

KRISHNA: THE ENCHANTER

PAREEKSHIT INTERRUPTED THE NARRATION OF SHUKADEVA.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MATHURA WHICH WAS BESIEGED BY THE ASURA ARMY, WHILE KRISHNA LED KALAYAVANA TO HIS DEATH?

BALARAMA AND HIS ARMY TRIED THEIR BEST TO FIGHT THE ASURA ARMY OF KALAYAVANA.

"WHEN KRISHNA RETURNED TO MATHURA HE AND BALARAMA DECIMATED THE ENTIRE ARMY OF KALAYAVANA."

"ON KRISHNA'S BIDDING, THE YADAVA SOLDIERS TOOK ALL THE PRECIOUS OBJECTS BELONGING TO THE DEFEATED ARMY."

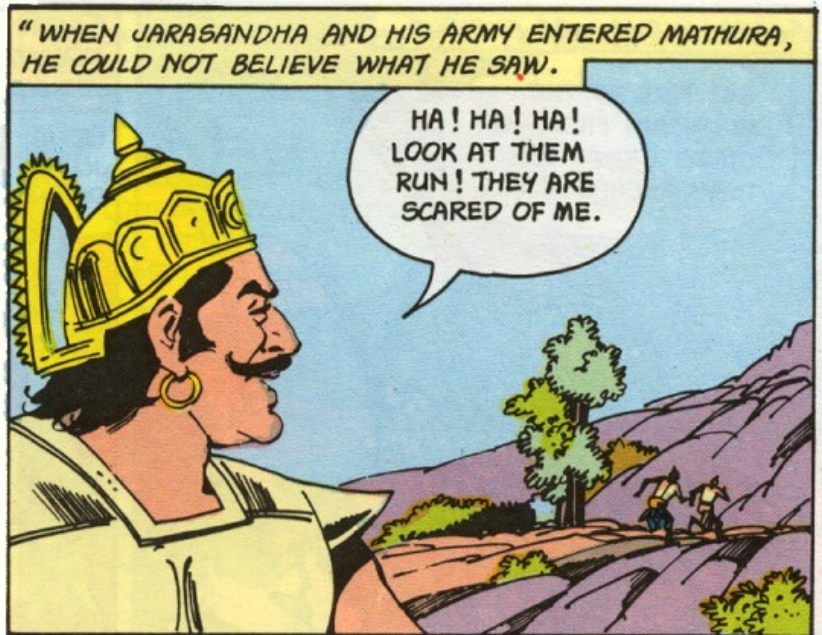
TAKE ALL THEIR TREASURE AND JEWELS. LET THEM BE BROUGHT TO DWARAKA.

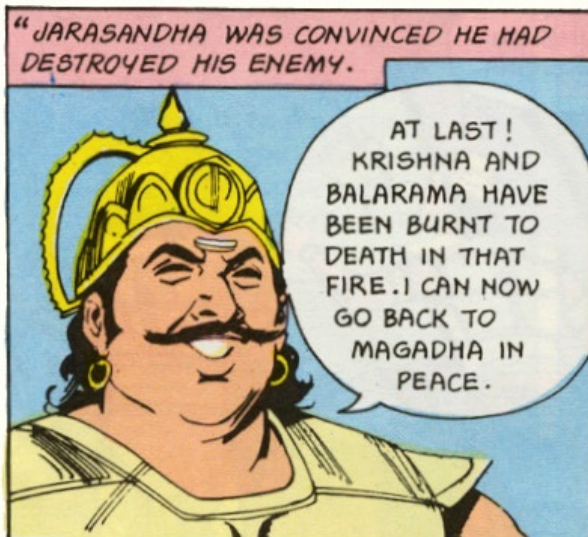
"JUST AS THE OXEN LADEN WITH THE TREASURE WERE BEING LED AWAY —

MY LORD! JARASANDHA IS APPROACHING MATHURA AGAIN. FOR THE EIGHTEENTH TIME! HIS ARMY HAS REACHED THE CITY GATES.

"SEVENTEEN TIMES JARASANDHA HAD ATTACKED MATHURA AND SEVENTEEN TIMES KRISHNA AND BALARAMA HAD DRIVEN HIM AWAY. BUT ON THIS OCCASION KRISHNA THOUGHT OF A DIFFERENT PLAN."

BALARAMA! PRETEND YOU ARE AFRAID.





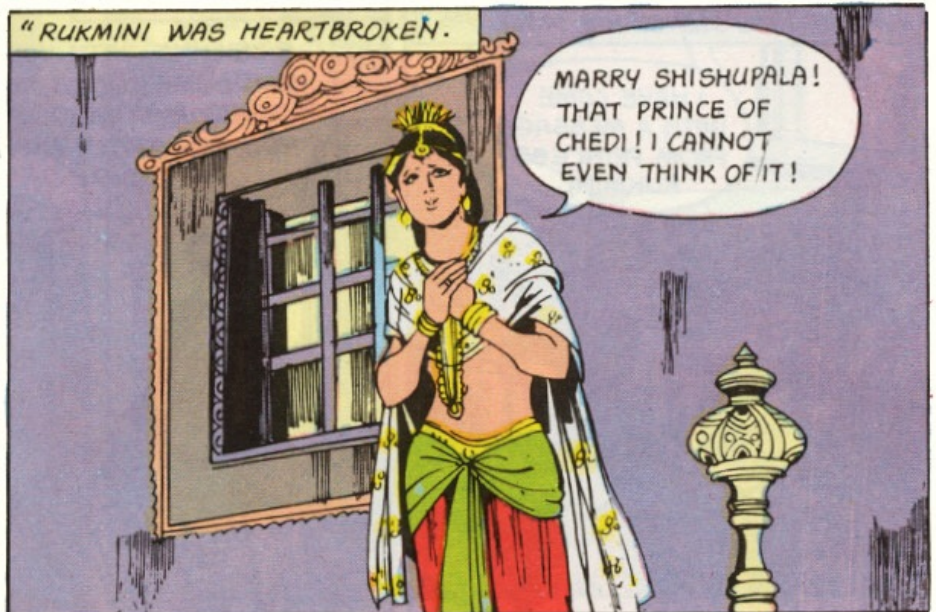
"KRISHNA HAD SET HIS HEART ON RUKMINI, THE LOVELY DAUGHTER OF BHEESHMAKA, KING OF VIDARBHA.



"SINCE THE TIME SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL, RUKMINI HAD HEARD OF THE EXPLOITS OF KRISHNA.



"RUKMINI HAD FIVE BROTHERS — RUKMI, RUKMARATHA, RUKMABAHU, RUKMAKESHA AND RUKMAMALI.



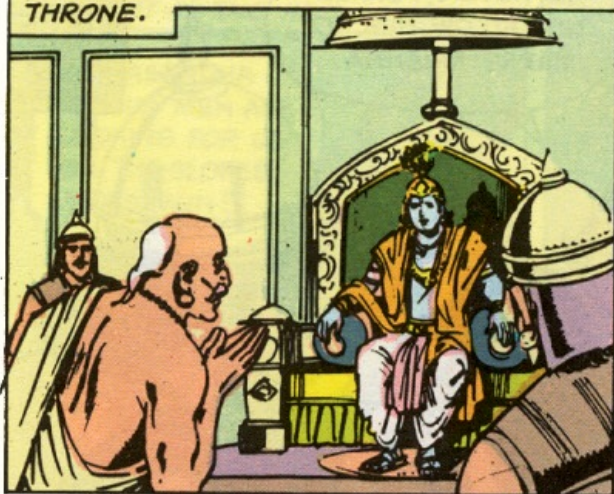
"SHE WAS PLUNGED IN GLOOM FOR A WHILE."



"SHE THOUGHT OF A WAY OUT AND SENT FOR AN OLD TRUSTED BRAHMIN."



"THE OLD BRAHMIN SET OUT FOR DWARAKA AT ONCE. ON REACHING THE ROYAL PALACE HE BEHELD KRISHNA SEATED ON A GOLDEN THRONE."



"KRISHNA RECEIVED THE BRAHMIN WITH DUE RESPECT."

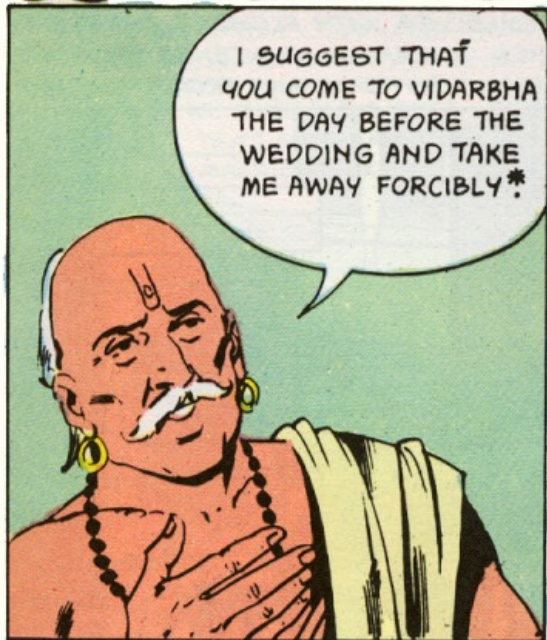
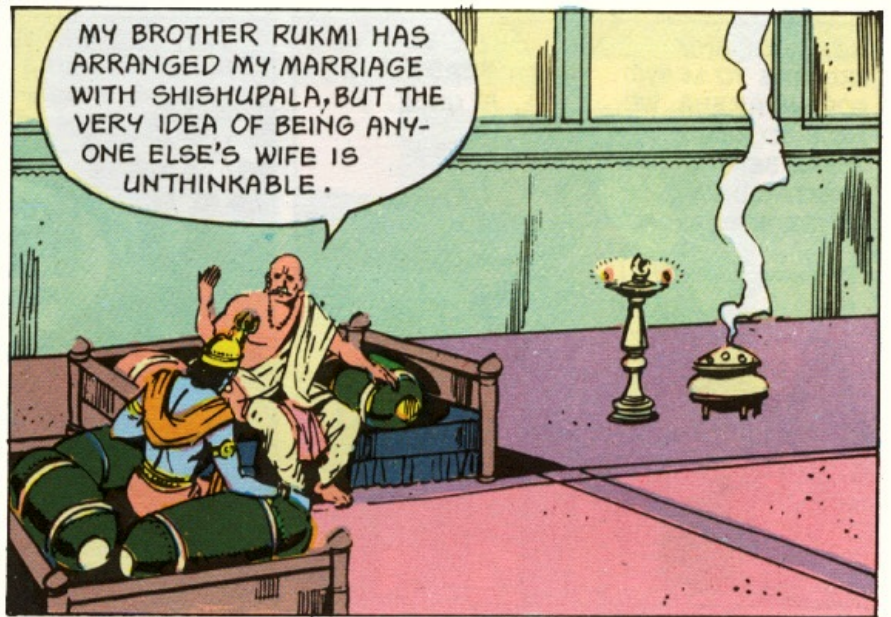


"AFTER THE BRAHMIN HAD BEEN FED AND REFRESHED, KRISHNA ASKED HIM THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT."

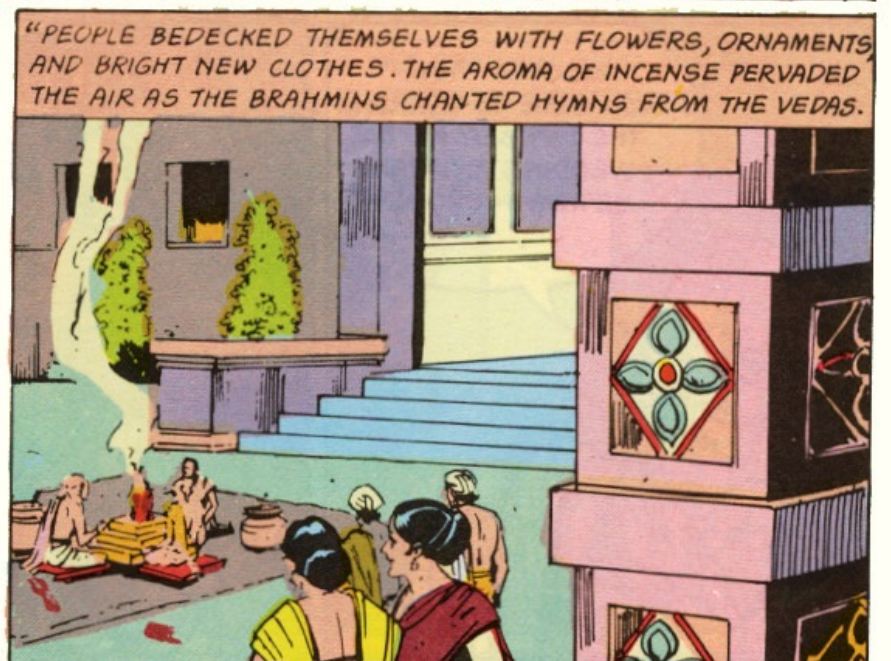
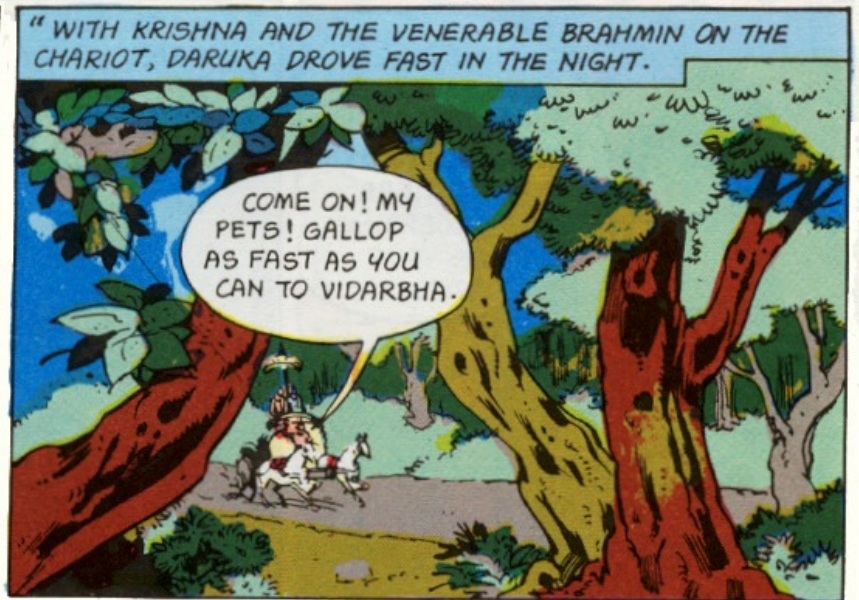


"THE BRAHMIN DUTIFULLY REPEATED THE LONG MESSAGE GIVEN BY RUKMINI."

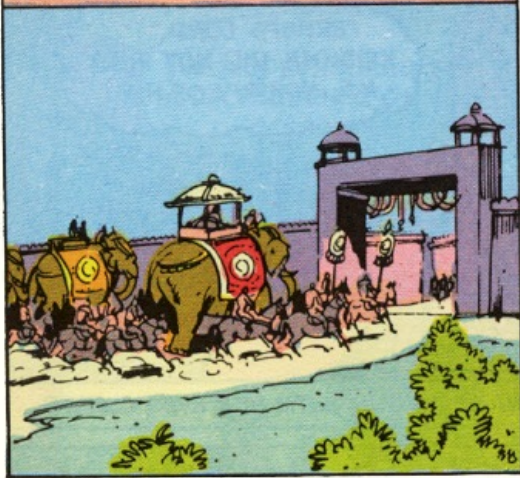




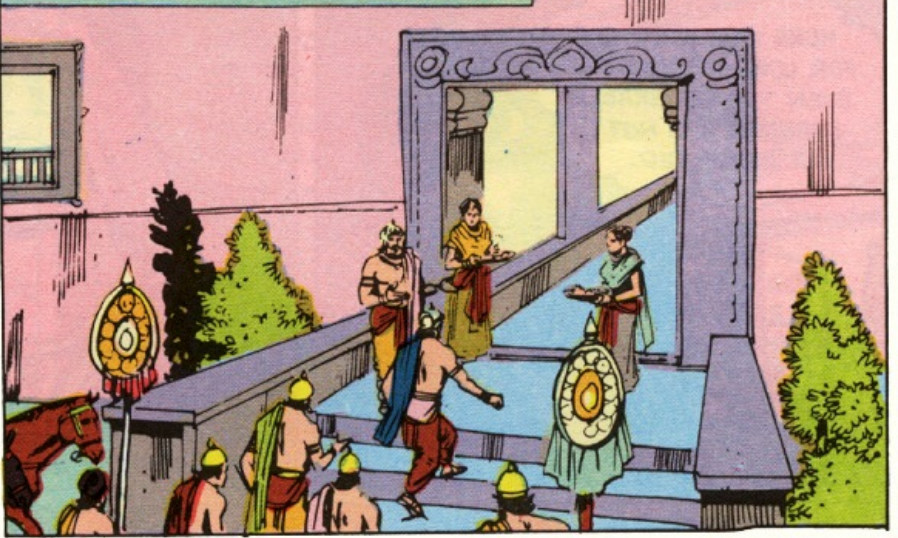
* SUCH A MARRIAGE WAS CALLED 'RAKSHASA VIVAHA' AND HAD SOCIAL SANCTION.



"ACCOMPANIED BY A LARGE ARMY OF DECORATED CHARIOTS, ELEPHANTS, HORSES AND SOLDIERS, THE GROOM'S PARTY REACHED KUNDINAPURA."



"BHEESHMAKA WELCOMED THEM WITH DUE HONOUR AND LED THEM TO THEIR APPOINTED PALACES."



"WITH SHISHUPALA CAME JARASANDHA, DANTAVAKRA, VIDURATHA AND PAUNDRKA, ALL OF WHOM, AS ALLIES OF SHISHUPALA, HATED KRISHNA."



IF THAT KRISHNA PROVES AN OBSTACLE TO THIS MARRIAGE, WE ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT HIM.

HE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST OUR COMBINED FORCES.



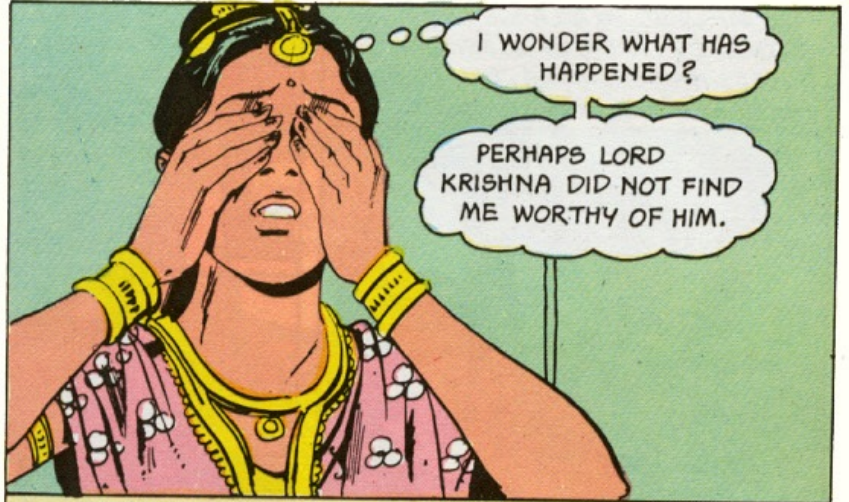
"MEANWHILE AT DWARAKA, BALARAMA HEARD OF THESE PLANS."



"AS HE HURRIEDLY GATHERED HIS ARMY AND SET OUT FOR KUNDINAPURA, HIS HEART WAS FILLED WITH CONCERN."



"BY NOW RUKMINI WAS SICK WITH WORRY."



"IN HER SORROW RUKMINI REMAINED WITH HER EYES CLOSED."

"WHEN SHE OPENED HER EYES, SHE CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE OLD BRAHMIN."



"SHE HURRIED UP TO HIM."



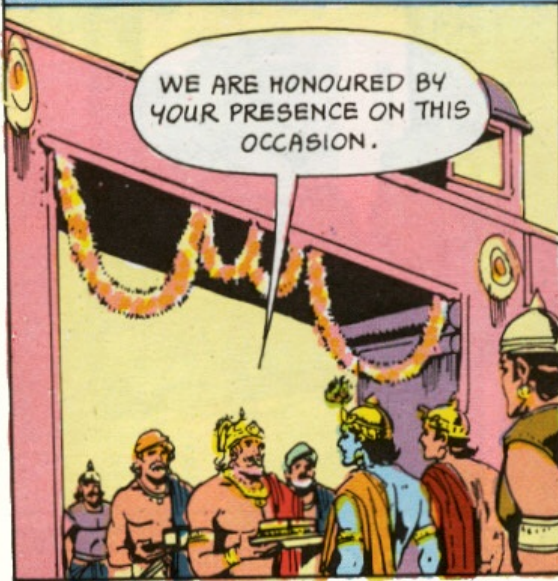
"RUKMINI'S HEART OVERFLOWED WITH HAPPINESS."



"THE NEWS OF KRISHNA'S ARRIVAL REACHED BHEESHMAKA."



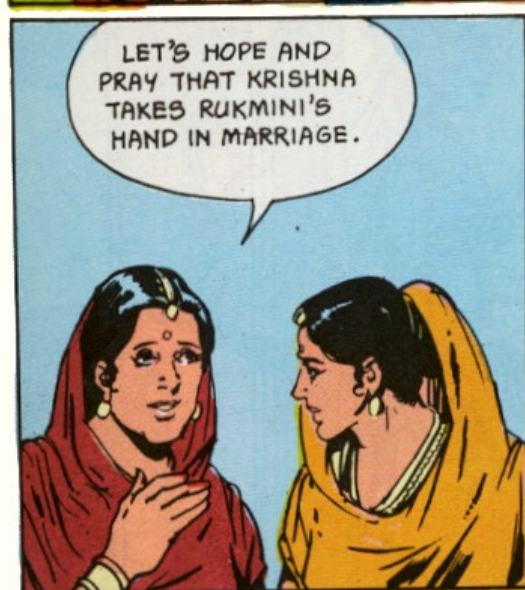
"BALARAMA WITH HIS ARMY HAD BY NOW CAUGHT UP WITH KRISHNA. THEY TOO WERE WARMLY RECEIVED BY BHEESHMAKA."



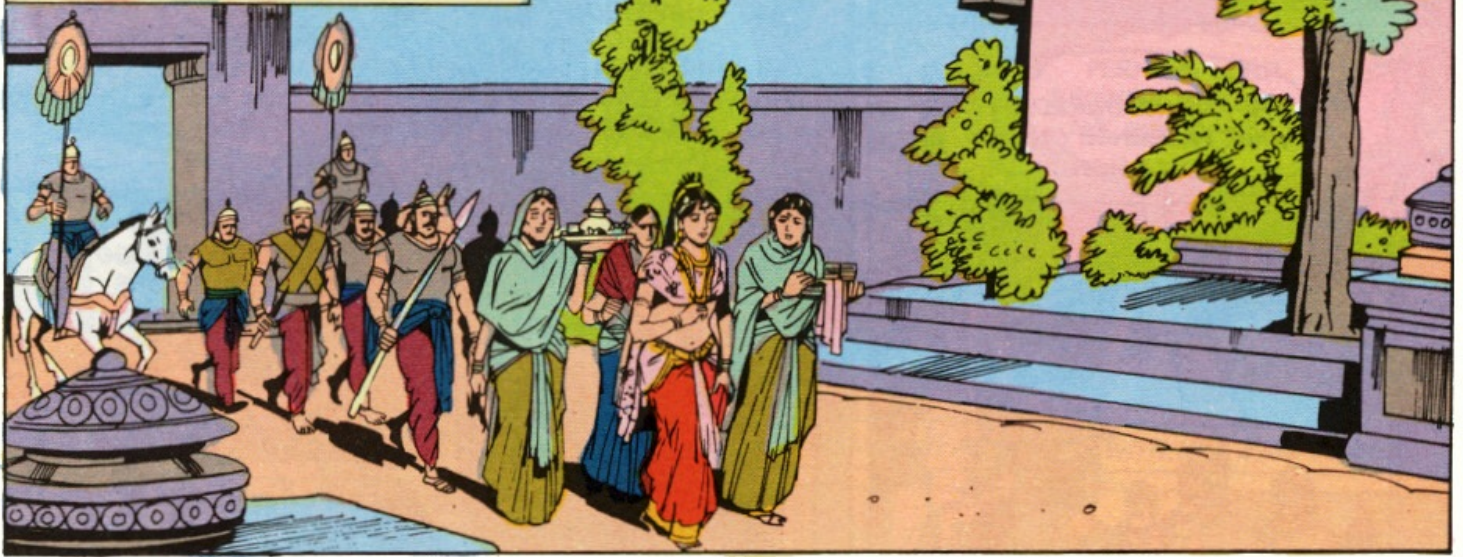
"THE NEWS OF KRISHNA'S ARRIVAL SPREAD QUICKLY."



"THEY THROGGED THE PALACE WHERE KRISHNA WAS STAYING."



"FOLLOWED BY A GROUP OF SOLDIERS, RUKMINI MADE HER WAY TO THE TEMPLE OF GODDESS PARVATI."



"SHE SEEMED LOST IN THOUGHT AS SHE WALKED ALONG WITH HER ATTENDANTS AND RELATIVES."

WILL HE COME?
DARE I HOPE?



"THE OLDER WOMEN GUIDED HER IN THE RITUALS."

BOW TO LORD
SHIVA AND PARVATI
AND ASK FOR THEIR
BLESSINGS.

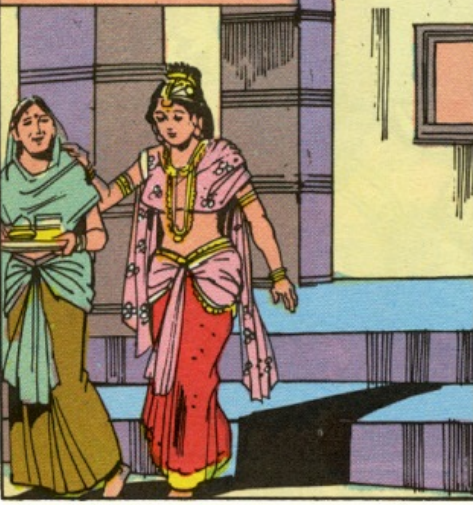


"IN A SOFT VOICE, RUKMINI SAID—"

O GODDESS PARVATI,
I PRAY TO YOU. GRANT
MY HEART'S DESIRE.
LET KRISHNA BECOME
MY HUSBAND.



"DEVOTEDLY RUKMINI WORSHIPPED THE GODDESS, WITH OFFERINGS OF SANDAL-PASTE, GARLANDS, FRUITS AND SWEETS. THEN SHE STEPPED OUT OF THE TEMPLE.



"WHEN THE KINGS ASSEMBLED IN THE CITY BEHELD HER BEAUTIFUL FORM AS SHE EMERGED FROM THE TEMPLE, THEY STOOD ENRAPTURED.



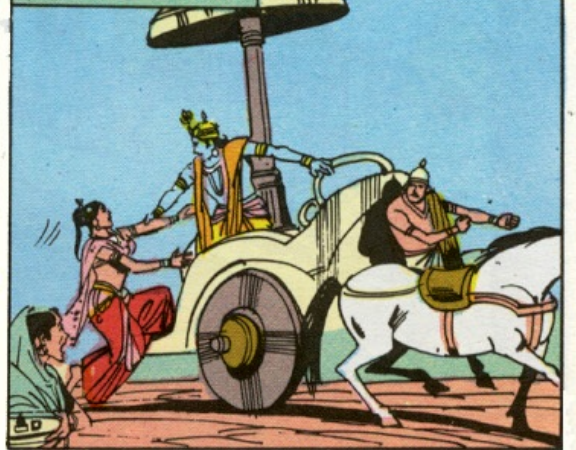
"BUT IGNORING THEIR AMAZED LOOKS, RUKMINI WALKED ON, GENTLY LIFTING THE TRESSES FALLING ON HER PRETTY FACE. SHE LOOKED UP AT LAST...



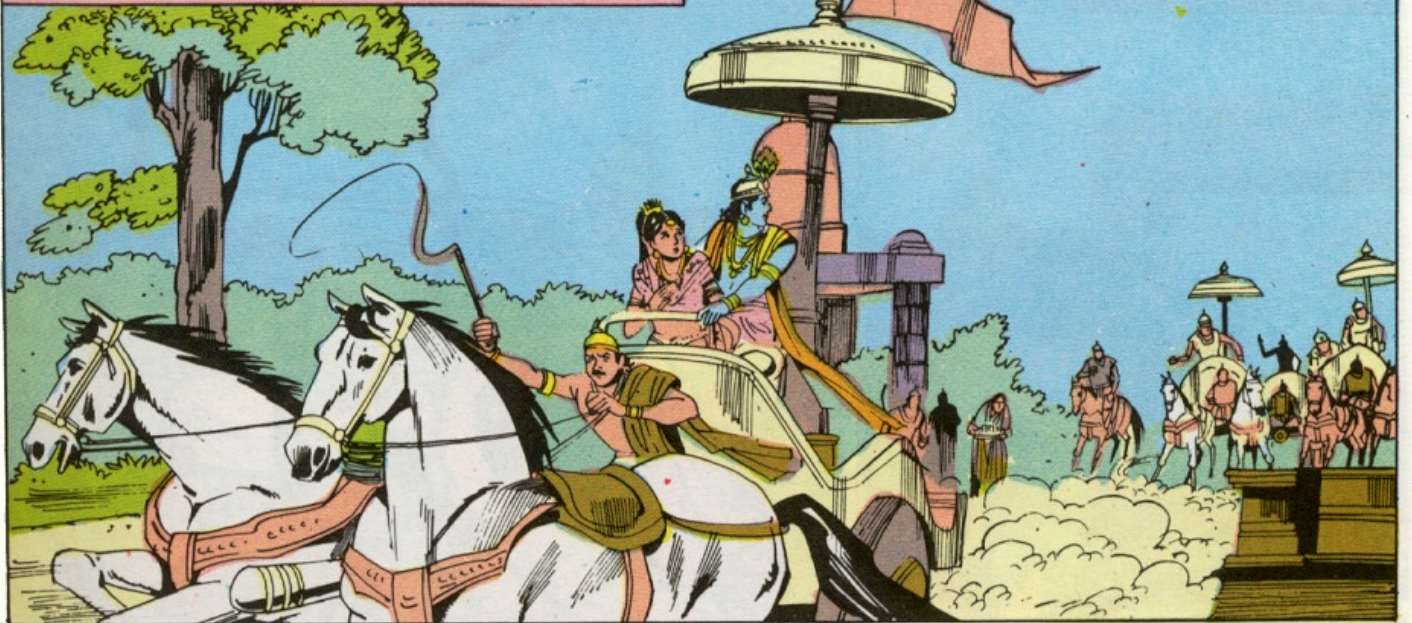
...AND HER GAZE FELL DIRECTLY ON KRISHNA.



"BEFORE ANY ONE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, KRISHNA REACHED WHERE RUKMINI STOOD.



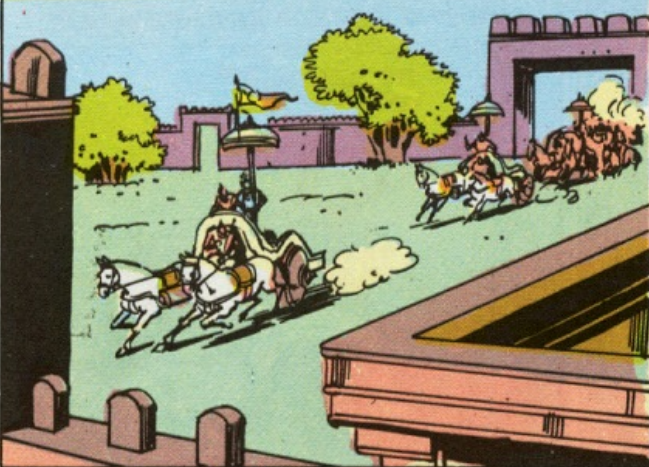
"AND LIFTING HER UP, PLACED HER ON HIS CHARIOT.



"LIKE A LION TAKING AWAY HIS SHARE FROM THE SURROUNDING JACKALS, KRISHNA SPED AWAY WITH RUKMINI."



"BALARAMA AND HIS ARMY FOLLOWED THEM SWIFTLY."



"WHEN JARASANDHA AND THE OTHER KINGS RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK OF THE QUICK PACE OF EVENTS, THEY CRIED —"

FIE ON US ! WE WERE LEFT HOLDING OUR BOWS WHILE THAT COWHERD WOUNDED OUR PRIDE AND WENT AWAY WITH RUKMINI.

COME, DON YOUR ARMOUR.



"THE KINGS AND THEIR ARMIES FOLLOWED KRISHNA'S TRAIL, WITH THEIR BOWS STRUNG IN READINESS."



"SKILLED AS THEY WERE IN ARCHERY, JARASANDHA'S SOLDIERS SOON COVERED KRISHNA'S ARMY WITH A SHOWER OF ARROWS."



"THE SOLDIERS OF BALARAMA'S ARMY VALIANTLY RESPONDED TO THE ATTACK."



"RUKMINI TURNED TO KRISHNA WITH HER BEAUTIFUL EYES WIDENED IN FEAR."



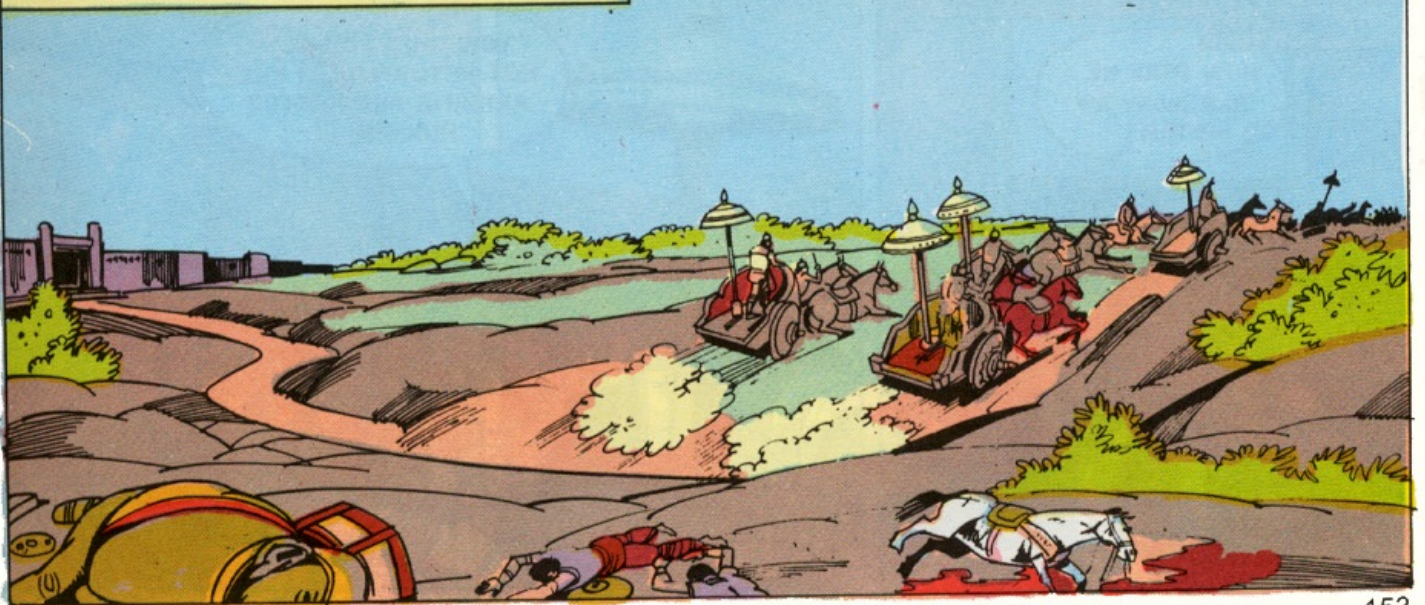
DON'T BE AFRAID,
O BEAUTIFUL ONE! JUST
WATCH HOW YOUR ARMY
DESTROYS THE ENEMIES..



"TRUE TO KRISHNA'S WORDS, THE YADAVA ARMY CHIEFS LIKE GADA AND BALARAMA ANNIHILATED THEIR FOES. SOON THE PATH WAS STREWN WITH FALLEN HORSES, ELEPHANTS AND BROKEN CHARIOTS."



"THE SIGHT OF SO MANY OF THEIR SOLDIERS SLAIN IN BATTLE PUT FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF THEIR KINGS. JARASANDHA AND HIS ALLIES FLED."



"SHISHUPALA COULD NOT GET OVER THE FACT THAT HIS BRIDE-TO-BE HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED. HE WAS STRICKEN WITH SORROW AND SHOCK."



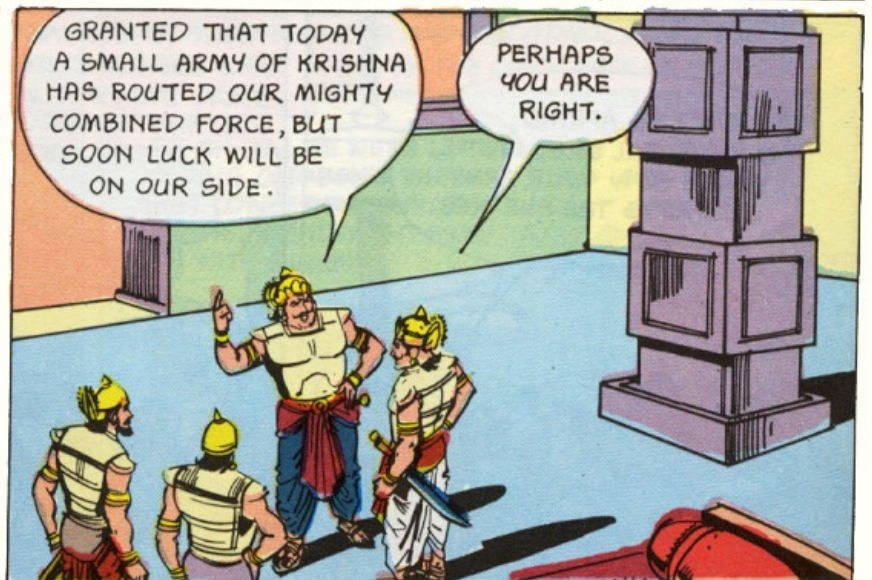
"JARASANDHA TRIED TO CONSOLE HIM."



GET OVER YOUR GRIEF, O SHISHUPALA. WE CANNOT ALWAYS HAVE WHAT WE WISH FOR.



LOOK AT ME! SEVENTEEN TIMES WAS I DEFEATED IN BATTLE BY KRISHNA, LOSING 23 AKSHAUHNIS EACH TIME. BUT, FINALLY, IN MY EIGHTEENTH ATTEMPT, I SUCCEEDED.



GRANTED THAT TODAY A SMALL ARMY OF KRISHNA HAS ROUTED OUR MIGHTY COMBINED FORCE, BUT SOON LUCK WILL BE ON OUR SIDE.

PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT.

"THUS CONSOLED BY HIS FRIENDS, SHISHUPALA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL. BUT RUKMI'S ANGER KNEW NO BOUNDS."



HOW DARE HE TAKE AWAY MY SISTER!

"HE PUT ON HIS ARMOUR AND GATHERED HIS WEAPONS TO FOLLOW KRISHNA."



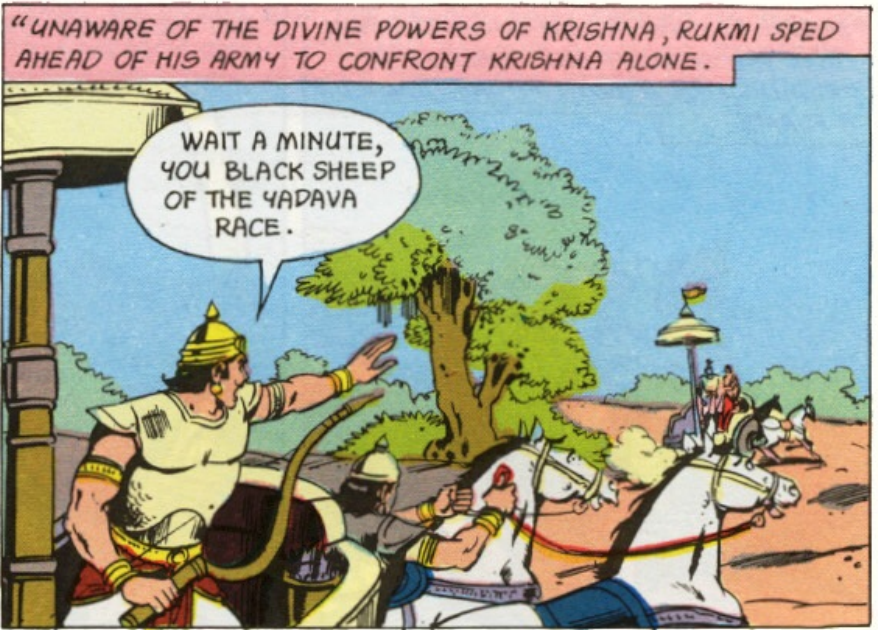
I VOW THAT I SHALL NOT RETURN TILL I KILL KRISHNA AND RESCUE RUKMINI.

"JUMPING ON TO HIS CHARIOT HE SAID —

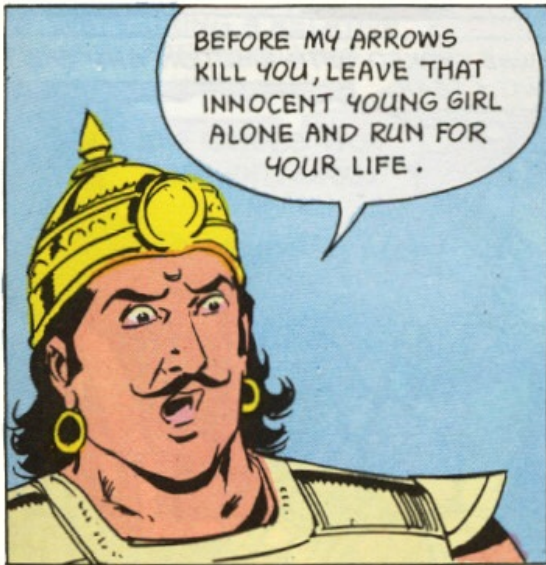


LET MY ARMY FOLLOW ME. TAKE MY CHARIOT WHEREVER KRISHNA IS. TODAY I WILL CRUSH THE PRIDE OF THAT COWHERD.

"UNAWARE OF THE DIVINE POWERS OF KRISHNA, RUKMI SPED AHEAD OF HIS ARMY TO CONFRONT KRISHNA ALONE.

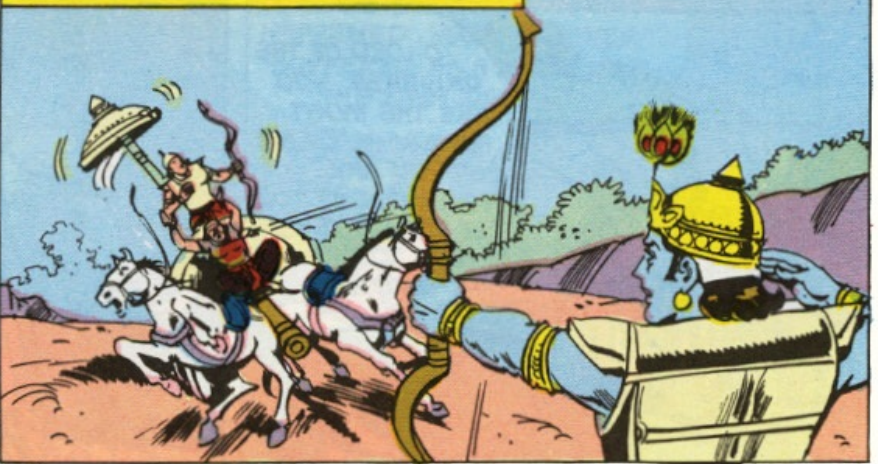


WAIT A MINUTE, YOU BLACK SHEEP OF THE YADAVA RACE.



BEFORE MY ARROWS KILL YOU, LEAVE THAT INNOCENT YOUNG GIRL ALONE AND RUN FOR YOUR LIFE.

"KRISHNA MERELY SMILED IN REPLY. WITH A SERIES OF WELL-AIMED ARROWS, HE KILLED RUKMI'S HORSES AND CHARIOTEER AND BROKE HIS BOW.



"RUKMI PICKED UP BOW AFTER BOW, ONLY TO HAVE THEM BROKEN BY KRISHNA'S SHARP ARROWS. HE THEN TRIED OTHER WEAPONS — THE MACE, THE JAVELIN, THE SHAKTI* AND THE SHIELD.

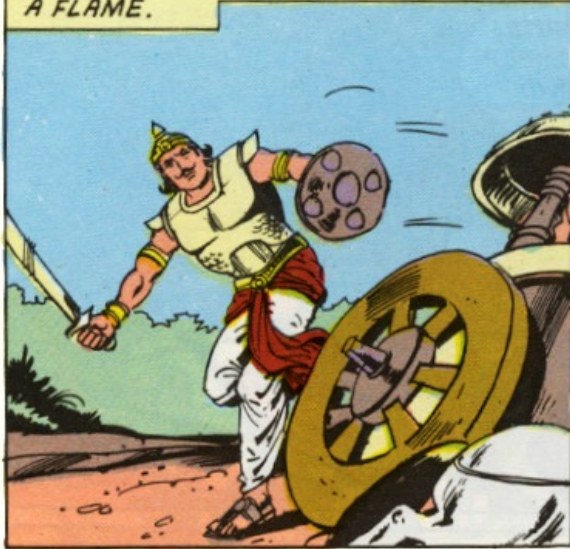


"BUT KRISHNA DESTROYED ALL OF THEM WITH EASE. RUKMI'S ANGER AND FRUSTRATION KNEW NO BOUNDS.



* A POWERFUL WEAPON.

"SWORD IN HAND, RUKMI JUMPED DOWN FROM HIS CHARIOT AND CHARGED AT KRISHNA, LIKE A MOTH FLYING TOWARDS A FLAME.



"BUT KRISHNA'S ARROWS REDUCED HIS SWORD AND SHIELD TO PIECES.



"WHEN KRISHNA TOOK UP HIS OWN SWORD AND ADVANCED TOWARDS RUKMI —



O LORD OF THE UNIVERSE, YOU ARE THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL BUT YOU ARE BENEVOLENT TOO. IT DOES NOT BEFIT YOU TO KILL MY BROTHER.

"RUKMINI'S VOICE WAS CHOKED WITH EMOTION AND SHE WAS TREMBLING WITH FEAR.



HOW SCARED SHE LOOKS, THE POOR DEAR.

FOR HER SAKE, I'LL SPARE HIS LIFE BUT I MUST TEACH HIM A LESSON.



"FIRST KRISHNA TIED RUKMI UP.



"WITH HIS SWORD KRISHNA SHAVED OFF PATCHES OF HAIR FROM RUKMI'S HEAD AND MOUSTACHE."



"BY THEN, BALARAMA AND THE YADAVA ARMY ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, AFTER HAVING DESTROYED RUKMI'S SOLDIERS. BALARAMA WAS SHOCKED TO SEE RUKMI'S DISFIGURED STATE."

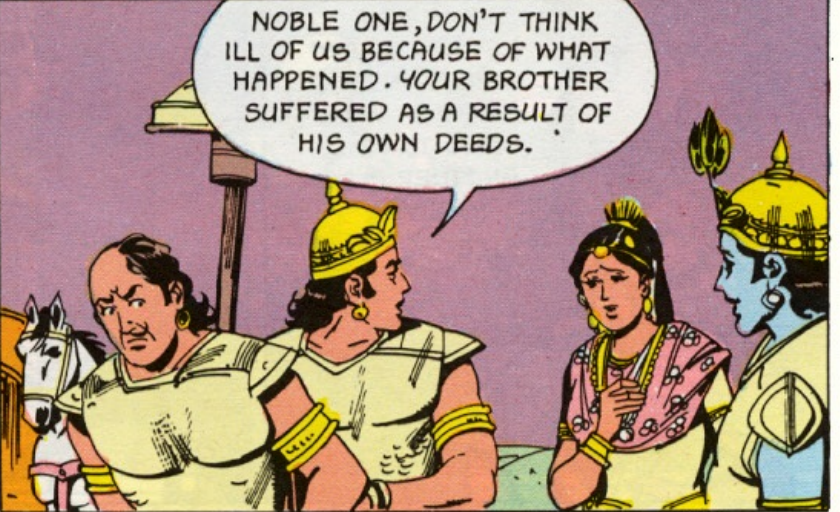


DISFIGURING A RELATIVE IS AS BAD AS KILLING HIM.



"ADDRESSING RUKMINI, BALARAMA SAID —

NOBLE ONE, DON'T THINK ILL OF US BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED. YOUR BROTHER SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF HIS OWN DEEDS."



ALAS! THE DHARMA OF THE KSHATRIYAS* IS SUCH THAT A MAN MAY KILL HIS OWN BROTHER IN WAR.



YET IT IS NOBLE, KRISHNA, TO FORGIVE THE WORST ACT OF YOUR RELATIVES. LET HIM GO; DON'T KILL HIM. HIS OWN GUILT WILL DESTROY HIM.



* THOSE BELONGING TO THE WARRIOR CASTE.

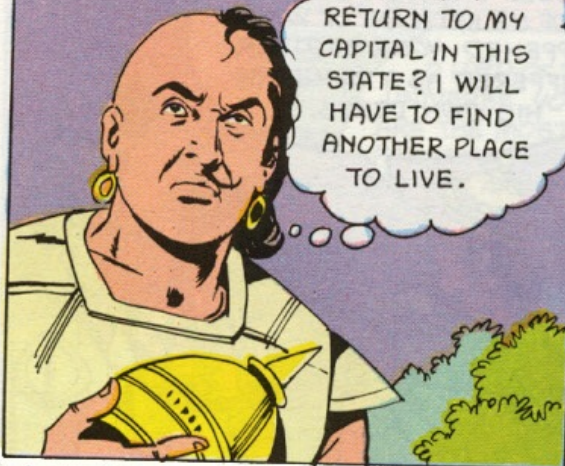
"TO CONSOLE RUKMINI HE SAID —

IT IS FOR HIS OWN GOOD THAT YOUR BROTHER HAS BEEN PUNISHED.



"RUKMI COULD NOT GET OVER HIS HUMILIATION.

HOW CAN I RETURN TO MY CAPITAL IN THIS STATE? I WILL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO LIVE.



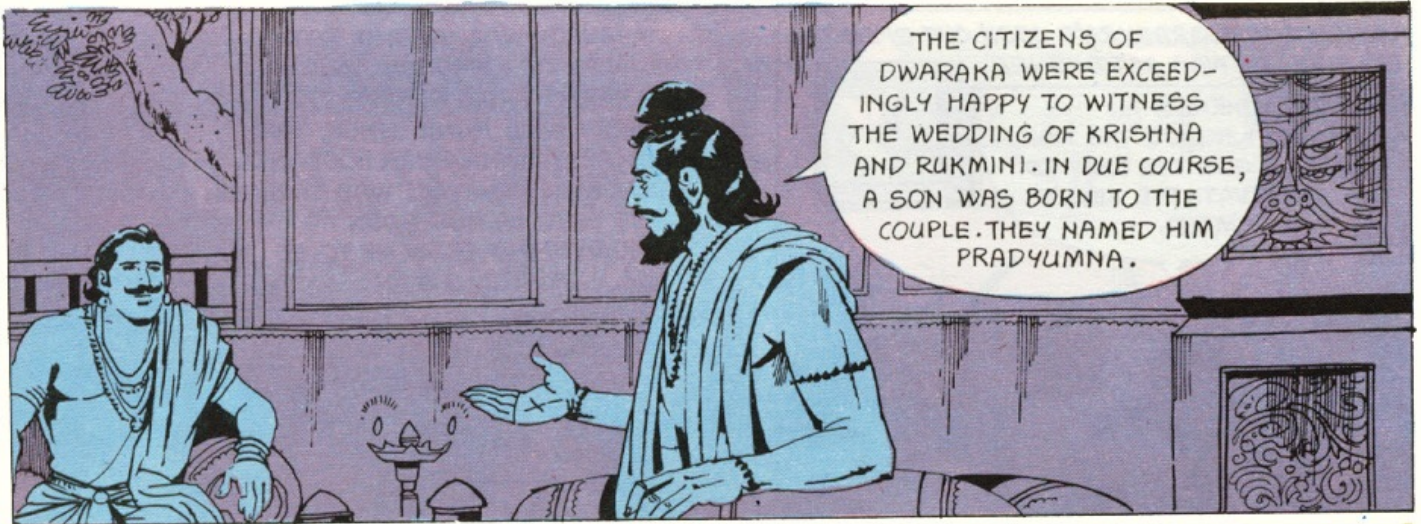
"RUKMI BUILT A CITY WHICH HE NAMED BHOJKAT.

I SHALL NOT ENTER KUNDINAPURA TILL I SLAY THAT WICKED KRISHNA AND RESCUE MY LITTLE SISTER.

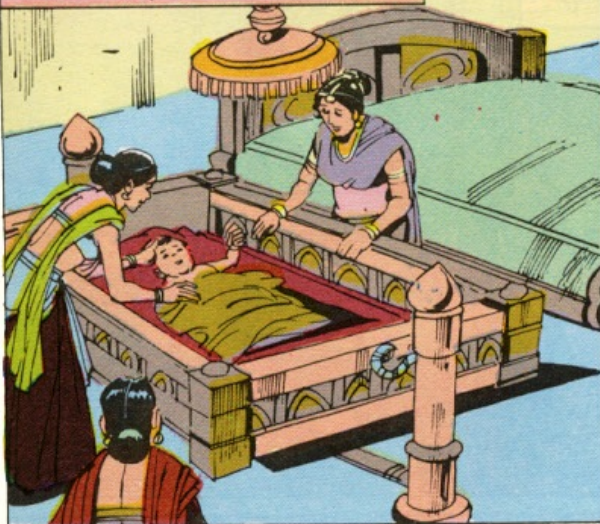


"AFTER REACHING DWARAKA THE FORMAL WEDDING CEREMONY OF KRISHNA AND RUKMINI WAS PERFORMED WITH DUE POMP.

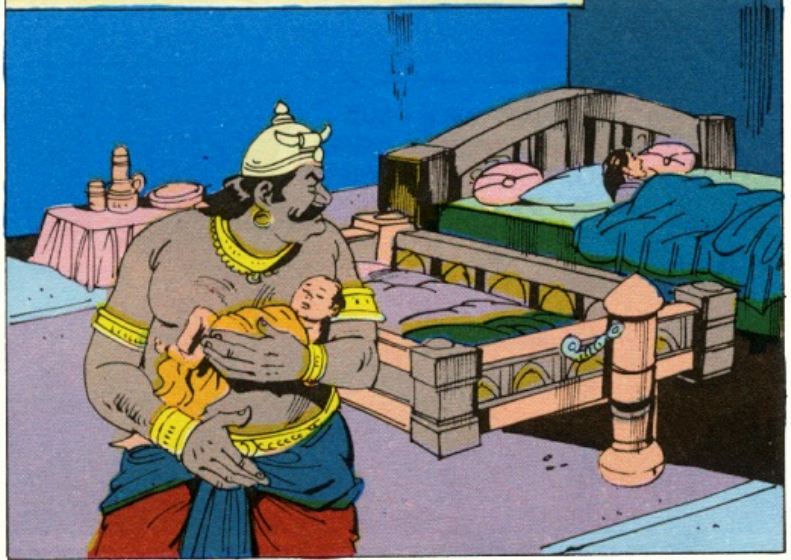




"PRADYUMNA WAS VERY GOOD-LOOKING AND WAS IN FACT AN INCARNATION OF KAMADEVA, THE GOD OF LOVE."



"WHEN PRADYUMNA WAS JUST TEN DAYS OLD, A DEMON NAMED SHAMBARASURA KIDNAPPED HIM."



"THE WICKED DEMON THREW PRADYUMNA INTO THE SEA."

HE WAS DESTINED TO BE MY FOE! I MUST GET RID OF HIM.



"A HUGE FISH SWALLOWED THE TINY BABY. BUT SOON—"

WHAT A FINE FISH! I WILL PRESENT IT TO OUR KING SHAMBARASURA.

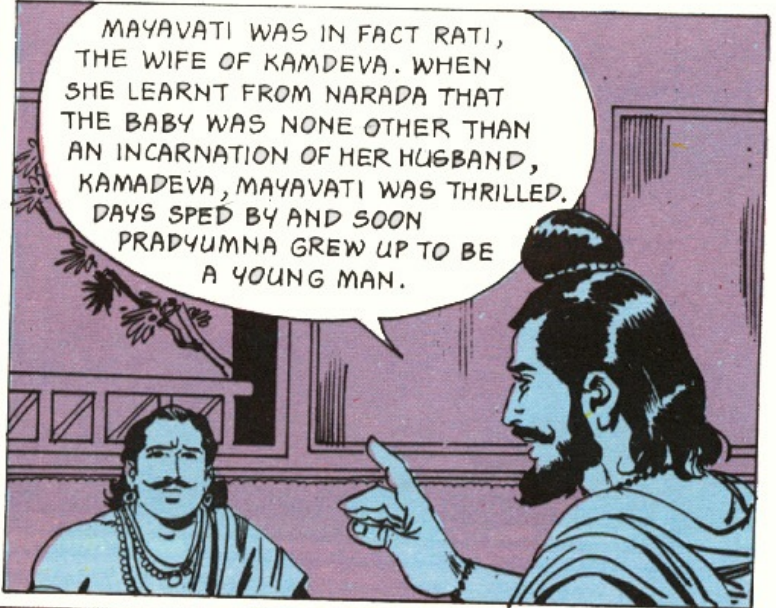


"WHEN SHAMBARASURA'S COOK CUT OPEN THE BIG FISH, HE WAS ASTONISHED.

SEE! THERE'S AN INFANT INSIDE THE FISH. LET'S GIVE THE BABY TO MAYAVATI, THE KING'S MAID.



MAYAVATI WAS IN FACT RATI, THE WIFE OF KAMDEVA. WHEN SHE LEARNT FROM NARADA THAT THE BABY WAS NONE OTHER THAN AN INCARNATION OF HER HUSBAND, KAMADEVA, MAYAVATI WAS THRILLED. DAYS SPED BY AND SOON PRADYUMNA GREW UP TO BE A YOUNG MAN.



"MAYAVATI NARRATED THE STORY OF HIS BIRTH TO PRADYUMNA.

SO YOU WILL HAVE TO CONFRONT THE ASURA. I WILL TEACH YOU MAHA* MAYA† BY WHICH YOU CAN DEFEAT HIM.

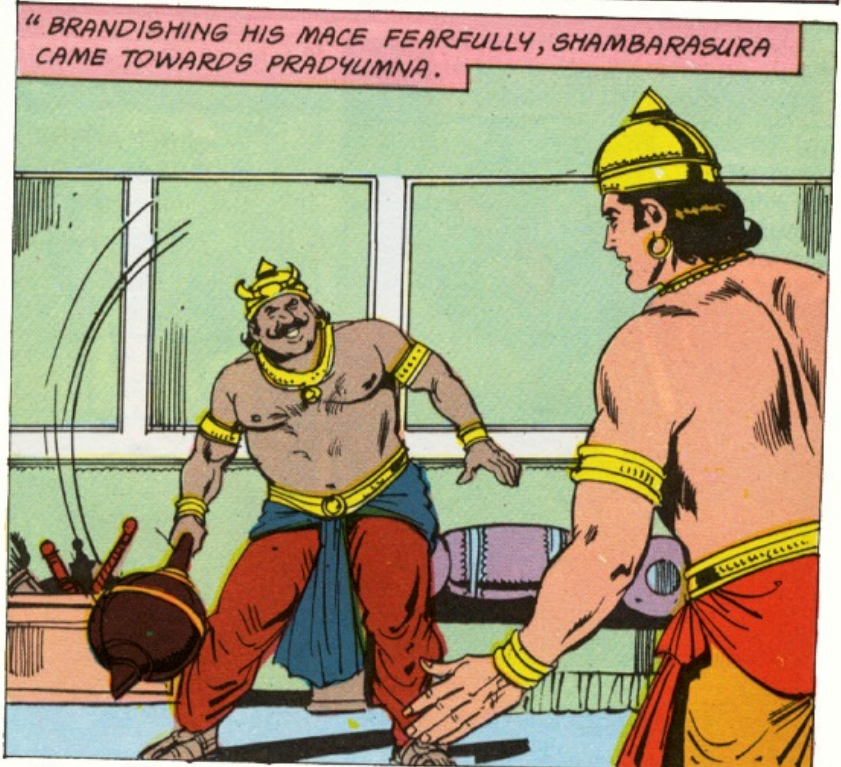


"AS ADVISED BY MAYAVATI, PRADYUMNA PURPOSELY PICKED UP A FIGHT WITH SHAMBARASURA.

HOW DARE YOU TALK TO ME LIKE THAT! JUST WAIT!



"BRANDISHING HIS MACE FEARFULLY, SHAMBARASURA CAME TOWARDS PRADYUMNA.

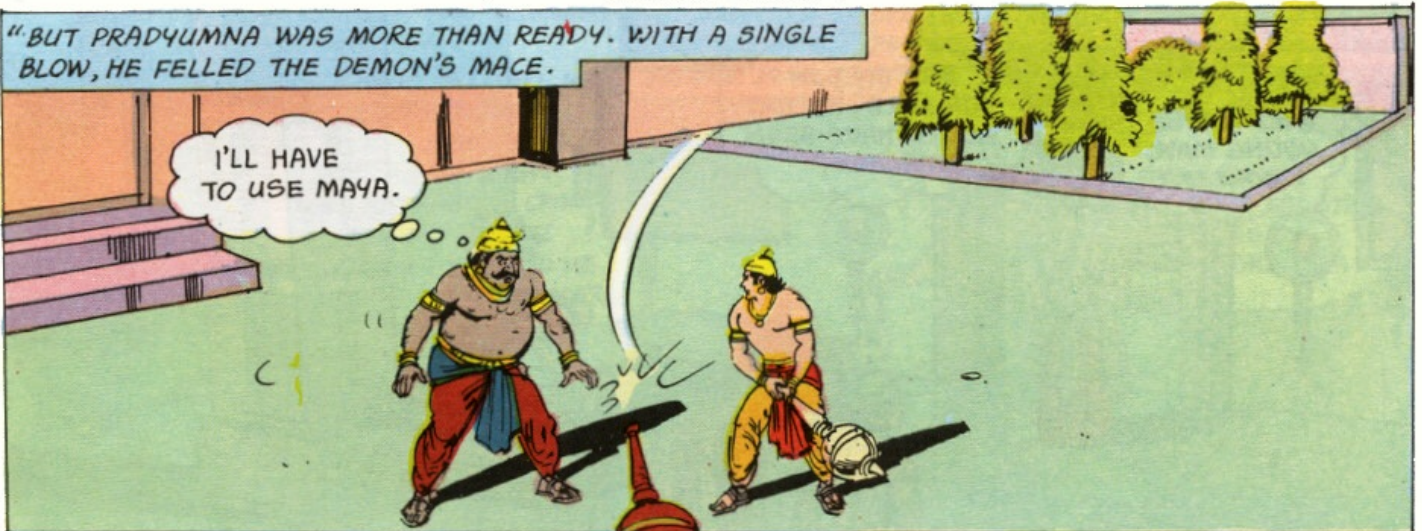


* GREAT + ILLUSORY POWERS.

amar chitra katha

"BUT PRADYUMNA WAS MORE THAN READY. WITH A SINGLE BLOW, HE FELLED THE DEMON'S MACE."

I'LL HAVE TO USE MAYA.



"SHAMBARASURA ROSE RAPIDLY IN THE AIR AND BEGAN TO RAIN WEAPONS DOWN ON PRADYUMNA."

HE IS TRYING TO CREATE ALL SORTS OF CREATURES TO SCARE ME. I'LL HAVE TO USE THE ART MAYAVATI TAUGHT ME.



"WITH THE HELP OF MAHA-MAYA, PRADYUMNA COULD COUNTER ALL THE WICKED MOVES OF THE ASURA. FINALLY HE TOOK UP A SHARP SWORD..."



"...AND CUT OFF SHAMBARASURA'S HEAD."

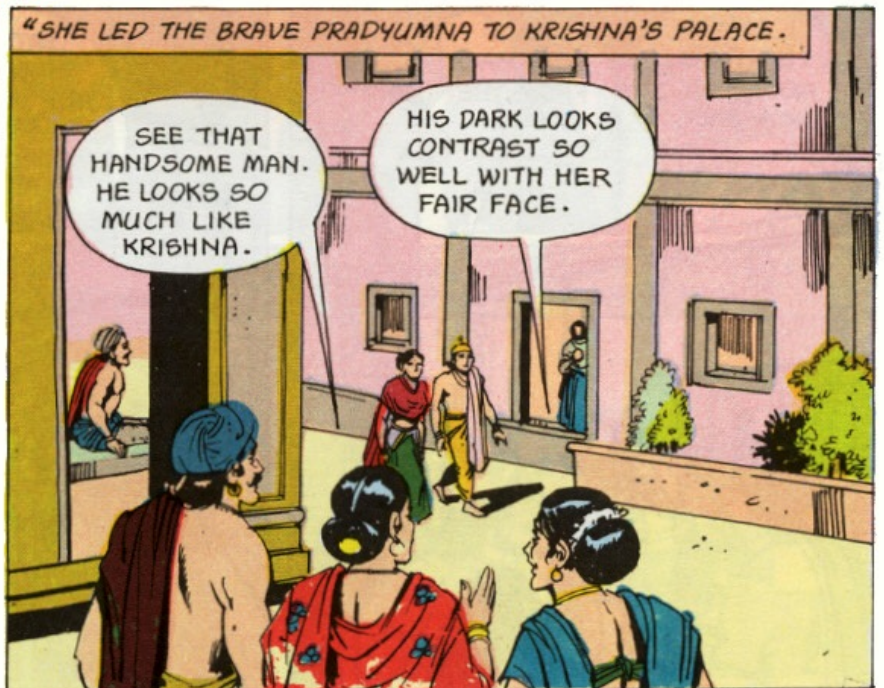
"MAYAVATI TOOK PRADYUMNA TO DWARAKA."



"SHE LED THE BRAVE PRADYUMNA TO KRISHNA'S PALACE."

SEE THAT HANDSOME MAN. HE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE KRISHNA.

HIS DARK LOOKS CONTRAST SO WELL WITH HER FAIR FACE.



"JUST THEN, RUKMINI ARRIVED.



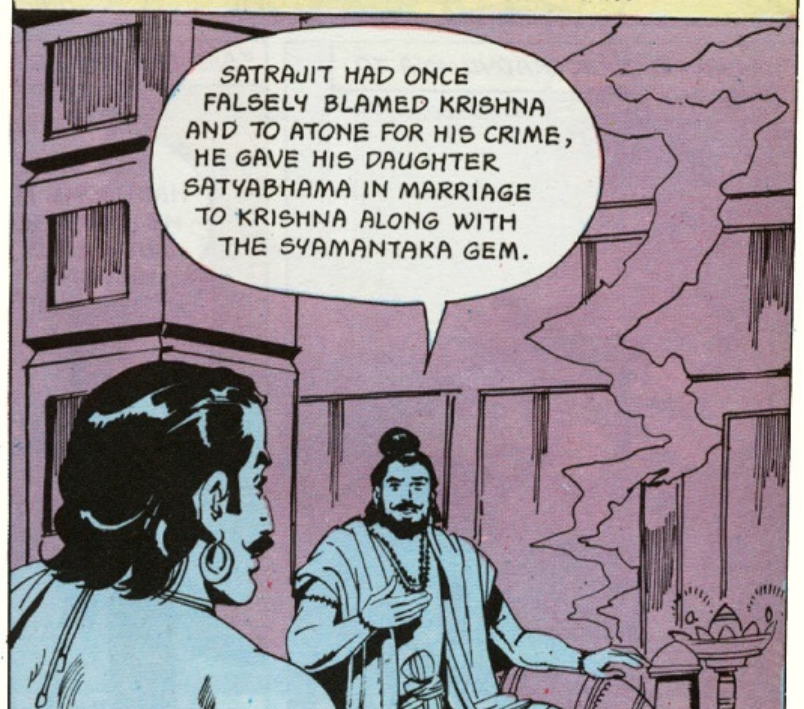
"RUKMINI TOO NOTICED PRADYUMNA'S RESEMBLANCE TO KRISHNA.



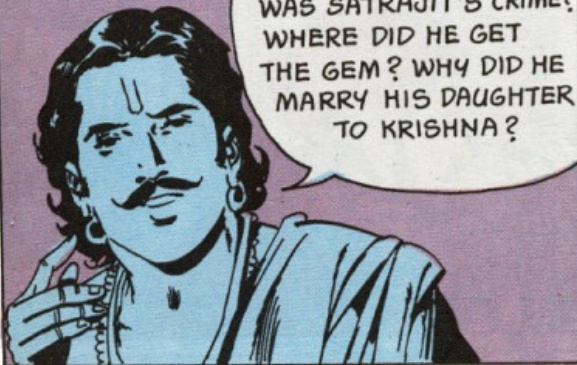
"KRISHNA TOO CAME ON THE SCENE BUT STOOD BY SILENTLY, AS IF HE KNEW NOTHING. THEN NARADA ARRIVED THERE AND NARRATED THE PAST EVENTS.



SHUKADEVA THEN NARRATED THE STORY OF KRISHNA'S MARRIAGE TO JAMBAVATI AND SATYABHAMA.



PAREEKSHIT INTERRUPTED THE NARRATION.



NO, NO, TELL ME EVERYTHING IN DETAIL. WHO WAS SATRAJIT? WHAT WAS SATRAJIT'S CRIME? WHERE DID HE GET THE GEM? WHY DID HE MARRY HIS DAUGHTER TO KRISHNA?

"IN DWARAKA THERE LIVED SATRAJIT WHO WAS A GREAT DEVOTEE OF SURYA, THE SUN GOD. ONE DAY SURYA APPEARED BEFORE HIM."



I AM PLEASED WITH YOUR DEVOTION. TAKE THIS SYAMANTAKA GEM.

"WHEN SATRAJIT WORE THE JEWEL ON HIS NECK, HE LOOKED AS RESPLENDENT AS THE SUN. WHEN HE ENTERED THE CITY —



WHAT IS THAT STRANGE GLARE? I CAN'T OPEN MY EYES!

HAS THE SUN COME DOWN TO EARTH?

LET'S GO AND TELL KRISHNA.

"THEY FOUND KRISHNA PLAYING DICE."



KRISHNA! O KRISHNA! SEE LORD SURYA IS HERE!



PERHAPS HE IS LOOKING FOR YOU.

"KRISHNA LAUGHED AND SAID —

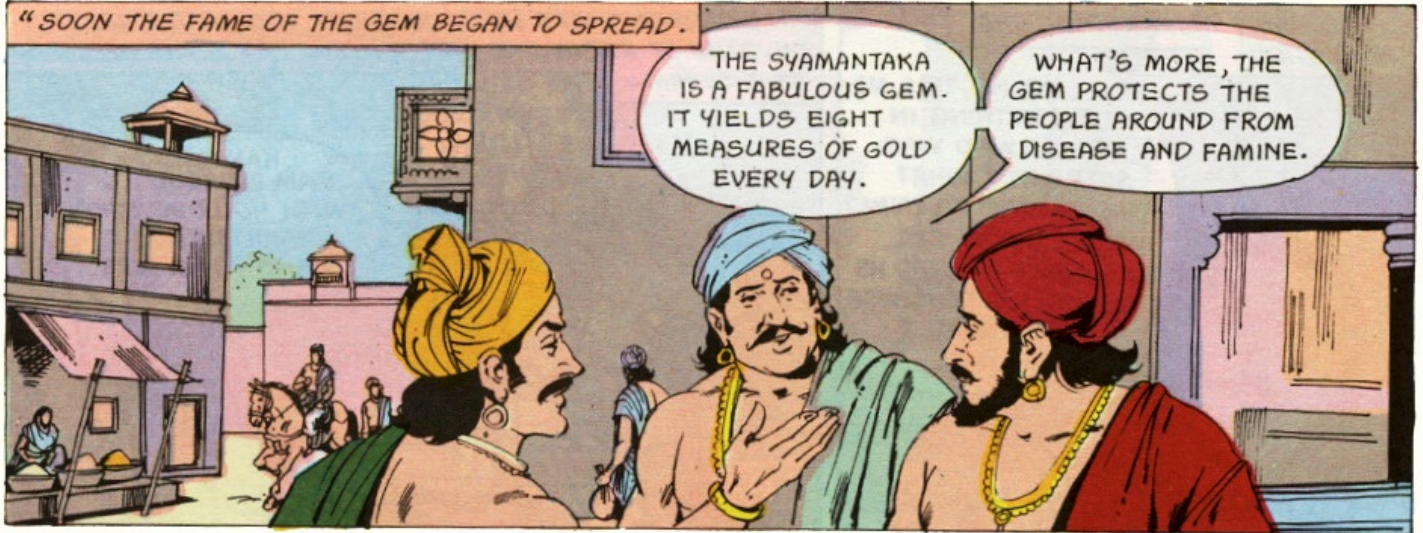


OH THAT! IT'S NOT THE SUN. THAT'S SATRAJIT WEARING A BRILLIANT JEWEL.

"AFTER DISPLAYING THE SYAMANTAKA GEM TO HIS PEOPLE, SATRAJIT HAD IT INSTALLED IN A SMALL PRAYER ROOM."



"SOON THE FAME OF THE GEM BEGAN TO SPREAD."



"ONE DAY KRISHNA VISITED SATRAJIT."



"THOUGH HE REFUSED TO GIVE IT TO THE KING, SATRAJIT GAVE THE GEM TO HIS BROTHER PRASENA."



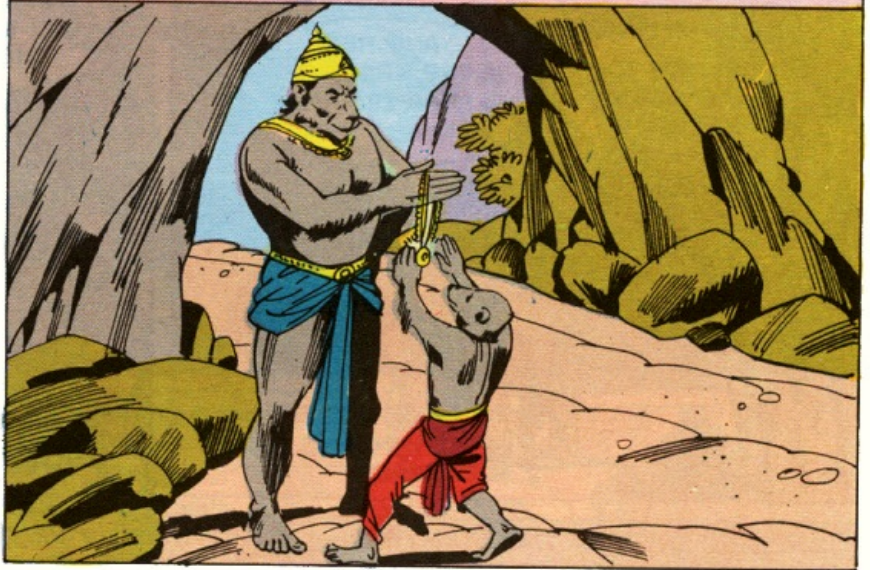
"WHILE HE WAS OUT HUNTING, PRASENA WAS KILLED BY A LION."



"THE LION WAS FASCINATED BY THE BRILLIANCE OF THE GEM AND TOOK IT AWAY TO HIS DEN. JUST THEN —



"IT WAS JAMBAVAN, THE BEAR WHO HAD ATTACKED THE LION. JAMBAVAN GAVE THE GEM TO HIS LITTLE SON TO PLAY WITH.



"MEANWHILE IN DWARAKA, SATRAJIT WAS GETTING ANXIOUS ABOUT HIS BROTHER.



PRASENA HASN'T RETURNED. PERHAPS KRISHNA HAS KILLED HIM FOR THE SAKE OF THE SYAMANTAKA GEM.

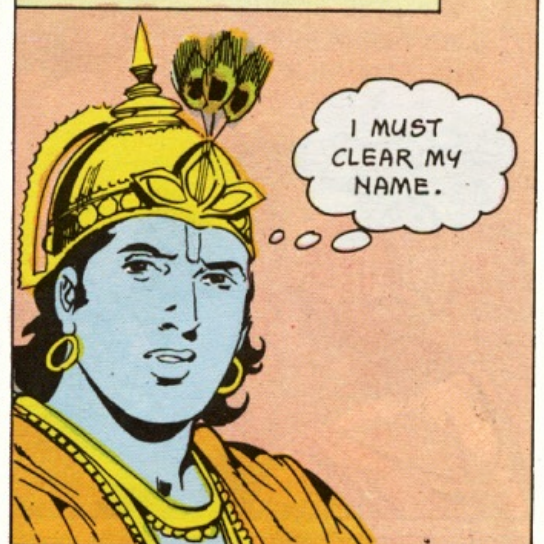
"SATRAJIT'S WORDS OF ACCUSATION TRAVELLED FROM MOUTH TO MOUTH.



SATRAJIT IS BLAMING KRISHNA

HE SAYS KRISHNA COVETED THE GEM.

"KRISHNA TOO HEARD OF IT.



I MUST CLEAR MY NAME.

"HE CONFIDED IN SOME OF HIS FRIENDS.



COME WITH ME TO THE FOREST. WE WILL FIND OUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO PRASENA.

"SOON KRISHNA AND HIS COMPANIONS FOUND THE BODIES OF PRASENA AND HIS HORSE.



SEE! PRASENA AND HIS HORSE MUST HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AND KILLED BY A LION.

LET'S FOLLOW THE LION'S TRAIL.

"FOLLOWING THE LION'S TRACK THEY REACHED A CAVE ON THE MOUNTAIN SIDE.



THE LION TOO HAS BEEN KILLED.

AND HERE IS THE TRACK OF A BEAR LEADING INTO THE DEN.

"KRISHNA SAID —



I'LL GO IN ALONE. YOU WAIT OUTSIDE THE CAVE.

AS YOU WISH.

"WHEN HE ENTERED THE DARK CAVE —



WHY, THE BEAR'S CUBS ARE PLAYING WITH THE GEM AS IF IT WERE A TOY.

"QUIETLY KRISHNA APPROACHED THE CUBS; BUT THE MOTHER SENSED HIS PRESENCE.



AEEE!

"HER CRY BROUGHT JAMBAVAN THERE AND HE ANGRILY ATTACKED KRISHNA.



"LIKE TWO EAGLES FIGHTING OVER A PIECE OF MEAT, KRISHNA AND JAMBAVAN FOUGHT EACH OTHER.



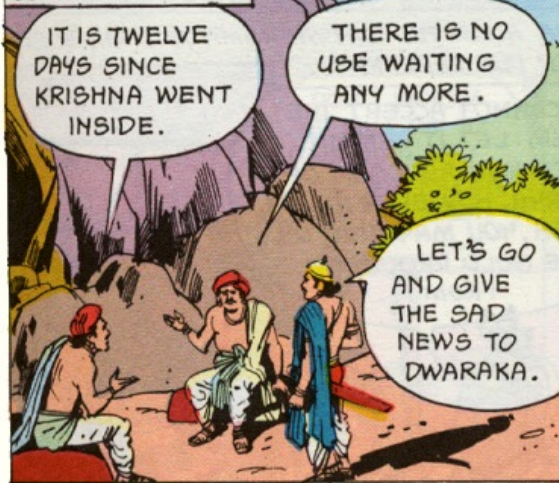
"THEY FOUGHT WITH ROCKS AND WITH TREE TRUNKS.



"THEN THEY WRESTLED WITH EACH OTHER. BUT SO STRONG AND WELL-MATCHED WERE THE TWO THAT THE FIGHT WENT ON AND ON.



"KRISHNA'S COMPANIONS NOW BEGAN TO LOSE PATIENCE.



IT IS TWELVE DAYS SINCE KRISHNA WENT INSIDE.

THERE IS NO USE WAITING ANY MORE.

LET'S GO AND GIVE THE SAD NEWS TO DWARAKA.

"MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE CAVE JAMBAVAN MET HIS MATCH IN KRISHNA. AFTER 28 DAYS' CONTINUOUS FIGHT—

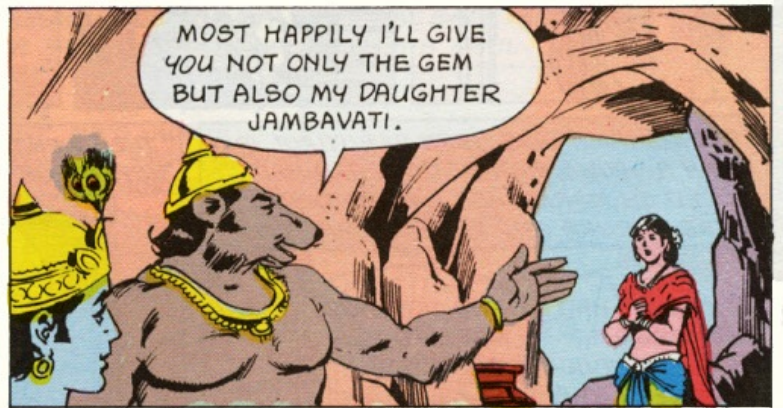


LORD! I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

"KRISHNA AFFECTIONATELY PATTED JAMBAVAN AND SAID—



I CAME HERE IN SEARCH OF THE SYAMANTAKA GEM. I NEED IT TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE.



MOST HAPPILY I'LL GIVE YOU NOT ONLY THE GEM BUT ALSO MY DAUGHTER JAMBAVATI.

"KRISHNA RETURNED TO DWARAKA WITH THE GEM AND JAMBAVATI.



KRISHNA IS BACK. KRISHNA IS HERE.

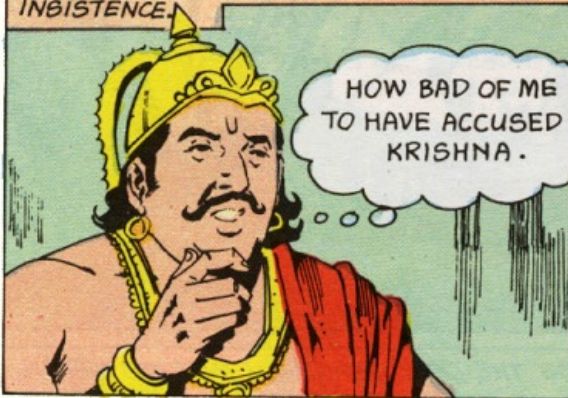
WITH THE GEM AROUND HIS NECK AND A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN WITH HIM.

"KRISHNA SUMMONED SATRAJIT TO KING UGRASENA'S COURT—

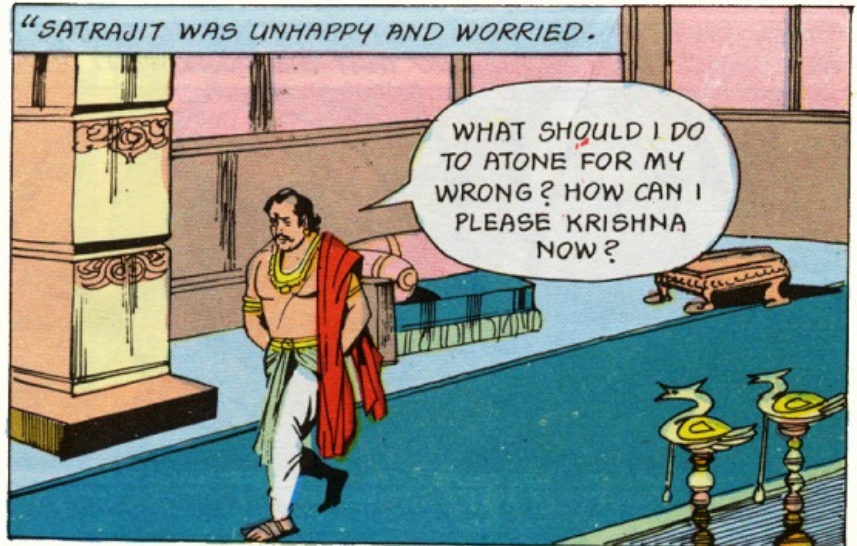


IN THE PRESENCE OF THIS GATHERING, I WANT TO RELATE HOW THE GEM CAME TO BE IN MY POSSESSION.

"SATRAJIT FELT TERRIBLY EMBARRASSED WHEN HE HEARD THE WHOLE STORY. WITH HIS HEAD HUNG LOW, HE MEEKLY ACCEPTED THE GEM BACK ON KRISHNA'S INSISTENCE."



"SATRAJIT WAS UNHAPPY AND WORRIED."



"AT LAST HE DECIDED —"

"MY LOVE FOR THE JEWEL MADE ME MALIGN HIM. NOW I'LL GIVE MY JEWEL-LIKE DAUGHTER TO KRISHNA IN MARRIAGE."



"I OFFER YOU MY DAUGHTER SATYABHAMA AS WELL AS THE SYAMANTAKA GEM."



"KRISHNA ACCEPTED SATYABHAMA AND MARRIED HER WITH DUE CEREMONY."

"I CANNOT ACCEPT THE GEM. LET IT REMAIN WITH YOU AS A GIFT OF SURYA. HOWEVER IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY GIVE US THE GOLD PRODUCED FROM IT."



"SATYABHAMA WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL AND MANY A YOUNG MAN OF DWARAKA HAD HOPED TO MARRY HER. AMONG THEM WERE AKKURA AND KRITAVARMA."



"THEY WENT TO SHATADHANVA, ANOTHER YADAVA, WHO HAD HOPED FOR SATYABHAMA'S HAND."



"SHATADHANVA AGREED. IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT HE WENT TO SATRAJIT'S HOUSE. NEXT MORNING —



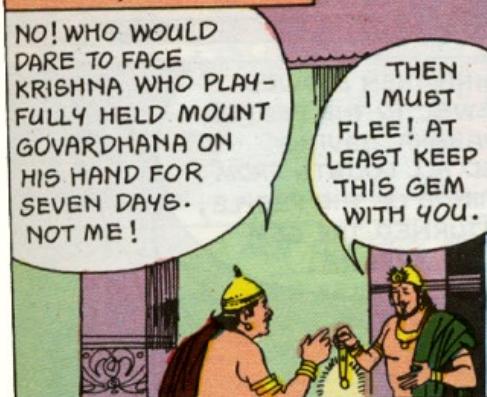
"MEANWHILE KRISHNA AND BALARAMA HAD GONE TO HASTINAPURA. SATYA-BHAMA FOLLOWED THEM THERE.



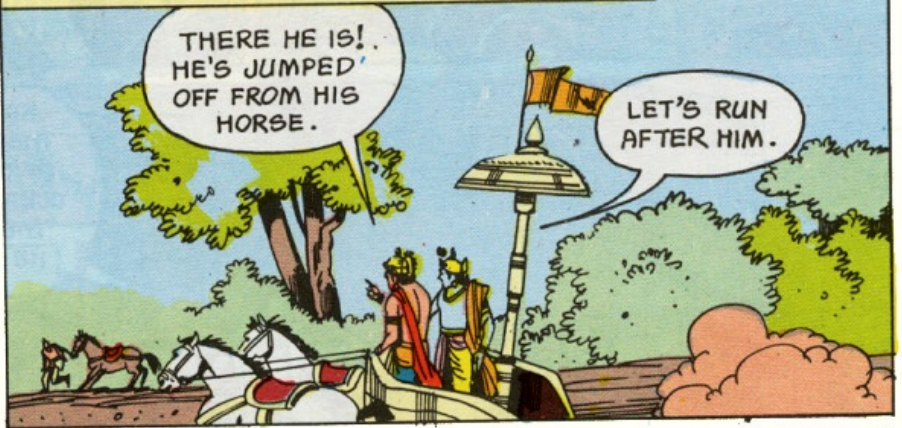
"SHATADHANVA WAS SCARED TO HEAR OF KRISHNA'S RETURN. HE RAN FOR HELP TO KRITAVARMA.



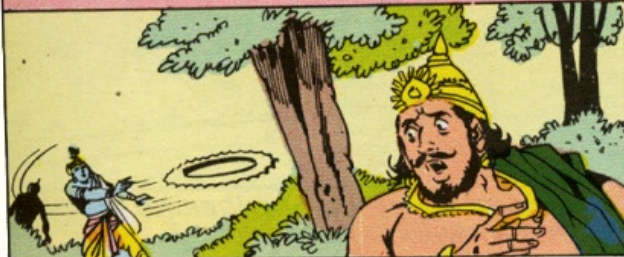
"WHEN KRITAVARMA REFUSED TO HELP, SHATADHANVA PLEADED WITH AKRURA, BUT IN VAIN.



"SHATADHANVA SPED AWAY ON HORSEBACK. BUT SOON KRISHNA AND BALARAMA WERE ON HIS TRAIL.



"KRISHNA AND BALARAMA GOT DOWN FROM THE CHARIOT AND RAN AFTER SHATADHANVA. KRISHNA AIMED HIS CHAKRA AT SHATADHANVA.



"BUT WHEN THEY SEARCHED HIM FOR THE GEM —



"KRISHNA RETURNED TO DWARAKA ALONE WHILE BALARAMA PAID A VISIT TO MITHILA. MEANWHILE AKRURA AND KRITAVARMA HAD LEFT THE TOWN.



KRISHNA HAS KILLED SHATADHANVA.

HE WILL COME AFTER US NOW. LET'S RUN AWAY.

"KRISHNA SENT FOR AKRURA.



UNCLE, I KNOW THAT SHATADHANVA LEFT THE GEM WITH YOU. RIGHTFULLY IT BELONGS TO SATRAJIT'S DESCENDANTS AND THEREFORE TO MY SON.



HOWEVER YOU MAY KEEP THE SHAMAN-TAKA GEM. JUST ALLOW ME TO SHOW IT TO EVERYONE IN DWARAKA AND CLEAR MY NAME.

HERE, HAVE IT.



KRISHNA THEN SHOWED THE JEWEL TO THE PEOPLE OF DWARAKA. HAVING CLEARED ALL DOUBTS FROM THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE, HE RETURNED THE GEM TO AKRURA.

THUS ENDS THE SIXTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF THE TENTH CHAPTER OF THE BHAGAWAT PURANA.