

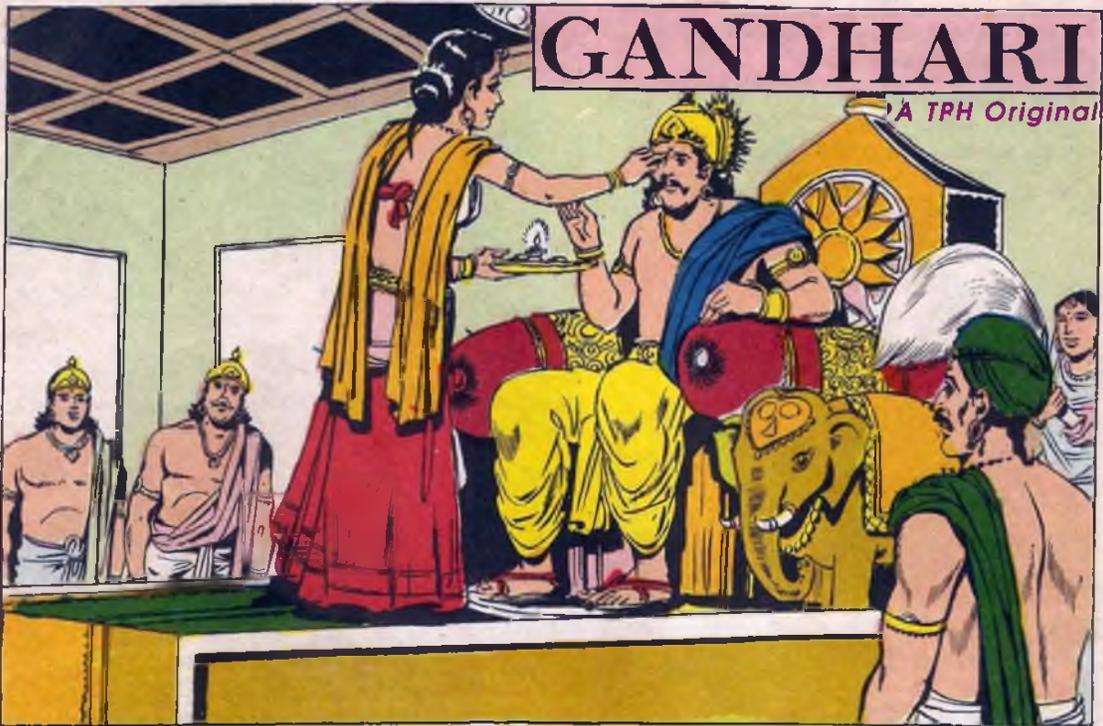


# Gandhari



# GANDHARI

A TPH Original



GANDHARI WAS THE DAUGHTER OF KING SUBALA OF GANDHARA. SHE WAS CLEVER AND BEAUTIFUL, BUT HER BEST QUALITIES WERE HER LOVE OF GOD AND OF TRUTH.

KING SUBALA LOVED HIS DAUGHTER DEARLY.

MAY TRUTH AND FAITH GUIDE YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE.



THOUGH GANDHARI WAS VERY YOUNG, SHE DID SUCH RIGOROUS FASTING AND PENANCE ...



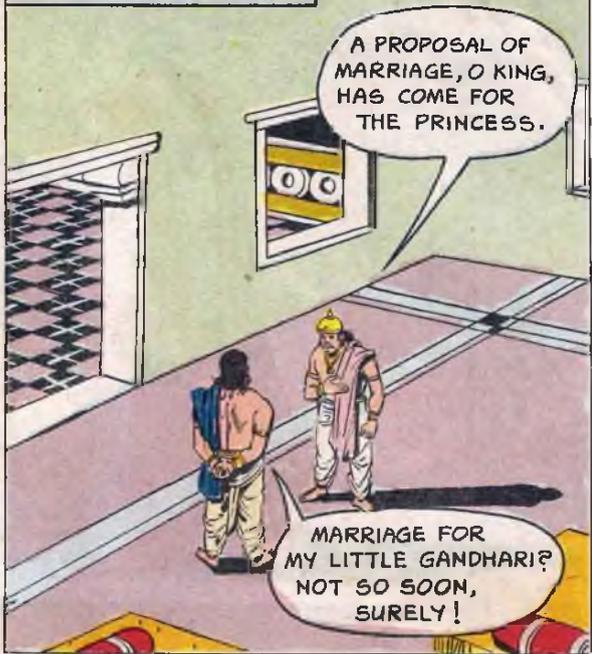
... THAT ONE DAY, LORD SHIVA APPEARED BEFORE HER.

I AM PLEASSED WITH YOUR DEVOTION. YOU WILL HAVE A HUNDRED SONS.



SOME TIME LATER —

A PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE, O KING, HAS COME FOR THE PRINCESS.



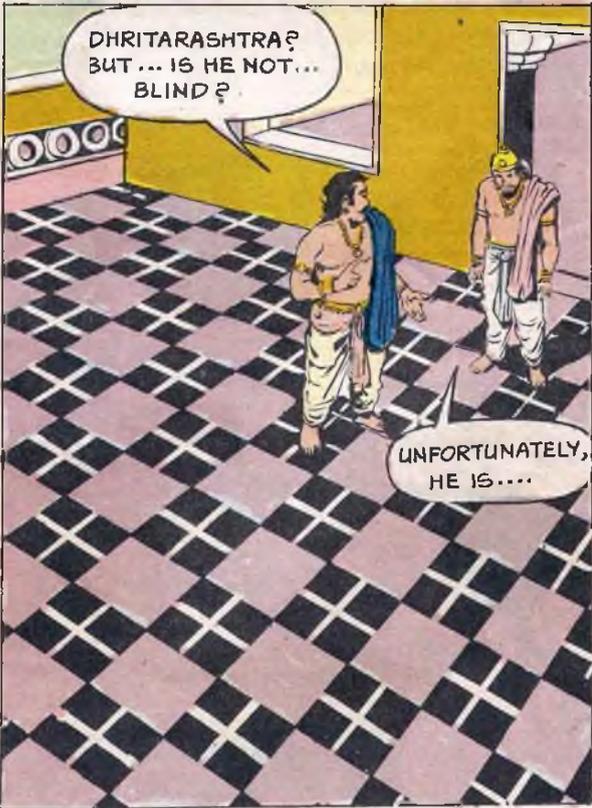
MARRIAGE FOR MY LITTLE GANDHARI? NOT SO SOON, SURELY!

WELL, WHO IS IT FROM?

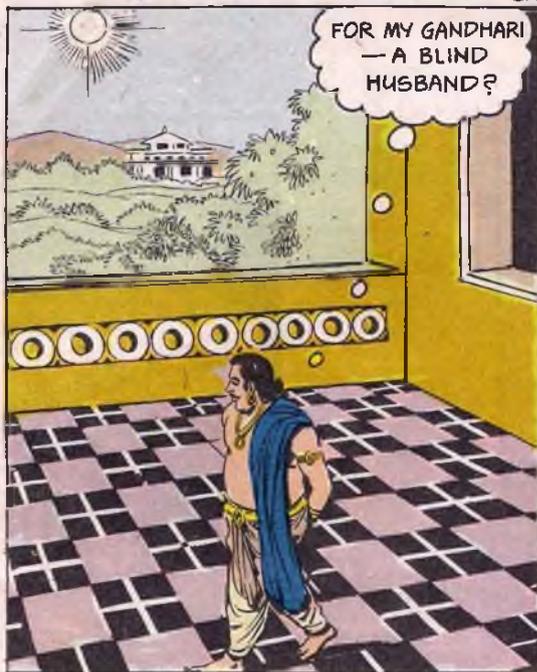
FROM THE KURU, BHEESHMA OF HASTINAPURA. HE WANTS THE HAND OF OUR PRINCESS FOR THE YOUNG KING, DHRITARASHTRA.



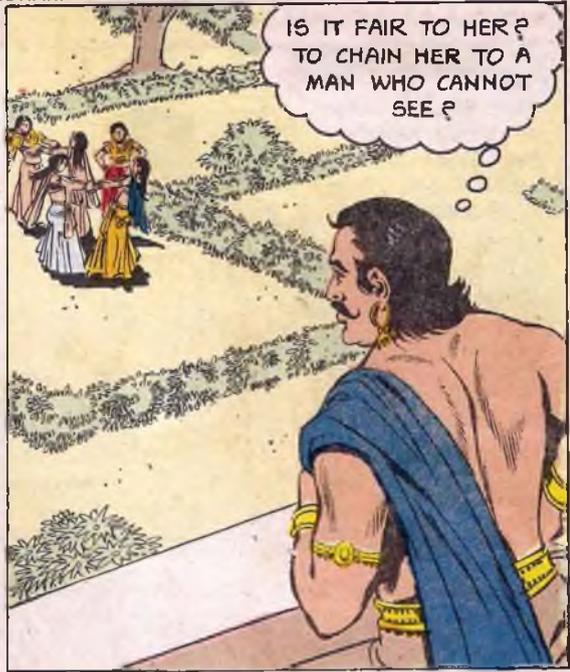
DHRITARASHTRA? BUT ... IS HE NOT... BLIND?



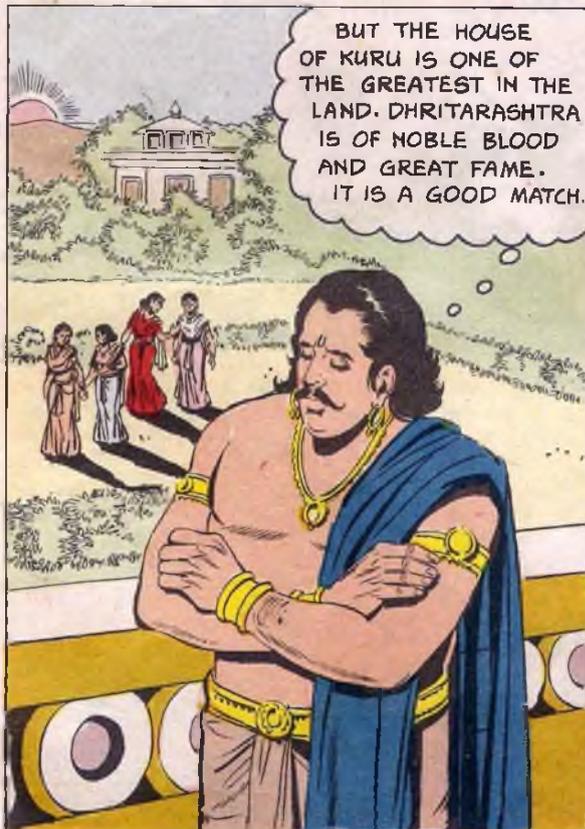
UNFORTUNATELY, HE IS....



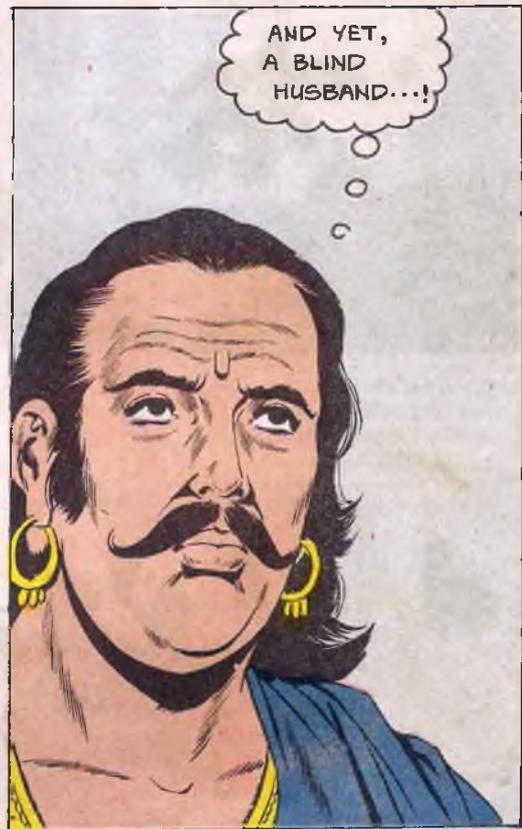
FOR MY GANDHARI  
— A BLIND  
HUSBAND?



IS IT FAIR TO HER?  
TO CHAIN HER TO A  
MAN WHO CANNOT  
SEE?



BUT THE HOUSE  
OF KURU IS ONE OF  
THE GREATEST IN THE  
LAND. DHRTARASHTRA  
IS OF NOBLE BLOOD  
AND GREAT FAME.  
IT IS A GOOD MATCH.



AND YET,  
A BLIND  
HUSBAND...!

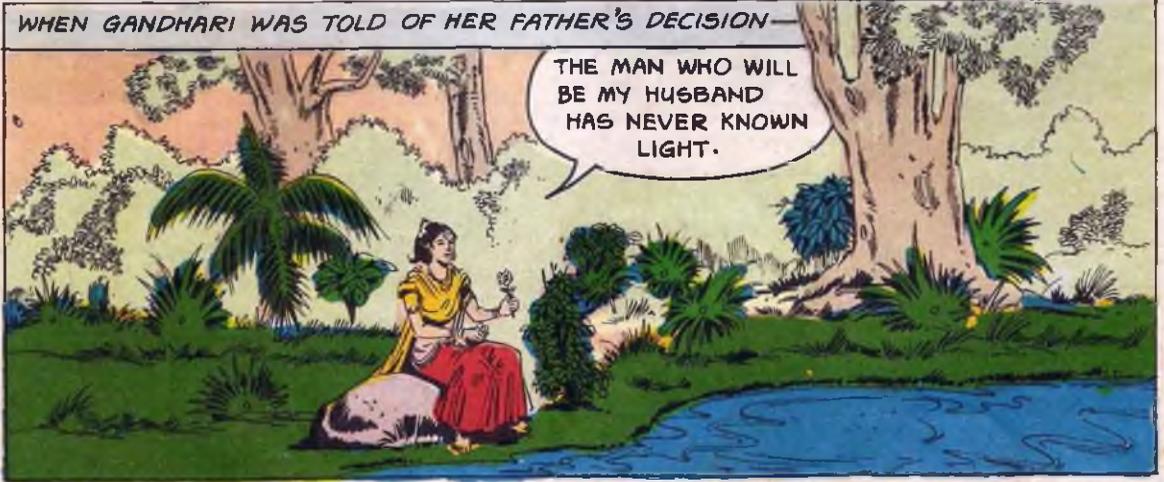
AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF HESITATION —

MY MIND IS MADE UP. SEND WORD TO BHEESHMA THAT THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED.



WHEN GANDHARI WAS TOLD OF HER FATHER'S DECISION —

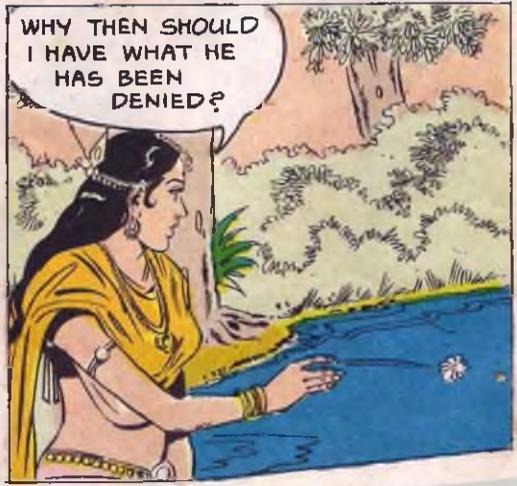
THE MAN WHO WILL BE MY HUSBAND HAS NEVER KNOWN LIGHT.



HE CANNOT SEE THE BIRDS, THE FLOWERS, AND NATURE'S BEAUTIFUL COLOURS.



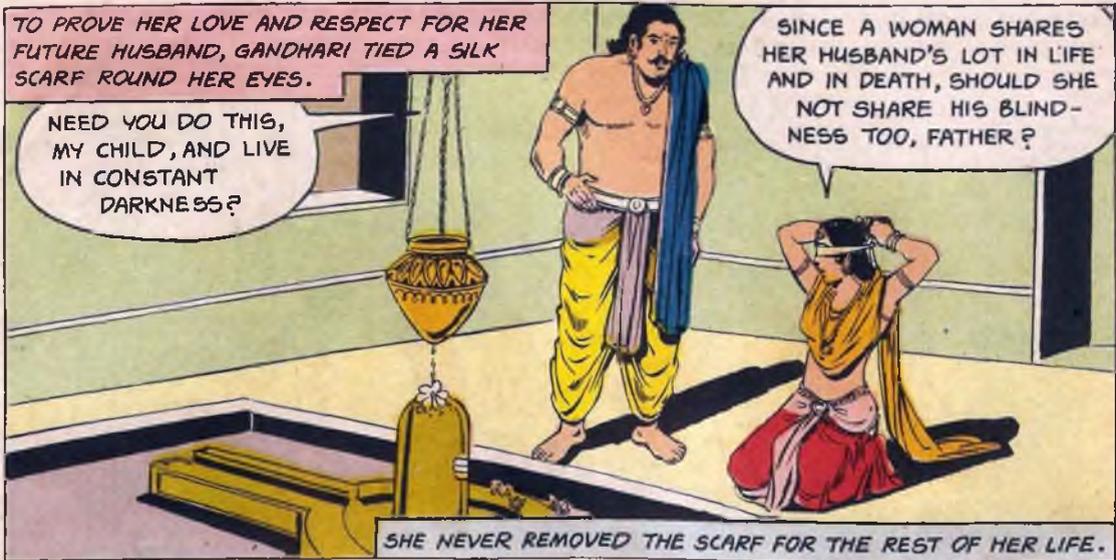
WHY THEN SHOULD I HAVE WHAT HE HAS BEEN DENIED?



TO PROVE HER LOVE AND RESPECT FOR HER FUTURE HUSBAND, GANDHARI TIED A SILK SCARF ROUND HER EYES.

SINCE A WOMAN SHARES HER HUSBAND'S LOT IN LIFE AND IN DEATH, SHOULD SHE NOT SHARE HIS BLINDNESS TOO, FATHER?

NEED YOU DO THIS, MY CHILD, AND LIVE IN CONSTANT DARKNESS?



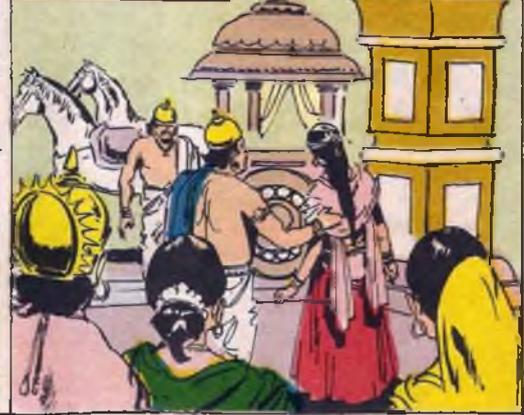
SHE NEVER REMOVED THE SCARF FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.

SOON IT WAS TIME FOR GANDHARI TO LEAVE FOR HER HUSBAND'S HOUSE.

GANDHARI'S BROTHER, SHAKUNI, ESCORTED HER.



YOU HAVE BEEN THE LIGHT OF YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE. BRING BRIGHTNESS TO YOUR NEW HOME, TOO.



BHEESHMA RECEIVED THEM ON THEIR ARRIVAL AT HASTINAPURA.

THE BRIDE... BLINDFOLDED? WHAT IS THIS?

SHE HAS DONE THIS TO SHARE DHRITARASHTRA'S BLINDNESS.

I CAN SEE THAT GANDHARI IS NO ORDINARY WOMAN.



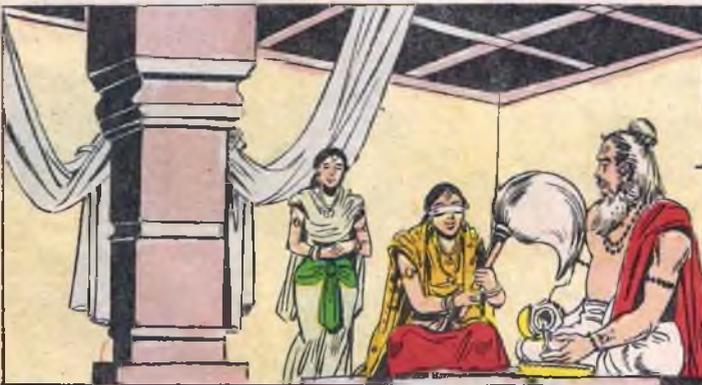
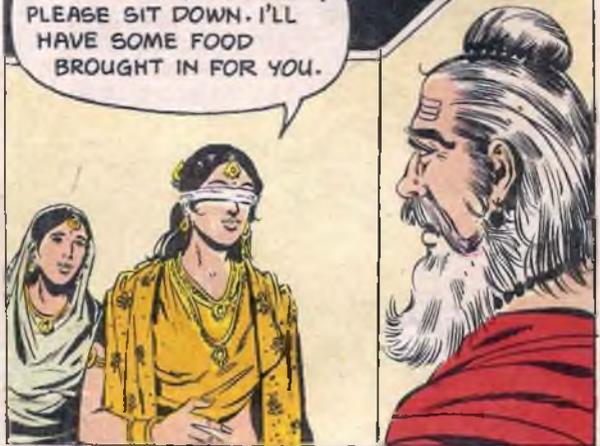
GANDHARI AND DHRITARASHTRA WERE MARRIED. BHEESHMA AND DHRITARASHTRA'S BROTHERS, PANDU AND VIDURA, WERE PRESENT AT THE WEDDING.



GANDHARI WAS THE IDEAL WIFE AND QUEEN. ONE DAY SAGE VYASA, WHO WAS A FREQUENT VISITOR, CAME TO THE PALACE.



IS THAT YOU, MAHARSHI? PLEASE SIT DOWN. I'LL HAVE SOME FOOD BROUGHT IN FOR YOU.



AH! THAT WAS DELICIOUS. GANDHARI, YOU ARE ALL THAT A WOMAN SHOULD BE. FOR YOUR CARE OF ME TODAY, I GRANT YOU A HUNDRED SONS.

SOME TIME LATER —

YOU MUST EAT WELL AND  
LOOK AFTER YOURSELF  
PROPERLY, MY QUEEN. THE  
SONS YOU ARE EXPECTING  
WILL THEN BE STRONG  
AND HEALTHY.

I HAVE  
NEVER FELT  
SO FIT IN  
MY LIFE!

MY SONS SHALL  
GROW UP TO BE  
STRONG, GOOD  
AND WISE.

MANY MONTHS PASSED. BUT —

WHAT HAS GONE  
WRONG ?

THE QUEEN SHOULD  
HAVE GIVEN BIRTH  
TO HER SONS LONG  
AGO. I FEEL VERY  
WORRIED.

ONE DAY —

MY QUEEN, I BRING  
GOOD NEWS! YOUR SISTER-  
IN-LAW, KUNTI, KING PANDU'S  
WIFE, HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO  
A BOY. HE IS TO BE  
NAMED YUDHISHTHIRA.



OH, LUCKY KUNTI! YOU ARE IN THE FOREST, BUT YOU ARE A HAPPY MOTHER! HERE IN THE PALACE, THOUGH I HAVE EVERY LUXURY, I LACK THE ONE THING THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY — MOTHERHOOD.



FINALLY, ONLY ONE CHILD WAS BORN TO GANDHARI.

WE THANK YOU, OH LORD, FOR BESTOWING ON US AN HEIR TO THE KURU THRONE.

PLEASE TELL ME, IS HE HEALTHY? WHO DOES HE LOOK LIKE? MAY I HOLD HIM?

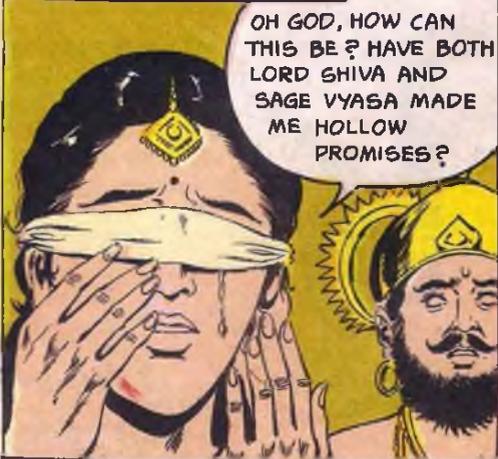
BUT IT WAS A STRANGE CHILD. IT WAS LIFELESS; AND IT HAD NEITHER SHAPE NOR FEATURES.

WHEN BHEESHMA TOLD THEM, GANDHARI WAS GRIEF-STRICKEN.



WHY IS NO ONE SPEAKING? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

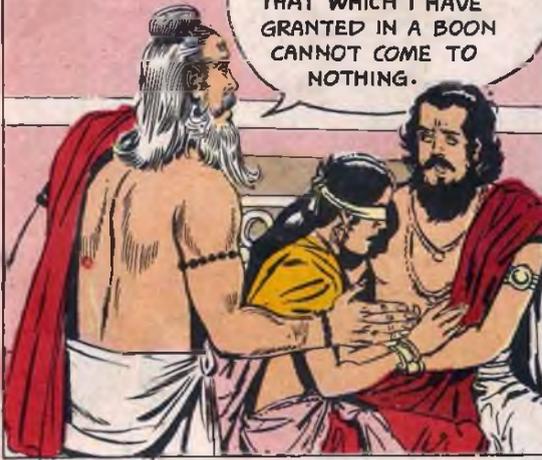
BHEESHMA, MY UNCLE; VIDURA, MY BROTHER — TELL US, WHAT IS IT?



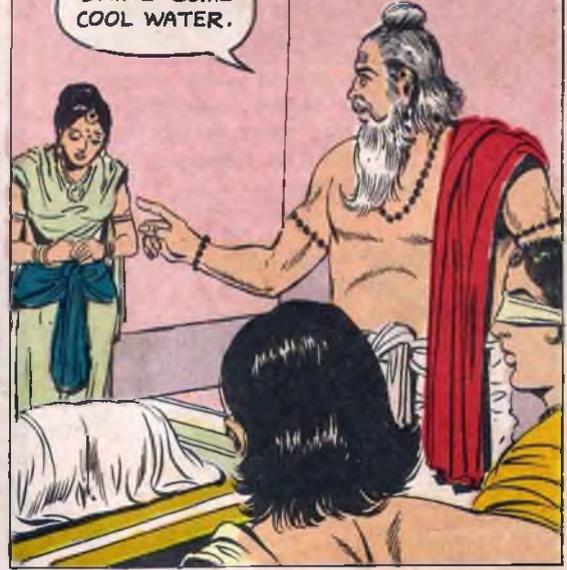
OH GOD, HOW CAN THIS BE? HAVE BOTH LORD SHIVA AND SAGE VYASA MADE ME HOLLOW PROMISES?

SAGE VYASA CAME AT ONCE WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS —

CONSOLE YOURSELF, GANDHARI. YOU SHALL HAVE A HUNDRED SONS. THAT WHICH I HAVE GRANTED IN A BOON CANNOT COME TO NOTHING.

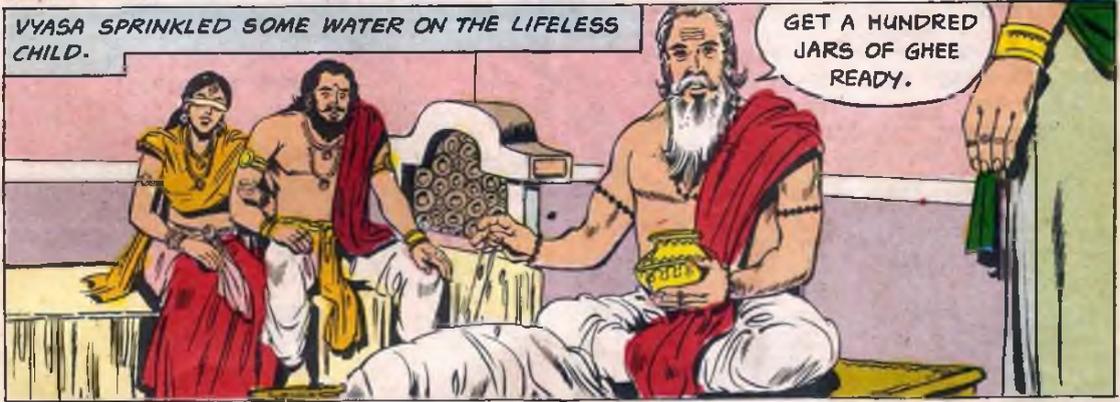


BRING SOME COOL WATER.



VYASA SPRINKLED SOME WATER ON THE LIFELESS CHILD.

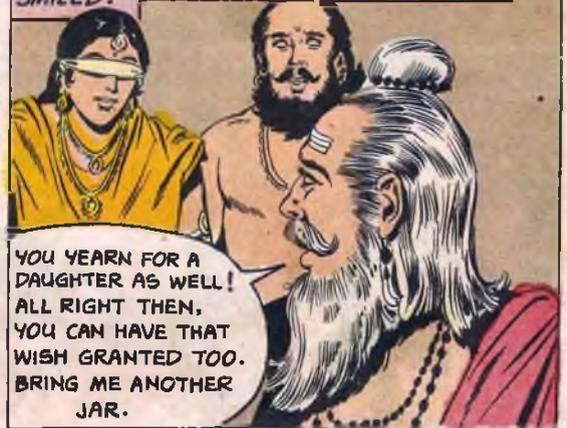
GET A HUNDRED JARS OF GHEE READY.



A HUNDRED SONS!  
BUT HOW NICE IT WOULD  
BE TO HAVE A  
DAUGHTER TOO.



VYASA READ GANDHARI'S MIND AND SMILED.



YOU YEARN FOR A DAUGHTER AS WELL!  
ALL RIGHT THEN,  
YOU CAN HAVE THAT  
WISH GRANTED TOO.  
BRING ME ANOTHER  
JAR.

THE LIFELESS CHILD SPLIT INTO A HUNDRED AND ONE PARTS AND VYASA PUT ONE PART INTO EACH OF THE JARS OF GHEE.

OPEN THESE JARS AFTER TWO YEARS, AND YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR HEART'S DESIRE.



GANDHARI WAITED PATIENTLY FOR TWO YEARS.

TOMORROW I CAN OPEN THE JARS. HOW EXCITED I AM!



THE KURU ELDERS ASSEMBLED THE NEXT DAY, TO WATCH SAGE VYASA'S MIRACLE TAKE PLACE.

MY FIRST SON...



...THE ONE I SHALL LOVE THE MOST!

SO WERE BORN THE KAURAVA PRINCES AND THEIR SISTER.

HE SHALL BE CALLED DURYODHANA.



SUDDENLY —

EEEEEE....

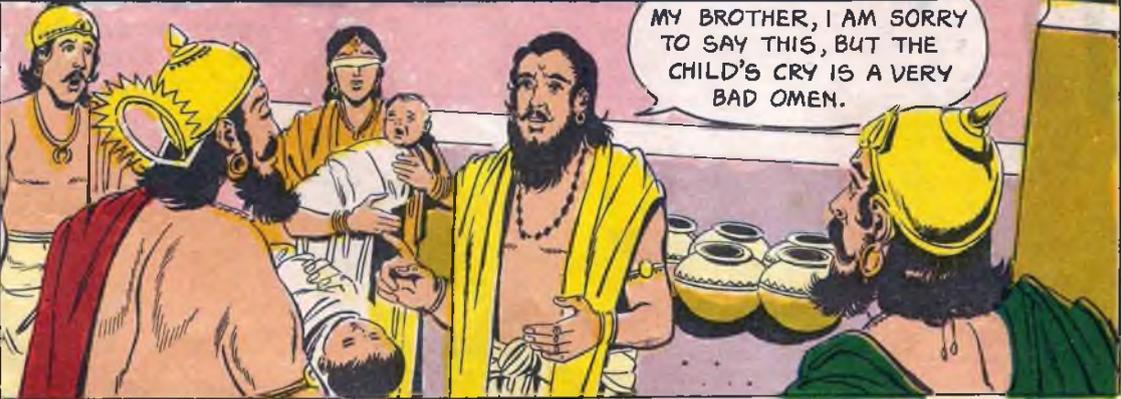
THE CHILD, DURYODHANA, WAS BRAYING LIKE AN ASS!

OH! WHAT IS IT?  
WHAT IS THAT  
SOUND?



EVERYONE WAS STUNNED. AFTER A SHOCKED SILENCE, VIDURA SPOKE.

MY BROTHER, I AM SORRY  
TO SAY THIS, BUT THE  
CHILD'S CRY IS A VERY  
BAD OMEN.



A BAD OMEN!



I... I CAN'T BELIEVE  
IT! WHAT CAN WE  
DO?



VIDURA WAS SILENT FOR A MOMENT, THEN —

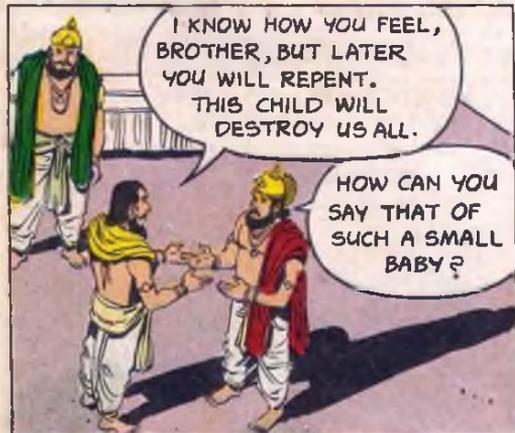
WE WILL HAVE TO ABANDON THE CHILD OR....

NO, DON'T SAY THAT! NOT WHEN HE WAS BORN SO AUSPICIOUSLY THROUGH THE GRACE OF SAGE VYASA!

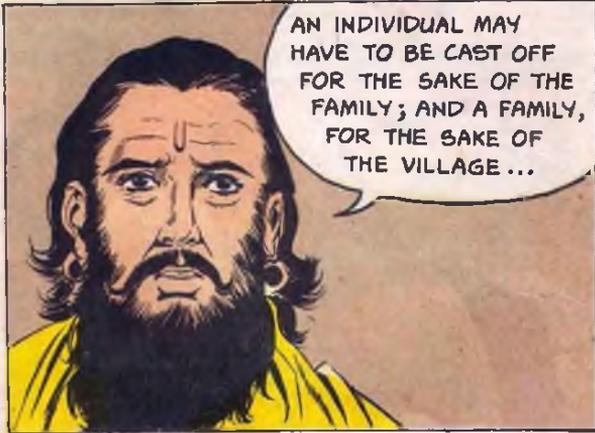


I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BROTHER, BUT LATER YOU WILL REPENT. THIS CHILD WILL DESTROY US ALL.

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT OF SUCH A SMALL BABY?

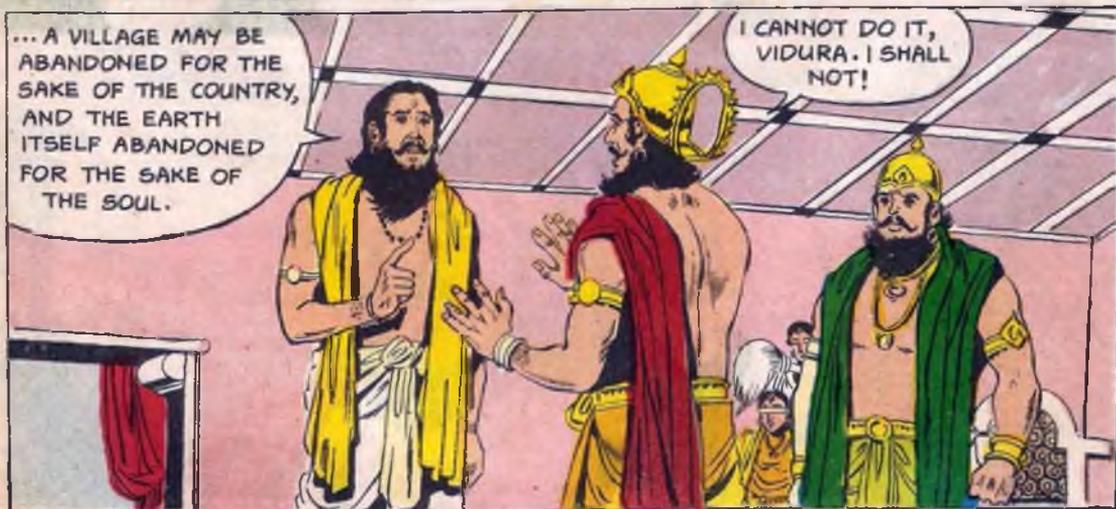


AN INDIVIDUAL MAY HAVE TO BE CAST OFF FOR THE SAKE OF THE FAMILY; AND A FAMILY, FOR THE SAKE OF THE VILLAGE...



... A VILLAGE MAY BE ABANDONED FOR THE SAKE OF THE COUNTRY, AND THE EARTH ITSELF ABANDONED FOR THE SAKE OF THE SOUL.

I CANNOT DO IT, VIDURA. I SHALL NOT!



DO NOT WEEP, GANDHARI.  
YOUR SON SHALL NOT  
BE TAKEN FROM  
YOU.

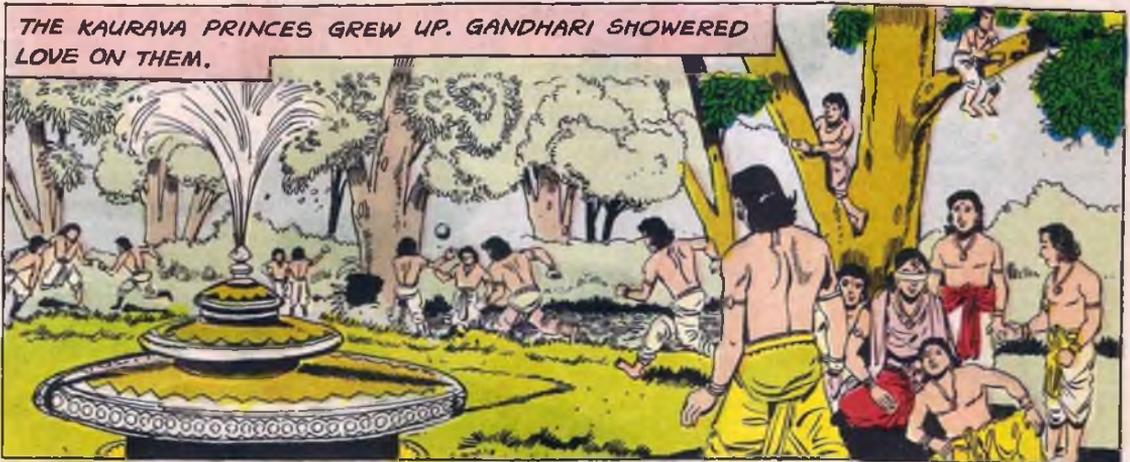


THE KING DECIDED TO KEEP HIS SON, IN  
SPITE OF VIDURA'S WARNING. BUT THE  
STRANGE BIRTH-CRY OF HER SON  
HAUNTED GANDHARI.



I AM FILLED  
WITH DREAD  
FOR THE  
FUTURE.

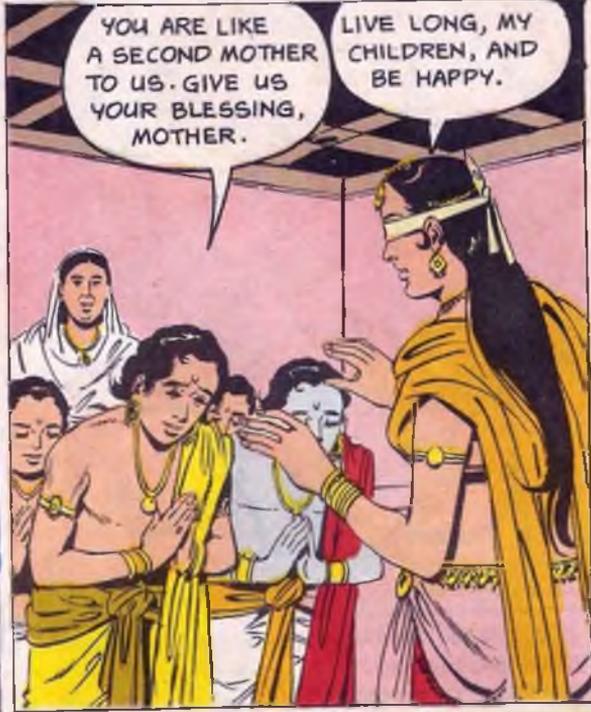
THE KAURAVA PRINCES GREW UP. GANDHARI SHOWERED  
LOVE ON THEM.



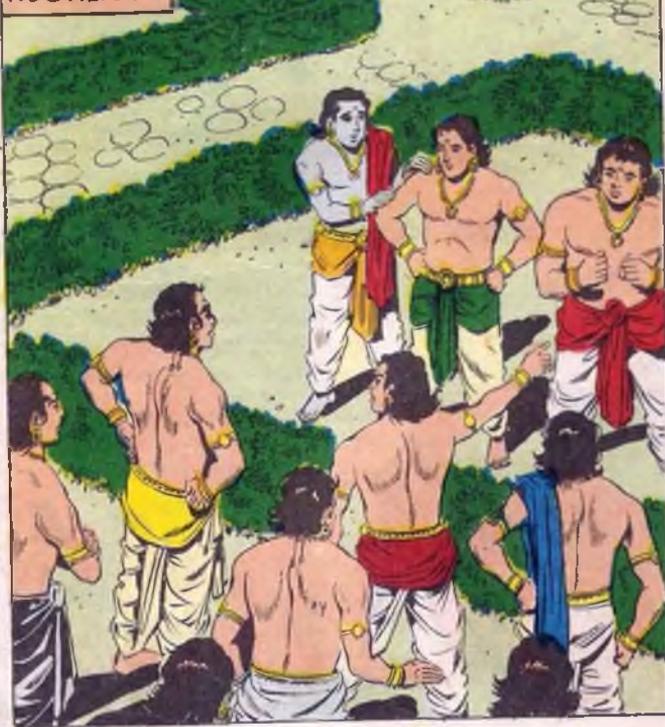
SOME TIME LATER, DHRITARASHTRA'S BROTHER, PANDU, PASSED  
AWAY IN THE FOREST. HIS WIDOW, KUNTI, RETURNED TO THE  
PALACE WITH HER FIVE SONS, YUDHISHTHIRA, ARJUNA,  
BHIMA, NAKULA AND SAHADEVA.

WELCOME, DEAR KUNTI. YOU  
MUST TREAT THIS AS  
YOUR OWN HOME.





GANDHARI AND KUNTI LOVED AND RESPECTED EACH OTHER LIKE SISTERS, BUT BETWEEN THEIR CHILDREN THERE GREW A GREAT AND FLAMING HOSTILITY.



GRADUALLY IT BECAME CLEAR THAT VIDURA'S FEARS CONCERNING DURYODHANA WERE WELL-FOUNDED. DURYODHANA TRIED TO POISON AND DROWN BHIMA WHO, HOWEVER, ESCAPED. BUT GANDHARI REFUSED TO BELIEVE IT —

LIES, ALL LIES! MY SON, DURYODHANA, WOULD NOT DO SUCH A THING TO BHIMA OR ANYONE ELSE!



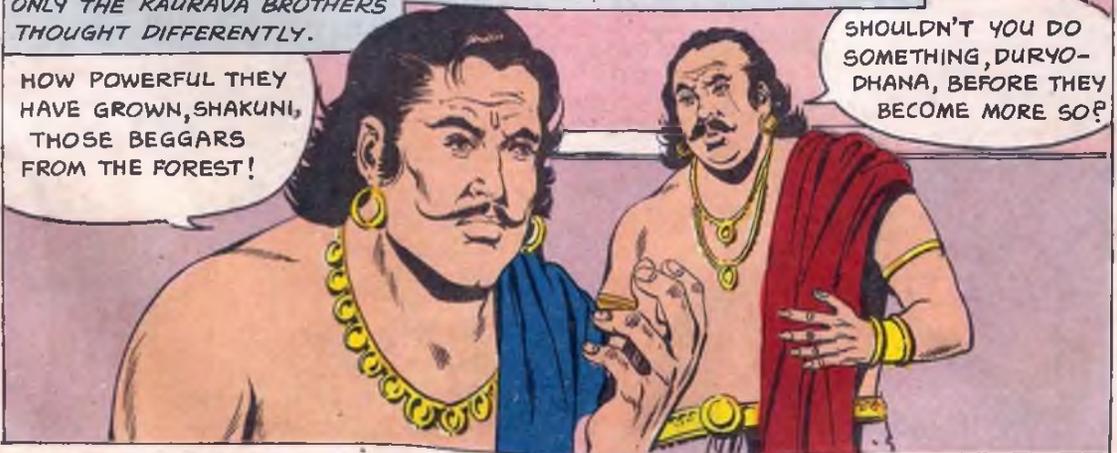
AS THE COUSINS GREW UP, THEIR HATRED INCREASED WITH THE PASSING YEARS. THINGS CAME TO A HEAD WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA WAS CROWNED HEIR-APPARENT.



EVERYONE AGREED THAT YUDHISHTHIRA HAD A RIGHT TO THE TITLE, BECAUSE HIS FATHER, PANDU, HAD CONQUERED MOST OF THE KINGDOM. ONLY THE KAURAVA BROTHERS THOUGHT DIFFERENTLY.

HOW POWERFUL THEY HAVE GROWN, SHAKUNI, THOSE BEGGARS FROM THE FOREST!

SHOULDN'T YOU DO SOMETHING, DURYODHANA, BEFORE THEY BECOME MORE SO?



ENCOURAGED BY SHAKUNI, DURYODHANA TRIED TO BURN THE PANDAVAS IN A HOUSE OF LAC.



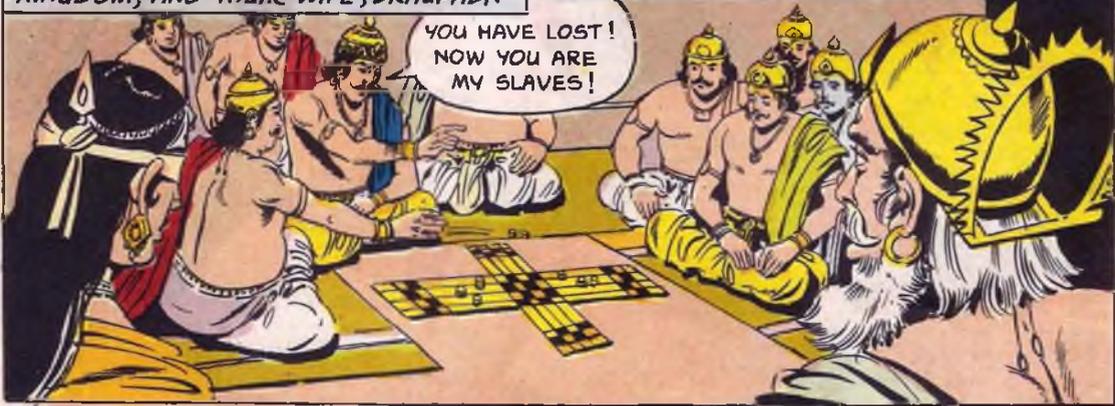
BUT THE PANDAVAS ESCAPED. LATER, THEY MARRIED DRAUPADI, THE PANCHALA PRINCESS. DHRITARASHTRA BESTOWED HALF HIS KINGDOM UPON YUDHISHTHIRA. THE PANDAVAS BUILT A NEW CAPITAL WHICH THEY CALLED INDRAPRASTHA.

GANDHARI TRIED TO DISMISS THE EVIL DEEDS OF HER SONS. BUT HER HEART WAS IN TURMOIL.



IS MY SON CAPABLE OF SUCH TREACHERY? WHAT SHOULD I BELIEVE?

BUT A DAY CAME WHEN THE TRUTH HAD TO BE FACED. IN A GAME OF DICE, DURYODHANA AND SHAKUNI STRIPPED THE PANDAVA BROTHERS OF THEIR WEALTH, THEIR KINGDOM, AND THEIR WIFE, DRAUPADI.



YOU HAVE LOST! NOW YOU ARE MY SLAVES!

DURYODHANA TURNED TO HIS BROTHER, DUSHSHASANA.



DRAG DRAUPADI INTO THE ROOM.

CERTAINLY, BROTHER.

GANDHARI AND ALL THE OTHERS PRESENT SAT ROOTED TO THEIR SEATS IN SHOCKED DISBELIEF.

NO, NO, YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

WE CAN DO ANYTHING WE LIKE!

MY OWN SON, DISHONOURING A CHASTE WIFE IN PUBLIC?



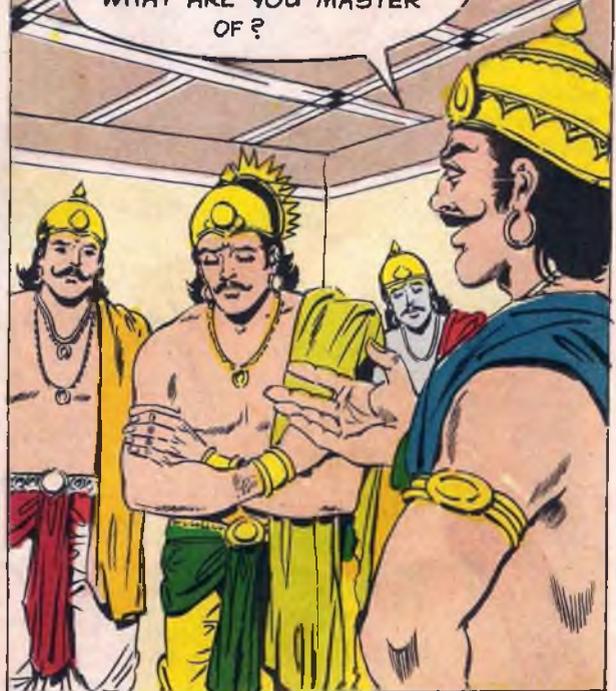
THE ELDERS COULD DO NOTHING FOR FEAR OF DURYODHANA.

HA, DRAUPADI! YOU HAVE FIVE HUSBANDS, YET NOT ONE CAN HELP YOU!

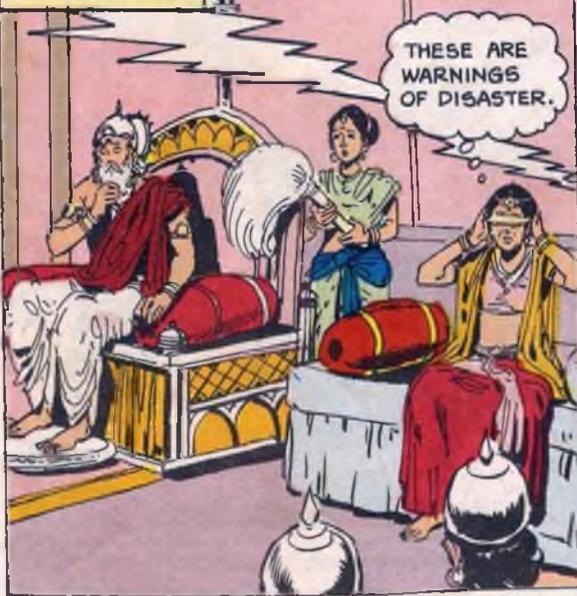


THE PANDAVAS TURNED SCARLET WITH HUMILIATION.

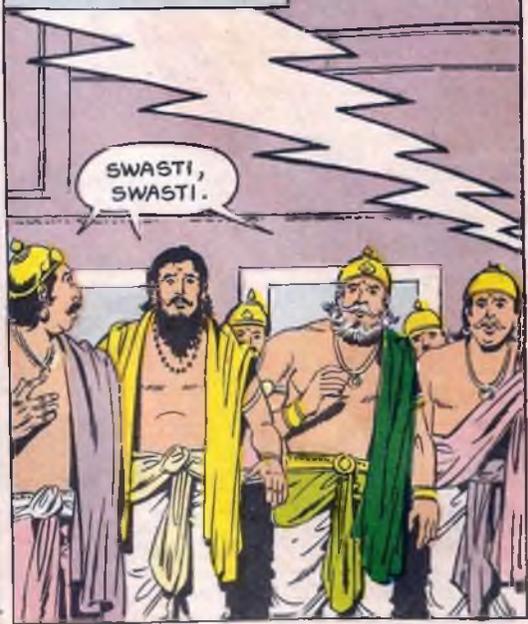
POOR YUDHISHTHIRA! YOU WERE LORD AND MASTER BEFORE THE GAME. NOW WHAT ARE YOU MASTER OF?



AT THAT MOMENT, JACKALS BEGAN TO HOWL AND BIRDS OF PREY CRIED OUT. EVERYONE TURNED PALE.



THE ELDERS CHANTED SACRED WORDS TO WARD OFF EVIL.



IT IS A TERRIBLE MOMENT WHEN A GOOD WOMAN IS FORCED TO ADMIT THAT HER SON IS WICKED.

DEAR LORD, HELP ME FACE THE BITTER TRUTH. IT IS TRUE: THERE ARE NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO WON'T SEE.



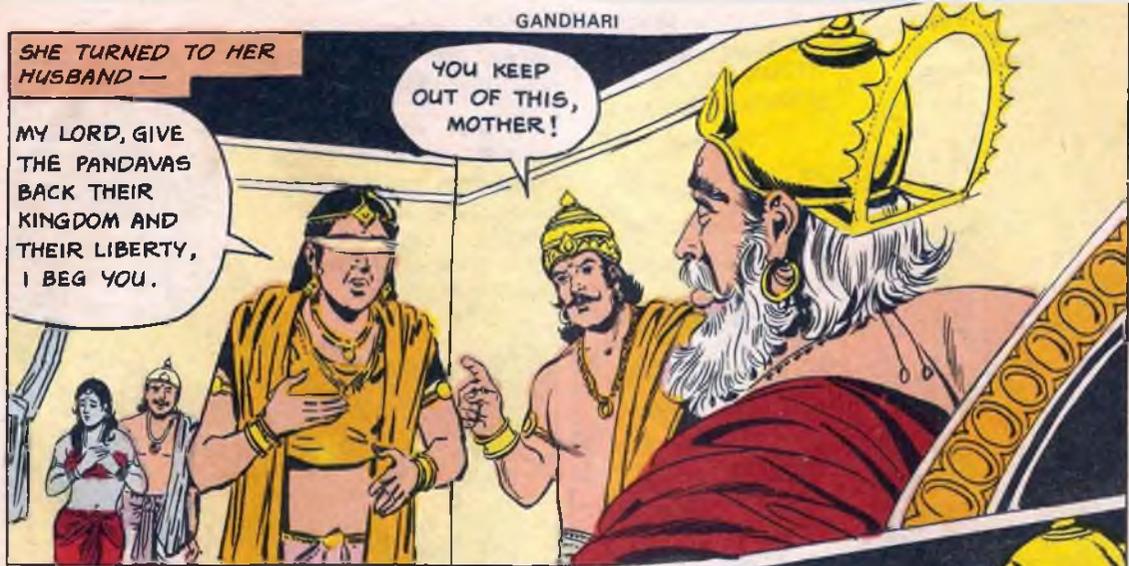
I HAVE MADE EXCUSES FOR MY SON THROUGH THE BLINDNESS OF MY LOVE. I SEE IT ALL TOO CLEARLY NOW. MY SON IS EVIL THROUGH AND THROUGH.



SHE TURNED TO HER HUSBAND —

MY LORD, GIVE THE PANDAVAS BACK THEIR KINGDOM AND THEIR LIBERTY, I BEG YOU.

YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS, MOTHER!

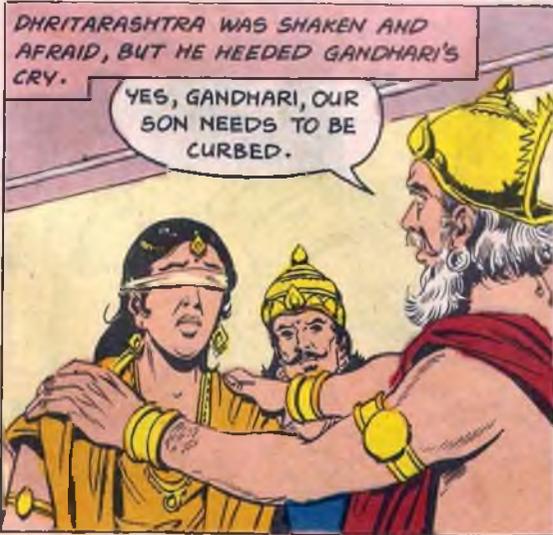


DON'T YOU HEAR THE OMENS? THE WISE VIDURA HAD WARNED US LONG AGO. OUR SON IS GROWING MORE VIOLENT EACH DAY. WE MUST CONTROL HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS US ALL!



DHRITARASHTRA WAS SHAKEN AND AFRAID, BUT HE HEADED GANDHARI'S CRY.

YES, GANDHARI, OUR SON NEEDS TO BE CURBED.



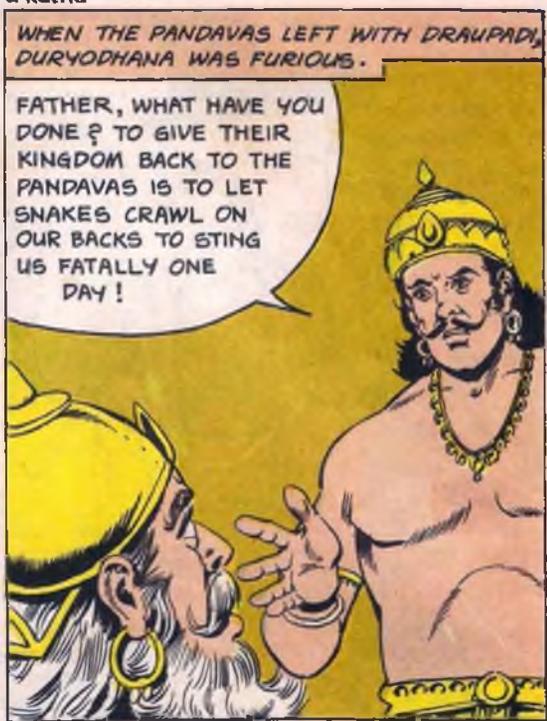
DRAUPADI, YOU HAVE BEEN WRONGED. ASK FOR A BOON.





MY LORD, RESTORE THE KINGDOM TO MY HUSBANDS.

IT SHALL BE DONE. RETURN TO INDRA-PRASTHA IN PEACE.



WHEN THE PANDAVAS LEFT WITH DRAUPADI, DURYODHANA WAS FURIOUS.

FATHER, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ? TO GIVE THEIR KINGDOM BACK TO THE PANDAVAS IS TO LET SNAKES CRAWL ON OUR BACKS TO STING US FATALLY ONE DAY !



CALL THEM BACK ! WE'LL PLAY ANOTHER GAME.

THE WEAK DHRITARASHTRA GAVE IN AND THE PANDAVAS WERE ASKED TO RETURN.



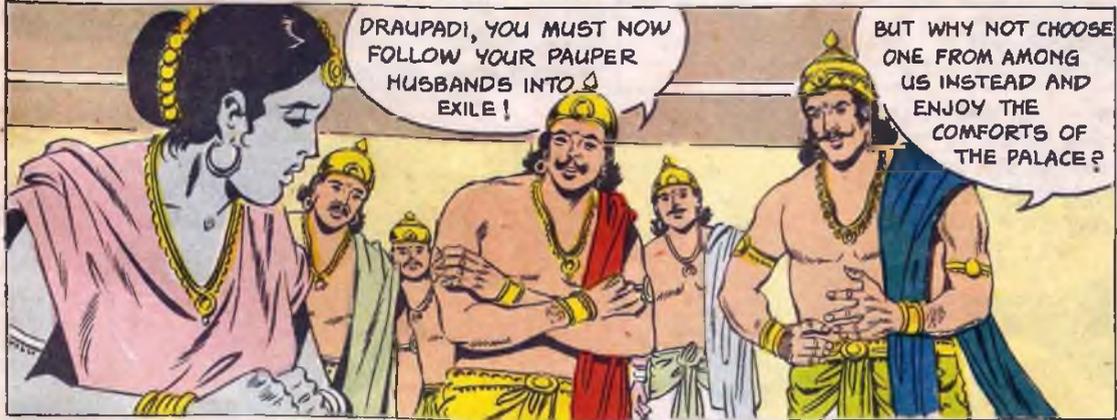
THE LOSERS WILL GO INTO EXILE FOR THIRTEEN YEARS. AGREED ?

AGREED.

AGAIN THE PANDAVAS LOST —



YUDHISHTHIRA, YOU'VE LOST IN A FAIR GAME. NOW SHOW YOUR MUCH-PRaised GOODNESS — AND GO!



DRAUPADI, YOU MUST NOW FOLLOW YOUR PAUPER HUSBANDS INTO EXILE!

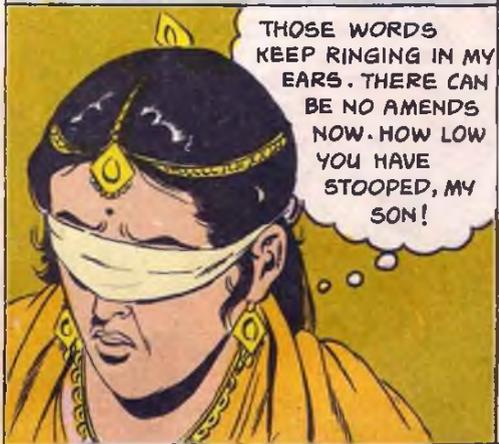
BUT WHY NOT CHOOSE ONE FROM AMONG US INSTEAD AND ENJOY THE COMFORTS OF THE PALACE?

THE PANDAVAS COULD BEAR THEIR TAUNTS NO LONGER.

DURYODHANA, THE RIFT BETWEEN US IS TOO DEEP EVER TO BE CLOSED. WE SHALL BE BACK IN THIRTEEN YEARS AND THEN WE SHALL HAVE OUR REVENGE.



ARJUNA'S WORDS PUT THE FINAL SEAL ON THE DESTINY OF THE KAURAVAS.



THOSE WORDS KEEP RINGING IN MY EARS. THERE CAN BE NO AMENDS NOW. HOW LOW YOU HAVE STOOPED, MY SON!

KUNTI REMAINED IN THE PALACE.

THE WAYS OF FATE ARE STRANGE, KUNTI. DO NOT GRIEVE. WE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.



FINALLY THIRTEEN YEARS PASSED. WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT DURYODHANA WOULD NOT RESTORE THEIR KINGDOM, THE PANDAVAS PREPARED FOR BATTLE.

THE PANDAVA ARMY IS SAID TO BE FORMIDABLE. LORD KRISHNA IS ON THEIR SIDE TOO. AND HE IS GOD INCARNATE. I AM AFRAID FOR YOU, MY SONS.



DHRITARASHTRA AND GANDHARI TRIED TO REASON WITH DURYODHANA.

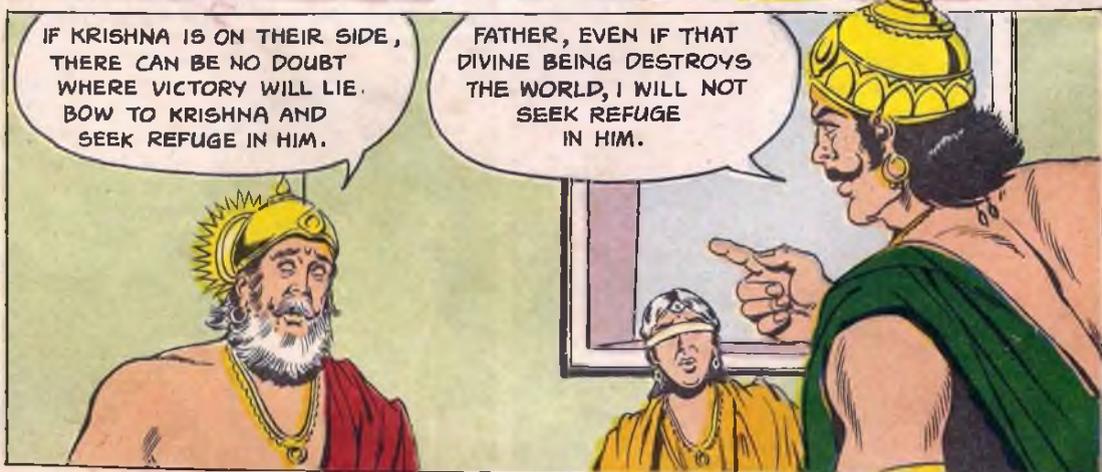
MY SON, YOU KNOW THE MIGHT OF THE PANDAVAS. WHY DON'T YOU CALL OFF THE BATTLE? THERE'S STILL TIME.

I REFUSE TO DO THAT, FATHER. OUR ARMY IS EQUALLY STRONG. WE WILL DEFEAT THE PANDAVAS.



IF KRISHNA IS ON THEIR SIDE, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT WHERE VICTORY WILL LIE. BOW TO KRISHNA AND SEEK REFUGE IN HIM.

FATHER, EVEN IF THAT DIVINE BEING DESTROYS THE WORLD, I WILL NOT SEEK REFUGE IN HIM.



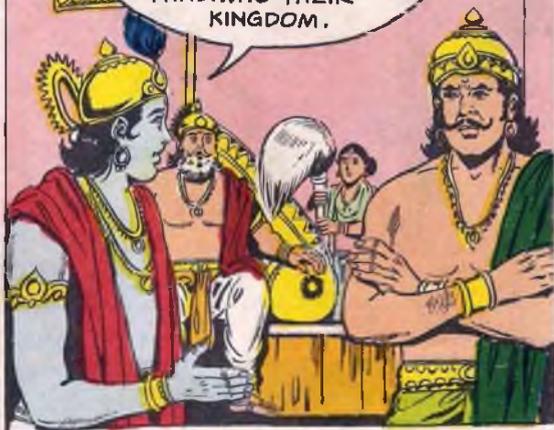
GANDHARI BURST OUT IN SUDDEN ANGER.

EVIL ONE, YOUR HEART IS FULL OF VIOLENCE. YOUR FATHER'S WORDS WILL BE REMEMBERED WHEN BHIMA KILLS YOU ONE DAY.



EVEN KRISHNA TRIED TO REASON WITH DURYODHANA.

DON'T LET FUTURE GENERATIONS CALL YOU THE DESTROYER OF YOUR RACE. GIVE THE NOBLE PANDAVAS THEIR KINGDOM.



KRISHNA, YOU HAVE ALWAYS PRAISED THE PANDAVAS. BUT HAVE YOU EVER SPOKEN ON MY BEHALF? NEVER!



IS NOT HALF A KINGDOM LARGE ENOUGH TO LIVE HAPPILY IN? NO GOOD CAN COME OF WAR, MY SON.



MOTHER, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS. SO PLEASE DON'T INTERFERE.

AS THE DAY OF THE BATTLE DREW NEAR—

MOTHER,  
GIVE ME YOUR  
BLESSING.

MY SON, YOU HAVE MY  
BLESSING. MAY VICTORY  
LIE ON THE SIDE OF  
THE RIGHTEOUS.

GANDHARI BLESSED HER SON  
WITH THESE WORDS EVERY DAY.

DURYODHANA KNEW THAT GANDHARI'S WORDS ALWAYS CAME TRUE.

WILL YOU  
NOT SAY THAT  
OUR SIDE WILL  
WIN?

I WILL SAY ONLY  
THIS: MAY VICTORY  
LIE ON THE SIDE  
OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

ONE FATEFUL DAY THE BATTLE BEGAN AT KURUKSHETRA. IT RAGED FOR EIGHTEEN  
TERRIBLE DAYS. THOUSANDS WERE KILLED. THE KAURAVAS MET WITH THE HEAVIEST  
LOSSES.



NUMB WITH GRIEF, DHRITARASHTRA WENT TO GANDHARI.

MY QUEEN, OF ALL OUR ARMY, ONLY THREE HAVE SURVIVED.

WHO... WHO ARE THEY?



OUR SONS ARE NOT AMONG THE SURVIVORS, MY QUEEN.



A HUNDRED SONS ... AND NOT EVEN ONE ALIVE?

NO, MY QUEEN.



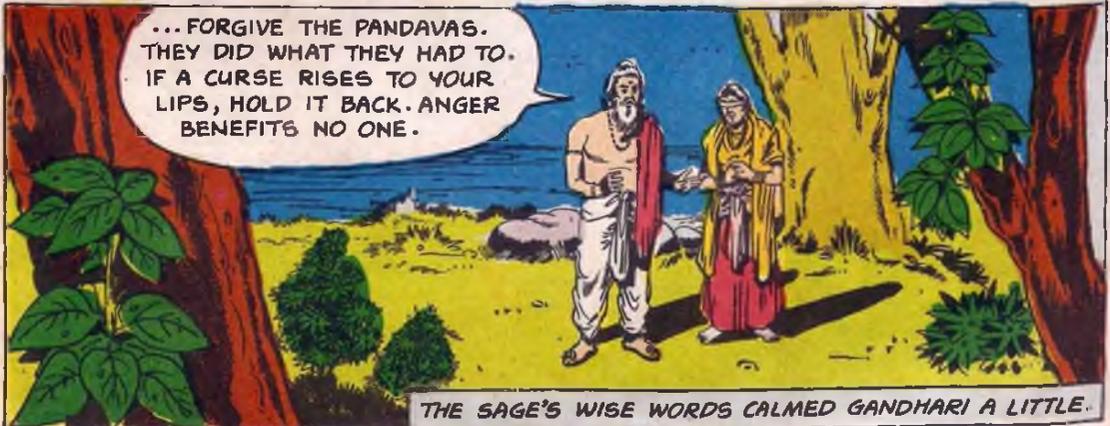
THE BEREAVED COUPLE, NOW NO LONGER KING AND QUEEN, LEFT HASTINAPURA.

A BLAZING ANGER WAS RAGING IN GANDHARI. SAGE VYASA SENSED THE GREATNESS OF HER SORROW AND CAME TO SEE HER.

GANDHARI, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL. BUT DO NOT GIVE IN TO UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER...



...FORGIVE THE PANDAVAS. THEY DID WHAT THEY HAD TO. IF A CURSE RISES TO YOUR LIPS, HOLD IT BACK. ANGER BENEFITS NO ONE.



THE SAGE'S WISE WORDS CALMED GANDHARI A LITTLE.

KRISHNA CAME WITH THE PANDAVAS AND DRAUPADI TO MEET GANDHARI AND DHRTI-RASHTRA. DEJECTED EVEN IN THEIR VICTORY, AND AFRAID TO FACE GANDHARI, THEY STOOD HUMBLY BEFORE HER.

THE VICTORS! I CAN SEE, IN SPITE OF MY BLINDNESS, THE HAPPINESS ON YOUR FACES. THE STREETS ARE FULL OF WEEPING WOMEN. YOUR FAMOUS WAR HAS CAUSED A DEATH IN EVERY FAMILY IN ARYAVARTA. ARE THESE NOT GREAT AND HAPPY EVENTS?



THE PANDAVAS SAID NOTHING.

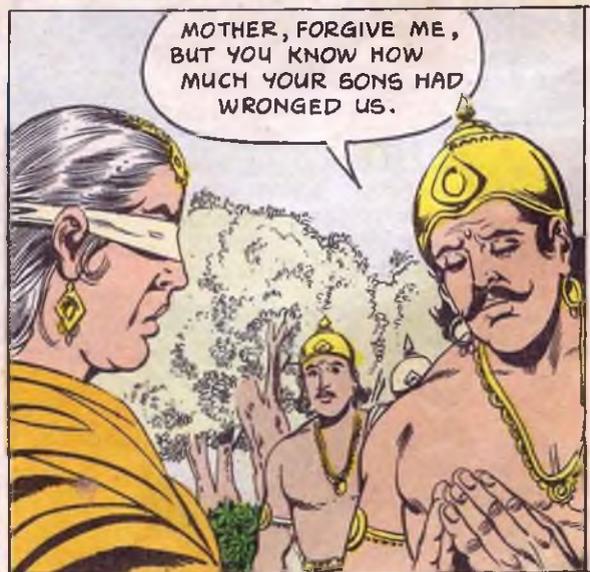
BHIMA, I HAD A HUNDRED SONS. YOU KILLED THEM ALL. YOU DID NOT SPARE EVEN ONE ...



... COULD YOU NOT HAVE LEFT JUST ONE CRUTCH FOR THIS POOR, BLIND COUPLE? JUST ONE?



MOTHER, FORGIVE ME, BUT YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR SONS HAD WRONGED US.

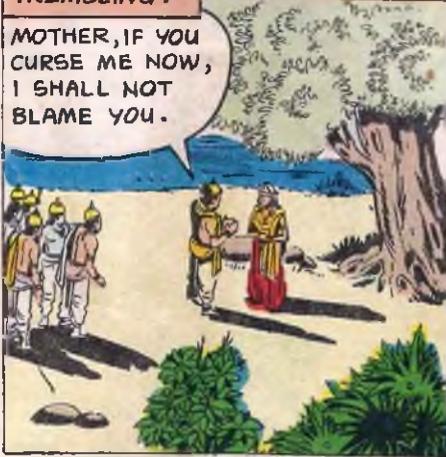


KNOWING HE WAS RIGHT, GANDHARI TURNED AWAY FROM HIM.



YUDHISHTHIRA CAME FORWARD, TREMBLING.

MOTHER, IF YOU CURSE ME NOW, I SHALL NOT BLAME YOU.



GANDHARI'S MIND WAS IN TORTURE.

THE RIGHTEOUS SIDE HAS WON AS I MYSELF PREDICTED. MY SONS DESERVED THEIR FATE.



YET, I, THEIR MOTHER—THE MOTHER NOW OF A HUNDRED DEAD SONS—BURN WITH GRIEF AND RAGE. I MUST SHAKE THIS ANGER OFF SOMEHOW.



AS YUDHISHTHIRA BENT DOWN TO TOUCH HER FEET, GANDHARI'S GLANCE FELL ON HIS TOE.



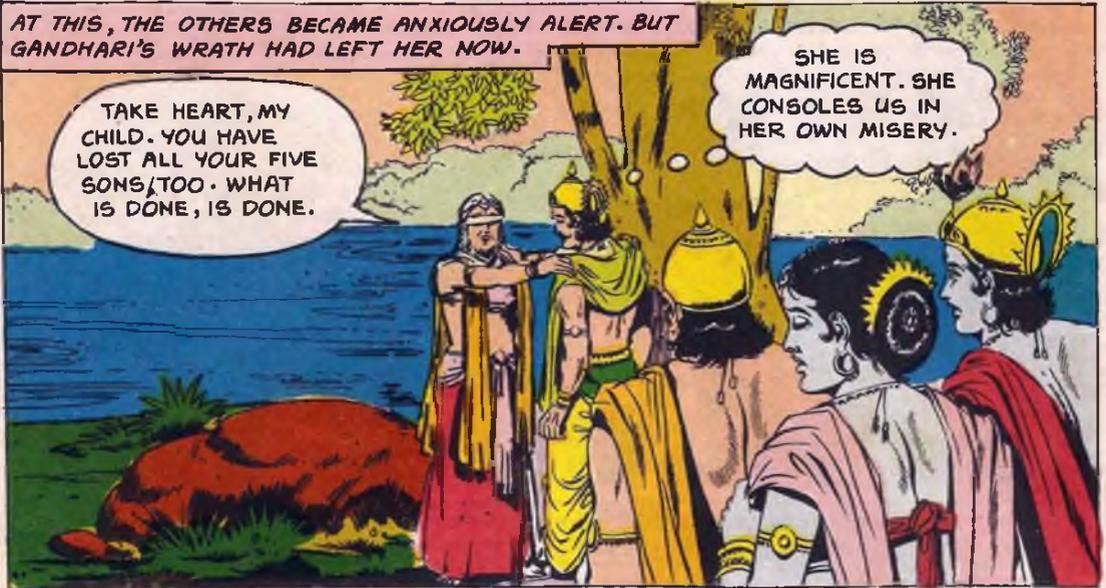
YUDHISHTHIRA'S NEAT AND WELL-SHAPED TOE-NAIL TURNED BLUE AND SORE AT GANDHARI'S FLAMING GLANCE.



AT THIS, THE OTHERS BECAME ANXIOUSLY ALERT. BUT GANDHARI'S WRATH HAD LEFT HER NOW.

TAKE HEART, MY CHILD. YOU HAVE LOST ALL YOUR FIVE SONS, TOO. WHAT IS DONE, IS DONE.

SHE IS MAGNIFICENT. SHE CONSOLES US IN HER OWN MISERY.



THEY REMOUNTED THEIR CHARIOTS AND LEFT FOR THE BATTLEFIELD TO MOURN THE DEAD AND PERFORM THE LAST RITES.

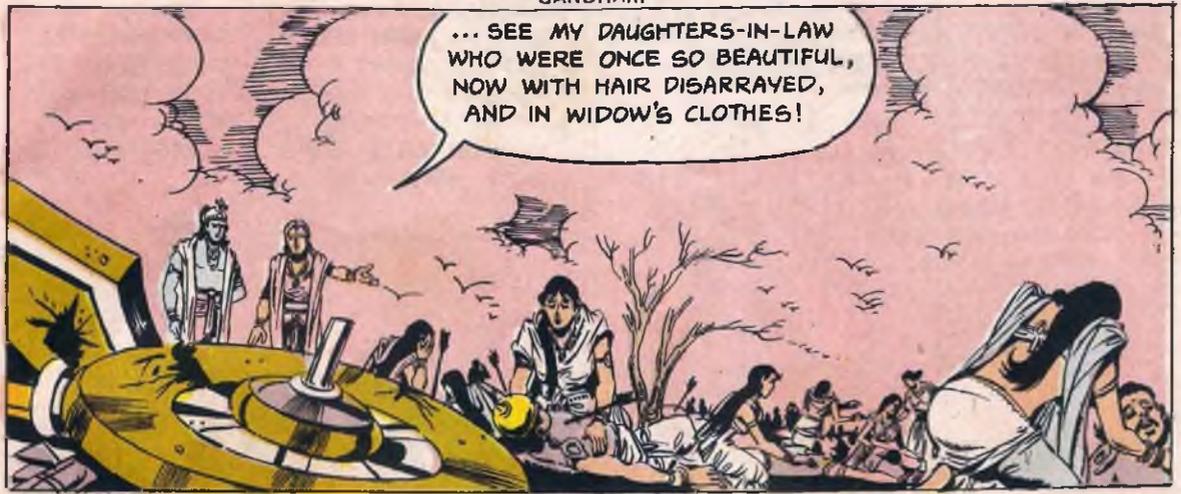


THEY REACHED THE SCENE OF DEVASTATION. THOUGH GANDHARI HAD THE CLOTH OVER HER EYES, EVERYTHING WAS VISIBLE TO HER THROUGH HER SPIRITUAL VISION.

SEE, KRISHNA, SEE THE SIGHTS AROUND YOU. SEE THE WOMEN, WEeping AND RUNNING ABOUT, LOOKING FOR THEIR DEAD MENFOLK...



... SEE MY DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW  
WHO WERE ONCE SO BEAUTIFUL,  
NOW WITH HAIR DISARRANGED,  
AND IN WIDOW'S CLOTHES!



SEE THESE HEROES, LORD  
JANARDANA, WHO ONCE SLEPT  
ON CLEAN, WHITE BEDS,  
SLEEPING NOW ON THE  
HARD, BARE GROUND!



THESE DEAD KINGS WHO  
USED TO HEAR POETS SING  
THEIR PRAISES, NOW HEAR  
THE HOWLS OF JACKALS  
AND THE SHRIEKS OF  
VULTURES!



OH, KRISHNA, THESE MIGHTY  
HEROES WHOM BEAUTIFUL  
MAIDENS USED TO FAN WITH  
SOFT, SILKEN FANS, ARE NOW  
FANNED BY THE ROUGH WINGS  
OF BIRDS OF PREY!



THE LAMENTING GANDHARI STOPPED BEFORE A FALLEN BODY AND KNEW IT TO BE DURYODHANA'S.

OH, MY SON, MY SON!  
ALAS! I, AN OLD WOMAN,  
AM STILL ALIVE - WHILE  
YOU, SO YOUNG AND  
STRONG, ARE COLD  
AND LIFELESS!



KRISHNA, WHY ARE  
YOU SO SILENT?  
DOESN'T THE SIGHT  
OF MY HUNDRED  
SLAUGHTERED SONS  
MOVE YOU AT ALL?

GANDHARI, YOU  
TRIED TO STOP  
YOUR SON, BUT  
HE DID NOT  
HEED YOU.



AND YOU, KRISHNA - YOU,  
WHO ARE THE LORD OF THE  
UNIVERSE, WHO CAN DESTROY  
OR CREATE WORLDS WITH ONE  
BREATH - COULD YOU NOT  
HAVE AVERTED THIS  
DESTRUCTION?



BUT YOU DID NOT! YOU, WHO  
HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE  
PEACE, DID NOT RAISE A  
FINGER TO PREVENT THIS  
BLOODSHED! IT IS YOUR  
INDIFFERENCE THAT HAS  
CAUSED ALL THIS!



KRISHNA COULD SAY NOTHING.



I HAVE LOVED YOU WELL  
BUT I CANNOT FORGIVE  
YOU FOR THIS, KRISHNA.  
WITH ALL THE MERIT  
I HAVE EARNED, I CURSE  
YOU...

...THIRTY-SIX YEARS FROM  
TODAY MAY YOUR KINSMEN,  
THE YADAVAS, BE DESTROYED  
AS OUR MEN HAVE BEEN NOW.  
MAY YOUR WOMENFOLK WEEP,  
AS WE WEEP NOW. AND MAY  
YOU, KRISHNA, DIE A  
WRETCHED DEATH IN  
THE FOREST!



YOU BLAME ME FOR SOMETHING  
THAT WAS INEVITABLE. IF YOU  
HAD CONTROLLED YOUR SON,  
THIS MIGHT NOT HAVE  
HAPPENED. BUT I ACCEPT  
YOUR CURSE, GOOD GANDHARI.



GANDHARI HAD CURSED LORD KRISHNA  
HIMSELF. BUT HER CURSE WAS TO COME  
TRUE YEARS LATER.

NOW GANDHARI, THE WOMAN WHO HAD SUSTAINED THE GREATEST PERSONAL LOSS IN  
THE BATTLE OF KURUKSHETRA, STAGGERED TOWARDS THE RIVER GANGA TO PERFORM  
THE LAST RITES FOR HER SONS.



A TPH Presentation

# SCIENCE ANIMAL LIFE HUMOUR MYTHS PUZZLES

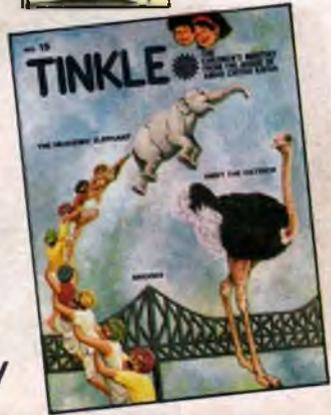


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THE CROW**

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## TINKLE

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