

PANNA AND HADI RANI

The women of Rajasthan have always been known for their extraordinary courage. Uncompromising when it came to honour and loyalty they were ready to sacrifice their lives to uphold these virtues. This Amar Chitra Katha tells the story of Panna who sacrificed her son's life to save the heir to the throne of Mewar, and the story of Hadi Rani who inspired her wavering husband to fulfill his duty on the battlefield by sacrificing her own life.

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BRAVEHEARTS



PANNA AND HADI RANI

OF LOYALTY, HONOUR AND LOVE

Vol 687 | ₹50

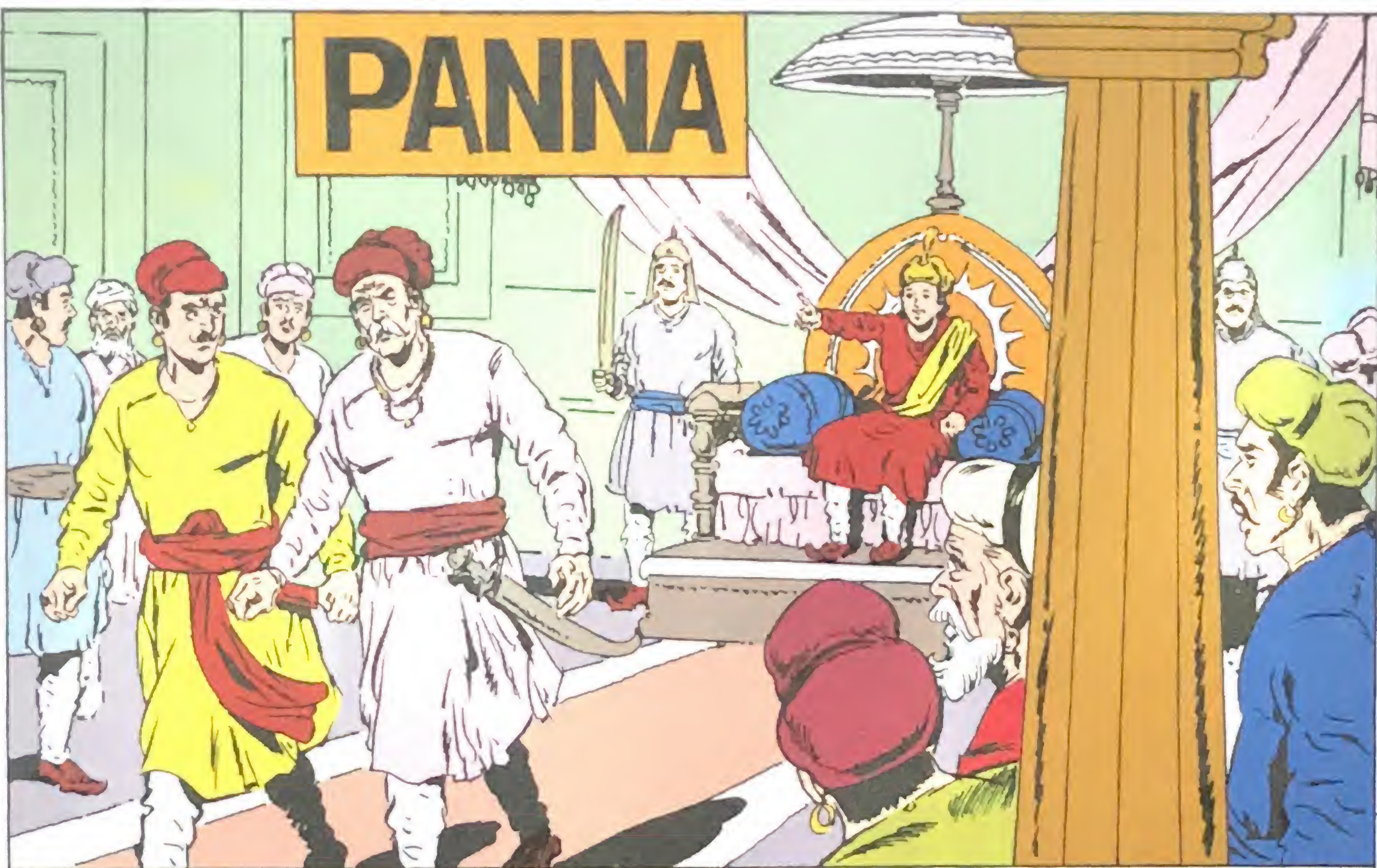


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PANNA



VIKRAMADITYA, THE RANA OF MEWAR, BELONGED TO THE LONG AND RESPECTED LINE OF SISODIAS, WHO WERE FAMOUS FOR THEIR VALOUR AND STRENGTH. HOWEVER, THE YOUNG VIKRAMADITYA, WHO CAME TO POWER IN 1531, WAS ARROGANT AND INSOLENT.

MANY SELF-RESPECTING NOBLES LEFT HIS COURT IN DISGUST.

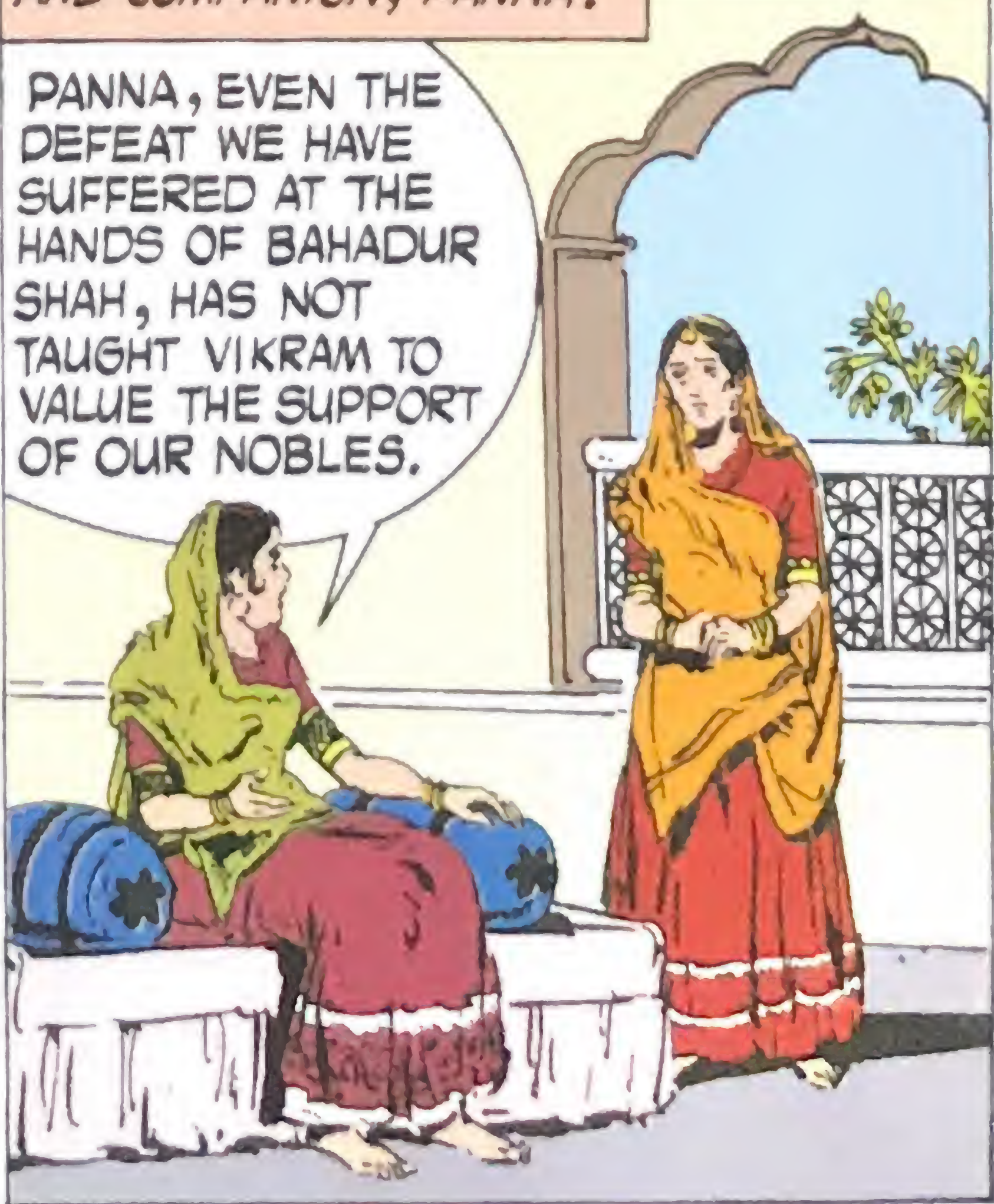
CHITTOR IS NO PLACE FOR US. WE SHALL NOT RETURN AS LONG AS VIKRAMADITYA SITS ON THE THRONE.

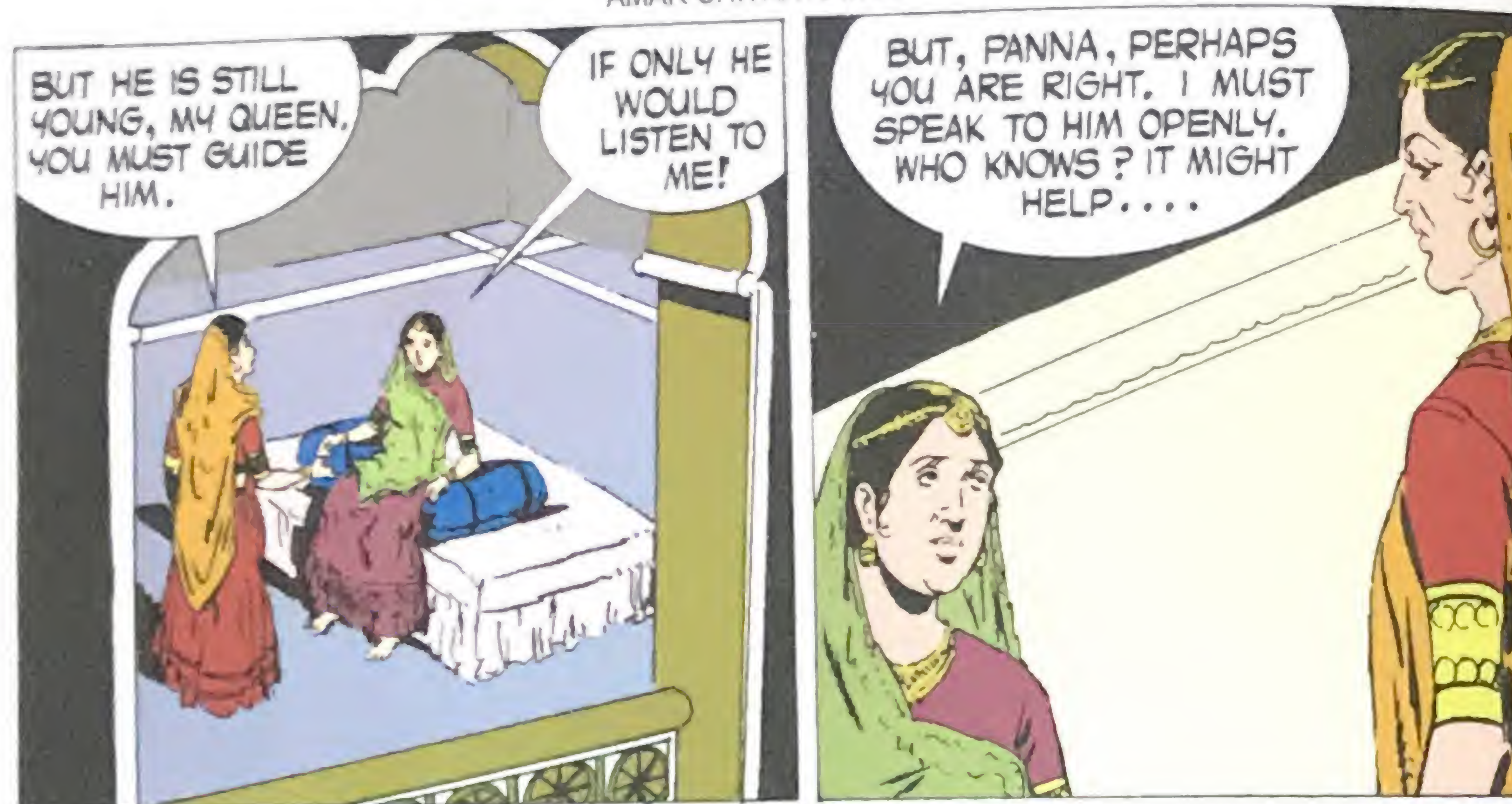


I FEEL SORRY FOR HIS MOTHER, THE QUEEN.

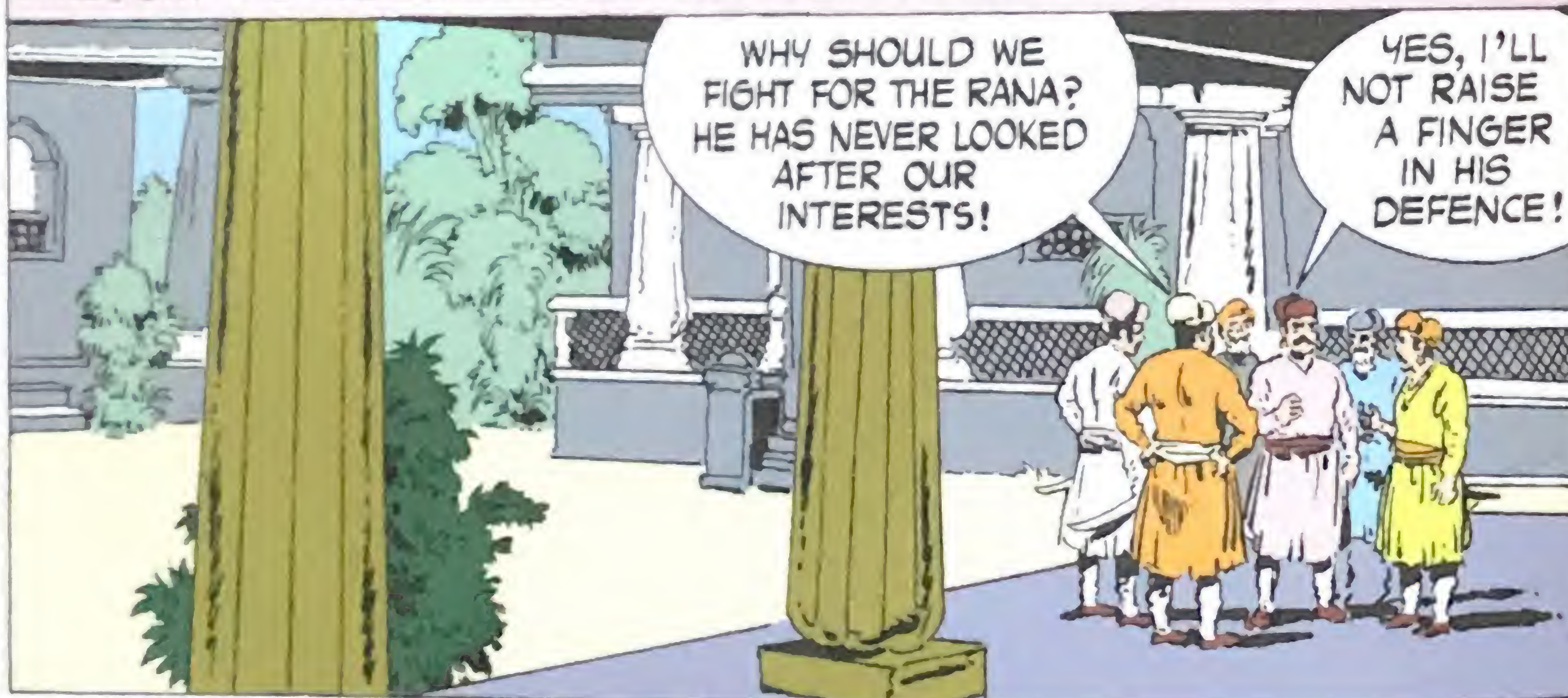
RANI KARMAVATI, VIKRAMADITYA'S MOTHER, WAS DISTRESSED BY HER SON'S BEHAVIOUR, AND SHE POURED HER HEART OUT TO HER TRUSTED MAID AND COMPANION, PANNA.

PANNA, EVEN THE DEFEAT WE HAVE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF BAHADUR SHAH, HAS NOT TAUGHT VIKRAM TO VALUE THE SUPPORT OF OUR NOBLES.





A LITTLE LATER, BAHADUR SHAH OF GUJARAT INVADED MEWAR FOR THE SECOND TIME. BUT THE NOBLES WERE NOT PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RANA.

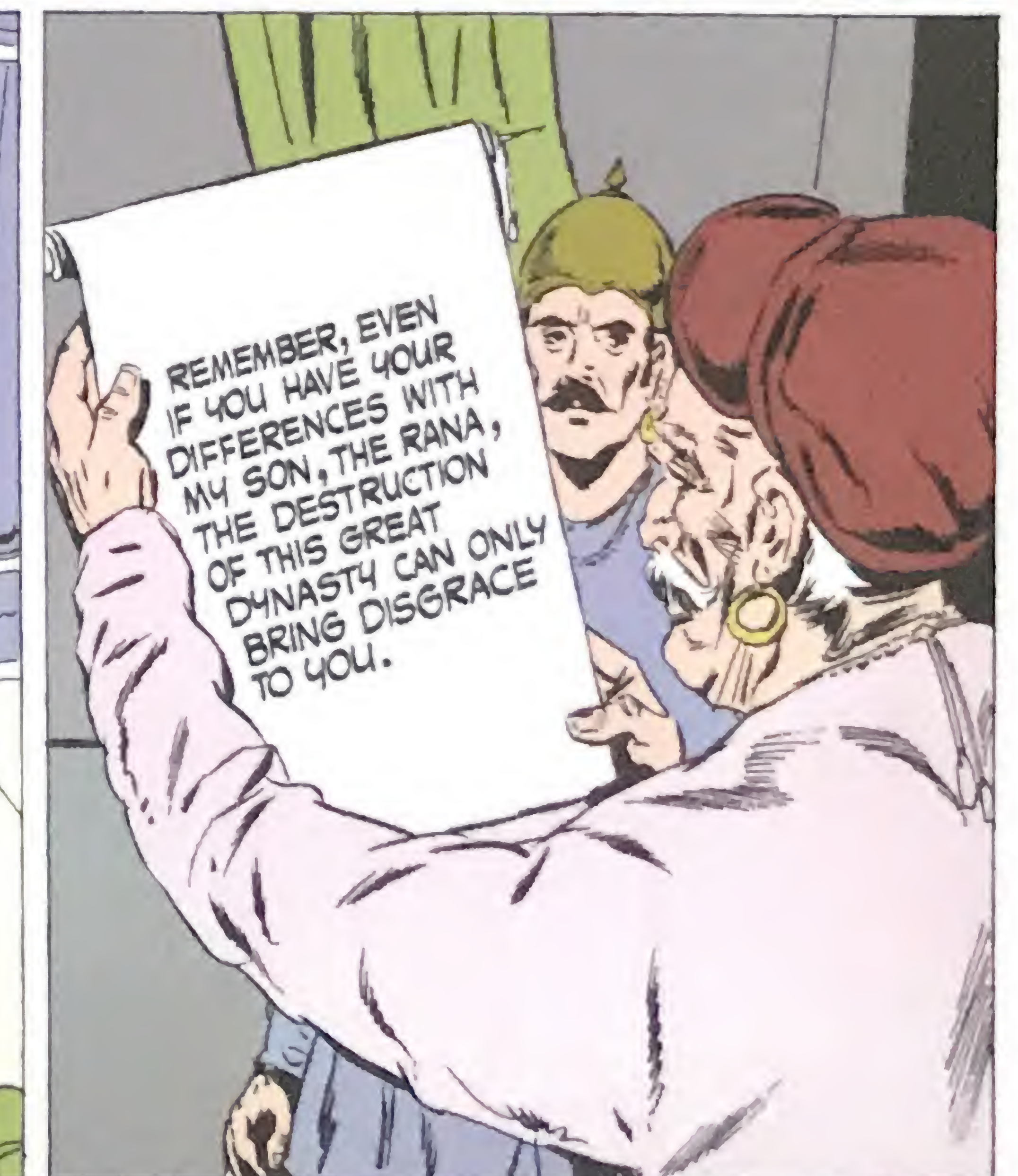


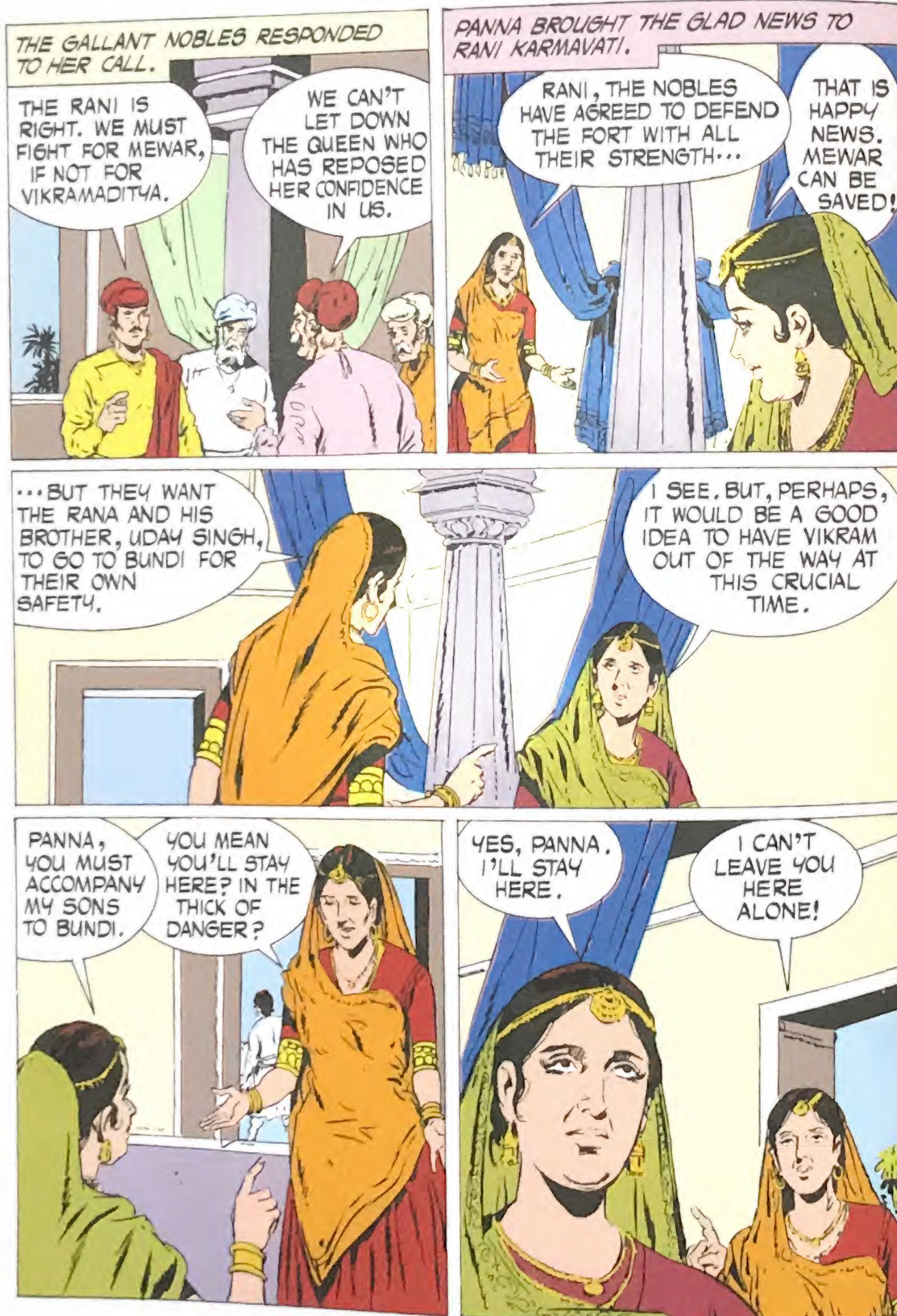
WHEN THE NEWS REACHED RANI KARMAVATI —

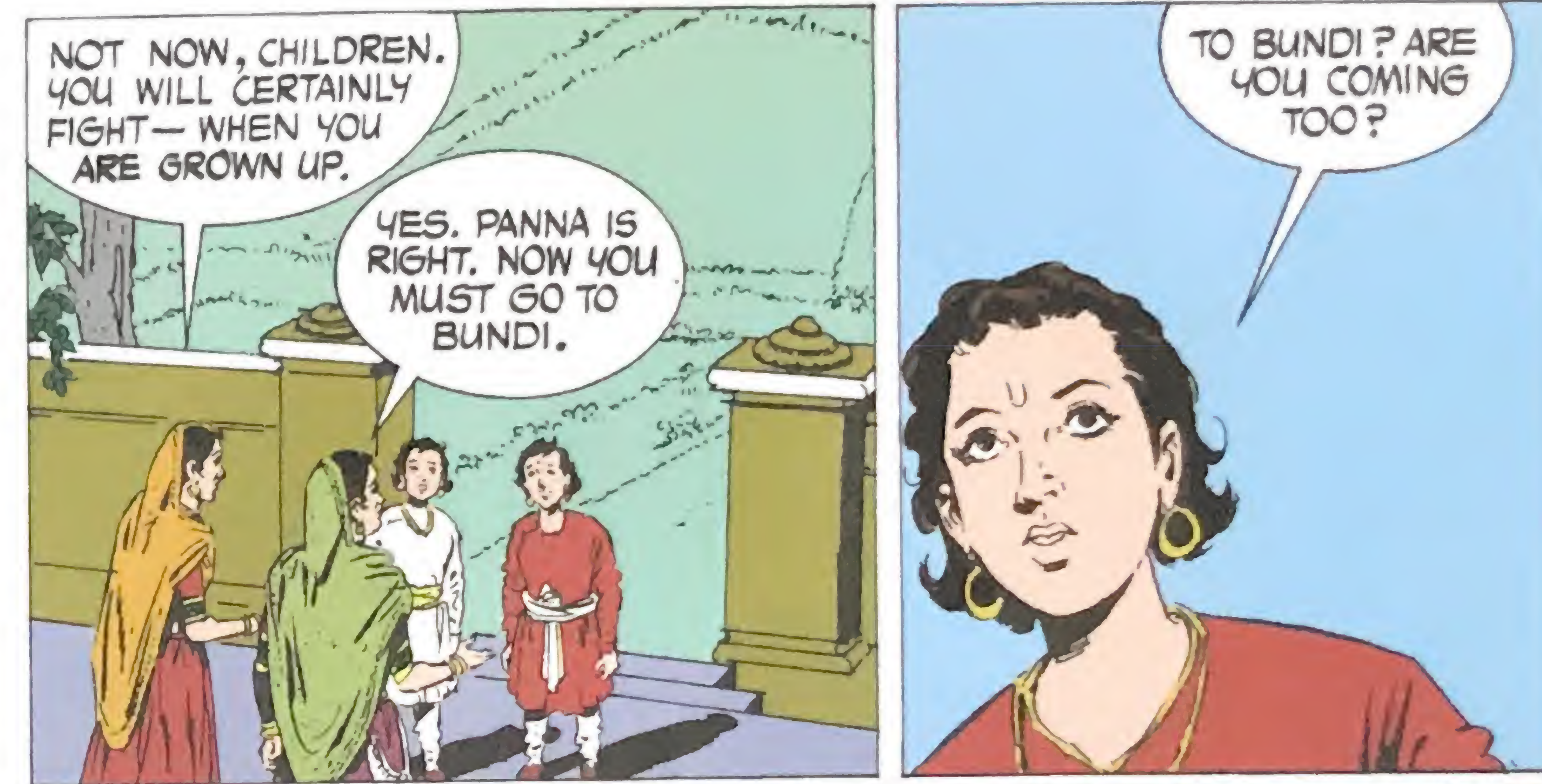
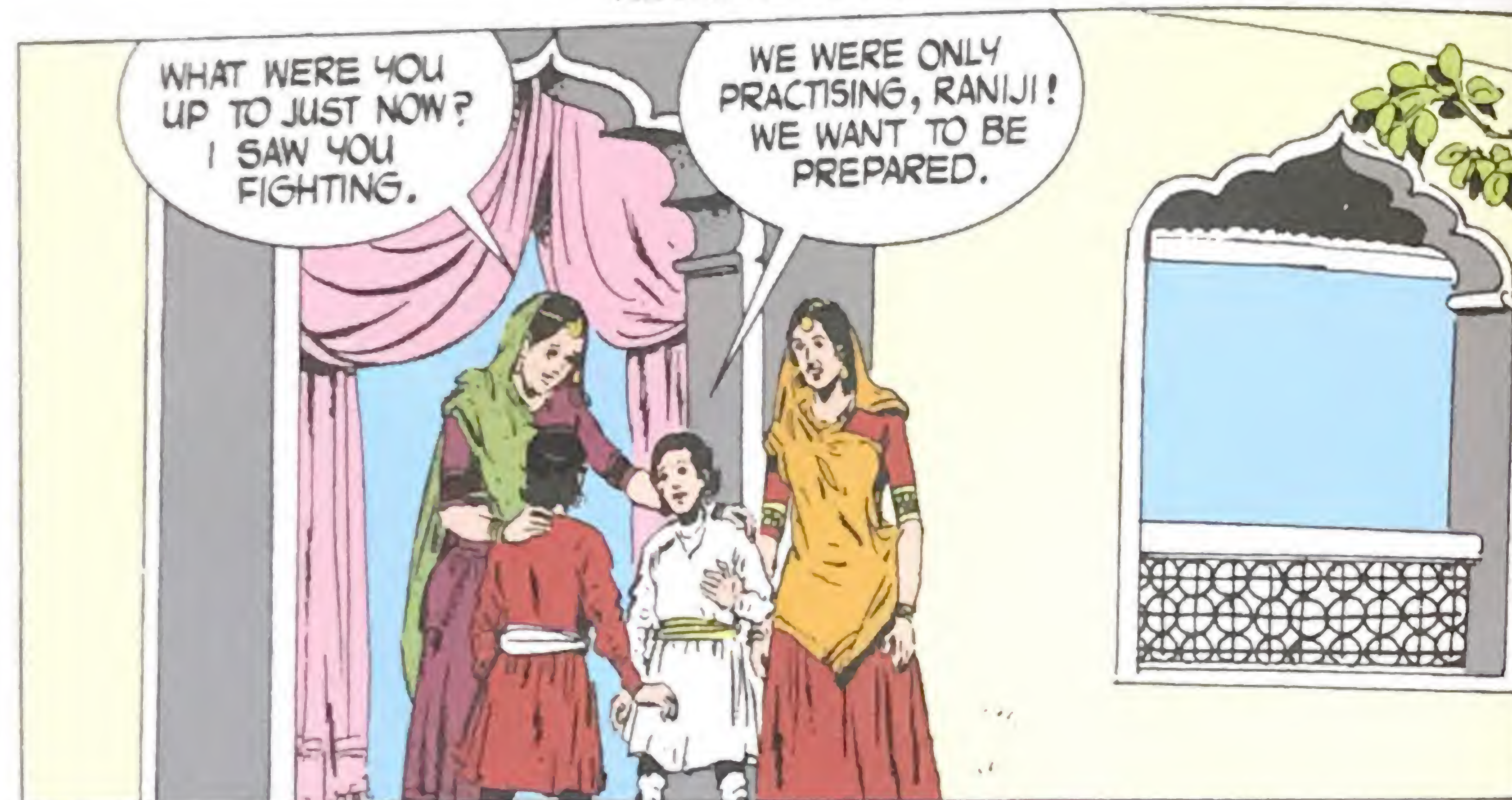


THE RANI ACCEPTED HER ADVICE AND BEGAN TO WRITE TO THE NOBLES.

... CHITTOR ALWAYS HAS REMAINED IN THE POSSESSION OF THE SISODIAS, BUT NOW IT SEEMS THE DAY OF DESTRUCTION HAS ARRIVED....







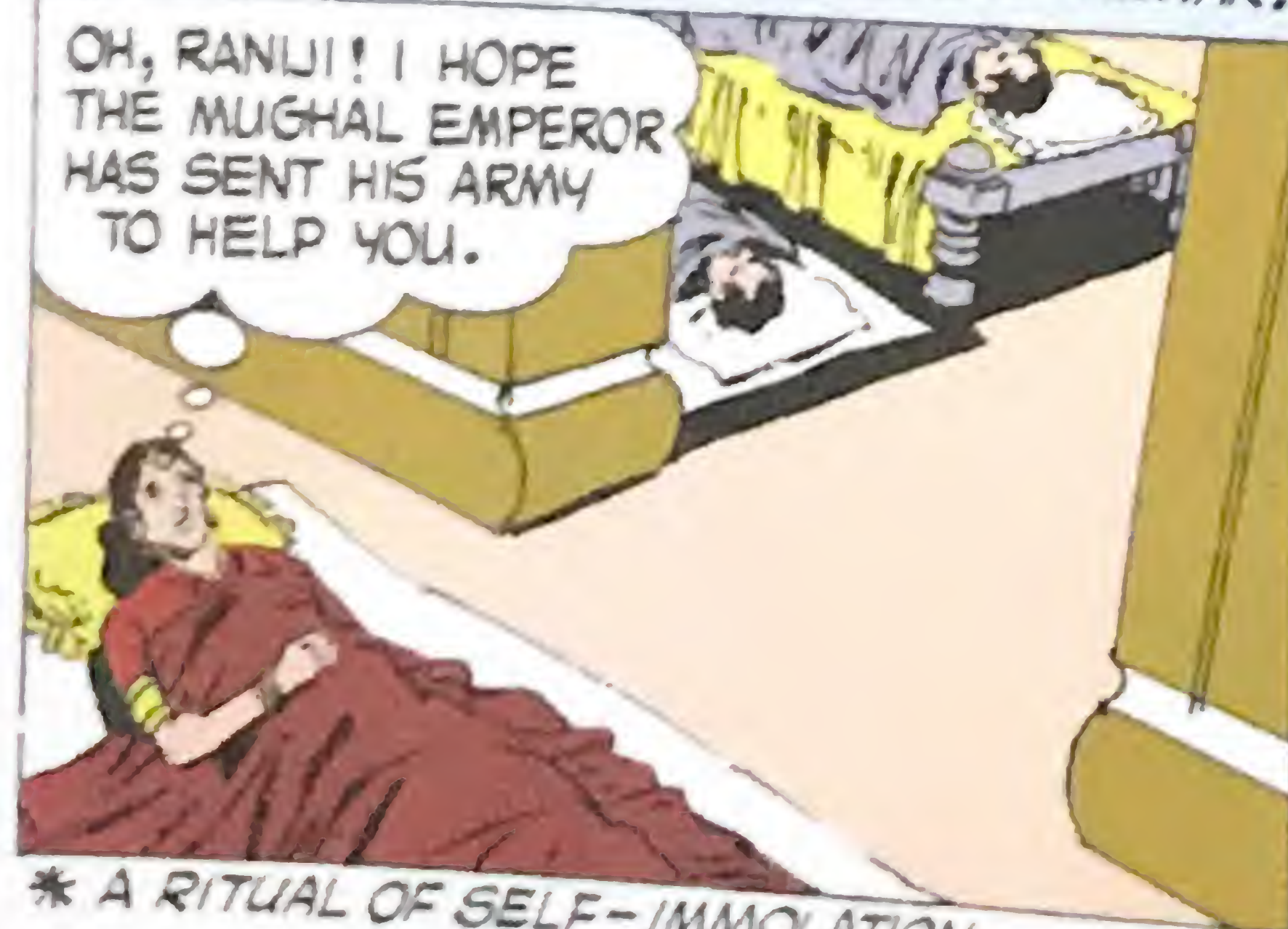
* BRACELET GIVEN BY A SISTER TO A BROTHER OR AN ADOPTED BROTHER



SO PANNA LEFT FOR BUNDI WITH THE RANI'S SONS
AND HER OWN SON.

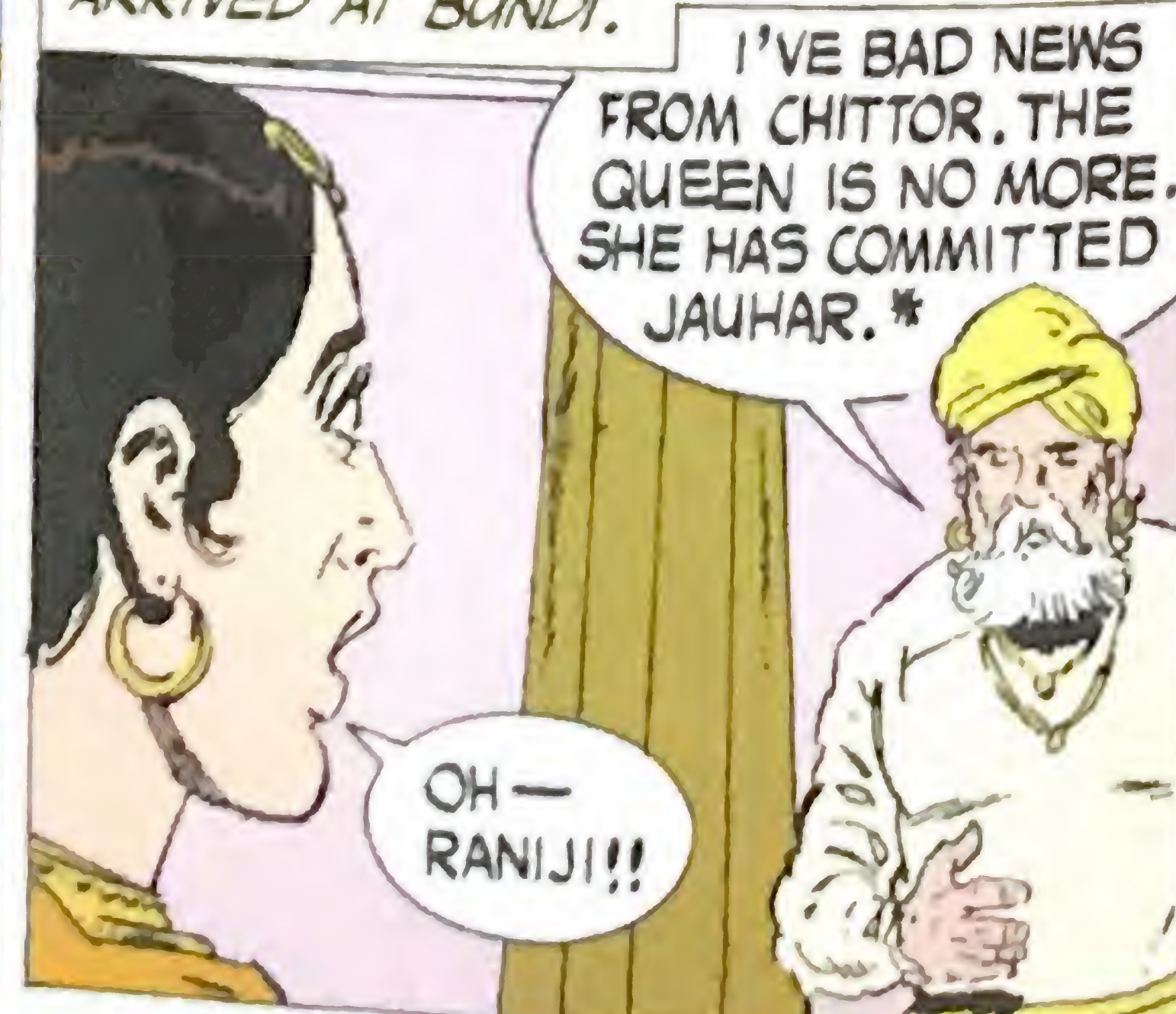


AT BUNDI, PANNA THOUGHT CONSTANTLY ABOUT THE QUEEN AND THE FATE OF MEWAR.

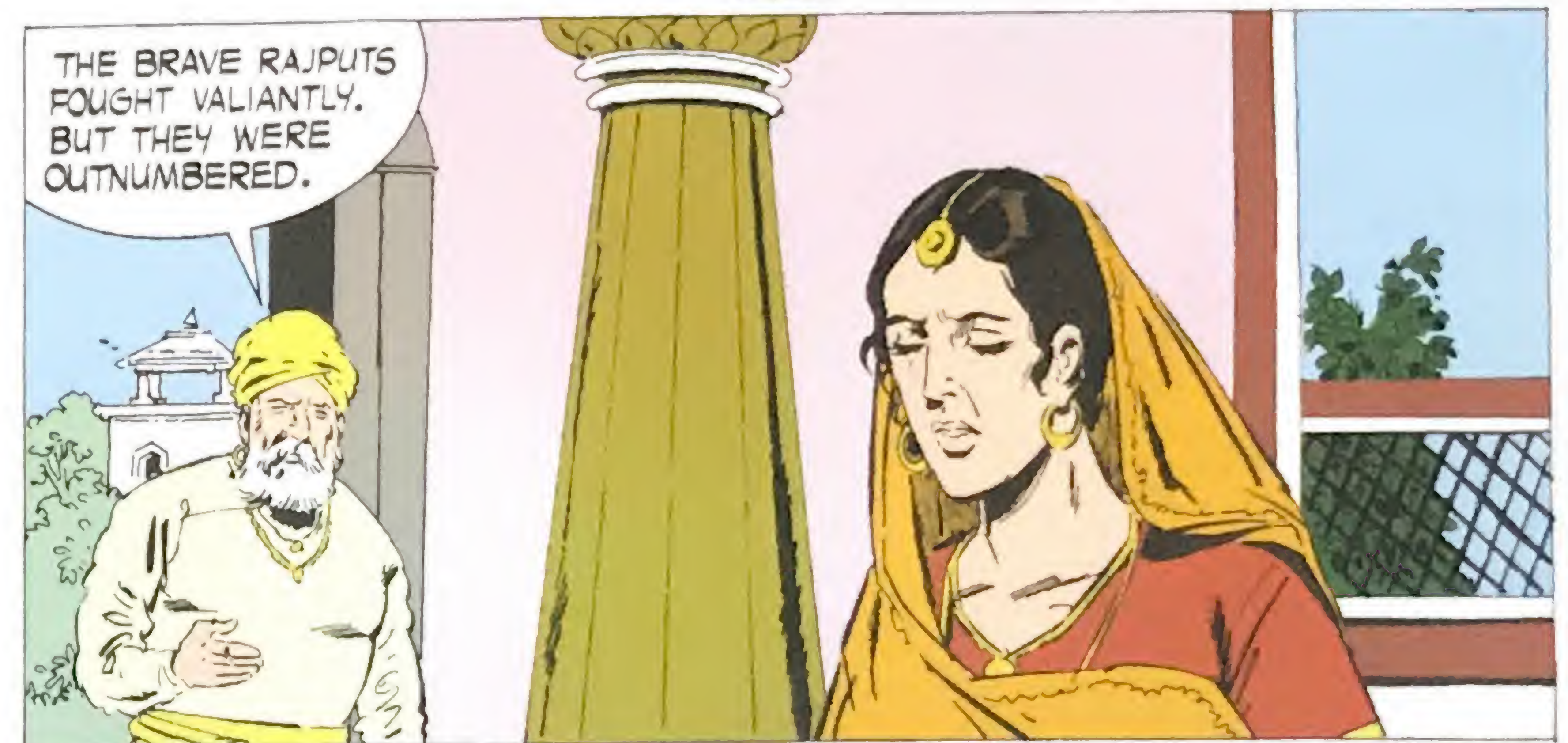


* A RITUAL OF SELF-IMMOLATION

A FEW DAYS LATER, A MESSENGER
ARRIVED AT BUNDI.



OH —
RANJJI!!



SOON, HOWEVER, BAHADUR SHAH HAD TO FLEE FROM CHITTOR AS THE MUGHAL FORCES WERE ADVANCING TO FIGHT HIM.

THE LOYAL RAJPUTS AT CHITTOR THEN SENT A MESSAGE TO BUNDI.

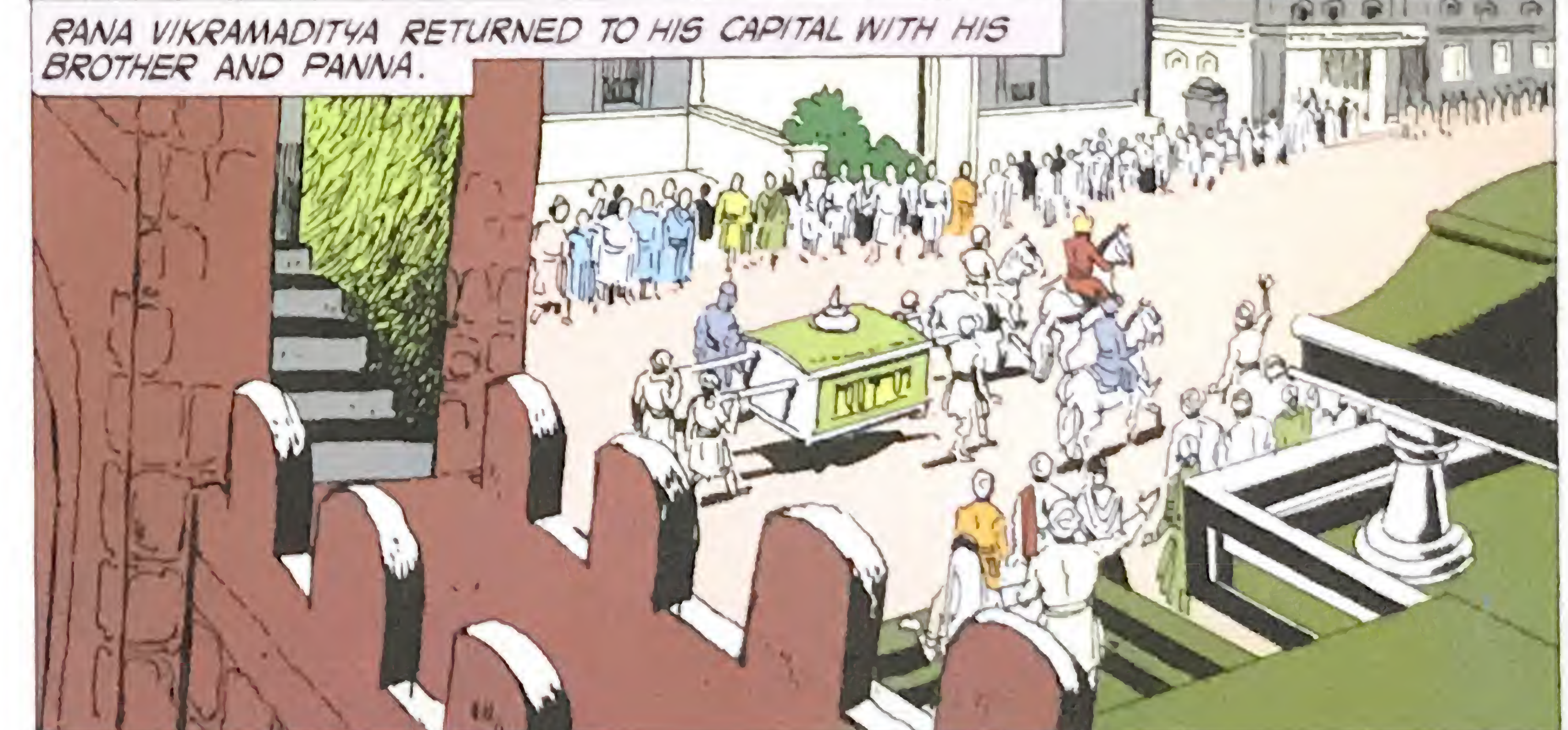


IT IS NOW SAFE
FOR THE RANA TO
RETURN TO
CHITTOR.

IF ONLY THE
RANI WERE
ALIVE!



RANA VIKRAMADITYA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL WITH HIS BROTHER AND PANNA.



HE WAS REINSTATED ON THE THRONE. BUT ALL WAS NOT WELL.

I HEAR OUR RANA HAS SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH ROGUES AGAIN, PANNA DHAY.*

I FEAR IT MAY BE SO, RAJMANI. HE SEEMS TO HAVE LEARNT NOTHING DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

HE HAS ALLOWED HIS RELATIVE, BANVIR, TO ENTER THE COURT AGAIN AND SPENDS A LOT OF TIME IN HIS COMPANY.

WHAT! BANVIR! THAT SCOUNDREL WHOM THE RANA'S LATE FATHER HAD BANISHED FROM MEWAR WITH ORDERS NEVER TO RETURN?

YES, YES, THE SAME CRUEL, WILY BANVIR!

LORD SAVE US THEN! I FEAR EVIL DAYS ARE AHEAD!

PANNA'S FEARS WERE WELL FOUNDED. BANVIR WAS WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE.

THE RANA IS AN IDIOT. THE NOBLES ARE ANGRY WITH HIM. NO ONE WILL SHED TEARS FOR HIM IF HE IS KILLED.

THE ONLY BARRIER BETWEEN ME AND THE THRONE IS THE STUPID RANA — AND HIS BROTHER UDAY.

* NURSE-MAID

ONE EVENING, UDAY SINGH AND CHANDAN CAME HOME AFTER A LONG DAY'S HUNT.

OH, PANNA, WE HUNTED THE WHOLE DAY. I AM TIRED AND HUNGRY!

SO AM I, MOTHER!

YES, MY SONS. I HAVE SOME FOOD READY FOR BOTH OF YOU.

SHE GAVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT...

... AND PUT THEM TO BED.

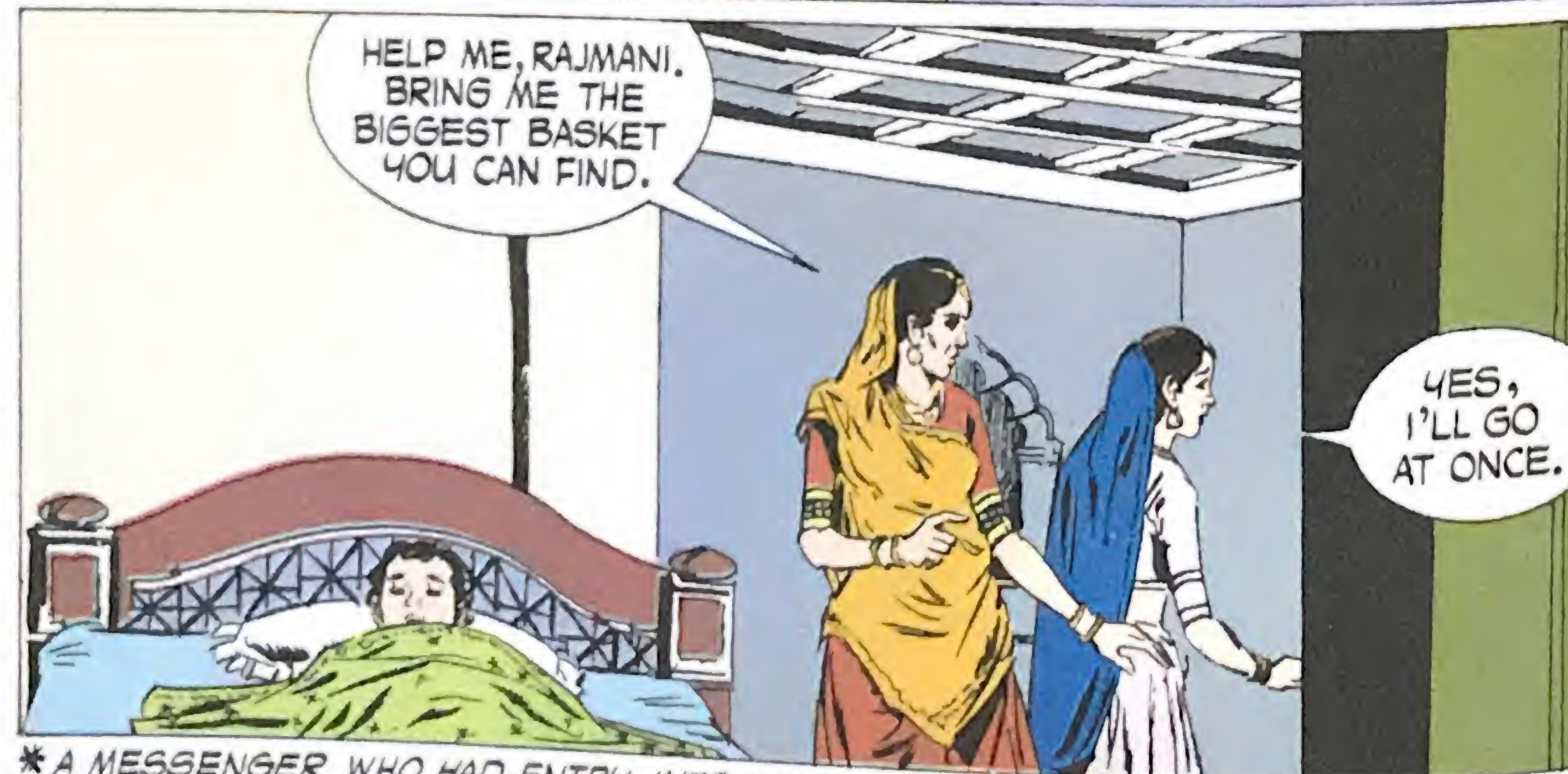
I HOPE TOMORROW, TOO, WE WILL HAVE A GOOD...

WAKE... ME... EARLY... TOMORROW...

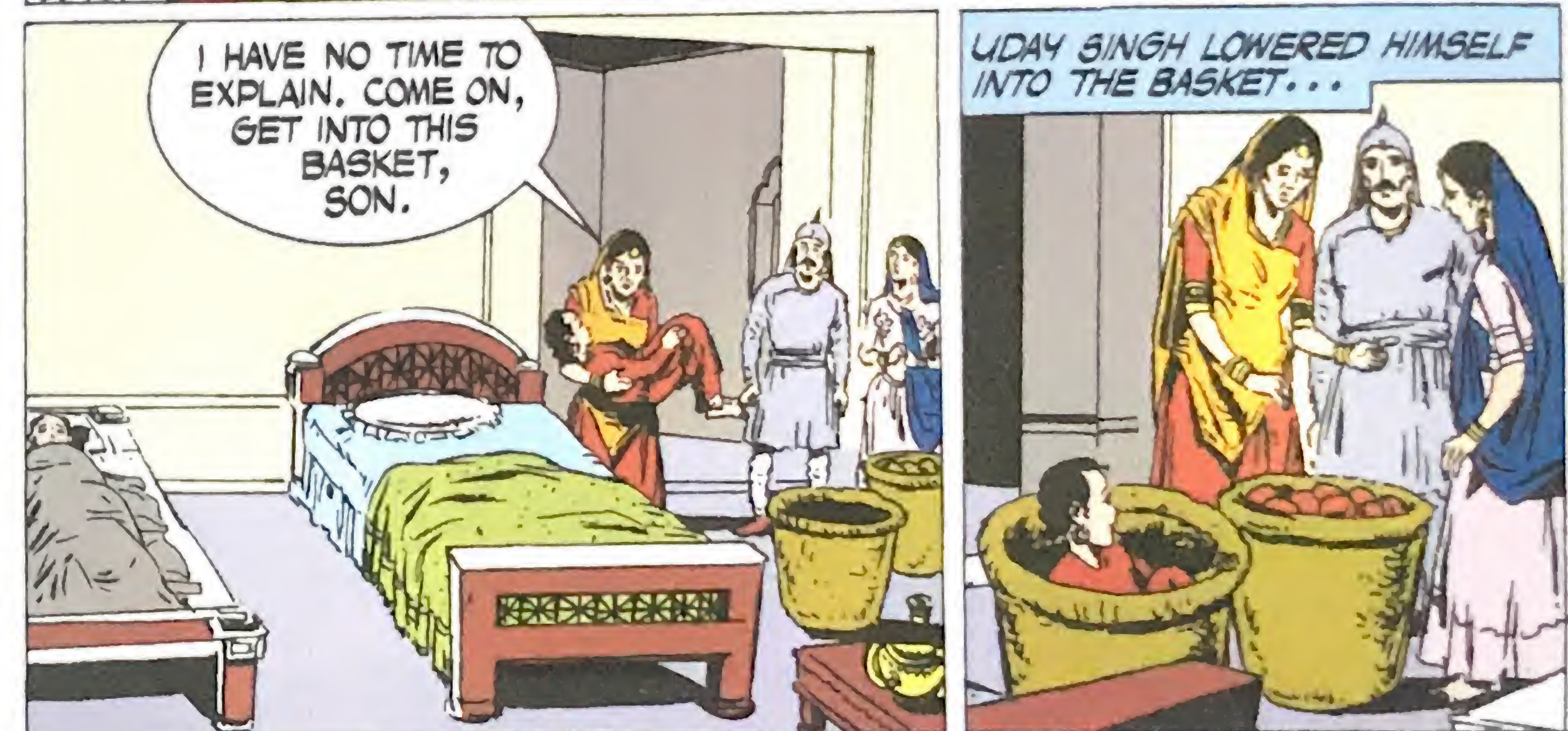
PANNA HAD BARELY CLOSED HER EYES WHEN—

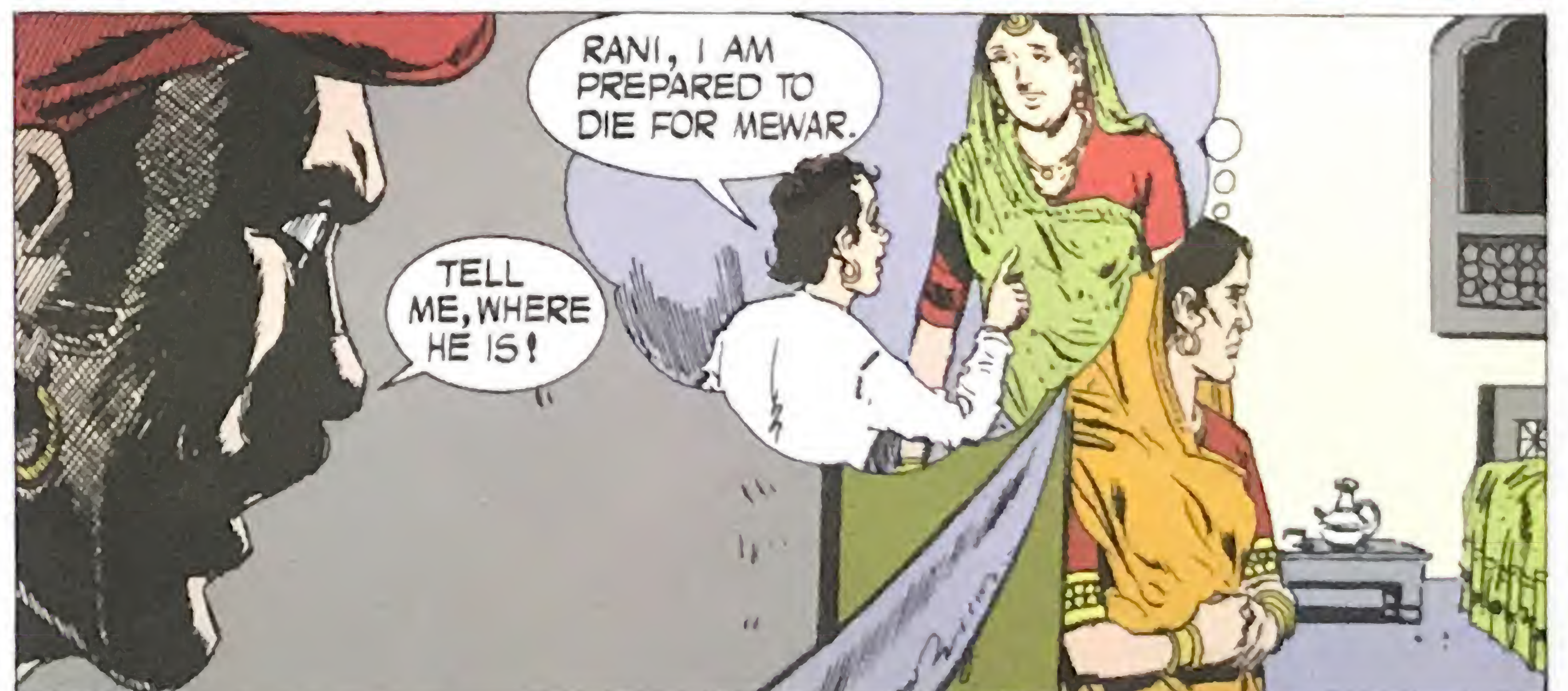
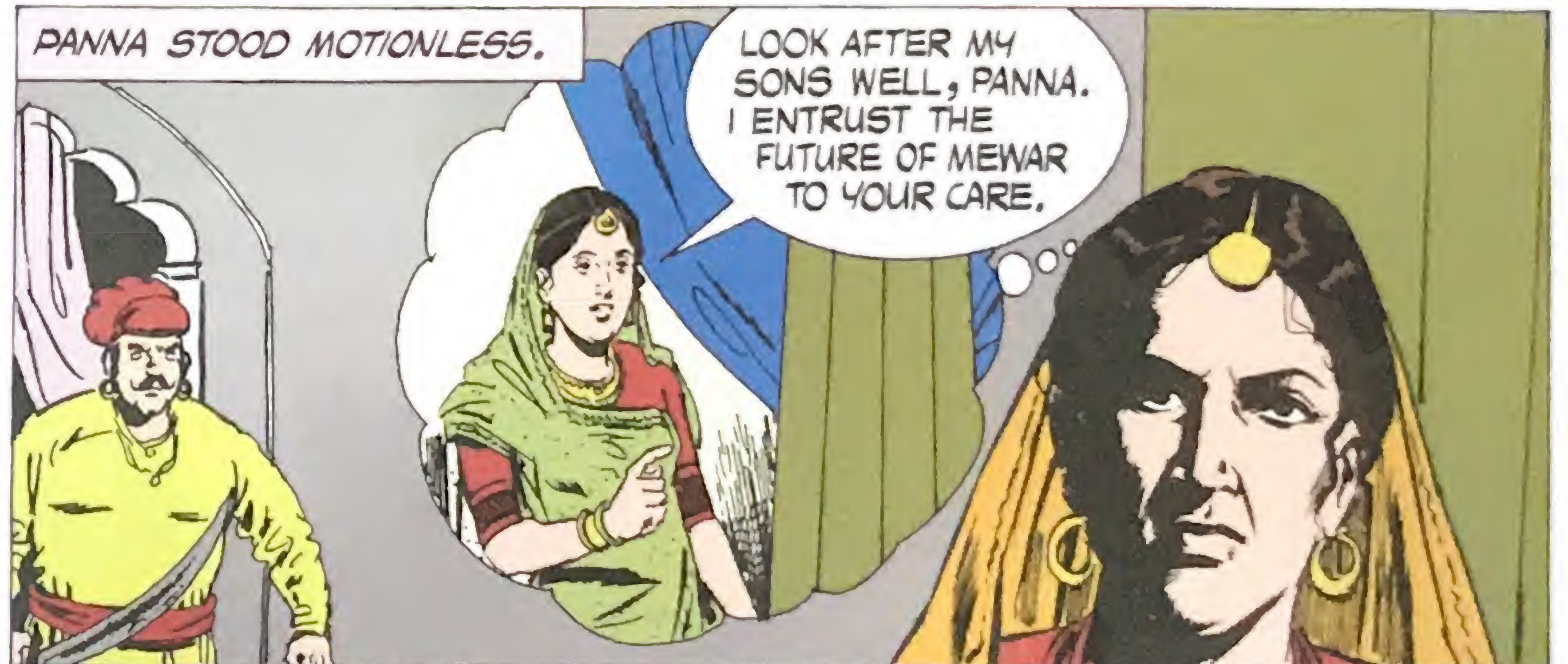
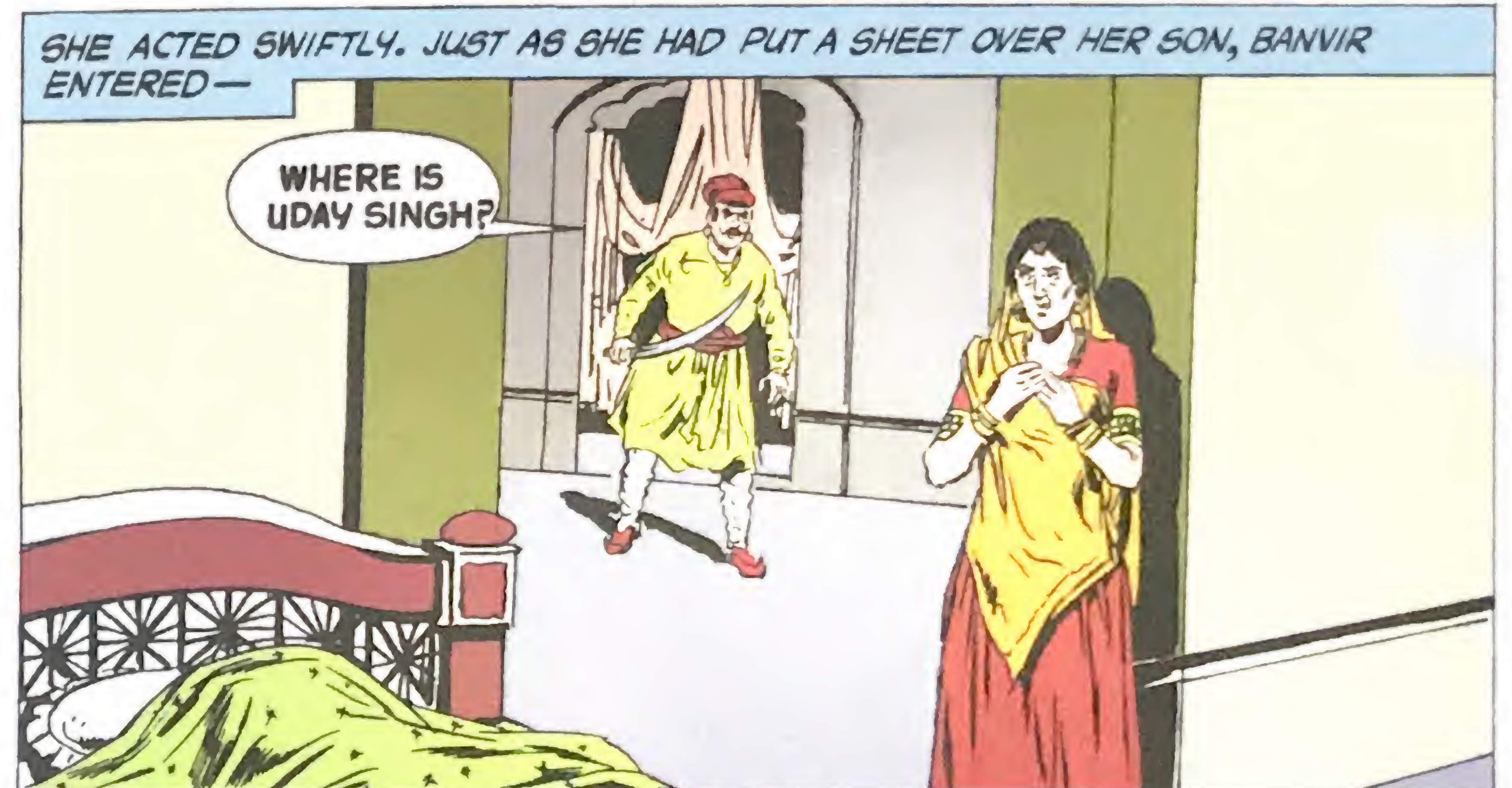
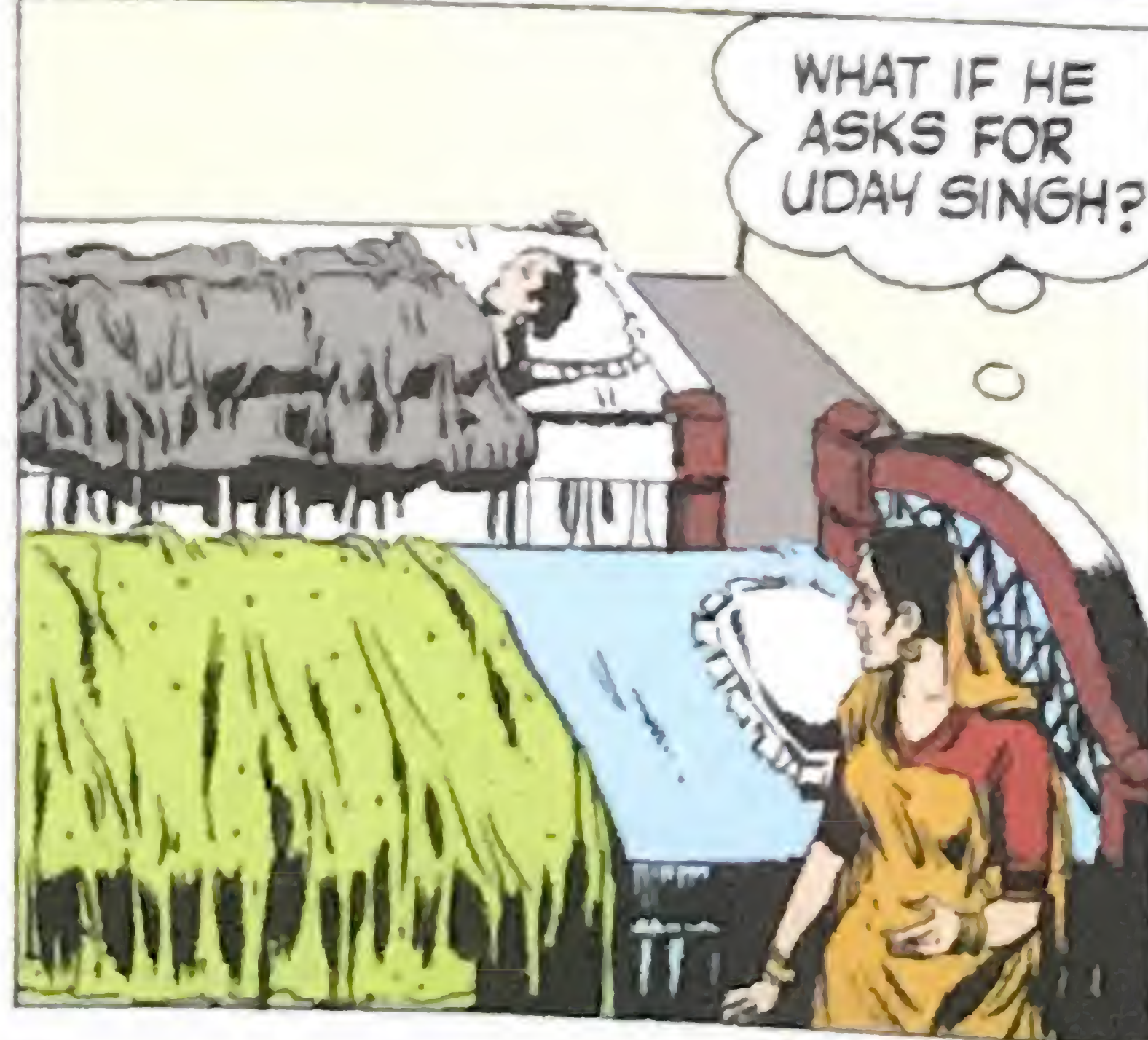
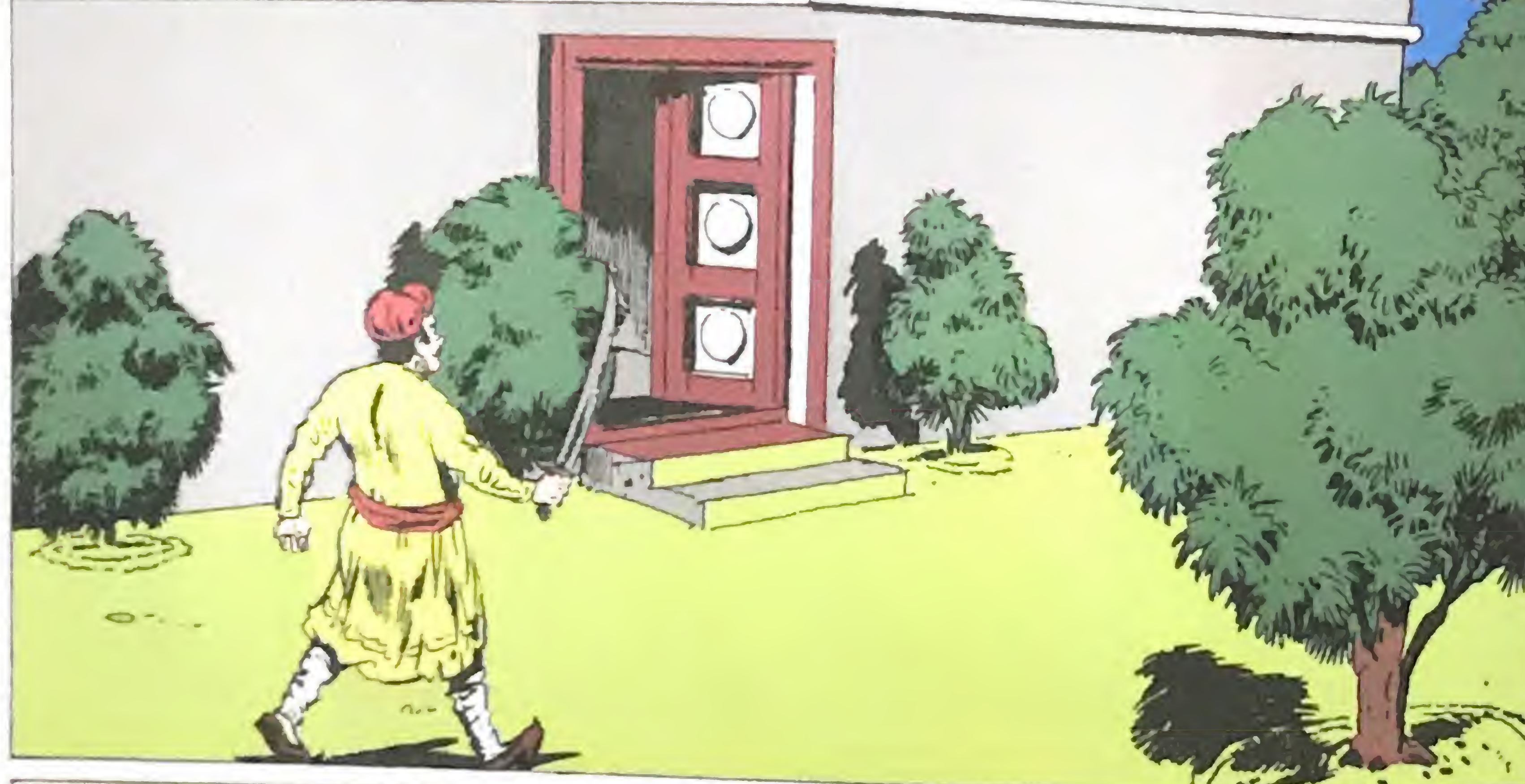
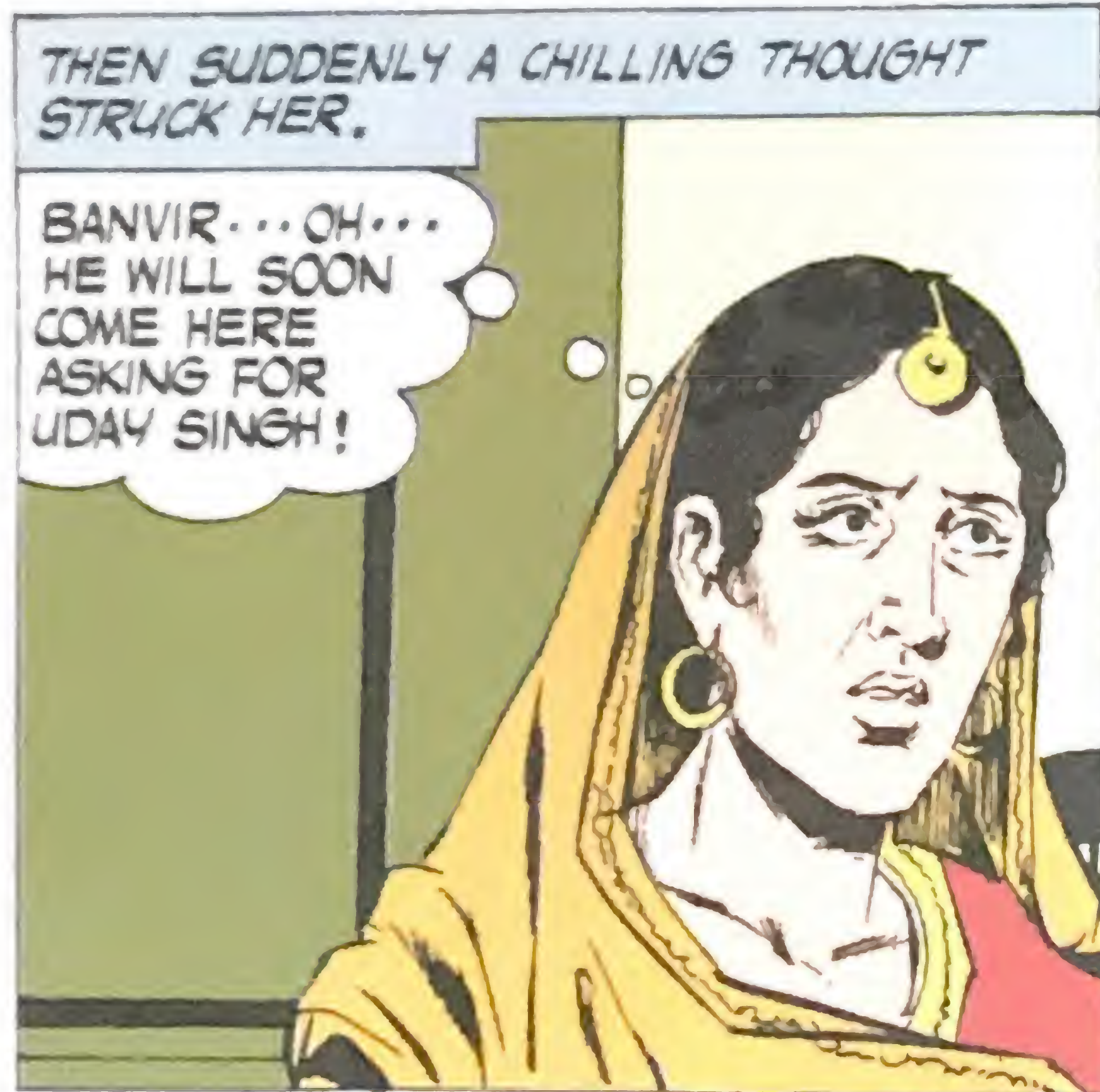
PANNA... PANNA. WAKE UP!

RAJMANI! WHAT IS THE MATTER?



* A MESSENGER WHO HAD ENTRY INTO THE WOMEN'S CHAMBERS





PANNA COULD NOT TRUST HERSELF TO SPEAK.



BANVIR STRUCK THE SLEEPING FIGURE.



PANNA COULD NOT MOURN THE DEATH OF HER OWN SON.



SOON RAJMANI RETURNED.



THEN SHE LOOKED AT THE BED.



PANNA HAD REGAINED HER COMPOSURE BY THEN.



THEN THEY SET OUT ON THEIR SECRET MISSION AND JOINED THE PARTY WHICH HAD LEFT EARLIER WITH UDAY.



A LITTLE LATER, THEY DECIDED TO STOP AND HAVE SOME REST.



PANNA, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

PANNA TOLD HIM ALL THE EVENTS OF THE PAST NIGHT.



CHANDAN IS DEAD! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I WILL KILL THAT MONSTER, BANVIR!



HUSH! WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE, UDAY. LET'S HURRY ON.



ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO ON NOW. BUT SOME DAY I WILL AVENGE THE DEATH OF MY DEAR FRIEND.



THINK NO MORE OF IT. HE DIED FOR MEWAR AND HIS SACRIFICE SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN. ONE DAY YOU WILL REGAIN CHITTOR.

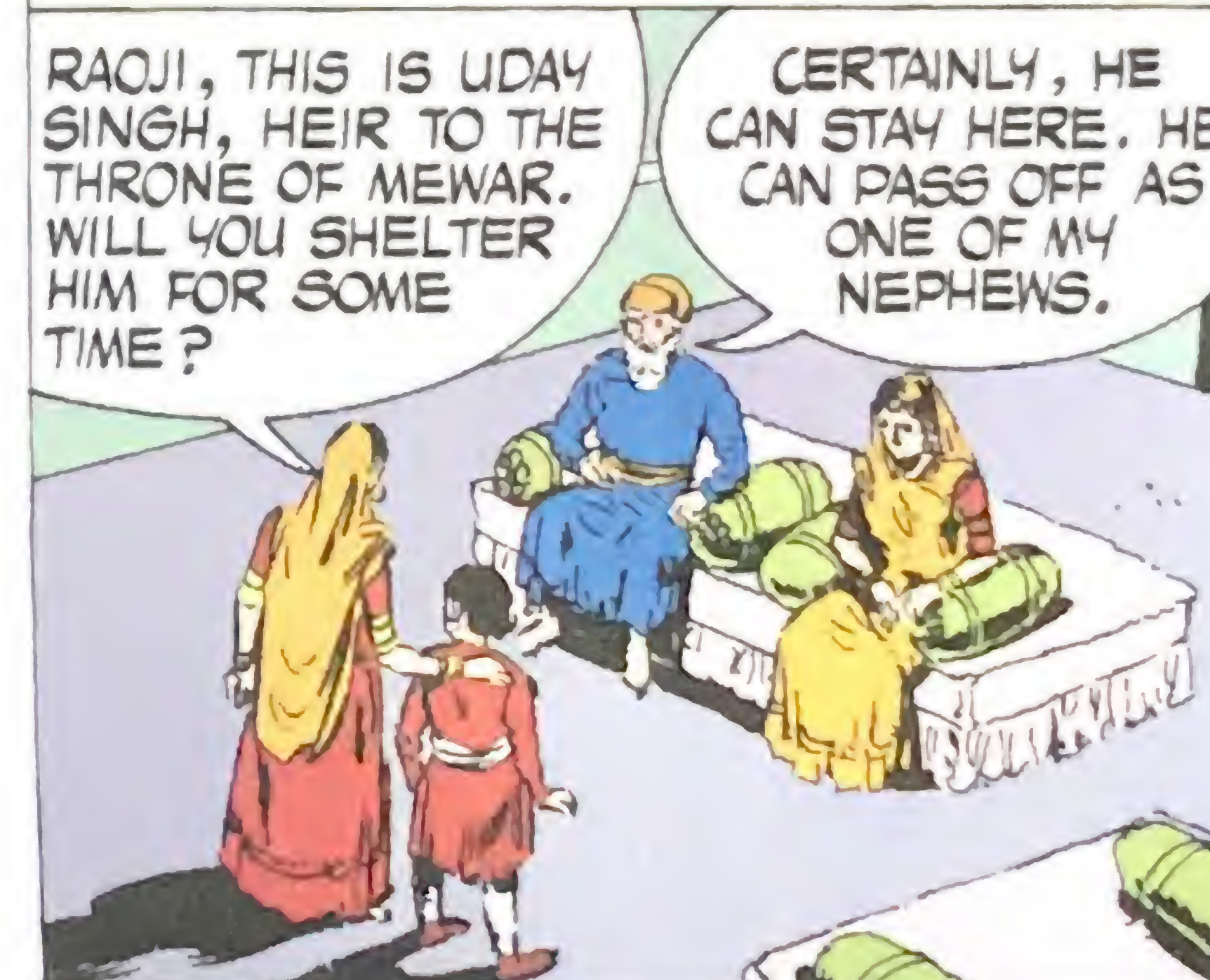
A LITTLE WHILE LATER—



PANNA, WHERE ARE WE GOING? WHO WILL GIVE US SHELTER?

I'M SURE SOME CHIEFTAIN WILL GLADLY OFFER US SHELTER.

PANNA TOOK UDAY SINGH TO RAO ASA SAH, THE RULER OF KUMBHALMER.



RAOJI, THIS IS UDAY SINGH, HEIR TO THE THRONE OF MEWAR. WILL YOU SHELTER HIM FOR SOME TIME?

CERTAINLY, HE CAN STAY HERE. HE CAN PASS OFF AS ONE OF MY NEPHEWS.

FOUR YEARS WENT BY. DURING THAT TIME, UDAY SINGH WAS MARRIED TO A RAJPUT PRINCESS.



AFTER THE WEDDING—



NOW THAT UDAY IS OLDER — THE TIME HAS COME TO TRY TO TAKE CHITTOR AGAIN.

YES, PANNA. I HEAR THE NOBLES ARE FED UP WITH BANVIR.

THEN PANNA CONTACTED THE CHIEFTAINS OF MEWAR AND MADE PUBLIC THE FACTS OF UDAY SINGH'S ESCAPE.

I APPEAL TO YOU TO RESTORE MEWAR TO THE RIGHTFUL HEIR.

WE CONSIDER IT OUR DUTY TO DO SO, PANNA.

THE CHIEFTAINS ROSE IN REVOLT AGAINST BANVIR AND JOINED UDAY SINGH. IN A BATTLE FOUGHT NEAR MAHOLI, BANVIR'S ARMY WAS ROUTED.



AT LAST UDAY SINGH TOOK CHITTOR.

VICTORY TO RANA UDAY SINGH!

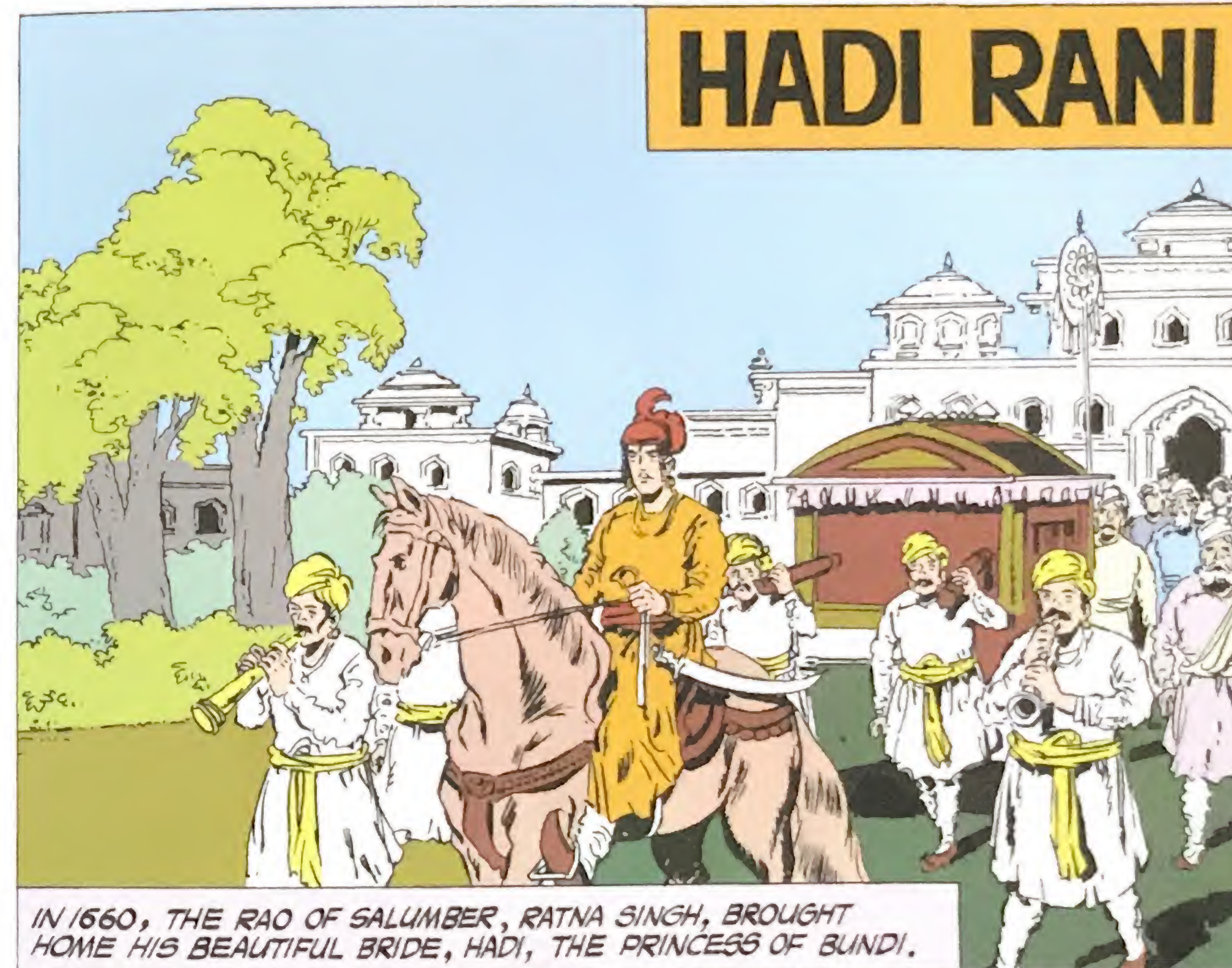
HE WAS LATER CROWNED MAHARANA OF MEWAR.

PANNA, I OWE YOU A DEBT WHICH I CAN NEVER REPAY.

DON'T TALK OF DEBTS, MY SON. SEEING YOU ON THE THRONE TODAY, I HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL MY OWN SORROWS.



HADI RANI



IN 1660, THE RAO OF SALUMBER, RATNA SINGH, BROUGHT HOME HIS BEAUTIFUL BRIDE, HADI, THE PRINCESS OF BUNDI.

LATER —

OH, HADI! ALL THE PRAISES I HAVE HEARD OF YOU DON'T DO JUSTICE TO YOUR BEAUTY.

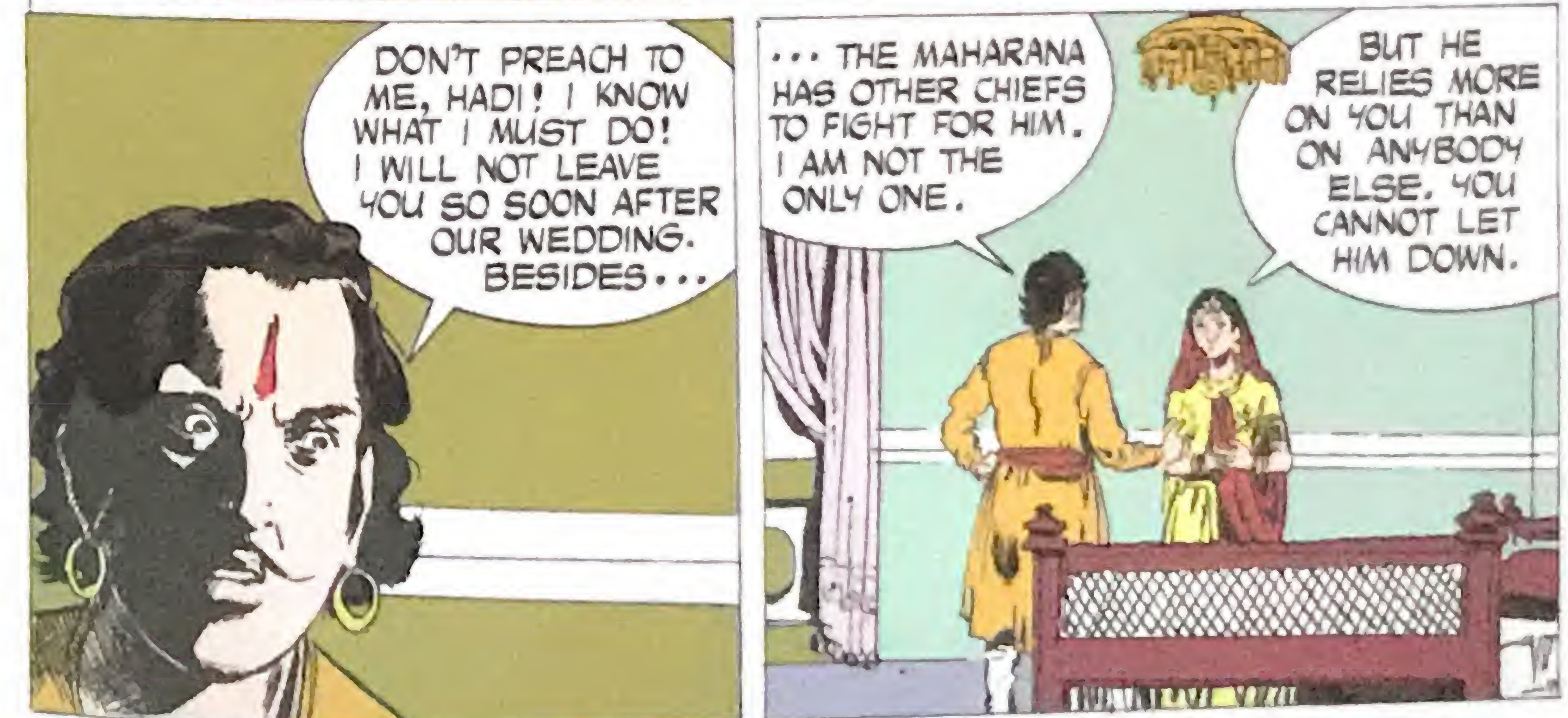
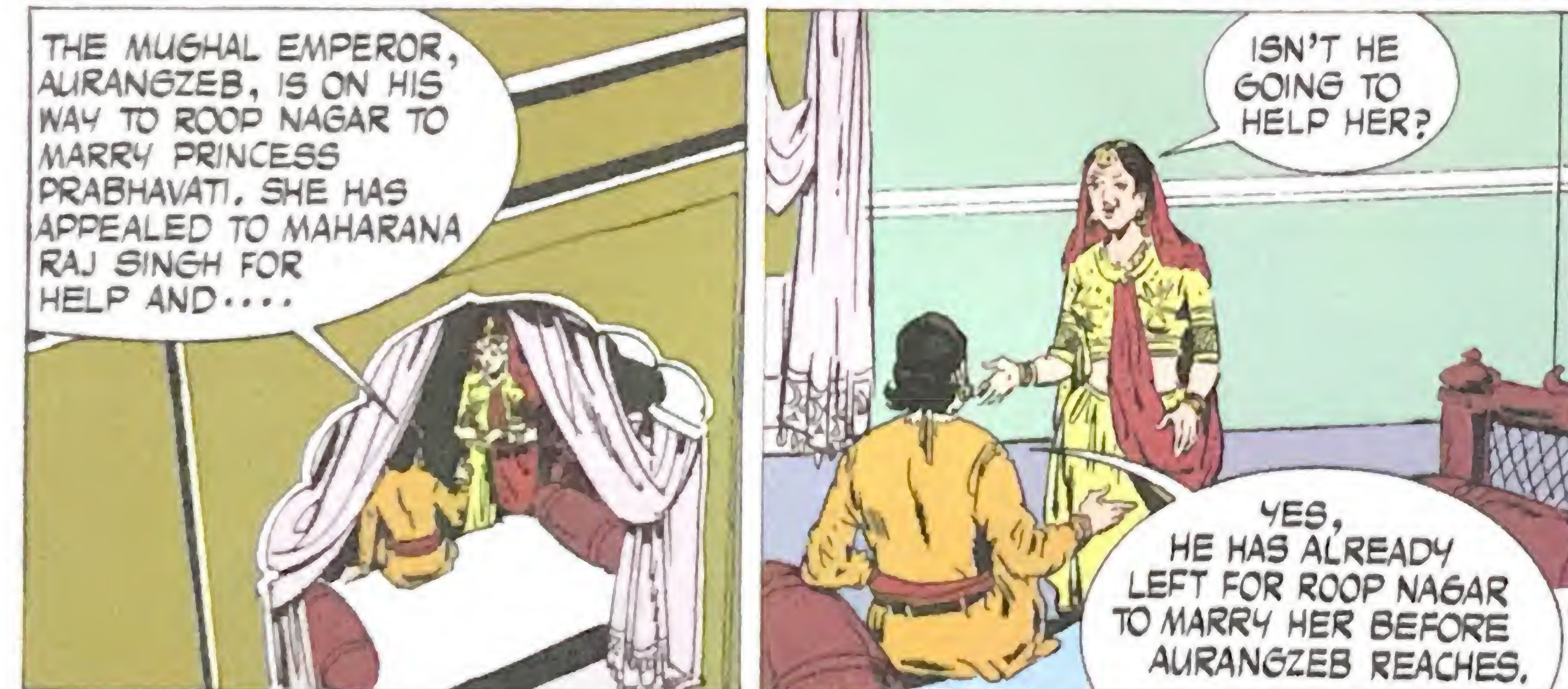
YOU FLATTER ME, MY LORD.



JUST THEN THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

WHO CAN IT BE AT THIS HOUR?





STILL RAO RATNA SINGH HESITATED.

WE HAVE JUST BEEN MARRIED. YET YOU ASK ME TO LEAVE YOU STRAIGHT AWAY. AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE DANGER AHEAD OF ME?

ONLY COWARDS ARE AFRAID OF DANGER, MY LORD. THE BRAVE WOO IT.

I AM NO COWARD, HADI!

OUR PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU SHIRK YOUR DUTY NOW.

BUT... RANI...

NO. YOU BELONG TO THE PROUD CHUNDAWAT CLAN OF THE RAJPUTS. SUCH WORDS AND THOUGHTS DO NOT BEFIT YOU. PLEASE PREPARE TO LEAVE.

LEAVE YOU? YOU, WHO HAVE BECOME SO DEAR TO ME? HAS YOUR HEART TURNED TO STONE?

NO, IT STILL THROBS AND CAN FEEL THE MISERY OF PRABHAVATI ONLY TOO KEENLY.

THEN HADI FLEW INTO A RAGE.

O MIGHTY CHUNDAWAT, ARISE! DUTY CALLS YOU! YOUR PROUD ANCESTRY COMMANDS YOU! A RAJPUT PRINCESS ENTREATS YOU! O LORD OF MY LIFE, DON'T HESITATE!

HADI'S WORDS HAD THEIR EFFECT.

OH! HADI! YOU HAVE AWOKEN ME FROM MY SLUMBER.

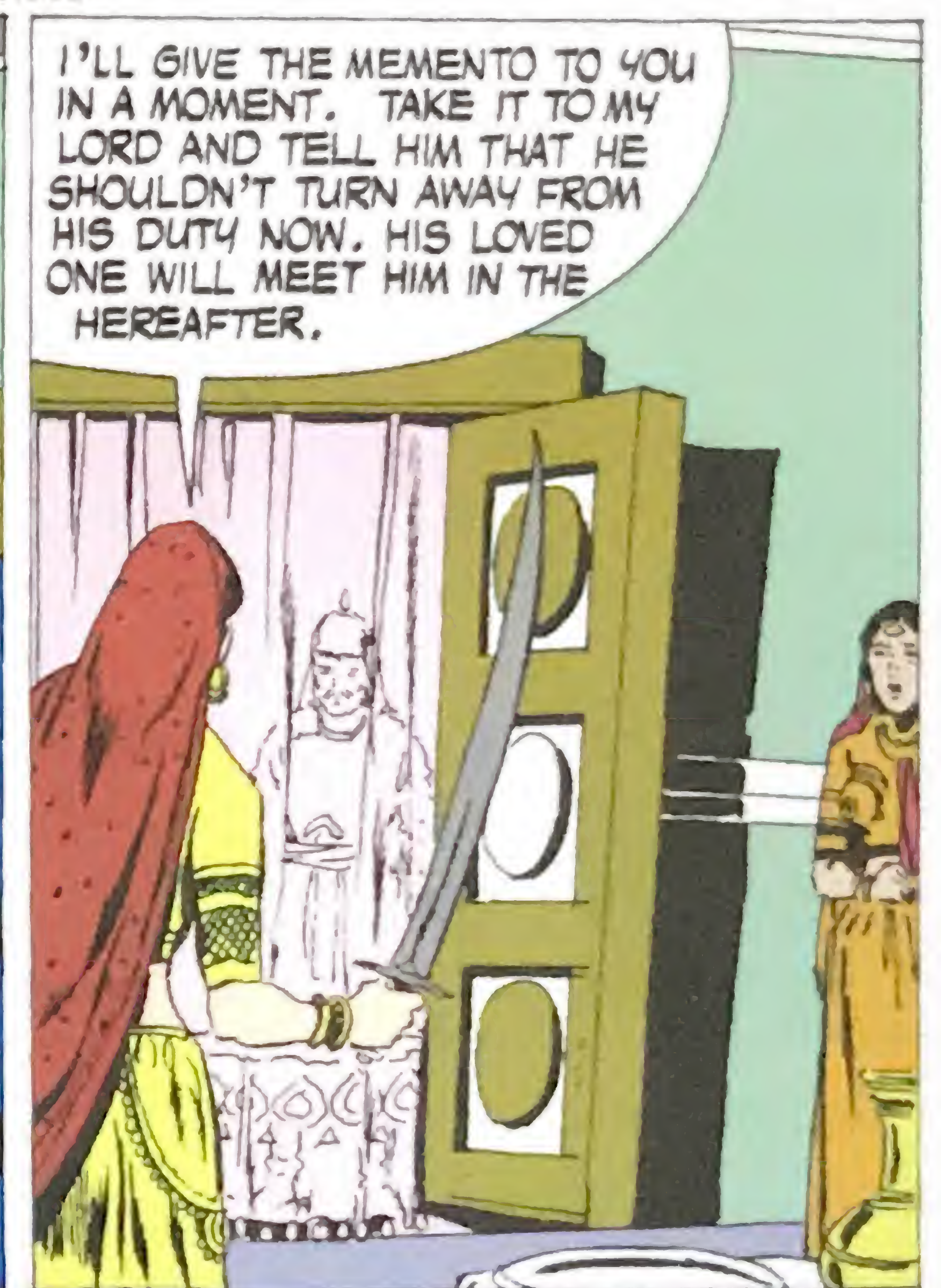
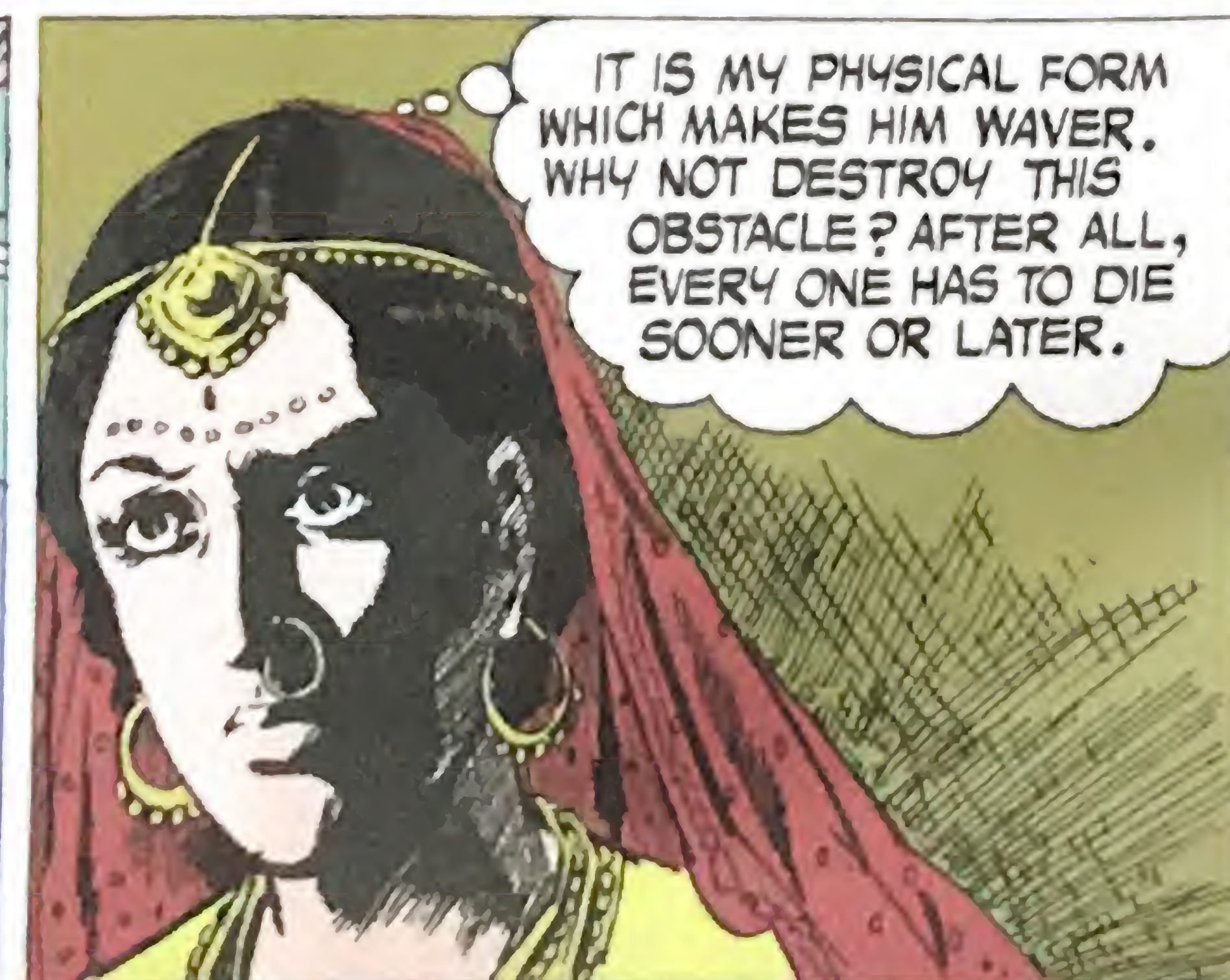
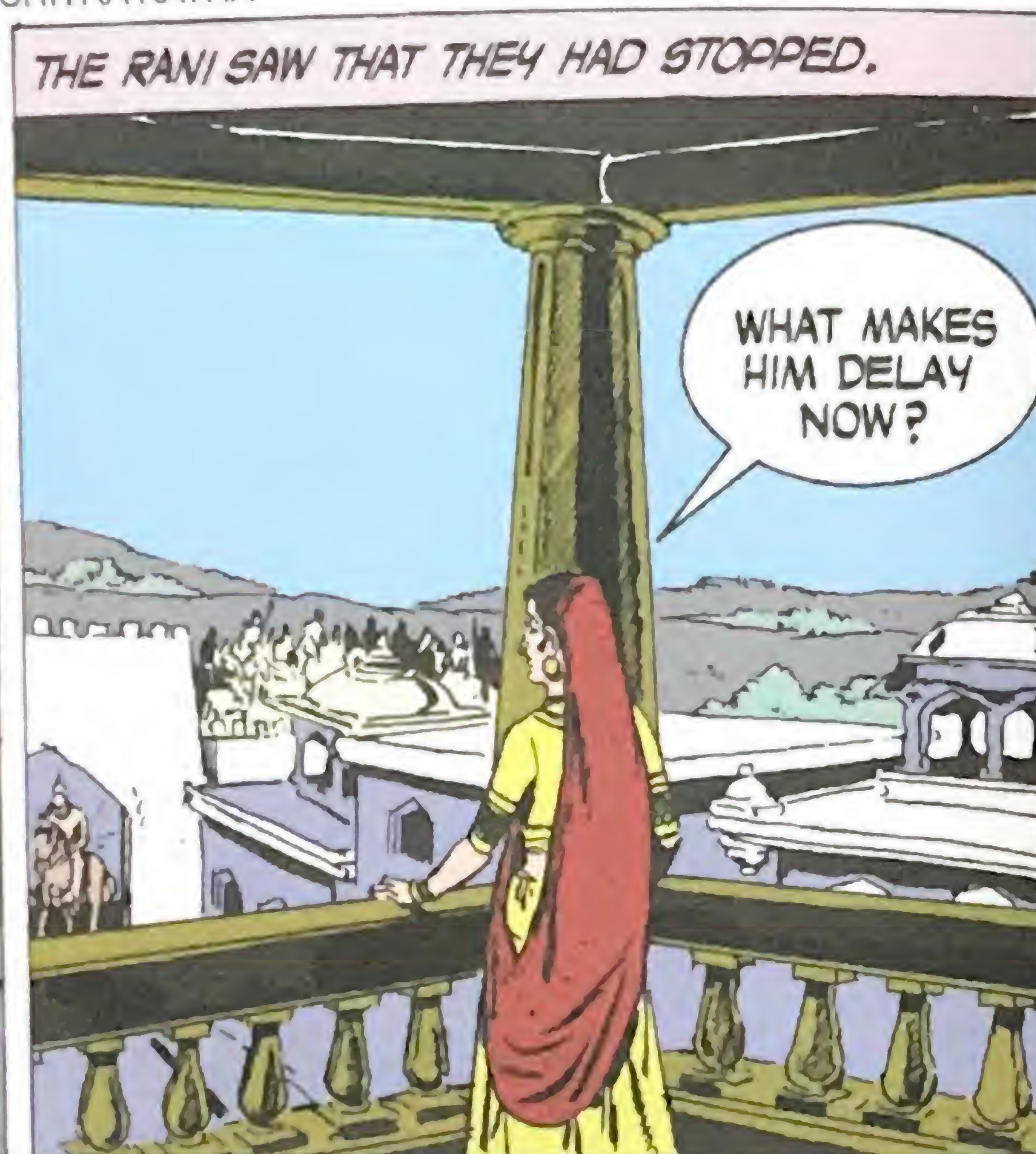
MAY VICTORY BE YOURS, MY LORD!

SOON THE DRUMBEATS RESOUNDED THROUGHOUT THE CASTLE AND PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE BEGAN.

RAO RATNA SINGH WAS READY TO DEPART.

MAY LORD EKLING PROTECT YOU. MAY YOU COME BACK VICTORIOUS...

WITH A HEAVY HEART, HE STARTED OUT ON HIS DANGEROUS MISSION.



WITH TEARS IN HER EYES, HADI'S MAID GAVE THE MEMENTO TO THE MESSENGER.



TAKE THIS TO YOUR MASTER AND CONVEY THE RANI'S MESSAGE.

RAO RATNA SINGH WAS WAITING IMPATIENTLY.



STEADY, STEADY. HERE COMES THE MESSENGER. WE'LL LEAVE SOON NOW.

THE MESSENGER SILENTLY PRESENTED RATNA SINGH WITH THE MEMENTO.



RATNA SINGH HURRIEDLY REMOVED THE CLOTH.

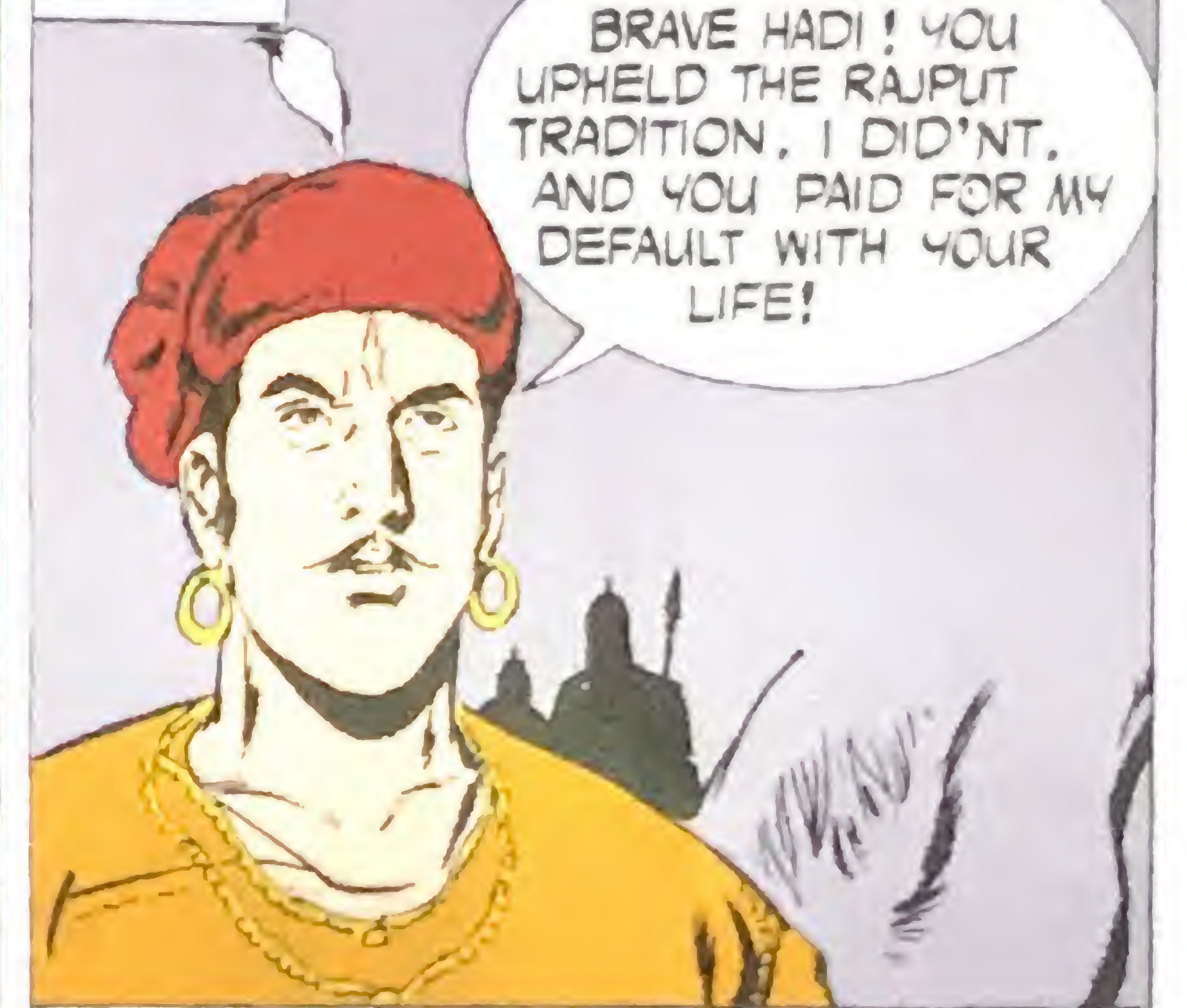


HADI!



MY LORD, THE RANI WANTED THIS MESSAGE TO BE CONVEYED TO YOU: "TELL MY LORD HE SHOULD NOT TURN AWAY FROM HIS DUTY NOW...".

A SUDDEN CHANGE CAME OVER RAO RATNA SINGH.

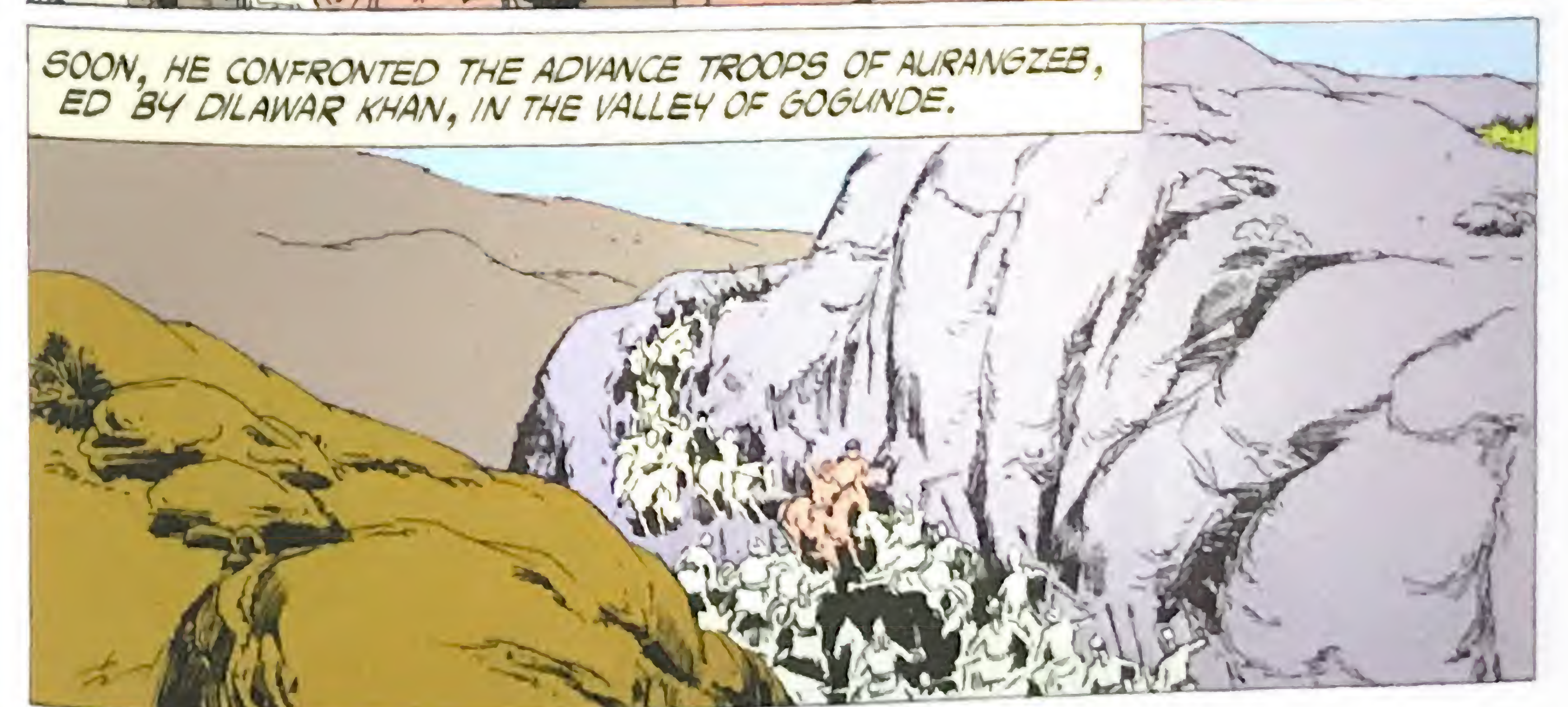


BRAVE HADI! YOU UPHELD THE RAJPUT TRADITION. I DID'NT. AND YOU PAID FOR MY DEFAULT WITH YOUR LIFE!



FORWARD, MY SOLDIERS! WE'LL SHOW THEM OUR METTLE TODAY!

SOON, HE CONFRONTED THE ADVANCE TROOPS OF AURANGZEB, LED BY DILAWAR KHAN, IN THE VALLEY OF GOGUNDE.



AND IN THE FIERCE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, RAO RATNA SINGH FOUGHT RELENTLESSLY.

LOOK, HADI, LOOK! WATCH THE CHUNDAWAT VALOUR NOW!



THOUGH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, RAO RATNA SINGH CONTINUED THE FIGHT.

YA ALLAH! HE IS POSSESSED!

RUN!



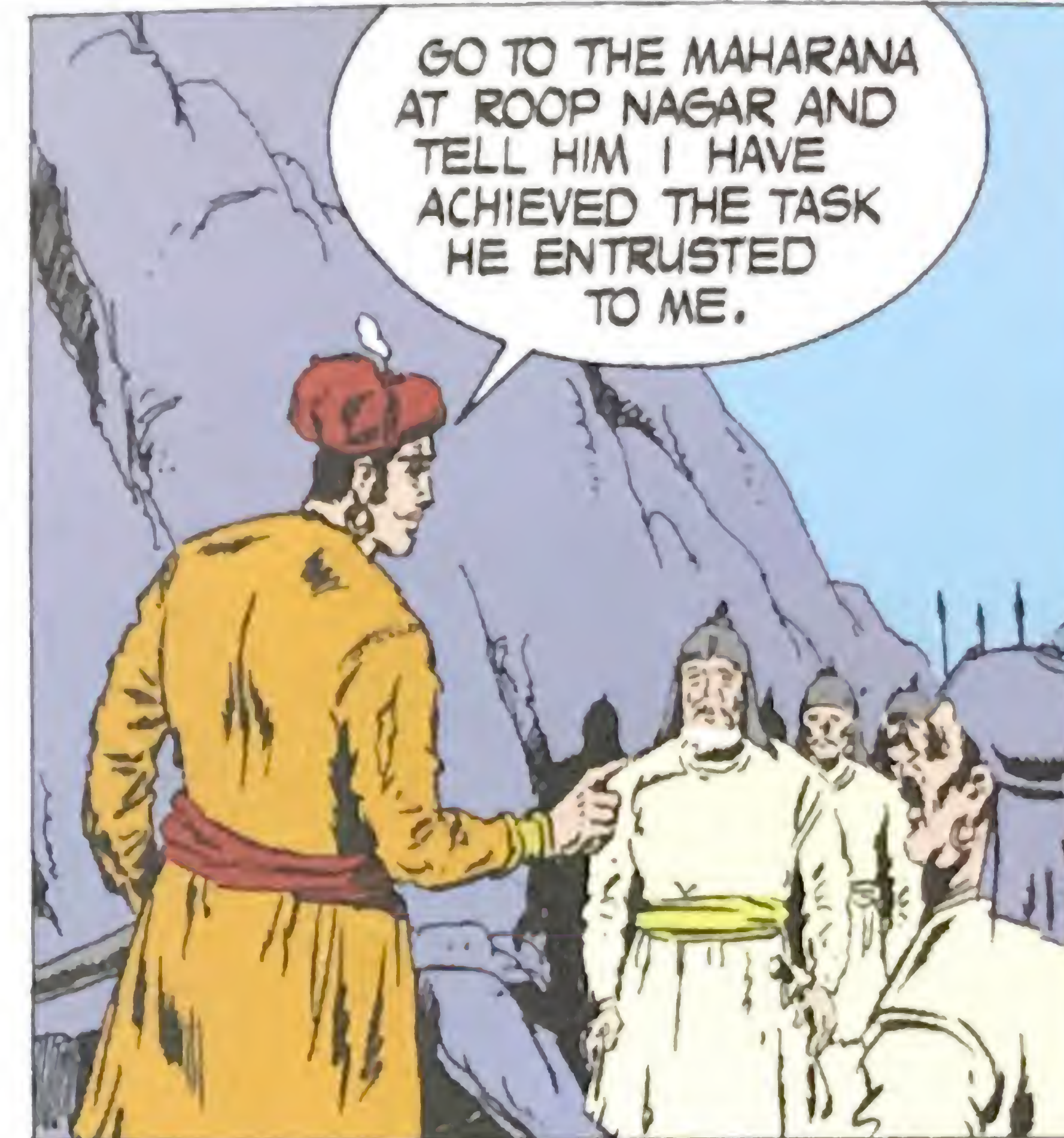
DILAWAR KHAN WAS FORCED TO ORDER A RETREAT.

HAR HAR MAHADEV!

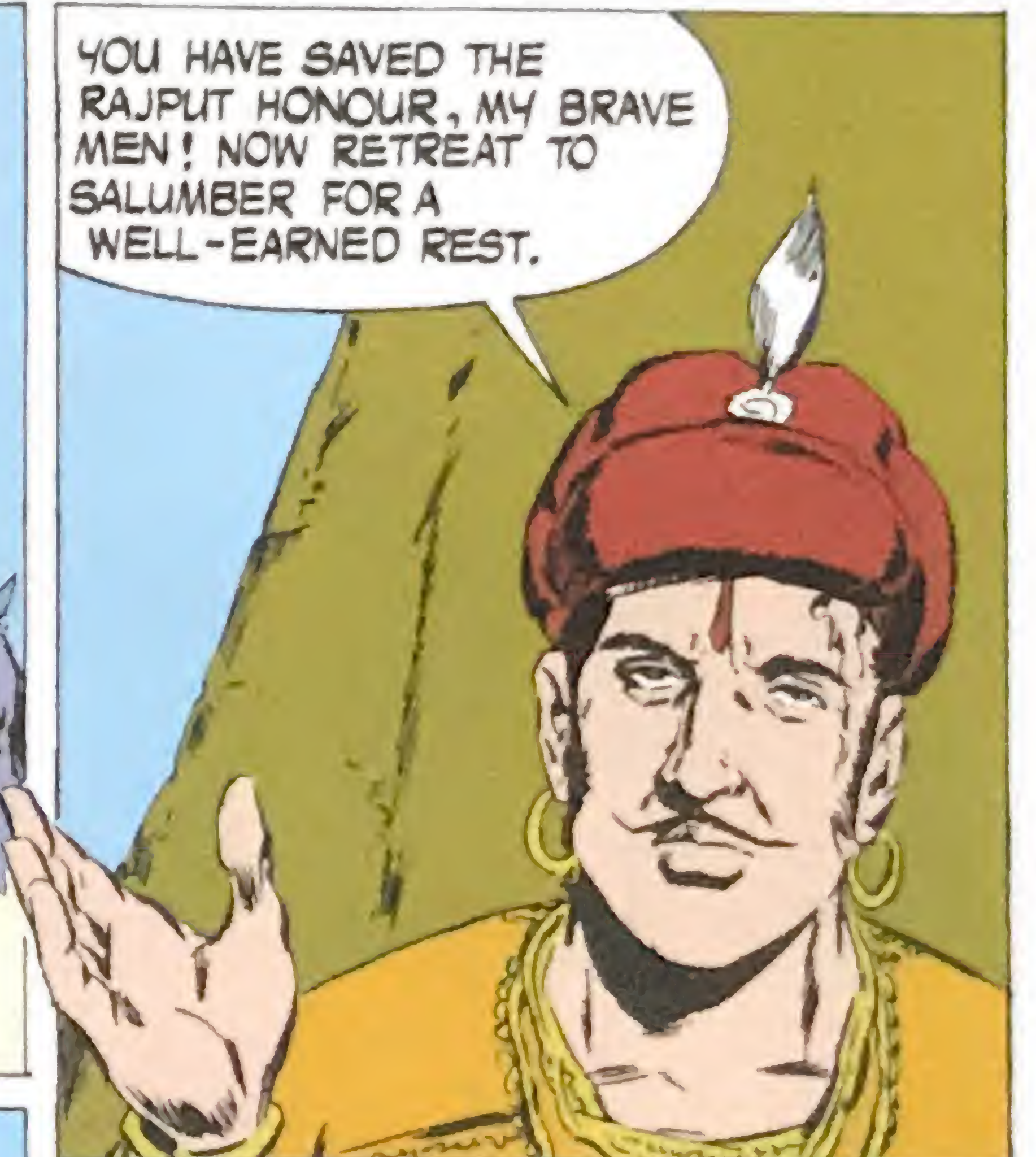
VICTORY TO RAO RATNA SINGH!



GO TO THE MAHARANA AT ROOP NAGAR AND TELL HIM I HAVE ACHIEVED THE TASK HE ENTRUSTED TO ME.



YOU HAVE SAVED THE RAJPUT HONOUR, MY BRAVE MEN! NOW RETREAT TO SALUMBER FOR A WELL-EARNED REST.



AS FOR ME, THIS SACRED EARTH CALLS ME. I'LL STAY HERE NOW... IN ETERNAL SLEEP.



HADI — I AM COMING TO YOU.

JAI MEWAR!



LIKE HADI RANI, RAO RATNA SINGH, TOO, SEVERED HIS HEAD. BUT THEIR SACRIFICE WAS NOT IN VAIN. PRABHAVATI WAS RESCUED BY MAHARANA RAJ SINGH, AND HE LATER MARRIED HER.