

A BRIDGE  
FOR  
LORD RAMA



Dedicated to His Divine Grace  
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



A Bridge for Lord Rama

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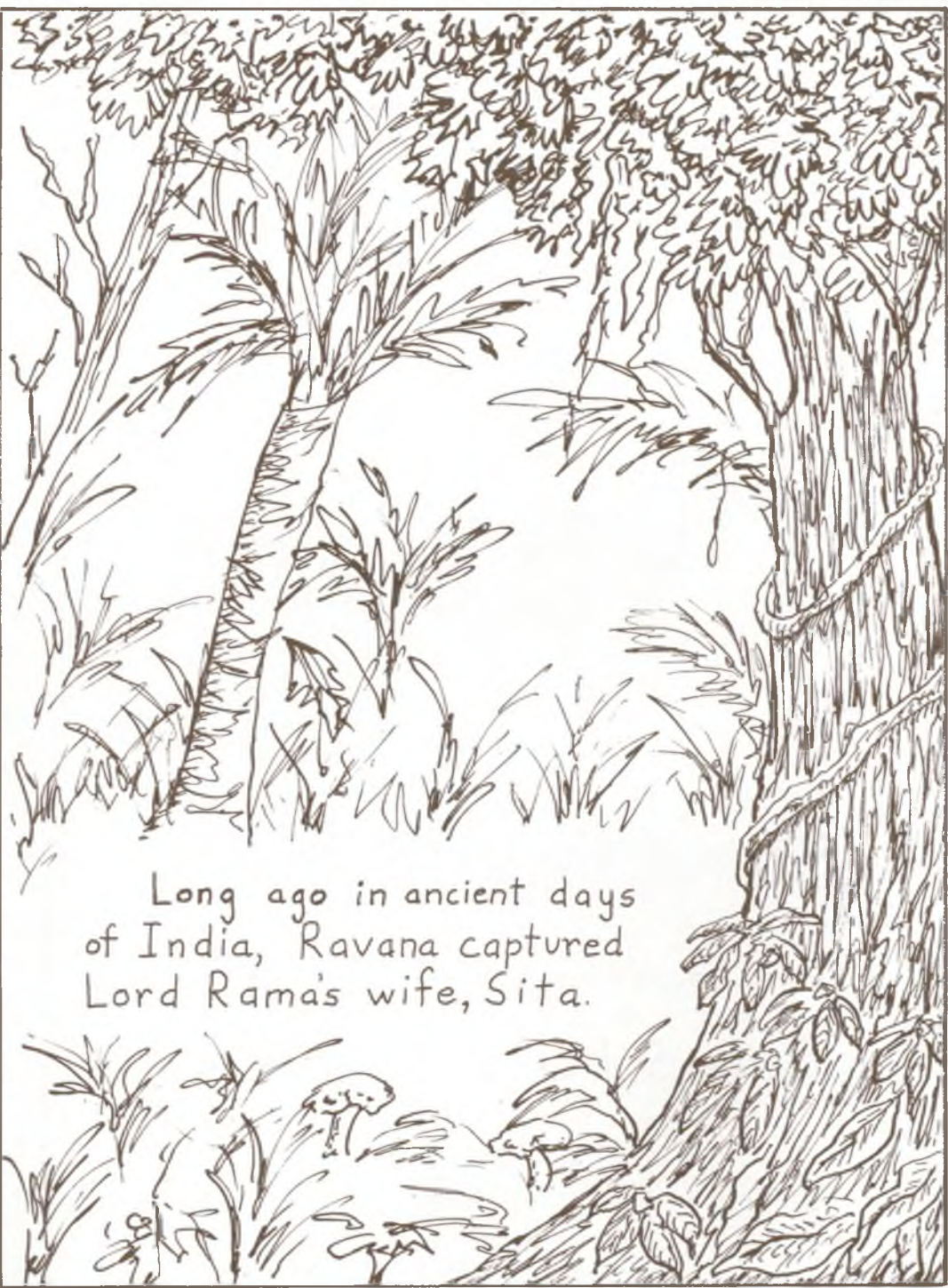
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A BRIDGE  
FOR  
LORD RAMA

Retold by Mary Scioscia

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Long ago in ancient days  
of India, Ravana captured  
Lord Rama's wife, Sita.

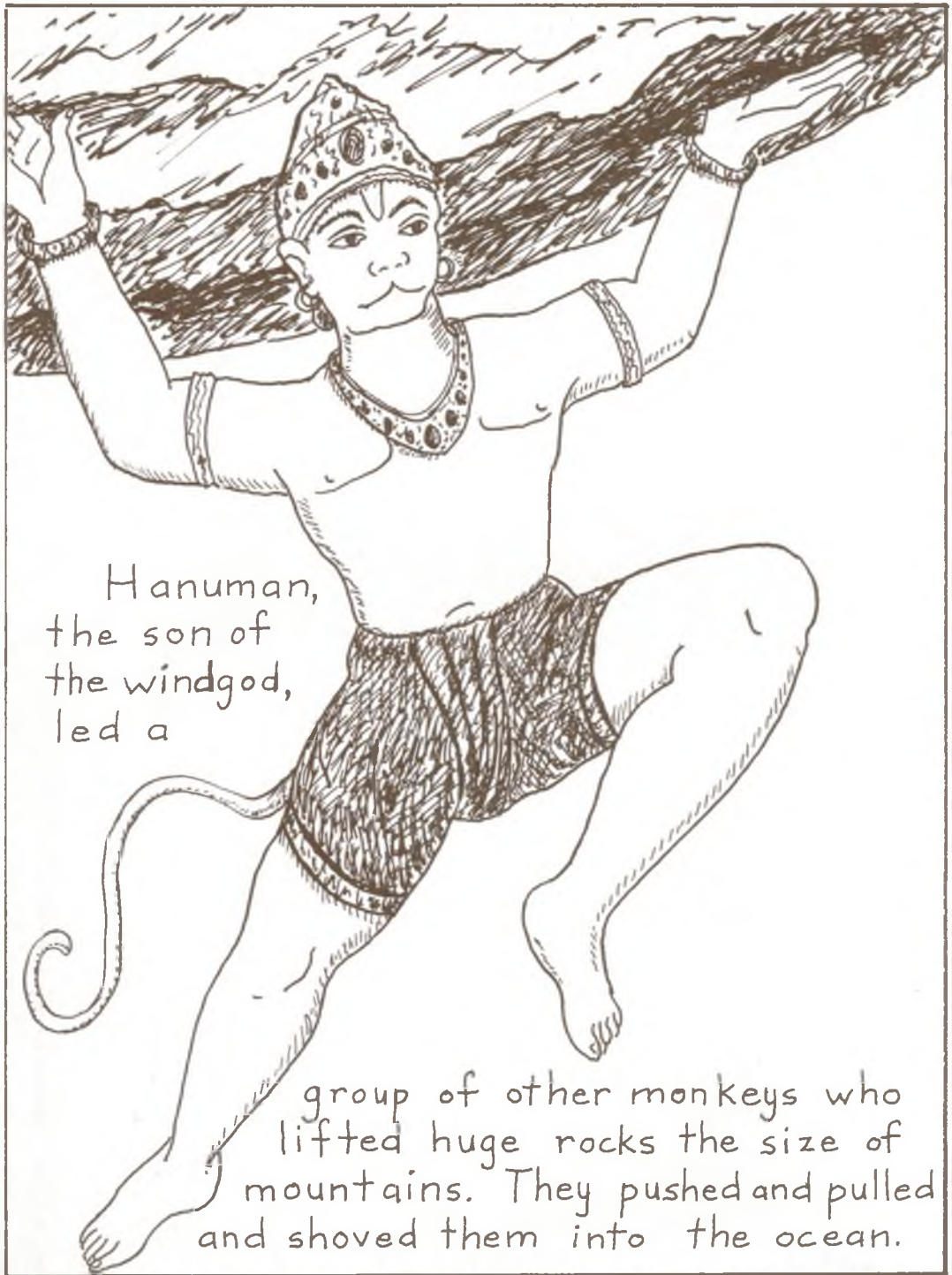
Lord Rama set out to rescue her. To get to Ravana's home, he had to cross the part of the ocean that lies between India and Sri Lanka.



Lord Rama called for the monkey, Nila to build a bridge for him. Millions of monkeys came to help Nila. Some uprooted giant trees. Others dragged them to the shore and heaved them into the water.







Hanuman,  
the son of  
the windgod,  
led a

group of other monkeys who  
lifted huge rocks the size of  
mountains. They pushed and pulled  
and shoved them into the ocean.



Squirrel watched Hanuman and Nila and the other monkeys. He thought, "I love Lord Rama. I want to help build this bridge for him, too." He couldn't pull up a big tree by its roots. He couldn't push huge rocks. He looked at the pebbles and small stones at the water's edge. He looked at his short legs.



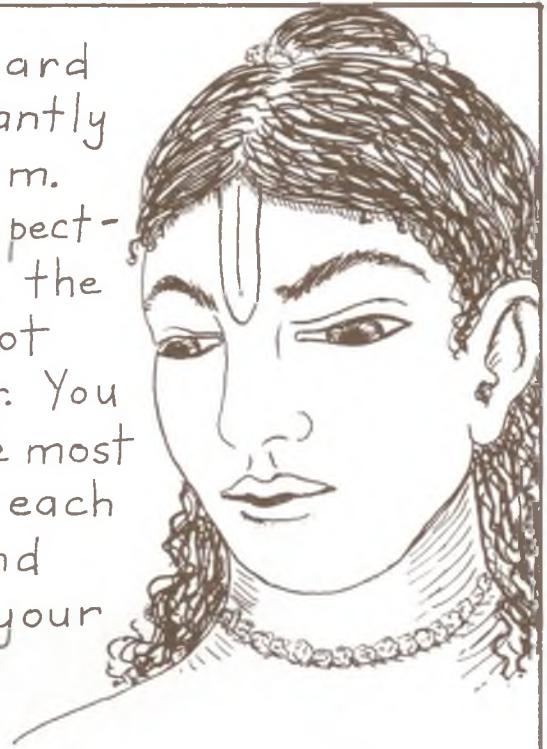
"I know what I'll do!" said Squirrel.  
And he picked up countless pebbles  
and small stones and dropped them  
into the ocean to help build up the pile  
of logs and rocks.





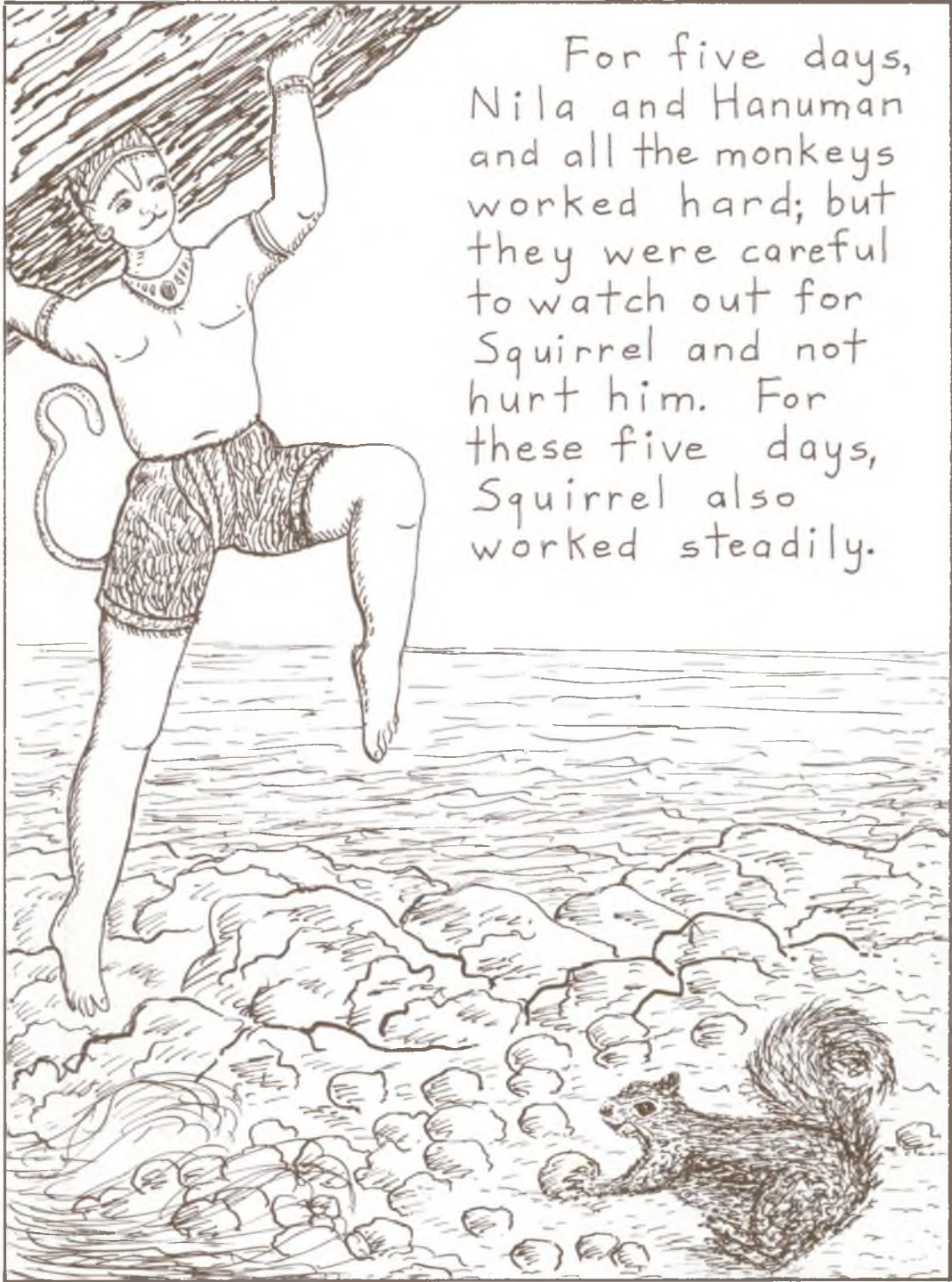
Hanuman almost stepped on Squirrel. He said, "Get out of our way, please. You'll get hurt. We can't take time to watch out for you while we do important work for Lord Rama. Besides, what you are doing is worthless."

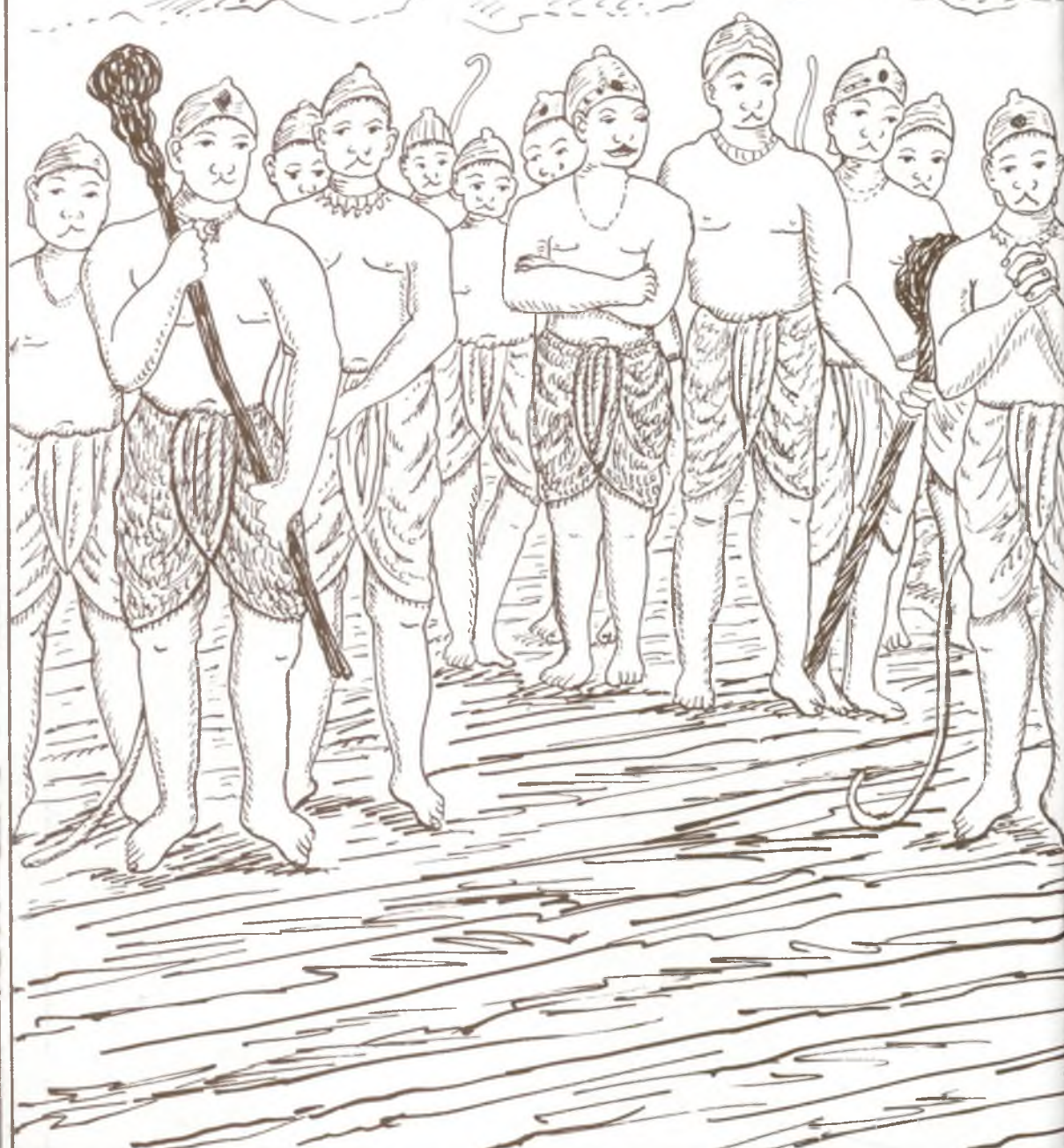
Lord Rama heard Hanuman and instantly appeared before him. "Do not speak disrespectfully to Squirrel," the Lord said. "Do not belittle his labor. You and he each do the most you can. "And you each do it with love and devotion. To me your service is equal."



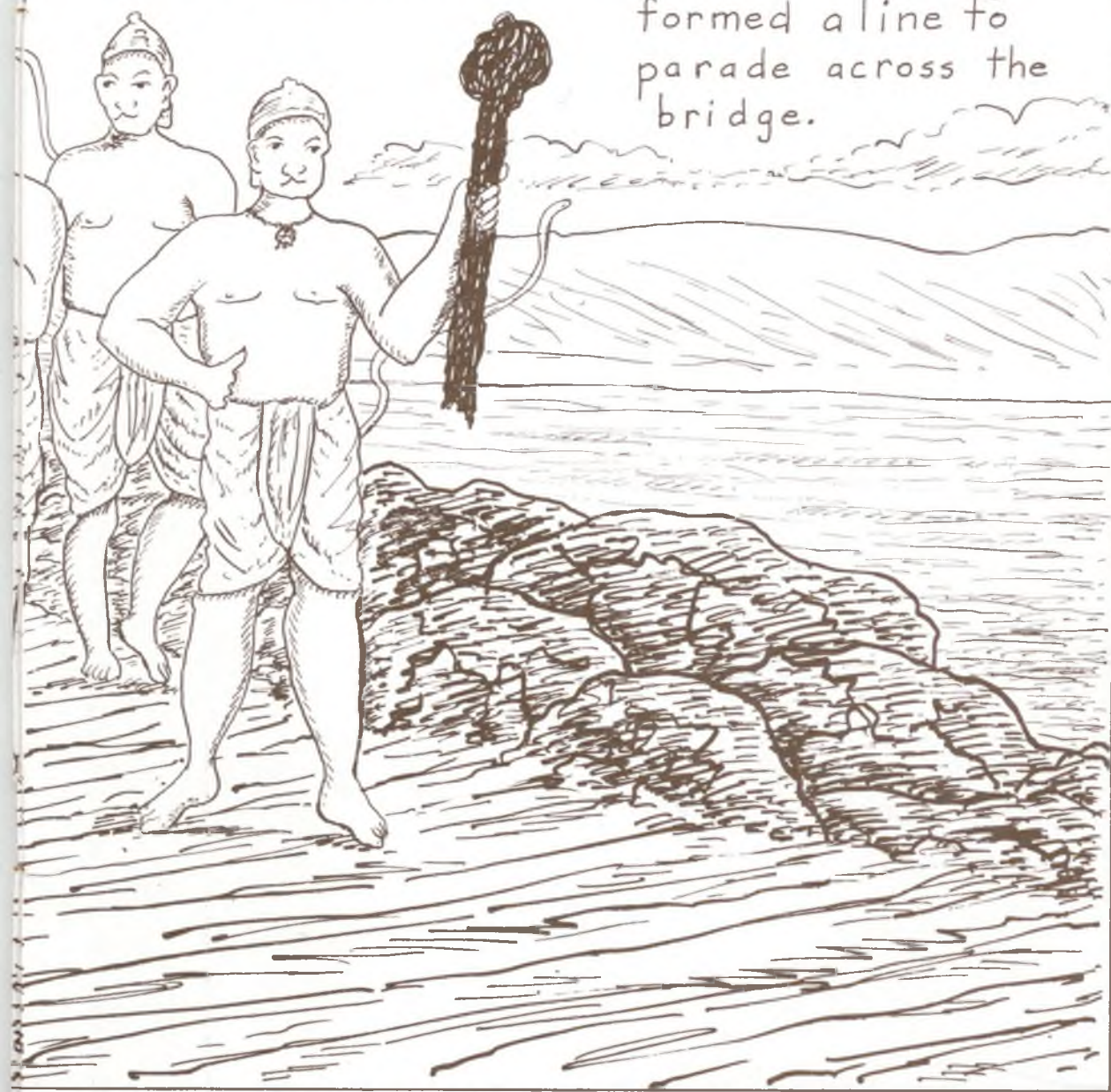
When he heard this, Hanuman understood that if he truly loved the Lord, he must treat Squirrel and his work with respect.

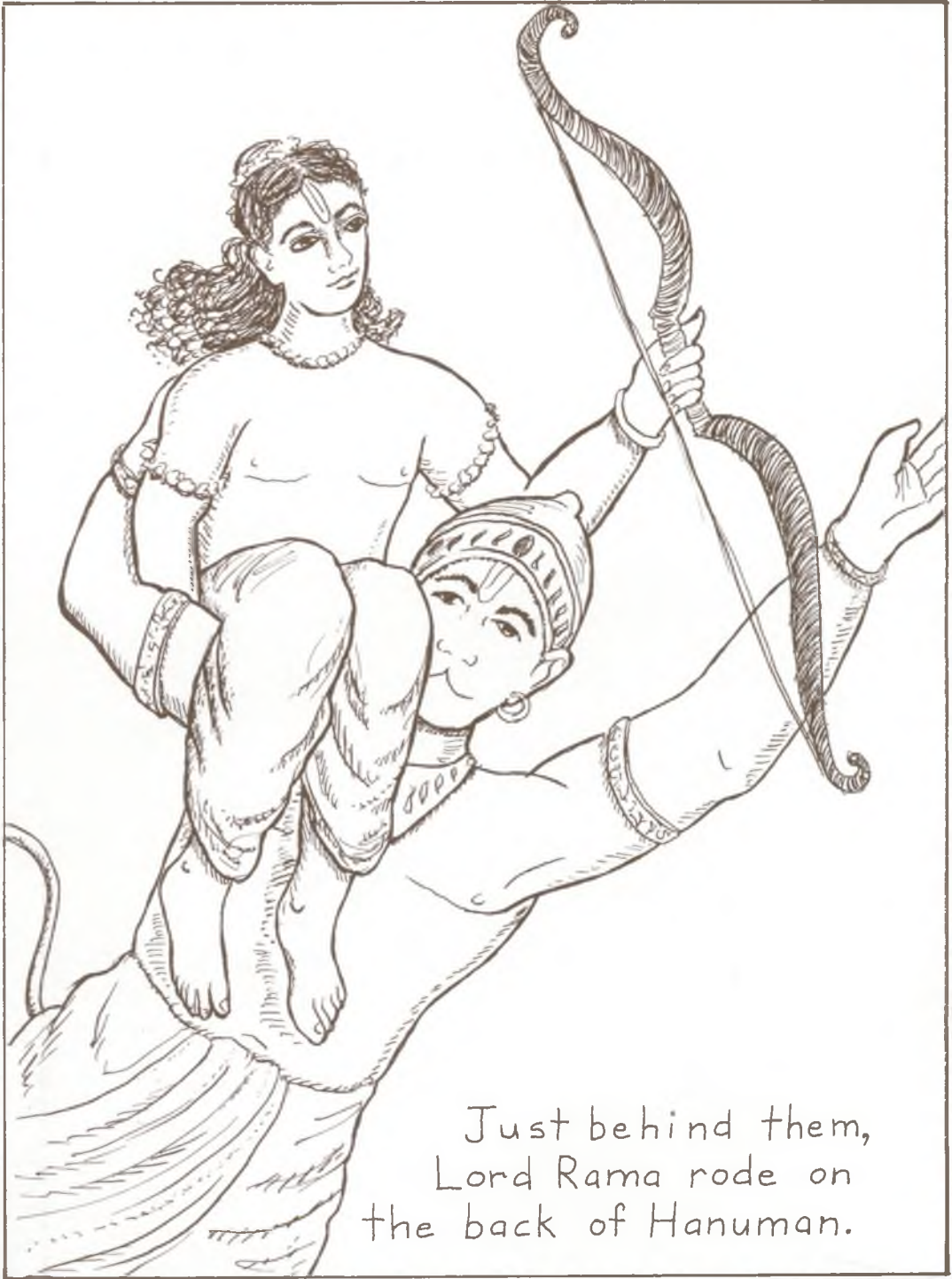
For five days,  
Nila and Hanuman  
and all the monkeys  
worked hard; but  
they were careful  
to watch out for  
Squirrel and not  
hurt him. For  
these five days,  
Squirrel also  
worked steadily.





On the fifth day they completed the last segment of the bridge. It went right up to Mount Suvela on Sri Lanka. The monkeys formed a line to parade across the bridge.





Just behind them,  
Lord Rama rode on  
the back of Hanuman.



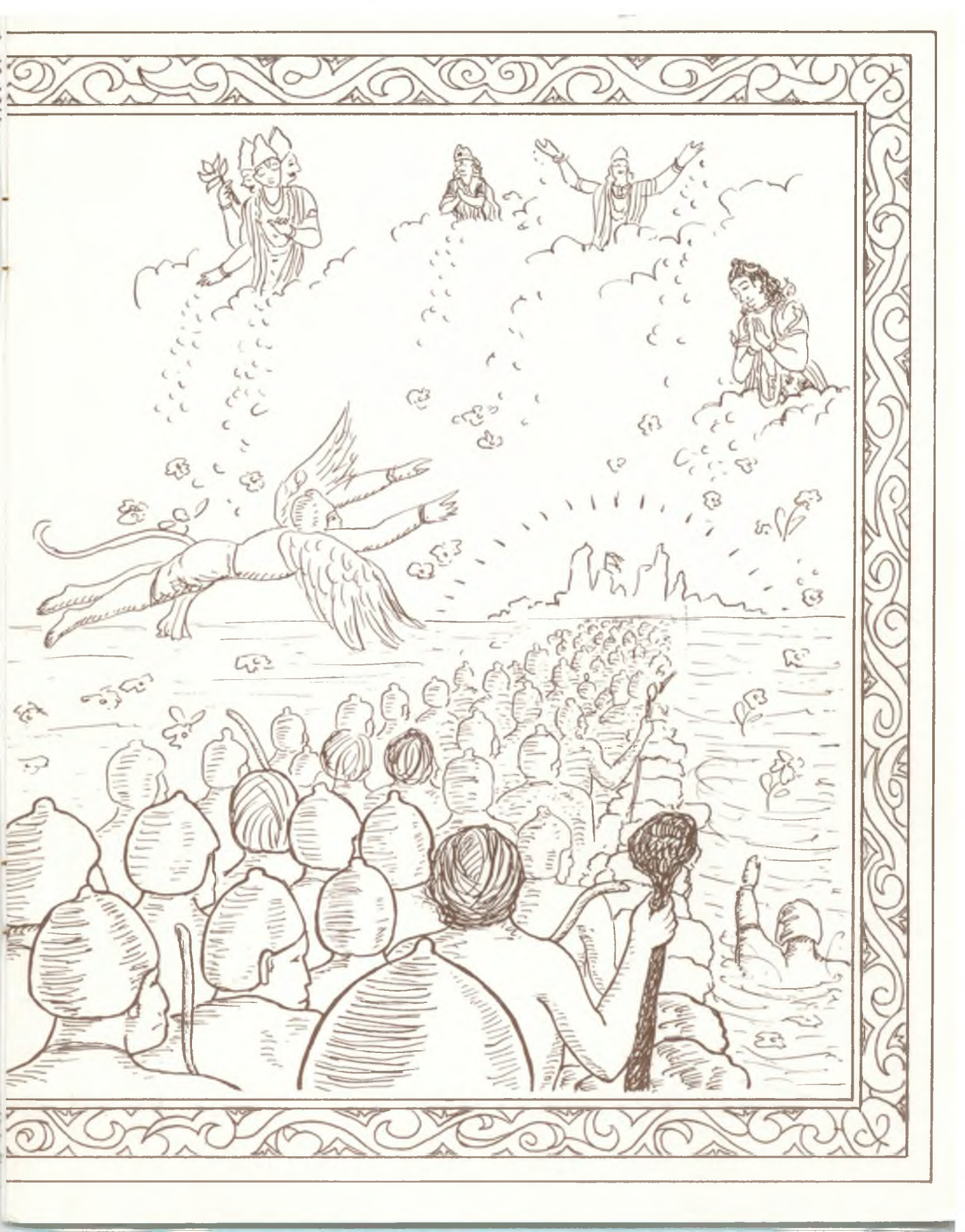


"Hanuman, may I sit there, too?"  
Squirrel asked. Hanuman reached  
out and set Squirrel on his shoulder  
where he could see everything.

There were so many monkeys, they couldn't all squeeze onto the bridge. Some dived into the water and swam across. Others spread their wings and flew.

From the sky, the demigods showered bright colored, sweet smelling flowers onto the crowd below. They sang out to Lord Rama, "Oh Supreme Lord: Rescue your wife, Conquer your enemies. Rule over the seas for numberless years."





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कृष्ण कृष्ण हरे हरे  
हरे राम हरे राम  
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