

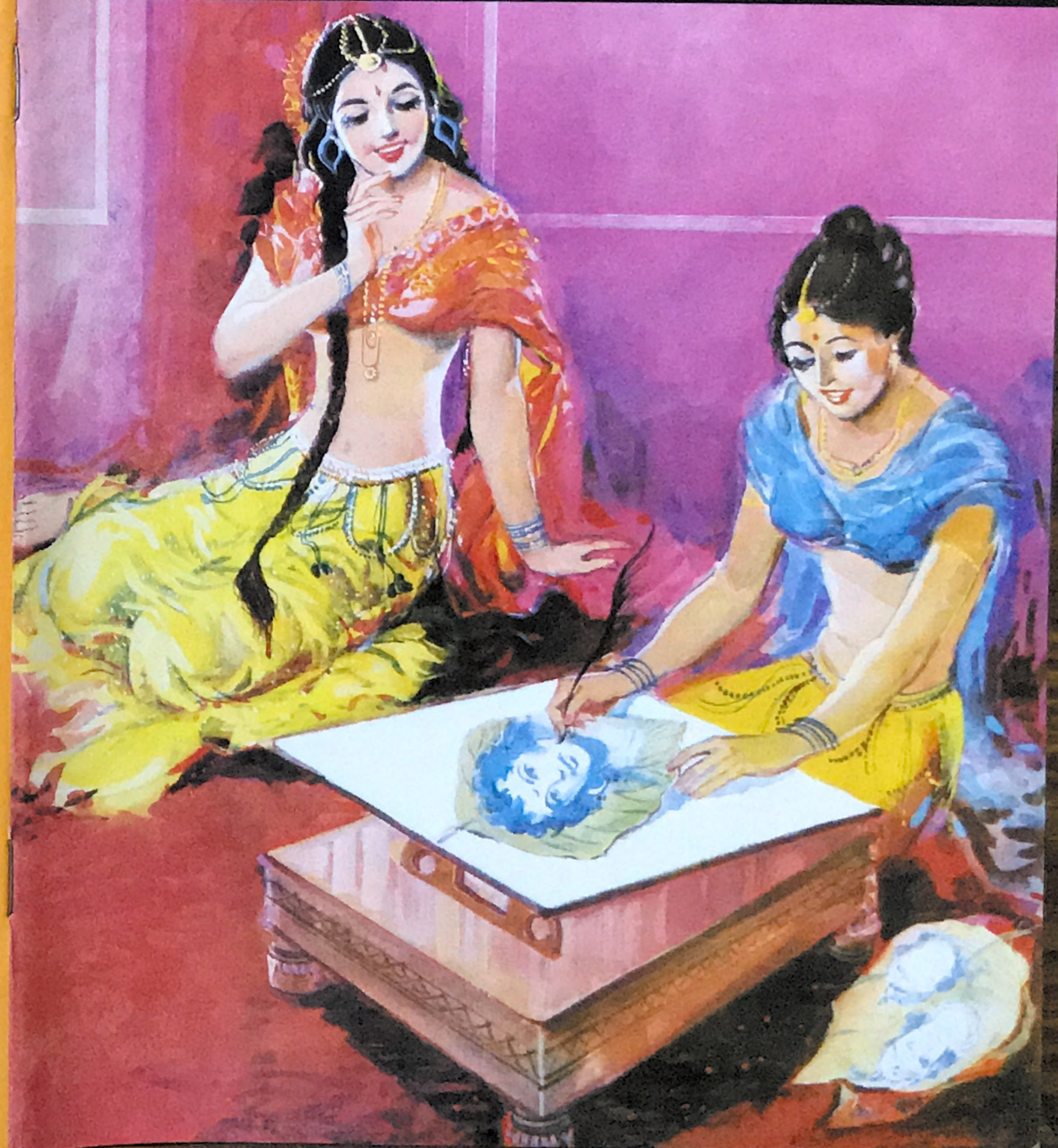
EPICS &
MYTHOLOGY



ANIRUDDHA

BELOVED GRANDSON OF KRISHNA

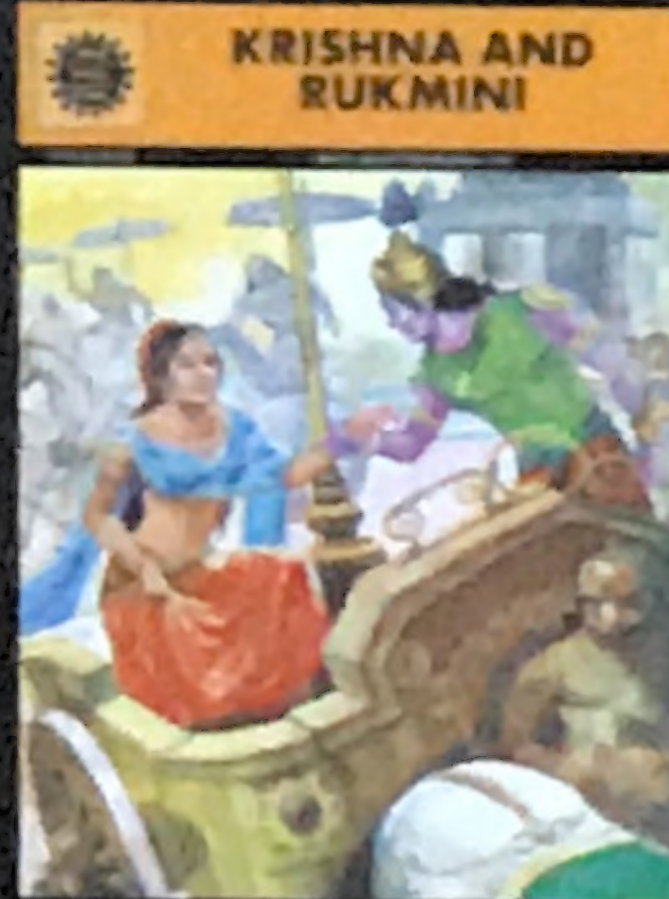
Vol 663 | ₹50



ANIRUDDHA

When Usha, daughter of the asura king, Bana, dreamt of a handsome youth, she lost her heart to him completely. Little did she know that he was Aniruddha, grandson of Krishna. Nor did she ever imagine that their love would lead to a fierce battle between the Yadava forces of Krishna and the demon army of Bana, aided by the wild hordes of Shiva.

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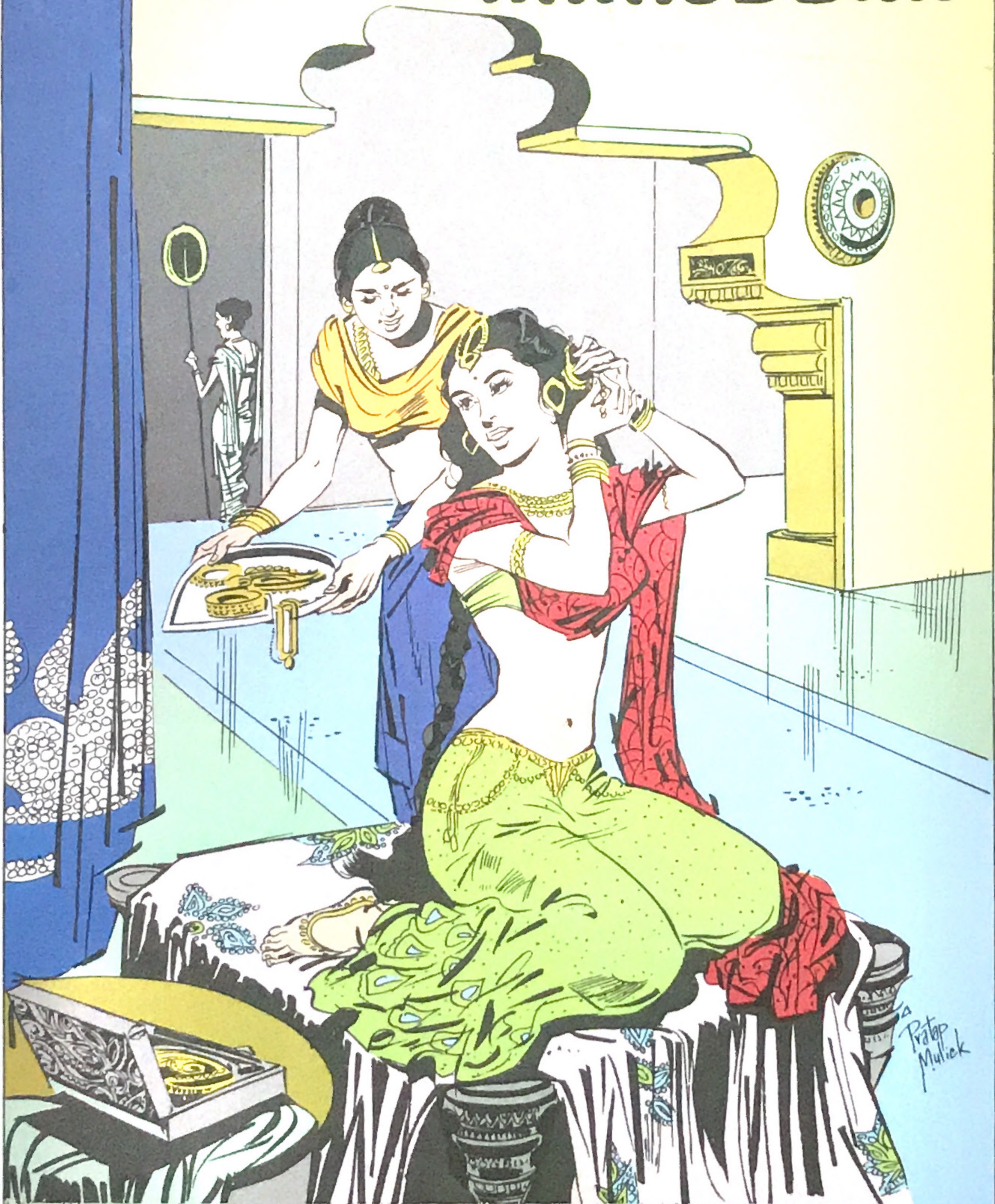
- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

ISBN 81-8482-197-2



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ANIRUDDHA



USHA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE NOBLE ASURA KING, BANA OF THE THOUSAND ARMS.

BANA WAS A DEVOTEE OF LORD SHIVA. ONE DAY WITH HIS THOUSAND ARMS, HE PLAYED VARIOUS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AS SHIVA DANCED THE TANDAVA.



SHIVA, IMMENSELY PLEASED, GRANTED HIM A BOON.

FOR THE PLEASURE YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, I ASSURE YOU OF MY PROTECTION.



BUT AFTER SOME TIME BANA BECAME VAIN AND COMPLAINED TO SHIVA.

MY THOUSAND ARMS ARE BECOMING A USELESS BURDEN TO ME.

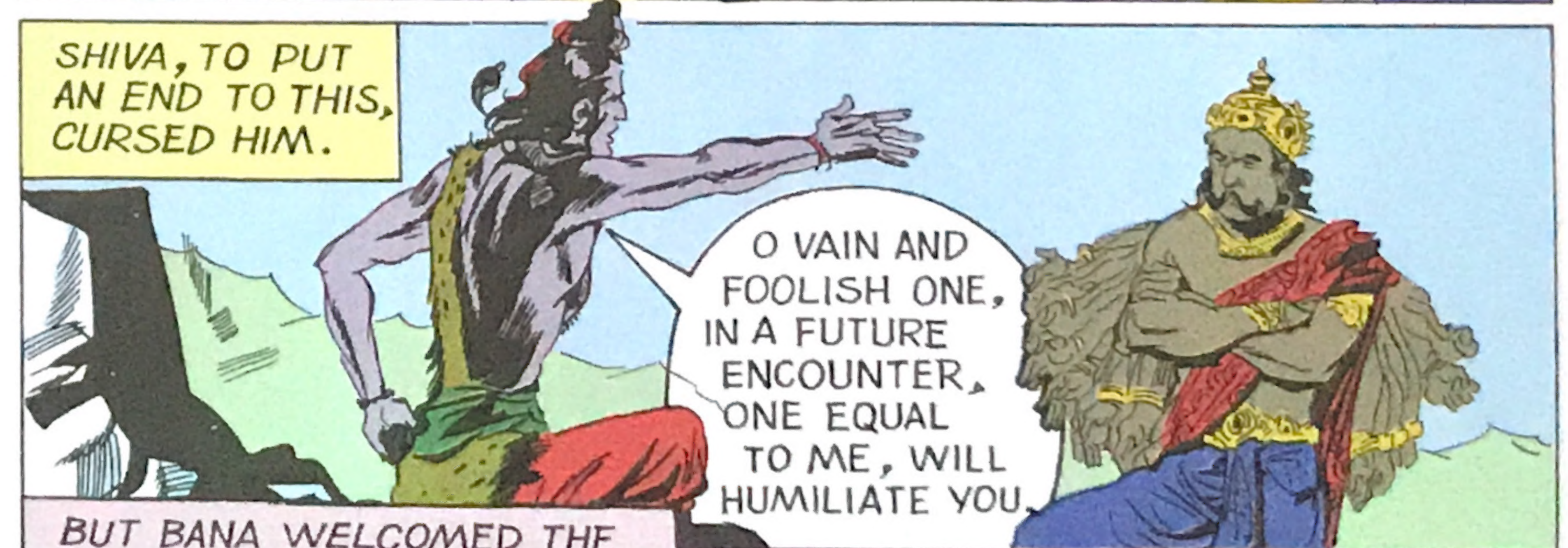


EVEN WITHOUT THEM THERE IS NONE EQUAL TO ME, SAVE YOU.



SHIVA, TO PUT AN END TO THIS, CURSED HIM.

O VAIN AND FOOLISH ONE, IN A FUTURE ENCOUNTER, ONE EQUAL TO ME, WILL HUMILIATE YOU.



BUT BANA WELCOMED THE CURSE AND LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING A PEER IN FIGHT.

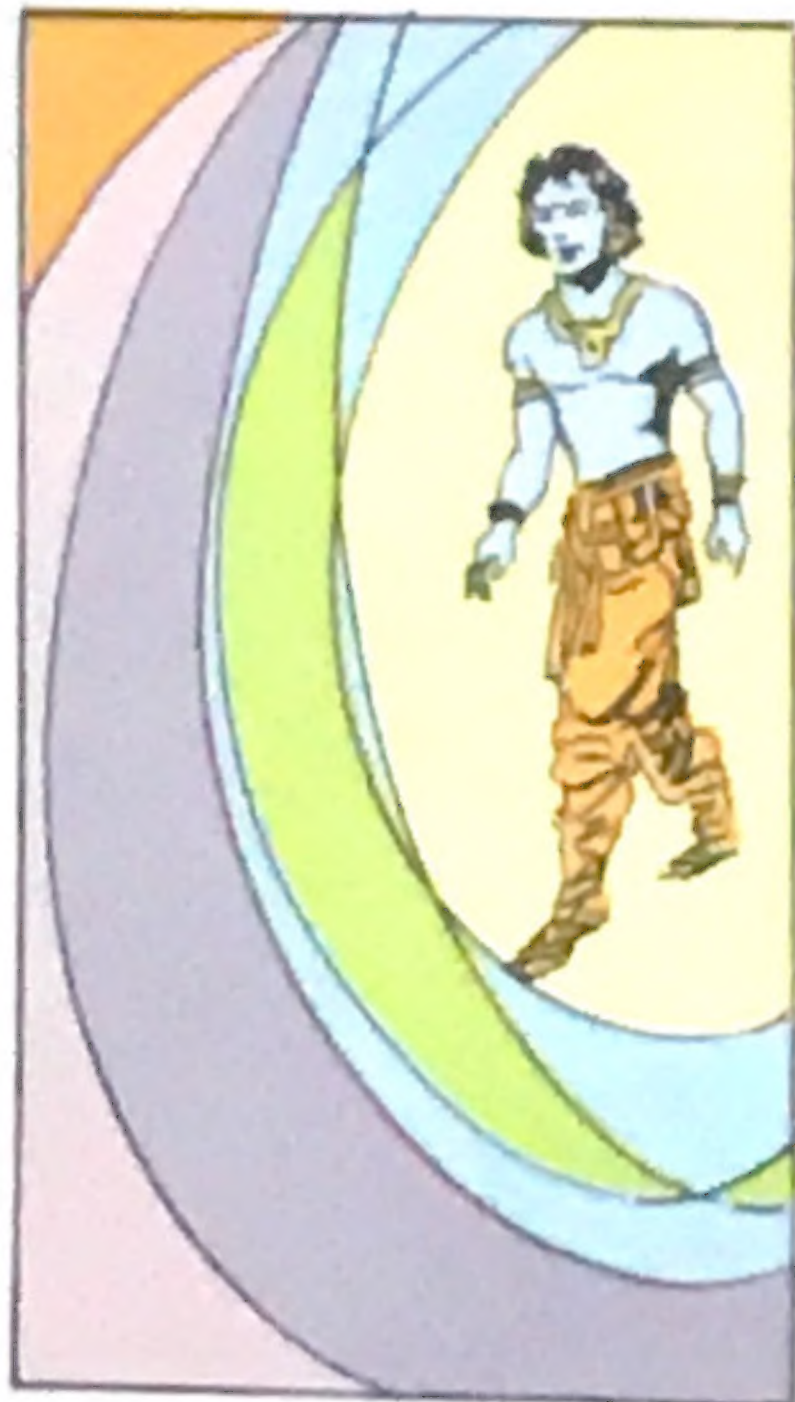
A FEW DAYS LATER, USHA AND HER FRIENDS WERE PICKING FLOWERS IN THEIR FAVOURITE GROVE.



THEY SET THEIR BASKETS DOWN AND LAY DOWN UNDER THE TREES.



AS USHA DROZED, SHE HAD A DREAM.



USHA WOKE UP WITH A START.



HER FRIENDS WERE AT FIRST STARTLED...

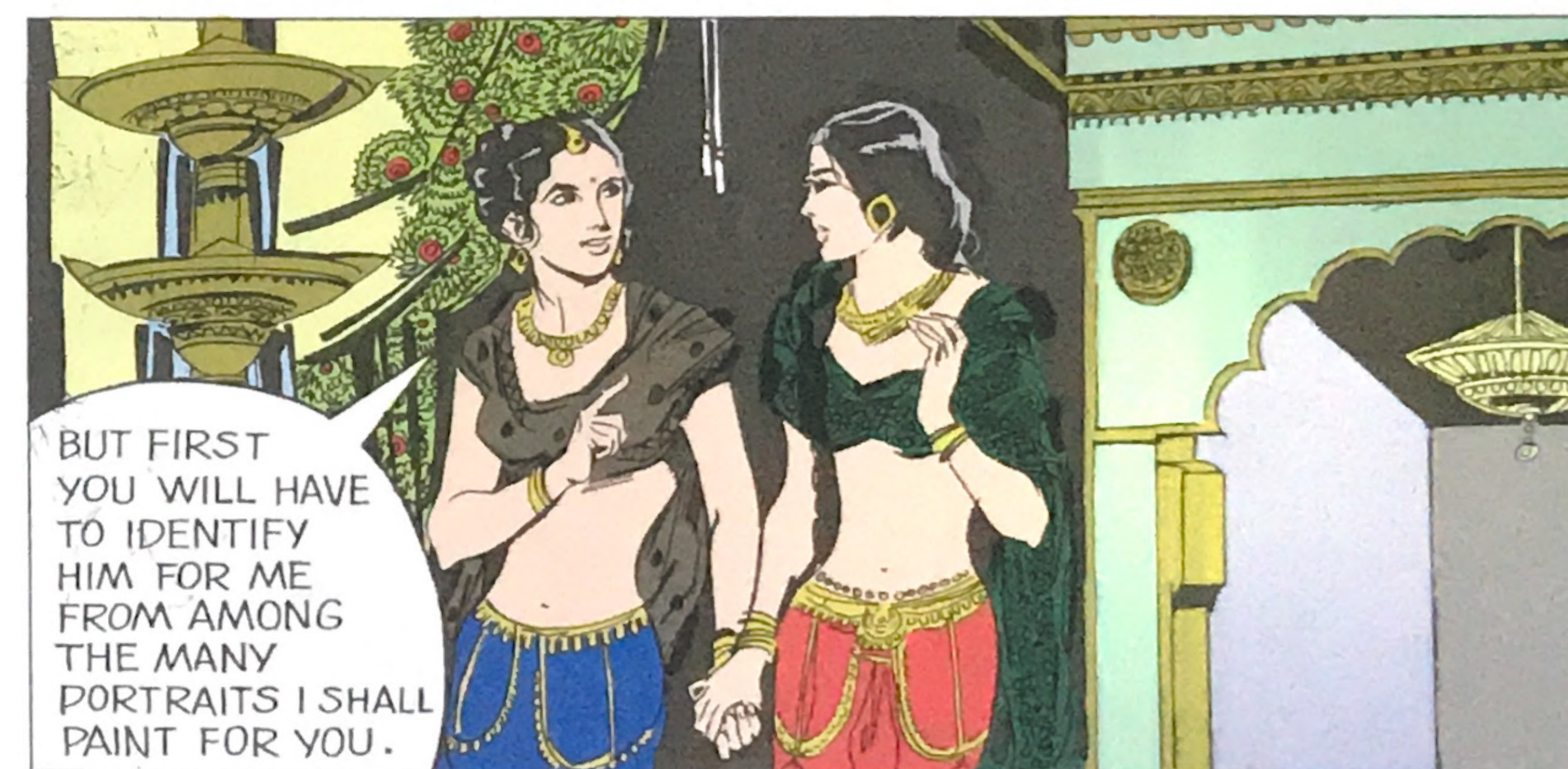
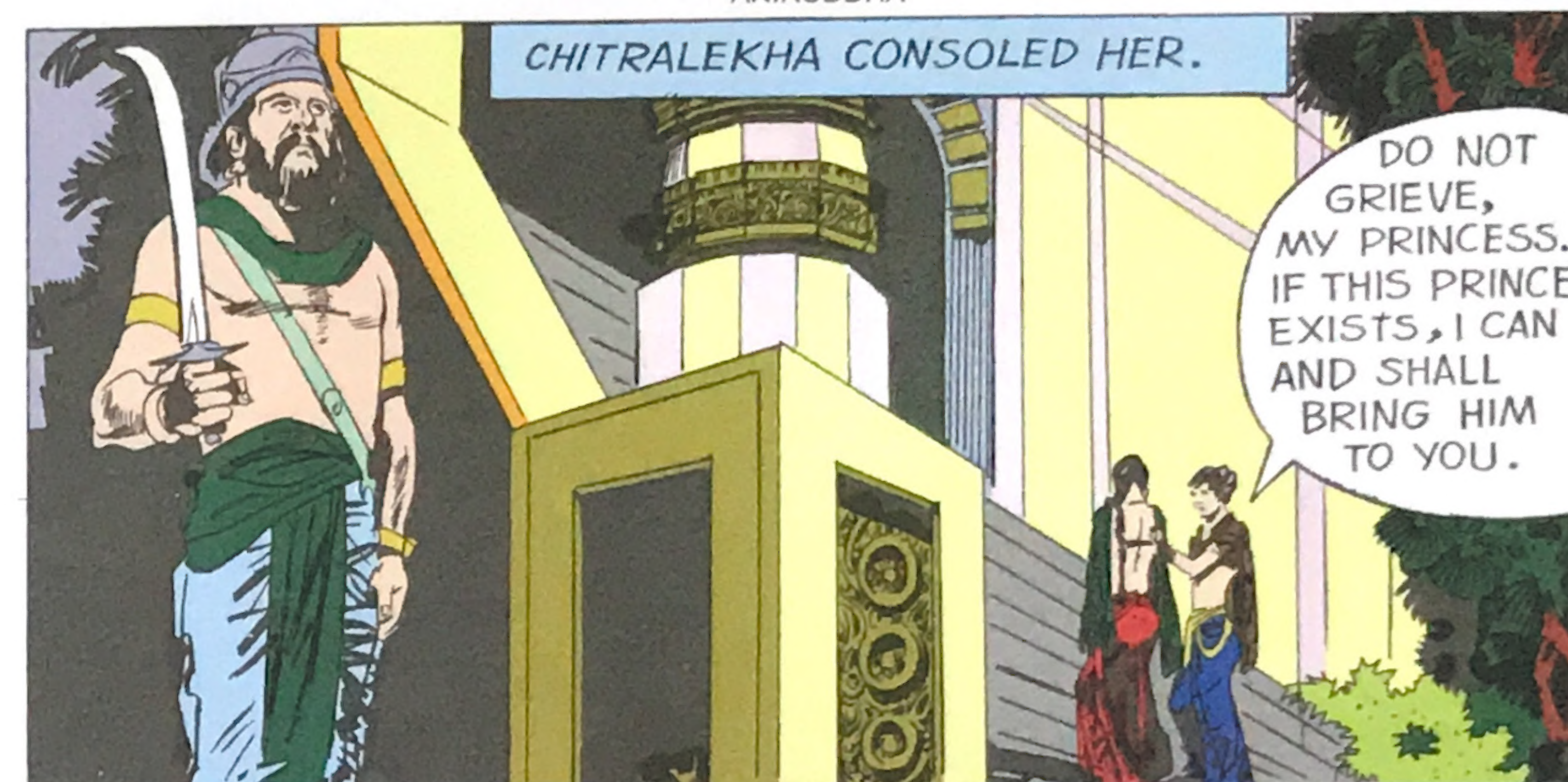
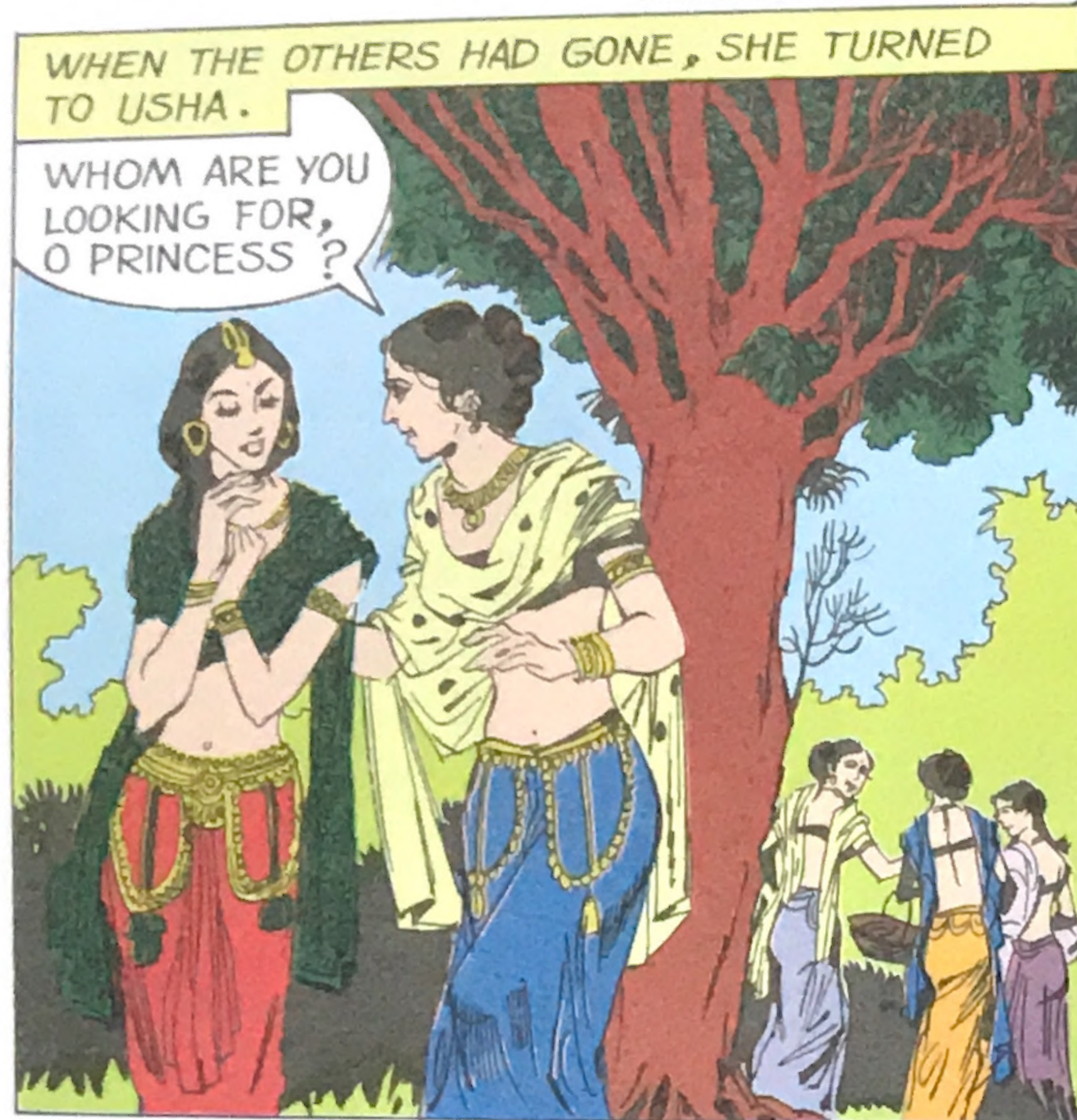


... AND THEN AMUSED. THEY BEGAN TEASING HER.



BUT CHITRALEKHA, THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF BANA'S MINISTERS AND USHA'S CLOSE COMPANION, CAME TO HER RESCUE.





... GANDHARVAS ...



... AND YAKSHAS.



THEN WHEN AMONG THE VARIOUS PORTRAITS SHE PAINTED KRISHNA AND HIS SON PRADYUMNA —



NO! BUT...



USHA WAS ABASHED, BECAUSE THEY RESEMBLED CLOSELY THE PRINCE OF HER DREAM.

AT LAST CHITRALEKHA DREW THE PORTRAIT OF ANIRUDDHA, SON OF PRADYUMNA. USHA, SUDDENLY SHY, CAST HER EYES DOWN.



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! SURELY, AMONG MEN, IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE VALIANT YADAVA RACE WHO COULD HAVE DISTURBED MY PRINCESS.



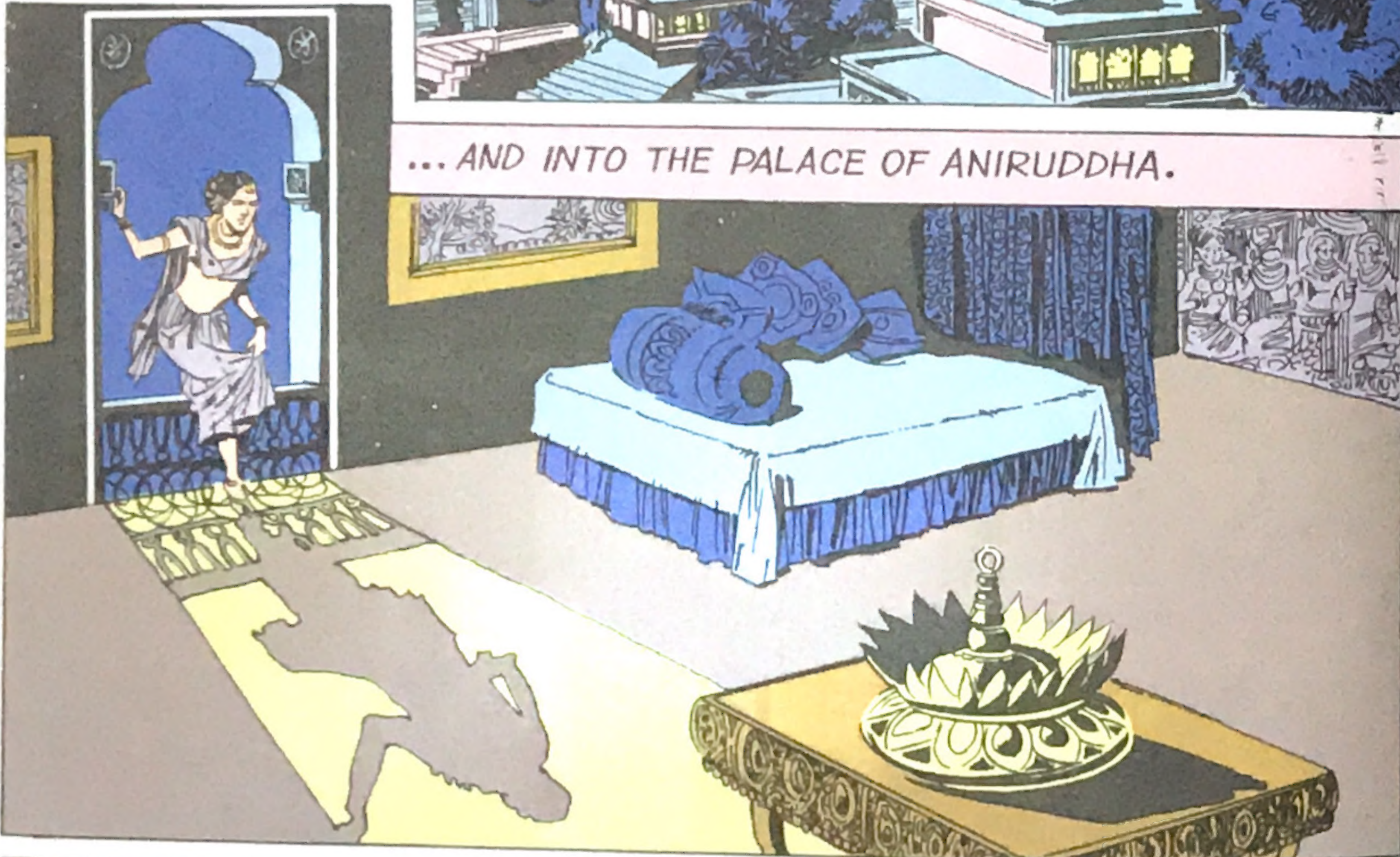
THEN CHITRALEKHA WITH THE HELP OF HER YOGIC POWERS CONVEYED HERSELF...



... TO DWĀRAKA ...



... AND INTO THE PALACE OF ANIRUDDHA.

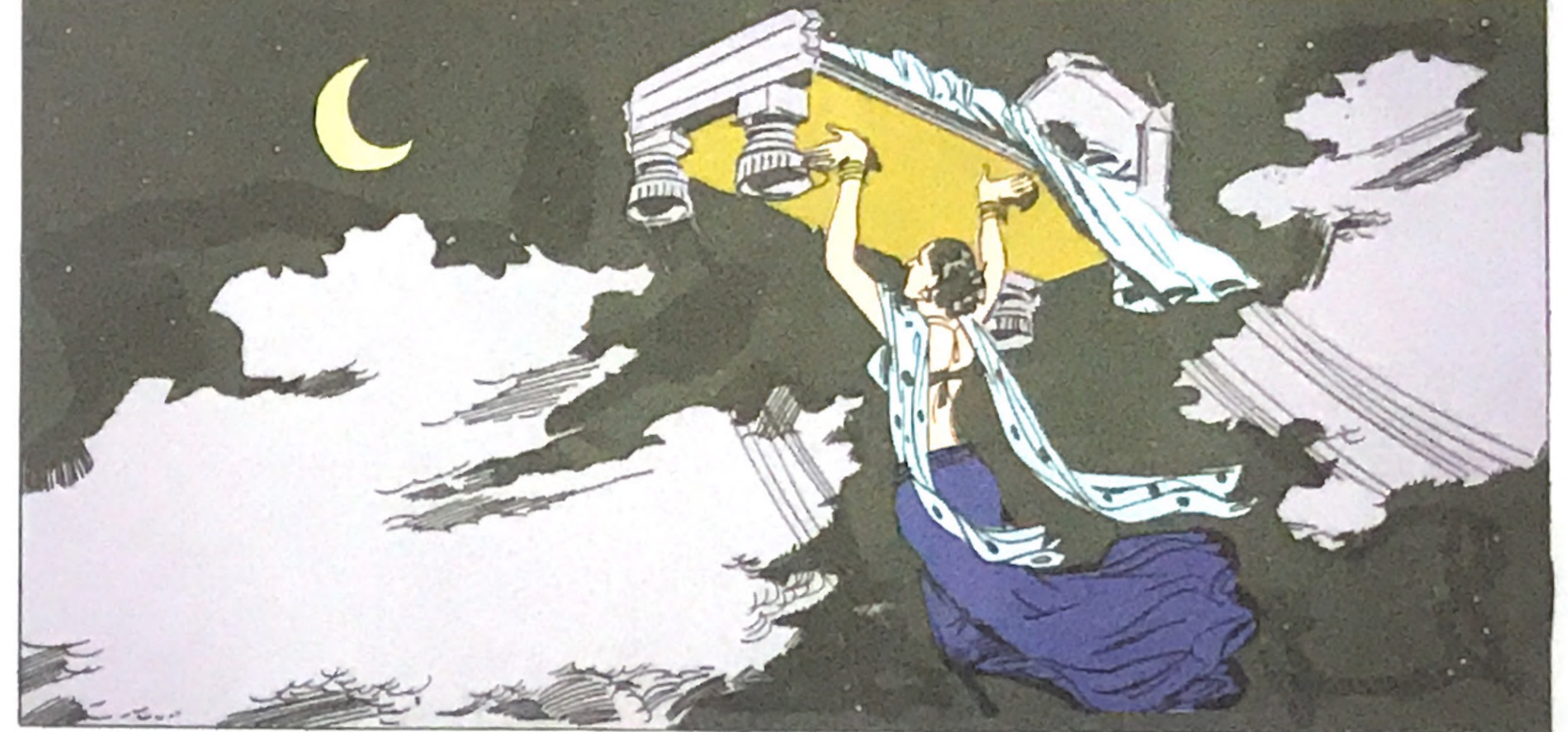


SHE FOUND HIM FAST ASLEEP ON HIS BED.



I AM FORTU-
NATE. I SHALL
DO WHAT I
HAVE COME TO
DO BEFORE HE
WAKES UP
AND RESISTS.

THUS, WHILE ANIRUDDHA SLEPT, CHITRALEKHA, USING HER YOGIC POWERS, TRANSPORTED HIM TO THE KINGDOM OF BANA ...



... AND INTO THE PRESENCE OF HER DEAR PRINCESS, USHA.



HERE HE IS,
MY PRINCESS.
HE IS
YOURS.

USHA WAS
DELIGHTED.

DEAR
CHITRALEKHA,
YOU HAVE
BROUGHT ME
GREAT HAPPINESS.
I SHALL EVER BE
GRATEFUL TO
YOU.



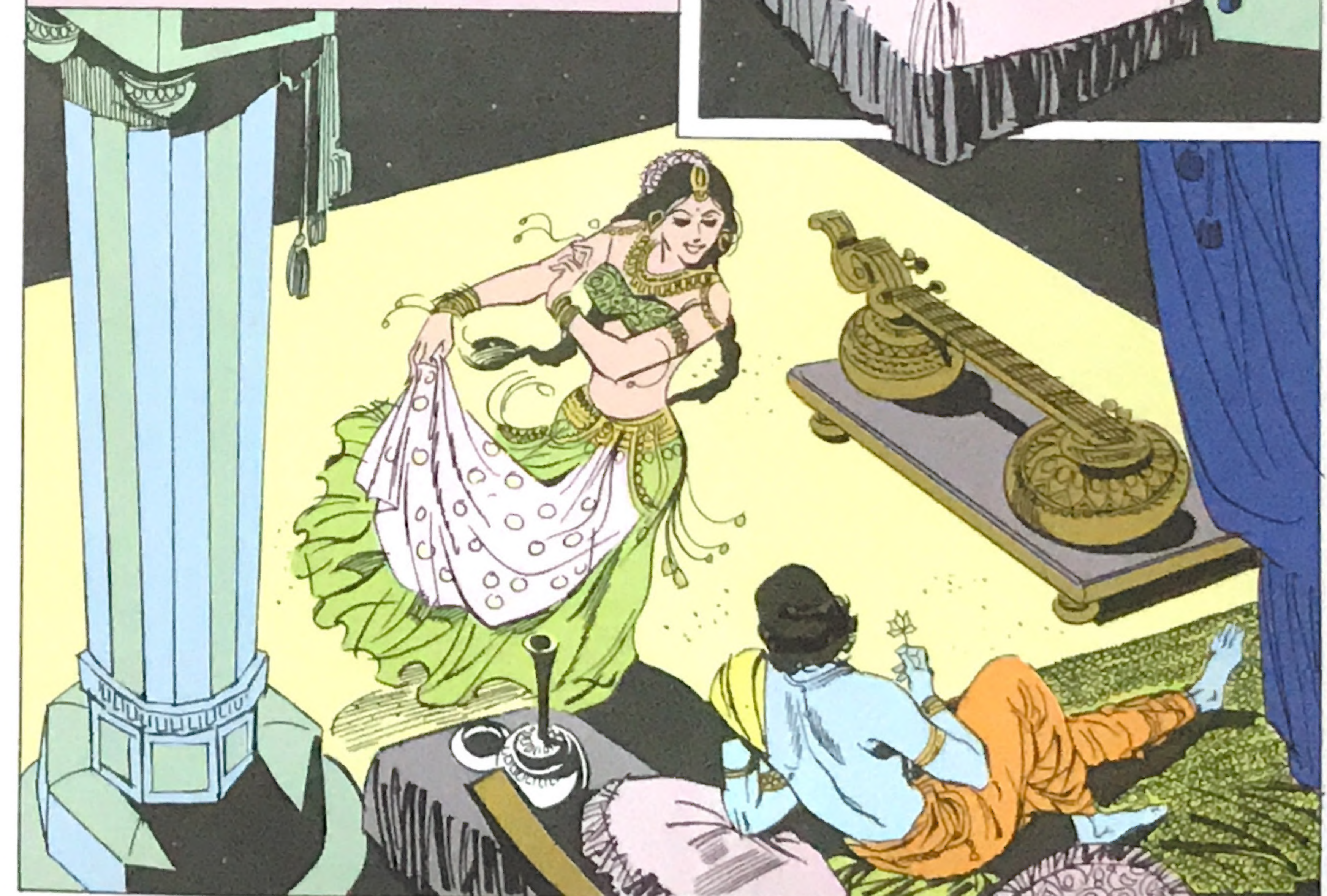
CHITRALEKHA WENT AWAY, LEAVING USHA WITH ANIRUDDHA.



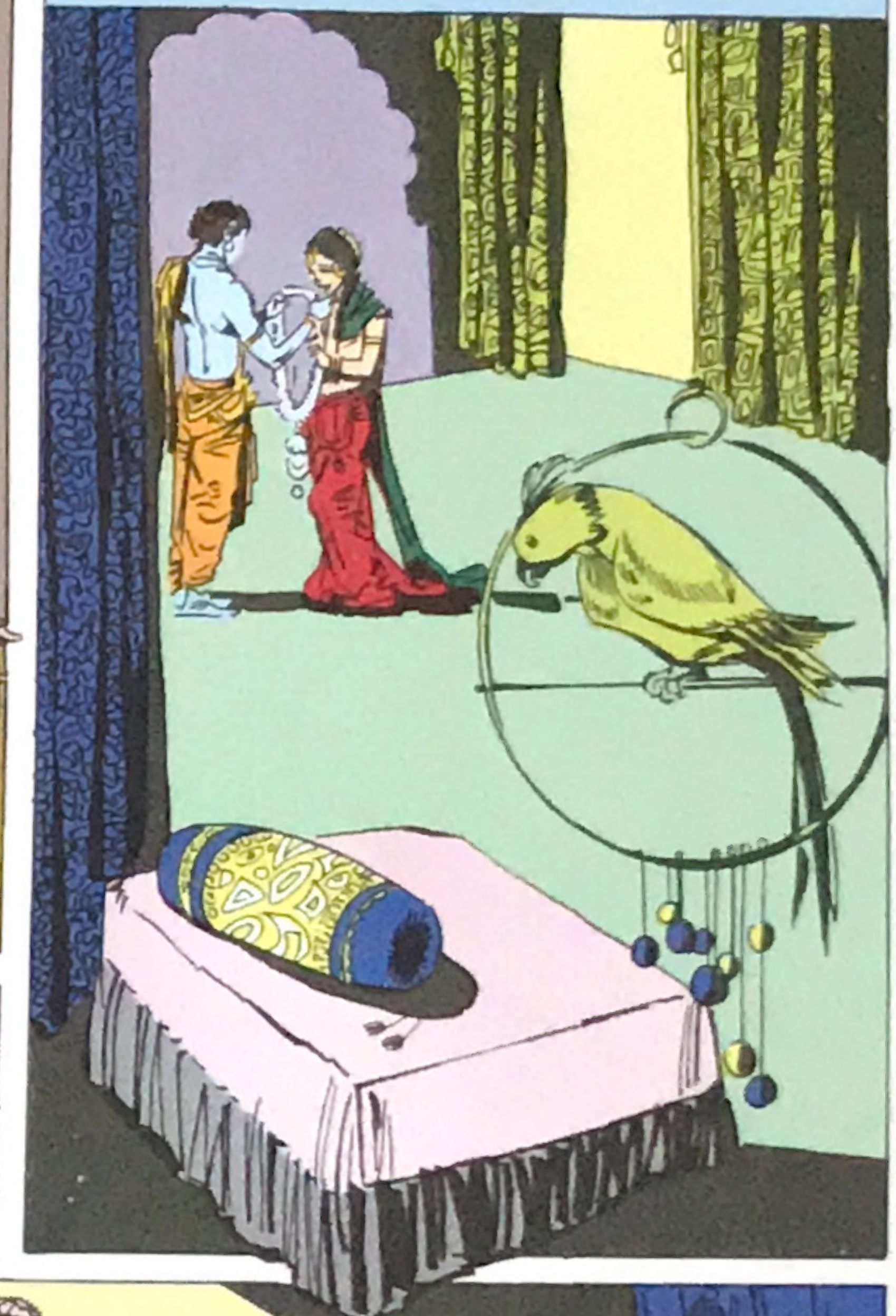
BUT ANIRUDDHA WAS NOT ABLE TO TAKE HIS EYES OFF THE LOVELY USHA.



SHE ENTERTAINED HIM WITH SONG AND DANCE...



THUS IMPRISONED BY THE TENDER ATTENTIONS OF USHA, ANIRUDDHA MARRIED HER.



... AND FED HIM WITH THE CHOICEST OF FOODS AND THE SWEETEST OF WORDS.

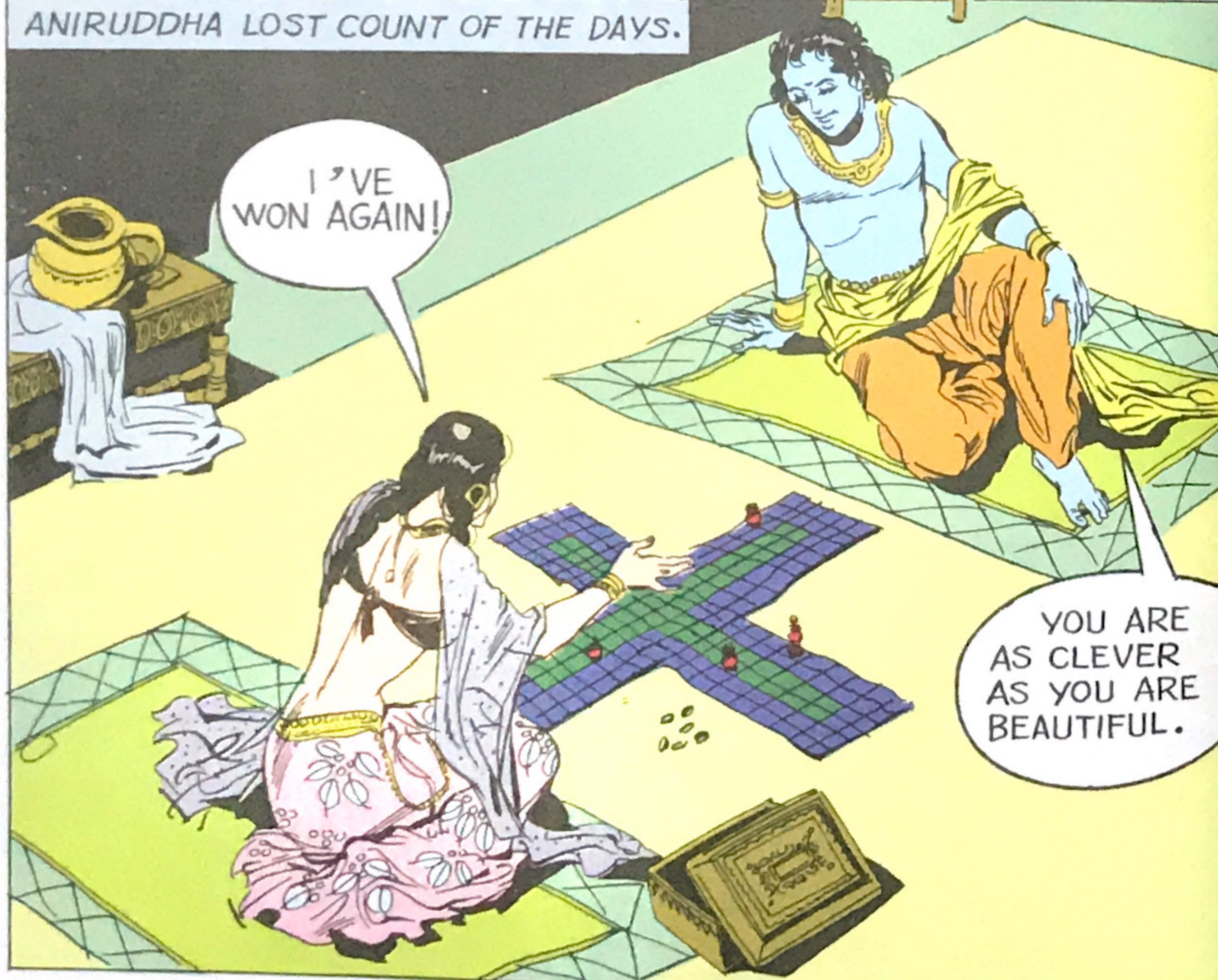
IN MY DREAMS YOU
HAUNTED ME. IN FLESH
AND BLOOD YOU
SPIRIT ME AWAY.



ANIRUDDHA LOST COUNT OF THE DAYS.

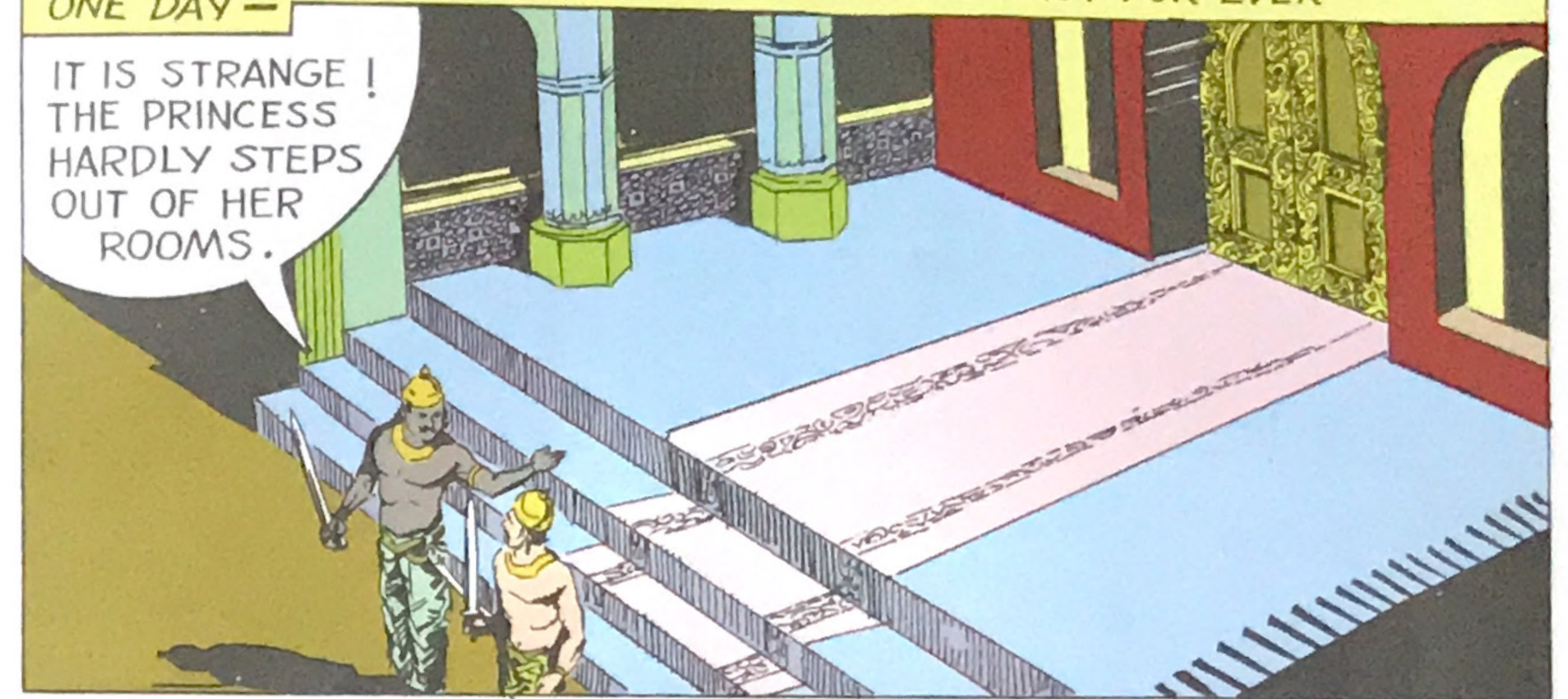
I'VE
WON AGAIN!

YOU ARE
AS CLEVER
AS YOU ARE
BEAUTIFUL.



BUT SUCH STOLEN HAPPINESS COULD NOT LAST FOR EVER
ONE DAY —

IT IS STRANGE!
THE PRINCESS
HARDLY STEPS
OUT OF HER
ROOMS.



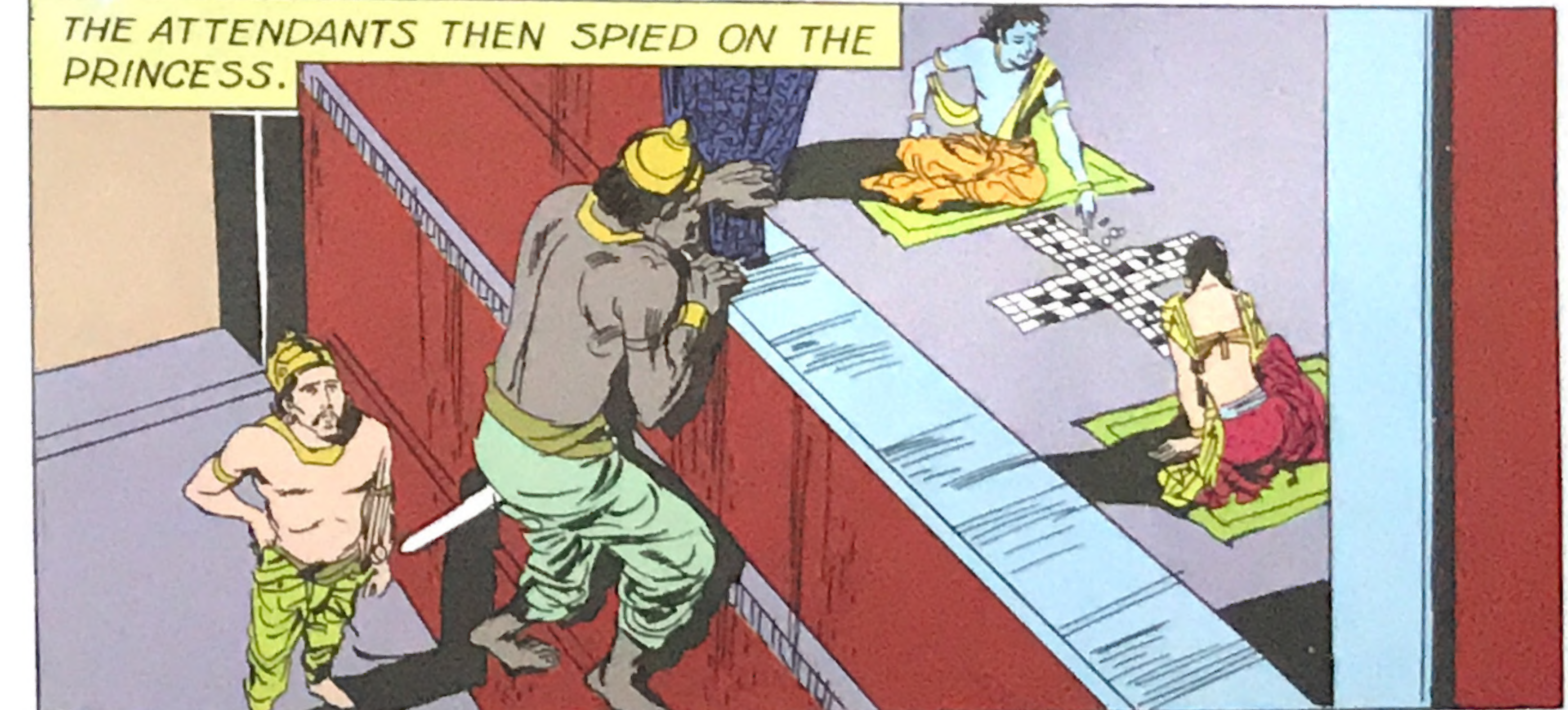
PERHAPS SHE IS
ILL!

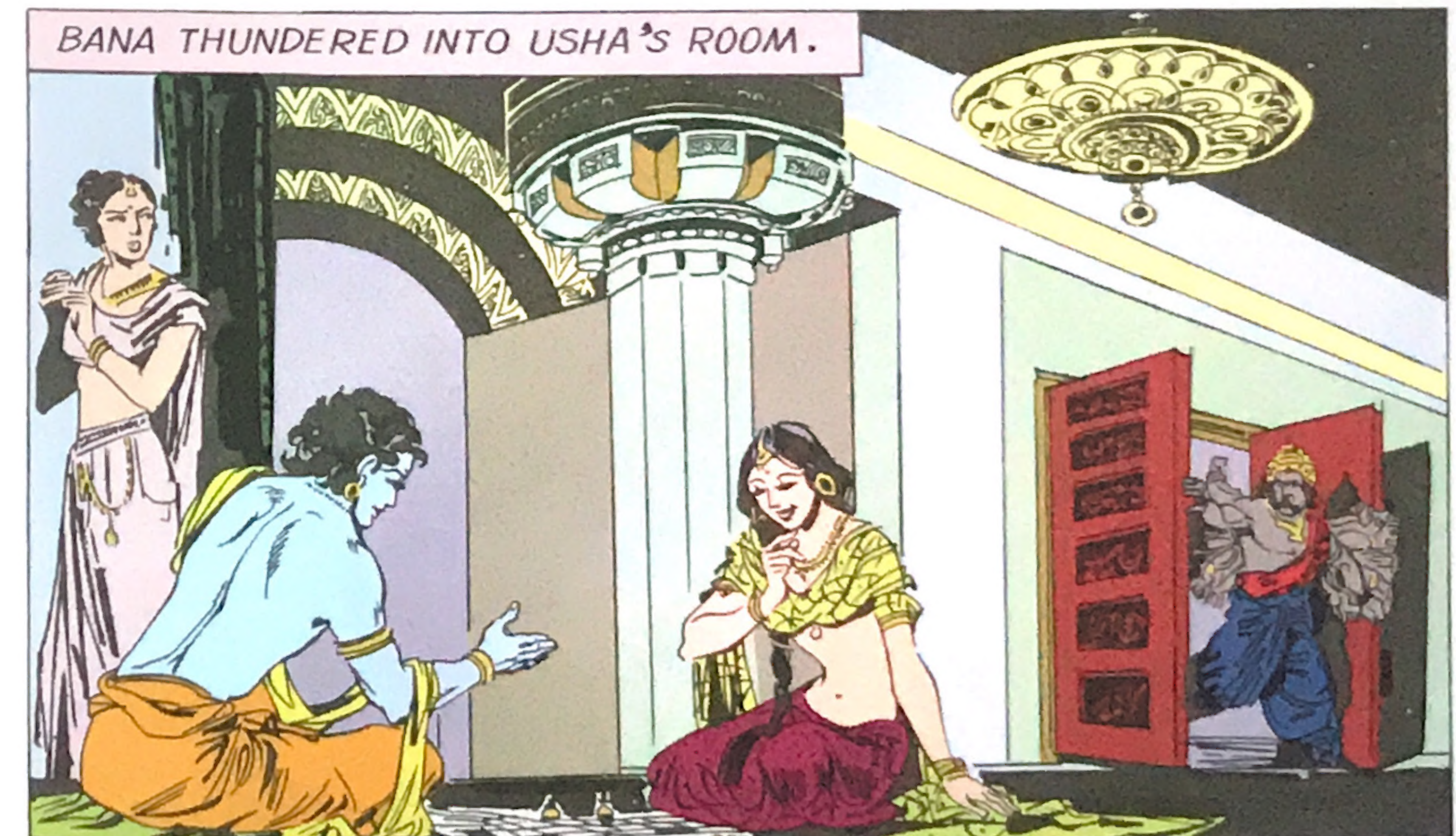
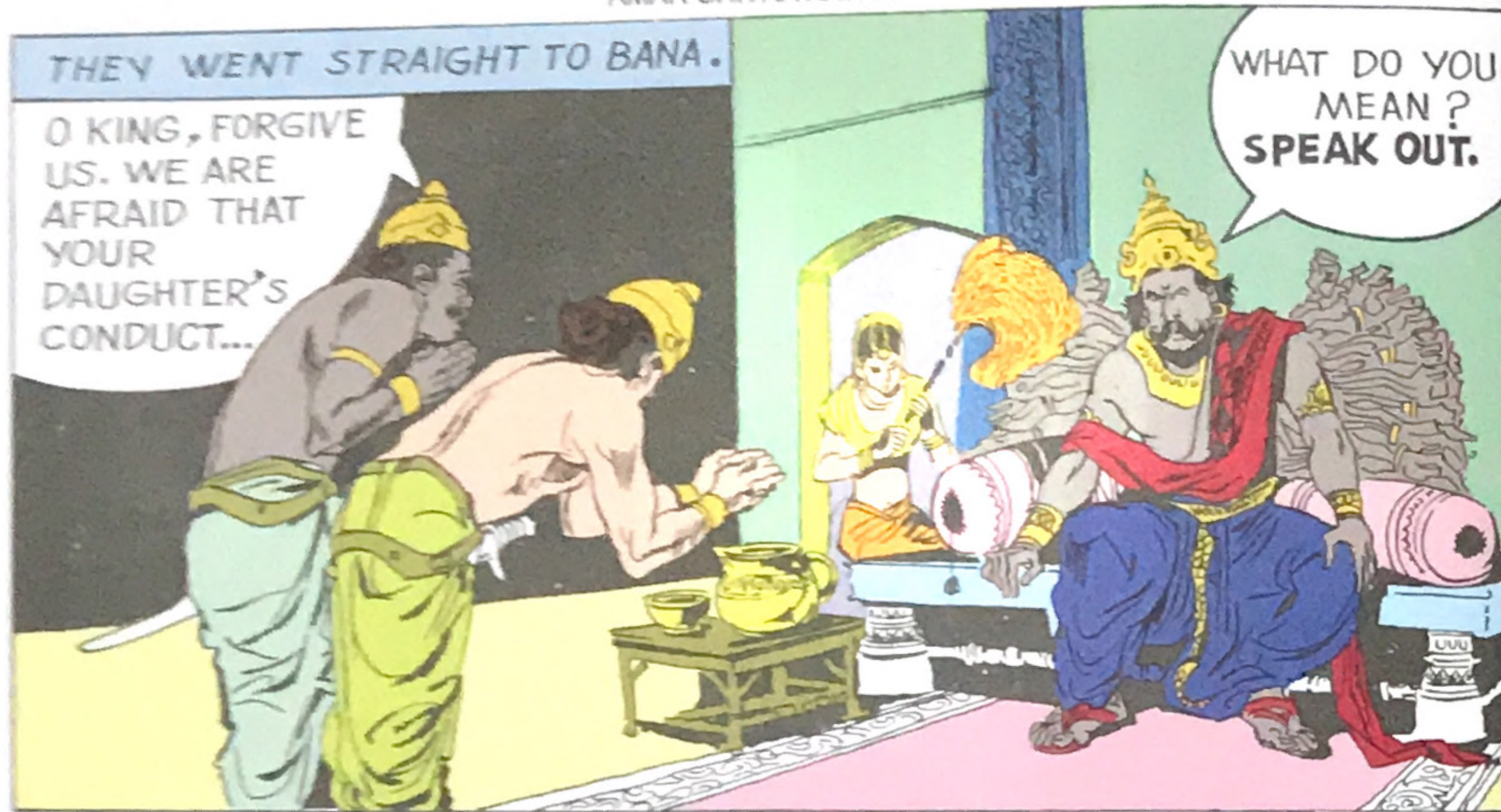
NO!
I SUSPECT...

HUSH!
LET US SEE
FOR OURSELVES
BEFORE WE
SUSPECT
ANYONE
OF ANY-
THING.



THE ATTENDANTS THEN SPIED ON THE
PRINCESS.







BUT ANIRUDDHA WAS QUICK. HE GRABBED A MACE FROM ONE OF THE ATTENDANTS...



... AND SLEW ALL OF THEM BEFORE THEY COULD EVEN REALISE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.



BANA WAS LIVID WITH RAGE.



BANA HELD ANIRUDDHA WITH SOME OF HIS THOUSAND ARMS AND WITH OTHERS HE BOUND HIM FROM HEAD TO FOOT, USING SERPENTS FOR ROPES.



CHITRALEKHA, WHO SAW ALL THAT HAPPENED, RAN TO USHA.

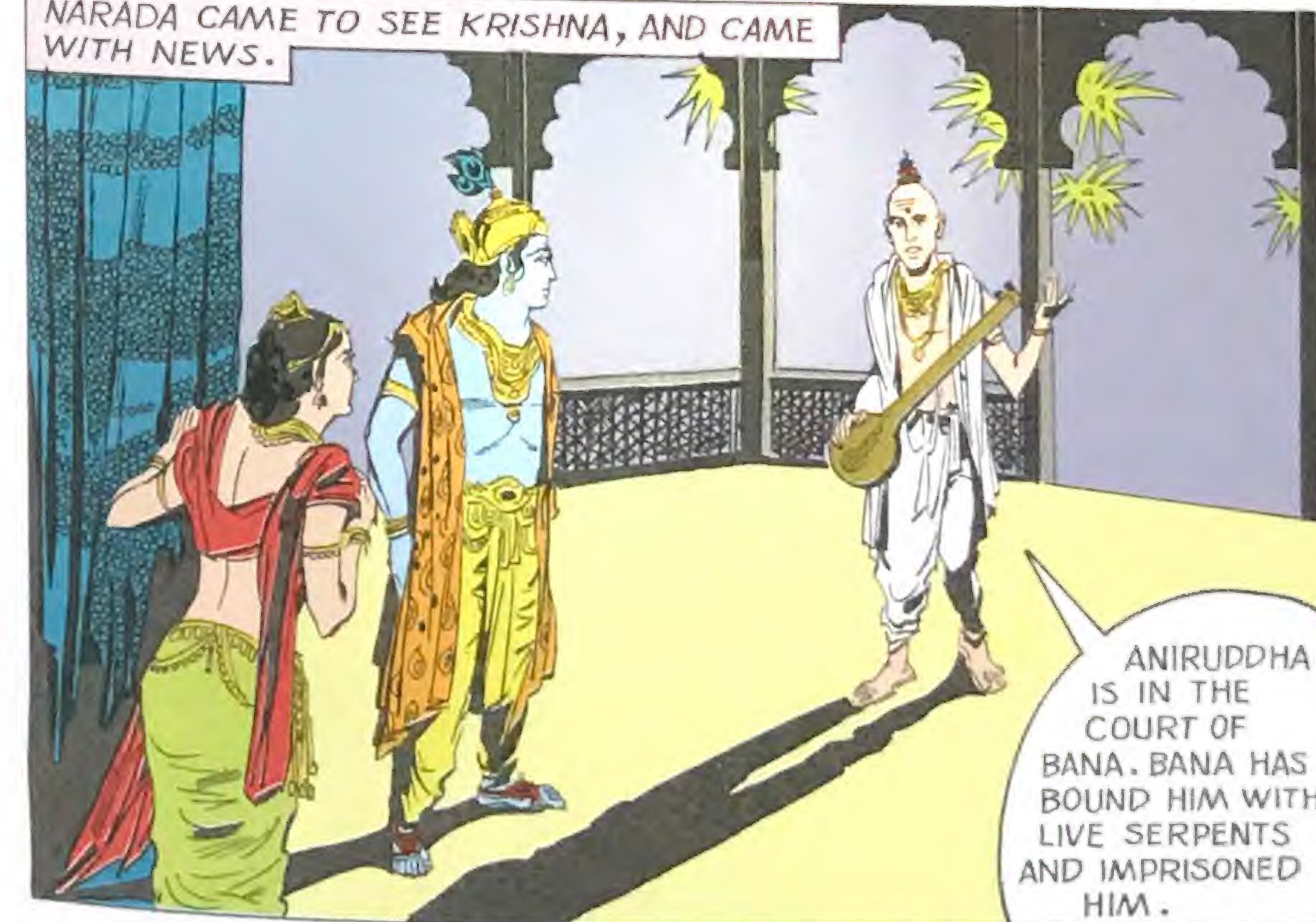




MEANWHILE ALL DWARAKA WAS UPSET ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ANIRUDDHA.



NARADA CAME TO SEE KRISHNA, AND CAME WITH NEWS.



KRISHNA CALLED A COUNCIL OF ALL HIS MEN.



GET YOUR HORSES, CHARIOTS AND ARMS READY FOR BATTLE. ANIRUDDHA IS ALIVE, BUT IN DANGER. I HAVE JUST HAD NEWS OF HIM.

KRISHNA, PRADYUMNA AND SATYAKI WITH HUNDREDS OF WARRIORS SET OUT FOR BANA'S KINGDOM TO RESCUE ANIRUDDHA.



WHEN THEY REACHED, KRISHNA GAVE THE COMMAND.



BANA'S RAGE KNEW NO BOUNDS HE CAME OUT WITH AN EQUALLY LARGE ARMY AND A GREAT BATTLE ENSUED.



SHIVA WHO HAD PROMISED BANA HIS PROTECTION AT ALL TIMES, CAME TO HIS AID, WITH HIS SON, KARTIKEYA.



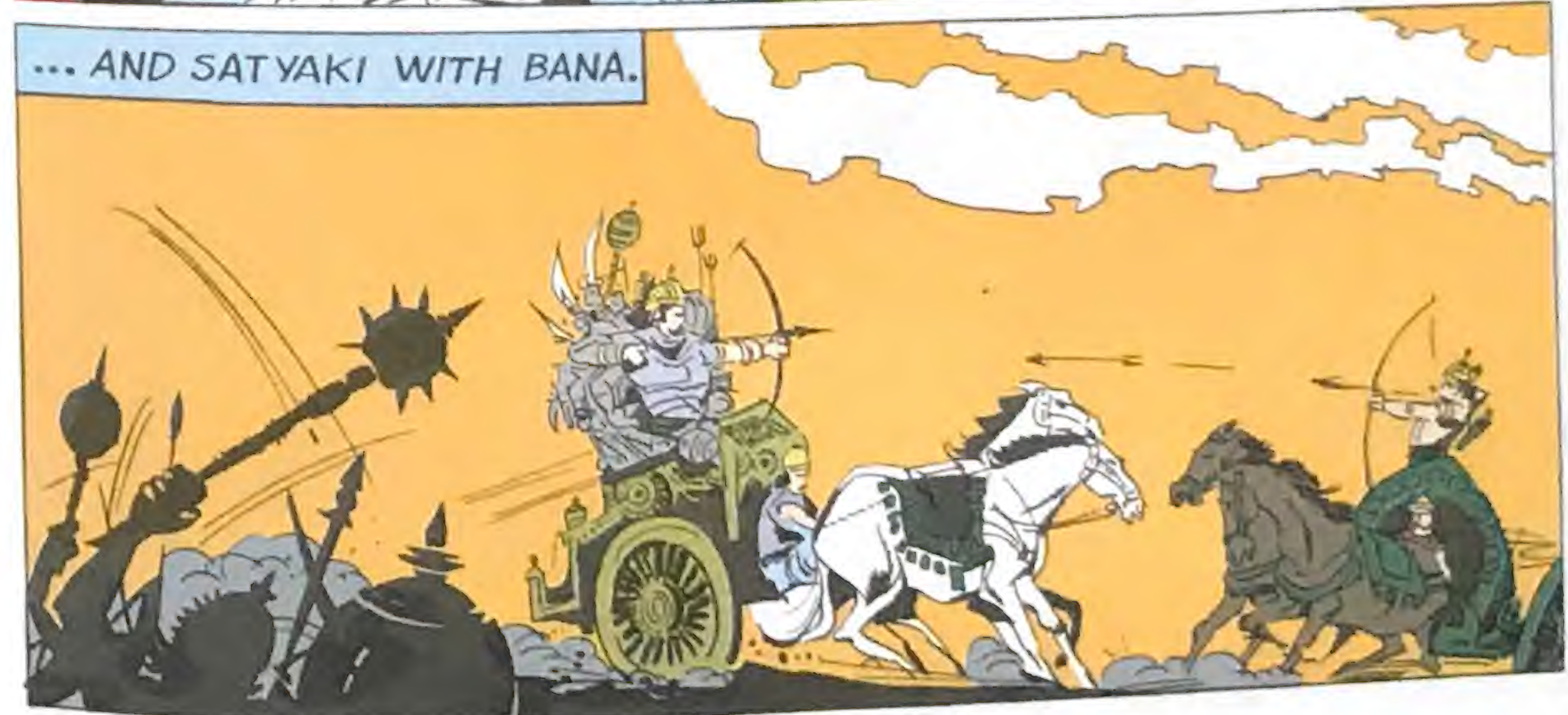
KRISHNA FOUGHT WITH SHIVA...



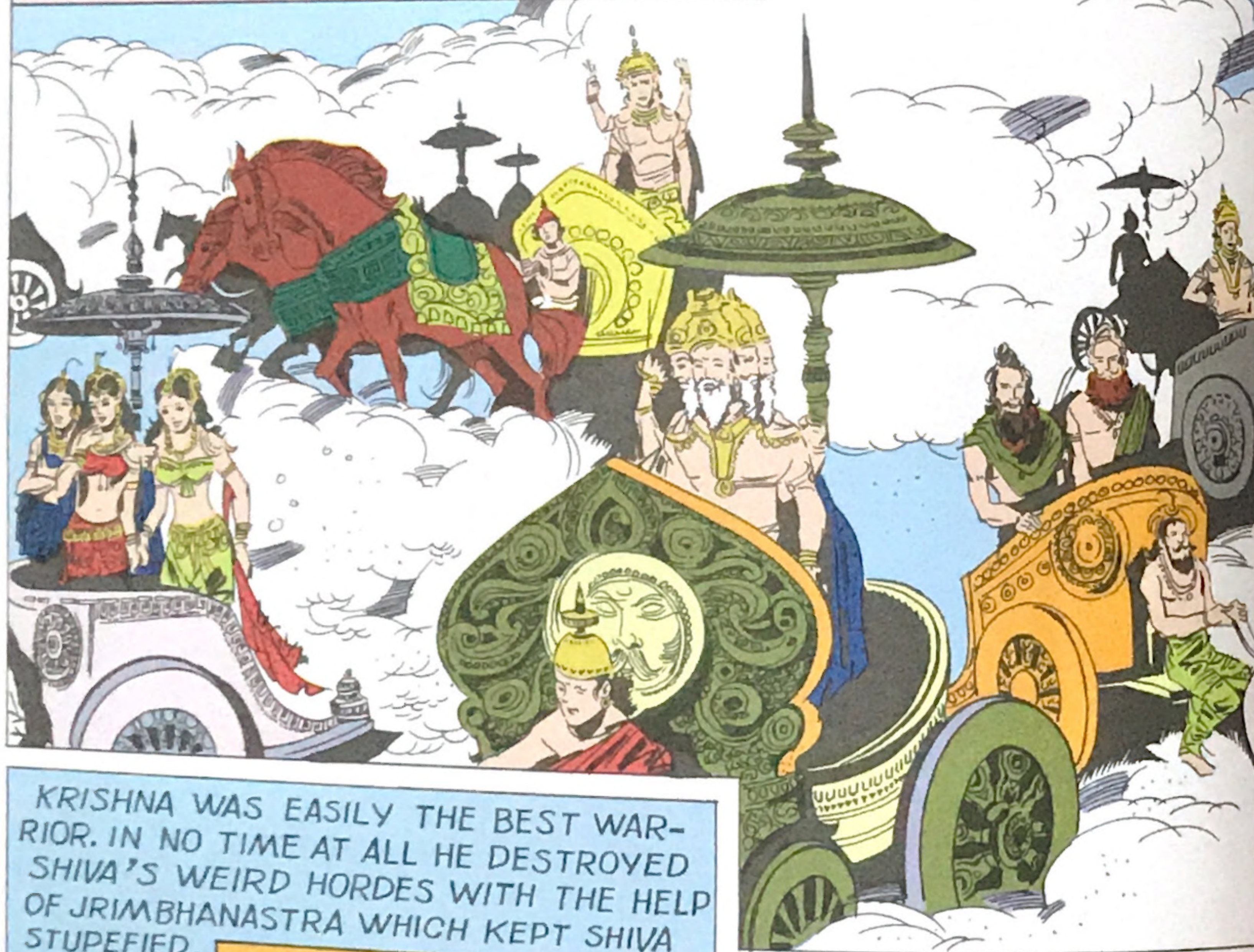
...PRADYUMNA WITH KARTIKEYA ...



... AND SATYAKI WITH BANA.



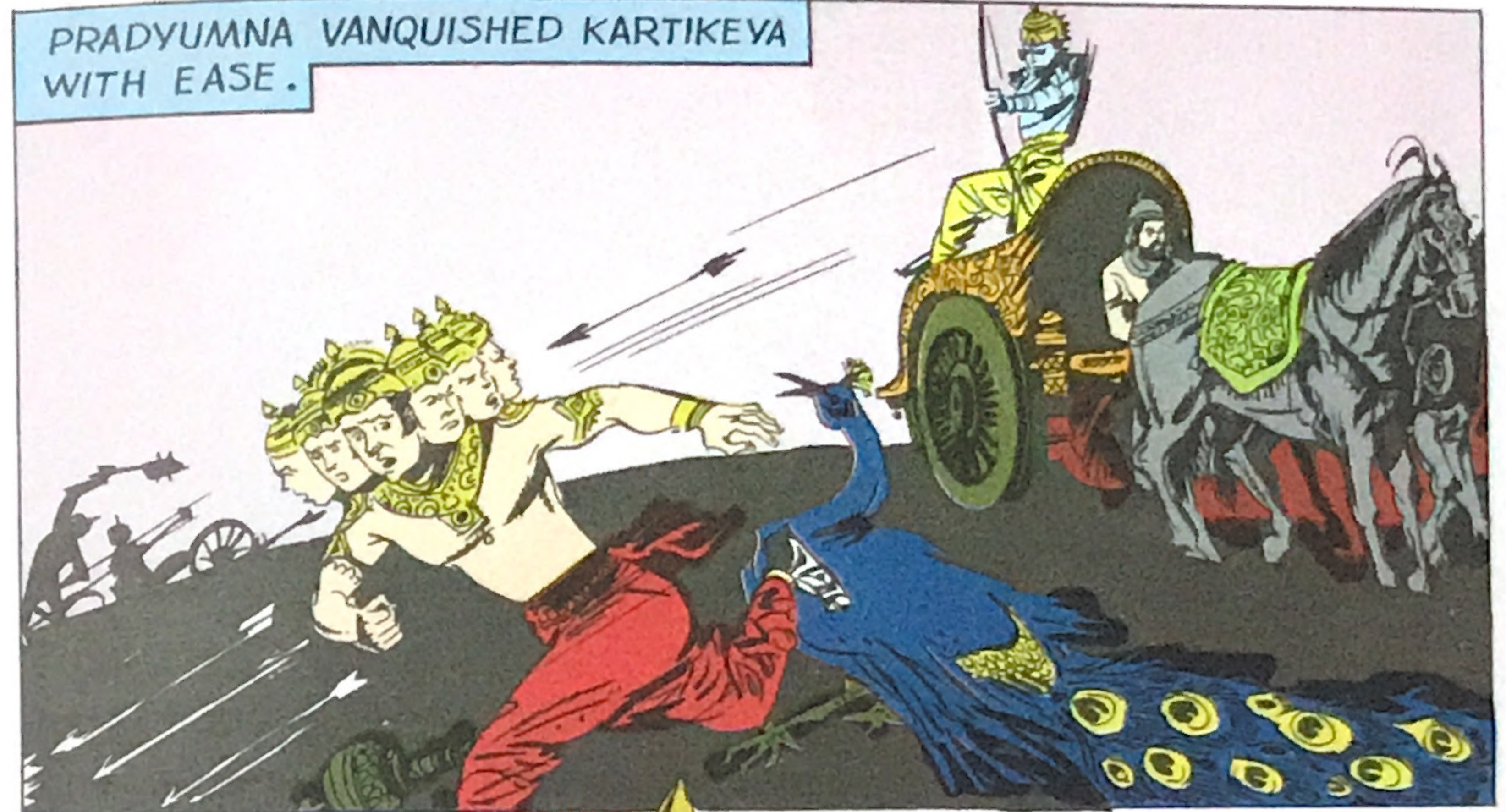
ALL THE CELESTIALS, HEADED BY BRAHMA, THE SAGES, THE GANDHARVAS, THE APSARAS AND YAKSHAS CAME IN THEIR CHARIOTS TO WATCH THE MIGHTY BATTLE.



KRISHNA WAS EASILY THE BEST WARRIOR. IN NO TIME AT ALL HE DESTROYED SHIVA'S WEIRD HORDES WITH THE HELP OF JIMBHANA STRA WHICH KEPT SHIVA STUPEFIED.



PRADYUMNA VANQUISHED KARTIKEYA WITH EASE.

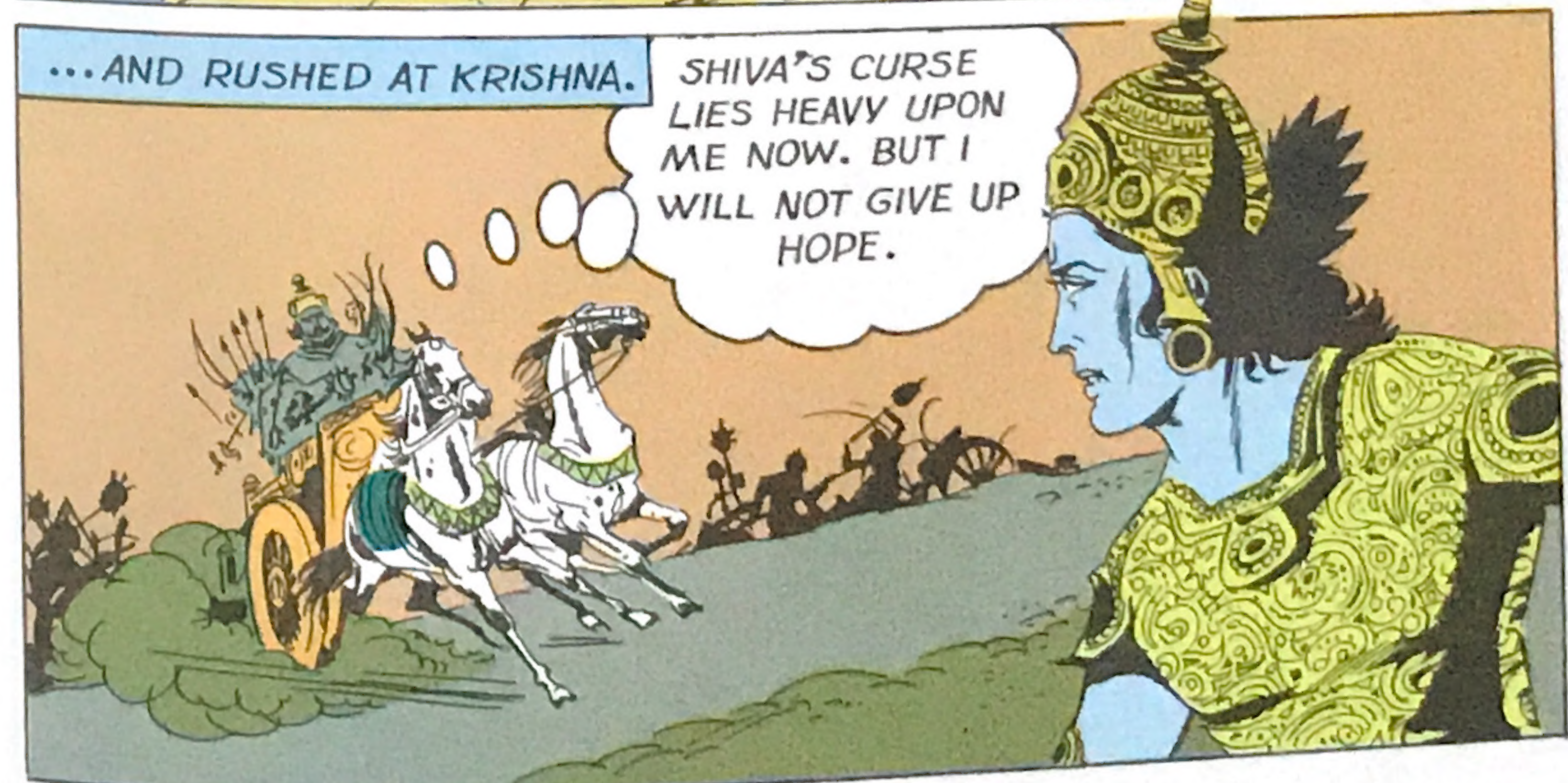


BANA WAS BLIND WITH ANGER. HE LEFT SATYAKI...



...AND RUSHED AT KRISHNA.

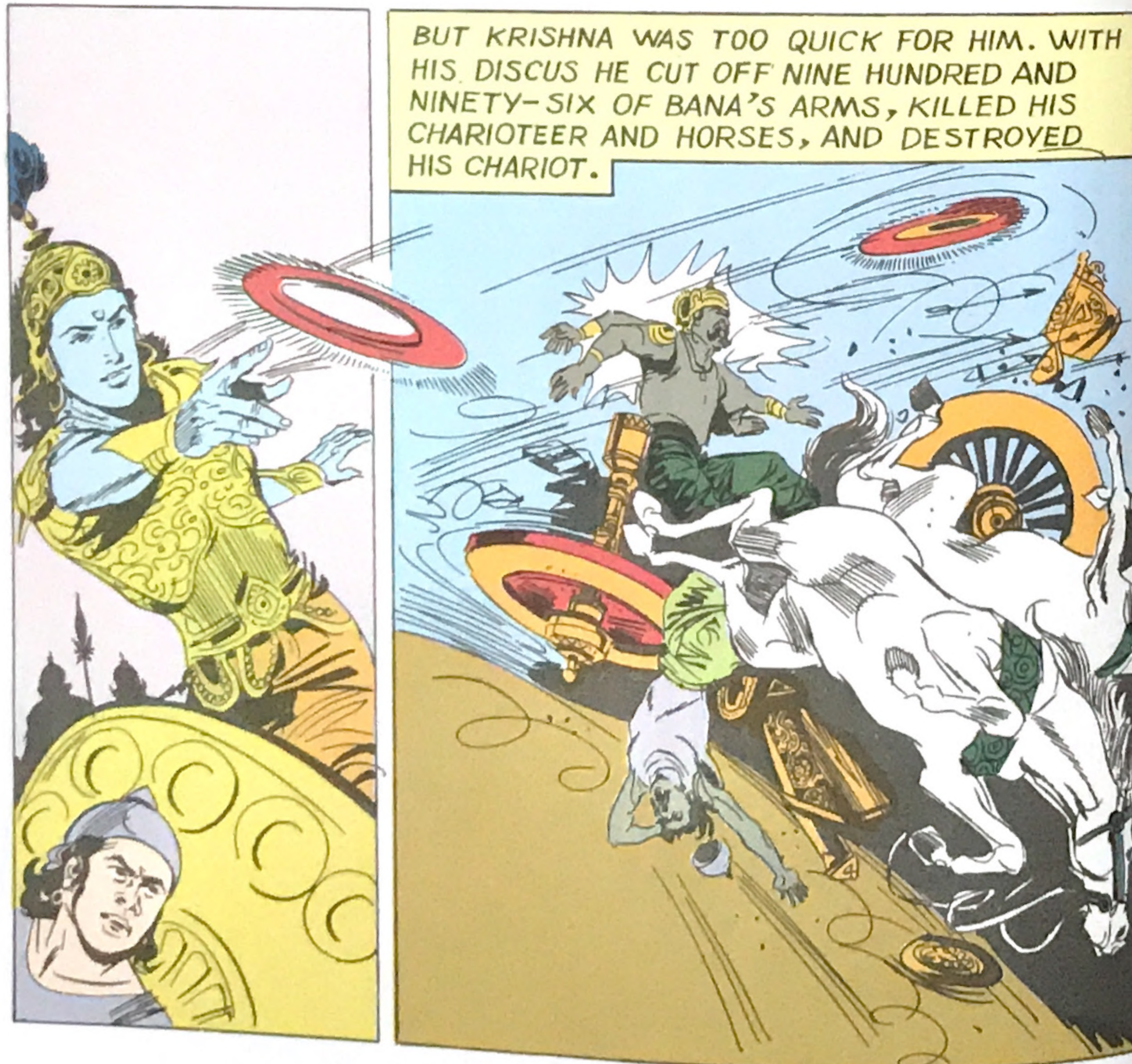
SHIVA'S CURSE LIES HEAVY UPON ME NOW. BUT I WILL NOT GIVE UP HOPE.



WITH HIS THOUSAND ARMS, HE DREW FIVE HUNDRED BOWS AT THE SAME TIME AND SET TWO ARROWS IN EACH.



BUT KRISHNA WAS TOO QUICK FOR HIM. WITH HIS DISCUS HE CUT OFF NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX OF BANA'S ARMS, KILLED HIS CHARIOTEER AND HORSES, AND DESTROYED HIS CHARIOT.



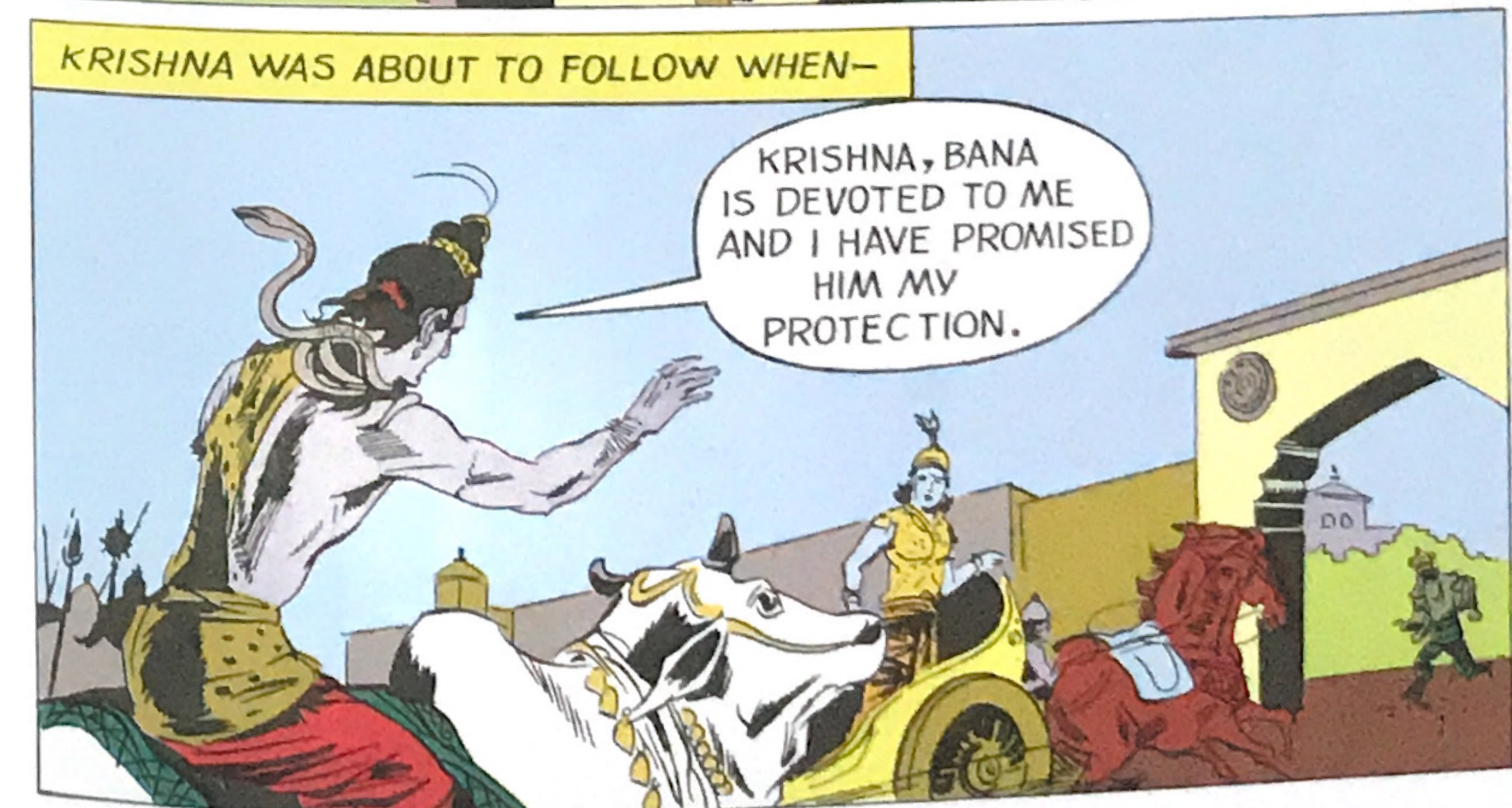
AND THEN HE BLEW HIS CONCH IN TRIUMPH.

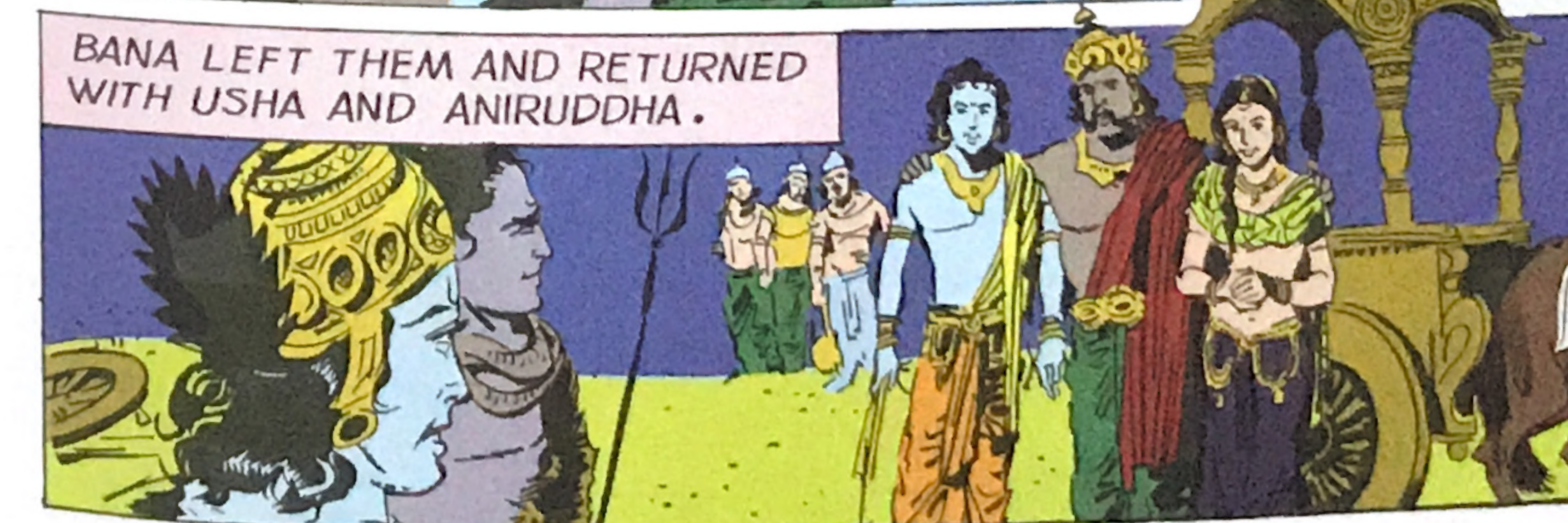
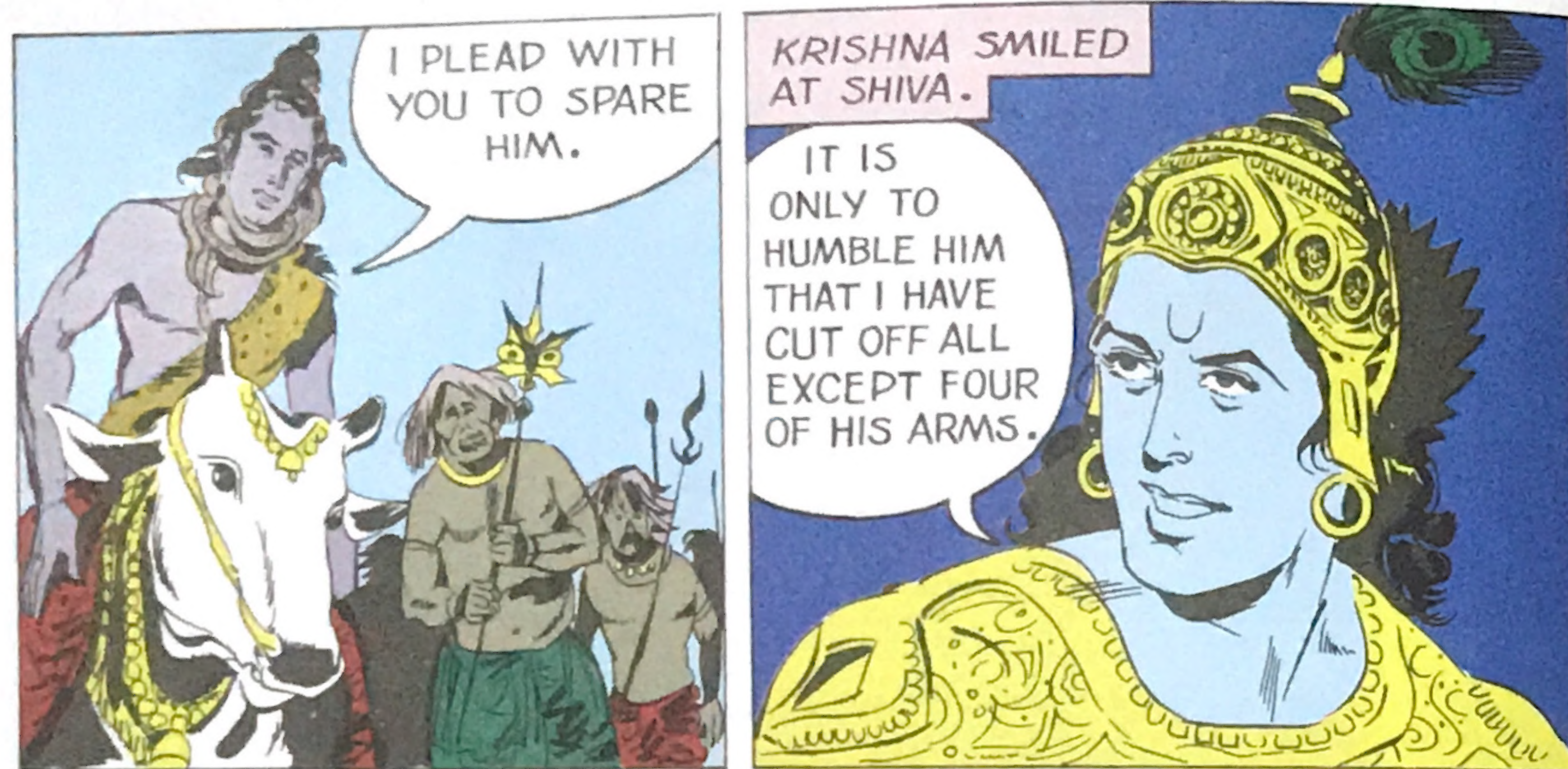


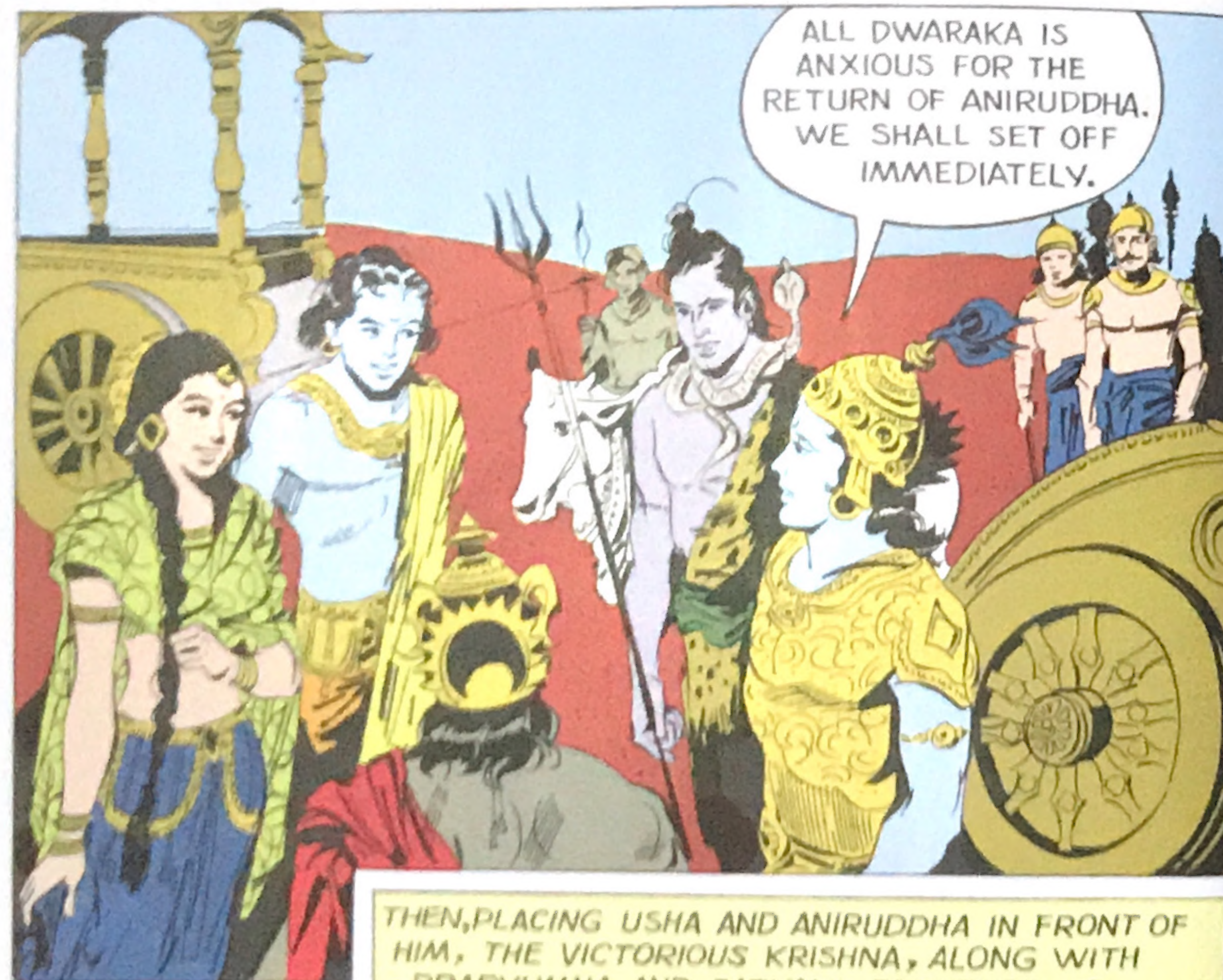
BANASURA TURNED TO ENTER HIS CITY GATES.



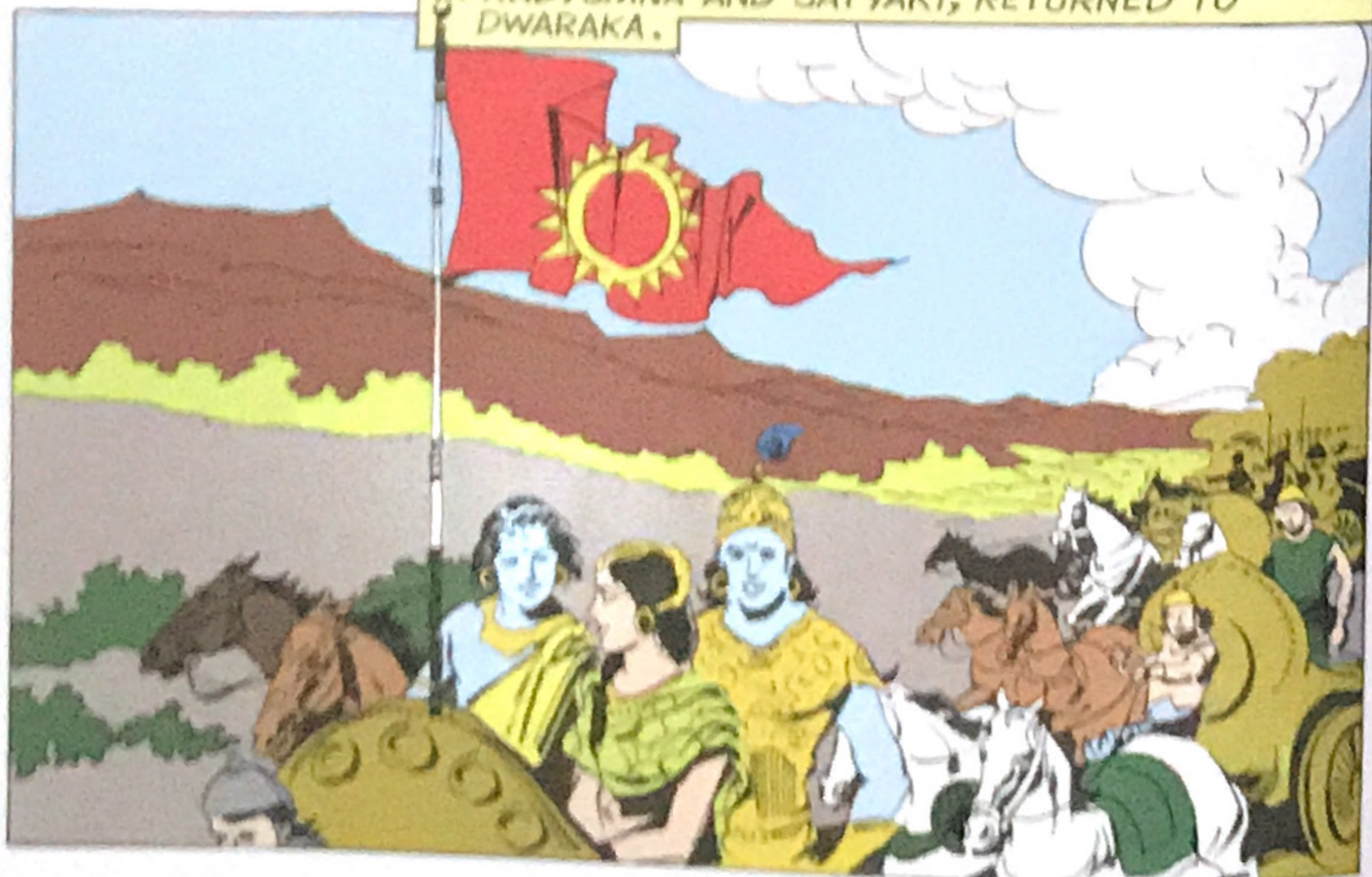
KRISHNA WAS ABOUT TO FOLLOW WHEN—







THEN, PLACING USHA AND ANIRUDDHA IN FRONT OF HIM, THE VICTORIOUS KRISHNA, ALONG WITH PRADYUMNA AND SATYAKI, RETURNED TO DWARAKA.



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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