



SUBHADRA

BELOVED SISTER OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA

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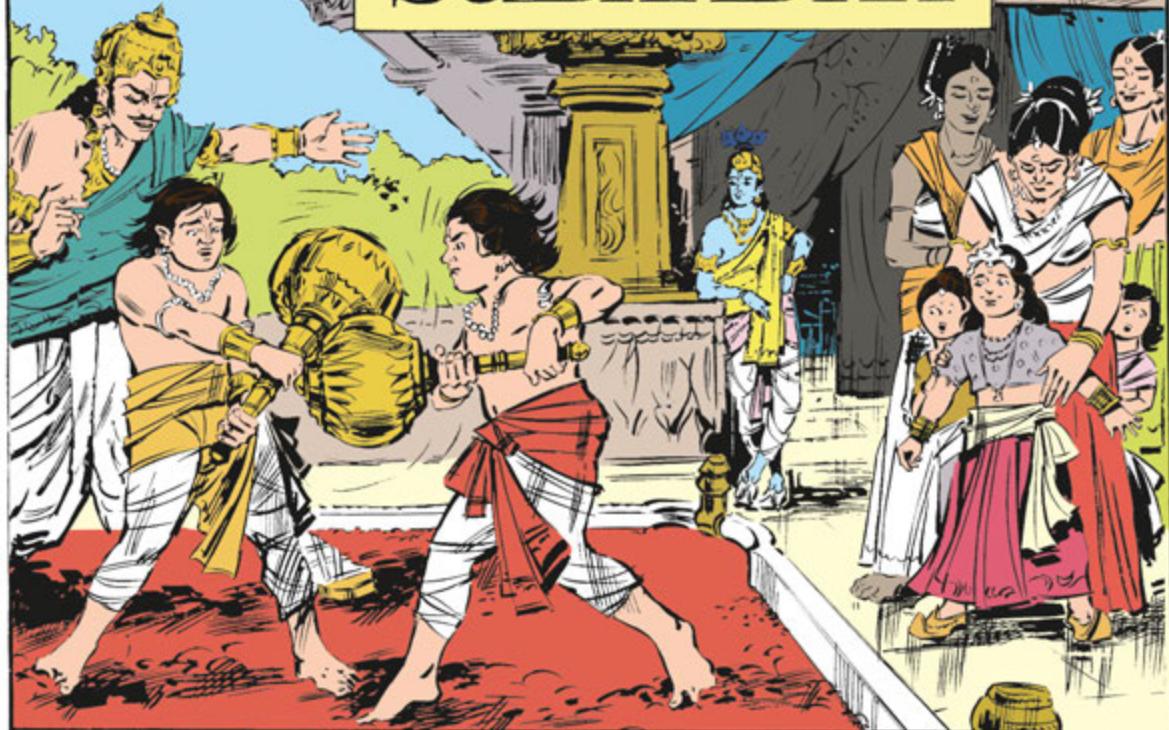
Anant Pai

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SUBHADRA



SUBHADRA WAS THE BELOVED SISTER OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA. BALARAMA, UNSURPASSED IN WIELDING THE MACE, TAUGHT MANY PRINCES THE ART.

BHEEMA, THE PANDAVA, AND HIS COUSIN DURYODHANA, THE KAURAVA WERE THE BEST PUPILS.

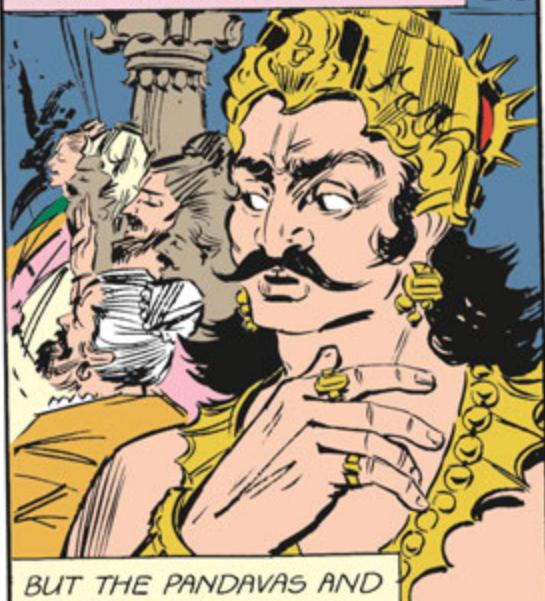
OF THE TWO,
DURYODHANA WAS
HIS FAVOURITE.



WHEN THE COUSINS GREW UP,
YUDHISHTHIRA, THE ELDEST PANDAVA,
WAS PROCLAIMED THE HEIR
APPARENT.



THE JEALOUS DURYODHANA
TRIED TO BURN THEM ALIVE.

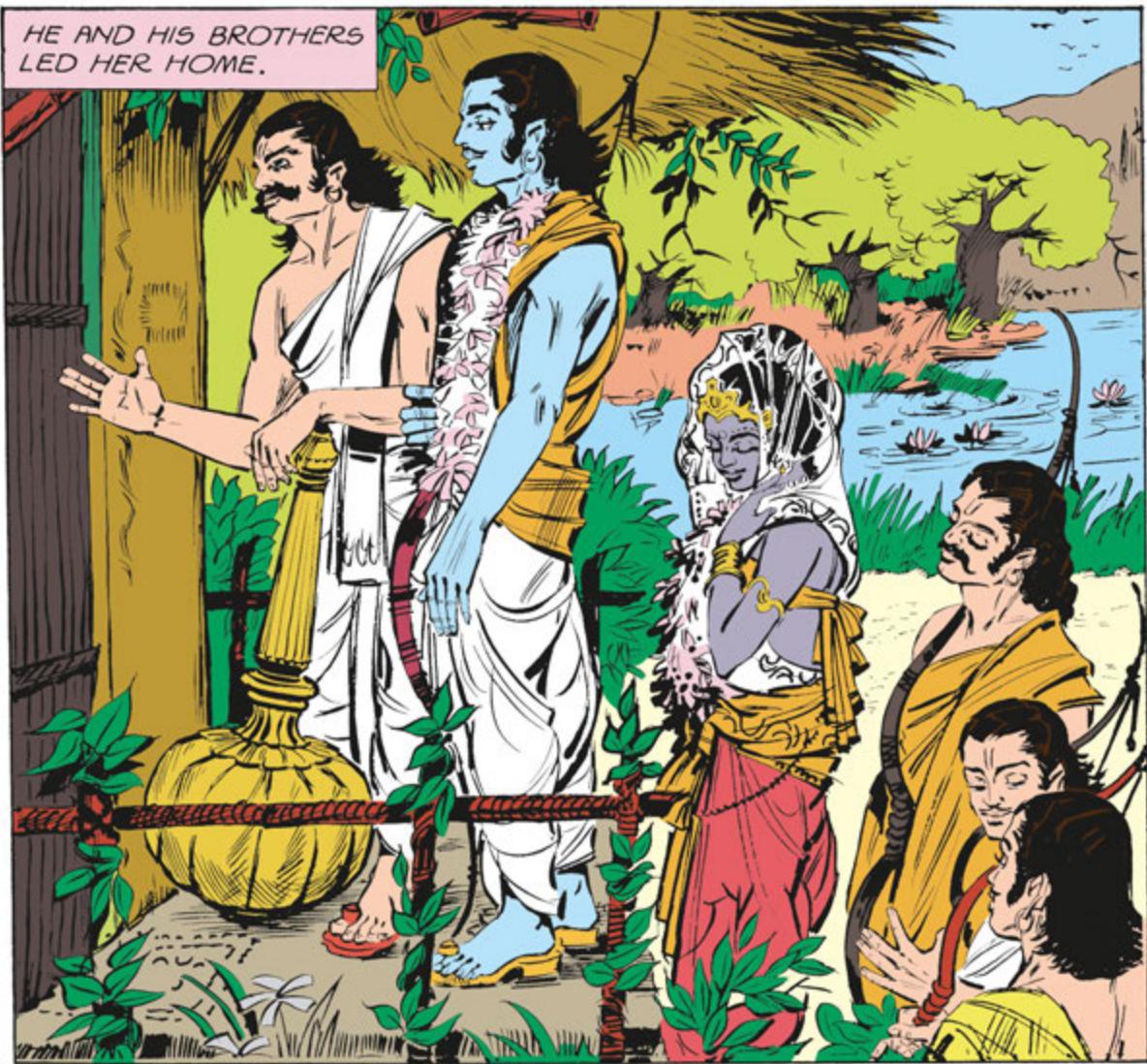


BUT THE PANDAVAS AND
THEIR MOTHER KUNTI
ESCAPED AND WENT
INTO HIDING AS
BRAHMANS.

WHILE THEY WERE IN HIDING, ARJUNA, THE
PANDAVA WON DRAUPADI, THE PRINCESS OF
PANCHALA IN A SWAYAMVARA.

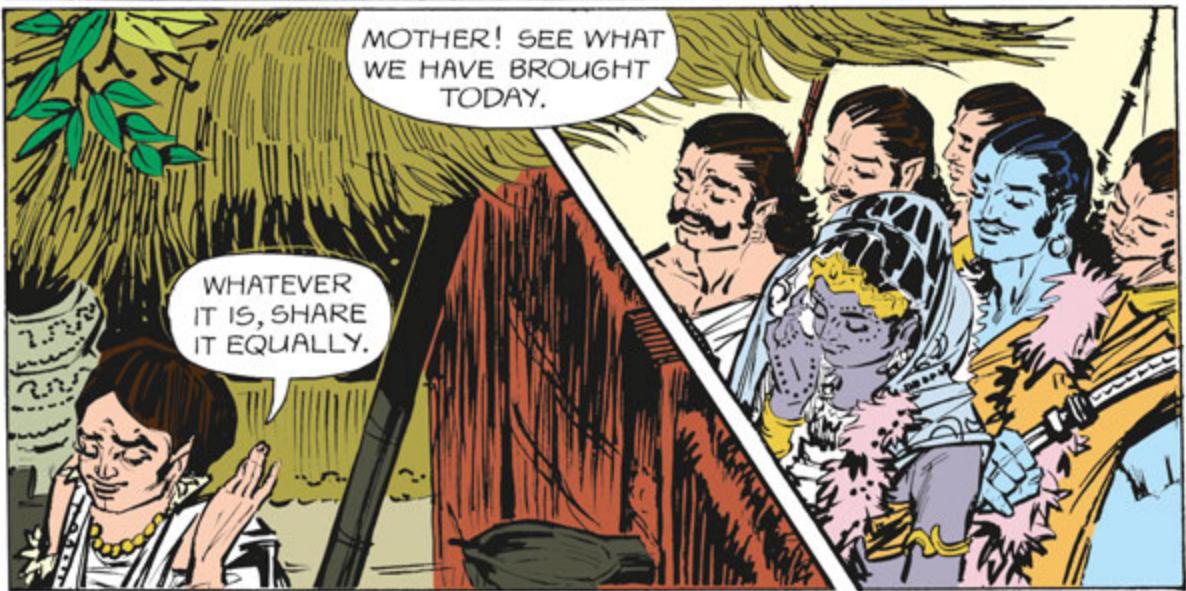


HE AND HIS BROTHERS
LED HER HOME.



MOTHER! SEE WHAT
WE HAVE BROUGHT
TODAY.

WHATEVER
IT IS, SHARE
IT EQUALLY.



SO DRAUPADI HAD TO BE WIFE TO ALL FIVE OF THEM. SOON AFTERWARDS HALF THEIR KINGDOM WAS RESTORED TO THEM AND THEY RETURNED WITH DRAUPADI AND MOTHER KUNTI, TO REIGN OVER IT.

SHE WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT NOT LETTING ANY ONE OF US FEEL HURT, NEGLECTED OR JEALOUS.

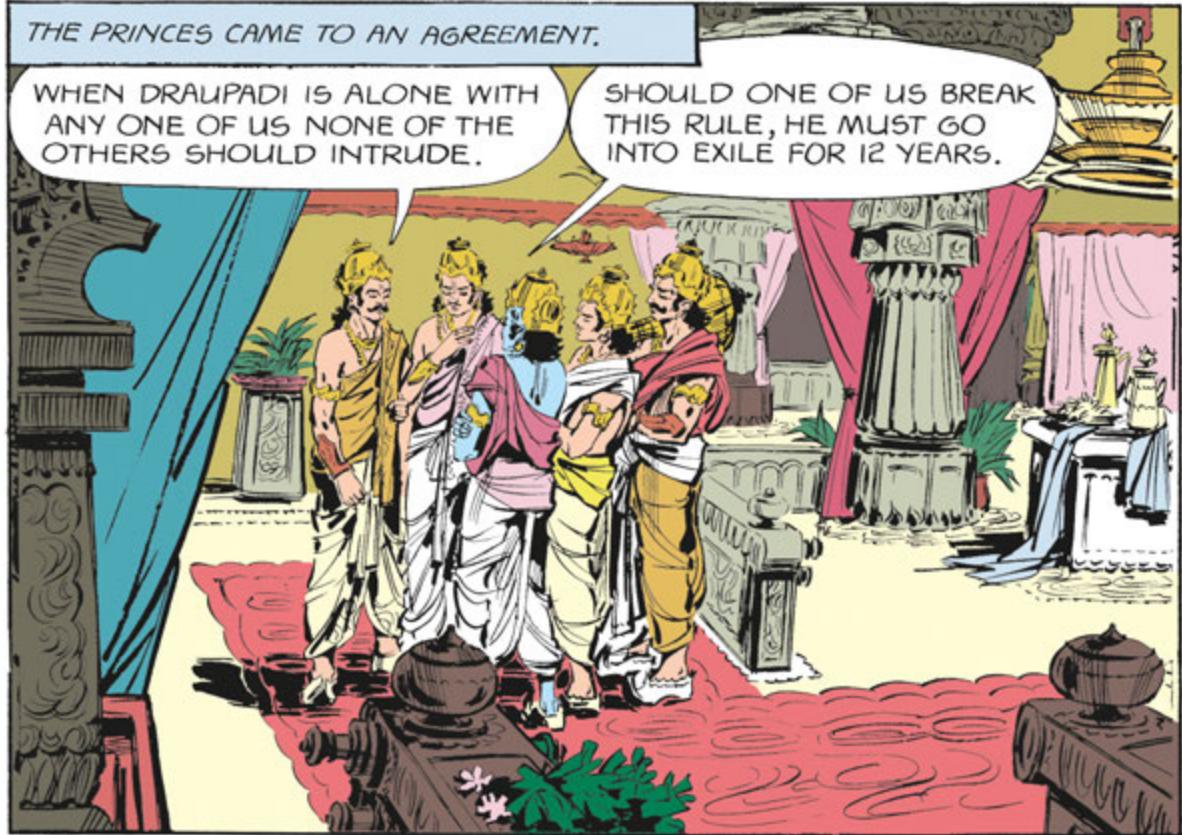
WE MUST HELP HER OUT.



THE PRINCES CAME TO AN AGREEMENT.

WHEN DRAUPADI IS ALONE WITH ANY ONE OF US NONE OF THE OTHERS SHOULD INTRUDE.

SHOULD ONE OF US BREAK THIS RULE, HE MUST GO INTO EXILE FOR 12 YEARS.



ONE DAY, DRAUPADI WAS ALONE WITH YUDHISHTHIRA.



JUST THEN A BRAHMAN CAME RUNNING TO ARJUNA.

O PANDAVA! THIEVES ARE DRIVING AWAY MY CATTLE. HELP! HELP!



ARJUNA WAS IN A DILEMMA.

MY WEAPONS ARE IN YUDHISHTHIRA'S ROOM, AND DRAUPADI IS WITH HIM.



IF I BREAK THE RULE AND DISTURB THEM, I WILL HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES.

O PANDAVA, WHY DO YOU HESITATE? THE THIEVES WILL ESCAPE! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO PROTECT ME.





ARJUNA RESTORED THE CATTLE TO THE BRAHMAN, AND RETURNED TO YUDHISHTHIRA.

I BROKE THE RULE.
I AM READY TO GO
AWAY FOR TWELVE
YEARS.

NO, BELOVED
BROTHER!
I FORGIVE YOU.
YOU MUST
NOT GO.



A RULE IS A RULE.
I HAVE BROKEN IT.
I WILL TAKE MY
PUNISHMENT.

AS ARJUNA SET OUT, HE
WONDERED WHERE HE
SHOULD GO AND WHAT
HE SHOULD DO. AT LAST-

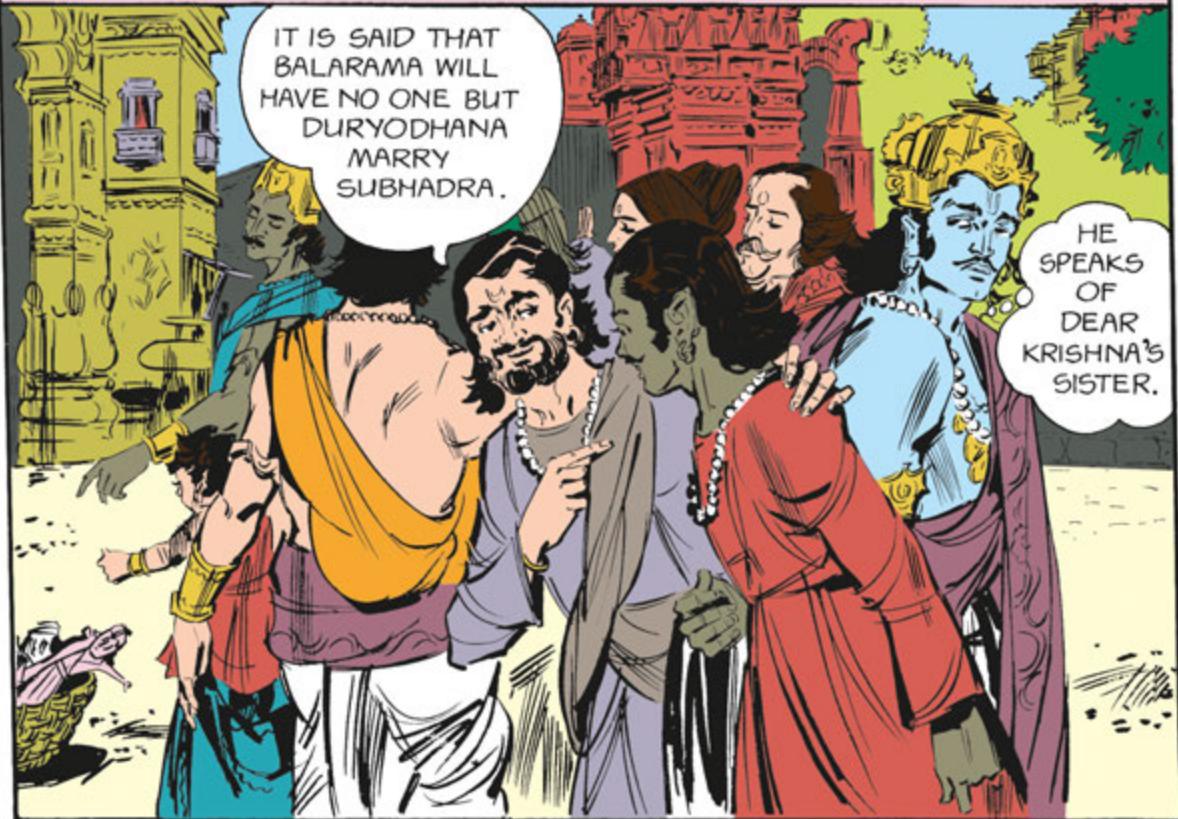
I WILL VISIT ALL
THE HOLY
PLACES ONE
BY ONE.



AS YOU
WISH.



DURING THE COURSE OF HIS PILGRIMAGE, HE REACHED PRABHASA NEAR DWARAKA.



AND RIGHT THERE ARJUNA
MADE A VOW TO HIMSELF.

AND SO
SHALL IT
BE. I SHALL
WIN THE
FAIR
SUBHADRA.



HE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A
SANYASI.

THIS TRIDENT
IS THE SYMBOL
OF RENUN-
CIATION.
BALARAMA
WILL NEVER
SUSPECT
WHO
I AM.



IN THIS GARB ARJUNA ENTERED DWARAKA.

THE RAINS WILL SOON
BE HERE. THAT SHALL BE
MY EXCUSE TO LINGER IN
THIS CITY FOR A
FULL SEASON
AND WIN THE
FAIR ONE.



THE CITIZENS SAW THE SANYASI AND CAME TO PAY HIM THEIR RESPECTS. ONE DAY BALARAMA PASSED THAT WAY.



BALARAMA GOT DOWN FROM HIS CHARIOT AND WALKED UP TO THE SANYASI. THE MOMENT HE SAW ARJUNA, HE TOOK AN INSTANT LIKING TO HIM.



BALARAMA SPOKE TO HIM.

O HOLY ONE, I WOULD
FEEL HIGHLY HONOURED IF
YOU CAME TO MY PALACE
AND ALLOWED ME TO
ENTERTAIN YOU THERE.

FOR ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED
THE WORLD, THE VILLAGE AND
THE PALACE ARE THE SAME.
I ACCEPT YOUR
INVITATION.



ARJUNA WAS ELATED BY THIS
TURN OF EVENTS.

IT WILL BE FAR EASIER
FOR ME TO ACHIEVE MY
OBJECT FROM WITHIN
THE PALACE.

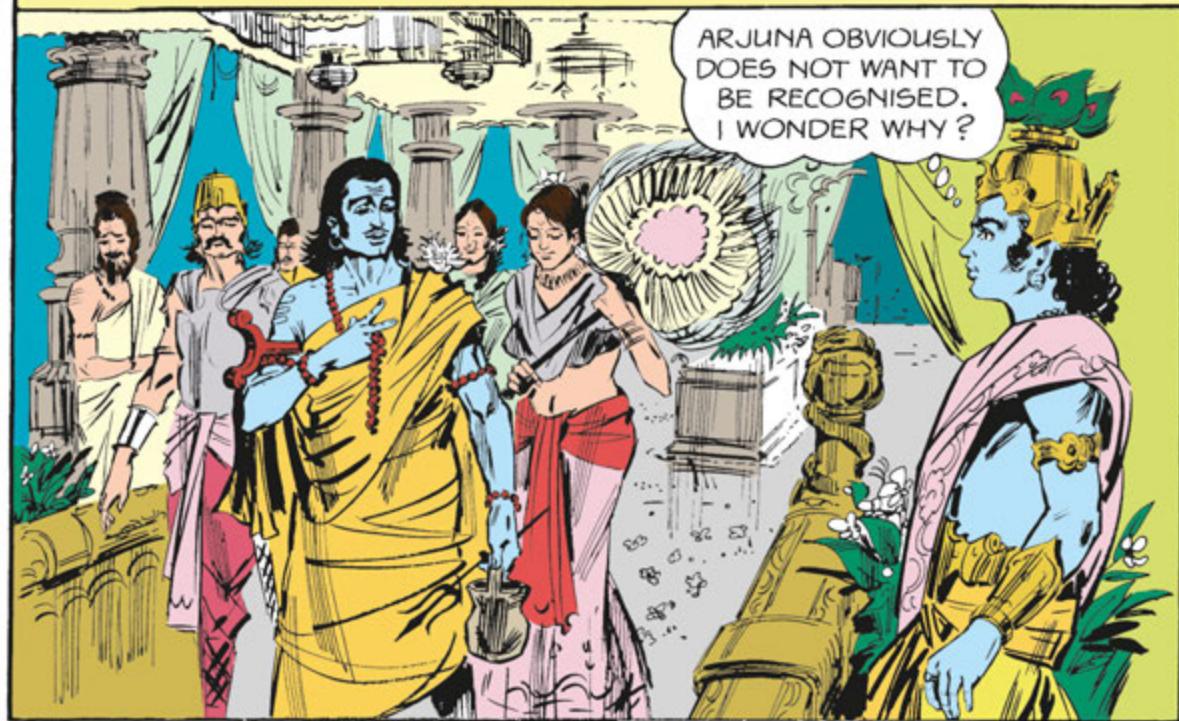


INSIDE THE PALACE ARJUNA WAS
IMMEDIATELY RECOGNISED BY KRISHNA.

DEAR ARJUNA!
HERE? BUT...



HE WAS ABOUT TO TALK TO HIM WHEN ARJUNA SILENCED HIM WITH A WINK.



KRISHNA TOOK THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION ARJUNA.

WHEN DID YOU COME? WHY HAVE YOU COME ALONE? AND IN THIS GARB? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

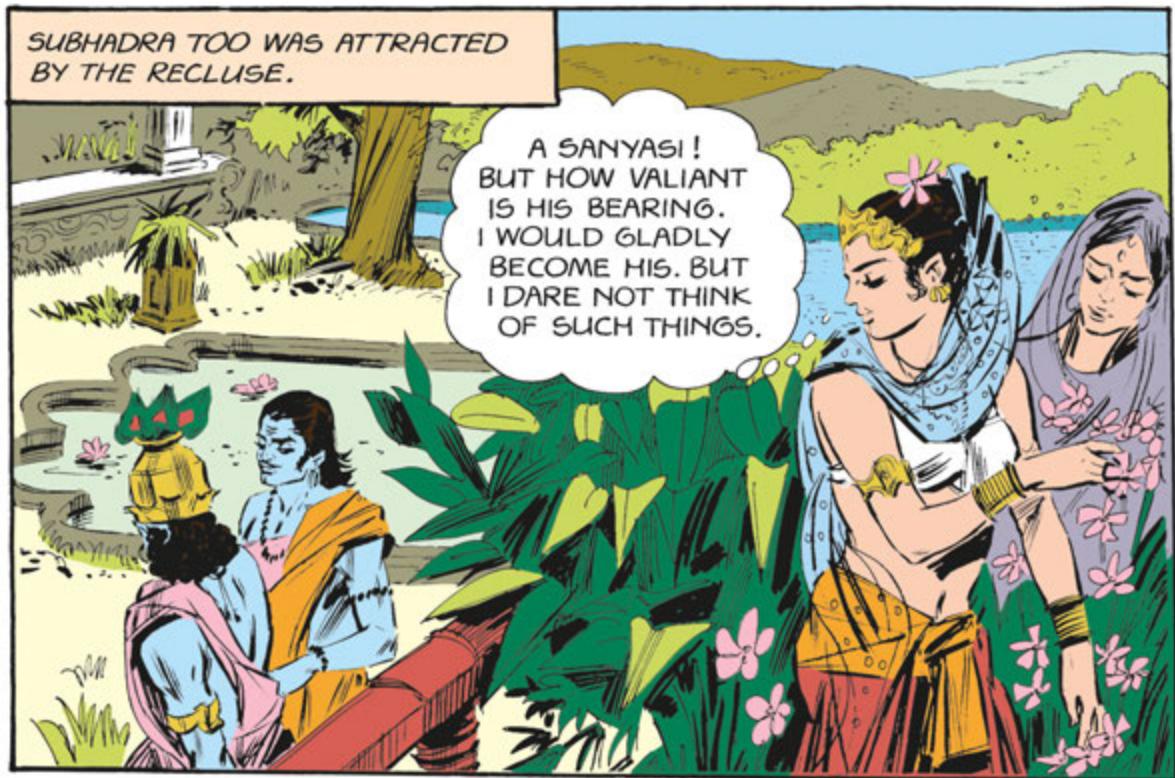
IT'S A LONG STORY.



ARJUNA TOLD HIM EVERYTHING. AS HE WAS ABOUT TO FINISH, A DAZZLING BEAUTY WITH HER BEVY OF MAIDS WALKED PAST THEM.



SUBHADRA TOO WAS ATTRACTED BY THE RECLUSE.



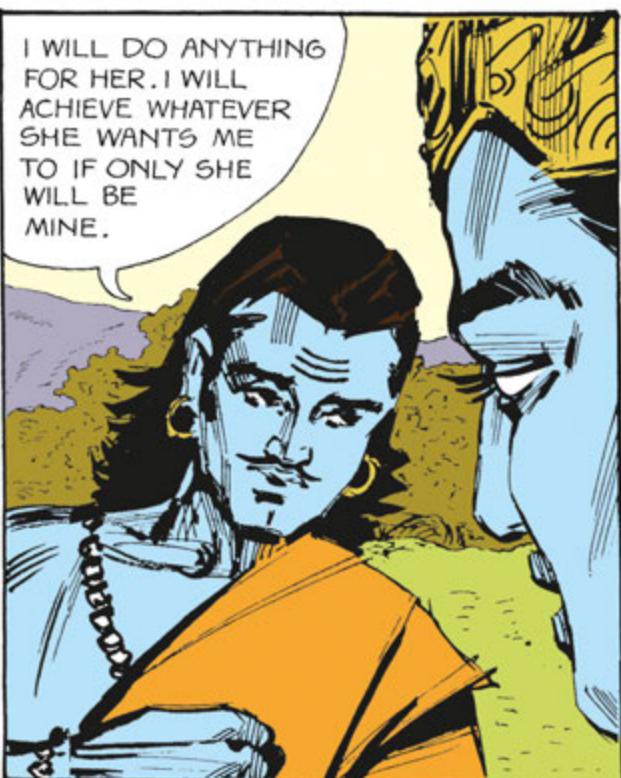
ARJUNA KEPT STARING AFTER HER.



TELL ME, KRISHNA,
HOW CAN I WIN
HER?



I WILL DO ANYTHING
FOR HER. I WILL
ACHIEVE WHATEVER
SHE WANTS ME
TO IF ONLY SHE
WILL BE
MINE.



KRISHNA WAS DELIGHTED. HE PREFERRED ARJUNA TO DURYODHANA FOR HIS SISTER.

IF SHE IS WILLING,
WHY DON'T YOU
RUN AWAY
WITH HER?

WOULD
THAT BE
PROPER?

YES. A BRAVE
KSHATRIYA MAY
ABDUCT A GIRL
TO MARRY HER.



AS THE DAYS PASSED, ARJUNA OFTEN SAW SUBHADRA BUT HAD NO CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE THOUGHT. THEN ONE DAY—



THIS CONFESSION WAS ALL THAT ARJUNA NEEDED.

GOOD! NOW I MUST GET YUDHISHTHIRA'S APPROVAL.

ARJUNA THEN MET KRISHNA AND TOLD HIM WHAT HE HAD OVERHEARD.

BUT I MUST GET YUDHISHTHIRA'S CONSENT AND APPROVAL BEFORE I ACT.

THAT IS EASY. I WILL SEND A MESSENGER TO HIM STRAIGHTAWAY.

A FEW DAYS LATER THE MESSENGER RETURNED AND BROUGHT THE REPLY ARJUNA SOUGHT. KRISHNA GAVE HIM THE NEWS.

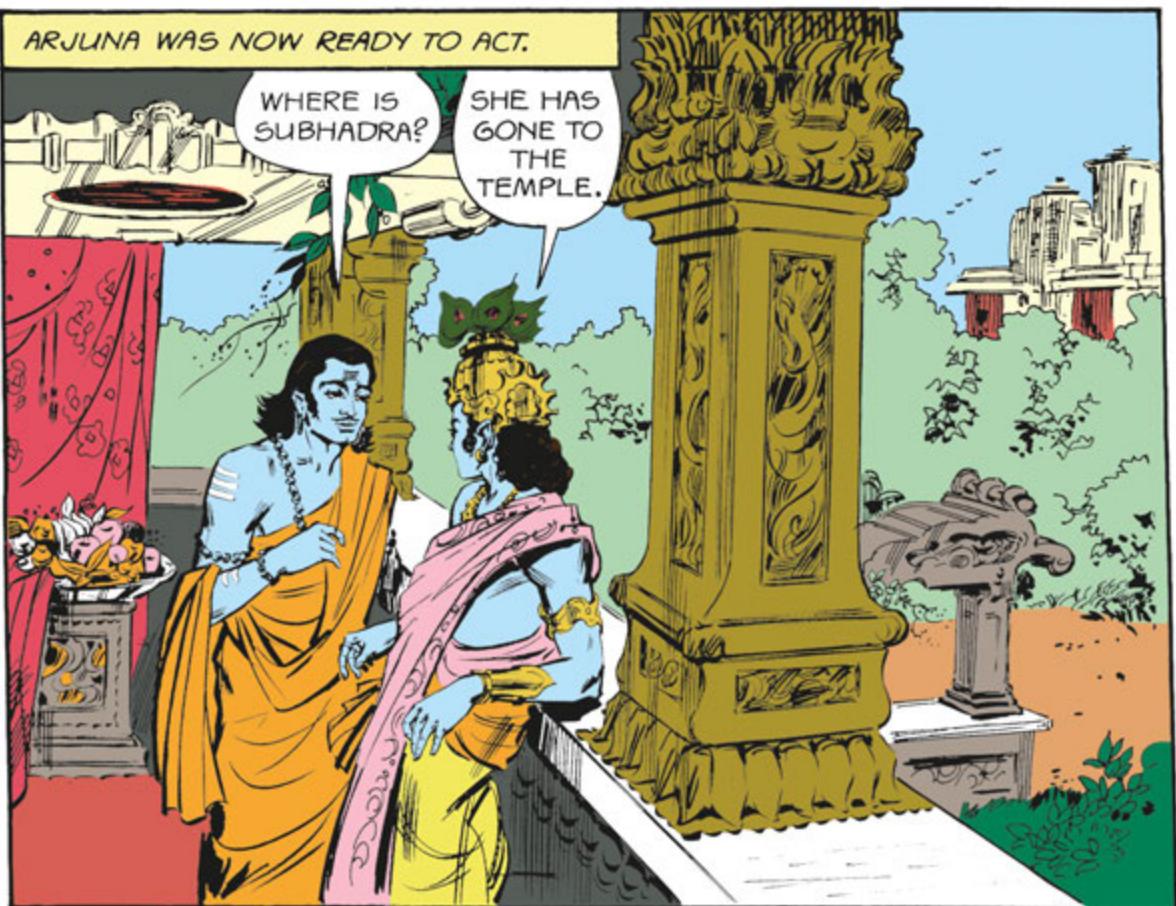
YUDHISHTHIRA HAS AGREED THAT OUR PLAN IS PROPER FOR A KSHATRIYA.

I HAD NO DOUBT THAT HE WOULD.

ARJUNA WAS NOW READY TO ACT.

WHERE IS
SUBHADRA?

SHE HAS
GONE TO
THE TEMPLE.

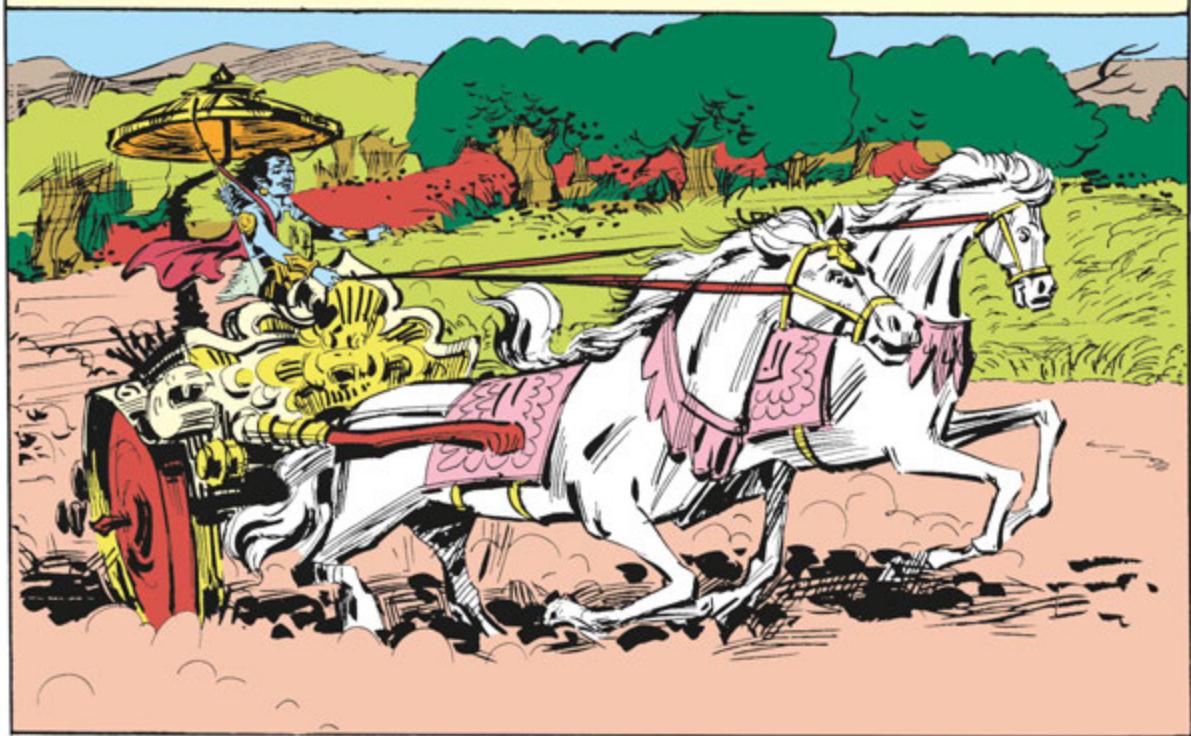


I WILL CARRY HER
OFF FROM THERE.

I WILL HAVE THE
CHARIOT READY.
GOOD LUCK.



AS SOON AS THE CHARIOT WAS READY ARJUNA SET OUT TO TAKE HIS BRIDE.



MEANWHILE SUBHADRA HAVING WORSHIPPED THE DEITIES, WAS ON HER WAY TO THE PALACE.

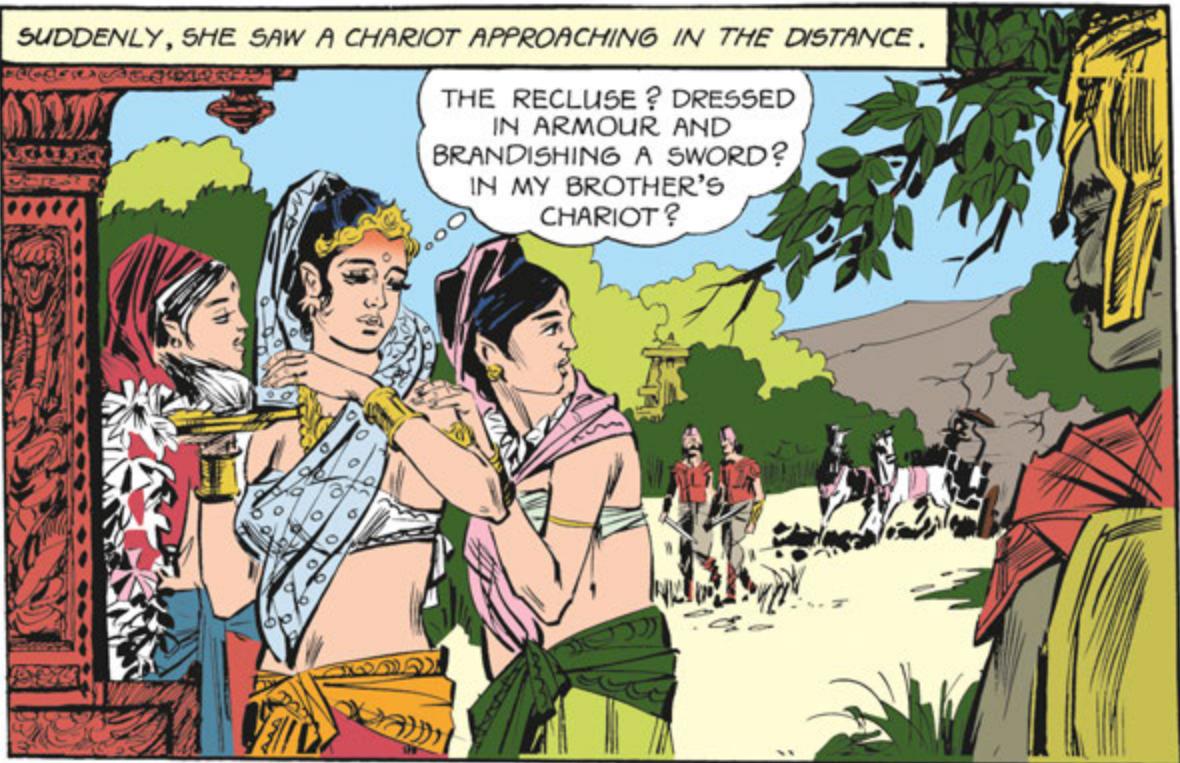
OF WHAT USE ARE MY PRAYERS? COULD I

EVER BECOME THE WIFE OF ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED THE WORLD?



SUDDENLY, SHE SAW A CHARIOT APPROACHING IN THE DISTANCE.

THE RECLUSE ? DRESSED
IN ARMOUR AND
BRANDISHING A SWORD?
IN MY BROTHER'S
CHARIOT?



AS HE WHIZZED PAST THEM ARJUNA LEANED FORWARD, SWEPT HER INTO THE
CHARIOT...

WH...UH...
WHAT...



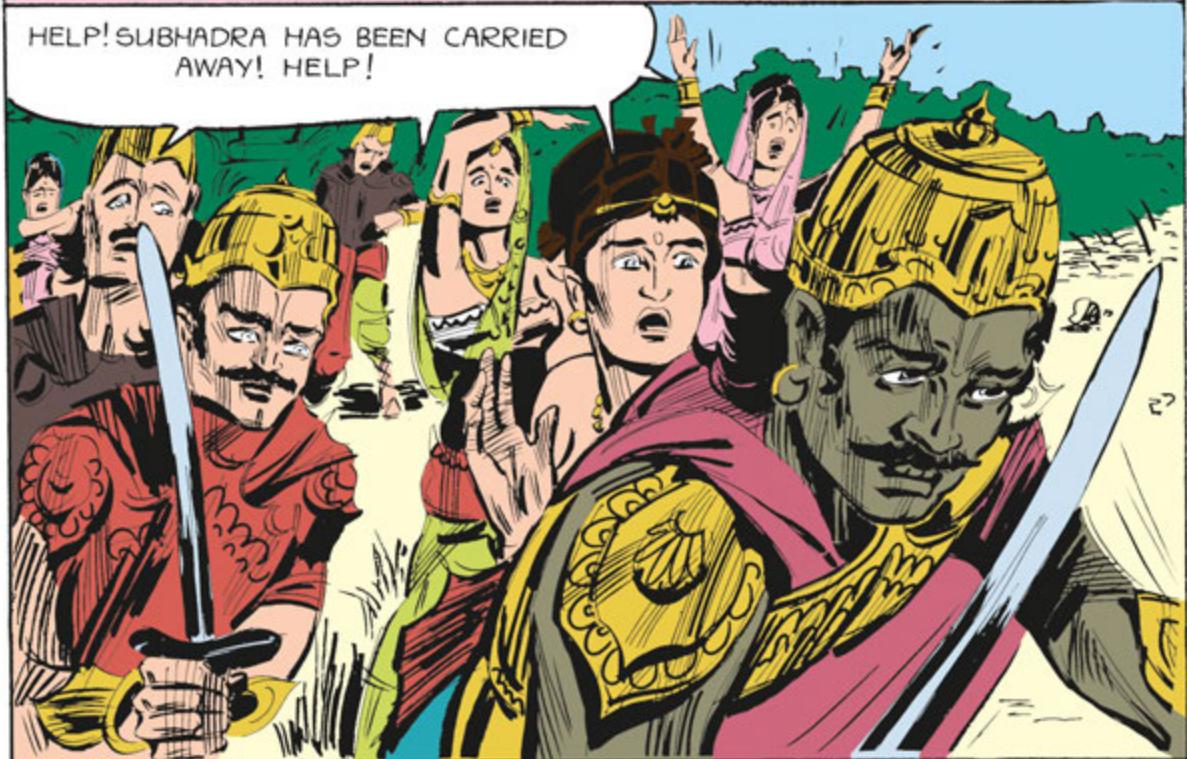
... AND RODE OFF.

HELP!

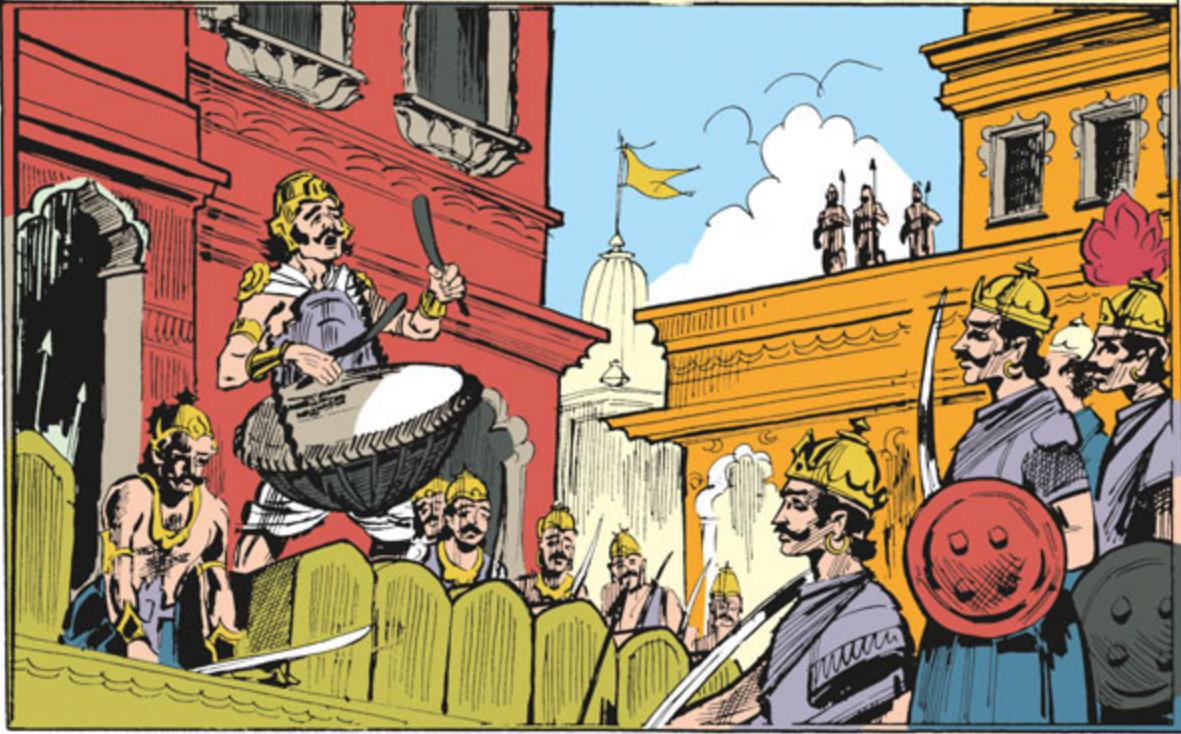


SUBHADRA'S MAIDS AND GUARDS RAN SHOUTING TOWARDS DWARAKA.

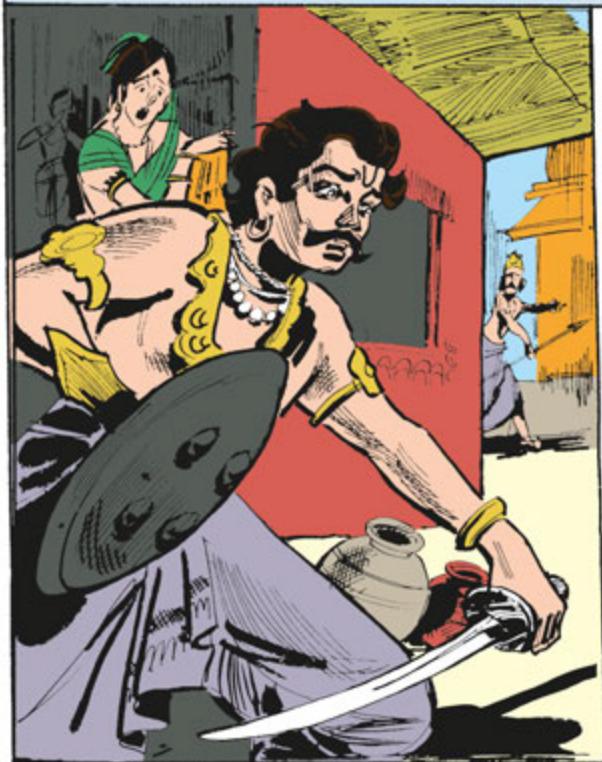
HELP! SUBHADRA HAS BEEN CARRIED AWAY! HELP!



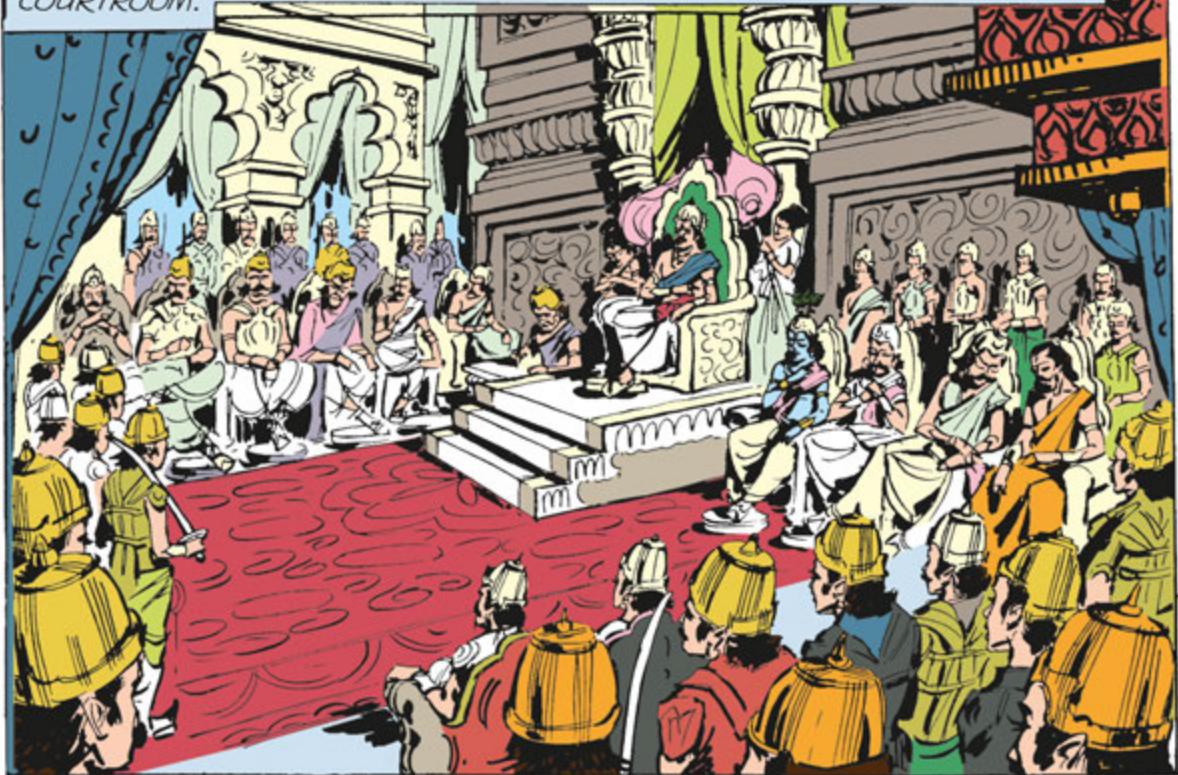
AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE COURT AT DWARAKA, THEY RELATED THE WHOLE INCIDENT TO THE CHIEF OFFICIAL, WHO SUMMONED ALL THE CLANSMEN TO ARMS.



STIRRED BY THE CALL THE CLANSMEN LEFT WHATEVER THEY WERE DOING.



THEY POURED IN FROM ALL DIRECTIONS AND TOOK THEIR PLACES IN THE COURTROOM.



THE CHIEF OFFICIAL TOLD THEM EVERYTHING.

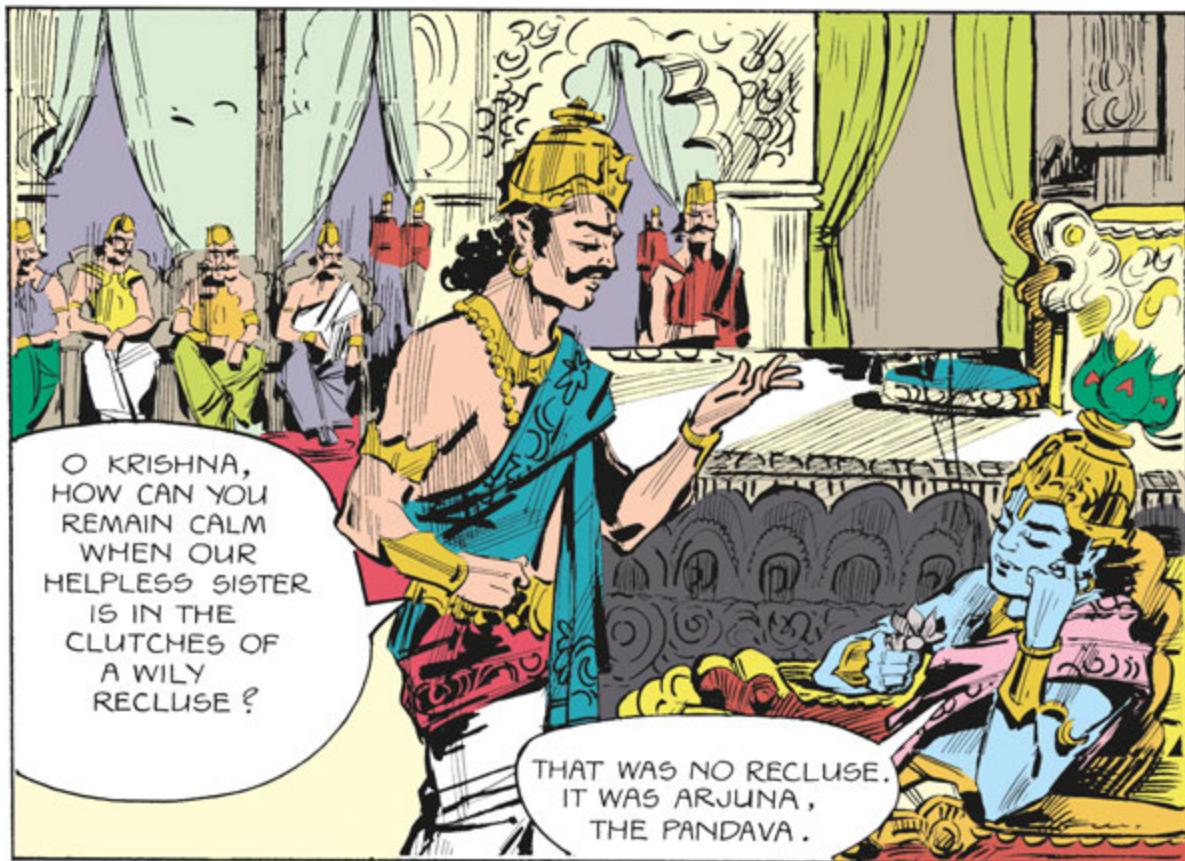


LOUD WAS THE UPROAR WHEN THEIR CHARIOTS, ARMOUR AND STANDARDS WERE BEING ASSEMBLED.



AT THAT MOMENT BALARAMA CAME OUT.







THEN WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

GO AFTER THEM.
CONGRATULATE
THEM. ASSURE
THEM OF OUR
APPROVAL AND
BRING THEM
BACK. THERE IS
NO DISGRACE
IN IT.

SO BALARAMA AND A FEW CLANSMEN SET OUT ON THE MISSION.

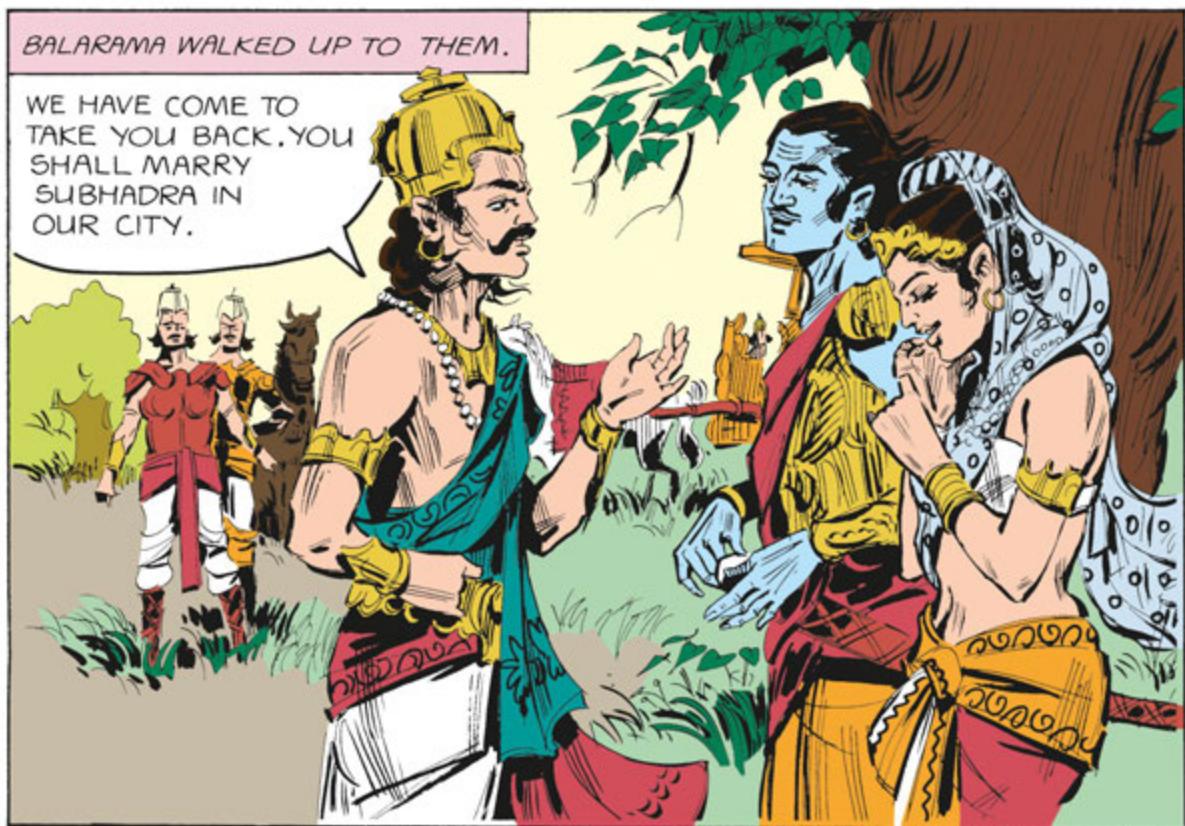


THEY SOON CAME UPON A STATIONARY CHARIOT. ARJUNA AND SUBHADRA WERE RESTING UNDER THE SHADE OF A TREE.



BALARAMA WALKED UP TO THEM.

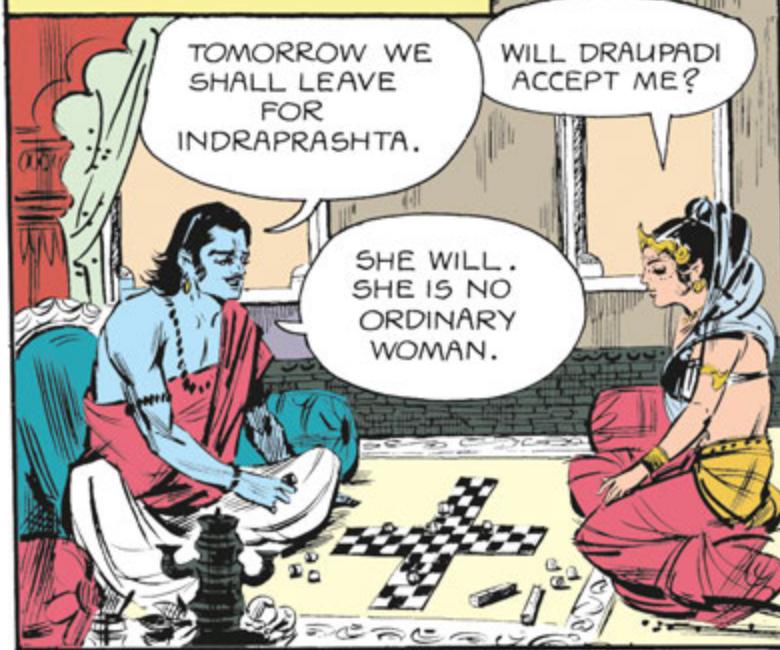
WE HAVE COME TO
TAKE YOU BACK. YOU
SHALL MARRY
SUBHADRA IN
OUR CITY.



LATER, AT DWARAKA, ARJUNA MARRIED SUBHADRA.



TIME FLEW PAST AND SOON
THE PERIOD OF ARJUNA'S
EXILE WAS OVER.



AT INDRAPRASHTA, THEY
FIRST PAID THEIR
RESPECTS TO
YUDHISHTHIRA.



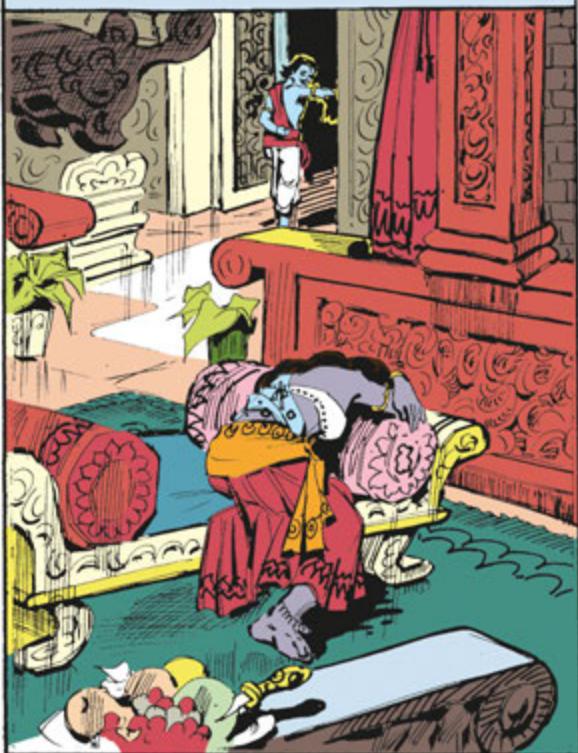
THEN LEAVING SUBHADRA IN THEIR CHAMBER, ARJUNA WENT TO DRAUPADI.



ARJUNA TRIED TO PACIFY HER.



BUT DRAUPADI WOULD NOT SOFTEN,
AND ARJUNA WENT OUT OF THE ROOM,



HE RETURNED TO SUBHADRA.

WHAT DID SHE SAY?

NEVER MIND. CHANGE
YOUR CLOTHES.
WEAR THE
SIMPLE
GARB OF
A MAID.



BUT SUBHADRA LOOKED EVEN
LOVELIER AND ALMOST TOOK
ARJUNA'S BREATH AWAY.

COME, LET US GO AND PAY OUR
RESPECTS TO MY MOTHER.

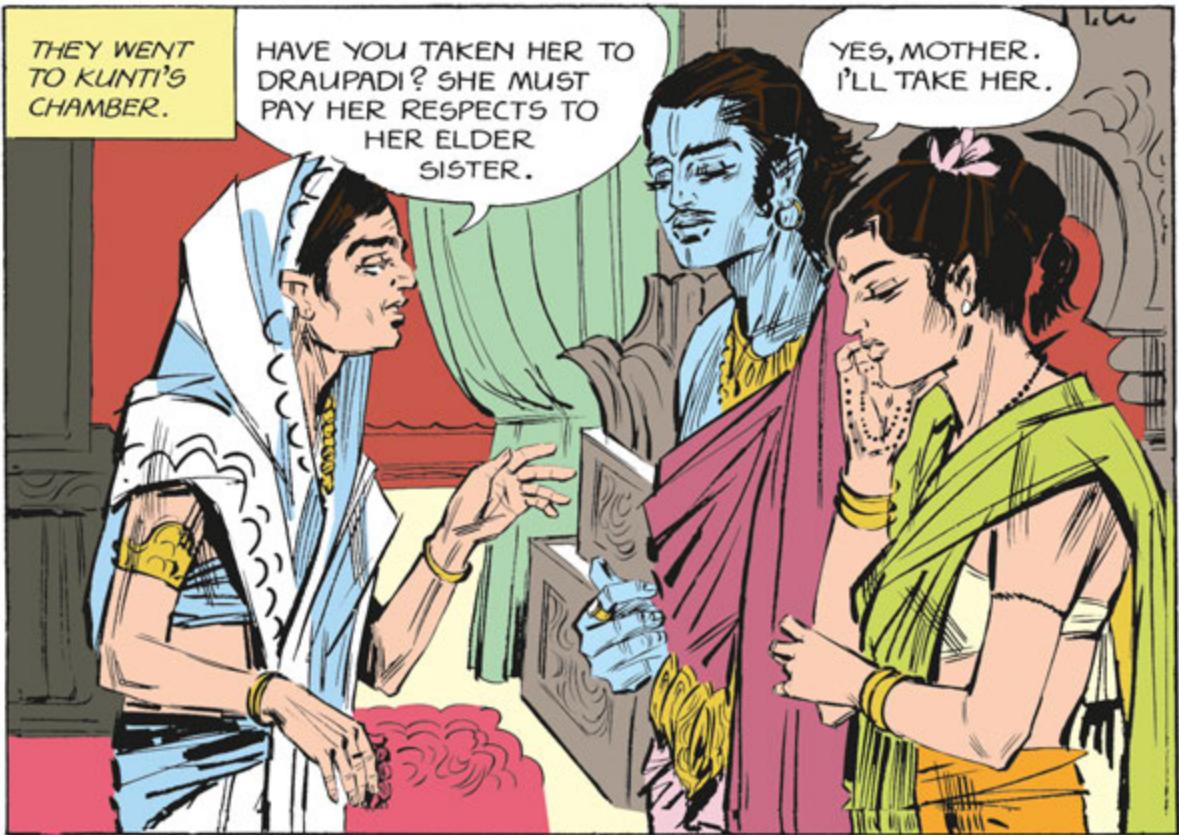
I KNOW
MOTHER KUNTI
HAS ALWAYS
LOVED ME,
BUT...

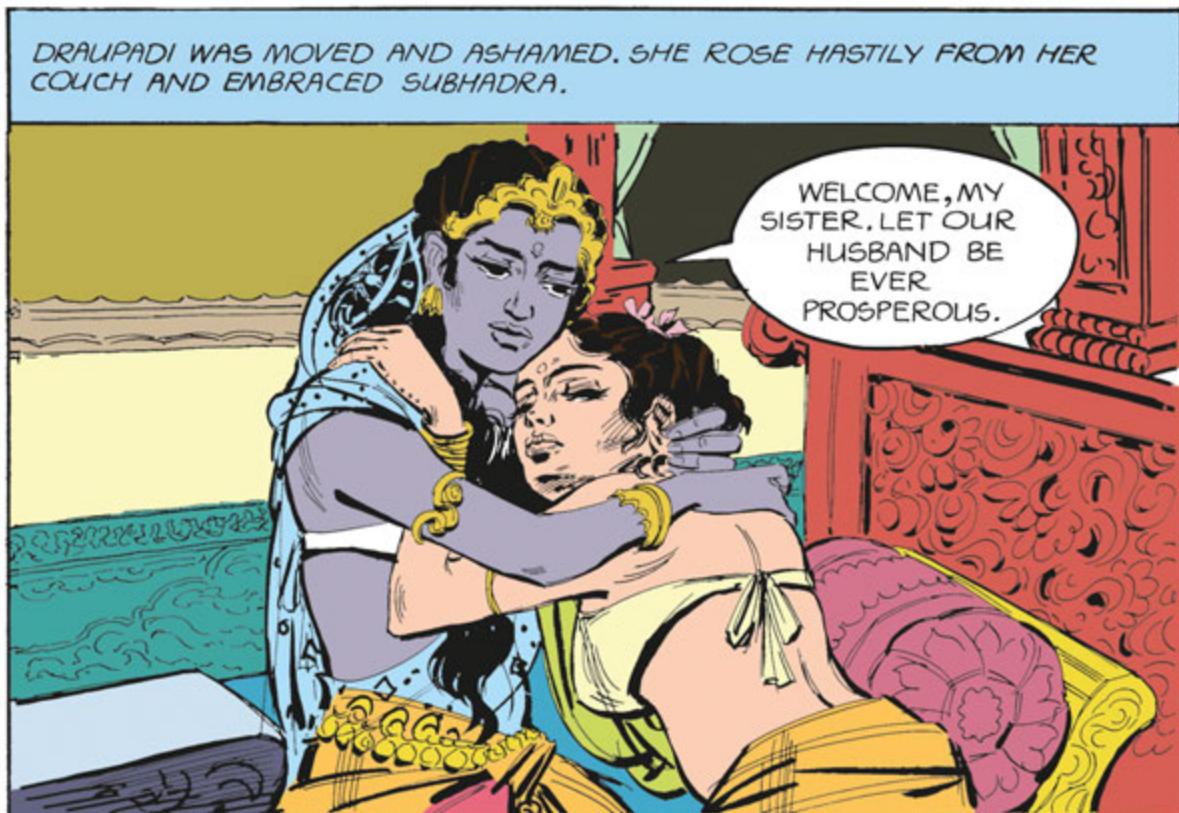


THEY WENT
TO KUNTI'S
CHAMBER.

HAVE YOU TAKEN HER TO
DRAUPADI? SHE MUST
PAY HER RESPECTS TO
HER ELDER
SISTER.

YES, MOTHER.
I'LL TAKE HER.

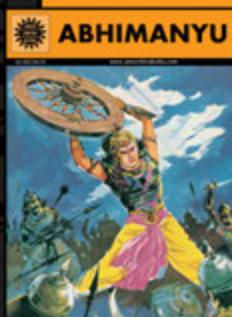
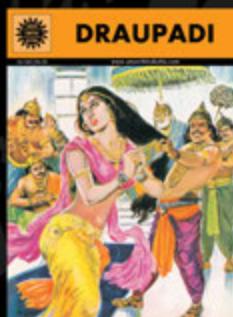
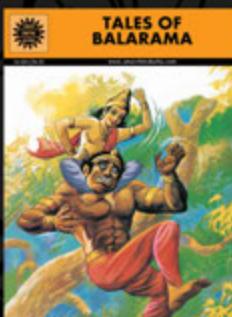




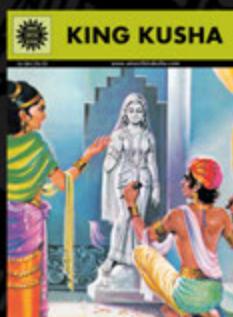
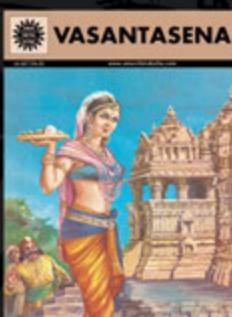
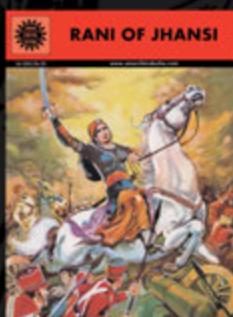
SUBHADRA

Balarama is sure that Duryodhana, the Kaurava prince, with his skill in wielding the mace will be the ideal husband for his sister, Subhadra. The princess , however, loses her heart to a handsome recluse who visits their palace. Little does she know that he is none other than the Pandava prince, Arjuna, and that he reciprocates her feelings. It is left to her other brother,Krishna, to understand the situation and solve the dilemma.

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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

