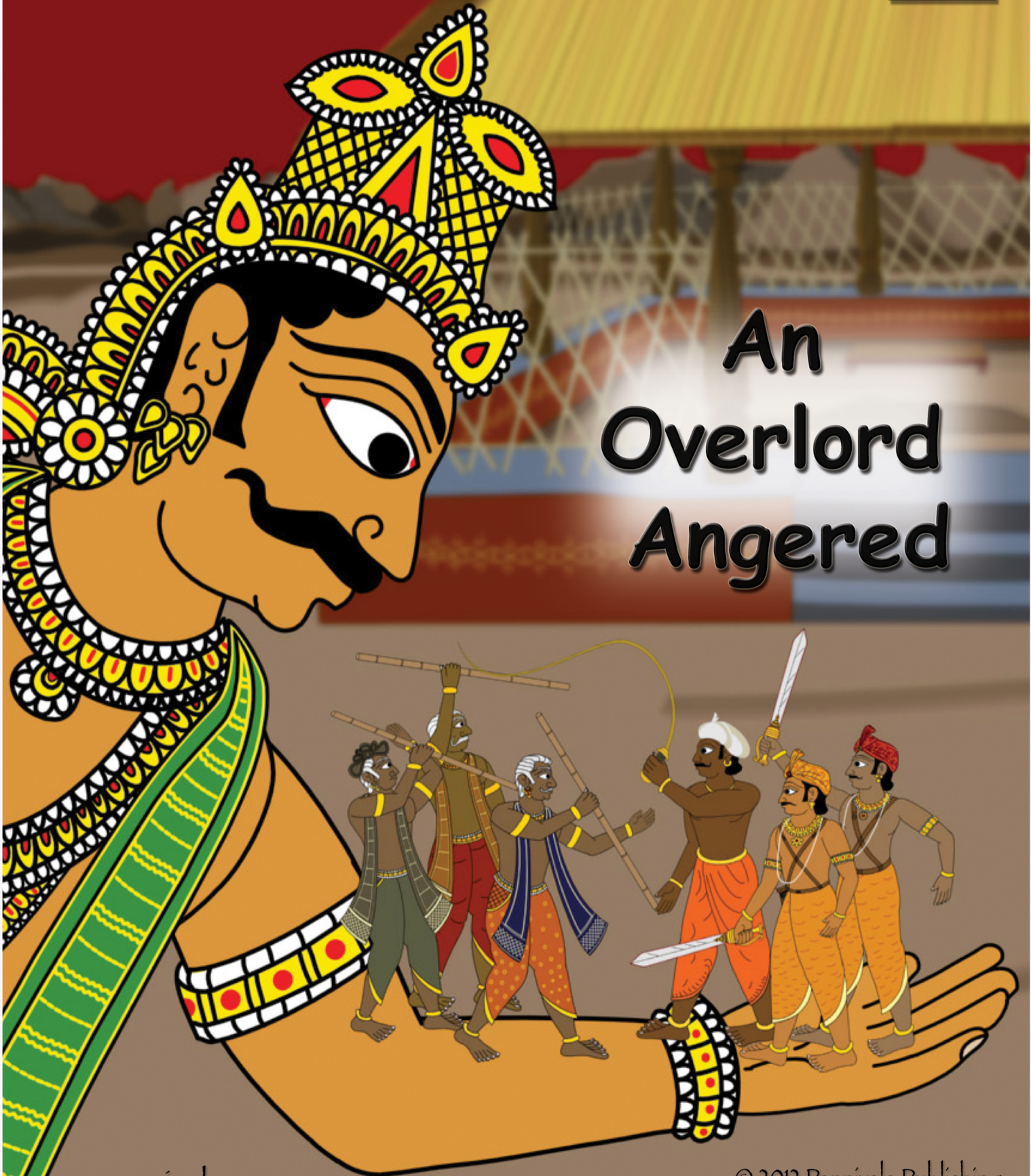


Series 2
Book 5

The Legend of
Ponnivala



An Overlord Angered

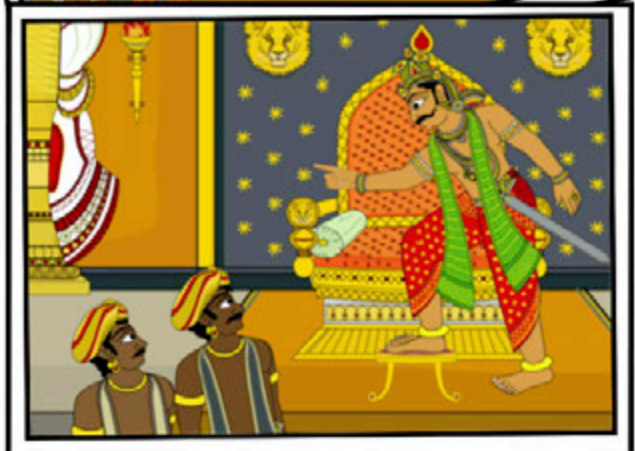




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AN OVERLORD ANGERED
SERIES 2 COMIC 5

**TWO BROTHER-
HEROES** WHO RULE
PONNIVALA TOGETHER,
SET OFF ON A CAMPAIGN
TO SHAME THEIR
CLANSMEN FOR PAST
WRONGS COMMITTED
AGAINST THEIR NOW-
DECEASED PARENTS.
THOSE CLANSMEN AND
THEIR FAMILIES ARE
FORCED INTO EXILE,
BUT THEY CLEVERLY
COMPLAIN TO THE
NEIGHBORING CHOLA
KING. INFORMED THAT
PONNIVALA HAS NOT
PAID TRIBUTE FOR
YEARS, THAT KING SOON
DEMANDS HIS DUE ...





I CAN'T WAIT TO GET EVEN WITH THOSE LYING CLANSMEN OF OURS! MOTHER AND FATHER SUFFERED IN EXILE FOR FIVE YEARS BECAUSE OF THEM!

PONNAR IS ADVISING ME NOT TO SETTLE ANY OLD SCORES. HE KEEPS REMINDING ME WHAT OUR PARENTS SAID BEFORE THEY DIED: "ALWAYS BE TOLERANT AND RESTRAINED." WHERE IS HIS HONOR AND HIS COURAGE?

HOW CAN WE NOT SETTLE SUCH A NEGATIVE SCORE? WE ARE ON OUR WAY RIGHT NOW TO EXTRACT VENGEANCE FOR OUR CLANSMEN'S MISDEEDS!





THE TWIN RULERS ARE DRESSED IN THEIR BATTLE FINERY, READY TO PUNISH THE FAMILIES THAT CAUSED THEIR OWN PARENTS TO SUFFER FOR SO LONG. THEIR HORSES RUN AT THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING! SOON, THEY ARE IN THE VILLAGE OF TANGAVALA!



OH!
WHAT IS THAT
SOUND?

THE LAND OF TANGAVALA SHAKES AT THE HEROES' APPROACH. THE VILLAGERS LOOK FOR THE SOURCE OF THE THUNDERING NOISE.



TIE UP THE
HORSES, THEN COME
MEET US IN THE
SCHOOLHOUSE!

SHAMBUGA!

An Overlord Angered



THE TWINS MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE SCHOOLHOUSE. THEIR LOYAL ASSISTANT SHAMBUGA TIES UP THE HORSES, THEN FOLLOWS. HE HIDES BEHIND A HOUSE WHEN SOME VILLAGERS PASS. THE THREE MEN FROM PONNIVALA CANNOT LET THEMSELVES BE SEEN!



MEANWHILE, DAILY ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE GO ON AS USUAL. NO ONE KNOWS THAT THEY ARE ALL IN FOR TROUBLE!



The Legend of Ponnivala

THE TWIN LORDS ENTER THE LITTLE SCHOOL. THEY ARE SPOTTED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.



HEY MEN! WHO ARE YOU?

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?



WHO ARE THOSE STRANGERS WHO JUST ENTERED OUR CLASSROOM?

WE MUST NOT LET THEM LEAVE WITHOUT GIVING THEM SOME HARD KICKS!



WADDY!!!

HEY---

GRRR!

ONE OF THE BOYS THROWS A PALM LEAF MANUSCRIPT AT THE KINGS. THIS GREATLY ANGERS SHANKAR!



SHAMBUGA!

SOUNDS LIKE LORD SHANKAR NEEDS ME!

OH BOYS! RUN!

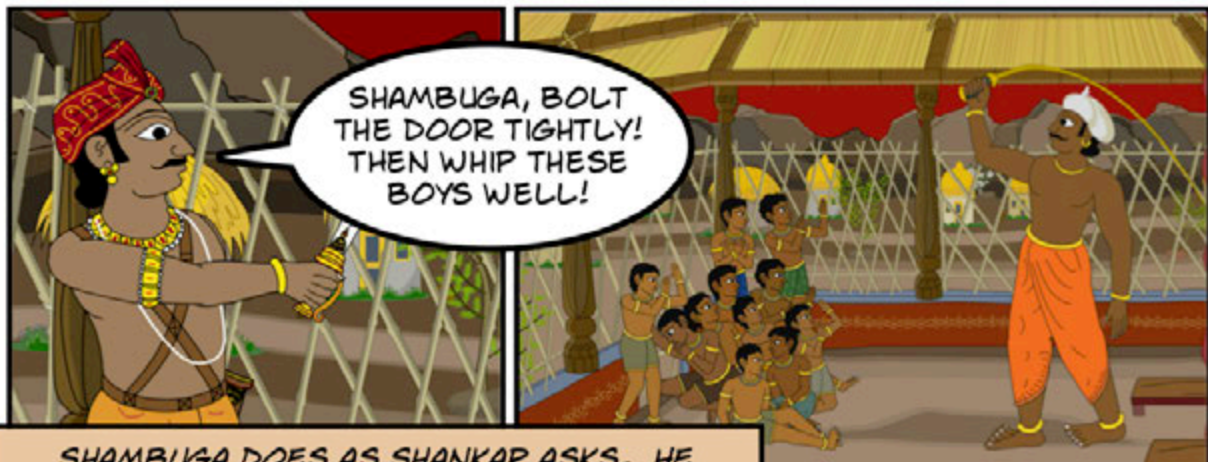
GET OUT OF THE CLASSROOM!

UNH!

THE TEACHERS SENSE DANGER. THEY BOTH RUN AWAY, AND WARN THE BOYS TO DO THE SAME. ONE OF THESE MEN RUNS SMACK INTO SHAMBUGA, AND IS TERRIFIED!

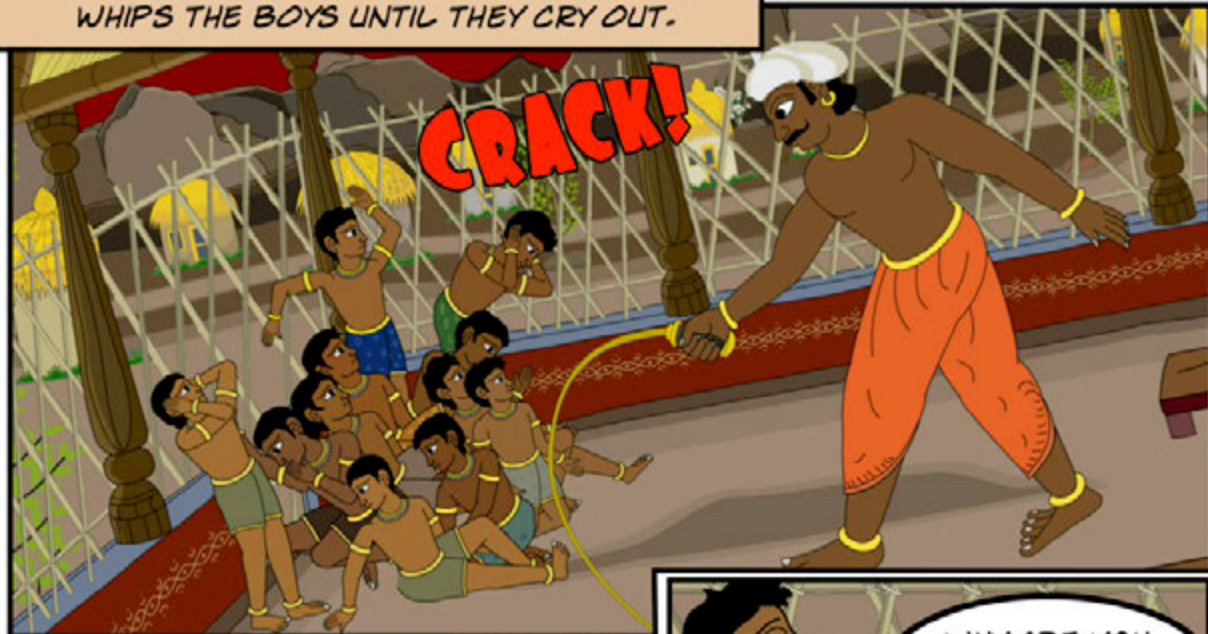


SHAMBUGA JUMPS DOWN INTO THE CLASSROOM FROM THE ROOF, STARTLING THE BOYS INSIDE!



SHAMBUGA, BOLT THE DOOR TIGHTLY! THEN WHIP THESE BOYS WELL!

SHAMBUGA DOES AS SHANKAR ASKS. HE WHIPS THE BOYS UNTIL THEY CRY OUT.



CRACK!



OH! STOP IT! YOU ARE HURTING ME! WHAT MISTAKE HAVE I MADE?

WHY ARE YOU BEATING US LIKE THIS?

PLEASE DON'T WHIP US!

WE WILL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!

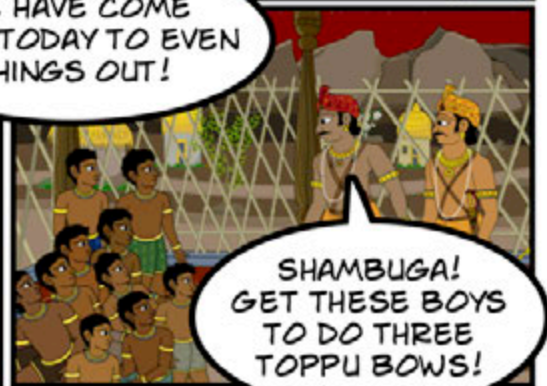


HEY, BOYS!
YOUR FATHERS
FORCED OUR
PARENTS INTO
EXILE!

MY MOTHER AND
FATHER SURVIVED FOR
FIVE YEARS WORKING AS
DAY LABORERS!

BECAUSE OF YOUR
ELDERS' AGGRESSION THEY HAD
TO LIVE IN A HUMBLE STABLE UNDER
THE THUMB OF SOME MEAN FOREST
HUNTERS.

WE HAVE COME
HERE TODAY TO EVEN
THINGS OUT!



SHAMBUGA!
GET THESE BOYS
TO DO THREE
TOPPU BOWS!



THEN TIE THEM
IN PAIRS AND THROW
THEM INTO THE
STREET!

SHAMBUGA HUMILIATES THE SCHOOLCHILDREN.



MOTHER!
HELP ME!

AHHH!

NEXT, SHAMBUGA BINDS THE BOYS' FEET, AND TIES THEM IN PAIRS. THEN HE THROWS THEM INTO THE STREET! AFTER ALL THE BOYS HAVE BEEN TOSSED SCREAMING INTO THE DUST, HE BEGINS DESTROYING THEIR SCHOOLHOUSE.



THE BOYS BEGIN TO HOP HOME. WHEN THE MOTHERS HEAR THEIR CRIES, THESE WOMEN MISTAKENLY THINK THEIR SONS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING.



TWO STRANGE MEN CAME INTO ... OUR SCHOOL.

WHO HAS DISGRACED YOU LIKE THIS?

OUR TEACHERS FLED AND LEFT US!



WE ...W.W.ERE PREPARED... TO BEAT THEM!

BUT THEN THEIR HUGE ASSISTANT CAME, ... AND BEAT US ... WITH A LONG WHIP!

THEN.... THAT BIG MAN MADE US DO TOPPU BOWS,... AND TIED US UP!

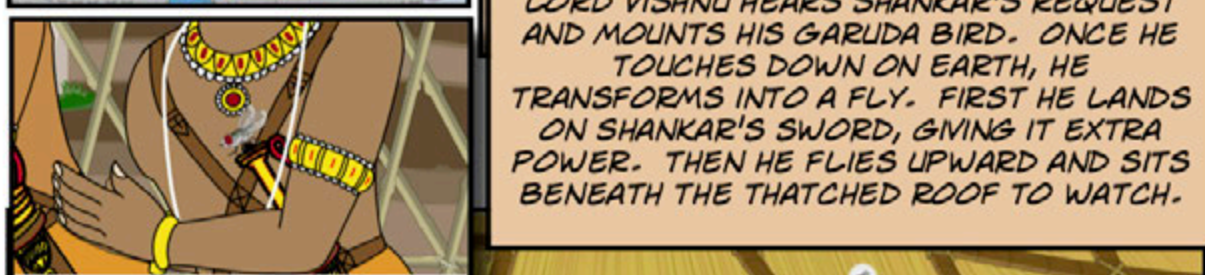
FINALLY, THEY THREW US.... INTO THE STREET!




WHAT VILLAINS! LOOK AT WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO YOU!



ALL THE MEN OF TANGAVALA NOW MARCH
TOWARDS THE SCHOOLHOUSE WITH BIG
FIGHTING STICKS.





WHEN THE CLANSMEN ENTER THE SCHOOL, SHAMBUGA BEGINS USING HIS WHIP! SOON THESE MEN ARE ALL BEGGING FOR MERCY.



CRACK!

WE WILL DO WHATEVER YOU WISH! JUST STOP BEATING US!

YOU SENT OUR PARENTS INTO EXILE! AND YOU TRIED TO KILL US, BEFORE WE WERE BORN!

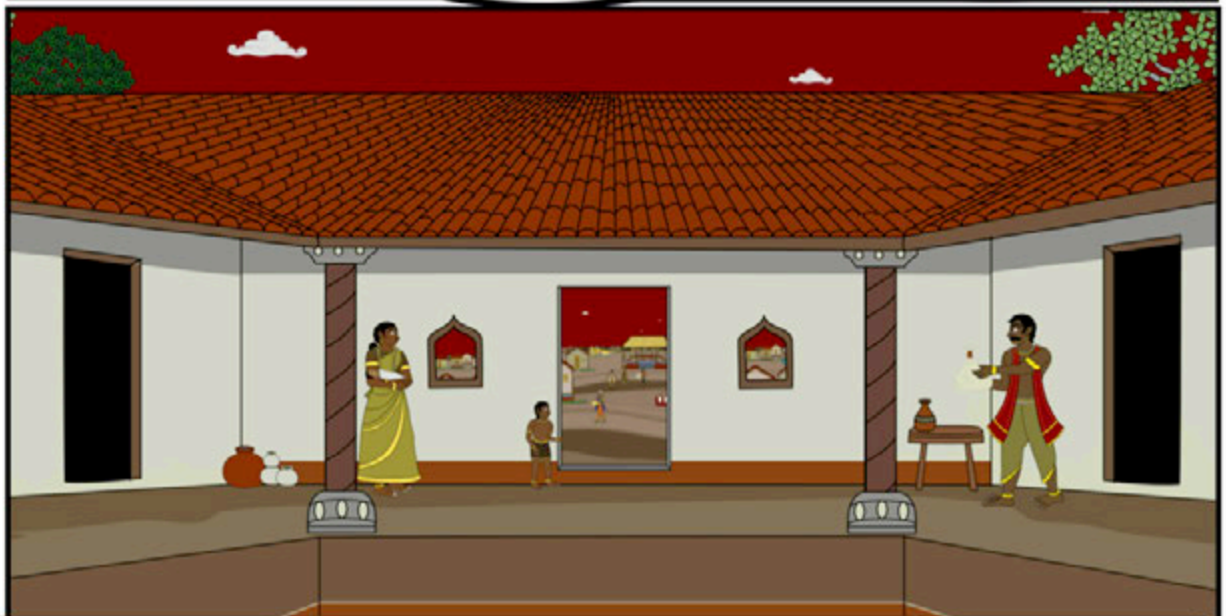
NOW, WE BANISH YOU FROM YOUR COUNTRY!

WOMEN! PACK UP YOUR THINGS, WE ARE LEAVING HERE IMMEDIATELY!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

YOU WERE SO MANY...YET YOU SUBMITTED TO ONLY THREE MEN?

AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?



THE PEOPLE OF TANGAVALA HURRY TO GATHER ALL THEIR THINGS, FILLING UP SACKS, BASKETS, AND POTS. THEY THEN GO TO THE GANESH TEMPLE.

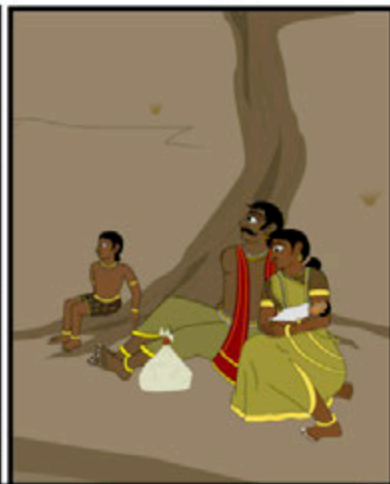
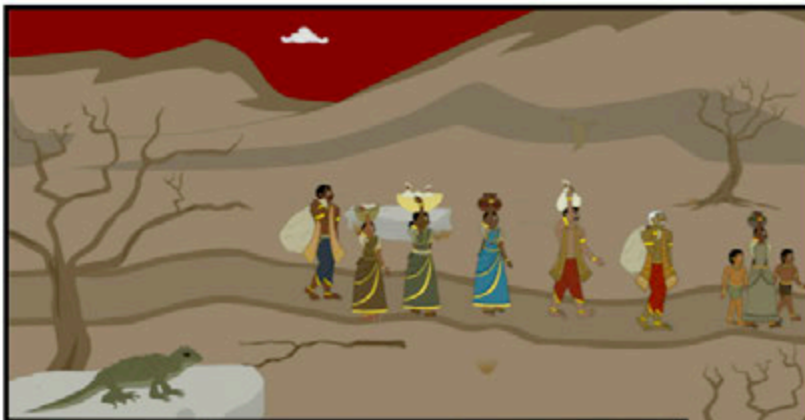




WITH THEIR PLAN DECIDED, THE TANGAVALA CLANSMEN
HEAD OFF TO THE KINGDOM OF THE CHOLAS!



An Overlord Angered



THE FARMING FAMILIES OF TANGAVALA CROSS A DIFFICULT TERRAIN. THEY TRAVEL THROUGH VALLEYS AND OVER HILLS. THERE IS NO WATER OR SHADE IN THIS BARREN LAND!



FINALLY THESE SUFFERING FAMILIES REACH THE LUSH CHOLA KINGDOM! THEY HOPE THE CURRENT MONARCH WILL HELP THEM.





FINALLY, THE EXILED FAMILIES REACH THEIR DESTINATION. THEY STOP AT THE KING'S GANESH TEMPLE AND SET THEIR BURDENS DOWN. NEXT THEY DECIDE ON WHO WILL GO TO SPEAK WITH THE KING. THREE MEN PLUS A LEADER ARE SELECTED.





THE CLANSMEN APPROACH THE GATES OF THE CHOLA PALACE, BUT THEY ARE STOPPED BY A GUARD.



HALT!



WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH THE KING?



WE ARE FROM THE LAND OF TANGAVALA.

WE BRING NEWS FROM OUR AREA. THERE IS A PROBLEM WE NEED TO DISCUSS!



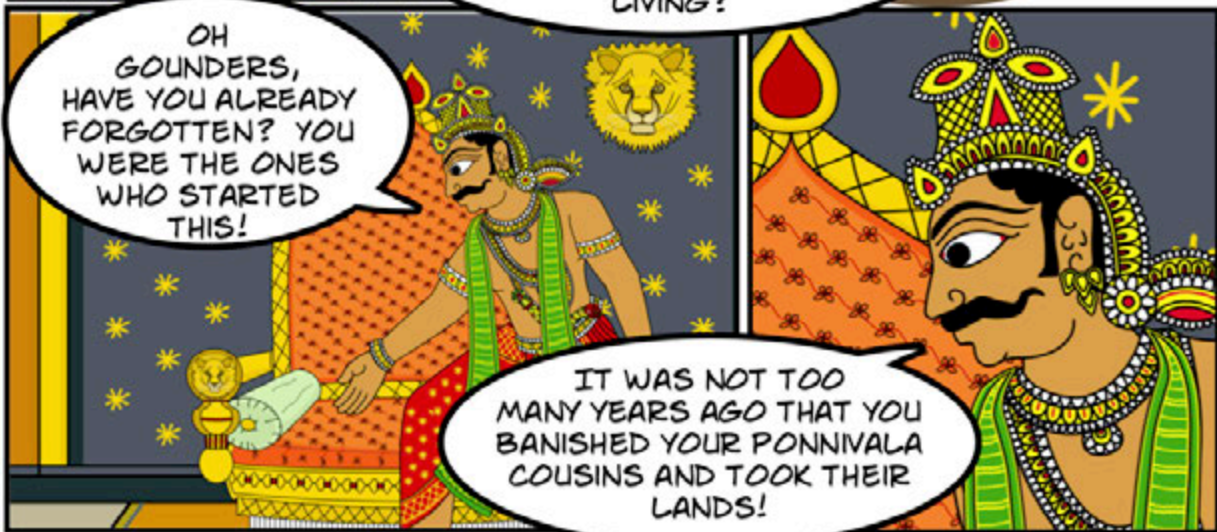
OK MEN! THE KING WILL BE HOLDING HIS DAILY COURT SOON.

YOU CAN GIVE HIM THE DETAILS WHEN HE CALLS ON YOU!



THE FOUR CLANSMEN ENTER THE CHOLA KING'S PALACE. WHEN THE MONARCH ENTERS THE ROOM, EVERYONE RISES TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS. THE KING GREETES THE CLANSMEN, AND THEN SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO THEM.





THE CLANSMEN TRY TO CONVINCE THE CHOLA KING TO SIDE WITH THEM. BUT THE GREAT RULER IS WELL-VERSED IN THE AREA'S HISTORY. HE KNOWS THAT IT IS THE CLANSMEN WHO BEGAN THIS CYCLE OF REVENGE.





THE CLEVER GOUNDER CLANSMEN KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO SAY TO TURN THE CHOLA KING TO THEIR SIDE! SLOWLY, THEY CONVINCE THE MONARCH.





THE CHOLA KING IS STARTLED BY THE CLANSMEN'S WORDS. HE CANNOT BELIEVE THAT ANYONE WOULD DARE TO NEGLECT THE TRIBUTE TO HIM. HE CALLS FOR HIS ASSISTANT TO VERIFY THE NEWS.





I WILL BRING THOSE VILLAINS HERE AND PUNISH THEM WELL.



OUR FAMILIES WILL BE SAFE HERE UNDER YOUR PROTECTION!



THEY MUST PRESENT ME WITH A GOLDEN MEASURING VESSEL, A CONTAINER OF CURDS, AND A PLOUGHING YOKE!



YES, KING! WE WILL GO NOW.

THE TWO SERVANTS OF THE CHOLA KING SET OUT RIGHT AWAY, WHILE THE CLANSMEN SMILE IN SMUG SATISFACTION.



SOON THE SERVANTS REACH THE EDGE OF PONNIVALA. TWO BULLS SENSE THE ARRIVAL OF STRANGERS WHO MIGHT BE UP TO NO GOOD.



THE TWO BULLS CHARGE THE CHOLA SERVANTS AND FORCE THEM DOWN!



THEIR SHEPHERD QUICKLY TRIES TO STOP THEM.



OH MEN, WHO ARE YOU AND WHERE ARE YOU GOING?



WE ARE INNOCENT SERVANTS SENT BY THE CHOLA KING. WE ARE SEARCHING FOR THE HOME OF KUNNUTAIYA GOUNDER'S SONS.



HEY! HOW DARE YOU SPEAK OF OUR RULERS SIMPLY AS KUNNUTAIYA GOUNDER'S SONS!

WHERE IS YOUR RESPECT! IF OUR KINGS HEARD THIS, THEY WOULD CUT OFF YOUR HEADS!



OH SHEPHERD! WE WILL NEVER SPEAK LIKE THAT AGAIN!



PLEASE HOLD THE BULLS WHILE WE PASS. WE WANT TO GO TO THE PALACE!



THE PALACE MAID KUPPI AND THE LITTLE PALACE SHE-DOG PONNACHI ARE GOING TO FETCH WATER.



I SEE SOME STRANGERS COMING! THEY MIGHT HURT YOU, LOVELY MAID!

Grrrr



THE CHOLA KING'S SERVANTS HAPPEN BY. PONNACHI LUNGES AT THE STRANGERS AND BITES THEIR LEGS!



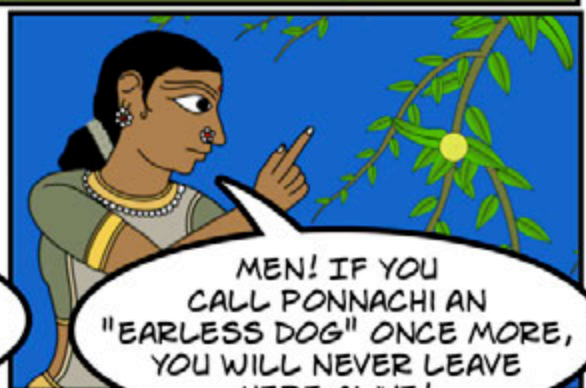
PONNACHI! YOU MUST NOT BITE THESE VISITORS!

OH MEN, WHO ARE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

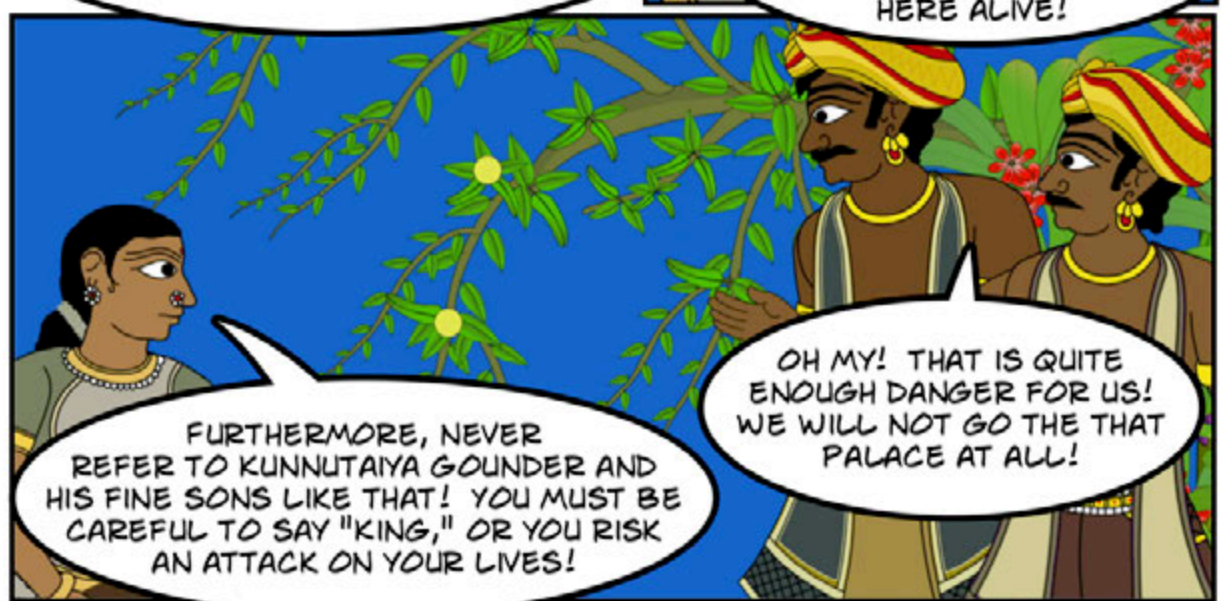


WE ARE SERVANTS OF THE CHOLA KING.

WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO THE HOUSE OF KUNNUTAIYA GOUNDER, UNTIL WE WERE BITTEN BY THIS EARLESS DOG!



MEN! IF YOU CALL PONNACHI AN "EARLESS DOG" ONCE MORE, YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE HERE ALIVE!



FURTHERMORE, NEVER REFER TO KUNNUTAIYA GOUNDER AND HIS FINE SONS LIKE THAT! YOU MUST BE CAREFUL TO SAY "KING," OR YOU RISK AN ATTACK ON YOUR LIVES!

OH MY! THAT IS QUITE ENOUGH DANGER FOR US! WE WILL NOT GO THE THAT PALACE AT ALL!



SINCE THE DEATH OF YOUR FORMER RULER, NO TRIBUTE HAS ARRIVED FROM THE PONNIVALA PALACE. THE CHOLA KING IS VERY ANGRY!



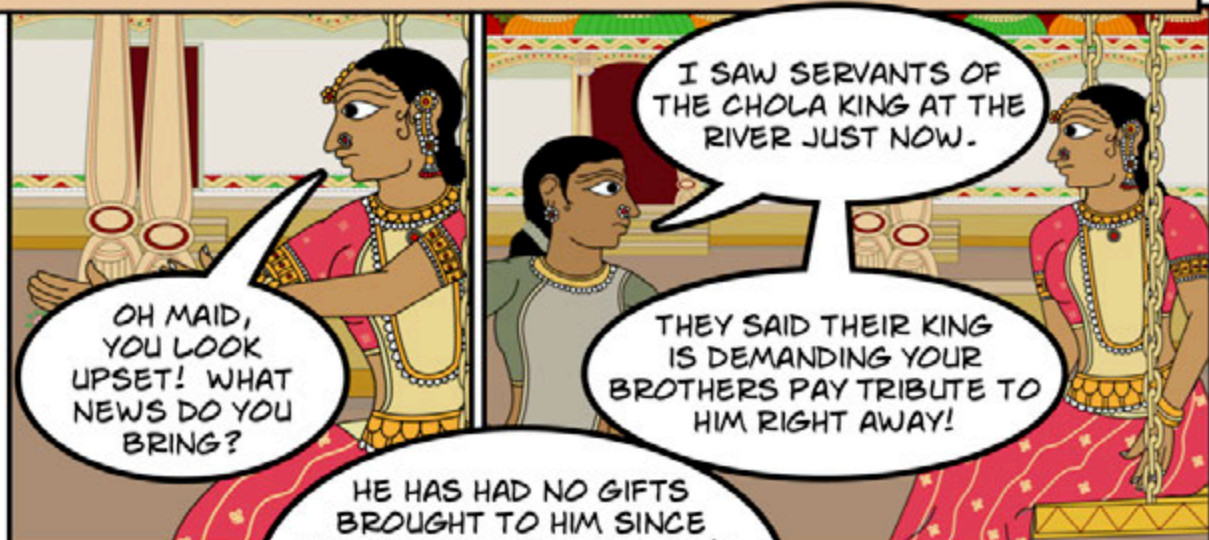
OH MY! I WILL TAKE THIS NEWS TO THEM RIGHT AWAY!



THE MAID FILLS HER WATER VESSEL QUICKLY AND RETURNS TO THE PALACE.



KUPPI RETURNS TO THE PALACE AND SETS HER BURDEN DOWN. TANGAL SENSES THAT SHE IS UPSET AND ASKS HER WHAT IS THE TROUBLE.



OH MAID,
YOU LOOK
UPSET! WHAT
NEWS DO YOU
BRING?

I SAW SERVANTS OF
THE CHOLA KING AT THE
RIVER JUST NOW.

THEY SAID THEIR KING
IS DEMANDING YOUR
BROTHERS PAY TRIBUTE TO
HIM RIGHT AWAY!

HE HAS HAD NO GIFTS
BROUGHT TO HIM SINCE
THE END OF YOUR FATHER'S
REIGN! NOW HE IS
THREATENING TO PUNISH YOUR
BROTHERS IF THEY DO NOT
OBEY!



OH MY! GO QUICKLY
AND FIND MY DEAR
SHANKAR!

BRING HIM
HERE STRAIGHT
AWAY!

KUPPI GOES IMMEDIATELY TO THE GAMING ROOM, WHERE THE TWO BROTHERS ARE BUSY PLAYING DICE, AS USUAL.



HEY, MAID!
WHAT NEWS HAVE
YOU BROUGHT!

YOUR
SISTER WANTS TO
SEE YOU RIGHT
AWAY!

SHANKAR GOES IMMEDIATELY TO HIS SISTER, WHO IS DISTRAUGHT. HE WORRIES THAT SOMETHING IS TERRIBLY WRONG, AND WONDERS WHAT IT COULD BE.



DEAR SISTER,
WHY HAVE YOU
CALLED ME?

OH FINE
BROTHER! THE CHOLA
KING HAS SENT US A
MESSAGE, DEMANDING THAT
WE PAY TRIBUTE
RIGHT AWAY!



WE ARE
PLOUGHING LANDS
THAT BELONG TO
HIM!

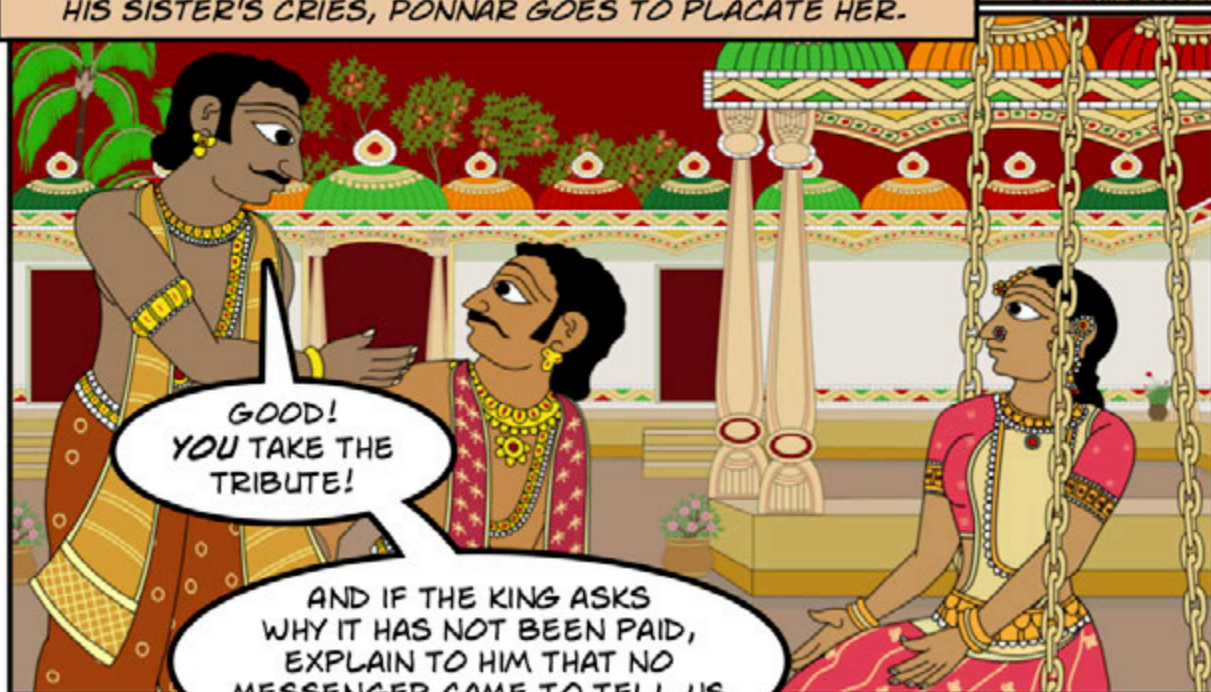
PLEASE BRING
HIM THE GOLDEN
VESSEL,
THE CONTAINER
OF CURDS,
AND THE
PLOUGHING YOKE
THAT HE
REQUIRES!



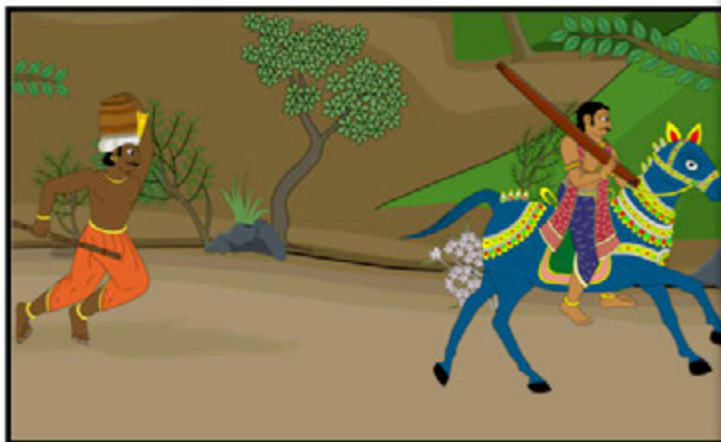
I WILL NOT GO
BEFORE THE CHOLA
KING AND HUMILIATE
MYSELF LIKE THAT!



TANGAL BEGINS TO CRY AT SHANKAR'S REFUSAL. HEARING HIS SISTER'S CRIES, PONNAR GOES TO PLACATE HER.



SO PONNAR HEADS OUT WITH PONNIVALA'S TRIBUTE TO THE CHOLA KING.



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/comic18

The Legend of
Ponnivala

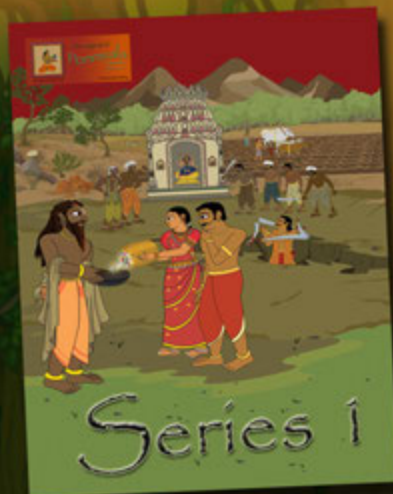
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