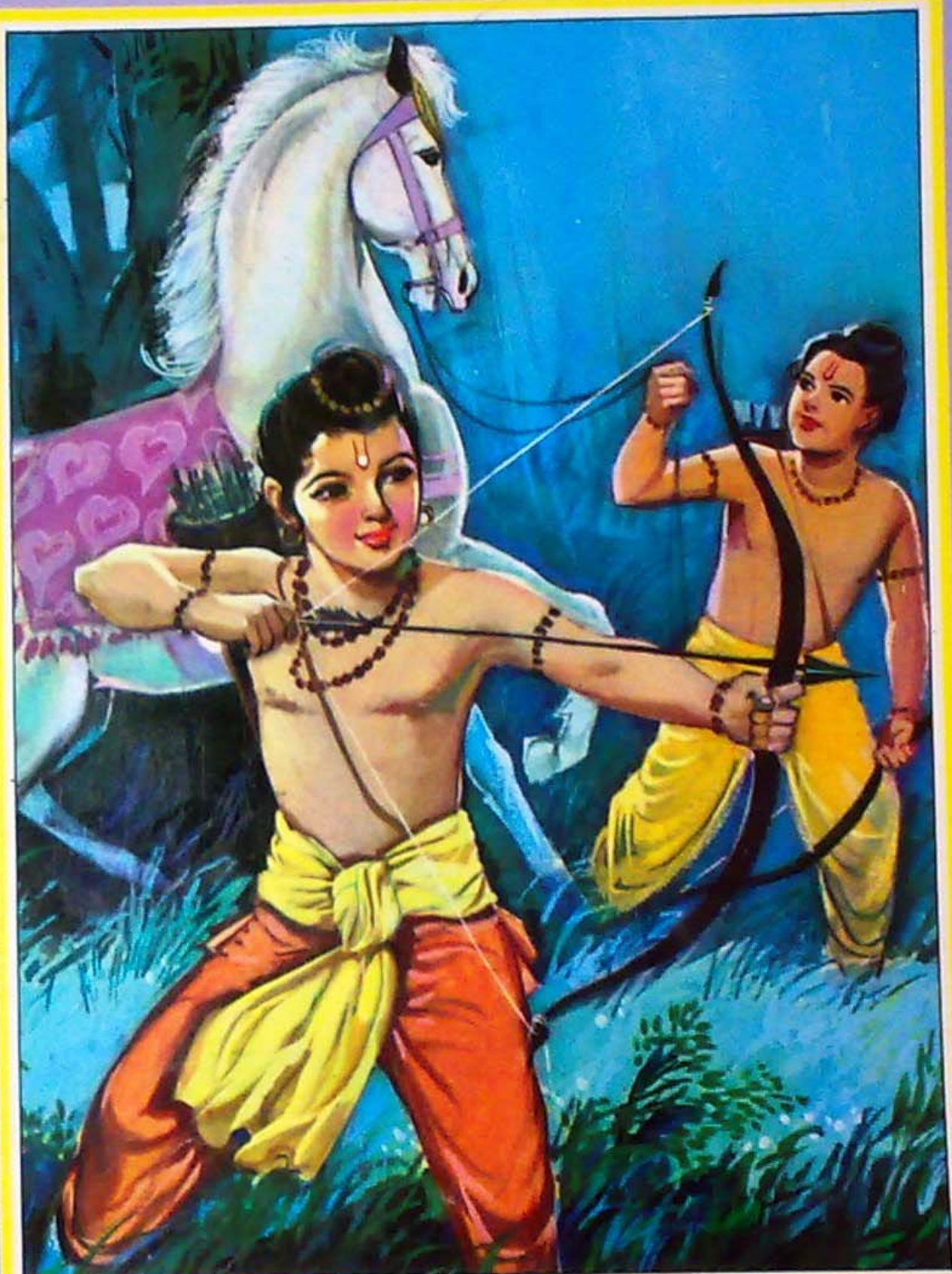




Vol. 503 Rs. 25

# The Sons of Rama



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



# The Sons Of Rama

The story of Rama and Sita was first set down by the sage Valmiki in his epic poem *Ramayana*.

Rama was the eldest son of Dasharatha, the king of Ayodhya, who had three wives – Kaushalya, Kaikeyi and Sumitra. Rama was the son of Kaushalya, Bharata of Kaikeyi and Laxmana and Shatrughna of Sumitra. The four princes grew up to be brave and valiant. Rama won the hand of Sita, the daughter of King Janaka. Dasharatha wanted to crown Rama as the king but Kaikeyi objected. Using boons granted to her by Dasharatha earlier, she had Rama banished to the forest. Sita and Laxmana decided to follow Rama. While in the forest, a Rakshasi, Shoorpanakha, accosted Laxmana but had her nose cut off by him. In revenge, her brother Ravana, king of Lanka, carried Sita away. Rama and Laxmana set out to look for her and with the help of an army of monkeys, defeated Ravana.

On returning to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile, Rama banished Sita because of the suspicions of his subjects. In the ashrama of sage Valmiki, she gave birth to her twin sons, Luv and Kush.

Based on Uttara-Ramacharita of Bhavabhuti.

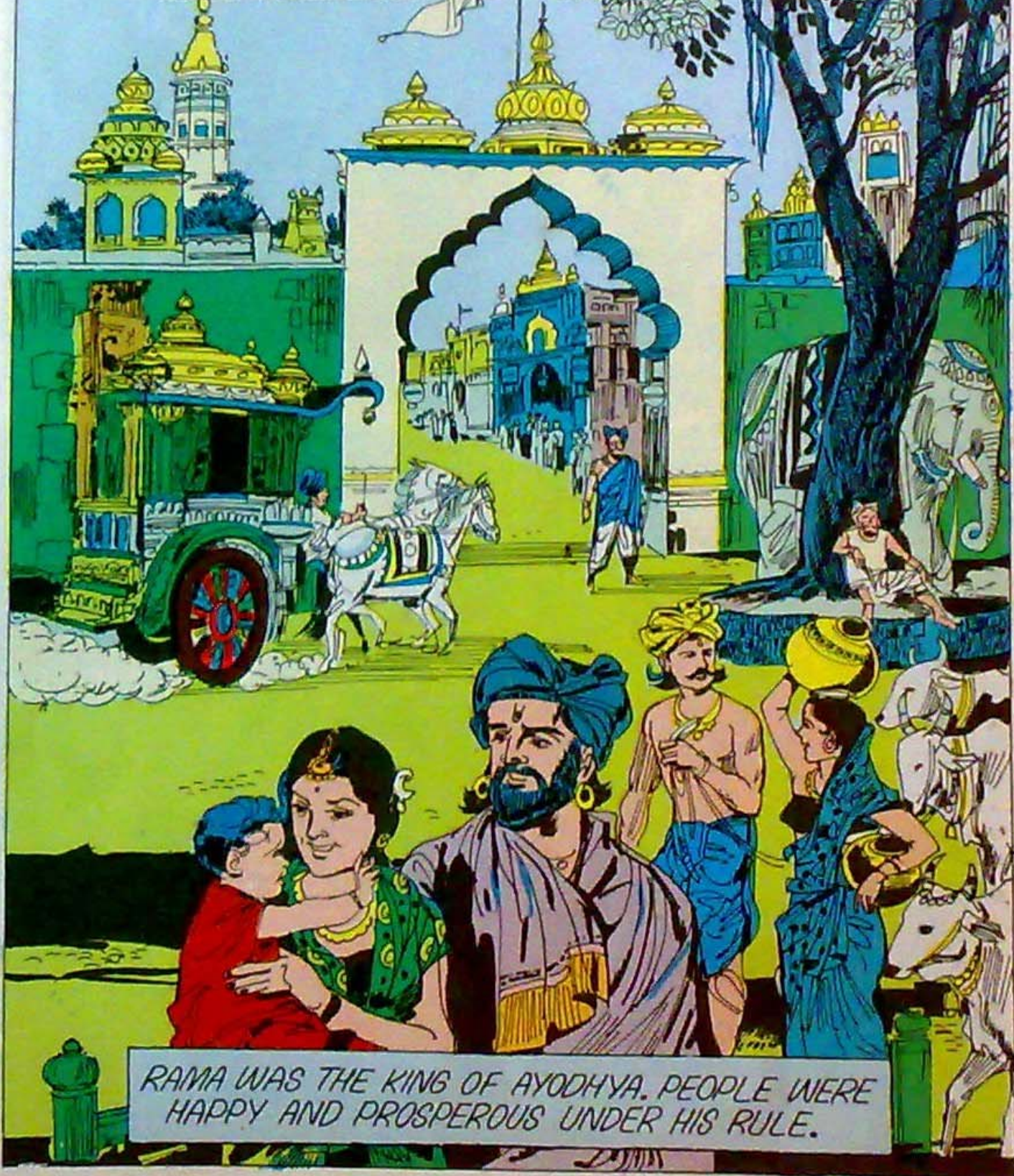


Artwork: Pratap Mulick

**Editor : Anant Pai**

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# THE SONS OF RAMA



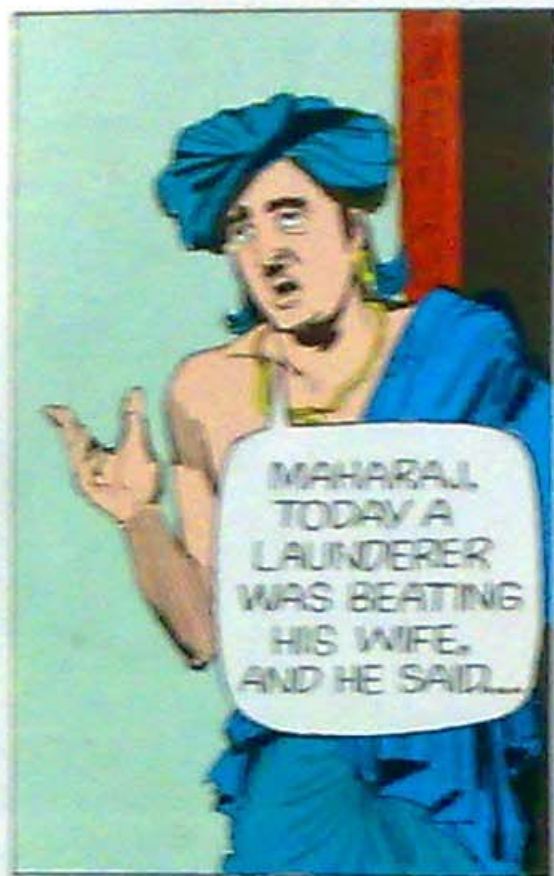
RAMA WAS THE KING OF AYODHYA. PEOPLE WERE HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS UNDER HIS RULE.

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...

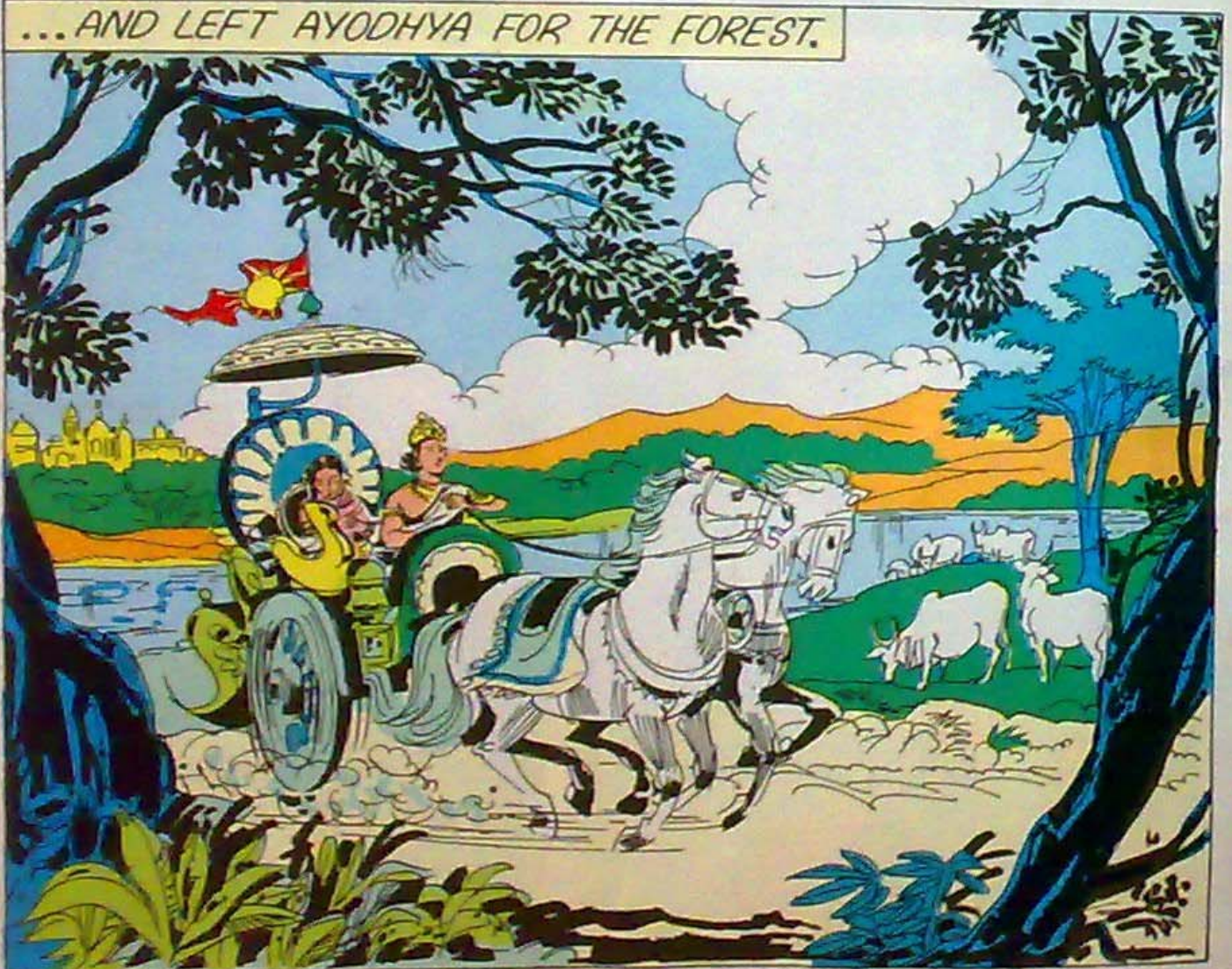
NO BUTS, THIS IS MY DECISION!



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.

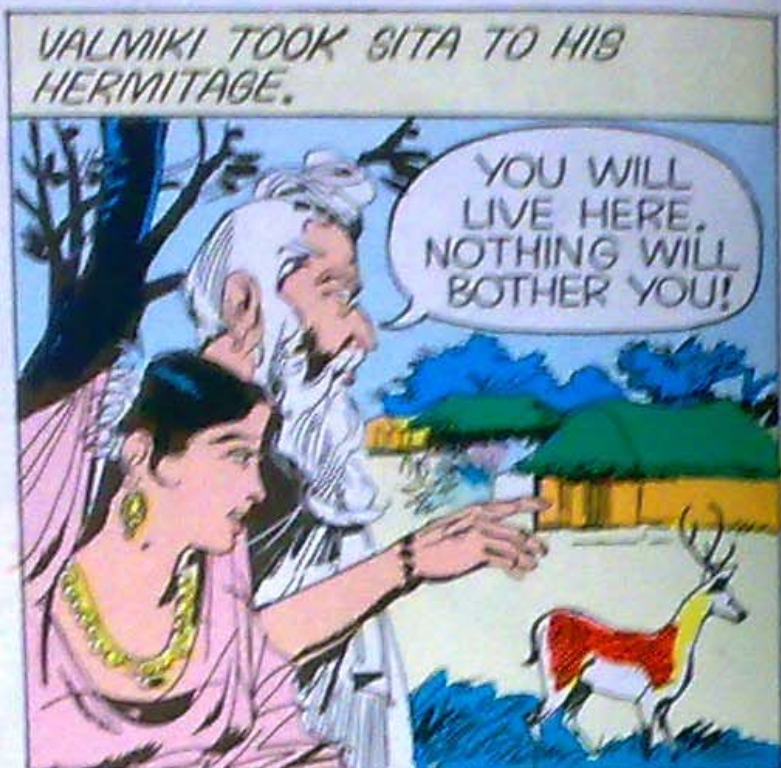
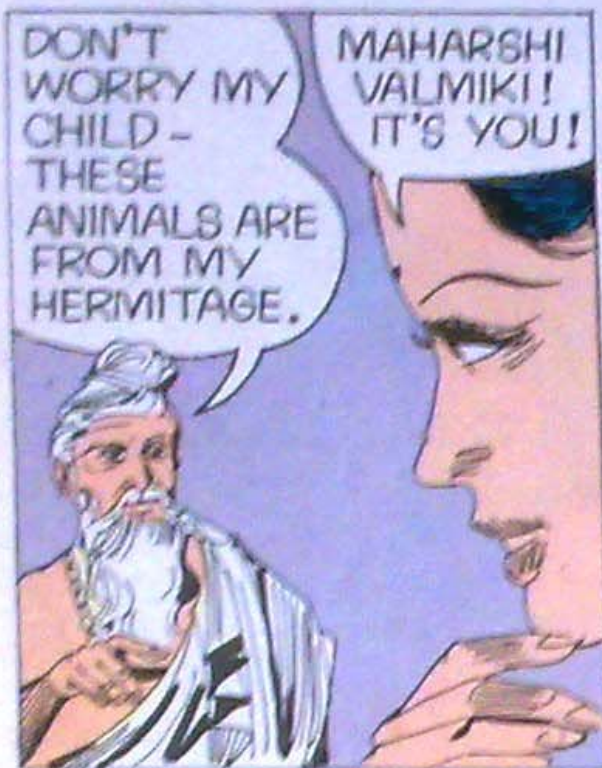
JUST THEN A SERPENT APPEARED.



WHERE SHALL I GO?



HELP!  
HELP!

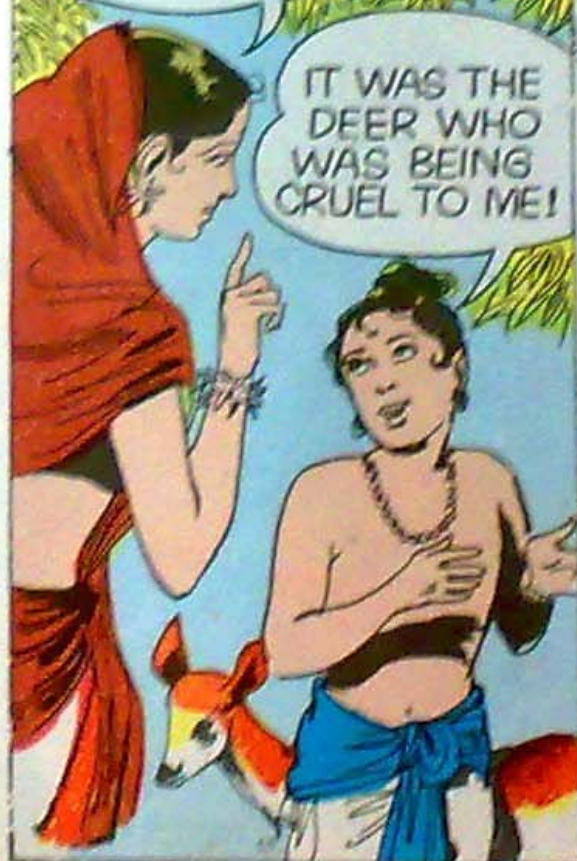




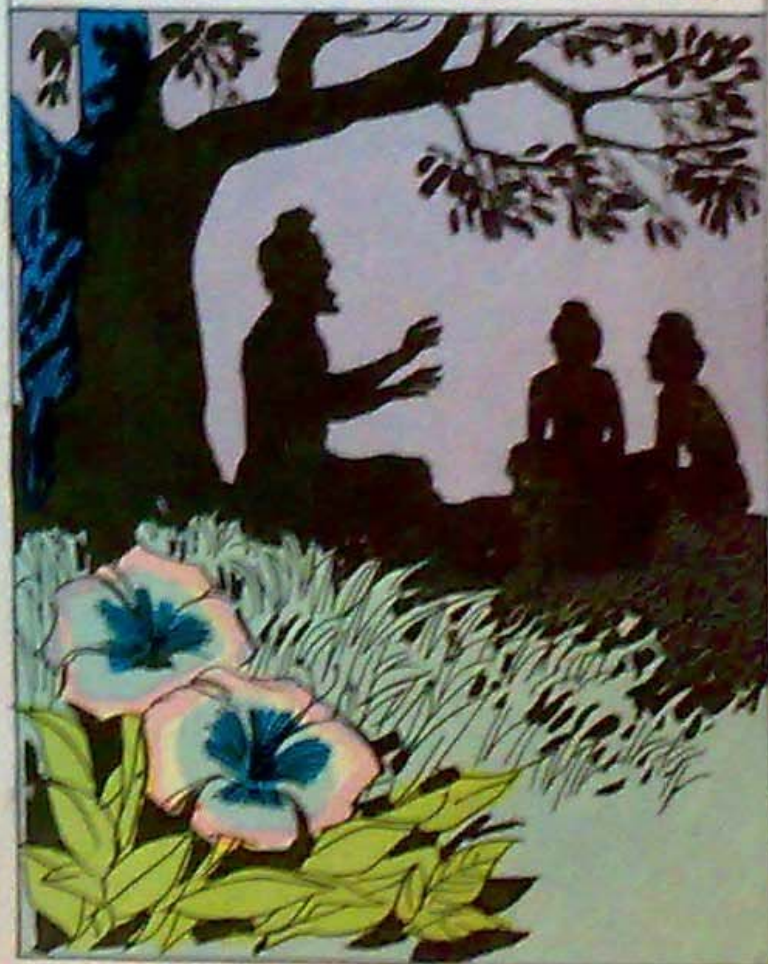
AS TIME PASSED, SITA'S TWIN SONS, LUV AND KUSH, GREW UP.



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.

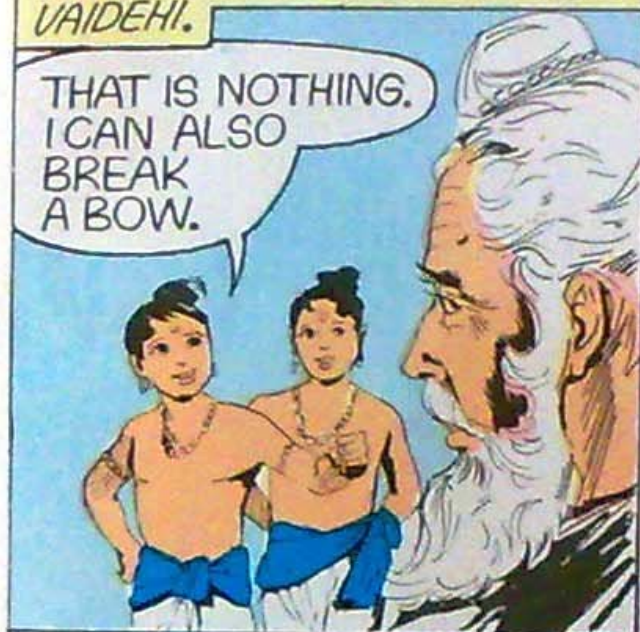
WHAT'S THIS? ARE YOU TWO TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER?

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!



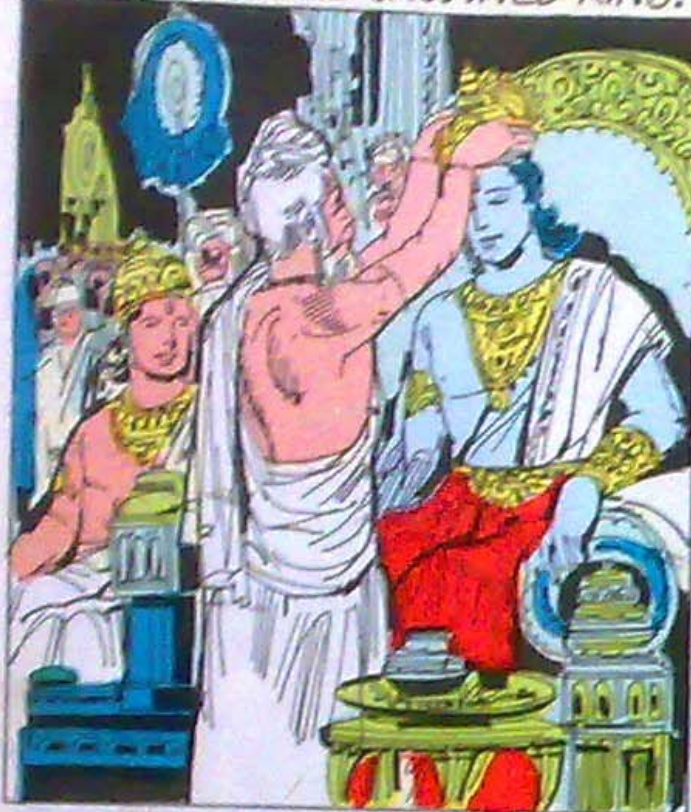
"ONE DAY AS RAMA WENT AFTER A DEER, RAVANA KIDNAPPED VAIDEHI."



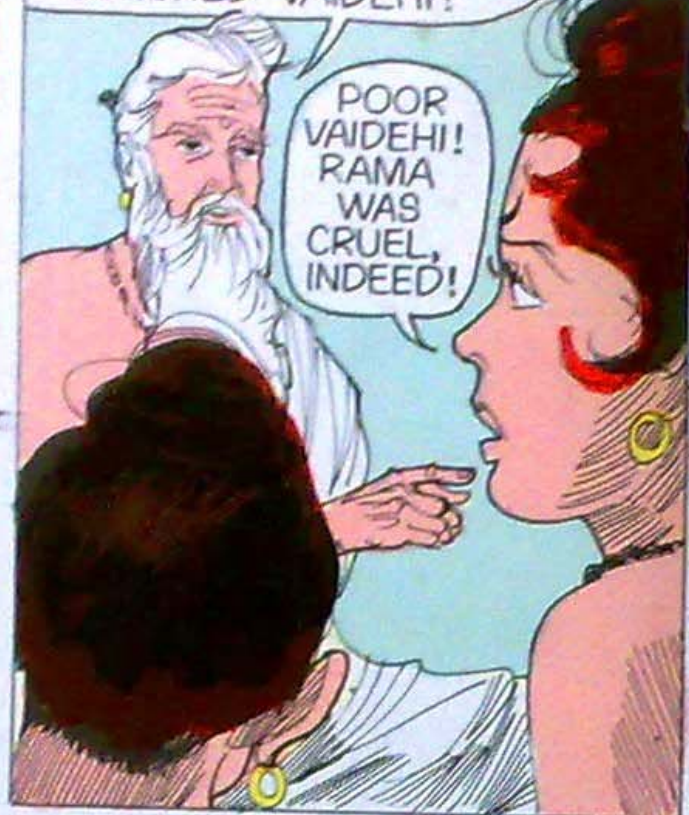
"IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, RAVANA WAS KILLED BY RAMA."



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



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



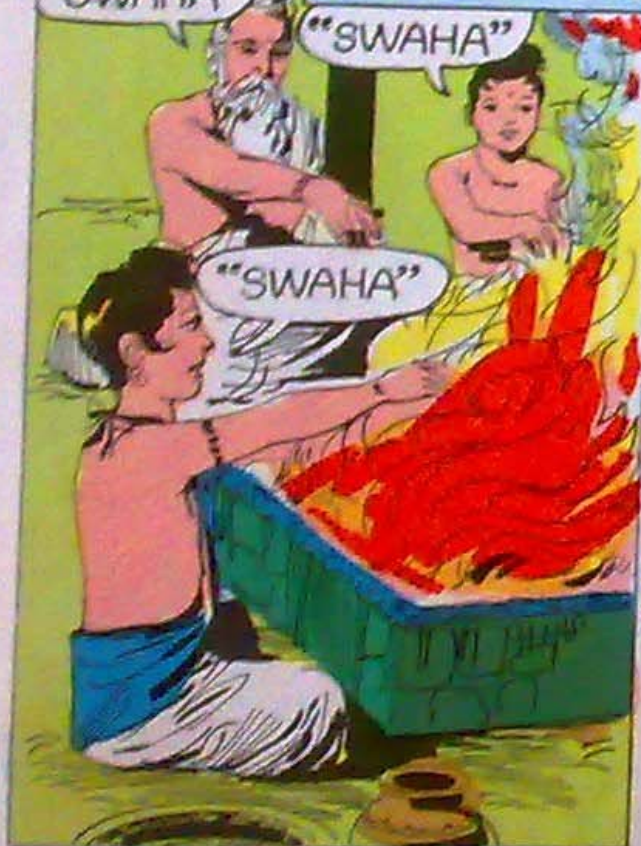
POOR VAIDEHI!  
RAMA  
WAS  
CRUEL,  
INDEED!

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

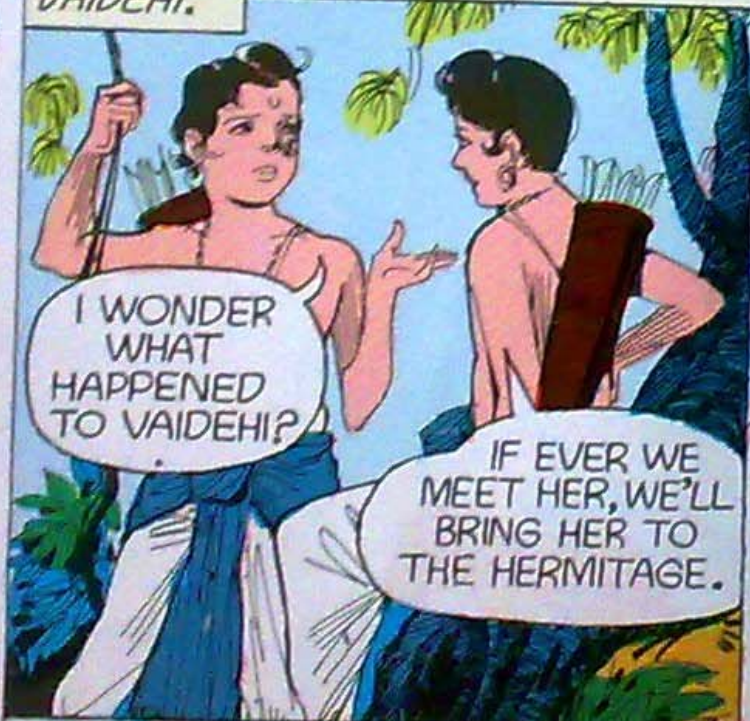
"SWAHA"

"SWAHA"

"SWAHA"



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

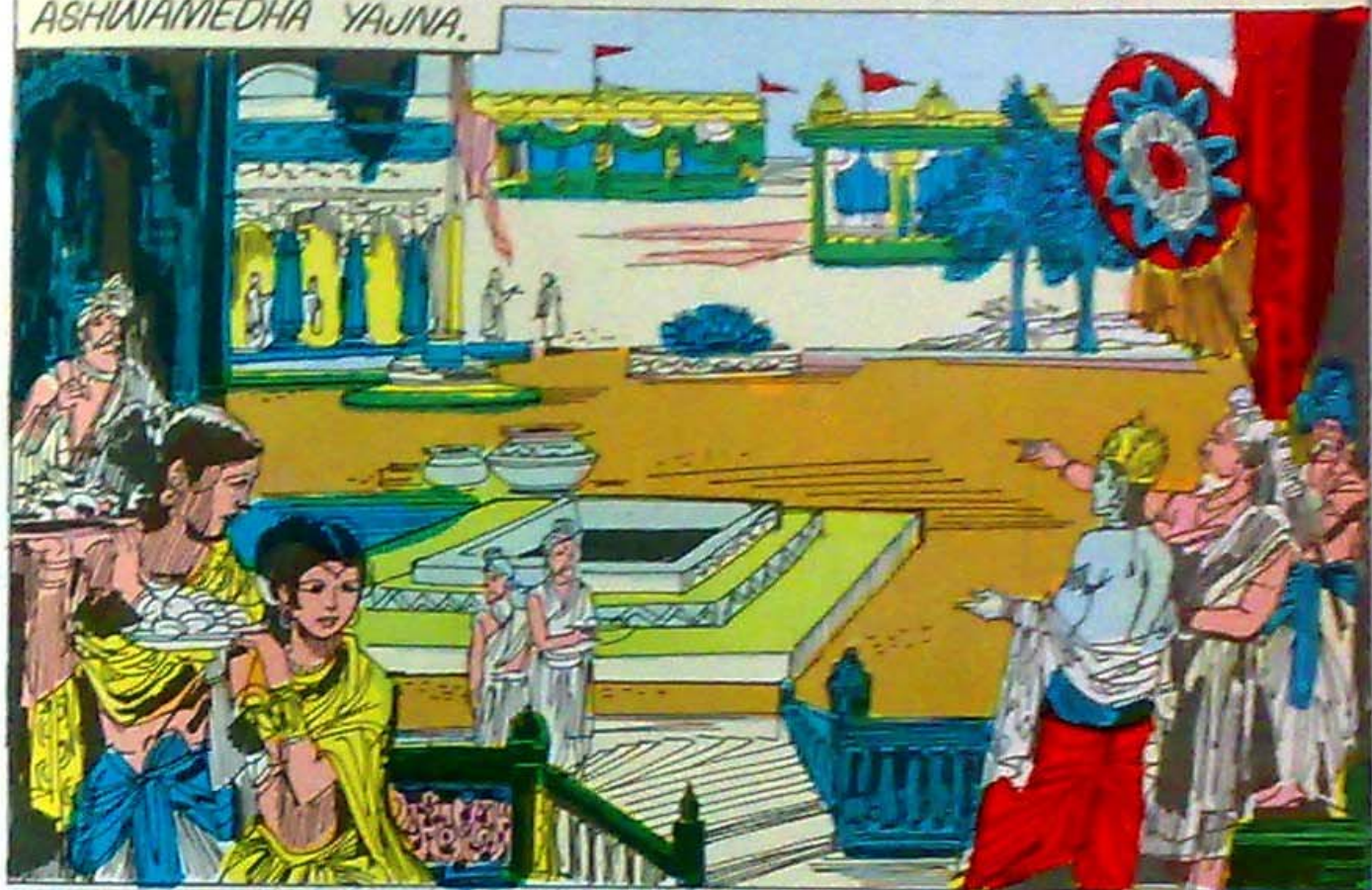


I WONDER  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO VAIDEHI?

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 ASHWINAMEDHA YAJNA.



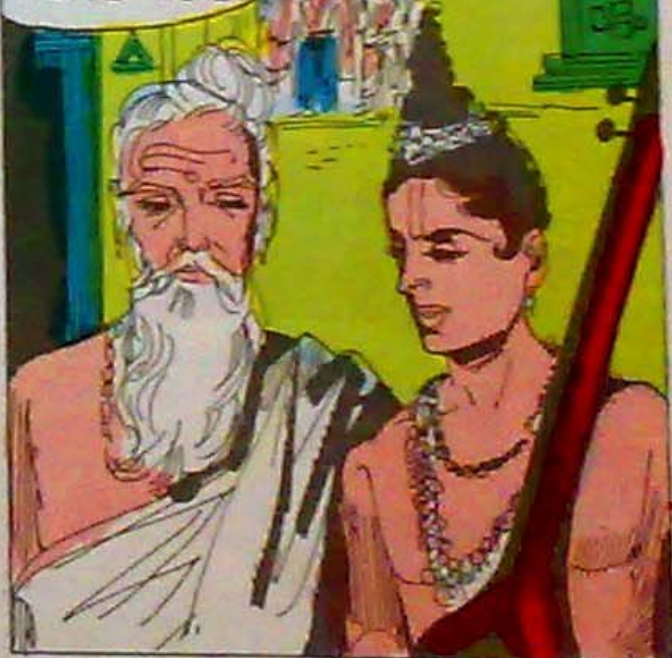
AS PEOPLE PASSED BY HIS ROYAL PALACE -



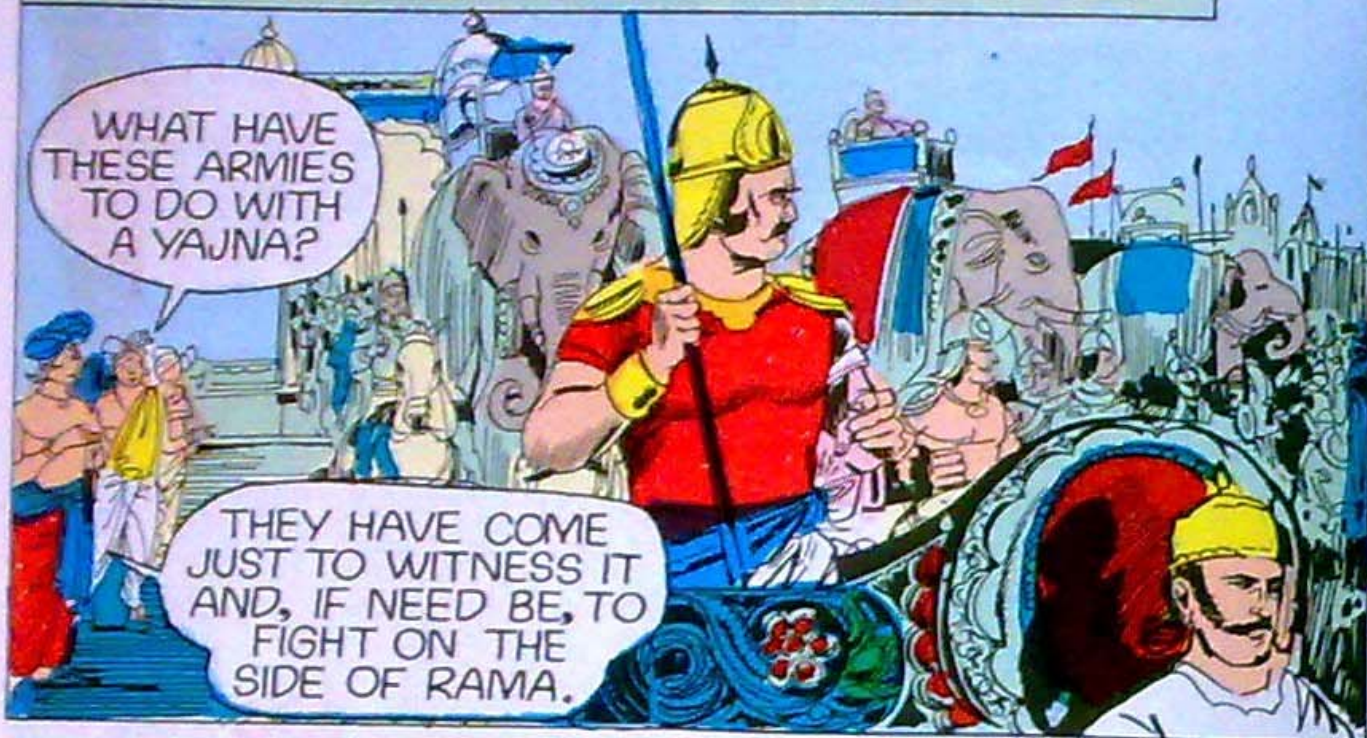
ALL WERE INVITED TO THE YAJNA.

THE GREAT SAGES, VISHWAMITRA AND NARADA ARE HERE TOO.

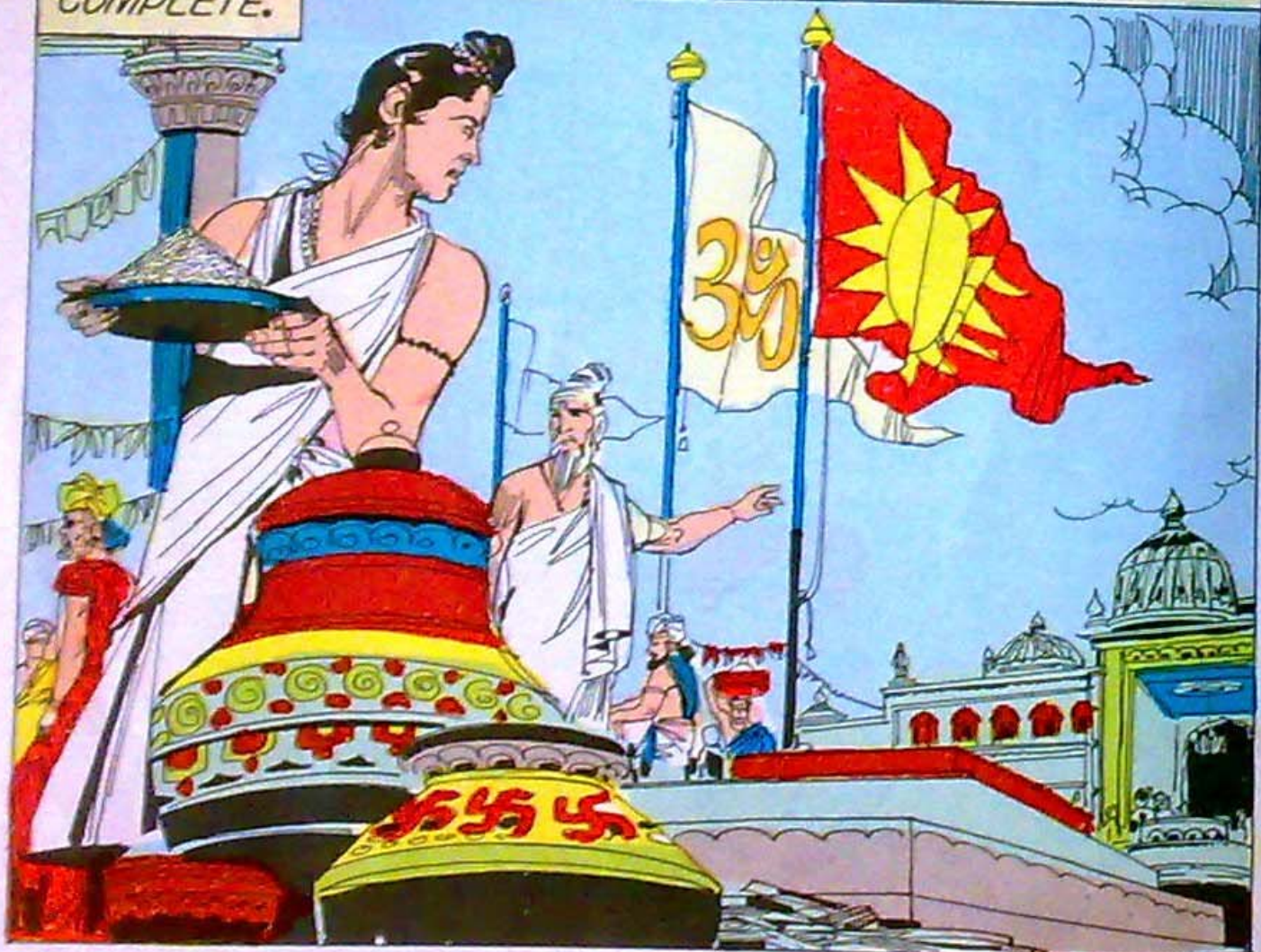
THEY ARE STAYING WITH THE SAGE VASHISHTHA.



RULERS FROM ALL AROUND CAME WITH THEIR ARMIES.



THE YAJNASHALA WAS DECORATED; PREPARATIONS WERE NOW COMPLETE.



BUT NARADA HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO VISHVA MITRA.

HOW CAN RAMA PERFORM THE YAJNA WITHOUT HIS WIFE SITA?

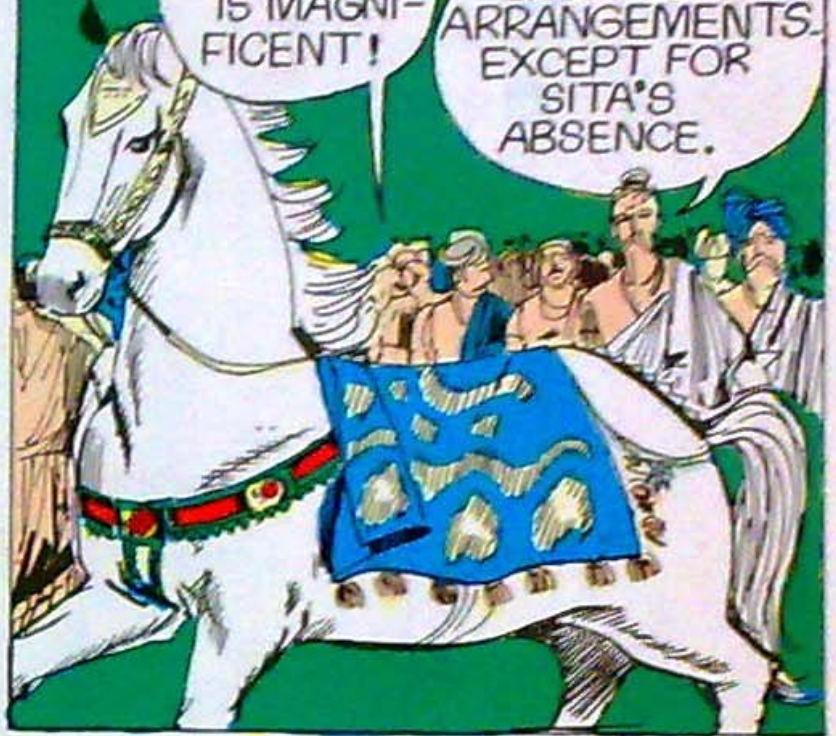
HE WILL HAVE TO USE A GOLDEN STATUE OF HER!



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

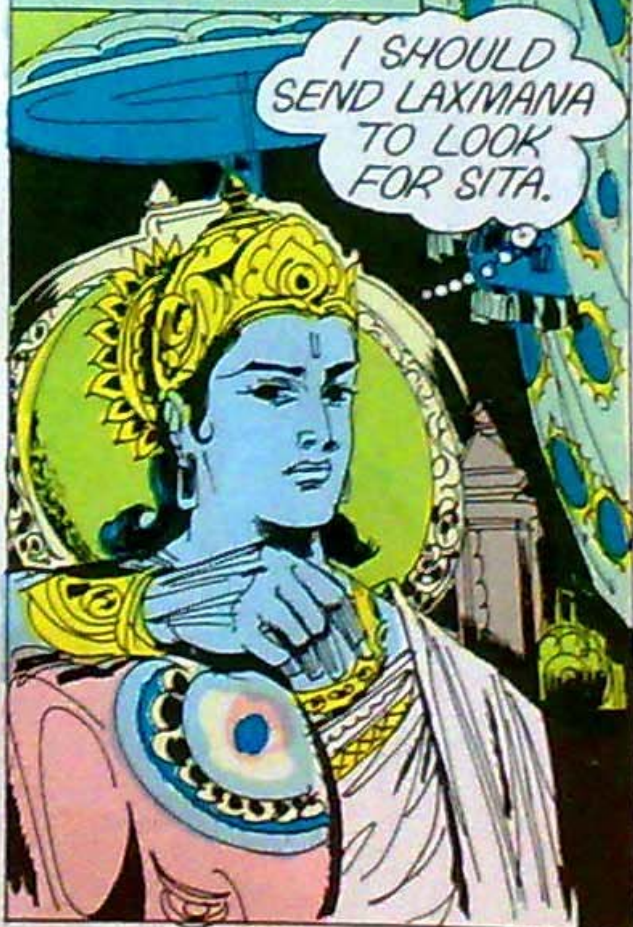
THE HORSE IS MAGNIFICENT!

EXCELLENT ARRANGEMENTS, EXCEPT FOR SITA'S ABSENCE.



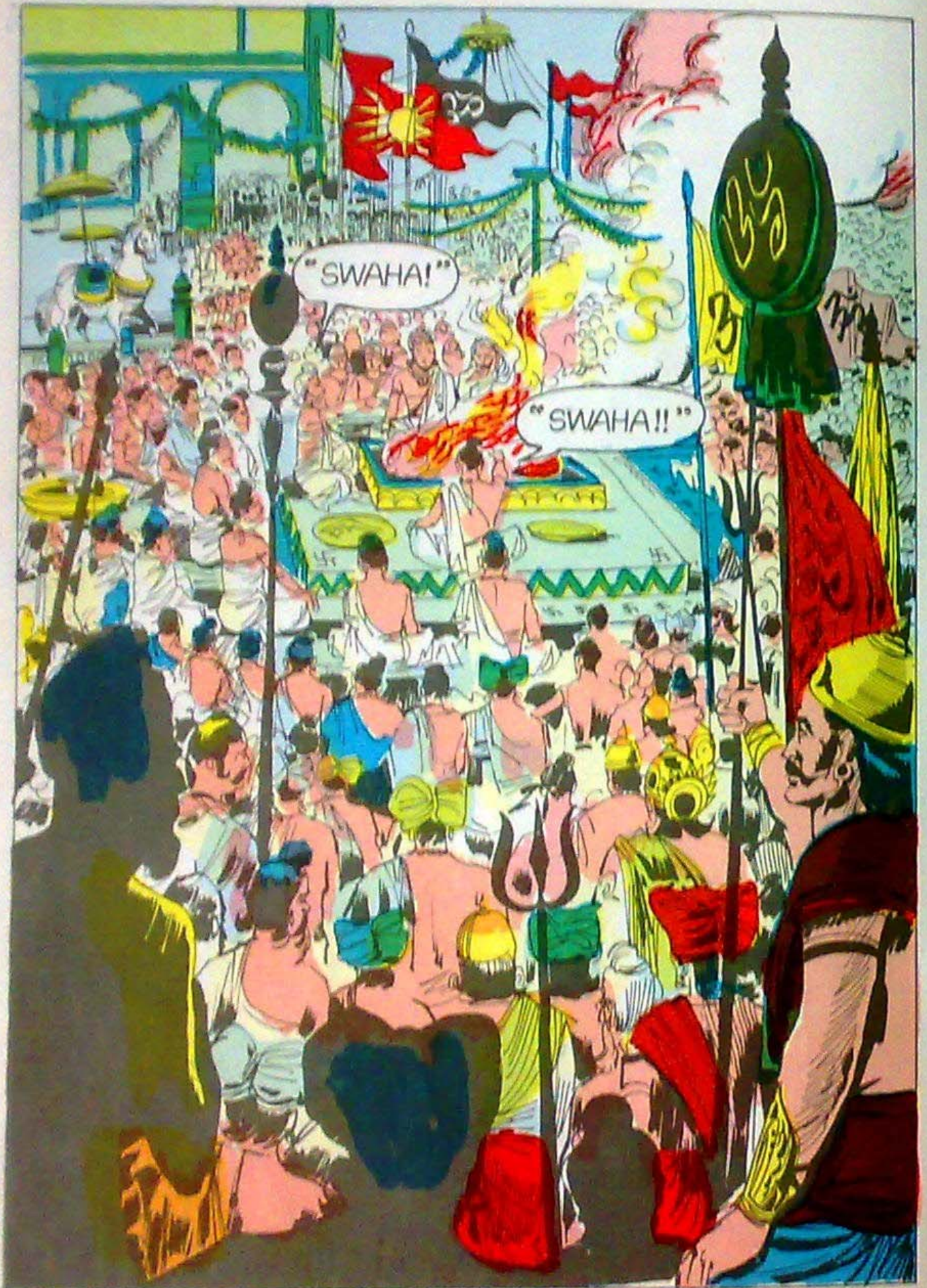
THE MENTION OF SITA SET RAMA THINKING.

I SHOULD SEND LAXMANA TO LOOK FOR SITA.



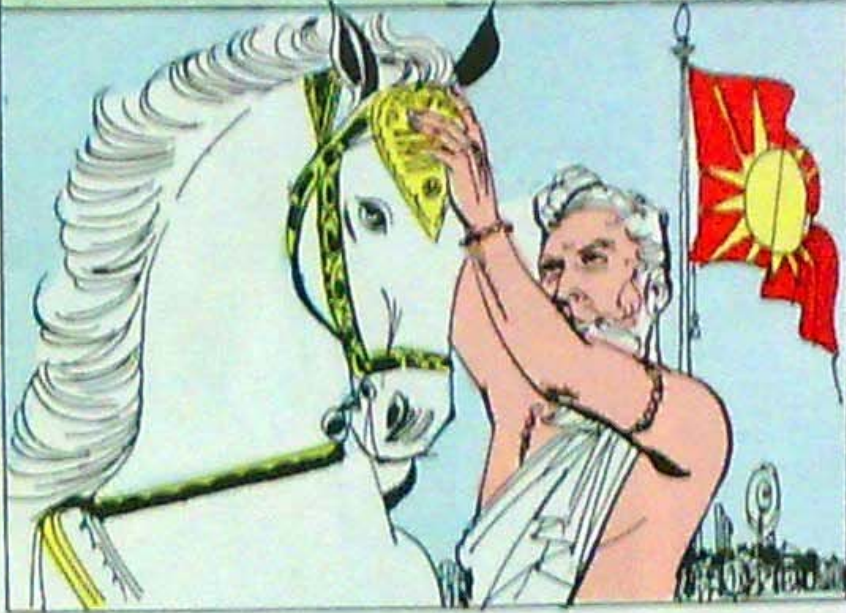
NO, MY PEOPLE MAY NOT LIKE IT. A GOLDEN STATUE WILL HAVE TO DO!



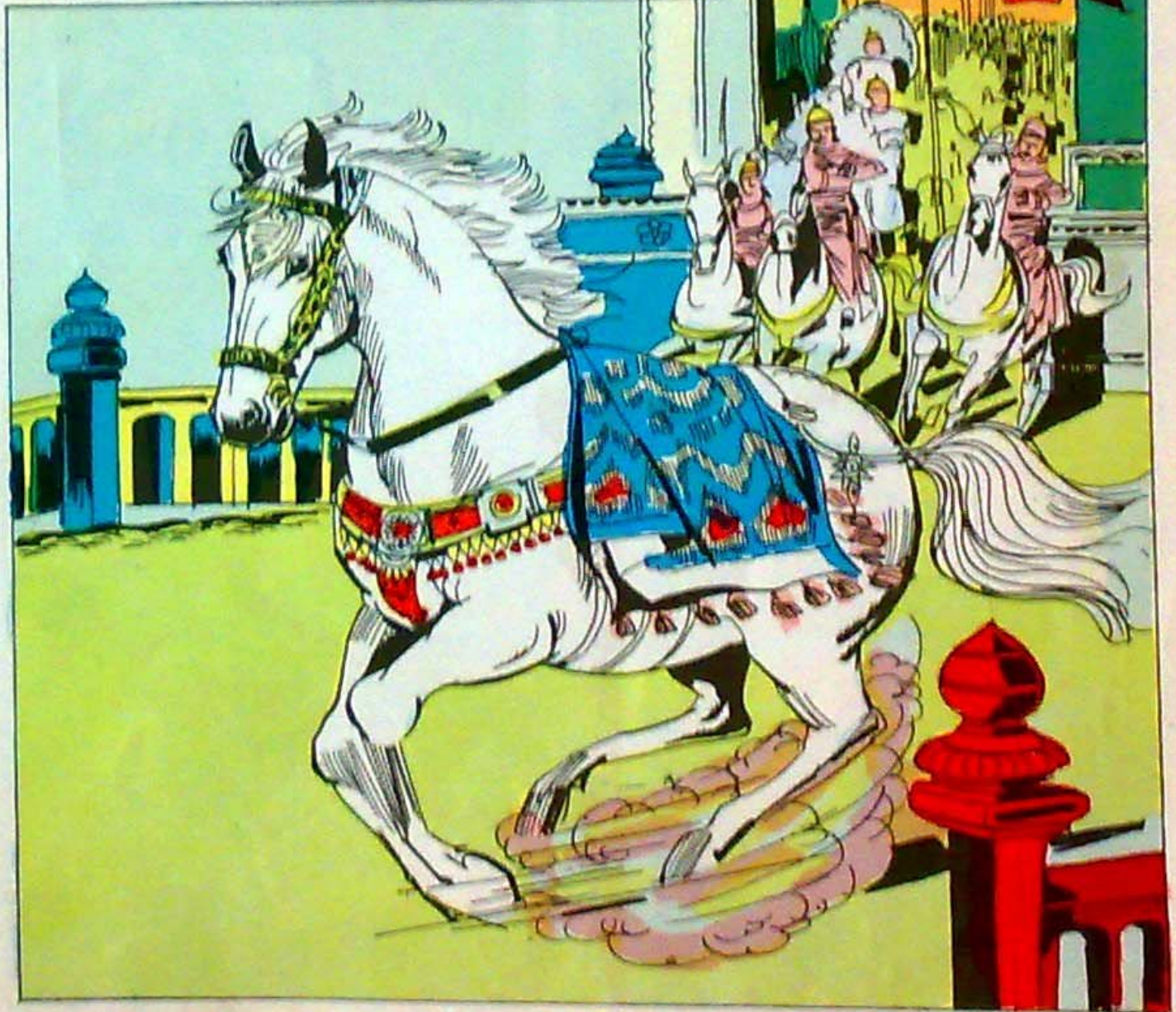




VISHVAMITRA TIED THE CEREMONIAL  
GOLD LEAF ON THE HORSE'S FOREHEAD.



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 RAVANA'S SUPREMACY WITHOUT A FIGHT.



NOBODY CHECKS THE HORSE.

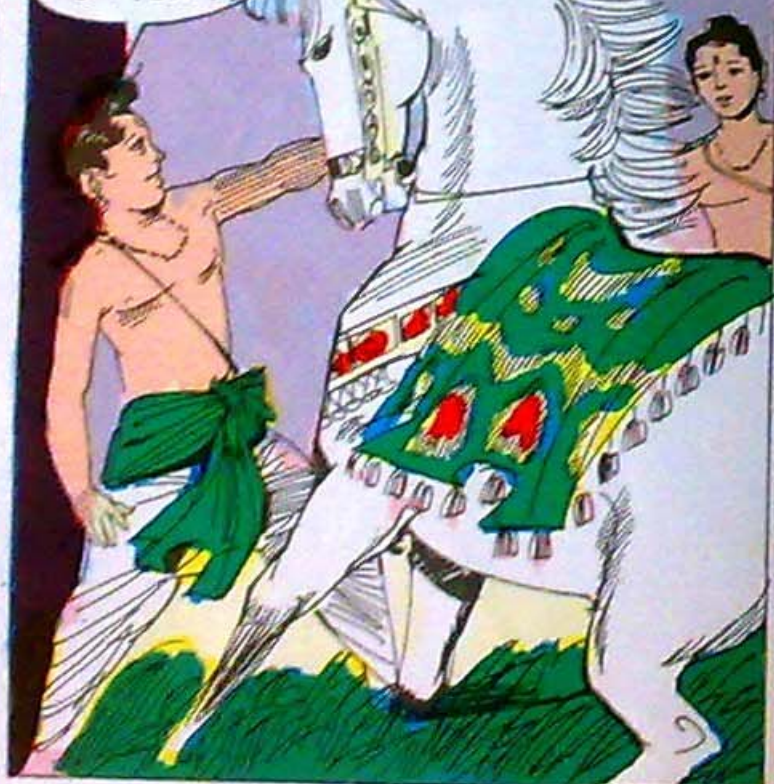
WHO DARES FIGHT THIS ARMY?

LUV AND KUSH SAW THE HORSE FROM AFAR.



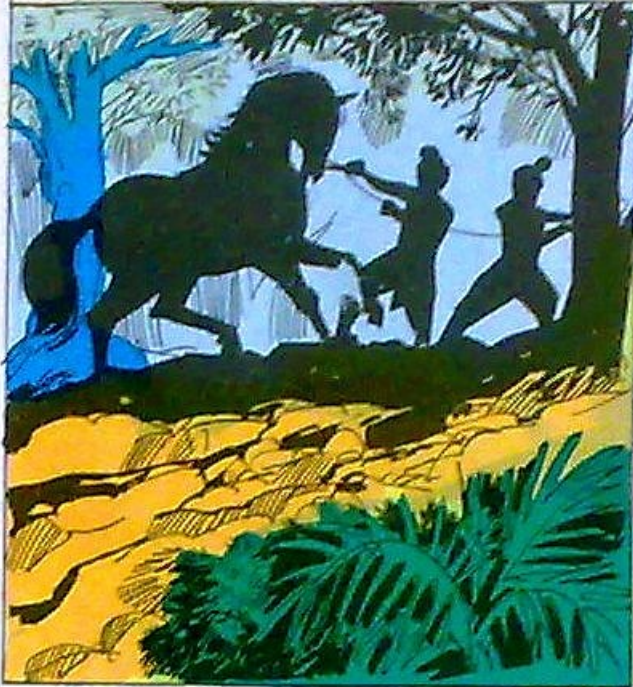
KUSH, LET'S CATCH THAT HORSE!

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



THEN WE WILL FIGHT!

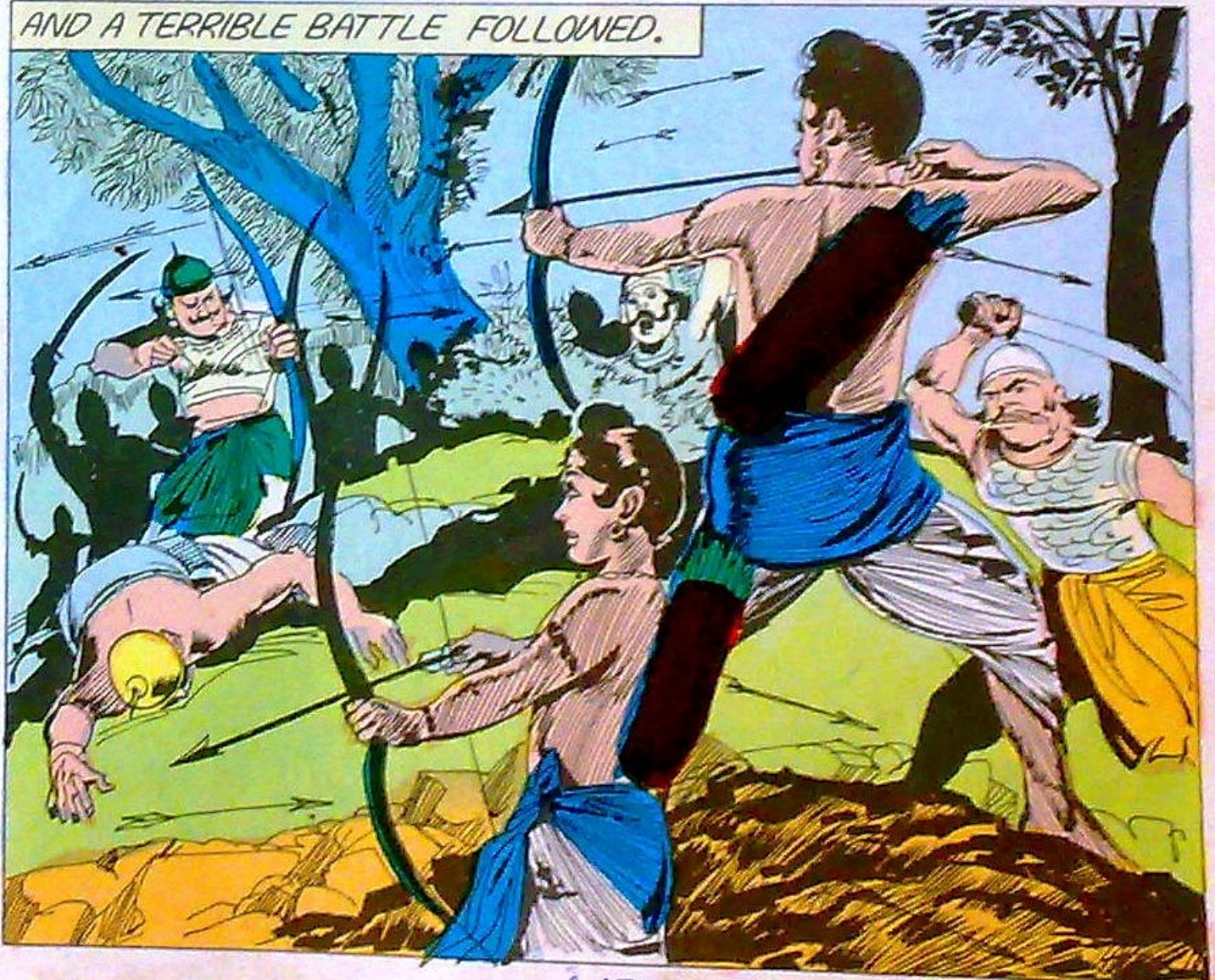
LUV AND KUSH TIED THE HORSE TO A TREE.



ONE OF RAMIA'S SOLDIERS CAME UP TO THEM.



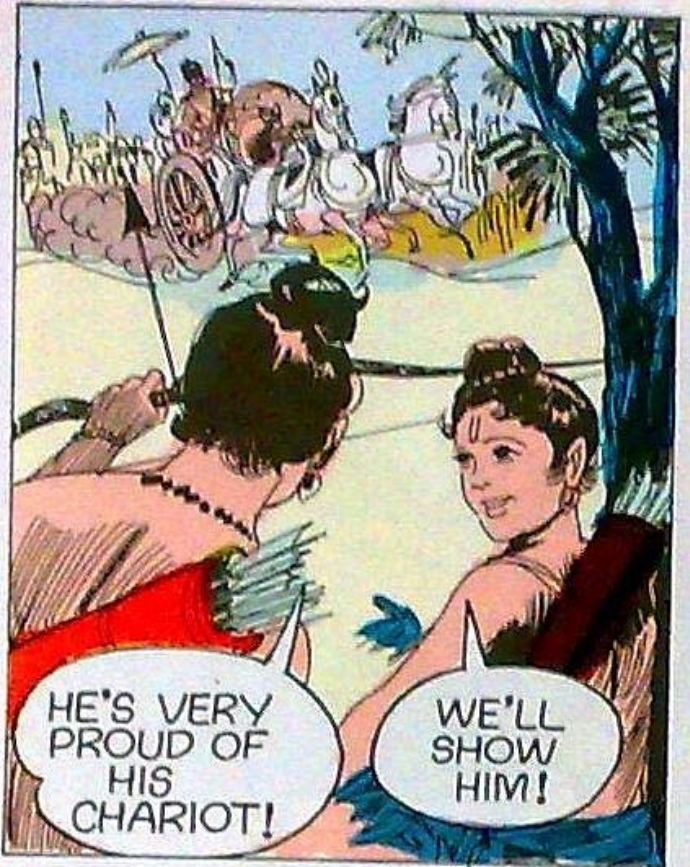
AND A TERRIBLE BATTLE FOLLOWED.



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!

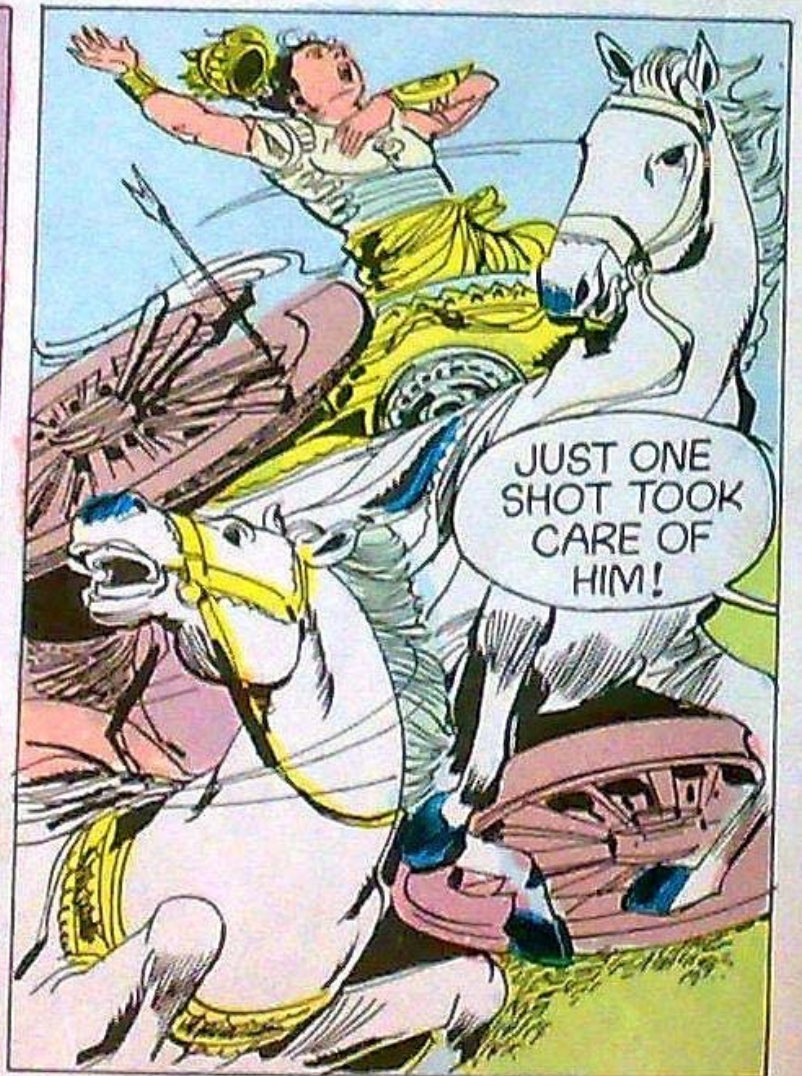


HE'S VERY  
PROUD OF  
HIS  
CHARIOT!

WE'LL  
SHOW  
HIM!

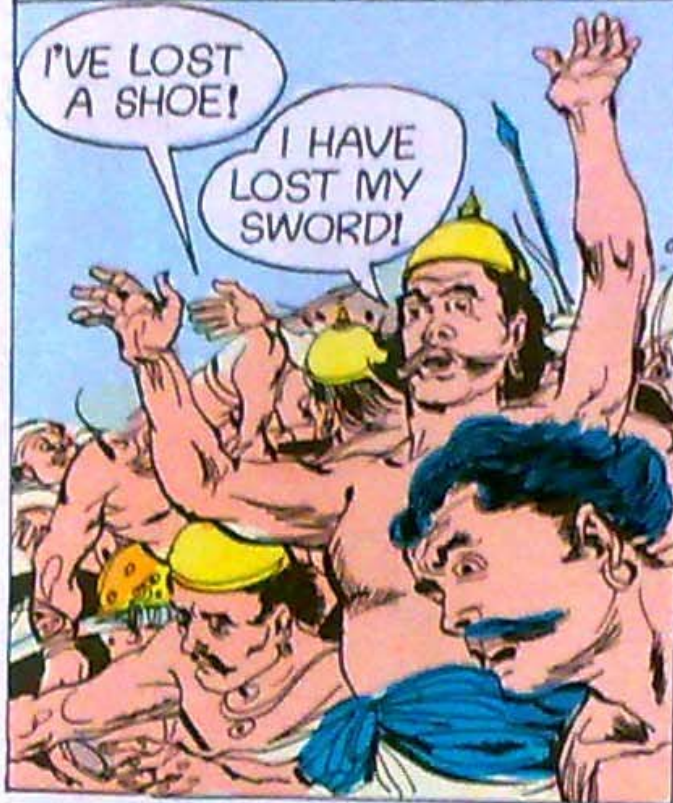
LUV, SHOOT  
AT THE  
WHEEL!

H-E-R-E  
GOES!



JUST ONE  
SHOT TOOK  
CARE OF  
HIM!

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

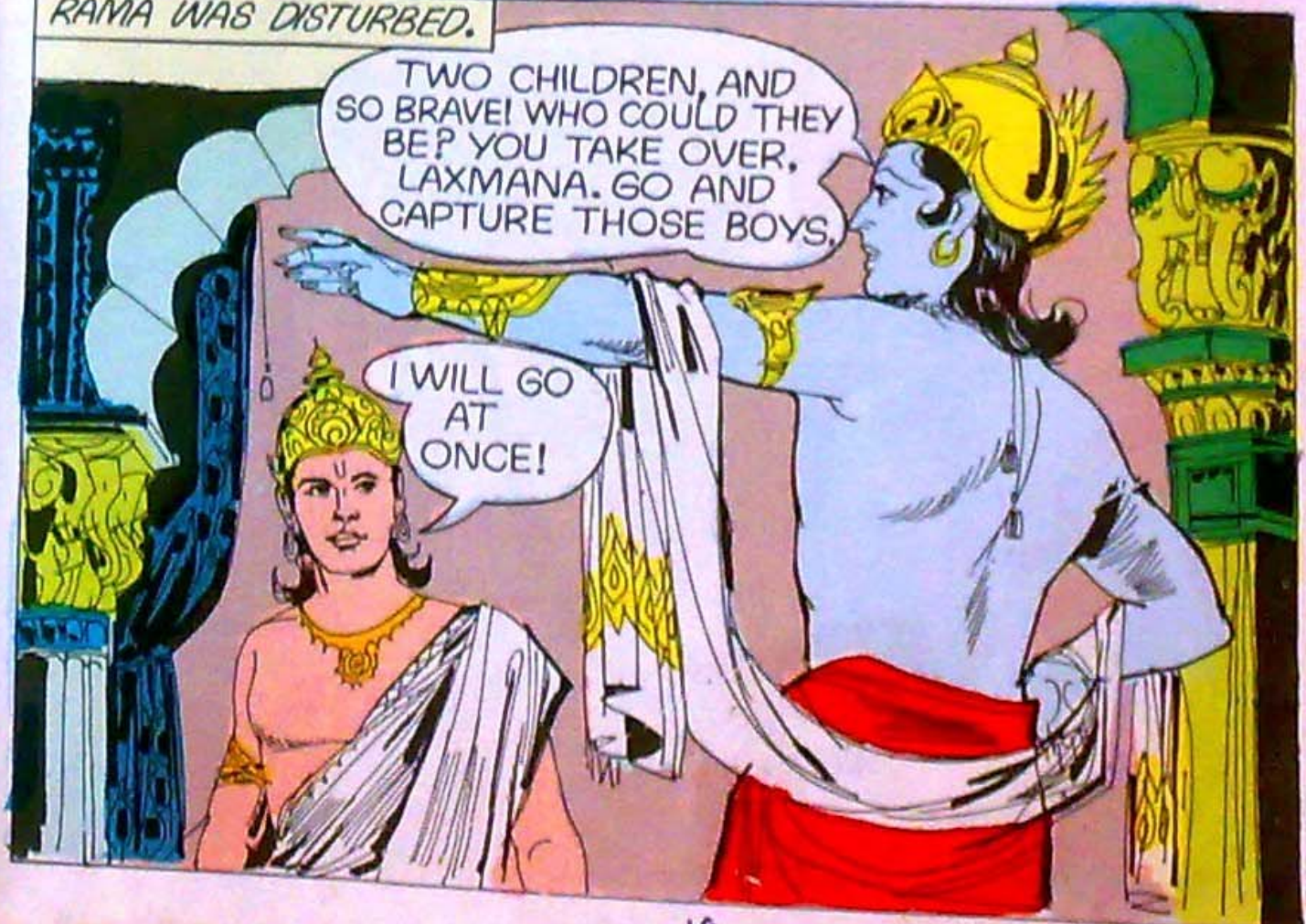


SOME OF THE SOLDIERS WENT UP TO RAMA.



SHATRUGHNA FALLEN!!

RAMA WAS DISTURBED.



LAKSHMANA MARCHED WITH THE ARMY.



GLORY TO RAMA!

LAKSHMANA WAS LOST IN THOUGHT.

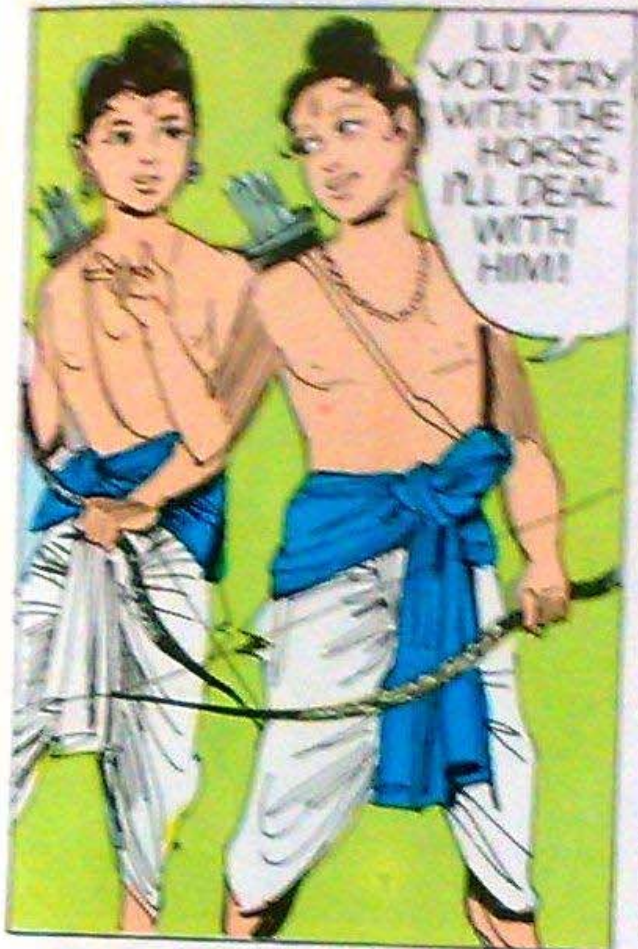


TWO YOUNG BOYS!  
UP  
AGAINST  
RAMA!



GO AWAY NOW, BOYS!

TAKE A  
LOOK AT  
HIM  
FIRST.



LUV YOU STAY WITH THE HORSE, I'LL DEAL WITH HIM!



DON'T YOU WANT TO LIVE, LAD?

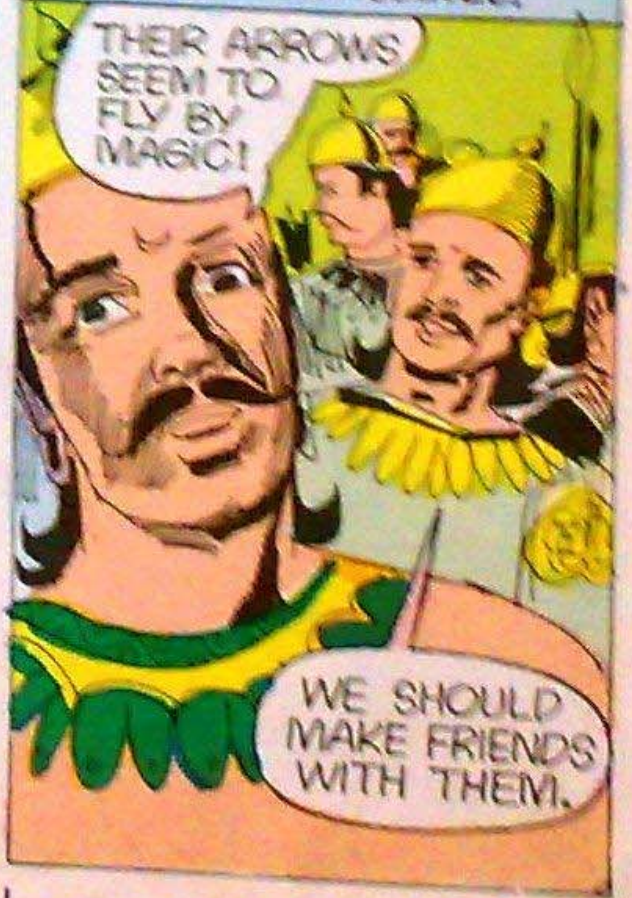
YOU BETTER PRAY FOR YOUR OWN LIFE!

AND KUSH SHOT AN ARROW...

...WHICH TOOK OFF WITH LAKSHMANA'S HELMET.



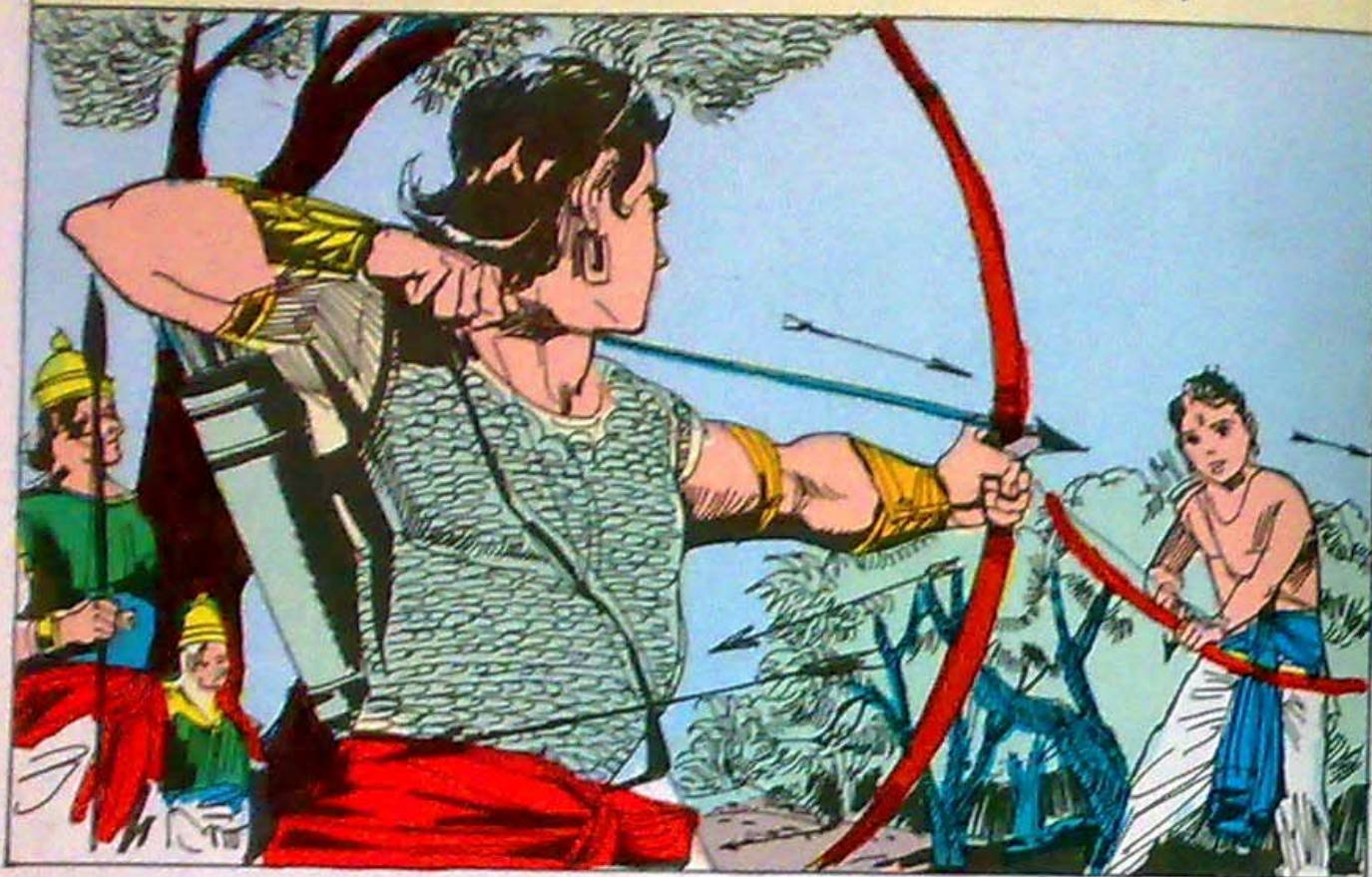
...THE SOLDIERS WHISPERED AMONGST THEMSELVES.



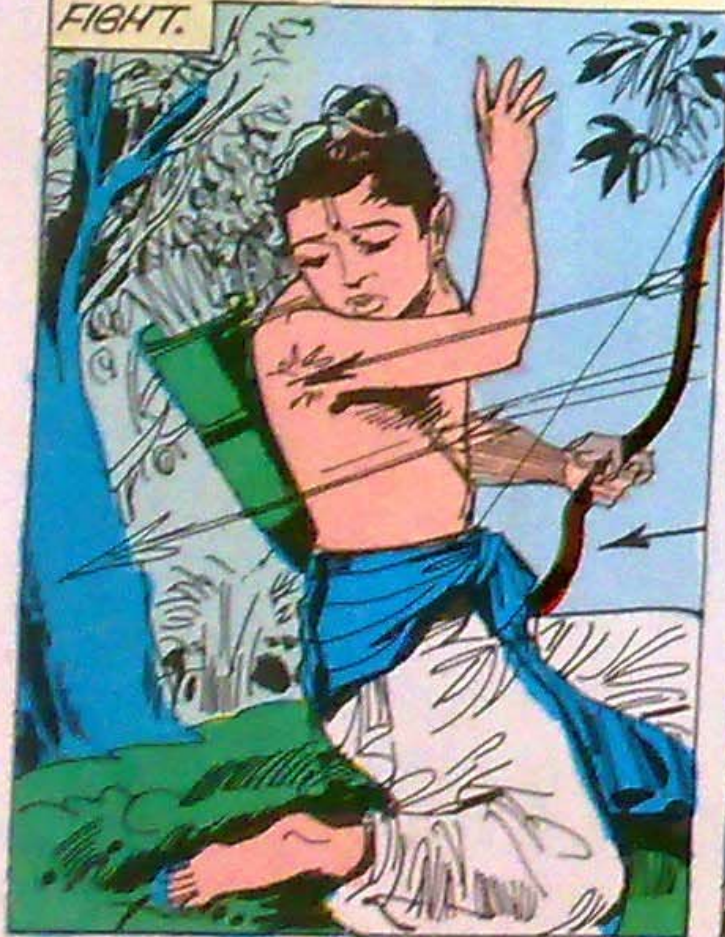
THEIR ARROWS SEEM TO FLY BY MAGIC!

WE SHOULD MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM.

KUSH AND LAXMANA ENGAGED IN A FURIOUS BATTLE.

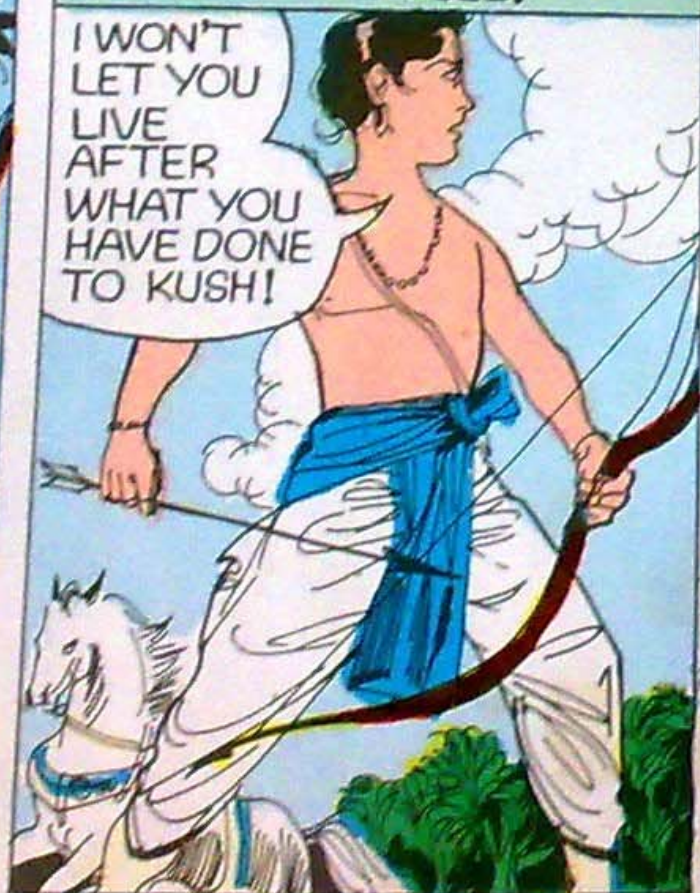


KUSH WAS WOUNDED IN THE FIGHT.



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.

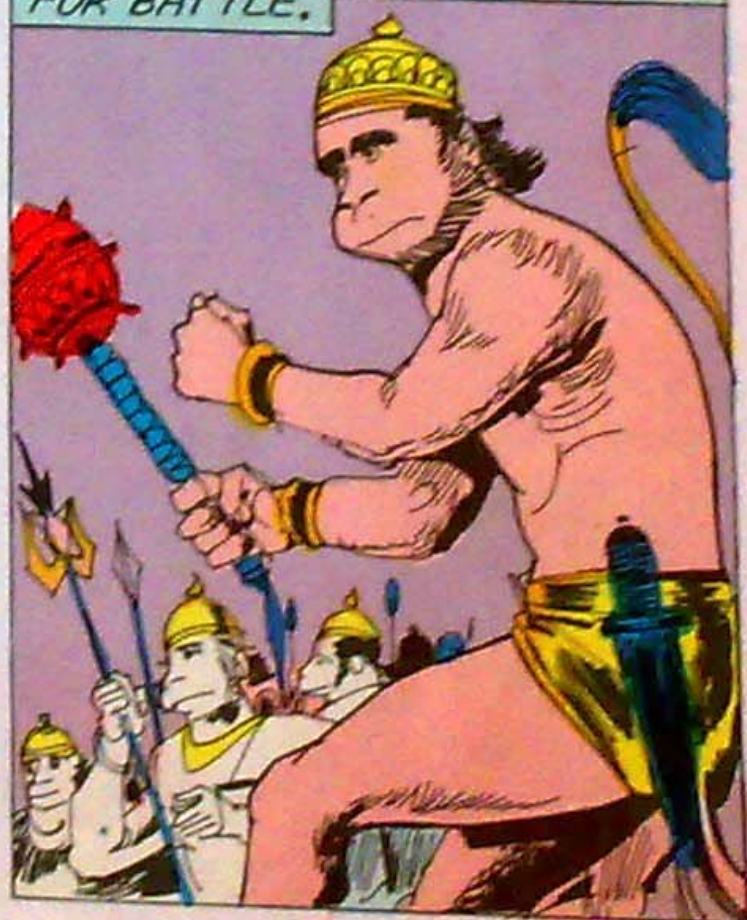


RAMA WAS VERY UPSET WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS.

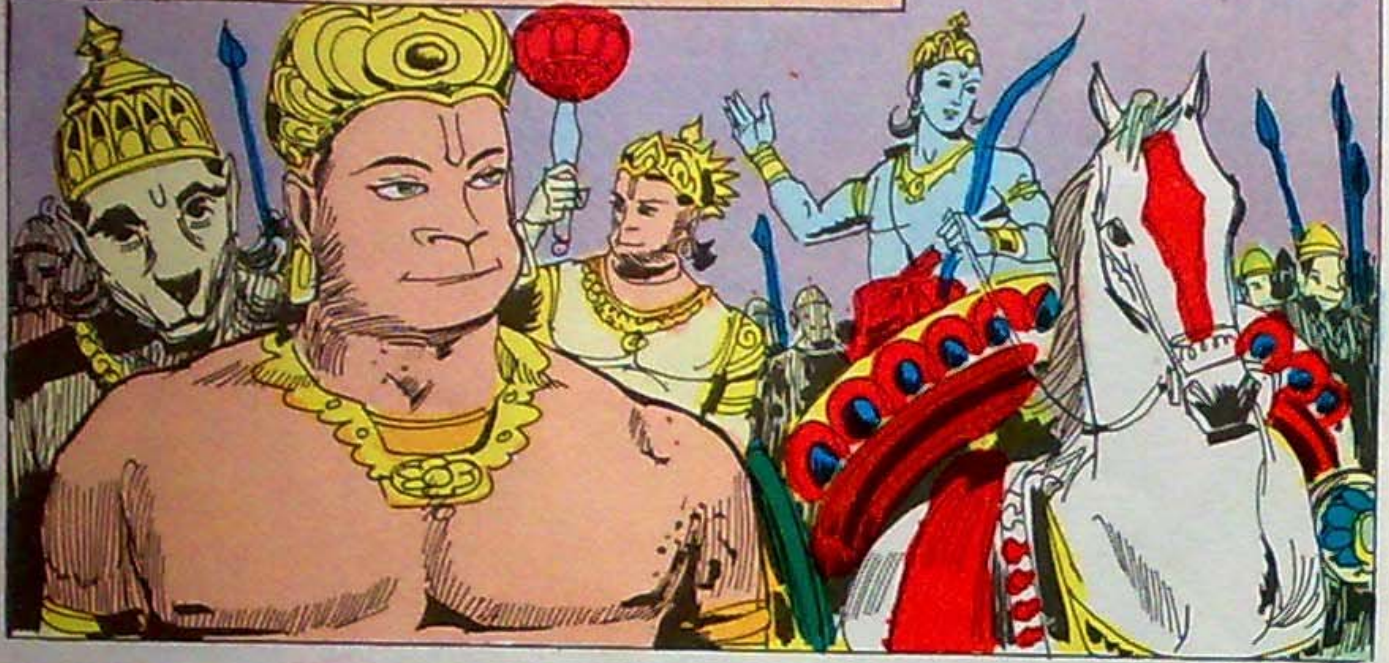
NOW BHARATA, YOU MUST GO WITH THE MONKEY FORCES.



AND THE MONKEYS PREPARED FOR BATTLE.



HANUMAN ALSO ACCOMPANIED BHARATA.



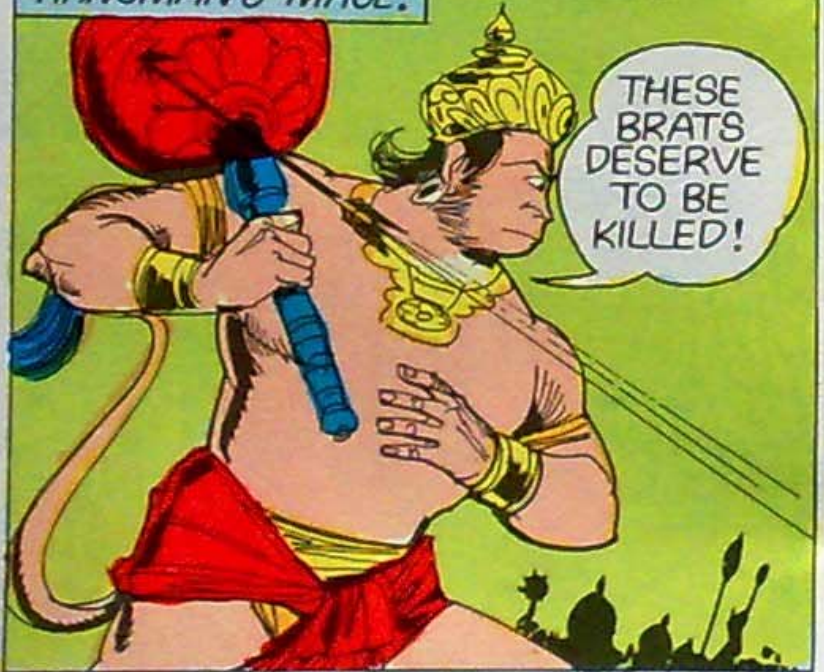
LUV AND KUSH EXCHANGED MEANINGFUL LOOKS.

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

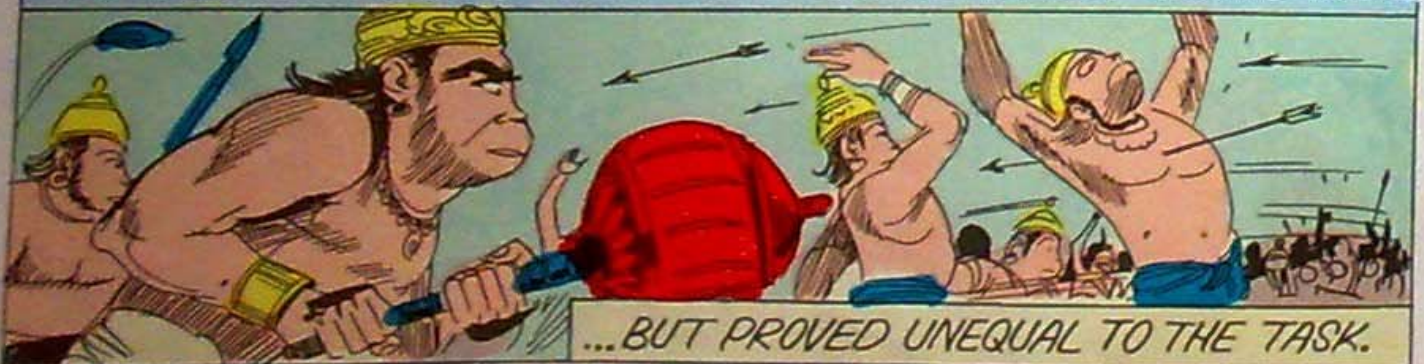
THE SOONER THE BETTER!



INSTANTLY AN ARROW STRUCK HANUMAN'S MACE.



THE MONKEY FORCES WENT INTO ACTION AGAINST LUV AND KUSH.



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.



HERE ARE YOUR SONS, RAMA!

MAHARSHI!

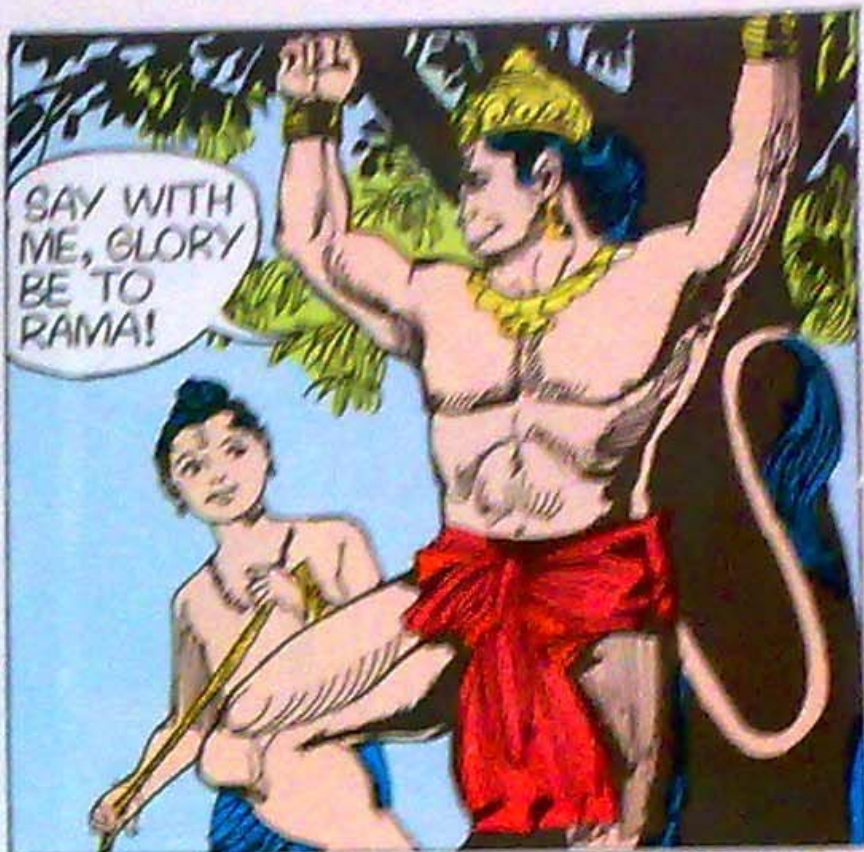
HE DID NOT DIE MOTHER, HE IS ALIVE!

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

HANUMAN WAS STILL TIED UP.

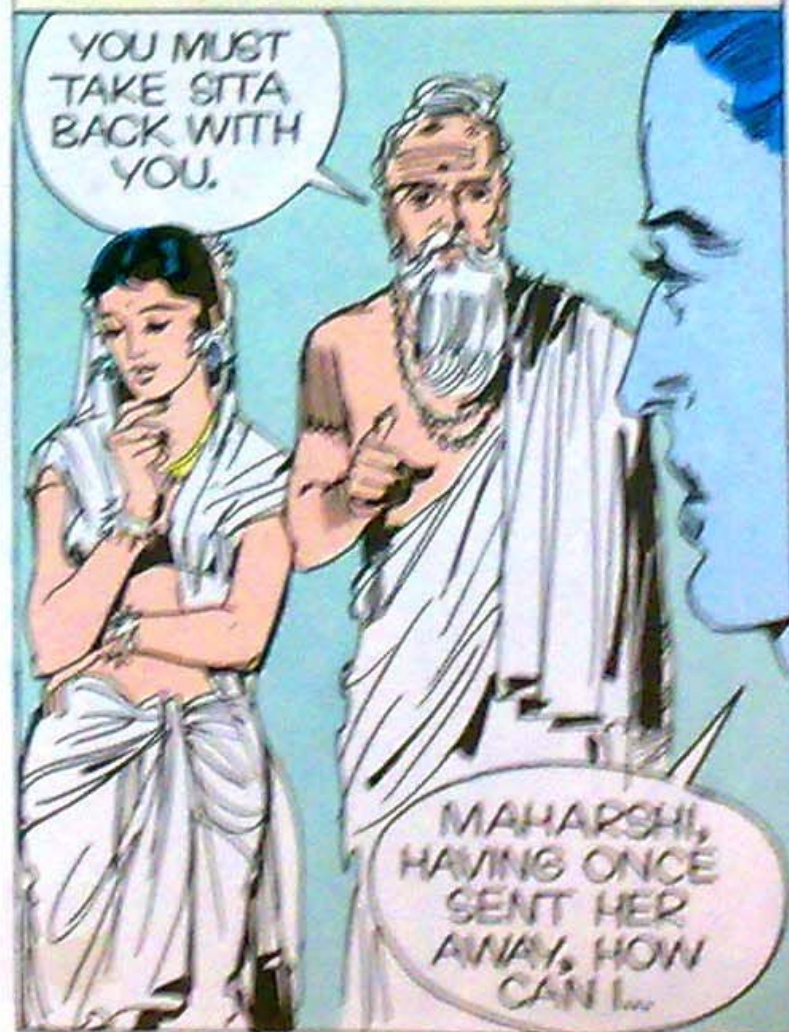


SAY WITH ME, GLORY BE TO RAMA!

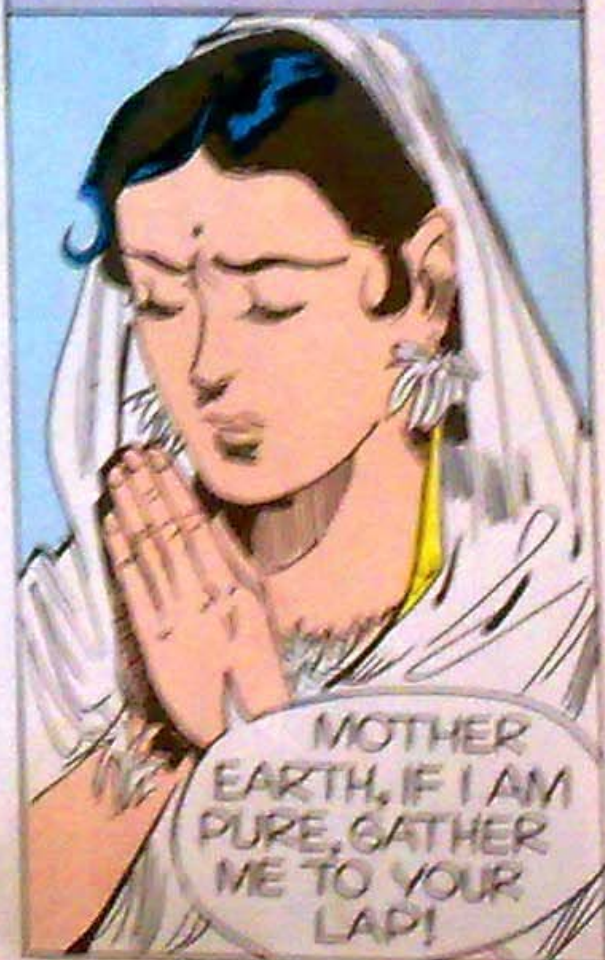


VALMIKI BROUGHT SITA FORWARD.

YOU MUST TAKE SITA BACK WITH YOU.



SITA COULD NOT BEAR THE HUMILIATION ANY MORE.



AND THE EARTH DARTED UNDER  
HER FEET.



MOVE  
AWAY, MOTHER!  
THE EARTH  
IS CALLING  
AFTER ME!

YOU  
HAVE  
GRANTED  
MY WISH,  
O  
MOTHER!

AND SITA BEGAN TO SINK IN.



WOTHER!  
WOTHER!

RAAMA EMPRACED HIS ANGRIED 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 FATHER,  
RANI RETURNED TO ANCHALIA.

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



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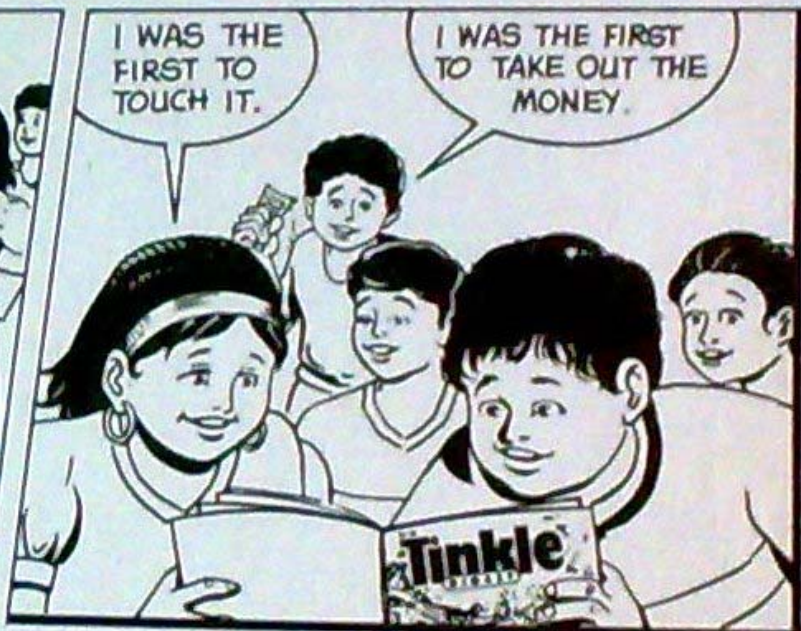
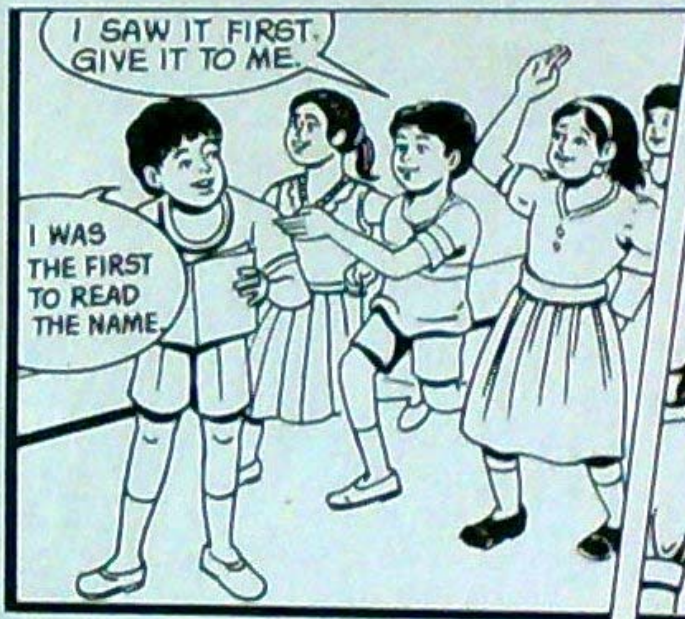
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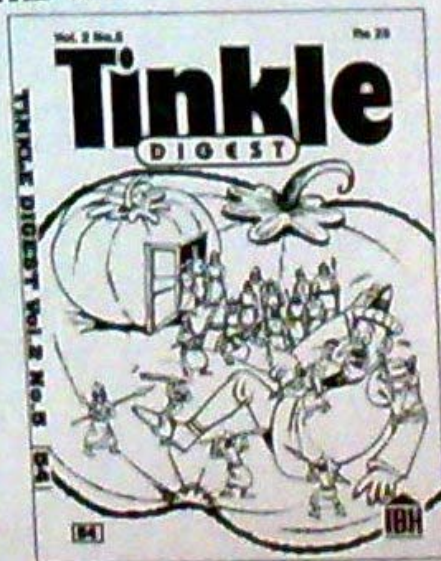
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