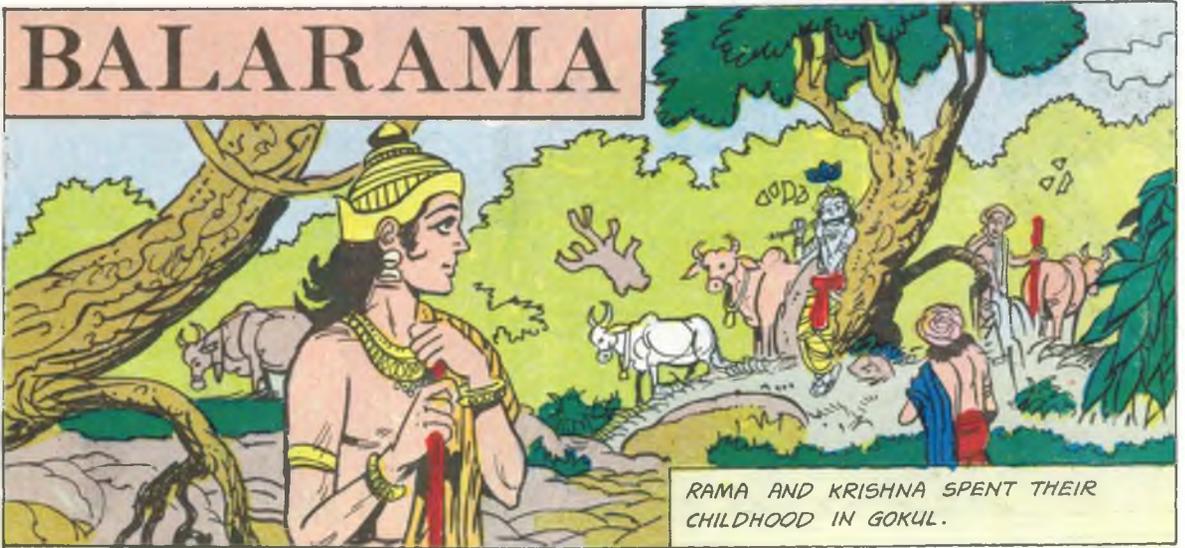




Tales of  
**Balarama**



# BALARAMA

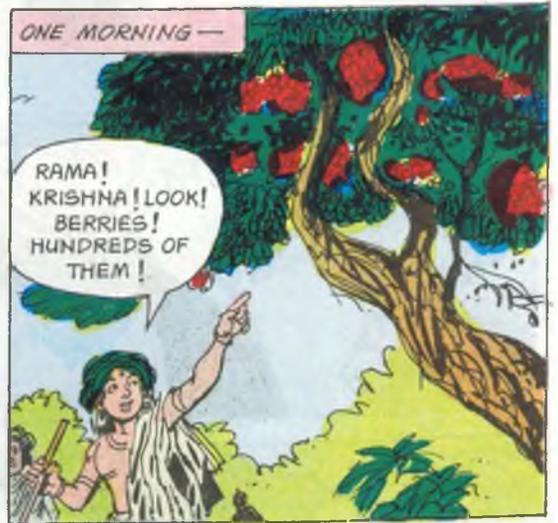


RAMA AND KRISHNA SPENT THEIR CHILDHOOD IN GOKUL.

EVERY DAY, ALONG WITH THE OTHER COWHERDS OF THE VILLAGE, THE TWO BROTHERS WOULD TAKE THEIR CATTLE OUT TO THE FOREST TO GRAZE.



ONE MORNING —



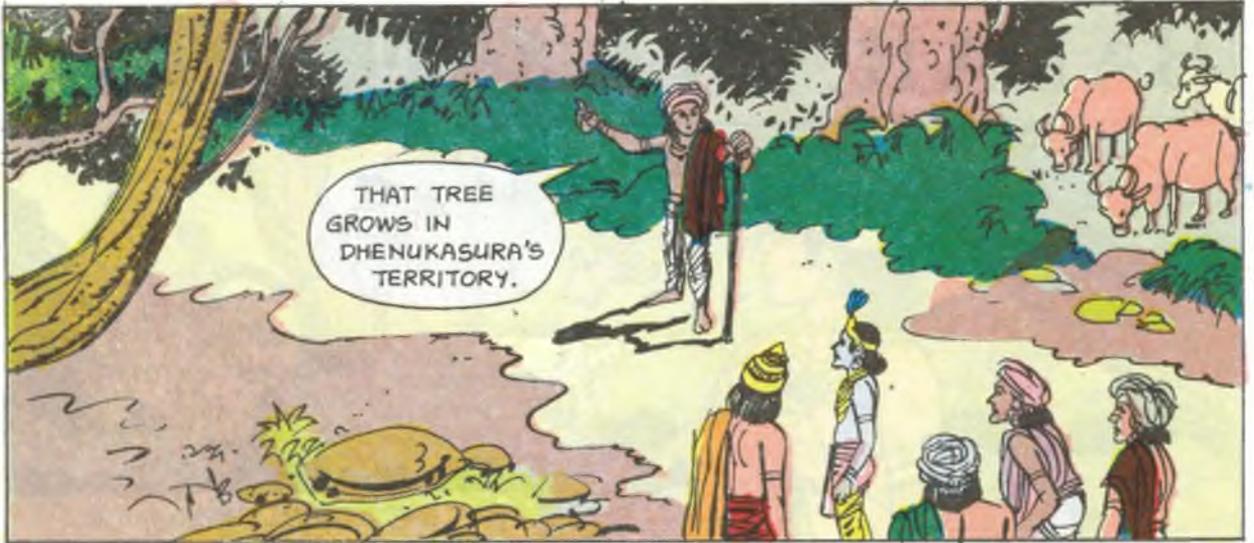
RAMA!  
KRISHNA! LOOK!  
BERRIES!  
HUNDREDS OF  
THEM!

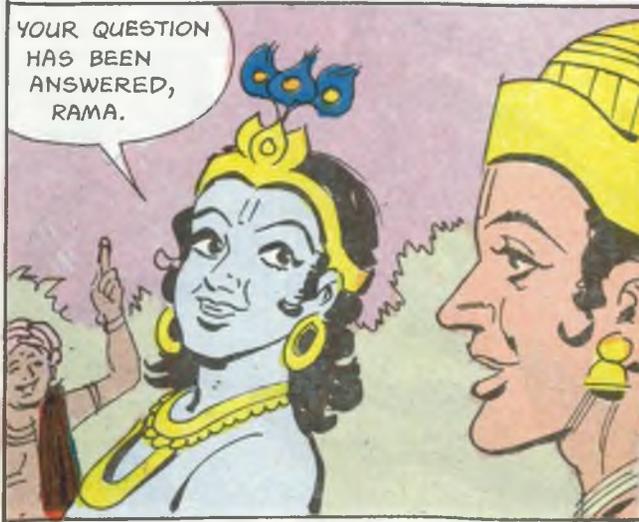


WHAT ARE WE  
WAITING FOR?  
LET'S HAVE  
SOME.



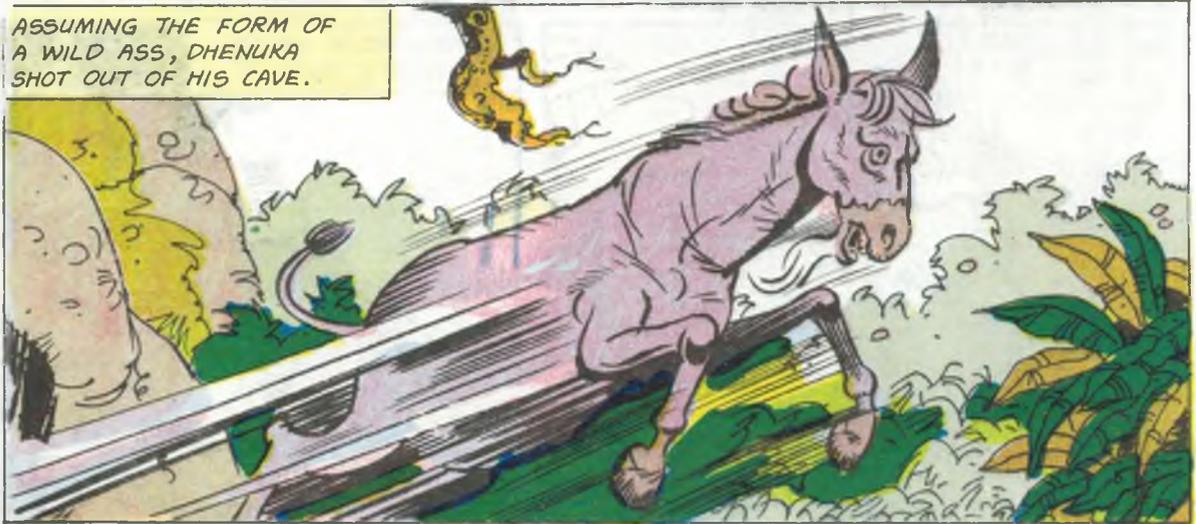
WAIT, RAMA!







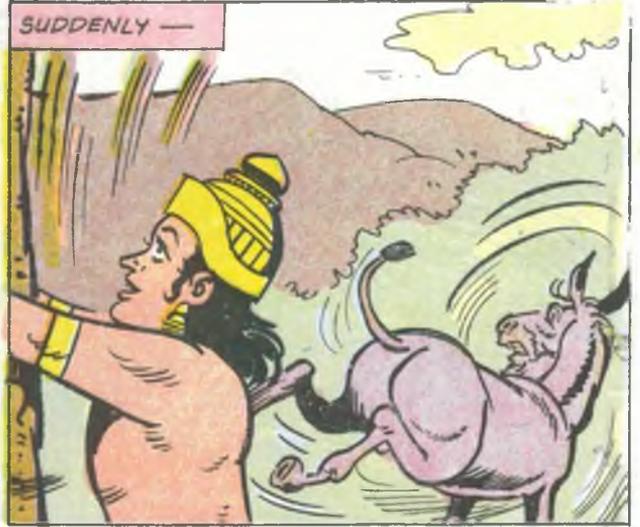
ASSUMING THE FORM OF A WILD ASS, DHENUKA SHOT OUT OF HIS CAVE.



RAMA AND KRISHNA HOWEVER, STOOD WHERE THEY WERE AND WENT ON SHAKING THE TREE.



SUDDENLY —



THE NEXT MOMENT RAMA FOUND HIMSELF UP IN THE AIR.

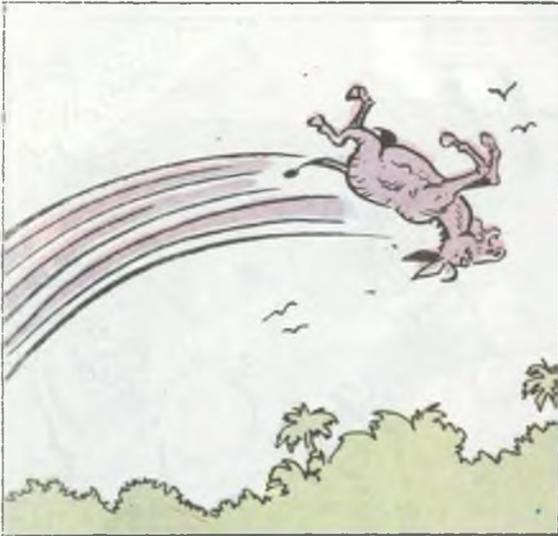


EVEN AS HE LANDED, DHENUKA LASHED OUT AGAIN...

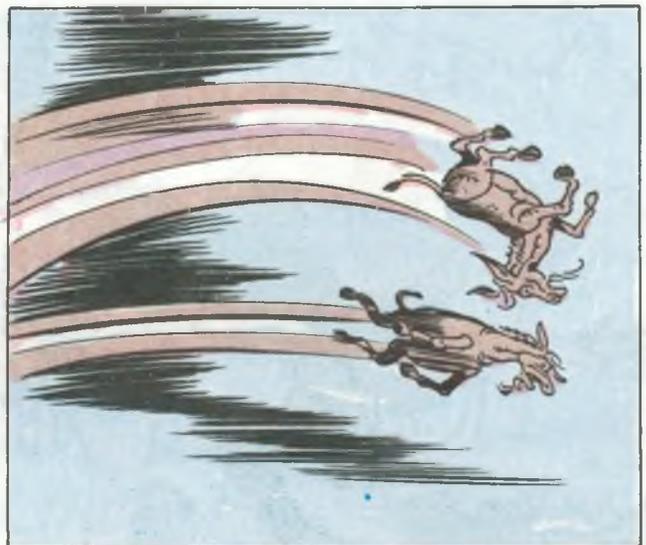
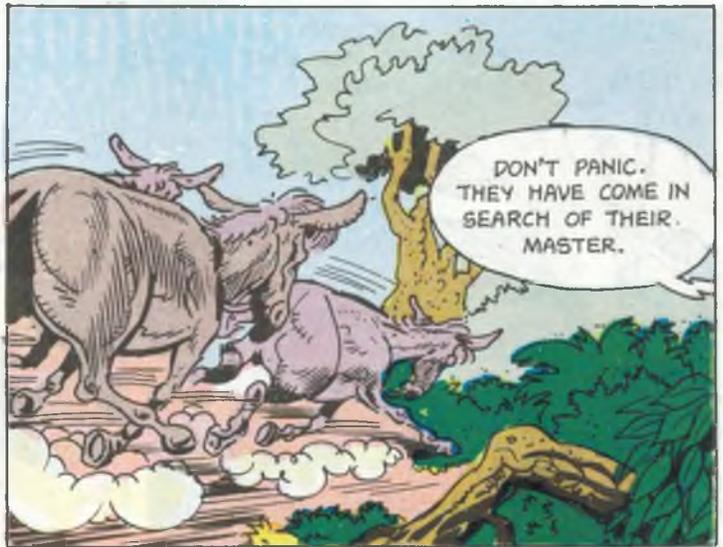


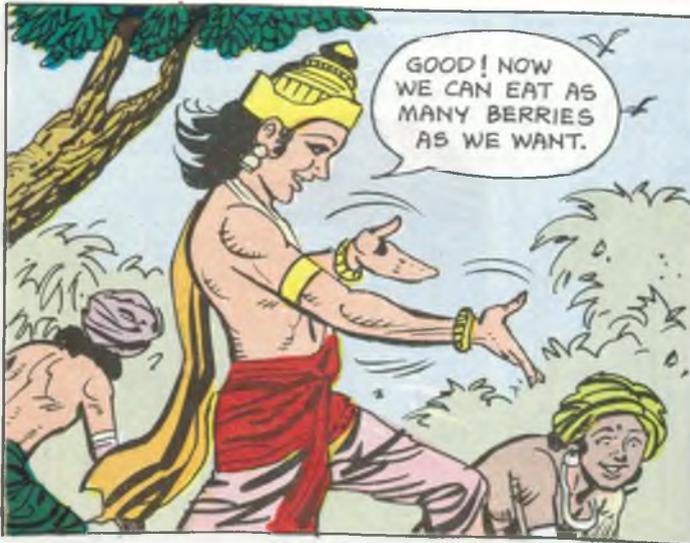
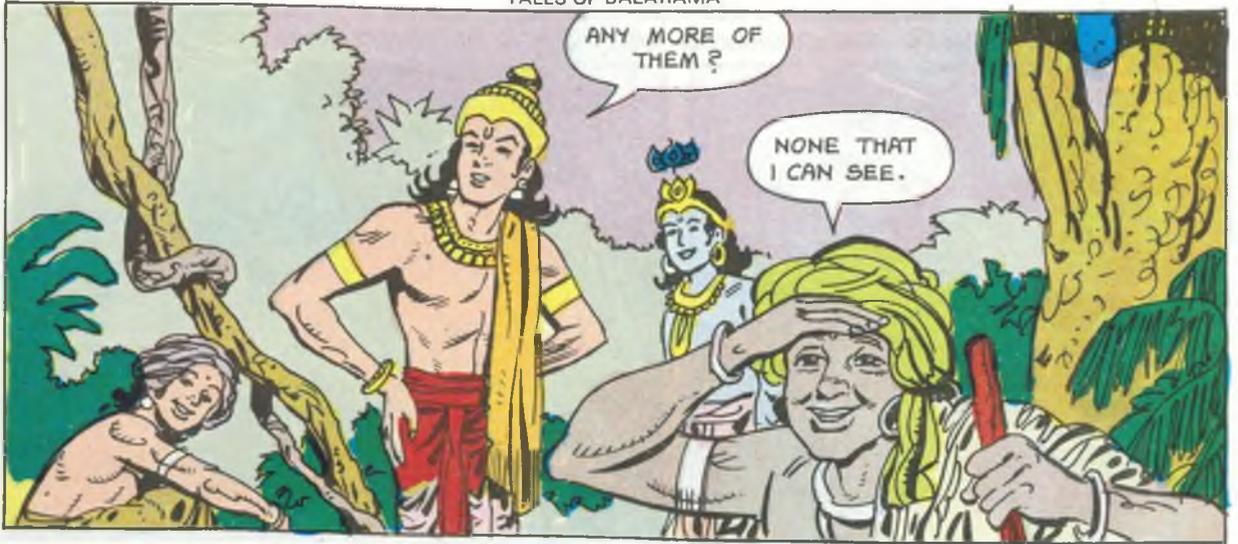
... BUT THIS TIME RAMA WAS READY.



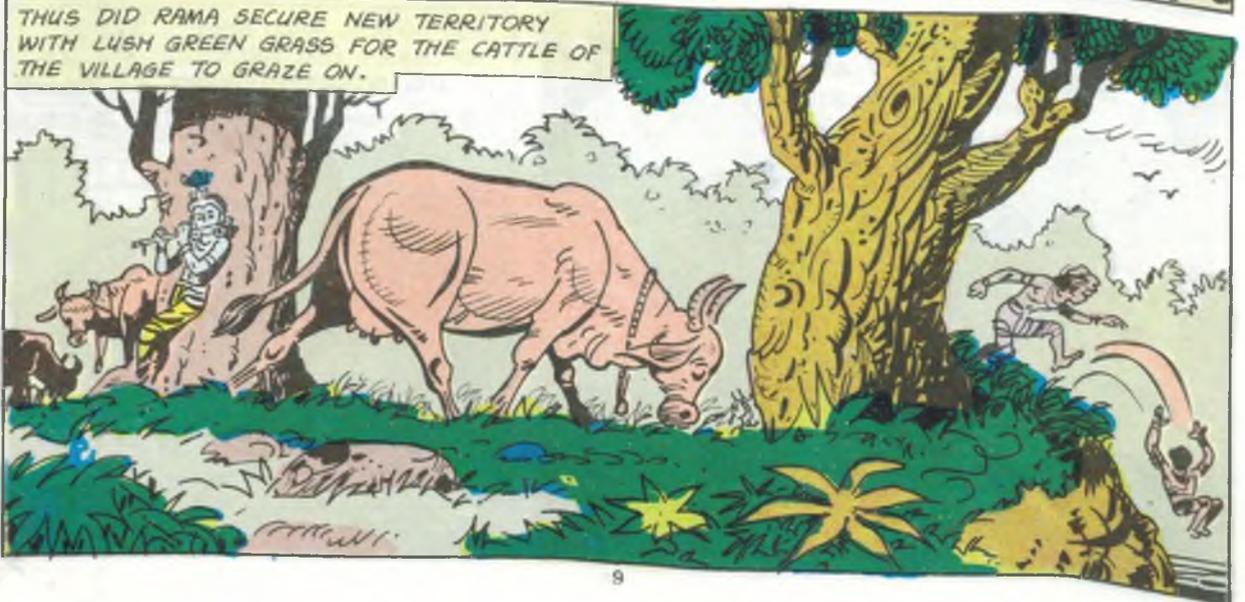




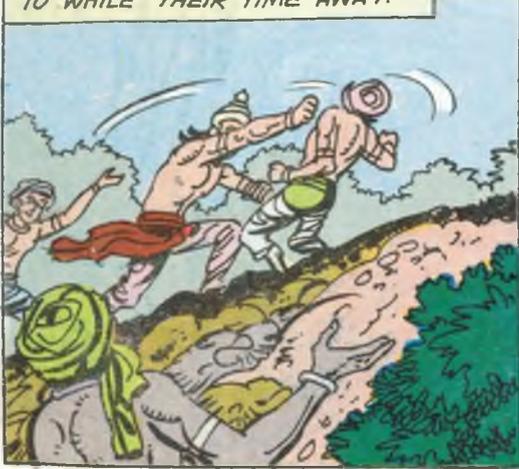




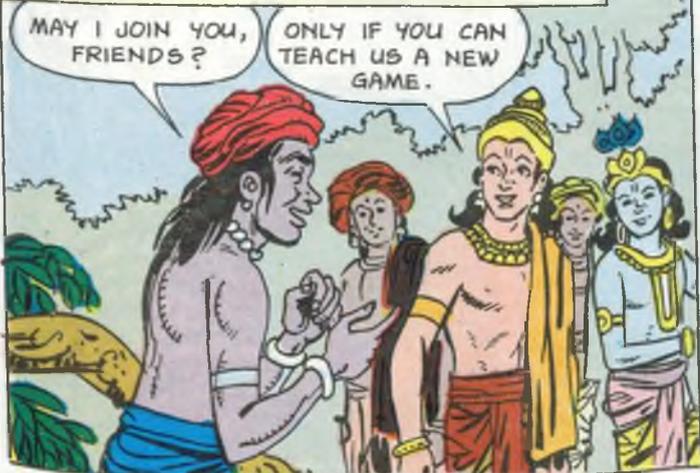
THIS DID RAMA SECURE NEW TERRITORY WITH LUSH GREEN GRASS FOR THE CATTLE OF THE VILLAGE TO GRAZE ON.



AS THE CATTLE GRAZED, THE COWHERDS WRESTLED AND PLAYED GAMES TO WHILE THEIR TIME AWAY.



ONE DAY A STRANGER CAME UP TO THEM.



MAY I JOIN YOU, FRIENDS?

ONLY IF YOU CAN TEACH US A NEW GAME.



HAVE YOU EVER RUN A RACE IN PAIRS, JUMPING WITH BOTH FEET AT ONCE LIKE DEER?

NO. BUT IT SHOULD BE FUN.



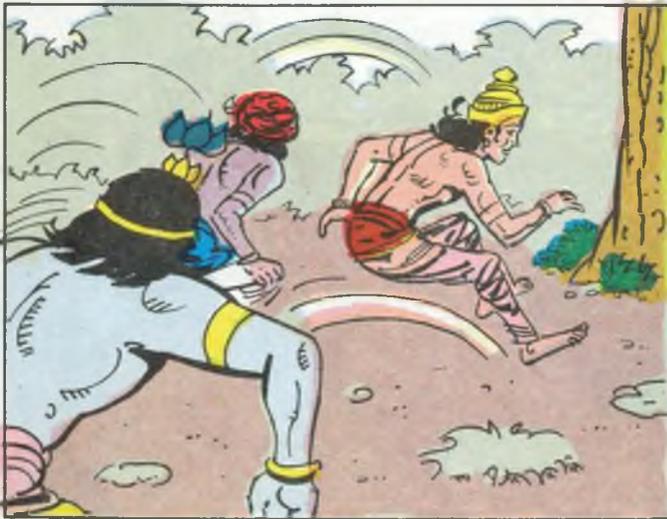
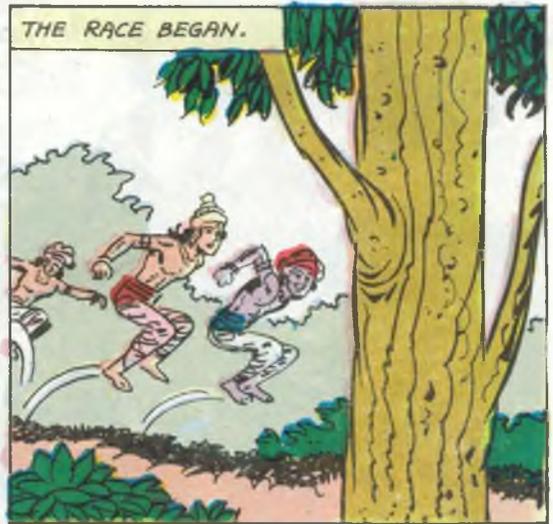
WHAT DOES THE WINNER GET?

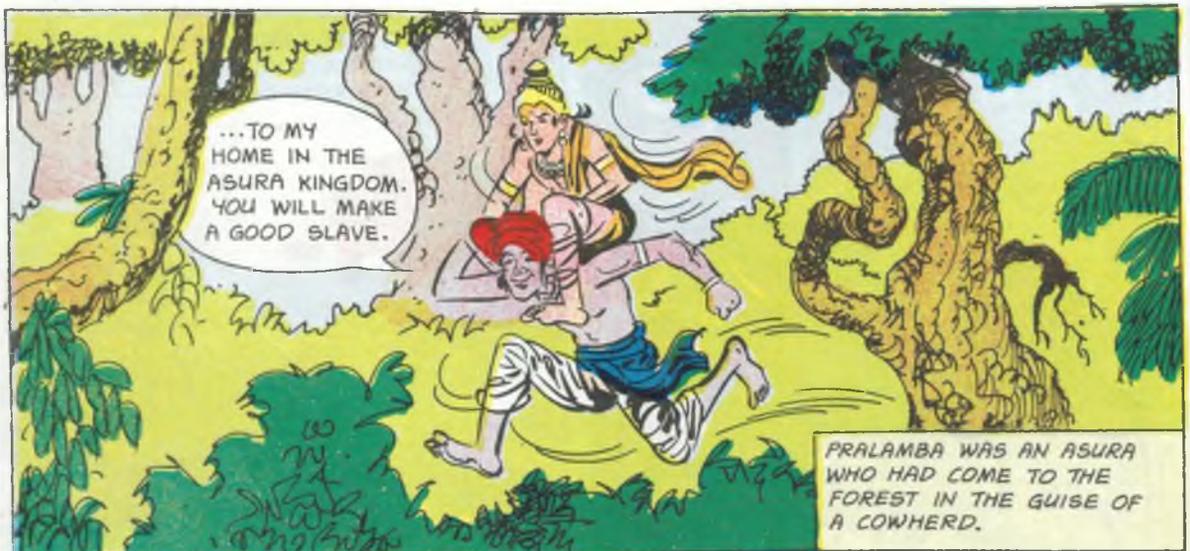
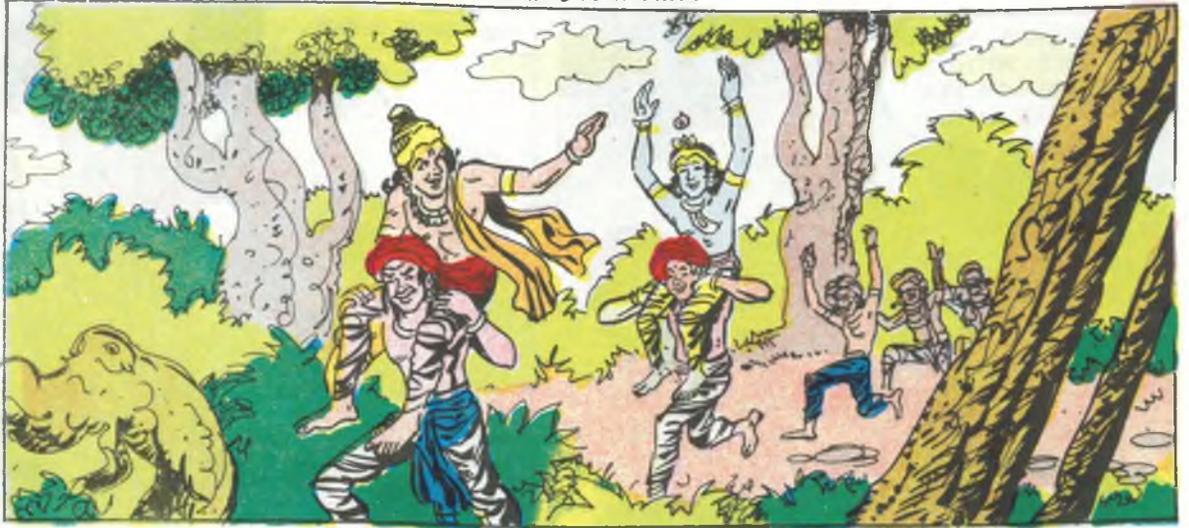
A JOY RIDE.



THE LOSER WILL HAVE TO CARRY HIM BACK TO THE STARTING-POINT.

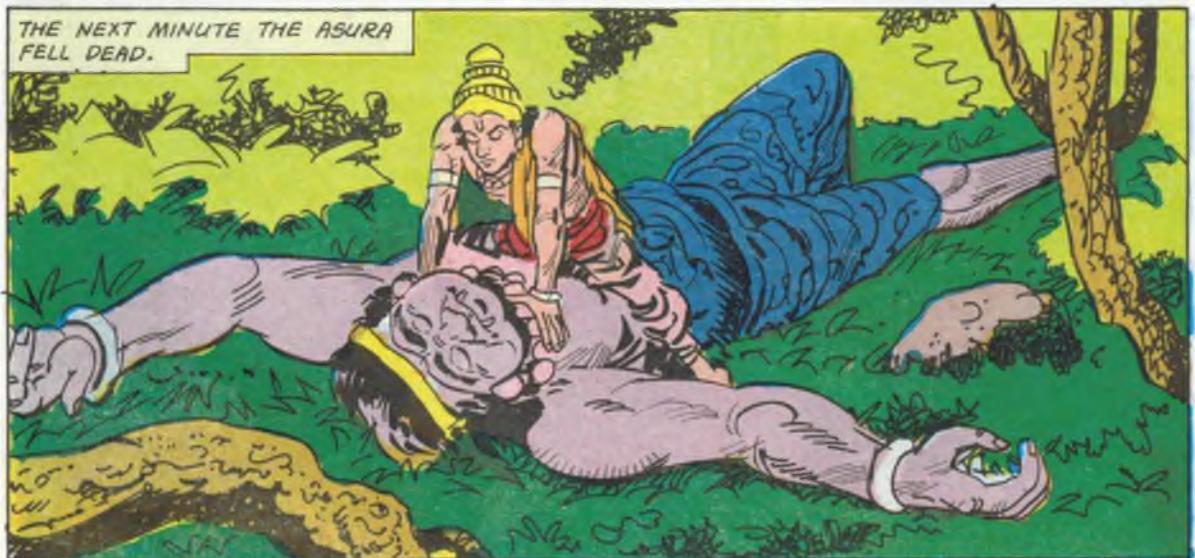
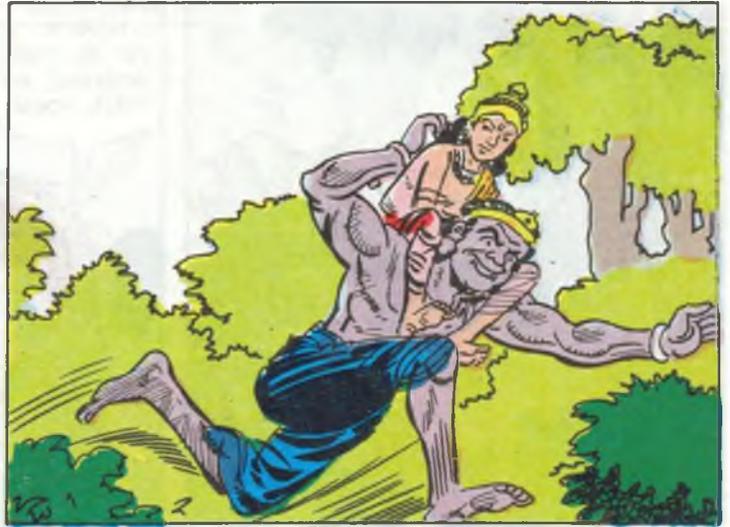
LET'S BEGIN NOW!





PRALAMBA WAS AN ASURA  
WHO HAD COME TO THE  
FOREST IN THE GUISE OF  
A COWHERD.





RAMA WALKED BACK TO HIS FRIENDS.



WELCOME, RAMA!

HURRAY! HURRAY!

BY EVENING, ALL GOKULA RESOUNDED WITH THE TALE OF RAMA'S STRENGTH.



NANDA, YOU ARE BLESSED INDEED!

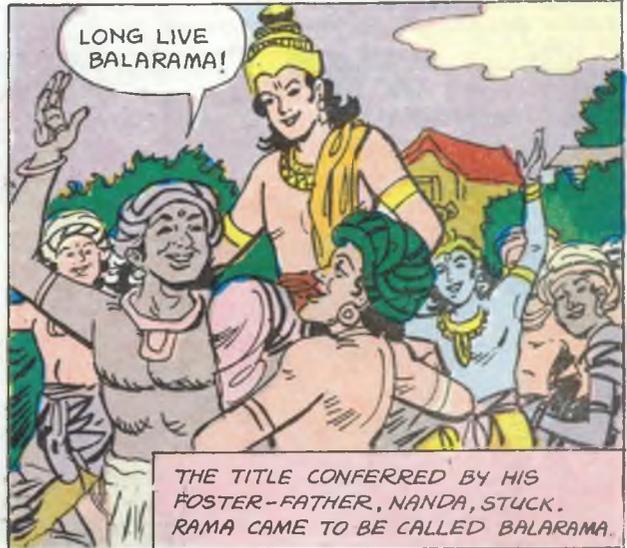
HE WILL ACCOMPLISH GREAT FEATS.



THERE IS NONE WHO CAN MATCH YOUR MIGHT, RAMA...



... THEREFORE YOU SHALL HENCE-FORTH BE CALLED BALARAMA.

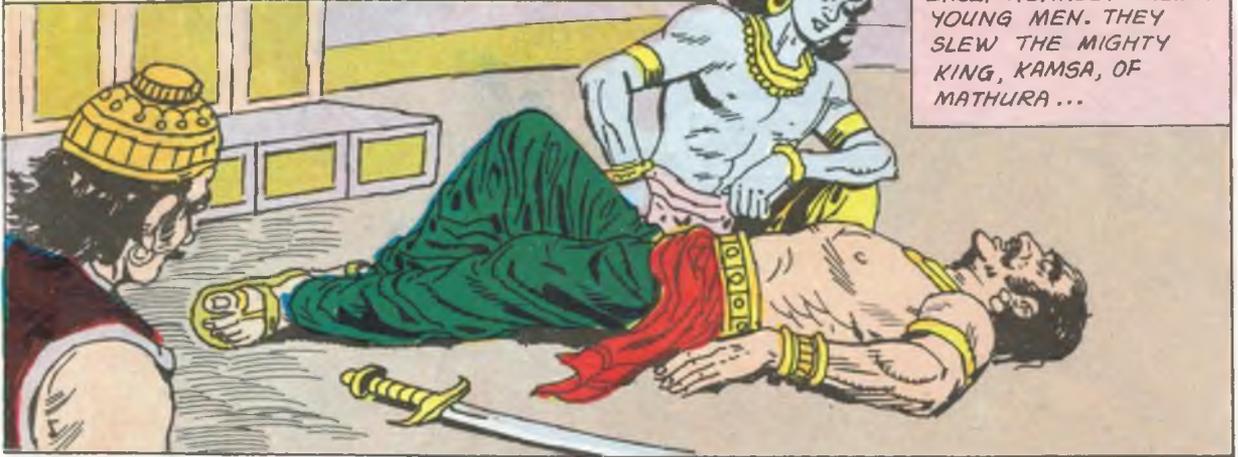


LONG LIVE BALARAMA!

THE TITLE CONFERRED BY HIS FOSTER-FATHER, NANDA, STUCK. RAMA CAME TO BE CALLED BALARAMA.

# BALARAMA TAMES YAMUNA

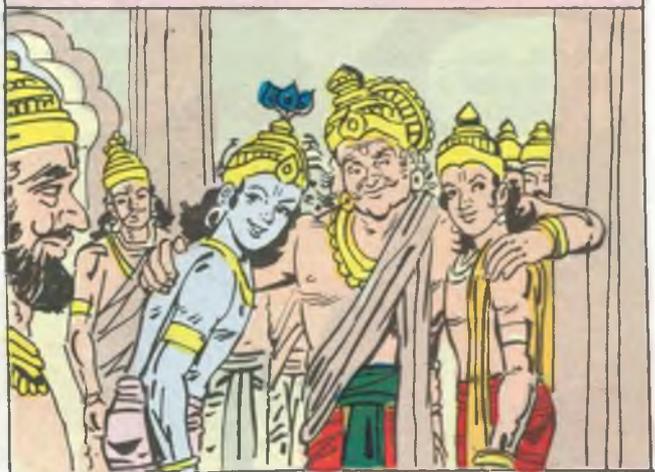
BALARAMA AND KRISHNA GREW UP TO BE EXCEPTIONALLY VALIANT YOUNG MEN. THEY SLEW THE MIGHTY KING, KAMSA, OF MATHURA ...



... FREED THEIR PARENTS FROM KAMSA'S PRISON ...

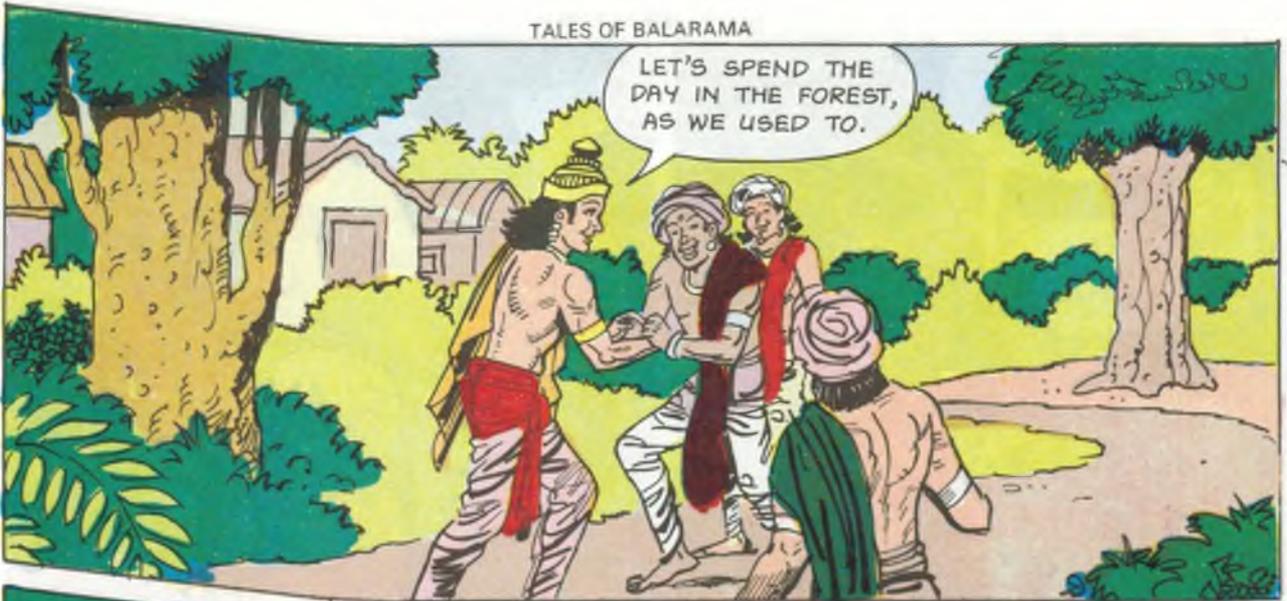


... AND REINSTATED THEIR MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, UGRASENA, ON THE THRONE.



WHEN BALARAMA RETURNED HOME ON A VISIT —





LET'S SPEND THE DAY IN THE FOREST, AS WE USED TO.

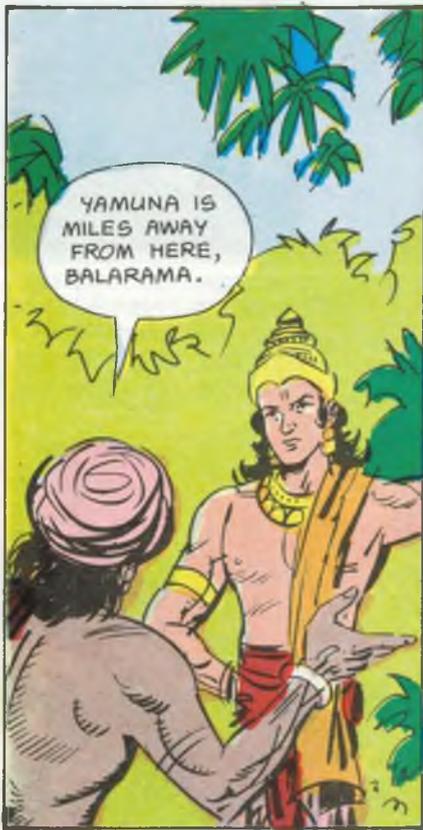
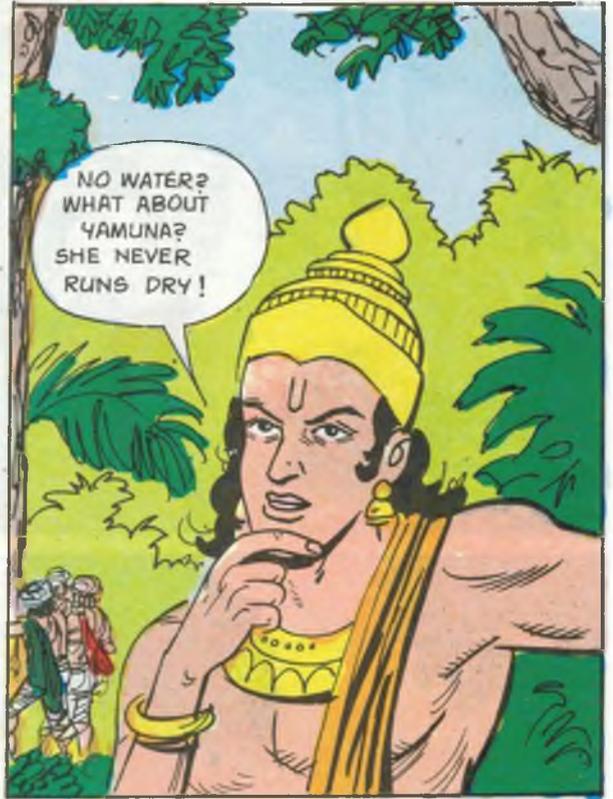


AH, THE COOL, PURE AIR OF THE FOREST! THE CHIRPING OF BIRDS... THE RUSTLING OF LEAVES...



...HOW SOOTHING, HOW PLEASANT, HOW RESTFUL IT IS HERE!

ALL VERY TRUE, BALARAMA. BUT THE FOREST HAS ITS PROBLEMS TOO.





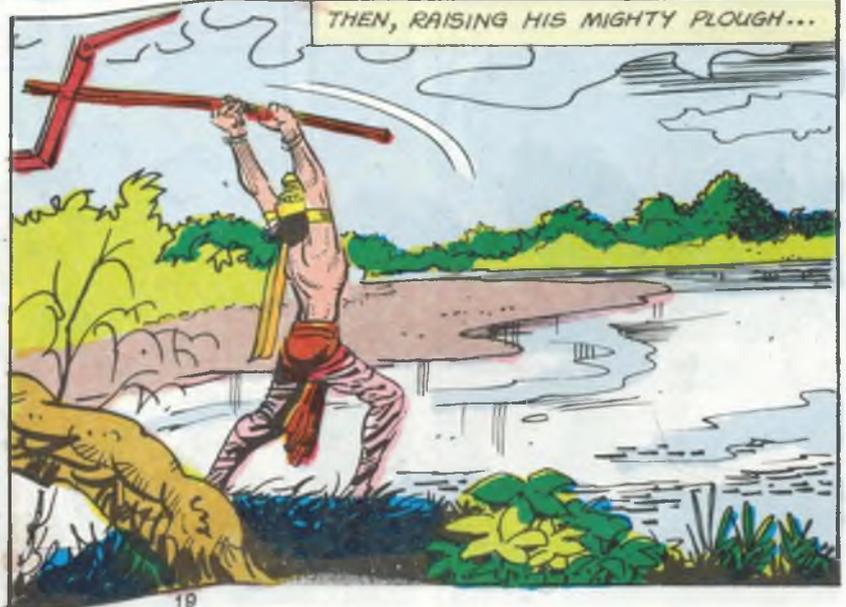
BALARAMA TOOK HIS PLOUGH...



... SWUNG IT ON HIS SHOULDER AND WALKED DOWN TO THE BANKS OF THE YAMUNA.



THERE HE FIRST SALUTED THE RIVER.



THEN, RAISING HIS MIGHTY PLOUGH...

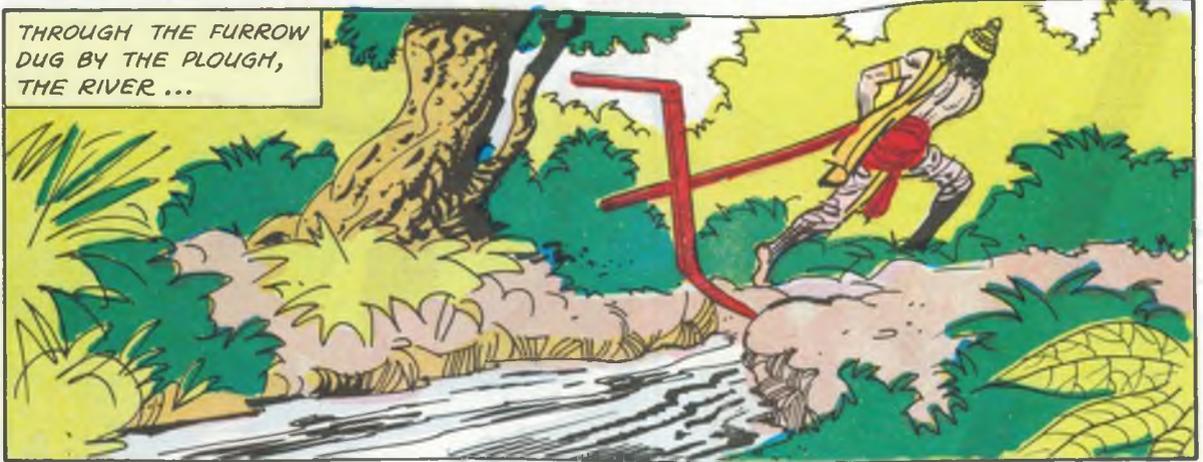
... HE BROUGHT IT DOWN WITH  
A THUD ...



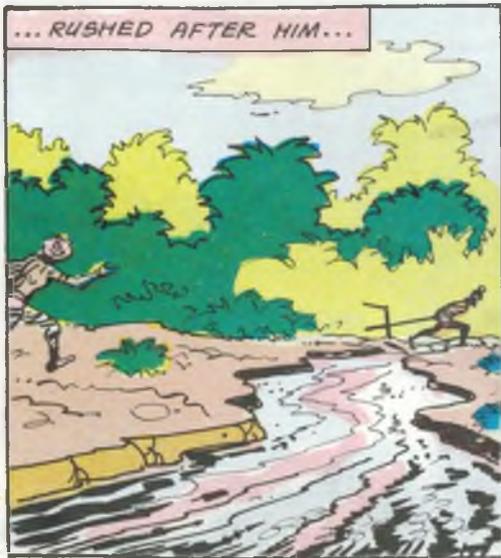
... AND BEGAN DRAGGING  
IT BEHIND HIM.



THROUGH THE FURROW  
DUG BY THE PLOUGH,  
THE RIVER ...



... RUSHED AFTER HIM ...



... RIGHT UP TO THE FOREST.



# BALARAMA WEDS REVATI

ONCE TWO STRANGERS ARRIVED AT DWARAKA WHERE KRISHNA AND BALARAMA NOW LIVED.

LOOK, REVATI!  
HOW EVERYTHING  
HAS CHANGED!



MEN AND WOMEN  
HAVE BECOME  
SO SMALL...



...AND SO WEAK!  
TEN MEN LIFTING  
THAT TINY LOG!

LORD BRAHMA  
HAD WARNED  
US ABOUT  
THIS, FATHER.



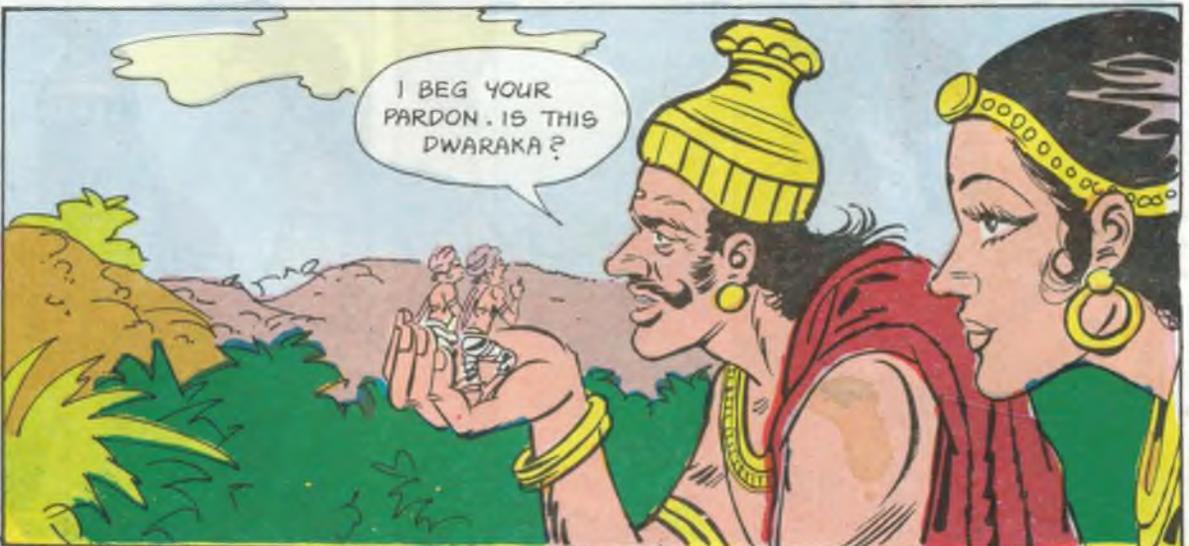
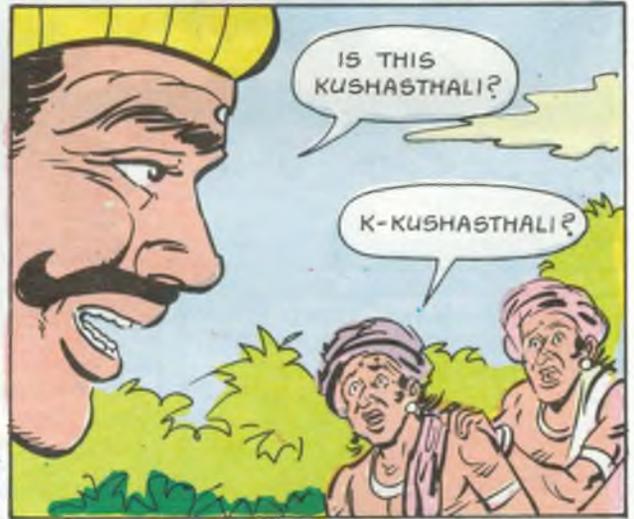
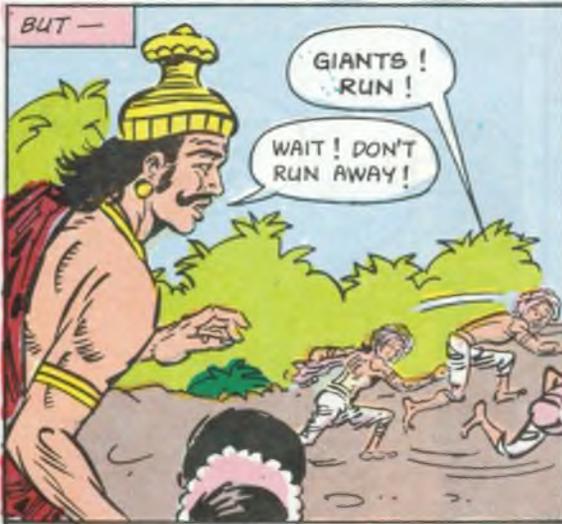
HM-M-M...  
YES... HE HAD.  
WELL, MY  
CHILD, LET'S  
FIND THE  
PALACE.

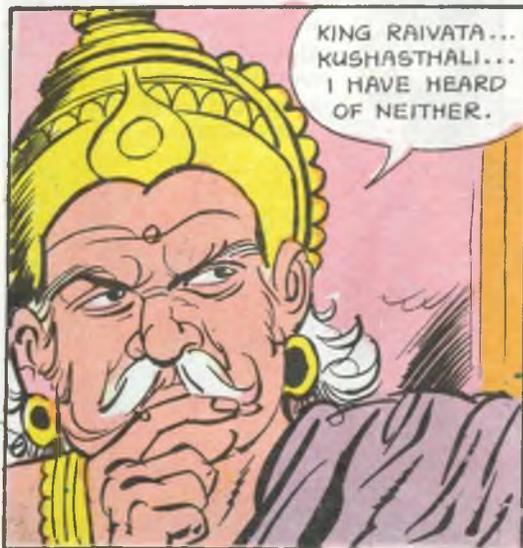
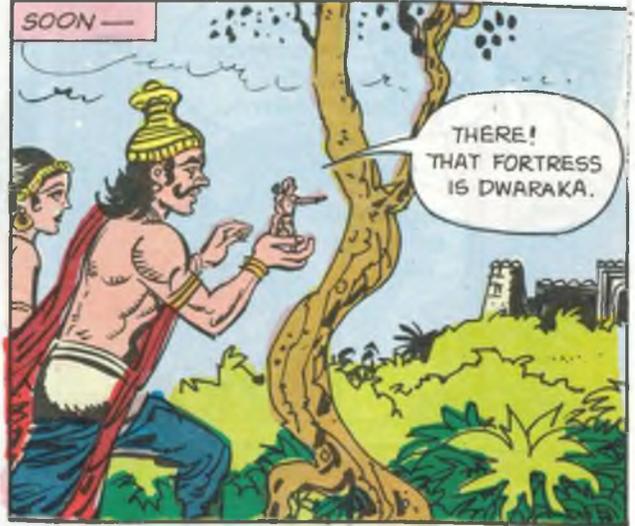
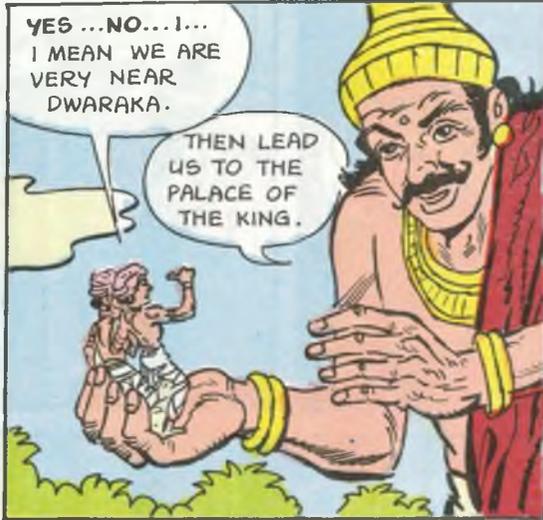


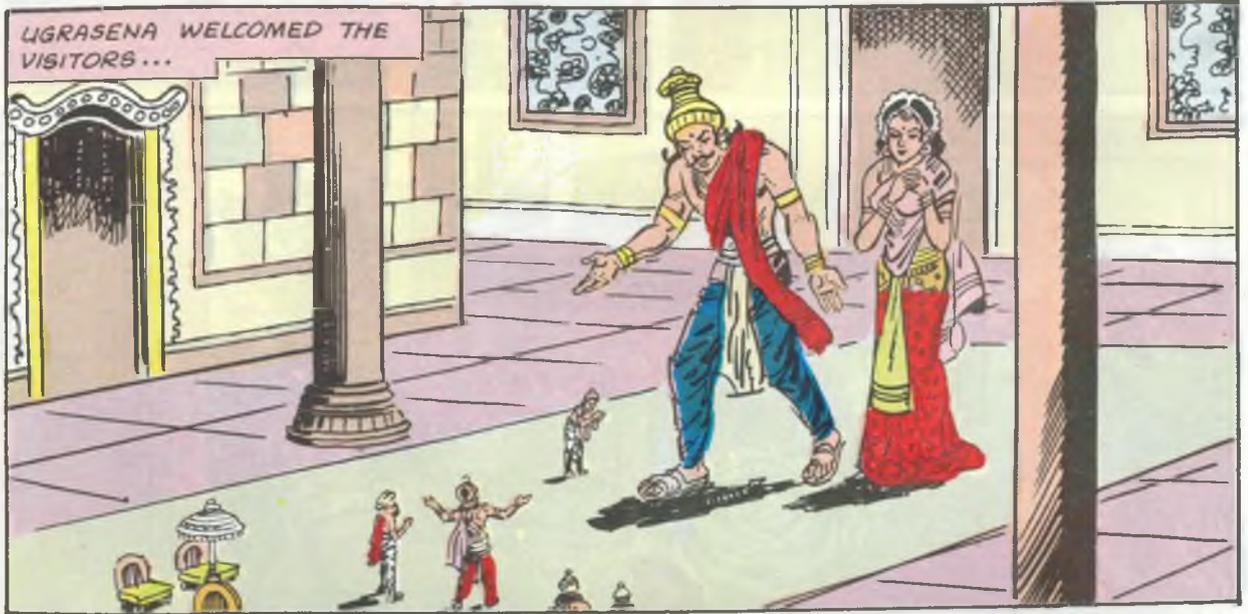
BUT, FATHER, IS  
THIS OUR CAPITAL?

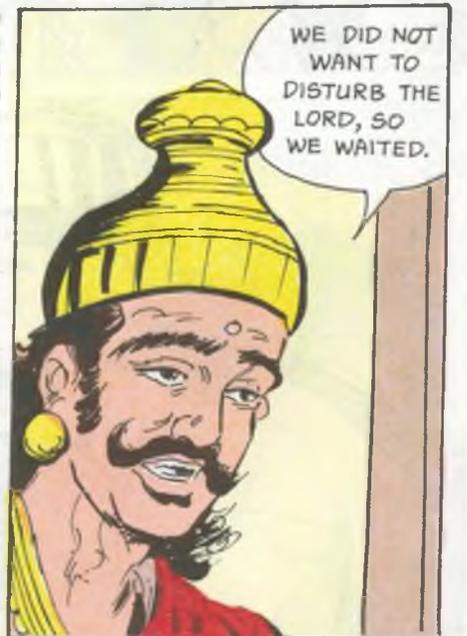
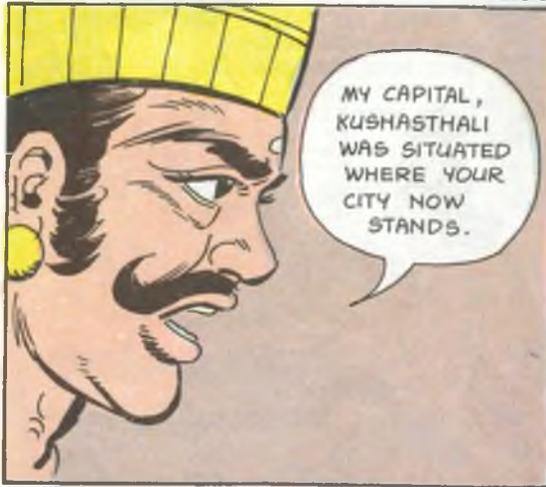
LET'S ASK  
THOSE MEN.







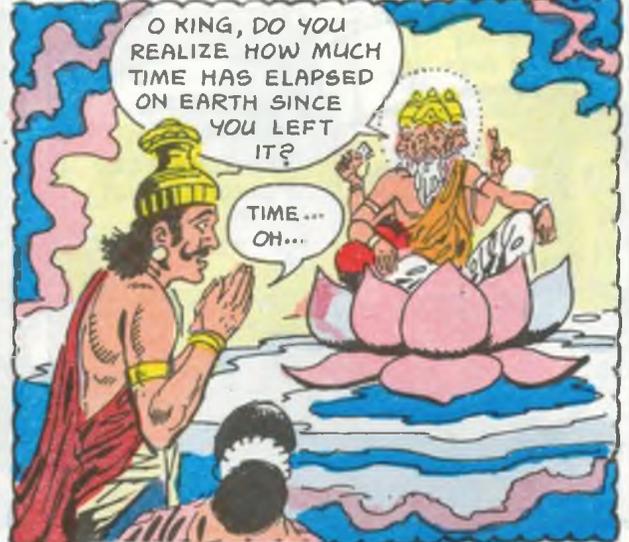






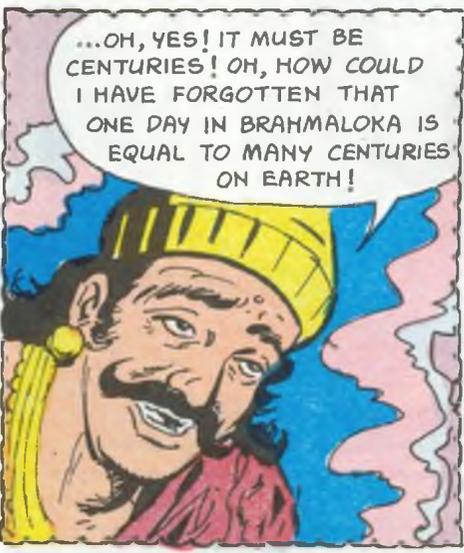
"ONLY WHEN THE MUSIC CEASED, DID I ADDRESS BRAHMA."

MY LORD, PLEASE SUGGEST A SUITABLE BRIDEGROOM FOR MY DAUGHTER.

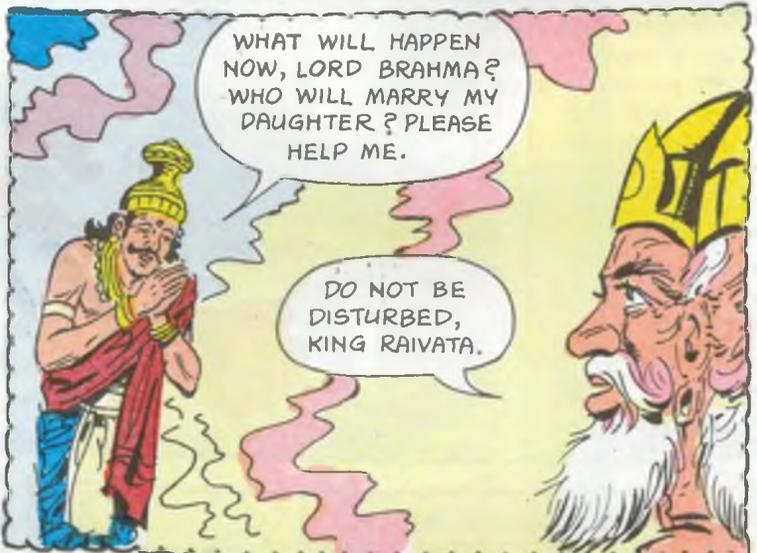


O KING, DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH TIME HAS ELAPSED ON EARTH SINCE YOU LEFT IT?

TIME... OH...

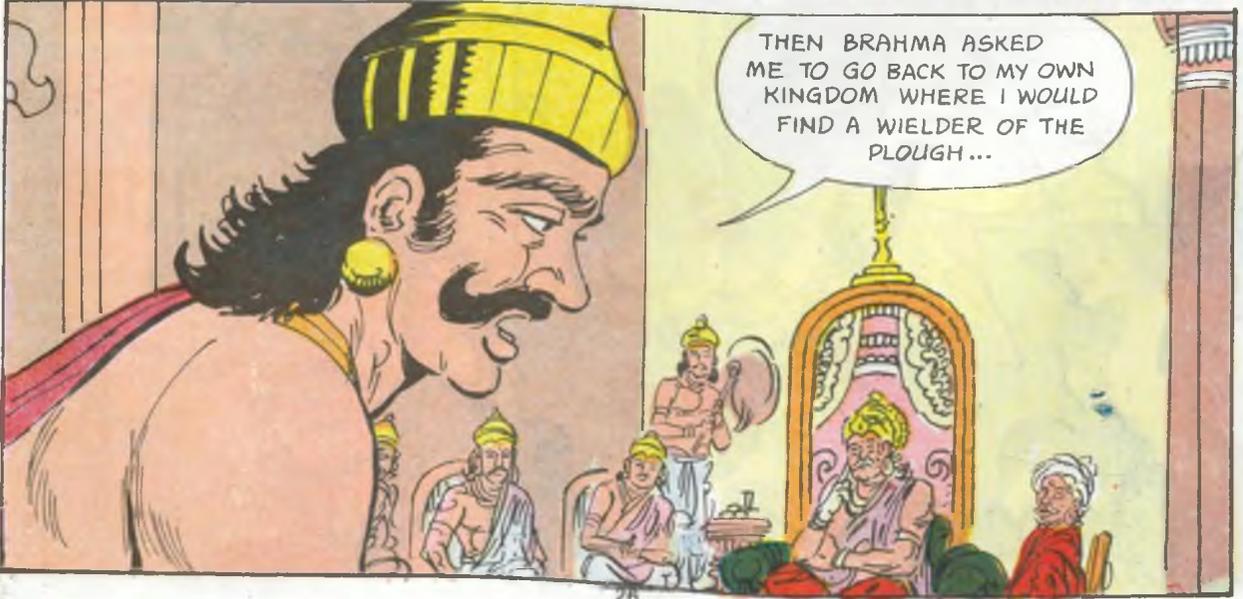


...OH, YES! IT MUST BE CENTURIES! OH, HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN THAT ONE DAY IN BRAHMALOKA IS EQUAL TO MANY CENTURIES ON EARTH!



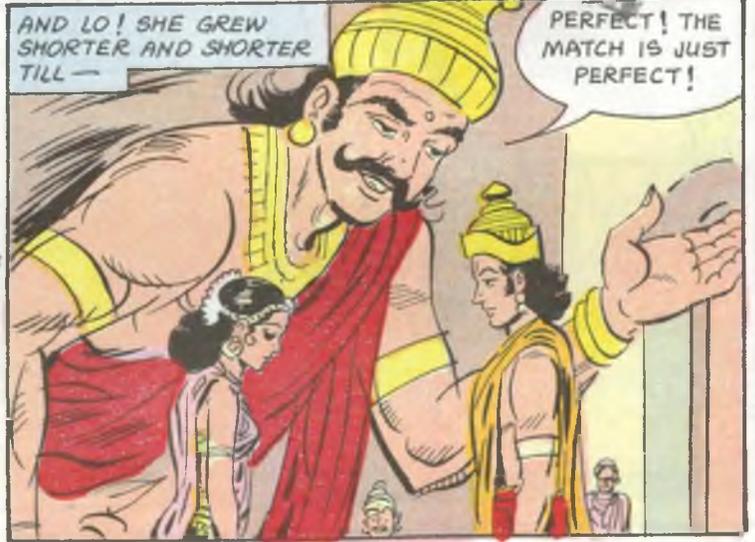
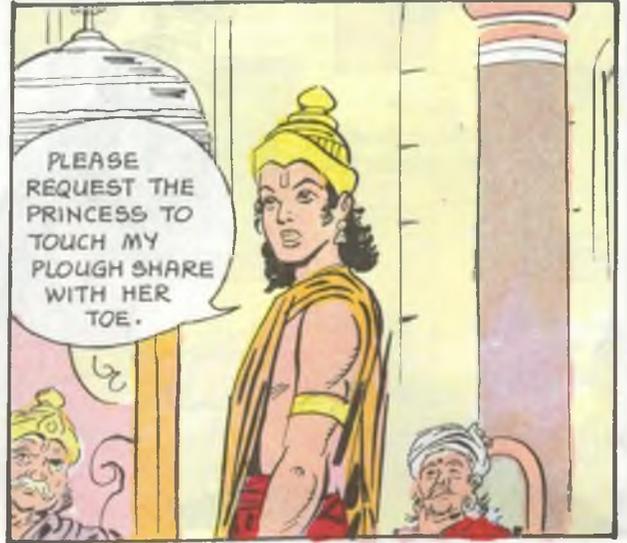
WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW, LORD BRAHMA? WHO WILL MARRY MY DAUGHTER? PLEASE HELP ME.

DO NOT BE DISTURBED, KING RAIVATA.

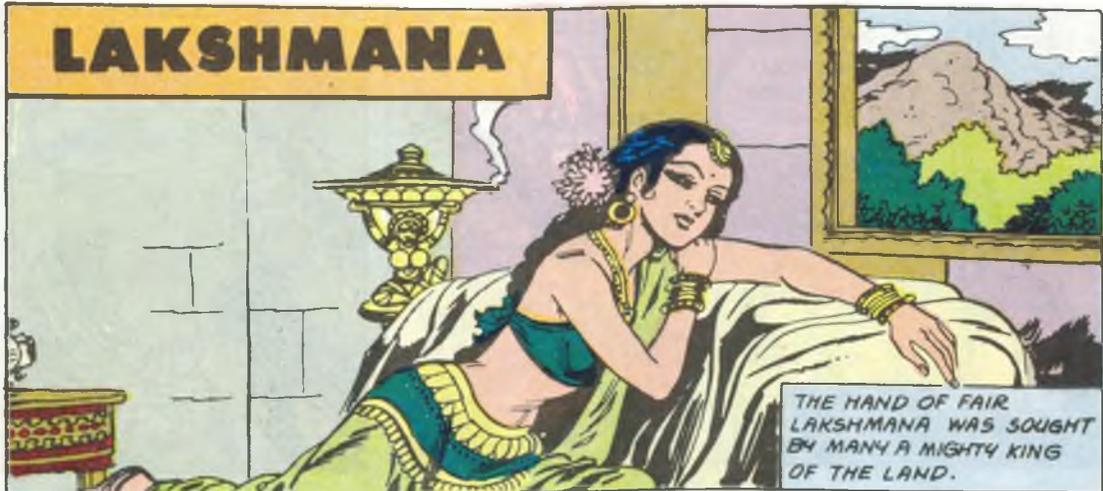


THEN BRAHMA ASKED ME TO GO BACK TO MY OWN KINGDOM WHERE I WOULD FIND A WIELDER OF THE PLOUGH...





# LAKSHMANA



THE HAND OF FAIR LAKSHMANA WAS SOUGHT BY MANY A MIGHTY KING OF THE LAND.

HER FATHER, BRIHATSENA, WAS PUZZLED.



LAKSHMANA!  
WHOM DO YOU  
CHOOSE?



MY HEART IS  
SET ON  
MARRYING  
KRISHNA ...



I RESPECT HIM AS A  
PERSON. I HAVE A GREAT  
REGARD FOR HIS PROWESS  
IN ARCHERY. I WAS ONLY  
WORRIED  
ABOUT...



...THE WRATH  
OF ALL THOSE  
KINGS, EACH ONE  
OF WHOM WANTS  
TO MARRY YOU.



BUT, DON'T  
WORRY, LAKSHMANA.  
I HAVE FOUND  
A WAY OUT.

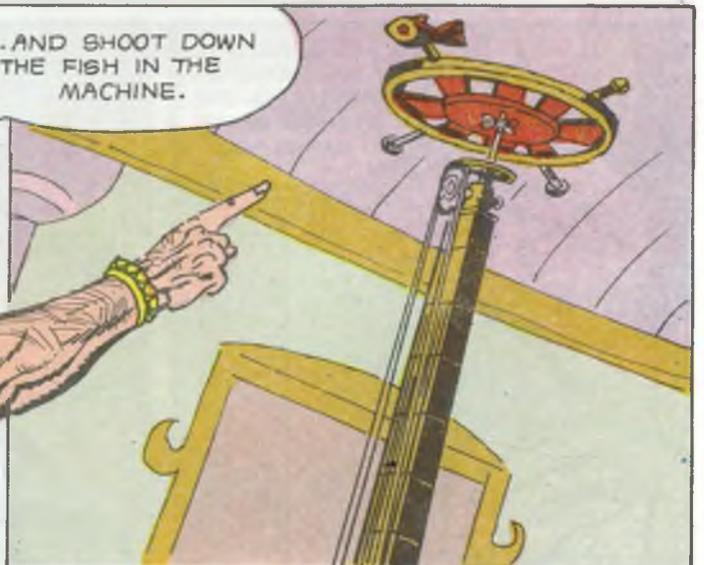


INVITATIONS WERE SENT TO ALL THE SUITORS AND TO KRISHNA. WHEN THEY ASSEMBLED FOR THE CONTEST, BRIHATSENA EXPLAINED THE RULES.

YOU SEE THE REVOLVING MACHINE. YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT ITS REFLECTION IN THE WATER BELOW...



...AND SHOOT DOWN THE FISH IN THE MACHINE.



THE CONTEST TURNED OUT TO BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. MANY COULD NOT EVEN LIFT THE BOW.



THOSE WHO COULD, FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO STRING IT.



THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY STRUNG IT COULD NOT SHOOT STRAIGHT.



THEN CAME KRISHNA.



WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE HE LIFTED THE BOW WITHOUT ANY EFFORT, STRUNG IT WITH EASE...



...LOOKED AT THE REFLECTION, TOOK AIM...



... AND LET GO  
THE ARROW.



HIS AIM WAS PERFECT AND THE  
FISH CAME DOWN IN PIECES.



LAKSHMANA STEPPED FORWARD...



... AND GARLANDED HIM.



AFTER TAKING LEAVE OF HER LOVING,  
RESOURCEFUL FATHER, LAKSHMANA GOT  
INTO KRISHNA'S CHARIOT, WHICH  
TOOK THEM...



... TO DWARAKA, WHERE  
RUKMINI AND SATYA-  
BHAMA WERE WAITING  
TO RECEIVE THEM.

