

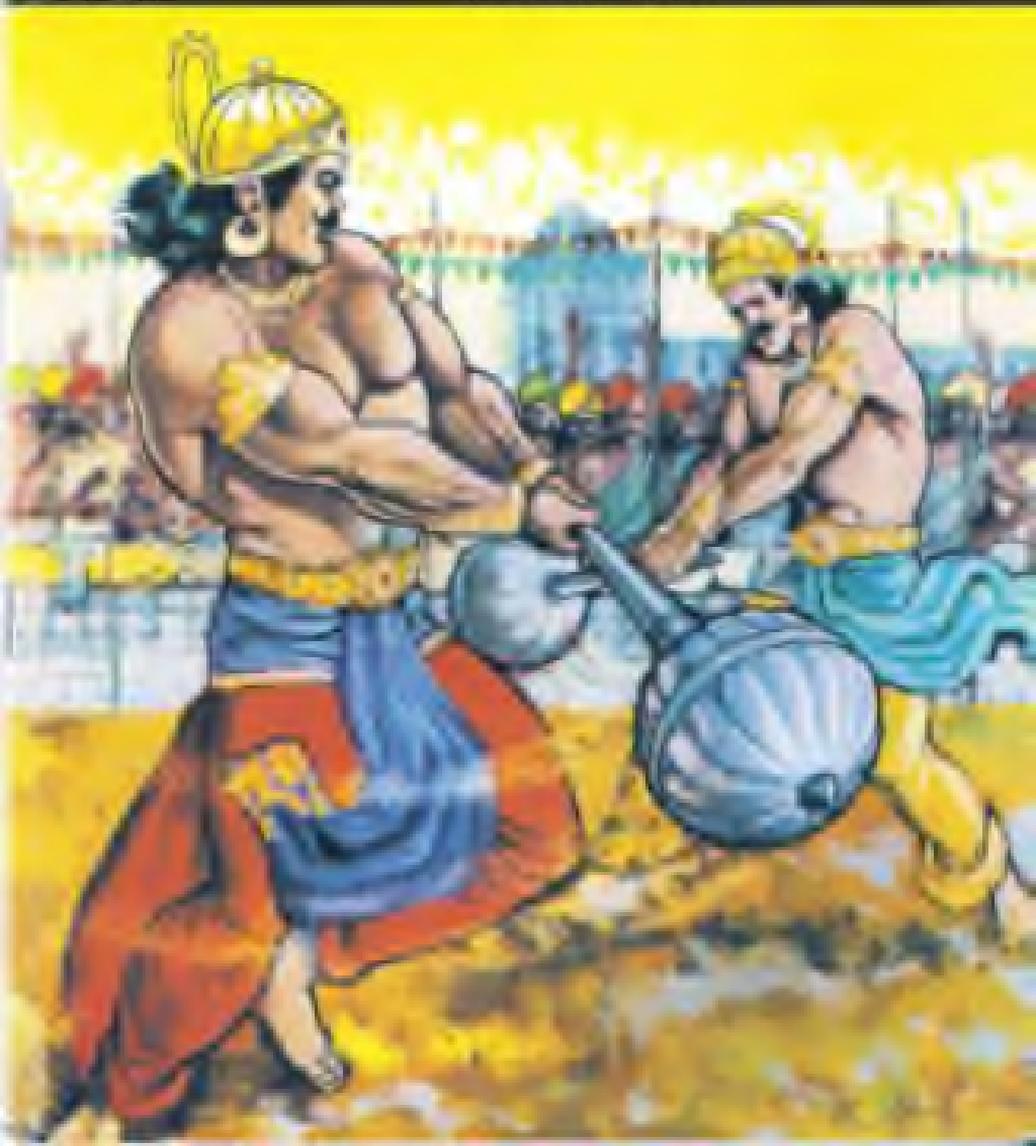


# THE PANDAVA PRINCES

PANDU'S FIVE BRAVE SONS

Vol 4 (6) | Pg. 28

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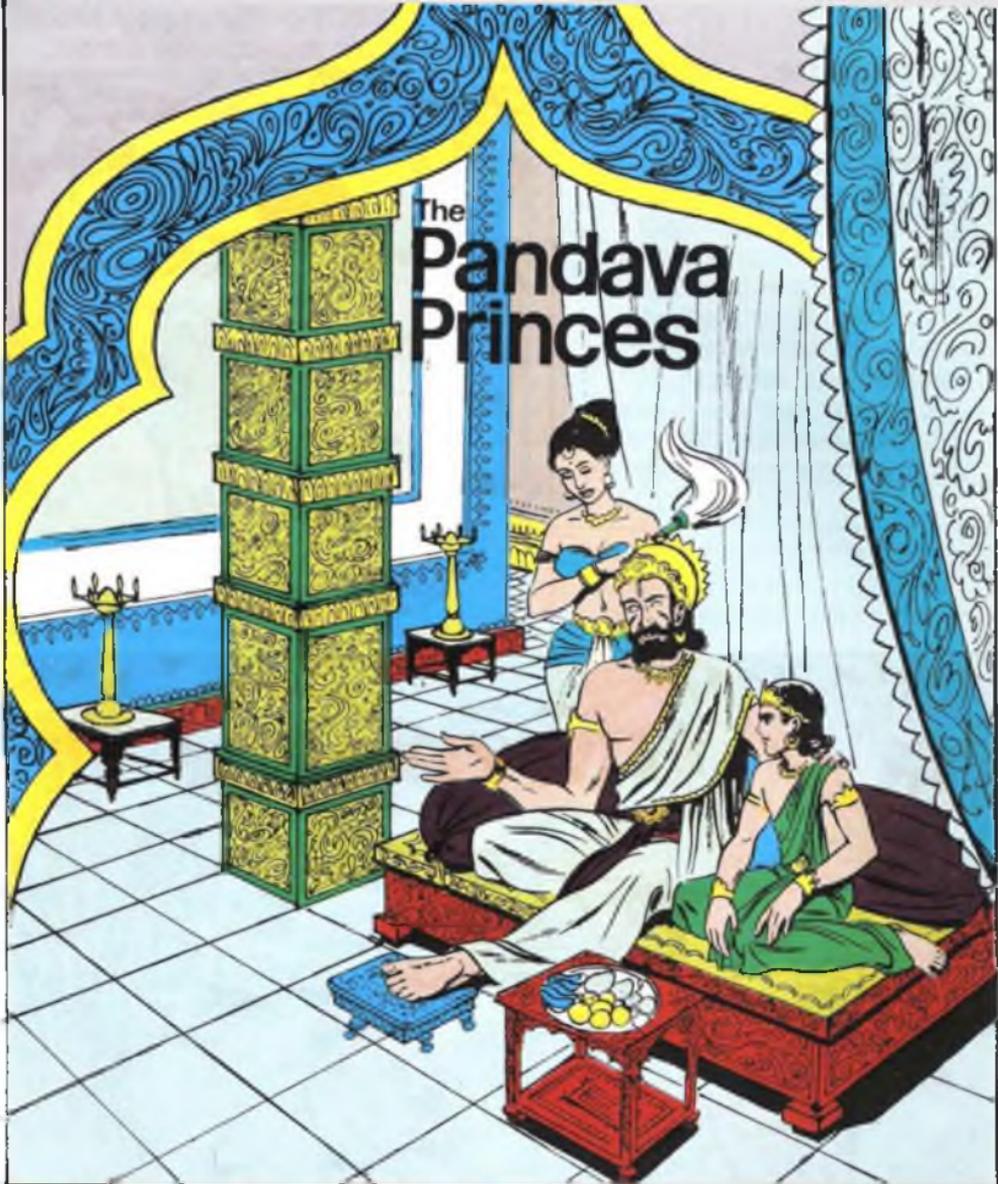
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# The Pandava Princes

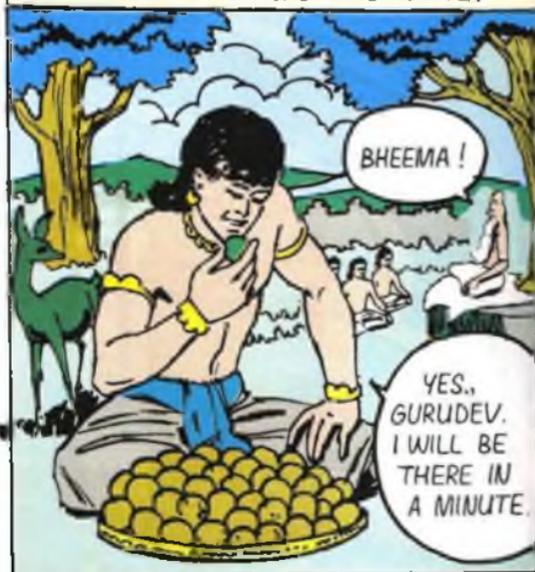


THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, INDIA WAS DIVIDED INTO MANY SOVEREIGN STATES. ONE OF THEM WAS HASTINAPURA, RULED BY THE BLIND KING DHRITARASHTRA. HE HAD A HUNDRED SONS, WHO WERE CALLED THE KAURAVAS. THE ELDEST WAS DURYODHANA.

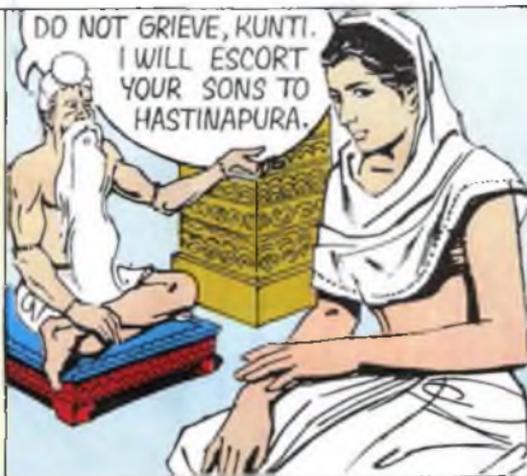
DHRITARASHTRA'S BROTHER PANDU, HAD RULED THE KINGDOM EARLIER, BUT HE HAD RETIRED TO THE FOREST, BECAUSE OF CONTINUED ILLNESS. PANDU HAD TWO WIVES - KUNTI AND MADRI. THERE IN COURSE OF TIME, THREE SONS WERE BORN TO KUNTI - YUDHISHTHIRA, BHEEMA AND ARJUNA. MADRI HAD TWO SONS - BAKULA AND SAHADEVA, TOGETHER THEY WERE CALLED THE PANDAVAS.

THE HARD JUNGLE LIFE MADE THEM STURDY AND FEARLESS.

THE GREAT SAGES OF THE JUNGLE TAUGHT THE PANDAVAS TO READ AND WRITE.



WHEN PANDU DIED, MADRI BURNT HERSELF ON THE PYRE. SAGE VYASA CAME TO CONSOLE KUNTI!



DO NOT GRIEVE, KUNTI. I WILL ESCORT YOUR SONS TO HASTINAPURA.

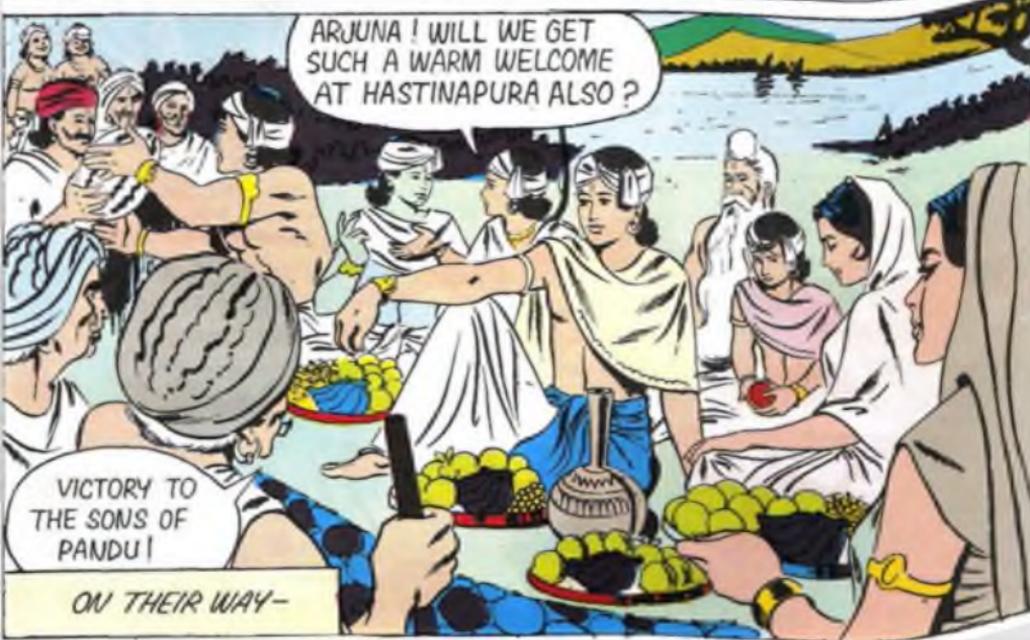
ARJUNA ! I HEARD FROM MOTHER THAT WE ARE LEAVING FOR HASTINAPURA TOMORROW



AT THE PALACE, YOU WILL MEET BHEESHMA, YOUR GREAT GRAND UNCLE, VIDURA, THE WISE MINISTER AND...

...OUR HUNDRED COUSINS! I WONDER HOW OUR UNCLE REMEMBERS THEIR NAMES!

NEXT DAY -



ARJUNA ! WILL WE GET SUCH A WARM WELCOME AT HASTINAPURA ALSO ?

VICTORY TO THE SONS OF PANDU !

ON THEIR WAY -

COME, MY  
SONS.

AT THE PALACE, THE BLIND KING DHRITARASHTRA  
WELCOMED THEM WITH A SHOW OF LOVE.

SONS INDEED! AND  
WHO ARE WE?

BHEESHMA, THEIR GREAT GRAND UNCLE,  
LOVED THEM AS MUCH AS HE DID THE  
KAURAVAS.

DIUHSHASANA! DURYODHANA!  
LIVE TOGETHER AS  
BROTHERS WITH THE  
PANDAVAS.

BE WORTHY SONS  
OF THE GREAT  
PANDU.

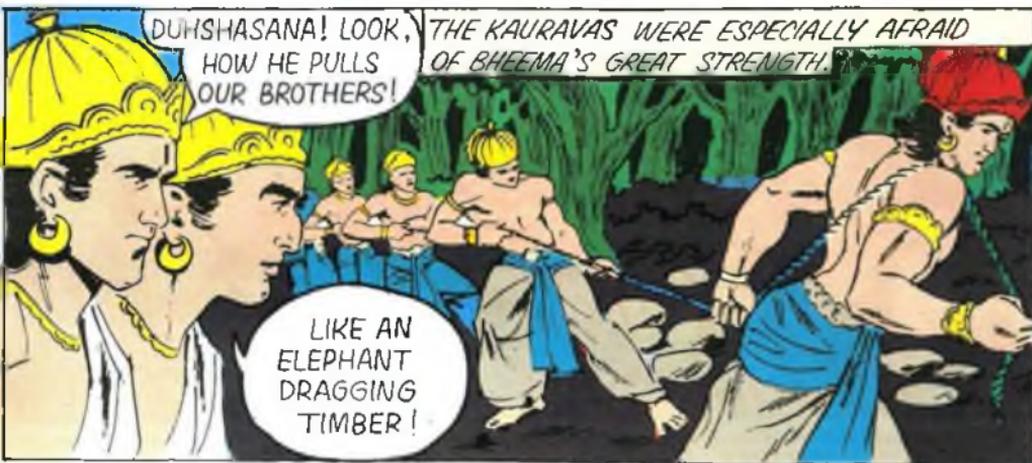
VIDURA TOO,  
BLESSED THEM.

AS THE DAYS PASSED,  
DURYODHANA'S HATRED OF  
THE PANDAVAS GREW.

THIS YUDHISHTHIRA MAY ONE DAY BECOME THE  
CROWN PRINCE.

AN HONOUR WHICH  
IS YOURS BY RIGHT,  
DURYODHANA!

THE KAURAVAS ENVIED THE FIVE PRINCES.





NEAR THE PALACE GATES,  
YUDHISHTHIRA MET DURYODHANA.

WHERE IS  
BHEEMA?

HE MUST BE  
IN THE PALACE.  
HE LEFT MUCH  
BEFORE US.

IN THE RIVER, BHEEMA ESCAPED  
THE IRON SPIKES, BUT THE SNAKES BIT HIM.



THE SNAKE POISON ACTED AGAINST  
THE POISONED FOOD WHICH HE HAD  
EATEN.

WHERE  
AM I?

HE TWITCHED HIS MUSCLES TILL THE  
BONDS BURST.



SOON HE CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND REACHED THE PALACE.

HELLO,  
DURYODHANA!  
THE SNAKES  
SEND YOU  
THEIR LOVE.

HOW DID HE  
SURVIVE?



WHEN HE TOLD THE STORY TO HIS BROTHERS-

OH, BHĒEMA!  
WE ARE  
HAPPY TO  
SEE YOU  
BACK.

THERE IS NO  
POINT IN  
SPREADING  
ILL-WILL. DON'T  
TALK OF THIS  
TO ANYONE.

ONE DAY THEY WERE ALL PLAYING WITH A BALL  
ON AN OPEN GROUND OUTSIDE THE CITY

GOOD THROW,  
DURYODHANA!

THAT IS NOTHING.  
I'LL HURL IT INTO  
HEAVEN!

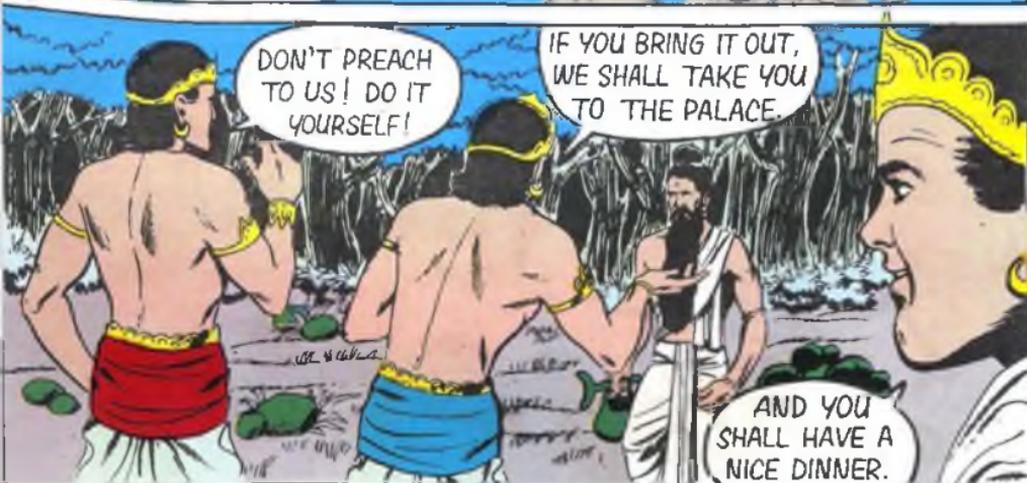
SEE?

FROM  
HEAVEN  
TO HELL

IT HAS FALLEN.  
INTO THE WELL,  
BHĒEMA!

OH! MY  
RING HAS  
SLIPPED  
TOO.

A POORLY-CLAD BRAHMAN APPROACHED THEM



THE BRAHMAN UPROOTED A BLADE OF GRASS



AND STRAIGHTENING IT, HE HURLED IT INTO THE WELL WITH TREMENDOUS FORCE.

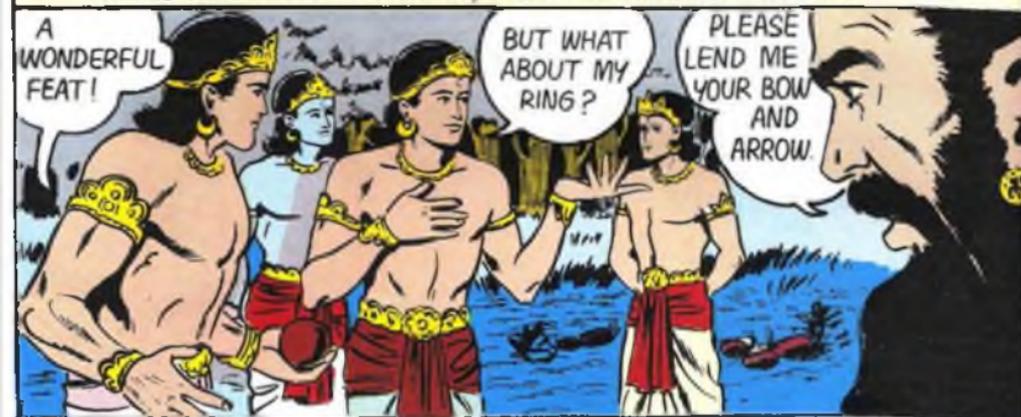




THE BRAHMAN DID THE SAME THING WITH ANOTHER BLADE - THEN ANOTHER - AND ANOTHER, TILL A CHAIN WAS FORMED.



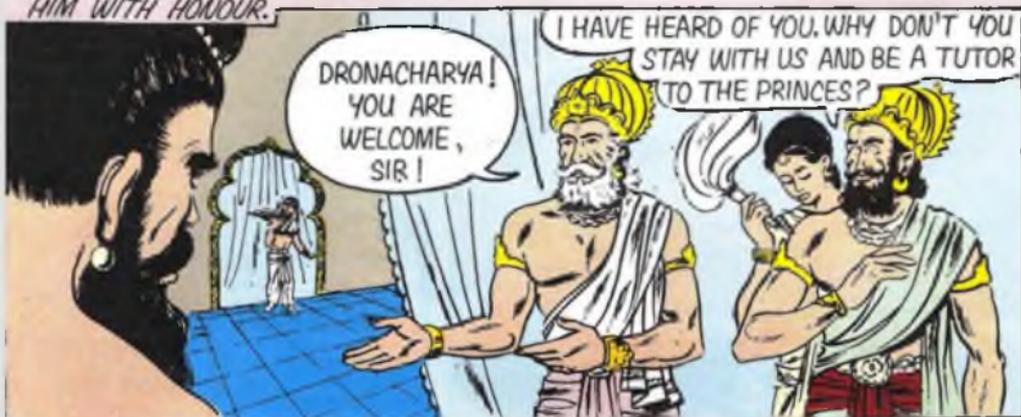
WHEN HE PULLED THE CHAIN, THE BALL CAME OUT WITH IT.



THE BRAHMAN SENT AN ARROW STRAIGHT INTO THE WELL. IT BOUNCED BACK BRINGING WITH IT THE PRECIOUS RING.



AT THE COURT, BHEESHMA RECOGNISED HIM. KING DHRITARASHTRA RECEIVED HIM WITH HONOUR.



THE PRINCES LEARNT THE ARTS OF WAR FROM DRONACHARYA.



ONE DAY, DRONA HELD A CONTEST TO WHICH THE KING WAS INVITED. A BIG CROWD CAME TO WITNESS THE FEATS.



DURYODHANA INSTANTLY TOOK A LIKING FOR KARNA. BY BEFRIENDING HIM, HE WANTED TO HUMILIATE

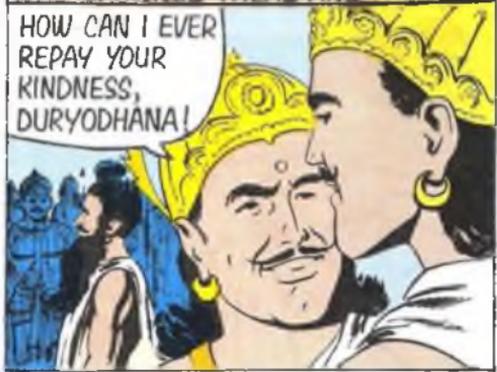
ARJUNA.

FRIEND KARNA! I PROMISE YOU THE KINGDOM OF ANGA.



AFTER OBTAINING THE PERMISSION OF KING DHRITARASHTRA, KARNA WAS CROWNED THERE AND THEN

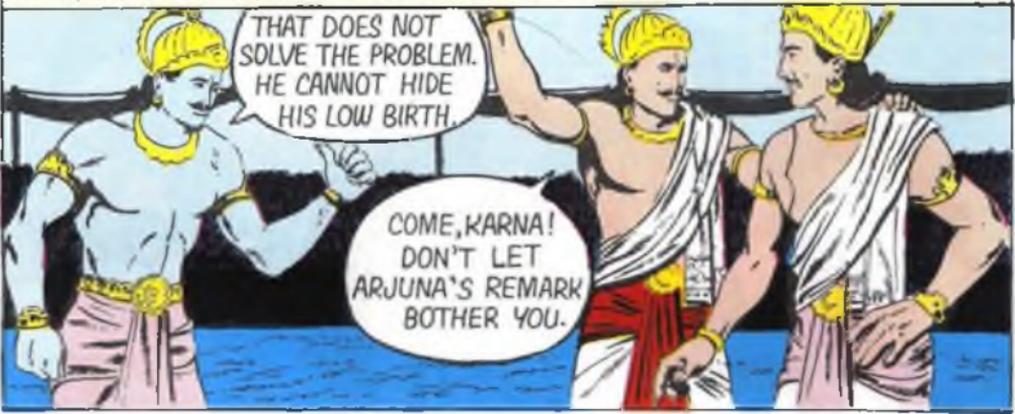
HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOUR KINDNESS, DURYODHANA!



THE QUICKNESS OF DURYODHANA'S ACTION ASTONISHED THE WHOLE GATHERING.

THAT DOES NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM. HE CANNOT HIDE HIS LOW BIRTH.

COME, KARNA! DON'T LET ARJUNA'S REMARK BOTHER YOU.



KUNTI, WHO WITNESSED ALL THIS, WAS ALSO SAD.

HE IS MY SON I BUT WHEN HE WAS BORN I WAS SO YOUNG.

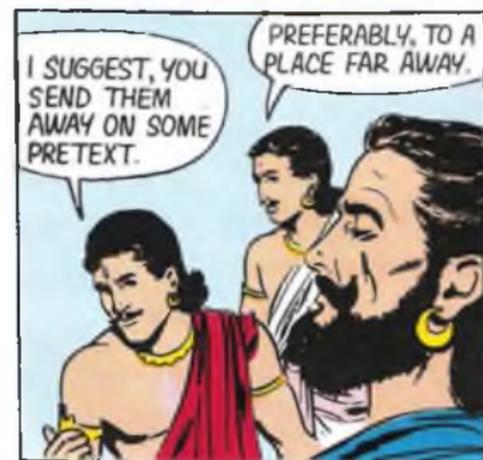
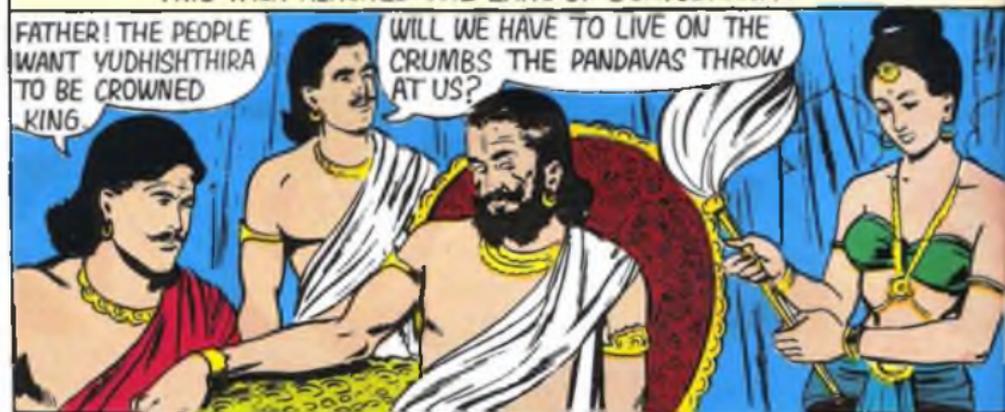


"I CAST HIM AWAY. THIS CHARIOTEER MUST HAVE FOUND HIM"

THE PANDAVA PRINCES WERE LOVED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.



THIS TALK REACHED THE EARS OF DURYODHANA.



SO THE PANDAVAS WERE SENT TO VARANAVATI TO ATTEND THE FESTIVAL BEING HELD THERE.



DURYODHANA WHISPERED SOMETHING  
IN THE EARS OF PUROCHANA,  
A CLEVER BUT SLY ARCHITECT.



VIDURA WARNED YUDHISHTHIRA  
TO BE CAREFUL.



WELCOME TO  
THE PANDAVA  
PRINCES.



AT VARANAVATI-

WHEN PUROCHANA FINISHED BUILDING A GRAND PALACE FOR THE  
PANDAVAS, THEY MOVED INTO IT.

WHAT A  
WORK OF  
ART!



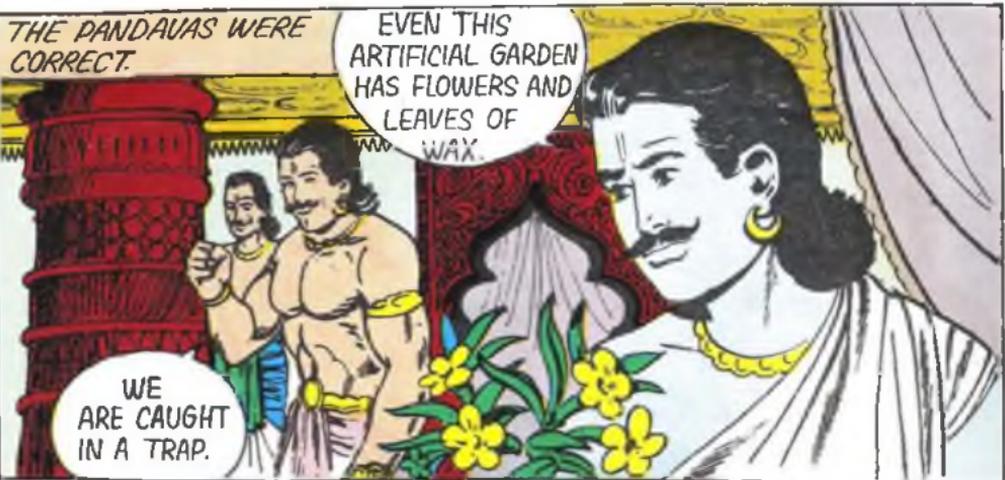
ART INDEED!  
IT'S BUILT WITH  
...LAC.

THIS  
CONTAINS  
JUTE...

THE PANDAVAS WERE CORRECT.

EVEN THIS ARTIFICIAL GARDEN HAS FLOWERS AND LEAVES OF WAX.

WE ARE CAUGHT IN A TRAP.



EVERY DAY THEY WENT HUNTING AND MADE THEMSELVES FAMILIAR WITH THE PATHS OF THE JUNGLE.

WHEN PUROCHANA SETS FIRE TO THE PALACE WE SHALL TAKE SHELTER HERE.

BUT WHY WAIT FOR HIM TO SET IT ON FIRE?



ONE DAY-

I AM A MINER! ACHARYA VIDURA HAS SENT ME TO HELP YOU.

THANK YOU.



THE MINER HAS DONE A GOOD JOB OF THIS TUNNEL.



AT LAST--

WE COULDN'T WAIT FOR PUROCHANA TO SET FIRE TO IT.

LET US GO INTO THE TUNNEL QUICKLY!



THERE! THAT'S THE EXIT. WE SHALL SOON BE SAFE IN THE FOREST!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE WHOLE PALACE WAS REDUCED TO ASHES. PUROCHANA WAS BURNT ALIVE IN THE TRAP WHICH HE HIMSELF HAD SET.

WHAT A BLAZE!

THE POOR PANDAVAS! THEY MUST ALL HAVE BEEN BURNT!

WAS IT REALLY AN ACCIDENT?

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED HASTINAPURA, DURYODHANA AND DUHSHASANA WERE HAPPY. SHAKUNI, THEIR WICKED UNCLE, CAUTIONED THEM.

BE CALM! YOU MUST NOT SHOW YOUR JOY.

YES. WE MUST MOURN FOR OUR DEAR DEPARTED COUSINS.

MEANWHILE, THE PANDAVAS, VERY MUCH ALIVE, TRUDGED THROUGH THE JUNGLE. WHEN KUNTI COULD WALK NO LONGER, BHEEMA CARRIED HER ON HIS SHOULDERS.

HE EVEN TOOK NAKULA AND SAHADEVA ON HIS HIPS.

LATE IN THE EVENING, THE NEXT DAY, THEY REACHED THE RIVER GANGA. GREETINGS FROM ACHARYA VIDURA. HE ASKED ME TO WAIT FOR YOU.

AFTER CROSSING THE RIVER, THEY ENTERED A DENSE FOREST.

I CAN'T WALK ANY FURTHER!



THEY LAY DOWN TO REST. BHEEMA ALONE STAYED AWAKE.

THIS WATER WILL REFRESH THEM. I WILL REMAIN AWAKE AND GUARD THEM.



FOR MANY DAYS THEY WANDERED. UP AND DOWN THE HILLS, THEY TREKKED. AT LAST IT SEEMED THAT THEY WERE NEAR SOME HUMAN HABITATION.

THERE! LET US GO AND ASK THEM FOR FOOD AND SHELTER!



NO, NAKULA! DON'T YOU SEE— THEY ARE RAKSHASAS!!

BUT THE RAKSHASAS WERE SOON ON THEIR TRAIL. BHEEMA FACED THEM WITH AN UPROOTED TREE.



HIDIMBASURA, THE RAKSHASA CHIEF, STEPPED FORWARD AND TRIED TO SNATCH THE TREE FROM BHEEMA'S HAND.



A FIERCE DUEL FOLLOWED...



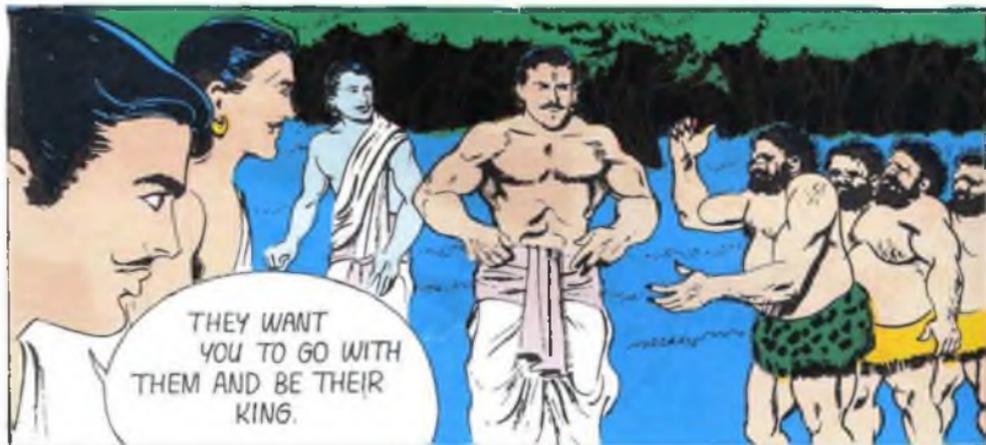
... IN WHICH HIDIMBASURA WAS KILLED.



SOON—



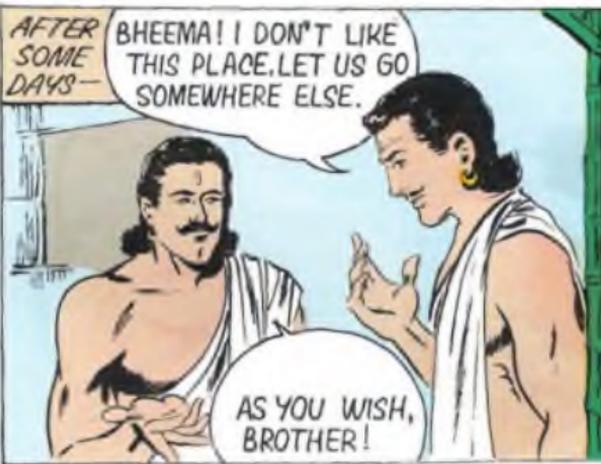
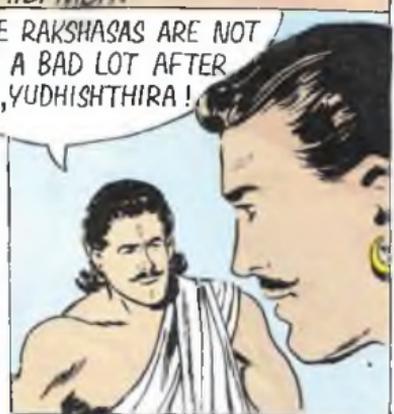
THEY WANT YOU TO GO WITH THEM AND BE THEIR KING.



THE PANDAVAS ACCOMPANIED THEM TO THEIR VILLAGE AND THERE BHEEMA MARRIED HIDIMBRAA THE SISTER OF HIDI MBA.



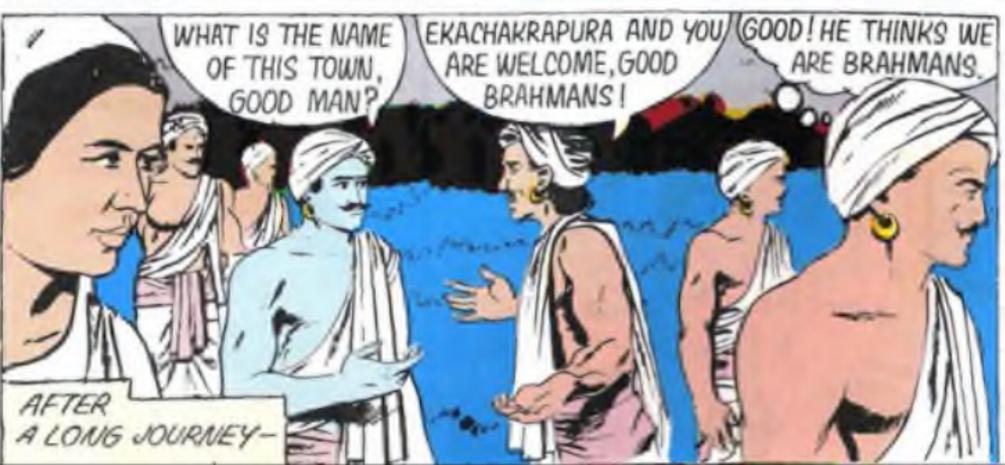
THESE RAKSHASAS ARE NOT SUCH A BAD LOT AFTER ALL, YUDHISHTHIRA!



AFTER SOME DAYS—

BHEEMA! I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE, LET US GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

AS YOU WISH, BROTHER!



WHAT IS THE NAME OF THIS TOWN, GOOD MAN?

EKACHAKRAPURA AND YOU ARE WELCOME, GOOD BRAHMAN!

GOOD! HE THINKS WE ARE BRAHMAN.

AFTER A LONG JOURNEY—

IN EKACHAKRAPURA, THE PANDAVAS LIVED IN THE HOUSE OF A POOR BRAHMAN. ONE DAY—

WHAT IS THE MATTER, GOOD BRAHMAN?

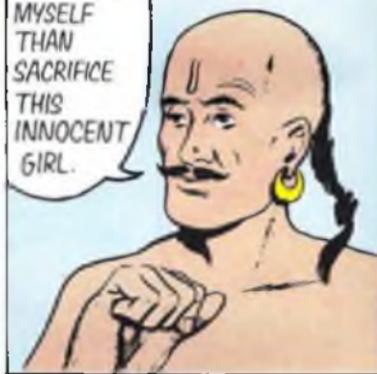
THIS LITTLE DAUGHTER OF OURS WILL SOON BE EATEN BY BAKASURA, WHO LIVES IN A CAVE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.



"HE HAS EXTRACTED TERMS UNDER WHICH PEOPLE HAVE TO SEND HIM A CART-LOAD OF FOOD EVERY DAY. HE EATS THE DRIVER AND BULLOCKS ALSO, ALONG WITH THE FOOD"



I WOULD RATHER GO MYSELF THAN SACRIFICE THIS INNOCENT GIRL.



OH, NO! IF YOU GO, WHO WILL LOOK AFTER THE FAMILY? I WILL GO.

LET ME GO, MOTHER. I WILL KILL THE RAKSHASA WITH A STICK.



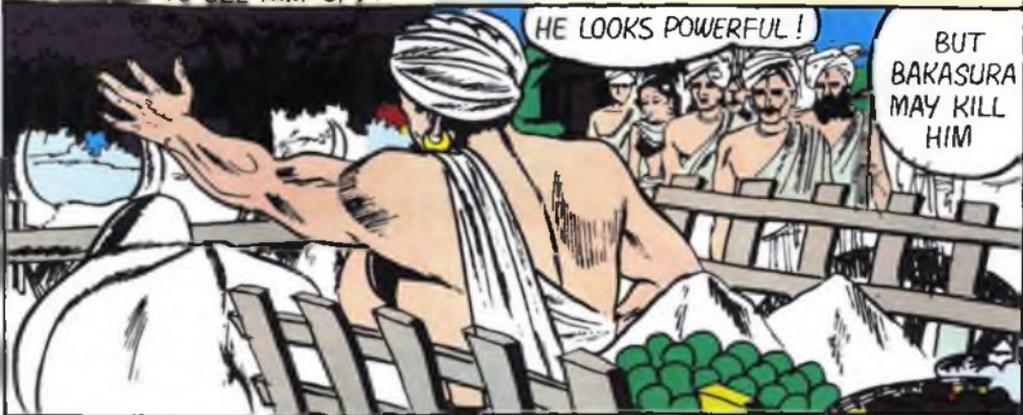
YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, SON!



LATER—

AS YOU WISH, MOTHER!

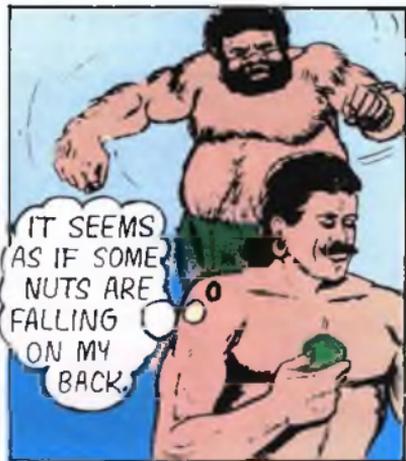
BHEEMA DROVE THE CART OF FOOD TO THE BORDER OF THE TOWN. PEOPLE FLOCKED TO SEE HIM OFF.



WHEN BHEEMA REACHED THE MOUTH OF THE CAVE, HE UNYOKED THE OXEN AND SAT DOWN TO A HEARTY MEAL.



WHEN BAKASURA CAME OUT OF THE CAVE, HE WAS ENRAGED AT WHAT HE SAW.



OH! IT IS THE  
RAKSHASA!  
HE IS  
BECOMING A  
NUISANCE.



THIS POT  
OF BUTTER  
MILK TAST  
GOOD.



AFTER THE MEAL  
BHEEMA LIFTED THE  
GIANT AND HURLED  
HIM VIOLENTLY ON  
THE GROUND.



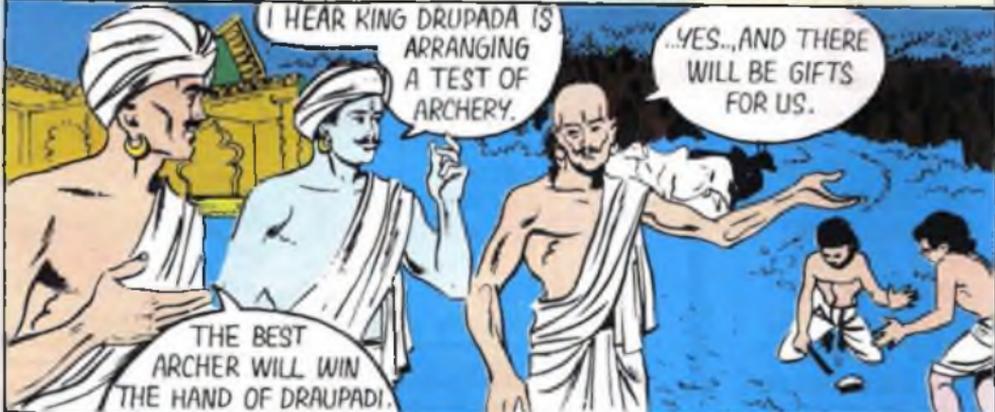
BAKASUK  
DIED ON  
THE SPG



BHEEMA DRAGGED THE DEAD BODY OF THE GIANT TO THE GATE OF THE CITY AND QUIETLY WENT HOME.



A FEW DAYS LATER THE PANDAVAS HEARD EXCITING NEWS—



I HEAR KING DRUPADA IS ARRANGING A TEST OF ARCHERY.

...YES...AND THERE WILL BE GIFTS FOR US.

THE BEST ARCHER WILL WIN THE HAND OF DRAUPADI.



MOTHER! MAY WE GO AND ATTEND THE MARRIAGE?

YES, ARJUNA.

THE PANDAVAS SOON REACHED THE CAPITAL WHICH WAS DAILY DECORATED



IN THE PALACE HALL, HUNDREDS OF PRINCES WERE SEATED. THE PANDAVAS TOOK THEIR SEATS IN THE ENCLOSURE MEANT FOR BRAHMANAS.



THIS, MY SISTER, IS KING SHISHUPALA OF CHEDI.

THIS IS DHIRISHYADYUMNA, THE BROTHER OF DRAUPADI, INTRODUCING THE GUESTS.

THE INTRODUCTIONS OVER,  
DHRISHTADYUMNA ANNOUNCED--

FRIENDS! HERE ARE  
A BOW AND ARROWS  
AND THERE, ABOVE THE  
REVOLVING WHEEL IS  
THE TARGET-A FISH.  
YOU HAVE TO HIT THE  
EYE OF THE FISH,  
LOOKING AT ITS  
REFLECTION IN THE  
WATER BELOW. WHO  
EVER DOES THIS FIVE  
TIMES IN SUCCESION,  
SHALL WIN THE  
BRIDE.



THE  
PRINCES  
TRIED  
ONE  
AFTER  
ANOTHER  
BUT  
NONE  
COULD  
LIFT  
THE  
HEAVY BOW.

THIS IS NO  
BOW! NO  
MAN CAN  
WIN THE  
TEST!!



DURYODHANA FELL TO THE GROUND  
WHEN HE TRIED TO LIFT THE BOW. LORD  
KRISHNA LOOKED MEANINGFULLY AT  
ARJUNA. HIS COUSIN.



ARJUNA GOT UP FROM  
THE ENCLOSURE OF  
BRAHMAN'S.

WITH THE PERMISSION OF DHIRISHTADYUMNA, HE LIFTED THE BOW, STRUNG IT, AND SENT FIVE ARROWS IN QUICK SUCCESSION.

EVERY ARROW OF HIS HAS HIT THE TARGET.

FANTASTIC!!

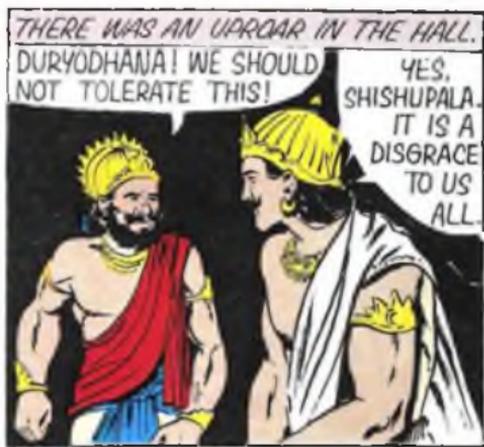


DRAUPADI GARLANDED HIM.



THERE WAS AN UPROAR IN THE HALL.  
DURYODHANA! WE SHOULD NOT TOLERATE THIS!

YES, SHISHUPALA. IT IS A DISGRACE TO US ALL.

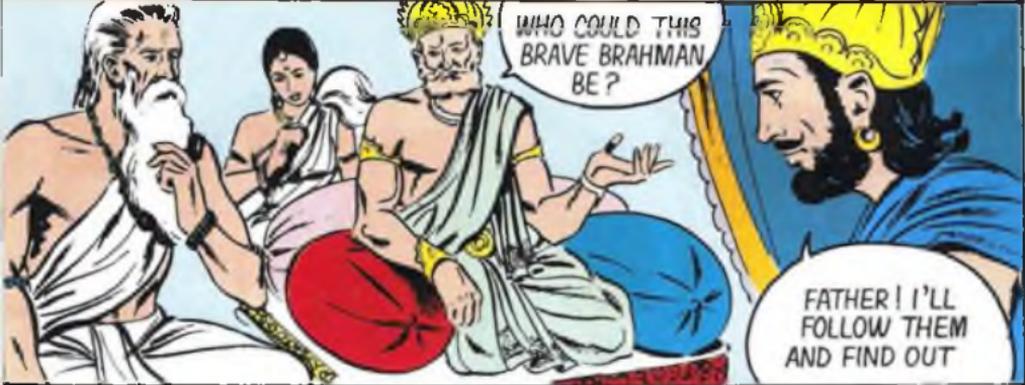


MANY OF THE PRINCES RUSHED TO THE DAIS. BHEEMA CAME TO HELP ARJUNA.

IF ANYONE COMES ONE STEP FURTHER, I WILL SMASH HIS SKULL.



IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWED, ARJUNA AND HIS BROTHERS WITH THE NEWLY-WON-BRIDE, LEFT FOR EKACHAKRAPURA. KING DRUPADA, HOWEVER, WAS WORRIED



WHO COULD THIS BRAVE BRAHMAN BE?

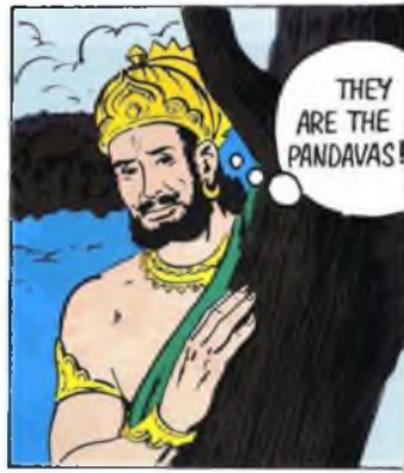
FATHER! I'LL FOLLOW THEM AND FIND OUT

ARJUNA WAS EAGER TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HIS MOTHER.



MOTHER! SEE WHAT WE HAVE BROUGHT TODAY.

WHATEVER IT IS ARJUNA, YOU SHOULD SHARE IT EQUALLY AMONG YOU



THEY ARE THE PANDAVAS!

DHRISHTADYUMNA TOLD HIS FATHER ALL THAT HE SAW IN EKACHAKRAPURA.



FIVE HUSBANDS! I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA. HOWEVER, BRING THEM HERE WITH HONOUR.

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED HASTINAPURA...

YUDHISHTHIRA  
AND BHEEMA,  
ALIVE!

AND GROWN STRONGER  
TOO. DRUPADA HAS  
A LARGE ARMY.

LET US ATTACK DRUPADA  
AND FINISH HIM AND HIS  
FIVE SONS-IN-LAW!

BHEESHMA AND VIDURA ADVISED DHRITARASHTRA-

BRING THEM WITH  
HONOUR TO  
HASTINAPURA.

NO, FATHER! I WILL  
NEVER TOLERATE  
THIS!

GIVE THEM HALF  
THE KINGDOM AND LET  
THEM RULE FROM  
KHANDAVAPRASTHA.

I HATE THEM!  
I HATE THEM!!  
I WANT TO RUN  
AWAY FROM  
HERE.

PLEASE PUT  
ON A SMILE! WE MUST  
PRETEND TO  
WELCOME THEM.

THE PANDAVAS WERE INVITED  
TO HASTINAPURA

A FEW DAYS AFTER THEIR TRIUMPHANT RETURN, THE PANDAVAS LEFT FOR KHANDAVAPRASTHA TO BUILD A NEW CITY.

WHAT A SPLENDID CITY HAS SPRUNG UP IN THESE RUINS!

IT IS ALL DUE TO YOUR GRACE, KRISHNA!

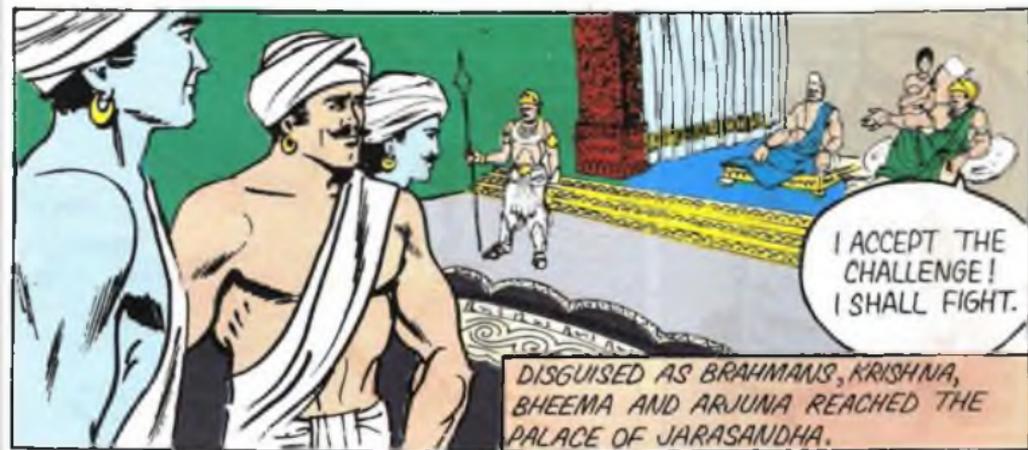
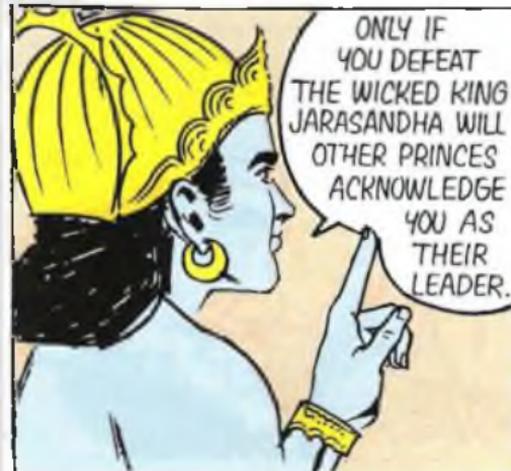
LET US CALL IT INDRAPRASTHA.

THEY RULED FROM INDRAPRASTHA FOR MANY YEARS. LORD KRISHNA WAS THEIR FRIEND AND ADVISER. ONE DAY—

LORD KRISHNA, OUR ELDER BROTHER DOES NOT AGREE THAT WE SHOULD PERFORM THE RAJASUYA SACRIFICE

BUT ARJUNA, WE CAN'T PERFORM THE RAJASUYA UNLESS I AM ACKNOWLEDGED THE LEADER BY ALL OTHERS.

WE WILL MAKE THEM ACKNOWLEDGE YOU.



IN THE FIERCE FIGHT THAT FOLLOWED, JARASANDHA WAS KILLED BY BHEEMA.



BHEEMA RETURNED IN TRIUMPH TO INDRAPRASTHA. KINGS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GATHERED TO ATTEND THE RAJASUYA SACRIFICE BUT-

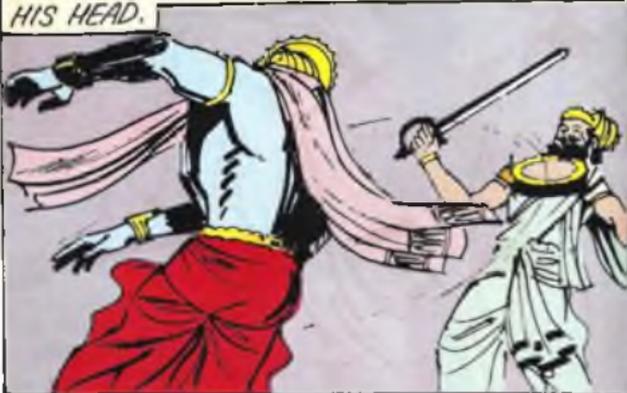
LORD KRISHNA! THE FIRST HONOUR ON THIS OCCASION SHOULD GO TO YOU.

I OBJECT TO KRISHNA GETTING THE PLACE OF HONOUR.



DO SO SHISHUPALA! BUT NOT WITH YOUR SWORD.

AS SHISHUPALA MADE AN ASSAULT ON KRISHNA, THE DISCUS OF KRISHNA CUT OFF HIS HEAD.



AND THE RAJASUYA WAS COMPLETED WHICH MADE THE PANDAVAS SUPREME IN THE COUNTRY. VICTORY TO

VICTORY TO YUDHISHTHIRA!  
KRISHNA!



# WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

## ACK EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

*Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas*

ABHIMANYU  
ANDHAKA  
ANIRUDDHA  
ARJUNA, TALES OF  
ARUNI AND UTTANKA  
ASHWINI KUMARS  
AYYAPPAN  
BAHUBALI  
BALARAMA, TALES OF  
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BHEESMA  
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