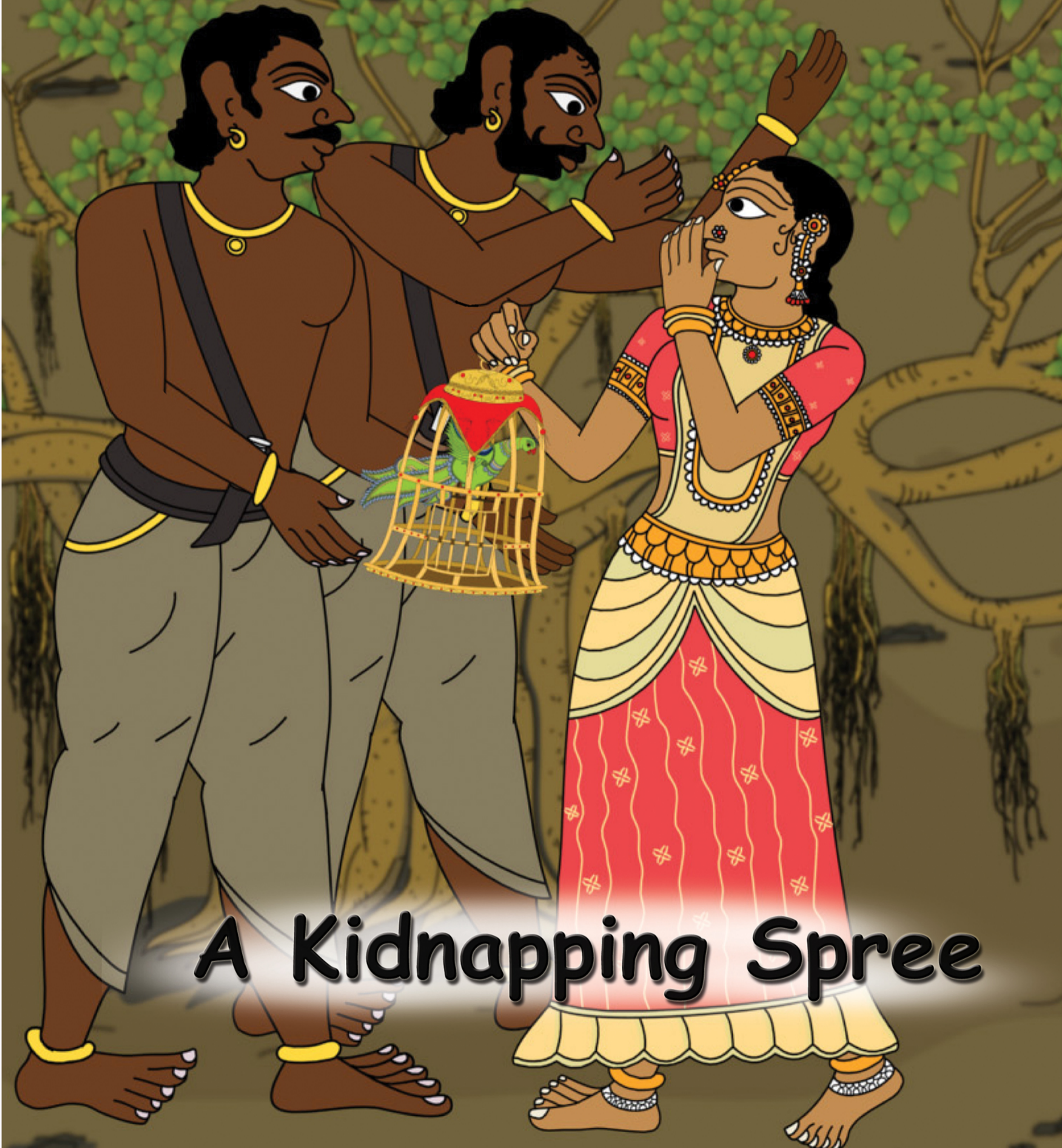
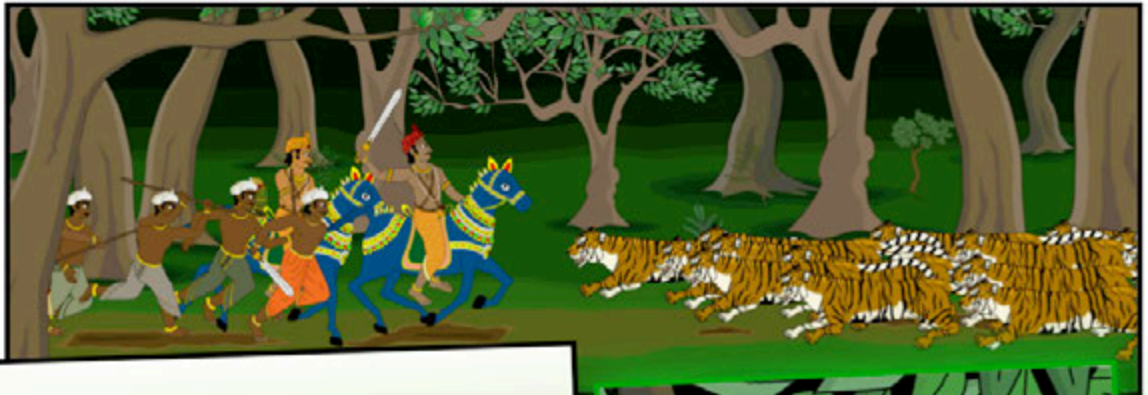


Series 2
Book 8

The Legend of
Ponnivala

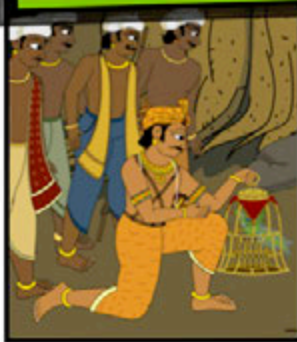


A Kidnapping Spree



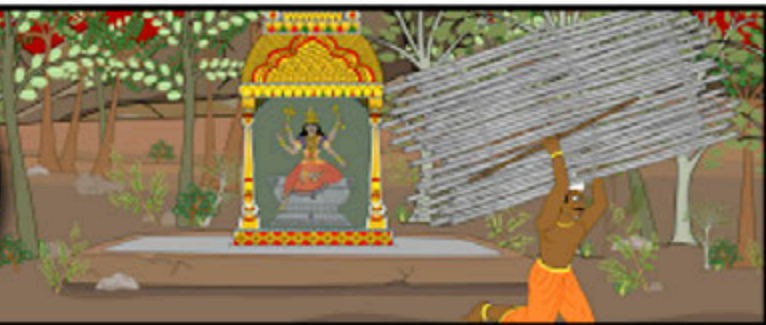
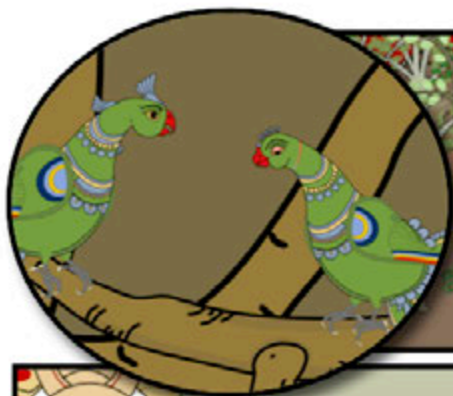
A KIDNAPPING SPREE
SERIES 2 COMIC 8

TWO BROTHERS WHO RULE PONNIVALA SET OFF ON A PARROT HUNT WITH THEIR TALENTED FIRST MINISTER. IN A NEIGHBORING FOREST THE GROUP ARE MET WITH AN ONSLAUGHT OF TIGERS AND COBRAS. CONQUERING THESE, THE MEN CAPTURE A FEMALE PARROT. BUT BIRD'S HUSBAND ESCAPES AND COMPLAINS TO THE FOREST PRINCESS WHOSE BROTHERS CAPTURE A PONNIVALA PALACE MAID IN REVENGE ...



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OH, I FEEL TERRIBLE!
I ASKED FOR TWO PARROTS, WITHOUT THINKING OF THE CONSEQUENCES!

THE PARROTS LIVE ON THE LAND OF OUR SWORN ENEMIES - THE VETTUVAS! NOT ONLY THAT, BUT OUR ASSISTANT SHAMBUGA STOLE THEIR IRON TO BUILD A NET TO CATCH THOSE BIRDS!

OH, WHAT CAN I DO?
MY BROTHERS ARE HEADING INTO DANGER - THE VETTUVA PRINCESS LEFT THE PATH TO THE BIRDS GUARDED WITH FIVE THOUSAND COBRAS AND FIVE THOUSAND TIGERS! I DON'T WANT THE BIRDS ANYMORE! BUT MY BROTHERS WILL NOT LISTEN...
OH, I FEEL TERRIBLE! I ASKED FOR TWO PARROTS, WITHOUT THINKING OF THE CONSEQUENCES!



The Legend of Ponnivala

THE TWIN RULERS OF PONNIVALA ARE READY FOR THEIR PARROT HUNT!



THE BROTHERS LEAD THE WAY ACROSS MOUNTAIN PATHS. THEY HEAD INTO DENSER AND DENSER FOREST. THEIR MIGHTY HORSES MAINTAIN A GALLOPING PACE - ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY ARE HEADED ALL THE WAY TO HEAVEN!



A Kidnapping Spree

FINALLY, THEY ENTER A DENSE THICKET. THE TREES AND BUSHES ARE HUGE, AND IT IS HARD TO SEE MORE THAN A FEW FEET IN ANY DIRECTION.





A Kidnapping Spree



CHARGE!

Roar!

HAAAAAAAAAAAAA!

Roar! Roar!

Roar! Roar!

LET'S TURN THESE TIGERS INTO MANGO JUICE!

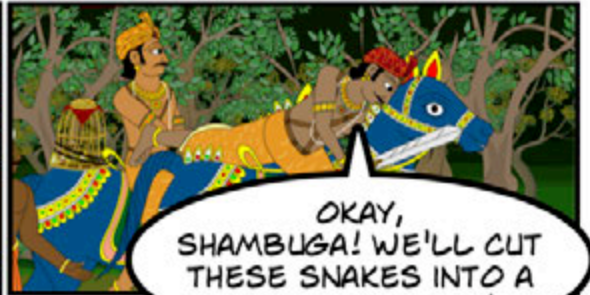
THE BROTHERS' SWORDS GLINT IN THE SUN AS THEY SWING THROUGH THE AIR. THE TIGERS ARE NO MATCH FOR THE BROTHERS' SWIFT AND DEADLY STROKES!





DID YOU
HEAR THAT
HISSING
SOUND?

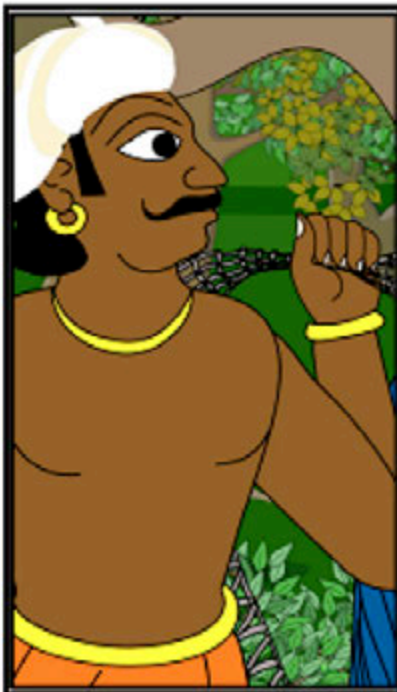
THIS MUST BE THE
FOREST OF THE COBRAS!
EVERYONE GET READY TO
FIGHT!



OKAY,
SHAMBUGA! WE'LL CUT
THESE SNAKES INTO A
MILLION PIECES!



BE
ALERT!





WITH THE TIGERS AND COBRAS DEFEATED, THE MEN MOVE ON TO VELLIYANKIRI!





LORDS, LOOK! DO YOU SEE THAT BANYAN TREE? WE HAVE REACHED VELLYANKIRI!

WE HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED!



I'M STILL NOT SURE ABOUT THIS! WE COULD FACE A LOT OF TROUBLE...

SHAMBUGA, IS THAT WHERE WE WILL FIND THE PARROTS WE ARE LOOKING FOR?



YES, MY LORD. I WILL TAKE OUR VILLAGE MEN AND LEAD THE WAY.



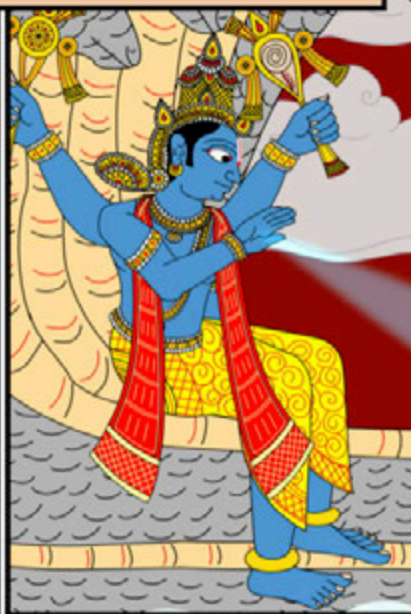
OK. WE WILL FOLLOW QUIETLY.

A Kidnapping Spree

EVEN THOUGH THE HUNTERS TRY TO BE QUIET, THE PARROTS ARE STILL ALERTED BY THEIR MOVEMENT.



LORD VISHNU SENDS DOWN A BEAM OF LIGHT, TRAPPING THE BIRDS IN THE TREE!

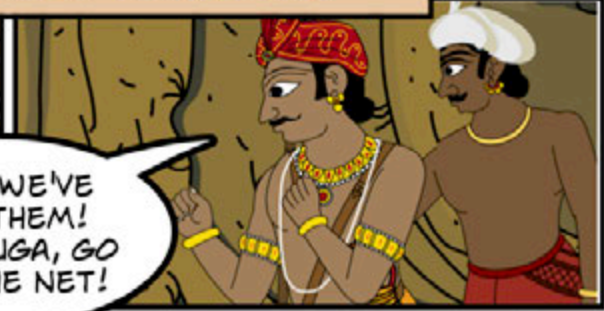


The Legend of Ponnivala

THE MEN CAST THEIR NET QUICKLY. THEY CAPTURE THE FEMALE PARROT WHILE VISHNU'S CIRCLE OF LIGHT HOLDS HER TRAPPED. BUT THE MALE ESCAPES AND FLIES OFF TO VIRAPPUR.




OH MY! I
CANNOT MOVE AT
ALL!



YES! WE'VE
GOT THEM!
SHAMBUGA, GO
GET THE NET!



LORDS, ONLY THE
FEMALE PARROT IS IN
OUR NET.



WHAT A
LOVELY BIRD
SHE IS!

BUT THE
MALE
PARROT ESCAPED! I
THINK HE WENT TO
TELL THE VETTUVAS
WHAT
WE HAVE DONE.

WE MUST
LEAVE BEFORE
THOSE MEN COME
LOOKING FOR
US!



THE MEN OF PONNIVALA RETURN HOME. ON THE WAY THEY STOP TO WORSHIP AT THE GANESH TEMPLE. THERE THEY EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION.



THE TWO LORDS THEN GO TO THEIR SISTER. THEY HAVE THE BEAUTIFUL PARROT READY FOR HER.



OUR TRIP TO
VELLIYANKIRI
WENT WELL.

WE HAVE BOTH
RETURNED
SAFELY!



AND HERE IS A
FEMALE PARROT FOR YOU
TO ENJOY! SHE WILL MAKE
A LOVELY COMPANION.



WHAT A
LOVELY
BIRD!

A Kidnapping Spree



OH SWEET BIRD, WE SHALL ENJOY OUR TIME TOGETHER!

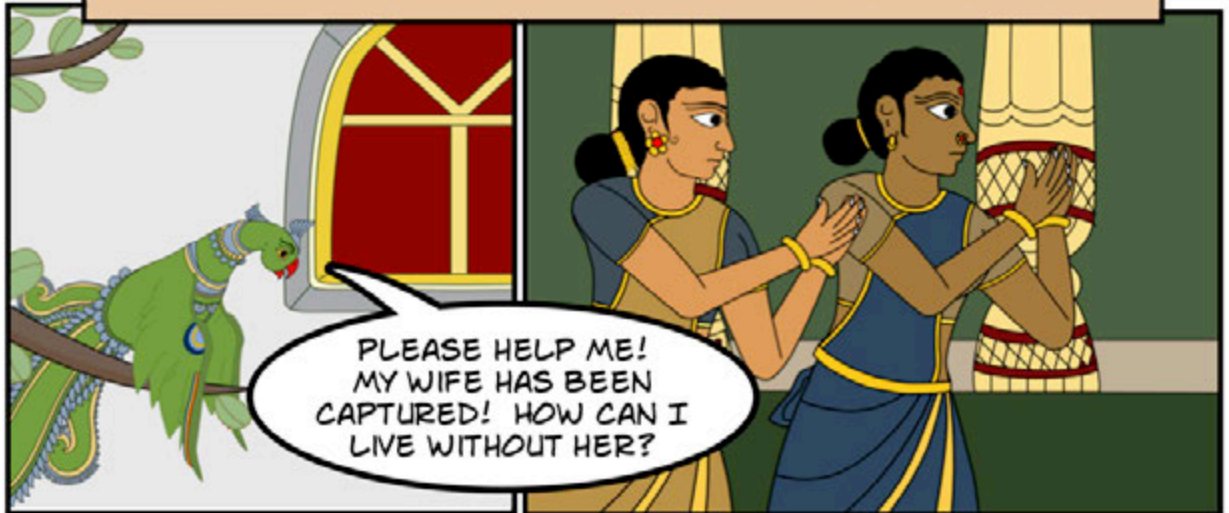


I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL! I'D BETTER ACT HAPPY! I WILL TRY TO SING A NICE SONG...

THE CAGED BIRD STARTS TO SING. SHE SINGS SOFTLY AND BEAUTIFULLY. IN HER SONGS SHE DESCRIBES THE WONDERFUL ADVENTURES SHE WILL HAVE WITH TANGAL.



MEANWHILE, THE MALE PARROT HAS MADE HIS WAY TO VIRAPPUR. HE CRIES SADLY OUTSIDE A PALACE WINDOW. THE VETTUNA PRINCESS VIRATANGAL SENDS HER MAIDS TO INVESTIGATE. THE MAIDS INVITE THE PARROT IN TO TALK WITH THEIR MISTRESS.





OH LADY! MY WIFE HAS BEEN CAPTURED! SHE HAS BEEN CRUELLY TORN AWAY FROM ME BY THOSE HORRIBLE FARMERS!



ONCE...WE WERE SO HAPPY!



BUT NOW MY WIFE HAS BEEN IMPRISONED! OH, WHAT SHALL I DO?





HOW CAN THIS BE? I POSTED FIVE THOUSAND TIGERS AND FIVE THOUSAND COBRAS AS GUARDS!

OH LADY! THOSE FARMER KINGS AND THEIR HUGE ASSISTANT KILLED EVERY SINGLE TIGER AND EVERY SINGLE SNAKE!

MY GOODNESS, IS THAT WHAT HAPPENED?

MAIDS! GO AND CALL ALL OF MY CLAN BROTHERS! ASK THEM TO ASSEMBLE AT OUR KARUKALIAMMAN TEMPLE RIGHT AWAY!

THE MEN GATHER QUICKLY AT THE TEMPLE. VIRATANGAL EXPLAINS THE FOREST THEFT THAT JUST TOOK PLACE.

OH ELDER BROTHERS! A TERRIBLE THING HAS HAPPENED. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN TWO PARROTS FLEW DOWN FROM THE GODS' COUNCIL CHAMBER AND DECIDED TO NEST IN OUR BANYAN TREE?

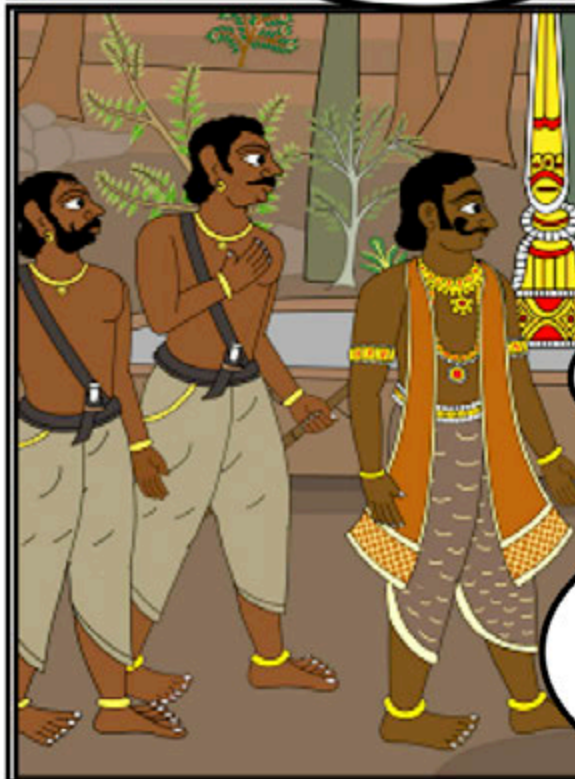


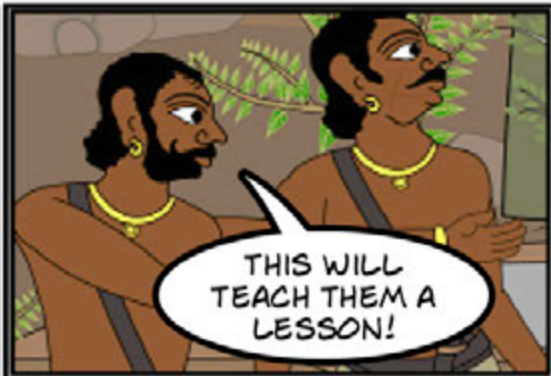
YES, WE REMEMBER THE FINE DAY WHEN TWO LOVELY PARROTS CAME TO OUR LANDS!

I HAD FIVE THOUSAND TIGERS AND FIVE THOUSAND COBRAS POSTED AS GUARDS FOR THOSE TWO LOVELY BIRDS.

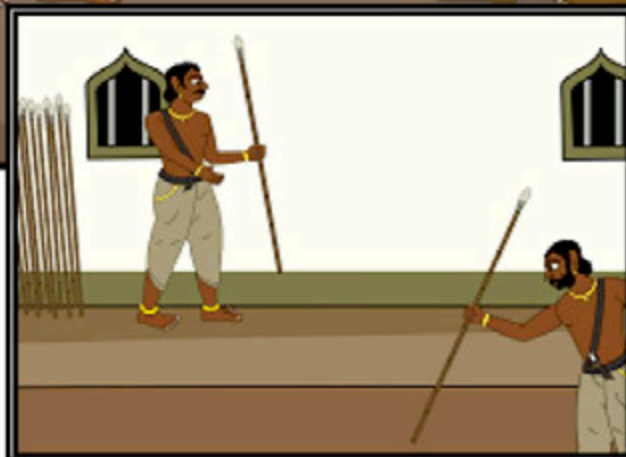
BUT SOMEHOW THE TWIN FARMER KINGS OF PONNIVALA KILLED THEM ALL! THEN THEY CAPTURED THE FEMALE PARROT USING A HUGE IRON NET!







THE CLANSMEN OF VIRAPPUR GATHER THEIR SPEARS AND THEIR COOKED RICE PACKETS. THEY THEN SET OFF FOR PONNIVALA, HOPING TO CAPTURE TANGAL AND MAKE HER THEIR SISTER'S SERVANT!



BACK IN PONNIVALA, TANGAL'S LOVELY MAID KUPPI HAS GONE TO FETCH SOME WATER. THE PALACE PET, PONNACHI, IS WITH HER.



THE VETTUVAS WATCH, HIDDEN IN THE BUSHES. THEY MISTAKE KUPPI FOR TANGAL!



HEY, THERE SHE IS! THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL MUST BE TANGAL!

YES, THAT MUST BE HER! SHE EVEN HAS HER TINY EARLESS DOG WITH HER!



HEY! WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



PUT ME DOWN! HELP!!!

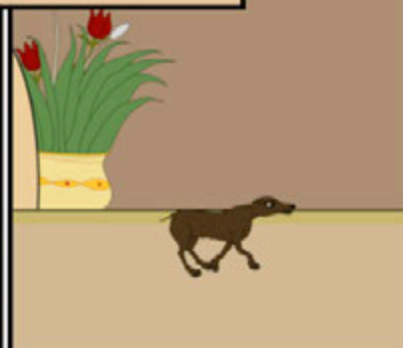
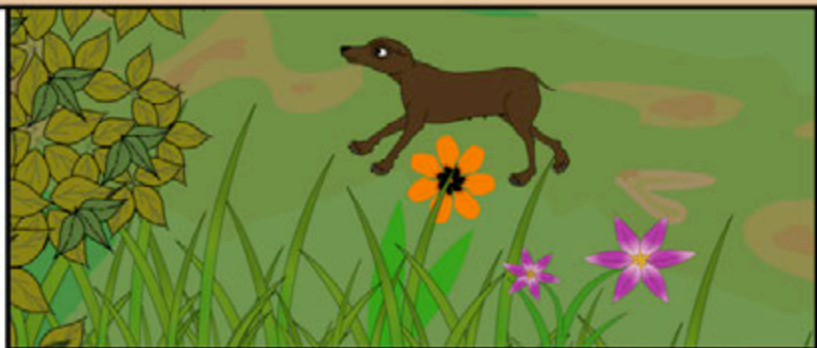
Woof!
Woof!



Crunch!

THE VETTUVAS THREATEN TO KILL KUPPI IF SHE DOES NOT QUIET DOWN! PONNACHI TRIES HER BEST TO SAVE THE MAID, BUT THE CLANSMAN JUST KICKS THE LITTLE DOG AWAY!

THE BRAVE LITTLE PUP DOES NOT GIVE UP! SHE HASTILY RUNS TO TELL TANGAL WHAT HAS HAPPENED. BUT TANGAL IS ALREADY AWARE - SHE HAS ALREADY HAD A DREAM ABOUT ALL THIS.







SHAMBUGA GOES IMMEDIATELY TO FETCH THE IRON BIRD NET.



OH, MY LOVELY
SERVANT,
WHERE IS SHE?

OH DEAR! MY
LOVELY KUPPI HAS
DISAPPEARED!

TANGAL WORRIES ABOUT HER POOR
KIDNAPPED MAID. MEANWHILE,
SHAMBUGA SETS OFF WITH THE IRON
BIRD NET ON HIS SHOULDER



A Kidnapping Spree

SHAMBUGA PICKS UP THE TRAIL OF THE VETTLVAS, AND FOLLOWS IT. WHEN HE FINDS THESE MEN, HE DROPS THE IRON NET IN FRONT OF THEM. THEY ARE VERY SUSPICIOUS AND FEAR AN ATTACK!



LOOK! THE VILLAINOUS ASSISTANT FROM PONNIVALA!

BE READY FOR AN ATTACK!




YOU STOLE OUR IRON, AND NOW YOU RETURN TO OUR TERRITORY? WHERE IS YOUR SHAME?



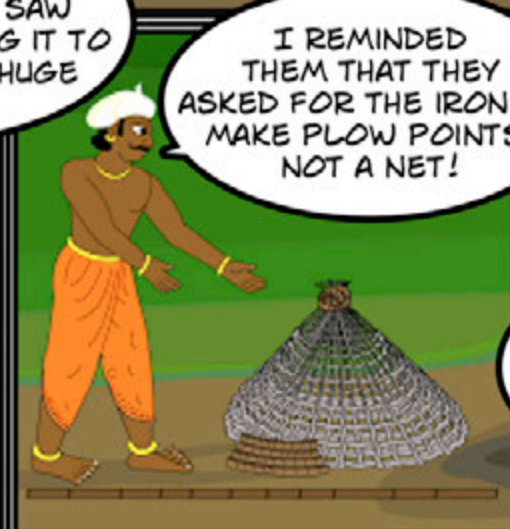
OH MEN, WAIT! I AM NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU!




I GAVE THAT IRON TO THE FARMERS. THEY TOLD ME IT WAS FOR PLOW POINTS!



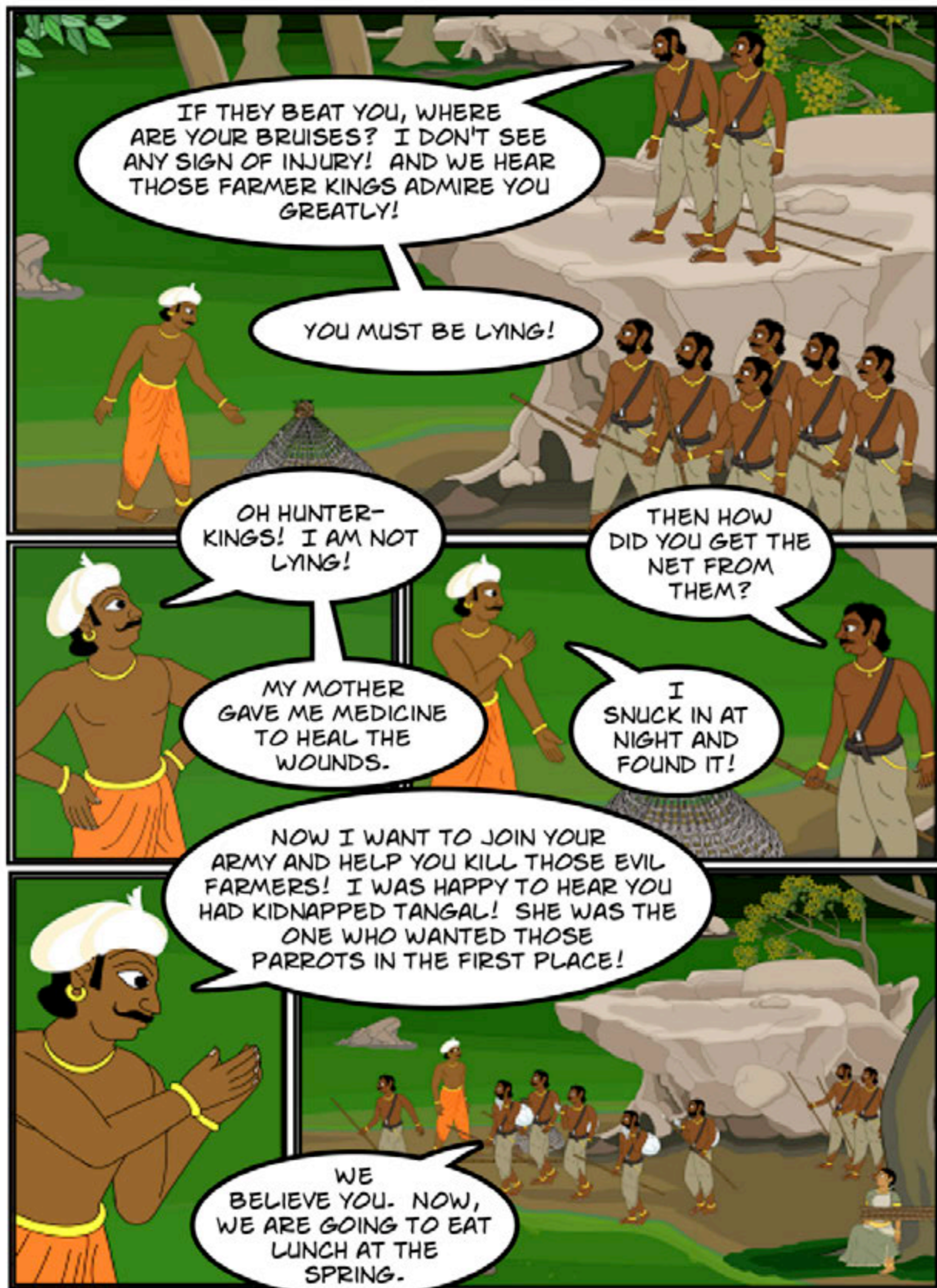
BUT THE NEXT TIME I PASSED BY, I SAW THEY WERE USING IT TO CONSTRUCT A HUGE NET!



I REMINDED THEM THAT THEY ASKED FOR THE IRON TO MAKE PLOW POINTS, NOT A NET!



THEY CONSIDERED THIS AN INSULT, AND SO THEY BEAT ME VICIOUSLY!





BUT THE CLANSMEN DECIDE NOT TO LEAVE SHAMBUGA ALONE WITH KUPPI. THEY POST TWO GUARDS TO WATCH OVER HER. HOWEVER, THOSE GUARDS ARE NO MATCH FOR SHAMBUGA! HE IS SO STRONG THAT HE EASILY CHOKES ONE AND THEN KICKS THE OTHER!



SHAMBUGA SEES HIS CHANCE AND TAKES OFF. WHEN THE VETTIVA CLANSMEN REALIZE THAT HE IS CARRYING KUPPI AND THE NET WITH HIM THEY TAKE CHASE!



HEY! YOU VILLAIN!

GET BACK HERE!

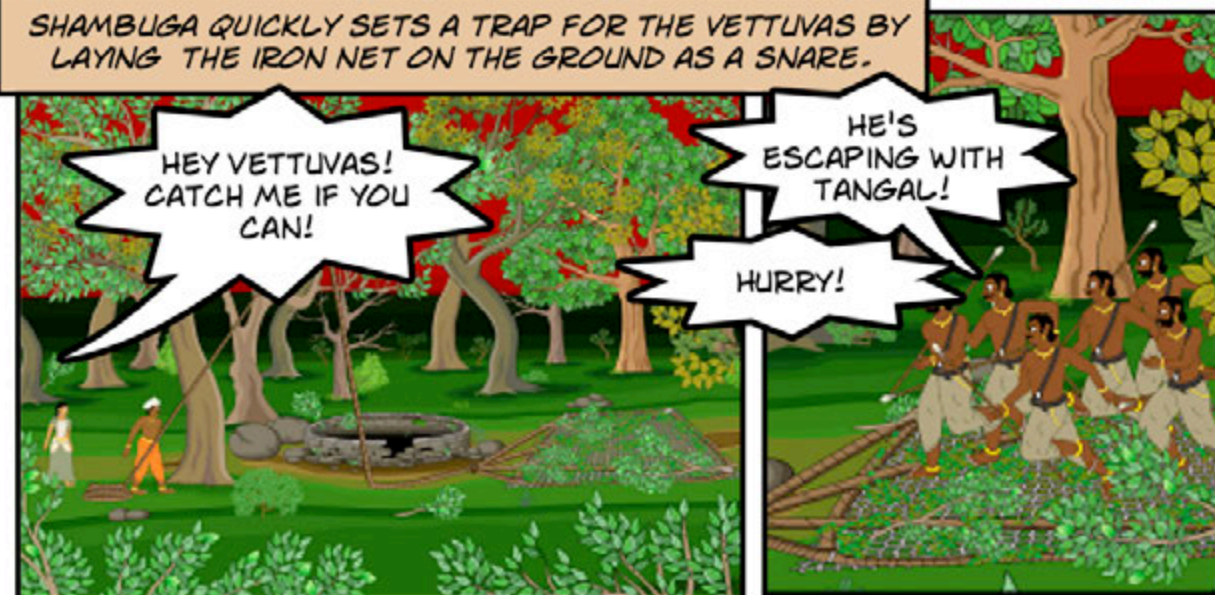


SHAMBUGA QUICKLY SETS A TRAP FOR THE VETTUVAS BY LAYING THE IRON NET ON THE GROUND AS A SNARE.

HEY VETTUVAS!
CATCH ME IF YOU
CAN!

HE'S
ESCAPING WITH
TANGAL!

HURRY!



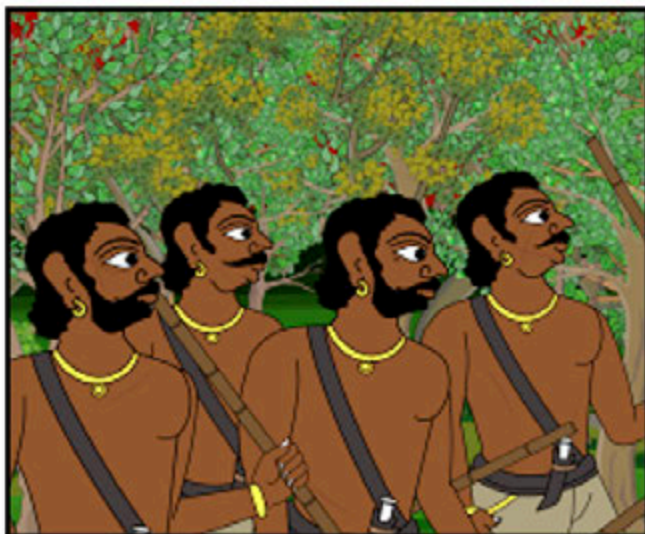
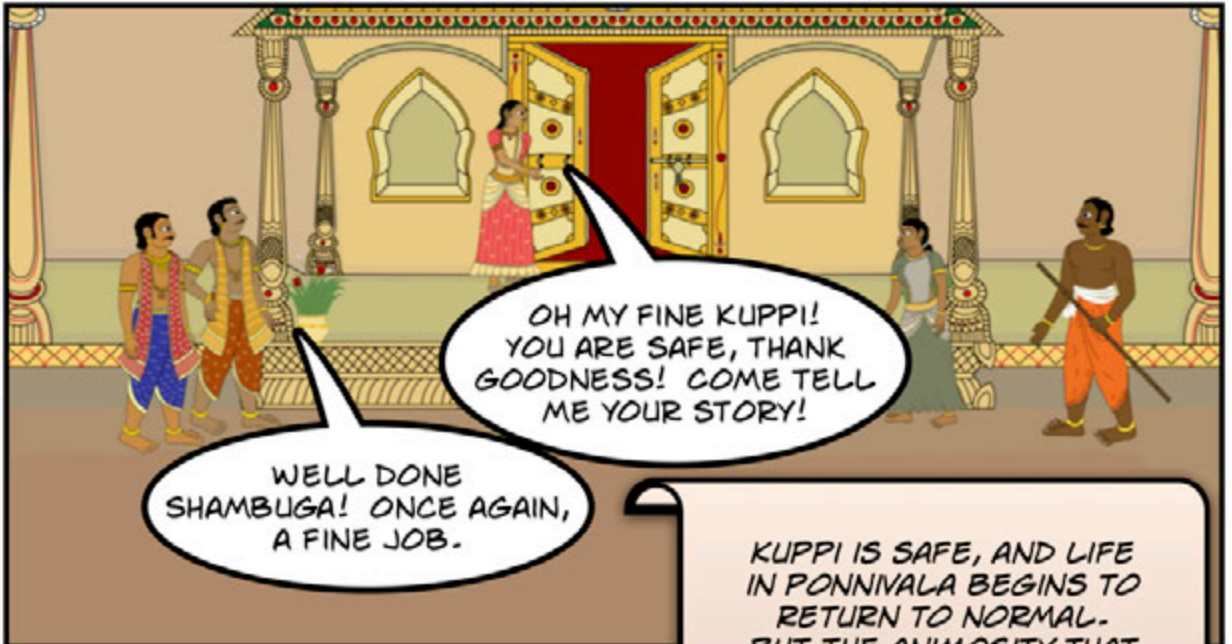
A Kidnapping Spree

AS SOON AS THE VETTUVAS STEP ON THE NET, SHAMBUGA PULLS THE TRAP UP AND CAPTURES THEM. THEN HE DROPS THEM INTO AN OLD WELL!



THEN SHAMBUGA PICKS KUPPI UP. HE SOON RUNS ALL THE WAY BACK TO PONNIVALA WITH HER!





KUPPI IS SAFE, AND LIFE IN PONNIVALA BEGINS TO RETURN TO NORMAL. BUT THE ANIMOSITY THAT HAS GROWN BETWEEN THE FARMER KINGS AND THEIR HILL-DWELLING ENEMIES WILL NOT EASILY BE LAID TO REST. UNKNOWINGLY, THE TWIN RULERS OF PONNIVALA HAVE SET IN MOTION A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT CANNOT BE EASILY ALTERED. HOW LONG UNTIL ANOTHER ADVERSARY RISES TO CHALLENGE THE SUPREMACY OF THE PONNIVALA KINGS?

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/comic21

The Legend of
Ponnivala

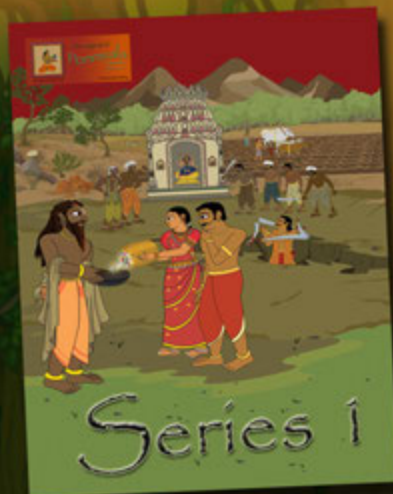
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