



# TALES OF YUDHISHTHIRA

JUSTICE FOR THE PANDAVA

Vol 703 |

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Script  
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Editor  
Anant Pai

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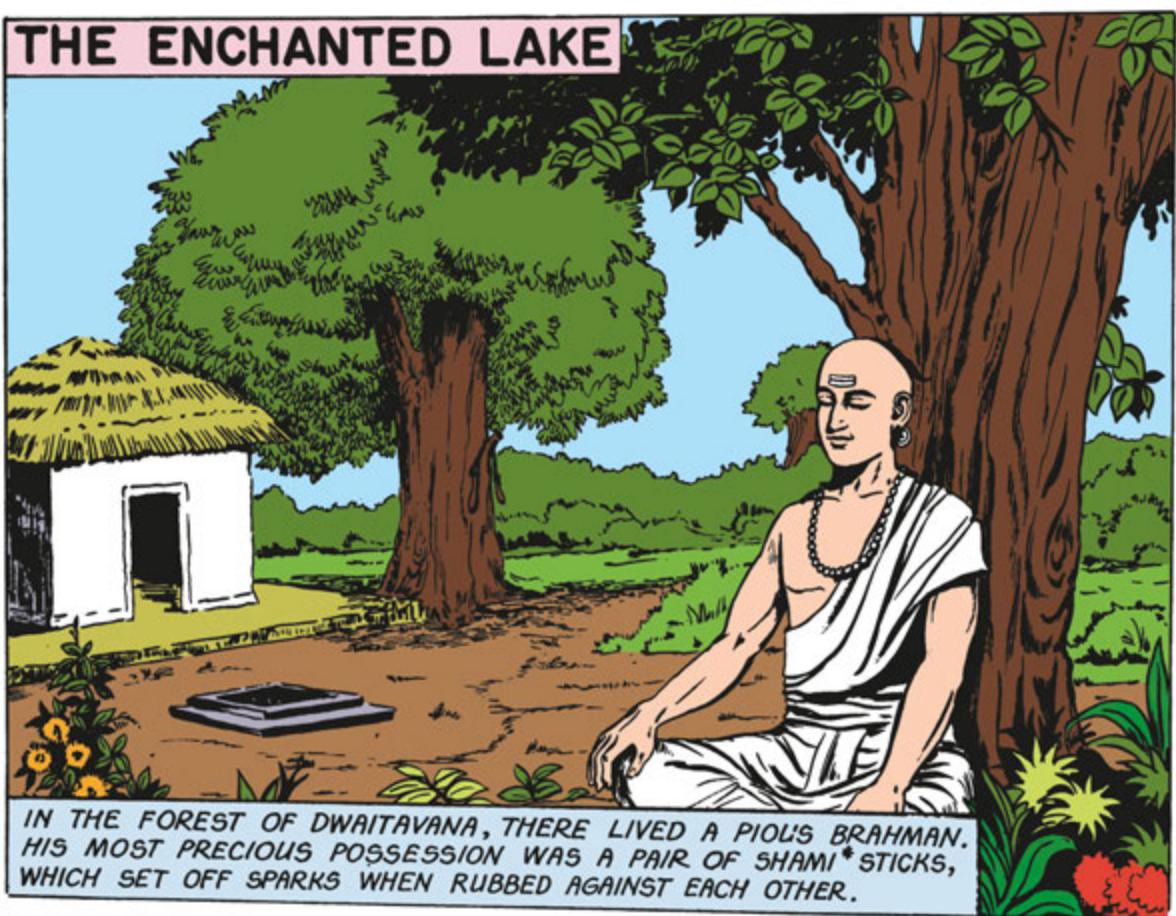
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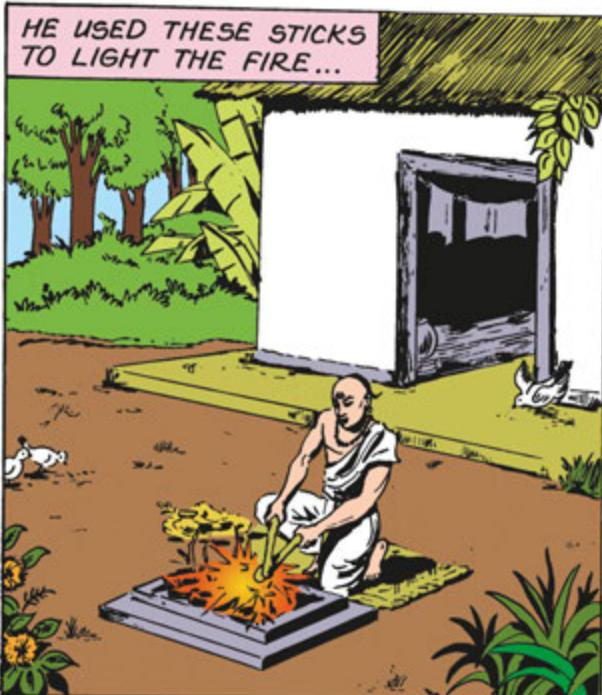
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# THE ENCHANTED LAKE

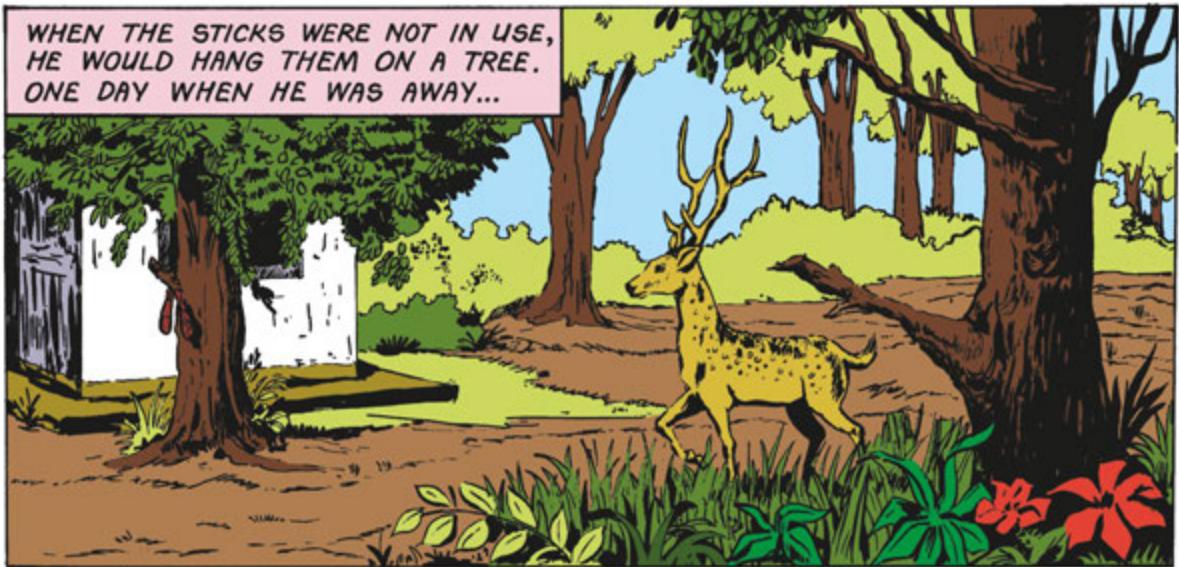


IN THE FOREST OF DWAITAVANA, THERE LIVED A PIOUS BRAHMAN. HIS MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION WAS A PAIR OF SHAMI\* STICKS, WHICH SET OFF SPARKS WHEN RUBBED AGAINST EACH OTHER.



\*'SHAMI' WOOD WAS USED FOR KINDLING THE YAGNA OR SACRIFICIAL FIRE

WHEN THE STICKS WERE NOT IN USE,  
HE WOULD HANG THEM ON A TREE.  
ONE DAY WHEN HE WAS AWAY...



...A DEER CAME UP TO THE TREE AND  
PLAYFULLY BUTTED THE STICKS...



...AND THEY GOT ENTANGLED IN  
ITS ANTLES.

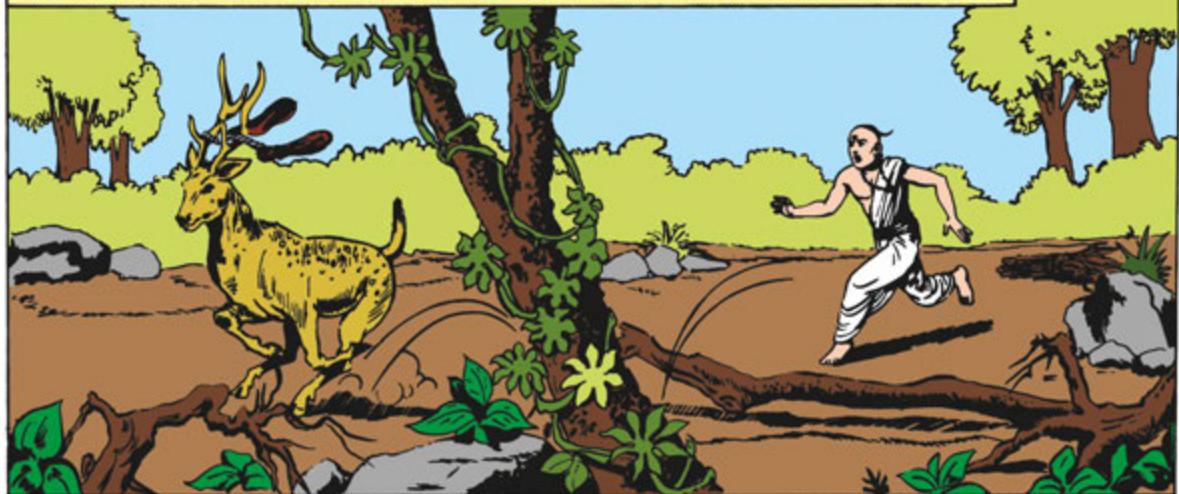


LATER, WHEN THE BRAHMAN  
RETURNED TO HIS COTTAGE—

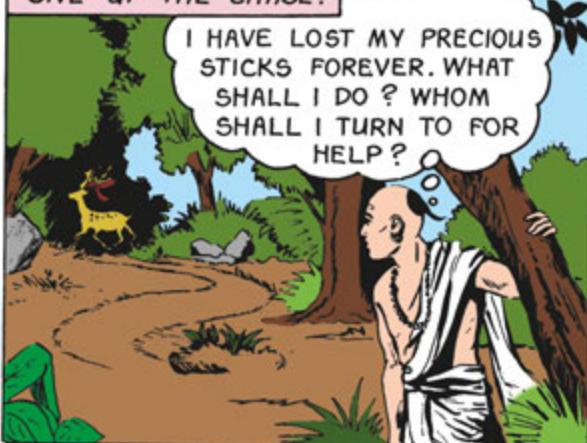
MY  
STICKS!



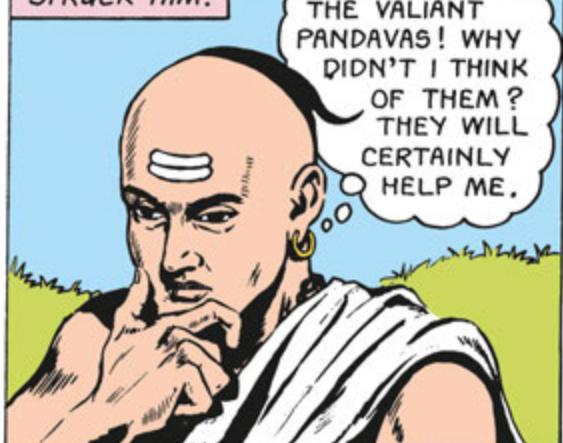
HE DROPPED THE BUNDLE OF DRY TWIGS AND RAN AFTER THE DEER.



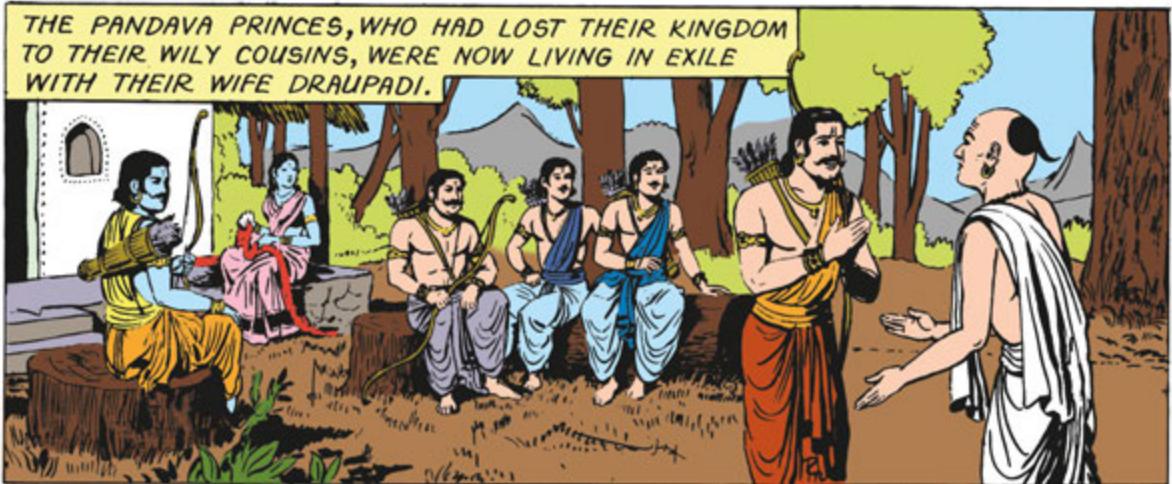
BUT THE BRAHMAN, WHO WAS NO MATCH FOR THE SWIFT ANIMAL, SOON HAD TO GIVE UP THE CHASE.



AS HE TURNED TO GO BACK TO HIS HERMITAGE, A THOUGHT SUDDENLY STRUCK HIM.



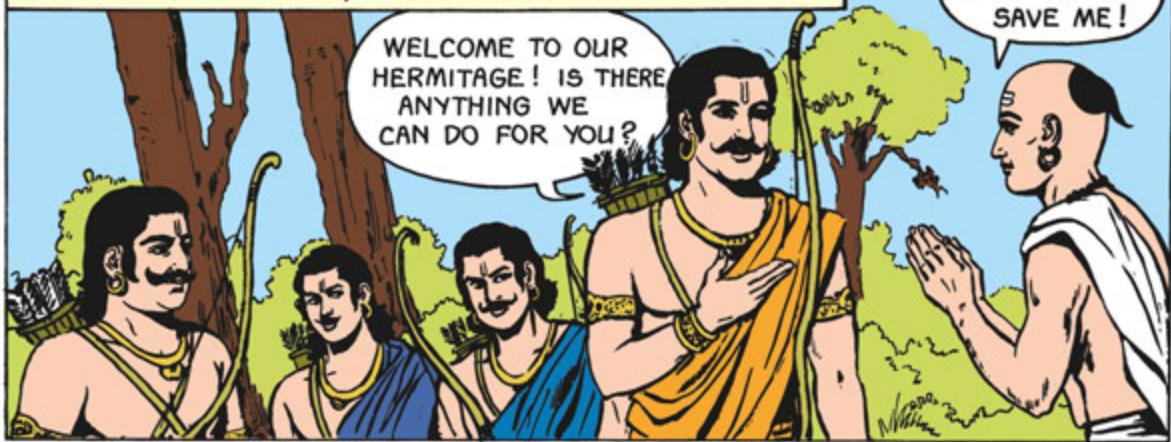
THE PANDAVA PRINCES, WHO HAD LOST THEIR KINGDOM TO THEIR WILY COUSINS, WERE NOW LIVING IN EXILE WITH THEIR WIFE DRAUPADI.



WHEN THE BRAHMAN STOOD BEFORE THEM, YUDHISHTHIRA, THE ELDEST PANDAVA, WAS THE FIRST TO SPEAK.

O KING,  
ONLY YOU CAN  
SAVE ME!

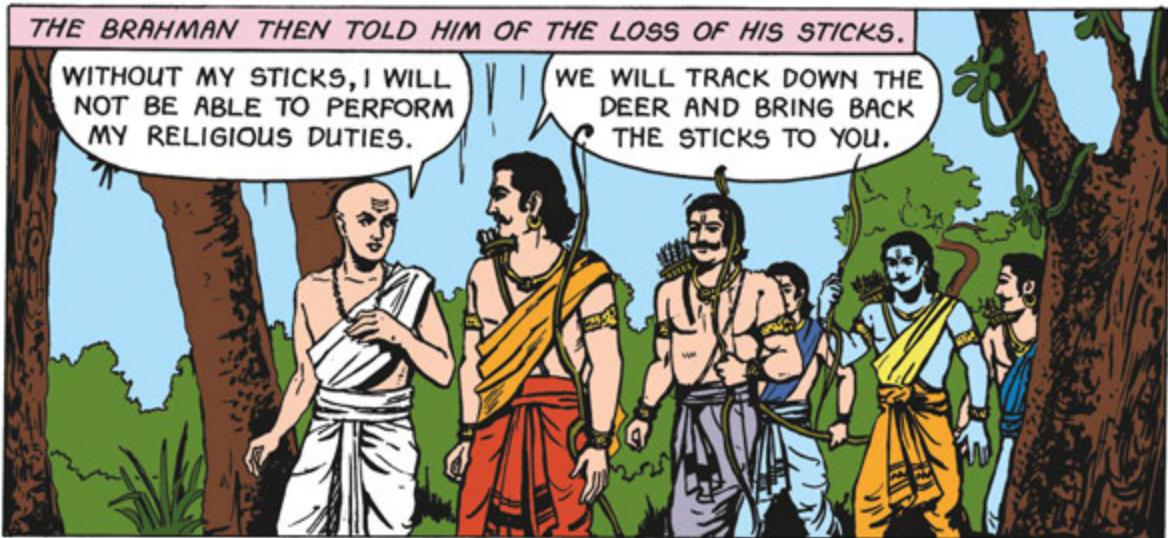
WELCOME TO OUR  
HERMITAGE! IS THERE  
ANYTHING WE  
CAN DO FOR YOU?



THE BRAHMAN THEN TOLD HIM OF THE LOSS OF HIS STICKS.

WITHOUT MY STICKS, I WILL  
NOT BE ABLE TO PERFORM  
MY RELIGIOUS DUTIES.

WE WILL TRACK DOWN THE  
DEER AND BRING BACK  
THE STICKS TO YOU.

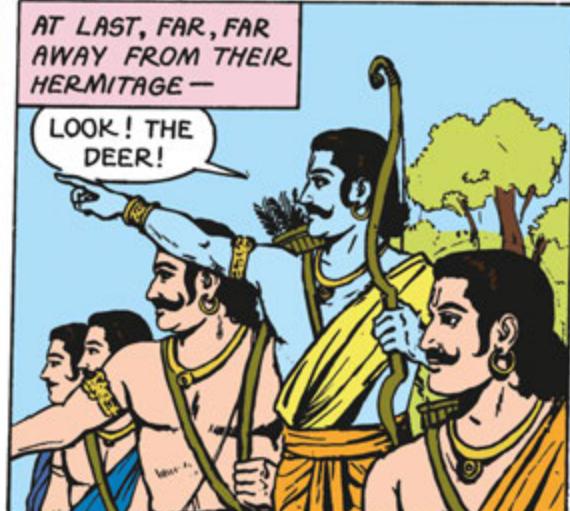


THE PANDAVAS SET OUT. FOR A WHILE  
THEY HAD NO LUCK. THEN SUDDENLY—

DEER TRACKS!  
LET US FOLLOW  
THEM.

AT LAST, FAR, FAR  
AWAY FROM THEIR  
HERMITAGE—

LOOK! THE  
DEER!



THE PANDAVAS CHASED THE DEER AND SHOT AT IT, BUT IN VAIN.



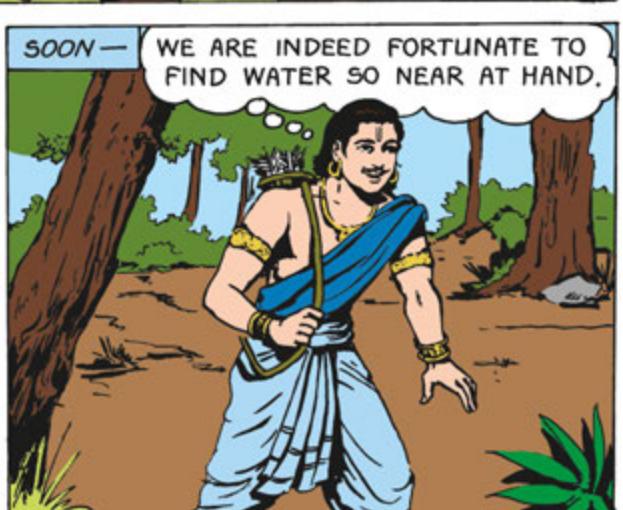
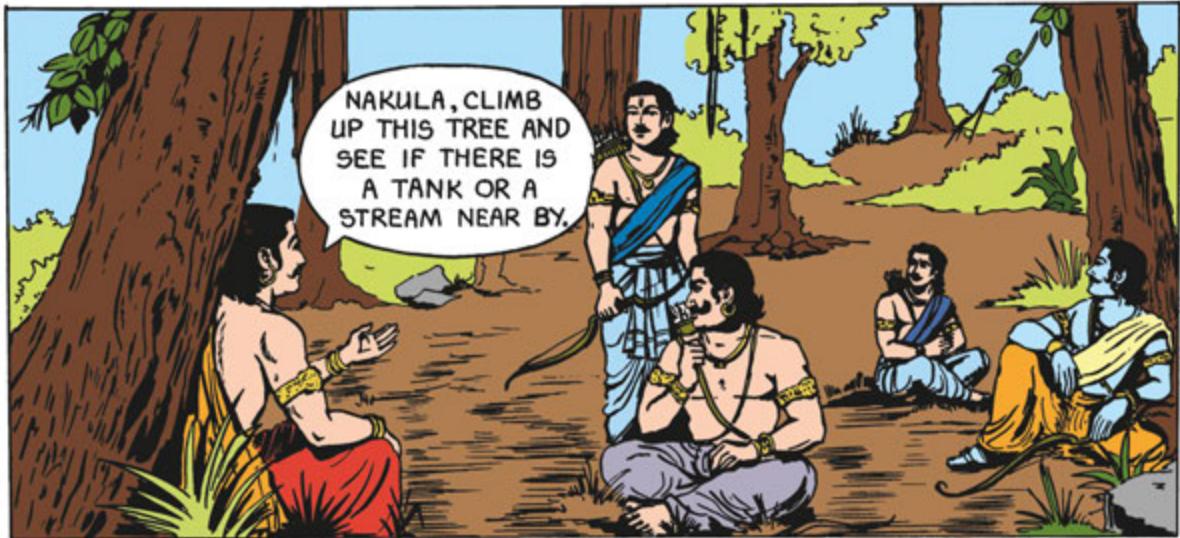
FOR, SUDDENLY—

IT HAS VANISHED !

WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

WE MUST FIND IT AGAIN. LET US CONTINUE THE HUNT.





HE RUSHED TO THE LAKE.

WAIT! THIS LAKE BELONGS TO ME. YOU MAY DRINK FROM IT ONLY AFTER YOU ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

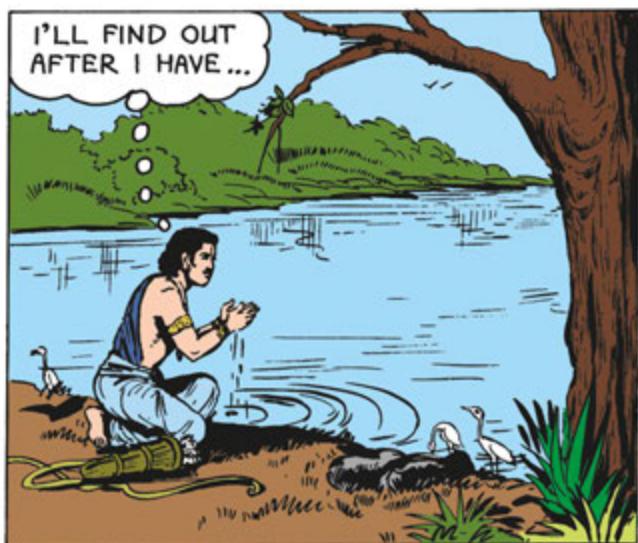


NAKULA LOOKED AROUND. THERE WAS NO ONE IN SIGHT.

WHO COULD IT BE?



I'LL FIND OUT AFTER I HAVE...



...QUENCHED MY THIRST.

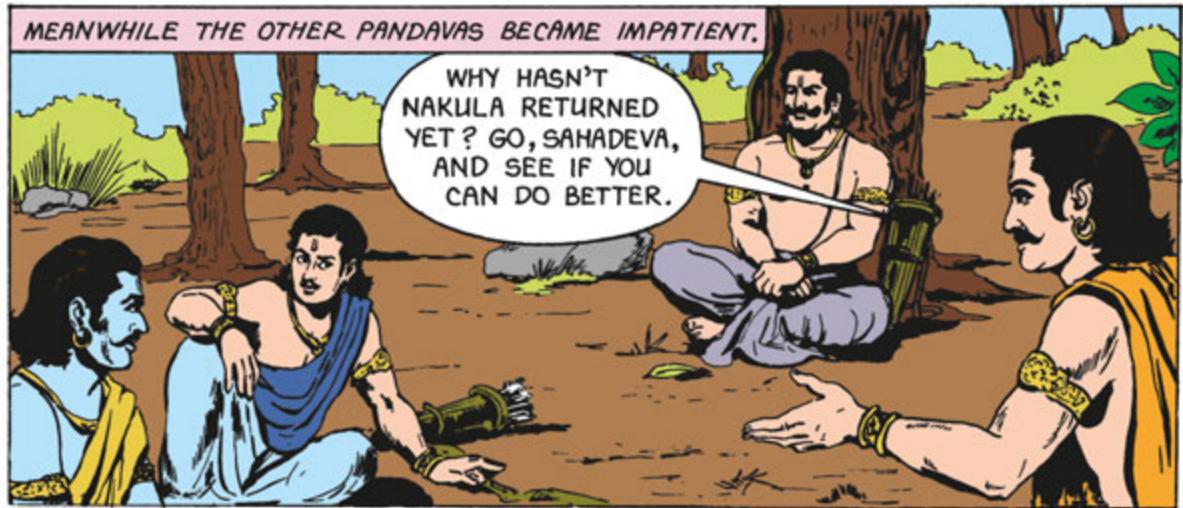


THE NEXT MOMENT HE FELL DEAD.



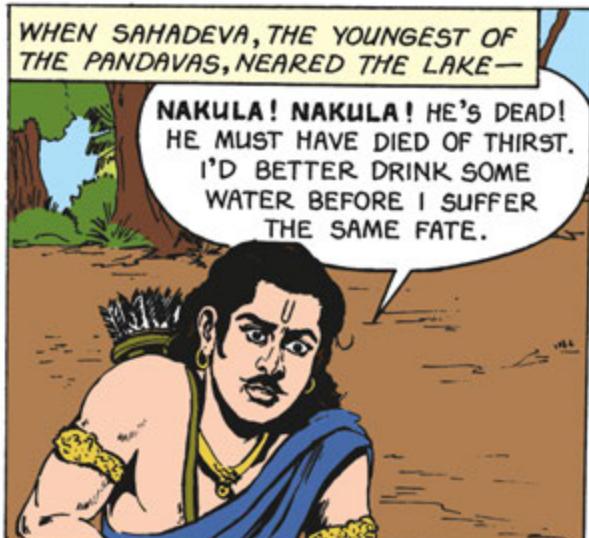
MEANWHILE THE OTHER PANDAVAS BECAME IMPATIENT.

WHY HASN'T  
NAKULA RETURNED  
YET? GO, SAHADEVA,  
AND SEE IF YOU  
CAN DO BETTER.

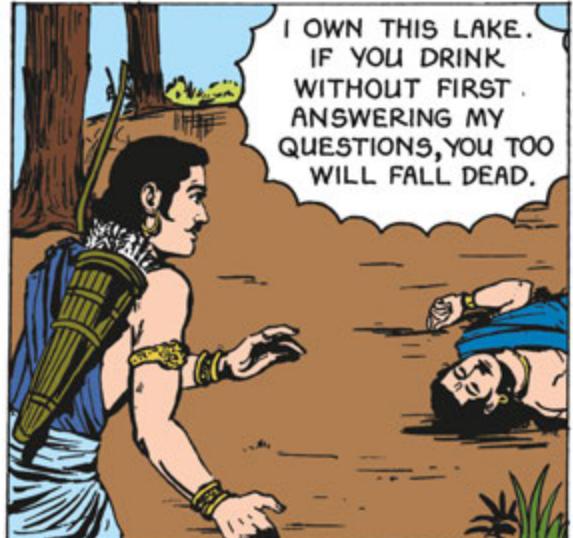


WHEN SAHADEVA, THE YOUNGEST OF  
THE PANDAVAS, NEARED THE LAKE—

NAKULA! NAKULA! HE'S DEAD!  
HE MUST HAVE DIED OF THIRST.  
I'D BETTER DRINK SOME  
WATER BEFORE I SUFFER  
THE SAME FATE.



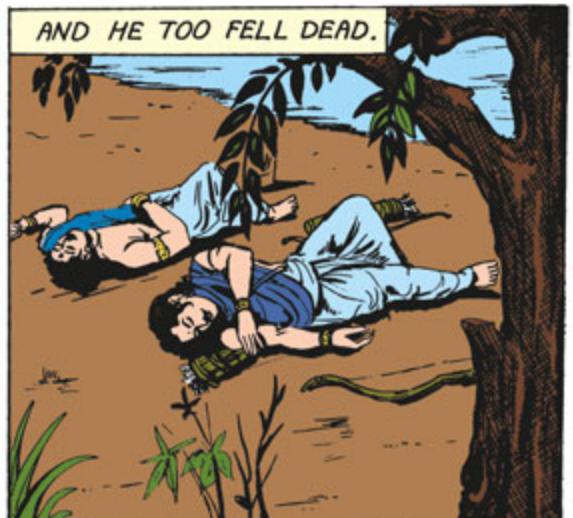
I OWN THIS LAKE.  
IF YOU DRINK  
WITHOUT FIRST  
ANSWERING MY  
QUESTIONS, YOU TOO  
WILL FALL DEAD.



BUT SAHADEVA HARDLY HEARD HIM.



AND HE TOO FELL DEAD.



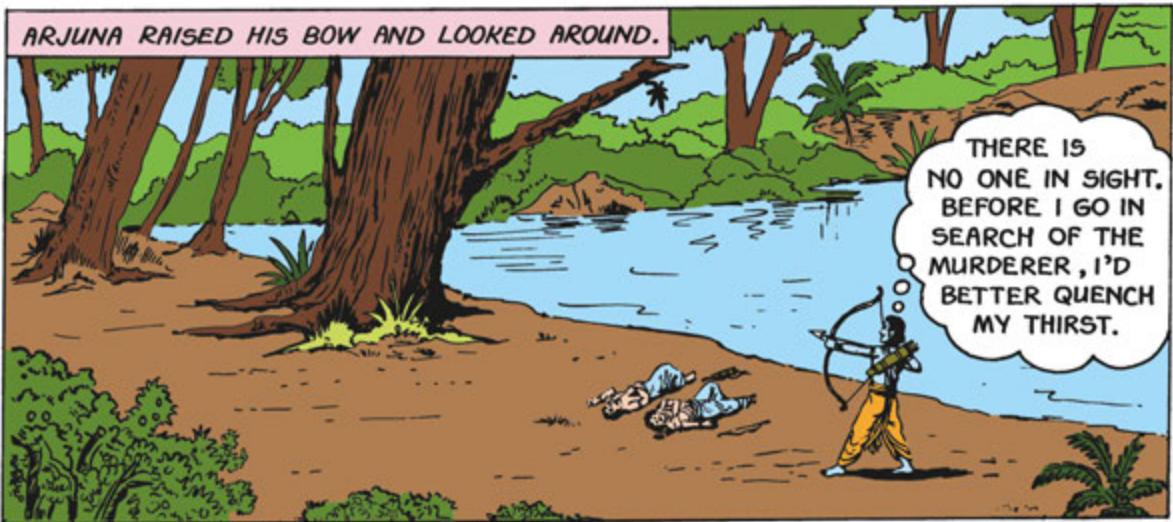
THEN CAME ARJUNA, THE THIRD OF THE PANDAVAS. HE CAME IN SEARCH OF HIS BROTHERS.

NAKULA ! SAHADEVA !  
HOW...WHO HAS DONE  
THIS VILE DEED ? WHOEVER  
IT IS, HE HAS INVITED  
HIS OWN DEATH.



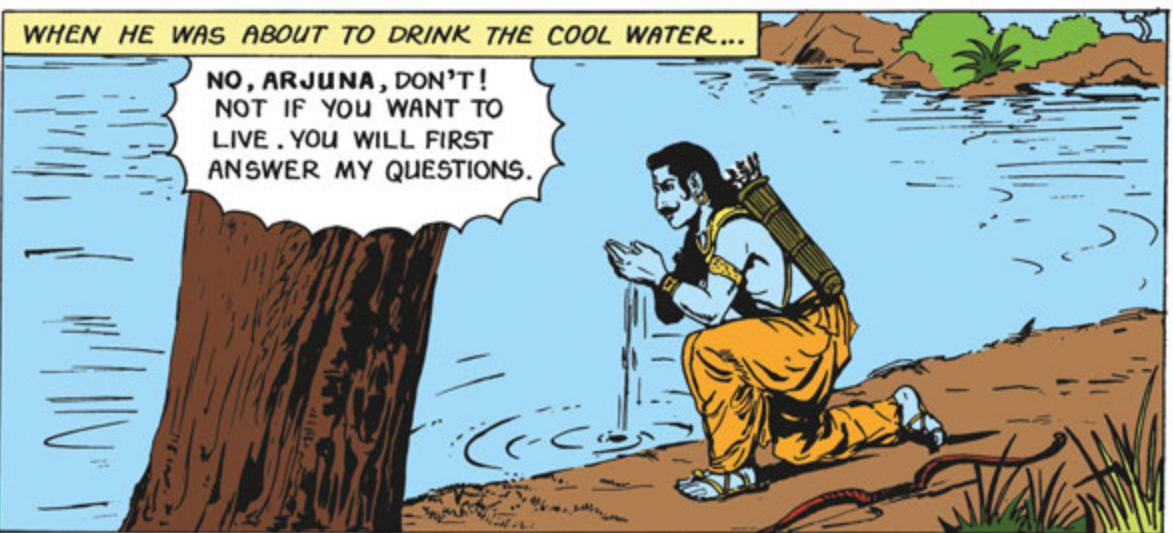
ARJUNA RAISED HIS BOW AND LOOKED AROUND.

THERE IS  
NO ONE IN SIGHT.  
BEFORE I GO IN  
SEARCH OF THE  
MURDERER , I'D  
BETTER QUENCH  
MY THIRST.



WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO DRINK THE COOL WATER...

NO, ARJUNA, DON'T!  
NOT IF YOU WANT TO  
LIVE. YOU WILL FIRST  
ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.



ARJUNA WAS ENRAGED.

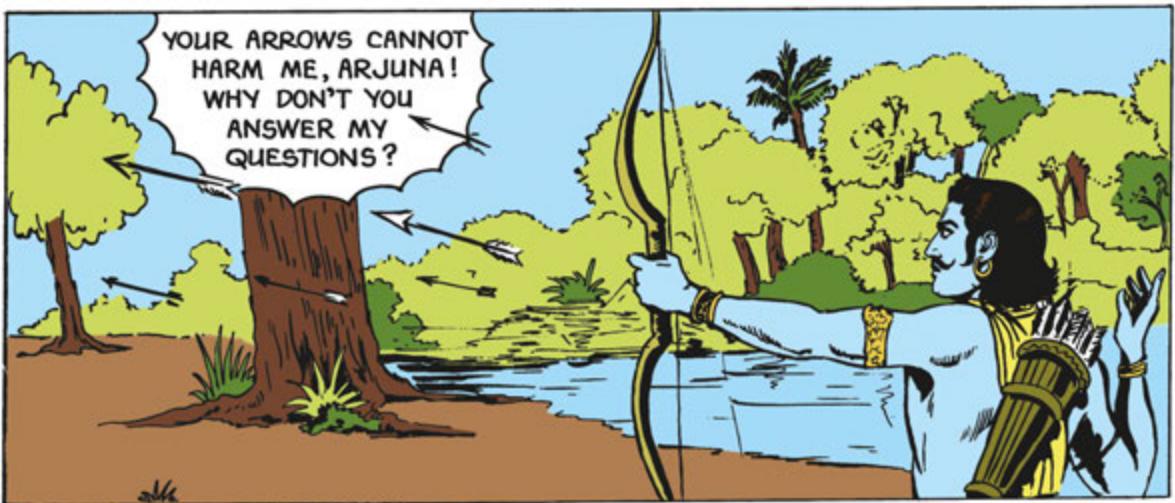
WILL I ? O COWARD,  
APPEAR BEFORE ME,  
IF YOU DARE , AND  
THEN LAY YOUR  
CONDITIONS.



WHEN HIS TAUNT DID NOT SEEM TO HAVE ANY EFFECT, ARJUNA RAISED HIS BOW AND SHOT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE VOICE.



YOUR ARROWS CANNOT HARM ME, ARJUNA!  
WHY DON'T YOU ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?



I WILL ! WITH MORE EFFECTIVE WEAPONS. BUT NOT BEFORE I DRINK SOME WATER FROM THIS LAKE.



ARJUNA TOO DISREGARDED THE WARNING...



...AND PAID THE PENALTY.



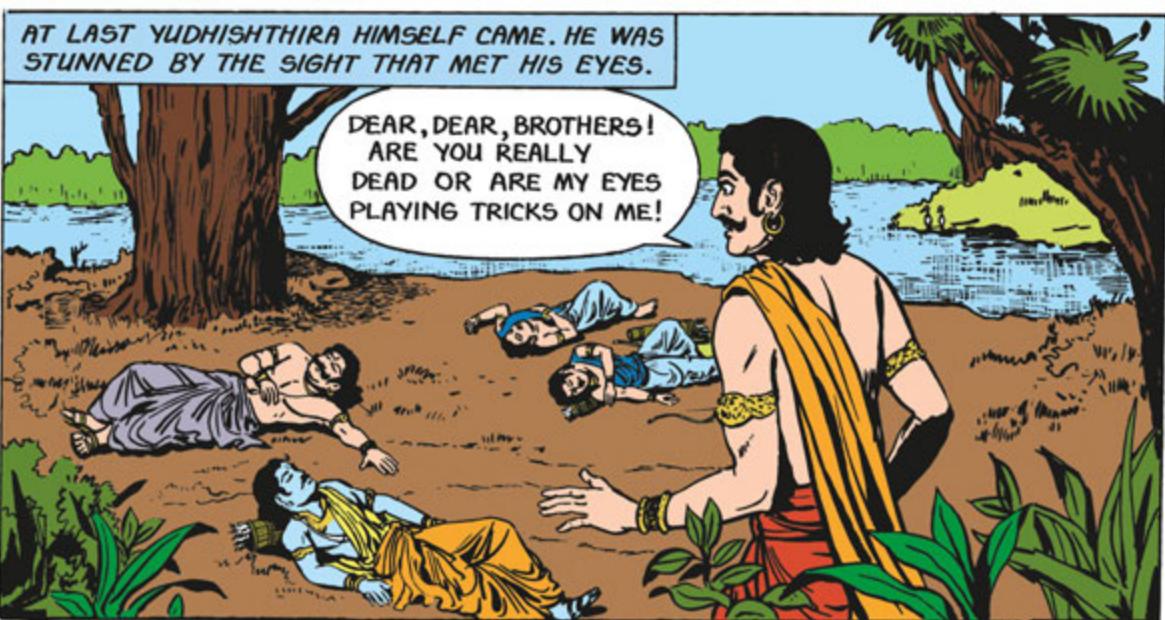
THEN CAME BHIMA, THE SECOND PANDAVA. WHEN HE SAW HIS BROTHERS LYING DEAD NEAR THE LAKE —

THIS MUST BE THE ACT OF A YAKSHA \* OR A RAKSHASA. A BATTLE AWAITS ME. LET ME QUENCH MY THIRST AND PREPARE MYSELF FOR IT.

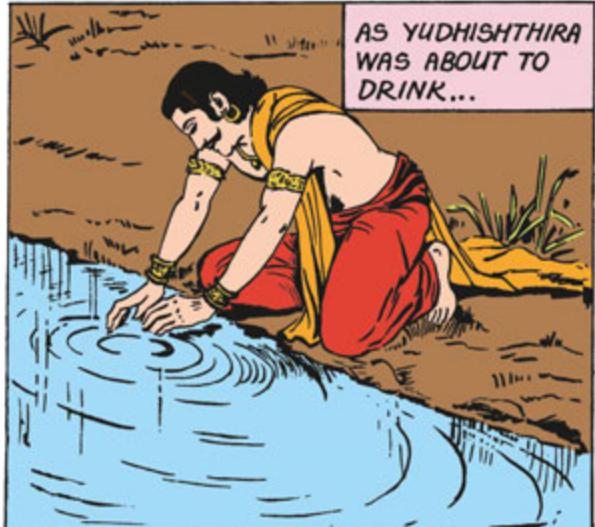
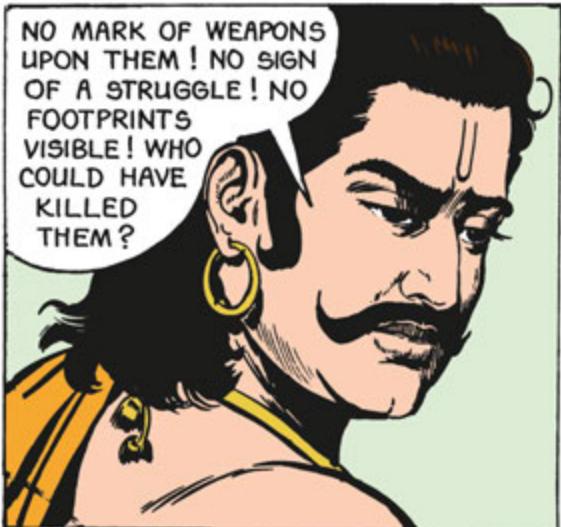
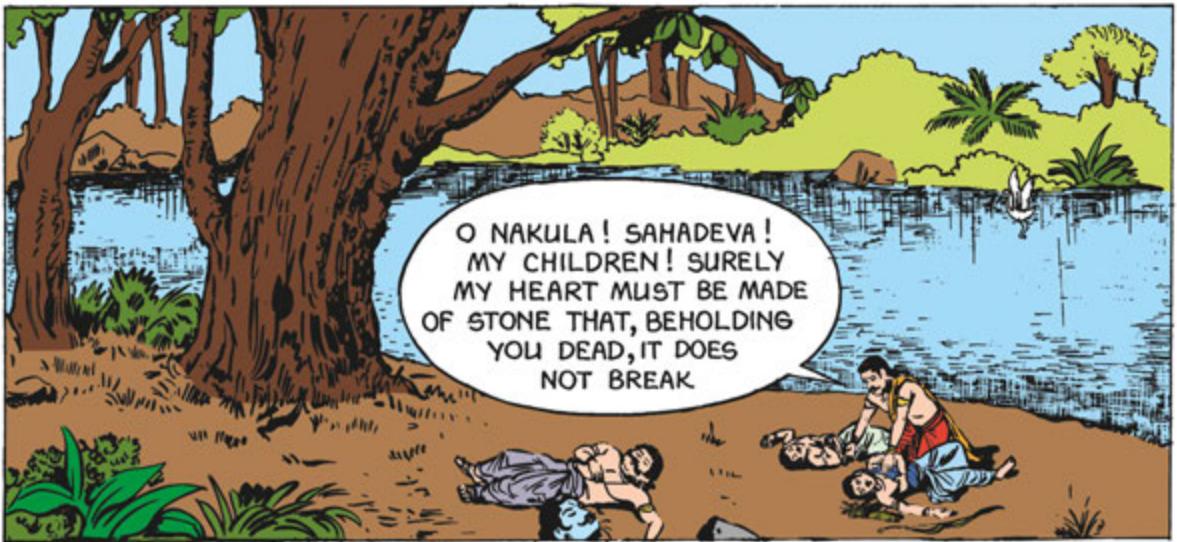
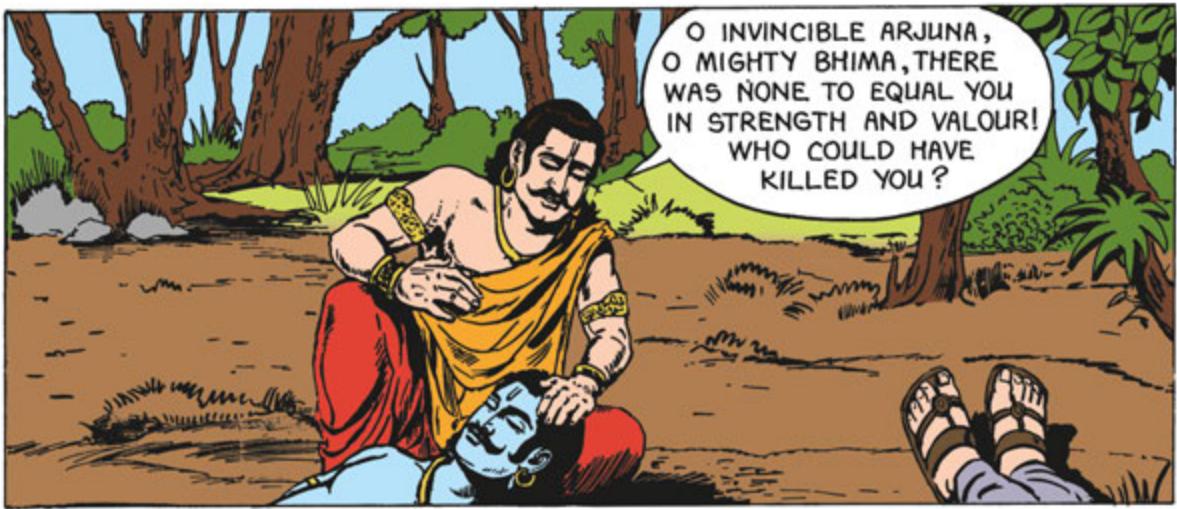
BHIMA TOO DRANK THE WATER DISREGARDING THE WARNING OF THE INVISIBLE ONE; AND FELL DEAD.

AT LAST YUDHISHTHIRA HIMSELF CAME. HE WAS STUNNED BY THE SIGHT THAT MET HIS EYES.

DEAR, DEAR, BROTHERS! ARE YOU REALLY DEAD OR ARE MY EYES PLAYING TRICKS ON ME!



\* DEMI-GOD    + DEMON



...A VOICE STOPPED HIM.



I AM THE CRANE WHO  
OWNS THIS LAKE. IF YOU  
DRINK WITHOUT FIRST  
ANSWERING MY QUESTIONS  
YOU, TOO, WILL DIE  
LIKE YOUR RASH  
BROTHERS.



YOU, WHO HAVE KILLED  
THOSE WHO COULD NOT  
BE OVERCOME EITHER BY  
THE DEVAS OR THE ASURAS,  
CANNOT BE AN ORDINARY  
BIRD. TELL ME WHO  
YOU REALLY ARE.

THE NEXT MOMENT—



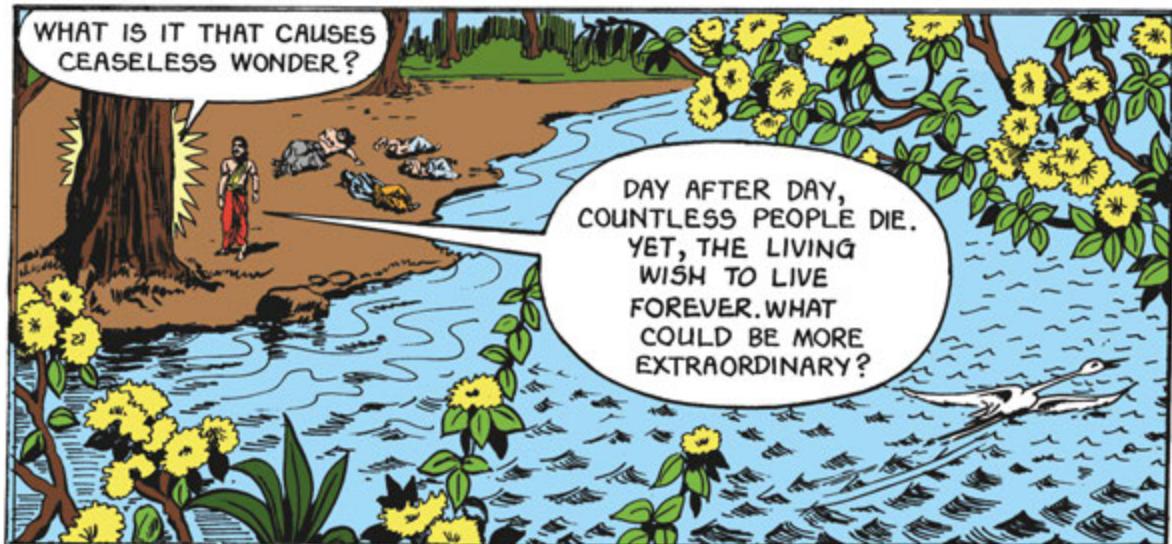
I AM A YAKSHA.  
IF YOU ANSWER MY  
QUESTIONS, YOU MAY  
DRINK AT MY LAKE.

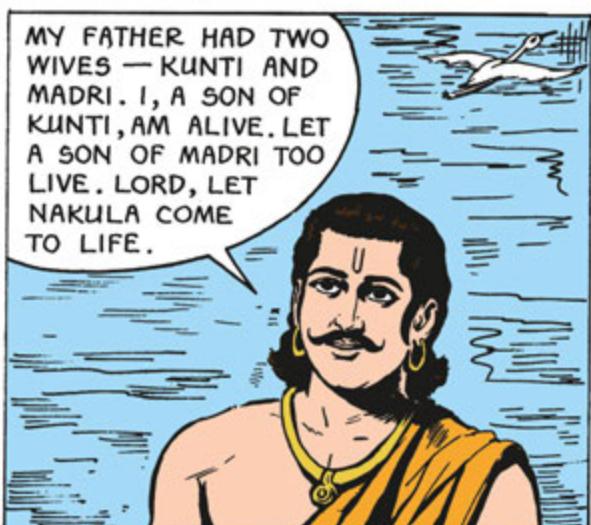
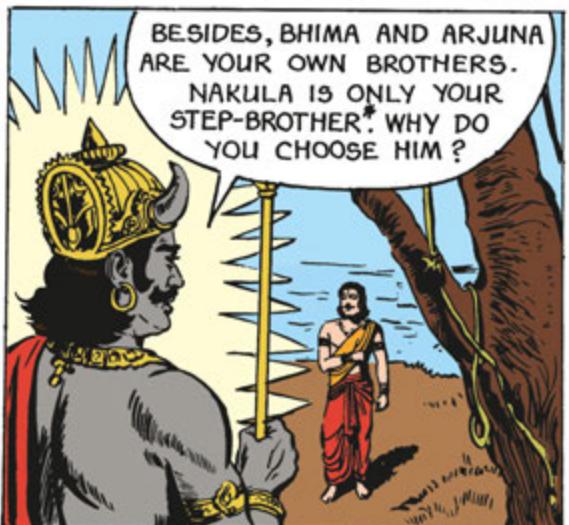
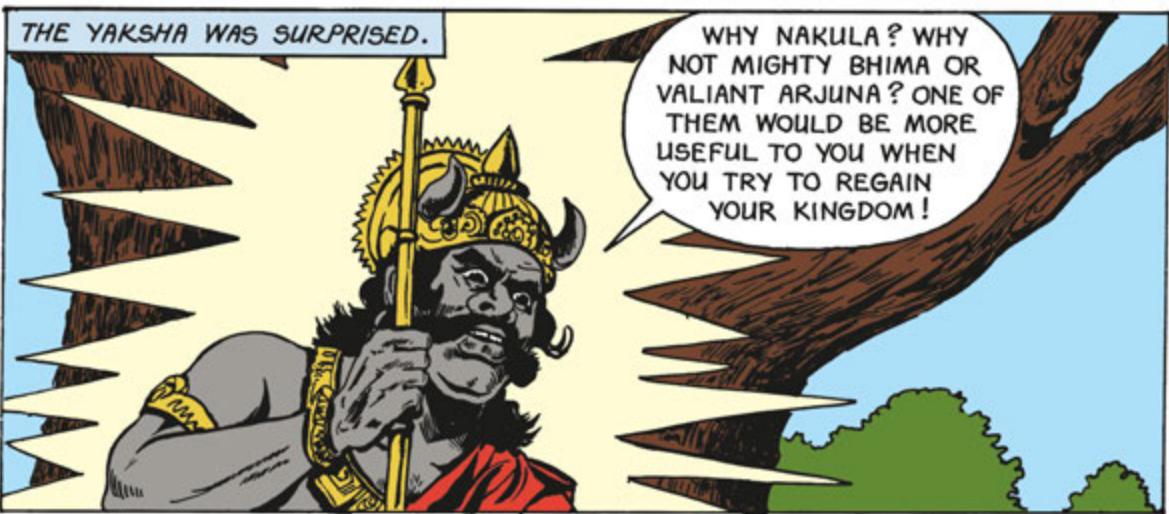


O YAKSHA, ASK  
YOUR QUESTIONS.  
I SHALL TRY TO  
ANSWER THEM.

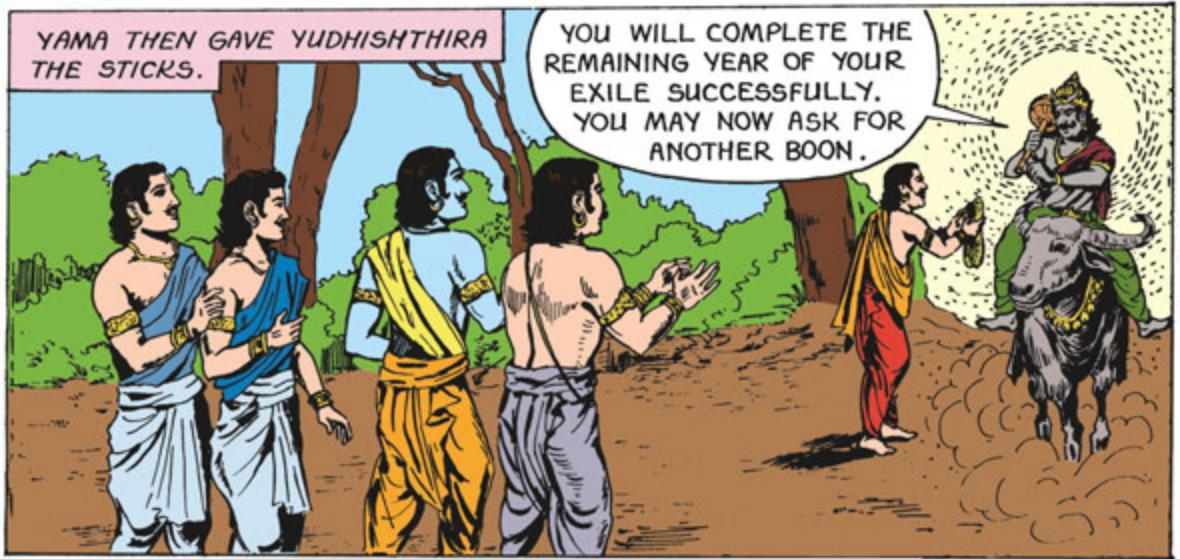
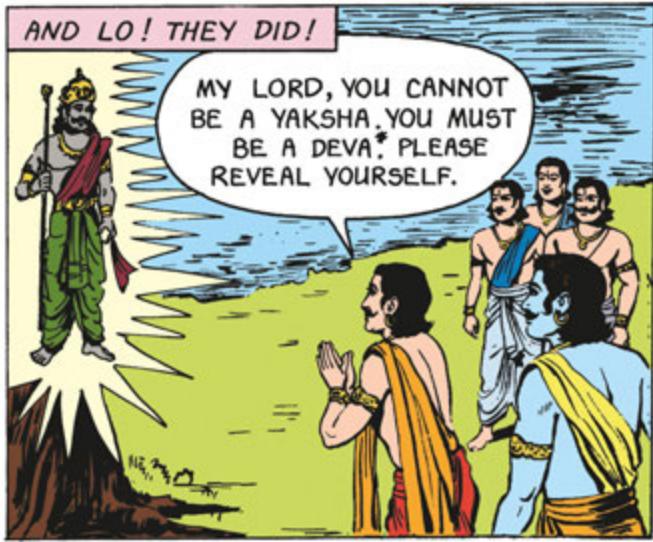
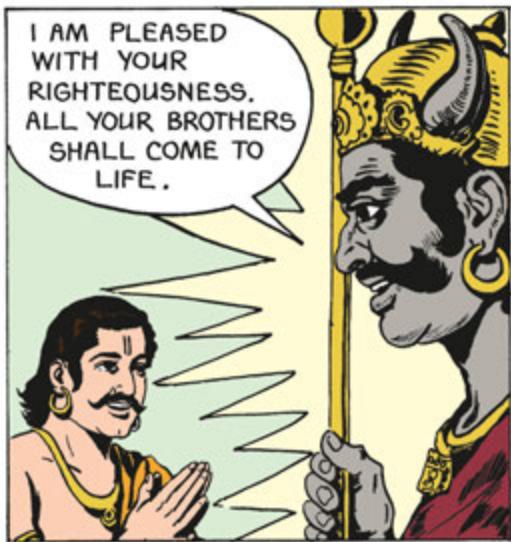


IT IS BEHAVIOUR THAT MAKES ONE A BRAHMAN.

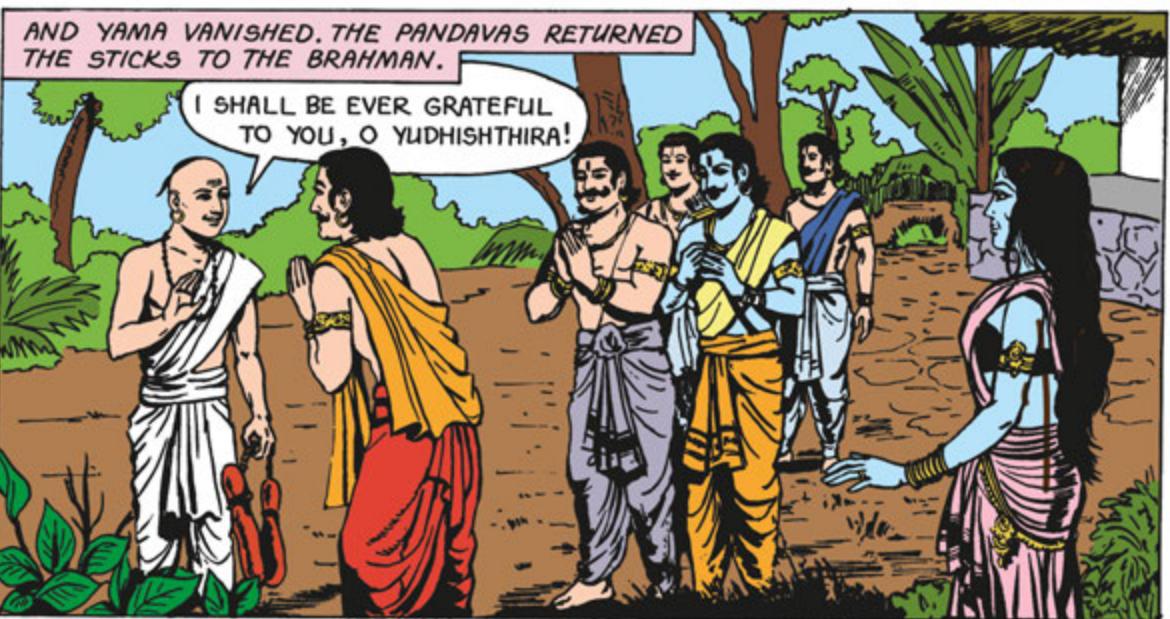
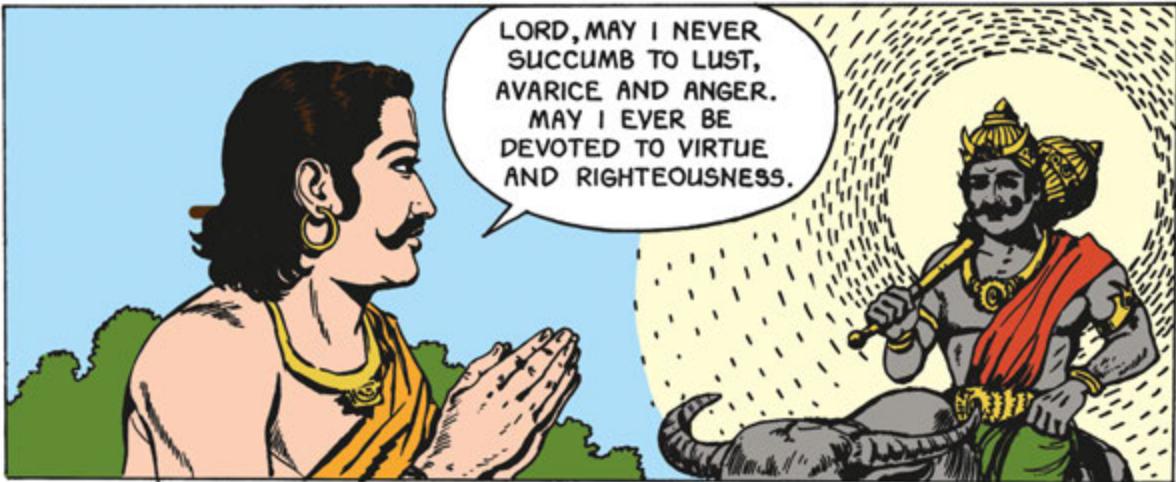




\* SEE ACK NO. 13 — THE PANDAVA PRINCES.



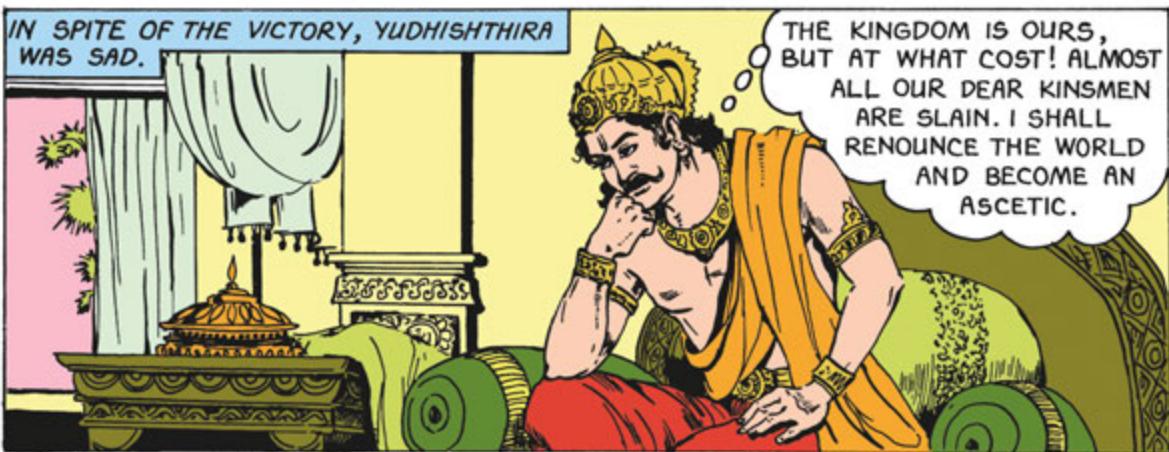
\*DEITY   \*\*ALSO KNOWN AS DHARMA   °SEE A.C.K. NO. 26—KARNA



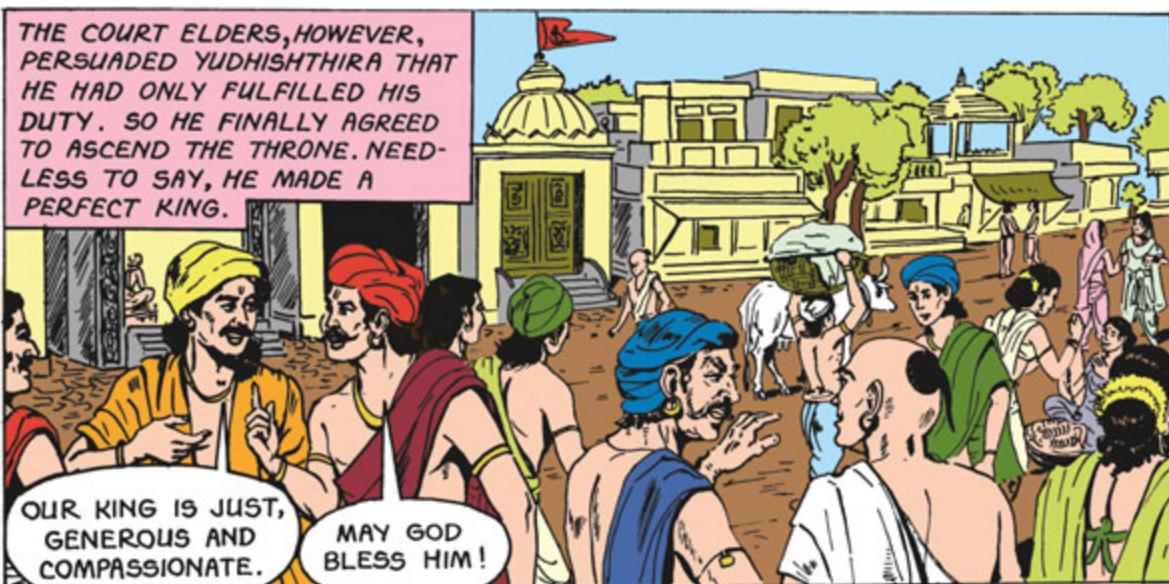
## THE LAST COMPANION



WHEN THE THIRTEEN YEARS OF EXILE WERE OVER, YUDHISHTHIRA TRIED FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH THE KAURAVAS. BUT DURYODHANA REPLIED WITH A CRY FOR WAR. MANY WERE THE BRAVE WARRIORSTHAT WERE SLAIN ON EITHER SIDE, BEFORE THE PANDAVAS FINALLY WON THE WAR.



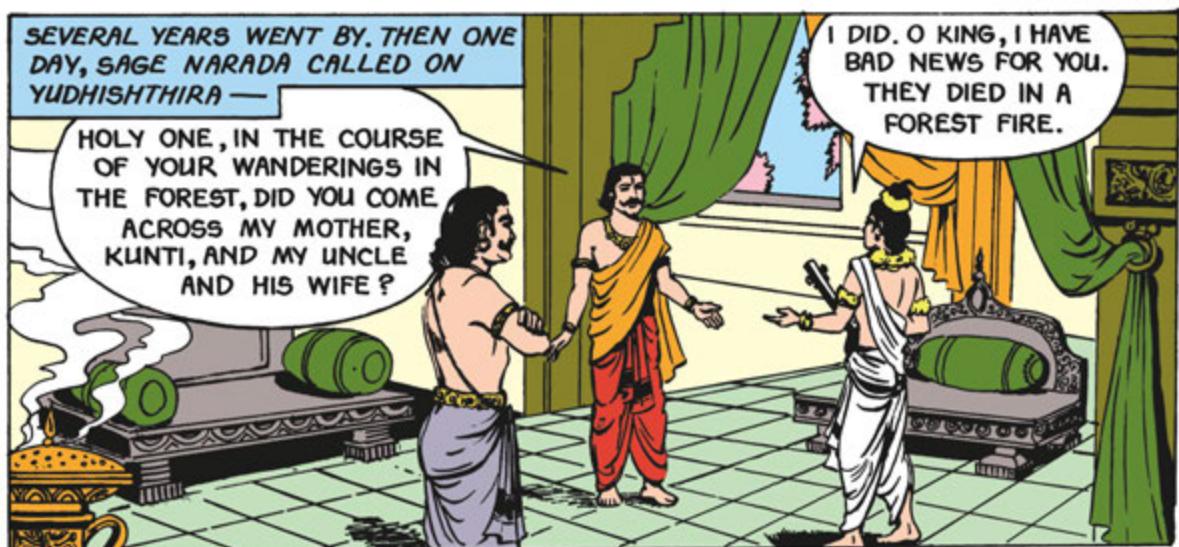
THE COURT ELDERS, HOWEVER, PERSUDED YUDHISHTHIRA THAT HE HAD ONLY FULFILLED HIS DUTY. SO HE FINALLY AGREED TO ASCEND THE THRONE. NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE MADE A PERFECT KING.



SEVERAL YEARS WENT BY. THEN ONE DAY, SAGE NARADA CALLED ON YUDHISHTHIRA —

I DID, O KING, I HAVE BAD NEWS FOR YOU. THEY DIED IN A FOREST FIRE.

HOLY ONE, IN THE COURSE OF YOUR WANDERINGS IN THE FOREST, DID YOU COME ACROSS MY MOTHER, KUNTI, AND MY UNCLE AND HIS WIFE?

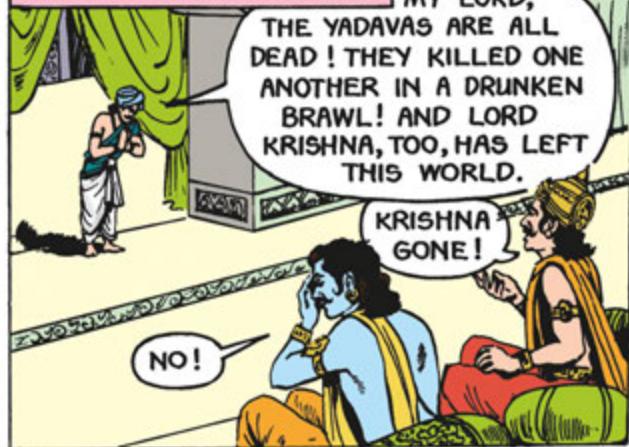


YUDHISHTHIRA HAD HARDLY RECOVERED FROM HIS GRIEF WHEN A MESSENGER ARRIVED FROM DWARAKA.

MY LORD,

THE YADAVAS ARE ALL DEAD! THEY KILLED ONE ANOTHER IN A DRUNKEN BRAWL! AND LORD KRISHNA, TOO, HAS LEFT THIS WORLD.

KRISHNA GONE!

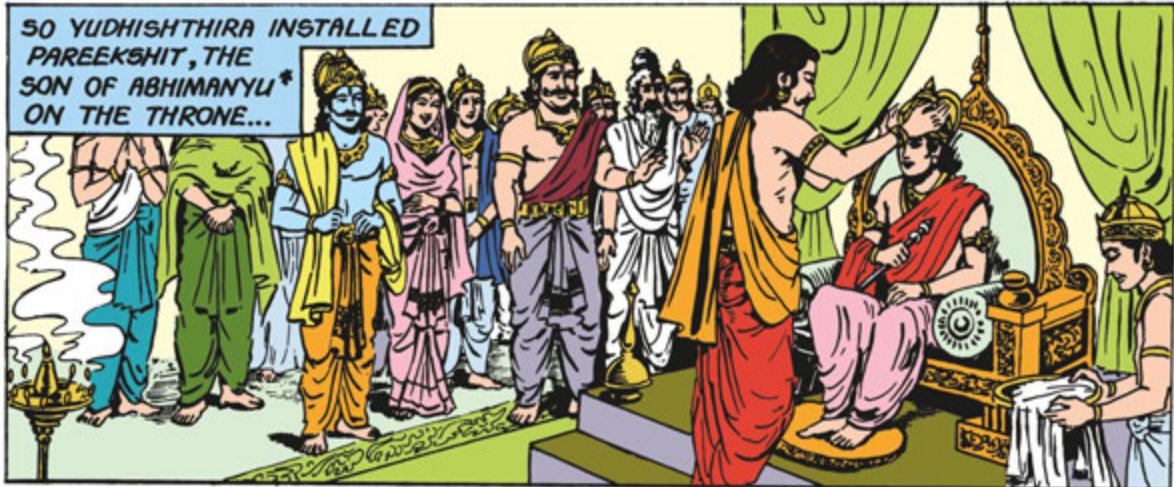


I FEEL THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO LEAVE THIS EARTH AND SEEK HEAVEN.

WE FEEL THE SAME.



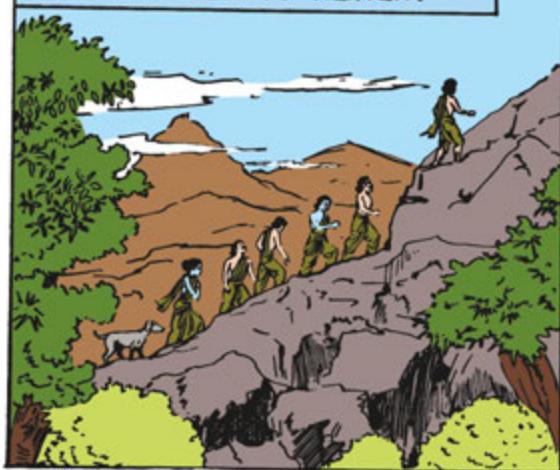
SO YUDHISHTHIRA INSTALLED  
PAREEKSHIT, THE  
SON OF ABHIMANYU\*  
ON THE THRONE...



...AND LED DRAUPADI AND HIS BROTHERS OUT OF HASTINAPURA. AS THE CITIZENS  
STOOD OUTSIDE THE CITY, WATCHING THEIR BELOVED KING AND THE BRAVE  
PANDAVAS DEPART, A STRAY DOG APPEARED ON THE SCENE.



IT FOLLOWED THE LITTLE GROUP  
ON THEIR TREK TO HEAVEN.



HAVING CROSSED MOUNT HIMAVAT, THEY  
WALKED THROUGH THE GREAT DESERT  
BEYOND IT...

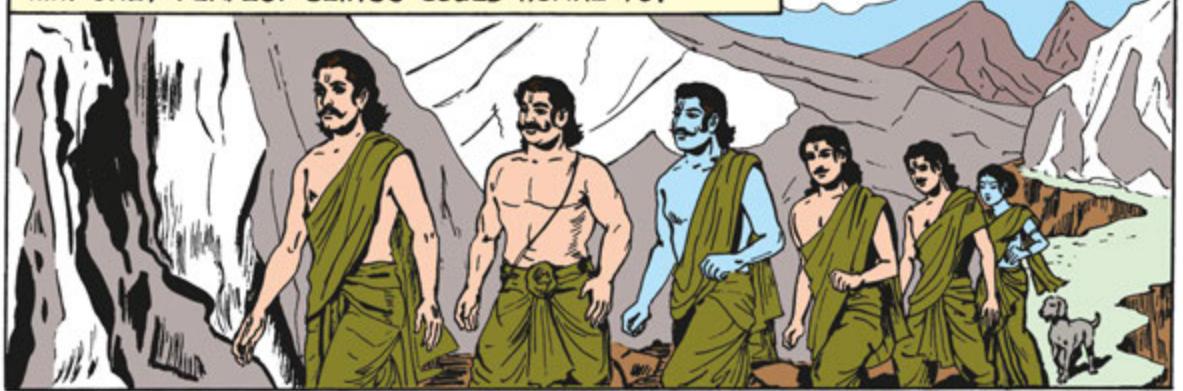


\*ARJUNA'S SON

...TILL THEY REACHED THE FOOT OF MOUNT MERU.



THEY BEGAN TO CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN. THEIR AIM WAS TO ENTER HEAVEN IN THEIR HUMAN FORM—AN AIM ONLY PERFECT BEINGS COULD ASPIRE TO.

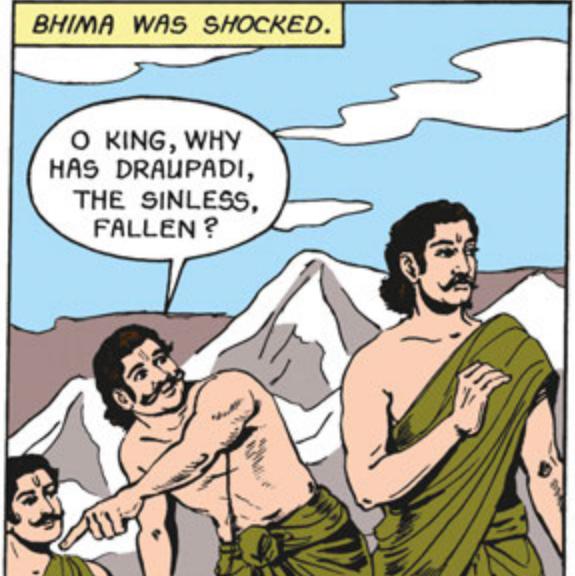


SUDDENLY—



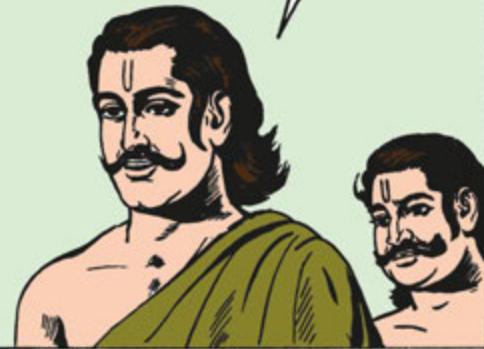
BHIMA WAS SHOCKED.

O KING, WHY HAS DRAUPADI,  
THE SINLESS,  
FALLEN?



YUDHISHTHIRA ANSWERED WITHOUT TURNING BACK.

SHE WAS PARTIAL TO ARJUNA.



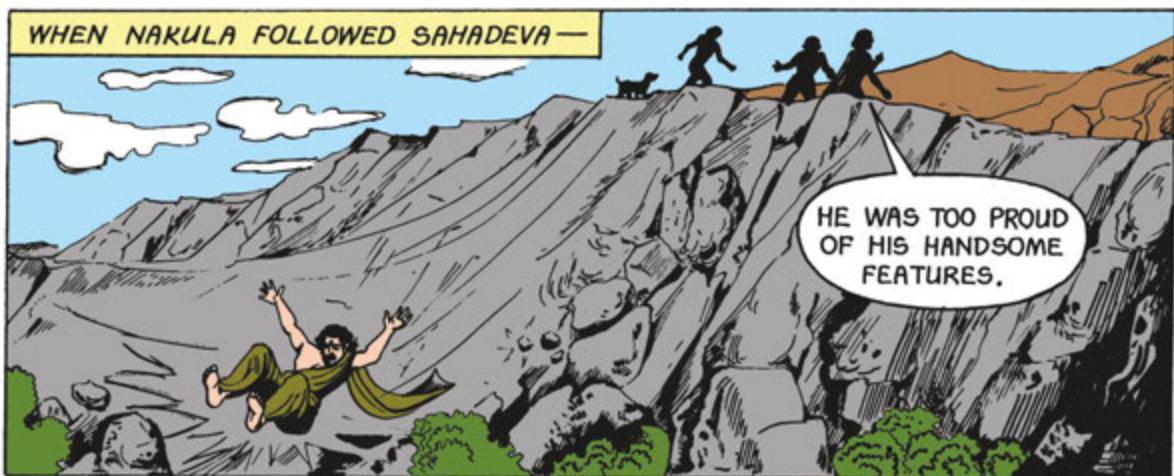
SAHADEVA WAS THE NEXT TO FALL.

HE LACKED HUMILITY.



WHEN NAKULA FOLLOWED SAHADEVA—

HE WAS TOO PROUD OF HIS HANDSOME FEATURES.



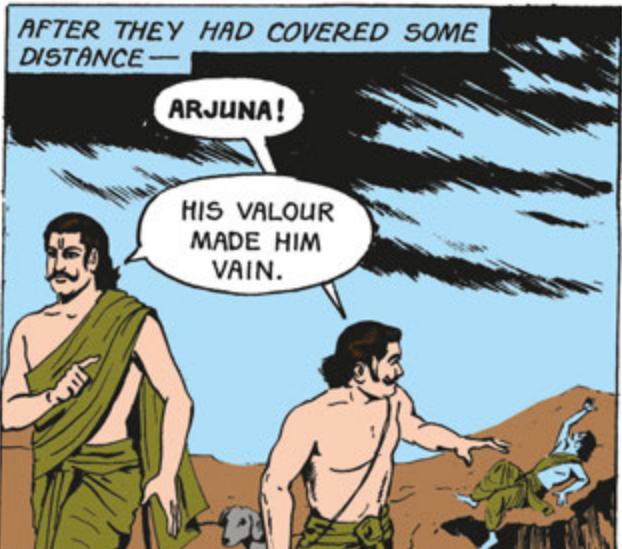
AS YUDHISHTHIRA PROCEEDED, FOLLOWED BY BHIMA AND ARJUNA, THE LITTLE DOG CONTINUED TO KEEP THEM COMPANY.



AFTER THEY HAD COVERED SOME DISTANCE—

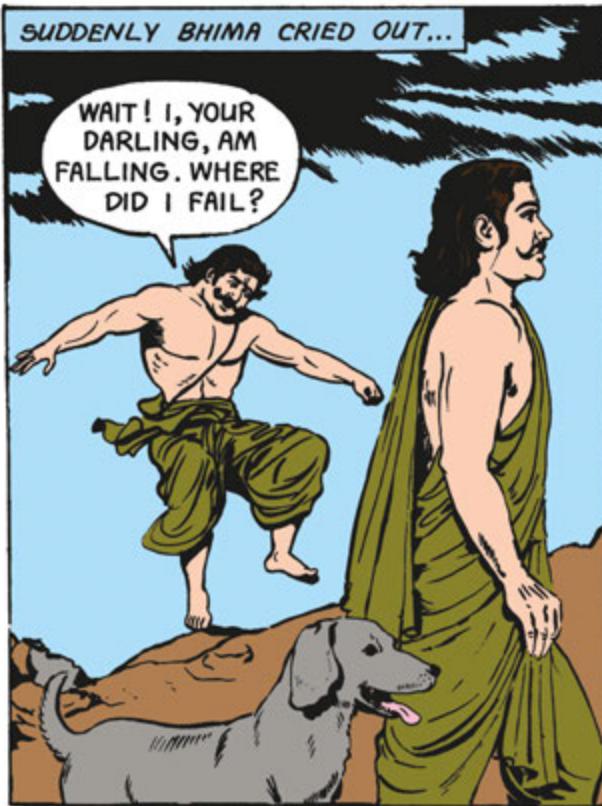
ARJUNA!

HIS VALOUR MADE HIM VAIN.

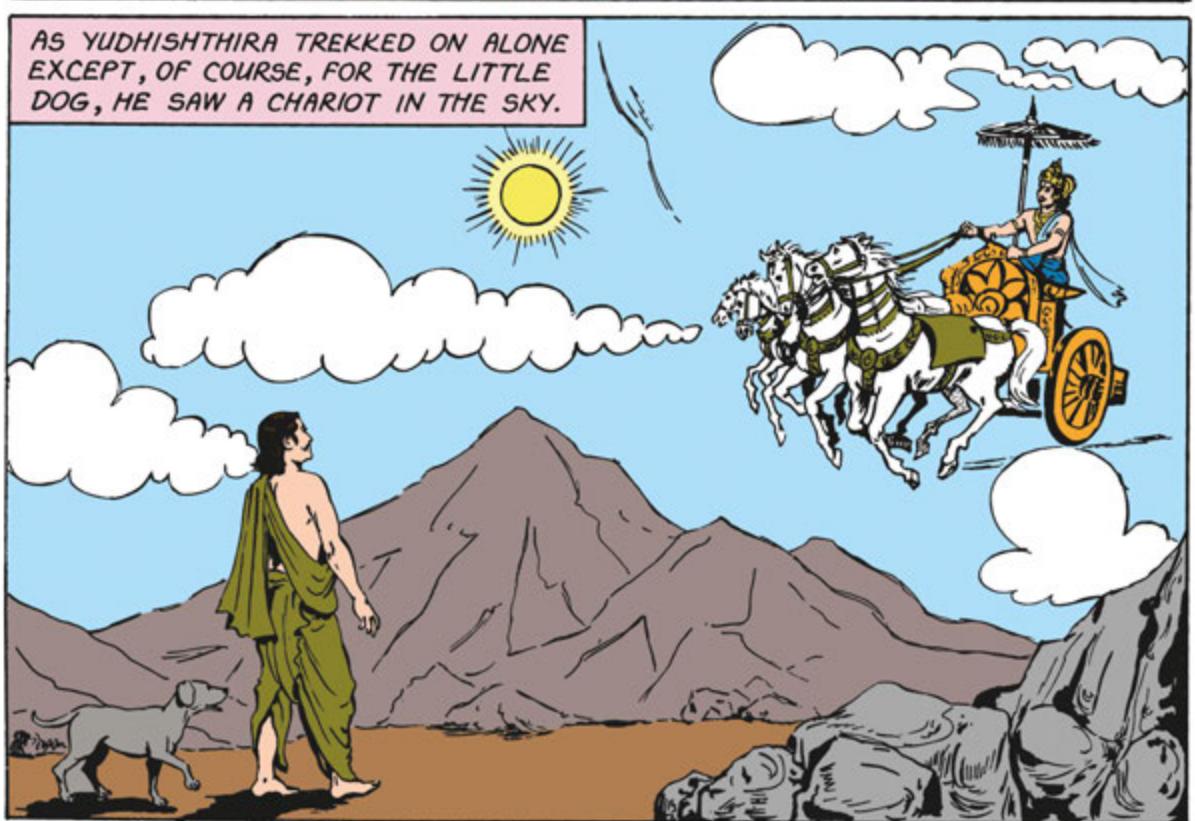


SUDDENLY BHIMA CRIED OUT...

WAIT! I, YOUR DARLING, AM FALLING. WHERE DID I FAIL?



AS YUDHISHTHIRA TREKKED ON ALONE EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR THE LITTLE DOG, HE SAW A CHARIOT IN THE SKY.



THE NEXT MOMENT INDRA, THE LORD OF HEAVEN, STOOD BEFORE HIM.

COME, YUDHISHTHIRA,  
I'LL TAKE YOU TO  
HEAVEN. ASCEND  
THIS CHARIOT.

I DO NOT WISH  
TO GO TO HEAVEN  
WITHOUT MY BROTHERS  
AND OUR WIFE.



INDRA SMILED.

THEY HAVE ALREADY  
REACHED HEAVEN,  
BUT NOT IN THEIR  
HUMAN FORMS.  
ASCEND THE  
CHARIOT.

THIS DOG,  
TOO, WILL GO  
WITH ME.

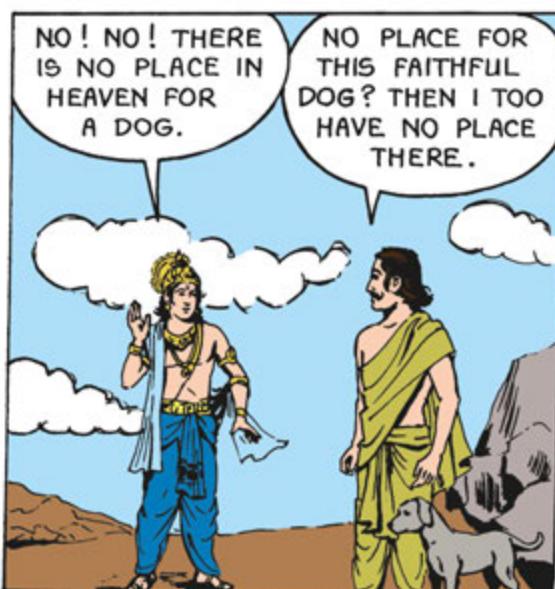


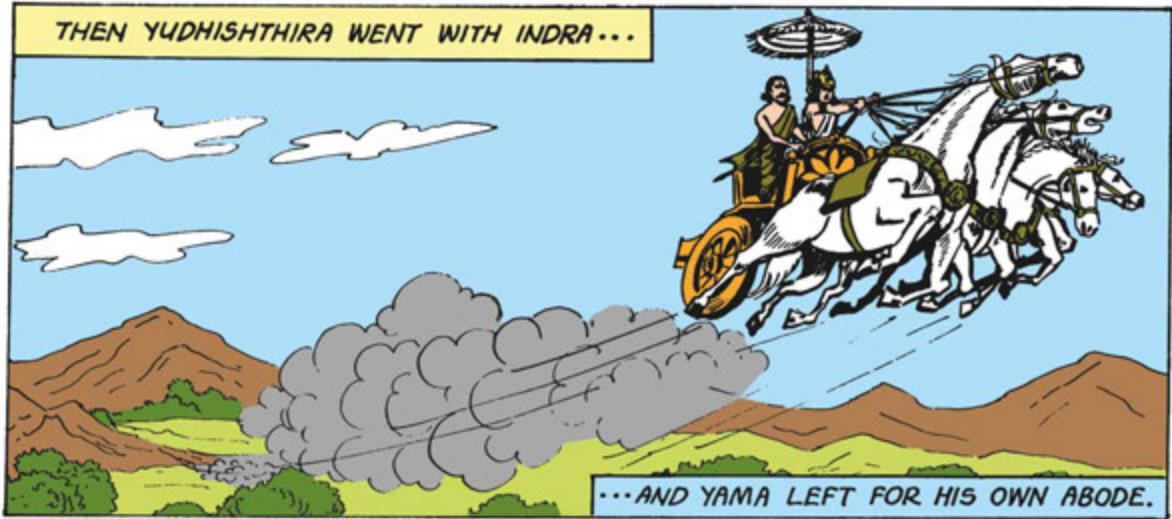
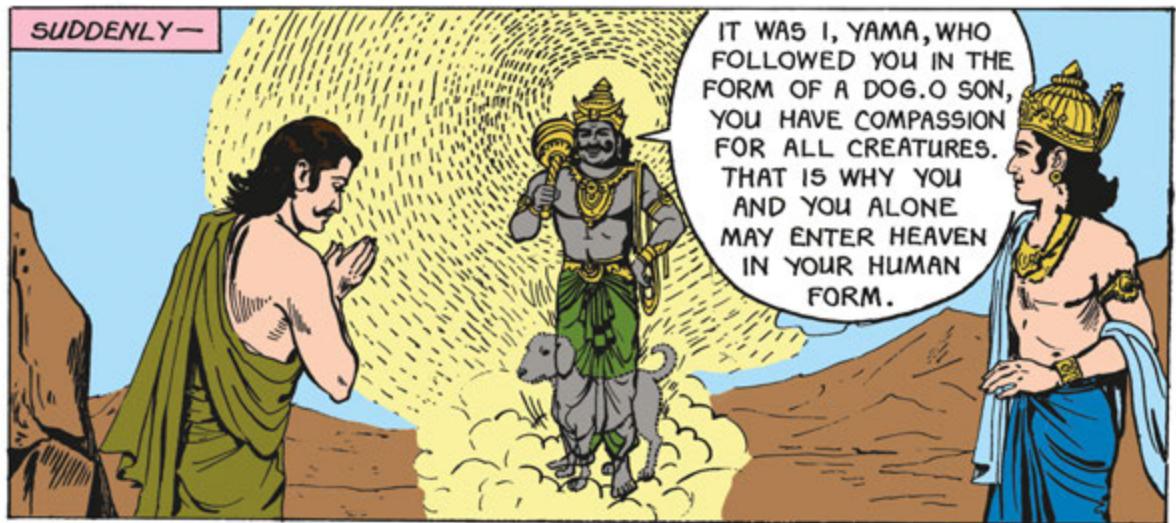
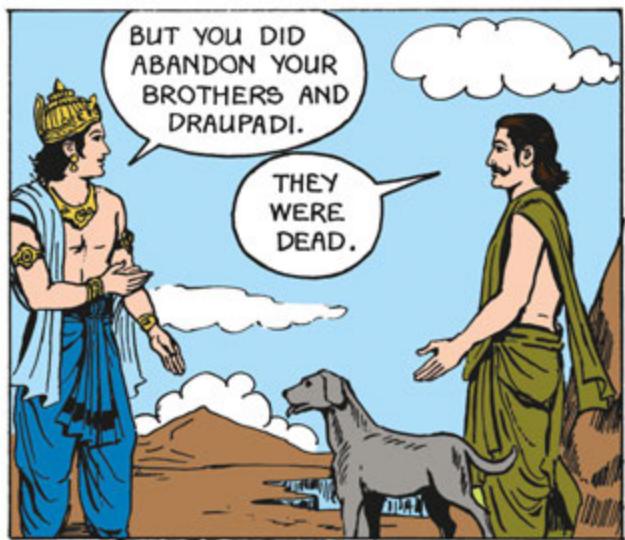
NO ! NO ! THERE  
IS NO PLACE IN  
HEAVEN FOR  
A DOG.

NO PLACE FOR  
THIS FAITHFUL  
DOG ? THEN I TOO  
HAVE NO PLACE THERE.

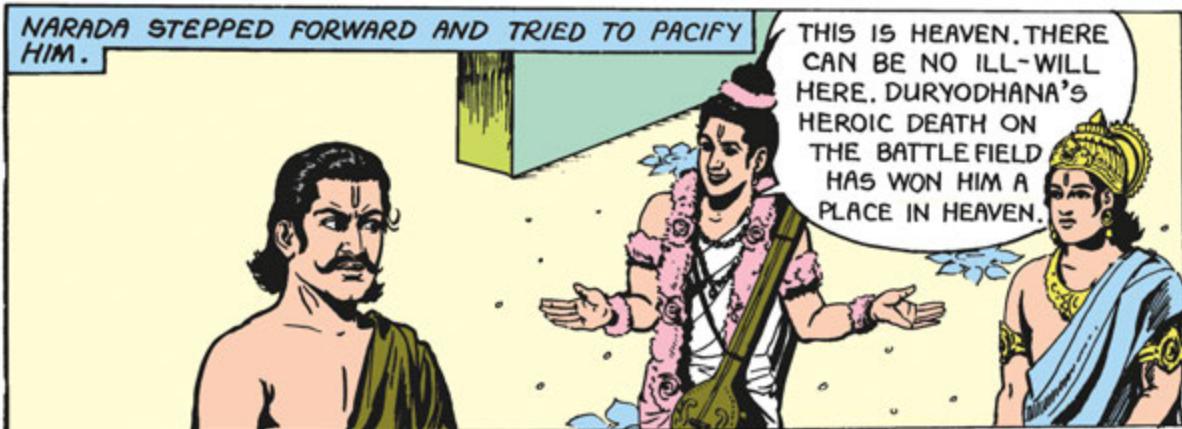
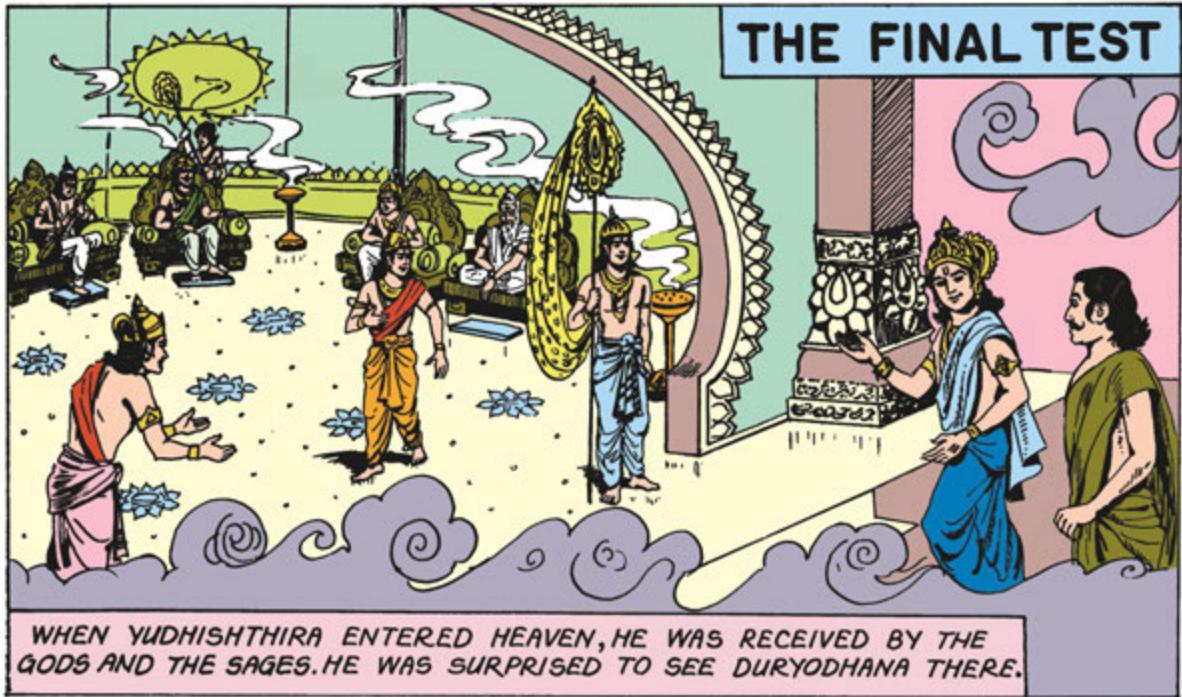
WILL YOU LOSE  
HEAVEN FOR THE  
SAKE OF AN  
ANIMAL ? FORSAKE  
THE DOG.

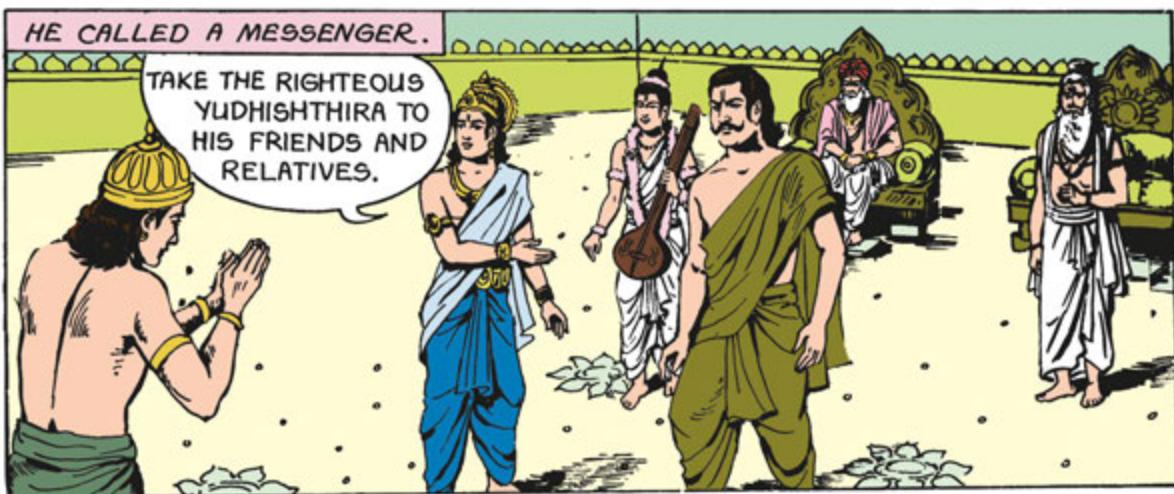
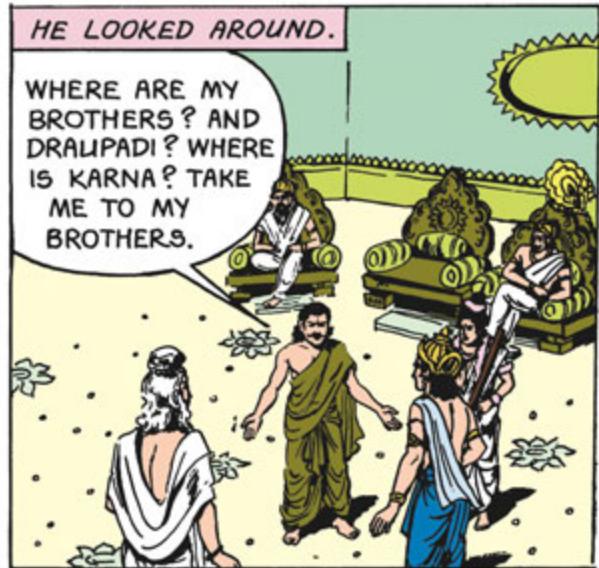
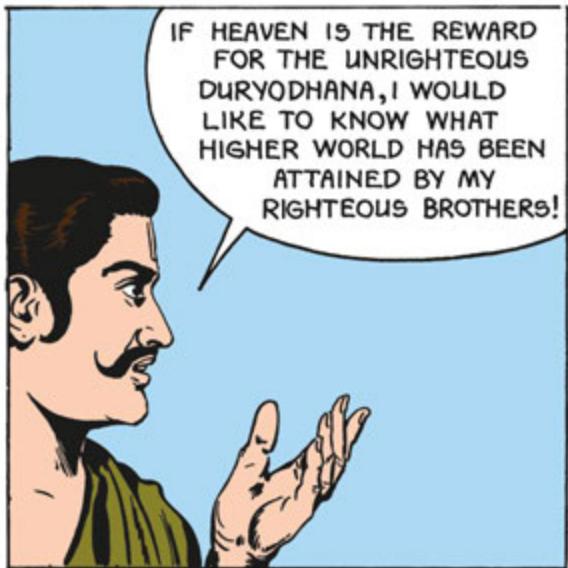
I CANNOT ABANDON  
HIM. HE HAS  
FOLLOWED ME  
DEVOTEDLY.





## THE FINAL TEST





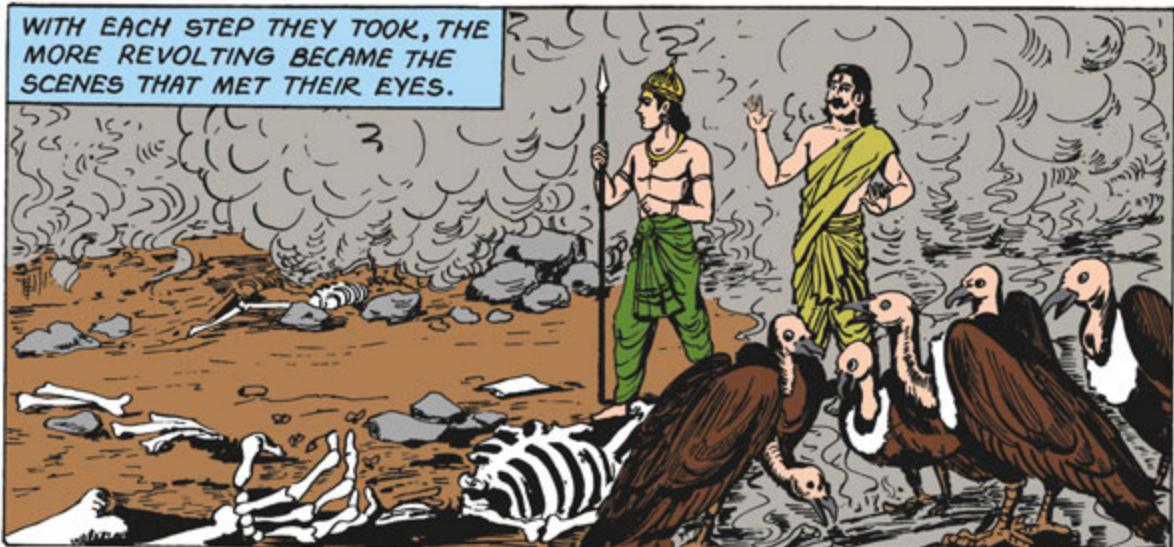
YUDHISHTHIRA FOLLOWED THE CELESTIAL MESSENGER. AS THEY WALKED ON, THE GENTLE GLOW OF HEAVEN GRADUALLY FADED...



...AND THEY WERE ENVELOPED IN BLINDING DARKNESS.



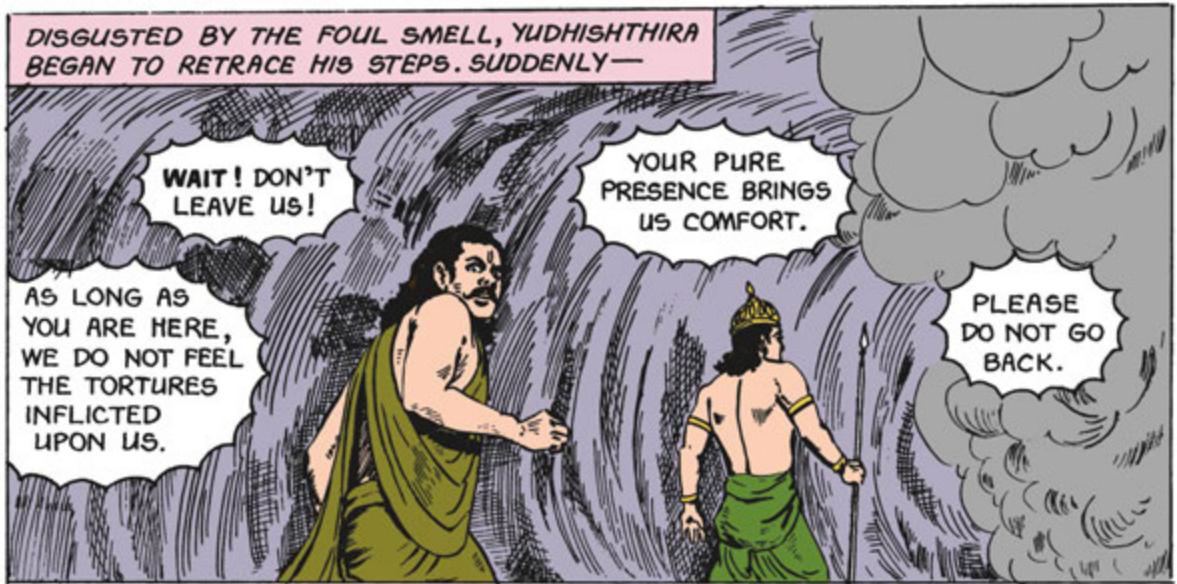
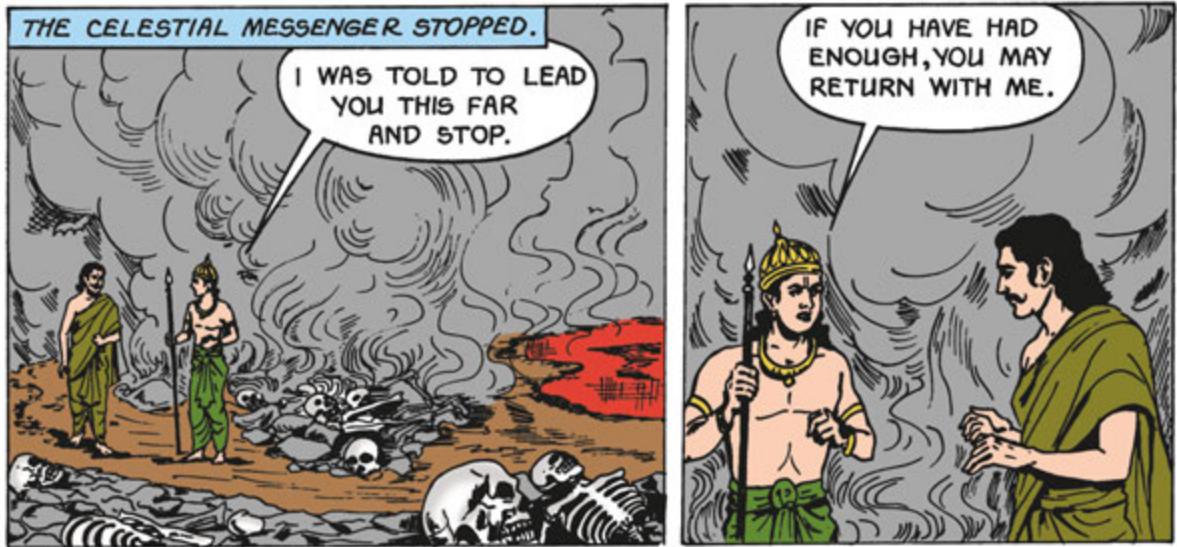
WITH EACH STEP THEY TOOK, THE MORE REVOLTING BECAME THE SCENES THAT MET THEIR EYES.



AS THEY WENT ON, A FOUL STENCH ALMOST SUFFOCATED YUDHISHTHIRA.

WHERE ARE WE? WHERE ARE MY BROTHERS?  
WHEN WILL WE LEAVE BEHIND THIS UNPLEASANT PATH AND MEET THEM?





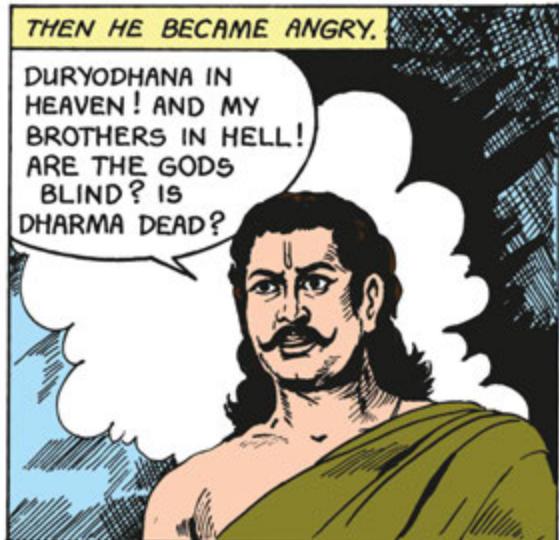
**YUDHISHTHIRA WAS BEWILDERED.**

AM I ASLEEP OR  
AWAKE ? OR HAVE  
I GONE MAD ?

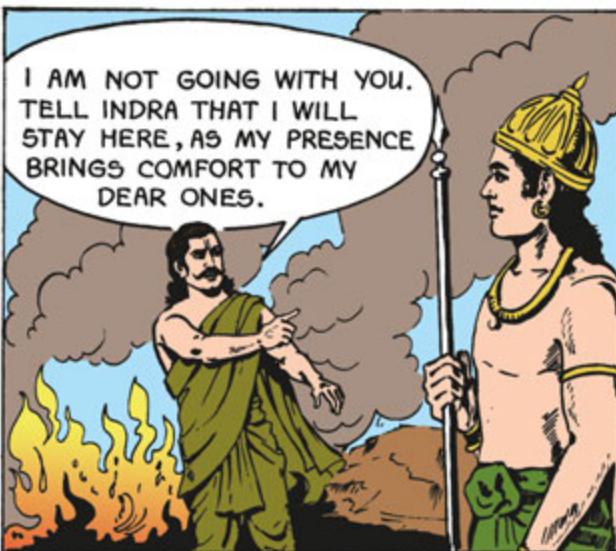


**THEN HE BECAME ANGRY.**

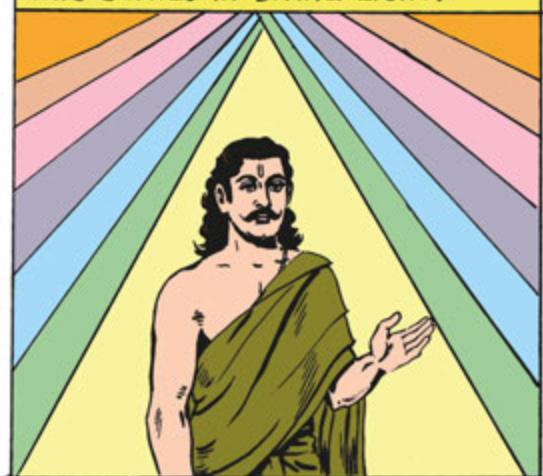
DURYODHANA IN  
HEAVEN ! AND MY  
BROTHERS IN HELL !  
ARE THE GODS  
BLIND ? IS  
DHARMA DEAD ?



I AM NOT GOING WITH YOU.  
TELL INDRA THAT I WILL  
STAY HERE, AS MY PRESENCE  
BRINGS COMFORT TO MY  
DEAR ONES.



**THE NEXT MOMENT, YUDHISHTHIRA  
WAS BATHED IN DIVINE LIGHT.**

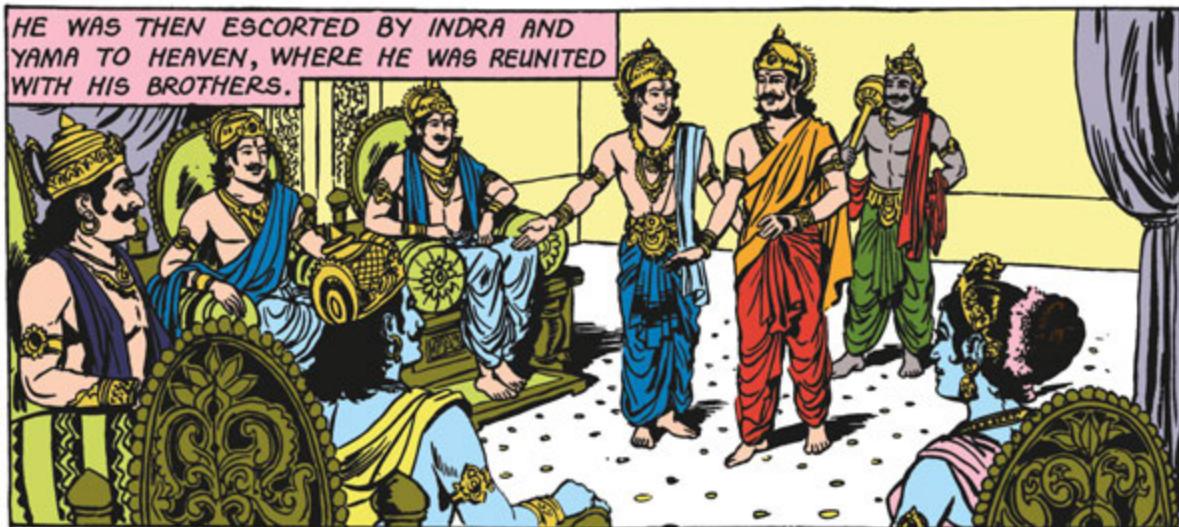
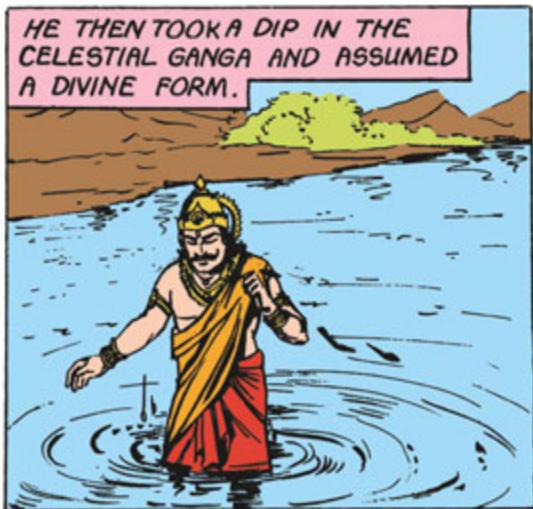
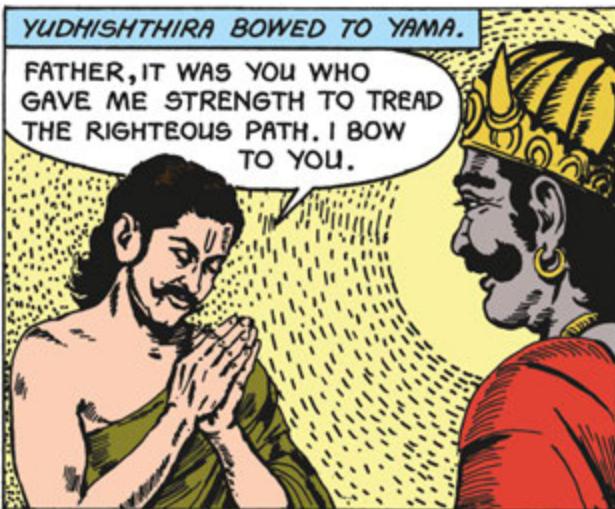


**INDRA AND OTHER DEITIES  
APPEARED BEFORE HIM.**

MY CHILD, FOR THE ONE LIE YOU SPOKE TO  
HASTEN DRONA'S END\*, YOU WERE EXPOSED TO  
HELL FOR A SECOND. YOUR BROTHERS HAD TO  
SUFFER HELL FOR A SHORT DURATION, FOR THE  
FAULTS YOU YOURSELF  
WERE AWARE OF.  
THEY ARE NOW  
IN HEAVEN.



\*SEE ACK NO. 57—DRONA



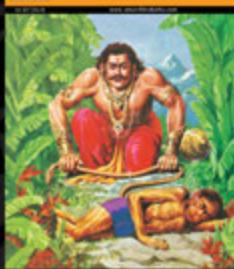
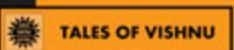
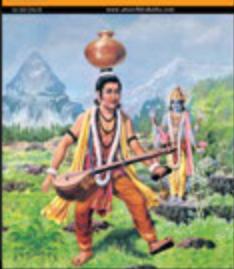
# TALES OF YUDHISHTHIRA

Loyal brother, caring husband, humble victor and kind human being – Yudhishtira had earned the right to eternal happiness. But he wanted his loved ones around him, and for this he was willing to endure the tortures of hell. His life was a series of tests, trials and tribulations but he never failed to rise to the occasion.

## OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:



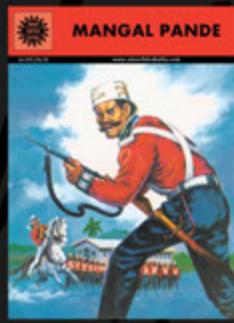
TALES OF ARJUNA

BHEEMA AND  
HANUMANTALES OF  
NARADA

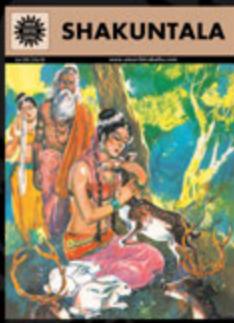
TALES OF VISHNU



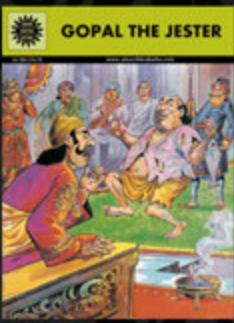
## ALSO LOOK FOR:



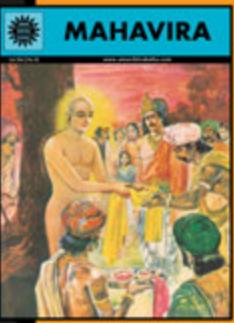
BRAVEHEARTS



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FABLES &amp; HUMOUR



VISIONARIES

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

