

# KRISHNA: THE LORD OF DWARAKA

SHUKADEVA CONTINUED HIS NARRATION OF THE EXPLOITS OF YOUNG KRISHNA TO PAREEKSHIT.

AFTER KILLING KAMSA, KRISHNA AND BALARAMA WENT TO MEET VASUDEVA AND DEVAKI AND BOWED RESPECTFULLY BEFORE THEM. THINKING OF THEIR SONS AS THE LORDS OF THE WORLD, VASUDEVA AND DEVAKI FORGOT THAT THEY WERE THEIR SONS.

"KRISHNA DIVINED THE REASON FOR THEIR BEHAVIOUR.

THEY ARE TREATING ME AS GOD, NOT AS THEIR SON.



"KRISHNA USED HIS MAYA\* TO MAKE THEM FORGETFUL OF HIS DIVINITY FOR A WHILE.

DEAR FATHER, DEAR MOTHER! WE ARE THE SONS YOU WERE SO ANXIOUS TO MEET. BUT ALAS, WE HAD BEEN SEPARATED FROM YOU IN OUR INFANCY AND BOYHOOD.



WE FEEL WE HAVE LIVED IN VAIN SINCE WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SERVE YOU. THAT CRUEL KAMSA TREATED YOU VERY BADLY, YET WE COULD DO NOTHING TO HELP YOU.



"OVERWHELMED BY KRISHNA'S WORDS, VASUDEVA CLASPED KRISHNA IN A FOND EMBRACE.



\* ILLUSORY POWER

"AFTER COMFORTING HIS PARENTS, KRISHNA WENT TO HIS GRANDFATHER UGRASENA WHO HAD BEEN KEPT IN PRISON BY KAMSA.

YOU ARE NOW THE KING OF THE YADAVAS. TREAT ME AS ONE OF YOUR SUBJECTS.



"KAMSA'S CRUEL REIGN HAD MADE MANY OF HIS SUBJECTS FLEE TO THE NEIGHBOURING KINGDOMS. KRISHNA WELCOMED THEM BACK AND SETTLED THEM IN THEIR OWN HOMES.

.NOT ONLY ARE WE BACK HOME BUT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN ENOUGH WEALTH TO START LIFE ALL OVER AGAIN.



YES, NOW THAT KAMSA IS KILLED WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A SAFE AND JOYFUL LIFE UNDER KRISHNA'S PROTECTION.

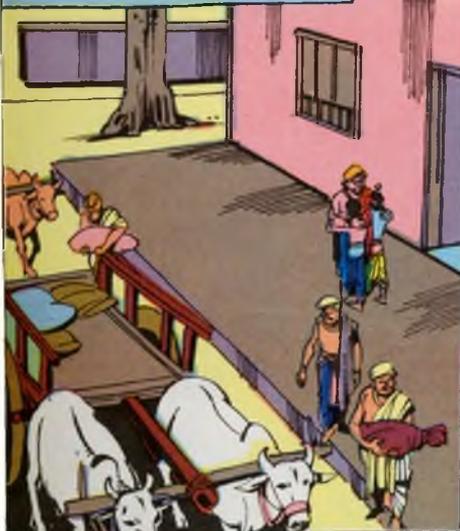


" THEN KRISHNA AND BALARAMA WENT TO MEET NANDA.

FATHER, PLEASE PROCEED TO VRINDAVANA. WE WILL COME TO MEET YOU AS SOON AS OUR WORK HERE IS OVER.



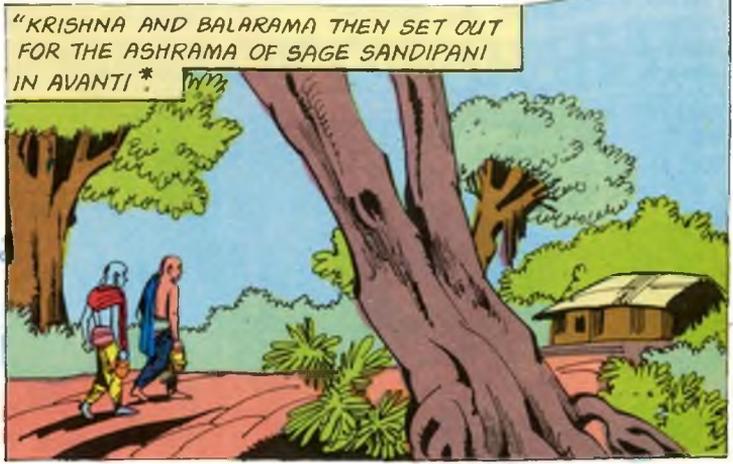
"NANDA HUGGED THE BOYS TENDERLY AND MADE PREPARATIONS TO RETURN HOME WITH HIS COWHERDS.



"THERE AFTER AT THE REQUEST OF VASUDEVA, GARGA-CHARYA PERFORMED THE UPANAYANA\* CEREMONY OF BALARAMA AND KRISHNA.

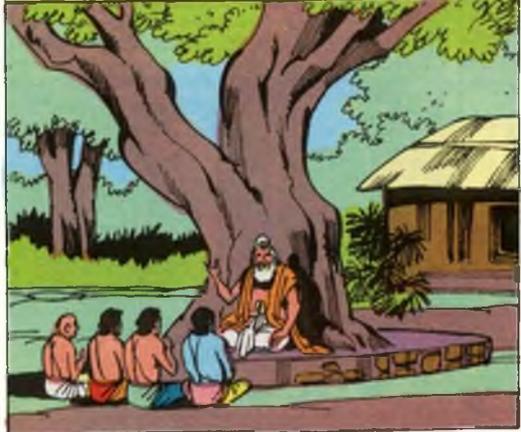


\* THREAD CEREMONY.

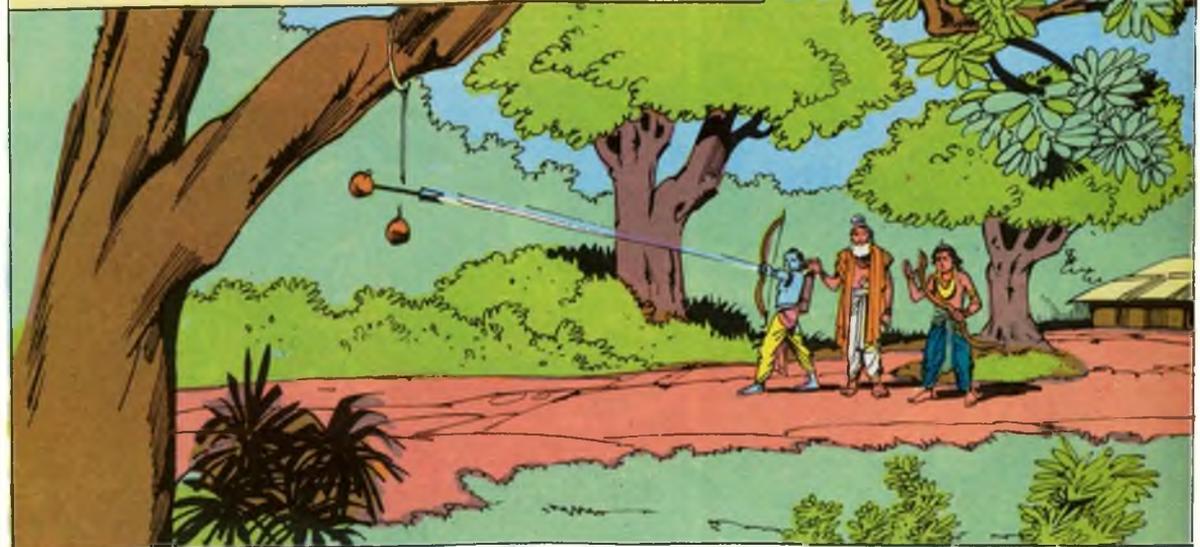


"WITH SAGE SANDIPANI AS THEIR GURU, THE BOYS BEGAN THEIR FORMAL EDUCATION."

"THE GURU TAUGHT THEM THE VEDAS. HE ALSO TAUGHT THEM HOW TO WIELD WEAPONS AND ALL THE SIXTY-FOUR ARTS."



"SO ATTENTIVE WERE THE BOYS, THAT THEY LEARNT EACH SUBJECT THE FIRST TIME IT WAS TAUGHT TO THEM."



"THUS WITHIN SIXTY-FOUR DAYS, THEY MASTERED ALL THE SIXTY-FOUR ARTS AND CRAFTS."



"AT THE END OF THEIR TRAINING, THEY HUMBLY ADDRESSED THEIR GURU."



TRADITION DEMANDS THAT WE OFFER YOU A GURUDAKSHINA\*, NOW THAT WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR EDUCATION. PLEASE TELL US WHAT TRIBUTE WOULD YOU LIKE US TO OFFER YOU?

"GURU SANDIPANI WAS AWARE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY POWERS OF HIS PUPILS. AFTER CONSULTING HIS WIFE HE SAID —



RESTORE TO ME MY SON, WHO WAS DROWNED IN PRABHASA.

I WILL.

"THE BOYS CLIMBED ONTO THEIR CHARIOT AND WENT TO PRABHASA\*\* THEY SAT ON THE SEASHORE FOR A WHILE."



"ASSUMING THE FORM OF A HUMAN, THE OCEAN APPEARED BEFORE KRISHNA. KRISHNA ADDRESSED THE GOD OF THE OCEAN THUS —



O KING OF THE OCEANS, RETURN TO US THE SON OF OUR GURU, WHOM YOU HAD SWEEP AWAY FROM THIS VERY SPOT.

\* OFFERING MADE TO THE TEACHER    \*\* IN GUJARAT

"THE OCEAN REPLIED —

O LORD, IT WAS NOT I WHO TOOK HIM AWAY. THERE IS A MIGHTY ASURA CALLED PANCHAJANA WHO DWELLS IN MY WATERS IN THE GUISE OF A CONCH-SHELL. IT WAS HE WHO TOOK THE BOY AWAY.



"AS SOON AS HE HEARD THIS, KRISHNA DIVED INTO THE SEA.



"AFTER MOMENTS HE CAME UP —

I KILLED THE ASURA BUT I COULD NOT FIND THE BOY. HERE IS THE SHELL IN WHICH THE DEMON LIVED.



"THIS CONCH-SHELL CAME TO BE KNOWN AS PANCHAJANYA.

"KRISHNA AND BALARAMA THEN WENT TO THE ABODE OF YAMA, THE LORD OF DEATH. KRISHNA BLEW ON THE PANCHAJANYA TO ANNOUNCE HIS ARRIVAL.



"ON HEARING THE SOUND OF THE CONCH-SHELL, YAMA CAME TO MEET THEM.



WELCOME TO MY KINGDOM. O KRISHNA AND BALARAMA. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

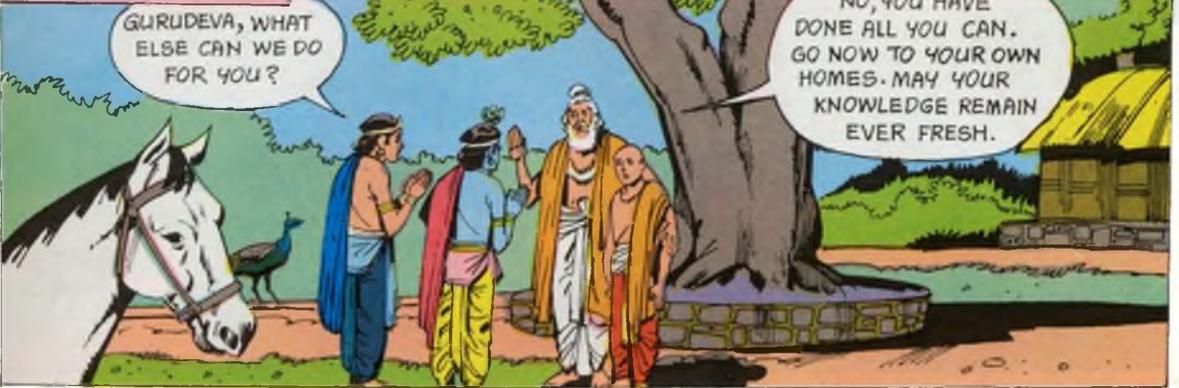
MY GURU'S SON HAS BEEN BROUGHT HERE. OBEY MY COMMAND AND BRING HIM TO ME.

"SOON —

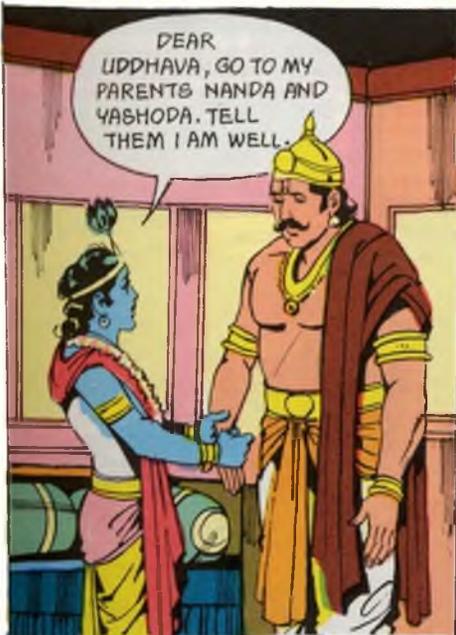
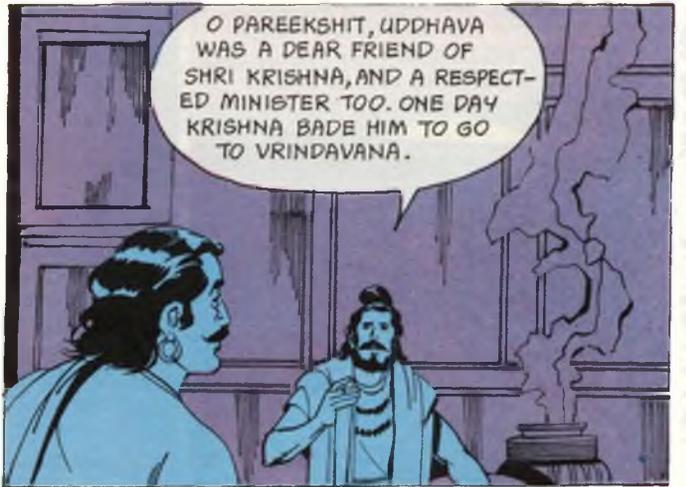


HERE HE IS.

"KRISHNA AND BALARAMA WENT BACK TO SANDIPANI'S ASHRAM WITH THE BOY.



"WITH THE BLESSING OF THEIR GURU, THE TWO BOYS RETURNED TO MATHURA.



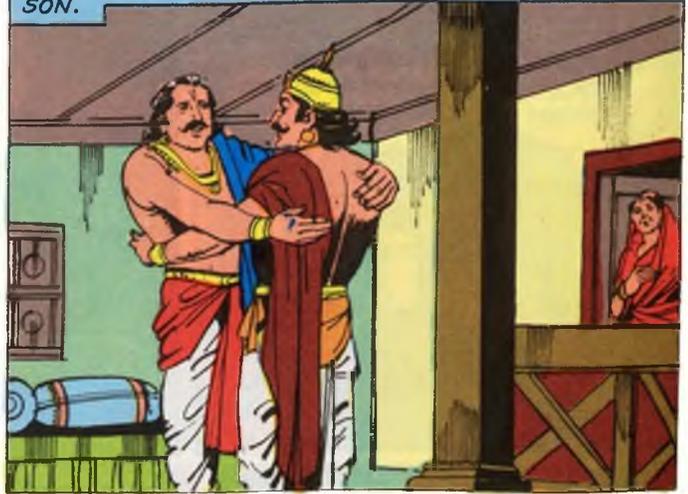
"WHEN UDDHAVA REACHED VRINDAVANA IT WAS DUSK, THE TIME FOR THE COWS TO RETURN FROM GRAZING IN THE WOODS. THE DUST RAISED BY THEIR HOOVES ENVELOPED HIS CHARIOT.



"THE SOUND OF THE CALVES LOWING MINGLED WITH THE MELODIOUS MUSIC OF THE FLUTES. LAMPS SHONE IN THE HOMES. THE AIR WAS FILLED WITH INCENSE.



"NANDA WELCOMED UDDHAVA AS IF HE WERE HIS OWN SON.

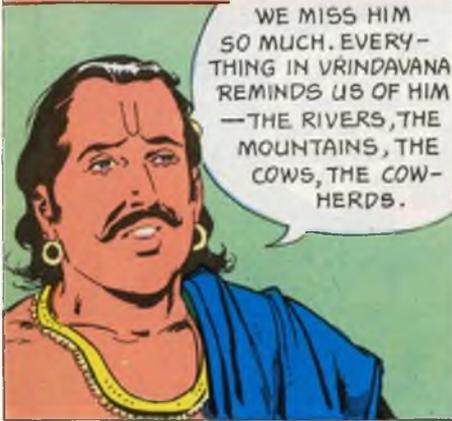


"AFTER HE HAD BEEN FED A SUMPTUOUS MEAL AND SEATED COMFORTABLY, NANDA ASKED HIM EAGERLY —

DOES KRISHNA REMEMBER US AT ALL ?  
DOES HE MISS HIS PARENTS AND HIS FRIENDS ?  
OH ! IF HE WOULD ONLY COME ONCE TO MEET US .  
WE DO SO LONG TO BEHOLD HIS BEAUTIFUL  
FACE AND HIS ENDEARING SMILE .

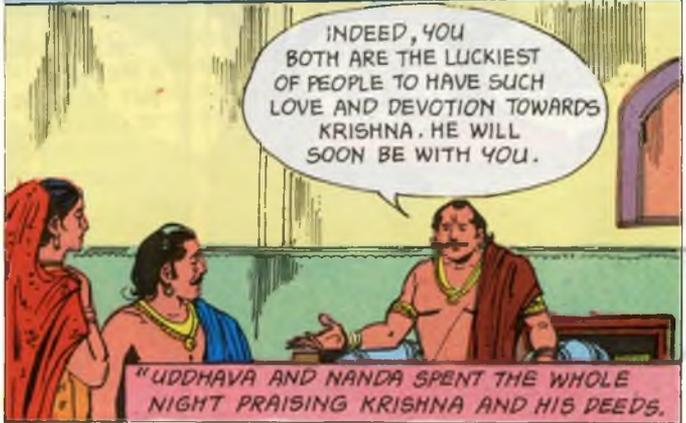


"NANDA'S EYES MOISTENED WITH UNSHED TEARS.



WE MISS HIM SO MUCH. EVERY-THING IN VRINDAVANA REMINDS US OF HIM —THE RIVERS, THE MOUNTAINS, THE COWS, THE COW-HERDS.

"SOON TEARS BEGAN TO TRICKLE DOWN NANDA'S FACE. YASHODA TOO BEGAN TO CRY. UDDHAVA SAID —



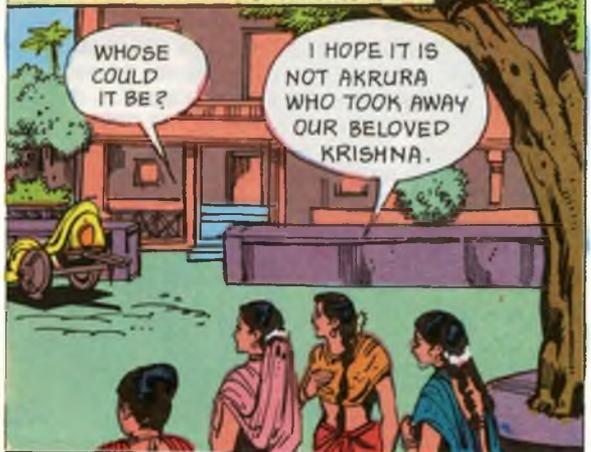
INDEED, YOU BOTH ARE THE LUCKIEST OF PEOPLE TO HAVE SUCH LOVE AND DEVOTION TOWARDS KRISHNA. HE WILL SOON BE WITH YOU.

"UDDHAVA AND NANDA SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT PRAISING KRISHNA AND HIS DEEDS.

"EARLY MORNING THE GOPIKAS AROSE TO DO THEIR CHORES.



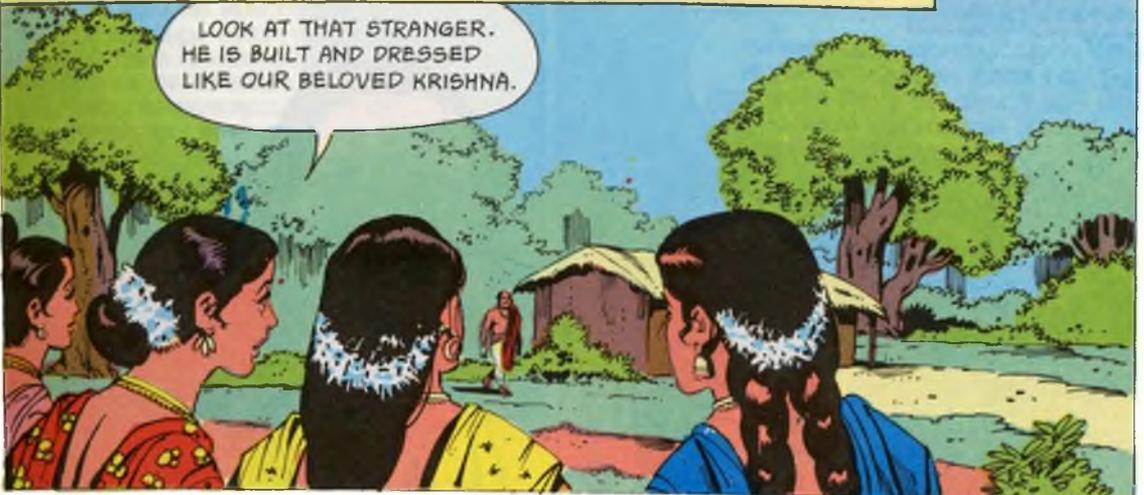
"WHEN THE SUN ROSE, THEY NOTICED A GOLDEN CHARIOT ON NANDA'S DOORSTEP.



WHOSE COULD IT BE?

I HOPE IT IS NOT AKRURA WHO TOOK AWAY OUR BELOVED KRISHNA.

"WHILE THEY WERE SPEAKING THUS, THEY SAW UDDHAVA AT A DISTANCE.

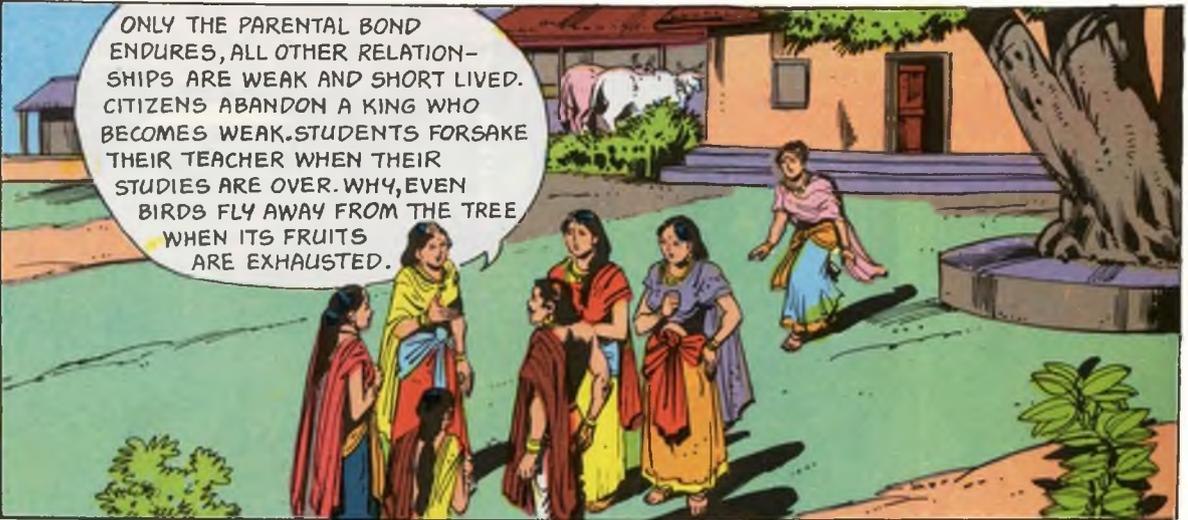
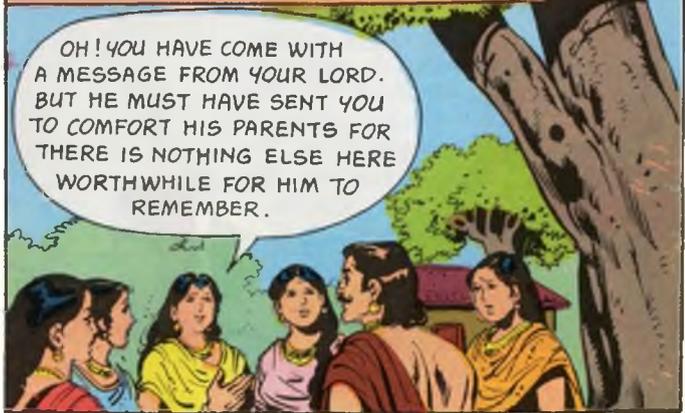


LOOK AT THAT STRANGER. HE IS BUILT AND DRESSED LIKE OUR BELOVED KRISHNA.

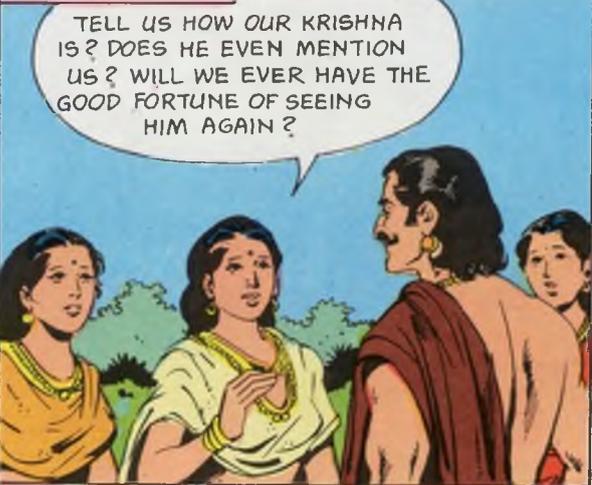
"THE CURIOUS GOPIKAS SURROUNDED UDDHAVA AND PLIED HIM WITH QUESTIONS.



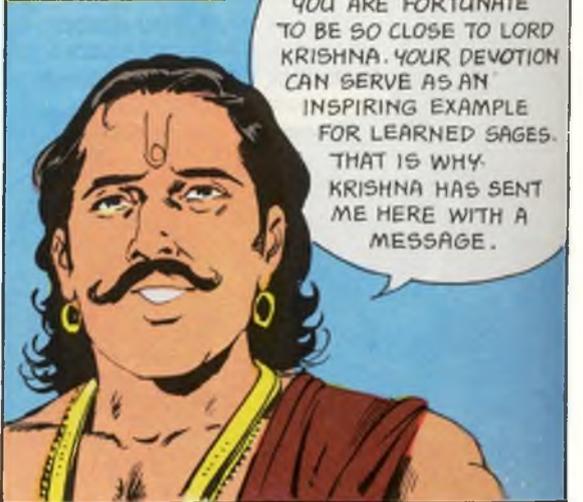
"WHEN THEY LEARNT THAT UDDHAVA WAS AN EMISSARY OF KRISHNA, THEY QUICKLY TOOK HIM ASIDE.



"THE GOPIKAS WERE SO THRILLED AT THE ARRIVAL OF KRISHNA'S MESSENGER THAT THEY BABBLED INCOHERENTLY —

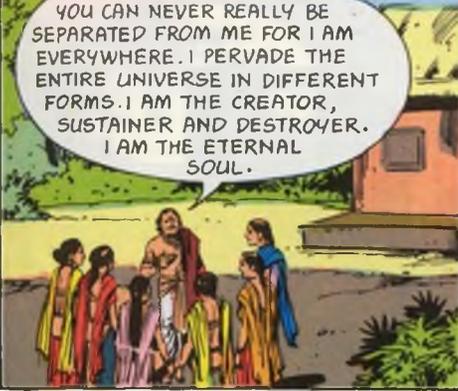


"UDDHAVA WAS MOVED BY THE DEVOTION OF THE WOMEN.



"UDDHAVA THEN RELATED THE MESSAGE OF KRISHNA TO THE ANXIOUS WOMEN.

YOU CAN NEVER REALLY BE SEPARATED FROM ME FOR I AM EVERYWHERE. I PERVADE THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE IN DIFFERENT FORMS. I AM THE CREATOR, SUSTAINER AND DESTROYER. I AM THE ETERNAL SOUL.



JUST AS ALL RIVERS, ULTIMATELY REACH THE OCEAN AFTER MEANDERING ON THEIR COURSE, SO ALSO VARIOUS FORMS OF WORSHIP CULMINATE IN THE DESIRE TO ATTAIN ME. SEPARATION FROM ME WILL MAKE YOUR LOVE MORE INTENSE. BUT I CAN NEVER FORSAKE YOU. BE ASSURED.

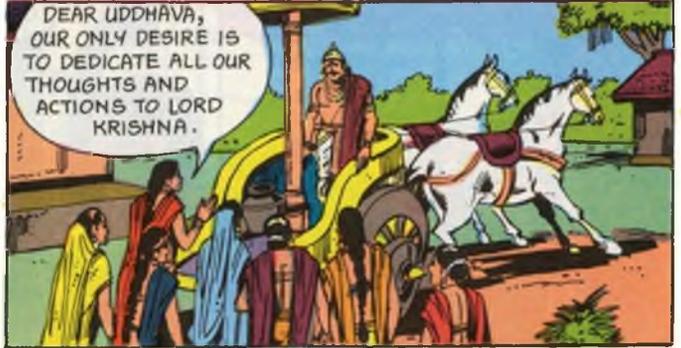


"FOR MANY MONTHS UDDHAVA STAYED IN VRINDAVANA REGALING THE PEOPLE WITH STORIES OF KRISHNA'S DEEDS.



"WHEN AT LAST UDDHAVA WAS ABOUT TO RETURN TO MATHURA, THE PEOPLE OF VRINDAVANA PRESENTED HIM WITH GIFTS AND BADE HIM A TEARFUL FAREWELL.

DEAR UDDHAVA, OUR ONLY DESIRE IS TO DEDICATE ALL OUR THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS TO LORD KRISHNA.



"UDDHAVA RETURNED TO MATHURA AND TOLD HIM WHAT HE HAD HEARD AND SEEN IN VRINDAVANA.

SO ENGROSSED ARE THE GOPIKAS IN YOU, THAT THEY SEE YOU EVERYWHERE, IN ALL OBJECTS AND BEINGS. PEOPLE IN VRINDAVANA PINE TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF YOU.



"AFTER THEY HAD DELIVERED THE PRESENTS SENT BY NANDA TO VASUDEVA, BALARAMA AND KING UGRASENA, KRISHNA REMEMBERED A PROMISE MADE EARLIER.

I TOLD SAIKANDHRI\* THAT I WOULD VISIT HER HOUSE AFTER MY MISSION HERE WAS OVER. COME LET'S GO NOW.



"KRISHNA AND UDDHAVA FOUND SAIKANDHRI'S HOUSE TO BE BEAUTIFULLY ADORNED WITH FLOWERS, STRINGS OF PEARLS, BANNERS AND BUNTINGS.

LORD KRISHNA? AT MY DOOR-STEP.



"AT FIRST SAIRANDHRI WAS SURPRISED AND CONFUSED. BUT SOON SHE CAME FORWARD TO WELCOME KRISHNA.



WELCOME, O LORD!

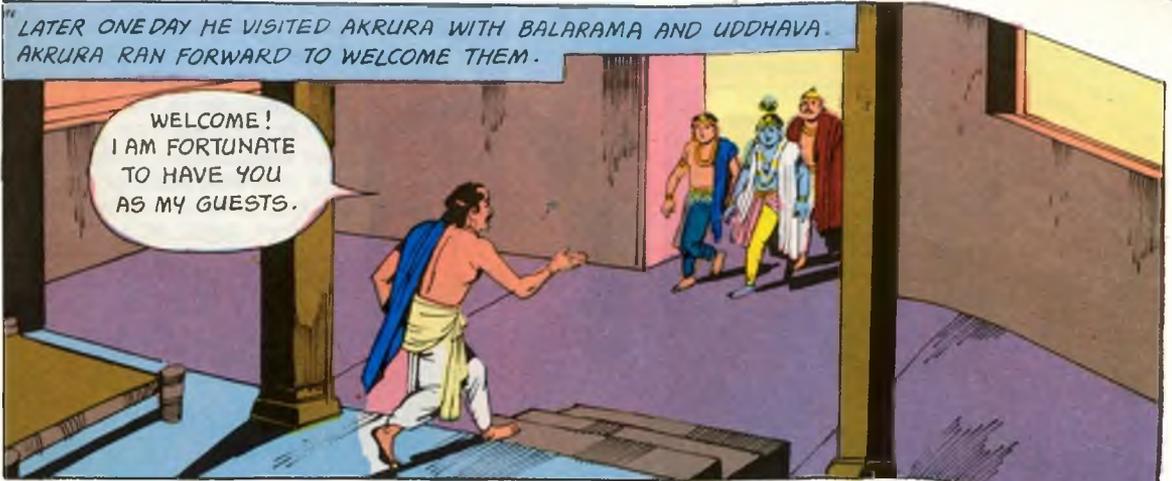
"AFTER A WHILE SHE BEDECKED HERSELF WITH BEAUTIFUL GARMENTS AND ORNAMENTS AND SAT WITH HER GUESTS.

DEAR KRISHNA, STAY HERE WITH ME FOR A FEW DAYS. I CANNOT BEAR TO LET YOU GO NOW.

I MUST LEAVE NOW.



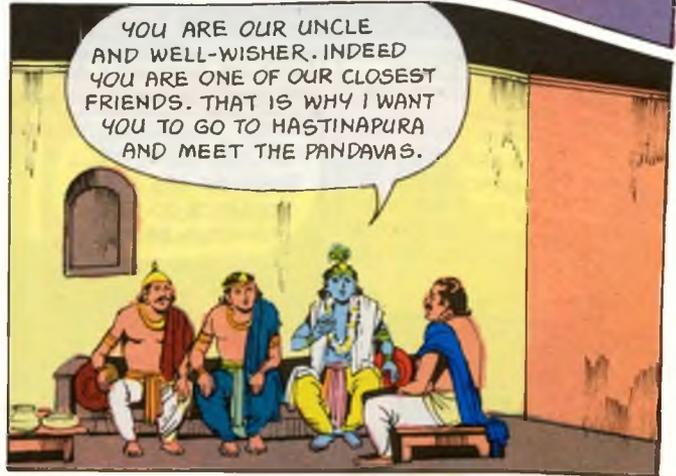
LATER ONE DAY HE VISITED AKRURA WITH BALARAMA AND UDDHAVA. AKRURA RAN FORWARD TO WELCOME THEM.



WELCOME!  
I AM FORTUNATE  
TO HAVE YOU  
AS MY GUESTS.



YOU TWO HAVE  
BEEN BORN ON  
EARTH TO RID IT OF  
WICKEDNESS.



YOU ARE OUR UNCLE  
AND WELL-WISHER. INDEED  
YOU ARE ONE OF OUR CLOSEST  
FRIENDS. THAT IS WHY I WANT  
YOU TO GO TO HASTINAPURA  
AND MEET THE PANDAVAS.

AFTER THE DEATH  
OF THEIR FATHER  
PANDU, YUDHISH-  
THIRA AND HIS  
BROTHERS HAVE  
GONE TO HASTINA-  
PURA TO THEIR  
UNCLE DHRITA-  
RASHTRA. HIS  
SON DURYODHANA  
IS WICKED.

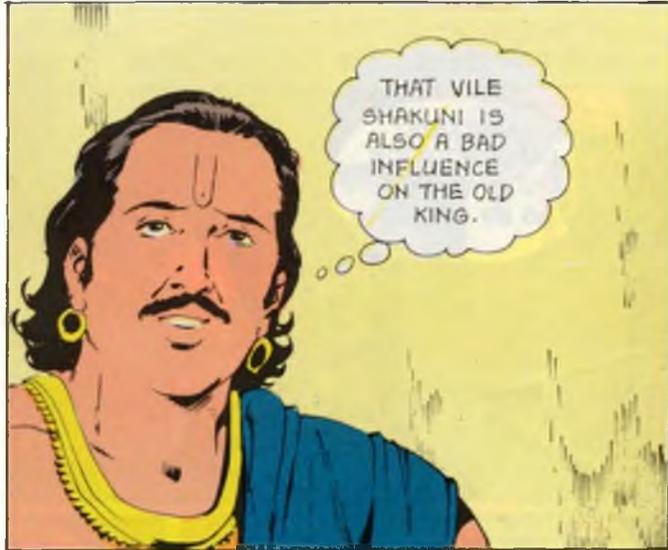
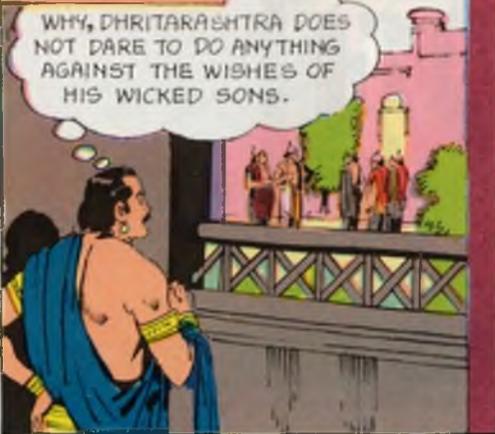
THEREFORE  
I AM ANXIOUS  
ABOUT THE  
PANDAVAS. I WOULD  
LIKE TO ENSURE  
THEIR HAPPINESS.



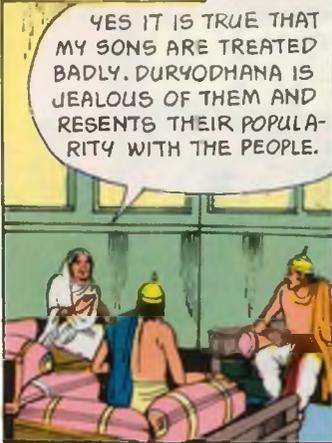
AS REQUESTED BY KRISHNA, AKRURA WENT TO HASTINAPURA AND MET DHRITARASHTRA, BHEESHMA VIDURA AND THE PANDAVAS.



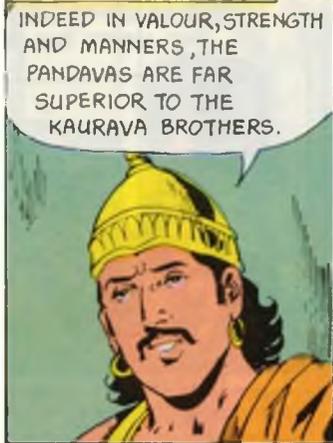
"FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AKRURA STAYED AT HASTINAPURA TO FIND OUT HOW DHRITARASHTRA WAS TREATING THE PANDAVAS.



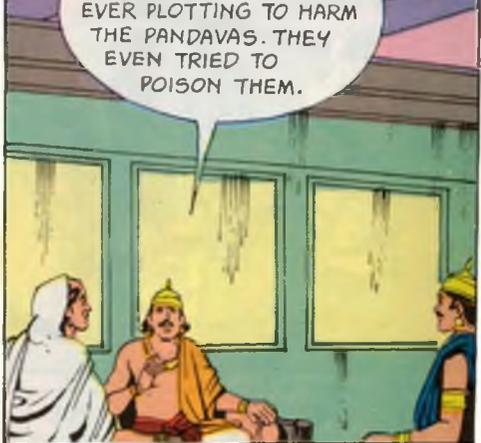
"AKRURA SPOKE TO HIS COUSIN KUNTI.



"VIDURA WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT ADDED —



DURYODHANA AND HIS BROTHERS ARE FOREVER PLOTTING TO HARM THE PANDAVAS. THEY EVEN TRIED TO POISON THEM.



"BEFORE LEAVING, AKRURA ADDRESSED THE COURT AT HASTINAPURA AND CONVEYED THE MESSAGE OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA.



"KING DHRITARASHTRA REPLIED.

O AKRURA, I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL. BUT MY HEART IS ALREADY SO BIASED TOWARDS MY SONS, THAT YOUR GOOD COUNSEL HAS NO EFFECT. I HEAR THAT GOD HIMSELF HAS BEEN INCARNATED IN THE YADAVA DYNASTY FOR RIDDING THE WORLD OF EVIL. LET HIS WILL BE DONE.



"AKRURA RETURNED TO MATHURA AND REPORTED TO KRISHNA.

NOW THAT I HAVE OBSERVED HIS BEHAVIOUR MYSELF, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT DHRITARASHTRA FAVOURS THE KAURAVAS AND THE PANDAVAS ARE NOT TREATED FAIRLY.



MEANWHILE, KAMSA'S TWO QUEENS ASTI AND PRAPTI, WENT BACK TO THEIR FATHER'S HOUSE AFTER THE DEATH OF THEIR HUSBAND. THEY TOLD THEIR FATHER, JARASANDHA, THE KING OF MAGADHA, HOW KAMSA HAD BEEN KILLED.



"JARASANDHA WAS ENRAGED —

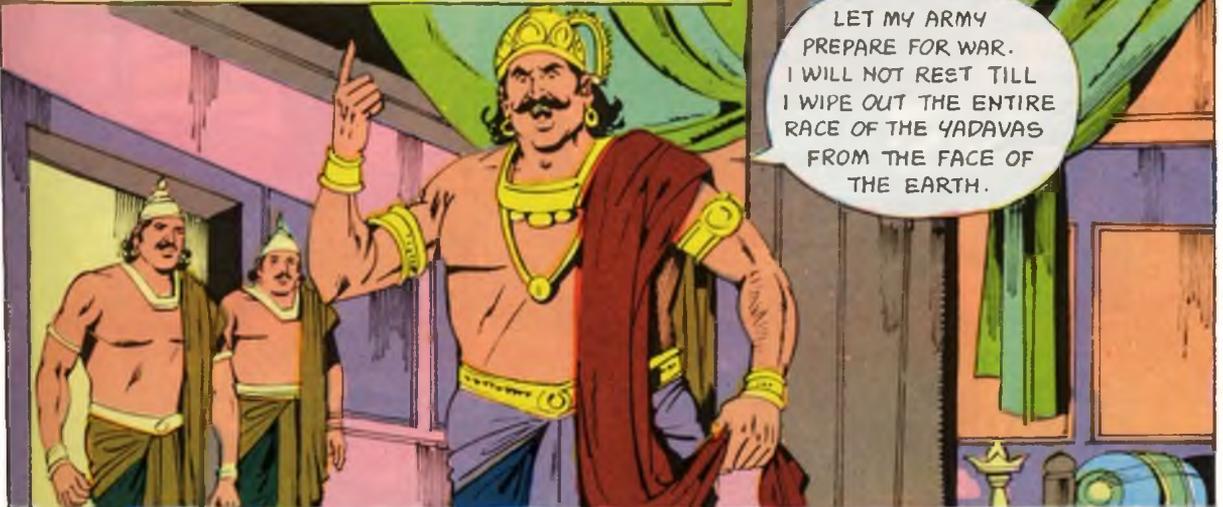
SO, FATHER, AFTER KILLING THE MIGHTY WRESTLERS KRISHNA KILLED OUR DEAR HUSBAND.

I WILL PUNISH HIM.



"JARASANDHA WAS FILLED WITH BITTERNESS AND SORROW.

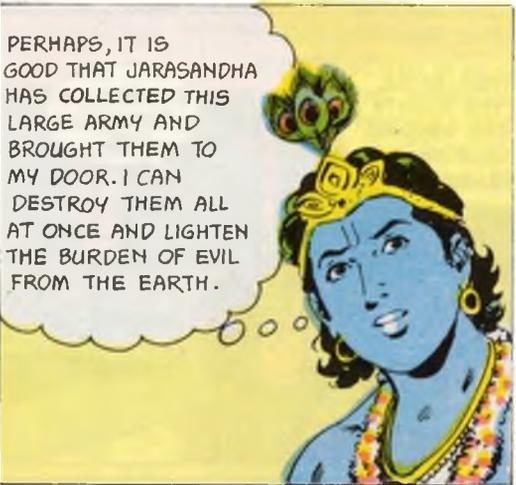
LET MY ARMY PREPARE FOR WAR. I WILL NOT REST TILL I WIPE OUT THE ENTIRE RACE OF THE YADAVAS FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.



"SOON, WITH AN ARMY OF 23 AKSHAUHINIS\*, JARASANDHA SURROUNDED THE CITY OF MATHURA, THE CAPITAL OF THE YADAVAS. KRISHNA BEHELD THE AWESOME SIGHT.



WHY, JARASANDHA'S ARMY LOOKS LIKE A VERITABLE OCEAN OF SOLDIERS AROUND OUR CITY.



PERHAPS, IT IS GOOD THAT JARASANDHA HAS COLLECTED THIS LARGE ARMY AND BROUGHT THEM TO MY DOOR. I CAN DESTROY THEM ALL AT ONCE AND LIGHTEN THE BURDEN OF EVIL FROM THE EARTH.



BUT I WILL NOT KILL JARASANDHA YET. LET HIM COLLECT MORE OF HIS MEN TO ATTACK ME. I CAN KILL THEM TOO AND FULFIL THE PURPOSE OF MY INCARNATION.

"WHILE KRISHNA WAS ENGROSSED IN THOUGHT, TWO GLEAMING CHARIOTS DESCENDED FROM THE SKY. THEY WERE DRIVEN BY ABLE CHARIOTEERS AND EQUIPPED WITH WONDERFUL WEAPONS OF ALL DESCRIPTION.

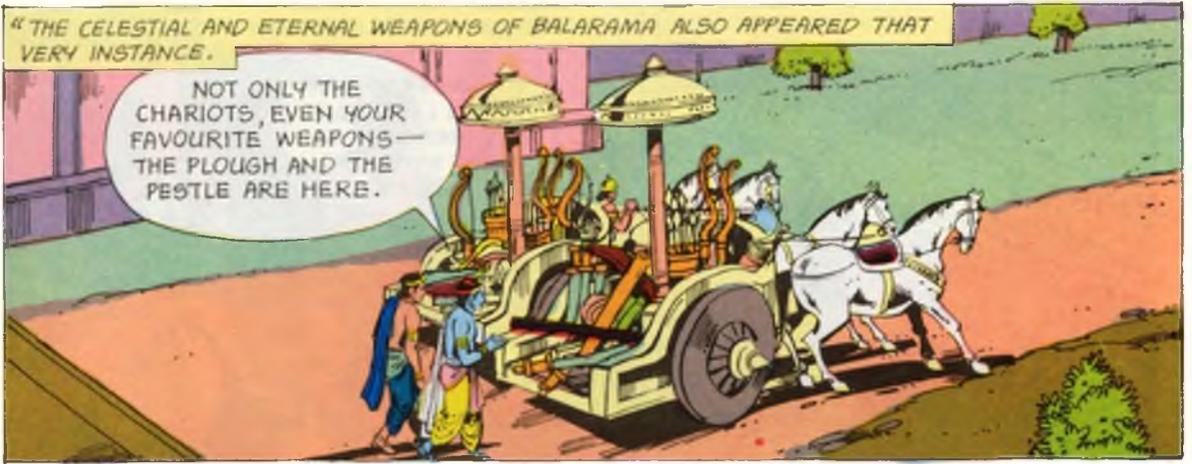


BEHOLD, DEAR BROTHER!

\* DIVISION OF THE ARMY CONTAINING .. 21870 ELEPHANTS, 21870 CHARIOTS, 65610 CAVALRY AND 109350 INFANTRY

"THE CELESTIAL AND ETERNAL WEAPONS OF BALARAMA ALSO APPEARED THAT VERY INSTANCE.

NOT ONLY THE CHARIOTS, EVEN YOUR FAVOURITE WEAPONS—THE PLOUGH AND THE PESTLE ARE HERE.



GO FORTH ON THIS CHARIOT AND DESTROY THE ENEMY.



PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM THIS CALAMITY. FOR WE ARE HERE ON EARTH TO PROTECT THE GOOD AND DESTROY THE WICKED.



"KRISHNA AND BALARAMA THEN DONNED THEIR ARMOUR AND ASCENDED THE CELESTIAL CHARIOTS.

THERE WAS ONLY A SMALL ARMY WITH THEM. ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, KRISHNA BLEW HIS CONCH-SHELL, THE PANCHAJANYA.

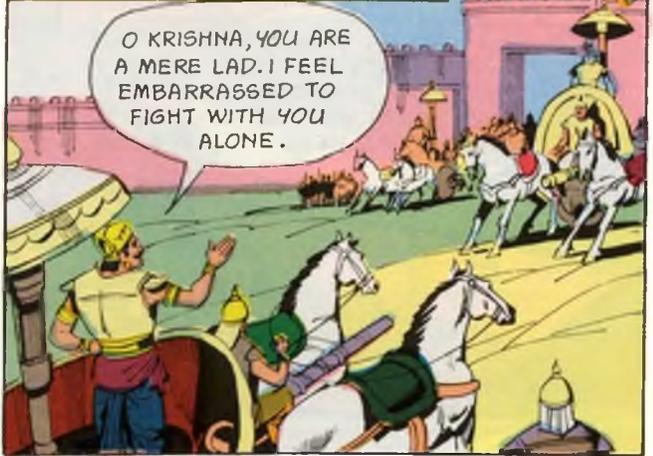


"THE SOUND WAS LOUD ENOUGH TO PUT FEAR IN THE HEARTS OF THE BRAVEST OF WARRIORS IN JARASANDHA'S ARMY."



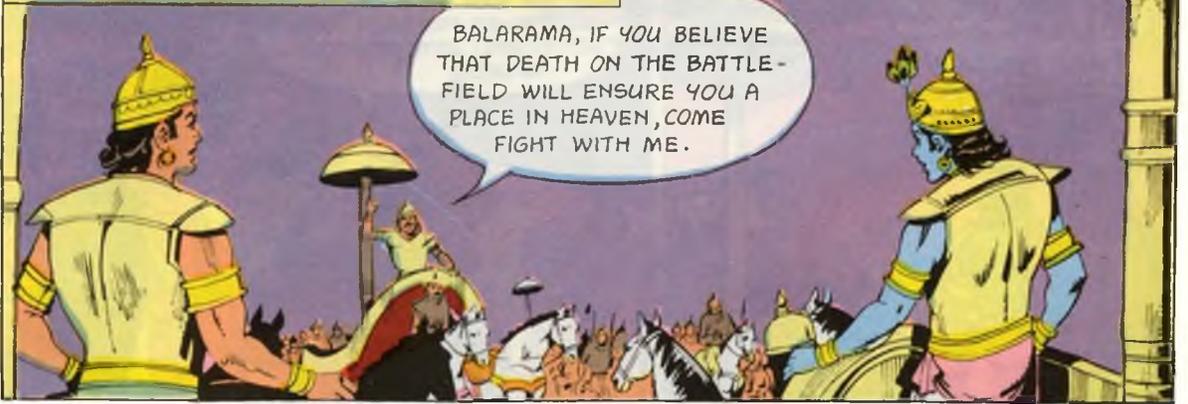
"JARASANDHA SAID TO KRISHNA —

O KRISHNA, YOU ARE A MERE LAD. I FEEL EMBARRASSED TO FIGHT WITH YOU ALONE.



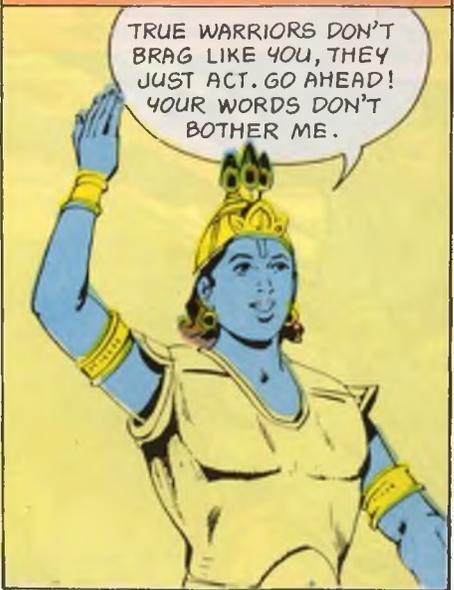
"THEN JARASANDHA TURNED TO BALARAMA —

BALARAMA, IF YOU BELIEVE THAT DEATH ON THE BATTLE-FIELD WILL ENSURE YOU A PLACE IN HEAVEN, COME FIGHT WITH ME.



"KRISHNA CALMLY RESPONDED —

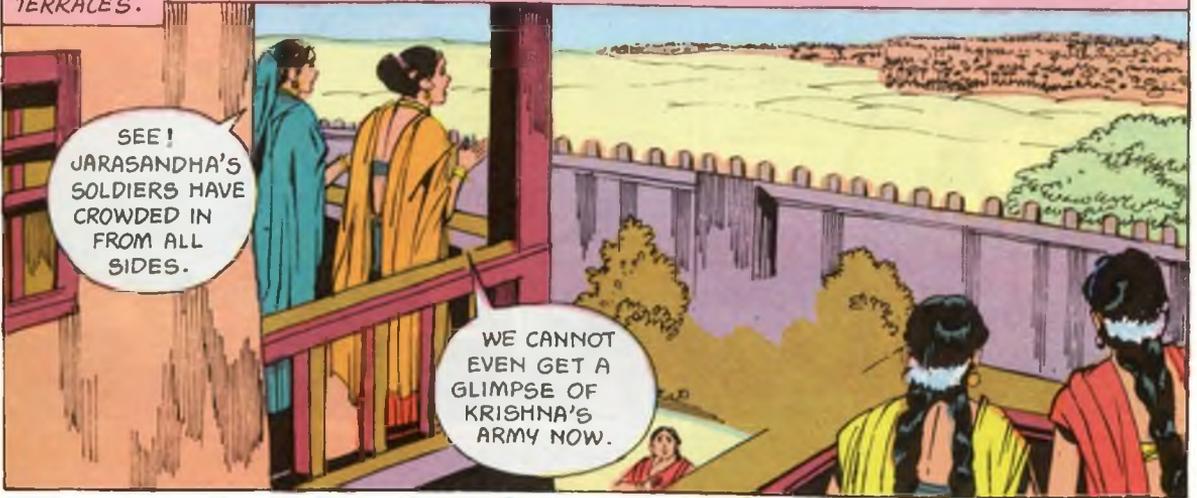
TRUE WARRIORS DON'T BRAG LIKE YOU, THEY JUST ACT. GO AHEAD! YOUR WORDS DON'T BOTHER ME.



JUST AS CLOUDS COVERING THE SUN OR SMOKE ENVELOPING A FIRE CANNOT DO SO FOR LONG, SO ALSO THE ENORMOUS ARMY OF JARASANDHA COULD NOT SURROUND BALARAMA AND KRISHNA FOR LONG.



"THE WOMEN OF MATHURA WERE ANXIOUSLY WATCHING THE SCENE FROM THEIR BALCONIES AND TERRACES.



SEE!  
JARASANDHA'S  
SOLDIERS HAVE  
CROWDED IN  
FROM ALL  
SIDES.

WE CANNOT  
EVEN GET A  
GLIMPSE OF  
KRISHNA'S  
ARMY NOW.



OH! THE  
CHARIOT OF  
KRISHNA WITH  
THE PENNANT  
OF GARUDA HAS  
DISAPPEARED.

THE FLAG  
OF PALM ATOP  
BALARAMA'S  
CHARIOT IS  
NOT SEEN  
EITHER.

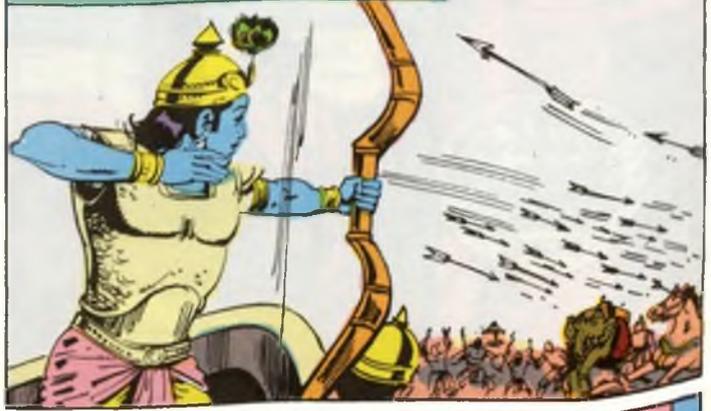
"FEARING THE WORST, THE WOMEN BEGAN TO SOB LOUDLY.



"THE ARROWS OF JARASANDHA'S SOLDIERS WERE FALLING ON KRISHNA'S ARMY LIKE RAIN-DROPS DURING A DOWNPOUR. KRISHNA NOW PICKED UP HIS BOW.



"HE BEGAN SENDING SHOWER AFTER SHOWER OF ARROWS AT JARASANDHA'S ARMY.



"THE SPEED WITH WHICH KRISHNA REMOVED THE ARROWS FROM HIS QUIVER, STRINGED HIS BOW, AND SHOT THE ARROWS, WAS SO RAPID IT LOOKED AS IF A WHEEL WAS BEING TURNED.



"SOON JARASANDHA'S ARMY BEGAN TO SUCCUMB TO THE ONSLAUGHT OF KRISHNA'S ARROWS.



"ELEPHANTS WERE BEHEADED AND HORSES TUMBLED DOWN. CHARIOTS TOO WERE SMASHED BY KRISHNA'S POWERFUL ARROWS.



"MEANWHILE BALARAMA WAS ATTACKING THE ARMY USING HIS AWESOME PESTLE AS A WEAPON.



"THOUGH JARASANDHA'S ARMY WAS HUGE AND WELL-EQUIPPED, KRISHNA AND BALARAMA DESTROYED IT EFFORTLESSLY.



"BEREFT OF EVEN HIS CHARIOT, ALL JARASANDHA HAD LEFT WAS HIS LIFE.



"BALARAMA POUNCED ON HIM AND WAS ABOUT TO KILL HIM BUT KRISHNA INTERVENED.



STOP, BALARAMA. LET HIM GO.



LET HIM GO AND COLLECT ANOTHER ARMY. WE WILL DESTROY THAT TOO.

"JARASANDHA'S MIGHT AS A WARRIOR HAD EARNED HIM THE RESPECT OF MANY A VALOROUS HERO. NOW HE FELT HUMILIATED.



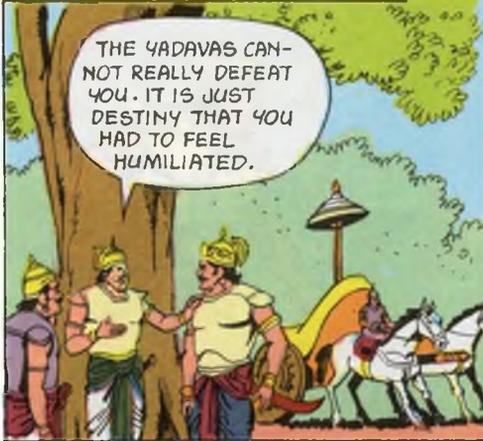
KRISHNA TOOK PITY ON ME AND LET ME GO. WHAT A DIS-HONOUR IT IS FOR ME.

"JARASANDHA SET OUT FOR HIS KINGDOM, ALONG WITH THE REMNANTS OF HIS ARMY.

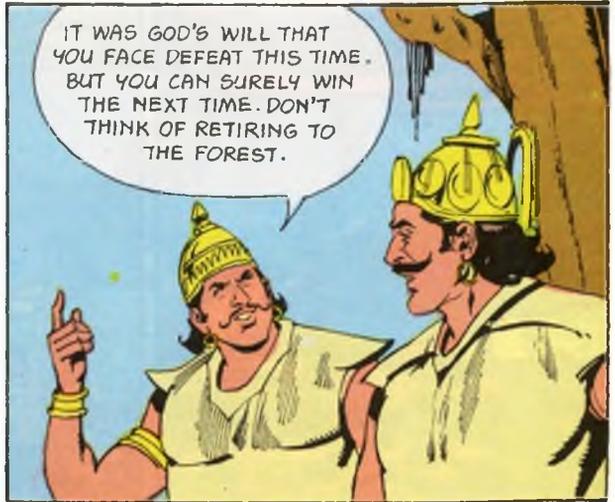


I MUST DO SEVERE PENANCE TO ATONE FOR THIS EMBARRASSMENT.

"BUT SOME OF THE KINGS WHO HAD FOUGHT ALONG WITH HIM DISSUADED HIM.



IT WAS GOD'S WILL THAT YOU FACE DEFEAT THIS TIME. BUT YOU CAN SURELY WIN THE NEXT TIME. DON'T THINK OF RETIRING TO THE FOREST.



"WHILE MOST OF JARASANDHA'S ARMY HAD BEEN ANNIHILATED, KRISHNA'S ARMY WAS ALMOST UNSCATHED. THEY WERE FETED AND WELCOMED BY THE CITIZENS OF MATHURA.



"THE VICTORIOUS ARMY WAS RECEIVED WITH A SHOWER OF FLOWERS BY THE ADMIRING CITIZENS.



"THEY HAD COLLECTED A HUGE NUMBER OF PRECIOUS STONES, GEMS AND ORNAMENTS FROM THE VANQUISHED ARMY. THESE WERE PRESENTED TO KING UGRASENA.



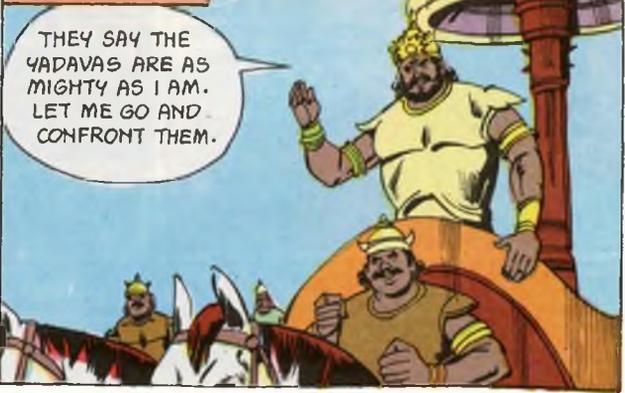
"AS KRISHNA HAD PREDICTED, JARASANDHA GATHERED ANOTHER ARMY OF 23 AKSHAUHINIS AND ATTACKED MATHURA AGAIN.



"SEVENTEEN TIMES JARASANDHA ATTACKED MATHURA WITH A HUGE ARMY AND SEVENTEEN TIMES HIS ARMY WAS DESTROYED.



"ON THE EIGHTEENTH OCCASION, JUST BEFORE JARASANDHA REACHED MATHURA, THE ASURA KALAYAVANA, HEARD OF THE MIGHT OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA.



THEY SAY THE YADAVAS ARE AS MIGHTY AS I AM. LET ME GO AND CONFRONT THEM.

"KALAYAVANA WAS A MIGHTY ASURA WHOM EVEN INTREPID WARRIORS FEARED TO FACE. HE NOW ATTACKED MATHURA WITH A BIG ARMY.



"KRISHNA SAID TO BALARAMA —

OH! NOW WE HAVE TO FACE TWO ENEMIES, JARASANDHA AND KALAYAVANA.

IF BOTH OF US ARE BUSY REPELLING KALAYAVANA'S FORCES AND JARASANDHA ALSO ATTACKS, HE MAY OVERPOWER OUR PEOPLE.



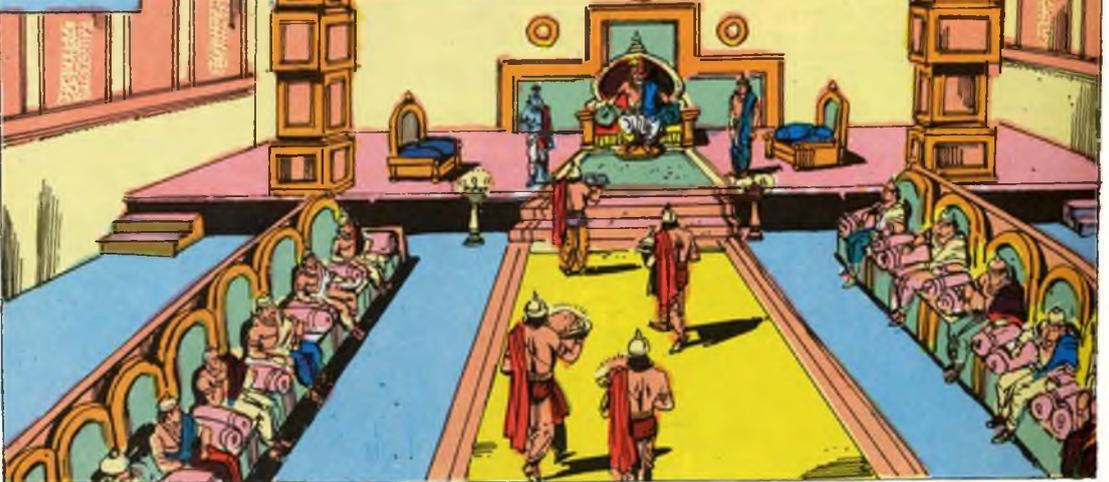
WE MUST HAVE AN INVINCIBLE FORTRESS BUILT WHERE NO ENEMY CAN ENTER. ONLY AFTER PLACING OUR PEOPLE INSIDE SUCH A FORTRESS, WILL WE FIGHT KALAYAVANA.

"AFTER CONSULTING BALARAMA, KRISHNA HAD SUCH A STRONG FORT CITY BUILT IN THE OCEAN. IT WAS A WONDER OF ARCHITECTURE AND CRAFTSMANSHIP WITH WIDE ROADS, LOVELY GARDENS AND HUGE GATEWAYS.

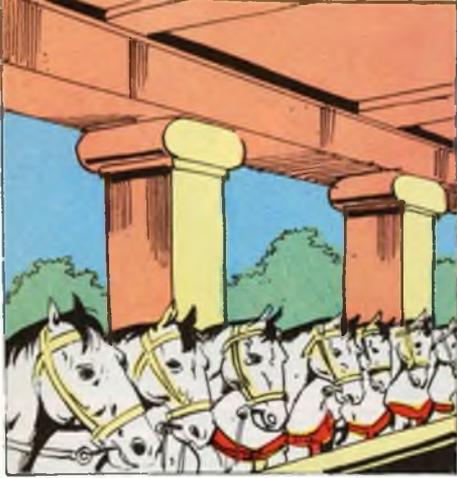


"IN THE MIDST OF THE WELL-PLANNED HOUSES WERE THE GOLDEN PALACES OF KING UGRASENA, VASUDEVA, BALARAMA AND KRISHNA. THE CITY WAS NAMED DWARAKA.

"THE DEVAS SENT MANY GIFTS FOR THIS NEW CITY. INDRA SENT AN ASSEMBLY ROOM CALLED SUDHARMA SABHA. PEOPLE SEATED IN THAT ROOM WERE NOT AFFECTED BY EARTHLY NEEDS LIKE HUNGER AND THIRST.



"VARUNA SENT A NUMBER OF WHITE HORSES, SWIFT AND SURE-FOOTED.



"WITH HIS DIVINE POWER KRISHNA TRANSPORTED HIS KITH AND KIN TO DWARAKA, THE NEWLY CREATED CITY.



"LEAVING THE REST OF HIS SUBJECTS IN MATHURA, IN BALARAMA'S CARE, KRISHNA CAME OUT OF THE MAIN GATE OF MATHURA. HE WAS UNARMED. A GARLAND OF LOTUSES ADORNED HIS NECK.



"KALAYAVANA, WHO WAS STATIONED OUTSIDE THE GATE, BEHELD THE APPROACHING FIGURE.



SURELY THIS MUST BE KRISHNA. HE FITS THE DESCRIPTION NARADA GAVE ME OF KRISHNA.

BUT HE IS APPROACHING ME UNARMED. I TOO MUST PUT AWAY MY WEAPONS.

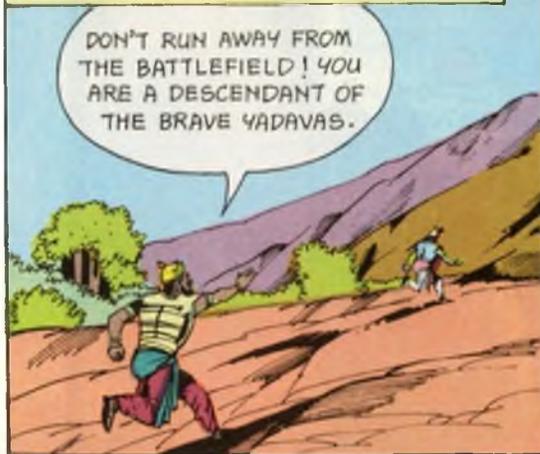
"BUT WHEN KALAYAVANA CAME NEAR, KRISHNA TURNED AWAY AND BEGAN TO RUN.



"KALAYAVANA TOO BEGAN TO FOLLOW HIM AT A RAPID PACE.



"FOR LONG KALAYAVANA CHASED THE FLEEING KRISHNA HOPING TO CATCH HIM.



"BUT KRISHNA PAID NO HEED AND RAN ON TILL THEY CAME UPON A HILLSIDE CAVE.



"EVEN AS KALAYAVANA TRIED TO RESTRAIN HIM WITH SHOUTS KRISHNA ENTERED THE DARK CAVE.



"KALAYAVANA TOO DUCKED INTO THE CAVE.



"IN THE DIM LIGHT KALAYAVANA SAW A SLEEPING FORM.



JUST LOOK AT HIM!  
HE MADE ME RUN SO  
FAR AND NOW HE IS  
LYING DOWN WITHOUT  
A CARE.

"IN ANGER, KALAYAVANA GAVE A SWIFT  
KICK.



"THE SLEEPING MAN SLOWLY WOKE UP. WHEN HE  
OPENED HIS EYES FULLY, HE SAW KALAYAVANA BEFORE  
HIM.



"AS SOON AS HIS GAZE FELL ON  
KALAYAVANA, THE MIGHTY ASURA  
CAUGHT FIRE ...



...AND WAS REDUCED TO A HEAP OF ASHES.

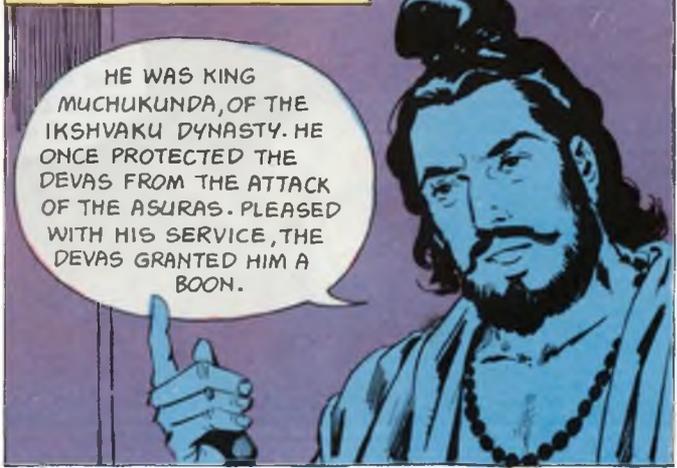


INTRIGUED BY THE NARRATION, PAREEKSHIT INTERRUPTED SHUKADEVA —



WHO WAS THAT MAN? HOW DID HE GET SUCH POWER? WHY WAS HE SLEEPING IN THE CAVE?

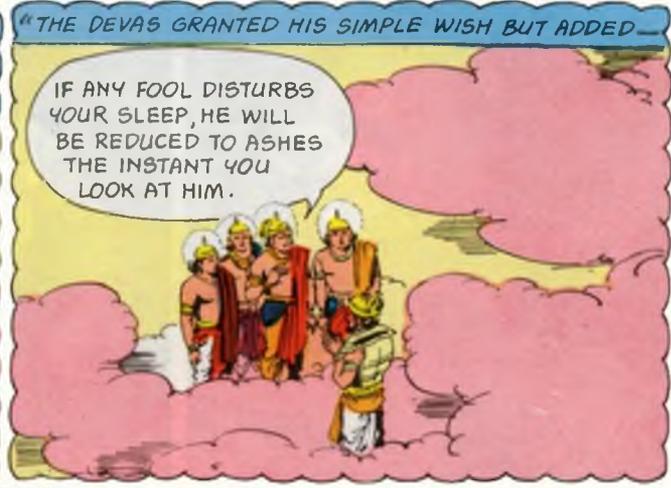
SHUKADEVA EXPLAINED —



HE WAS KING MUCHUKUNDA, OF THE IKSHVAKU DYNASTY. HE ONCE PROTECTED THE DEVAS FROM THE ATTACK OF THE ASURAS. PLEASED WITH HIS SERVICE, THE DEVAS GRANTED HIM A BOON.



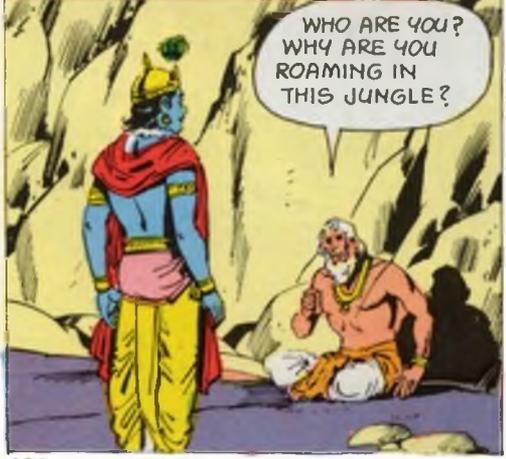
THIS LONG BATTLE WITH THE ASURAS HAS MADE ME WEARY. I JUST WANT TO SLEEP.



"THE DEVAS GRANTED HIS SIMPLE WISH BUT ADDED —

IF ANY FOOL DISTURBS YOUR SLEEP, HE WILL BE REDUCED TO ASHES THE INSTANT YOU LOOK AT HIM.

"KALAYAVANA WAS DESTROYED. KRISHNA SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE KING MUCHUKUNDA. HE WAS TAKEN ABACK AT THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF KRISHNA'S RESPLENDENT FORM.



WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU ROAMING IN THIS JUNGLE?



ARE YOU AGNI, THE LORD OF FIRE? OR SOME OTHER GOD?

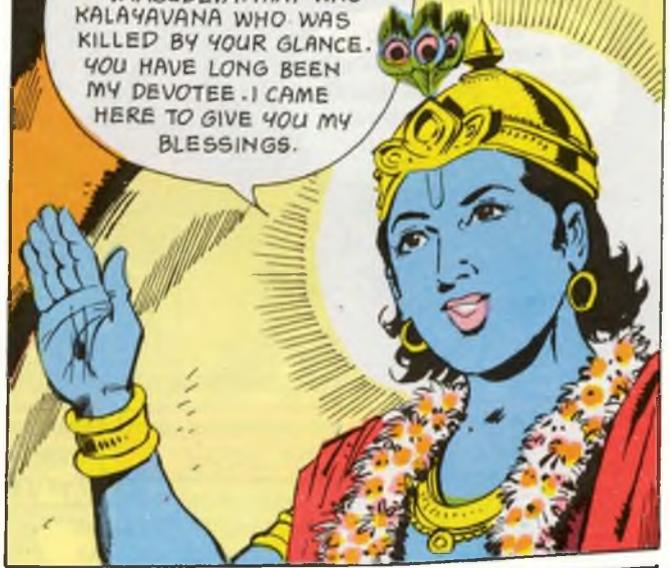
INDEED YOU MUST BE NARAYANA, SINCE YOUR RADIANCE IS LIGHTING UP THIS DARK CAVE.

KRISHNA REPLIED WITH A SMILE.

I HAVE COUNTLESS NAMES. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO COUNT THE PARTICLES OF DUST ON EARTH. BUT MY NAMES AND FORMS CANNOT BE ENUMERATED.



NOW I HAVE APPEARED ON EARTH IN VASUDEVA'S HOUSE. I AM THEREFORE CALLED VAASUDEVA. THAT WAS KALAYAVANA WHO WAS KILLED BY YOUR GLANCE. YOU HAVE LONG BEEN MY DEVOTEE. I CAME HERE TO GIVE YOU MY BLESSINGS.



MUCHUKUNDA WAS OVERWHELMED WITH DEVOTION AND LOVE. HE BOWED RESPECTFULLY AT LORD KRISHNA'S FEET AND SOUGHT HIS BLESSINGS.



THIS ENDS THE FIFTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF THE TENTH CHAPTER OF THE BHAGAWAT PURANA.