



KRISHNA AND THE FALSE VAASUDEVA

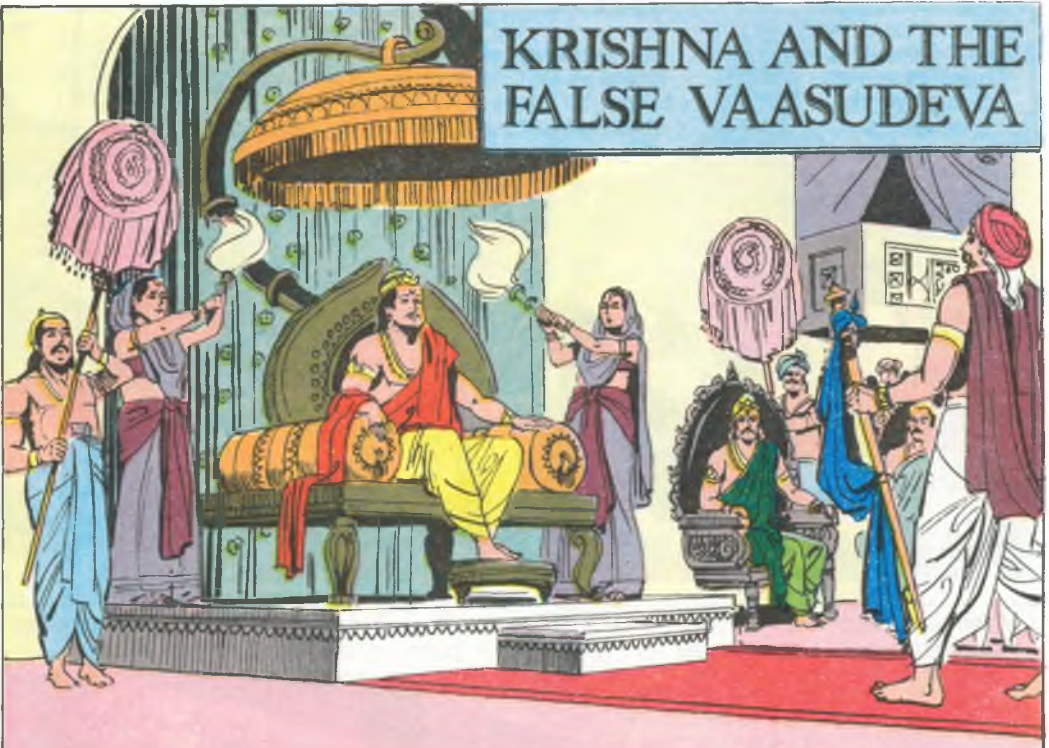
PRIDE MEETS ITS DOOM

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KRISHNA AND THE FALSE VAASUDEVA



A MESSENGER FROM JARASANDHA, THE EMPEROR OF MAGADHA, CAME TO THE COURT OF VAASUDEVA, THE MIGHTY, BUT STUPID KING OF PUNDBRA*.

THE EMPEROR'S FAVOURITE VASSAL, LORD SHISHUPALA[†], IS GOING TO WED RUKMINI, THE PRINCESS OF VIDARBHA...

THAT PEERLESS BEAUTY! GOOD NEWS, INDEED!



THE EMPEROR WANTS ALL HIS ALLIES TO COME PREPARED FOR BATTLE. HE EXPECTS TROUBLE FROM THAT YADAVA, KRISHNA.



* MODERN NORTH BENGAL. [†] KING OF CHEDI © ALSO KNOWN AS VAASUDEVA



WHEN VAASUDEVA AND HIS ARMY REACHED VIDARBHA, JARASANDHA AND HIS ALLIES WERE ALREADY THERE. AMONG THEM WAS VAASUDEVA'S CLOSE FRIEND, THE KING OF KASHI.

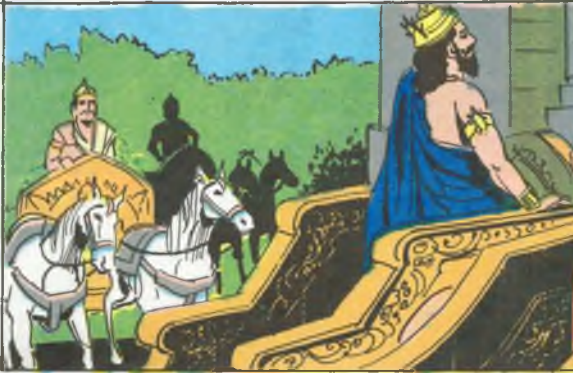


* RUKMINI'S BROTHER



EVEN IF HE DOES COME, WE WILL NOT LET HIM GET ANYWHERE NEAR THE PRINCESS. WE WILL NOT FAIL SHISHUPALA AND THE EMPEROR!

THE NEXT MORNING, SHISHUPALA AND THE ASSEMBLED KINGS WAITED PATIENTLY FOR RUKMINI TO EMERGE FROM THE TEMPLE WHERE SHE HAD GONE TO WORSHIP BEFORE THE WEDDING CEREMONY.



AS RUKMINI CAME OUT, SO DAZZLED WERE THEY BY HER BEAUTY THAT THEY STOOD STARING AT HER, HARDLY AWARE OF ANYTHING ELSE!



SUDDENLY, AS IF FROM NOWHERE,
KRISHNA APPEARED IN HIS CHARIOT...



... WHISKED RUKMINI INTO IT...



... AND DROVE OFF!

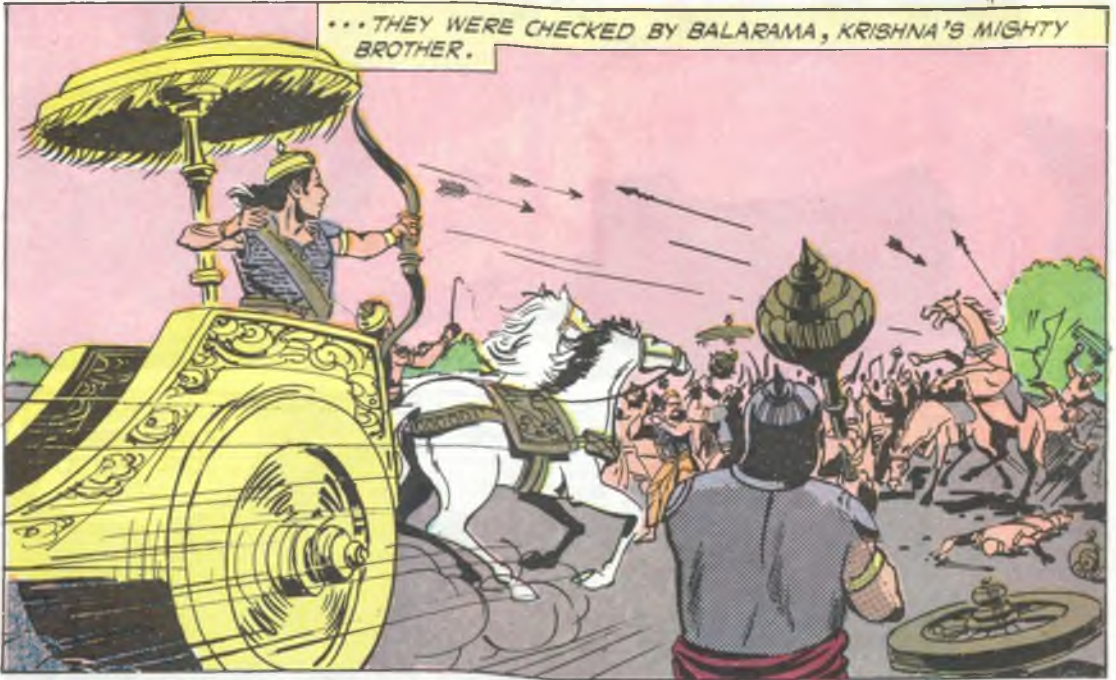


LITTLE DID THEY REALISE THAT RUKMINI HAD MADE HER OWN CHOICE AND HER OWN PLANS.

AS THE STUPEFIED EMPEROR AND HIS ALLIES TRIED TO GIVE CHASE...



...THEY WERE CHECKED BY BALARAMA, KRISHNA'S MIGHTY BROTHER.



THE EMPEROR TRIED TO CONSOLE SHISHUPALA.



WHILE THE EMPEROR PLANNED REVENGE, VAASUDEVA RETURNED TO HIS CAPITAL, A DEJECTED MAN.



HIS COURTIERS WERE WORRIED.

THIS WILL NEVER DO! IF THE KING REMAINS SO LISTLESS, THE KINGDOM WILL BE OPEN TO INVADERS AND OUR PEOPLE WILL BECOME SLAVES.



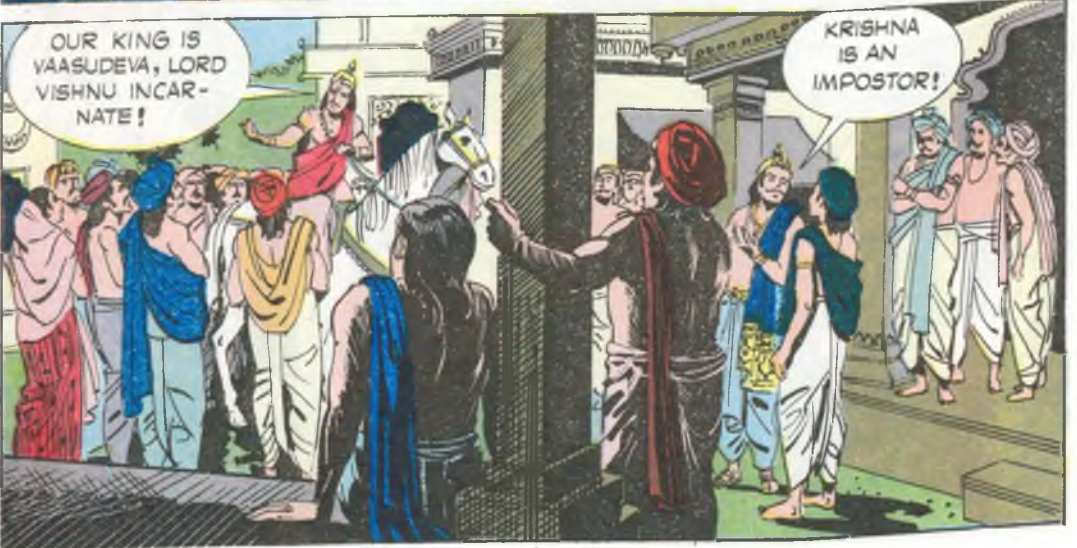
IT'S THAT KRISHNA WHO HAS DONE THIS TO HIM.





SUDDENLY ONE OF THE COURTIERS SNAPPED HIS FINGERS.







AS TIME ROLLED BY—



AM I REALLY LORD VISHNU INCARNATE? THE PEOPLE COULD NOT BE MISTAKEN. I MUST BE VISHNU REBORN.

AND THE KING BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE VISHNU. AND HE BEGAN TO DRESS LIKE KRISHNA, THE VAASUDEVA.



HOW DARE THAT YADAVA CALL HIMSELF VAASUDEVA! THE IMPOSTOR!

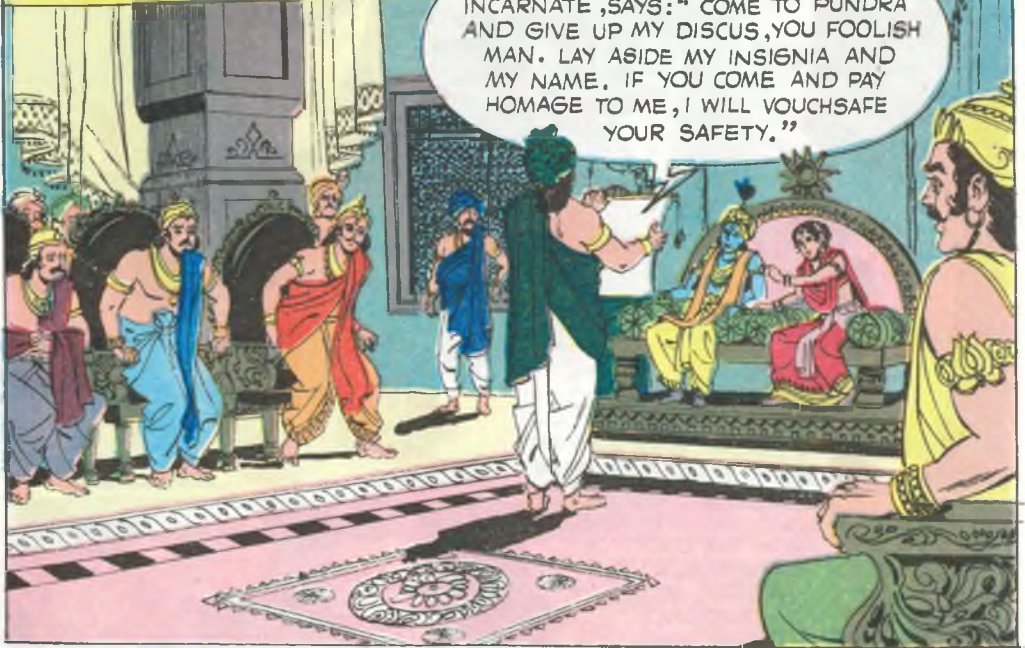


AND THAT IMPOSTOR HAS MY DISCUS AND INSIGNIA.



HIS QUESTION WAS SOON ANSWERED.

OUR DIVINE KING, VISHNU INCARNATE, SAYS: "COME TO PUNDRRA AND GIVE UP MY DISCUS, YOU FOOLISH MAN. LAY ASIDE MY INSIGNIA AND MY NAME. IF YOU COME AND PAY HOMAGE TO ME, I WILL VOUCHSAFE YOUR SAFETY."

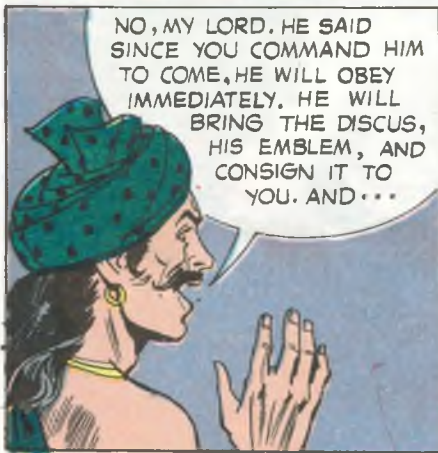


KRISHNA WAS AMUSED.

OH! SO THAT'S IT! VAASUDEVA HAS DIVINE DESIGNS!

GO TO VAASUDEVA AND TELL HIM THIS FROM ME...









AS HE NEARED THE CITY —

VAASUDEVA OF PUNDRA
HAS UNDERSTOOD WHAT
I MEANT.



AS THEY DREW NEARER,
KRISHNA SAW VAASUDEVA,
DRESSED EXACTLY
LIKE HIMSELF.

HA!
HA! HA!
HO! HO!



LAUGHING ALL THE WHILE,
KRISHNA
ATTACKED.



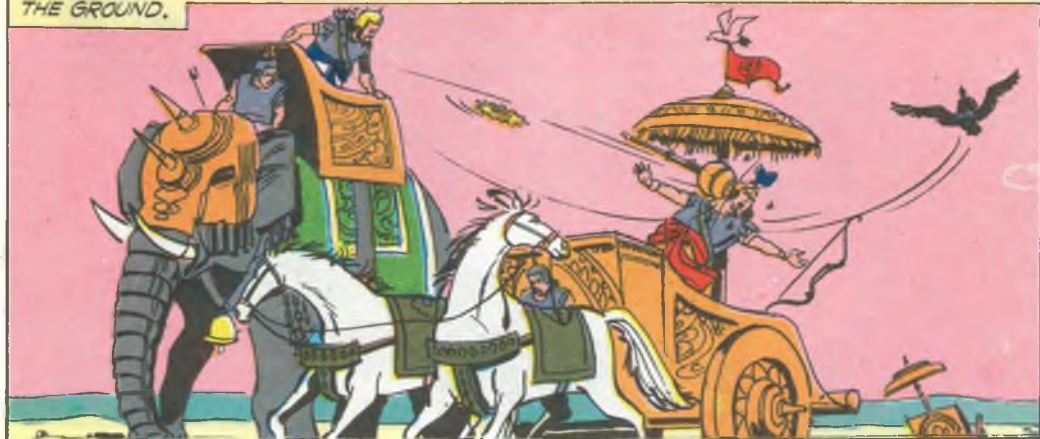


SOON THE EARTH WAS STREWN WITH THE BODIES OF THE TWO ARMIES AND THEIR HORSES AND ELEPHANTS.





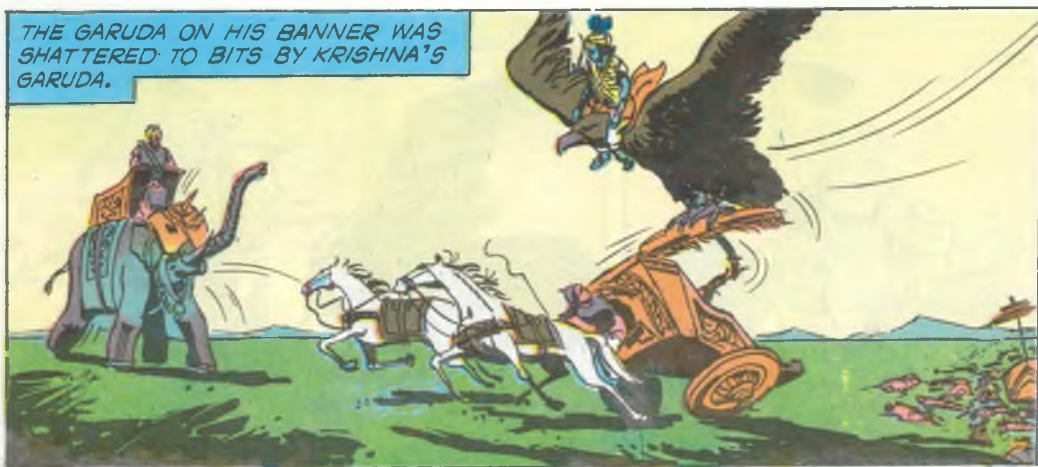
BUT THE WARNING WAS TOO LATE. KRISHNA'S MACE HIT VAASUDEVA, HURLING HIM TO THE GROUND.



THE NEXT MOMENT THE DISCUS CUT HIS THROAT, AND VAASUDEVA WAS NO MORE.



THE GARUDA ON HIS BANNER WAS SHATTERED TO BITS BY KRISHNA'S GARUDA.



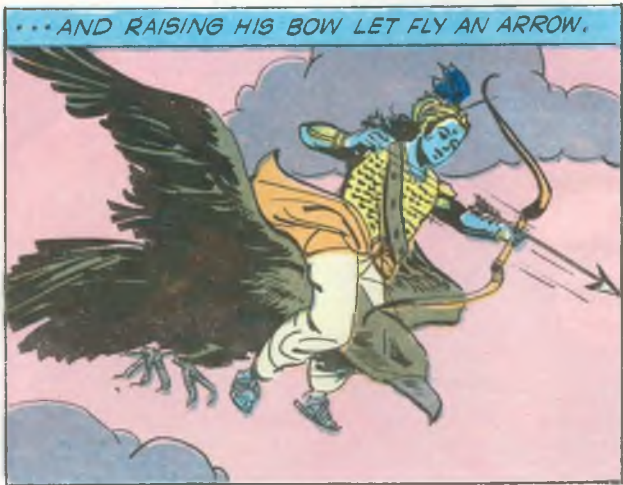
AS KRISHNA TURNED ROUND, THE KING OF KASHI ACCOSTED HIM.



KRISHNA ONLY SMILED IN REPLY...



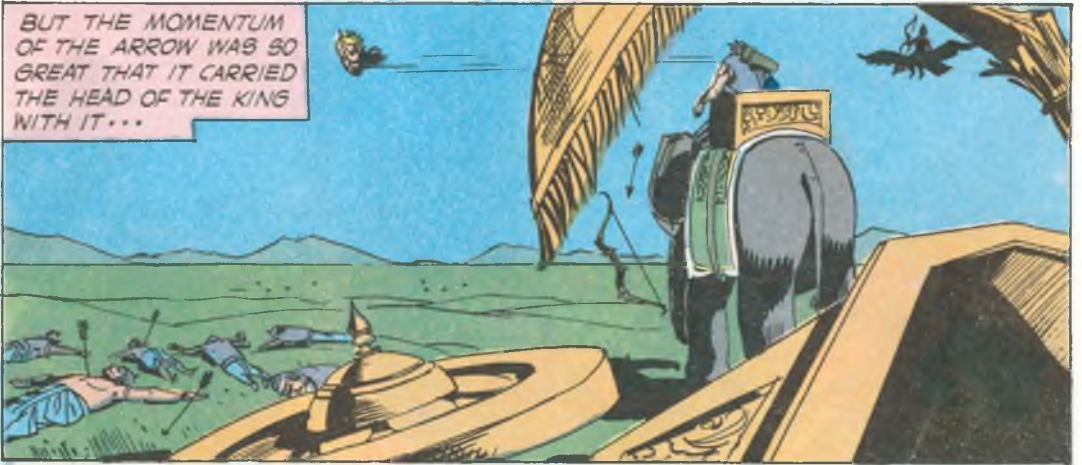
... AND RAISING HIS BOW LET FLY AN ARROW.



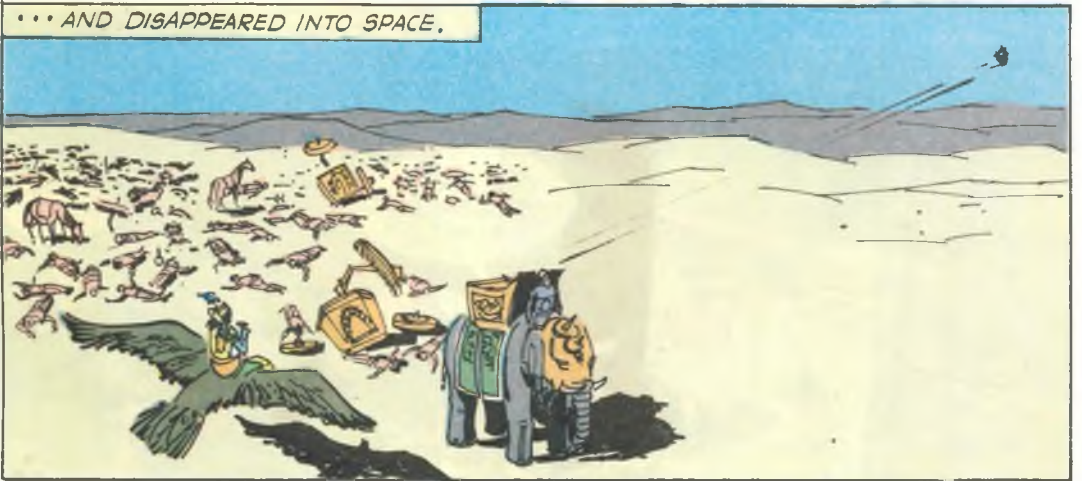
THE NEXT MOMENT THE HEAD OF THE KING OF KASHI WAS SEVERED FROM THE BODY.



BUT THE MOMENTUM OF THE ARROW WAS SO GREAT THAT IT CARRIED THE HEAD OF THE KING WITH IT...



... AND DISAPPEARED INTO SPACE.



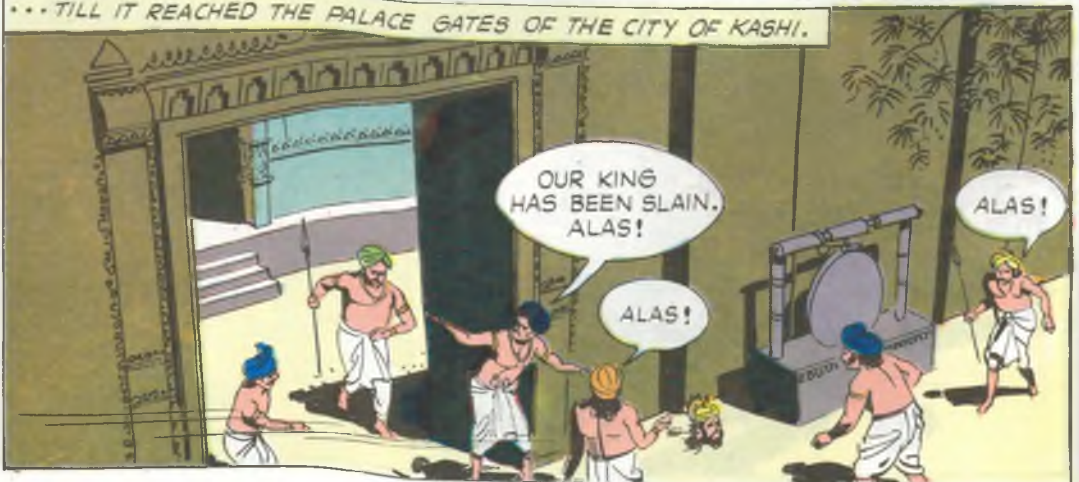
A VICTORIOUS KRISHNA RETURNED TO DWARAKA WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED BY HIS REJOICING SUBJECTS.



MEANWHILE, THE ARROW CARRYING THE HEAD OF THE KING OF KASHI, WHIZZED THROUGH THE AIR ...



...TILL IT REACHED THE PALACE GATES OF THE CITY OF KASHI.



WHEN SUDAKSHINA, THE SON OF THE KING OF KASHI, HEARD THEIR CRIES, HE CAME OUT OF THE PALACE.



ALONG WITH HIS FAMILY PRIEST, SUDAKSHINA BEGAN TO PERFORM A YAGNA.



SUDDENLY THE SACRIFICIAL FIRE BLAZED HIGH...



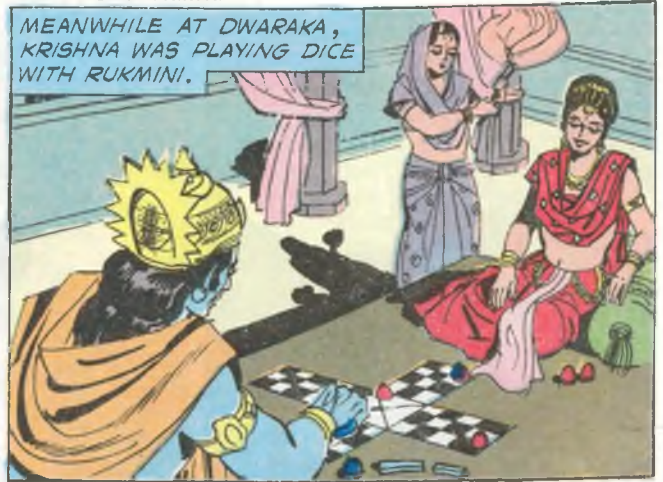
... AND FROM IT EMERGED A FORMIDABLE FEMALE, WITH FLAMES OF FIRE LEAPING OUT OF HER HAIR.



ROARING ANGRILY, SHE CHARGED THROUGH THE AIR TOWARDS DWARAKA.



MEANWHILE AT DWARAKA, KRISHNA WAS PLAYING DICE WITH RUKMINI.



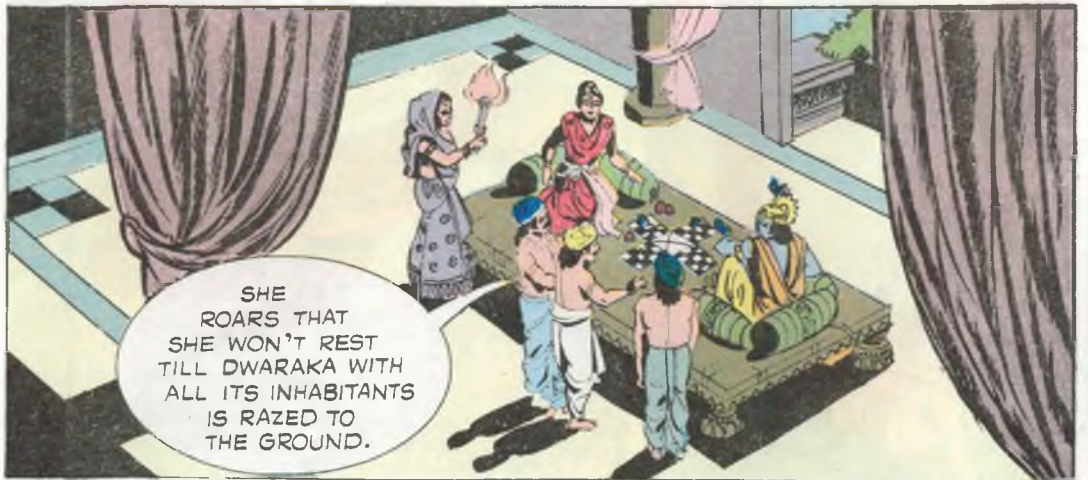
SUDDENLY —

LORD SAVE US!

A FIERY FIEND IS HEADING TOWARDS DWARAKA.

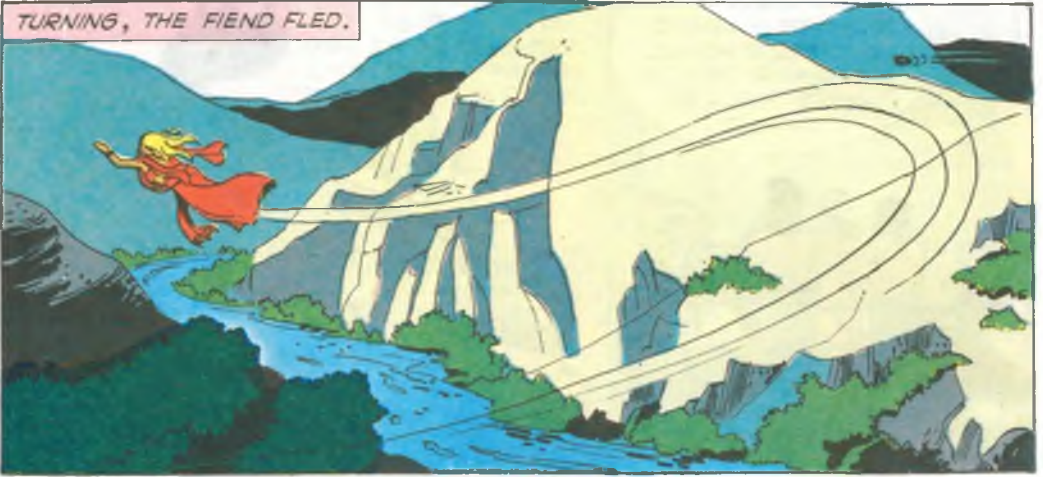


SHE ROARS THAT SHE WON'T REST TILL DWARAKA WITH ALL ITS INHABITANTS IS RAZED TO THE GROUND.

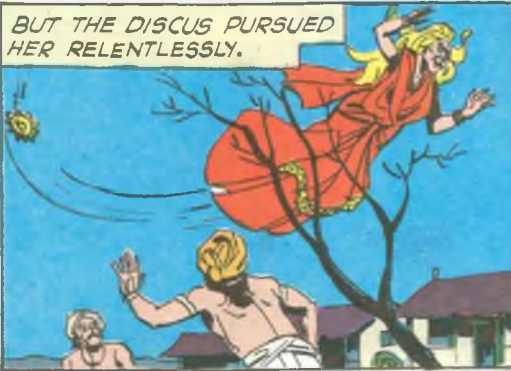




TURNING, THE FIEND FLED.



BUT THE DISCUS PURSUED HER RELENTLESSLY.



AH! THE CITY OF SUDAKSHINA. SINCE IT WAS SUDAKSHINA WHO BROUGHT ME TO THIS PLIGHT, I WILL SLAY HIM.



MEANWHILE SUDAKSHINA AND HIS ARMIES HAD ALREADY BEGUN RESISTING THE DISCUS...



... BUT IN VAIN. THE DISCUS ATTACKED THEM WITH A VENGEANCE, FELLING THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS, TILL...



... THE LAST OF SUDAKSHINA'S SOLDIERS FELL.



SUDAKSHINA FLED FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO HIS PALACE.



MEANWHILE THE FIEND TOO HAD REACHED THE PALACE.



YOU SHALL DIE FOR BEING THE CAUSE OF MY HUMILIATION!

AND SUDAKSHINA WAS BURNT TO DEATH BY THE CREATURE HIS OWN INCANTATIONS HAD BROUGHT FORTH.



SUDDENLY —

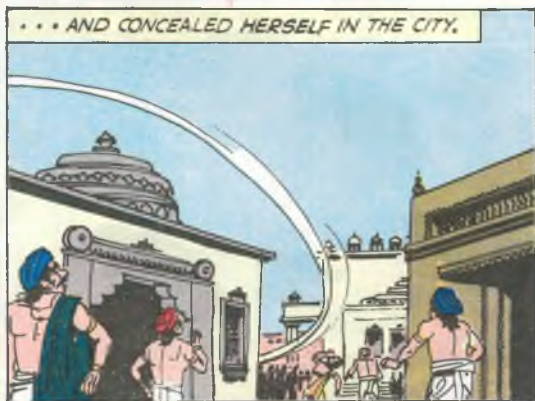
NO! IT'S THE
SUDARSHANA-
CHAKRA AGAIN!
IT HAS PURSUED
ME INTO THE
CITY.



AS THE DISCUS
APPROACHED,
THE FIEND
FLED...

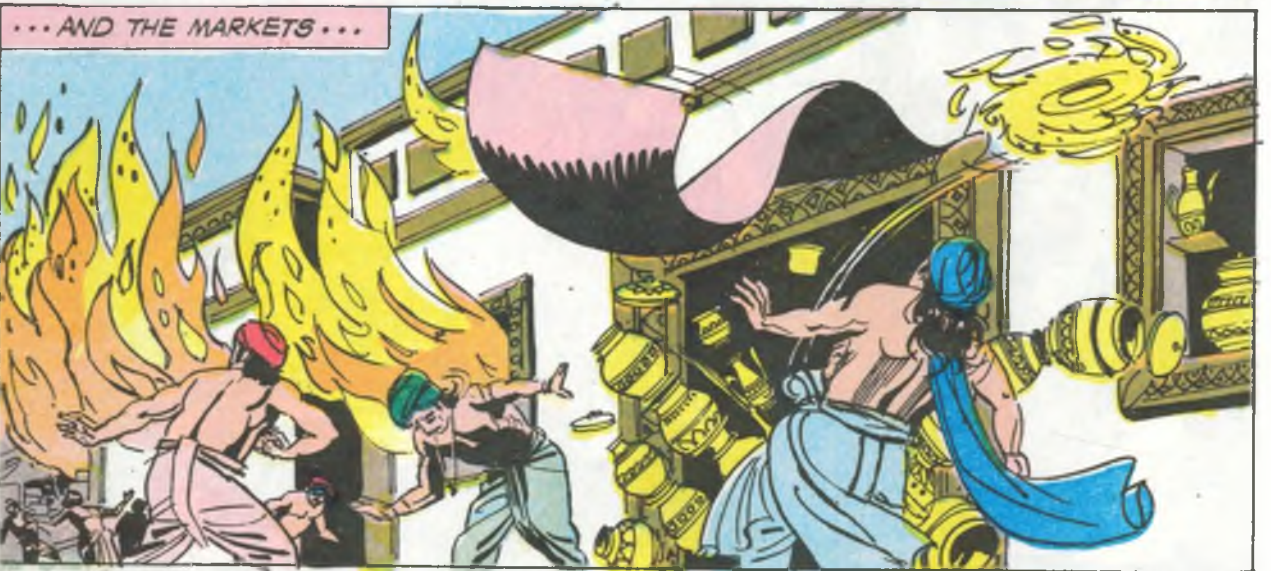
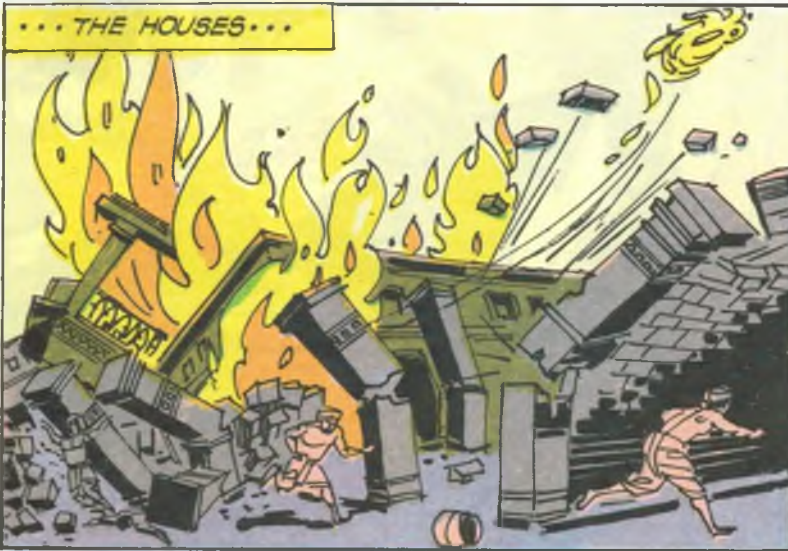
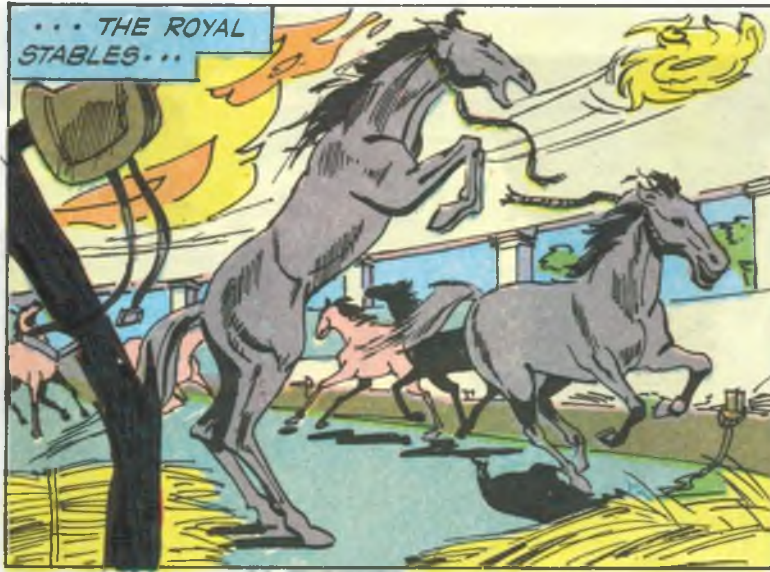


... AND CONCEALED HERSELF IN THE CITY.



THE BLAZING DISCUS WHIRRED THROUGH PALACE ASSEMBLY HALLS ...





... TILL THE WHOLE CITY OF KASHI WAS WRAPPED UP IN FLAMES ...



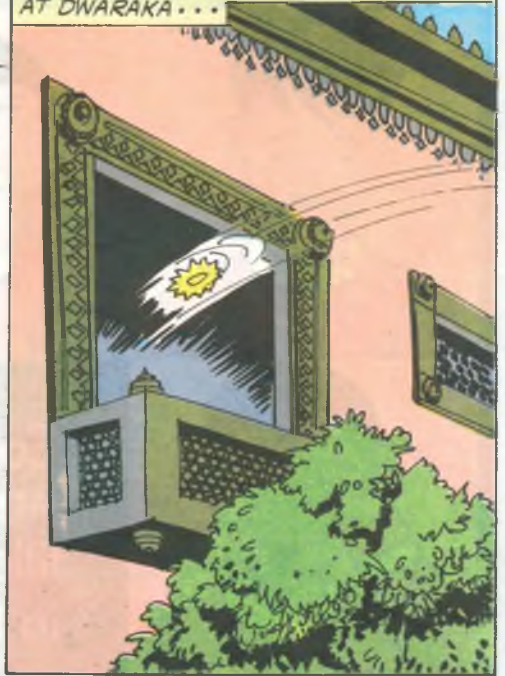
... WHICH CONSUMED EVEN THE FUGITIVE FIEND.



THE DISCUS, THEN, WITH UNMITIGATED VIGOUR AND BLAZING FIERCELY, WHIRLED AROUND AND...



... WHIZZED BACK TO THE PALACE AT DWARAKA...



... TO THE HANDS OF THE TRUE VAASUDEVA.

