

Series 2
Book 4

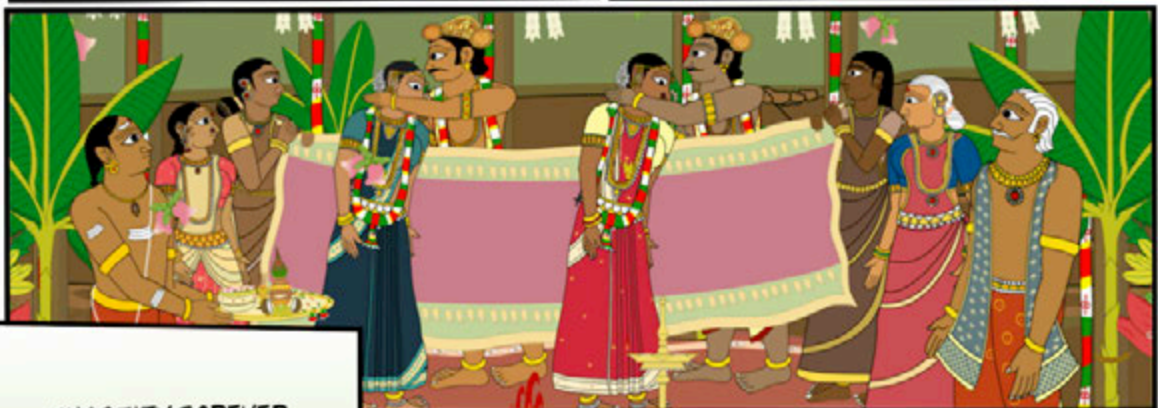
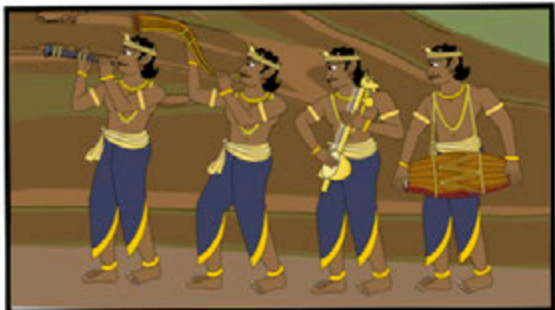
The Legend of
Ponnivala



Chastity Forever

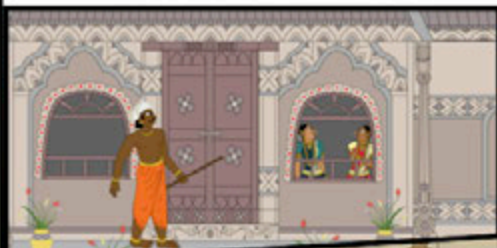


The Legend of Ponnivala

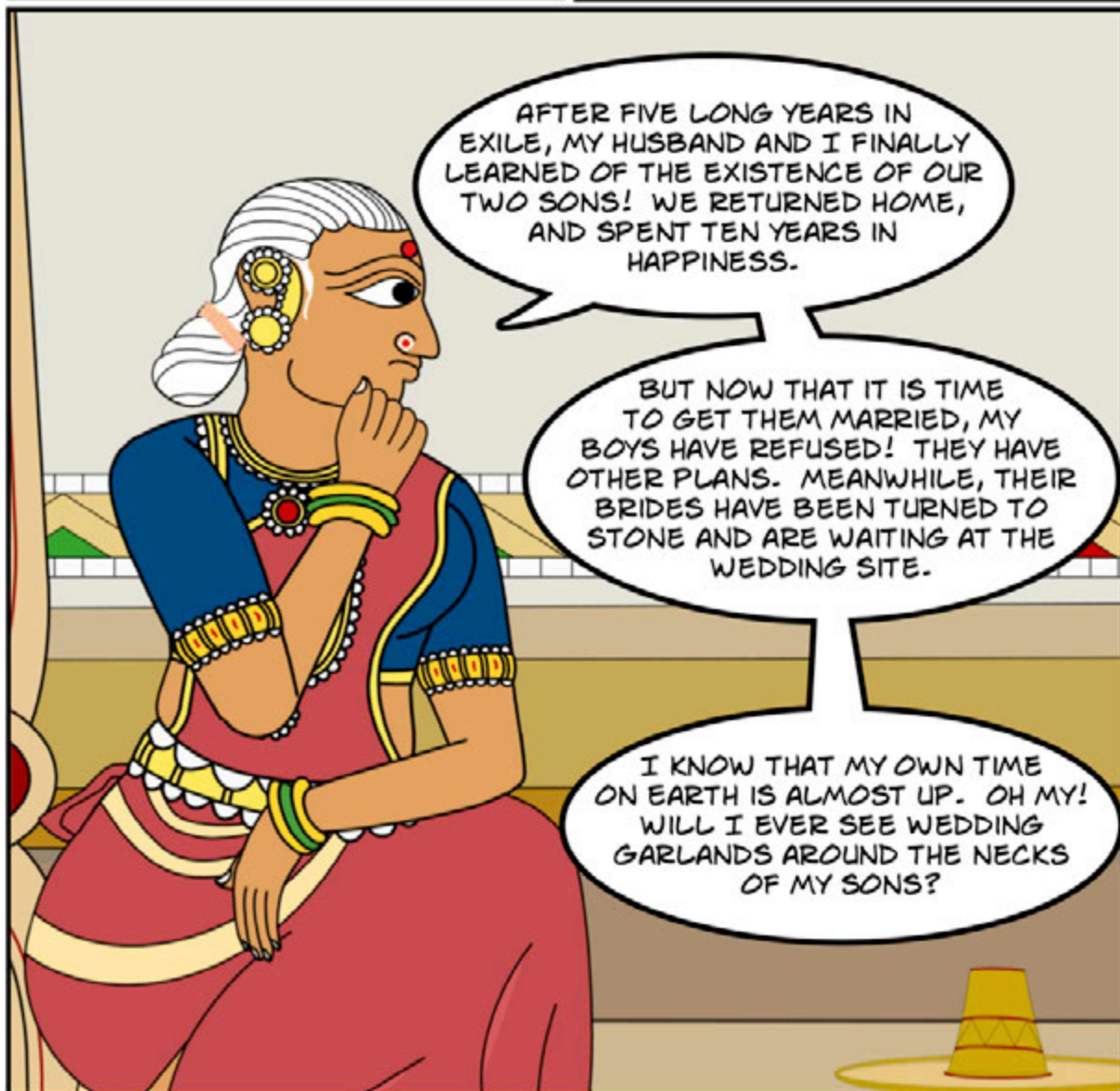
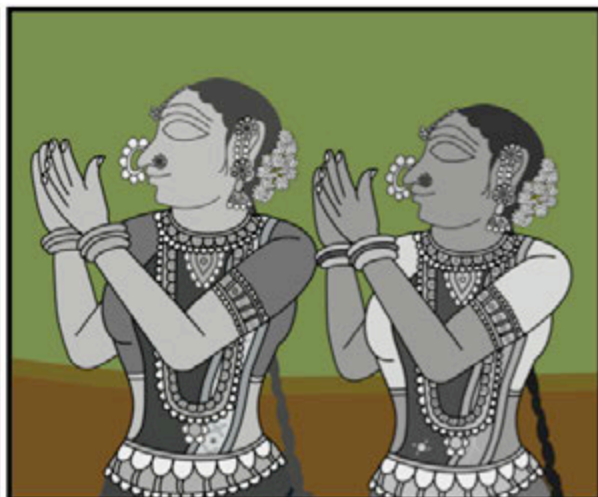


CHASTITY FOREVER
SERIES 2 COMIC 4

THE TWO SONS
OF PONNIVALA'S
KING AND QUEEN
RELUCTANTLY
AGREE TO TAKE
WIVES. BUT
WANTING TO
FOCUS ON THE
DEFENCE OF THEIR
FAMILY'S HONOR,
THEY LEAVE THEIR
WIVES LOCKED
AWAY. MEANWHILE
THEIR UNMARRIED
SISTER CONTINUES
TO LIVE IN THE
FAMILY PALACE
WITH THEM. WHEN
THEIR AGING
PARENTS DIE THE
TWO BOYS
BECOME THE
AREA'S NEW
RULERS ...

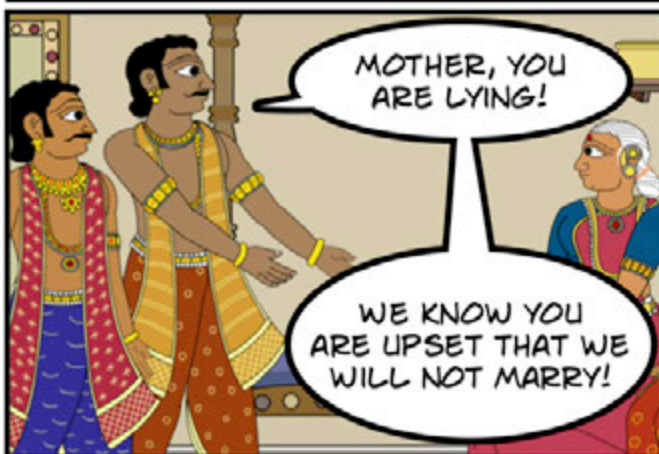


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IT IS EARLY MORNING IN THE LAND OF PONNIVALA. THE TWIN SONS OF THE PALACE FAMILY, PONNAR AND SHANKAR, GO TO SEE THEIR MOTHER. SHE HAS NOT BEEN WELL SINCE LEARNING OF THEIR DECISION.



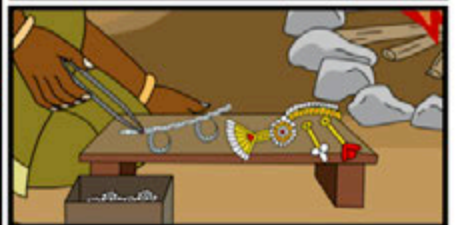




WEDDING PREPARATIONS BEGIN. THE PALACE IS DECORATED. SHAMBUGA HEADS OUT TO INVITE EVERYONE IN THE AREA TO THE CEREMONIES.



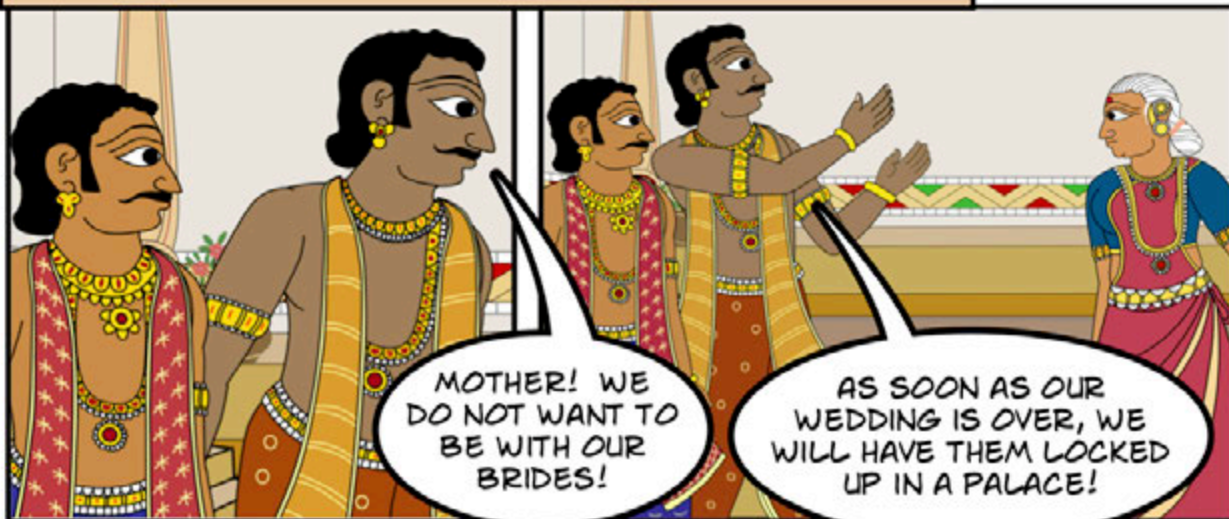
THE ARTISANS BEGIN WORK ON THE WEDDING NECKLACES, AND ALSO ON THE FINGER EXTENSIONS THAT WILL BE USED FOR THE CORE RITUAL.

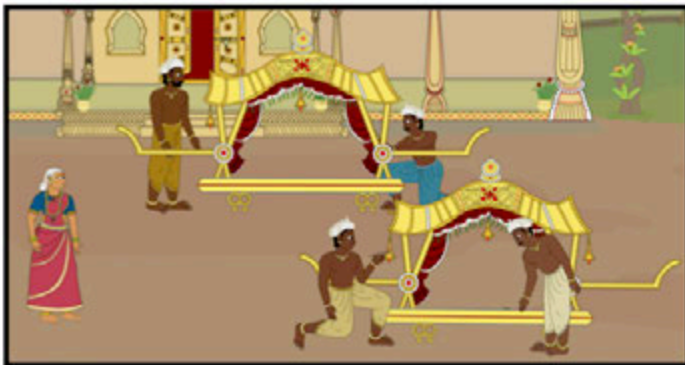


THE FAMILY PICKS OUT FINE NEW SILKS FOR THE BIG EVENT.



FLORAL GARLANDS ARE PREPARED. NOW PONNAR AND SHANKAR COME TO SPEAK TO THEIR MOTHER ONCE AGAIN.

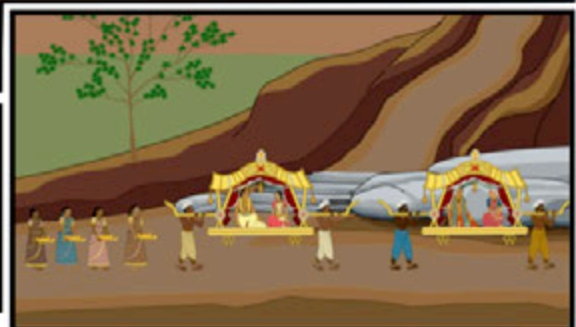


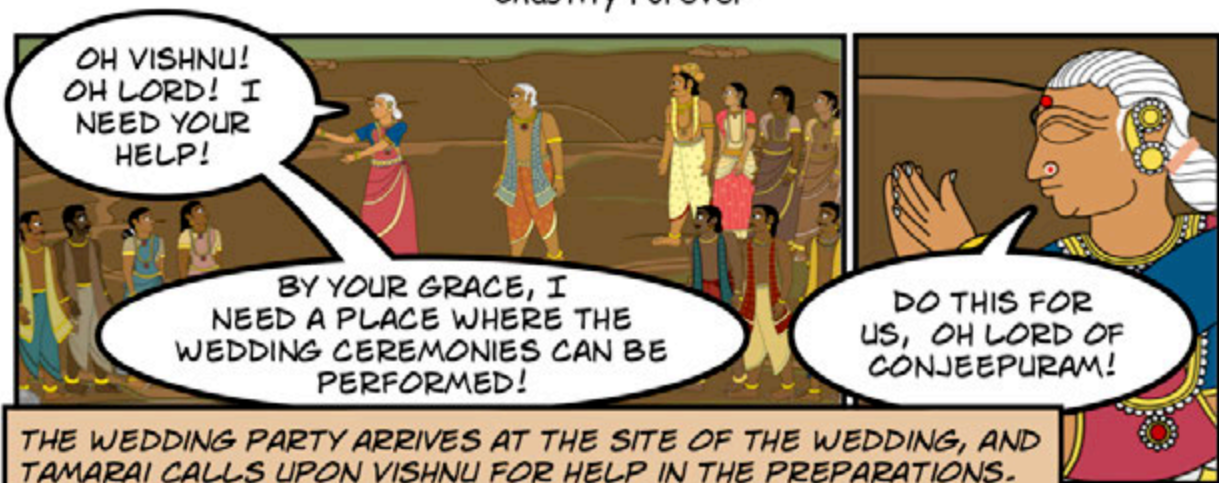


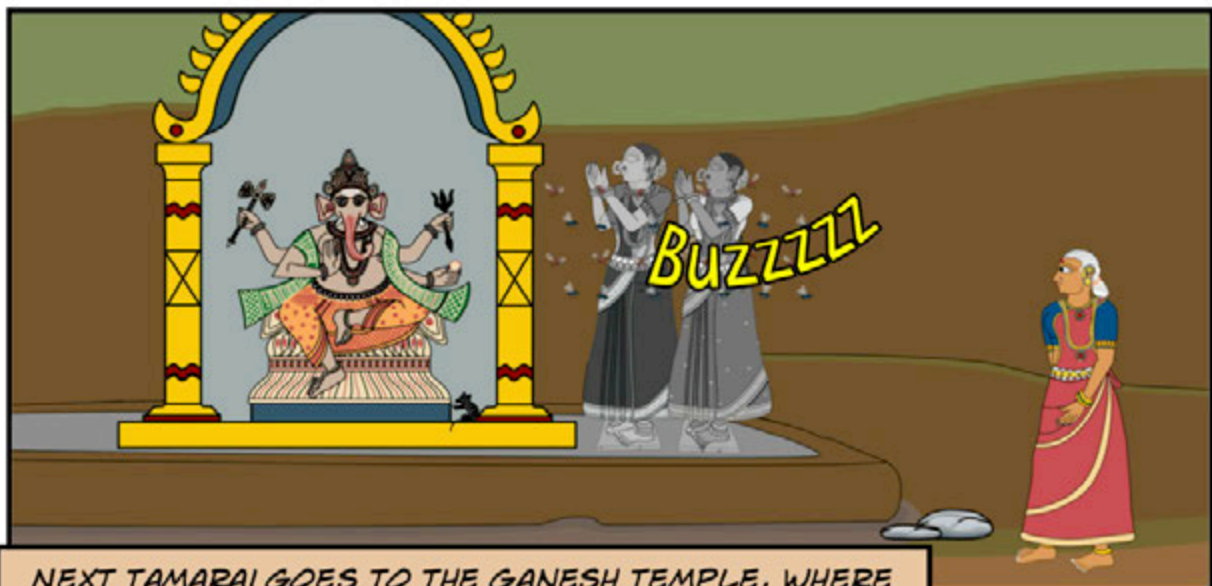
THE BIG DAY ARRIVES. THE PALACE PALANQUINS ARE DECORATED AND PREPARED FOR THE EVENT. SOON, THE FAMILY IS CARRIED BY SERVANTS TO A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY CALLED VALAVANDI, WHERE THE WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE.



BUT ONE IMPORTANT PERSON IS MISSING! SHANKAR REFUSES TO JOIN THE FAMILY PROCESSION. INSTEAD, HE WILL COME TO THE WEDDING SITE AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT.





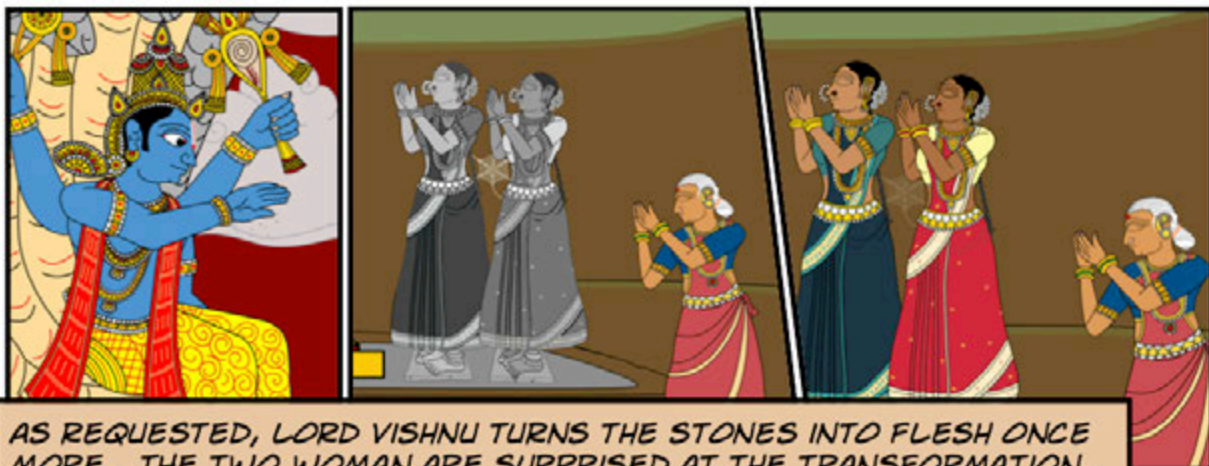


NEXT TAMARAI GOES TO THE GANESH TEMPLE, WHERE THE TWO STONE BRIDES ARE WAITING.



THE PROTECTIVE INSECTS FLY AWAY. NEXT, TAMARAI TURNS HER ATTENTION SKYWARD.







FIRST TANGAL PLACES A RED DOT ON HER BROTHER'S FOREHEAD. THEN, THE PAIR WALK CLOCKWISE AROUND THE SACRED FIRE.





THE WEDDING RITUALS CONTINUE. THE MEN GATHER AND GIVE OUT BLESSINGS. THE BRAHMAN STARTS THE CORE PROCEEDINGS WITH PONNAR IN ATTENDANCE. ALL THE WHILE, FINE INSTRUMENTS ARE PLAYED BY THE HEAVENLY MUSICIANS.



SOON THE TWO BRIDES ARE BROUGHT TO THE CEREMONIAL DAIS. BUT THERE IS A PROBLEM - SHANKAR HAS NOT YET ARRIVED. WITHOUT THE YOUNGER BROTHER PRESENT THE WEDDING CANNOT BE COMPLETED!



MEANWHILE, BACK THE THE PONNIVALA PALACE...

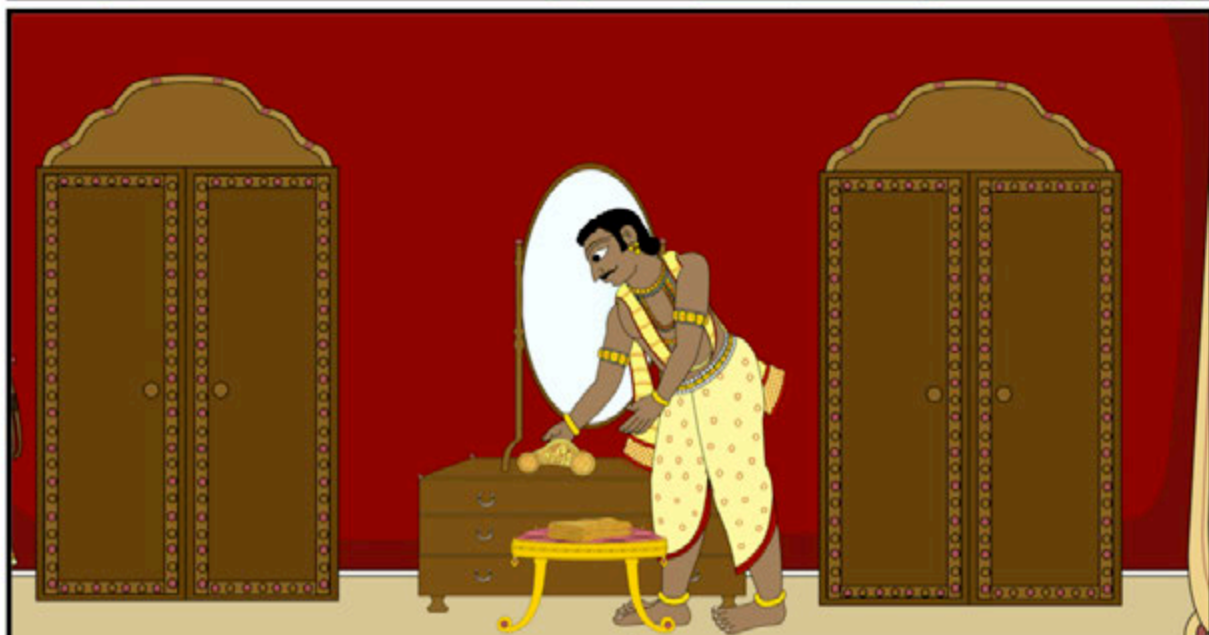
SHAMBUGA!

HEY,
SHAMBUGA!

LORD! WHAT
NEWS DO YOU HAVE
FOR ME?

TODAY WE MUST
TRAVEL TO A LAND
CALLED VALAVANDI!

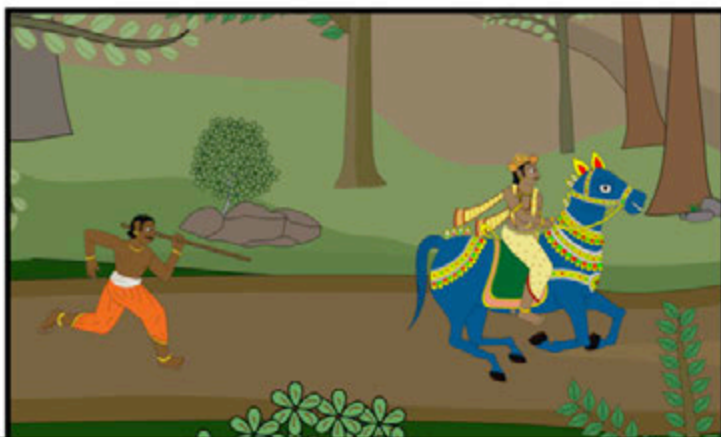
SADDLE MY HORSE,
NILA! I WILL GO AND
DRESS UP, THEN MEET
YOU OUTSIDE.



SHANKAR GOES TO HIS DRESSING ROOM. THERE, HE DONS HIS WEDDING JEWELS AND NEW CLOTHES. ONCE DRESSED, HE LEAVES THE ROOM AND WALKS THE CORRIDORS OF THE PALACE.







NILA GALLOPS AS THOUGH DESTINED FOR THE HEAVENS!
THE TWO MEN RACE ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE.



IN NO TIME AT ALL, SHANKAR REACHES VALAVANDI.



THE GROUND SHAKES WITH LORD SHANKAR'S APPROACH.

Neigh

SHAMBUGA!
TIE UP MY HORSE
NILA, AND WAIT
HERE!

EVERYONE IS STARTLED AT HIS
NOISY ARRIVAL. SHANKAR
STROLLS OVER TO HIS PARENTS.

OH MOTHER!
IS EVERYTHING
READY?



TAMARAI LEADS SHANKAR TO WHERE THE CEREMONY IS BEING CONDUCTED. PONNAR IS THERE WITH HIS BRIDE. A BRAHMAN IS BUSY WITH SOME CHANTS. TAMARAI KNOWS THAT THE BROTHERS WANT A QUICK AND SIMPLE WEDDING, SO SHE HURRIES THE CEREMONY ALONG.

OH BRAHMANS! PROCEED WITH THE CENTRAL WEDDING RITUALS.

DO NOT DELAY US WITH THE PRELIMINARIES.

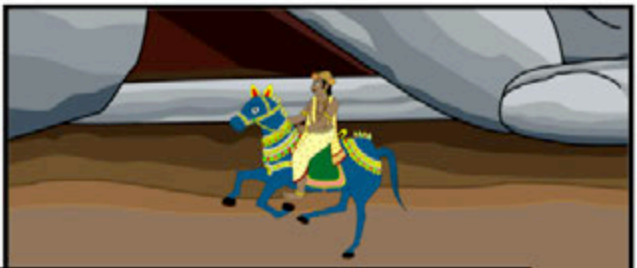
THE CEREMONY PROCEEDS!



THE BROTHERS LEAD THEIR BRIDES AROUND THE FIRE, CLOCKWISE. THEIR FINGERS NEVER TOUCH, HOWEVER. THEY ONLY HOOK THEIR SILVER FINGER EXTENSIONS.



FINALLY, THE BROTHERS PLACE WEDDING NECKLACES AROUND THEIR BRIDES' NECKS. THEY DO NOT EVEN LOOK AT THESE TWO WOMEN.



AS SOON AS THE CEREMONY IS OVER, SHANKAR SEEKS HIS PARENTS' BLESSINGS. THEN HE RETURNS HOME WITH SHAMBUGA.



SHAMBUGA, GO AND TIE NILA UP. THEN GO TO THE GANESH TEMPLE.

WHEN THE TWO BRIDES ARRIVE, SEE THAT THEY ARE QUICKLY LOCKED UP IN THEIR NEW PALACE!

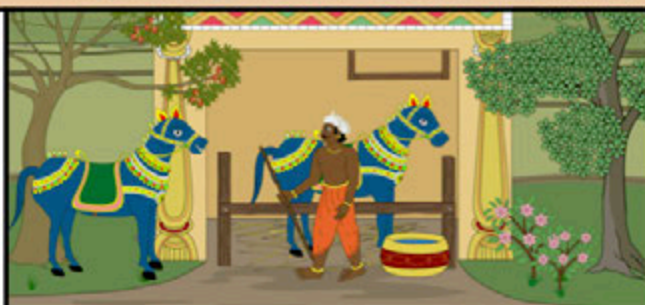
MAKE SURE THEY CAN NEVER COME OUT!

YES, MY LORD.



I WILL DO ALL THIS RIGHT AWAY!

SHAMBUGA PUTS NILA INTO THE STABLE, THEN GOES TO THE GANESH TEMPLE.





YOU
WOMEN ARE TO COME
WITH ME TO YOUR NEW
HOME!



AS SOON AT THE PALANQUINS PASS
THE GANESH TEMPLE, SHAMBUGA
STOPS THE PALANQUIN CARRYING THE
BRIDES. HE TELLS THEM TO
FOLLOW HIM. HE LEADS THEM AWAY.



THE REST OF THE WEDDING PARTY CONTINUES ON TO THE PALACE.

THE BRIDES ARE LED TO A PALACE IN A REMOTE AREA.

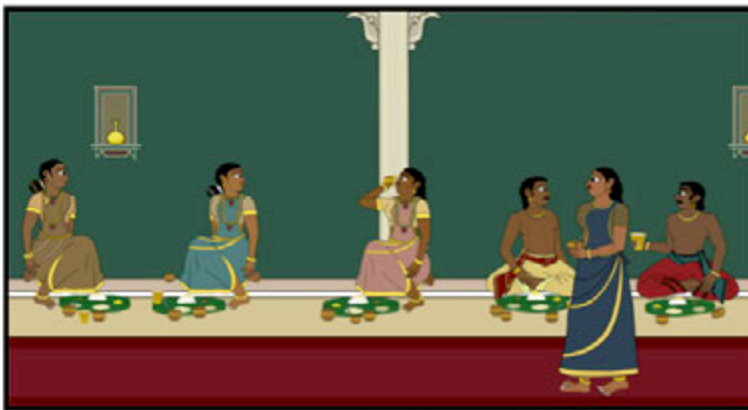


YOU ARE TO
STAY IN HERE!



WITH A LOUD SLAM, SHAMBUGA CLOSES AND LOCKS THE DOOR, FOREVER TRAPPING THE NEW BRIDES INSIDE! HIS DUTY COMPLETE, HE SETS OFF.





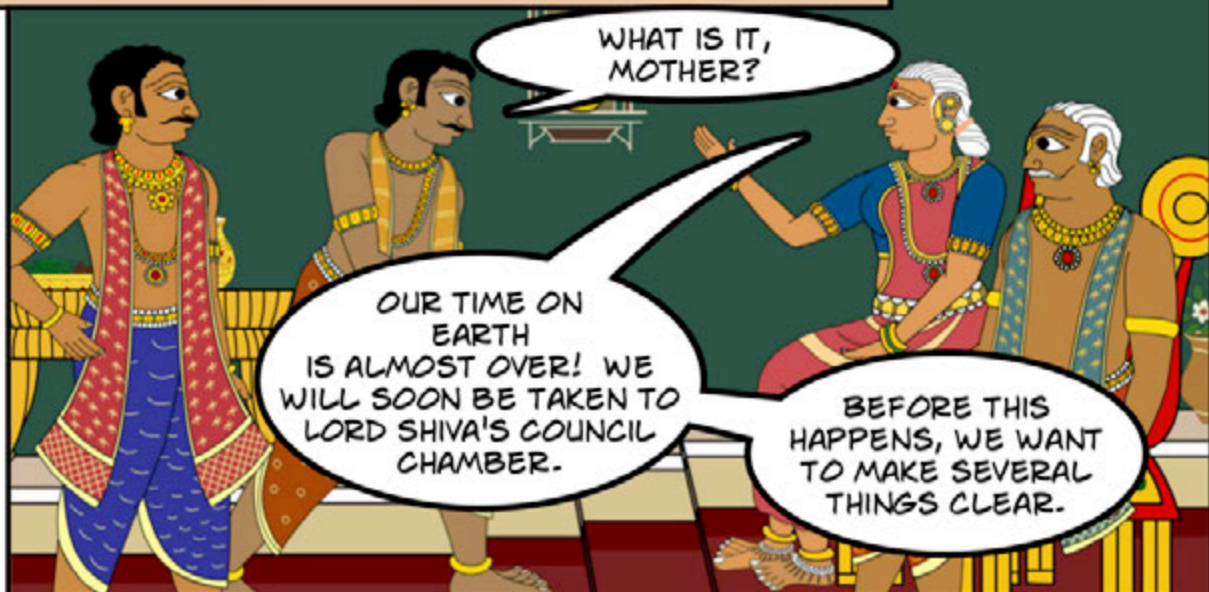
MEANWHILE, WEDDING GUESTS ARE ENJOYING THEMSELVES BACK AT THE PALACE. THERE IS A GRAND FEAST. PEOPLE CHEW BETEL LEAVES, AND CHAT. WHEN IT IS TIME TO LEAVE, ALL BOW AND THANK THEIR HOSTS.

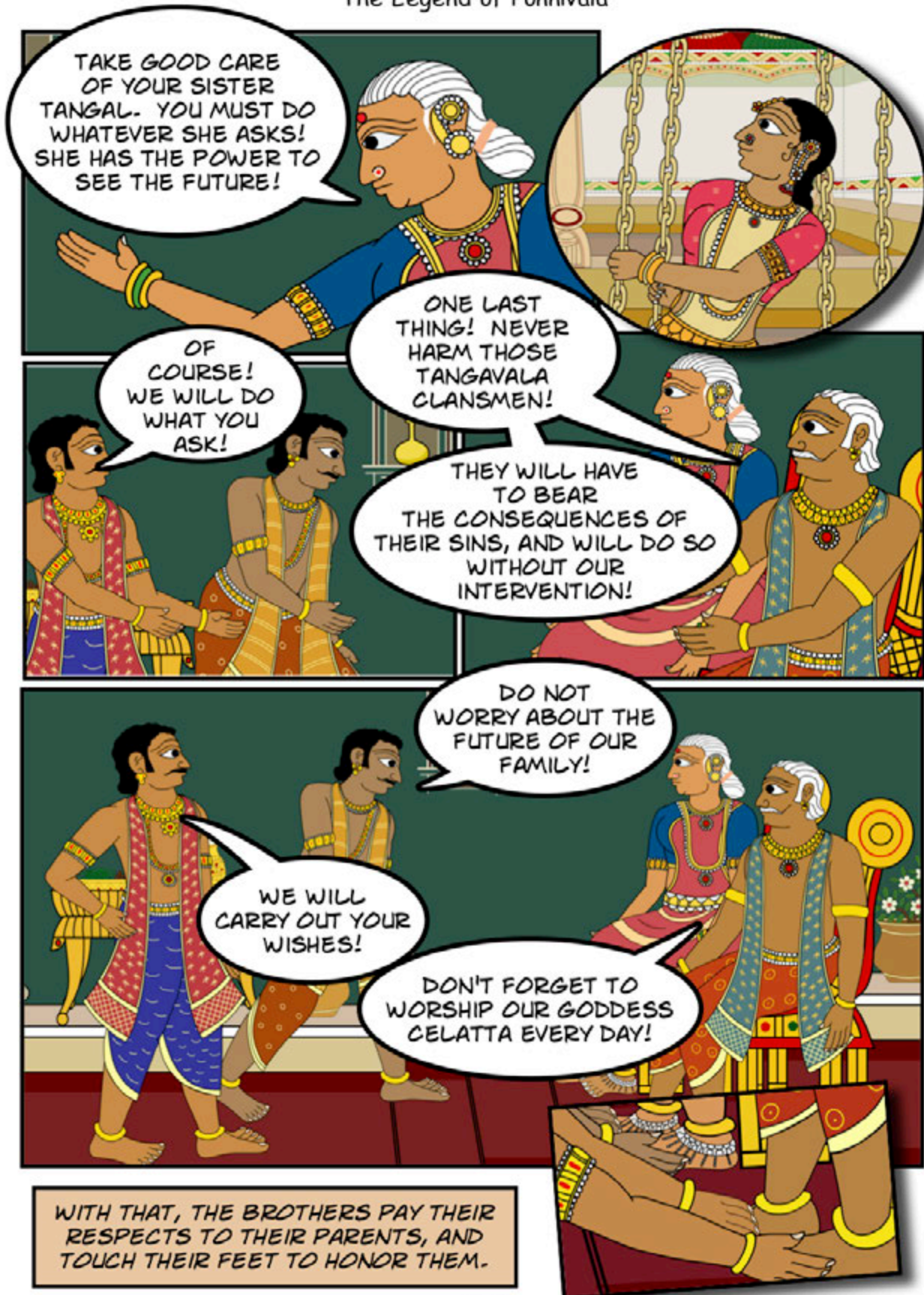


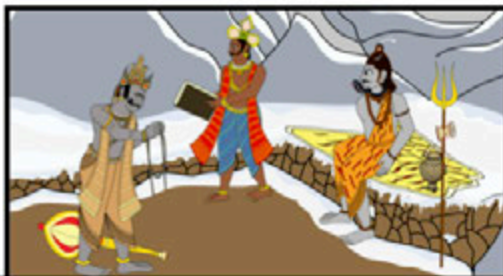
KING KUNNUTAIYA AND QUEEN TAMARAI ARE WISE AND GENTLE RULERS.



THEY KNOW THEIR TIME ON EARTH IS RUNNING OUT. ONE DAY, THEY CALL THEIR SONS TO THEIR SIDE.







A FEW DAYS LATER, THE GREAT RULERS PASS AWAY. LORD YEMAN DESCENDS FROM HEAVEN AND TAKES THEIR SPIRITS BACK WITH HIM.



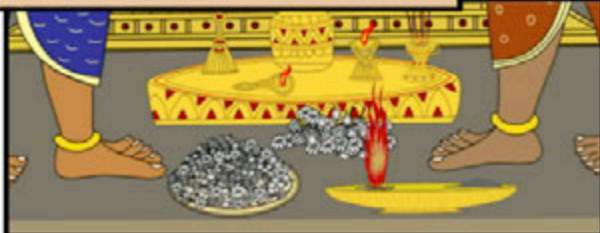
FUNERAL RITES ARE PERFORMED. PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE REGION PAY THEIR RESPECTS. CROWS ARE FED COOKED RICE.



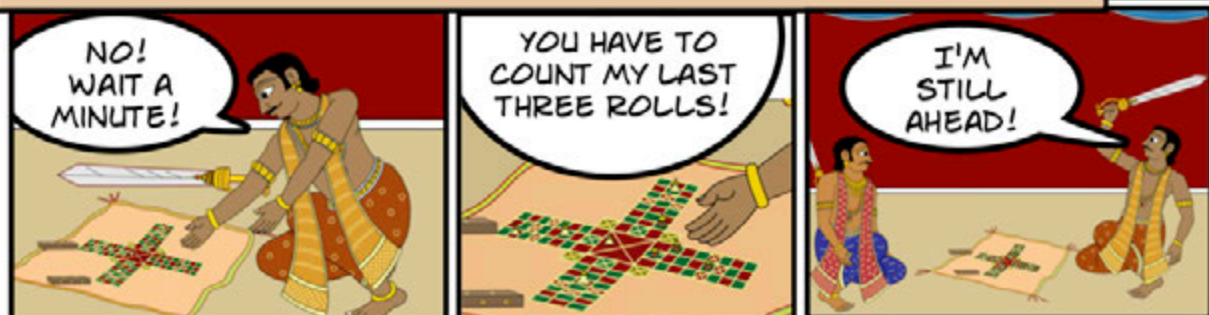
PONNAR AND SHANKAR ARE NOW THE SOLE RULERS OF PONNIVALA.



AS THEIR PARENTS INSTRUCTED, THEY ARE JUST AND GENTLE, AND THEY WORSHIP THE FAMILY GODDESS, CELATTA, EVERY DAY.



BUT THERE IS A CHANGE THEIR PARENTS DID NOT ASK FOR...WITH THEIR PARENTS' DEATH, THE BROTHERS' LOVE OF GAMBLING INTENSIFIES.



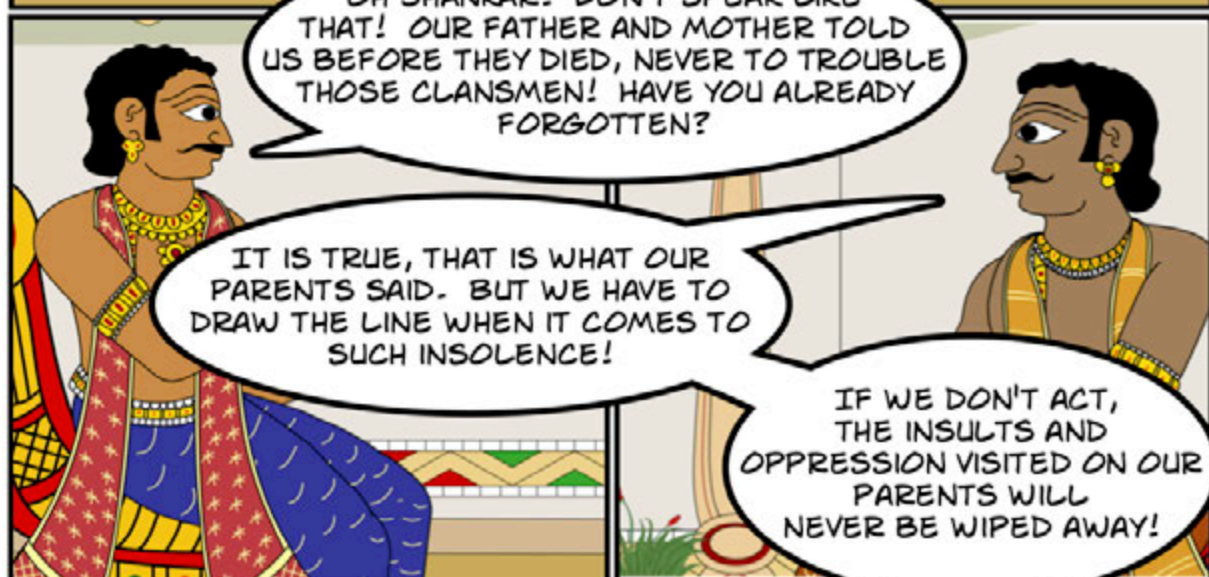
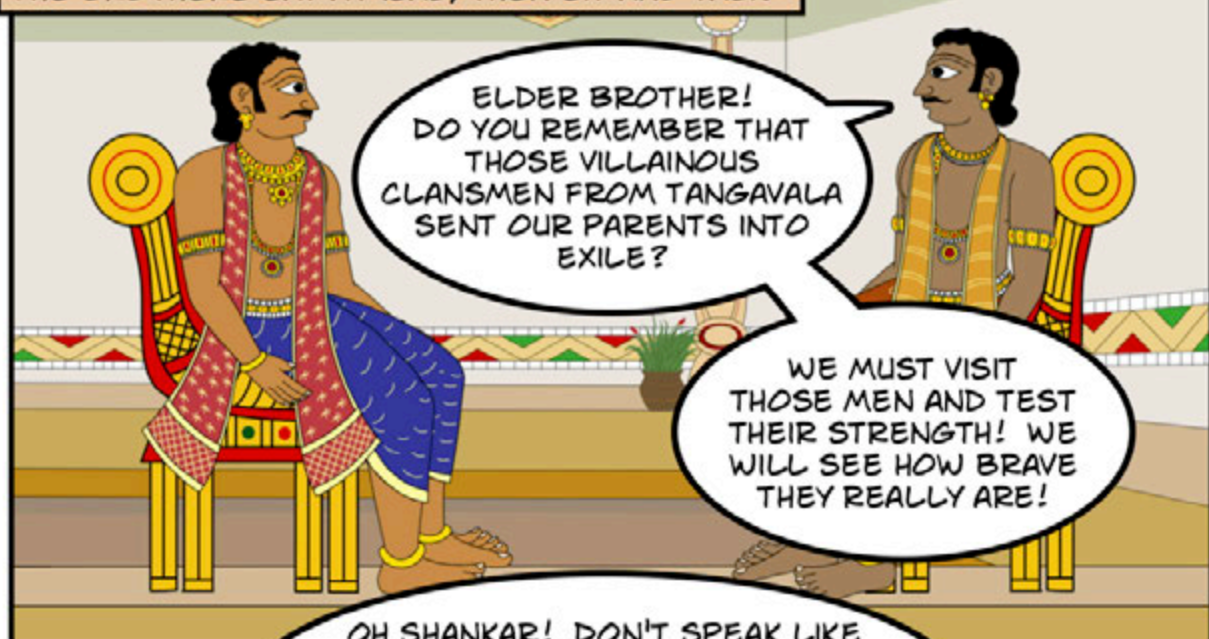
VISHNU PUTS SHACKLES ON SHANKAR'S LEGS. THEN HE JOINS THE GAME!



VISHNU HAS SUCH FUN, THAT FROM THEN ON, HE OFTEN JOINS THE KINGS IN THEIR GAME - BUT HE IS ALWAYS CERTAIN TO SHACKLE SHANKAR FIRST!



THE BROTHERS EAT A MEAL, THEN SIT AND TALK.






THAT IS NOT WHAT OUR PARENTS REQUESTED...

IF WE RAISE A COW
AND SHE TRIES TO KILL
US, SHOULD WE NOT
KILL HER



ARE YOU
AFRAID, OH ELDER
BROTHER?



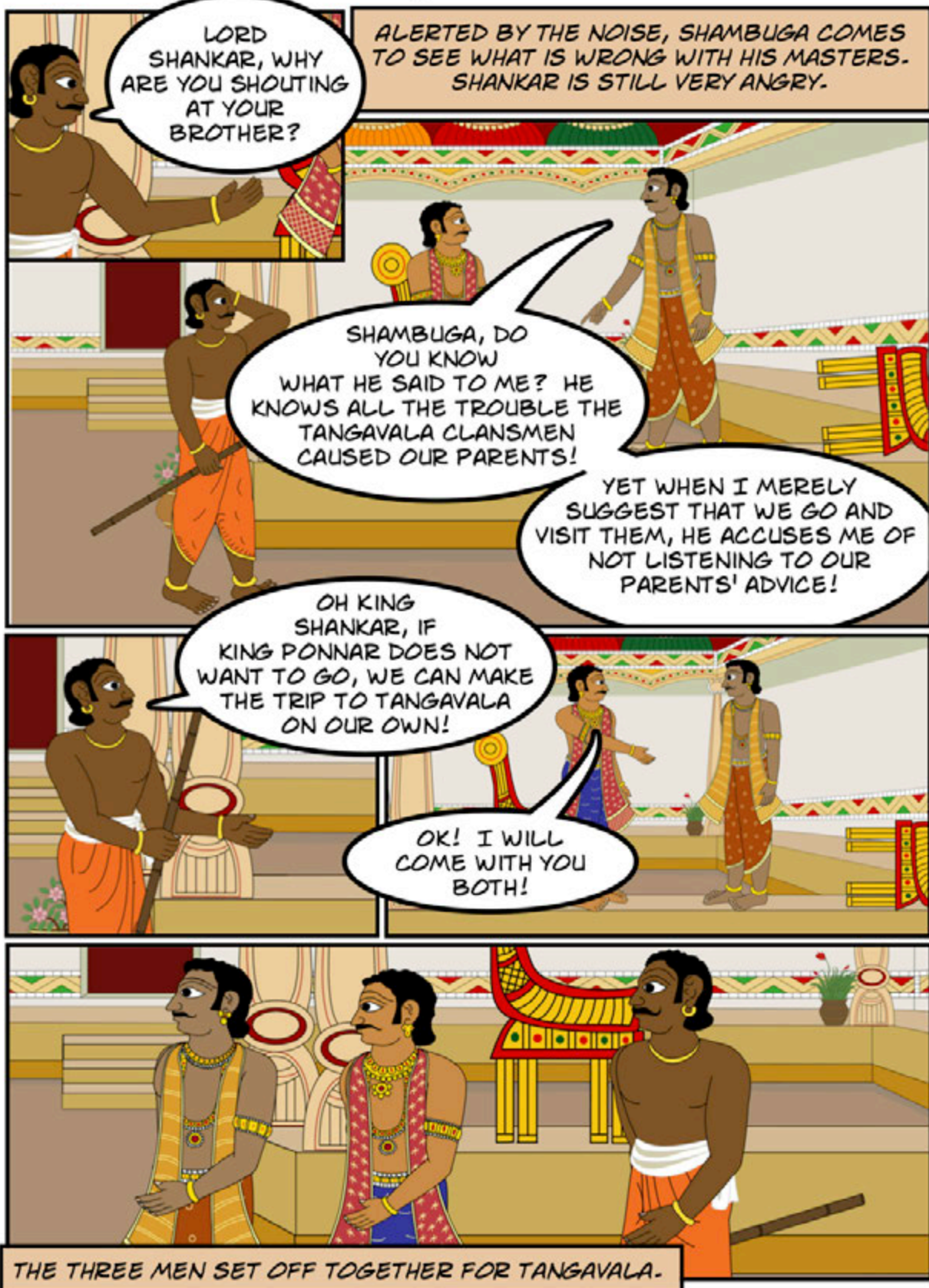
IF SO, YOU NEED
NOT COME WITH ME!

BUT
YOUNGER
BROTHER...



YOU CAN TAKE
CARE OF OUR LITTLE
SISTER.

SHAMBUGA AND
I WILL GO
INSTEAD!



THE BROTHERS PUT ON THEIR WARRIOR OUTFITS AND GET THEIR SWORDS.



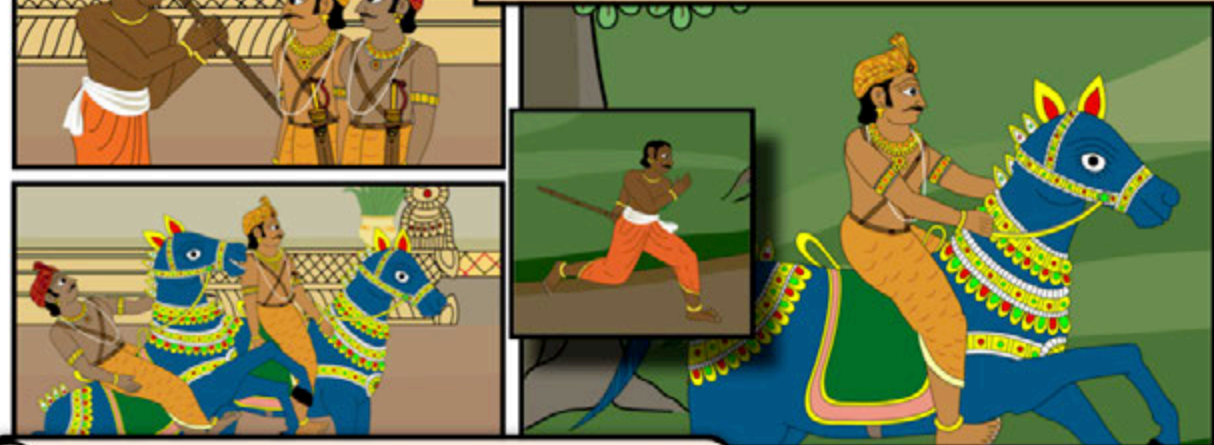
THEY PUT ON TURBANS AND ADORN THEMSELVES. FINALLY, THEY ARE READY TO GO! THEY STOP SOME MAIDS ON THEIR WAY OUT.



MAIDS! IF OUR SISTER ASKS WHERE WE ARE, DO NOT MENTION TANGAVALA!

YES, LORD!

SAY WE HAVE GONE TO INSPECT THE PADDY FIELDS!



THE TWIN SONS OF TAMARAI AND KUNNUTAIYA ARE MARRIED. WITH THE DEATH OF THEIR PARENTS THEY ALONE BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RULING PONNIVALA. THEIR PARENTS COUNSELED THEM NOT TO HARM THE CLANSMEN OF TANGAVALA. BUT THE ANGRY YOUNGER KING SHANKAR WANTS REVENGE! NOW THE KINGS AND THEIR POWERFUL ASSISTANT ARE HEADING TOWARDS THE LAND OF THEIR RIVALS. WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN THEY ARRIVE? WILL THEY HEED THEIR PARENTS - OR UNSHEATH THEIR SWORDS?



The Importance of The Legend of Ponnivala

This is an ancient epic, stemming from a long tradition of local village storytelling and passed down as a lively oral tradition. Its roots can be traced back to medieval times, well before the coming of the British to India. Its content was memorized by bards who first spent many years as apprentices. They learned from more experienced singers, eventually become leaders themselves, gaining the respect and even adulation of whole villages of eager listeners.

The primary source for this new compressed retelling is a tape recording made in 1965 over 18 consecutive nights in a village where music and song were still the primary means of after dark entertainment. At that time, electricity was scarce in the region and there were no televisions, computers, or CD players. Skilled bards provided the village entertainment, and served as the area's history teachers. They shaped the local understanding of the past by telling stories.

For the first time the Legend of Ponnivala is presented here as a connected chain of 26 short episodes. These sequential tales describe the rich past of Kongunadu through a chain of events that impact one local family. Its heroes and heroines are farmers who live in this specific cultural and geographic region. The larger Legend covers a period of roughly six centuries of South Indian medieval history. As a story it compresses what is known into three generations. Basically, the life of the grandfather covers the period from 1,000 to 1,200 CE, the father's adventures represent the events between 1,200 CE and 1,400, while the experiences of the sons match local events occurring between 1,400 CE and 1,600 CE. This is a story rich in cultural and sociological detail. Several events parallel real social upheavals documented by contemporary historical accounts.

The Legend of Ponnivala also presents a simplified template for a much larger idea - that all life is cyclical. A basic concept that underlies folk Hinduism is that cosmic rhythms move in great cycles. Each begins with the creation of a good age. Subsequently, various acts of human selfishness cause deterioration. After a considerable period, such a cycle must end, often helped by divine intervention. Via their deputies or incarnations, these deities kill all that is evil, washing and cleansing the earth and then setting in motion a new era. Our series presents a genuine folk model of how cosmic energies work. In a sense it tries to depict the very nature of human life on earth!

For website extras such as character details and name and place pronunciations unique to this graphic novel please visit the webpage below:

www.ponnivala.com/comic17

The Legend of
Ponnivala

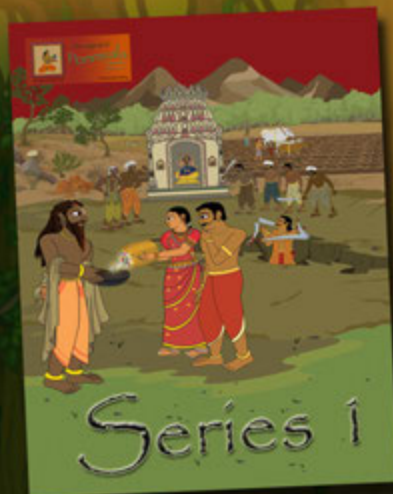
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