



BHEEMA AND HANUMAN

THE SONS OF VAYU, THE WIND GOD

Vol 527





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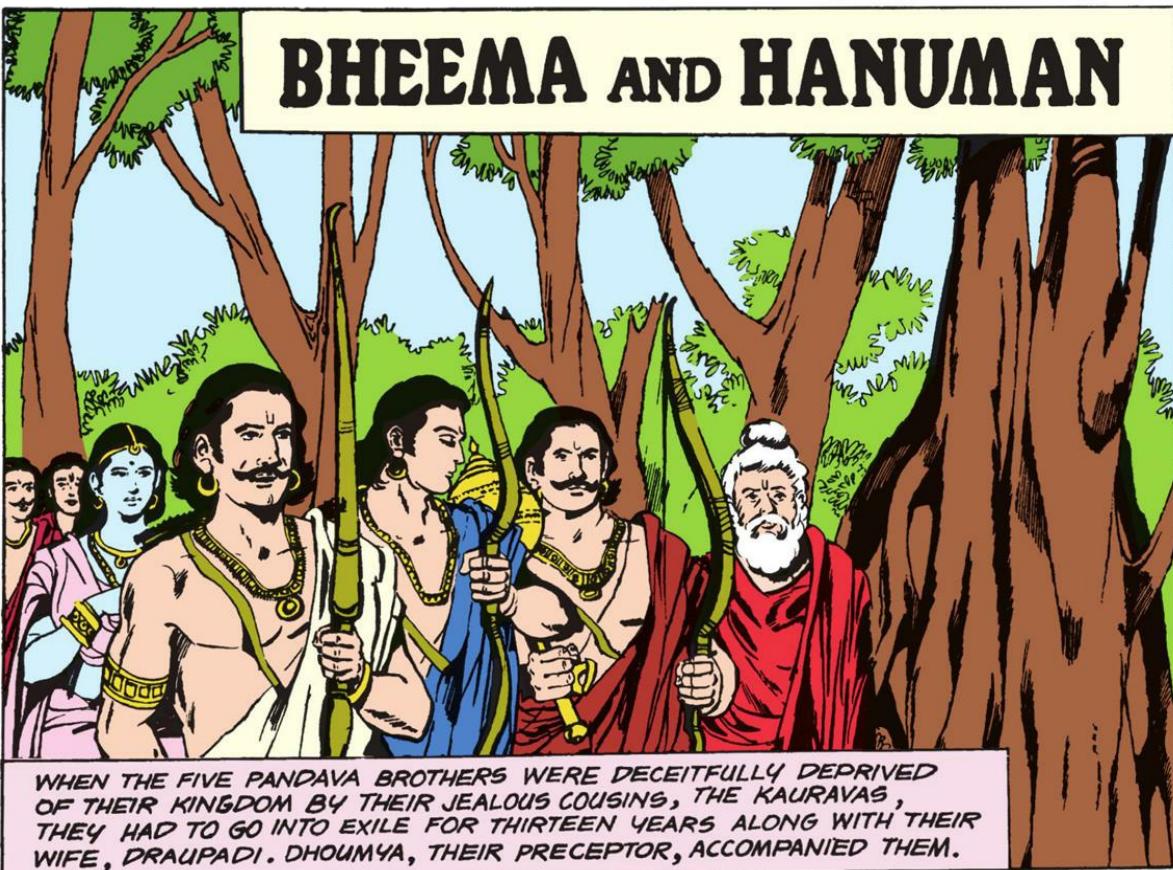
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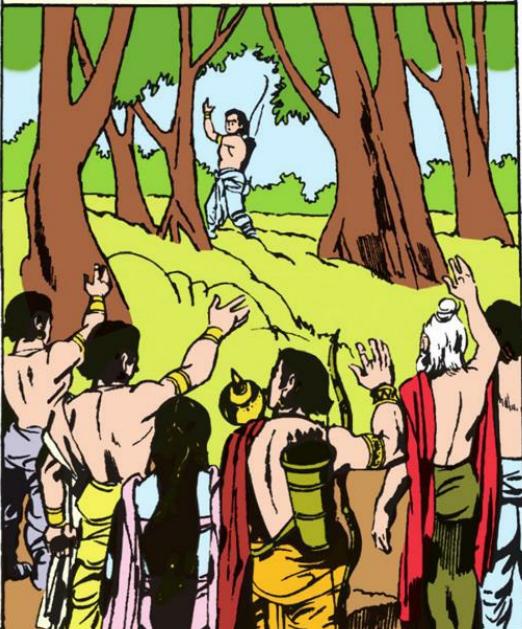
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BHEEMA AND HANUMAN



WHEN THE FIVE PANDAVA BROTHERS WERE DECEITFULLY DEPRIVED OF THEIR KINGDOM BY THEIR JEALOUS COUSINS, THE KAURAVAS, THEY HAD TO GO INTO EXILE FOR THIRTEEN YEARS ALONG WITH THEIR WIFE, DRAUPADI. DHOMYA, THEIR PRECEPTOR, ACCOMPANIED THEM.

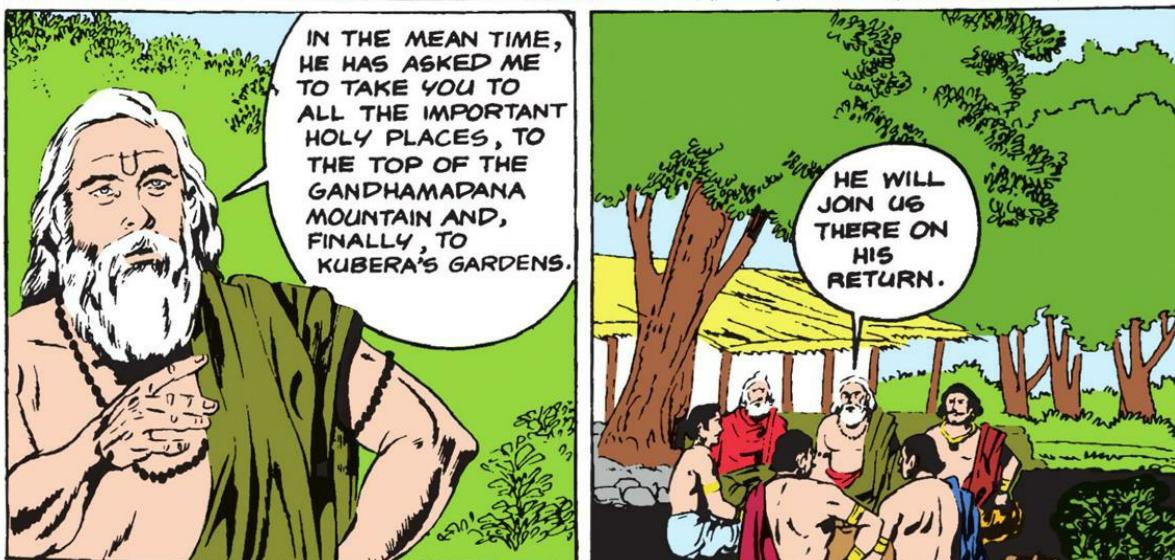
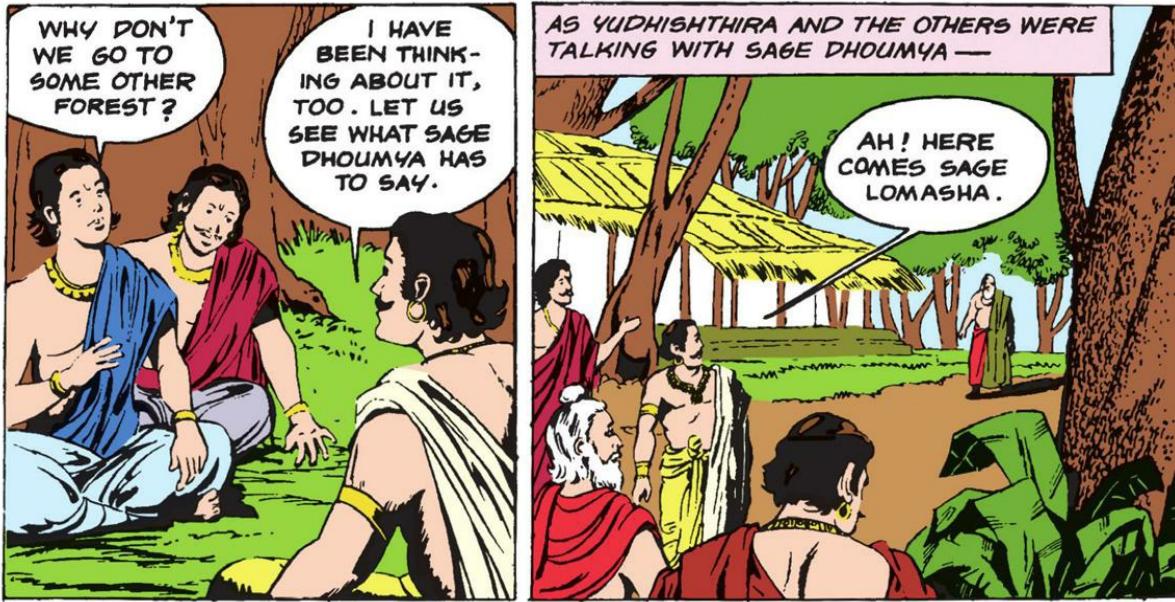
WHILE THEY WERE IN THE FOREST, ARJUNA, THE THIRD PANDAVA, LEFT FOR INDRAKELA TO ACQUIRE CELESTIAL WEAPONS FROM THE DEVAS.



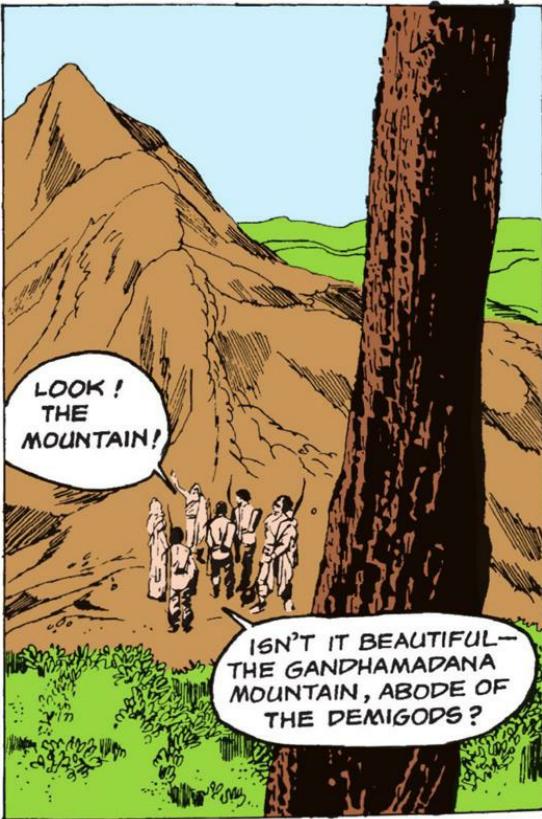
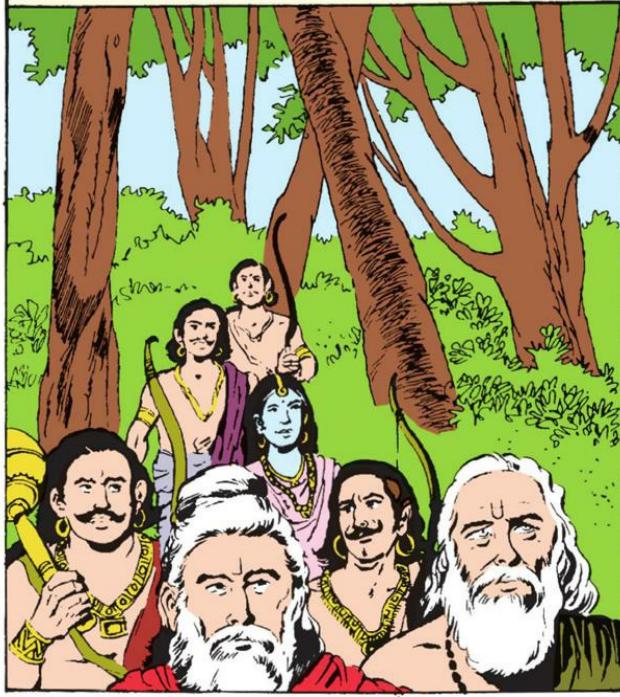
NEARLY FIVE YEARS WENT BY, BUT ARJUNA DID NOT RETURN.

EVERYTHING IN THIS FOREST REMINDS ME OF HIM. I CAN'T BEAR THIS SEPARATION MUCH LONGER.



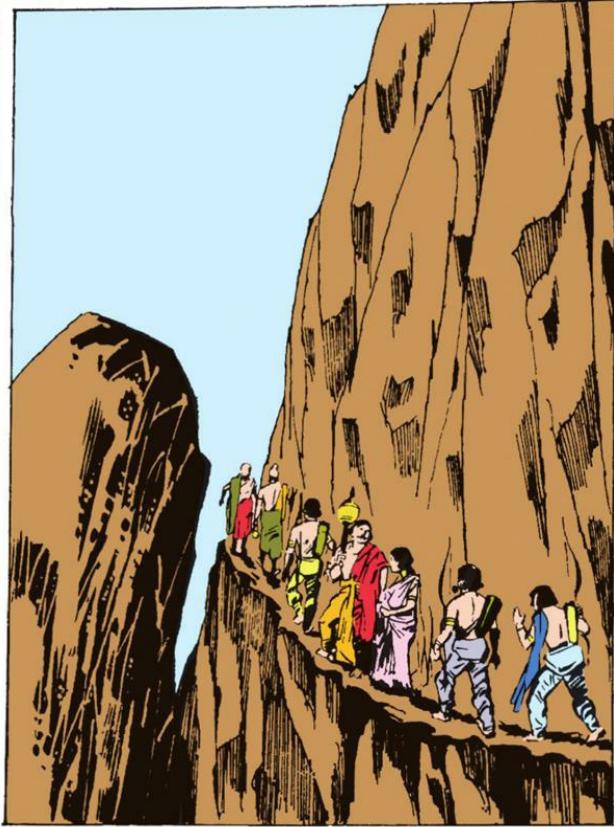
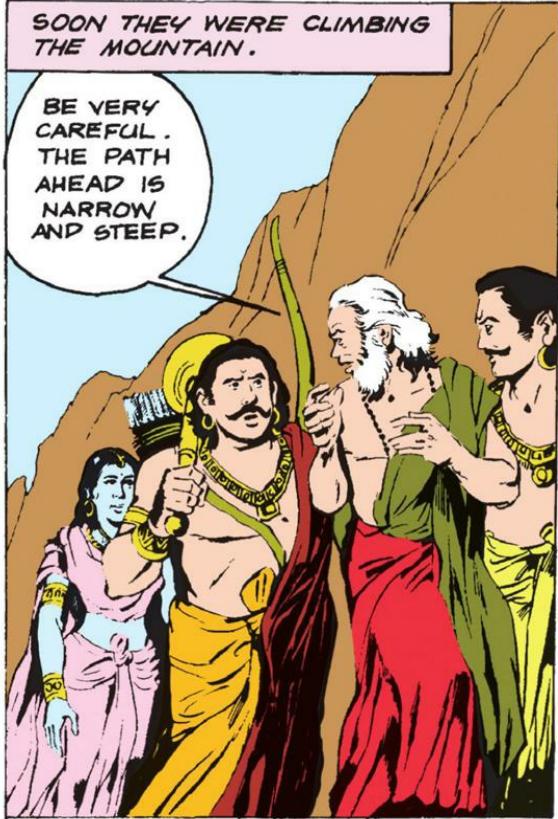


SO THE PANDAVAS AND DRAUPADI SET OUT WITH THE SAGES. THE THOUGHT THAT THEY WOULD SOON BE WITH ARJUNA MADE THE JOURNEY EASIER.



SOON THEY WERE CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN.

BE VERY CAREFUL.
THE PATH AHEAD IS NARROW AND STEEP.



WHEN THEY WERE NEARLY
AT THE TOP —

BHEEMA, AS
YOU ARE THE
STRONGEST,
DRAUPADI SHALL
BE UNDER YOUR
SPECIAL CARE.

IT WAS AS IF YUDHISHTHIRA HAD SENSED WHAT
WAS COMING: THE NEXT MOMENT A VIOLENT
DUST-STORM BROKE OUT.

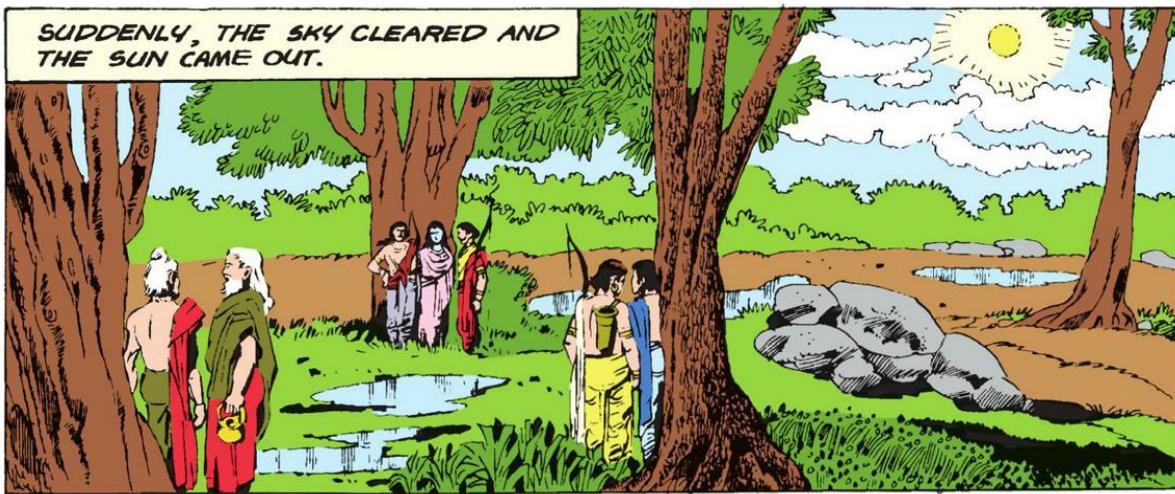
ARE THE
HEAVENS COMING
DOWN?

O BHEEMA,
HELP
ME!

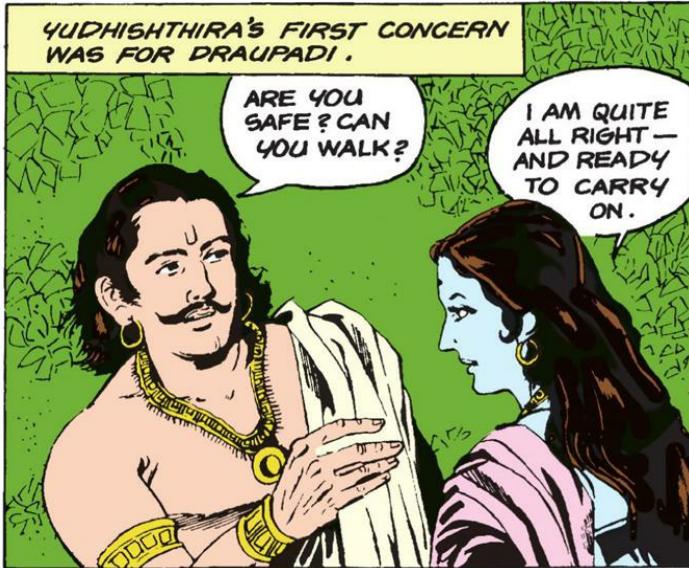
TAKING DRAUPADI BY THE HAND, BHEEMA
PULLED HER UNDER A TREE.

THE WIND ABATED BUT IT
WAS FOLLOWED BY HEAVY
RAIN.

SUDDENLY, THE SKY CLEARED AND THE SUN CAME OUT.



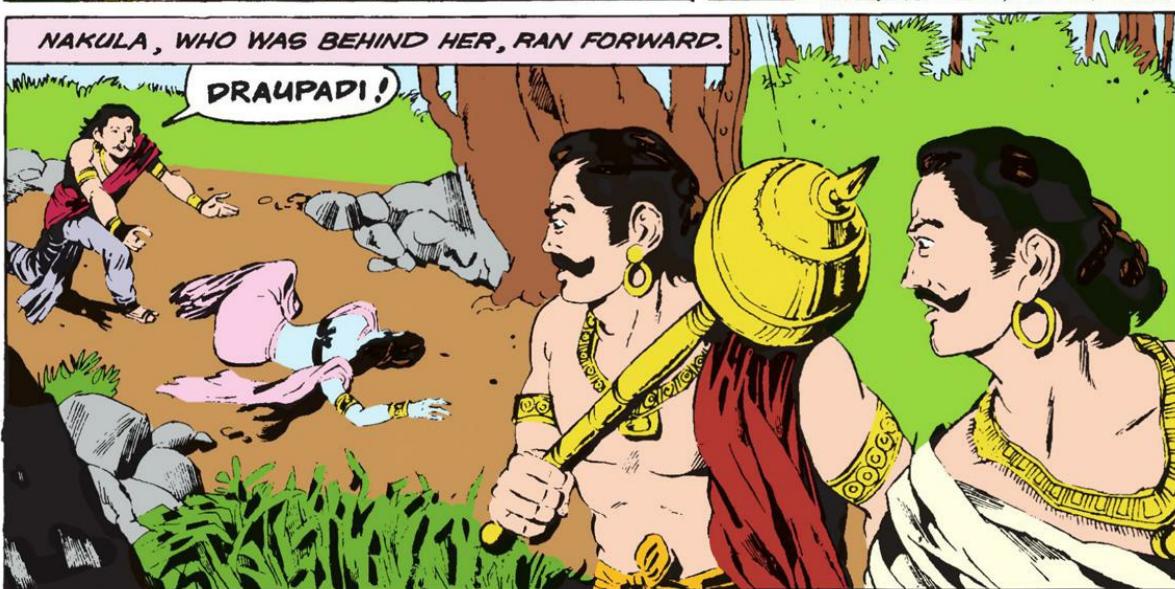
YUDHISHTHIRA'S FIRST CONCERN WAS FOR DRAUPADI.

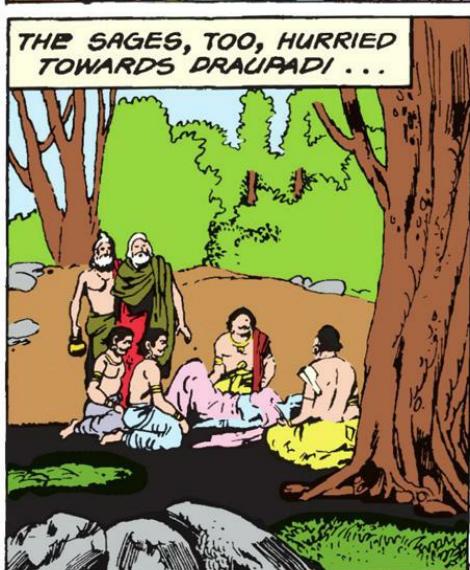
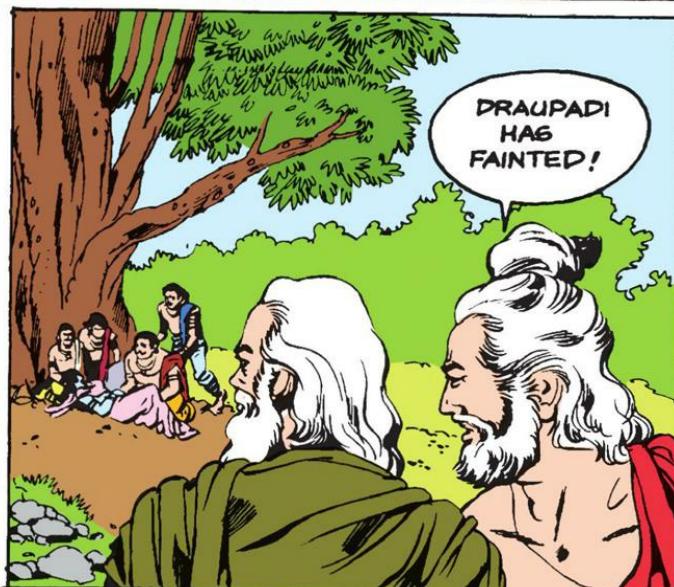
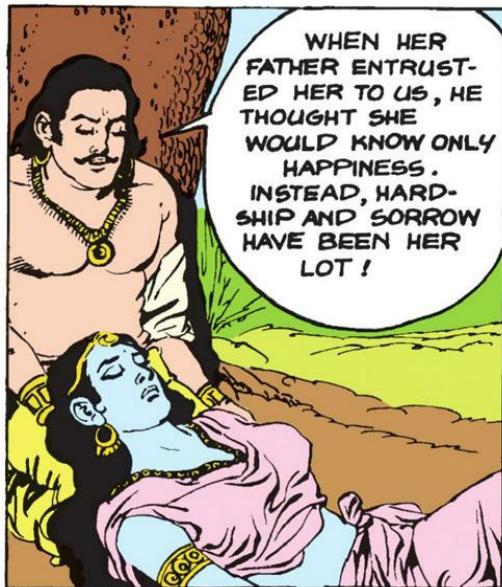
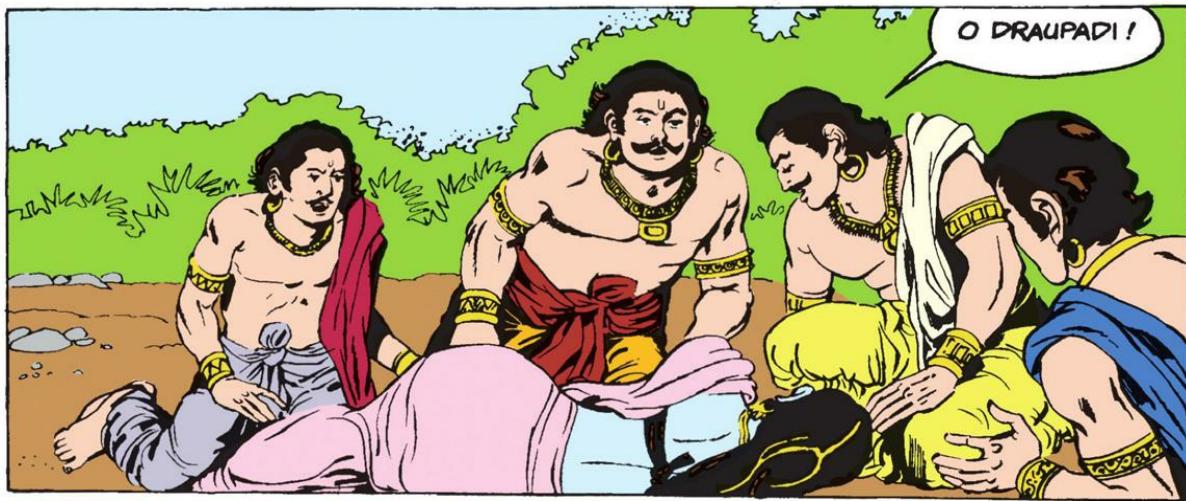


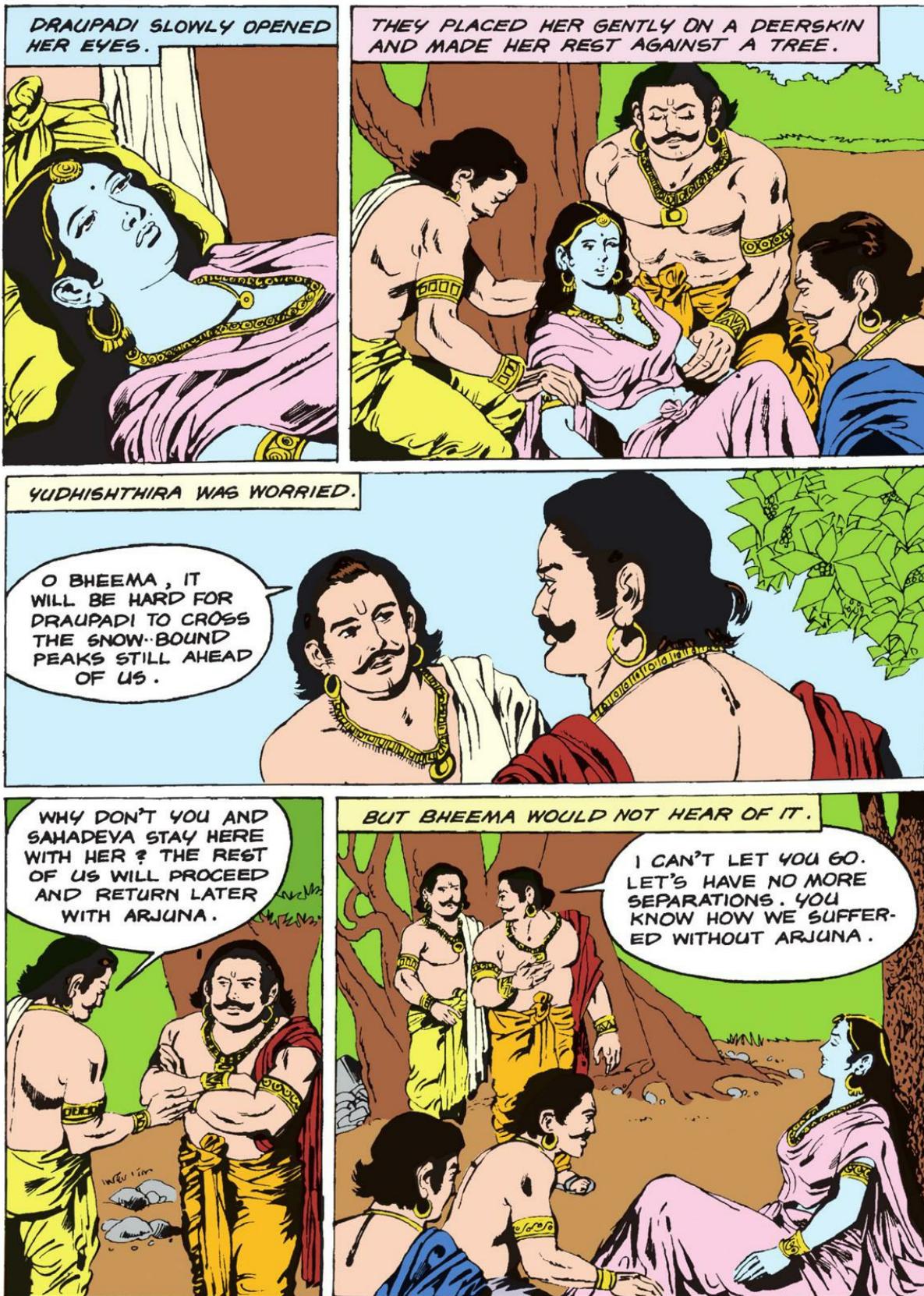
BUT A FEW MOMENTS AFTER THEY HAD STARTED—



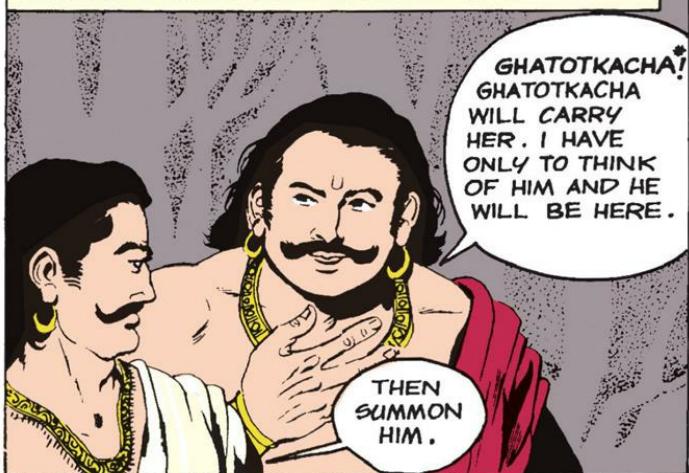
NAKULA, WHO WAS BEHIND HER, RAN FORWARD.







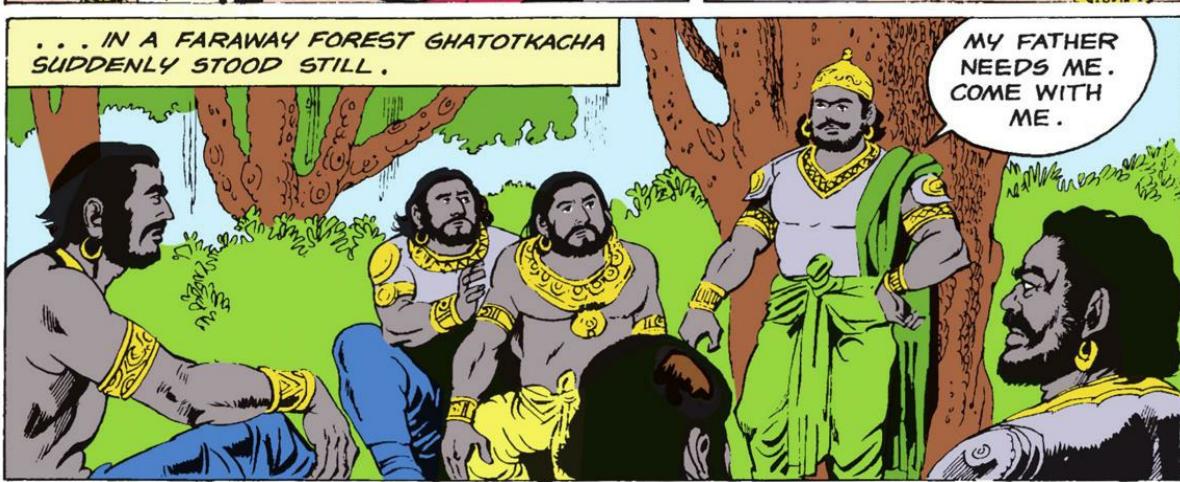
AS YUDHISHTHIRA WONDERED WHAT TO DO,
BHEEMA'S FACE SUDDENLY LIT UP.



BHEEMA CLOSED HIS EYES, HIS THOUGHTS FIXED ON GHATOTKACHA AND ...



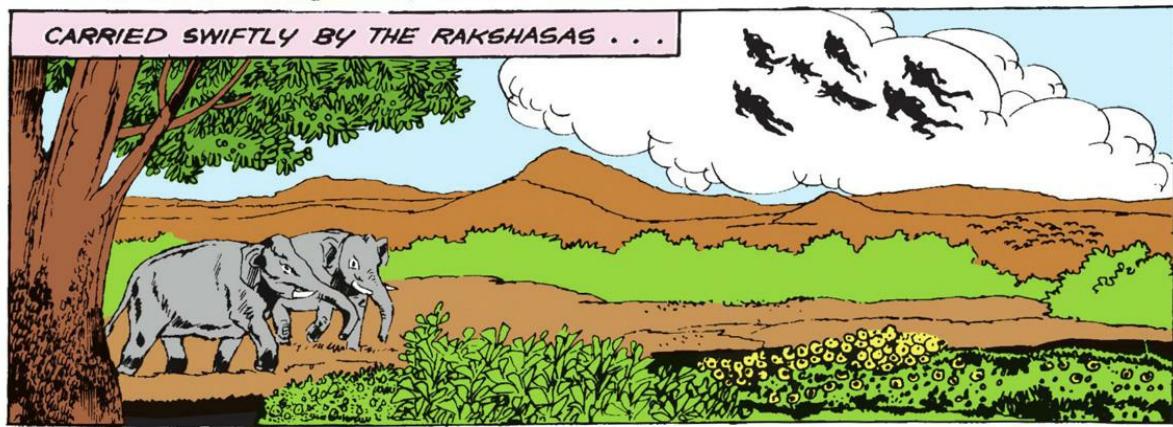
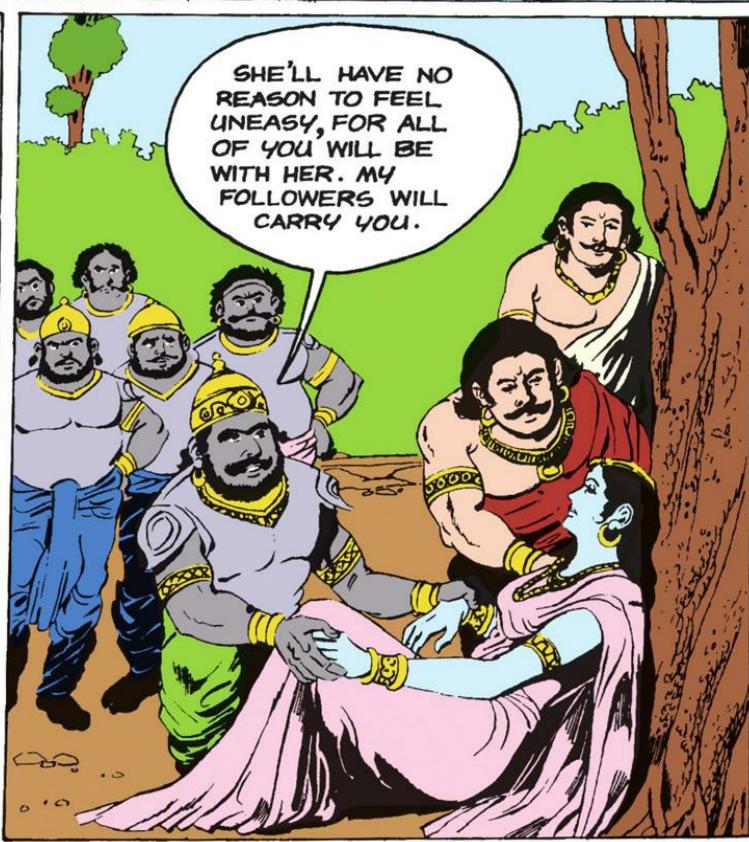
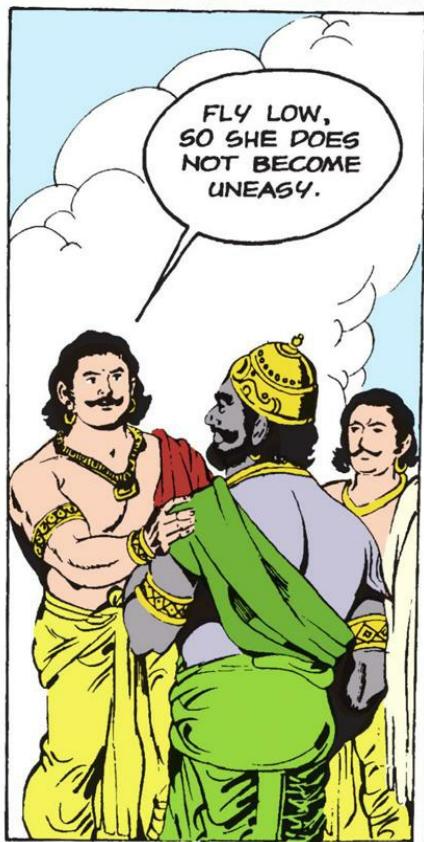
... IN A FARAWAY FOREST GHATOTKACHA SUDDENLY STOOD STILL.



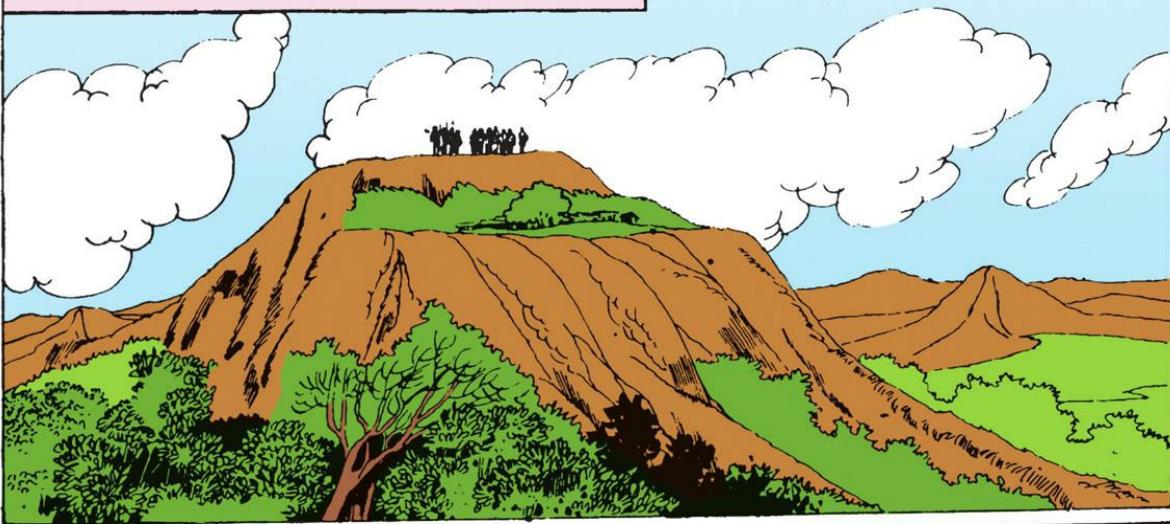
THE NEXT MOMENT —



* SON OF BHEEMA AND HIDIMBA, A DEMONESS

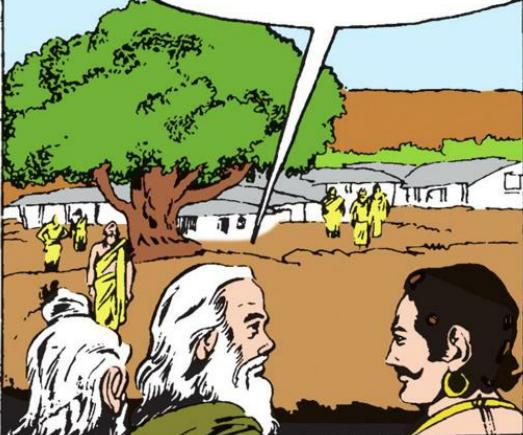


...THEY ALIGHTED ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN.



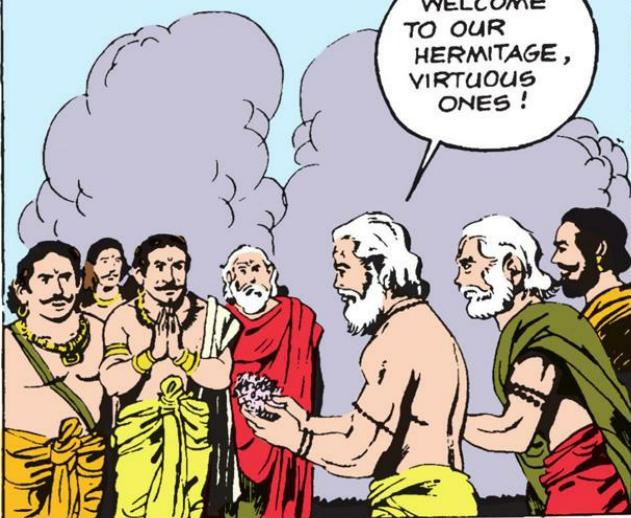
AS THEY WALKED FARTHER—

THIS IS THE HOLY PLACE WHERE ONCE THE CELESTIAL SAGES , NARA AND NARAYANA, PERFORMED SEVERE PENANCE.



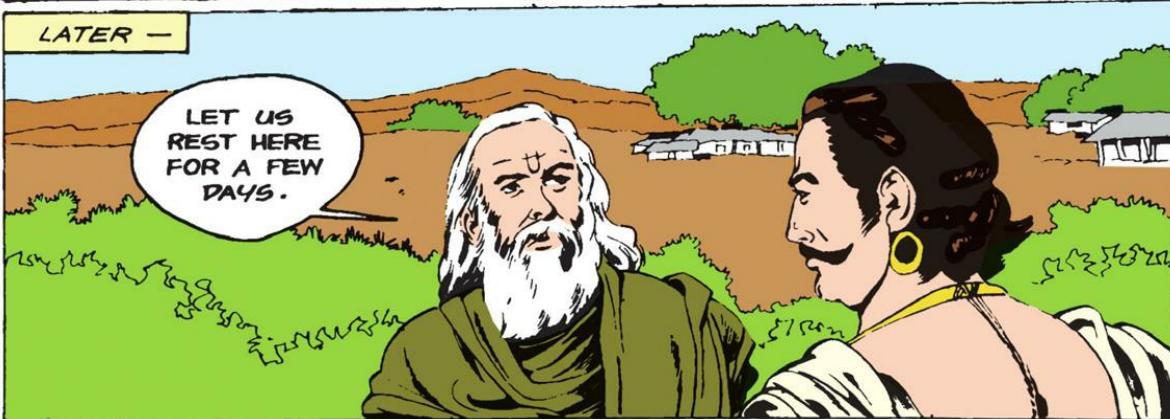
THE INHABITANTS OF THE PLACE RECEIVED THE PANDAVAS WITH HONOUR.

WELCOME TO OUR HERMITAGE , VIRTUOUS ONES !

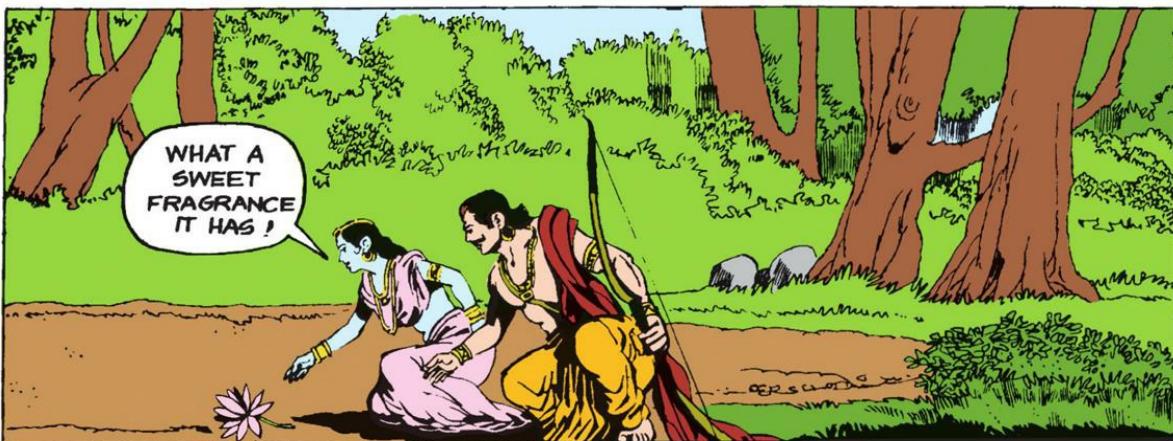


LATER —

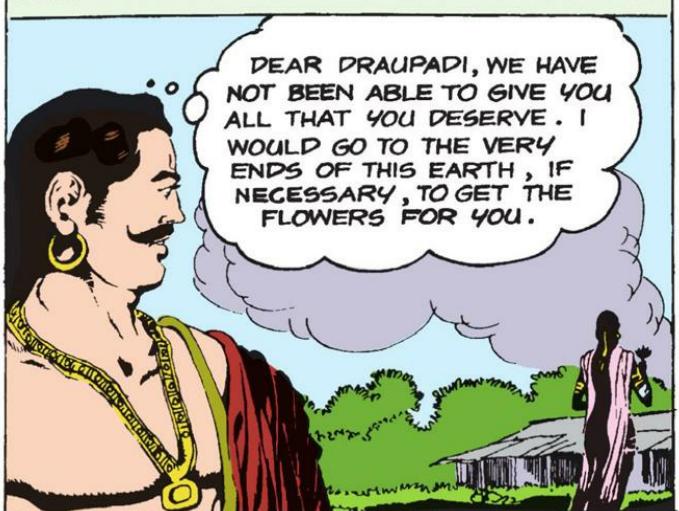
LET US REST HERE FOR A FEW DAYS.



SOME DAYS LATER, BHEEMA AND DRAUPADI WERE WALKING IN THE CHARMING WOODS OF THE HERMITAGE WHEN—



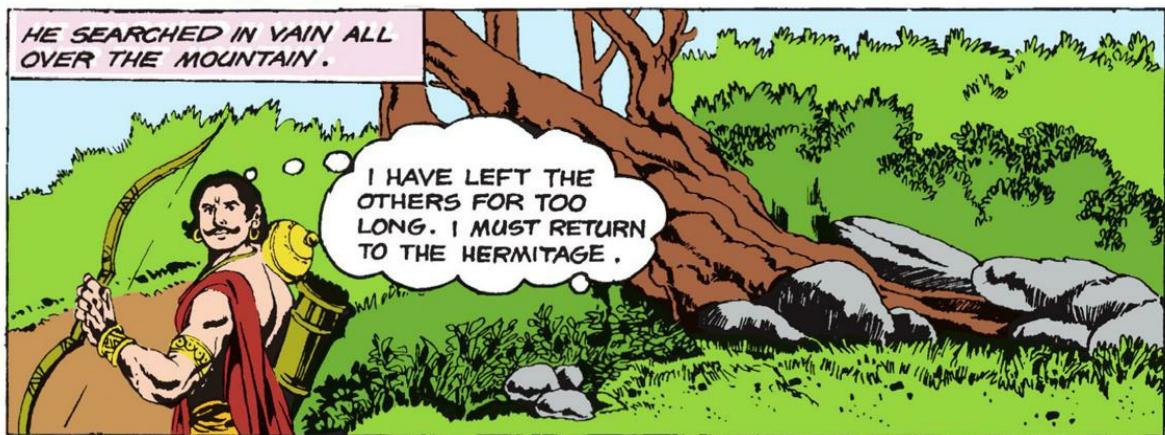
THEN DRAUPADI RETURNED TO THE HERMITAGE



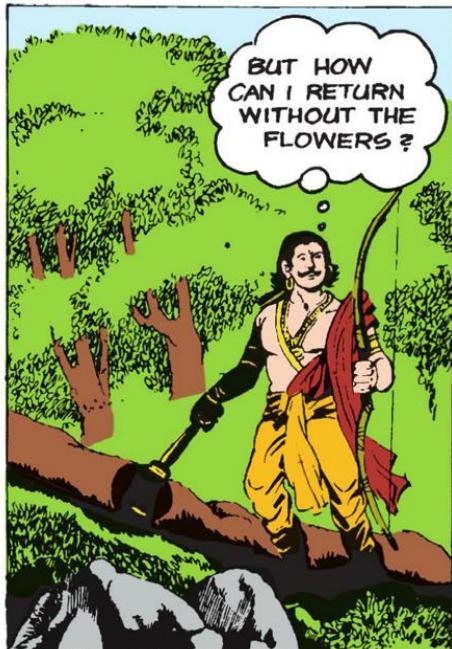
BHEEMA WENT IN THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE FLOWER HAD BLOWN TOWARDS THEM.



HE SEARCHED IN VAIN ALL OVER THE MOUNTAIN.



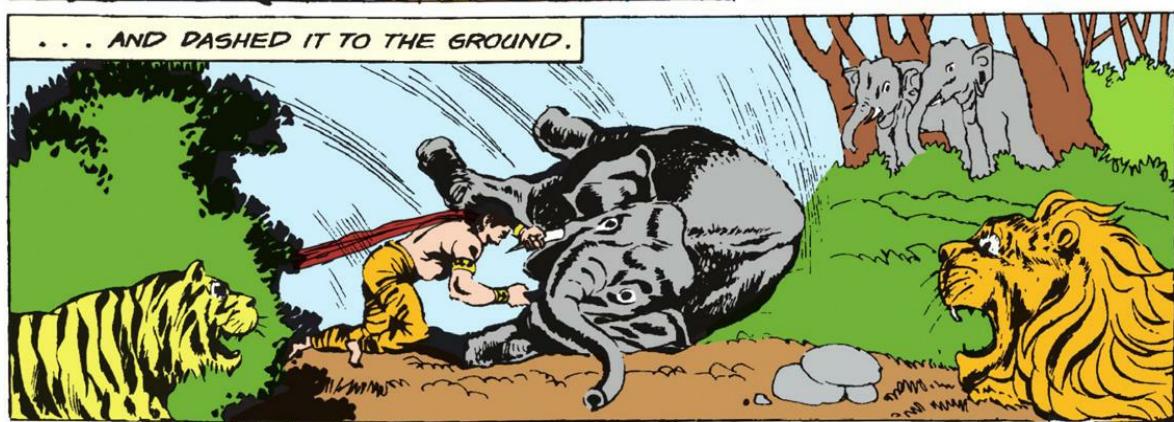
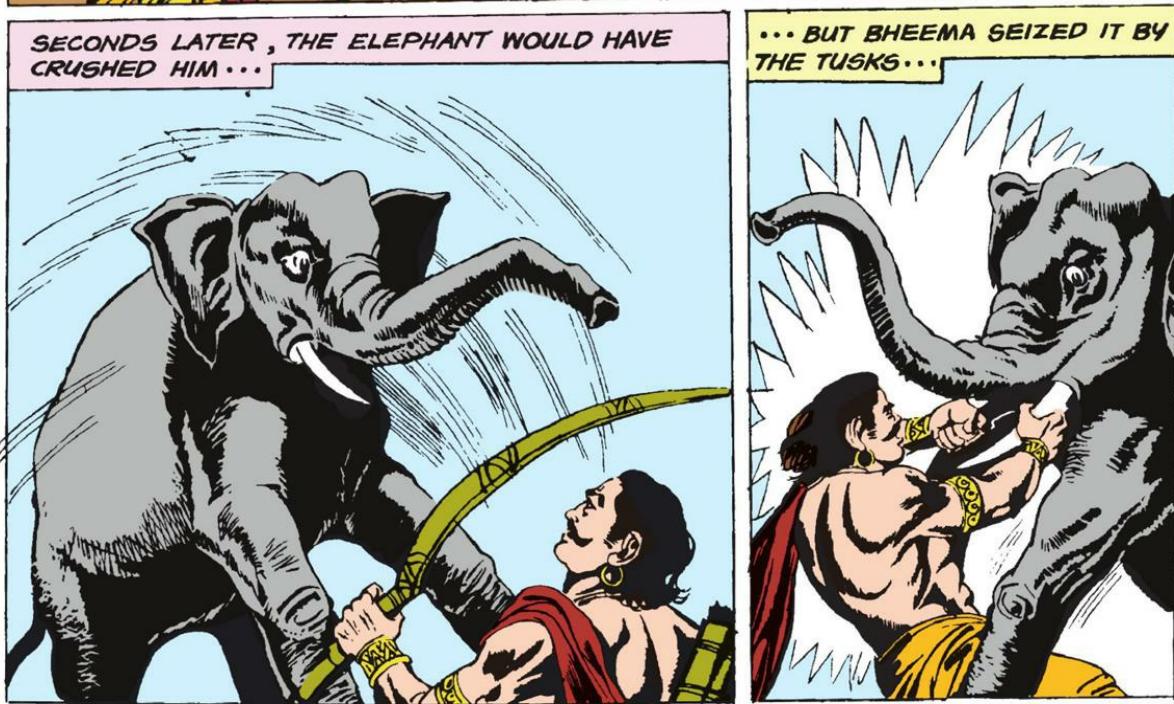
BUT HOW CAN I RETURN WITHOUT THE FLOWERS ?

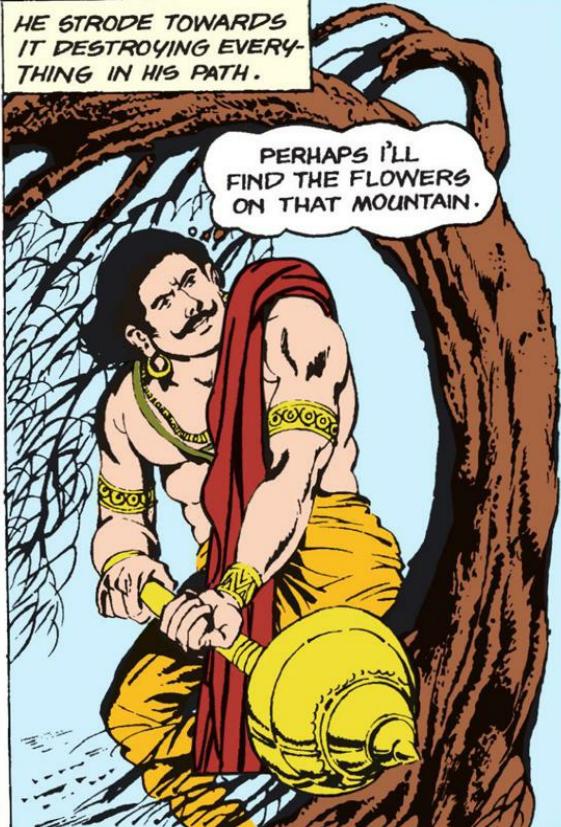
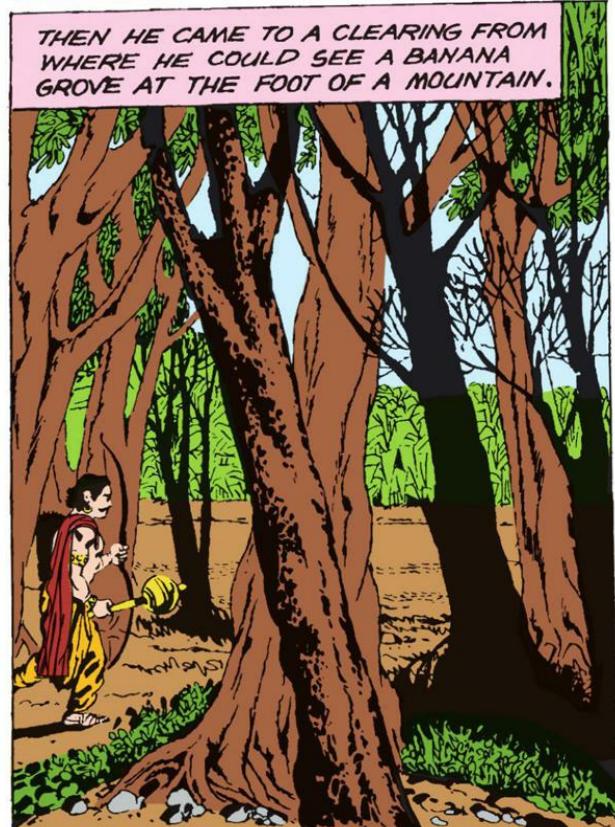
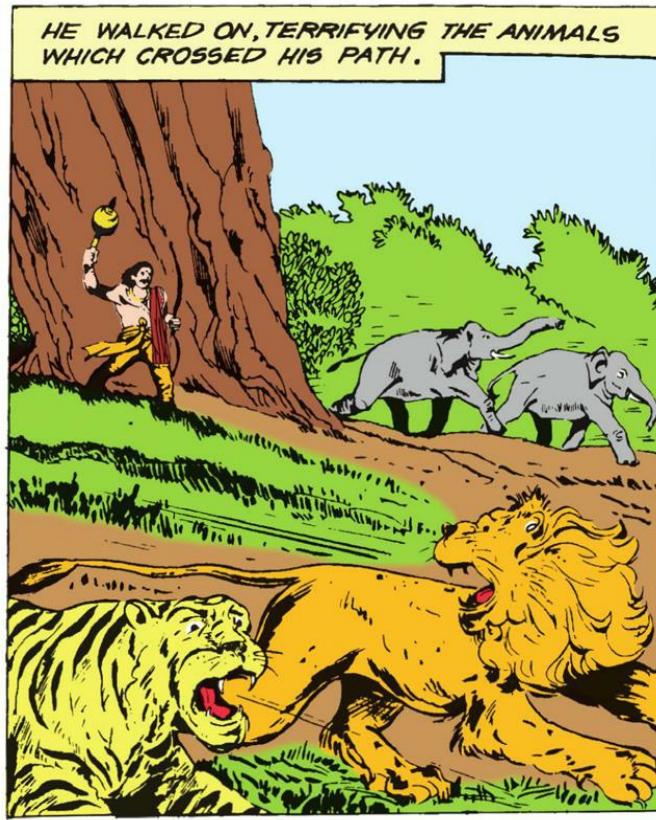
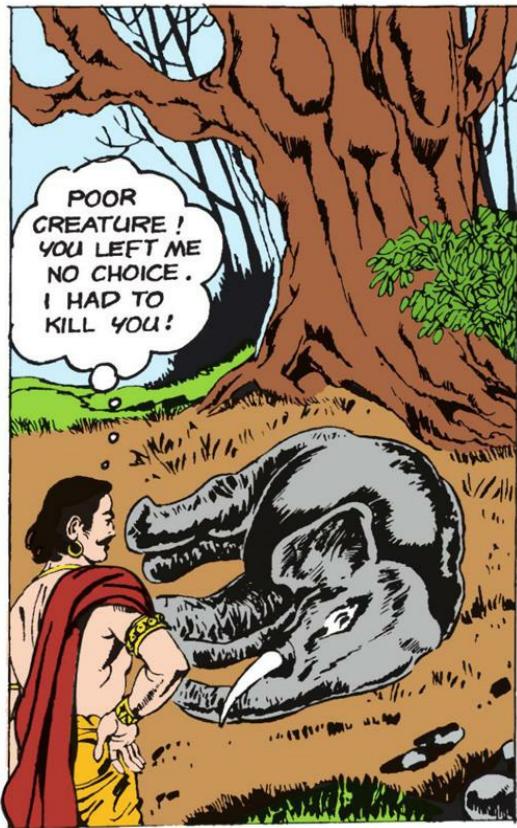


I WILL TRY FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

HE WENT DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE FOREST.

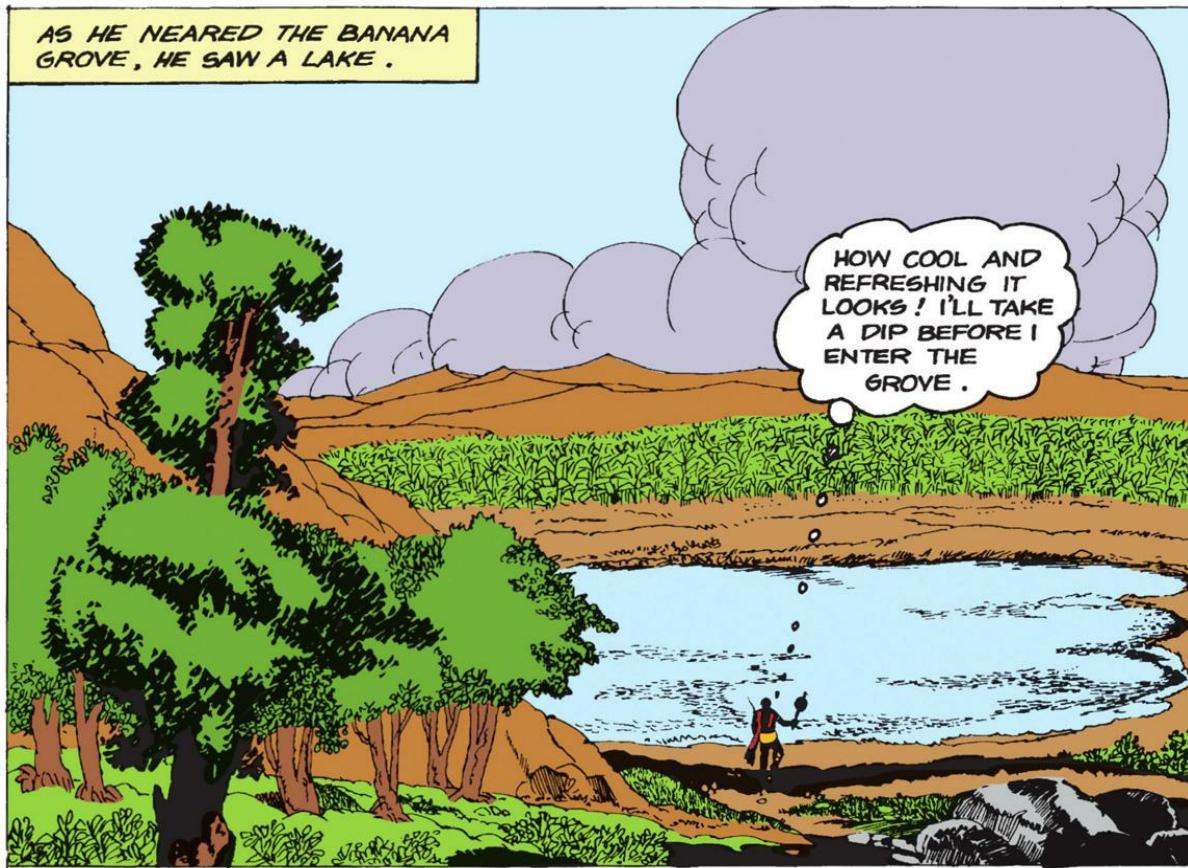






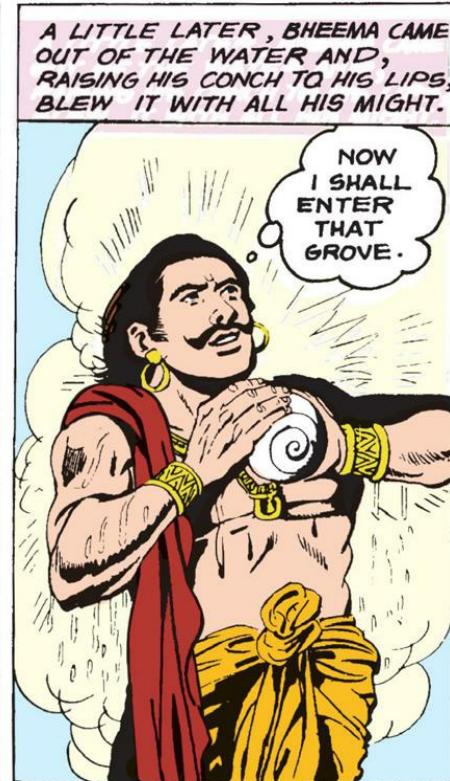
AS HE NEARED THE BANANA GROVE, HE SAW A LAKE.

HOW COOL AND
REFRESHING IT
LOOKS ! I'LL TAKE
A DIP BEFORE I
ENTER THE
GROVE .



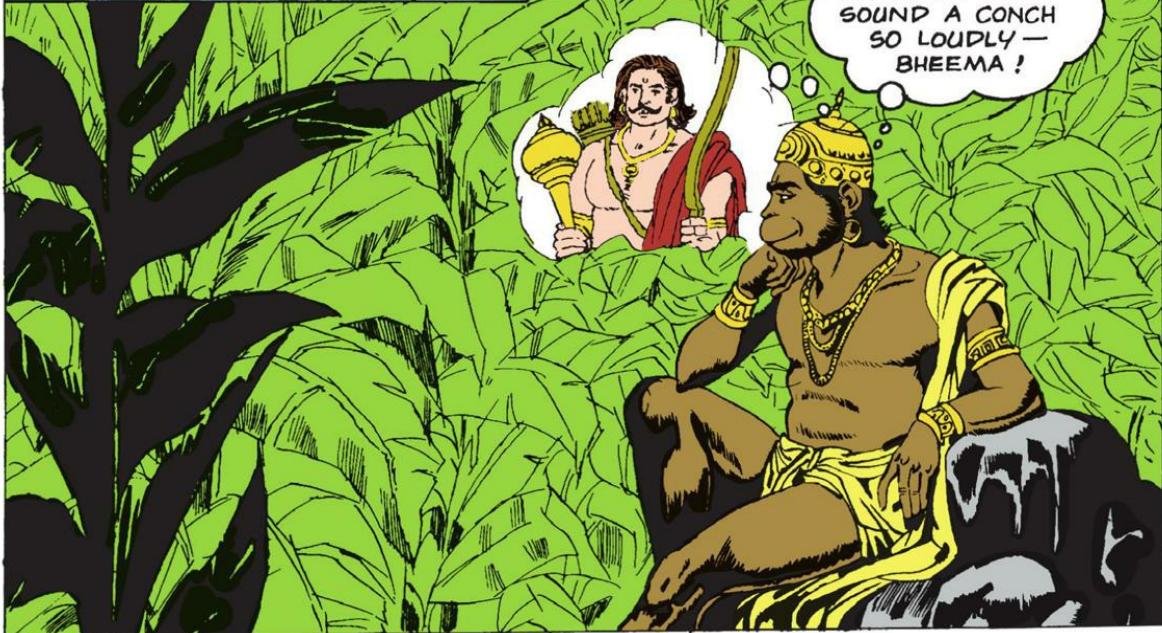
A LITTLE LATER , BHEEMA CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND , RAISING HIS CONCH TO HIS LIPS , BLEW IT WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.

NOW
I SHALL
ENTER
THAT
GROVE .



UNKNOWN TO BHEEMA, THE GROVE
WAS THE HOME OF HANUMAN.

ONLY ONE BEING
ON EARTH CAN
SOUND A CONCH
SO LOUDLY —
BHEEMA !

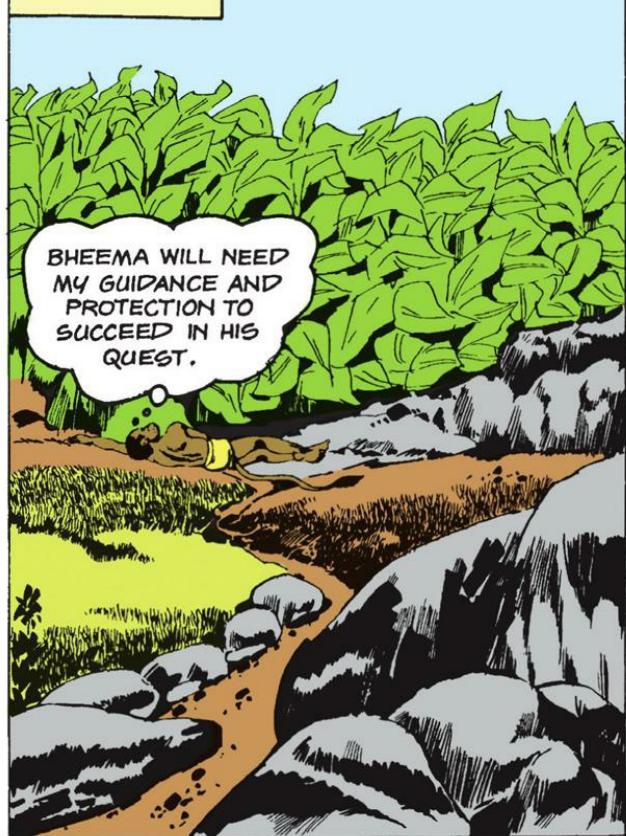
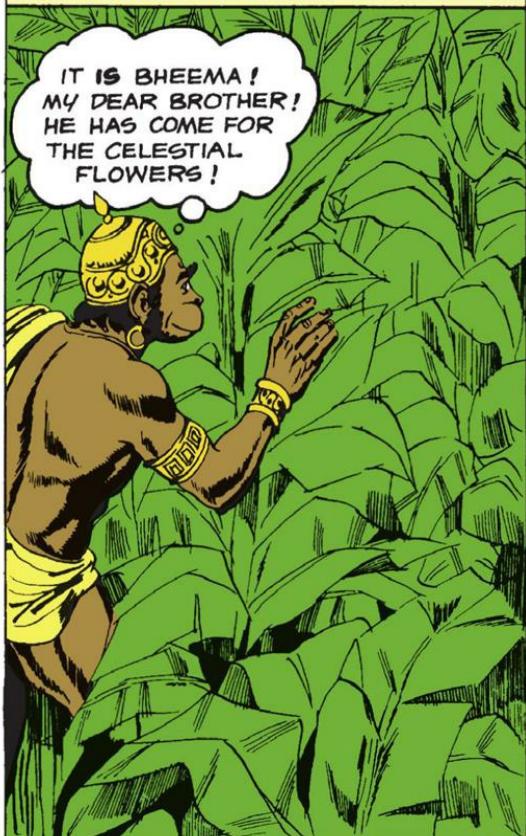


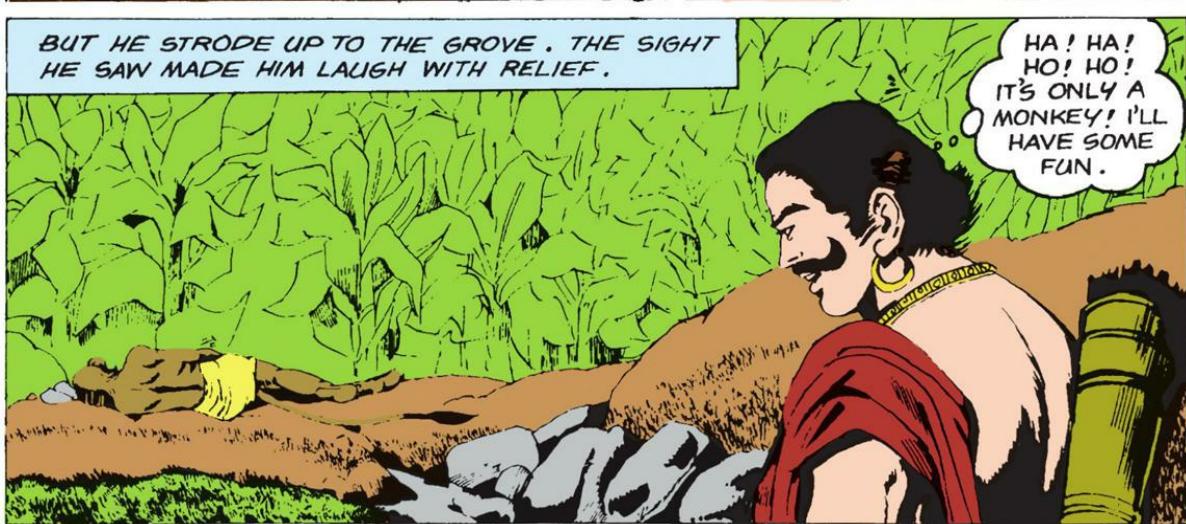
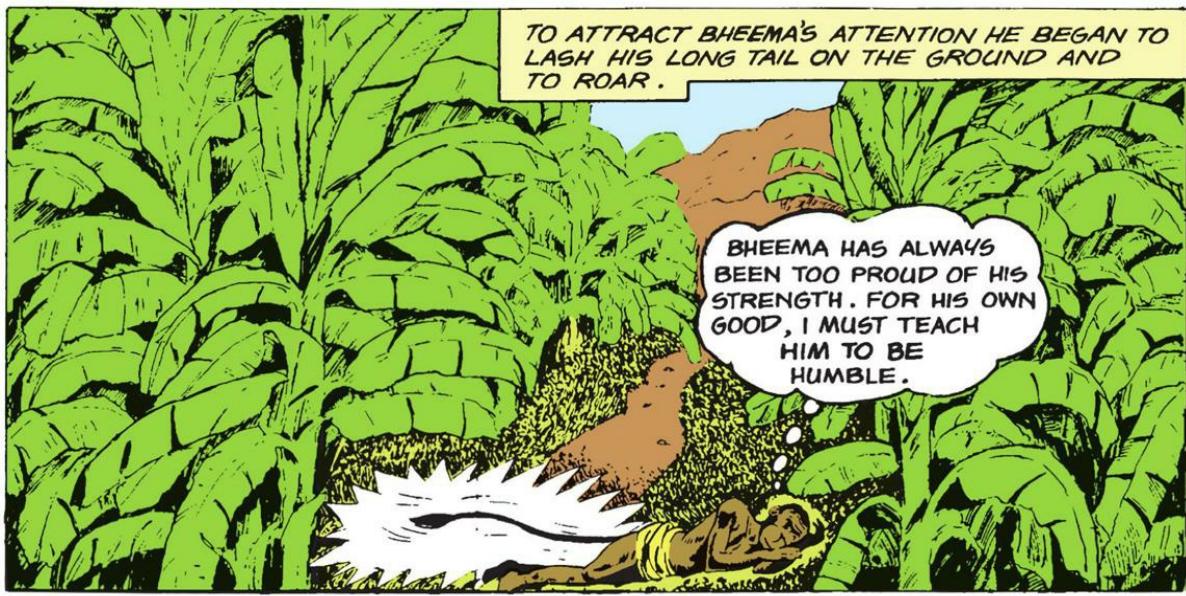
FROM THE GROVE HANUMAN SPIED
BHEEMA AND BY HIS SPIRITUAL
POWERS DIVINED HIS PURPOSE.

HANUMAN STRETCHED HIMSELF ACROSS
THE NARROW PATH AT THE GROVE'S
ENTRANCE.

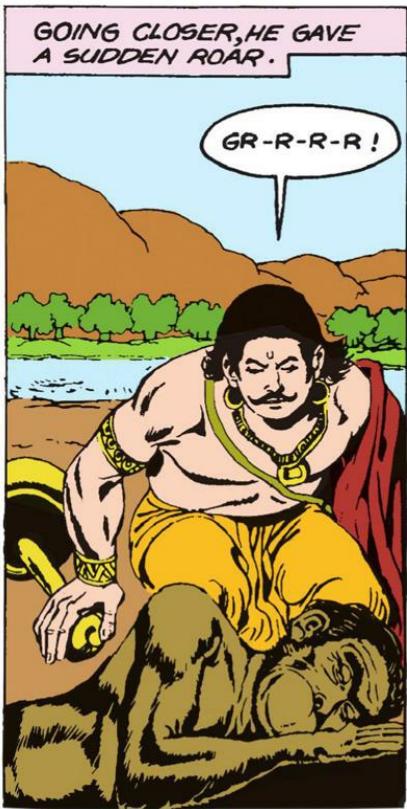
IT IS BHEEMA !
MY DEAR BROTHER !
HE HAS COME FOR
THE CELESTIAL
FLOWERS !

BHEEMA WILL NEED
MY GUIDANCE AND
PROTECTION TO
SUCCEED IN HIS
QUEST.





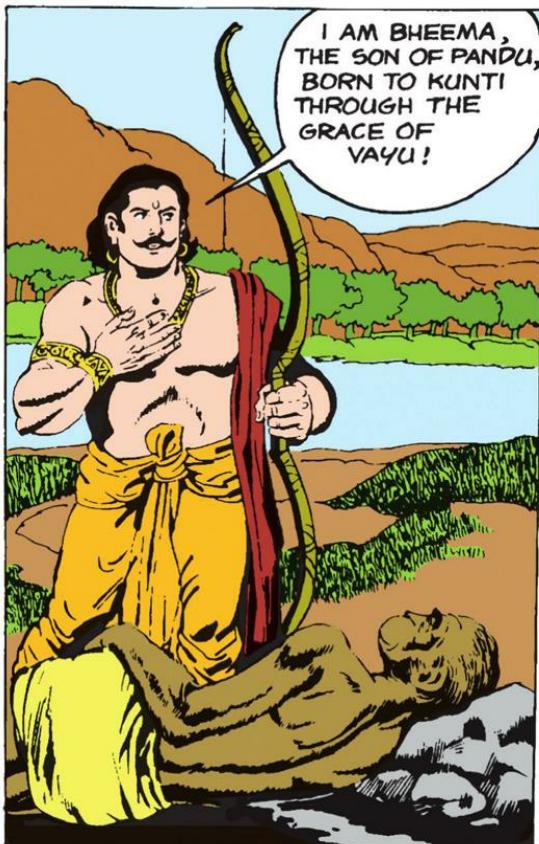
GOING CLOSER, HE GAVE A SUDDEN ROAR.



HANUMAN SIMPLY TURNED AND LOOKED LAZILY AT BHEEMA.

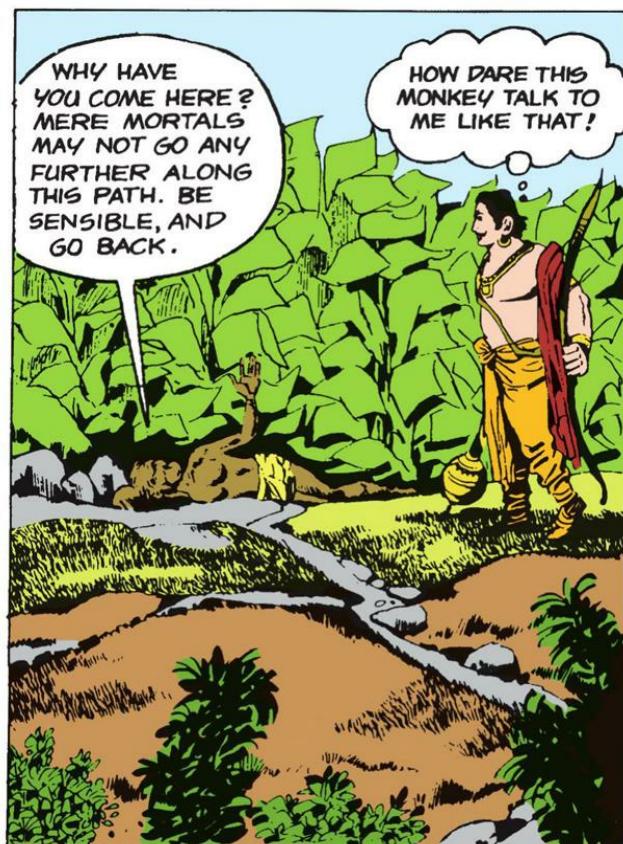


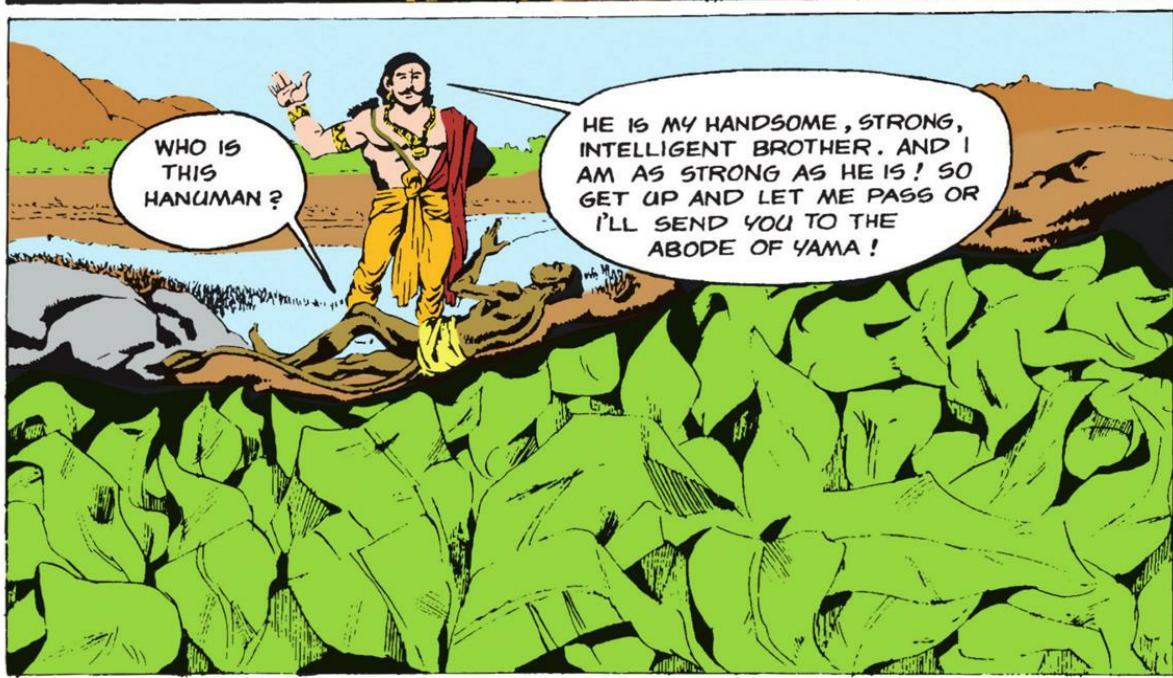
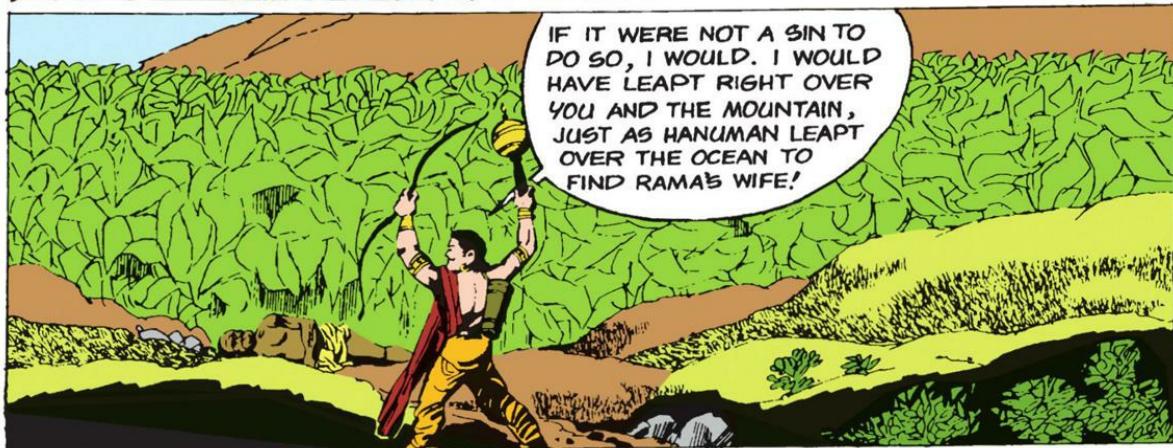
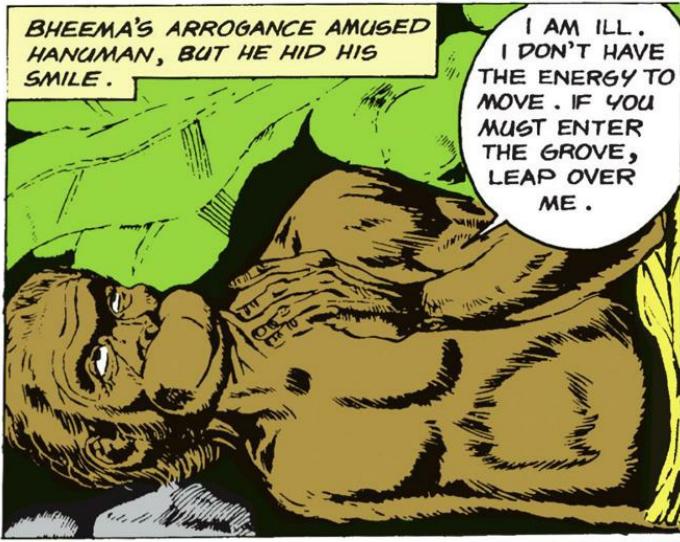
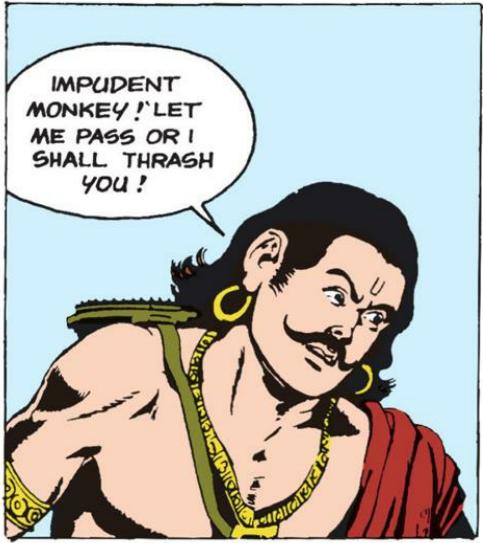
I AM BHEEMA,
THE SON OF PANDU,
BORN TO KUNTI
THROUGH THE
GRACE OF
VAYU!

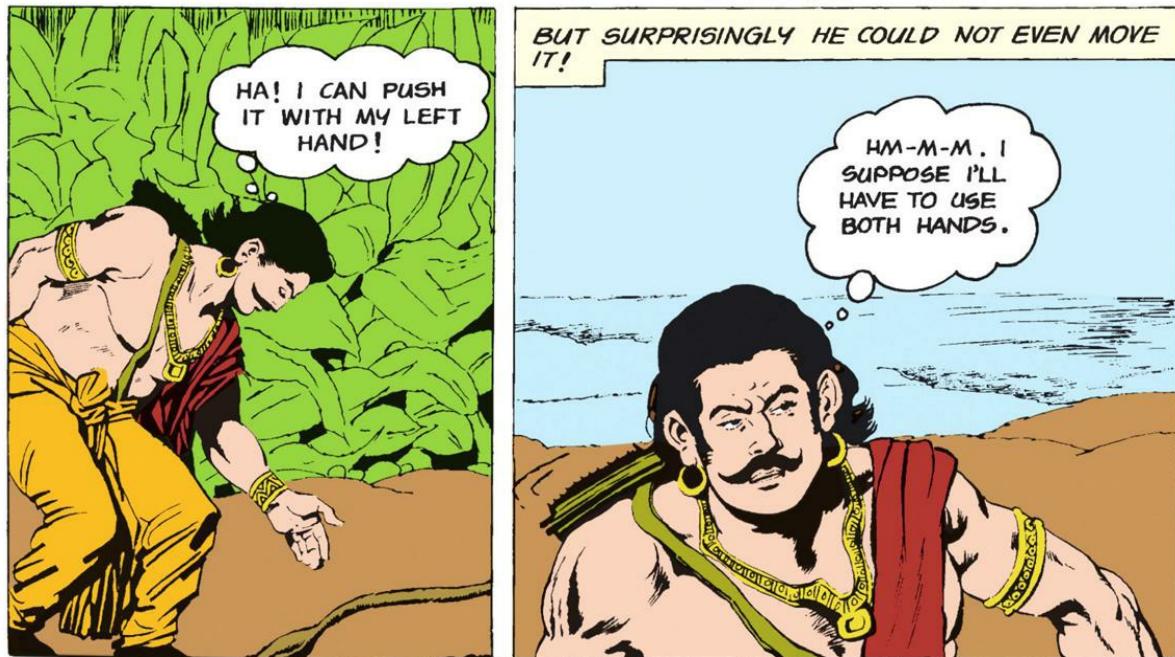
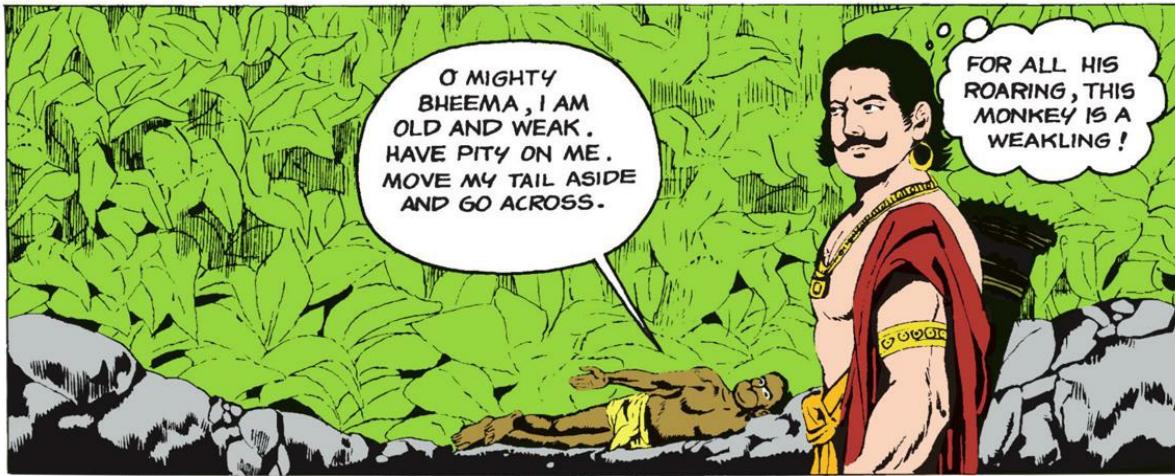


WHY HAVE
YOU COME HERE?
MERE MORTALS
MAY NOT GO ANY
FURTHER ALONG
THIS PATH. BE
SENSIBLE, AND
GO BACK.

HOW DARE THIS
MONKEY TALK TO
ME LIKE THAT!







USING ALL HIS STRENGTH, HE TRIED AGAIN.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME ? I, BHEEMA, AM UNABLE TO MOVE ASIDE THE TAIL OF A MERE MONKEY !

BUT IS IT A MERE MONKEY ? NO, IT ISN'T ! THEN WHO COULD IT BE ?

I AM YOUR BROTHER, HANUMAN ! BEYOND THIS PATH LIES HEAVEN

BHEEMA FELL PROSTRATE BEFORE HANUMAN.

MY BROTHER! HANUMAN! I HAVE SEEN YOU! NO ONE IS MORE FORTUNATE THAN I AM. SHOW ME THE FORM IN WHICH YOU CROSSED THE OCEAN! PLEASE!

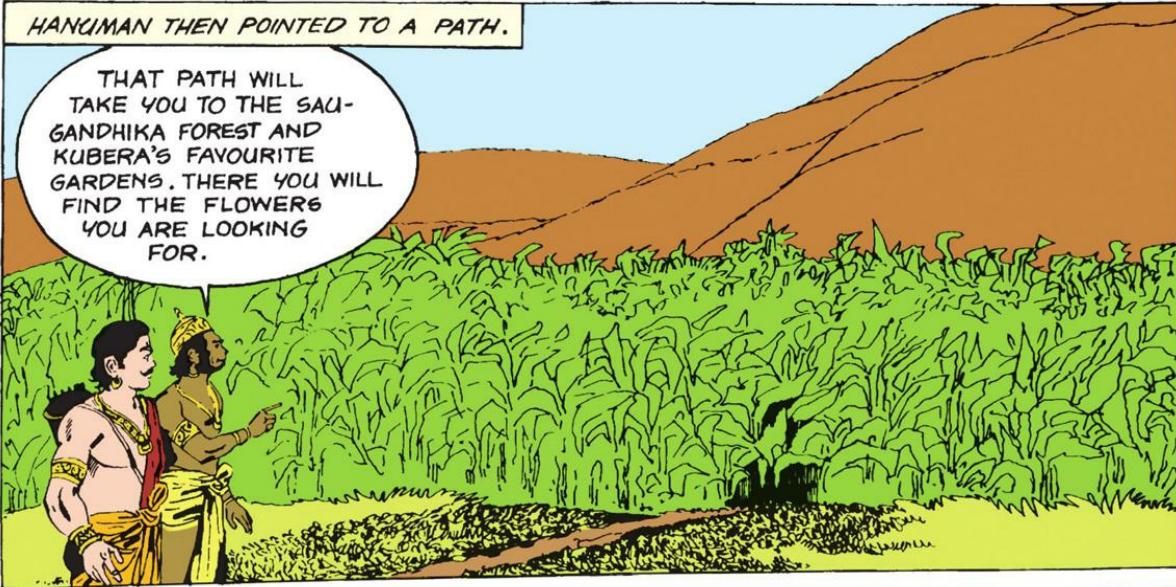
SUDDENLY, HANUMAN'S BODY GREW BIGGER AND BIGGER . . .

. . . TILL IT ROSE HIGHER THAN THE GANDHAMADANA MOUNTAIN.



HANUMAN THEN POINTED TO A PATH.

THAT PATH WILL
TAKE YOU TO THE SAU-
GANDHIKA FOREST AND
KUBERA'S FAVOURITE
GARDENS. THERE YOU WILL
FIND THE FLOWERS
YOU ARE LOOKING
FOR.



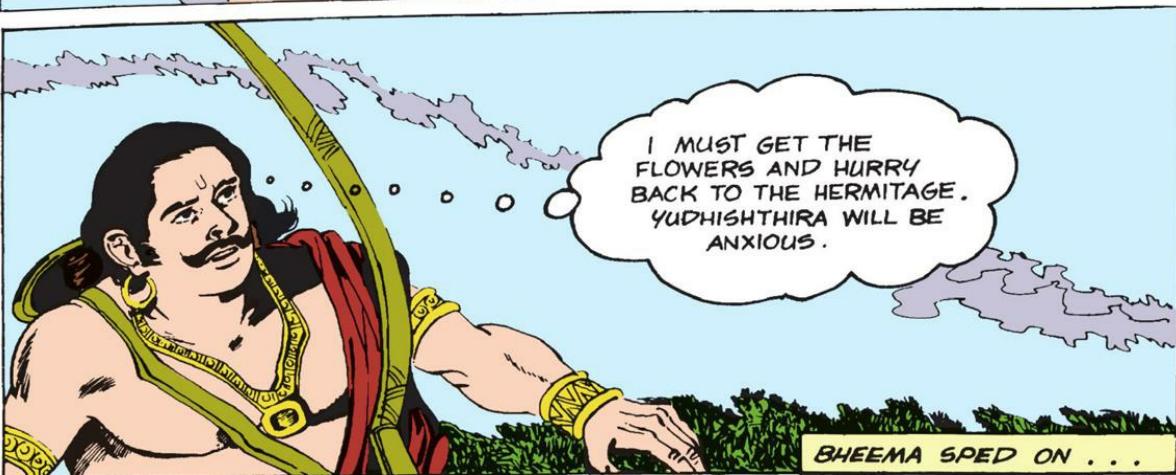
AT THE MOMENT OF PARTING, THE TIDE
OF EMOTION THAT HE HAD STEMMED FOR
SO LONG BROKE LOOSE. TEARS FLOWED
DOWN HANUMAN'S FACE.

O, BHEEMA, MY
EYES ARE BLESSED
BY SEEING YOU. WHEN
YOU GO BACK, YOU
MAY SPEAK OF ME, BUT
DON'T TELL ANYONE
THAT I LIVE HERE.

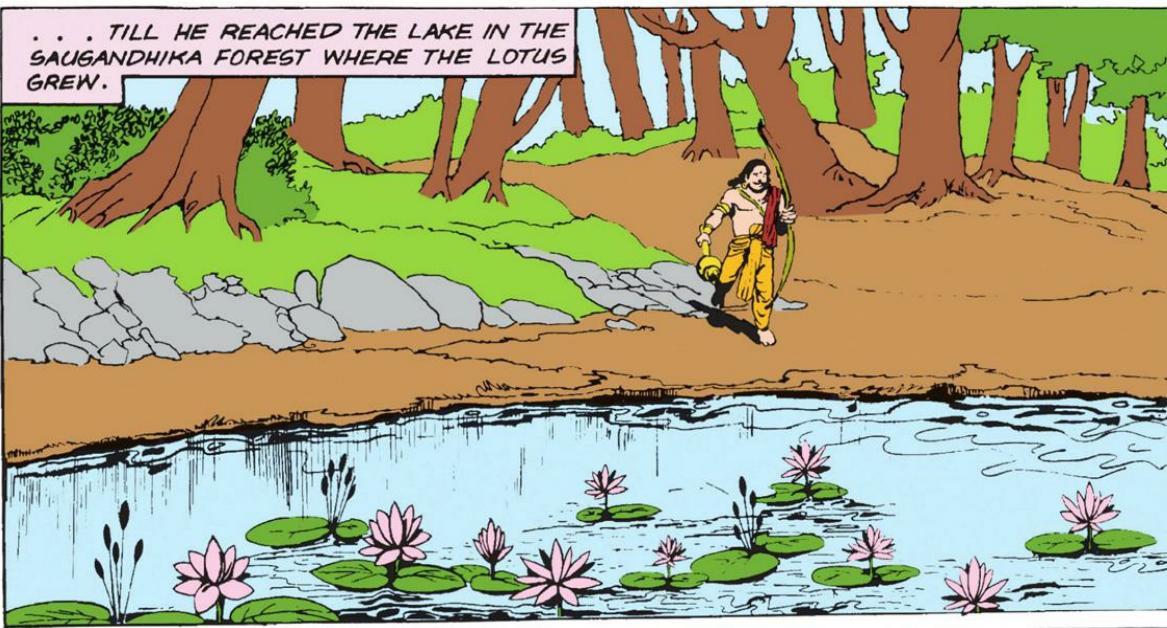
AND HANUMAN VANISHED.

I MUST GET THE
FLOWERS AND HURRY
BACK TO THE HERMITAGE.
YUDHISHTHIRA WILL BE
ANXIOUS.

BHEEMA SPED ON . . .

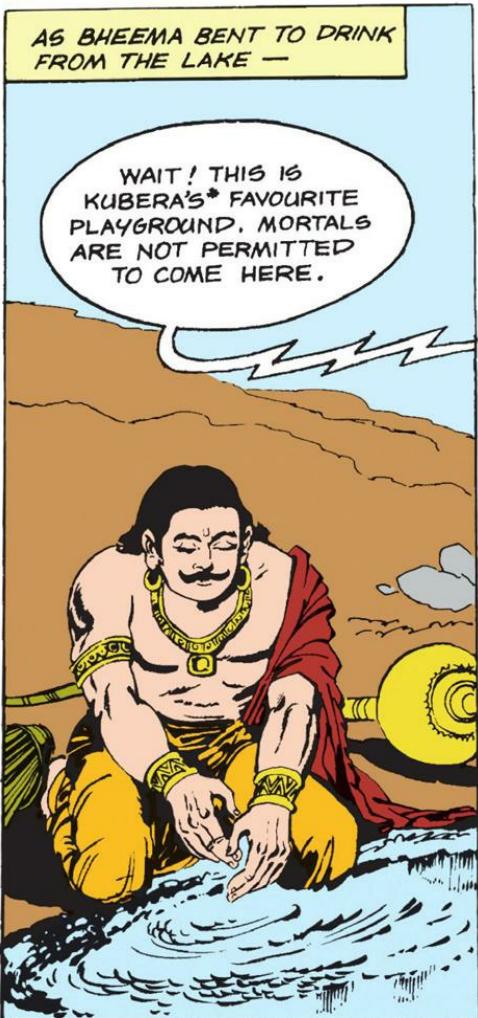


. . . TILL HE REACHED THE LAKE IN THE SAUGANDHIKA FOREST WHERE THE LOTUS GREW.

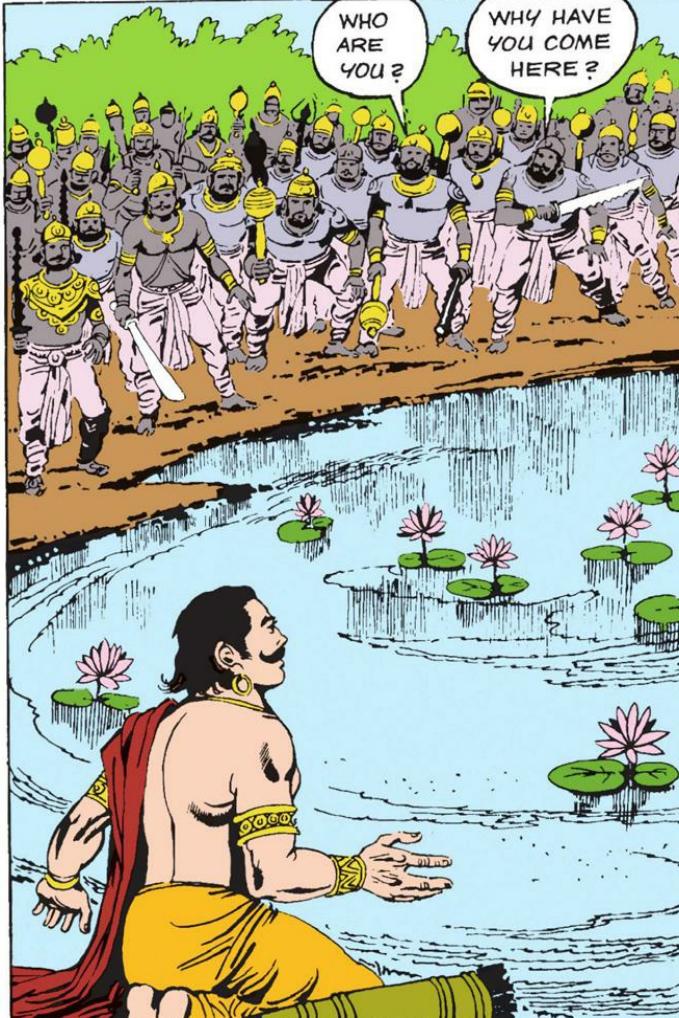


AS BHEEMA BENT TO DRINK FROM THE LAKE —

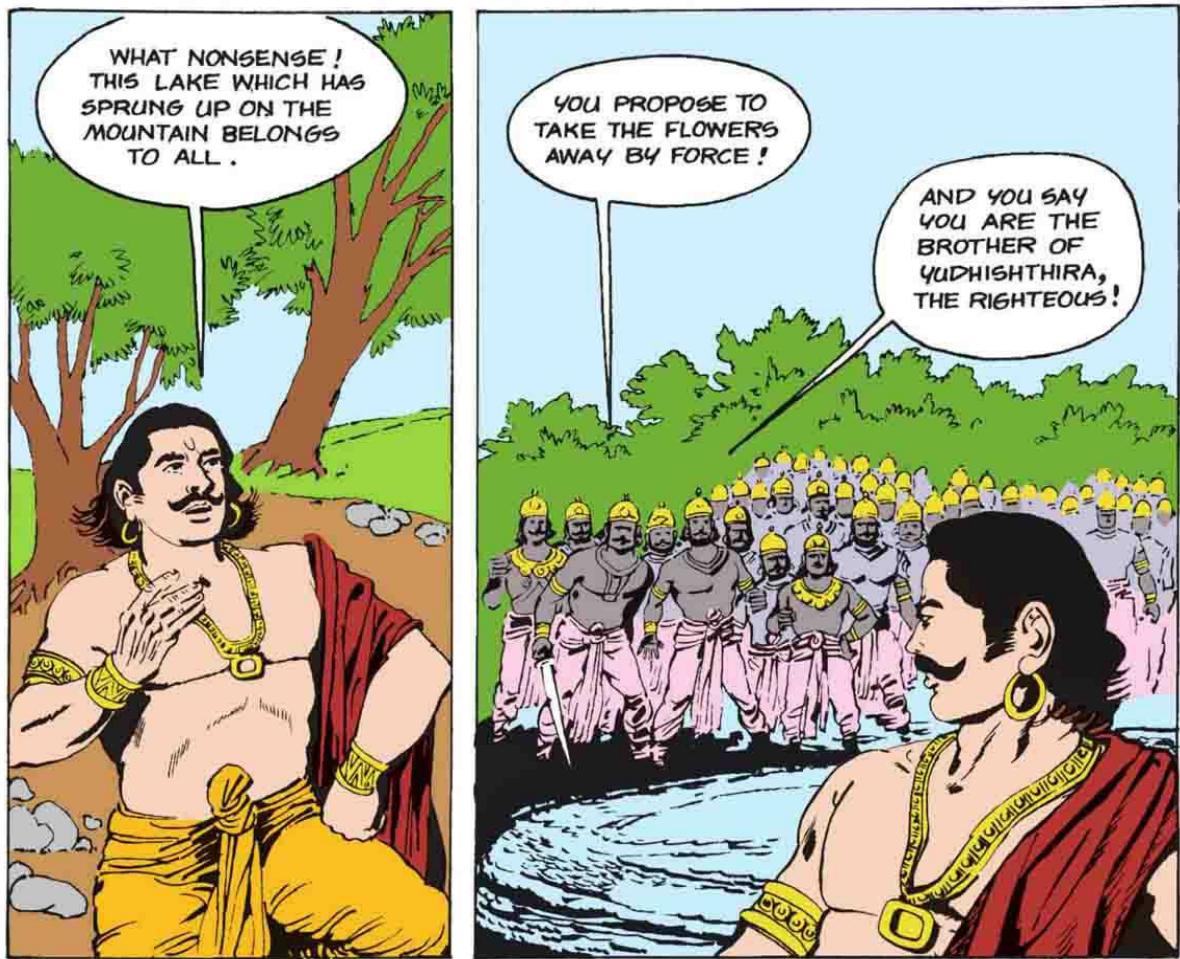
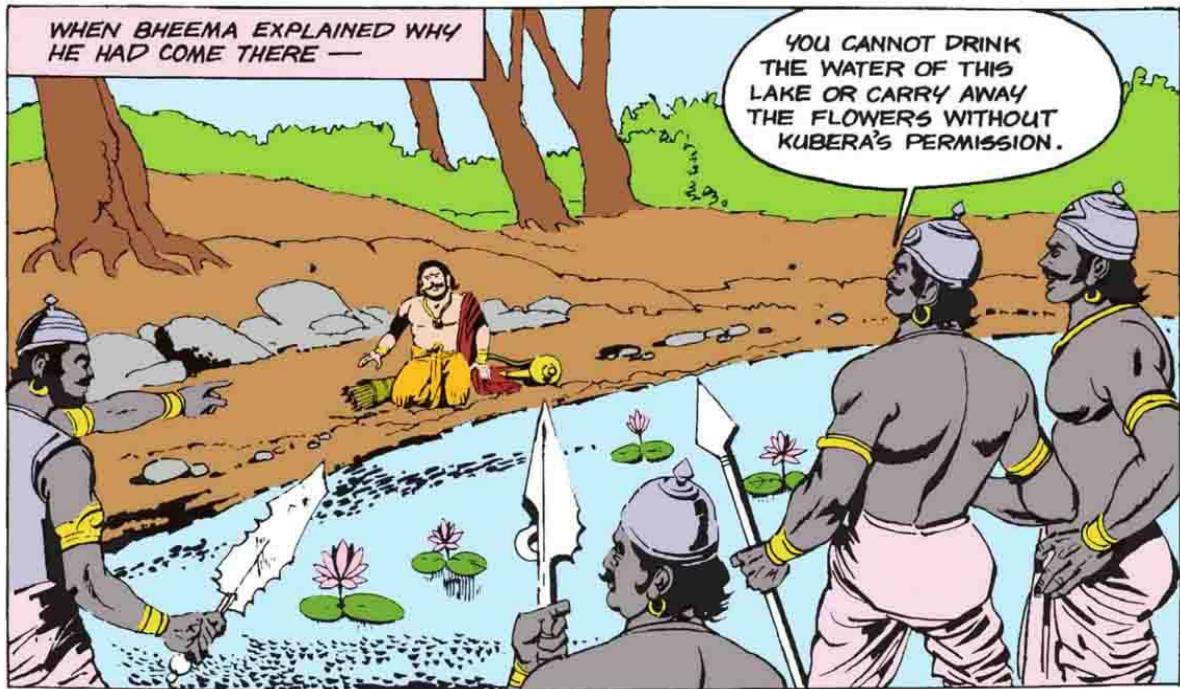
WAIT ! THIS IS
KUBERA'S* FAVOURITE
PLAYGROUND. MORTALS
ARE NOT PERMITTED
TO COME HERE.



WHO ARE YOU ?
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE ?



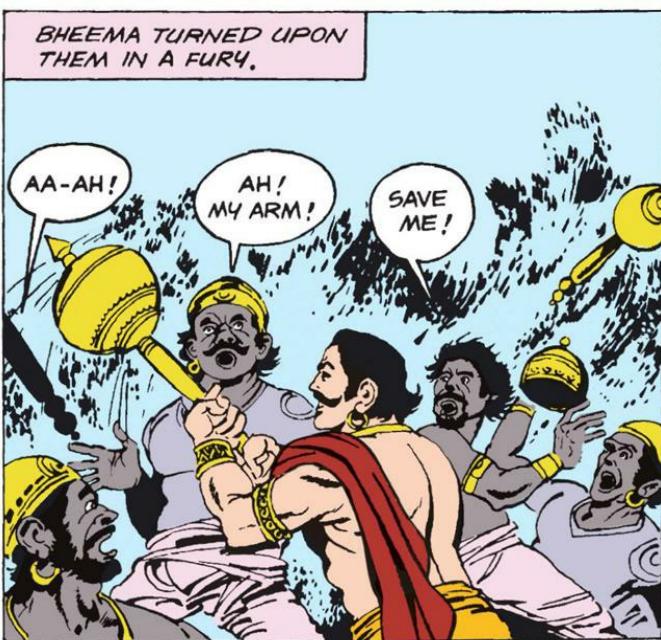
* THE LORD OF THE DEMIGODS



WITHOUT WAITING TO SAY ANY MORE, BHEEMA PLUNGED INTO THE LAKE FOLLOWED BY THE ANGRY RAKSHASAS.



BHEEMA TURNED UPON THEM IN A FURY.

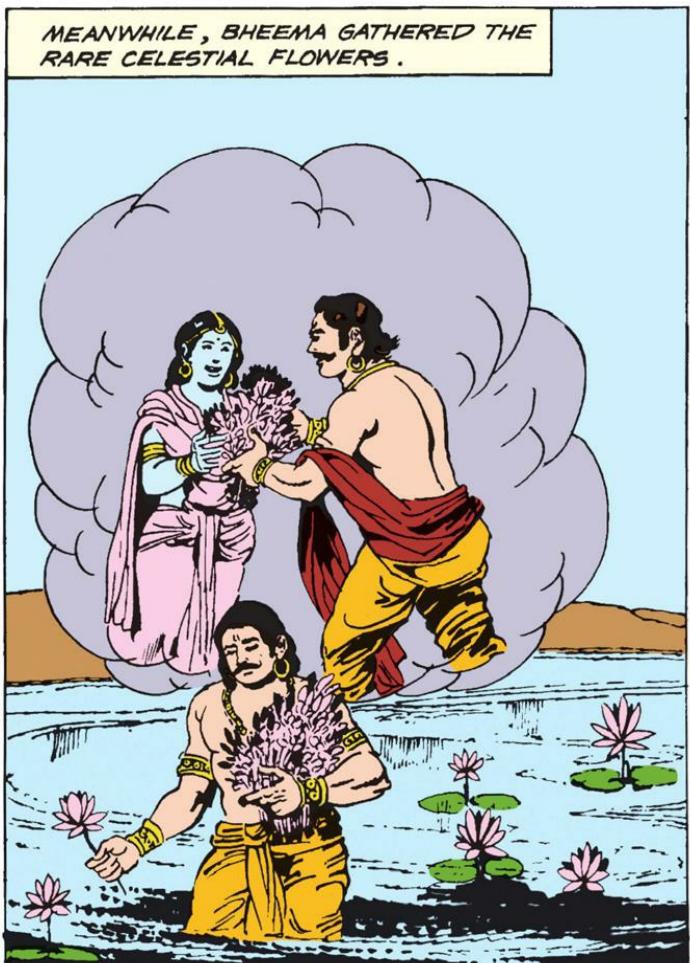
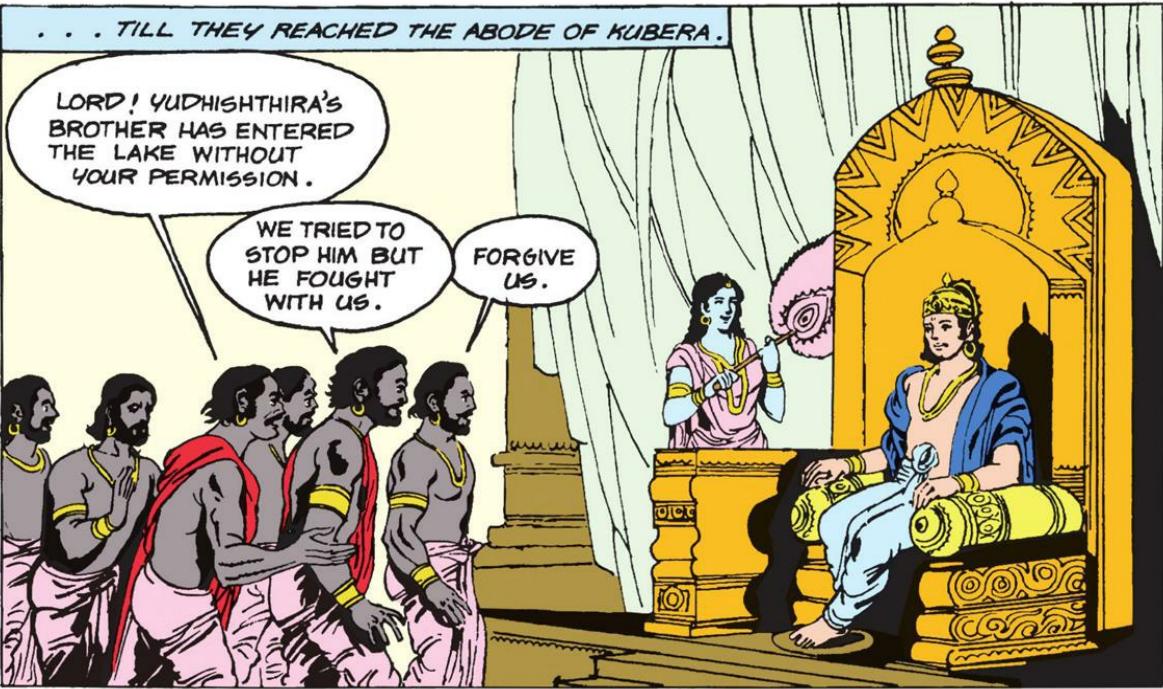


HE KILLED OVER A HUNDRED RAKSHASAS.



THE OTHER RAKSHASAS FLED THROUGH THE SKY . . .





THEN HE BEGAN TO FROLIC IN THE LAKE,
THINKING OF DRAUPADI'S JOY AT RECEIVING
THE FLOWERS.



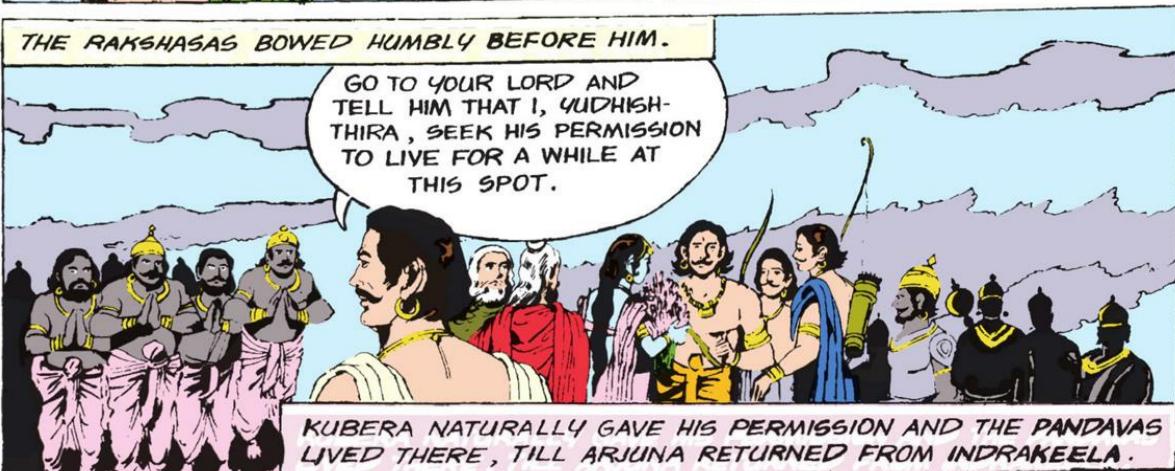
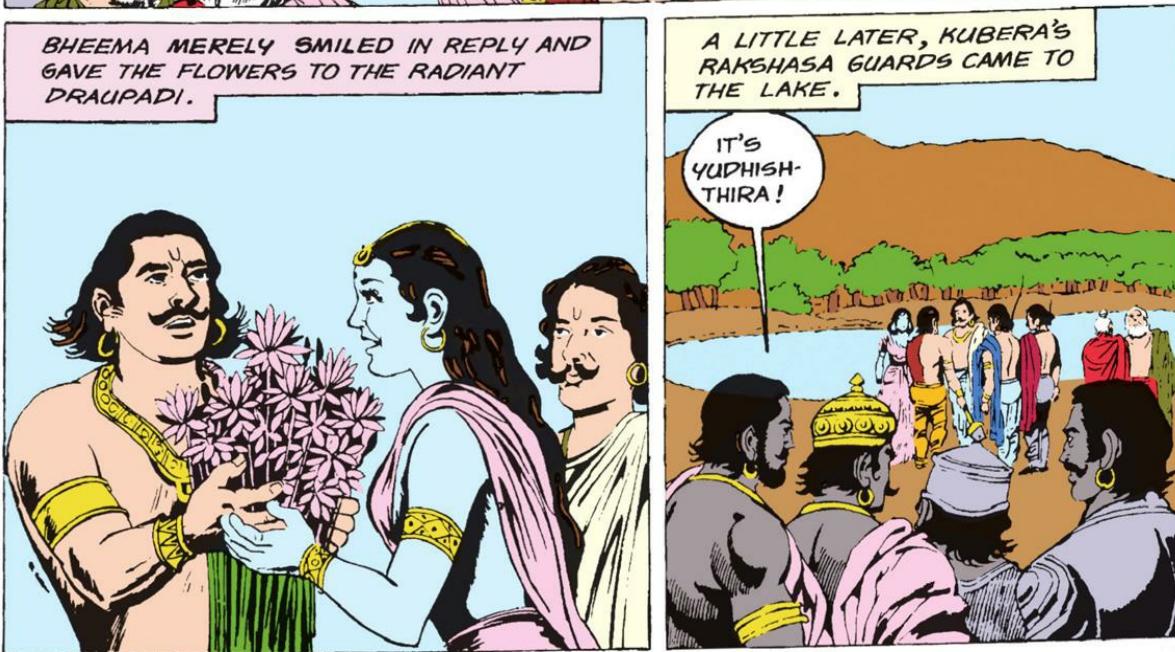
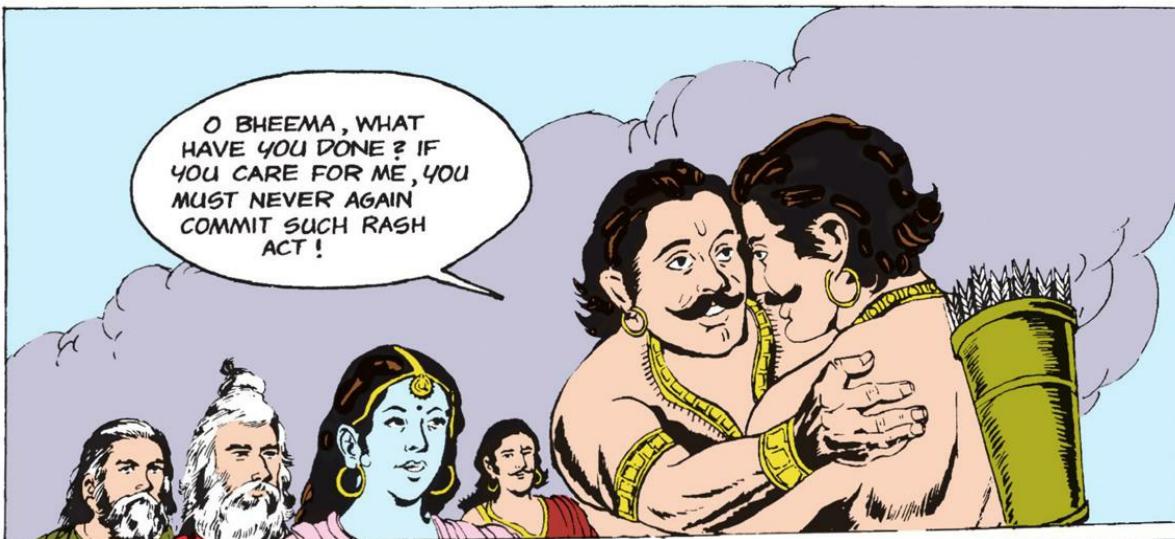
SUCH WAS THE ZEST WITH WHICH HE
MADE SPORT IN THE WATER THAT A
VIOLENT STORM AROSE, WHICH
WHIRLED WATER AND STONES AROUND.



FIERY METEORS BEGAN
TO FALL. DREADFUL
SOUNDS OF EXPLOSIONS
RANG THROUGH THE
SKY. THE EARTH BEGAN
TO TREMBLE AND DUST
FELL IN SHOWERS.
BIRDS AND BEASTS
CRIED IN SHRILL VOICES.







WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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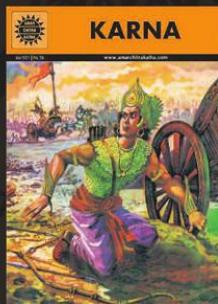
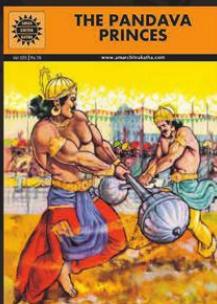
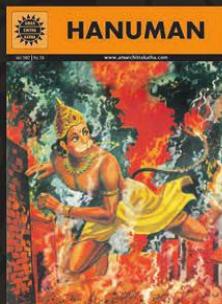
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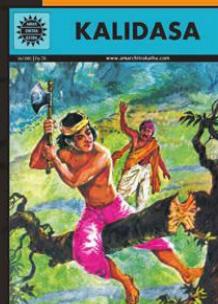
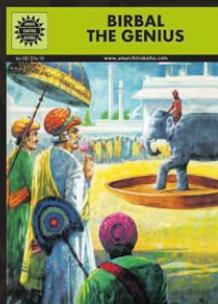
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