



PARASHURAMA

AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA



THE SIXTH INCARNATION OF LORD VISHNU

Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, is one of the immortals of Hindu mythology. It is in this incarnation that we encounter for the first time the emergence of a mature, well-developed human character. Because the first four incarnations belonged to non-human species and the fifth was a mere slip of a boy.

Parashurama in many ways is paradoxical. He loved his mother dearly and yet he slew her without a moment's hesitation. He was born a Brahman but he was a better soldier than any Kshatriya and went on to annihilate the Kshatriyas in the battlefield. Though born in a family of hermits, Parashurama was a man of action. His love of action took him into the eras of Rama and Krishna. Thus this is the only incarnation to step out of the confines of its own times.

Parashurama is the patron God of the land that stretches in between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea on the West Coast of India. People there believe that his powerful axe reclaimed the land for them from the depths of the ocean.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.
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PARASHURAMA



PARASHURAMA WAS BORN THE SON OF RISHI JAMADAGNI AND RENUKA. BUT IT WAS A BIRTH UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES.

HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER,
GADHI, WAS A GOOD KING.

WE ARE
FORTUNATE THAT
OUR KING IS
STRONG AND
KIND.

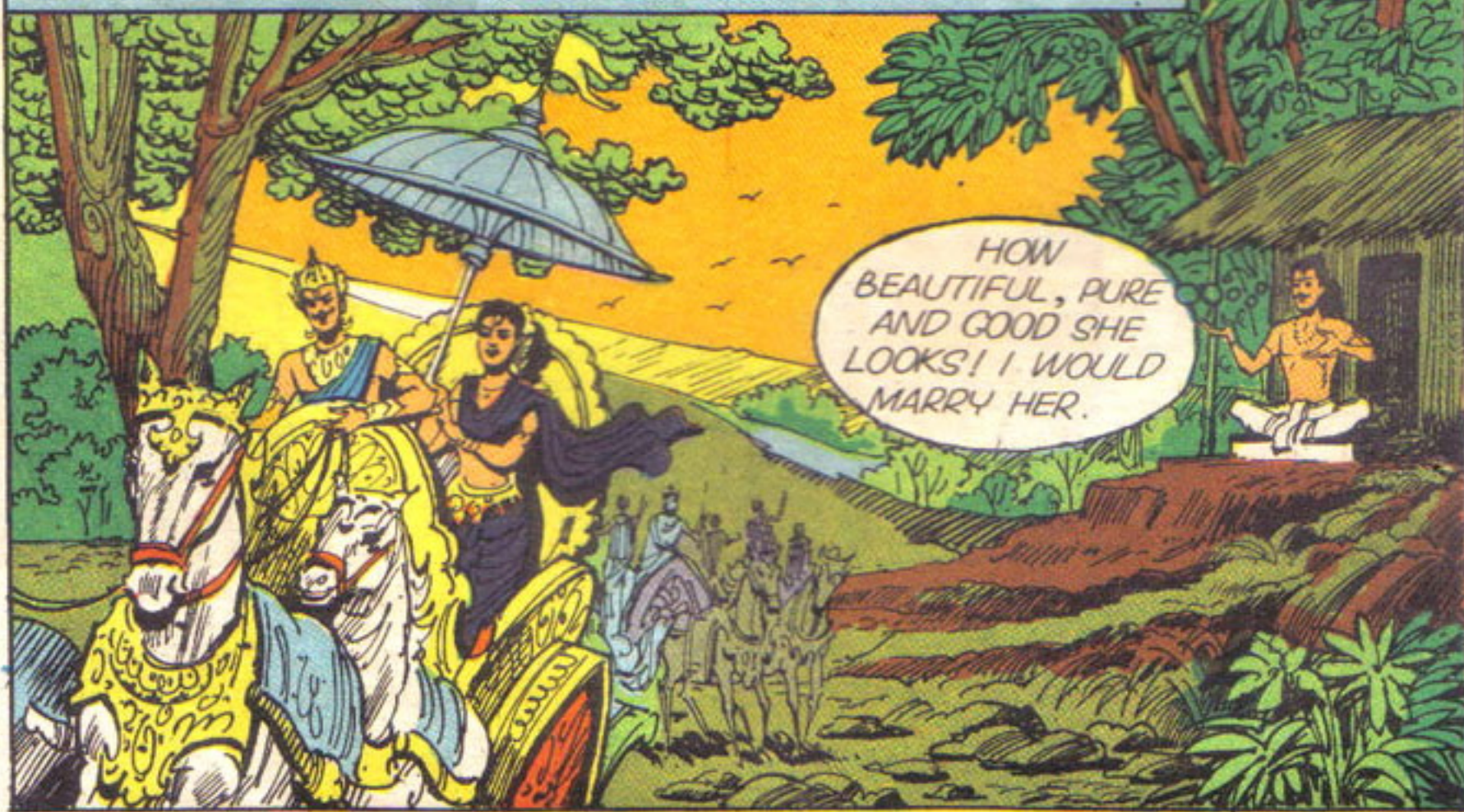
YES.
AS LONG AS
HE RULES,
WE NEED
FEAR NONE.



GADHI HAD A DAUGHTER CALLED
SATYAVATI, BUT NO SON.



ONE DAY BHRIGU'S SON, RICHKA SAW HER.



HOW
BEAUTIFUL, PURE
AND GOOD SHE
LOOKS! I WOULD
MARRY HER.

HE WENT TO HER FATHER.

I HAVE
COME TO YOU
SEEKING YOUR
DAUGHTER'S
HAND.

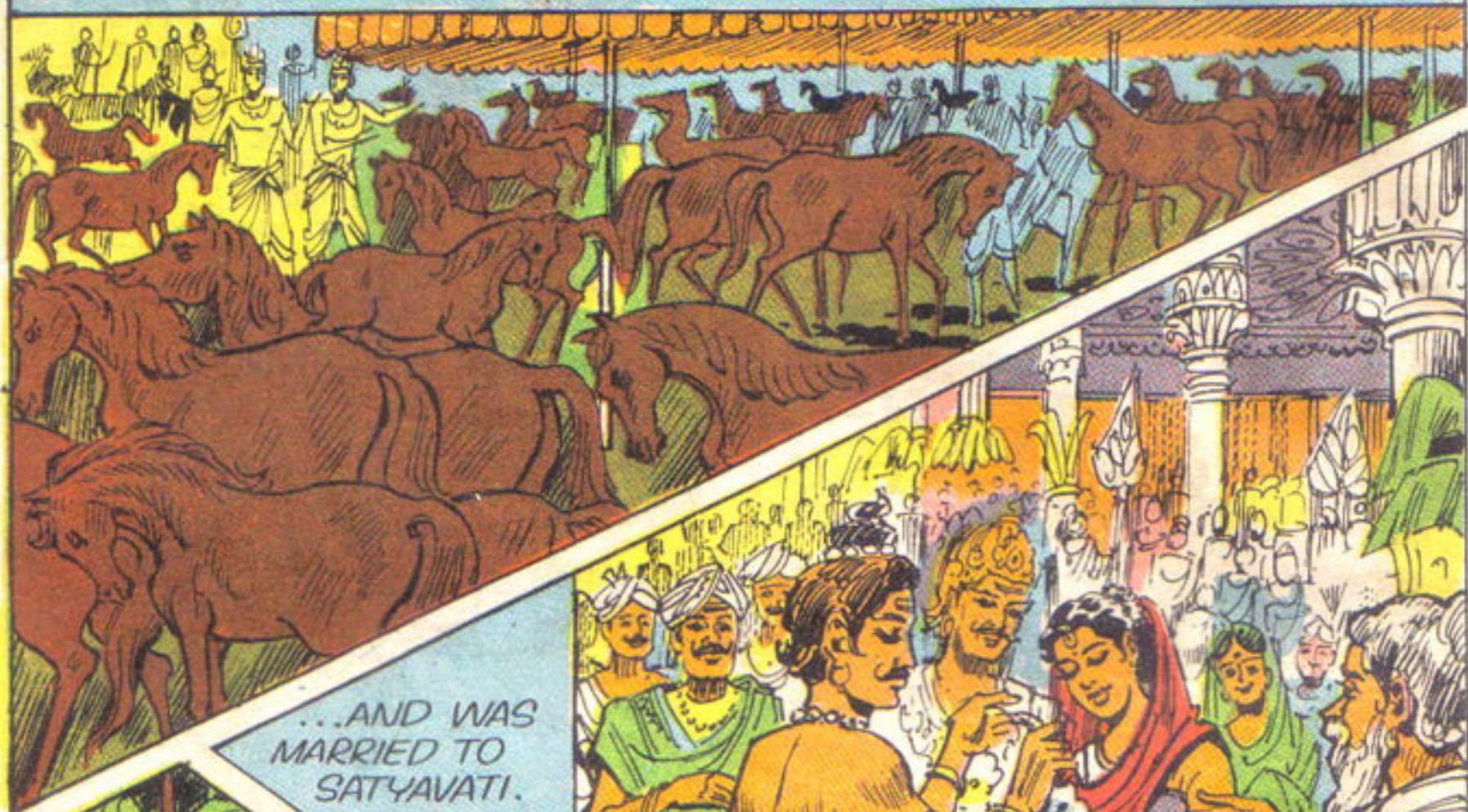
I AM HONOURED,
GREAT SAGE.
BUT...

...YOU WILL HAVE
TO BRING A DOWRY
OF 1000 BROWN HORSES.
IT IS THE CUSTOM
IN OUR
FAMILY.

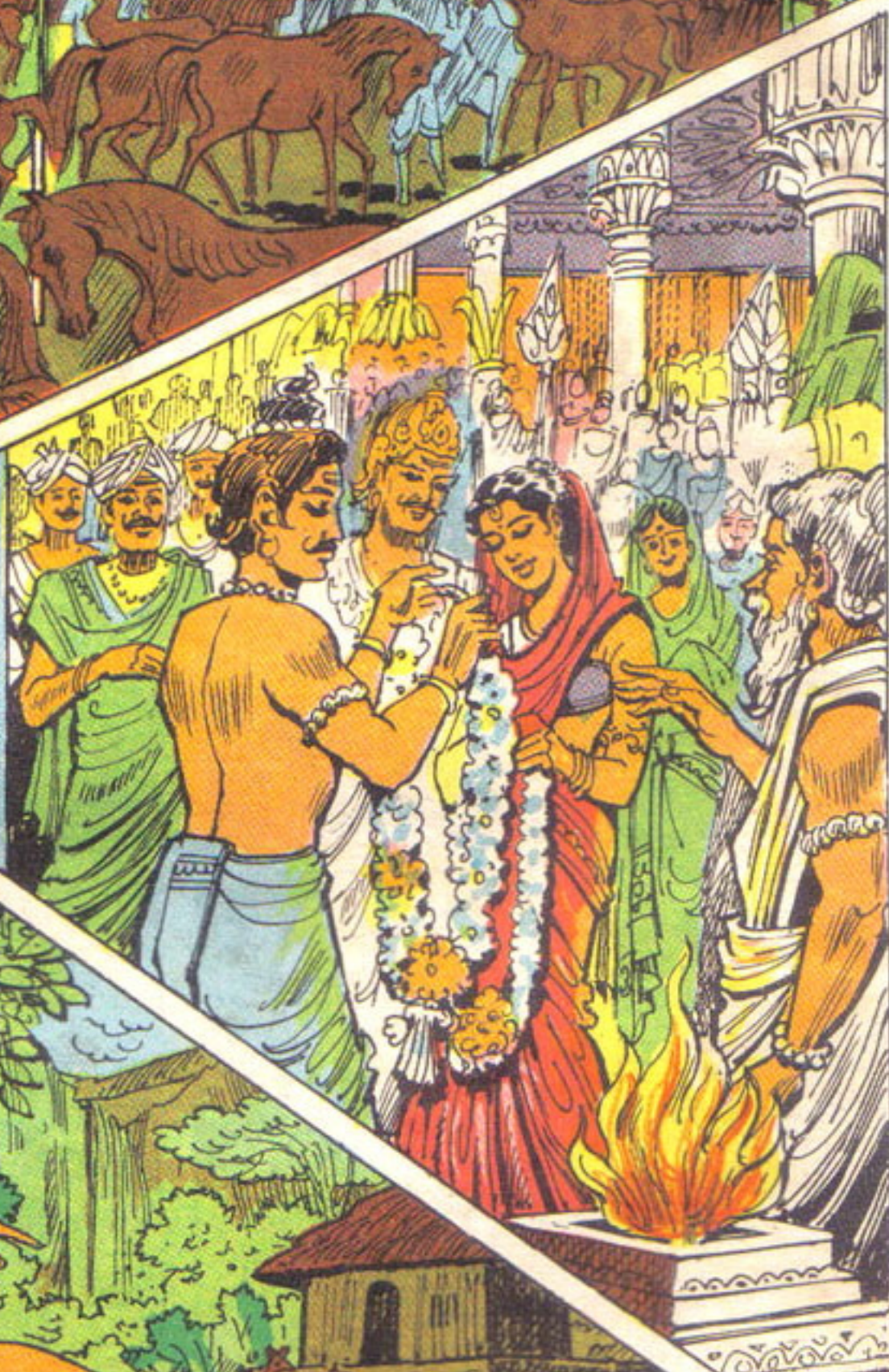
CAN YOU?

IS THAT ALL?
IT SHOULD
NOT BE VERY
DIFFICULT.

SO RICHKA GAVE GADHI THE THOUSAND BROWN HORSES...



...AND WAS
MARRIED TO
SATYAVATI.



ONE DAY BHRIGU CAME TO VISIT HIS SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

THEY LOOKED AFTER HIS NEEDS
WITH AFFECTION.

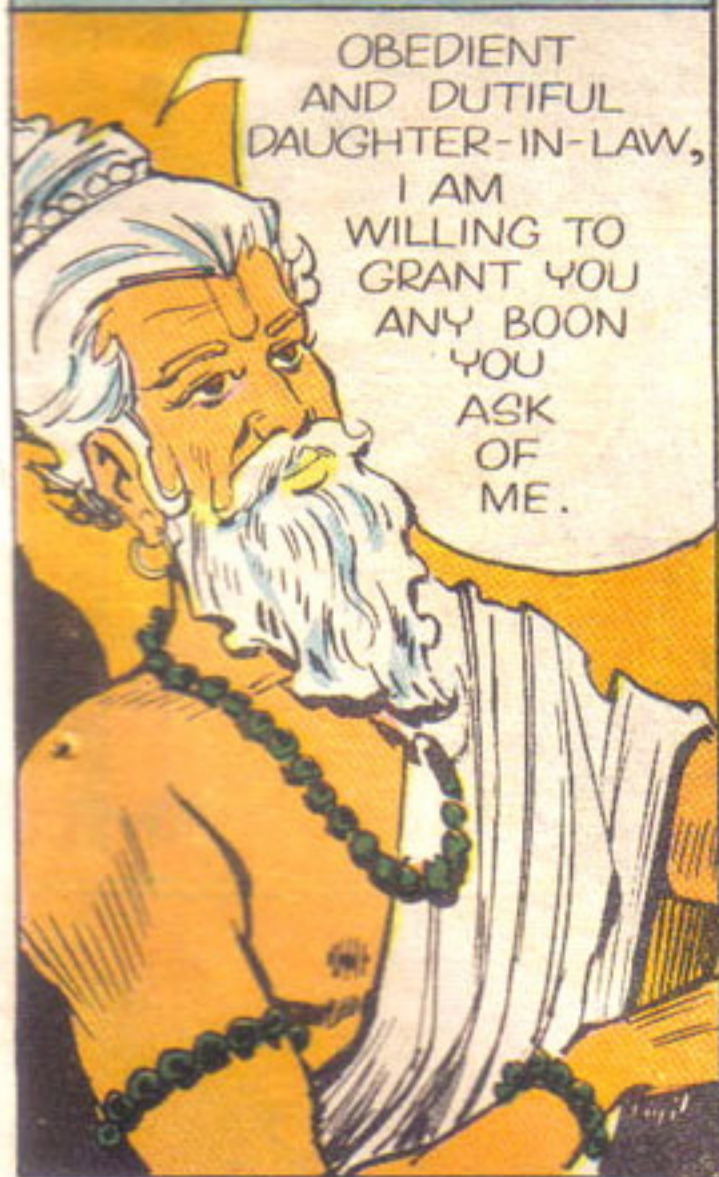


I AM INDEED
FORTUNATE
IN MY
CHILDREN.



BHRIGU WAS PLEASED.

OBEDIENT
AND DUTIFUL
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW,
I AM
WILLING TO
GRANT YOU
ANY BOON
YOU
ASK
OF ME.



FATHER,
GIVE ME A SON
AND A BROTHER.

YOU SHALL HAVE
BOTH.



THEN HE TOOK SATYAVATI ASIDE.

HERE ARE
TWO POTS OF
SACRED RICE
AND MILK.
THIS ONE IS
FOR YOU...



... AND
THAT ONE
FOR YOUR
MOTHER.



WHEN
BHRIGU
LEFT,
SATYAVATI
PICKED
THE POTS
AND
ALONG
WITH
HER
HUSBAND
WENT
TO HER
MOTHER.



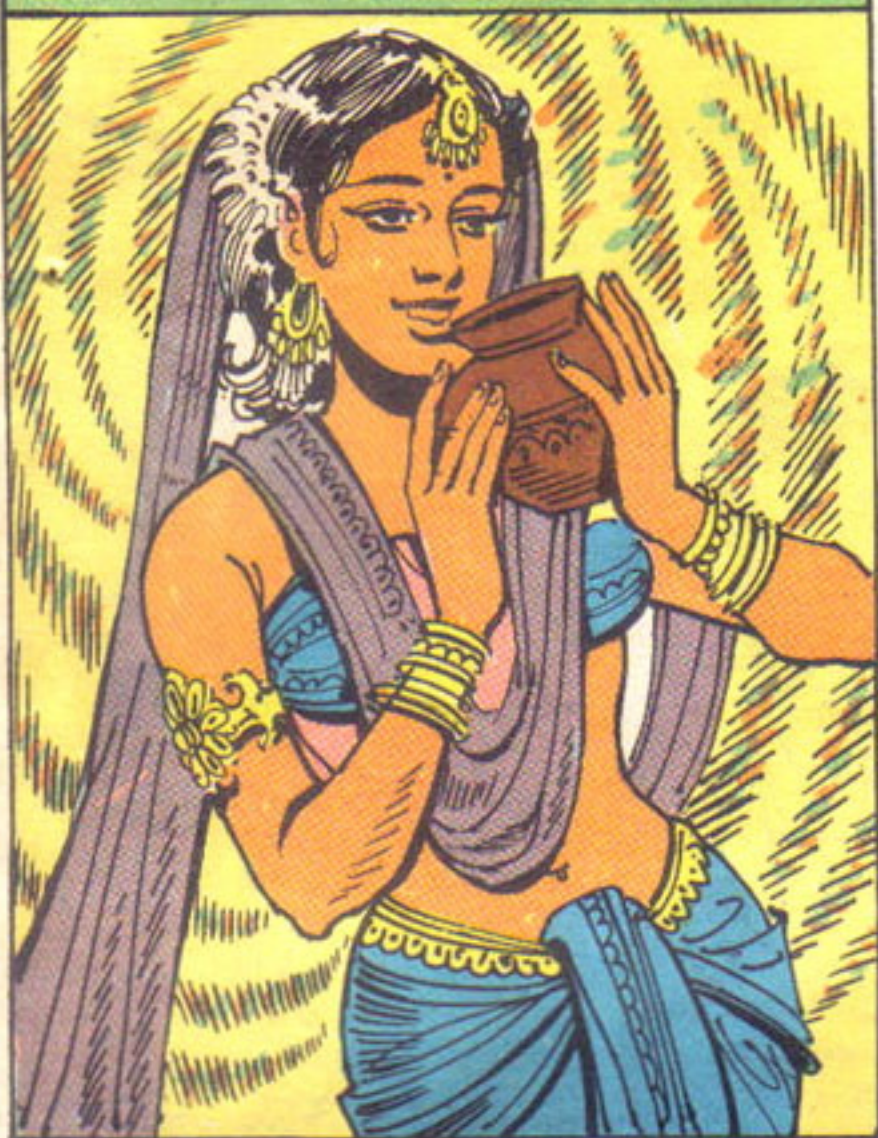
WHEN SHE REACHED —

MOTHER! MOTHER!
I HAVE TWO POTS OF
SACRED RICE AND MILK,
WHICH WILL GIVE US
A MIGHTY SON
EACH.

YOUR
MARRIAGE TO
RICHKA HAS INDEED
BROUGHT US
GOOD FORTUNE.



BUT HER MOTHER TOOK THE POT
MEANT FOR SATYAVATI AND...

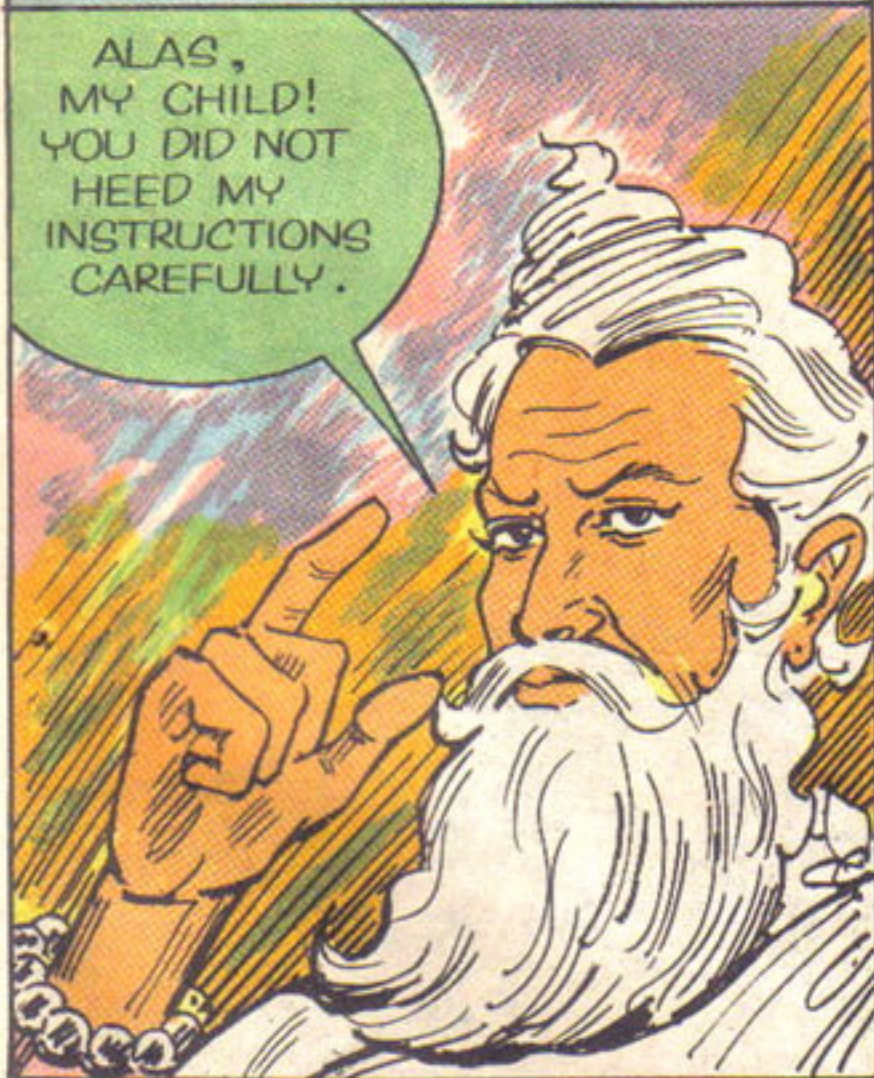


...SATYAVATI TOOK THE ONE MEANT
FOR HER MOTHER.



SAGE BHRIGU IN HIS SPIRITUAL
VISION SAW THE EXCHANGE.

ALAS,
MY CHILD!
YOU DID NOT
HEED MY
INSTRUCTIONS
CAREFULLY.



NOW,
YOUR MOTHER'S
SON THOUGH A
KSHATRIYA, WILL
TAKE TO THE
LIFE OF AN
ASCETIC.



AND YOUR SON
THOUGH A BRAHMANA,
WILL BECOME
A WARRIOR.



SATYAVATI BEGAN
PLEADING WITH BHRIGU.

O REVERED SIRE,
LET MY GRANDSON
BE SUCH
BUT NOT
MY SON.



BHRIGU WAS MOVED
BY HER ENTREATIES.

SO BE IT,
MY CHILD.
SO BE IT.



IN DUE TIME SATYAVATI HAD A SON.

WE SHALL CALL
HIM
JAMDAGNI.



AS JAMADAGNI GREW UP, HIS DEVOTION TO THE STUDY OF THE VEDAS ALSO INCREASED AND HE SOON MASTERED THEM.



NOW I SHALL ENTER THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER. I AM READY FOR IT.

SO HE MARRIED THE CHASTE RENUKA.



MOST OF THE KSHATRIYAS OF THOSE DAYS WERE VICIOUS. THEY WERE BECOMING A MENACE AND A BURDEN TO MOTHER EARTH. THE WORST OF THEM WAS KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA, THE 1000-ARMED KING OF THE HAIHAYA TRIBE.



MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN TREMBLED WITH FEAR WHENEVER KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA RODE INTO A CITY IN HIS INVINCIBLE GOLDEN CHARIOT.



RUN! RUN!
KARTAVIRYA
ARJUNA
IS HERE!

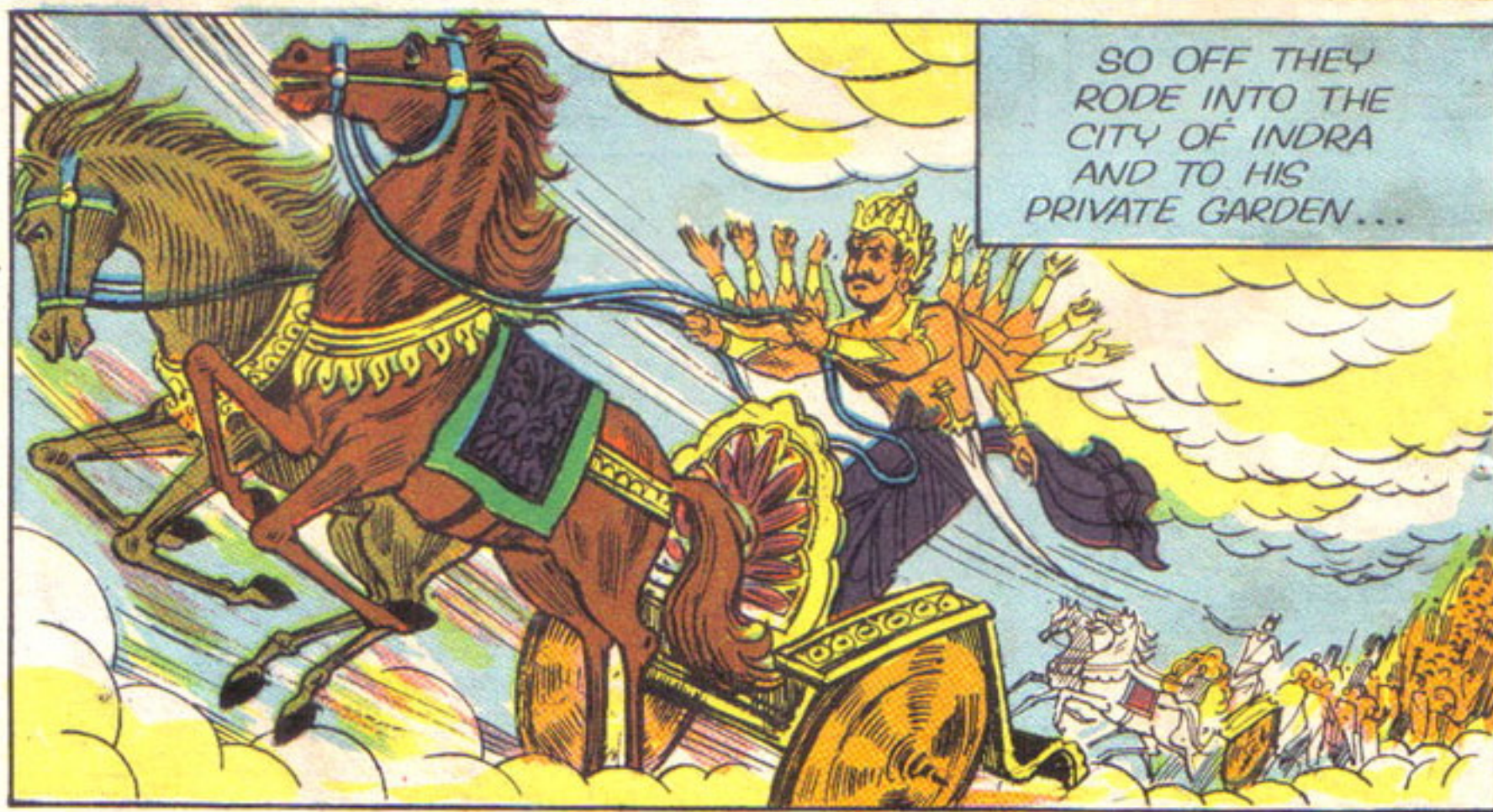


SUDDENLY HE HAD AN IDEA.

WHY WASTE OUR TIME
HERE WITH THESE PUNY
MORTALS. LET US RIDE
INTO THE CITY OF INDRA,
KING OF THE GODS.



SO OFF THEY
RODE INTO THE
CITY OF INDRA
AND TO HIS
PRIVATE GARDEN...



...WHERE INDRA WAS RESTING WITH HIS WIFE, SACHI.



IN THE MEANWHILE, THE SAINTS AND SAGES OF THE DAY COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE VIOLATIONS OF THEIR PENANCES AND SACRIFICES BY KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



SO THEY WENT TO LORD VISHNU.



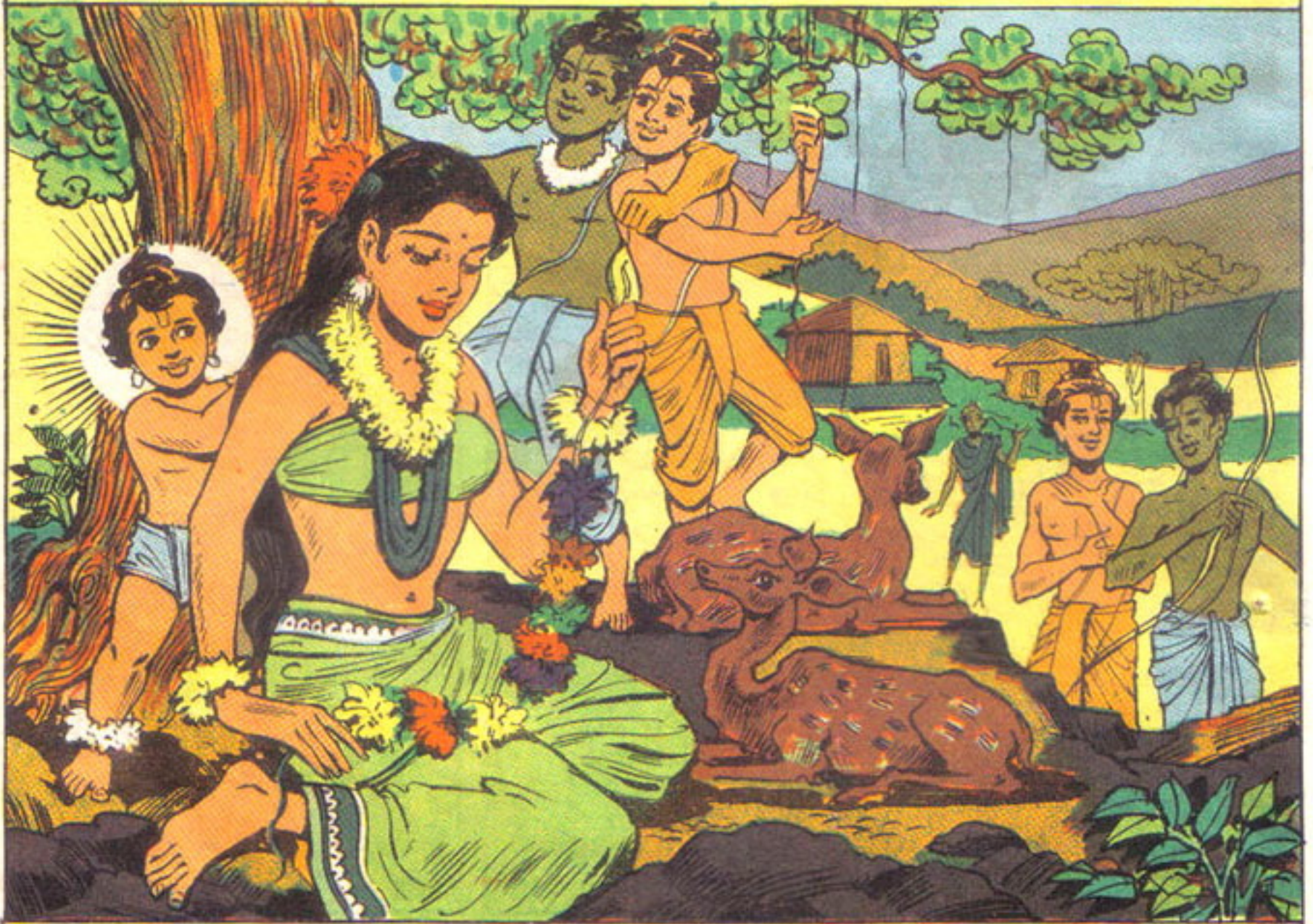
AS SOON AS THE SAGES HAD LEFT,
INDRA ENTERED.

LORD VISHNU,
KARTAVIRYA
ARJUNA NOW
COVETS THE
WEALTH OF THE
VERY HEAVENS.
HE MUST BE
DESTROYED.

I KNOW.

I WILL TAKE AN
AVATAR ON EARTH
AS A BRAHMANA WITH
UNUSUAL PHYSICAL
PROWESS AND
OVERPOWER HIM.

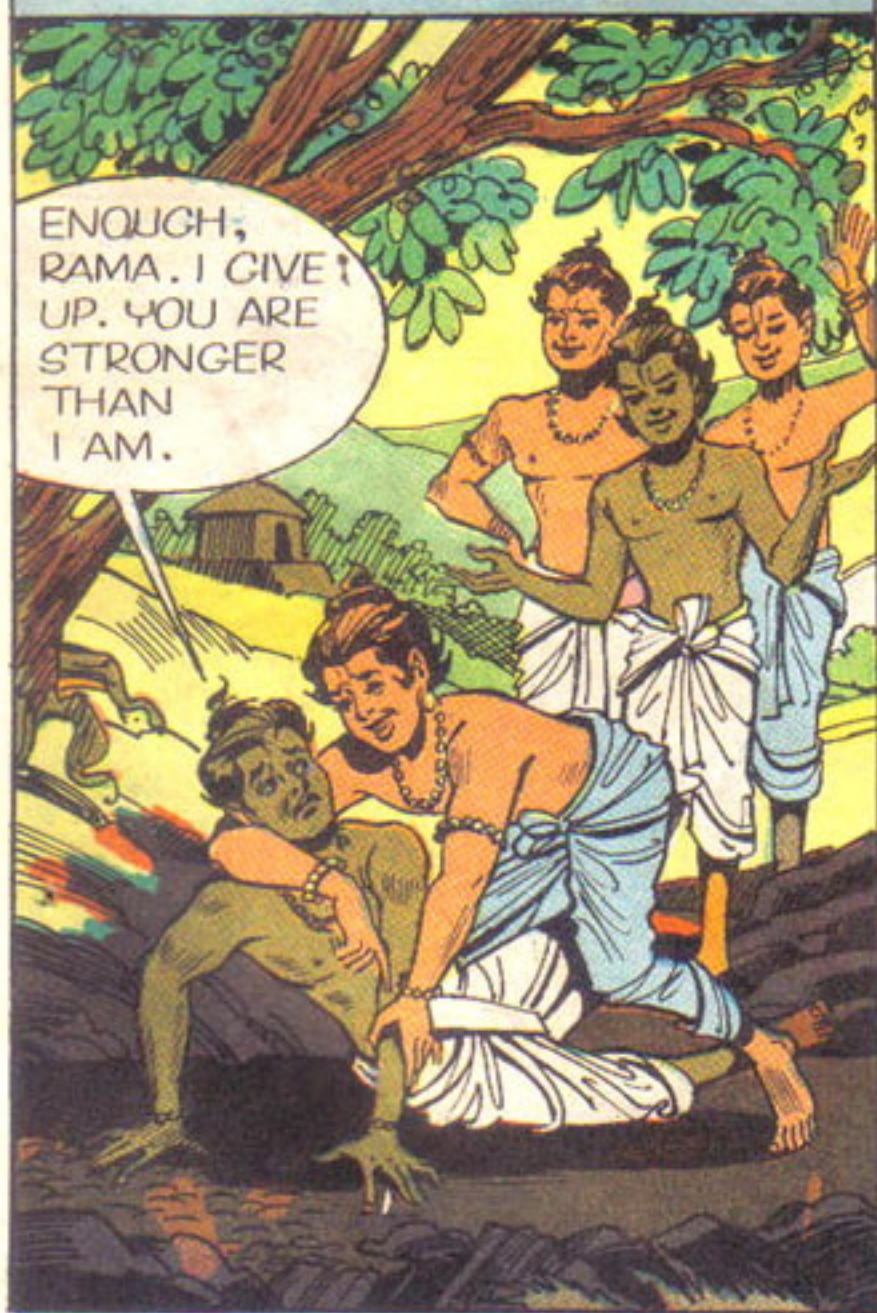
MEANWHILE FIVE SONS WERE BORN TO RENUKA AND JAMADAGNI.



THE FIFTH AND YOUNGEST WAS RAMA WHO WAS REALLY VISHNU REBORN TO FULFIL HIS PROMISE TO INDRA AND THE SAGES.



AS A CHILD RAMA WAS FOND OF PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND...



...PLAYING WITH WEAPONS.



RAMA SOON GREW UP INTO A STURDY YOUTH. ONE DAY -

FATHER, I WISH TO GO TO THE GANDHAMADANA MOUNTAINS AND BY AUSTERE PENANCES GAIN LORD SHIVA'S FAVOUR.

GO IF YOU MUST, MY SON. YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS.



RAMA WENT AND SAT IN MEDITATION AND UNDERWENT SEVERE PENANCES.



AT LAST SHIVA APPEARED TO HIM.

YOU HAVE PLEASSED ME BY YOUR DEVOTION. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU DESIRE?



I HAVE SET MY HEART ON THE FIERY AXE, THE POWERFUL PARASHU.

AS YOU DESERVE, YOU SHALL HAVE IT. NO WARRIOR ON EARTH SHALL SURPASS YOU.



AND FROM THAT DAY RAMA CAME TO BE KNOWN AS PARASHURAMA.*

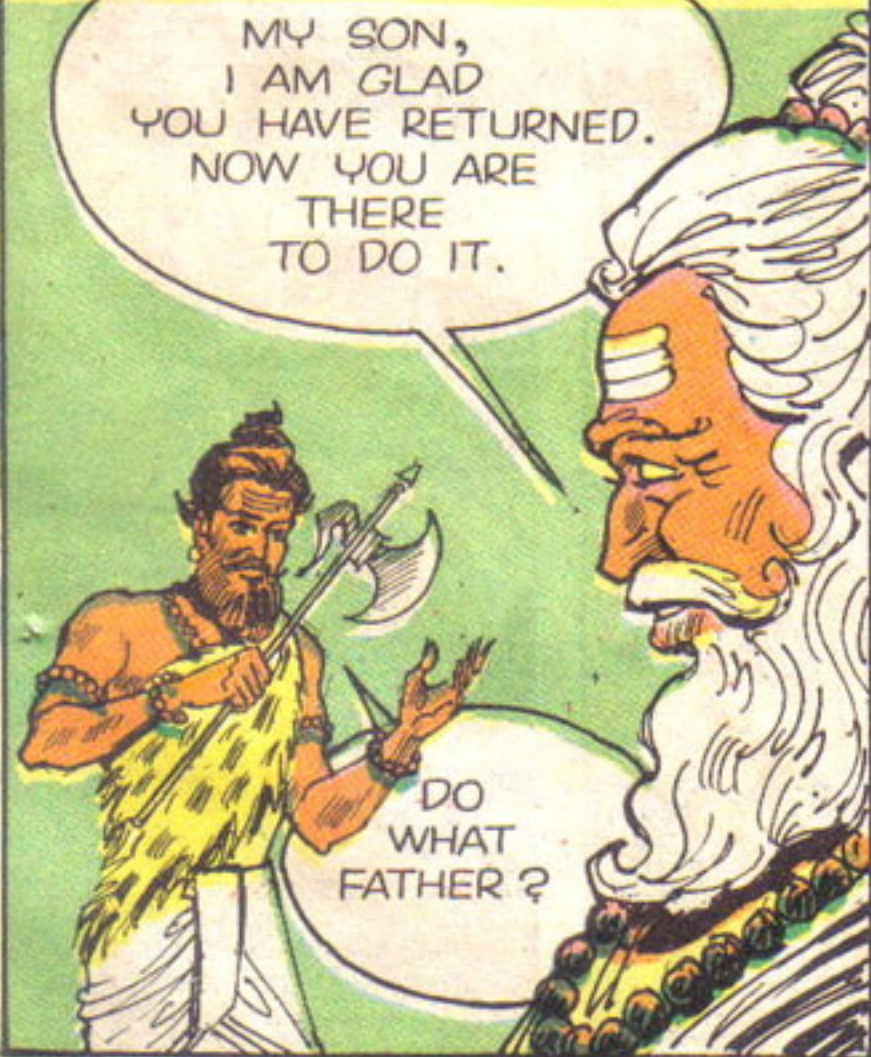


TAKING HIS AXE, PARASHURAMA RETURNED TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.



JAMADAGNI WAS OVERJOYED TO SEE HIM.

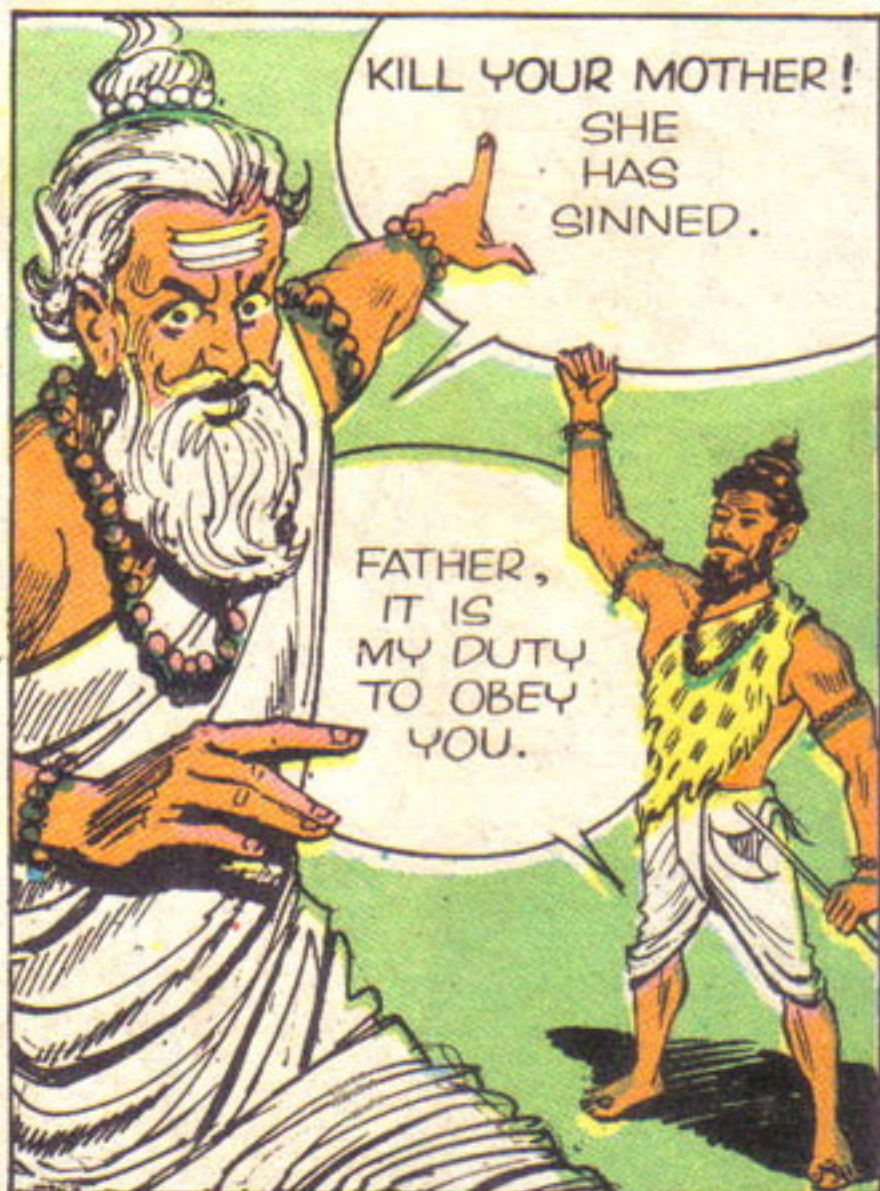
MY SON,
I AM GLAD
YOU HAVE RETURNED.
NOW YOU ARE
THERE
TO DO IT.



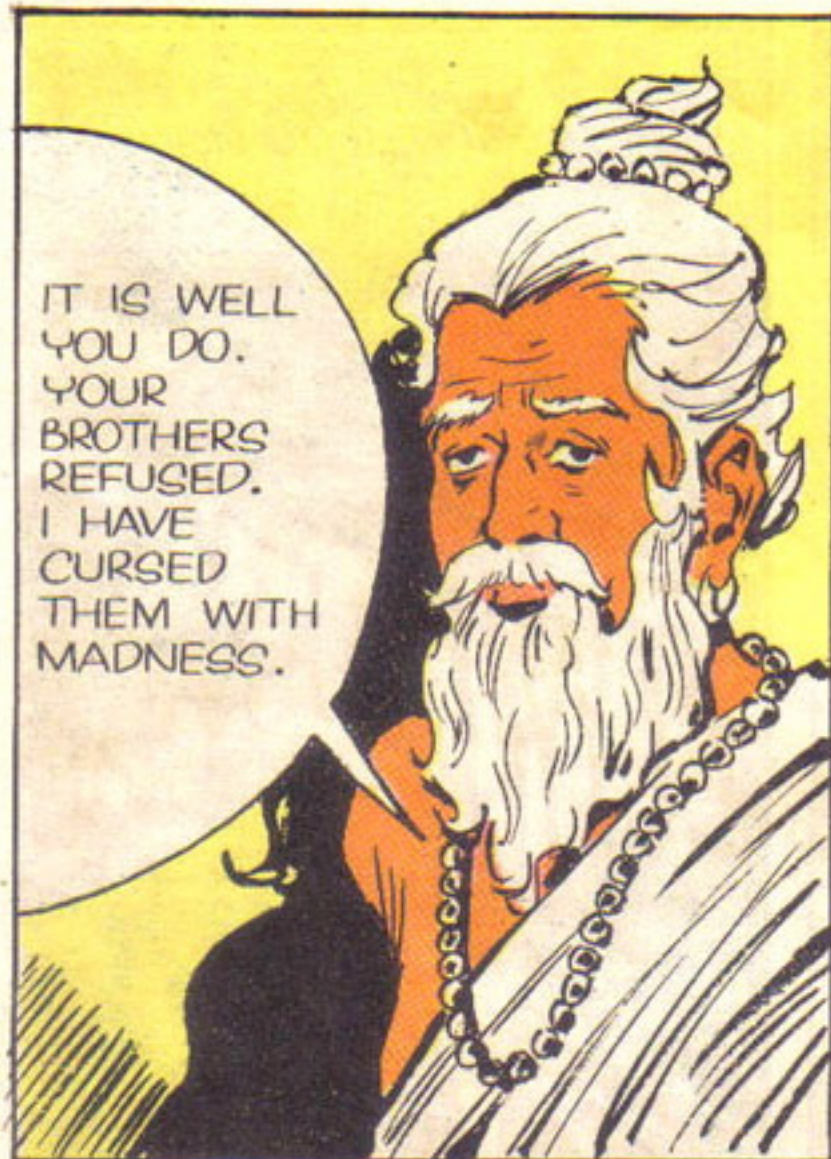
DO
WHAT
FATHER?

KILL YOUR MOTHER!
SHE
HAS
SINNED.

FATHER,
IT IS
MY DUTY
TO OBEY
YOU.



*RAMA OF THE AXE.



IT IS WELL
YOU DO.
YOUR
BROTHERS
REFUSED.
I HAVE
CURSED
THEM WITH
MADNESS.

PARASHURAMA, WITH ONE BLOW OF
HIS AXE, KILLED HIS MOTHER.

YOUR UNQUESTIONING
OBEDIENCE PLEASES
ME. ASK ANY BOON
AND IT SHALL BE
YOURS.



THIS WAS WHAT PARASHURAMA WAS WAITING FOR.

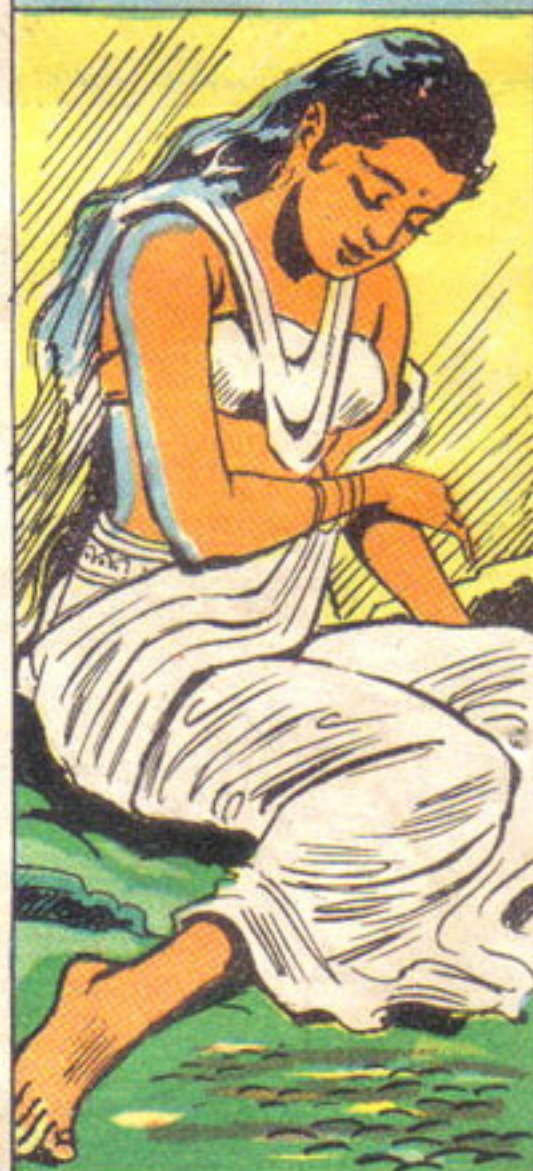
RESTORE MY MOTHER'S
LIFE AND LOVE HER
AS BEFORE. GIVE MY
BROTHERS BACK
THEIR SENSES.
AND GIVE ME
EVERLASTING
LIFE.

EXACTLY
AS I HAD
FORESEEN!

SO BE IT.



JAMADAGNI WAS ONLY
TOO GLAD TO GRANT
HIM HIS BOONS.



MEANWHILE KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA CONTINUED IN HIS TYRANNY. ONE DAY WHILE PACING ARROGANTLY ON THE SEASHORE, HE BEGAN SHOOTING ARROWS INTO THE WATERS OF THE OCEAN.



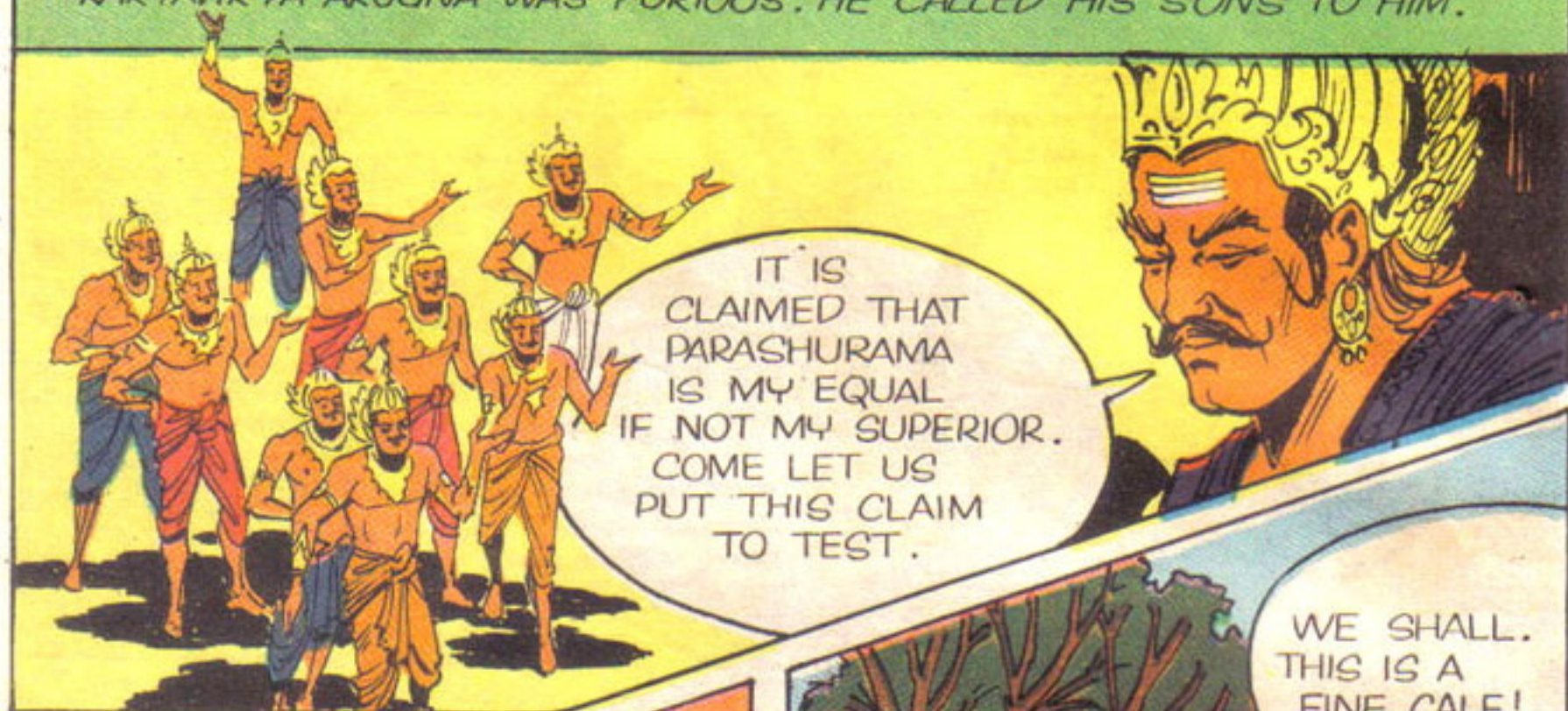
A VOICE
FROM THE OCEAN
STOPPED HIM.

PLEASE
DO NOT HARM
THE CREATURES
THAT LIVE WITHIN
ME. I SHALL DO WHAT-
EVER YOU ASK OF ME
BUT PLEASE SPARE
THEM.

I WILL
IF YOU
ANSWER THIS
QUESTION. IS THERE
A MAN WHO CAN
RIVAL ME ?

YES.
PARASHURAMA,
THE SON OF JAMADAGNI.
HE IS MORE THAN
YOUR EQUAL.

KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA WAS FURIOUS. HE CALLED HIS SONS TO HIM.



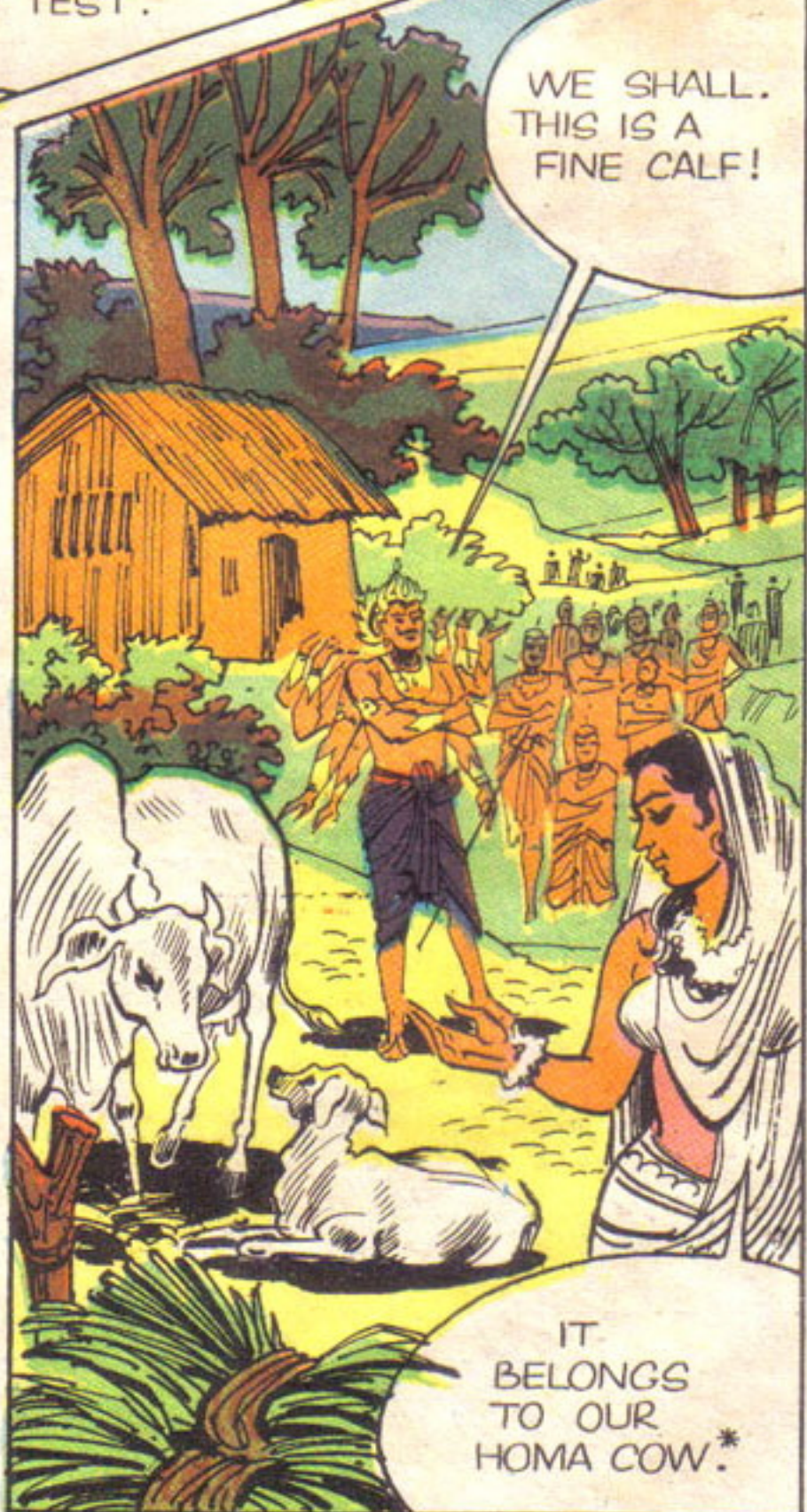
IT IS CLAIMED THAT PARASHURAMA IS MY EQUAL IF NOT MY SUPERIOR. COME LET US PUT THIS CLAIM TO TEST.

SO THEY WENT TO JAMADAGNI'S ASHRAM.



WHERE IS PARASHURAMA?

HE IS NOT HERE. BUT, PLEASE STAY AWHILE AND BE OUR GUEST.

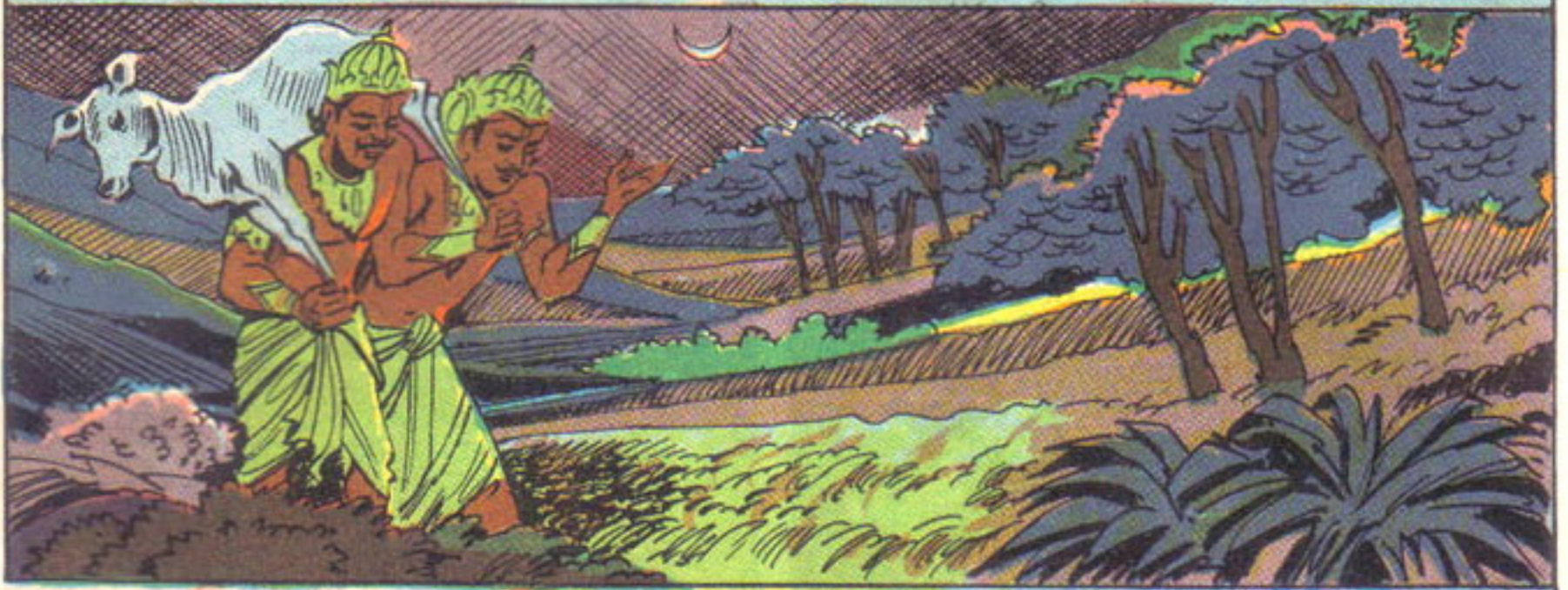


WE SHALL. THIS IS A FINE CALF!

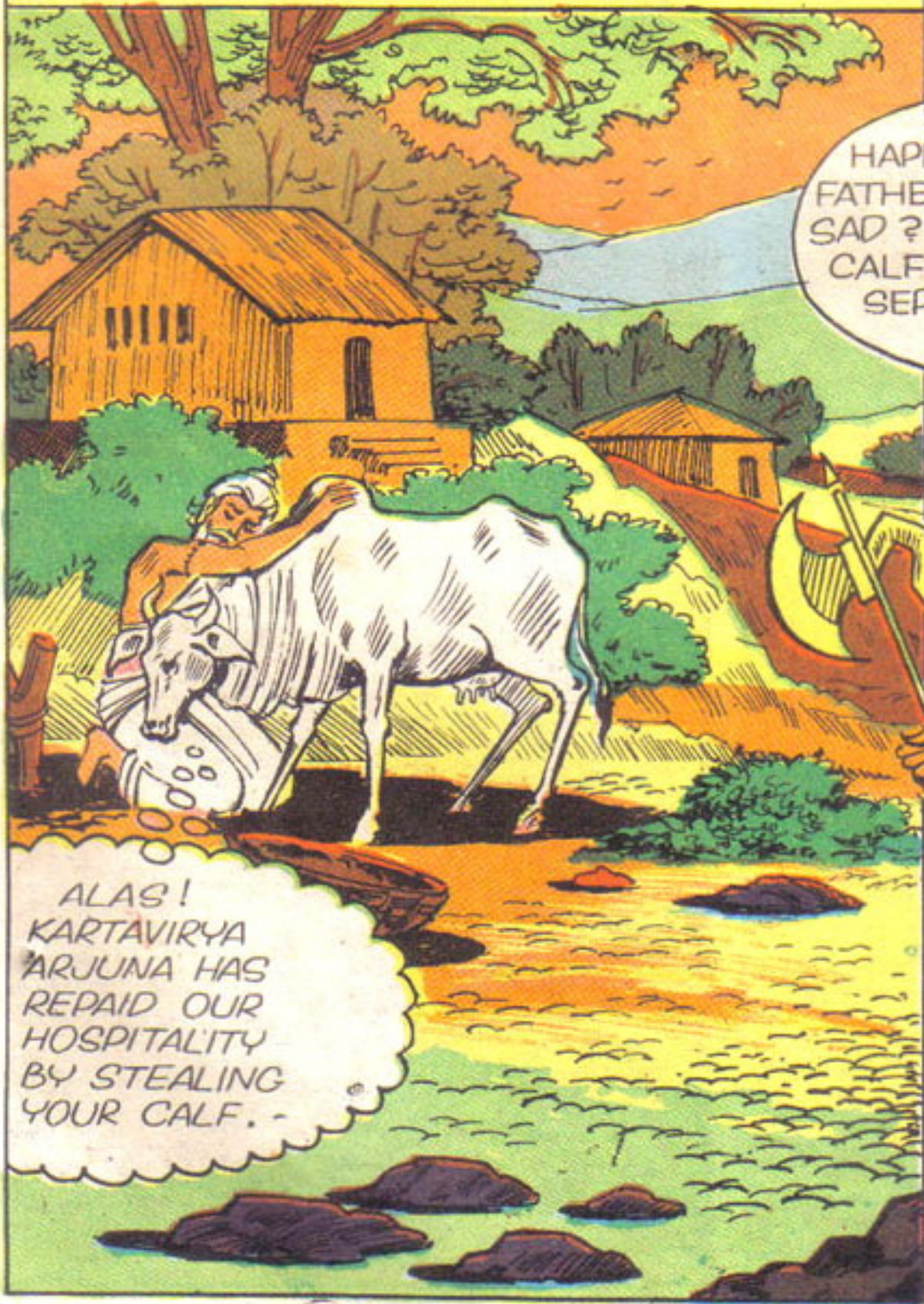
IT BELONGS TO OUR HOMA COW.*

*THE MILK OF THE HOMA COW IS USED FOR SACRIFICES ETC.

THAT NIGHT THE SONS OF ARJUNA STOLE THE CALF AND MADE OFF WITH IT.



IN THE MORNING WHEN JAMADAGNI CAME OUT OF THE ASHRAM —



ALAS!
KARTAVIRYA
ARJUNA HAS
REPAID OUR
HOSPITALITY
BY STEALING
YOUR CALF.

JUST THEN PARASHURAMA
RETURNED.
HE SAW THEM.

WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO HER,
FATHER? WHY IS SHE SO
SAD? WHERE IS HER
CALF? WHY ARE THEY
SEPARATED?

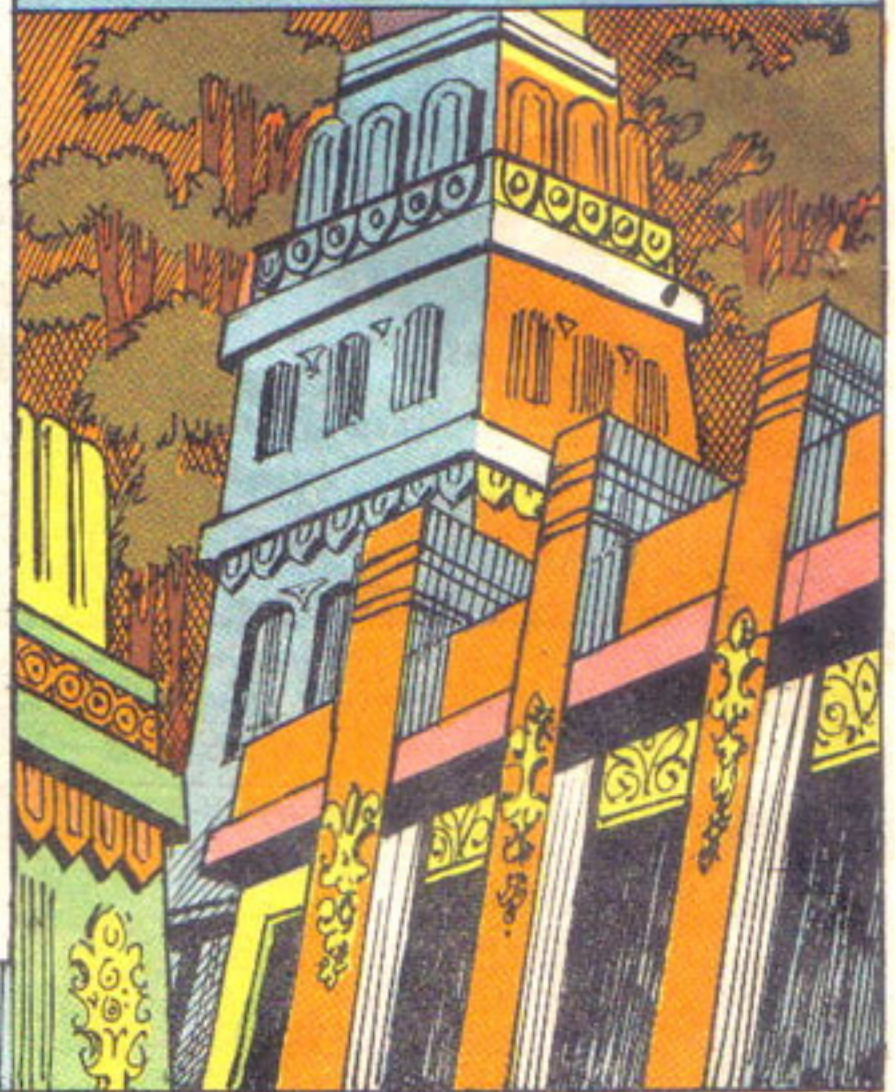


JAMADAGNI TOLD HIM
THE WHOLE STORY.

I SHALL
KILL HIM
AND
REDEEM
YOUR
CALF!



THEN PARASHURAMA TOOK HIS AXE
AND RUSHED TO THE PALACE OF
KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA.



WHEN HE SAW THE HELPLESS CALF,
HE COULD NOT CONTROL HIS ANGER.
HE RUSHED INTO KARTAVIRYA
ARJUNA'S BEDROOM.



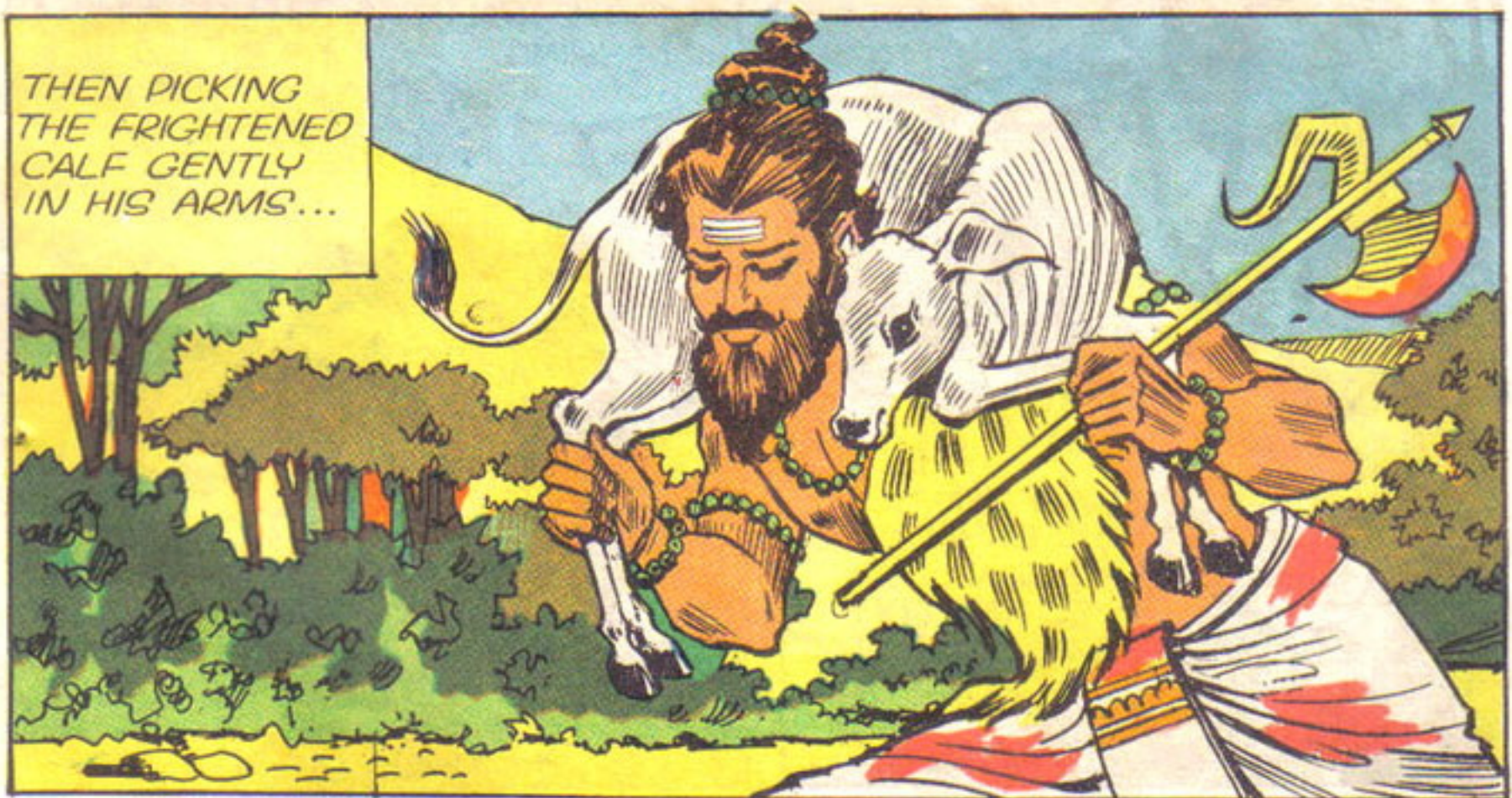
A DREADFUL COMBAT ENSUED IN WHICH PARASHURAMA HACKED OFF EACH ONE OF KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S THOUSAND ARMS AND...



...SLEW HIM.



THEN PICKING THE FRIGHTENED CALF GENTLY IN HIS ARMS...



...HE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO HIS FATHER'S ASHRAM.

FATHER! FATHER!
I HAVE KILLED HIM,
THE VILLAIN WHO STOLE
OUR INNOCENT CALF.



THEN THEY WENT TO THE COW
AND -

GENTLE
MOTHER,
I HAVE BROUGHT
BACK YOUR CALF
FOR YOU.



PARASHURAMA,
I AM PROUD
OF YOU.

THE
FIREFWOOD
IS EXHAUSTED.
I SHALL GO
TO THE FOREST
AND CUT SOME
FOR YOU.

IN THE MEANWHILE -

ALAS!
HE IS DEAD
AND THE CALF
IS MISSING.



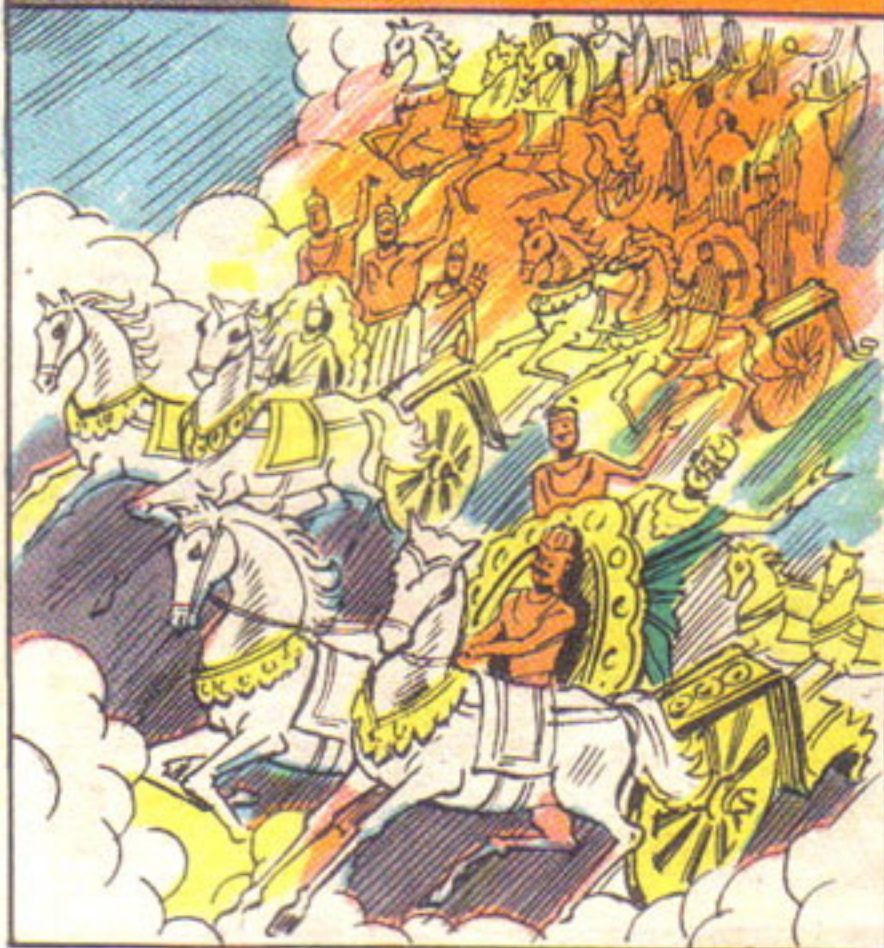
NONE
OTHER THAN
PARASHURAMA
COULD BE THE
MURDERER.

THEY WERE FURIOUS.

HE SHALL BE
AVENGED!
COME, LET US
SEEK OUT THE
MURDERER.



THEY MOUNTED THEIR CHARIOTS
AND CHARGED OUT OF THE PALACE.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE ASHRAM,
JAMADAGNI WAS DEEP IN MEDITATION.

PARASHURAMA
IS NOT TO BE
SEEN ANYWHERE.

LET US
KILL HIS
FATHER
THEN.

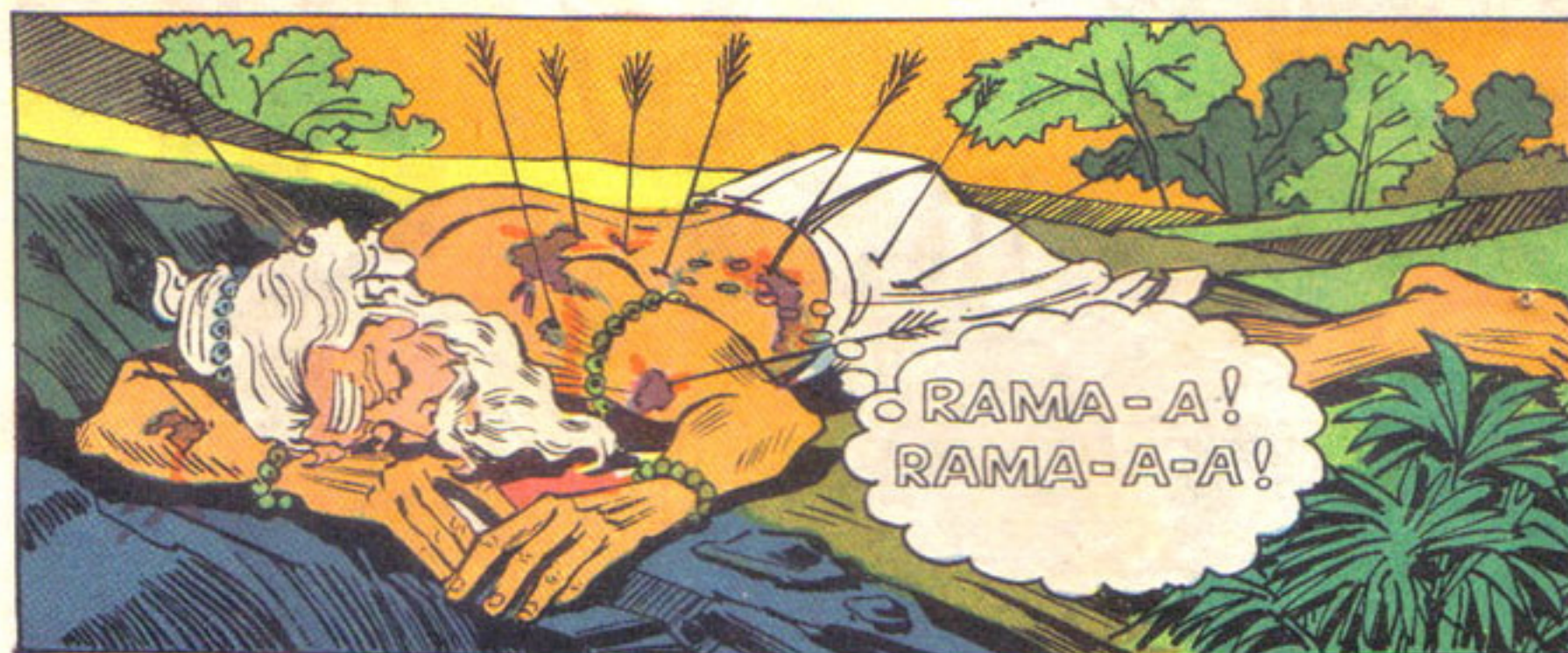
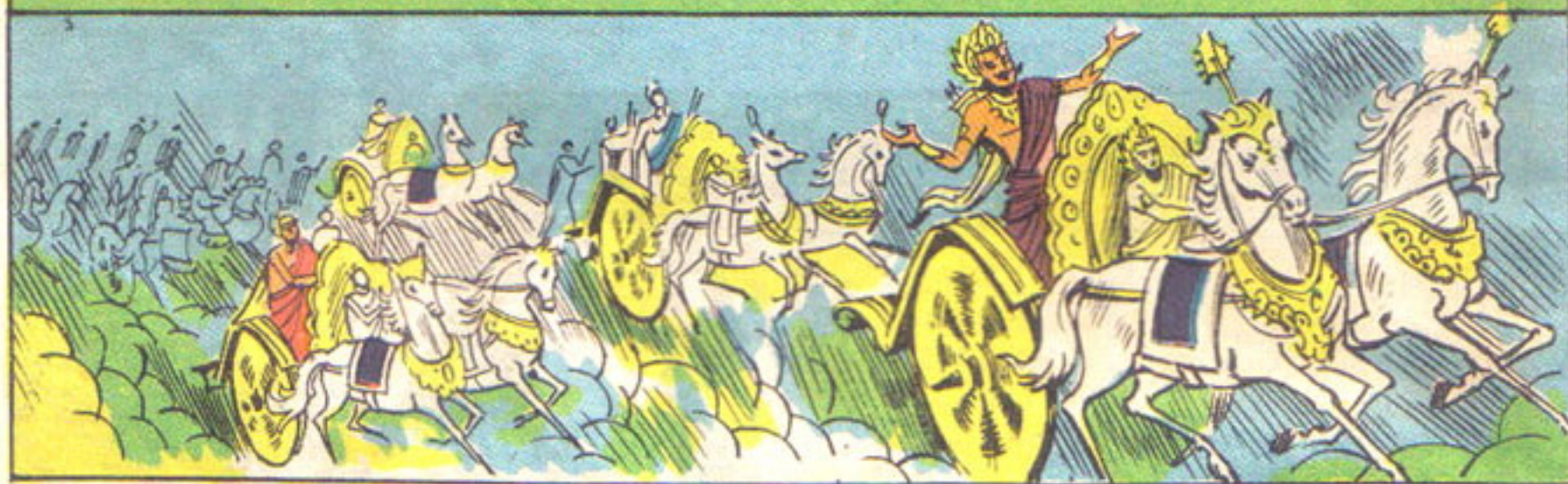
THAT'S RIGHT.
HE KILLED
OUR FATHER.
DIDN'T HE?



THEY ATTACKED JAMADAGNI AND SHOT ARROWS AT HIM
FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.



THEY LEFT HIM DYING AND RODE AWAY.





JUST THEN
PARASHURAMA
RETURNED
FROM THE
FOREST.

FATHER!
FATHER! IT IS
MY FAULT THAT
YOU HAVE BEEN
SHOT DOWN LIKE A
STAG BY THE MERCILESS
ARROWS OF THE MEAN
SONS OF ARJUNA.

WITH
WHAT FACE
WILL THEY RETURN
TO THEIR FRIENDS
AND SERVANTS
AFTER COMMITTING
SUCH A HEINOUS
CRIME?

AS PARASHURAMA CREMATED HIS FATHER'S BODY, HE TOOK A VOW.

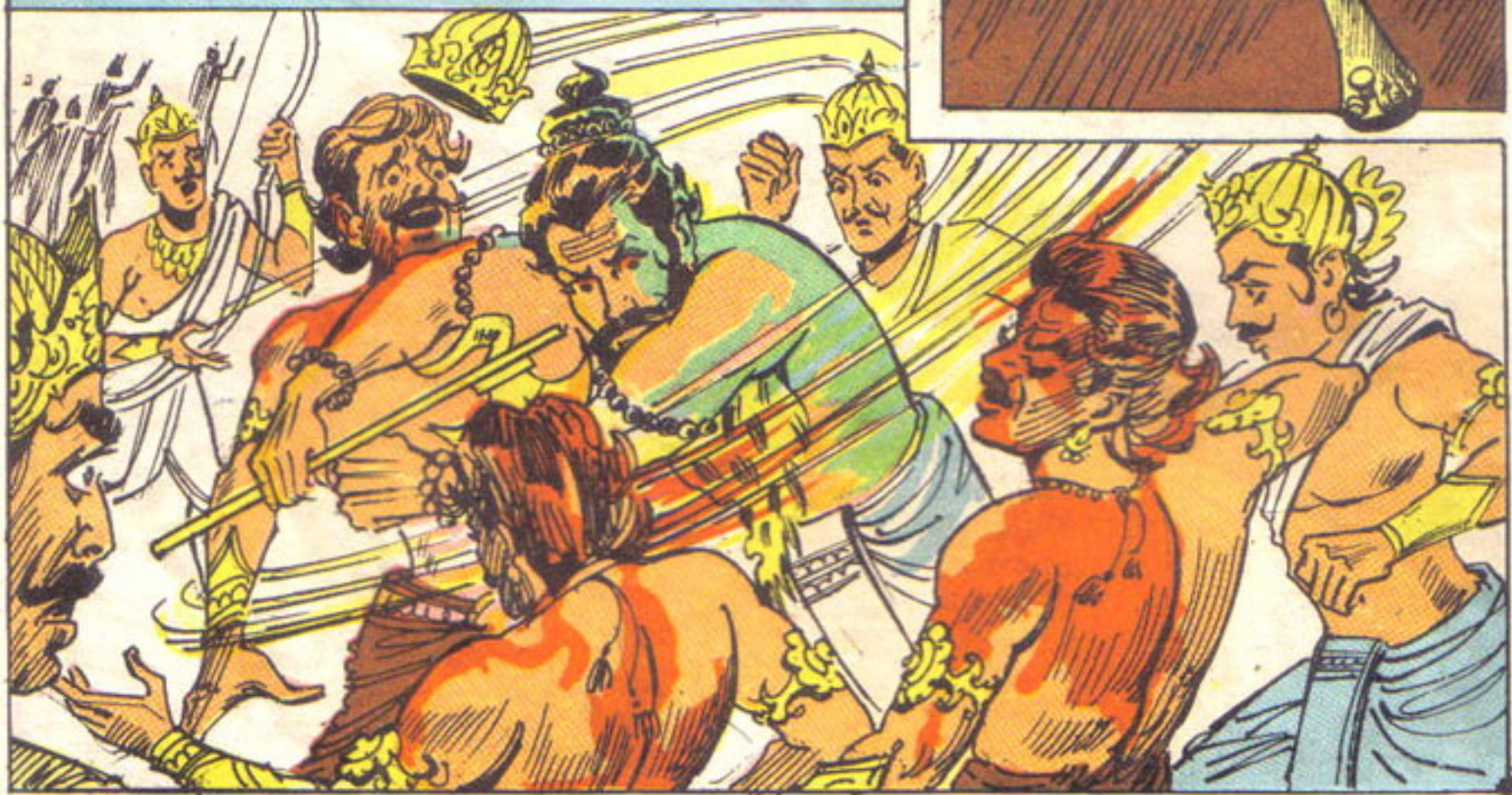
I SHALL NOT REST,
DEAR FATHER,
TILL I HAVE WIPED OUT
THE ENTIRE MARTIAL
RACE OF THE
KSHATRIYAS.



WHEN THE LAST EMBERS
DIED OUT, HE RAISED HIS
AXE AND BEGAN HIS SELF-
IMPOSED TASK.



KARTAVIRYA ARJUNA'S SONS WERE THE
FIRST TO BE WIPED OUT.



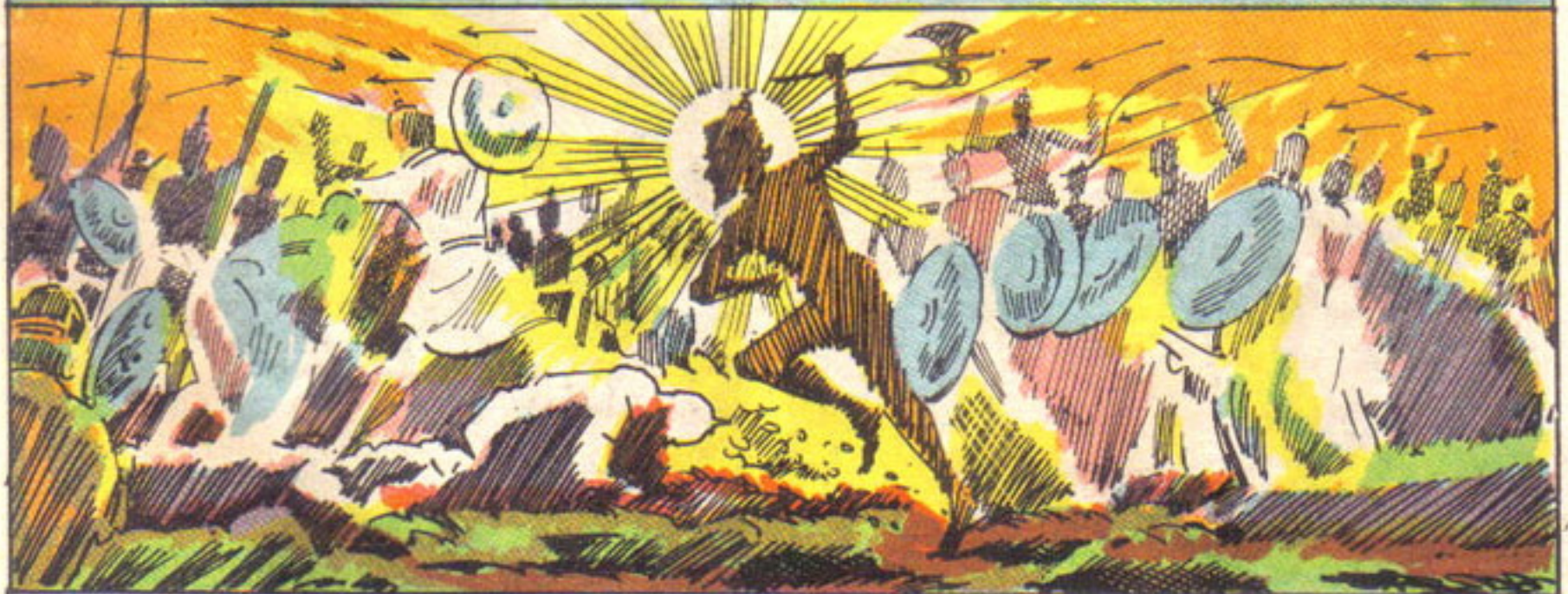
THEN ONE BY ONE HE MASSACRED ALL THE KSHATRIYAS ON EARTH.



BUT EACH TIME HE KILLED ONE LOT, THEIR SONS WOULD SPRING UP.



THUS PARASHURAMA PATIENTLY CONTINUED WIPING OUT TWENTY-ONE GENERATIONS OF KSHATRIYAS.



BUT ALAS! HE KILLED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BOTH THE EVIL AND THE GOOD KSHATRIYAS.

I HAVE HARMED NONE. MY SUBJECTS ARE HAPPY. WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL ME AND DEPRIVE THEM OF MY PROTECTION? ?



BUT PARASHURAMA WAS RELENTLESS.

ONE OF YOUR CASTE MURDERED MY FATHER WHILE HE WAS DEFENCELESS. SO YOU SHALL DIE.



SOON THERE WERE NO STRONG GOOD MEN TO PROTECT THE GOOD ON EARTH.

ALAS! OUR KING IS KILLED AND THERE IS NONE TO PROTECT US.

SHUDRAS AND VAISHYAS HAVE NO REGARD FOR BRAHMANAS AND THEIR WOMEN.



MOTHER EARTH FELT THAT IT WAS TIME TO INTERVENE.



I SHALL APPROACH SAGE KASHYAPA.

SO MOTHER EARTH WENT TO KASHYAPA.



LORD
PARASHURAMA'S
WORK IS OVER.
I AM RELIEVED
OF MY BURDEN.
PLEASE
STOP HIM NOW.

I WILL SPEAK
TO THE SPIRITS
OF HIS ANCESTORS.

KASHYAPA BY HIS SPIRITUAL POWERS,
CALLED FORTH THE SPIRIT OF RICHIKA.



PARASHURAMA'S
MISSION IS OVER.
IT IS NOW
TIME FOR HIM
TO DESIST.

SO SHALL IT BE.
HE WILL OBEY
HIS ANCESTORS.

AND RICHKA KEPT HIS PROMISE. WHEN PARASHURAMA WAS ABOUT TO RAISE HIS AXE ON A KING OF THE TWENTY-SECOND GENERATION OF KSHATRIYAS -

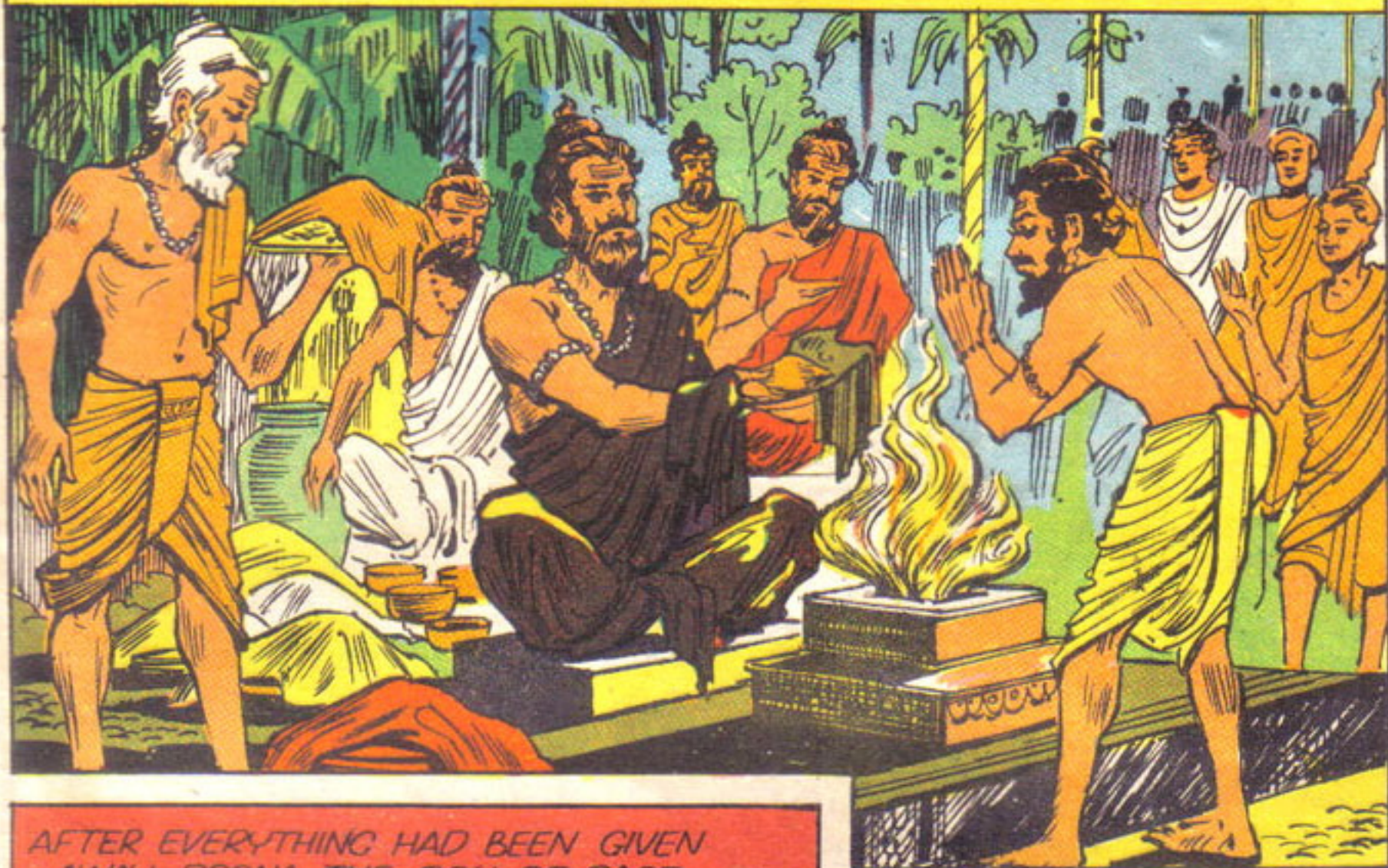
STOP,
RAMA!

MY SOUL
WILL FIND
NO PEACE TILL
MY VOW IS
FULFILLED.

YOU HAVE
AVENGED YOUR FATHER
MANY TIMES OVER.
MOTHER EARTH HAS BEEN
RELIEVED OF ALL EVIL
KSHATRIYAS.
YOUR WORK
IS DONE.

IT IS
MY DUTY TO OBEY
MY ANCESTORS
WHOM I TRUST
BEFORE ALL.
I SHALL DO
AS YOU SAY.

PARASHURAMA THEN HELD A GREAT SACRIFICE WHERE HE DISTRIBUTED ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE BRAHMANAS.



AFTER EVERYTHING HAD BEEN GIVEN AWAY, DRONA, THE SON OF SAGE BHARADWAJ, CAME TO HIM.

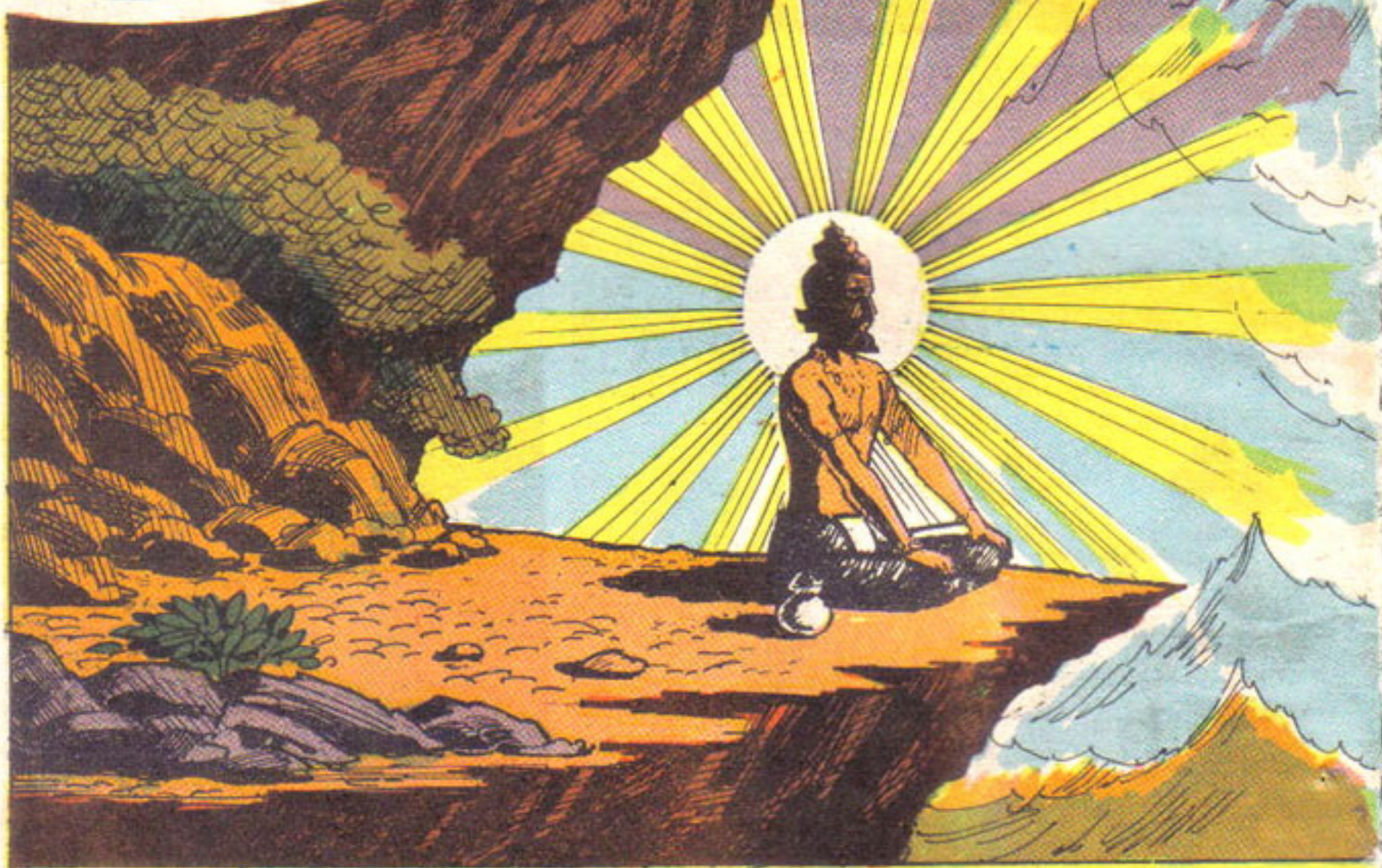
ALAS! YOU COME LATE. ALL THAT I HAVE NOW IS THIS BODY AND MY WEAPONS. I CAN GIVE YOU EITHER, AS YOU CHOOSE.



I SHALL RECEIVE THE WEAPONS WITH THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE.



SO PARASHURAMA GAVE DRONA ALL HIS WEAPONS AND INITIATED HIM INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THEIR USE. DRONA BECAME UNEQUALLED AMONG MEN FOR HIS PROWESS IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS.



AND PARASHURAMA, HAVING THUS RID HIMSELF OF ALL HIS WORLDLY BURDENS, RETIRED TO THE CRESTS IN THE MAHENDRA MOUNTAINS TO SPEND THE REST OF HIS DAYS, ENGAGED IN PRACTISING THE SEVEREST OF PENANCES.



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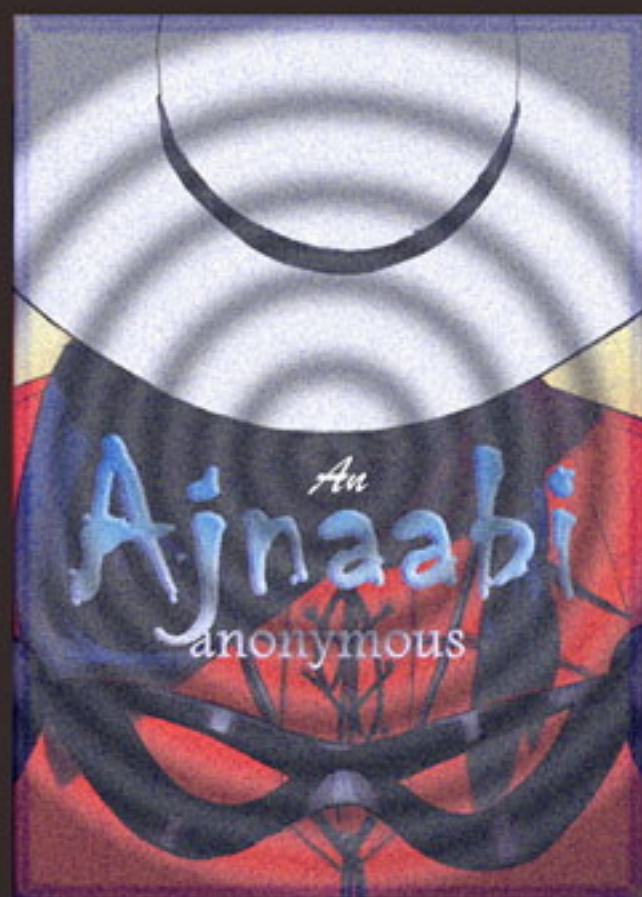


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