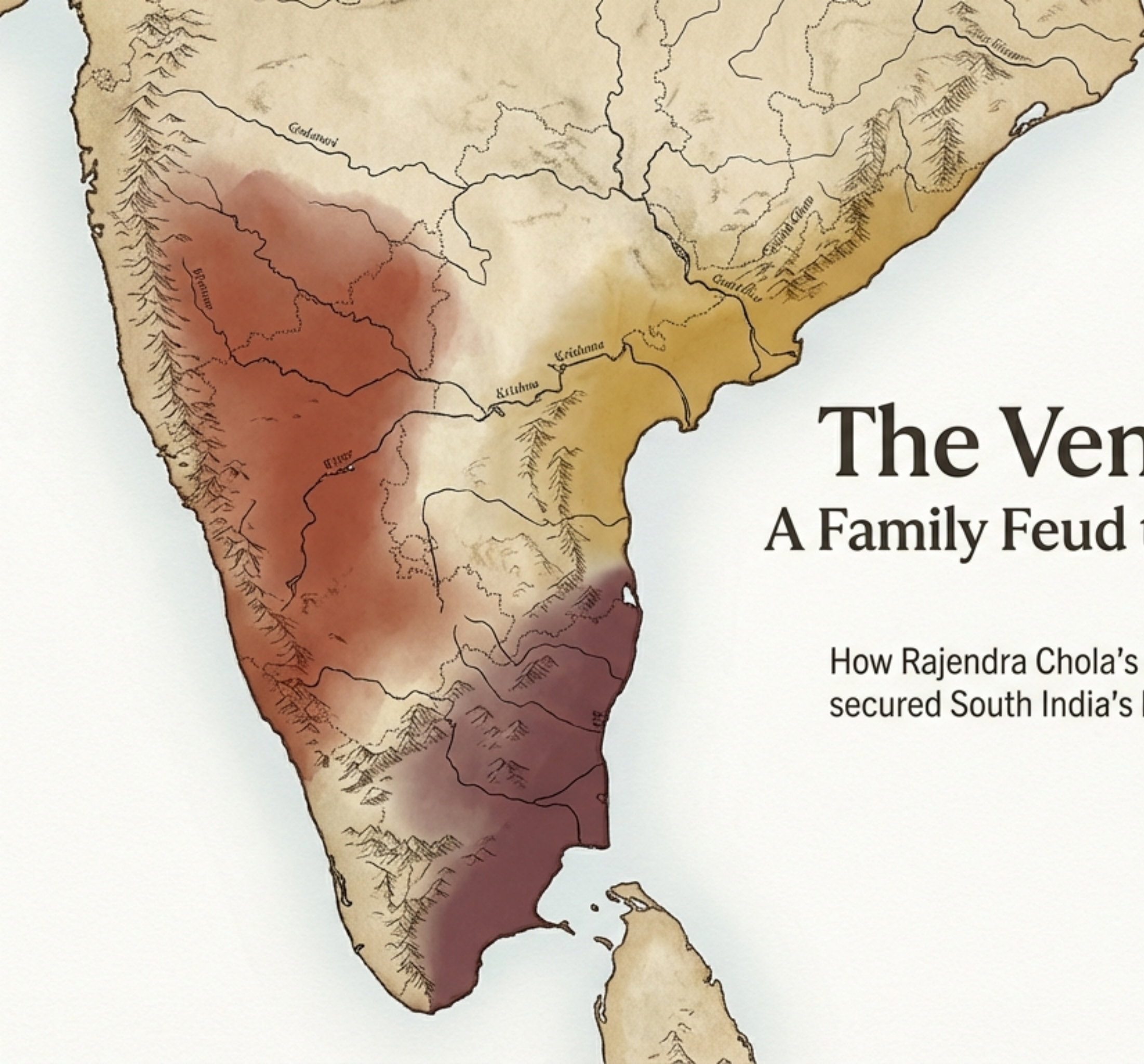


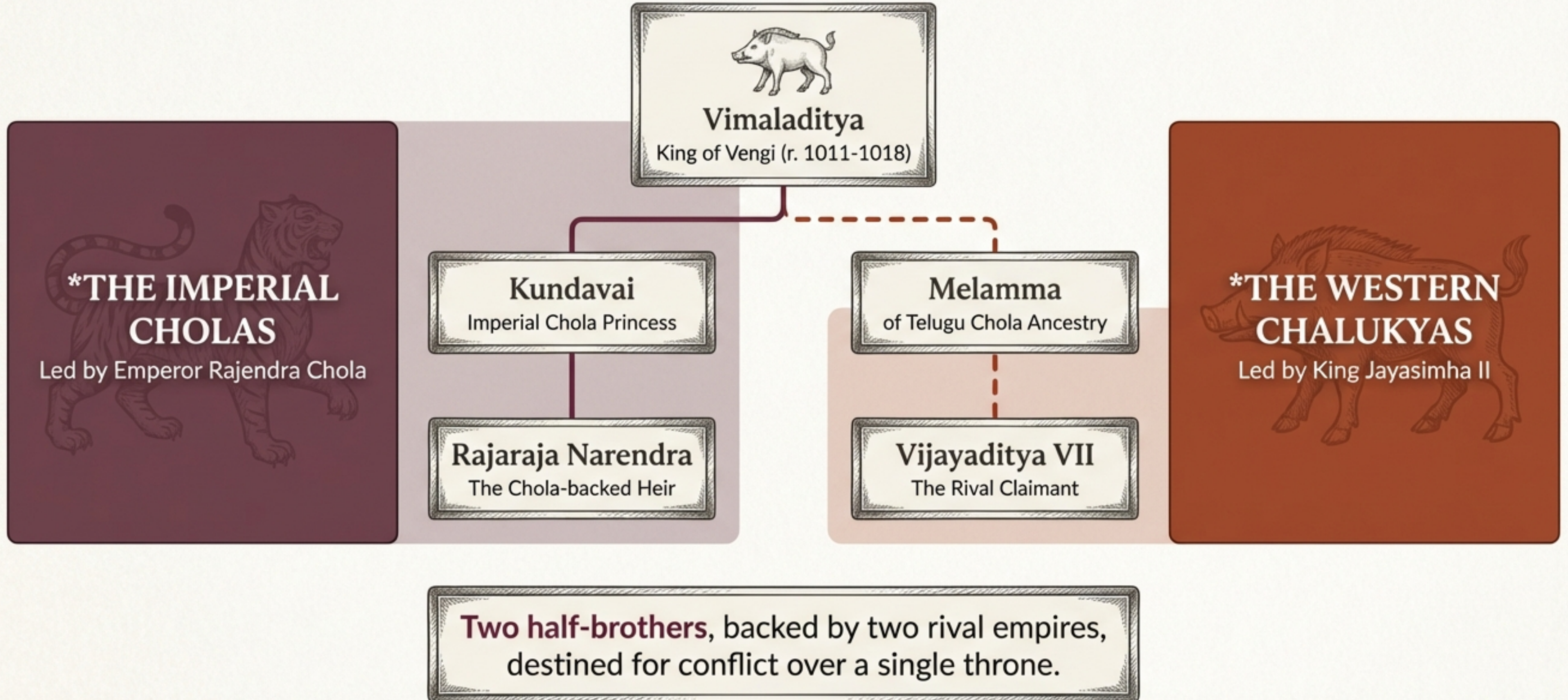


The Vengi Succession

A Family Feud that Redefined an Empire

How Rajendra Chola's strategic genius resolved a civil war and secured South India's balance of power (1018-1022 AD).

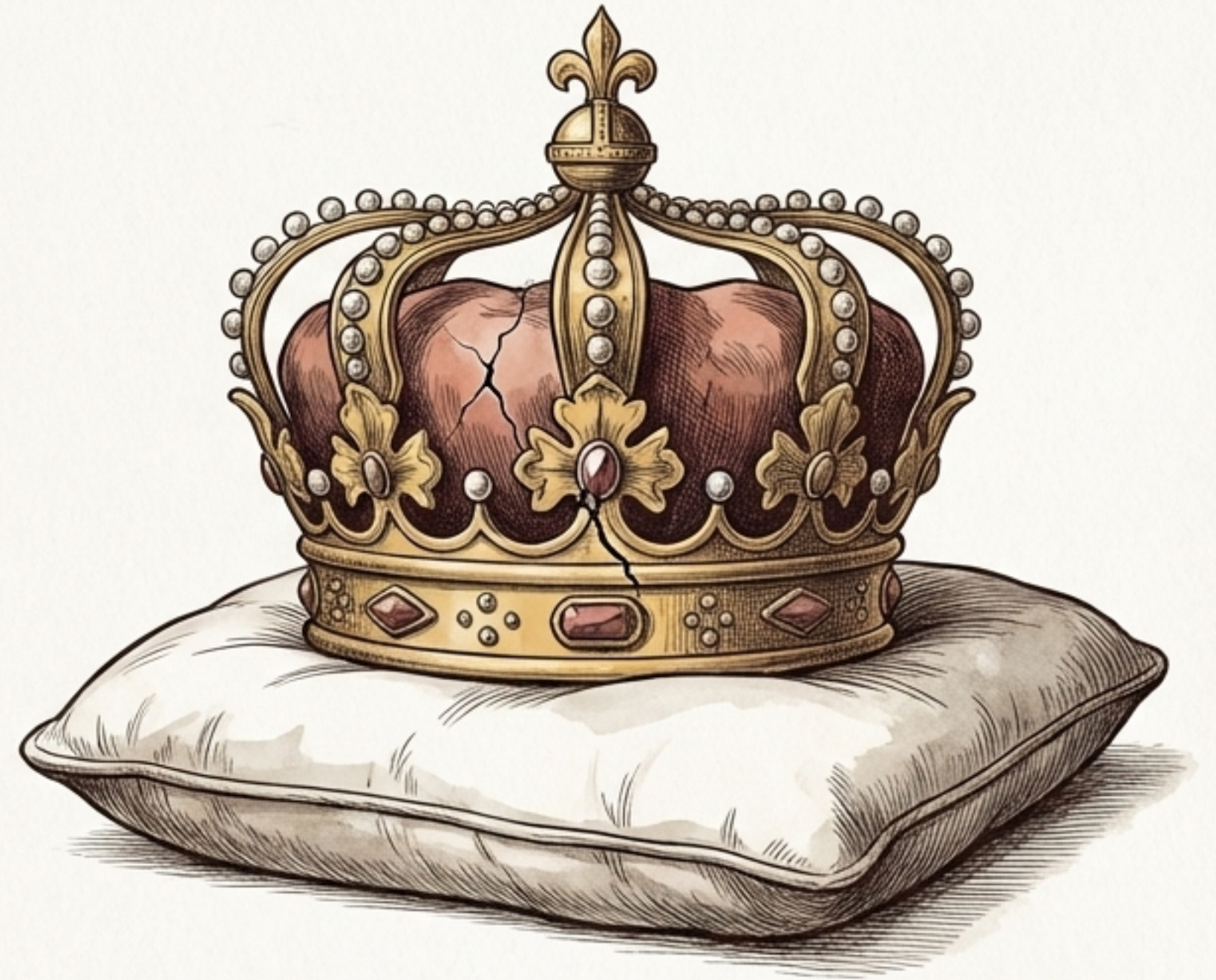
The Factions: A House Divided



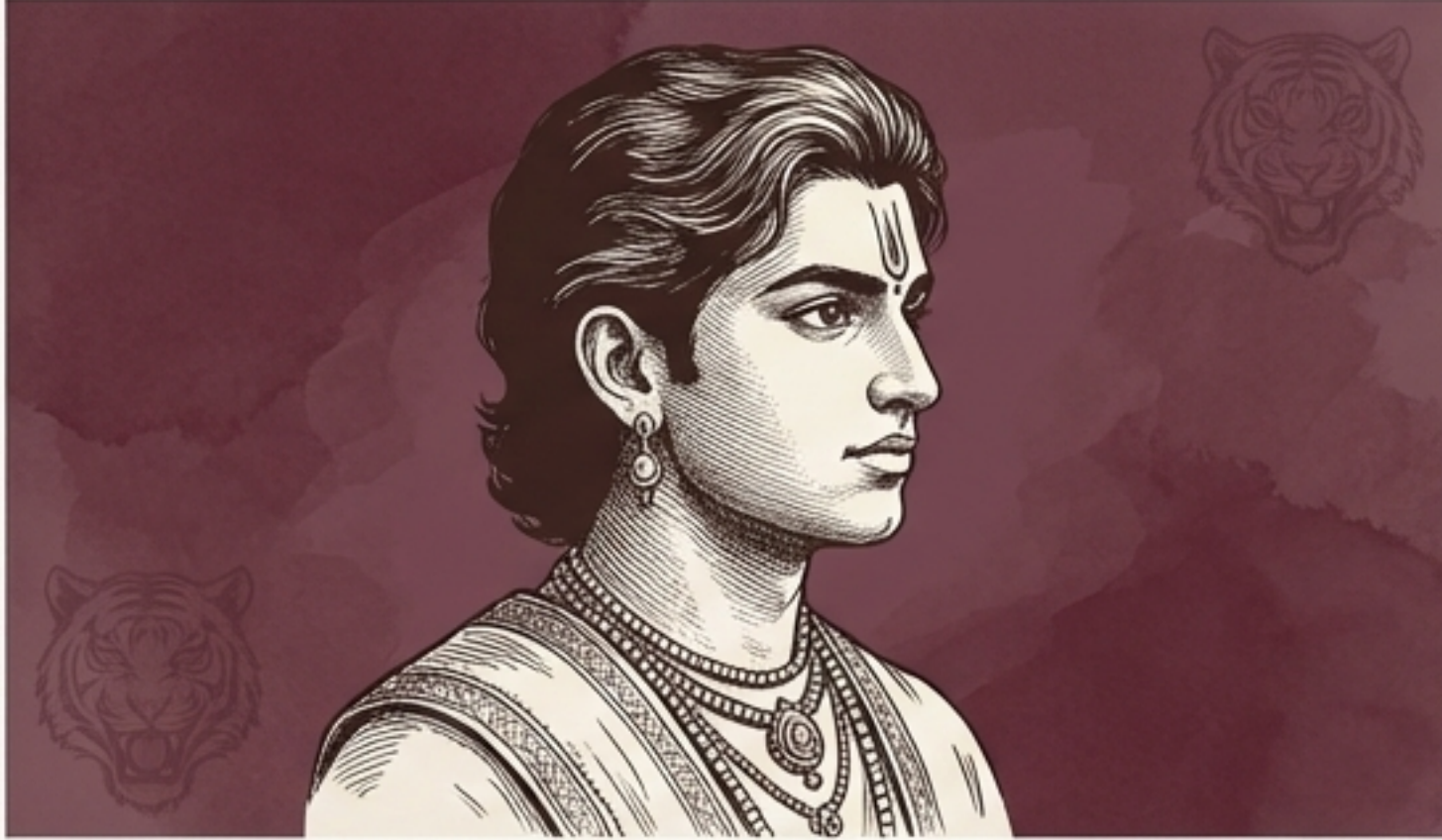
The Reign of Vimaladitya: A Kingdom Adrift

- Rule: Vimaladitya reigned over the Eastern Chalukya kingdom of Vengi for seven years, from 1011 to 1018 AD.
- Character: Described as a 'colourless king,' he was satisfied with the status quo and lacked significant political or military ambition.
- Focus: His reign is notable primarily for two things:
 1. His strategic marriages into the powerful Chola dynasty.
 2. His personal interest in Jainism, evidenced by his Guru, the monk Trikala Yogi Siddhanta Deva.

He was a colourless king quite satisfied with the conditions of life as he found them.

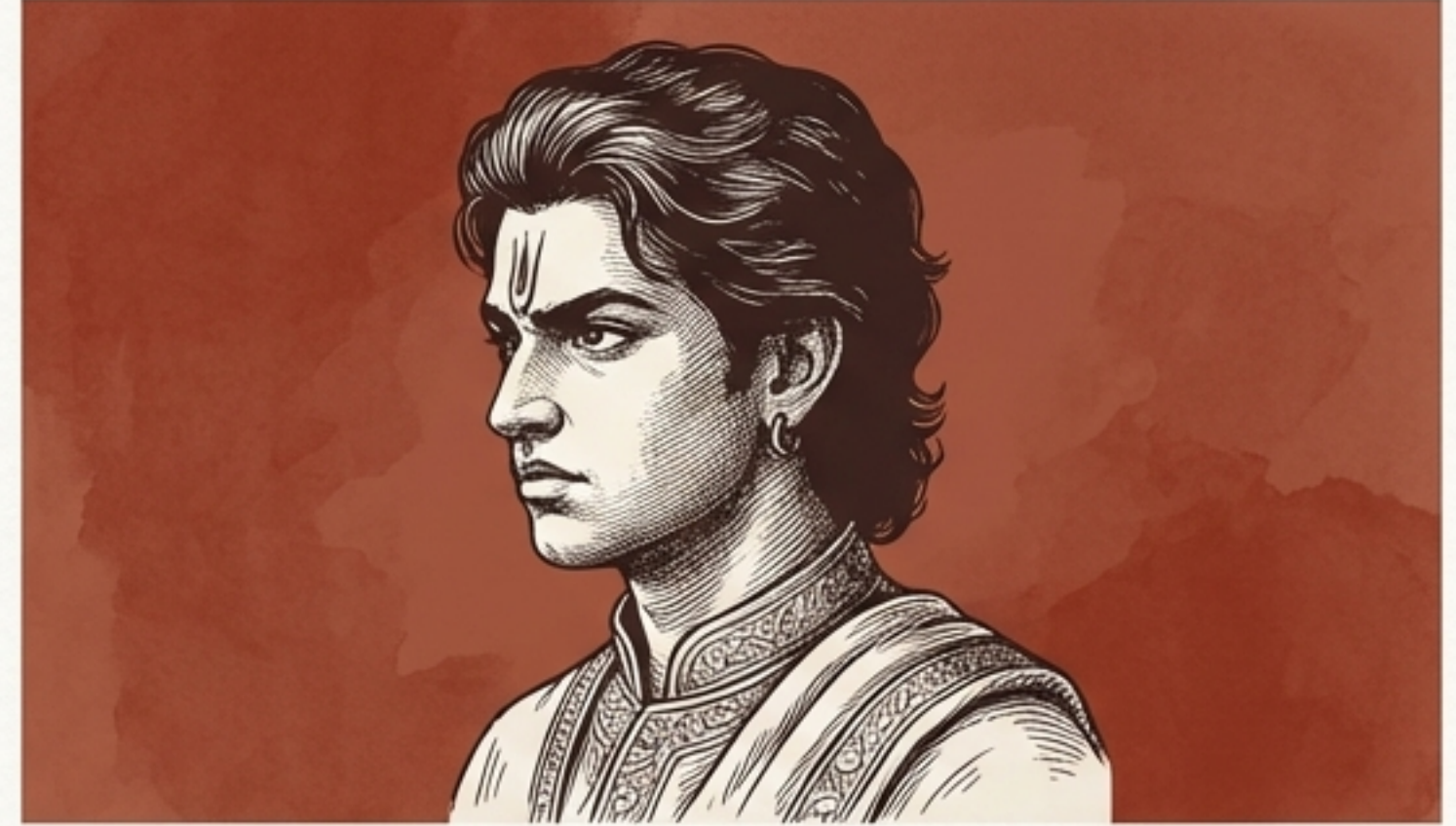


The Seeds of Conflict: Two Sons, Two Destinies



Rajaraja Narendra (The Imperial Heir)

- Mother: Kundavai, daughter of the great Chola Emperor Rajaraja I.
- Claim: Represents the continuation of the powerful Chola alliance, groomed to succeed his father.
- Lineage: His name, a tribute to his famous maternal grandfather, symbolized his connection to the imperial power.



Vijayaditya (The Rival Scion)

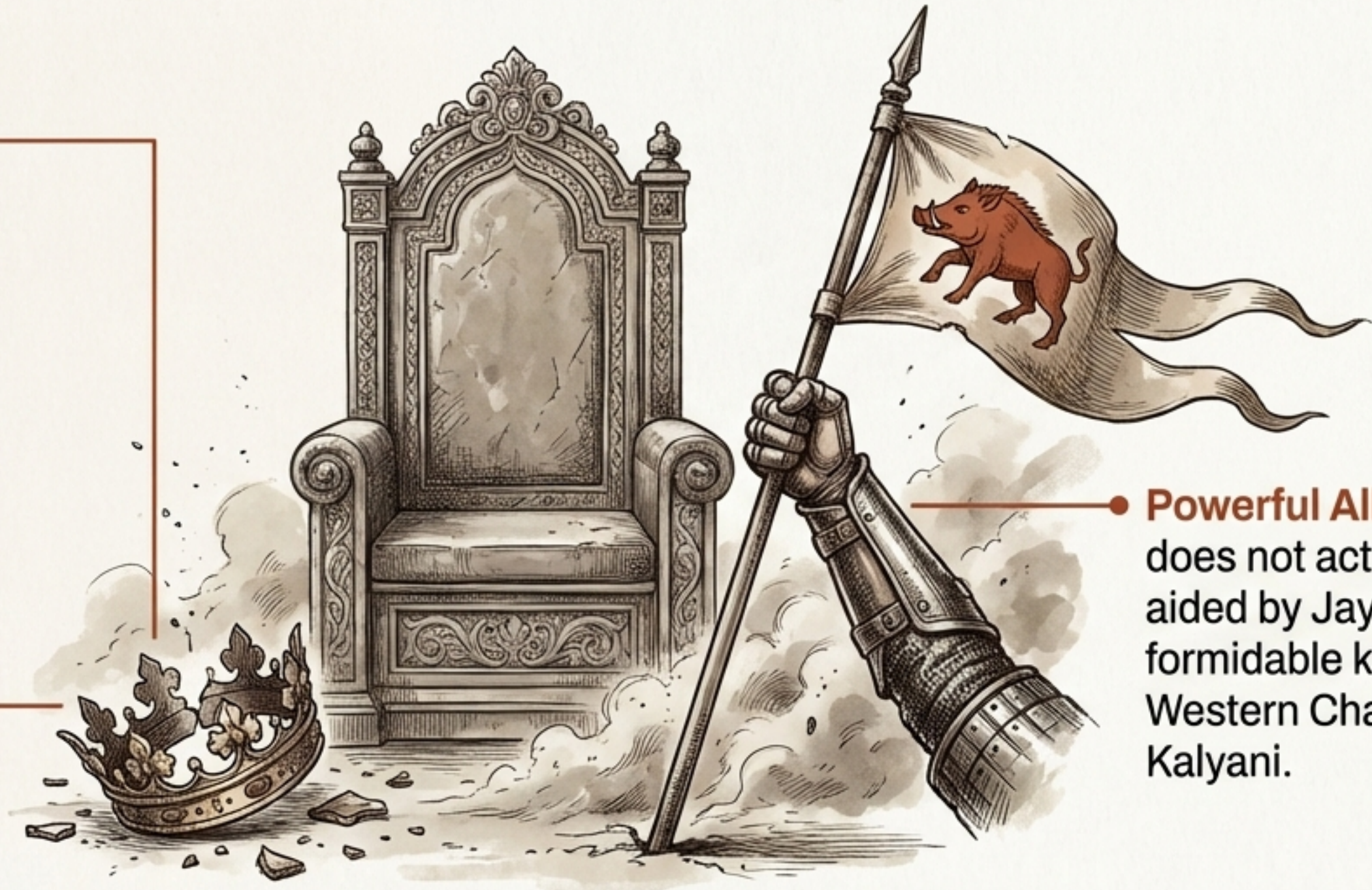
- Mother: Melamma, likely the daughter of Jata Choda Bhima, a rival Telugu Chola leader.
- Claim: Represents a native, anti-Chola faction within Vengi.
- Lineage: His Telugu Chola ancestry is cited as the source of a "deep-seated antagonism" towards his Chola-aligned half-brother.

1018 AD: The Throne is Seized

Upon the death of Vimaladitya, the succession is not peaceful.

Usurpation: Vijayaditya immediately seizes the throne of Vengi.

The Deposed Heir: The legitimate heir, Rajaraja Narendra, is forced to flee and appeal for aid.



Powerful Alliance: He does not act alone. He is aided by Jayasimha II, the formidable king of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyani.

An Appeal to the Empire's Greatest Tactician



Key Figure: Rajaraja Narendra turns to his maternal uncle and overlord, the Imperial Chola Emperor **Rajendra Chola I**.

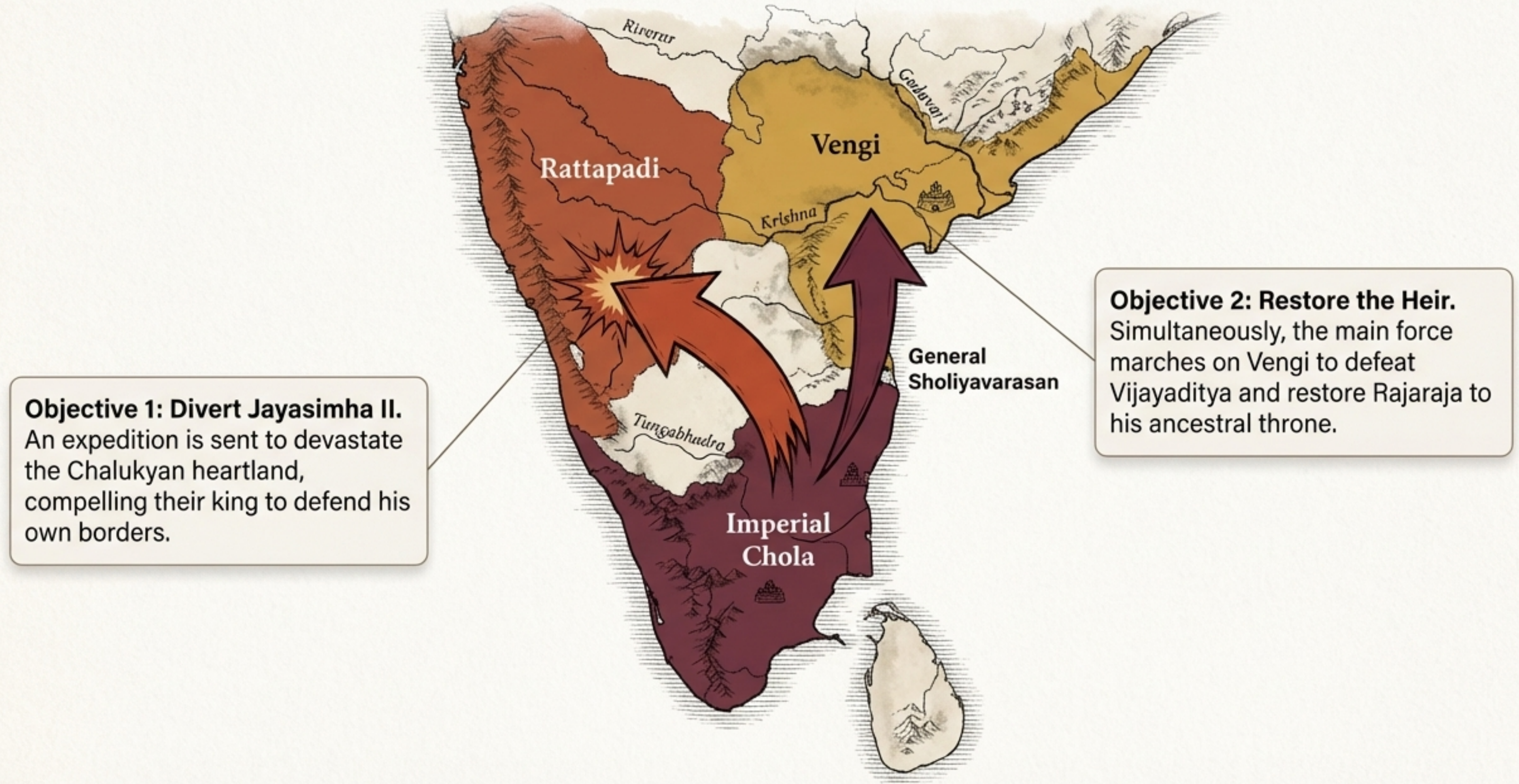
Profile:

- Hailed as an “even greater warrior than his father, Rajaraja.”
- Renowned not just for his might, but as a “brilliant tactician.”

The Stakes:

The Chola empire cannot allow its rival, the Western Chalukyas, to install a puppet king in the strategically vital Vengi kingdom. Rajendra Chola’s intervention is now inevitable.

The Chola Gambit: A Two-Front War



Initial Success: The Chola Army Advances

Commander: The Vengi campaign is led by the Chola general, **Sholiyavarasan**.

Outcome: The strategy is "eminently successful."

- * General Sholiyavarasan defeats Vijayaditya and his allies in several decisive battles.
- * With Vengi seemingly secured, the victorious general continues his campaign, embarking on a major expedition onnht forit again into the Gangetic valley.



A New Threat From The Rear

The Problem: The main Chola army's departure for the Gangetic campaign creates a power vacuum.

The Uprising: The **Utkalas** (a kingdom previously defeated by the Cholas) rise in rebellion.

The Hidden Hand: The source suggests this uprising was "probably incited by Jayasimha II," indicating a Western Chalukyan counter-move.

The Strategic Danger: The Utkala rebellion threatens the rear and the lines of communication of the Chola army campaigning far to the north.



The Emperor Takes The Field

Direct Intervention: To protect his northern army and crush the rebellion, **Rajendra Chola** himself marches north.

Strategic Command Post: He establishes a **fortified camp** on the banks of the **Godavari river**, creating a forward base of operations.

His Plan:

- Dispatch troops from his position to “chastise the Utkalas.”
- Secure the region and await the safe return of his general from the Gangetic valley.



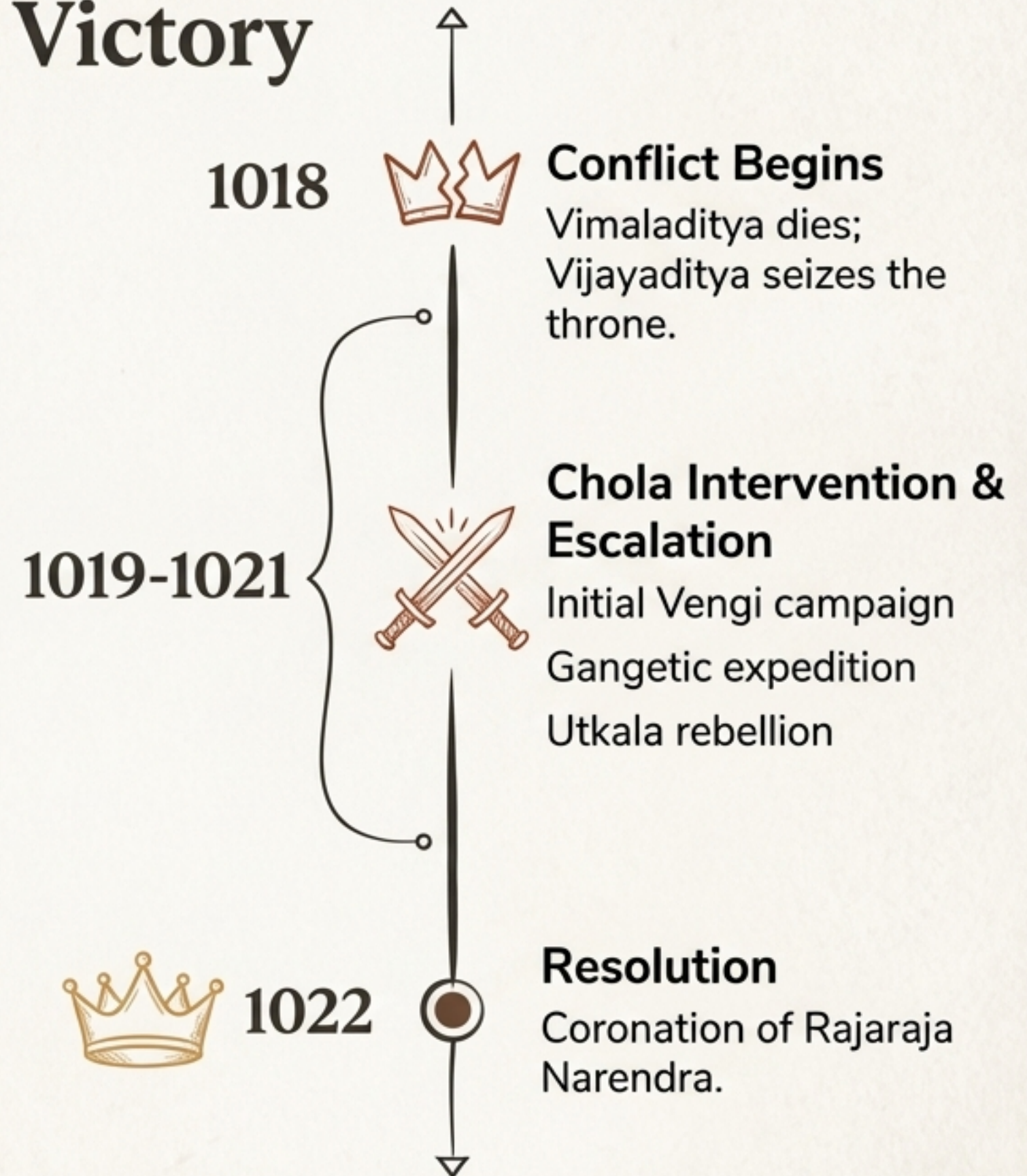
Three Years of War, A Decisive Victory

The Final Campaign: From his Godavari encampment, Rajendra Chola orchestrates the final phase of the war.

Duration: The entire conflict, from the death of Vimaladitya to the final restoration of order, lasts for three years (1018-1021).

Outcome: Rajendra Chola ultimately succeeds in “putting down the disturbances” and restoring “peace and order in Vengi.”

Joining Forces: The victorious army from the Gangetic campaign successfully returns and joins the Emperor’s main force on the Godavari.

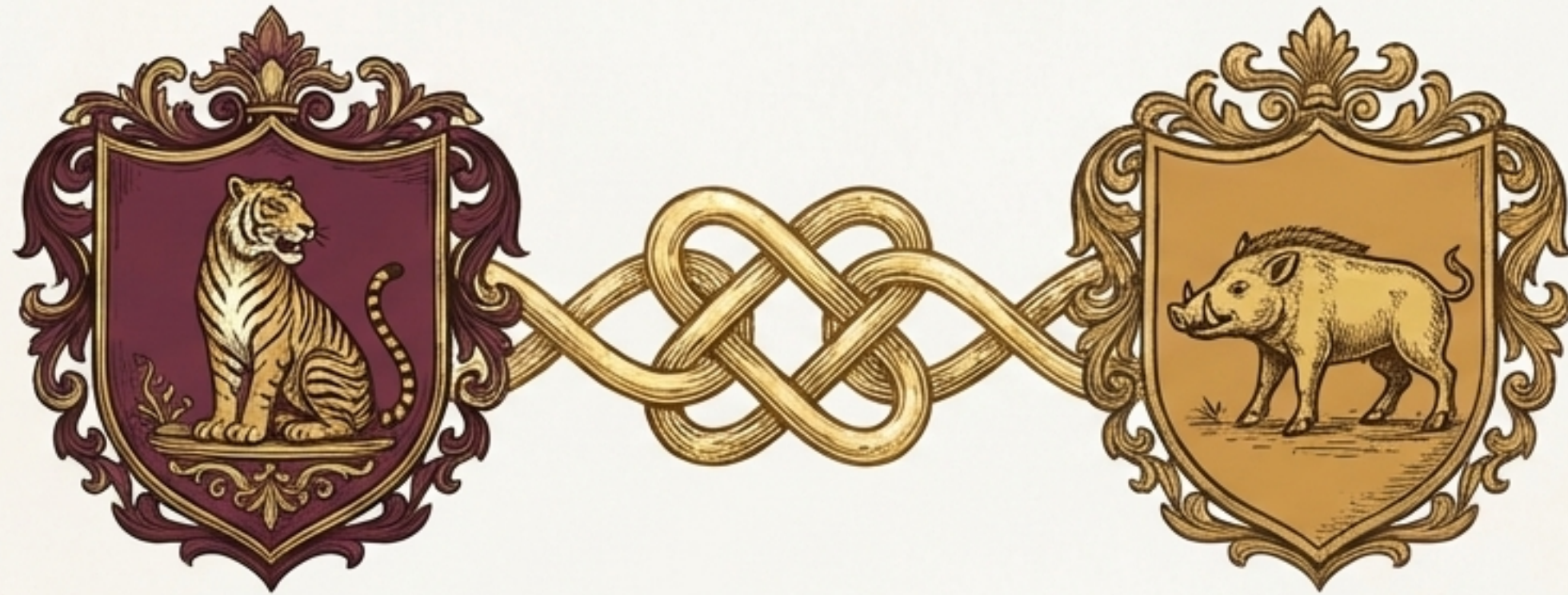


The Coronation on the Godavari



- ❖ **The Event:** During his sojourn on the banks of the Godavari, Rajendra Chola personally enthrones his nephew as the ruler of Vengi.
- ❖ **Date:** The coronation of Rajaraja Narendra is celebrated on **16th August, 1022 AD.**
- ❖ **Significance:** The event is conducted with 'pomp and pageantry,' a deliberate display of Chola power meant to solidify their authority over the region.

Securing The Peace: A Strategic Marriage



The Final Move: To bind the newly restored Vengi kingdom firmly to the Chola empire, Rajendra Chola gives his own daughter, **Ammangai**, in marriage to his nephew, the new king Rajaraja Narendra.

The Strategy: This dynastic alliance ensures that the future rulers of Vengi will have Chola blood, making the kingdom a loyal and integrated part of the Chola sphere of influence. Military conquest is reinforced by a bond of blood.

The New Order: Vengi, A Chola Protectorate

- ❖ The three-year war for the Vengi throne concludes with a total Chola victory.
- ❖ Rajaraja Narendra, the Chola-backed heir, is securely installed as king.
- ❖ The ambitions of Vijayaditya and his Western Chalukyan patrons are decisively thwarted.
- ❖ Rajendra Chola returns home with his victorious armies, having fundamentally reshaped the political landscape.

The **Vengi** succession crisis serves as a masterclass in imperial statecraft, where brilliant military strategy and shrewd dynastic politics were combined to turn a threat into an opportunity.

