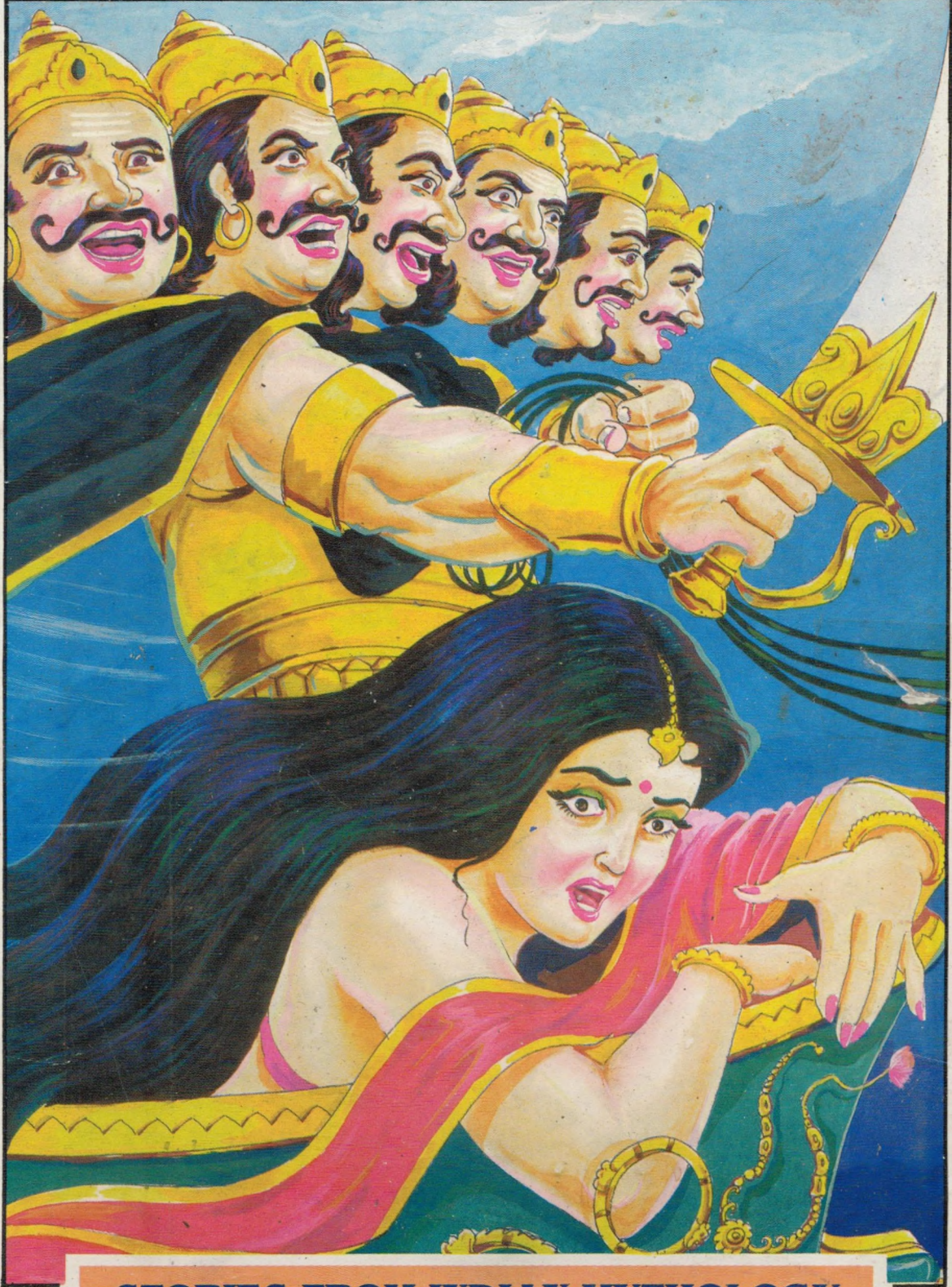


CHITRA
KATHAVAIN

RAVANA



STORIES FROM INDIAN MYTHOLOGY

RAVANA

Ravana, the mighty king of Lanka, was the son of Sage Vishrava. According to the Ramayana of Valmiki, Sumali, the king of the Rakshasas from the nether-world, once came on the earth to search a groom for his daughter, Kaikesi. He was impressed by the mighty Kubera, the son of Sage Vishrava. He insisted his daughter, Kaikesi to marry Vishrava. Vishrava told Kaikesi that the children born to her would be Rakshasas. The prediction came true. She gave birth to Ravana, Kumbhkarna, Supranakha and Vibheeshna. Ravana defeated Kubera, then the king of Lanka, and crowned himself as the king of Lanka. Then follow a number of adventures, lastly leading to the siege of Lanka by Rama.

CHITRA KATHAYAIN means inspiration from the past.

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RAVANA

Sumali, the King of the Asuras from the Nether-world, once decided to visit the world of humans, with his beautiful daughter, Kaikesi.



I'll get you married to the worthiest man in the world. You'll bear many mighty sons.



Sumali searched for the man. But—

Kaikesi ! No one is a worthy match for you.



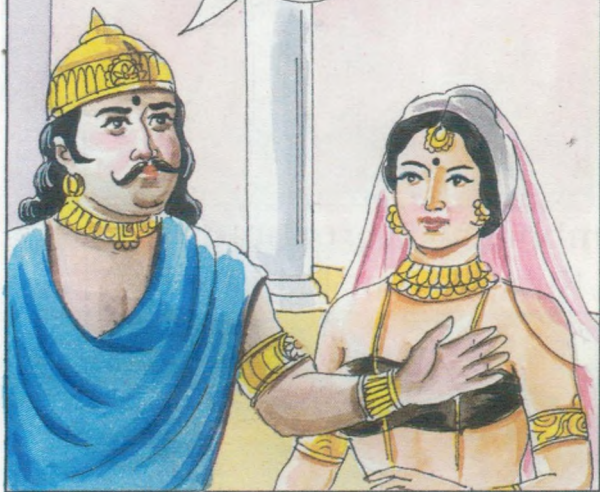
Then one day, he saw a magnificent chariot descending from the sky in front of the great sage Vishrava.

Look at that chariot ! He is Kubera, Vishrava's son. He seems wealthy and mighty.

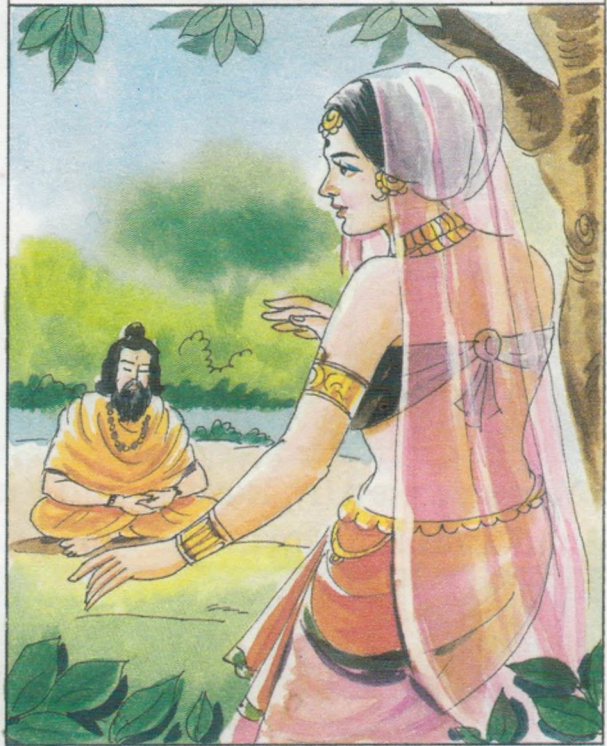


Sumali came back to the Nether-world along with his daughter. But he was thinking about Kubera.

Kaikesi ! go to Vishrava and win him over. If he agrees to marry you, you too have sons as mighty as Kubera.

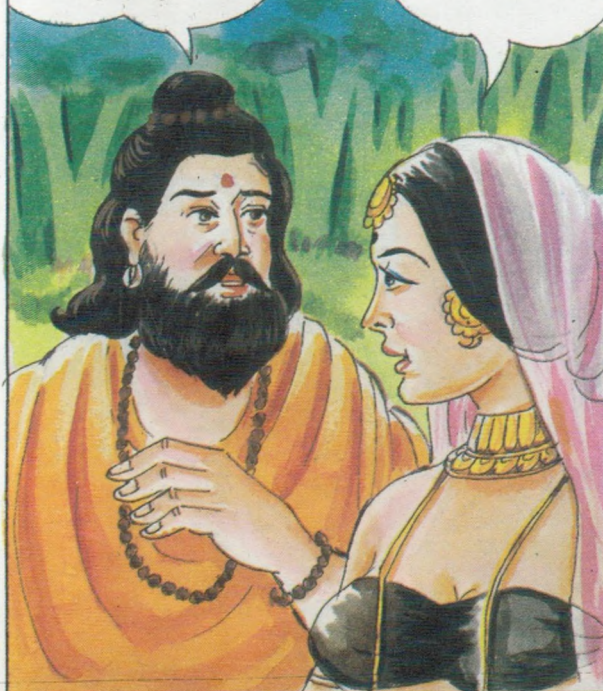


Kaikesi went to Sage Vishrava. He was offering his evening prayers.

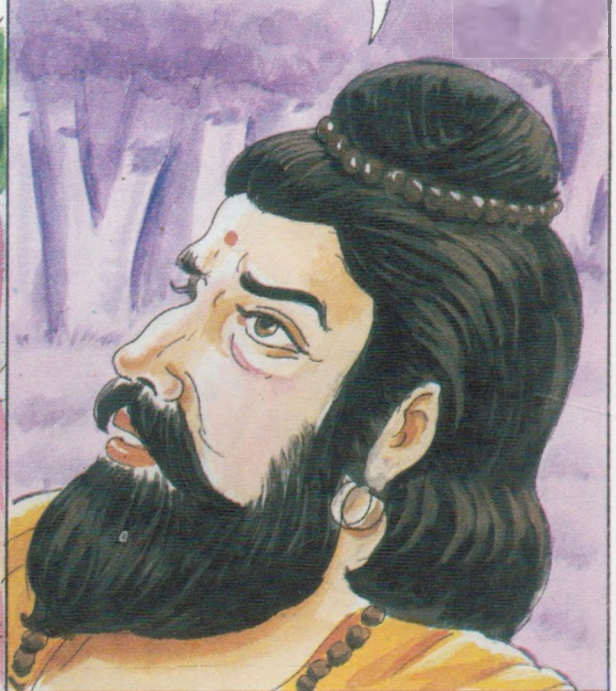


O beautiful maiden ! who are you ? And what can I do for you ?

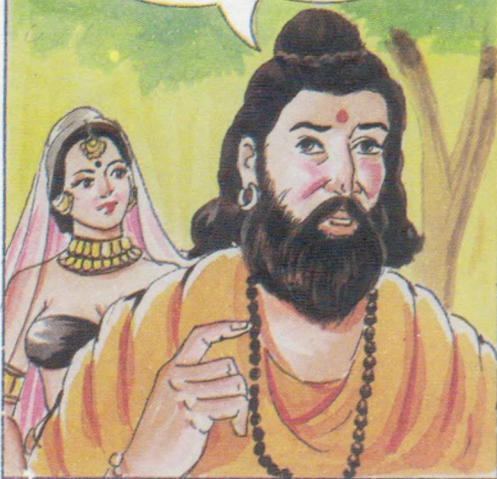
I am Kaikesi. You already know what I want



I know. But you have come to me at the wrong time. The sons and daughters born to you will be Rakshasas



..... The youngest however will be a noble one.



Kaikesi married Vishrava and gave birth to Ravana, Kumbhakarna, Vibheeshana and Shoorpanakha.



Years passed by. Ravana and Kumbhakarna grew into arrogant and ambitious princes. One day, Kubera came to his father.

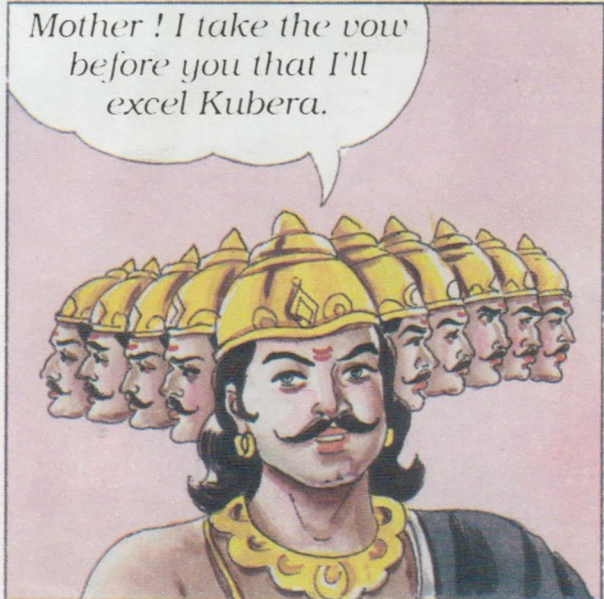


When Kubera left—

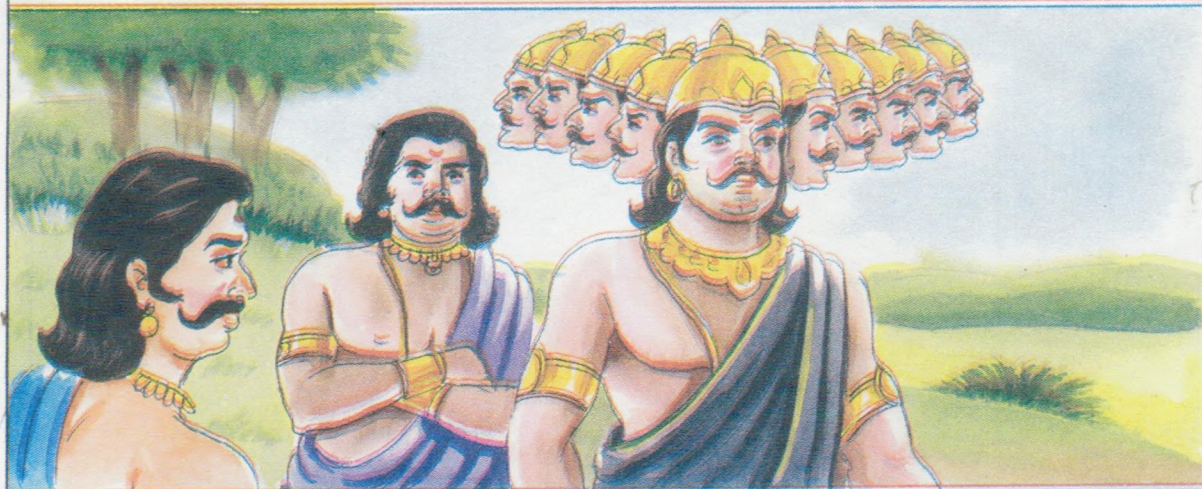
Ravana, my son, you must be like Kubera, the king of Lanka.



Mother ! I take the vow before you that I'll excel Kubera.



Ravana alongwith Kumbhakarna and Vibheeshana went to Gokarna to perform severe penances.



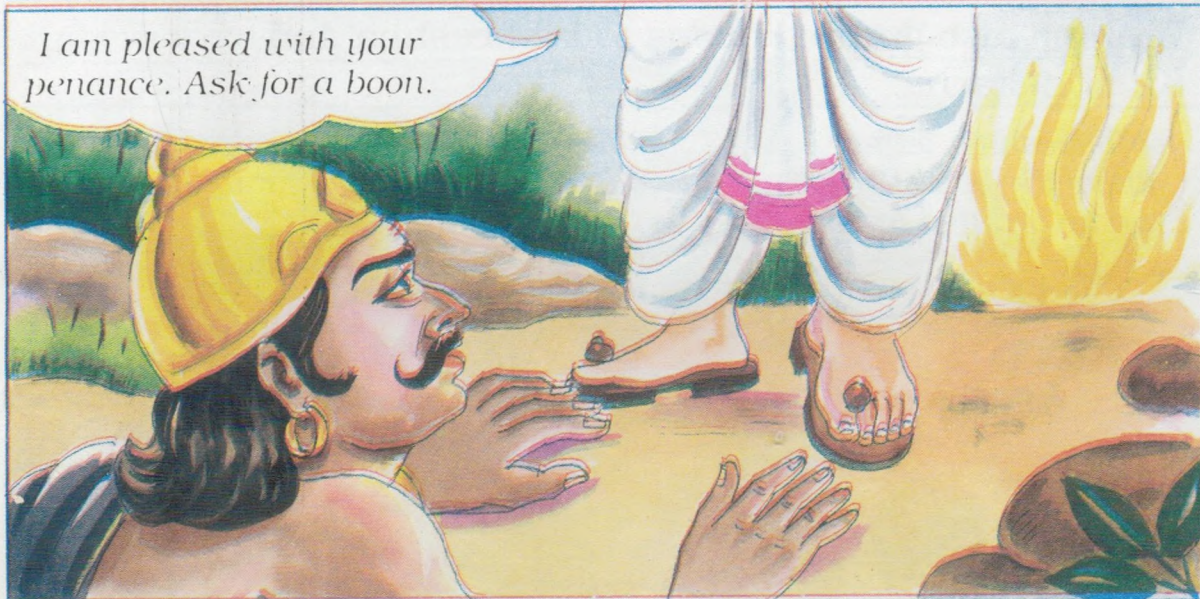
Ravana began performing penance by offering his heads in the holy fire.

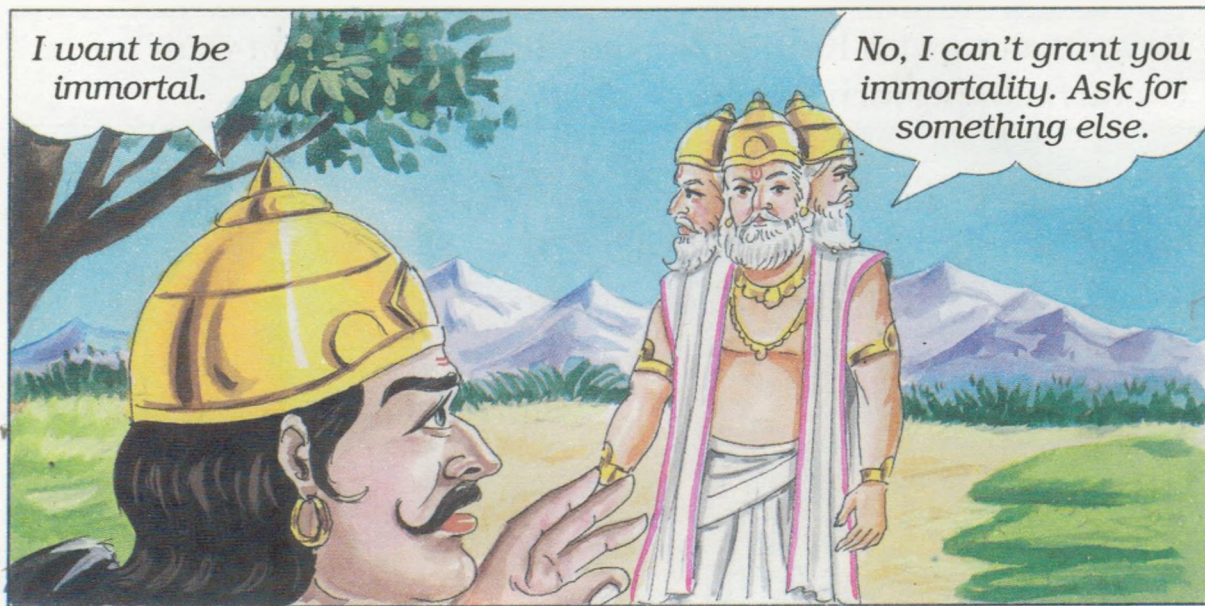


Ravana was about to offer his tenth head, when Lord Brahma appeared.



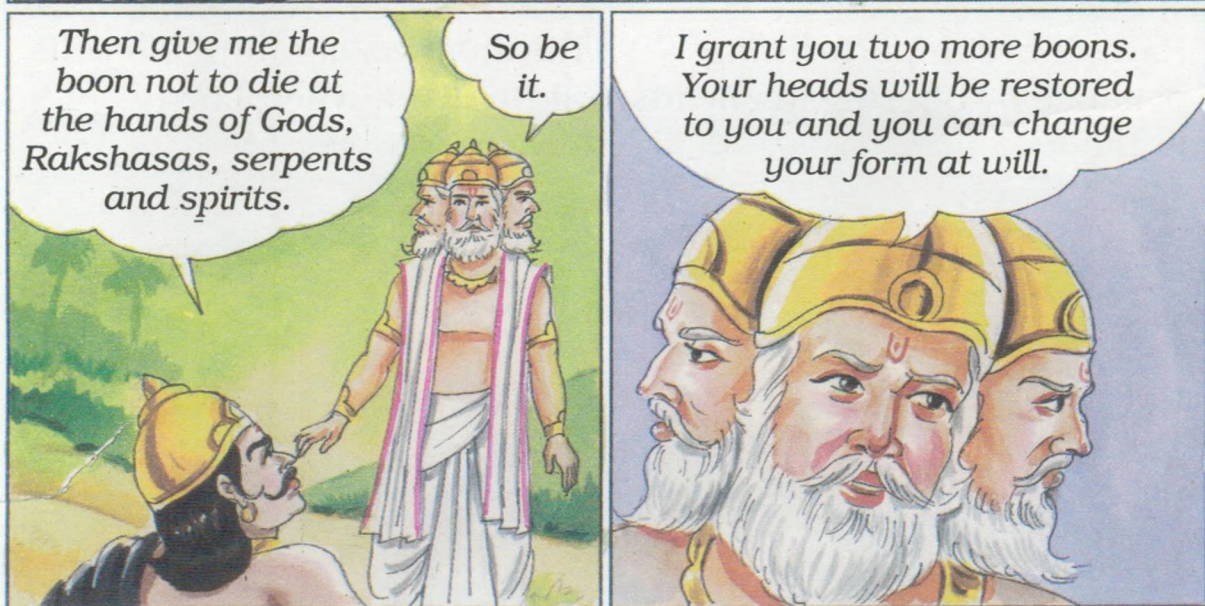
I am pleased with your penance. Ask for a boon.





I want to be immortal.

No, I can't grant you immortality. Ask for something else.

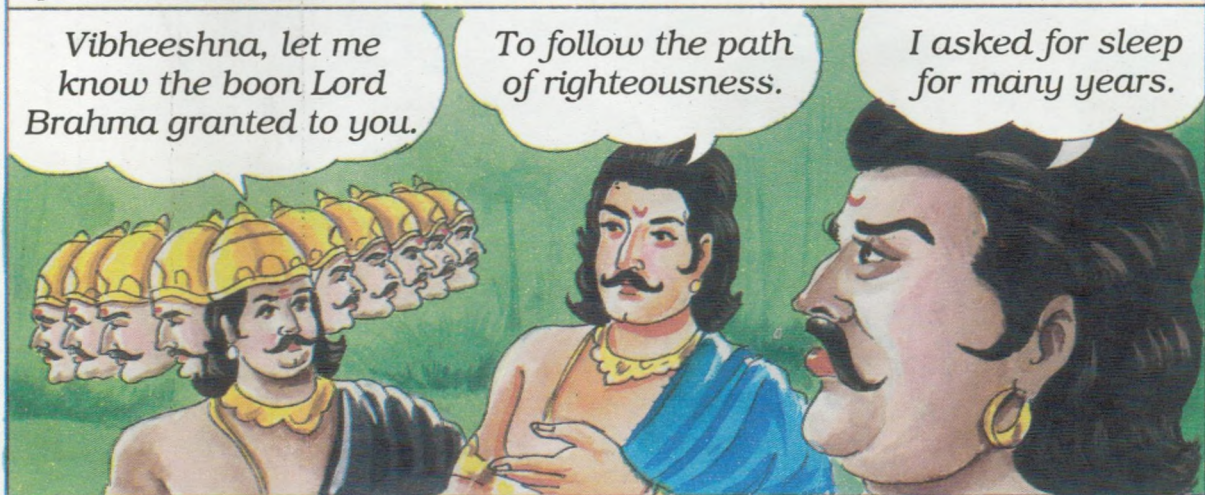


Then give me the boon not to die at the hands of Gods, Rakshasas, serpents and spirits.

So be it.

I grant you two more boons. Your heads will be restored to you and you can change your form at will.

Brahma also granted boons to Vibheeshna and Kumbhakarna.

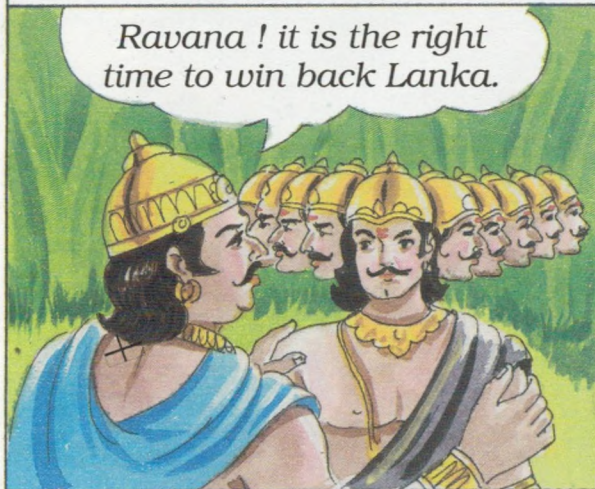


Vibheeshna, let me know the boon Lord Brahma granted to you.

To follow the path of righteousness.

I asked for sleep for many years.

When they came back home, Sumali approached Ravana.



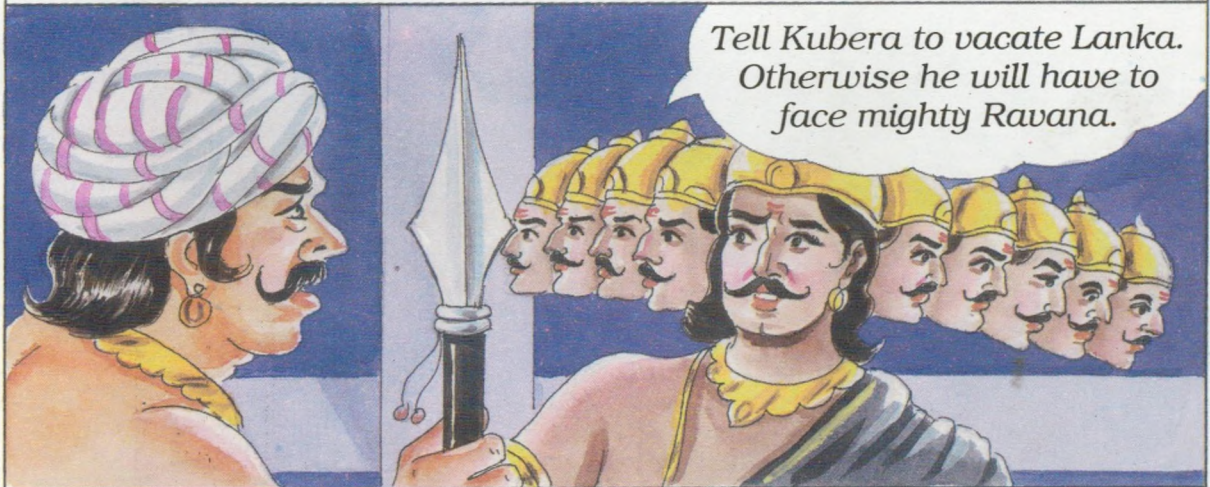
Encouraged by Sumali, Ravana along with his men set out for Lanka.

Brother ! you should not do this.

Keep quiet, Vibheeshna. I don't need your advice.



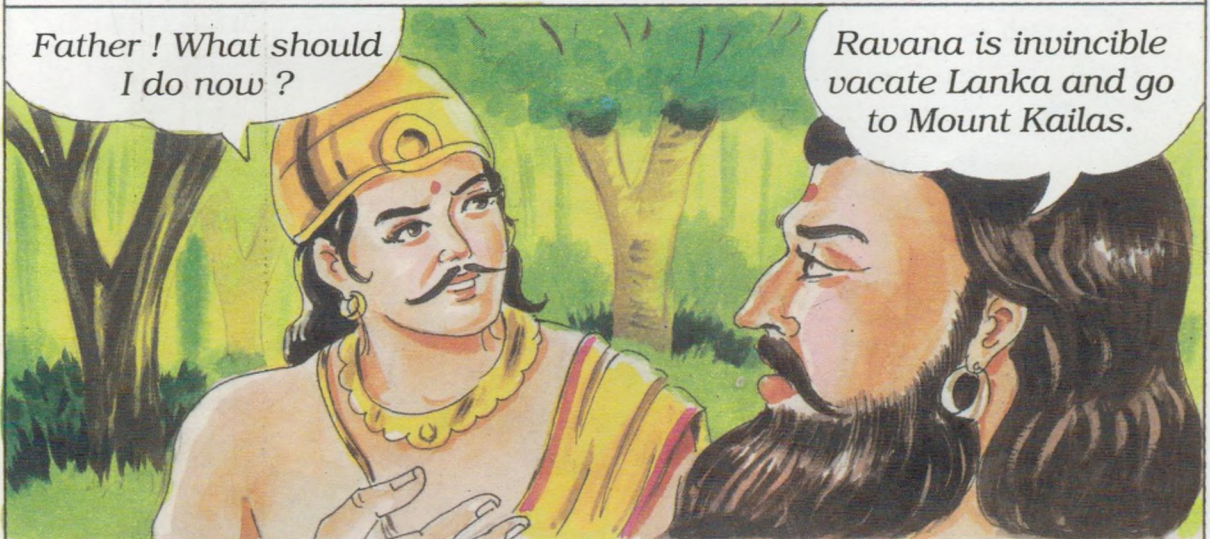
Ravana camped in the jungle of the Trikoota mountains. He sent a messenger to the court of Kubera.



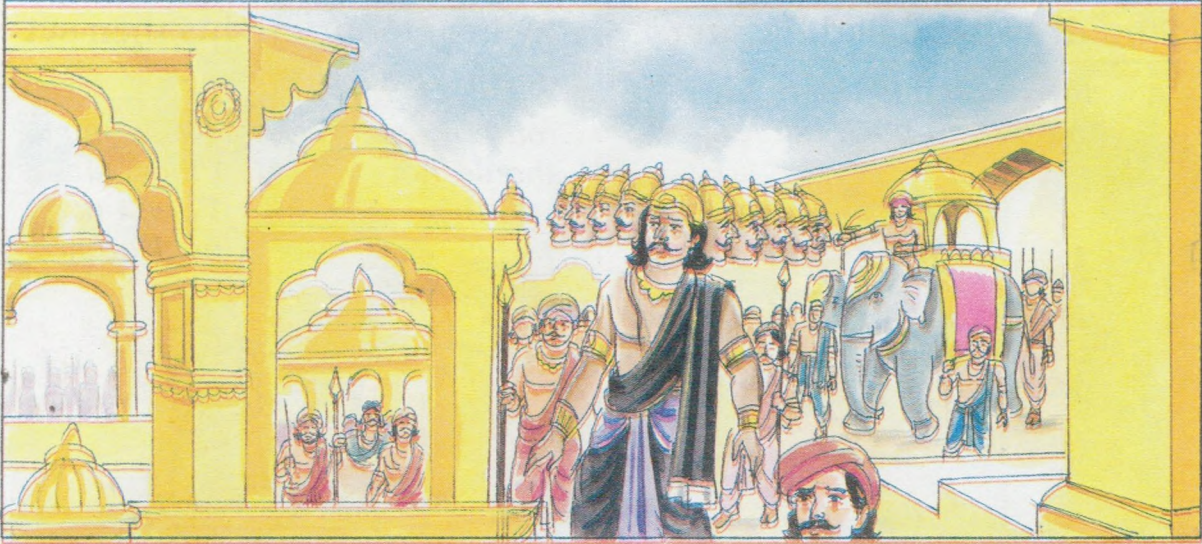
Kubera went to his father Vishrava for a consultation.

Father ! What should I do now ?

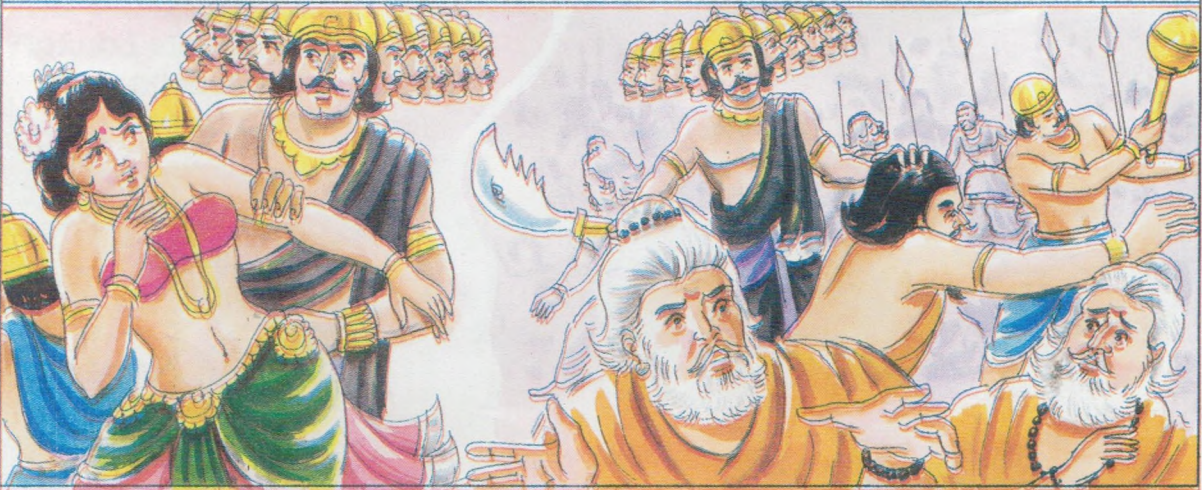
Ravana is invincible vacate Lanka and go to Mount Kailas.



Kubera vacated Lanka. Ravana was crowned the king of Lanka.



Being arrogant and ambitious, Ravana started harassing the Gods, Sages and Gandharvas.



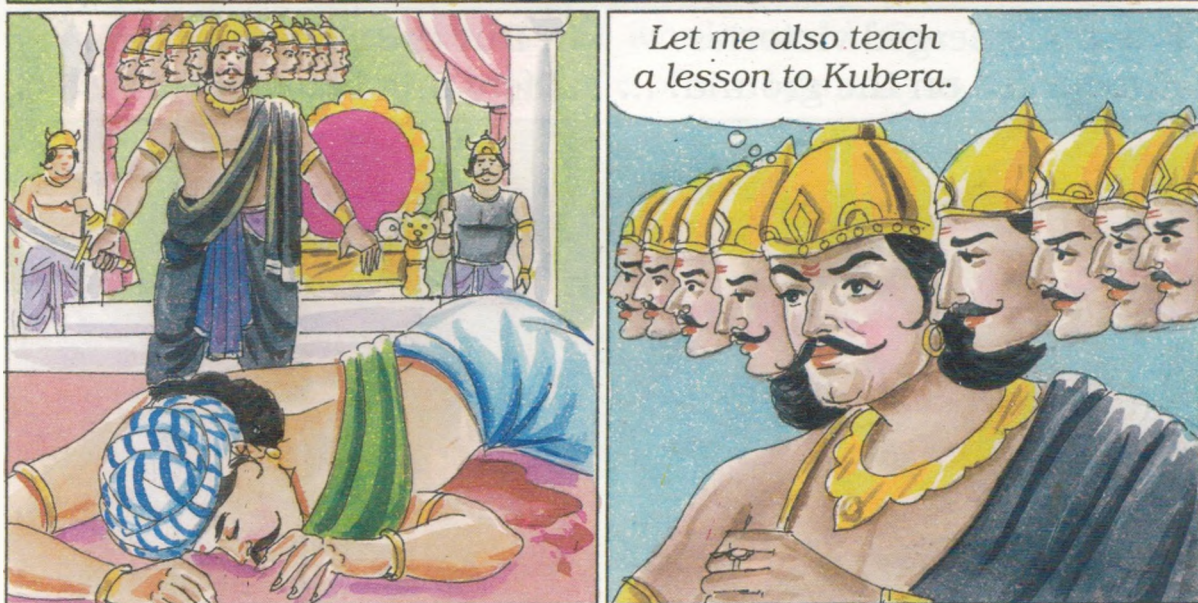
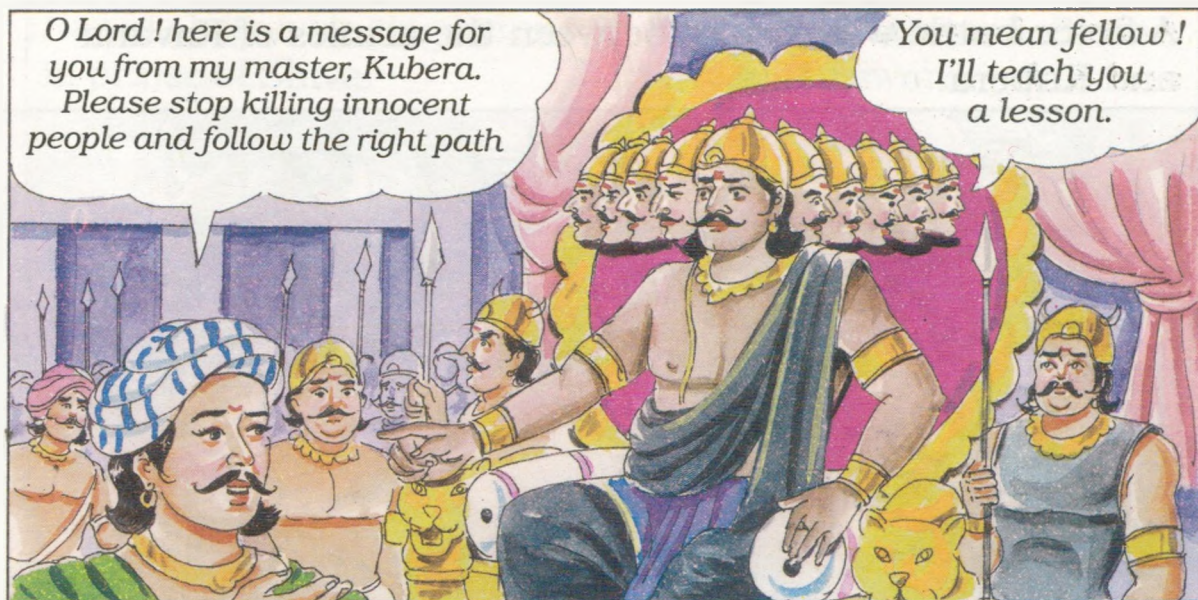
Kubera got the news—

Ravana is cruel. It is my duty to show the right path to my younger brother.

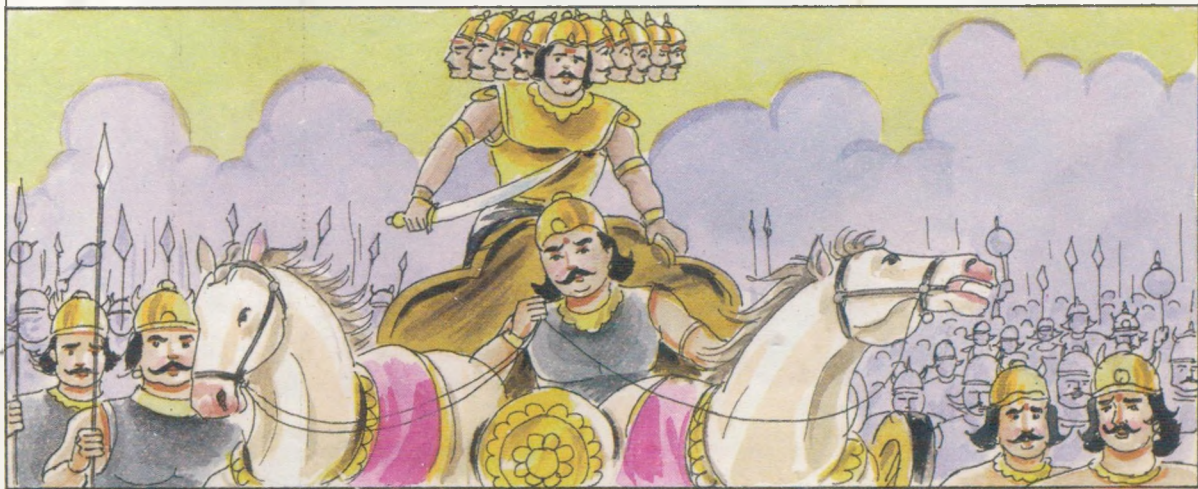


Kubera sent a messenger to Lanka.





Ravana along with his mighty army marched towards Kailash, the Kingdom of Kubera.



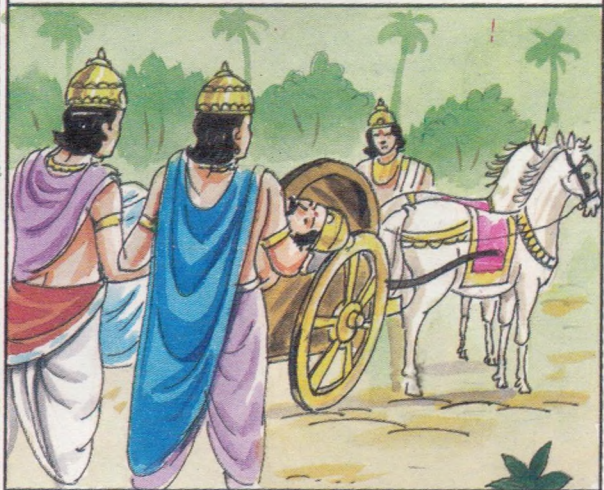
A fierce battle was fought between the armies of Ravana and Kubera.



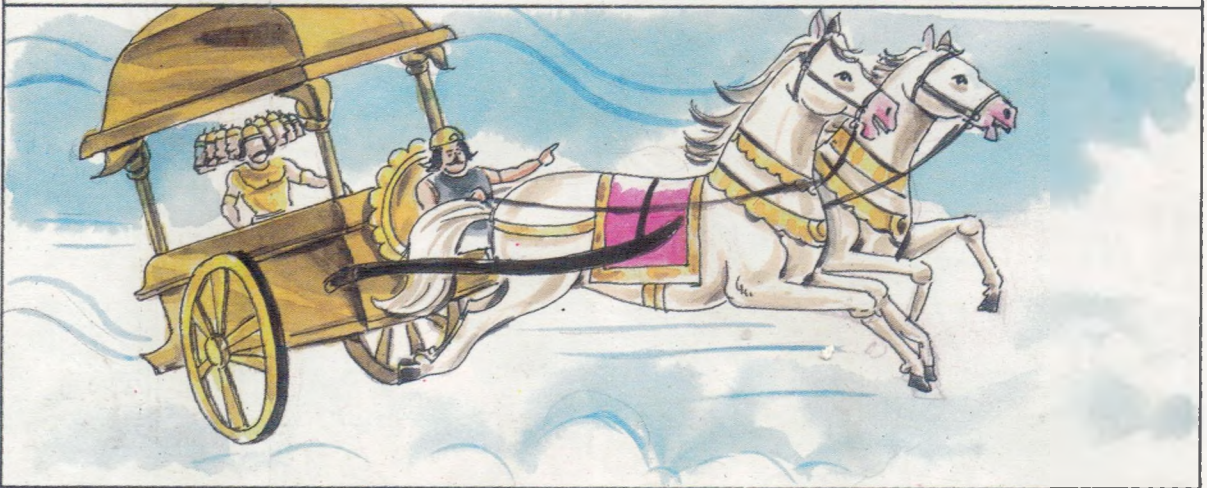
Ravana emerged victorious.
Kubera fell on the ground. ...



... But the Gods took him to
safety in a heavenly chariot.



Ravana seized 'Pushpak', the flying chariot of Kubera and
started exploring Mount Kailash.



After a few moment, 'Pushpak', came to a dead halt. Ravana was enquiring the cause when Lord Shiva's attendant Nandi came to Ravana.



Ravana assumed a huge form and tried to lift Mount Kailash.



As the mountain shook, there was a panic among the followers of Shiva.

O Lord ! help us.



Even Parvati, Lord Shiva's wife, was terrified.

Lord !

Don't be frightened.



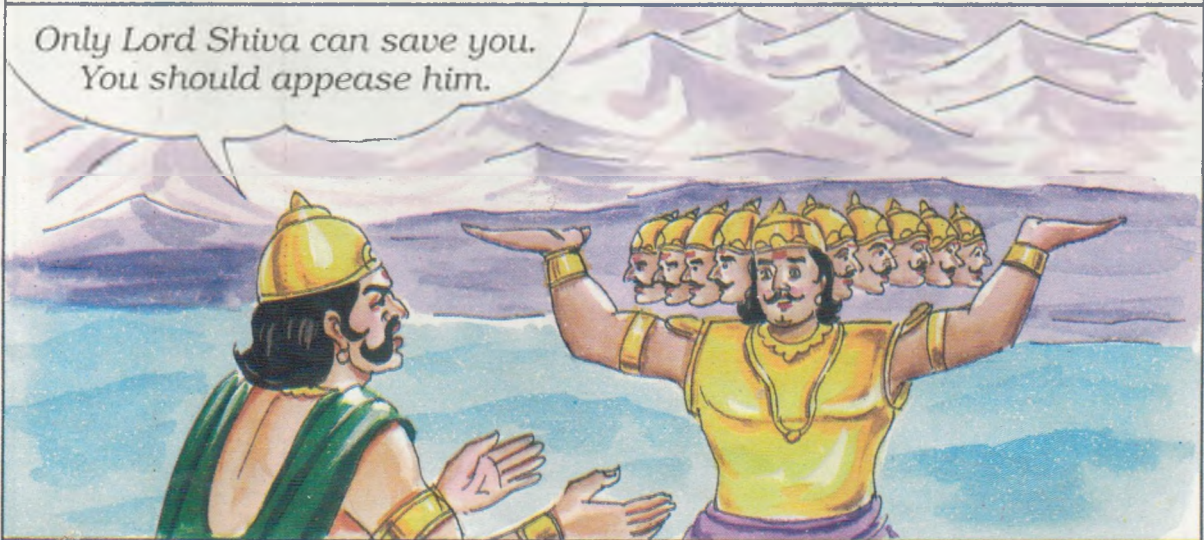
Lord Shiva pressed the mountain with his toe. Ravana's hands were crushed below the toe of Shiva.

Ah ! Ah !



Ravana's minister advised him.

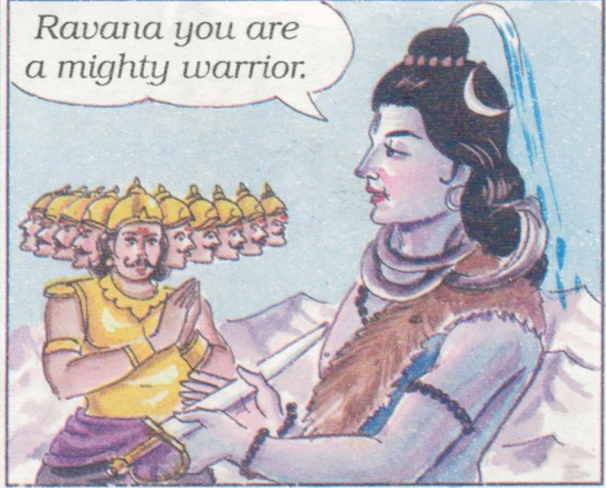
Only Lord Shiva can save you.
You should appease him.



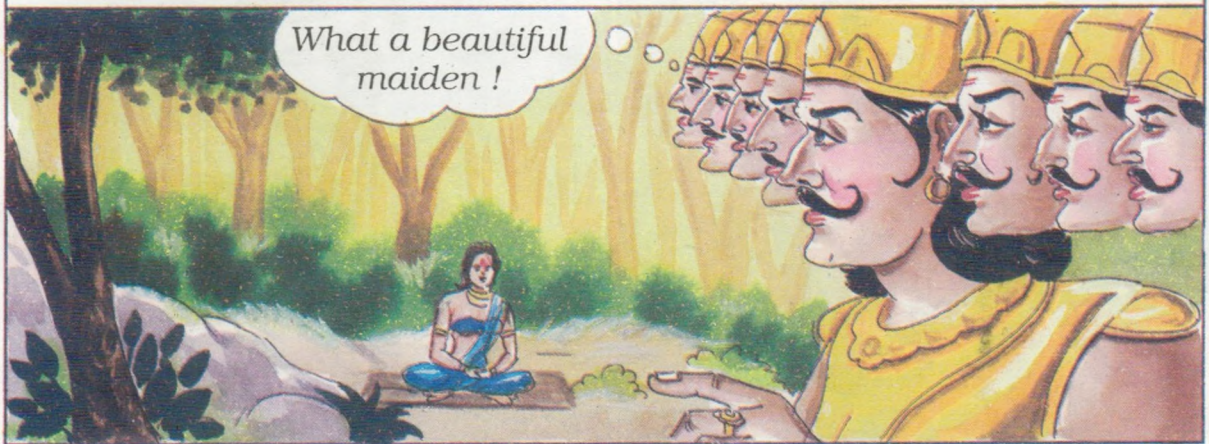
Ravana began singing hymns in praise of Shiva.



Pleased with Ravana, Shiva gave him a sword.



Ravana started conquering the whole world. One day he saw a beautiful maiden in the jungle of the Himalayas. She was engaged in meditation.

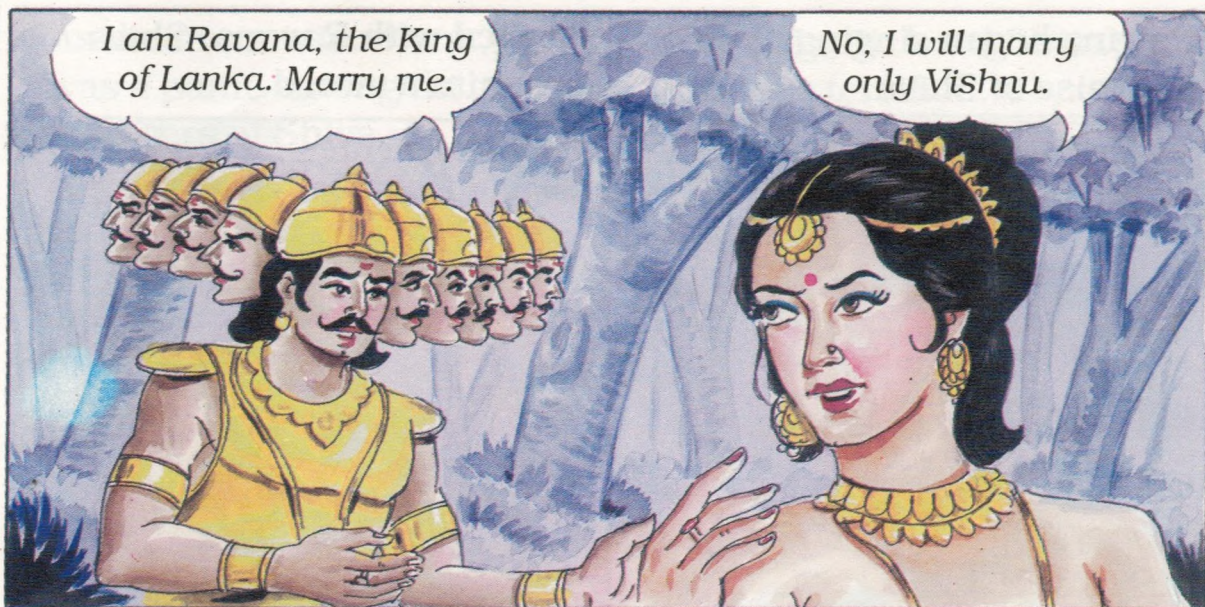


Ravana approached her.

O beautiful maiden ! Who are you ? Why are you performing meditation ?

My name is Vedavati. I am performing penance to appease Lord Vishnu. I want him to be my husband.





Furious Ravana seized her.
But

..... She created a fire

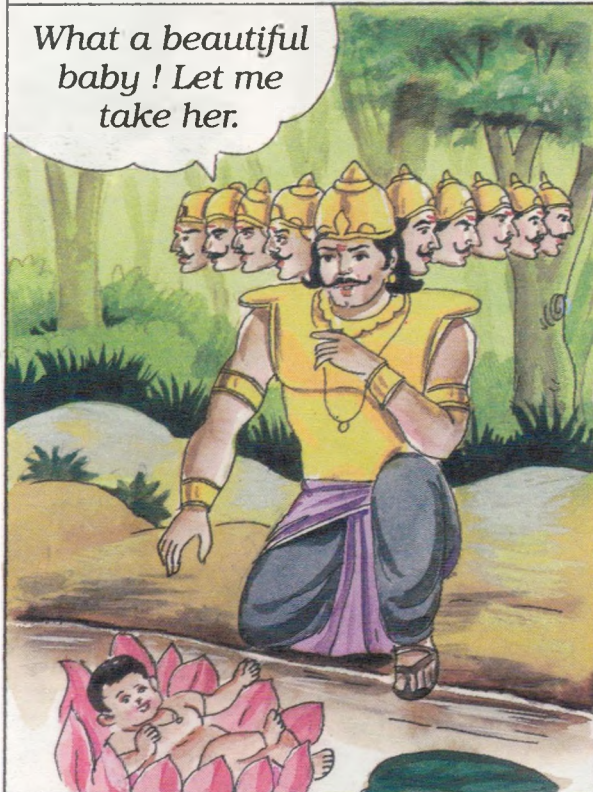


..... And jumped into it.

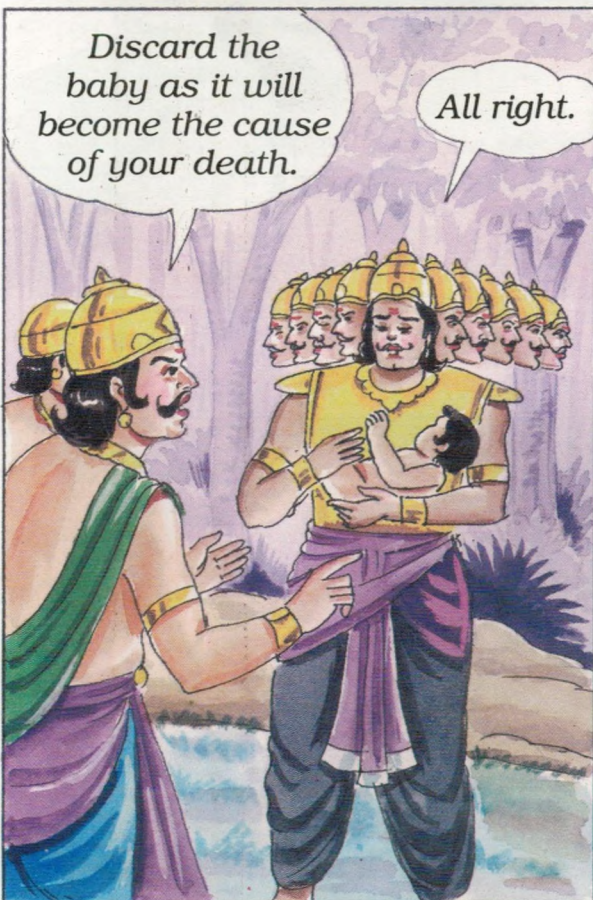
I'll reborn and become
the cause of your death.



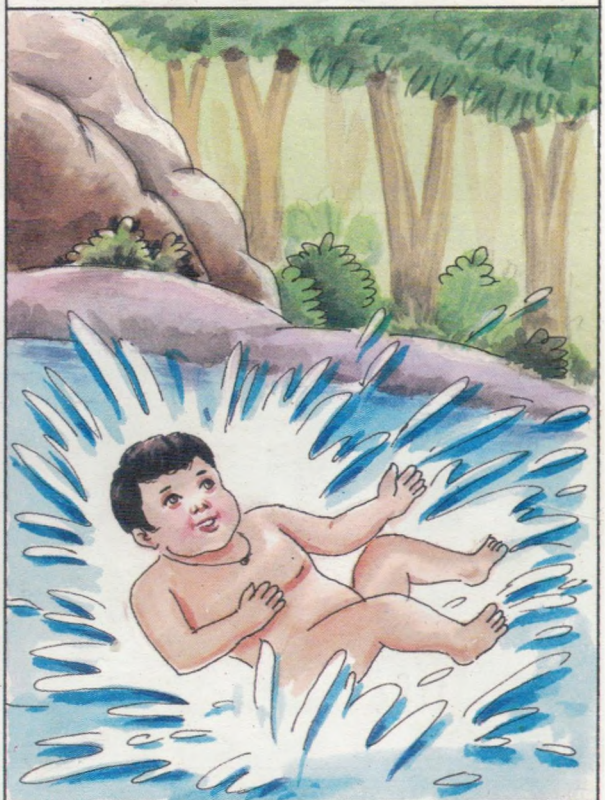
Vedavati took rebirth in a lotus.



Ravana took the baby to the palace.

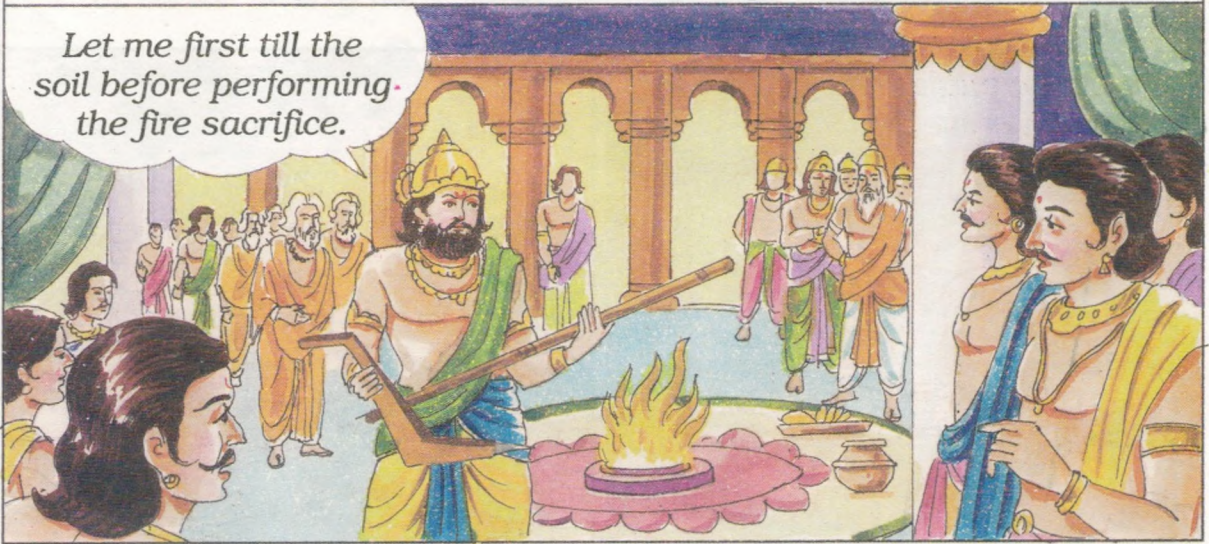


Ravana immediately threw her into the river.



At Mithila, King Janaka was performing a *Yagna.

Let me first till the soil before performing the fire sacrifice.



When he tilled the soil, he found a beautiful baby.

My prayers have been accepted. I'll adopt this baby



Since she appeared from a furrow, I'll name her Sita.



Sita grew up to be a beautiful girl.



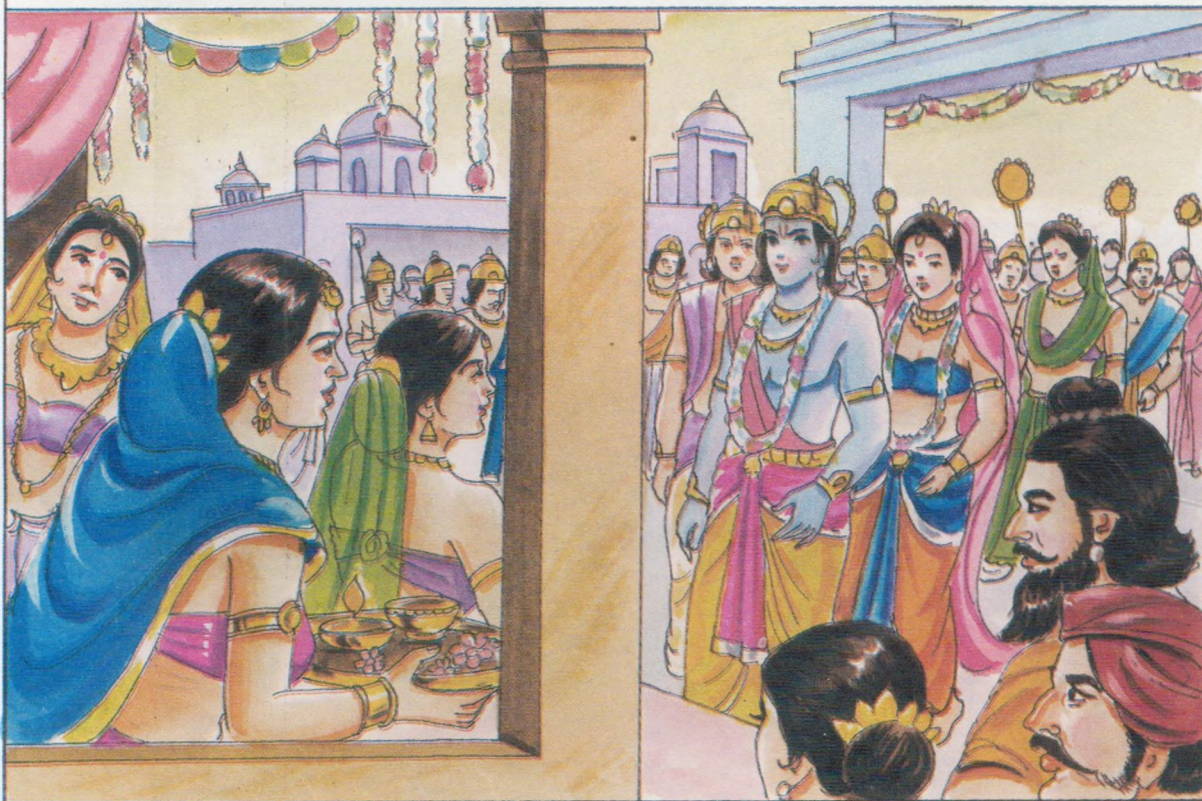
* Hall of fire sacrifice.

A few years later, Janaka arranged a Swayamwara for Sita's marriage. Janaka declared—

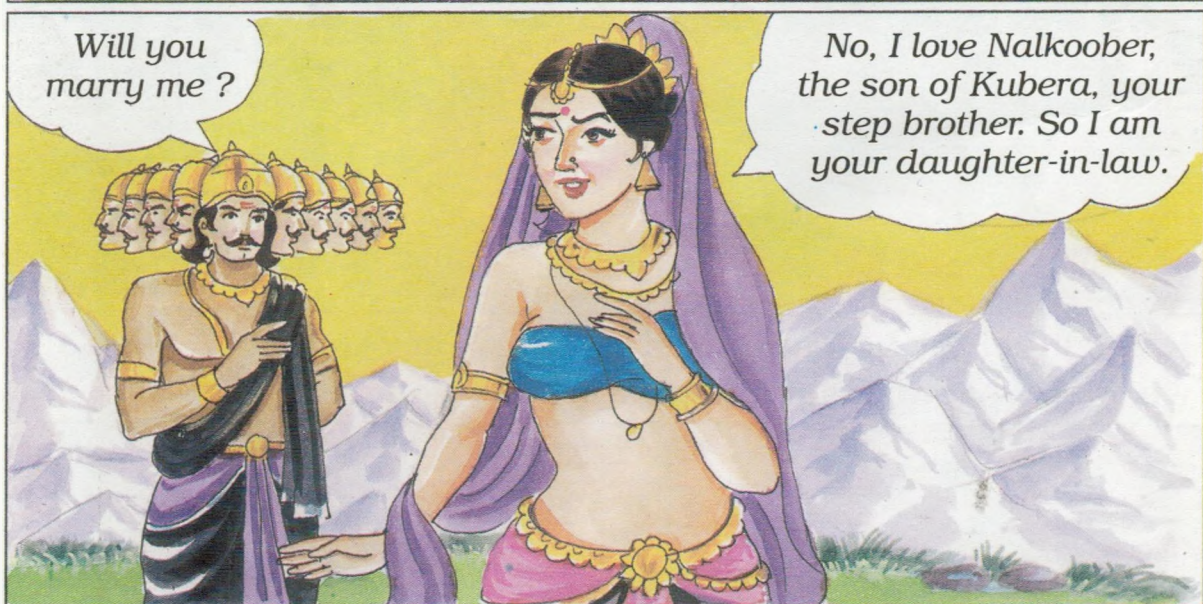
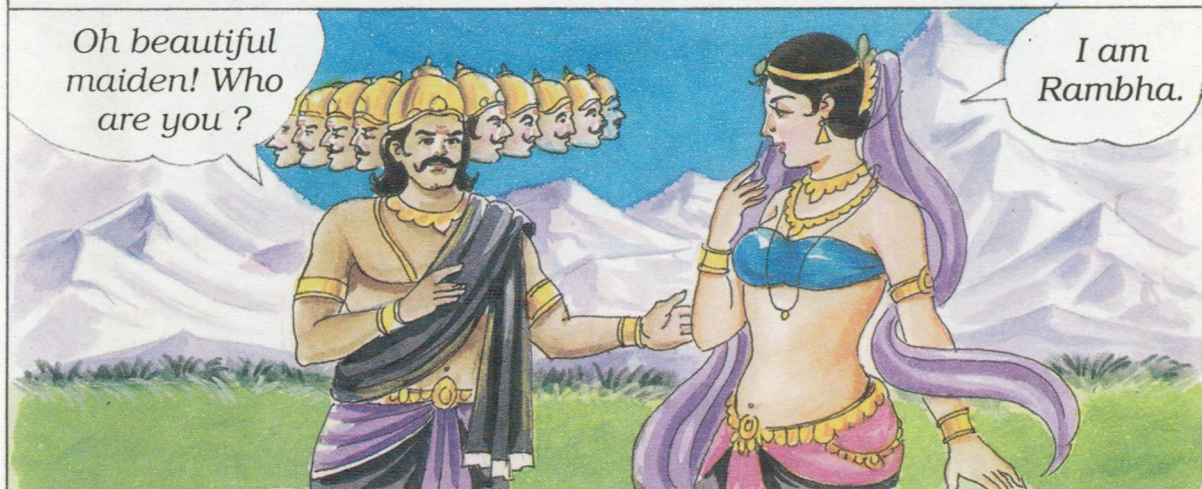
The man who succeeds
in lifting this bow will
win Sita's hands.



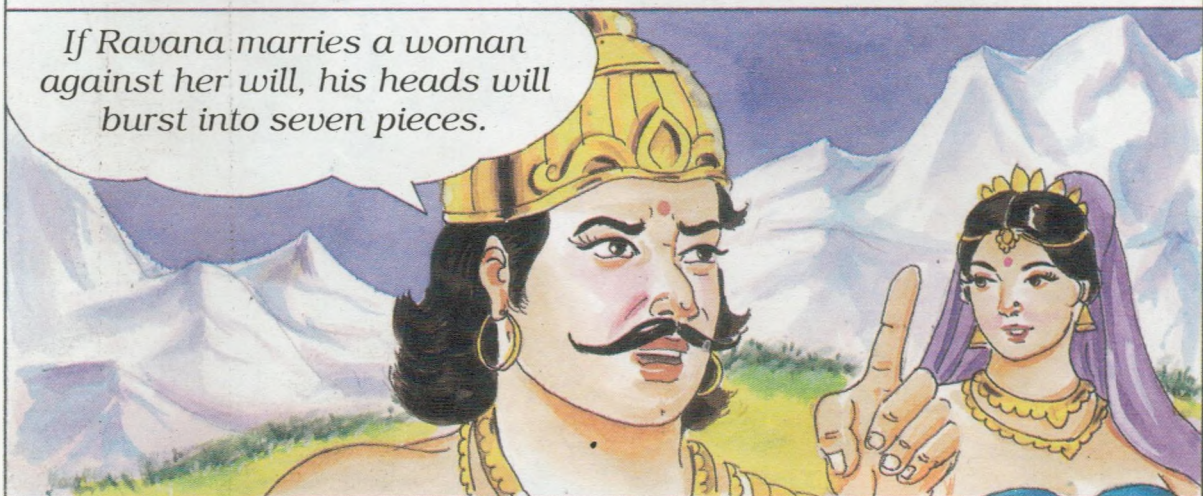
Rama lifted the bow and married Sita. They came to Ayodhya where people welcomed them warmly.



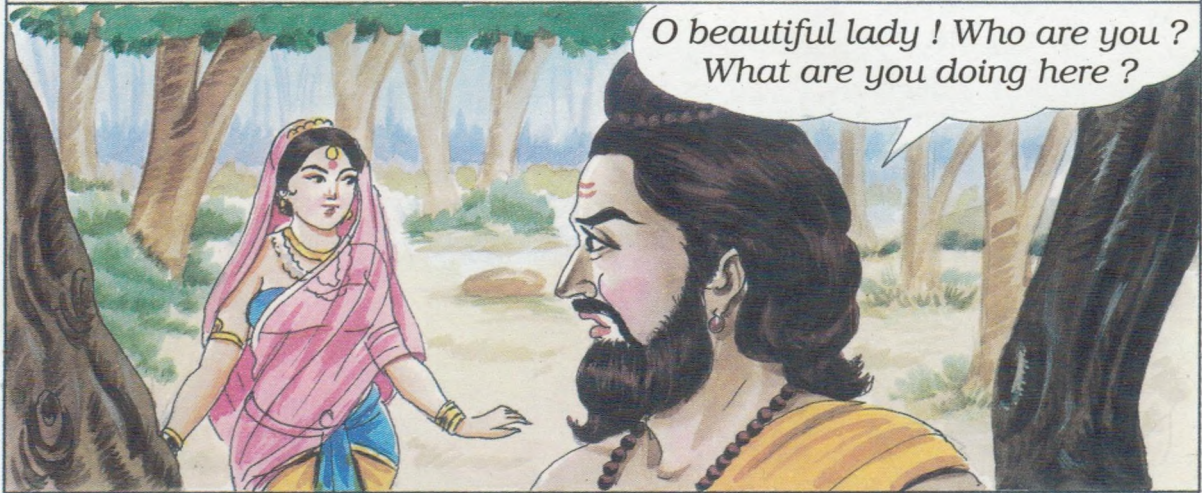
Ravana's terror increased day-by-day. One day he saw a beautiful maiden. Ravana went to her.



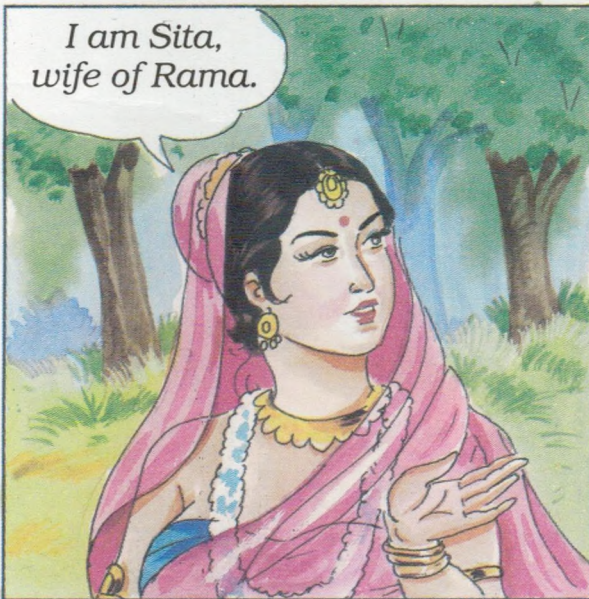
Ravana seized her by her arm but Rambha escaped and went to Nalkoober.



One day Ravana, disguised as a monk, came to the Dandaka forest.



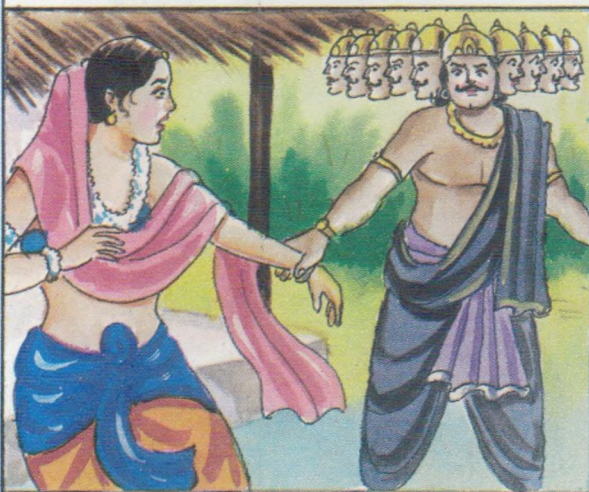
I am Sita,
wife of Rama.



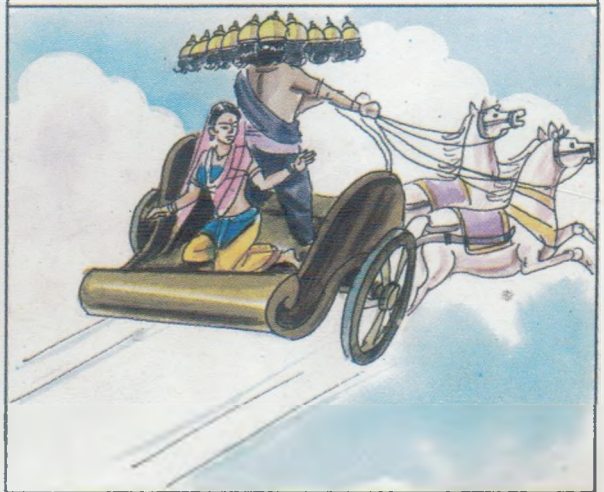
Give me alms.



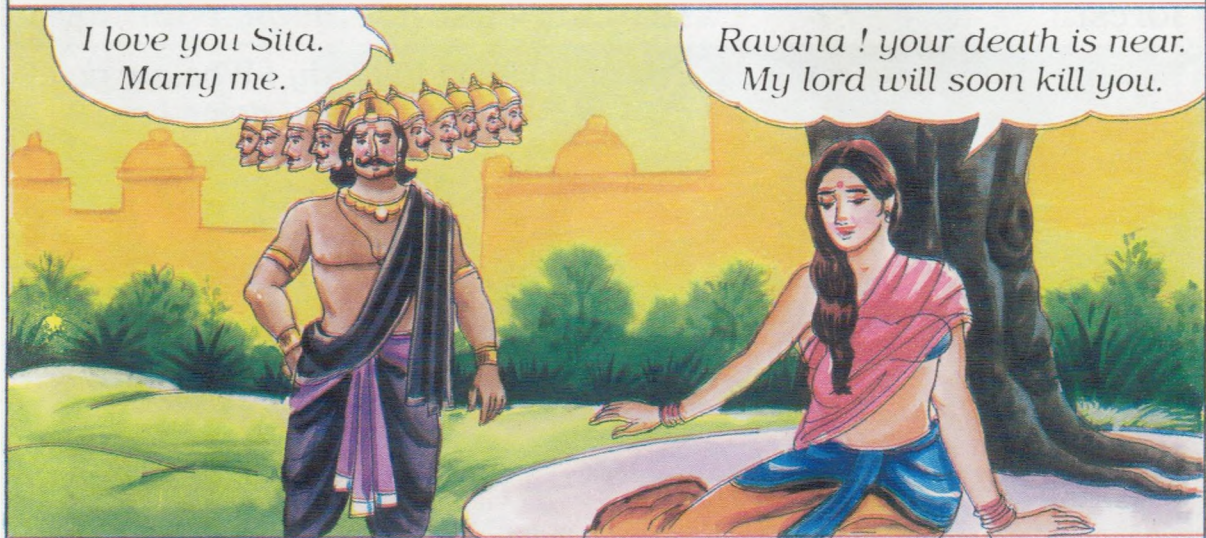
When Sita was to give him
alms, Ravana lifted her.



And brought her in his chariot
to Lanka.



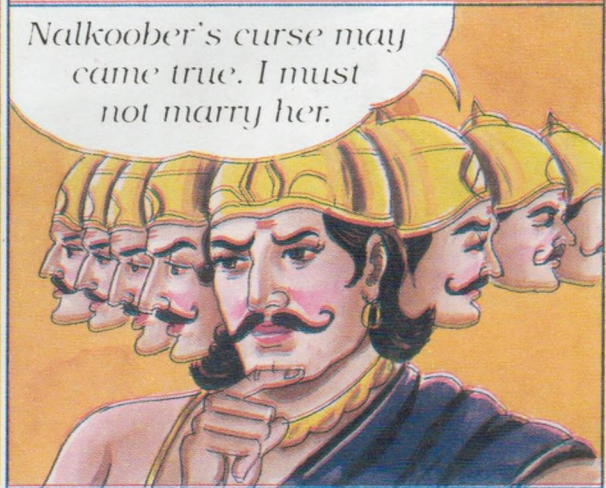
Ravana put Sita in his Ashoka Garden.



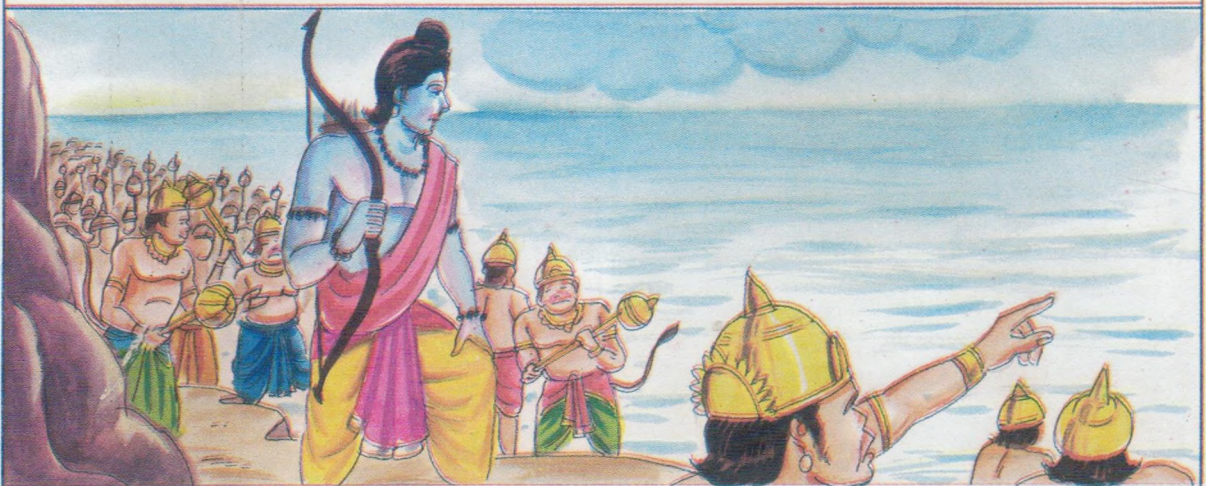
Furious Ravana was about to move towards her



..... But he remembered the curse of Nalkoober.



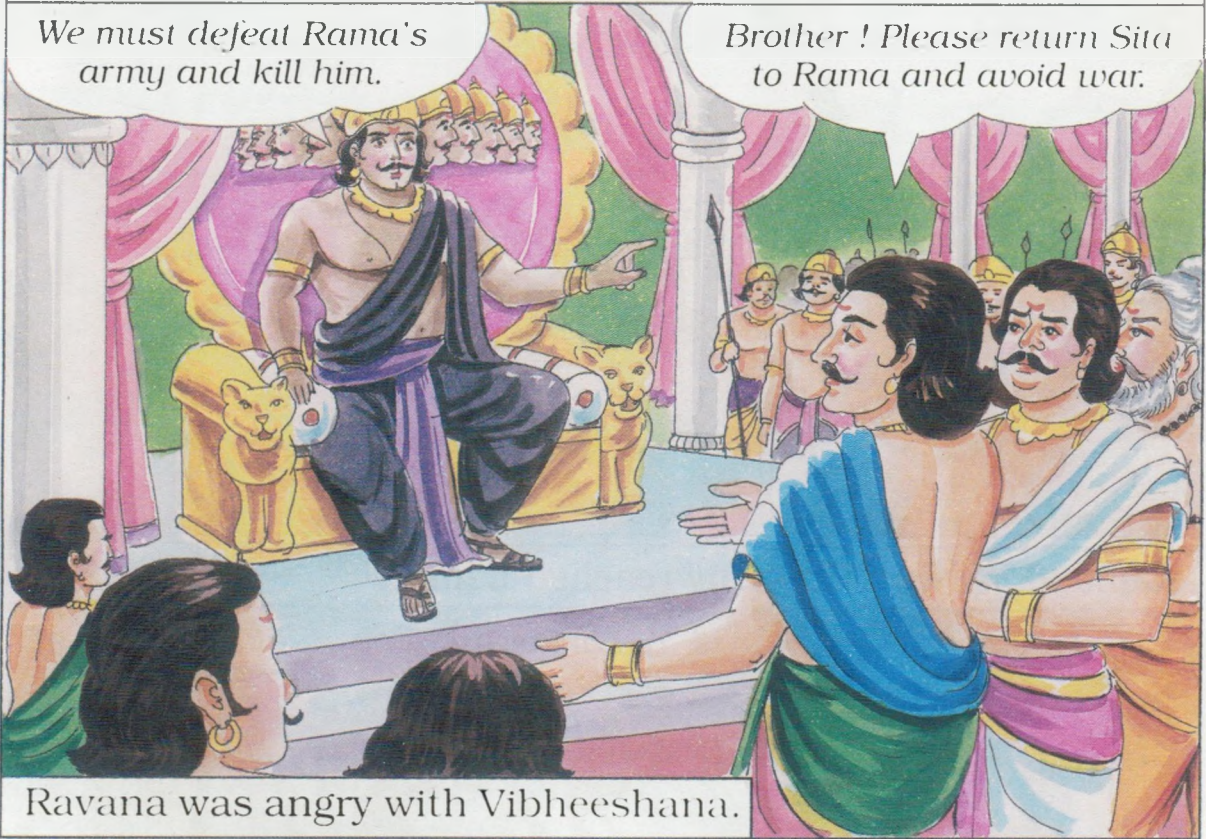
Meanwhile Rama along with a huge army of monkeys and bears had reached the shore of the Ocean.



Ravana summoned a meeting of his courtiers and brothers.

We must defeat Rama's army and kill him.

Brother ! Please return Sita to Rama and avoid war.



Ravana was angry with Vibheeshana.

Vibheeshana was turned out of Ravana's court.

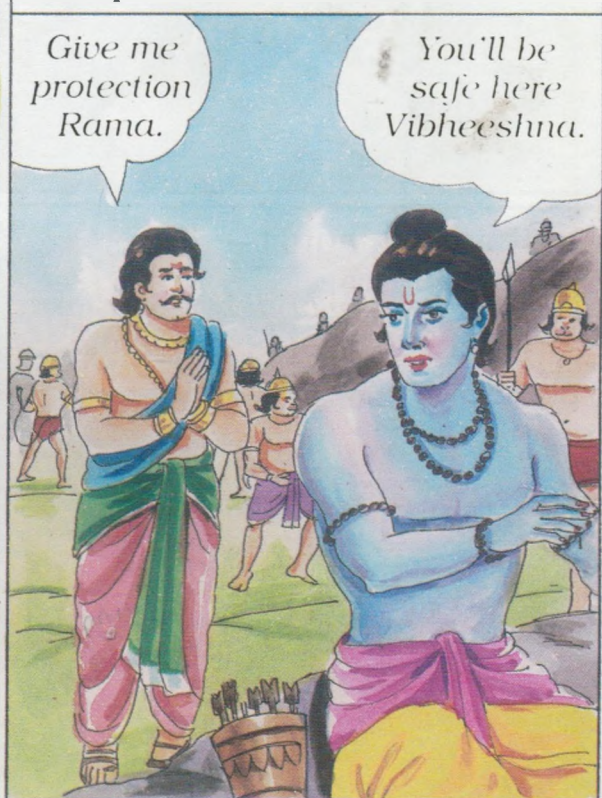
You traitor ! Go out of my court.



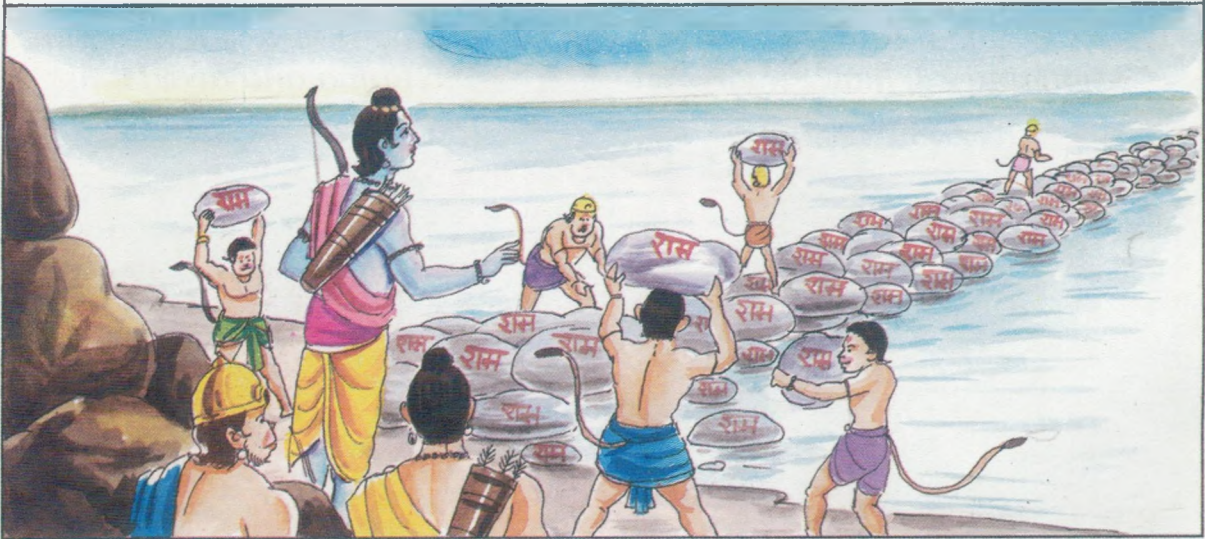
Vibheeshana joined Rama's camp.

Give me protection Rama.

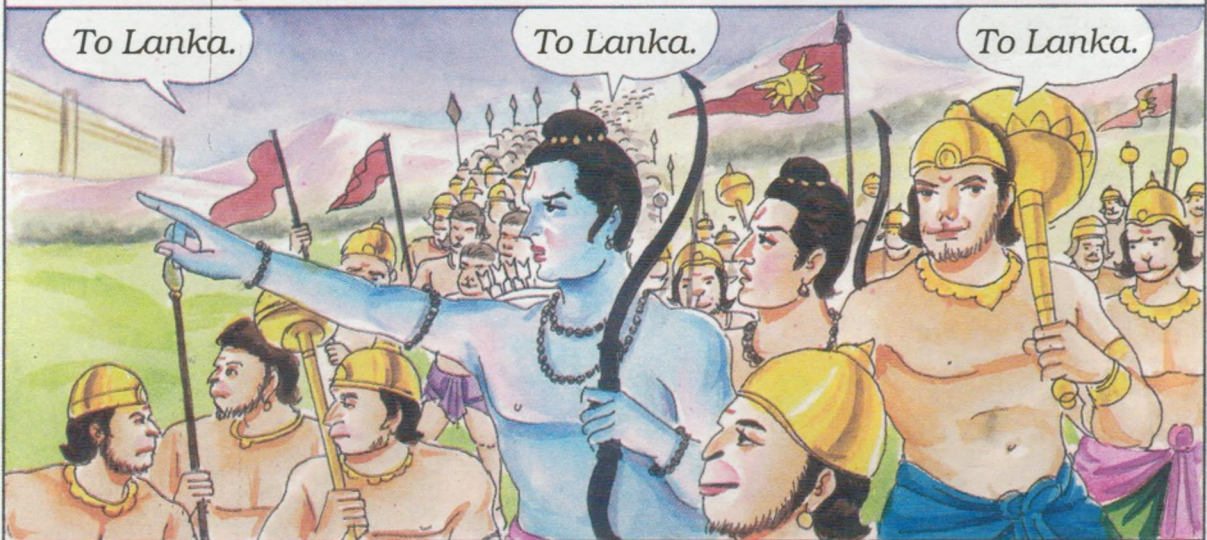
You'll be safe here Vibheeshana.



Soon a bridge was constructed across the ocean.

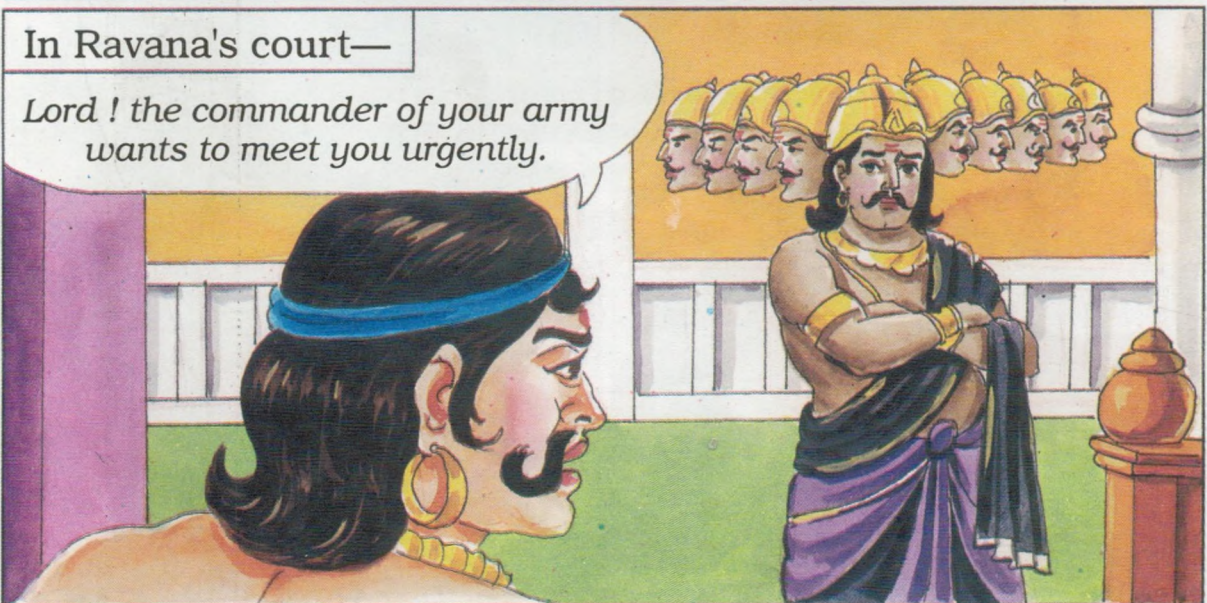


Rama along with his army reached Lanka.

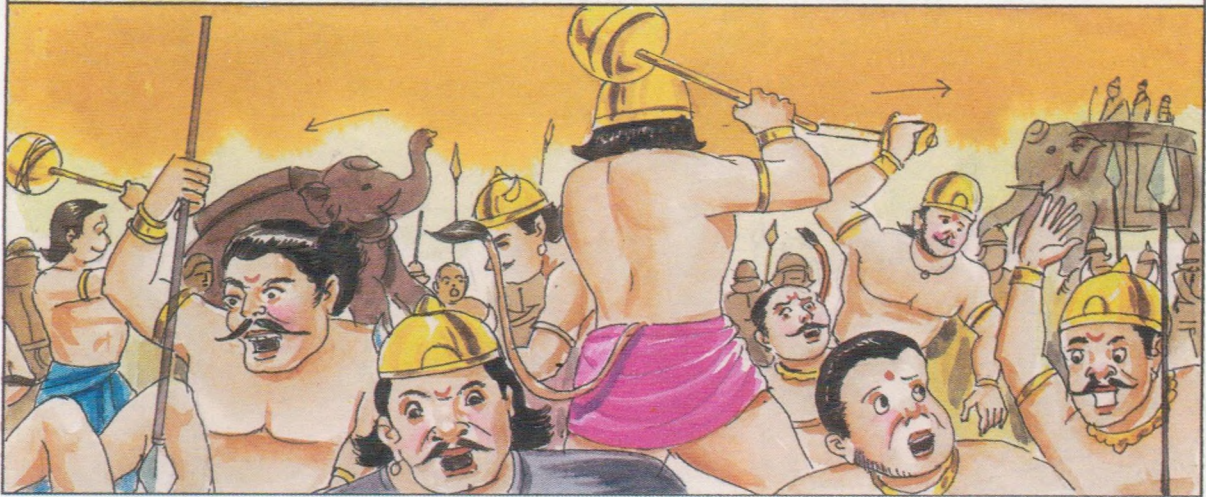


In Ravana's court—

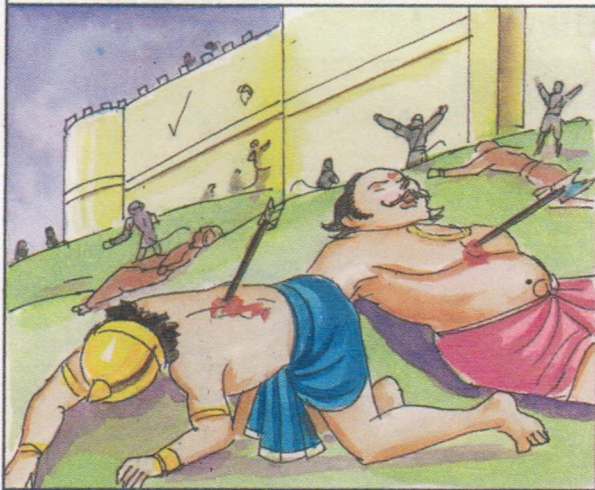
Lord ! the commander of your army
wants to meet you urgently.



A fierce battle started between the armies of Ravana and Rama.



One-by-one all the warriors of Ravana were killed.



The mighty Kumbhakarna caused a havoc in Rama's army. But he too was killed.



Ravana however carried on the battle.



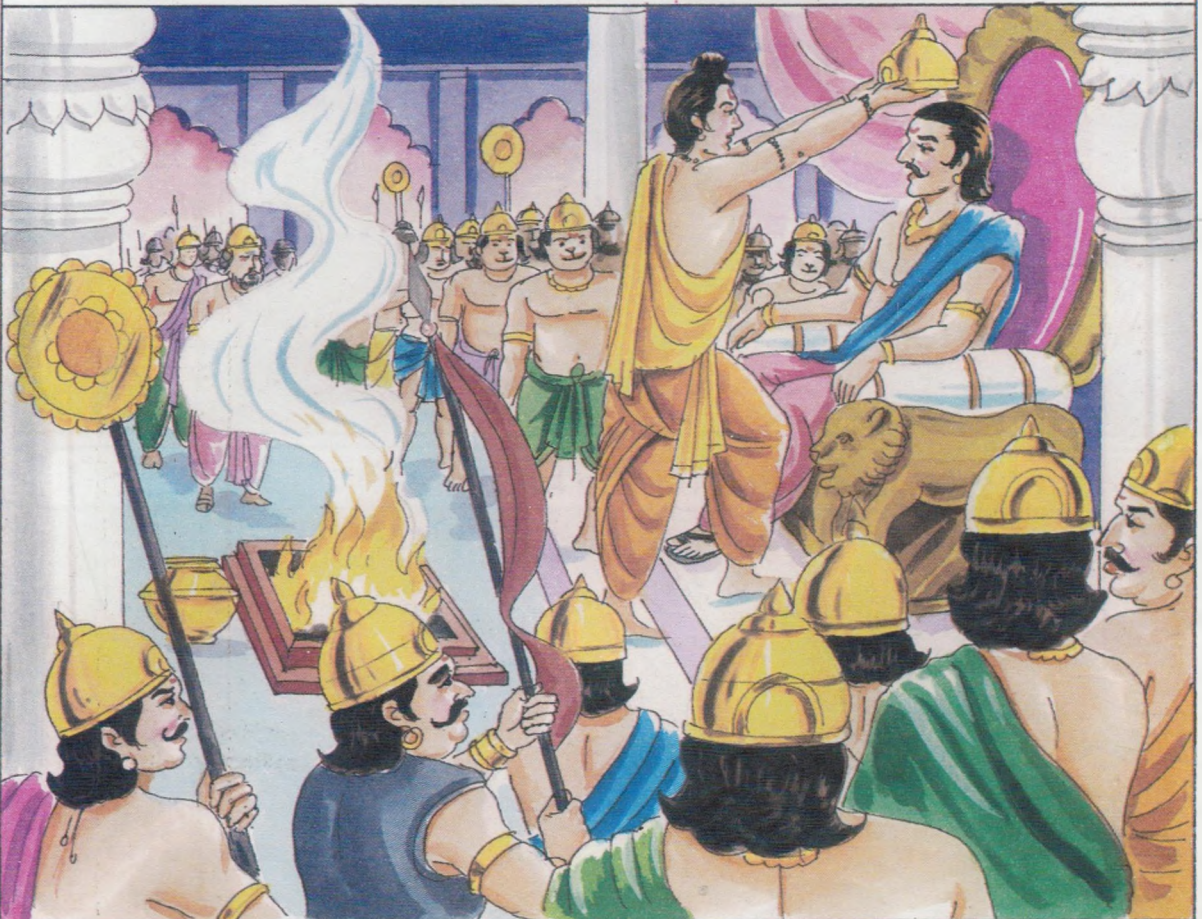
Ravana too fell—

Oh my brother !
your pride brought
about your death.

Don't grieve, Vibheeshana.
He has died as a great warrior.



Vibheeshana was crowned the new King of Lanka by
Laxmana, Rama's younger brother.



Thus, Ravana, a great warrior met his death because of his
pride.



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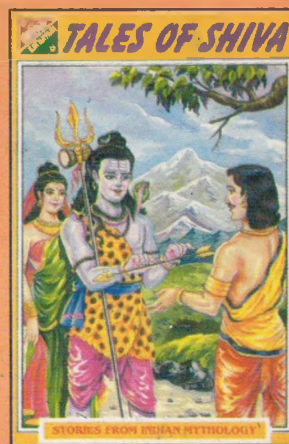
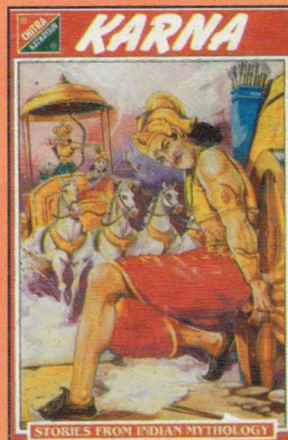
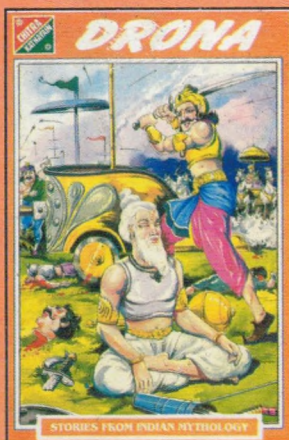
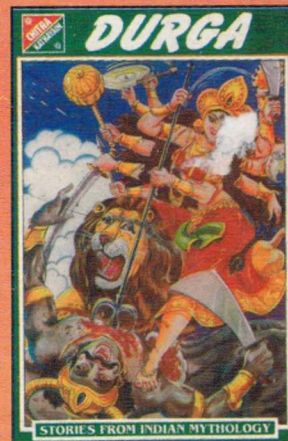


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