

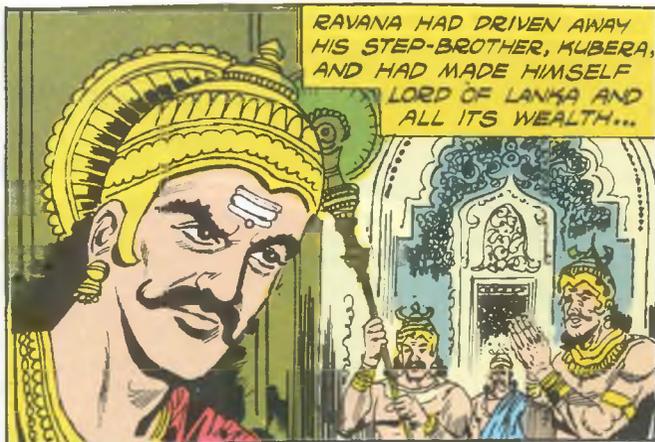
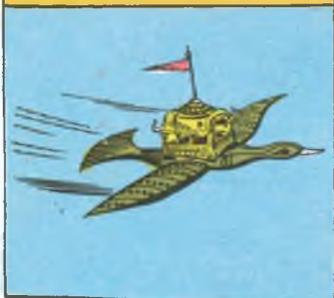
NO. 610 RS. 30



Ravana Humbled

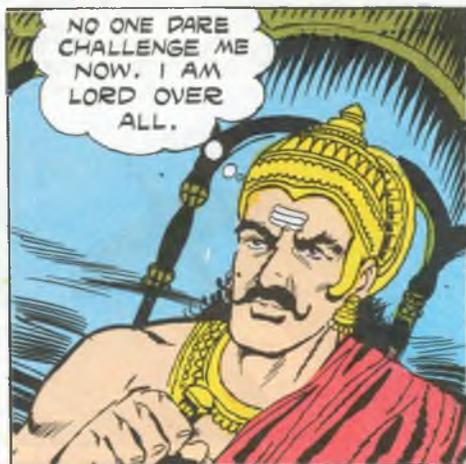
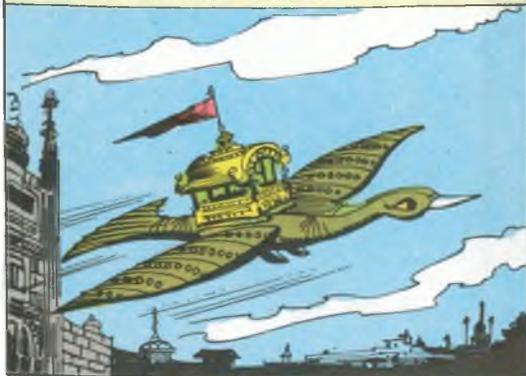


AT THE FEET OF SHIVA



RAVANA HAD DRIVEN AWAY HIS STEP-BROTHER, KUBERA, AND HAD MADE HIMSELF LORD OF LANKA AND ALL ITS WEALTH...

...INCLUDING PUSHPAKA, KUBERA'S FABULOUS AERIAL CHARIOT, THAT MOVED AS ITS OWNER WILLED.

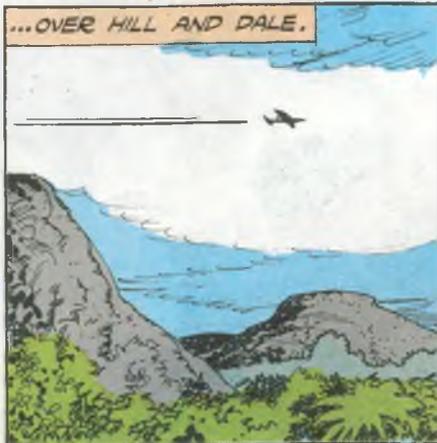


NO ONE DARE CHALLENGE ME NOW. I AM LORD OVER ALL.

RAVANA HAD REASON TO FEEL ALL-POWERFUL, FOR THE CHARIOT SOARED WITH EASE...



...OVER HILL AND DALE.



NEITHER THE BROADEST...



...NOR THE TALLEST OF MOUNTAINS
COULD STOP ITS PROGRESS ONCE
RAVANA HAD WILLED IT TO MOVE.

HIGHER!
HIGHER!



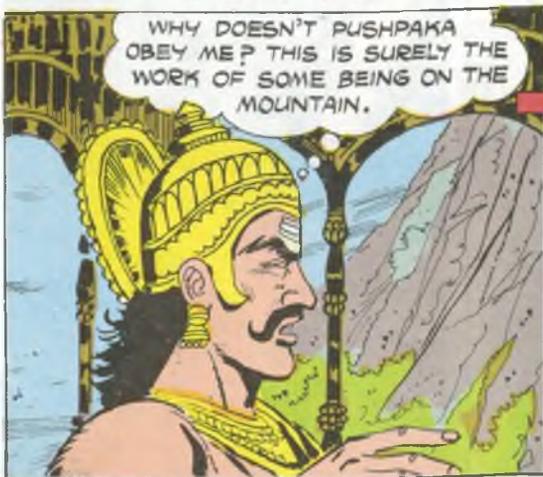
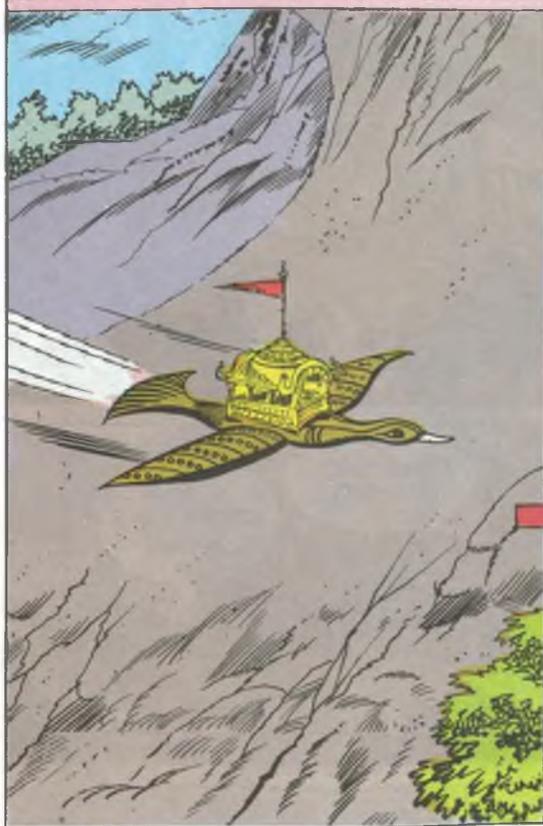
FLY OVER
IT!



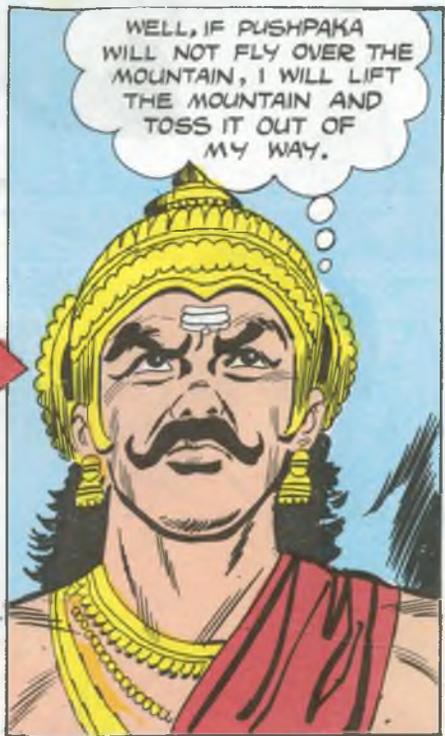
THE CHARIOT OBEYED
HIS EVERY WISH.

THEN ONE DAY, AS THEY WERE FLYING TOWARDS MOUNT KAILAS, THE ABODE OF SHIVA, THE CHARIOT SUDDENLY STOPPED.

TRY AS HE MIGHT, RAVANA COULD NOT GET IT TO MOVE.



WHY DOESN'T PUSHPAKA OBEY ME? THIS IS SURELY THE WORK OF SOME BEING ON THE MOUNTAIN.



WELL, IF PUSHPAKA WILL NOT FLY OVER THE MOUNTAIN, I WILL LIFT THE MOUNTAIN AND TOSS IT OUT OF MY WAY.

ATOP THE MOUNTAIN, AT THAT MOMENT, PARVATI, WHO HAD JUST HAD A TUFF WITH SHIVA, WAS WALKING AWAY IN A HUFF.



... AND HUGE BOULDERS
CAME TUMBLING DOWN.



PARVATI LOST HER BALANCE...



... AND ALMOST FELL.



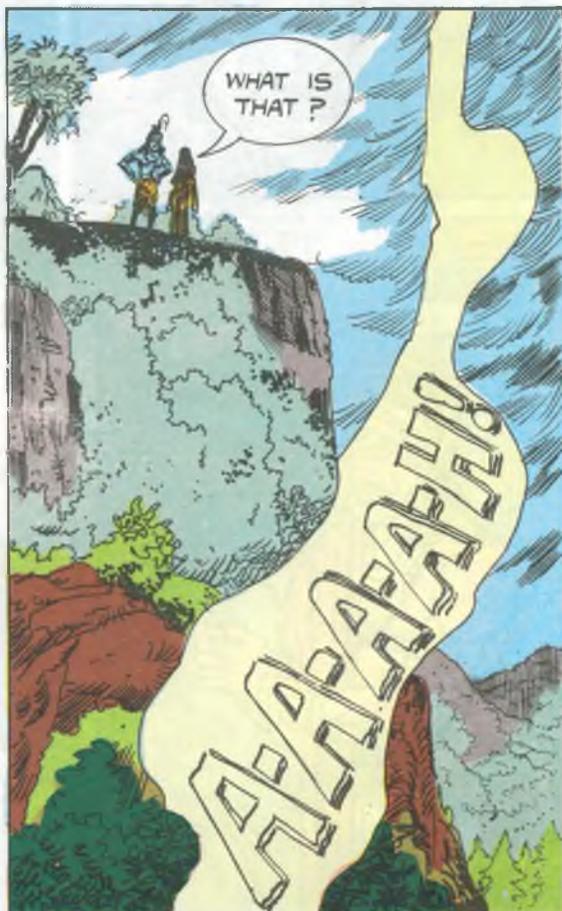
... AND RAN ...



... INTO THE ARMS OF SHIVA.

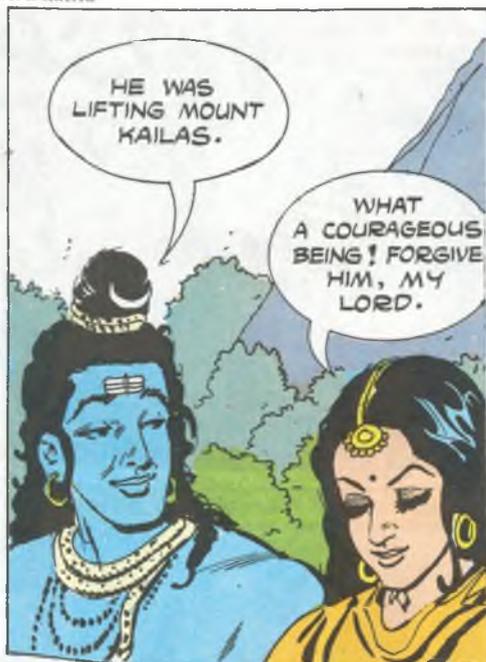








IT IS THE CRY OF OUR FRIEND. THE ONE WHO CAUSED THE TREMOR THAT BROUGHT YOU BACK TO ME.



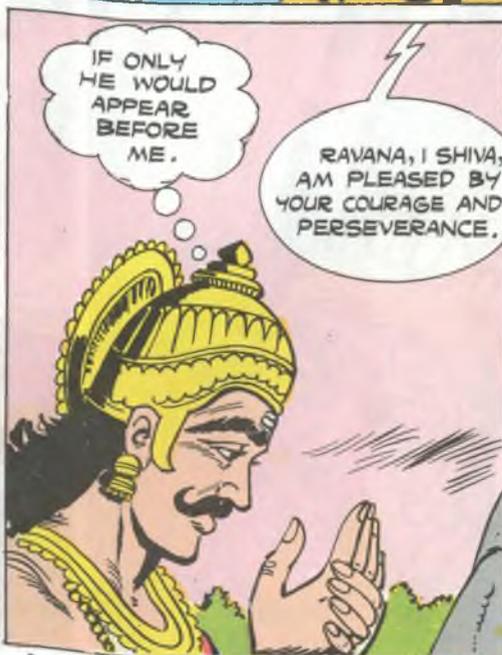
HE WAS LIFTING MOUNT KAILAS.

WHAT A COURAGEOUS BEING! FORGIVE HIM, MY LORD.



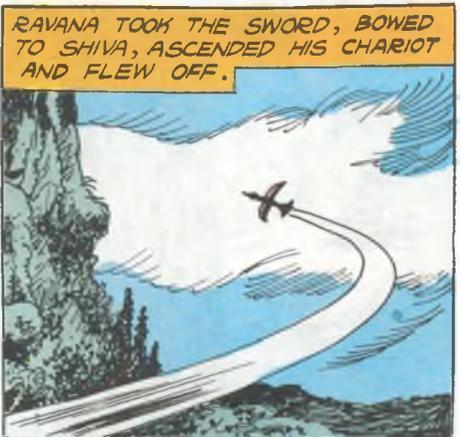
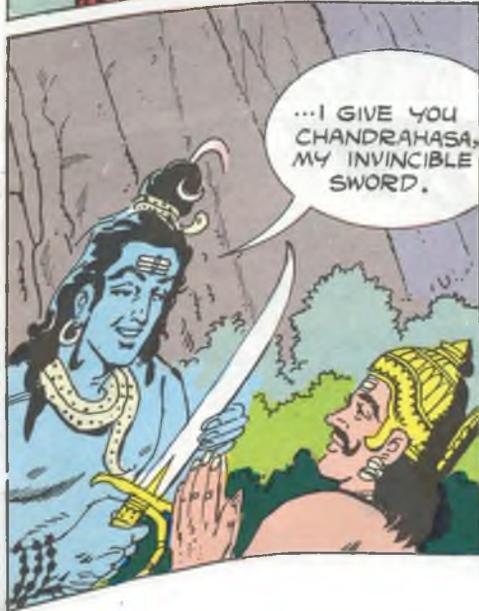
SOON—

THE BEING ON THIS MOUNTAIN IS MORE POWERFUL THAN I.



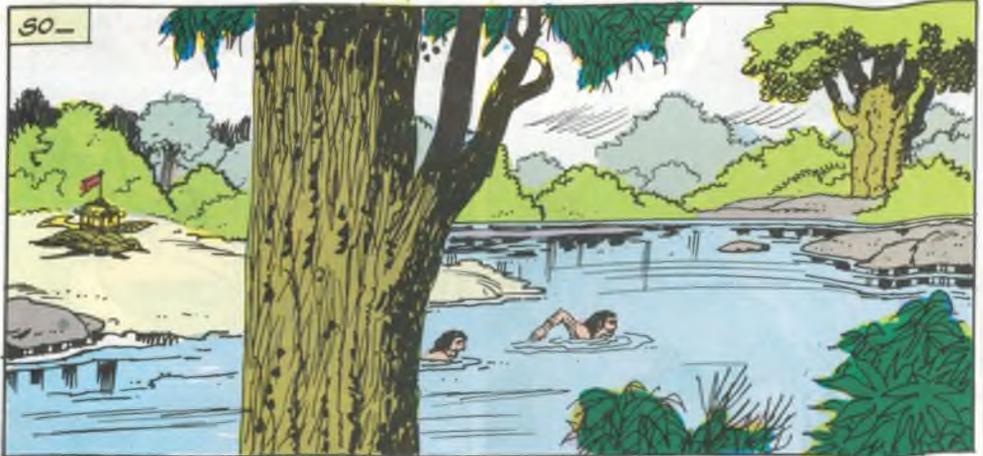
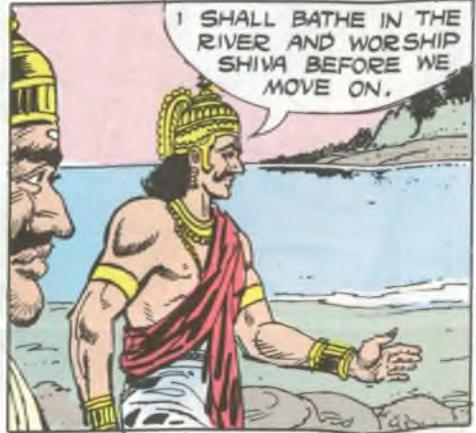
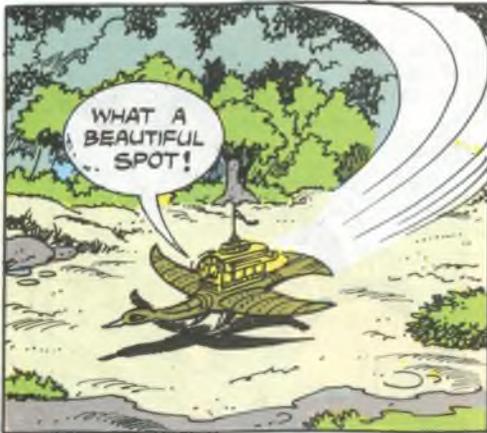
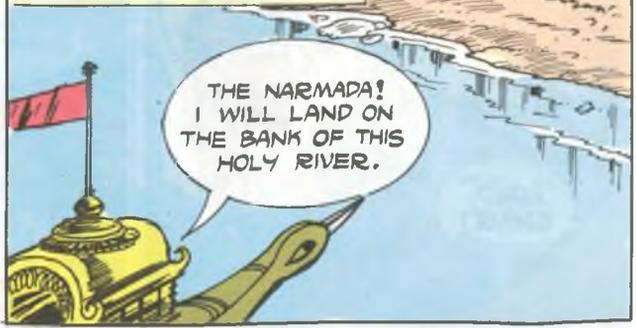
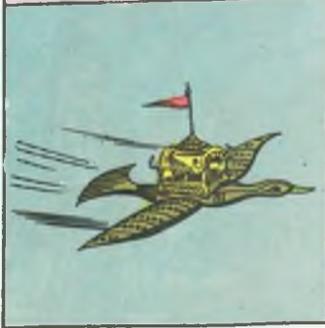
IF ONLY HE WOULD APPEAR BEFORE ME.

RAVANA, I SHIVA, AM PLEASSED BY YOUR COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE.

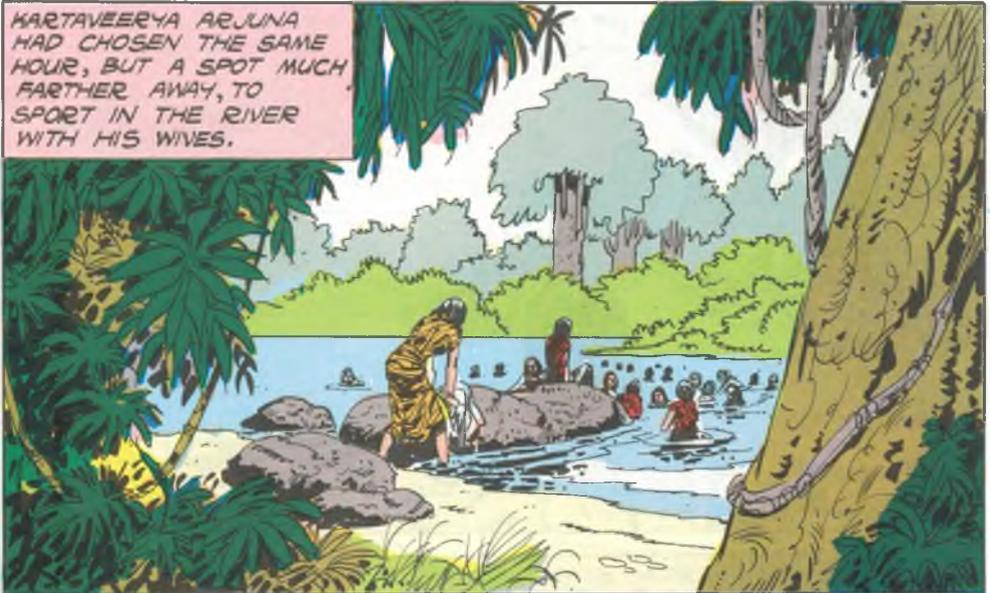


THE MAHISHMATI EPISODE

ONCE AS RAVANA WAS ROAMING AROUND IN PUSHPAKA, WITH A FEW OF HIS MINISTERS, THEY CAME TO MAHISHMATI, THE KINGDOM OF KARTAVEERYA ARJUNA.



KARTAVEERYA ARJUNA HAD CHOSEN THE SAME HOUR, BUT A SPOT MUCH FARTHER AWAY, TO SPORT IN THE RIVER WITH HIS WIVES.



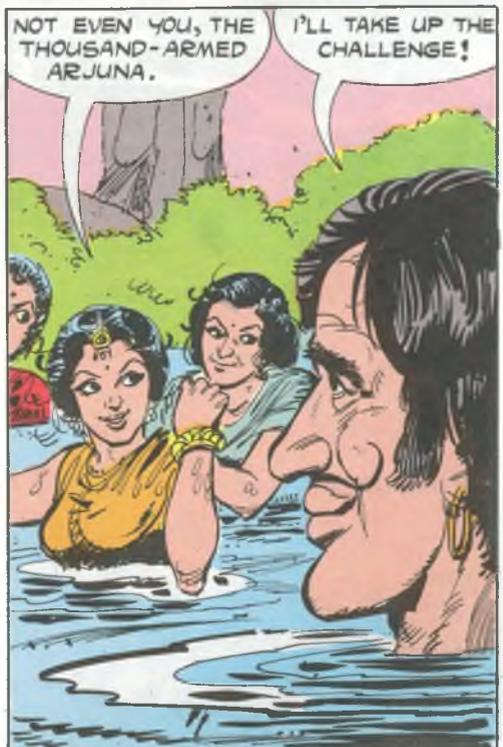
MY LORD, WE AGREE THAT YOU ARE VERY STRONG. BUT CAN YOU CONTAIN NARMADA?

NO ONE CAN!

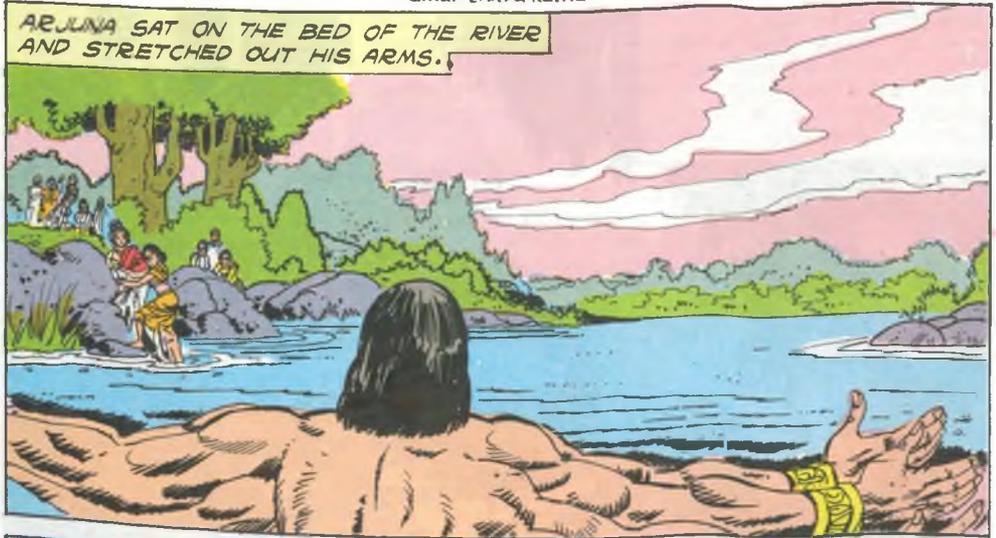


NOT EVEN YOU, THE THOUSAND-ARMED ARJUNA.

I'LL TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE!



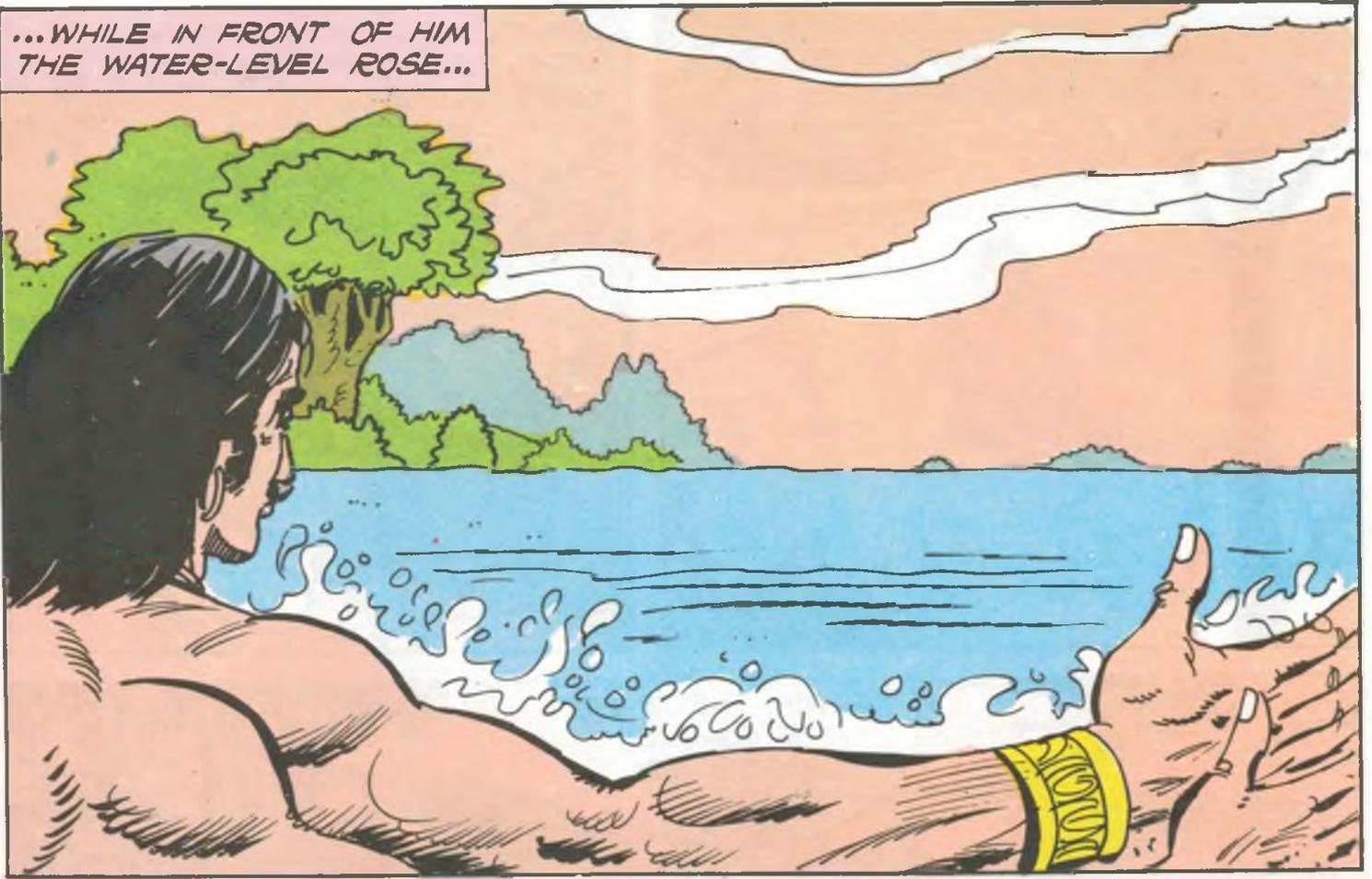
ARJUNA SAT ON THE BED OF THE RIVER AND STRETCHED OUT HIS ARMS.



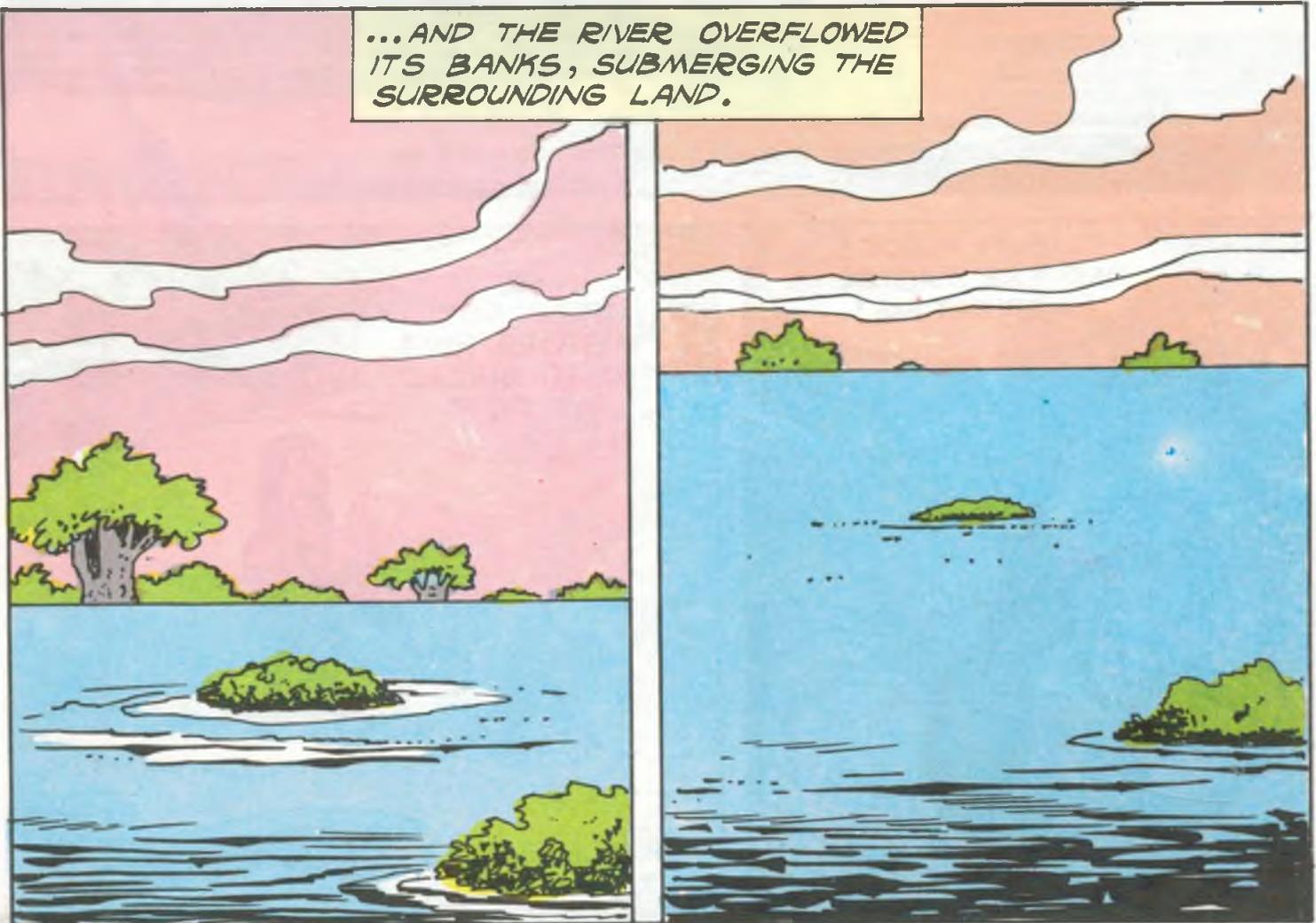
SOON, BEHIND ARJUNA THE BED OF THE RIVER RAN DRY...



...WHILE IN FRONT OF HIM
THE WATER-LEVEL ROSE...



...AND THE RIVER OVERFLOWED
ITS BANKS, SUBMERGING THE
SURROUNDING LAND.



FURTHER UPSTREAM, MEANWHILE, RAVANA HAD COME OUT OF THE WATER, MADE A LINGA* OUT OF SAND...



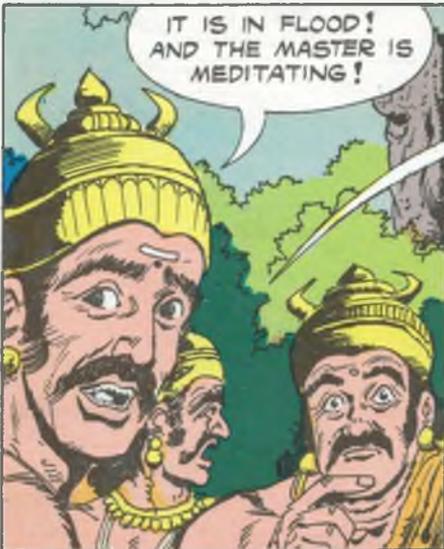
...AND SAT DOWN TO PRAY WITH HIS MINISTERS KEEPING VIGIL.



WATCH THE RIVER. IT'S COMING CLOSER TO US!



IT IS IN FLOOD! AND THE MASTER IS MEDITATING!



WE DARE NOT DISTURB HIM! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?



*SHIVA IS WORSHIPPED IN THIS FORM

RAVANA THE MIGHTY

Script: Swarn Khandpur
Illustrated by: S.K. Parab



RAVANA, THE RAKSHASA KING OF LANKA, WAS A MIGHTY BEING. HIS STRENGTH WAS SO GREAT THAT HE COULD AGITATE THE SEAS AND SPLIT THE PEAKS OF MOUNTAINS.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF LANKA, RAMA WHO WAS SEEING HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME, EXCLAIMED, "AH! WHAT GLORY, WHAT EXCEEDING MAJESTY IS RAVANA'S! AS ONE CANNOT GAZE ON THE SUN, NEITHER CAN THE EYE REST ON HIM, SUCH IS THE BLINDING POWER OF HIS MAGNIFICENCE! NEITHER DEVAS, DANAVAS NOR HEROES POSSESS A BODY EQUAL TO HIS!"

RAMA AND RAVANA WERE SKILLED WARRIORS AND BOTH BROUGHT EXCEPTIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS TO THE FIGHT. WATCHING THE DREADFUL COMBAT BETWEEN THE TWO, THE DEVAS, THE GANDHARVAs, THE RISHIS, THE DANAVAS AND THE DAITYAS CRIED OUT, "AS THE SKY IS COMPARABLE ONLY WITH THE SKY AND THE OCEAN ONLY WITH THE OCEAN, SO IS THIS FIGHT BETWEEN RAMA AND RAVANA!"

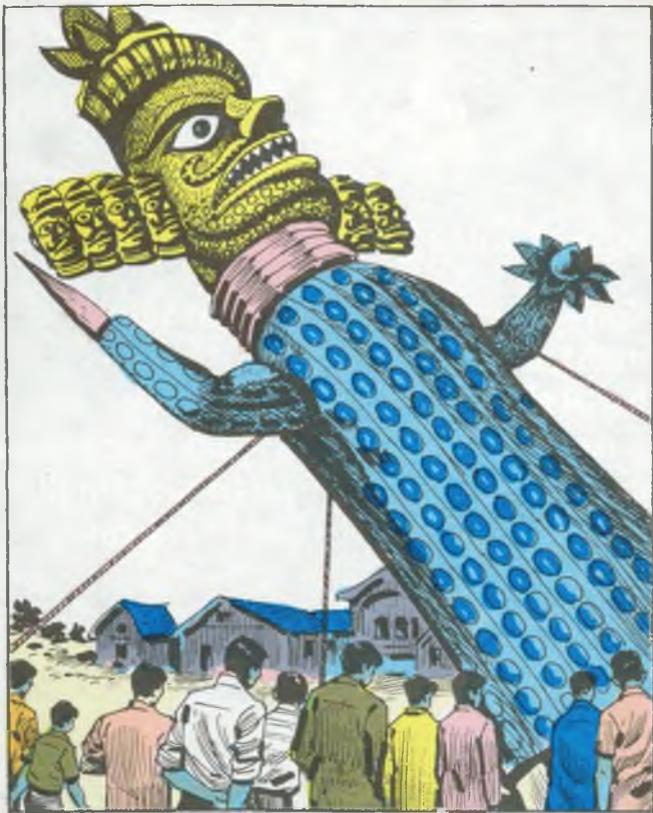
RAMA'S VICTORY OVER RAVANA IS COMMEMORATED IN THE NORTH DURING THE FESTIVAL OF DUSSEHRA. FOR NINE DAYS RAMLILA IS ENACTED AND ON THE TENTH DAY, DUSSEHRA WHICH MARKS THE DAY OF VICTORY, AN EFFIGY OF RAVANA IS BURNT.



THE HUGE EFFIGY IS ERECTED ON A MIGHTY FRAMEWORK OF BAMBOOS. IT IS THEN FILLED WITH FIRE-CRACKERS AND COVERED ON THE OUTSIDE WITH COLOURED PAPERS.

ALTHOUGH RAVANA IS DESCRIBED IN THE RAMAYANA AS HAVING TEN HEADS, IN FOLK ART HE IS OFTEN SHOWN WITH ONLY NINE.

ON DUSSEHRA DAY, WHEN THE EFFIGY CATCHES FIRE, IT BLAZES IN FIERY SPLENDOUR TILL THE MIGHTY RAVANA FALLS.



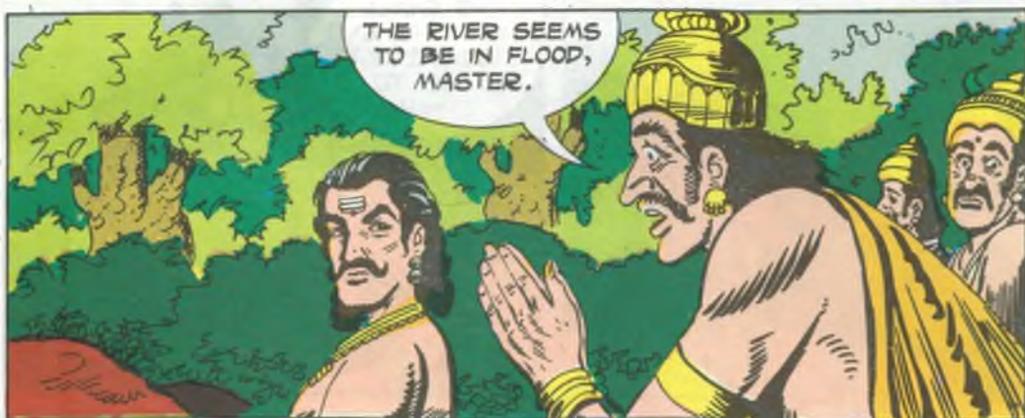
THE MINISTERS WATCHED
HELPLESSLY AS THE WATER
GRADUALLY NEARED RAVANA.



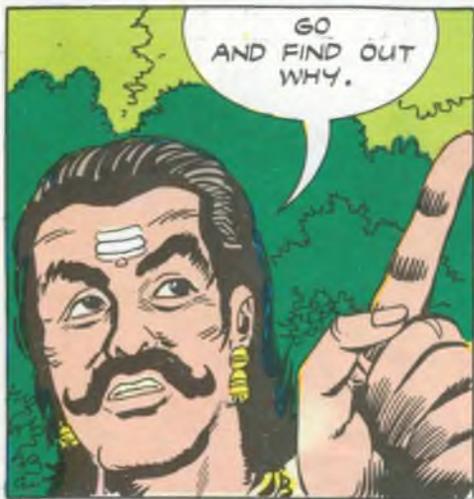
AS IT BEGAN TO WASH AWAY THE
LINGA, RAVANA'S PRAYERS ENDED
AND HE OPENED HIS EYES.



THE RIVER SEEMS
TO BE IN FLOOD,
MASTER.



GO
AND FIND OUT
WHY.

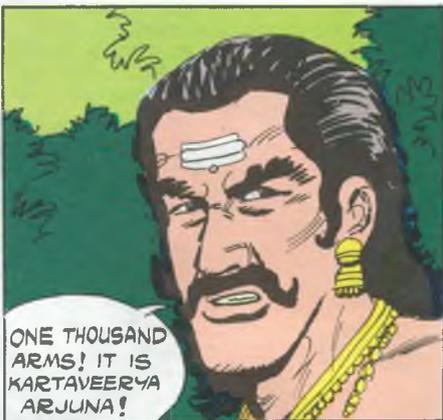


SOON, THE MINISTER WAS BACK.

MASTER, A MIGHTY BEING HAS DAMMED THE RIVER WITH HIS MASSIVE TRUNK AND HIS ONE THOUSAND ARMS!



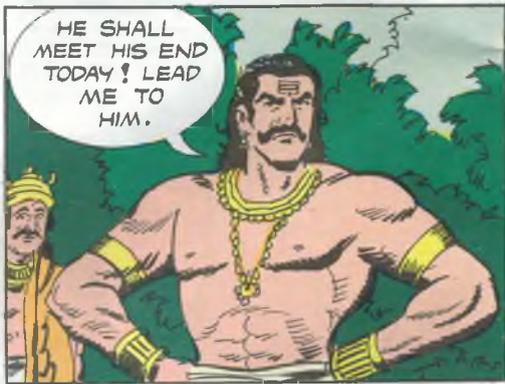
ONE THOUSAND ARMS! IT IS KARTAVEERYA ARJUNA!



HOW DARE HE!

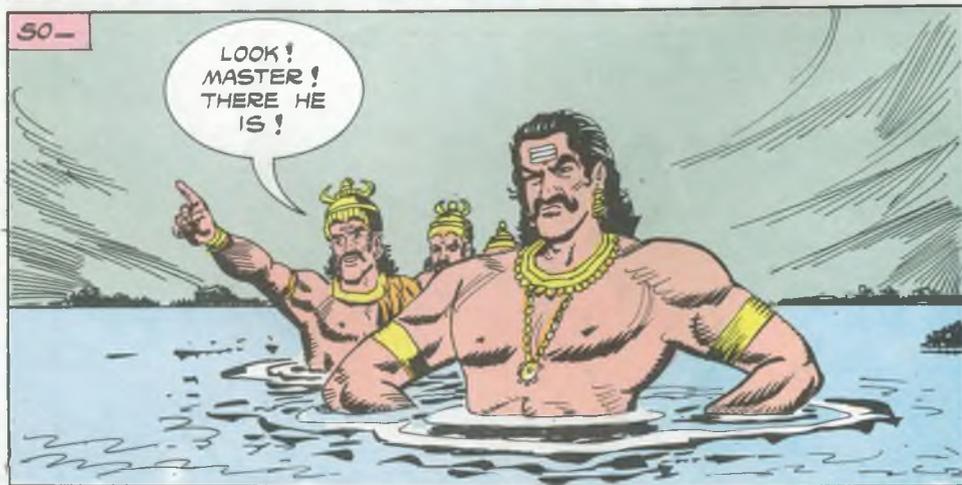


HE SHALL MEET HIS END TODAY! LEAD ME TO HIM.



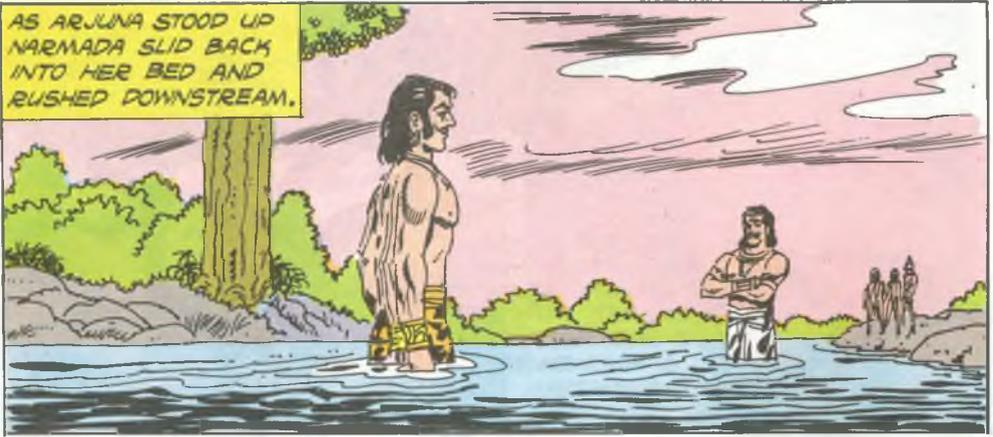
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LOOK! MASTER! THERE HE IS!





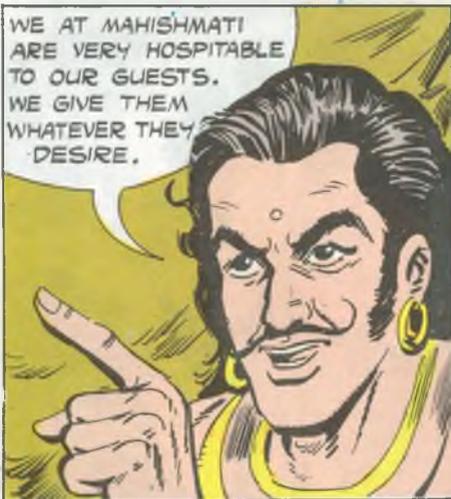
AS ARJUNA STOOD UP
NARMADA SLID BACK
INTO HER BED AND
RUSHED DOWNSTREAM.



ARJUNA STRODE
OVER TO RAVANA,



WE AT MAHISHMATI
ARE VERY HOSPITABLE
TO OUR GUESTS.
WE GIVE THEM
WHATEVER THEY
DESIRE.



SO I WILL
GIVE YOU THE
BATTLE YOU
CRAVE.



THE WEAPON THEY CHOSE WAS THE MACE. THE TWO MIGHTY KINGS FOUGHT LONG AND HARD.



AT LAST A BLOW FROM ARJUNA SENT RAVANA REELING...

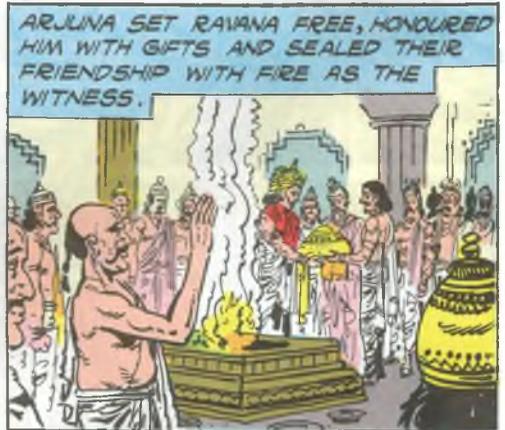
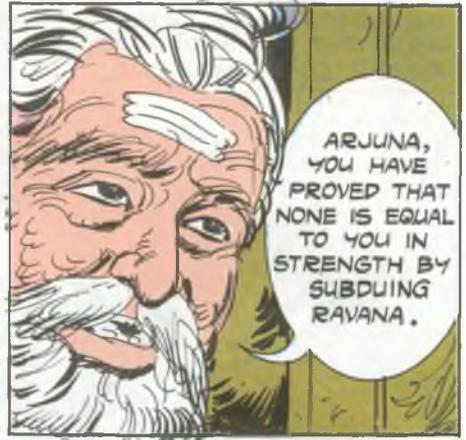


... TO THE GROUND.

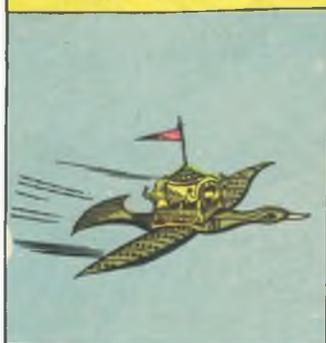


WHEN RAVANA'S GRANDFATHER, THE SAGE PULASTYA, LEARNT THAT ARJUNA HAD TAKEN HIS GRANDSON PRISONER, HE CAME TO MAHISHMATI.





TAILPIECE



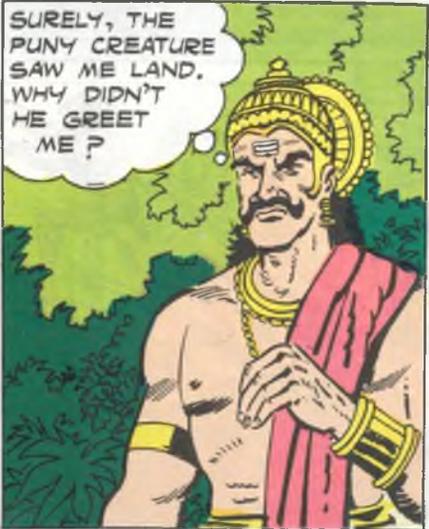
ONE DAY RAVANA CAME TO THE CITY OF MISHKINDHA.



PUSHPAKA DUTIFULLY BROUGHT HIM DOWN AND RAVANA WALKED OUT.

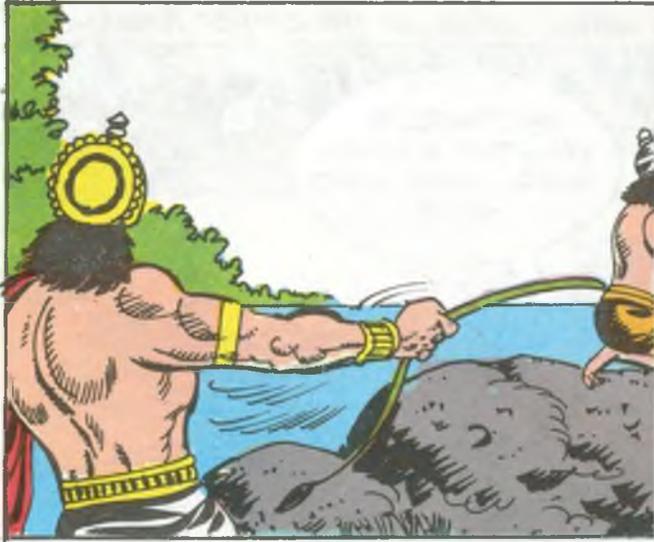


SURELY, THE PUNY CREATURE SAW ME LAND. WHY DIDN'T HE GREET ME ?



HE NEEDS TO BE HUMBLER FOR THIS.





VALI, THE MONKEY KING, HAD FINISHED HIS PRAYER ON THE EASTERN SHORE. HE WAS NOW OFF ...



... TO THE WESTERN SHORE ...



... FOR A HOLY DIP ...



... AND MORE PRAYERS.



NOW IS THE TIME TO FREE MYSELF.





VALI TOOK OFF AGAIN.

AFTER PRAYING IN THE HIMALAYAS
HE CAME DOWN TO THE SOUTHERN SHORE...



...FOR THE LAST DIP...



...AND THE LAST ROUND OF
PRAYERS.







