

THIRUJNANA SAMBANDHAR - II

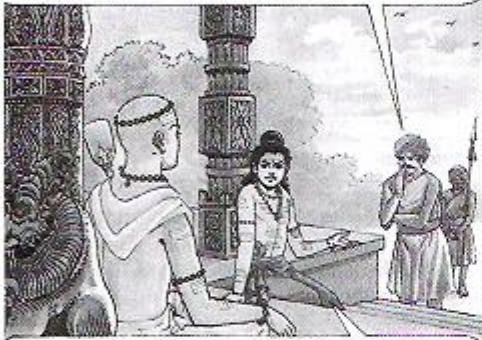
Story : RV

Graphics : Sankar

Thanks to Ramakrishna Mission Madras.

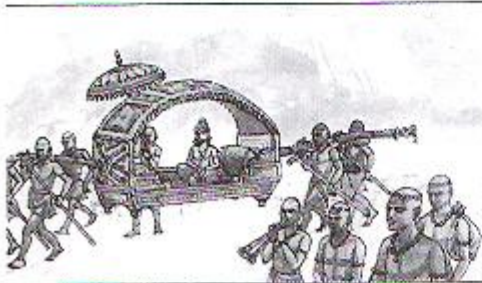
1 Thirujnana-sambandhar, Thirunavukkarasar and others were staying at Vedaranyam. At that time an invitation was received from Madurai.

O treasure-chest of knowledge! Our king Koonpandyan (Lit. King with a bend) is in the grip of the Jains. So Vedic dharma and Saiva dharma are becoming feeble. The Queen Mangayarkkarsi and Minister Kulachiraiyar want this fact to be told to the king. It is their prayer that you should pay a visit to Madurai.



O, noble Appar! Please give me leave to go to Madurai as desired by the queen.

2 When Appar felt that the positions of the planets were not auspicious, Sambandhar sang a decade explaining that the planets always favour a devotee. Then they started for Madurai.



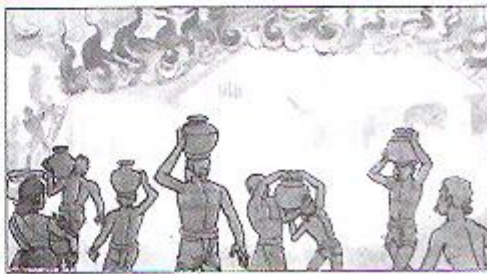
3 At the gateway to Madurai, Minister Kulachiraiyar welcomed Thirujnana-sambandhar in the traditional way. Queen Mangayarkkarsi also bowed down before him and welcomed him.

It is our good fortune that by your visit the Saiva dharma flourishes again.



Here Jainism is executing a devil-dance. You who are dedicated to serve Saivism will surely gain the Lord's grace.

4 Sambandhar and the devotees accompanying him stayed in an Ashram. The Jains set fire to that Ashram.



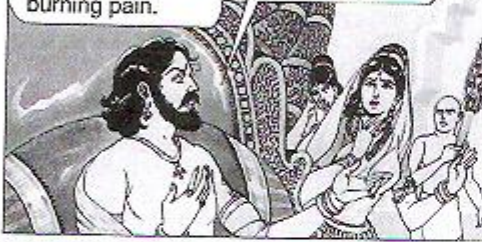
5 On one side,

The king has abetted the Jains in this crime. So let this fire go and fall on him.



On the other side,

Ah! What is this! All my body is as if on fire. Ah! I am unable to bear the burning pain.



6 Seeing the king's suffering the Jains chanted mantras and stroked his body with peacock feathers.

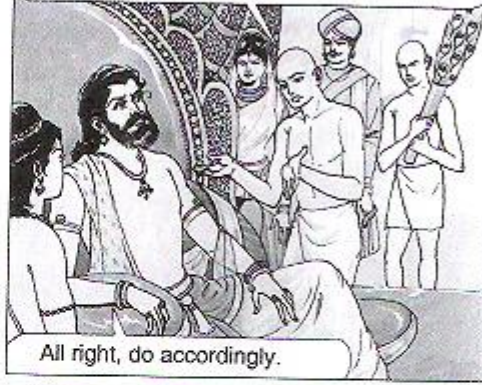
Ah! The feathers became ash. We shall sprinkle water.



O, this water only increases the burning sensation. All of you get out.

7 Then according to the command of the queen and the minister, Thirujnana-sambandhar was invited and brought to the palace. The king saluted him and welcomed him. This made the Jains afraid.

Your Majesty! We shall cure the burning sensation on your left side. Let this boy cure you on the right side. Let us see who wins.

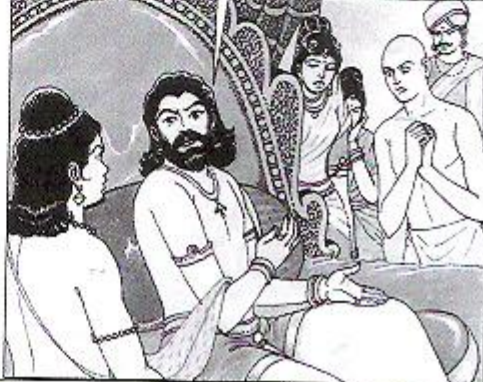


All right, do accordingly.

8 The Jains stroked the king's left side with the peacock feathers. Sambandhar smeared the king's right side with the sacred ash, singing the decade 'the ash is the mantra'.

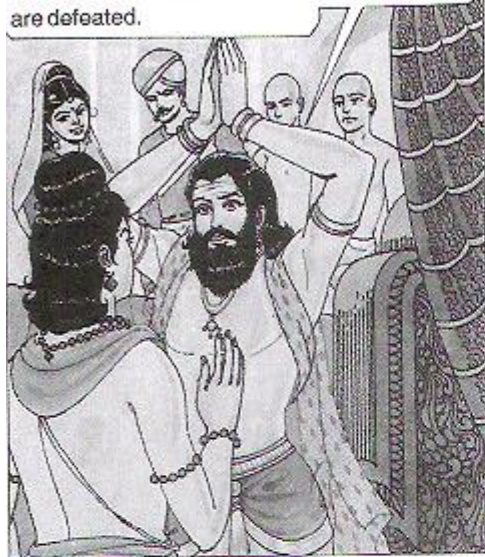
Lo! The burning sensation left the right side but the left side continued to be painful even more.

O Sambandhar! Please smear the holy ash on the left side too and remove the pain entirely.



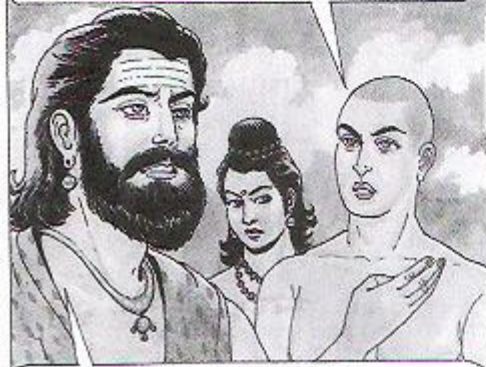
9 Sambandhar smeared the sacred ash on the king's left side. He was completely at ease.

O divine boy! Your holy feet are my refuge. I am restored to life. The Jains are defeated.



10 The Jains were experts in controlling fire and water by magic. They did not accept the king's verdict. They asked Sambandhar to perform a test.

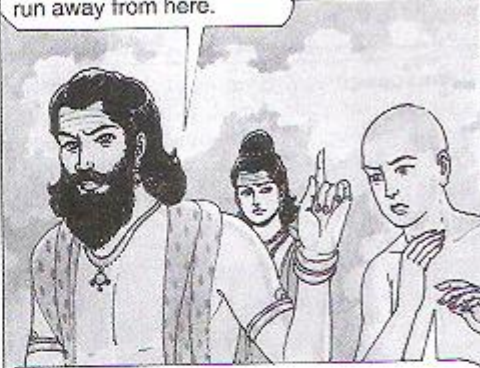
Both of us shall write the truths of our religion on palm leaves and throw them into the fire. Let us see which survive the fire.



Oh yes, let us try that experiment.

11 Sambandhar's leaves were not affected by the fire, while these of the Jains were reduced to ashes.

Ah! You cheats! trying to make the false true. You are defeated, run away from here.



O king! As a last test let us throw the leaves into the fast flowing Vaigai river. Then you will realize the truth. If we are defeated you may punish us.

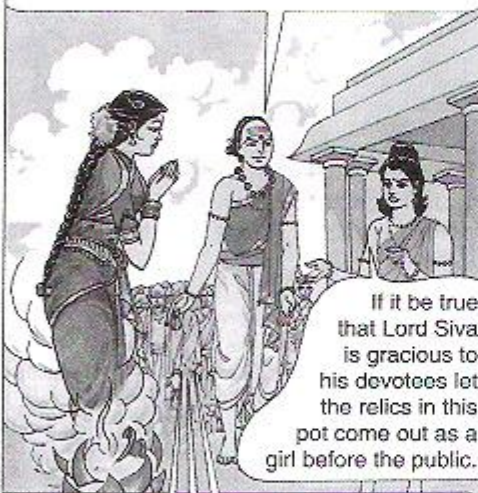
12 The Jains wrote on palm leaves and threw them into the Vaigai flood. The current swept them away. On the other hand, Sambandhar's leaves swam against the current and reached a place called Thiruvadakam. Then the bend in the king's body also vanished.

Saivism has triumphed. Falsehood is defeated. Punish these Jains.



13 Sambandhar then took leave of King Pandyan, Queen Mangayarkkarsi and Minister Kulachiraiyar and resumed his pilgrimage. After defeating in debate Buddhists like Buddhanandi and Chari Buddha on the way, he reached Mylapore.

I am your servant Sivanesan. I am waiting anxiously for your arrival. I had planned to give my daughter Poompavai in marriage to you. But she passed away, bitten by a snake. Her relics are kept in the pot. I am entrusting it to you.



If it be true that Lord Siva is gracious to his devotees let the relics in this pot come out as a girl before the public.

Ah! What a marvel! A girl is emerging from the pot!

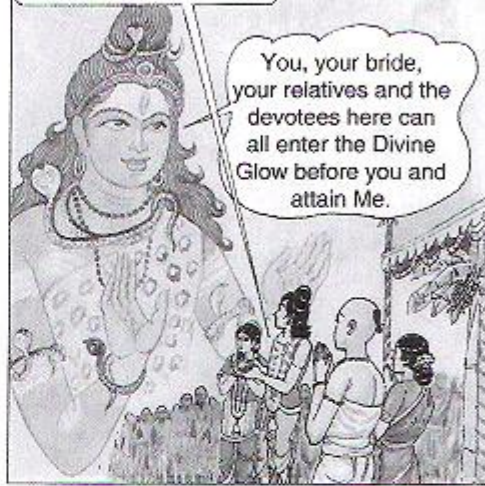
14 O revered sir, kindly accept my daughter who has become alive. I want to duly perform the wedding between you two.



Now this girl is like a daughter to me. It is not proper that I accept her. Nor will she marry anyone else. Hence may she do penance and become sublime.

15 Pressed by his parents and devotees Thirujnanasambandhar finally agreed to marry the daughter of Nambiandar Nambi. When the wedding ceremonies were over,

O Lord! Why family life for me? Make me merge in Your lotus feet.



16 An immense glow appeared and engulfed the temple in the bride's village Perumanna-nallur. In the centre of that glow was a corridor. When Thirujnanasambandhar, the bride and all assembled there entered the corridor the sky resounded with 'Namasivaya'.

