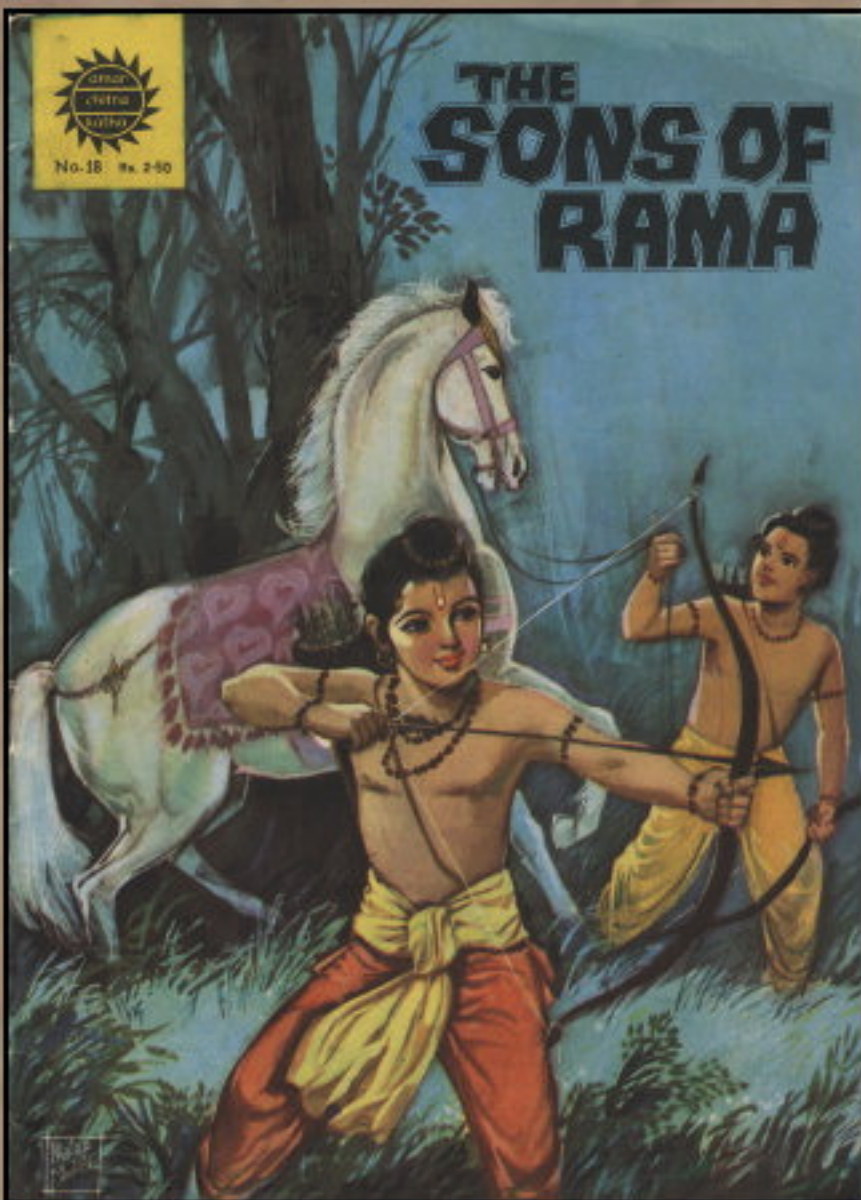


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Publisher : H.G. Mirchandani,
for India Book House Edu-
cation Trust

Date : 1977 (reprint)

The sons of Rama

Artwork : Prataap Mulick

Editor : Anant Pai



No. 18 Rs. 2-50

THE SONGS OF RAMA



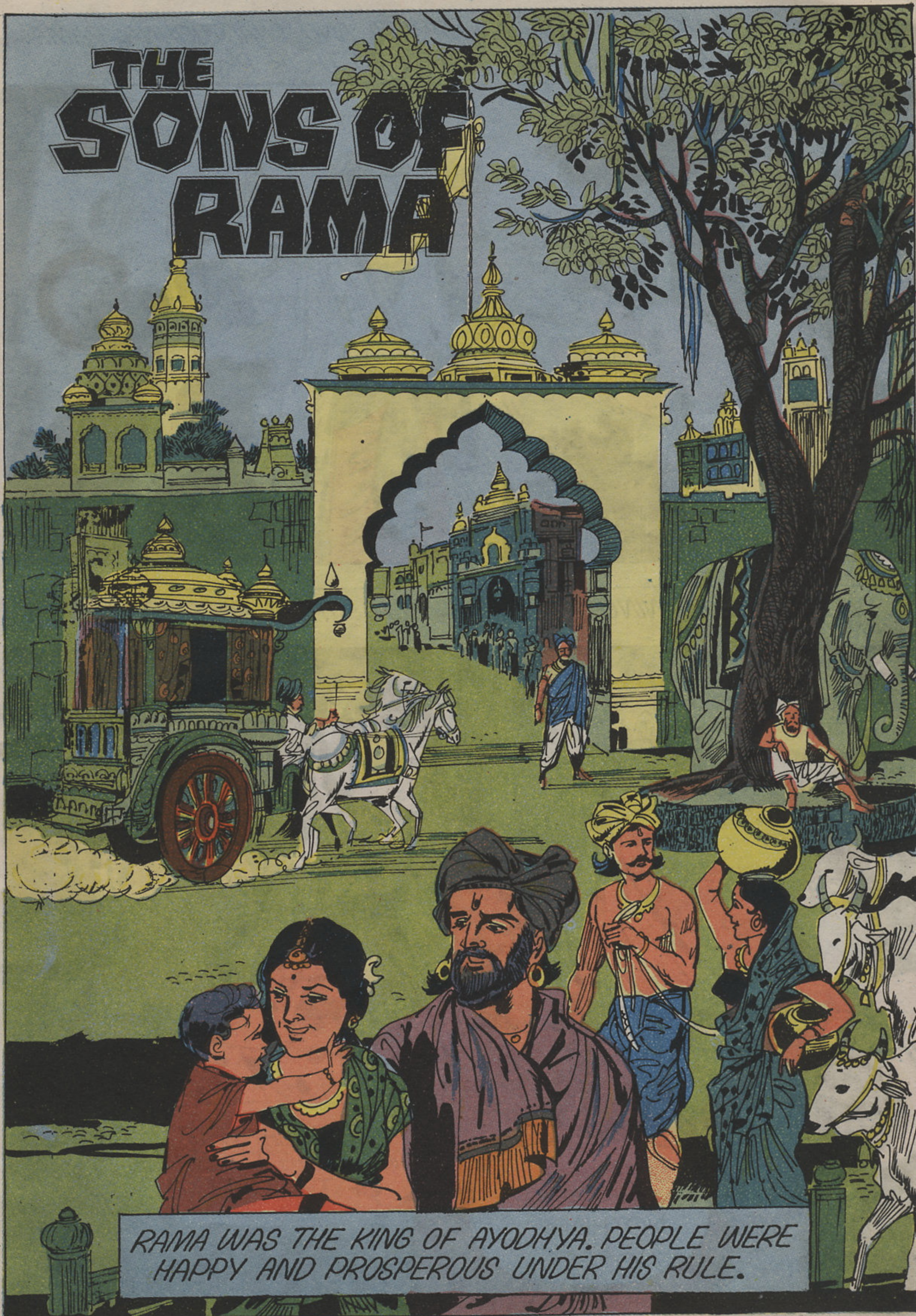
Pratap
Mulick

The story of Rama and Sita is a part of India. It was first set down by the sage Valmiki in his epic poem in Sanskrit, 'Ramayana'.

Rama was the eldest son of Dasharatha, the King of Ayodhya. The King had three wives-Kaushalya, Kaikeyi and Sumitra. Rama was the son of Kaushalya, Bharata, of Kaikeyi and Laxmana and Shatrughna of Sumitra. As they grew up so did their fame as valiant and brave princes. Sage Vishwamitra came seeking the help of Rama and Laxmana in killing the demoness Tataka. On the way back in the land of King Janaka, Rama succeeded in winning the hand of Sita, the King's daughter. Dasharatha decided that this was the time to crown Rama King. Jealous Kaikeyi persuaded an unwilling Dasharatha to banish Rama into the forest and to crown Bharata the King. Sita and Laxmana opted to follow Rama. While in the forest the Rakshasi Shoorpanakha accosted Rama and eventually had herself disfigured by Laxmana. The angry female went and complained to her brother, Ravana, the King of Lanka. Ravana with a cunning typical of him carried Sita away. Rama and Laxmana in the course of their search for Sita came across the monkey king, Sugreeva and struck a bond of friendship with him. One of Sugreeva's assistants, Hanuman discovered Sita's whereabouts and Rama led the army of monkeys against Lanka. In the terrible battle that ensued Ravana and his associates were killed. Accompanied by Laxmana, Rama and Sita returned to Ayodhya where they were welcomed by Bharata and crowned King and Queen. But their troubles had not ended. How the suspicion of his subjects forced Rama to banish Sita even though she was pregnant and how his sons Luv and Kusha brought up in the ashram of Sage Valmiki were ultimately united with him is told in colourful pictures in the following pages.

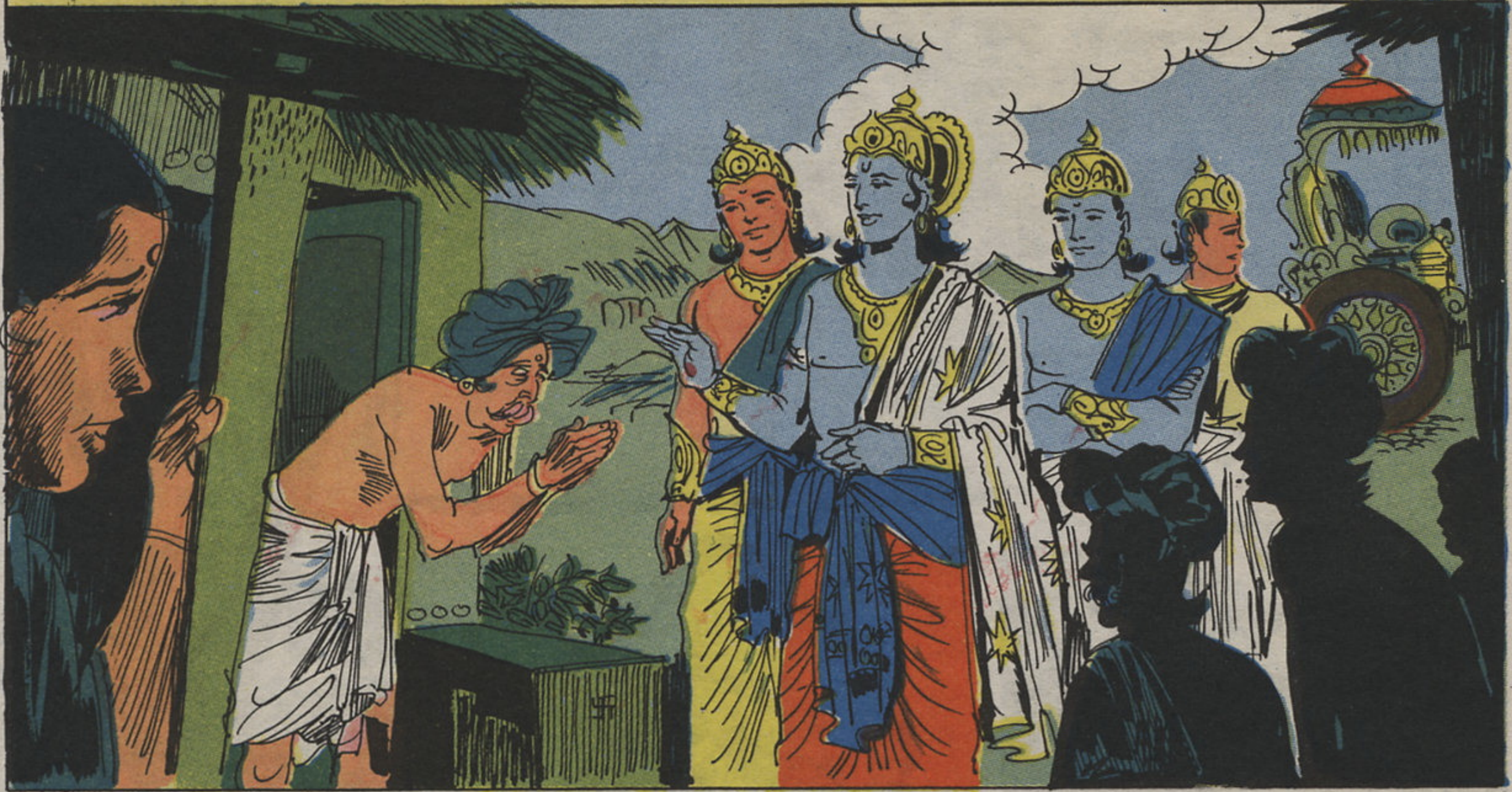
Based on "UTTARAMACHARITA" of Bhavabhuti.

THE SONS OF RAMA



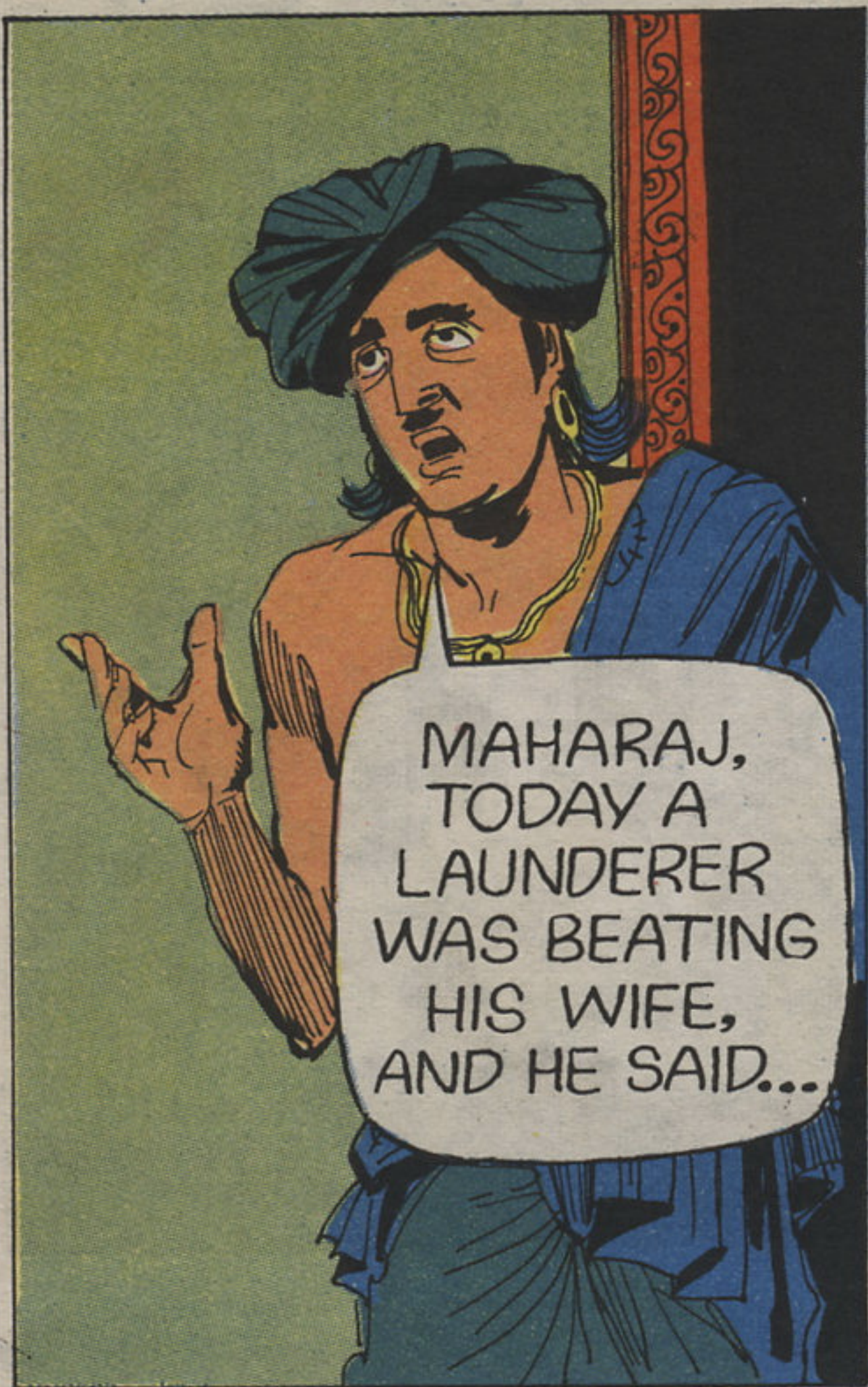
RAMA WAS THE KING OF AYODHYA. PEOPLE WERE HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS UNDER HIS RULE.

WITH HIS BROTHERS, LAXMANA, BHARATA AND SHATRUGHNA, RAMA USED TO VISIT HIS PEOPLE AND LISTEN TO THEIR PROBLEMS...



... AND EVERY EVENING WITH HIS QUEEN SITA, HE RECEIVED HIS MEN. ONE EVENING -





MAHARAJ,
TODAY A
LAUNDERER
WAS BEATING
HIS WIFE,
AND HE SAID...



GET OUT OF MY
HOUSE! I'M NOT
LIKE RAMA WHO
ACCEPTS A WIFE
AFTER SHE
HAS LIVED IN
ANOTHER'S
HOUSE!



SHOULD I TURN MY
WIFE OUT BECAUSE
OF WHAT THE
LAUNDERER SAID?
NO... NO... AND
SHE IS SOON
TO BECOME
A MOTHER!



BUT MY FIRST
DUTY IS
TOWARDS
MY PEOPLE...
I HAVE TO
SEND HER
AWAY...

THE FOLLOWING DAY HE SENT
FOR LAXMANA.

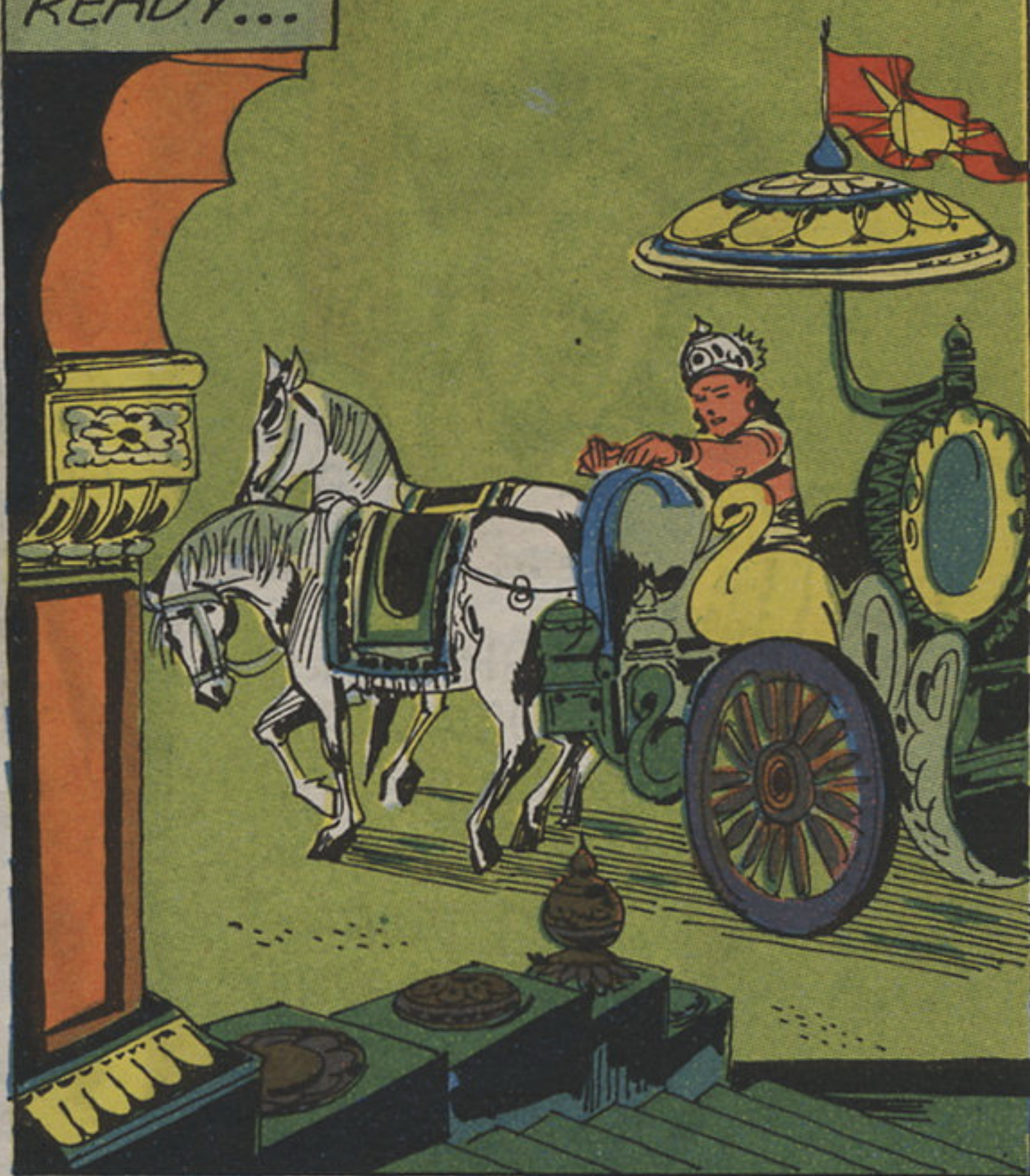
YOU WILL TAKE
SITA INTO THE
JUNGLES AND
LEAVE HER
THERE.

BUT...

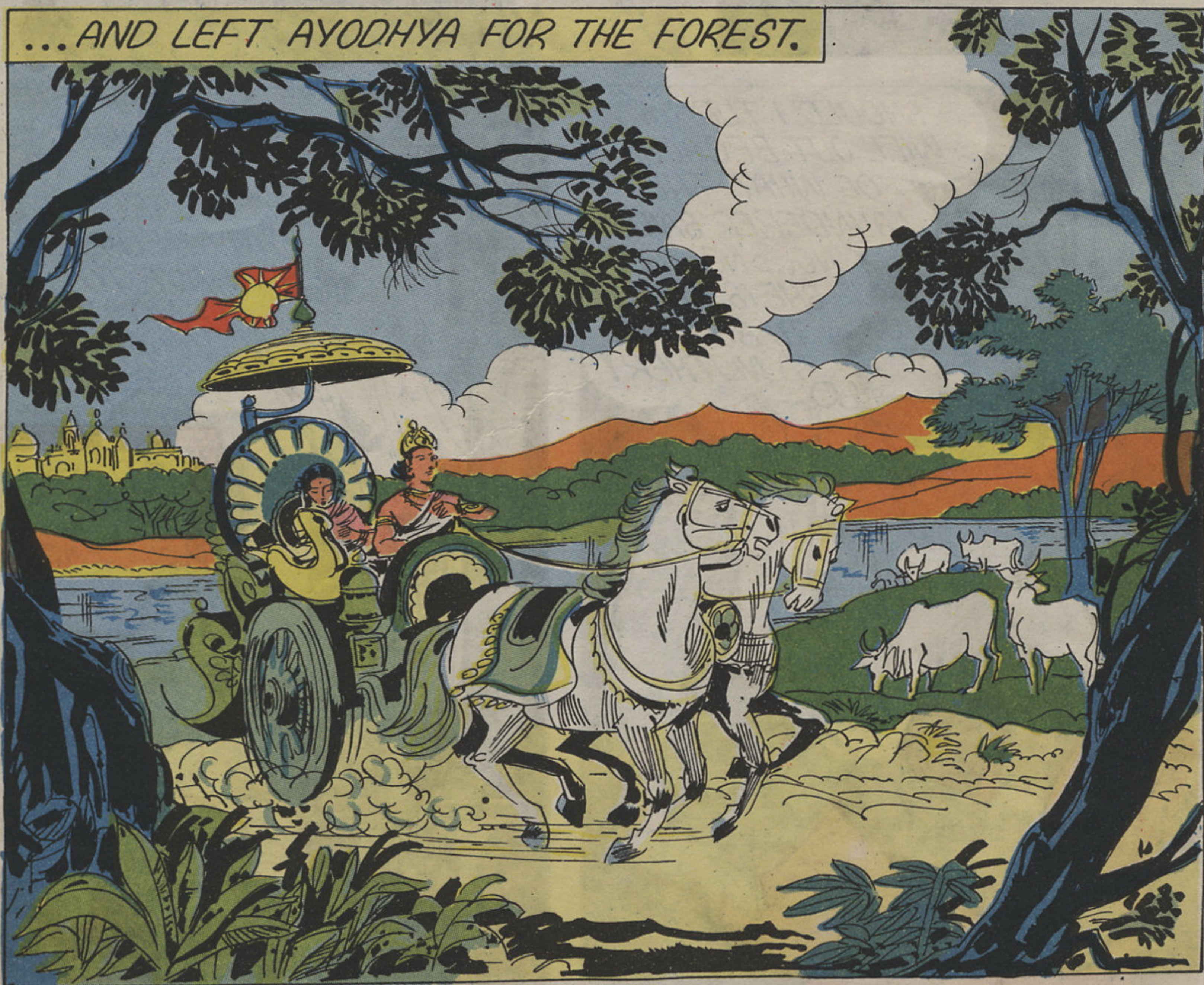
NO BUTS,
THIS IS MY
DECISION!



LAXMANA GOT HIS CHARIOT
READY...



...AND LEFT AYODHYA FOR THE FOREST.





LAXMANA, THIS
JUNGLE IS SO
FRIGHTENING.
I'M SCARED!

HOW CAN I
LEAVE HER IN
THIS WILD
JUNGLE? BUT
I MUST OBEY
RAMA'S
COMMAND!

AFTER LAXMANA LEFT FOR
AYODHYA, SITA WAS ALONE
IN THE JUNGLE.

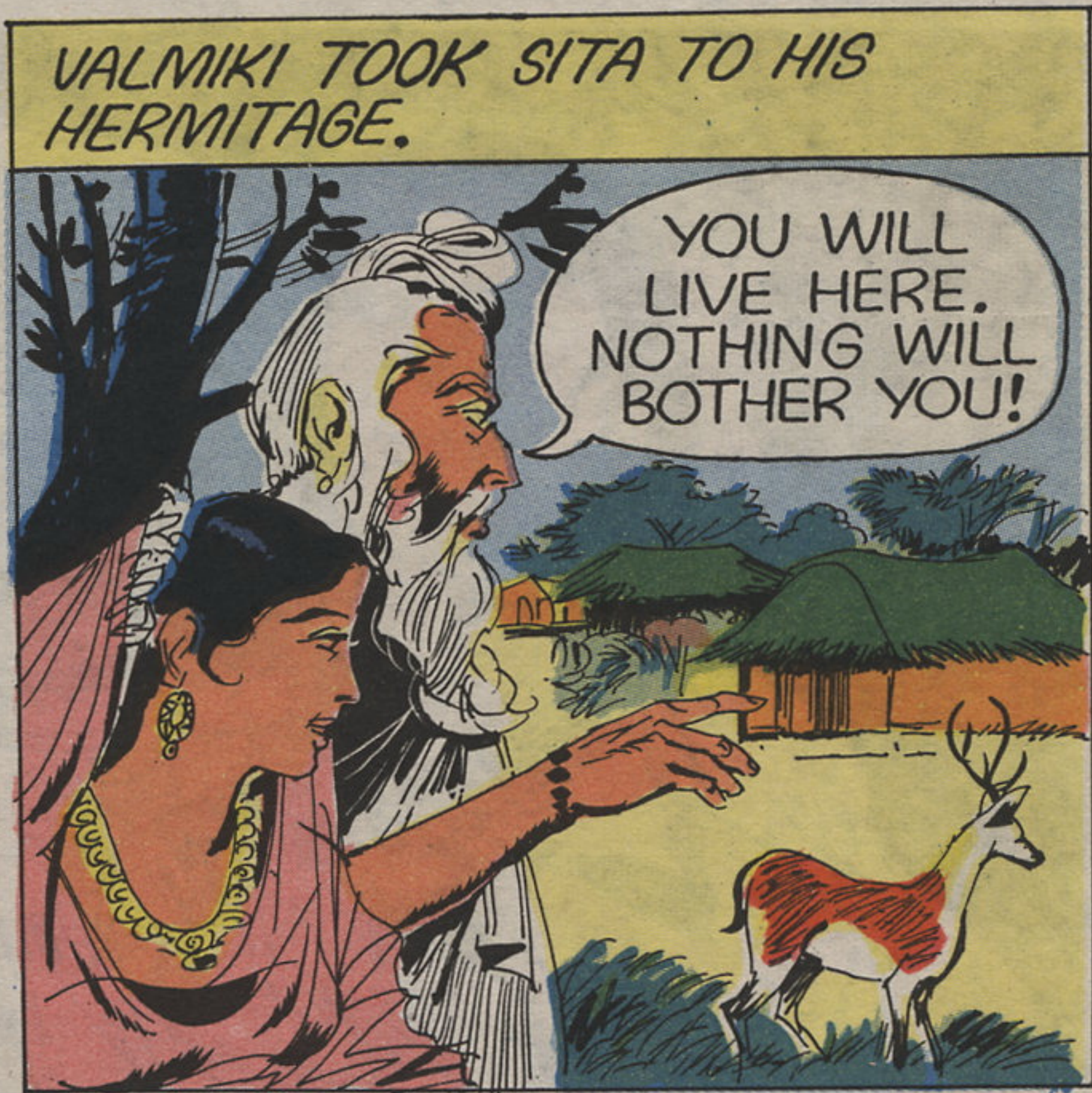
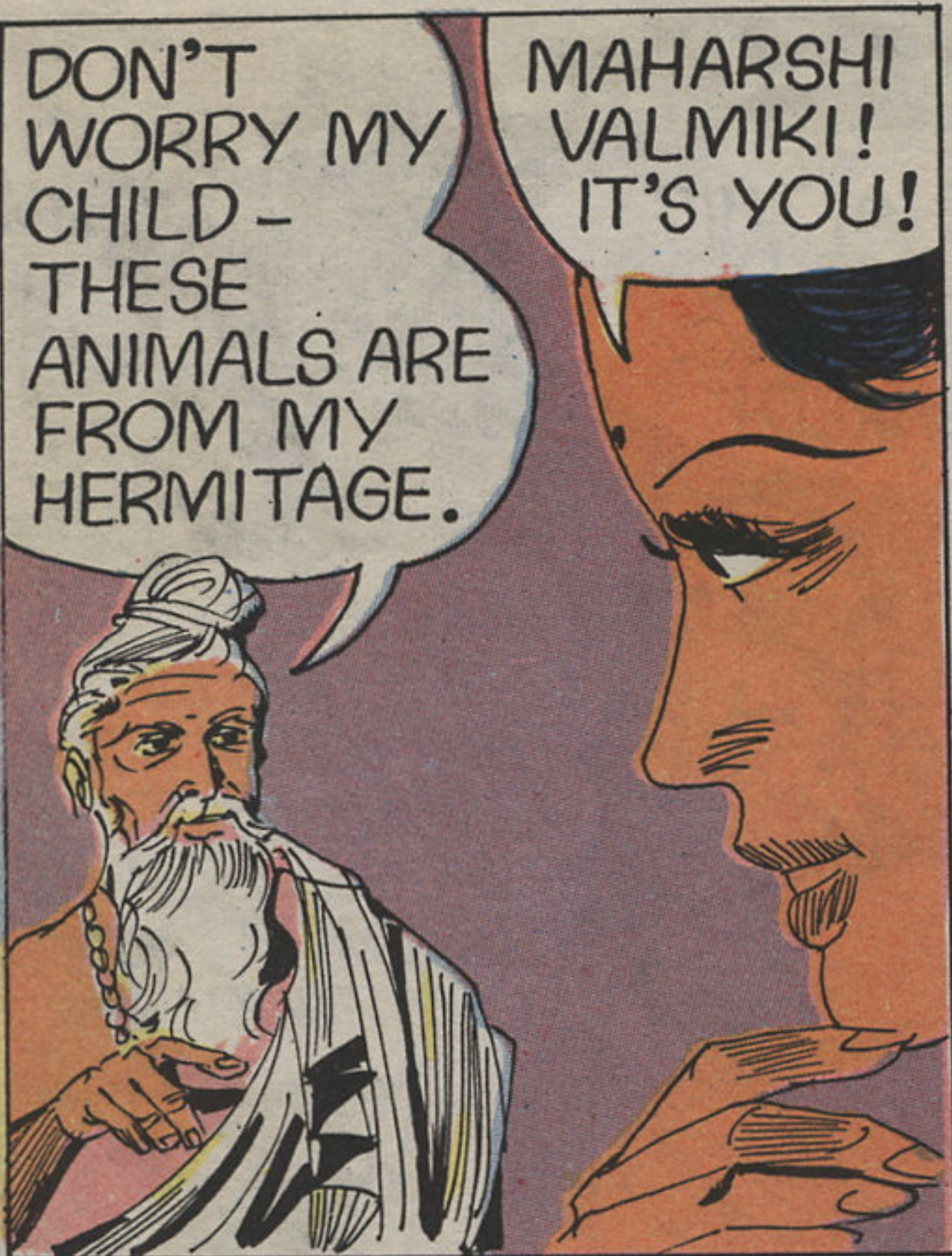


WHERE
SHALL
I GO?

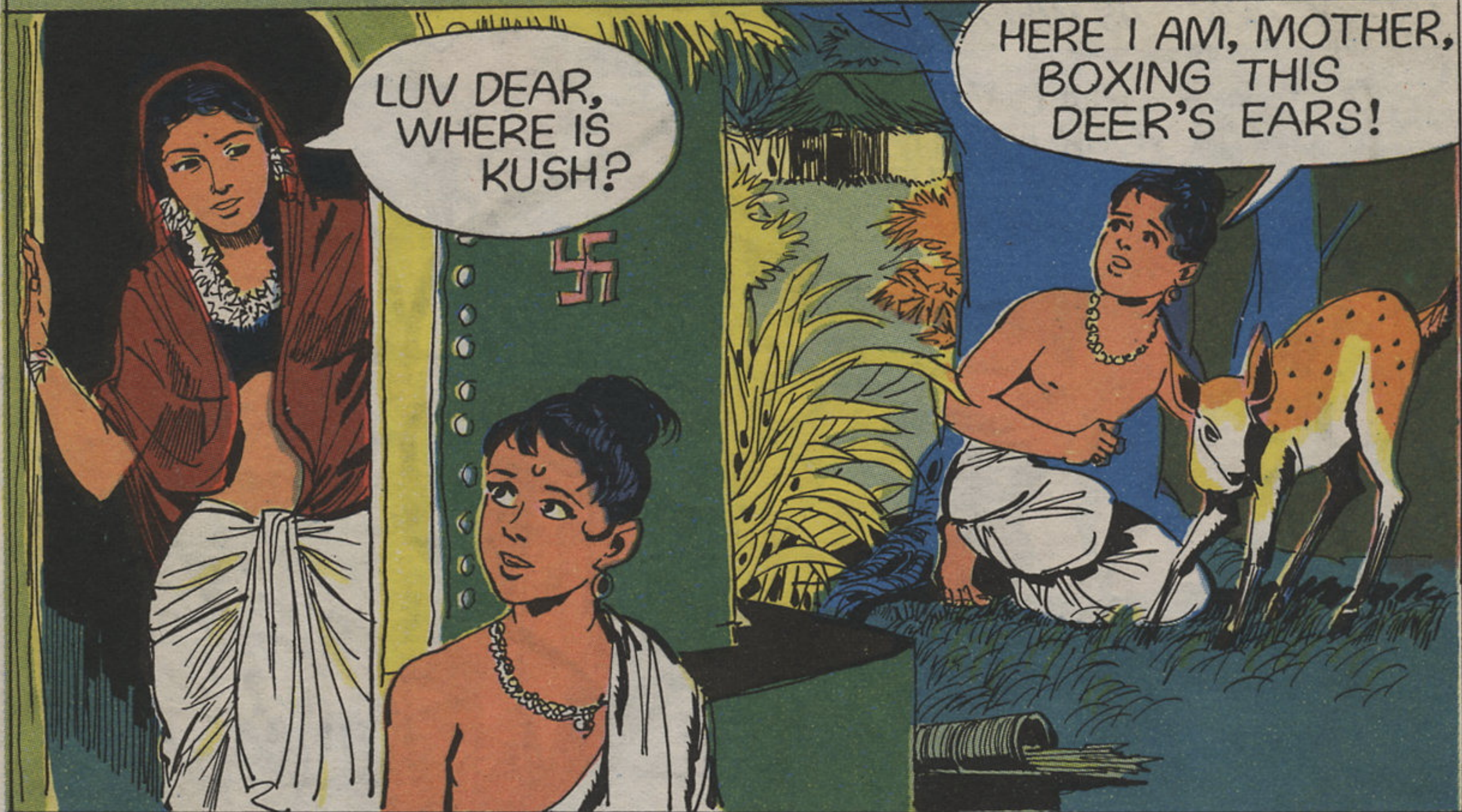
JUST THEN A SERPENT
APPEARED.



HELP!
HELP!



AS TIME PASSED, SITA'S TWIN SONS, LUV AND KUSH, GREW UP.



BUT THE MAHARSHI TAUGHT YOU NOT TO BE CRUEL TO ANIMALS!



MAHARSHI VALMIKI PERSONALLY ATTENDED TO THEIR EDUCATION.



HE TAUGHT THEM THE
USE OF ARMS AS WELL.

PULL WITH ALL
YOUR MIGHT, THEN
LET THE
ARROW GO.

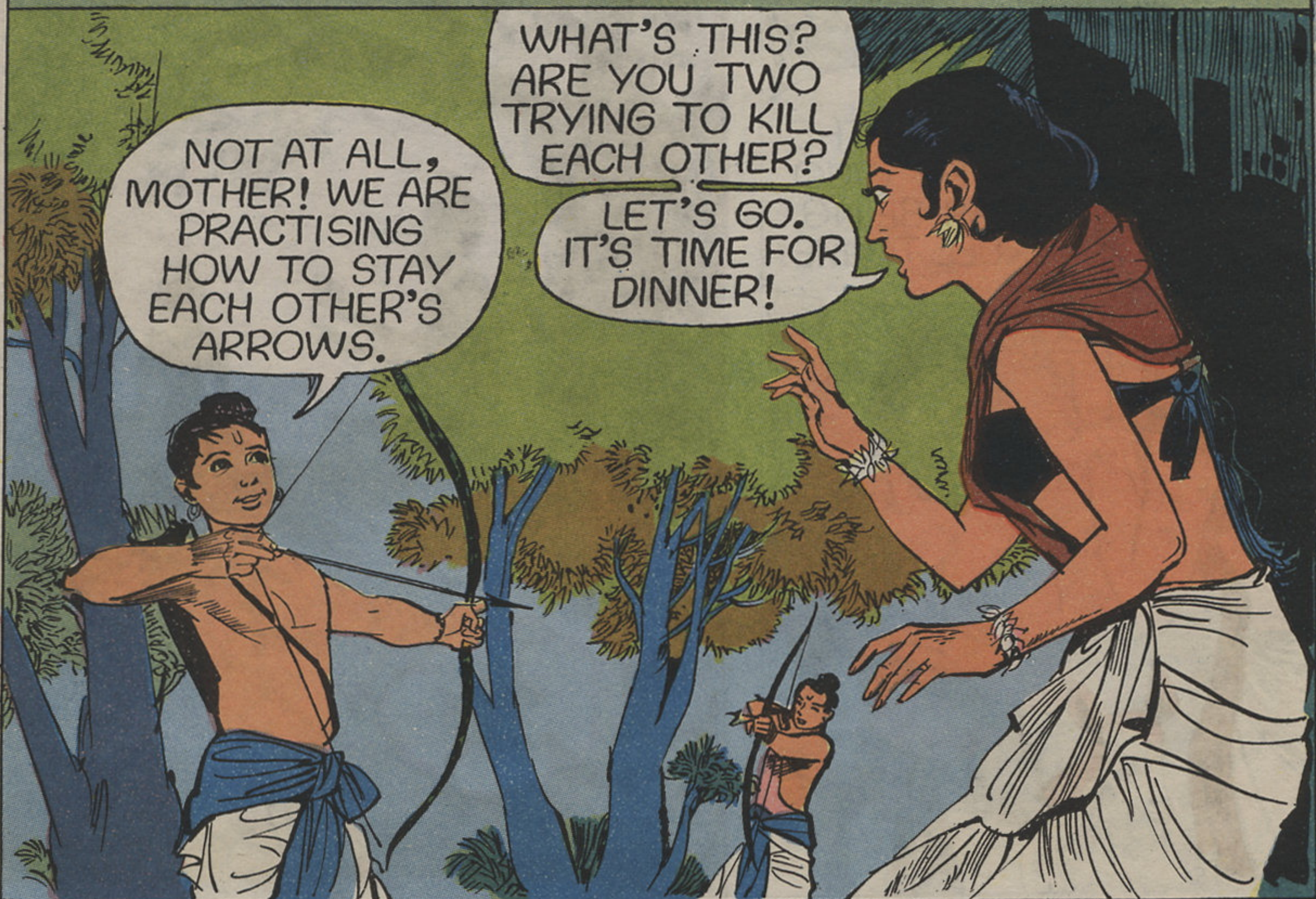


LUV AND KUSH PRACTISED WHAT THEY WERE TAUGHT EVERY DAY.

NOT AT ALL,
MOTHER! WE ARE
PRACTISING
HOW TO STAY
EACH OTHER'S
ARROWS.

WHAT'S THIS?
ARE YOU TWO
TRYING TO KILL
EACH OTHER?

LET'S GO.
IT'S TIME FOR
DINNER!



VALMIKI TOLD THEM THE STORY OF THE RAMAYANA, OF HOW RAMA BROKE THE BOW OF LORD SHIVA AND MARRIED VAIDEHI.

THAT IS NOTHING. I CAN ALSO BREAK A BOW.



"KAIKEYI BANISHED RAMA INTO THE JUNGLES FOR FOURTEEN YEARS."

I'M GOING INTO THE JUNGLES TO KEEP MY FATHER'S PROMISE!

I WANT TO GO WITH YOU!



"ONE DAY AS RAMA WENT AFTER A DEER, RAVANA KIDNAPPED VAIDEHI."



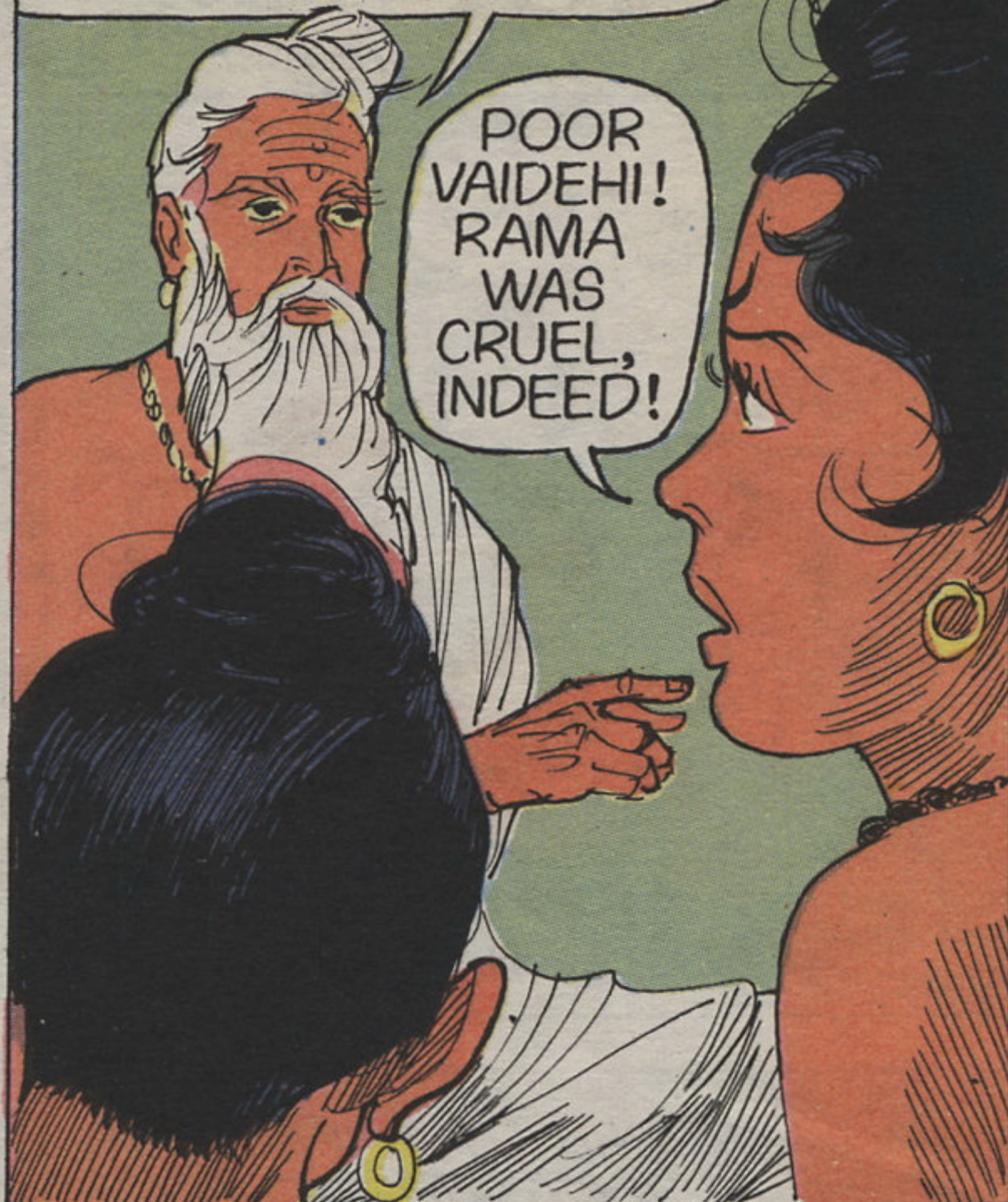
"IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, RAVANA WAS KILLED BY RAMA."



"AFTER SPENDING FOURTEEN YEARS IN EXILE, RAMA RETURNED TO AYO-DHYA AND WAS CROWNED KING."



ONE DAY, BECAUSE OF WHAT A LAUNDERER SAID, RAMA BANISHED VAIDEHI!



POOR VAIDEHI!
RAMA
WAS
CRUEL,
INDEED!

VALMIKI TAUGHT THEM OF "YAJNA" AND SUCH OTHER MATTERS TOO.



"SWAHA"

"SWAHA"

"SWAHA"

EVERY DAY THEY PRACTISED THE ARTS OF WAR. THEY ALSO TALKED ABOUT VAIDEHI.

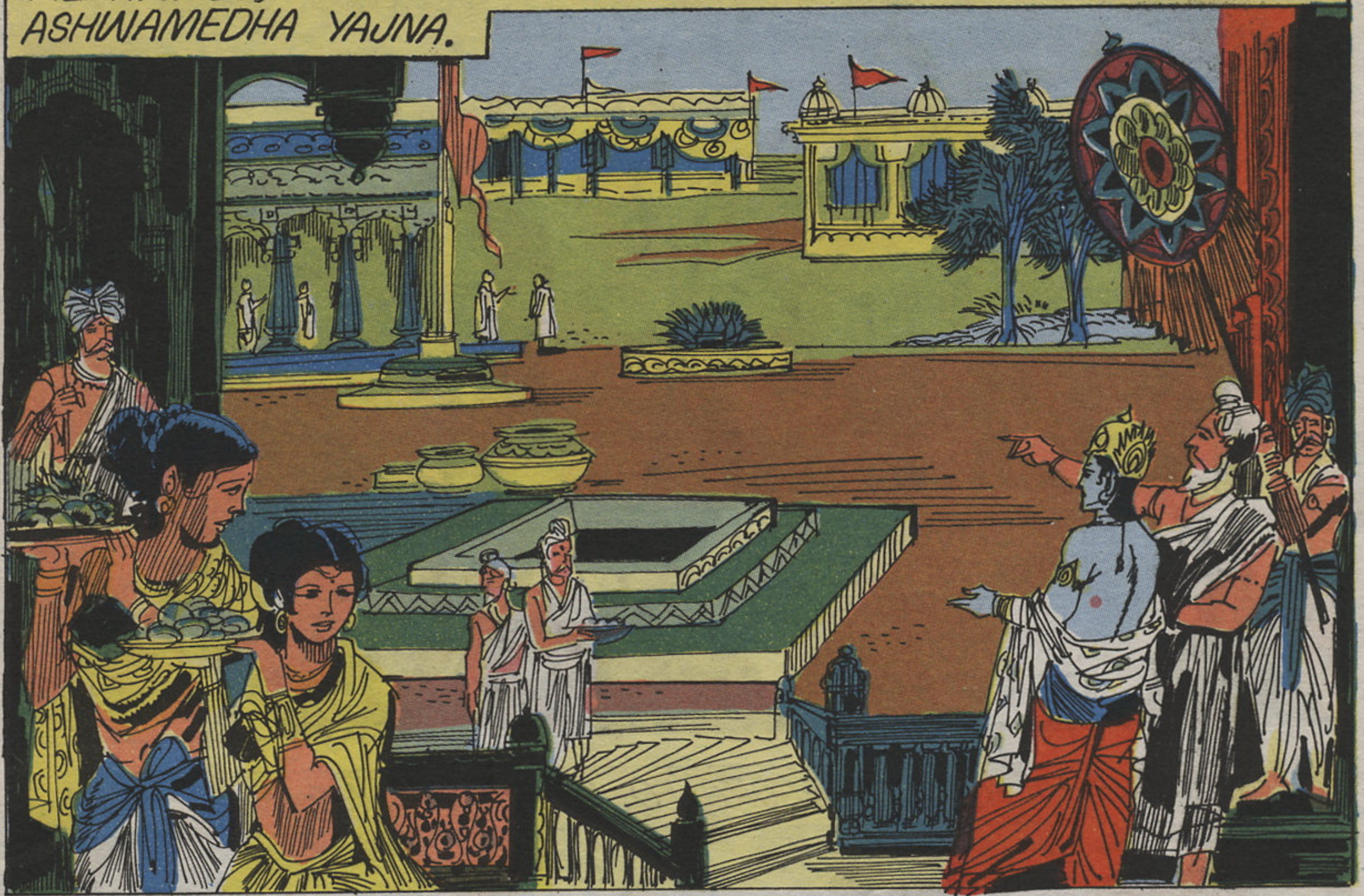


I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO VAIDEHI?

IF EVER WE
MEET HER, WE'LL
BRING HER TO
THE HERMITAGE.

THEY DID NOT REALISE THAT
VAIDEHI WAS NONE OTHER
THAN SITA, THEIR MOTHER.

MEANWHILE, IN AYODHYA RAMA PREPARED TO PERFORM THE ASHWAMEDHA YAJNA.



AS PEOPLE PASSED BY HIS ROYAL PALACE —

KING RAMA
WILL NOW
BECOME
A WORLD
CONQUEROR.



ALL WERE INVITED TO
THE YAJNA.

THE GREAT
SAGES, VISHWA-
MITRA AND
NARADA ARE
HERE TOO.

THEY ARE
STAYING WITH
THE SAGE
VASHISHTHA.

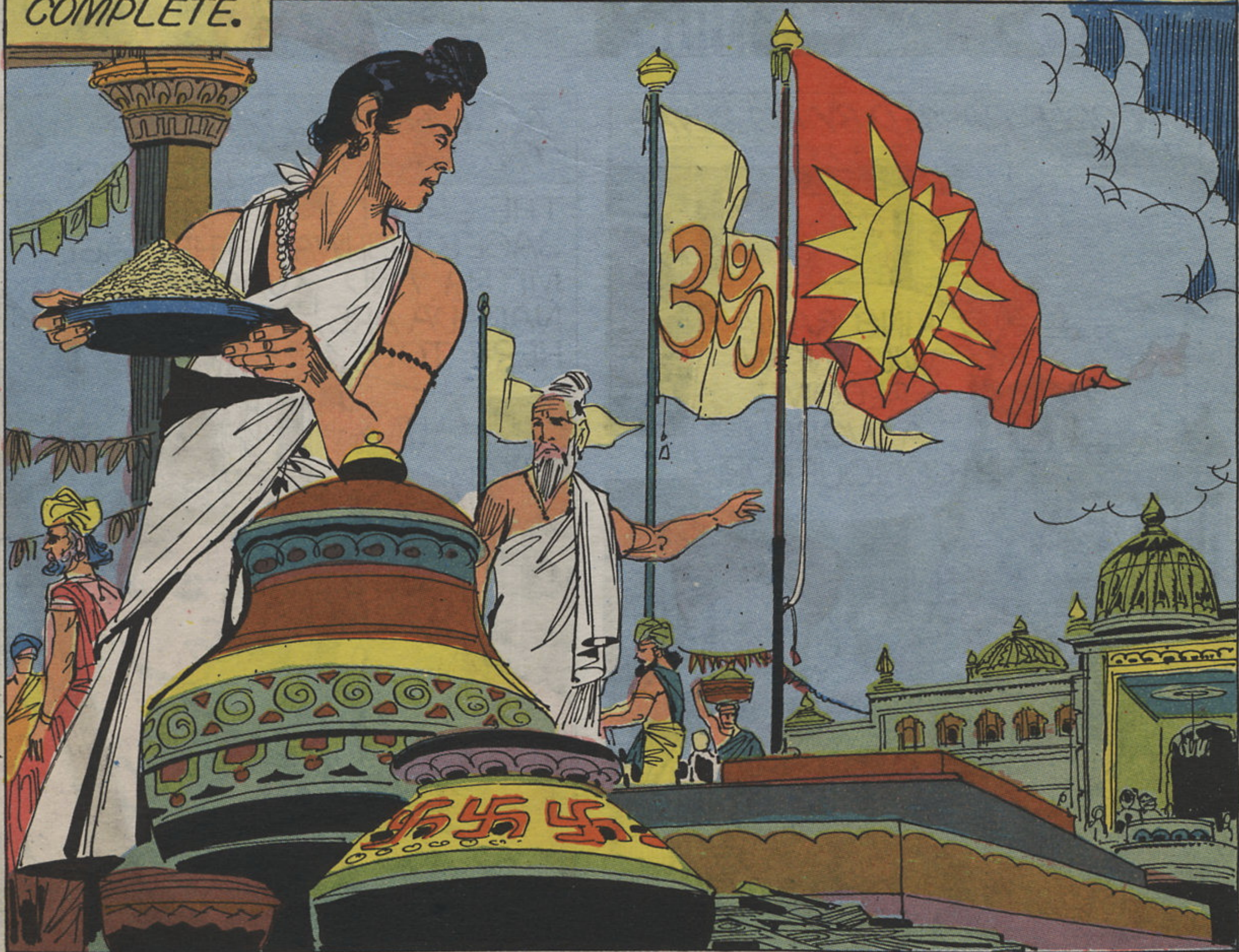


RULERS FROM ALL AROUND CAME WITH THEIR ARMIES.

WHAT HAVE THESE ARMIES TO DO WITH A YAJNA?

THEY HAVE COME JUST TO WITNESS IT AND, IF NEED BE, TO FIGHT ON THE SIDE OF RAMA.

THE YAJNASHALA WAS DECORATED; PREPARATIONS WERE NOW COMPLETE.



BUT NARADA HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO VISHWAMITRA.

HOW CAN RAMA PERFORM THE YAJNA WITHOUT HIS WIFE SITA?

HE WILL HAVE TO USE A GOLDEN STATUE OF HER!



A WHITE HORSE WITH BLACK EARS WAS GOT READY FOR THE YAJNA.

THE HORSE IS MAGNIFICENT!

EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS. EXCEPT FOR SITA'S ABSENCE.



THE MENTION OF SITA SET RAMA THINKING.

I SHOULD SEND LAXMANA TO LOOK FOR SITA.

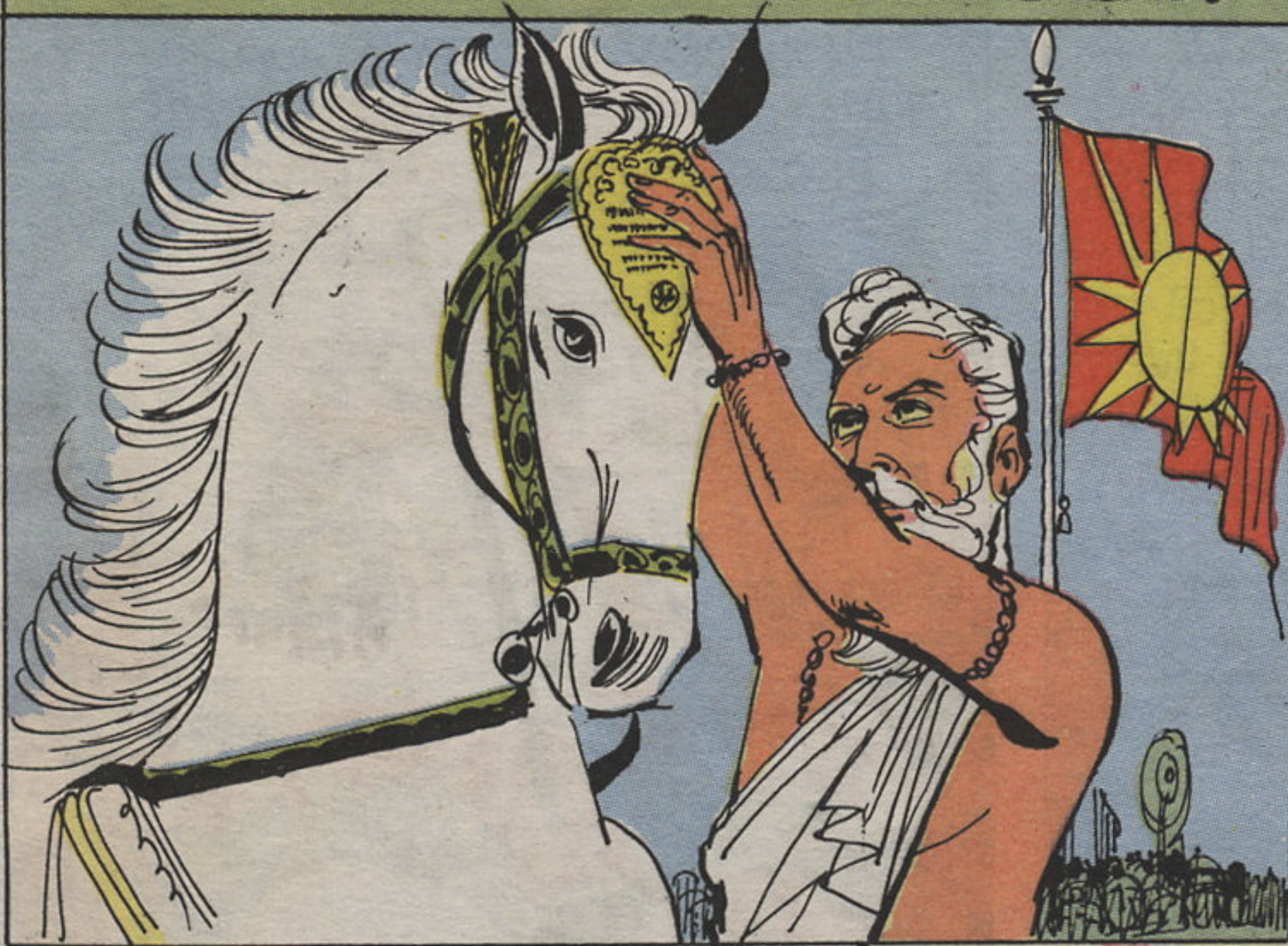


NO, MY PEOPLE MAY NOT LIKE IT. A GOLDEN STATUE WILL HAVE TO DO!

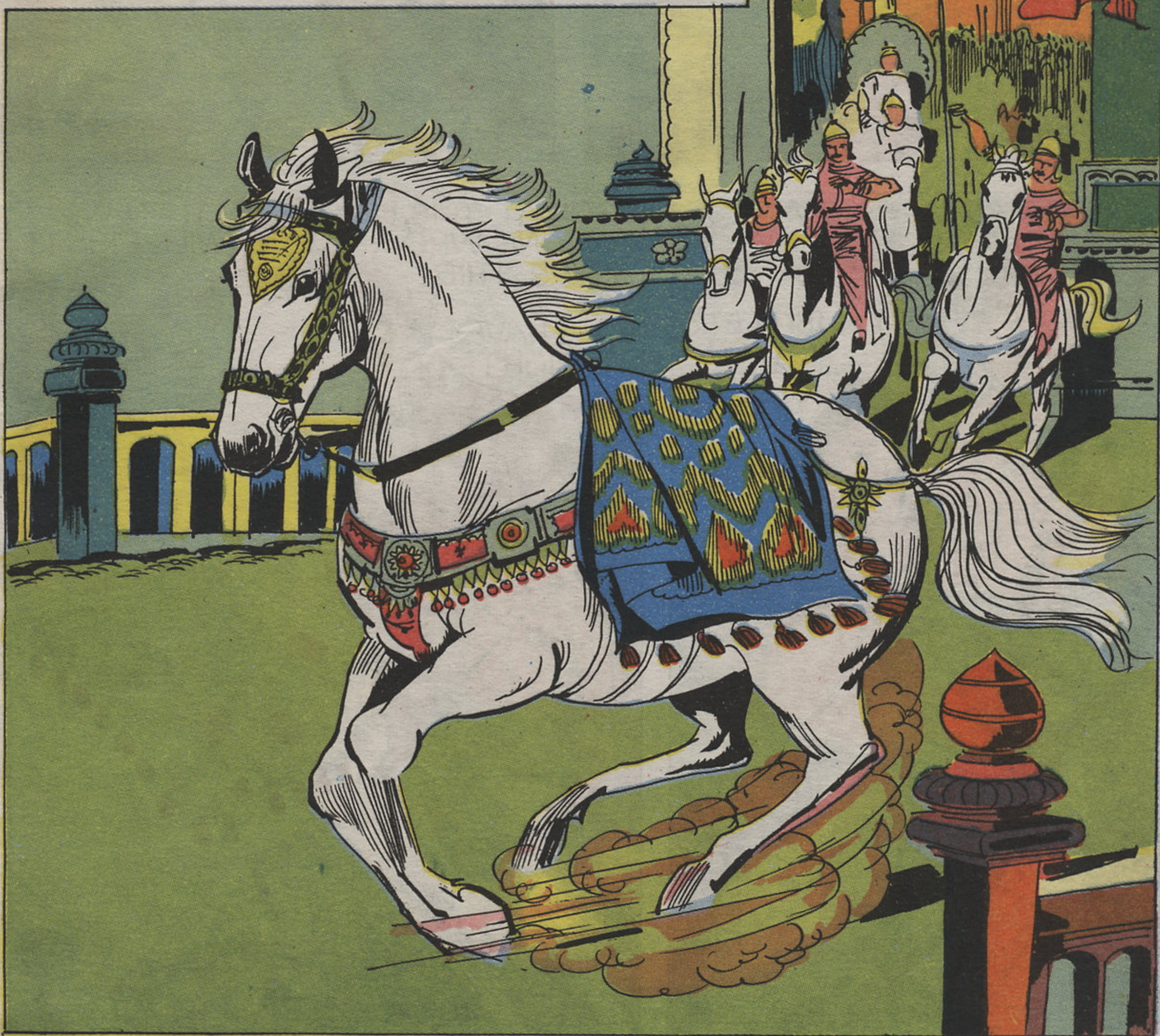




VISHWAMITRA TIED THE CEREMONIAL
GOLD LEAF ON THE HORSE'S FOREHEAD.



THE HORSE WAS THEN
LET LOOSE AND THE
ARMY FOLLOWED IT.



AS THE HORSE ENTERED A RULER'S DOMAIN—

WHAT SHALL WE DO, MY MINISTER?

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING.

WE ARE TOO WEAK. EVEN RAVANA WAS NO MATCH FOR RAMA.



MANY A RULER ACCEPTED RAMA'S SUPREMACY WITHOUT A FIGHT.

NOBODY CHECKS THE HORSE.

WHO DARES FIGHT THIS ARMY?



LUV AND KUSH SAW THE HORSE FROM AFAR.

KUSH, LET'S CATCH THAT HORSE!



LOOK AT THIS, LUV. ANYONE WHO HOLDS THIS HORSE WILL HAVE TO FIGHT!

THEN WE WILL FIGHT!



LUV AND KUSH TIED THE HORSE TO A TREE.



ONE OF RAMA'S SOLDIERS CAME UP TO THEM.



AND A TERRIBLE BATTLE FOLLOWED.



ONE OF THE SOLDIERS HASTENED
BACK TO SHATRUGHNA.

SIRE! THOSE TWO
CHILDREN ARE
IMPOSSIBLE!
THEY HAVE
MADE FOOLS
OF US!

I'LL TEACH
THEM
HOW TO
BEHAVE!



HE'S VERY
PROUD OF
HIS
CHARIOT!

WE'LL
SHOW
HIM!

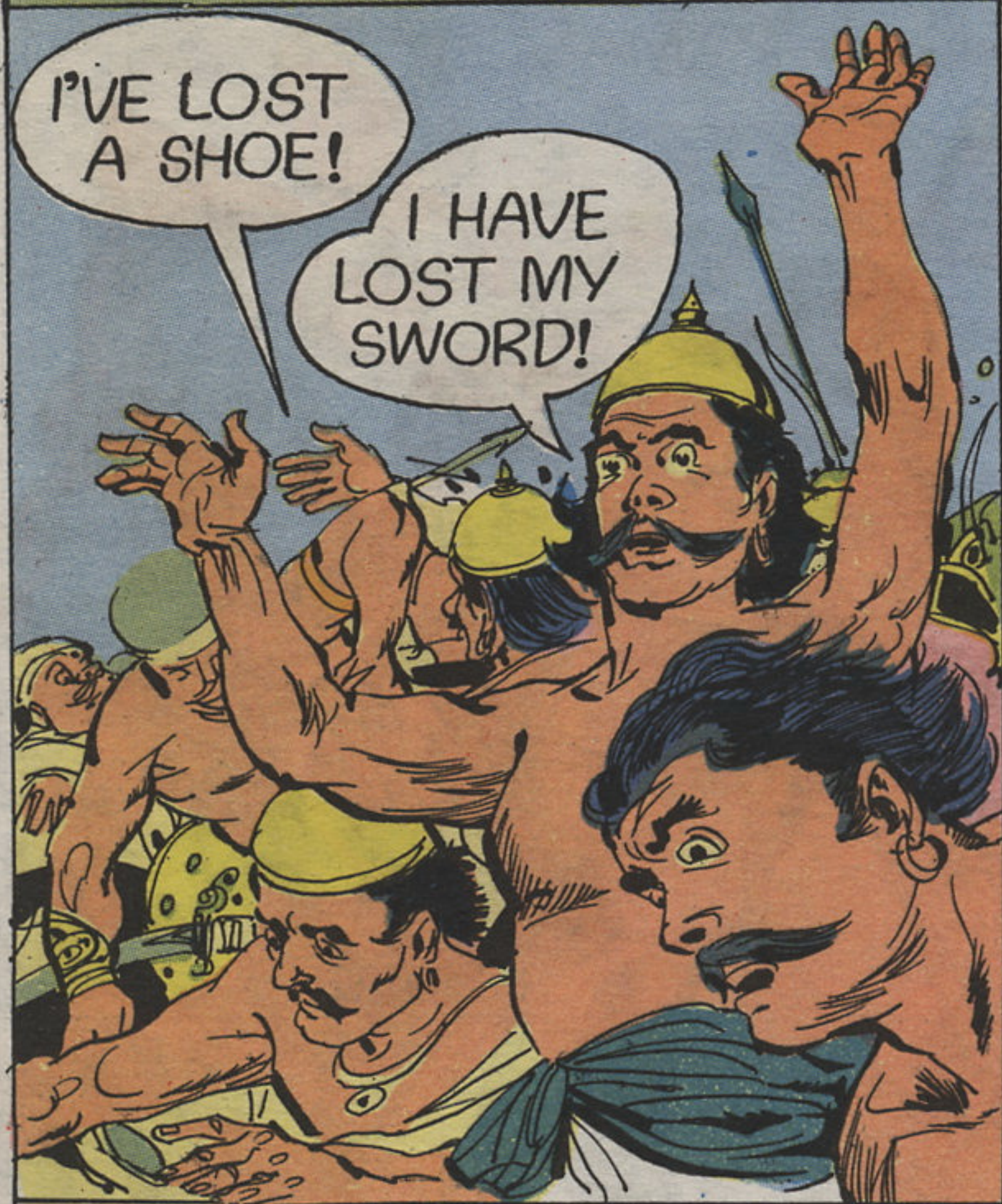
LUV, SHOOT
AT THE
WHEEL!

H-E-R-E
GOES!



JUST ONE
SHOT TOOK
CARE OF
HIM!

AS SHATRUGHNA FELL, RAMA'S
ARMY FLED IN DISARRAY.



I'VE LOST
A SHOE!

I HAVE
LOST MY
SWORD!

SOME OF THE SOLDIERS
WENT UP TO RAMA.

VICTORY TO
RAMA. TWO
YOUNG
BOYS... JUST
TWO OF
THEM...

YES SIRE, THEY
MADE HIM FALL
FROM HIS
CHARIOT!

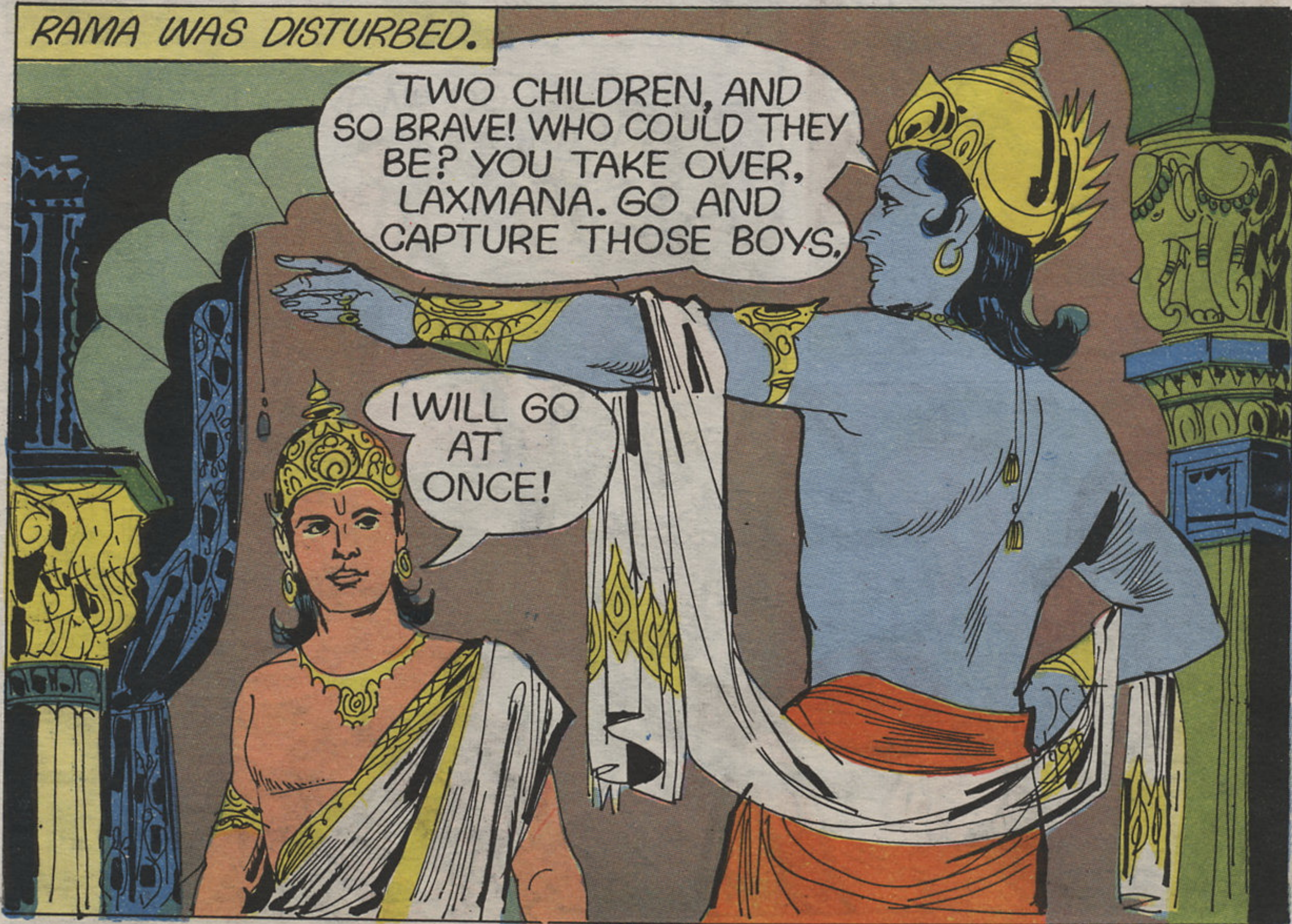


SHATRUGHNA
FALLEN!!

RAMA WAS DISTURBED.

TWO CHILDREN, AND
SO BRAVE! WHO COULD THEY
BE? YOU TAKE OVER,
LAXMANA. GO AND
CAPTURE THOSE BOYS.

I WILL GO
AT
ONCE!



LAXMANA MARCHED WITH THE ARMY.



LAXMANA WAS LOST IN THOUGHT.

TWO
YOUNG
BOYS!
UP
AGAINST
RAMA!



GO AWAY NOW, BOYS!

TAKE A
LOOK AT
HIM
FIRST.





KUSH AND LAXMANA ENGAGED IN A FURIOUS BATTLE.



KUSH WAS WOUNDED IN THE FIGHT.



ENRAGED, LUV CHALLENGED LAXMANA TO A DUEL.

I WON'T LET YOU LIVE AFTER WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO KUSH!



LUV HAD HIS REVENGE. LAXMANA FELL UNCONSCIOUS.

RUN FOR
YOUR
LIVES!

LAXMANA HAS
FALLEN!



RAMA WAS VERY UPSET WHEN
HE HEARD THE NEWS.

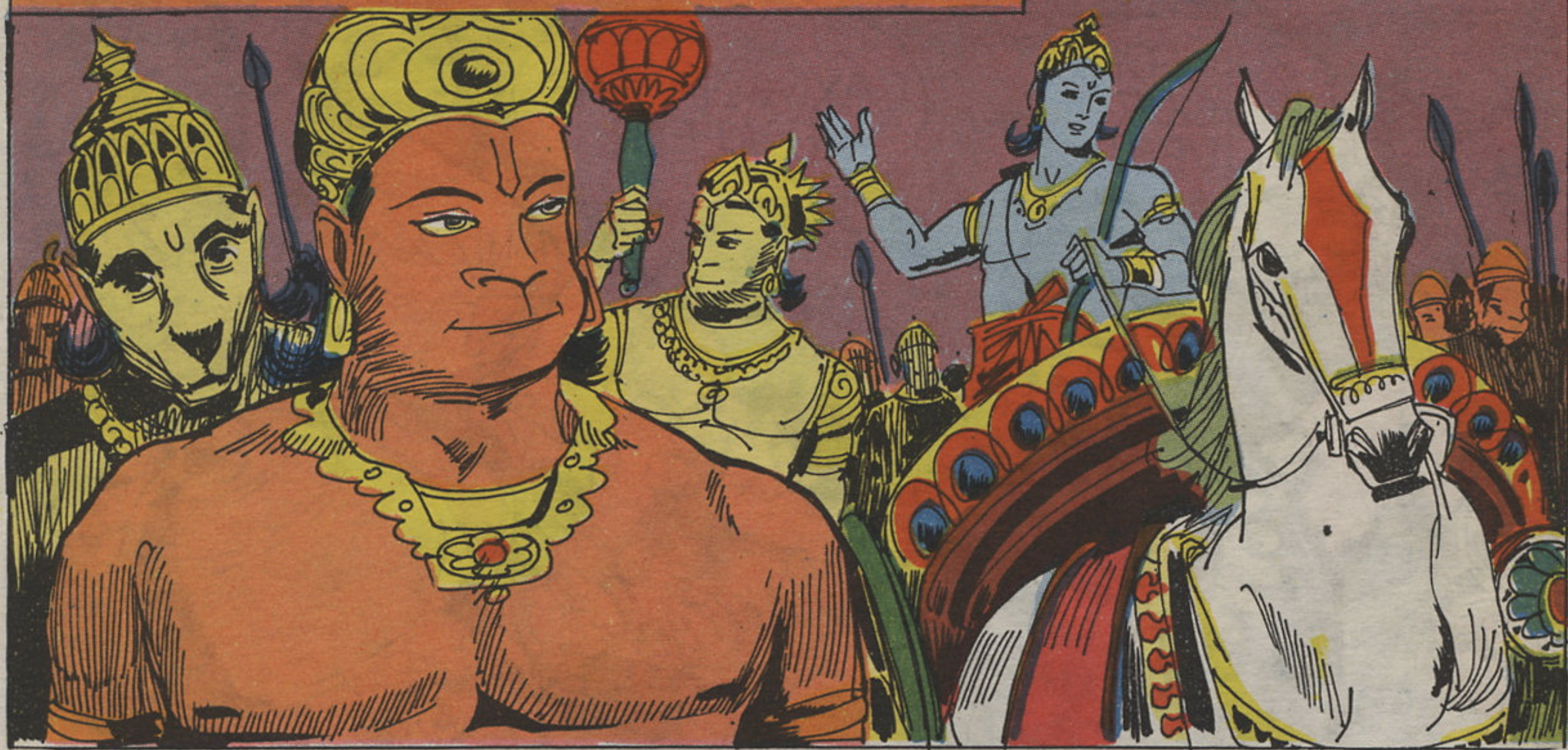
NOW BHARATA,
YOU MUST GO
WITH THE
MONKEY
FORCES.



AND THE MONKEYS PREPARED
FOR BATTLE.



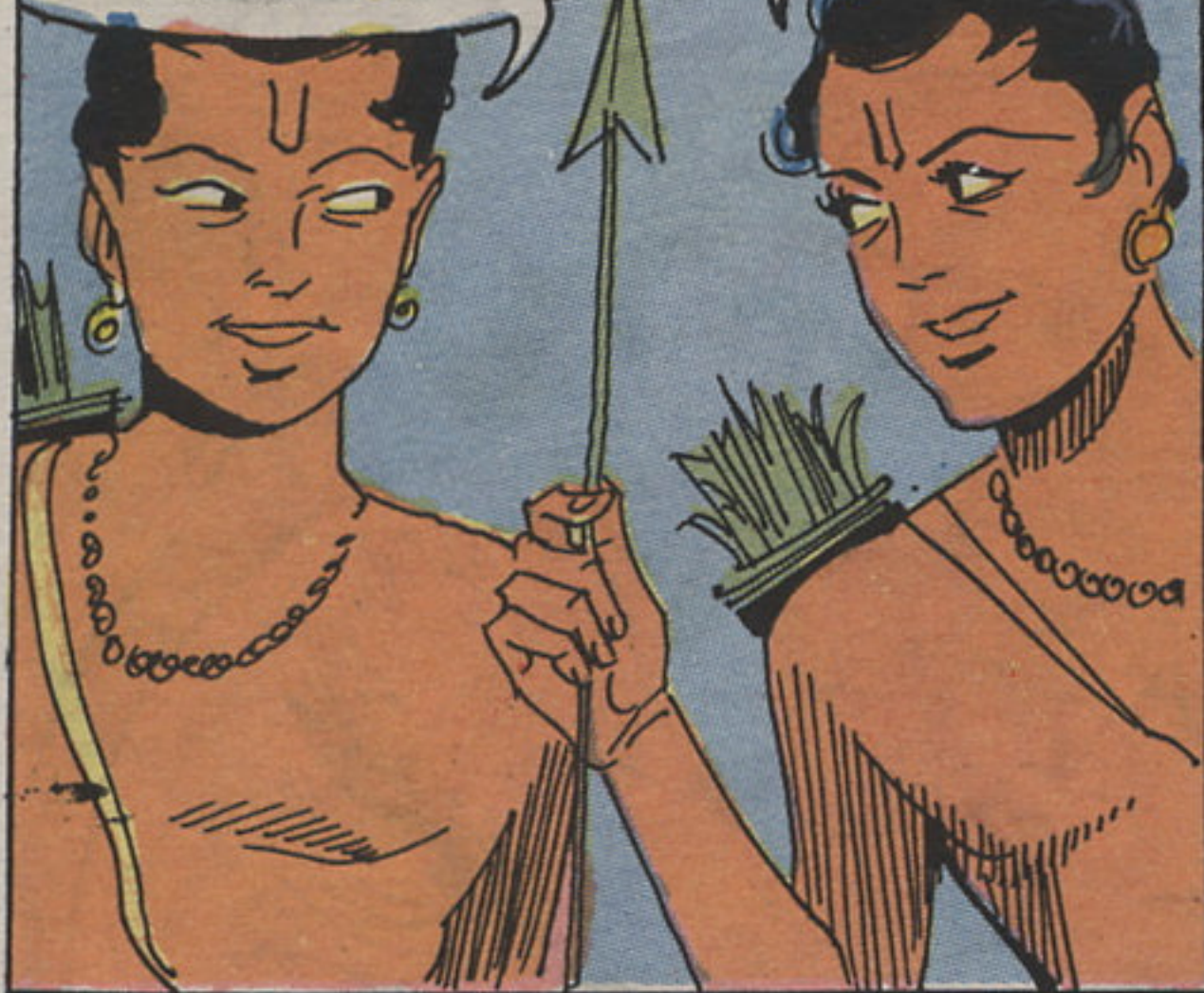
HANUMAN ALSO ACCOMPANIED BHARATA.



LUV AND KUSH EXCHANGED MEANINGFUL LOOKS.

SAY, LET'S MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF THESE MONKEYS!

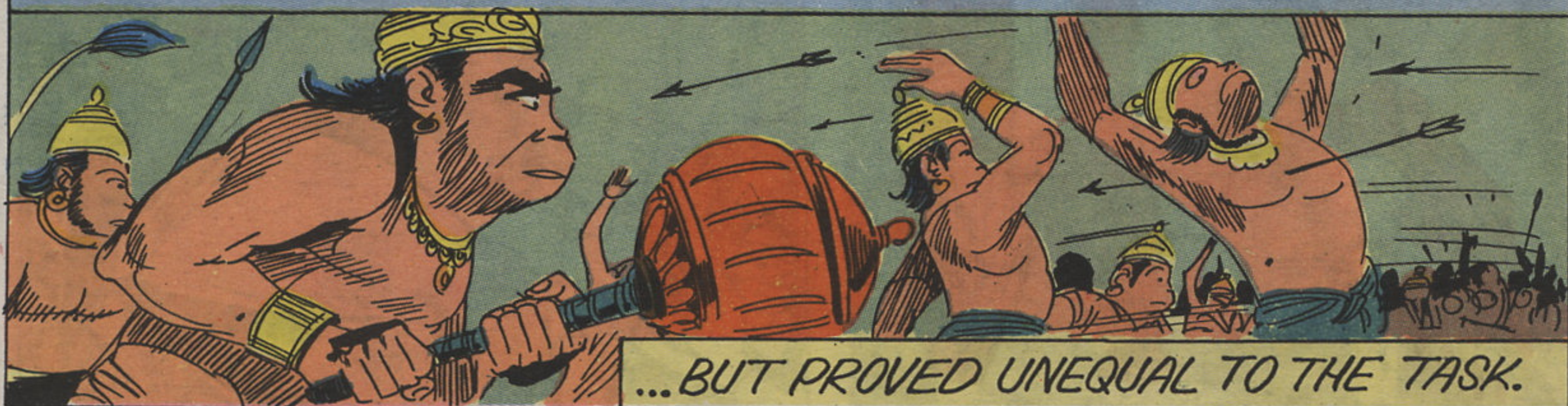
THE SOONER THE BETTER!



INSTANTLY AN ARROW STRUCK HANUMAN'S MACE.



THE MONKEY FORCES WENT INTO ACTION AGAINST LUV AND KUSH.



...BUT PROVED UNEQUAL TO THE TASK.

BHARATA ALSO FELL AND HANUMAN HURRIED BACK TO RAMA.



RAMA LED HIS HUGE FORCES.



RAMA DECIDED TO FIND OUT ABOUT THE CHILDREN.

WHO ARE YOUR
FATHER
AND MOTHER?

WE DO NOT
KNOW ABOUT OUR
FATHER. BUT SITA IS OUR
MOTHER. BUT WHY ARE
YOU SO INTERESTED
ANYWAY?



THOUGH THE BOYS DID NOT KNOW THEIR FATHER, RAMA
RECOGNISED THEM. HIS BOW DROPPED FROM HIS HANDS.

YOU ARE SITA'S...

LOOK, HE IS
FAINTING! AND JUST
BECAUSE OF WHAT
WE SAID. LET'S GO
AND TAKE CARE OF
HIS ARMY.



SOON LUV AND KUSH HAD
THE MONKEYS AT THEIR
MERCY.



THEY TIED HANUMAN NEAR THE
HORSE.



THE MONKEYS DEALT WITH, LUV
AND KUSH RETURNED TO RAMA.

GOODNESS!
HE IS STILL UN-
CONSCIOUS!



LET'S
TAKE
AWAY
HIS
CROWN.



WITH THE HORSE AND THE CROWN, LUV AND KUSH APPROACHED THEIR MOTHER.



WE HAVE BROUGHT HOME PRECIOUS BOOTY, MOTHER!

HEAVENS! NO! DID YOU KILL HIM?



AS RAMA RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS VALMIKI BROUGHT LUV AND KUSH TO MEET HIM.

MAHARSHI!

HE DID NOT DIE MOTHER, HE IS ALIVE!

HERE ARE YOUR SONS, RAMA!

VAIDEHI OF THE RAMAYANA IS NONE OTHER THAN OUR MOTHER, LUV!



HANUMAN WAS STILL
TIED UP.



SAY WITH
ME, GLORY
BE TO
RAMA!



VALMIKI BROUGHT SITA FORWARD.

YOU MUST
TAKE SITA
BACK WITH
YOU.



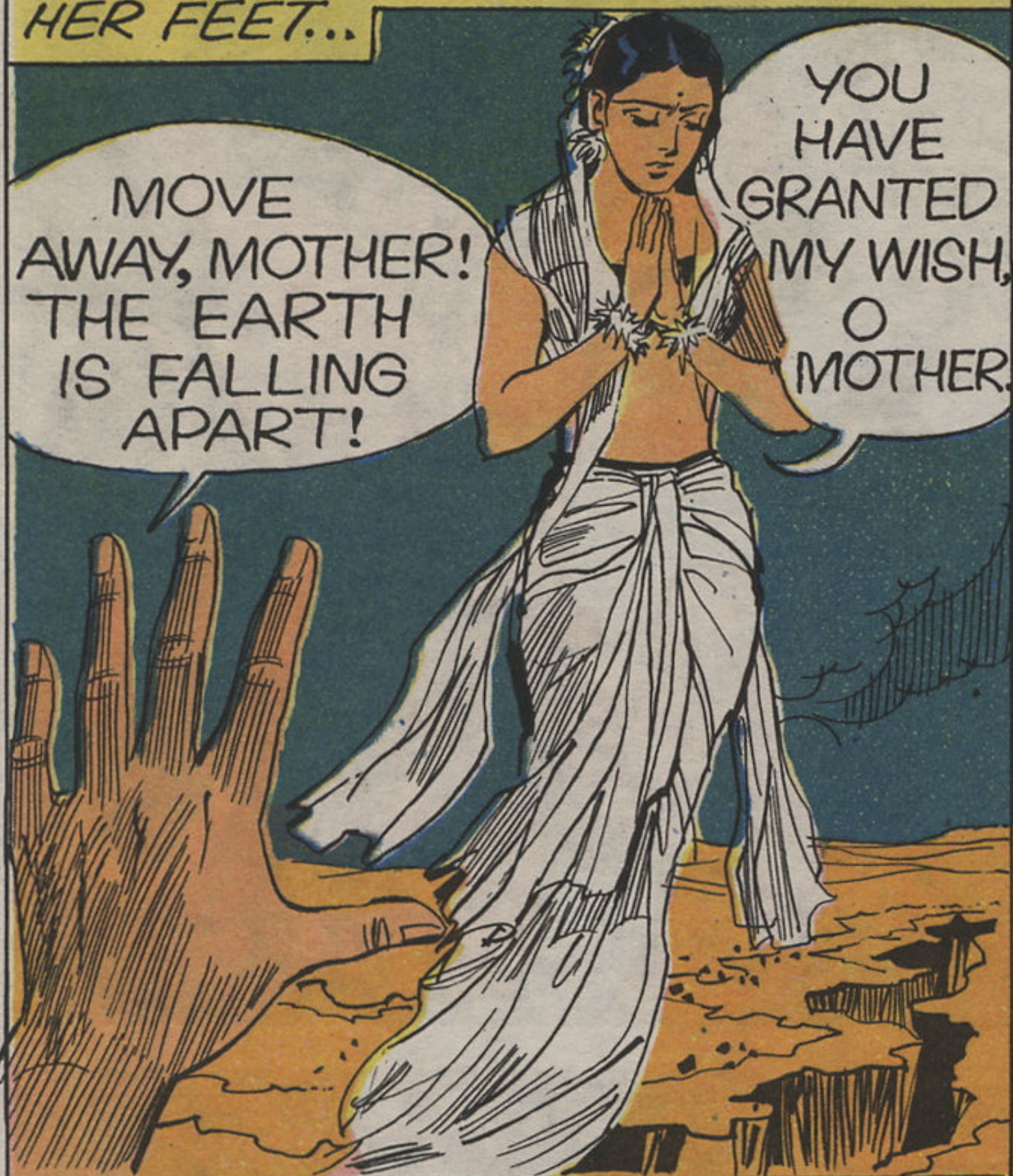
SITA COULD NOT BEAR
THE HUMILIATION ANY
MORE.



...AND THE EARTH PARTED UNDER
HER FEET...

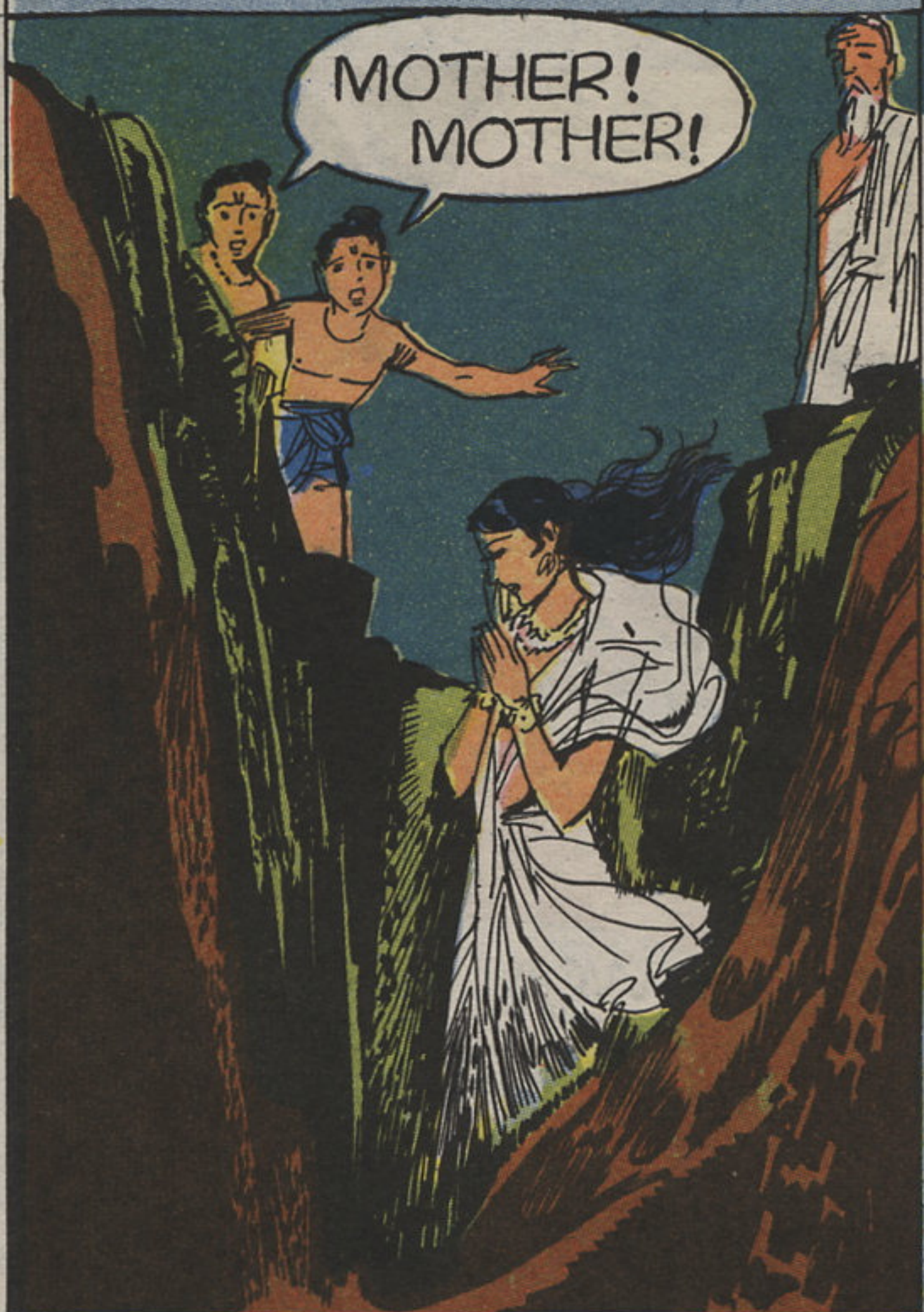
MOVE
AWAY, MOTHER!
THE EARTH
IS FALLING
APART!

YOU
HAVE
GRANTED
MY WISH,
O
MOTHER.



...AND SITA BEGAN TO SINK IN.

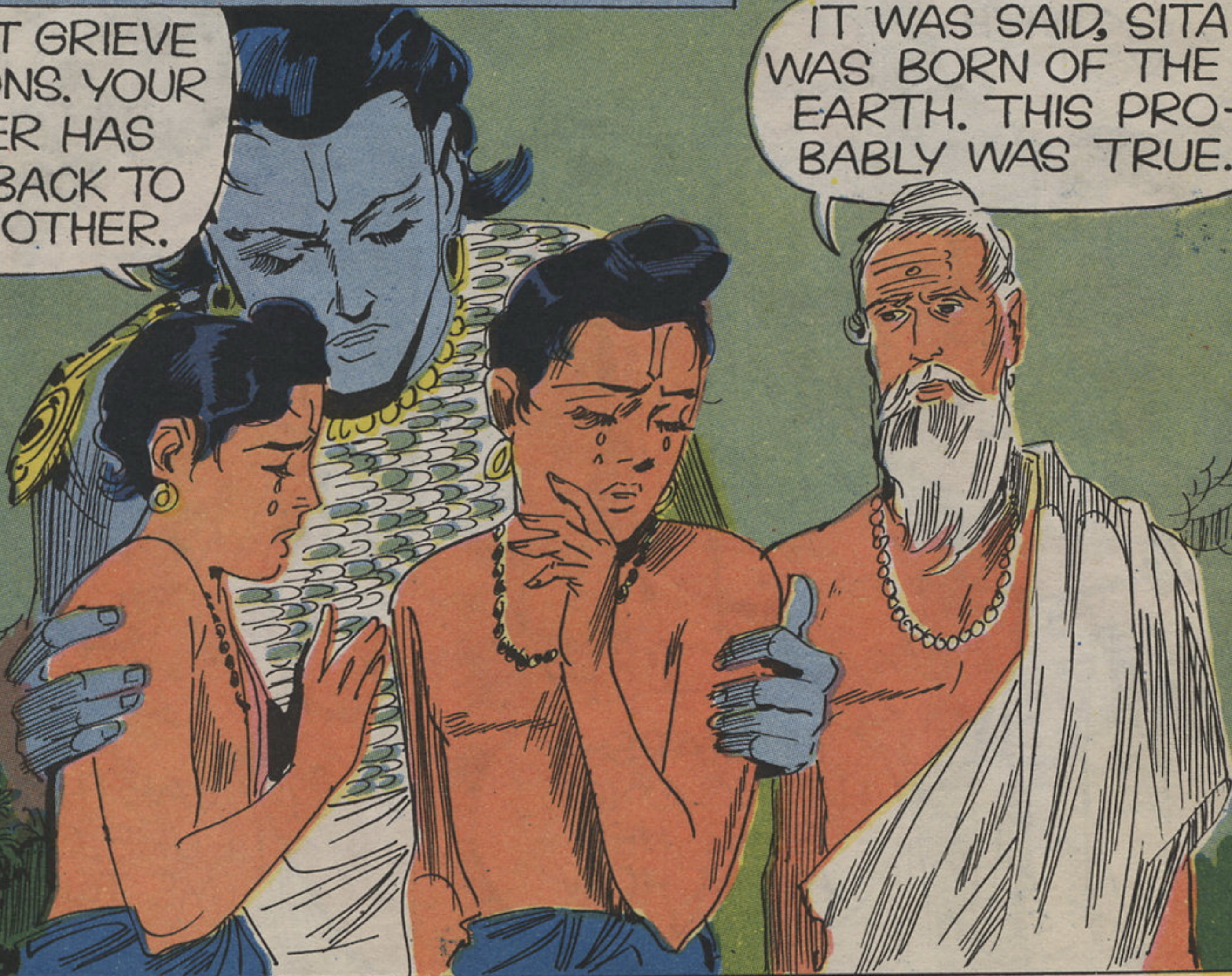
MOTHER!
MOTHER!



RAMA EMBRACED HIS ANGUISHED SONS.

DO NOT GRIEVE
MY SONS. YOUR
MOTHER HAS
GONE BACK TO
HER MOTHER.

IT WAS SAID, SITA
WAS BORN OF THE
EARTH. THIS PRO-
BABLY WAS TRUE.



WITH HIS SONS AND HIS ARMY,
RAMA RETURNED TO AYODHYA.

THE BOYS
PROVED
THEIR WORTH!
ONE DAY
THEY WILL
MAKE GREAT
RULERS!



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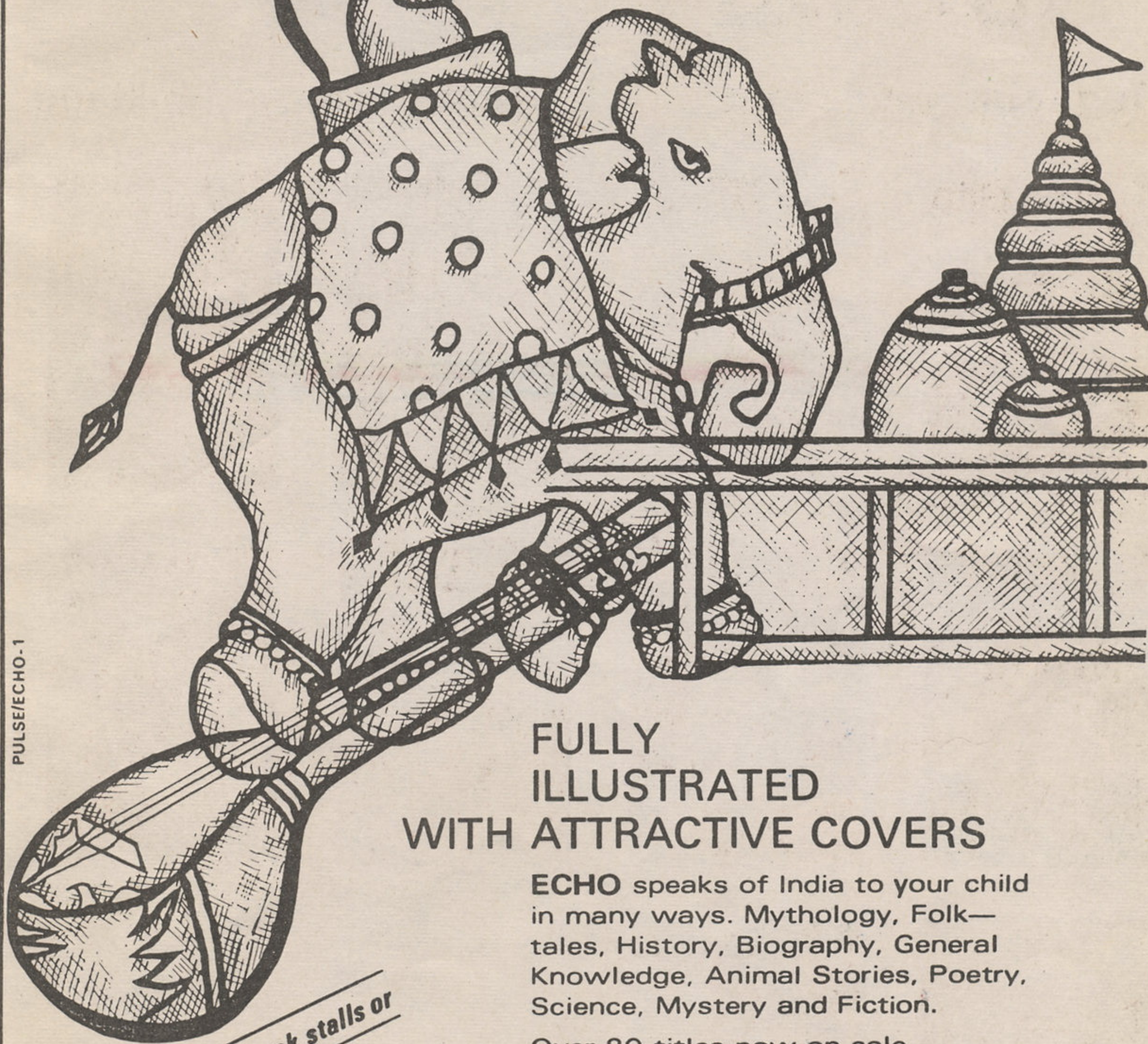
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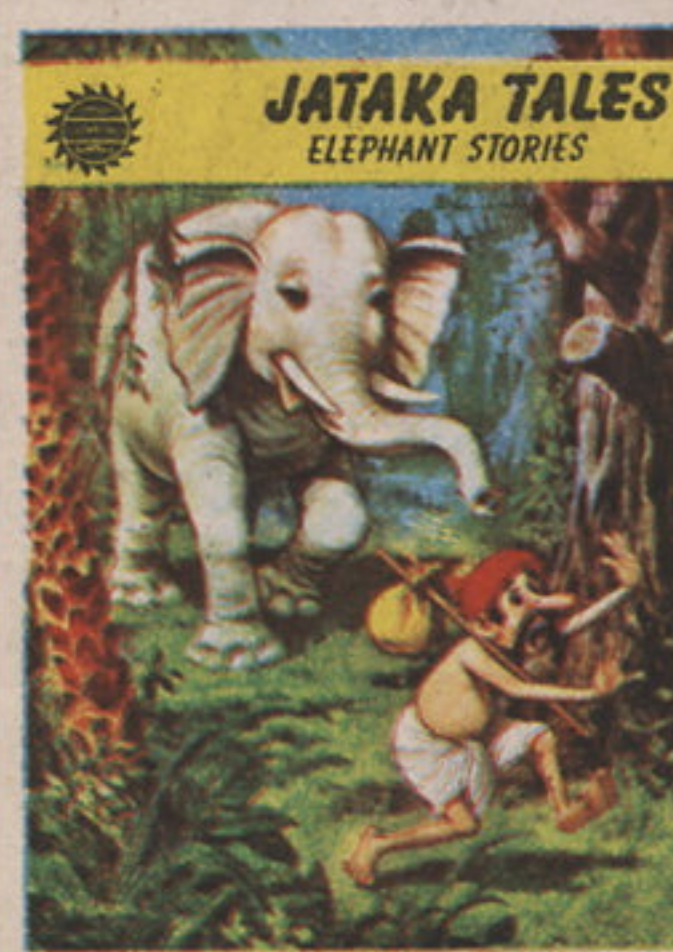
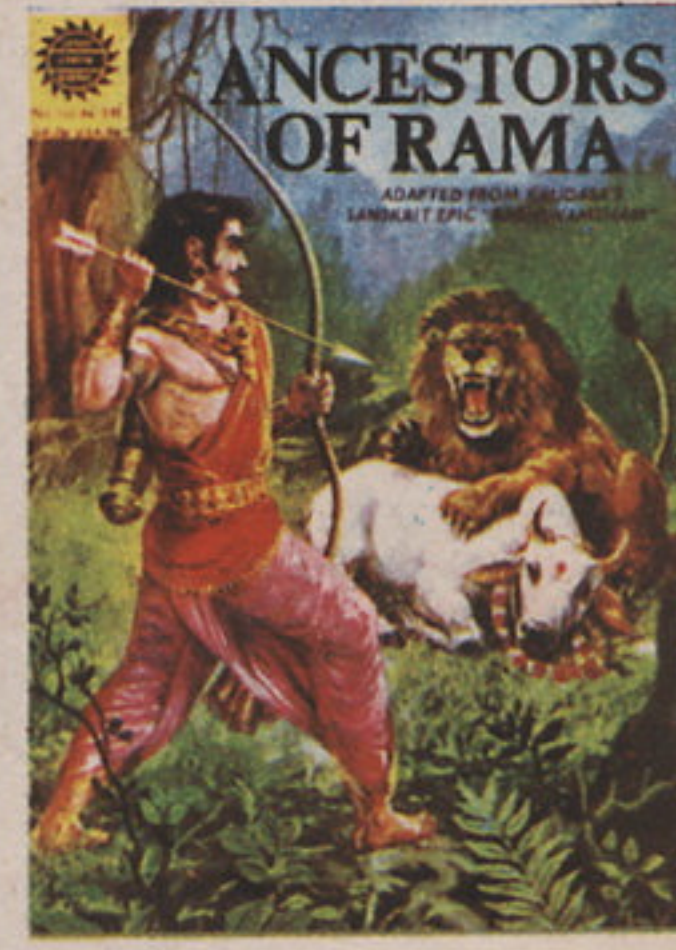
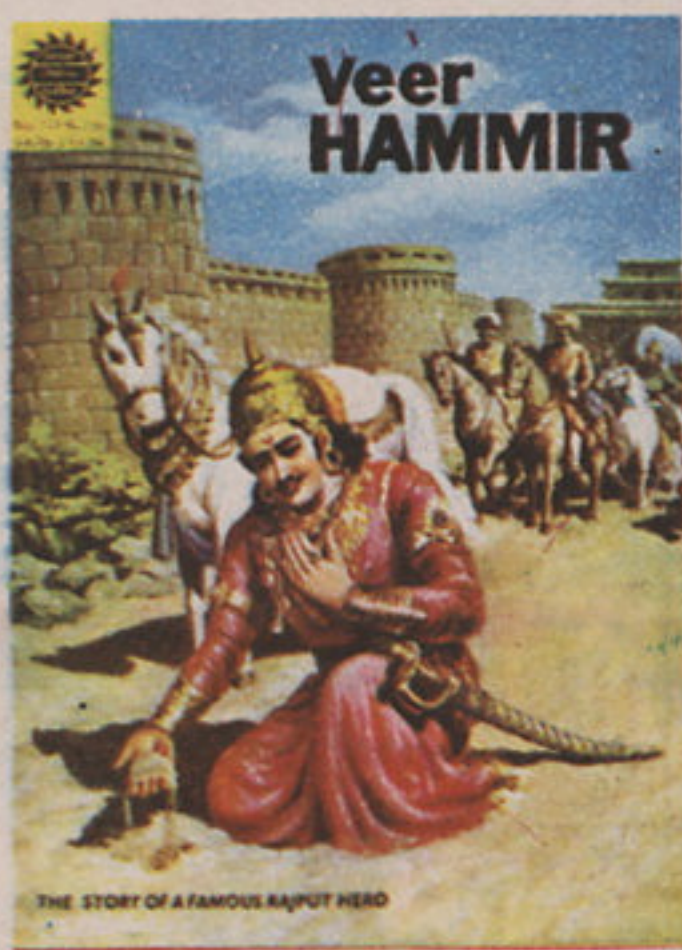
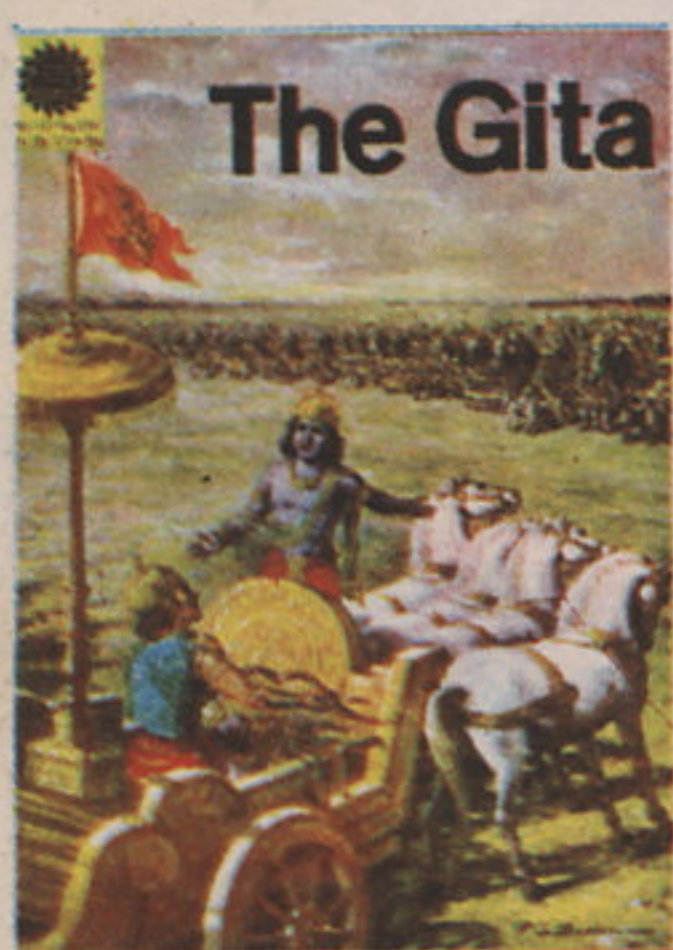
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