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# The Lord of Lanka



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India

IBH

# The Lord of Lanka

The Ramayana of Valmiki is considered to be the oldest epic of India. Unlike the Mahabharata, the story of Rama has no historical foundation. Yet the poem has become an intrinsic part of Hindu life. The victory of Rama, symbolic of the good forces, over Ravana, symbolic of the evil forces, is still celebrated all over India during the Dassera festival, held around October.

The story of Rama has inspired many to write poems and scholarly treatises. A number of versions of the story are prevalent, not only in Sanskrit, the language in which Valmiki wrote his Ramayana but also in Hindi, Bengali, Tamil and other Indian languages. During the course of time, what was basically a straightforward adventurous story underwent transformation.

Sumali, a Rakshasa king, comes from the nether-world to the world of men in search of a groom for his daughter, Kaikesi. He is impressed by the mighty Kubera, son of Vishrava. He argues that if his daughter were to marry Vishrava, she would have sons as mighty as Kubera. Kaikesi marries Vishrava, but is fated to beget Rakshasa children, the eldest of whom is Ravana. Urged by his ambitious mother, Ravana puts forward his claim to be the Lord of Lanka. Thereafter follow a number of adventures, ultimately leading to the siege of Lanka by Rama.

The story, as narrated here, is based on the Uttara Kanda of Valmiki's Ramayana.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.  
Over 78 million copies sold so far.

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# THE LORD OF LANKA



SUMALI WAS THE KING OF THE RAKSHASAS.  
FROM THE NETHER-WORLD, WHERE HE LIVED,  
HE ONCE CAME TO VISIT THE WORLD OF MEN,  
ALONG WITH HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, KAIKEŚI.

YOU SHALL MARRY THE  
WORTHIEST OF MEN  
AND BEAR MANY MIGHTY  
SONS.



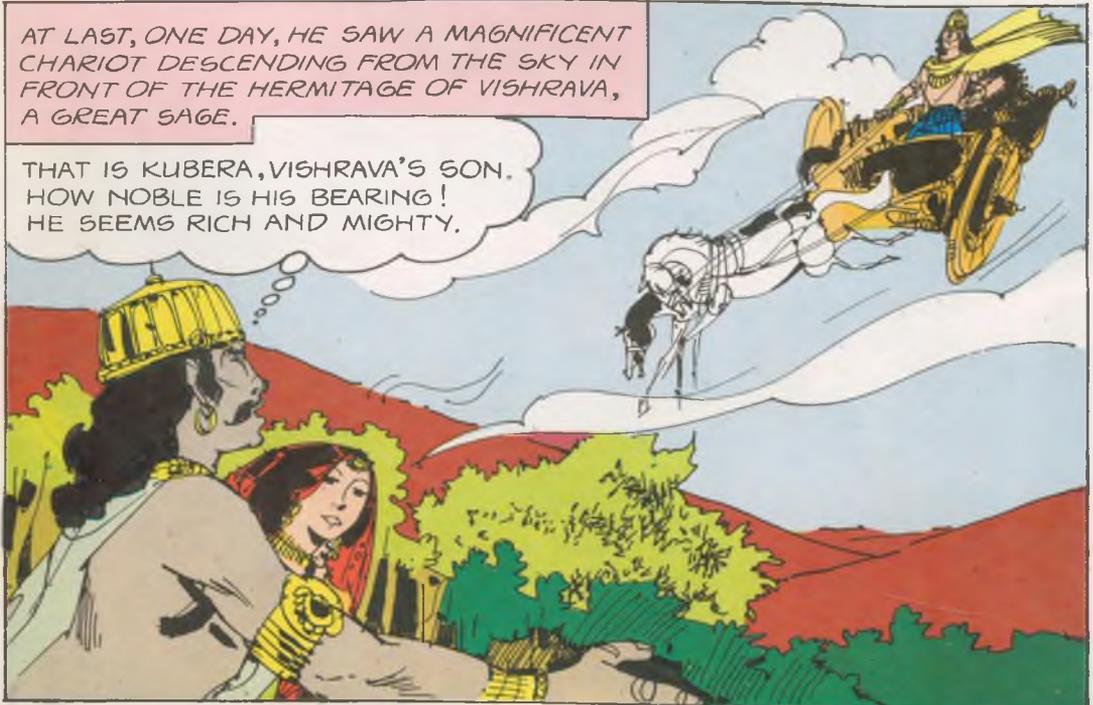
HE TRAVELLED FROM ONE PLACE  
TO ANOTHER LOOKING FOR  
THE MAN. BUT-

KAIKESI, NOT ONE  
OF THEM IS  
GOOD ENOUGH.



AT LAST, ONE DAY, HE SAW A MAGNIFICENT  
CHARIOT DESCENDING FROM THE SKY  
IN FRONT OF THE HERMITAGE OF VISHRAVA,  
A GREAT SAGE.

THAT IS KUBERA, VISHRAVA'S SON.  
HOW NOBLE IS HIS BEARING!  
HE SEEMS RICH AND MIGHTY.

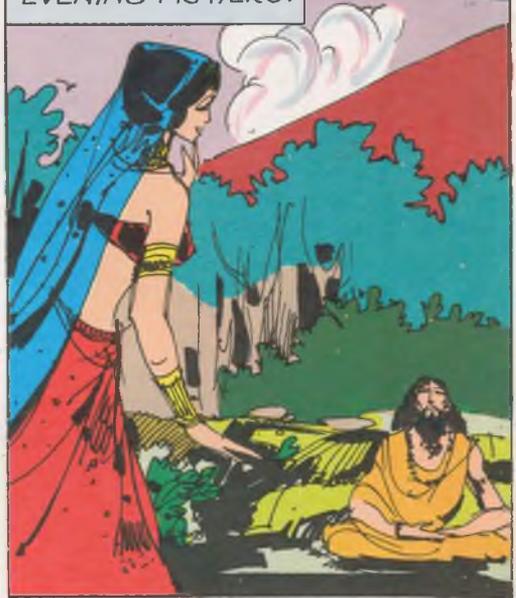


SUMALI RETURNED WITH HIS DAUGHTER TO THE NETHER-WORLD; BUT HE COULD NOT FORGET KUBERA.

DAUGHTER, APPROACH VISHRAVA AND WIN HIM OVER. IF HE MARRIES YOU, YOU WILL HAVE SONS AS MIGHTY AS KUBERA.

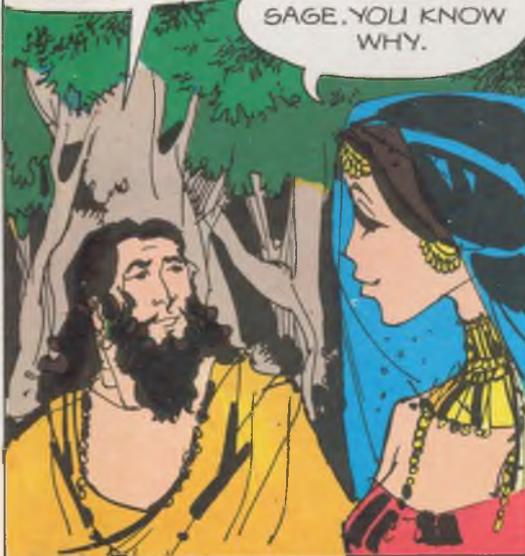


ACCORDINGLY KAIKESI WENT TO THE HERMITAGE OF VISHRAVA. HE WAS BUSY OFFERING HIS EVENING PRAYERS.

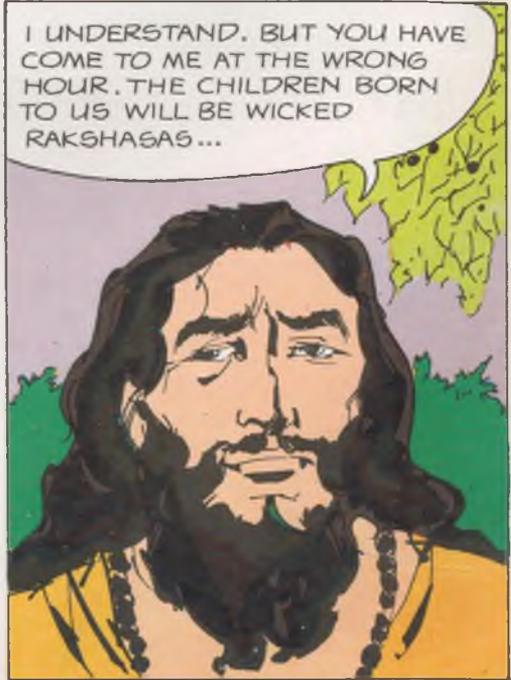


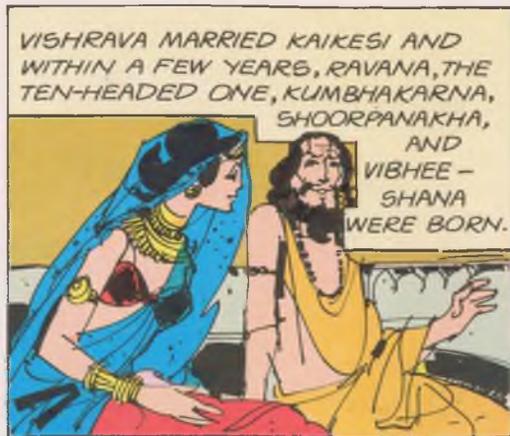
O BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN! WHO ARE YOU? WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?

MY NAME IS KAIKESI. YOU ARE A GREAT SAGE. YOU KNOW WHY.



I UNDERSTAND. BUT YOU HAVE COME TO ME AT THE WRONG HOUR. THE CHILDREN BORN TO US WILL BE WICKED RAKSHASAS...





YEARS ROLLED BY. RAVANA AND KUMBHAKARNA GREW UP TO BE ARROGANT AND AMBITIOUS. ONE DAY, KUBERA CAME TO VISIT HIS FATHER.



RAVANA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT FOR GOKARNA ALONG WITH HIS BROTHERS, KUMBHAKARNA AND VIBHEESHANA. THEY BEGAN PERFORMING SEVERE PENANCES.



DURING THE PENANCE, RAVANA DID NOT TOUCH FOOD. ONE BY ONE HE SACRIFICED HIS HEADS IN THE HOLY FIRE.



WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO SACRIFICE HIS TENTH HEAD, LORD BRAHMA APPEARED BEFORE HIM.



I AM PLEASED WITH YOU. ASK FOR A BOON.





O LORD,  
GRANT ME  
IMMORTALITY.

IMMORTALITY IS  
NOT FOR YOU.  
ASK FOR  
SOMETHING ELSE.



THEN LET ME  
NOT DIE AT THE  
HANDS OF GODS,  
DEMONS,  
RAKSHASAS  
SERPENTS AND  
SPIRITS. I AM  
NOT AFRAID  
OF MORTALS.

SO BE  
IT.



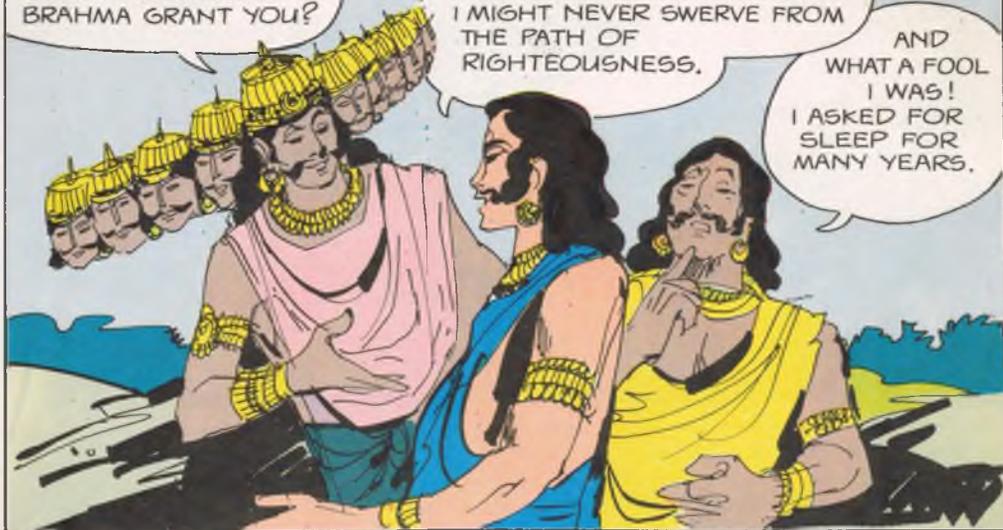
AND I GRANT YOU MORE.  
YOUR HEADS WILL BE  
RESTORED TO YOU.  
YOU WILL ALSO HAVE  
THE POWER TO CHANGE  
YOUR FORM AT WILL.

BRAHMA ALSO GRANTED BOONS TO VIBHEESHANA AND KUMBHAKARNA.

VIBHEESHANA, WHAT BOON DID LORD BRAHMA GRANT YOU?

IMMORTALITY. I HAD ONLY EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT I MIGHT NEVER SWERVE FROM THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

AND WHAT A FOOL I WAS! I ASKED FOR SLEEP FOR MANY YEARS.



WHEN THEY RETURNED HOME, SUMALI CAME TO MEET THEM.

RAVANA, I AM PROUD OF YOU. NOW WIN BACK LANKA. IT BELONGS RIGHTFULLY TO OUR PEOPLE.

PROMPTED BY THE WORDS OF SUMALI AND HIS MEN, RAVANA SET OUT FOR LANKA.

BROTHER! IT IS NOT PROPER.

QUIET, VIBHEESHANA. WHO ASKED FOR YOUR ADVICE?



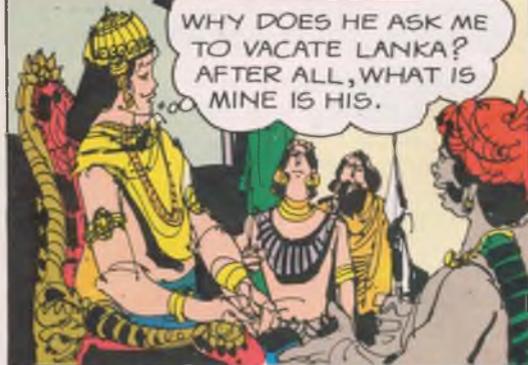
FROM HIS CAMP IN THE JUNGLE OF THE TRIKOOTA MOUNTAINS, RAVANA SENT A MESSENGER TO THE COURT OF KUBERA.

GO AND TELL KUBERA THAT HE MUST VACATE LANKA, IMMEDIATELY. I WISH TO OCCUPY IT.



AT THE COURT OF KUBERA -

WHY DOES HE ASK ME TO VACATE LANKA? AFTER ALL, WHAT IS MINE IS HIS.



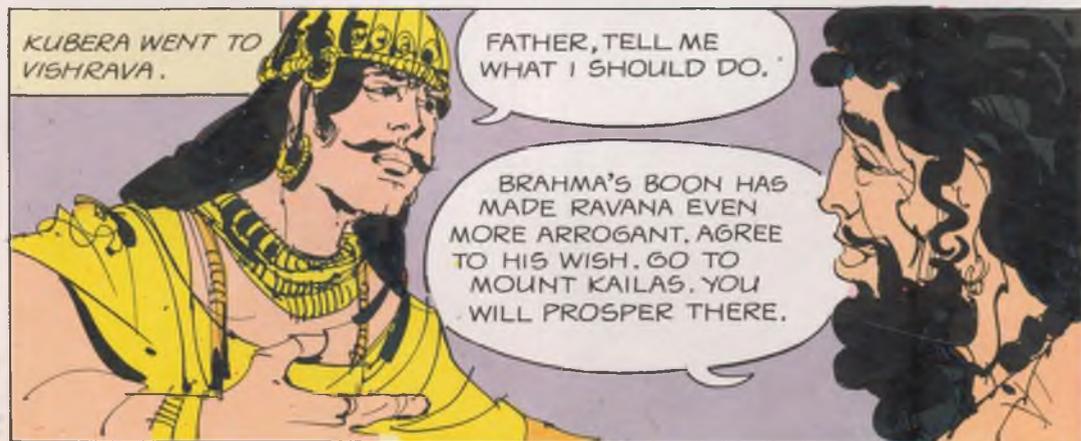
TELL RAVANA, I WILL CONSULT MY FATHER AND ACT.



KUBERA WENT TO VISHRAVA.

FATHER, TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO.

BRAHMA'S BOON HAS MADE RAVANA EVEN MORE ARROGANT. AGREE TO HIS WISH. GO TO MOUNT KAILAS. YOU WILL PROSPER THERE.



KUBERA VACATED LANKA. RAVANA CAME THERE WITH HIS ARMY AND BECAME THE KING.

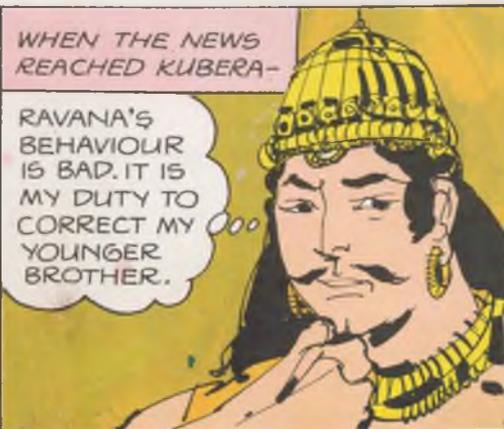


AS THE DAYS PASSED, RAVANA BECAME INCREASINGLY ARROGANT. HE BEGAN HARASSING THE GODS, SAGES AND GANDHARVAS.



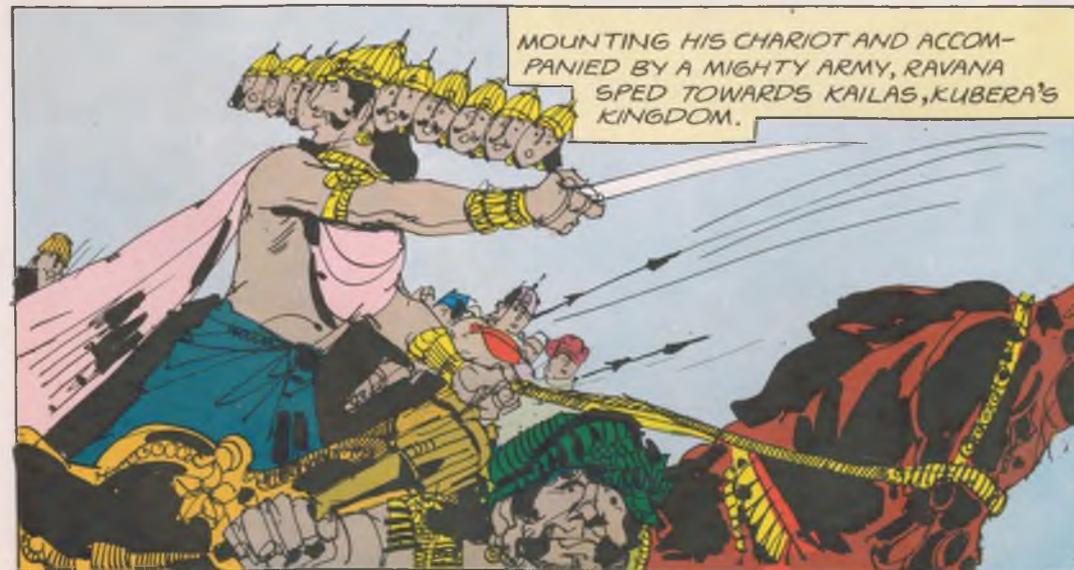
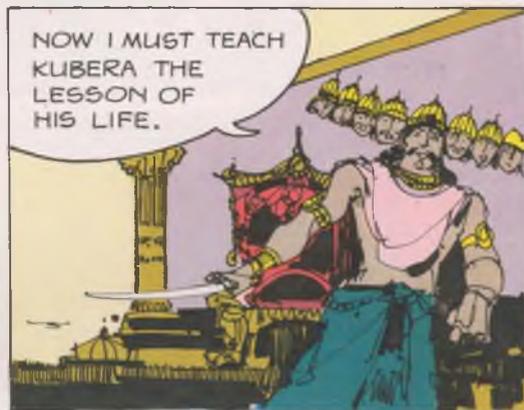
WHEN THE NEWS REACHED KUBERA-

RAVANA'S BEHAVIOUR IS BAD. IT IS MY DUTY TO CORRECT MY YOUNGER BROTHER.



HE SENT A MESSENGER TO LANKA.





A GREAT BATTLE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE ARMIES OF RAVANA AND KUBERA.



BECAUSE OF THE BOON, RAVANA HAD RECEIVED FROM BRAHMA, NOTHING SEEMED TO HURT HIM...



...NOT EVEN THE MIGHTY MACE OF KUBERA.



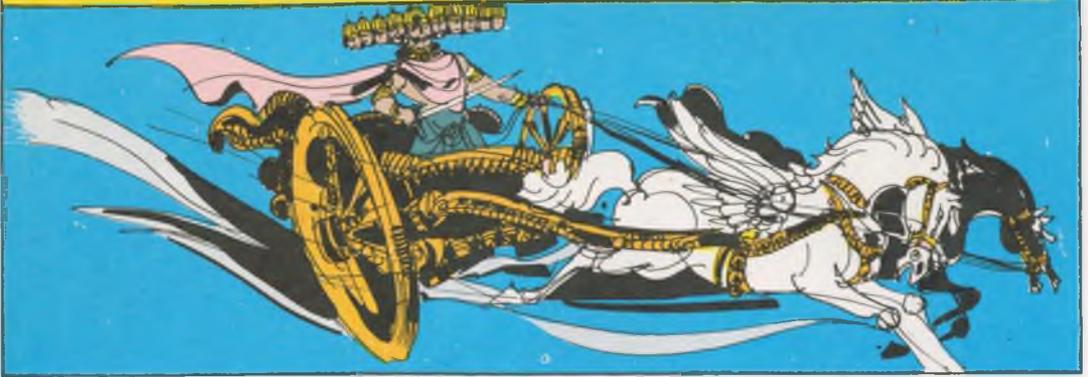
AT LAST KUBERA FELL...



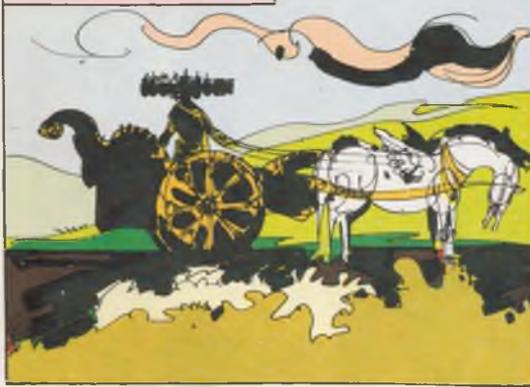
...BUT THE GODS WHO WERE WITNESSING THE BATTLE FROM ABOVE, TOOK HIM TO SAFETY IN A HEAVENLY CHARIOT.



THERE WAS NONE TO OBSTRUCT RAVANA NOW. HE SEIZED 'PUSHPAK', THE FLYING CHARIOT OF KUBERA, AND BEGAN EXPLORING MOUNT KAILAS.



SOON, HOWEVER, 'PUSHPAK' CAME TO A DEAD HALT.



WHEN RAVANA SAT BROODING ABOUT THE CAUSE...



...NANDI, SHIVA'S ATTENDANT, CAME DOWN.

RAVANA! THIS IS LORD SHIVA'S ABODE. DO NOT DISTURB HIM.

WHOSE ORDERS ARE THESE? SHIVA'S? I'LL UPROOT THIS VERY MOUNTAIN ON WHICH HE RESTS.



ASSUMING A HUGE FORM RAVANA TRIED TO LIFT KAILAS.



AS THE MOUNTAIN SHOOK, THE FOLLOWERS OF SHIVA WERE TERRIFIED.



EVEN PARVATI, LORD SHIVA'S CONSORT, WAS SCARED.



LORD SHIVA PRESSED THE MOUNTAIN WITH HIS TOE AND RAVANA'S HANDS WERE CRUSHED BELOW IT.



RAVANA'S MINISTER ADVISED HIM,

NONE OTHER THAN LORD SHIVA CAN SAVE YOU NOW. PROPITIATE HIM.



RAVANA BEGAN SINGING HYMNS IN PRAISE OF SHIVA.



PLEASED WITH HIM, LORD SHIVA PERMITTED RAVANA TO REMOVE HIS HANDS FROM UNDER THE MOUNTAIN...



...AND GAVE HIM A SWORD.



RAVANA NOW ROAMED ABOUT THE WORLD, CONQUERING ALL WHOM HE MET.



ONE DAY, IN THE JUNGLES OF THE HIMALAYAS, HE SAW A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN ENGAGED IN MEDITATION.



RAVANA ADVANCED TOWARDS HER.



I AM VEDAVATI. I AM PERFORMING THESE AUSTERITIES TO WIN LORD VISHNU AS MY HUSBAND.





RAVANA SEIZED HER BY HER HAIR.



ENRAGED, VEDAVATI CREATED A FIRE...



...AND JUMPED INTO IT.



VEDAVATI TOOK BIRTH IN A LOTUS.



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL  
BABY! WHO COULD  
SHE BE?



RAVANA TOOK HER TO HIS CAMP.  
BUT-



SHE WILL BE  
THE CAUSE  
OF YOUR  
DEATH..

WHAT  
SHALL I  
DO WITH  
HER?

DISCARD  
HER.

RAVANA IMMEDIATELY THREW HER  
INTO THE RIVER.



MANY DAYS LATER, IN KING JANAKA'S YAGNASHALA,\* AT MITHILA-



SUDDENLY THERE APPEARED, IN THE CENTRE OF THE HALL, A BEAUTIFUL CHILD.

MY PRAYERS HAVE AT LAST BEEN ANSWERED. I'LL ADOPT HER AS MY CHILD.



SINCE I HAVE OBTAINED HER FROM A FURROW\*\* I'LL NAME HER SITA.



SITA SOON GREW TO BE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL LOVED BY ONE AND ALL.



\* HALL OF FIRE-SACRIFICE. \*\* SITA.

JANAKA ARRANGED A SWAYAMWARA TO WHICH HE INVITED PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR.

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

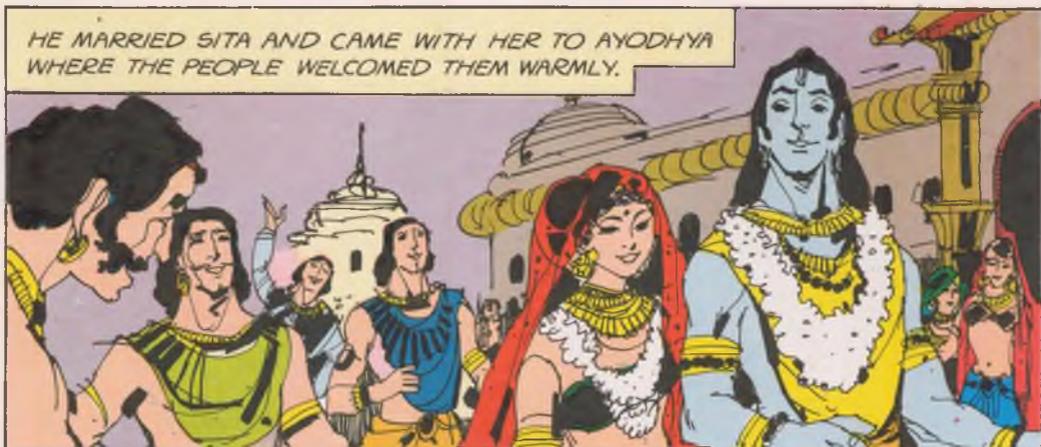


AMONG THE PRINCES WAS RAMA OF  
AYODHYA, WHO HAD COME THERE  
WITH SAGE VISHWAMITRA.

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



HE MARRIED SITA AND CAME WITH HER TO AYODHYA  
WHERE THE PEOPLE WELCOMED THEM WARMLY.



MEANWHILE —

NOW I MUST  
CONQUER THE  
GODS IN HEAVEN.



ONE NIGHT, WHEN RAVANA AND HIS MEN WERE RESTING ON MOUNT KAILAS, NEAR KUBERA'S CAPITAL ...



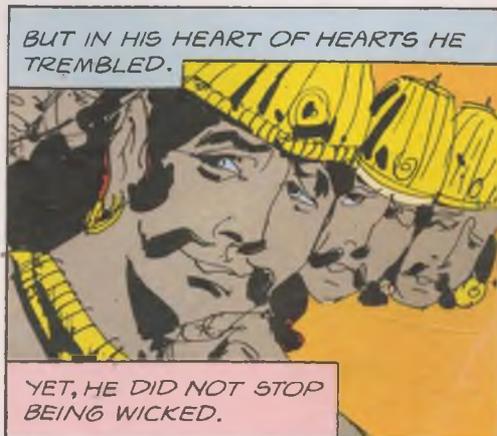
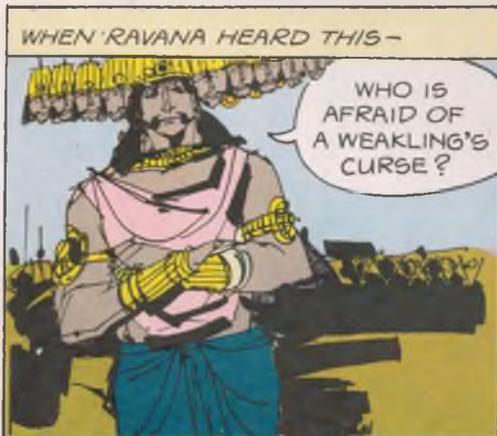
...HE SAW A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN PASSING BY.



HE GOT UP FROM HIS SEAT AND STARTED MOVING TOWARDS HER.







ONE DAY, RAVANA CAME, DISGUISED AS A MONK, TO THE DANDAKA FOREST.



O BEAUTIFUL ONE,  
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING  
HERE, ALONE  
IN THIS  
FOREST?

I AM SITA, WIFE OF RAMA,  
THE PRINCE OF AYODHYA.  
HE HAS GONE HUNTING...



...MY HUSBAND HAD TO COME  
TO LIVE IN THE FOREST TO  
FULFIL A PROMISE MADE  
BY HIS FATHER, WHO  
ARE YOU?



I AM RAVANA.  
I HAVE COME  
HERE TO TAKE  
YOU WITH ME.  
YOU WILL BE  
MY WIFE.



NEVER! GIVE  
UP SUCH  
THOUGHTS. YOU  
WILL ONLY INVITE  
DEATH BY  
COVETING ME.

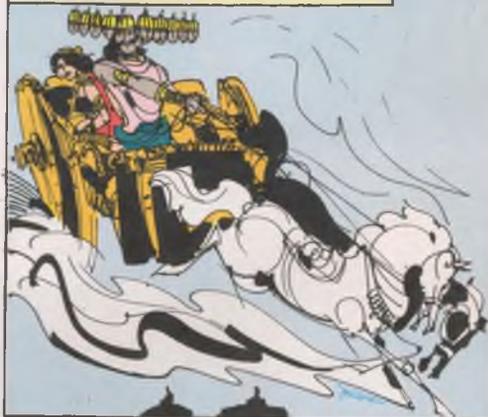
UNDAUNTED RAVANA ASSUMED A HUGE FORM.



HE LIFTED HER...



...AND BROUGHT HER IN HIS CHARIOT TO LANKA.



AFTER HE HAD PLACED HER IN HIS ASHOKA GARDEN UNDER GUARD —

I LOVE YOU. WHY DO YOU WASTE YOUR TIME ON RAMA, WHO HAS BEEN BANISHED FROM HIS KINGDOM? MARRY ME.

RAVANA! YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED. MY LORD WILL SOON COME HERE AND KILL YOU.



ENRAGED, RAVANA ADVANCED  
TOWARDS HER...



...BUT FEAR KEPT HIM AWAY.

NO. NALKOOBER'S CURSE MAY  
COME TRUE. I MUST NOT MARRY  
A WOMAN AGAINST HER WILL.



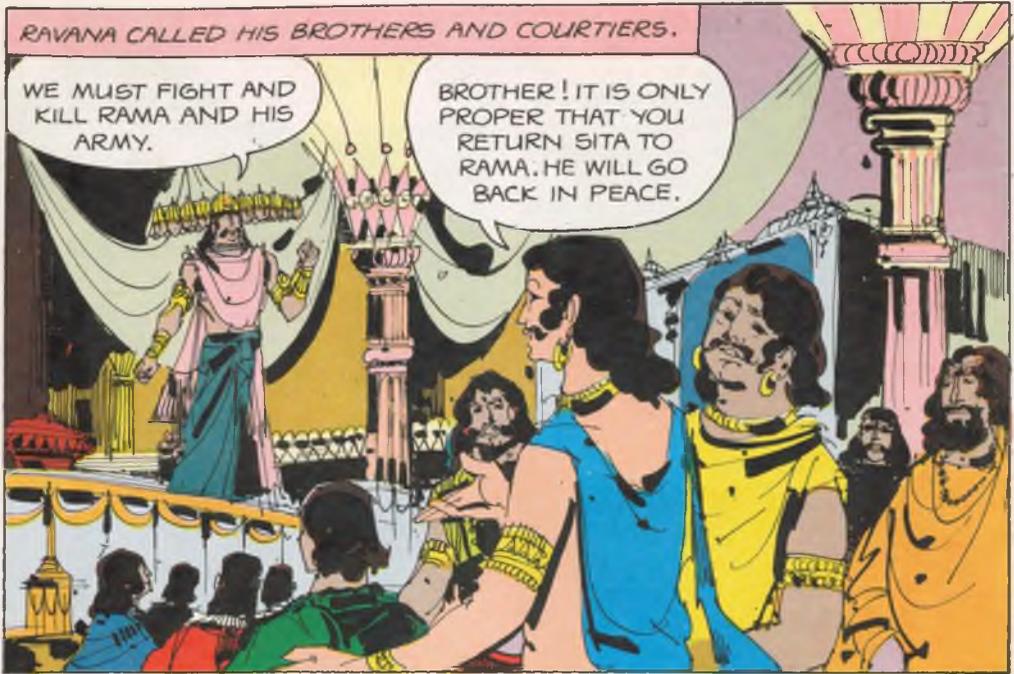
MEANWHILE, RAMA WAS ON HIS WAY TO LANKA. HE HAD REACHED THE  
SHORE OF THE OCEAN WITH A HUGE ARMY OF MONKEYS AND BEARS.



RAVANA CALLED HIS BROTHERS AND COURTIERS.

WE MUST FIGHT AND  
KILL RAMA AND HIS  
ARMY.

BROTHER! IT IS ONLY  
PROPER THAT YOU  
RETURN SITA TO  
RAMA. HE WILL GO  
BACK IN PEACE.



RAVANA WAS ANGRY WITH  
VIBHEESHANA.

YOU CANNOT BEAR TO SEE MY  
MIGHT. YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO  
THE FAMILY. IF YOU WERE NOT  
MY BROTHER I WOULD HAVE  
KILLED YOU.

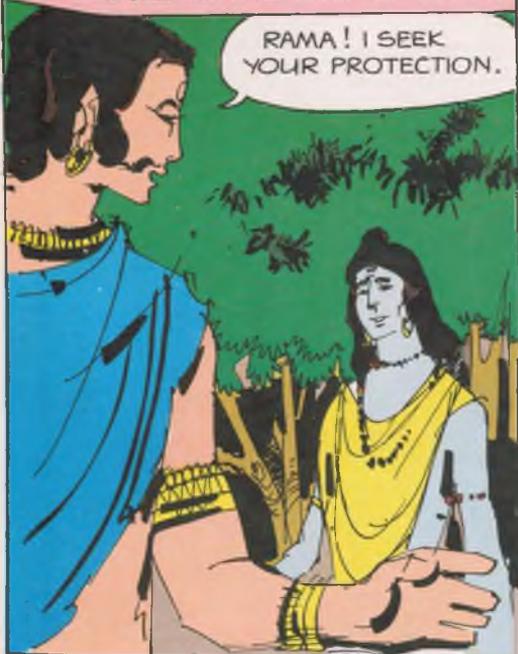


VIBHEESHANA, WITH FOUR  
OTHER RAKSHASAS FLEW  
INTO THE SKY...



...AND CAME TO THE CAMP OF RAMA.

RAMA! I SEEK  
YOUR PROTECTION.



YOU WILL BE SAFE  
HERE. I COUNT ON  
YOUR HELP.



SOON A BRIDGE WAS CONSTRUCTED  
ACROSS THE OCEAN AND...



...RAMA REACHED LANKA.

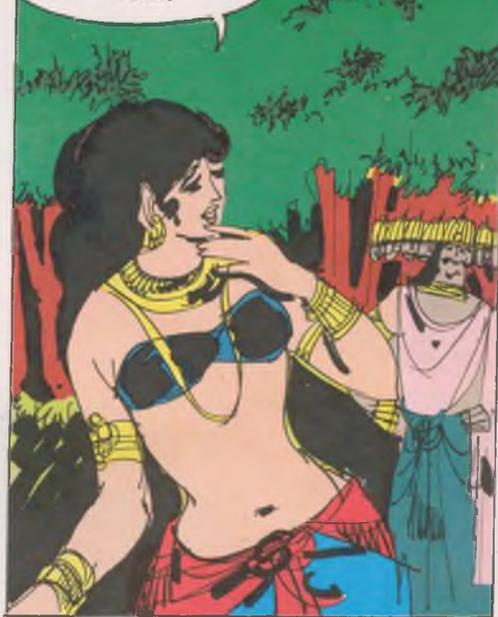


RAVANA BECAME IMPATIENT WITH SITA.

LISTEN, SITA!  
RAMA IS NO MORE.  
HE LIES DEAD IN  
THE BATTLEFIELD.

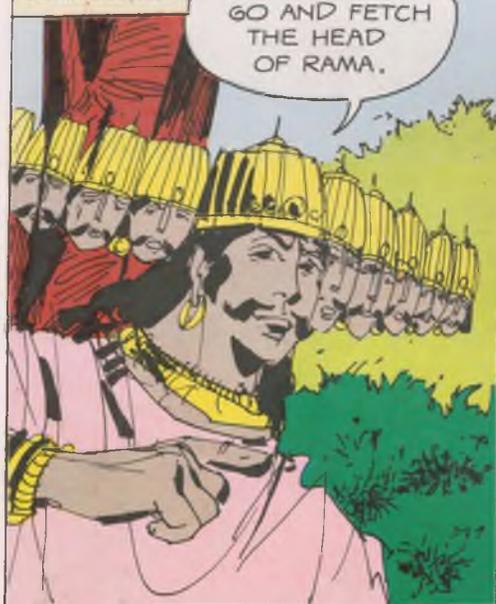


I DON'T BELIEVE  
YOU.



RAVANA TURNED TO ONE OF HIS  
WARRIORS.

GO AND FETCH  
THE HEAD  
OF RAMA.



WITHIN MINUTES, THE HEAD OF  
RAMA LAY IN FRONT OF SITA.

NOW, ARE YOU  
CONVINCED THAT  
RAMA IS DEAD?  
AND THIS IS  
HIS BOW. DON'T  
YOU RECOGNISE IT?



SITA, SHOCKED AT THE SIGHT,  
FELL UNCONSCIOUS.



WHEN SHE CAME BACK TO HER  
SENSES...

MY LORD!  
DEAD! WHAT  
SHALL  
I DO?



JUST THEN -

LORD! THE COMMANDER  
OF YOUR ARMY WANTS  
TO MEET YOU URGENTLY.



THE MOMENT RAVANA LEFT, RAMA'S HEAD AND BOW DISAPPEARED.

HOW DID THEY  
DISAPPEAR?

RAVANA DECEIVED  
YOU BY HIS MAGIC.  
DON'T GRIEVE,  
SITA. RAMA IS NOT  
DEAD.



RAMA WAS VERY MUCH ALIVE. LANKA WAS SOON CONVERTED INTO A BATTLEFIELD.



ONE BY ONE, THE WARRIORS OF RAVANA FELL.



THE MIGHTY KUMBHAKARNA PLAYED HAVOC ON THE MONKEY ARMY. BUT HE TOO FELL.



RAVANA HOWEVER CARRIED ON THE BATTLE.



WHEN HE FELL -

MY BROTHER! HOW I WISH YOU HAD HEEDED MY WORDS! YOUR PRIDE BROUGHT ABOUT THIS FALL.

DON'T GRIEVE, VIBHEESHANA! HE HAS DIED LIKE A BRAVE WARRIOR.



LANKA NOW HAD A NEW LORD - THE GOOD AND GENTLE VIBHEESHANA. RAMA HAD HIM CROWNED KING.



AFTER THE CROWNING OF VIBHEESHANA, RAMA RETURNED WITH SITA TO AYODHYA.