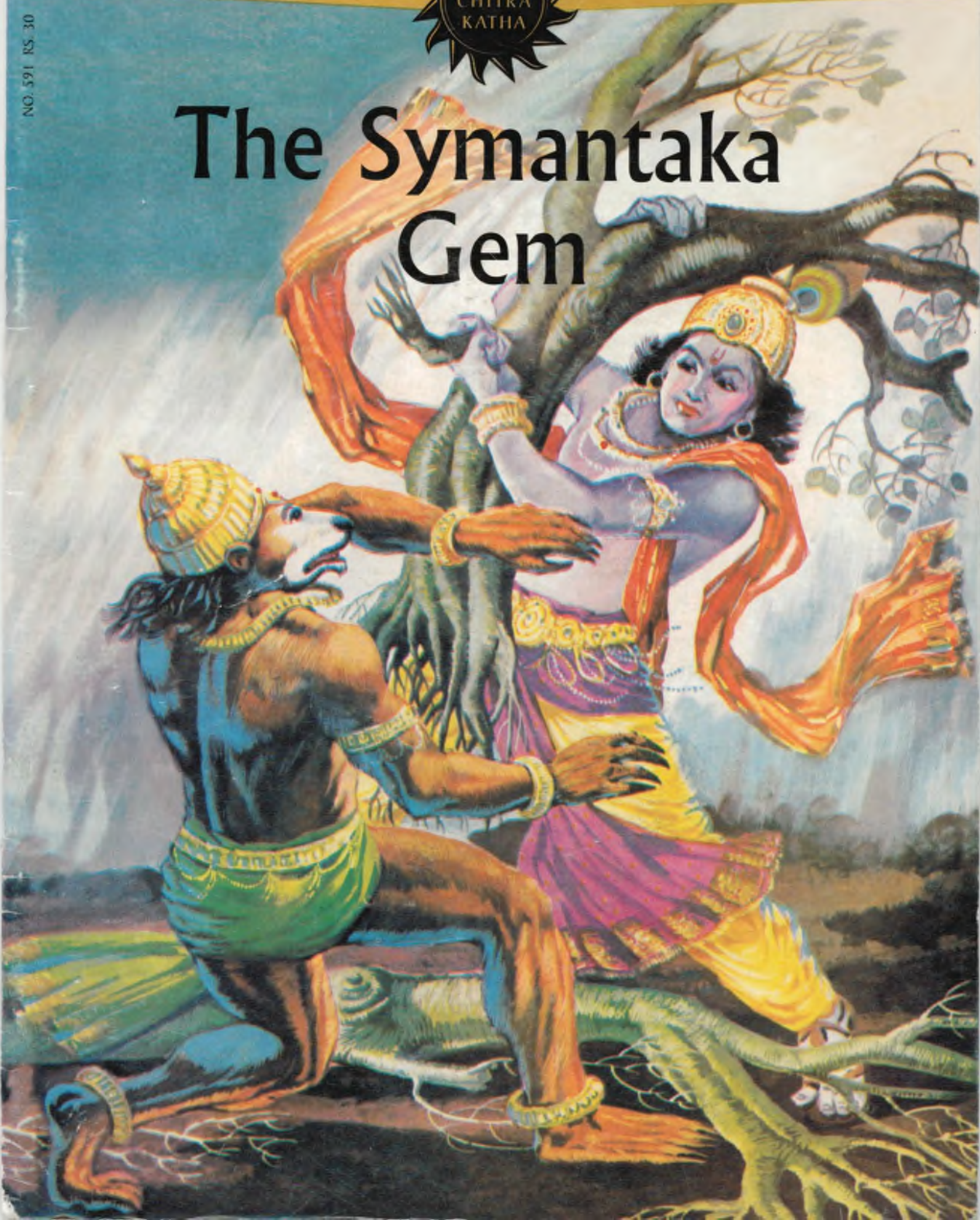




NO. 591 RS. 30

The Symantaka Gem



THE SYAMANTAKA GEM



PRINCE SATRAJIT OF DWARAKA WAS A
DEVOTEE OF SURYA, THE SUN GOD.

ONE DAY, AS HE WAS RIDING THROUGH A FOREST—



SUDDENLY THE TREES PARTED.





SATRAJIT RODE BACK TO DWARAKA WEARING ABOUT HIM THE RADIANCE OF THE SYAMANTAKA.



WONDERSTRUCK THEY WENT TO SHRI KRISHNA, THE ALL-KNOWING ONE.

LORD KRISHNA, BEHOLD! THE SUN HAS COME TO EARTH.

SURYA HAS GIVEN SATRAJIT THE SYAMANTAKA JEWEL.



THE JEWEL HAS THE POWER TO PREVENT FAMINE AND WAR.



MEANWHILE SATRAJIT REACHED HIS PALACE.

HAIL!

HAIL!



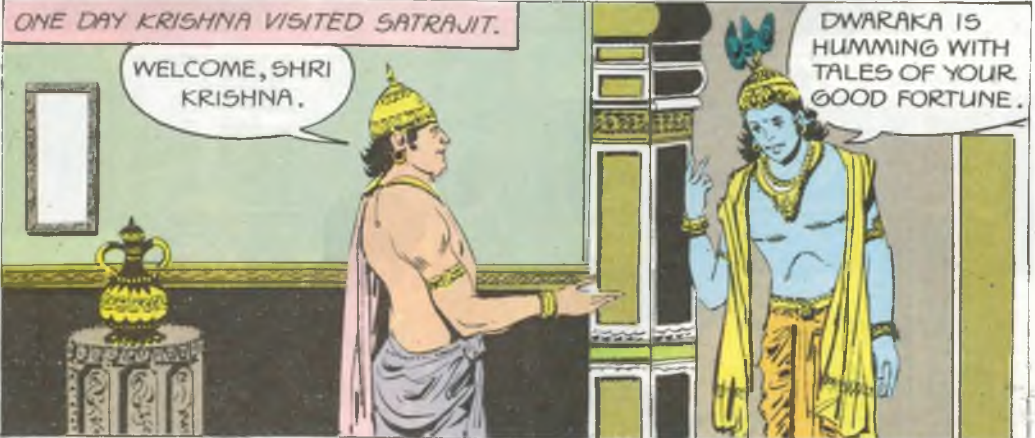
...AND WORSHIPPED IT.



THE GEM BROUGHT PEACE AND PROSPERITY IN ITS WAKE.



ONE DAY KRISHNA VISITED SATRAJIT.





I OWE IT TO SURYA.

BUT IT IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR DEVOTION.



NOW THAT YOU HAVE ENOUGH GOLD, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE GEM TO KING UGRASENA?



WHY SHOULD I?



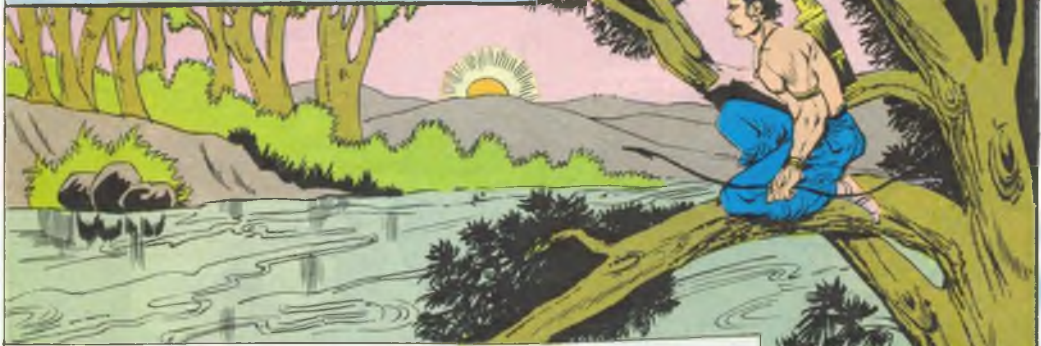
BECAUSE HE IS THE KING, THE GEM WILL BE SAFE WITH HIM.

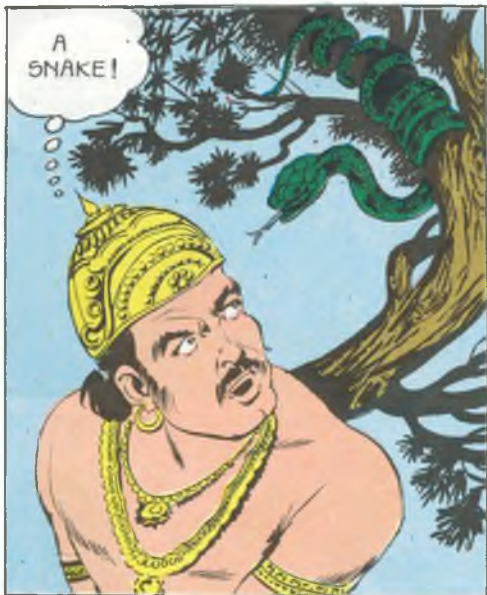
IT WILL BE EQUALLY SAFE WITH ME. I WILL NOT PART WITH IT.

A FEW DAYS LATER, SATRAJIT'S BROTHER, PRASENA, WENT OUT ON A HUNT, WEARING THE JEWEL.



WHEN HE REACHED THE FOREST, PRASENA DISMOUNTED AND WAITED FOR THE GAME.





AS THE LION WALKED AWAY WITH THE GEM, JAMBAVAN, KING OF THE BEARS, SAW HIM.

WHAT A FINE JEWEL!

HE ATTACKED THE LION...



...AND KILLED IT.

I'LL GIVE IT TO MY SON.



HERE IS SOMETHING FOR YOU, SON!



MEANWHILE AT DWARAKA —

PRASENA
HAS NOT
RETURNED FROM
THE HUNT.

WHAT COULD
HAVE HAPPENED
TO HIM?

I AM SURE, KRISHNA
MUST HAVE KILLED
MY BROTHER FOR
THE SAKE OF
THE GEM.

SATRAJIT
SUSPECTS
ME.

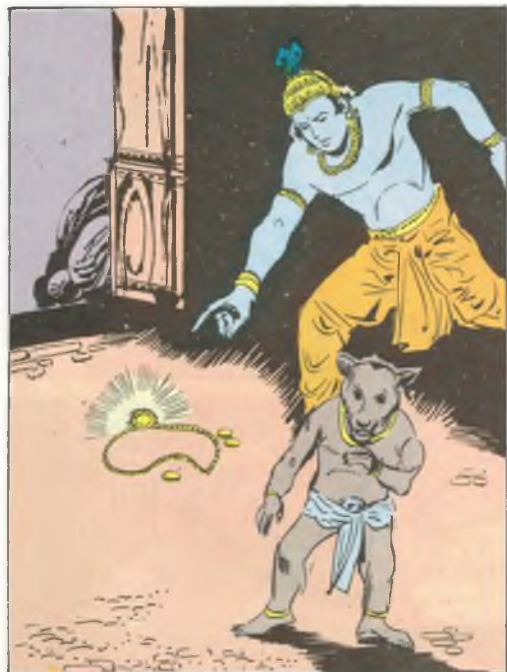
I MUST
FIND THE
JEWEL AND
ESTABLISH
MY
INNOCENCE.

A FEW HOURS LATER—









HOW DID YOU GET THE GEM?





THE WINNER
TAKES THE
GEM.



THEY FIRST FOUGHT WITH WEAPONS.



THEN WITH STONES AND MOUNTAIN ROCKS...

...AND WHEN THOSE WERE
EXHAUSTED, WITH UPROOTED TREES.





MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE CAVE -

IT IS TWELVE DAYS
SINCE HE WENT
IN THERE.

HE MUST BE
DEAD.



HE ASKED
US TO WAIT
HERE.



I AM
HUNGRY!

I AM TIRED.

LET'S GO
HOME.



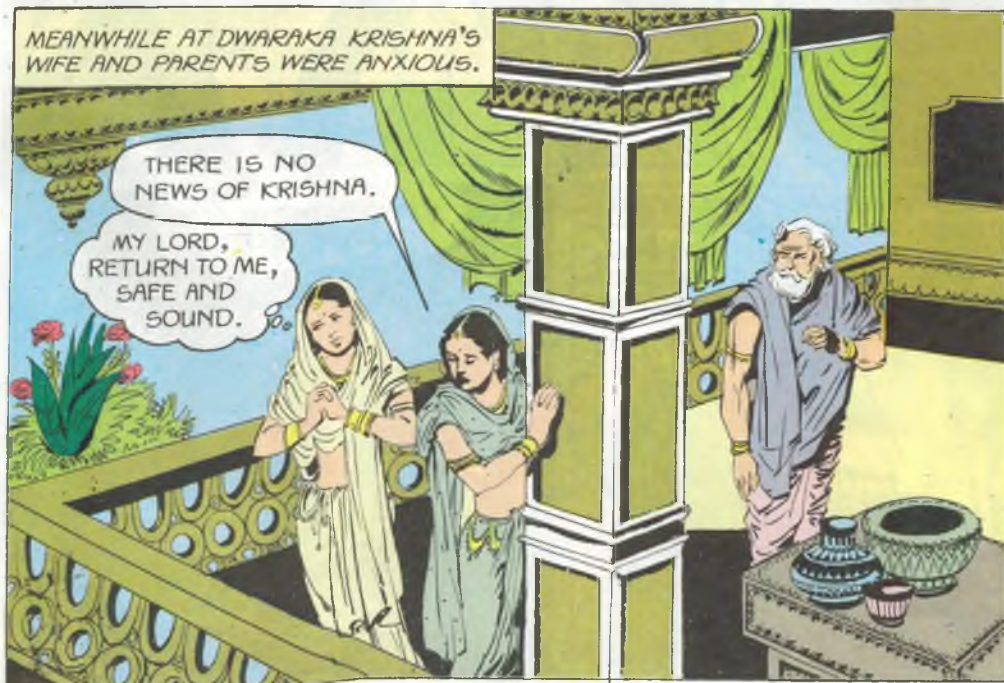
AN OWL HOOTED-

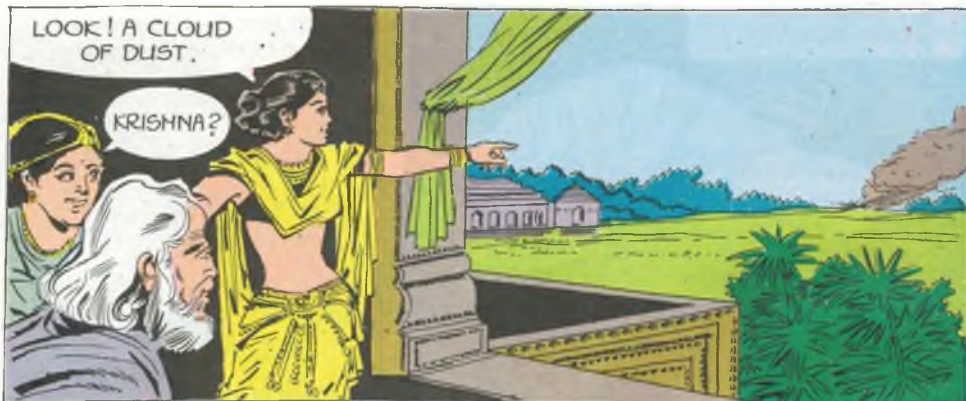


OVERCOME BY FEAR AND EXHAUSTION, THEY LEFT.



MEANWHILE AT DWARAKA KRISHNA'S WIFE AND PARENTS WERE ANXIOUS.





LOOK! A CLOUD OF DUST.

KRISHNA?



BUT—

WE HAVE COME BACK WITHOUT KRISHNA.

WE FEAR HE IS DEAD.



KRISHNA WAS NOT DEAD. AFTER TWENTY EIGHT DAYS OF CONTINUOUS FIGHTING —

YOU ARE INVINCIBLE. I SURRENDER.



ALONG WITH THE GEM PLEASE ACCEPT...



NO SOONER HAD THEY GARLANDED EACH OTHER THAN JAMBAVATI TURNED INTO A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.



KRISHNA RETURNED WITH HIS BRIDE AND THE SYAMANTAKA JEWEL TO DWARAKA.



WHEN SATRAJIT CAME—

I HAVE
FOUND THE
SYAMANTAKA
GEM.



AFTER KRISHNA HAD TOLD HIS
STORY—

I DID YOU
GRIEVOUS
WRONG.

IT WAS
OUT OF
YOUR
IGNORANCE.



SATRAJIT WANTED
TO MAKE AMENDS.

KEEP THE JEWEL,
KRISHNA...



...AND ALSO ACCEPT
MY DAUGHTER
SATYABHAMA IN
MARRIAGE.

I WILL MARRY YOUR
DAUGHTER WITH
PLEASURE. THE GEM
IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS.
KEEP IT. YOU MAY
HOWEVER GIVE ME
THE GOLD IT
YIELDS.



MEANWHILE, SATYABHAMA'S DISAPPOINTED SUITORS, AKRURA, KRITAVARMA AND SHATADHANWA, NURSED THOUGHTS OF REVENGE.

SHATADHANWA,
WE HAVE BEEN
INSULTED.

YES, SATRAJIT HAD PROMISED
HIS DAUGHTER TO ONE OF US.
WHY DON'T YOU KILL HIM AND
MAKE THE SYAMANTAKA JEWEL
YOURS?



EAGER TO POSSESS THE GEM, THE EVIL
SHATADHANWA DECIDED TO KILL SATRAJIT.

THE JEWEL
WILL SOON
BE MINE.



TAKING THE GEM...



...SHATADHANWA RODE AWAY.



THE WOMEN OF SATRAJIT'S HOUSE, SET UP LOUD LAMENTATIONS.



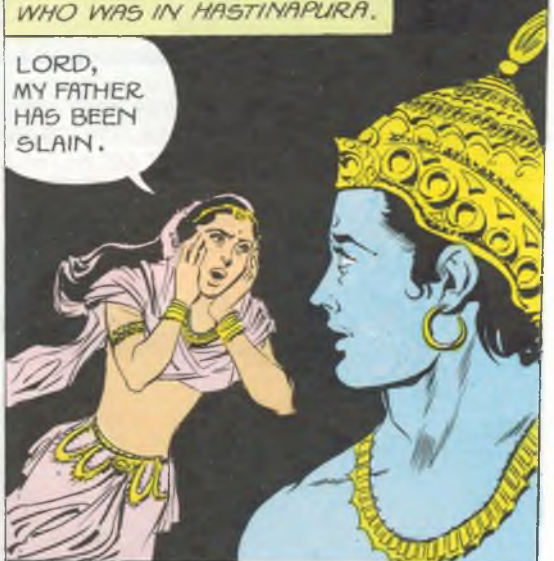
SATYABHAMA WAS HEART-BROKEN.

FATHER...
FATHER...



SHE WENT TO KRISHNA
WHO WAS IN HASTINAPURA.

LORD,
MY FATHER
HAS BEEN
SLAIN.





YOU MUST BE BRAVE.



MEANWHILE THE GUILTY SHATADHANWA APPEALED TO KRITAVARMA.

PLEASE, SHELTER ME FROM THE WRATH OF KRISHNA.

GO ELSEWHERE.

SHATADHANWA THEN WENT TO AKRURA WHO GAVE HIM THE SAME ANSWER.



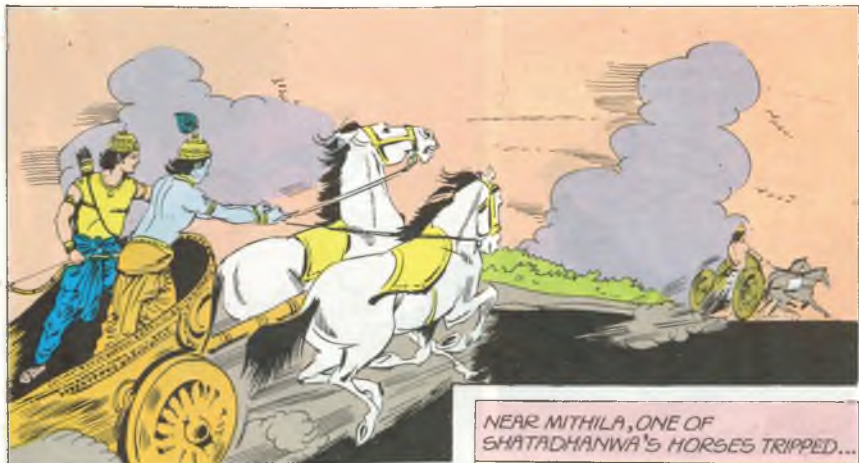
AKRURA, PLEASE KEEP THE GEM WITH YOU THEN. I'M FLEEING FROM DWARAKA.

SHATADHANWA FLED. KRISHNA AND HIS BROTHER, BALARAMA WHO FOLLOWED IN HOT PURSUIT SOON CAUGHT UP WITH HIM.



HALT! YOU MURDERER.

IT'S KRISHNA. I'M DOOMED.



NEAR MITHILA, ONE OF SHATADHANWA'S HORSES TRIPPED...



...AND FELL.



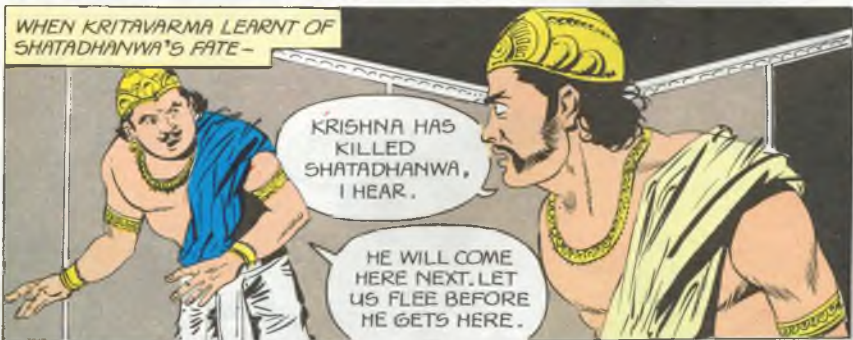


SHATADHANWA FELL DEAD.



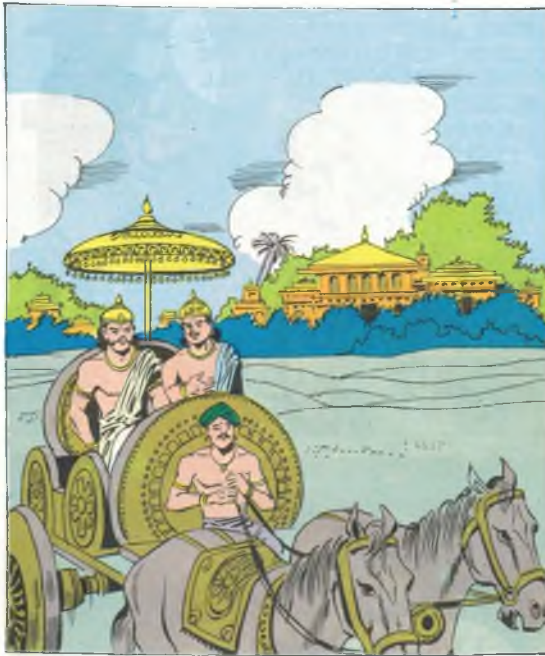
HE DOES NOT HAVE THE JEWEL. HE MUST HAVE GIVEN IT TO AKRURA.

WHEN KRITAVARMA LEARNT OF SHATADHANWA'S FATE -



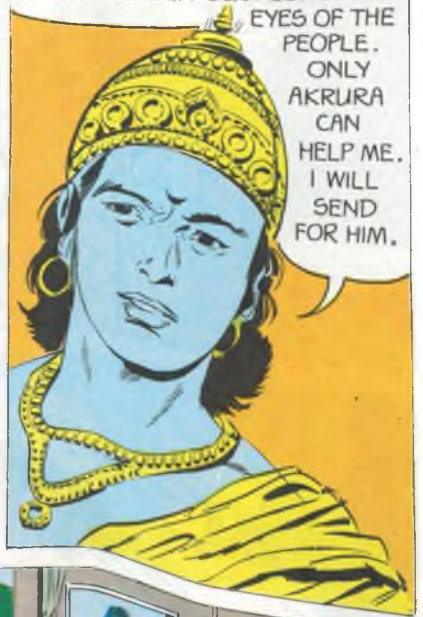
KRISHNA HAS KILLED SHATADHANWA, I HEAR.

HE WILL COME HERE NEXT. LET US FLEE BEFORE HE GETS HERE.



A FEW DAYS LATER AT DWARAKA-

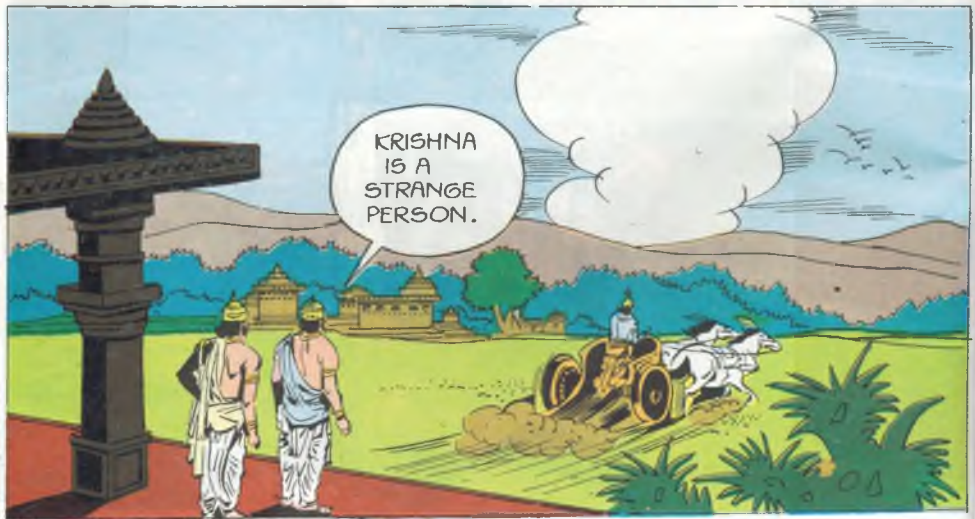
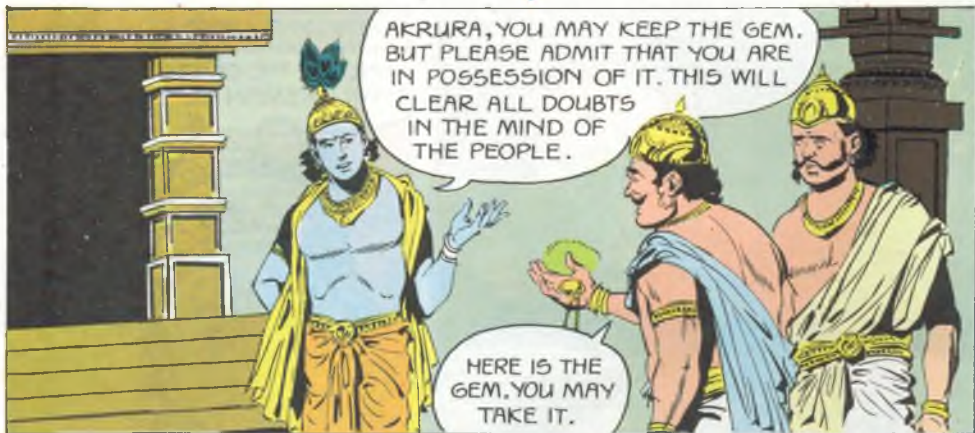
UNLESS THE GEM IS FOUND,
I WILL REMAIN SUSPECT IN THE
EYES OF THE
PEOPLE.
ONLY
AKRURA
CAN
HELP ME.
I WILL
SEND
FOR HIM.



WHEN AKRURA CAME-

I KNOW SHATADHANWA GAVE
THE SYAMANTAKA GEM TO
YOU FOR SAFE-KEEPING.





PERHAPS HE
HAS HIS
REASONS TO
ACT THE WAY
HE DID!

ANYWAY I WILL
NOT SPECULATE
IDLY. THE JEWEL
IS MINE AND
WITH IT,
PROSPERITY.

HAVING SET THE MINDS OF THE CITIZENS AT REST KRISHNA
TOO WAS ABLE TO RELAX IN THE COMPANY OF HIS MANY WIVES.

