



# PARASHURAMA

SIXTH INCarnation OF VISHNU

Vol 764 |

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# PARASHURAMA



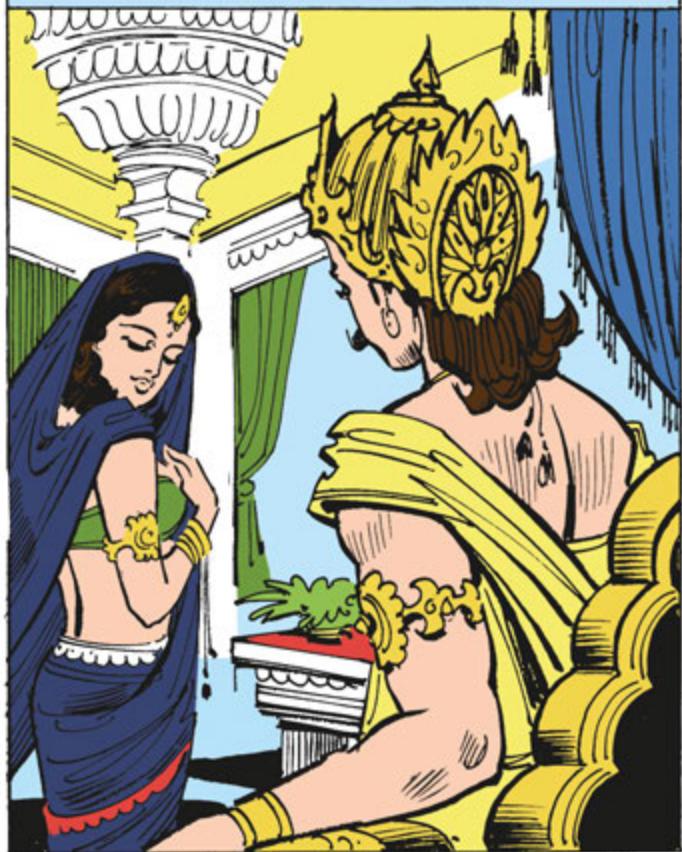
PARASHURAMA WAS BORN THE SON OF RISHI JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA. BUT IT WAS A BIRTH UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.

HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER,  
GADHI, WAS A GOOD KING.

WE ARE  
FORTUNATE THAT  
OUR KING IS  
STRONG AND  
KIND.

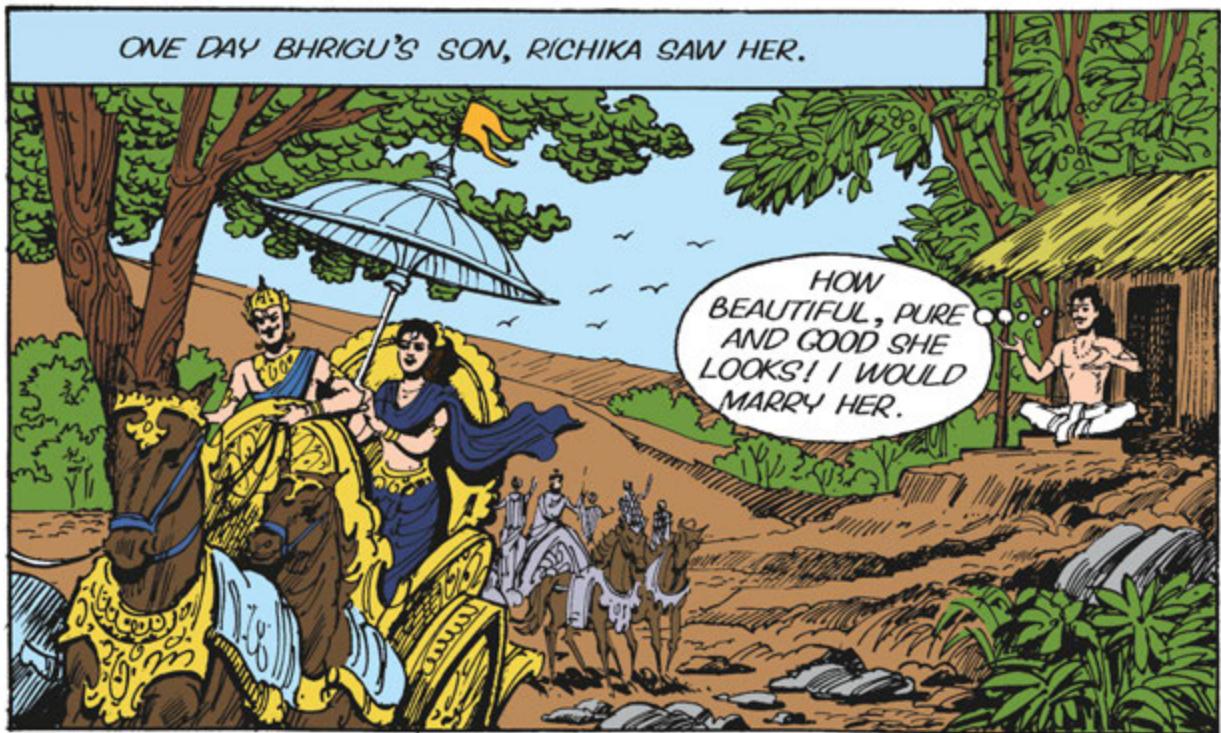
YES.  
AS LONG AS  
HE RULES,  
WE NEED  
FEAR NONE.

GADHI HAD A DAUGHTER CALLED  
SATYAVATI, BUT NO SON.



ONE DAY BHRIGU'S SON, RICHIKA SAW HER.

HOW  
BEAUTIFUL, PURE  
AND GOOD SHE  
LOOKS! I WOULD  
MARRY HER.



HE WENT TO HER FATHER.

I HAVE  
COME TO YOU  
SEEKING YOUR  
DAUGHTER'S  
HAND.

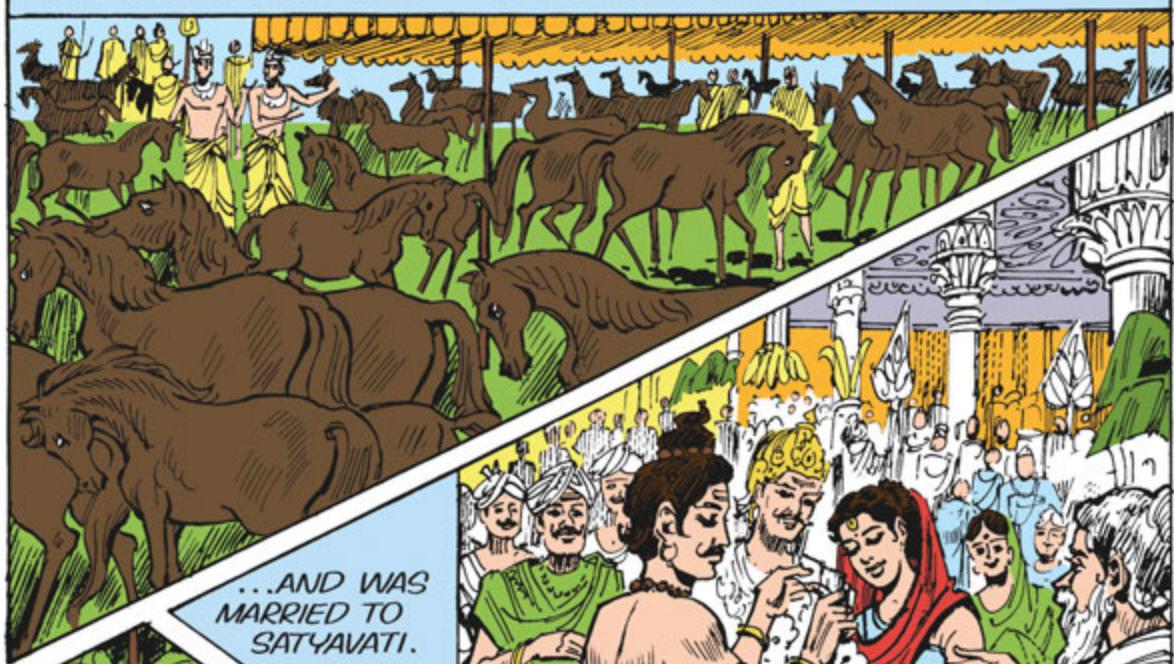
I AM HONoured,  
GREAT SAGE.  
BUT...

...YOU WILL HAVE  
TO BRING A DOWRY  
OF 1000 BROWN HORSES.  
IT IS THE CUSTOM  
IN OUR  
FAMILY.

CAN YOU?

IS THAT ALL?  
IT SHOULD  
NOT BE VERY  
DIFFICULT.

SO RICHIKI GAVE GADHI THE THOUSAND BROWN HORSES...



...AND WAS  
MARRIED TO  
SATYAVATI.



ONE DAY BHRIGU CAME TO VISIT HIS SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

THEY LOOKED AFTER HIS NEEDS WITH AFFECTION.

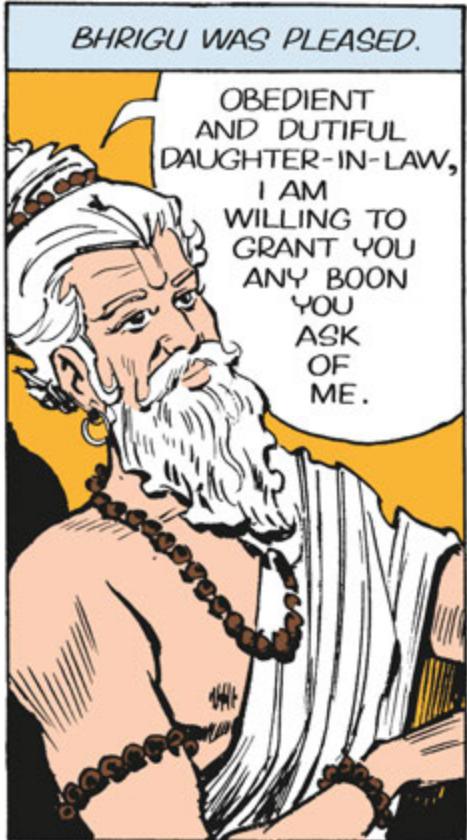


I AM INDEED FORTUNATE IN MY CHILDREN.

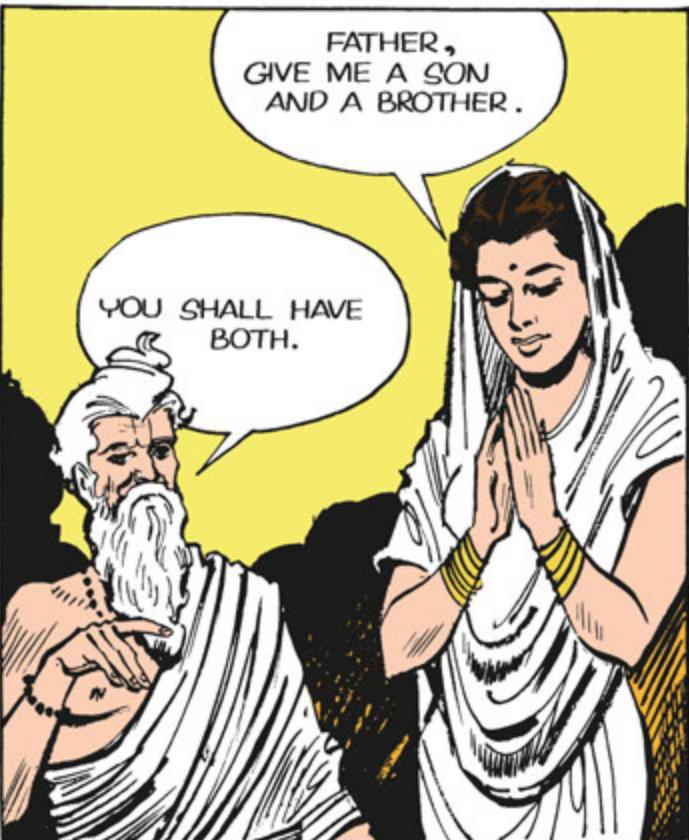


BHRIGU WAS PLEASED.

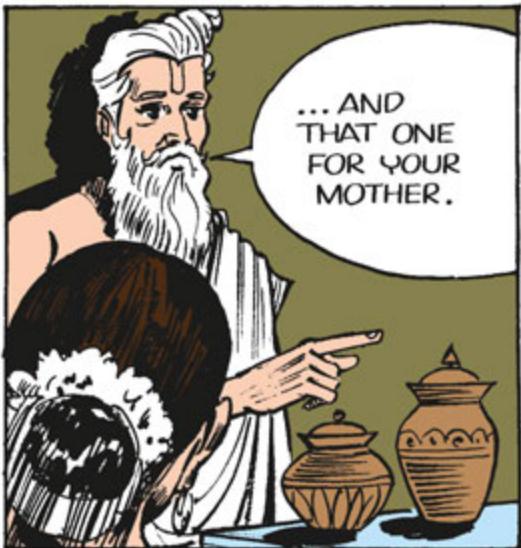
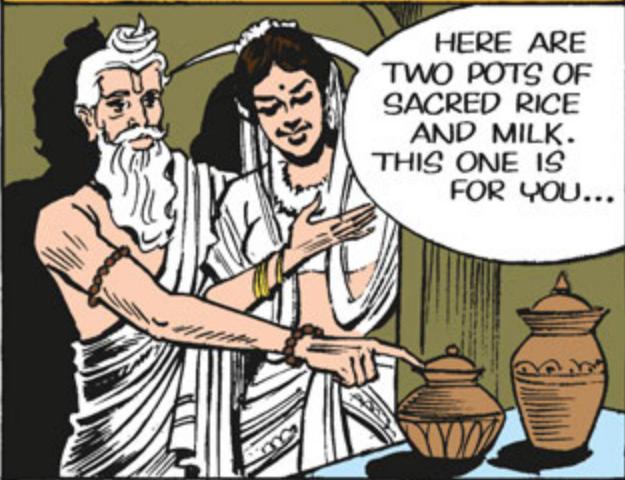
OBEDIENT AND DUTIFUL DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, I AM WILLING TO GRANT YOU ANY BOON YOU ASK OF ME.



FATHER, GIVE ME A SON AND A BROTHER.



THEN HE TOOK SATYAVATI ASIDE.



WHEN  
BHRIGU  
LEFT,  
SATYAVATI  
PICKED  
THE POTS  
AND  
ALONG  
WITH  
HER  
HUSBAND  
WENT  
TO HER  
MOTHER



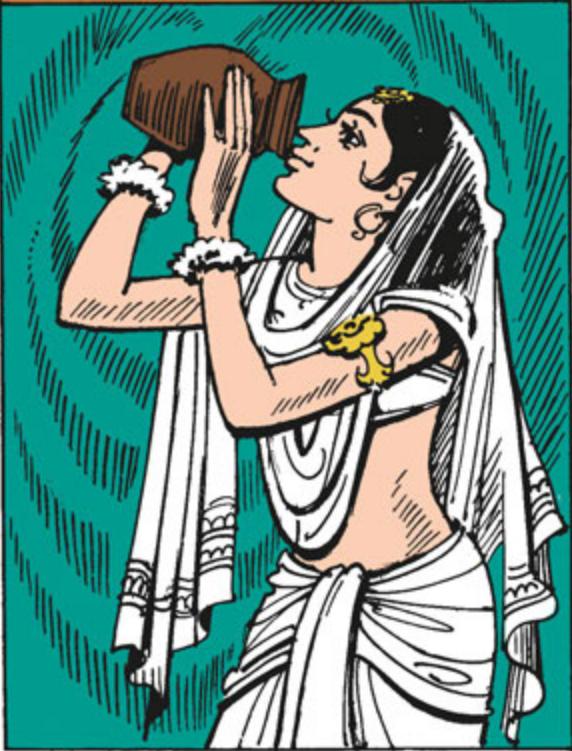
WHEN SHE REACHED —



BUT HER MOTHER TOOK THE POT MEANT FOR SATYAVATI AND...

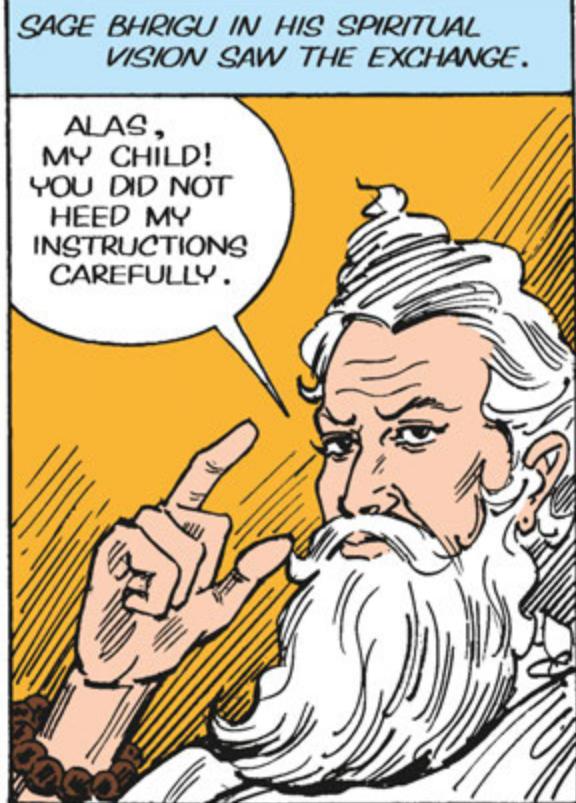


...SATYAVATI TOOK THE ONE MEANT FOR HER MOTHER.



SAGE BHRIGU IN HIS SPIRITUAL VISION SAW THE EXCHANGE.

ALAS,  
MY CHILD!  
YOU DID NOT  
HEED MY  
INSTRUCTIONS  
CAREFULLY.



NOW,  
YOUR MOTHER'S  
SON THOUGH A  
KSHATRIYA, WILL  
TAKE TO THE  
LIFE OF AN  
ASCETIC.





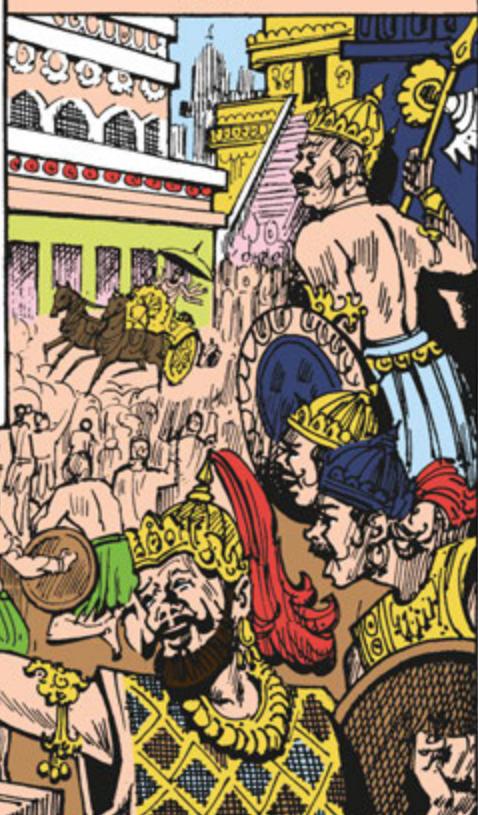
AS JAMADAGNI GREW UP, HIS DEVOTION TO THE STUDY OF THE VEDAS ALSO INCREASED AND HE SOON MASTERED THEM.



SO HE MARRIED THE CHASTE RENUKA.



MOST OF THE KSHATRIYAS OF THOSE DAYS WERE VICIOUS. THEY WERE BECOMING A MENACE AND A BURDEN TO MOTHER EARTH. THE WORST OF THEM WAS KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA, THE 1000-ARMED KING OF THE HAIHAYA TRIBE.



NOW I SHALL ENTER THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER. I AM READY FOR IT.

MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TREMBLED WITH FEAR WHENEVER KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA RODE INTO A CITY IN HIS INVINCIBLE GOLDEN CHARIOT.



RUN! RUN!  
KARTAVIRYA  
ARJUNA  
IS HERE!



HA! HA! MY GOOD MEN,  
TAKE WHAT PLEASES YOU  
AND BURN  
THE REST.

SUDDENLY HE HAD AN IDEA.

WHY WASTE OUR TIME  
HERE WITH THESE PUNY  
MORTALS. LET US RIDE  
INTO THE CITY OF INDRA,  
KING OF THE GODS.

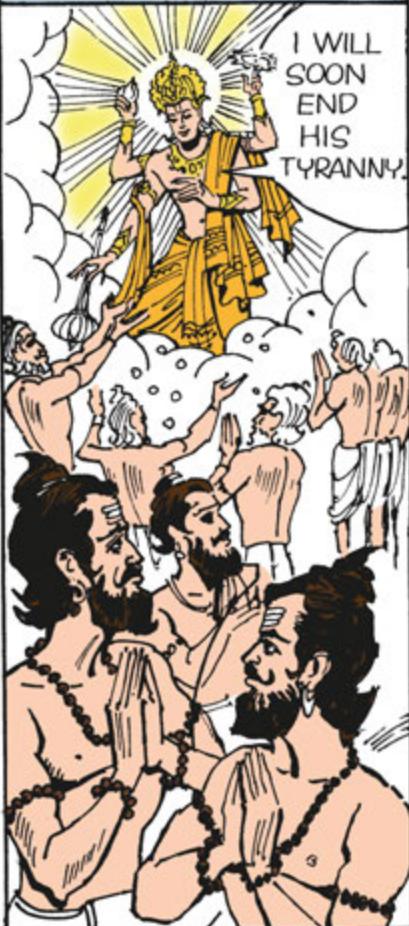


...WHERE INDRA WAS RESTING WITH HIS WIFE, SACHI.



SO THEY WENT TO  
LORD VISHNU.

IN THE MEANWHILE, THE SAINTS AND SAGES OF THE DAY COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE VIOLATIONS OF THEIR PENANCES AND SACRIFICES BY KARTAVIRYÀ ARJUNA.



AS SOON AS THE SAGES HAD LEFT,  
INDRA ENTERED.

LORD VISHNU,  
KARTAVIRYA  
ARJUNA NOW  
COVETS THE  
WEALTH OF THE  
VERY HEAVENS.  
HE MUST BE  
DESTROYED.

I KNOW.

I WILL TAKE AN  
AVATAR ON EARTH  
AS A BRAHMANA WITH  
UNUSUAL PHYSICAL  
PROWESS AND  
OVERPOWER HIM.

MEANWHILE FIVE SONS WERE BORN TO RENUKA AND JAMADAGNI.



THE FIFTH AND YOUNGEST WAS RAMA WHO WAS REALLY VISHNU REBORN TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE TO INDRA AND THE SAGES.



AS A CHILD RAMA WAS FOND OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND...



...PLAYING WITH WEAPONS.



RAMA SOON GREW UP  
INTO A STURDY YOUTH.  
ONE DAY-

FATHER, I WISH  
TO GO TO THE  
GANDHAMADANA  
MOUNTAINS AND  
BY AUSTERE  
PENANCES  
GAIN LORD  
SHIVA'S  
FAVOUR.

GO  
IF YOU MUST,  
MY SON. YOU  
HAVE MY  
BLESSINGS.

RAMA WENT AND SAT  
IN MEDITATION AND  
UNDERWENT SEVERE  
PENANCES.



AT LAST SHIVA APPEARED  
TO HIM.

YOU HAVE PLEASED  
ME BY YOUR  
DEVOTION.  
WHAT IS IT  
THAT YOU  
DESIRE?



I HAVE SET MY  
HEART ON THE  
FIERY AXE,  
THE POWERFUL  
PARASHU.

AS YOU  
DESERVE, YOU  
SHALL HAVE IT. NO  
WARRIOR ON EARTH  
SHALL SURPASS  
YOU.



AND FROM THAT DAY RAMA CAME TO BE KNOWN AS PARASHURAMA.

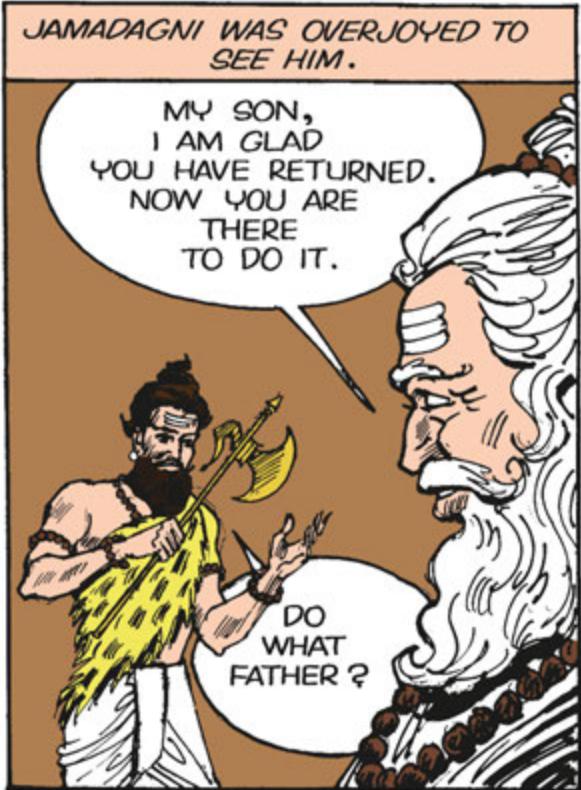


TAKING HIS AXE, PARASHURAMA RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



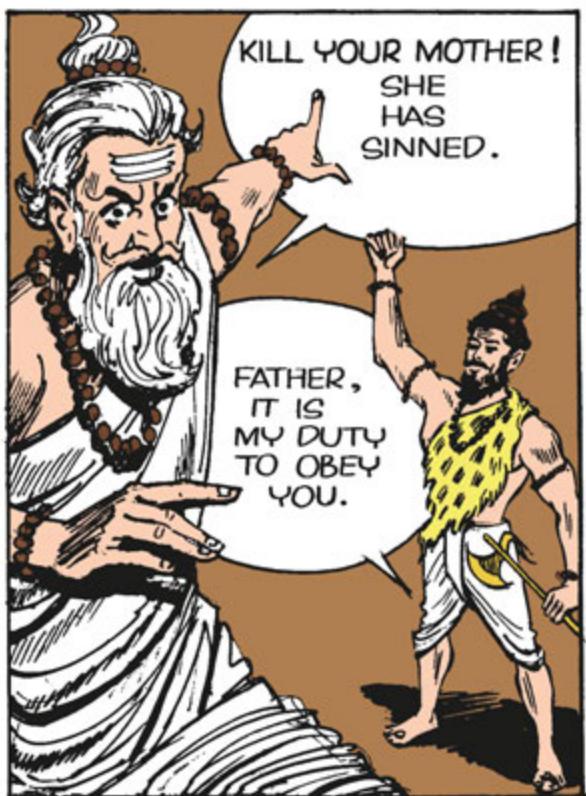
JAMADAGNI WAS OVERJOYED TO SEE HIM.

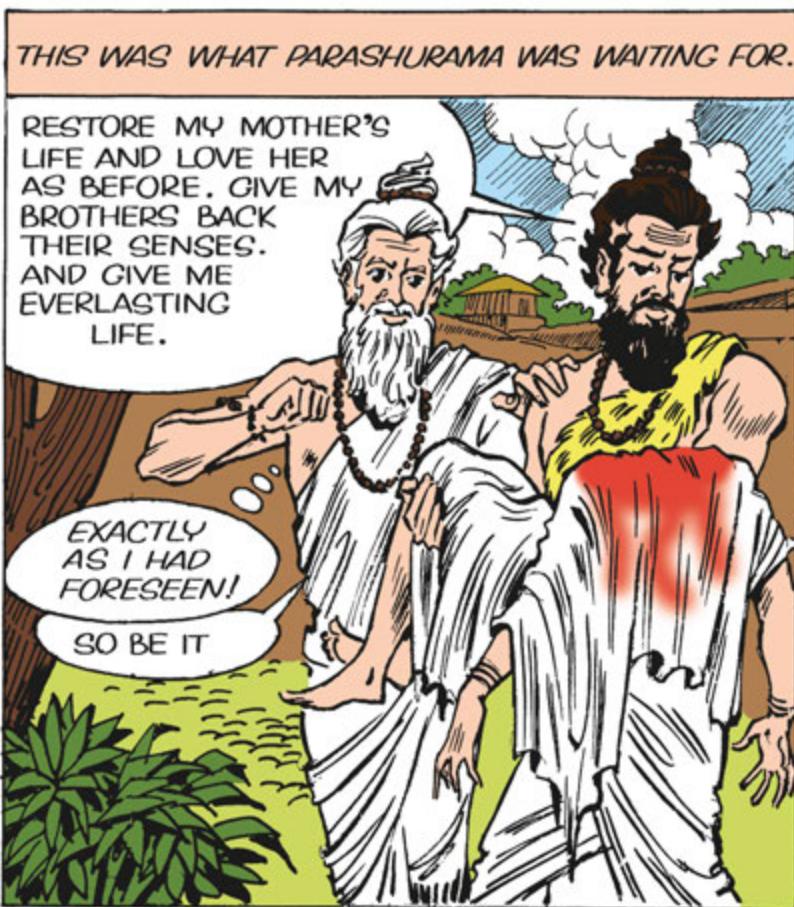
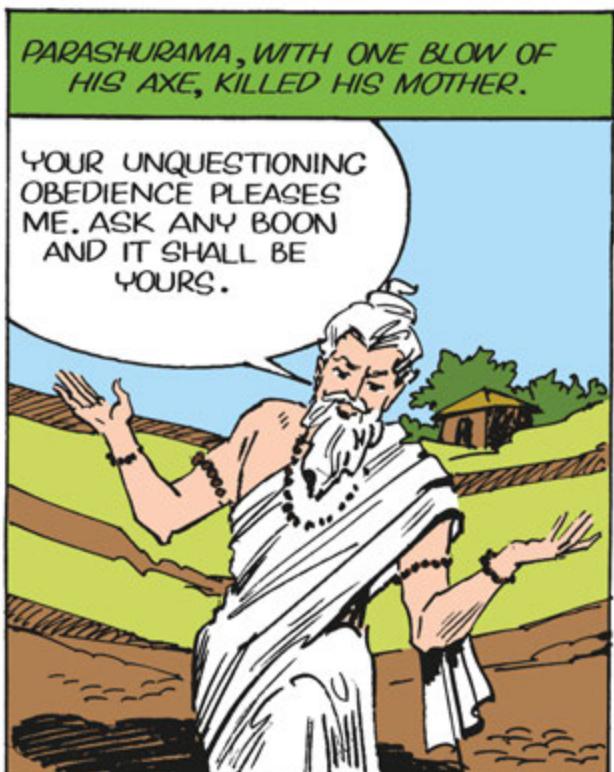
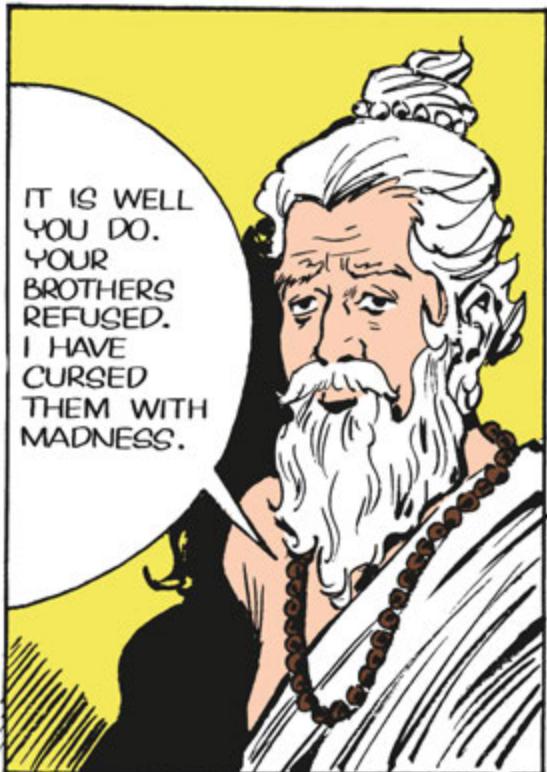
MY SON,  
I AM GLAD  
YOU HAVE RETURNED.  
NOW YOU ARE  
THERE  
TO DO IT.



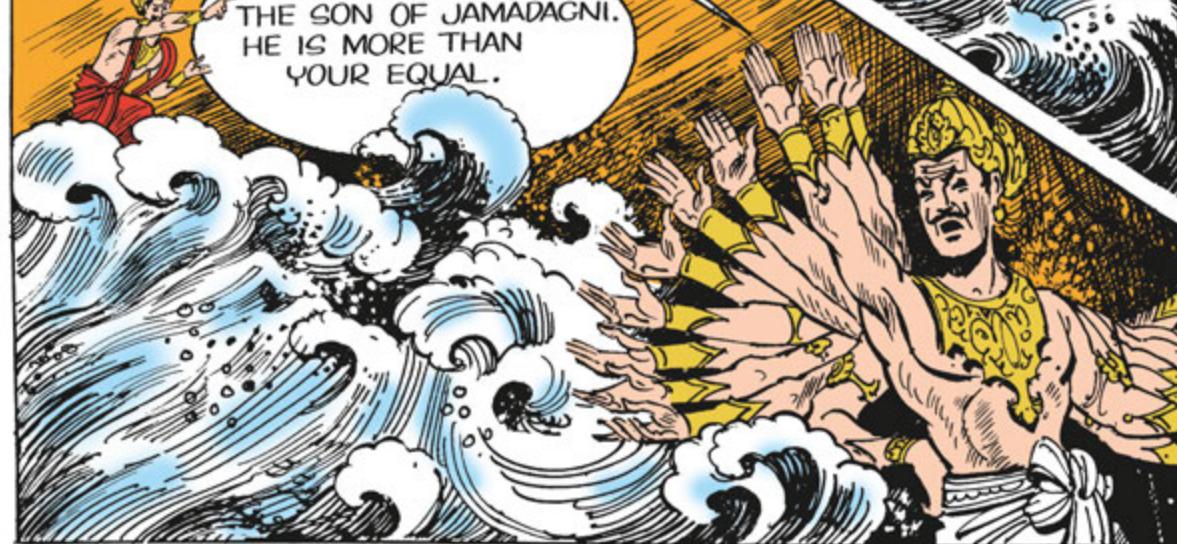
KILL YOUR MOTHER !  
SHE HAS SINNED.

FATHER,  
IT IS MY DUTY  
TO OBEY YOU.

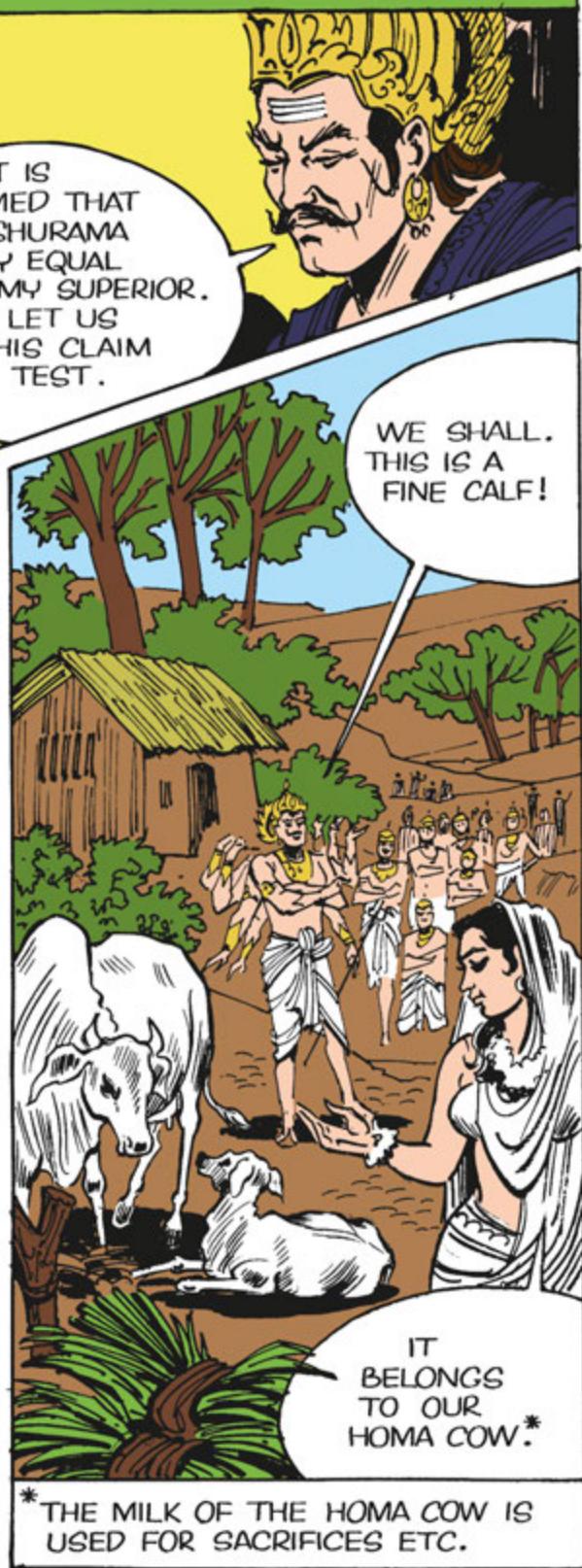
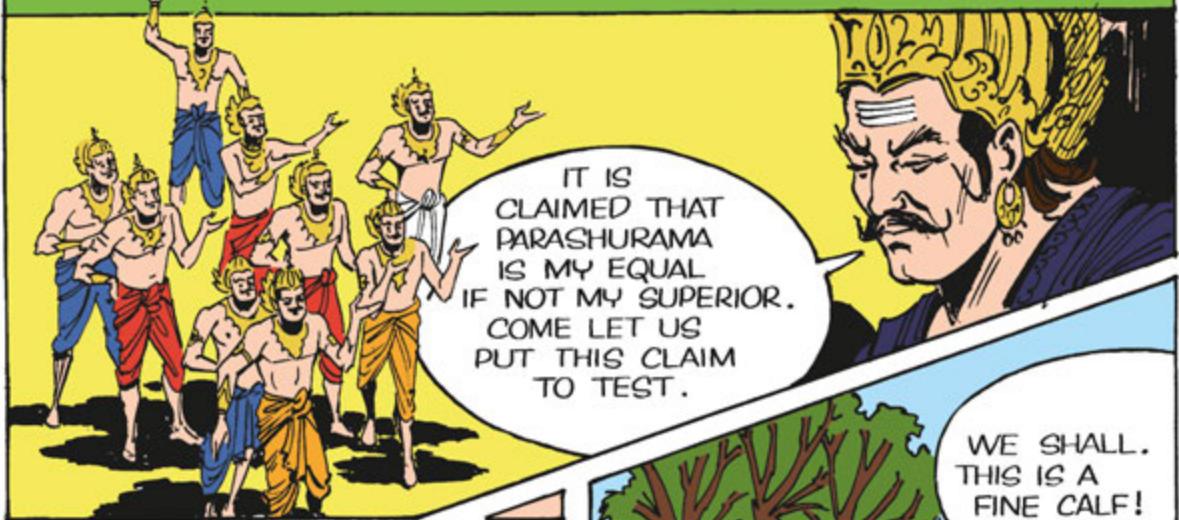




MEANWHILE KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA CONTINUED IN HIS TYRANNY. ONE DAY WHILE PACING ARROGANTLY ON THE SEASHORE, HE BEGAN SHOOTING ARROWS INTO THE WATERS OF THE OCEAN.



KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA WAS FURIOUS. HE CALLED HIS SONS TO HIM.



THAT NIGHT THE SONS OF ARJUNA STOLE THE CALF AND MADE OFF WITH IT.



IN THE MORNING WHEN JAMADAGNI CAME OUT  
OF THE ASHRAM —

JUST THEN PARASHURAMA  
RETURNED.  
HE SAW THEM.



WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED TO HER,  
FATHER? WHY IS SHE SO  
SAD? WHERE IS HER  
CALF? WHY ARE THEY  
SEPARATED?



JAMADAGNI TOLD HIM THE WHOLE STORY.

I SHALL KILL HIM AND REDEEM YOUR CALF!



THEN PARASHURAMA TOOK HIS AXE AND RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



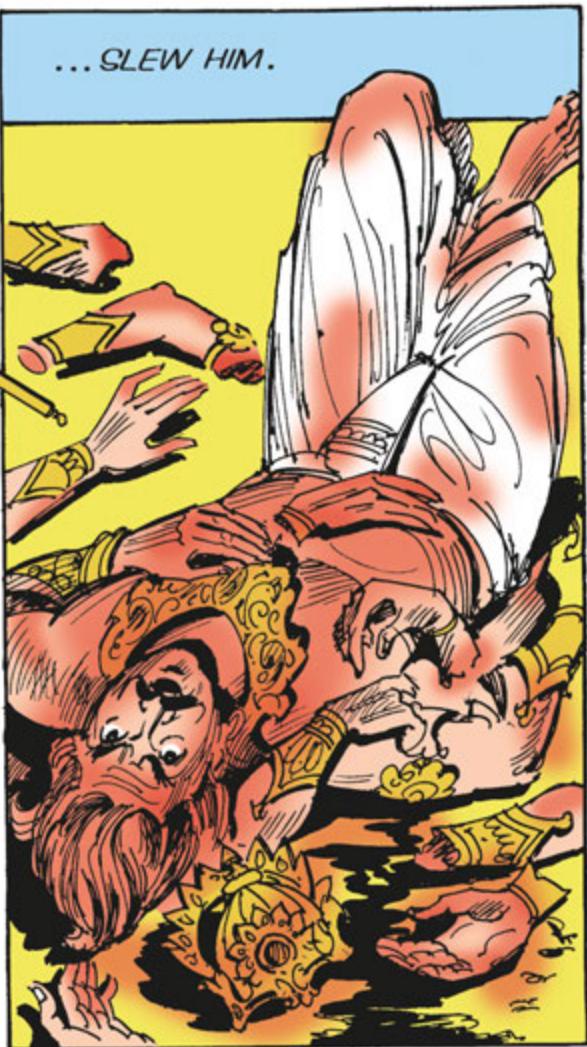
WHEN HE SAW THE HELPLESS CALF, HE COULD NOT CONTROL HIS ANGER. HE RUSHED INTO KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S BEDROOM.



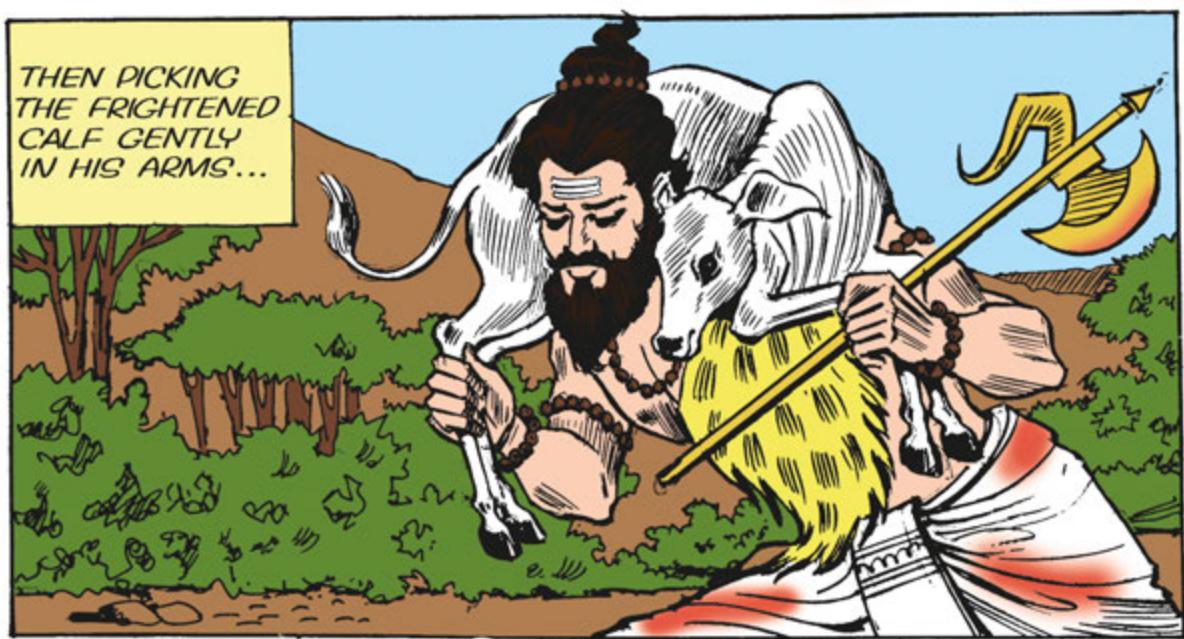
A DREADFUL COMBAT ENSUED IN WHICH PARASHURAMA HACKED OFF EACH ONE OF KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S THOUSAND ARMS AND...



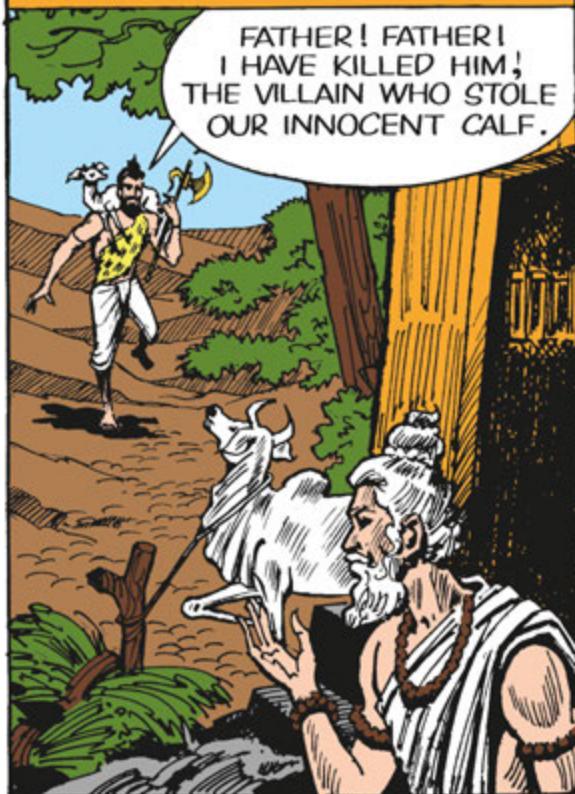
... SLEW HIM.



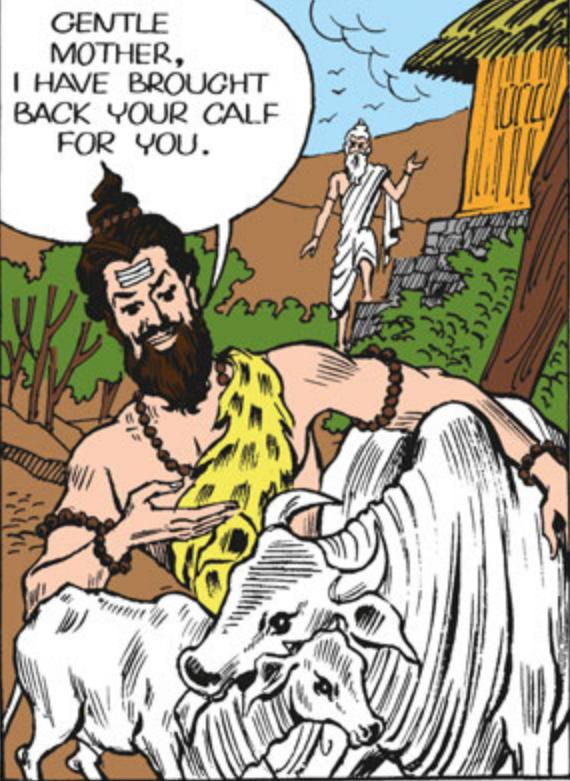
THEN PICKING THE FRIGHTENED CALF GENTLY IN HIS ARMS...



...HE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



THEN THEY WENT TO THE COW AND -



PARASHURAMA,  
I AM PROUD  
OF YOU.

THE FIREWOOD  
IS EXHAUSTED.  
I SHALL GO  
TO THE FOREST  
AND CUT SOME  
FOR YOU.

IN THE MEANWHILE -

ALAS!  
HE IS DEAD  
AND THE CALF  
IS MISSING.

NONE  
OTHER THAN  
PARASHURAMA  
COULD BE THE  
MURDERER.

THEY WERE FURIOUS.



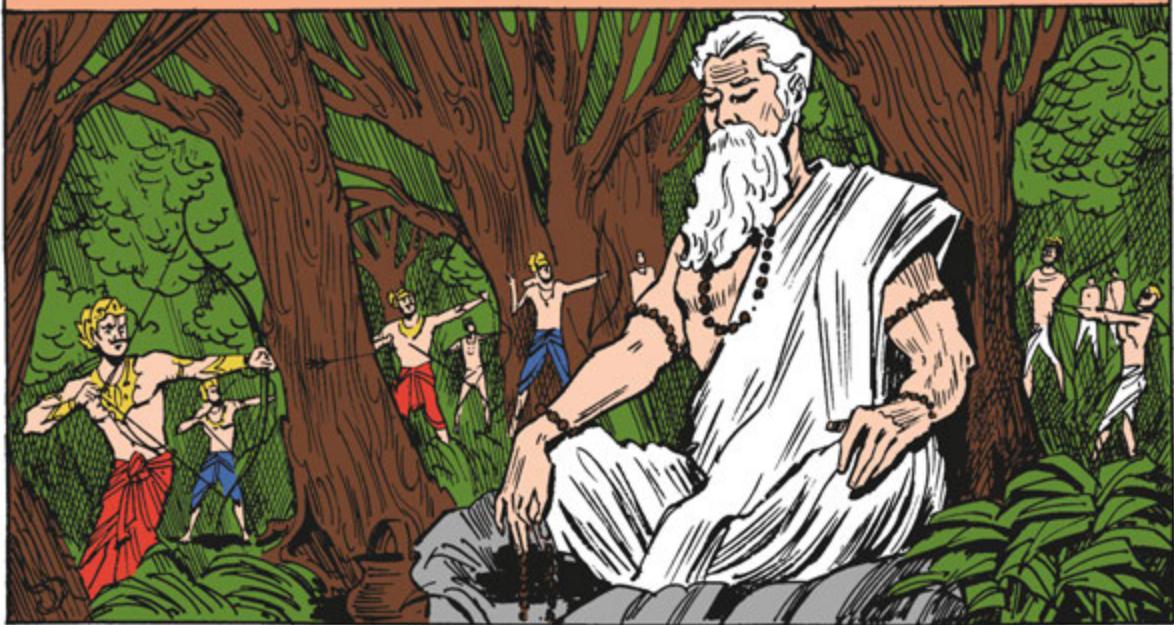
THEY MOUNTED THEIR CHARIOTS AND CHARGED OUT OF THE PALACE.



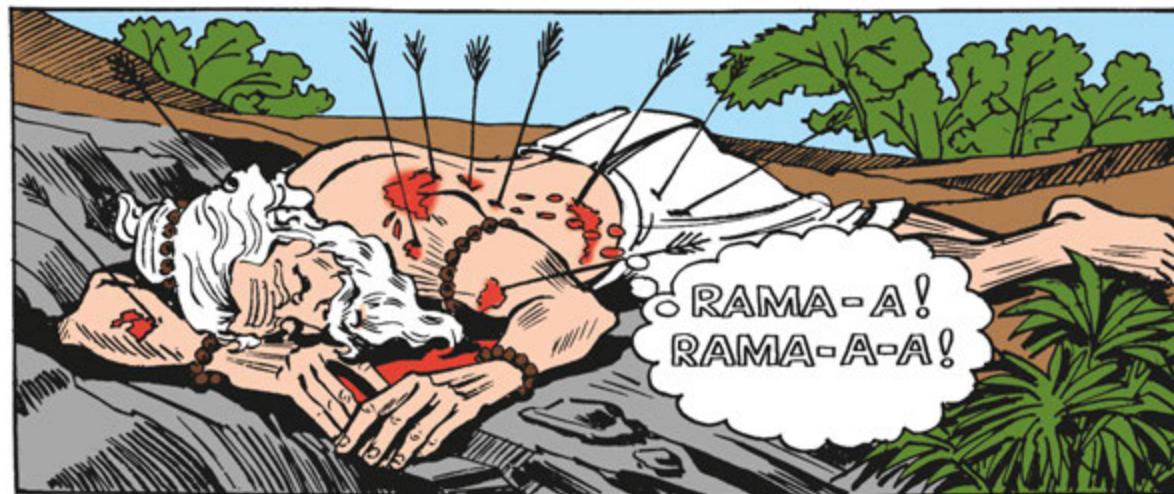
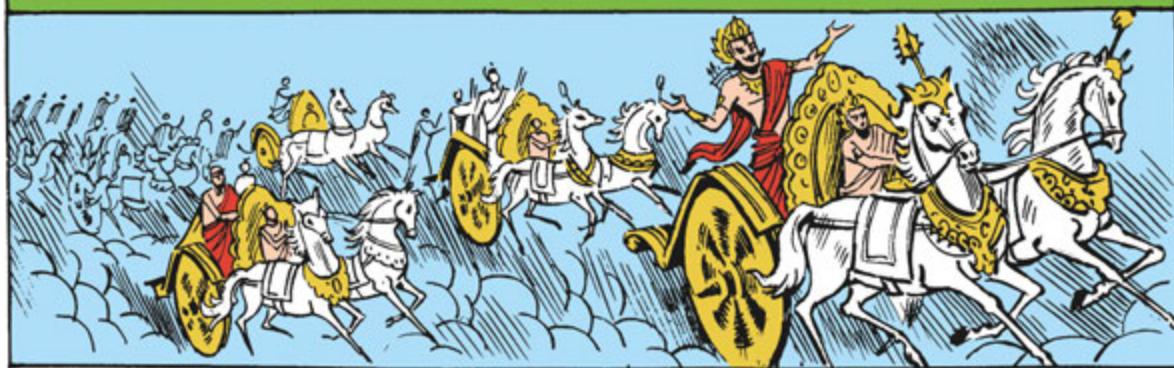
WHEN THEY REACHED THE ASHRAM, JAMADAGNI WAS DEEP IN MEDITATION.



THEY ATTACKED JAMADAGNI AND SHOT ARROWS AT HIM FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.

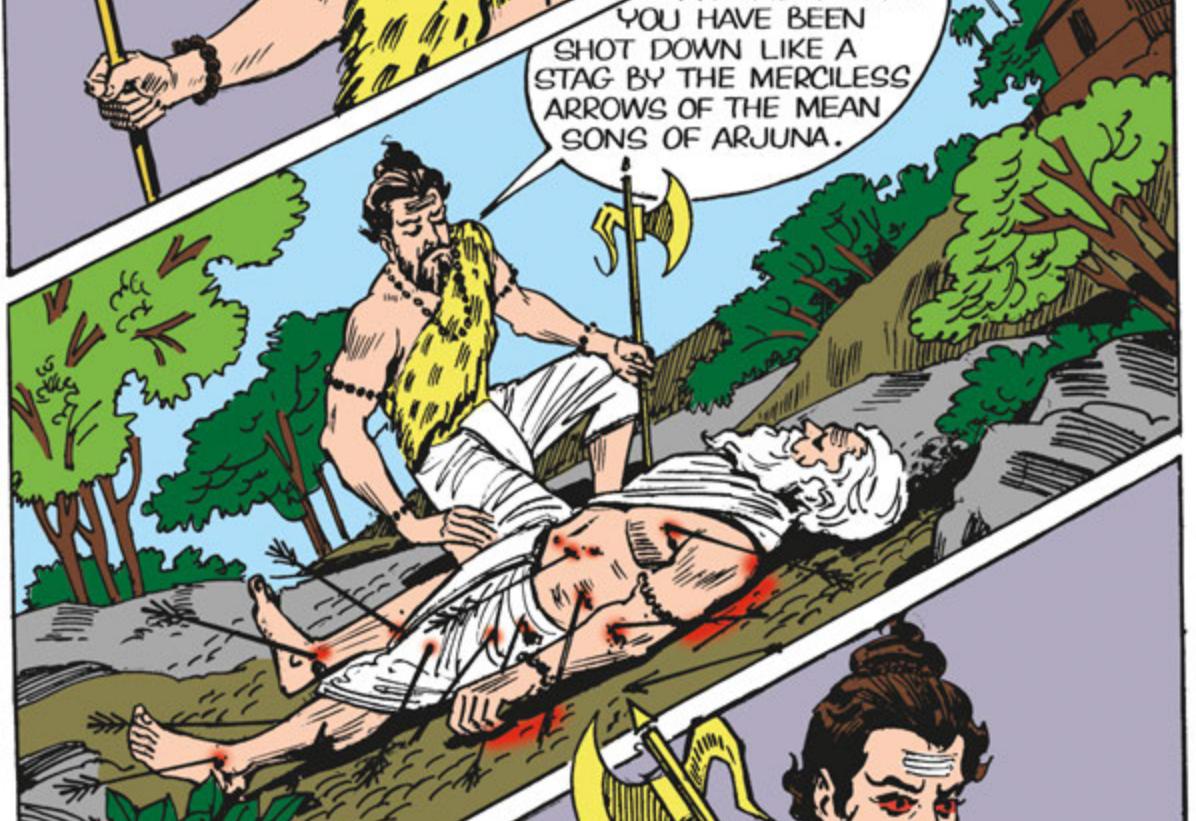


THEY LEFT HIM DYING AND RODE AWAY.





JUST THEN  
PARASHURAMA  
RETURNED  
FROM THE  
FOREST.



FATHER!  
FATHER! IT IS  
MY FAULT THAT  
YOU HAVE BEEN  
SHOT DOWN LIKE A  
STAG BY THE MERCILESS  
ARROWS OF THE MEAN  
SONS OF ARJUNA.



WITH  
WHAT FACE  
WILL THEY RETURN  
TO THEIR FRIENDS  
AND SERVANTS  
AFTER COMMITTING  
SUCH A HEINOUS  
CRIME?

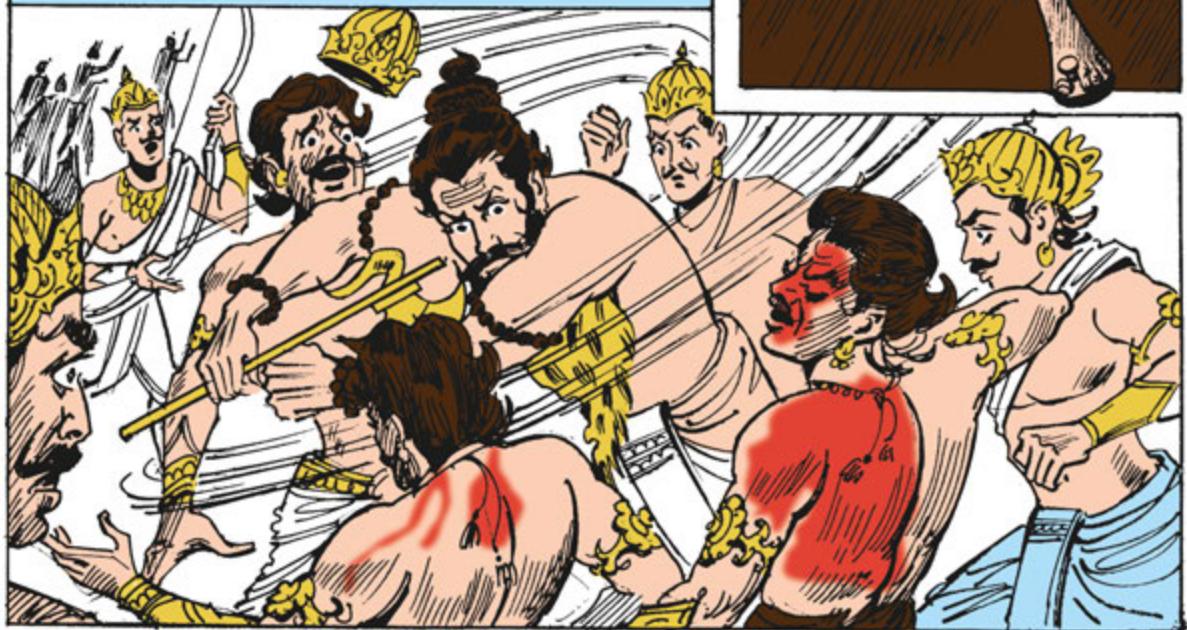
AS PARASHURAMA CREMATED HIS FATHER'S BODY, HE TOOK A VOW.



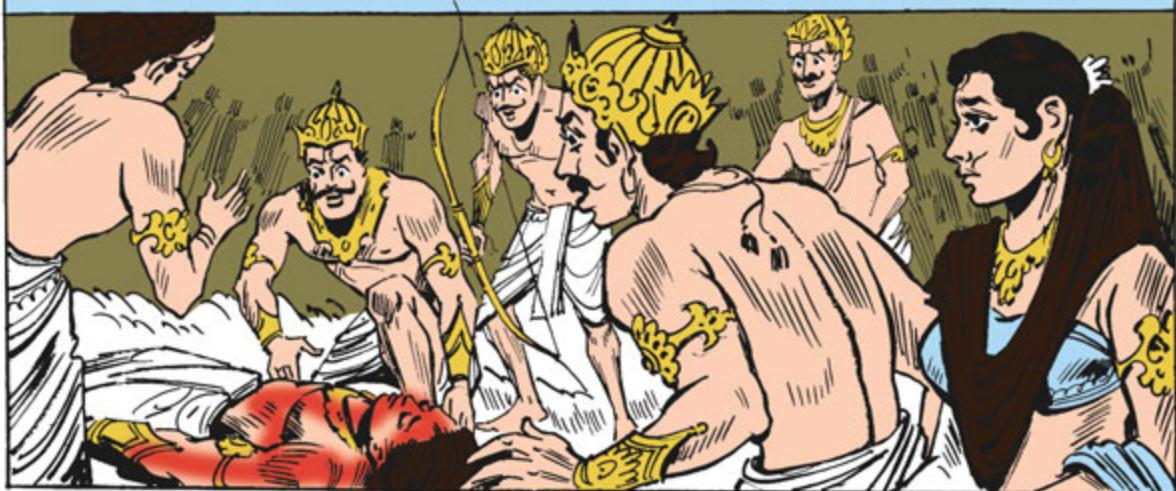
WHEN THE LAST EMBERS DIED OUT, HE RAISED HIS AXE AND BEGAN HIS SELF-IMPOSED TASK.



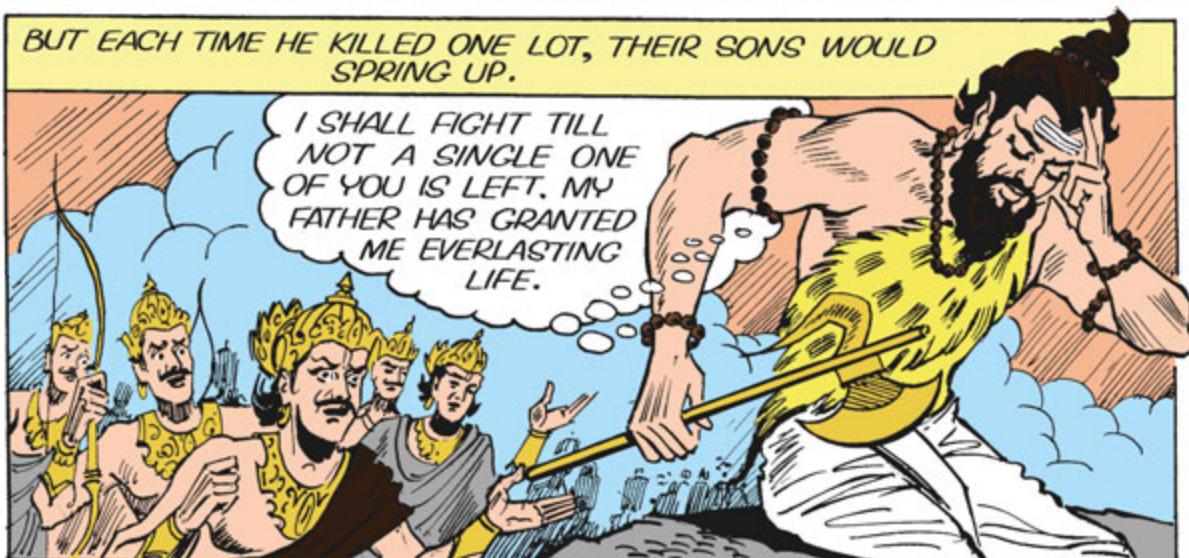
KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S SONS WERE THE FIRST TO BE WIPE OUT.



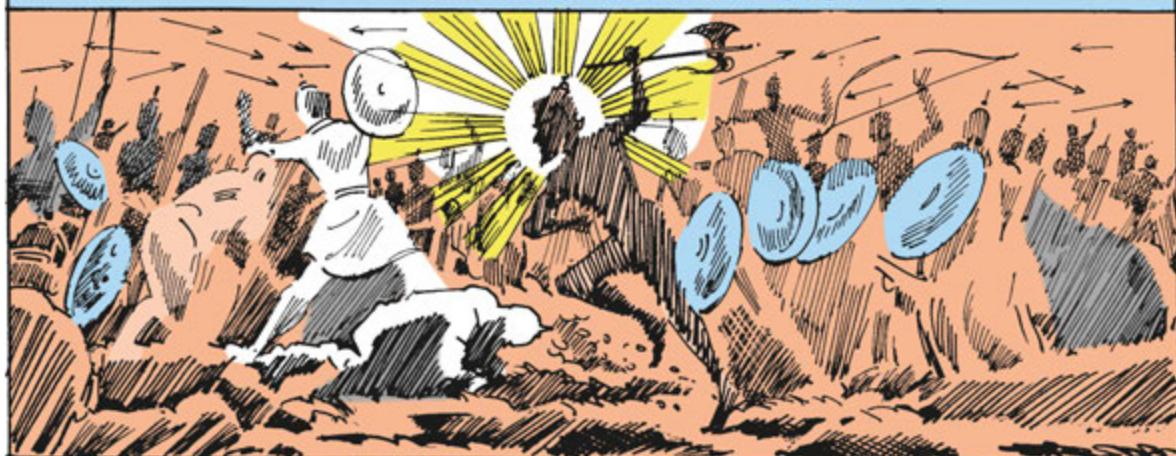
THEN ONE BY ONE HE MASSACRED ALL THE KSHATRIYAS ON EARTH.



BUT EACH TIME HE KILLED ONE LOT, THEIR SONS WOULD SPRING UP.



THUS PARASHURAMA PATIENTLY CONTINUED WIPING OUT TWENTY-ONE GENERATIONS OF KSHATRIYAS.



BUT ALAS! HE KILLED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BOTH THE EVIL AND THE GOOD KSHATRIYAS.

I HAVE HARMED NONE. MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME AND DEPRIVE THEM OF MY PROTECTION? ?



BUT PARASHURAMA WAS RELENTLESS.

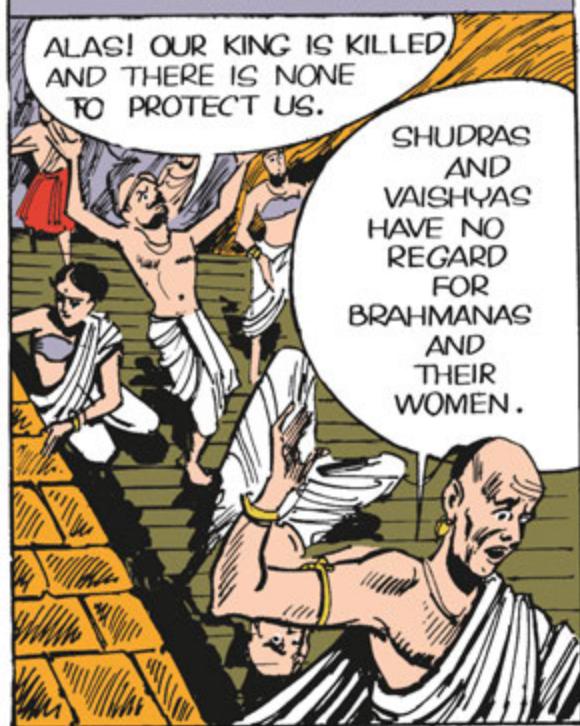
ONE OF YOUR CASTE MURDERED MY FATHER WHILE HE WAS DEFENCELESS. SO YOU SHALL DIE.



SOON THERE WERE NO STRONG GOOD MEN TO PROTECT THE GOOD ON EARTH.

ALAS! OUR KING IS KILLED AND THERE IS NONE TO PROTECT US.

SHUDRAS AND VAISHYAS HAVE NO REGARD FOR BRAHMANAS AND THEIR WOMEN.



MOTHER EARTH FELT THAT IT WAS TIME TO INTERVENE.

I SHALL APPROACH SAGE KASHYAPA.



SO MOTHER EARTH WENT TO KASHYAPA.

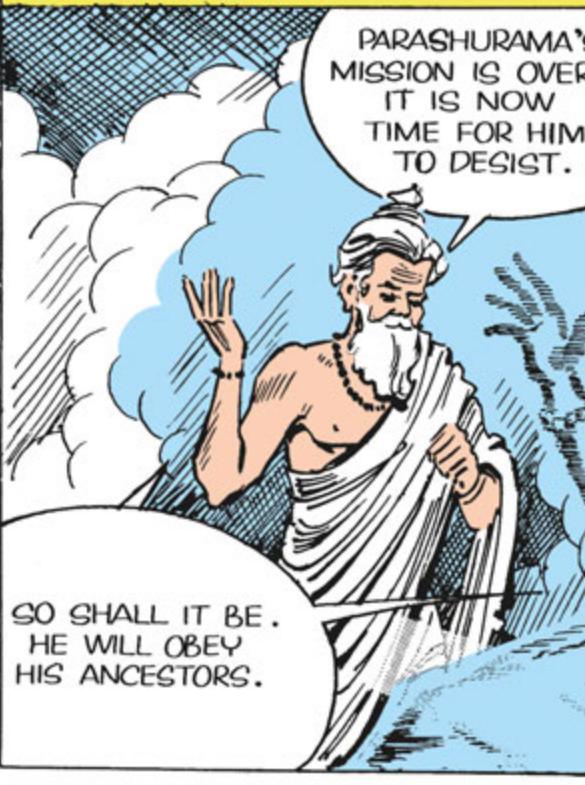


LORD  
PARASHURAMA'S  
WORK IS OVER.  
I AM RELIEVED  
OF MY BURDEN.  
PLEASE  
STOP HIM NOW.



I WILL SPEAK  
TO THE SPIRITS  
OF HIS ANCESTORS.

KASHYAPA BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS,  
CALLED FORTH THE SPIRIT OF RICHIKA.

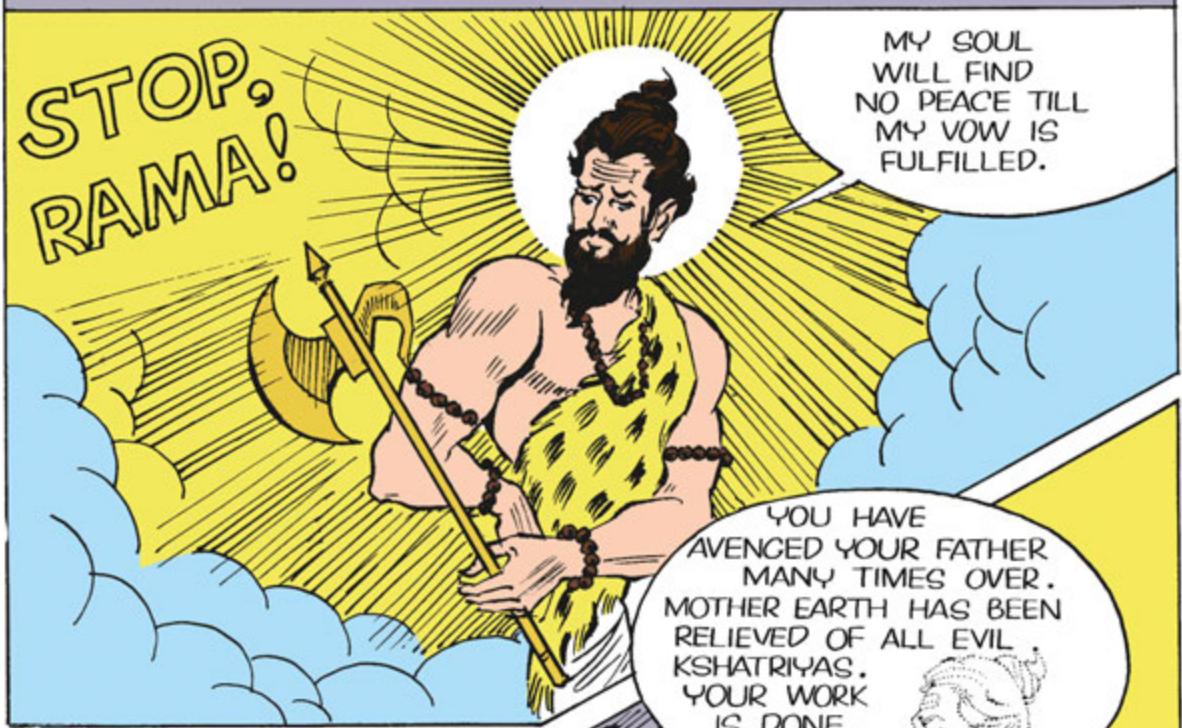


PARASHURAMA'S  
MISSION IS OVER.  
IT IS NOW  
TIME FOR HIM  
TO DESIST.

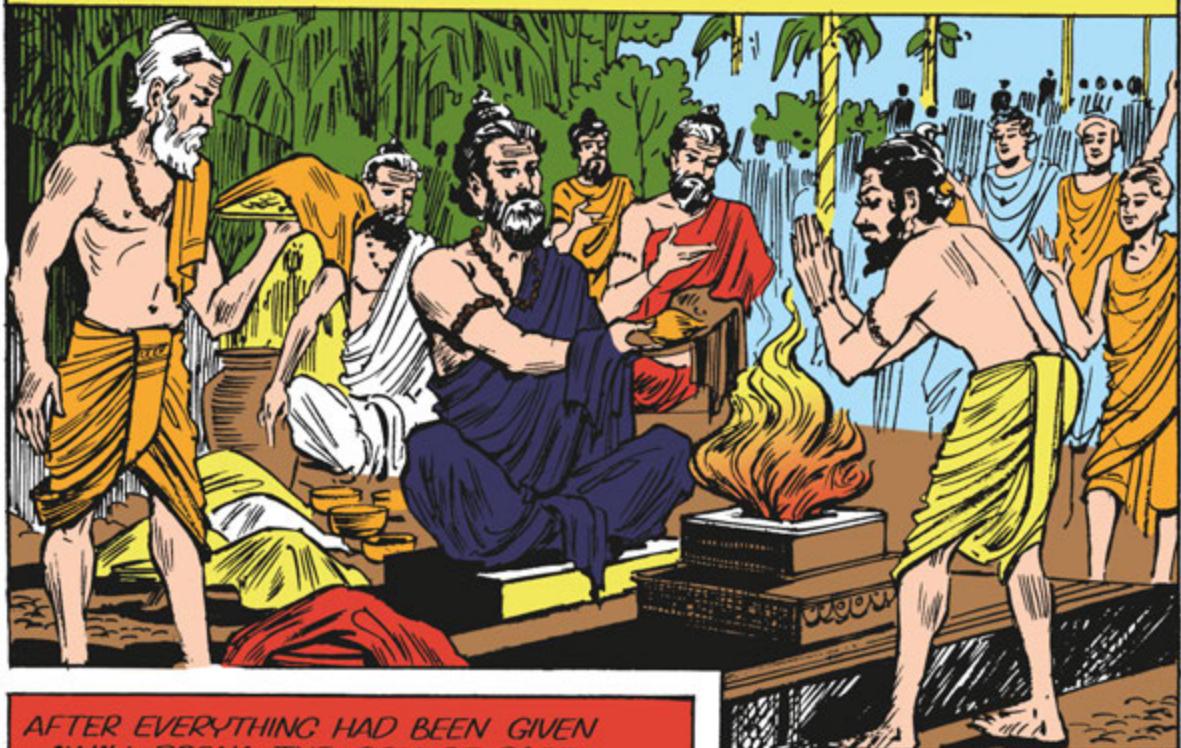


SO SHALL IT BE.  
HE WILL OBEY  
HIS ANCESTORS.

AND RICHKA KEPT HIS PROMISE. WHEN PARASHURAMA WAS ABOUT TO RAISE HIS AXE ON A KING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERATION OF KSHATRIYAS -

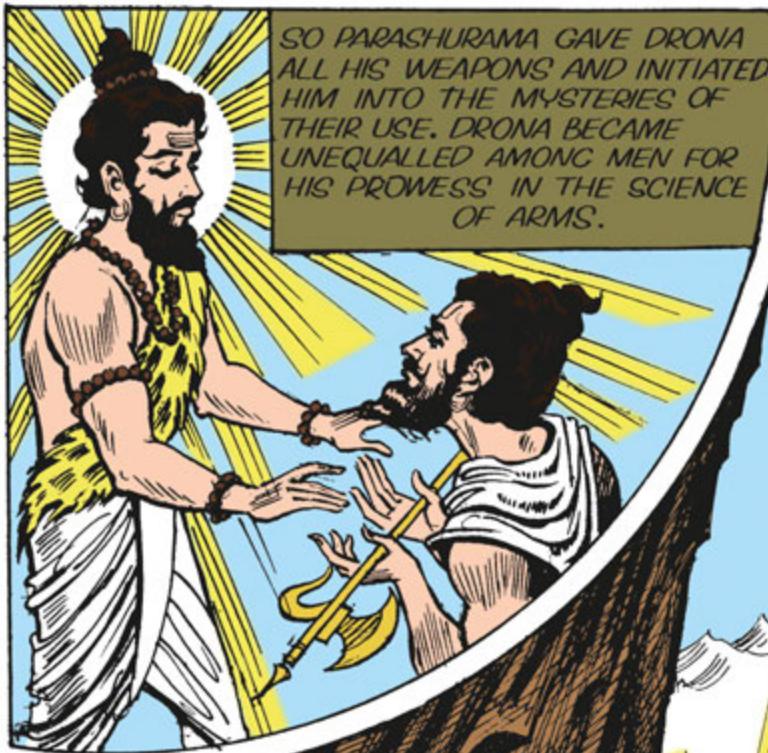


PARASHURAMA THEN HELD A GREAT SACRIFICE WHERE HE DISTRIBUTED ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE BRAHMANAS.



AFTER EVERYTHING HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, DRONA, THE SON OF SAGE BHARADWAJ, CAME TO HIM.





SO PARASHURAMA GAVE DRONA ALL HIS WEAPONS AND INITIATED HIM INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE. DRONA BECAME UNEQUALLED AMONG MEN FOR HIS PROWESS IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS.

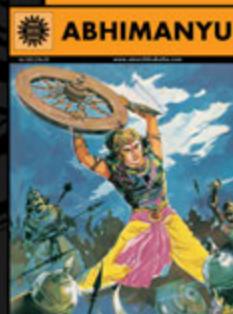
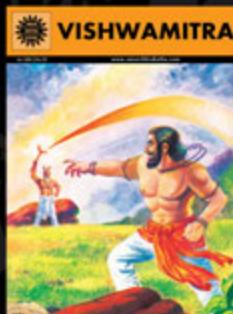
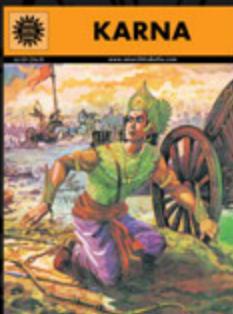
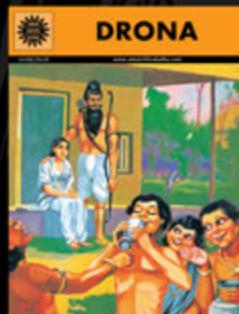


AND PARASHURAMA, HAVING THUS RID HIMSELF OF ALL HIS WORLDLY BURDENS, RETIRED TO THE CRESTS IN THE MAHENDRA MOUNTAINS TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS, ENGAGED IN PRACTISING THE SEVEREST OF PENANCES.

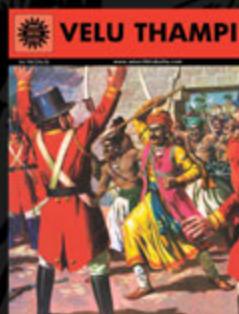
# PARASHURAMA

It was a time when the earth was ravaged with violence and bloodshed. The Kshatriya kings had forgotten their duty to rule with compassion. Instead, they subdued the people by unleashing a reign of brutal terror. At such a time the sixth incarnation of Vishnu was born. Parashurama, axe-wielding warrior-saint, strode across the age to destroy evil and liberate good.

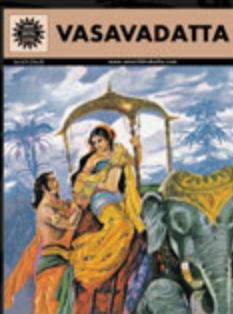
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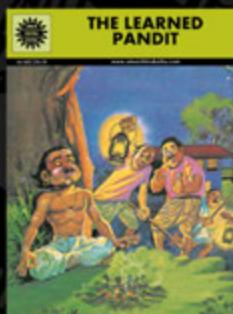
## ALSO LOOK FOR:



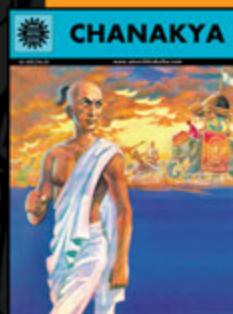
BRAVEHEARTS



INDIAN CLASSICS



FABLES &amp; HUMOUR



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"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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