

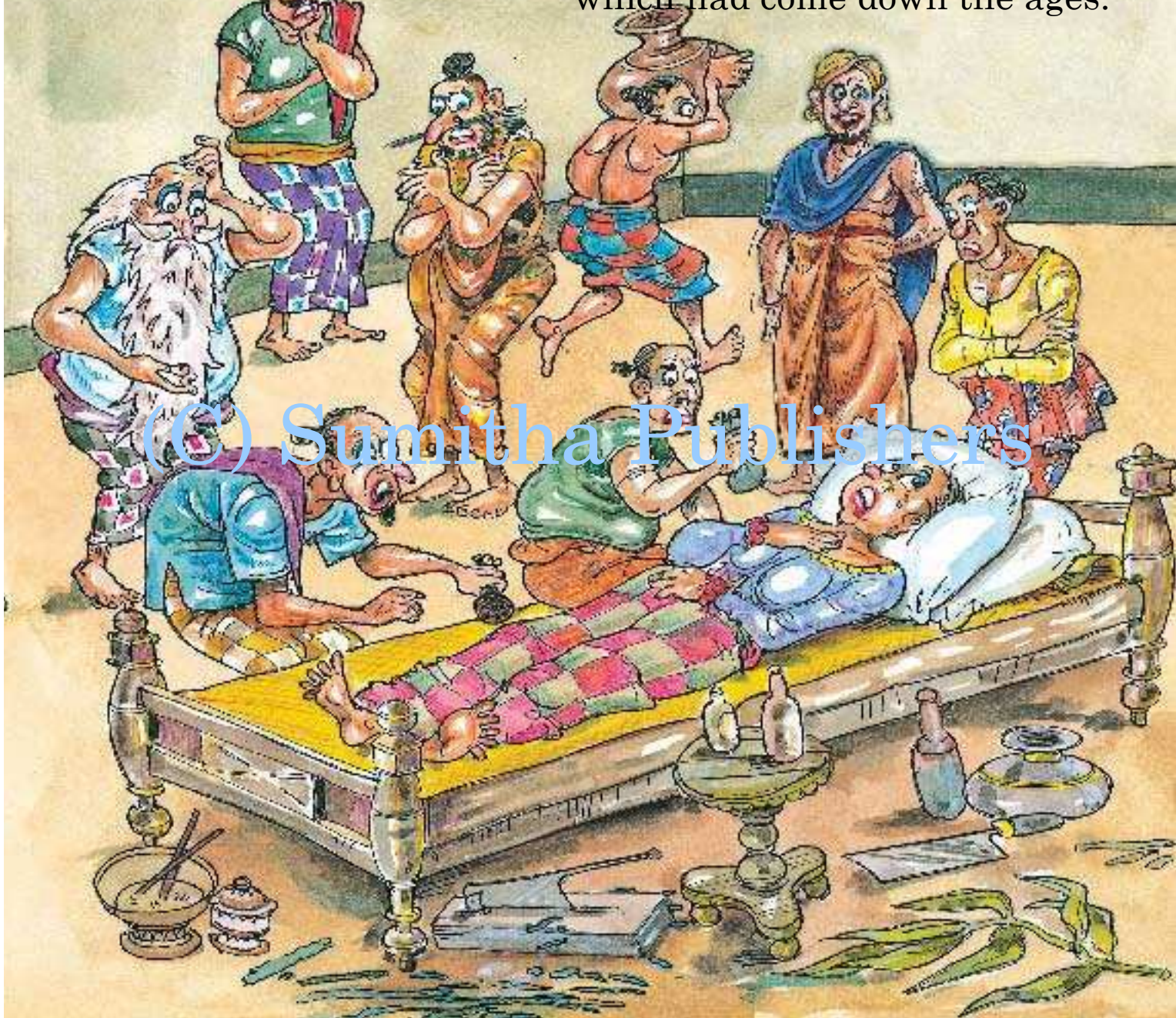




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Once upon a time,  
there lived a *Gamarala* and his wife.  
*Gamarala* is the chieftain of the village.  
After some time, his wife fell ill  
but she could not be cured  
even after consulting many physicians.

“There’s only one more thing to be done. Let’s perform a *tovil*” suggested many. *Tovil* is a healing ritual which had come down the ages.

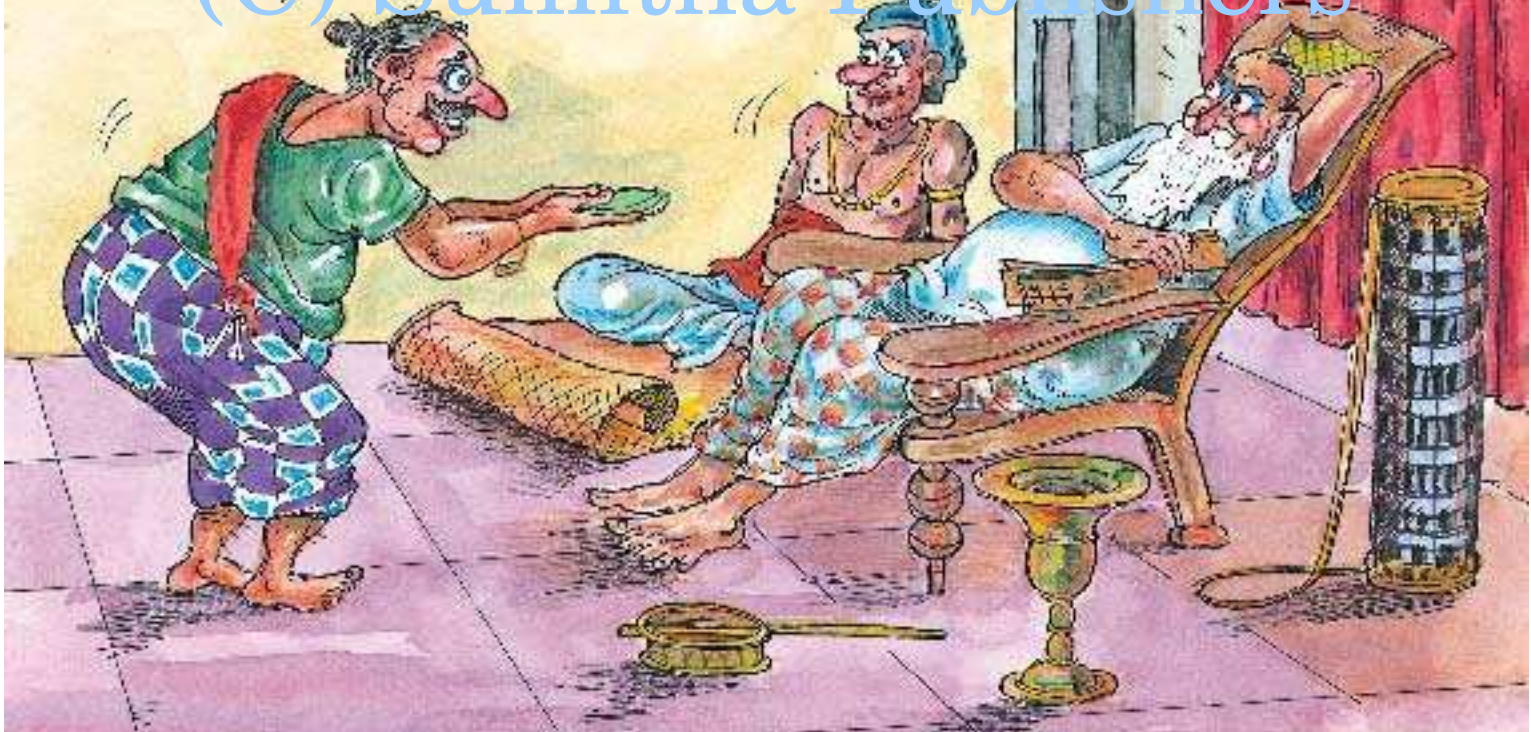


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In a nearby village was a group of people who could perform such a ritual. The *Gamarala* invited them to come to his house to perform this ritual.

Healing rituals are performed to cure patients who suffer from diseases caused by devils. Since physicians could not cure the *Gamarala's* wife, it was thought that she was probably suffering from a disease caused by devils.

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One day, all preparations were made to perform such a ritual. Such rituals are generally performed in the open air usually in the compound in front of a house. The patient is made to sit on a side, the head covered with a white cloth.