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KATHA  
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# BALARAMA TO THE RESCUE

No. 3



The human mind, which is like a mischievous monkey, does not get annihilated merely by the death of the physical body. The process of evolution continues till the mind is purified and gets melted and merged in the Absolute.

In an hidden significance, the Pandavas and the Kauravas are two opposing forces—the positive and the negative—one vying with the other for supremacy. For example, to give an instance in practical life, the maintenance of health in the body depends on the positive forces working in the mind, represented by the Pandavas, while ill-health is due to the preponderance of the negative forces, symbolised by the Kauravas.

The ultimate outcome of human life is, unfortunately, insecure when we fall victim to the negative forces. It is then that arrogance, greed, wickedness, etc. assert themselves in spite of the repeated admonitions of the Divine Law

Balarama and Krishna are the manifestations of the Supreme Being who remain impartial to the natural forces of the world. But their hidden presence in every *yuga* is the determining factor of every event that takes place anywhere. And that event is according to the Law of Justice : As one sows so shall one reap.

Though the Kauravas are humbled by Balarama and when the purpose of Krishna's peace-making mission to *Hastinapura* is not understood by an ignorant mind, the Mahabharata War becomes an inevitable experience in the consciousness of every individual. This is the immortal essence of the two episodes of the Bhagavata Purana which is depicted in this Adarsh Chitra Katha.

OUR NEXT TITTLE:

## **Sadhu and Lilavati**

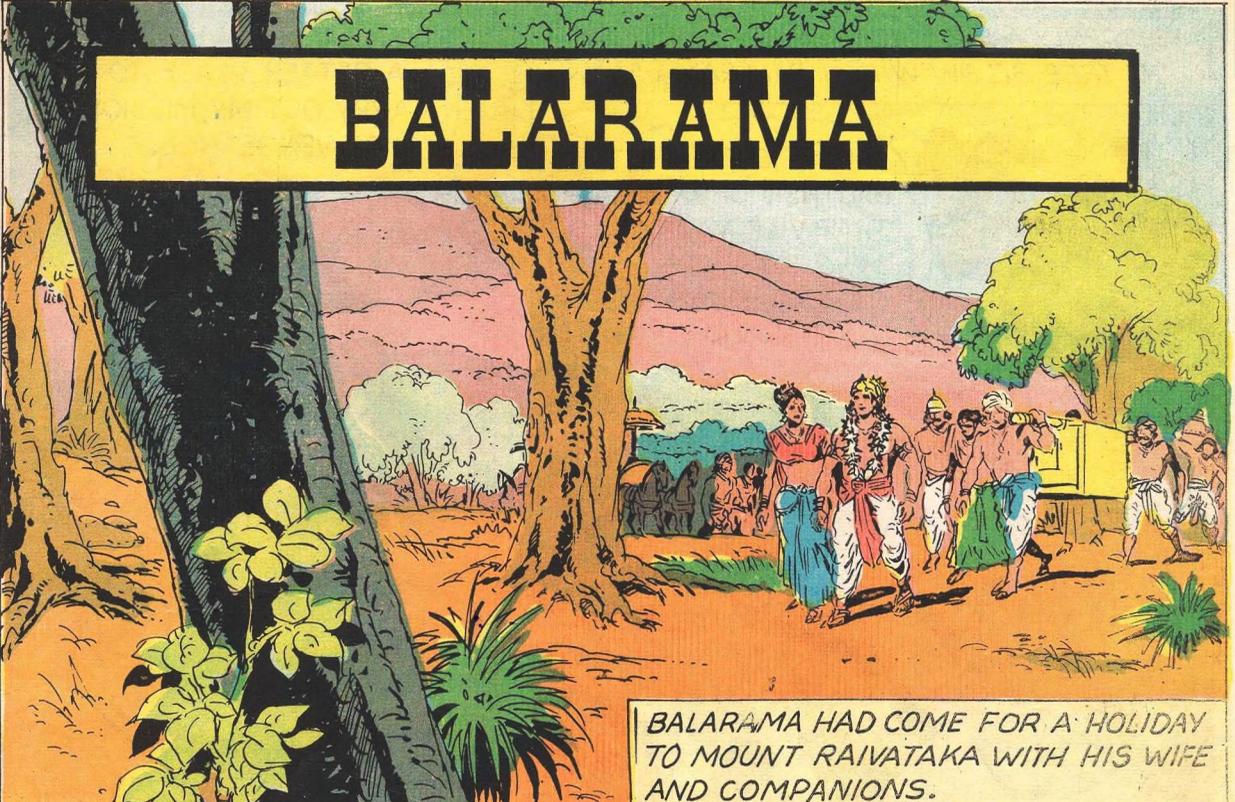
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# BALARAMA



BALARAMA HAD COME FOR A HOLIDAY TO MOUNT RAIVATAKA WITH HIS WIFE AND COMPANIONS.

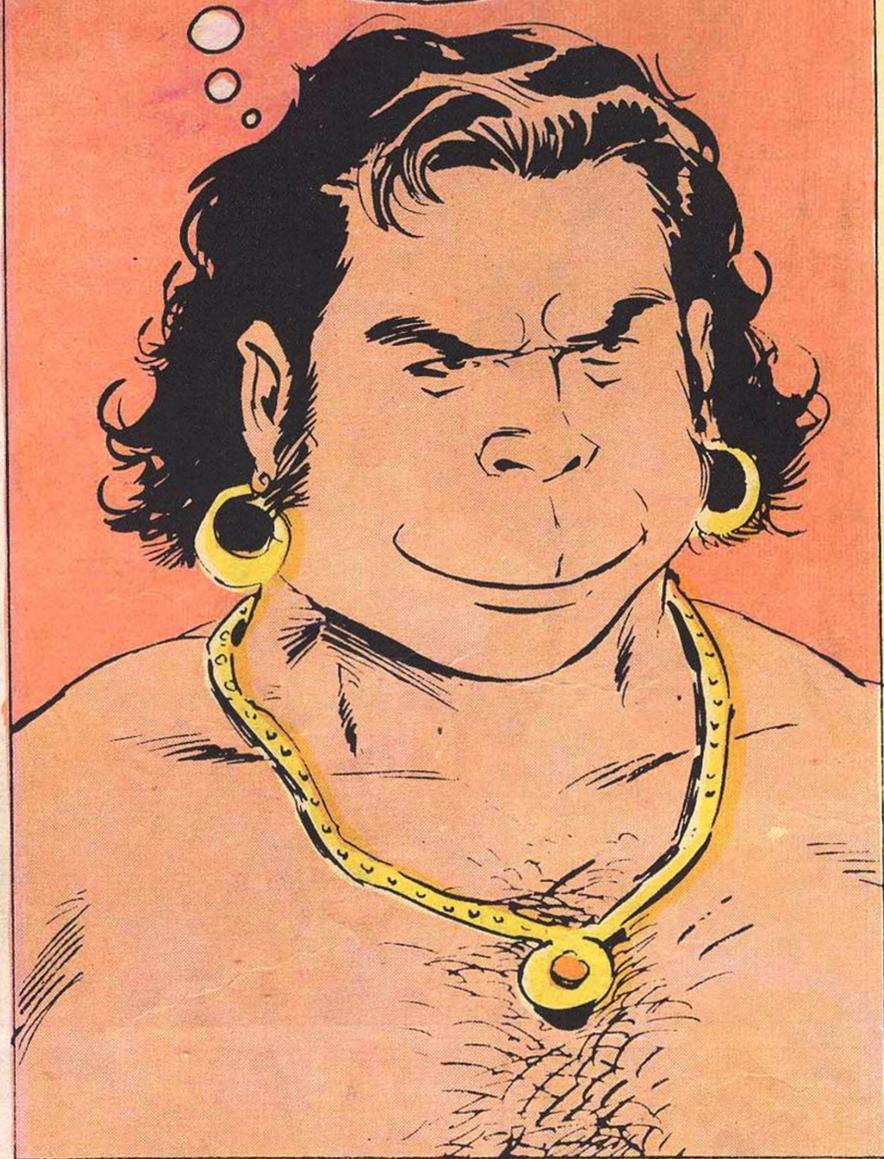


AH! THIS IS A FINE SPOT. LET US SIT HERE. IT IS PEACEFUL, SHADY AND QUIET.

SUDDENLY A HUGE MONKEY APPEARED ON THE TREE BELOW WHICH BALARAMA SAT.



I COULD NOT HAVE COME TO A BETTER PLACE TO CARRY OUT MY MISSION OF VENGEANCE.

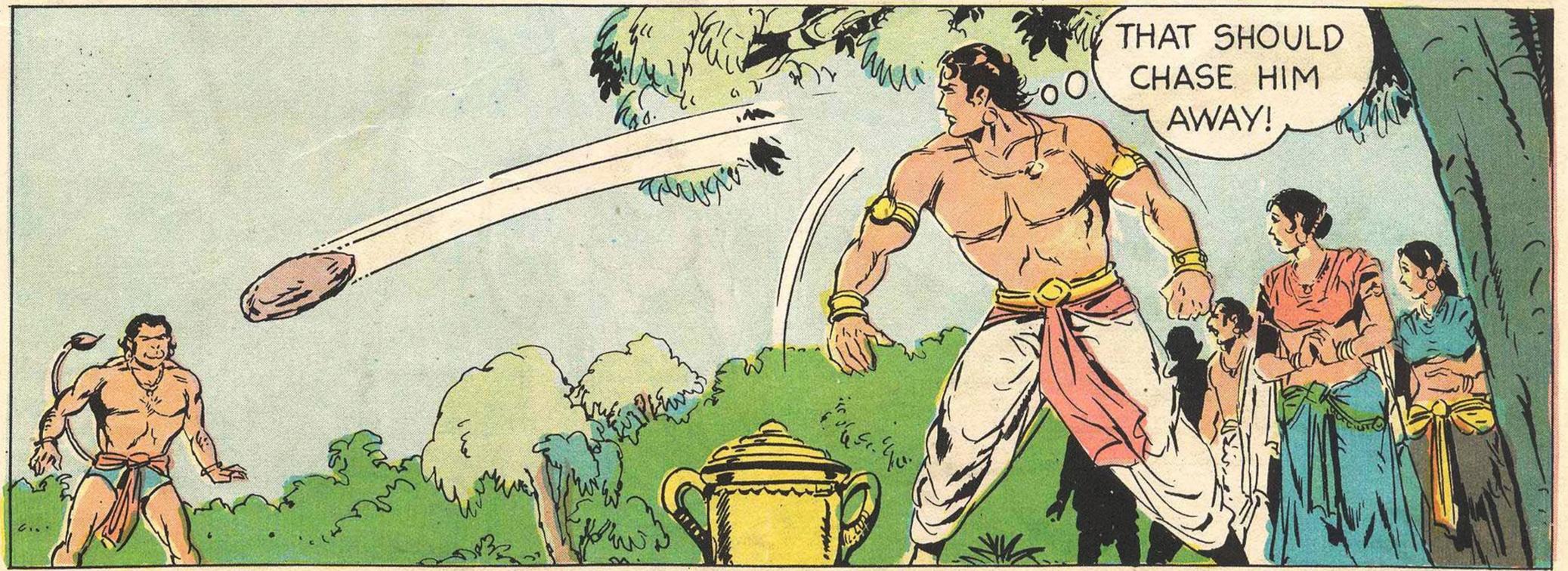


I'LL IRRITATE HIM AND EXASPERATE HIM TILL HE GETS ANNOYED AND PICKS UP A QUARREL.

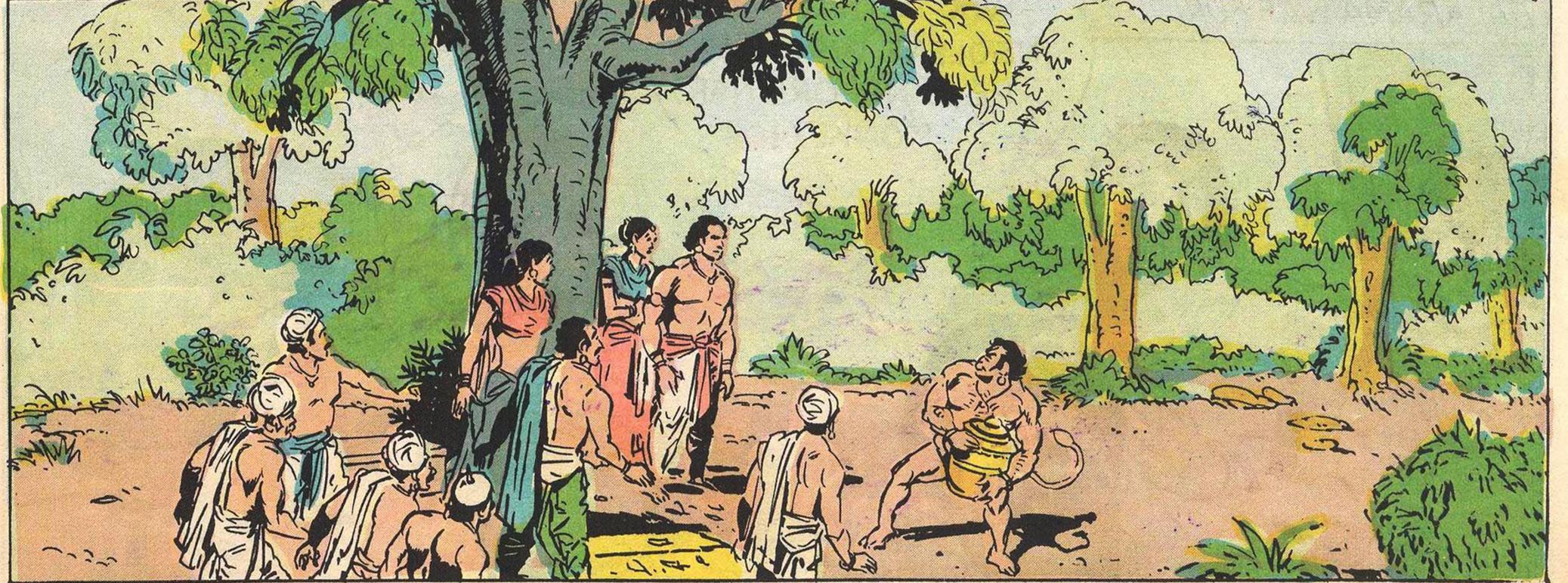


DVIVIDA, THE MONKEY, SHOOK THE BRANCHES OF THE TREE TILL THE LEAVES FELL OVER BALARAMA AND HIS COMPANIONS.

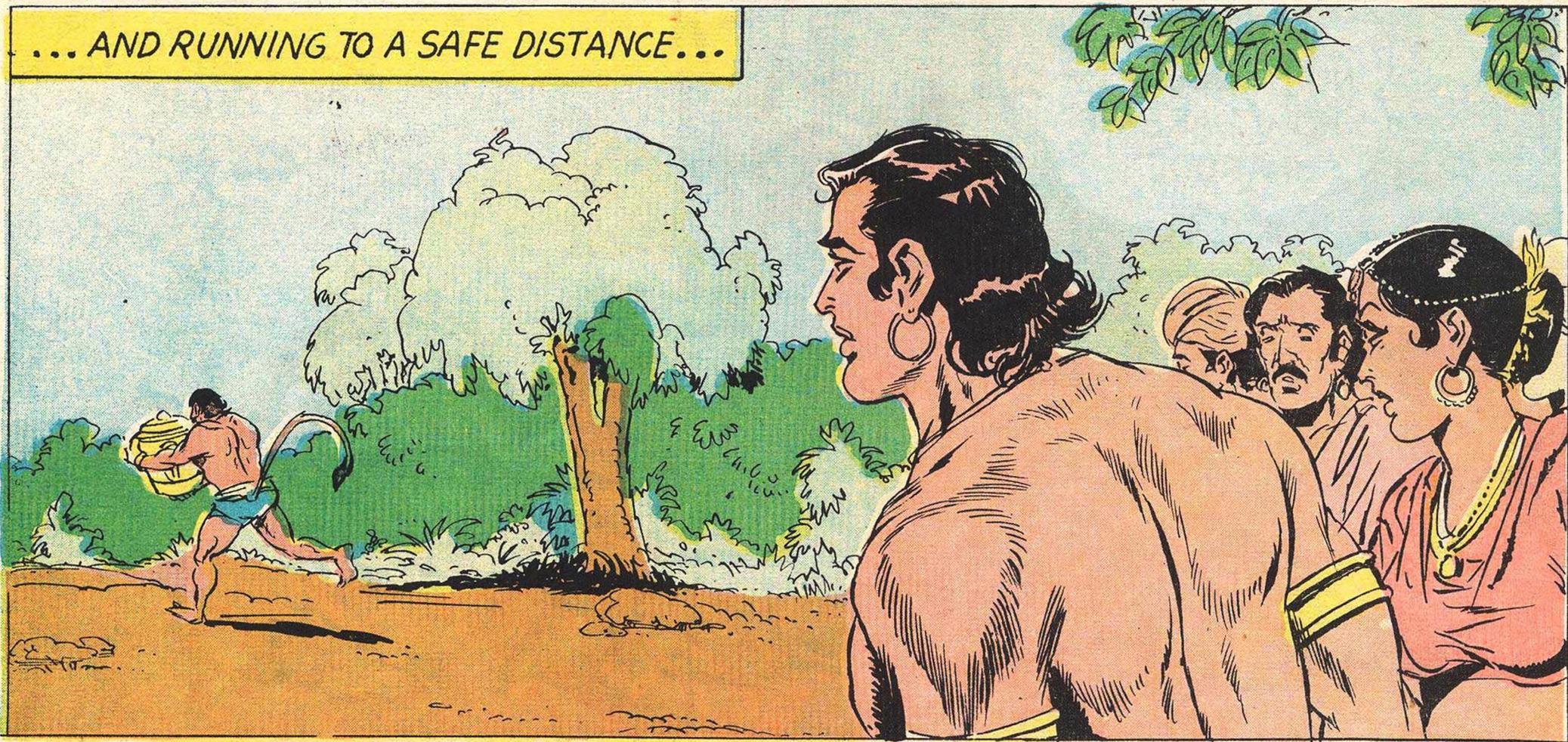




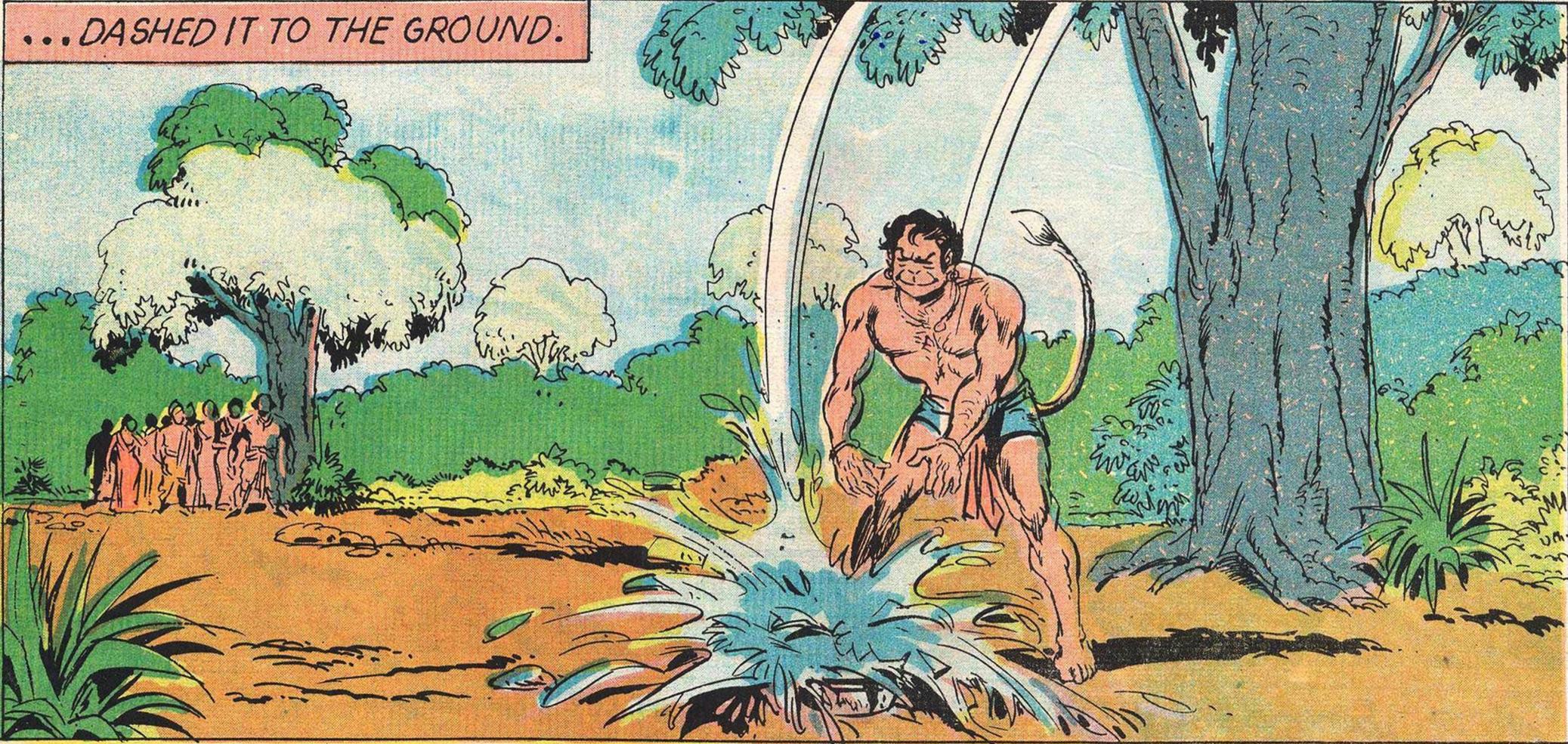
INSTEAD, BEFORE BALARAMA COULD REALISE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, THE MONKEY SNATCHED A JAR OF WINE NEAR BALARAMA...



... AND RUNNING TO A SAFE DISTANCE...



... DASHED IT TO THE GROUND.



BALARAMA WAS FURIOUS.

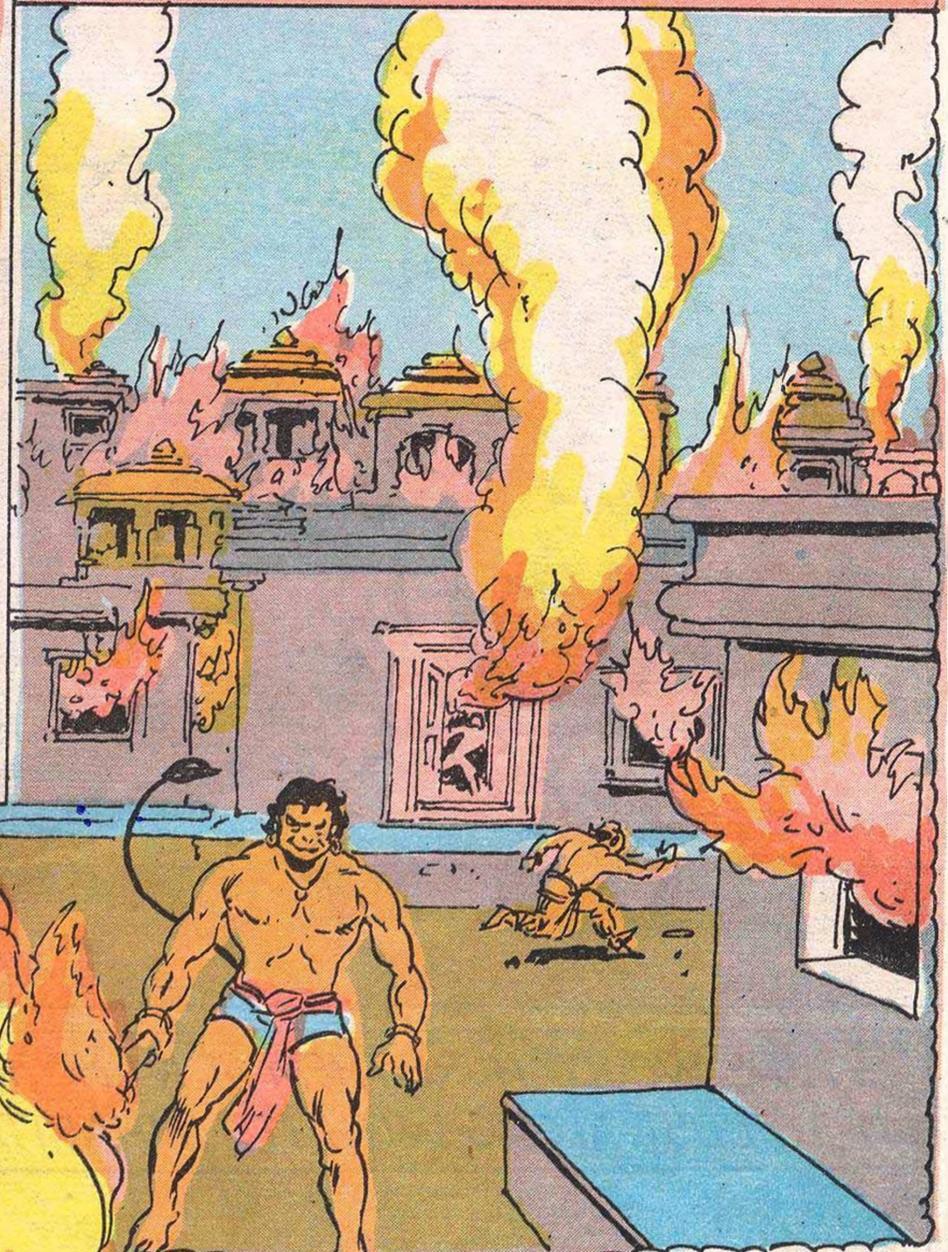
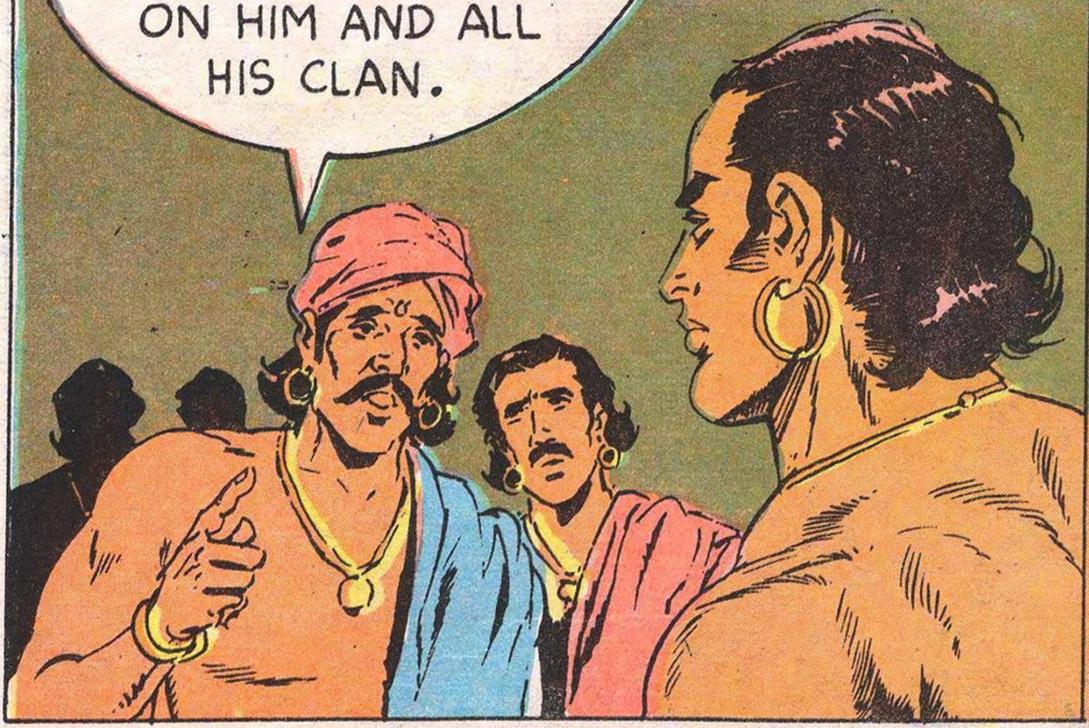
WHO IS THAT  
INSOLENT WRETCH?  
HE IS NO ORDINARY  
MONKEY!

HE IS DVIVIDA,  
A FRIEND OF  
NARAKASURA.

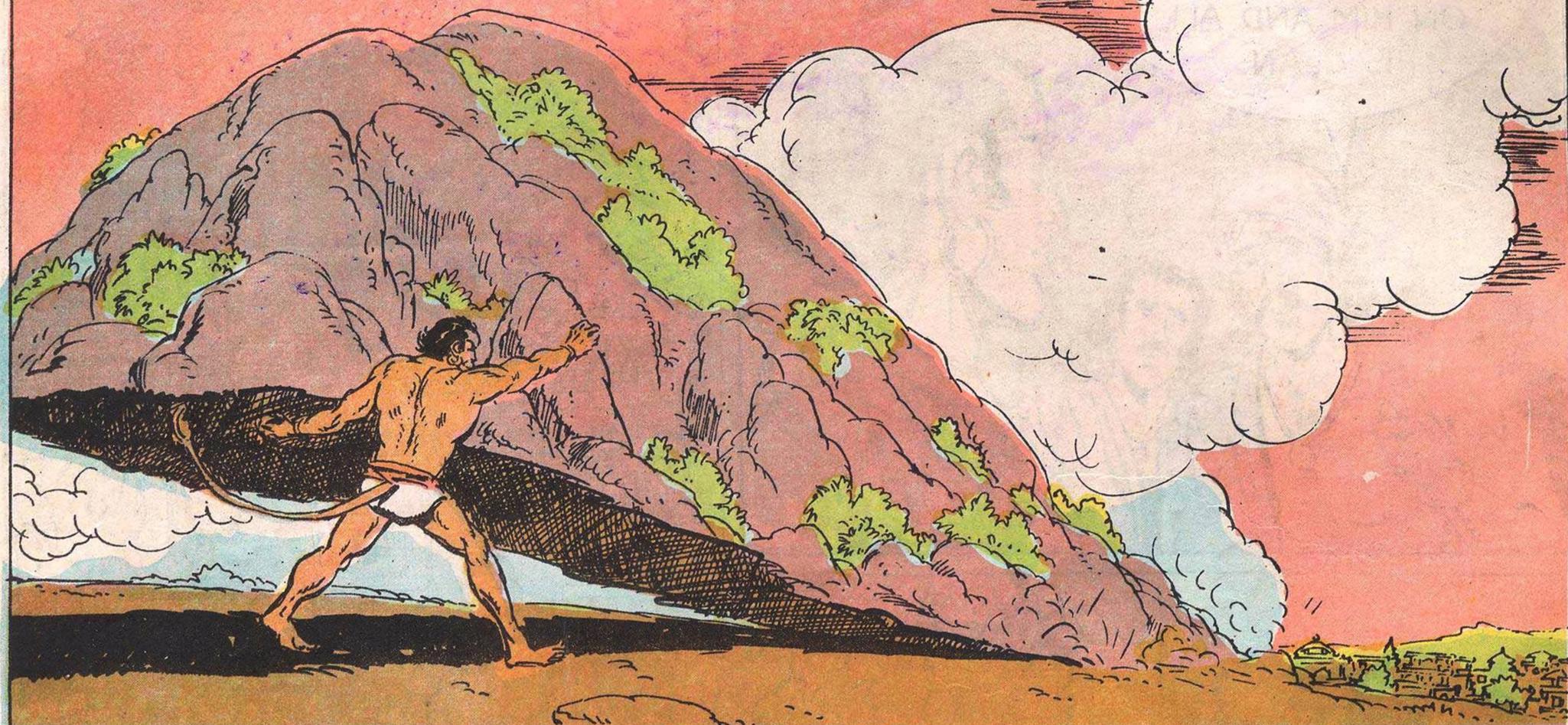


WHEN KRISHNA SLEW NARAKASURA, DVIVIDA SWORE THAT HE WOULD WRECK VENGEANCE ON HIM AND ALL HIS CLAN.

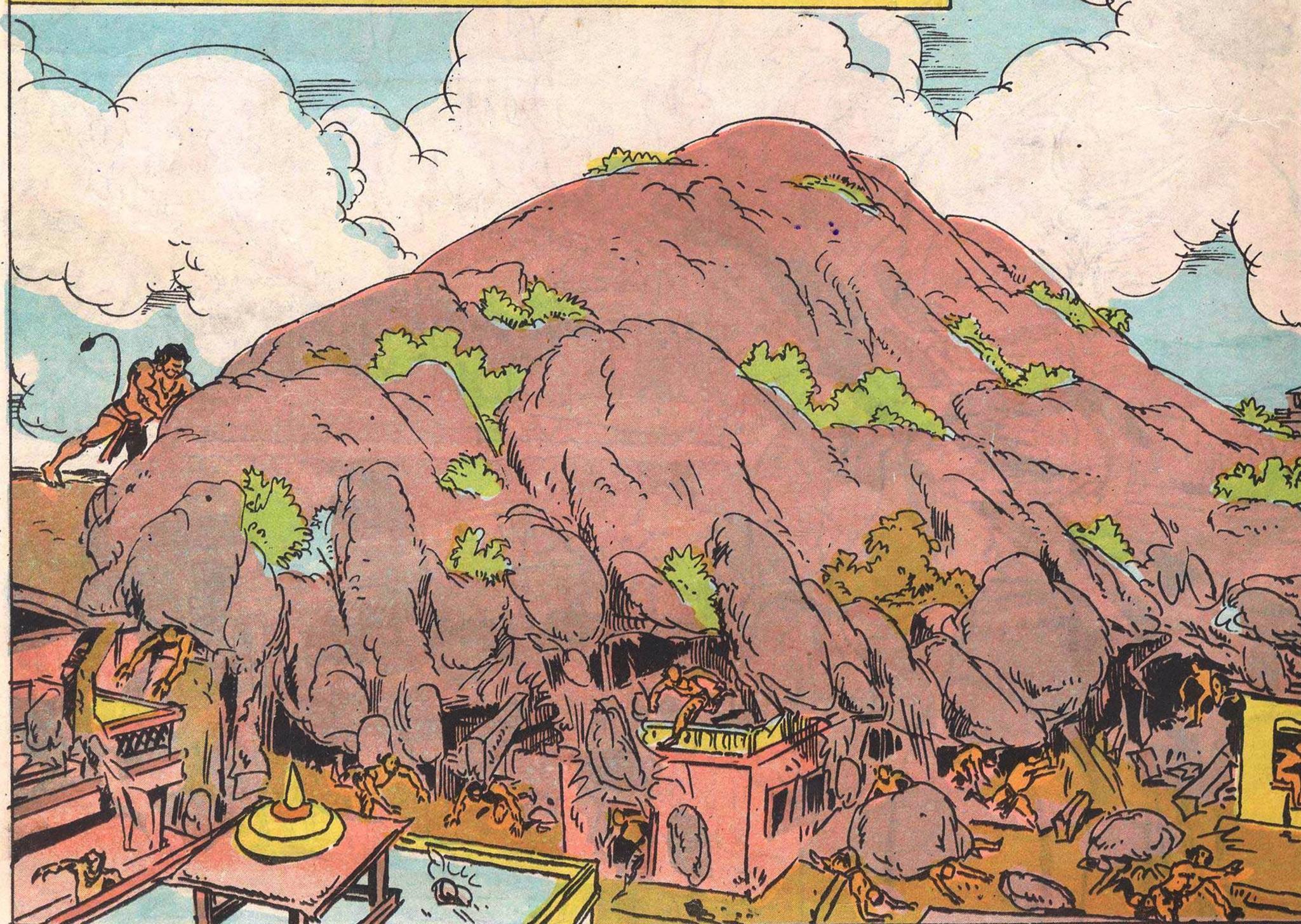
"HE BEGAN BY SETTING FIRE TO THE CITIES, VILLAGES AND HAMLETS OF THE MILKMEN."



“ THEN UPROOTING WHOLE MOUNTAINS... ”



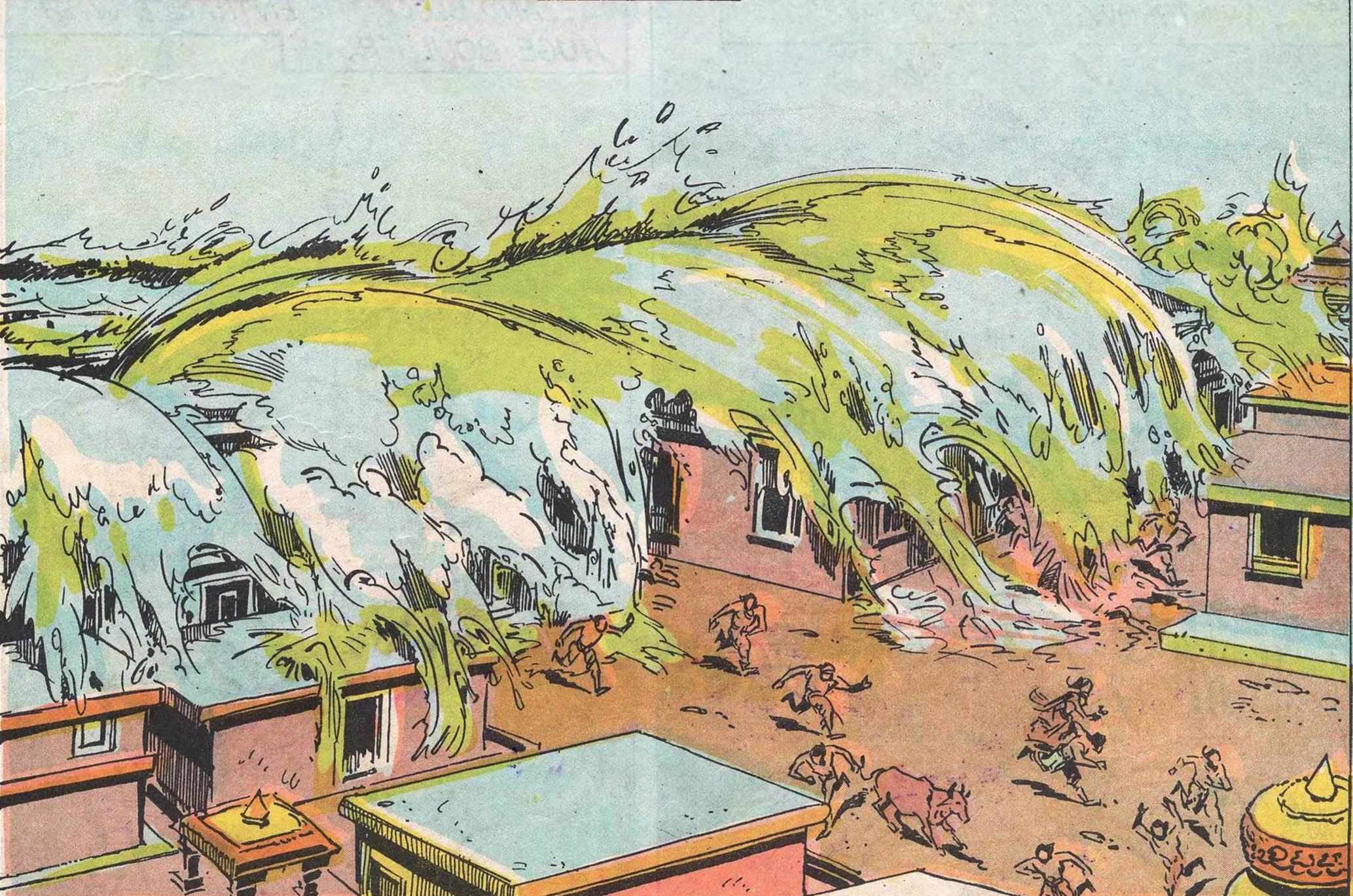
“ ... HE WOULD HURL THEM AT A CITY, INSTANTLY CRUSHING IT TO DUST ALONG WITH ITS INHABITANTS. ”



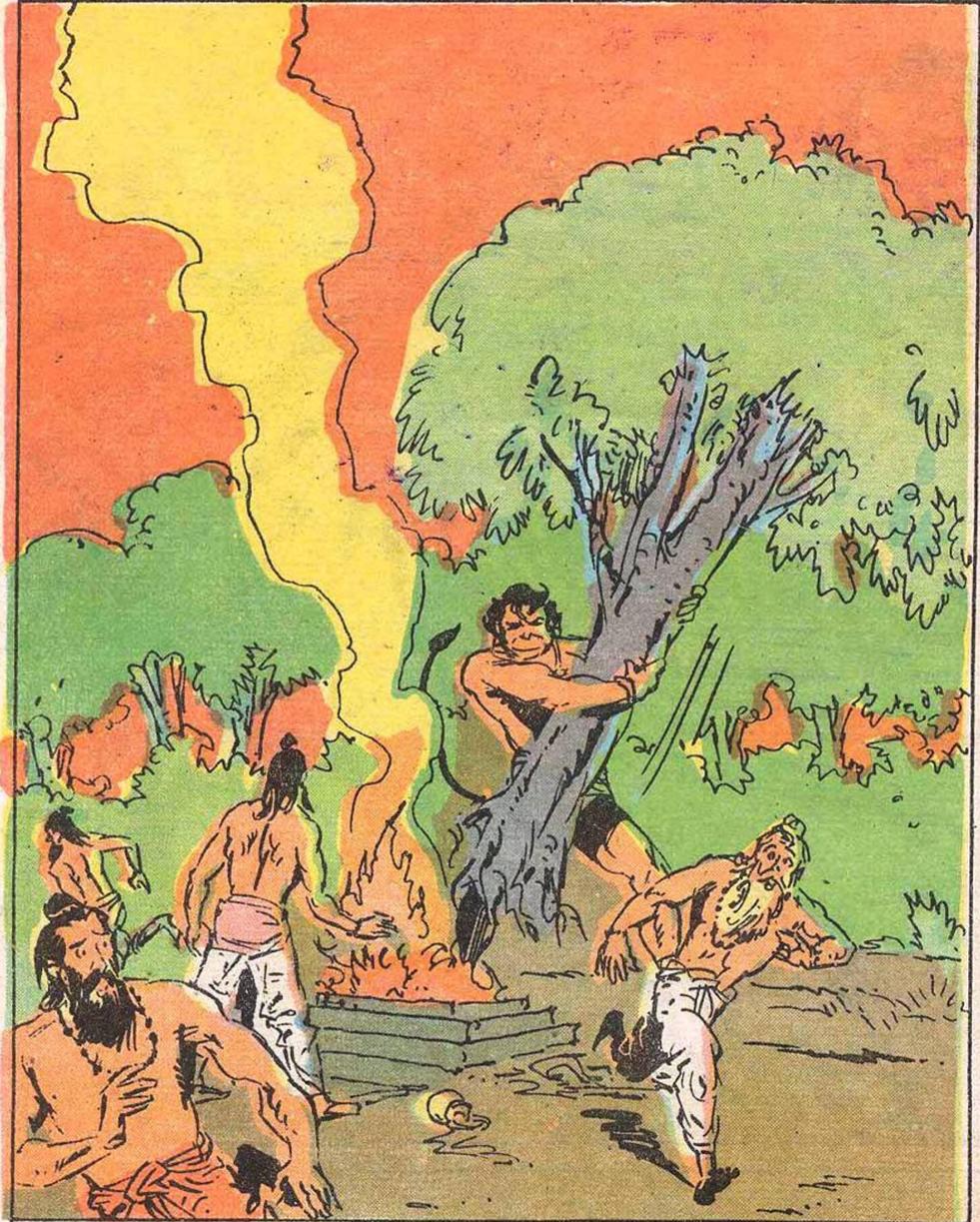
"SOMETIMES HE WOULD ENTER THE OCEAN, DISTURB THE WATERS..."



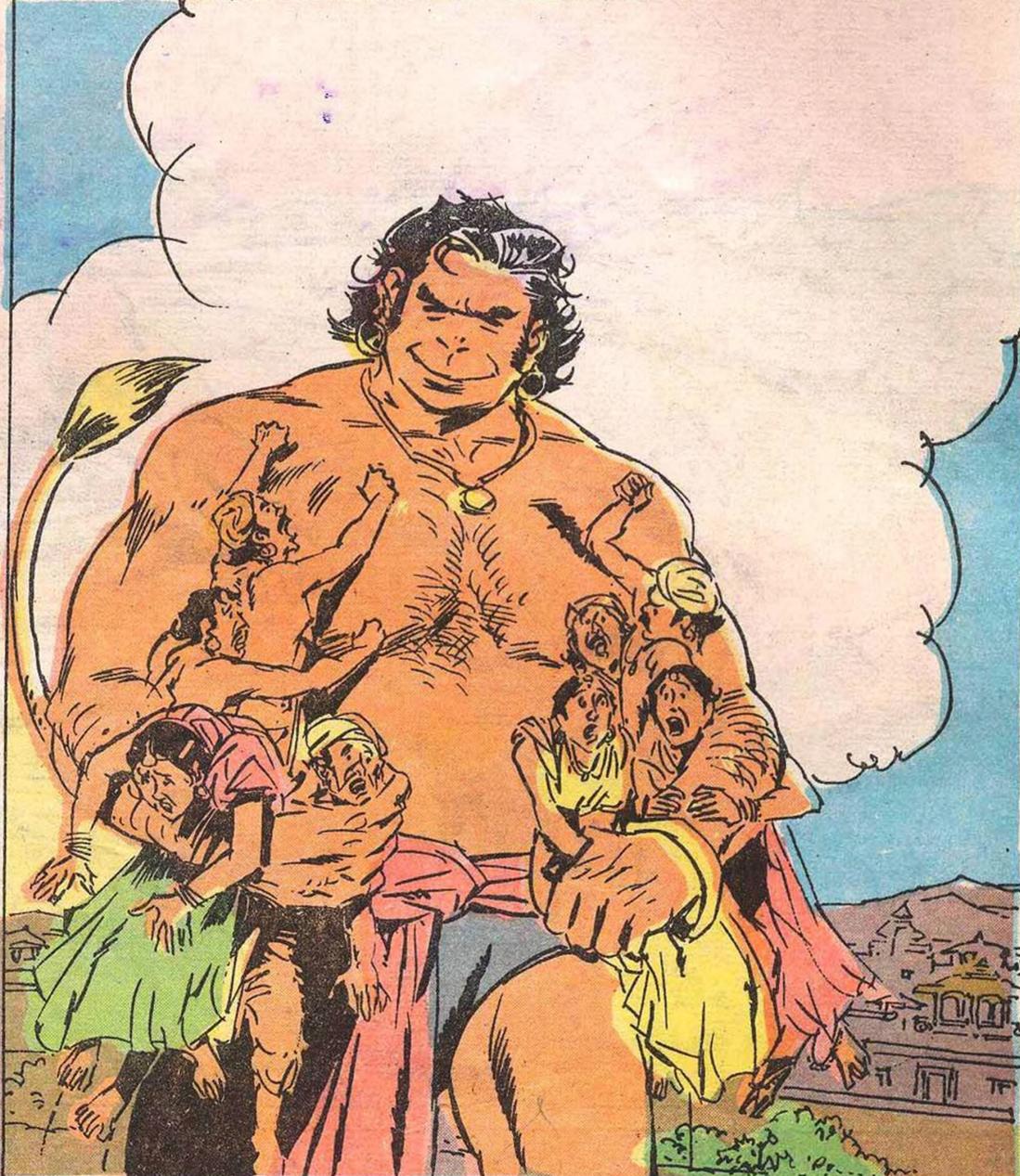
"... AND FLOOD THE CITIES ON ITS SHORES."



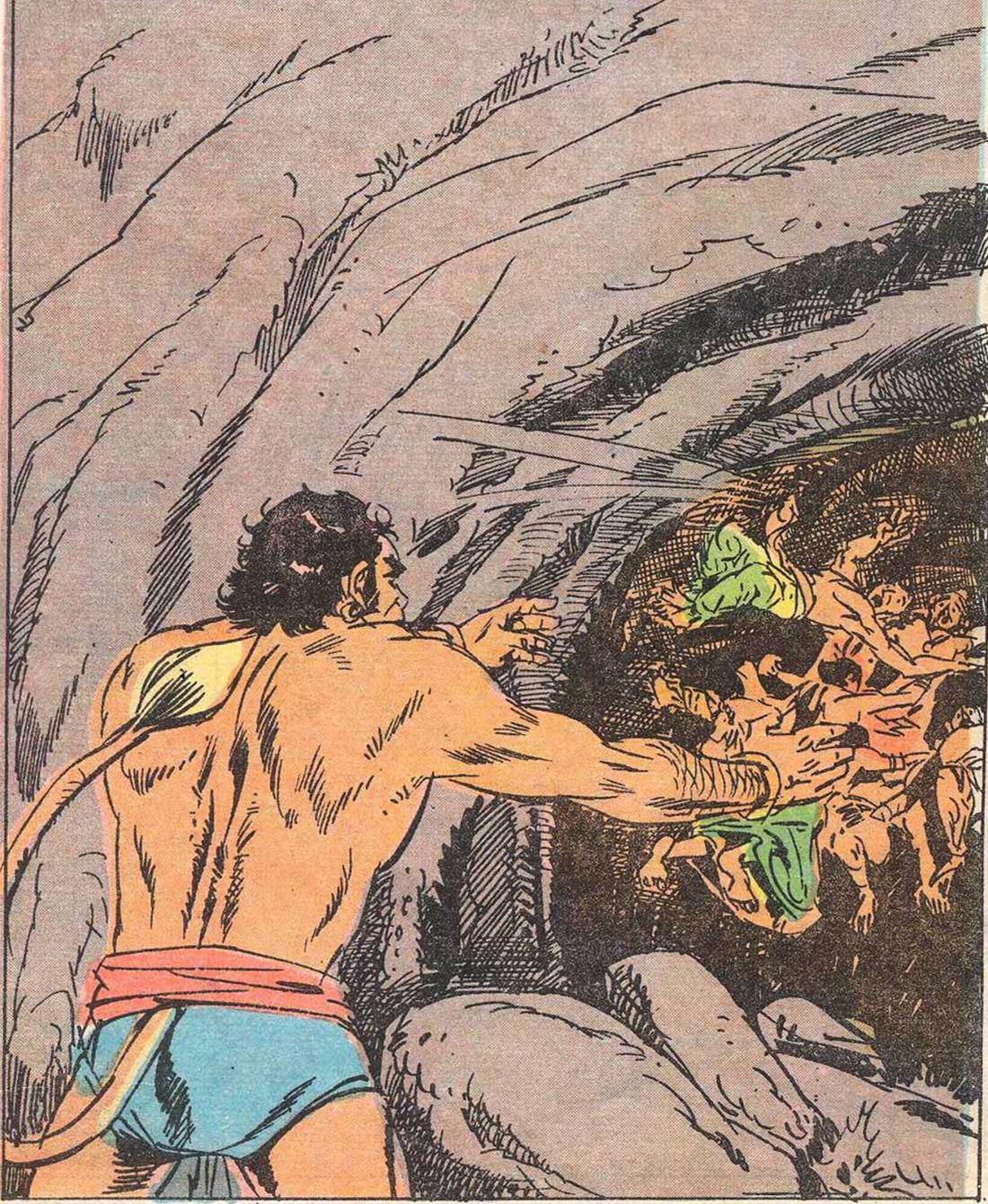
"HE WOULD DESTROY THE TREES IN THE HERMITAGES OF THE SAGES AND DISTURB THEIR SACRIFICES."



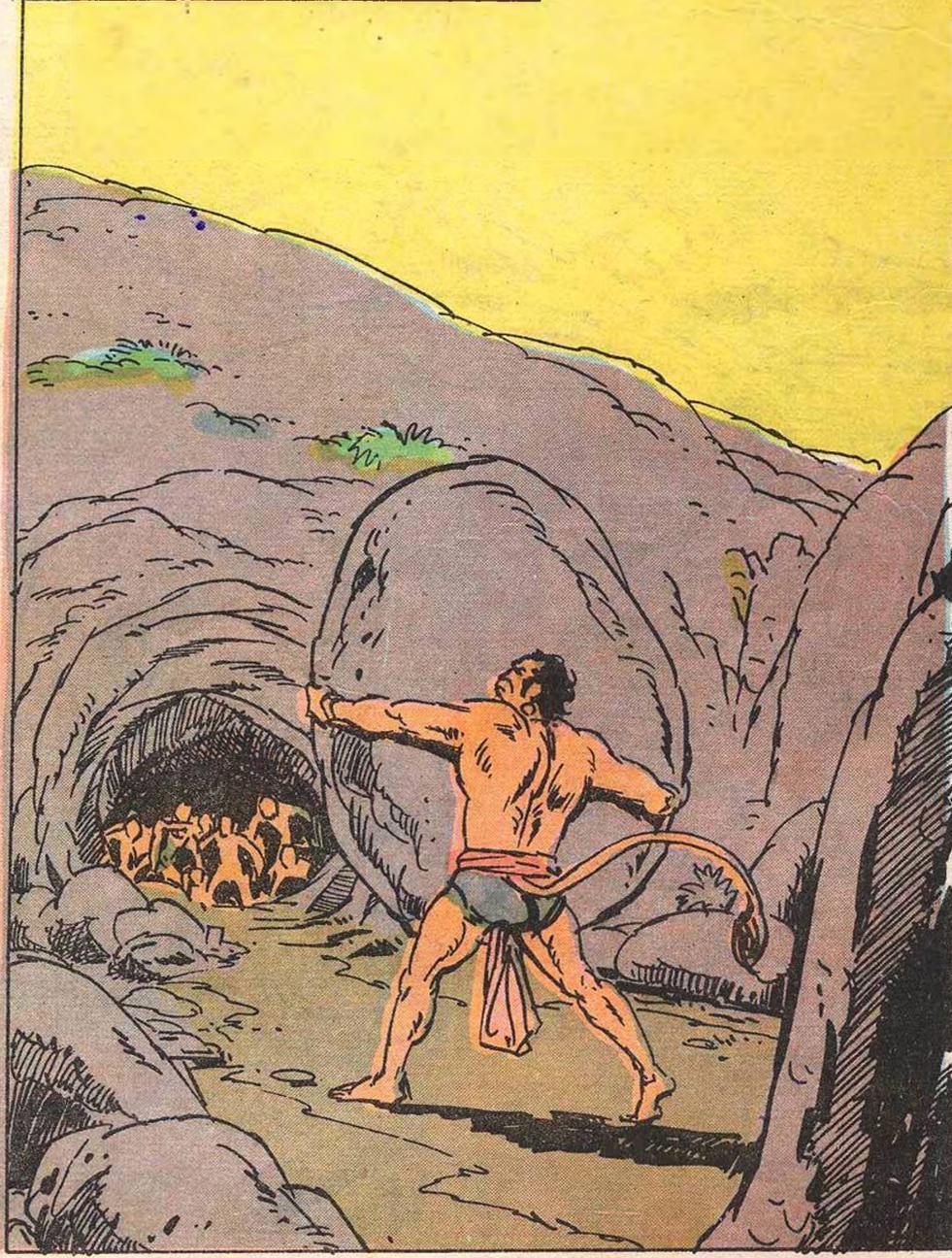
"AT OTHER TIMES HE WOULD SEIZE UNSUSPECTING MEN AND WOMEN..."



"... AND THROW THEM INTO CAVES ..."



"... AND BLOCK THE ENTRANCE WITH HUGE BOULDERS."



BALARAMA WAS ENRAGED.

ENOUGH! WHY DIDN'T YOU LET EITHER KRISHNA OR ME KNOW EARLIER?



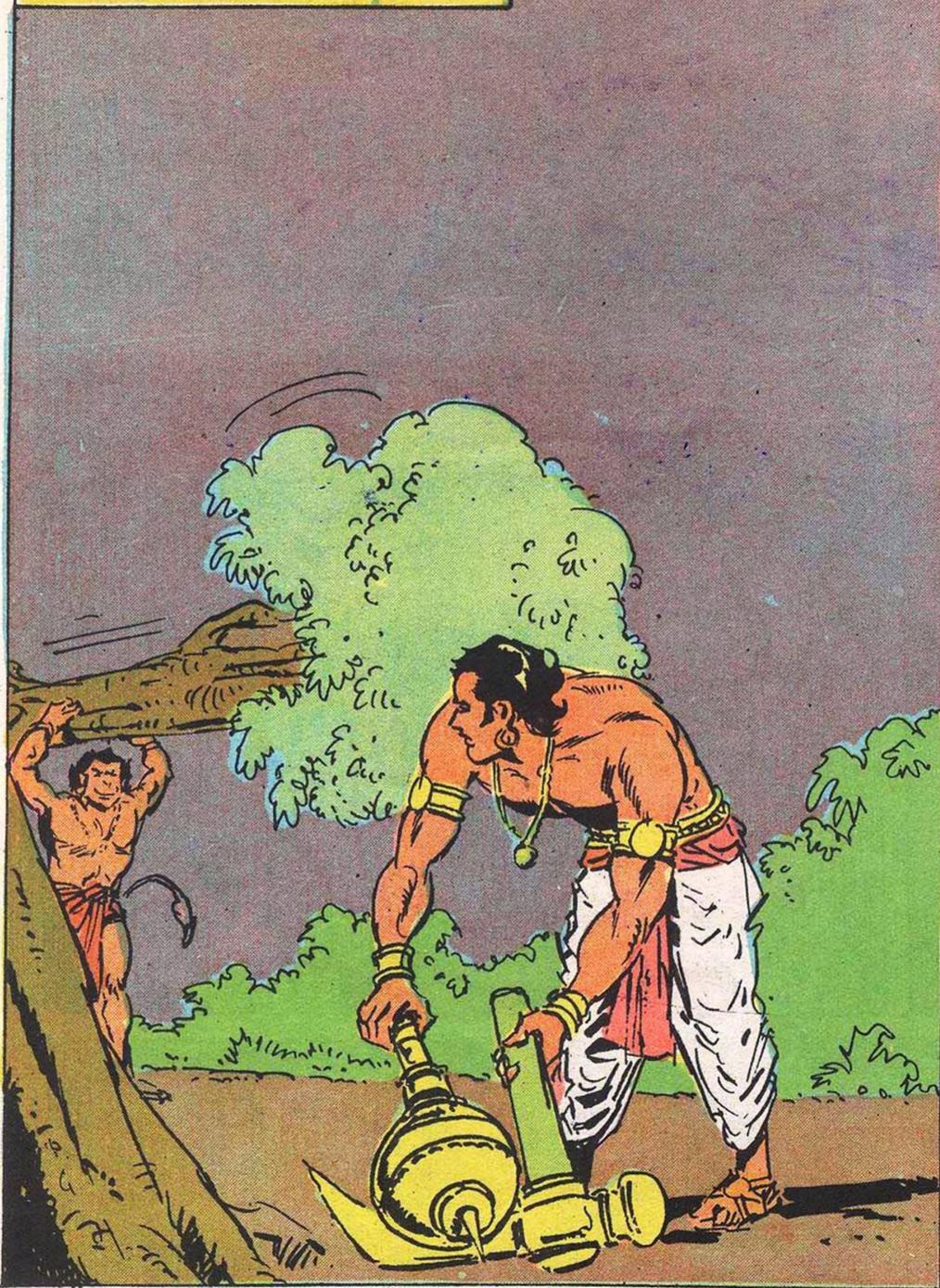
YOU WERE BUSY ELSEWHERE BESIDES DVIVIDA NEVER REMAINS IN ONE PLACE FOR LONG. HE COMES AND GOES LIKE A HURRICANE.



LOOK OUT!



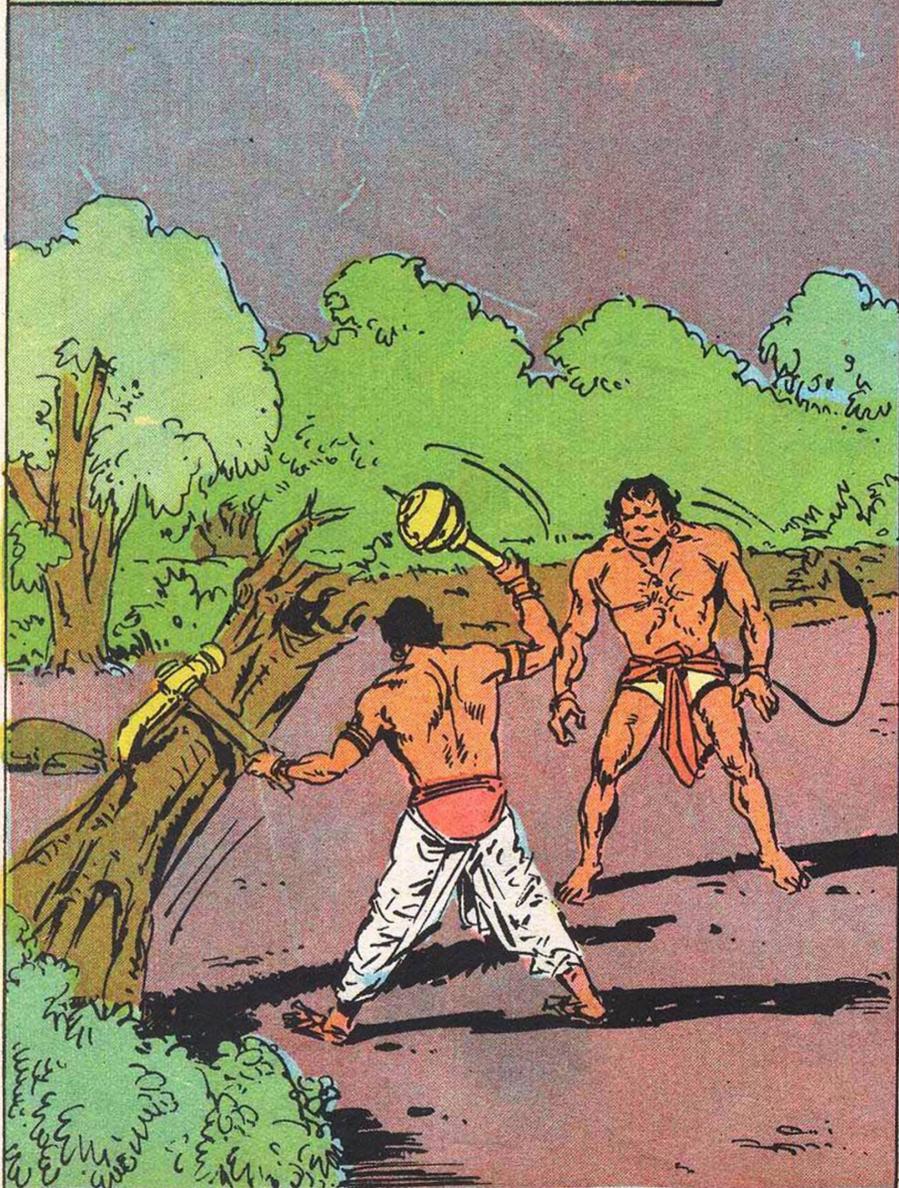
AS BALARAMA GRABBED HIS MACE AND  
PLOUGH-SHARE...



... DVIVIDA BROUGHT THE TREE DOWN ON  
HIS HEAD.



BUT BRUSHING IT AWAY AS IF IT  
WERE A MERE FEATHER...



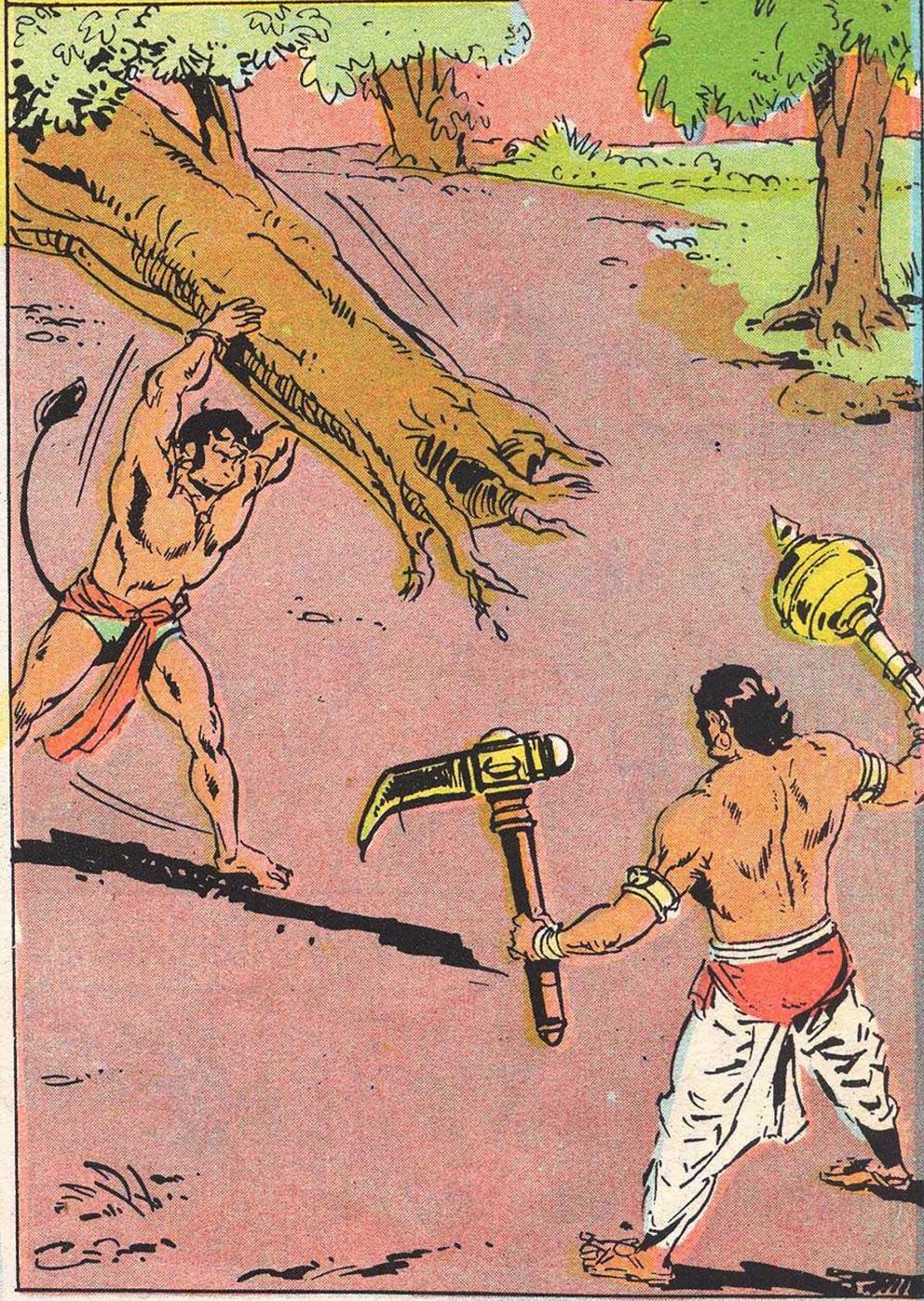
... BALARAMA SWUNG  
OUT WITH HIS MACE.



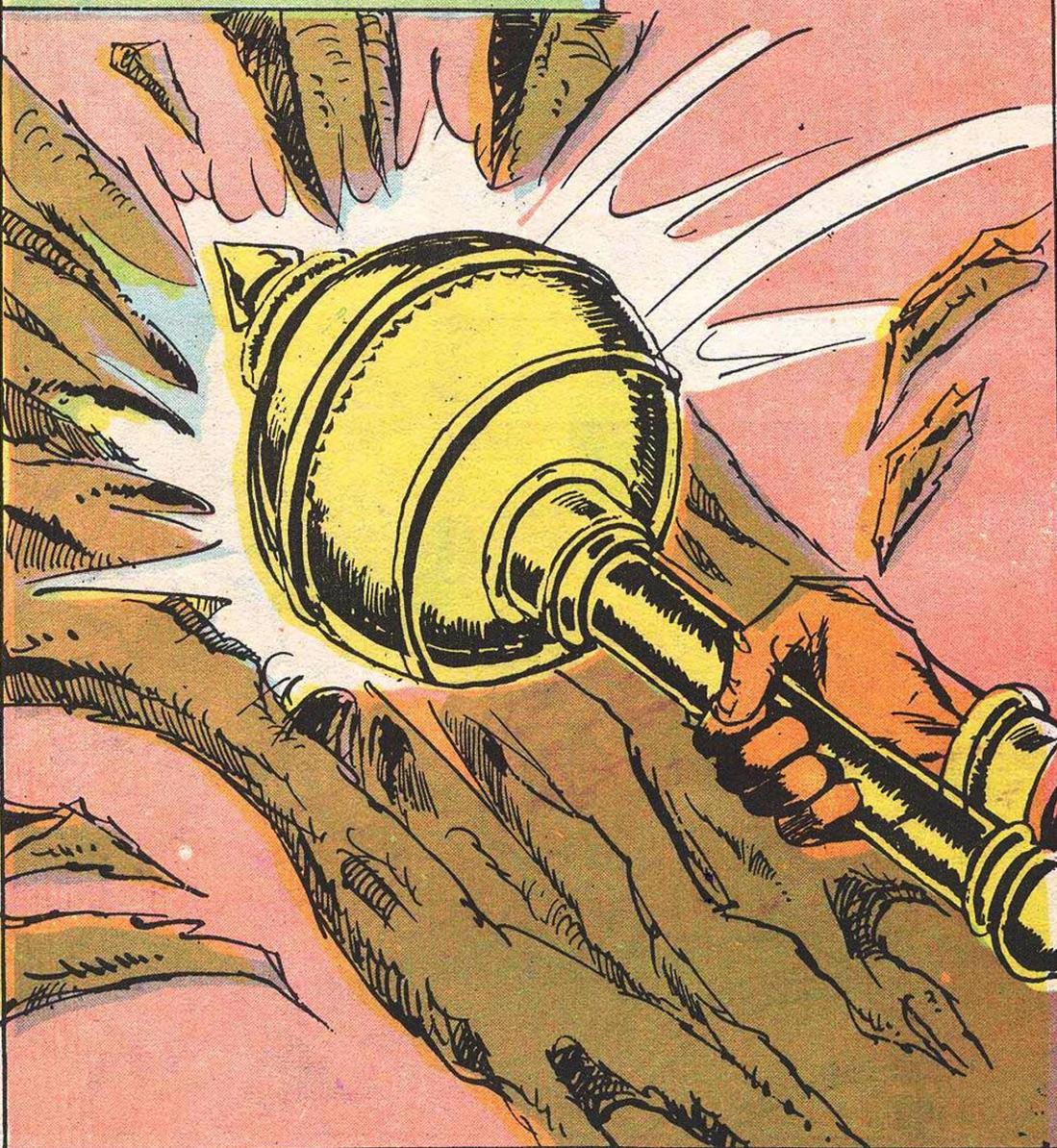
IGNORING THE PAIN, DVIVIDA UPROOTED ANOTHER TREE...



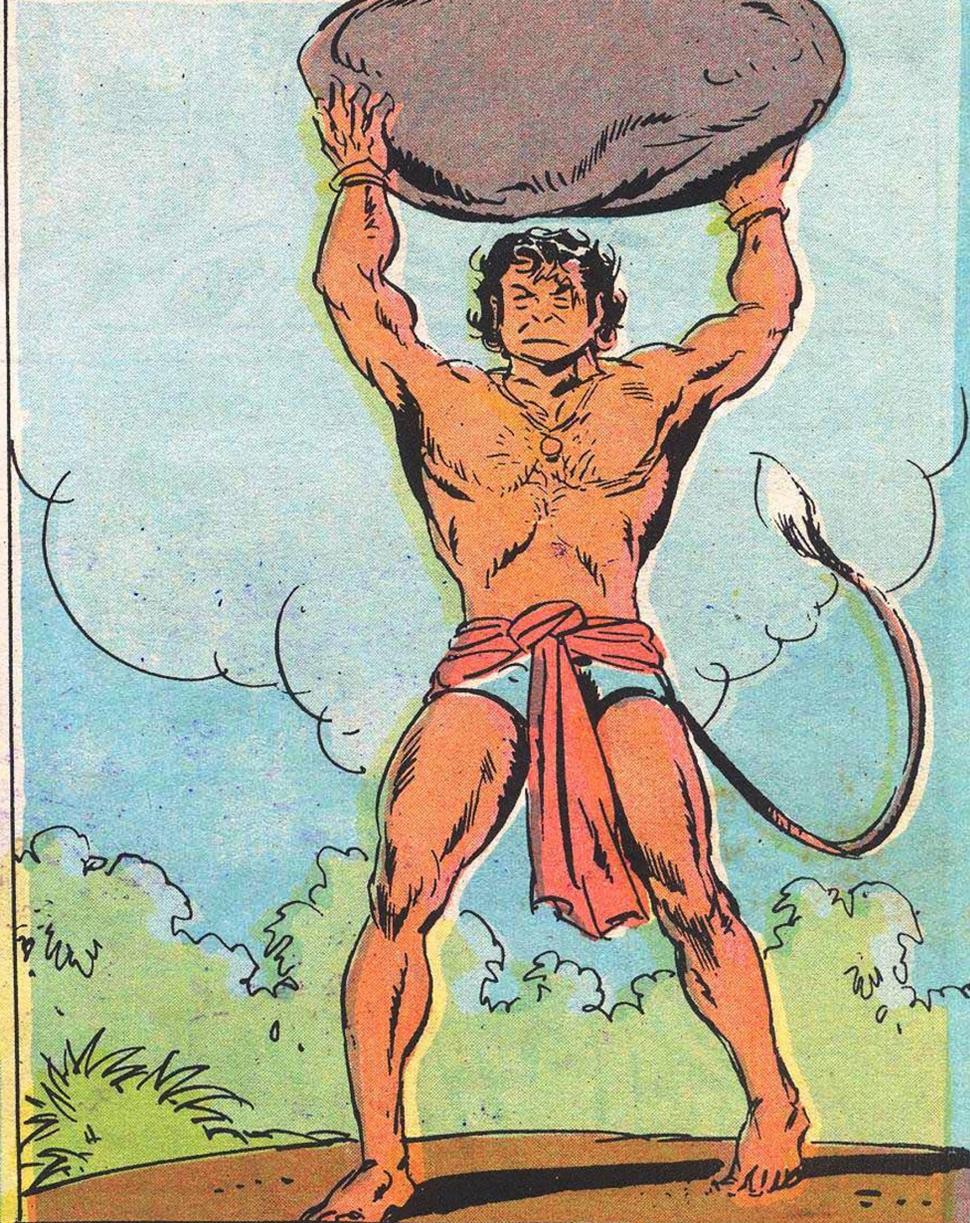
... AND ATTACKED.



BUT BALARAMA DEFTLY WARDED OFF THE BLOW WITH HIS MACE.



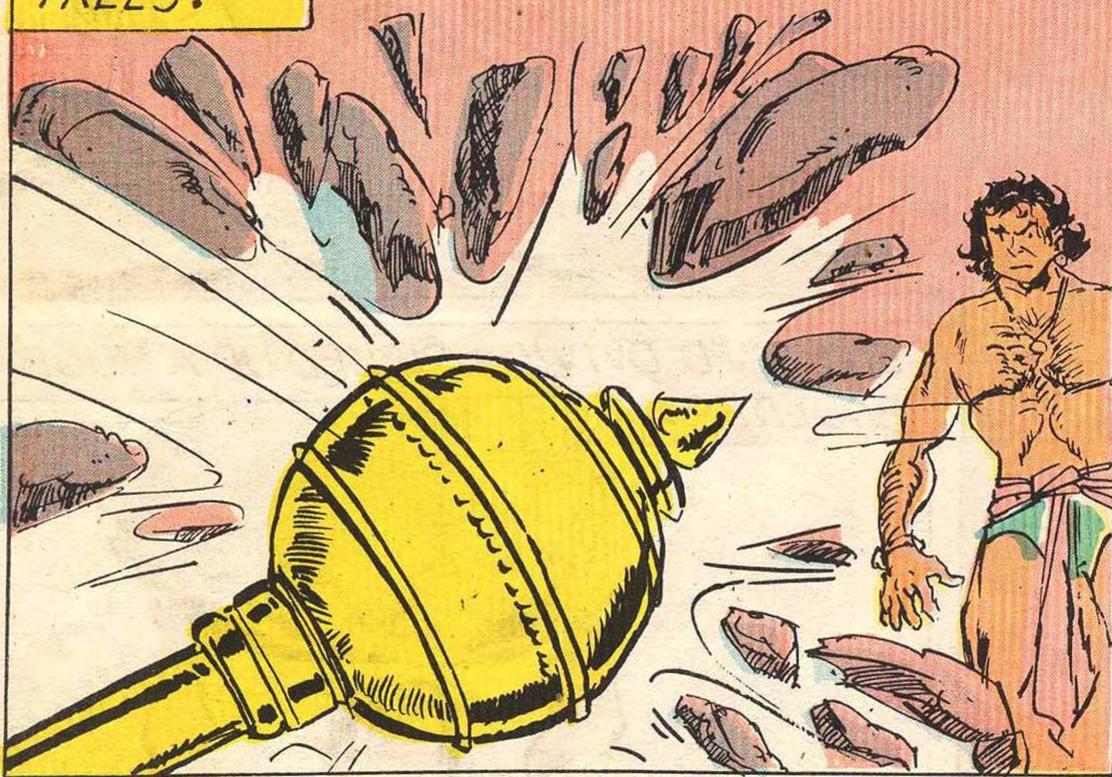
ENRAGED DVIVIDA PICKED UP A HUGE BOULDER...



... AND HURLED IT AT BALARAMA...



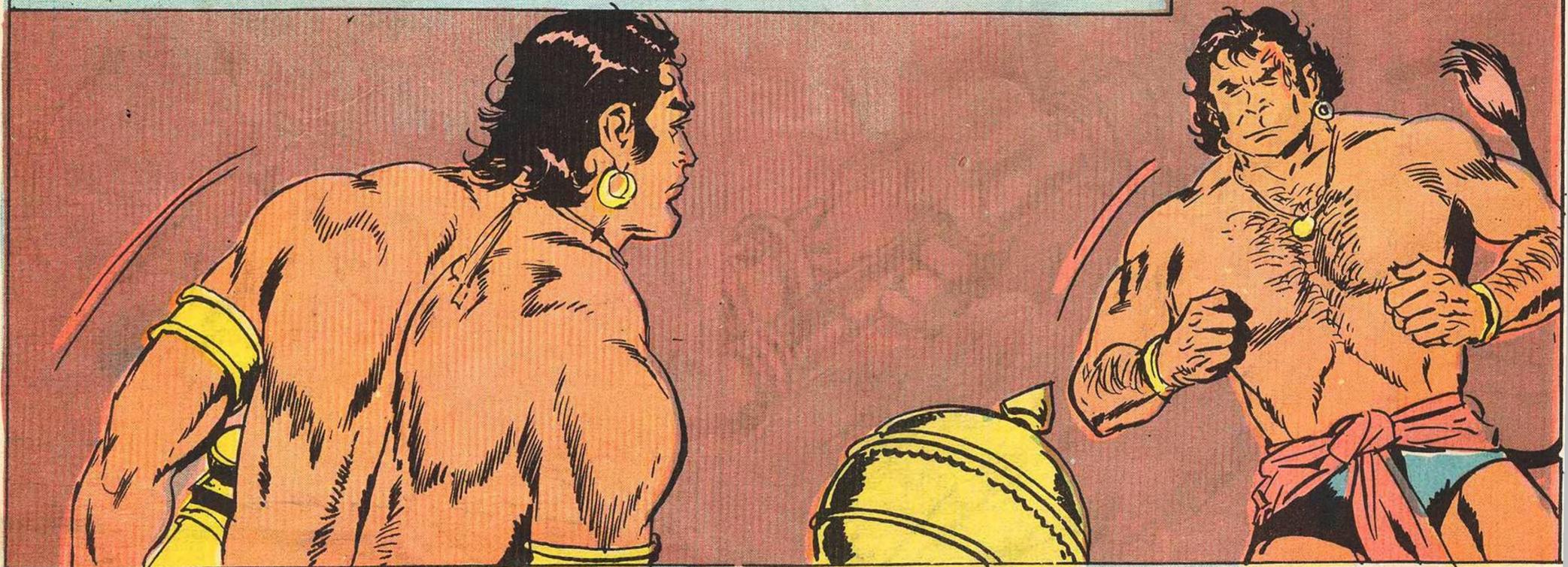
... BUT IT MET WITH THE SAME FATE AS THE TREES.



TREES AND BOULDERS ARE USELESS AGAINST THAT MACE. I'LL USE MY BARE HANDS.



WHEN BALARAMA SAW HIM CHARGING WITH CLENCHED FISTS...

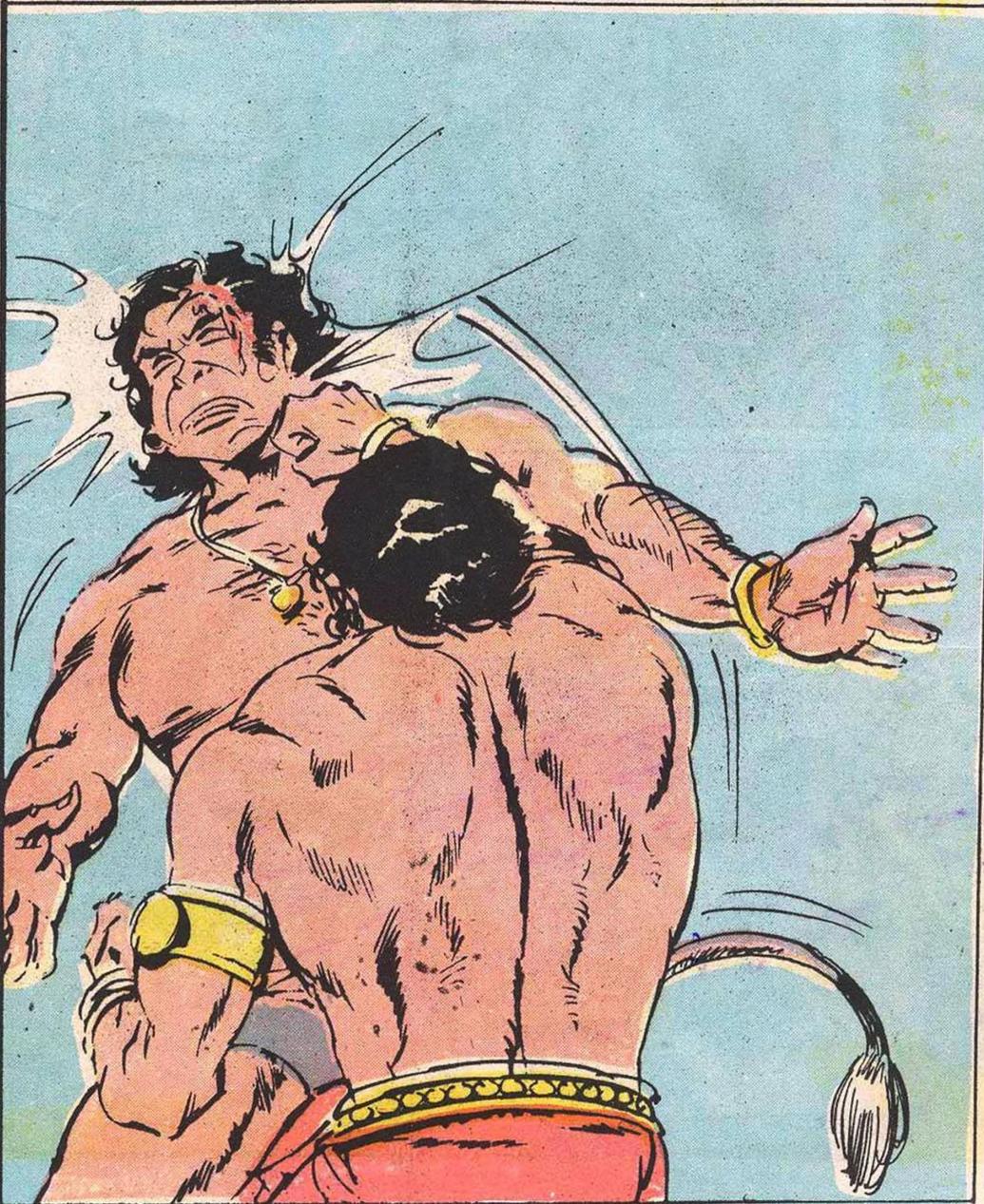


... HE THREW ASIDE HIS MACE AND PLOUGH-SHARE.

I TOO SHALL USE BARE HANDS.

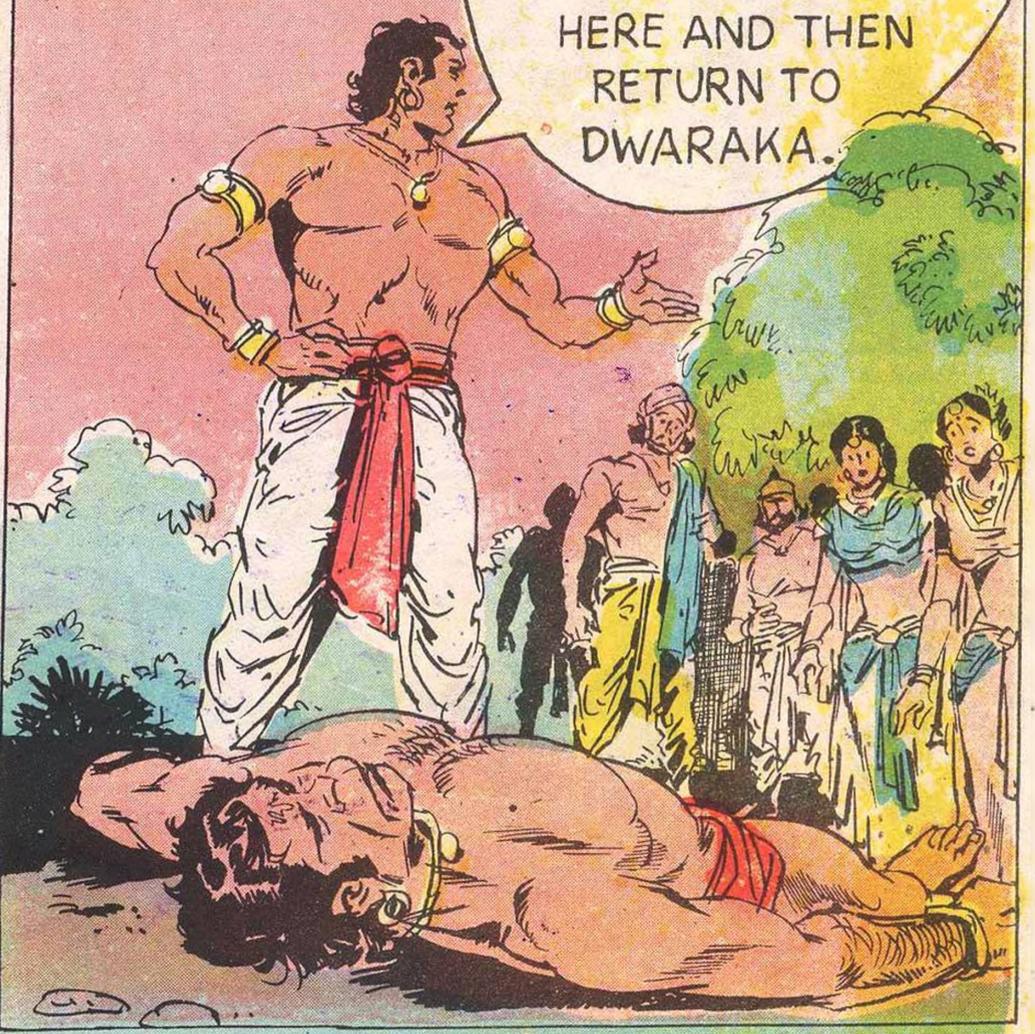


THE NEXT MOMENT—

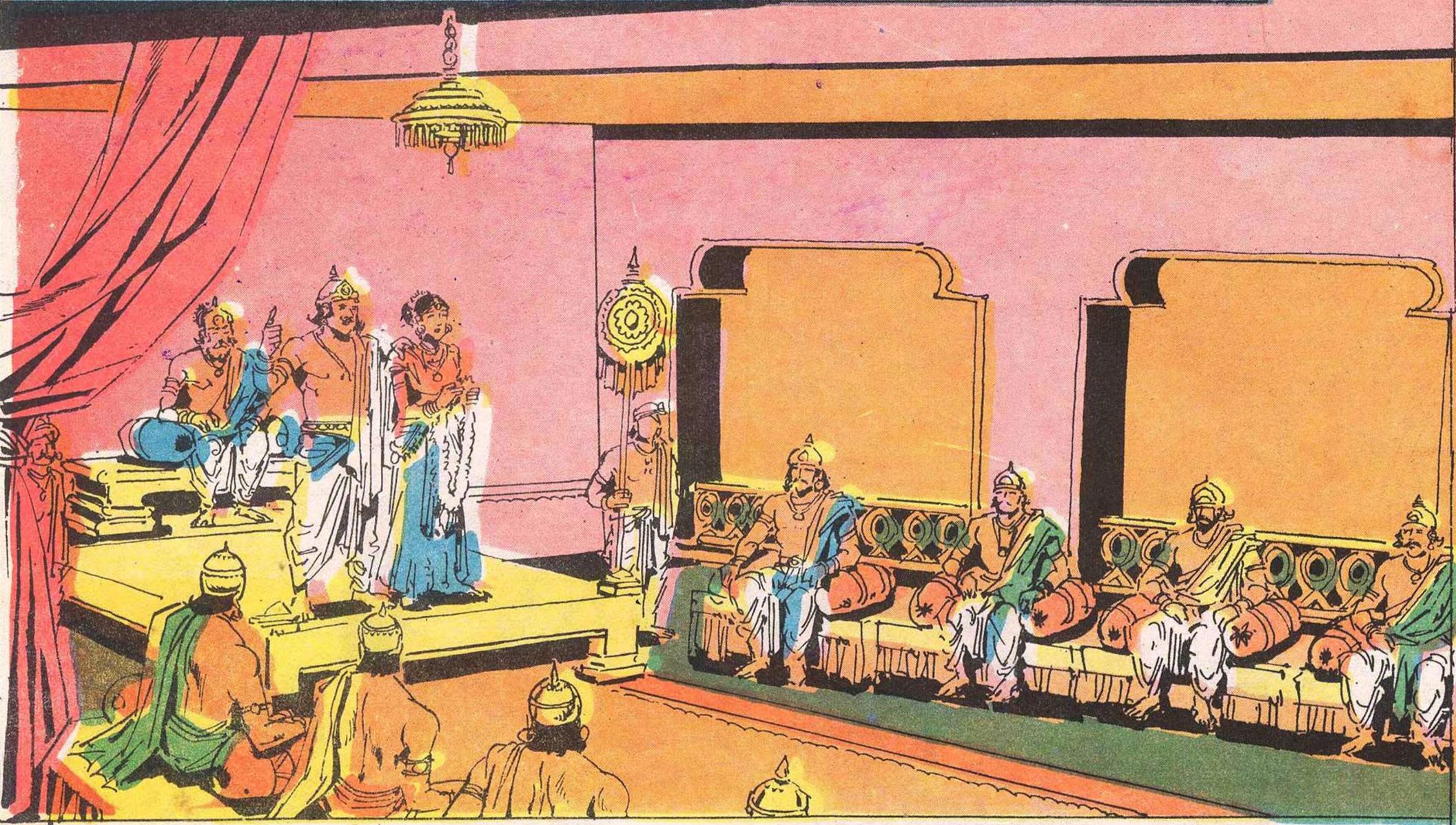


THE BLOW PROVED FATAL. DVIVIDA FELL DEAD.

COME, LET US GO BACK TO OUR MERRY-MAKING. I'LL SPEND A FEW MORE DAYS HERE AND THEN RETURN TO DWARAKA.

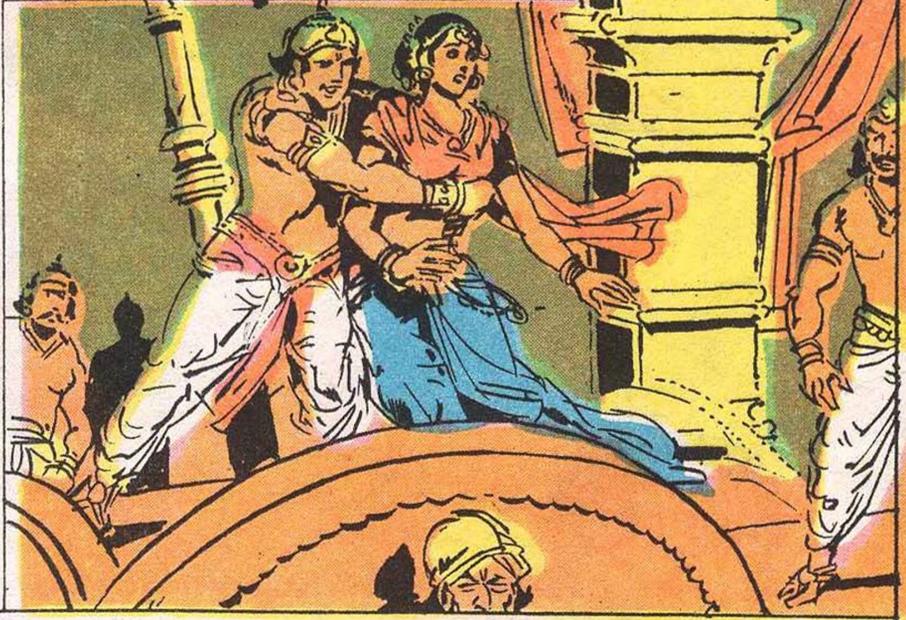
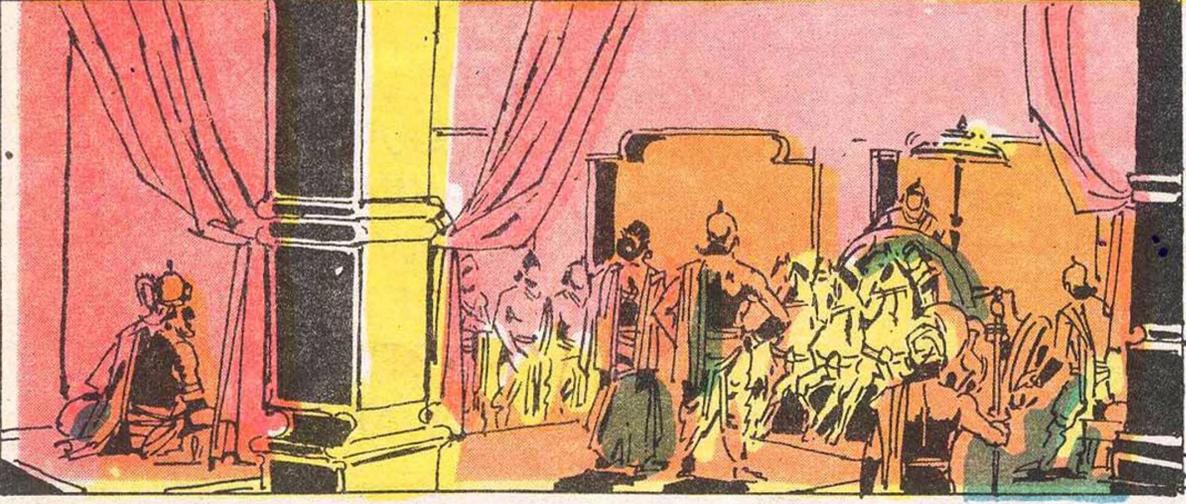


MEANWHILE AT HASTINAPURA, THE CITY OF THE KAURAVAS, THE SWAYAMVARA OF LAXMANA, DURYODHANA'S DAUGHTER, WAS IN FULL SWING.

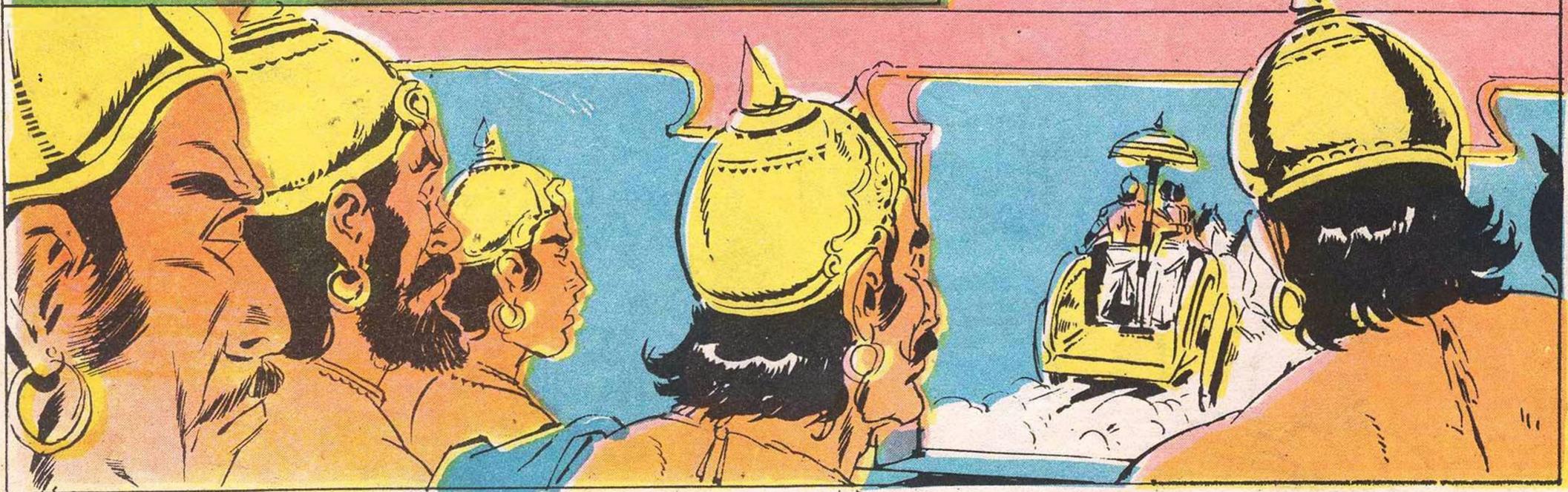


SUDDENLY AS IF FROM NOWHERE, SAMBA, THE SON OF KRISHNA AND JAMBAVATI, AN UNINVITED GUEST, SWOOPED ON THE ASSEMBLY...

... SEIZED THE BRIDE ...



... AND, TO THE HORROR OF ALL, CARRIED HER AWAY.



SAKUNI TURNED TO DURYODHANA.

HOW DARE HE  
TOUCH A PRINCESS!  
FOLLOW THE  
ARROGANT BOY.  
CAPTURE  
HIM!

WE'LL BIND  
HIM AND  
BRING  
THEM BACK.

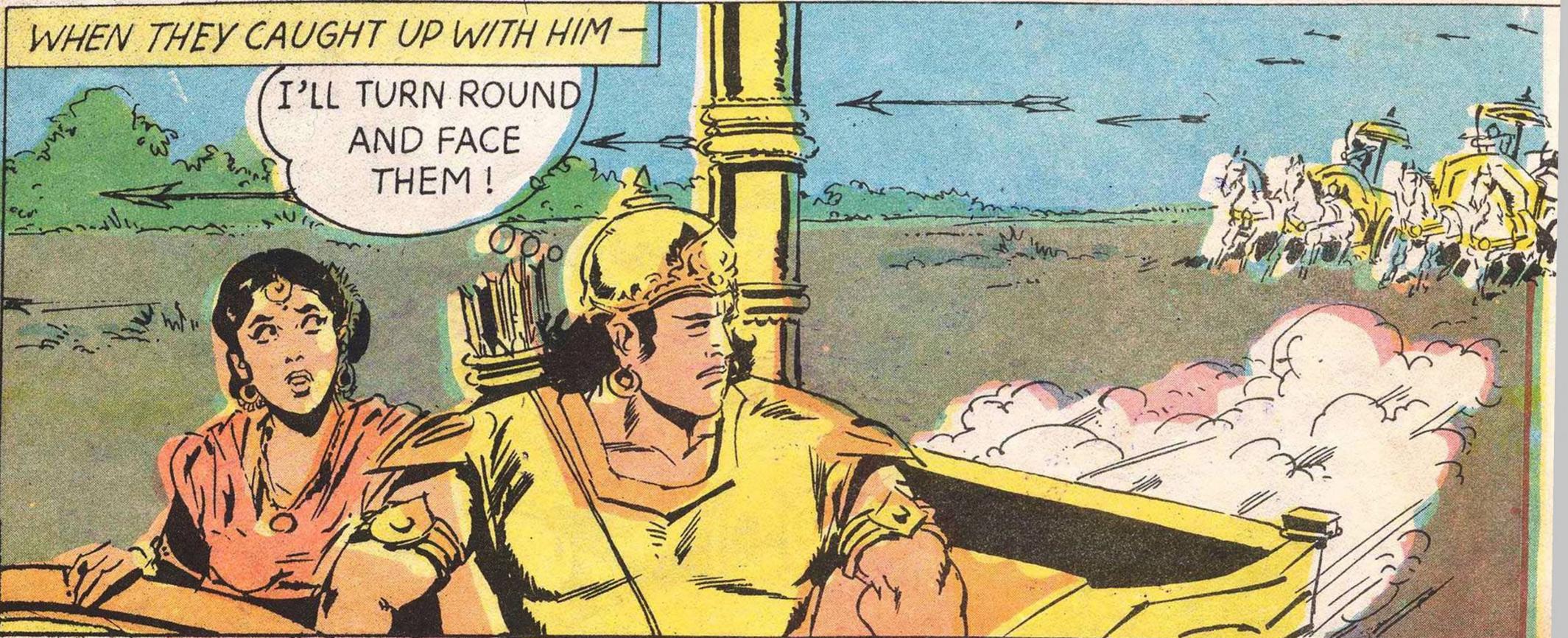


AND DURYODHANA WITH HIS TRUSTED  
WARRIORS GAVE CHASE.



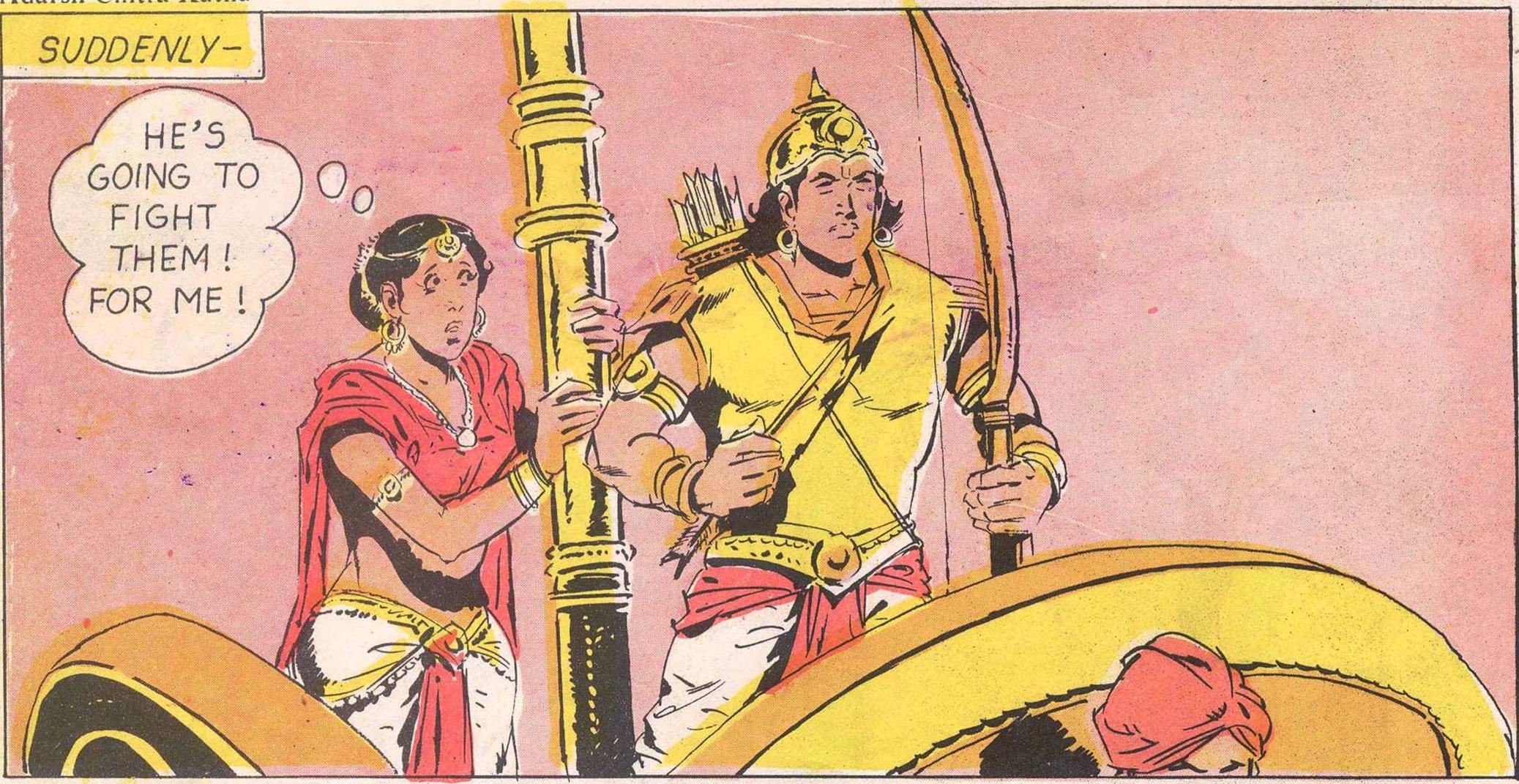
WHEN THEY CAUGHT UP WITH HIM —

I'LL TURN ROUND  
AND FACE  
THEM!

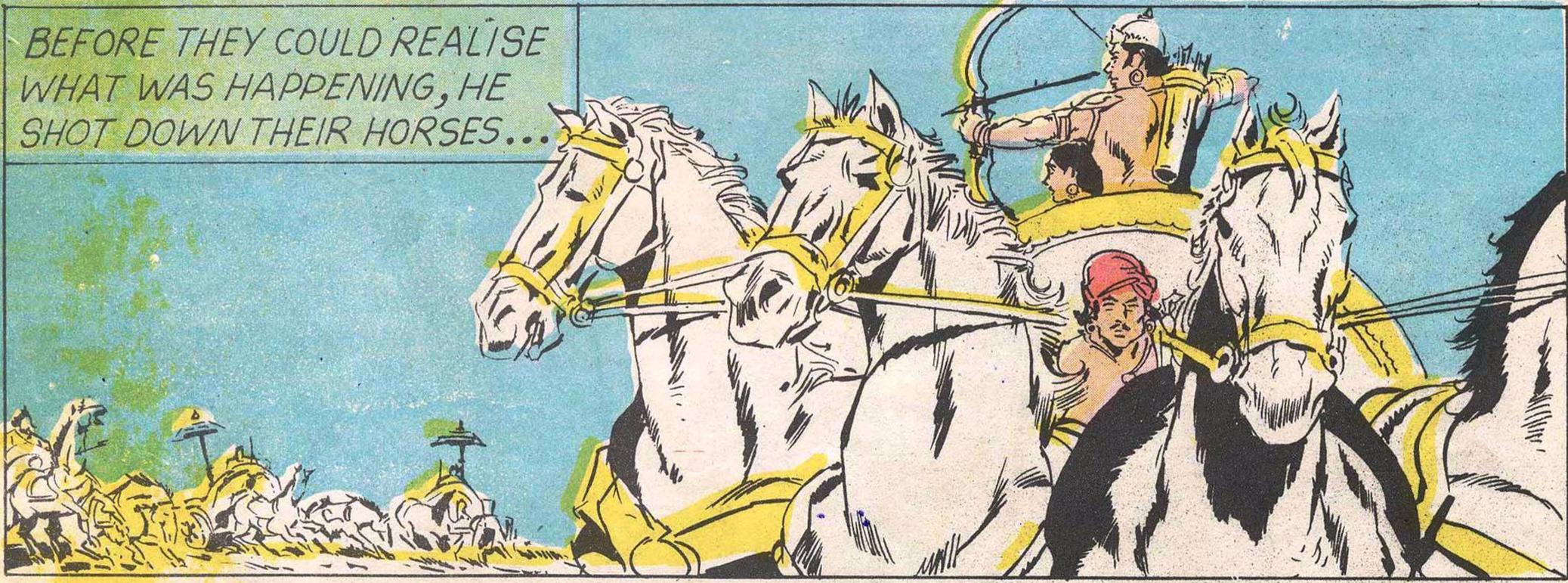


SUDDENLY-

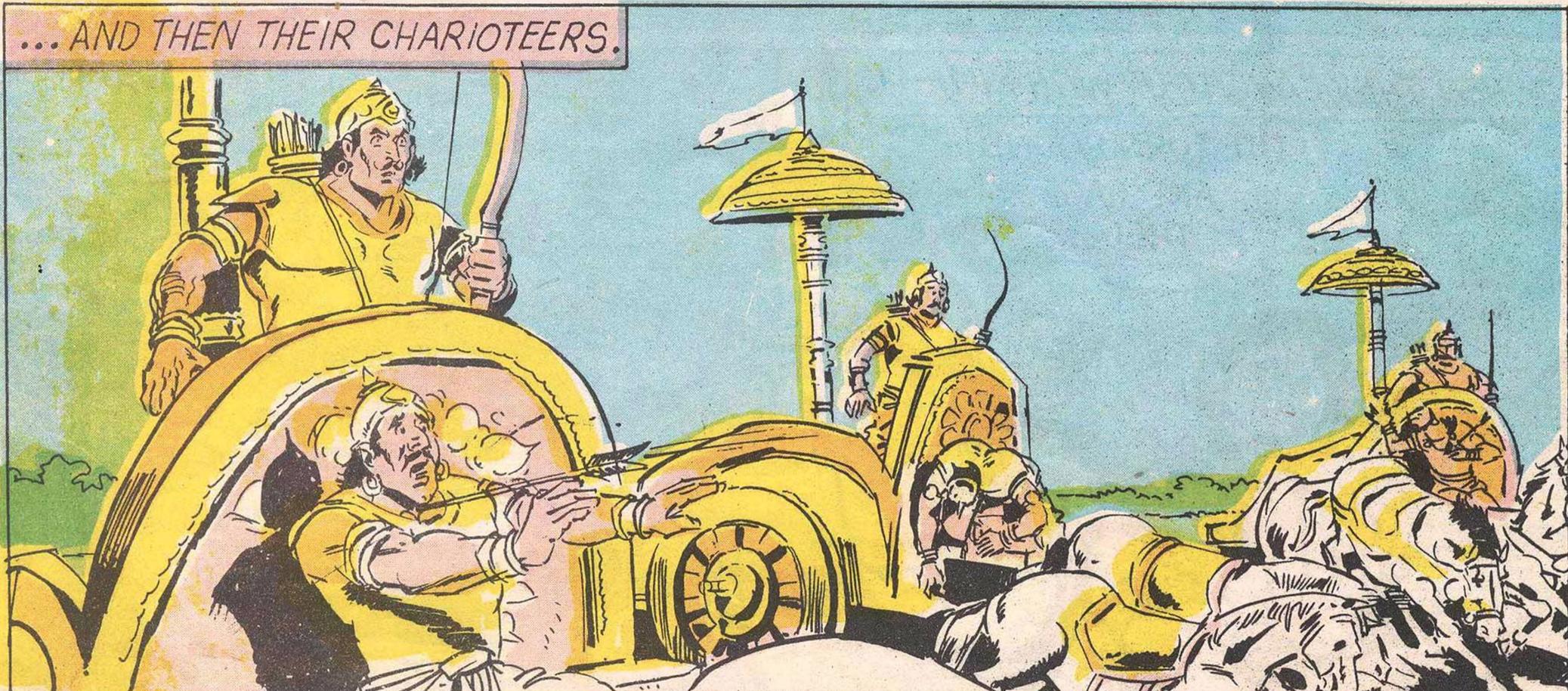
HE'S GOING TO FIGHT THEM! FOR ME!



BEFORE THEY COULD REALISE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, HE SHOT DOWN THEIR HORSES...



... AND THEN THEIR CHARIOTEERS.



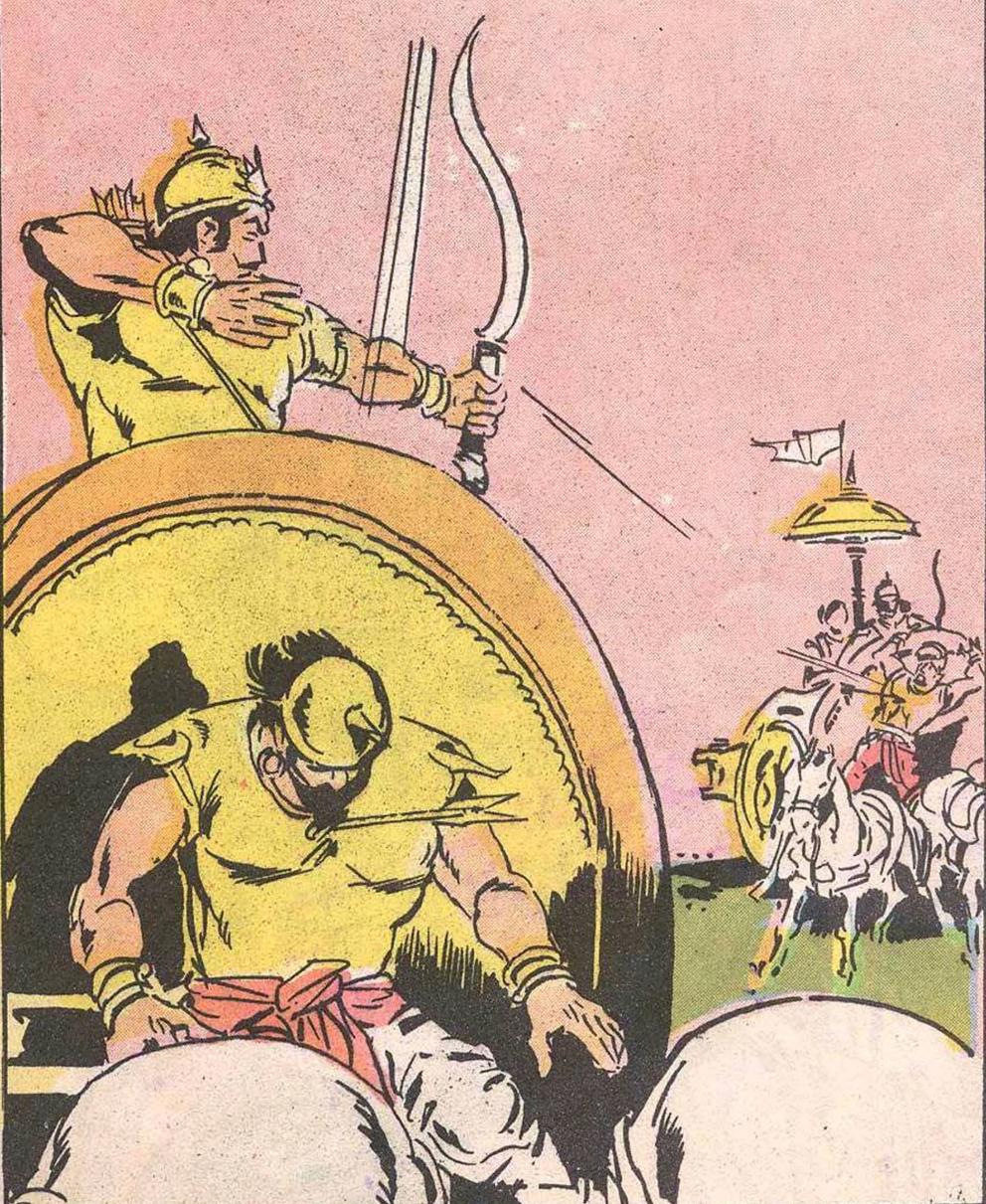
FOR A MOMENT THE OLDER WARRIORS STOOD ADMIRING THE BOY.



THEN, UNDER KARNA'S LEADERSHIP THEY CUT OFF THE REINS OF HIS HORSES...



... SHOT HIS CHARIOTEER...



... AND CUT UP HIS BOW — ALL WITH WELL-AIMED ARROWS.



THEN PULLING HIM OUT OF THE CHARIOT WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY...



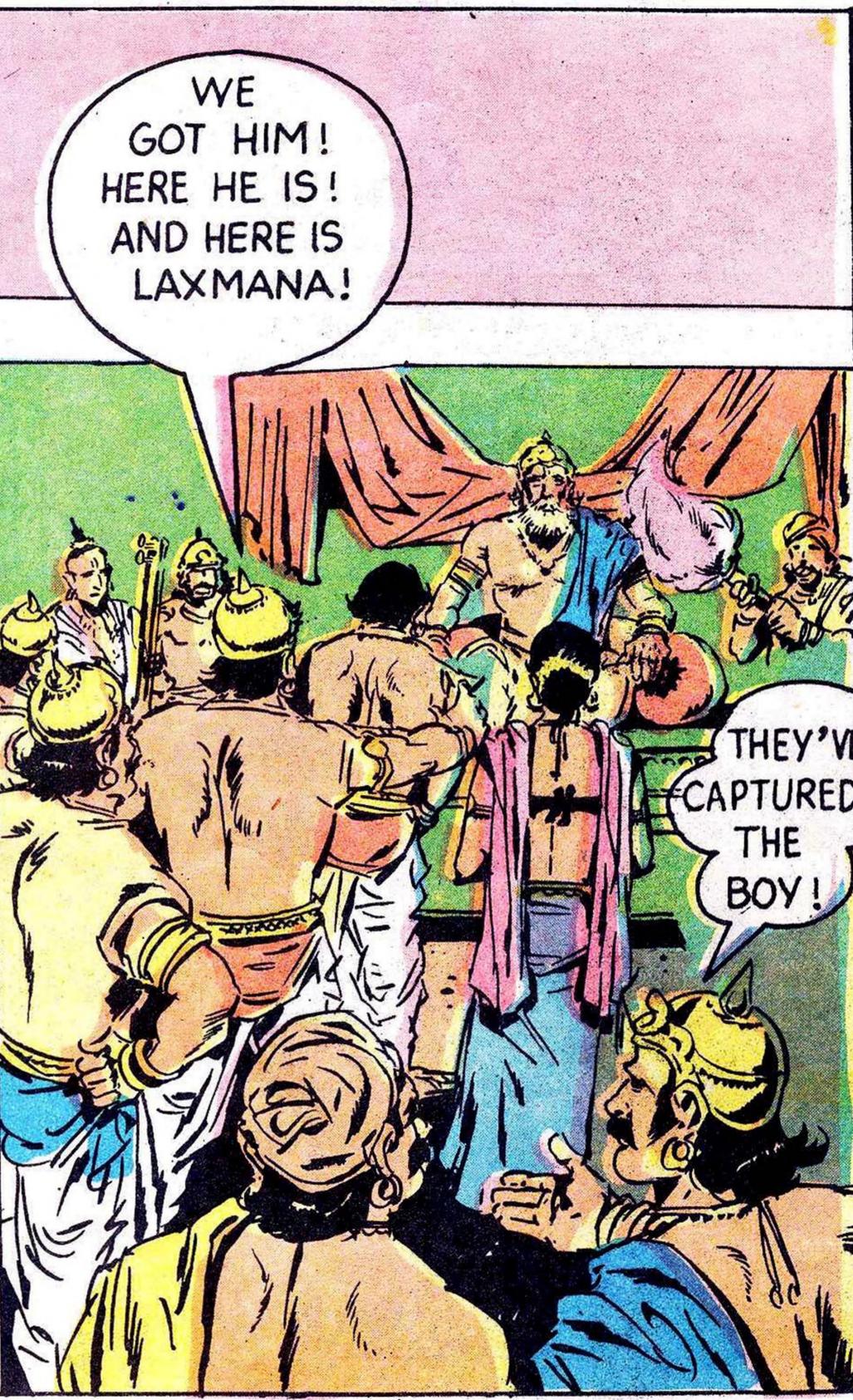
... THEY BOUND HIM WITH ROPES...



...AND RETURNED TO HASTINAPURA IN TRIUMPH.



OUR WARRIORS HAVE RETURNED!



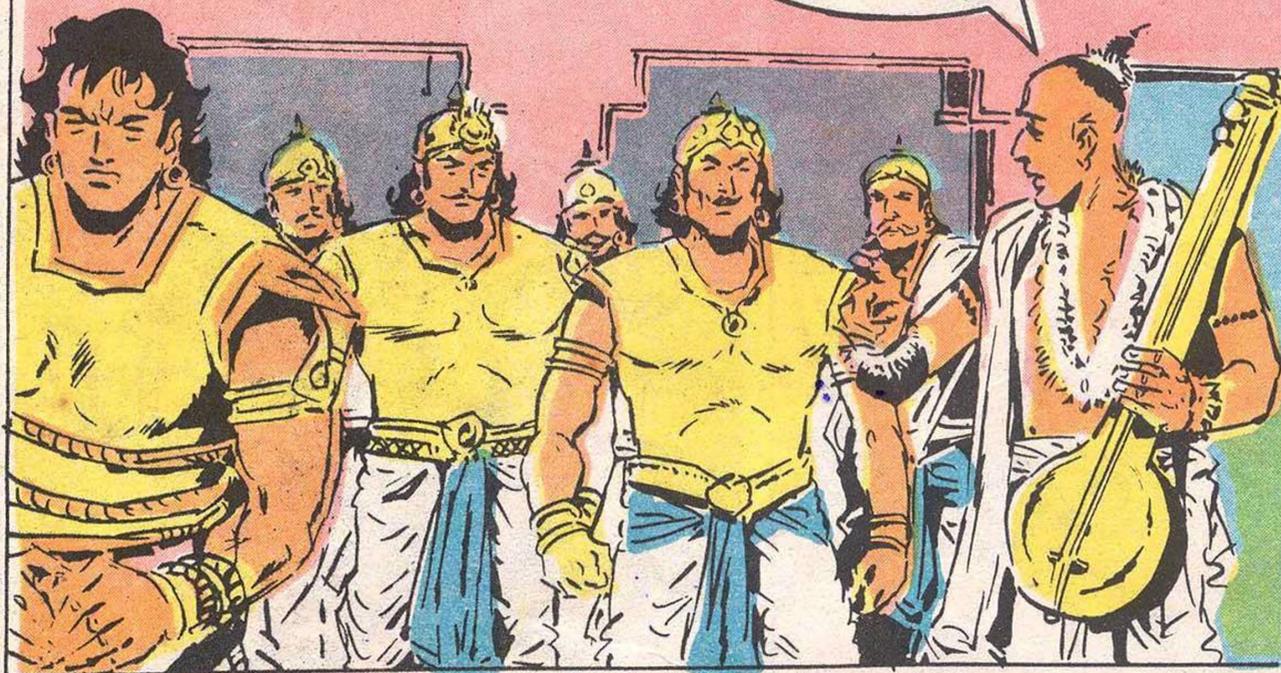
WE GOT HIM! HERE HE IS! AND HERE IS LAXMANA!

THEY'VE CAPTURED THE BOY!

SAGE NARADA, WHO HAD COME TO HASTINAPURA ON A VISIT, WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE SAW THE FACE OF THE PRISONER.

BUT ISN'T THAT SAMBA, THE SON OF KRISHNA AND JAMBAVATI?

IT IS! THE SON OF THAT COWHERD HAD THE AUDACITY TO CARRY AWAY A KAURAVA PRINCESS! HE WILL MEET THE FATE HE DESERVES AS OUR PRISONER!



OH! OH! I MUST MAKE HASTE AND CARRY THE NEWS TO DWARAKA.

A LITTLE LATER -

I MUST TAKE LEAVE OF YOU NOW. I SUDDENLY REALISED I HAVE AN URGENT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.



AS SOON AS NARADA WAS OUT OF EAR-SHOT —

THE URGENT MATTER MUST BE CARRYING THE NEWS OF SAMBA'S DEFEAT TO DWARAKA!

GOOD! THAT WILL BRING THE YADAVAS HERE AND WE CAN INFLICT ON THEM THE HUMILIATION THEY DESERVE.



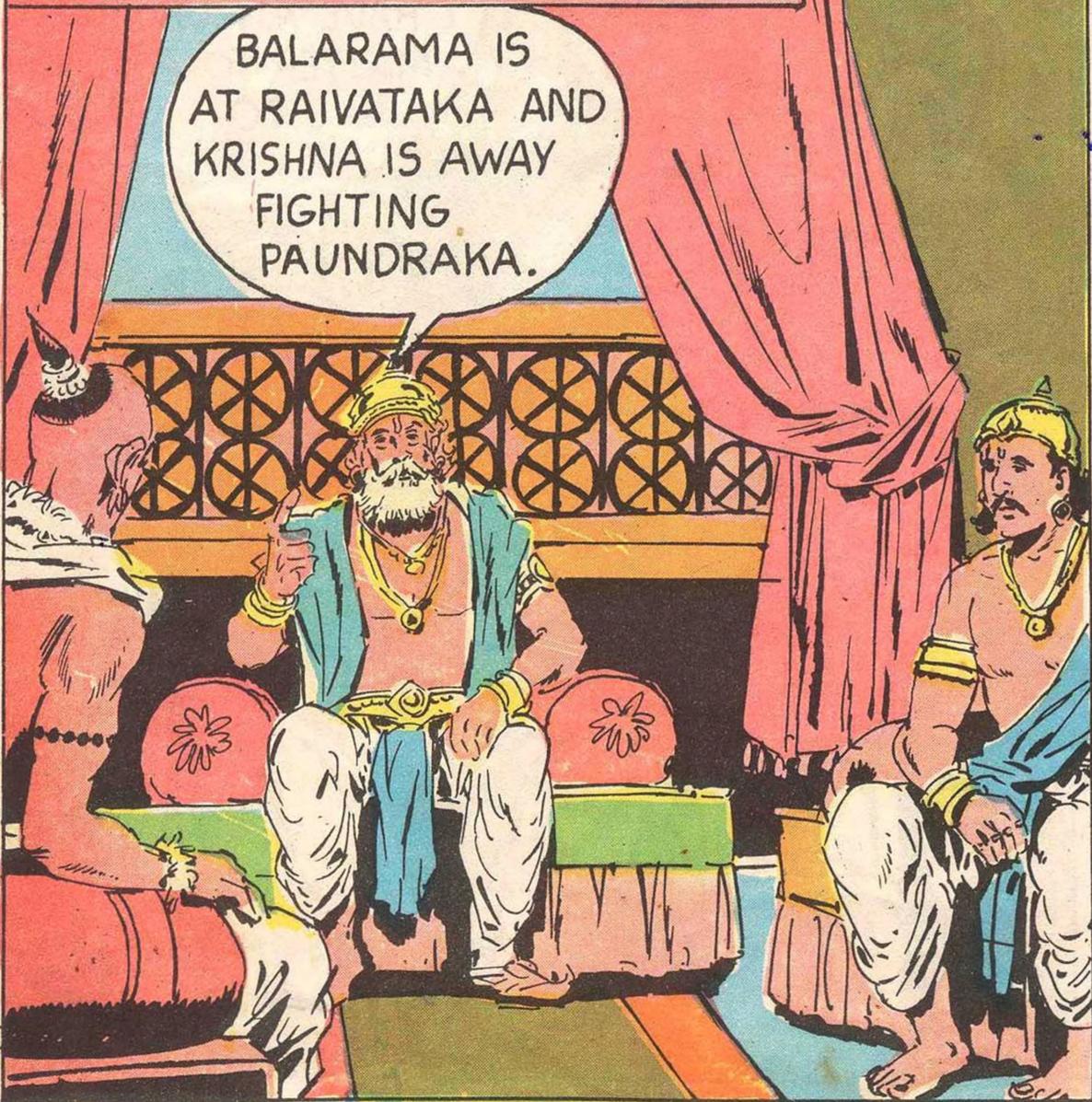
WHEN NARADA REACHED DWARAKA —

UDDHAVA, WHERE'S KRISHNA? AND BALARAMA?



IT WAS UGRASENA, THE AGED KING, WHO ANSWERED HIS QUESTION.

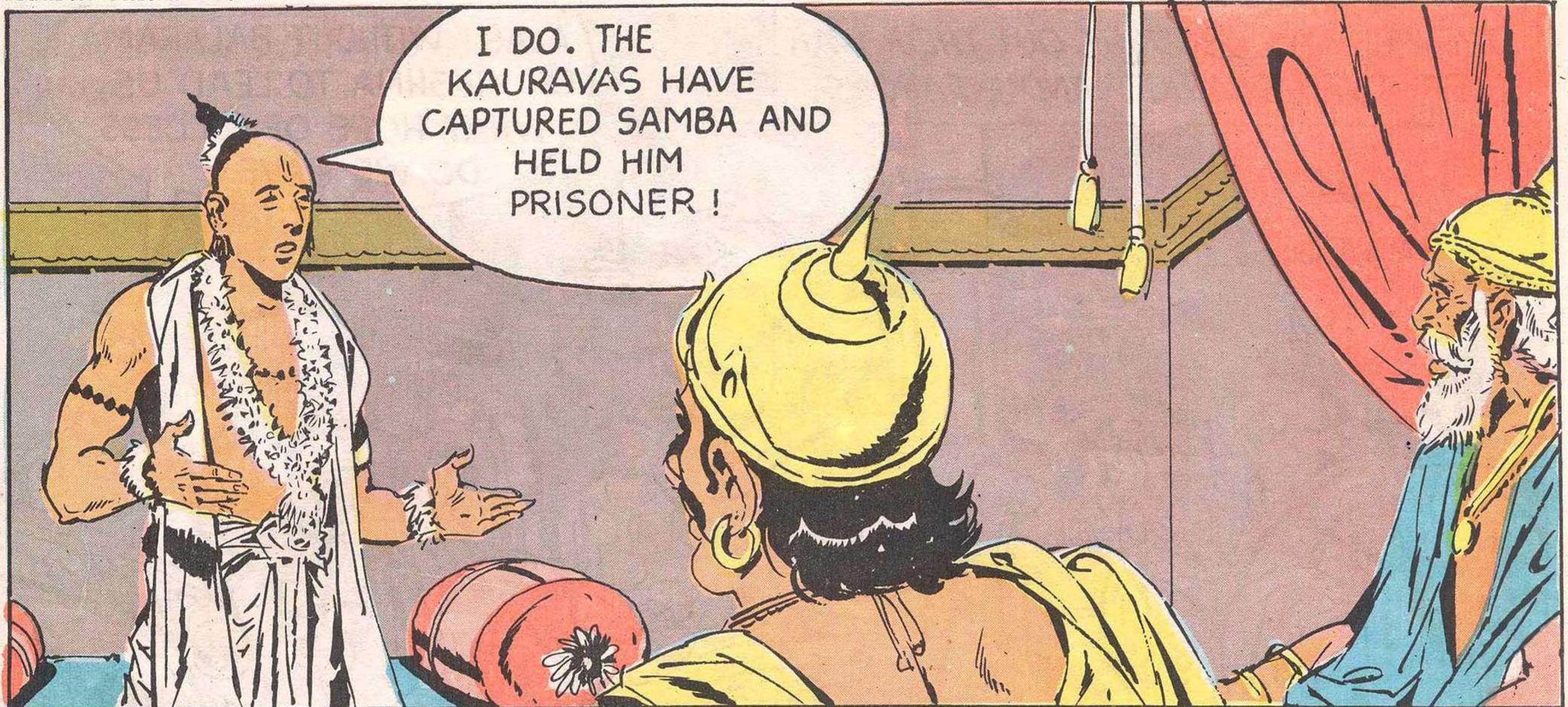
BALARAMA IS AT RAIVATAKA AND KRISHNA IS AWAY FIGHTING PAUNDRAKA.



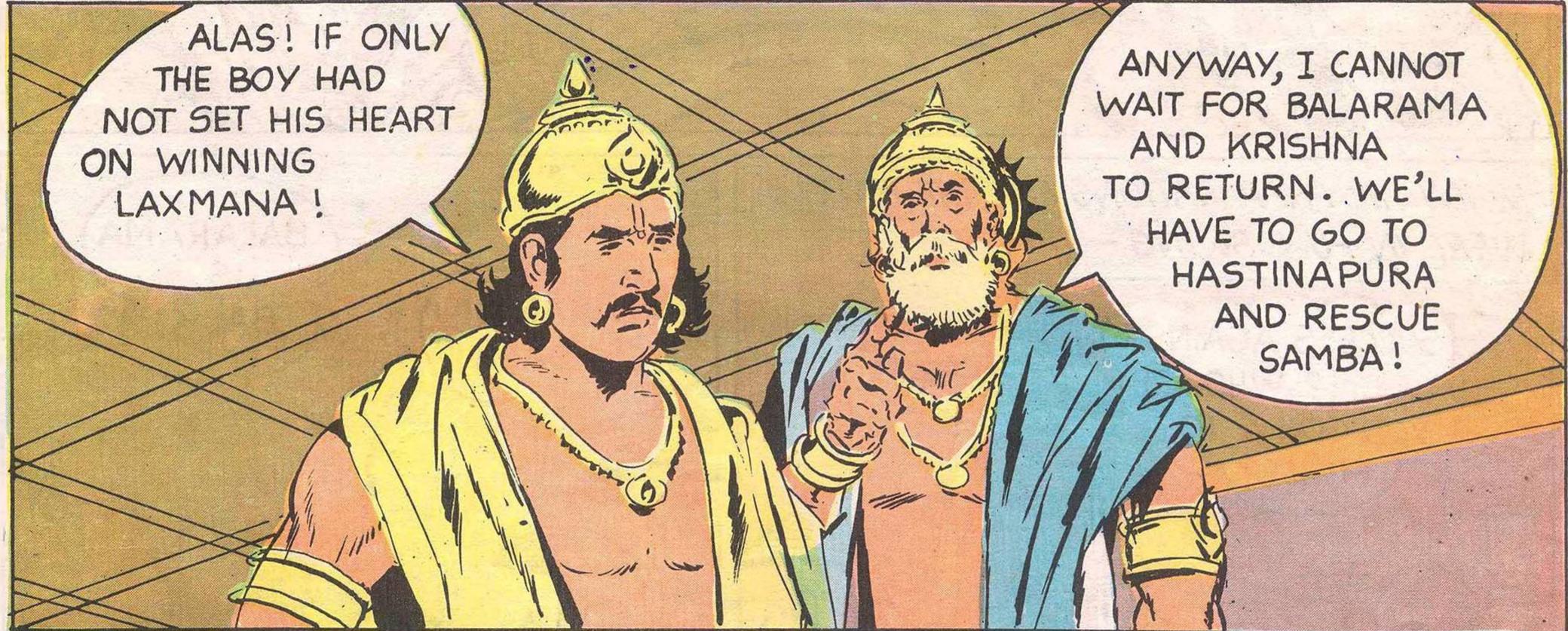
WHY? WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK AS IF YOU COME WITH BAD NEWS.

OH!



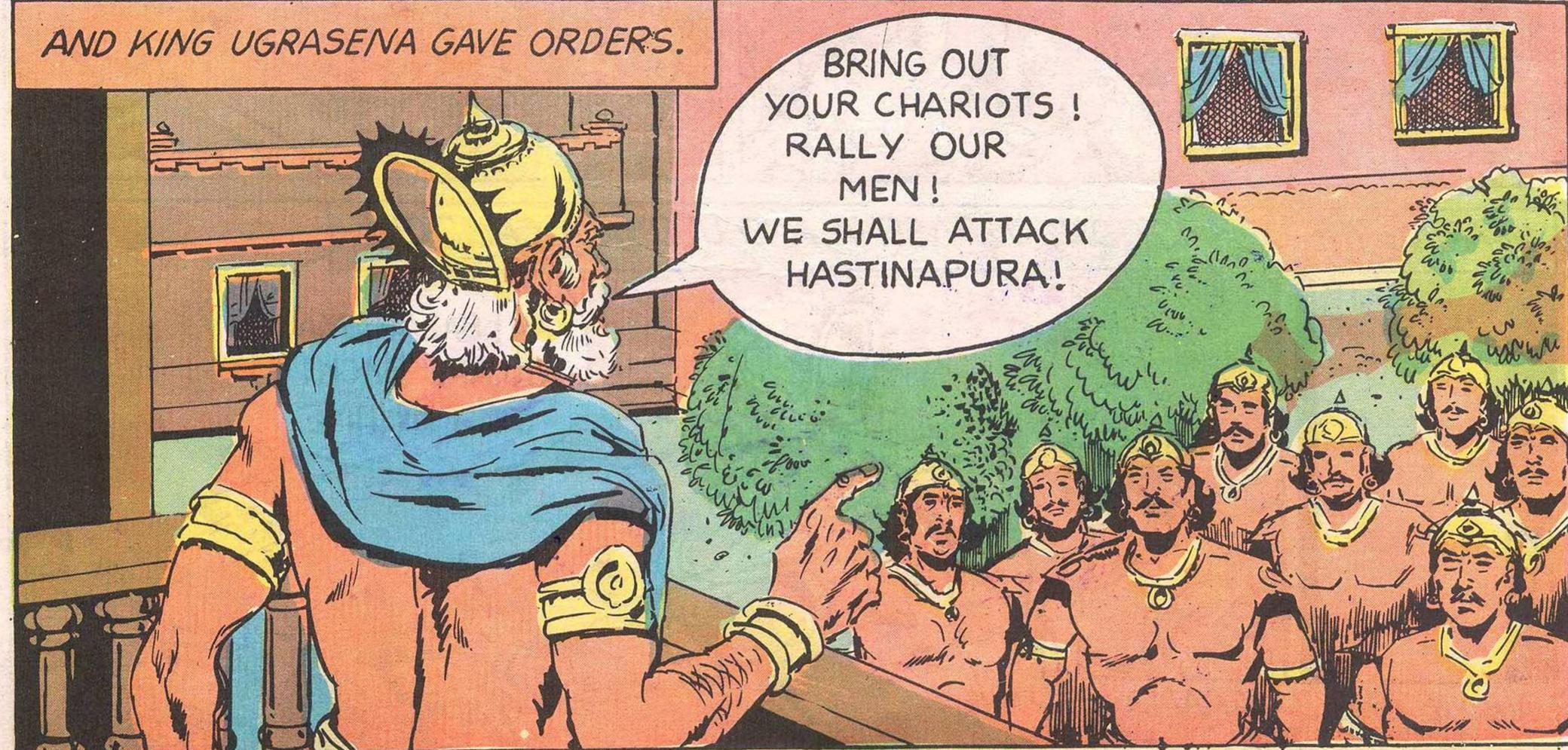


I DO. THE KAURAVAS HAVE CAPTURED SAMBA AND HELD HIM PRISONER !



ALAS ! IF ONLY THE BOY HAD NOT SET HIS HEART ON WINNING LAXMANA !

ANYWAY, I CANNOT WAIT FOR BALARAMA AND KRISHNA TO RETURN. WE'LL HAVE TO GO TO HASTINAPURA AND RESCUE SAMBA !



AND KING UGRASENA GAVE ORDERS.

BRING OUT YOUR CHARIOTS ! RALLY OUR MEN ! WE SHALL ATTACK HASTINAPURA !

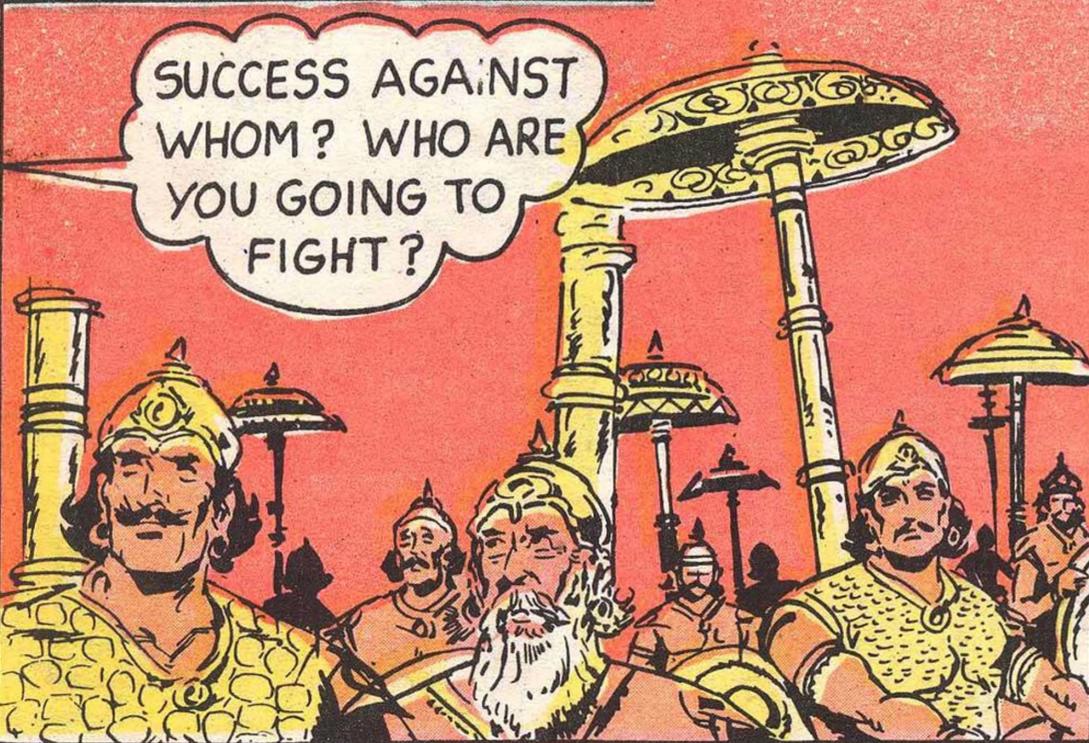
THE YADAVAS BROUGHT OUT THEIR WAR ELEPHANTS, CHARIOTS AND WEAPONS.

ALAS ! WITHOUT BALARAMA OR KRISHNA TO LEAD US, WHAT HOPE OF SUCCESS DO WE HAVE ?



WHEN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BATTLE WERE IN FULL SWING —

SUCCESS AGAINST WHOM? WHO ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT?



IT'S BALARAMA! HE'S BACK!

BALARAMA IS BACK!



HEARING THE COMMOTION, UGRASENA AND UDDHAVA CAME OUT.

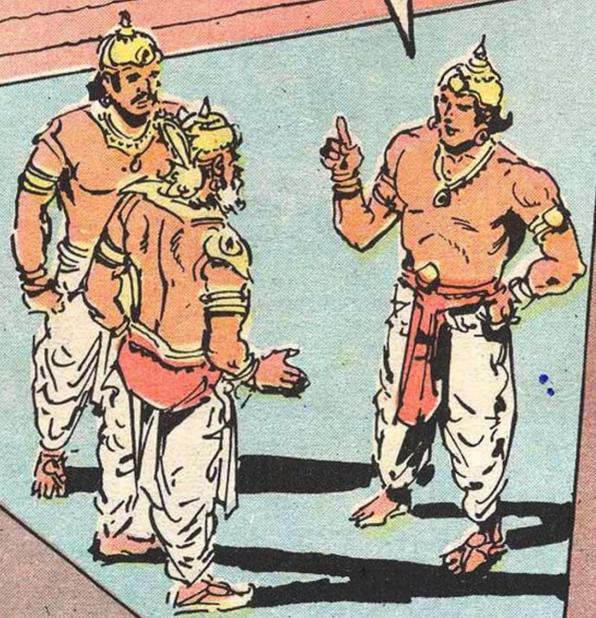
AH! BALARAMA! YOU ARE BACK! JUST IN TIME.



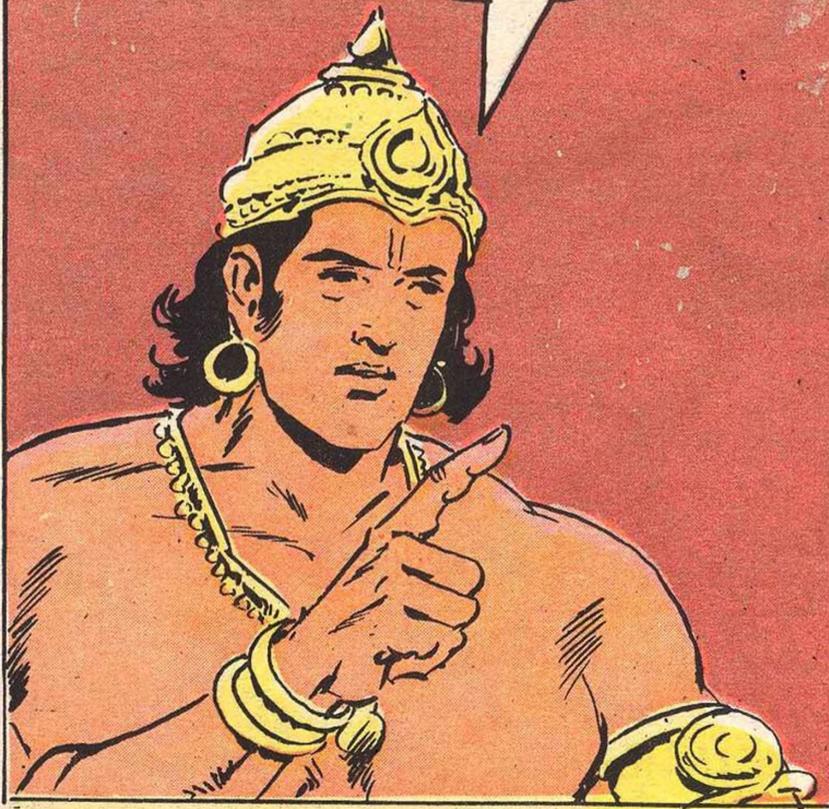
AND HE TOLD BALARAMA THE WHOLE STORY.

AFTER BALARAMA HAD HEARD HIM OUT -

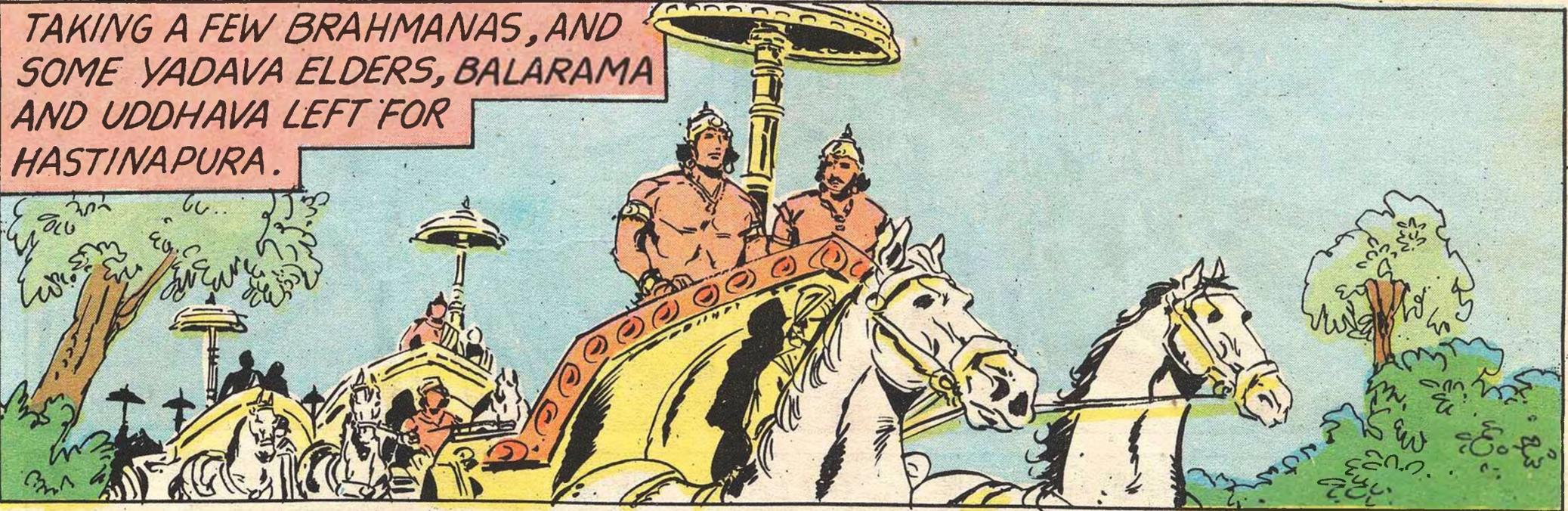
I AM NOT IN FAVOUR OF A FIGHT WITH THE KAURAVAS. I THINK THE MATTER CAN BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY. AFTER ALL DURYODHANA WAS MY PUPIL AND I HIS GURU!



BESIDES THEY ARE RELATED TO US BY MARRIAGE\* I'LL GO TO HASTINAPURA AND SPEAK TO THEM. YOU COME WITH ME, UDDHAVA.

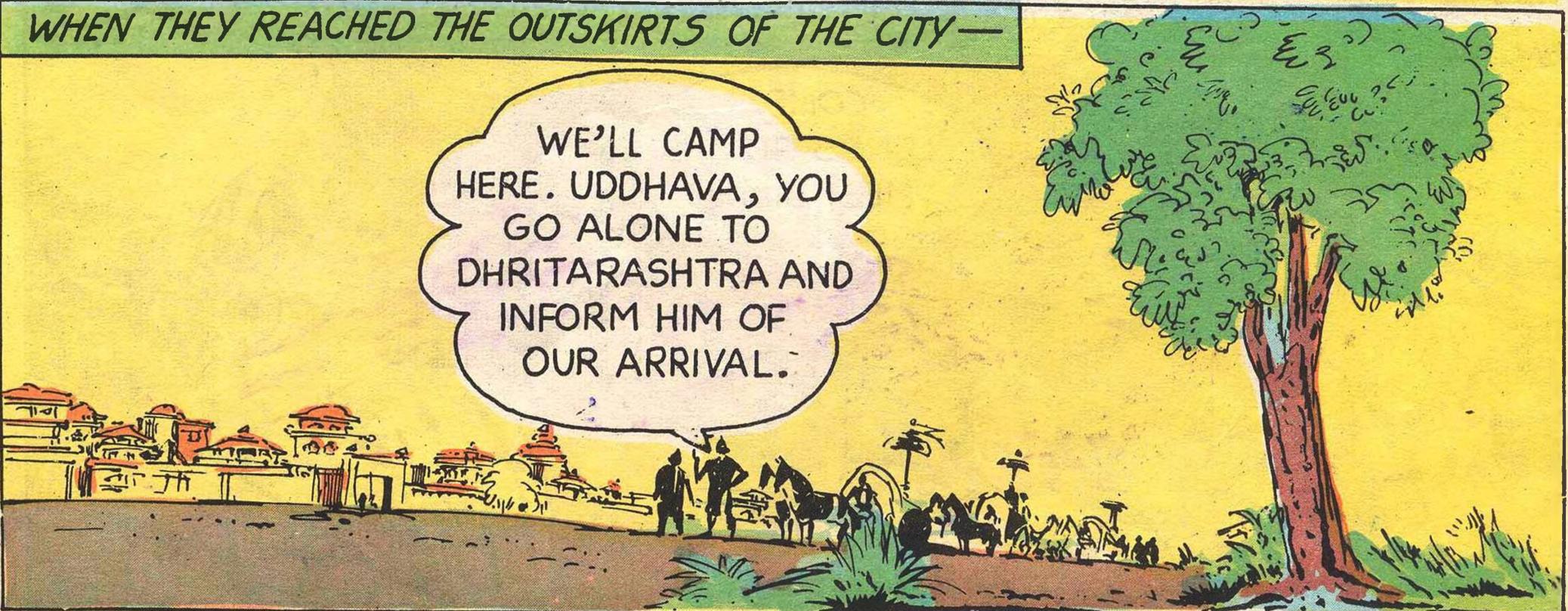


TAKING A FEW BRAHMANAS, AND SOME YADAVA ELDERS, BALARAMA AND UDDHAVA LEFT FOR HASTINAPURA.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY -

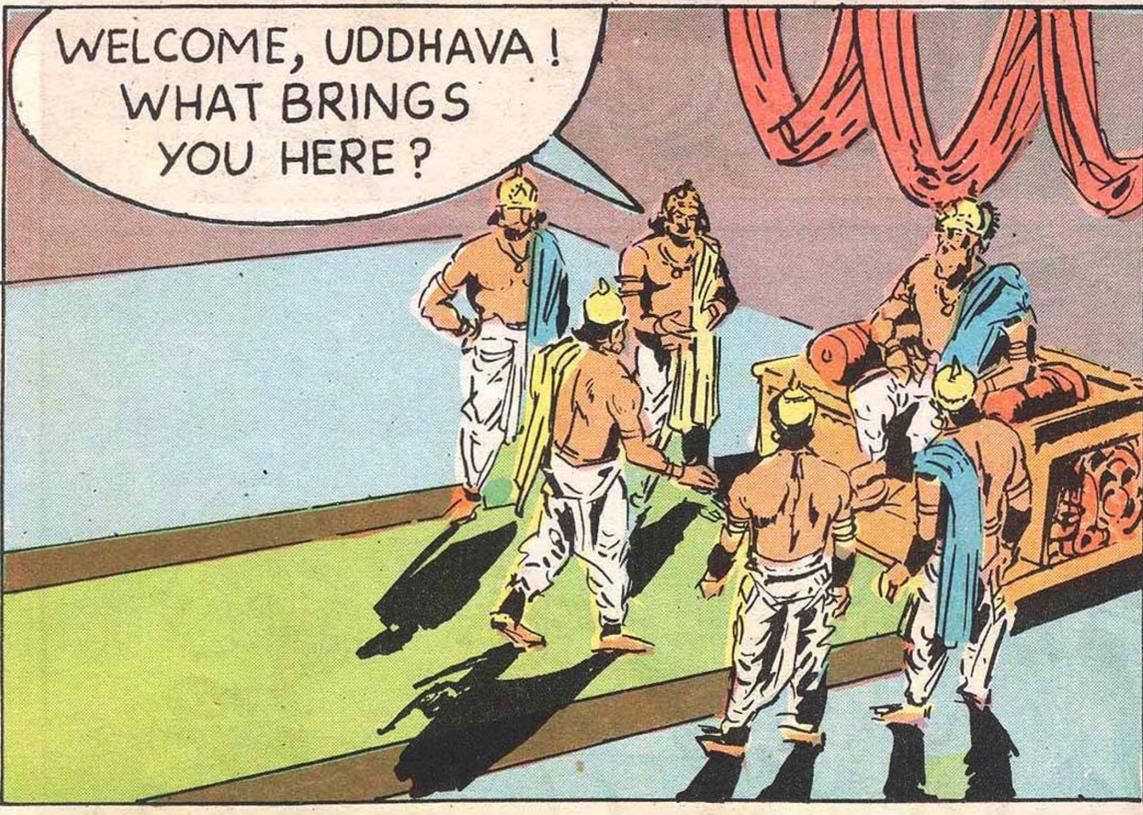
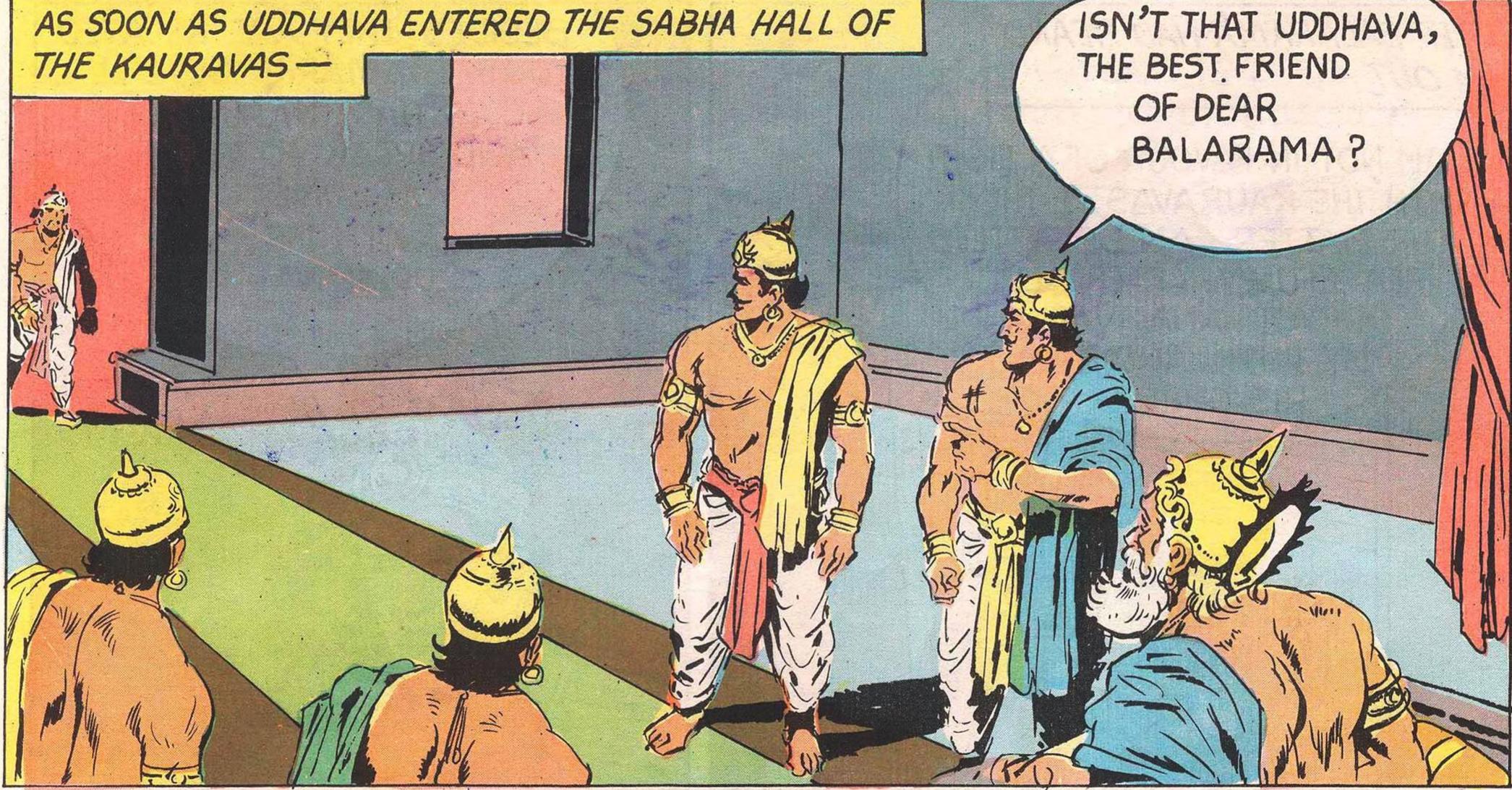
WE'LL CAMP HERE. UDDHAVA, YOU GO ALONE TO DHRITARASHTRA AND INFORM HIM OF OUR ARRIVAL.



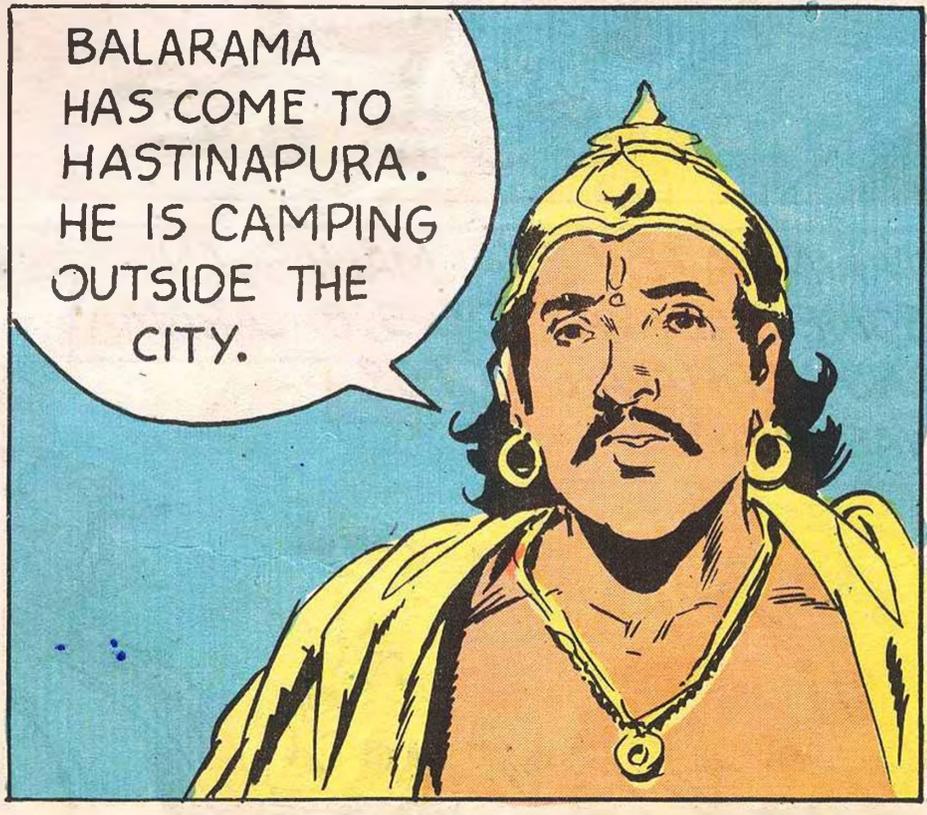
\* KUNTI, THE AUNT OF THE KAURAVAS WAS THE SISTER OF VASUDEVA, THE FATHER OF BALARAMA AND KRISHNA.

AS SOON AS UDDHAVA ENTERED THE SABHA HALL OF THE KAURAVAS —

ISN'T THAT UDDHAVA, THE BEST FRIEND OF DEAR BALARAMA ?

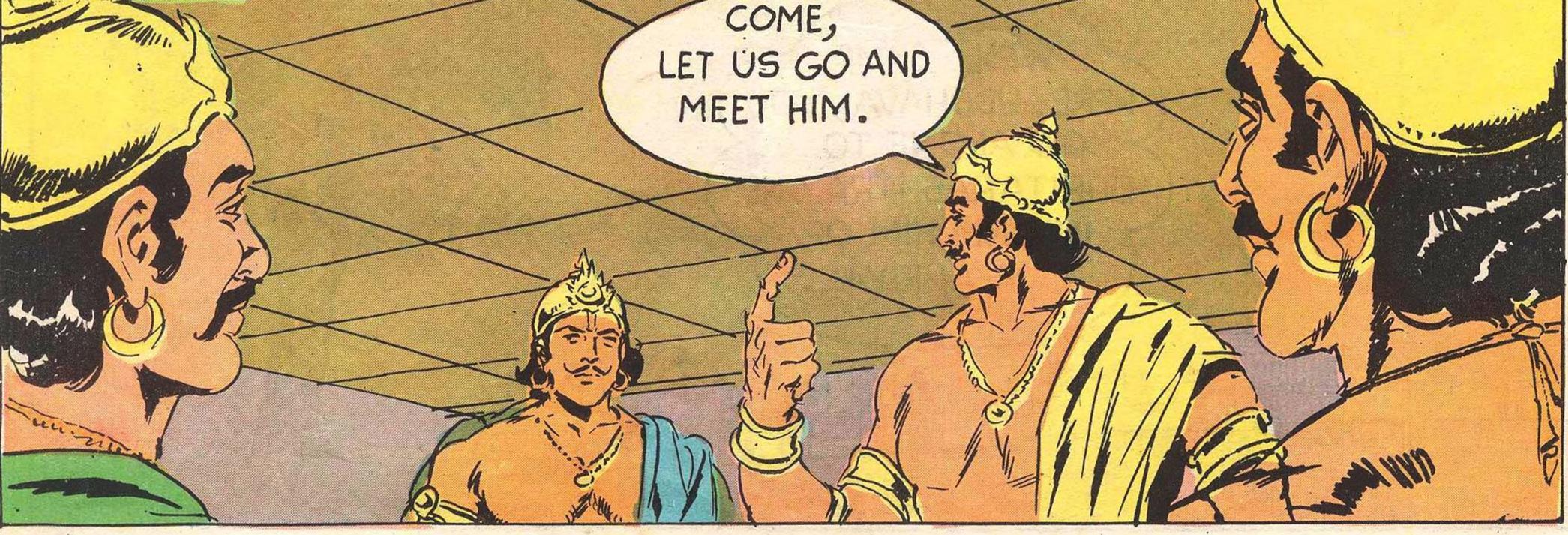


WELCOME, UDDHAVA ! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE ?



BALARAMA HAS COME TO HASTINAPURA. HE IS CAMPING OUTSIDE THE CITY.

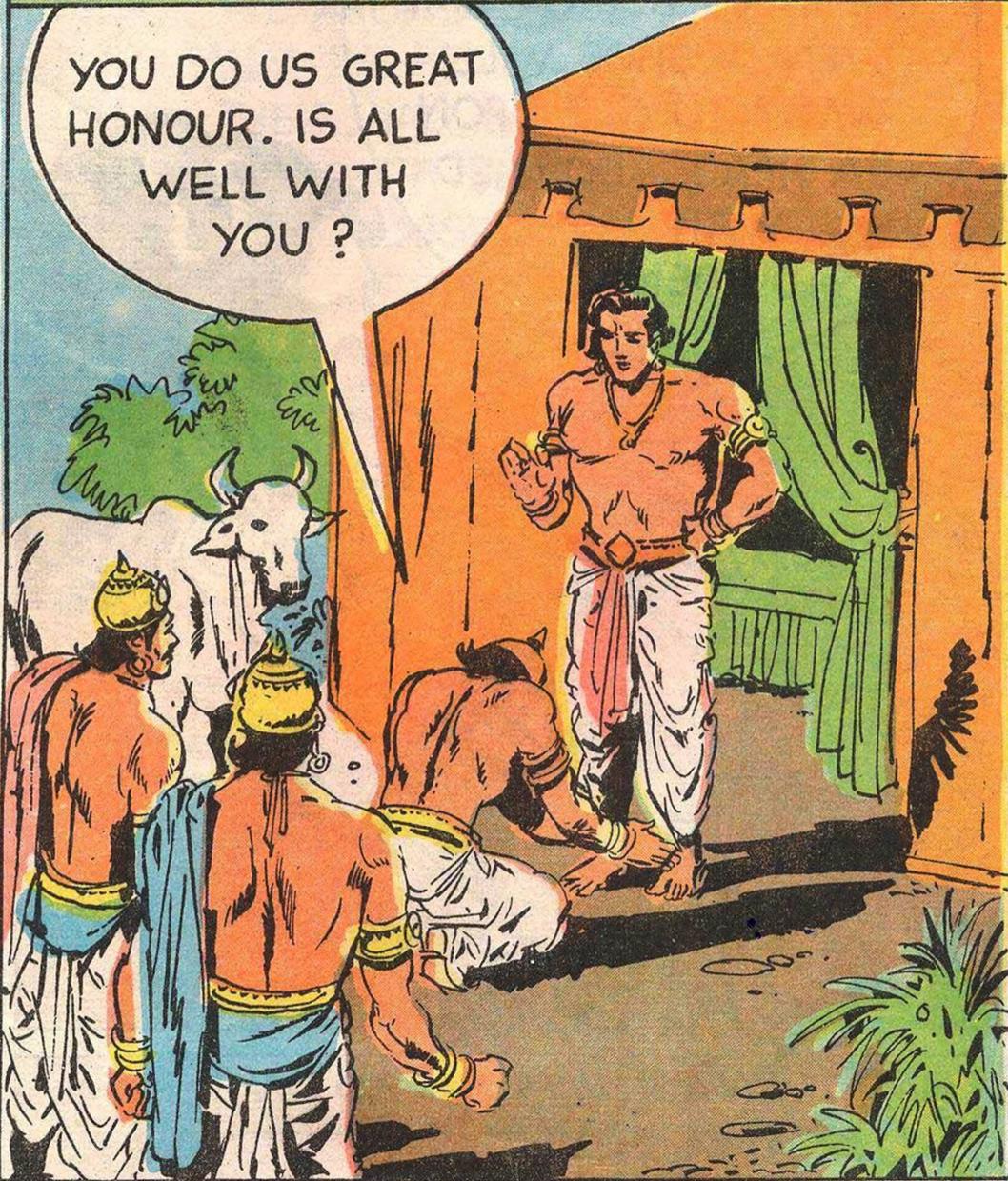
SO OVERJOYED WERE THE KAURAVAS, TO HEAR OF THEIR BELOVED BALARAMA'S ARRIVAL, THAT THEY FORGOT TO ENQUIRE WHAT BROUGHT HIM THERE.



COME, LET US GO AND MEET HIM.

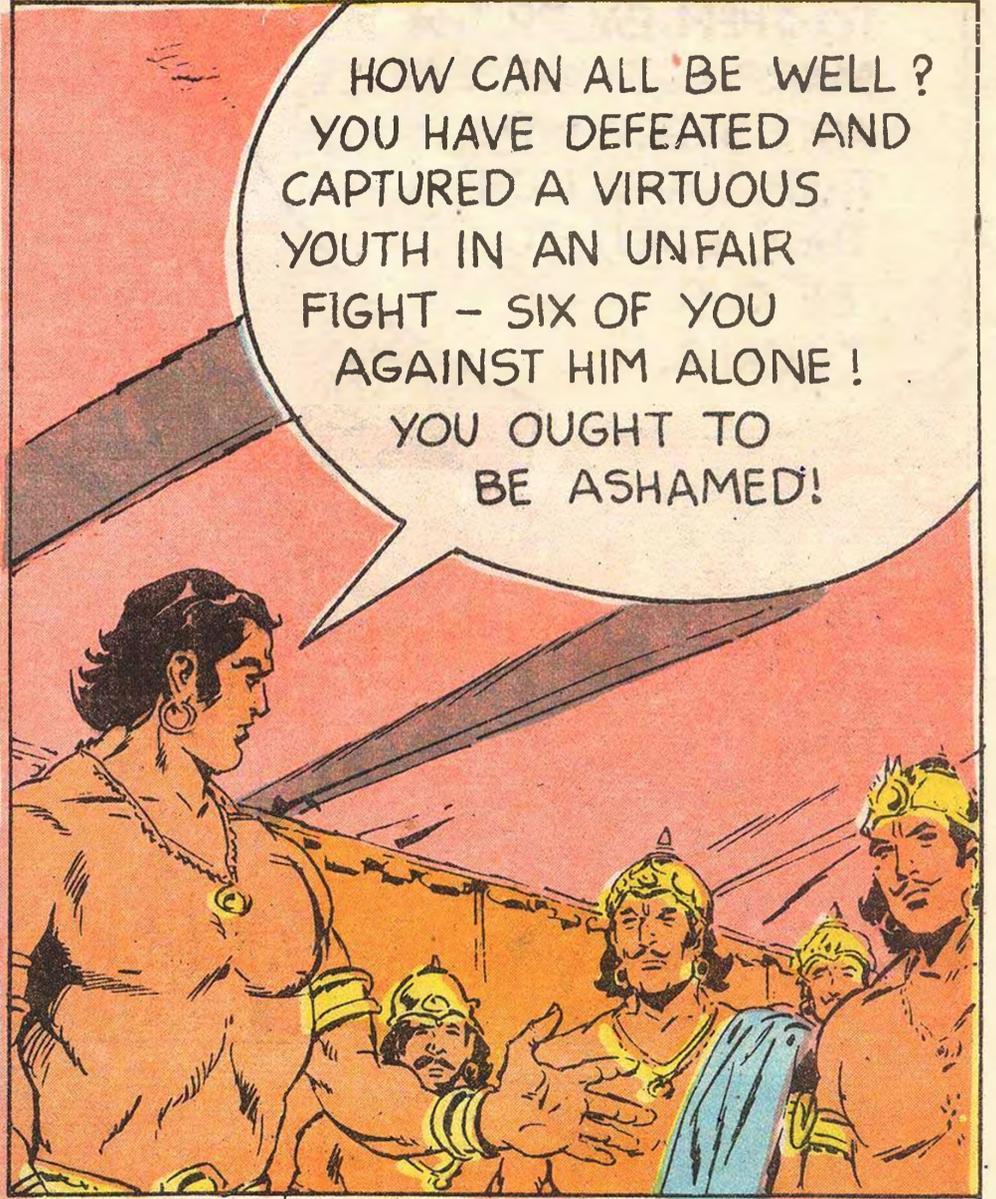
WHEN THEY STOOD BEFORE BALARAMA —

YOU DO US GREAT HONOUR. IS ALL WELL WITH YOU ?

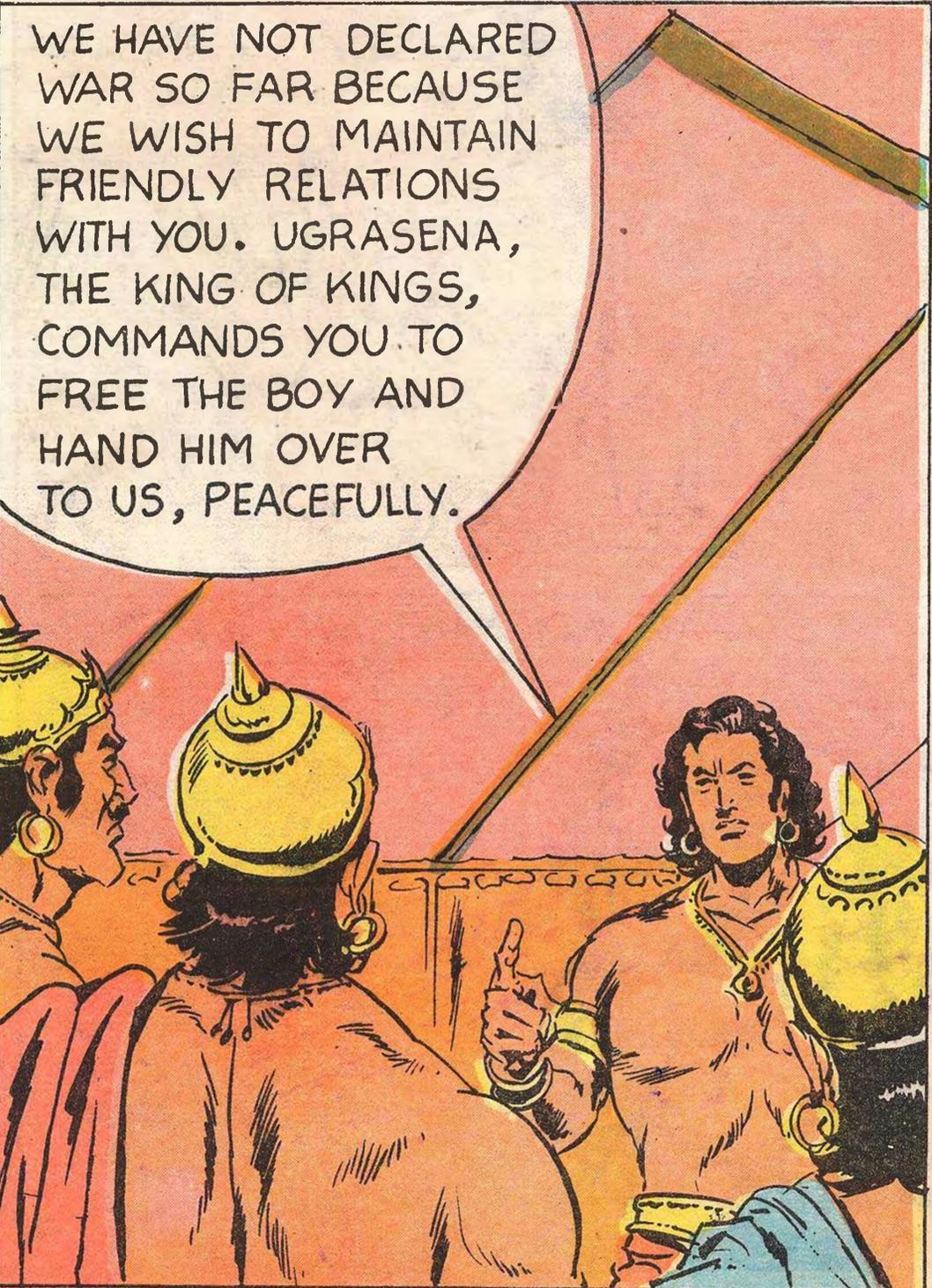


TO THEIR SURPRISE, BALARAMA'S FACE WAS WITHOUT A SMILE.

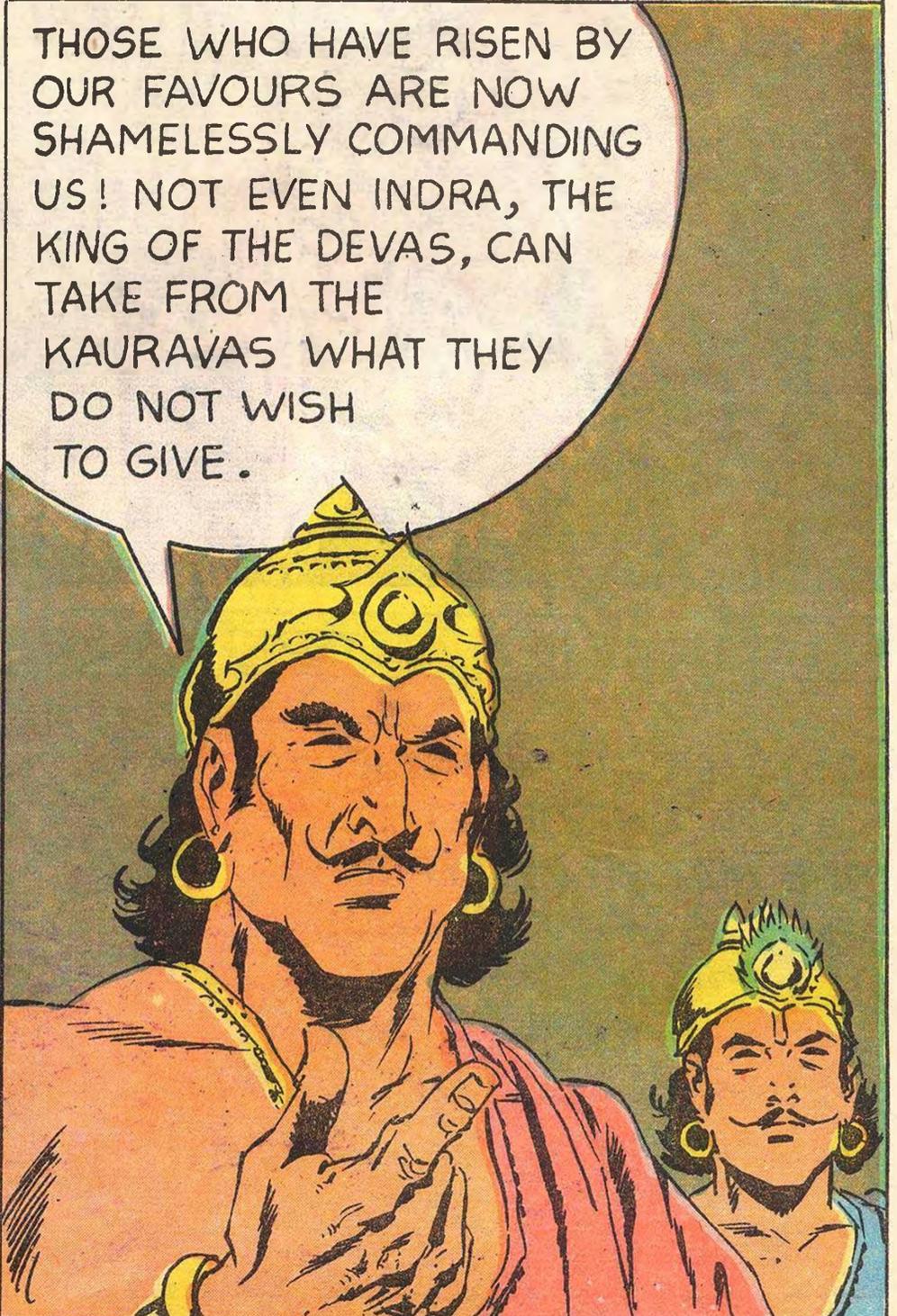
HOW CAN ALL BE WELL ? YOU HAVE DEFEATED AND CAPTURED A VIRTUOUS YOUTH IN AN UNFAIR FIGHT - SIX OF YOU AGAINST HIM ALONE ! YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED!



WE HAVE NOT DECLARED WAR SO FAR BECAUSE WE WISH TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH YOU. UGRASENA, THE KING OF KINGS, COMMANDS YOU TO FREE THE BOY AND HAND HIM OVER TO US, PEACEFULLY.



THOSE WHO HAVE RISEN BY OUR FAVOURS ARE NOW SHAMELESSLY COMMANDING US ! NOT EVEN INDRA, THE KING OF THE DEVAS, CAN TAKE FROM THE KAURAVAS WHAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO GIVE .



KING OF KINGS, INDEED!  
BECAUSE WE ARE RELATED  
TO THEM BY PRITHA'S  
MARRIAGE, WE EAT  
AND SLEEP WITH  
THEM! AND NOW  
THEY WANT TO  
BE OUR  
EQUALS.

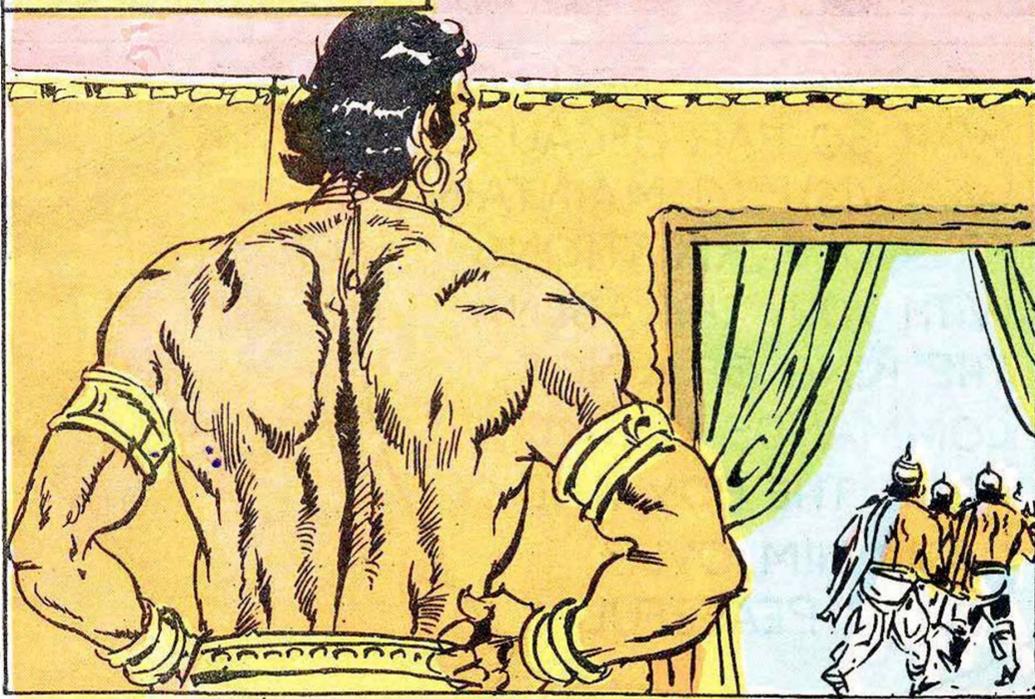
IT SEEMS AS IF UNDER  
THE INFLUENCE OF TIME  
EVEN A SHOE WILL  
WANT TO GET UPON  
A HEAD ADORNED  
WITH A  
DIADEM.



COME, LET US NOT  
WASTE ANY MORE  
TIME HERE!



AND TURNING THEIR BACKS ON  
BALARAMA...



... THE KAURAVAS WALKED AWAY. BALARAMA BECAME INDIGNANT WITH WRATH.

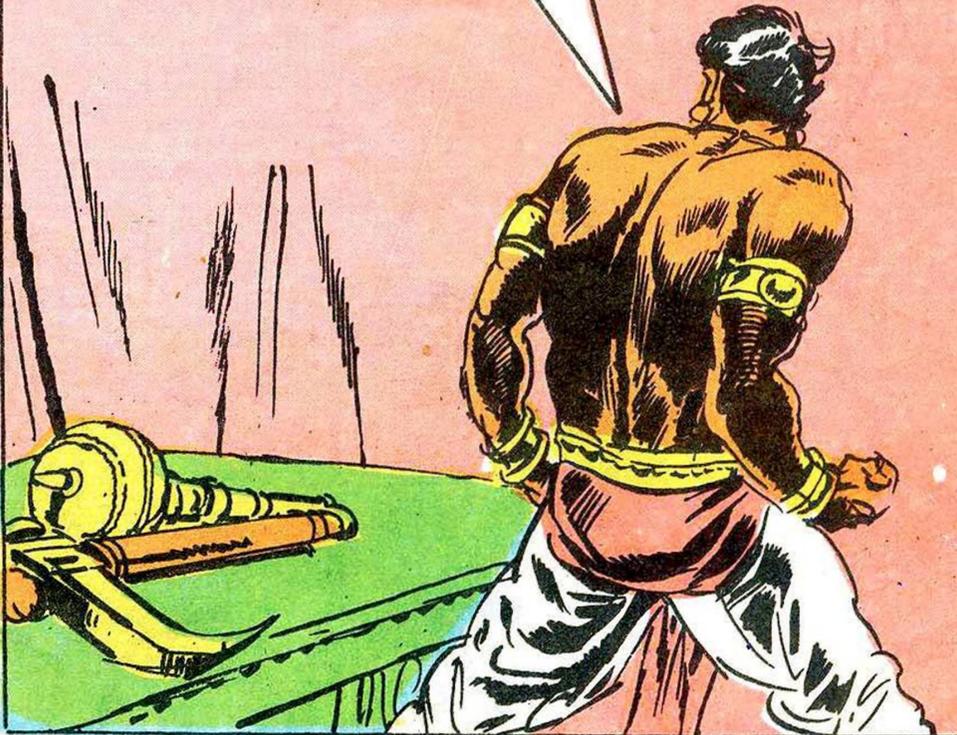
I CAME HERE WITH THE  
INTENTION OF SETTLING  
THE MATTER PEACEFULLY.  
BUT THE PROUD, VICIOUS,  
QUARRELSOME KAURAVAS,  
INTOXICATED BY WEALTH  
AND POWER DO NOT  
DESIRE IT SO.



WE ARE THE SHOES AND THEY THE HEADS, INDEED! THEY SHALL BE BROUGHT TO THEIR SENSES WITH THE PUNISHMENT THEY DESERVE!

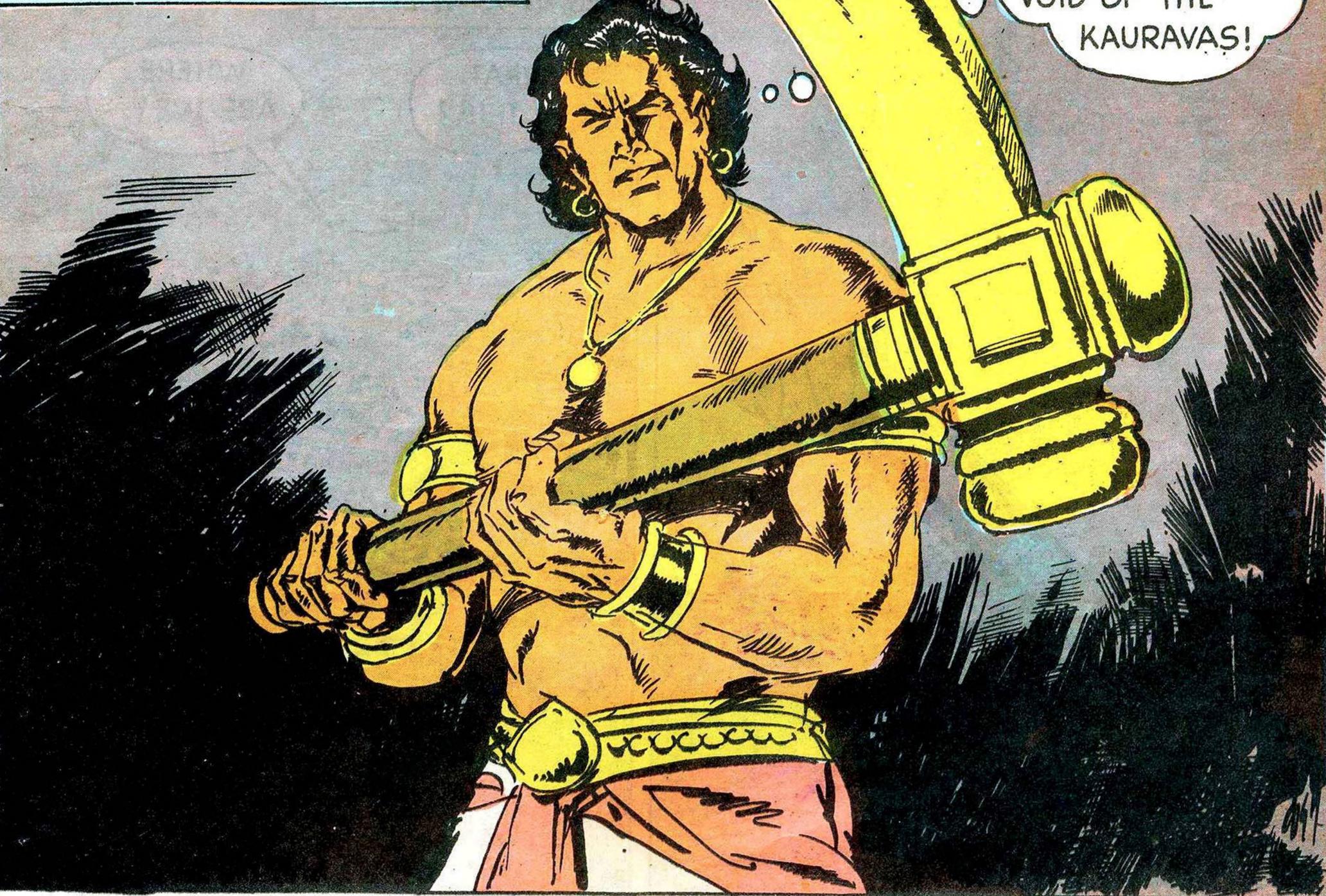


THESE DULL-WITTED KAURAVAS HAVE EVEN SLIGHTED KRISHNA! MY BELOVED BROTHER KRISHNA, THE LORD OF GODDESS LAKSHMI, WHOSE ORDERS ARE OBEYED BY ALL THE CELESTIALS!

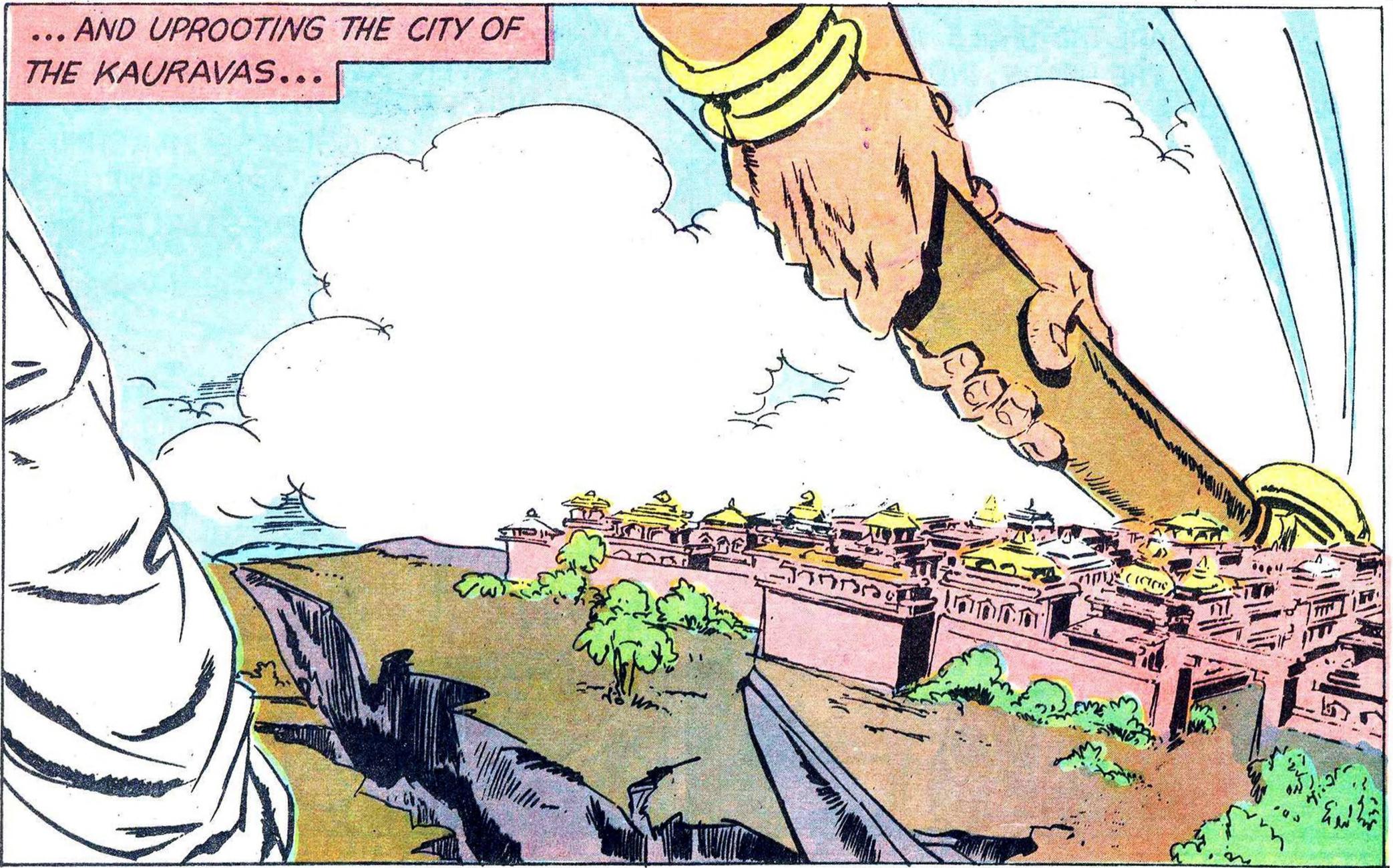


AND RAISING HIMSELF TO HIS FULL HEIGHT, HE TOOK UP HIS PLOUGH-SHARE.

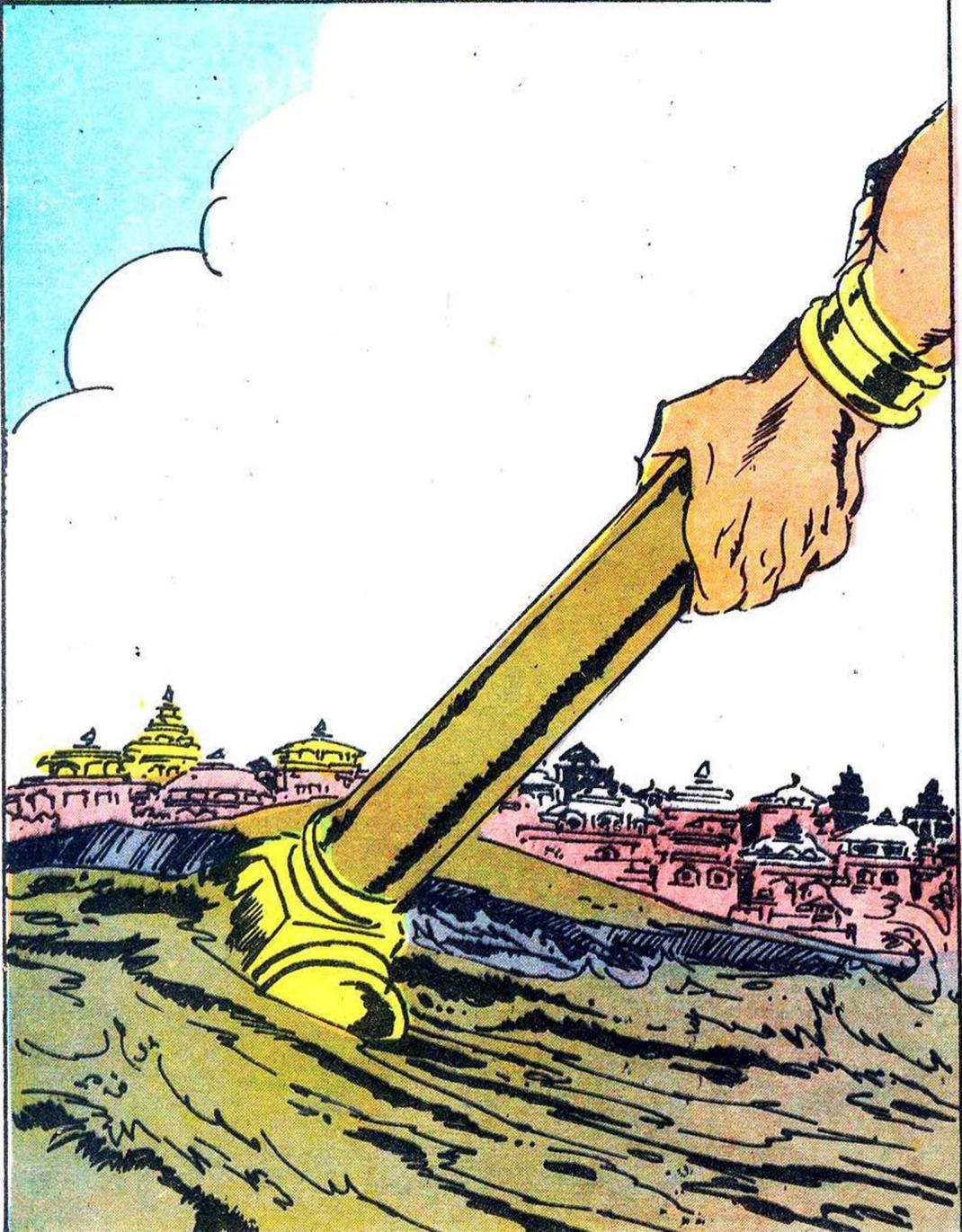
TODAY I SHALL RENDER THE EARTH VOID OF THE KAURAVAS!



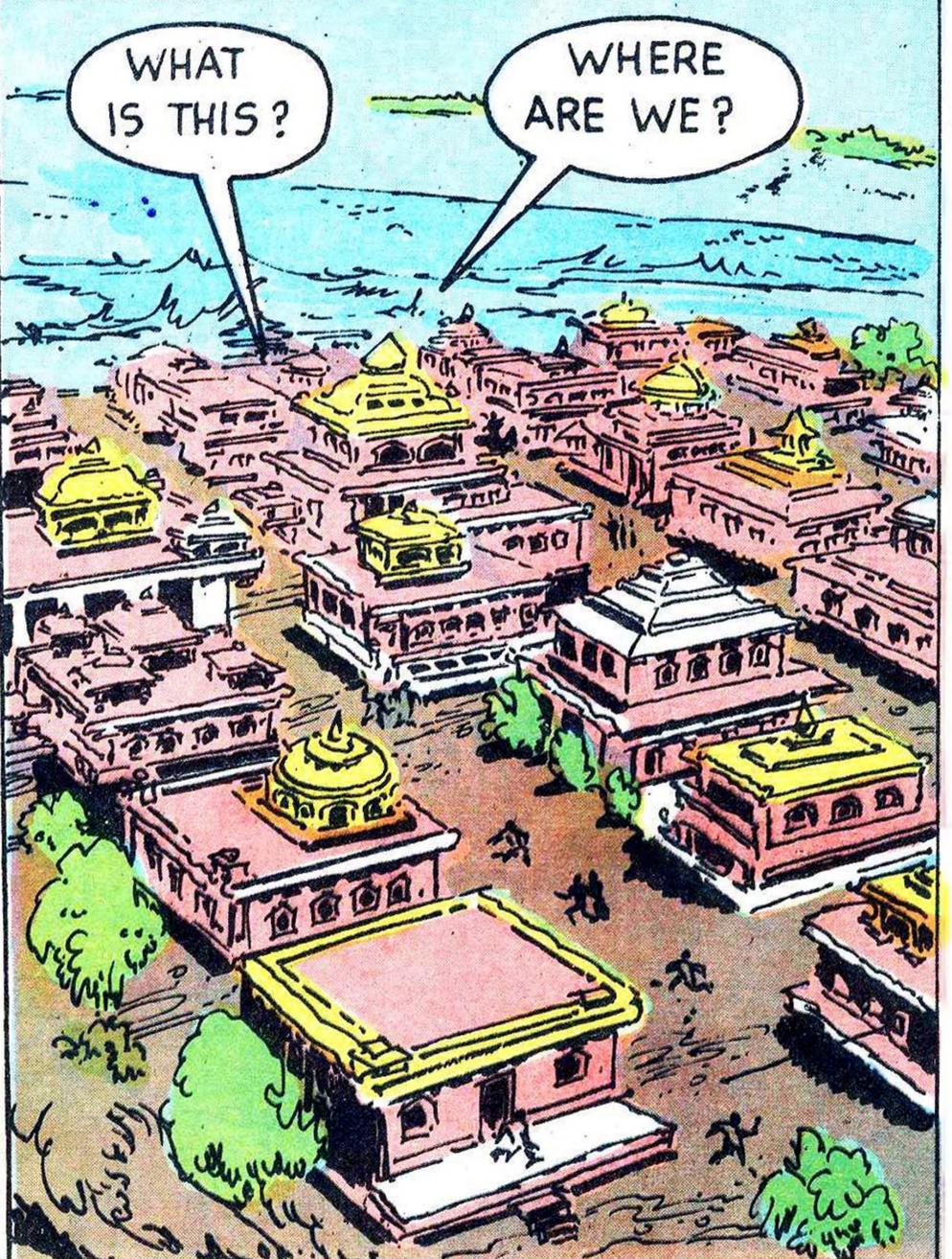
... AND UPROOTING THE CITY OF THE KAURAVAS...



... PUSHED IT INTO THE GANGES.

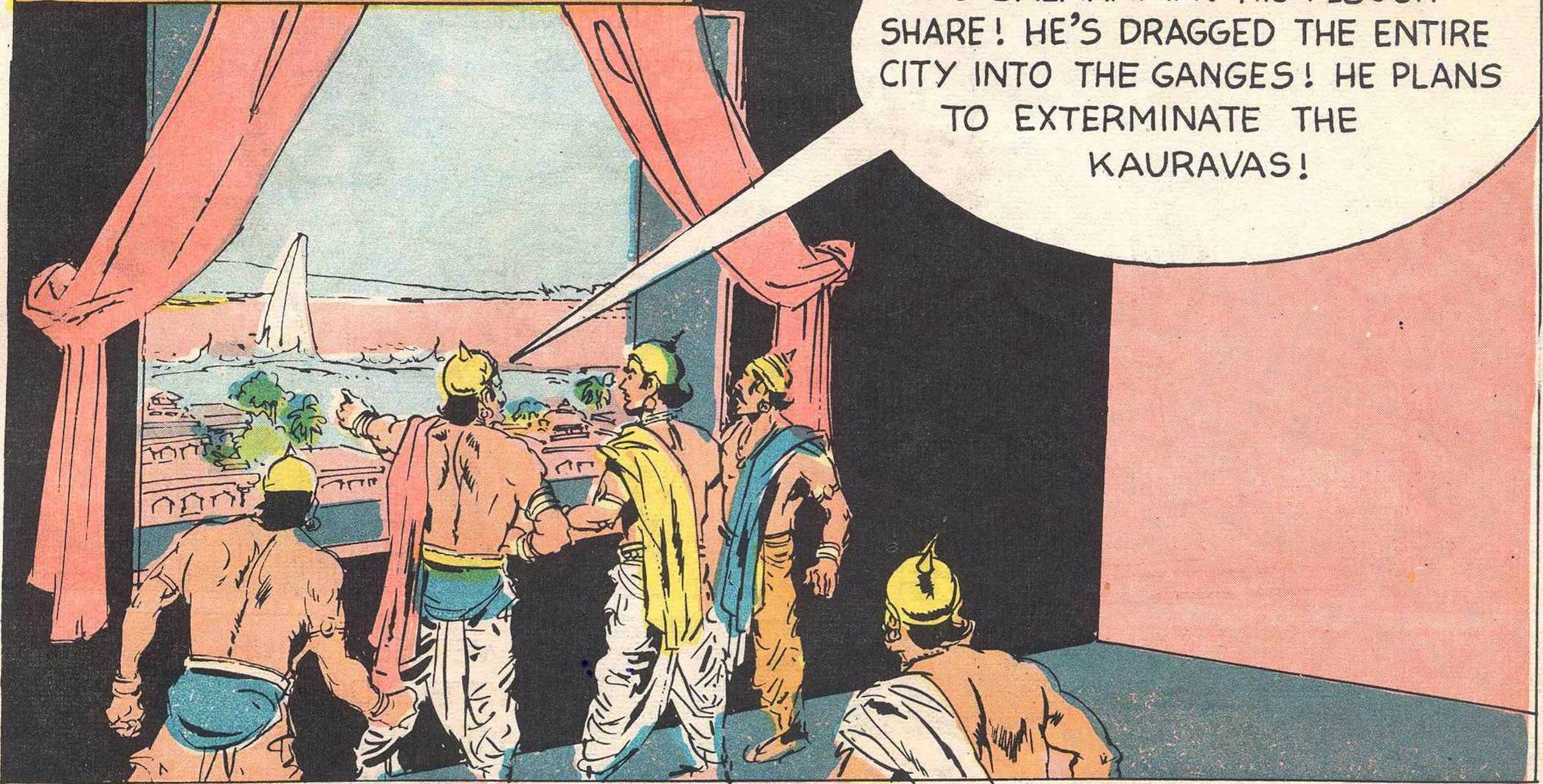


CAUGHT IN THE CURRENT, THE CITY BEGAN TO WHIRL.



ONLY THEN DID THE KAURAVAS REALISED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THEM.

IT'S BALARAMA! HIS PLOUGH-SHARE! HE'S DRAGGED THE ENTIRE CITY INTO THE GANGES! HE PLANS TO EXTERMINATE THE KAURAVAS!



THE KAURAVAS HAD A HURRIED CONFERENCE.

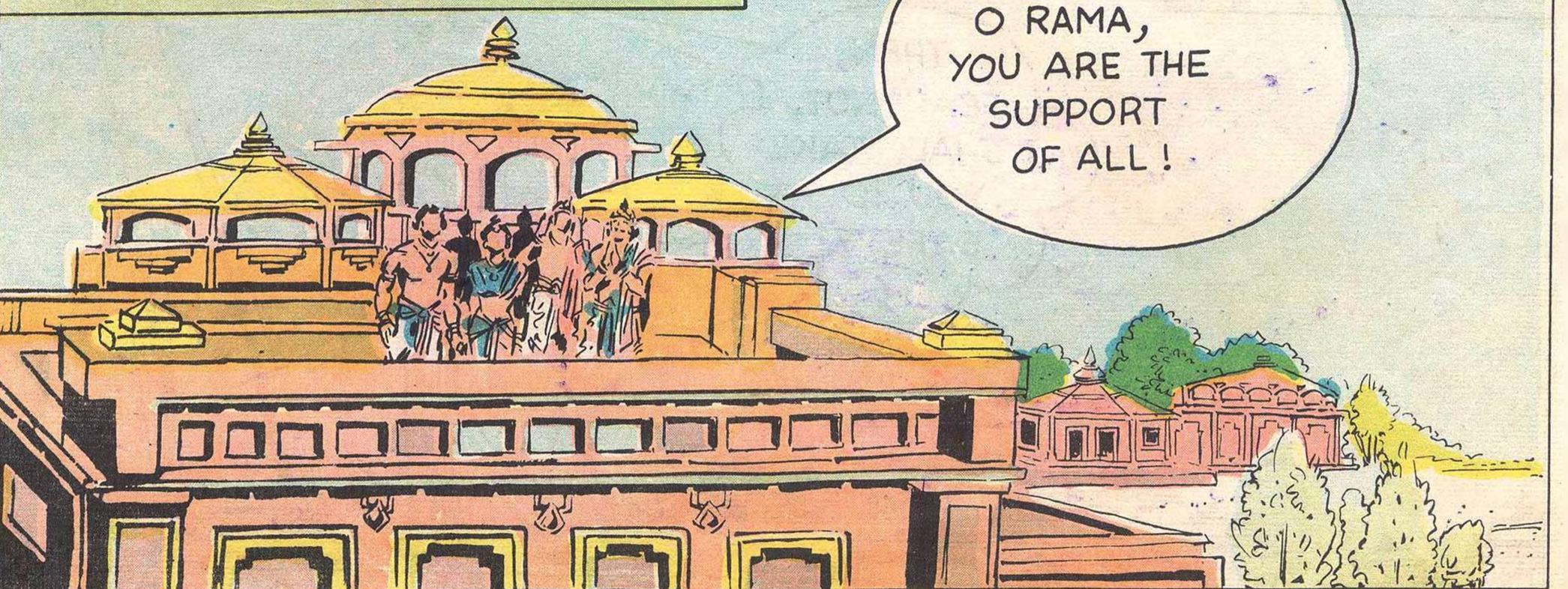
IT WOULD BE WISER TO GIVE IN AND SEEK HIS MERCY.

IT WOULD BE! WHERE IS SAMBA? RELEASE HIM AND BRING LAXMANA HERE WITH HIM.



WHEN THE TWO WERE BROUGHT-

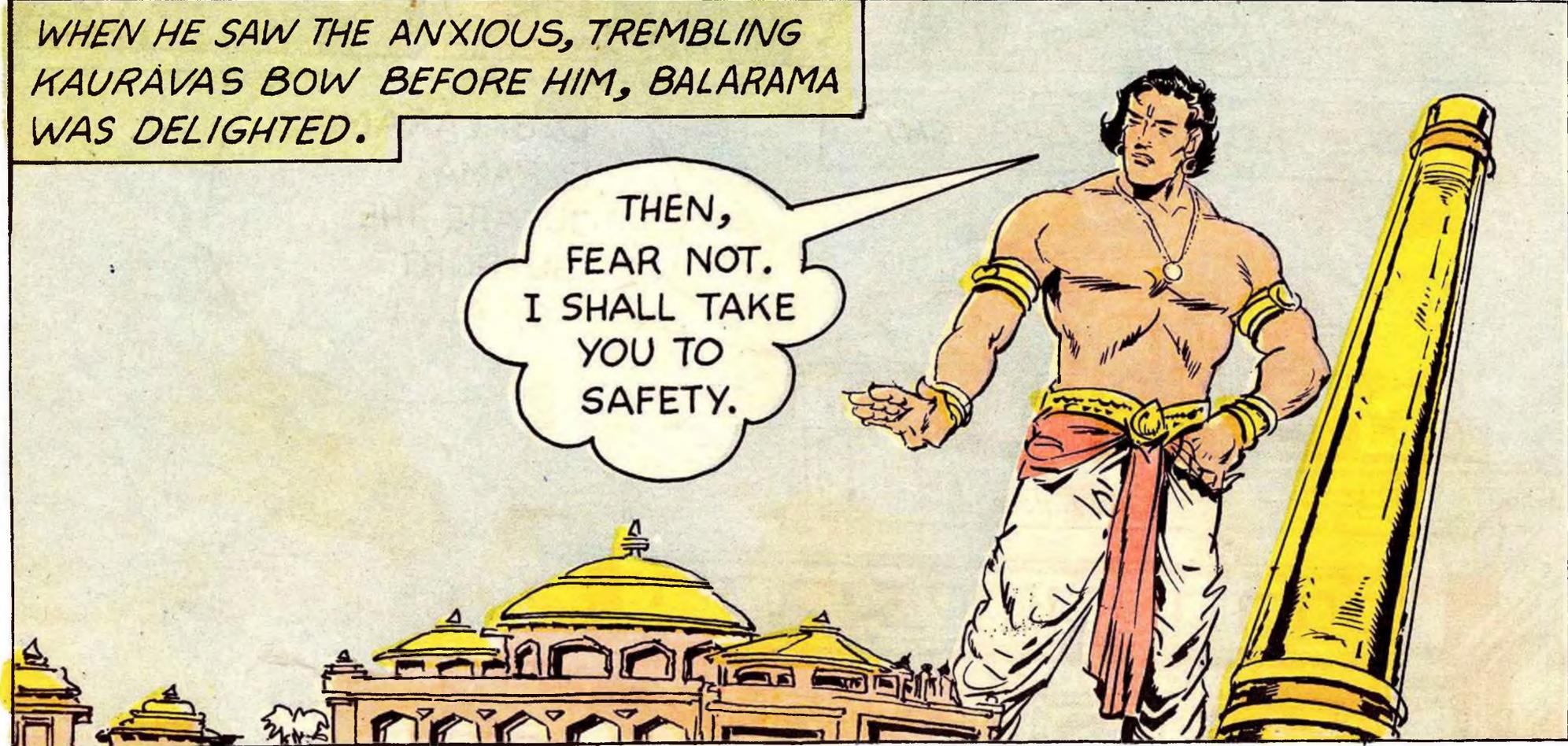
O BALARAMA, O RAMA, YOU ARE THE SUPPORT OF ALL!



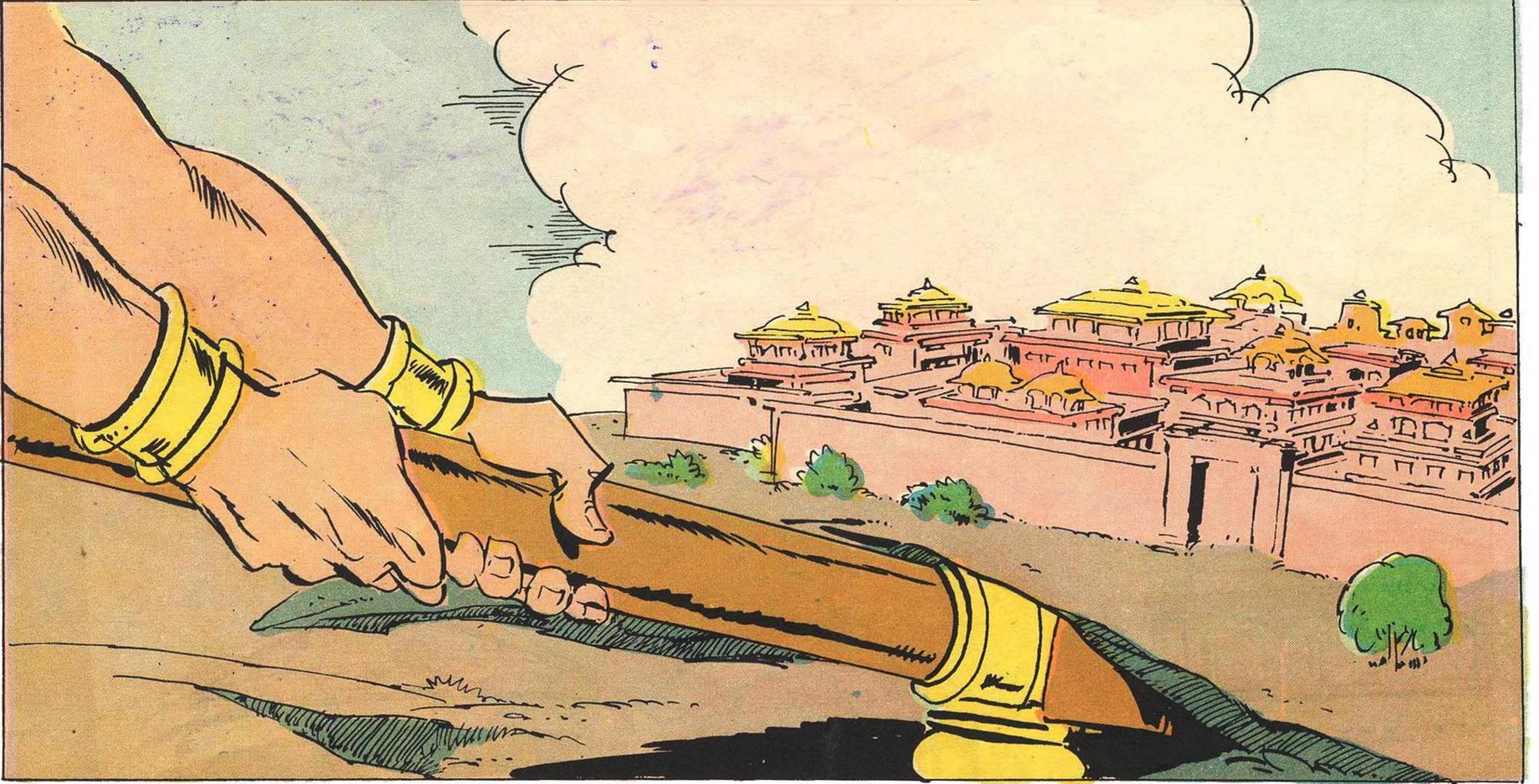


WHEN HE SAW THE ANXIOUS, TREMBLING KAURAVAS BOW BEFORE HIM, BALARAMA WAS DELIGHTED.

THEN, FEAR NOT. I SHALL TAKE YOU TO SAFETY.



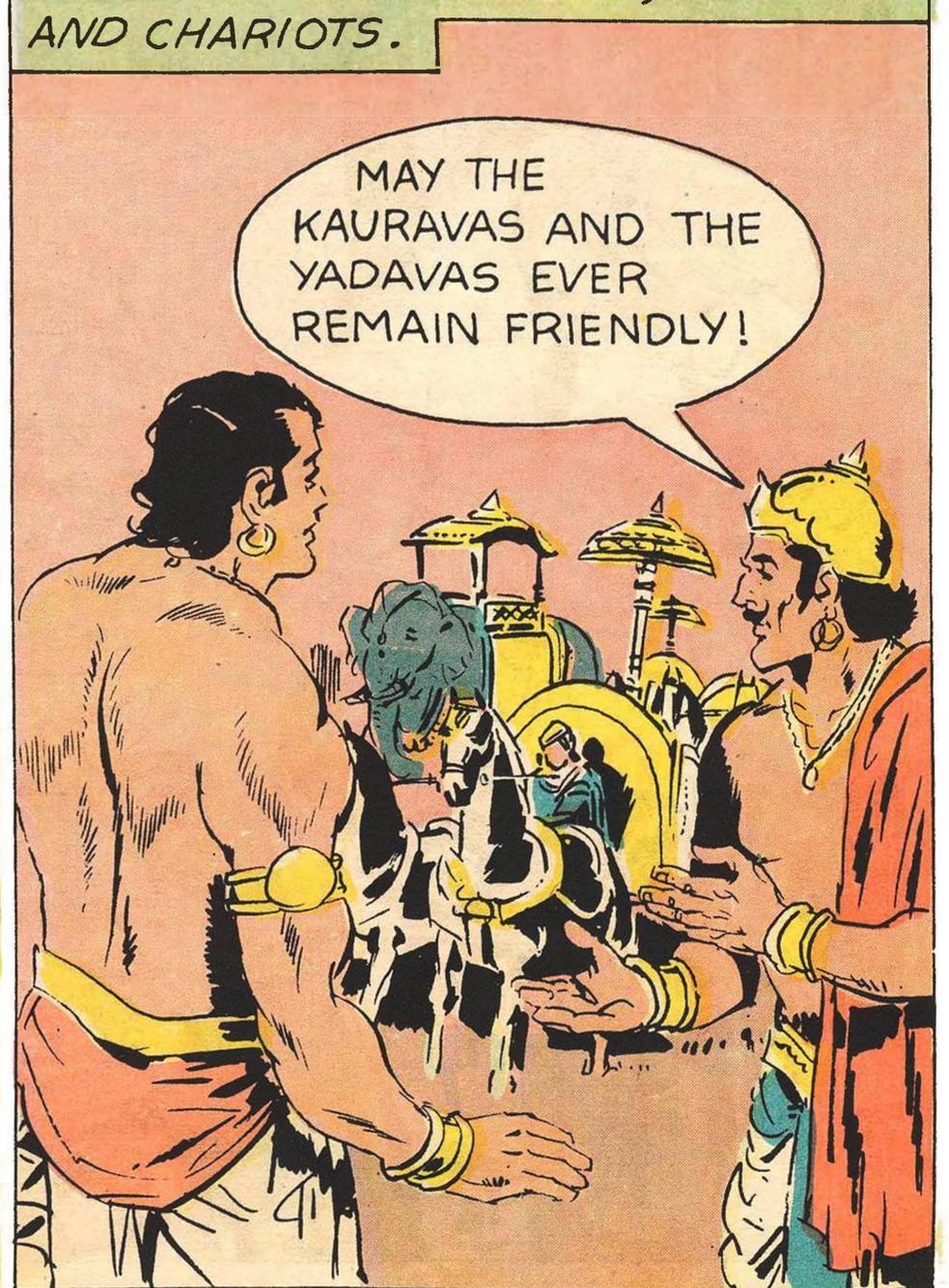
AND WITH HIS PLOUGH-SHARE, BALARAMA PUSHED THE CITY BACK TOWARDS THE SHORE.



AS SOON AS HASTINAPURA WAS BACK AT ITS ORIGINAL SITE -



DURYODHANA THEN GAVE BALARAMA PRESENTS OF ELEPHANTS, HORSES AND CHARIOTS.



AND TAKING THE YOUNG COUPLE, BALARAMA RETURNED TO DWARAKA.





Kerala's Kaikottikali is a dance performed during the festival of Onam, in which the dancers move in a circle of flowers, with rhythmic hand movements symbolising the emergence of shoots and leaves. Handclaps accompany the graceful foot movements to the beat of popular melodies.

The Koli dance of Maharashtra is the folk dance of coastal fisherfolk and tells the story of their trials and tribulations, the swaying back and forth of the waves, and the brooding wait for the catch to be brought home. In two parallel rows they dance their laborious lives in mime; the arduous rowing against the tide, the waves breaking on the shore, the culminating joyousness of a good catch, as the beat quickens and the dancers break apart to fall, exhausted but happy, to the ground.

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**(PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT)**

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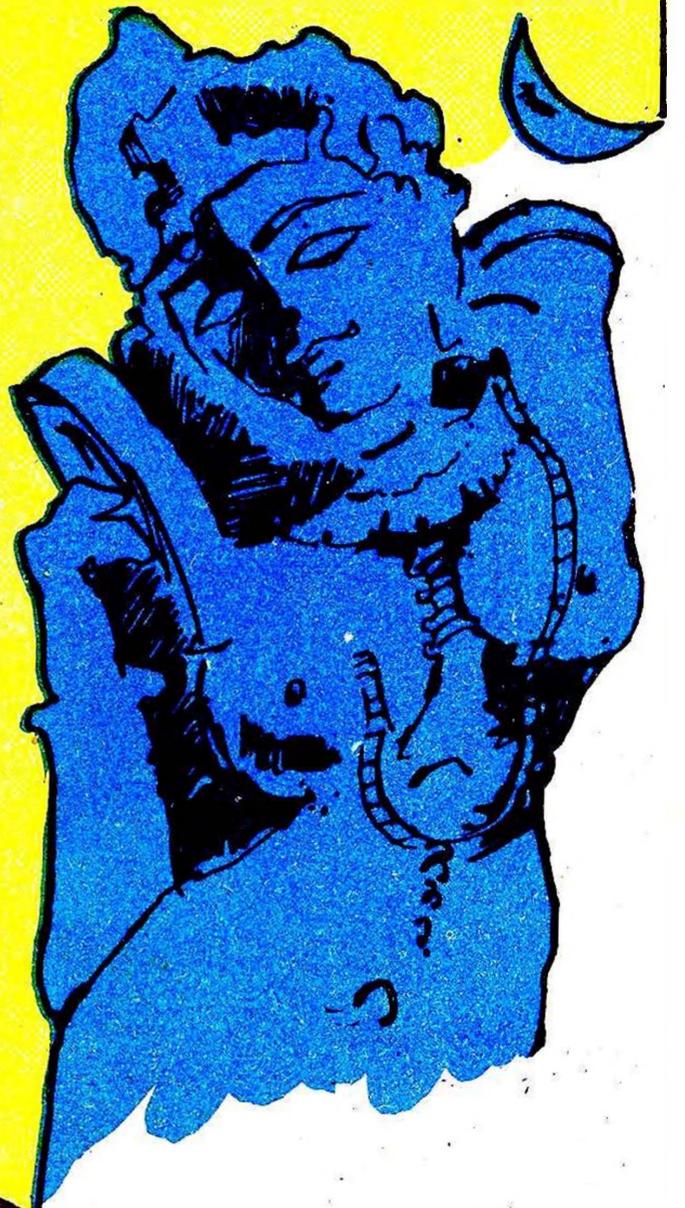
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