

RAMAYANA

PART 12



DREAMLAND

RAMAYANA

PART 12 LAVA-KUSHA EPISODE-II

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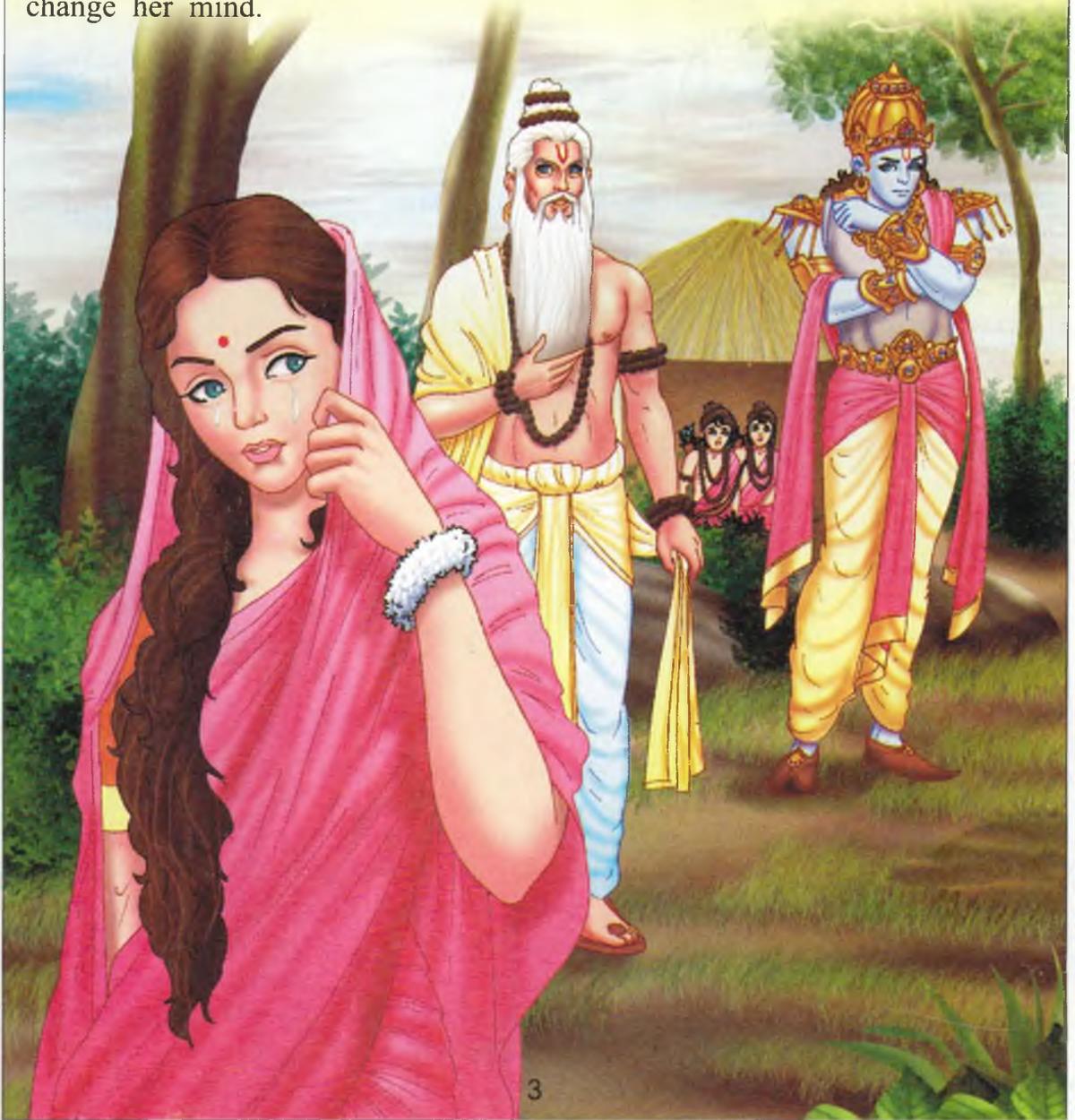
When Saint Valmiki was talking about Lava and Kush, Sita chanced to come there. Seeing her, Bharata, Lakshmana and Shatrughna bowed low before her. Their joy knew no bounds indeed. Rama too, was overjoyed to see her but he remained apparently serene for fear of ill-talk.

Saint Valmiki saw through the whole affair and he said, "O Descendant of Raghu, the Great ! I am the tenth son of Varuna, the Water-god. I have never told a lie. I tell you on an oath that Sita is a true and chaste wife. Lava and Kush are your sons from her. You sent her to the forest for fear of defame. I have meditated for thousands of years. I profess that God may render all my meditation fruitless if my assertion about Sita is wrong."



In order to reassure Rama of Sita's fidelity, Saint Valmiki said to her, "My daughter ! you are really great. You have never thought of any other person than Rama, your husband. You have always considered your husband to be your God. I have learnt this through my divine power. So, I advise you to accompany your husband to Ayodhya and lead a happy family life. This is not only my desire but my blessing as well."

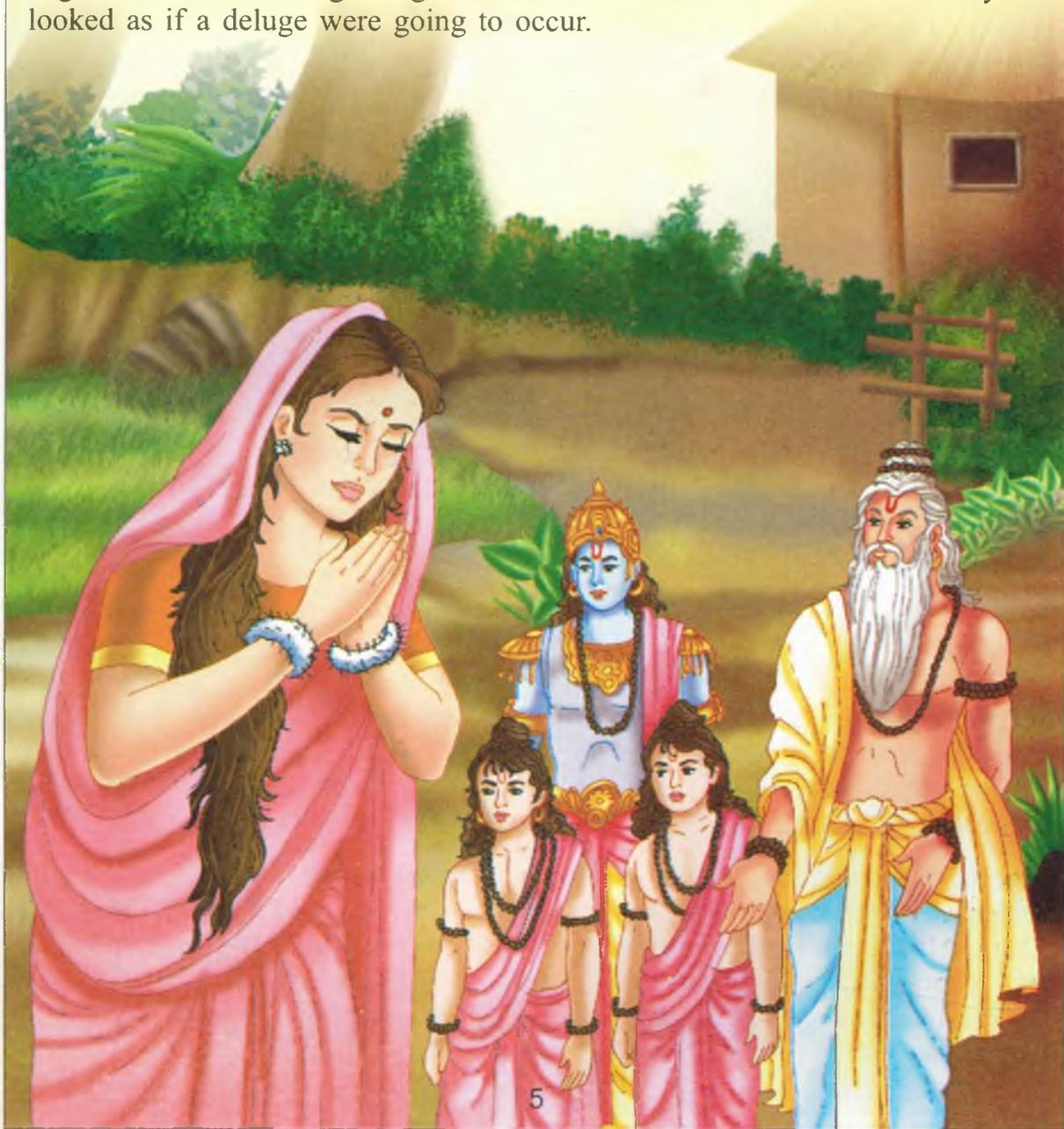
Hearing the Saint's words, Sita was tempted to go to Ayodhya but Rama's silence over this point jerked her and she was compelled to change her mind.





In response to the Saint's suggestion, Rama said, "Your words have left no doubt in my mind about Sita's chastity. I had already been convinced of it as a result of the ordeal that she underwent earlier. But later on, an ill-rumour ran apace and I was compelled to leave her in the forest through my brother Lakshmana. I would request you, O revered Saint, to pardon me for this wrong." Then, sending for Lakshmana, Rama said, "Brother ! persuade Sita to accompany us to Ayodhya along with our sons. This is another great job to be accomplished by you." So, Lakshmana approached Sita and spoke with folded hands, "Be kind enough to forget everything and accompany us to Ayodhya." But Sita did not agree to do so.

Compelled by all, Sita agreed to accompany them up to the bank of the Saryu where she stopped short and implored the Mother Earth, "O Mother Earth ! all the ten directions will stand evidence to the fact that I have never thought of anyone except my husband, Rama. If this it true, O Mother ! accept me in your lap. If I have always longed for my own spouse only, give me shelter in yourself. Simply, cause a crack in yourself so that I may get into your lap." Hearing this profession, the directions began to tremble. Lightning flashed and clouds thundered violently. It looked as if a deluge were going to occur.



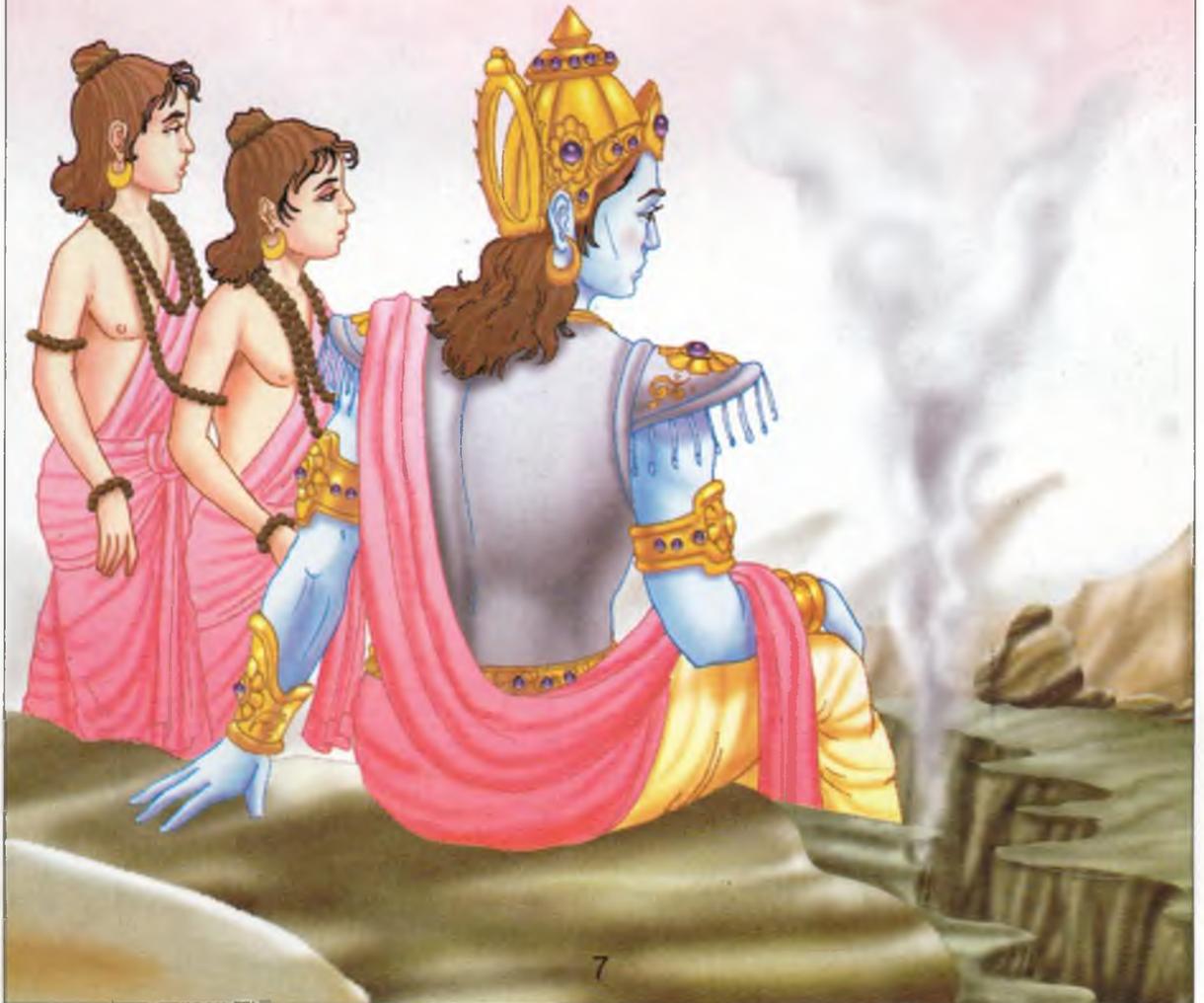


All of a sudden, there developed a crack in the Earth and a divine light came to be emitted out of it. In no time, the goddess of the Earth came out of the crack. The divine light was coming out of the halo of the goddess who took Sita in her lap and gradually slipped into the crack.

Seeing all this, the people of Ayodhya, present there, began to bewail bitterly. All the three brothers—Bharata, Lakshmana and Shatrughna were in tears. All present there spoke in one voice, “Splendid, O Sita ! this earth is yet to produce an ideal lady like you.” As for Rama, he was dumb-founded to see his dear wife going into the lap of the earth. He kept gazing at her for a long time.

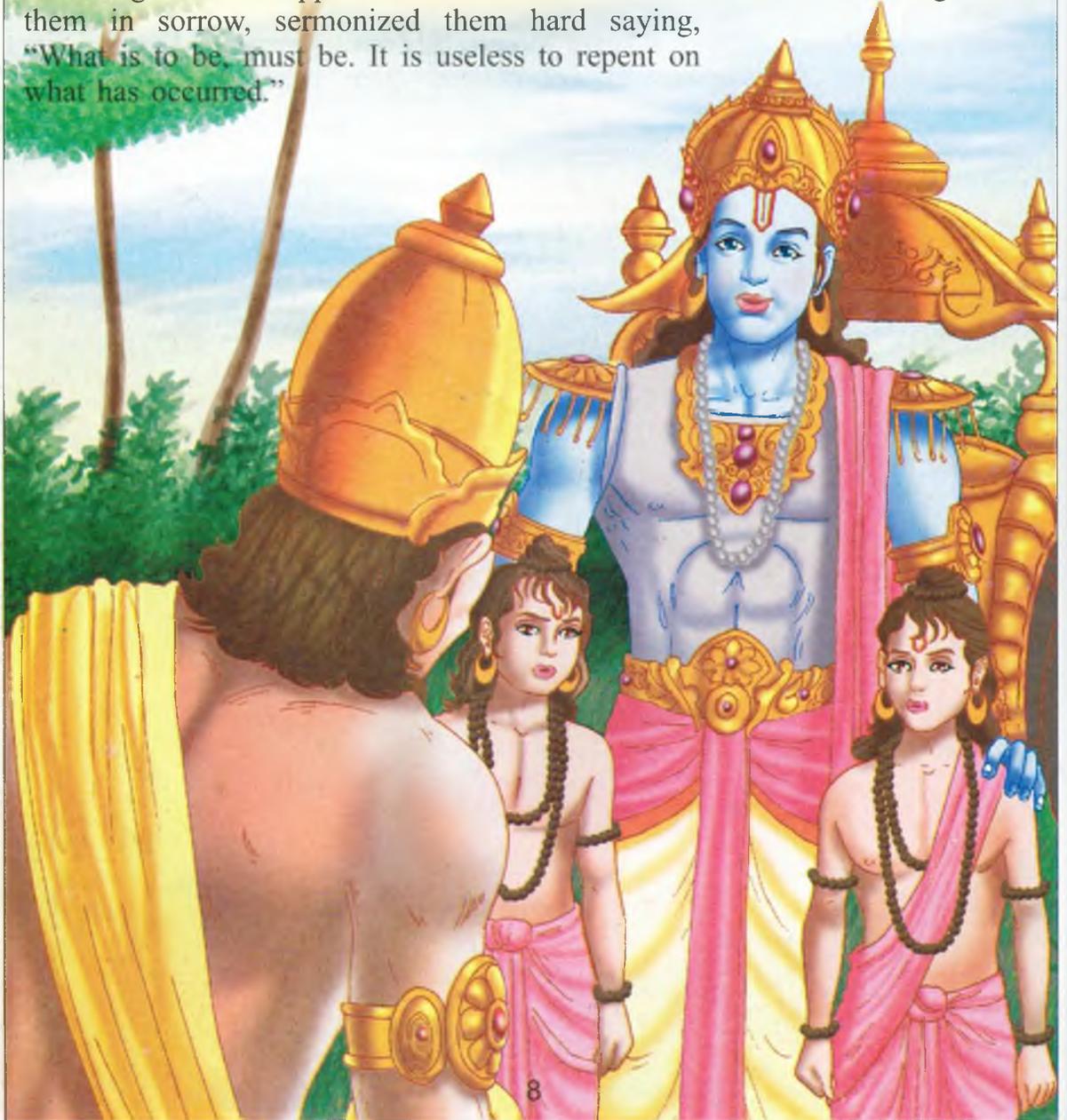
Sita's sons—Lava and Kush—were very upset at what had happened. Rama could not tolerate it and a stream of tears came out of his eyes. He stood agape for a long time and then addressing the Mother Earth, he said, “O Mother ! return me my Sita or take me also into your lap. I cannot live without her any more now. Her company is essential for me even if I had to live in hell. Comply with my request ; otherwise, I shall disfigure your face destroying all the forests and mountains with my arrows. I shall not hesitate to carry out rash destruction of everything—nay to cause even the deluge to occur.”

Suddenly, a divine voice was heard to say, “Shed all sorrow, O Rama ! Sita is always with you. She has reached heaven—your eternal place. You will see her there only now.”



Hearing the divine words, Rama got some peace of mind. Then, he sent for Lakshmana and said, "I am proceeding to Ayodhya along with my two sons Lava and Kush—so that I may complete the yajna properly. You should come along with all the people." Saying so, Rama set out for Ayodhya accompanied by his two sons.

Next day, Lakshmana too set out for the Capital along with his two brothers, all the Vanara dignitaries and all the soldiers. Everyone was mourning Sita's disappearance from the scene. Saint Valmiki, seeing all of them in sorrow, sermonized them hard saying, "What is to be, must be. It is useless to repent on what has occurred."

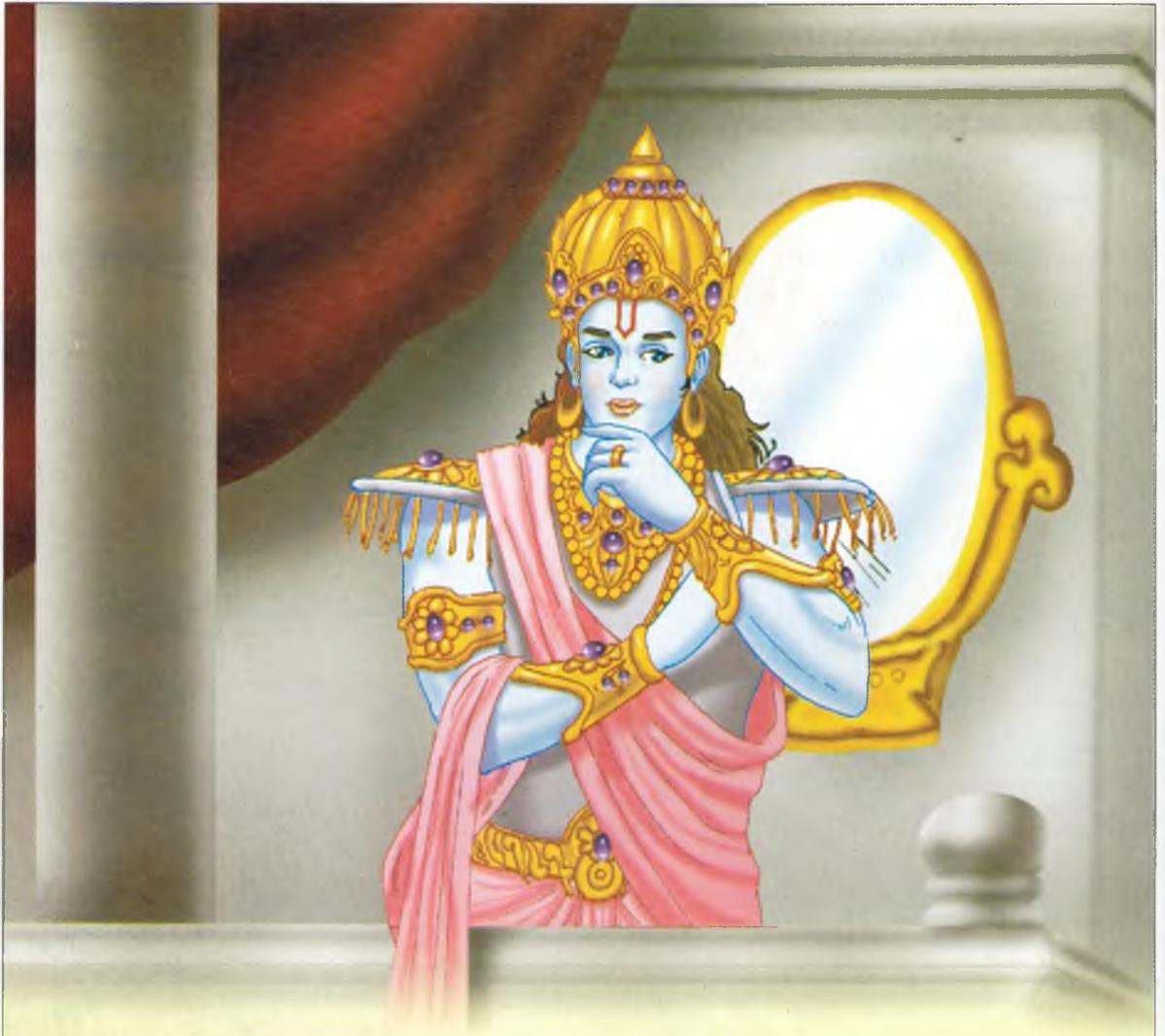


Rama, having reached Ayodhya with his sons, completed the yajna in the proper manner as suggested by the rulers, Kings, Saints and hermits present there. Then he saw off all the royal invitees with valuable gifts. All the Brahmanas and Saints were given liberal donations. They, in turn, showered blessings on him and his sons.

Then Rama came to his palace with his sons, though all the time he was thinking of his beloved wife Sita.

The people of Ayodhya rejoiced the advent of the two princes profusely. The merriment went on for a number of days.





The completion of the *yajna* made Rama a powerful Emperor. He ruled as an ideal Emperor according to the tenets prescribed in the religious books. God too felt pleased at the manner in which the things went on. Rains occurred well in time and crops flourished well. No epidemic or famine was ever heard of. Untimely deaths were just absent and people lived in peace and prosperity.

One day, Rama happened to look into a mirror. The very sight of his face rendered him averse to worldly life. He thought of leaving the world and returning to his permanent abode in Heaven.

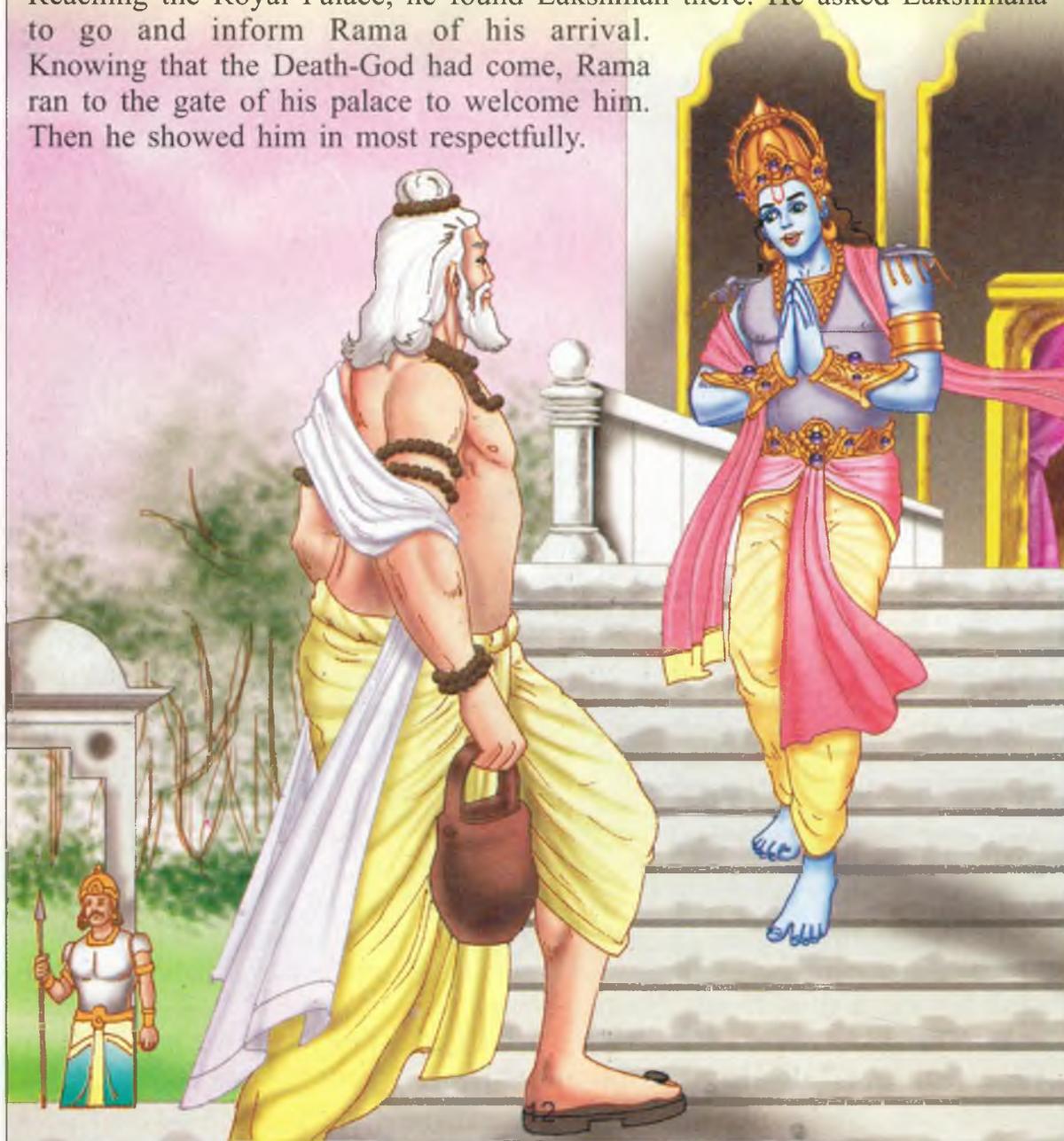
So, Rama gave the rulership of different parts of his empire to Lava, Kush and the sons of his brothers.



Lord Vishnu, who had embodied himself as Rama, asked Saint Narada to send for the god of Death. Narada brought the god of Death. Lord Vishnu said to the god, "Rama's life on the Earth has finished. So, bring him back to Heaven at once." Hearing this, the god of Death set out to bring Rama.

The god of Death promised to obey Lord Vishnu. But on the way, he thought over the matter with a cool mind and found himself in a fix. He said to himself, "How shall I tell an ideal person like Rama to leave this world." The very next moment, the god of Death was reminded of the natural law that one who takes a birth must die one day. So, he made for Ayodhya singlehanded. Reaching near the town he transformed himself as a Brahmana and entered the town.

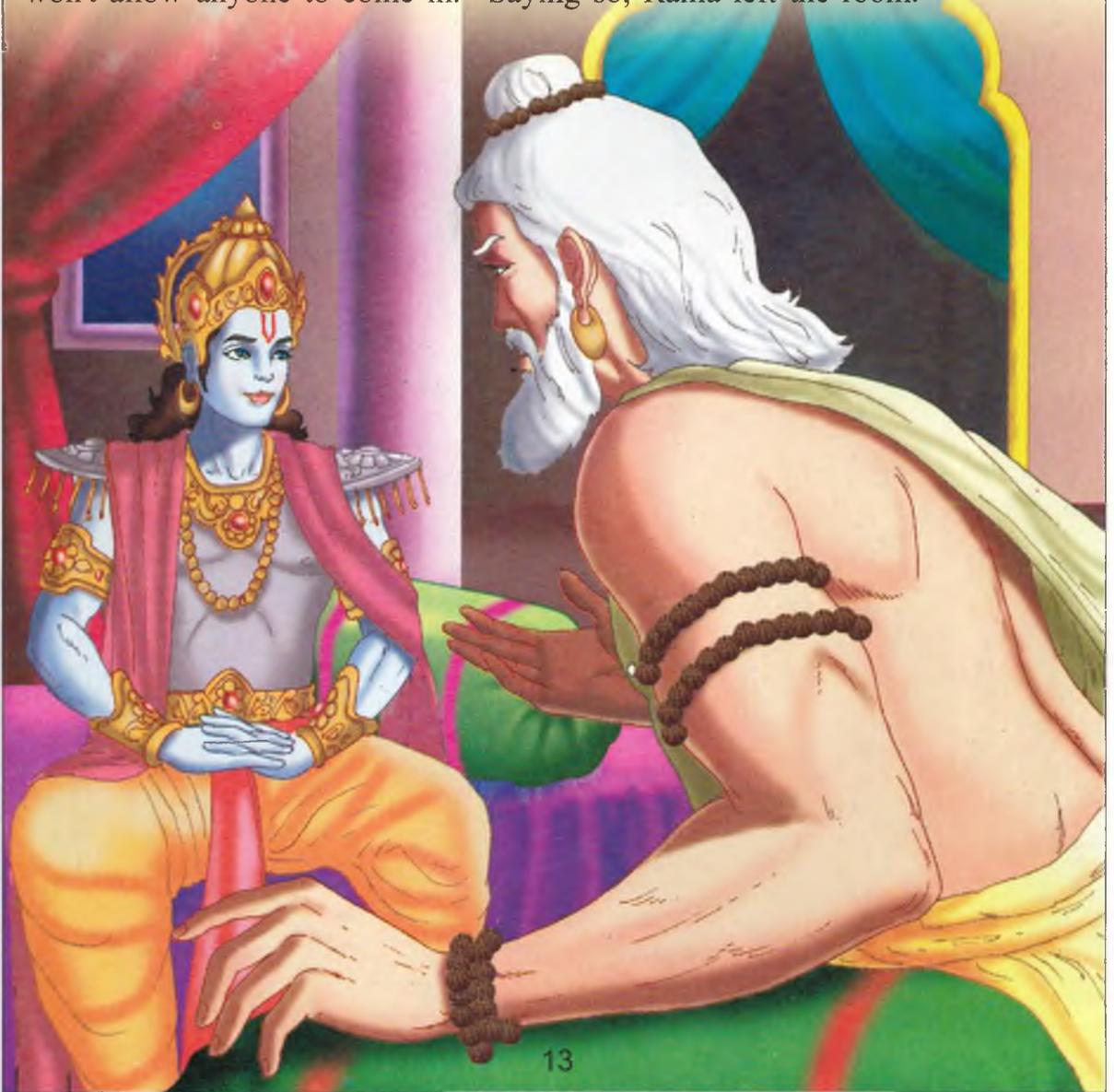
Reaching the Royal Palace, he found Lakshmana there. He asked Lakshmana to go and inform Rama of his arrival. Knowing that the Death-God had come, Rama ran to the gate of his palace to welcome him. Then he showed him in most respectfully.



Getting inside, Rama offered him a seat and then folding his hands said, “What can I do for you, Sir ?”

The Death-God, who was in the guise of a Brahmana, said, “Rama ! I am not a Brahmana in reality but the god of Death in person. I have been sent by Lord Vishnu and so I want to talk to you in loneliness—nobody except you and I should be present there. If anyone hears our talk, he will die on the spot. Added to this, even if Vishnu or Brahma or Mahesh does this mistake, he won't go unpunished.”

“Don't worry, Sir. I shall ask Lakshmana to guard the door himself. He won't allow anyone to come in.” Saying so, Rama left the room.



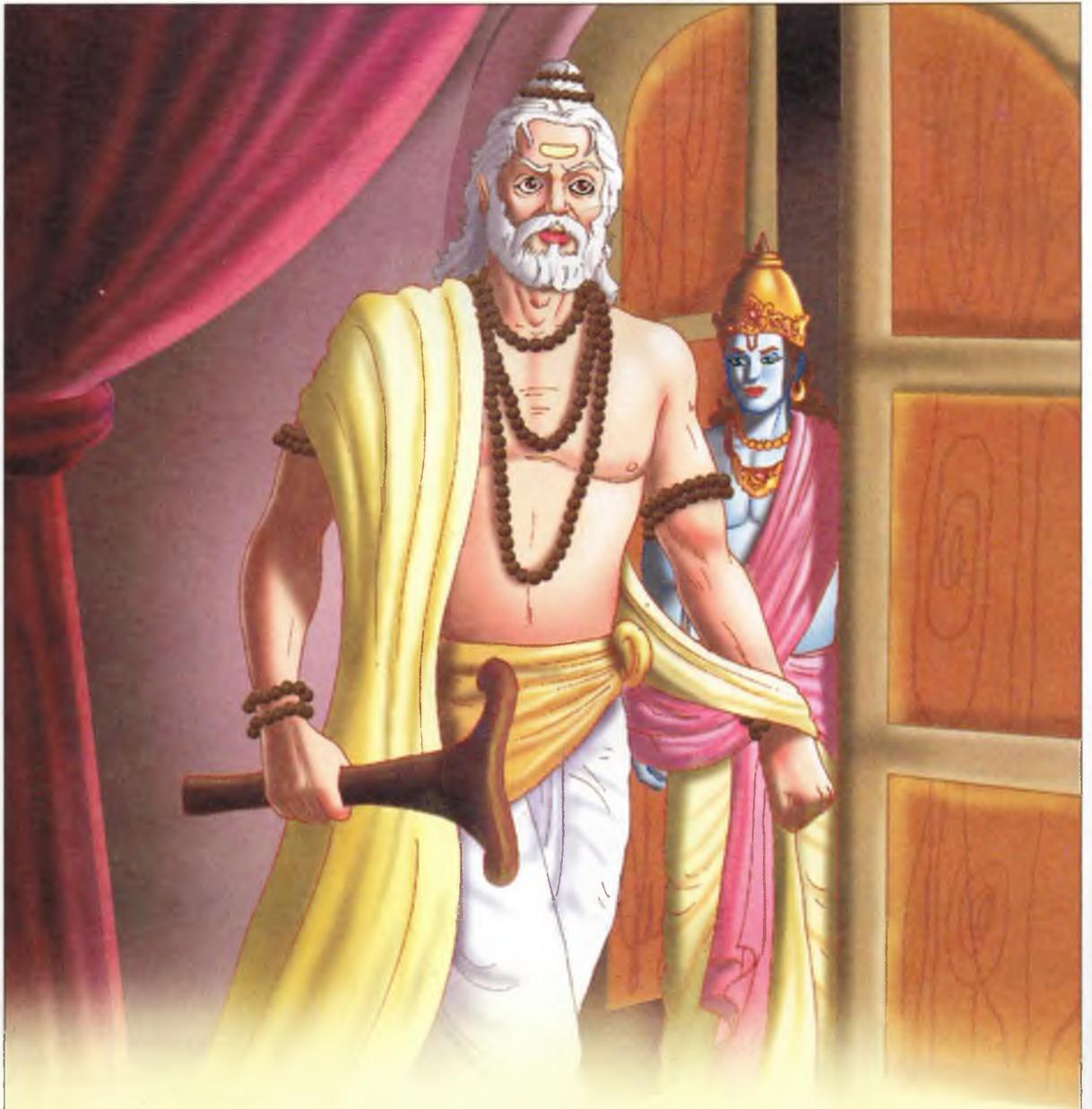
Smiling in his sleeves at the words of the Death-God, Rama went to Lakshmana and said, "Brother ! I am going to talk over some very important matter with the Brahmana who has just arrived. You must guard the door in person. Never let anyone come in without my permission. If you violate this instruction, you will be guilty of disobeying me and will earn an instant death as a punishment for this guilt."

Bowing low, Lakshman promised to obey. He stood quite alert at the door of the room where talks were going to be held. But he said to himself, "Today, my brother's mood is quite off." Rama closed the door of the room from inside, leaving Lakshmana to stand guard outside.





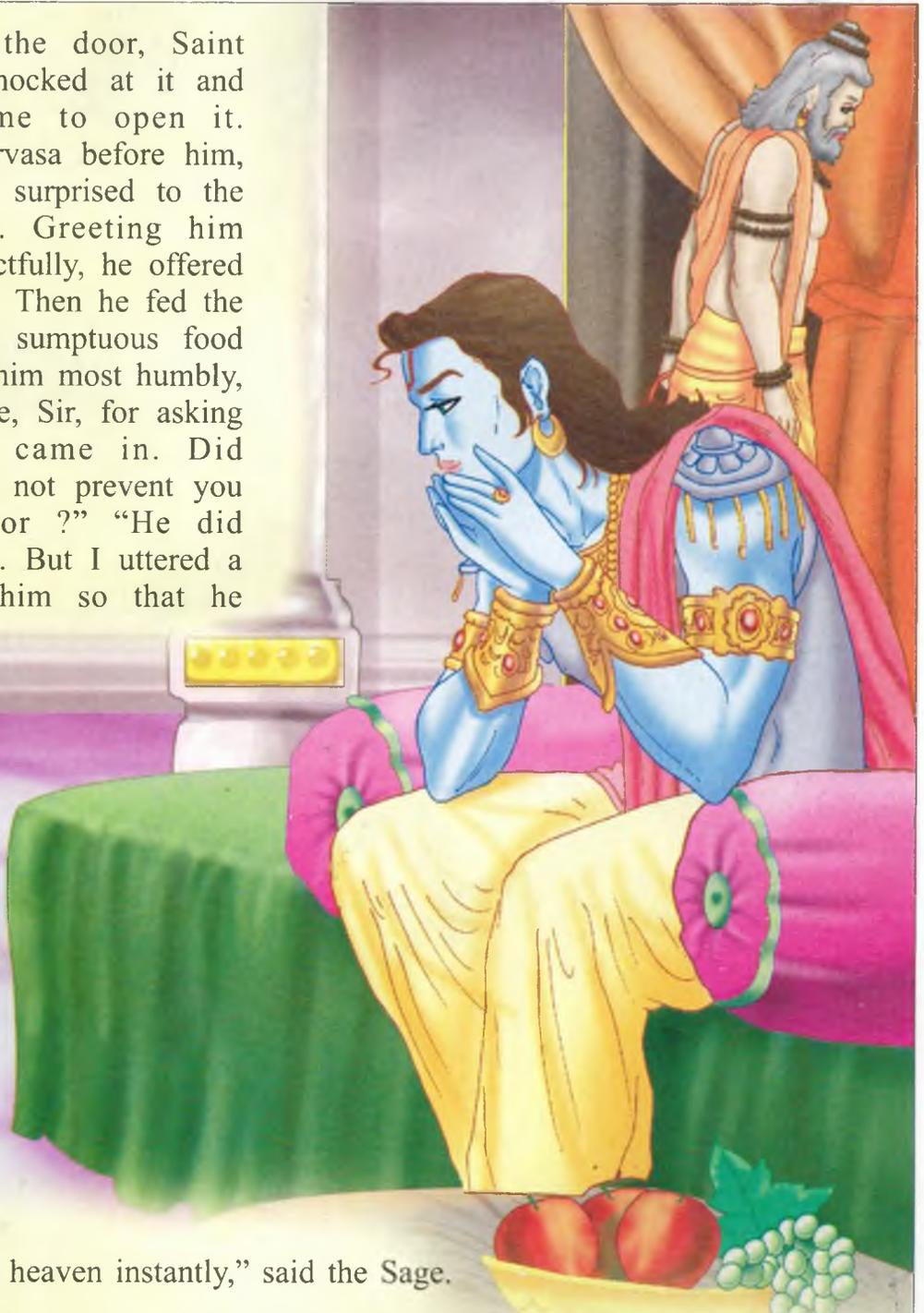
But what is to be must be. Just then Saint Durvasa turned up. Seeing him, Lakshmana bowed low before him. The Saint said, "Lakshmana, inform Rama of my visit." "Excuse me, O revered Saint ; my brother is having talks over a very important matter at this time. He has ordered me not to let anybody go inside. So, I cannot go inside the room to inform him. You had better wait for some time," Lakshmana replied very humbly. The Saint flew into a rage and said, "Lakshmana ! let me go in or I will annihilate you, your town and your kingdom even."



The Saint's words made Lakshmana tremble all over because he was well conversant with Saint Durvasa's wrath. Still he could not ignore his duty. Assuming a serious tone, he said, " I am bound by my elder brother's order. So, I can't allow you to go in without his permission."

"It seems your days are numbered. That is why you dare to violate my order. I curse you that you shall die here to reach heaven." Saying so, Saint Durvasa advanced further towards the room where Rama was holding talks.

Reaching the door, Saint Durvasa knocked at it and Rama came to open it. Seeing Durvasa before him, Rama was surprised to the back-bone. Greeting him most respectfully, he offered him a seat. Then he fed the Saint with sumptuous food and asked him most humbly, "Excuse me, Sir, for asking how you came in. Did Lakshmana not prevent you at the door?" "He did prevent me. But I uttered a curse on him so that he



could reach heaven instantly," said the Sage.

"You haven't done good, O Saint. You have done a big sin. Nobody can prevent what is to happen. So, you please leave this place at once. You had better not to disclose what is going on here," said Rama. Hearing the words of Rama, Durvasa could not gather courage to stay there any more.



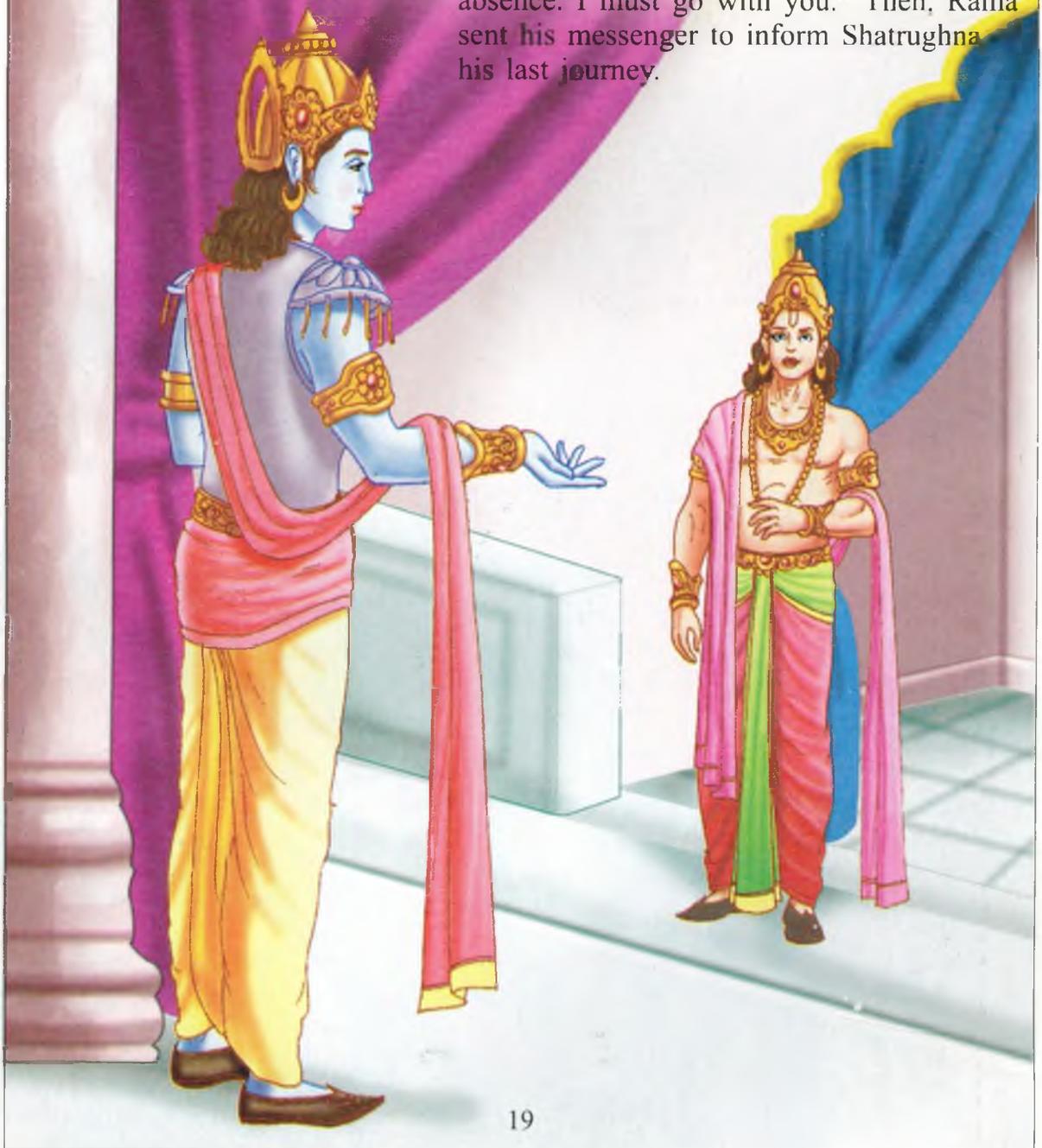
Hearing the curse of Saint Durvasa, Lakshmana said to himself, "It is better that I should die single-handed. Why should I make others die."

Reaching the bank of the Saryu Lakshmana offered oblations and assumed a watery grave. God Indra came down and took him away in an aerial vehicle. Lakshmana's death plunged his three brothers in sorrow. They kept looking at the vehicle that took away Lakshmana to heaven.



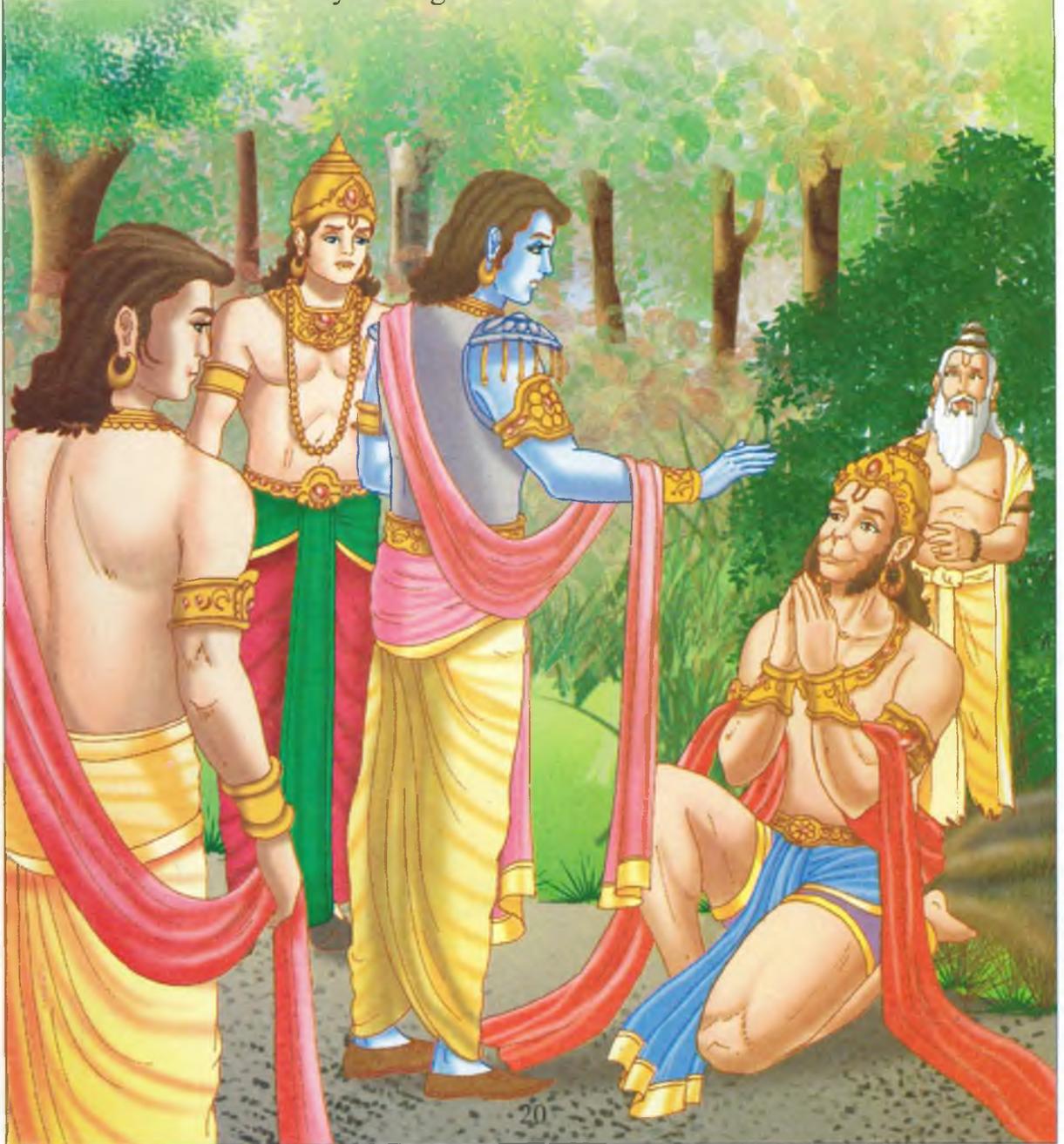
Rama turned totally against the wordly life after the death of Lakshmana. So, he invited Saint Vasishtha and summoned all his nobles and courtiers and said, "I want to give my throne to my dear brother Bharata and leave Ayodhya. So, preparations should be made for the Coronation of Bharata."

Bharata felt very upset. With folded hands, he told him, "Brother ! I have no craving for the throne. I am not ready to accept even heaven in your absence. I must go with you." Then, Rama sent his messenger to inform Shatrughna his last journey.



Hearing Rama's order, the messenger rushed to Shatrughna and brought him in no time. Shatrughna then said, "Brother ! I have Coronated both your sons and I have made up my mind to accompany you."

Seeing his brother adamant, Rama permitted him to accompany him. Then he sent for Hanumana and said, "Dear ! you must remain here on this earth. You must live happily here keeping me in your mind." Saying so, Rama made for the Saryu along with his two brothers.





People of Ayodhya too came to the Saryu river along with their ruler—Rama. The river was in spate at that time. Rama stood at the bank and invoked Lord Shiva. Then he began to advance into the river water followed by both his brothers—Bharata and Shatrughna. Just then a divine voice said.

“It is so good that you are returning to your eternal abode, O Rama along with your godly brothers. You are welcome along with them in whatever form you wish to come here.” Hearing the divine call, Rama smiled and assumed a watery grave along with his two brothers. The people of Ayodhya began to bewail bitterly.

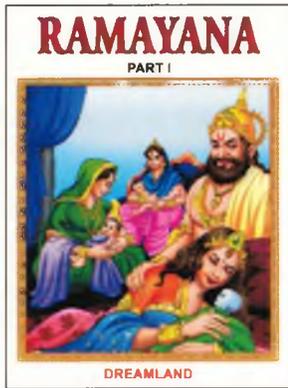
Hanumana became immortal through Rama’s blessing. He visits a new Rama temple every day and remembers his Lord—Rama. The great poet Tulasi Das saw Hanumana in a temple in the form of a leper. The Ramayana—Story of Rama—is no less than a Veda.



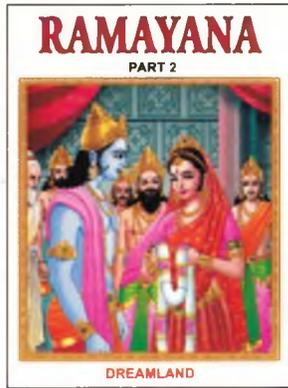
One who recites the holy saga of Lord Rama with unflinching devotion, gets rid of all worldly worries. Its study, whether in the morning, at noon or in the evening—keeps one safe from all ills and sorrows.



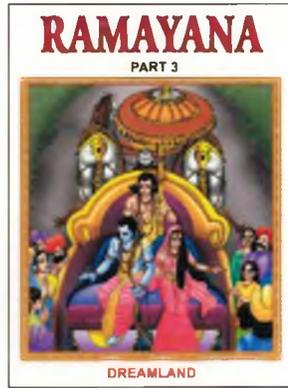
Let us enthrone Rama, his eternal consort Sita, his brothers Lakshmana, Bharata, Shatrughana along with the greatest devotee Hanuman on the throne of our hearts for the sake of bliss everlasting.



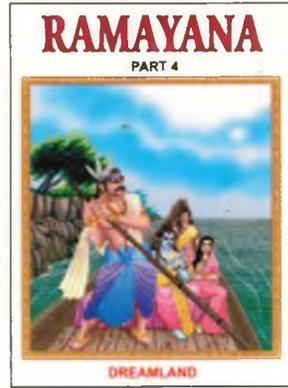
Childhood Episode-I



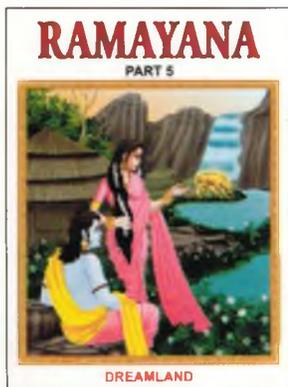
Childhood Episode-II



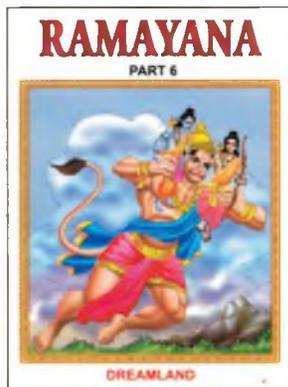
Ayodhya Episode-I



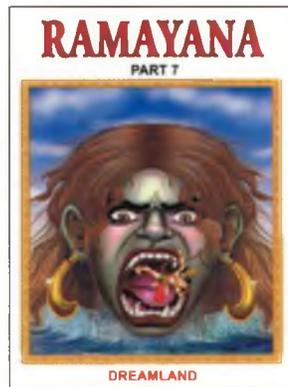
Ayodhya Episode-II



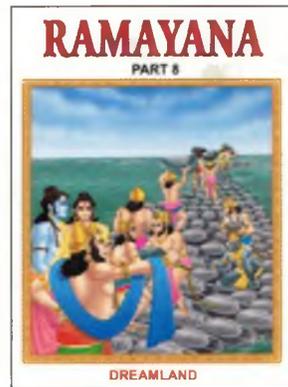
Forest Episode



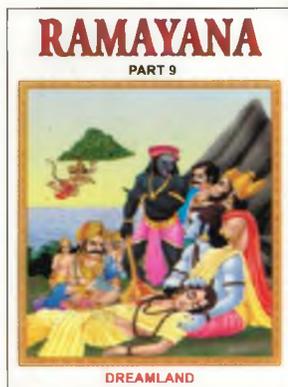
Kishkindha Episode



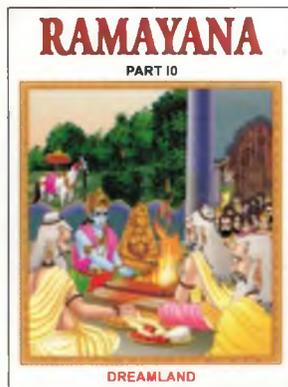
Fascinating Episode



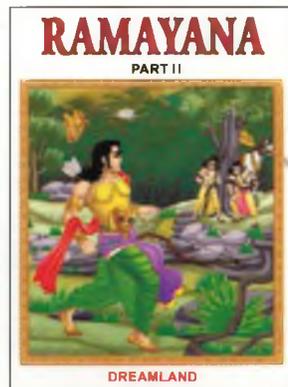
Battle Episode-I



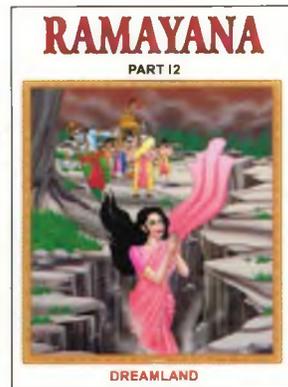
Battle Episode-II



Uttara Episode



Lava-Kusha Episode-I



Lava-Kusha Episode-II



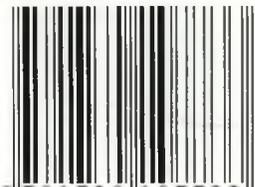
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