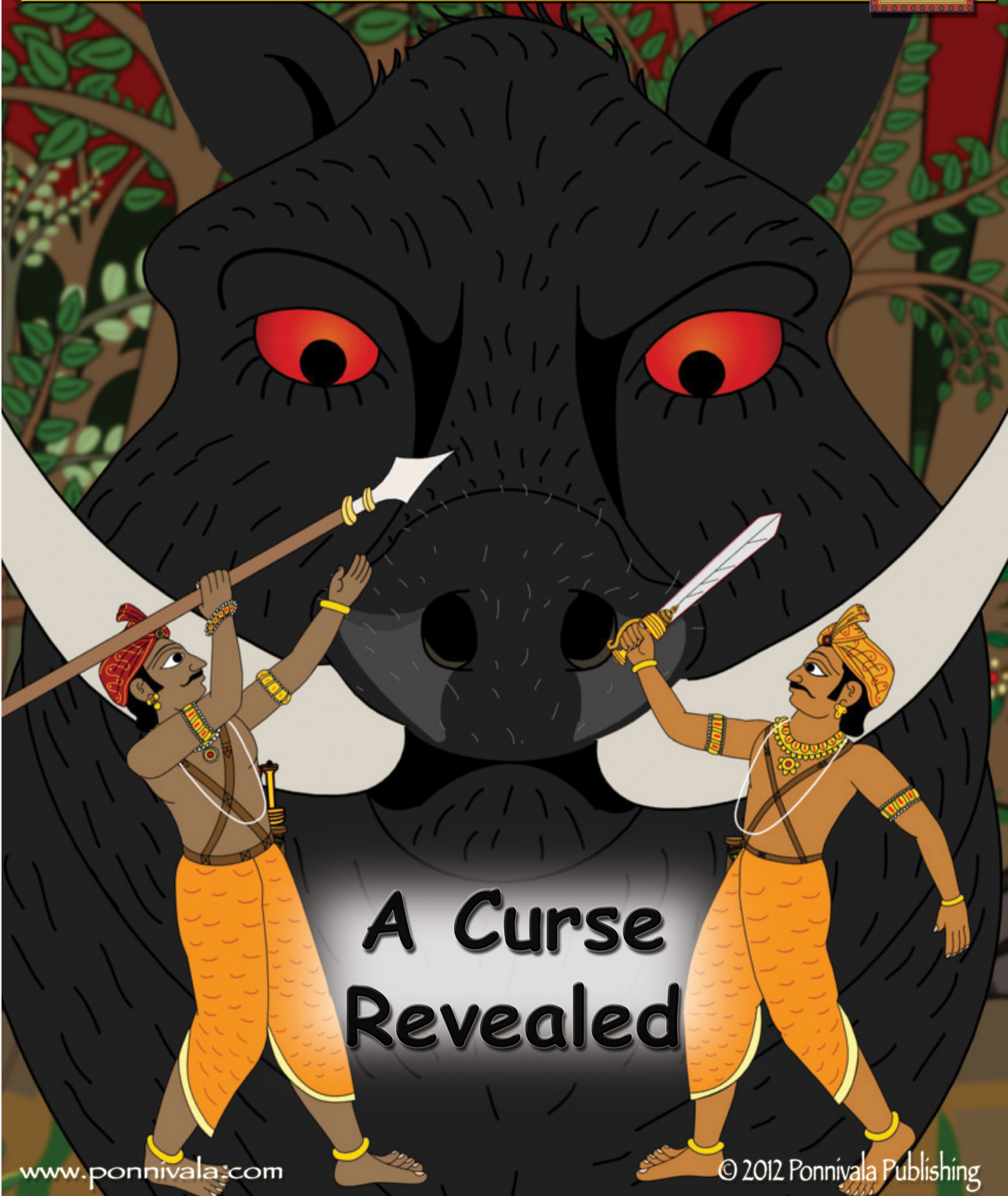


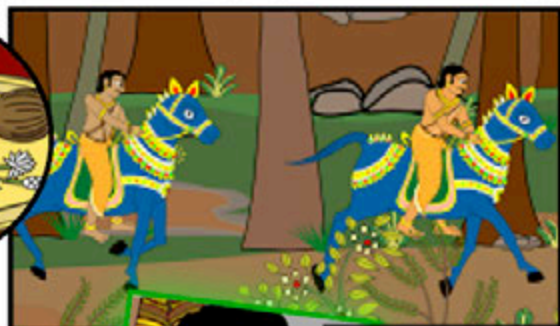
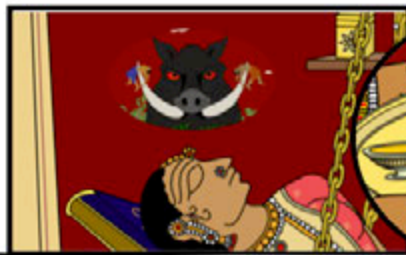
Series 2  
Book 11

The Legend of  
**Ponnivala**



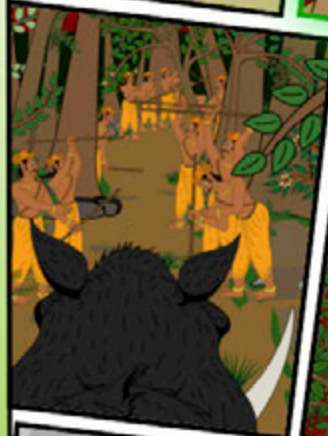
# A Curse Revealed

# The Legend of Ponnivala



A CURSE REVEALED  
SERIES 2 COMIC 11

**THE TWIN RULERS OF PONNIVALA** SET OFF ON A GREAT BOAR HUNT. THEIR SISTER ASKS THEM TO LEAVE SIGNS THAT THEY WILL BE O.K. HER DOG, ANGRY AT BEING LEFT BEHIND, CURSES THE HEROES. THEY FALL SICK. MEANWHILE, THE FIRST MINISTER LEADS AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK. THE BOAR SLAUGHTERS ALL THEIR WARRIORS. LORD VISHNU REVEALS THE HEROES' TRUE PROBLEM. THE DOG WANTS AN APOLOGY ...



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PUBLICATIONS  
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THAT HUGE BOAR  
KOMBAN HAS MADE A MESS OF  
THE BEAUTIFUL FIELDS OF  
PONNIVALA! AND NOW HE HAS  
THE AUDACITY  
TO CHALLENGE US!

WELL, WE WILL RISE AND MEET  
HIM AT HIS OWN FOREST HIDEOUT! THE GREAT  
PONNIVALA WAR DRUM HAS BEEN RAISED FROM OUR  
FINE IRRIGATION TANK! ONE MAN FROM EVERY  
HOUSEHOLD WILL JOIN US. EACH WILL BRING A  
HEAVY FIGHTING STICK, A DOG, AND SOME  
COOKED RICE.



ALL OUR  
MEN WILL GATHER  
TOMORROW IN HERON  
VALLEY. WE WILL PUNISH  
KOMPAN WELL FOR THE  
DESTRUCTION HE  
HAS CAUSED!

# The Legend of Ponnivala

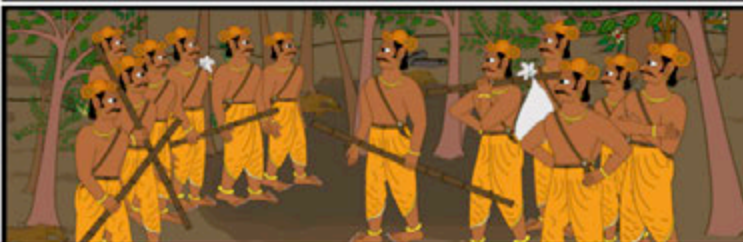


IT IS EARLY IN THE MORNING. LIFE IN PONNIVALA HAS JUST BEGUN TO STIR. BUT IN THE PALACE, NOTHING FEELS NORMAL. KING PONNAR AND KING SHANKAR ARE PREPARING FOR WAR! FIRST, THEY INSTRUCT THEIR HUGE ASSISTANT, SHAMBUGA.

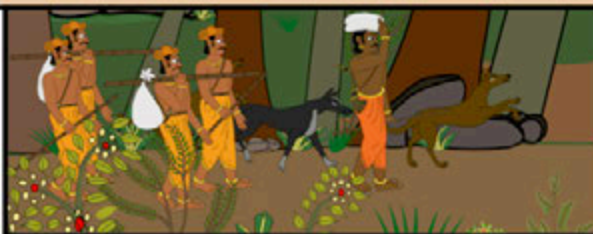


SHAMBUGA, LEAD THE SOLDIERS INTO THE VIRAMALAI FOREST AND SET UP A WAR CAMP.

YES, MY LORD.

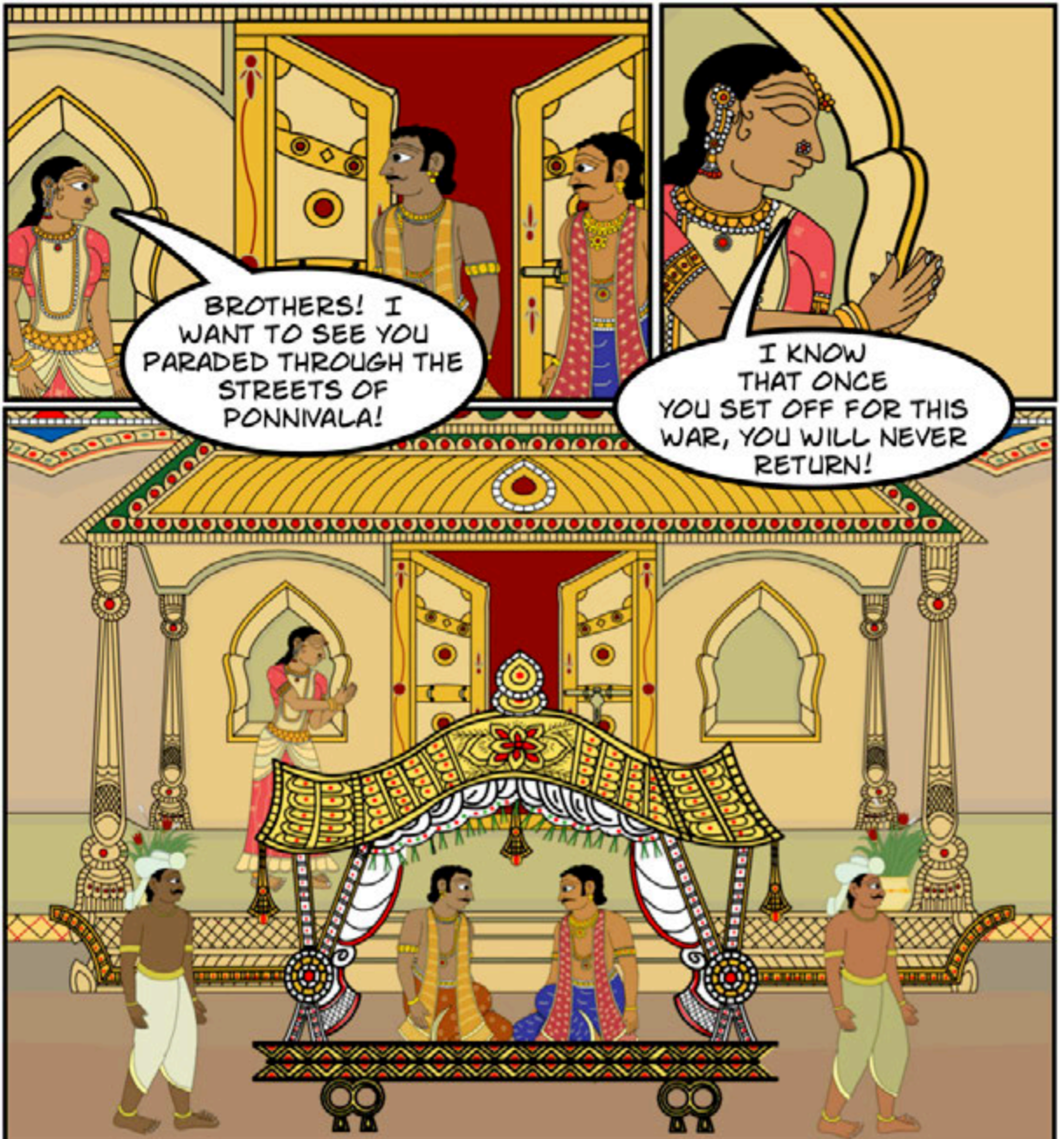


SHAMBUGA QUICKLY FINDS THE KINGS' SOLDIERS, AND LEADS THEM INTO THE VIRAMALAI FOREST, WHERE THEY SET UP A WAR CAMP.



AT THAT MOMENT, BACK AT THE PALACE, TANGAL AWAKES FROM A BAD DREAM. SHE RUSHES TO FIND HER TWIN BROTHERS.





THE BROTHERS DO AS THEIR YOUNGER SISTER ASK, AND TRAVEL IN THE FAMILY PALANQUIN INTO TOWN.





THE KINGS TRAVEL ALL THE ROADS OF THE VILLAGE. EVERYWHERE THEY GO, PEOPLE BOW AND PAY THEIR RESPECTS. IT IS THE LAST CHANCE THE PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO HONOR THEIR KINGS.



WHEN THEY RETURN, TANGAL HAS A QUESTION FOR HER BROTHERS.



THE BROTHERS HAVE A MAID BRING TANGAL'S REQUESTED ITEMS. THE LOVING SISTER TAKES THEM AWAY FOR SAFE-KEEPING.





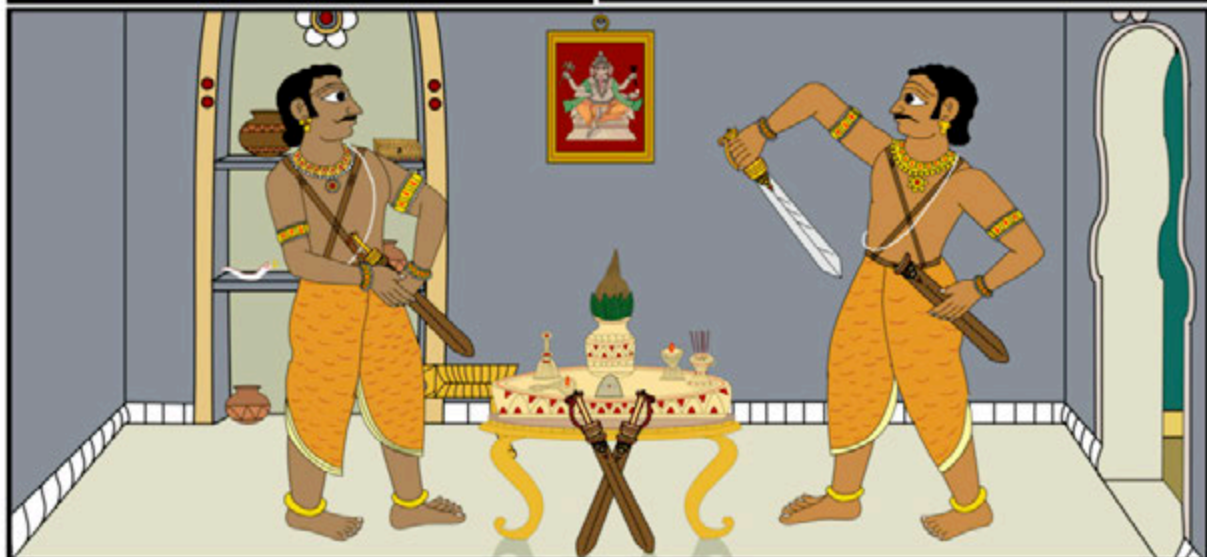


THEN THE TWO BROTHERS GO TO THEIR DRESSING ROOM. THERE, THEY DON THEIR BATTLE SILKS.



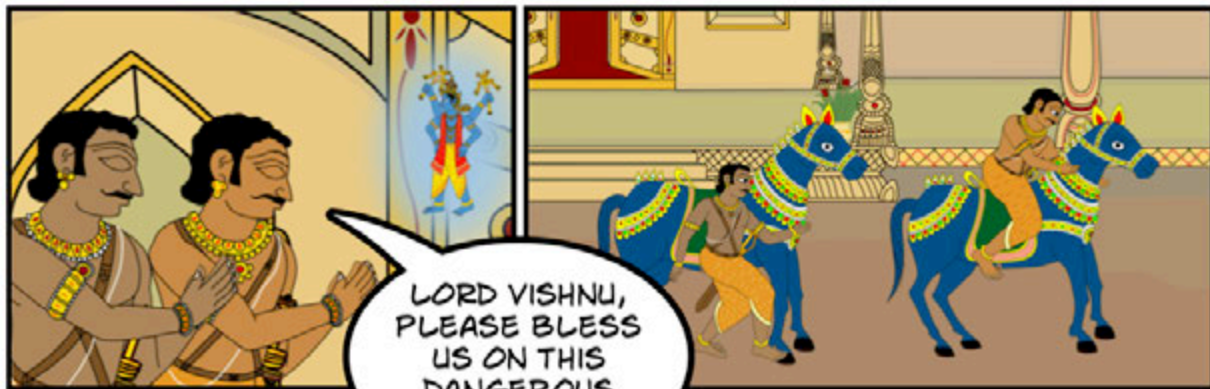
NEXT THE TWO BROTHERS PRAY FOR SUCCESS IN BATTLE. THEN THEY PUT ON THEIR SACRED PROTECTIVE CHEST THREADS AND PLACE THEIR SHINING WAR SWORDS IN THEIR SCABBARDS.

OH LORD,  
PLEASE ENSURE THE  
SUCCESS OF OUR  
MISSION!





# The Legend of Ponnivala



AFTER A PRAYER TO LORD VISHNU, THE BROTHERS TAKE OFF! THEIR HORSES GALLOP WITH GREAT SPEED. IN NO TIME AT ALL, THEY ARE DEEP IN THE VIRAMALAI FOREST!






SOON, THE BROTHERS COME TO THE WAR CAMP, WHERE SHAMBUGA AND THE SOLDIERS HAVE SETTLED. SHAMBUGA TIES UP HIS LORDS' HORSES, AND THE TWIN KINGS RETIRE TO A TENT TO REST.



BUT BACK AT THE PALACE, PONNACHI, THE LITTLE EARLESS SHE-DOG, HAS BEGUN TO THINK TO HERSELF.




OUR KINGS AND SHAMBUGA HAVE TAKEN ALL THE BIG DOGS OF OUR KINGDOM TO WAR WITH THEM.



BUT THEY HAVE NOT TAKEN ME BECAUSE I AM SO SMALL!



HOW DARE THEY FORGET ABOUT ME. I WILL TEACH THEM!



I'LL MAKE THOSE KINGS REGRET LEAVING ME BEHIND!

PONNACHI RUNS TO THE CELATTA TEMPLE AS FAST AS SHE CAN. THERE SHE CALLS OUT TO THE GODDESS.

NOW THOSE FARMERS HAVE TAKEN ALL THE DOGS IN PONNIVALA TO THE WAR AGAINST KOMBAN, BUT THEY HAVE SHOWN ME NO RESPECT, AND LEFT ME BEHIND!

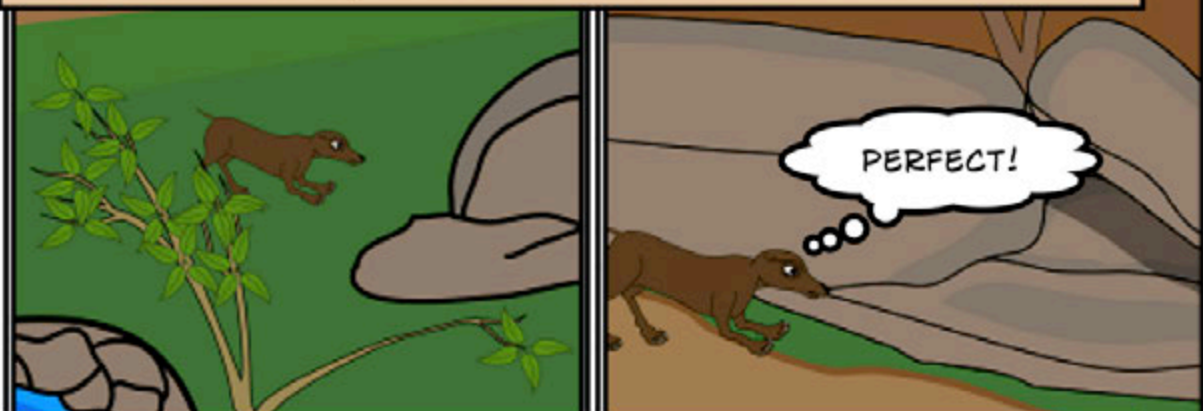
OH CELATTA! THE LORDS OF PONNIVALA WERE BORN OF A BOON. BUT SO WAS I!

GRANT ME THIS, OH GODDESS! WHEN THOSE FARMERS RAISE THEIR SWORDS, LET THERE BE NO STRENGTH IN THEIR ARMS!

LET THEM BE UNABLE TO RETURN THEIR ENEMY'S BLOWS!



HER CURSE IN PLACE, PONNACHI RUNS OFF TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE.



AFTER SEARCHING EVERYWHERE, SHE FINALLY FINDS A DARK HOLE, AND CRAWLS INSIDE. SHE FALLS ASLEEP ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.





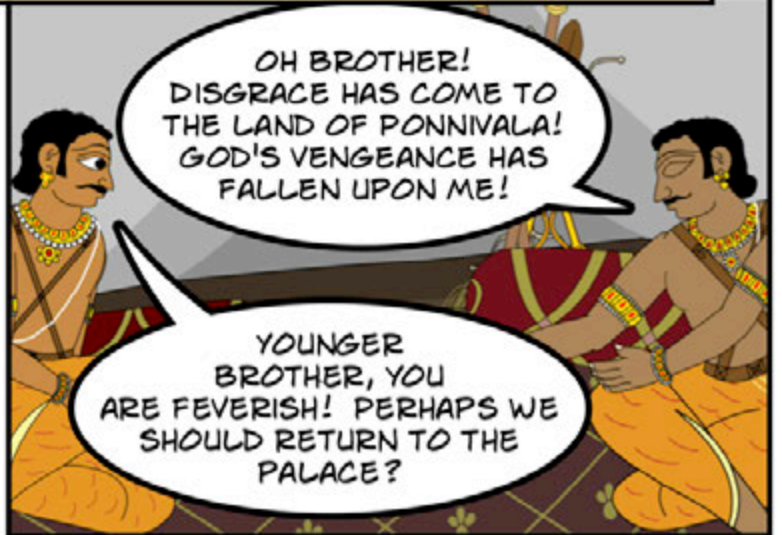


MEANWHILE, THE CURSE OF THE LITTLE DOG LIFTED FROM HER BODY AND TRAVELLED TO THE KINGS' CAMP. THERE IT SETTLED OVER THEIR TENT.





AS THE CURSE TAKES ITS PLACE OVER THE KINGS' SHELTER, SHANKAR AWAKENS FROM SLUMBER. HE IS OVERCOME WITH FEVER!



OH BROTHER!  
DISGRACE HAS COME TO  
THE LAND OF PONNIVALA!  
GOD'S VENGEANCE HAS  
FALLEN UPON ME!

YOUNGER  
BROTHER, YOU  
ARE FEVERISH! PERHAPS WE  
SHOULD RETURN TO THE  
PALACE?



IF WE LEAVE FOR  
HOME NOW, THAT KING  
KOMBAN WILL COME ONTO  
OUR LANDS AND DESTROY  
US BOTH!

LET US  
SEND SHAMBUGA AND  
ASK HIM TO DISCOVER  
WHERE KOMBAN IS  
HIDING!



AT HIS MASTERS' REQUEST, SHAMBUGA HEADS INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO DISCOVER KOMPAN'S LOCATION. HE TRAVELS FOR SOME TIME BEFORE COMING TO A CLUSTER OF THREE ROCKS WEDGED TOGETHER.



BUT SHAMBUGA DOES NOT REALIZE THAT KOMPAN IS HIDDEN IN A CAVE JUST IN FRONT OF HIM! THE GREAT BOAR NOTICES SHAMBUGA AND ROUSES THE SCOUT FROM HIS SLUMBER.



SHAMBUGA IS TOO STARTLED TO SPEAK. KOMBAN IS ANGERED WHEN SHAMBUGA DOES NOT ANSWER RIGHT AWAY.





SHAMBUGA PLAYS A LULLABY, AND SOON KOMBAN IS FAST ASLEEP.



# The Legend of Ponnivala



AFTER KOMBAN IS ASLEEP, SHAMBUGA SNEAKS INTO HIS CAVE AND PULLS OUT SOME OF THE BOAR'S BACK HAIRS, SO THAT HE CAN SHOW HIS MASTERS PROOF OF THE BEAST'S MASSIVE SIZE. ONCE HE HAS HIS EVIDENCE, SHAMBUGA RUNS ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE CAMP, THINKING CONSTANTLY OF HIS SICK LORDS.





LORDS! I HAVE SEEN KING KOMBAN WITH MY OWN EYES!

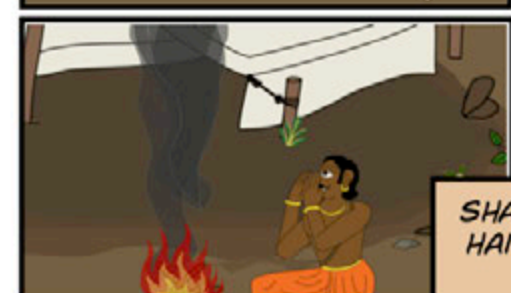
HE IS EVEN BIGGER THAN WE THOUGHT! THAT BOAR IS NO FOREST ANIMAL - HE IS THE GOD OF DEATH HIMSELF!

CAN YOU PROVE THIS




LORDS, THIS IS HAIR FROM THE GREAT BOAR'S BACK!

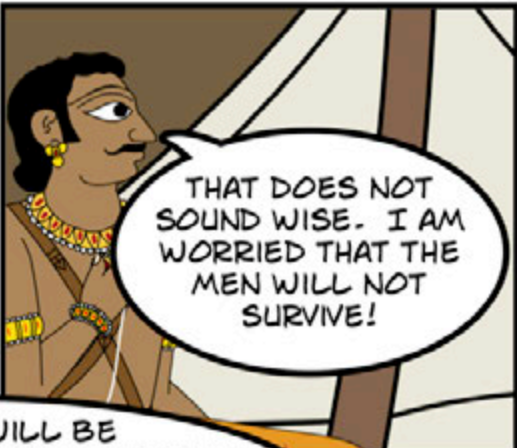
OH MY, WHAT A HUGE ANIMAL HE MUST BE!



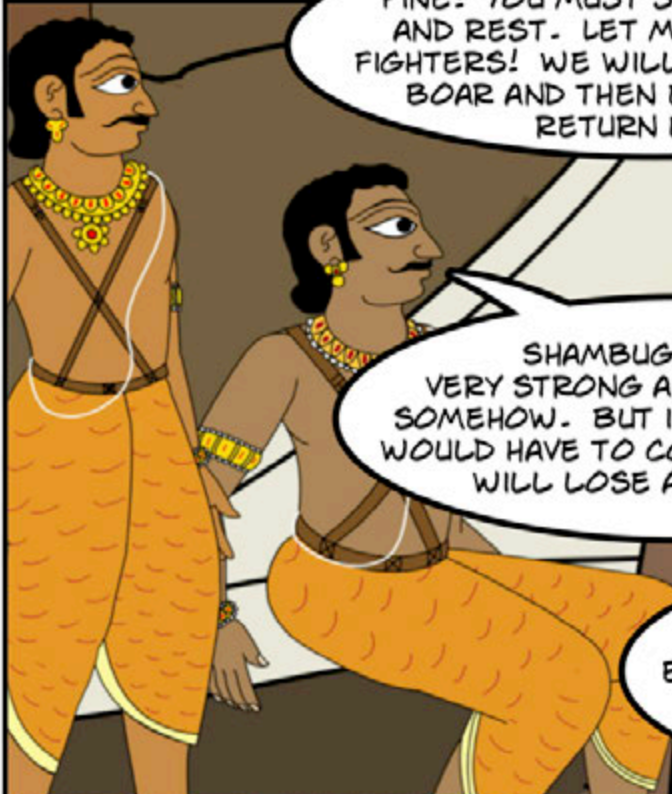
SHAMBUGA BUILDS A FIRE AND BURNS THE BOAR HAIR. THE STENCH OF IT TRAVELS ALL THE WAY TO KOMBAN IN HIS MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT!




LORDS, IF WE DO NOT KILL KOMBAN TONIGHT, HE WILL COME AND DESTROY US! LET ME TAKE OUR MEN AND KILL HIM!



THAT DOES NOT SOUND WISE. I AM WORRIED THAT THE MEN WILL NOT SURVIVE!




LORDS, IT WILL BE FINE! YOU MUST STAY IN THE TENT AND REST. LET ME GO WITH OUR FIGHTERS! WE WILL KILL THE MIGHTY BOAR AND THEN EVERYONE CAN RETURN HOME!



SHAMBUGA, YOU ARE VERY STRONG AND WILL ESCAPE SOMEHOW. BUT IF THE MEN DIE, WE WOULD HAVE TO COMMIT SUICIDE! WE WILL LOSE ALL RESPECT!



OH KINGS! I PROMISE THAT ALL WILL BE WELL! PLEASE LET ME LEAD OUR MEN INTO THE FOREST!



FINALLY SHAMBUGA CONVINCES THE KINGS TO LET HIM LEAD THE MEN. HE TAKES THE FIGHTERS AND THE DOGS TO KOMBAN'S HIDING PLACE.



EVERYONE APPROACHES KOMBAN VERY QUIETLY. WHEN THEY ARE VERY NEAR SHAMBUGA ORDERS SOME OF THE DOGS RELEASED.



THE DOGS BITE AND PULL KOMBAN'S HAIR. THE GREAT BEAST BARELY FEELS A TICKLE. THEN HE ROLLS OVER ON THE DOGS, CRUSHING THEM ALL!





THIS TIME, THE DOGS ATTACK KOMBAN'S NECK AND FACE. AGAIN, THE DOGS ARE LITTLE MORE THAN AN ANNOYANCE. THE HUGE ANIMAL SIMPLY ROLLS OVER AND CRUSHES THEM.





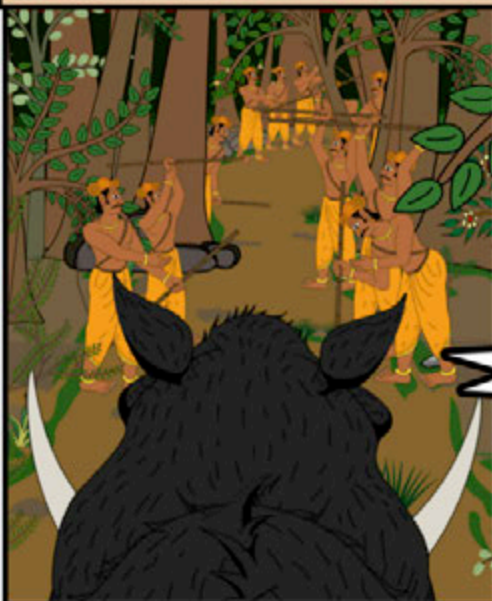
THE MEN RUN AWAY QUICKLY, BUT KOMBAN DOES NOT LET THEM ESCAPE!

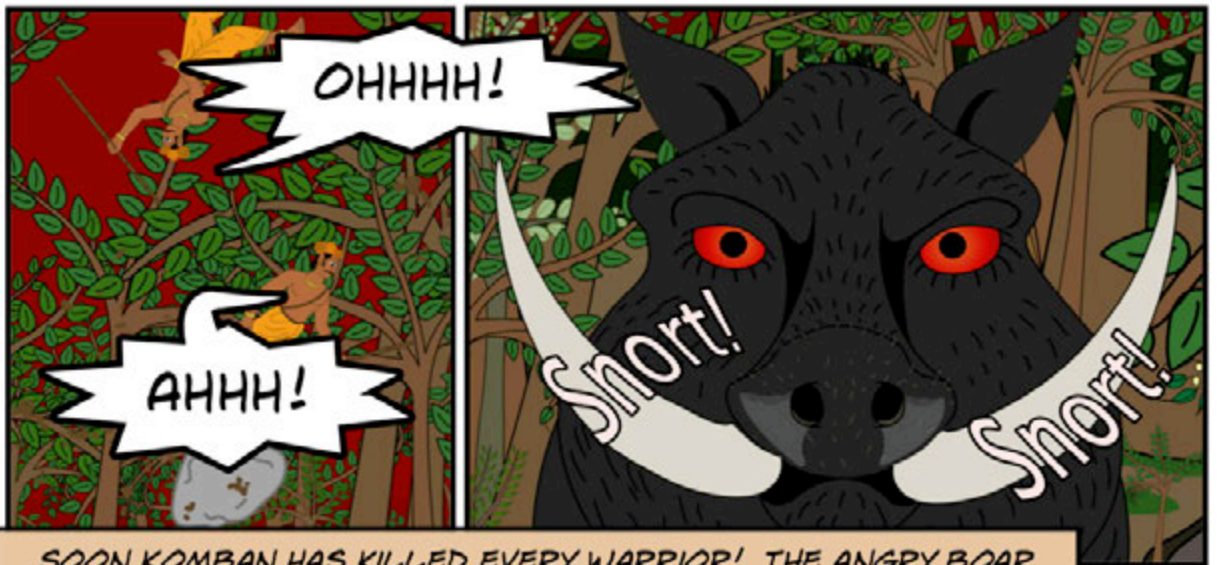


Short!



THE GREAT BOAR CHASES AFTER THE FIGHTERS, CRUSHING THEM UNDER HIS HOOFS, AND TOSSING THEM INTO THE AIR!






SOON KOMBAN HAS KILLED EVERY WARRIOR! THE ANGRY BOAR THEN RETURNS TO HIS HIDING PLACE. HE WILL AWAIT THE KINGS' NEXT MOVE, CONFIDENT THAT HE WILL DEFEAT THEM!



ONLY SHAMBUGA HAS SURVIVED! HE RUNS QUICKLY BACK TO HIS MASTERS.



OH LORDS! I HAVE FAILED YOU! THAT MONSTROUS BOAR KILLED ALL OUR MEN AND SQUASHED ALL THEIR DOGS!



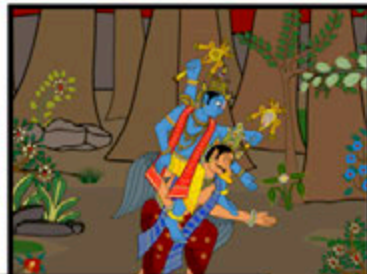
YOU VILLAIN! YOU DID NOT LISTEN TO MY WORDS! I SAID IT WASN'T SAFE FOR OUR MEN, BUT YOU TOOK THEM ANYWAY. YOU HAVE GIVEN THEM AS A TRIBUTE TO THAT EVILKING KOMBAN!



WE CAN NO LONGER GO HOME WITH OUR HEADS HELD HIGH!

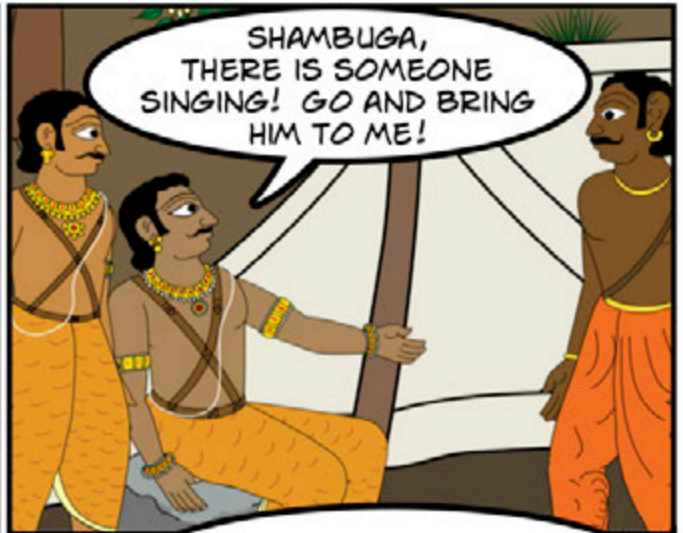


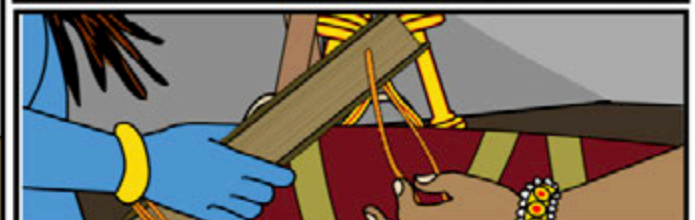
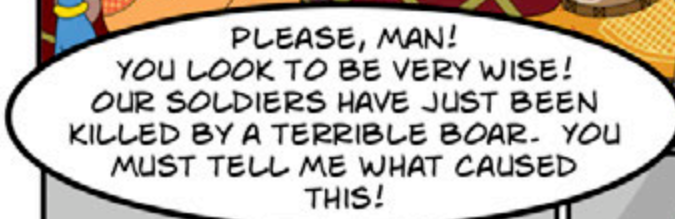
INSTEAD, WE MUST KILL OURSELVES! WE MUST COMMIT SUICIDE RIGHT NOW!



LORD VISHNU LOOKS DOWN FROM HIS COUCH ON THE MILK SEA. HE HEARS THE TWO LORDS CRYING, AND KNOWS HE MUST HELP THEM. HE SETS OFF IMMEDIATELY FOR EARTH. ONCE THERE, THE LORD TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO A HOLY BEGGAR.







SHANKAR PLACES THE THREAD THREE TIMES BETWEEN THE MANUSCRIPT'S THIN LEAVES. THEN THE MAN BEGINS TO READ...





IT SAYS HERE THAT  
WHEN YOUR MOTHER RECEIVED  
HER BOON FROM LORD SHIVA, THE  
PALACE DOG ALSO RECEIVED A BOON!  
SHE GAVE BIRTH TO PONNACHI,  
A LITTLE DOG WITH POISON IN  
HER FANGS!



RECENTLY,  
PONNACHI WENT TO THE  
GODDESS CELATTA AND ASKED  
FOR A CURSE TO BE  
PLACED UPON YOU!

SHE WAS  
OFFENDED BECAUSE  
YOU DID NOT TAKE HER TO WAR WITH  
YOU! THIS CURSE IS THE REASON YOU HAVE  
A FEVER! YOU MUST APPEASE  
PONNACHI IF YOU WANT THE  
CURSE LIFTED!



AND WITH THAT, VISHNU TAKES HIS  
LEAVE AND RETURNS TO THE HEAVENS.

OUR HEROES LIVES ARE REACHING THEIR END. IT IS THEIR DESTINY TO CHALLENGE THE BOAR KING KOMBAN...BUT WITHOUT PONNACHI, THEY HAVE NO HOPE OF BEING VICTORIOUS! WILL THESE FARMER KINGS BE ABLE TO APOLOGIZE AND CONVINCE THE TINY PUP TO HELP THEM? TOGETHER WILL THEY BE ABLE TO KILL KING KOMBAN, AND DIE WITH HONOUR? OR HAS THEIR TIME SIMPLY RUN OUT?



# 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/comic24](http://www.ponnivala.com/comic24)

The Legend of  
**Ponnivala**

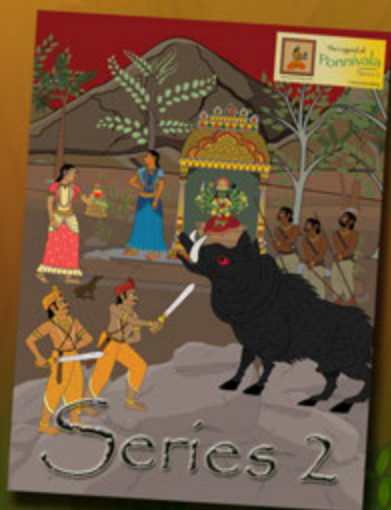
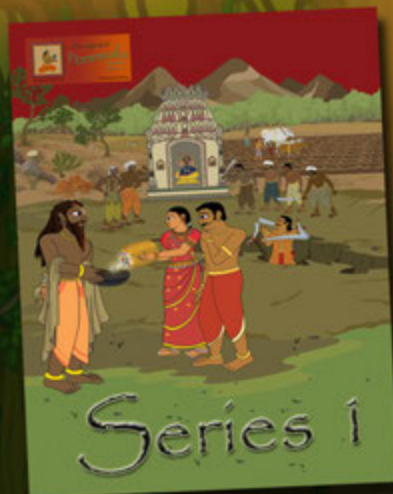
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