



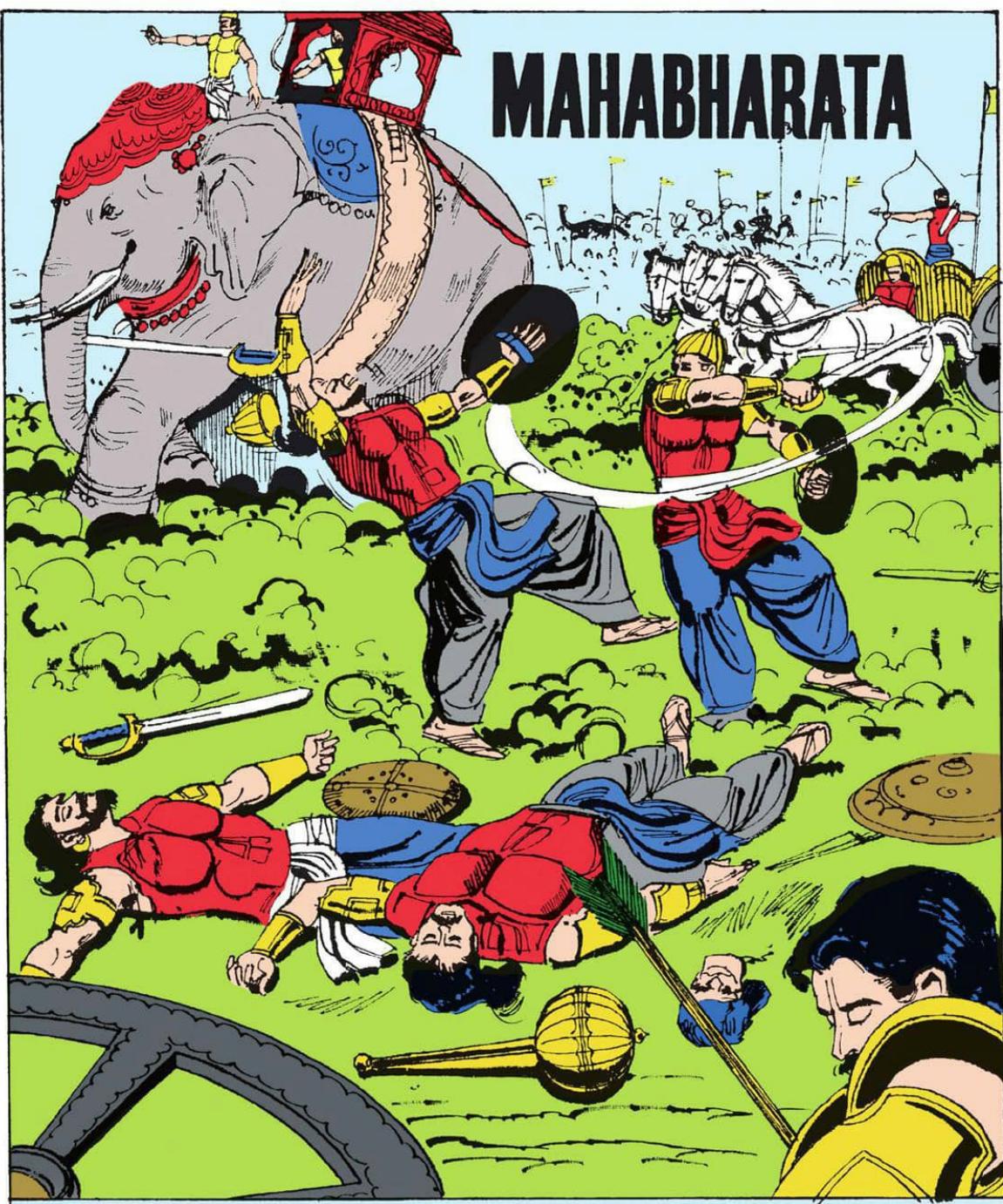
# MAHABHARATA

THE GREAT EPIC OF INDIA

Vol 582



# 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, BHEEMA 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.



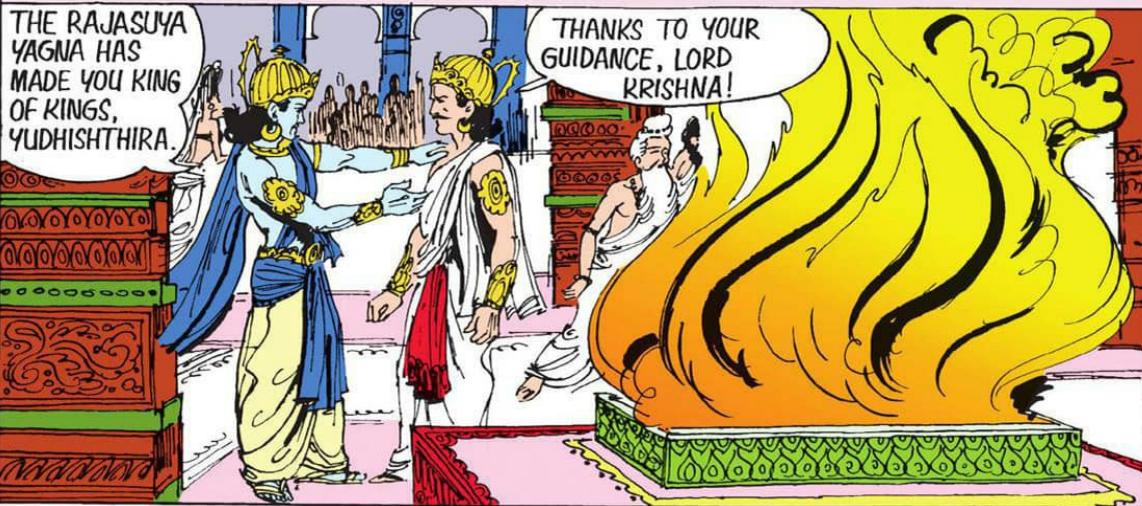
FINALLY, WISDOM PREVAILLED ON KING DHRITARASHTRA AFTER LISTENING TO THE ADVICE OF SUCH LEARNED MEN AS...

BHEESMA, 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.



DURYODHANA WAS PLEASED WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA ACCEPTED HIS INVITATION.



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



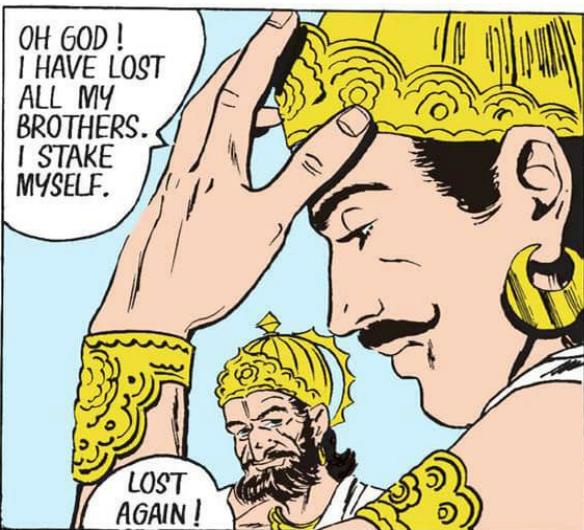
YUDHISHTHIRA CAST THE DICE.



YUDHISHTHIRA WAS BLINDLY CARRIED AWAY BY THE GAME.

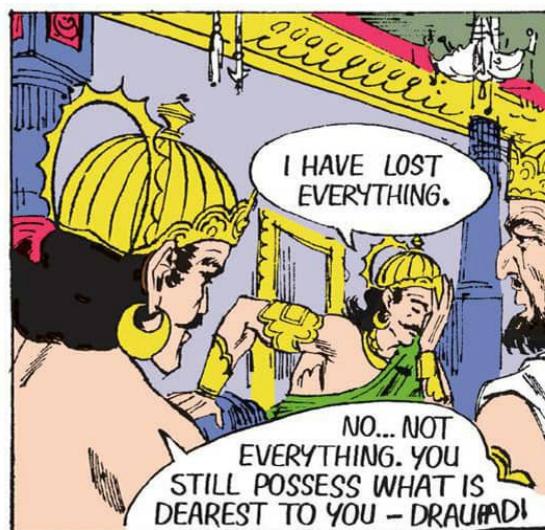


OH GOD !  
I HAVE LOST  
ALL MY  
BROTHERS.  
I STAKE  
MYSELF.

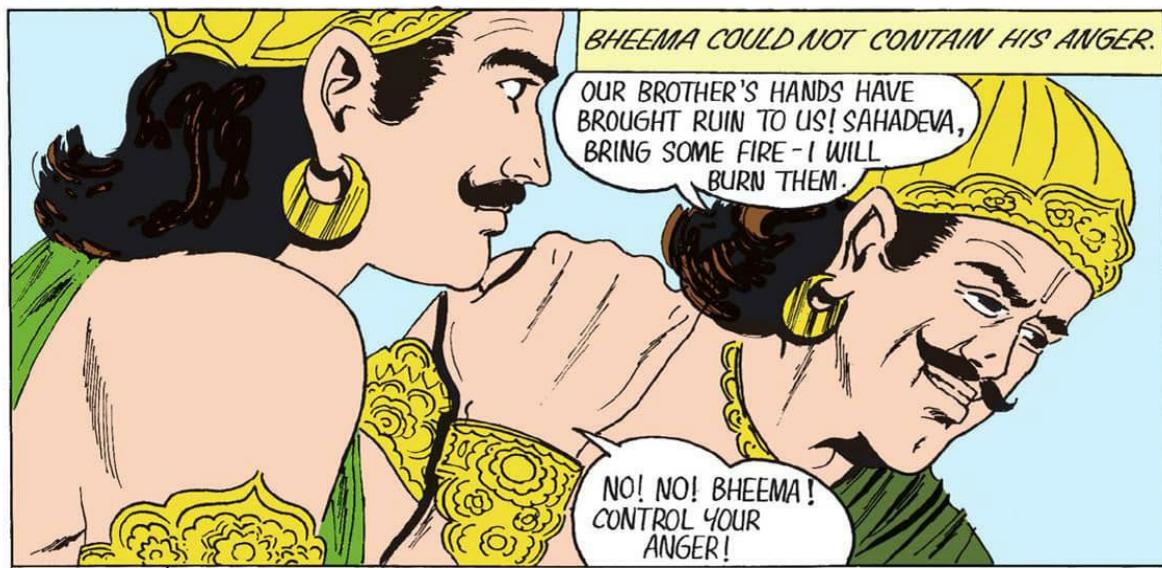


I HAVE LOST  
EVERYTHING.

NO... NOT  
EVERYTHING. YOU  
STILL POSSESS WHAT IS  
DEAREST TO YOU - DRAUPADI



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.



SARI WITHIN SARI

A MIRACLE !

GOD HAS SAVED HER!



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.

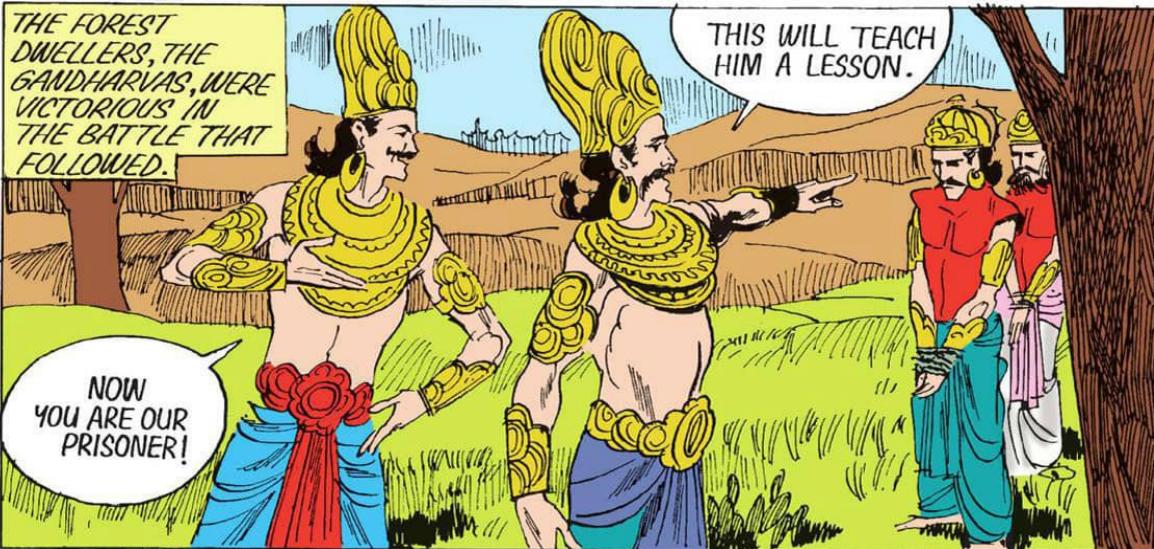
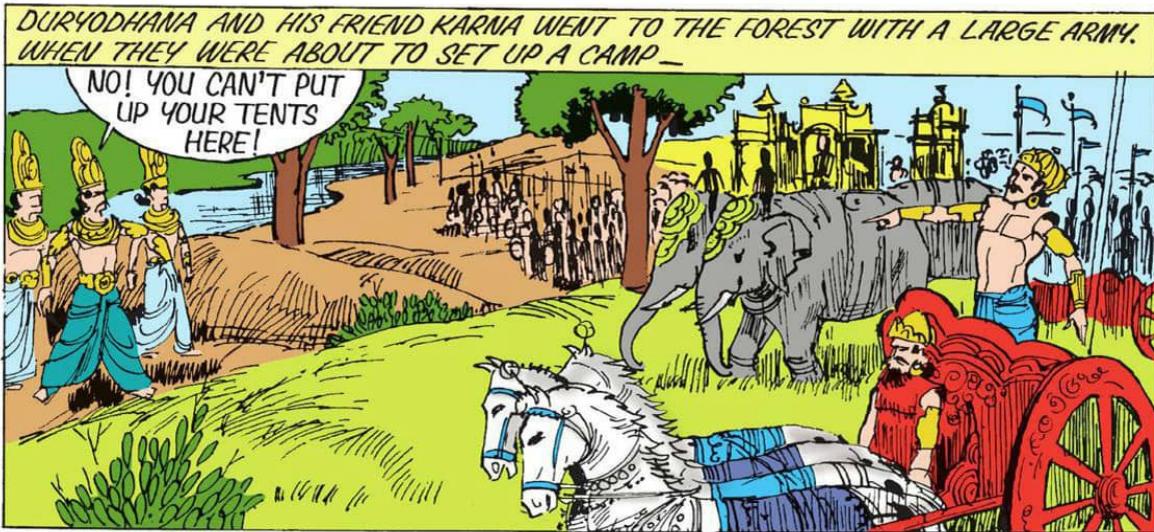
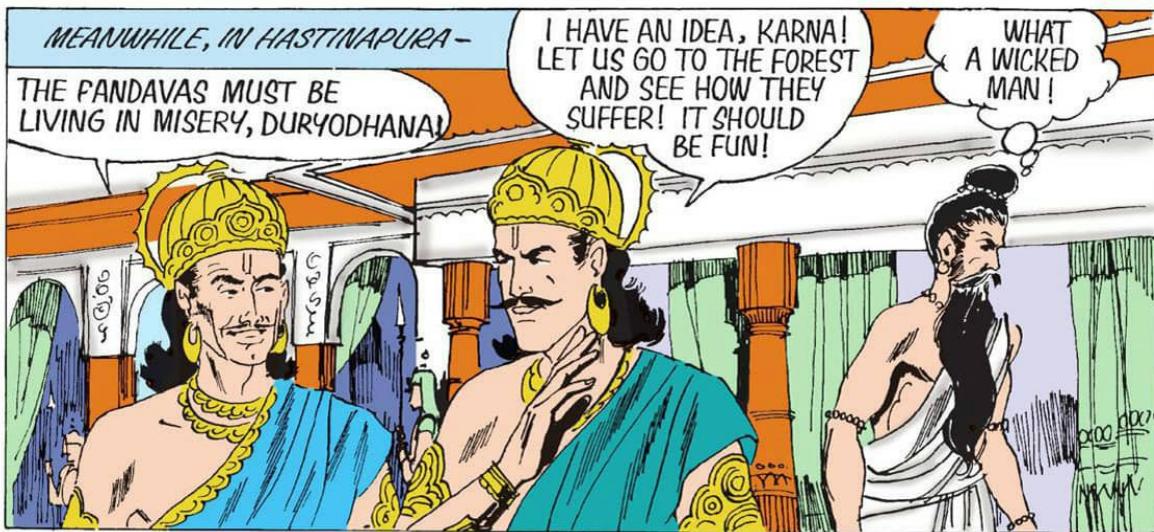


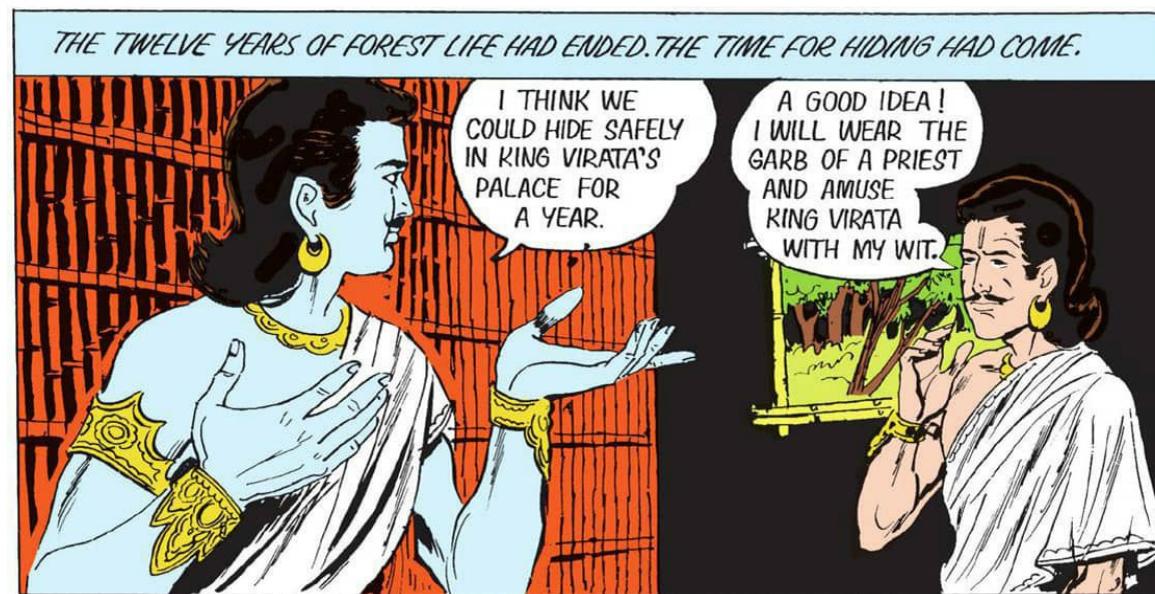
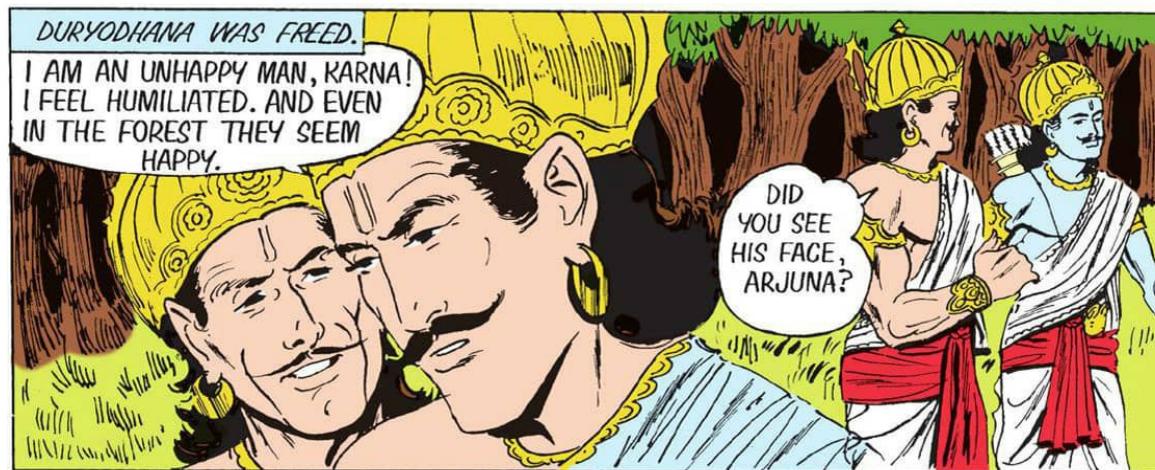
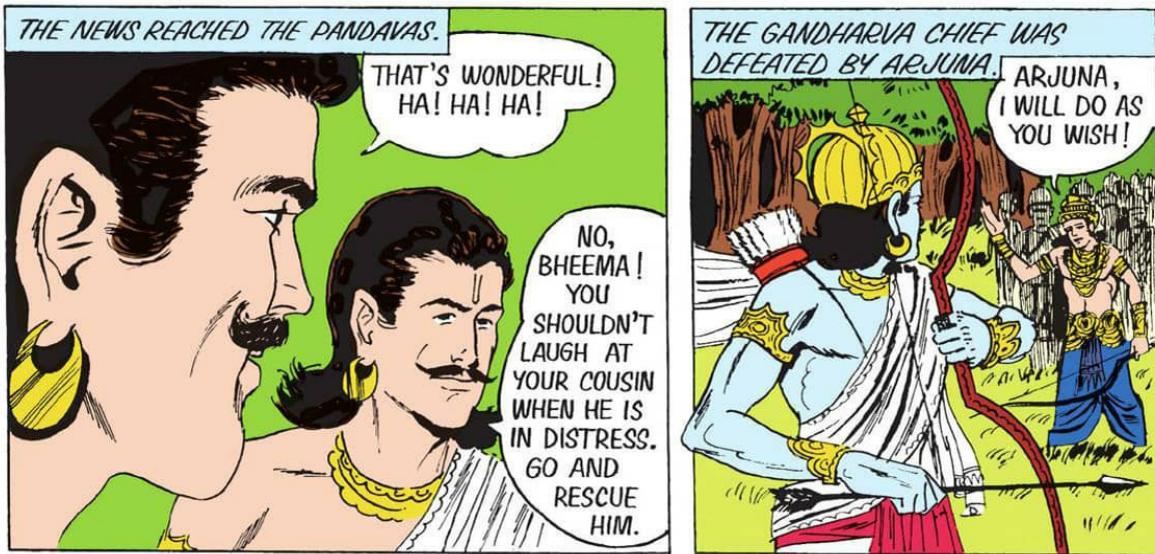
AGAIN YUDHISHTHIRA LOST. AFTER BOWING TO BHEESHMA AND THE OTHER ELDERS THE PANDAVAS LEFT THE CITY. KUNTI, THEIR MOTHER, AND THEIR CHILDREN STAYED BEHIND.

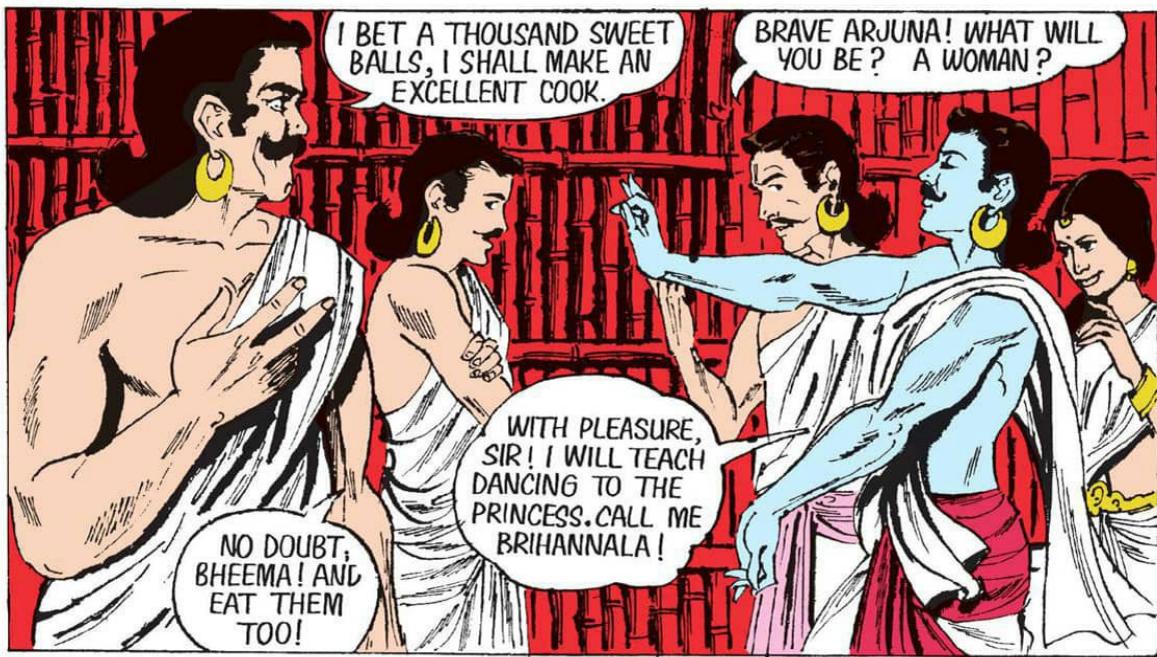


FOR YEARS, THE PANDAVAS WANDERED IN THE FORESTS. THEY HAD ADVENTURES WITH WILD BEASTS, DEMONS AND SAVAGES.







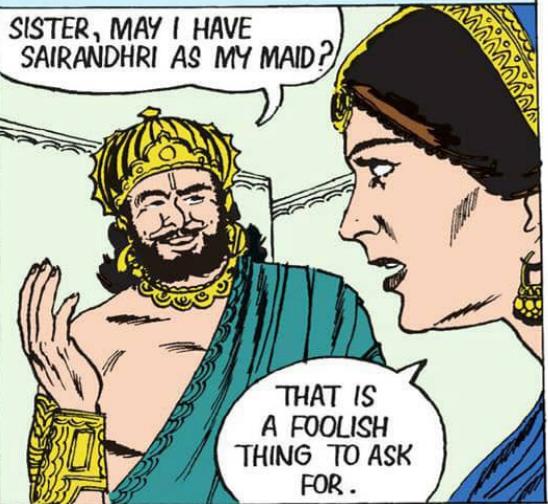


SO, THE PANDAVAS DRESSED AS POOR BRAHMINS, REACHED VIRATA'S PALACE.



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

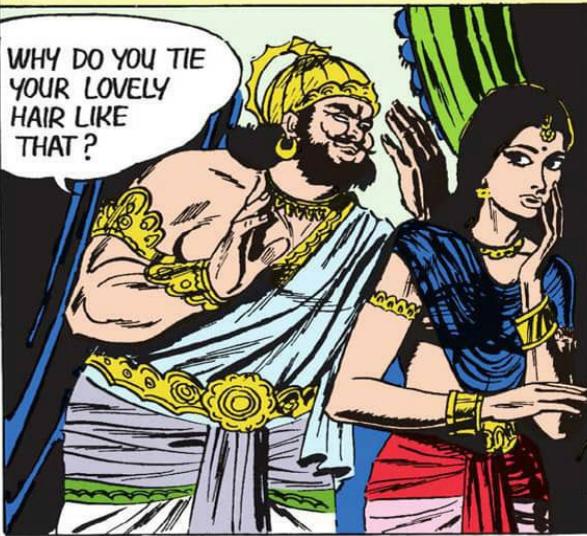
SISTER, MAY I HAVE SAIRANDHRI AS MY MAID?



THAT IS A FOOLISH THING TO ASK FOR.

KEECHAKA STARTED HARASSING DRAUPADI.

WHY DO YOU TIE YOUR LOVELY HAIR LIKE THAT?



DRAUPADI COMPLAINED TO BHEEMA.

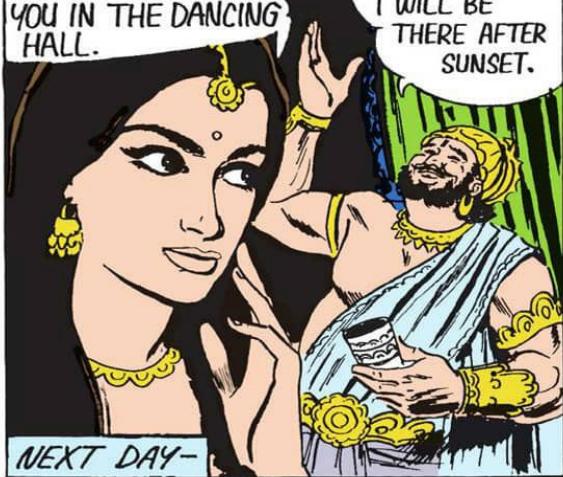
I WILL TEACH THAT BRUTE A LESSON. LISTEN TO MY PLAN.....Z...Z...



I SHALL WAIT FOR YOU IN THE DANCING HALL.

WONDERFUL ! I WILL BE THERE AFTER SUNSET.

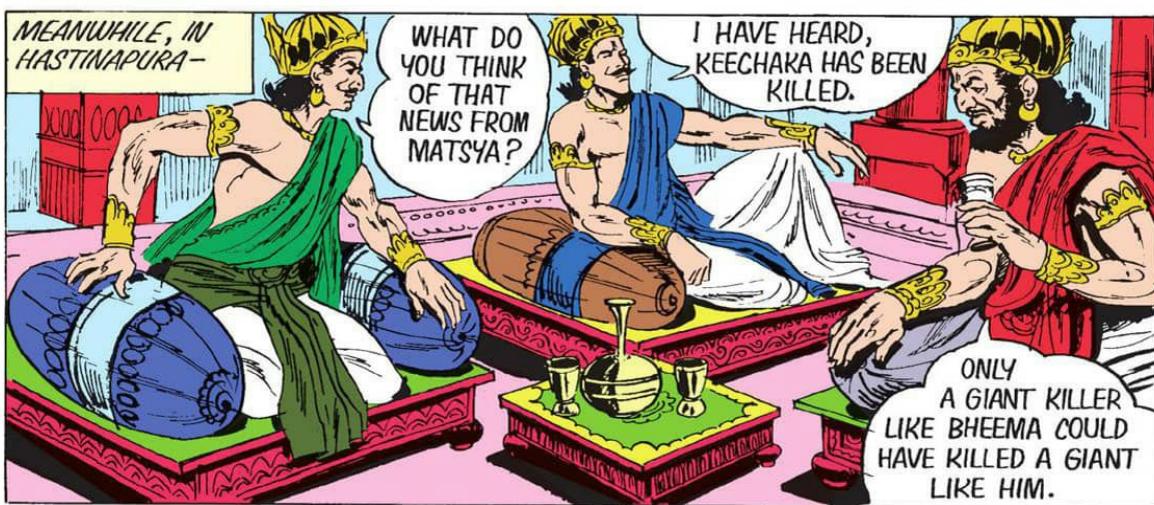
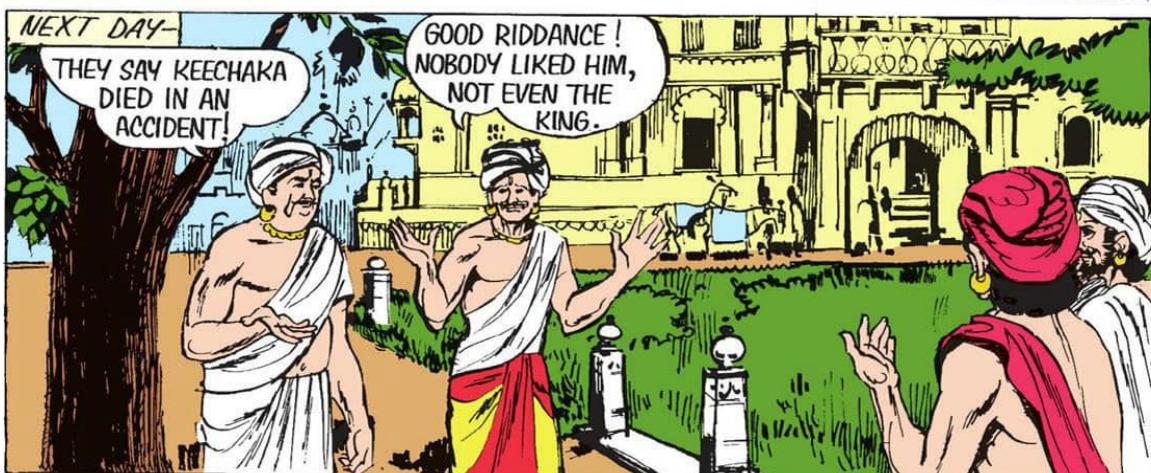
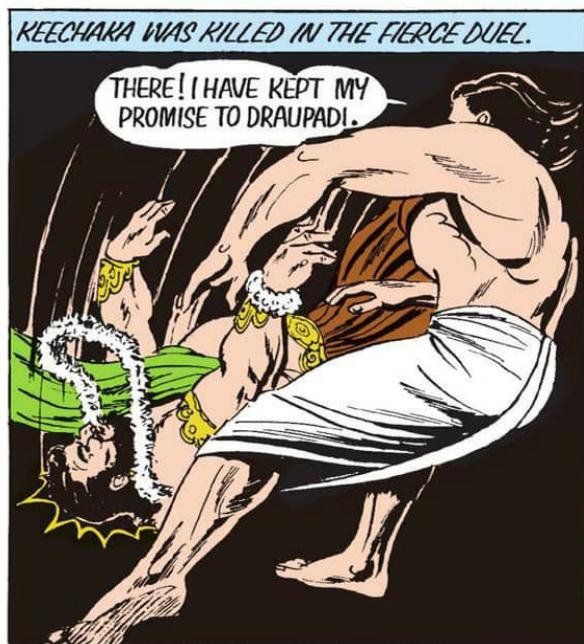
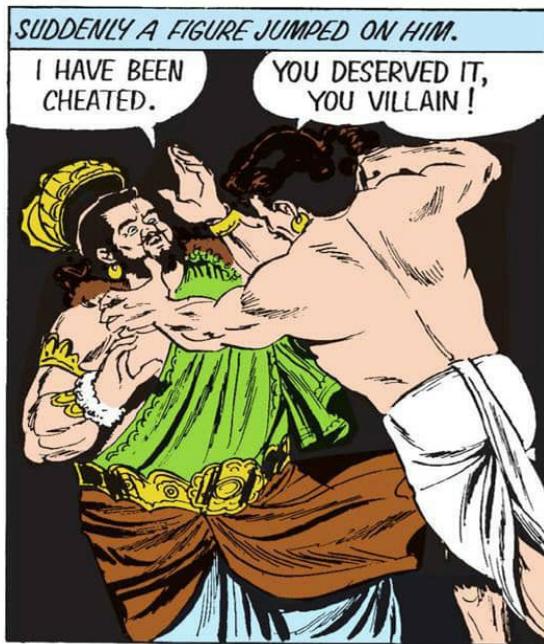
NEXT DAY-

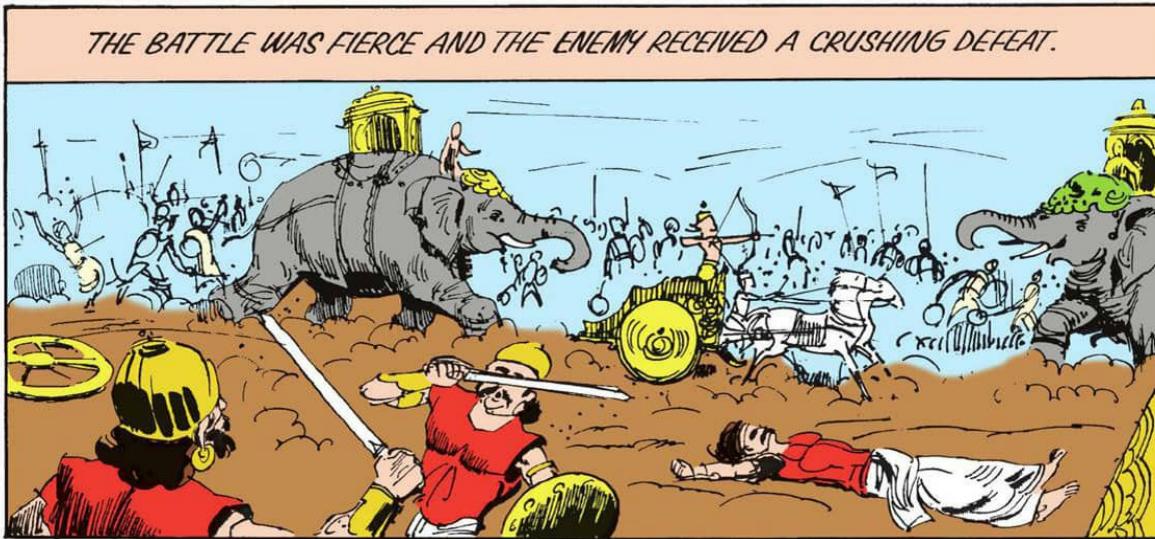
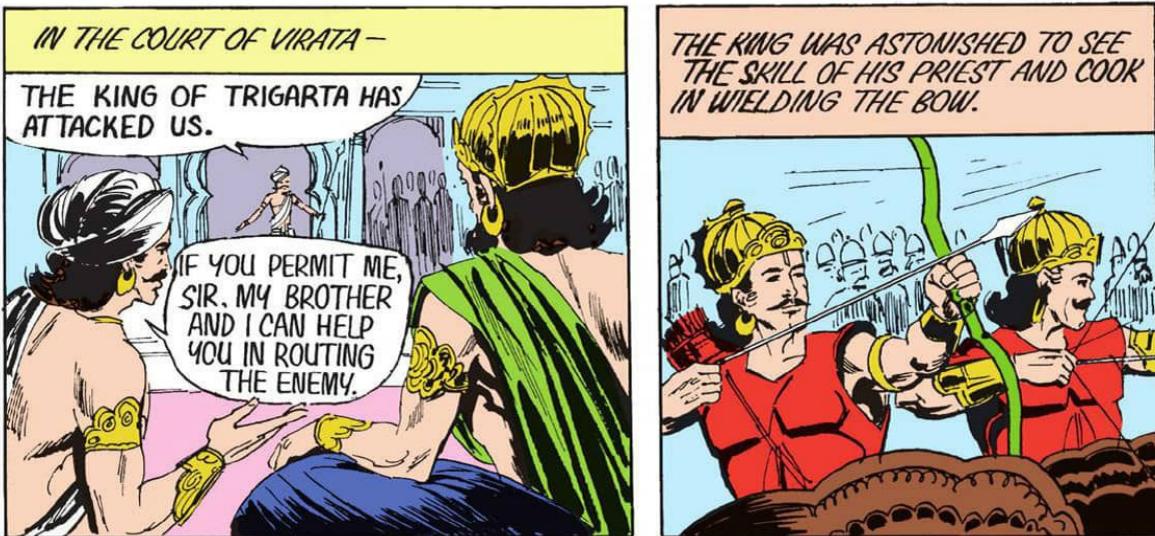
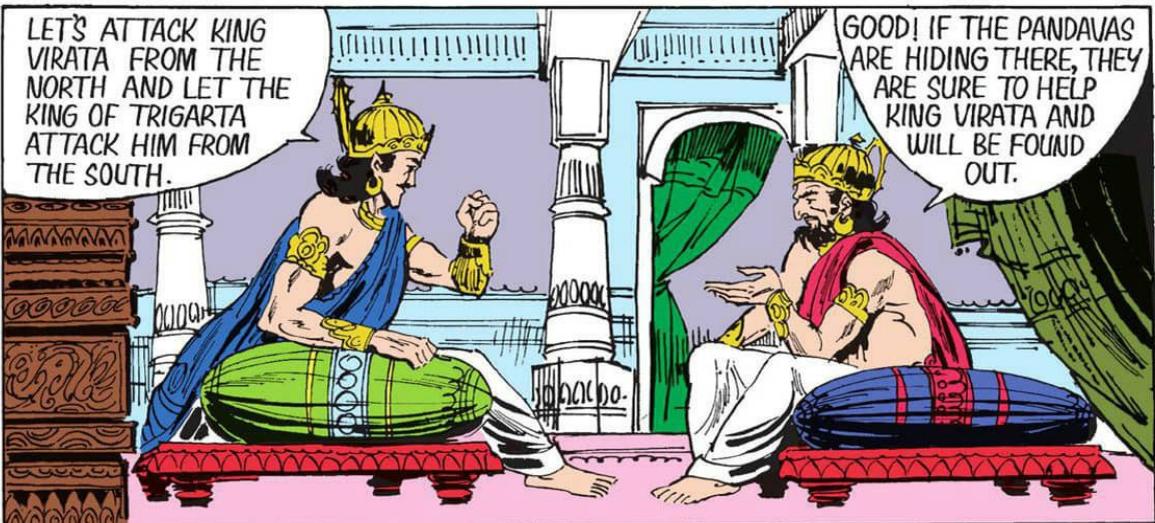


ARE YOU THERE, SAIRANDHRI?

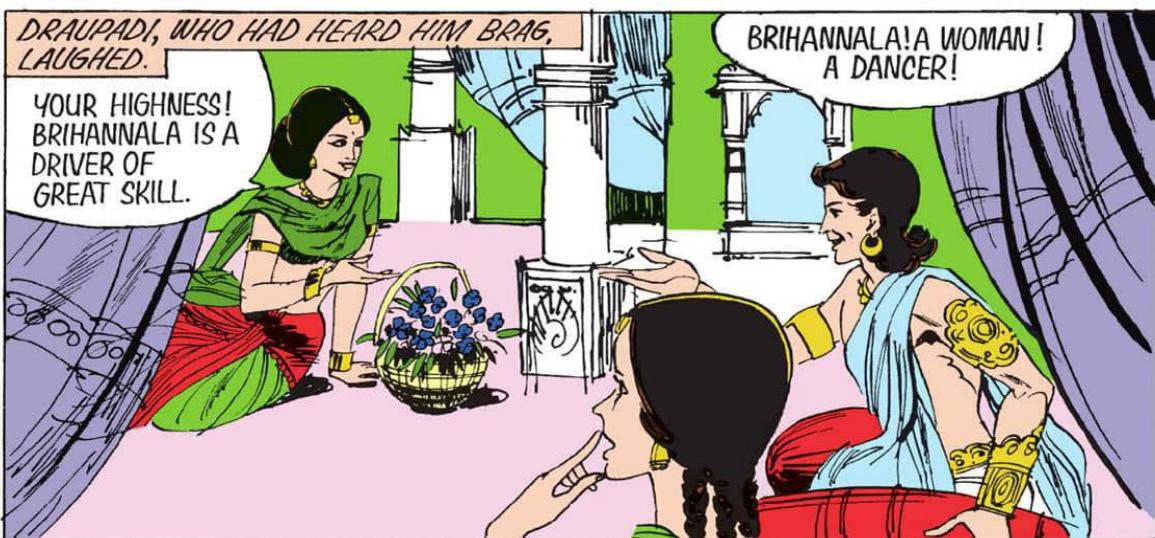
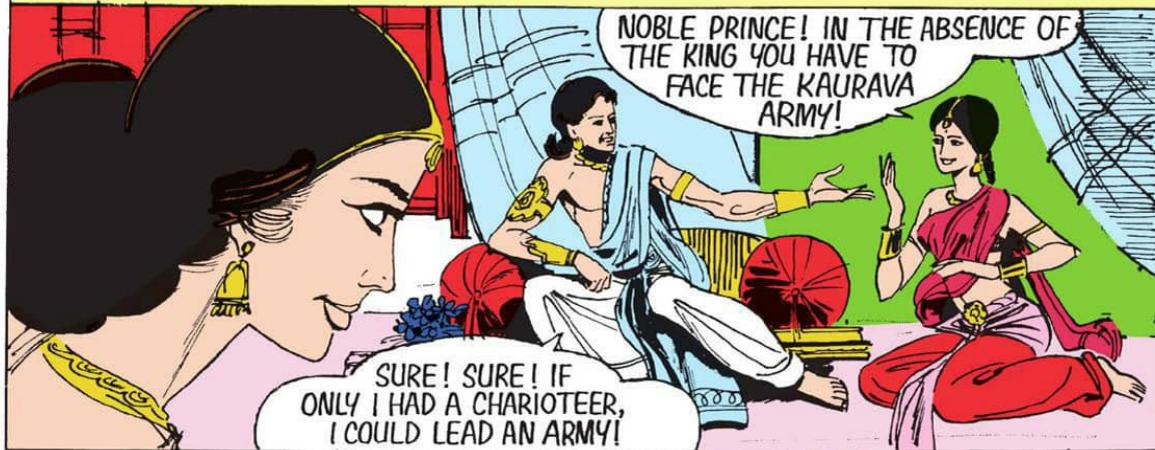
YES, MY LORD !







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



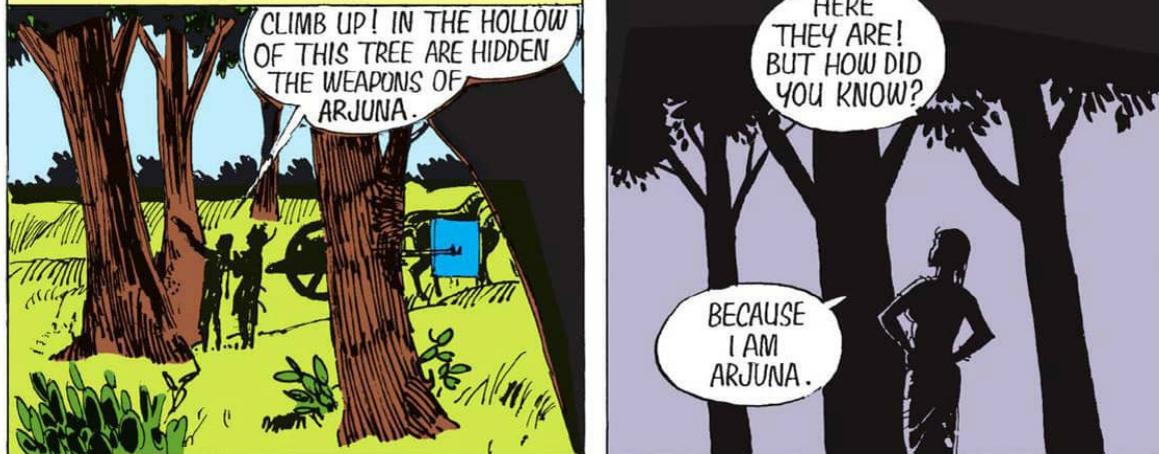
SOON A CHARIOT DRIVEN BY "BRIHANNALA" ARRIVED NEAR THE PALACE.



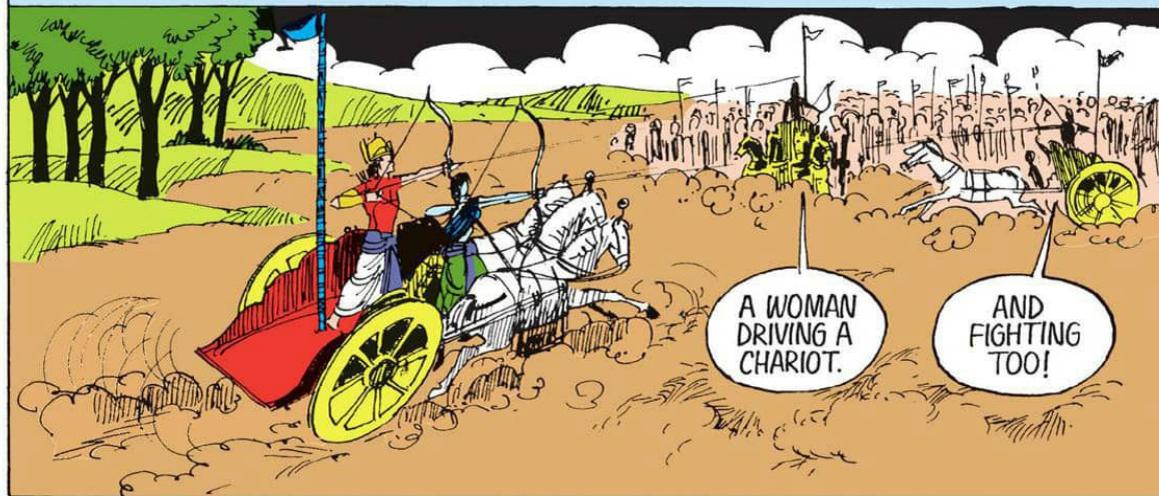
BUT UTTARA WAS FRIGHTENED AT THE SIGHT OF KAURAVA FORCES. HE JUMPED DOWN FROM THE CHARIOT AND STARTED RUNNING.

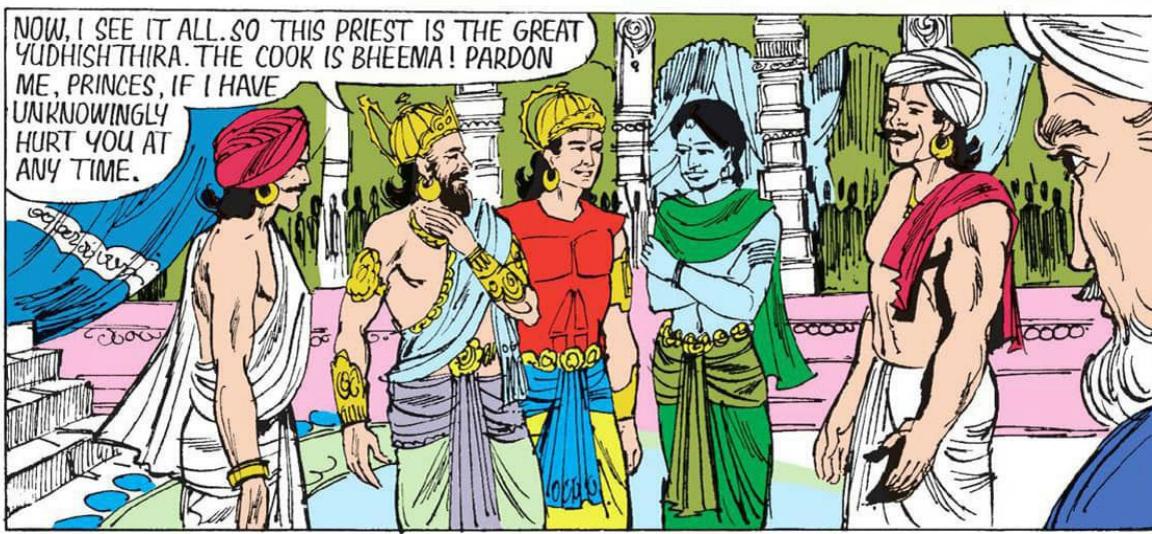
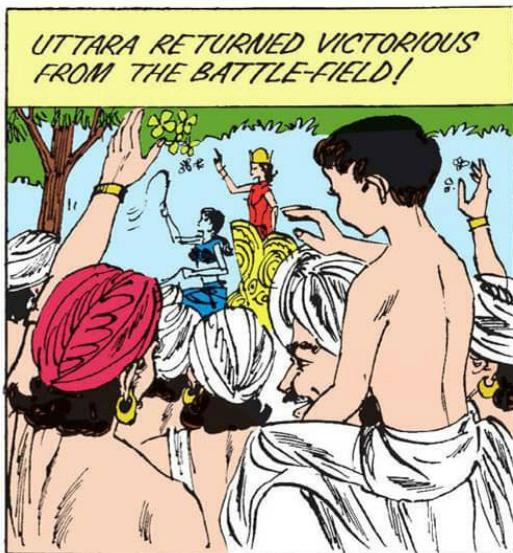
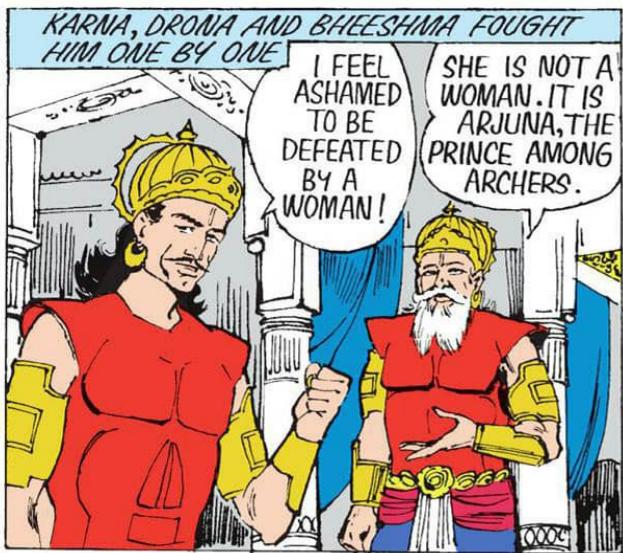


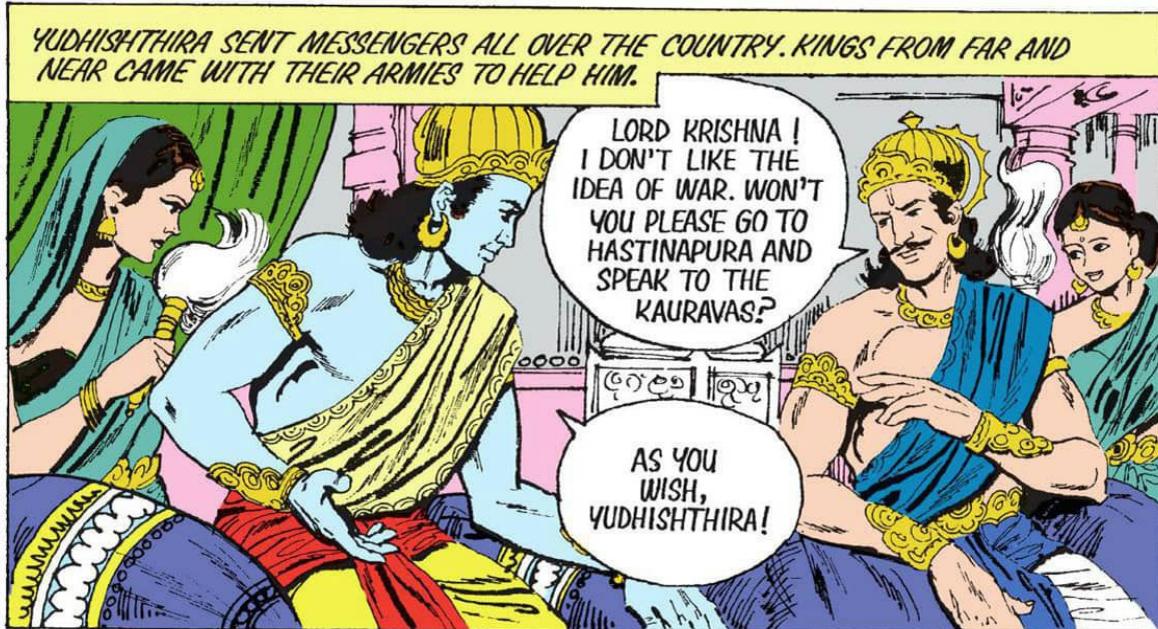
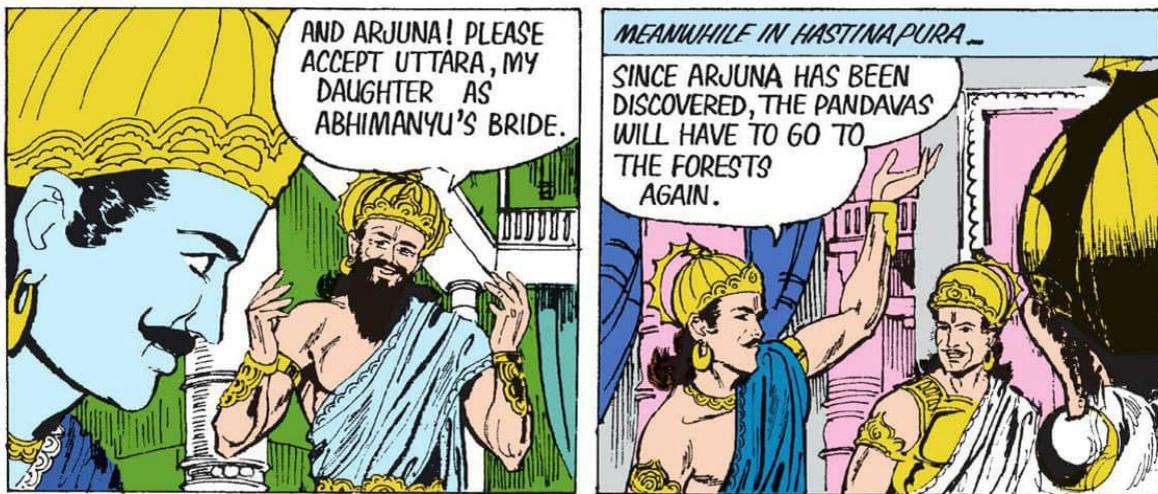
BRIHANNALA TOOK PRINCE UTTARA TO A TREE.

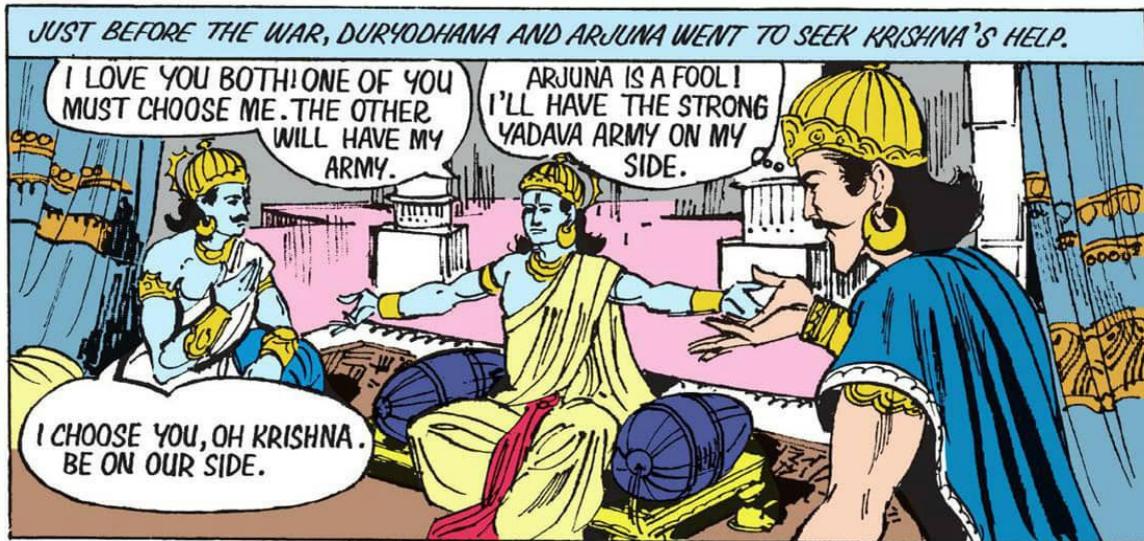
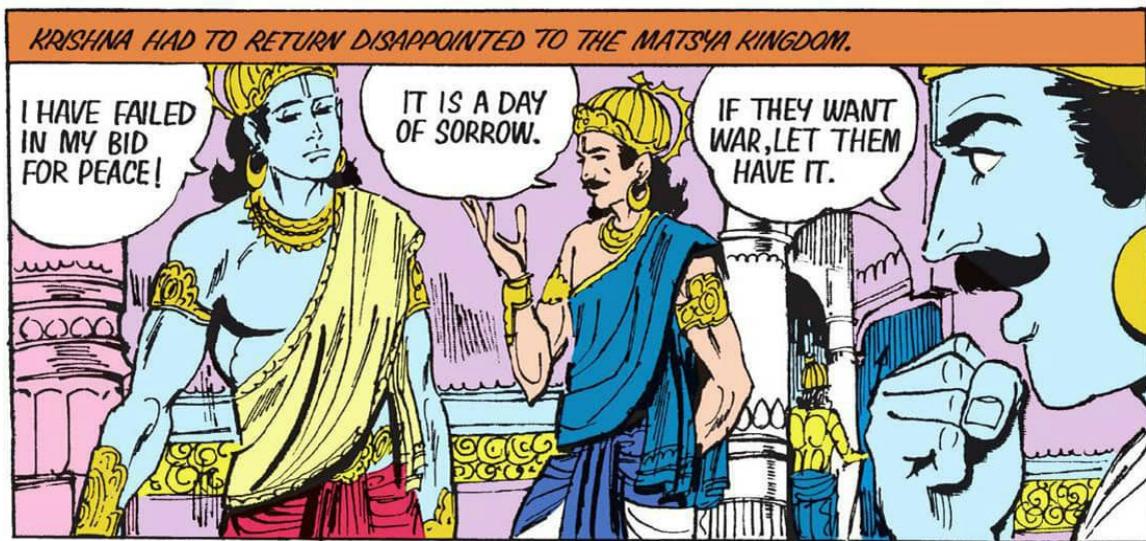


UTTARA WAS INSPIRED BY THE PRESENCE OF ARJUNA. HE FOUGHT BRAVELY.

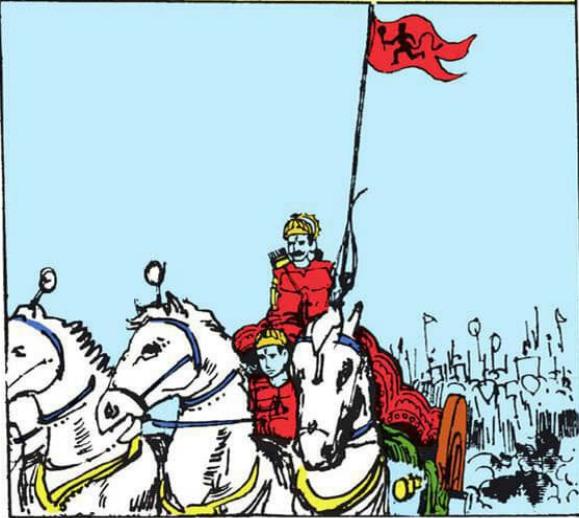








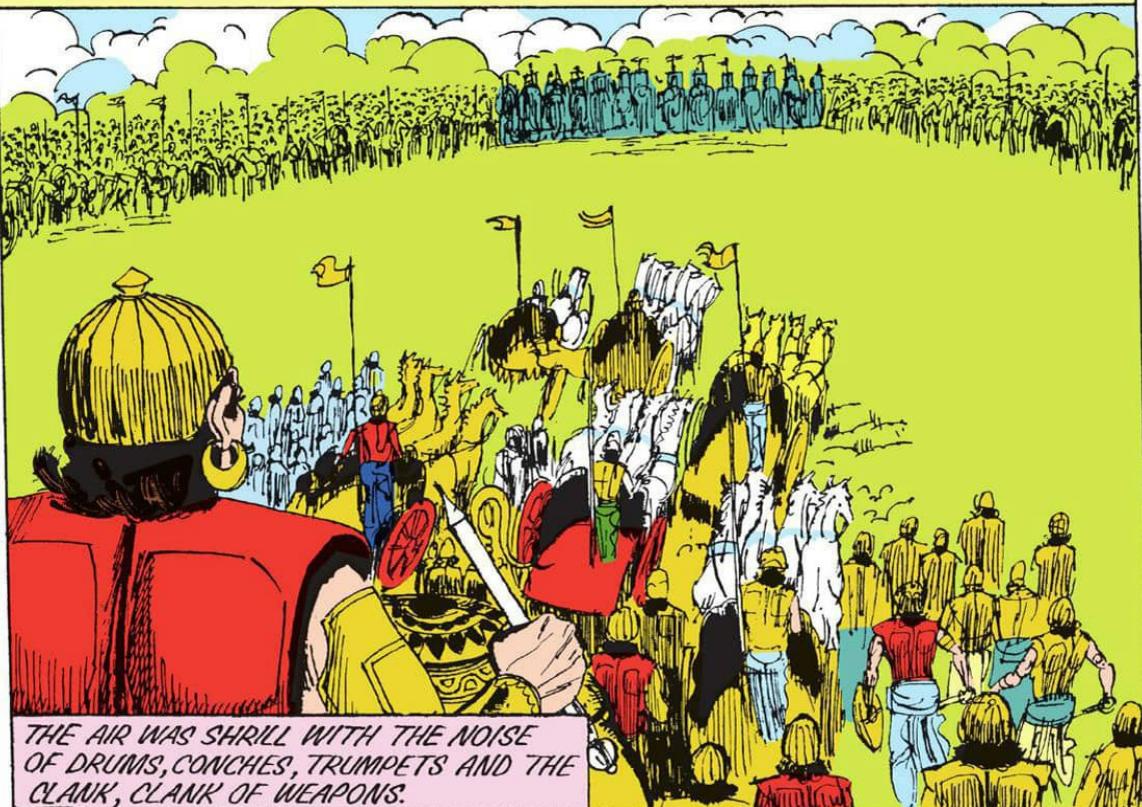
PREPARATIONS FOR WAR WERE COMPLETE. KRISHNA ACCEPTED THE HUMBLE ROLE OF ARJUNA'S CHARIOTEER.



BHEESMA 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.

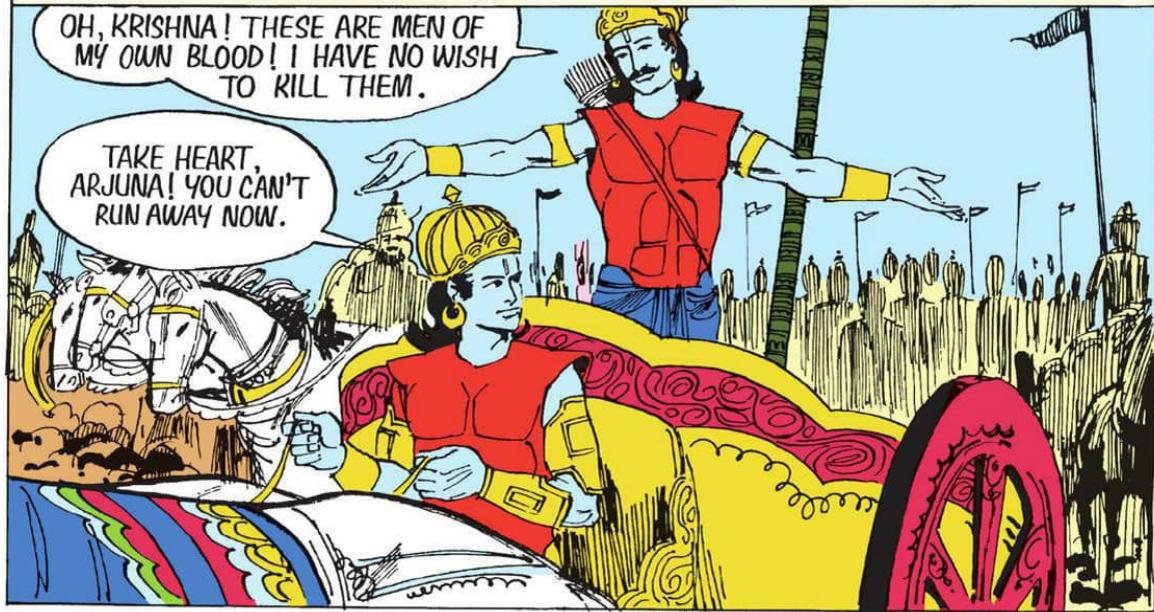


THE AIR WAS SHRIAL WITH THE NOISE OF DRUMS, CONCHES, TRUMPETS AND THE CLANK, CLANK OF WEAPONS.

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

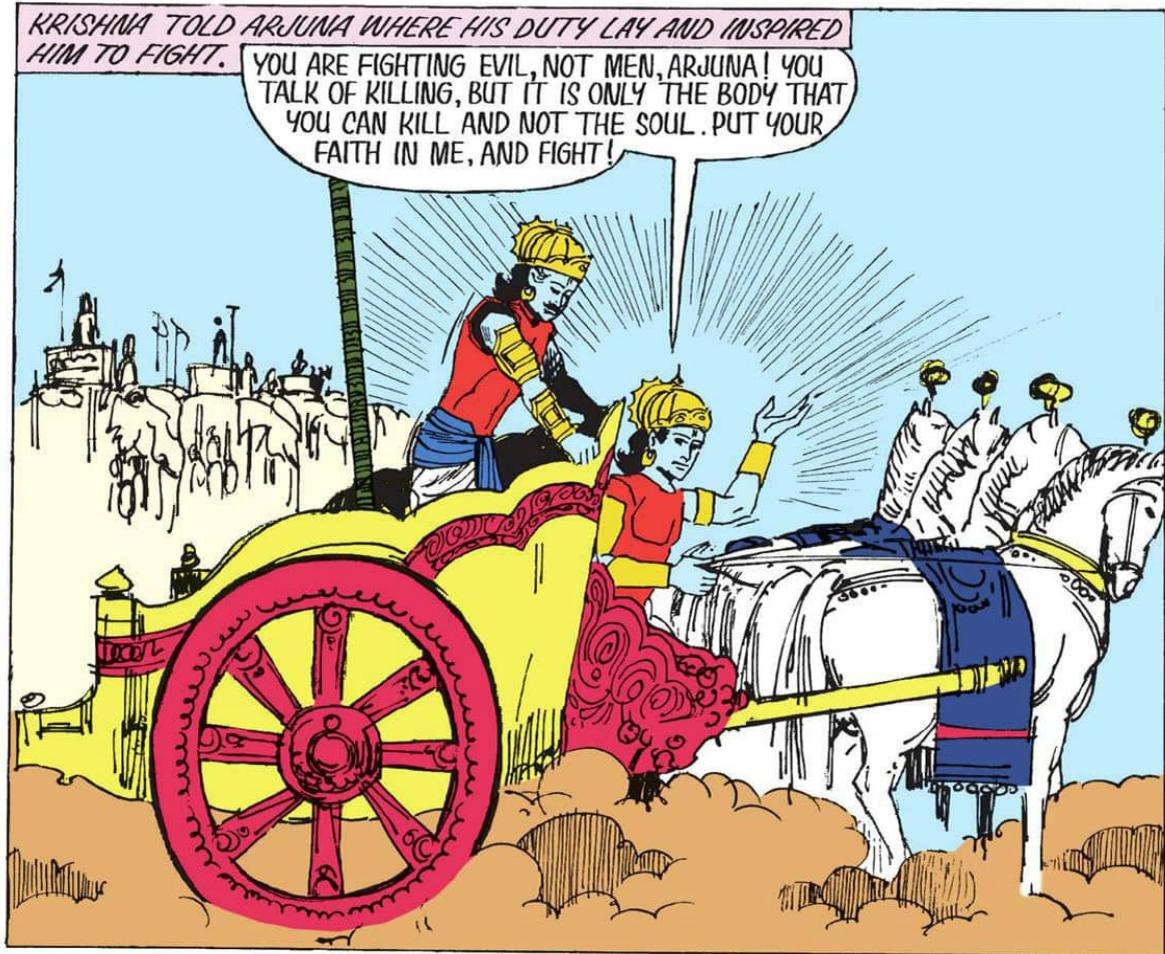
OH, KRISHNA! THESE ARE MEN OF  
MY OWN BLOOD! I HAVE NO WISH  
TO KILL THEM.

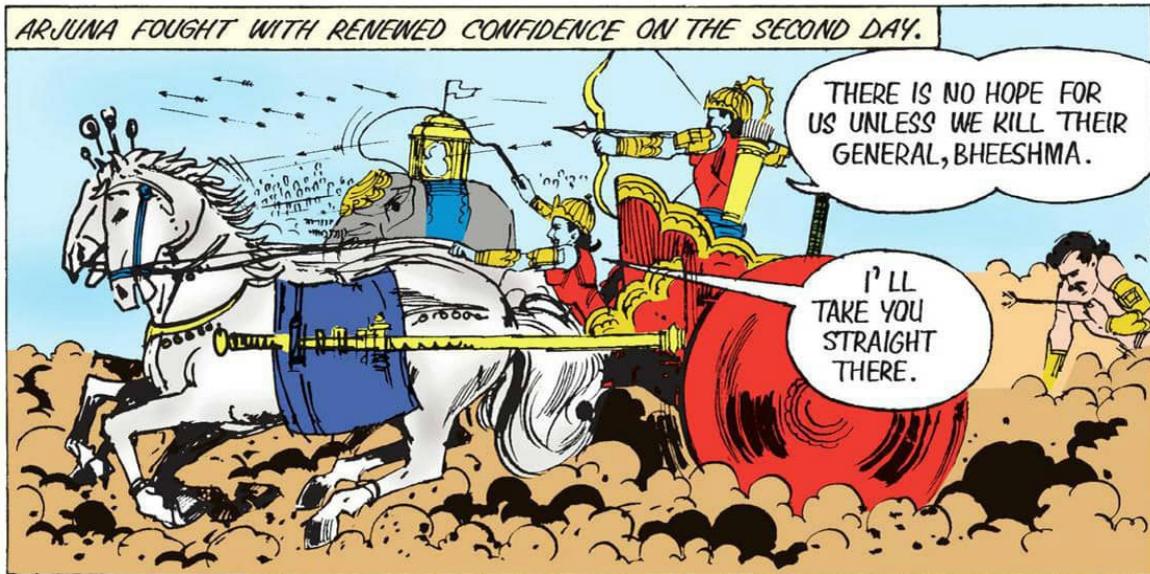
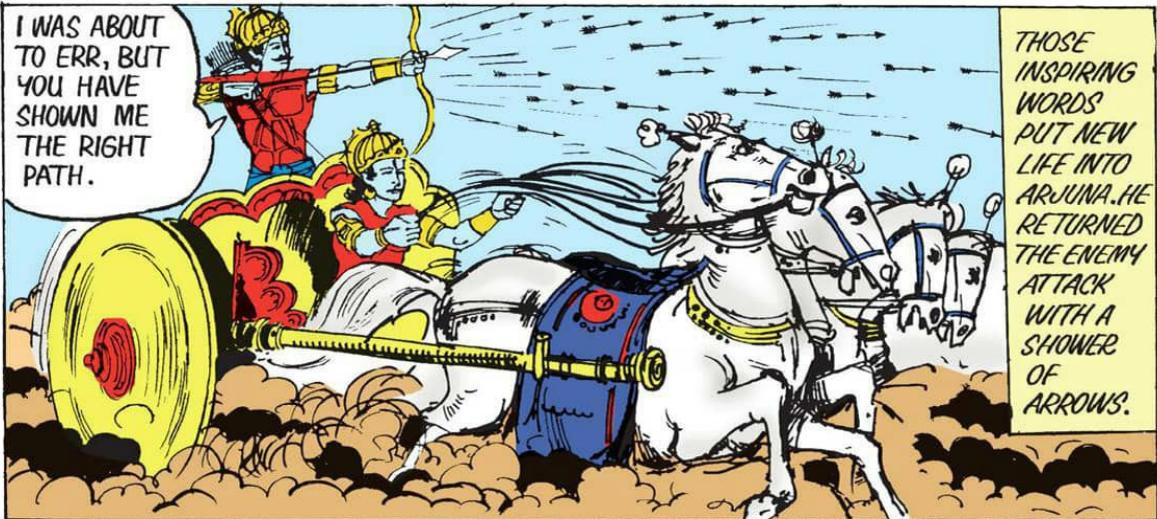
TAKE HEART,  
ARJUNA! YOU CAN'T  
RUN AWAY NOW.

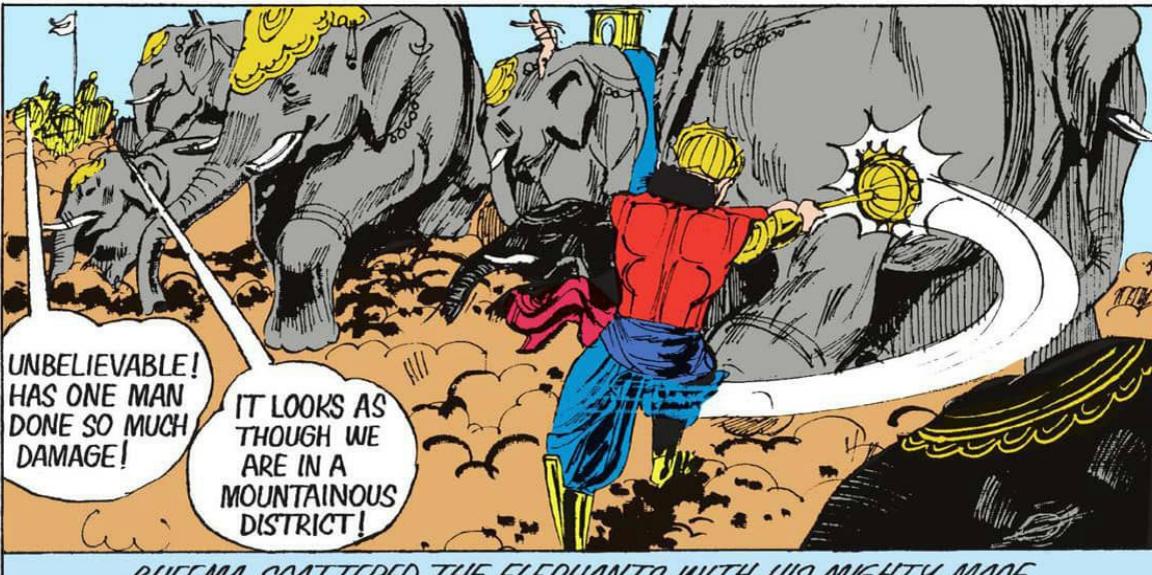
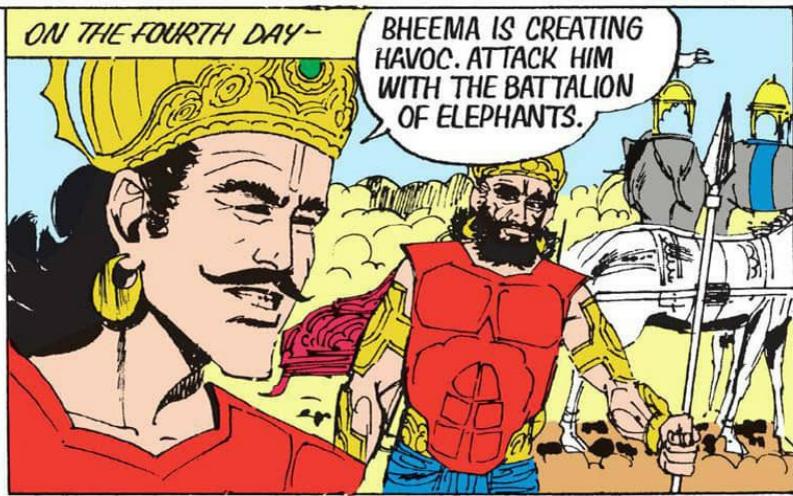
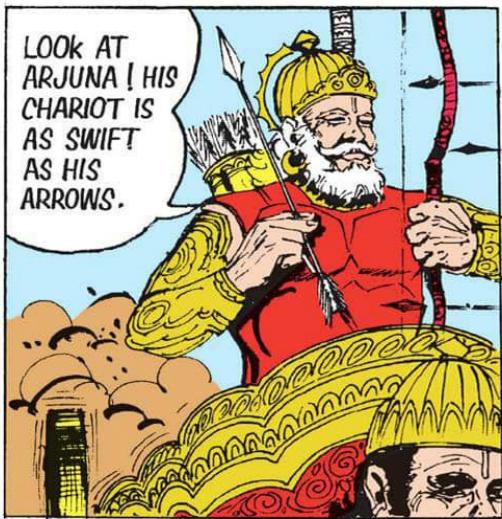


KRISHNA TOLD ARJUNA WHERE HIS DUTY LAY AND INSPIRED  
HIM TO FIGHT.

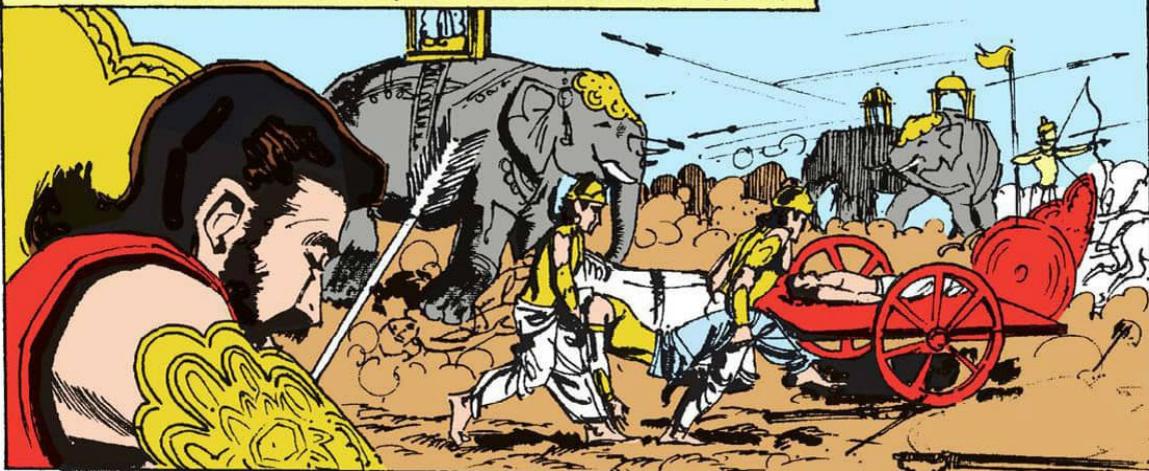
YOU ARE FIGHTING EVIL, NOT MEN, ARJUNA! YOU  
TALK OF KILLING, BUT IT IS ONLY THE BODY THAT  
YOU CAN KILL AND NOT THE SOUL. PUT YOUR  
FAITH IN ME, AND FIGHT!



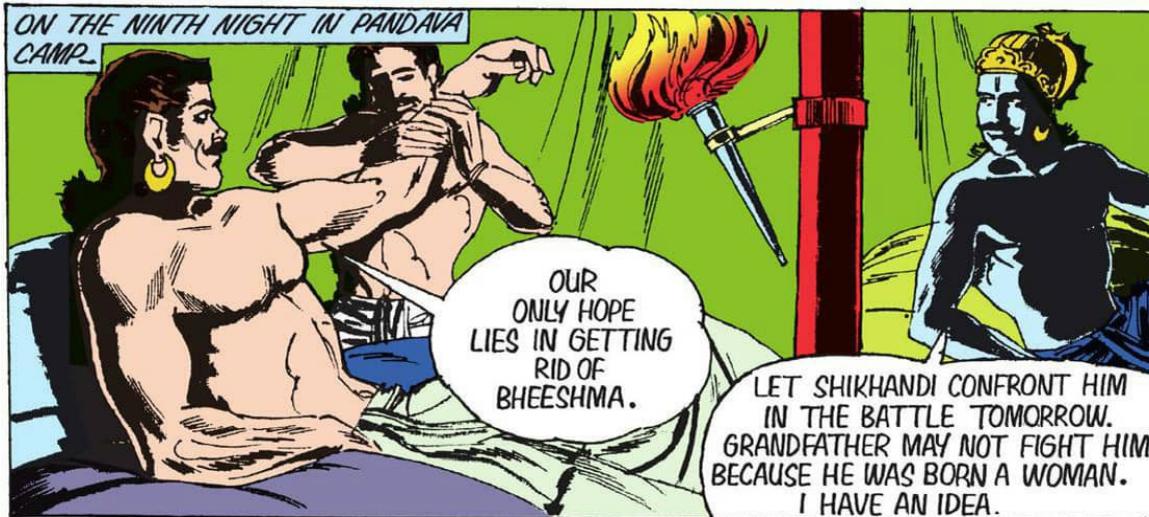




WITH EACH SUCCEEDING DAY, THE WAR INCREASED IN FURY.



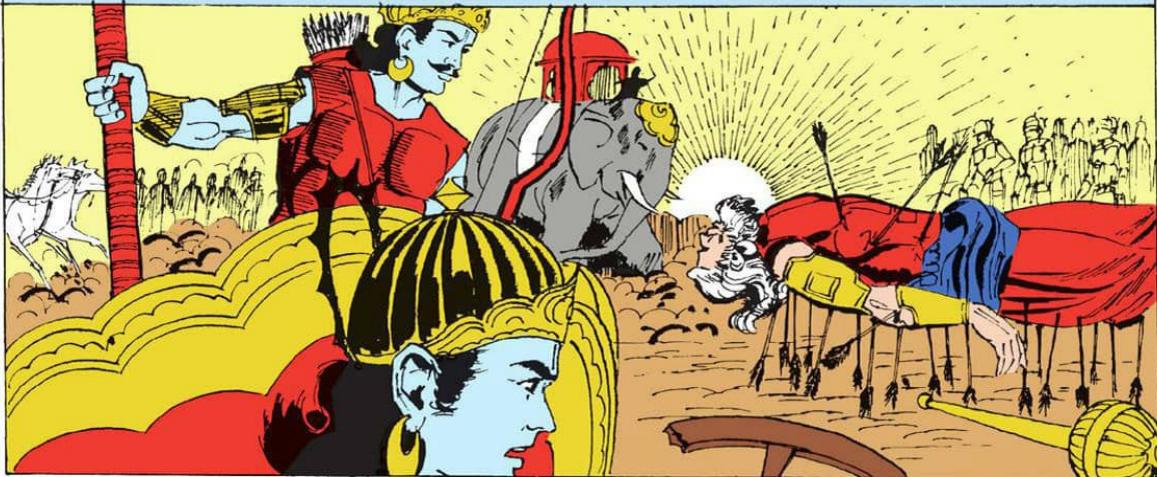
ON THE NINTH NIGHT IN PANDAVA CAMP...



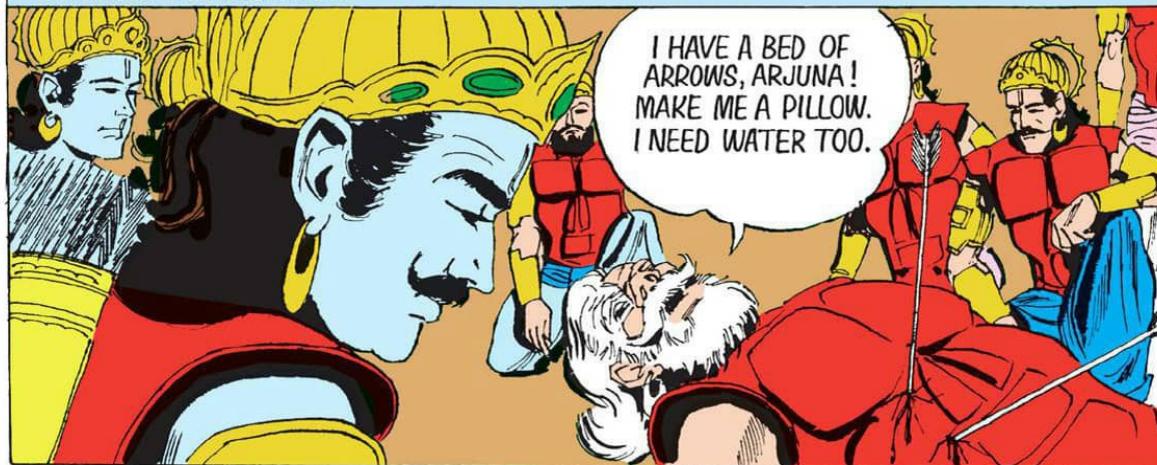
ON THE TENTH DAY—



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.

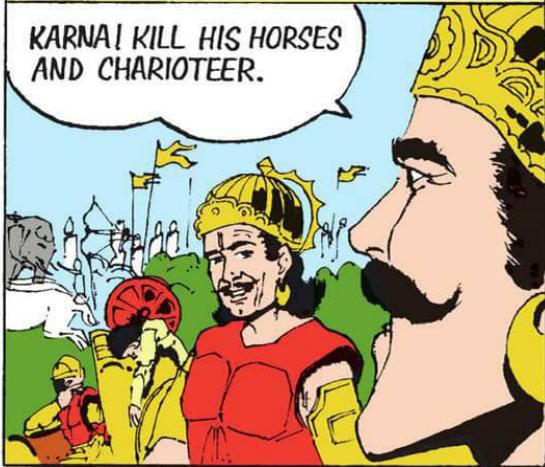
ABHIMANYU PLUNGED HEROICALLY IN.

FOLLOW HIM, HE MAY  
BE TRAPPED.

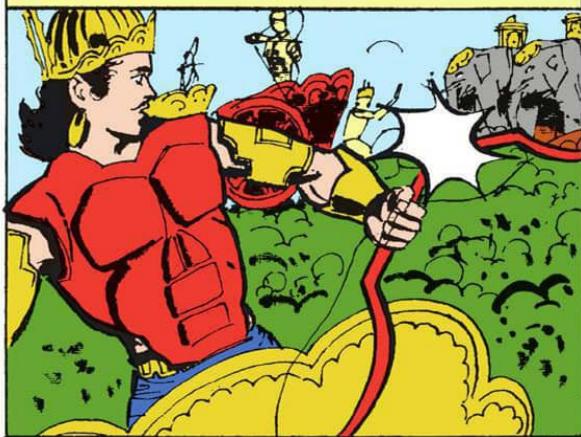
BUT PRINCE YUDHISHTHIRA!  
WICKED JAYADRATHA HAS  
SEALED THE ENTRANCE.

ABHIMANYU FOUGHT BRAVELY.

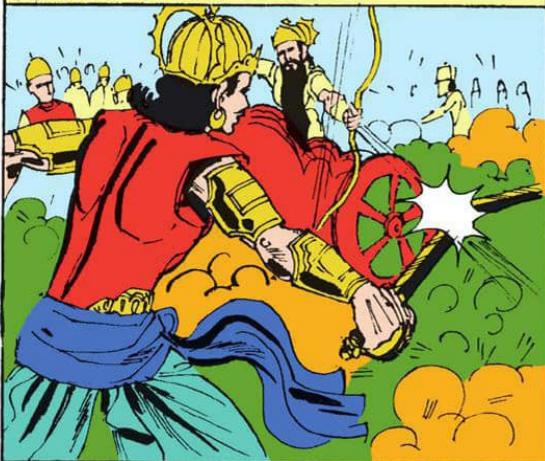
KARNA! KILL HIS HORSES AND CHARIOTEER.



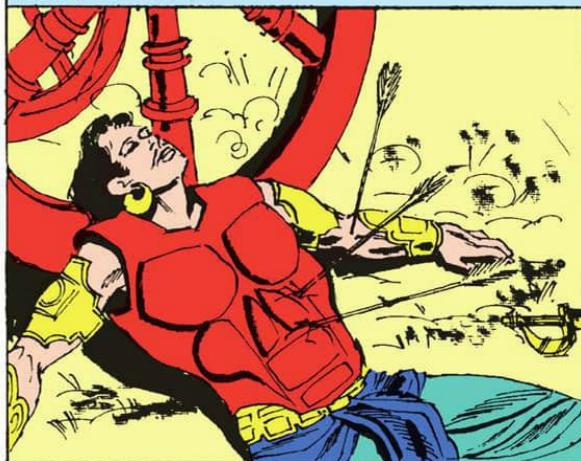
AN ARROW SHOT BY KARNA SMASHED ABHIMANYU'S BOW.



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

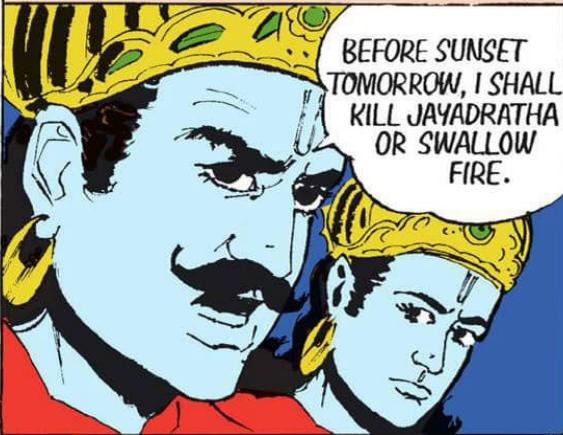


SOON ABHIMANYU LAY DEAD IN THE BATTLE-FIELD.



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

BEFORE SUNSET TOMORROW, I SHALL KILL JAYADRATHA OR SWALLOW FIRE.

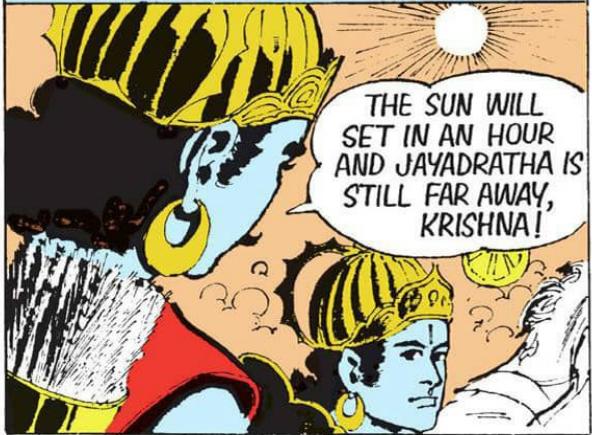


DRONA WAS DETERMINED TO SAVE JAYADRATHA.

LET JAYADRATHA BE IN THE CENTRE. LET WARRIOR PROTECT HIM ON ALL SIDES.



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



THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN-

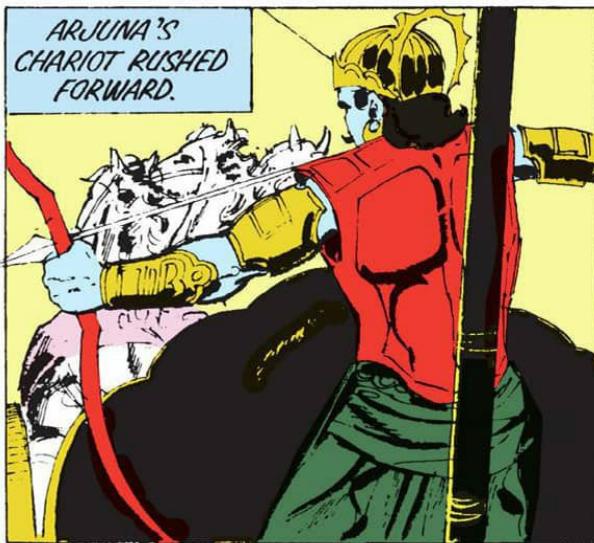


BUT THE SUN HAD REALLY NOT SET.

IT WAS A TRICK I PLAYED. BE PREPARED NOW.



ARJUNA'S CHARIOT RUSHED FORWARD.



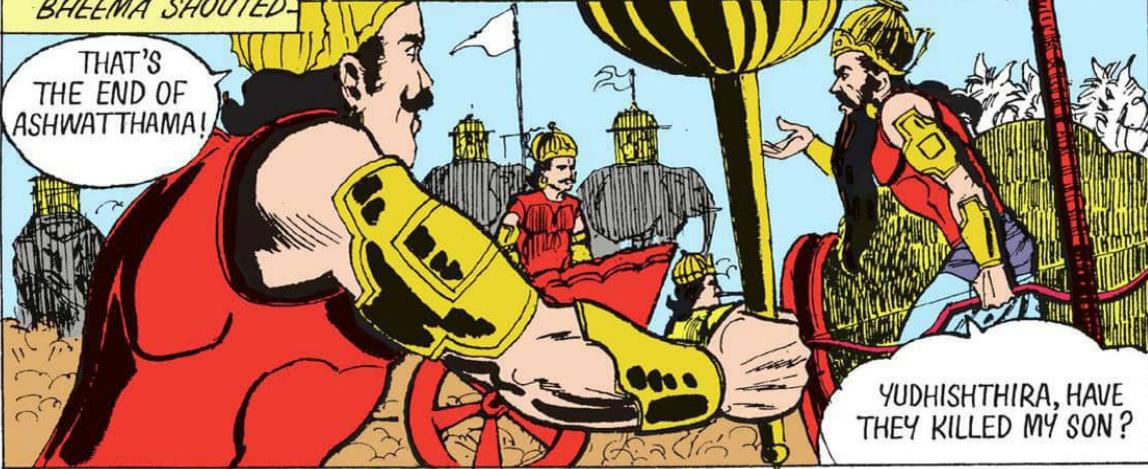
AND SOON-

JAYADRATHA IS DEAD.

ABHIMANYU IS AVENGED!



ANOTHER TRICK ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY... WHEN DRONA PROVED UNCONQUERABLE.  
BHEEMA SHOUTED-

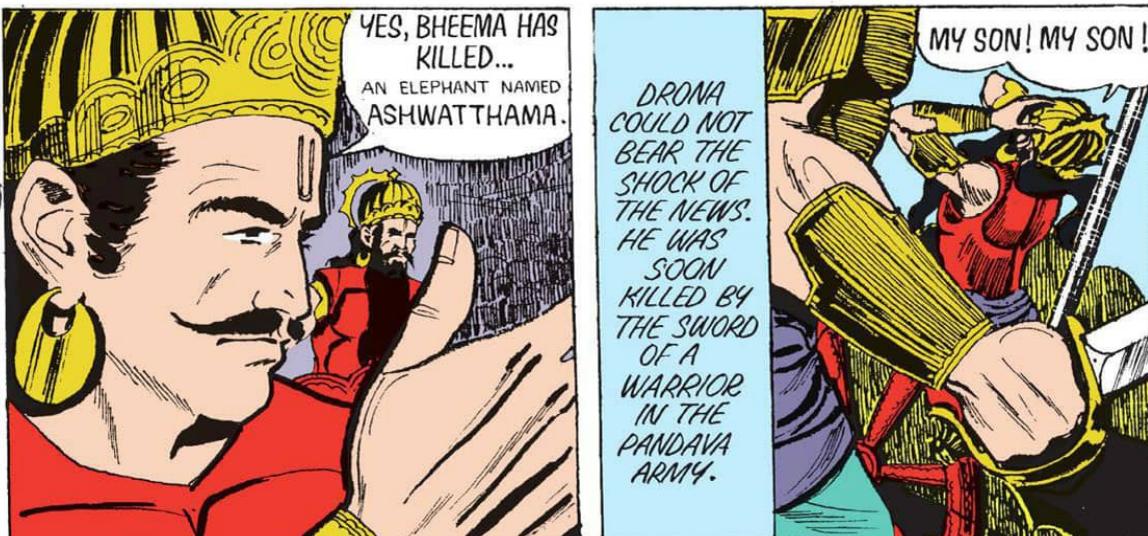


YES, BHEEMA HAS  
KILLED...

AN ELEPHANT NAMED  
ASHWATTHAMA.

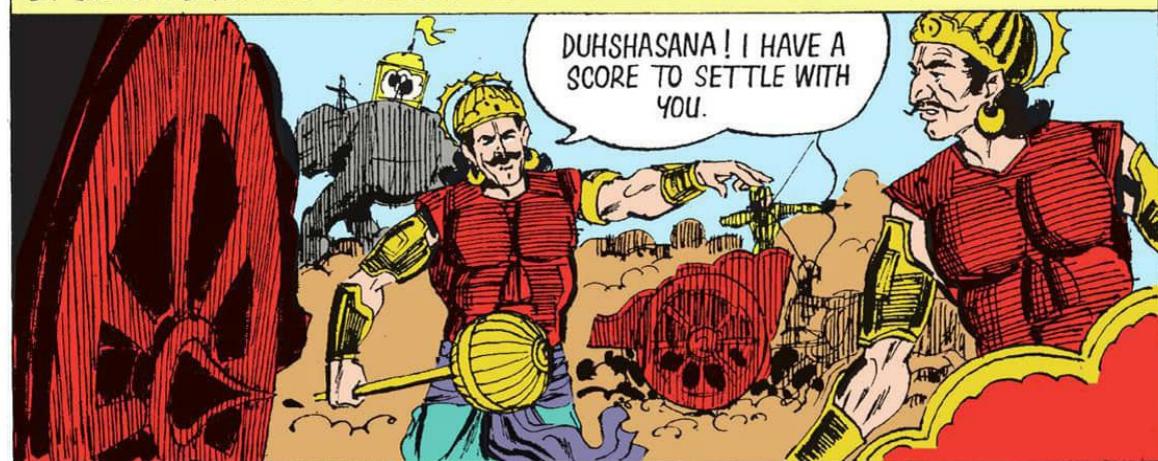
DRONA  
COULD NOT  
BEAR THE  
SHOCK OF  
THE NEWS.  
HE WAS  
SOON  
KILLED BY  
THE SWORD  
OF A  
WARRIOR  
IN THE  
PANDAVA  
ARMY.

MY SON! MY SON!



KARNA NOW BECAME THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. HE LED THE ATTACK SUPPORTED  
BY DUHSHASANA AND OTHERS. BHEEMA CHALLENGED DUHSHASANA.

DUHSHASANA ! I HAVE A  
SCORE TO SETTLE WITH  
YOU.



IN THE COMBAT, DUHSHASANA FELL.



BEFORE  
KILLING YOU, I'LL  
TEAR OFF THE  
HAND THAT  
INSULTED DRAUPADI.

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



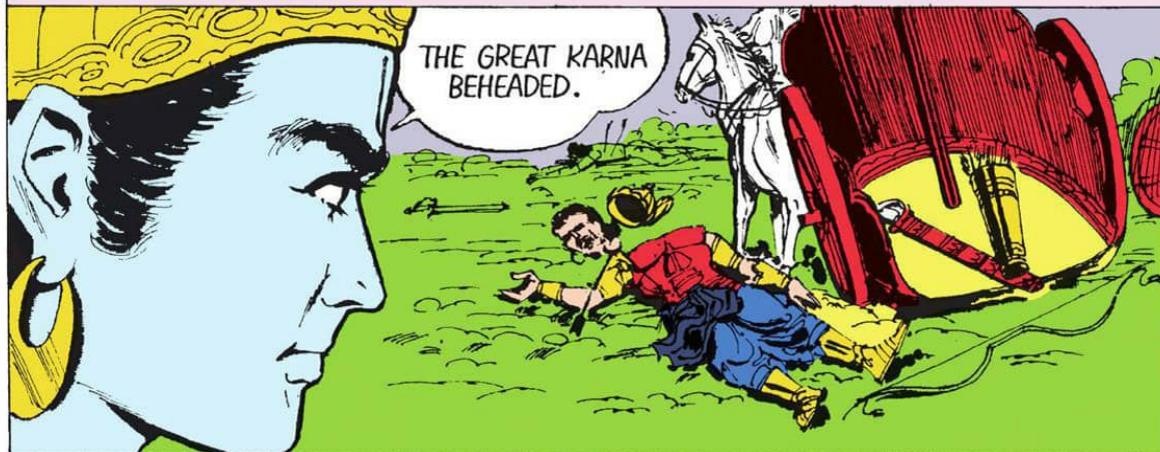
THEN ARJUNA HAD HIS OPPORTUNITY.  
KARNA'S CHARIOT WAS CAUGHT IN  
THE MUD.



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.



MY DEAREST FRIEND, MY FONDEST HOPE GONE!

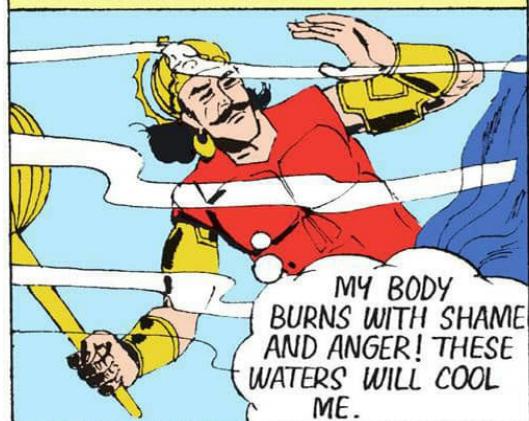
MORE SHOCKS FOLLOWED.



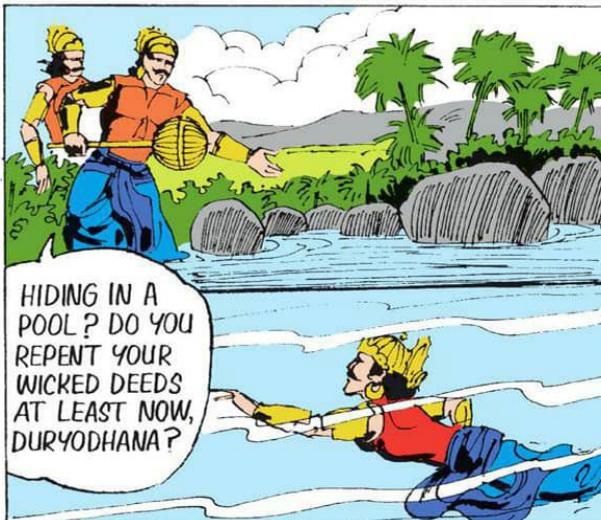
THE KURU ARMY WAS SHATTERED.



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?

COME OUT FIRST.



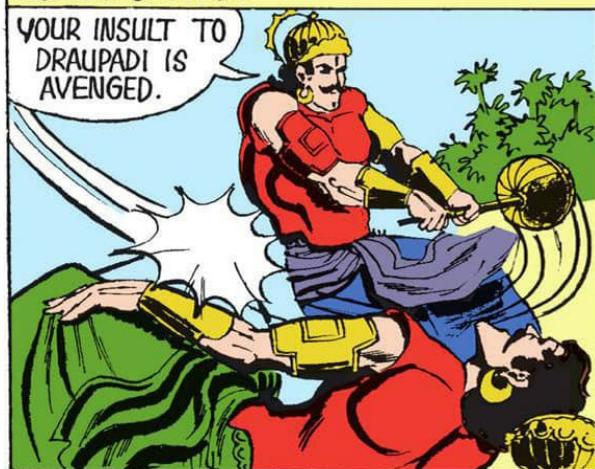
BHEEMA LEAPED LIKE A LION.

YOUR END TOO IS NEAR, DURYODHANA. TAKE IT ON THE THIGHS.



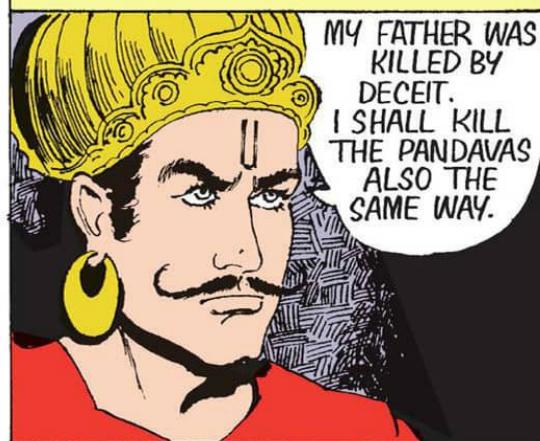
MORTALLY WOUNDED, DURYODHANA FELL TO THE GROUND.

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.

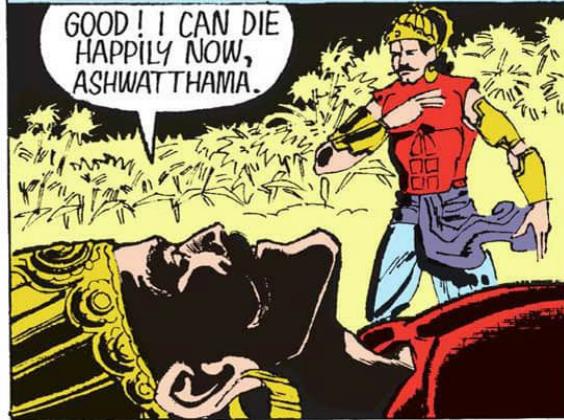
SH! THEY ARE ASLEEP.



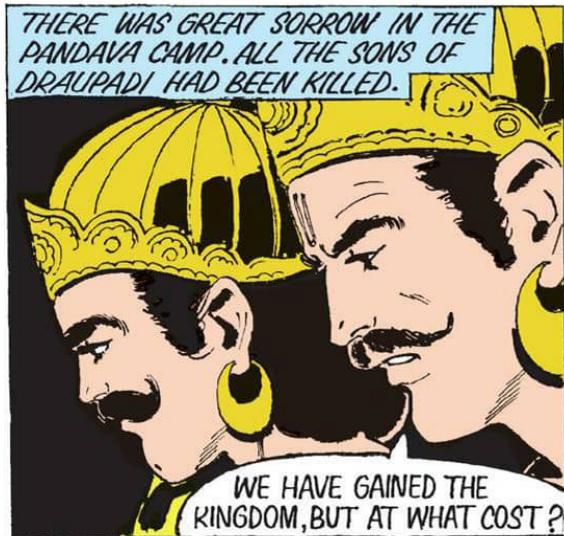
ENTERING THE TENTS THEY KILLED THE OCCUPANTS IN THEIR SLEEP AND THEN SET FIRE TO THE CAMP.



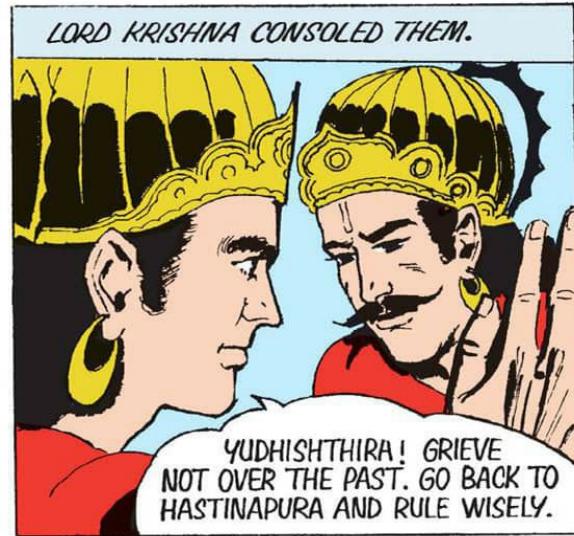
DURYODHANA HEARD THE NEWS LYING WOUNDED ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.



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



LORD KRISHNA CONSOLED THEM.



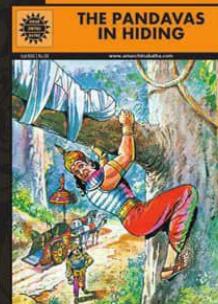
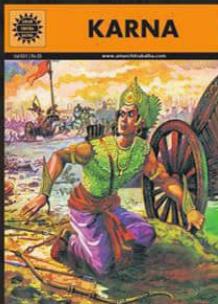
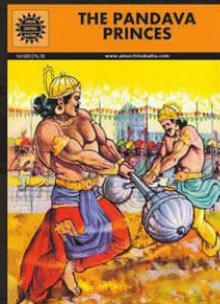
YUDHISHTHIRA RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA AND RULED IT FOR MANY MANY YEARS.

EPICS &  
MYTHOLOGY

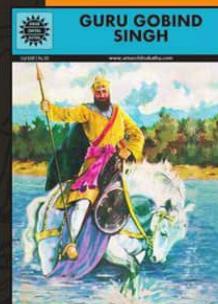
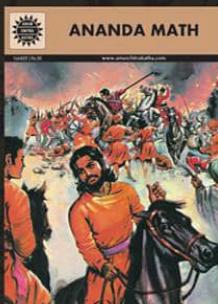
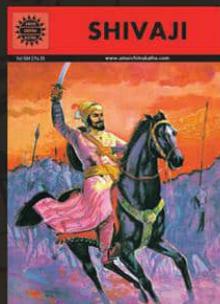
## MAHABHARATA

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