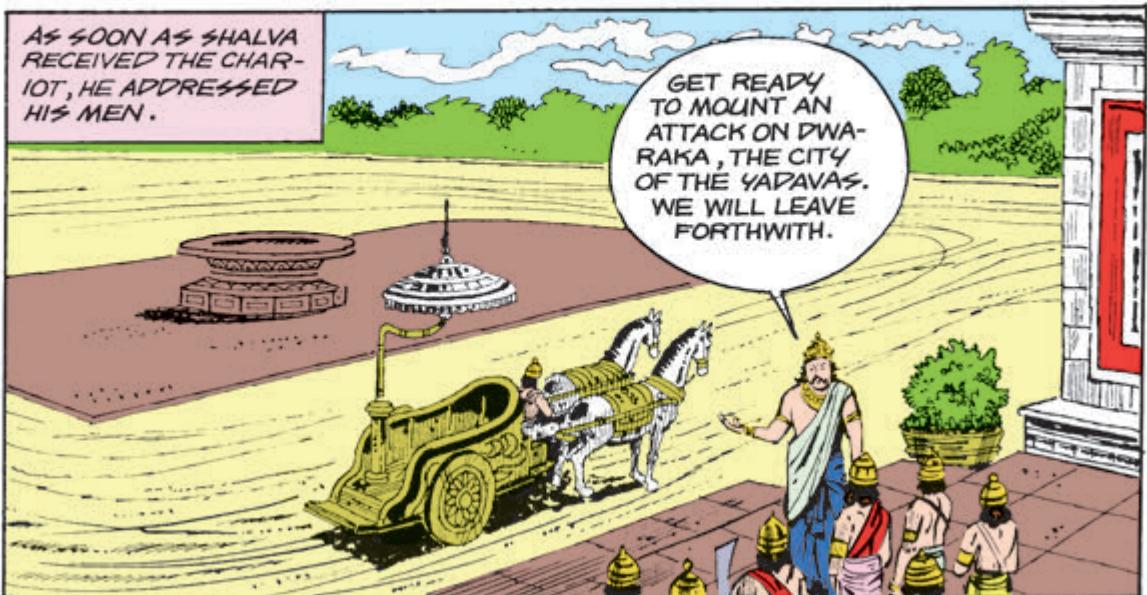
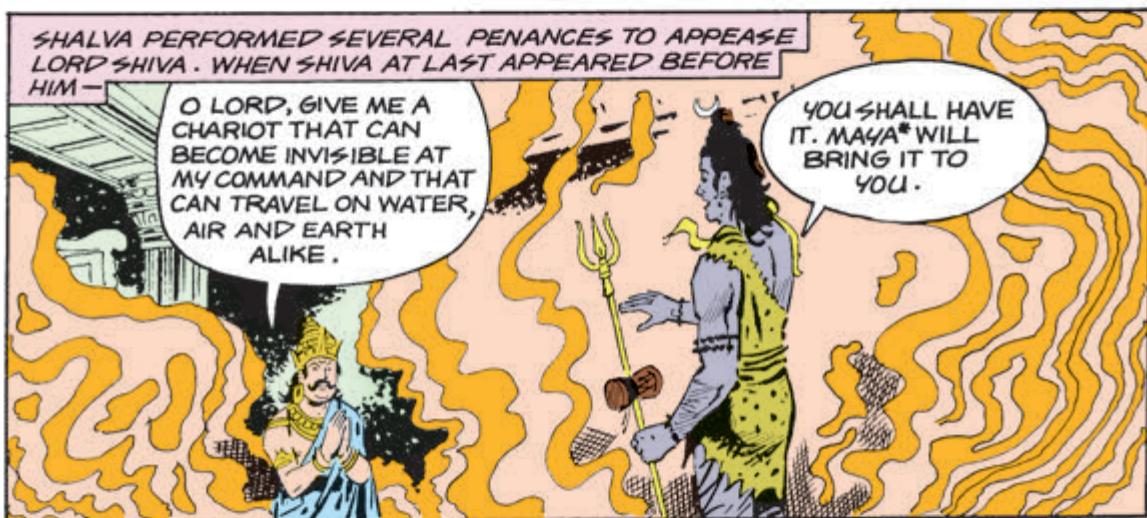
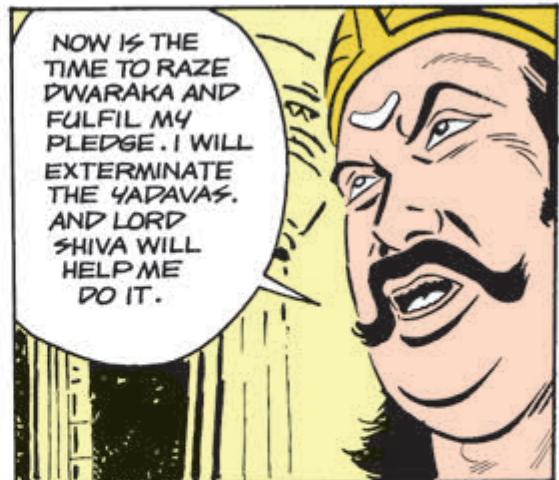
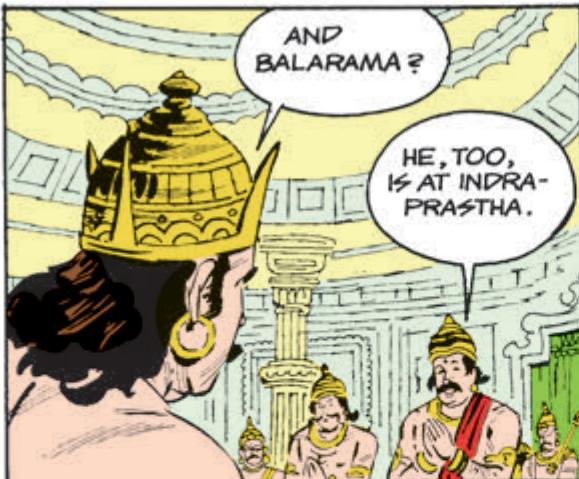


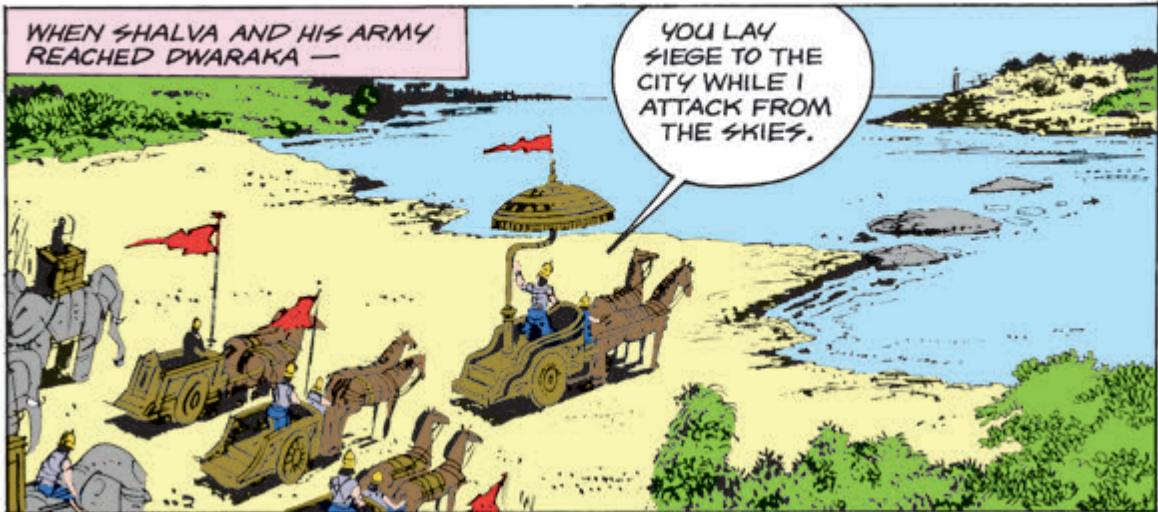


WHEN THE PANDAVAS AND THEIR ALLIES CHARGED AT SHISHUPALA TO SILENCE HIM —







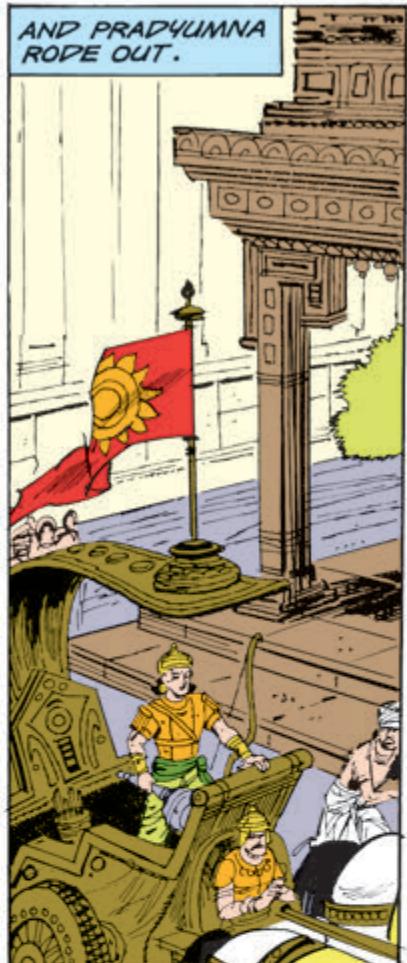


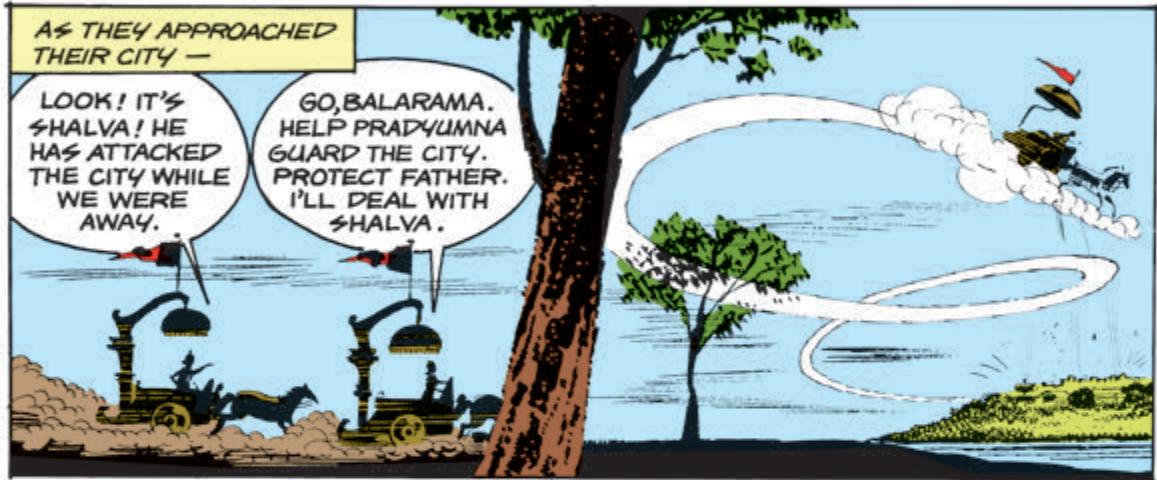
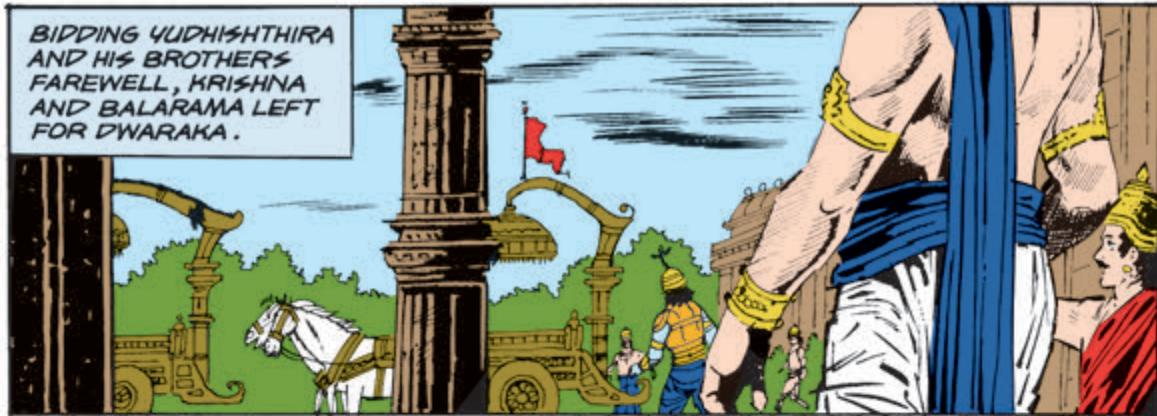
SHALVA DID NOT WASTE ANY TIME. SOARING INTO THE SKIES IN HIS CHARIOT, HE SHOWERED STONES, TREES, SNAKES, WATER AND EARTH OVER THE CITY, WREAKING HAVOC UPON IT.



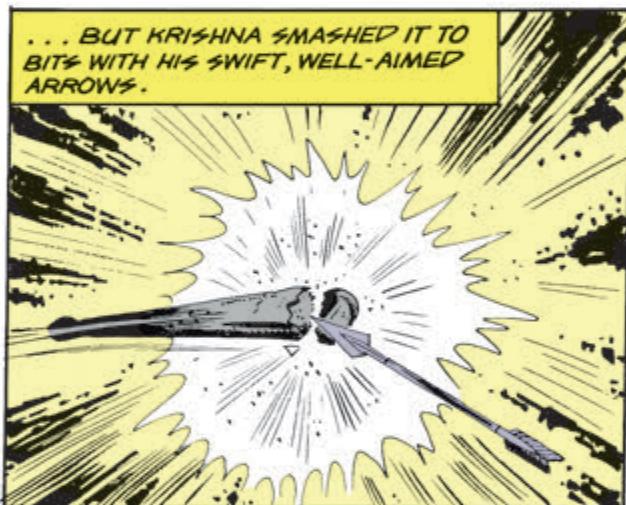
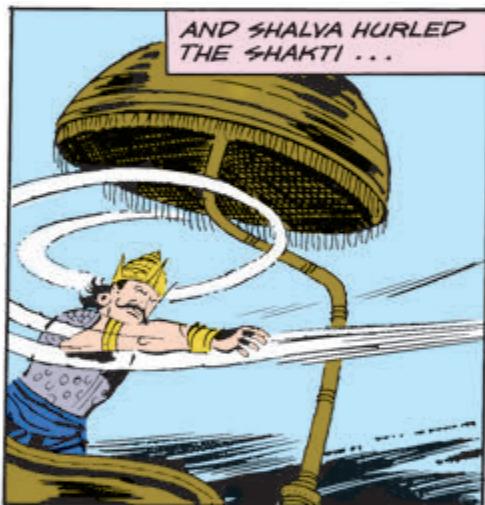
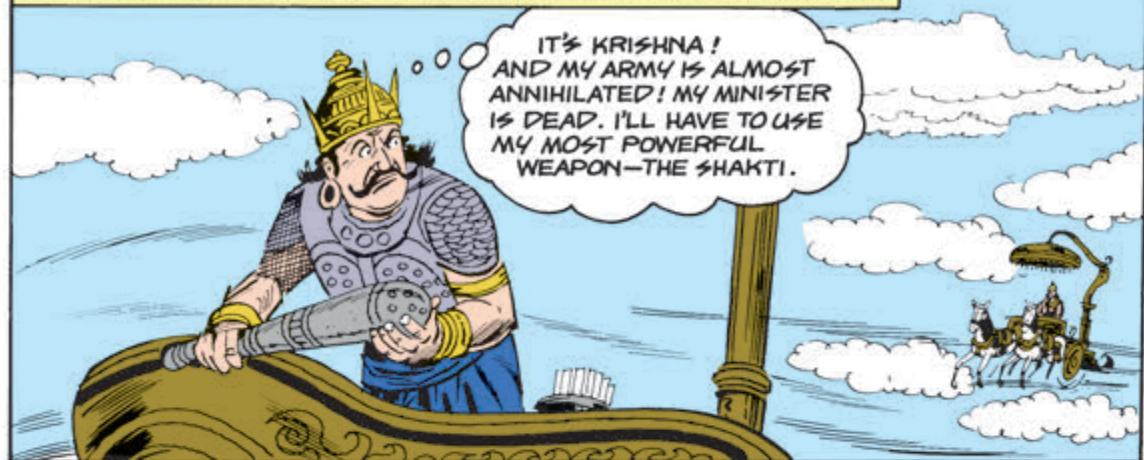
THE CITIZENS OF DWARAKA RUSHED IN ALARM TO PRADYUMNA.*







IN FACT IT WAS SHALVA WHO WAS FRIGHTENED FOR A MOMENT.



WITH A TRIUMPHANT ROAR, SHALVA MADE FOR KRISHNA.

STEAL MY FRIEND'S BRIDE, WOULD YOU ? SLAY HIM, WOULD YOU ? TODAY I SHALL SEND YOU TO THE JAWS OF DEATH - YOU WHO BOAST OF NEVER HAVING BEEN DEFEATED !

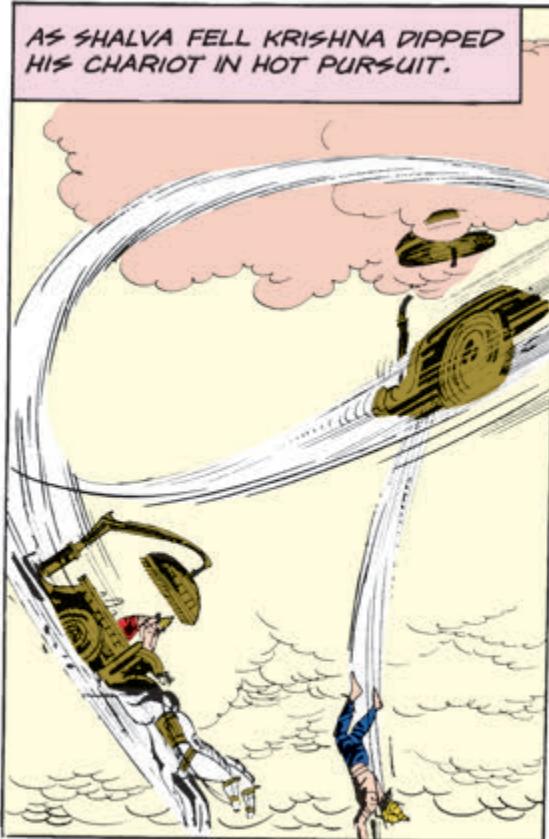
BUT THE NEXT MOMENT, KRISHNA SWUNG OUT WITH HIS MACE AND HIT SHALVA .

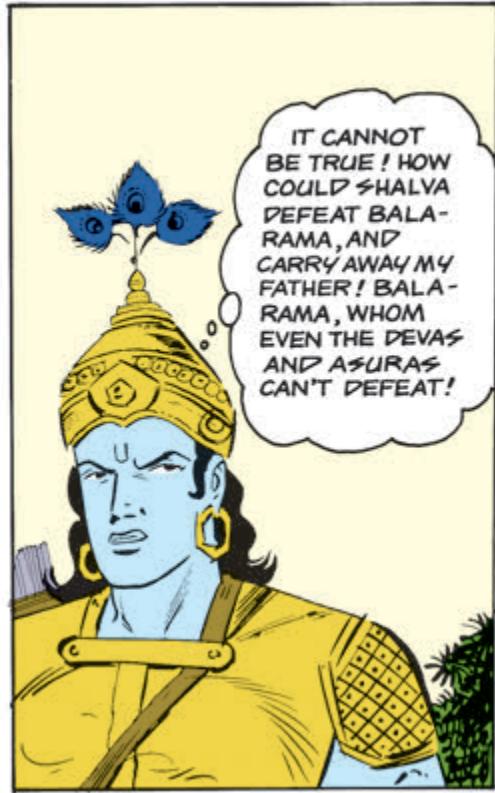
EE-A-A-AH!

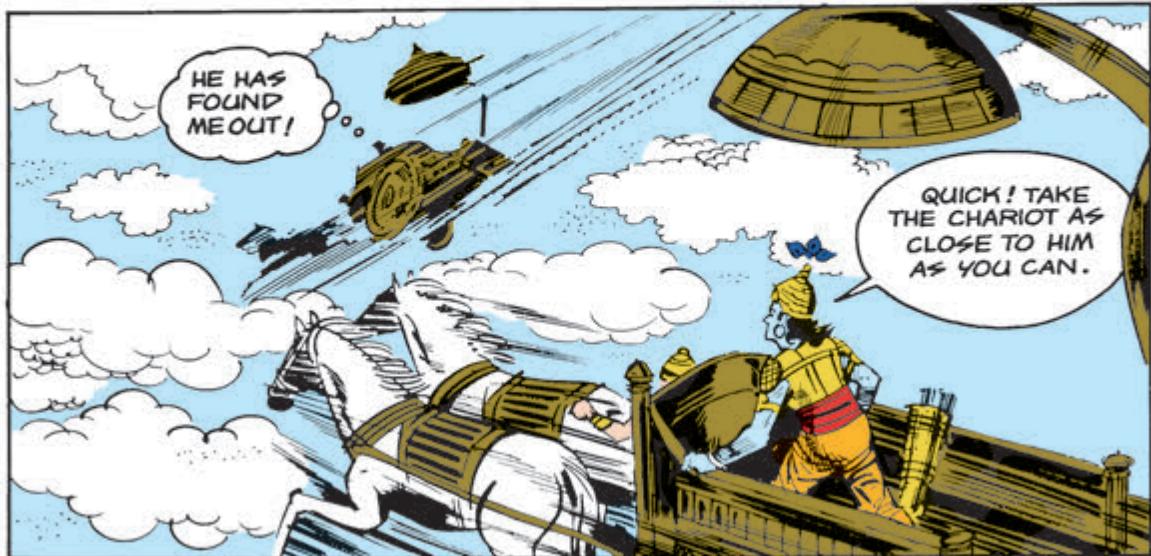
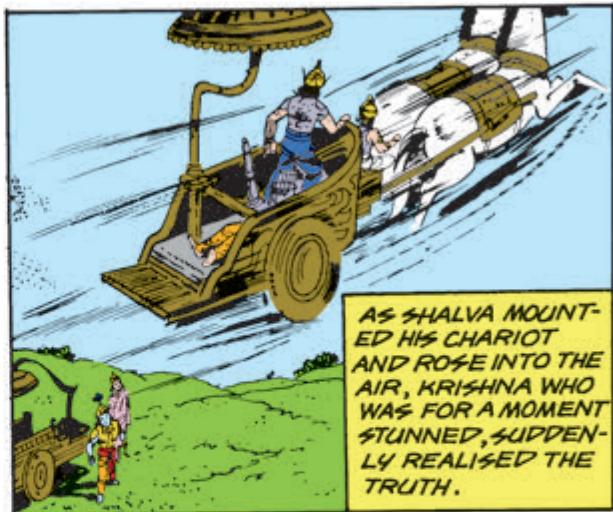


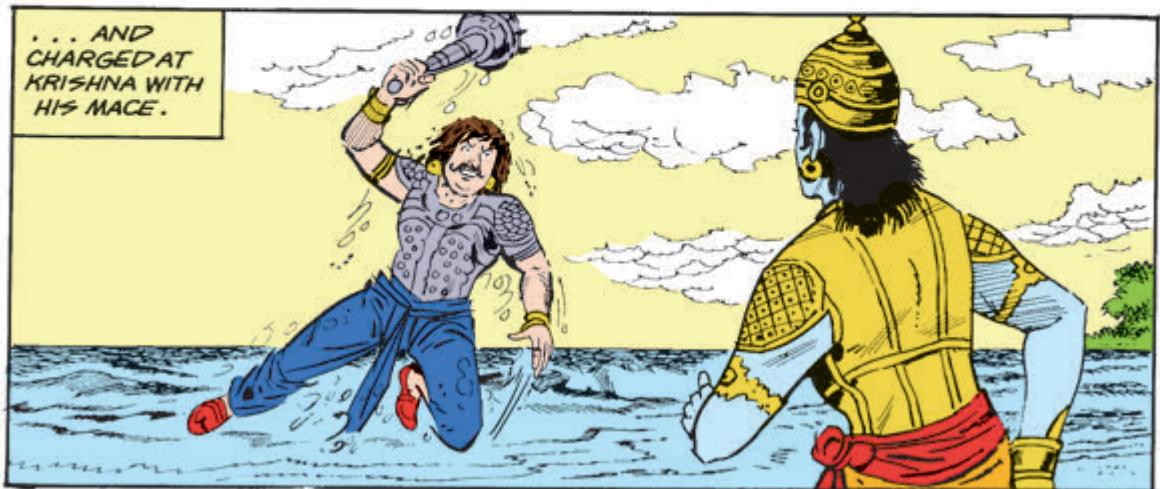
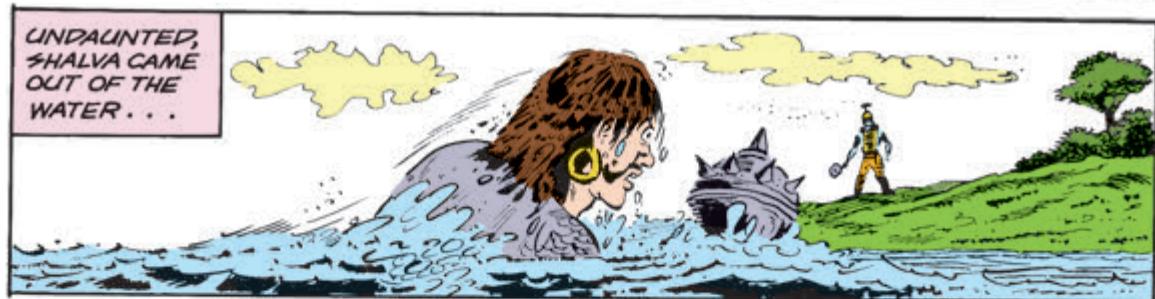
AS SHALVA FELL KRISHNA DIPPED HIS CHARIOT IN HOT PURSUIT.

BUT THE MOMENT SHALVA'S BODY TOUCHED THE EARTH, IT VANISHED.



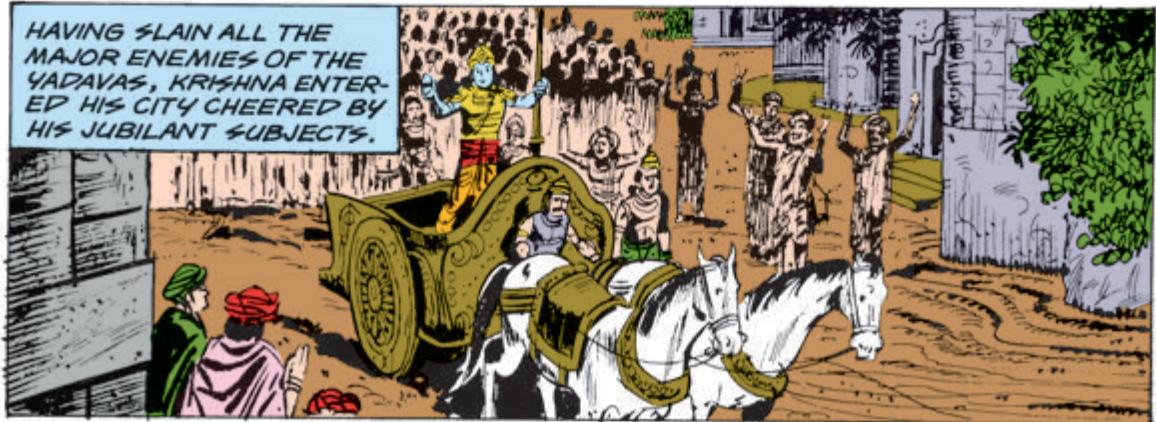






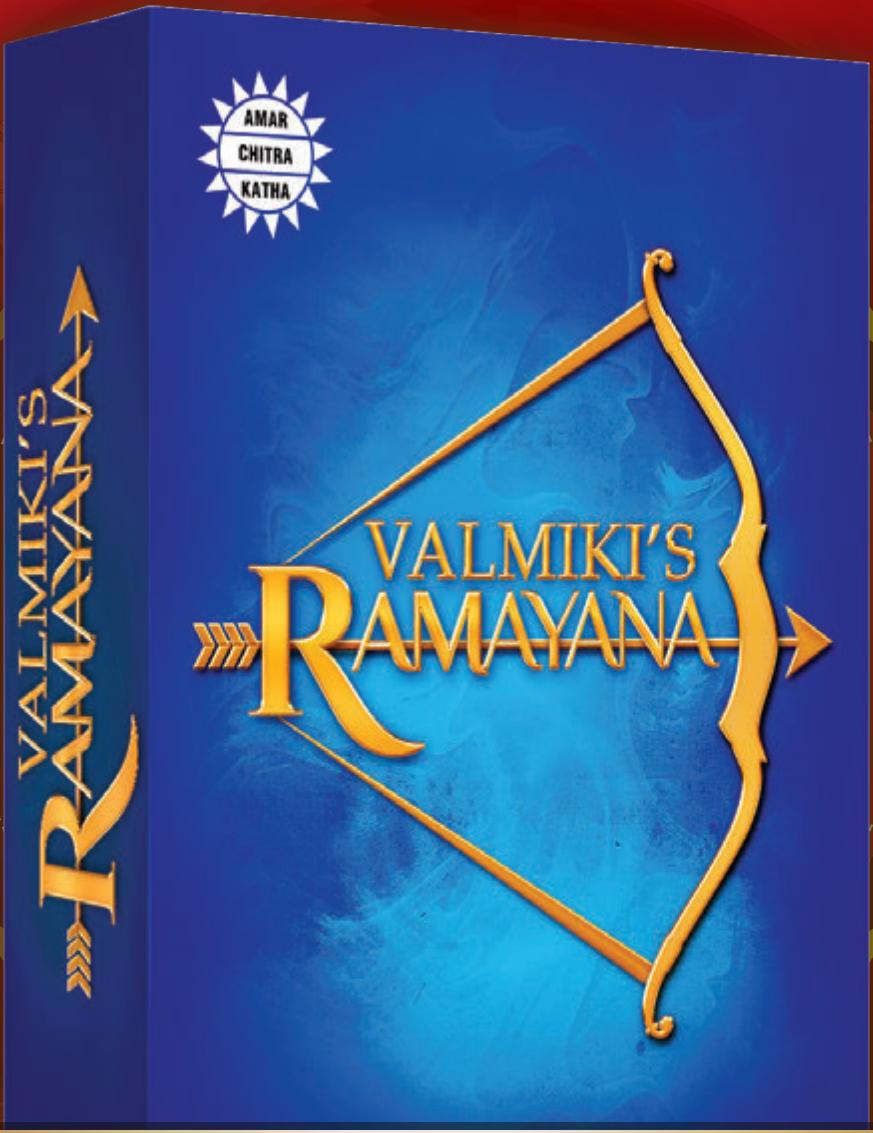


SHALVA FELL, HIS HEAD SEVERED FROM THE BODY.





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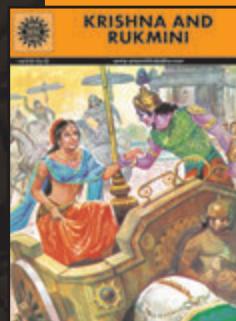
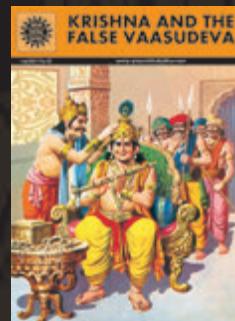
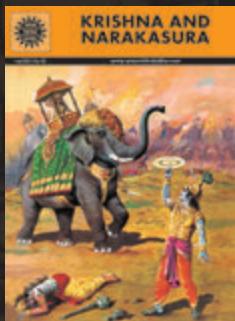
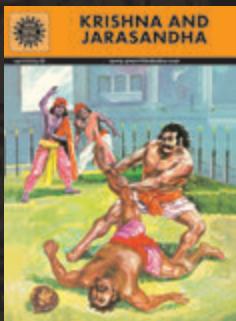


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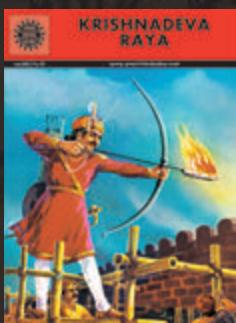
KRISHNA AND SHISHUPALA

Shishupala's mother was shocked when she came to know that her child was destined to be killed by Krishna. She extracted a promise from him that he would forgive Shishupala a hundred offences. As he grew up Shishupala had enough reasons to be angry with Krishna. Especially after he was jilted by Princess Rukmini, in favour of the merry-eyed cowherd. He provoked Krishna repeatedly and was forgiven a hundred times. And then one day Shishupala committed his hundred and first offence.

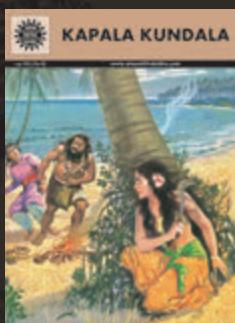
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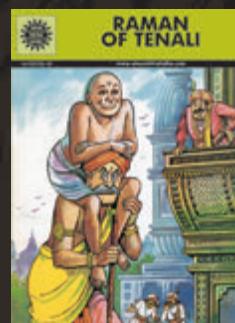
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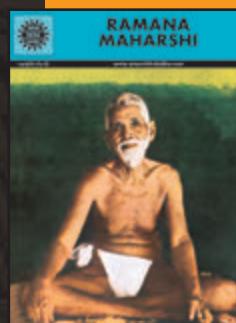
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