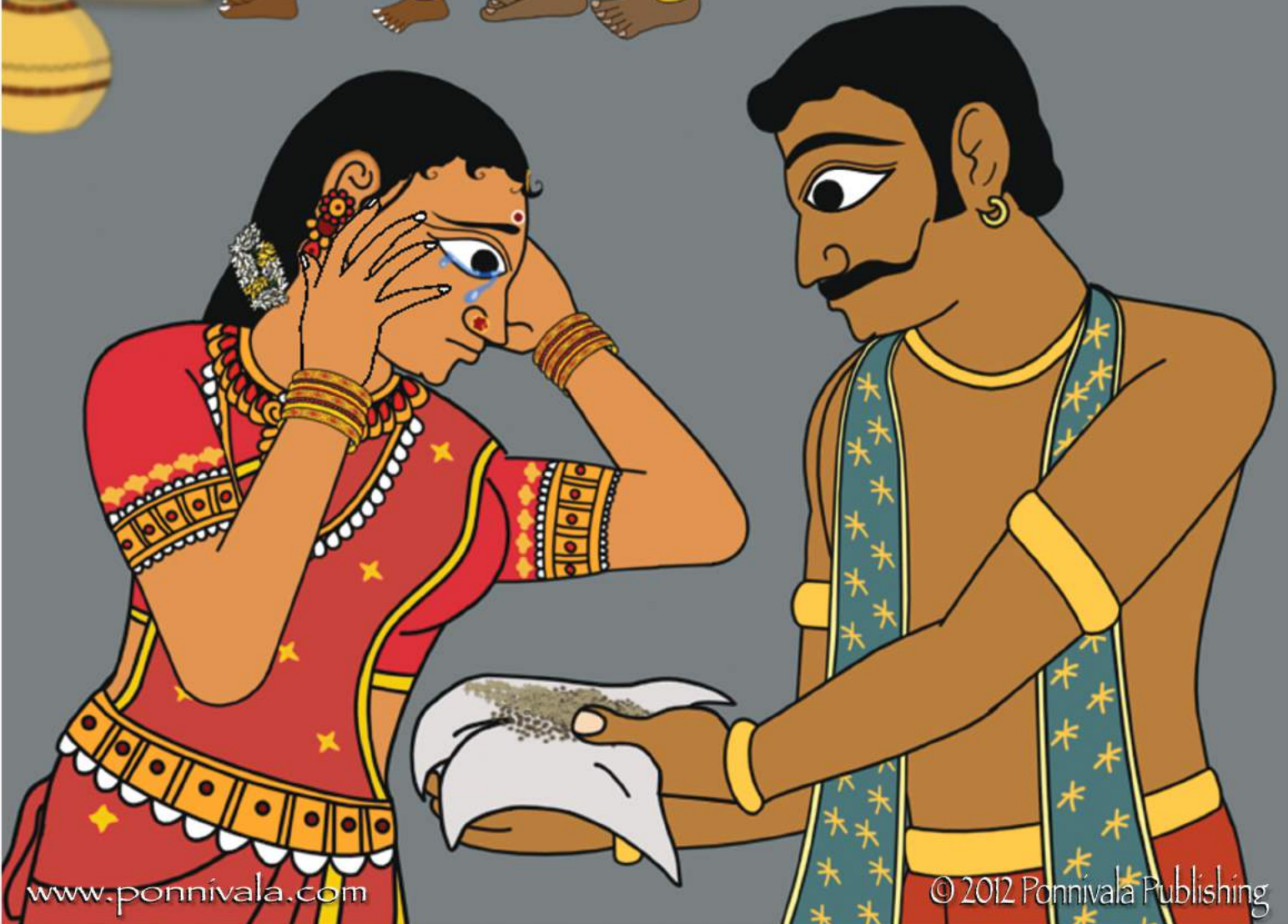


Series 1  
Book 6

The Legend of  
**Ponnivala**



# Roasted Seeds







**ROASTED SEEDS**  
SERIES 1 COMIC 6

A YOUNG WEDDED COUPLE RECLAIM ONE ANCESTRAL FIELD FROM THE HUSBAND'S CLAN RIVALS. THESE MEN TRY TO UNDERCUT THEIR FIRST HARVEST BY GIVING THEM SECRETLY ROASTED SEEDS TO SOW. HOWEVER THE TWO PERSEVERE, AND LORD VISHNU DECIDES TO HELP THEM OUT. THE ROCKY FIELD THEY HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO PLOUGH IS SET TO SPRING TO LIFE, AS IF BY MAGIC...



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PONNIVALLA  
PUBLICATIONS  
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SCIENCE  
ASSOCIATES LTD.

LADY TAMARAI WONDERS SILENTLY ABOUT THE MAN SHE HAS JUST MARRIED



MY NEW HUSBAND AND I HAVE BEEN BANISHED FROM MY HOMETLAND OF VALAVANDI. WE'VE HAD TO WALK SO FAR! I AM SO TIRED. MY FEET ARE BURNING FROM THE HOT SAND.

IS MY HUSBAND REALLY THE SON OF A KING? WHERE ARE HIS LANDS? WHERE IS HIS PALACE? HIS PARENTS DIED 25 YEARS BACK AND LEFT HIM AN ORPHAN.

HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY PROVE TO THE OTHERS NOW, WHO HE REALLY IS? WHAT WILL MY FUTURE LIFE BE LIKE? WILL I ALWAYS HAVE TO SUFFER LIKE THIS?





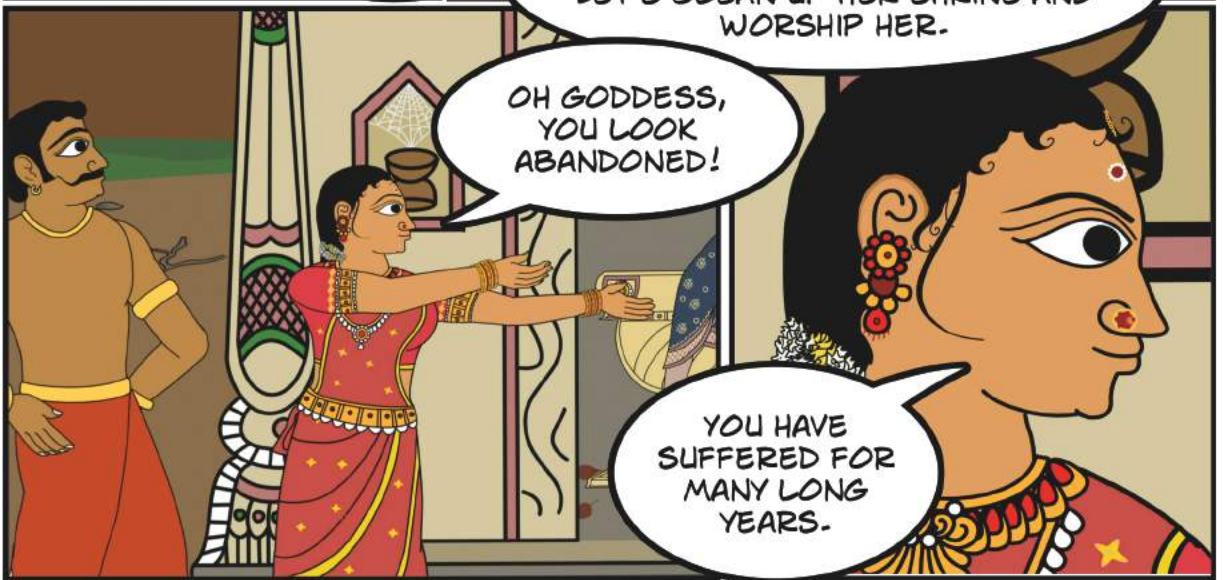
TAMARAI!



HERE IS OUR FAMILY TEMPLE.

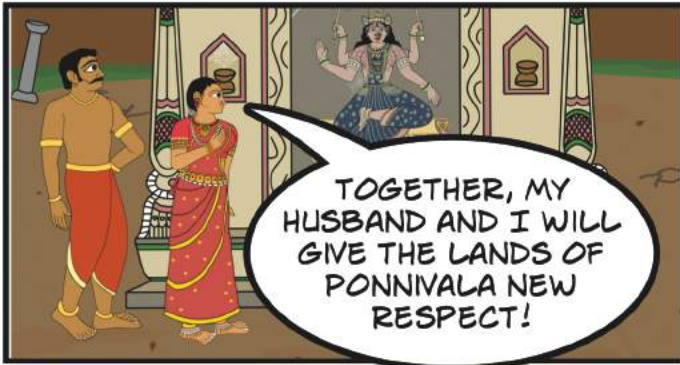
THIS IS OUR FINE GODDESS CELATTA.

IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS NOT HAD A PUJA IN MANY YEARS! LET'S CLEAN UP HER SHRINE AND WORSHIP HER.



OH GODDESS, YOU LOOK ABANDONED!

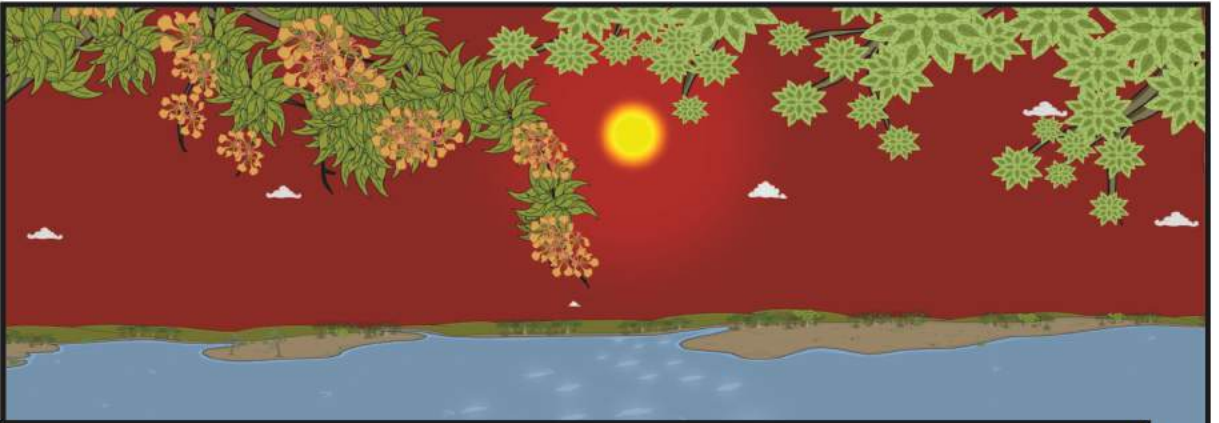
YOU HAVE SUFFERED FOR MANY LONG YEARS.



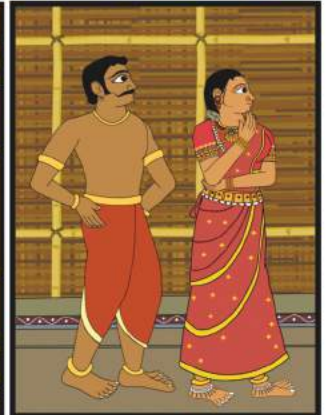
THE COUPLE CLEAN UP THE TEMPLE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS. THEN THEY PRAY TO THE GODDESS.







TAMARAI AND KUNNUTAIYA ALSO BUILD A SMALL HUT FOR THEMSELVES, NEAR THE CELATTA TEMPLE. TWO ANIYAPPUR GOUNDERS COME TO HELP AS WELL. IN NO TIME, A COZY LITTLE HOUSE IS BUILT.







THE ANIYAPPUR GOUNDERS ALSO BRING A COW AND SOME SUPPLIES AS GIFTS.



TAMARAI,  
WE MUST PERFORM  
A PUJA FOR CELATTA  
NEXT MONDAY  
MORNING.

THE MOST  
AUSPICIOUS DAY  
OF THE WEEK!

THAT'S A FINE  
IDEA! LET'S ALSO  
DO SOMETHING FOR  
HER RIGHT NOW!



AFTER THE COUPLE  
THANK THE ANIYAPPUR  
GOUNDERS, THEY  
DECIDE TO GO AND  
WORSHIP THE GODDESS.  
THEY BRING A BASKET  
OF OFFERINGS TO THE  
TEMPLE.

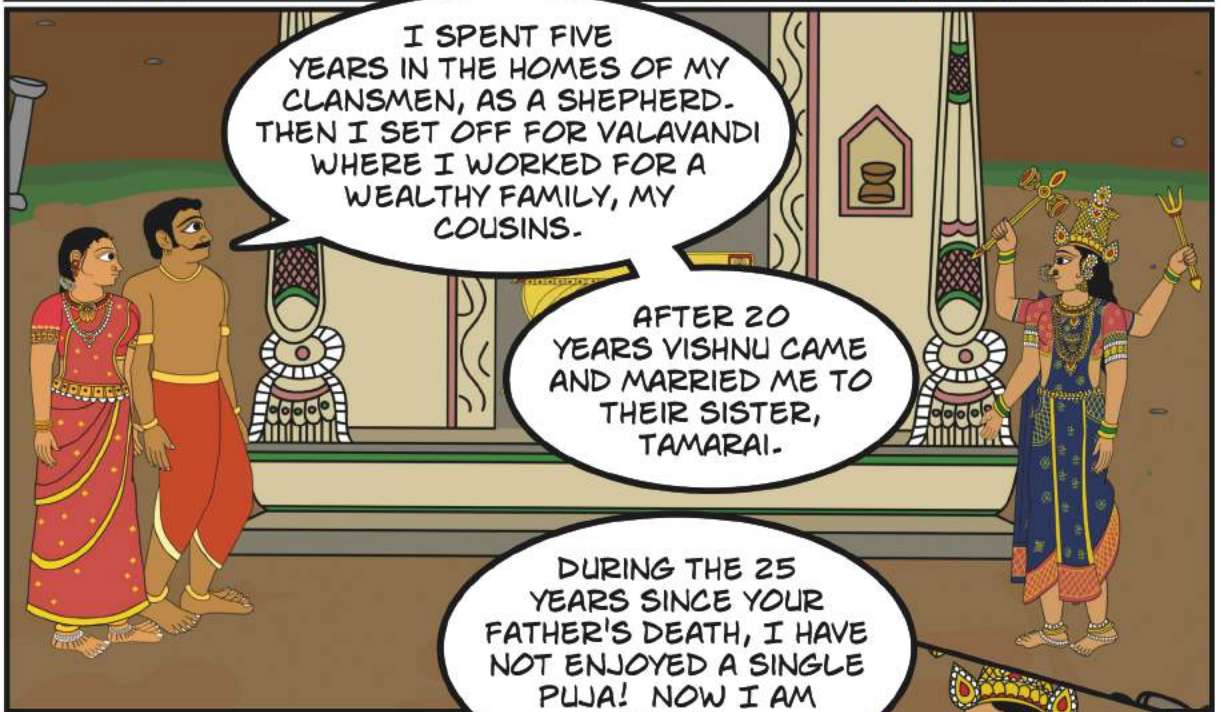




# The Legend of Ponnivala

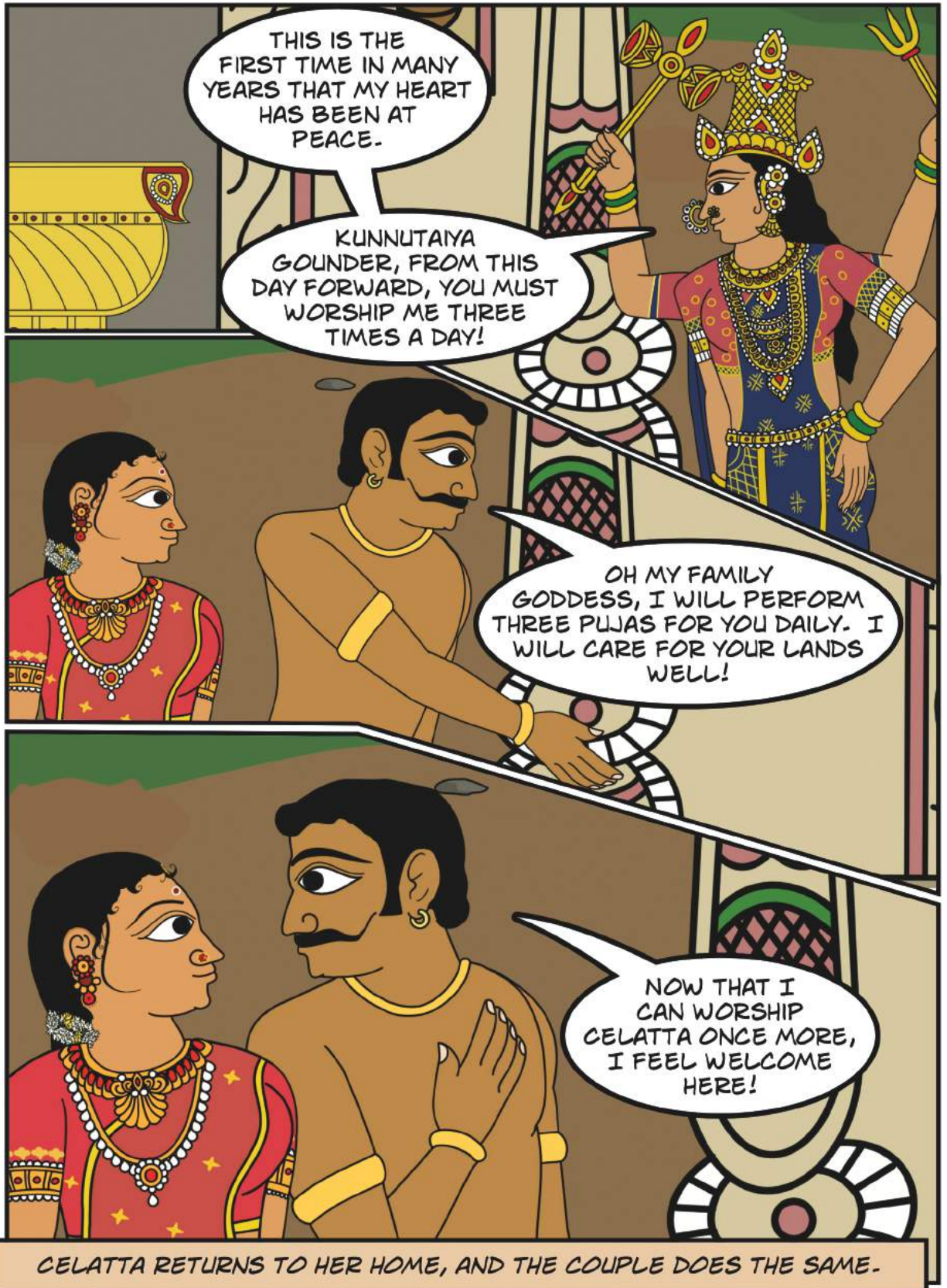






KUNNUTAIYA TELLS HIS STORY TO CELATTA, DESCRIBING WHAT HIS LIFE HAS BEEN LIKE IN THE 25 YEARS SINCE HE LEFT THE LANDS OF PONNIVALA. CELATTA IS GRATEFUL TO THE COUPLE FOR GIVING HER A PUJA.





THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THAT MY HEART HAS BEEN AT PEACE.

KUNNUTAYA GOUNDER, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, YOU MUST WORSHIP ME THREE TIMES A DAY!

OH MY FAMILY GODDESS, I WILL PERFORM THREE PUJAS FOR YOU DAILY. I WILL CARE FOR YOUR LANDS WELL!

NOW THAT I CAN WORSHIP CELATTA ONCE MORE, I FEEL WELCOME HERE!

CELATTA RETURNS TO HER HOME, AND THE COUPLE DOES THE SAME.





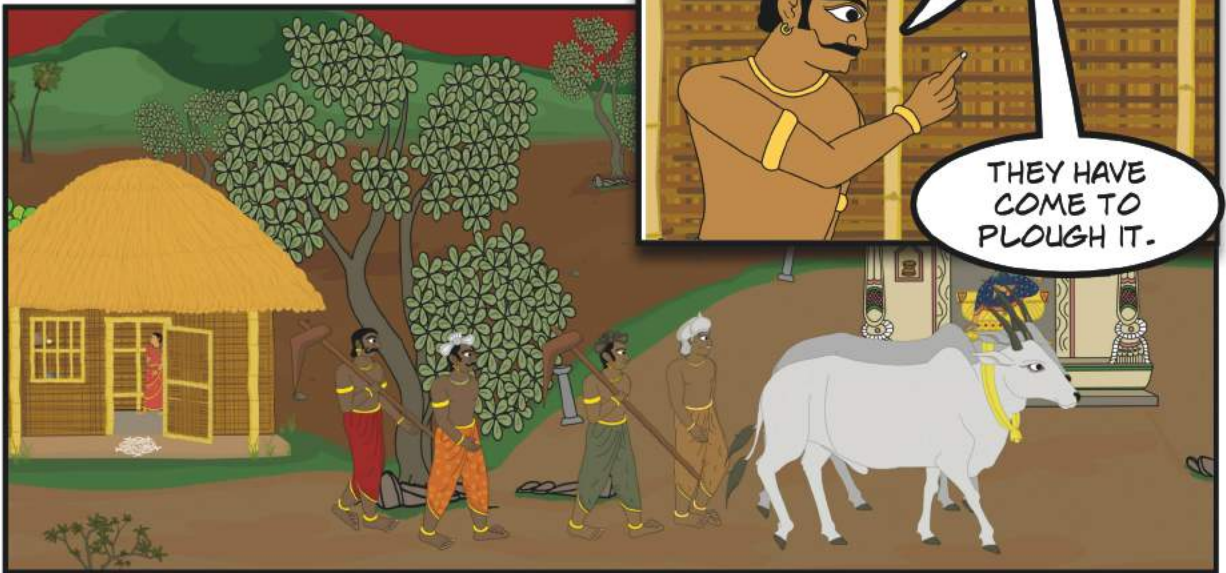
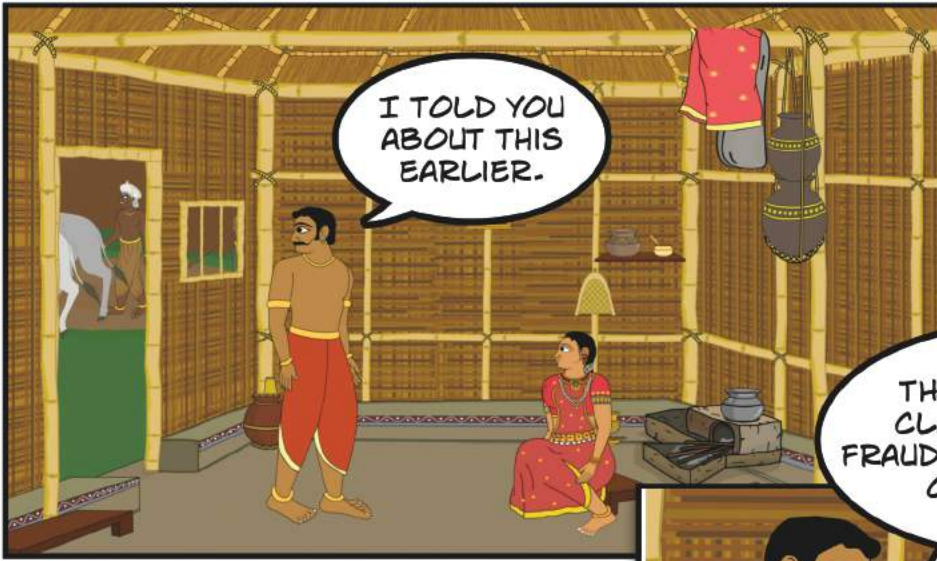
KUNNUTAIYA KEEPS HIS WORD AND WORSHIPS THE GODDESS THREE TIMES EACH DAY. CELATTA IS CONTENT. IT RAINS WELL IN THE LAND OF PONNIVALA.



I AM GOING TO FIND SOME WORK SO THAT WE WILL HAVE FOOD TO EAT THIS EVENING.

LOOK AT THOSE OXEN TEAMS OVER THERE! WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY ARE GOING?

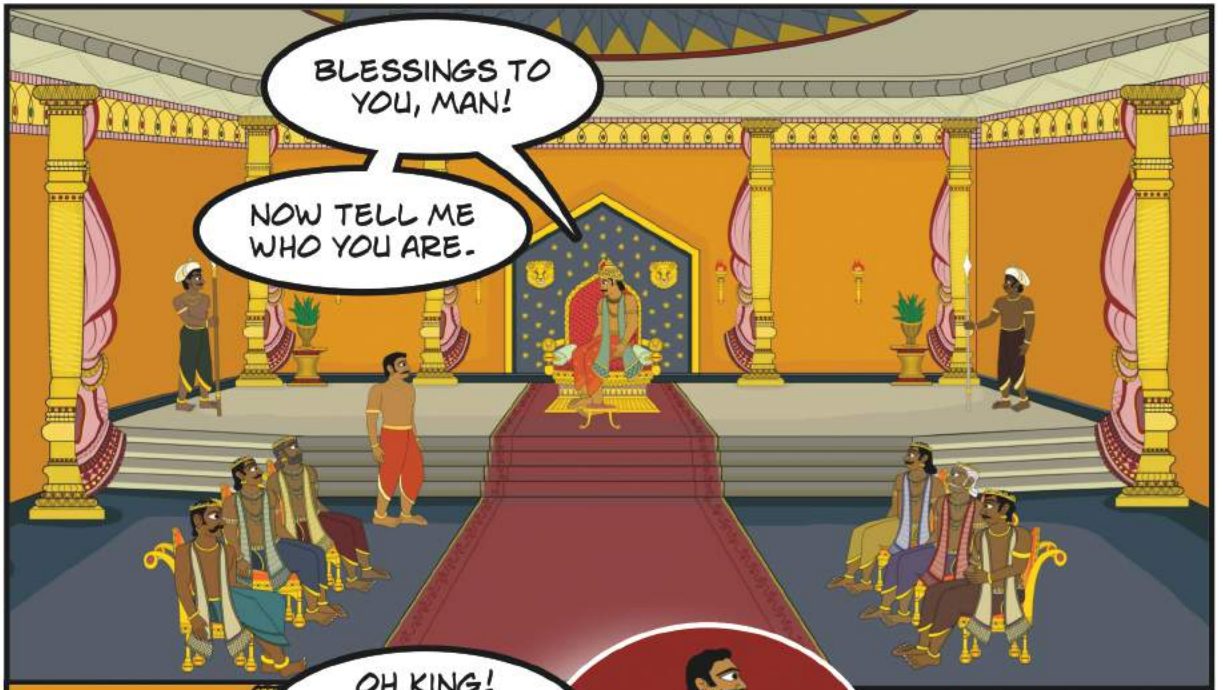












BLESSINGS TO YOU, MAN!

NOW TELL ME WHO YOU ARE.



OH KING!  
I AM THE SON OF  
KOLATTA  
GOUNDER.

THE KING  
WHO ONCE  
RULED THE LAND  
CALLED  
PONNIVALA!

KUNNUTAIYA  
GOUNDER! MY  
FATHER TOLD ME  
ABOUT YOU.

YOU LEFT YOUR HOME MANY  
YEARS AGO! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN  
ALL THIS TIME?

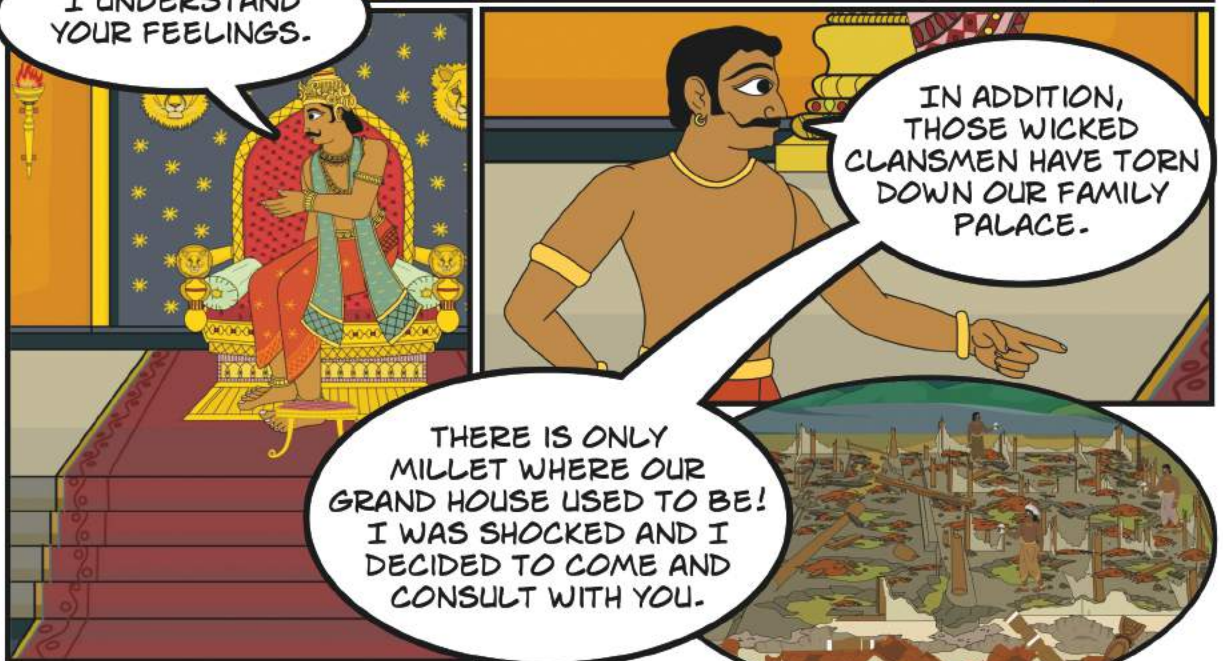
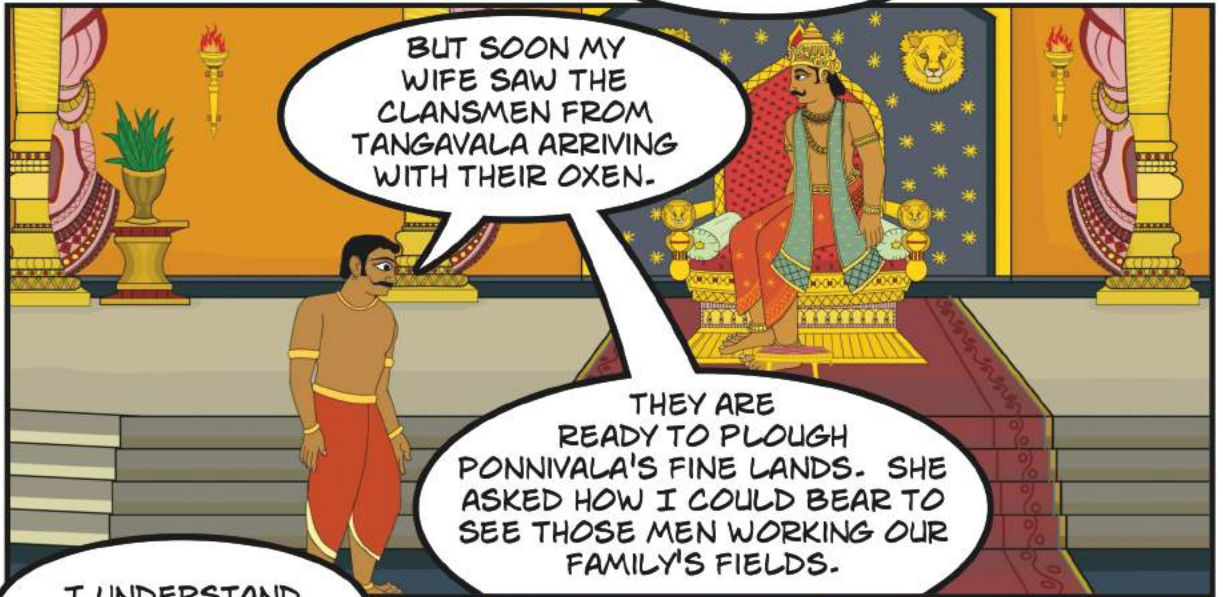


I  
WANDERED FOR  
MANY YEARS AND  
FINALLY MARRIED  
IN VALAVANDI.

I HAVE JUST  
RETURNED TO  
PONNIVALA WITH MY  
NEW WIFE!

THAT IS  
GOOD!









HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

LORD, I NEED MY LAND BACK. THIS IS MY RIGHT AS MY FATHER'S ONLY SON!

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO YOUR LANDS. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!

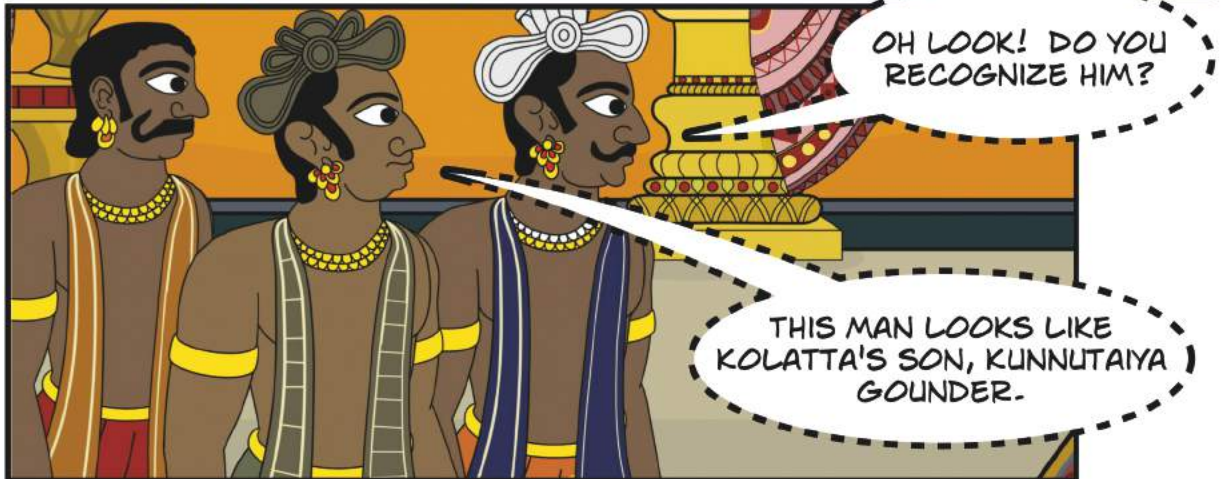
SERVANTS! GO IMMEDIATELY TO TANGAVALA AND BRING THE CLANSMEN TO MY PALACE.

THE SERVANTS SOON RETURN, BRINGING WITH THEM REPRESENTATIVES FROM TANGAVALA.



BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL!

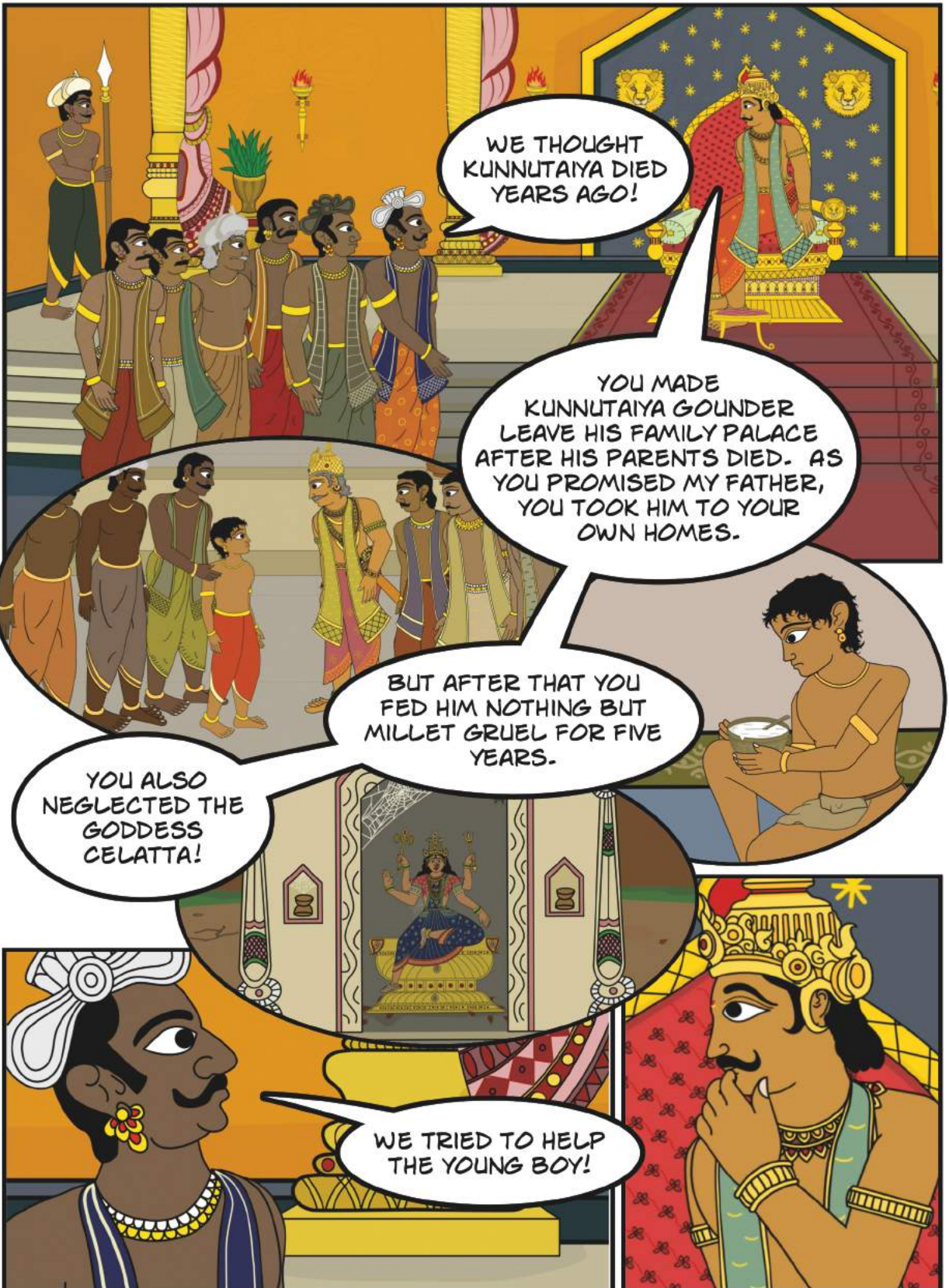
DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN STANDING HERE?



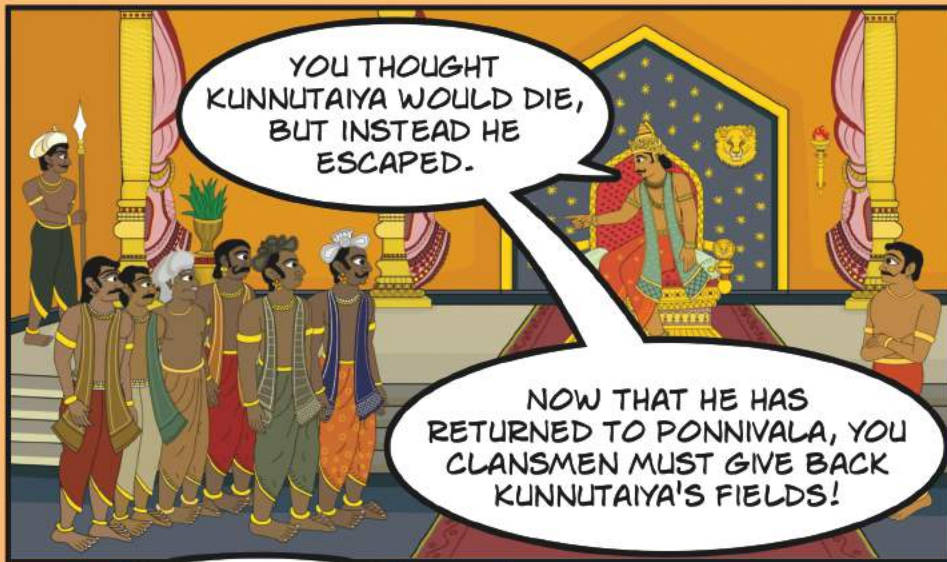
OH LOOK! DO YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?

THIS MAN LOOKS LIKE KOLATTA'S SON, KUNNUTAIYA GOUNDER.









YOU THOUGHT KUNNUTAIYA WOULD DIE, BUT INSTEAD HE ESCAPED.

NOW THAT HE HAS RETURNED TO PONNIVALA, YOU CLANSMEN MUST GIVE BACK KUNNUTAIYA'S FIELDS!



OH FINE LORD! WE WILL DO AS YOU ASK. BUT WE WORKED HARD TO PLANT OUR CROPS! PLEASE LET US WAIT UNTIL THE HARVEST IS FINISHED.



WE WILL HAND OVER MORE LAND AFTER THAT.

FOR THE TIME BEING WE CAN GIVE KUNNUTAIYA ONLY ONE FIELD.



THAT IS FINE, BUT YOU MUST RETURN THE GREAT PADDY FIELD AND ITS HUGE IRRIGATION TANK TO KUNNUTAIYA AS SOON AS YOU HAVE HARVESTED THE PRESENT CROP THERE!



KUNNUTAIYA!

YOU CAN NOW LEAVE FOR PONNIVALA. PLOUGH THE ONE FIELD YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN AND PLANT IT WELL. YOU WILL GET THE REST OF YOUR LANDS BACK SOON.





KUNNUTAIYA ACCEPTS THE COMPROMISE AND RETURNS HOME TO HIS WIFE. HE HAS BEEN GONE MOST OF THE DAY, AND TAMARAI IS WORRIED.



TAMARAI!



I HAVE JUST BEEN TO SEE THE CHOLA KING.



I HAVE COME WITH GOOD NEWS!

WHERE DID YOU GO? IT TOOK SO LONG! WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?

HE HAS ORDERED THE CLANSMEN TO GIVE US ONE SMALL FIELD FOR NOW. AND THEN AFTER THE NEXT HARVEST, WE WILL GET THE REST OF OUR LANDS BACK!

OH HUSBAND, I AM HAPPY TO HEAR THIS.

I WILL GO TO TANGAVALA AND BORROW AN OX TEAM TO HELP US WITH THE WORK OF PLOUGHING.

AT LEAST WE WILL HAVE A SMALL PIECE OF LAND FOR OURSELVES!


AS LONG AS WE LIVE WE MUST NEVER ASK THOSE CLANSMEN FOR ANYTHING!

GO INSTEAD TO THE GOUNDERS OF ANIYAPPUR!






KUNNUTAIYA LISTENS TO TAMARAI'S ADVICE AND GOES TO THE VILLAGE OF ANIYAPPUR.



WHO ARE YOU?

OH ANIYAPPUR GOUNDERS! I AM THE SON OF KOLATTA GOUNDER.



OH! WE HEARD THAT THE CHOLA KING HAS ORDERED YOUR CLANSMEN TO GIVE YOUR LANDS BACK TO YOU.

YES, I GOT MY LANDS BACK. THAT IS WHY I AM HERE.



I NEED YOUR HELP TO PLOUGH MY FIRST FIELD!

YOUR FATHER WAS A GOOD FRIEND TO US. WE WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO HELP YOU!





WHEN DO YOU WANT US TO COME TO PONNIVALA?




TOMORROW IN THE EARLY MORNING WOULD BE FINE!

FINE! WE WILL BE THERE WITH OUR OX TEAMS WHEN THE COCKS BEGIN TO CROW.



KUNNUTAIYA RETURNS HOME FROM ANIYAPPUR, WITH NEWS FOR HIS WIFE.



TAMARAI, THE MEN OF ANIYAPPUR HAVE SAID THEY WILL BRING US A TEAM OF OXEN TOMORROW.

WE SHOULD PREPARE OUR SEEDS FOR PLANTING!

I FORGOT TO TELL YOU TO ASK FOR SEEDS!

YOU MUST RETURN TO ANIYAPPUR AND GET US SOME SEEDS. WE HAVE NOTHING HERE!

THESE MEN ARE BRINGING A PLOUGH AND OXEN. WE MUST NOT ASK THEM FOR SEEDS AS WELL.

I WILL GO TO TANGAVALA AND ASK FOR SEEDS THERE.

AS LONG AS WE LIVE, WE MUST NEVER ASK THOSE CLANSMEN FOR ANYTHING!

YOU MUST GO TO ANIYAPPUR, NOT TO TANGAVALA!

OKAY. I WILL GO TO ANIYAPPUR AGAIN.





HOW CAN I GO TO ANIYAPPUR? I MUST NOT BECOME DEPENDENT ON MY FAMILY'S GOOD FRIENDS.

I WILL FOLLOW MY OWN HEART IN THIS MATTER. I WILL TAKE THE LEFT FORK AND GO TO TANGAVALA.

KUNNUTAIYA REACHES THE CROSSROAD, AND DECIDES NOT TO LISTEN TO TAMARAI. INSTEAD, HE GOES TO TANGAVALA.



KUNNUTAIYA GOUNDER!



WHY ARE YOU IN A HURRY?

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?



TOMORROW I WANT TO PLOUGH MY NEW LAND.



I HAVE COME TO BORROW SEEDS FROM YOU. AFTER THE HARVEST I WILL RETURN AN EQUAL AMOUNT.



HMM...LET ME SEE WHAT I HAVE INSIDE. JUST WAIT HERE.







# Roasted Seeds



THE WOMAN ROASTS THE SEEDS, AND THEN GIVES THEM TO HER HUSBAND.





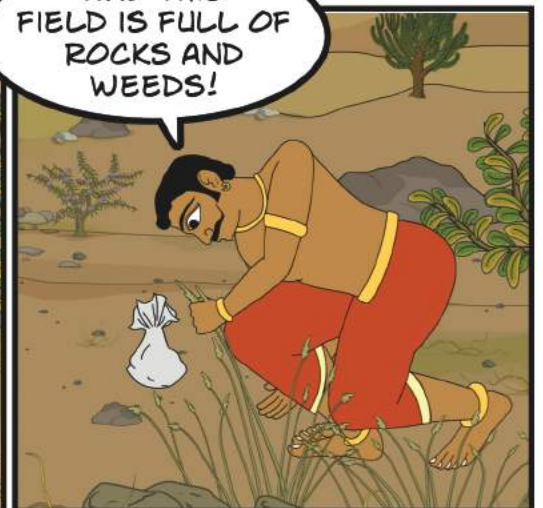
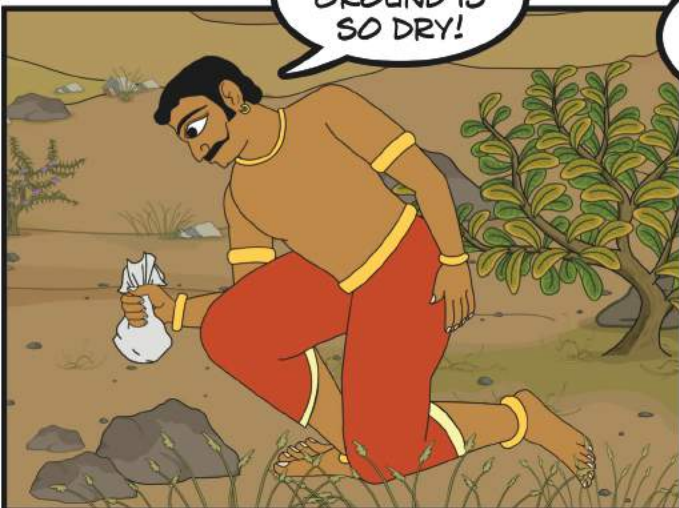


KUNNUTAIYA BRINGS THE ROASTED SEEDS, AND BEGINS HIS WALK HOME. BEFORE RETURNING TO HIS HUT, HE GOES TO THE LAND THAT IS HIS TO PLOUGH. HE FINDS A ROCKY FIELD UNSUITABLE FOR FARMING!

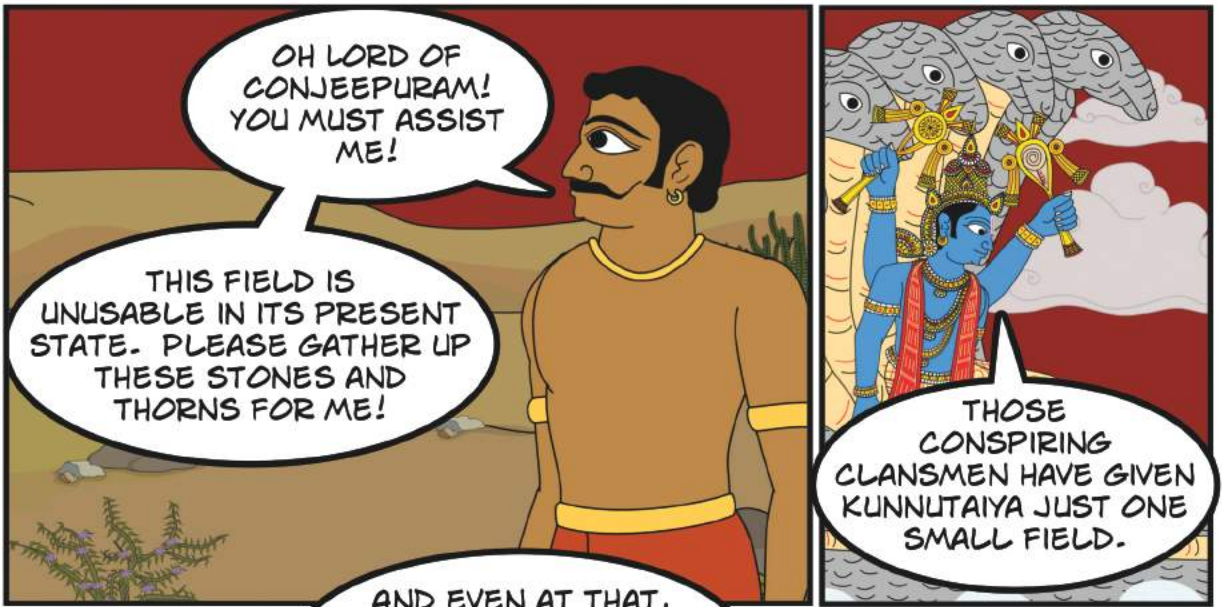


THIS GROUND IS SO DRY!

AND THIS FIELD IS FULL OF ROCKS AND WEEDS!





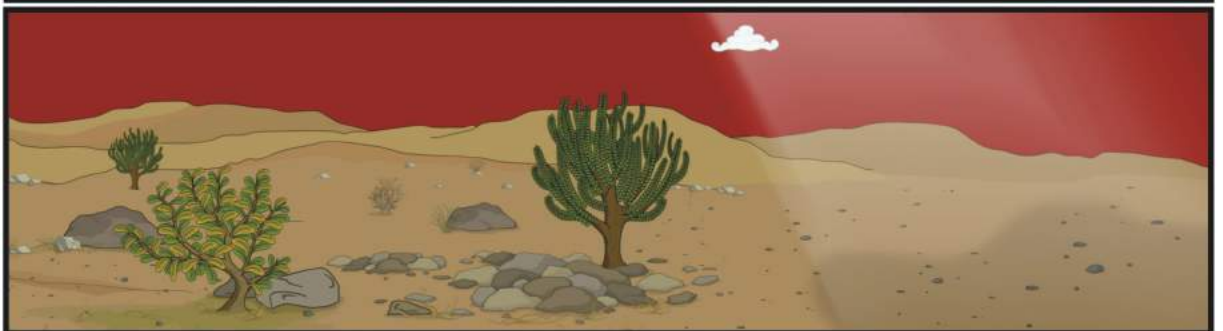
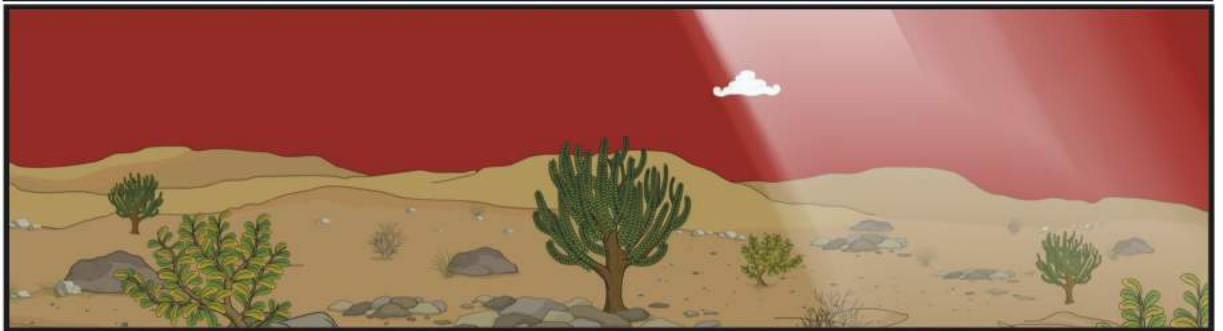
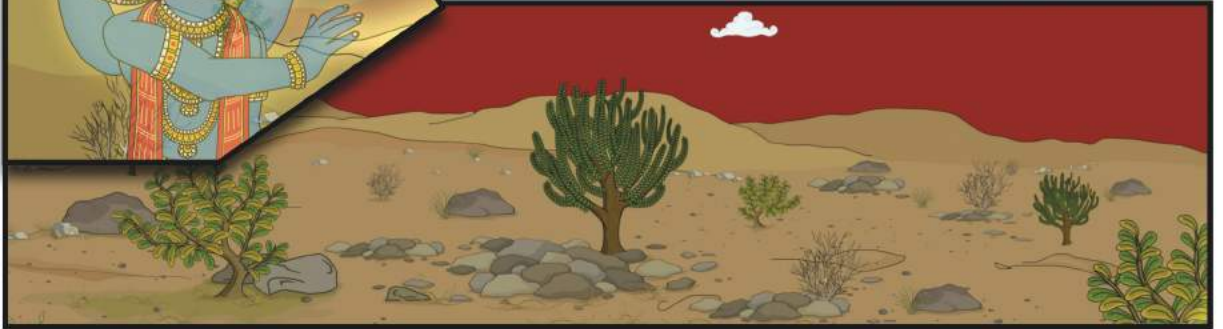




## The Legend of Ponnivala



VISHNU APPEARS ON EARTH, AND MEETS WITH KUNNUTAIYA. HE RAISES HIS HAND AND UNLEASHES HIS DIVINE POWERS ON THE FIELD.



THE MAGIC SWEEPS OVER THE LAND, AND LEAVES NOTHING IN ITS PATH. VERY SOON, ALL THE STONES AND WEEDS ARE GONE! LORD VISHNU GIVES HIS BEST WISHES TO KUNNUTAIYA, AND THEN RETURNS TO THE MILK SEA.





EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, TAMARAI CHECKS THE SEEDS.



THESE ARE NOT ORDINARY SEEDS...



THESE HAVE BEEN ROASTED!

OH WIFE, I DID NOT REALIZE! I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU.

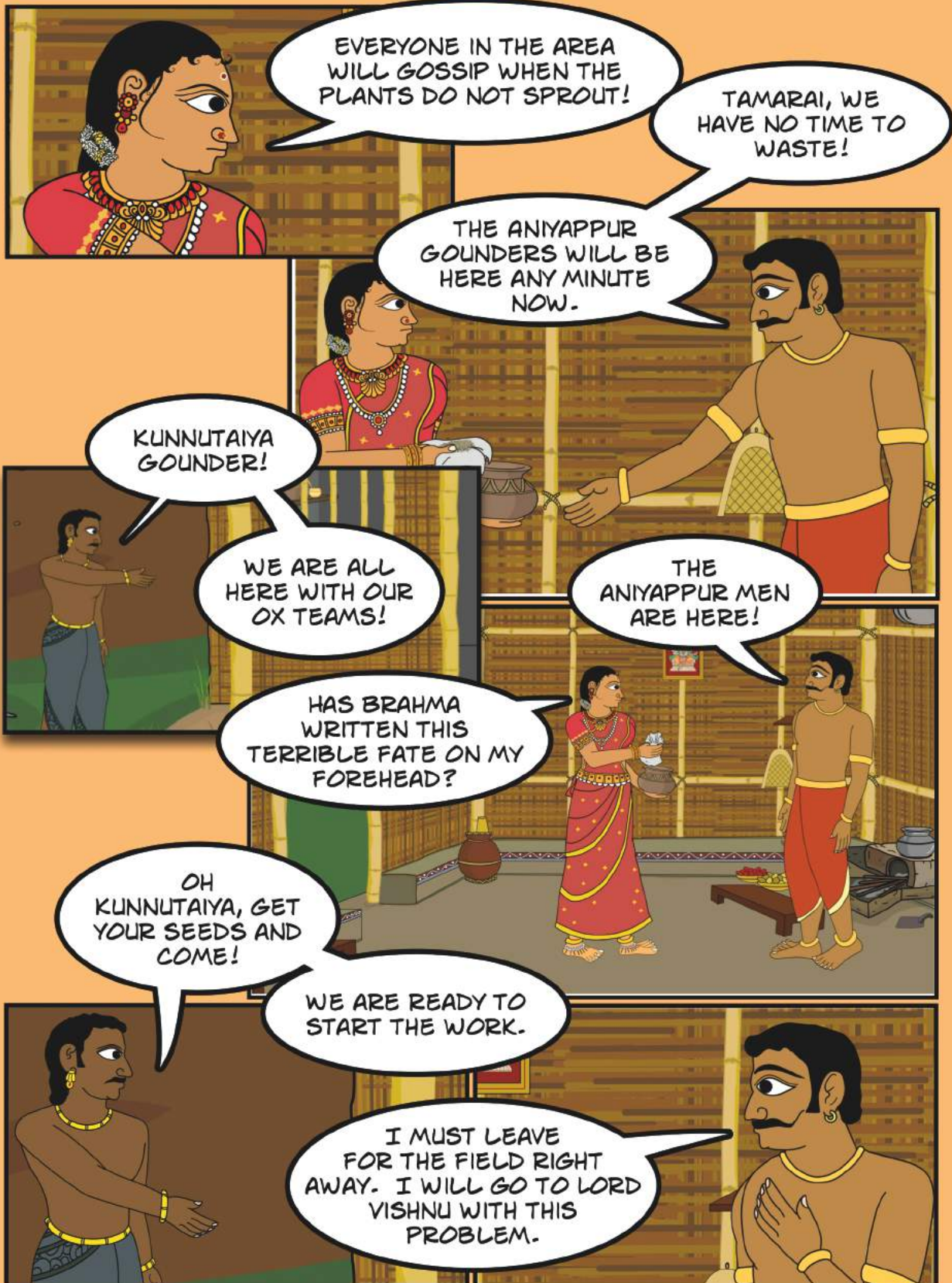
THEY WILL NEVER SPROUT!

I WENT TO TANGAVALA, AND THOSE CLANSMEN DECEIVED ME!

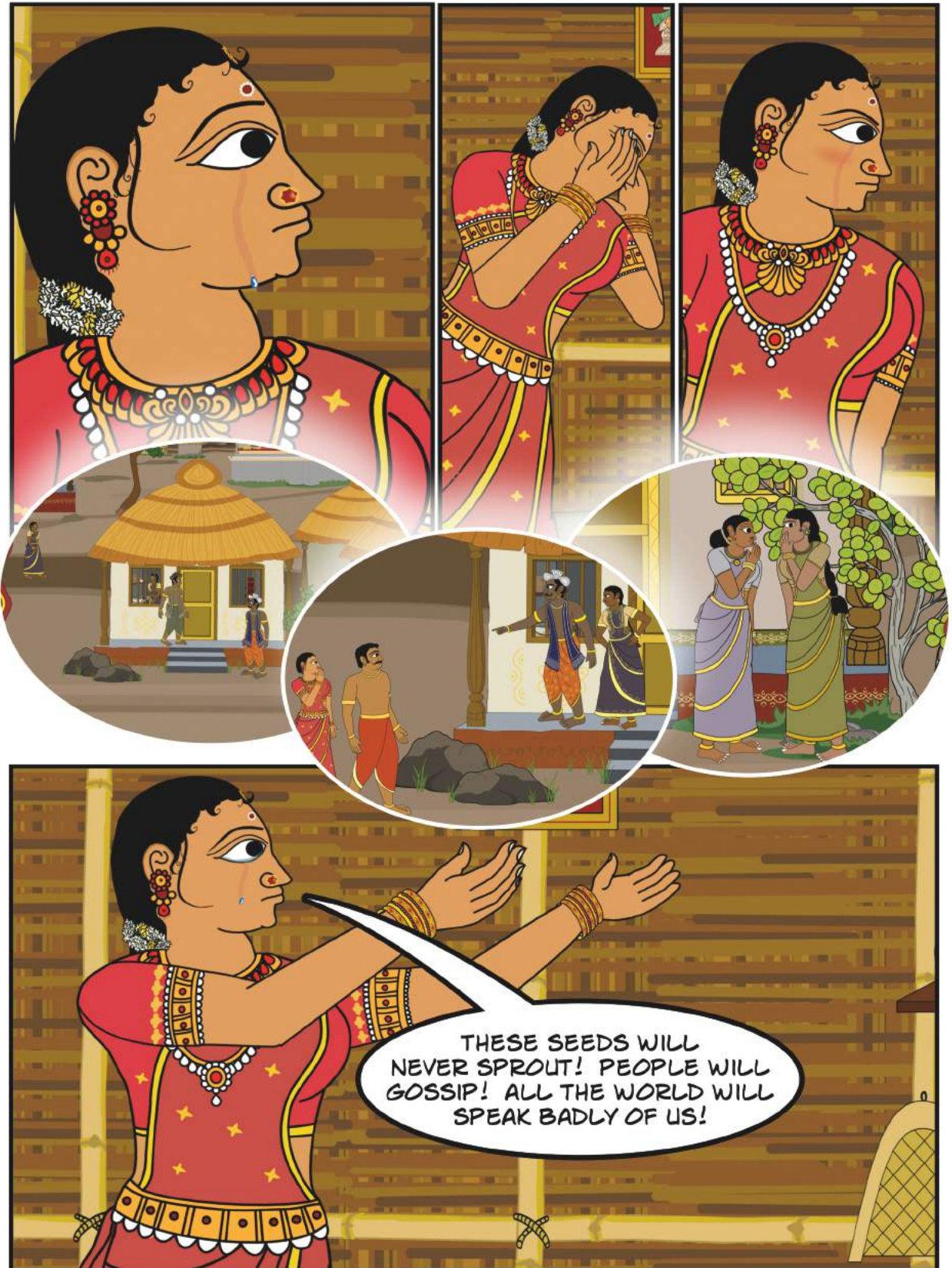


I WILL NOT GO TO THE NEW FIELD! I WILL NOT PLANT ROASTED SEEDS!









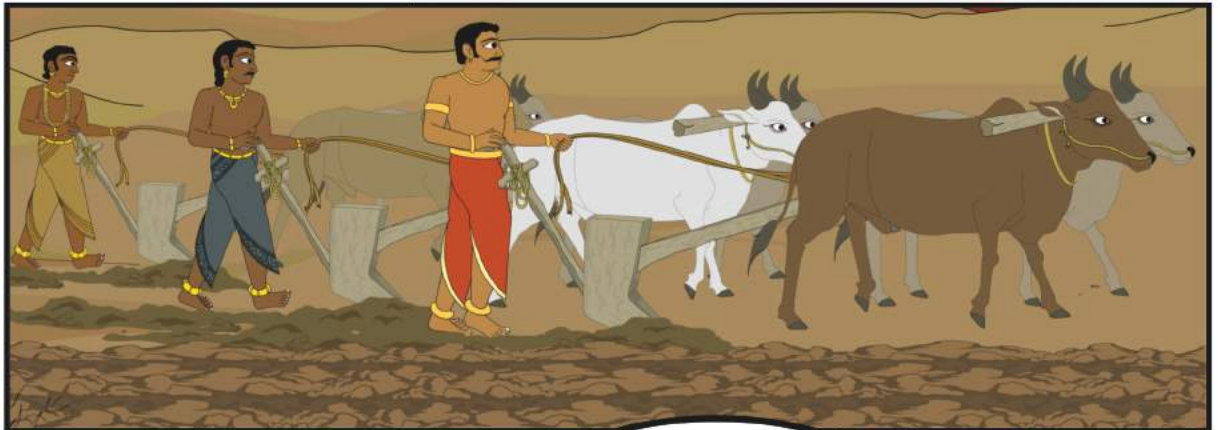




OKAY GOUNDER MEN, LET'S START OUR WORK.

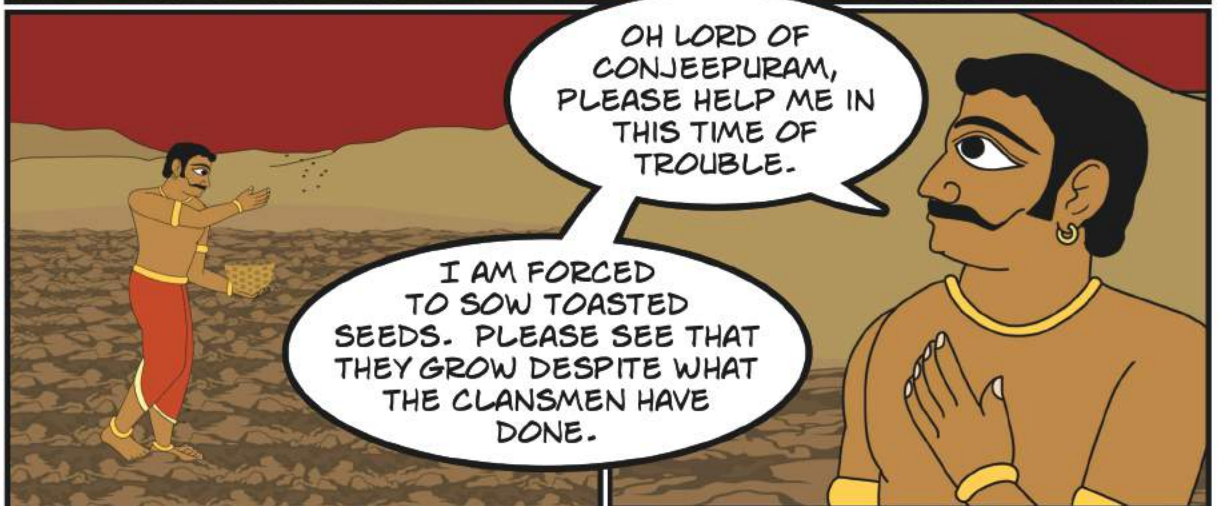
KUNNUTAIYA AND TWO ANIYAPPUR GOUNDER WALK TO THE FIELD. KUNNUTAIYA BRINGS THE BUNDLE OF ROASTED SEEDS WITH HIM.

THE MEN EACH TAKE ONE PLOUGH AND A TEAM OF OXEN, AND SET TO WORK. THEN KUNNUTAIYA PLANTS THE ROASTED SEEDS.

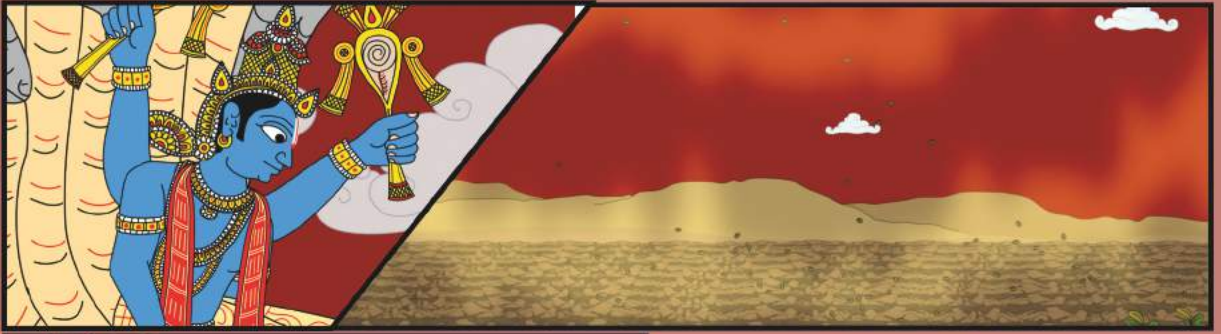


OH LORD OF CONJEEPURAM, PLEASE HELP ME IN THIS TIME OF TROUBLE.

I AM FORCED TO SOW TOASTED SEEDS. PLEASE SEE THAT THEY GROW DESPITE WHAT THE CLANSMEN HAVE DONE.







OH ANIYAPPUR GOUNDERS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND HELP. PLEASE COME TO MY HUMBLE HUT AND HAVE SOME BUTTERMILK.

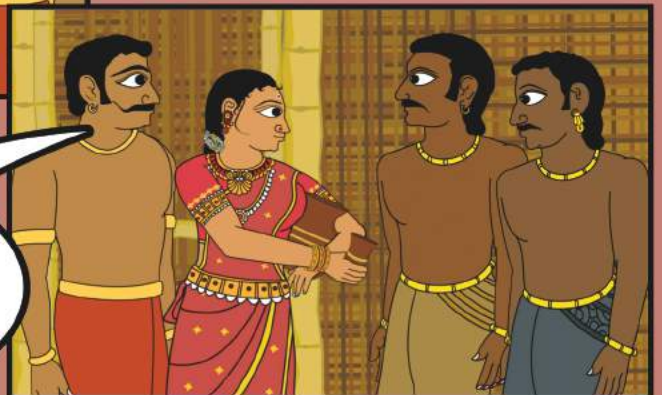
KUNNUTAIYA BRINGS THE ANIYAPPUR GOUNDERS BACK TO HIS HUT. THERE, TAMARAI IS WAITING WITH A CONTAINER OF BUTTERMILK.



KUNNUTAIYA, WHO IS THIS WOMAN?



THIS IS MY WIFE, TAMARAI GOUNDACHI.



OH GOUNDERS OF ANIYAPPUR! HERE, PLEASE HAVE SOME BUTTERMILK TO QUENCH YOUR THIRST. YOU HAVE WORKED HARD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!





THE NEWLYWEDS NOW HAVE SOME LAND AND THEY HAVE LAID CLAIM TO THEIR FORMER COUNTRY, PONNIVALA. BUT WILL THOSE ROASTED SEEDS EVER SPROUT? AND WILL THE CLANSMEN REALLY CEDE THE FINE FIELDS AND DEEP WATER TANK TO KUNNUTAIYA GOUNDER, AS THE CHOLA KING DECREED THEY SHOULD?



## 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/comic6](http://www.ponnivala.com/comic6)

The Legend of  
**Ponnivala**

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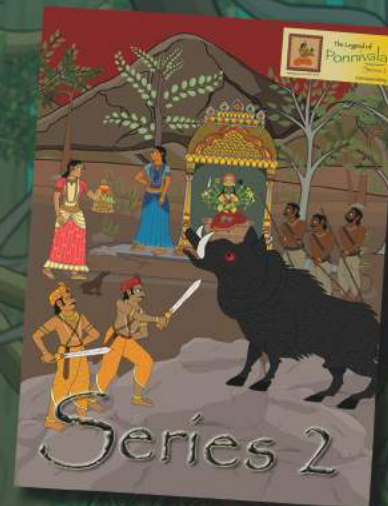
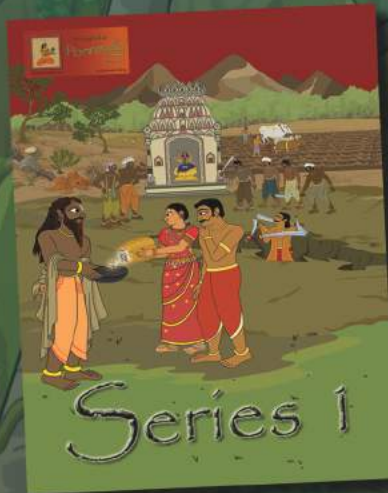






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## Collect All 26!

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