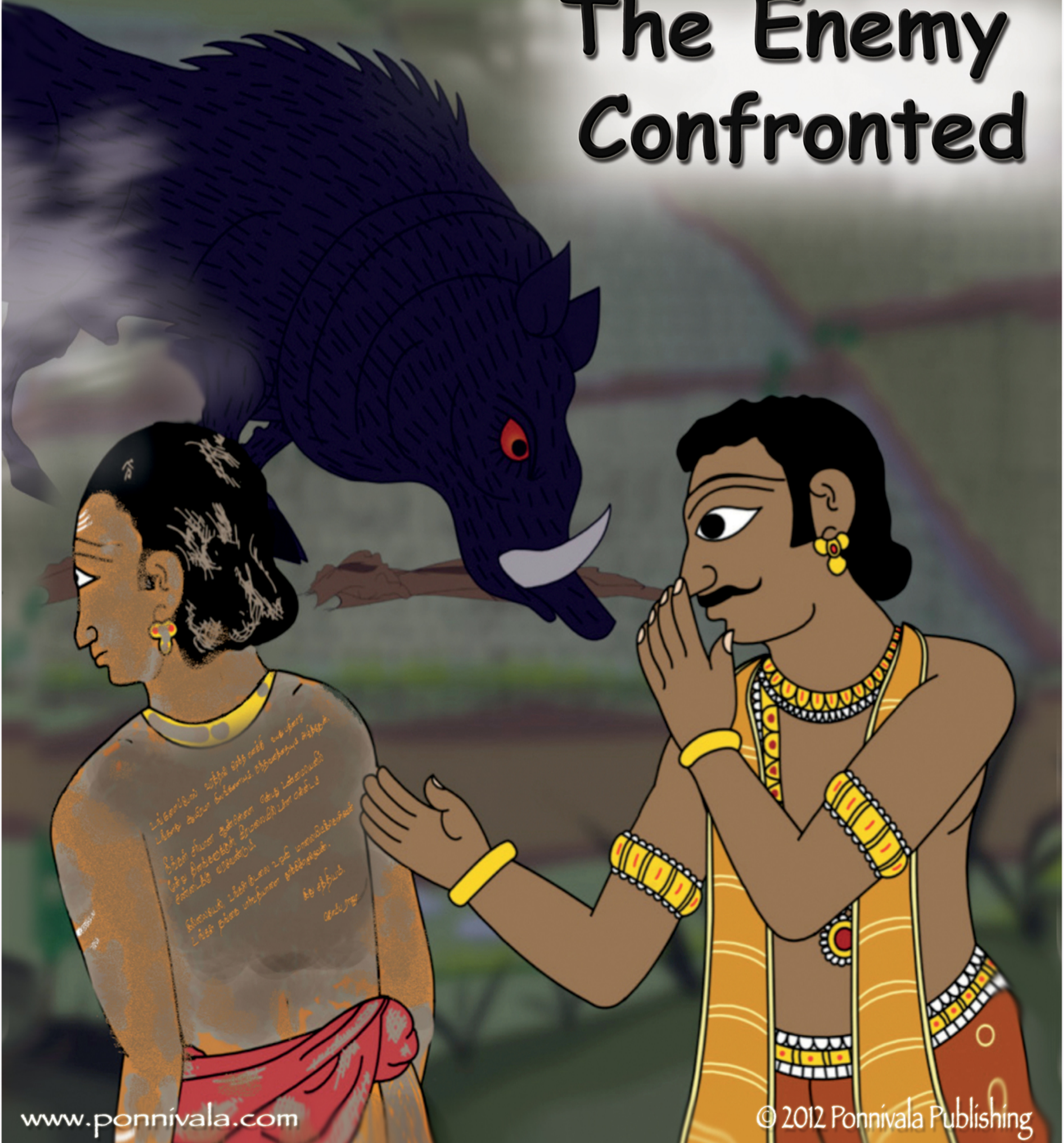


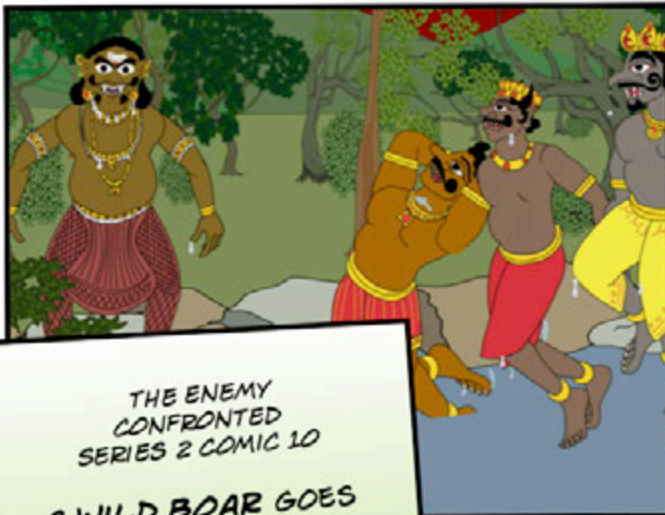
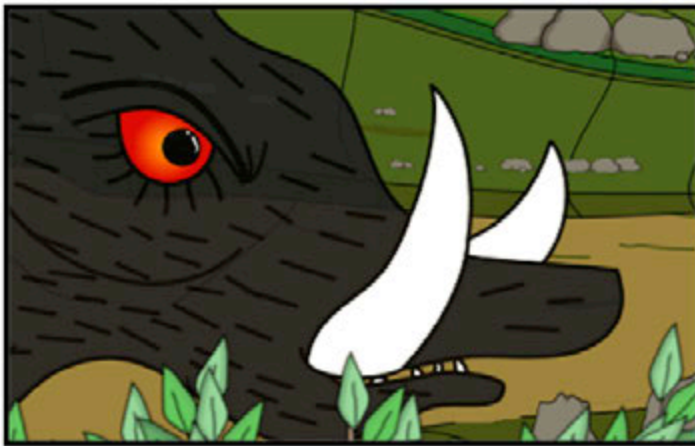
Series 2
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The Legend of
Ponnivala



The Enemy Confronted





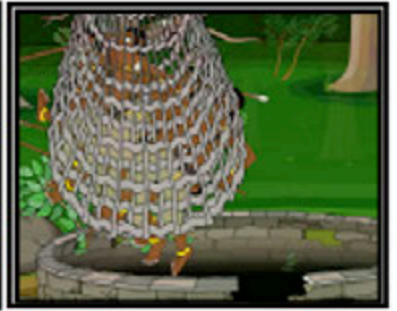
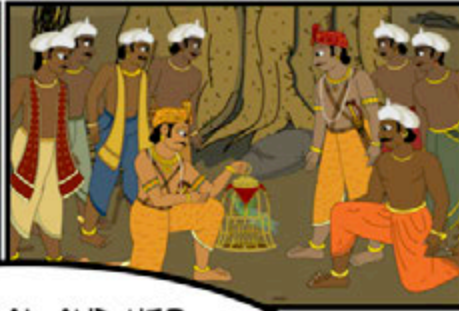
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THE ENEMY
CONFRONTED
SERIES 2 COMIC 10

A WILD BOAR GOES ON A RAMPAGE AND TEARS UP THE BEAUTIFUL RICE FIELDS OF PONNIVALA. IT THEN CHALLENGES THE RULING BROTHERS TO WAR. THEY TAKE THE BAIT AND PREPARE FOR BATTLE. A HUGE WAR DRUM IS READIED AND OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN TO KEEP THE LOCAL DEMONS AT BAY. THE RULERS' SISTER EXPRESSES DOUBTS BUT THE TWO MEN ARE DETERMINED TO PROCEED WITH THEIR HUNT ...



The Enemy Confronted



VIRATANGAL AND HER BROTHERS USED TO CARE FOR THE FOREST SO WELL! BUT NOW THOSE AGGRESSIVE FARMERS FROM PONNIVALA HAVE SPOILED EVERYTHING!

THOSE TWO KINGS STOLE OUR LOVELY FEMALE PARROT AND KILLED MANY OF OUR BRAVE WARRIORS! THOSE HUNTERS HAVE NO LOVE FOR NATURE, WILDLIFE, OR THE FINE MOUNTAIN AIR!

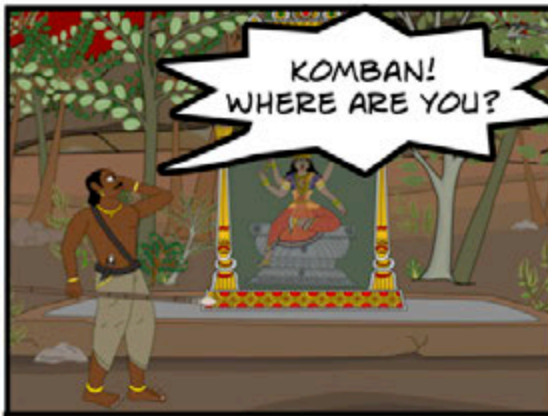
IT IS TIME I FULFILL MY DESTINY AND TEACH THOSE POMPUS RULERS A LESSON! I WILL SOON DESTROY THOSE TREACHEROUS FARMERS ONCE AND FOR ALL!



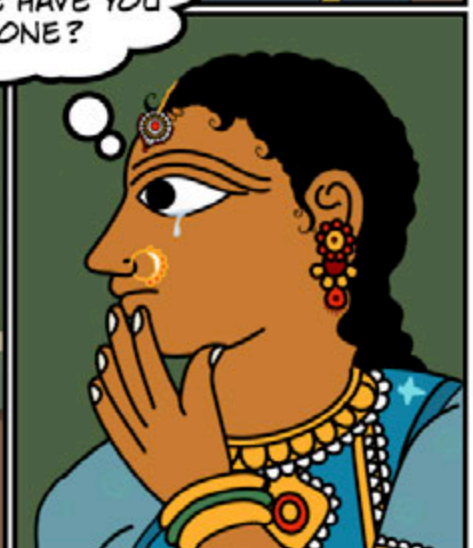
ONE DAY, IN THE PALACE OF THE VETTVNAS...



The Enemy Confronted



THE SERVANT SEARCHES HIGH AND LOW, BUT CANNOT FIND KOMBAN!
HE RETURNS TO PRINCESS VIRATANGAL WITH THE BAD NEWS.



VIRATANGAL REFUSES TO GIVE UP, AND GOES IN SEARCH OF KOMBAN HERSELF!

KOMBAN!

OH KOMBAN!

WHAT A HUGE BLAST OF AIR! I KNOW MY DEAR KOMBAN MUST BE NEAR!

fwoosh

OH KOMBAN! WE HAVE FOUND YOU!

BUT WHY HAVE YOU HIDDEN YOURSELF HERE? WHY HAVE YOU LEFT THE LOVELY KARUKALIAMMAN TEMPLE FOR THIS PLACE?

OH PRINCESS! I AM NOW SIXTEEN YEARS OLD. I MUST MAKE MY WAY TO PONNIVALA!

IT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF FATE THAT I WILL SPEAR LORDS PONNAR AND SHANKAR ON MY TUSKS! I CANNOT STAY IN VIRAPPUR EVEN ONE MORE DAY!

MY DEAR KOMBAN! I AM AFRAID FOR YOU!

PLEASE FIRST COME TO THE KARUKALIAMMAN TEMPLE TO INFORM OUR GODDESS OF YOUR PLAN!





KOMBAN ASKS FOR THE GODDESS'S BLESSING, THEN WALKS IN A CLOCKWISE CIRCLE AROUND HER TEMPLE, TO SHOW RESPECT.

The Legend of Ponnivala

BUT AFTER HE HAS COMPLETED HIS CLOCKWISE CIRCLE, KOMBAN IMMEDIATELY TURNS AND GOES THE OTHER WAY AROUND THE TEMPLE! THIS DIRECTION IS LIKELY TO BRING GREAT TROUBLE - JUST WHAT KOMPAN WANTS!



OH GREAT GODDESS!
PLEASE GRANT ME
DESTRUCTIVE
ENERGY!

IF THIS IS YOUR FATE
KOMBAN, THEN GO WITH
MY BLESSINGS!



BUT KOMBAN, YOU MUST
VISIT YOUR MOTHER ON YOUR
WAY! SHE WILL BE
WORRIED!

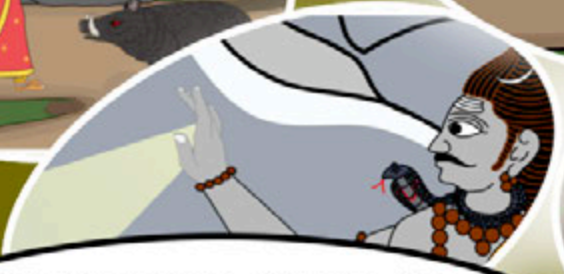
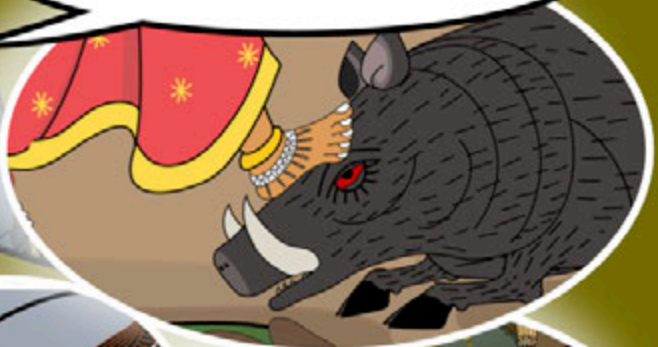


AS KOMBAN NEARS HIS MOTHER, HIS SIBLINGS BECOME EXCITED.





LONG AGO THE MOTHER OF THOSE TWO KINGS KICKED YOU HARD!



YOU ASKED FOR JUSTICE, AND LORD SHIVA GAVE YOU A BOON! HE PROMISED I WOULD BE BORN AS YOUR SON, AND THAT I WOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL THAT WHOLE FAMILY! NOW I MUST FULFILL MY FATE!

I KNOW WHY YOU MUST GO, BUT HOW CAN I BEAR TO SEE YOU WALK INTO SUCH DANGER? PROMISE ME YOU WILL RETURN IN THREE DAYS!

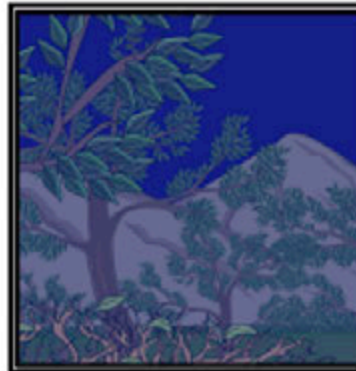
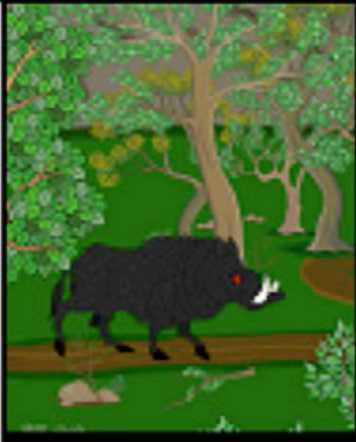
I PROMISE, MOTHER. I WILL RETURN!

BUT NOW I MUST GO.



The Enemy Confronted

KOMBAN LEAVES HIS MOTHER, AND VIRAPPUR, BEHIND. SOON HE ARRIVES IN PONNIVALA. THERE HE HIDES AT THE EDGE OF THE TWO KINGS' CULTIVATED LANDS. HE CHOOSES A FOREST THICKET AND AWAITS DARKNESS.



KOMBAN MAKES HIS WAY INTO THE PADDY FIELD, TRAMPLING AND TEARING UP THE DELICATE, TENDER SHOOTS OF THE NEW RICE PLANTS THERE!

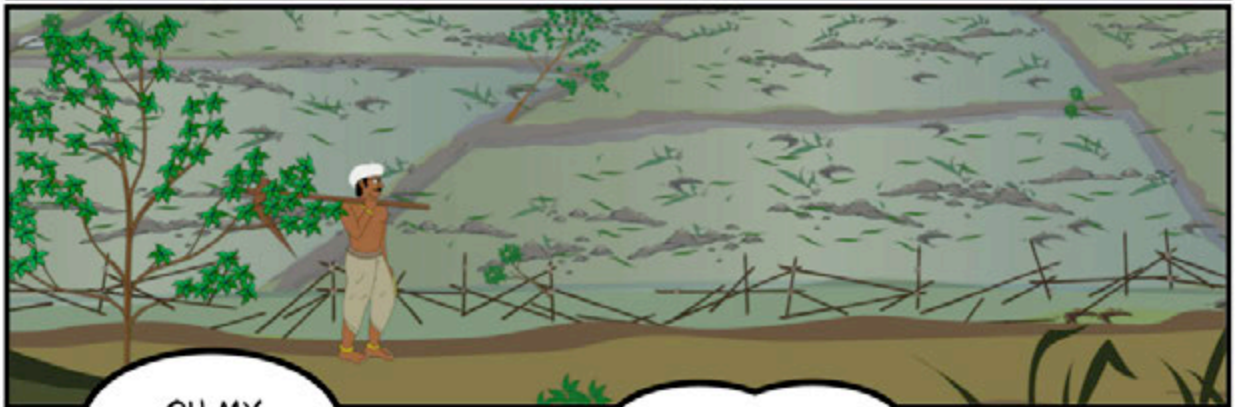


ONCE THE PADDY FIELDS ARE DESTROYED, KOMBAN RUINS THE SLUICE GATE AND WATCHES AS WATER FROM THE PONNIVALA IRRIGATION TANK FLOODS THE AREA.





AT DAYBREAK THE NEXT DAY A GARDENER AWAKES TO THE CROW OF A ROOSTER. HE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE PADDY FIELD...

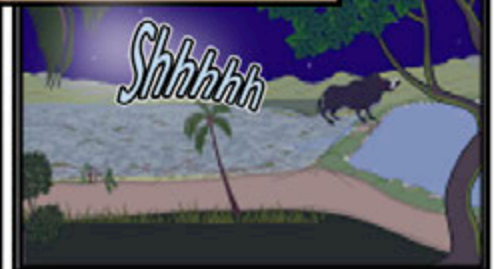




EVENING COMES AGAIN, AND ONCE MORE, KOMBAN BRINGS DESTRUCTION UPON PONNIVALA!



THIS TIME, KOMBAN TEARS UP PONNIVALA'S FINE SUGARCANE. WHEN HE HAS FINISHED, HE FLOODS THIS SECOND HUGE FIELD IN THE SAME MANOR AS HE DID THE PADDY LANDS THE NIGHT BEFORE!




AT DAWN THE NEXT MORNING, THE GARDENER MAKES HIS WAY TO THE SUGARCANE FIELD. WHAT HE SEES THERE BRINGS TEARS TO HIS EYES.



OH! WHAT
DESTRUCTION!
OH MY!



I WAS HOPING THAT
WHAT I SAW YESTERDAY WAS
A DREAM! NOW I MUST GO
AND TELL THE KINGS THE
AWFUL NEWS!




OH MAN! WHAT IS
WRONG? WHY HAVE YOU CALLED
FOR US?



LORDS! THE
FINE LANDS OF
PONNIVALA HAVE BEEN
DEVASTATED!


THE LORDS SET OFF IMMEDIATELY TO SEE
THE DESTRUCTION FOR THEMSELVES.



SOMEONE HAS
TRAMPLED THE RICE
PADDIES AND THE
SUGARCANE!

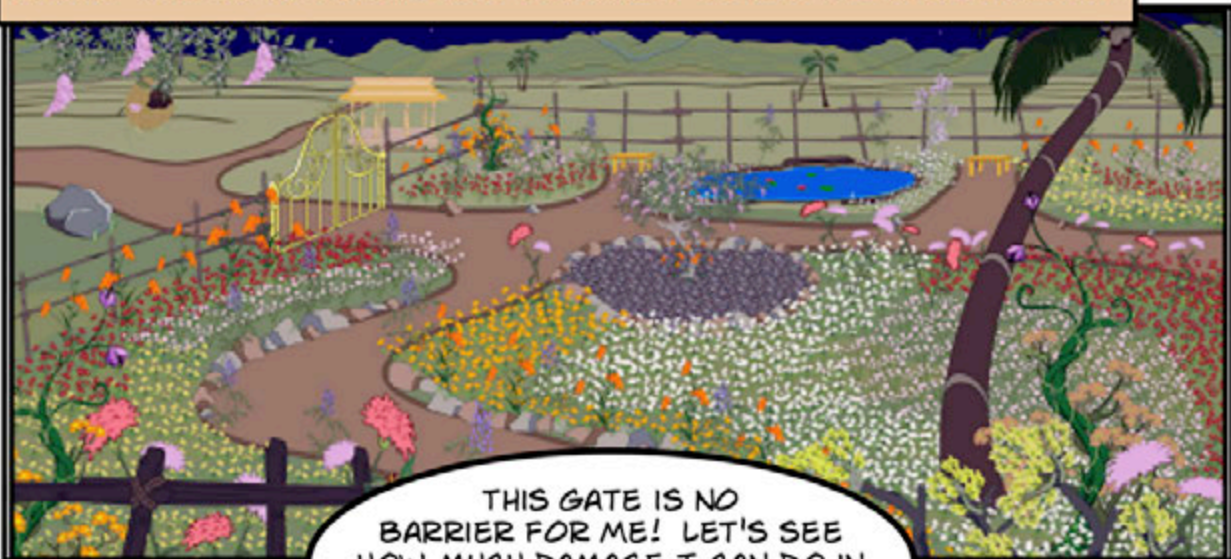


OH MY! THE SKY ITSELF
HAS FALLEN AND LIES
STRETCHED ACROSS OUR RUINED
FIELDS!



WHAT ANIMAL
COULD POSSIBLY HAVE
BROUGHT SUCH CHAOS TO
OUR LANDS?

NIGHTTIME FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME, AND KOMBAN SETS TO WORK AGAIN. THIS TIME, HE TARGETS THE KINGS' LOVELY FLOWER GARDEN!



THIS GATE IS NO BARRIER FOR ME! LET'S SEE HOW MUCH DAMAGE I CAN DO IN THE KINGS' PRIVATE FLOWER GARDEN!



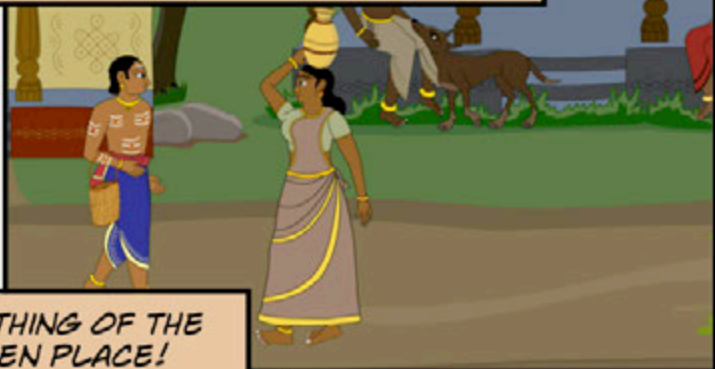
IN NO TIME AT ALL, THE FINE GARDEN IS COMPLETELY DESTROYED!



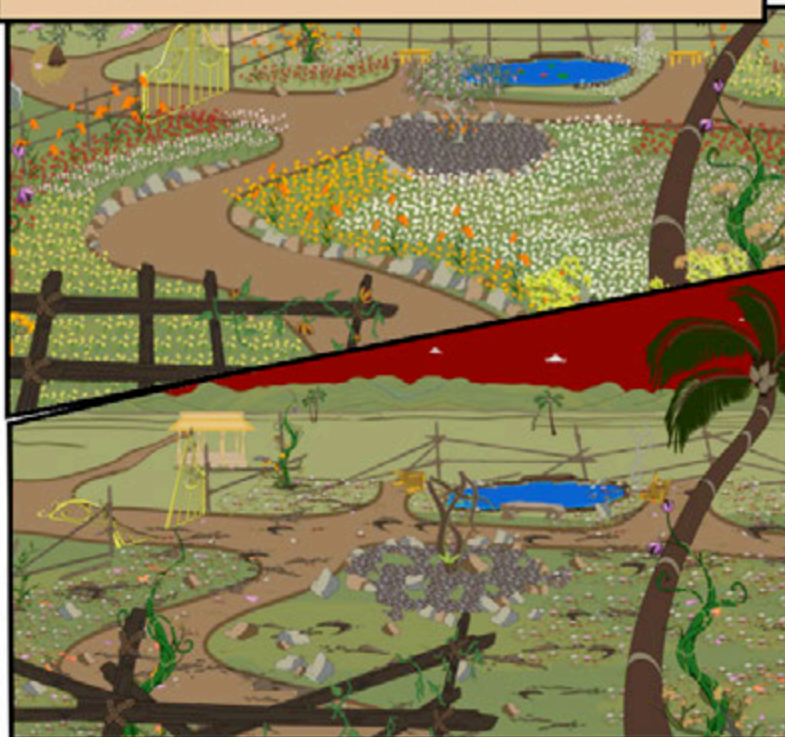


NOW IT IS TIME FOR THOSE VILLAINOUS FARMERS TO DISCOVER WHO HAS CAUSED ALL THIS DESTRUCTION! I SHALL REST RIGHT HERE ... AND WAIT!

KOMBAN SLIPS HAPPILY INTO SLEEP. THE SUN RISES, AND IN THE NEARBY VILLAGE, A PRIEST SETS OFF TO GATHER FLOWERS FOR AN OFFERING TO THE FAMILY GODDESS, CELATTA.



THE GOOD PRIEST KNOWS NOTHING OF THE DESTRUCTION THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE!





WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?



OH MY!



WHAT HAS CAUSED THIS TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION?



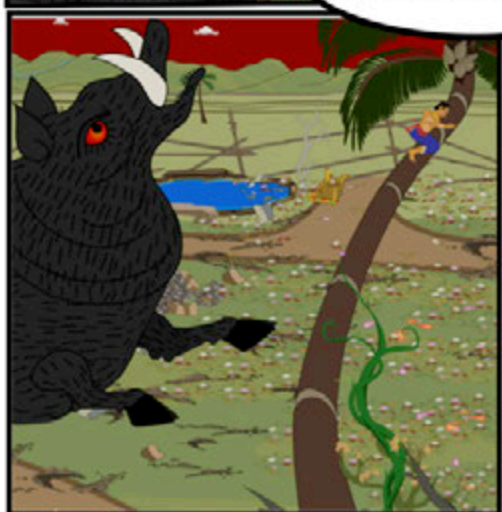
AT LEAST THERE IS ONE LOVELY BLOOM LEFT...

AH! THIS BLACK ROCK WILL MAKE A PERFECT STEPPING STONE!

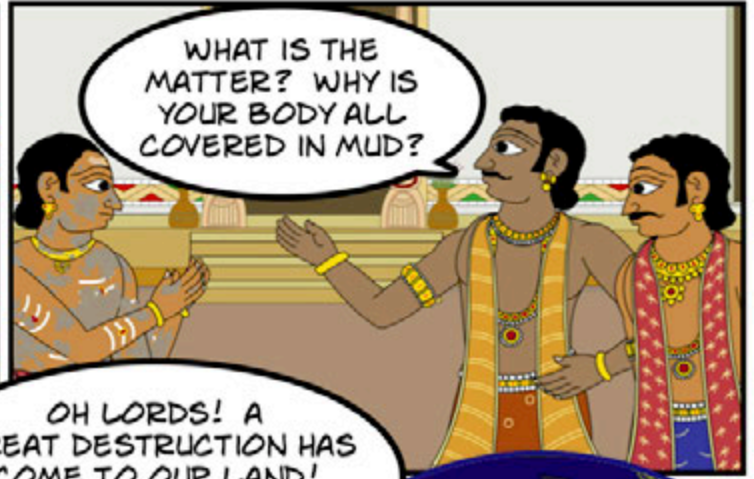


OH! THAT TICKLES! WHO HAS CRAWLED UP ON MY BACK?

The Enemy Confronted







OH LORDS! A GREAT DESTRUCTION HAS COME TO OUR LAND! FORGIVE ME! I HAVE A MESSAGE!



உங்களைப்போல உயர்த்திவிட்டு மெத்த எலக்ட் உய்து பதினாறு
 உங்களைத் தூய்றமா தலங்கொளையும். மீதவதைத்தையும் அழித்தேதகி.
 நீங்களை சீராயான ஆண்கொளையை கொண்டு உண்மையான
 மூன்று தினங்களுக்குள், வீரமலையிலே உரின கொண்டு
 சண்டைக்கு வரவேண்டும்.
 கலைமலையிலே, உங்களை குடனால உருவி மானமலையிலே
 உங்களை தங்களை பாடுவதாயான தாங்கித்தேசியகி.
 கிவ சத்தியம்.

"HEY FARMERS! IT WAS I WHO DESTROYED YOUR FLOWER GARDEN TODAY. I AM NOW RESTING IN THE VIRAMALAI MOUNTAINS. WITHIN THREE DAYS YOU MUST COME AND CHALLENGE ME. IF YOU DON'T I WILL USE MY TUSKS TO SPEAR YOU BOTH. I WILL ALSO KIDNAP YOUR LOVELY SISTER. THIS IS MY SWORN VOW. SINCERELY, KING KOMBAN."

ARRRGH!

OH YOUNGER BROTHER! THERE IS NO REASON TO RISK OUR LIVES ON ACCOUNT OF THIS CRAZY BOAR!

BUT WE MUST FIGHT HIM!

OH ELDER BROTHERS! DO NOT BE ANGRY WITH ME FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY!

I HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT YOU CHALLENGING KING KOMBAN! I THINK WE NEED TO PERFORM A TEST!

WE WILL BATHE, AND THEN GO TO THE GANESH TEMPLE. THERE, I WILL LAY OUT A WHITE CLOTH.

NEXT I WILL THROW A HANDFUL OF MUSTARD SEEDS AND PEPPERCORNS INTO THE AIR!

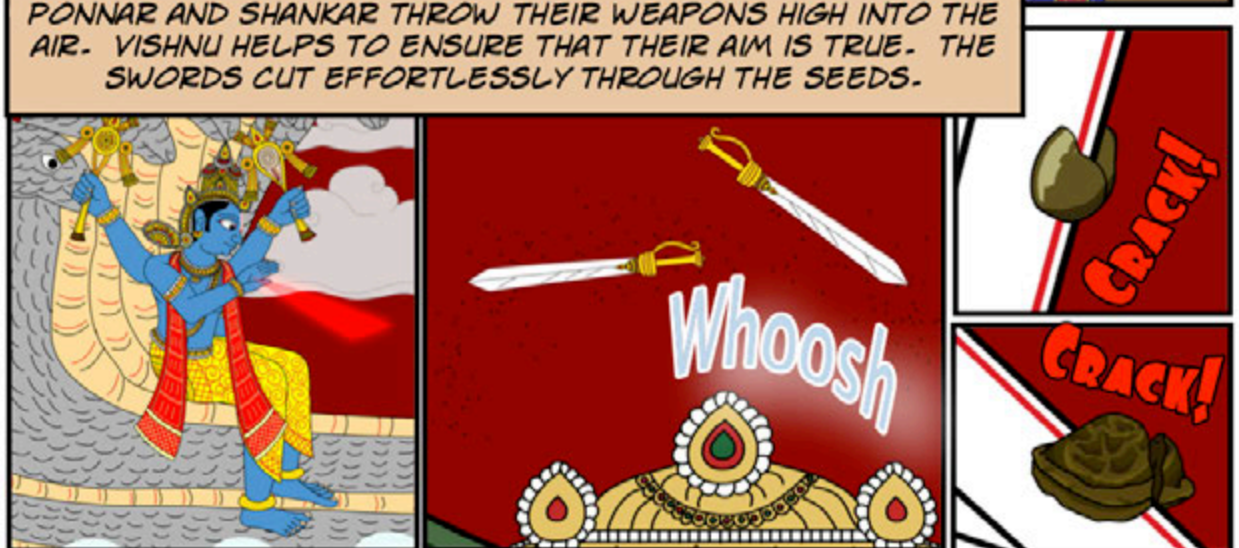
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO CUT EVERY SEED INTO THREE PIECES, THEN YOU WILL RETURN SAFELY FROM THIS JOURNEY!

WHY MUST WE DO THIS?

WE MUST GO AND KILL KOMBAN RIGHT AWAY!

PLEASE BROTHERS! I WANT TO WITNESS YOUR SWORD SKILLS!

The Enemy Confronted





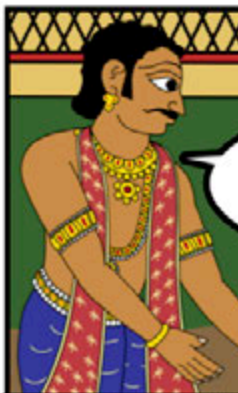
BUT WHEN THE SEEDS FALL BACK DOWN ON THE SHEET, TANGAL NOTICES SOMETHING VERY UPSETTING!



OH MY! I SEE ONE UNSPLIT MUSTARD SEED, AND ONE UNSPLIT PEPPERCORN!

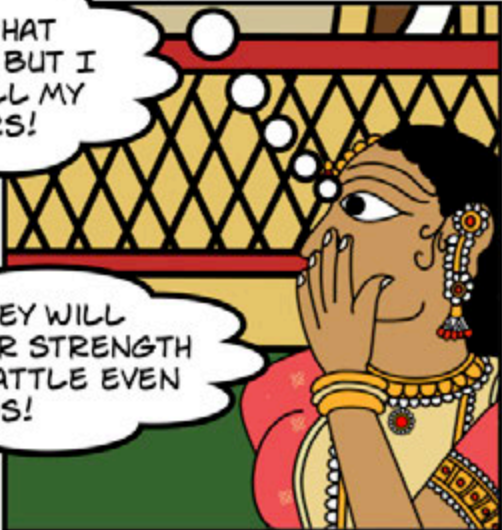


I KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS, BUT I CANNOT TELL MY BROTHERS!



OH SWEET SISTER! TELL US! WHAT DID YOU FIND?

IF I DO, THEY WILL LOSE HALF THEIR STRENGTH BEFORE THE BATTLE EVEN BEGINS!



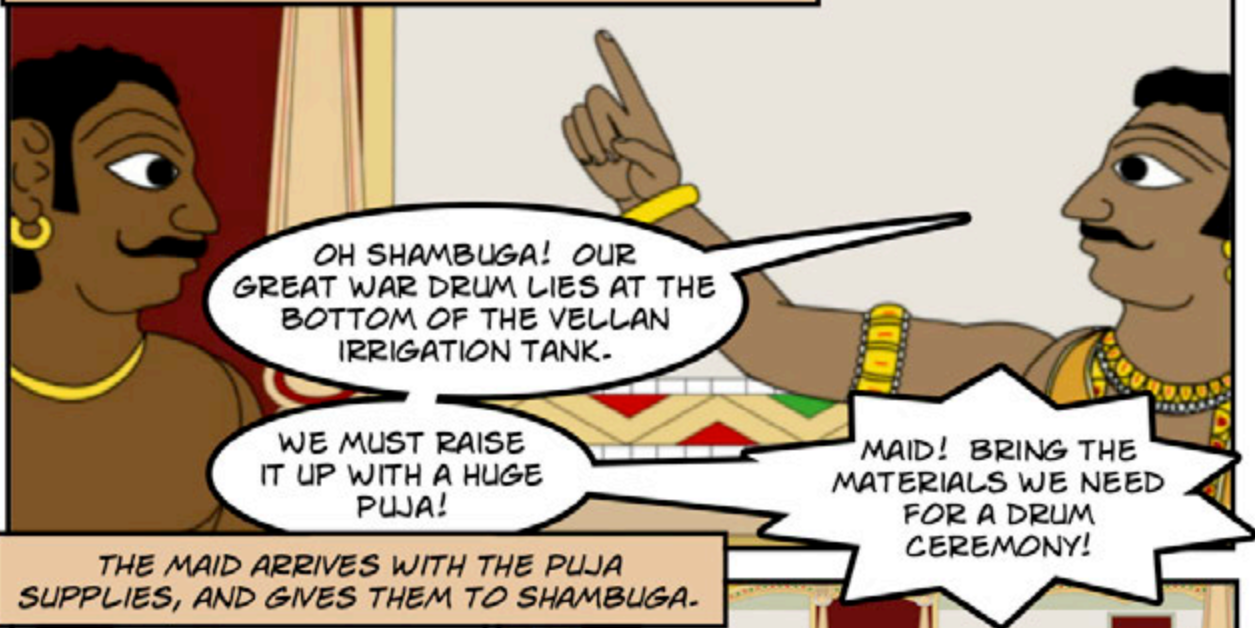
OH NO! THERE IS TROUBLE AHEAD!

TANGAL KNOWS THAT THIS IS A VERY BAD OMEN. BUT SHE CANNOT TELL HER BROTHERS. VISHNU ALSO CAN SEE THAT THEY HAVE FAILED.



OK, BROTHERS, THAT WAS MY TEST! YOU CAN RETURN TO THE PALACE NOW!

AS SOON AS HE RETURNS TO THE PALACE, SHANKAR CALLS FOR HIS ASSISTANT SHAMBUGA.



THE MAID ARRIVES WITH THE PUJA SUPPLIES, AND GIVES THEM TO SHAMBUGA.



The Legend of Ponnivala

SHAMBUGA ARRIVES HOME AND EXPLAINS WHAT HE HAS BEEN ASKED TO DO. HIS MOTHER AGREES TO ASSIST HIM.



I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PERFORM A LARGE PUJA SO THAT WE CAN SUCCEED IN RAISING THE PONNIVALA WAR DRUM.

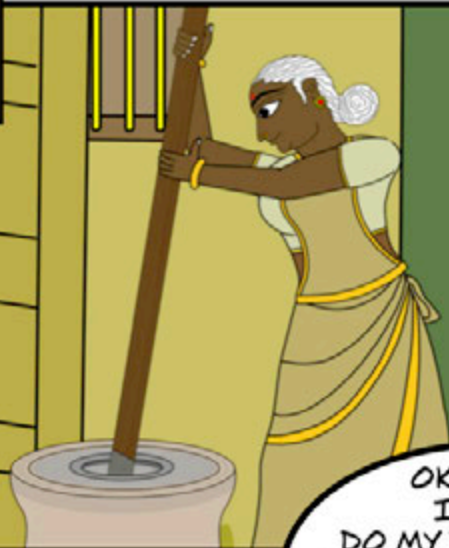
THAT'S A BIG JOB! HOW CAN I HELP?

CRUSH TWO MEASURES OF RICE FOR ME TO USE. MAKE THE GRAINS INTO FINE FLOUR!

I'LL START AT ONCE!



SHAMBUGA'S MOTHER BEGINS THIS WORK. SHE GRINDS THE RICE INTO A FINE POWDER.



OK! NOW I WILL DO MY WORK! YOU CAN GO AND PREPARE THE RICE FLOUR LAMPS I WILL NEED!



SHAMBUGA'S MOTHER GOES TO PREPARE THE LAMPS, WHILE SHAMBUGA GATHERS TOGETHER THE ANIMALS THAT WILL BE OFFERED UP.

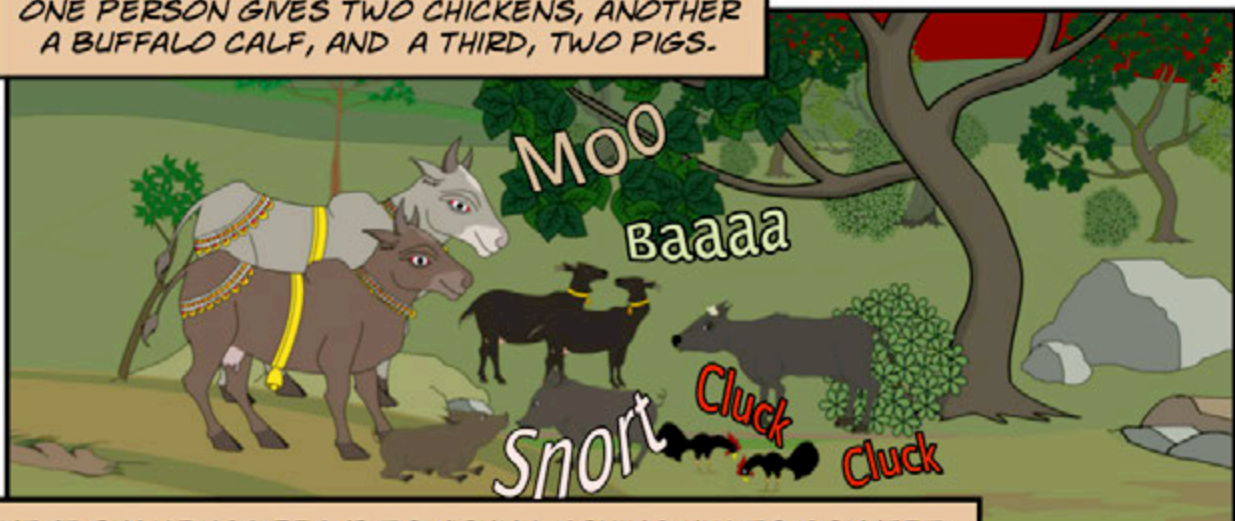


The Legend of Ponnivala

SHAMBUGA GOES TO ASK THE VILLAGERS TO DONATE THE ANIMALS HE NEEDS. FIRST TWO GOATS, THEN TWO COWS...

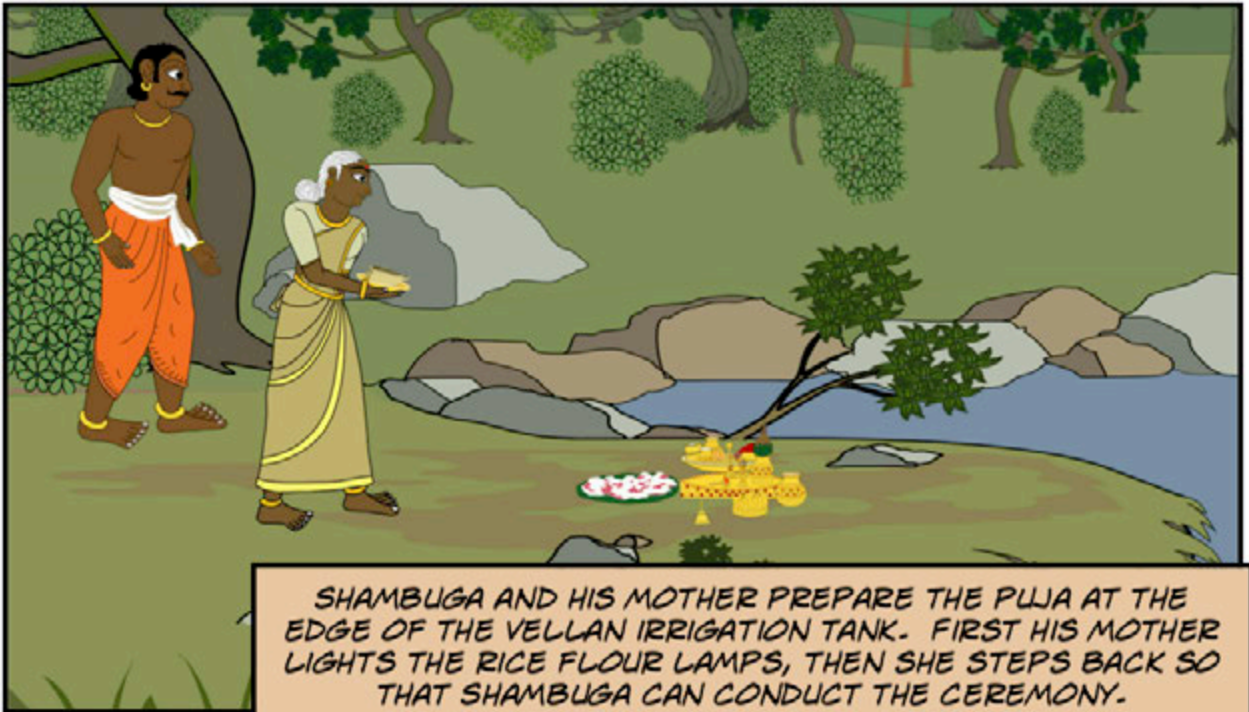


ONE PERSON GIVES TWO CHICKENS, ANOTHER A BUFFALO CALF, AND A THIRD, TWO PIGS.

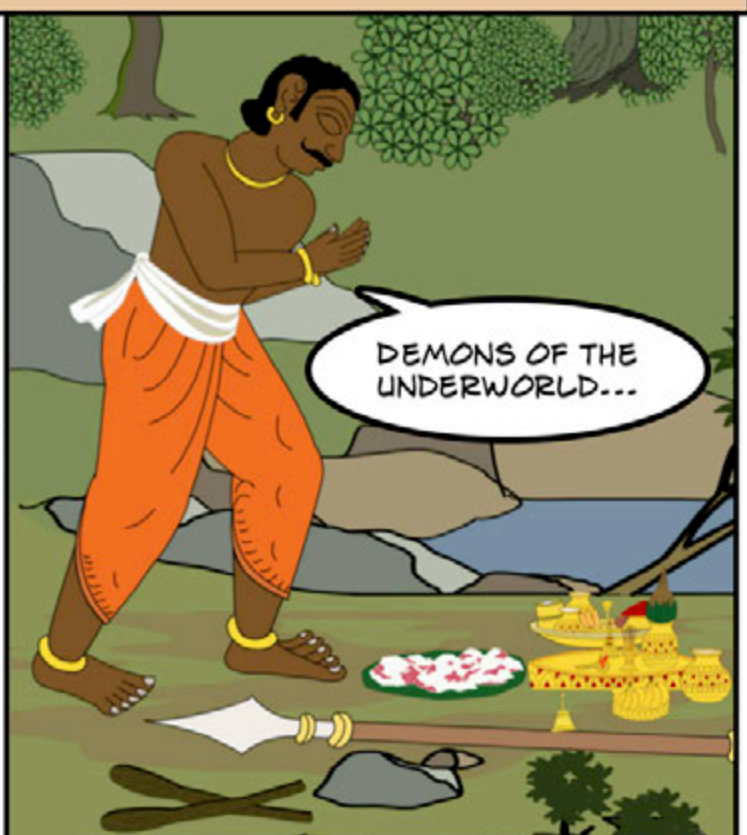
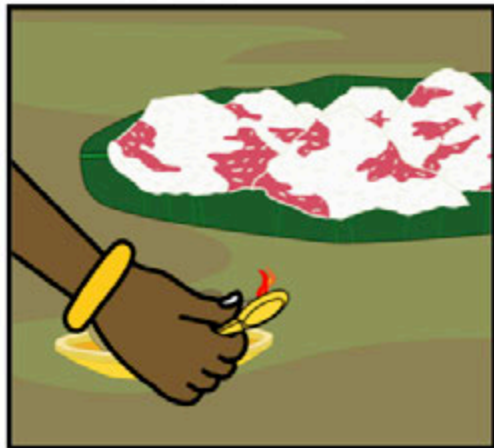


NEXT SHAMBUGA PRAYS TO VISHNU, ASKING HIM TO CONVERT THE ANIMALS INTO CHOPPED MEAT. VISHNU SENDS DOWN A BEAM OF LIGHT, AND THE REQUEST IS GRANTED.





SHAMBUGA AND HIS MOTHER PREPARE THE PUJA AT THE EDGE OF THE VELLAN IRRIGATION TANK. FIRST HIS MOTHER LIGHTS THE RICE FLOUR LAMPS, THEN SHE STEPS BACK SO THAT SHAMBUGA CAN CONDUCT THE CEREMONY.



SHAMBUGA CALLS UPON THE DEMONS THAT SURROUND THE DRUM.



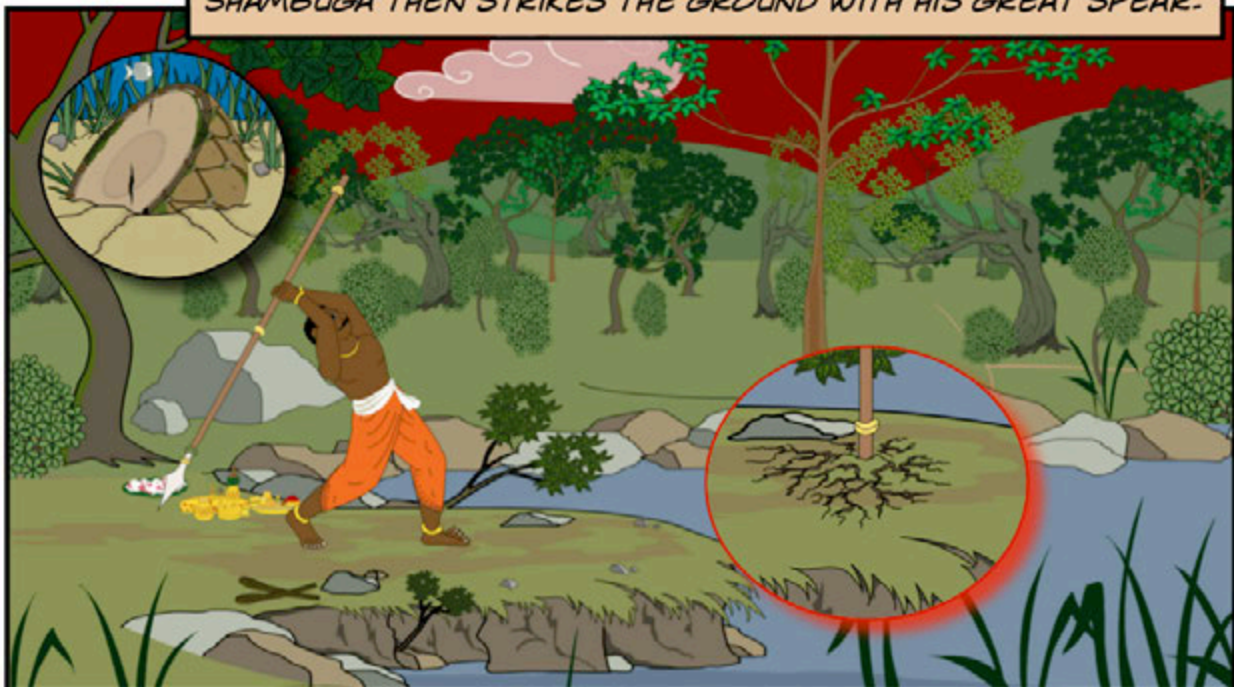
THE DEMONS HEAR SHAMBUGA CALLING THEM AND RISE TO THE SURFACE.



THE DEMONS OBEY, RETURNING TO
THEIR HOMES PACIFIED BY THE FOOD.



SHAMBUGA THEN STRIKES THE GROUND WITH HIS GREAT SPEAR.



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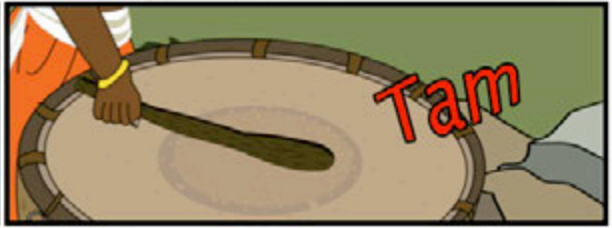


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THE DRUM MAGICALLY RISES TO THE SURFACE OF THE WATER!



SHAMBUGA CLEANS THE DRUM, THEN STRETCHES A NEW SKIN OVER ITS RIM.



THEN SHAMBUGA PICKS UP HIS DRUMSTICKS, AND BEGINS TO BEAT THE DRUM!

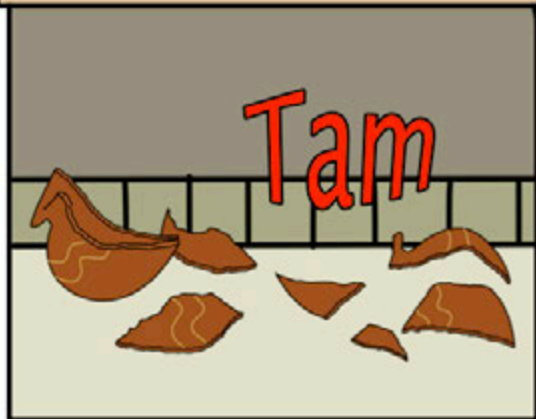




THE WHOLE WORLD SHAKES AS SHAMBUGA BEATS THE HUGE DRUM! EVEN THE GODS LOOK DOWN AT THE SOUND. ANIMALS AND BIRDS FLEE IN FRIGHT!



POTS FALL FROM THEIR RESTING PLACES AND SMASH ON THE FLOOR. VILLAGERS COWER IN FEAR!





EVERYONE IN THE PONNIVALA PALACE IS ALARMED. TANGAL, MOST OF ALL, IS AFFECTED BY THE TERRIFYING SOUND.



THE POWERS OF FATE ARE NOW AT WORK, DRAWING THE TWIN KINGS OF PONNIVALA INTO A BATTLE THAT THEIR YOUNGER SISTER KNOWS WILL BE THEIR LAST. THE GREAT BOAR, KING KOMBAN, AWAITS THEIR CHALLENGE. WILL THAT HUGE BEAST HAVE ALLIES? AND WILL THE TWO BRAVE BROTHERS' LAST DAYS OF ADVENTURE BRING THEM HONOR? WILL THE FAMILY FIND GLORY IN THEIR DEATHS? AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE SWEET, CHASTE TANGAL WHEN HER TWO FINE SIBLINGS ARE NO MORE?



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/comic23

The Legend of
Ponnivala

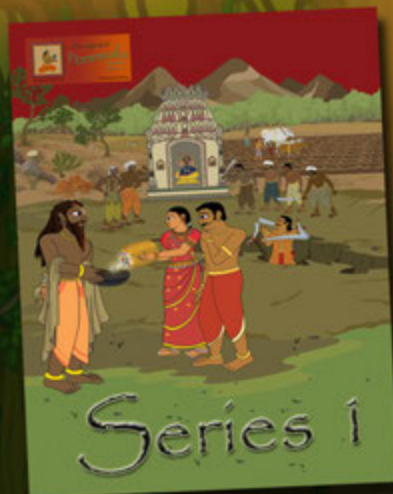
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