

# MAHAJANS

## GREAT SOULS IN KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

### THE PASSING AWAY OF BHISMA

AS RECOUNTED IN THE MOST PERFECT RIPENED FRUIT OF ALL VEDIC LITERATURE -- SRIMAD BHAGWATAM...

5000 YEARS AGO, AT THE CLOSE OF THE BLOODY BATTLE OF KURUKSHETRA, BHISMADEV, ONE OF THE GREATEST AUTHORITIES ON KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS, LAY DYING FROM HIS WOUNDS...

FOR A DEATHBED BHISMA HAS ONLY THE ARROWS THAT HAVE PIERCED HIS BODY!

BUT ALL DO BOW BEFORE HIM!

JUST SEE HOW GREAT IS BHISMA! ONLY TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIM, YOGIS AND SAINTS FROM MANY PLANETS HAVE GATHERED HERE!

EVEN THE SUPREME LORD-- KRISHNA HIMSELF-- HAS COME TO PAY RESPECTS! ALTHOUGH HE IS GOD, HE APPEARS NOW AMONG US AS OUR FAMILY MEMBER!

WRITTEN by SATSVARUPA  
ILLUSTRATED by JADURANY DEVI  
LETTERED by JAYAGOVINDA

TO ASSURE HIS MAHAJAN DEVOTEE, KRISHNA APPEARS IN HIS 4-ARMED FORM AS NARAYAN, CONTROLLER OF THE COSMOS...

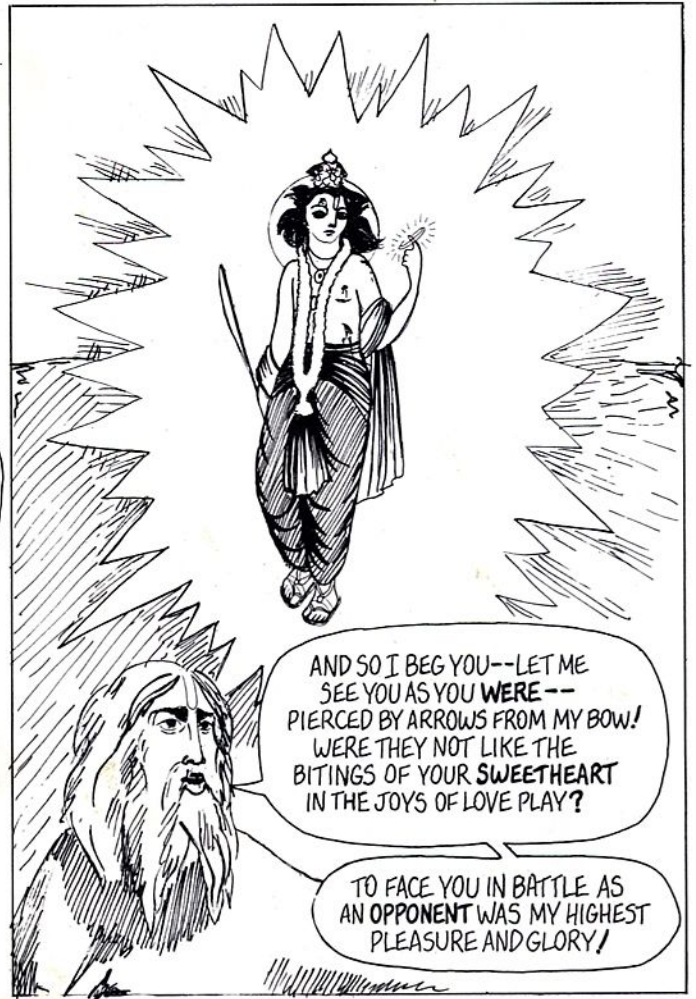
KRISHNA IS THE CHARIOT DRIVER OF ARJUNA, BHISMA'S ENEMY--AND STILL HE PAYS RESPECTS TO THIS GREAT WARRIOR!

CHARIOT DRIVER??  
KRISHNA IS GOD! YET SEE HOW HUMBLY HE ACTS-- JUST TO PLEASE HIS DEVOTEE!

ALL GLORIES TO BHISMADEV!  
PLEASE ACCEPT MY OBEISANCES!

IF GOD IS HUMBLE TO HIM, THEN BHISMA'S FAME IS EVEN MORE WONDERFUL THAN I CAN IMAGINE!

O MOST EXALTED LORD,  
BY YOUR PRESENCE ALONE I HAVE LOST ALL BODILY PAIN!  
BUT--NOW I AM AT THE VERY BRINK OF DEATH!



AND SO I BEG YOU--LET ME SEE YOU AS YOU WERE-- PIERCED BY ARROWS FROM MY BOW! WERE THEY NOT LIKE THE BITINGS OF YOUR SWEETHEART IN THE JOYS OF LOVE PLAY?

TO FACE YOU IN BATTLE AS AN OPPONENT WAS MY HIGHEST PLEASURE AND GLORY!

"KINDLY STAY BY ME NOW-- AND LET ME SEE YOU AS YOU WERE AT KURUKSHETRA-- THE CHARIOT DRIVER OF ARJUNA!"

DRAW UP MY CHARIOT, O KRISHNA--SO THAT I MAY SEE WHOM I AM FIGHTING-- AND WHAT THEIR STRENGTH IS!

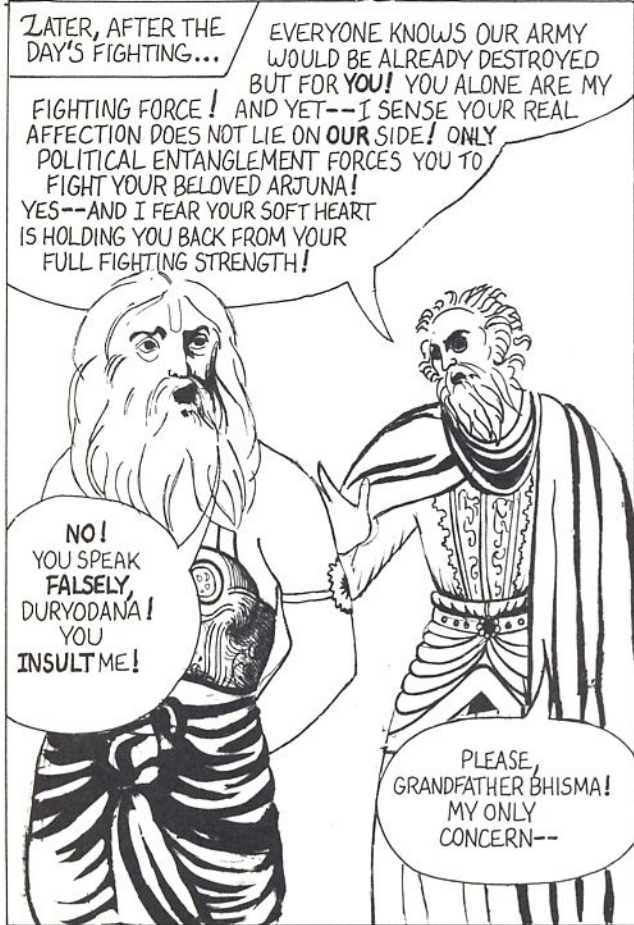
THERE IS BHISMA, YOUR GRANDFATHER!  
THERE IS DRONA, YOUR FORMER MILITARY TEACHER!  
AND THERE IS DURYODANA, THE KING!

THESE ARE THE CHIEF MEN YOU MUST SLAY!

"MEANWHILE, DURYODANA AND I LOOKED ON..."

LORD KRISHNA IS POINTING US OUT! DO YOU SEE HIM-- HIS BODY THE COLOR OF A FRESH BLUE RAIN CLOUD?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BHISMA? WE MUST MOVE OUR FORCES-- AT ONCE!



LATER, AFTER THE DAY'S FIGHTING...

EVERYONE KNOWS OUR ARMY WOULD BE ALREADY DESTROYED BUT FOR YOU! YOU ALONE ARE MY FIGHTING FORCE! AND YET--I SENSE YOUR REAL AFFECTION DOES NOT LIE ON OUR SIDE! ONLY POLITICAL ENTANGLEMENT FORCES YOU TO FIGHT YOUR BELOVED ARJUNA! YES--AND I FEAR YOUR SOFT HEART IS HOLDING YOU BACK FROM YOUR FULL FIGHTING STRENGTH!

NO! YOU SPEAK FALSELY, DURYODANA! YOU INSULT ME!

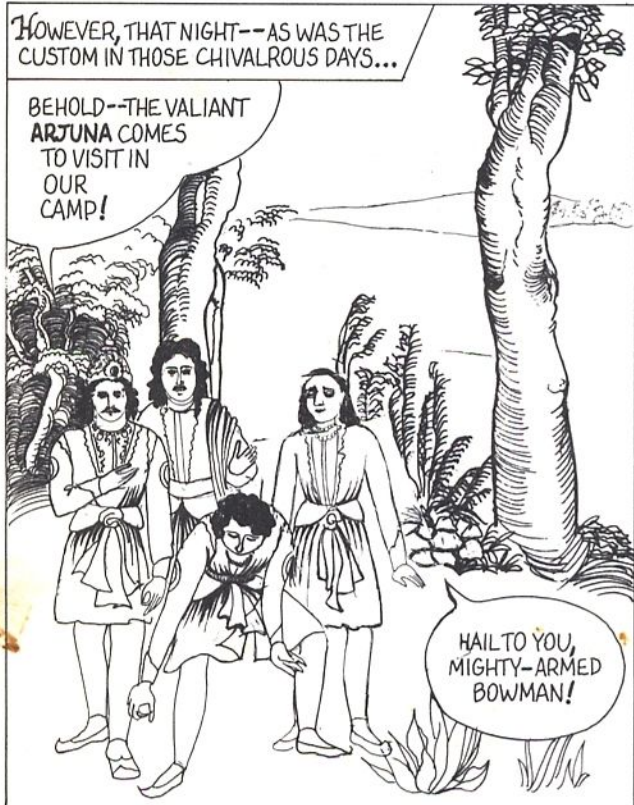
PLEASE, GRANDFATHER BHISMA! MY ONLY CONCERN--



ENOUGH! HERE--I GIVE INTO YOUR CARE THESE FIVE ENCHANTED ARROWS WHICH WILL SEAL THE FATE OF ARJUNA AND HIS BROTHERS!

IN THE MORNING, RETURN THEM TO ME, AND--BY TOMORROW NIGHT--THEY WILL REST IN THE HEARTS OF THE PANDAVA BROTHERS!

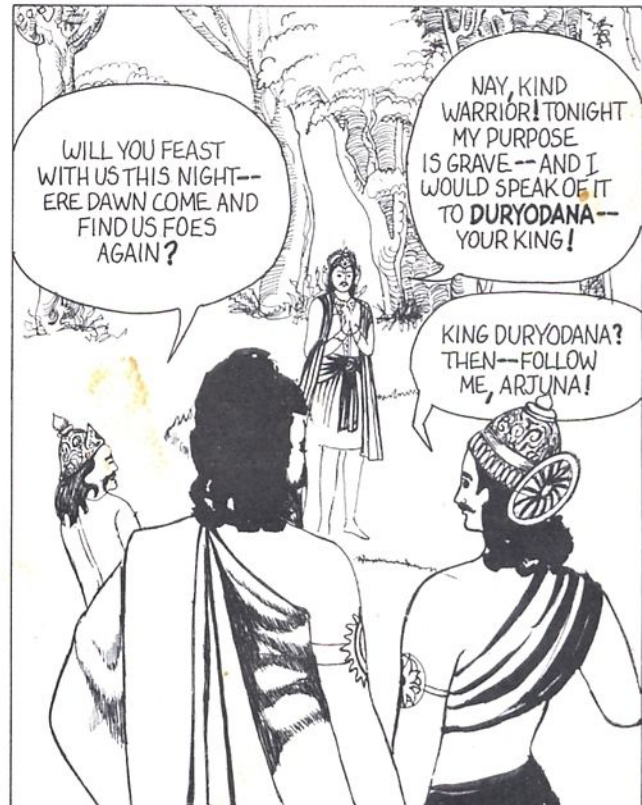
AT LAST! I HAVE GIVEN RISE TO THE GREAT WARRIOR'S RAGE! AND THUS--I NOW HOLD THE VERY LIVES OF MY ENEMIES IN MY HANDS!



HOWEVER, THAT NIGHT--AS WAS THE CUSTOM IN THOSE CHIVALROUS DAYS...

BEHOLD--THE VALIANT ARJUNA COMES TO VISIT IN OUR CAMP!

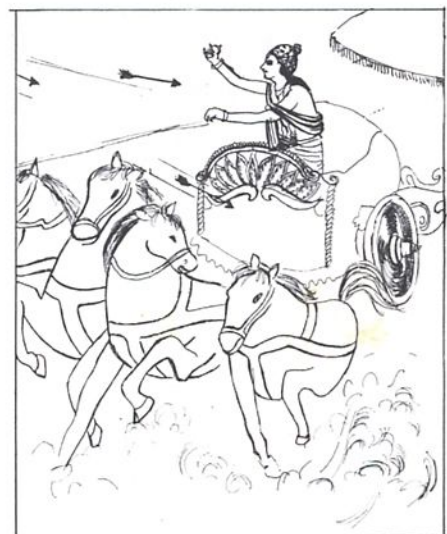
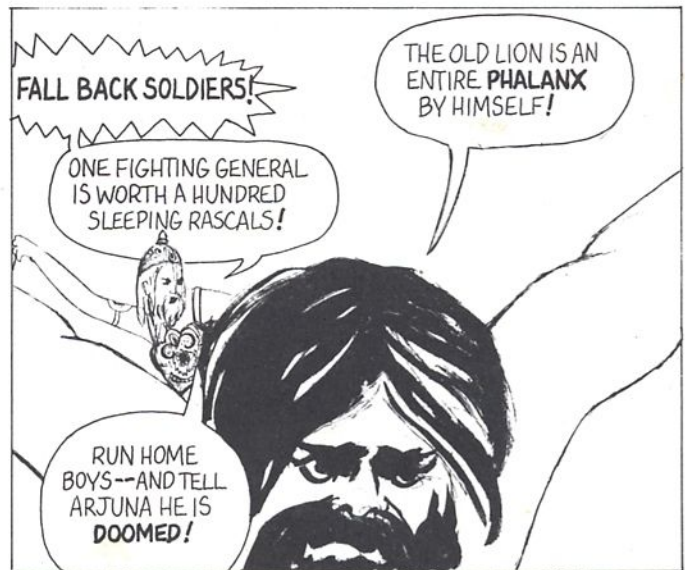
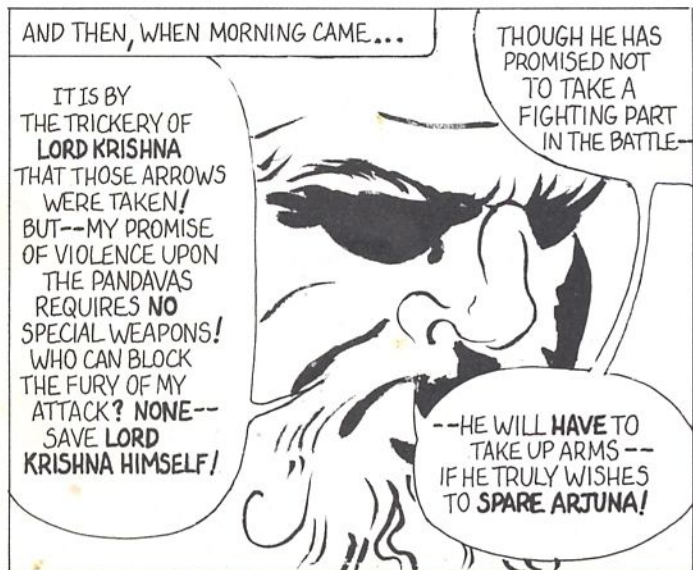
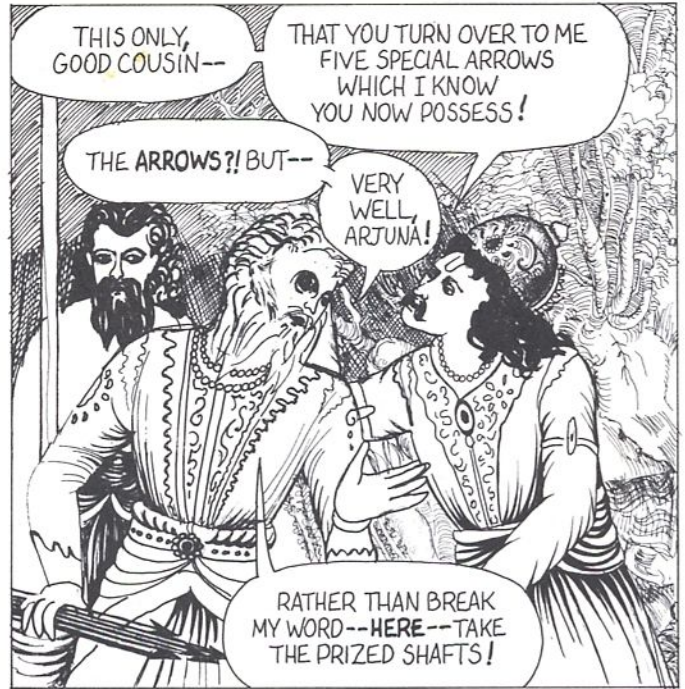
HAIL TO YOU, MIGHTY-ARMED BOWMAN!

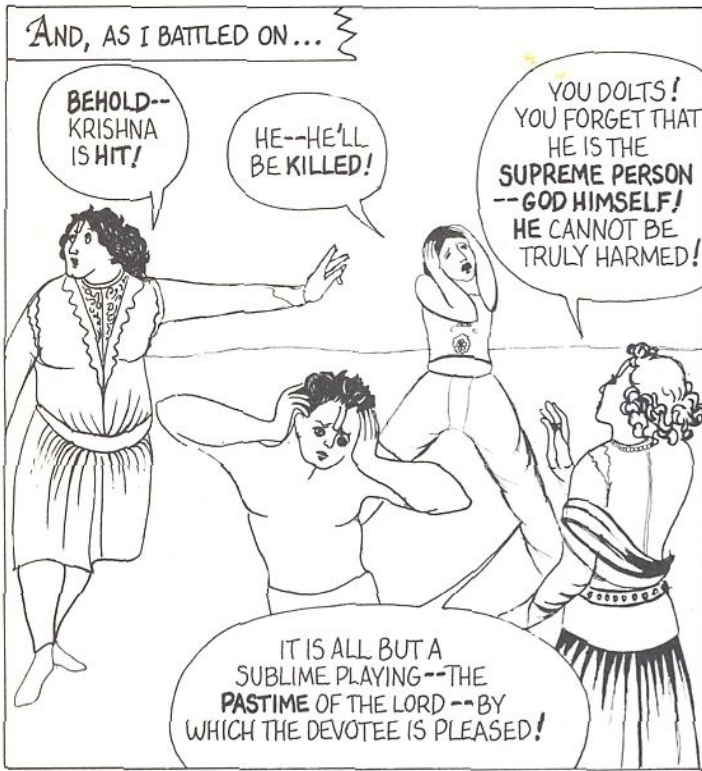


WILL YOU FEAST WITH US THIS NIGHT--ERE DAWN COME AND FIND US FOES AGAIN?

NAY, KIND WARRIOR! TONIGHT MY PURPOSE IS GRAVE--AND I WOULD SPEAK OF IT TO DURYODANA--YOUR KING!

KING DURYODANA? THEN--FOLLOW ME, ARJUNA!





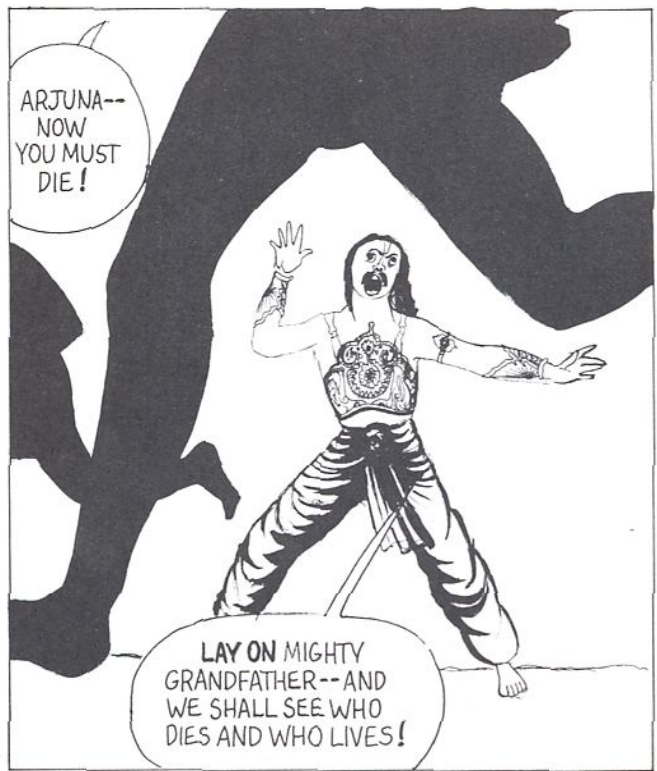
AND, AS I BATTLED ON...

BEHOLD--  
KRISHNA  
IS HIT!

HE--HE'LL  
BE KILLED!

YOU DOLTS!  
YOU FORGET THAT  
HE IS THE  
SUPREME PERSON  
--GOD HIMSELF!  
HE CANNOT BE  
TRULY HARMED!

IT IS ALL BUT A  
SUBLIME PLAYING--THE  
PASTIME OF THE LORD --BY  
WHICH THE DEVOTEE IS PLEASED!



ARJUNA--  
NOW  
YOU MUST  
DIE!

LAY ON MIGHTY  
GRANDFATHER--AND  
WE SHALL SEE WHO  
DIES AND WHO LIVES!



KRISHNA  
MUST KEEP  
HIS WORD NOT  
TO FIGHT

AND YET--  
HE HAS PROMISED  
TO ALWAYS  
PROTECT HIS  
DEVOTEES!

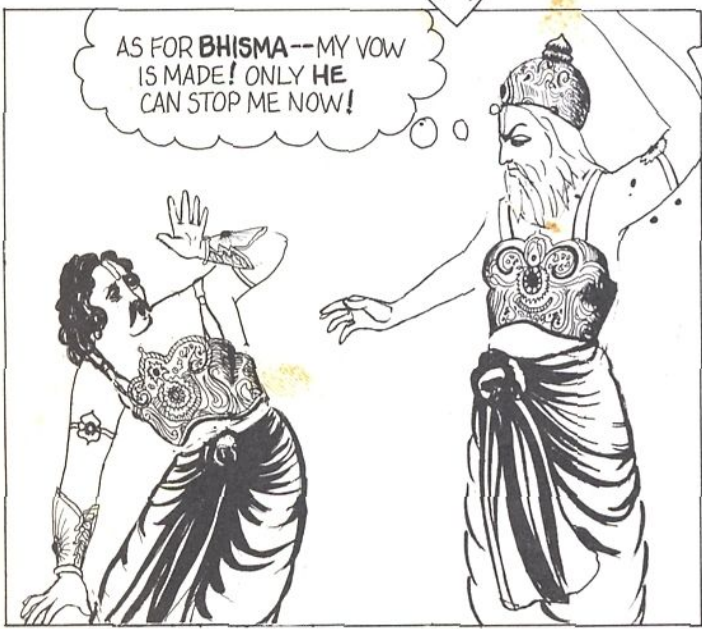


THOUGH YOU BE  
NO UNWORTHY  
WARRIOR, ARJUNA--  
NOW BREATHE  
YOUR LAST!

KRISHNA!  
I SHALL SLAY  
YOUR DEVOTEE!  
WILL YOU NOT  
COME TO  
STOP ME?



SO BE IT,  
BHISMA!



AS FOR BHISMA--MY VOW  
IS MADE! ONLY HE  
CAN STOP ME NOW!



BEHOLD YOU! LORD KRISHNA  
IS TAKING UP A WEAPON!

BUT--HE  
HAS PROMISED  
NOT TO LEND  
HIS STRENGTH  
TO EITHER  
SIDE!



MY LORD-- NO!!

GOD HAS BROKEN HIS PROMISE!

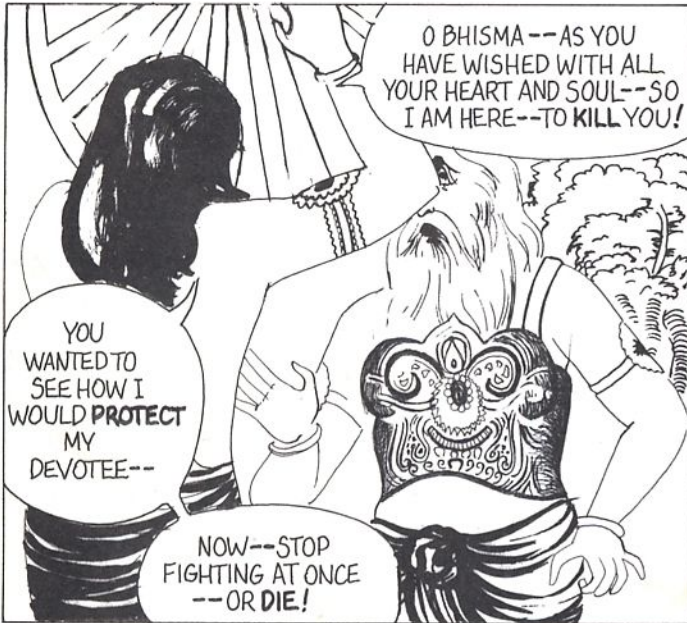
GET ASIDE, ARJUNA!



LOOK! HE IS RUSHING FOR BHISMA LIKE A LION ENRAGED!

BHISMA WISHES TO FORCE ME TO PERSONALLY FIGHT HIM! AND SO I SHALL--

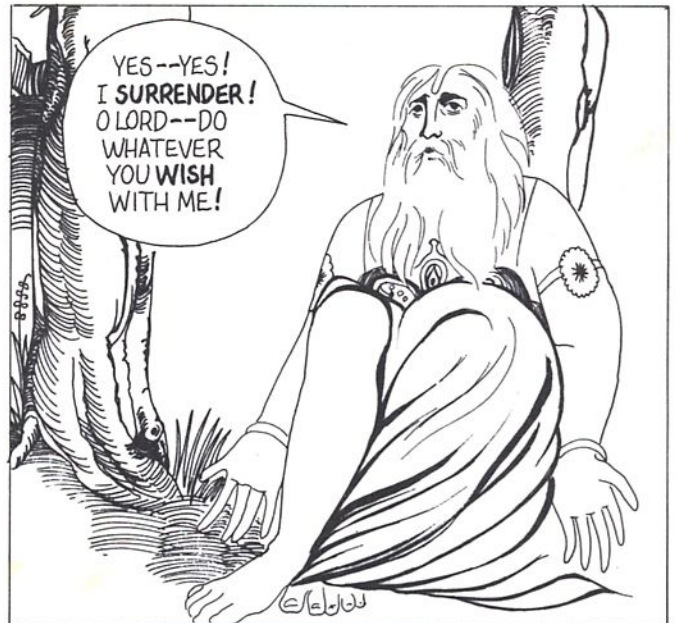
THOUGH I BREAK MY PROMISE --NEVER SHALL I SEE MY DEVOTEE CRUSHED!



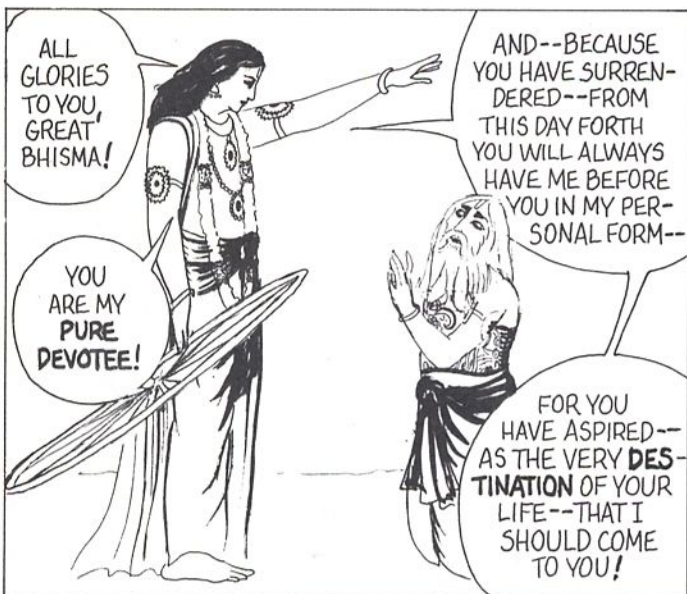
O BHISMA -- AS YOU HAVE WISHED WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL -- SO I AM HERE -- TO KILL YOU!

YOU WANTED TO SEE HOW I WOULD PROTECT MY DEVOTEE --

NOW -- STOP FIGHTING AT ONCE -- OR DIE!



YES -- YES! I SURRENDER! O LORD -- DO WHATEVER YOU WISH WITH ME!

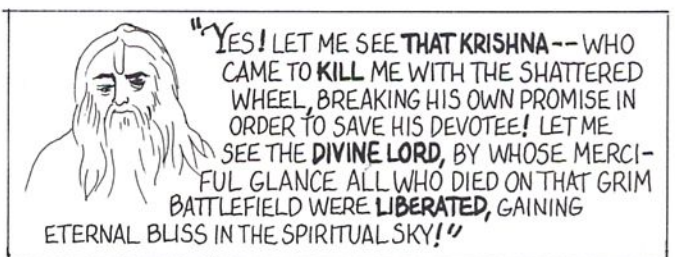


ALL GLORIES TO YOU, GREAT BHISMA!

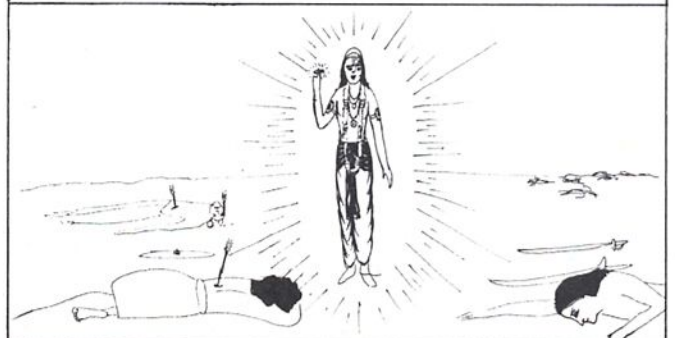
YOU ARE MY PURE DEVOTEE!

AND -- BECAUSE YOU HAVE SURRENDERED -- FROM THIS DAY FORTH YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE ME BEFORE YOU IN MY PERSONAL FORM --

FOR YOU HAVE ASPIRED -- AS THE VERY DESTINATION OF YOUR LIFE -- THAT I SHOULD COME TO YOU!



"YES! LET ME SEE THAT KRISHNA -- WHO CAME TO KILL ME WITH THE SHATTERED WHEEL, BREAKING HIS OWN PROMISE IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS DEVOTEE! LET ME SEE THE DIVINE LORD, BY WHOSE MERCIFUL GLANCE ALL WHO DIED ON THAT GRIM BATTLEFIELD WERE LIBERATED, GAINING ETERNAL BLISS IN THE SPIRITUAL SKY!"



"HE IS THE SELF-SAME LORD WHO--  
 BY THE SOUND OF HIS FLUTE --  
 ATTRACTED THE DAMSELS OF BRAJA, THE  
**GOPIS**, TO THE **RASA** DANCE IN THE  
 MOONLIGHT! AT THIS LAST STAGE OF MY  
 LIFE, I PRAY TO HAVE THE MERCY OF THOSE  
 GOPIS WHO WERE AS **ONE** WITH THE LORD--  
 FOR LOVER AND BELOVED BECOME LIKE  
 EQUALS!"



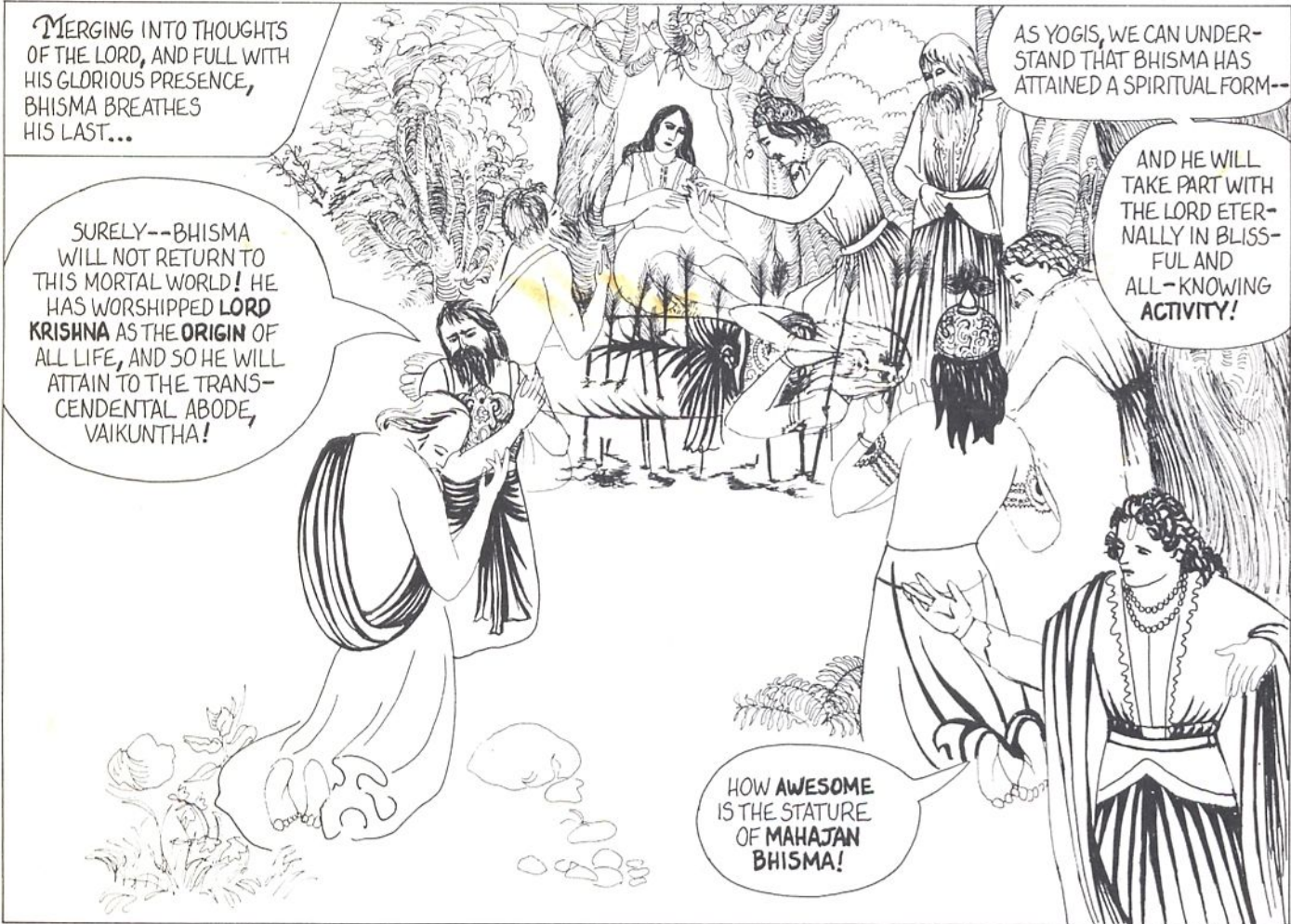
MERGING INTO THOUGHTS  
 OF THE LORD, AND FULL WITH  
 HIS GLORIOUS PRESENCE,  
 BHISMA BREATHES  
 HIS LAST...

AS YOGIS, WE CAN UNDER-  
 STAND THAT BHISMA HAS  
 ATTAINED A SPIRITUAL FORM--

SURELY--BHISMA  
 WILL NOT RETURN TO  
 THIS MORTAL WORLD! HE  
 HAS WORSHIPPED **LORD  
 KRISHNA** AS THE **ORIGIN** OF  
 ALL LIFE, AND SO HE WILL  
 ATTAIN TO THE TRANS-  
 CENDENTAL ABODE,  
**VAIKUNTHA!**

AND HE WILL  
 TAKE PART WITH  
 THE LORD ETER-  
 NALLY IN BLISS-  
 FUL AND  
 ALL-KNOWING  
**ACTIVITY!**

HOW AWESOME  
 IS THE STATURE  
 OF **MAHAJAN  
 BHISMA!**



**Courtesy:**

**Back to Godhead  
magazine**