

RAMAYANA

PART 7

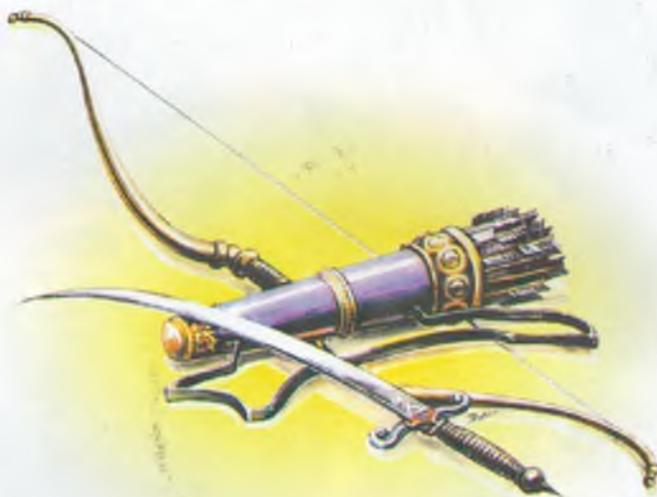


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RAMAYANA

PART 7 FASCINATING EPISODE

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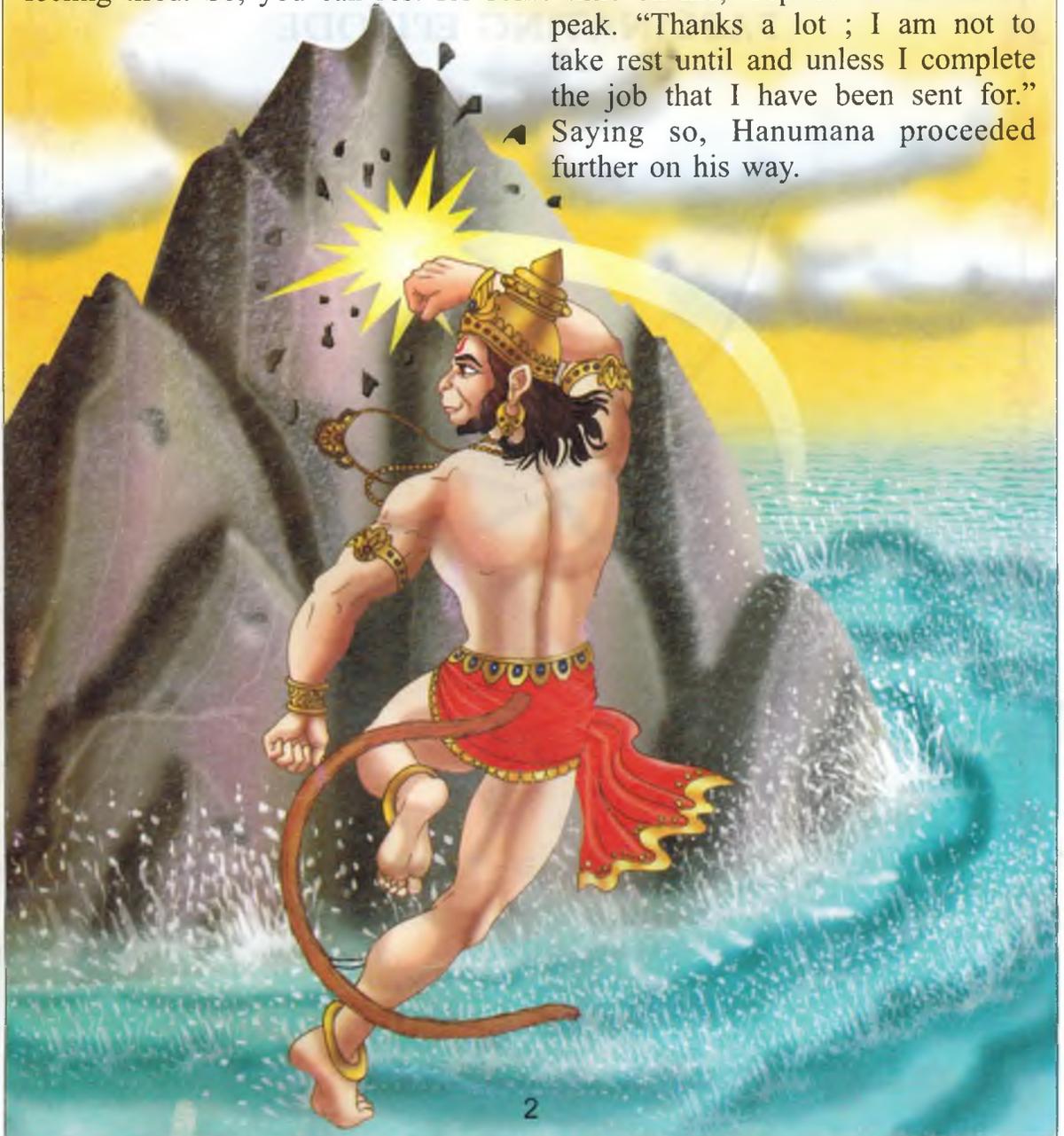
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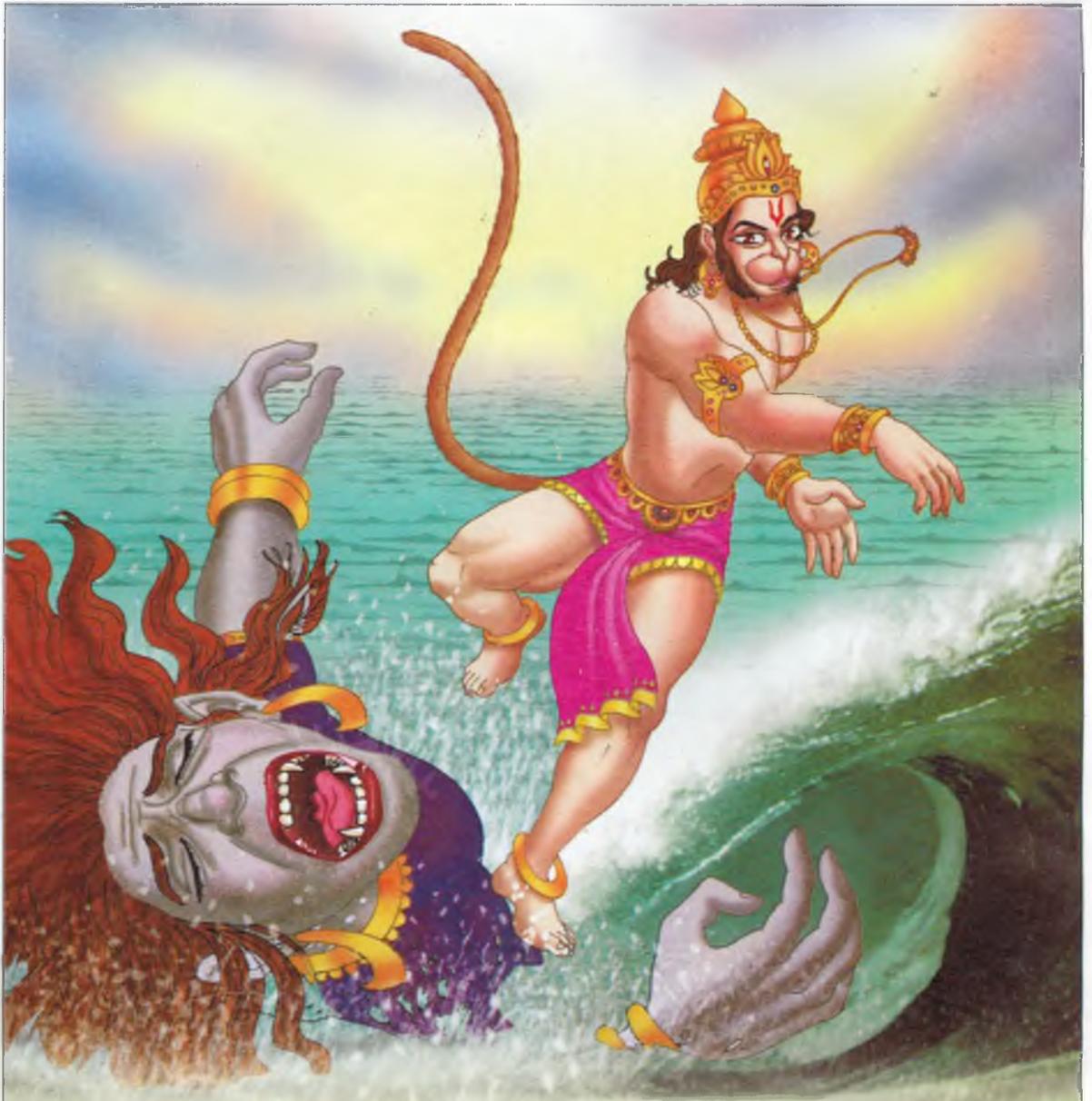
Hanumana was flying fast across the sea when suddenly a mountain-peak emerged from the sea and stood as a barrier across his way. Hanumana got enraged and gave a fierce blow to the peak. As soon as he struck at the peak, a human face appeared out of it. Hanuman was very astonished to see this face and said, "Who are you and why are you barring my way ?"

I am Mount Mainak. Your father had helped me once ; so, I have now come to repay that help. You have still to go a long way. You must be feeling tired. So, you can rest for some time on me," replied the mountain-

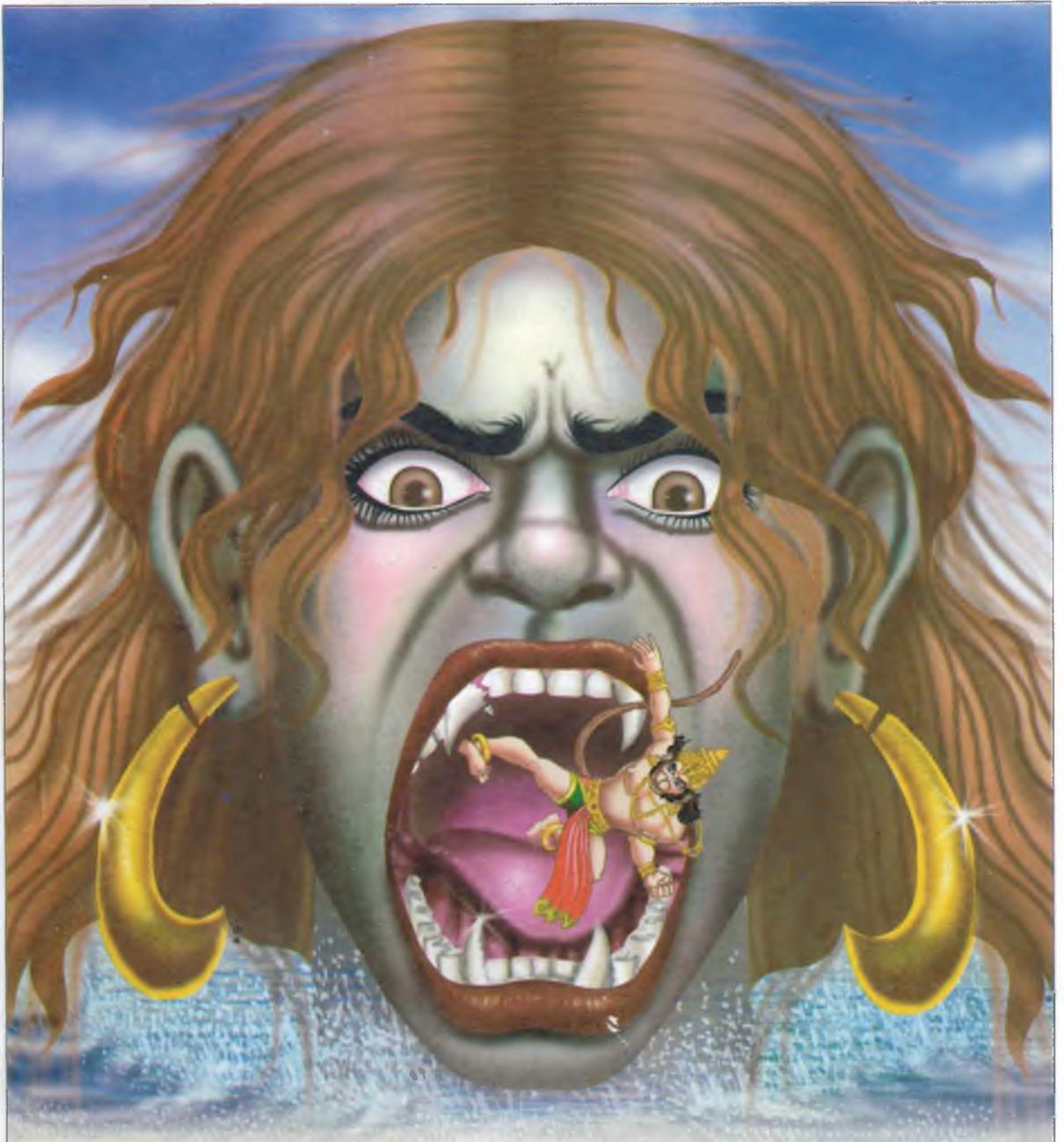
peak. "Thanks a lot ; I am not to take rest until and unless I complete the job that I have been sent for."

Saying so, Hanumana proceeded further on his way.





Hardly had Hanumana gone over a small distance when a Sea-demoness, Sinhika caught sight of Hanuman. She exclaimed, "Aha ! I am going to get a fine meal today." Sinhika caught Hanuman's shadow. As a result, he began to be drawn towards her mouth by a strange invisible power. The wicked demoness often drew flying birds to her mouth and made them her food. But Hanumana was not easy to be caught. He hit at the face of the demoness with his foot violently.

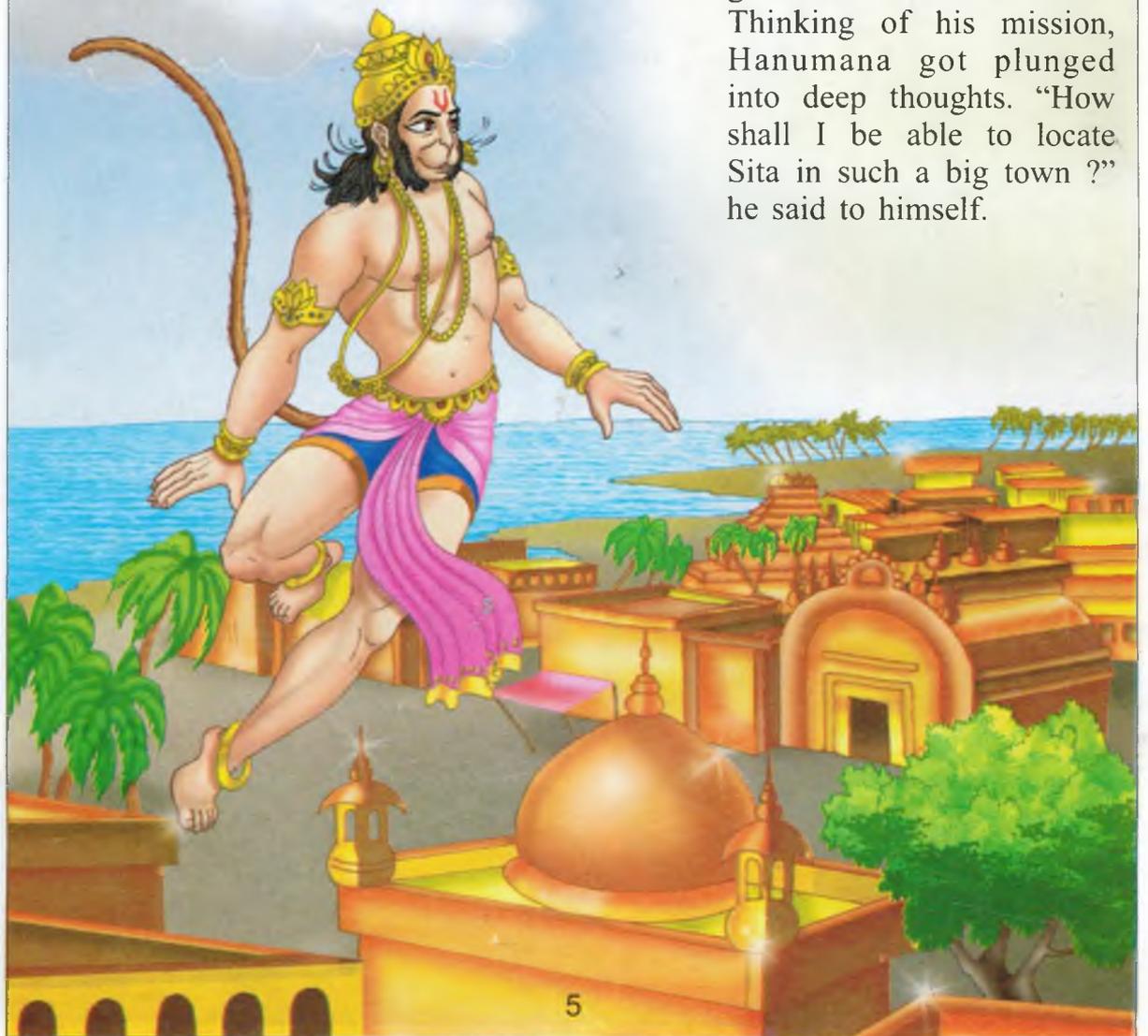


Even then Hanuman could not save himself from going into Sinhika's belly. He tore open her belly and came out safe and sound. When Hanuman came out, Sursa, a resident of the underworld gave a test to him. Hanumana came out successful in this test. Then, he took leave of Sursa. Sursa blessed Hanumana and said, "Gods had sent me to test your strength and wisdom. You will easily accomplish all the jobs assigned to you by Rama." Saying these words, Sursa went away and Hanumana was able to cross the sea.

Having crossed the ocean, Hanumana reached Lanka. The wall round the town was fairly high. It was made of gold-studded stones. The ocean waves smote on this wall on all sides and demons with fearful gigantic bodies stood guard at the gates leading into the town.

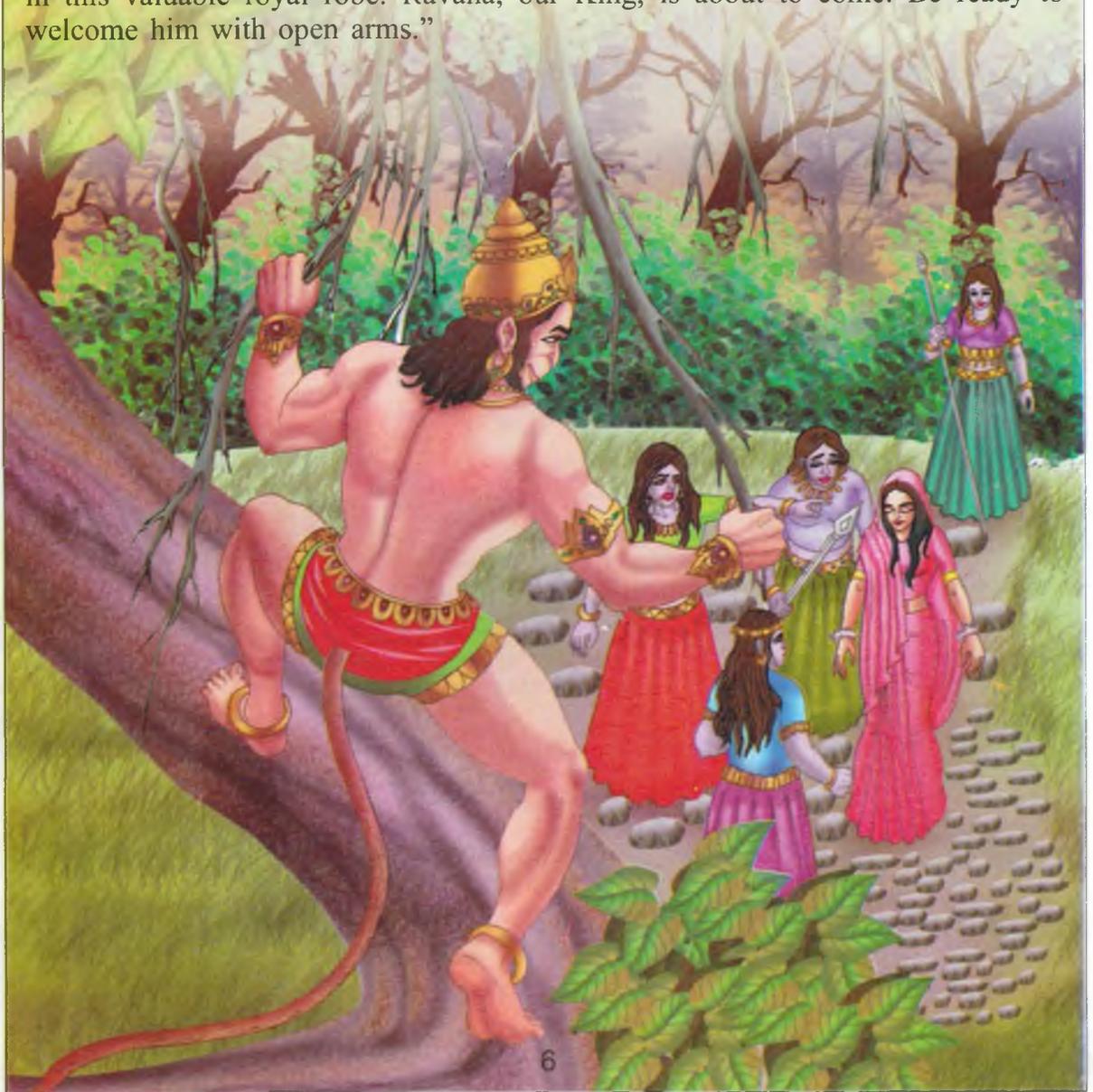
Hanumana decided to enter the town in a clandestine manner at night so that the guards might not be able to see him. He changed himself into a demon and entered the town of Lanka. After roaming in almost all the parts

of the town, Hanumana got to the roof of a fort. Standing on the turret of this fort, he observed the grandeur of the town. Thinking of his mission, Hanumana got plunged into deep thoughts. "How shall I be able to locate Sita in such a big town?" he said to himself.



Roaming hither and thither stealthily, Hanumana came to Ravana's palace. There, he saw a small garden just beside the Royal Abode. Going into the garden, Hanumana climbed up a tall tree. At dawn, Hanumana had a close look around the garden and saw Sita sitting under a tree. His joy knew no bounds. He thought, "She is sitting in a pensive mood—probably lost in thoughts of her dear husband. She must be none else but Sita. But why is she surrounded by a number of demonesses ?"

Suddenly, he heard a demoness say, "Sita ! your star is at the zenith as the ruler of Lanka craves to make you his queen. Shed your sorrow and dress up in this valuable royal robe. Ravana, our King, is about to come. Be ready to welcome him with open arms."



Just then Ravana stepped into the garden where Sita was sifting. Seeing him, all the demoness guards bowed low and left the garden. Coming to Sita, Ravana said, "Why do you keep engrossed in the thoughts of Rama who possesses no prowess, courage, wealth and fame. You have no other choice but to be my queen."

Seeing Ravana advancing towards her, Sita placed a straw between herself and him and said, "As the Sun and its light are inseparable, nobody can separate my husband from me. You had better beg for Lord Rama's pardon."



Hearing Sita's sermonising words, Ravana got enraged and he said, "I give you two months time. If you do not agree to marry me by then, my chef will cut you to pieces and cook your flesh for me." "Mind you fool ! one who insults a true wife, cannot escape a dishonorable death even if he happens to drink nectar," retorted Sita defiantly.

"Haven't you heard of my power ? I can lift the earth with my hands. I can pierce through the Sun and I can defeat the Death-god even. Can your husband Rama face me, then ? Erase him out of your memory."



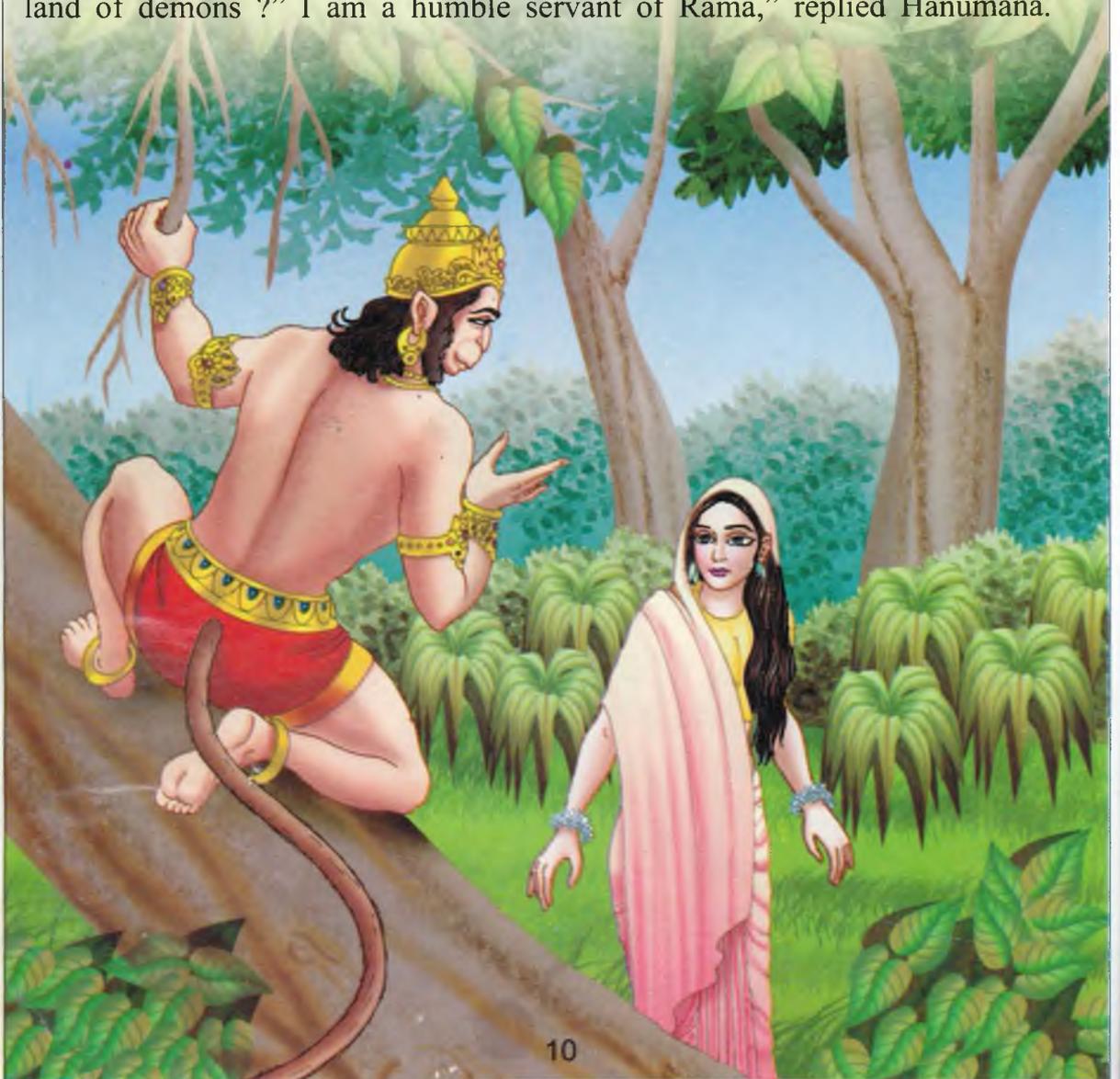
As soon as Ravana went away in rage, a number of demonesses came into the garden and began to frighten and threaten Sita. Some of them tried to persuade her to accept Ravana as her husband. One of them said, "Why don't you try to please our King, Ravana?" "How dare you defy his order?" asked the other.

"If you marry our King, you will be the Queen of Lanka. So, you must agree to marry him," suggested the third. But one of them was named Trijata. She was very kind, wise and God-fearing. She told her companions, "Friends! I have had a very fearful and unpleasant dream at night. A huge monkey came from somewhere. He burnt down entire Lanka and killed Ravana's army. So, I suggest to you all not to tease or trouble Sita in any way, otherwise we shall certainly land in some trouble."



The demonesses having gone, Sita was lost in grief and said to herself, "I have no alternative now. I must end my life some way or the other."

By now, Hanumana had shifted to the same Ashoka tree under which Sita was sitting. Seeing her sad due to separation from Rama, Hanumana began to narrate Rama's story in a gentle voice, "Obeying his father's order, Rama proceeded to the forest along with his brother Lakshmana and wife Sita. Sita was abducted by Ravana, ruler of Lanka. A Vanara, friendly to Rama, set out to trace Sita and it is a matter of delight that he has found her today." Hearing Hanuman's words, Sita got startled and asked Hanumana, "Who is there narrating the greatness of my husband in this land of demons?" "I am a humble servant of Rama," replied Hanumana.



Then, Hanumana handed over Rama's ring to Sita and said, "Here is the ring. which Rama gave me to you so that you may believe me."

Hanuman's words imparted great satisfaction to Sita and she said, "How is my husband, Hanumana ? How is Lakshman ? Is everything all right ?"

"Both of them are all right yet they are always worried on your score. But keep patience. These demons are like moths while Rama's bow shoots fire-spitting arrows. Had they got any clue about your whereabouts earlier, you would have been rescued by now. Anyhow, don't worry. They will soon reach here along with their army and rescue you after killing all the demons." Thus, knowing about Rama's well-being, Sita felt very delighted.

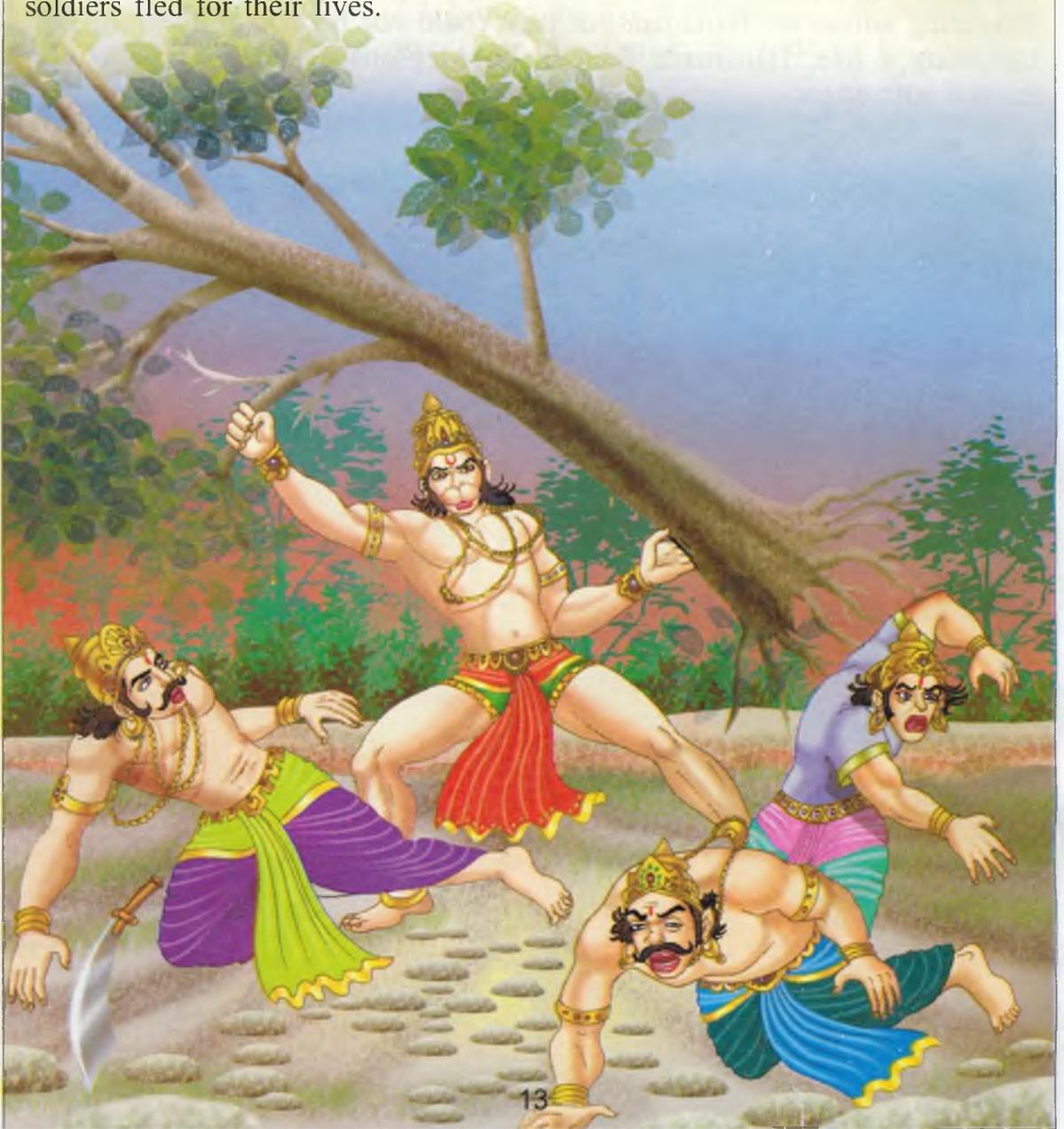


But looking at Hanumana, Sita expressed her doubt and said, "Rama's soldiers must be small like you while the demons are very strong and furious. How will you be able to beat them?" Hearing these words, Hanumana assumed a gigantic form which was very imposing and fearful. Seeing it, Sita was convinced of the strength of Rama's army.

Suddenly, Hanumana caught sight of trees laden with ripe juicy fruits. He said to Sita, I am feeling awfully hungry. Seeing these fruits my mouth has begun to water. May I eat a few of them?" "But the garden is being guarded by fearful demons. They will not allow you to do so. How will you face them single handed?" Sita expressed her doubt. "I don't fear them at all especially when your blessings are with me." Saying so, Hanumana bowed low before Sita and started plucking and eating fruits.

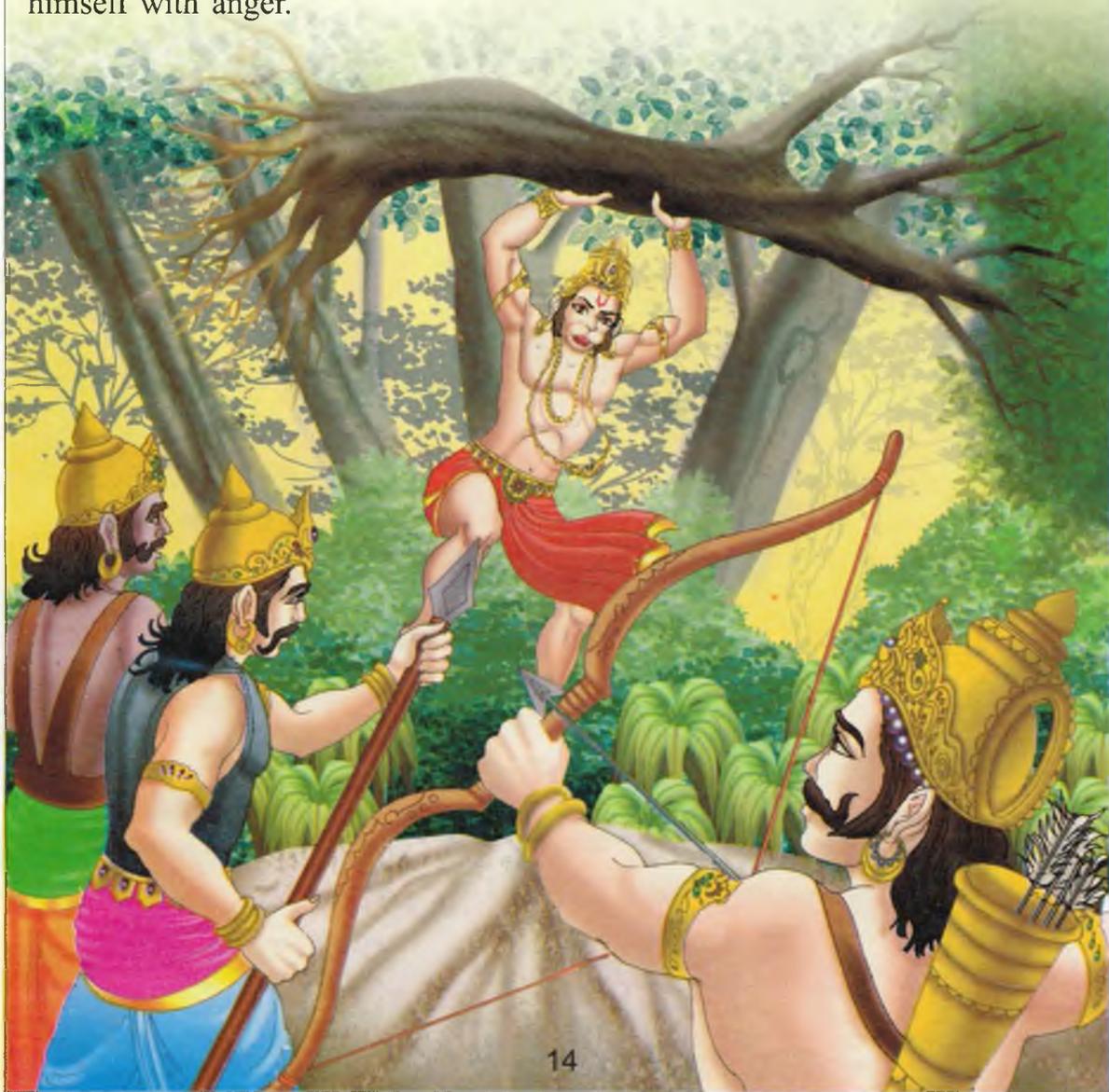


The demons on guard came and prevented Hanumana from damaging the garden. But Hanumana attacked them and killed many of them. Those who escaped ran away in fear and went to Ravana's court. They complained, "Your Majesty ! a huge monkey has done a lot of damage to the garden and he has put to death many soldiers who were guarding the garden." Hearing this, Ravana sent his youngest son—Akshaya Kumar—to catch Hanumana. Hanumana uprooted a tree and threw it on Ravana's soldiers. Akshaya Kumar and some other soldiers were killed and the remaining soldiers fled for their lives.



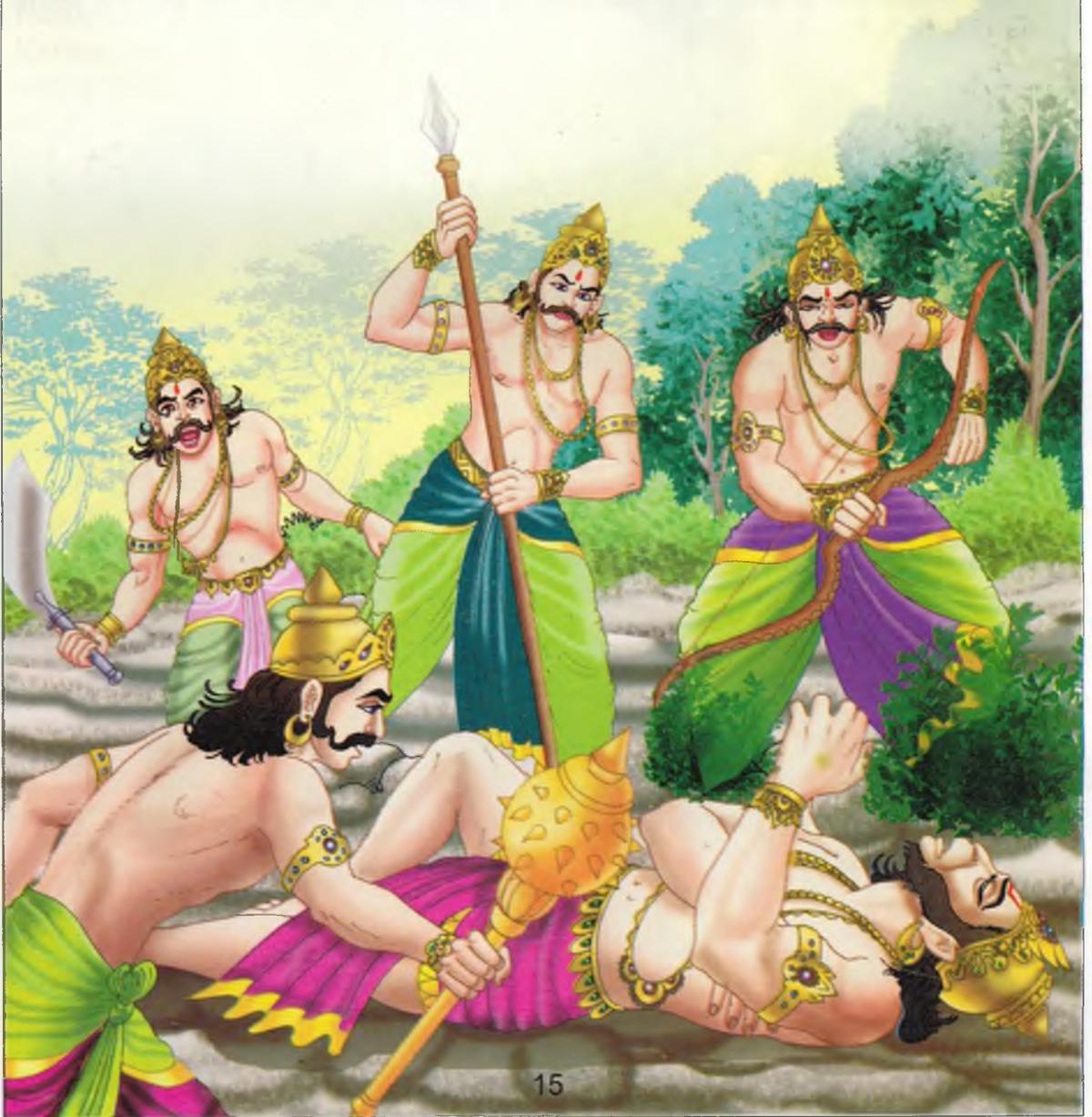
Reaching the Court, the demons said to Ravana, "Your Majesty ! that monkey is very, very brave and strong. He has killed your son and many soldiers as well. It does not seem so easy to overpower him." Hearing of Akshaya's death, Ravana was red in rage and he ordered his elder son Meghanada, "Go and bring the monkey in chains here. Let me see after all, who he is." "Here I go, Sir," said Meghanada and he marched to the royal garden with a strong force.

Hanuman again attacked the demons. Seeing this, Meghanada started showering arrows on Hanuman but they could not harm him even slightly. Uprooting a tree, Hanumana flung it on Meghanada and he grew beside himself with anger.



Meghanada, then, made use of a Divine Weapon that trapped Hanumana and he fell down on the ground. But he smiled in his lips and thought, "This silly demon doesn't know at all that I can easily get rid of this trap. But I want to be face to face with Ravana. So, I'll not break it." Seeing Hanumana lying helpless, Meghanada ordered his soldiers, "Catch hold of this mischievous monkey and present him before the King of Lanka."

"Yes, Sir." saying so, the soldiers made a cordon about Hanumana and caught hold of him. They took him to the Court of Ravana. Meghanada was extremely happy at his success. In an air of pride, he made for his palace.



Seeing Hanumana presented before him, Ravana flew into a rage and he said, "You Wretched Monkey ! Who are you ? Why have you damaged my garden ? Do you not know me ? Don't you fear death ?"

"I am a messenger of King Sugreeva. You were on good days so far, O King of Lanka. But those days are over and your bad days have begun. You must atone for your sins now. You had better return Sita to her husband Rama and ask for his pardon for what you have done," argued Hanumana.

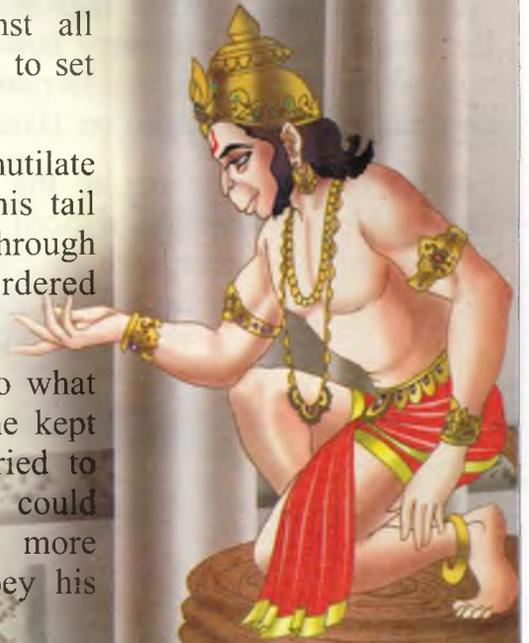
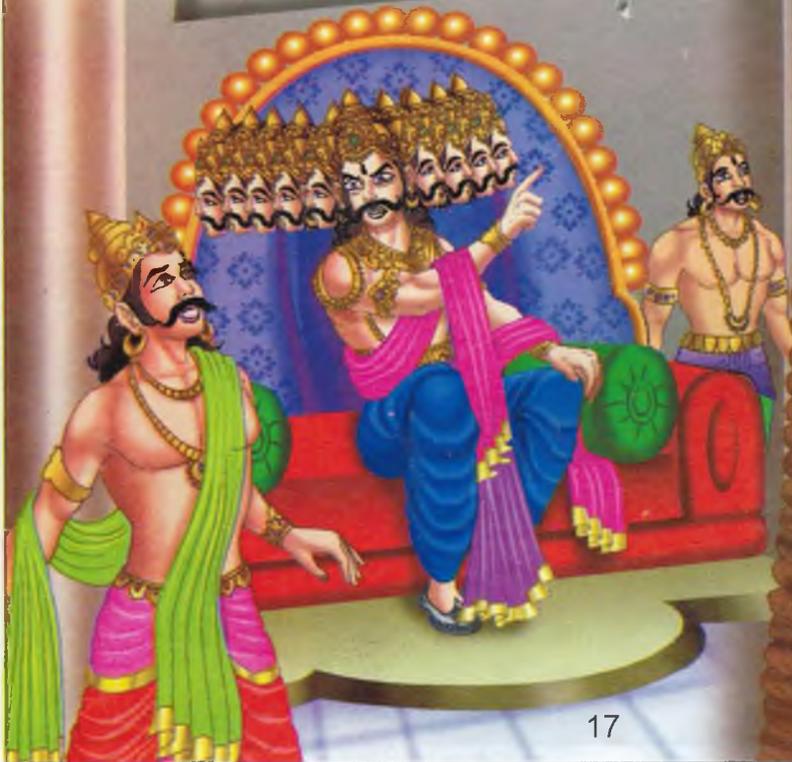
Hearing this, Ravana was beside himself with rage and ordered his soldiers, "Take away this wretch and put him to death. He hasn't yet known about my power."



Hearing Ravana's order, his wise brother—Vibhishana—said, “Brother ! it is against all norms to kill a messenger. Be kind enough to set him free.”

“All right ; don't kill him but only mutilate him. Wrap a few rags round the end of his tail and set them on fire. Then lead him through the streets of my Capital,” Ravana ordered his soldiers.

Hanumana did not say anything in reply to what Ravana had said. Curling his tail round, he kept sitting on it quite calmly. The demons tried to lift Hanumana up from his place but they could not. Seeing this, Ravana ordered some more soldiers to help their companions and obey his order of setting Hanumana's tail on fire.



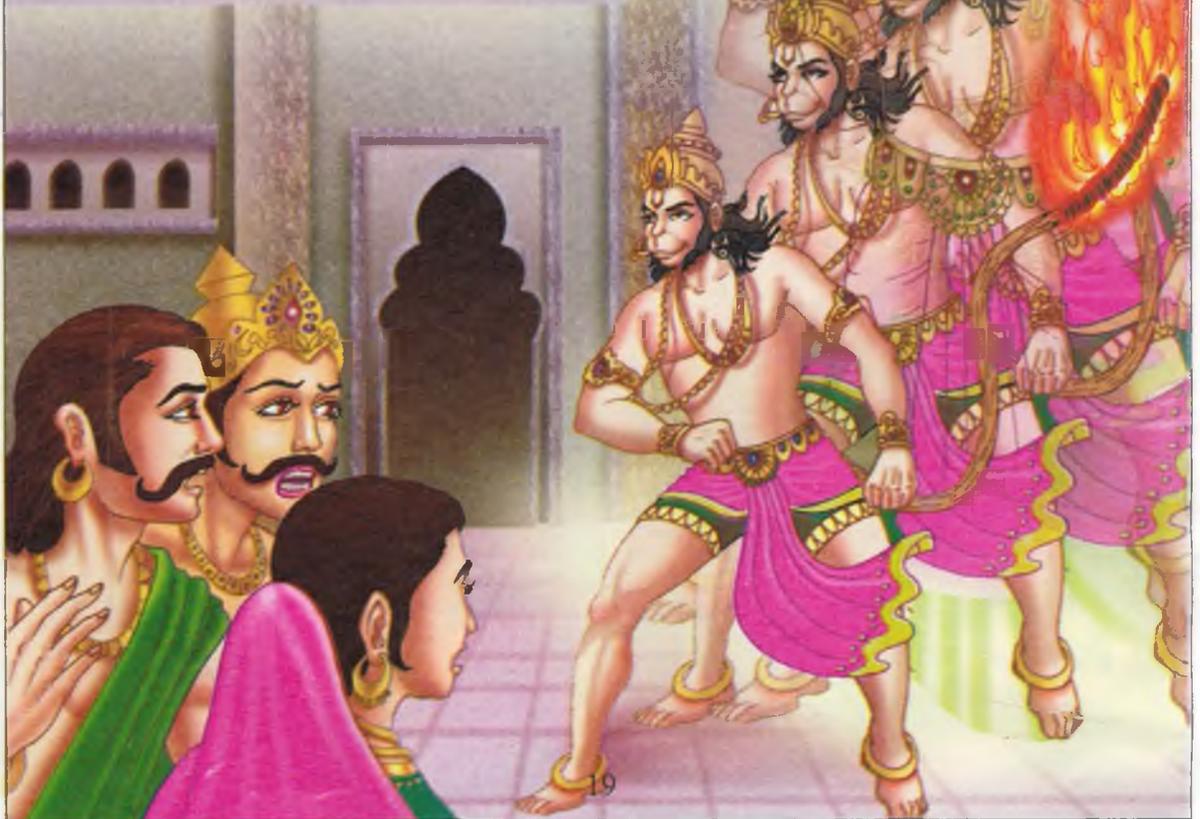
So, a large number of Ravana's soldiers fell upon Hanumana. Lifting him up, they began to wrap rags doused in kerosene. But Hanuman increased the length of his tail every now and then. It created a problem and more rags were wrapped on the increased tail-end. In this way, a large number of rags came to be wrapped on Hanumana's tail which was now set on fire.

Fearful flames came out of the tail-fire and all the demons present there clapped to see it. They danced in joy. Ravana said, "When this monkey returns to his master without his tail, his master will be highly ashamed. He may come here in a fit of rage. We shall remain anxious to see him."



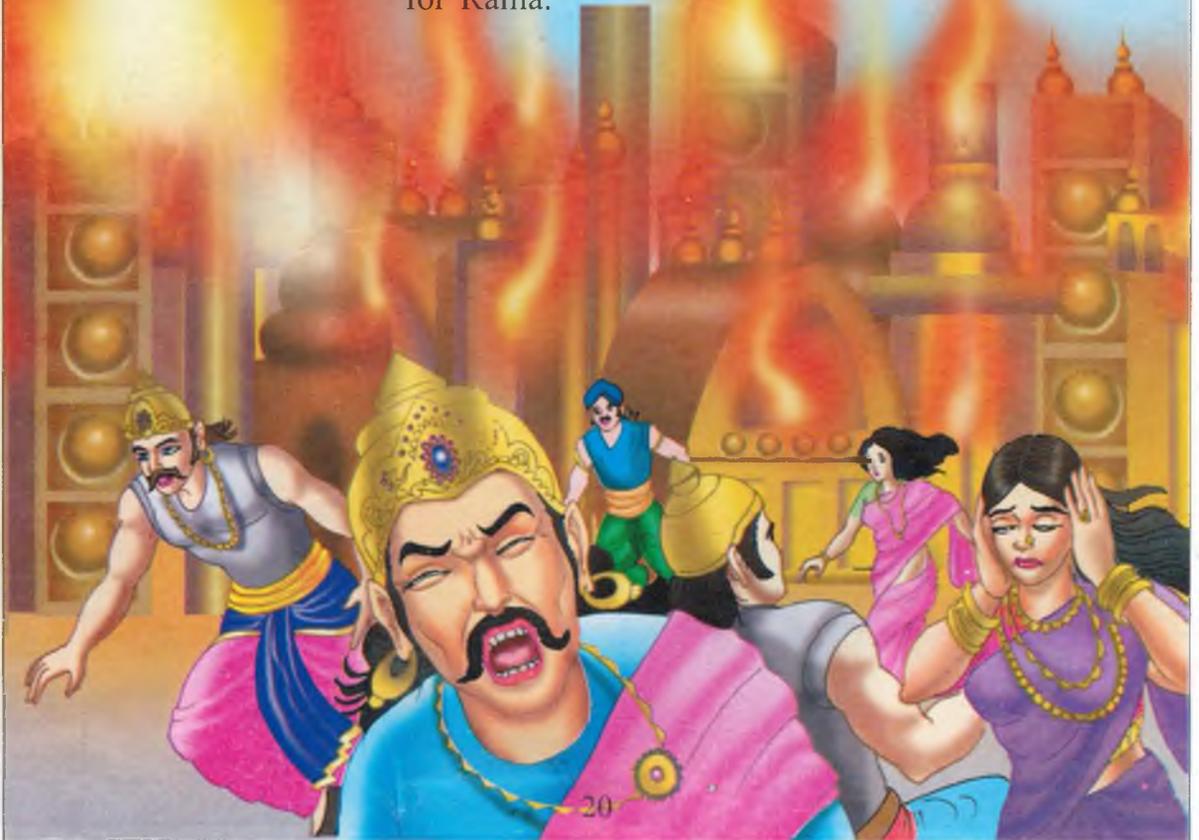
The demons tied both the hands of Hanumana with a string and led him through the streets of Lanka. A large crowd gathered to see Hanumana. People clapped to see his burning tail and broke into peals of laughter. When the procession reached the gate of Ravana's Capital, Hanumana minimized his size and got rid of all strings and traps.

Seeing this sudden change in Hanuman's size, children and women of the demons got frightened. A strong wind began to blow. Hanumana gave out loud laughter and began to frisk here and there. His roar sent a wave of fear among all. Women and children began to weep bitterly saying, "Who will save us from this monkey? We had already said that this monkey must be a god who has come to finish us all."





Hanumana began to jump on the roofs and set every house on fire. Getting to the top of a high attic, Hanumana again assumed his gigantic form and began to dance round and round. The flames from his long burning tail set the entire town ablaze. Even Ravana's palace caught fire. There were bewailings everywhere around. Women began to run helter-skelter with their babies in their arms. Only Vibhishana's house was safe. He was Ravana's younger brother and a devout devotee of Rama. It was a miracle. As a result, even the citizens of Lanka came to have a devotional liking for Rama.



Troubled by the furious fire, the demons of Lanka clamoured for safety. They did not know what to do in order to save themselves from the dangerous fire that had burnt almost the entire town to ashes.

At last the people went to their King Ravana and requested him, "Your Majesty ! save us from this dreadful fire. It has burnt everything we had."

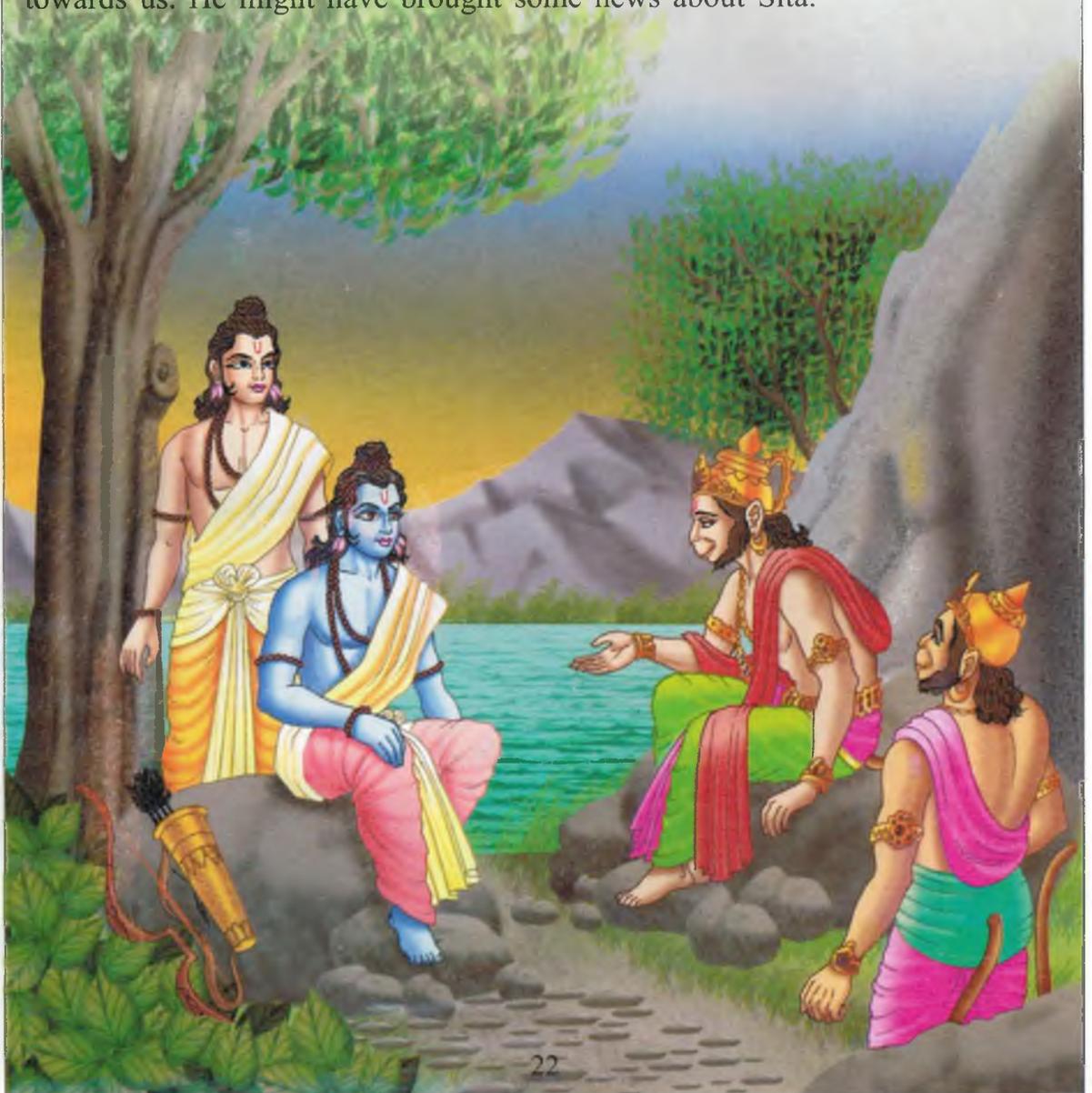
But Ravana was helpless. He was watching his burning capital with wide open eyes. Entire Lanka was in flames. Within a few minutes everything was going to be reduced to ashes. The king did not know what to do.

People began to whisper among themselves, "Our King is a wicked person. He has done a grave sin by abducting the wife of another person. This calamity is undoubtedly the result of the misdeed committed by our sinful ruler, Ravana."



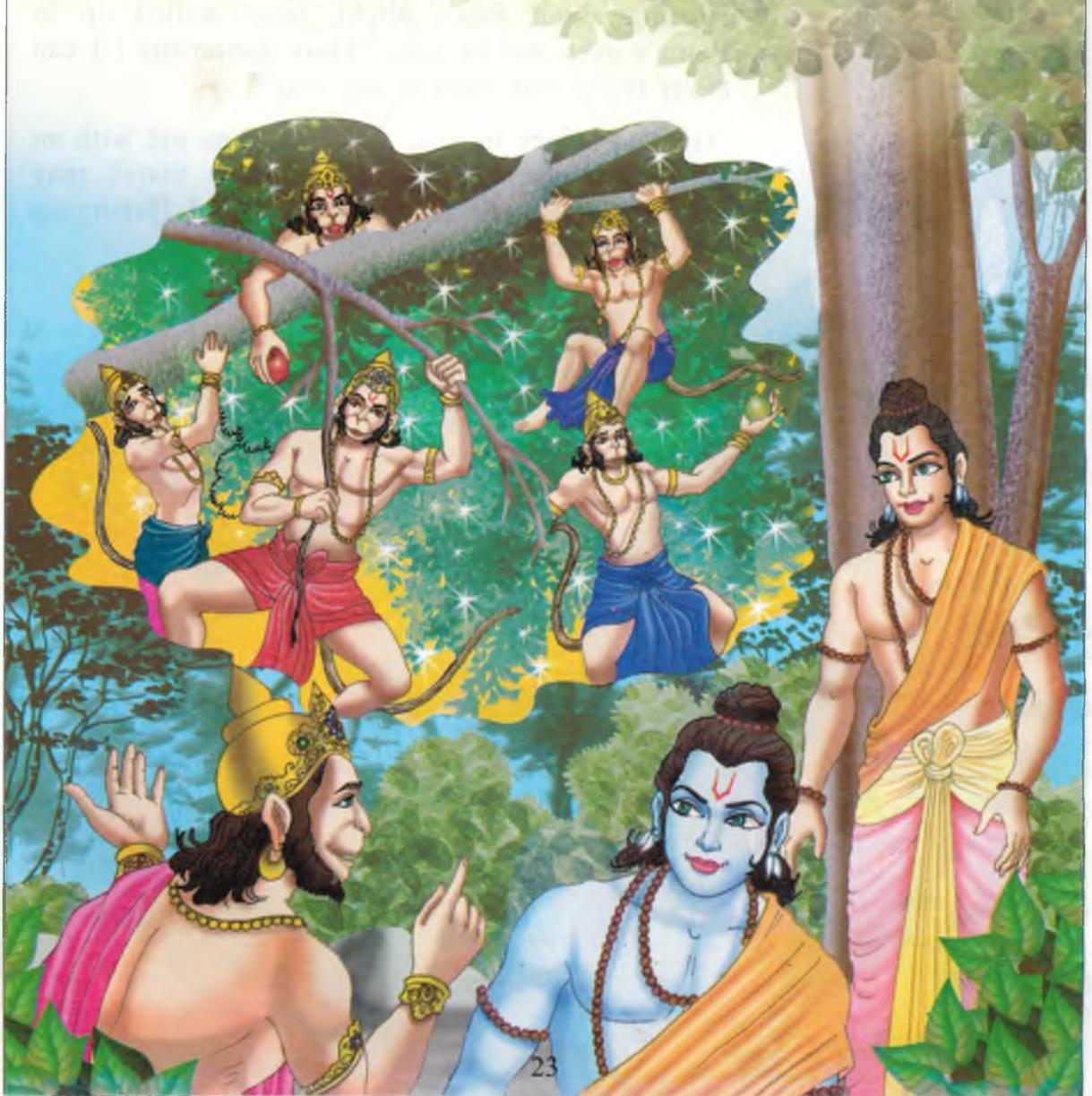
In Kishkindha, Rama was sitting lost in despair. Sugreeva was also sitting beside him. Rama said, "Your messengers have combed the regions in the east, west and north. But no clue of Sita has been found out anywhere. Will our messengers sent to the south also come back empty-handed? I am at a loss to understand anything, friend."

"Rest assured, Sir; I am fully confident that the party sent to South under brave Hanumana must come out successful in finding out Sita," replied Sugreeva. Just then a monkey came running towards them. Seeing him, Lakshmana said to Rama, "Look there; brother! Dadhimukh is running towards us. He might have brought some news about Sita."



Reaching near Sugreeva, Dadhimukh saluted his King and said, "Your Majesty ! I saw that the Madhuvana Garden was badly damaged by Hanumana, Angad and their companions. They also ate up all the fruits as well." Hearing these words, Lakshman felt very delighted and said, "It seems that Hanumana has traced Sita. It is only then that he has allowed his companions to express their delight over their success in this manner."

"If it is so, let them enjoy as they like, O Dadhimukh. They have done a really wonderful job. Go and send Hanumana here," Sugreeva ordered Dadhimukh. "Yes, Sir." Saying so, Dadhimukh left the place.

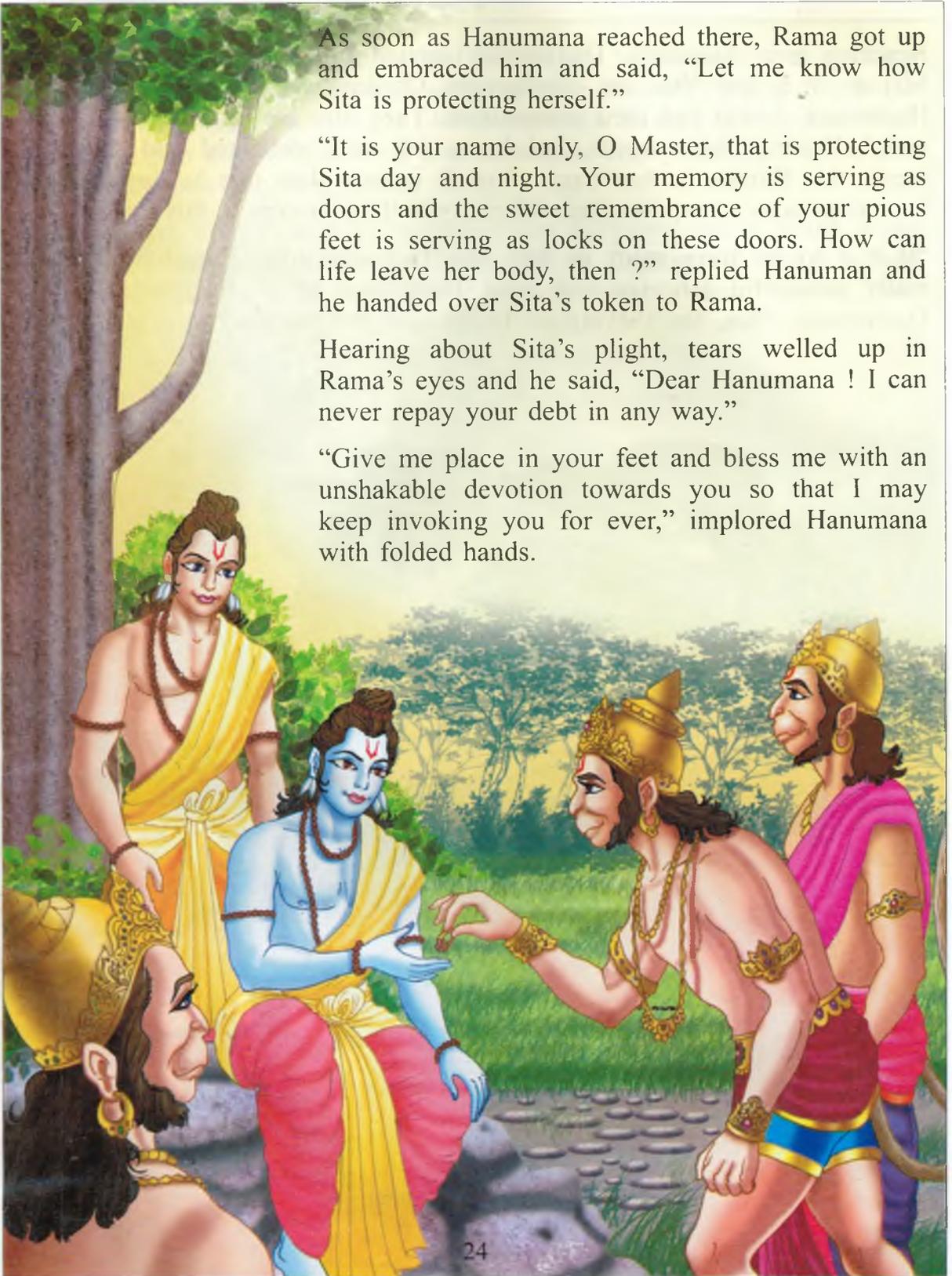


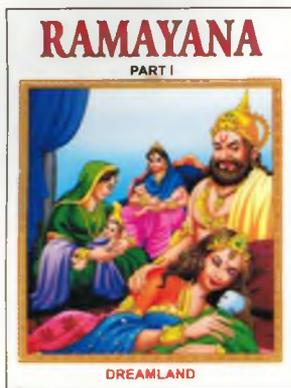
As soon as Hanumana reached there, Rama got up and embraced him and said, "Let me know how Sita is protecting herself."

"It is your name only, O Master, that is protecting Sita day and night. Your memory is serving as doors and the sweet remembrance of your pious feet is serving as locks on these doors. How can life leave her body, then ?" replied Hanuman and he handed over Sita's token to Rama.

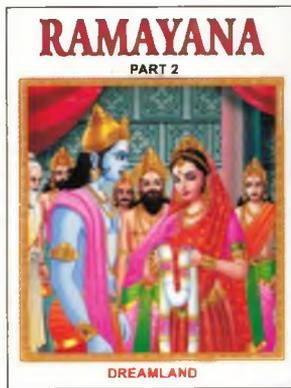
Hearing about Sita's plight, tears welled up in Rama's eyes and he said, "Dear Hanumana ! I can never repay your debt in any way."

"Give me place in your feet and bless me with an unshakable devotion towards you so that I may keep invoking you for ever," implored Hanumana with folded hands.

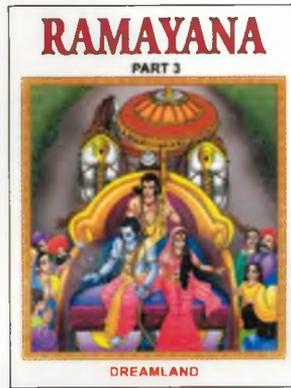




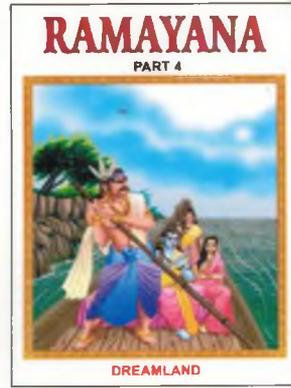
Childhood Episode-I



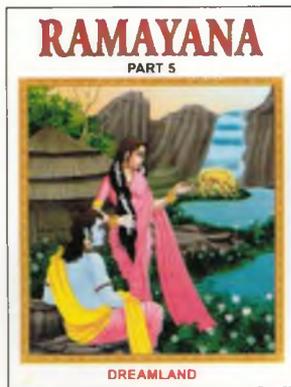
Childhood Episode-II



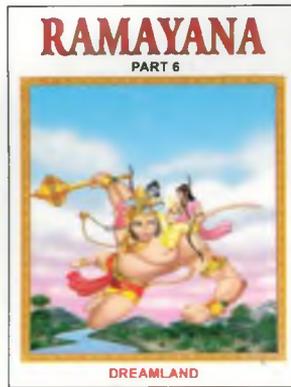
Ayodhya Episode-I



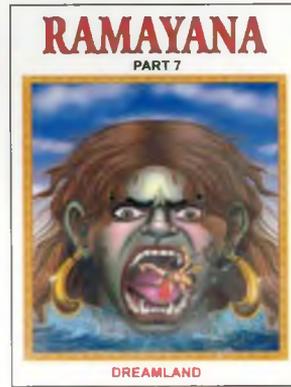
Ayodhya Episode-II



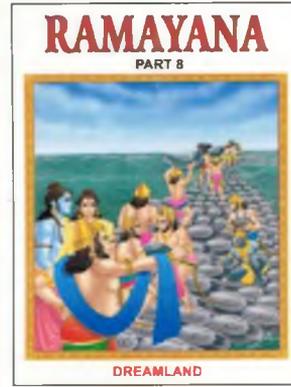
Forest Episode



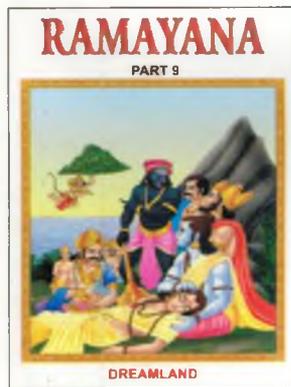
Kishkindha Episode



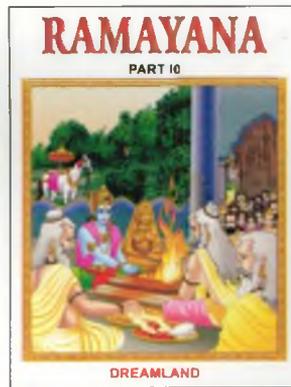
Fascinating Episode



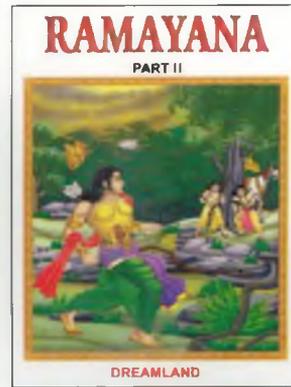
Battle Episode-I



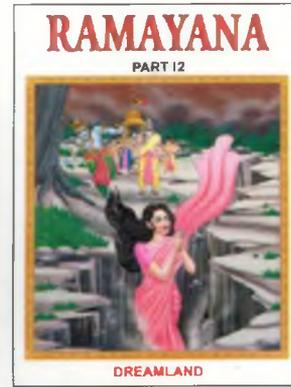
Battle Episode-II



Uttara Episode



Lava-Kusha Episode-I



Lava-Kusha Episode-II



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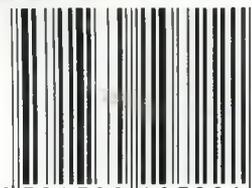
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