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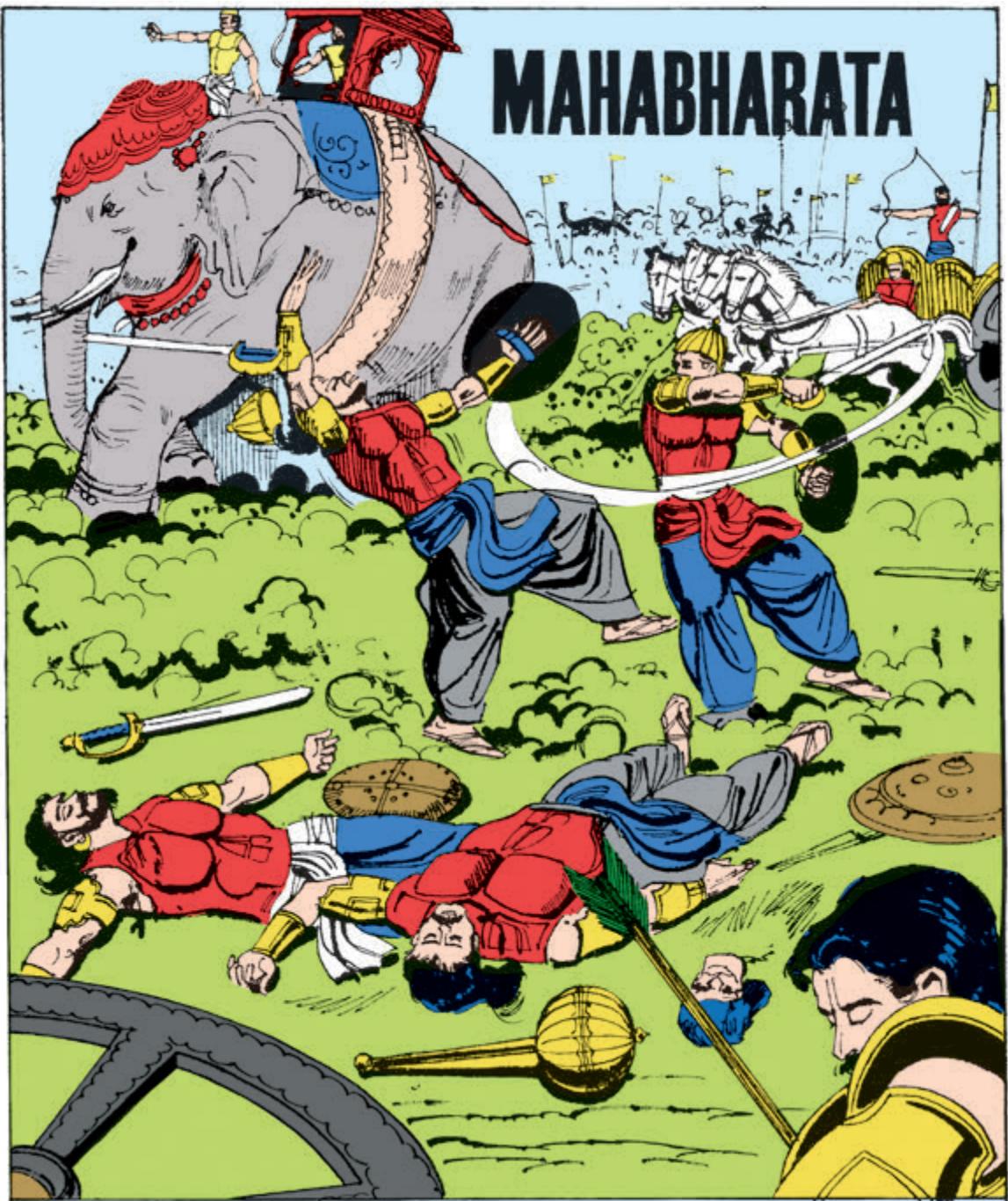
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MAHABHARATA



THE BLIND KING DHRITARASHTRA OF HASTINAPURA HAD A HUNDRED SONS—DURYODHANA, DUHSHASANA AND OTHERS, WHO WERE TOGETHER CALLED THE KAURAVAS. THEIR FIVE COUSINS—YUDHISHTHIRA, THE TRUTHFUL, BHEEMIA THE STRONG-ARMED, ARJUNA, THE MAN OF SKILL, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA WERE THE PANDAVAS. FROM THEIR BOYHOOD, THE KAURAVAS HATED THE PANDAVAS, FEARING THAT THEY MIGHT INHERIT THE KINGDOM.

THEY POISONED BHEEMA'S FOOD AND THREW HIM INTO A RIVER.



THEY TRIED TO BURN THE PANDAVAS IN A HOUSE MADE OF LAC.



THE PANDAVAS ESCAPED ALL THESE WICKED PLANS TO DESTROY THEM. THEIR MARRIAGE TO DRAUPADI, DAUGHTER OF KING DRUPADA, MADE THEM POWERFUL.



FINALLY, WISDOM PREVAILLED ON KING DHRITARASHTRA AFTER LISTENING TO THE ADVICE OF SUCH LEARNED MEN AS...

BHEESHMA, THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.



VIDURA, THE WISEST MAN IN THE COURT.



DRONA, THE MILITARY EXPERT AND TEACHER OF THE PRINCES.



HE GAVE HALF THE KINGDOM TO THE PANDAVAS, WHO BUILT A GREAT CITY, INDRAPRASTHA, AND RULED WISELY.



THE SUCCESS OF THE PANDAVAS MADE DURYODHANA VERY JEALOUS.



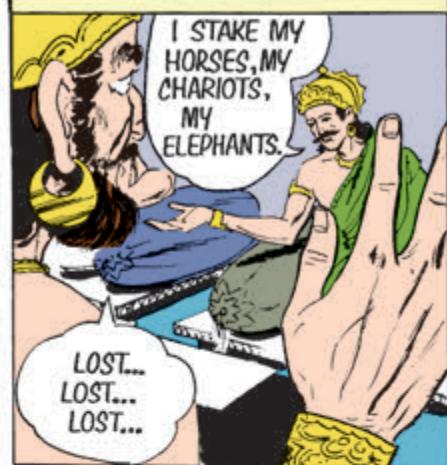
DURYODHANA WAS PLEASED WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION.



THE GAME BEGAN IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING AND HIS WELL-WISHERS.



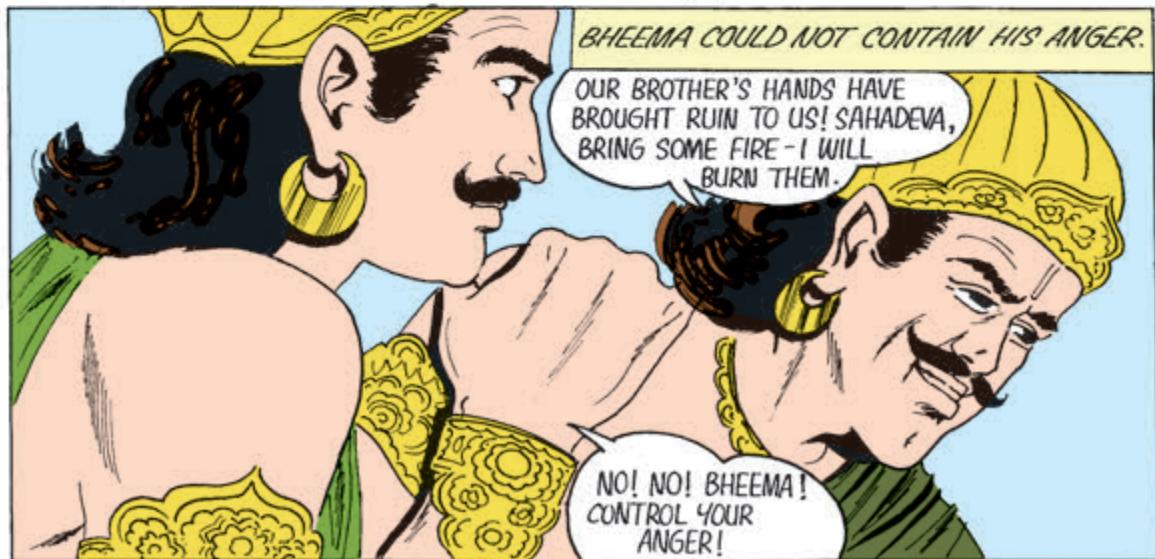
YUDHISHTHIRA CAST THE DICE.



YUDHISHTHIRA WAS BLINDLY CARRIED AWAY BY THE GAME.



THE GAME TOOK SO BAD A TURN THAT THOSE WHO LOOKED ON WERE SHOCKED.



DUHSHASANA FURTHER INSULTED DRAUPADI BY PULLING OFF HER SARI.

THEN, BY THE GRACE OF LORD KRISHNA, A MIRACLE TOOK PLACE.



THE SHAMEFUL ACT OF HIS SONS MADE DHRITARASHTRA SAD.

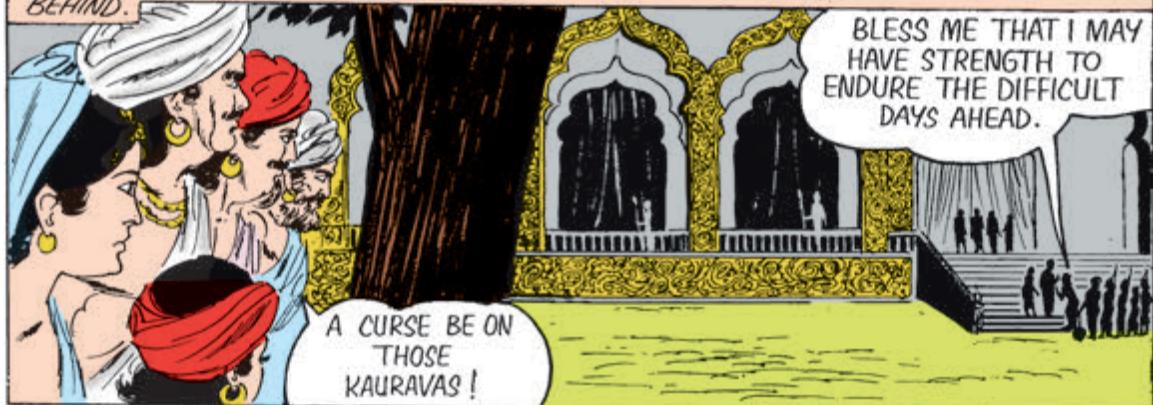
MY SON HAS WON YOUR KINGDOM BY TRICKERY.
I RETURN IT TO YOU. GO AND LIVE IN PEACE.



ONCE AGAIN DURYODHANA CHALLENGED YUDHISHTHIRA TO A GAME OF DICE AND YUDHISHTHIRA PLAYED WITH RENEWED HOPE.

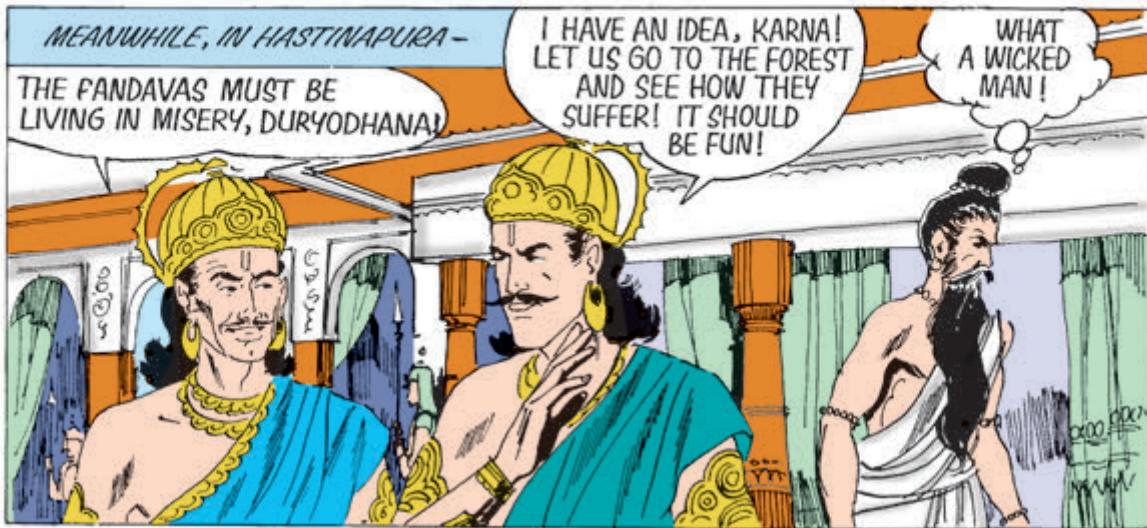


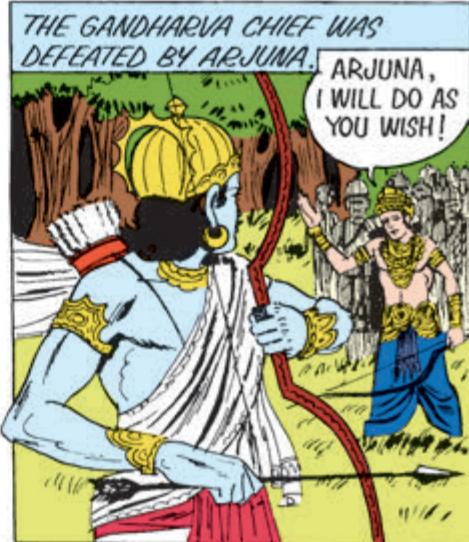
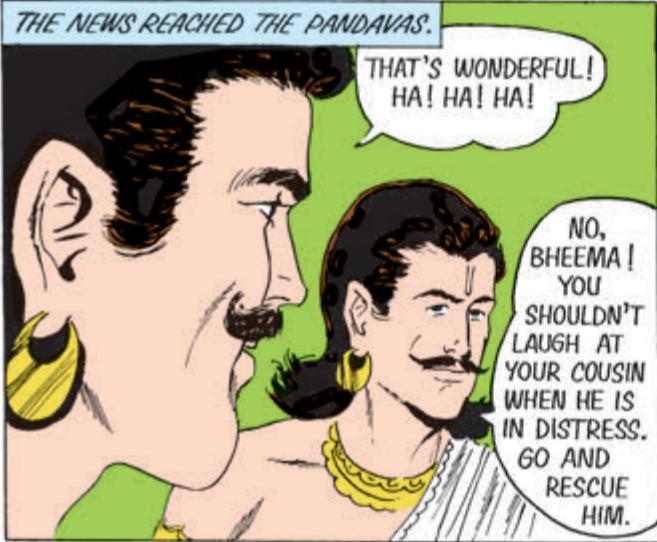
AGAIN YUDHISHTHIRA LOST. AFTER BOWING TO BHEESHMA AND THE OTHER ELDERS THE PANDAVAS LEFT THE CITY. KUNTI, THEIR MOTHER, AND THEIR CHILDREN STAYED BEHIND.



FOR YEARS, THE PANDAVAS WANDERED IN THE FORESTS. THEY HAD ADVENTURES WITH WILD BEASTS, DEMONS AND SAVAGES.









SO, THE PANDAVAS DRESSED AS POOR BRAHMINS, REACHED VIRATA'S PALACE.



VIRATA'S BROTHER-IN-LAW KEECHAKA, THE ARMY COMMANDER, WAS A WICKED MAN.

SISTER, MAY I HAVE SAIRANDHRI AS MY MAID?



KEECHAKA STARTED HARASSING DRAUPADI.

WHY DO YOU TIE YOUR LOVELY HAIR LIKE THAT?



DRAUPADI COMPLAINED TO BHEEMA.

I WILL TEACH THAT BRUTE A LESSON. LISTEN TO MY PLAN....Z...Z...



I SHALL WAIT FOR YOU IN THE DANCING HALL.

WONDERFUL! I WILL BE THERE AFTER SUNSET.

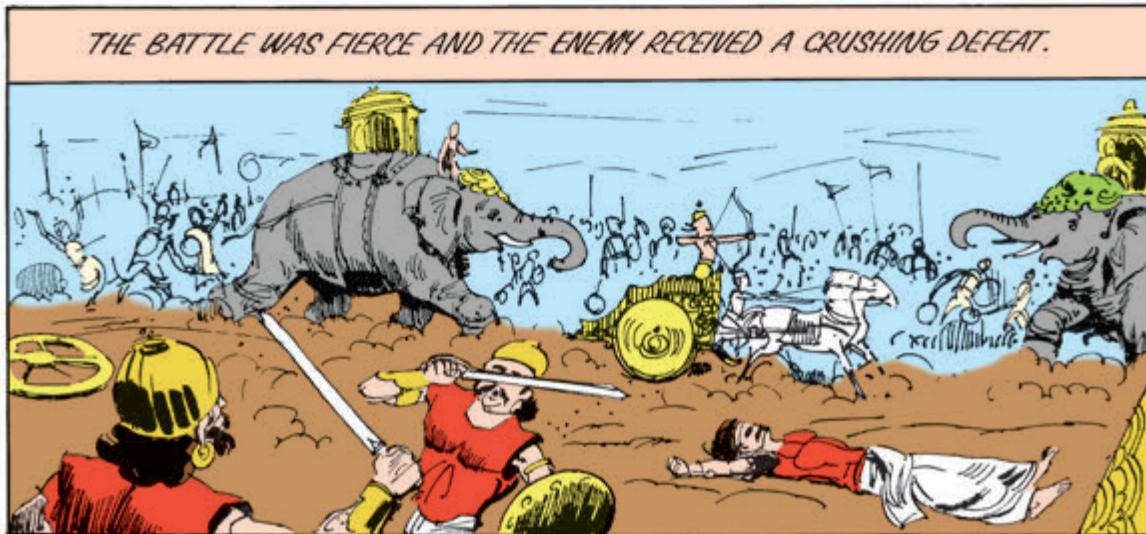
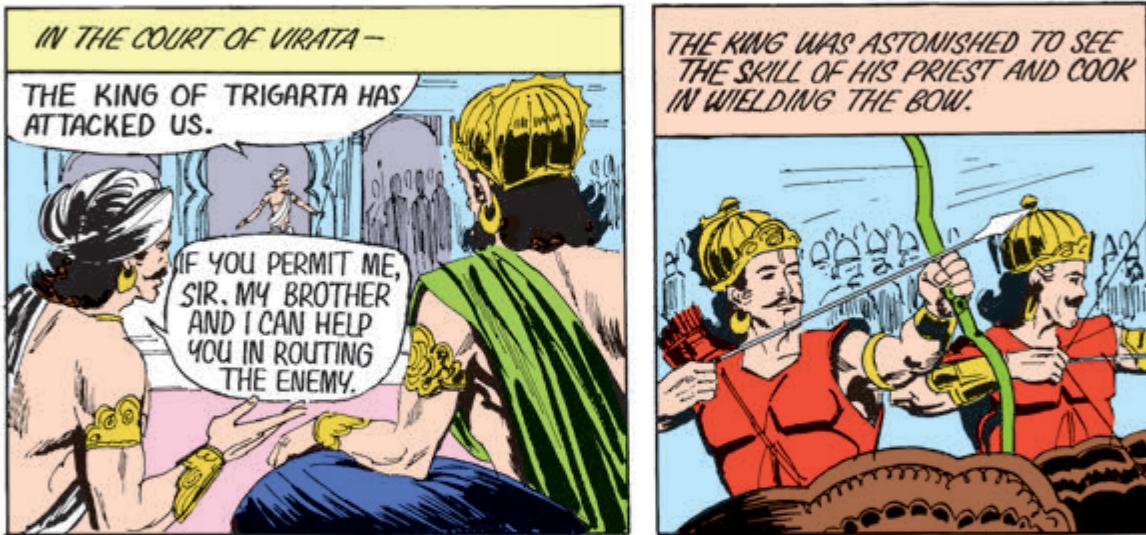
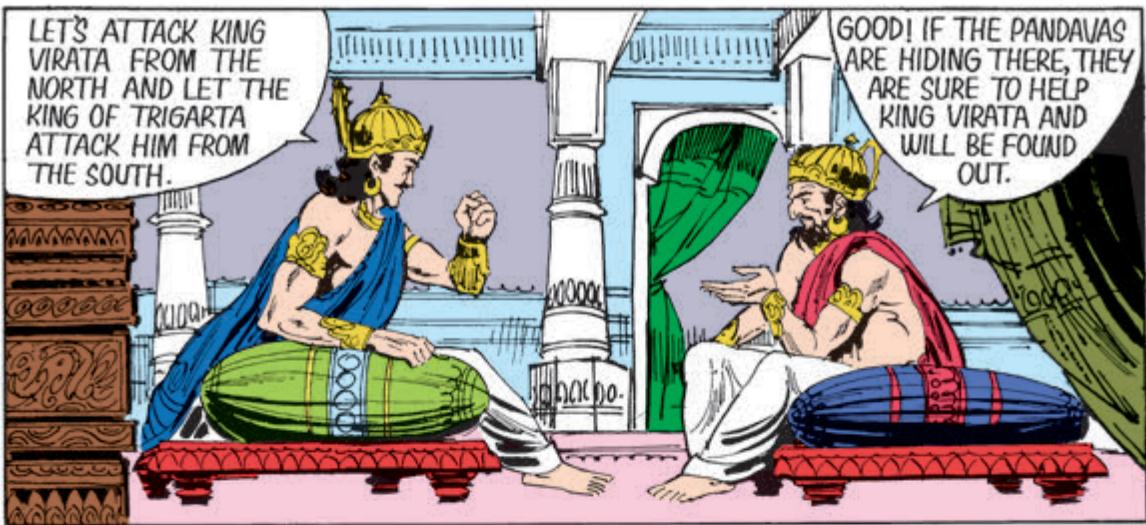
NEXT DAY-

ARE YOU THERE, SAIRANDHRI?

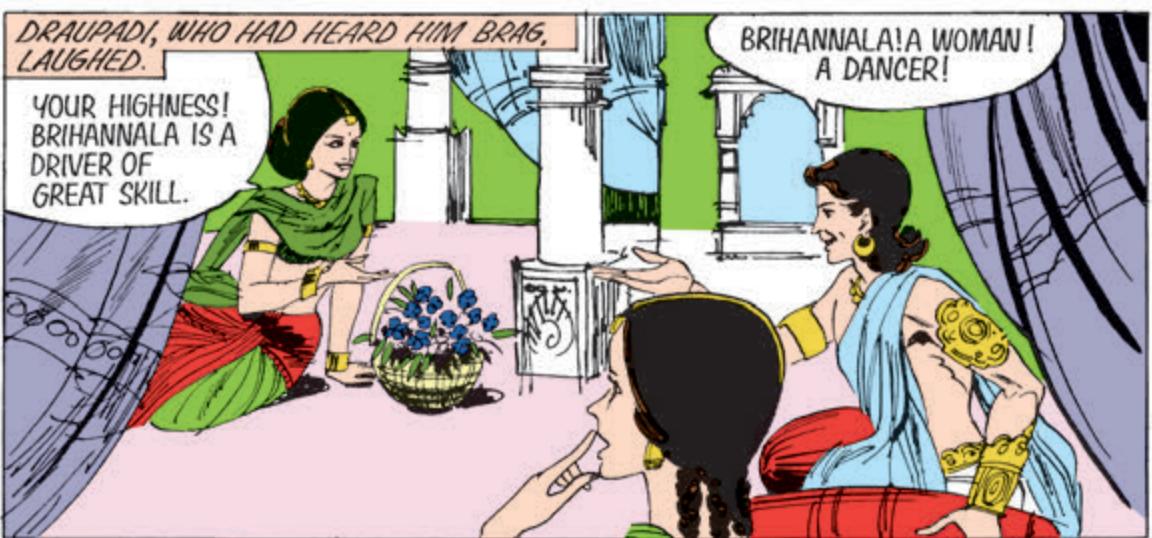
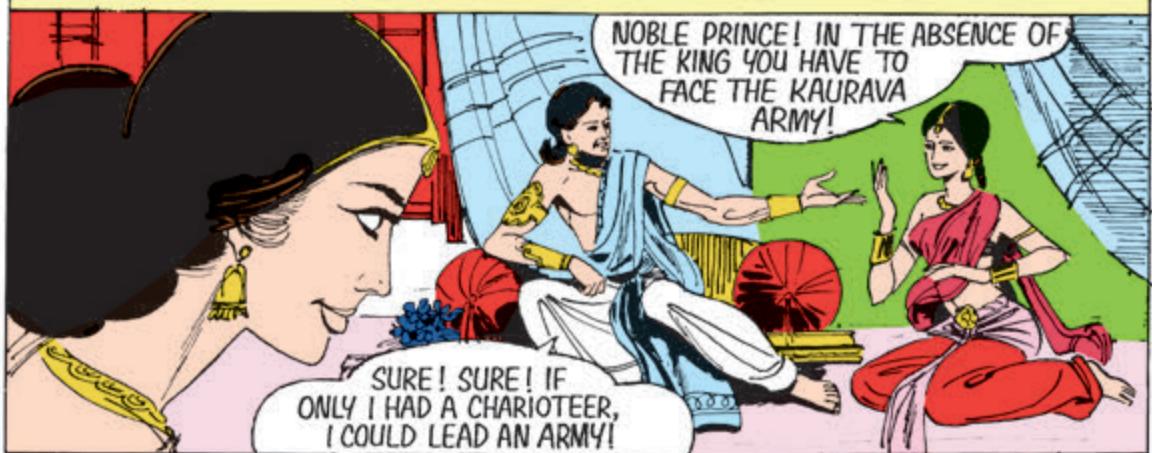
YES, MY LORD!



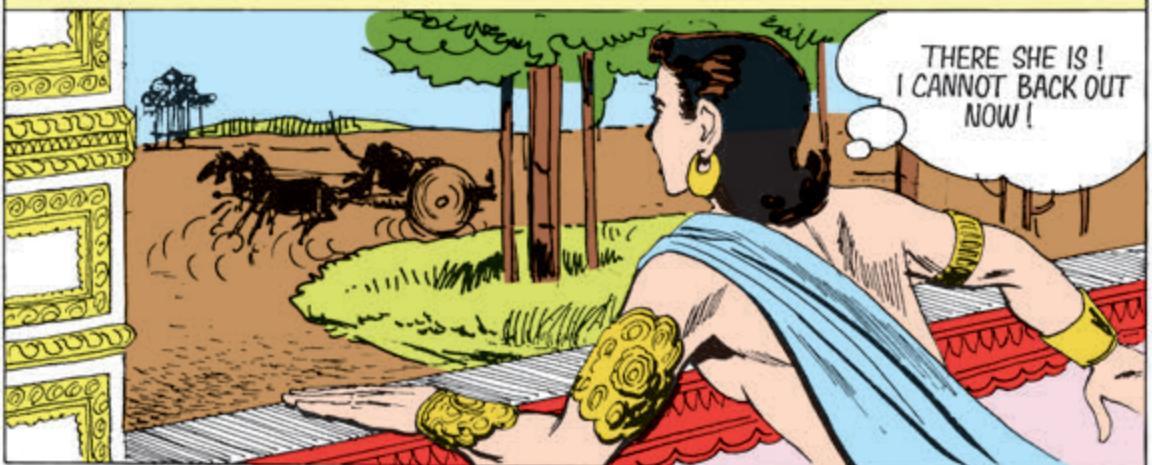




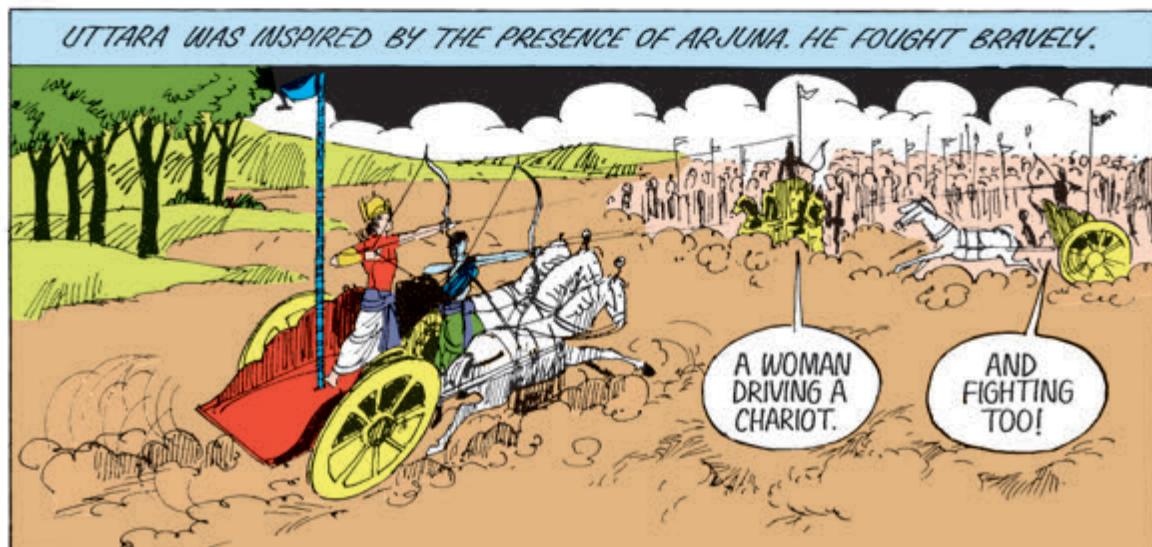
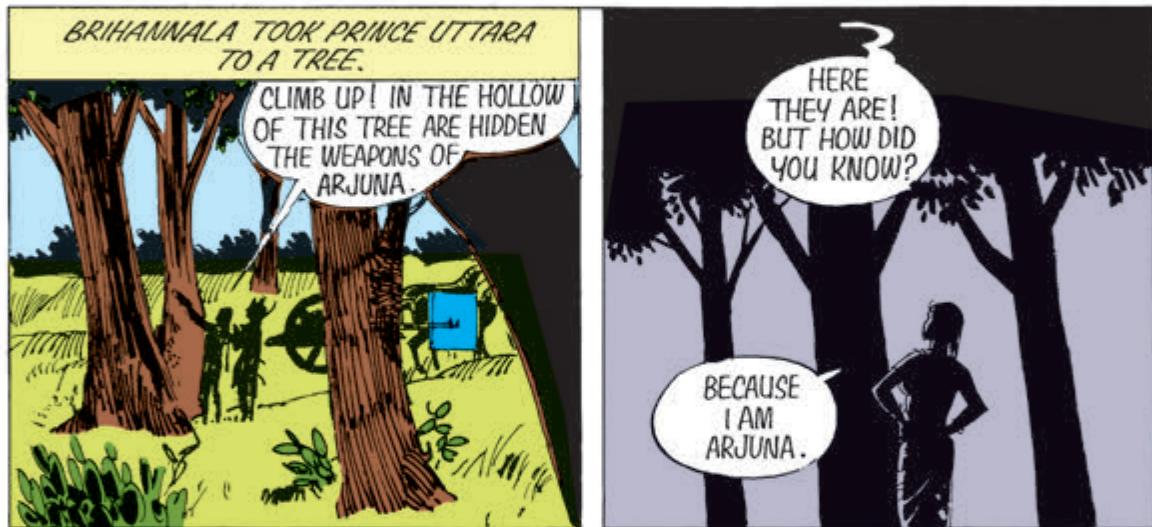
MEANWHILE, THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED IN THE CAPITAL BY PRINCE UTTARA THAT THEY WERE BEING ATTACKED FROM THE NORTH BY THE KAURAVA ARMY.



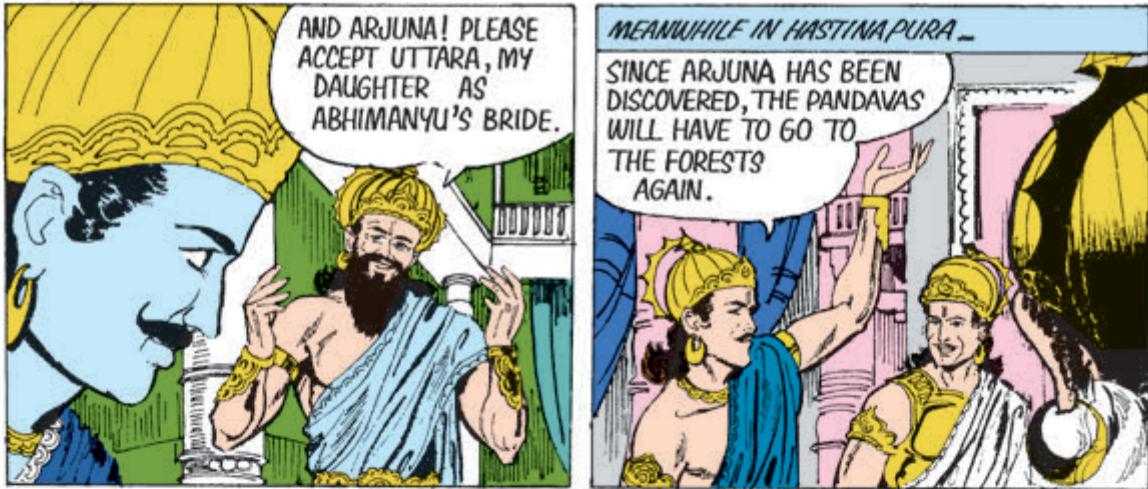
SOON A CHARIOT DRIVEN BY "BRIHANNALA" ARRIVED NEAR THE PALACE.



BUT UTTARA WAS FRIGHTENED AT THE SIGHT OF KAURAVA FORCES. HE JUMPED DOWN FROM THE CHARIOT AND STARTED RUNNING.

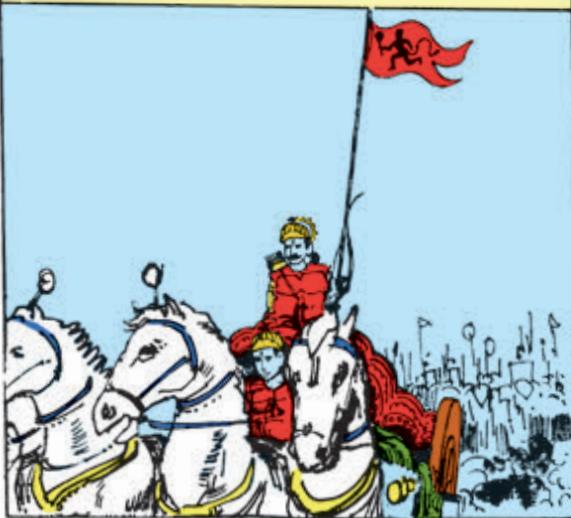








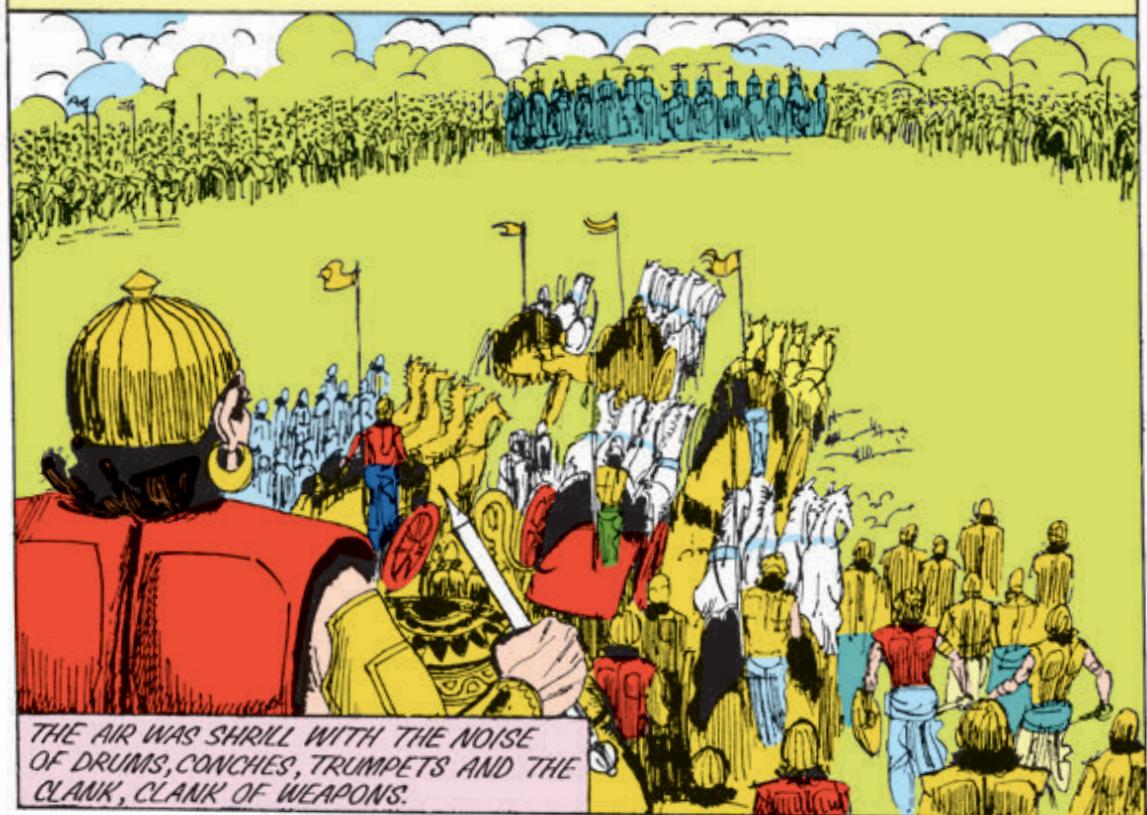
PREPARATIONS FOR WAR WERE COMPLETE. KRISHNA ACCEPTED THE HUMBLE ROLE OF ARJUNA'S CHARIOTEER.



BHEESHMA BECAME THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE KAURAVAS.

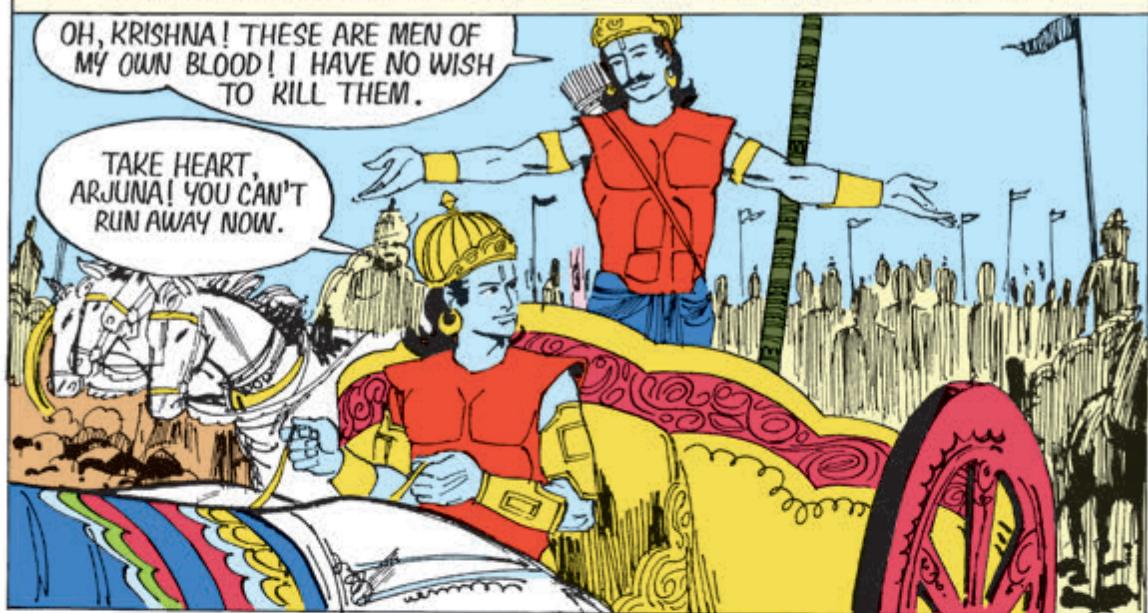


THE FIELD OF KURUKSHETRA PRESENTED AN AWESOME SPECTACLE. THE KAURAVAS HAD SPREAD IN A VAST SEMI CIRCLE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE. THE PANDAVAS HAD ARRANGED THEIR ARMIES IN A NEEDLE-LIKE FORMATION.



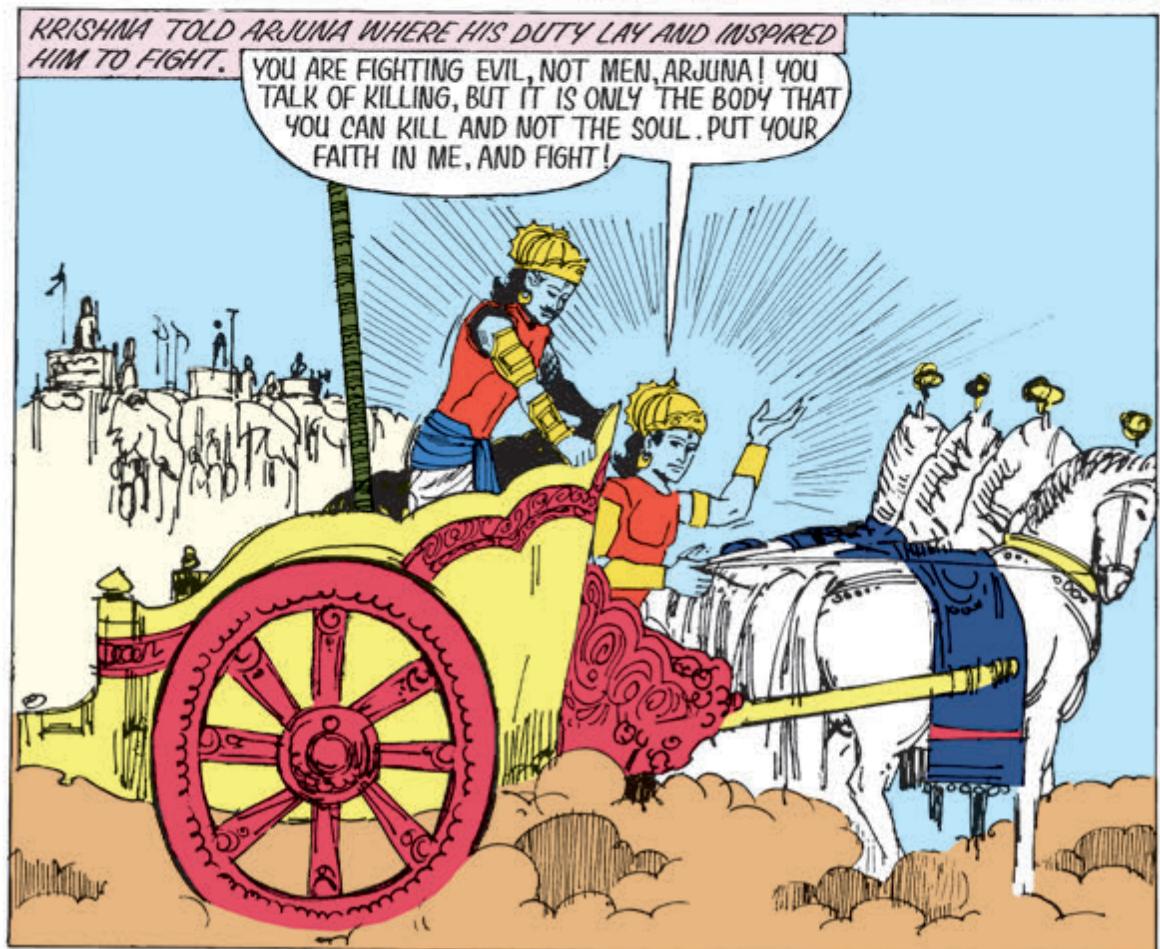
THE AIR WAS SHRILL WITH THE NOISE OF DRUMS, CONCHES, TRUMPETS AND THE CLANK, CLANK OF WEAPONS.

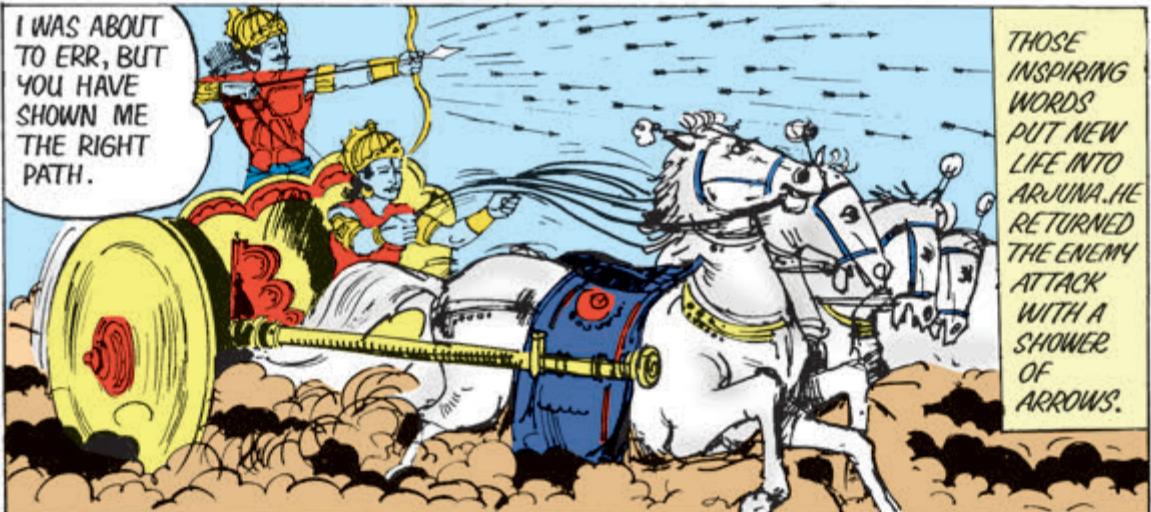
BUT AS THE ZERO HOUR APPROACHED, ARJUNA WAS OVERCOME WITH EMOTION.



KRISHNA TOLD ARJUNA WHERE HIS DUTY LAY AND INSPIRED HIM TO FIGHT.

YOU ARE FIGHTING EVIL, NOT MEN, ARJUNA! YOU TALK OF KILLING, BUT IT IS ONLY THE BODY THAT YOU CAN KILL AND NOT THE SOUL. PUT YOUR FAITH IN ME, AND FIGHT!

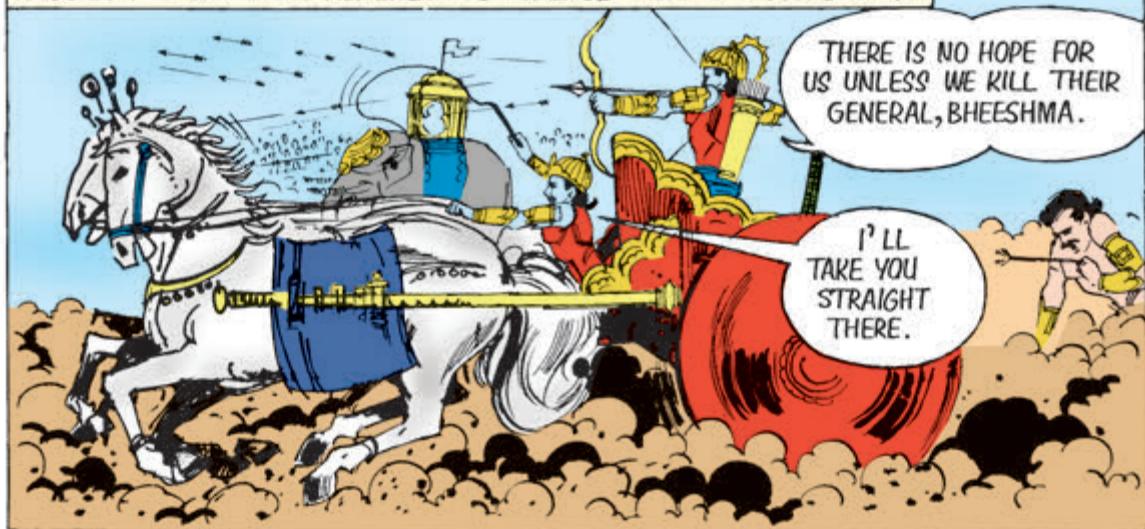


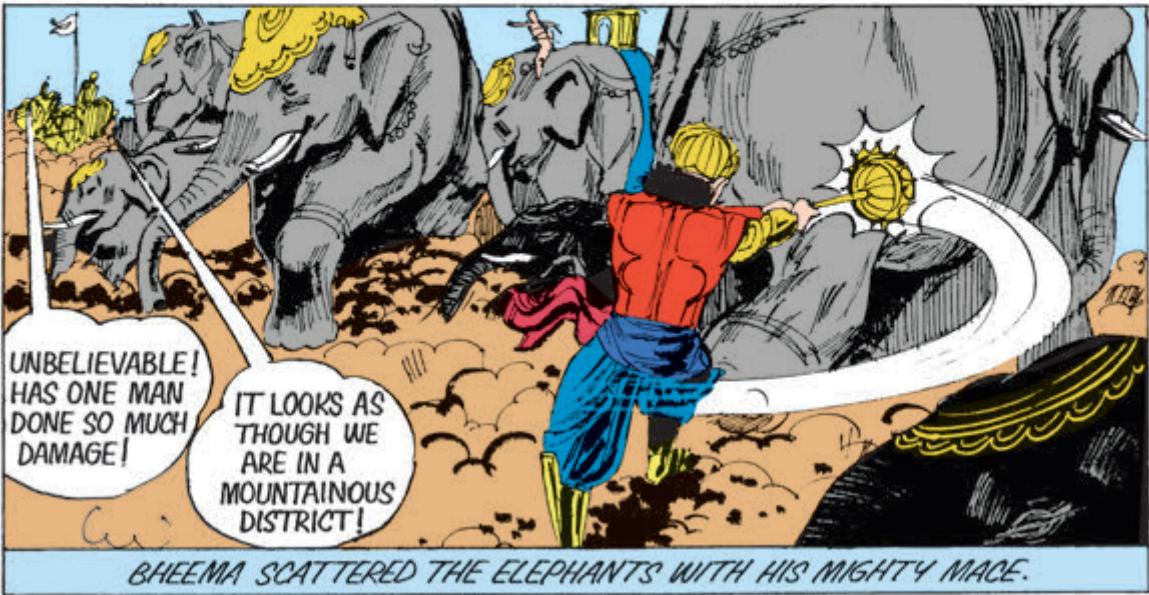
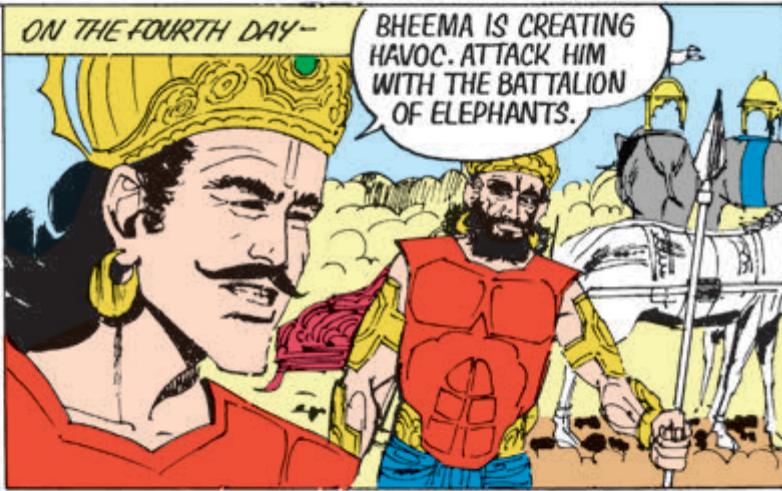
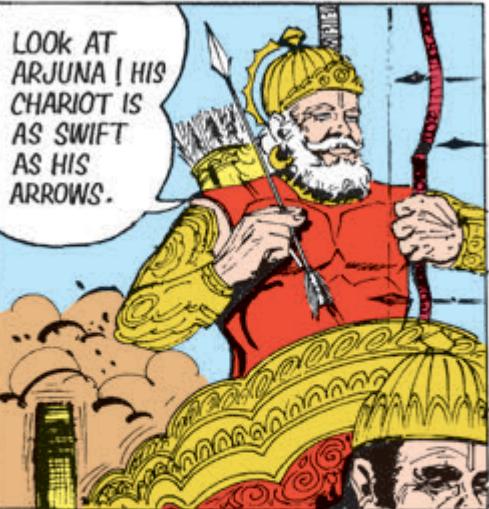


AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY, HOWEVER, THE PANDAVA ARMY WAS BADLY MAULED. THE SOLDIERS RETURNED TO THEIR TENTS (IN THOSE DAYS THEY NEVER FOUGHT AFTER SUNSET).

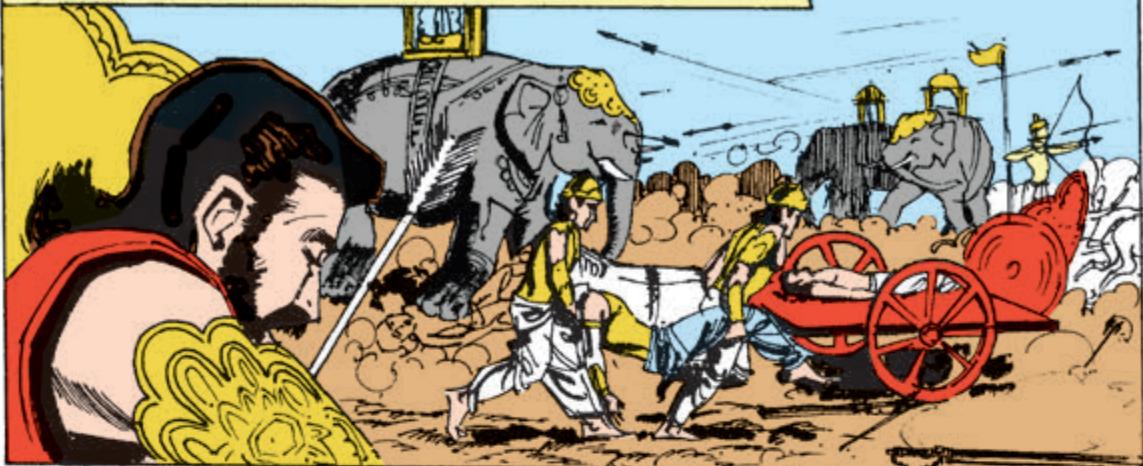


ARJUNA FOUGHT WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE ON THE SECOND DAY.

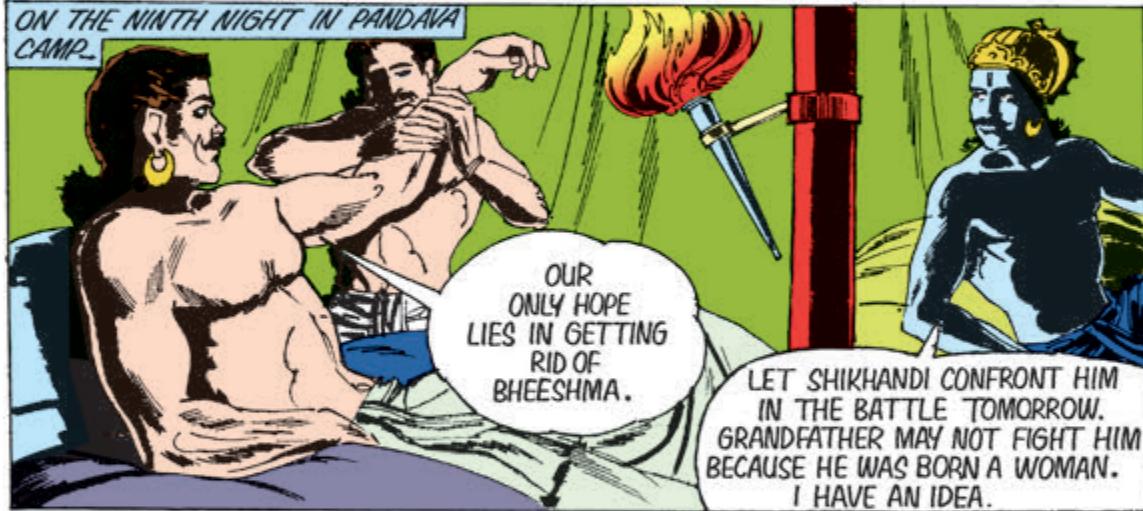




WITH EACH SUCCEEDING DAY, THE WAR INCREASED IN FURY.



ON THE NINTH NIGHT IN PANDAVA CAMP,



ON THE TENTH DAY—



BHEESHMA FELL, HIS BODY PIERCED IN MANY PLACES BY THE ARROWS OF ARJUNA.



WHEN THE FIGHTING ENDED FOR THE DAY, FRIENDS AS WELL AS FOES GATHERED AROUND THE OLD MAN.



THREE ARROWS FROM ARJUNA'S BOW GAVE HIM A PILLOW AND ONE ARROW STRUCK DEEP INTO THE EARTH, GAVE WATER.



DRONA NOW BECAME THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE KAURAVA ARMY.

ACHARYA! LET'S CAPTURE YUDHISHTHIRA ALIVE.

YES,
DURYODHANA

ARJUNA CAME TO YUDHISHTHIRA'S RESCUE.

I MUST GO BACK
ARJUNA'S ARROWS ARE
COMING TOO FAST.

ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY, A BOY HERO STOLE ALL THE HONOURS—
ABHIMANYU, THE SON OF ARJUNA.

LOOK, ABHIMANYU!
A PUZZLING FORMATION.

YES IT'S
THE WHEEL
FORMATION.

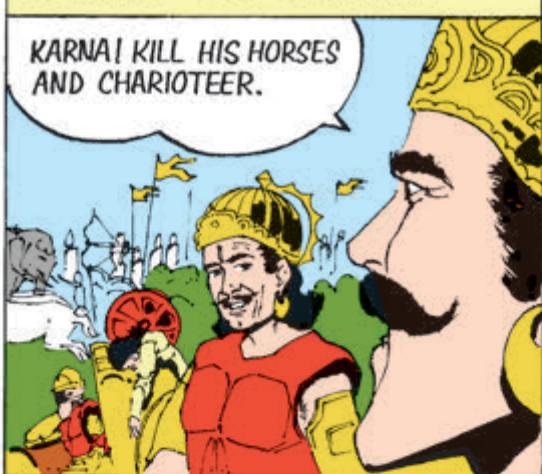
ABHIMANYU PLUNGED HEROICALLY IN.

FOLLOW HIM, HE MAY
BE TRAPPED.

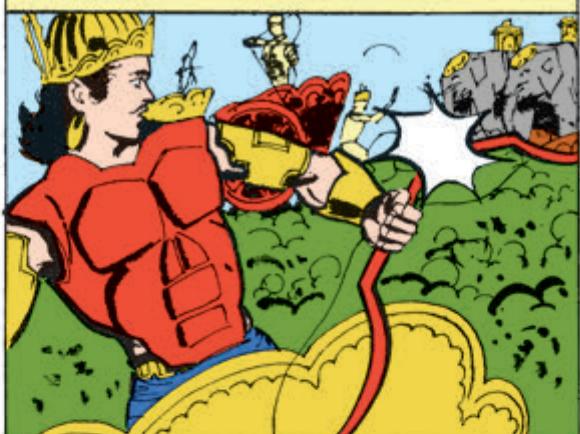
BUT PRINCE YUDHISHTHIRA!
WICKED JAYADRATHA
HAS SEALED THE
ENTRANCE.

ABHIMANYU FOUGHT BRAVELY.

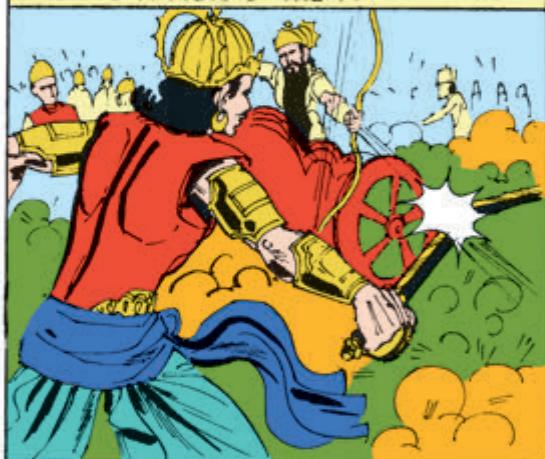
KARNA! KILL HIS HORSES AND CHARIOTEER.



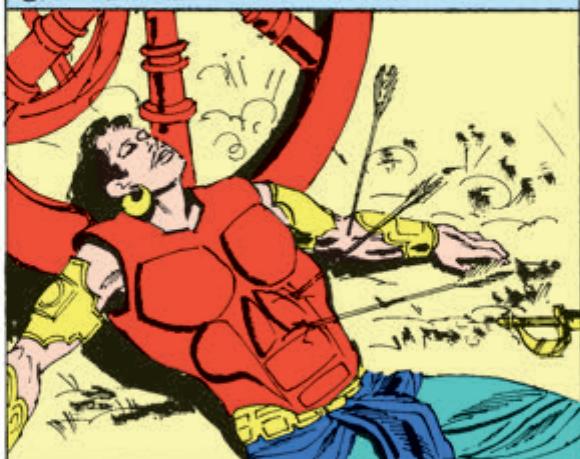
AN ARROW SHOT BY KARNA SMASHED ABHIMANYU'S BOW.



HE FOUGHT WITH A SWORD BUT DRONA'S ARROW BROKE IT



SOON ABHIMANYU LAY DEAD IN THE BATTLE-FIELD.



WHEN THE SAD NEWS REACHED ARJUNA, HE TOOK A TERRIBLE OATH.



DRONA WAS DETERMINED TO SAVE JAYADRATHA.



ARJUNA WAS EQUALLY DETERMINED TO KILL JAYADRATHA, BUT THE DAY WAS COMING TO A CLOSE.



THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN-



BUT THE SUN HAD REALLY NOT SET.

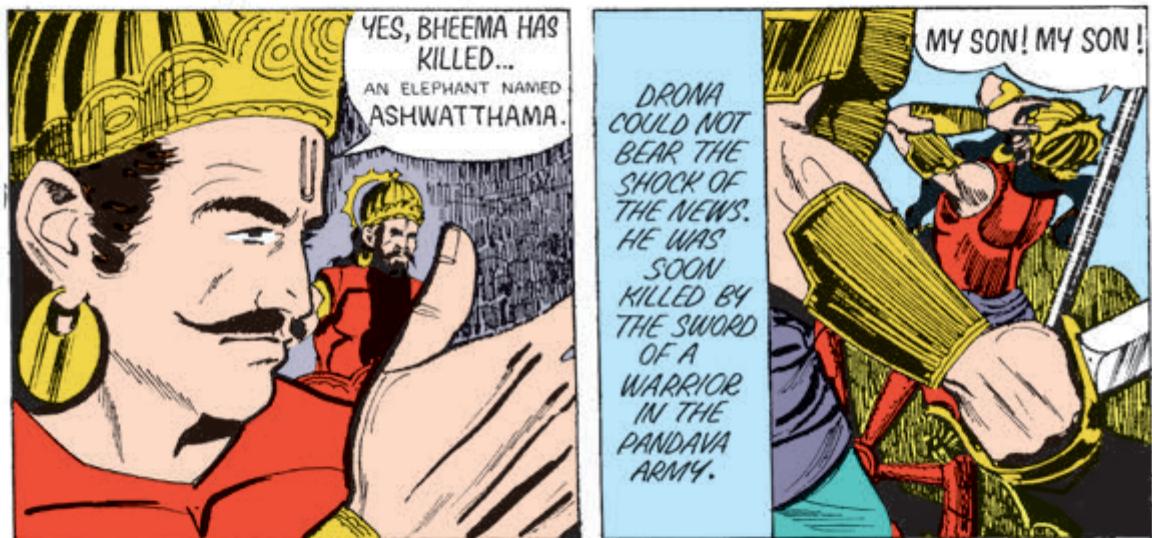
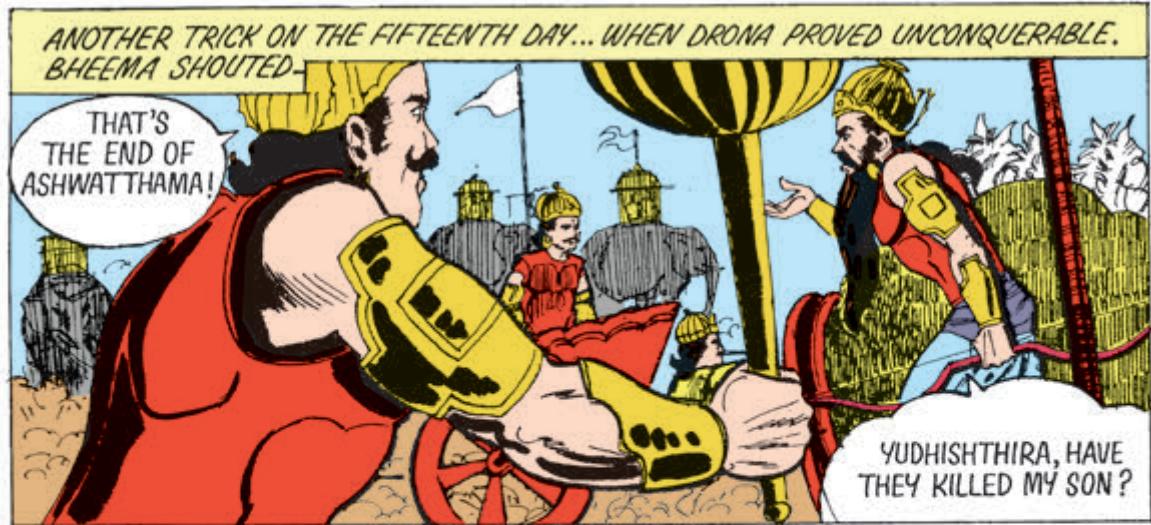


ARJUNA'S CHARIOT RUSHED FORWARD.



AND SOON-





IN THE COMBAT, DUHSHASANA FELL.



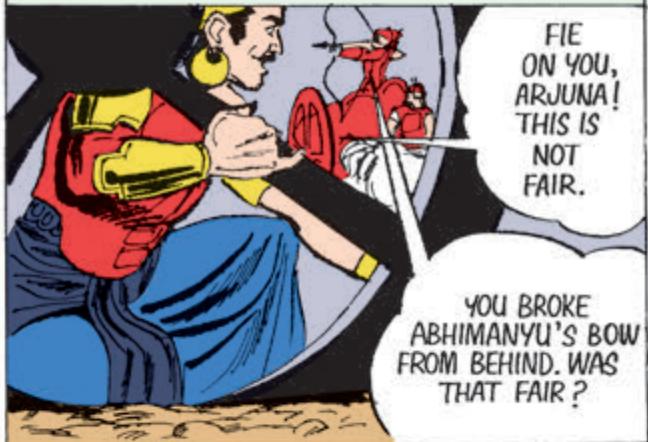
KARNA FOUGHT WITH ARJUNA, HIS SERPENT LIKE ARROWS CHASED ARJUNA WHEREVER HE WENT.



THEN ARJUNA HAD HIS OPPORTUNITY.
KARNA'S CHARIOT WAS CAUGHT IN
THE MUD.



ARJUNA'S ARROWS CONTINUED TO COME WHIZZING THROUGH THE AIR.



AND THEN A CRESCENT-HEADED ARROW CAME WHIZZING FROM ARJUNA'S BOW.



DURYODHANA WAS SHOCKED AT THE NEWS.



MORE SHOCKS FOLLOWED.



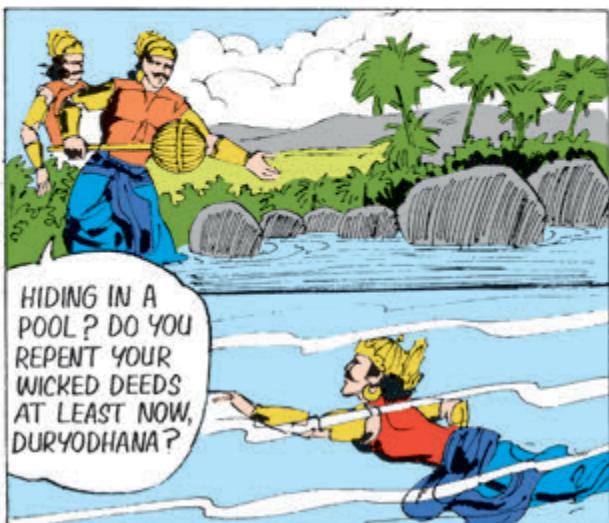
THE KAURAVA ARMY WAS SHATTERED.



SHATTERED IN MIND AND BODY, DURYODHANA, WITH MACE IN HAND, JUMPED INTO A POOL.



HIDING IN A POOL? DO YOU REPENT YOUR WICKED DEEDS AT LEAST NOW, DURYODHANA?



DURYODHANA WAS HURT.

I DON'T! ARE YOU WILLING TO FIGHT A DUEL?

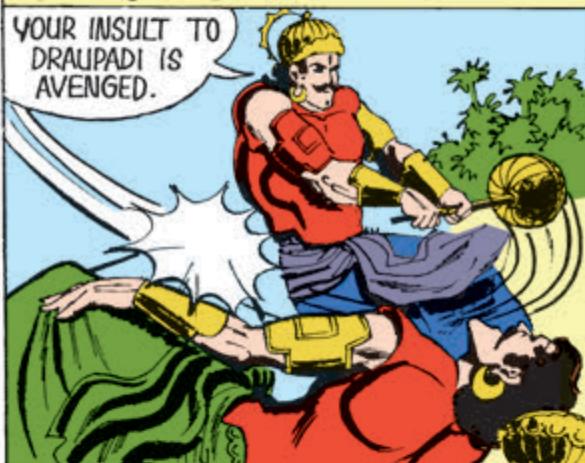


BHEEMA LEAPED LIKE A LION.



MORTALLY WOUNDED, DURYODHANA FELL TO THE GROUND.

YOUR INSULT TO DRAUPADI IS AVENGED.



THAT NIGHT ASHWATTHAMA, SON OF DRONA, SAT BROODING.

MY FATHER WAS KILLED BY DECEIT.
I SHALL KILL THE PANDAVAS ALSO THE SAME WAY.



STEALTHILY HE APPROACHED THE PANDAVA CAMP WITH TWO FRIENDS. HE MISTOOK THE SONS OF THE PANDAVAS FOR THE PANDAVAS.

SIR THEY ARE ASLEEP.



ENTERING THE TENTS THEY KILLED THE OCCUPANTS IN THEIR SLEEP AND THEN SET FIRE TO THE CAMP.



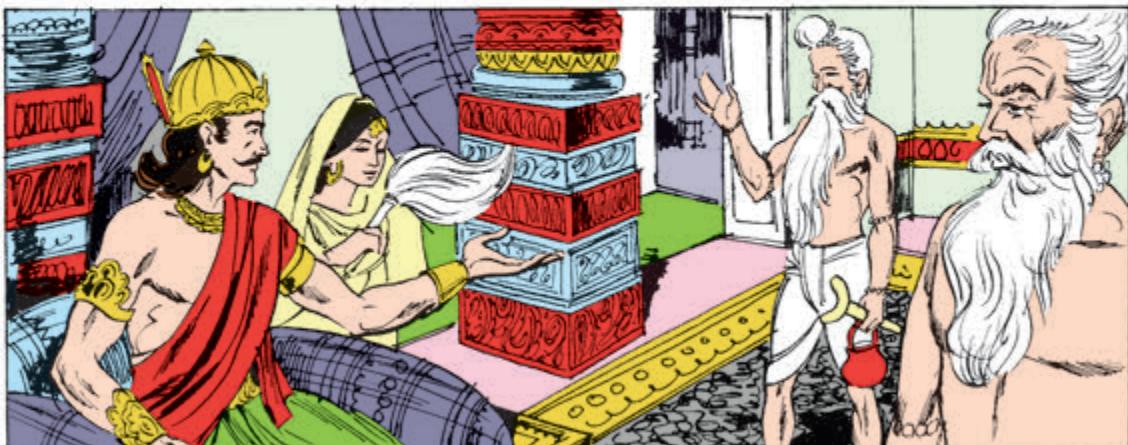
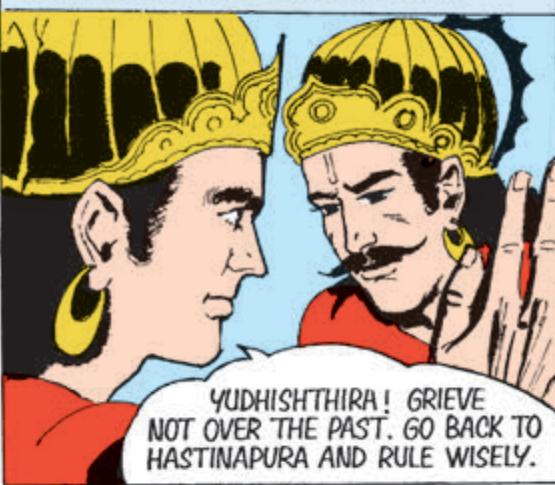
DURYODHANA HEARD THE NEWS LYING WOUNDED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.



THERE WAS GREAT SORROW IN THE PANDAVA CAMP. ALL THE SONS OF DRAUPADI HAD BEEN KILLED.



LORD KRISHNA CONSOLED THEM.



YUDHISHTHIRA RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA AND RULED IT FOR MANY MANY YEARS.

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayappan Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrahasa Dasharatha Dhruba And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Virtra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Kartikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vaasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Nala Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Prahlad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Suyamantaka Gem Tirupati Tripara Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati <p style="text-align: center;">VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hsiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaprakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. 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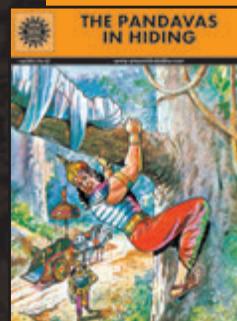
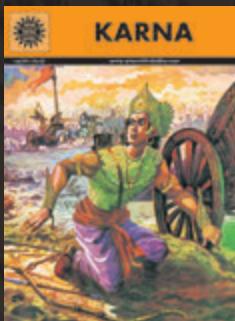
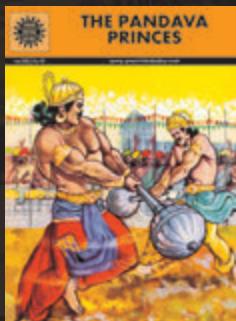


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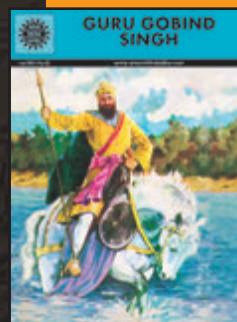
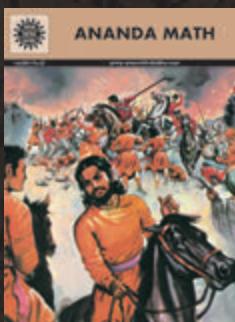
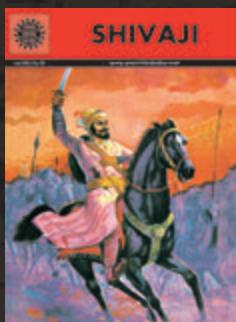
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