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OF SOUTHERN INDIA



KALKI'S
**PONNIVAN
SELVAN**
COMICS

HI! I AM A WARRIOR! A CAPTAIN
IN THE CHOZHA ARMY!

NO, NO! HE IS
JUST A SPY.

1



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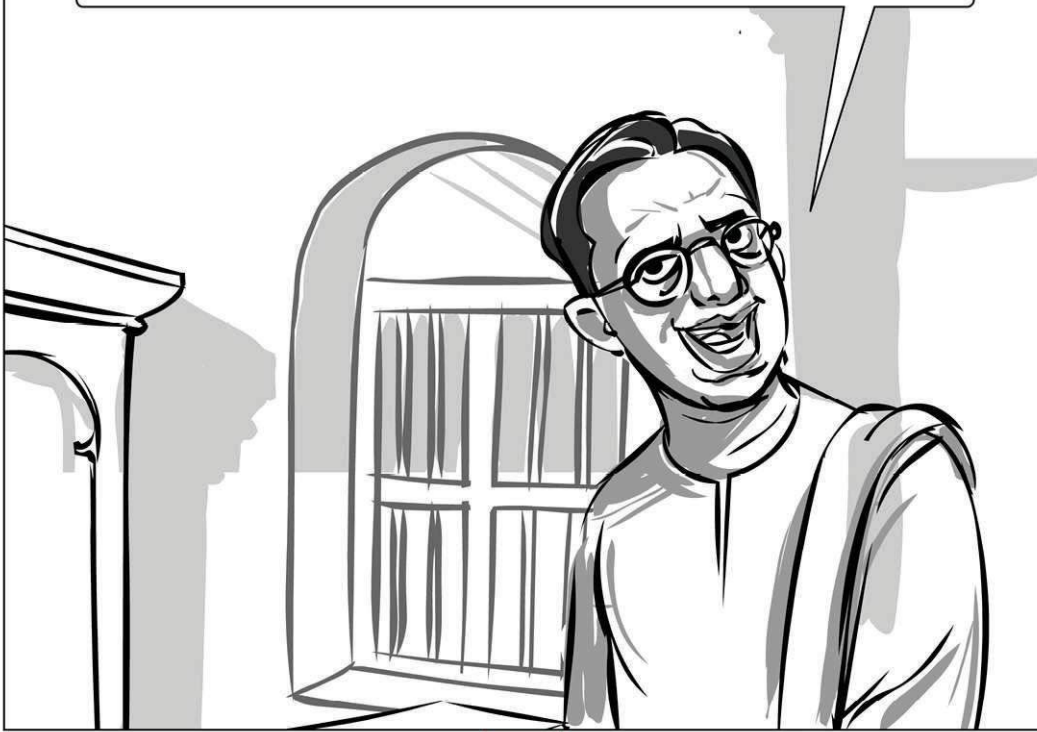




VANAKKAM!
I AM KRISHNAMOORTHY! MY WISHES TO THE READERS OF PONNIYIN SELVAN. I AM GOING TO TAKE YOU ABOUT 1000 YEARS INTO THE PAST. YOU MAY BE WONDERING HOW.... BUT IT IS POSSIBLE WITH A FEW ARTISTS ON MY SIDE.

THE KING OF KINGS, SUNDARA CHOZHA, AND HIS BELOVED QUEEN VAANAMAADevi GAVE BIRTH TO 3 CHILDREN. THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM HAD A LOT OF LOVE AND RESPECT FOR THEIR KING, SUNDARA CHOZHA AND HIS HEIR. ONE DAY, DISASTROUSLY THE KING FALLS ILL. IN THIS TIME, TO PROTECT THE CHOZHA EMPIRE FROM THEIR ENEMIES AND TO INCREASE THE EXTENT OF THE KINGDOM, SUNDARA CHOZHAN CROWNS HIS ELDEST SON AADHITHA KARIKAALAN AS THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF THE CHOZHA EMPIRE IN CHARGE OF THE FORCES OF THE NORTH AND SENDS HIS YOUNGER SON ARULMOZHI VARMAN TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE KINGDOM AND PUTS HIM IN CHARGE OF THE FORCES THERE. THE PRINCESS, KUNDHAVAI, STAYS IN THE CAPITAL AND TAKES CARE OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE EMPIRE WITH THE HELP OF ANIRUDHA BRAHMMARAAYAR, THE MINISTER OF THE CHOZHA EMPIRE.

THE CROWN PRINCE, AADHITHA KARIKAALAN HEARS THAT HIS FATHER, SUNDARA CHOZHAN IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE AND INDIRECT CONTROL OF THE KINGDOM'S TREASURER PERIYA PAZHUVETTARAIYAR. ON HEARING THIS, THE PRINCE FUMES WITH ANGER. HE ACCEPTS THE ADVICE GIVEN BY HIS GRANDFATHER MALAYAMAAN AND SENDS VANDHIYATHEVAN AS A SPY TO THE CAPITAL, THANJAI (PRESENT DAY - TANJORE). OUR HERO IS TRAVELLING ON THE BANKS OF VEERAANAM LAKE. COME, LET'S GO AND WELCOME HIM THERE.

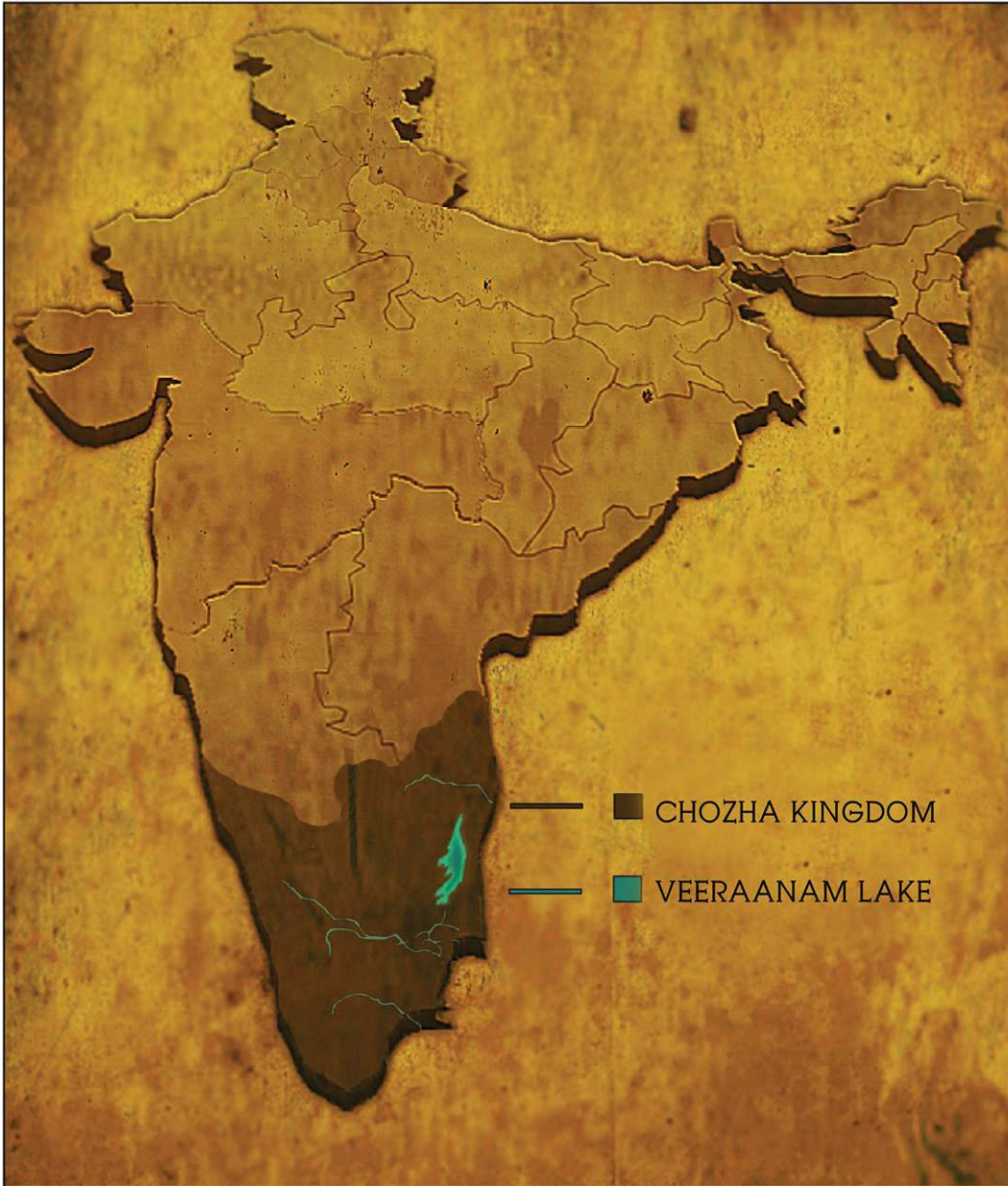




READERS, PLEASE WAIT FOR A SECOND, I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING. TODAY, ECONOMIC SPECIALISTS DESCRIBE WATER AS 'BLUE GOLD'. BUT THE CHOZHAS KNEW THIS LONG BACK. A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR THIS IS 'THE KALLANAI' BUILT BY KARIKAALAN AND THE VEERAANAM LAKE BUILT BY RAJAATHITHAN. NOW, LET US HEAR ABOUT HOW THE VEERAANAM LAKE WAS BORN,

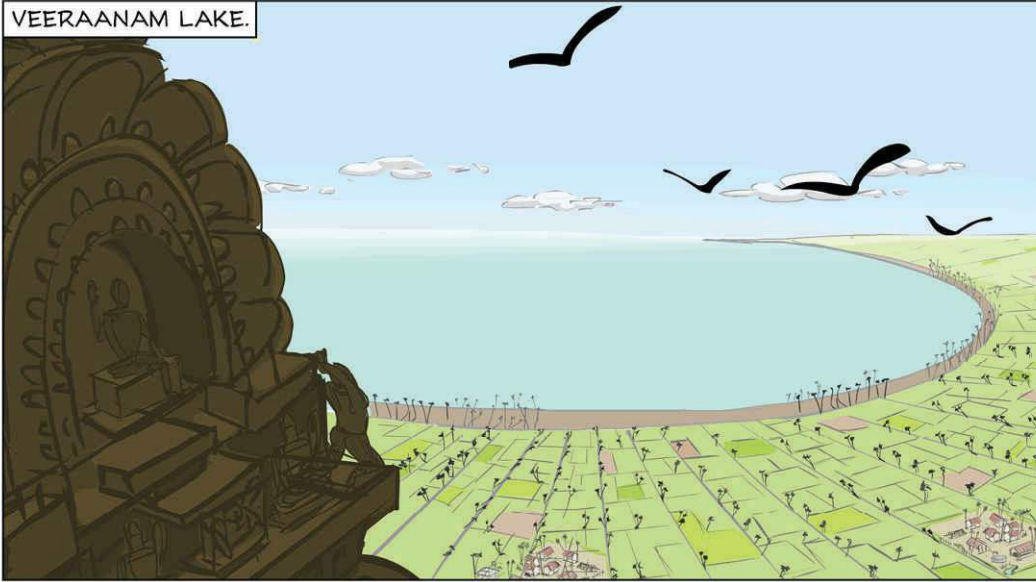
PARAANTHAGA CHOZHAN, THE ELDEST SON OF RAJAATHITHAN WAS FORMING AN ARMY TO INVADE NORTHERN INDIA. THE TRAINING FOR THE SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY HAPPENED IN THE TOWN OF THIRUMUNAIPAADI. BECAUSE OF THE TRAINING THE AGRICULTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT AREA GOT AFFECTED. BUT, THE PEOPLE DID NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT. THE PEOPLE STOOD WITH THE PRINCE DURING THE TRAINING OF THE SOLDIERS. TO THANK THE PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUPPORT, THE CHOZHAS CREATED THE VEERAANAM LAKE. THIS LAKE BENEFITTED MANY GENERATIONS. THIS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHOZHAS IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT.



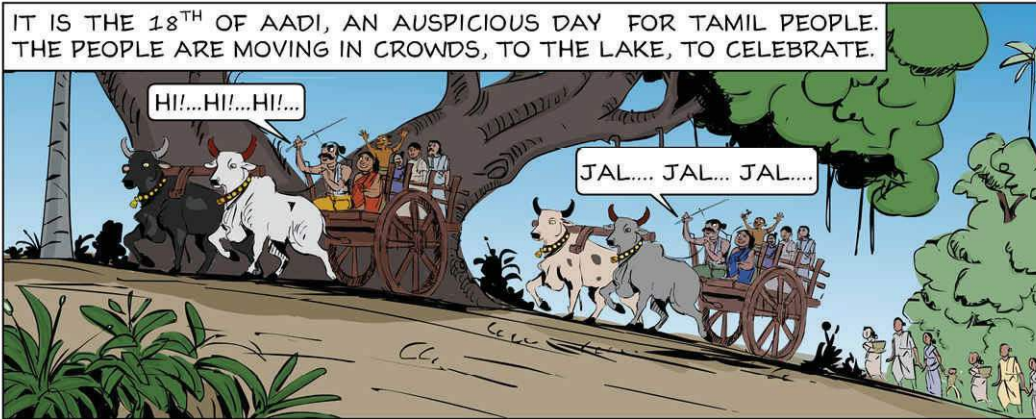


THE VEERAANAM LAKE WAS MADE IN THE TIME WHEN PARAANTHAGA CHOZHAN WAS RULING (907-950). THIS IS SITUATED IN THE PRESENT DAY CUDDALORE DISTRICT . THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THIS LAKE IS 11.2 KM AND 14 KM RESPECTIVELY. IT'S CAPACITY IS 1.4 TMC.

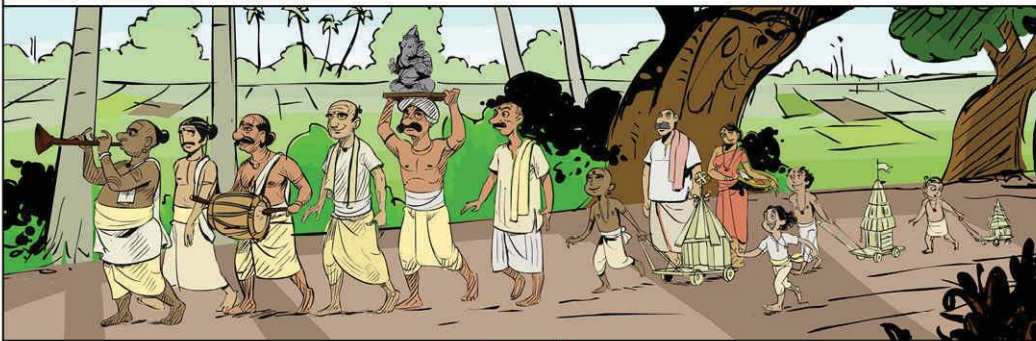
VEERAANAM LAKE.



IT IS THE 18TH OF AADI, AN AUSPICIOUS DAY FOR TAMIL PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE ARE MOVING IN CROWDS, TO THE LAKE, TO CELEBRATE.



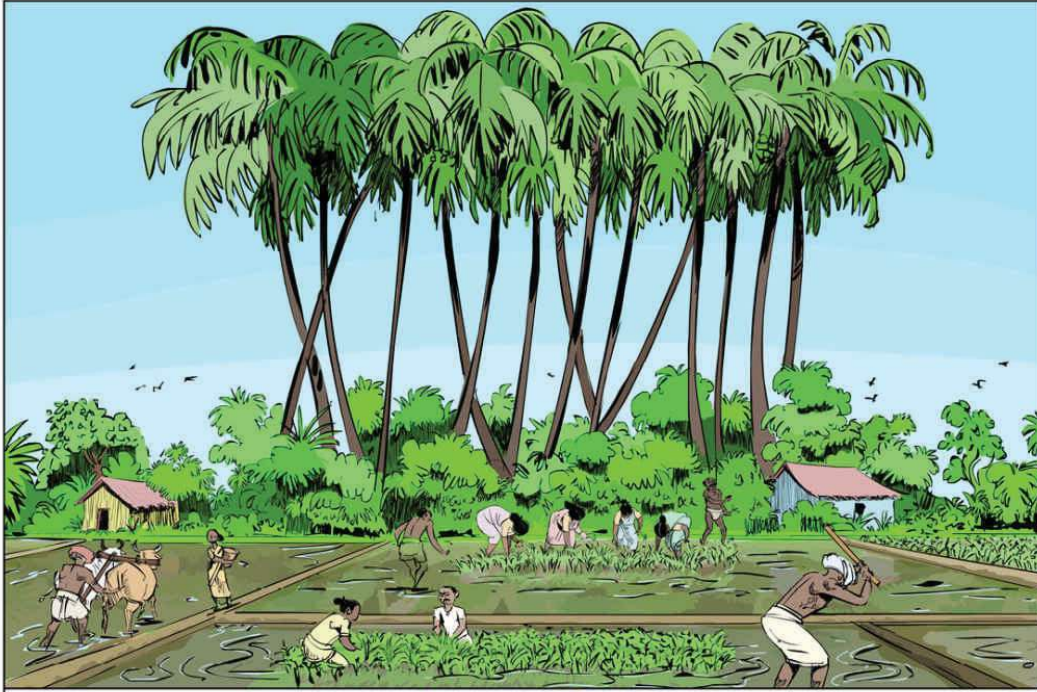
PEOPLE ARE WALKING WITH BANDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC, AND THE CHILDREN ARE TAKING THEIR TOYS, MADE OF DRIED STRIPS OF BANANA STEMS ALONG WITH THEM TO THE RIVER.





CHILDREN ARE PLAYING WITH JOY
IN THE BACKWATERS OF THE LAKE.





THE SOIL IS EXTREMELY FERTILE IN THE CHOZHA EMPIRE. THEREFORE, THEY WERE GREAT IN AGRICULTURE.



FARMERS ARE SPRINKLING SEEDS IN THE NEWLY PLOUGHED FIELDS AND LADIES ARE CARRYING GRASS BUNDLES ON THEIR HEAD.

OUR HERO VANDHIYATHEVAN IS MESMERISED BY THE BEAUTY OF THIS EMPIRE WHILE HE RIDES THROUGH IT.



LOOK HERE, A FARMER IS DRINKING WATER STRAIGHT FROM A CANAL. THIS WILL SURPRISE US. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE CAN SEE IN OUR TIMES. BUT WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHOZHAS TOOK GREAT CARE OF THEIR WATER RESOURCES. SO, THE WATER THEY RECEIVED WAS ALWAYS PURE.

FARMERS ARE SINGING SONGS WHEN THEY WORK IN THEIR FIELDS.

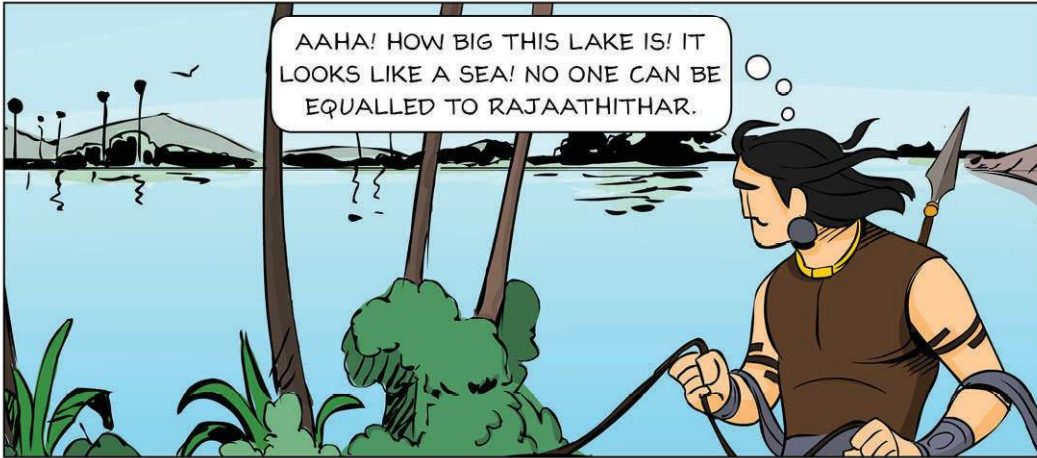


THE LADIES TOO SING BEAUTIFUL SONGS AS THEY WEED THE FIELDS.



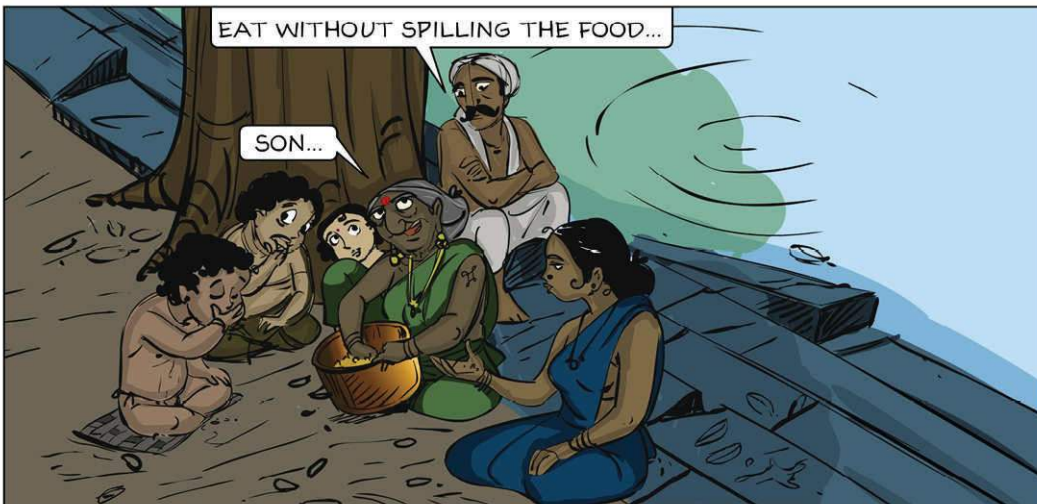
OUR HERO VANDHIYATHEVAN IS SEEING, HEARING AND APPRECIATING ALL OF THIS AS HE RIDES THROUGH THE EMPIRE.







SHOW ME YOUR HAND

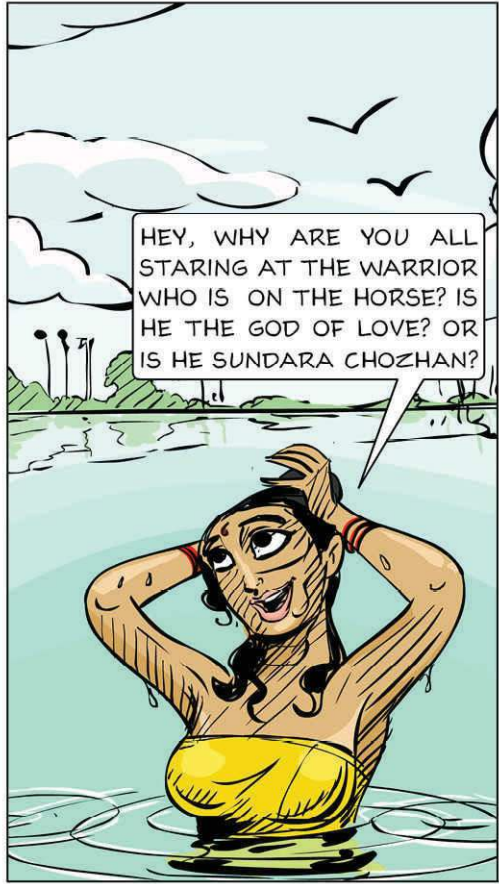


EAT WITHOUT SPILLING THE FOOD...

SON...



AAHA... I HAVE HEARD THAT THE GIRLS IN THE CHOZHA KINGDOM ARE VERY PRETTY... EVERY SINGLE GIRL HERE LOOKS LIKE AN ANGEL! THE BEST THING TO DO RIGHT NOW, IS TO SET UP MY TENT HERE.



HEY, WHY ARE YOU ALL STARING AT THE WARRIOR WHO IS ON THE HORSE? IS HE THE GOD OF LOVE? OR IS HE SUNDARA CHOZHAN?



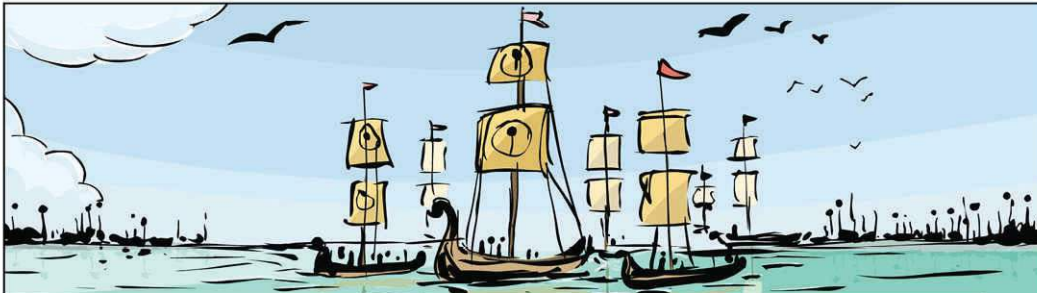
HEY, SHUT UP! I AM BUSY RIGHT NOW. WE'LL TALK LATER.



SON... DON'T YOU HEAR ME CALLING YOU? EAT SOME SWEET PONGAL FROM THIS OLD GRANDMOTHER.



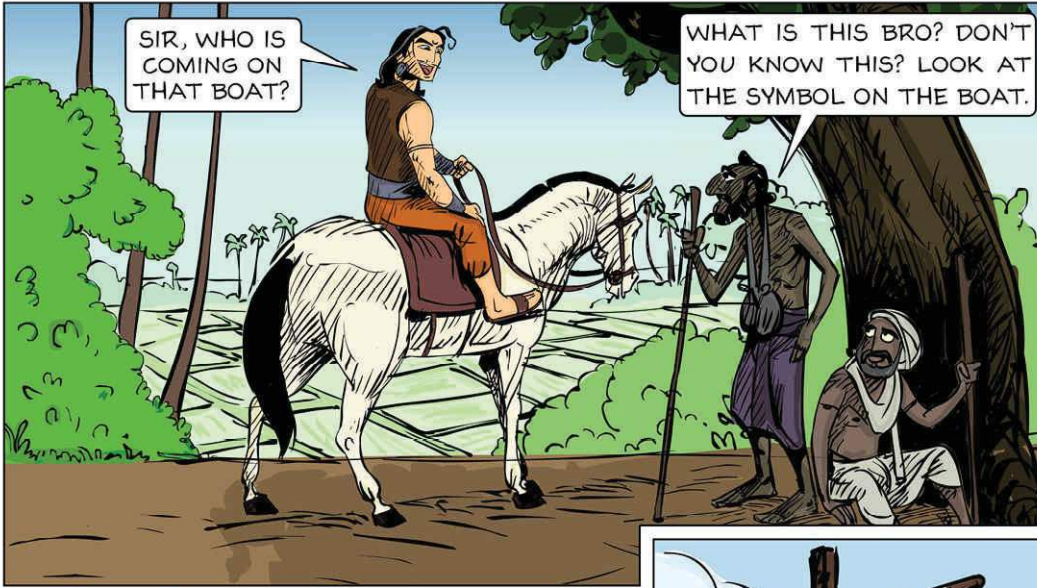
IT'S OKAY GRANDMA... MY FRIEND'S HOUSE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.



VANDHIYATHEVAN SEES A BOAT COMING TOWARDS THEM FROM A DISTANCE.

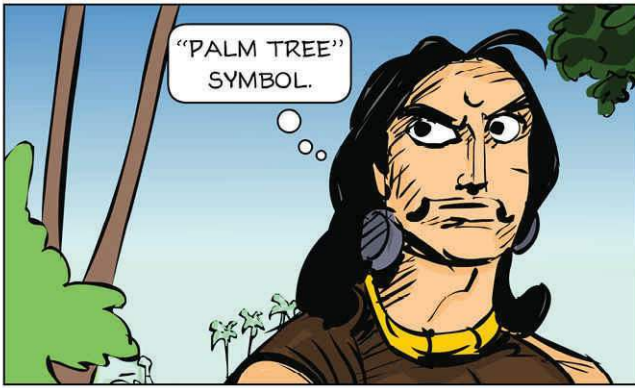


WHAT IS THIS? WHY ARE SO MANY BOATS COMING THIS WAY?



SIR, WHO IS COMING ON THAT BOAT?

WHAT IS THIS BRO? DON'T YOU KNOW THIS? LOOK AT THE SYMBOL ON THE BOAT.



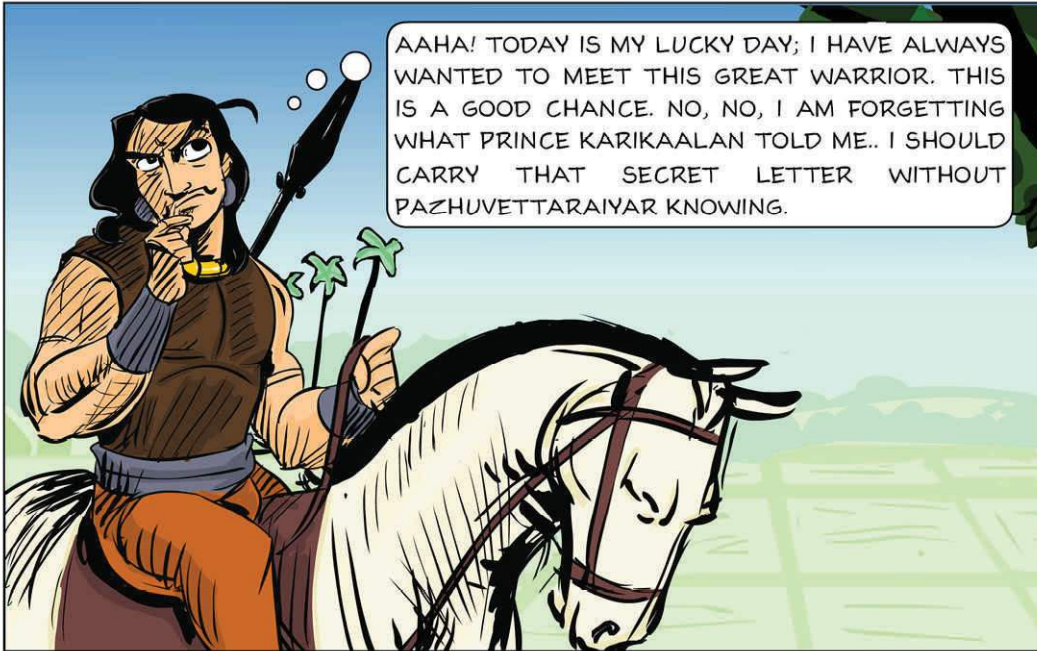
"PALM TREE" SYMBOL.



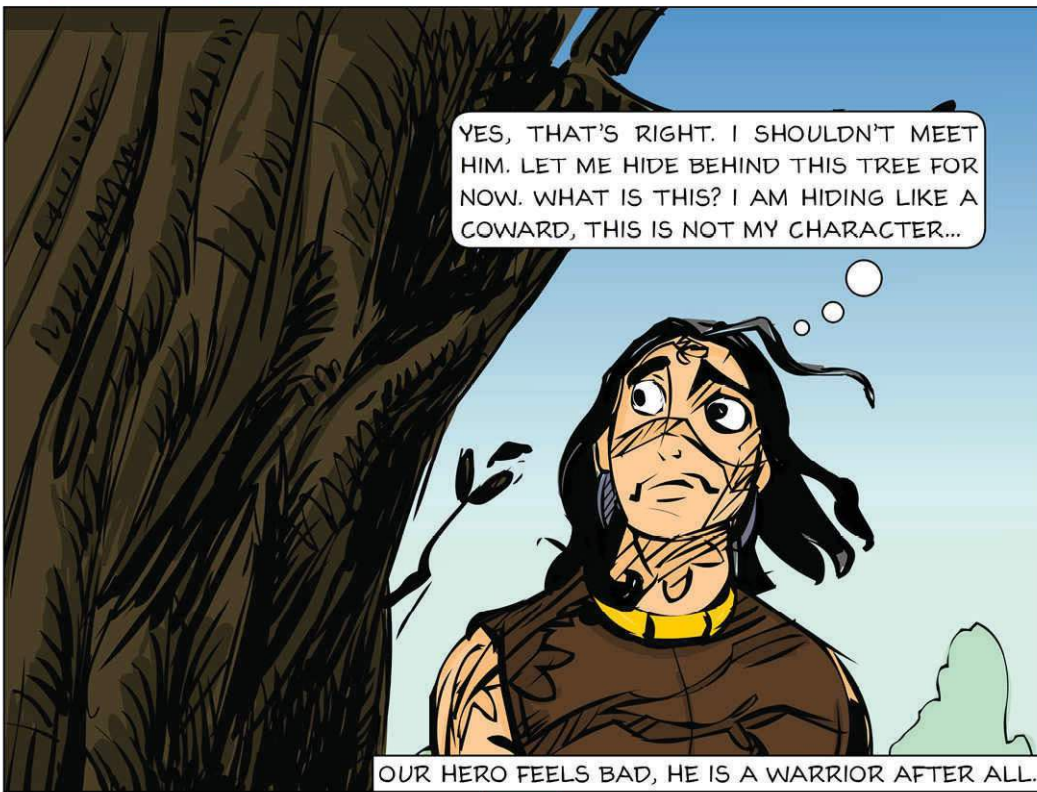
THE OLD MAN GUESSES THAT VANDHIYATHEVAN WAS NOT PART OF THIS TOWN.

BRO DON'T YOU BELONG TO THIS TOWN..? PERIYA PAZHUVETTARAIYAR IS TRAVELLING IN THAT BOAT. EVEN THOUGH HE IS 60 YEARS OLD, LOOK AT HIM! HOW ENERGETIC HE IS! IF A COWARD LOOKS AT HIM, HE WILL GET INSPIRED AND BECOME A WARRIOR.



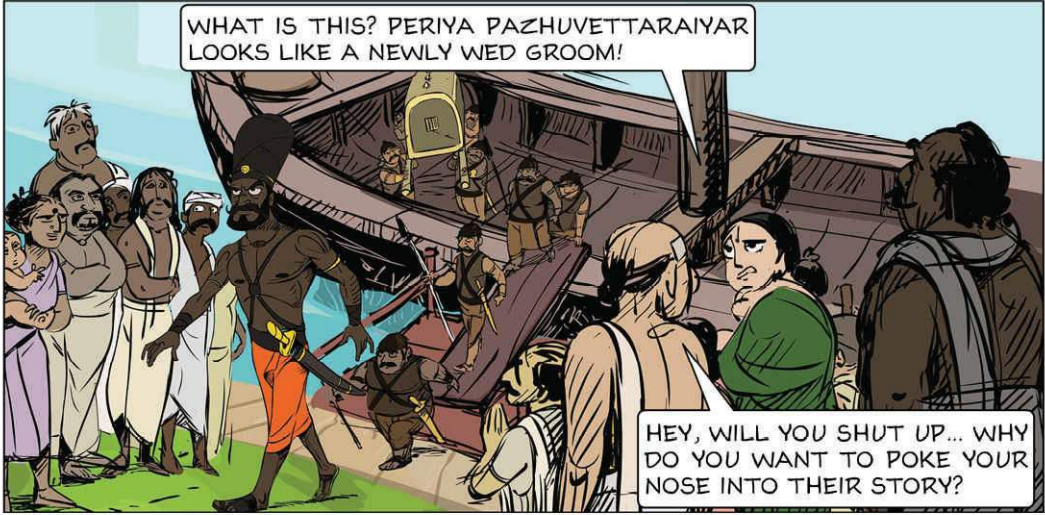


AAHA! TODAY IS MY LUCKY DAY; I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET THIS GREAT WARRIOR. THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE. NO, NO, I AM FORGETTING WHAT PRINCE KARIKAALAN TOLD ME.. I SHOULD CARRY THAT SECRET LETTER WITHOUT PAZHUVETTARAIYAR KNOWING.



YES, THAT'S RIGHT. I SHOULDN'T MEET HIM. LET ME HIDE BEHIND THIS TREE FOR NOW. WHAT IS THIS? I AM HIDING LIKE A COWARD, THIS IS NOT MY CHARACTER...

OUR HERO FEELS BAD, HE IS A WARRIOR AFTER ALL.



WHAT IS THIS? PERIYA PAZHUVETTARAIYAR LOOKS LIKE A NEWLY WED GROOM!

HEY, WILL YOU SHUT UP... WHY DO YOU WANT TO POKE YOUR NOSE INTO THEIR STORY?



SO HE IS PERIYA PAZHUVETTARAIYAR?

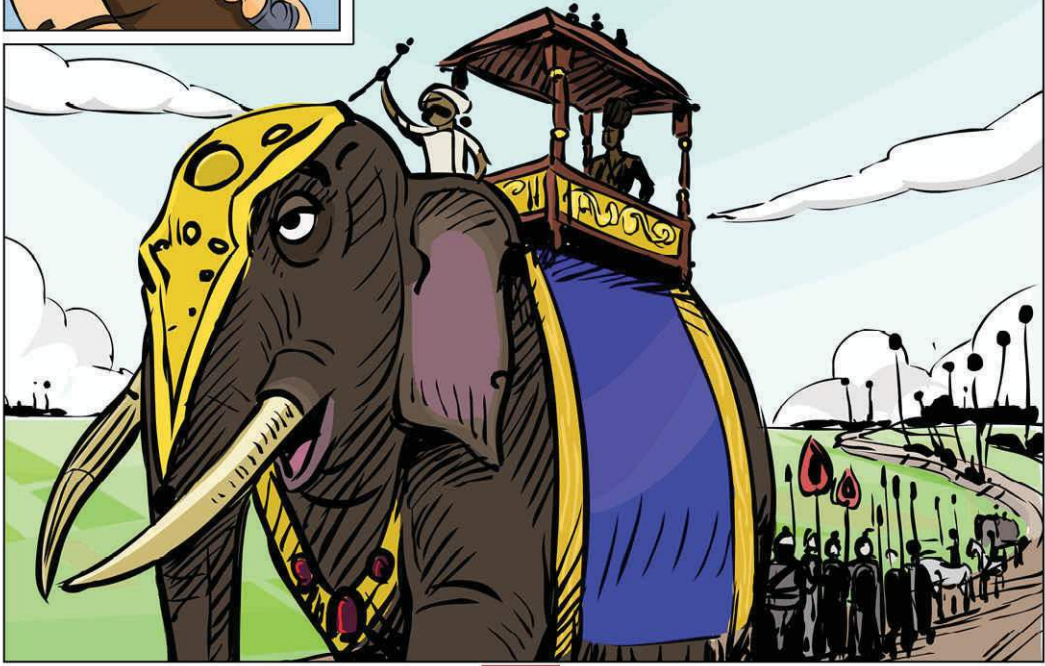
YES, IT IS HIM.

PERIYA PAZHUVETTARAIYAR HAD RECENTLY MARRIED A YOUNG GIRL CALLED NANDHINI. THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

LOOKING AT THE PARADE WAITING FOR PAZHUVETTARAIYAR...



PAZHUVETTARAIYAR SITS MAJESTICALLY ON THE ELEPHANT.



MY DREAMS ARE GOING TO COME TRUE, I AM GOING TO MEET 'THE KING OF KINGS' SUNDARA CHOZHAN AND THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS KUNDHAVAI! THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEMS IN MY JOURNEY... WHAT IF THERE ARISES A PROBLEM? I HAVE A SWORD IN MY HAND AND VALOR IN MY HEART. WHY SHOULD I CARE?



HMMM... WHAT IS THE USE OF ALL THIS? THE PRINCE HAS TIED MY HANDS UP BY HIS WORDS... UNTIL I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK ASSIGNED TO ME THE PRINCE TOLD ME NOT TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ANYONE... SOMEHOW, I HAVE FOLLOWED IT TILL NOW.

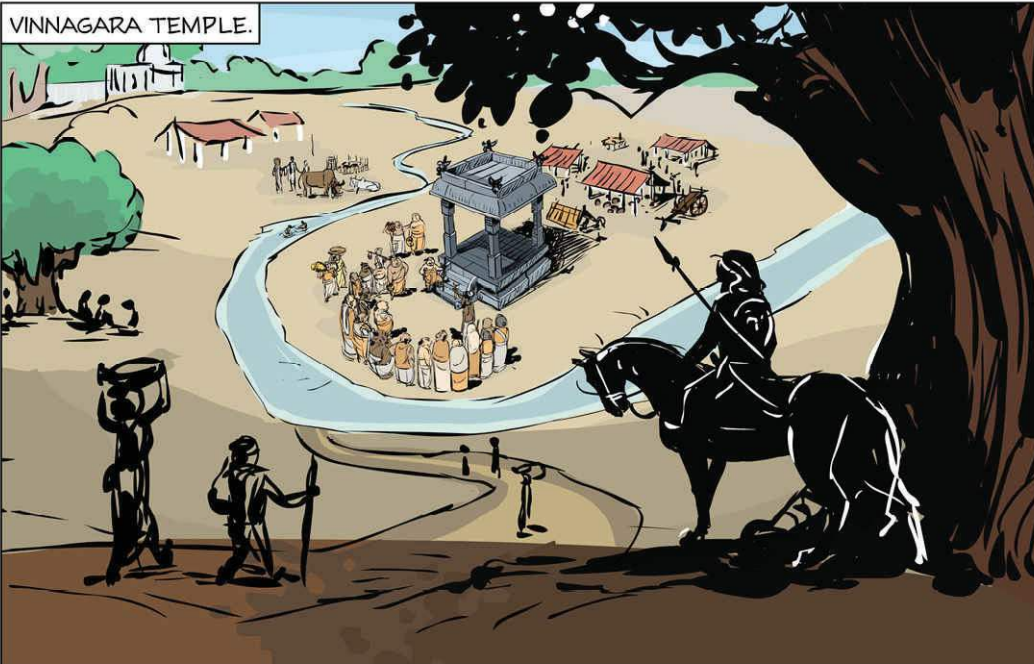


MY FRIEND KANDHAMAARAN HAS INVITED ME...

I HAVE TO REACH KADAMBUR BEFORE SUNSET!!

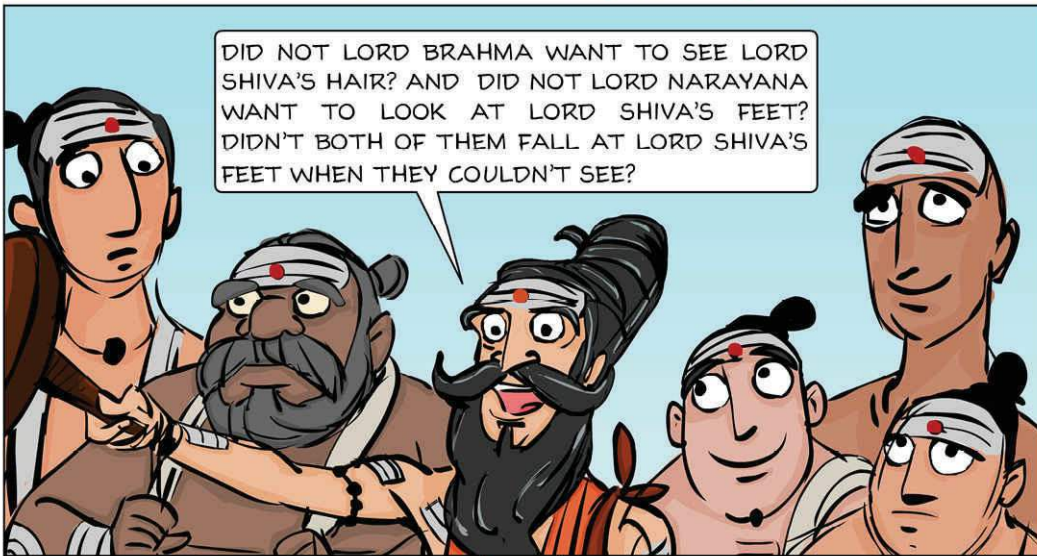


VINNAGARA TEMPLE.



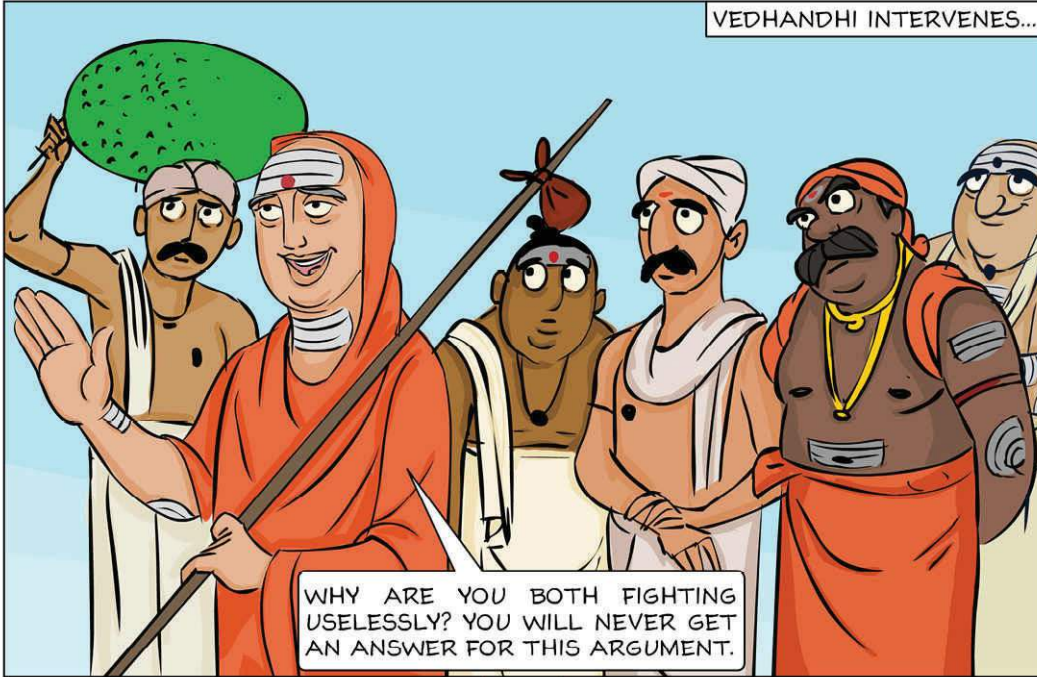
VANDHIYATHEVAN RIDES FROM VEERAANAM TO KADAMBUR THROUGH VINNAGARA TEMPLE. HE NOTICES THAT A FIGHT IS GOING ON THERE. (IN THOSE TIMES, RELIGIOUS STREET FIGHTS WERE COMMON). WHEREVER THESE FIGHTS HAPPEN AAZHVAARKADIYAAN WILL BE THERE. HE IS A VISHNU DEVOTEE. COME, LET'S GO CLOSER AND SEE....







HEY, OK. OK. BUT WHEN SHIVA GAVE A BOON TO RAVANA, DIDN'T THOSE BOONS GO TO DUST IN FRONT OF LORD RAMA, WHO IS AN AVATAR OF LORD THIRUMAAL? WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?



VEDHANDHI INTERVENES...

WHY ARE YOU BOTH FIGHTING USELESSLY? YOU WILL NEVER GET AN ANSWER FOR THIS ARGUMENT.

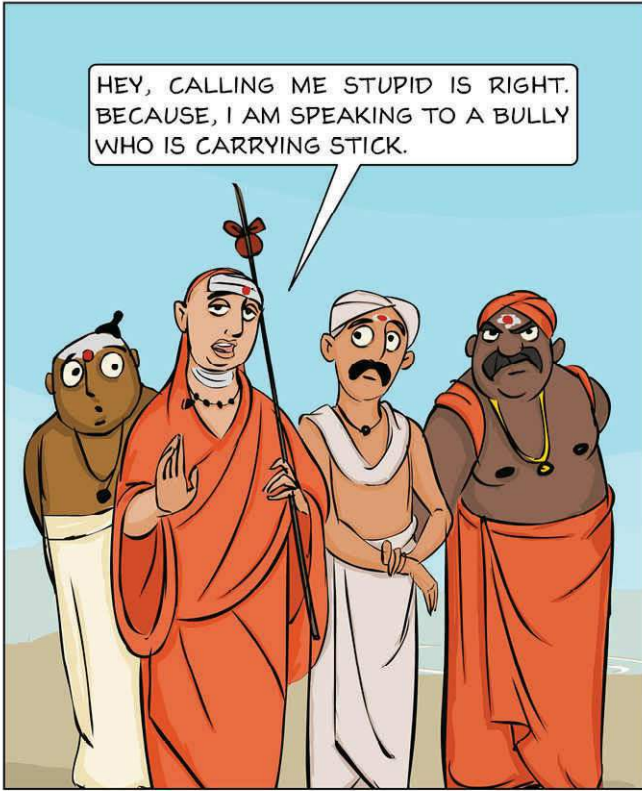
THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS IN THE VEDAS. YOU PEOPLE HAVE NOT UNDERSTOOD GOD PERFECTLY, THAT IS WHY YOU ARE FIGHTING LIKE THIS! IF YOU FOLLOW YOUR BELIEFS PROPERLY YOU WILL REACH A STATE IN WHICH THERE IS NO VISHNU AND NO SHIVA!



AYE, SANYAASI, STOP. DO YOU KNOW WHAT SANKARAACHAARYA SAID AFTER WRITING DETAILED NOTES ON VEDAS, UPANISHADS AND BHAGAVAT GITA,
"HAIL GOVINDA, HAIL GOVINDA,
HAIL GOVINDA, REST ALL STUPID".
YOU KNOW WHO HE ADDRESSED AS STUPID?
IT IS DUMB WITTED PEOPLE LIKE YOU.



OYE NAMBI,



HEY, CALLING ME STUPID IS RIGHT. BECAUSE, I AM SPEAKING TO A BULLY WHO IS CARRYING STICK.



AZHVAARKADYAAN SWIRLED HIS STICK, WITH ANGER

OYE, SWAMI LOOK AT THIS STICK IT IS NOT AN ORDINARY STICK, IT HAS THE POWER TO BREAK YOUR BALD HEAD.



MEANWHILE, THE PUBLIC.

LOOK AT THAT VAISHNAVITE, HOW ARROGANT HE IS! MAYBE HE HAS AN IMPORTANT POST IN THE GOVERNMENT.

MAYBE.... MAYBE...

DEAR FELLOW! STOP IT! KEEP THE STAFF IN YOUR OWN HANDS. I SHALL NOT BE ANGRY EVEN IF YOU HIT ME WITH YOUR STICK. NEITHER WILL I FIGHT WITH YOU. THAT WHICH HITS IS SUPREME! THAT WHICH IS HIT IS ALSO SUPREME! IF YOU LAY HANDS UPON ME IT IS LIKE HITTING YOUR OWN SELF!



AAZHVAARKADIYAAN GETS ANGRY.

AZHVARKADIYAN LOOKED AT THE PUBLIC.

ALL OF YOU WATCH! THE SUPREME IS GOING TO SERVE THE SUPREME A HALLOWED HIT. I AM GOING TO HIT MYSELF WITH THIS STAFF.



REALIZING THAT AZHVARKADIYAN IS PLANNING TO HIT HIM, VEDHANDHI SLIPPS OUT OF THE CROWD.

SWIRLING HIS STAFF HE MOVES
TOWARDS THE MONK.

WHERE IS THAT
VEDHANDHI, HAS
HE RUN AWAY?

