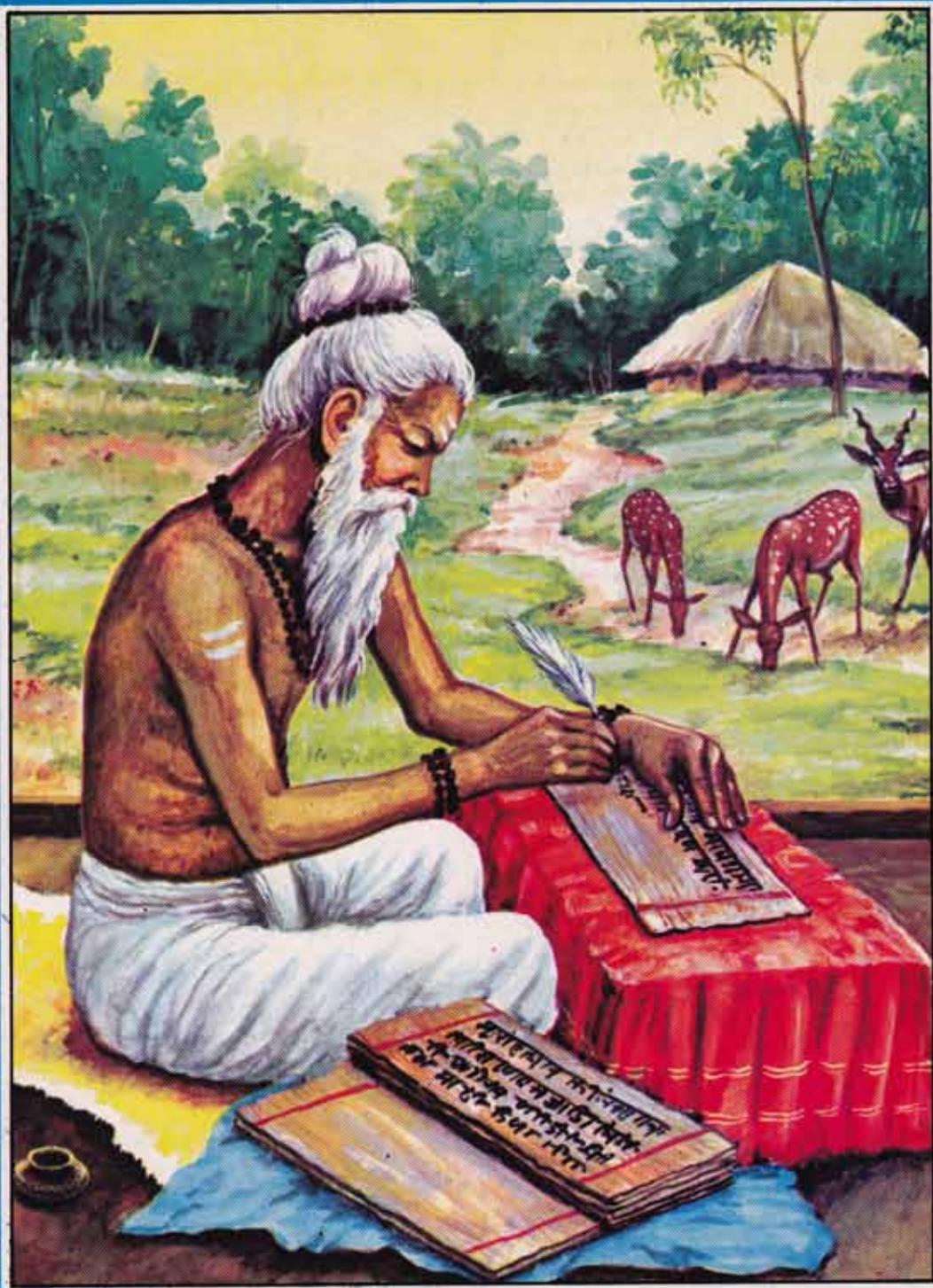




# Valmiki

The story of the author of the epic, "Ramayana"

Vol. 529 Rs. 20



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



# Valmiki

To Valmiki, we Indians owe a deeper debt of gratitude than to any other poet. He gave us the Ramayana, one of the most fascinating stories of all time. No words can describe the hold the Ramayana has had on the people of India from ancient times to the present day. It has affected the life and thought of our people and played an important role in shaping Indian culture. Valmiki was the Adikavi, the first poet, and his Ramayana the Adikavya, the first poem. While remembering the man's work, we must not forget the man. How he wrote the Ramayana, and under what conditions, is itself an absorbing story. This version is based on Valmiki Ramayana and Vallathol's Malayalam translation.

## SAYINGS OF VALMIKI

- The mind is the cause for the direction of all senses leading to good and evil acts.
- Honour the wives of others and protect them, O Ravana, as you will your own. Set an example by loving your own wife.
- Kindness is a supreme virtue.
- Great men when they undertake to do a great deed, are never upset.
- They are the blessed, who by their wisdom, can control their anger, even as water subdues a conflagration.
- Whoever does anything with enthusiasm rarely fails to achieve his object.



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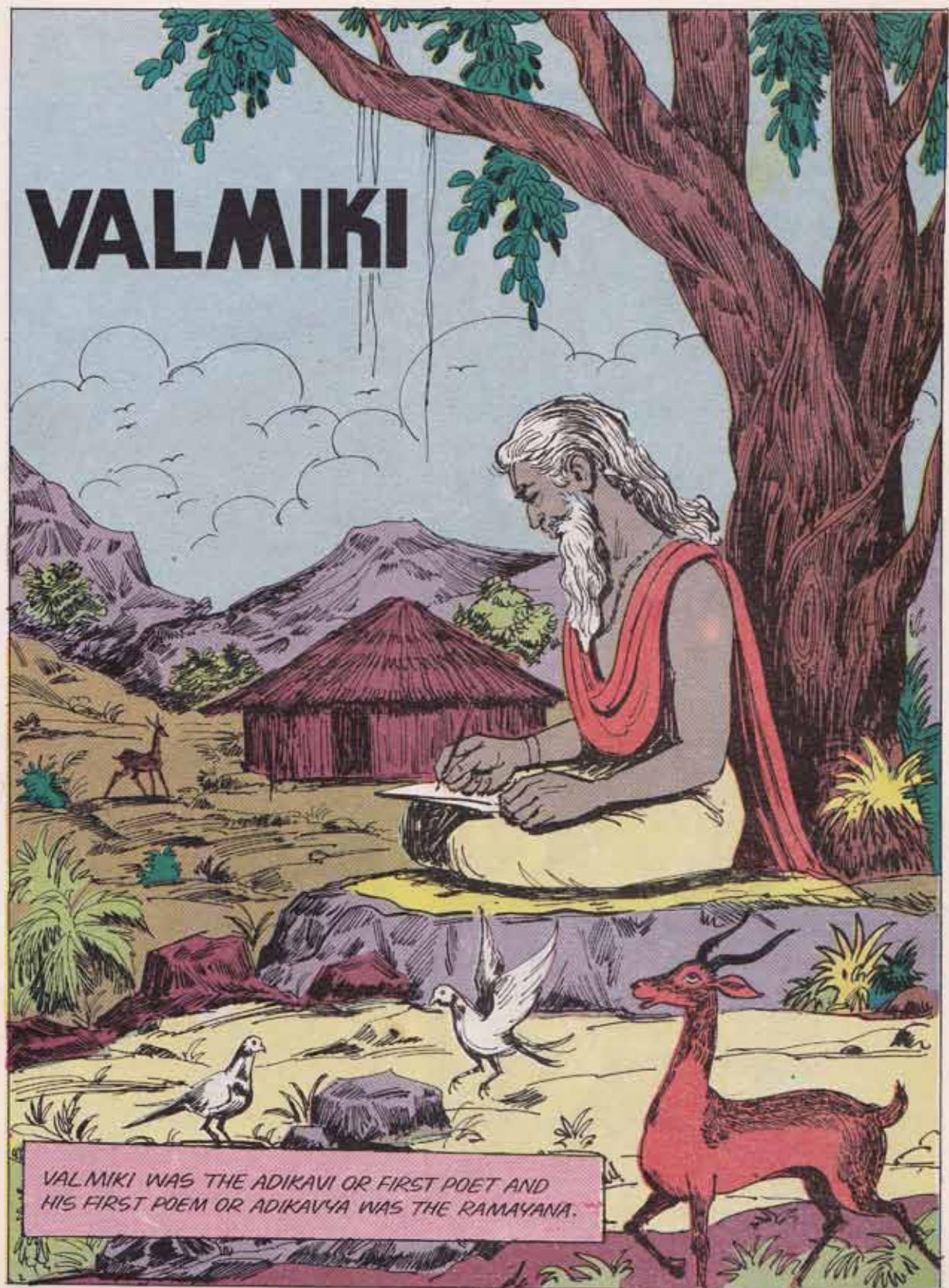
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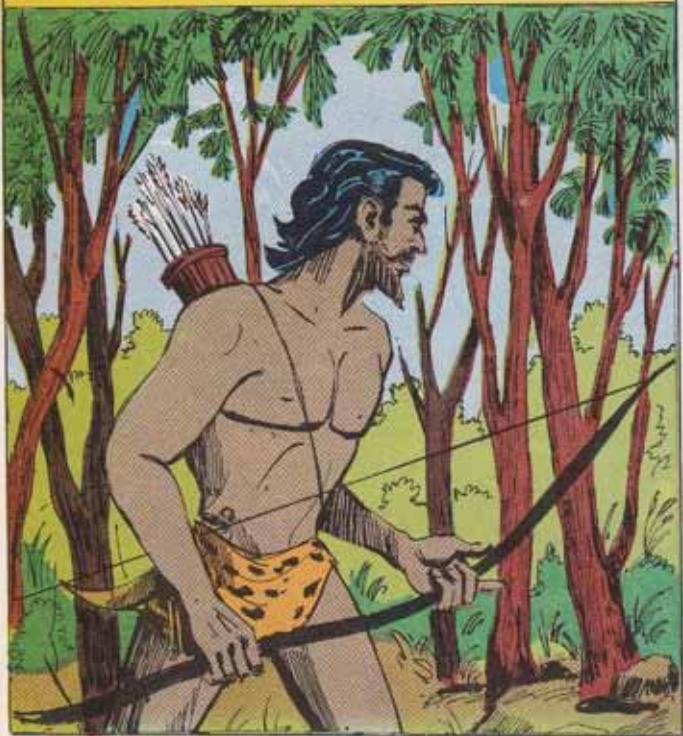
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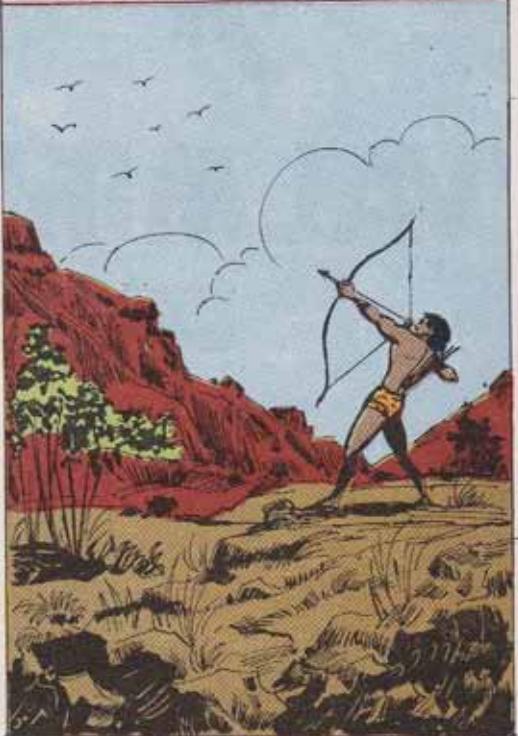
# VALMIKI



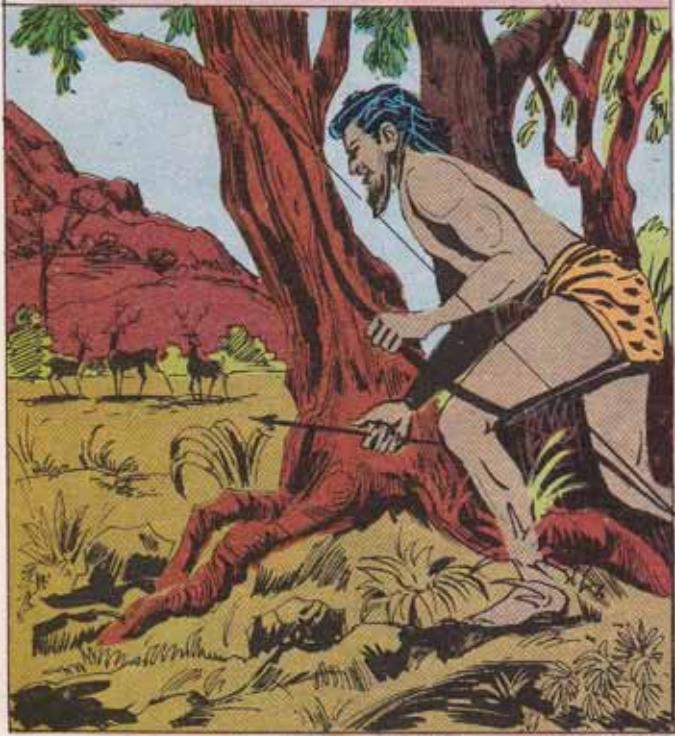
STRANGELY, VALMIKI WAS A HUNTER AND ROBBER IN HIS EARLY LIFE.



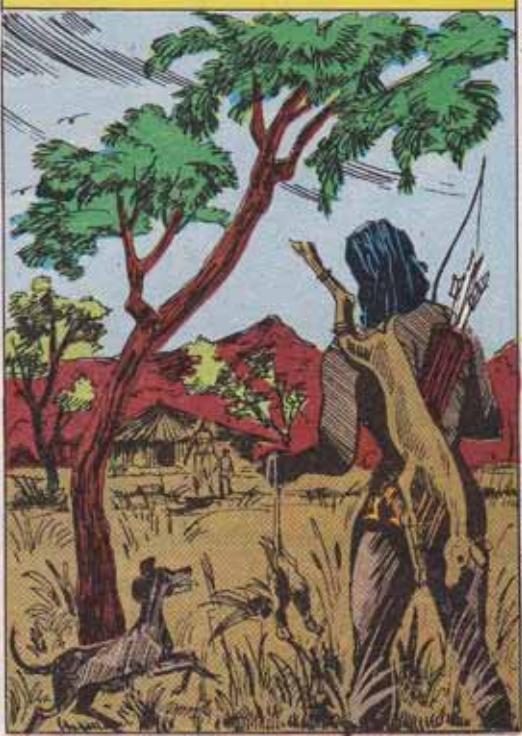
ROAMING THE JUNGLE HE SHOT DOWN HARMLESS BIRDS.



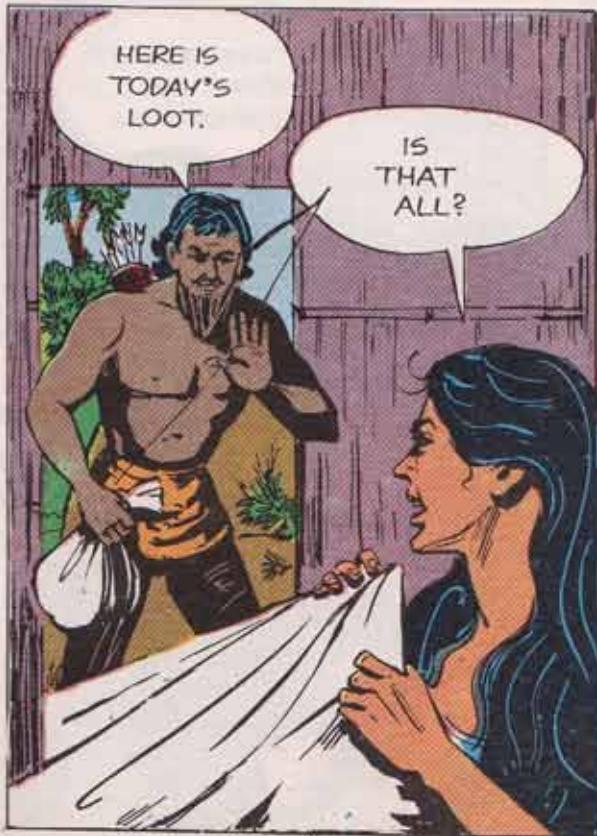
HE KILLED GENTLE ANIMALS...



...AND BROUGHT THE CARCASSES HOME FOR FOOD.

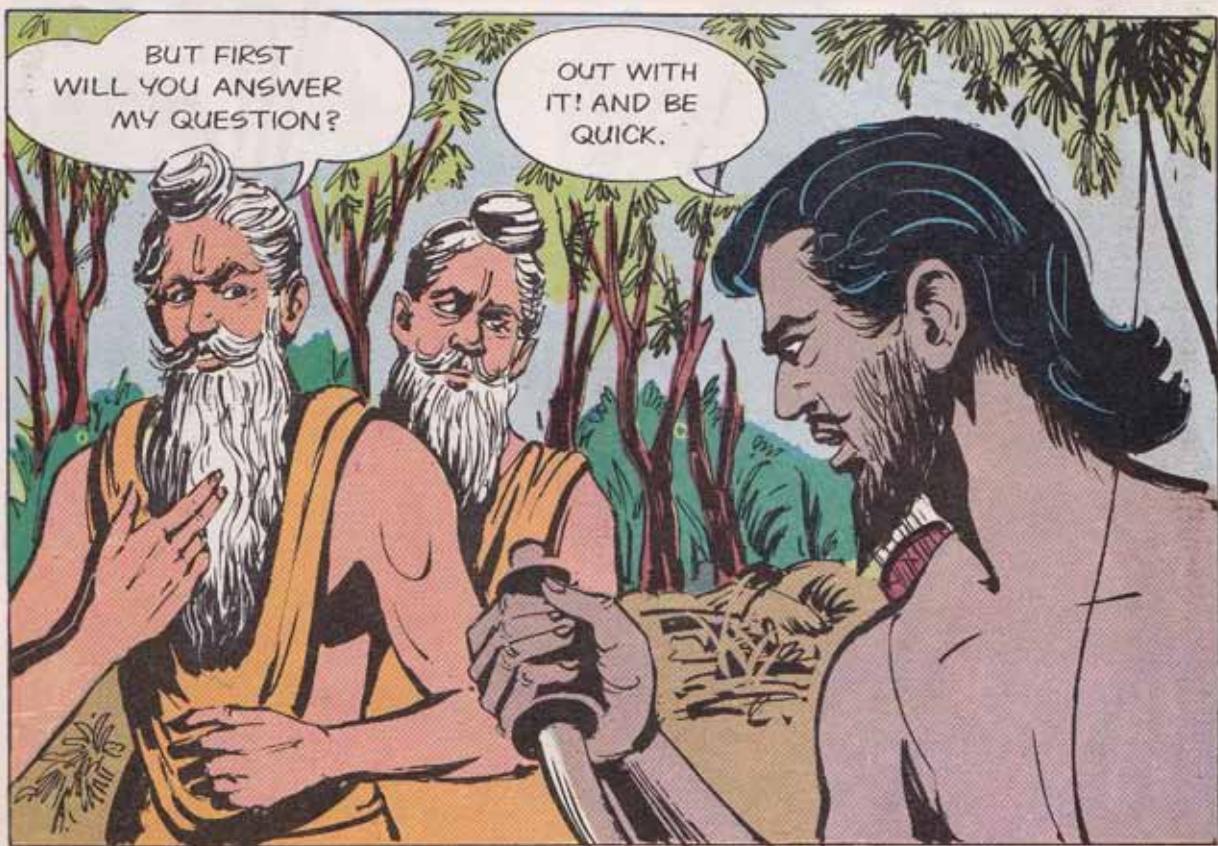
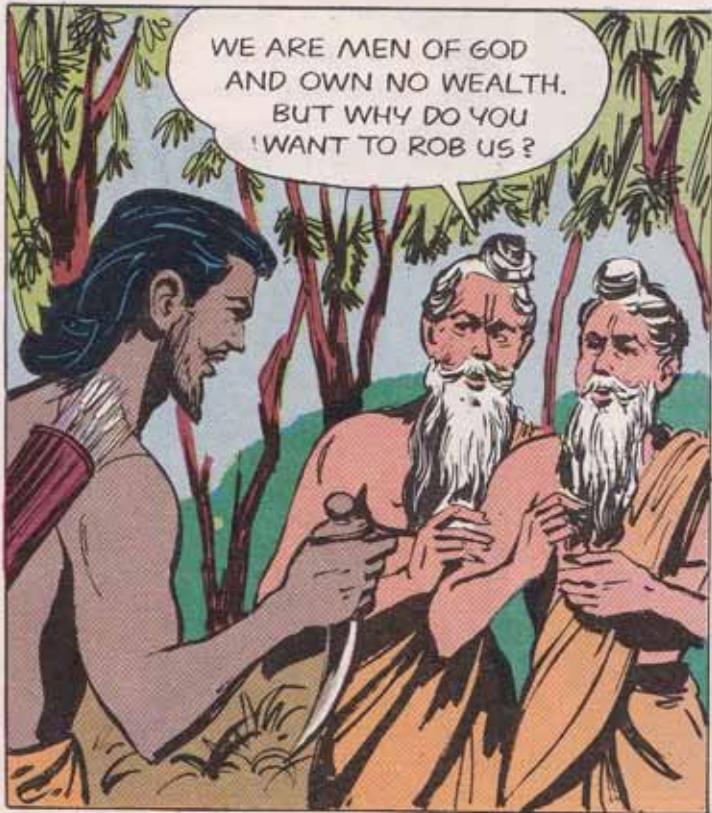


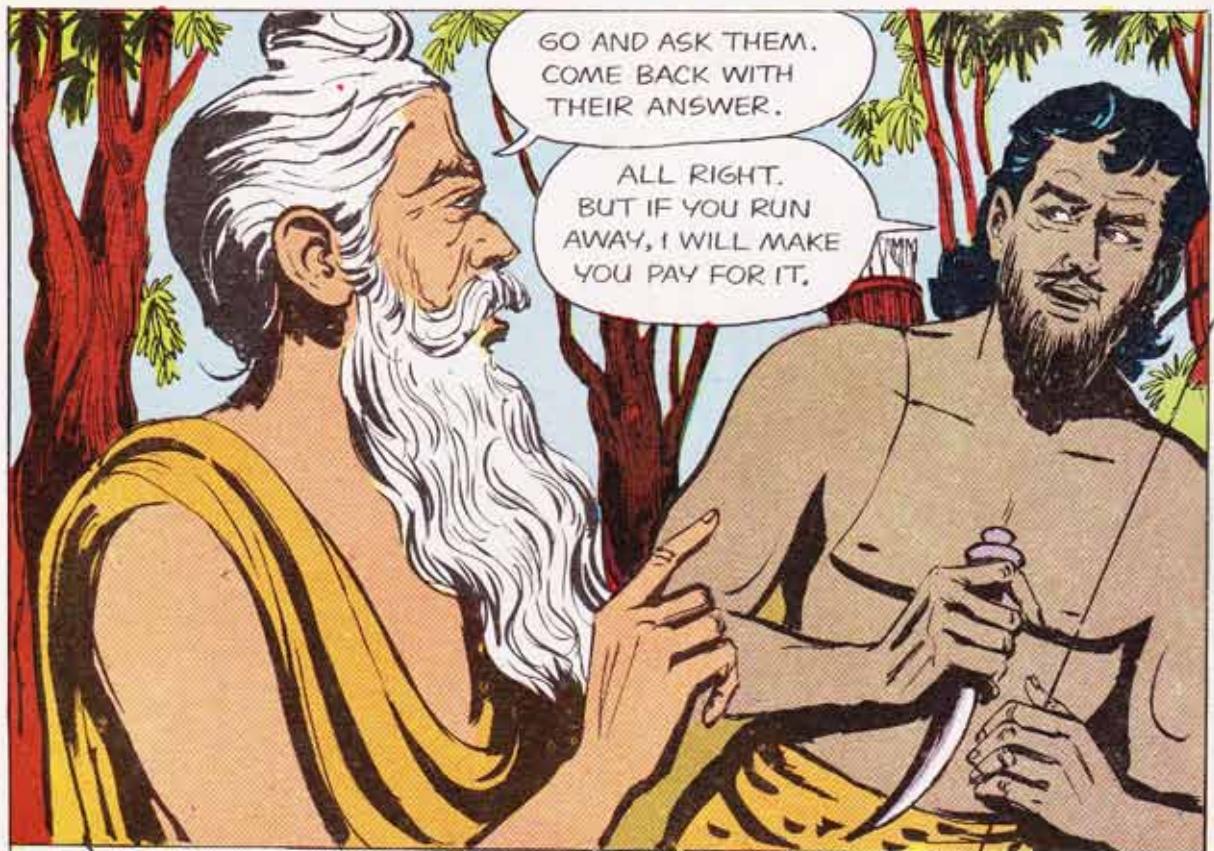
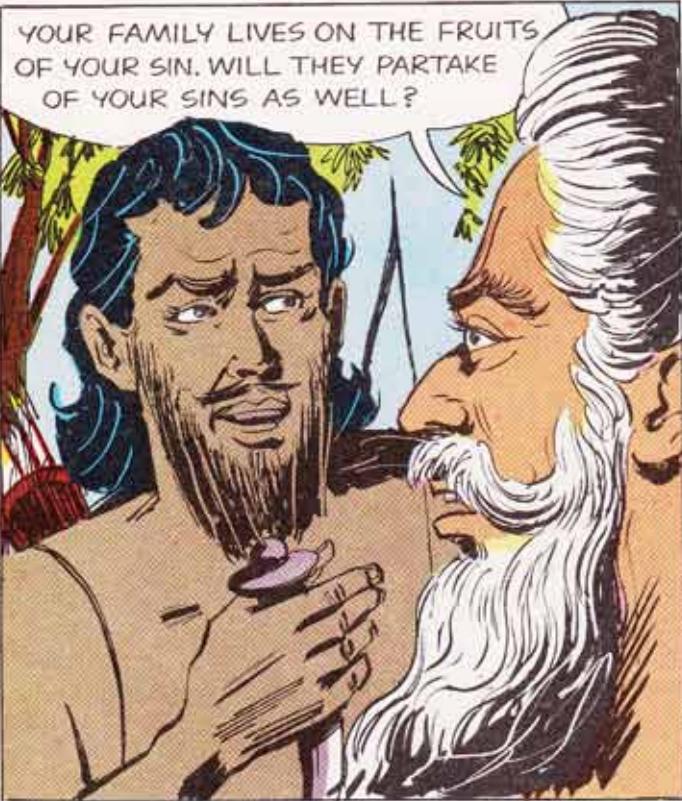
HE ALSO WAYLAID AND ROBBED LONE TRAVELLERS IN THE JUNGLE.



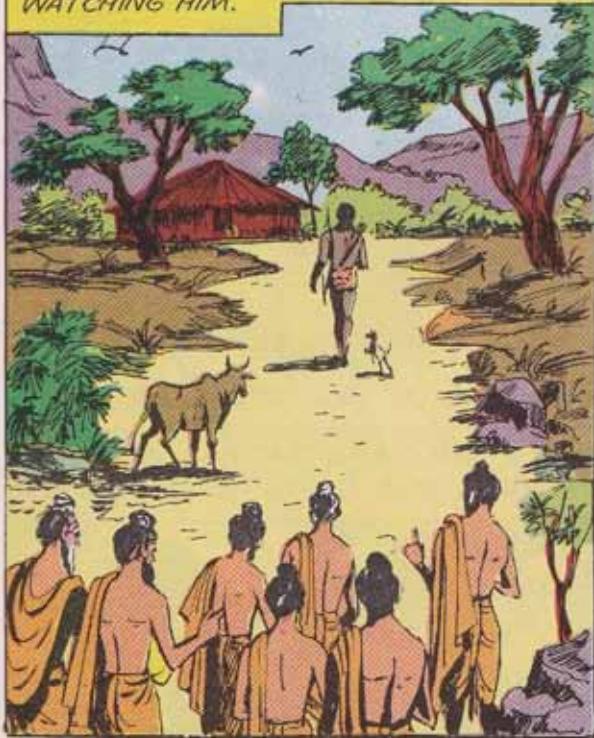
THUS HE LIVED A LIFE OF VIOLENCE AND CRIME. ONE DAY HE SAW FROM A DISTANCE THE SAPTARISHIS OR SEVEN GREAT SAGES.







THE ROBBER WALKED TOWARDS HIS HUT WHILE THE RISHIS STOOD WATCHING HIM.



INSIDE THE HUT...

DEAR WIFE, YOU BENEFIT FROM MY SINFUL LIFE. DON'T YOU?

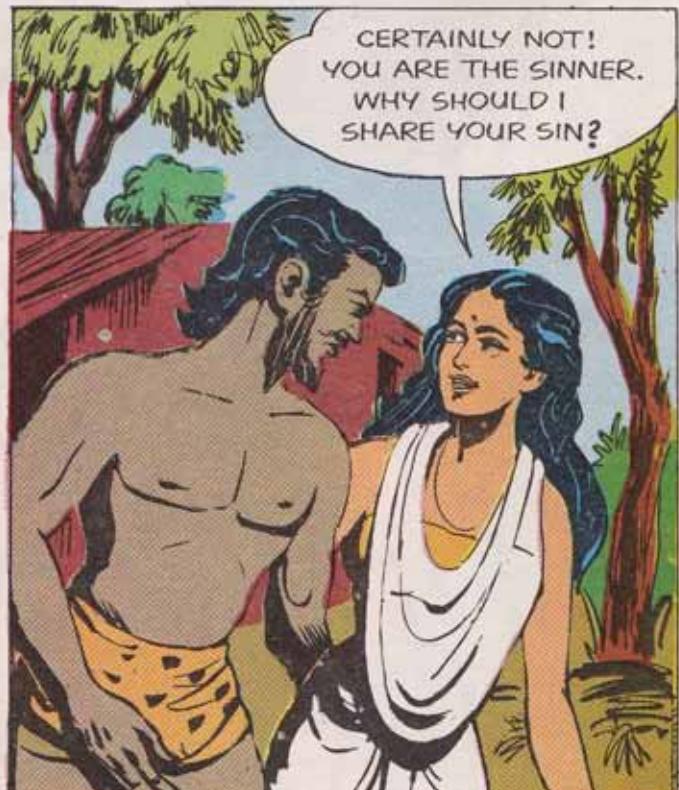
OF COURSE,  
I DO. WHAT OF THAT?



YOU WILL  
SHARE MY SINS;  
WON'T YOU?



CERTAINLY NOT!  
YOU ARE THE SINNER.  
WHY SHOULD I  
SHARE YOUR SIN?



THE ROBBER TURNED HOPEFULLY TO HIS SON.

WON'T YOU AT LEAST SHARE MY SIN, MY DARLING?

NO FATHER,  
I WILL NOT.

THE ROBBER COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS EARS. HE STOOD STUNNED AND DAZED.

OH,  
MY  
GOD!

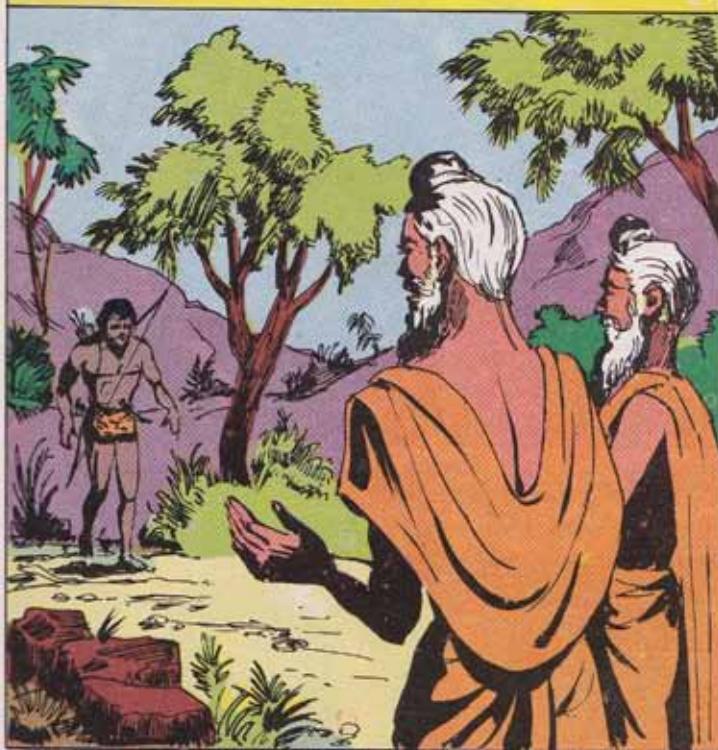
BENDING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF SORROW, HE WENT OUT WITH FALTERING STEPS.



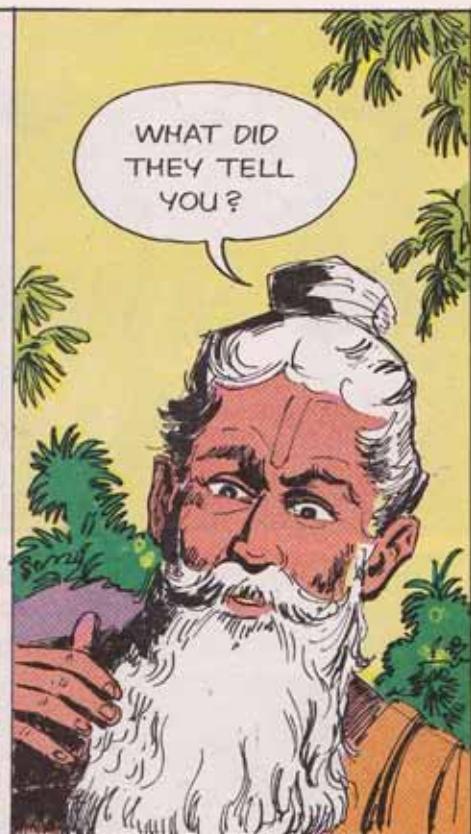
LOOK, THERE HE COMES.



AS HE CAME NEAR THEM HE BURST INTO TEARS.

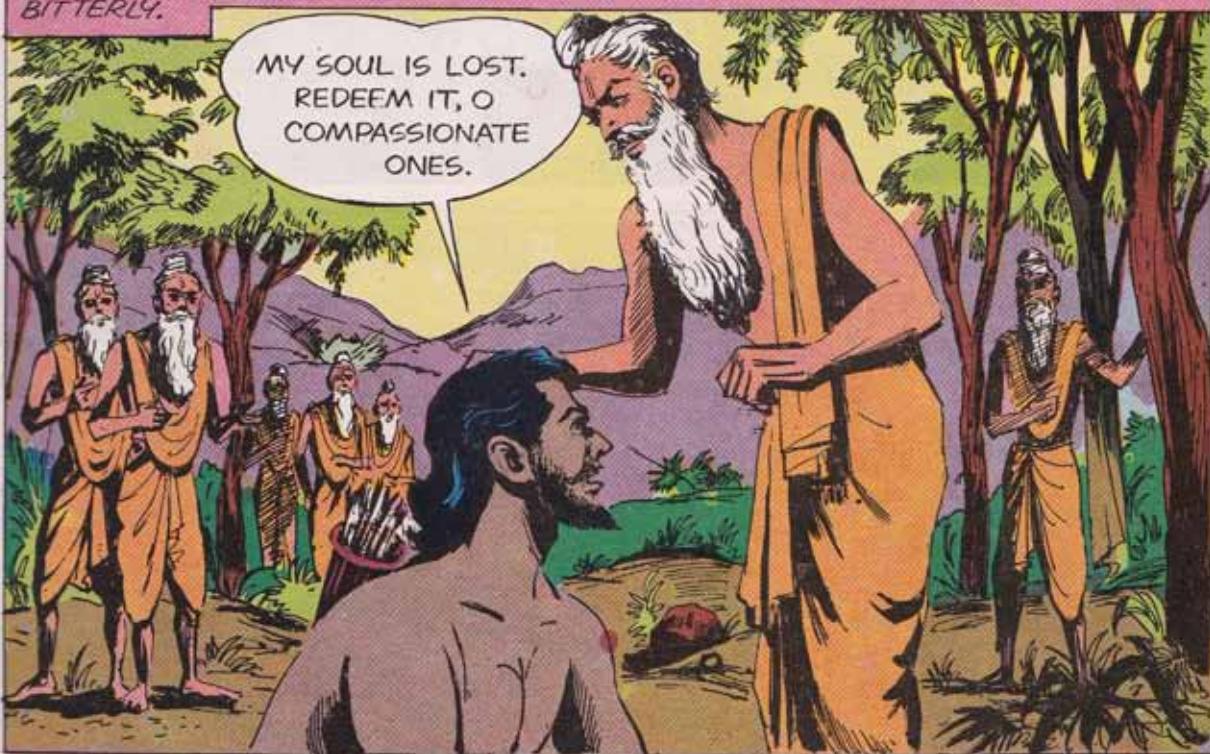


WHAT DID THEY TELL YOU?



THE ROBBER TOLD THEM, AND THEN THREW HIMSELF AT THEIR FEET WEEPING BITTERLY.

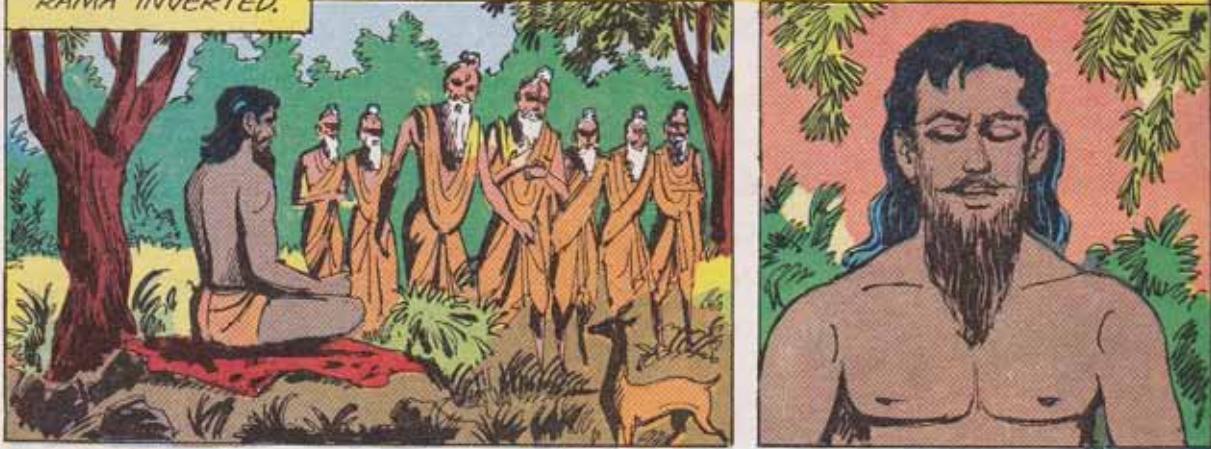
MY SOUL IS LOST.  
REDEEM IT, O  
COMPASSIONATE  
ONES.



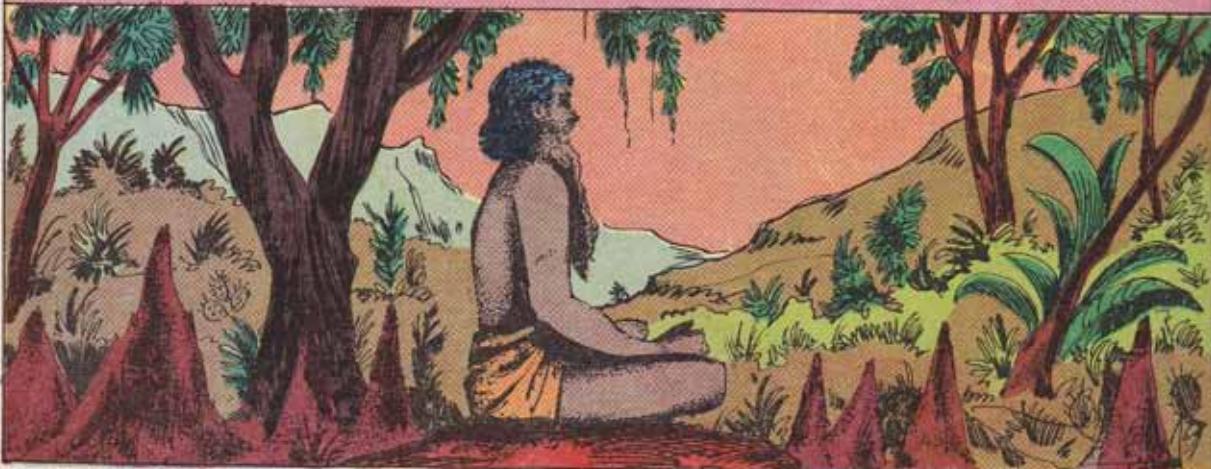
THE RISHIS TOOK PITY ON HIM.



THEREUPON THE ROBBER SQUATTED ON THE GROUND, CLOSED HIS EYES, AND FORGETTING HIMSELF BEGAN RECITING 'MA-RA' WHICH ACTUALLY WAS 'RAMA' INVERTED.



MONTHS PASSED INTO YEARS, AND STILL HE SAT UNMOVING. AROUND HIM AN ANTHILL WAS FORMING ITSELF. TIME ROLLED ON AND THE ANTHILL COVERED HIM COMPLETELY.



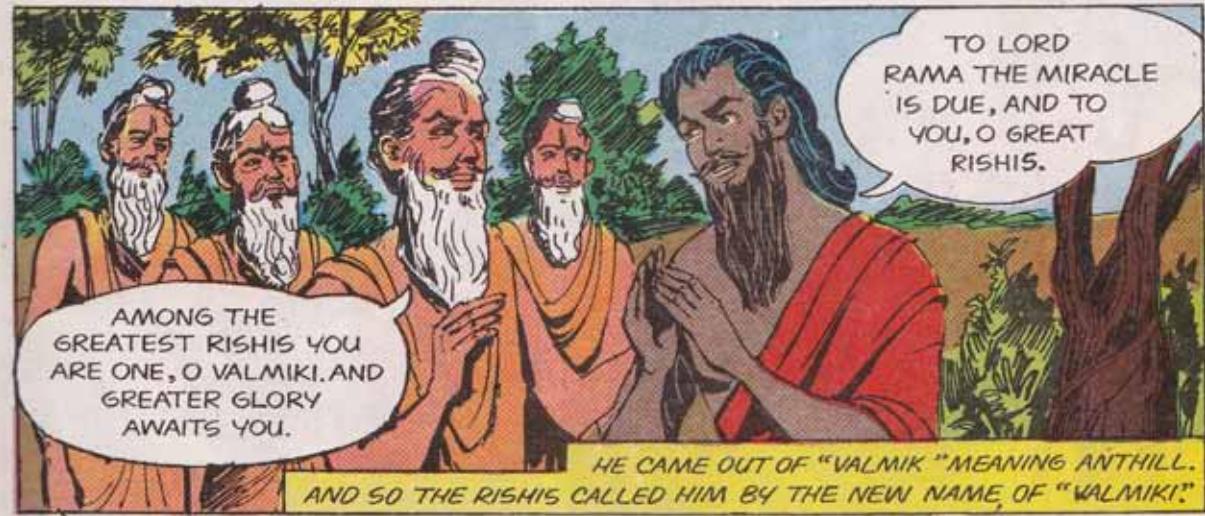
AT LAST ONE DAY THE SEVEN RISHIS RETURNED TO THE PLACE.



NOW COME OUT  
INTO THE OPEN.

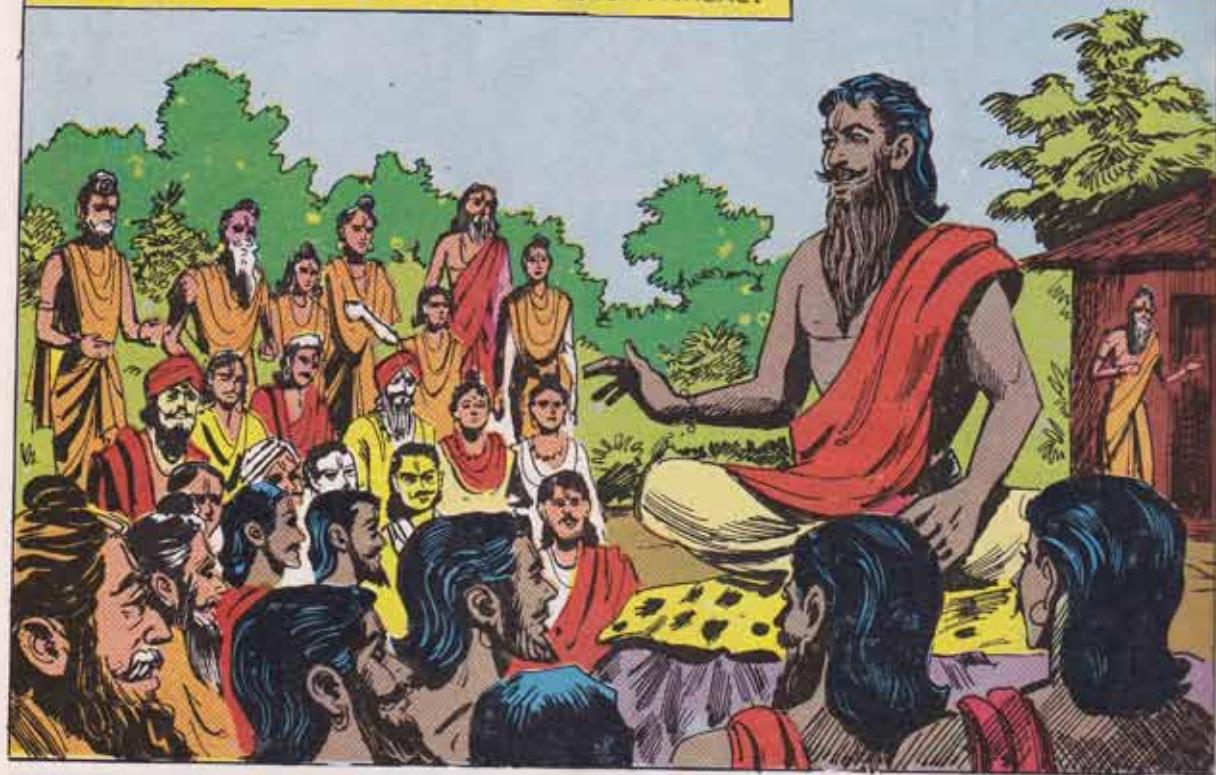


THE ANTHILL BURST OPEN AND OUT STEPPED A PERSON DIFFERENT IN EVERY RESPECT.



HE CAME OUT OF "VALMIK" MEANING ANTHILL.  
AND SO THE RISHIS CALLED HIM BY THE NEW NAME, OF "VALMIKI."

THEREAFTER VALMIKI BECAUSE OF HIS SPIRITUAL POWER AND KNOWLEDGE EARNED THE RESPECT OF HOLY MEN EVERYWHERE.



LONG AFTERWARDS Maha Rishi NARADA PAID HIM A VISIT.



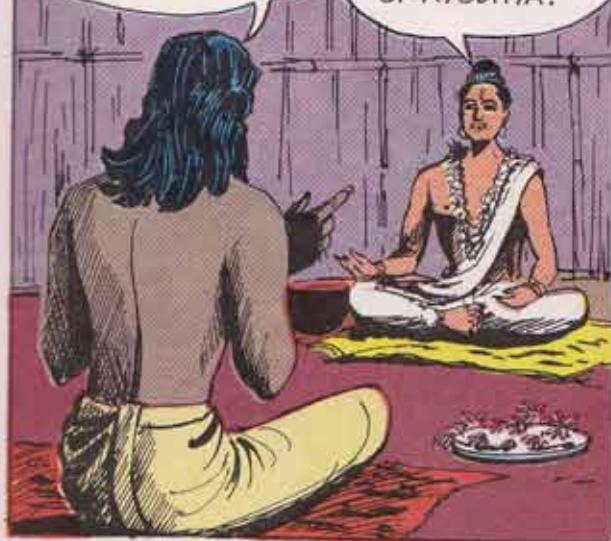
MAY GOD BLESS YOU, O HOLIEST AMONG HOLY MEN.



THEY ENGAGED THEMSELVES IN CONVERSATION.

WHO AMONG MEN,  
IS THE MOST PERFECT  
ONE, O NARADA?

RAMA WHO  
IS THE  
PRESENT KING  
OF AYODHYA.



LET ME TELL YOU  
THE WONDERFUL  
STORY OF RAMA.

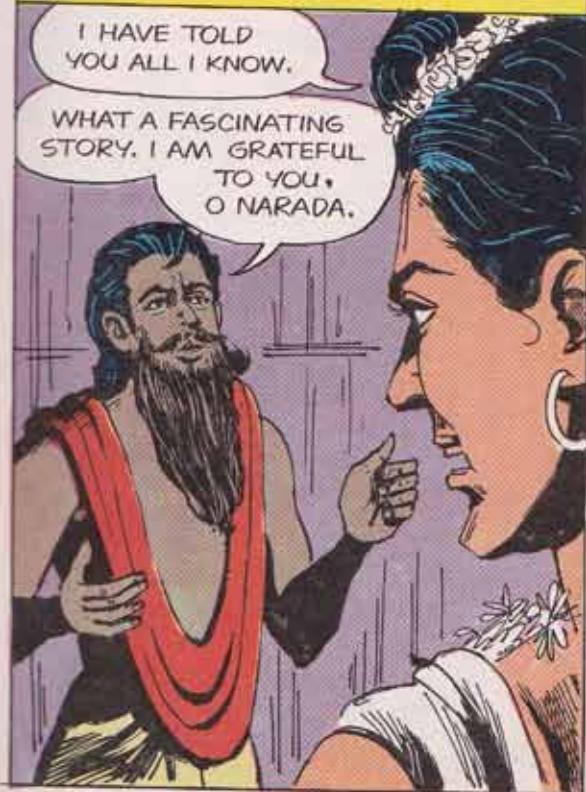
PLEASE BEGIN.  
I AM IMPATIENT TO  
HEAR IT.



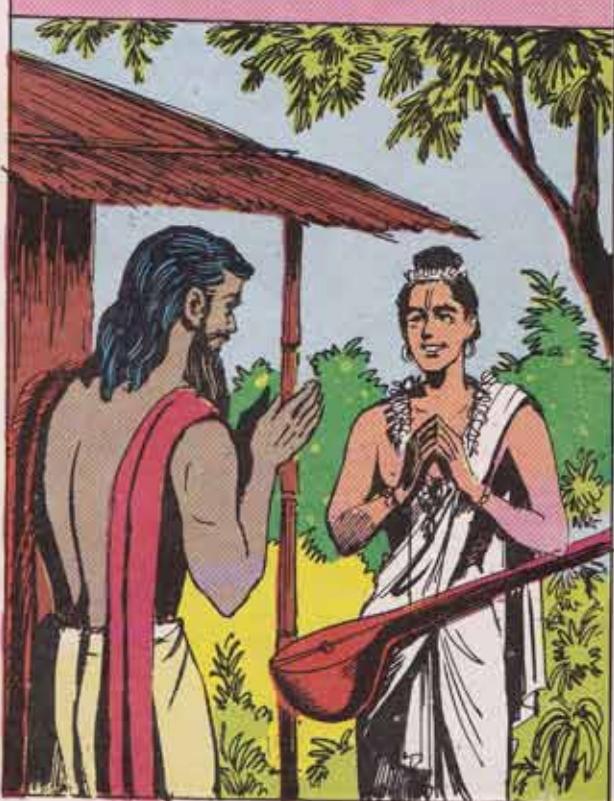
SO NARADA NARRATED RAMA'S STORY.

I HAVE TOLD  
YOU ALL I KNOW.

WHAT A FASCINATING  
STORY. I AM GRATEFUL  
TO YOU,  
O NARADA.



NARADA TOOK LEAVE OF VALMIKI.



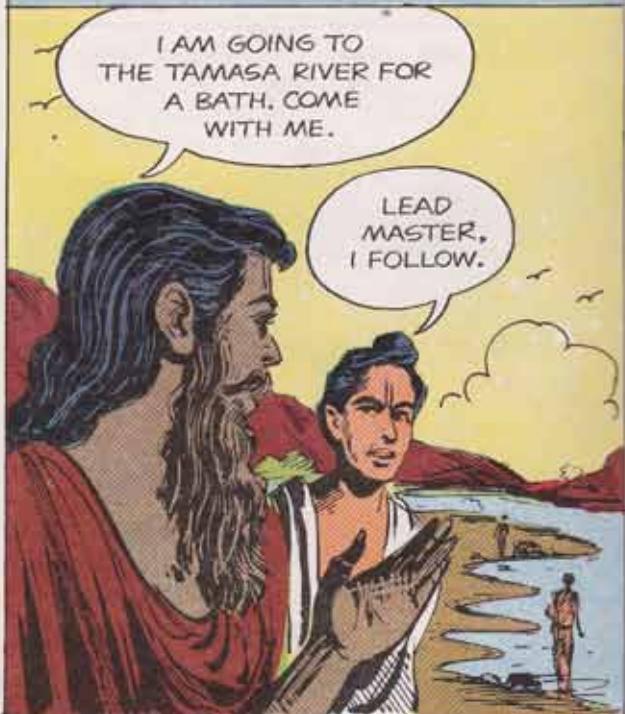
EVER AFTER, THE STORY REMAINED FRESH IN VALMIKI'S MIND, JUST AS HE HAD HEARD IT.

HE CALLED ONE OF HIS PUPILS.

ALL THE TIME I CAN THINK OF NOTHING ELSE. STRANGE indeed.

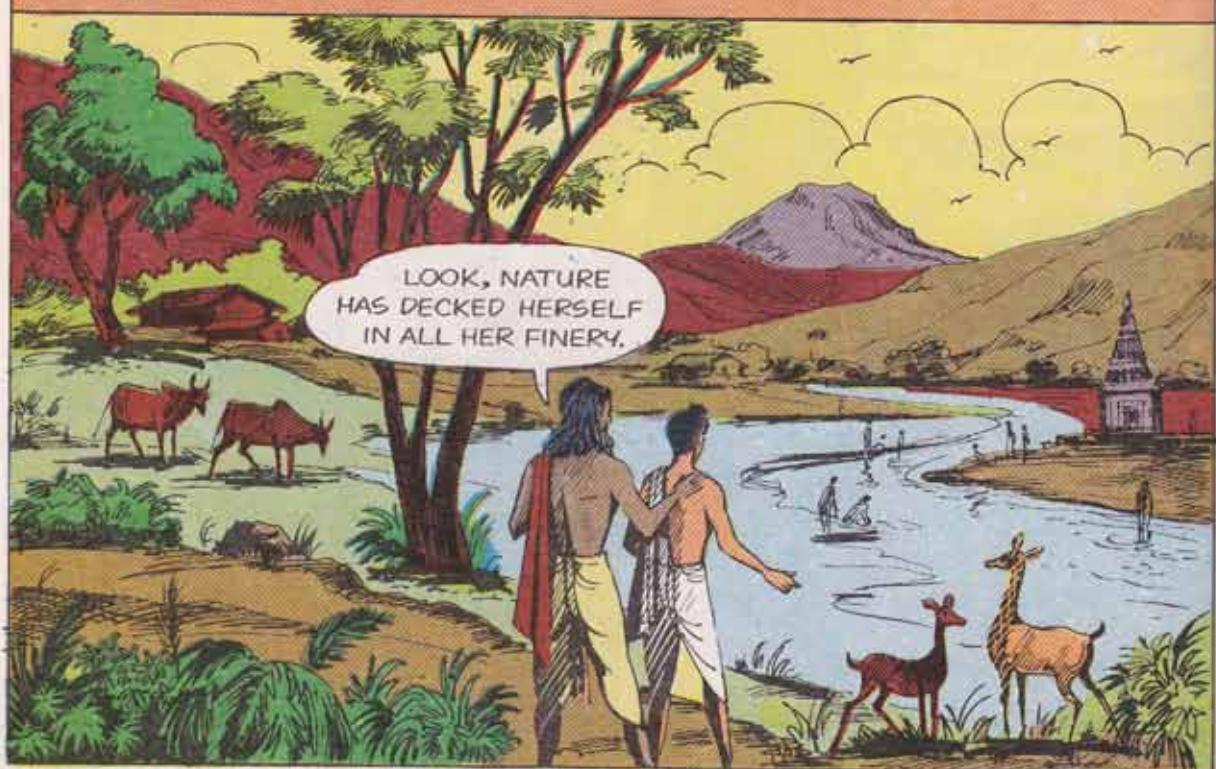
I AM GOING TO THE TAMASA RIVER FOR A BATH. COME WITH ME.

LEAD MASTER, I FOLLOW.

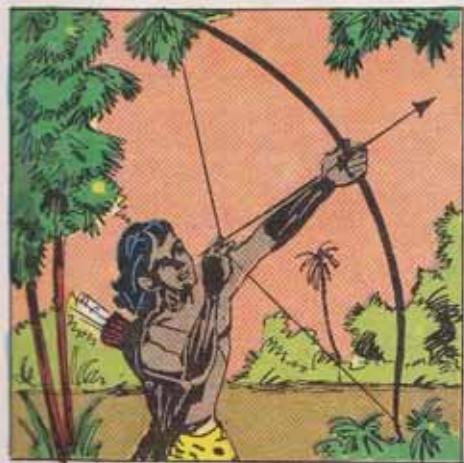


AFTER THEY HAD COVERED SOME DISTANCE...

LOOK, NATURE HAS DECKED HERSELF IN ALL HER FINERY.

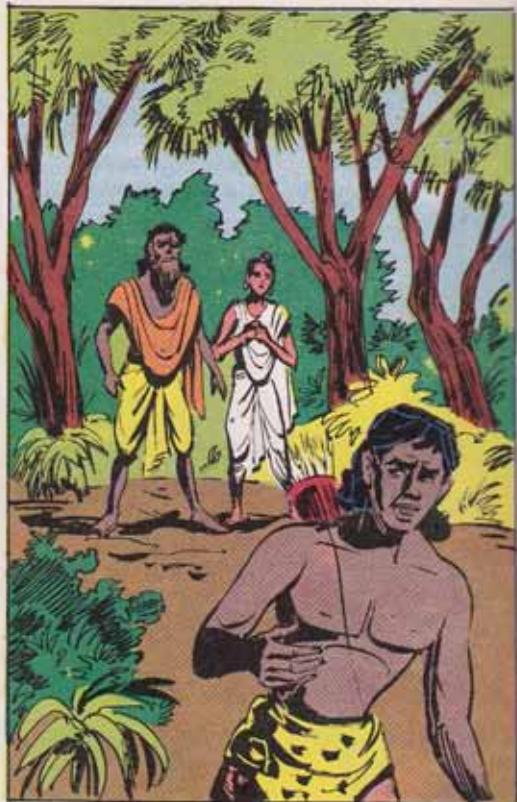
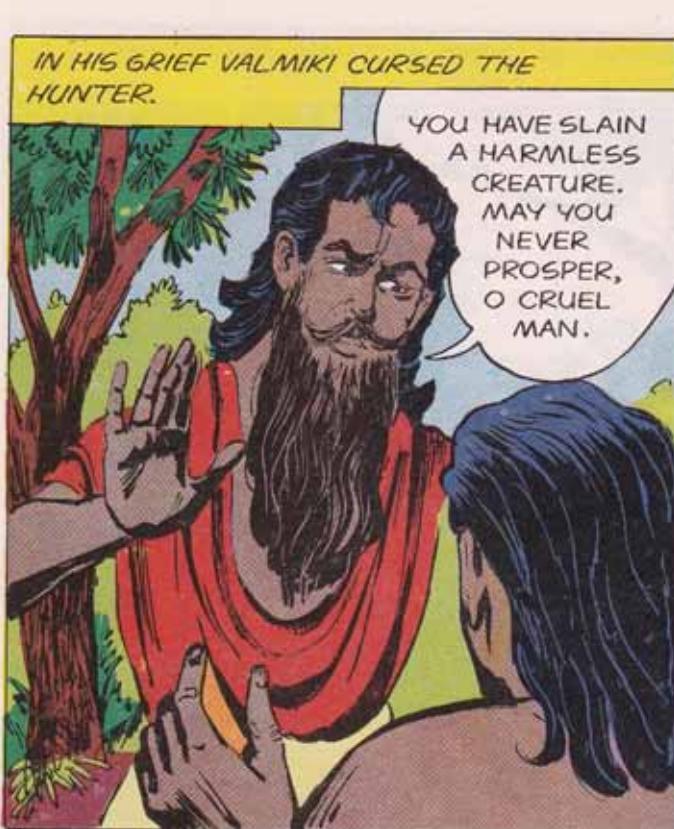


ON THE BRANCH OF A TREE SAT TWO BIRDS, HUSBAND AND WIFE, BILLING AND COOING.

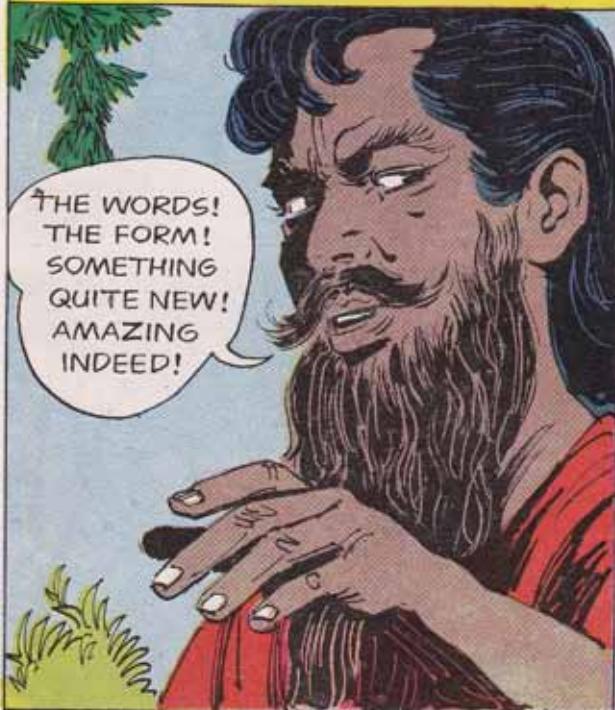


IN HIS GRIEF VALMIKI CURSED THE HUNTER.

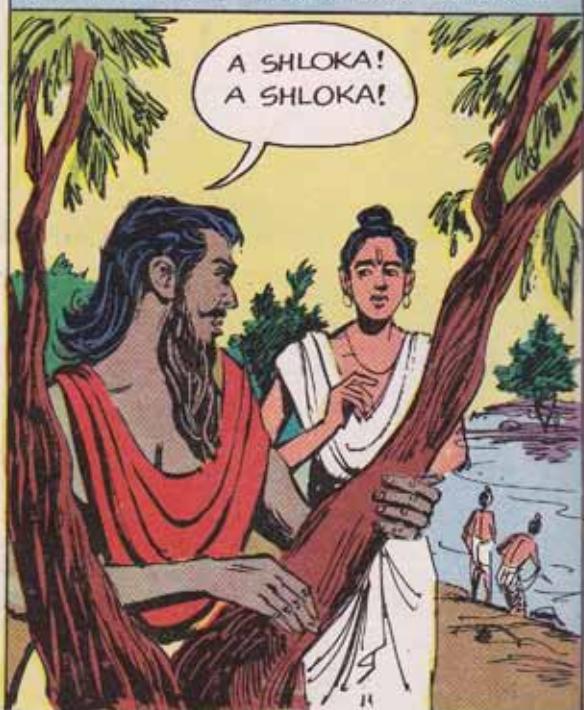
YOU HAVE SLAIN A HARMLESS CREATURE. MAY YOU NEVER PROSPER, O CRUEL MAN.



VALMIKI'S UTTERANCE WHICH WAS IN SANSKRIT, CAME OUT IN VERSE WITH MELODY AND RHYTHM.



THUS CAME INTO BEING THE FIRST STANZA EVER. AS IT AROSE FROM HIS "SHOKA" OR GRIEF HE CALLED IT "SHLOKA"



THAT DAY HE HAD A VISITOR - BRAHMA THE CREATOR HIMSELF.

BLESSED  
INDEED ARE  
YOU,  
O VALMIKI.

LORD,  
I AM  
OVERWHELMED.

EVERYTHING  
HAS HAPPENED  
AS DECREED BY  
ME.

WHAT MAY  
YOUR PURPOSE  
BE, LORD?

YOU HAVE HEARD RAMA'S  
STORY FROM NARADA. WRITE  
WHAT YOU KNOW AND ALSO WHAT  
IS UNKNOWN TO YOU.

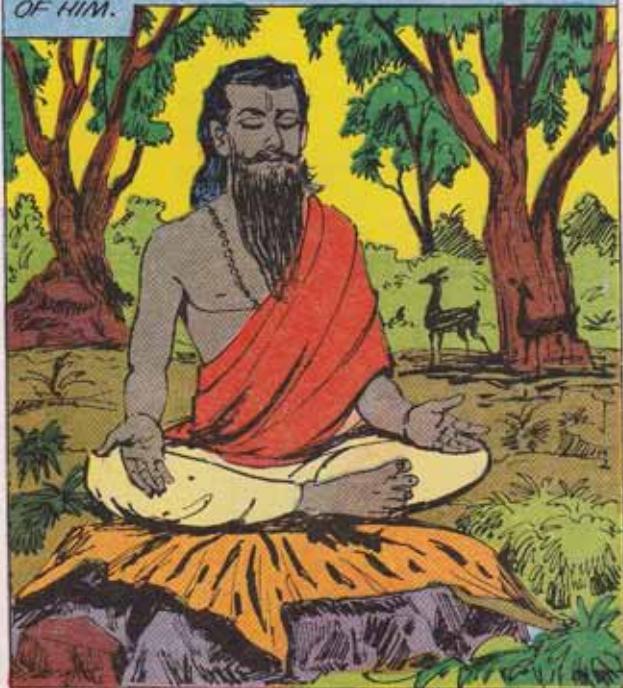
BUT LORD,  
HOW CAN I  
WRITE ABOUT  
THINGS  
I DON'T  
KNOW?

WHATEVER KNOWLEDGE YOU DO NOT POSSESS  
SHALL BE REVEALED TO YOU. AS LONG AS MOUNTAINS  
AND SEAS EXIST ON EARTH, SO LONG WILL  
YOUR RAMAYANA  
LIVE.

SO BE  
IT, LORD.

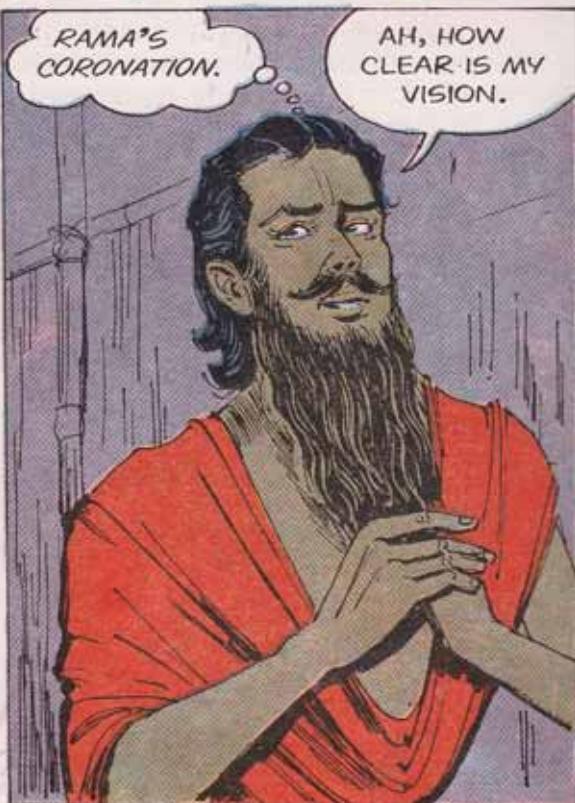


VALMIKI SAT IN YOGIC MEDITATION. HE  
SAW EVERY INCIDENT IN THE RAMAYANA  
AS IF IT WERE HAPPENING JUST IN FRONT  
OF HIM.

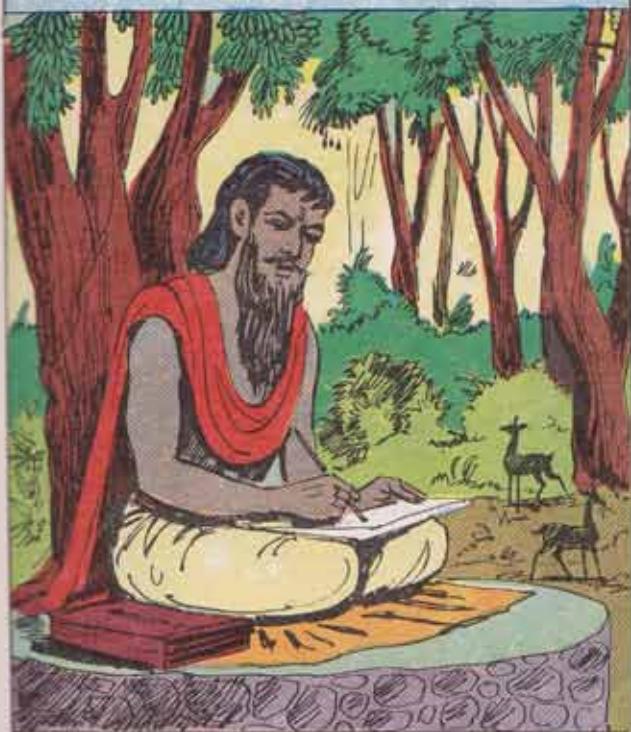


RAMA'S  
CORONATION.

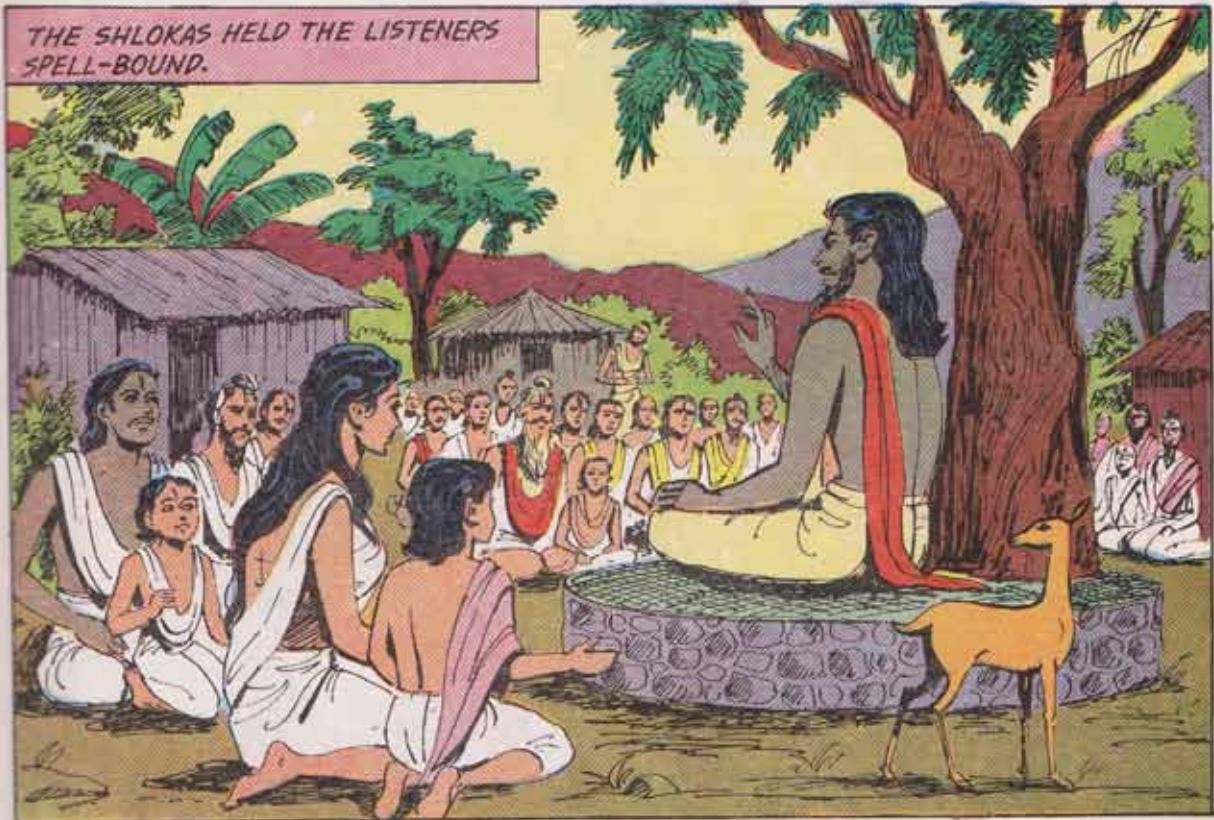
AH, HOW  
CLEAR IS MY  
VISION.



AFTERWARDS HE WROTE THE GLORIOUS EPIC, RAMAYANA, IN VERSE.



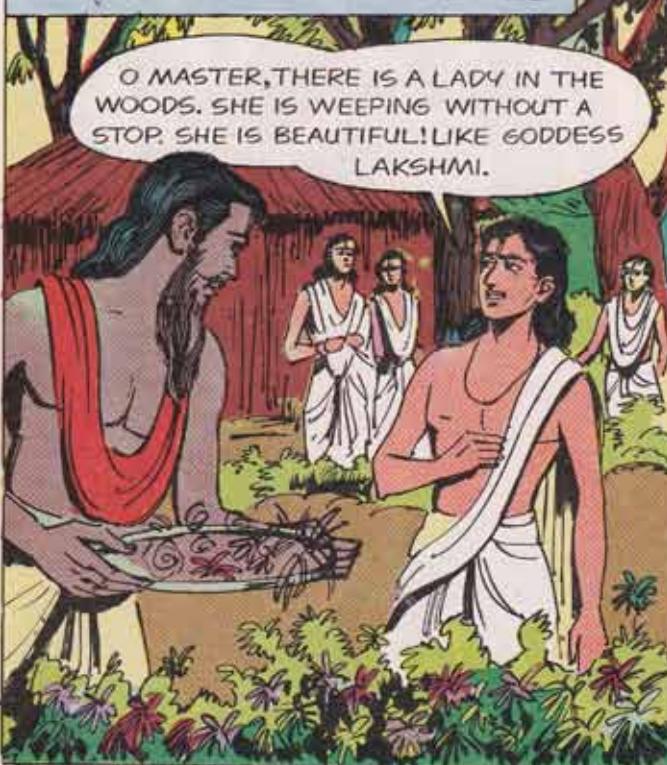
THE SHLOKAS HELD THE LISTENERS SPELL-BOUND.



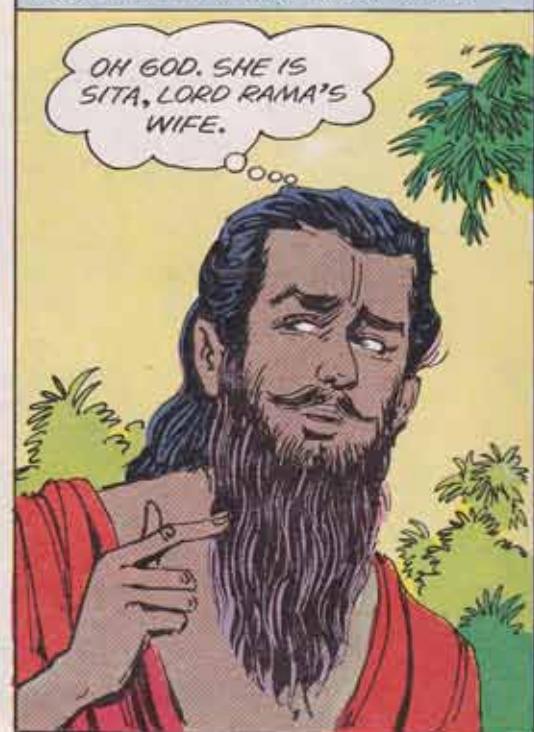
YEARS LATER, SOME DISCIPLES WENT DEEP INTO THE WOODS. THERE THEY FOUND A WOMAN LYING ON THE GROUND AND CRYING AS IF HER HEART WOULD BREAK.



THEY HURRIED BACK TO THE HERMITAGE.



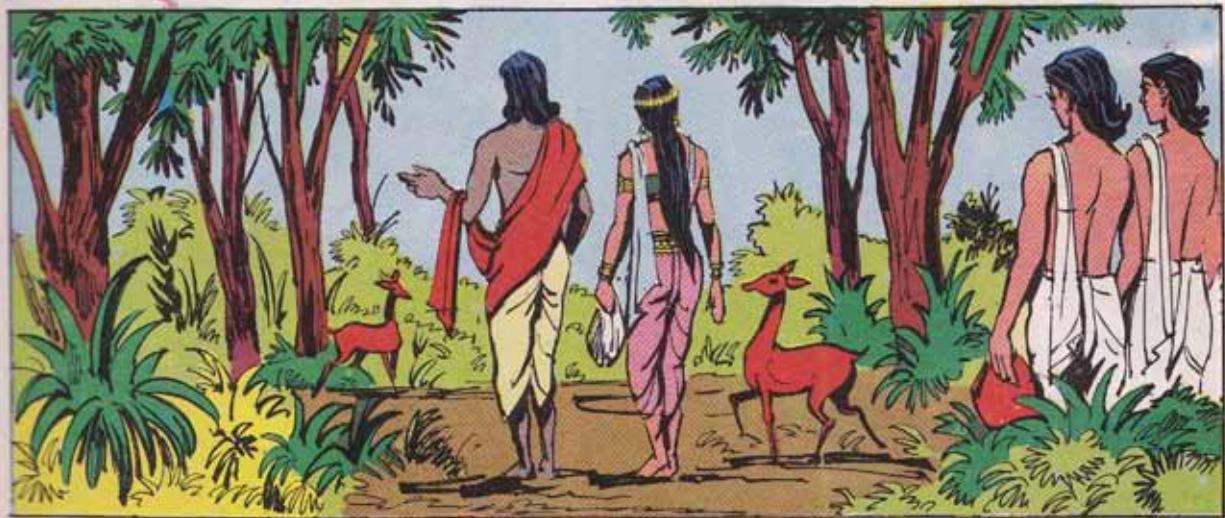
VALMIKI'S SPIRITUAL INSIGHT TOLD HIM WHO THE LADY WAS.



THE RISHI HURRIED TO THE PLACE WHERE SITA LAY.



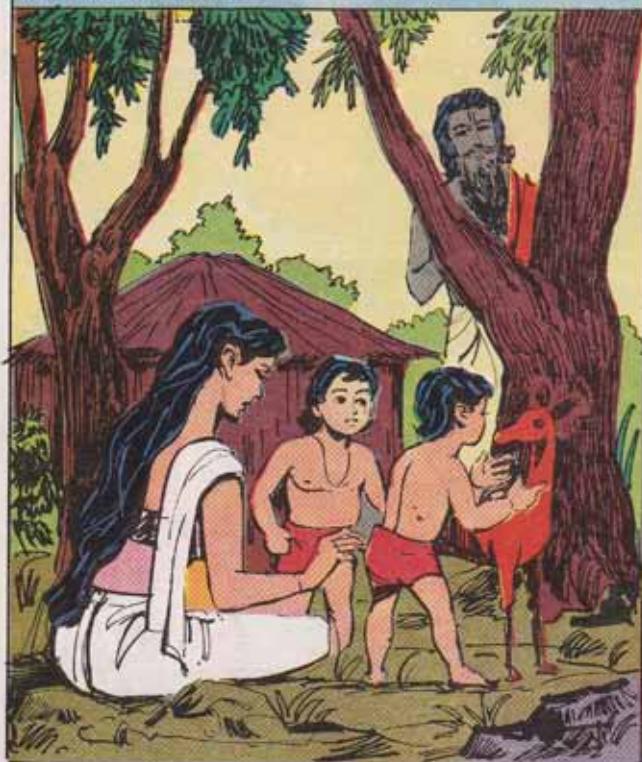
SITA WHO HAD BEEN ABANDONED  
IN THE FOREST BY RAMA FOUND  
A BENEFATOR IN VALMIKI.



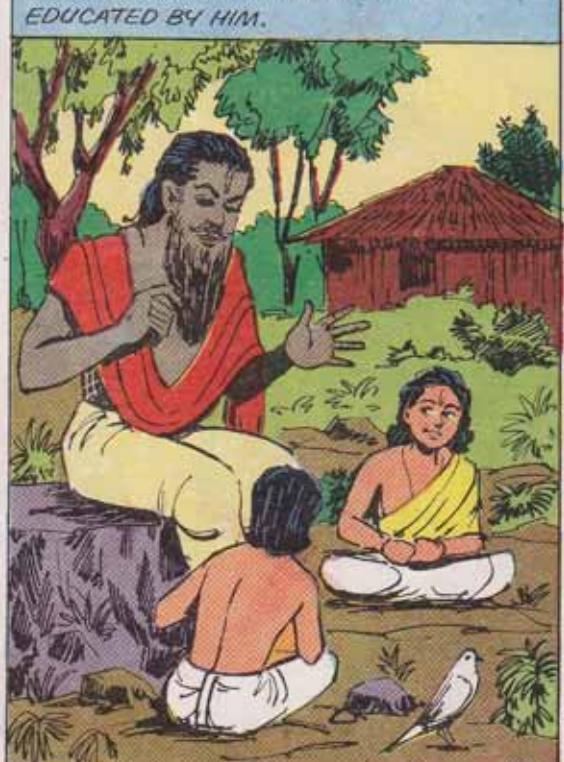
VALMIKI ENTRUSTED SITA TO THE CARE OF FEMALE ASCETICS IN THE HERMITAGE.



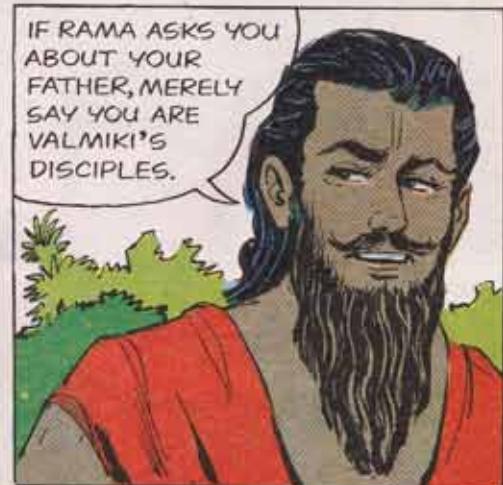
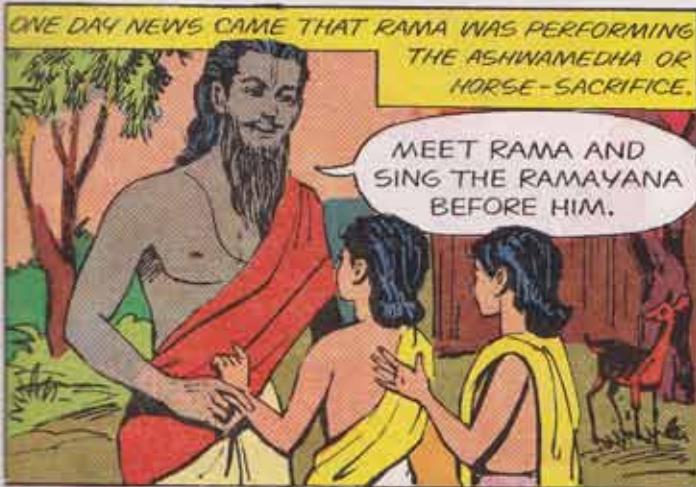
IN DUE COURSE SITA WAS BLESSED WITH TWINS.



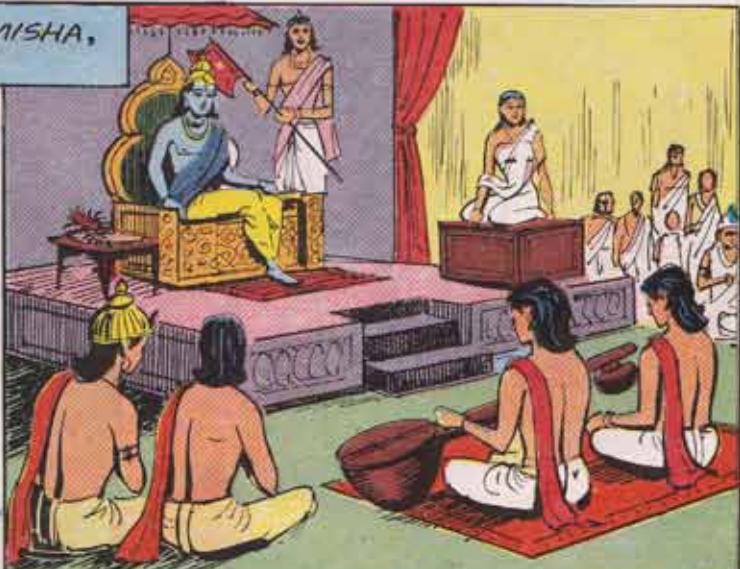
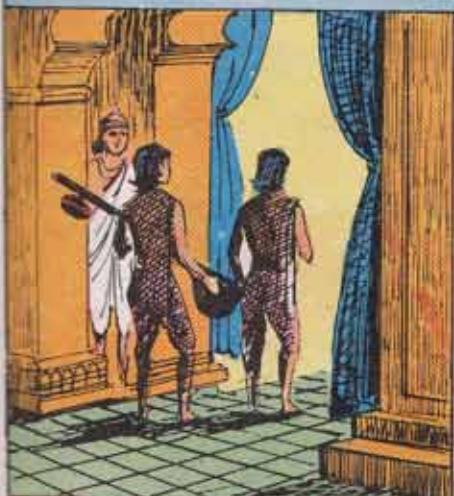
THE BOYS, LUV AND KUSH WERE BROUGHT UP BY VALMIKI AND EDUCATED BY HIM.



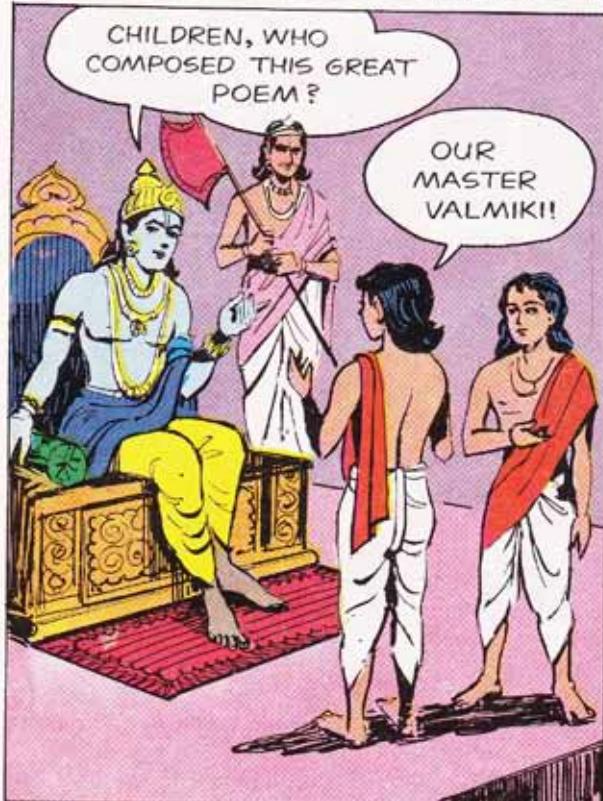
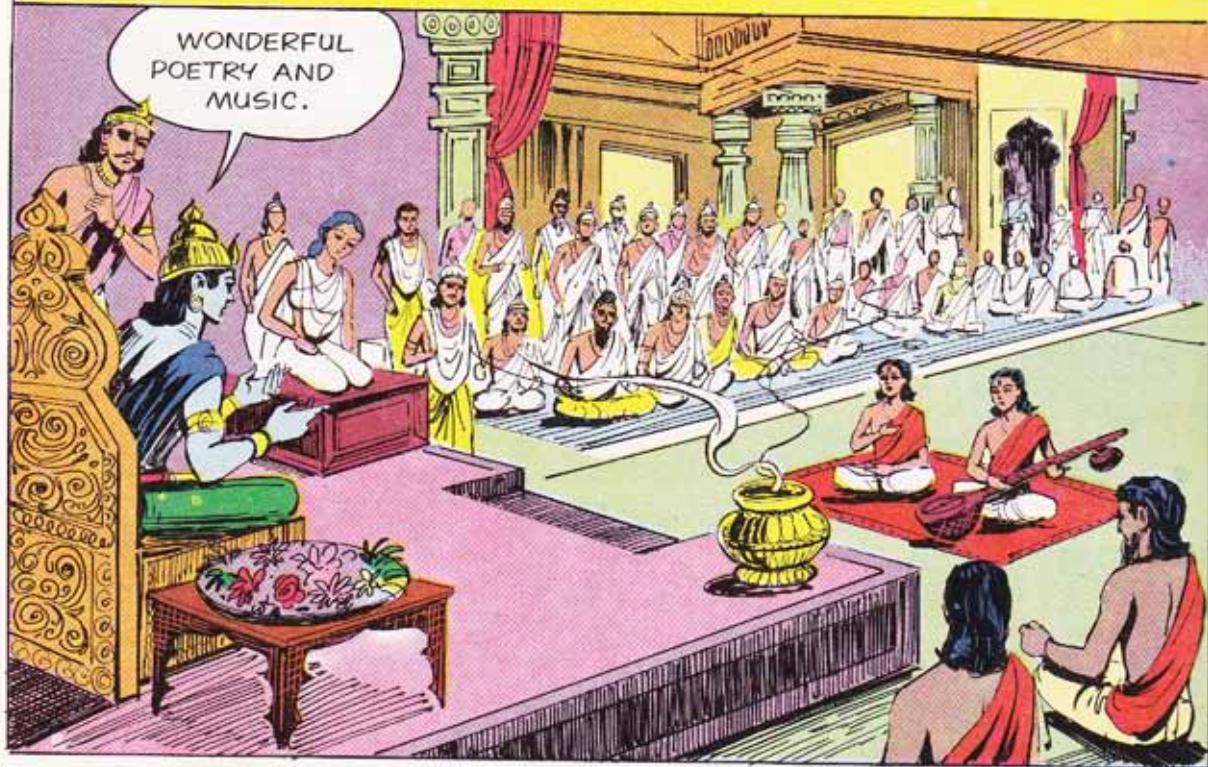
AMONG THE MANY THINGS HE TAUGHT THEM WAS TO RECITE THE RAMAYANA TO THE ACCOMPANIMENT OF THE VEENA.



LUV AND KUSH WENT TO NAIMISHA, THE VENUE OF THE SACRIFICE.

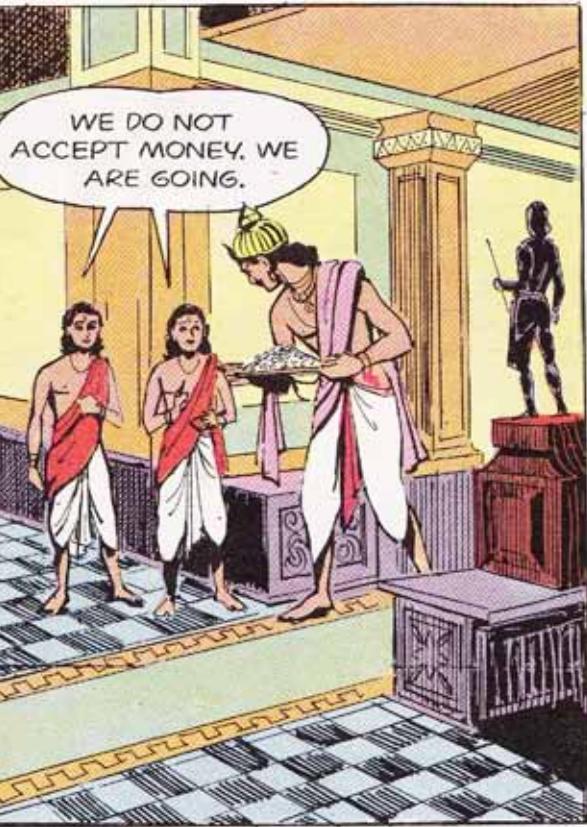
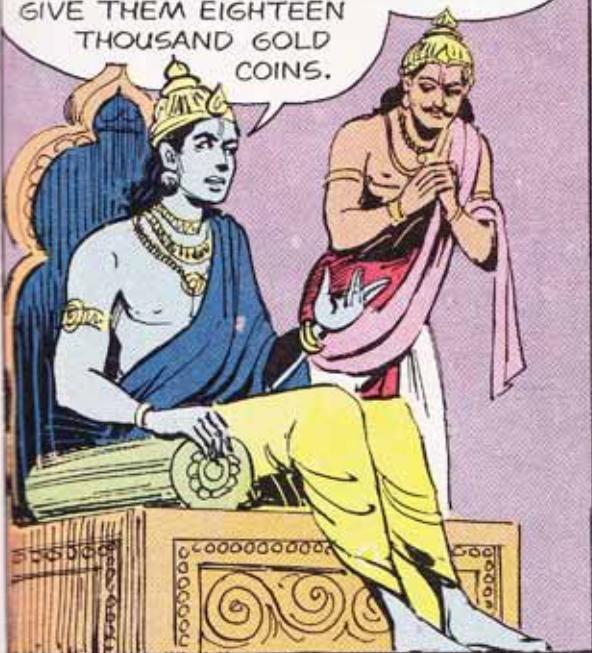


RAMA AND THE ASSEMBLY WERE ENTRANCED BY THE SINGING OF THE BOYS.

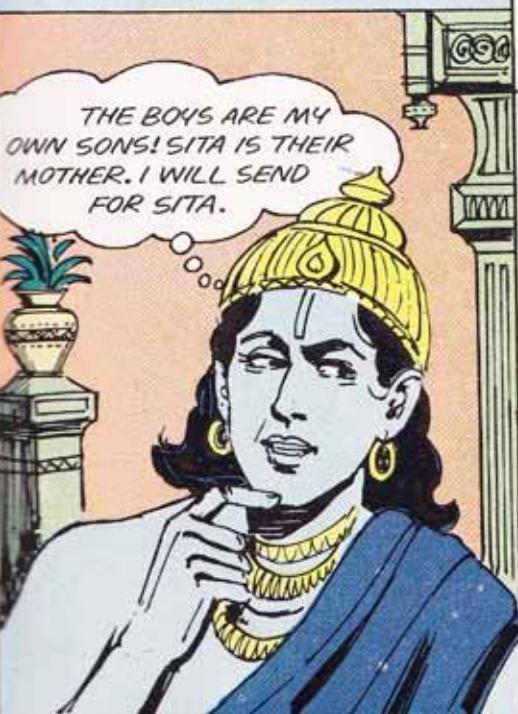


RAMA GAVE AN ORDER TO HIS  
MINISTER.

I AM MIGHTILY PLEASED WITH THE  
PERFORMANCE OF THESE BOYS.  
GIVE THEM EIGHTEEN  
THOUSAND GOLD  
COINS.



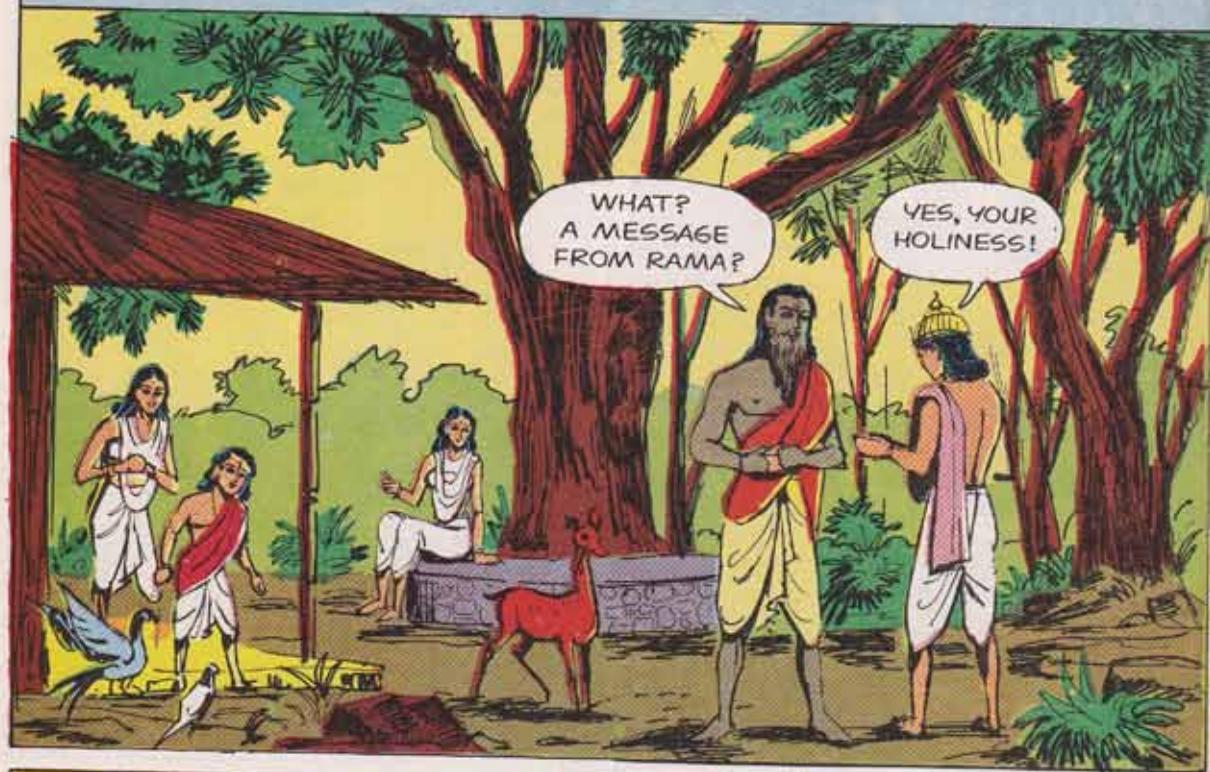
LATER THE TRUTH DAWNED  
ON RAMA.

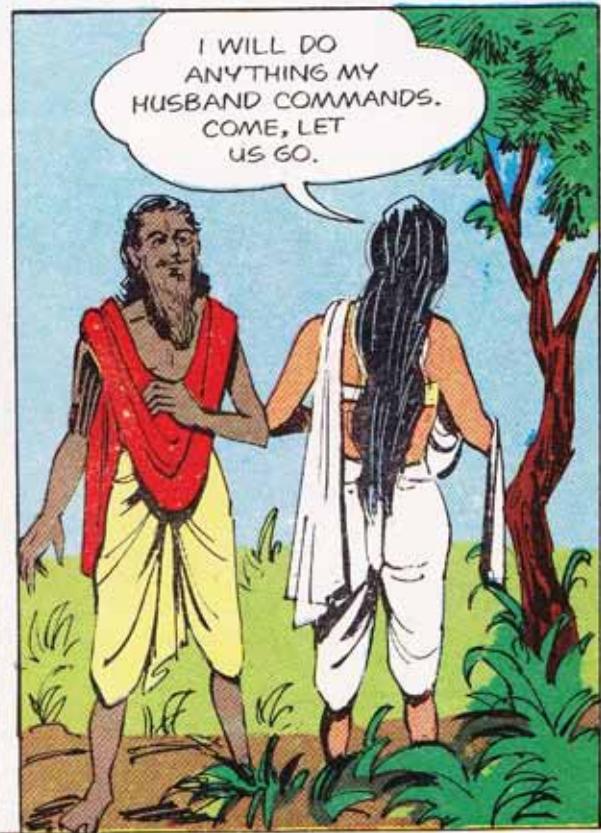
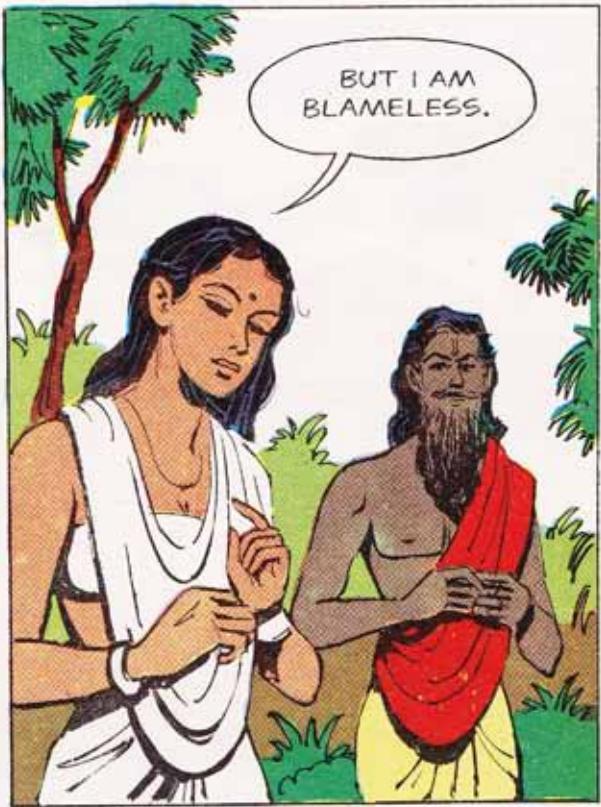
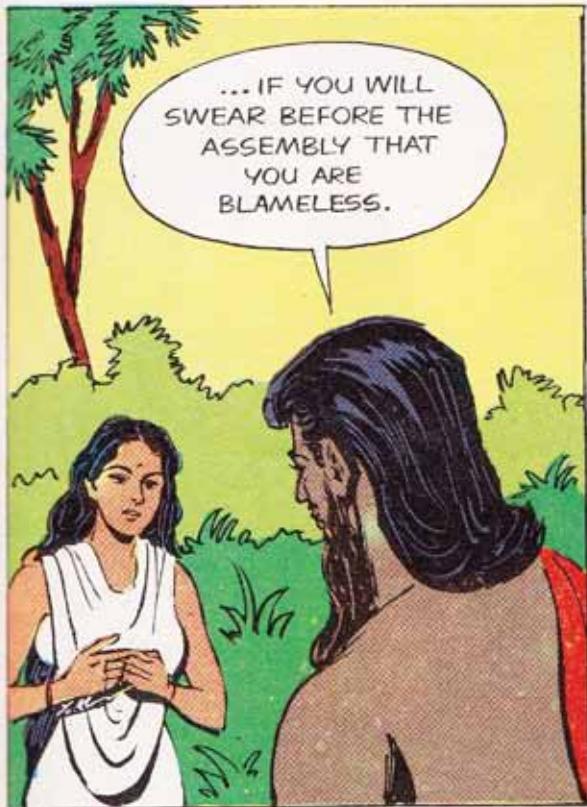


MEET VALMIKI  
AND GIVE HIM THIS  
MESSAGE.

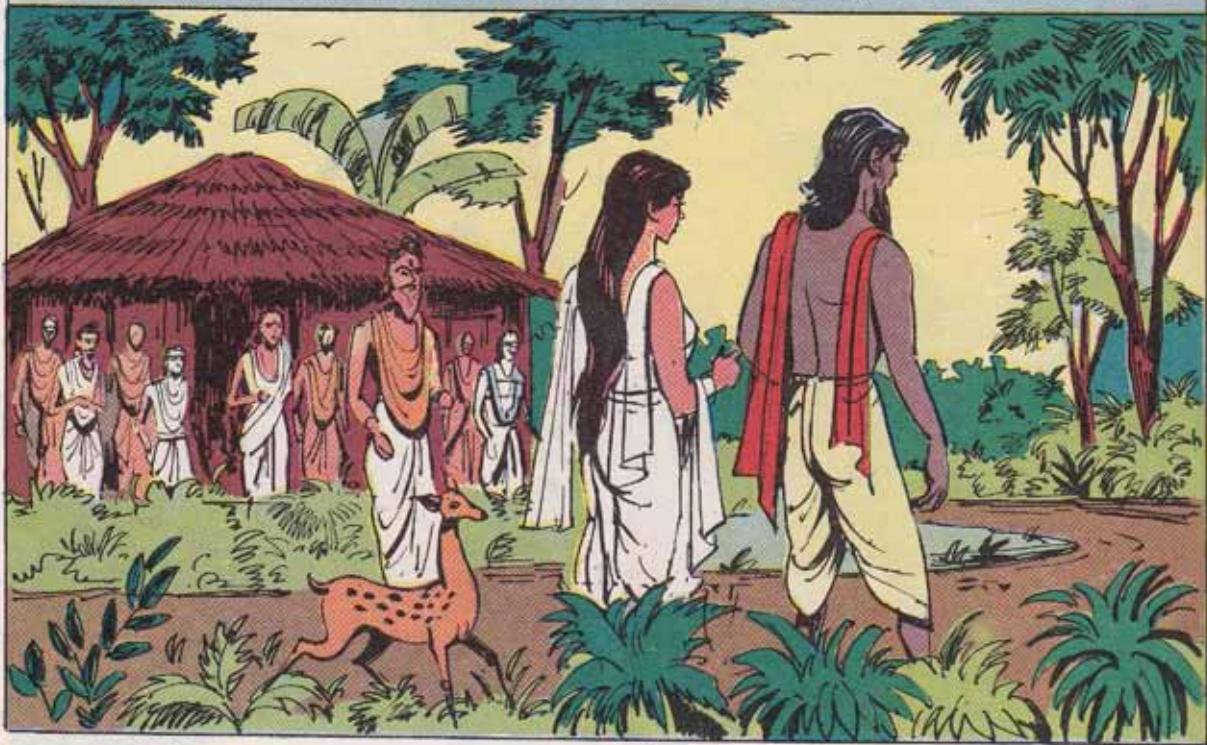


THE MESSENGER MET VALMIKI AT HIS HERMITAGE.

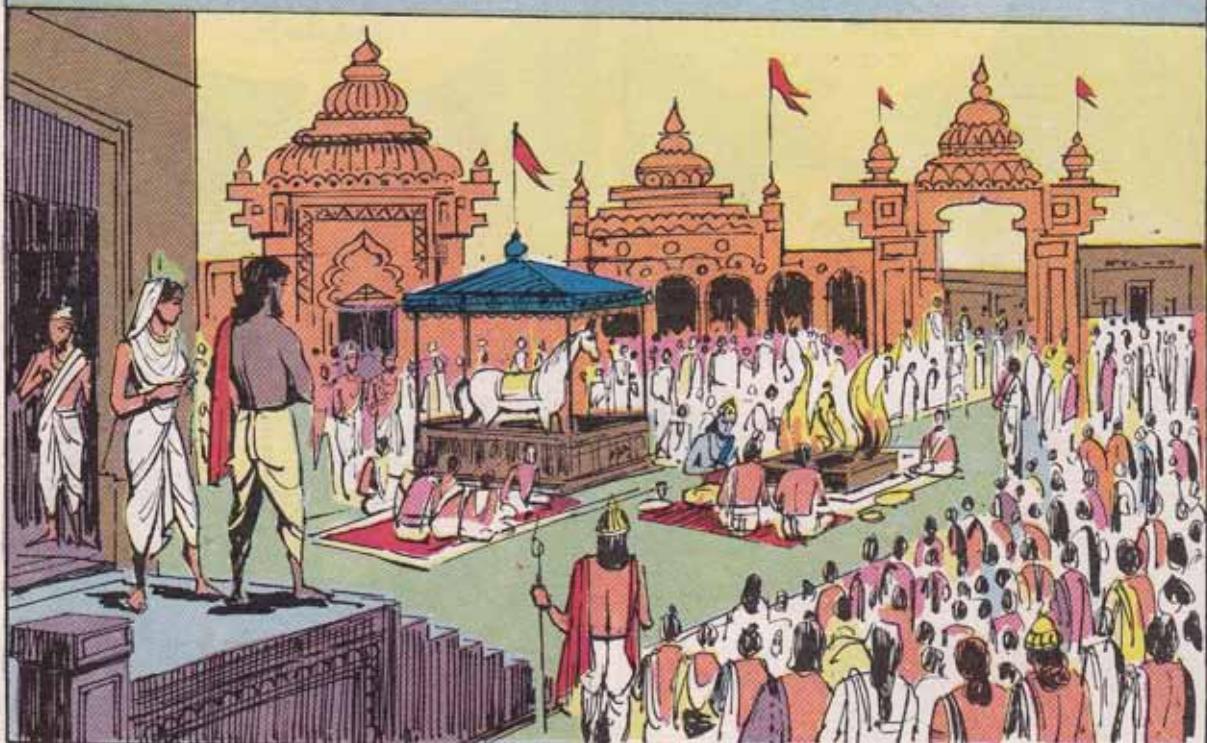


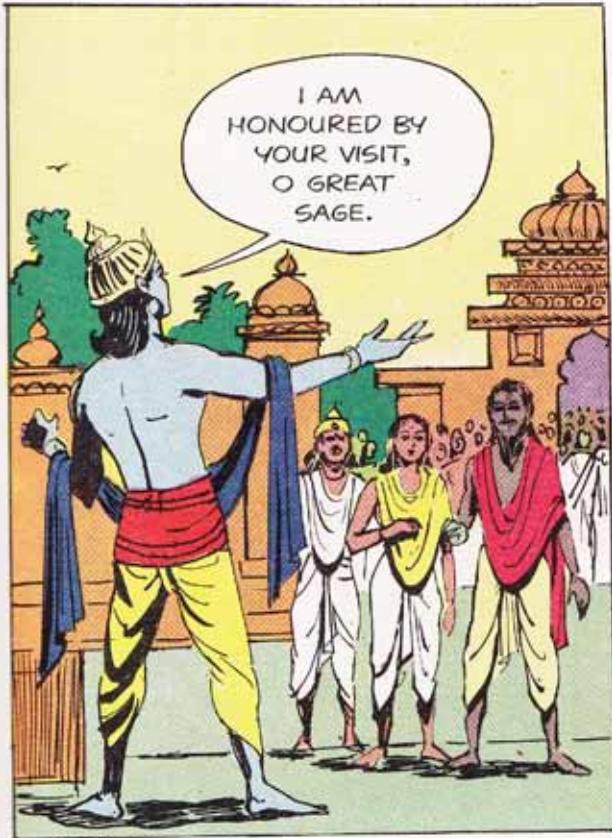


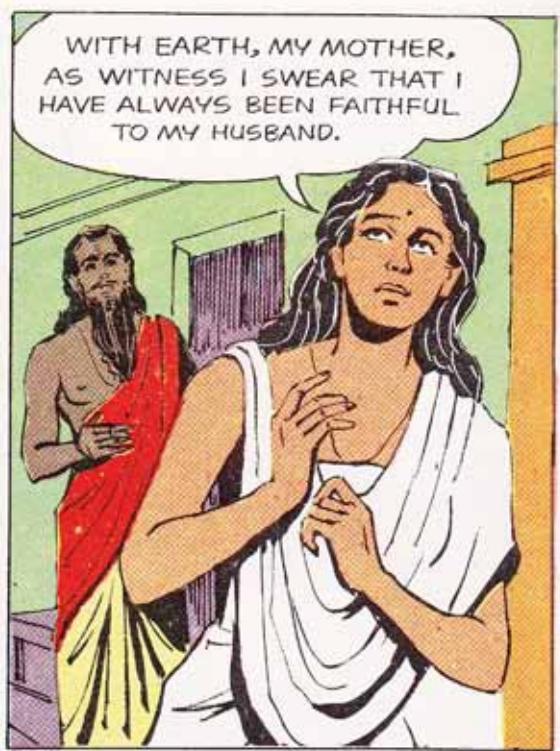
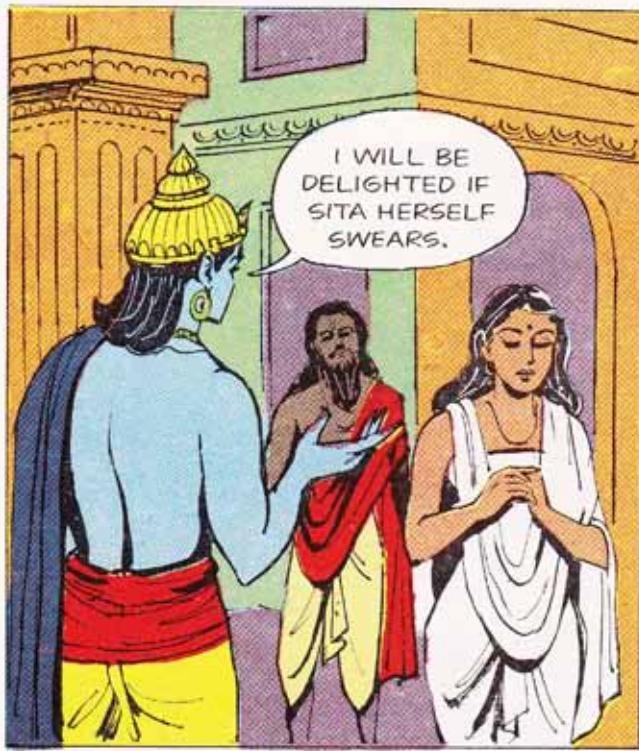
THE INMATES OF THE HERMITAGE BADE SITA A TEARFUL FAREWELL.



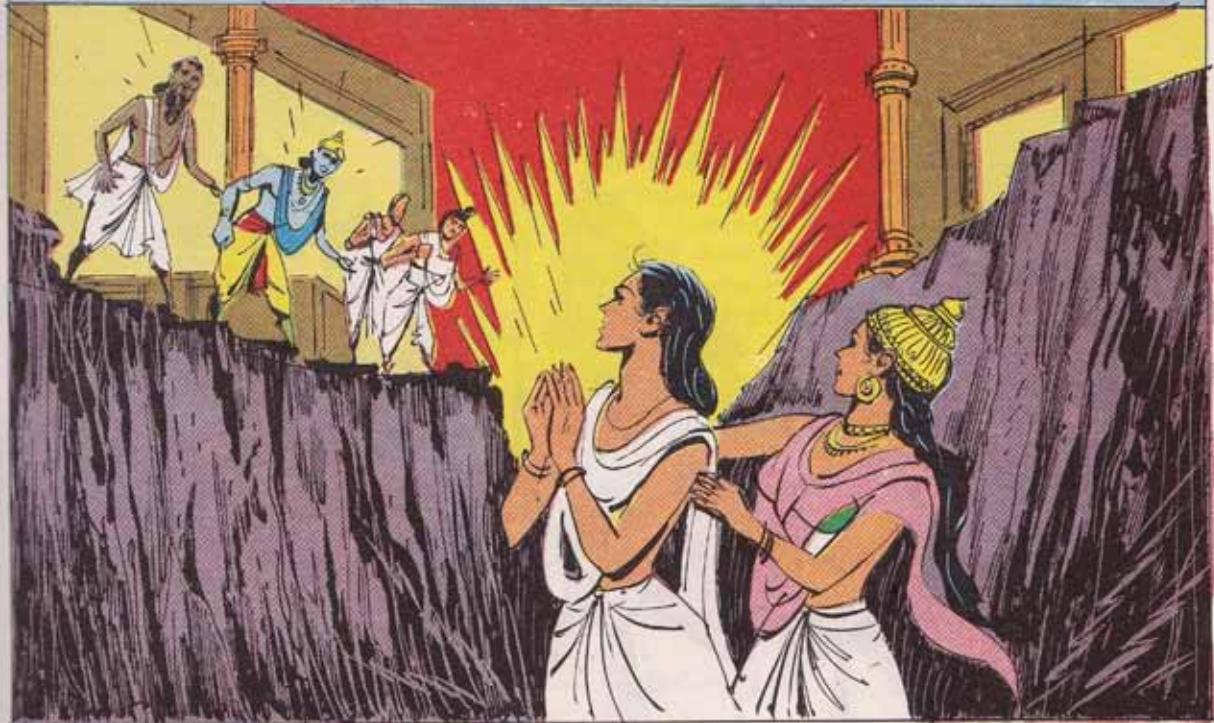
THEY ARRIVED AT THE VENUE OF RAMA'S ASHWAMEDHA SACRIFICE.





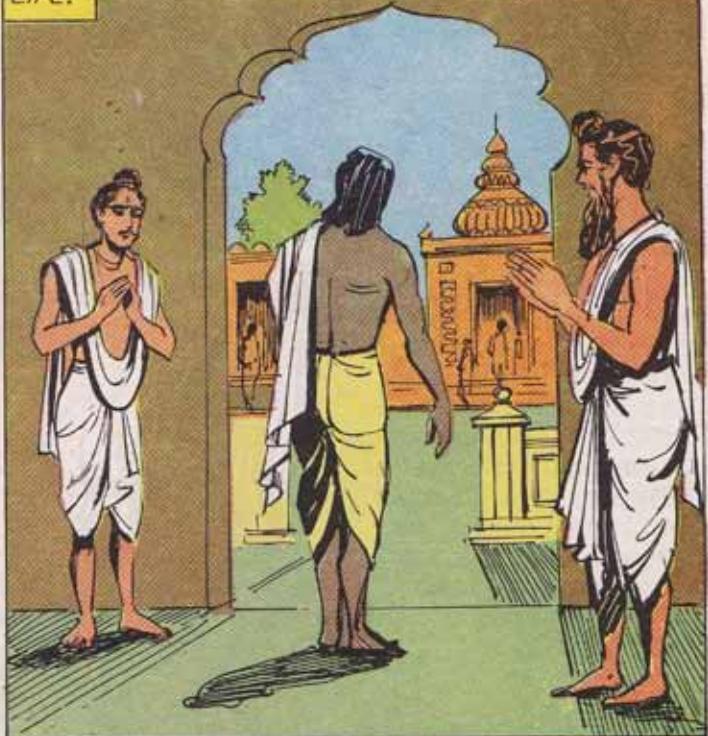


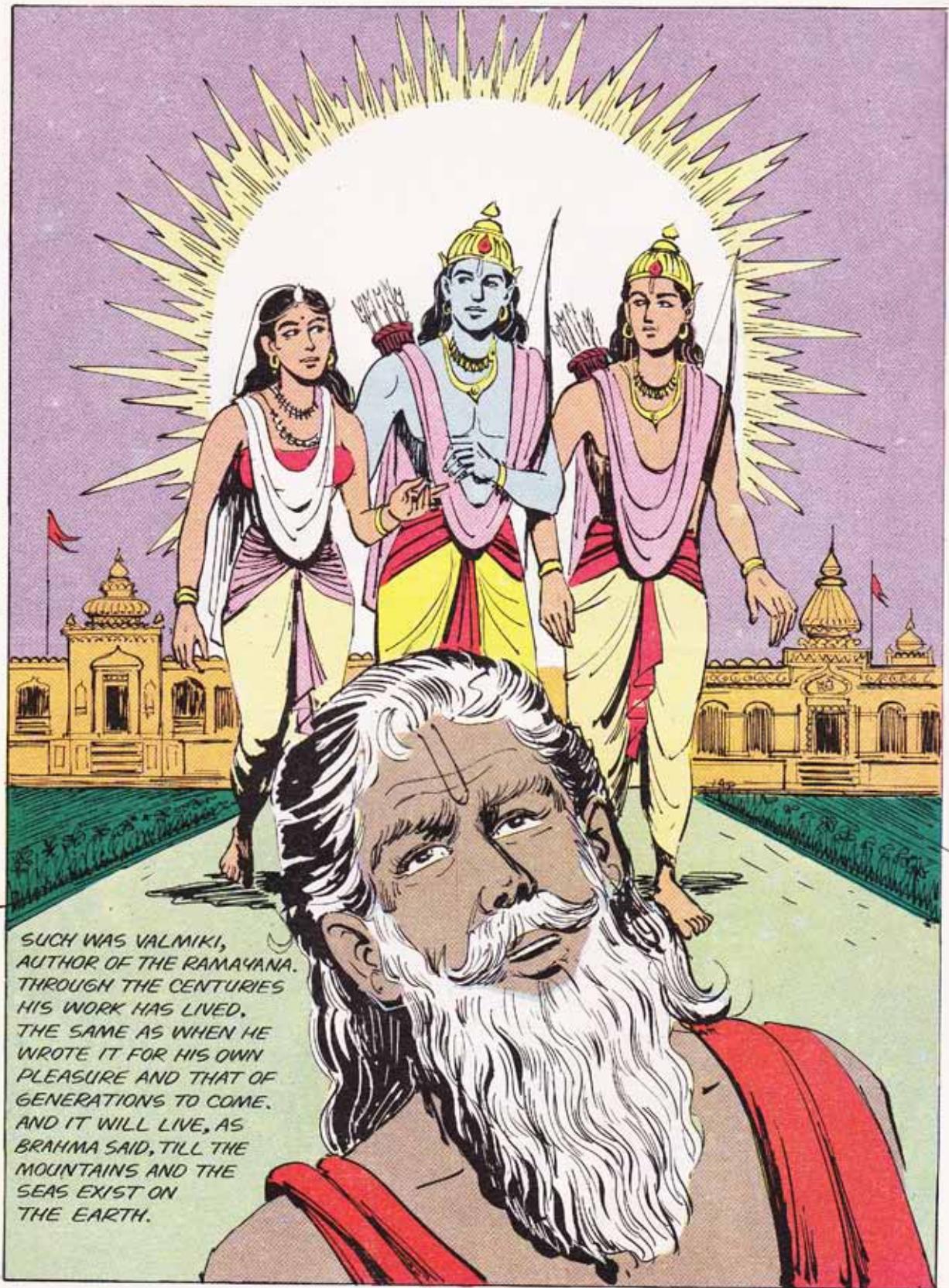
THE GODDESS OF EARTH LIFTED SITA TO THE THRONE AND DISAPPEARED DOWN THE OPENING WITH HER.



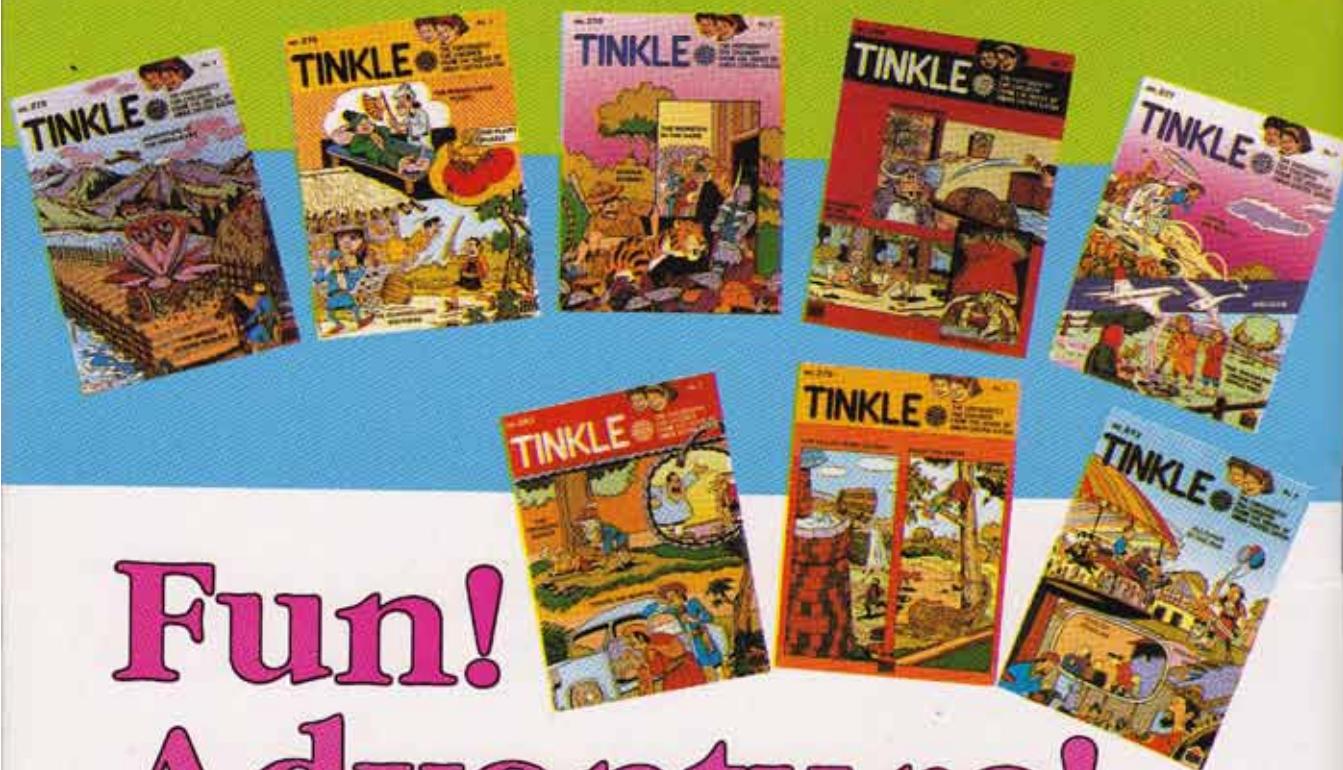
SITA!  
MY SITA!

AND VALMIKI LEFT THE SCENE OF THE SACRIFICE FOR HIS HERMITAGE TO CONTINUE HIS ASCETIC LIFE.



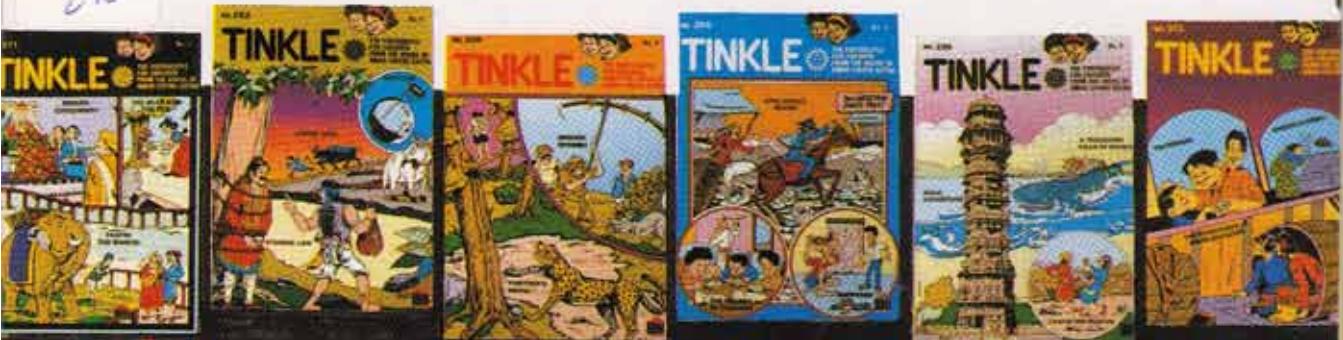


SUCH WAS VALMIKI,  
AUTHOR OF THE RAMAYANA.  
THROUGH THE CENTURIES  
HIS WORK HAS LIVED.  
THE SAME AS WHEN HE  
WROTE IT FOR HIS OWN  
PLEASURE AND THAT OF  
GENERATIONS TO COME.  
AND IT WILL LIVE, AS  
BRAHMA SAID, TILL THE  
MOUNTAINS AND THE  
SEAS EXIST ON  
THE EARTH.



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