

6. PATTINATHAR - I

Story : Vandu Mama Graphics : Padmavasan

1

Sivanesar was a very rich merchant in Kaveripoompattinam. His wife was Jnanakalai.

They had a son. His name was Swetharanyar. He was also called Thiruvenkadar.

Thiruvenkadar had an elder sister too.

2

Swetha! Pray to Lord Siva to grand us devotion.



3

Thiruvenkadar was very intelligent. He became a great scholar and simultaneously a great devotee of Siva. He was a successful merchant. He spent a lot of money in charity.



4

When Thiruvenkadar was of age he married Sivakalai, daughter of Sivachidambaram-Sivakami couple.

5

Thiruvenkadar couple visited many temples ...

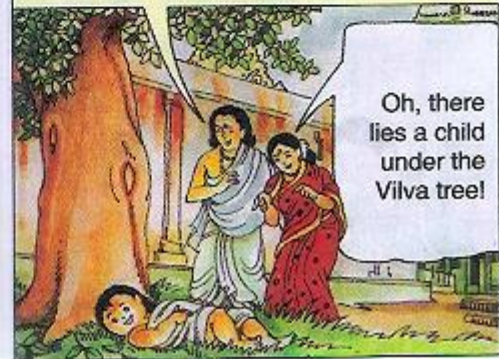
Oh Lord! Bless us with a child.



6

Siva Sarma lived in Thiruvudaimarudhur with his wife Suseela. They were great devotees of Siva. They served the devotees spending all their wealth. At last, they became poor.

Suseela! We don't have money to spend for the devotees of Siva. What shall we do!



Oh, there lies a child under the Vilva tree!

7

Oh! What a beautiful male child!

Thiruvankadar has no issues. He yearns for a child. We shall give this child to him and get gold equal to the weight of the child. With that gold we can serve the devotees.



8

Thiruvankadar accepted the child gladly and gave them the gold they wanted.

Sivakalail! This child was found under a Vilva tree. Definitely Siva himself has kept him there for us. Let us name him Marudhavanan.



9

Marudhavanan grew up as a handsome young man, studied well and helped his father in his business...

Father, I too would like to go to foreign countries by ship and do business.

Son, I will not be able to live without you. I can't send you abroad.



10

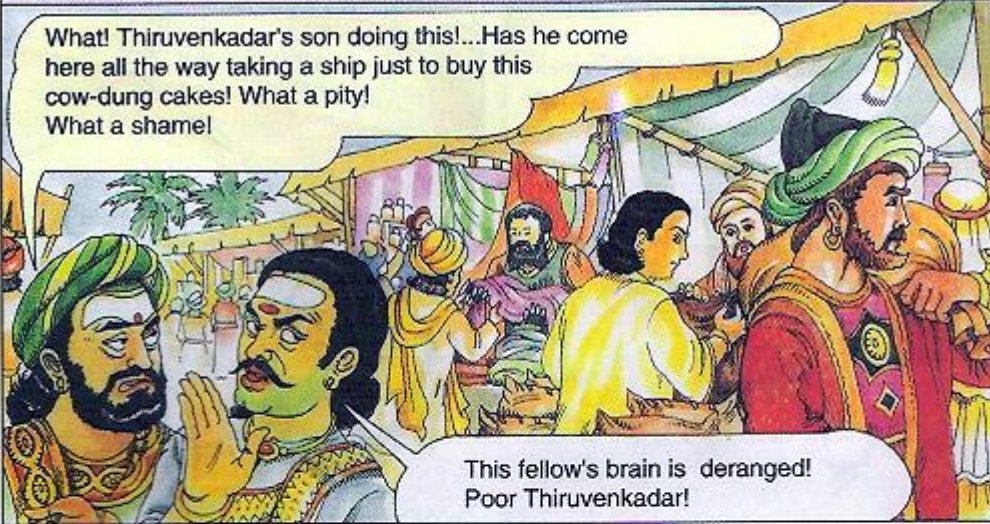
At last, the father had to yield to the request of his son.

Marudhavana, come back successfully. Buy good articles from there and bring them.



11 Marudhavanan made good business and earned a lot of money. But to the wonder of wonders he purchased cow-dung cakes and other fuel materials and loaded the ship full.

What! Thiruvankadar's son doing this!...Has he come here all the way taking a ship just to buy this cow-dung cakes! What a pity! What a shame!



This fellow's brain is deranged! Poor Thiruvankadar!

12 The ships returned to Kaveripoompattinam.

Oh Thiruvankadar! See the great things brought by your darling son! Ha... Ha...Ha...

Why are you laughing? What has he brought that you are laughing like this?



What else? A lot of cow-dung cakes, other fuels etc, etc! Ho... Ho...Ha... Ha...

13 Marudhavanan, What is this I am hearing? Is it true?

Yes, father...



What happened to you? Have you lost your senses? Have you gone all the way just to purchase these useless cow-dung cakes! Shame! Don't stand before me!



14 Thiruvenkadar could not control himself. In great anger he went to the place where the cow-dung cake bundles were piled...

Oh! I have a stupid boy as my son! Mere cow-dung cakes!... Ah! What is this! Pearls, diamonds, gold—all inside the cow-dung cakes! What a mistake I made! Oh, my son...



15 Struck with wonder Thiruvenkadar ran to the house to see Marudhavanan.

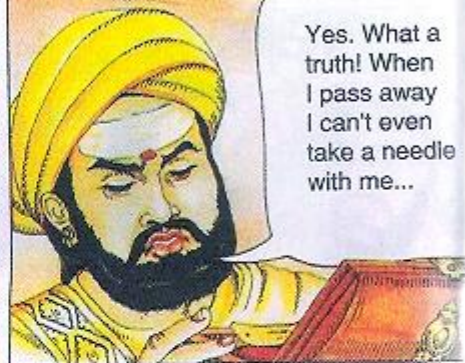
Oh my son Marudhavanan! I am fool, I am stupid! Without knowing your greatness I abused you. Sivakalai, where is our son?



Giving this box to me to be handed over to you, he has gone out.

16 Inside the box there was a small palm leaf in which it was written...

Nothing will accompany you to the Unknown Land after death...



Yes. What a truth! When I pass away I can't even take a needle with me...

17 My eyes are opened. My son, you have lit the lamp of knowledge in me. I will renounce the world now.



Thiruvenkadar renounced the world. People called him 'Pattinathar'.

To be continued

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