

Series 1
Book 7

The Legend of
Ponnivala



A Thousand Beggars



**A THOUSAND
BEGGARS**
SERIES 1 COMIC 7

A YOUNG COUPLE
HAVE WORKED HARD
TO PLANT THEIR
ONLY FIELD AND
HAPPILY WATCH THEIR
MAIZE PLANTS GROW
TALL. BUT THE SEED
BUDS ON THOSE
GREEN STALKS DO
NOT HOLD GRAIN.
THEN ONE DAY THE
WIFE DISCOVERS A
SECRET HIDDEN
THERE INSTEAD.
BEGGARS NOW
MAGICALLY APPEAR
AS A TEST. THE WIFE
GIVES GENEROUSLY.



WRITERS:
BRENDA BECK AND
CASSANDRA
CORNALL
ARTWORK:
RAVICHANDRAN
ARUMUGAM (AND
HIS DESIGN TEAM)
**LAYOUT AND
DESIGN:**
CASSANDRA
CORNALL
STEAFAN HANNIGAN
**ADDITIONAL
LAYOUT:**
PRIYADHARSHANI
GOVINDARAJAN,
PROOFREADING:
STEVEN BARIC
PUBLISHER:
PONNIVALLA
PUBLICATIONS
© 2012 SOFT
SCIENCE
ASSOCIATES LTD.



THE YOUNG WIFE TAMARAI
CONSIDERS HER MANY PROBLEMS

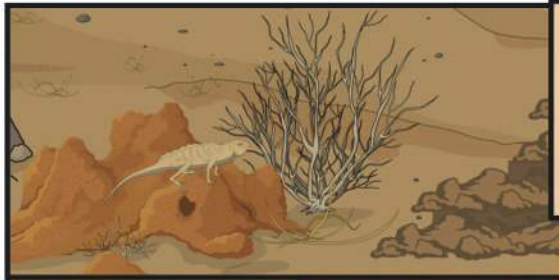
MY WEDDING WAS SO SPECIAL! AND I TAKE COMFORT IN THE FACT THAT MY HUSBAND IS A RELATIVE. LORD VISHNU BLESSED US BOTH WHEN HE CAME TO EARTH AND MARRIED US HIMSELF!

BUT THERE ARE SOME BIG PROBLEMS NOW. MY HUSBAND'S CLANSMEN STOLE THE FAMILY LANDS WHEN HE WAS JUST A CHILD. THEY TORE DOWN THE OLD PALACE TOO.

NOW WE MUST LIVE IN THIS TINY HUT, WITH ONLY ONE SMALL STOVE! I HOPE WE WILL ENJOY A BOUNTIFUL FIRST HARVEST, AND A BETTER LIFE AFTER THAT!



The Legend of Ponnivala



IT HAS BEEN MANY DAYS SINCE KUNNUTAIYA PLANTED HIS FIELDS. HE DECIDES TO GO AND CHECK ON THE PROGRESS OF HIS CROP. TO HIS DISAPPOINTMENT, HE SEES ONLY BARREN HILLOCKS.



NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE I WORKED SO HARD TO PLANT HERE.



I DON'T SEE EVEN ONE SHOOT PEEKING OUT FROM THE SOIL!



KUNNUTAIYA WALKS HOME, FEELING DEJECTED. HE HAS TO BREAK THE NEWS TO HIS WIFE, TAMARAI.



OH HUSBAND!

HAS THE MAIZE SPROUTED YET?

NOT ONE GRAIN OF SEED HAS SPROUTED.



WHY IS IT TAKING SO LONG?

FOUR WEEKS PASS. THE COUPLE WORSHIPS AT THE CELATTA TEMPLE EVERY DAY. SOON, KUNNUTAIYA DECIDES TO CHECK HIS CROP AGAIN.



I AM GOING TO CHECK OUR FIELDS ONCE MORE.

CERTAINLY I WILL SEE SOME FINE MAIZE PLANTS GROWING THERE NOW.

I WILL GO WITH YOU. I WANT TO SEE OUR FIRST CROP WITH MY OWN EYES.



THIS IS A WONDERFUL SIGHT! WE WILL HAVE A GOOD HARVEST AFTER ALL!

YES. MAYBE OUR LUCK HAS BEGUN TO CHANGE!



OH HUSBAND, IF IT RAINS WELL THEN THESE PLANTS WILL SURELY GROW TALL.

BUT I HAVE DOUBTS!

SOON I WILL HAVE TO CALL ON THE ANIYAPPUR GOUNDERS.

WE WILL NEED THEIR HELP TO HARVEST SO MUCH!

WHAT ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT? THINGS ARE GOING WELL!



HIDING OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND THE TREE, PONNAPPA, ONE OF THEIR CLANSMEN, IS WATCHING AND LISTENING TO EVERYTHING THEY SAY! HE TAKES OFF TO TANGAVALA TO TELL HIS BROTHERS THE NEWS.

A HEAVY RAIN FALLS ON THE LANDS OF PONNIVALA.

Patter



Patter

Patter

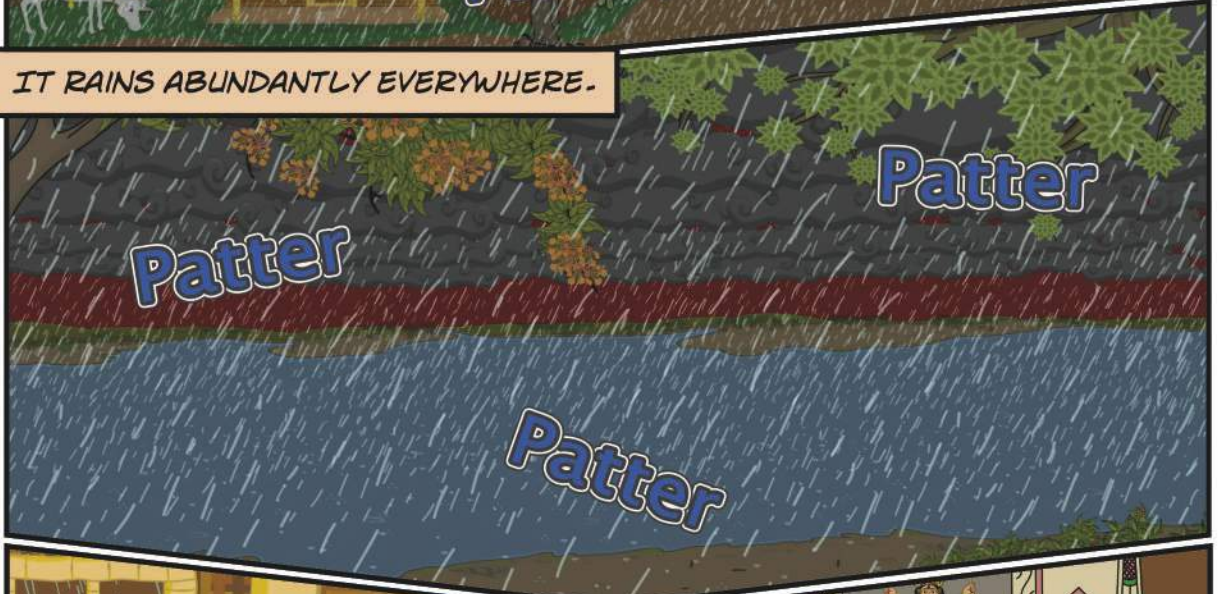


IT RAINS ABUNDANTLY EVERYWHERE.

Patter

Patter

Patter



KUNNUTAIYA AND TAMARAI DO A PUJA TO THANK CELATTA FOR THIS BLESSING.

MEANWHILE, THE SPYING CLANSMAN REACHES TANGAVALA.



PONNAPPA, WHY HAVE YOU BEEN RUNNING?



BUT THOSE CROPS ARE GROWING WELL!



WE GAVE KUNNUTAIYA A SMALL, STONY PIECE OF LAND, AND ROASTED SEEDS!



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THOSE SEEDS COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE SPROUTED!



LET'S NOT FIGHT! INSTEAD, WE SHOULD THINK OF ANOTHER TRICK!

WE SHOULD TAKE OUR COWS THERE.

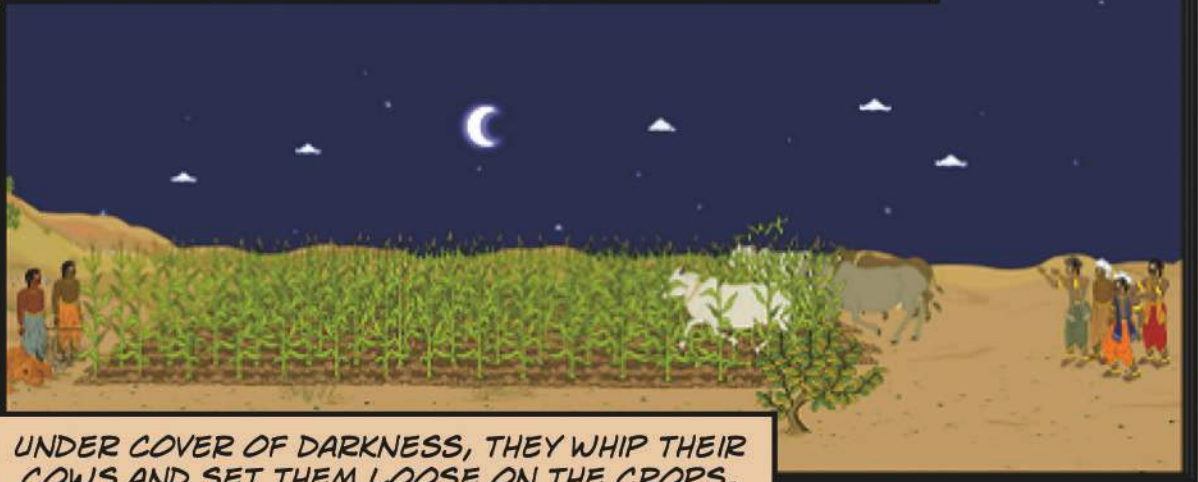


IF WE USE OUR WHIPS, THE CATTLE WILL CHARGE WILDLY AND EVERYTHING WILL BE DESTROYED!



THAT'S A GOOD PLAN! LET'S DRIVE OUR HERD OVER THERE RIGHT NOW!

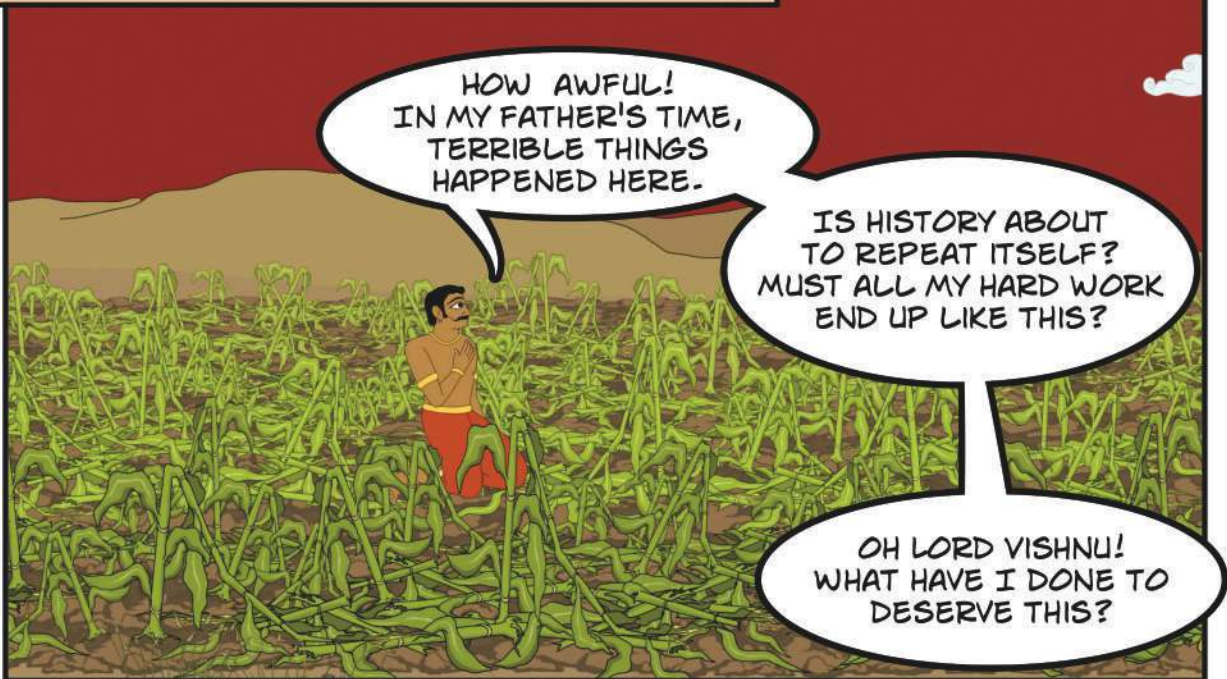
NIGHT FALLS BEFORE THE CLANSMEN REACH THE FIELD.



UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, THEY WHIP THEIR COWS AND SET THEM LOOSE ON THE CROPS.



ALL THE TENDER SHOOTS ARE TRAMPLED. IN THE MORNING, KUNNUTAIYA FINDS THE DAMAGE.



KUNNUTAIYA LEAVES THE RUINED FIELD, BUT VISHNU HAS HEARD HIS CRIES.



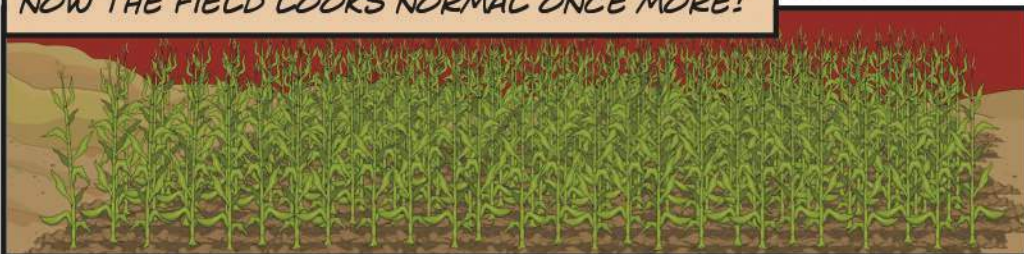
WHOOSH

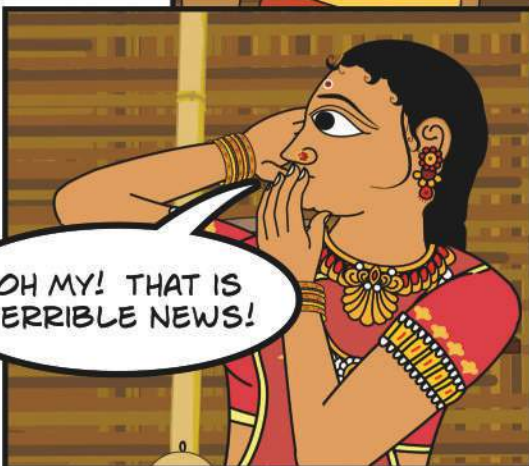
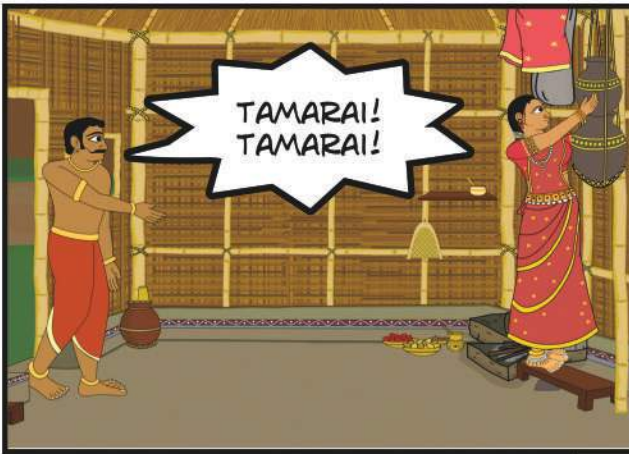


VISHNU USES HIS DIVINE POWER TO STRAIGHTEN EACH PLANT.



NOW THE FIELD LOOKS NORMAL ONCE MORE!





The Legend of Ponnivala



THE COUPLE LEAVES THE HOUSE TOGETHER AND HEADS TO THE FIELD. KUNNUTAIYA LEADS THE WAY. WHEN THEY ARRIVE, THEY ARE SHOCKED TO SEE THE CROPS STANDING TALL AND HEALTHY!

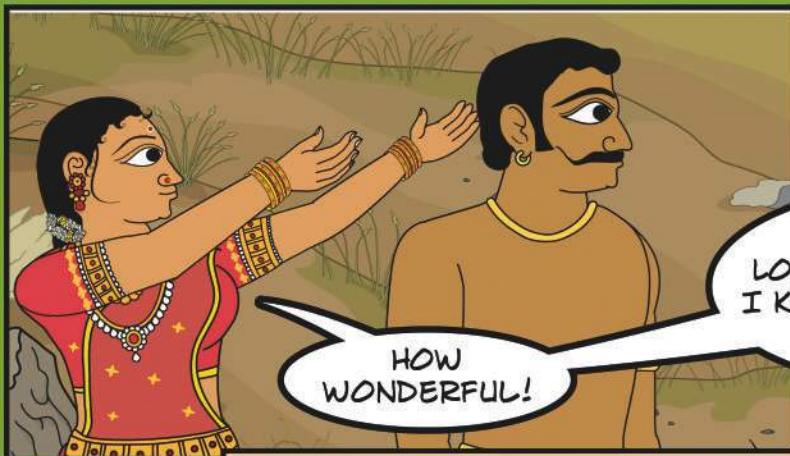


OH MY GOODNESS! OUR CROP HAS SPRUNG BACK!

AND THE PLANTS HAVE MATURED TOO!



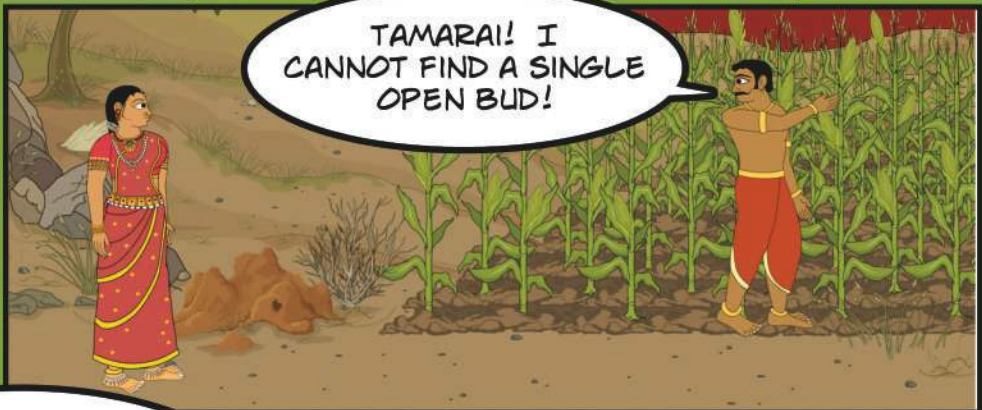
SURELY THIS IS VISHNU'S GRACE AT WORK!



HOW
WONDERFUL!

WE MUST THANK
LORD VISHNU FOR THIS.
I KNOW HE IS WATCHING
OVER US.

KUNNUTAIYA GOES TO GIVE THE PLANTS A MORE THOROUGH
INSPECTION AND IS SURPRISED BY WHAT HE FINDS.



TAMARAI! I
CANNOT FIND A SINGLE
OPEN BUD!

THE PLANTS ARE
STANDING UP STRAIGHT
NOW BUT THERE IS STILL
SOMETHING VERY WRONG
WITH THIS CROP!

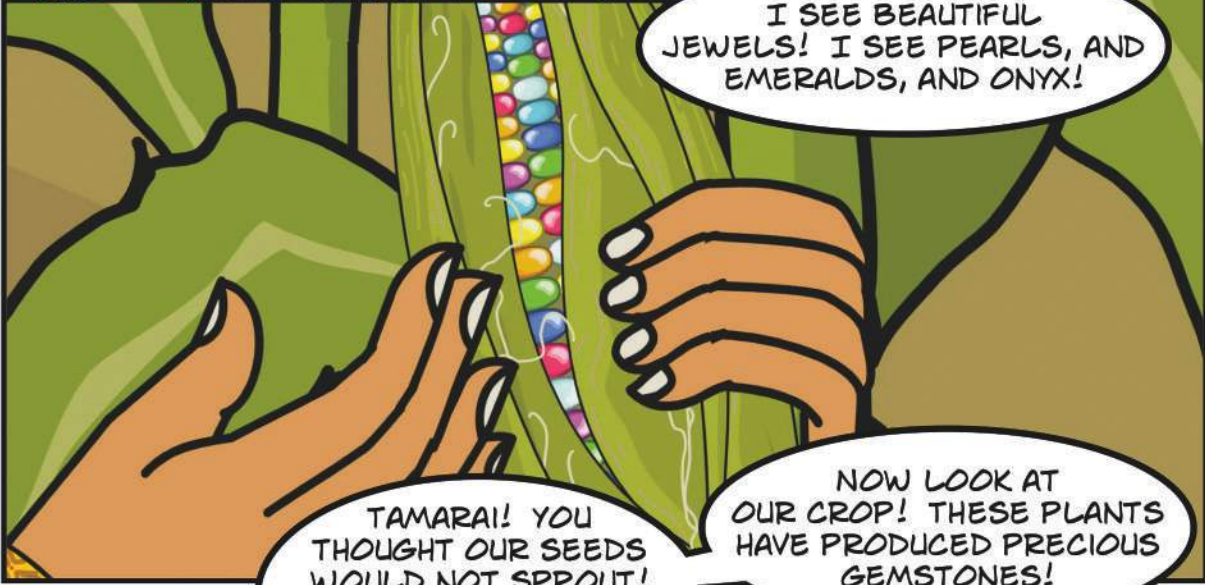






TAMARAI PEELS THE HUSK BACK FROM ONE OF THE BUDS. UNDERNEATH, SHE REVEALS MANY SPARKLING JEWELS! THE TWO ARE ECSTATIC!

LOOK! LOOK AT THIS!



I SEE BEAUTIFUL JEWELS! I SEE PEARLS, AND EMERALDS, AND ONYX!

TAMARAI! YOU THOUGHT OUR SEEDS WOULD NOT SPROUT! THEN YOU THOUGHT THEY WOULD NOT FLOWER!

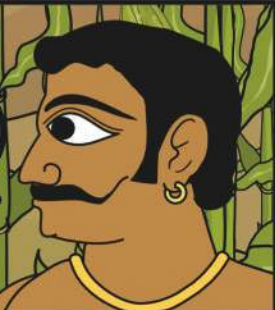
NOW LOOK AT OUR CROP! THESE PLANTS HAVE PRODUCED PRECIOUS GEMSTONES!

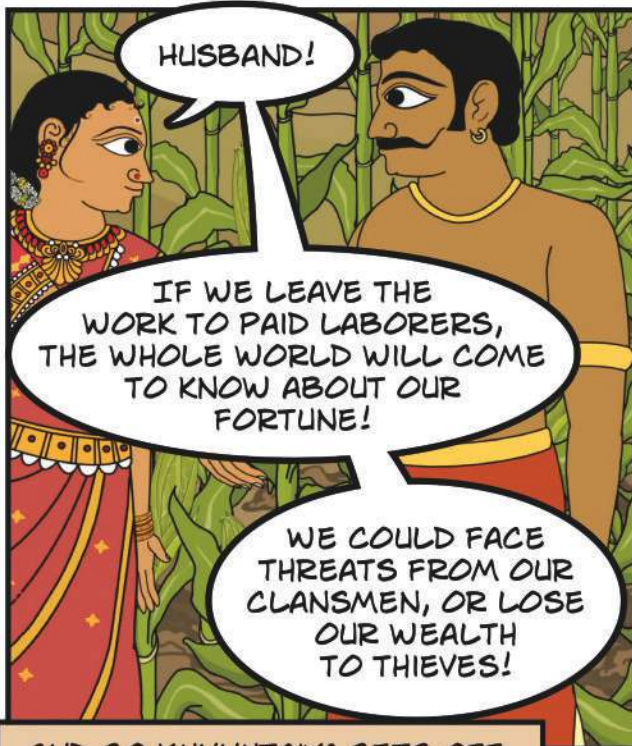


THIS HAS COME TO PASS BECAUSE OF LORD VISHNU!



HOW SHALL WE HARVEST THESE GEMS?





AND SO KUNNUTAIYA SETS OFF.



HIS FEET CARRY HIM ACROSS THE LAND, TOWARDS ANIYAPPUR!

SOON KUNNUTAIYA ARRIVES IN THE VILLAGE OF ANIYAPPUR. THERE HE COMES UPON A GROUP OF THREE MEN TALKING.



MY WE'VE HAD A LOT OF RAIN LATELY!

OH LOOK! HERE COMES KUNNUTAIYA!



KUNNUTAIYA, HOW IS YOUR MAIZE CROP DOING?

GOUNDERS! IT IS MATURING NICELY. I AM EXPECTING A BIG HARVEST!

I WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP NEXT MONDAY! PLEASE BRING YOUR KNIVES, CARTS, AND EMPTY BASKETS!



GOOD KUNNUTAIYA! WE WILL BE GLAD TO ASSIST!



THE NEXT MONDAY, THE ANIYAPPUR GOUNDERS ARRIVE.

GOOD MORNING KUNNUTAIYA!

WE ARE READY TO HELP YOU.

OH GOUNDERS, JUST CUT THE STALKS AT GROUND LEVEL. WE WILL DO THE THRESHING OURSELVES!

Chop

Thwack

Thunk

THE ANIYAPPUR MEN IMMEDIATELY SET TO WORK, CUTTING EACH STALK AT ITS BASE.



EVERYTHING IS DONE.
WE WILL LEAVE FOR
ANIYAPPUR NOW.



DON'T
FORGET TO RETURN
OUR CART AND
BASKETS!

I'LL RETURN ALL
THAT WITH YOUR PAYMENT! IT
WILL BE SIX MEASURES OF FINE
MAIZE SEED.

THANK YOU
ALL!



THE ANIYAPPUR
GOUNDERS LEAVE THE
COUPLE AND RETURN
HOME. KUNNUTAIYA
AND TAMARAI REMOVE
THE BUDS FROM THEIR
STALKS AND TOSS
THEM IN THE EMPTY
BASKETS. THEN THEY
LOAD THE CART WITH
THE BASKETS AND
BRING THE HARVEST
HOME.



ONCE IN THEIR HUT, KUNNUTAIYA POSES A QUESTION.



TAMARAI, DO YOU THINK WE CAN OPEN ALL OF THESE MAIZE BUDS BY OURSELVES?

OH LORD! CREATOR OF THE EARTH AND SKY! HOW CAN WE TWO ALONE BREAK OPEN THE BUDS OF SO MUCH GRAIN?

WE WILL TRY OUR BEST. I KNOW THAT LORD VISHNU WILL HELP US!



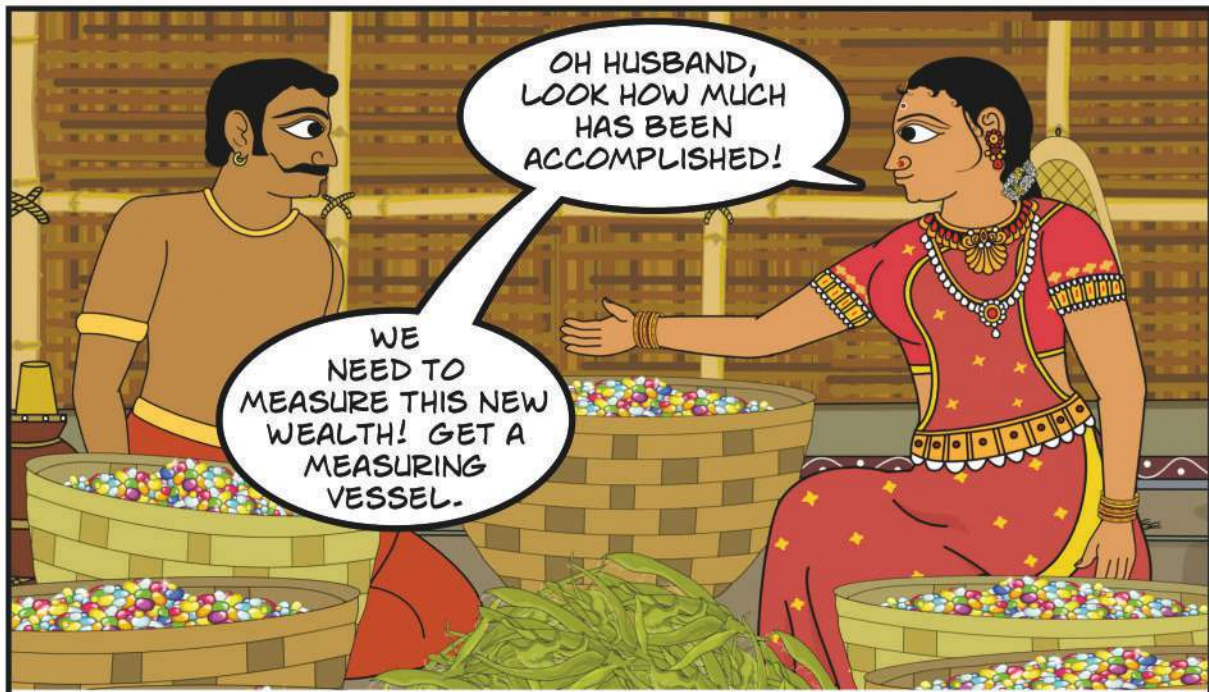
PLEASE COME TO ASSIST US, OH RULER OF CONJEEPURAM!

A Thousand Beggars



THE COUPLE SETS TO WORK
BREAKING OPEN THE RIPE HEADS OF
GRAIN. THEY PICK OUT THE JEWELS
OF EVERY BUD. THEY FILL THEIR
BASKETS WITH BEAUTIFUL GEMS.
VISHNU WATCHES AND ASSISTS THEM,
FILLING YET MORE BASKETS WITH
JEWELS. SOON THE WORK IS DONE.





OH HUSBAND,
LOOK HOW MUCH
HAS BEEN
ACCOMPLISHED!

WE
NEED TO
MEASURE THIS NEW
WEALTH! GET A
MEASURING
VESSEL.



ONE
VALLAM, TWO
VALLAMS...

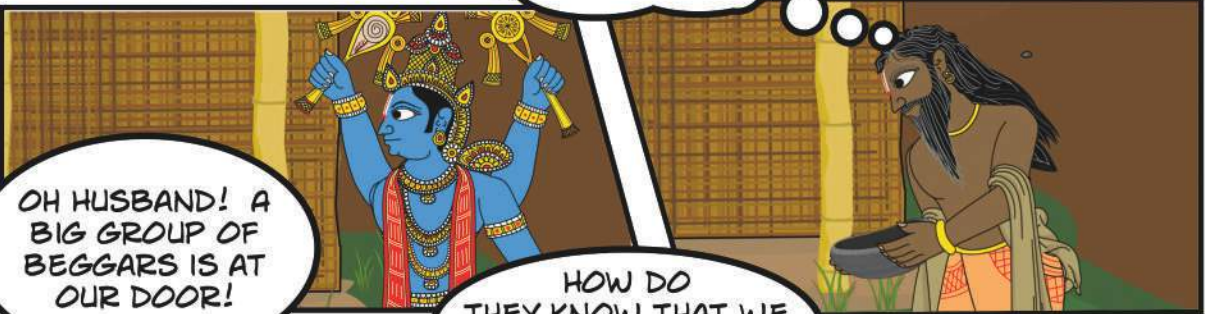
THREE,
FOUR, FIVE,
SIX...

SEVEN, EIGHT,
NINE VALLAMS!





VISHNU FLIES TO EARTH AND TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO A BEGGAR.



TAMARAI BRINGS A MEASURE OF JEWELS OUTSIDE, AND SOON REALIZES THAT IT WILL NOT BE ENOUGH!



OH MY!
THERE ARE SO
MANY OF YOU!



SHE CONTINUES TO GIVE JEWELS TO THE BEGGARS WITHOUT THINKING TWICE. HER ARMS BEGIN TO ACHE, BUT STILL SHE CONTINUES GIVING.



SOON, ALMOST ALL OF THE JEWELS ARE GONE!



TAMARAI,
YOU IDIOT!

I HAD PLANNED
TO EXIST ON THIS
HARVEST FOR A
LONG TIME!

YOU HAVE
GIVEN AWAY ALL
OUR WEALTH!

DON'T
WORRY. LORD
VISHNU HAS
PROTECTED US UP
TO NOW.

HE WILL HELP US
AGAIN. THE VERY BEST
THING WE CAN DO IS
HELP OTHERS WHO
ARE IN NEED!



OKAY, WE
WILL HOPE FOR
THE BEST!

LET'S GO TO THE
CELATTA TEMPLE AND DO
A PUJA. AFTERWARDS,
I WILL TAKE A TRIBUTE
PAYMENT TO OUR CHOLA
OVERLORD.



THE COUPLE GOES TO THE CELATTA TEMPLE AND PERFORMS A PUJA. TAMARAI CARRIES THE OFFERINGS, WHILE KUNNUTAIYA CARRIES A POT OF CURDS.



TAMARAI, GO HOME AND LOOK AFTER OUR JEWELS. DON'T GIVE ANY MORE AWAY!



YES, I WILL GUARD THE HOUSE. COME BACK AS SOON AS YOU CAN!



KUNNUTAIYA TAKES THE POT OF CURDS AND HEADS FOR THE CHOLA KINGDOM. TAMARAI HEADS HOME.

A Thousand Beggars



KUNNUTAIYA TRAVELS ACROSS THE LAND. HE TRAVELS THROUGH FOREST AND FIELD. HE TRAVELS BESIDE RIVERS AND IN THICK BRUSH.



FINALLY, IN THE DISTANCE, HE SEES THE SHINING PALACE THAT BELONGS TO THE CHOLA KING!



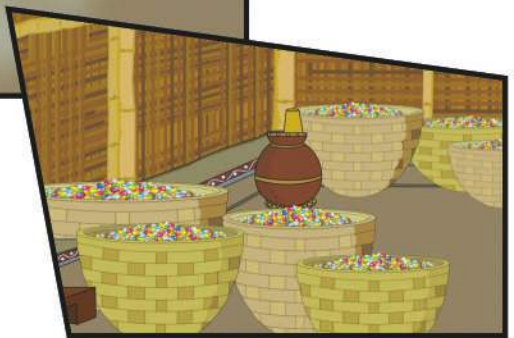
NOW IS MY CHANCE!



WHOOSH



VISHNU NOTICES THAT THE COUPLE HAS LEFT THEIR HOME. HE SEIZES THIS MOMENT TO REWARD THE COUPLE FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. HE USES HIS MAGICAL POWERS TO FILL EACH BASKET WITH JEWELS ONCE AGAIN.



TAMARAI RETURNS HOME, NOT KNOWING WHAT LORD VISHNU HAS DONE. SHE IS SURPRISED TO FIND THE DOOR TO HER HOUSEHOLD IS STUCK TIGHT! SHE CANNOT OPEN IT, ALTHOUGH SHE PUSHES WITH ALL HER STRENGTH.



OOOPH!

HUURUMPH!

WHY IS THIS DOOR STICKING?

I AM PUSHING SO HARD, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO OPEN IT.

WHAT SHALL I DO?

MY HUSBAND HAS GONE TO SEE THE CHOLA KING, AND THERE IS NO ONE TO HELP ME!

Zzzzzzzzzzz

FINALLY, TAMARAI GIVES UP ON THE DOOR. SHE SITS AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE AND FALLS ASLEEP, AWAITING THE RETURN OF HER HUSBAND.



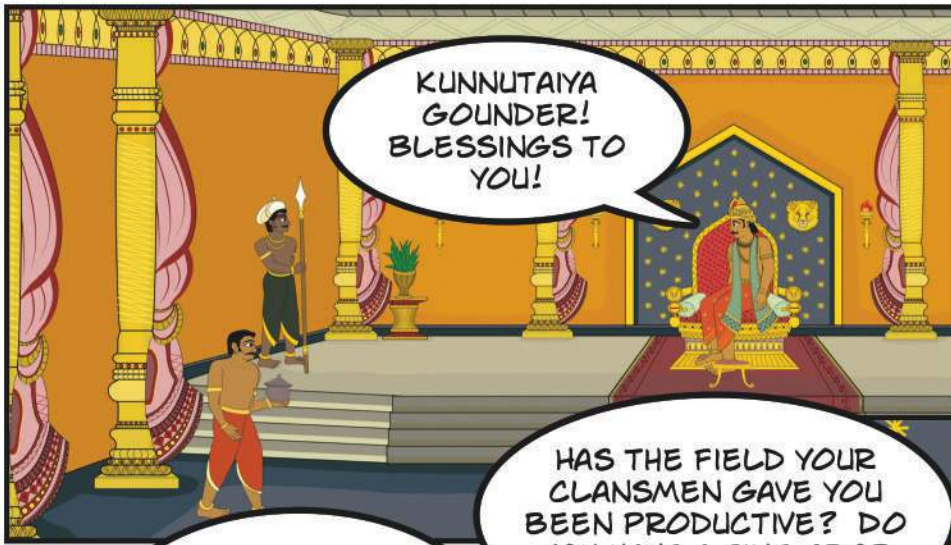
MEANWHILE, KUNNUTAIYA HAS REACHED THE CHOLA'S PALACE GATE.

HALT! WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH THE KING?

I AM ONE OF YOUR KING'S LOYAL FARMERS. I COME FROM PONNIVALA.

I WANT TO THANK HIM FOR HIS SUPPORT. I HAVE BROUGHT HIM A SMALL GIFT!

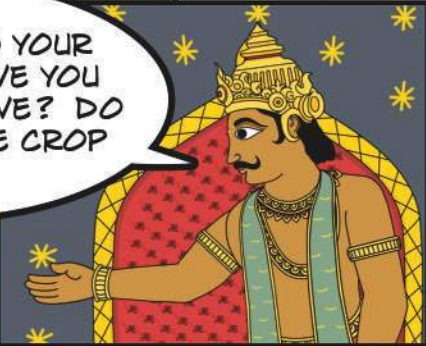
YOU MAY ENTER!



KUNNUTAIYA
GOUNDER!
BLESSINGS TO
YOU!

HAS THE FIELD YOUR
CLANSMEN GAVE YOU
BEEN PRODUCTIVE? DO
YOU HAVE A FINE CROP
NOW?

YES KING! WITH
YOUR BLESSINGS, WE
HAVE ENJOYED A
GOOD HARVEST!



I HAVE
BROUGHT YOU A
SMALL GIFT TO
SAY THANKS!



IT IS A
POT OF
FRESH
CURDS.



I APPRECIATE
YOUR REPORT
KUNNUTAIYA!

I WILL
CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT YOU.



THANK YOU, OH
GREAT KING!



KUNNUTAIYA NOW
HEADS FOR HOME.

KUNNUTAIYA RETURNS TO HIS HUT TO FIND TAMARAI SLEEPING OUTSIDE. HE IS CURIOUS ABOUT THIS. HE AWAKENS HER, AND ASKS WHAT'S WRONG.



TAMARAI!
WAKE UP!

OH HUSBAND! THE
DOOR IS STUCK SHUT! I
CAN'T OPEN IT. WE ARE
LOCKED OUT!

WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY ARE YOU SITTING
OUT HERE?

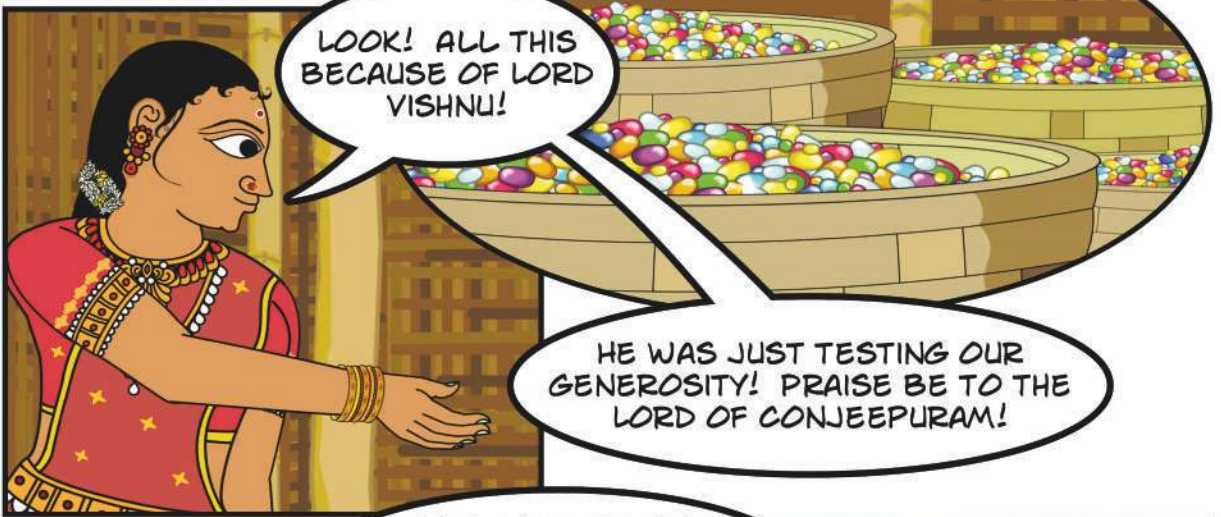
WAIT, I
WILL PUSH IT
HARD!



KUNNUTAIYA PUSHES WITH
ALL HIS MIGHT. THE DOOR
BEGINS TO BUDGE A TINY
BIT. HE PUSHES AND
PUSHES UNTIL FINALLY THE
DOOR GIVES WAY AND
OPENS UP!



WHEN THE COUPLE ENTER THEIR HOME, THEY GASP IN AWE AND DELIGHT. ALL OF THEIR BASKETS HAVE BEEN FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH JEWELS! THEY ARE OVERCOME WITH JOY, KNOWING THAT VISHNU HAS SMILED DOWN UPON THEM ONCE MORE.





TAMARAI AND KUNNUTAIYA'S HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH HAPPINESS. FINALLY THEY ARE TO HAVE A PALACE BUILT, A HOME BEFITTING THEIR STATUS. THE LAND OF PONNIVALA WILL HAVE ITS RIGHTFUL RULING FAMILY ONCE MORE! BUT WHAT ABOUT LORD SHIVA'S CURSE OF BARRENESS? IF THERE ARE NO CHILDREN BORN TO THIS COUPLE, WHO WILL INHERIT ALL THIS GOOD FORTUNE?



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/comic7

The Legend of
Ponnivala

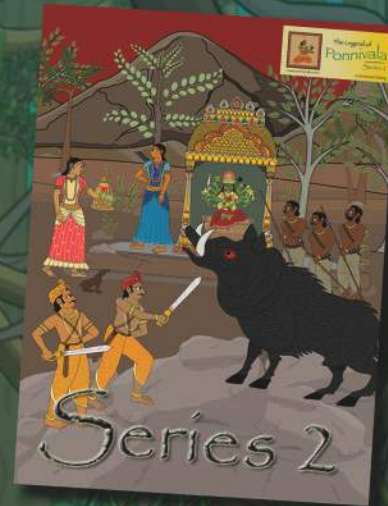
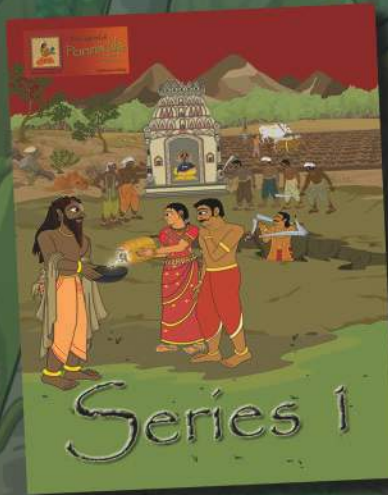
© 2012 Ponnivala Publishing





Come to Ponnivala Market

Graphic Novels - HD Movies - Games - Merchandise - Free and fun stuff!



1. In the Beginning
2. A Young Orphan
3. A Long Exile
4. A Love Match
5. A Magical Marriage
6. Roasted Seeds
7. A Thousand Beggars
8. A Cruel Curse
9. The Counter Curse
10. The Pillar of Destruction
11. A Pilgrim's Journey
12. The Gates of Heaven
13. The Book of Fate
14. The Temple Secret
15. The Truth Unveiled
16. The Home-Coming
17. Chastity Forever
18. An Overlord Angered
19. Independence Won
20. Two Swords Blessed
21. A Kidnapping Spree
22. A New Challenger
23. The Enemy Confronted
24. A Curse Revealed
25. The Great Sacrifice
26. An Epoch Ends

Collect All 26!

© 2012 Ponnivala Publishing



www.ponnivalamarket.com

Please visit our main site:

www.ponnivala.com

