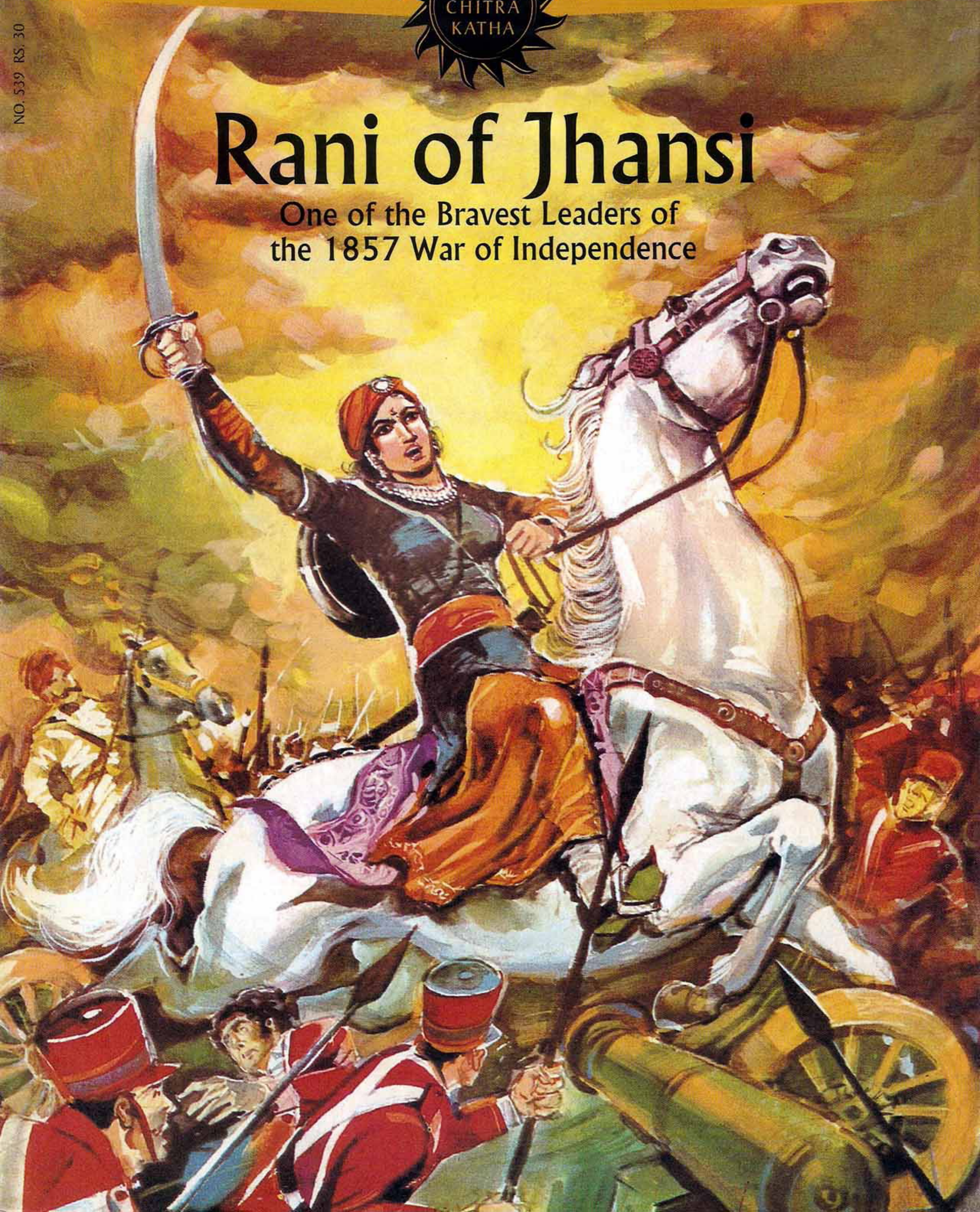




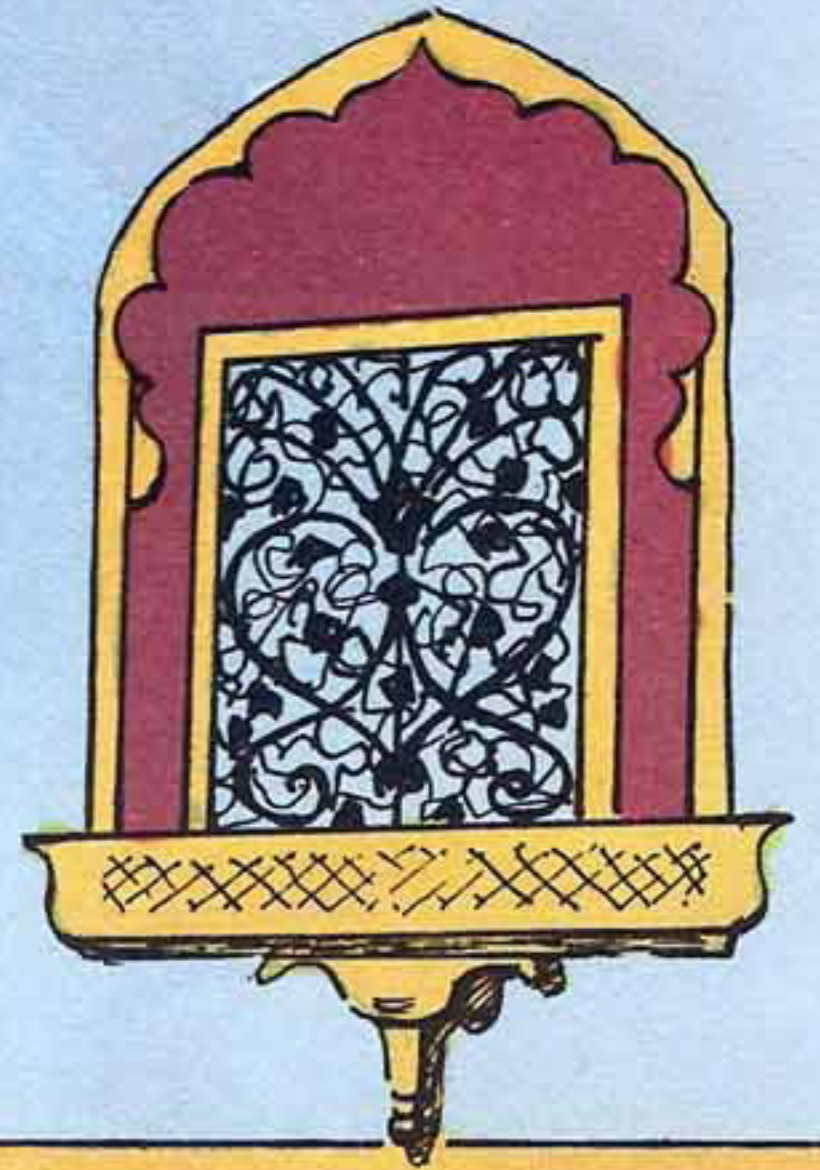
Rani of Jhansi

One of the Bravest Leaders of
the 1857 War of Independence

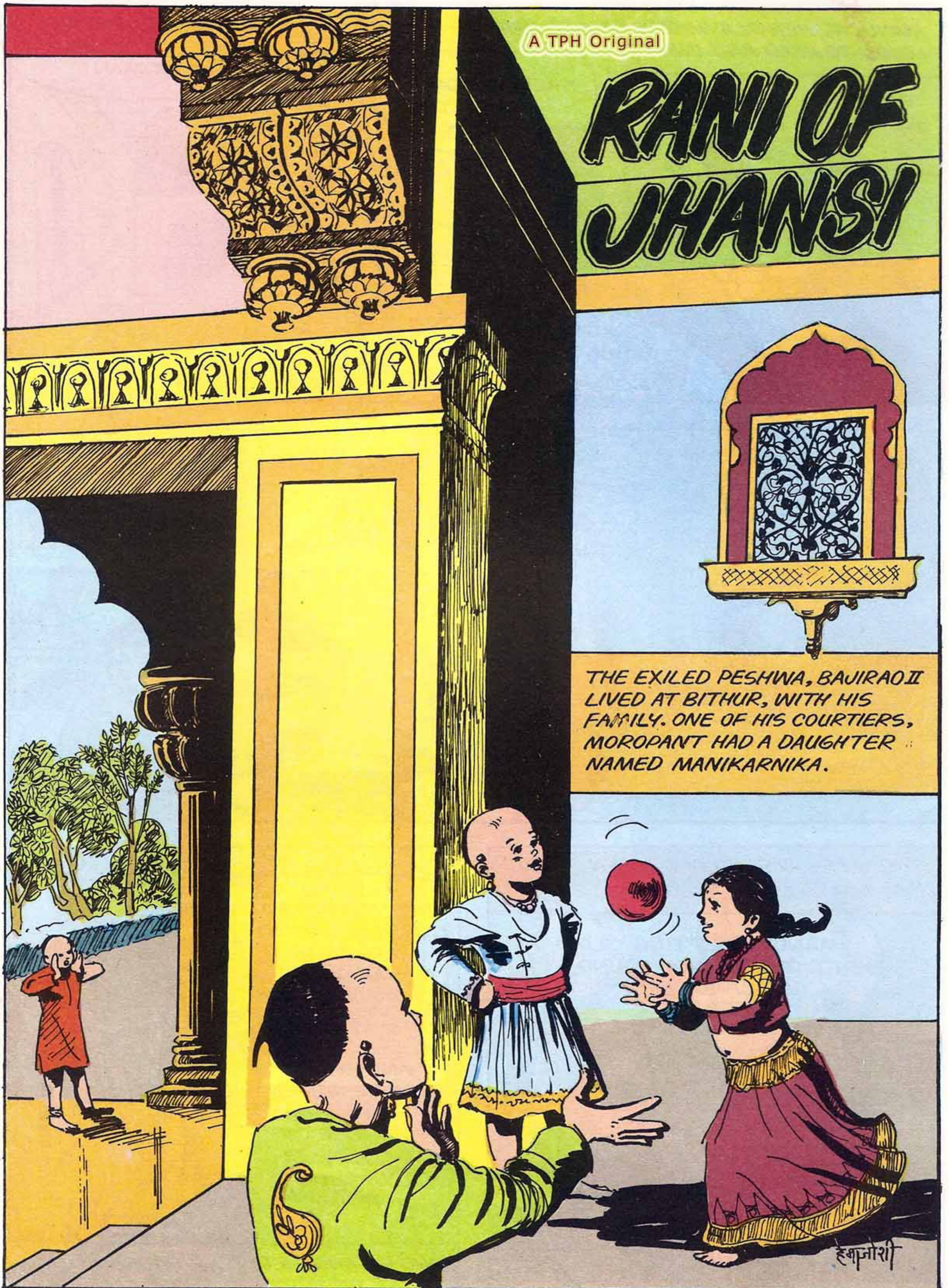


A TPH Original

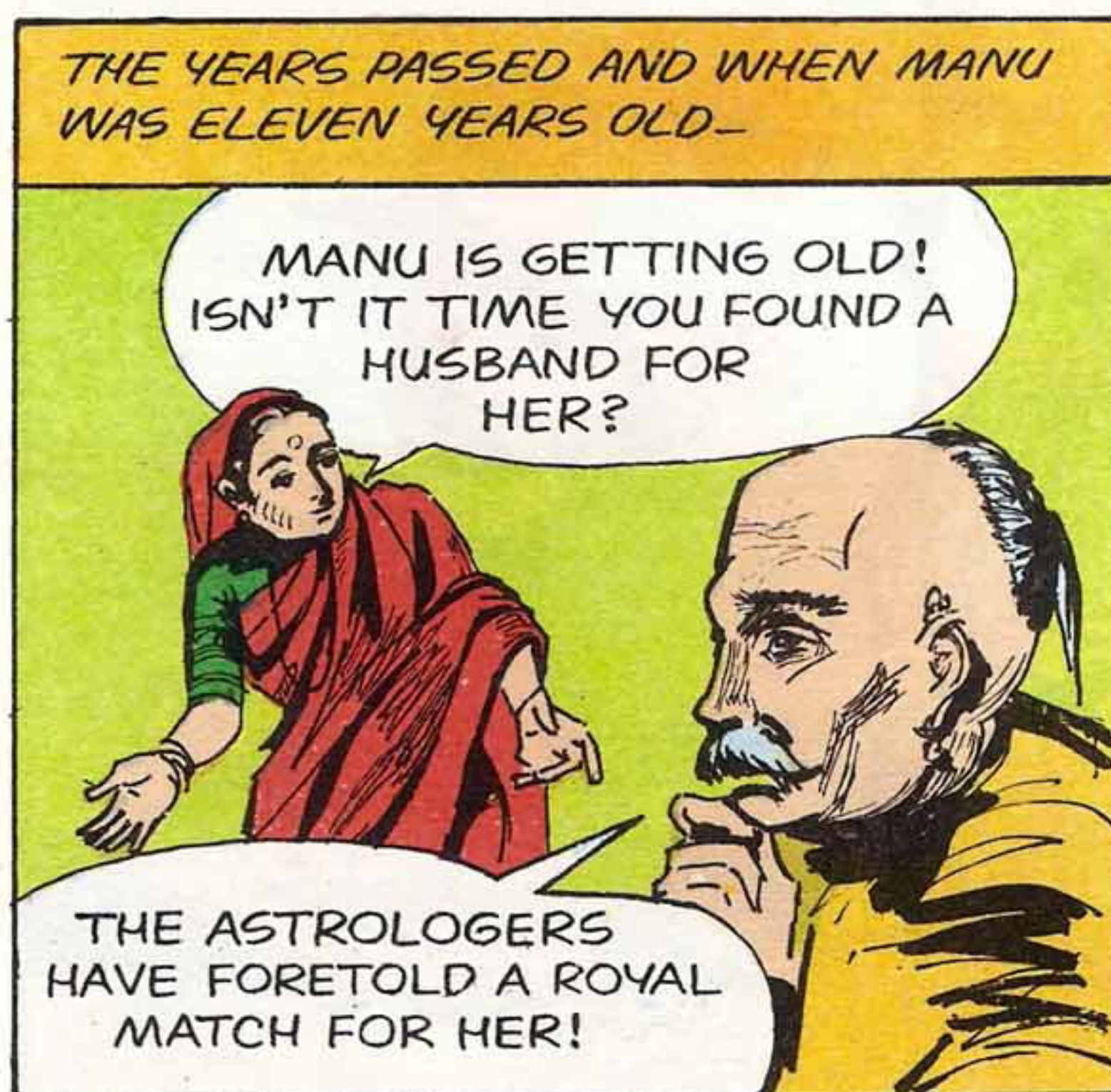
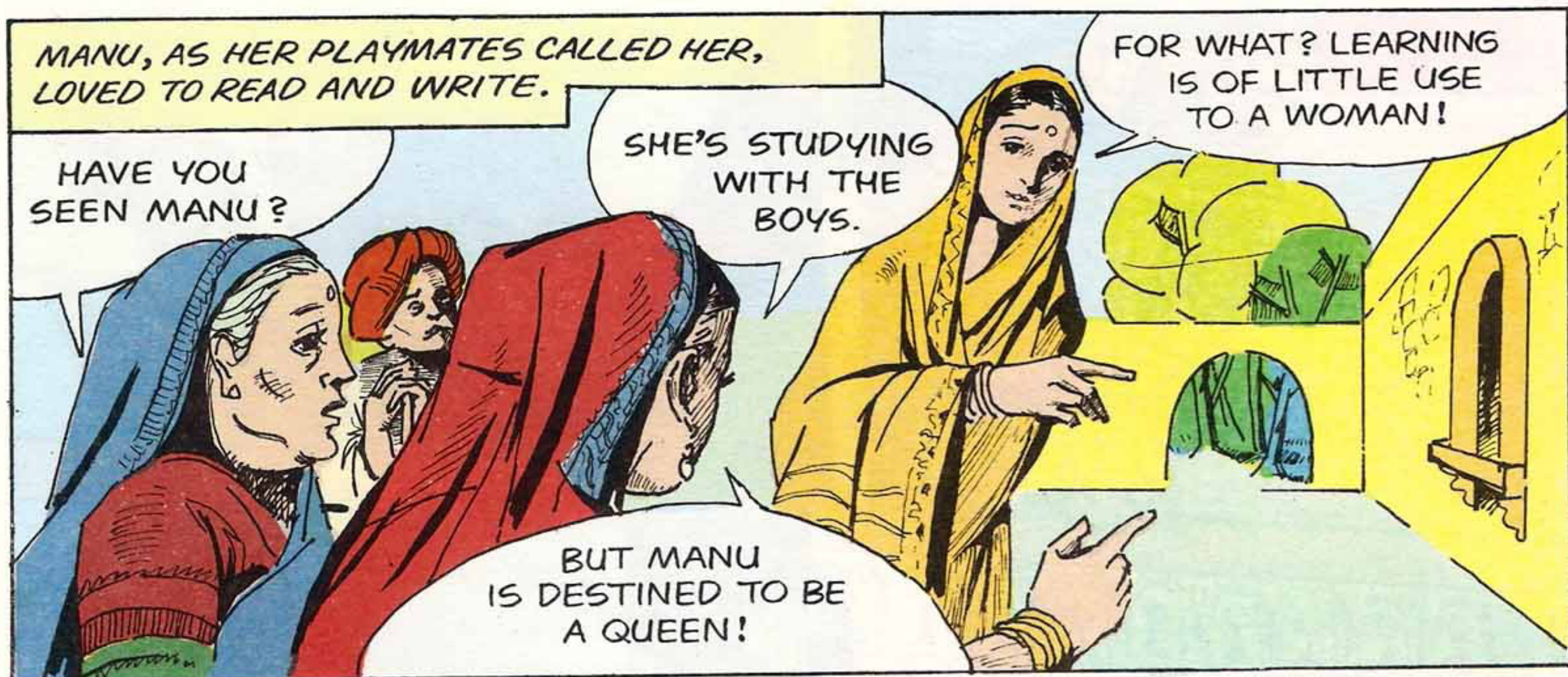
RANI OF JHANSI



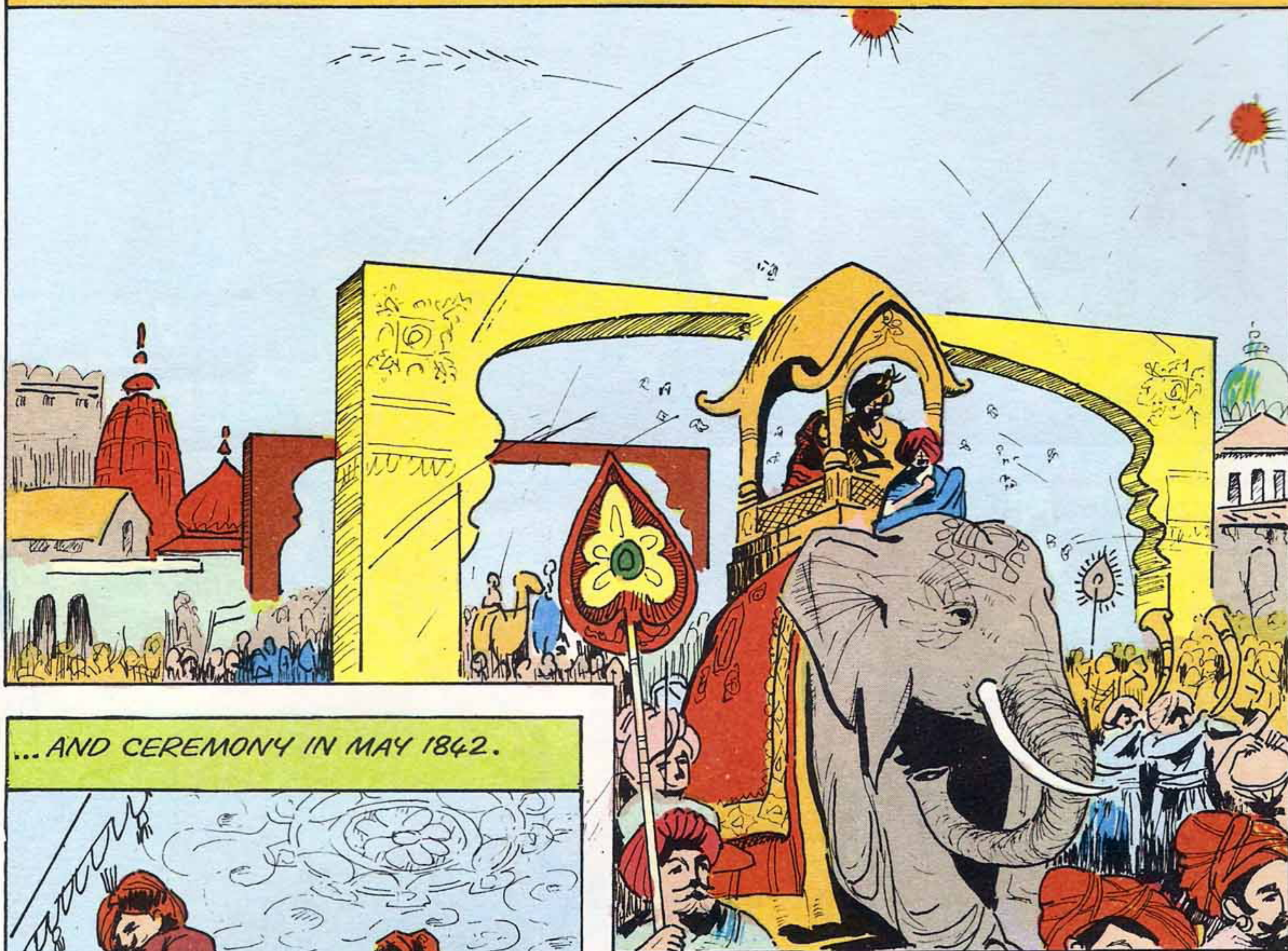
THE EXILED PESHWA, BAJIRAO II LIVED AT BITHUR, WITH HIS FAMILY. ONE OF HIS COURTIERS, MOROPANT HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED MANIKARNIKA.



हेमजोशी



THE WEDDING WAS CELEBRATED WITH GREAT POMP...



...AND CEREMONY IN MAY 1842.



IN 1851 LAKSHMIBAI GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.



BUT THREE MONTHS LATER THE CHILD DIED.



THE MAHARAJA WAS PLUNGED IN GRIEF AND DESPAIR.

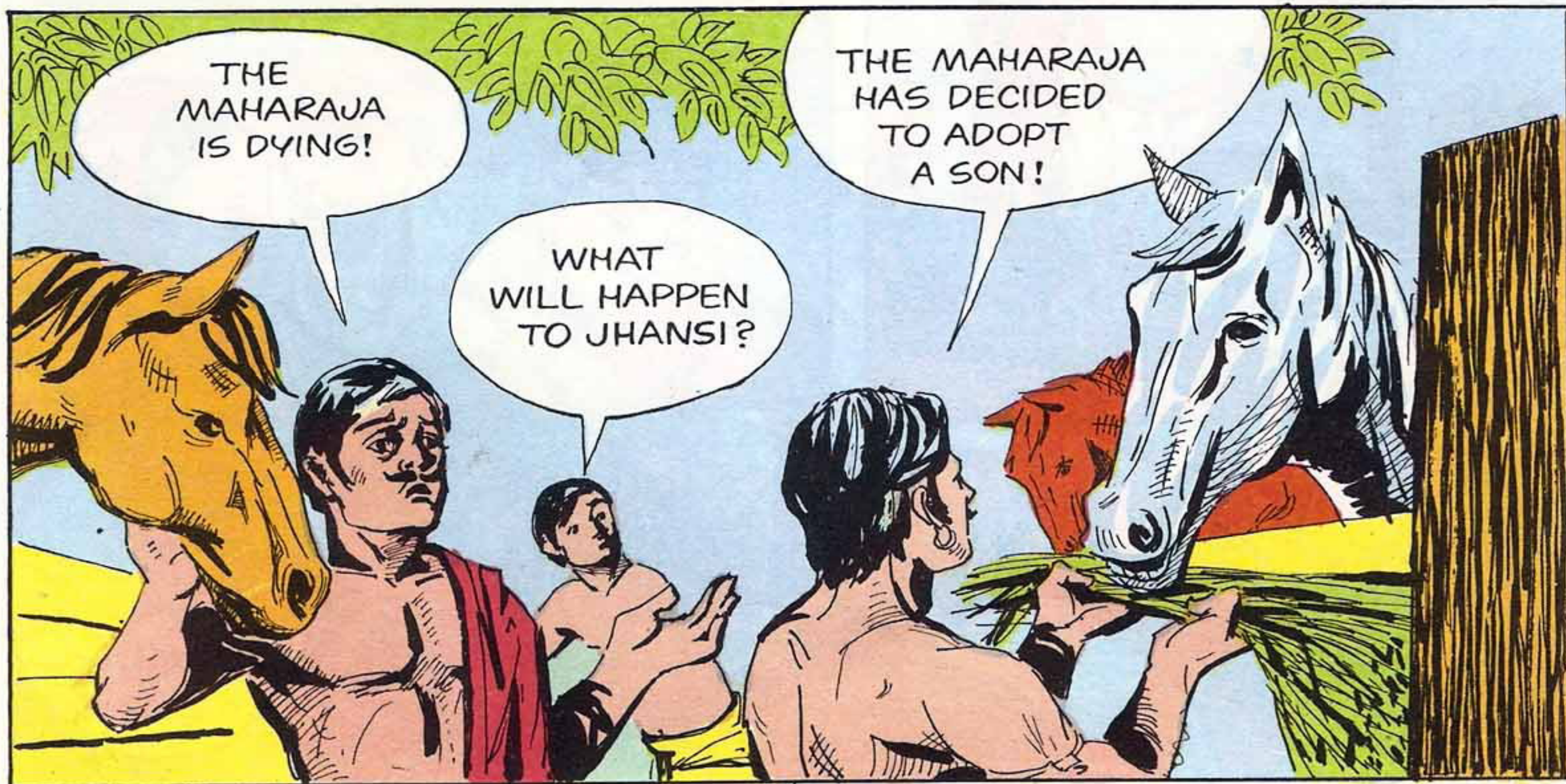


ALAS! I HAVE NO SON TO SUCCEED ME! WHAT SHALL I DO?

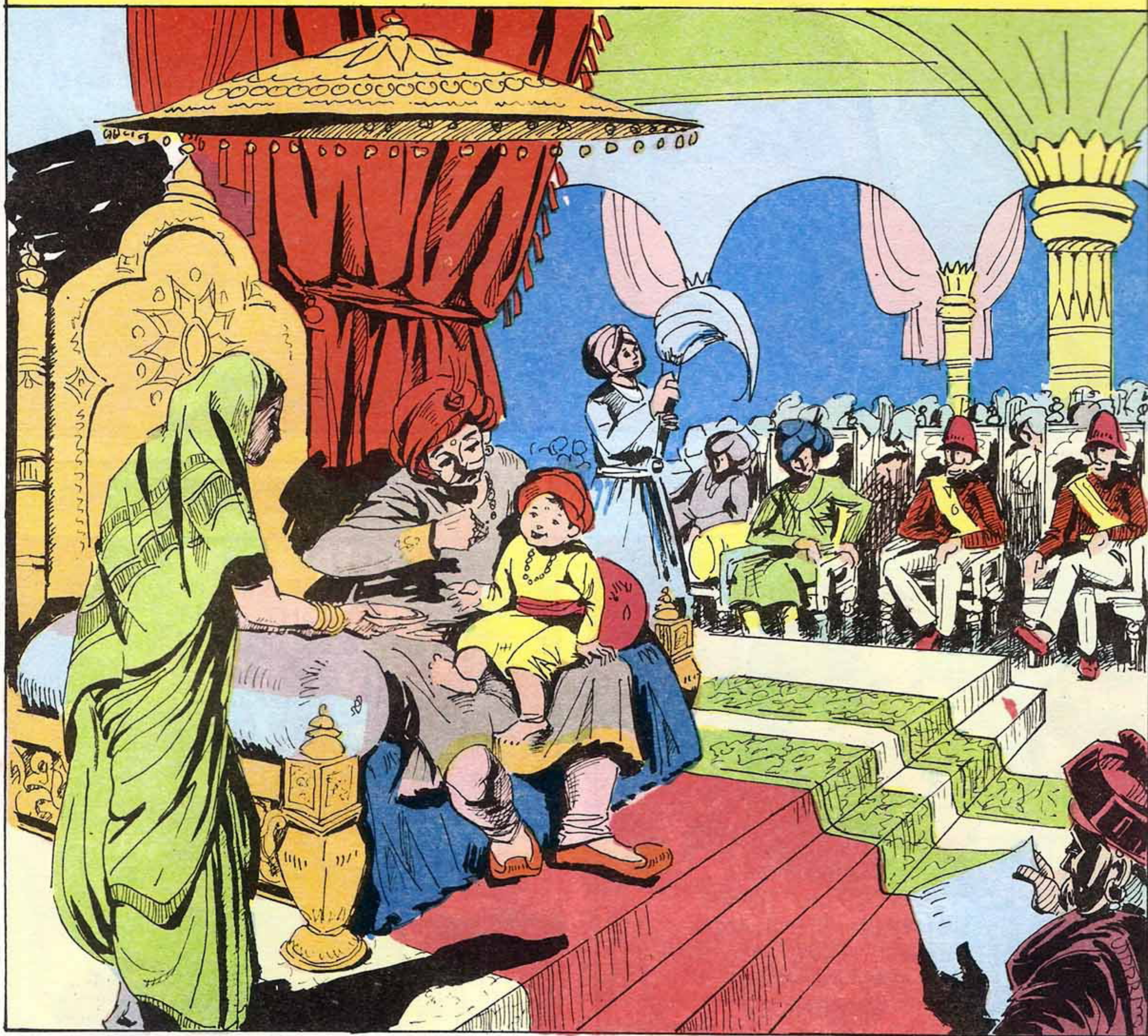
THE MAHARAJA IS DYING!

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO JHANSI?

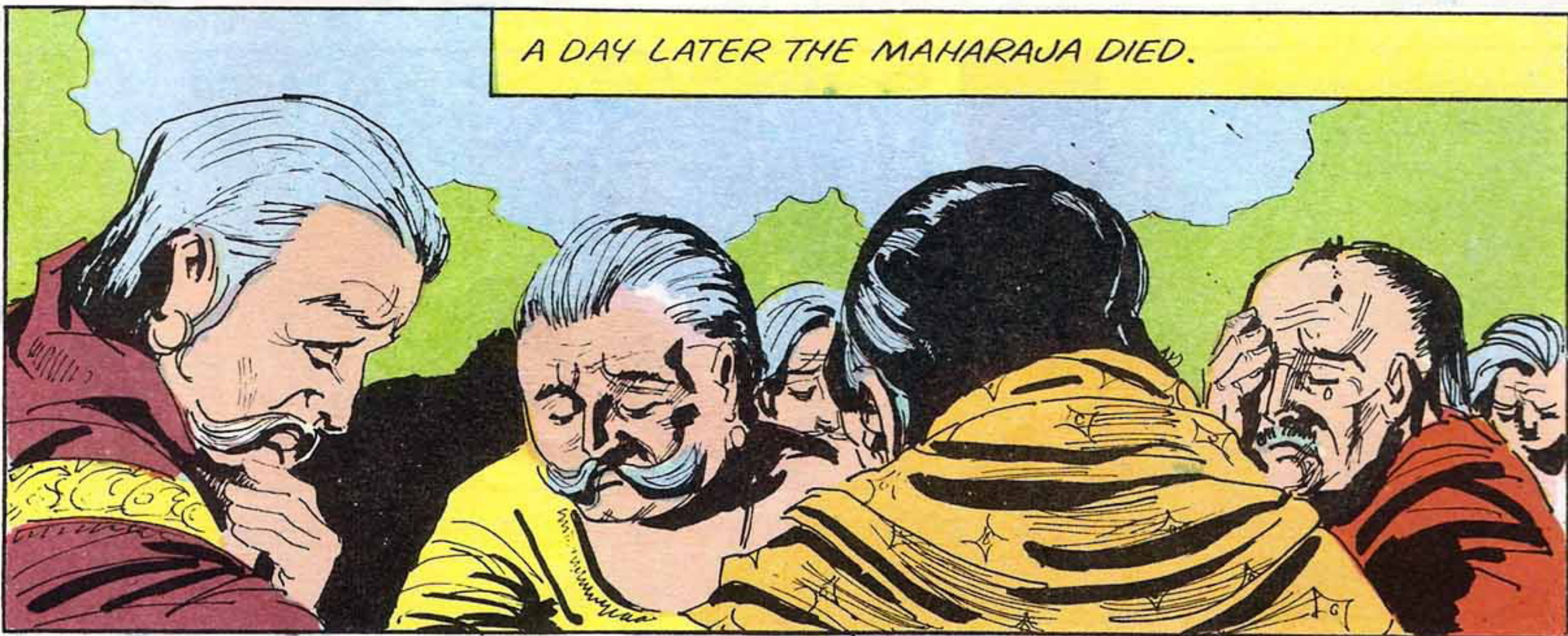
THE MAHARAJA HAS DECIDED TO ADOPT A SON!



THE ADOPTION TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER 19, 1853.



A DAY LATER THE MAHARAJA DIED.

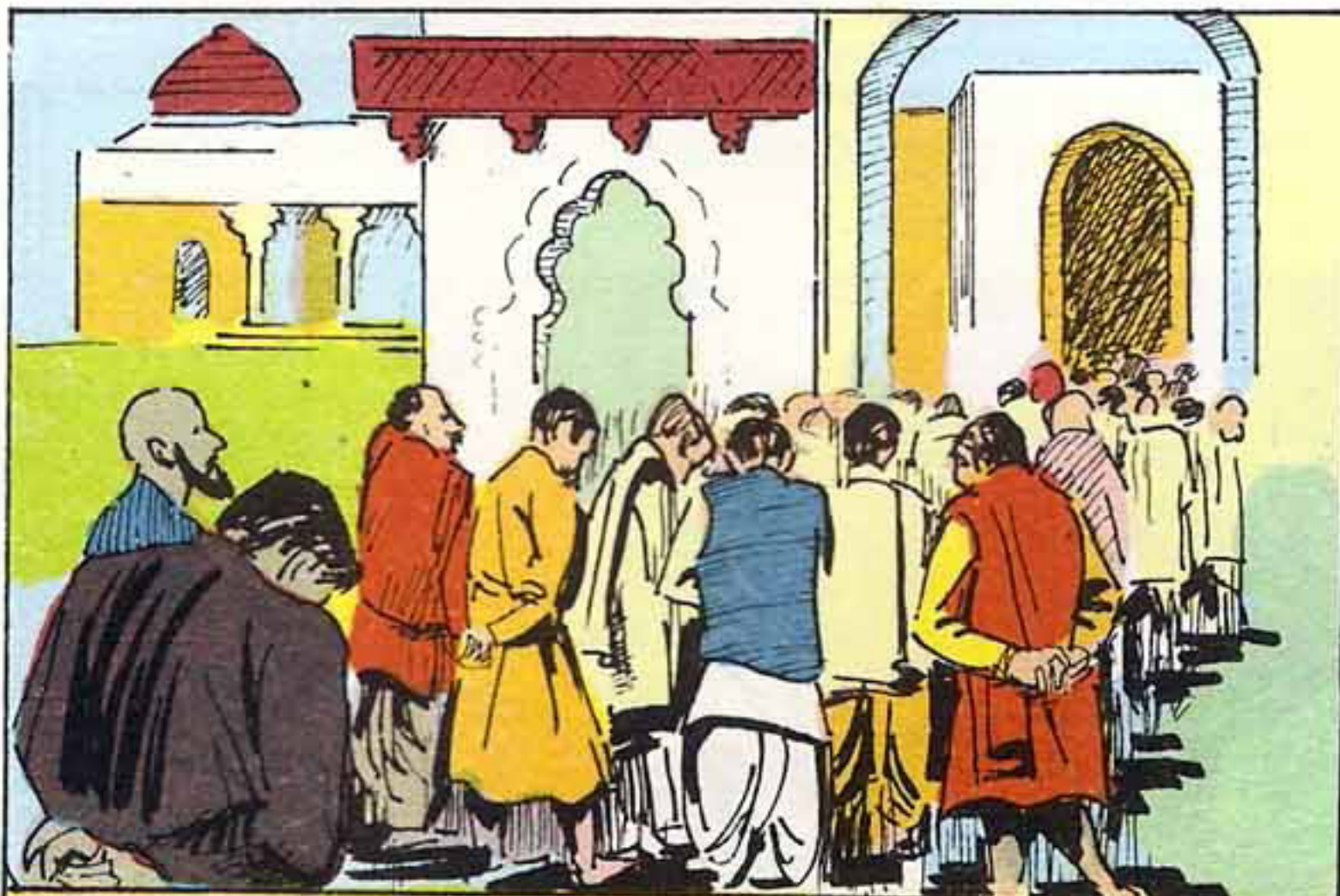




SO RANI LAKSHMIBAI DEVOTED HERSELF TO THE EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE.



BUT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL REJECTED THE PETITION.



IT WAS A DAY OF MOURNING, IN JHANSI.

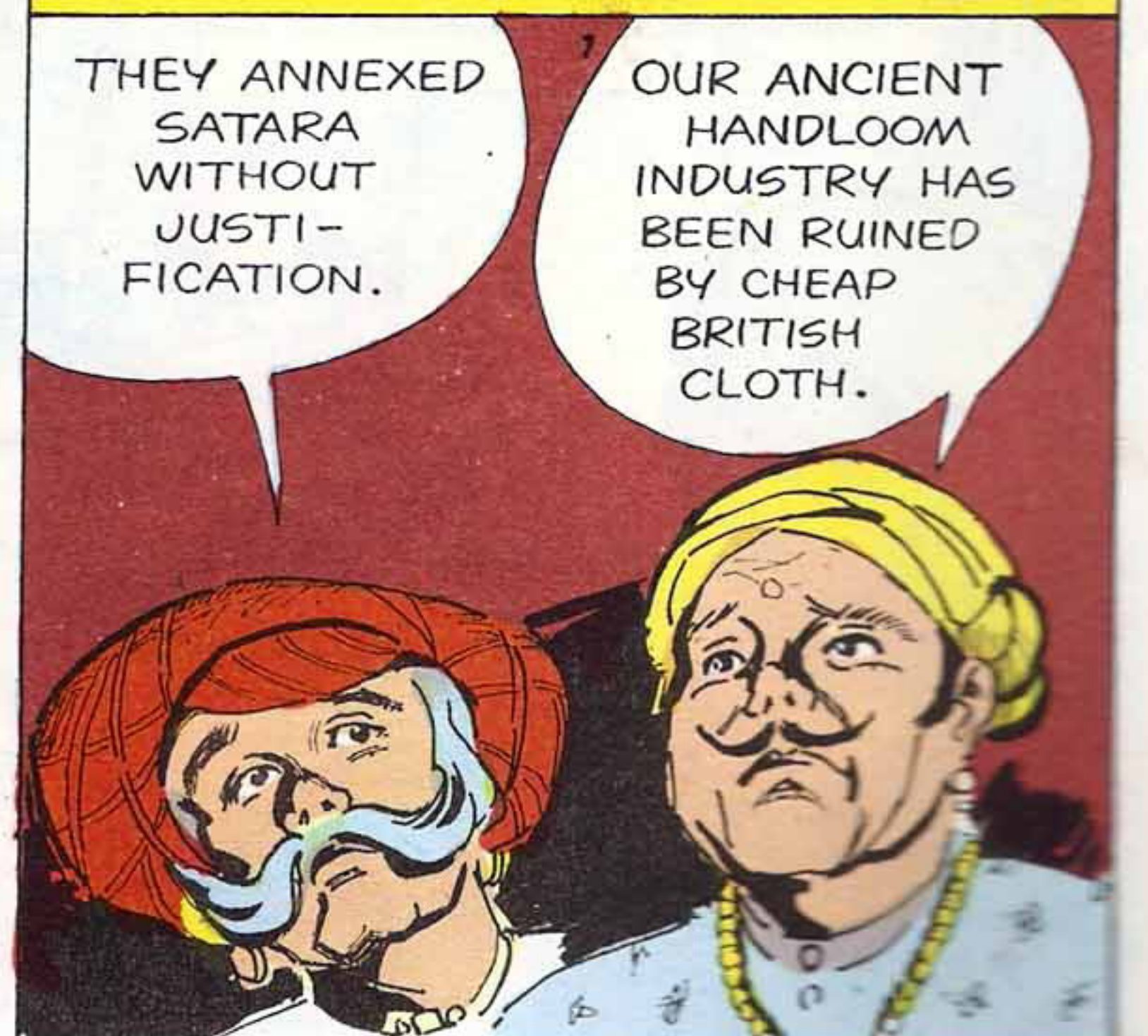
THE COMPLETE SUPPORT OF HER PEOPLE RENEWED LAKSHMIBAI'S SPIRIT.



BUT...



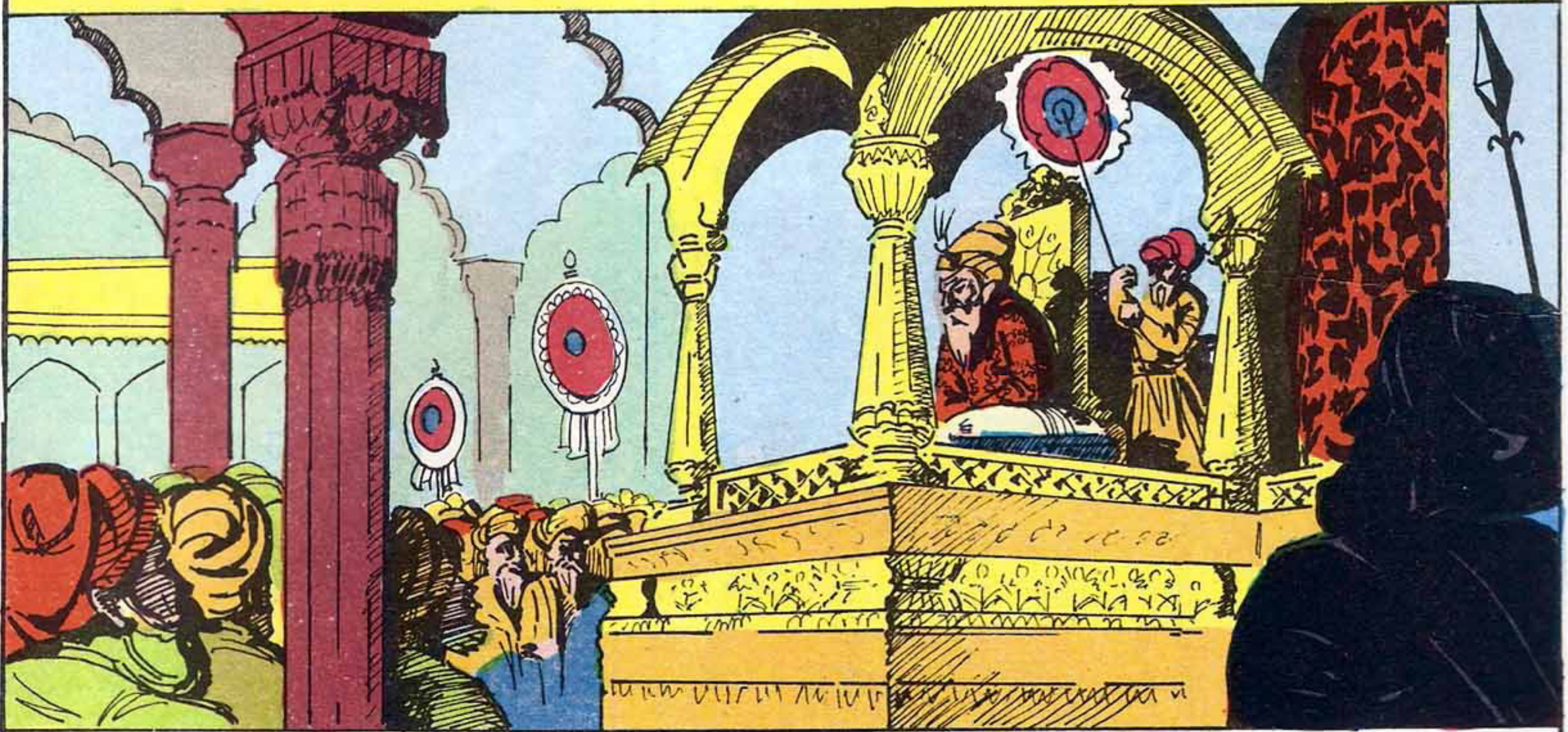
THE BRITISH WERE BECOMING MORE AND MORE UNPOPULAR.



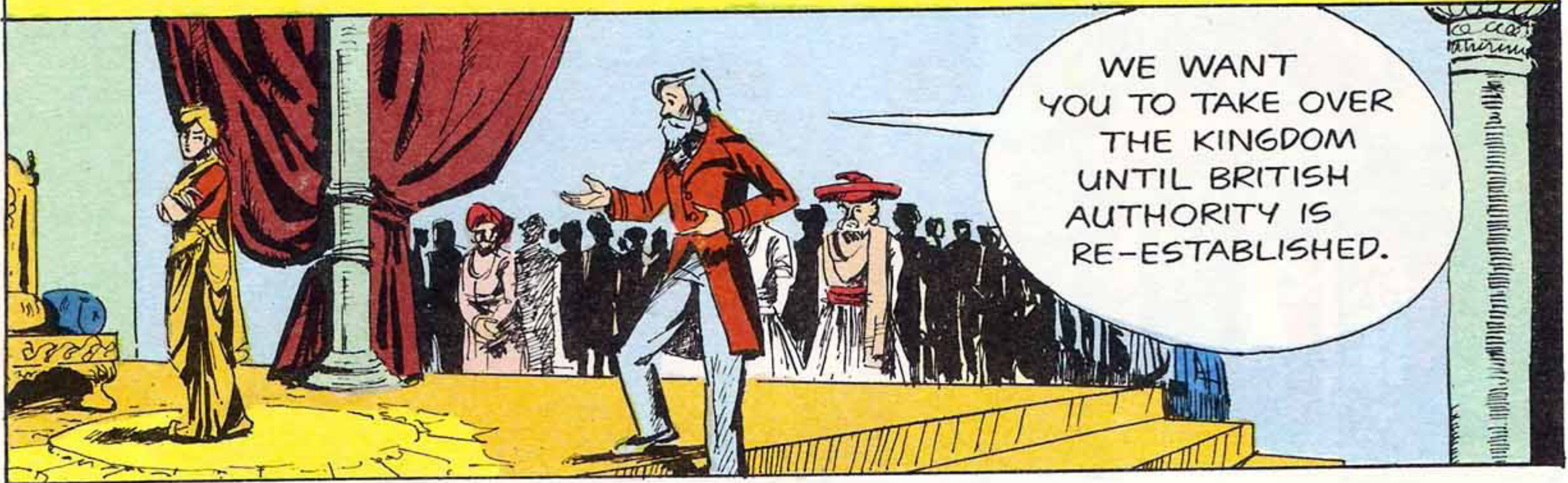
THEN THEY MARCHED TO DELHI WHERE THEY RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME.



THE AGED EX-EMPEROR WAS REINSTATED ON THE MUGHAL THRONE AND DELHI BECAME THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS.

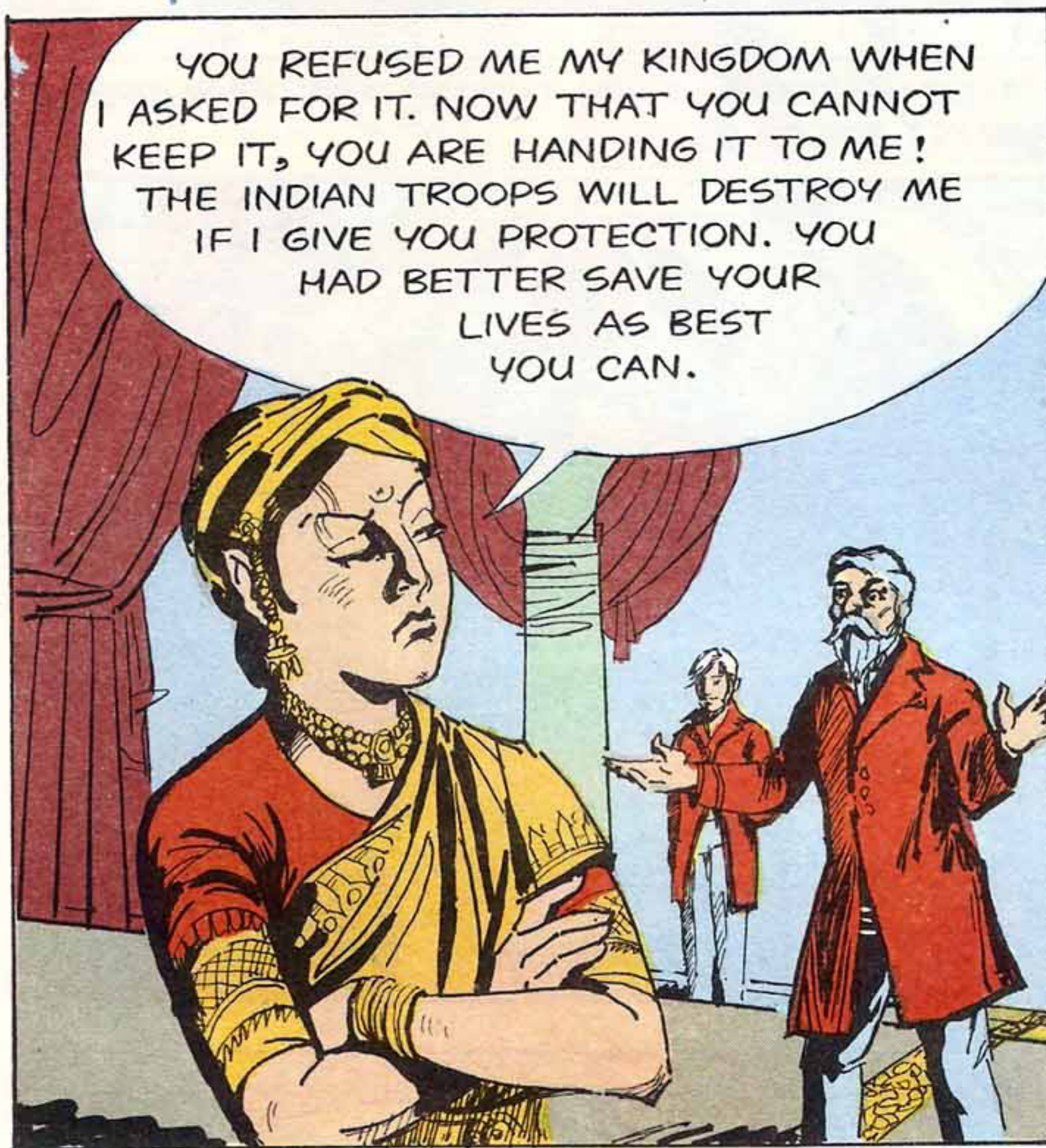


THE BRITISH RAN TO LAKSHMIBAI AND BEGGED FOR HELP.



WE WANT YOU TO TAKE OVER THE KINGDOM UNTIL BRITISH AUTHORITY IS RE-ESTABLISHED.

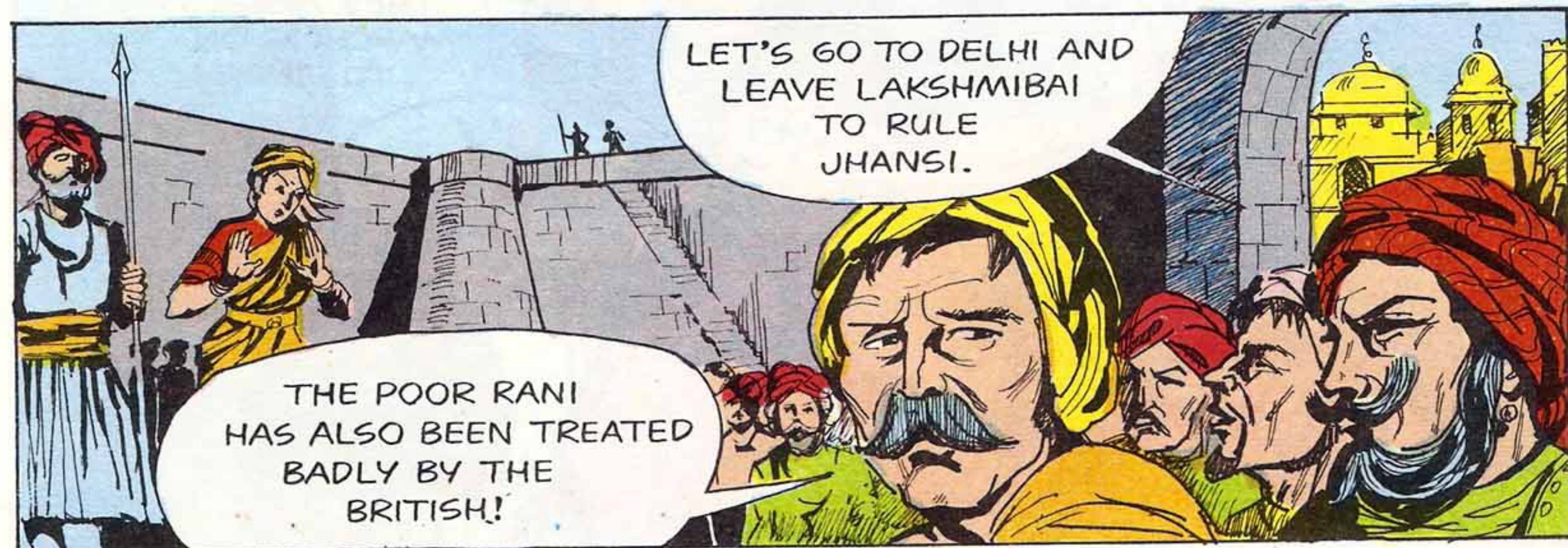
YOU REFUSED ME MY KINGDOM WHEN I ASKED FOR IT. NOW THAT YOU CANNOT KEEP IT, YOU ARE HANDING IT TO ME! THE INDIAN TROOPS WILL DESTROY ME IF I GIVE YOU PROTECTION. YOU HAD BETTER SAVE YOUR LIVES AS BEST YOU CAN.



THE BRITISH WERE POWERLESS AGAINST THE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS AND WERE COMPLETELY ROUTED.

LET'S GO TO DELHI AND LEAVE LAKSHMIBAI TO RULE JHANSI.

THE POOR RANI HAS ALSO BEEN TREATED BADLY BY THE BRITISH!

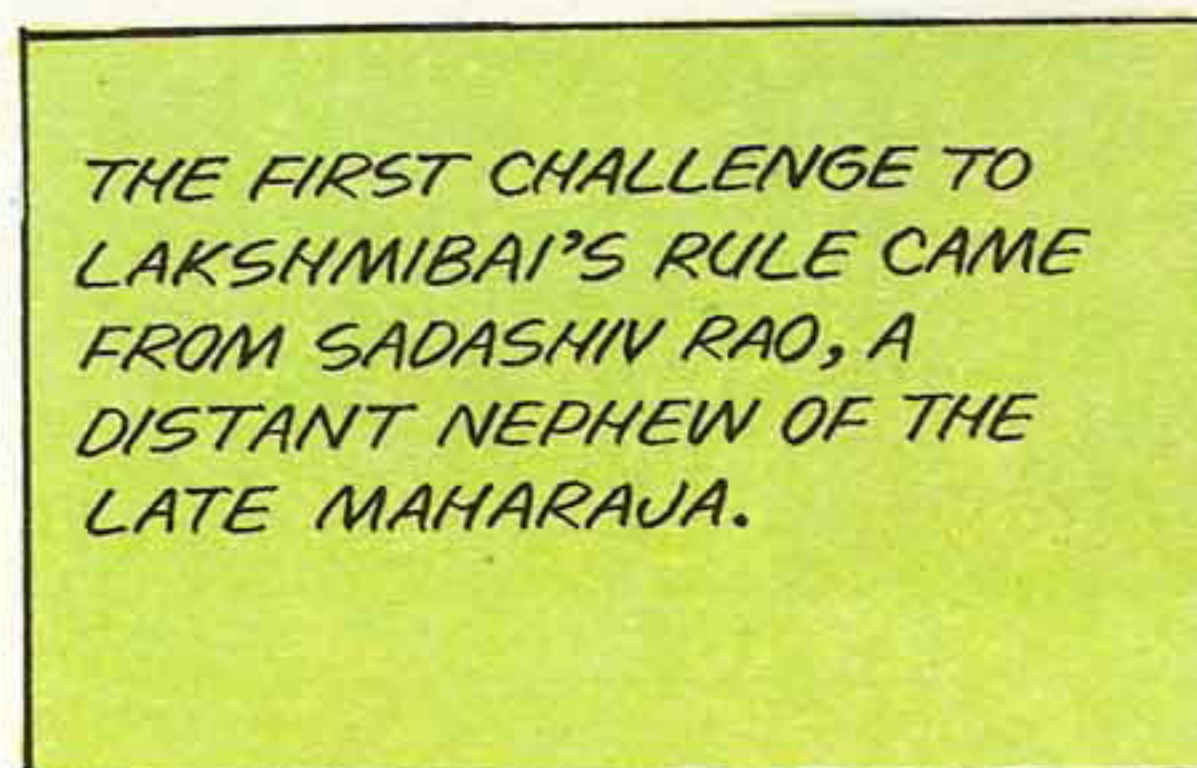


BUT RANI LAKSHMIBAI CALLED A CONFERENCE OF ALL CLASSES OF HER PEOPLE.



A LARGE CROWD WAS ANXIOUSLY WAITING OUTSIDE FOR THE DECISION OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.



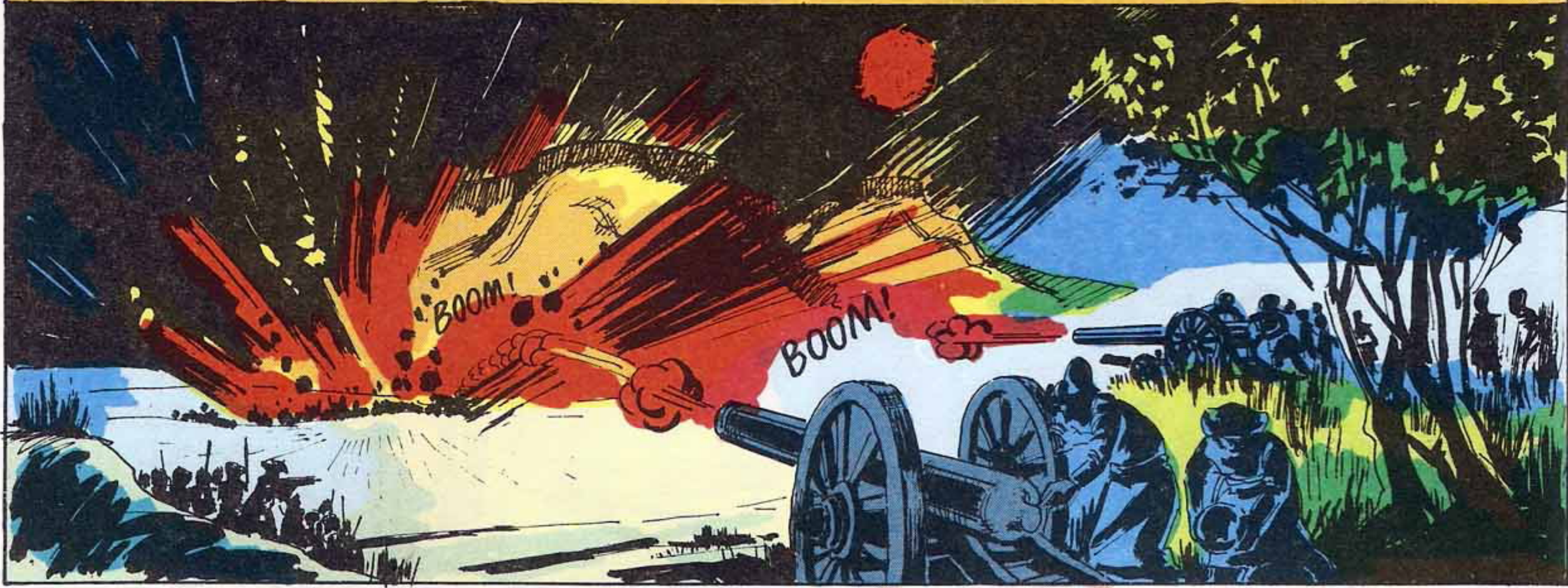


THE PRINCES OF DATIA AND ORCHA, TWO NEIGHBOUR STATES, TRIED TO WREST JHANSI FROM LAKSHMIBAI BUT HER TROOPS DEFEATED THEM.



LAKSHMIBAI'S TROOPS OPENED FIRE AND THE INVADERS RETREATED IN CONFUSION.

THE ORCHA TROOPS SILENTLY MOVED FOUR GUNS UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS AND MADE A MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE JHANSI FORCES.

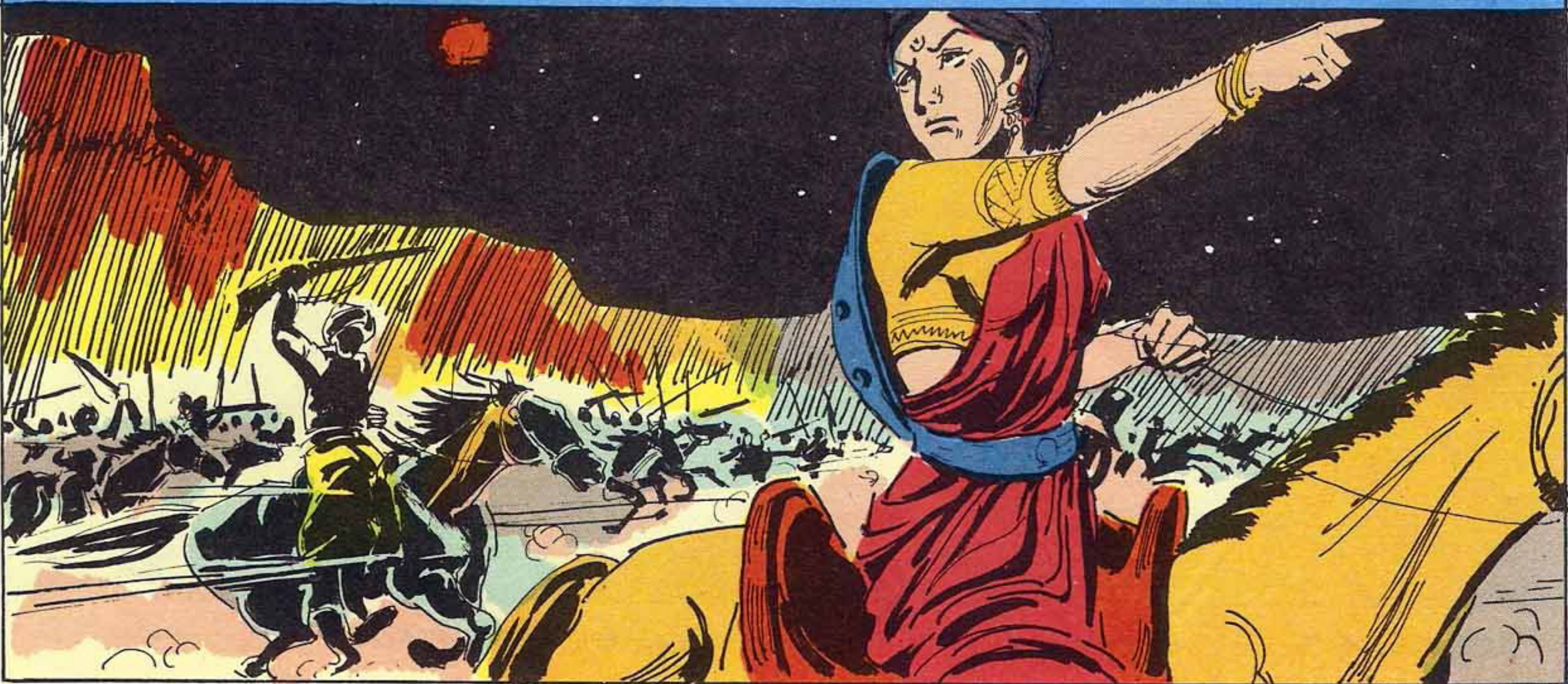


WE ARE
DEFEATED!
ALL IS
LOST.

DON'T LOSE COURAGE! JHANSI
NEVER ADMITS
DEFEAT!



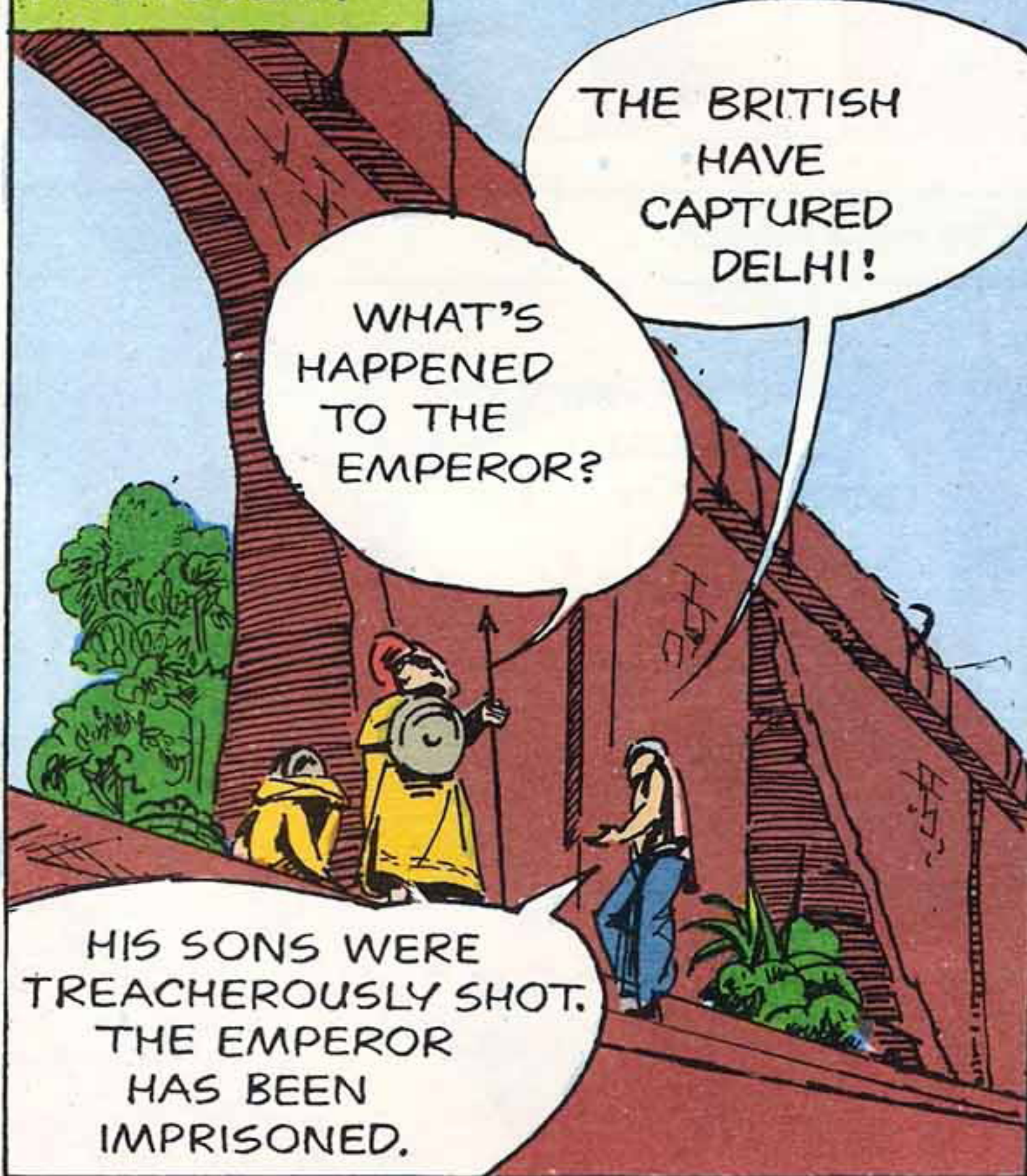
ENCOURAGED BY THEIR QUEEN, THE JHANSI TROOPS ROUTED THE ENEMY.



RANI LAKSHMIBAI HELD A GRAND DURBAR TO CELEBRATE HER VICTORY.



HOWEVER THERE WAS BAD NEWS FROM DELHI.



NANA SAHEB'S ARMY HAS BEEN DEFEATED AND KANPUR REOCCUPIED.

ALL OF OUDH HAS BEEN RECONQUERED BY THE BRITISH.

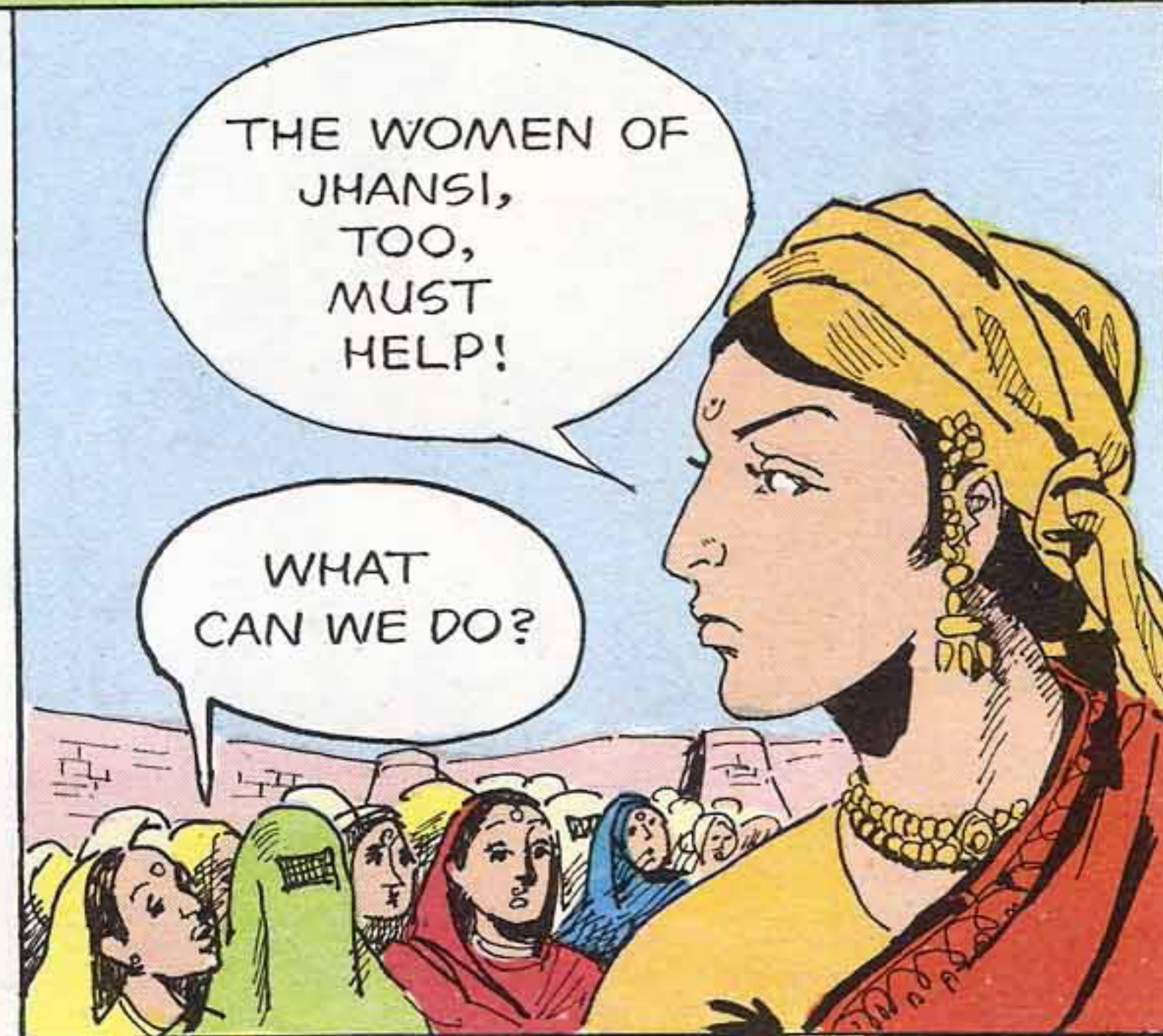
WILL IT BE JHANSI'S TURN NEXT?



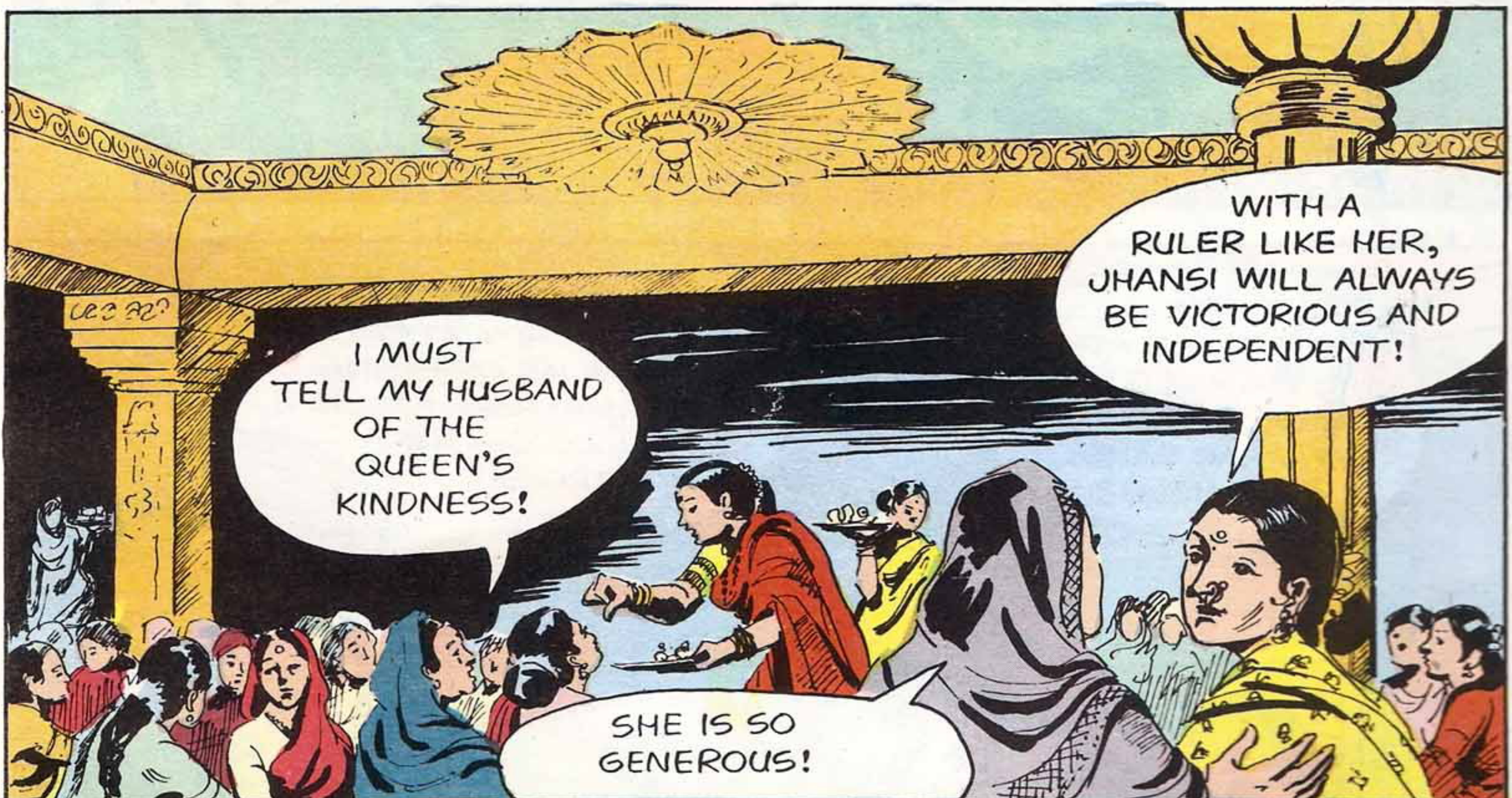
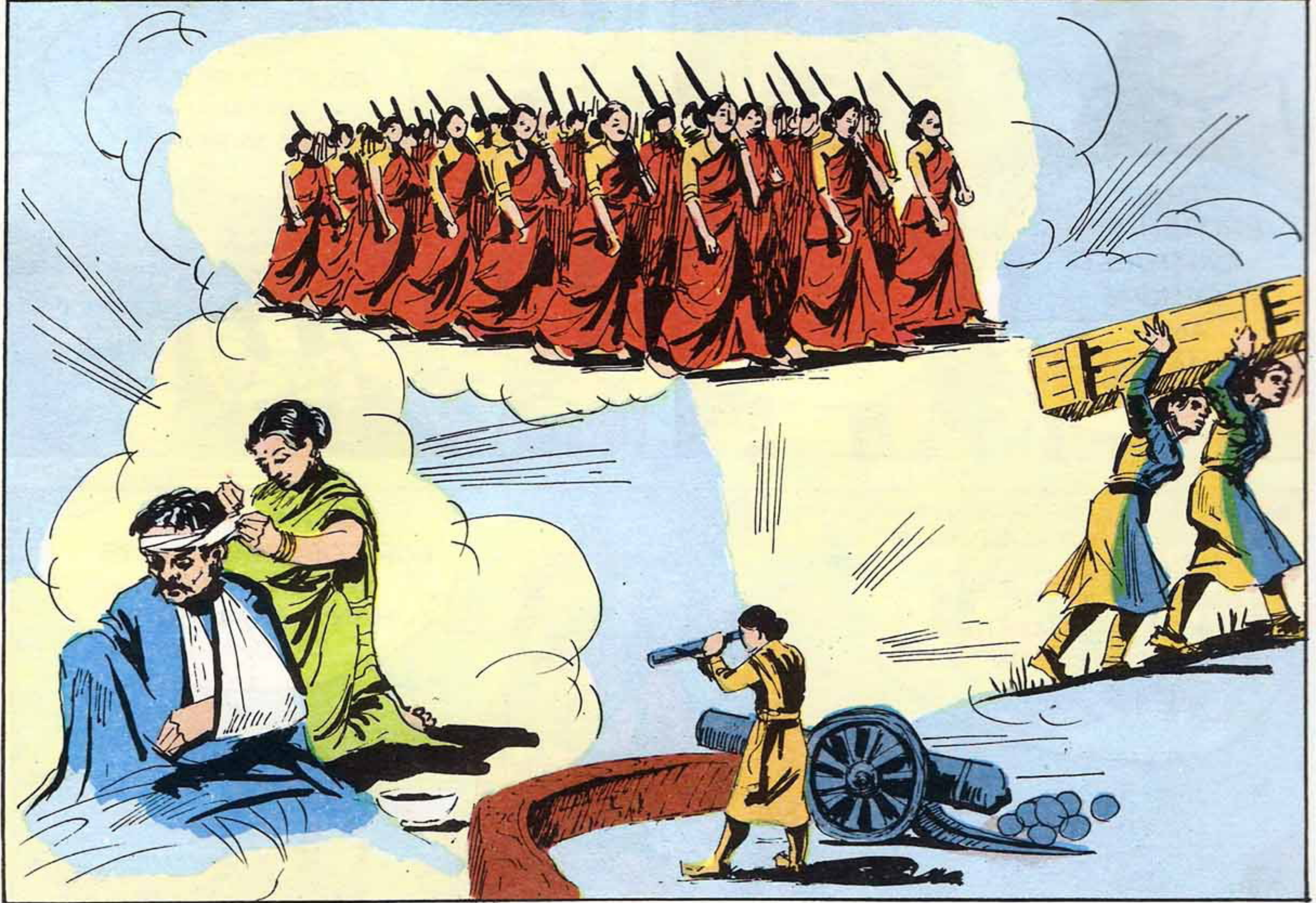
SO LAKSHMIBAI BEGAN TO MAKE PREPARATIONS TO FACE AN ATTACK FROM THE BRITISH.



THEN THE RANI CALLED FOR MEN TO ENLIST IN HER ARMY.



WOMEN WERE ENLISTED AS TROOPERS AND GUNNERS AND TAUGHT TO RIDE, SHOOT AND FENCE. THEY TOOK ON WATCH DUTIES AND CARED FOR THE WOUNDED.



LAKSHMIBAI HELD A HALDI-KUMKUM CEREMONY TO INSPIRE CONFIDENCE IN THE WOMEN.



THE
BRITISH HAVE
CAPTURED
SEHORE
AND
RAHATGARH!

THEY
HAVE
TAKEN
SAGAR!



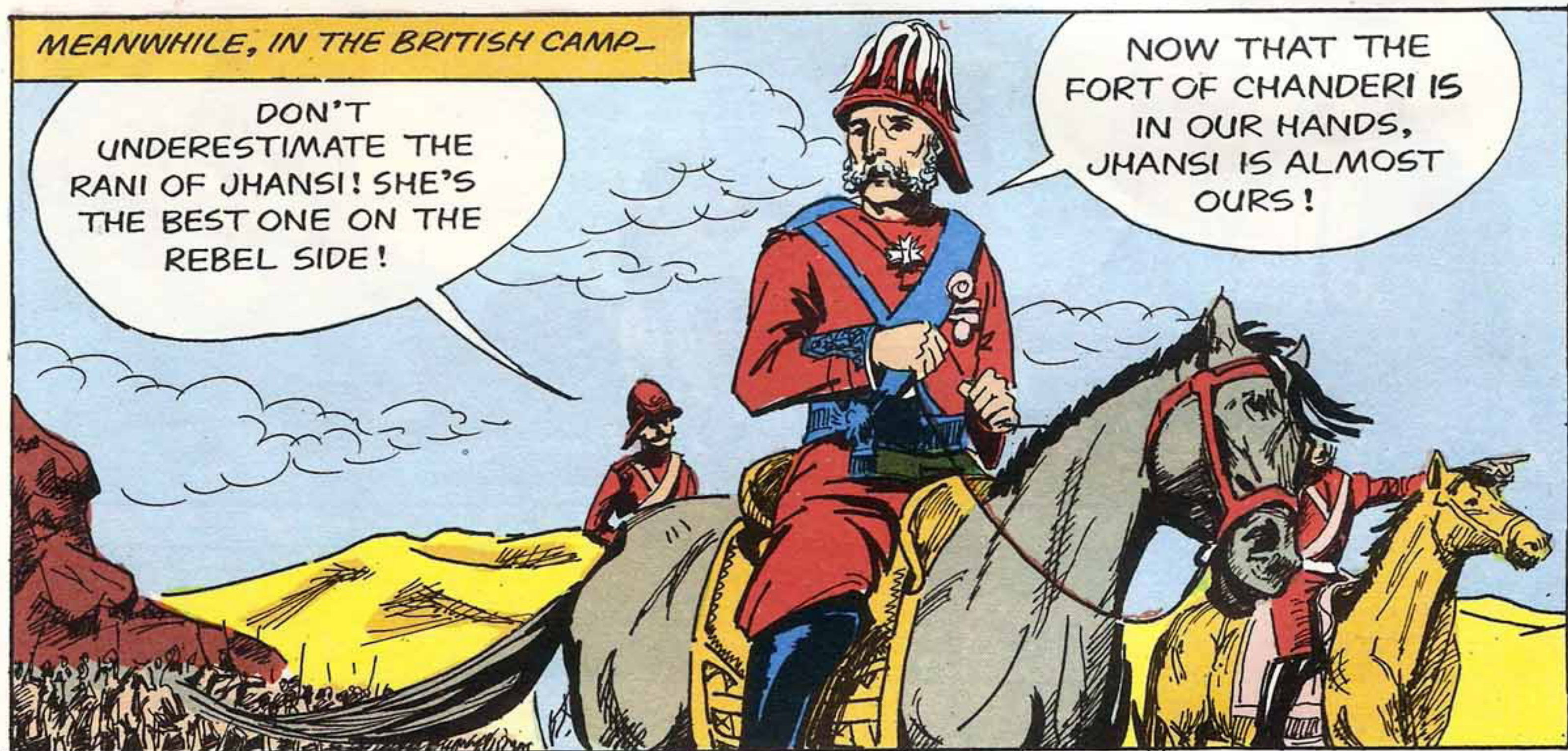
THEY'VE DEFEATED OUR
ALLY, THE RAJA OF
BANPUR!

THEY'LL
BE AT OUR GATES
WITHIN A
FEW WEEKS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE BRITISH CAMP—

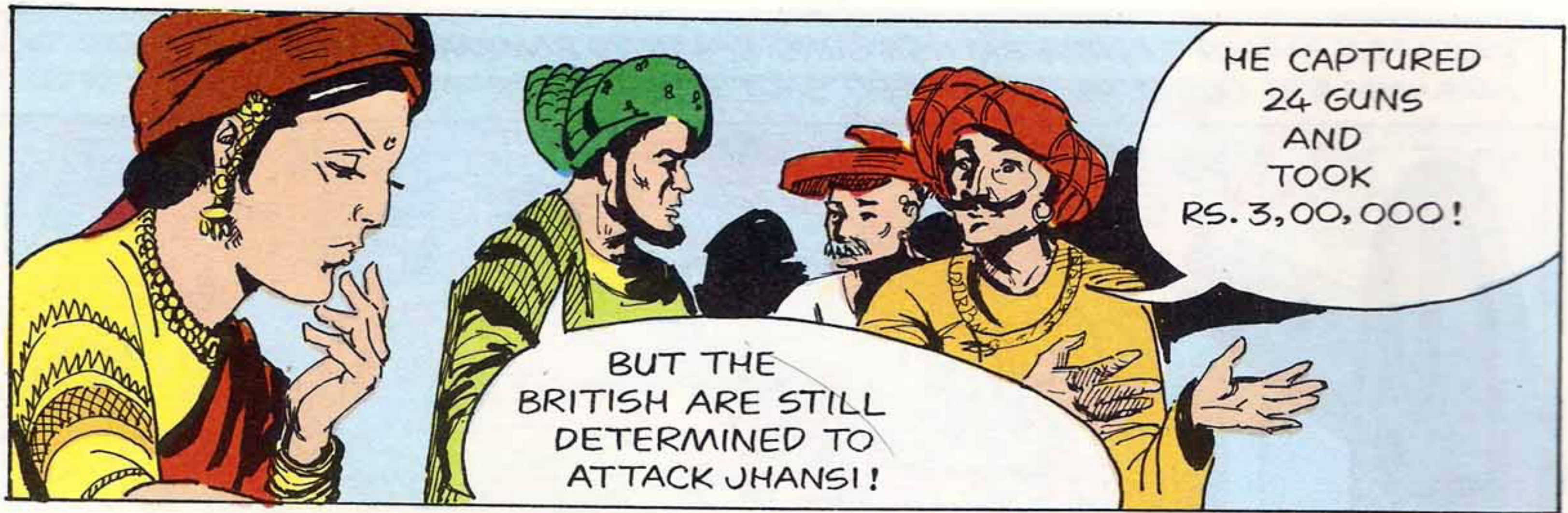
DON'T
UNDERESTIMATE THE
RANI OF JHANSI! SHE'S
THE BEST ONE ON THE
REBEL SIDE!

NOW THAT THE
FORT OF CHANDERI IS
IN OUR HANDS,
JHANSI IS ALMOST
OURS!



WHY
DON'T YOU ASK
YOUR OLD
FRIENDS TATYA TOPE
AND RAO SAHEB
FOR HELP?

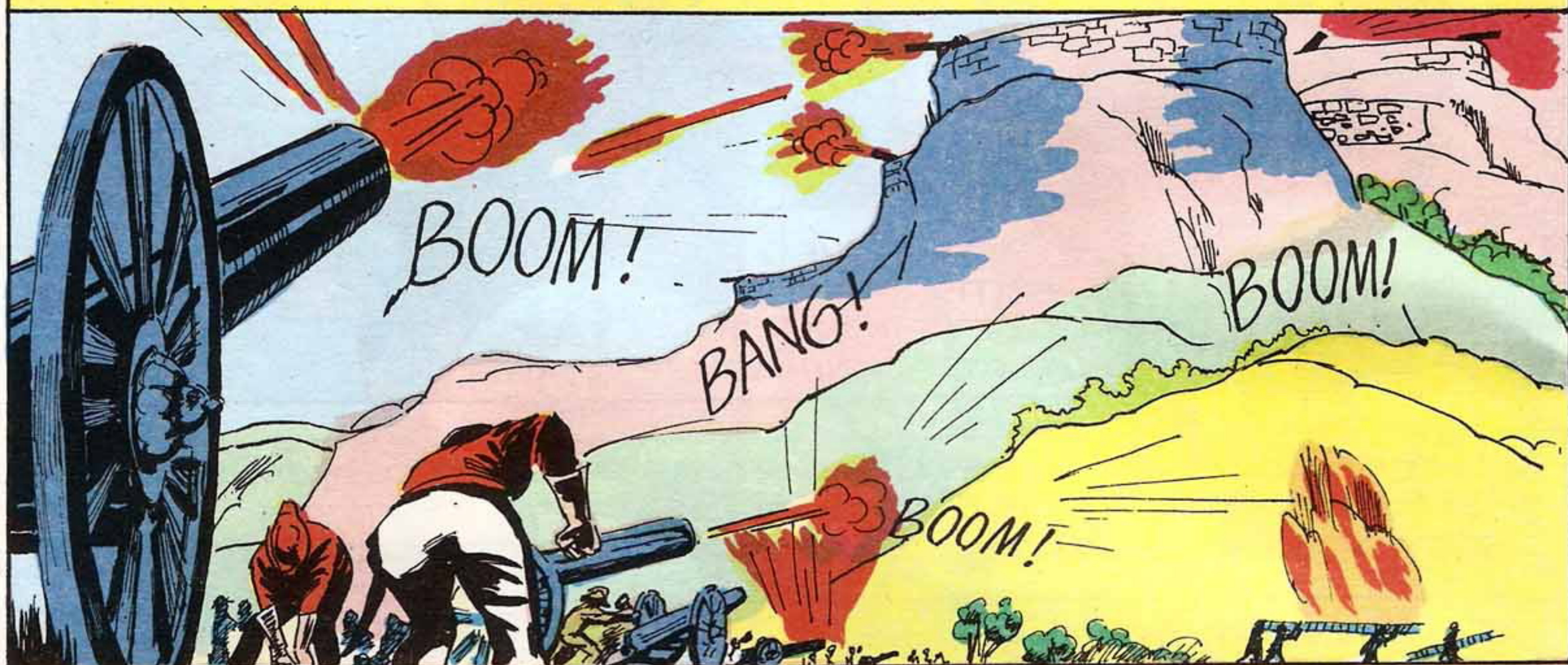
I HAVE. TATYA TOPE
HAS ALREADY ATTACKED
THE RAJAS OF PANNA
AND CHARKHARI, STAUNCH
ALLIES OF THE
BRITISH.



LAKSHMIBAI CALLED A REPRESENTATIVE MEETING OF HER PEOPLE AND ASKED IF THEY WANTED TO DEFEND THE CITY OR SUE FOR PEACE.



EARLY ON MARCH 25, 1858 BRITISH GUNS BEGAN TO BOMBARD JHANSI. BUT LAKSHMIBAI'S GUNNERS ANSWERED SHOT FOR SHOT.



FOR 5 DAYS THE BRITISH GUNS POUNDED DAY AND NIGHT BUT WITH LITTLE RESULT.

THEN A PARAPET AND TOWER WERE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.

COME ON, LET'S REPAIR THE BREACH!

WE'LL NEVER LET THE FOREIGNER IN!



LOOK! TATYA TOPE IS COMING TO OUR RESCUE!

WE'RE SAVED!



IT'S TATYA TOPE.

THEY'VE LIT AN ENORMOUS BONFIRE!

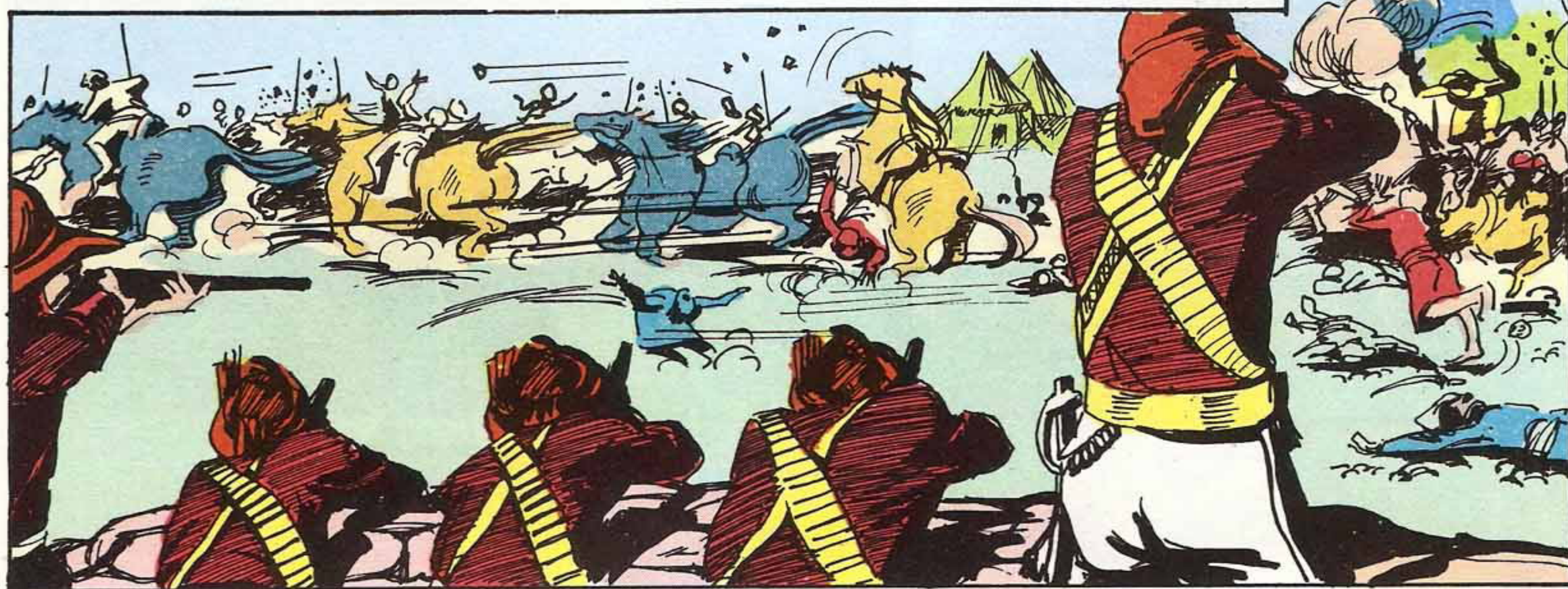
THE BRITISH WILL NEVER RULE JHANSI.



AT NIGHT THE BRITISH BROUGHT TWO 24-POUNDERS AND BOMBARDED TATYA'S MEN.



AND THE NEXT DAY THE BRITISH ROUTED TATYA'S ARMY IN A SINGLE ENCOUNTER.



LAKSHMIBAI ASSEMBLED HER OFFICERS.

ALL IS LOST!

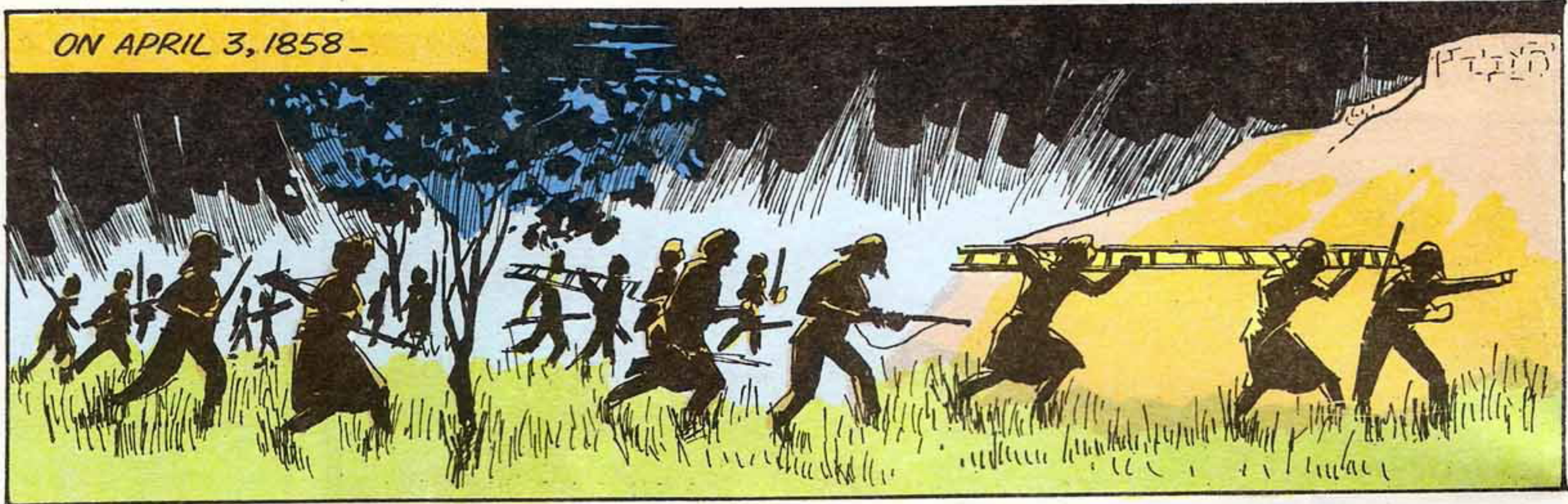
WE MUSTN'T LOSE HEART. WE CAN FIGHT THE BRITISH ALONE. YOU HAVE FOUGHT WITH MATCHLESS COURAGE BEFORE. I AM DEPENDING ON YOU. I KNOW YOU WILL DO IT!

WE WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN.

VICTORY WILL BE OURS!

WE WON'T GIVE UP.

ON APRIL 3, 1858 -



LOOK!
THERE'S WHERE
WE SHOULD
CLIMB!



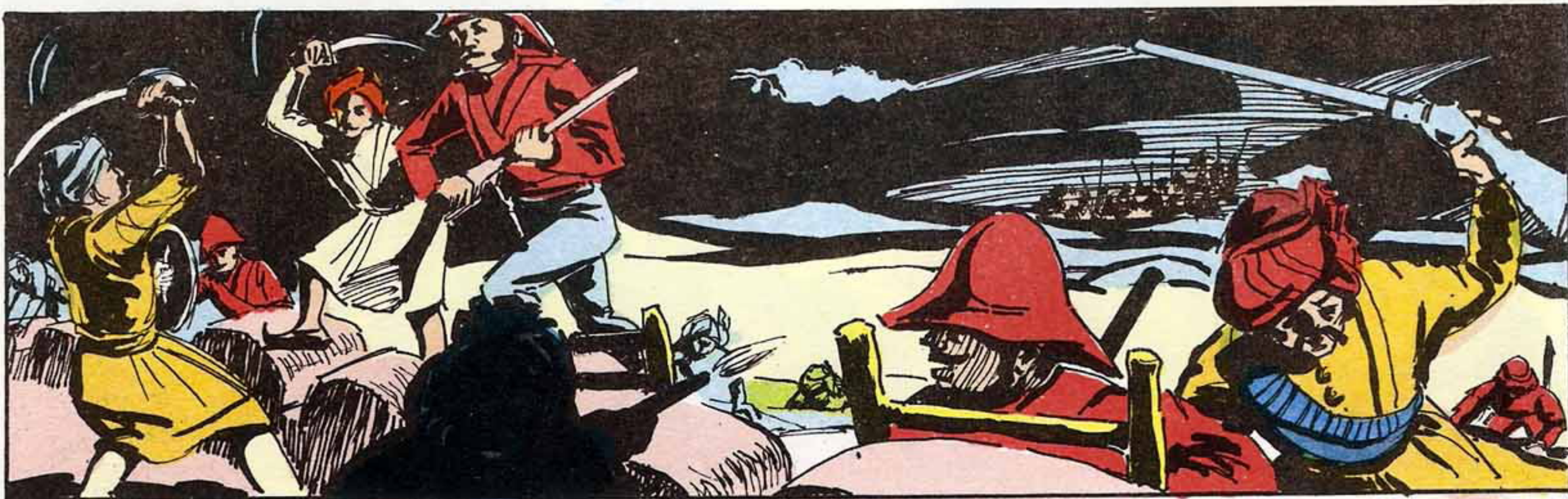
OUR ALLY IN THE QUEEN'S
CAMP HAS KEPT HIS WORD!

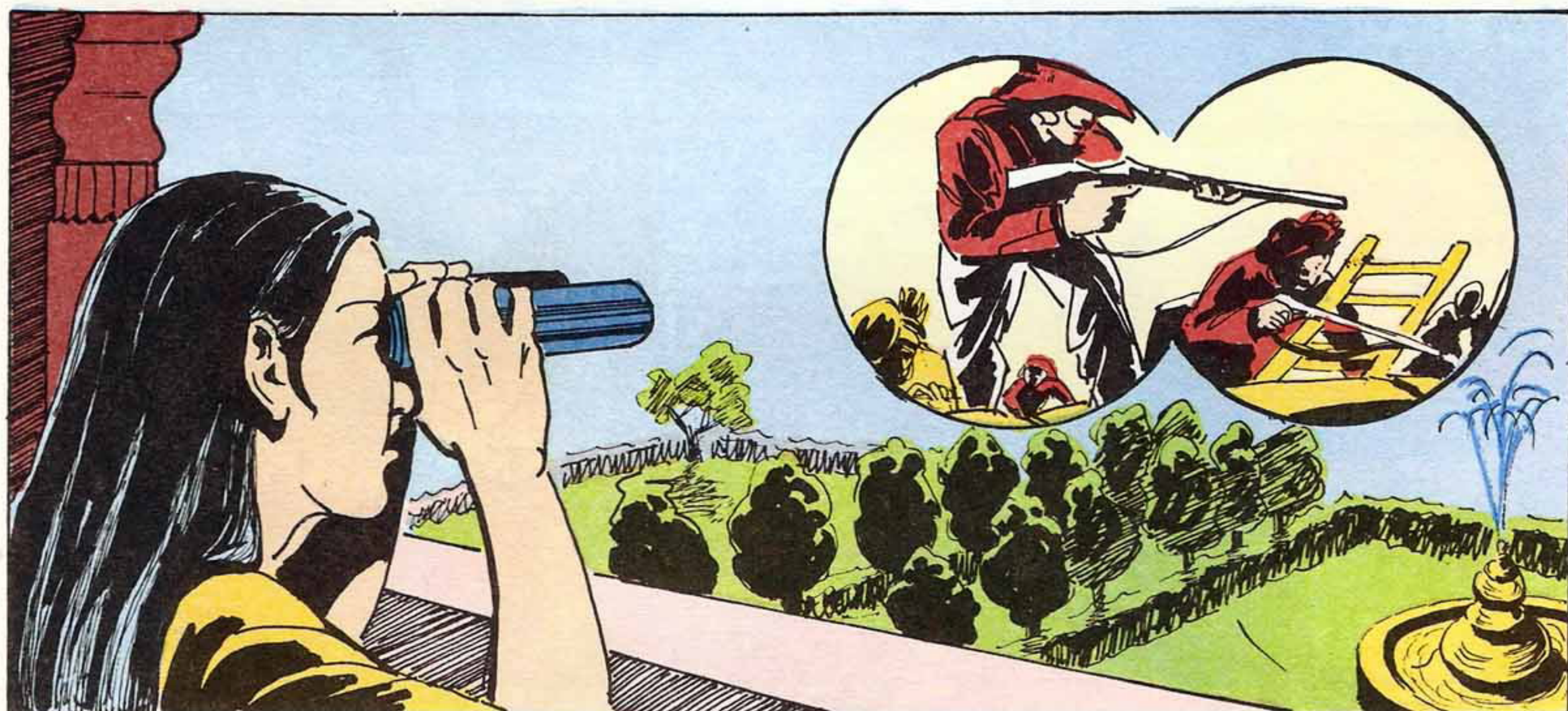
HE
WAS WELL-
PAID!



THE BRITISH
ARE UPON US!

LET THEM COME!
WE'LL SHOW THEM
HOW THE
MEN OF JHANSI
FIGHT!

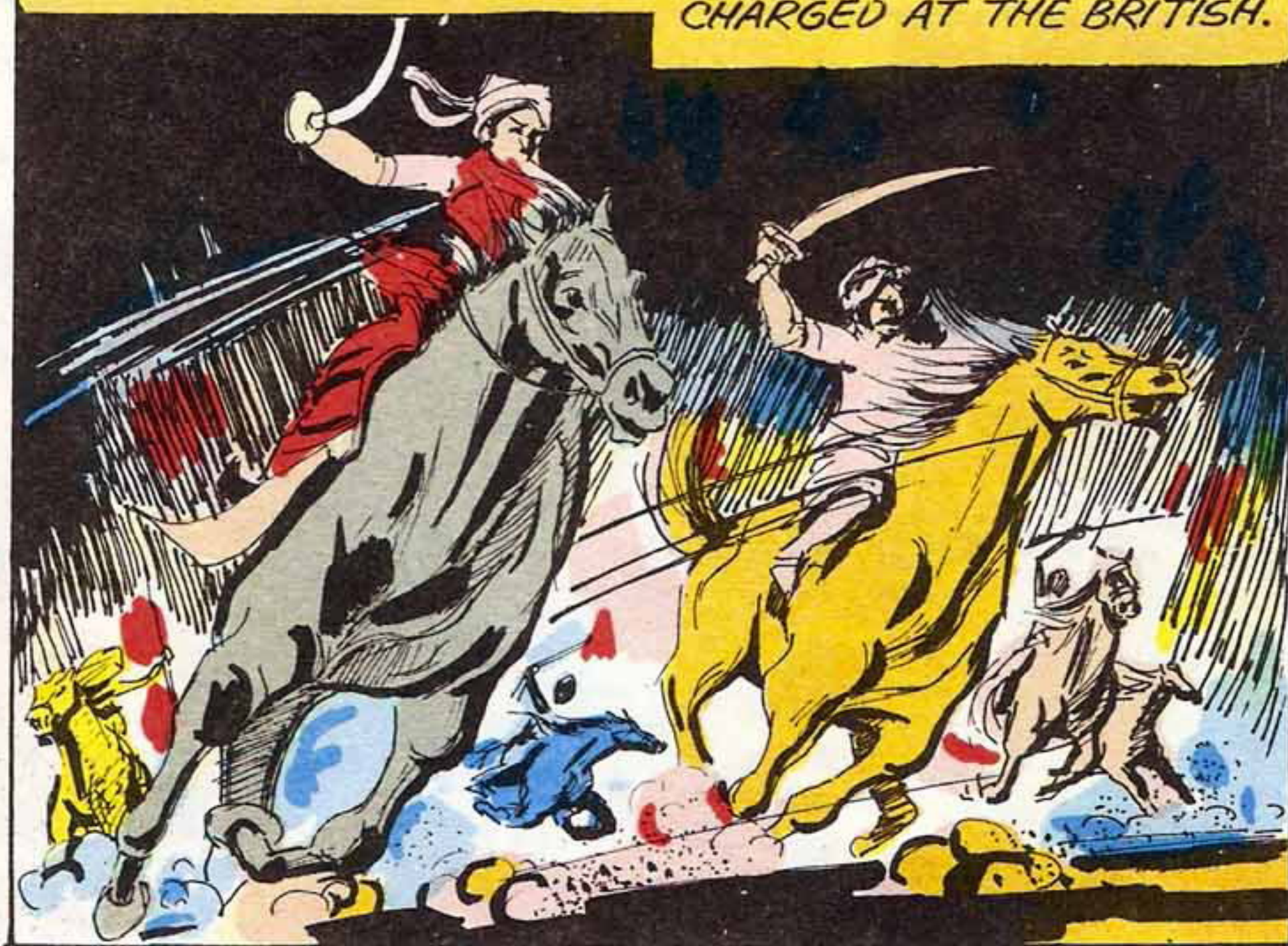




THERE'S NO HOPE NOW!
ALL CHANCE OF VICTORY IS
LOST! SHOULD
I SURRENDER?

NO,
NEVER!

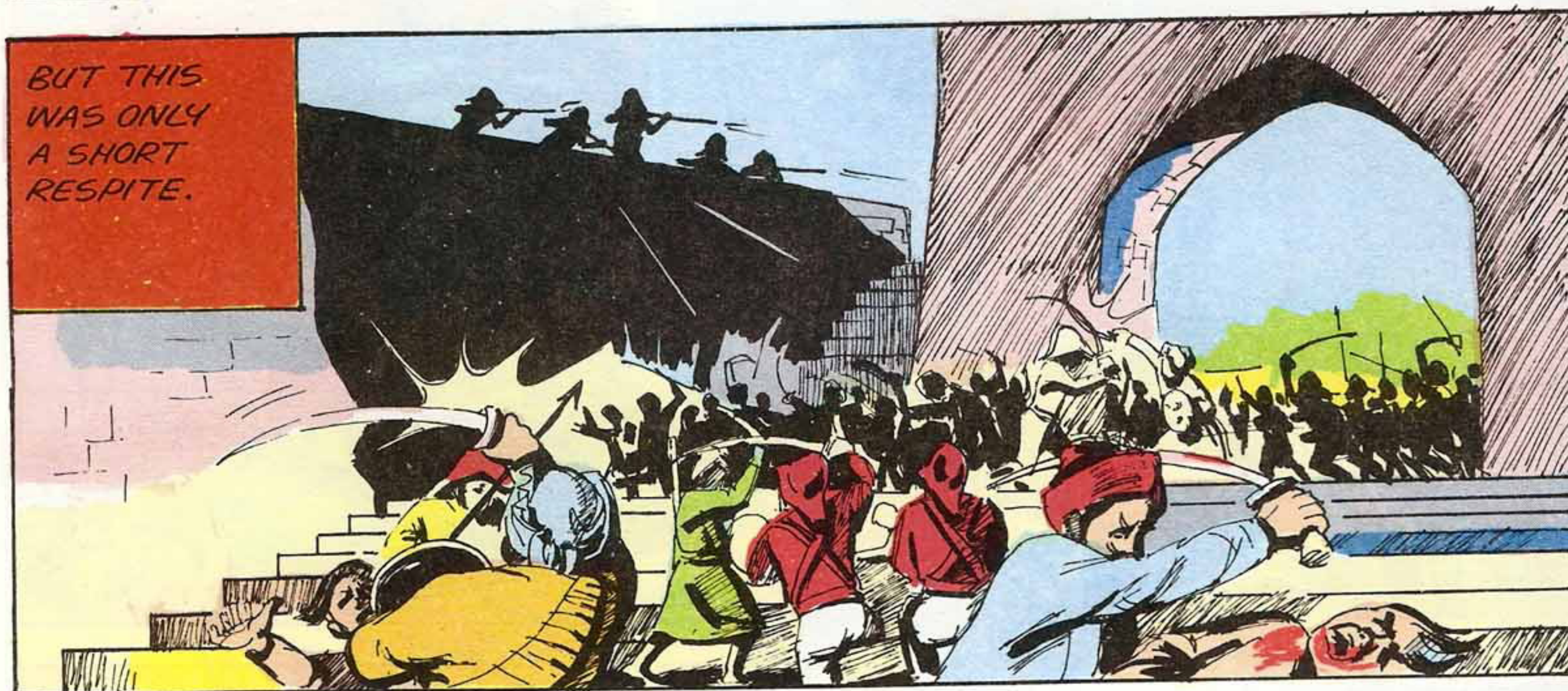
AND LAKSHMIBAI AT THE FOREFRONT OF HER TROOPS
CHARGED AT THE BRITISH.



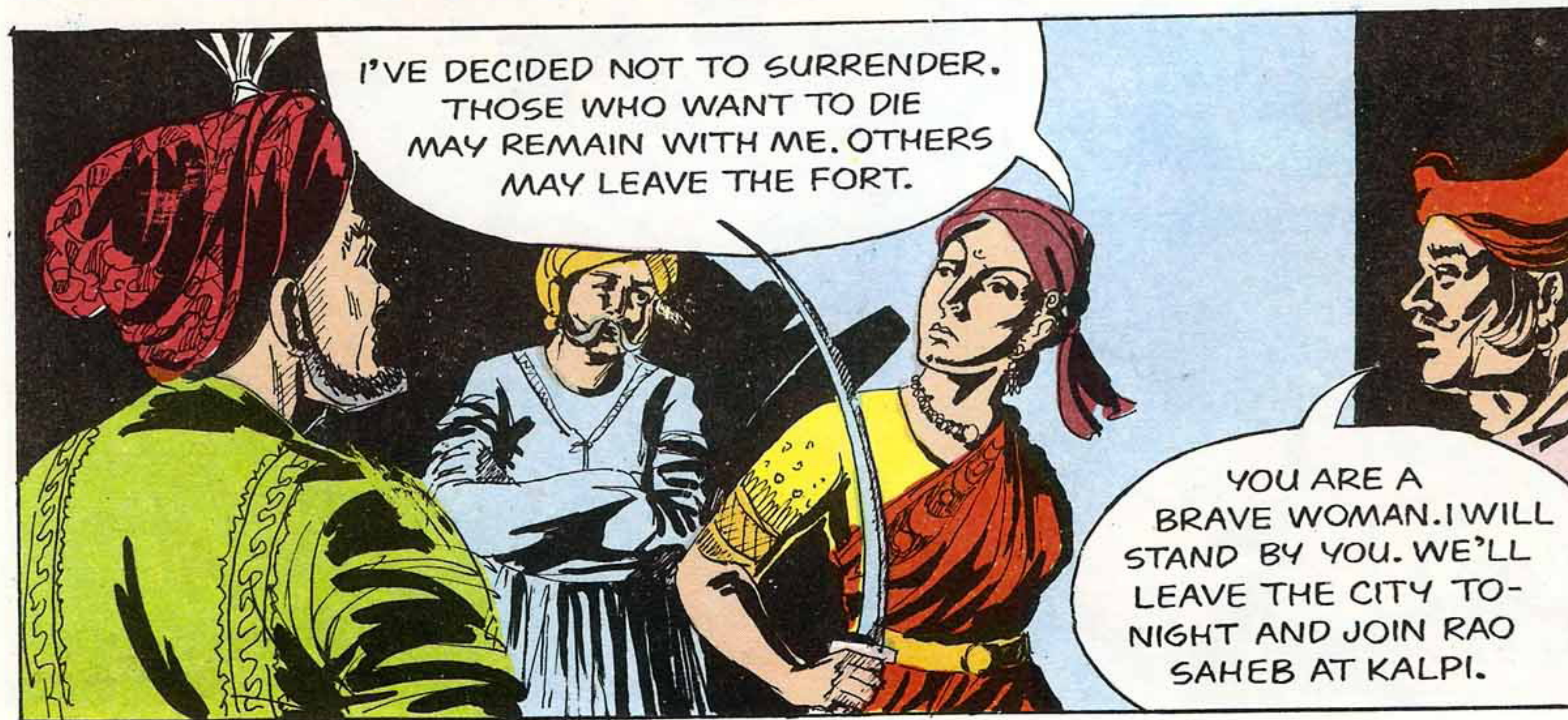


THE COUNTER ATTACK WAS SO UNEXPECTED AND FIERCE THAT THE BRITISH WERE FORCED TO TAKE COVER.

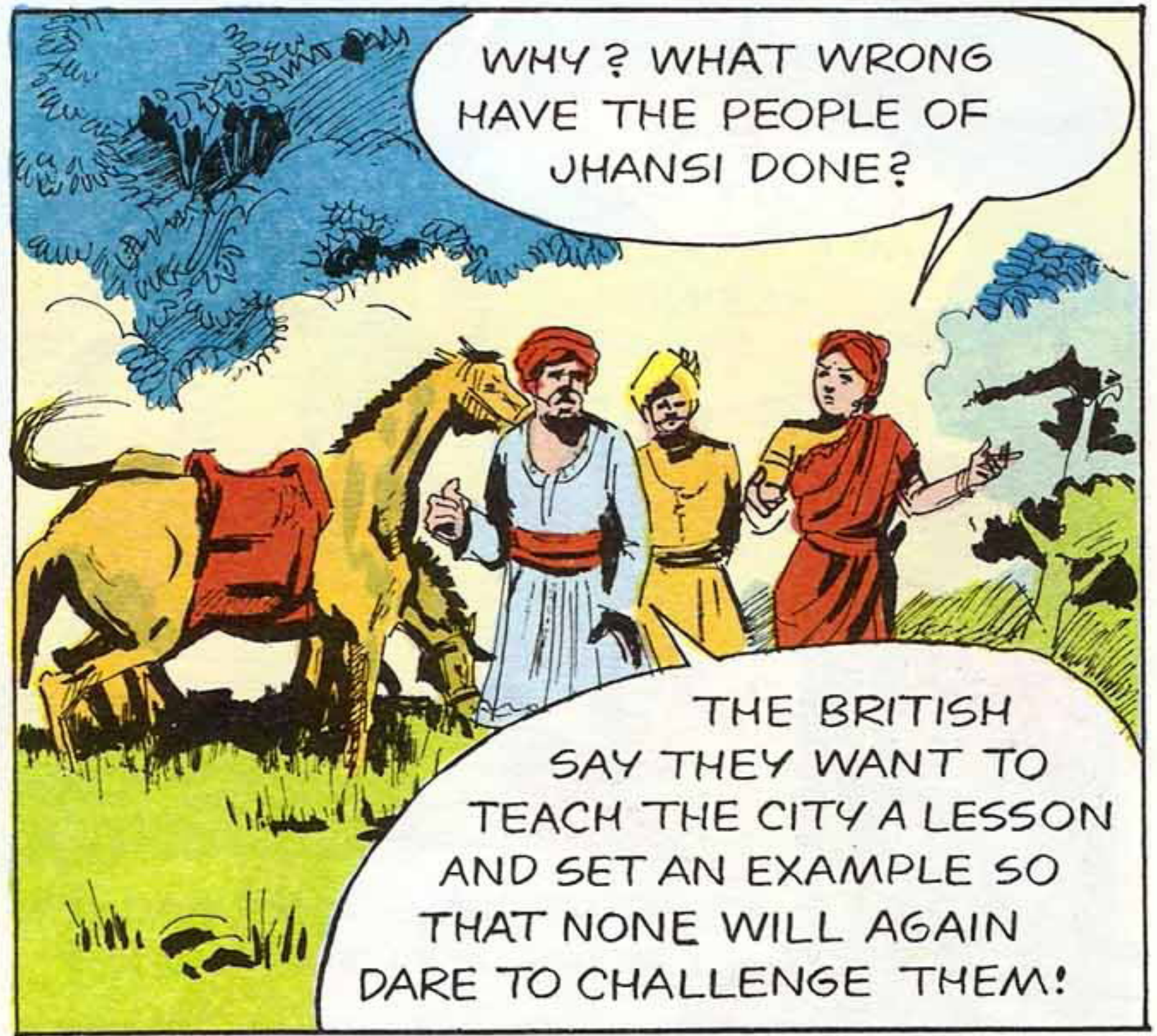
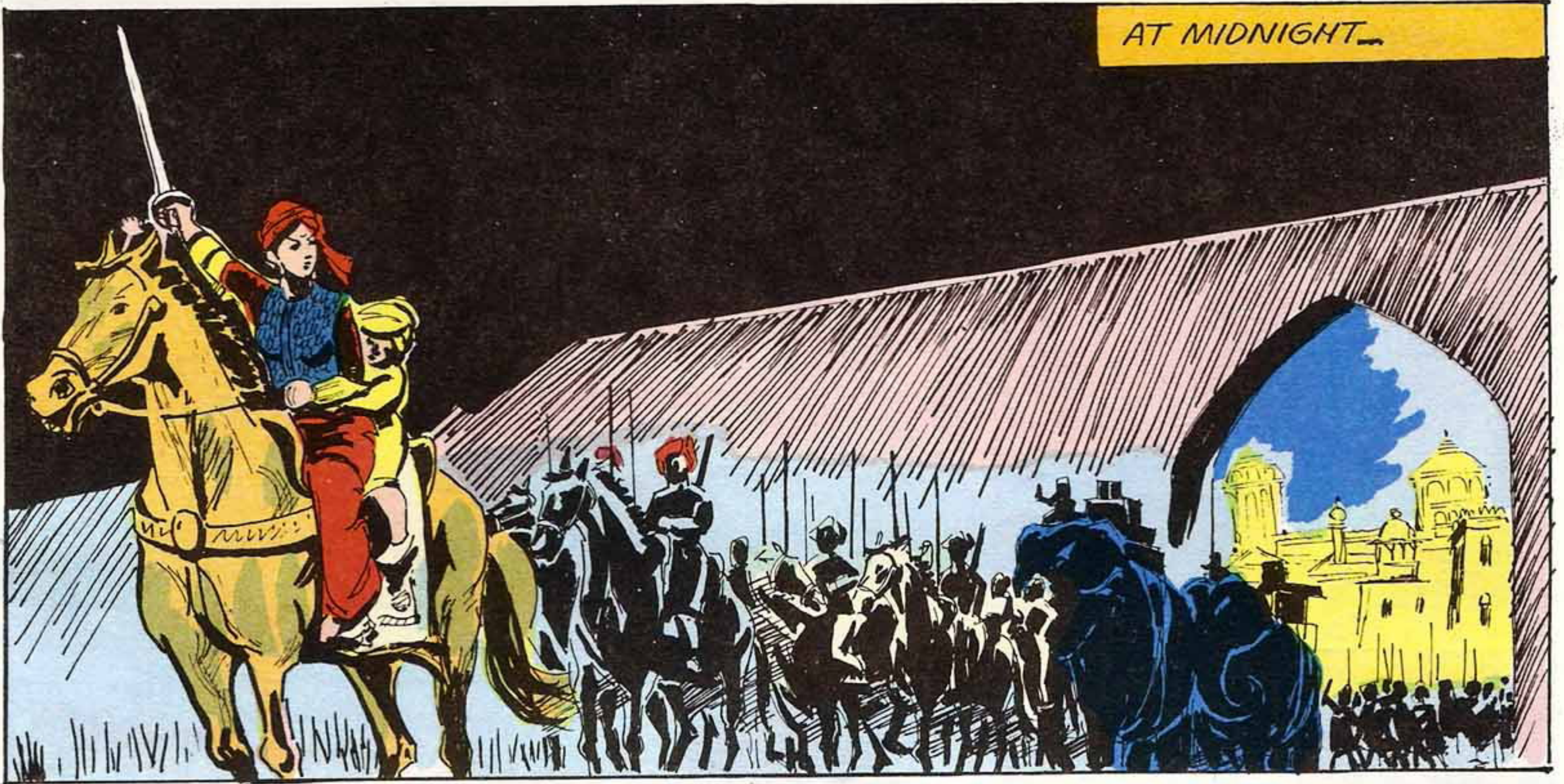
BUT THIS WAS ONLY A SHORT RESPITE.



I'VE DECIDED NOT TO SURRENDER. THOSE WHO WANT TO DIE MAY REMAIN WITH ME. OTHERS MAY LEAVE THE FORT.



YOU ARE A BRAVE WOMAN. I WILL STAND BY YOU. WE'LL LEAVE THE CITY TONIGHT AND JOIN RAO SAHEB AT KALPI.



LAKSHMIBAI RODE INTO RAO SAHEB'S CAMP AT KALPI.

WELCOME BRAVE WARRIOR.
I NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN
MY STRUGGLE.

NOTHING WILL GIVE ME GREATER HAPPI-
NESS THAN TO DIE ON THE BATTLE-FIELD
SERVING THE MARATHA STANDARD!



I WOULD LIKE
YOU TO INSPECT THE
TROOPS.

YOU MUST
HAVE STRICT DISCIPLINE
IN THE RANKS. THERE SHOULD
BE MILITARY DRILL AND EXER-
CISES EVERY MORNING.



THE BRITISH ARE
PLANNING A
SIEGE ON KALPI!

LET'S
GO OUT AND
MEET THEM AT
KOONCH.

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. WE'LL
FACE THEM IN THE OPEN.

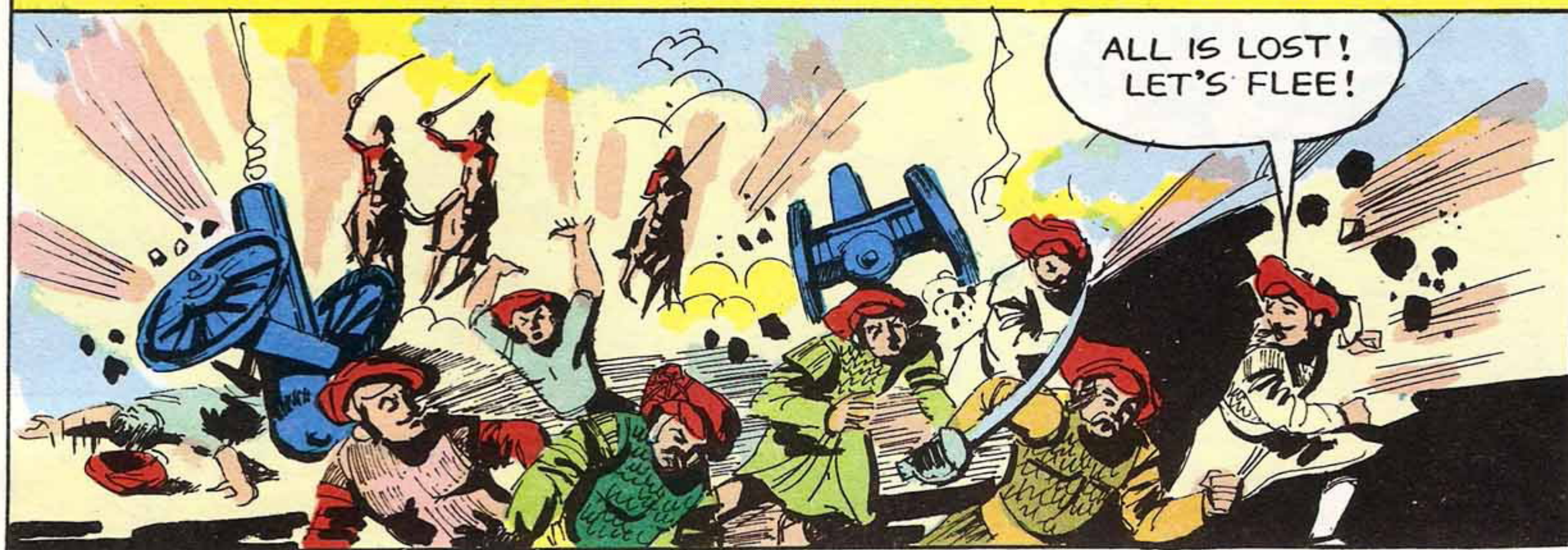


WE
MUST HAVE
A STRONG
REARGUARD!

WE'RE ALL
VETERANS IN
THE ART OF WAR!
LET THE BRITISH
COME!



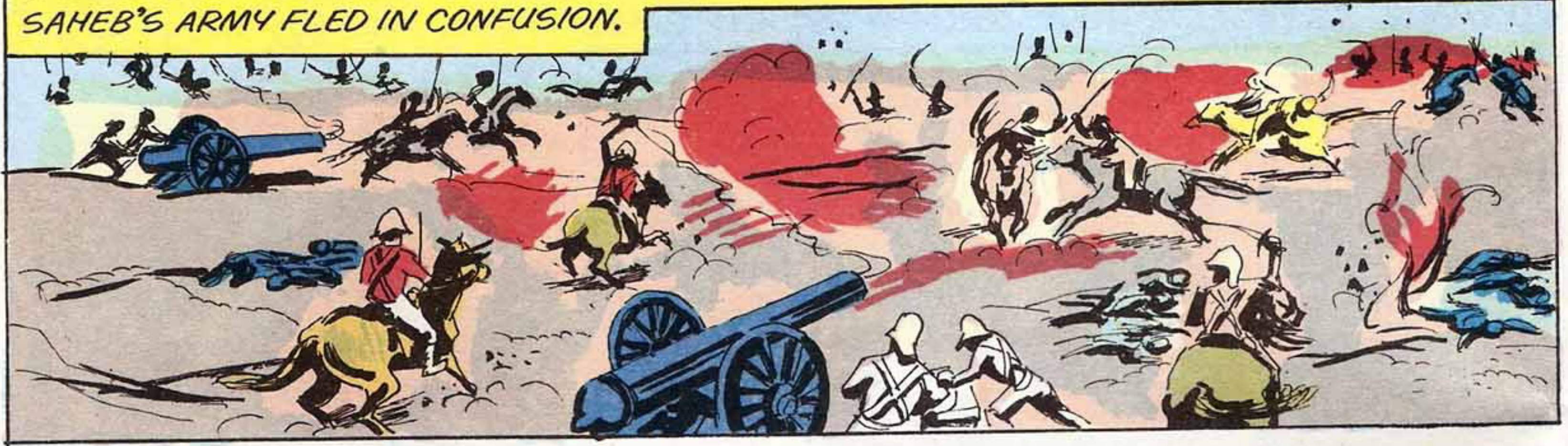
BUT THE OVER-CONFIDENT NATIONALIST LEADERS DID NOT HEED LAKSHMIBAI'S COUNSEL ABOUT A STRONG REARGUARD AND RAO SAHEB'S ARMY WAS ROUTED.



RAO SAHEB HELD A COUNCIL OF WAR TO CONSIDER THEIR NEXT MOVE.



BUT THE CLEVER STRATEGY OF THE BRITISH AGAIN WON THE DAY AND RAO SAHEB'S ARMY FLED IN CONFUSION.



NOW LAKSHMIBAI MOUNTED HER HORSE AND ATTACKED THE ENEMY LIKE A TIGRESS.



HER EXAMPLE ENCOURAGED THE OTHER LEADERS WHO NOW DASHED FORWARD TO JOIN THE ATTACK.

COME ON! VICTORY WILL BE OURS!

FOLLOW THE RANI OF JHANSI! THE ENEMIES ARE RETREATING!

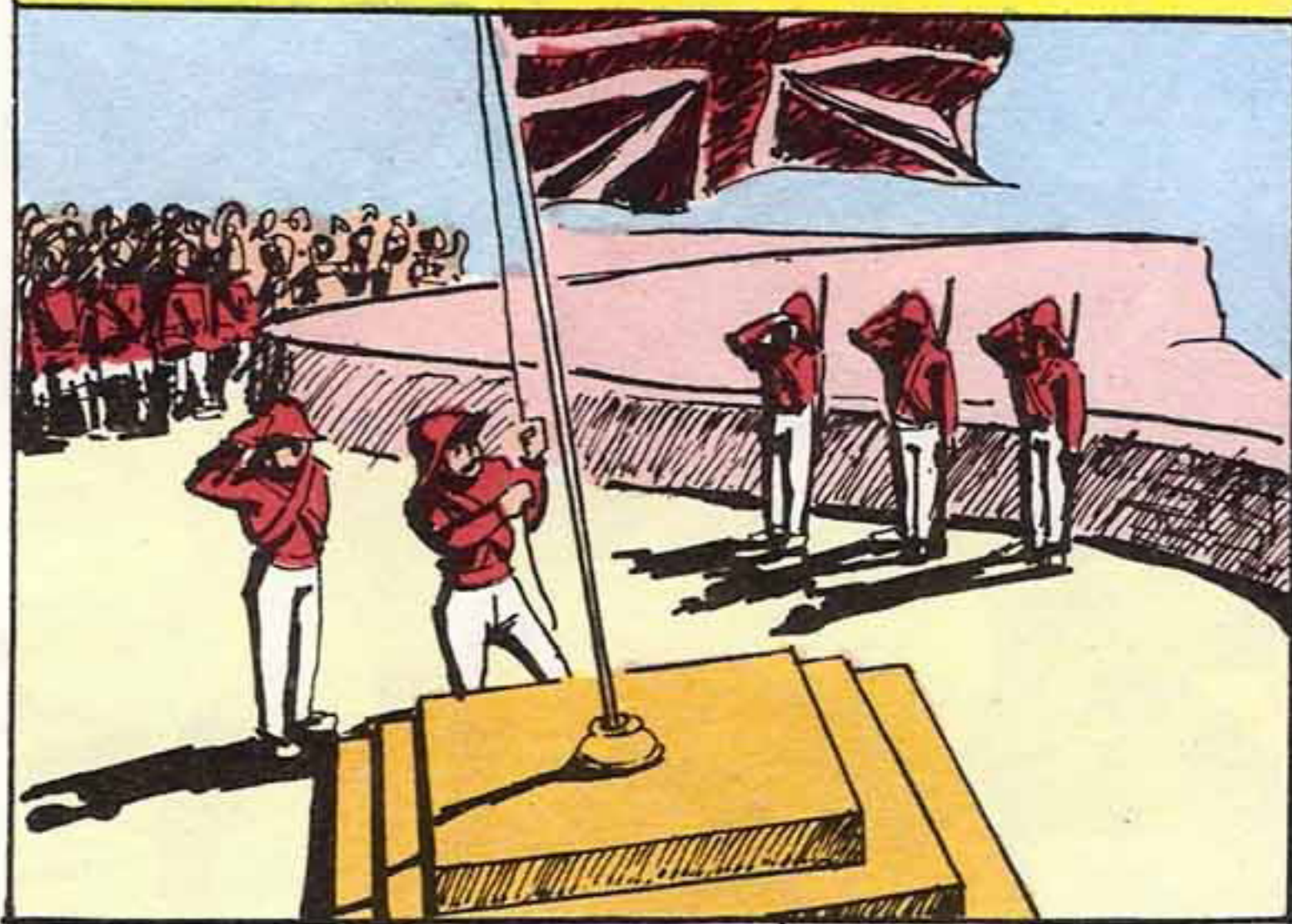


THEN SIR HUGH ROSE, THE BRITISH GENERAL, ORDERED THE CAMEL CORPS TO CHARGE.



THE PESHWA'S MEN, UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE ATTACK, FELL BACK IN CONFUSION.

THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT WAS NOW COMPLETELY SHATTERED. THE BRITISH TOOK OVER THE FORT OF KALPI ON MAY 24, 1858 WITHOUT FURTHER FIGHTING.



THE NATIONALIST CHIEFS HELD ANOTHER CONFERENCE.

ALL CHANCES OF VICTORY ARE AT AN END!

WE CAN HARASS THE ENEMY BY GUERRILLA WARFARE.



THAT'S AN EXCELLENT PLAN!

THAT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE MARATHAS BECAUSE THEY POSSESSED UNCONQUERABLE FORTRESSES. WE CANNOT FIGHT WITHOUT A STRONG FORT.



I THINK WE SHOULD MARCH TO GWALIOR AND OBTAIN THE HELP OF THE MAHARAJA. WITH THAT FORT IN OUR HANDS WE CAN STILL CARRY ON THE WAR AND WIN.



I AGREE. THOUGH HE IS AN ALLY OF THE BRITISH, HIS PEOPLE ARE ON OUR SIDE.

HAS THE MAHARAJA OF GWALIOR AGREED TO GIVE US MONEY AND SUPPLIES?



NO! HE HAS ORDERED HIS TROOPS TO ATTACK US.

THE SIGHT OF LAKSHMIBAI WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE THE GWALIOR ARMY DROP THEIR GUNS.



LOOK! IT'S THE RANI OF JHANSI!

HAIL, RANI OF JHANSI!

VICTORY TO LAKSHMIBAI!

RAO SAHEB ENTERED GWALIOR IN TRIUMPH AND HELD A GRAND DURBAR TO PROCLAIM HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE MARATHA CONFEDERACY.



AS THE CEREMONIES CONTINUED, LAKSHMIBAI GREW IMPATIENT.

WE HAVE FUNDS, AND A WELL-EQUIPPED ARMY. WE SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE NEXT STRUGGLE.

WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.

SO WHEN THE BRITISH MARCHED ON GWALIOR RAO SAHEB WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED.

THE BRITISH HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ATTACK!

AND OUR ARMY IS NOT READY. TAKE YOUR TROOPS OUT FOR ONE LAST GLORIOUS ATTACK. I AM READY TO DO MY DUTY. YOU DO YOURS! GOD BE WITH YOU!



LAKSHMIBAI DRESSED IN A MAN'S GARB ADVANCED TO ATTACK THE ENEMY.



BRITISH RE-
INFORCEMENTS
HAVE
ARRIVED!
ALL IS
LOST!

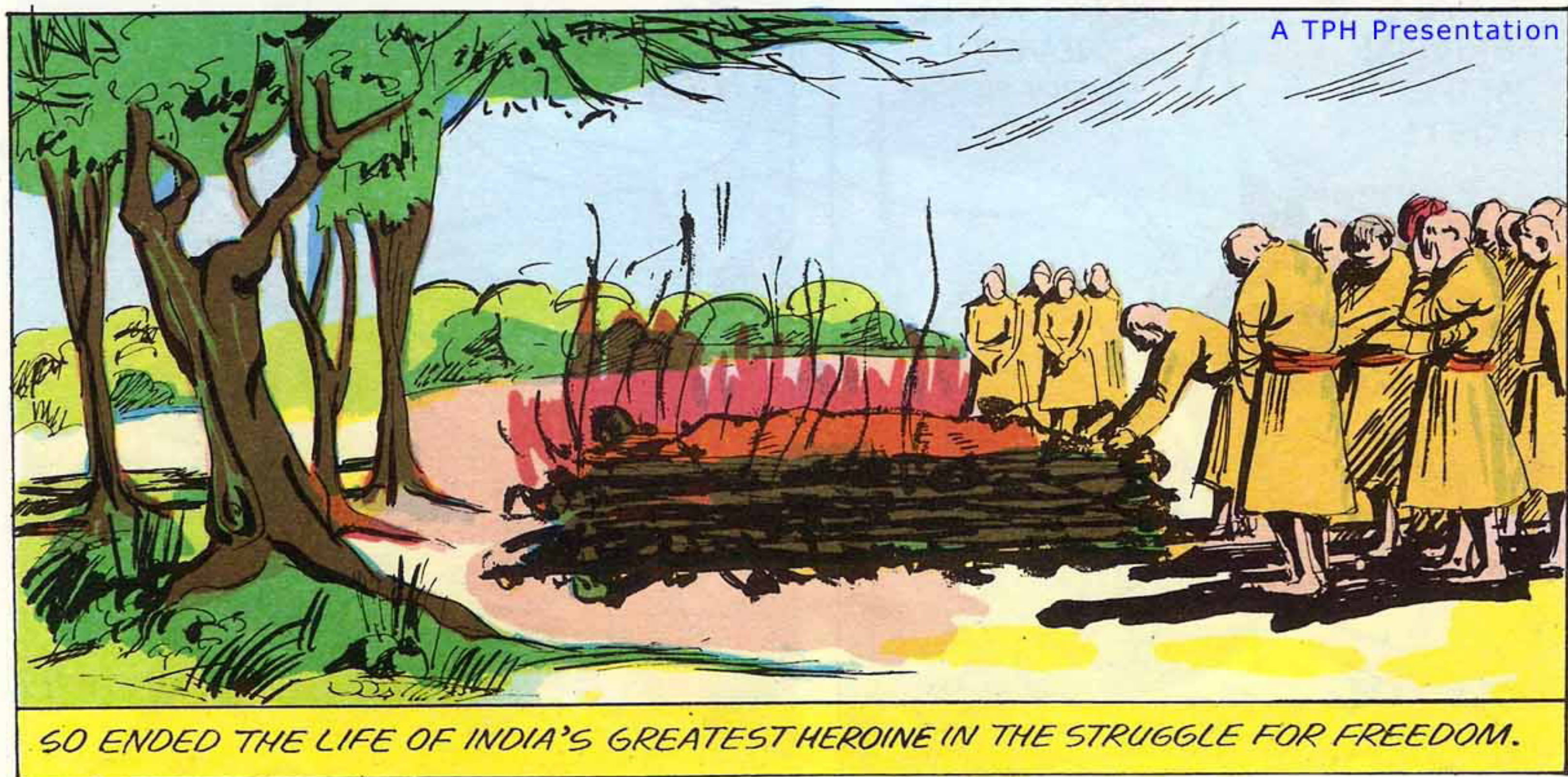
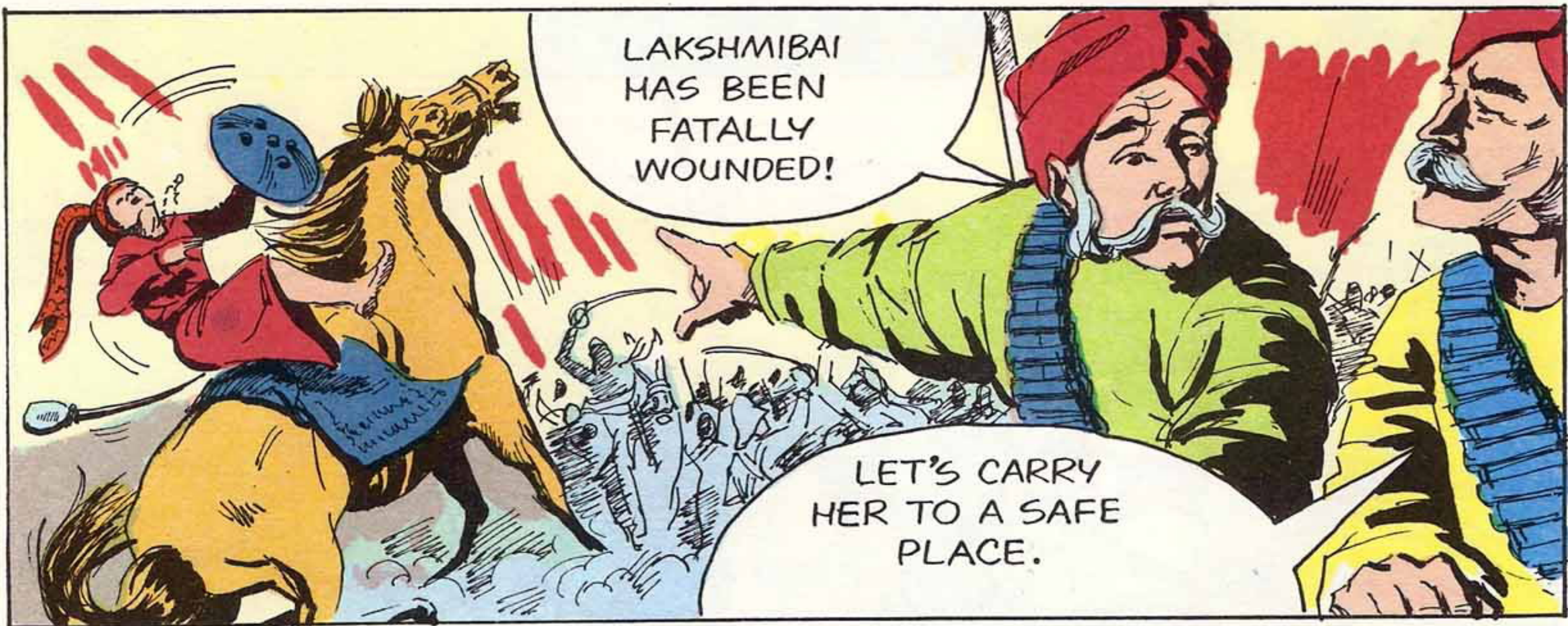
I WILL
NOT LOSE
HOPE! I WILL
NEVER
SURRENDER!



THE ARMIES WERE EVENLY MATCHED.

FORWARD!
COME ON!





A TPH Presentation



Illustrated Classics From India

Rani of Jhansi

Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi is among those national heroines whose name builds up visions of tremendous bravery and valour against overwhelming odds. She was not aggressive by nature. It was only when the British threatened to annex her small kingdom that she took up arms. Undoubtedly, Rani Lakshmibai was one of the bravest leaders of the Indian Mutiny of 1857. She was at the forefront of every battle, encouraging her troops.

Rani Lakshmibai was also extremely shrewd and possessed all the qualities of a good leader. When she died fighting on the battlefield the morale of the Mutiny broke and other rebel leaders like Tatya Tope, Rao Sahib and the Nawab of Banda could not offer much resistance. Thus a chapter of the heroic defiance against better-equipped forces came to an end. The unforgettable memory of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi however, remained—the memory of a person of unbreakable pride and utter fearlessness.

The bards of Central India still sing of the Rani's valour and virtues – not only because she stood up to her enemies in Bundelkhand but also the mighty British.

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