

Series 2
Book 9

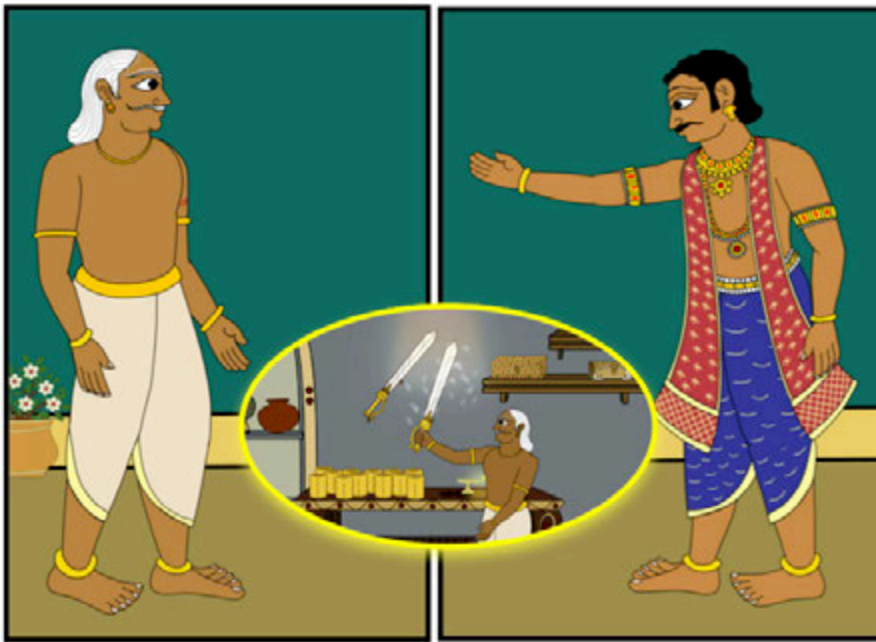
The Legend of
Ponnivala



A New Challenger

The Legend of Ponnivala

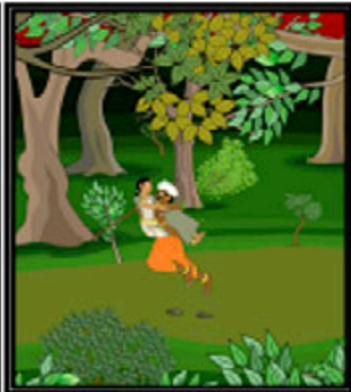
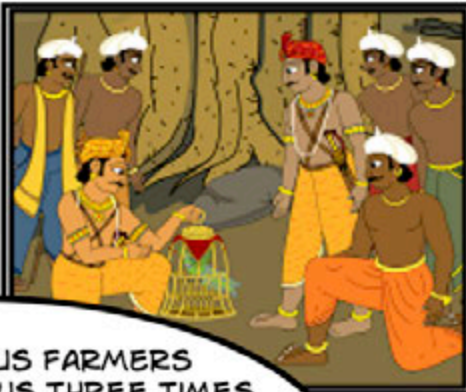
WRITERS:
BRENDA BECK AND
CASSANDRA
CORNALL
ARTWORK:
RAVICHANDRAN
ARUMUGAM (AND
HIS DESIGN TEAM)
**LAYOUT AND
DESIGN:**
CASSANDRA
CORNALL
STEFAN HANNIGAN
**ADDITIONAL
LAYOUT:**
PRIYADHARSHANI
GOVINDARAJAN,
PROOFREADING:
STEVEN BARIC
PUBLISHER:
PONNIVALLA
PUBLICATIONS
© 2012 SOFT
SCIENCE
ASSOCIATES LTD



A NEW CHALLENGER SERIES 2 COMIC 9

AN ARTISAN HOLDS A GRUDGE AGAINST THE PONNIVALA FAMILY. HE SETS OUT TO TRICK ITS RULING BROTHERS. HE SPENDS THE NIGHT IN THEIR PALACE BUT BUNGLES HIS ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE FAMILY'S PRIZE SWORDS. ACCUSING THE MORE TRUSTING BROTHER OF DECEIT, HE CHALLENGES HIM TO PROVE HIS HONESTY BY SWIMMING THROUGH A DANGEROUS IRRIGATION CHANNEL. LORD VISHNU HELPS THE HONEST HERO SUCCEED.





THOSE POMPOUS FARMERS HAVE DISHONORED US THREE TIMES IN A ROW! FIRST BY STEALING OUR IRON, THEN BY USING A NET MADE FROM THAT MATERIAL TO CATCH OUR PARROTS AND FINALLY BY GRABBING BACK THEIR GIRL... A PRETTY MAID WE HAD JUST KIDNAPPED!

WHAT'S WORSE, THAT HUGE PONNIVALA WATCHMAN CAUGHT MANY OF OUR BRAVE WARRIORS AND KILLED THEM! A FEW OF US WERE LUCKY TO ESCAPE WITH OUR LIVES!

WE MUST DEFEND OUR LOVELY HILLS! WHY WILL NO ONE RESPECT OUR RIGHTFUL CONTROL OF THIS AREA? WE MUST TAKE REVENGE ON THOSE PONNIVALA KINGS!





AHHHHH!!!

WHO ARE YOU?
WHY WERE YOU
HIDING IN THESE
BUSHES?

WE ARE VETTUVA
HUNTERS FROM VIRAPPUR! A HUGE
MAN FROM PONNIVALA JUST KILLED OUR
SOLDIERS, SO WE WERE WAITING
HERE TO AMBUSH HIM!

I AM A POOR
CARPENTER. I CAME
HERE LOOKING FOR
WOOD.

WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING ON VETTUVA
LAND?

DO YOU MEAN
TO TELL ME THAT FAMILY OF
PONNIVALA KINGS IS STILL ALIVE?
WE TRIED TO KILL THEM OFF
YEARS AGO!

I THINK YOU WANT
REVENGE, EVEN NOW.
PLEASE, TELL US YOUR STORY!
DON'T BE FRIGHTENED OF
US!



OK. IT WAS DURING THE RULE OF THE PARENTS OF THOSE TWO YOUNG PONNIVALA KINGS.



A HUGE TEMPLE CART WAS PULLED AROUND THE CELLATA TEMPLE...



BUT SUDDENLY, THE CART WHEEL GOT STUCK IN THE MUD, AND ONE ARTISAN FELL OFF! HE ANNOUNCED TO ALL THAT THIS WAS A SIGN!

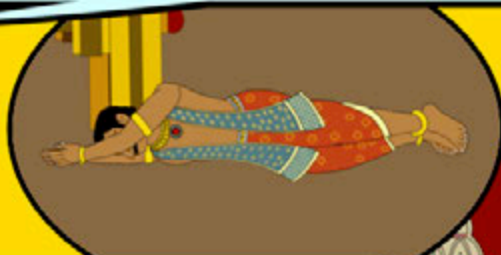


HELP!



The Legend of Ponnivala

HE SAID THAT THE GODDESS HAD APPEARED BEFORE HIM IN A DREAM, AND DEMANDED THAT THE KING AND QUEEN THEMSELVES LAY DOWN IN FRONT OF THE HEAVY CART WHEELS.



BUT THE CART FLEW UP OVER THEIR HEADS, AND LANDED ON SIX ARTISANS INSTEAD!

IT WAS OUR PLAN TO HAVE THE CHARIOT CRUSH THAT PONNIVALA KING AND HIS WIFE ...



OUR PLAN TO KILL THEM FAILED, AND ONLY ONE ARTISAN WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE WITH HIS LIFE... THAT MAN WAS ME!

THE TWO SONS OF THAT RULER ARE ALSO BIG TROUBLE! THEY RECENTLY STOLE OUR STASH OF IRON AND THEN OUR LOVELY PARROT! THEIR ASSISTANT ALSO KILLED MANY OF OUR BRAVE MEN. WE MUST DESTROY THEM!

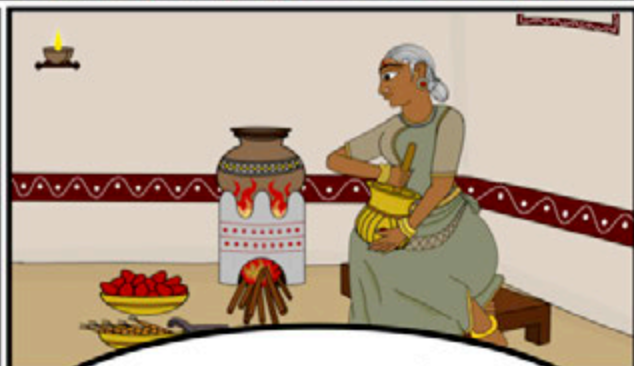
WE ALL WANT THOSE FARMER KINGS DEAD. WHY DON'T WE JOIN TOGETHER TO DEFEAT THEM?



I HAVE A PLAN! TWO DAYS FROM NOW, I WILL LEAD THE ELDER KING PONNAR TO THE VELANKULAM IRRIGATION TANK.

I AM SURE THE YOUNGER KING SHANKAR WILL COME LOOKING FOR HIM. YOU HAVE ONLY TO LIE IN AMBUSH AND WAIT FOR OUR ARRIVAL. TOGETHER WE WILL KILL BOTH THOSE POMPOUS MEN!

THE VETTUVAS AGREE TO THE ARTISAN'S SCHEME. THEY GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. THE ARTISAN RETURNS HOME TO MAKE WHAT HE NEEDS FOR HIS PLAN.



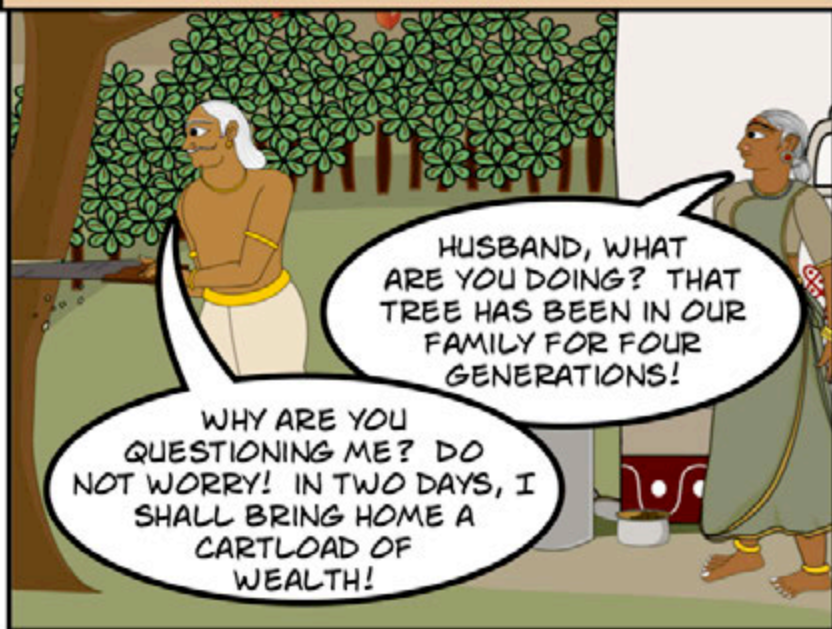
HEY, HUSBAND!
YOU BRING WOOD HOME EVERY
DAY! WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ANY
WITH YOU NOW?

THERE IS A GOOD
REASON! BUT I HAVE NO
TIME FOR QUESTIONS
NOW!

WHAT IS THE
REASON? WHAT WILL WE DO
FOR FOOD IF YOU DO NOT MAKE
SOMETHING IN YOUR
WORKSHOP?

The Legend of Ponnivala

THE ARTISAN IMMEDIATELY GOES OUTSIDE AND BEGINS TO SAW DOWN A TALL POMEGRANATE TREE. HIS WIFE FOLLOWS AND IS SHOCKED BY WHAT SHE SEES.



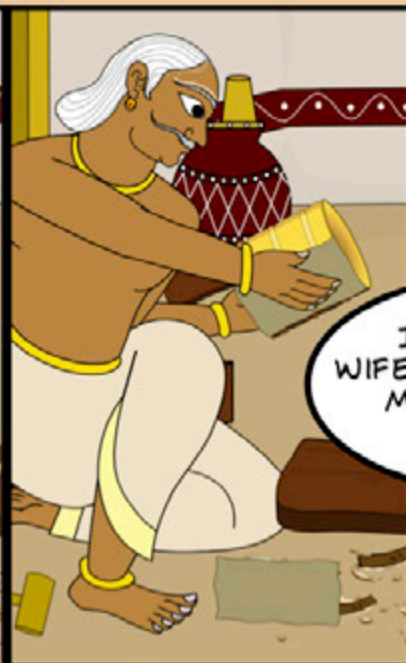
THE ARTISAN'S WIFE LEAVES, CONFUSED. THE ARTISAN SWITCHES FROM A SAW TO AN AX AND FINISHES THE JOB QUICKLY. WHEN HE IS DONE, HE CUTS A PIECE TO SIZE, THEN BRINGS IT INSIDE.



A New Challenger



THE ARTISAN CARVES THE PIECE OF WOOD INTO A FINE WOODEN MEASURING VESSEL. THEN HE POUNDS THE GOLD INTO A PAPER-THIN SHEET. HE COVERS THE WOODEN VESSEL WITH THE DELICATE FOIL TO MAKE IT APPEAR AS THOUGH THE VESSEL WAS OF SOLID GOLD!





DESPITE HIS WIFE'S WARNING, THE ARTISAN LEAVES. AS HE WALKS, A BLACK CAT CROSSES HIS PATH, AND A TREE FALLS UPON IT. HIS WIFE, WATCHING ALL THIS FROM THE DOORWAY, RUSHES OUT TO STOP HIM.



OH HUSBAND, THESE ARE MORE BAD OMENS! YOU SHOULD NOT GO ANYWHERE TODAY!



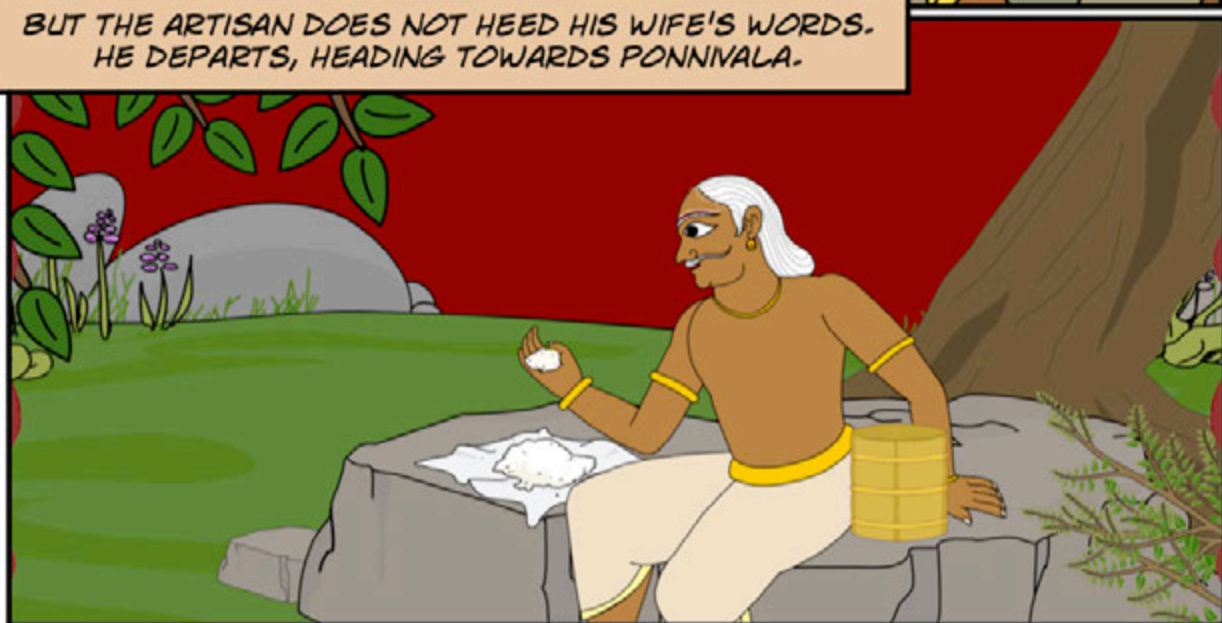
HOW MANY PEOPLE COME AND GO ON THIS STREET? CAN THESE ALL BE BAD OMENS? GO HOME!

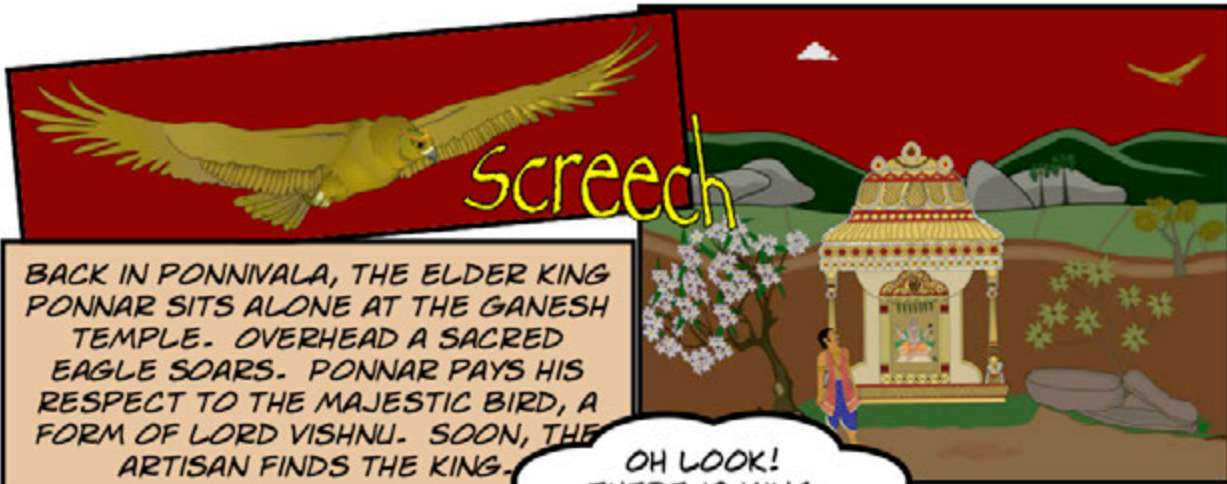
YOU CAN GO TOMORROW! FOR NOW, PLEASE RETURN TO THE HOUSE!





BUT THE ARTISAN DOES NOT HEED HIS WIFE'S WORDS. HE DEPARTS, HEADING TOWARDS PONNIVALA.





BACK IN PONNIVALA, THE ELDER KING PONNAR SITS ALONE AT THE GANESH TEMPLE. OVERHEAD A SACRED EAGLE SOARS. PONNAR PAYS HIS RESPECT TO THE MAJESTIC BIRD, A FORM OF LORD VISHNU. SOON, THE ARTISAN FINDS THE KING.

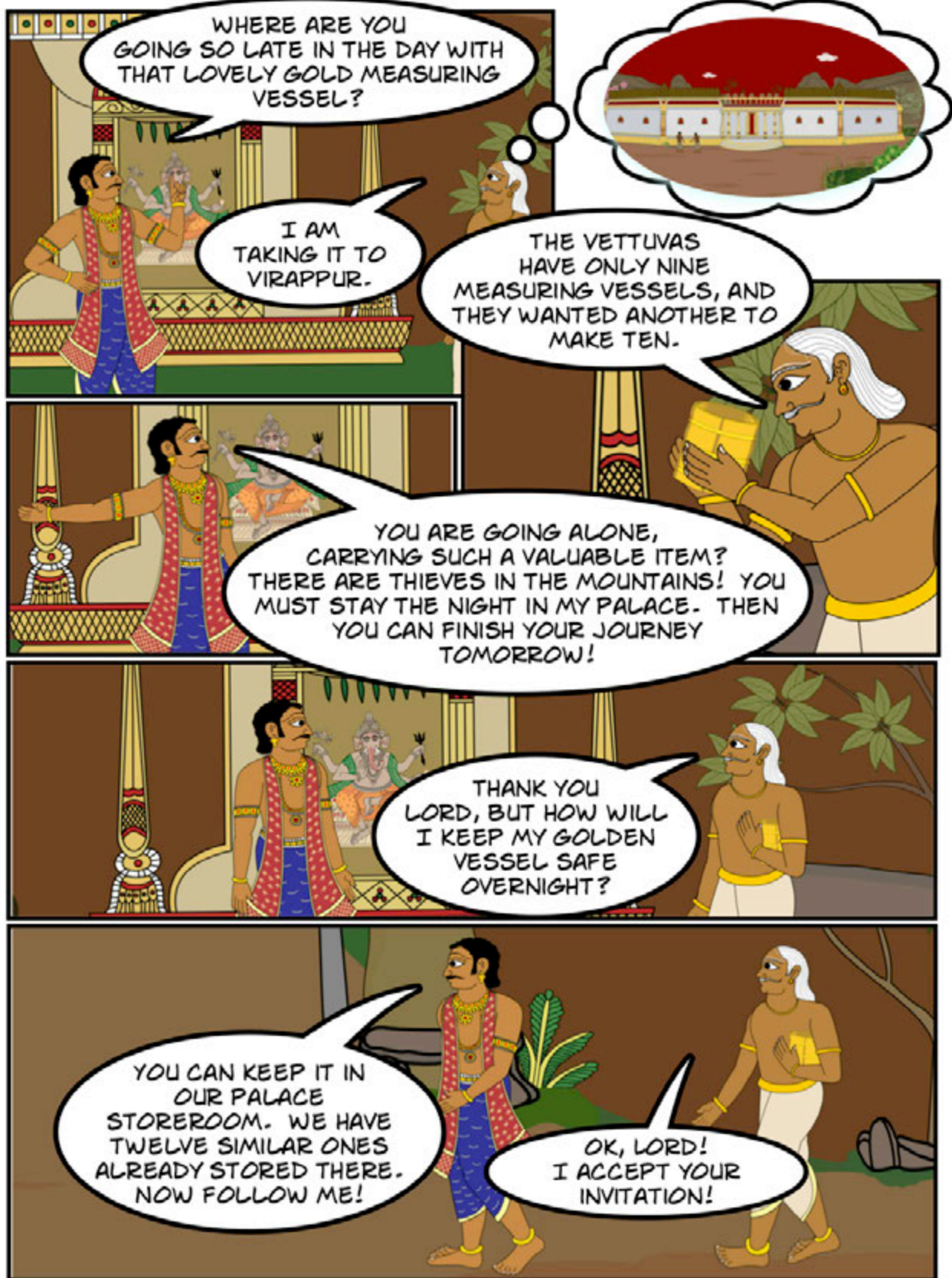
OH LOOK!
THERE IS KING
PONNAR! HE IS ALONE
- NOW IS THE TIME
TO ACT!

GREETINGS, MAN!
WHO ARE YOU?

I AM ONE OF YOUR
FAMILY ARTISANS, FROM A
VILLAGE NEAR TANGAVALA!

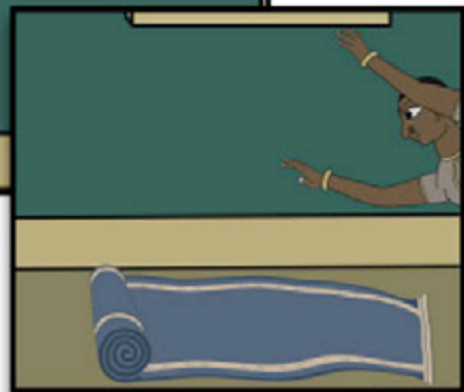
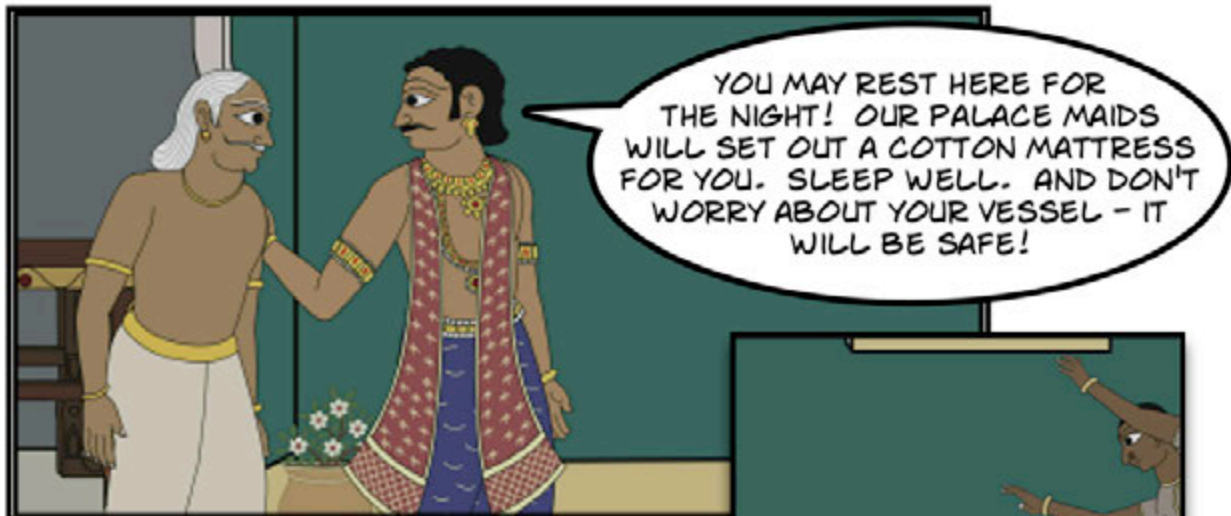
HEY, I
REMEMBER
HEARING THAT LONG AGO,
SIX ARTISANS WERE KILLED.
ONE ESCAPED - ARE
YOU THAT MAN?

YES, I AM THE
SOLE SURVIVOR OF
THAT TERRIBLE
EVENT!



DAY TURNS TO NIGHT AS PONNAR AND THE ARTISAN REACH THE PALACE ...





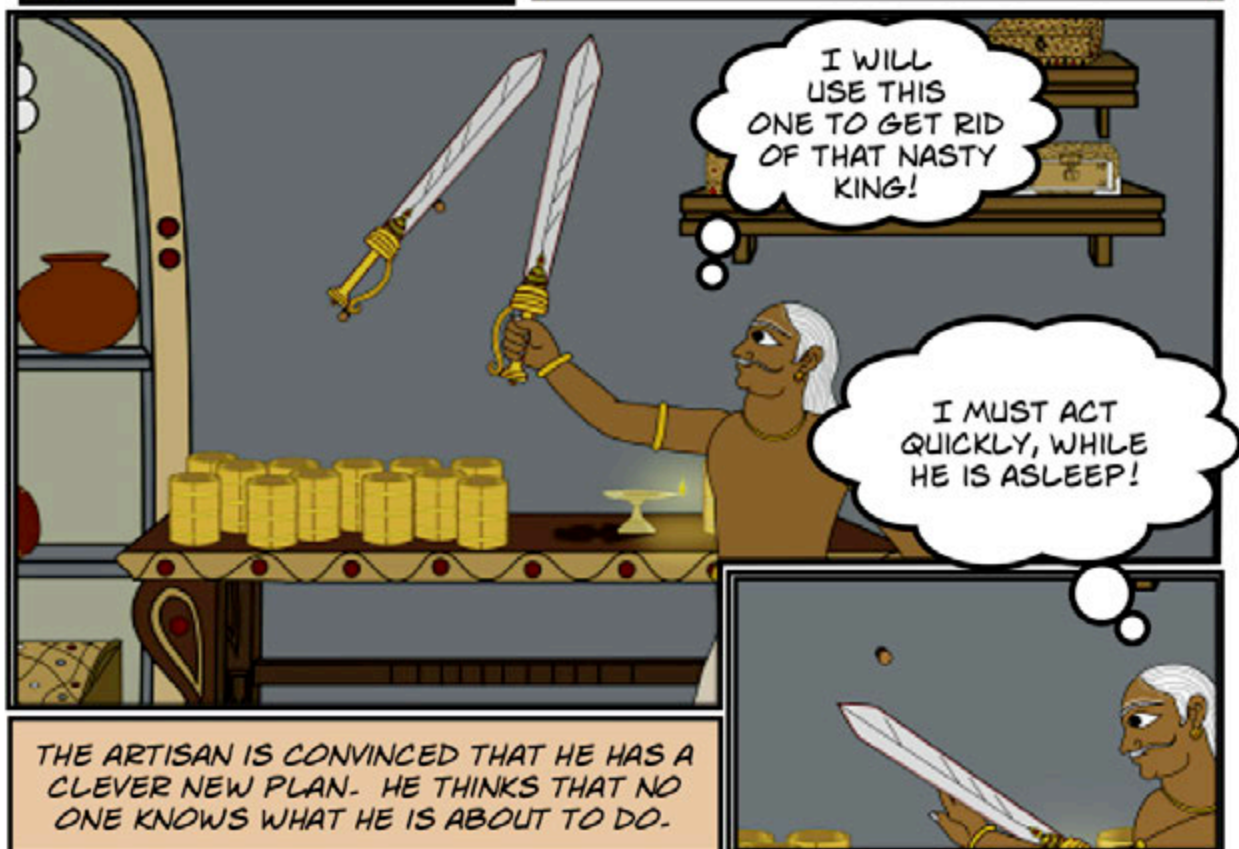
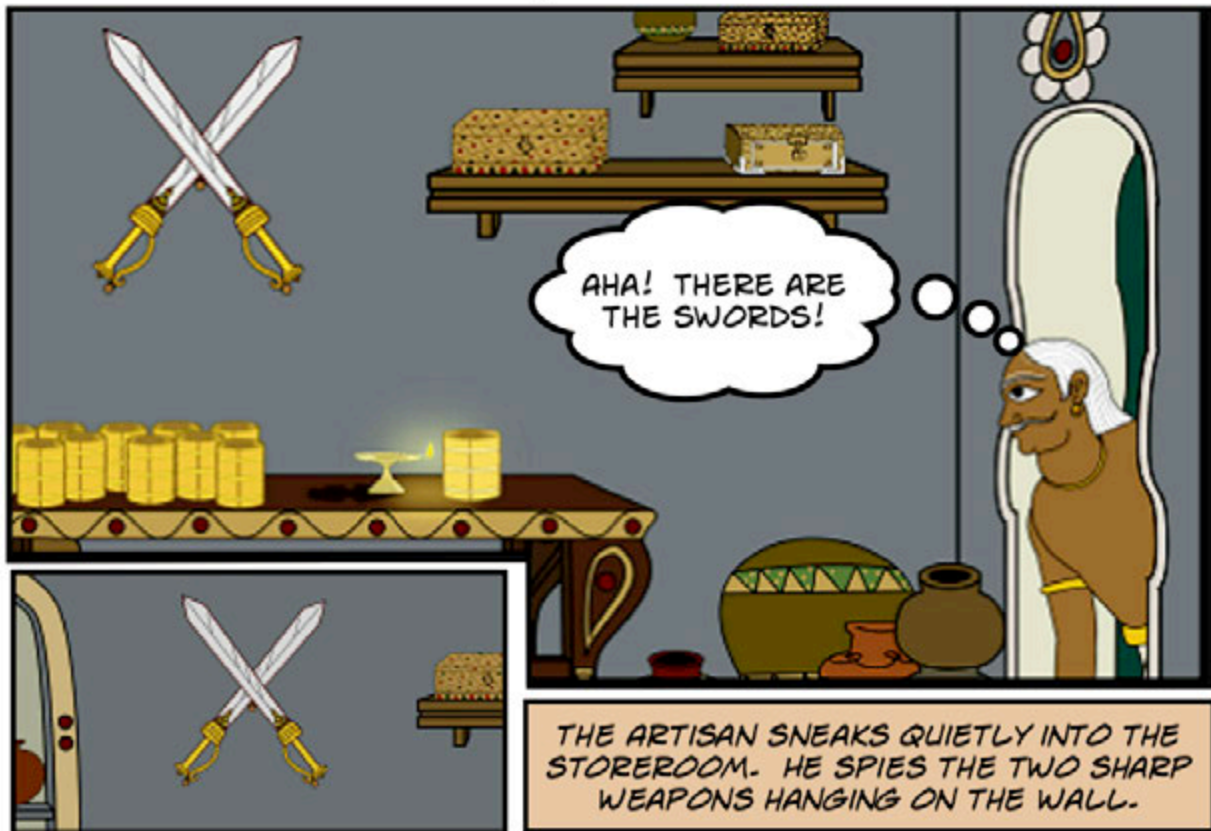
THE ARTISAN SETTLES HIMSELF ON THE MATTRESS AFTER IT IS UNROLLED. BUT HIS SCHEMING MIND IS STILL AT WORK...





THE NIGHT PROGRESSES AND THE ARTISAN ROUSES HIMSELF. HE GETS UP QUIETLY, READY TO PUT HIS DEVIOS PLAN TO WORK.





BUT THE ARTISAN DOES NOT KNOW THAT HE HAS ALERTED SOMEONE! VISHNU WATCHES FROM HIS COBRA COUCH ON THE MILK SEA. HE KNOWS WHAT THE ARTISAN HAS PLANNED!



THAT SCHEMING ARTISAN WANTS TO CUT THOSE TWO LORDS INTO PIECES!

THIS WILL STOP HIM!

VISHNU THROWS DOWN MAGIC DUST, CAUSING THE SWORD TO RISE FROM THE ARTISAN'S HAND!

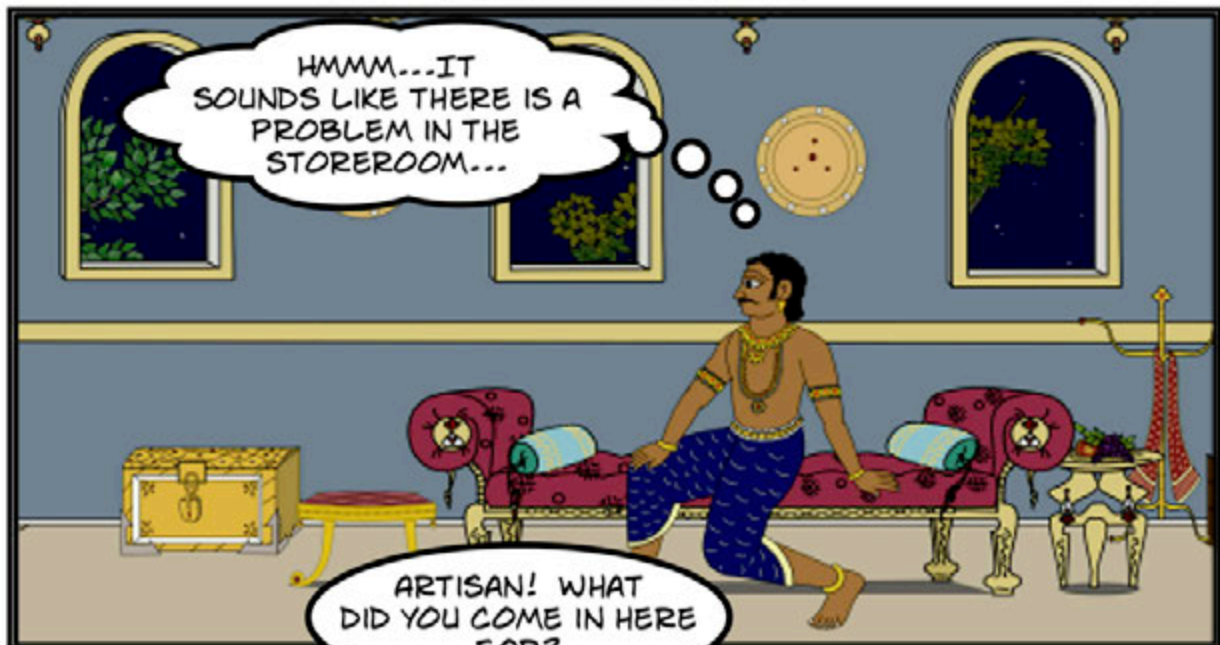


AH! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE SWORD?

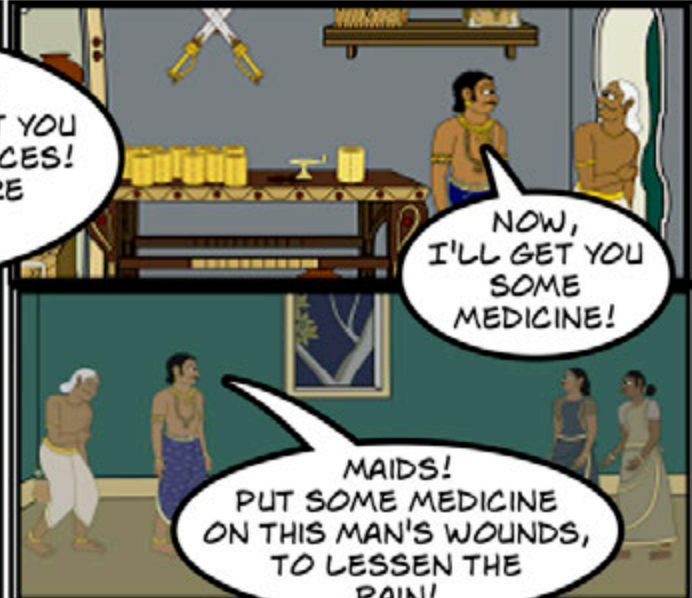
OH! MY ARM!
AAAH!



whoosh!



ARTISAN! WHAT DID YOU COME IN HERE FOR?





IN THE NIGHT, THE GOLD COATING ON THE VESSEL MELTS AWAY ...



OH ARTISAN! HOW ARE YOU?

OH KING, I AM FINE!

BUT PLEASE COME WITH ME TO THE STOREROOM SO I CAN GET MY VESSEL!



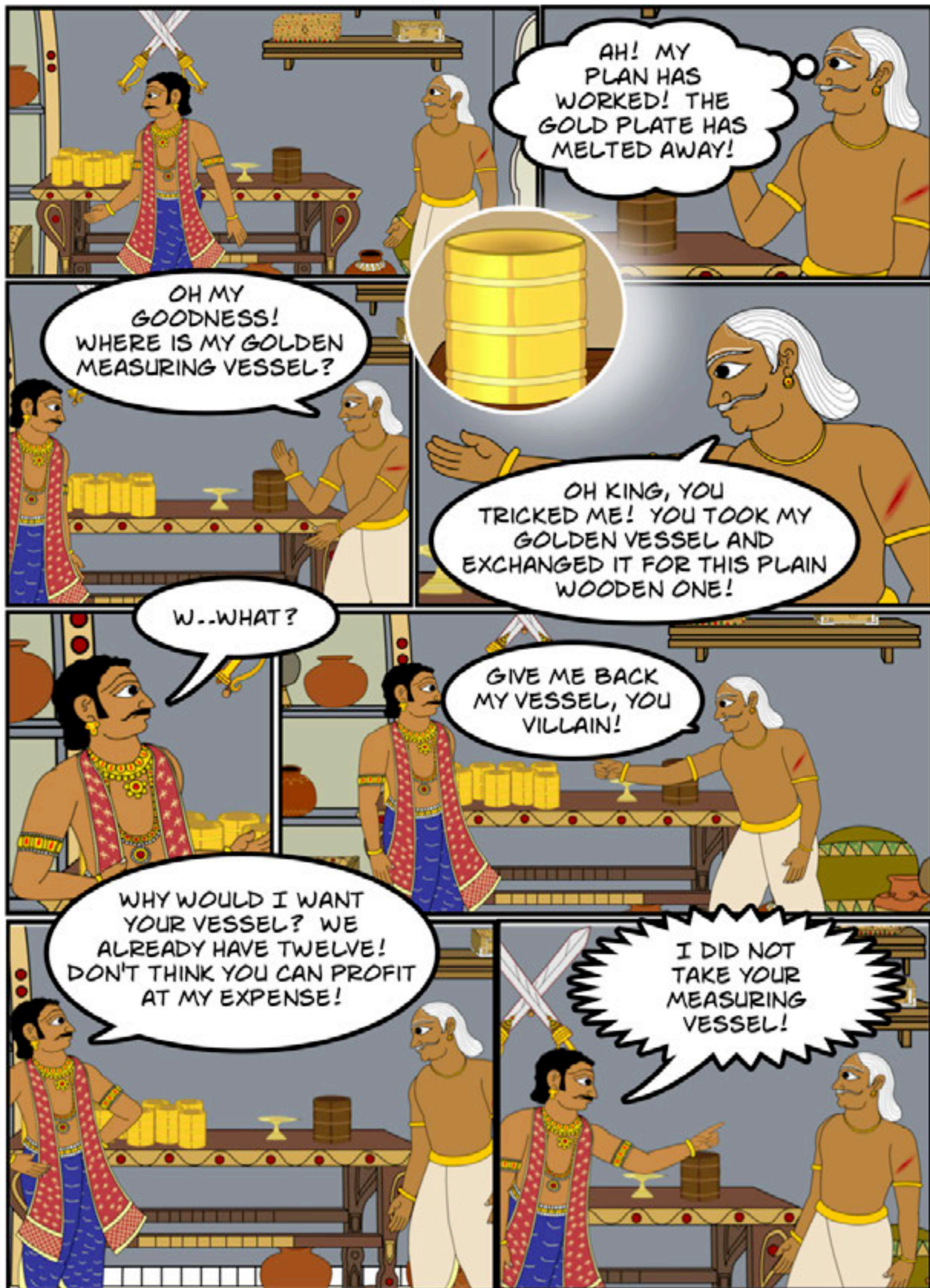
OK, AS YOU WISH---, I WILL COME WITH YOU!

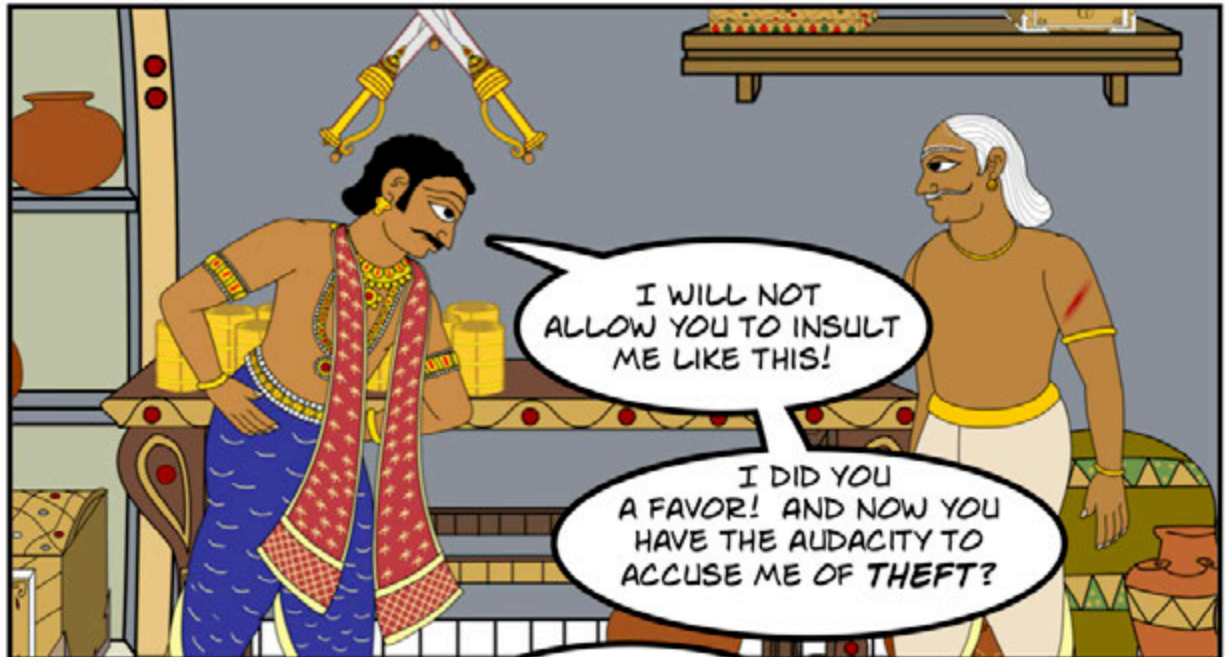


I'LL WAIT HERE. GO AND GET IT.

IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR ME TO GO ALONE! YOU MIGHT SAY I EXCHANGED MY VESSEL FOR ONE OF YOURS! PLEASE COME WITH ME!







I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO INSULT ME LIKE THIS!

I DID YOU A FAVOR! AND NOW YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO ACCUSE ME OF THEFT?



OH KING, PROVE TO ME THAT YOU DID NOT TAKE MY MEASURING VESSEL!

OK- I WILL! WHAT KIND OF PROOF DO YOU WANT?



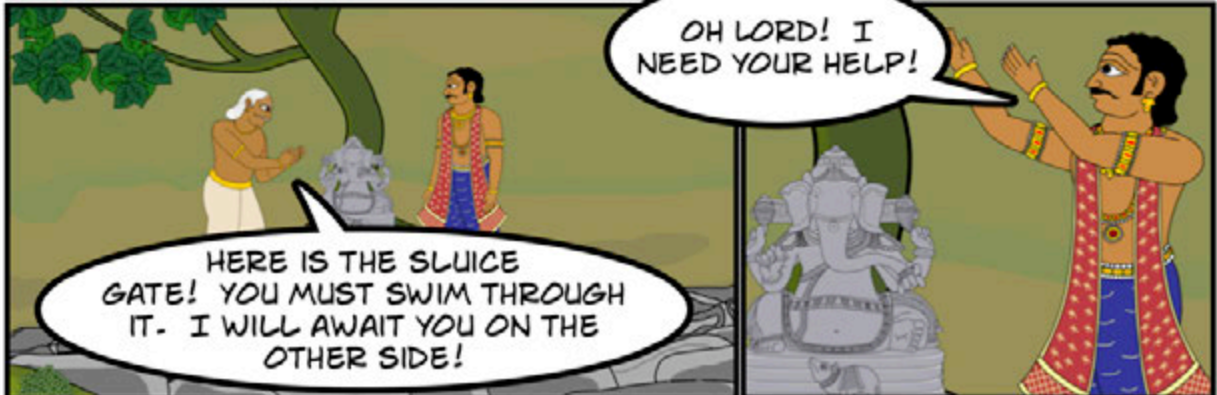
SOMETHING CHALLENGING, PASSING A TEST THAT WOULD VERIFY YOUR INNOCENCE. THERE IS AN IRRIGATION TANK JUST SEVEN MILES FROM HERE. -

PART OF IT IS COVERED BY A SLUICE. IF YOU CAN SWIM FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER, THAT WILL BE MY PROOF.

FINE! I WILL SHOW TO YOU I AM TELLING THE TRUTH!



THE ARTISAN LEADS THE WAY. IT IS NOT LONG UNTIL THEY REACH THE VELAN IRRIGATION SLUICE GATE! PONNAR IMMEDIATELY PRAYS TO VISHNU FOR PROTECTION. HE FACES A DANGEROUS TASK.



THIS ARTISAN HAS ASKED ME TO TAKE A TEST OF MY HONOR!

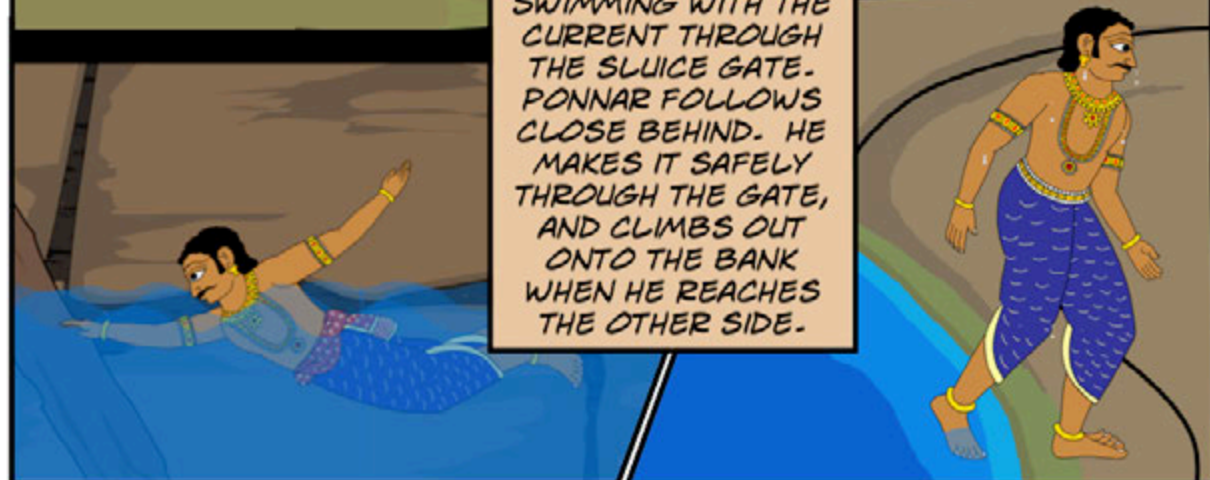
VISHNU MAGICALLY APPEARS BEFORE HIM!

HE WANTS TO SEE ME DIE IN THIS WATER. YOU MUST PROTECT ME, OH LORD!

GOOD KING, DO NOT BE AFRAID! I WILL GO FIRST, AND YOU CAN FOLLOW BEHIND ME!



VISHNU ENTERS THE WATER FIRST, SWIMMING WITH THE CURRENT THROUGH THE SLUICE GATE. PONNAR FOLLOWS CLOSE BEHIND. HE MAKES IT SAFELY THROUGH THE GATE, AND CLIMBS OUT ONTO THE BANK WHEN HE REACHES THE OTHER SIDE.





PONNAR AGAIN PRAYS TO VISHNU. HE THEN BEGINS HIS SWIM UPSTREAM. AGAIN LORD VISHNU LEADS THE WAY.



AT THIS VERY MOMENT, BACK AT THE PALACE, TANGAL HAS A BAD DREAM.



Plop! Splash!



OH MY GOODNESS!
OH FINE
BROTHER! OH
SHANKAR!



OH LOVELY SISTER, WHY ARE
YOU CALLING FOR ME? AND WHERE
IS OUR ELDER BROTHER?

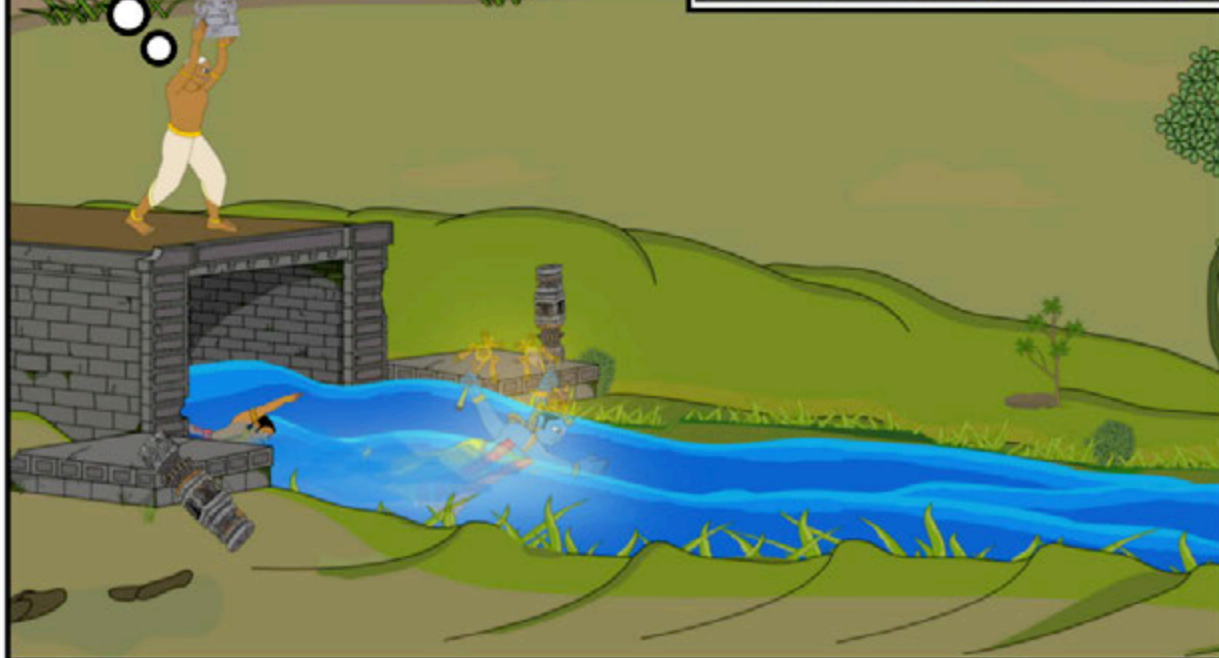
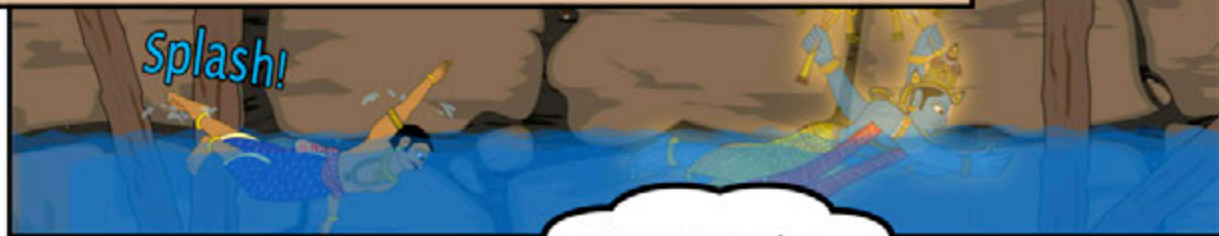
I JUST HAD A TERRIBLE
DREAM! IT WAS ABOUT OUR BROTHER
HAVING TO SWIM THROUGH THE VELLAN
SLUICE GATE TO PROVE HIS HONESTY TO A
SCHEMING ARTISAN! THAT ARTISAN
WANTS TO KILL HIM!

YOU MUST GO AND RESCUE
OUR BRAVE BROTHER!



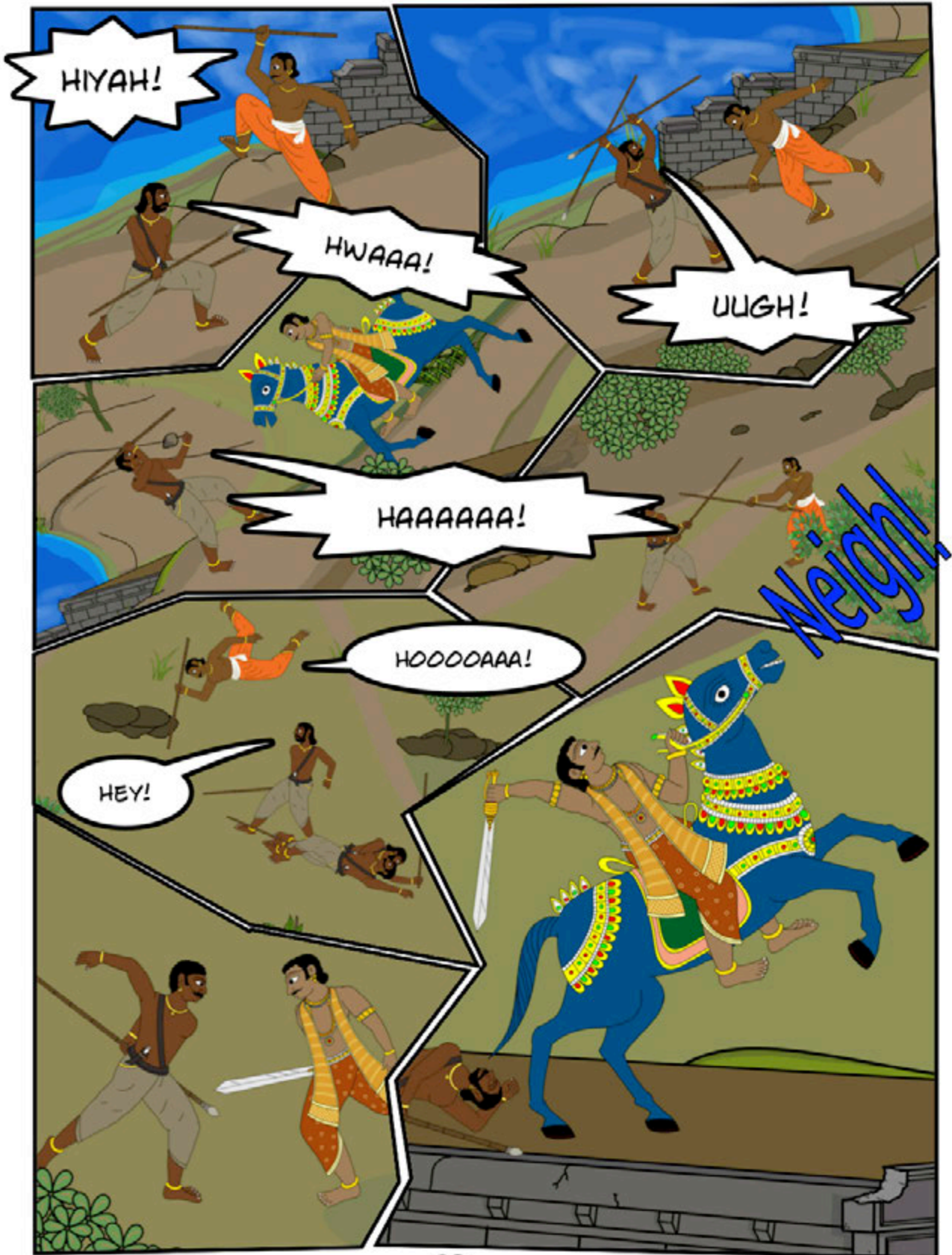


AS SHANKAR AND SHAMBUGA RUSH TO THE VELLAN SLUICE GATE, PONNAR IS SWIMMING THROUGH IT, AND THE ARTISAN IS PLANNING ANOTHER DEVIOS TRICK...



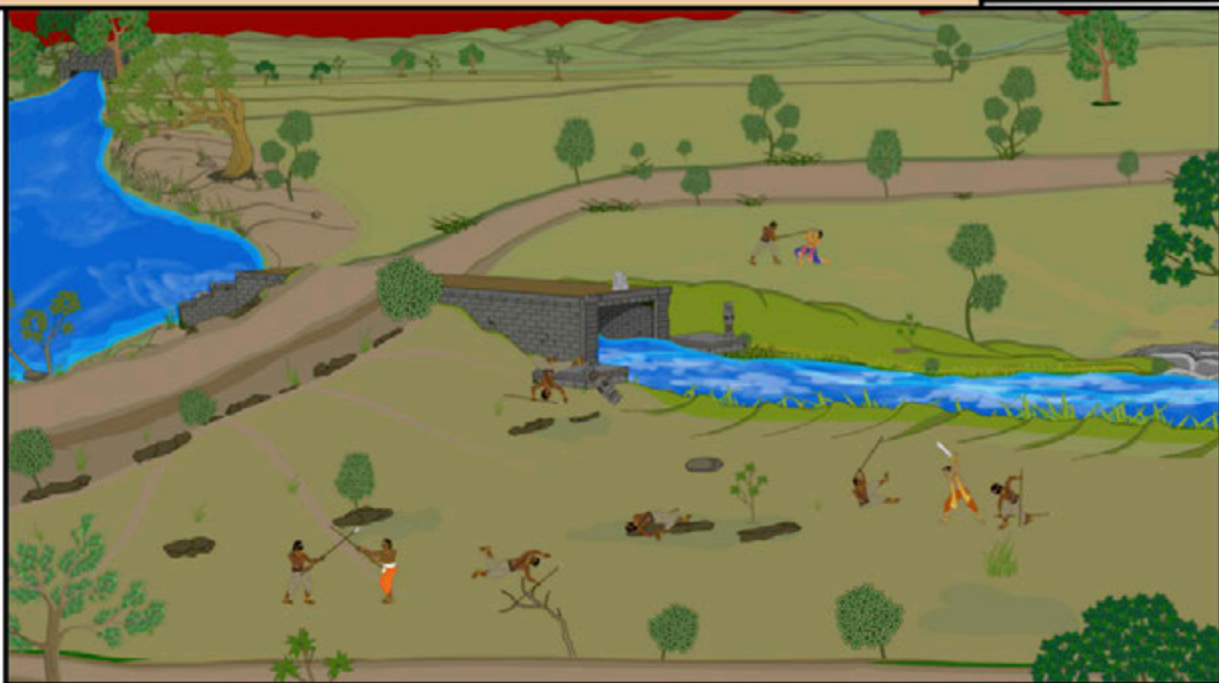








THE THREE PONNIVALA MEN FIGHT VALIENTLY AND WELL. SHAMBUGA IS STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT MOST OF THE MEN. PONNAR AND SHANKAR TAKE CARE OF THE REST. THEIR WORK IS FINISHED ALMOST AS QUICKLY AS IT BEGAN!





THE PONNIVALA MEN CHEER IN VICTORY. THEN THEY RIDE AS FAST AS THEY CAN BACK TO THE PONNIVALA PALACE. THERE THEY MEET THEIR SISTER.

OH BROTHERS, I AM GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO RETURN SAFELY!



TANGAL, NOW YOU CAN PLAY WITH YOUR LOVELY PARROT IN PEACE!

WE ARE GOING TO EAT NOW, THEN PLAY A FEW ROUNDS OF DICE.



THE LOCAL CRAFTSMEN ALWAYS WANTED TO TAKE REVENGE ON THESE POWERFUL KINGS, BUT THAT PROBLEM EXISTS NO MORE! THE LAST OF THE SCHEMING ARTISANS IS NOW DEAD. THE VETTUVAS, TOO, HAVE SUFFERED A GREAT LOSS. BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS MORE MEN TO STEP FORWARD AND OPPOSE THE PONNIVALA KINGS. WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT CHALLENGE FOR THESE TWO BRAVE RULERS?

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/comic22

The Legend of
Ponnivala

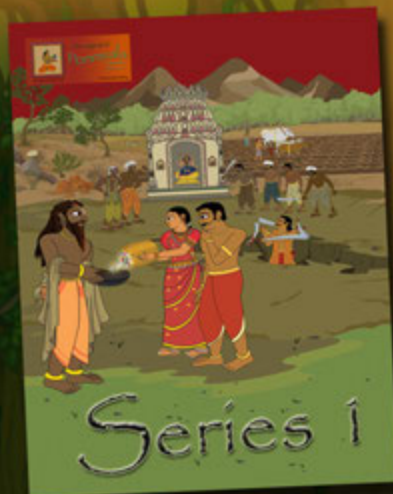
© 2012 Ponnivala Publishing





Come to Ponnivala Market

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



Series 1

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



Series 2

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!

www.ponnivalamarket.com

Please visit our main site:

www.ponnivala.com

© 2011 Ponnivala Publishing

ISBN 978-1-92709



9781927093115

