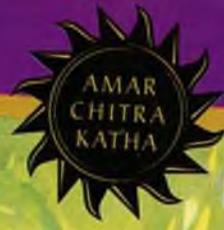


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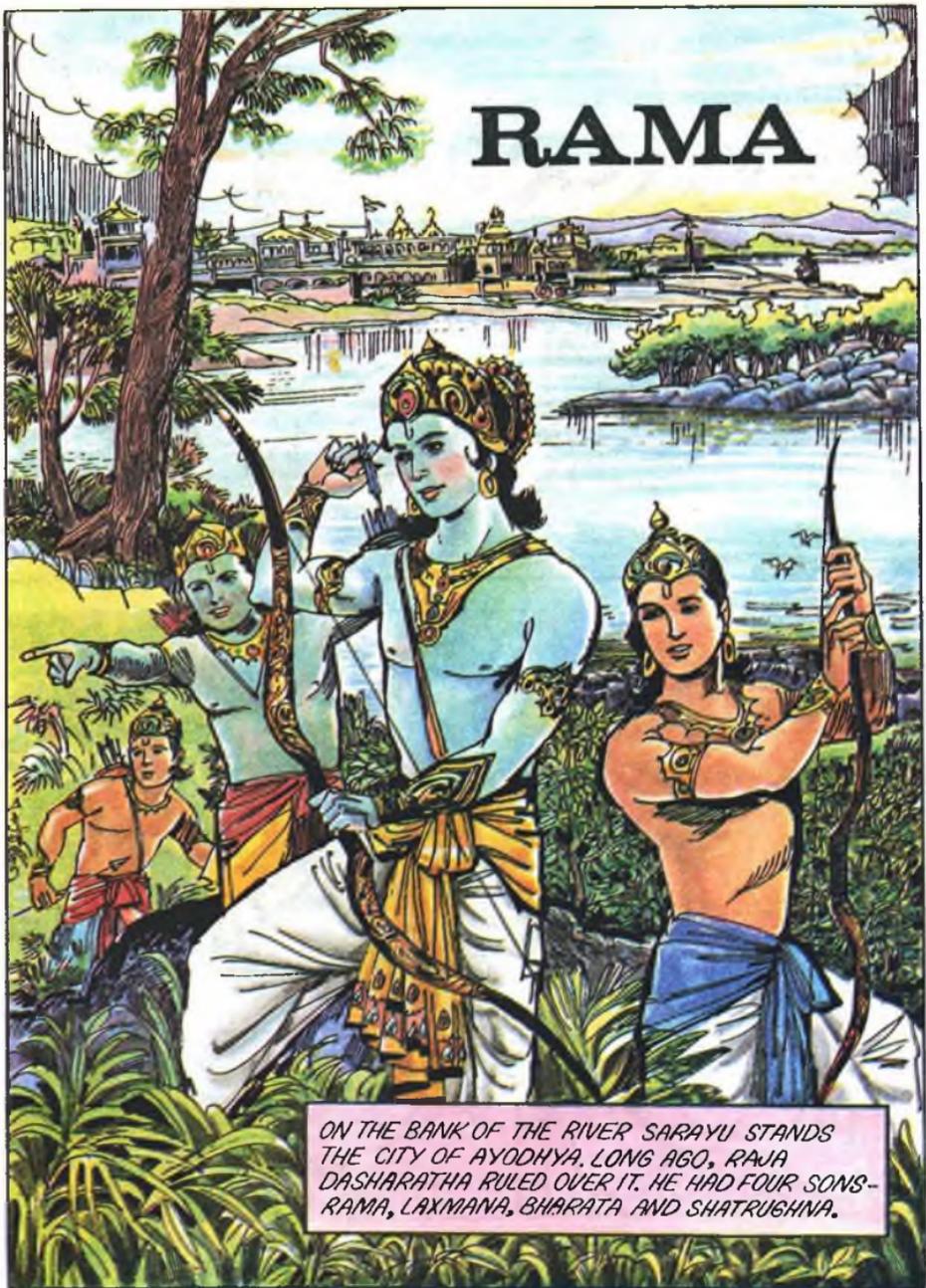
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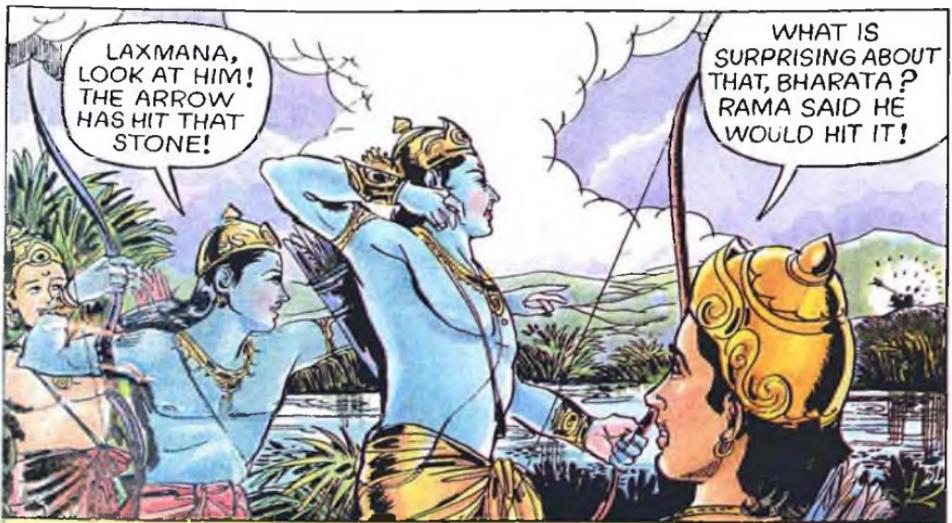
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RAMA



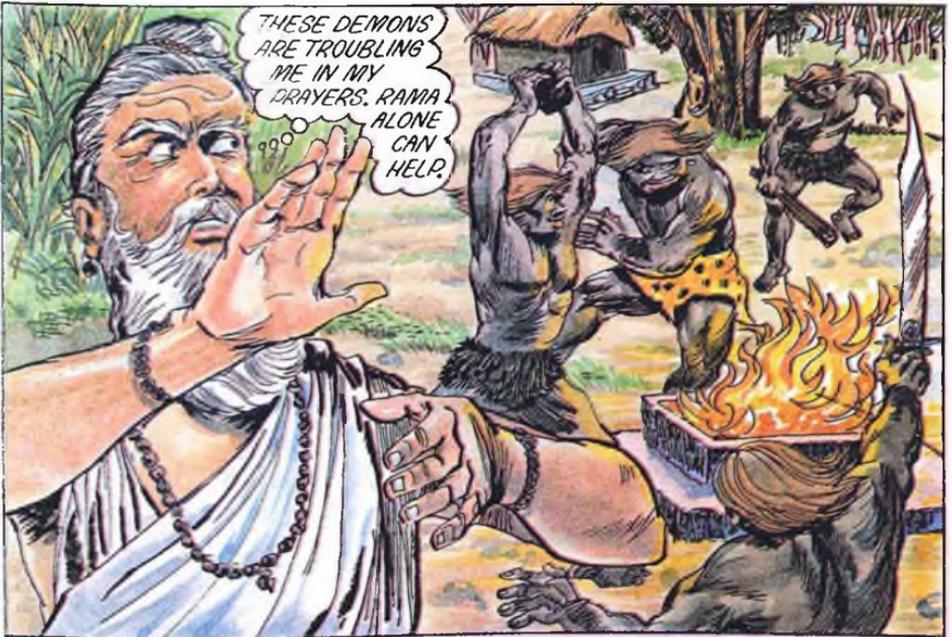
ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER SARAYU STANDS THE CITY OF AYODHYA. LONG AGO, RAJA DASHARATHA RULED OVER IT. HE HAD FOUR SONS- RAMA, LAXMANA, BHARATA AND SHATRUGHNA.



LAXMANA,
LOOK AT HIM!
THE ARROW
HAS HIT THAT
STONE!

WHAT IS
SURPRISING ABOUT
THAT, BHARATA?
RAMA SAID HE
WOULD HIT IT!

RAMA WAS BORN OF QUEEN KAUSHALYA, BHARATA OF QUEEN KAIKEYI AND LAXMANA AND SHATRUGHNA OF QUEEN SUMITRA. BUT THEY WERE ALL DEEPLY ATTACHED TO ONE ANOTHER.



THESE DEMONS
ARE TROUBLING
ME IN MY
PRAYERS. RAMA
ALONE
CAN
HELP.

RAMA'S SKILL WITH THE BOW AND ARROW WAS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE. IN THE JUNGLE, SAGE VISHWAMITRA ALSO REMEMBERED IT

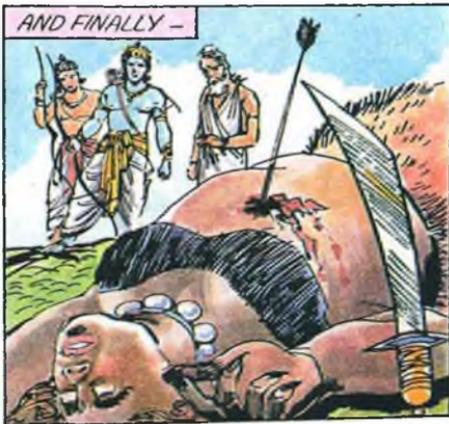
SO, WITH THE PERMISSION OF KING DASHARATHA, RAMA AND LAXMANA WERE BROUGHT TO THE JUNGLE. ONE DAY -



THERE WAS A FIERCE BATTLE BETWEEN TATAKA AND RAMA.



AND FINALLY -



THERE WERE MORE RAIDS BY DEMONS, BUT RAMA'S ARROWS NEVER MISSED THEIR MARK.





THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS ROAM ABOUT FREELY NOW.

YES, THE DEMONS BOTHER THEM NO MORE, MY SON!

A FEW DAYS LATER -



WE SHALL GO TO WITNESS THE SWAYAMVARA OF SITA, THE DAUGHTER OF RAJA JANAKA.

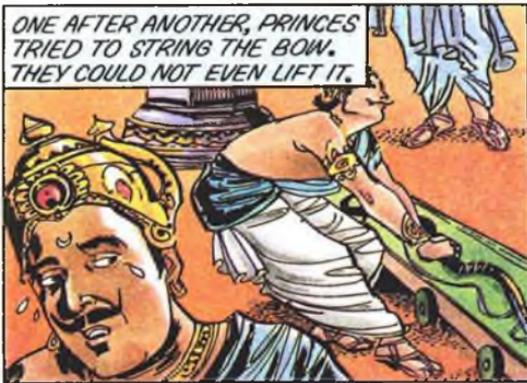
IN KING JANAKA'S PALACE -



HE WHO SUCCEEDS IN STRINGING THE BOW WILL WIN SITA'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.



ONE AFTER ANOTHER, PRINCES TRIED TO STRING THE BOW. THEY COULD NOT EVEN LIFT IT.



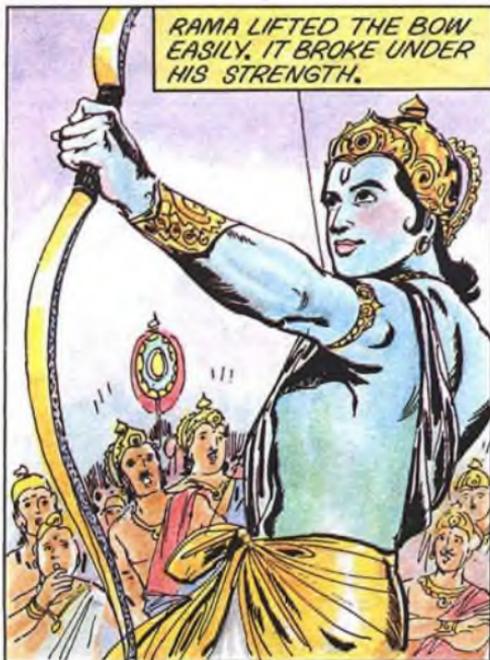
EACH ONE OF US HAS FAILED. SURELY WE CAN LIFT THIS BOW TOGETHER!



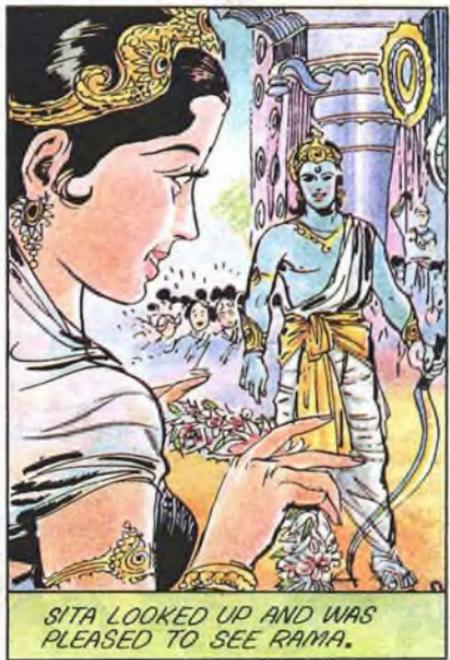
RAMA, MY SON! ALL THE OTHERS HAVE FAILED, NOW LIFT THE BOW AND BRING HAPPINESS TO SITA!



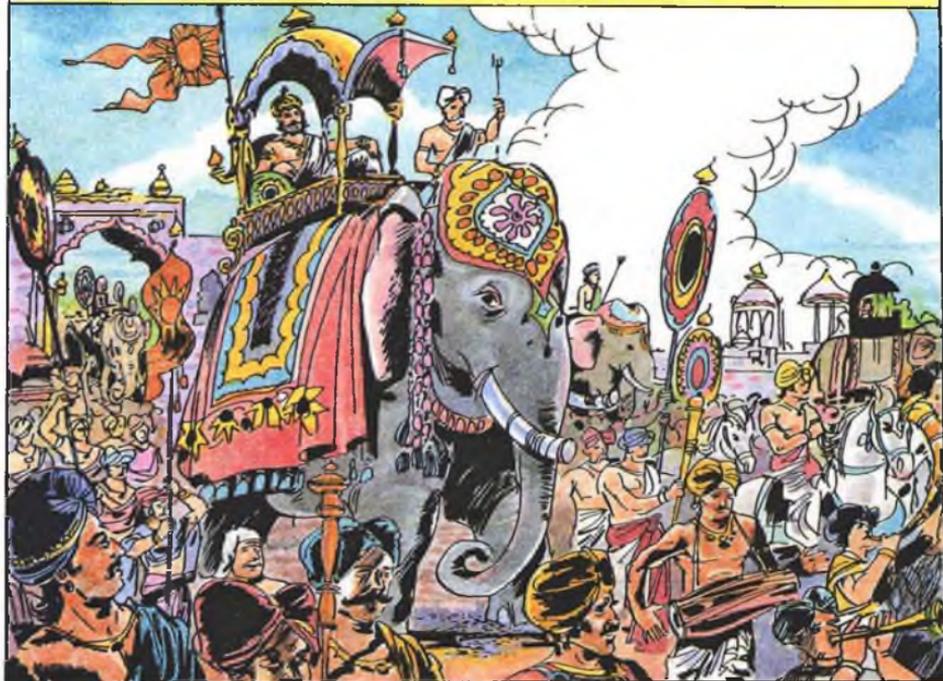
RAMA LIFTED THE BOW EASILY. IT BROKE UNDER HIS STRENGTH.



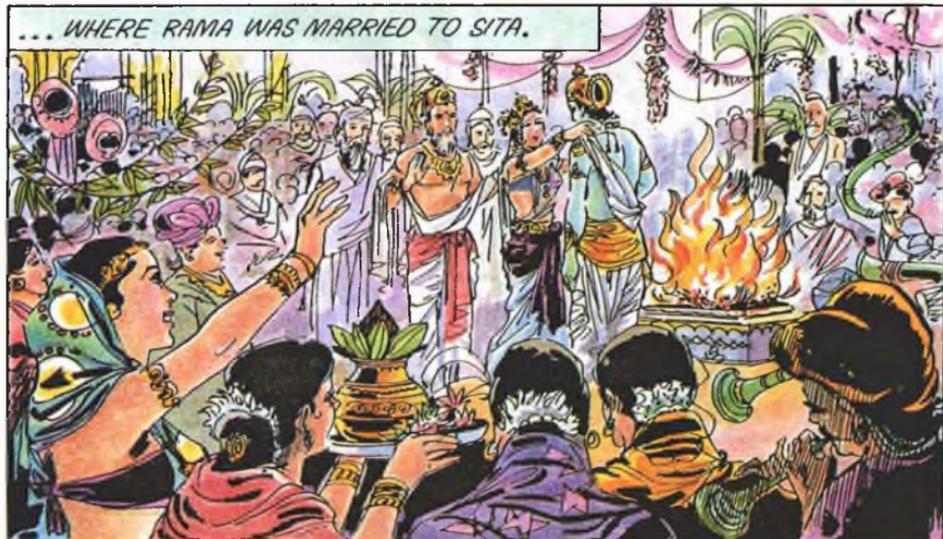
SITA LOOKED UP AND WAS PLEASSED TO SEE RAMA.

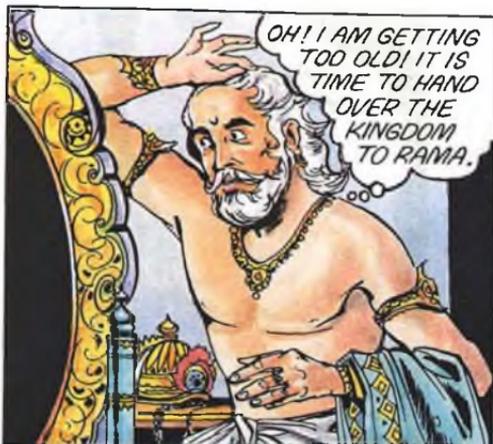


WHEN THE HAPPY NEWS REACHED AYODHYA, KING DASHARATHA LEFT FOR MITHILA, AT THE HEAD OF A PROCESSION...



... WHERE RAMA WAS MARRIED TO SITA.





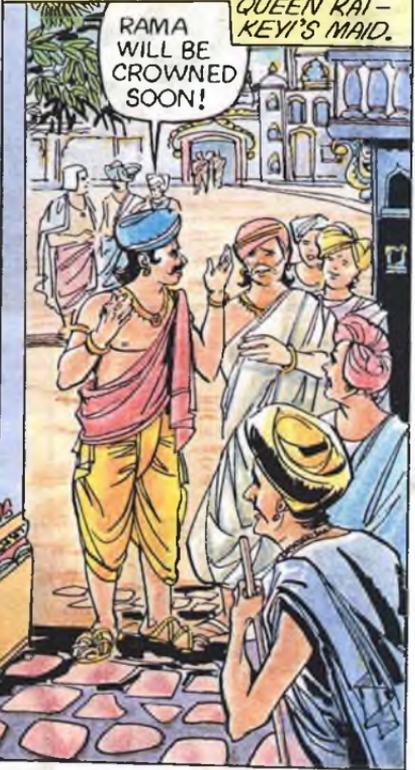
OH! I AM GETTING TOO OLD! IT IS TIME TO HAND OVER THE KINGDOM TO RAMA.

YEARS PASSED BY HAPPILY. ONE DAY -



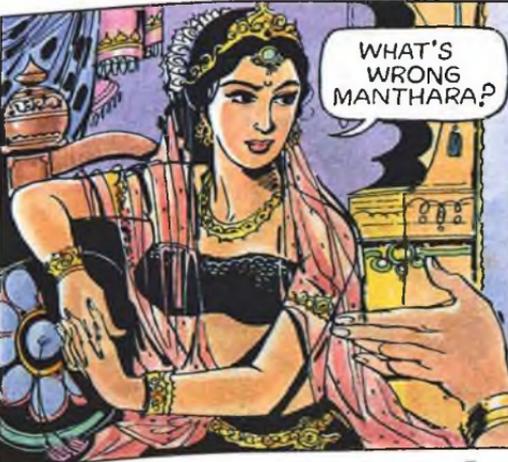
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

ALL WERE PLEASED TO HEAR THE NEWS - EXCEPT MANTHARA, QUEEN KAI - KEYI'S MAID.



RAMA WILL BE CROWNED SOON!

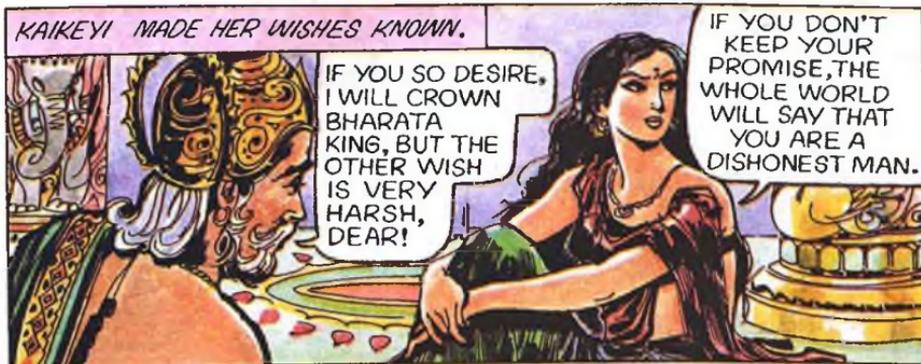
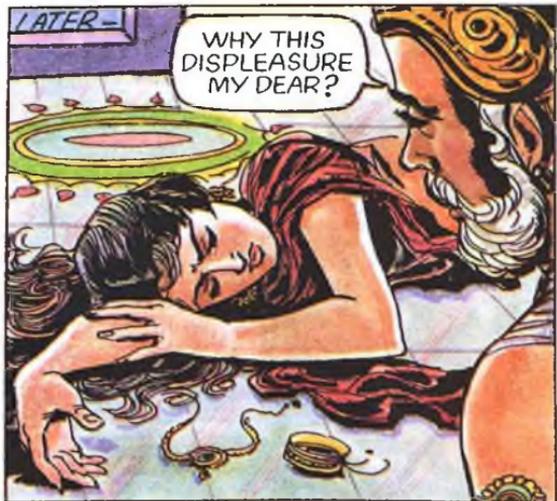
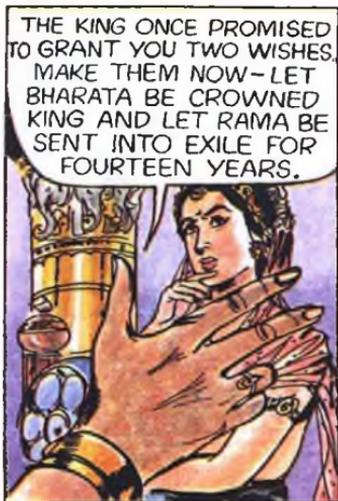
QUEEN KAI - KEYI'S MAID.



WHAT'S WRONG MANTHARA?

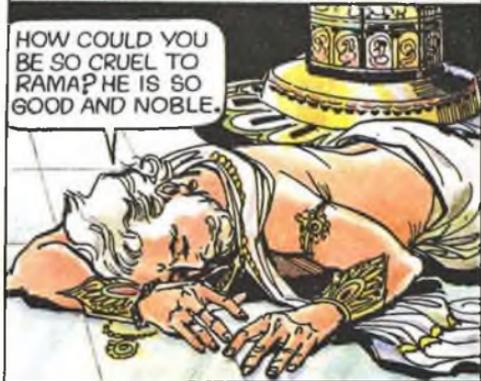


RAMA IS TO BE CROWNED KING TOMORROW. YOUR SON, BHARATA, HAS NOT EVEN BEEN SENT FOR FROM HIS MATERNAL UNCLE'S HOME.



THE KING FELL DOWN ON THE GROUND
WHEN HE HEARD THESE HARSH WORDS.

HOW COULD YOU
BE SO CRUEL TO
RAMA? HE IS SO
GOOD AND NOBLE.



WHEN RAMA LEARNT OF IT -

I SHALL KEEP
MY FATHER'S
PROMISE,
MOTHER!



SITA AND LAXMANA ALSO INSISTED ON ACCOMPANYING RAMA TO THE
JUNGLES. THE PEOPLE OF AYODHYA
ALSO FOLLOWED THEM.

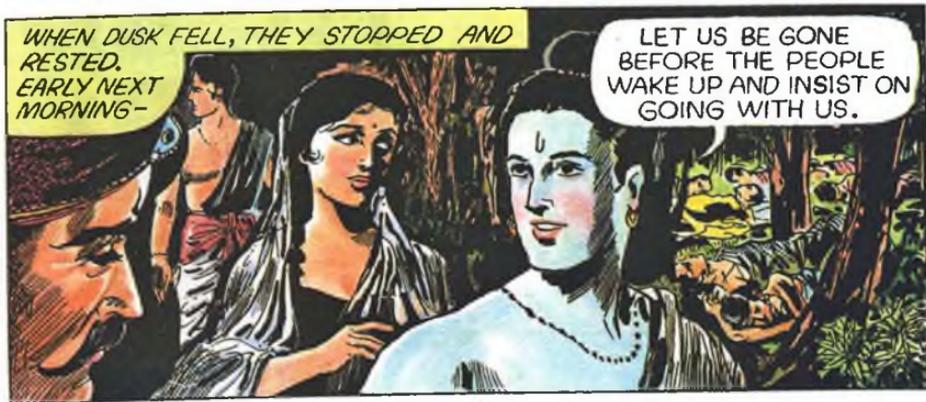
MINISTER, SIR,
COULDN'T YOU PER-
SUADE THESE PEOPLE
TO GO
BACK?

WE SHALL ALL COME
WITH YOU.

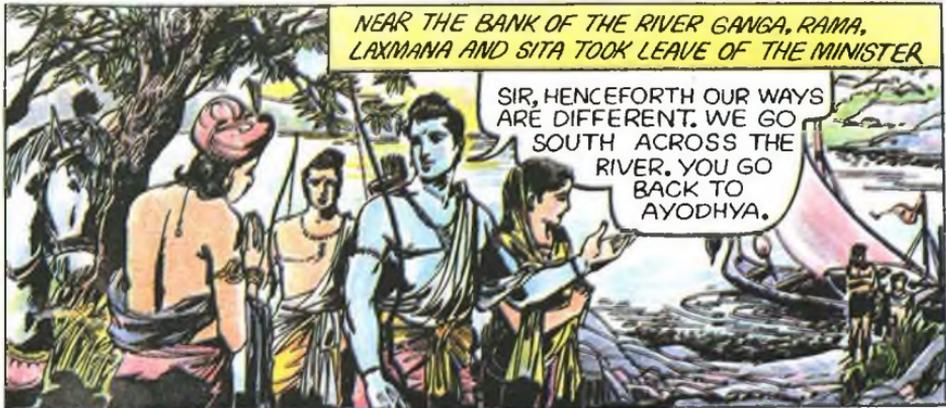


WHEN DUSK FELL, THEY STOPPED AND
RESTED.
EARLY NEXT
MORNING -

LET US BE GONE
BEFORE THE PEOPLE
WAKE UP AND INSIST ON
GOING WITH US.

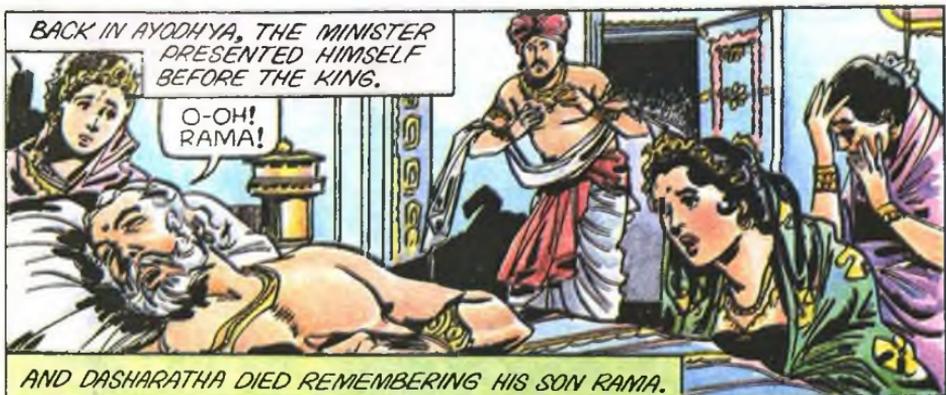


NEAR THE BANK OF THE RIVER GANGA, RAMA, LAXMANA AND SITA TOOK LEAVE OF THE MINISTER



SIR, HENCEFORTH OUR WAYS ARE DIFFERENT. WE GO SOUTH ACROSS THE RIVER. YOU GO BACK TO AYODHYA.

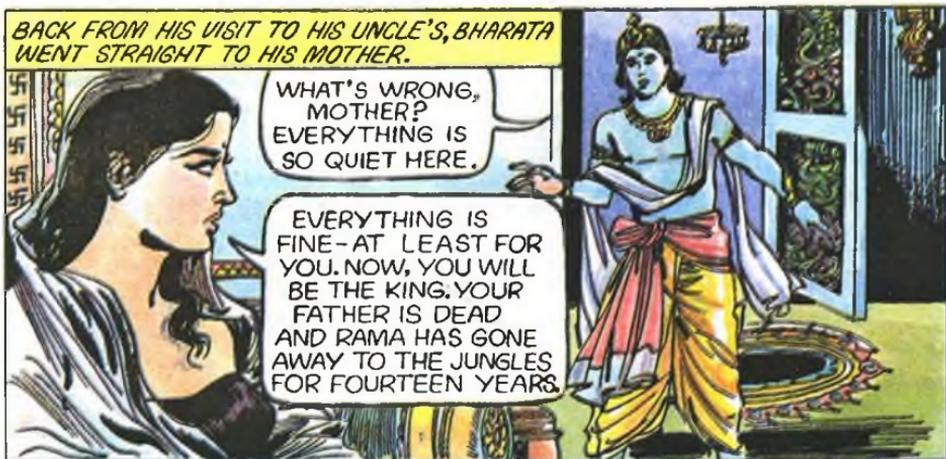
BACK IN AYODHYA, THE MINISTER PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE KING.



O-OH! RAMA!

AND DASHARATHA DIED REMEMBERING HIS SON RAMA.

BACK FROM HIS VISIT TO HIS UNCLE'S, BHARATA WENT STRAIGHT TO HIS MOTHER.



WHAT'S WRONG, MOTHER? EVERYTHING IS SO QUIET HERE.

EVERYTHING IS FINE - AT LEAST FOR YOU. NOW, YOU WILL BE THE KING. YOUR FATHER IS DEAD AND RAMA HAS GONE AWAY TO THE JUNGLES FOR FOURTEEN YEARS.



BHARATA WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR THE DETAILS. VASISHTHA, THE ROYAL PRIEST, TRIED TO CONSOLE HIM.

I DON'T WANT THE KINGDOM. I MUST GO TO RAMA AT ONCE.

FORGET YOUR SORROW! ATTEND TO THE MATTERS OF STATE! THAT IS YOUR DUTY!

AT CHITRAKOOT, WHERE RAMA, LAXMANA AND SITA HAD MADE THEIR HOME...



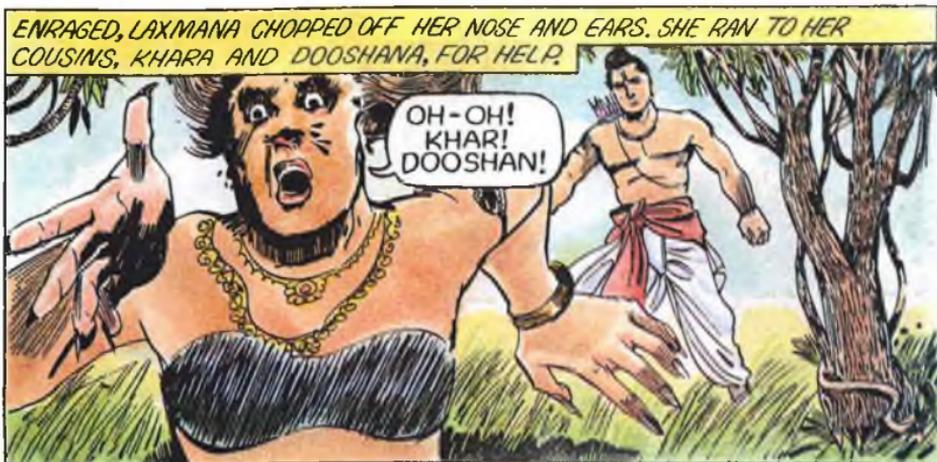
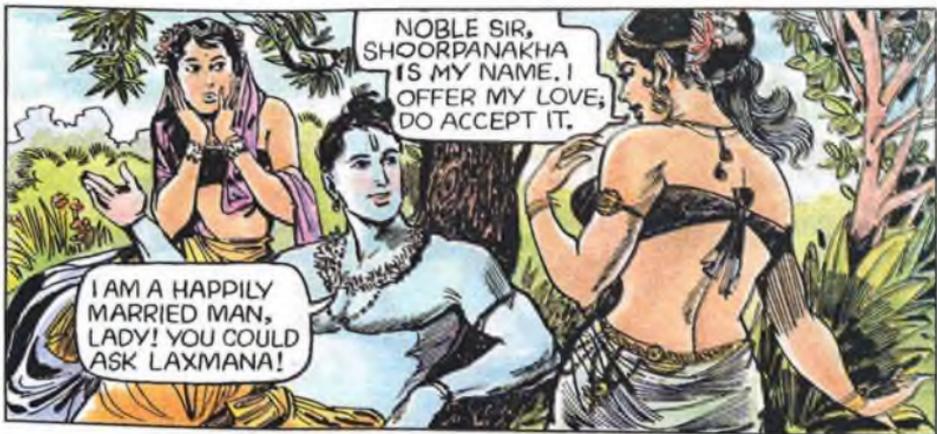
BHARATA IS MARCHING HIS ARMIES AGAINST US. I WILL...

LAXMANA, DON'T BE SO HASTY. LET THEM COME!



AFTER BHARATA LEFT, RAMA, LAXMANA
AND SITA SETTLED DOWN IN PANCHAVATI
TOWNSHIP IN THE SOUTH. ONE DAY —







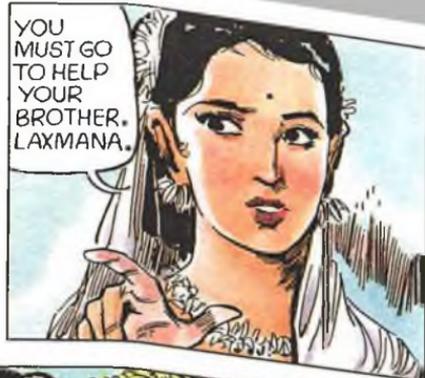
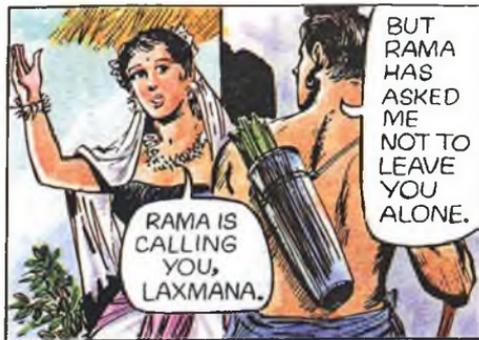
KHARA AND DOOSHANA CAME WITH A MIGHTY ARMY OF DEMONS TO FIGHT RAMA.



THE TEN-HEADED RAVANA, THE KING OF LANKA, WAS THE BROTHER OF SHOORPANAKHA. SHE NOW APPROACHED HIM.







AS SITA BROUGHT HIM FOOD, RAVANA
CAUGHT HOLD OF HER...



... AND CARRIED HER AWAY
IN HIS CHARIOT.



HELP!
RAMA!
LAXMANA!
HELP!



SOMEONE SAVE
ME FROM THIS
DEVIL! PLEASE!

JATAYU, THE VULTURE,
CAME TO HER HELP.



YOU OLD
FOOL! YOU
DARED TO
FIGHT RAVANA!

WHEN RAMA REACHED THE SPOT
IN SEARCH OF SITA -

I FAILED TO RESCUE
SITA. RAVANA HAS
TAKEN HER TO
THE SOUTH.

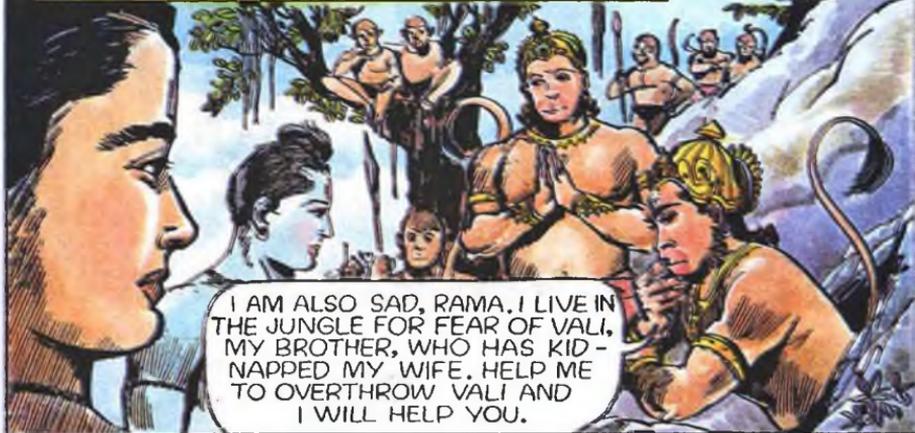


POOR JATAYU
HE GAVE
HIS LIFE FOR
ME!

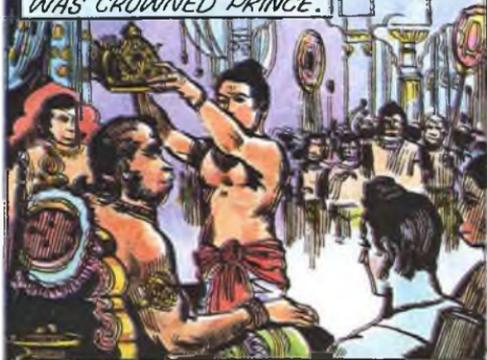


TRAVELLING FURTHER SOUTH, RAMA MET SUGREEVA, BROTHER OF THE
MONKEY KING VALI AND HIS MINISTER HANUMAN.

I AM ALSO SAD, RAMA. I LIVE IN
THE JUNGLE FOR FEAR OF VALI.
MY BROTHER, WHO HAS KID-
NAPPED MY WIFE. HELP ME
TO OVERTHROW VALI AND
I WILL HELP YOU.



RAMA KILLED VALI AND SET SUGREEVA
ON THE THRONE. VALI'S SON, ANGADA,
WAS CROWNED PRINCE.



LATER -

NOW
HANUMAN!
YOU MUST
GO IN
SEARCH OF
SITA.

HERE,
HANUMAN!
TAKE THIS
RING. IF YOU
FIND SITA,
SHE WILL
RECOGNISE
THIS.



WANDERING FOR DAYS AND WEEKS, THE ARMY OF MONKEYS AND BEARS, LED BY PRINCE ANGADA, ATLAST REACHED THE SOUTHERN SEA COAST.



HANUMAN LEAPED INTO THE SKY.



IN LANKA -



ATLAST, IN A GARDEN -

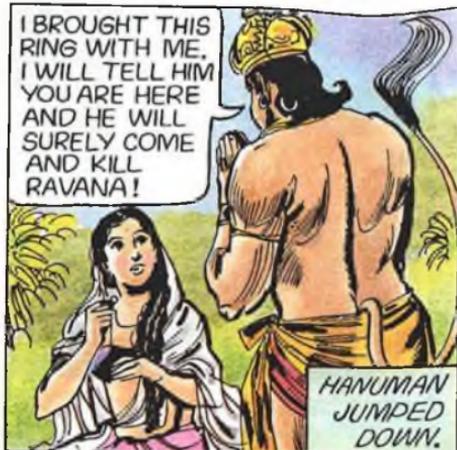


HANUMAN
DROPPED RAMA'S
RING.



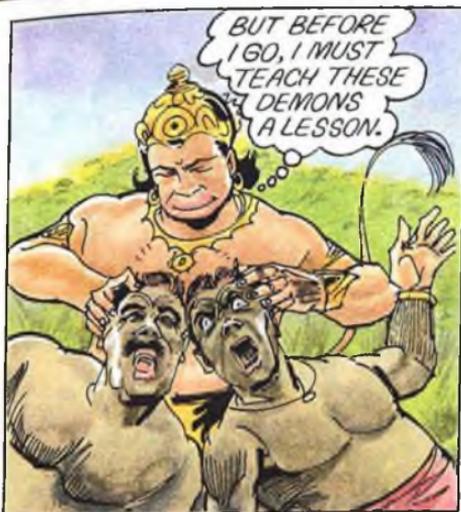
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT
RAMA. I WOULD
RATHER KILL
MYSELF... RAMA'S
RING! HOW DID
IT GET HERE!

I BROUGHT THIS
RING WITH ME.
I WILL TELL HIM
YOU ARE HERE
AND HE WILL
SURELY COME
AND KILL
RAVANA!



HANUMAN
JUMPED
DOWN.

BUT BEFORE
I GO, I MUST
TEACH THESE
DEMONS
A LESSON.



IT IS THAT
MONKEY! GET
HIM! GET HIM!



HANUMAN HAD KNOCKED DOWN THE DEMONS IN AND AROUND THE GARDEN. RAVANA SENT MORE MEN WITH HIS SON, AKSHAYA KUMAR.



IN RAVANA'S COURT -

NOW, MEGHNAD, MY SON, ARREST THAT MONKEY AND BRING HIM HERE!

THAT MONKEY HAS KILLED PRINCE AKSHAY KUMAR AS WELL!



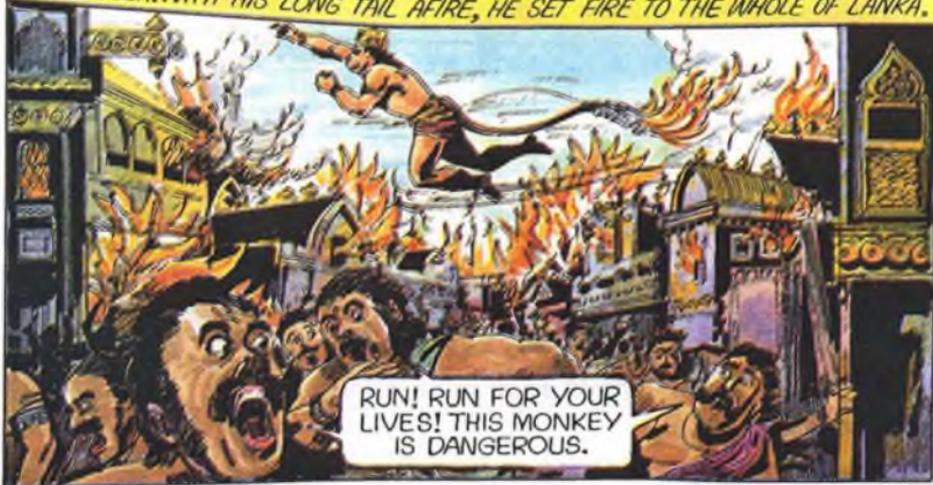
MEGHNAD CAPTURED HANUMAN AND BROUGHT HIM TO THE COURT.

SET FIRE TO THIS EVIL MONKEY'S TAIL.

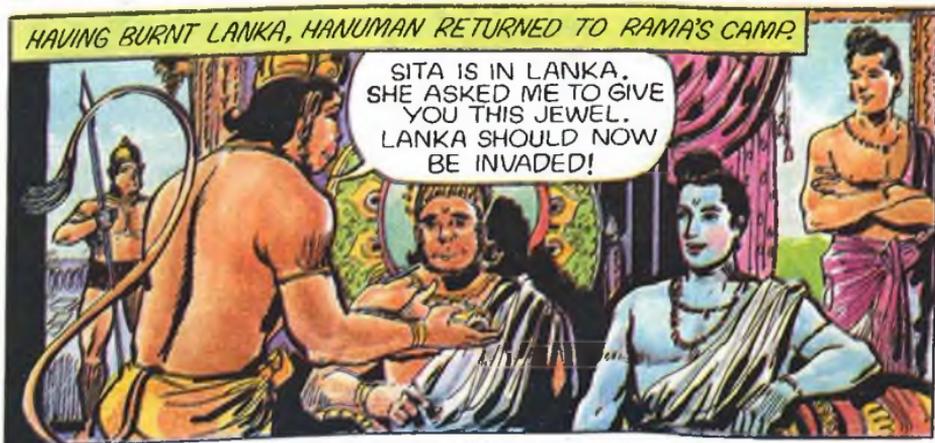




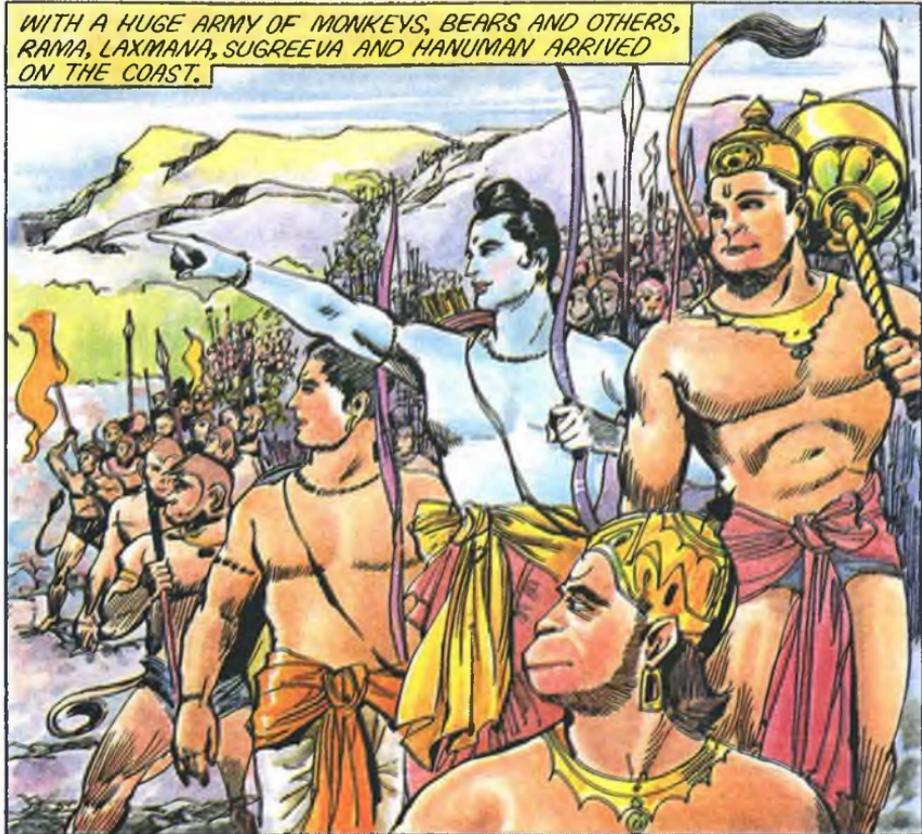
HANUMAN LOOSENED THE ROPES THAT BOUND HIM. HIS TAIL GREW BIGGER AND BIGGER. WITH HIS LONG TAIL AFIRE, HE SET FIRE TO THE WHOLE OF LANKA.



HAVING BURNT LANKA, HANUMAN RETURNED TO RAMA'S CAMP.

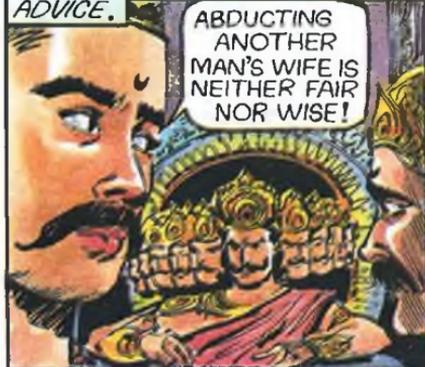


WITH A HUGE ARMY OF MONKEYS, BEARS AND OTHERS, RAMA, LAXMANA, SUGREEVA AND HANUIMAN ARRIVED ON THE COAST.

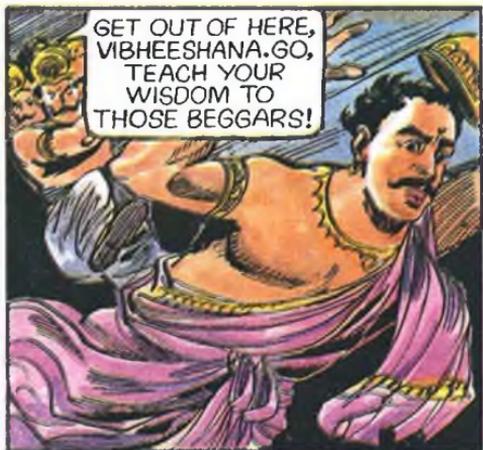


WHEN THE NEWS REACHED THE COURT OF RAJANA, HIS BROTHER, VIBHEESHANA GAVE HIM GOOD ADVICE.

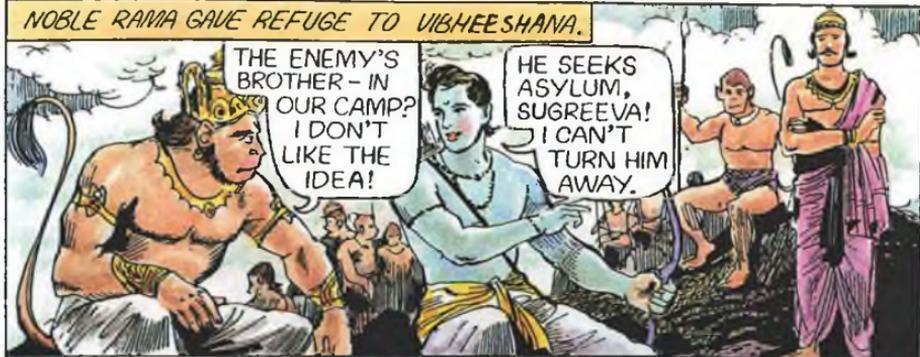
ABDUCTING ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE IS NEITHER FAIR NOR WISE!



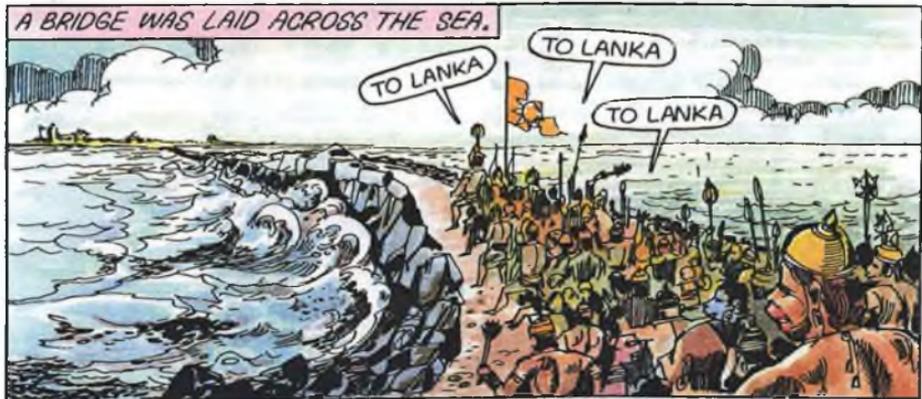
GET OUT OF HERE, VIBHEESHANA. GO, TEACH YOUR WISDOM TO THOSE BEGGARS!



NOBLE RAMA GAVE REFUGE TO VIBHEESHANA.



A BRIDGE WAS LAID ACROSS THE SEA.



THE ARMIES WERE READY FOR THE BATTLE.



PRINCE ANGADA CAME TO THE COURT OF RAVANA.

RETURN SITA WITH HONOUR. LORD RAMA WILL MAKE PEACE WITH YOU.

GO, TELL RAMA THAT I WILL NOT SURRENDER! WE WANT WAR!

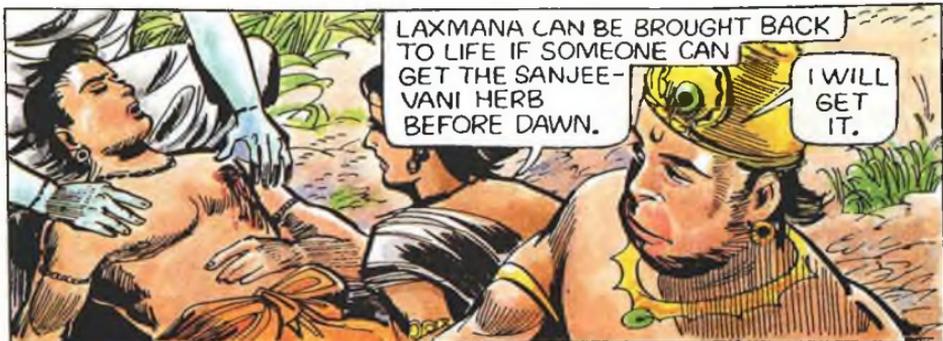
ANGADA RETURNED AND THE BATTLE CALL WAS GIVEN.

BRAVE LAXMANA FELL IN THE BATTLE, HIT WITH AN ARROW BY MEGHNA, RAVANA'S SON.

IF ONLY THE PHYSICIAN SUSHENA COULD BE BROUGHT HERE...

I WILL BRING HIM!

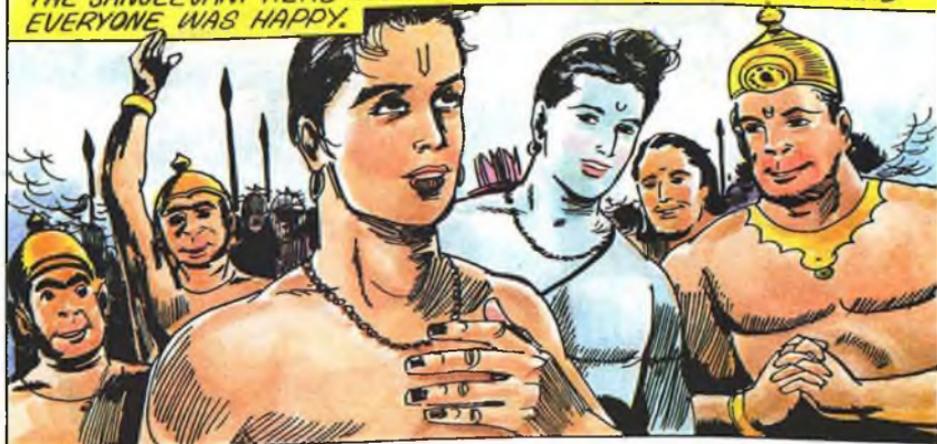
HANUMAN BROUGHT SUSHENA ALONG WITH HIS HOUSE.



RAMA WAS HEART-BROKEN.



THE SANJEEVANI HERB WORKED QUICKLY. LAXMANA SAT UP AND EVERYONE WAS HAPPY.



BUT NOW RAVANA'S BROTHER KUMBHAKARNA STARTED PLAYING HAVOC ON THE MONKEY ARMY.



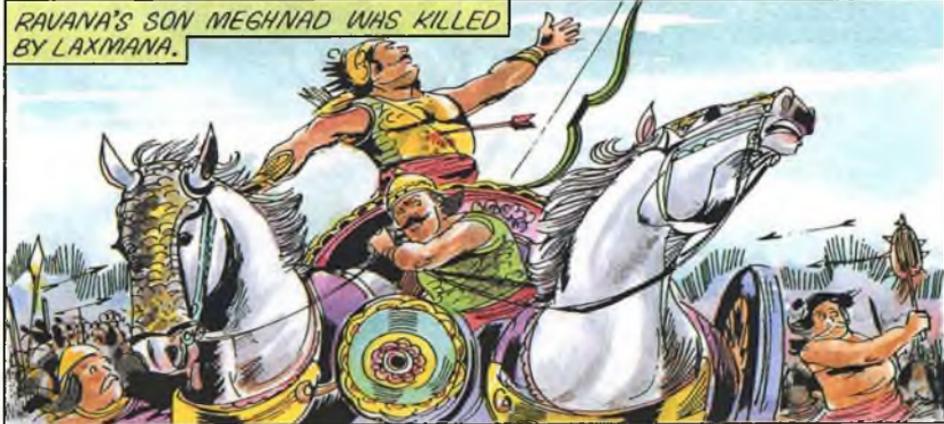
HOWEVER, RAMA WAS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR HIM.



AND SOON KUMBHAKARNA FELL.



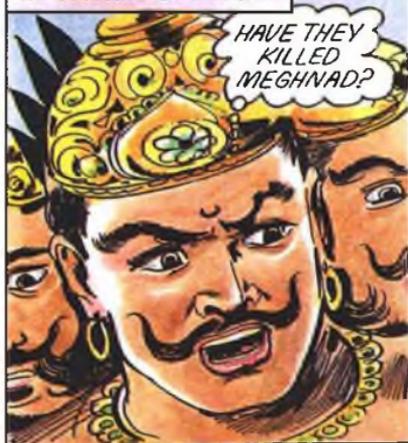
RAVANA'S SON MEGHNAD WAS KILLED BY LAXMANA.



THE DEMONS WERE NOW ON THE RUN.

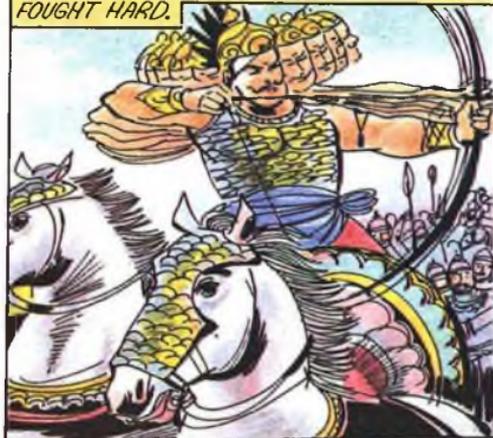


IN RAUVANA'S CAMP.



HAVE THEY
KILLED
MEGHNAD?

DETERMINED TO KILL RAMA, RAUVANA
FOUGHT HARD.



HE SHOWERED A CONTINUOUS STREAM
OF ARROWS WITH HIS TWENTY HANDS
ON THE MONKEY ARMY.





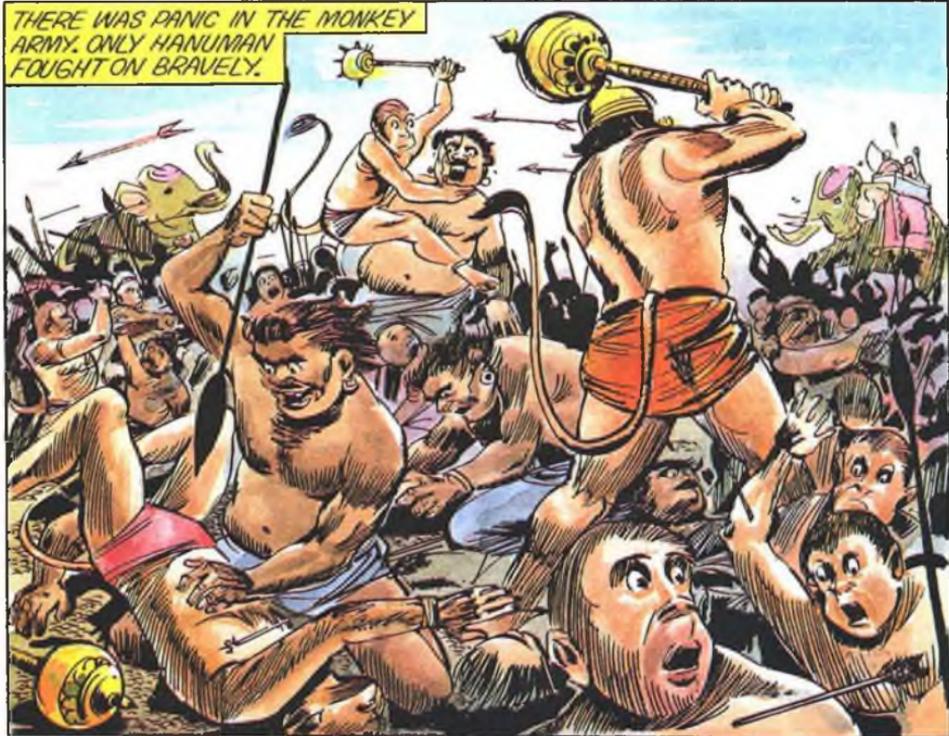
THEN RAMA AND
RAVANA CAME FACE TO
FACE. NOW RAMA HAD
A CHARIOT SENT TO
HIM BY GOD INDRA.



WITH HIS SUPERNATURAL POWERS, RAVANA CREATED SEVERAL RAVANAS.



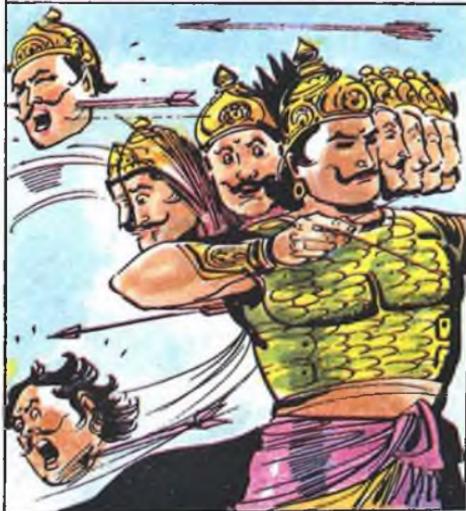
THERE WAS PANIC IN THE MONKEY
ARMY. ONLY HANUMAN
FOUGHT ON BRAVELY.

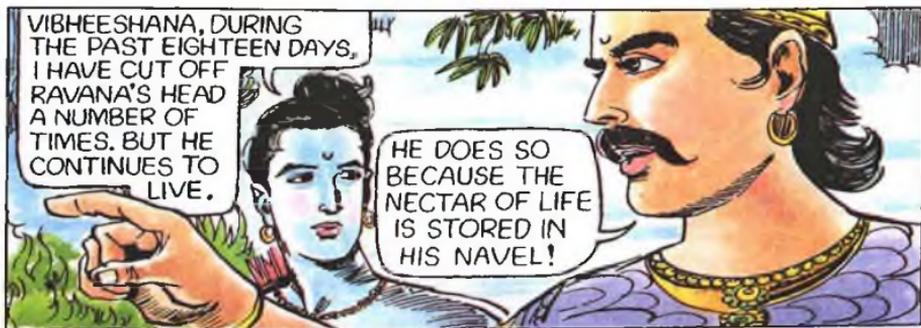


RAVANA SEEMED UNCONQUERABLE.
THOUGH RAMA CUT OFF HIS HEAD
SEVERAL TIMES...



...ANOTHER TOOK ITS PLACE AS
SOON AS ONE HEAD ROLLED OFF.



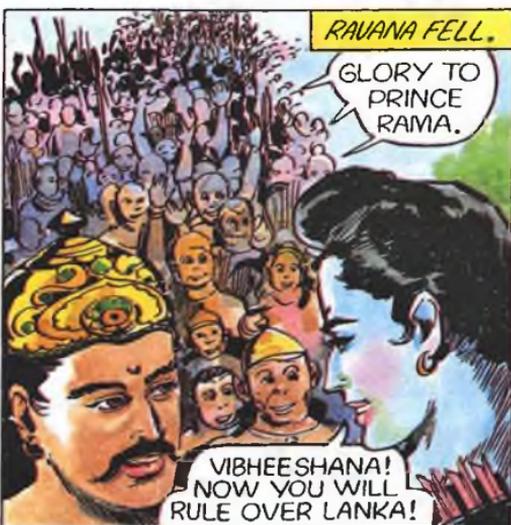


VIBHEESHANA, DURING THE PAST EIGHTEEN DAYS, I HAVE CUT OFF RAVANA'S HEAD A NUMBER OF TIMES. BUT HE CONTINUES TO LIVE.

HE DOES SO BECAUSE THE NECTAR OF LIFE IS STORED IN HIS NAVEL!



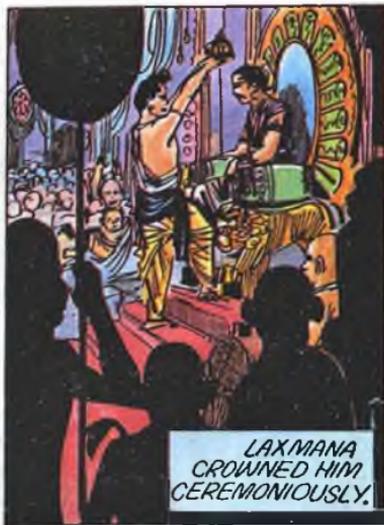
RAMA SHOT ONE ARROW AT THE NAVEL OF RAVANA! SOON ALL HIS HEADS AND ARMS WERE STRUCK WITH ARROWS.



RAVANA FELL.

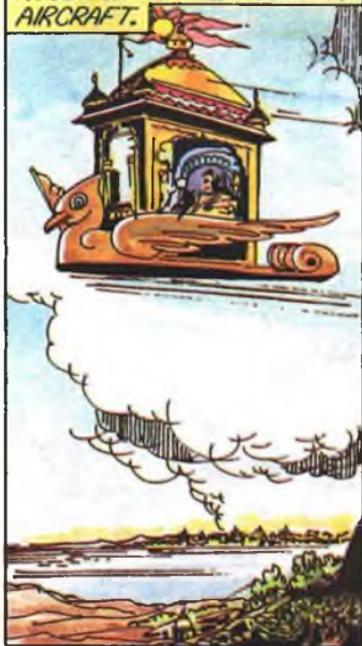
GLORY TO PRINCE RAMA.

VIBHEESHANA! NOW YOU WILL RULE OVER LANKA!



LAXMANA CROWNED HIM CEREMONIOUSLY.

AFTER CROWNING VIBHEE -
SHANA, RAMA LEFT FOR
AYODHYA IN THE PUSHPAK
AIRCRAFT.



SITA, MY
DEAR,
YOUR
DAYS OF
UNHAPPI-
NESS ARE
NOW OVER!



RAMA WAS
CROWNED
KING IN
AYODHYA AND
HE RULED
FOR MANY
YEARS.





Amar Chitra Katha is a collection of illustrated classics that retell stories from Indian mythology, history, folktale and legend, through the fascinating medium of comics. Over 400 titles have been published in the Amar Chitra Katha comic series that are approved by parents, appreciated by children and accepted by schools.



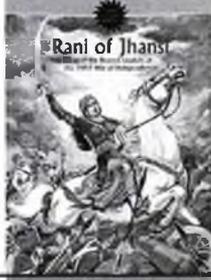
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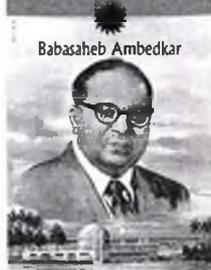
Folktales

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