



# BHEESHMA

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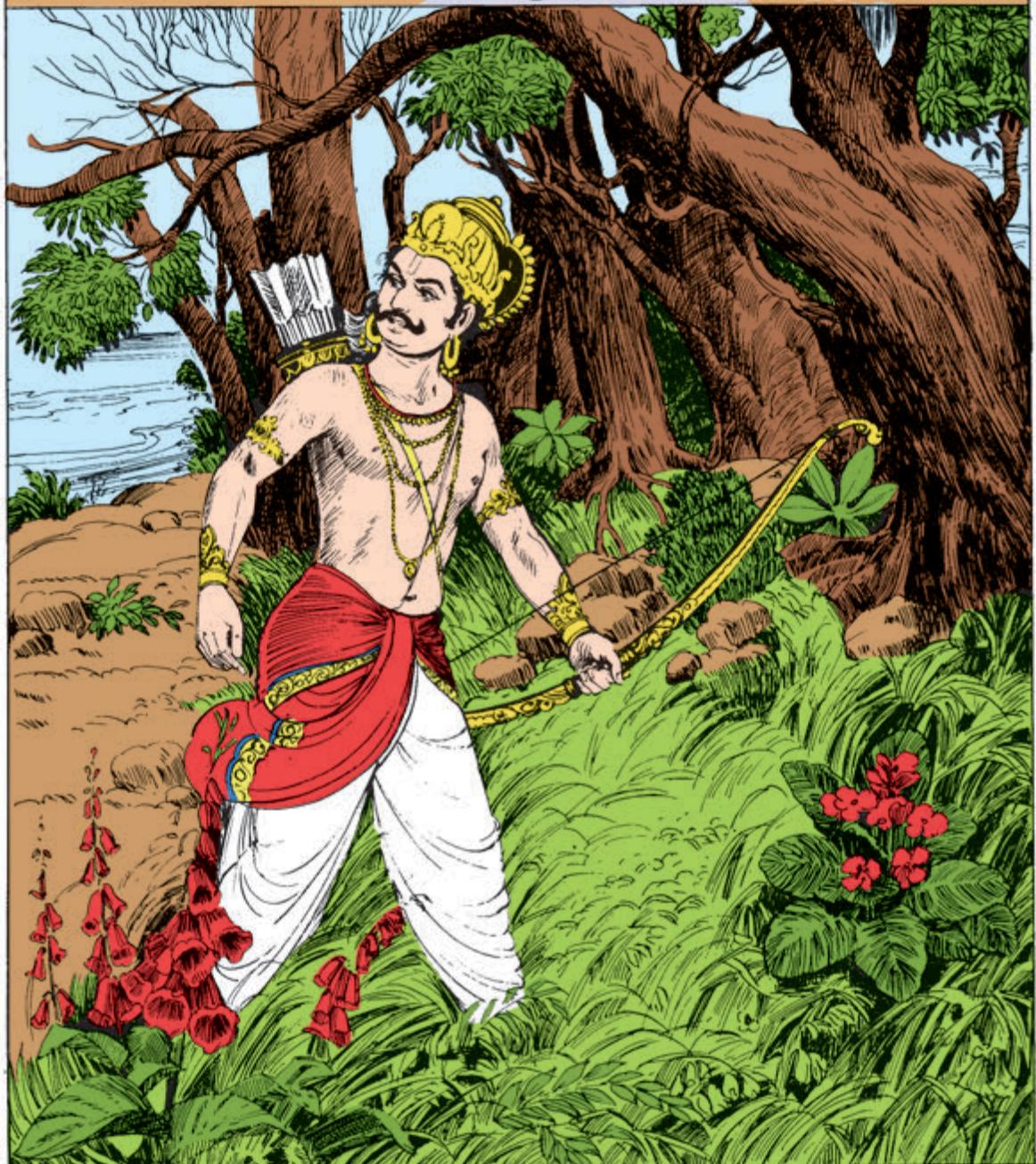
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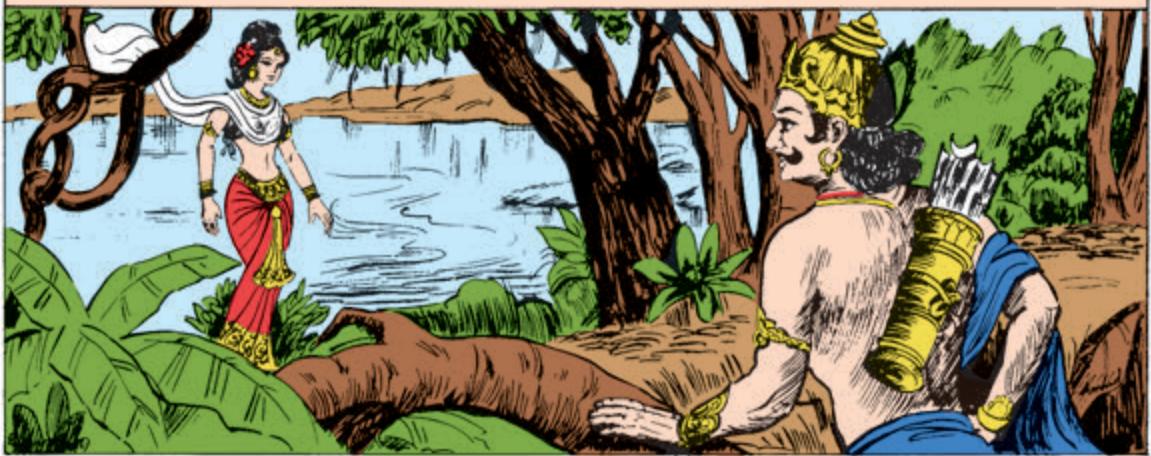
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# Bheeshma



ONE DAY, KING SHANTANU OF HASTINAPURA, WHOSE FAVOURITE PASTIME WAS HUNTING, WAS WALKING ALONG THE BANKS OF THE RIVER GANGA IN SEARCH OF DEER AND BISON.

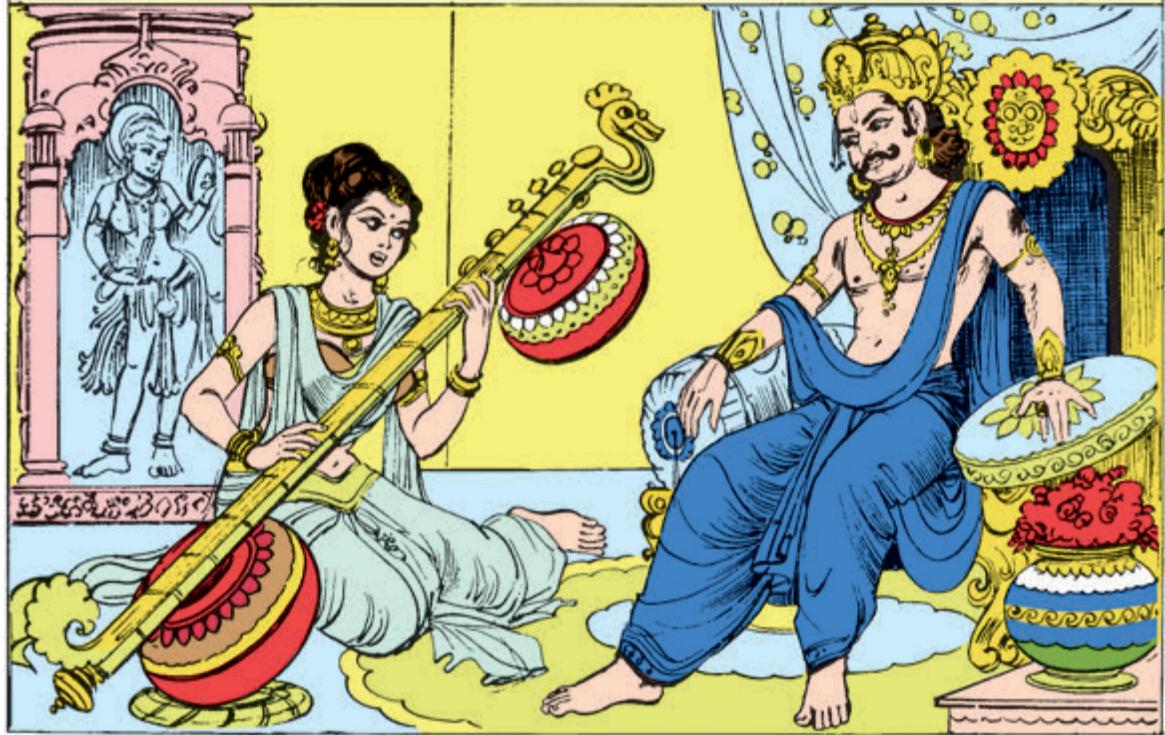
SUDDENLY A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN APPEARED IN FRONT OF HIM.



SHANTANU FELL IN LOVE WITH THE MAIDEN, AT FIRST SIGHT.



SHANTANU MARRIED THE MAIDEN AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY TOGETHER.



BUT HIS WIFE BEHAVED STRANGELY FOR A WOMAN. EACH TIME A CHILD WAS BORN TO HER, SHE DROWNED IT.



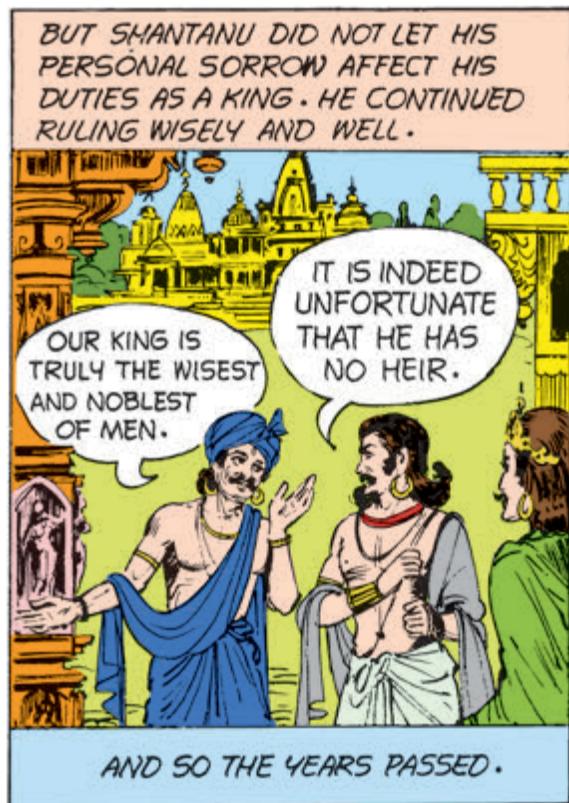
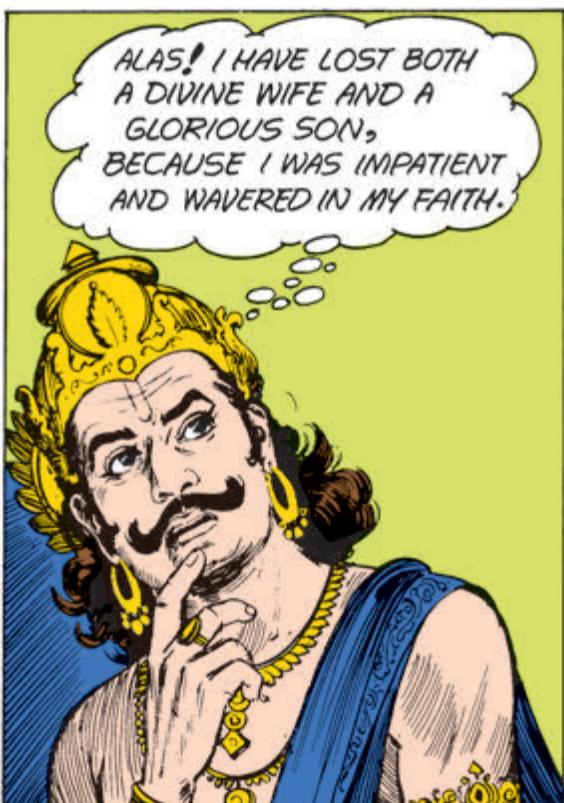
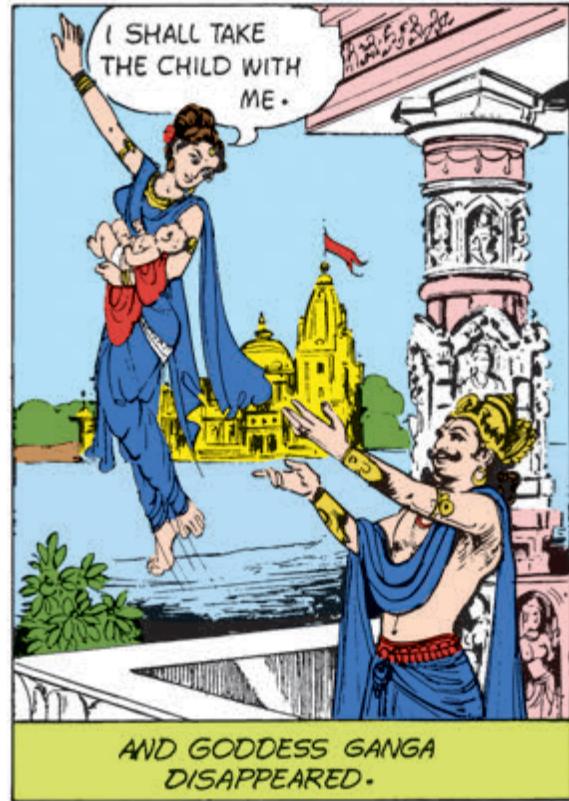
SHANTANU WAS TROUBLED.

IT SADDENS ME TO SEE EACH CHILD OF MINE KILLED. YET I DARE NOT QUESTION MY BELOVED WIFE LEST I LOSE HER ALTOGETHER.

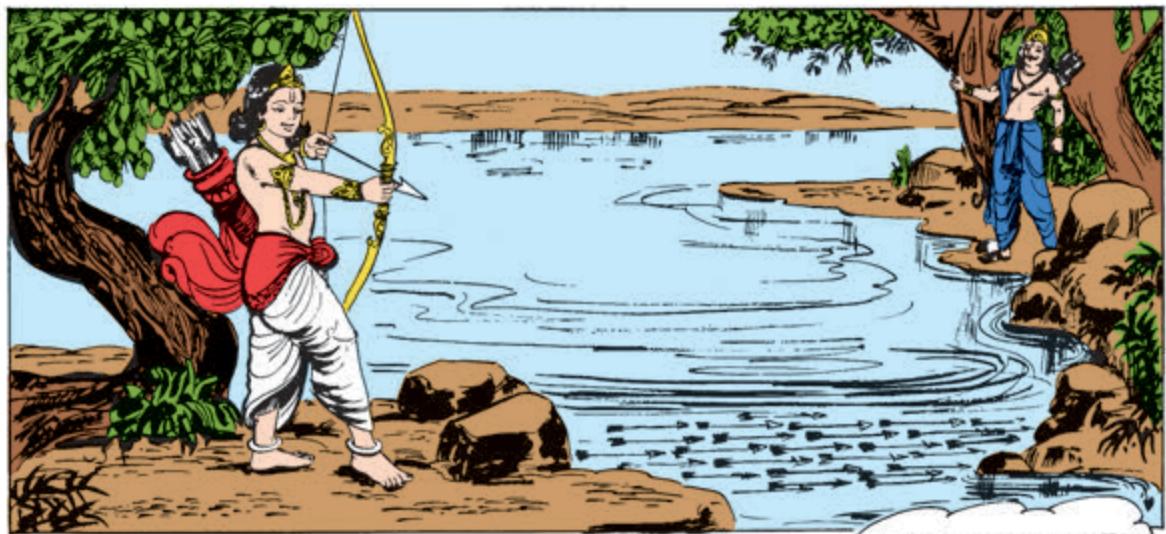


HOWEVER WHEN THE EIGHTH CHILD WAS BORN -

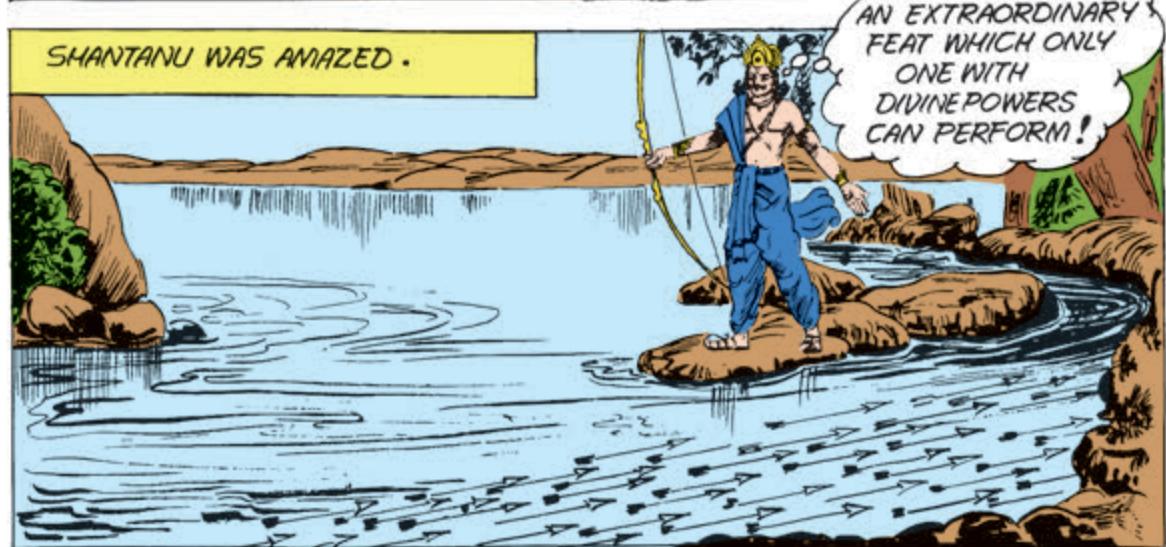




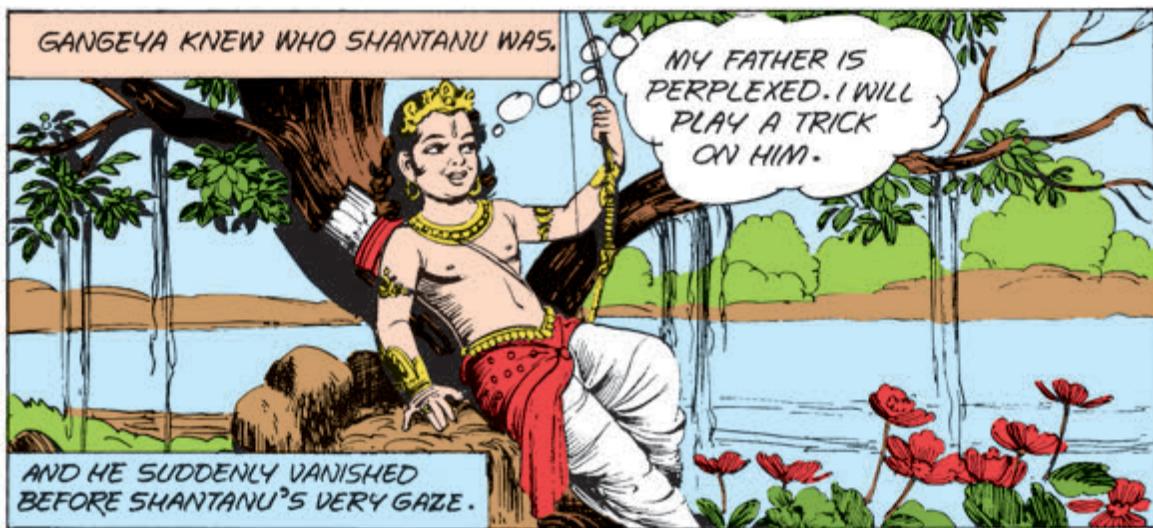
THEN ONE DAY AS SHANTANU CAME ONCE AGAIN TO THE BANKS OF THE GANGES, HUNTING DEER -



SHANTANU WAS AMAZED .



THE BOY WAS GANGEYA, HIS SON, BUT KING SHANTANU DID NOT RECOGNISE HIM.

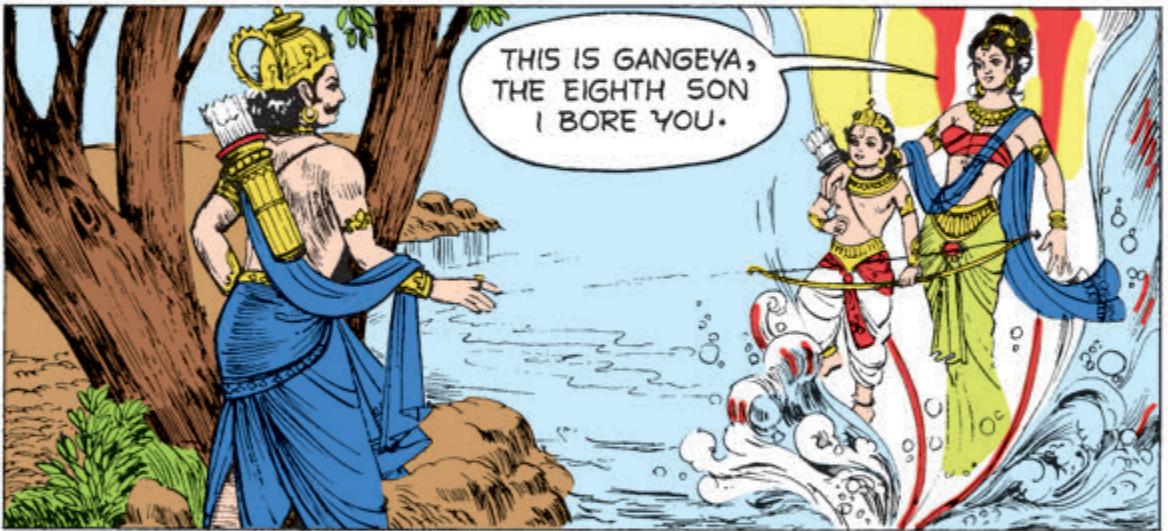


HE CALLED OUT IMPLORINGLY TO GANGA.

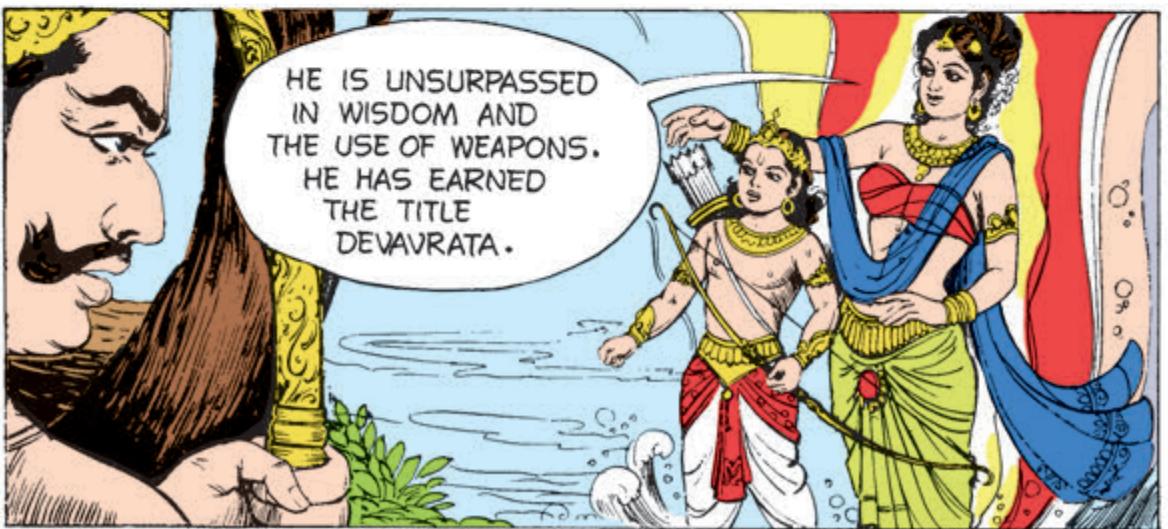
PLEASE SHOW  
YOURSELF AND THAT  
MARVELLOUS YOUTH.  
ISN'T HE  
MINE?

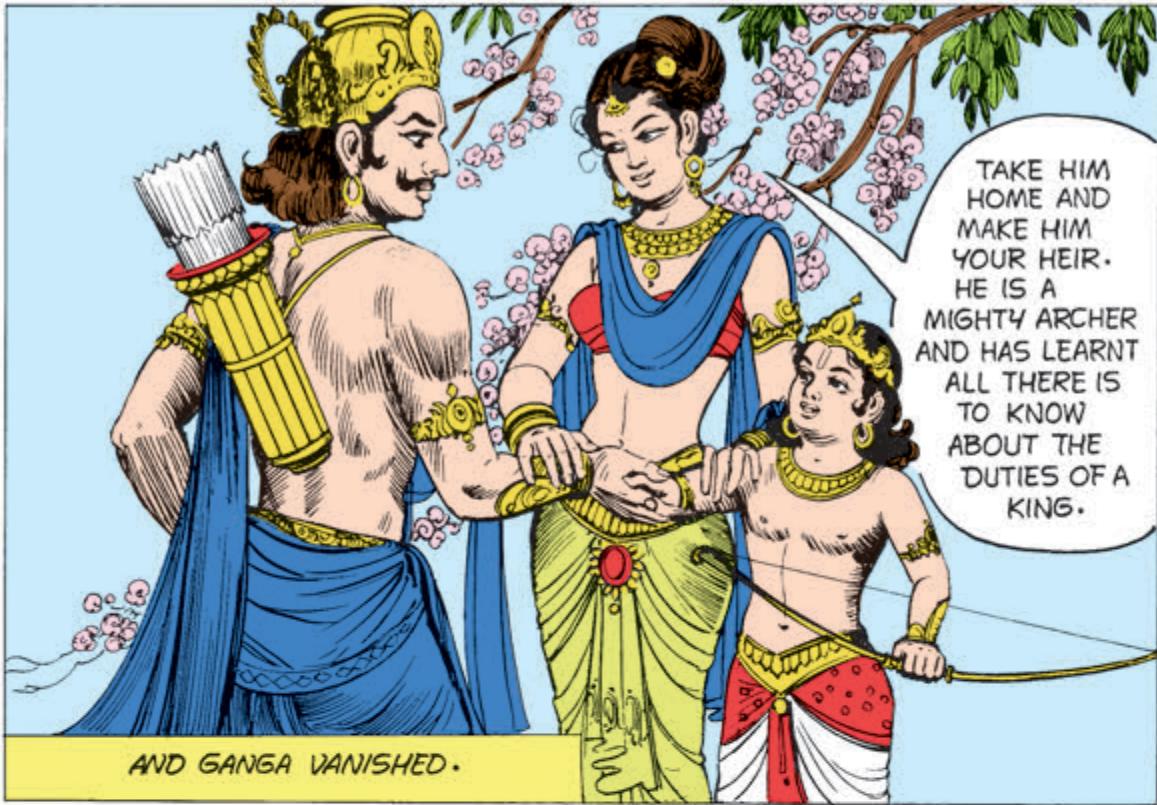


THIS IS GANGEYA,  
THE EIGHTH SON  
I BORE YOU.



HE IS UNSURPASSED  
IN WISDOM AND  
THE USE OF WEAPONS.  
HE HAS EARNED  
THE TITLE  
DEVAVRATA.

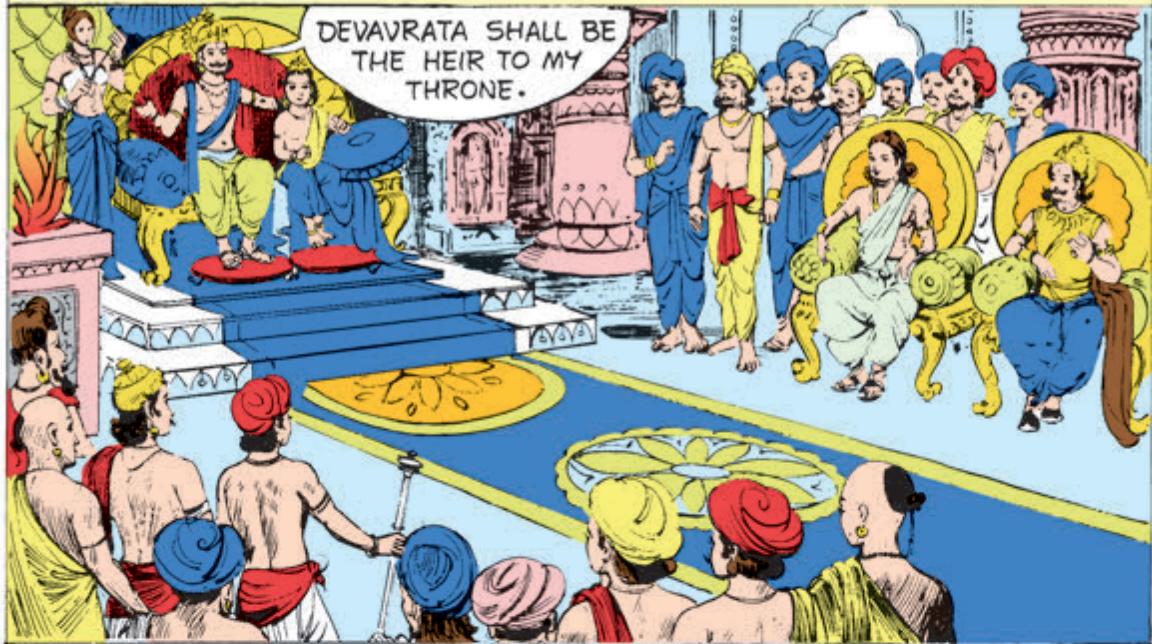




SHANTANU TOOK DEVAVRATA AND RETURNED HOME JOYFULLY.

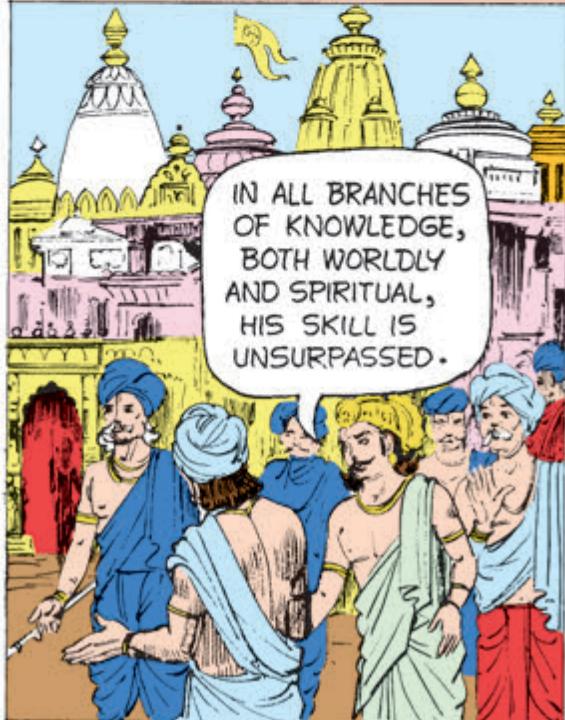


WHEN THEY REACHED HIS PALACE HE SUMMONED ALL HIS KINSMEN, THE PAURAVAS, TO HIM.



THE PAURAVAS LOOKING UPON THE GODLIKE YOUTH, ADMIRED HIM.

DEVAVRATA SOON EARNED  
THEIR LOVE ...



... AND THEIR RESPECT TOO.



SHANTANU WAS HAPPY TO HAVE SUCH A WORTHY SON AND HEIR. BUT STILL HE FELT LONELY AT TIMES.



AT SUCH MOMENTS, HE TOOK LONG WALKS, ALONE, ALONG THE BANKS OF THE YAMUNA.

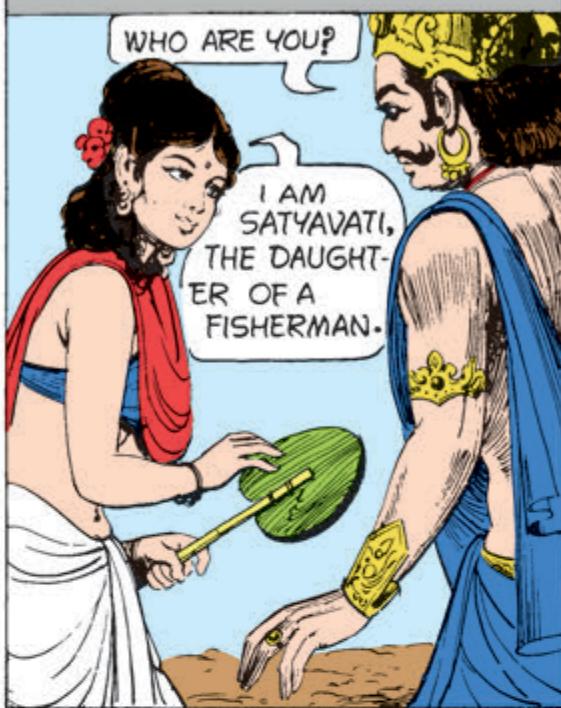


ON ONE SUCH WALK -

AH! WHAT A DIVINE FRAGRANCE!  
WHERE IS IT FROM?



JUST THEN HE SAW A BEAUTIFUL GIRL APPROACHING.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I FERRY PASSENGERS ACROSS THIS RIVER IN MY BOAT.

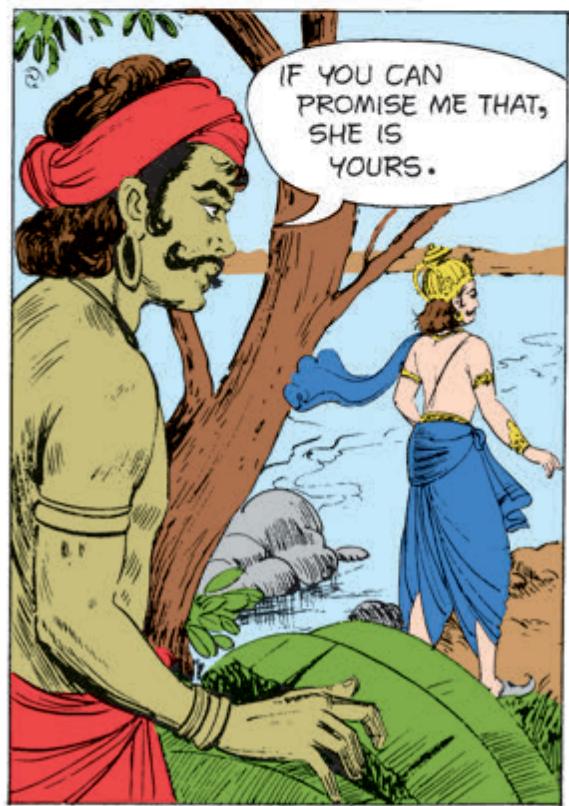
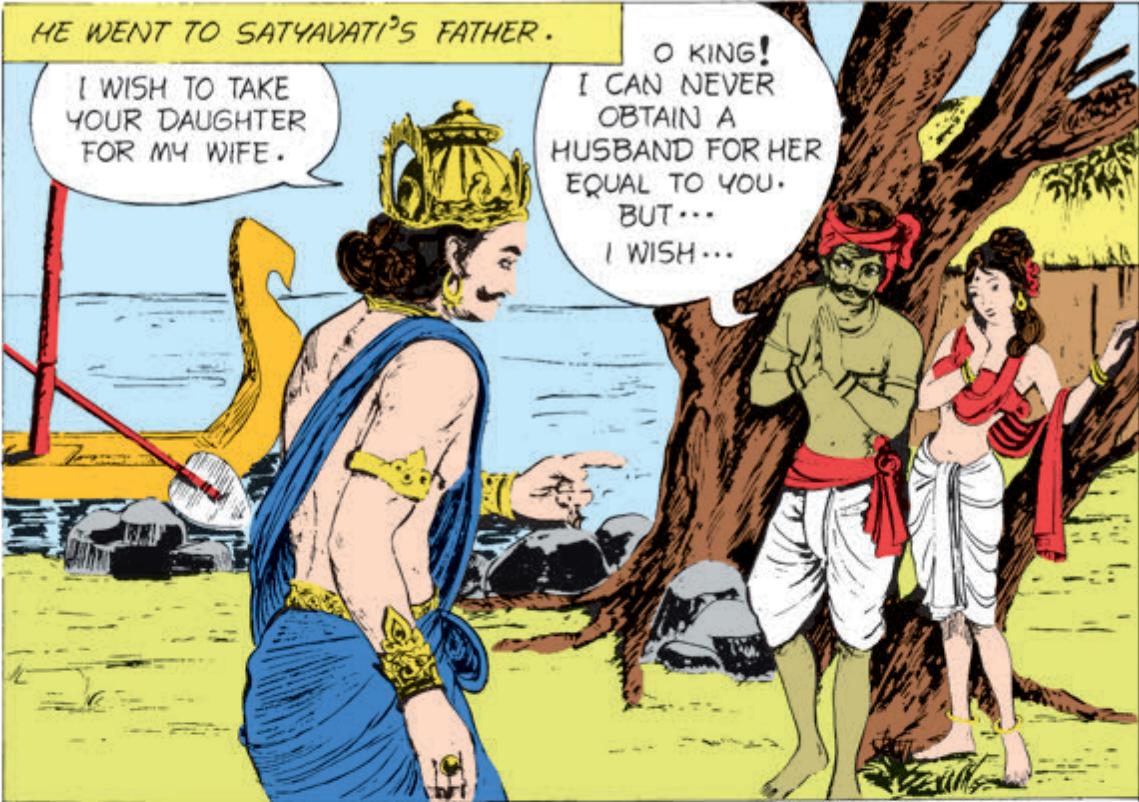


KING SHANTANU WAS OVERCOME BY A DESIRE TO MAKE SATYAVATI HIS OWN AND TAKE HER TO HIS PALACE.



I SHALL GO AND ASK HER FATHER FOR HER HAND.





SHANTANU WAS DISMAYED.

HOW CAN I  
DISINHERIT MY  
DEVARATA?

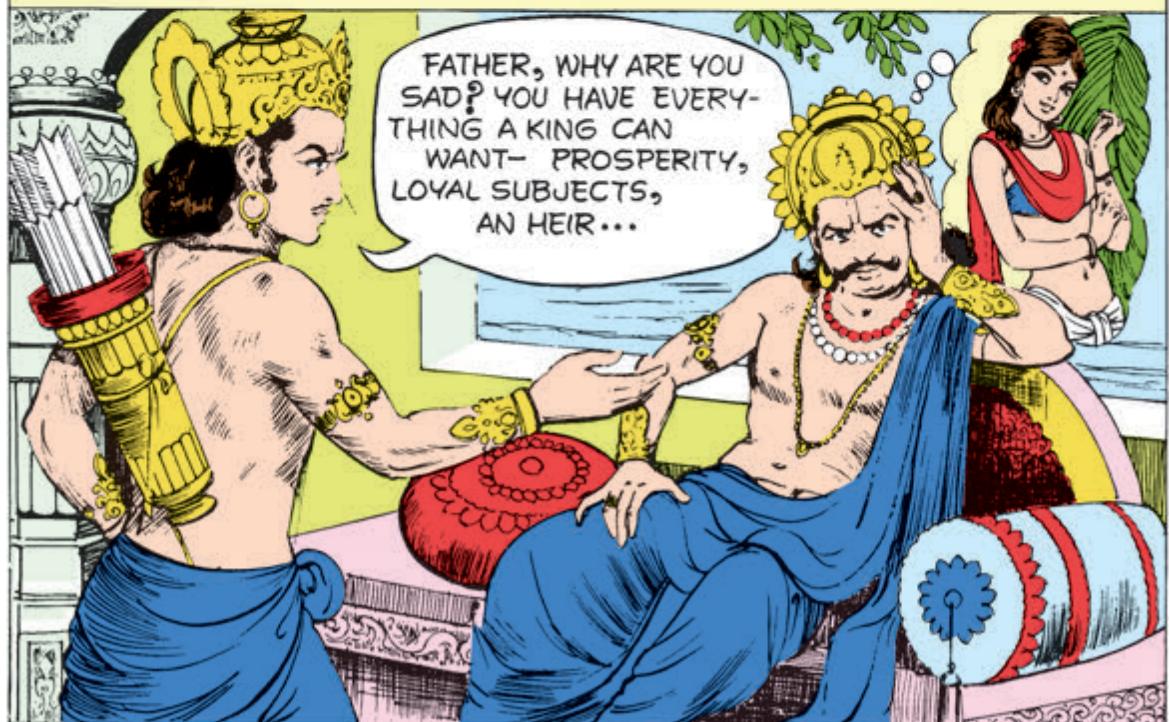
HE RETURNED TO HIS PALACE, HIS  
THOUGHTS FULL OF SATYAVATI.

AND YET  
MY LIFE IS  
MEANINGLESS IF  
I CANNOT MARRY SATYAVATI.



AT HASTINAPUR HE PASSED HIS DAYS, LOST IN HIS LONGINGS. ONE DAY-

FATHER, WHY ARE YOU  
SAD? YOU HAVE EVERY-  
THING A KING CAN  
WANT— PROSPERITY,  
LOYAL SUBJECTS,  
AN HEIR...



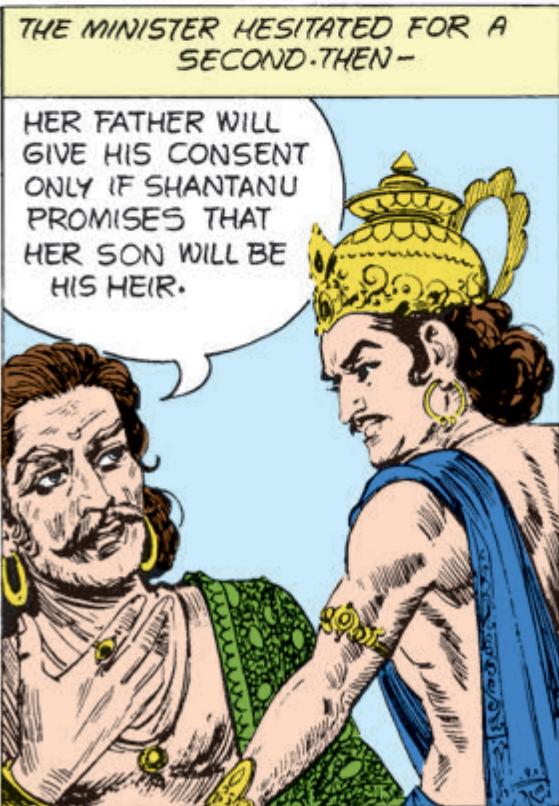
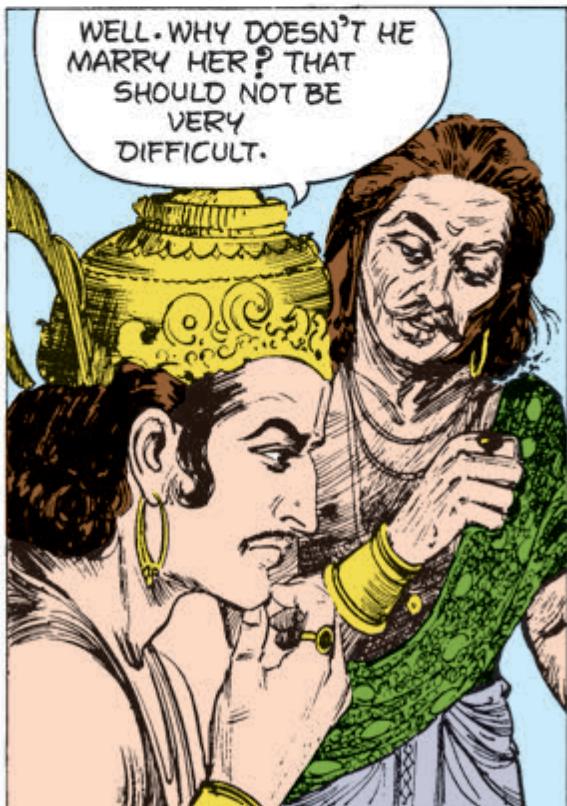
SHANTANU WAS QUICK TO ANSWER.



BUT DEVAVRATA WAS TOO INTELLIGENT TO BE TAKEN IN BY THESE WORDS.



SO HE WENT TO AN OLD MINISTER WHO WAS DEVOTED TO HIS FATHER.



DEVAURATA, ACCOMPANIED BY A FEW ELDERLY PAURAVA CHIEFS, WENT TO SATYAVATI'S FATHER.

HE ALREADY HAS AN HEIR IN YOU. WHAT CHANCES WOULD MY GRANDSON HAVE AGAINST YOU?



UPON HEARING THESE WORDS  
DEVAURATA TOOK AN OATH.



BUT THE FISHERMAN  
WAS NOT SATISFIED.



DEVAVRATA DID NOT INTEND TO GO  
WITHOUT WINNING SATYAVATI  
FOR HIS FATHER.



AND DEVAVRATA TOOK A TERRIBLE OATH.



HEARING THESE WORDS THE GODS SHOWERED FLOWERS ON DEVAVRATA.

HE IS  
BHEESHMA  
OF THE  
TERRIBLE OATH!

BHEESHMA!

BHEESHMA!

BHEESHMA!

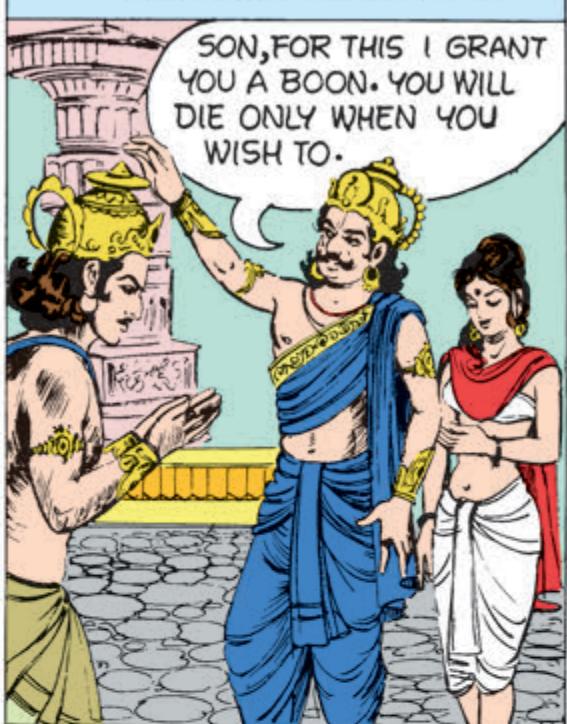
I GIVE  
MY DAUGHTER  
TO YOUR  
FATHER.



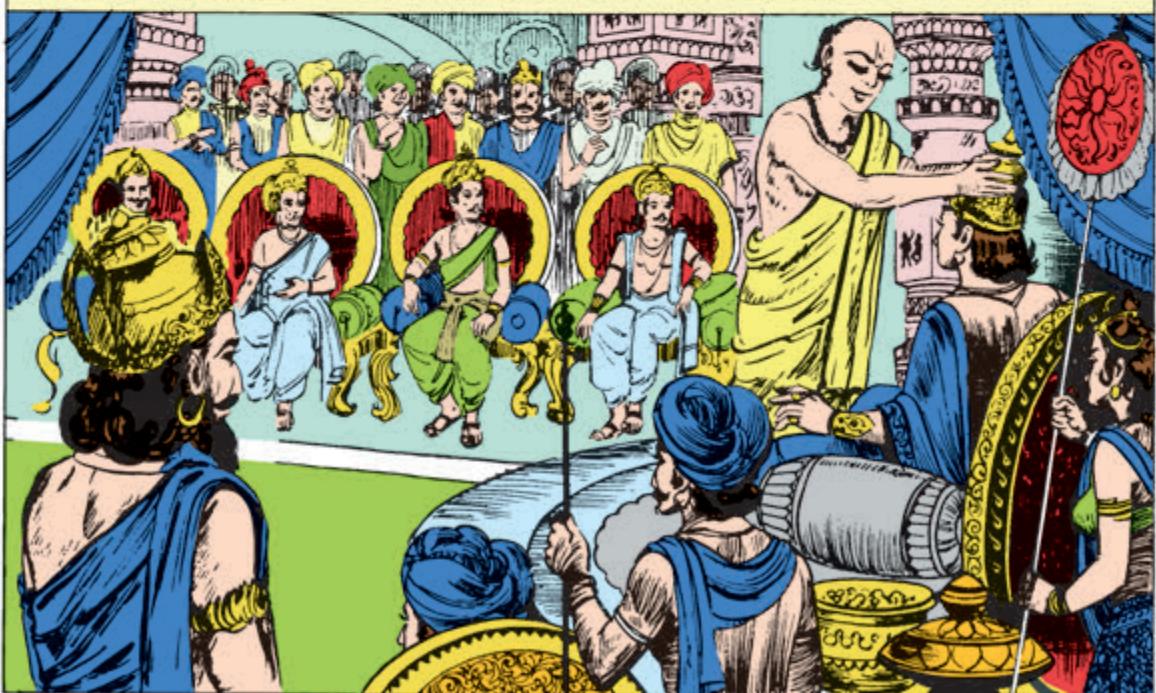
BHEESHMA WENT TO SATYAVATI.



AT HASTINAPUR BHEESHMA TOLD SHANTANU EVERYTHING.



SHANTANU MARRIED SATYAVATI AND HAD TWO SONS. THE ELDER WAS KILLED IN BATTLE. WHEN SHANTANU DIED, BHEESHMA SET THE YOUNGER SON, VICHITRAVIRYA ON THE THRONE AND RULED THE KINGDOM FOR HIM.



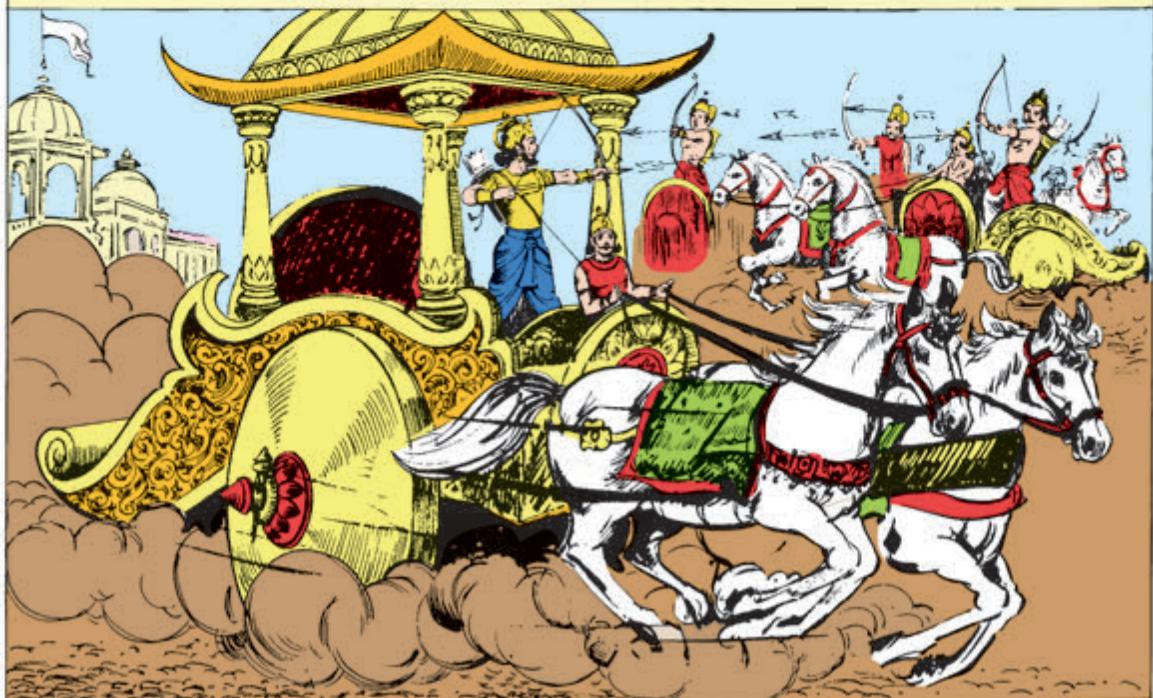
ONE DAY BHEESHMA APPROACHED SATYAVATI.

THE KING OF KASHI IS HOLDING A SWAYAMVARA FOR HIS THREE DAUGHTERS. VICHITRAVIRYA HAS COME OF AGE. I WOULD LIKE TO WIN THEM FOR HIM.

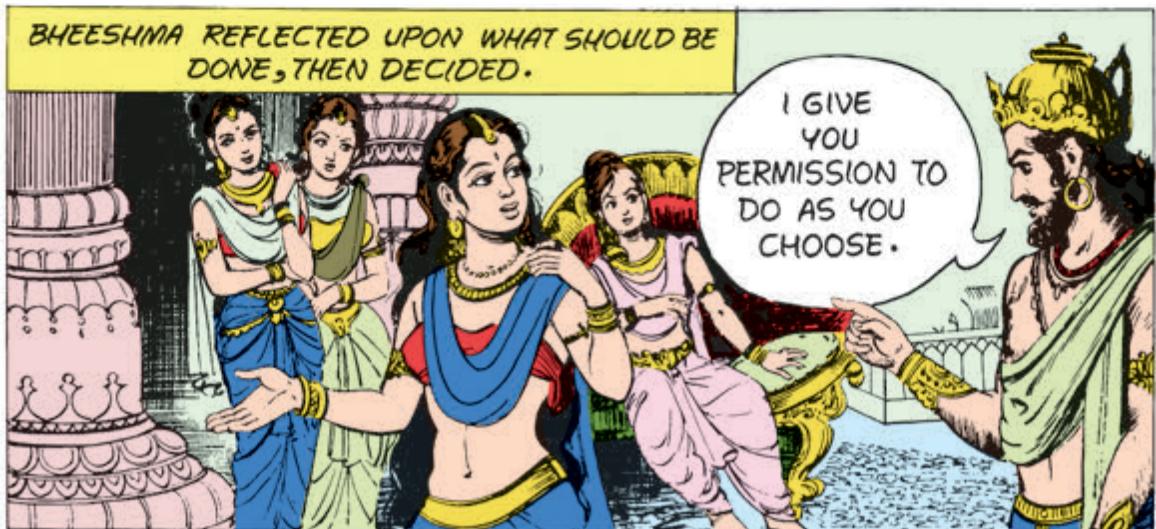
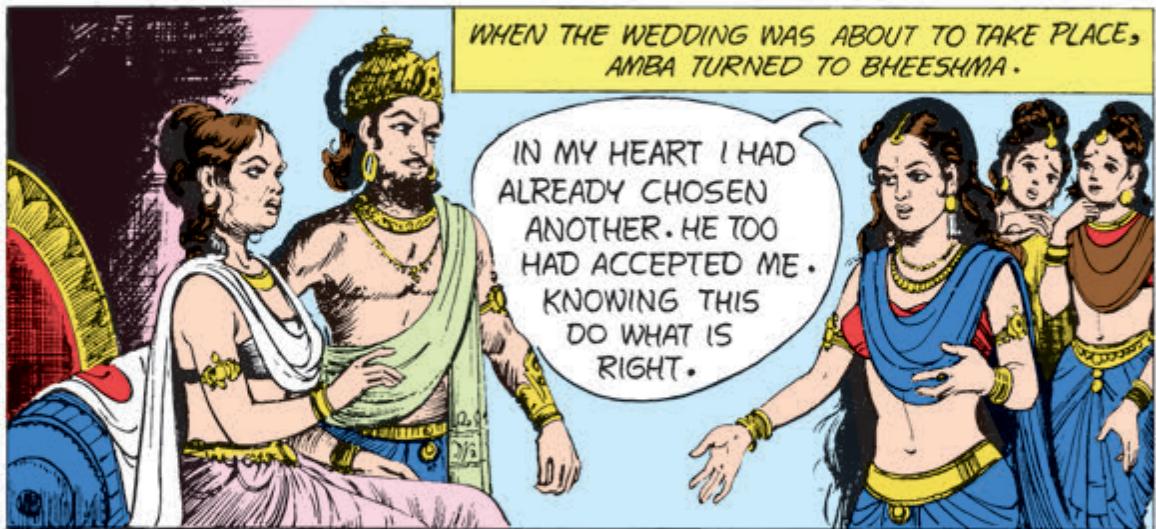
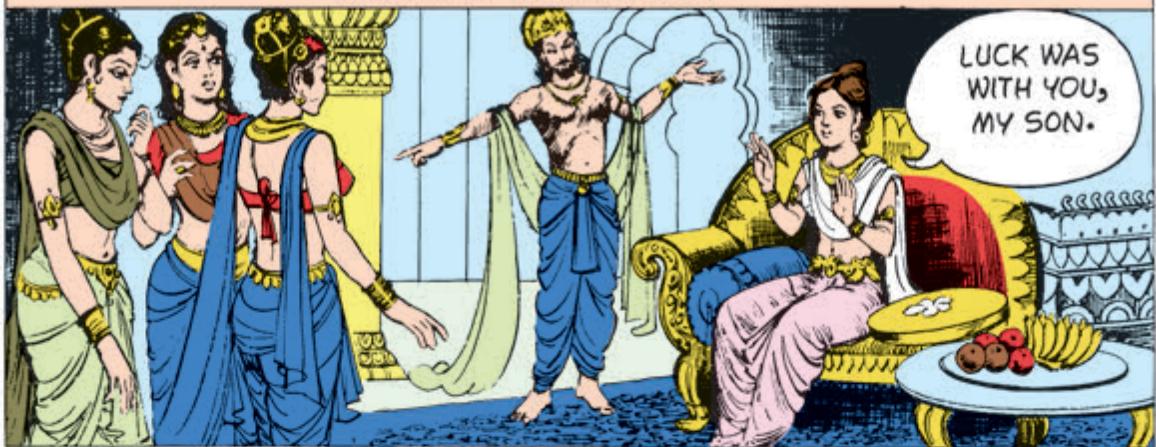
GO, BHEESHMA, WITH MY BLESSINGS AND MY GRATITUDE. WIN THEM FOR HIM.



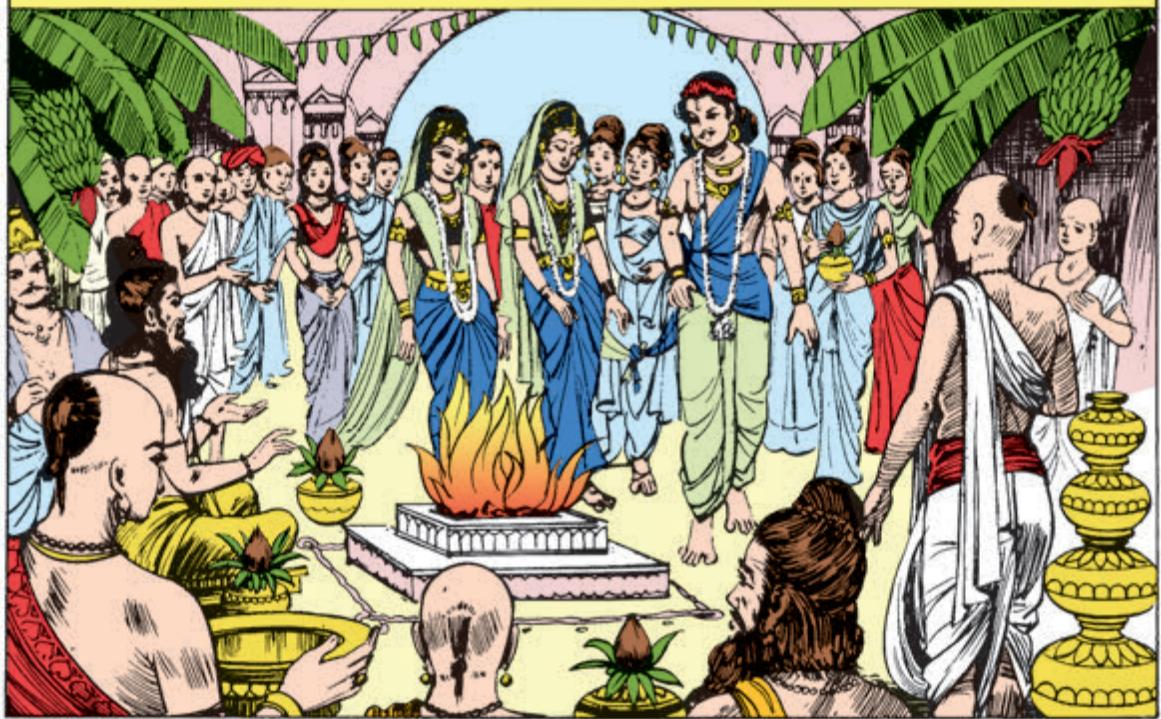
BHEESHMA WENT IN A SINGLE CHARIOT TO KASHI AND WON THE PRINCESSES DEFEATING ALL THE RIVAL KINGS WHO OPPOSED HIM.



HE BROUGHT THE PRINCESSES AMBA, AMBIKA AND AMBALIKA TO SATYAVATI.



VICHITRAVIRYA WAS MARRIED TO AMBIKA AND AMBALIKA.



AMBA WENT BACK TO HER CHOSEN LORD, BUT -



I NO LONGER  
WISH TO MARRY YOU  
AS YOU WERE CARRIED  
AWAY FOR ANOTHER.

AMBA WAS FURIOUS.

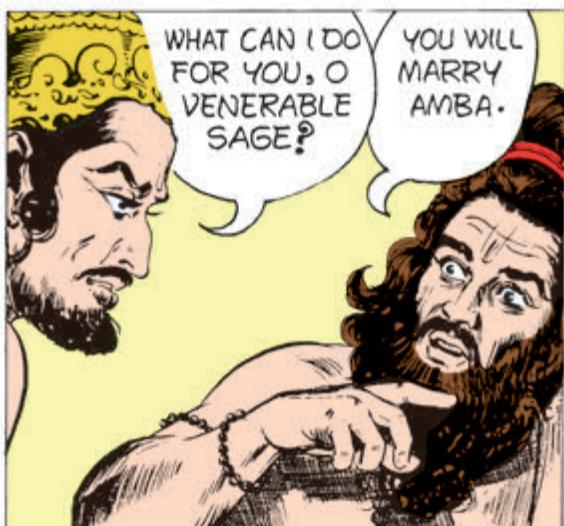
BHEESHMA IS THE  
CAUSE OF ALL  
MY SUFFERING.  
I WILL  
DESTROY HIM.



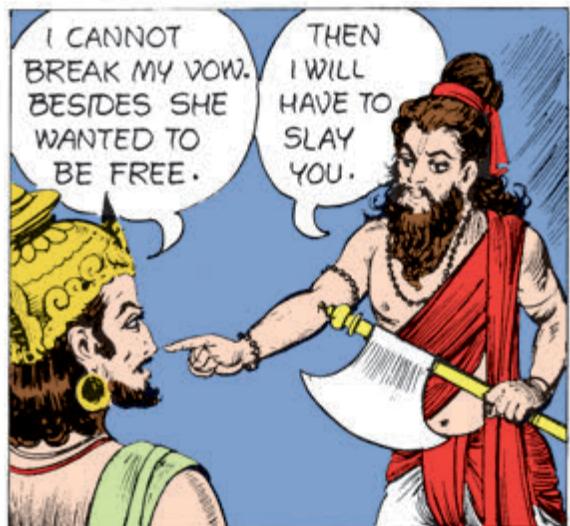
SHE WENT TO PARASHURAMA, THE SAGE WHO HATED KSHATRIYAS, AND TOLD HIM HER TALE.



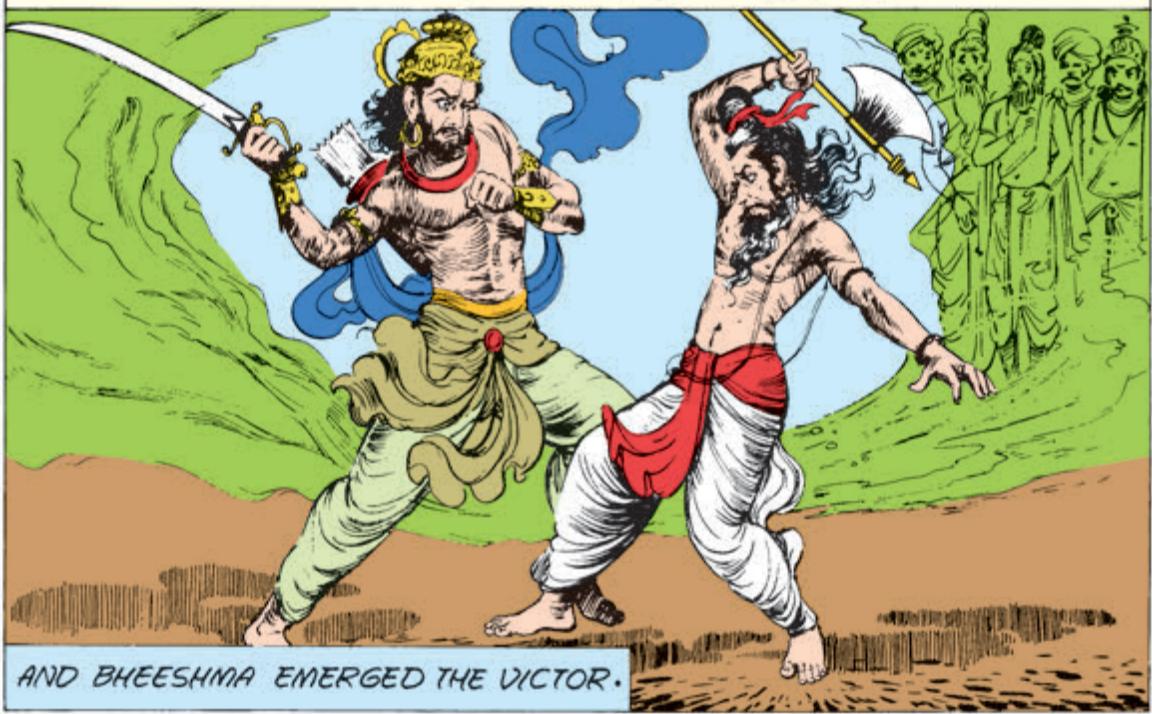
PARASHURAMA ACCCOMPANIED BY AMBA AND OTHER ASCETICS WENT TO HASTINAPURA AND BHEESHMA CAME TO PAY HIM HIS RESPECTS.



YOU WILL MARRY AMBA.



BHEESHMA AND PARASHURAMA MET EACH OTHER IN SINGLE-COMBAT AND FOUGHT FOR TWENTY-THREE DAYS.



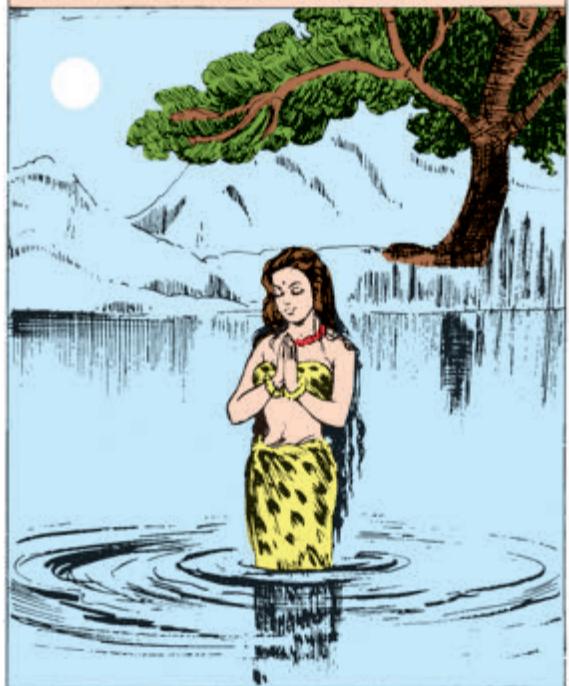
AND BHEESHMA EMERGED THE VICTOR.

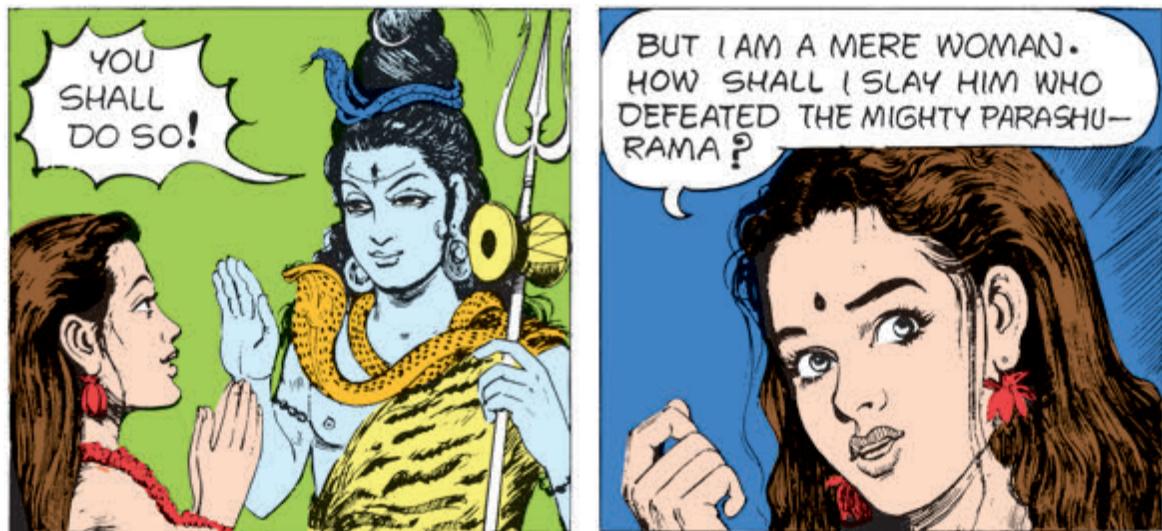
PARASHURAMA WENT TO AMBA.

I TRIED MY BEST BUT I FAILED. I ADVISE YOU TO FORGET YOUR HUMILIATION AND SEEK BHEESHMA'S PROTECTION.

I CANNOT.

AMBA PERFORMED SEVERE PENANCES FOR TWELVE YEARS TO WIN THE GRACE OF LORD SHIVA.





AMBA MADE A FUNERAL PYRE, LIT IT AND JUMPED INTO ITS FLAMES.

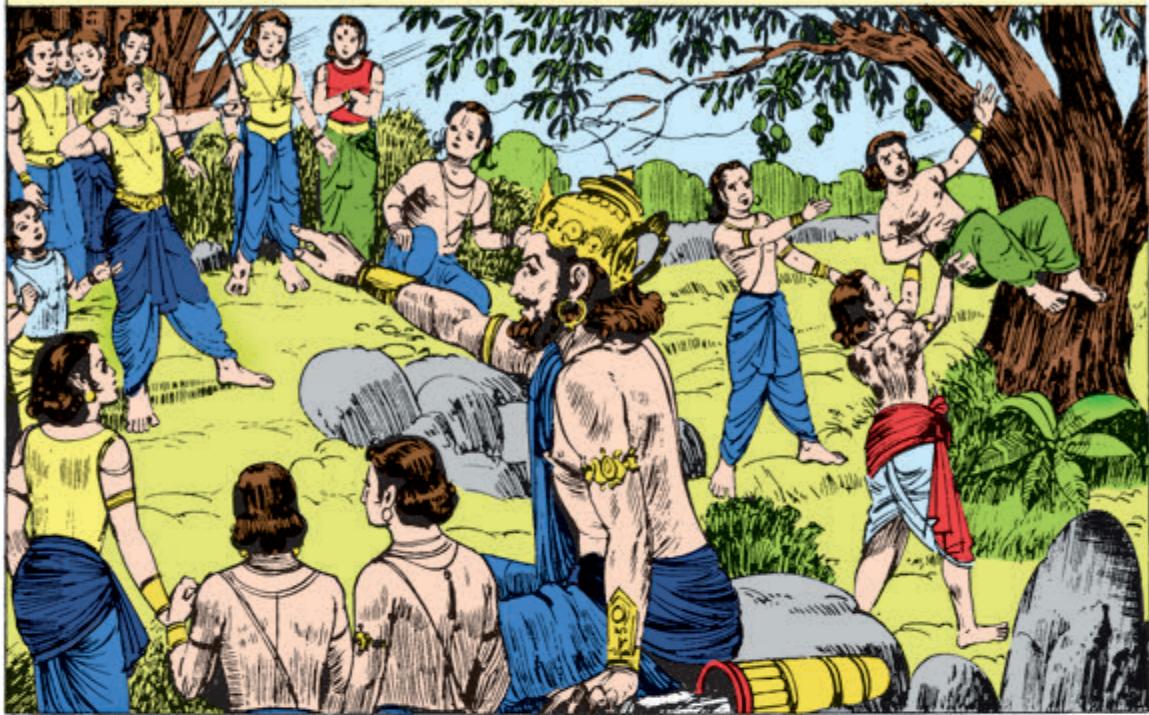


AND AS SHIVA PROMISED SHE WAS REBORN AND BECAME SHIKHANDIN.

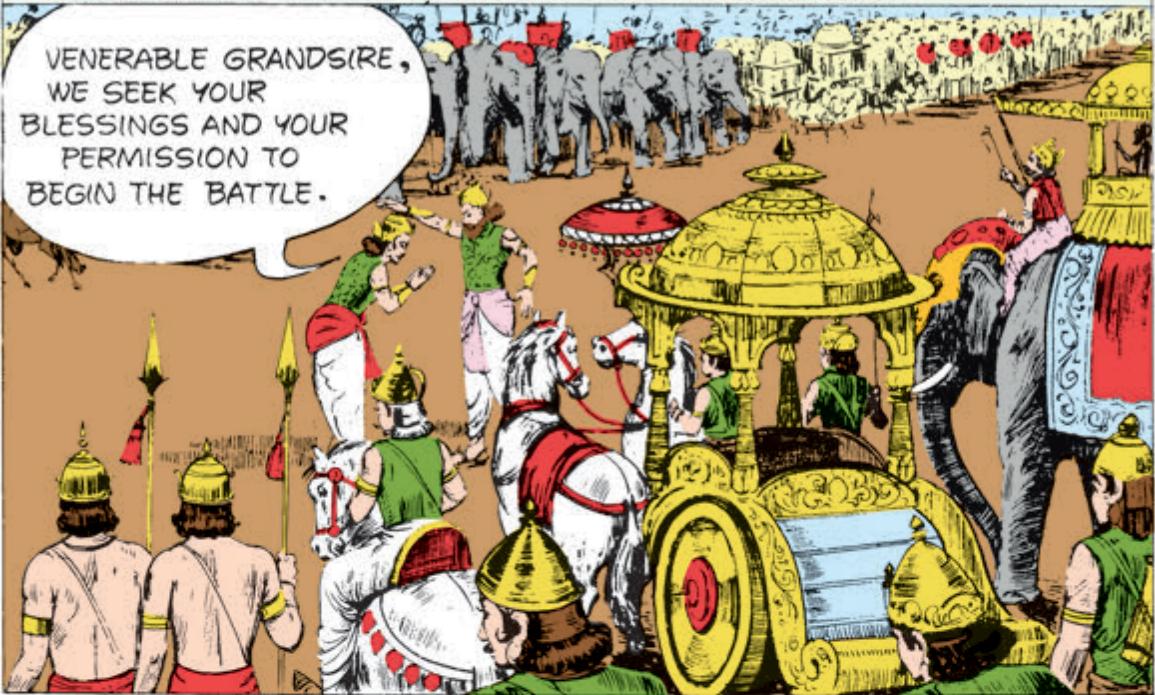
HER SISTERS IN THE MEANWHILE HAD HAD A SON EACH - DHRITA-RASHTRA AND PANDU, WHOSE SONS WERE THE HUNDRED KURAVAS AND FIVE PANDAVAS RESPECTIVELY.



BHEESMA SUPERVISED THE UPBRINGING OF THESE COUSINS AS HE HAD DONE THAT OF THEIR PARENTS.



AND WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN THE KAURAVAS AND THE PANDAVAS – THE GREAT 18-DAY WAR OF THE MAHABHARATA. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE BATTLE THE ELDEST PANDAVA CAME TO BHEESHMA.

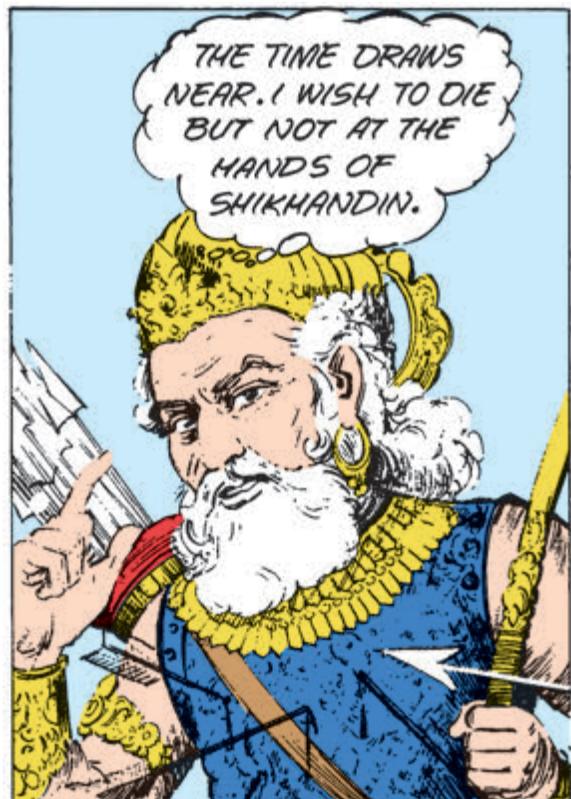


BHEESHMA LOVED BOTH, THE PANDAVAS AND THE KAURAVAS, BUT HE WAS DUTY-BOUND TO FIGHT ON THE SIDE OF THE KAURAVAS. THEY WERE THE SONS OF THE REIGNING KING, DHRITARASHTRA.



FOR NINE DAYS BHEESHMA AND THE KAURAVA ARMIES FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY AGAINST THE PANDAVA ARMIES. DRUPADA'S SON SHIKHANDIN WAS AN ALLY OF THE PANDAVAS.

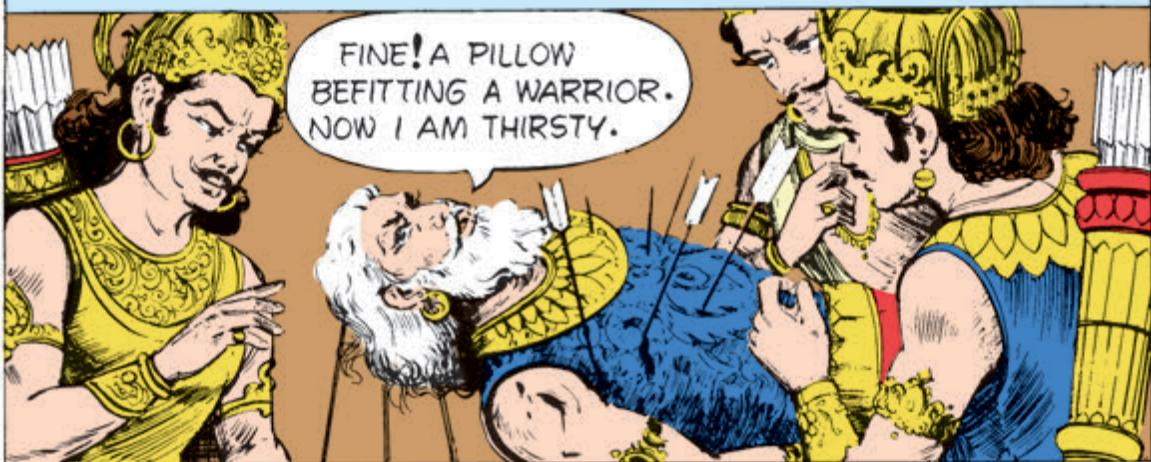
ON THE TENTH DAY OF THE BATTLE, ARJUNA, THE PANDAVA, SHIELDING HIMSELF BEHIND SHIKHANDIN, ATTACKED BHEESMA.



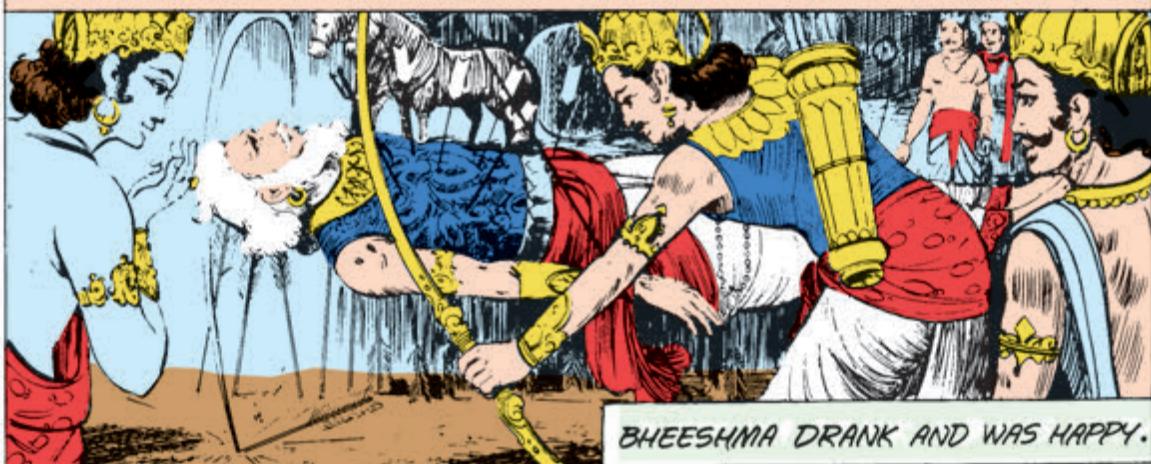
BOTH ARMIES STOPPED FIGHTING AND CROWDED AROUND THEIR BELOVED GRANDSIRE.



ARJUNA IMMEDIATELY PLACED THREE ARROWS UNDER BHEESHMA'S HEAD.



AT ONCE ARJUNA SHOT AN ARROW INTO THE EARTH NEAR BHEESHMA'S HEAD.



THE BATTLE WAS RESUMED.



THE PANDAVAS WON THE WAR. YUDHISHTHIRA, THE ELDEST OF THEM, CAME TO BHEESHMA FOR HIS BLESSINGS AND HIS ADVICE ON THE DUTIES OF A KING. AS BHEESHMA FINISHED TALKING IT WAS THE AUSPICIOUS MOMENT HE HAD CHOSEN FOR HIS DEATH AND HIS SOUL PASSED AWAY.

# WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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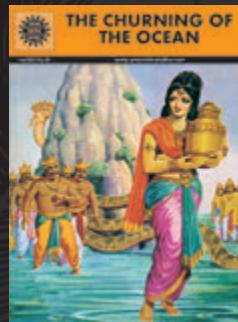
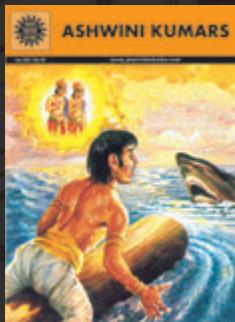


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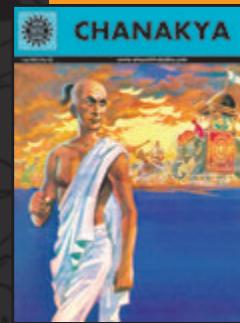
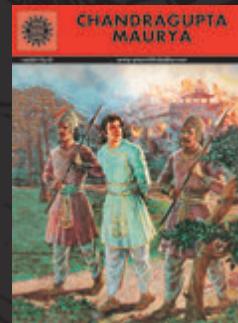
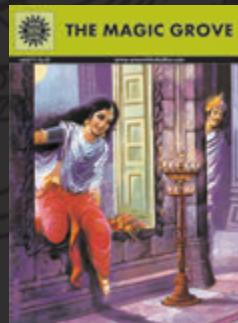
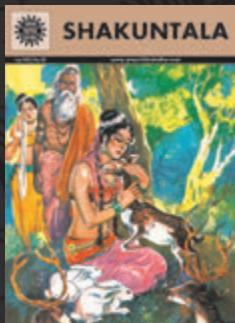
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