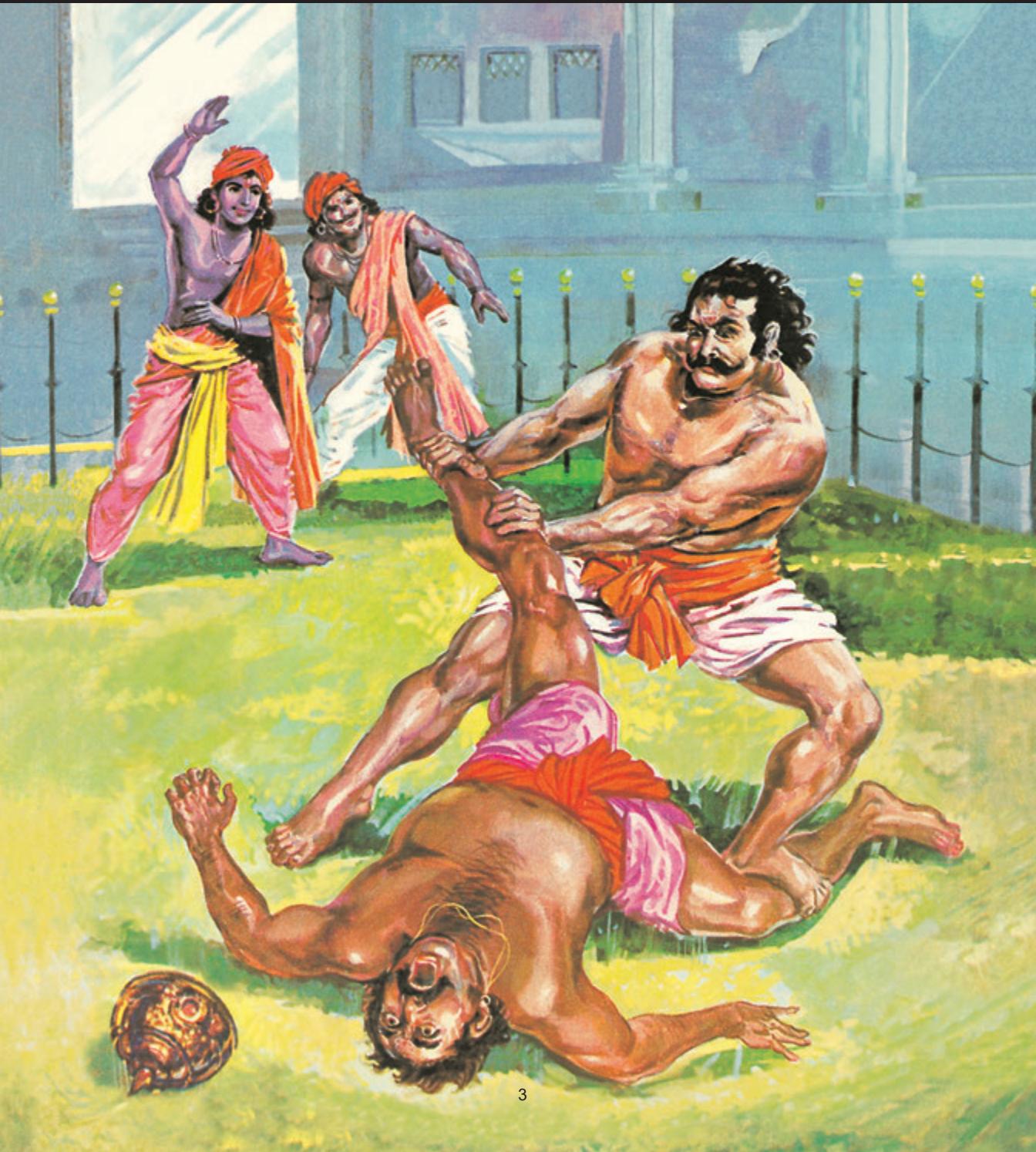




KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

KRISHNA OUTSMARTS HIS FIERCE ADVERSARY

Vol 518 | ₹90





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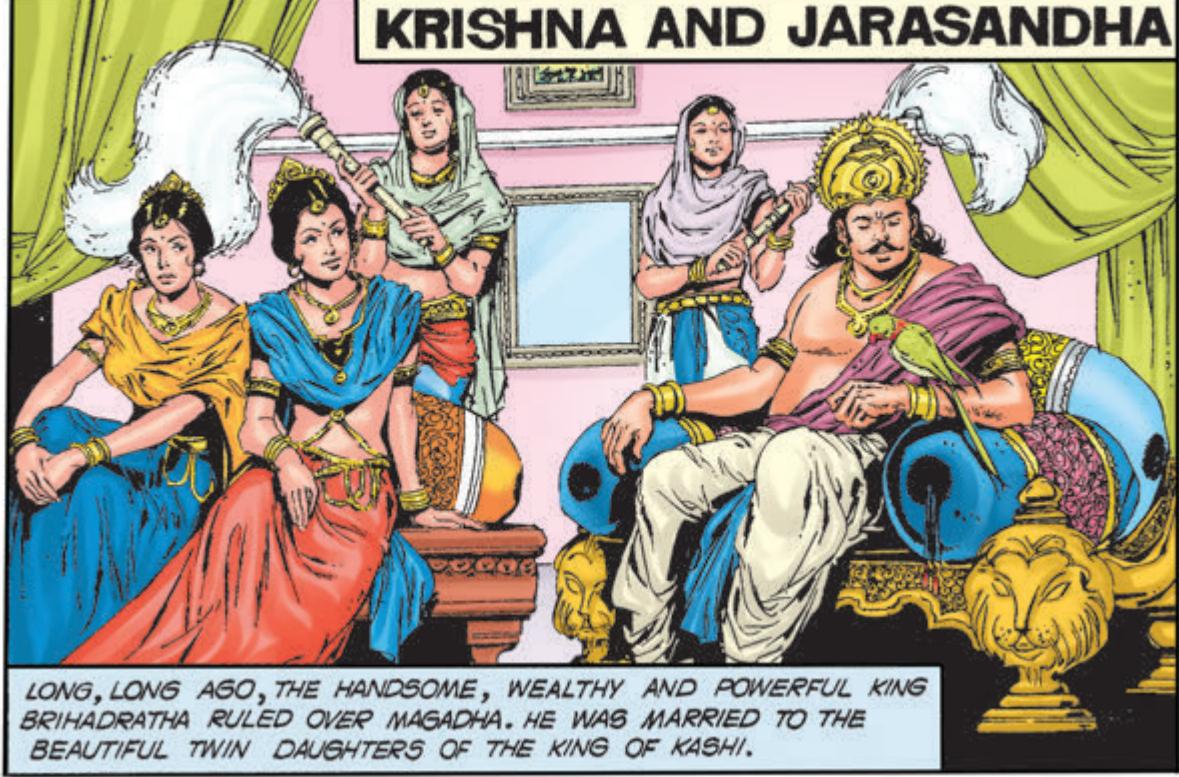
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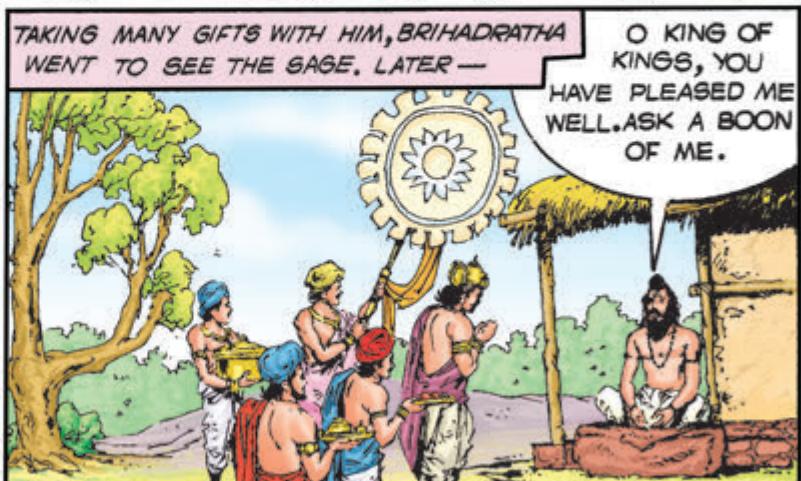
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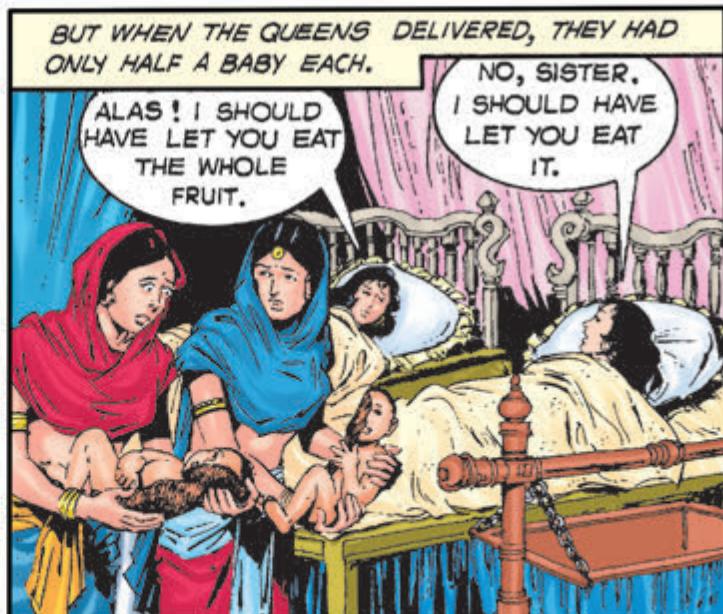
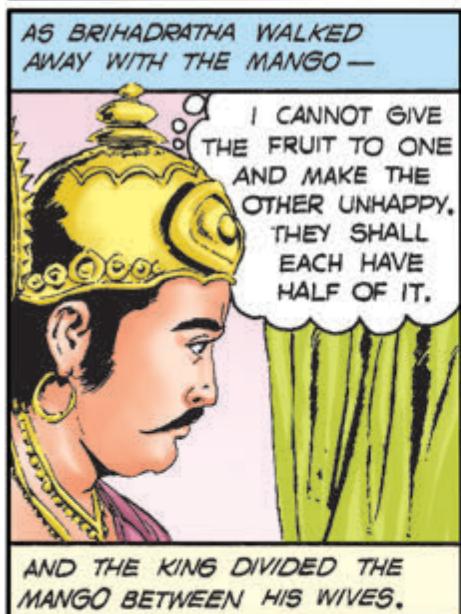
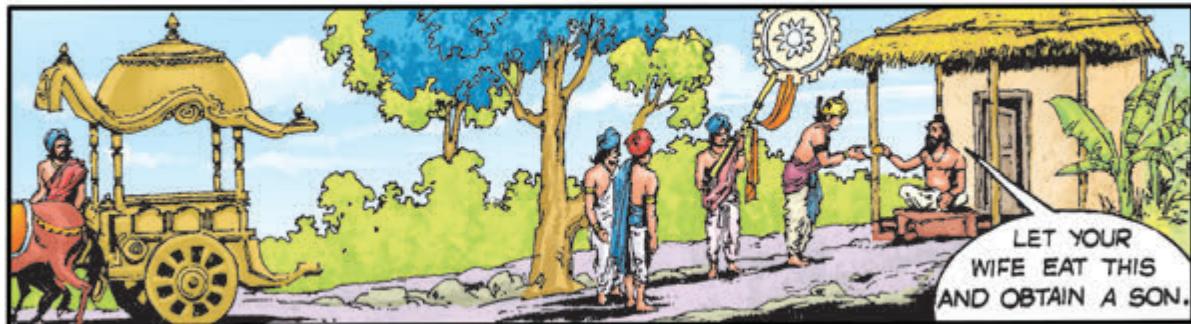
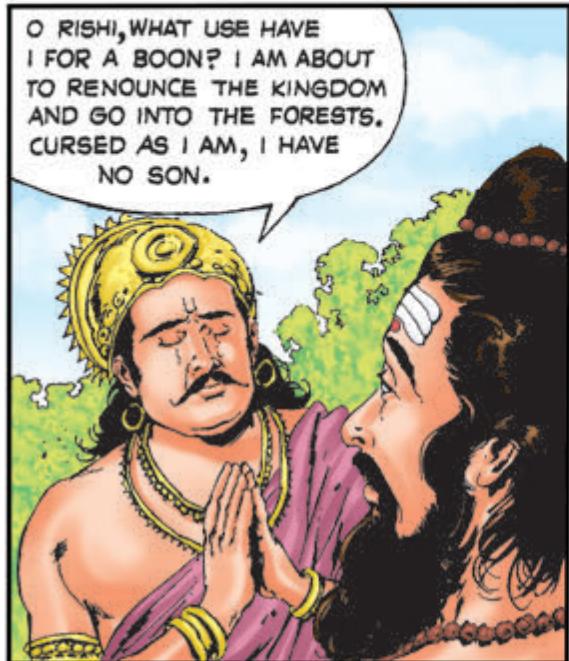
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KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

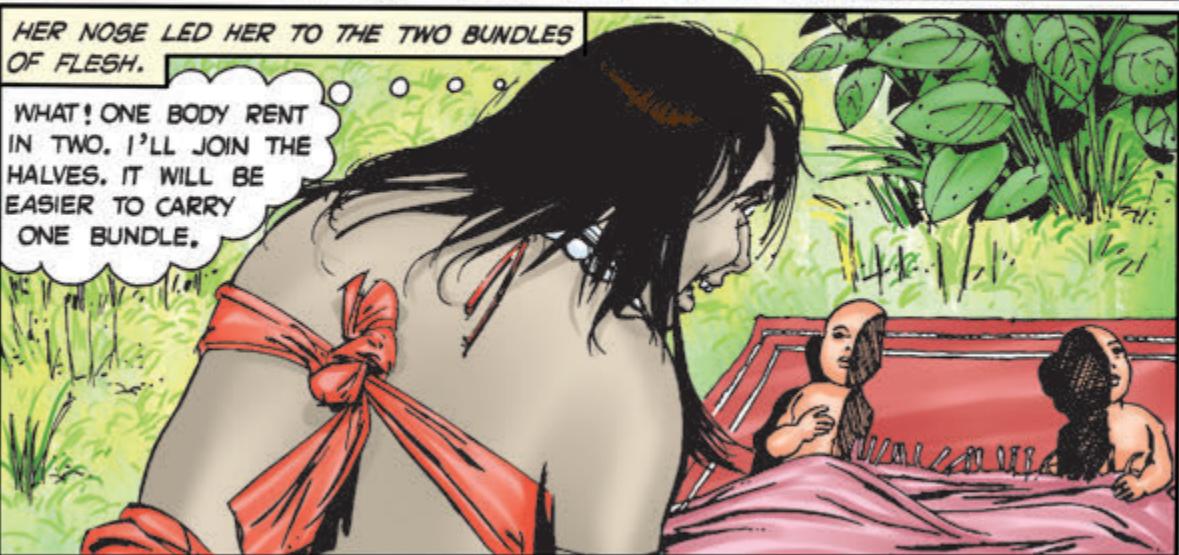
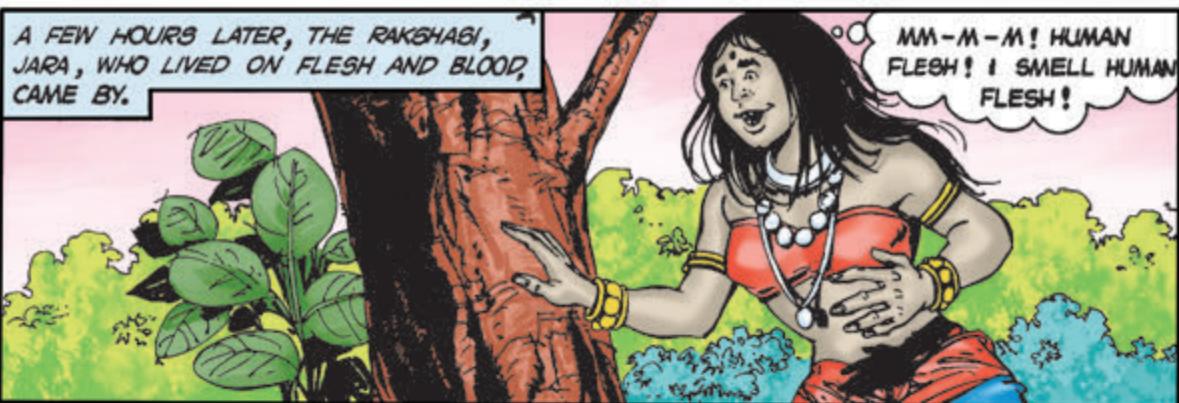
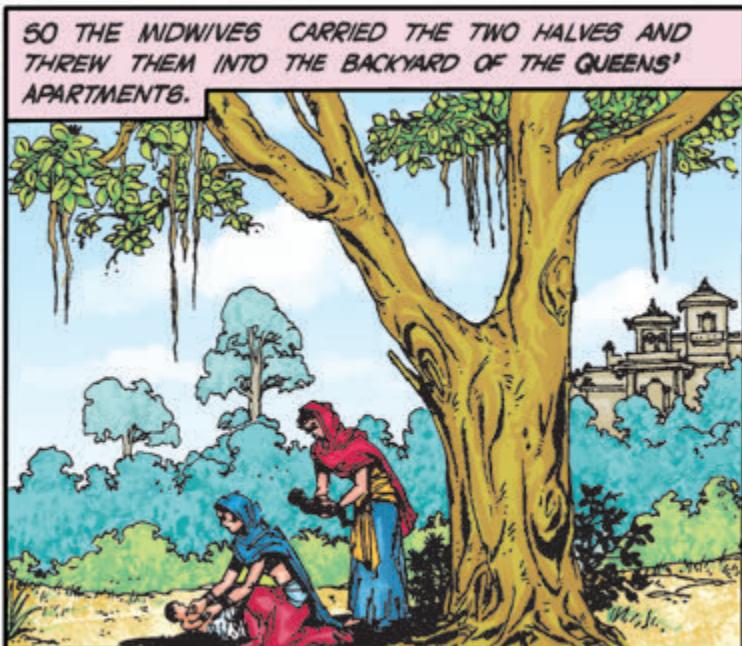


LONG, LONG AGO, THE HANDSOME, WEALTHY AND POWERFUL KING BRIHADRATHA RULED OVER MAGADHA. HE WAS MARRIED TO THE BEAUTIFUL TWIN DAUGHTERS OF THE KING OF KASHI.





KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA



THE MOMENT SHE JOINED THE TWO PIECES, THE BABY CAME TO LIFE AND ROARED.

AA-A-AH!
GR-R-R-R!



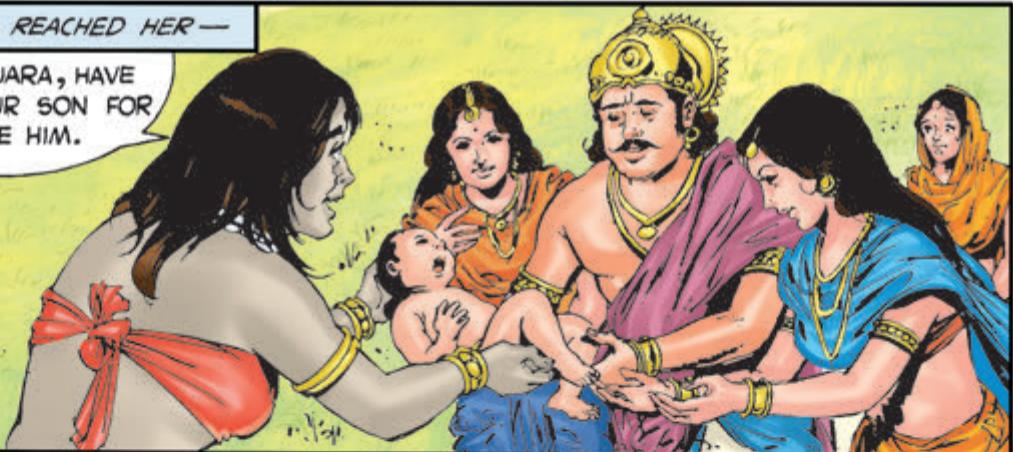
HEARING THE ROAR, THE KING, HIS QUEENS, THE MIDWIVES, THE SERVANTS, ALL CAME RUNNING OUT.

ISN'T THAT
THE VIRTUOUS
KING WHO LONGED
FOR A SON. I WILL
GIVE HIM BACK
HIS CHILD.



WHEN THEY REACHED HER—

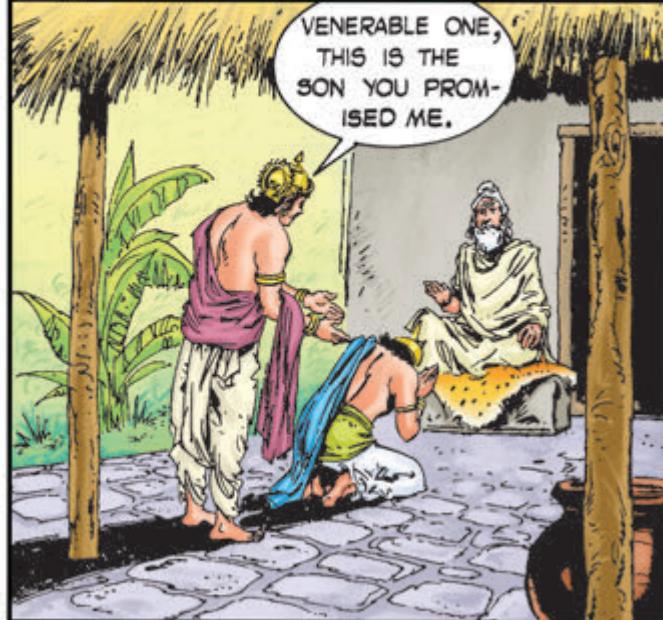
O KING, I, JARA, HAVE
SAVED YOUR SON FOR
YOU. TAKE HIM.



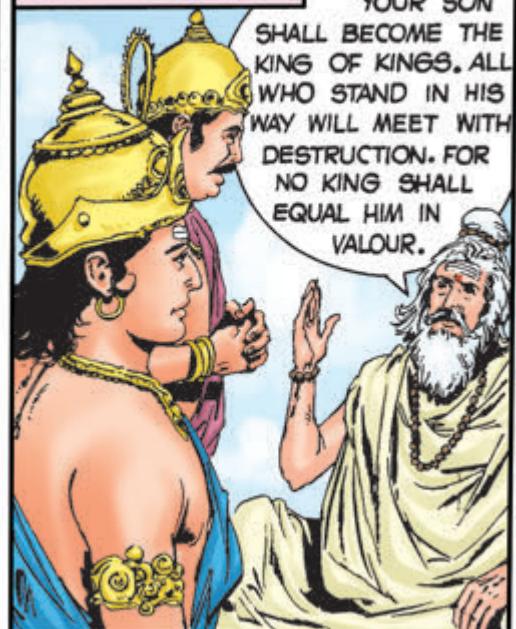
GOOD LADY, SINCE
IT WAS YOU WHO PUT
HIM TOGETHER AND
MADE HIM COMPLETE,
HE SHALL BE NAMED
JARASANDHA.



WHEN JARASANDHA HAD GROWN INTO A MIGHTY YOUNG LAD, THE RISHI CAME TO MAGADHA.



THE SAGE LOOKED AT JARASANDHA AND WAS PLEASED.



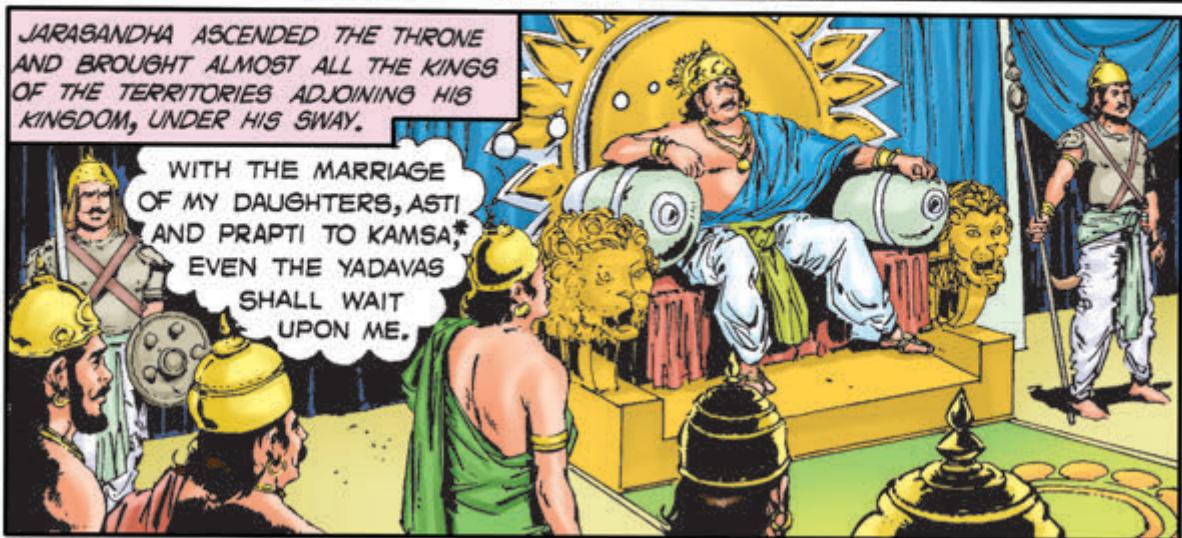
OVERJOYED TO HEAR THAT, BRIHADRATHA TURNED TO HIS SON.

JARASANDHA,
YOU SHALL RULE MAGADHA
WHILE I RETIRE WITH
YOUR MOTHERS TO
THE FORESTS.



JARASANDHA ASCENDED THE THRONE AND BROUGHT ALMOST ALL THE KINGS OF THE TERRITORIES ADJOINING HIS KINGDOM, UNDER HIS SWAY.

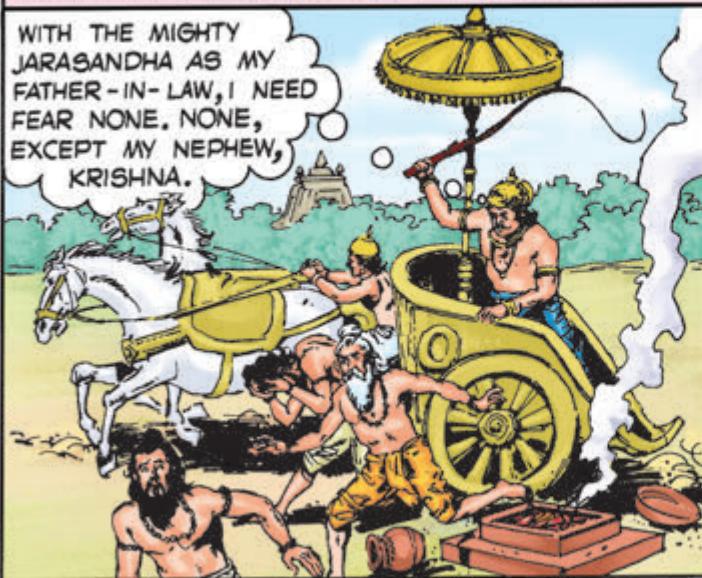
WITH THE MARRIAGE OF MY DAUGHTERS, ASTI AND PRAPTI TO KAMSA*, EVEN THE YADAVAS SHALL WAIT UPON ME.



* THE SON OF UGRASENA, KING OF MATHURA

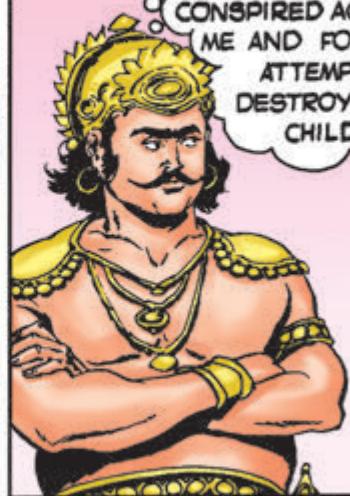
BUT KAMSA WAS AN EVIL KING. HE DEPOSED HIS FATHER AND PERSECUTED HIS OWN SUBJECTS.

WITH THE MIGHTY JARASANDHA AS MY FATHER-IN-LAW, I NEED FEAR NONE. NONE, EXCEPT MY NEPHEW, KRISHNA.

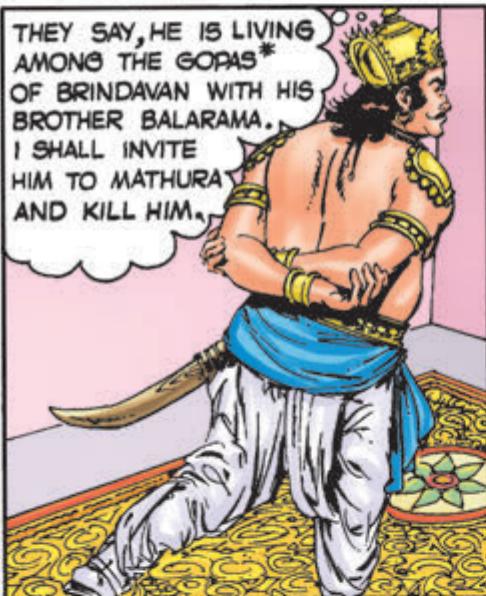


BEFORE KRISHNA WAS BORN, IT HAD BEEN PROPHESIED THAT HE WOULD KILL THE EVIL KAMSA.

FATE AND THE GODS CONSPIRED AGAINST ME AND FOILED MY ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY THE CHILD.



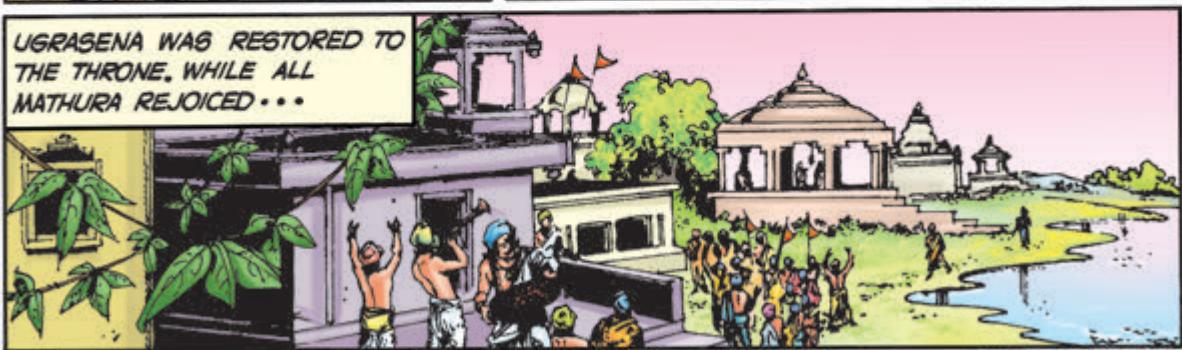
THEY SAY, HE IS LIVING AMONG THE GOPAS* OF BRINDAVAN WITH HIS BROTHER BALARAMA. I SHALL INVITE HIM TO MATHURA AND KILL HIM.



BUT AT THE FATED HOUR, IT WAS KAMSA WHO MET WITH HIS END AT KRISHNA'S HANDS.



UGRASENA WAS RESTORED TO THE THRONE, WHILE ALL MATHURA REJOICED ***



* COWHERDS

KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

...AT MAGADHA, JARASANDHA WAS INFURIATED WHEN HE SAW HIS WIDOWED DAUGHTERS.



HE TURNED TO HIS COMMANDER.



A FEW DAYS LATER, KRISHNA'S ELDER BROTHER, BALARAMA CAME TO HIM.

JARASANDHA AND HIS ALLIES HAVE BESIEGED THE CITY.

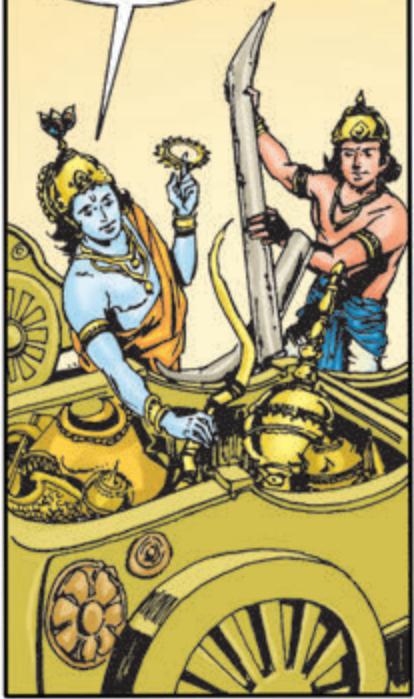
IT WAS TO BE EXPECTED. LET US GO OUT AND GAUGE THE STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMIES.

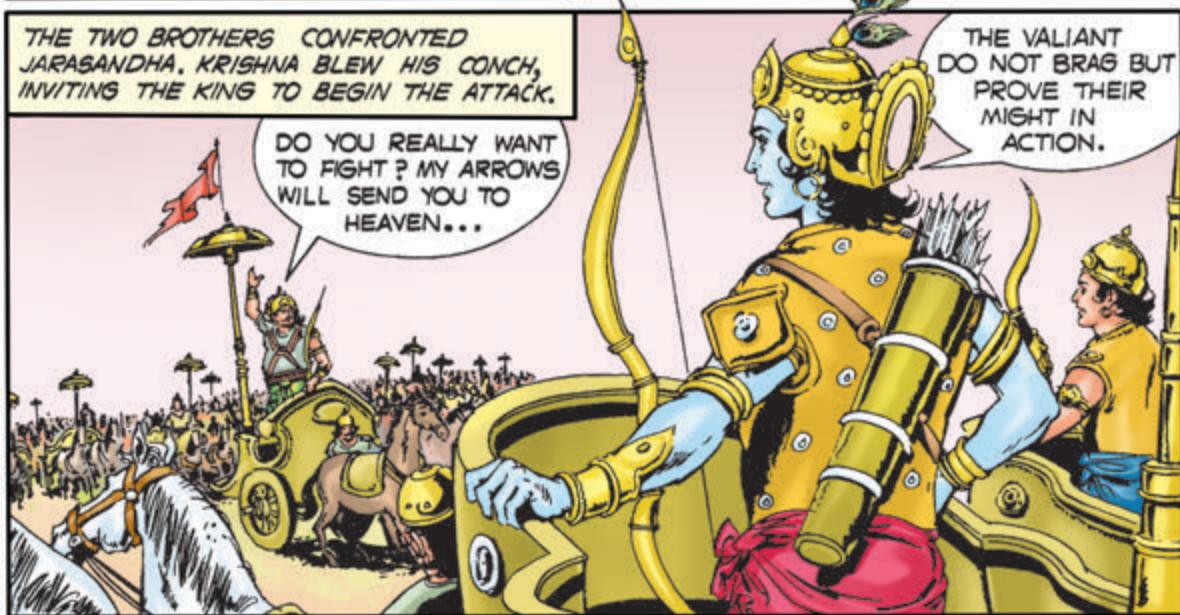
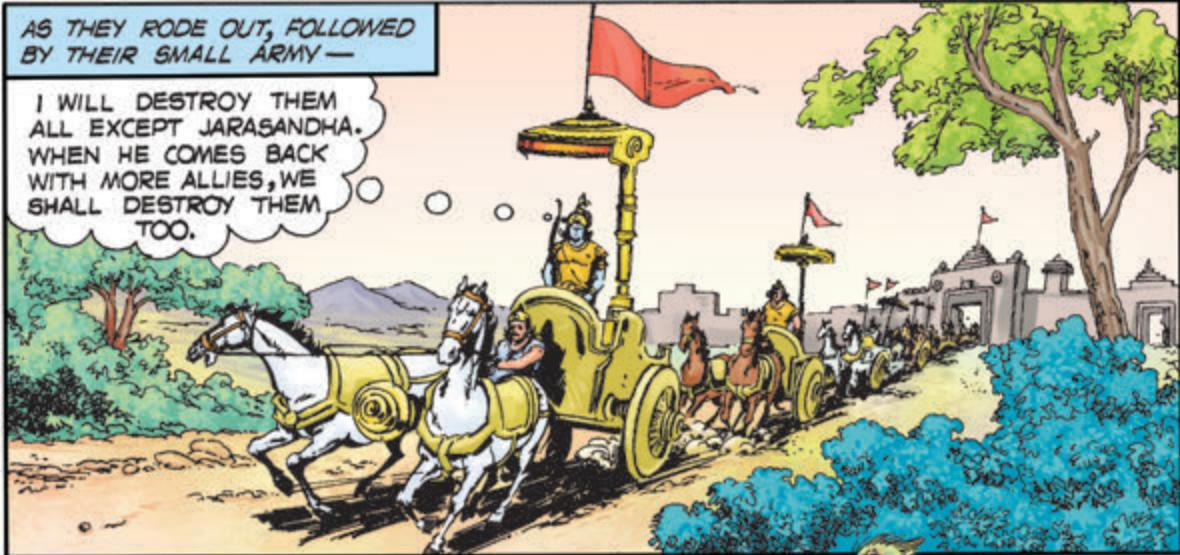


AS THEY STOOD SURVEYING THE SCENE, TWO CHARIOTS SUDDENLY DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS, FULL OF DIVINE WEAPONS.



QUICK! LET US TAKE WITH US THE MEN WE HAVE AND SAVE OUR RACE.

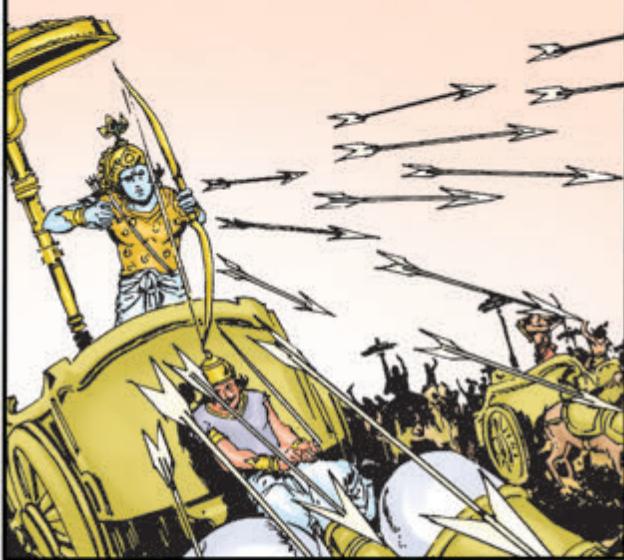




KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

BUT KRISHNA DREW OUT HIS BOW AND LET FLY HIS ARROWS IN SUCH QUICK SUCCESSION...

... THAT THE FIELD WAS SOON STREWN WITH THE BODIES OF MEN, HORSES, ELEPHANTS AND CHARIOTS.



THE ALLIES AND THEIR ARMIES BEGAN TO FLEE.



MEANWHILE, SWINGING HIS MACE, BALARAMA WHO HAD TAKEN ON JARASANDHA'S OWN ARMY, SOON DESTROYED IT AND ...



... SEIZED JARASANDHA.



HE WAS ABOUT TO BIND HIM WITH ROPES,
WHEN—

NO, BALARAMA. LET HIM
GO. LET US INFORM UGRA-
SENA OF OUR VICTORY AND
PRESENT HIM WITH
OUR BOOTY.

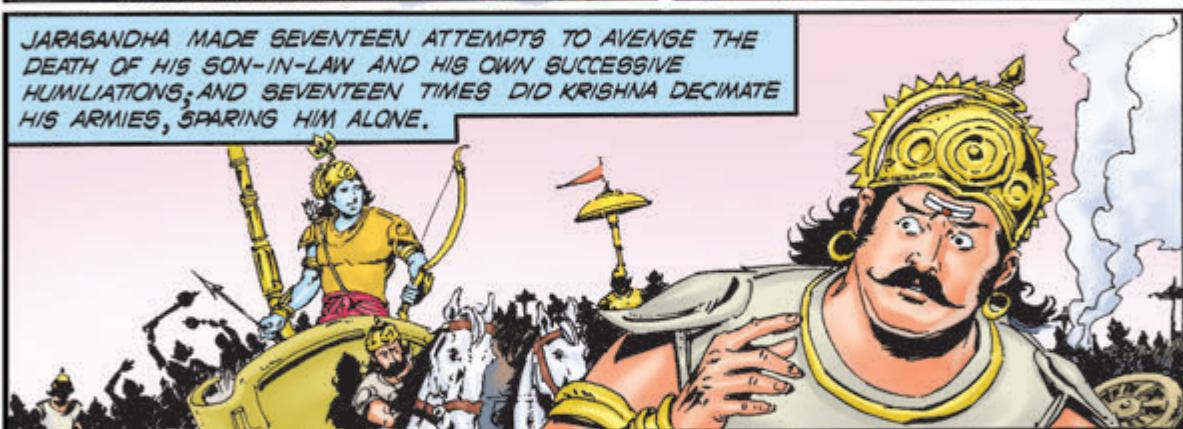


UTTERLY HUMILIATED, JARASANDHA
RETURNED TO GIRIVRAJA, HIS CAPITAL.

I WILL NOT GIVE
UP. I WILL GO BACK
WITH NEW ARMIES
AND TEACH THE
YADAVAS A
LESSON.



JARASANDHA MADE SEVENTEEN ATTEMPTS TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF HIS SON-IN-LAW AND HIS OWN SUCCESSIVE HUMILIATIONS; AND SEVENTEEN TIMES DID KRISHNA DECIMATE HIS ARMIES, SPARING HIM ALONE.



MEANWHILE, KALAYAVANA, THE INVINCIBLE,
WAS BRAGGING ABOUT HIS VALOUR
TO SAGE NARADA.

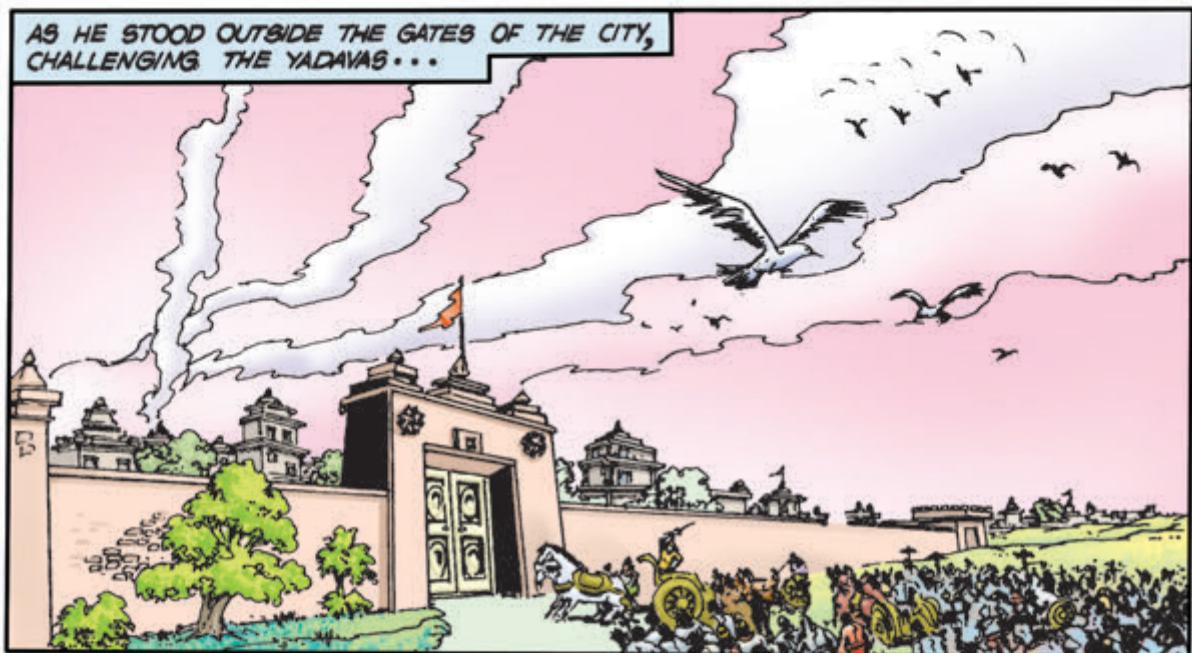
I HAVE FOUGHT
AND VANQUISHED
MANY. I AM
WITHOUT A RIVAL
AMONG MEN.

SO ARE THE YADAVA
HEROES, KRISHNA AND
BALARAMA, THE FORE-
MOST OF WARRIORS
ON THE EARTH'S
SURFACE.

THE REMARK WAS ENOUGH TO BRING
KALAYAVANA WITH HIS BARBARIAN Hordes
TO MATHURA.



AS HE STOOD OUTSIDE THE GATES OF THE CITY,
CHALLENGING THE YADAVAS...



... A MESSENGER RAN UP TO KRISHNA AND BALARAMA.



THIS IS UNFORTUNATE!
WHILE WE ARE BUSY
FIGHTING THE YAVANA,
JARASANDHA WILL KILL
OR IMPRISON OUR
PEOPLE!

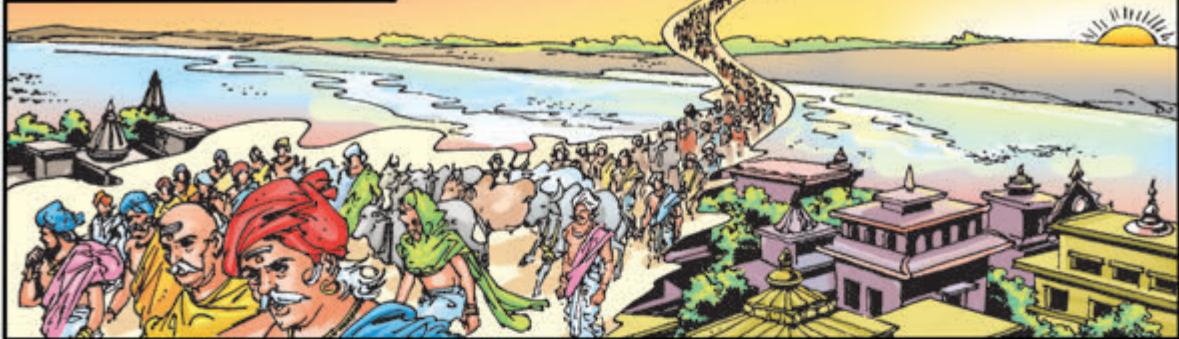
WHAT
SHALL WE
DO?



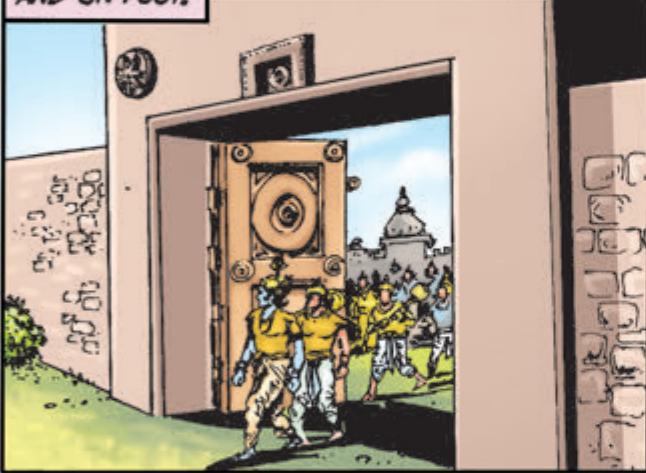
KRISHNA HAD BUT TO THINK ABOUT IT AND THE FORTRESS OF DWARAKA ROSE IN THE WESTERN SEA.



USING HIS YOGIC POWER, KRISHNA TRANSPORTED THE PEOPLE, THE CATTLE AND THE WEALTH OF MATHURA TO DWARAKA.



THEN, ALONG WITH BALARAMA AND A SMALL ARMY OF YADAVAS WHO CHOSE TO STAY AND FIGHT, HE CAME OUT OF THE CITY GATES, UNARMED AND ON FOOT.

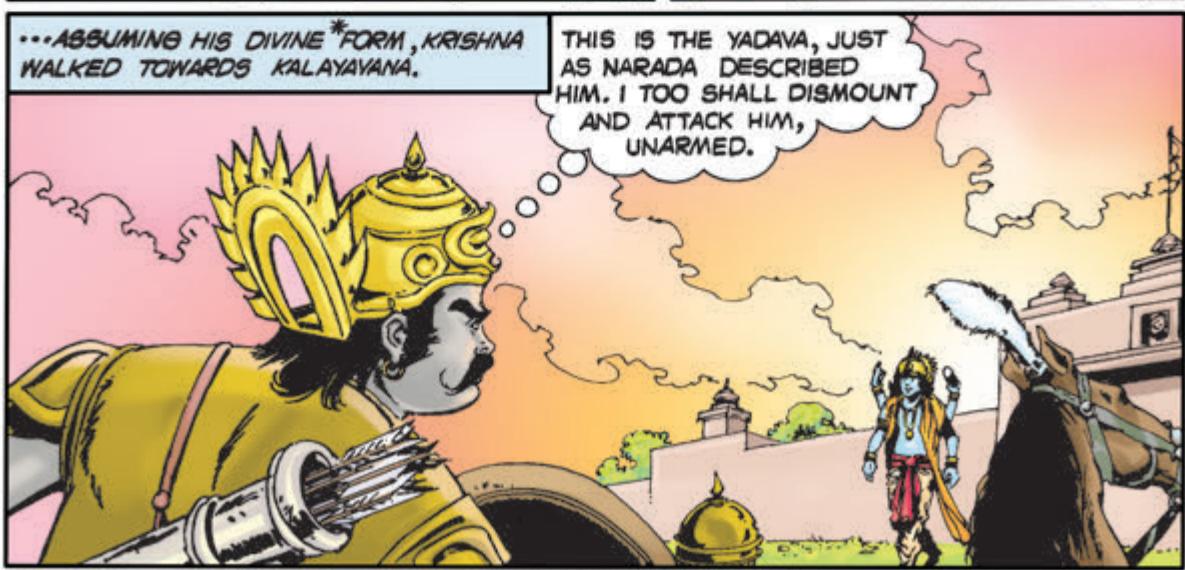


WHILE BALARAMA AND THE ARMY MADE STRAIGHT FOR THE YAVANA Hordes...



...ASSUMING HIS DIVINE *FORM, KRISHNA WALKED TOWARDS KALAYAYANA.

THIS IS THE YADAVA, JUST AS NARADA DESCRIBED HIM. I TOO SHALL DISMOUNT AND ATTACK HIM, UNARMED.



* KRISHNA BEING AN INCARNATION OF LORD VISHNU

KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

LAYING DOWN HIS WEAPONS, KALAYAVANA DISMOUNTED ...



... AND RUSHED FORWARD. BUT JUST AS HE WAS ABOUT TO SEIZE HIM ...



... KRISHNA SUDDENLY TURNED ROUND ...

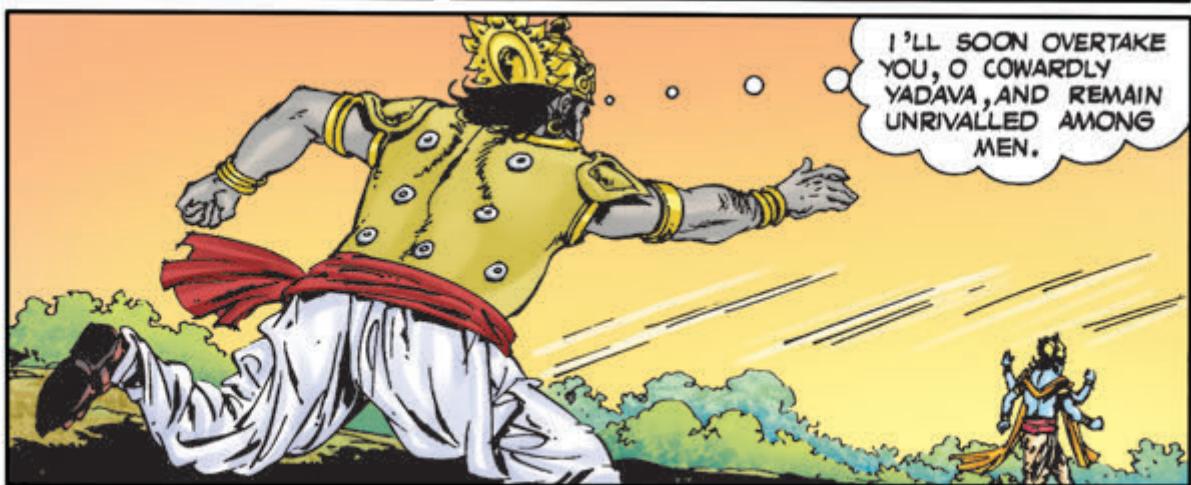


... AND BEGAN WALKING.

DO NOT RUN AWAY,
O YADAVA. IT DOES
NOT BECOME A
HERO LIKE YOU.



I'LL SOON OVERTAKE
YOU, O COWARDLY
YADAVA, AND REMAIN
UNRIVALLED AMONG
MEN.



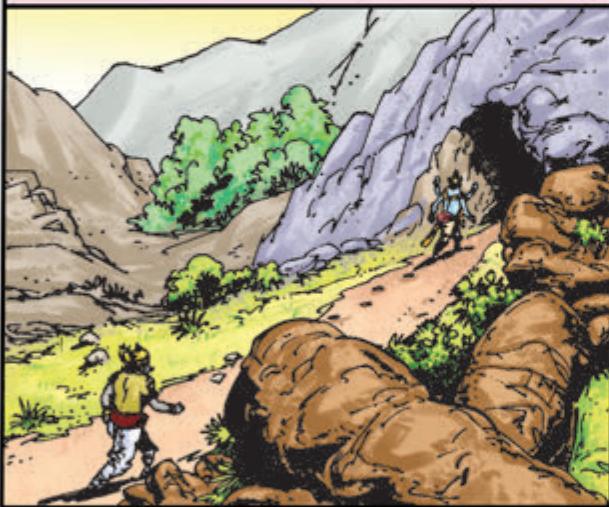
AND HE BEGAN WALKING FASTER.
FINDING KRISHNA ALMOST WITHIN HIS
GRASP, HE LURCHED FORWARD...



... ONLY TO GRAB THE EMPTY AIR.



AFTER WALKING FOR MILES, THEY CAME TO
THE MOUNTAIN CAVE OF SAGE MUCHUKUNDA.



GROPING IN THE DARK, THE
YAVANA FOLLOWED KRISHNA.



GRADUALLY THE YAVANA GOT USED TO THE DARK. HE SAW A MAN SLEEPING IN A CORNER OF THE CAVE.



MISTAKING THE SLEEPING FIGURE FOR KRISHNA, HE KICKED IT.



THE SLEEPING FIGURE SAT UP AND SLOWLY OPENED HIS EYES.



AS HE LOOKED AROUND FOR THE CULPRIT, HIS BURNING GAZE FELL ON KALAYAVANA.



MUCHUKUNDA GAZED LONG AND HARD...



... AND ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF THE YAVANA WAS A HANDFUL OF ASHES.



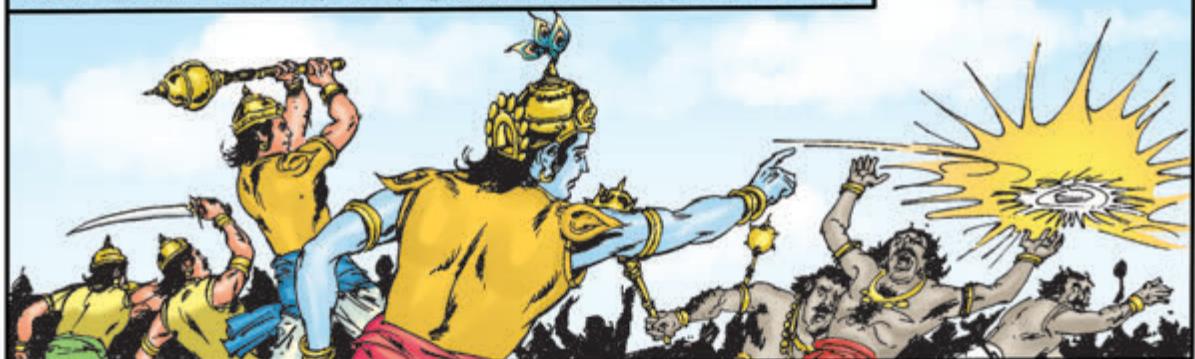
BALARAMA, MEANWHILE WAS STRUGGLING WITH THE YAVANA'S HORDES. HE HAD ALMOST GIVEN UP HOPE, WHEN —

AH! KRISHNA!
KRISHNA HAS
RETURNED!

ALAS! THE YADAVA
RETURNS ALONE.
OUR LORD IS
DEAD.



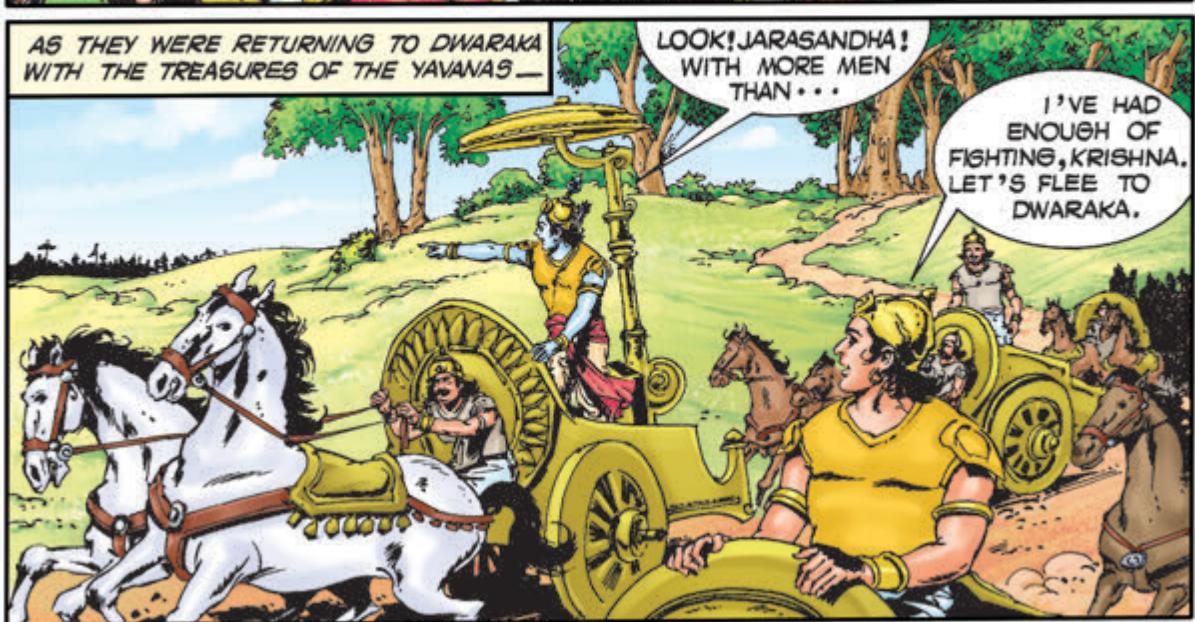
TOGETHER THE TWO BROTHERS SOON KILLED THE ENTIRE ARMY.

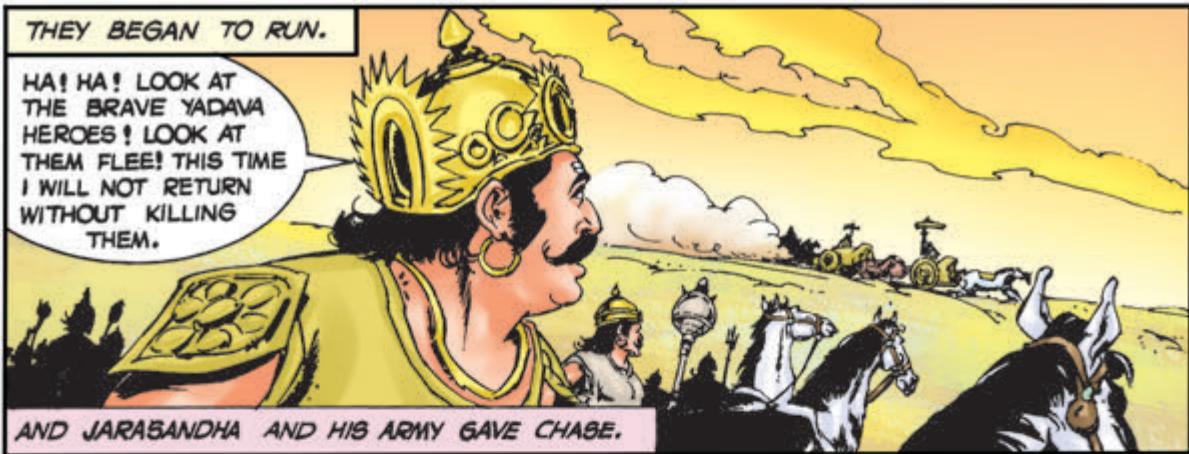


AS THEY WERE RETURNING TO DWARAKA
WITH THE TREASURES OF THE YAVANAS —

LOOK! JARASANDHA!
WITH MORE MEN
THAN...

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
FIGHTING, KRISHNA.
LET'S FLEE TO
DWARAKA.





FOR MILES KRISHNA AND BALARAMA RAN, WITH JARASANDHA AND HIS HUGE ARMY FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND. AT LAST—



FOR A MOMENT JARASANDHA WAS DUMB WITH FURY TO SEE HIS QUARRY ESCAPE. THEN HE GAVE ORDERS.



AS THE FLAMES ENVELOPED THE MOUNTAIN, CLOUDING THE ENEMIES' VISION—



THE TWO BROTHERS TOOK ONE MIGHTY LEAP
FROM THE MOUNTAIN TOP...



...CROSSED THE ARMIES SURROUNDING
THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN...



...LANDED ON THE PLAIN, UNNOTICED BY
JARASANDHA'S MEN...

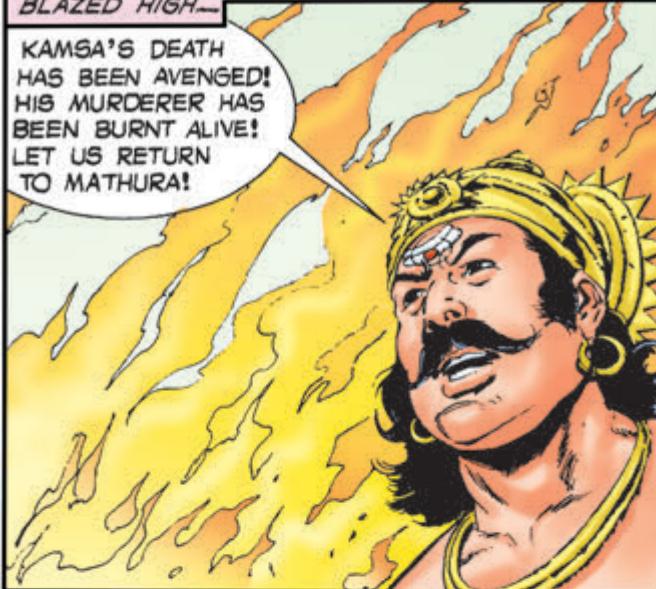


...AND MADE THEIR WAY TO DWARAKA.



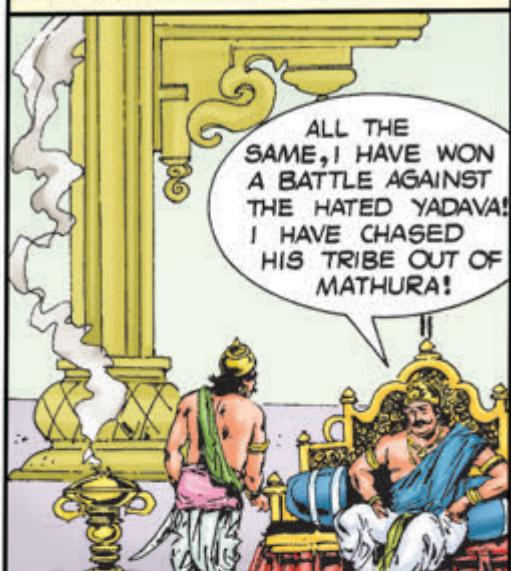
MEANWHILE, AS THE FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN BLAZED HIGH—

KAMSA'S DEATH HAS BEEN AVENGED! HIS MURDERER HAS BEEN BURNT ALIVE! LET US RETURN TO MATHURA!



LATER, WHEN JARASANDHA LEARNT THAT THEY WERE NOT DEAD —

ALL THE SAME, I HAVE WON A BATTLE AGAINST THE HATED YADAVA! I HAVE CHASED HIS TRIBE OUT OF MATHURA!



THIS ONE VICTORY MADE JARASANDHA CONCEITED AND AMBITIOUS.

I AM NOW THE MOST POWERFUL KING ON EARTH. I SHALL CAPTURE ALL THE KINGS WHO OWE ALLEGIANCE TO THE YADAVAS AND SACRIFICE THEM.



JARASANDHA DID NOT WASTE ANY TIME. SOON —

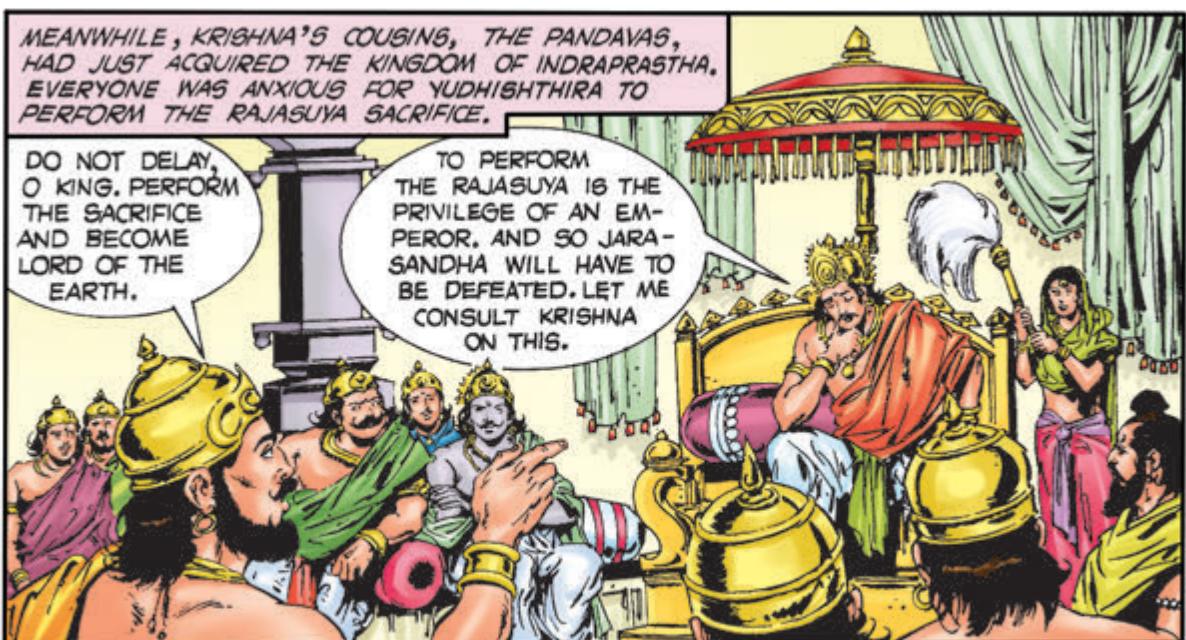
AH! ONE MORE. THE NUMBERS SWELL DAILY. MY SACRIFICE SHALL BE UNEQUALLED BY ANY THAT HAS BEEN OR EVER WILL BE PERFORMED.



MEANWHILE, KRISHNA'S COUSINS, THE PANDAVAS, HAD JUST ACQUIRED THE KINGDOM OF INDRAPRASTHA. EVERYONE WAS ANXIOUS FOR YUDHISHTHIRA TO PERFORM THE RAJASUYA SACRIFICE.

DO NOT DELAY,
O KING. PERFORM
THE SACRIFICE
AND BECOME
LORD OF THE
EARTH.

TO PERFORM
THE RAJASUYA IS THE
PRIVILEGE OF AN EM-
PEROR. AND SO JARA-
SANDHA WILL HAVE TO
BE DEFEATED. LET ME
CONSULT KRISHNA
ON THIS.



WHEN KRISHNA CAME AND YUDHISHTHIRA ASKED HIM HIS OPINION —

TO PERFORM
THE RAJASUYA
YOU WILL HAVE TO
KILL JARASANDHA
AND RELEASE THE
KINGS IMPRISONED
BY HIM.

SINCE EVEN YOU
WERE ALARMED BY
HIS MIGHT, HOW CAN
I EVER HOPE TO
KILL HIM?



KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

AT THAT MOMENT, BHEEMA* WHO HAD BEEN LISTENING QUIETLY, SUDDENLY SPOKE UP.

BETWEEN KRISHNA, ARJUNA
AND ME, WE CAN EASILY
KILL THE EVIL JARASANDHA.
PLEASE PERMIT US
TO TRY.

YES, LET US GO. HE
WHO KILLS JARA-
SANDHA AND FREES
HIS VICTIMS, WILL
EARN IMMORTAL
FAME.

BUT EVEN THEN YUDHISHTHIRA HESITATED.

NO. I CANNOT SEND YOU
TO CERTAIN DEATH FOR
THE SAKE OF IMPERIAL
GLORY.

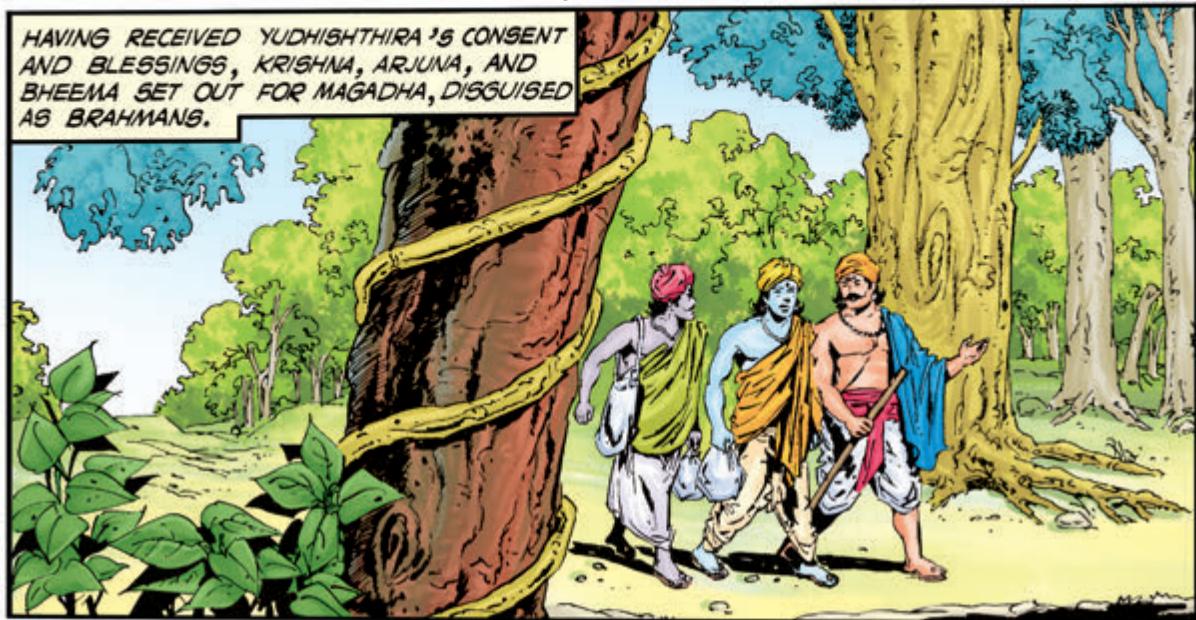
ARJUNA, THE THIRD PANDAVA, THEN HAD
HIS SAY.

IF WE DO NOT UNDERTAKE
THE TASK WHEN WE HAVE
THE ABILITY TO DO SO,
WE WILL EARN THE
CONTEMPT OF ALL.
PERMIT US TO GO.

YES. IF
YOU HAVE
ANY FAITH IN
ME...

KRISHNA, MY FAITH
IN YOU IS FIRM! TAKE
MY BROTHERS AND
GO. MAY SUCCESS
BE YOURS.

HAVING RECEIVED YUDHISHTHIRA'S CONSENT AND BLESSINGS, KRISHNA, ARJUNA, AND BHEEMA SET OUT FOR MAGADHA, DISGUISED AS BRAHMANS.



THEY REACHED JARA-SANDHA'S PALACE AT THE HOUR WHEN HE ENTERTAINED PETITIONS.

O KING, WE HAVE COME FROM AFAR FOR A DEFINITE PURPOSE. SO PLEASE SAY YOU WILL GRANT US OUR REQUEST.

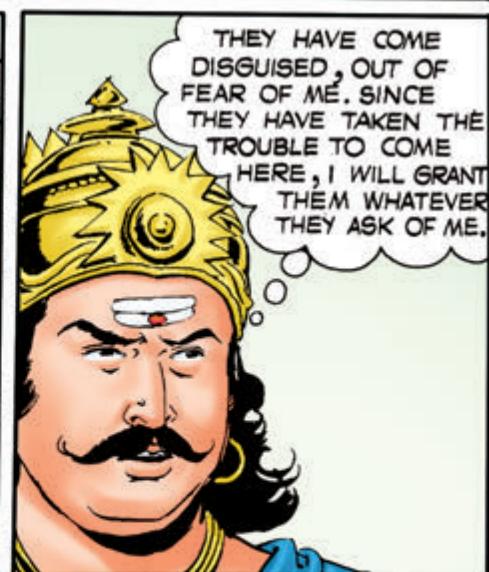


JARASANDHA, HOWEVER, WAS NOT WHOLLY TAKEN IN.

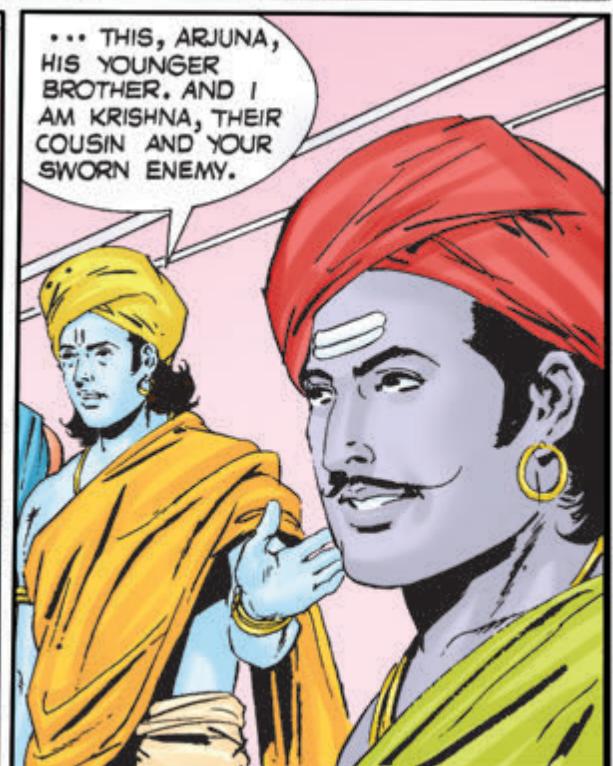
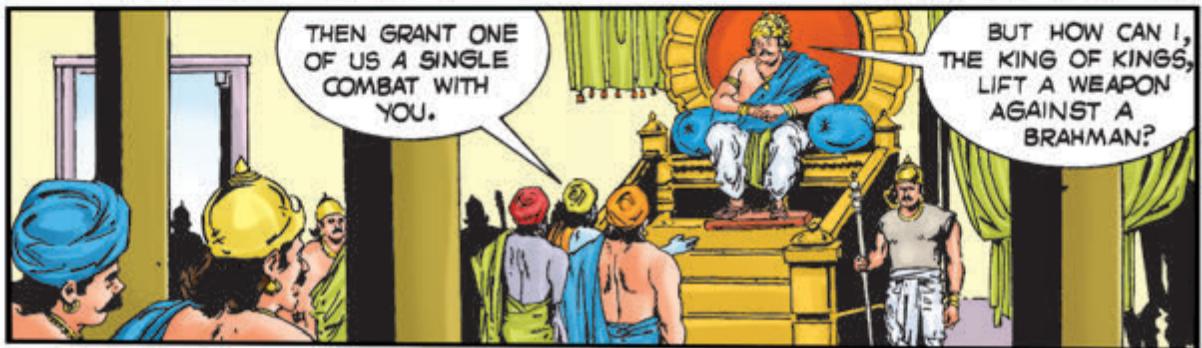
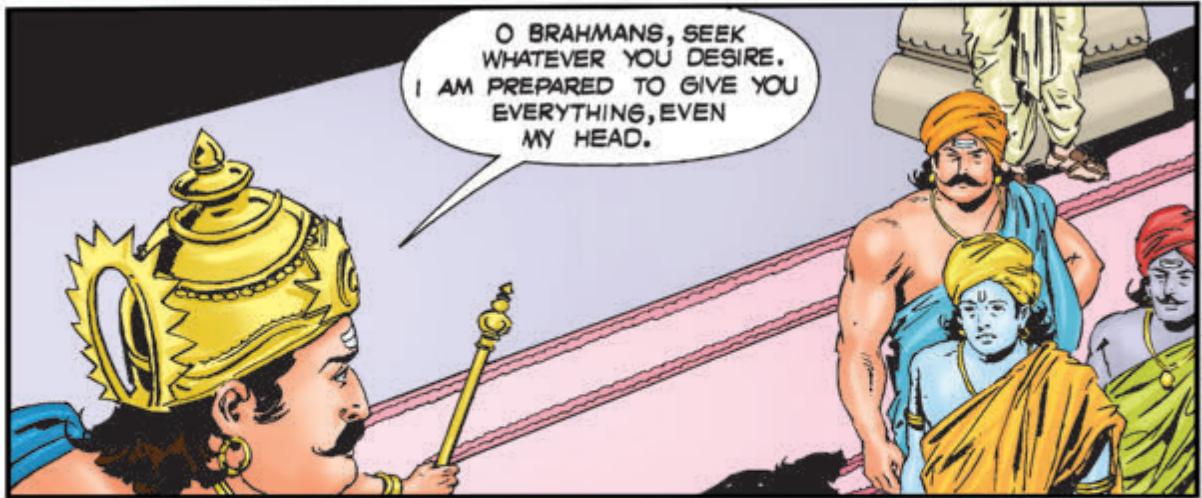
THEIR BEARING... THOSE SCARRED FORE-ARMS... THEY ARE NO BRAHMANS. I THINK I'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE.



THEY HAVE COME DISGUISED, OUT OF FEAR OF ME. SINCE THEY HAVE TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO COME HERE, I WILL GRANT THEM WHATEVER THEY ASK OF ME.



KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA



JARASANDHA LAUGHED CONTEMPTUOUSLY.

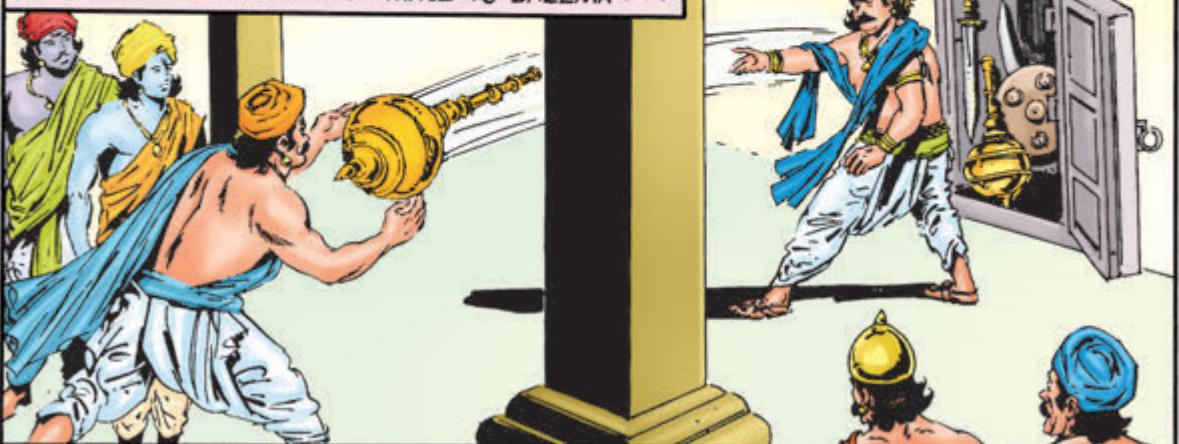
FOOLS!
IF YOU SEEK
COMBAT, I WILL
CERTAINLY FIGHT.
BUT ...



...NOT WITH YOU,
KRISHNA. YOU ARE
A COWARD.



JARASANDHA THREW A HUGE MACE TO BHEEMA ...

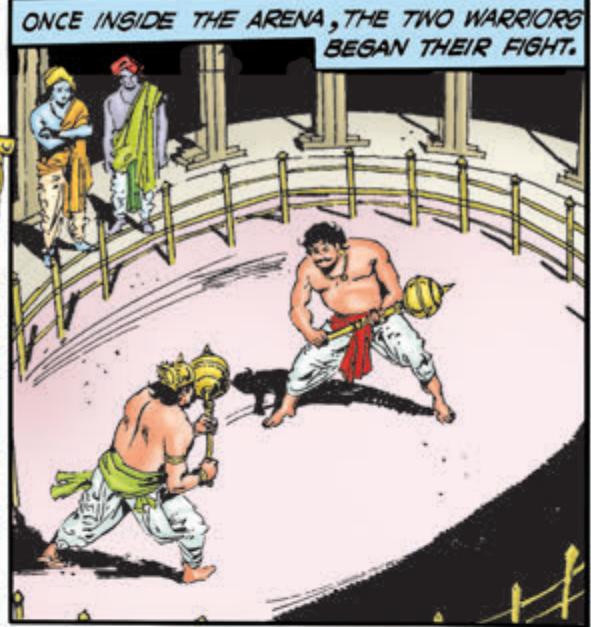
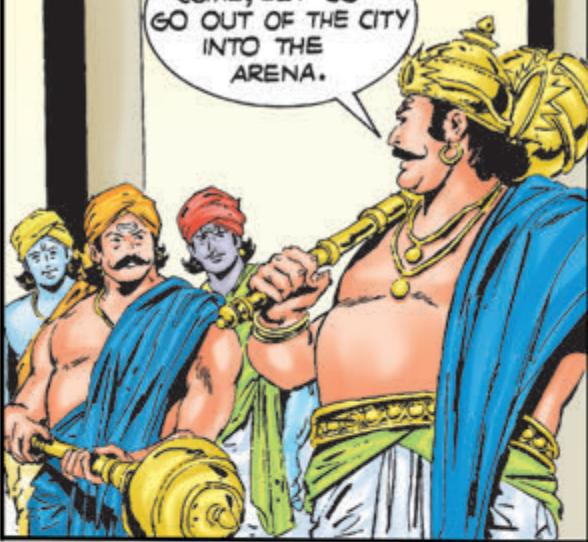


KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

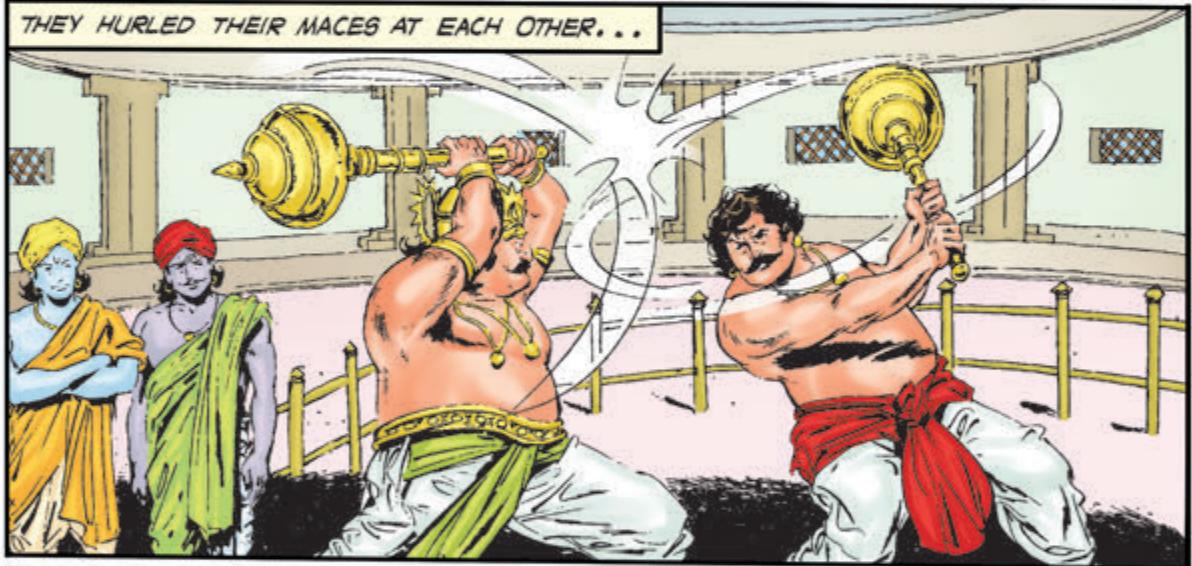
... AND TOOK ANOTHER FOR HIMSELF.

COME, LET US
GO OUT OF THE CITY
INTO THE
ARENA.

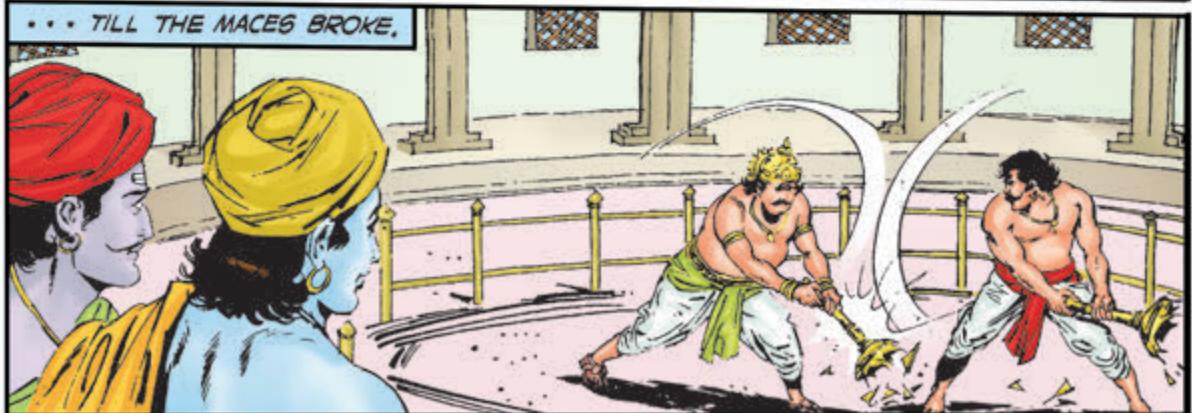
ONCE INSIDE THE ARENA, THE TWO WARRIOR
BEGAN THEIR FIGHT.



THEY HURLED THEIR MACES AT EACH OTHER...



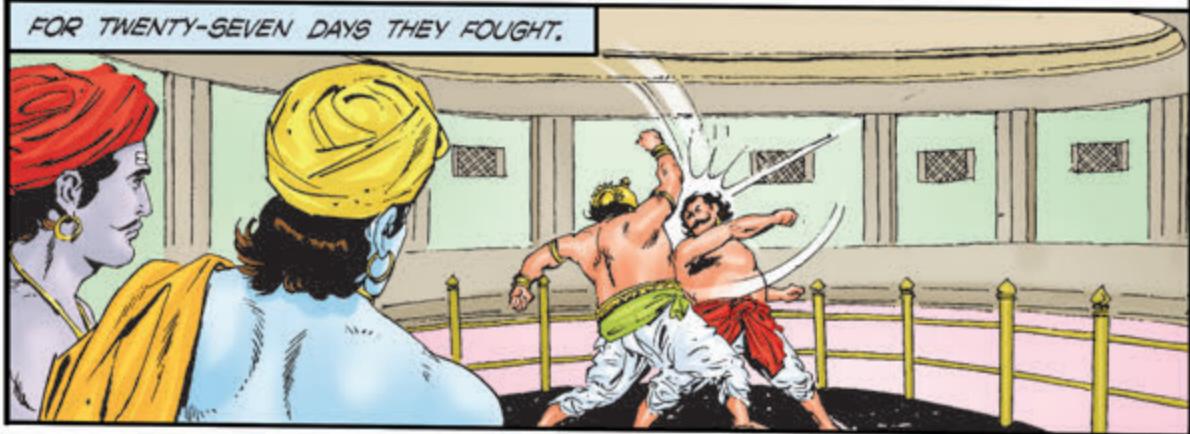
... TILL THE MACES BROKE.



FULL OF RAGE, THEY RUSHED AT EACH OTHER,
HITTING OUT WITH THEIR FISTS OF STEEL. THE
BLOWS PRODUCED SOUNDS AS SHARP AS
THUNDER-CLAPS.



FOR TWENTY-SEVEN DAYS THEY FOUGHT.



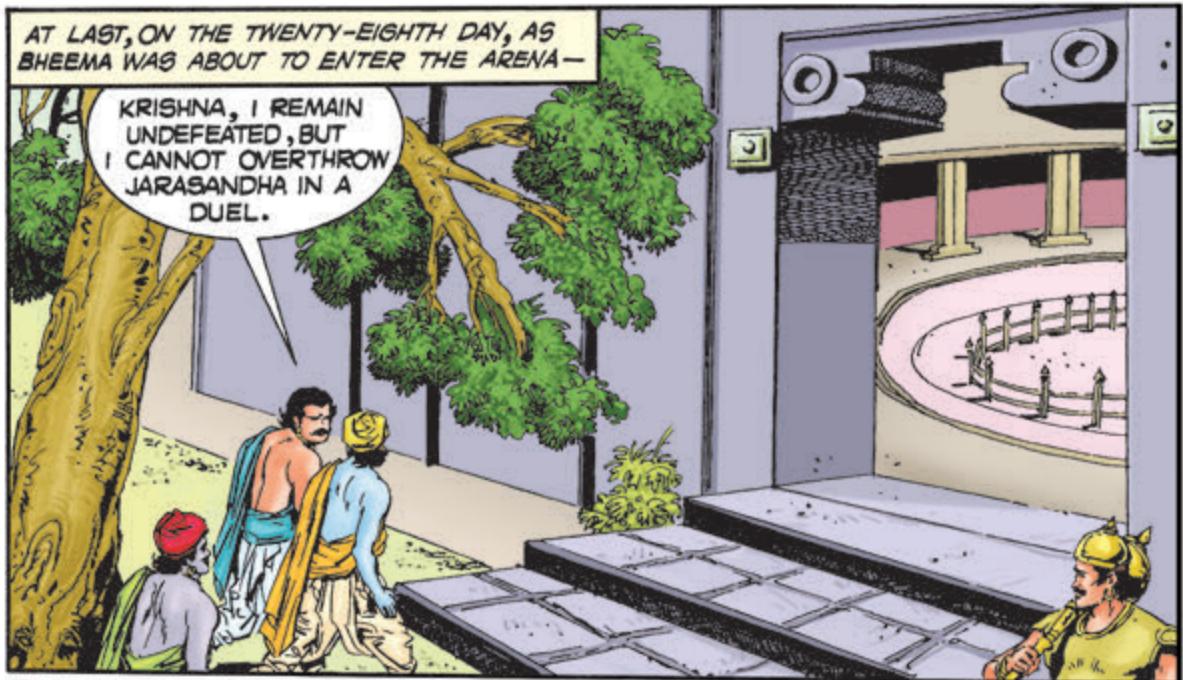
BUT SO WELL-MATCHED WERE THEY, THAT NEITHER
SUCCUMBED TO THE OTHER'S BLOWS.



KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

AT LAST, ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY, AS BHEEMA WAS ABOUT TO ENTER THE ARENA—

KRISHNA, I REMAIN UNDEFEATED, BUT I CANNOT OVERTHROW JARASANDHA IN A DUEL.



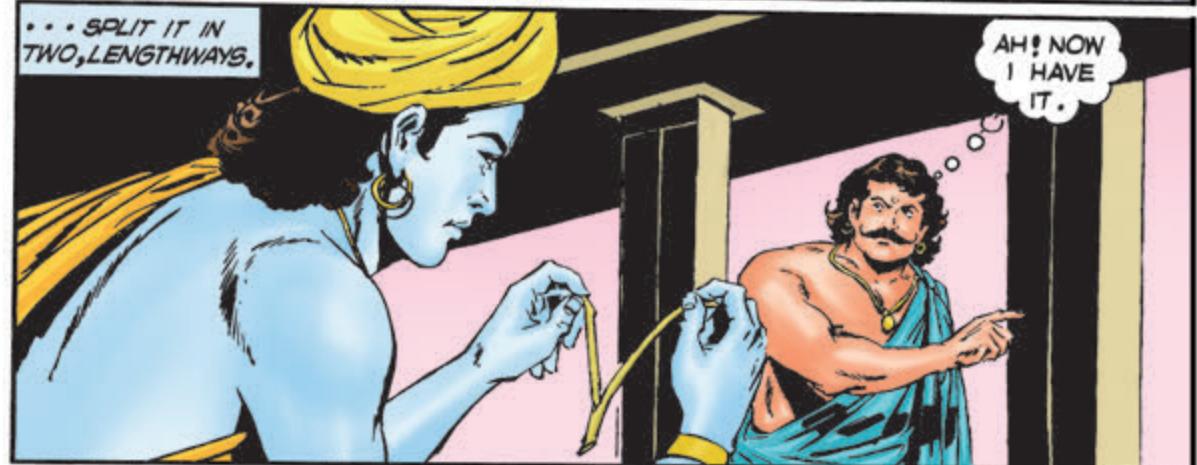
KRISHNA, WHO KNEW THE SECRET OF JARASANDHA'S BIRTH, DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME TO END THE BATTLE.

FOR HAVING ENGAGED JARASANDHA IN COMBAT FOR TWENTY-SEVEN DAYS, BHEEMA WILL ACHIEVE ENOUGH FAME. IT'S TIME I SHOWED HIM HOW TO KILL THE EVIL KING.

WITHOUT SAYING A WORD, KRISHNA PICKED UP A TWIG AND...



...SPLIT IT IN TWO, LENGTHWAYS.



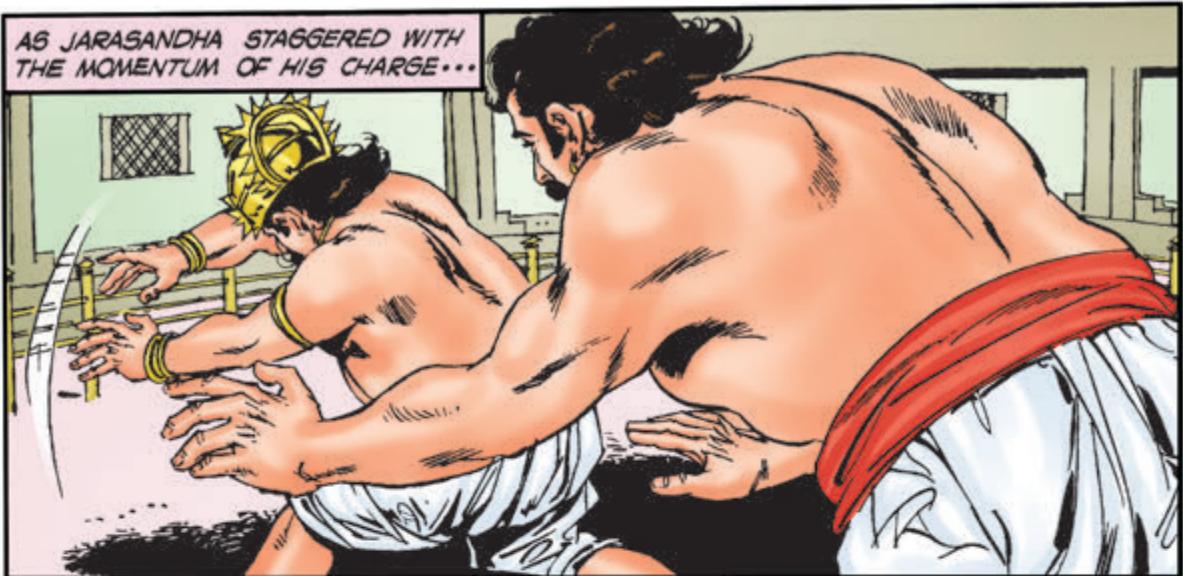
BHEEMA STRODE INTO THE ARENA WITH FRESH CONFIDENCE.

THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY I GET, I MUST SEIZE HIM BY HIS FEET AND THROW HIM TO THE GROUND. THE REST WILL BE EASY!

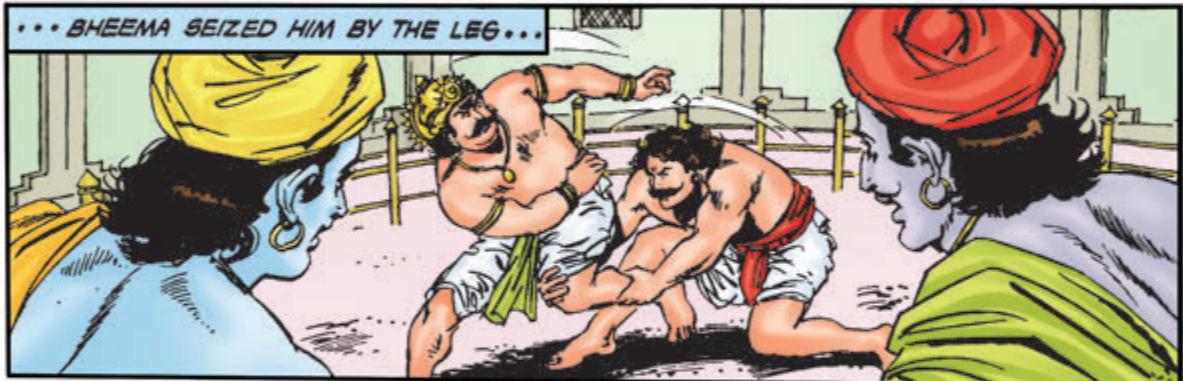
JARASANDHA RUSHED TOWARDS HIM.

BUT BHEEMA DEFTLY STEPPED ASIDE.

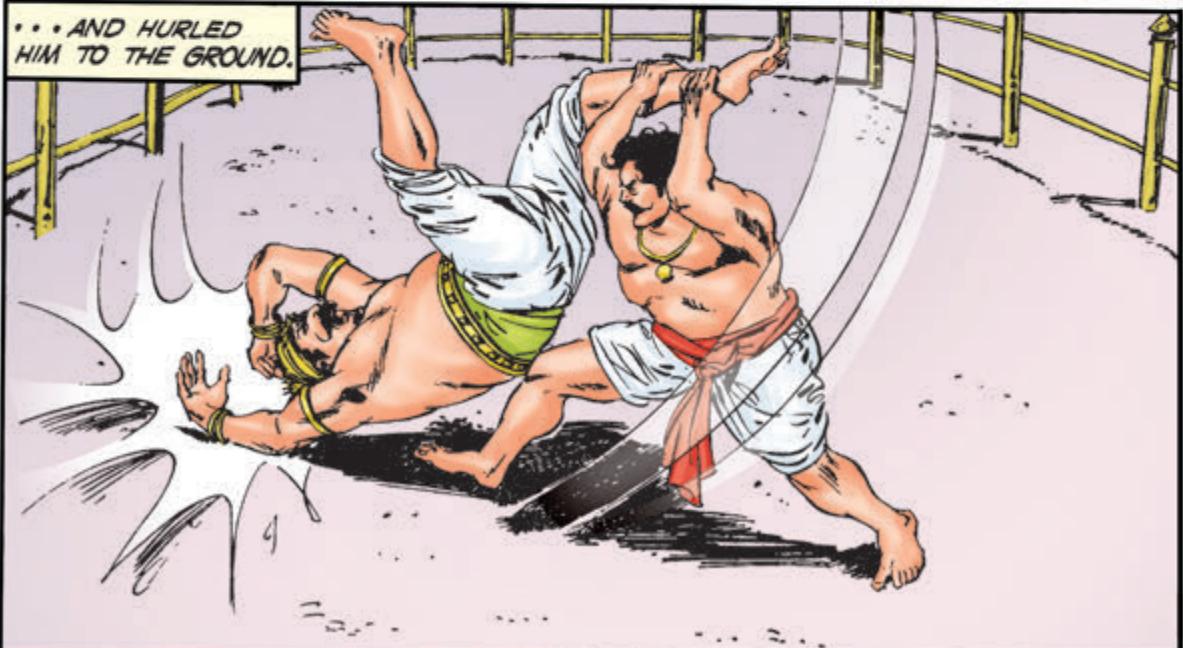
AS JARASANDHA STAGGERED WITH THE MOMENTUM OF HIS CHARGE...



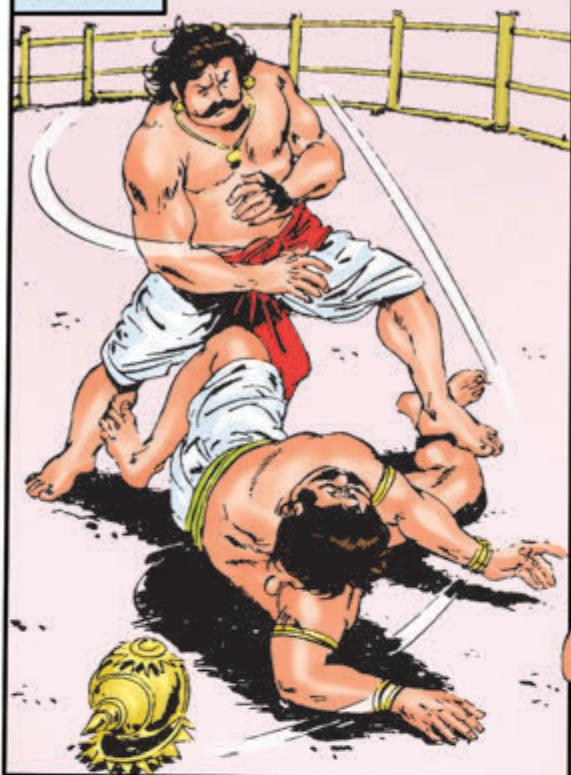
...BHEEMA SEIZED HIM BY THE LEG...



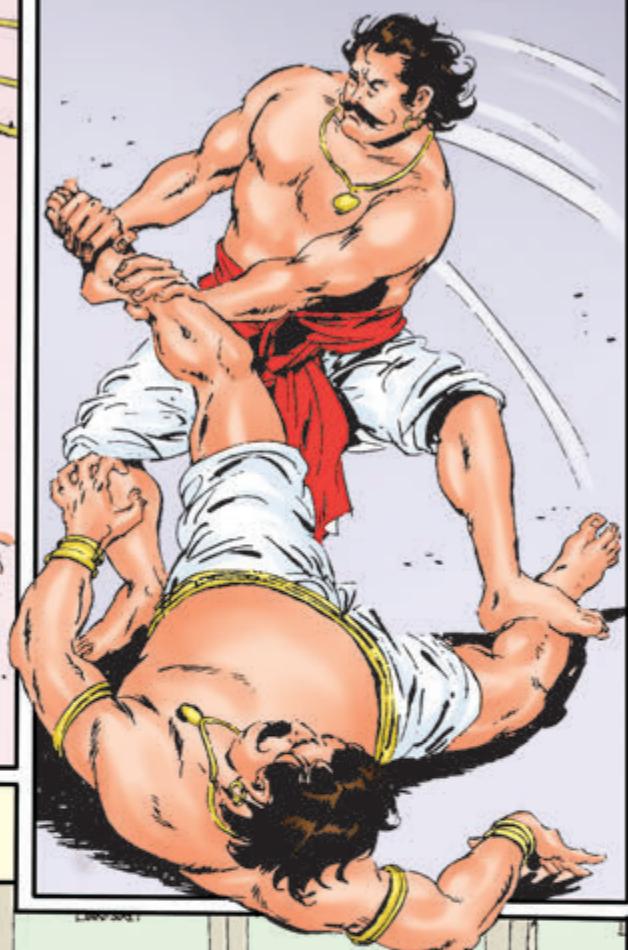
...AND HURLED HIM TO THE GROUND.



THEN PRESSING ONE FOOT OF THE
EVIL JARASANDHA WITH ONE OF HIS
OWN...



... HE TOOK HOLD OF THE OTHER...



... AND TEARING THE BODY OF THE
MIGHTY KING IN TWO, FLUNG THE TWO
HALVES AWAY FROM EACH OTHER.



GREAT WAS THE OUTCRY AMONG THE CITIZENS OF GIRIVRAJA WHEN THEY LEARNT THAT JARASANDHA, THEIR INVINCIBLE KING, HAD FALLEN. KRISHNA WENT TO JARASANDHA'S SON.

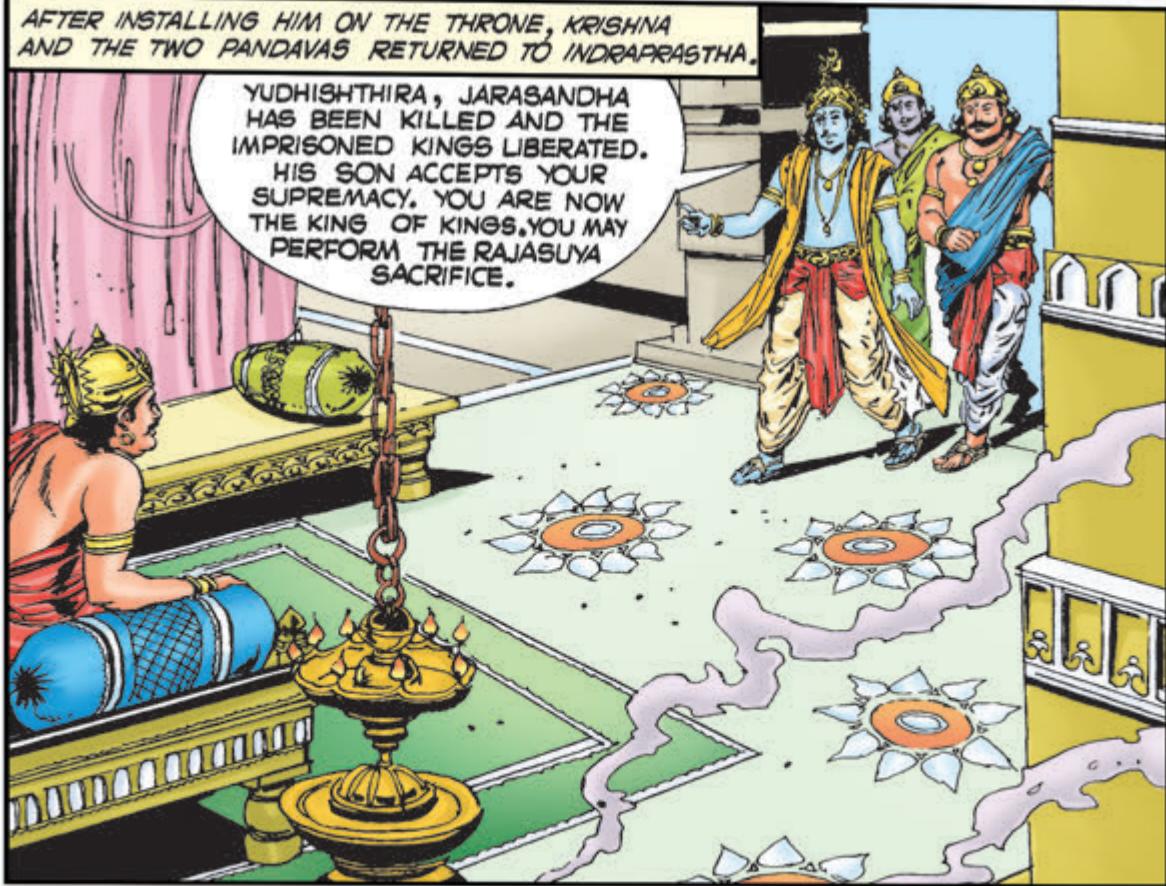
YOU WILL HAVE TO LIBERATE OUR ALLIES AND ACCEPT YUDHISHTHIRA AS YOUR EMPEROR. IF YOU DO, WE WILL INSTALL YOU ON YOUR FATHER'S THRONE.

I WILL DO AS YOU SAY.



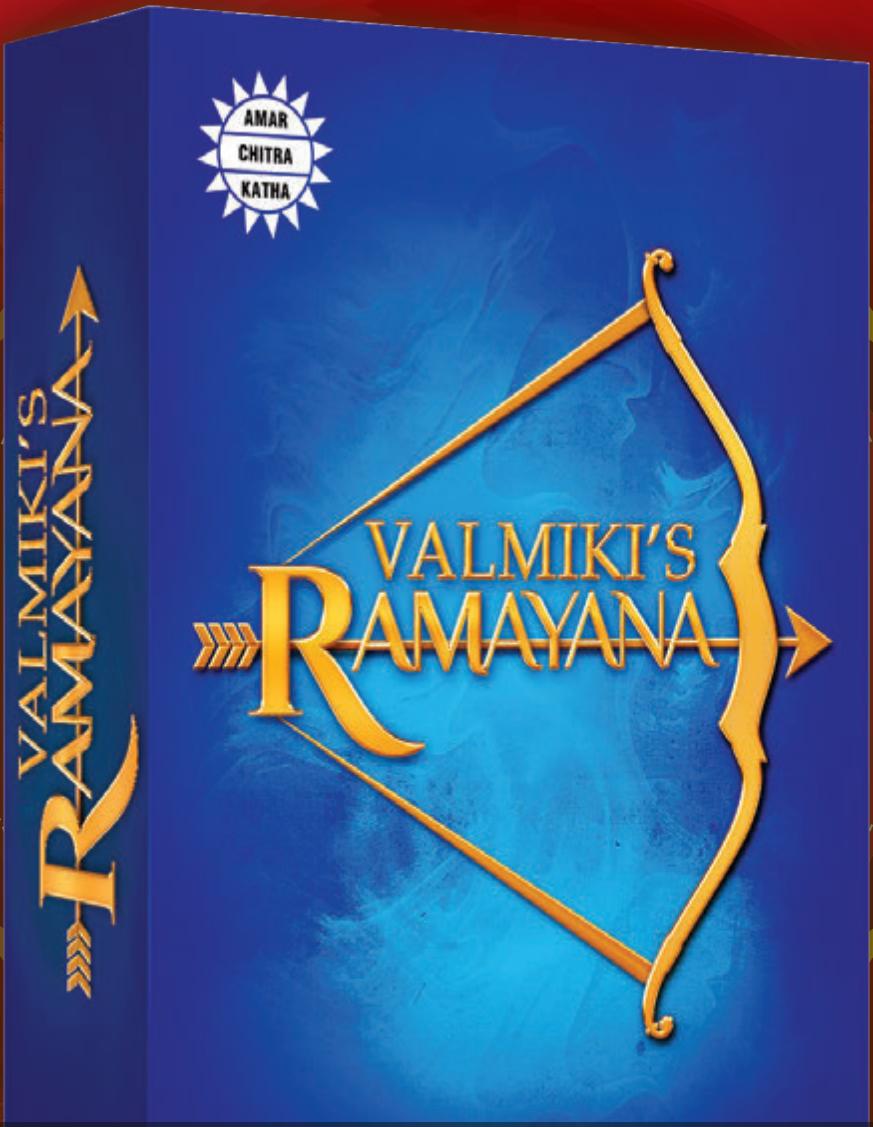
AFTER INSTALLING HIM ON THE THRONE, KRISHNA AND THE TWO PANDAVAS RETURNED TO INDRAPRASTHA.

YUDHISHTHIRA, JARASANDHA HAS BEEN KILLED AND THE IMPRISONED KINGS LIBERATED. HIS SON ACCEPTS YOUR SUPREMACY. YOU ARE NOW THE KING OF KINGS. YOU MAY PERFORM THE RAJASUYA SACRIFICE.





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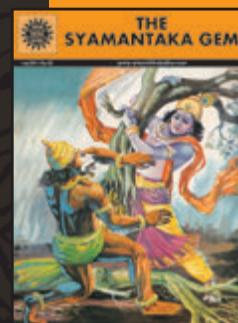
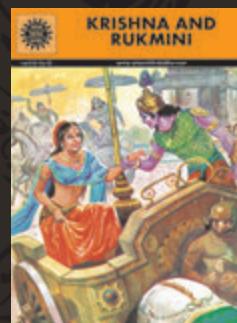
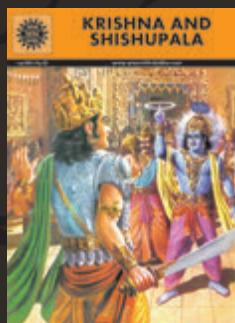
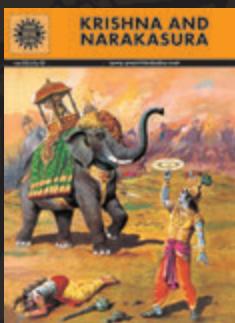


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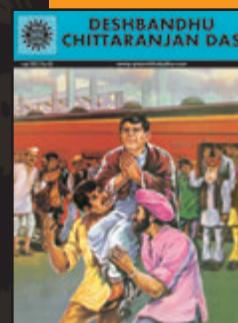
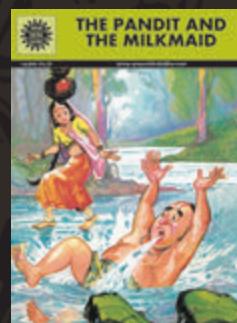
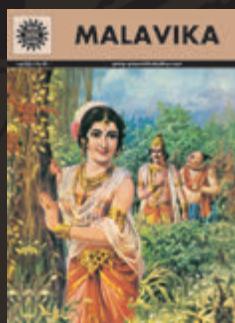
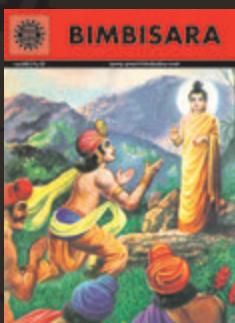
KRISHNA AND JARASANDHA

The Yadava tribe fled to distant Dwaraka to escape the wrath of the mighty Jarasandha, the ruler of Magadha. This king, whose very name made the strong quake, had to be subdued if the Pandavas were to establish their supremacy in the area. Only their cousin Krishna, a Yadava hero, could help them, and this is the tale of his triumph.

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