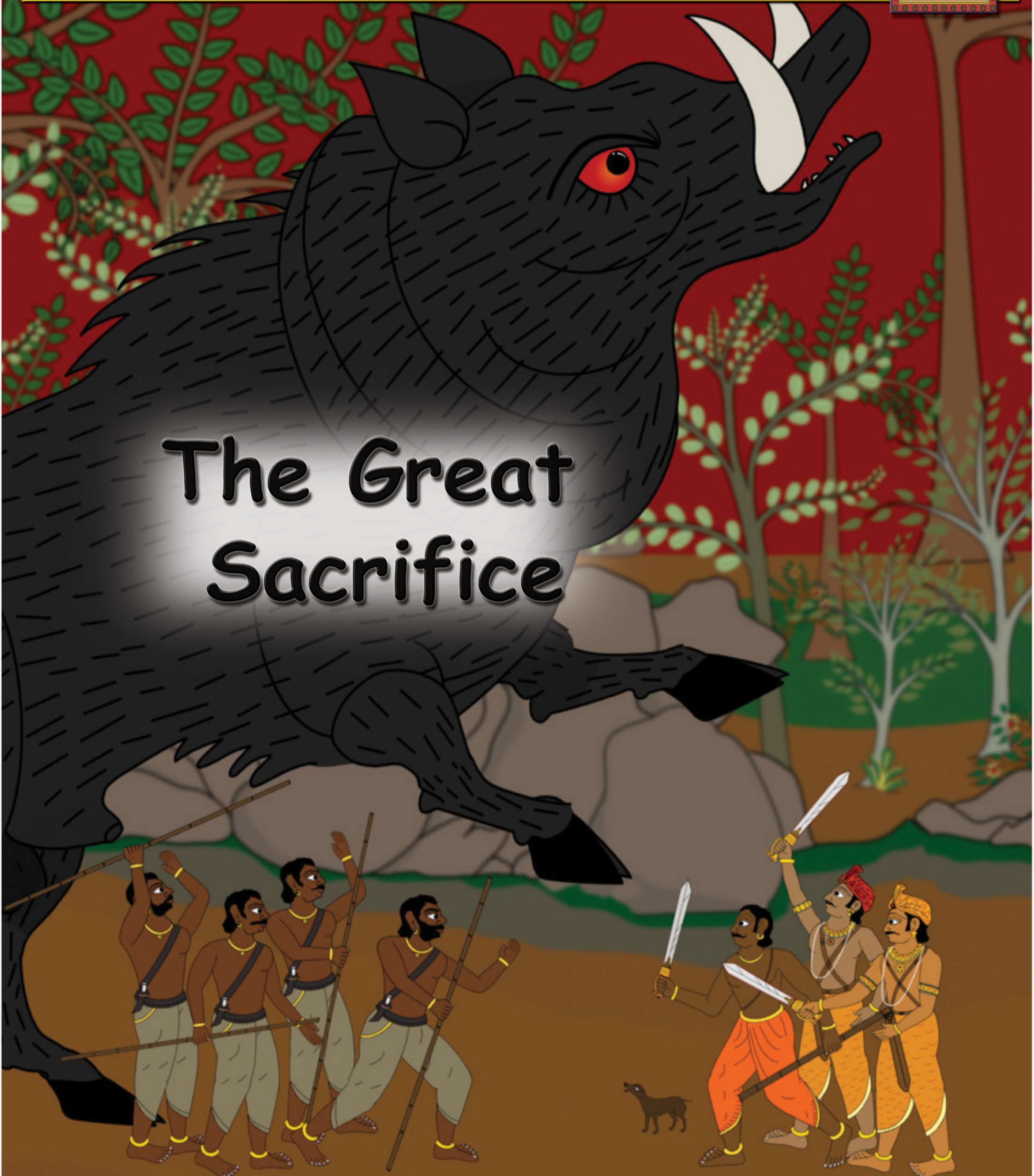


Series 2  
Book 12

The Legend of  
**Ponnivala**



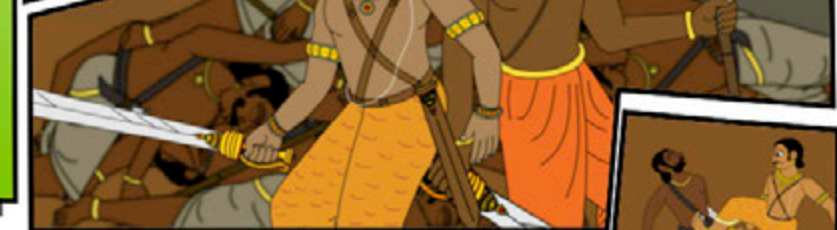
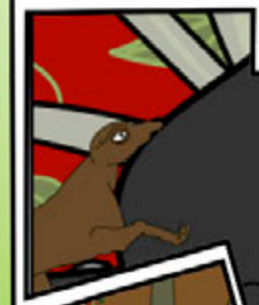
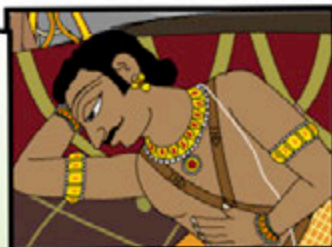
# The Great Sacrifice



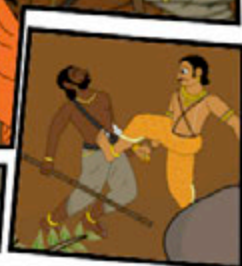


THE GREAT  
SACRIFICE  
SERIES 2 COMIC 12

THE TWO  
WARRIOR-  
BROTHERS OF  
PONNIVALA LIE  
SICK. THEY ARE  
CURED AFTER  
HUMBLING  
THEMSELVES  
BEFORE THE  
PALACE SHE-  
DOG. COMING TO  
THE HEROES' AID,  
THE DOG ATTACKS  
AND WEAKENS  
THE BOAR BUT  
LEAVES THE FINAL  
DEATH-SPEAR  
THROW TO HER  
MASTERS. THE  
FOREST HUNTERS  
SEEK REVENGE IN  
A HUGE BATTLE.  
THE HEROES WIN,  
HOWEVER THEIR  
TIME ON EARTH IS  
NOW UP. THEY  
GIFT THEIR LIVES  
TO LORD SHIVA ...



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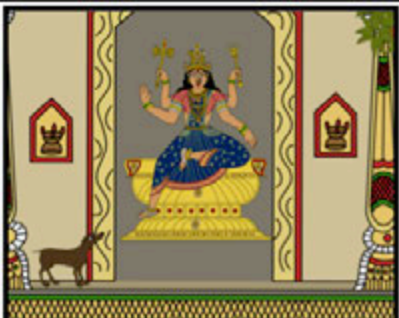
# The Great Sacrifice



I HAVE BEEN SO SICK! HERE I AM, READY TO DO BATTLE AGAINST THAT HUGE BOAR KING KOMBAN, AND I CANNOT EVEN LIFT MY SWORD! WORSE YET, MY ASSISTANT HAS LOST ALL OUR FINEST MEN AND THEIR DOGS TO THAT BEAST!

JUST NOW I DISCOVERED THE REASON FOR THESE MISFORTUNES! A WANDERING FORTUNE TELLER TOLD ME THAT OUR PALACE DOG, PONNACHI, HAS LAID A CURSED ON ME!

PONNACHI WAS OFFENDED THAT WE DIDN'T ASK HER TO JOIN OUR RANKS. WE MUST QUICKLY BEG HER FORGIVENESS, AND ASK FOR HER HELP IN DEFEATING THAT HUGE AND NASTY BOAR!





The Legend of Ponnivala



SHAMBUGA! GO TO THE PALACE AND FETCH PONNACHI. HONOR HER, THEN BRING HER HERE!



OH FINE LADY! MY TWO MASTERS SENT ME TO FIND PONNACHI! ANGRY AT BEING LEFT BEHIND, SHE HAS CURSED THEM BOTH! NOW THE YOUNGER LORD IS SO SICK HE CANNOT EVEN LIFT HIS SWORD!

I TOOK ALL THE KINGDOM'S SOLDIERS TO FIGHT KOMBAN, BUT HE KILLED EVERY ONE! WE CANNOT DEFEAT THAT BOAR WITHOUT PONNACHI! OH, WHERE IS SHE?

YOU IMBECILE! YOU FORGOT TO TAKE PONNACHI! OUR LITTLE DOG HAS GREAT POWERS! NOW HER ANGER HAS RUINED US ALL!

I HAVE NOT SEEN PONNACHI IN DAYS! I WILL GO LOOK FOR HER!





PONNACHI!

TANGAL SEARCHES HIGH AND LOW FOR HER LITTLE PUP, BUT THE DOG IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!



DEAR  
PONNACHI!



WHERE ARE  
YOU?



ARE YOU  
HERE,  
PONNACHI?

PONNACHI?



FINALLY, WHEN TANGAL HAS ALMOST GIVEN UP, SHE LOOKS DOWN AT HER FEET. THERE, ASLEEP UNDER A ROCK, IS PONNACHI!



NOW WE HAVE LOST ALL OUR SOLDIERS, AND MY BROTHER IS SO FEVERED AND WEAK, HE CANNOT LIFT HIS SWORD!

PONNACHI!  
THERE YOU ARE! YOU PUT A CURSE UPON MY BROTHERS!

OH PRINCESS!  
I WAS BORN OF A BOON, JUST LIKE YOU WERE!

STILL, YOUR BROTHERS NEVER CALLED ME TO JOIN THEM!

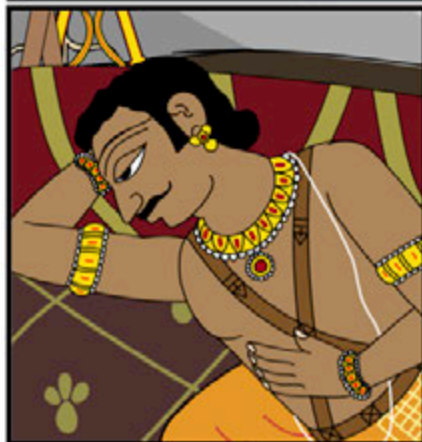
THAT IS WHY I BECAME ANGRY! PLEASE ALLOW ME GO TO WAR WITH THEM!

OK... I UNDERSTAND NOW PONNACHI! DO NOT FRET. LET US PUT THE MATTER BEHIND US!

The Great Sacrifice







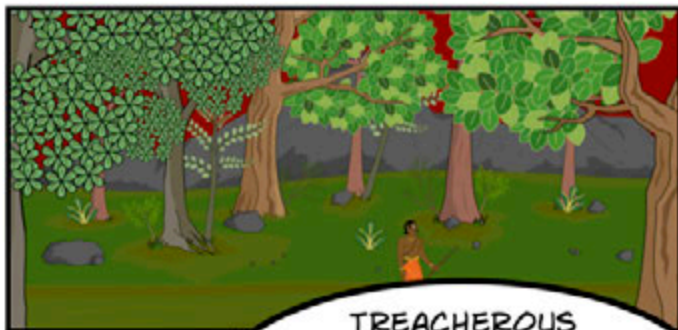


# The Great Sacrifice





# The Legend of Ponnivala



SHAMBUGA LEADS PONNACHI TO THE WAR CAMP. ONCE THERE, THEY ARE GREETED BY PONNAR AND SHANKAR. SHANKAR IS ANGRY - HE FEELS THAT PONNACHI HAS BETRAYED THEM. HE BRANDISHES HIS SWORD AT THE TINY DOG.

TREACHEROUS PONNACHI! WAS IT YOU WHO PLACED A CURSE ON ME, HOPING FOR ME TO DIE?



OH KING!  
FORGIVE ME!

WHEN YOU WENT TO WAR, YOU NEVER ASKED ME TO JOIN YOUR GROUP OF FIGHTERS!

THAT IS WHY I BECAME ANGRY AND UTTERED A CURSE!


OH LADY PONNACHI! THAT WAS INDEED A MISTAKE ON OUR PART!

NOW THAT YOU ARE HERE, I AM SURE WE CAN KILL KOMBAN!




## The Great Sacrifice

PONNACHI AND THE KINGS FORM A PLAN. THE MEN ARE TO WAIT AT THE TOP OF A HIGH ROCK, UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTION. PONNACHI HAS GONE TO FIND KOMBAN!



HEY YOU!  
EARLESS DOG! WHO  
ARE YOU?



HOW MUCH  
ARROGANCE YOU  
HAVE! ANSWER MY  
QUESTION!


HEY  
KOMBAN!  
SPEAK  
CAREFULLY!

IF YOU CALL ME  
EARLESS ONCE MORE,  
I WILL MAKE YOU  
EARLESS TOO!



HA! YOU STAND  
ONLY ONE HAND HIGH!  
I CAN CRUSH YOU EASILY  
WITH ONE FOOT!

IS THAT  
SO?



IF I LET OUT A  
SNORT, YOU WILL FLY ACROSS  
THE JUNGLE! HOW COULD A TINY  
EARLESS THING LIKE YOU CUT OFF  
MY EARS?





PONNACHI LEAPS ONTO KOMBAN'S HEAD AND TEARS OFF HIS RIGHT EAR!



PONNACHI LEAPS ON KOMBAN'S BACK AND TEARS OFF THE OTHER EAR, THEN SHE CHEWS UP BOTH. KOMBAN HAS LOST SOME OF HIS POWER!





NOW KOMBAN IS QUITE ANXIOUS! HE BEGINS TO RUN AWAY IN PANIC. BUT PONNACHI RUNS RIGHT AFTER HIM!



SHE JUMPS UP AND GRABS ONTO HIS TAIL. THEN SHE JUMPS AND BITES HIS TESTICLES! THE POISON FROM HER FANGS SPREADS THROUGHOUT KOMBAN'S BODY. THE PAIN IS EXCRUCIATING! HE STARTS TO STUMBLE.



PONNACHI CALLS TO THE KINGS, SAYING THAT THE TIME HAS COME. SHANKAR THINKS OF LORD VISHNU, THEN HURLS HIS SPEAR AT KOMBAN.



HURRR!

THE SPEAR STRIKES TRUE. KOMBAN CALLS OUT TO HIS MISTRESS FOR HELP. BUT IT IS TOO LATE. MOMENTS LATER THE BOAR KING IS DEAD!

VIRATANGAL!  
PROTECT ME!

OH  
CHASTE LADY,  
VIRATANGAL!







HMM...



THOSE BRAVE VETTVU WARRIORS ARE GATHERING TO ATTACK THOSE TWO FARMER-KINGS!

VISHNU, WATCHING FROM HIS COBRA COUCH ON THE MILK SEA, SEES THE VETTVU SOLDIERS PREPARING FOR BATTLE.



THOSE TWO FINE LORDS WERE PROMISED ONLY SIXTEEN YEARS OF LIFE ON EARTH! THEIR TIME DOWN THERE IS NOW OVER.

IT IS MY DUTY TO COLLECT THEIR SPIRITS AND RETURN THEM TO LORD SHIVA!

LORD VISHNU KNOWS THAT THE FARMER KINGS' TIME ON EARTH IS UP. HE DECIDES TO SIDE WITH THE VETTVUS AND BRING MATTERS TO AN END !

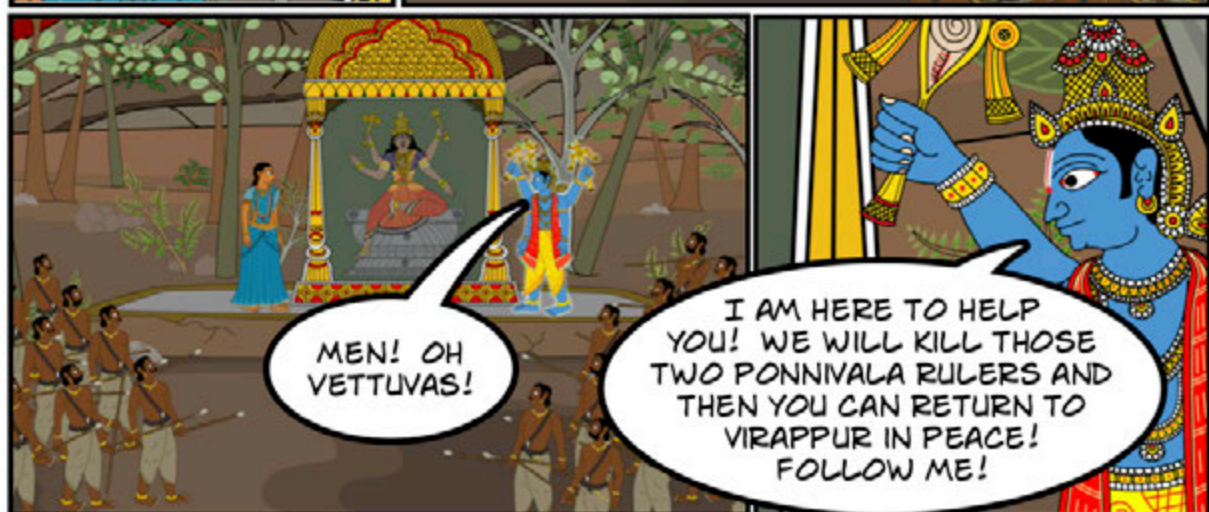


THAT WAS THE PROMISE I MADE TO LORD SHIVA LONG AGO!

LET ME JOIN THE VETTVUS AND FINISH THIS WORK TODAY!









VISHNU DISGUISES HIMSELF AS A WASHERMAN, THEN HE APPROACHES PONNAR WHO IS RESTING NEAR A ROCK WHERE THE BOAR MEAT HAS BEEN LAID OUT.

MAN!  
WHO ARE YOU?  
WHERE ARE YOU  
FROM?

I AM A  
WASHERMAN FROM  
VIRAPPUR. I HEAR THAT A HUGE  
BOAR HAD JUST BEEN KILLED. MY  
PREGNANT WIFE HAS BEEN BEGGING  
ME FOR A TASTE OF BOAR  
FLESH!

I SEE YOU HAVE A  
LOT OF MEAT - MAY I  
PLEASE HAVE A LITTLE FOR  
HER TO ENJOY?

SORRY, YOU SHOULD HAVE  
COME SOONER! NOW ALL  
SEVEN PORTIONS HAVE BEEN  
MEASURED OUT EVENLY!

ISN'T THAT THE BOAR'S  
HEAD I SEE OVER ON THAT ROCK?  
LORD, I BEG YOU! LET ME TAKE  
THAT PIECE AWAY!



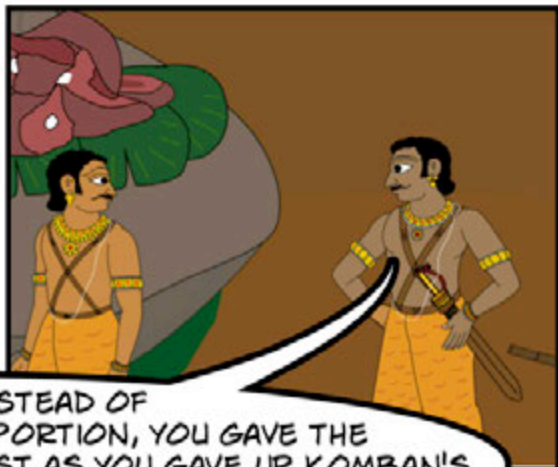
WELL, I SUPPOSE THERE CAN BE NO HARM IN GIVING THAT LEFTOVER PIECE TO YOU...



WHO WERE YOU JUST TALKING TO?

A WASHERMAN WHOSE PREGNANT WIFE WAS BEGGING FOR BOAR MEAT. I FELT SORRY FOR HIM SO I LET HIM HAVE THE BOAR'S HEAD!

VISHNU, DISGUISED AS A WASHERMAN, TAKES THE HEAD OF THE BOAR AWAY. SHANKAR AND SHAMBUGA ARRIVE, AND REALIZE WHAT PONNAR HAS DONE. THE BAD OMEN WORRIES THEM ALL. SOON THE VETTUVAS ARRIVE. SHANKAR QUICKLY SPOTS THEM!

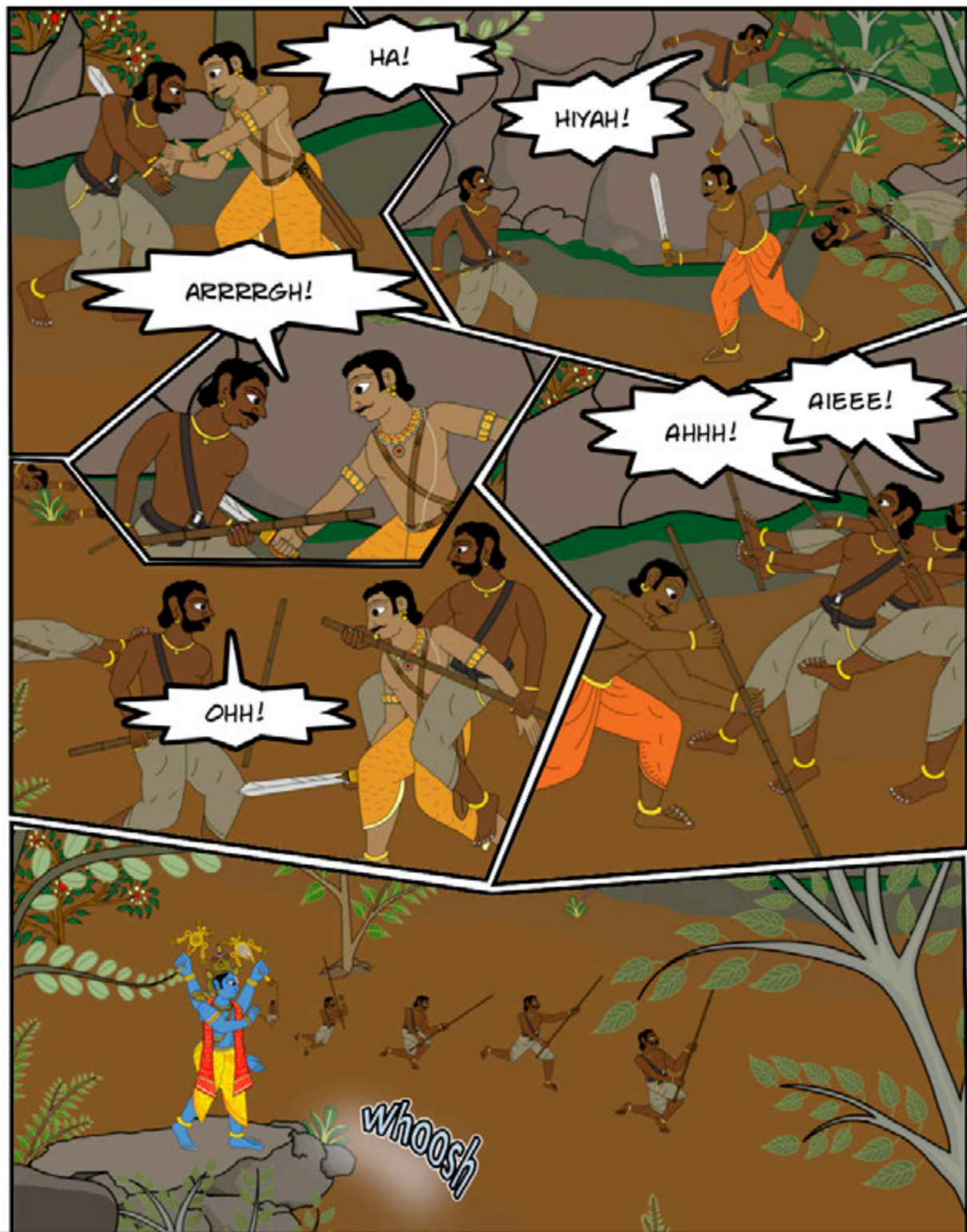


YOU MEAN THAT INSTEAD OF GIVING AWAY A LITTLE OF EACH PORTION, YOU GAVE THE HEAD AWAY? THIS IS A BAD OMEN! JUST AS YOU GAVE UP KOMBAN'S HEAD TO A STRANGER, SOON WE TOO WILL HAVE TO GIVE UP OUR OWN!





# The Great Sacrifice



THE TWO PONNIVALA MEN FIGHT AND FIGHT, BUT THERE IS NO END TO THE STREAM OF ATTACKING SOLDIERS! VISHNU KEEPS CREATING NEW WARRIORS AS FAST AS SHANKAR AND SHAMBUGA CAN DESTROY THEM!



# The Legend of Ponnivala



FINALLY, SHANKAR GROWS TOO TIRED TO CONTINUE.



IN DESPARATION, SHANKAR TAKES A SWING AT LORD VISHNU. HE UNDERESTIMATES THE GODS POWER AND IS THROWN TO THE GROUND!



LORDS OF PONNIVALA! THIS WILL BE THE LAST GROUP OF SOLDIERS YOU WILL HAVE TO FACE! I PROMISE!



# The Great Sacrifice



SHANKAR KNOWS HE CANNOT CONCLUDE THE GREAT BATTLE WITHOUT PONNAR'S INVOLVEMENT, SO HE ASKS HIS ELDER TWIN TO ASSIST HIM.



I THINK  
THAT IS ALL OF  
THEM!

WE HAVE  
DEFEATED ALL THE  
VETTUVA SOLDIERS  
AT LAST!

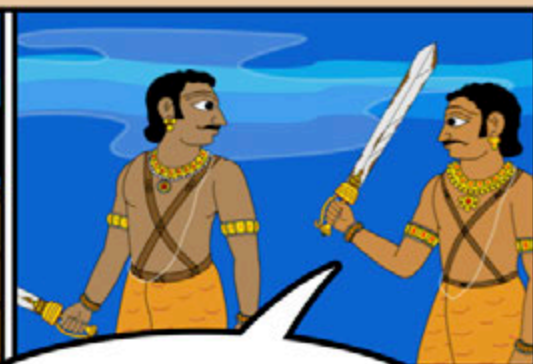
LET US GO  
CLEANSE OUR  
SWORDS IN THE  
RIVER!





THE TWO LORDS ARRIVE AT THE RIVER. SHANKAR HEARS A STRANGE SOUND, BUT DOES NOT REALIZE IT IS LORD VISHNU, WATCHING THEM FROM THE BRANCH OF A TREE!

WHAT IS THAT SOUND I JUST HEARD?

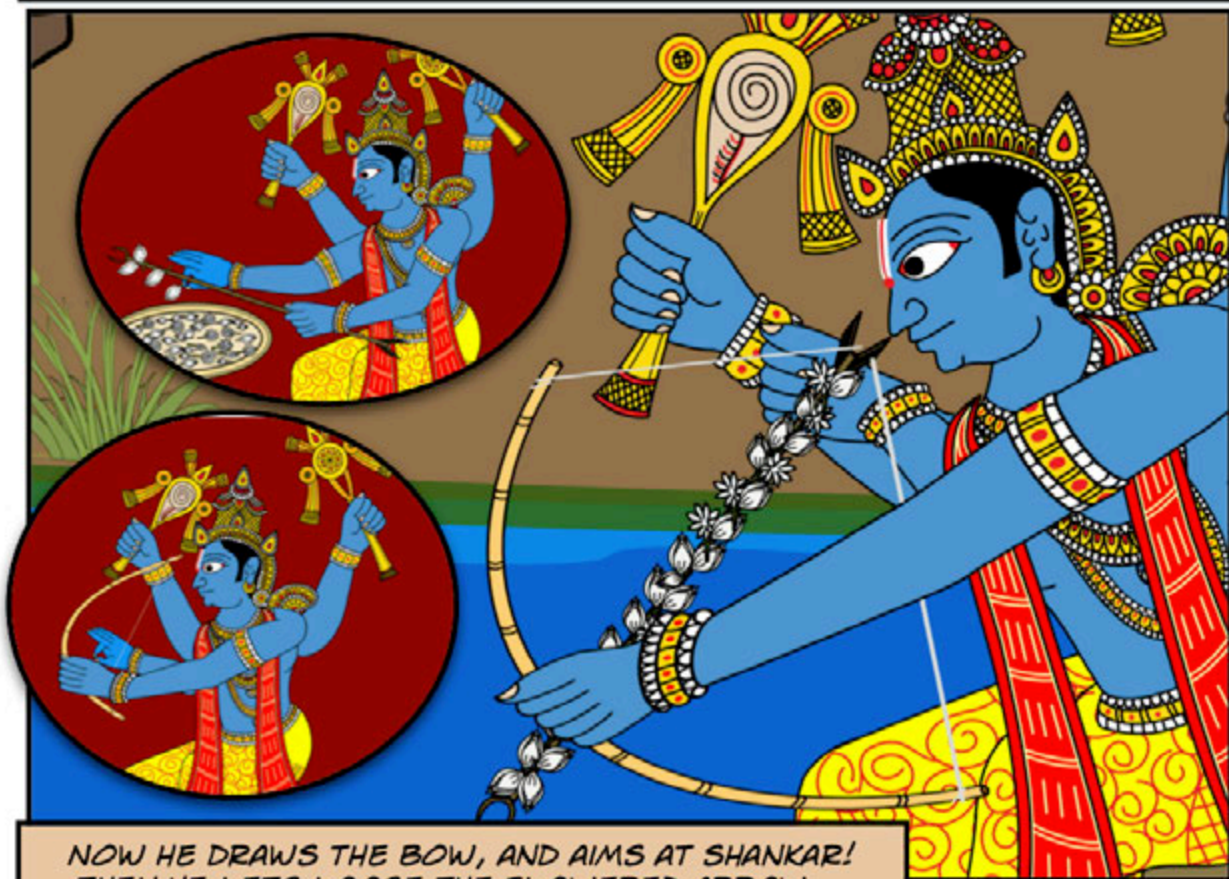


DON'T WORRY, FINE BROTHER! ALL IS QUIET NOW. LET'S WASH OUR SWORDS BEFORE THE BLOOD ON THEM BECOMES DRY!



## The Great Sacrifice

BUT VISHNU WATCHES THEM FROM HIS HIGH PERCH. HE HAD FASHIONED A BOW OUT OF A STALK OF MAIZE AND AN ARROW FROM JASMINE FLOWERS.



NOW HE DRAWS THE BOW, AND AIMS AT SHANKAR!  
THEN HE LETS LOOSE THE FLOWERED ARROW...







AN ARROW HAS TORN OFF MY PROTECTIVE THREAD!



OH MY!

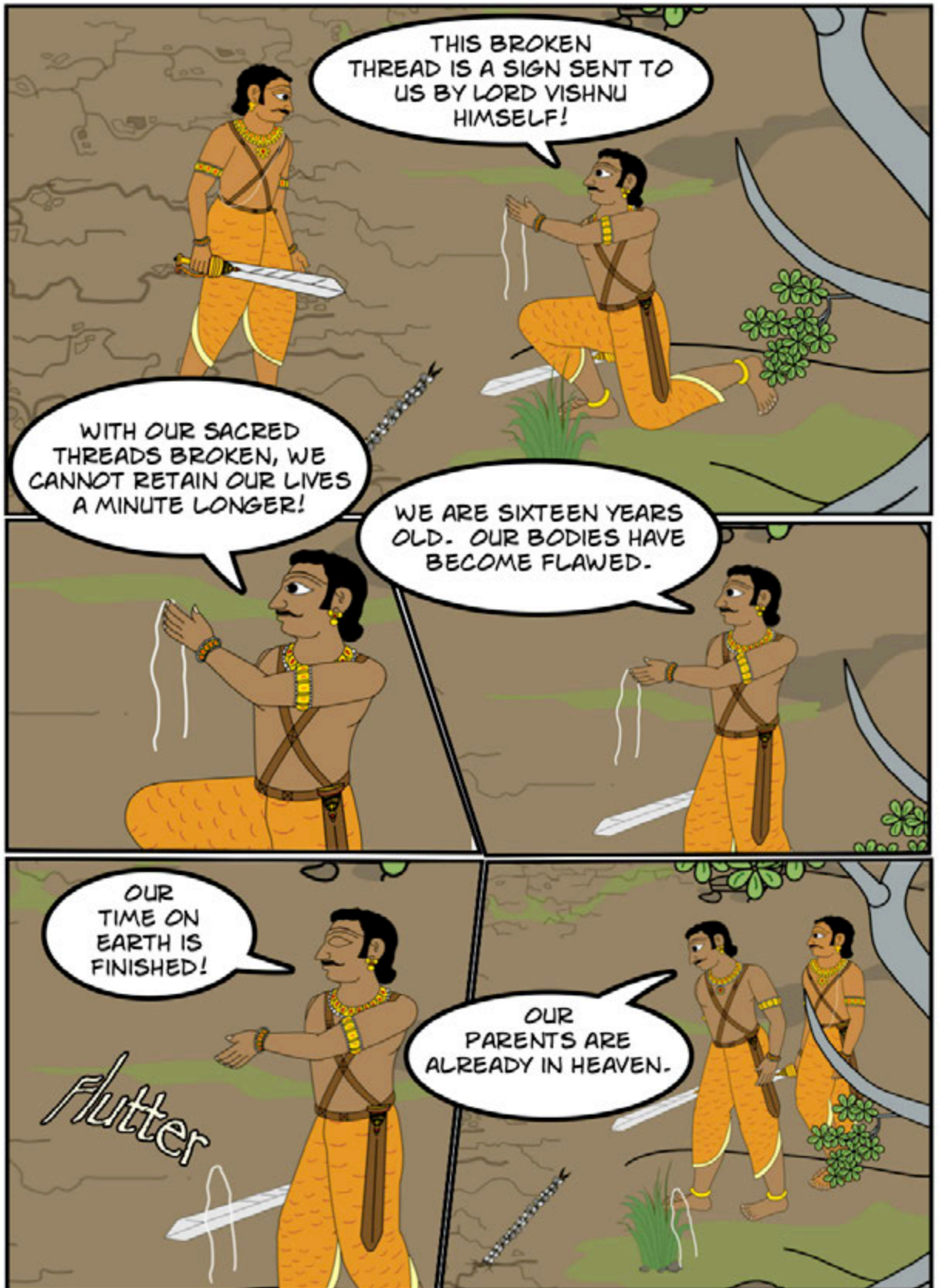


THE ARROW REMOVES THE PROTECTIVE THREAD FROM SHANKAR'S CHEST! THE YOUNGER KING KNOWS WHAT THIS SIGN MEANS...



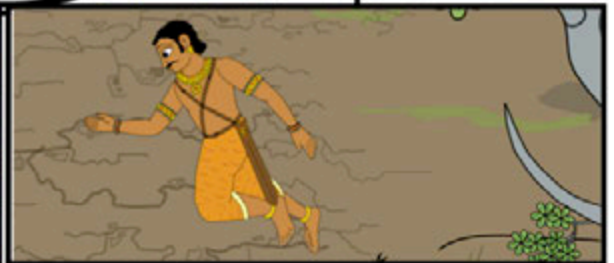
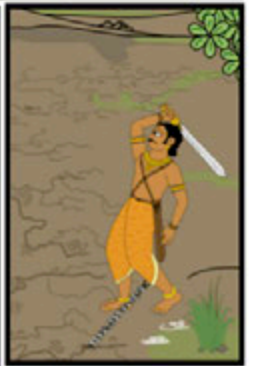
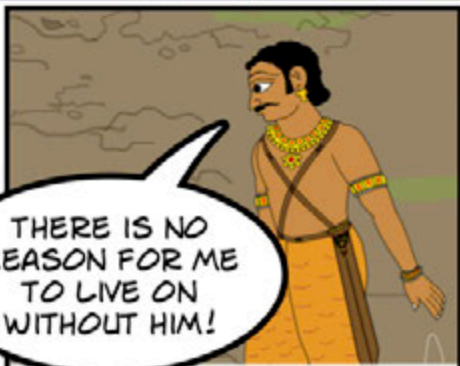
THIS IS A VERY BAD OMEN!

The Great Sacrifice





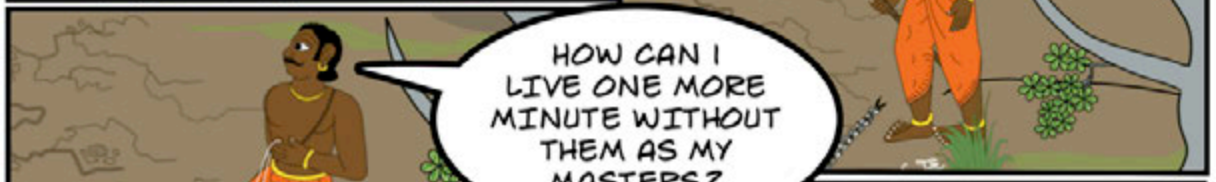




LORD VISHNU WATCHES THE SCENE, TAKING THE FORM OF AN EAGLE...



The Legend of Ponnivala





# The Great Sacrifice



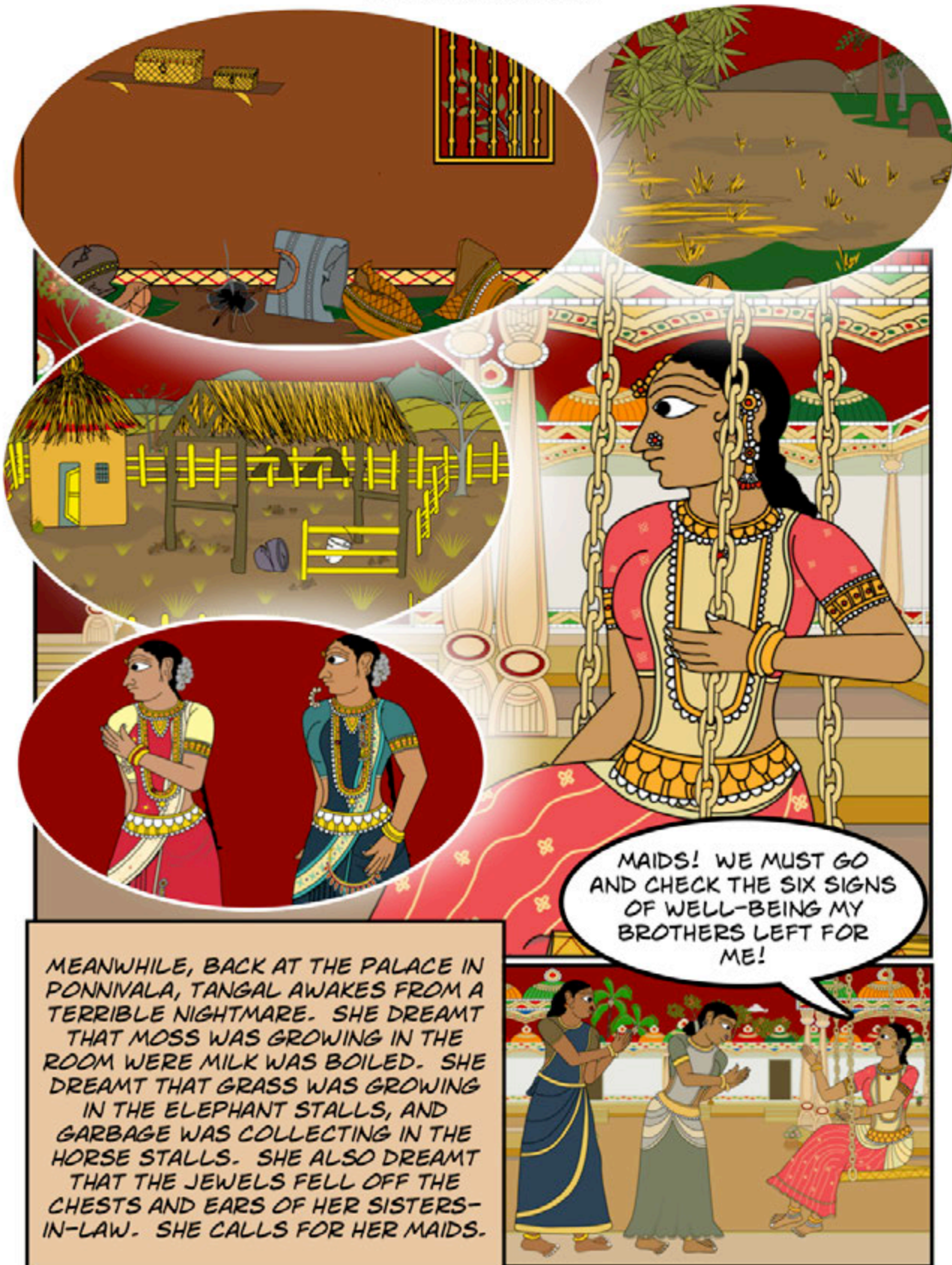
VISHNU ARRIVES AND COLLECTS ALL THREE SPIRITS AND PUTS THEM IN A LITTLE GOLD BOX. THEN HE ASCENDS TO LORD SHIVA'S HEAVEN.







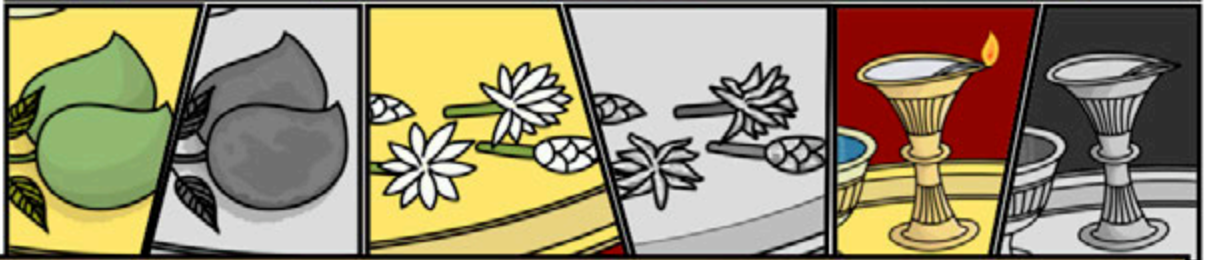




MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE PALACE IN PONNIVALA, TANGAL AWAKES FROM A TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE. SHE DREAMT THAT MOSS WAS GROWING IN THE ROOM WHERE MILK WAS BOILED. SHE DREAMT THAT GRASS WAS GROWING IN THE ELEPHANT STALLS, AND GARBAGE WAS COLLECTING IN THE HORSE STALLS. SHE ALSO DREAMT THAT THE JEWELS FELL OFF THE CHESTS AND EARS OF HER SISTERS-IN-LAW. SHE CALLS FOR HER MAIDS.

MAIDS! WE MUST GO AND CHECK THE SIX SIGNS OF WELL-BEING MY BROTHERS LEFT FOR ME!





THE MANGO IS ROTTEN, THE JASMINE FLOWERS HAVE WILTED, THE OIL LAMP HAS GONE OUT, THE COCONUT HAS SPLIT, THE WATER IN THE CUP HAS RECEDED, AND THE MOIST SANDALWOOD PASTE HAS DRIED UP!



THE TWIN KINGS OF PONNIVALA HAVE DEFEATED KOMBAN, AND THEIR VETTUVA ENEMIES! THEIR WORK ON EARTH IS FINISHED, AND THEY HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR FLAWED BODIES. NOW THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO HEAVEN. BUT WHAT ABOUT THEIR SISTER, THE LOVELY, CHASTE TANGAL? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HER AND TO THE BEAUTIFUL LAND OF PONNIVALA, NOW THAT ITS TWO HEROIC RULERS ARE NO MORE?

I KNOW THAT MY TWO BROTHERS HAVE DIED!

OH, WHAT SHALL I DO NOW? HOW MUCH MORE MUST I ENDURE?



# 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/comic25](http://www.ponnivala.com/comic25)

The Legend of  
**Ponnivala**

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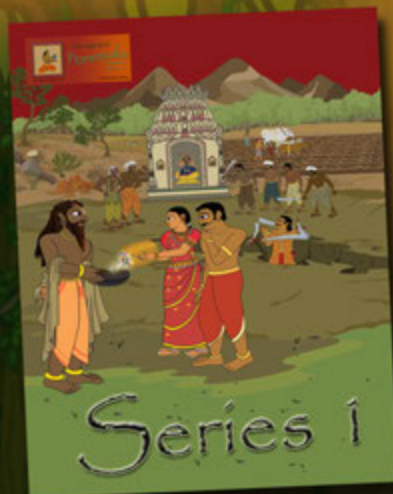






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