



# Rama

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Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India



# Rama

Ramayana, the earliest epic poem in Sanskrit, is the oldest work of genuine poetry and in that sense its author, the sage Valmiki is known as the 'Adi Kavi' or pristine poet.

It is said that the poem gushed out of the compassionate heart of Valmiki as he witnessed the sorrow of a female 'Krauncha' bird when its mate was killed by the merciless arrow of a hunter. It was a 'spontaneous overflow of powerful emotions' and it went on to create a powerful epic which has continued to inspire the soul of India for the past 2000 years.

Ramayana is so much an integral part of our heritage that even our apparent diversities are reflected in the slightly differing versions to be found in the different languages. The Ramayanas of Kamban, Tulsidas Kirtivas or Tunchan, are all but variations on the same theme.

This lofty theme, embodies in the characters of Rama and Sita, the highest ideals of 'man' and 'woman.' The idea that God fulfils Himself in the best of men is conveyed by the life of Rama and that is the story of Ramayana.

The story, narrated in the following pages, is based on "RAM-CHARIT-MANAS" of Tulsidas.



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# RAMA



ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER SARAYU STANDS THE CITY OF AYODHYA. LONG AGO, RAJA DASHARATHA RULED OVER IT. HE HAD FOUR SONS—RAMA, LAXMANA, BHARATA AND SHATRUGHNA.





LAXMANA,  
LOOK AT HIM!  
THE ARROW  
HAS HIT THAT  
STONE!

WHAT IS  
SURPRISING ABOUT  
THAT, BHARATA?  
RAMA SAID HE  
WOULD HIT IT!

*RAMA WAS BORN OF QUEEN KAUSHALYA, BHARATA OF QUEEN KAIKEYI AND LAXMANA AND SHATRUGHNA OF QUEEN SUMITRA. BUT THEY WERE ALL DEEPLY ATTACHED TO ONE ANOTHER.*

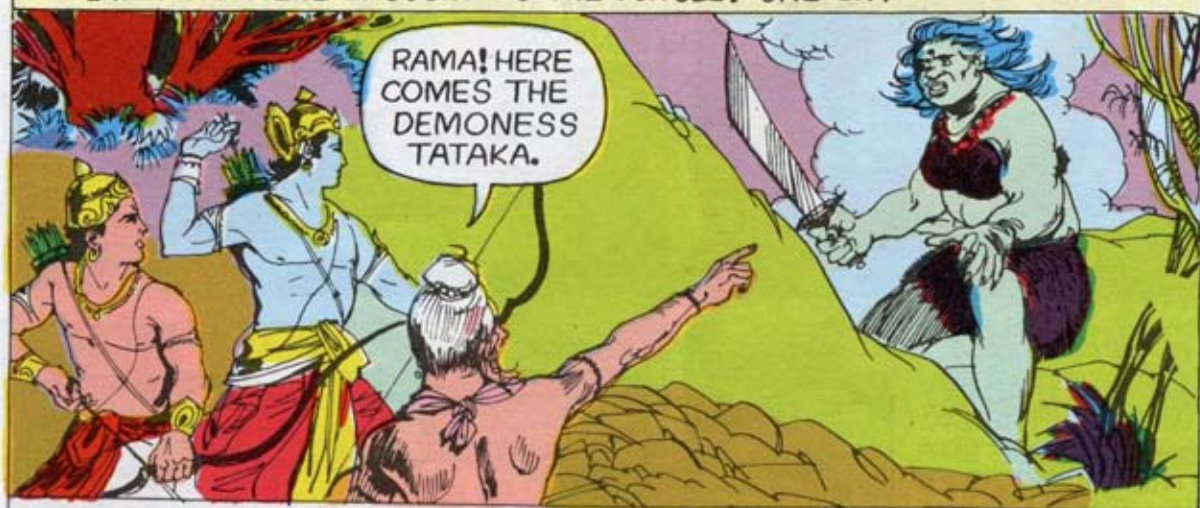


THESE DEMONS  
ARE TROUBLING  
ME IN MY  
PRAYERS. RAMA  
ALONE  
CAN  
HELP.

*RAMA'S SKILL WITH THE BOW AND ARROW WAS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE. IN THE JUNGLE, SAGE VISHWAMITRA ALSO REMEMBERED IT.*



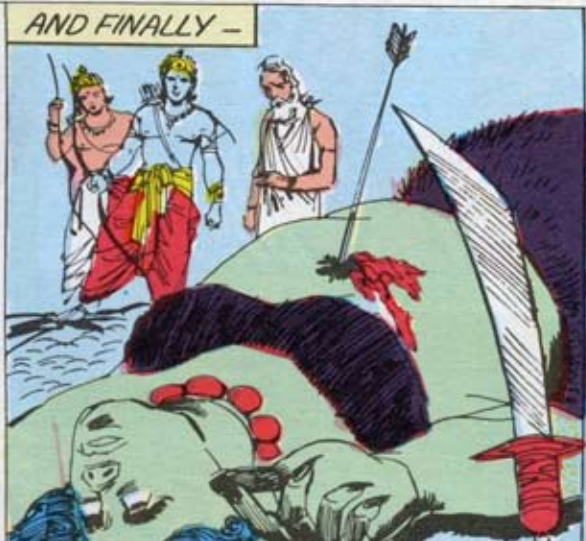
SO, WITH THE PERMISSION OF KING DASHARATHA, RAMA AND LAXMANA WERE BROUGHT TO THE JUNGLE. ONE DAY -



THERE WAS A FIERCE BATTLE BETWEEN TATAKA AND RAMA.



AND FINALLY -



THERE WERE MORE RAIDS BY DEMONS. BUT RAMA'S ARROWS NEVER MISSED THEIR MARK.

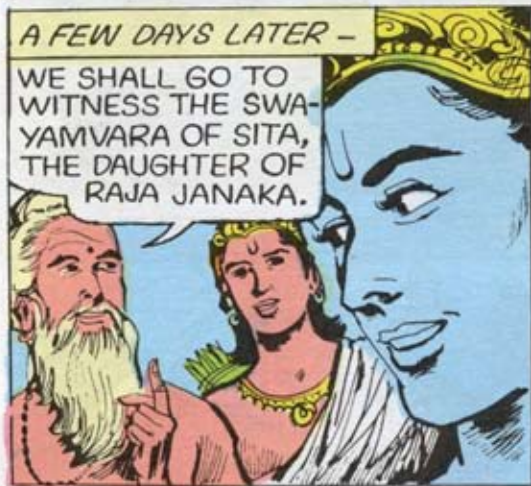






A FEW DAYS LATER -

WE SHALL GO TO WITNESS THE SWAYAMVARA OF SITA, THE DAUGHTER OF RAJA JANAKA.



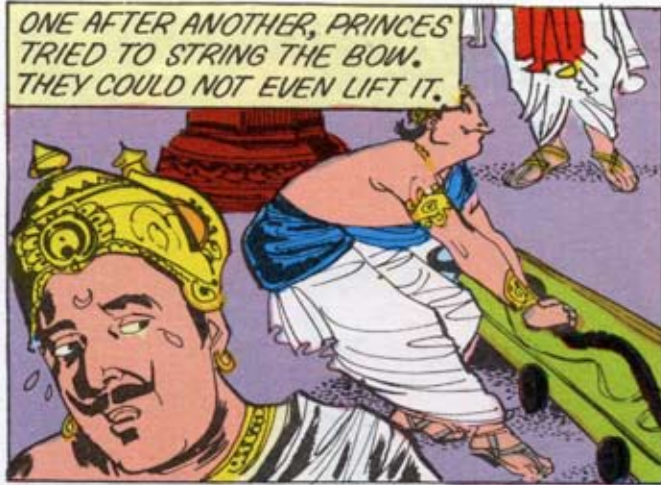
IN KING JANAKA'S PALACE -

HE WHO SUCCEEDS IN STRINGING THE BOW WILL WIN SITA'S HAND IN MARRIAGE.





ONE AFTER ANOTHER, PRINCES  
TRIED TO STRING THE BOW.  
THEY COULD NOT EVEN LIFT IT.



EACH ONE OF US  
HAS FAILED.  
SURELY WE CAN  
LIFT THIS BOW  
TOGETHER!



RAMA, MY  
SON! ALL THE  
OTHERS HAVE  
FAILED. NOW  
LIFT THE BOW  
AND BRING  
HAPPINESS  
TO SITA!



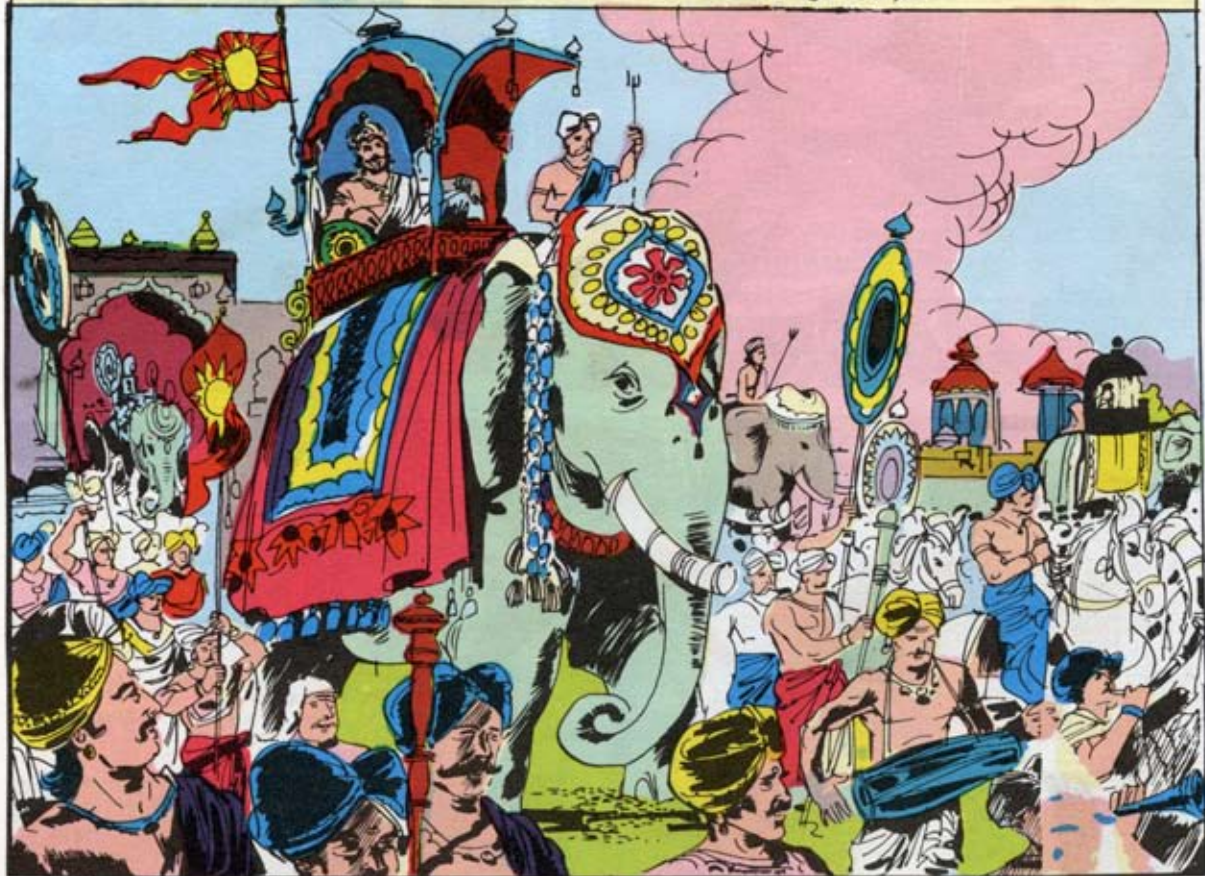
RAMA LIFTED THE BOW  
EASILY. IT BROKE UNDER  
HIS STRENGTH.



SITI LOOKED UP AND WAS  
PLEASED TO SEE RAMA.



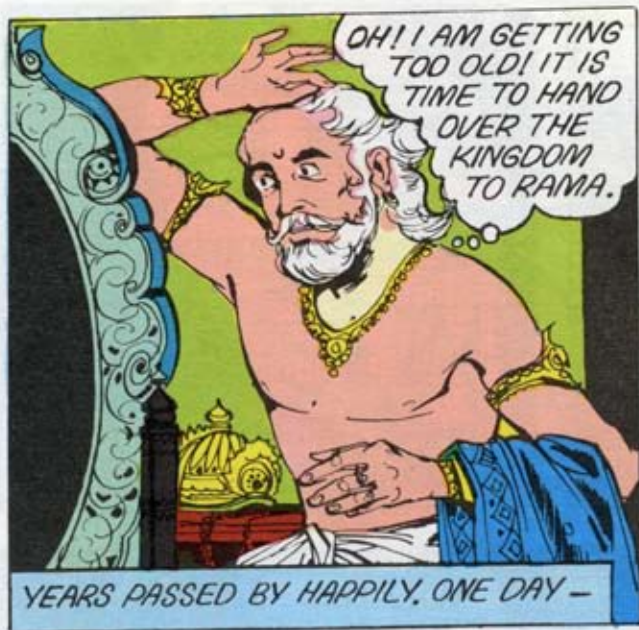
WHEN THE HAPPY NEWS REACHED AYODHYA, KING DASHARATHA LEFT FOR MITHILA, AT THE HEAD OF A PROCESS ON..



... WHERE RAMA WAS MARRIED TO SITA.







ALL WERE PLEASED TO HEAR THE NEWS - EXCEPT MANTHARA, QUEEN KAIKEYI'S MAID.

RAMA WILL BE CROWNED SOON!









THE KING FELL DOWN ON THE GROUND  
WHEN HE HEARD THESE HARSH WORDS.

HOW COULD YOU  
BE SO CRUEL TO  
RAMA? HE IS SO  
GOOD AND NOBLE.



WHEN RAMA LEARNT OF IT -

I SHALL KEEP  
MY FATHER'S  
PROMISE,  
MOTHER!



SITA AND LAXMANA ALSO INSISTED ON ACCOMPANYING RAMA TO THE  
JUNGLES. THE PEOPLE OF AYODHYA  
ALSO FOLLOWED THEM.

MINISTER, SIR,  
COULDN'T YOU PER-  
SUADE THESE PEOPLE  
TO GO  
BACK?

WE SHALL ALL COME  
WITH YOU.



WHEN DUSK FELL, THEY STOPPED AND  
RESTED.  
EARLY NEXT  
MORNING-

LET US BE GONE  
BEFORE THE PEOPLE  
WAKE UP AND INSIST ON  
GOING WITH US.



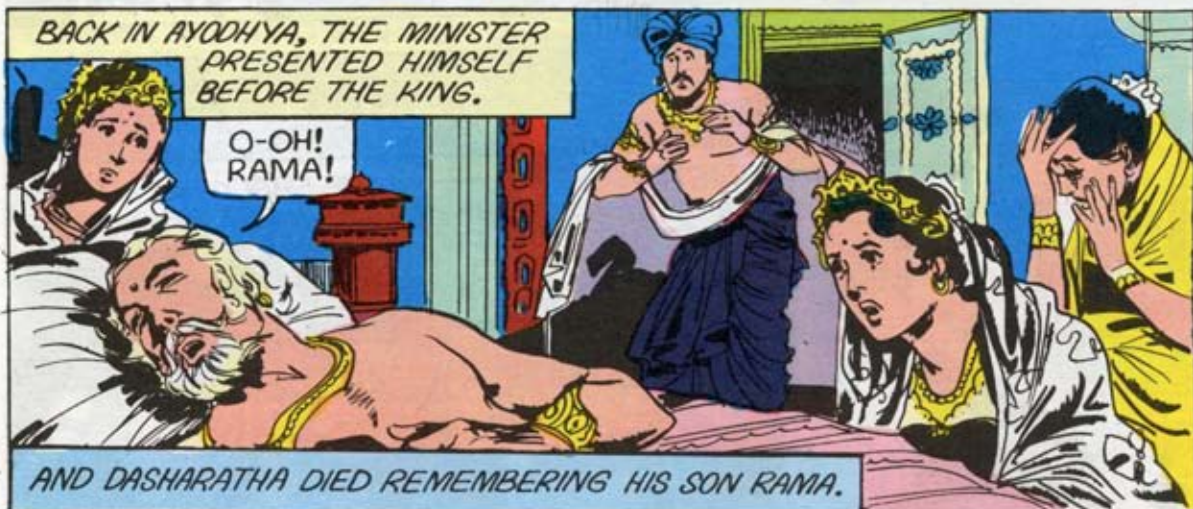


NEAR THE BANK OF THE RIVER GANGA, RAMA, LAXMANA AND SITA TOOK LEAVE OF THE MINISTER



SIR, HENCEFORTH OUR WAYS ARE DIFFERENT. WE GO SOUTH ACROSS THE RIVER. YOU GO BACK TO AYODHYA.

BACK IN AYODHYA, THE MINISTER PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE KING.



O-OH! RAMA!

AND DASHARATHA DIED REMEMBERING HIS SON RAMA.

BACK FROM HIS VISIT TO HIS UNCLE'S, BHARATA WENT STRAIGHT TO HIS MOTHER.



WHAT'S WRONG, MOTHER? EVERYTHING IS SO QUIET HERE.

EVERYTHING IS FINE-AT LEAST FOR YOU. NOW, YOU WILL BE THE KING. YOUR FATHER IS DEAD AND RAMA HAS GONE AWAY TO THE JUNGLES FOR FOURTEEN YEARS.



BHARATA WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR THE DETAILS. VASISHTHA, THE ROYAL PRIEST, TRIED TO CONSOLE HIM.

I DON'T WANT THE KINGDOM. I MUST GO TO RAMA AT ONCE.

FORGET YOUR SORROW! ATTEND TO THE MATTERS OF STATE! THAT IS YOUR DUTY!

AT CHITRAKOOT, WHERE RAMA, LAXMANA AND SITA HAD MADE THEIR HOME...

BHARATA IS MARCHING HIS ARMIES AGAINST US. I WILL...

LAXMANA, DON'T BE SO HASTY. LET THEM COME!





BHARATA,  
MY DEAR  
BROTHER!

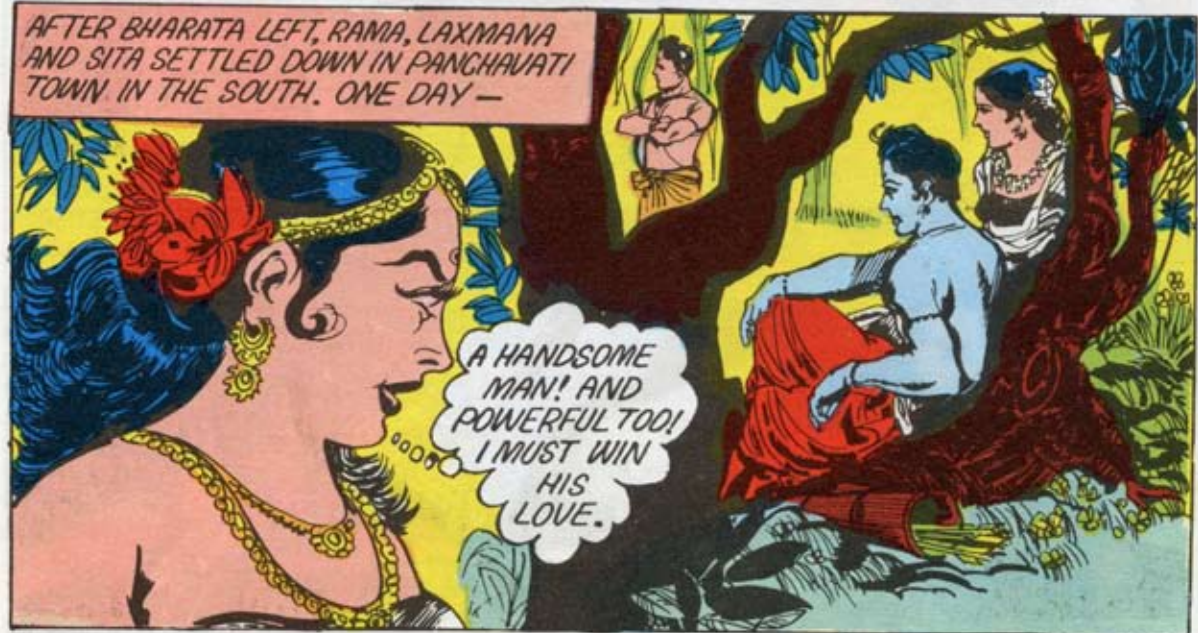


DEAR RAMA! WE  
ALL WANT YOU  
TO GO BACK TO  
AYODHYA!

FORGIVE ME  
GURUDEV, I CAN'T  
BREAK MY  
FATHER'S PROMISE.



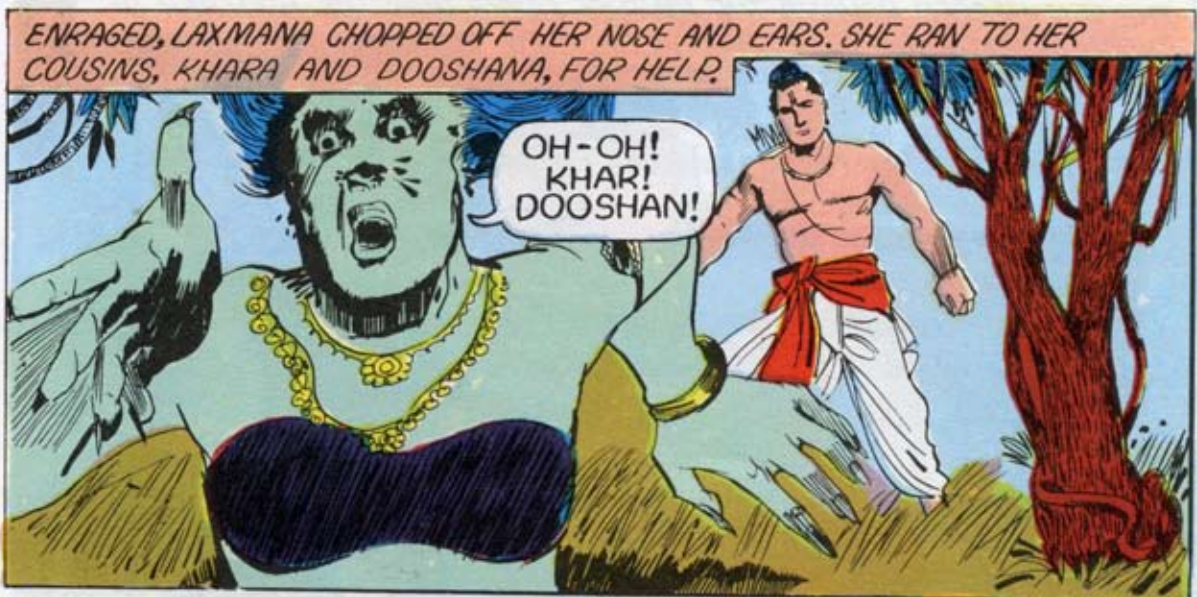
AND I CAN NOT ACCEPT  
THE KINGDOM. IF YOU  
ARE NOT COMING BACK,  
I SHALL RULE IN YOUR  
NAME. YOUR SANDALS  
WILL REPRESENT YOU.



AFTER BHARATA LEFT, RAMA, LAXMANA  
AND SITA SETTLED DOWN IN PANCHAVATI  
TOWN IN THE SOUTH. ONE DAY —

A HANDSOME  
MAN! AND  
POWERFUL TOO!  
I MUST WIN  
HIS  
LOVE.









KHAR! DOOSHANA!  
THEY DARED TO DO THIS  
TO YOUR SISTER!

WE WILL  
FIGHT THEM,  
SISTER!

*KHARA AND DOOSHANA CAME WITH A MIGHTY ARMY OF DEMONS TO  
FIGHT RAMA.*

THEY HAVE  
KILLED BOTH  
KHARA AND  
DOOSHANA!  
RUN FOR  
YOUR  
LIVES!



*THE TEN-HEADED RAVANA, THE KING OF LANKA, WAS THE BROTHER OF  
SHOORPANAKHA. SHE NOW APPROACHED HIM.*

YOU WILL BE  
AVENGED, MY SISTER!  
FIRST LET ME CONSULT  
UNCLE MAREECHA!











BUT RAMA HAS ASKED ME NOT TO LEAVE YOU ALONE.



MEANWHILE, DISGUISED AS A SANYASI, RAVANA APPROACHED SITA.





AS SITA BROUGHT HIM FOOD, RAVANA  
CAUGHT HOLD OF HER...



... AND CARRIED HER AWAY  
IN HIS CHARIOT.



HELP!  
RAMA!  
LAXMANA!  
HELP!

SOMEONE SAVE  
ME FROM THIS  
DEVIL! PLEASE!



JATAYU, THE VULTURE,  
CAME TO HER HELP.



YOU OLD  
FOOL! YOU  
DARED TO  
FIGHT RAVANA!





WHEN RAMA REACHED THE SPOT  
IN SEARCH OF SITA -

I FAILED TO RESCUE  
SITA. RAVANA HAS  
TAKEN HER TO  
THE SOUTH.



POOR JATAYU  
HE GAVE  
HIS LIFE FOR  
ME!



TRAVELLING FURTHER SOUTH, RAMA MET SUGREEVA, BROTHER OF THE  
MONKEY KING VALI AND HIS MINISTER HANUMAN.



I AM ALSO SAD, RAMA. I LIVE IN  
THE JUNGLE FOR FEAR OF VALI,  
MY BROTHER, WHO HAS KID-  
NAPPED MY WIFE. HELP ME  
TO OVERTHROW VALI AND  
I WILL HELP YOU.

RAMA KILLED VALI AND SET SUGREEVA  
ON THE THRONE. VALI'S SON, ANGADA,  
WAS CROWNED PRINCE.



LATER -

NOW  
HANUMAN!  
YOU MUST  
GO IN  
SEARCH OF  
SITA.

HERE,  
HANUMAN!  
TAKE THIS  
RING. IF YOU  
FIND SITA,  
SHE WILL  
RECOGNISE  
THIS.





WANDERING FOR DAYS AND WEEKS, THE ARMY OF MONKEYS AND BEARS, LED BY PRINCE ANGADA, AT LAST REACHED THE SOUTHERN SEA COAST.



HANUMAN LEAPED INTO THE SKY.



IN LANKA -



AT LAST, IN A GARDEN -

THERE. THAT MUST BE SITA.





HANUMAN  
DROPPED RAMA'S  
RING.



I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT  
RAMA. I WOULD  
RATHER KILL  
MYSELF... RAMA'S  
RING! HOW DID  
IT GET HERE!



I BROUGHT THIS  
RING WITH ME.  
I WILL TELL HIM  
YOU ARE HERE  
AND HE WILL  
SURELY COME  
AND KILL  
RAVANA!



HANUMAN  
JUMPED  
DOWN.

BUT BEFORE  
I GO, I MUST  
TEACH THESE  
DEMONS  
A LESSON.



IT IS THAT  
MONKEY! GET  
HIM! GET HIM!





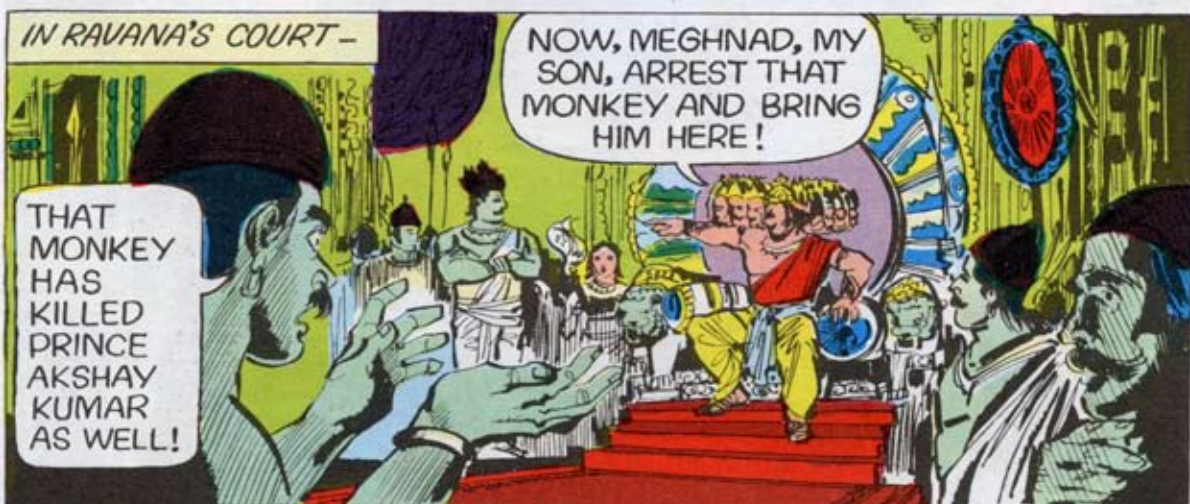
HANUMAN HAD KNOCKED DOWN THE DEMONS IN AND AROUND THE GARDEN. RAVANA SENT MORE MEN WITH HIS SON, AKSHAYA KUMAR.



IN RAVANA'S COURT -

NOW, MEGHNAD, MY SON, ARREST THAT MONKEY AND BRING HIM HERE!

THAT MONKEY HAS KILLED PRINCE AKSHAY KUMAR AS WELL!



MEGHNAD CAPTURED HANUMAN AND BROUGHT HIM TO THE COURT.

SET FIRE TO THIS EVIL MONKEY'S TAIL.







HANUMAN LOOSENED THE ROPES THAT BOUND HIM. HIS TAIL GREW BIGGER AND BIGGER. WITH HIS LONG TAIL AFIRE, HE SET FIRE TO THE WHOLE OF LANKA.



HAVING BURNT LANKA, HANUMAN RETURNED TO RAMA'S CAMP.





WITH A HUGE ARMY OF MONKEYS, BEARS AND OTHERS, RAMA, LAXMANA, SUGREEVA AND HANUMAN ARRIVED ON THE COAST.



WHEN THE NEWS REACHED THE COURT OF RAVANA, HIS BROTHER, VIBHEESHANA GAVE HIM GOOD ADVICE.



GET OUT OF HERE, VIBHEESHANA. GO, TEACH YOUR WISDOM TO THOSE BEGGARS!

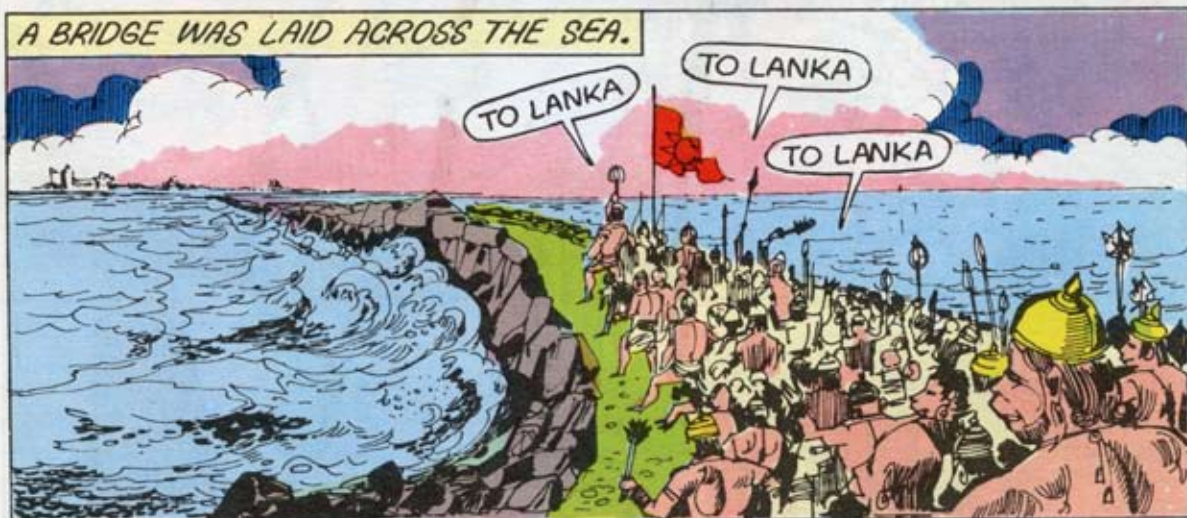




NOBLE RAMA GAVE REFUGE TO VIBHEESHANA.



A BRIDGE WAS LAID ACROSS THE SEA.



THE ARMIES WERE READY FOR THE BATTLE.

ANGADA, BEFORE WE GIVE THE CALL FOR BATTLE, PLEASE GO TO RAVANA'S COURT WITH A MESSAGE.





PRINCE ANGADA CAME TO  
THE COURT OF RAVANA.

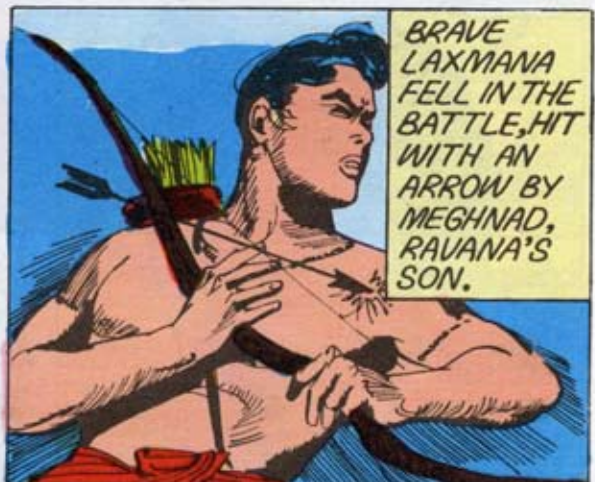
RETURN SITA WITH  
HONOUR. LORD RAMA  
WILL MAKE PEACE  
WITH YOU.

GO, TELL RAMA THAT I  
WILL NOT SURRENDER!  
WE WANT WAR!

ANGADA RETURNED AND THE  
BATTLE CALL WAS GIVEN.



BRAVE  
LAXMANA  
FELL IN THE  
BATTLE, HIT  
WITH AN  
ARROW BY  
MEGHNAD,  
RAVANA'S  
SON.



IF ONLY THE  
PHYSICIAN  
SUSHENA COULD  
BE BROUGHT  
HERE...

I WILL  
BRING  
HIM!



HANUMAN BROUGHT SUSHENA  
ALONG WITH HIS HOUSE.



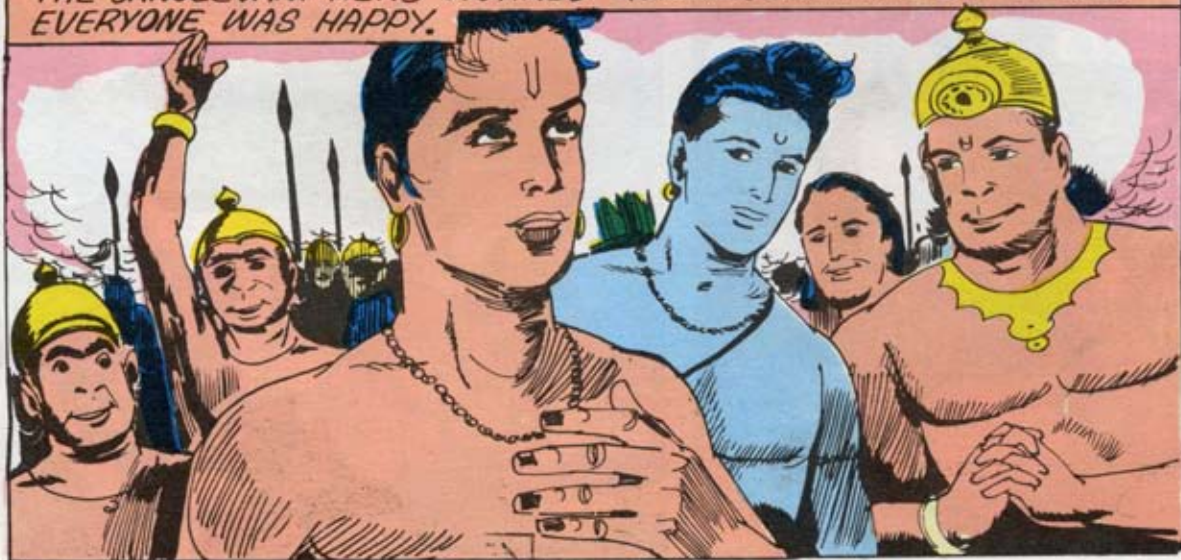




*RAMA WAS HEART-BROKEN.*



*THE SANJEEVANI HERB WORKED QUICKLY. LAXMANA SAT UP AND EVERYONE WAS HAPPY.*





BUT NOW RAVANA'S BROTHER KUMBHAKARNA STARTED PLAYING HAVOC ON THE MONKEY ARMY.



HOWEVER, RAMA WAS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR HIM.



AND SOON KUMBHAKARNA FELL.



RAVANA'S SON MEGHNAD WAS KILLED BY LAXMANA.





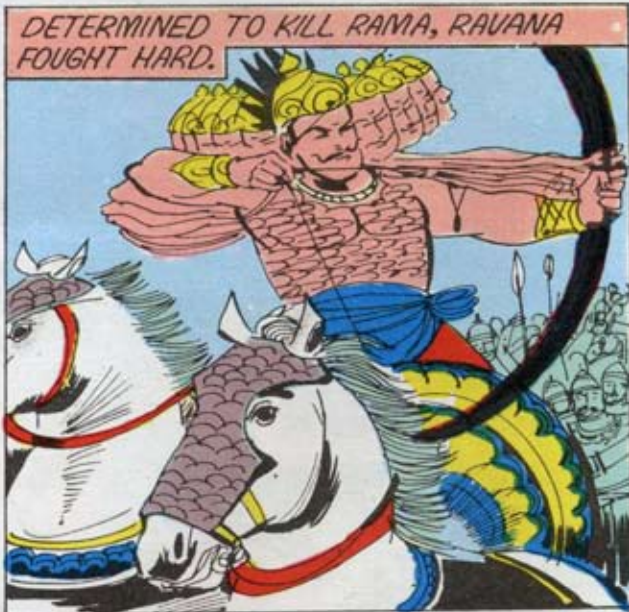
THE DEMONS WERE NOW ON THE RUN.



IN RAVANA'S CAMP...



DETERMINED TO KILL RAMA, RAVANA FOUGHT HARD.



HE SHOWERED A CONTINUOUS STREAM OF ARROWS WITH HIS TWENTY HANDS ON THE MONKEY ARMY.







LAXMANA!  
MURDERER OF MY  
SON! YOU WILL  
NOT LIVE!

THEN RAMA AND  
RAVANA CAME FACE TO  
FACE. NOW RAMA HAD  
A CHARIOT SENT TO  
HIM BY GOD INDRA.



YOU CAN'T FIGHT RAVANA  
AND LIVE! THIS BORROWED  
CHARIOT WILL NOT  
SAVE YOU!

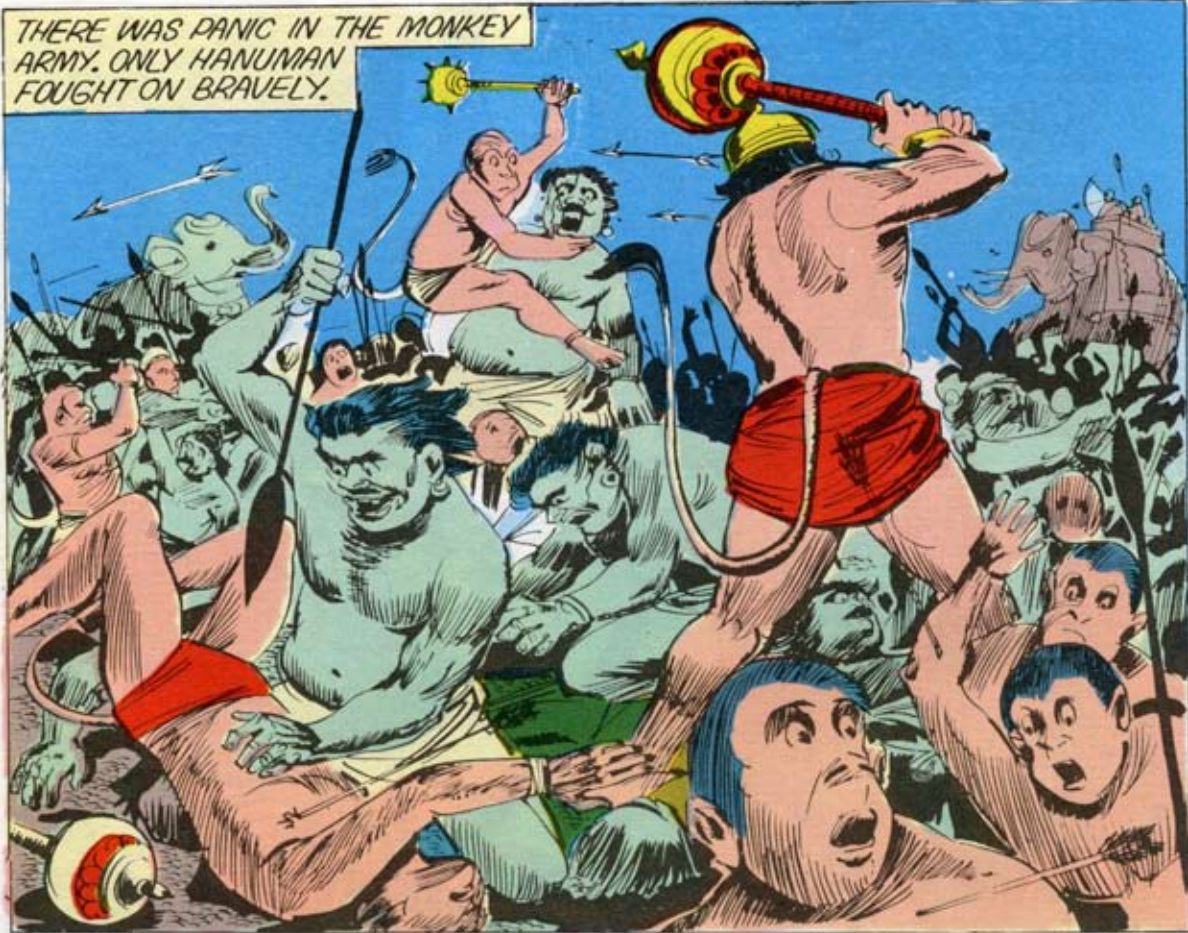


WITH HIS SUPERNATURAL POWERS, RAVANA CREATED SEVERAL RAVANAS.





THERE WAS PANIC IN THE MONKEY  
ARMY. ONLY HANUMAN  
FOUGHT ON BRAVELY.



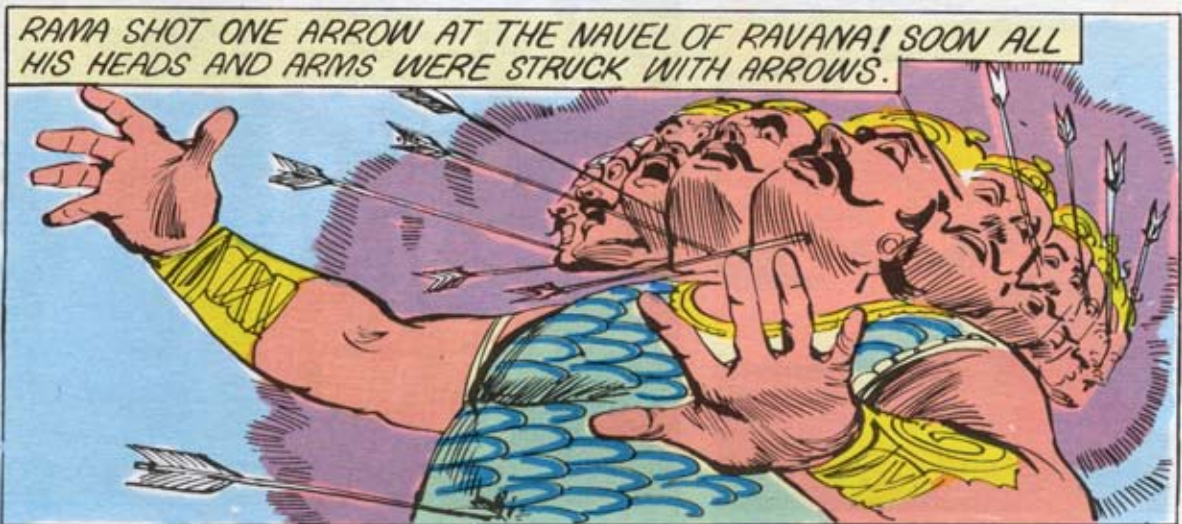
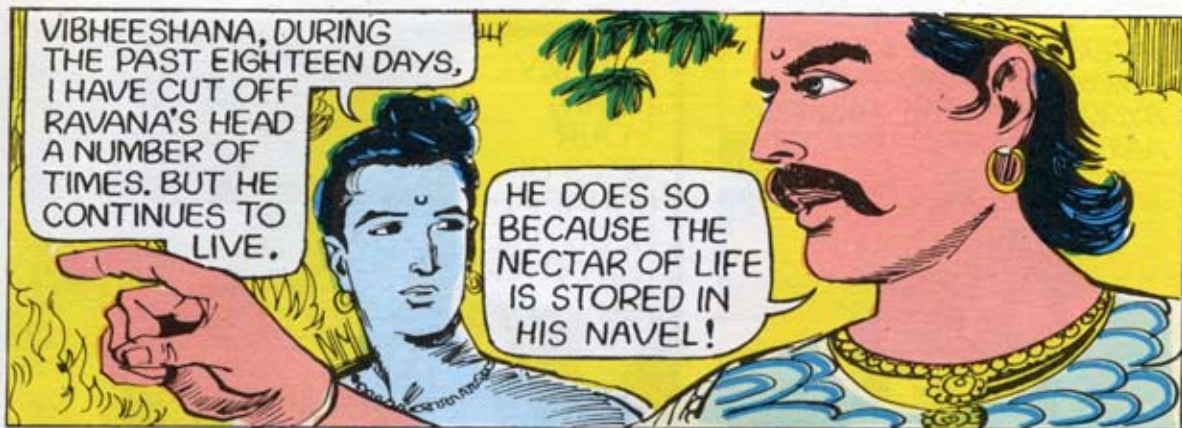
RAVANA SEEMED UNCONQUERABLE.  
THOUGH RAMA CUT OFF HIS HEAD  
SEVERAL TIMES...



...ANOTHER TOOK ITS PLACE AS  
SOON AS ONE HEAD ROLLED OFF.









AFTER CROWNING VIBHEE-  
SHANA, RAMA LEFT FOR  
AYODHYA IN THE PUSHPAK  
AIRCRAFT.



SITA, MY  
DEAR,  
YOUR  
DAYS OF  
UNHAPPY-  
NESS ARE  
NOW OVER!



RAMA WAS  
CROWNED  
KING IN  
AYODHYA AND  
HE RULED  
FOR MANY  
YEARS.

