

P3

Folk Tale from Kerala

Guide: Prof Shilpa Ranade

Introduction

This is one of the tales in a collection called 'Aithiyamaala'.

Re-telling the story of rivalry between King Samoothiri of Kozhikode kingdom and King Kolathiri of Kolathunadu kingdom(northern part of the present day Kerala state), packed in humour.

Story

Before the advent of the British, the Samoodiri (origin: Samoodrathiri meaning the overlord of the oceans) Raja of Kozhikode (Zamorin of Calicut) used to rule over the Malabar coast of Kerala.

The kingdom of Calicut was the most powerful one in North-Central Kerala with trade ties with countries across the seas. The smaller states surrounding his kingdom accepted his suzerainty. However Kolathiri of Kolathanadu had a long standing feud with the Samoodiri.

Once when Kolathiri was paying a visit to Samoodiri, Samoodiri asked him

‘Kolathiri kathumo?’ Will Kolathiri burn? (thiri means wick).

Kolathiri asked him in return

‘Sa moori kuthumo?’ Will the bull sting? (moori means bull).

To which Samoodiri replied

‘Kolathiri kathiyaal samoori kuthum’ (If Kolathiri burns then Samoodiri will sting).

A few days later Samoodiri received an exquisitely carved treasure chest as a gift from Kolathiri. Now the minister who was present during the meeting of the kings, remembered the conversation and advised the guards to dip the chest in water before opening it.

When they opened it was found to be full of now wet gunpowder explosives which would have gone off.

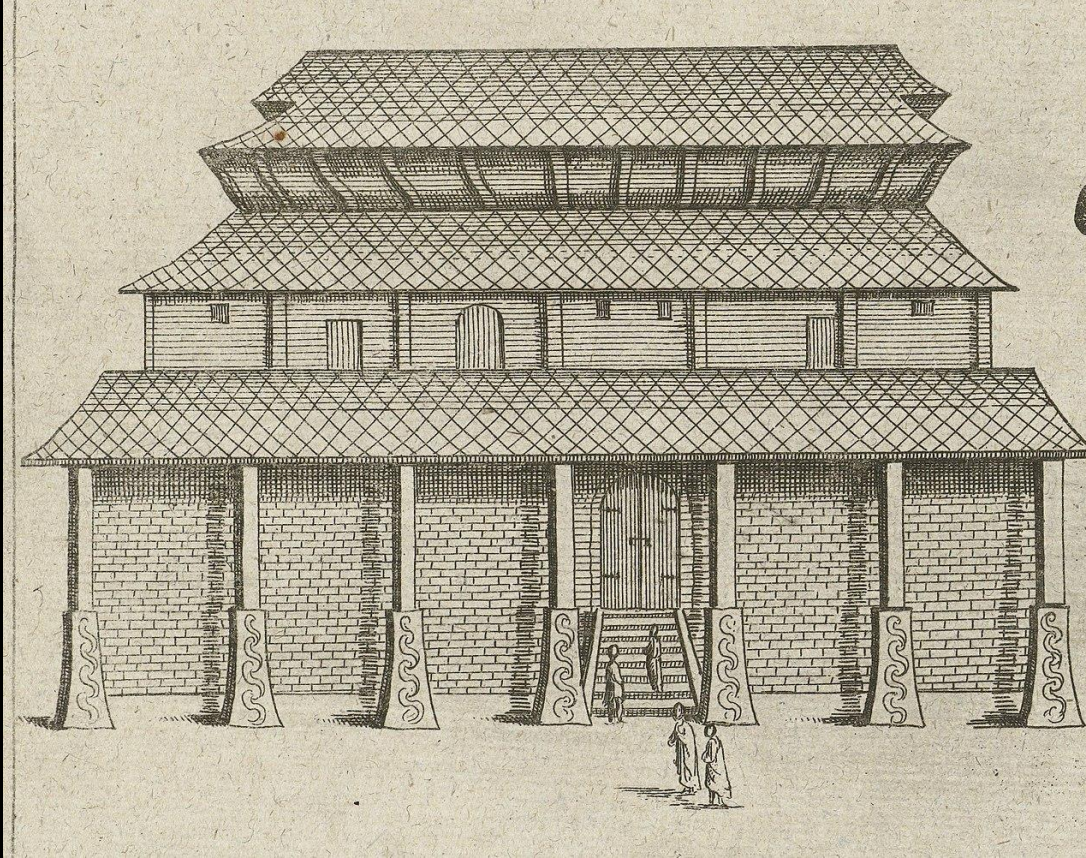
In return Samoodiri ordered a gift to be sent to Kolathiri on the advice of the minister. News of how the minister saved Samoodiri's life had reached Kolathanadu.

On receiving the gift Kolathiri's Prime Minister decided to imitate Samoothiri's minister and ordered the casket to be immersed in water. On opening, a swarm of bees emerged, extremely annoyed at being wet and stung Kolathiri and his courtiers hard.

Research



12th century map of Kerala



King Samoothiri's Palace, Kozhikode
(17th century – from Dutch archives)



King Samoothiri(1495-1500)
painted by Veloso Salgado in 1898



Kozhikode port – 16th century



Padmanabhapuram Palace



Padmanabhapuram Palace

References

BATTLESHIPS ARRIVE TOMORROW...
THE LEGEND OF URUMI BEGINS...

AUGUST CINEMA PRESENTS

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A SANTOSH SIVAN FILM URUMI

The boy who wanted to kill Vasco Da Gama

സന്തോഷ് ശിവൻ ജാലീനേശ്വർ പുയിരാജ് സുകുമാരൻ ശങ്കർ രാജകൃഷ്ണൻ
ആസ്സൽ വിജിത്







KERALA VARMA

Pazhassiraja

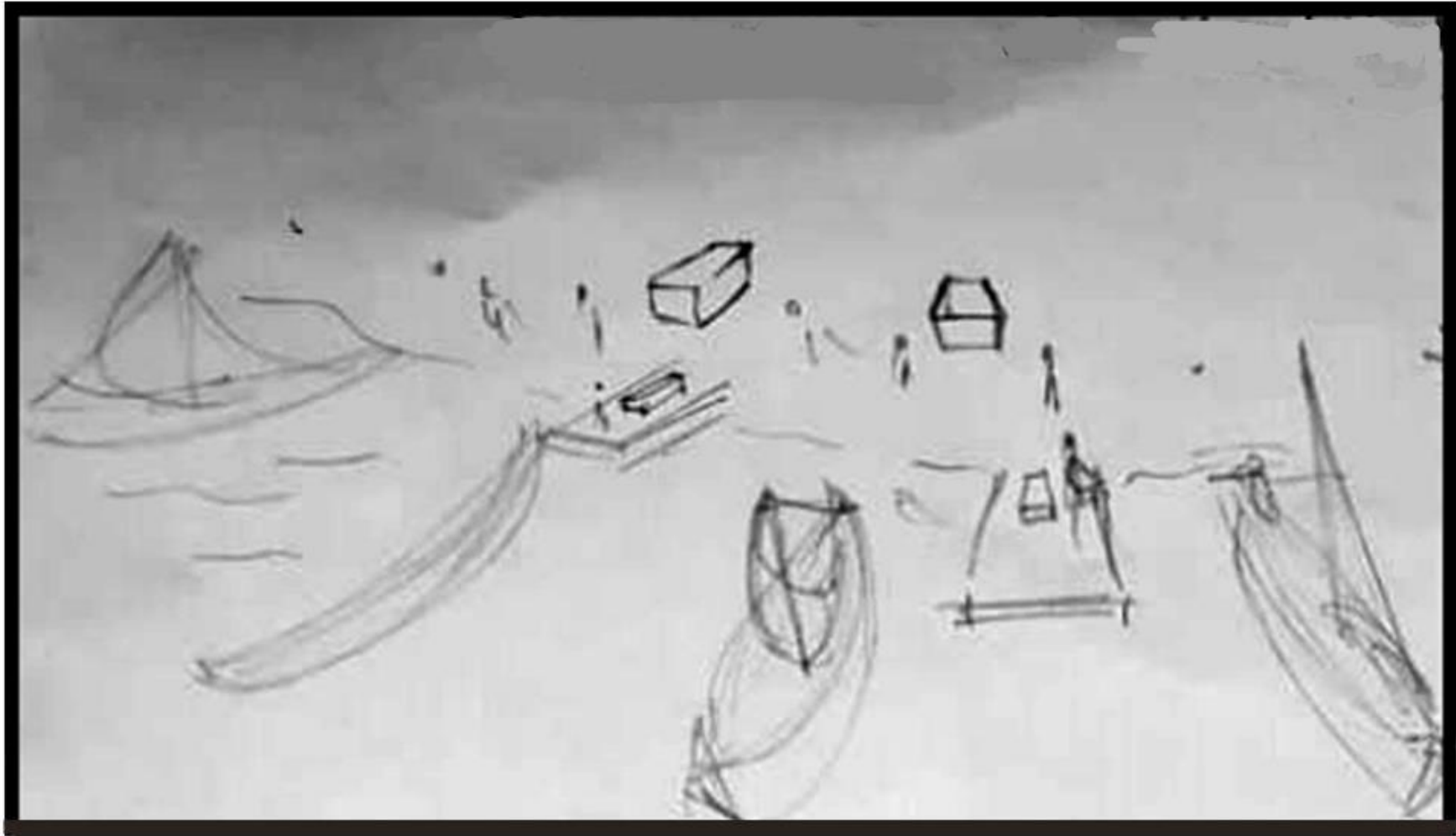
A FILM BY HARIHARAN





Story Board

SCENE 1



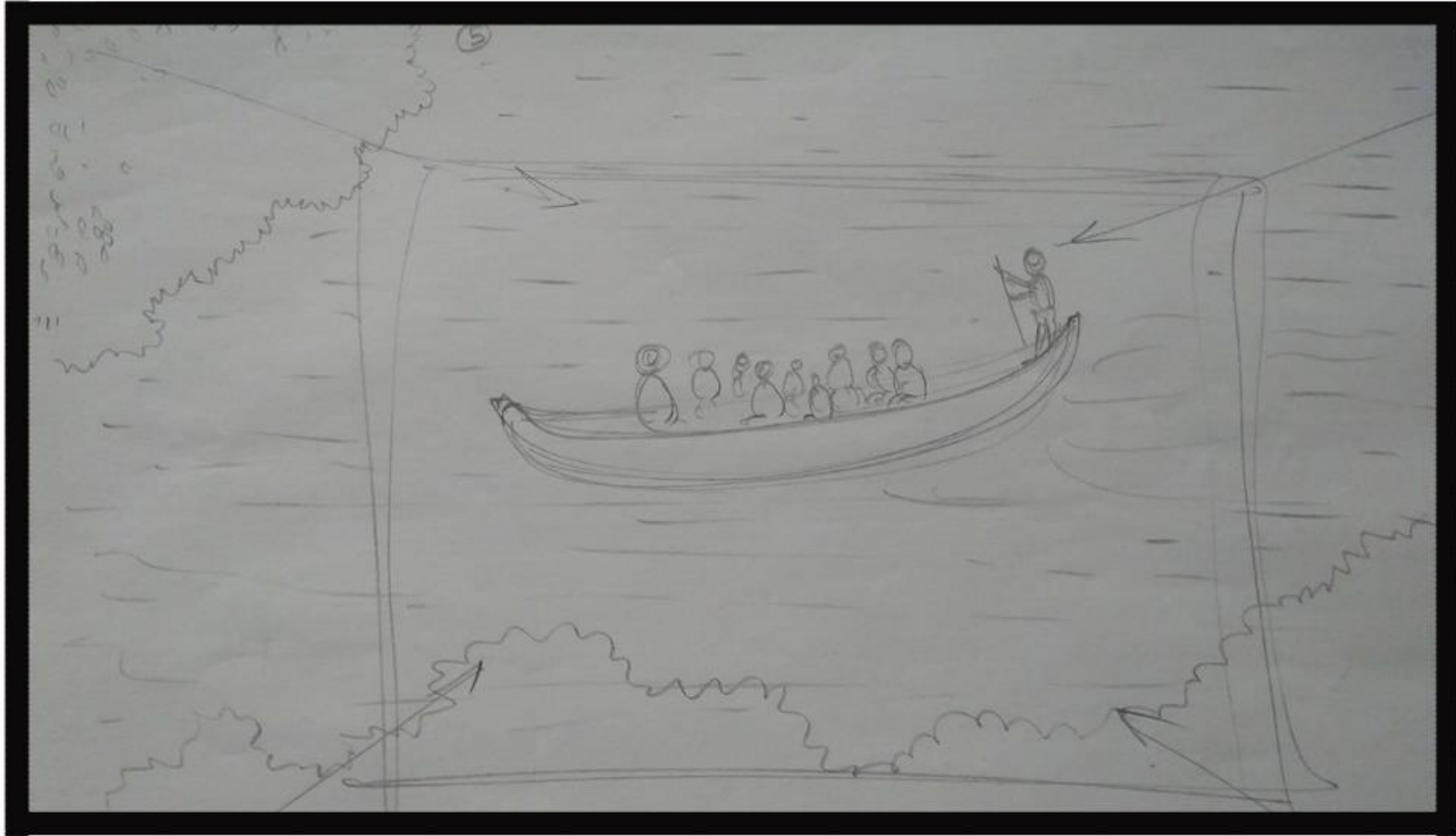
Shot 1: Establishing shot - The busy port of the erstwhile Kozhikode kingdom(later medeival period)

SCENE 1



Shot 2: Long shot - The busy streets of the market(Kozhikode Bazar)

SCENE 1



Shot 3: Establishing shot. Zoom-in to a ferry boat with passengers and a boatman, crossing a river

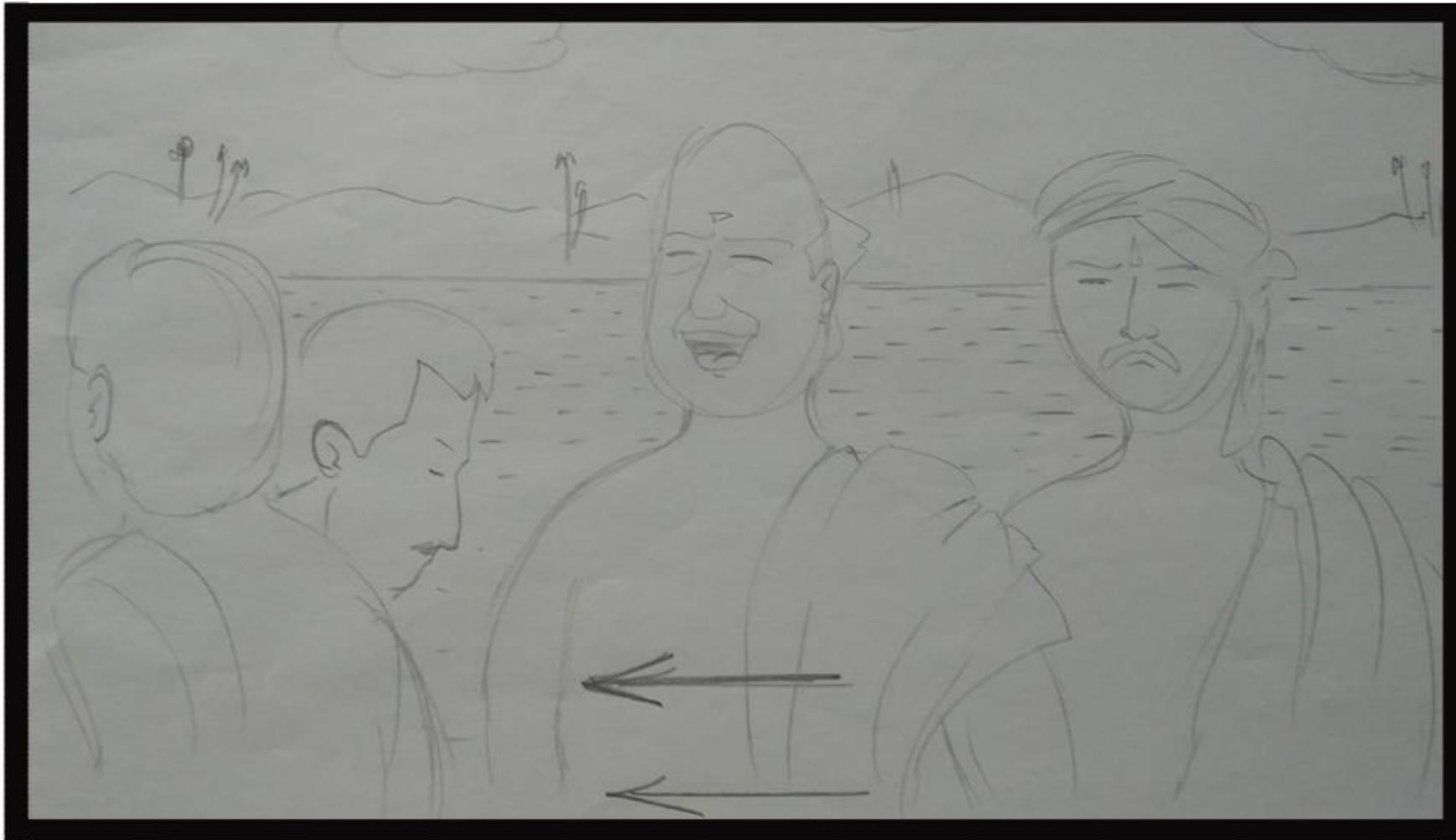
SCENE 1



Shot 4: Medium shot.

Dialogue(Passenger 1): “Hey friends... Today the king Kolathiri raja of Kolathunadu kingdom is visiting our kingdom. Right now he must be on his way to Samoori raja’s palace.”

SCENE 1



Shot 5: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Passenger 2(outside the frame): "Oh... Really? But they are rivals of each other, right?"

Passenger 1(laughing): "Yes, but they visit each others' places once in a while. Something funny will happen today for sure. Let's wait and see!"

SCENE 1



Shot 6: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Boatman(pointing at something far-away): "Hey, look at that!"

SCENE 1



Shot 7: Medium shot.

The passengers suddenly (curiously) looking at the river bank where the boatman just pointed at.

SCENE 1



Shot 8: Long shot.

Zoom-in to the procession on the river bank.

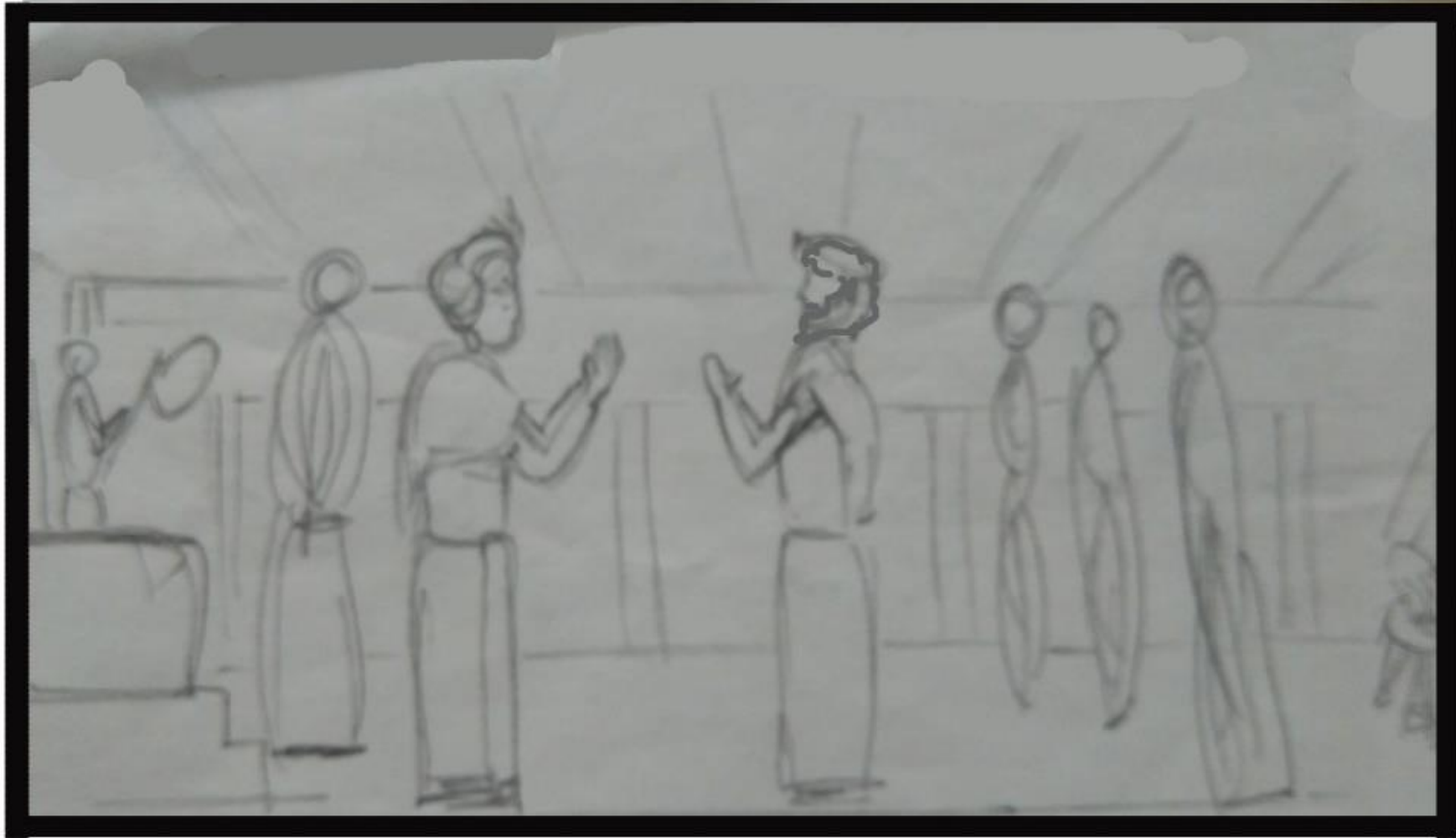
Dialogue - Passenger 1(not in the frame): "Ya, it's them. Kolathiri raja's procession." -End of scene 1

SCENE 2



Shot 1: Establishing shot. Entrance gateway of Samoothiri raja's palace.
Kolathiri raja's procession arriving.

SCENE 2



Shot 3: Full shot. Palace interior- Samoothiri welcoming Kolathiri.

SCENE 2



Shot 4A: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Kolathiri: "Well, your kingdom has developed a lot in the past couple of years. I just can't believe it."

Samoothiri: "Of course, Kozhikode kingdom is the best."

SCENE 2



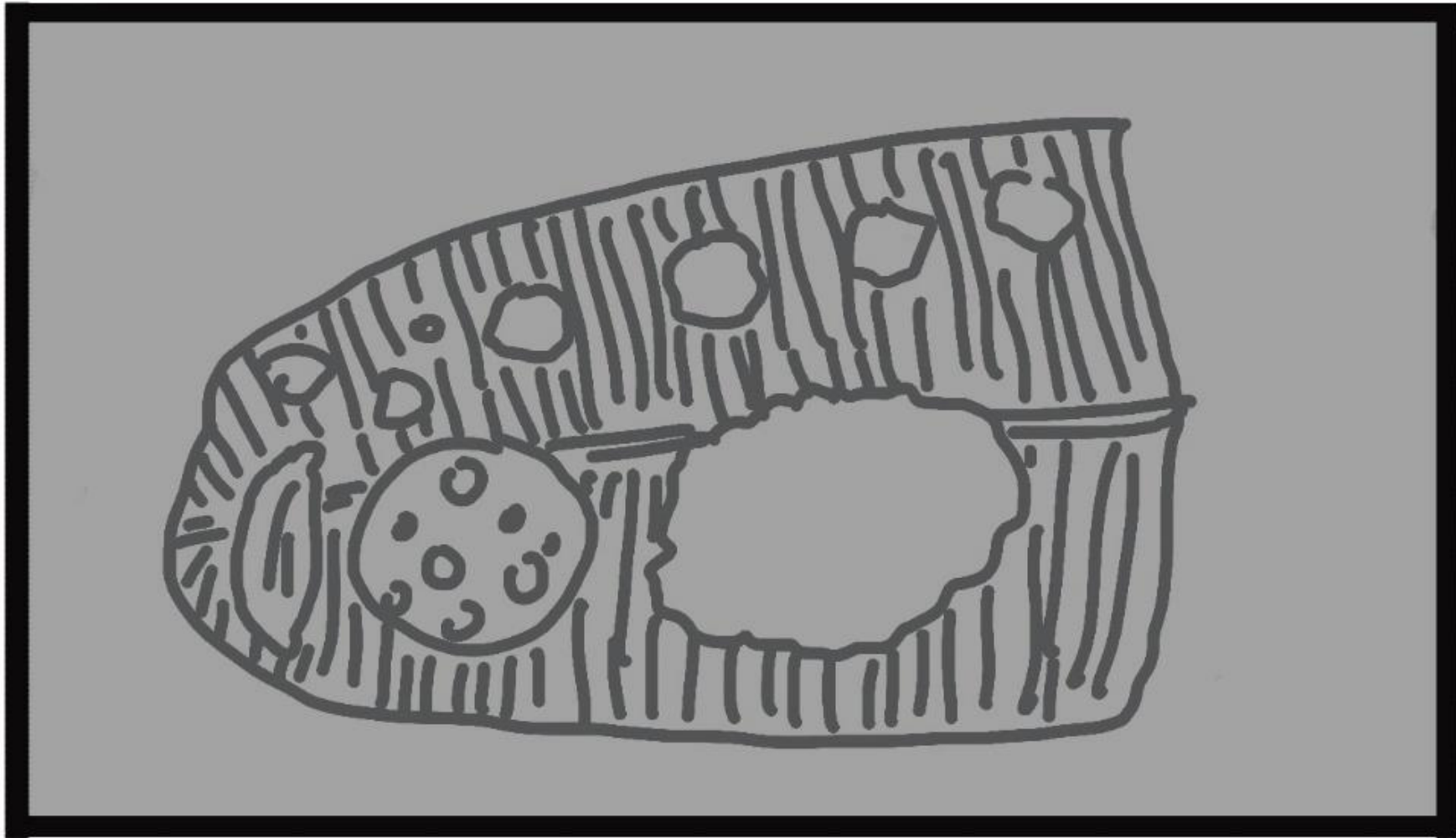
Shot 4B: Close-up shot.

Kolathiri gets offended by Samoothiri's reply.

Dialogue - Samoothiri: "Well, come on... Let's have lunch."

Kolathiri: "Ok."

SCENE 2



Shot 8: Est Top angle(Close-up) shot.
Lunch(Sadya) served on plantain leaf

SCENE 2



Shot 9: Medium shot.

Samoothiri and Kolathiri having lunch(feast) together.

SCENE 2

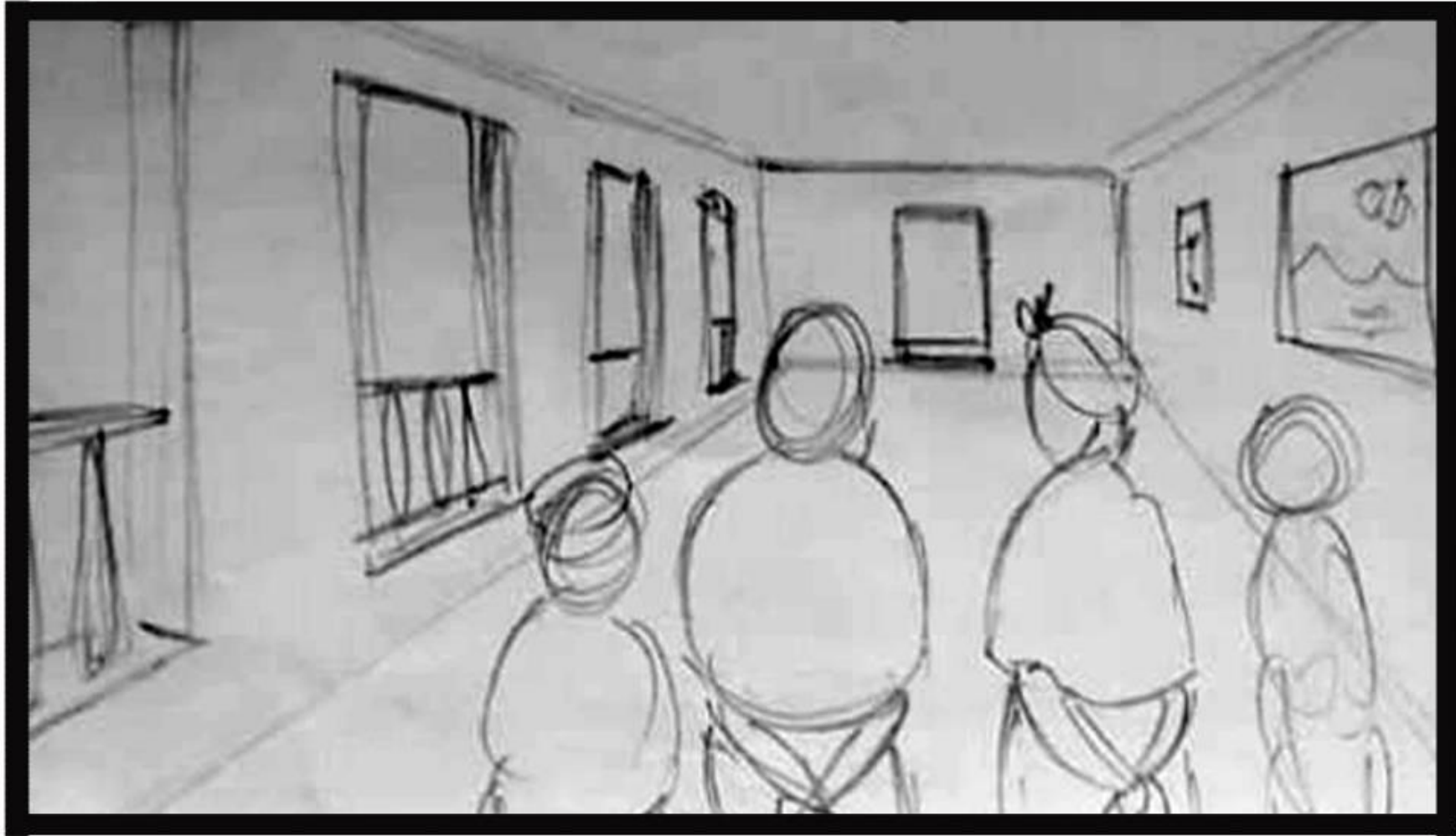


Shot 11: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Kolathiri: "The rice payasam is so delicious."

Samoothiri: "Oh... it's not rice payasam. It's paalada pradhanam, an exclusive dessert item of Kozhikode cuisine."

SCENE 2



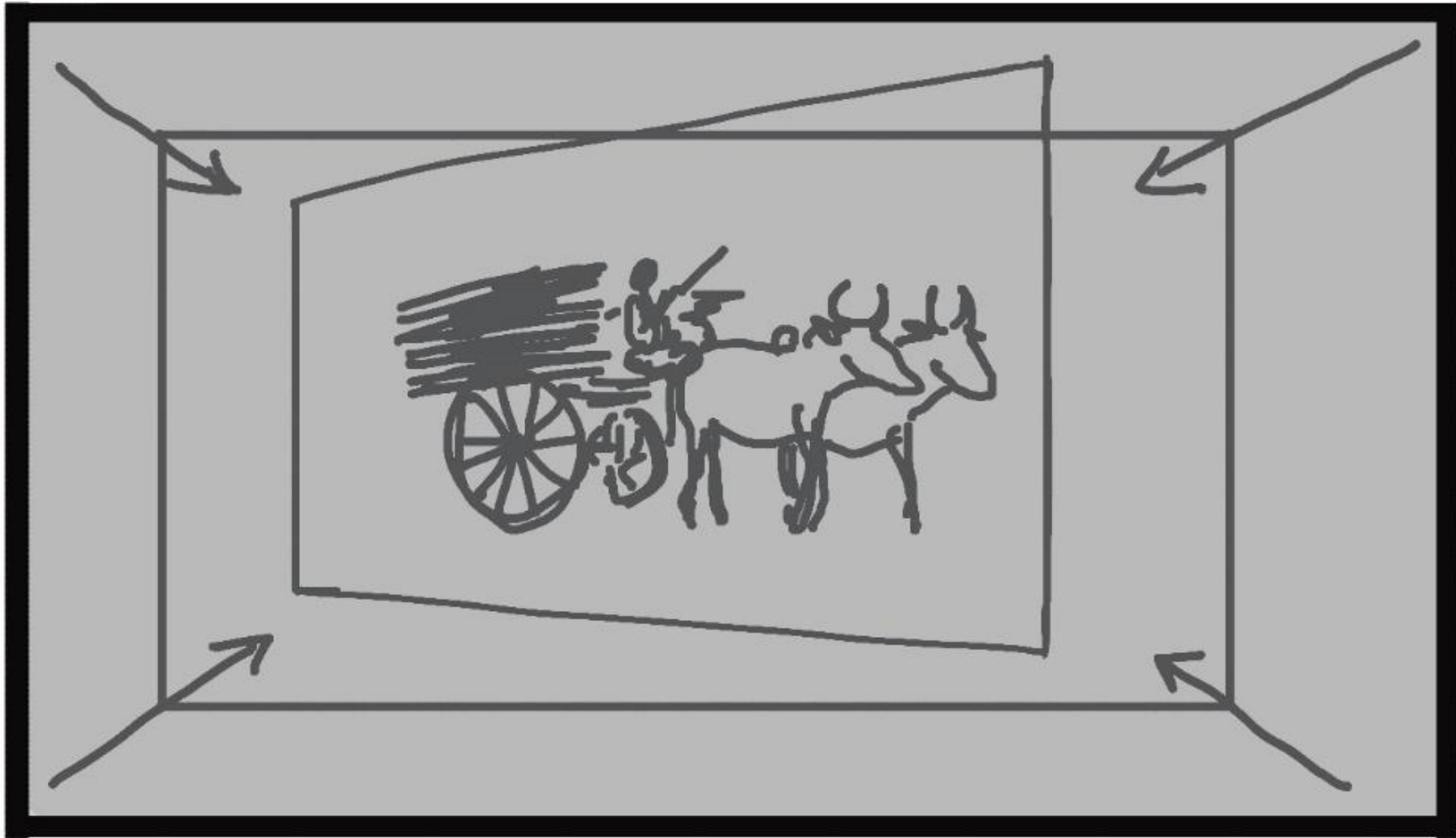
Shot 12:
Samoothiri taking Kolathiri for a walk along the palace corridors.

SCENE 2



Shot 13: Extreme close-up shot
Kolathiri noticing something on the wall

SCENE 2



Shot 14:
Zoom-in to a painting of a bullock-cart on the wall.

SCENE 2



Shot 15: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Kolathiri: "Will Sa-moori(bull) sting?"

SCENE 2



Shot 16: Close-up shot.
Samoothiri's minister's reaction(surprised)

SCENE 2



Shot 17: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Samoothiri: "Will Kola-thiri(wick) burn?"

SCENE 2



Shot 18: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Kolathiri: "Kolathiri might burn. You've to be careful."

SCENE 2



Shot 19: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Samoothiri: "If Kola-thiri burns, then Sa-moori will sting."

SCENE 2



Shot 20: Extreme close-up shot.
Kolathiri's reaction. Zoom-in to Kolathiri's face.
Fade-out. End of scene 2.

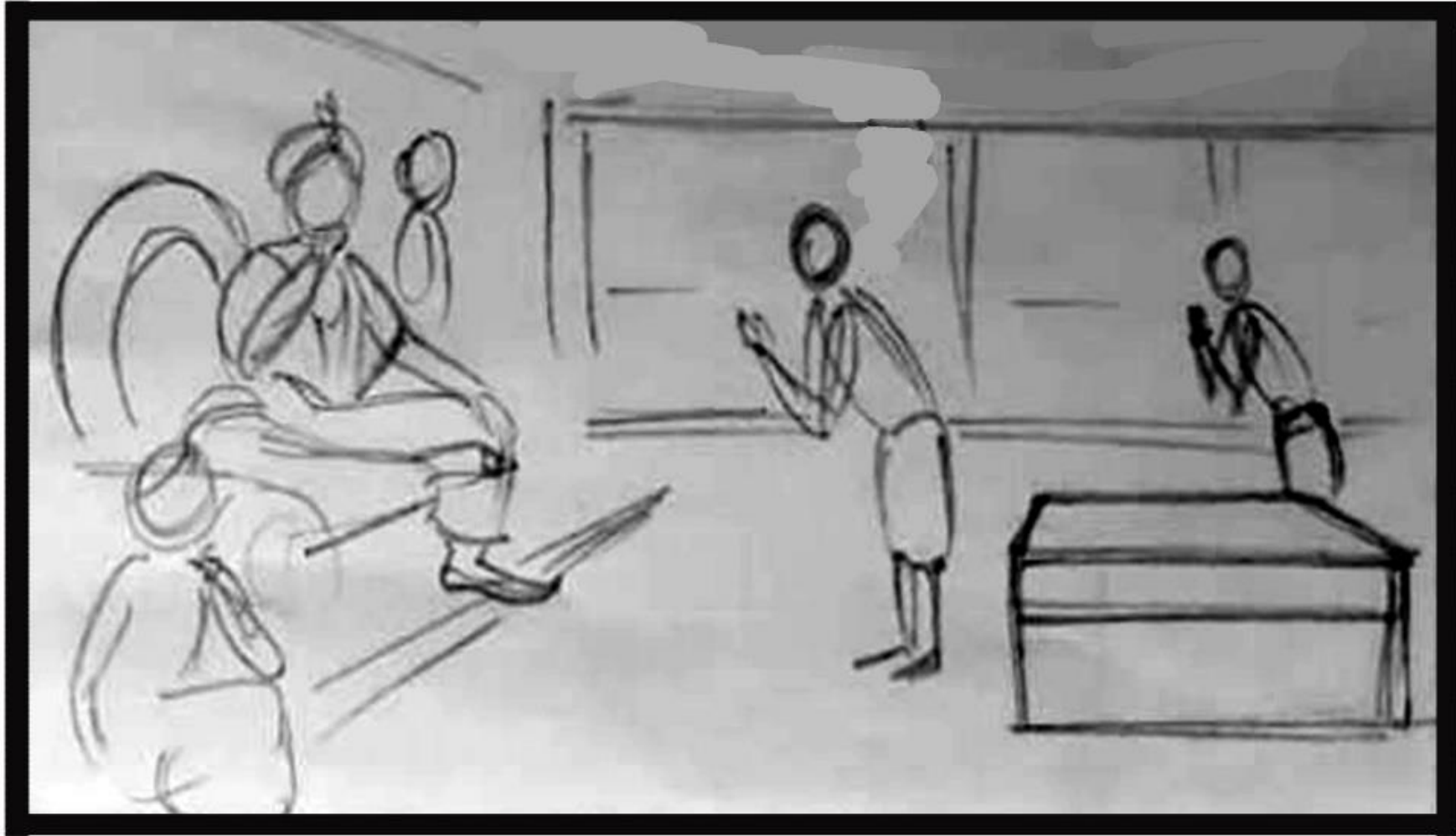
SCENE 3



Shot 1: Establishing shot.

Entrance gateway of Samoothiri's palace. Two men carrying a wooden box(chest) entering the palace.

SCENE 3



Shot 2: Full shot.

Dialogue - Man 1: "Your honour, his highness Kolathiri raja has sent this chest as a gift for you."

SCENE 3



Shot 3: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Samoothiri: "Ok. Open it."

SCENE 3



Shot 4: Extreme close-up shot.
Minister recollecting the kings' conversation.
Sound(VO): "Will Kola-thiri burn?"

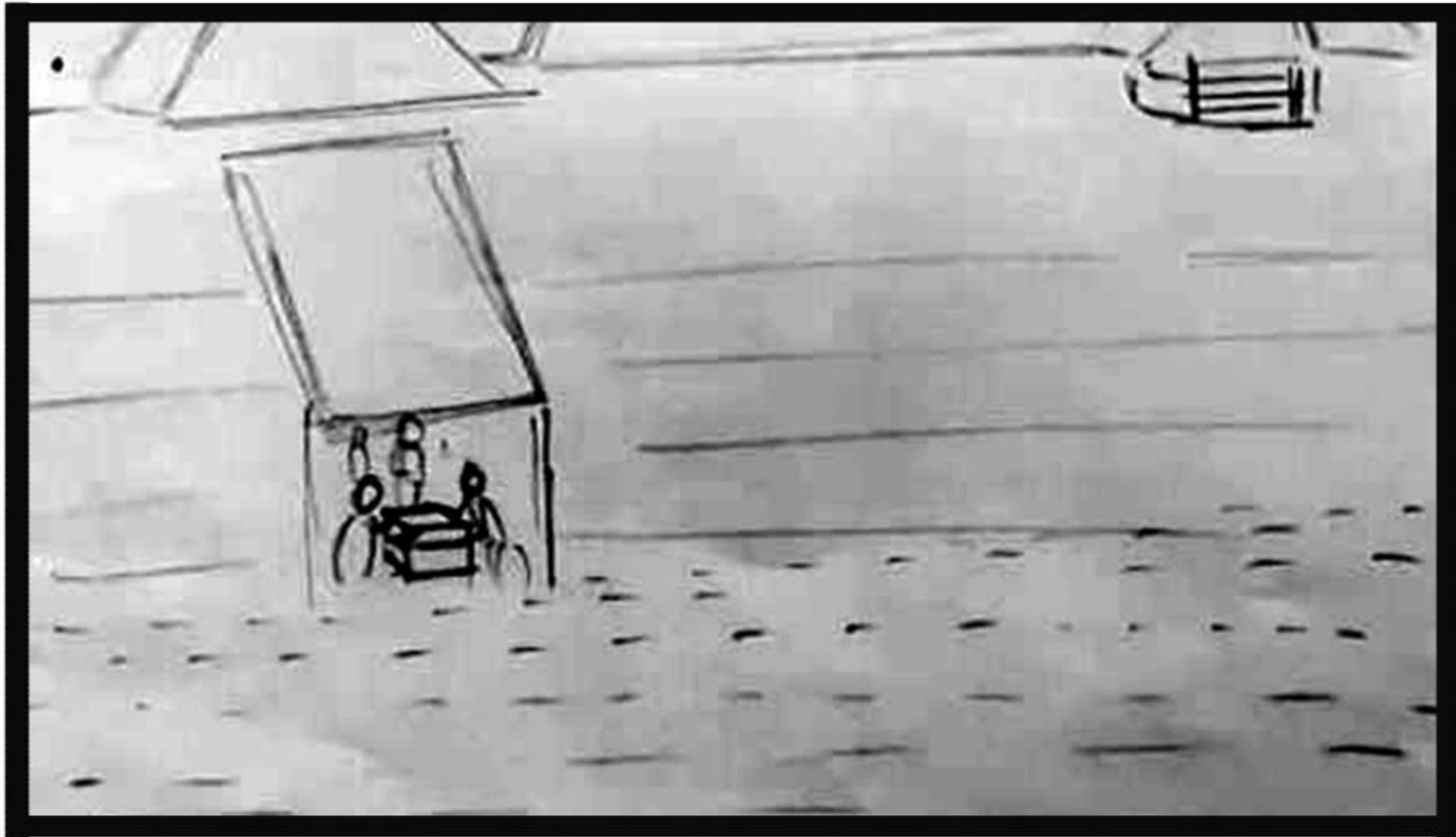
SCENE 3



Shot 5: Extreme close-up shot.

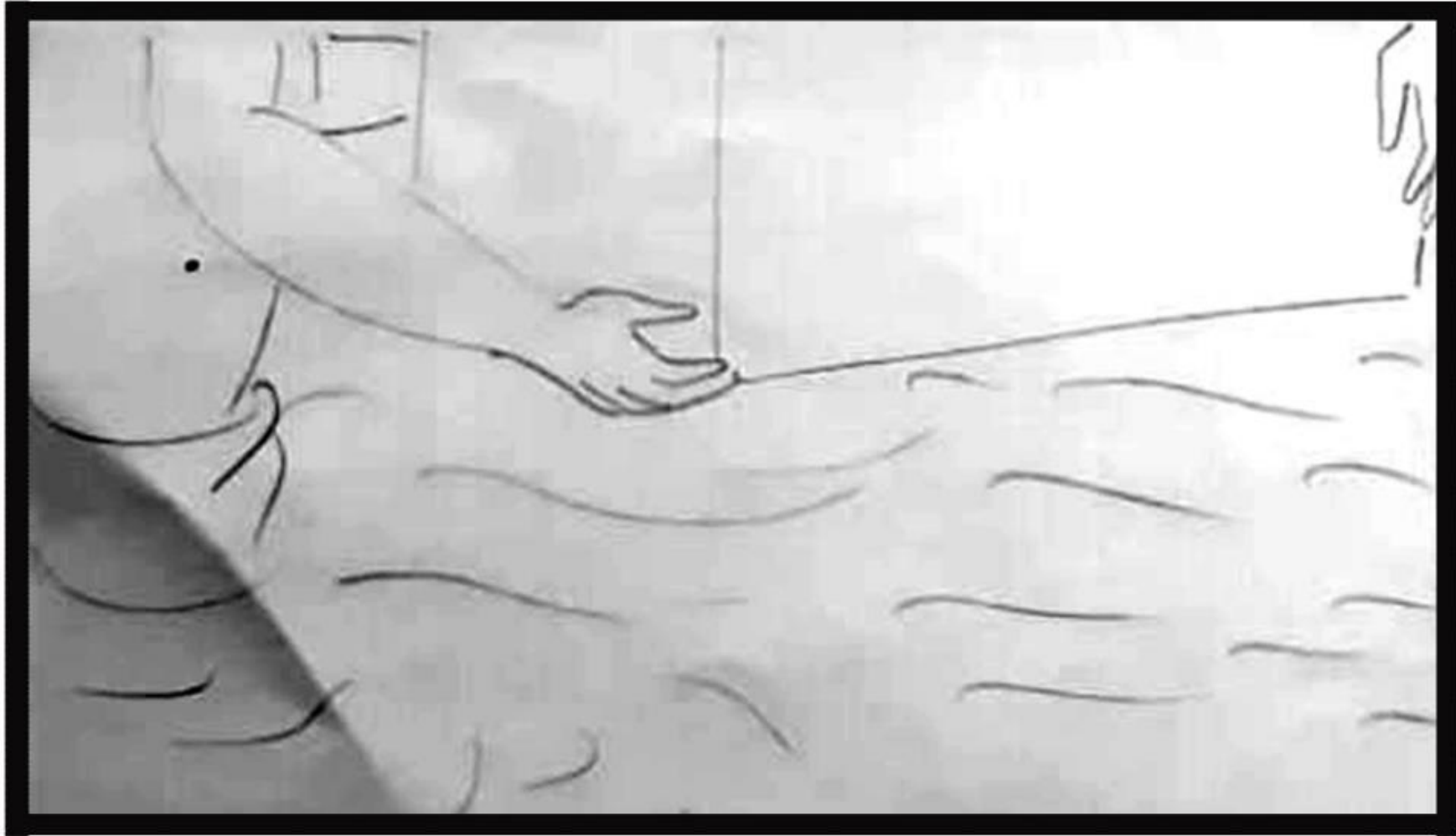
Dialogue - Minister: "My Lord, I sense something wrong. Let's dip the box in water before opening it."

SCENE 3



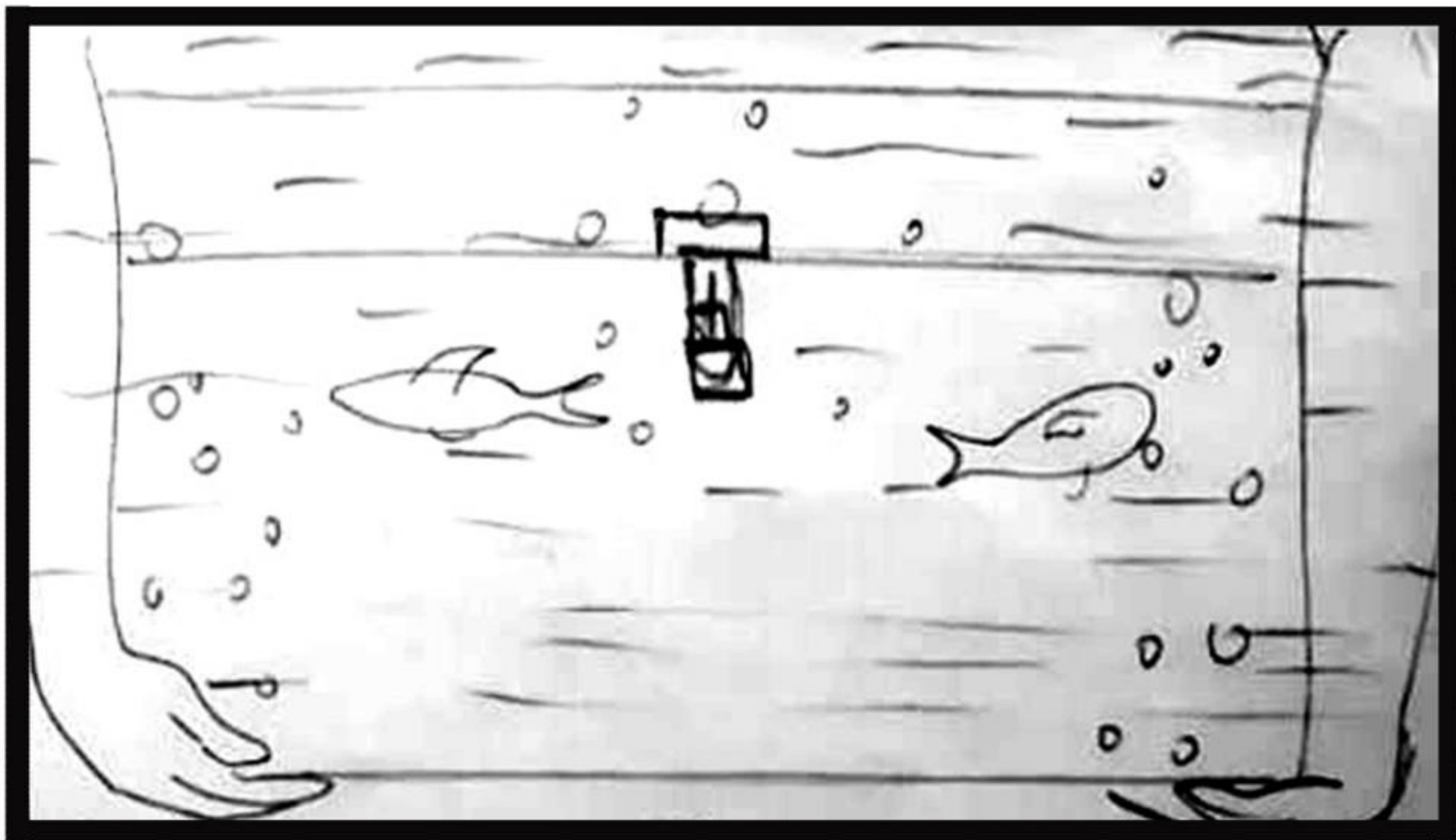
Shot 6: Down shot.
The minster and his men taking the box to the pool.

SCENE 3



Shot 7: Extreme close-up shot.
The box being dipped in water.

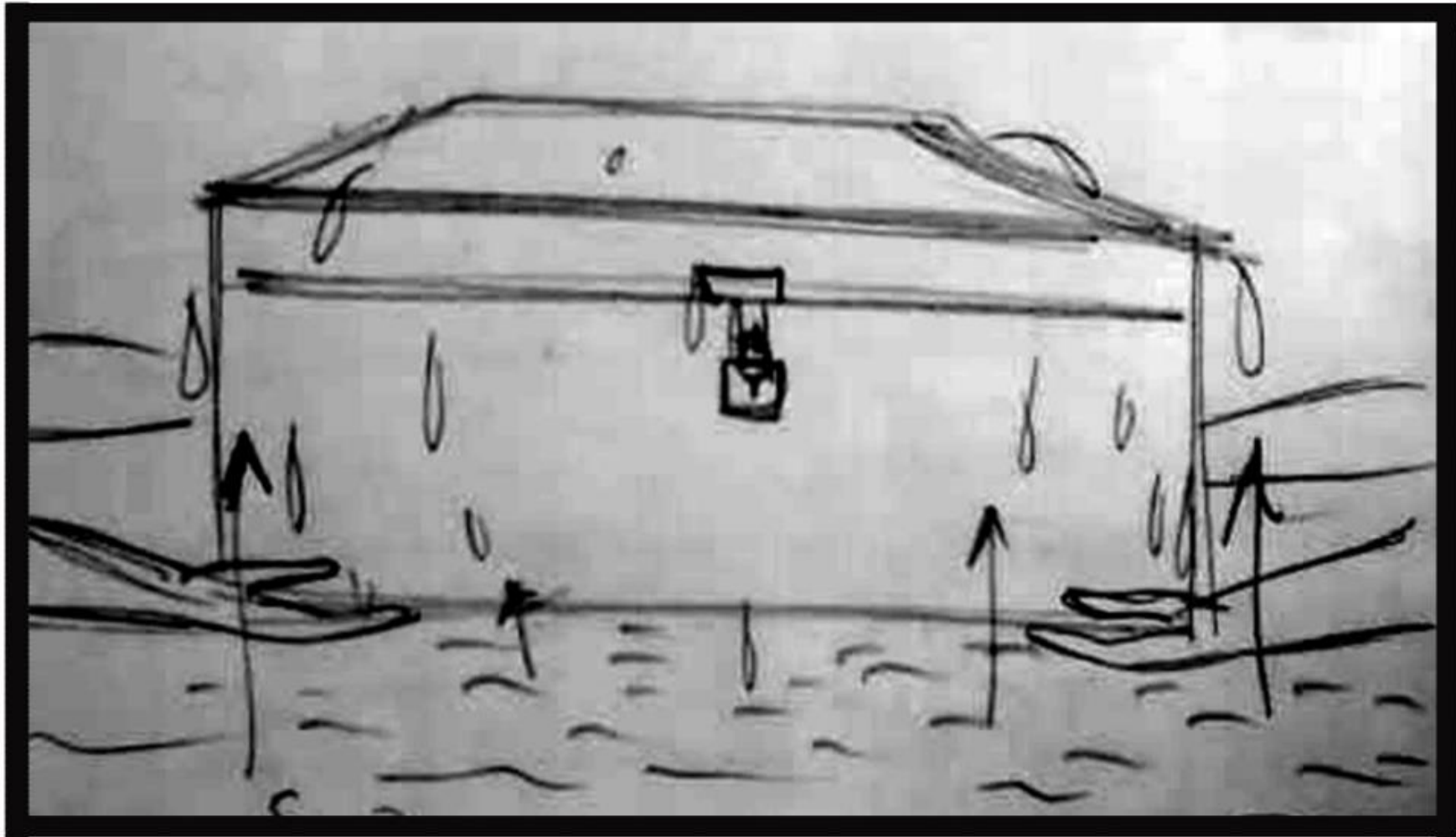
SCENE 3



Shot 8: Close-up shot.

The box under water. Fish visible in the foreground as well as background.

SCENE 3



Shot 9: Close-up shot.
The box being taken out of water.

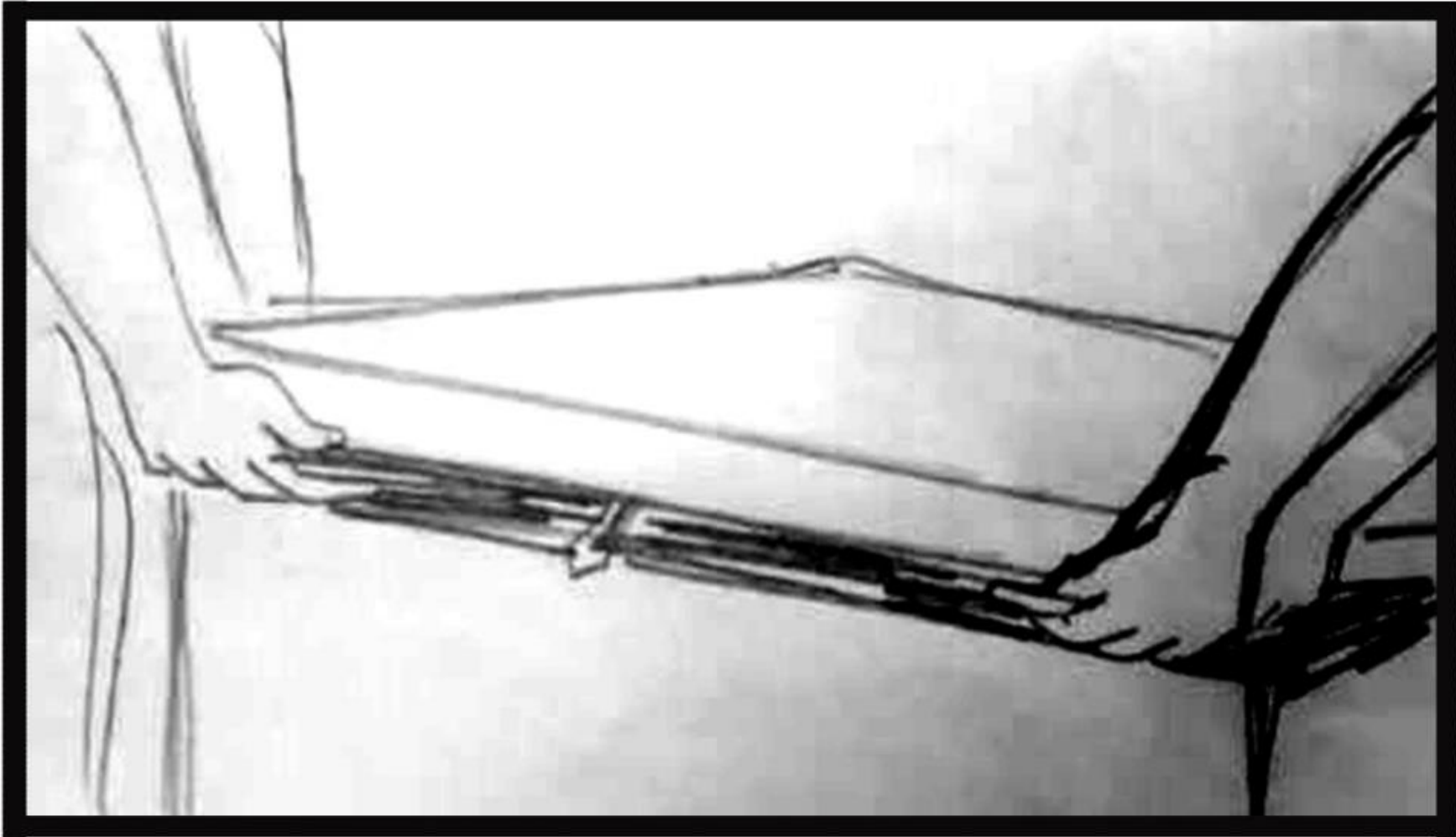
SCENE 3



Shot 10: Medium shot.

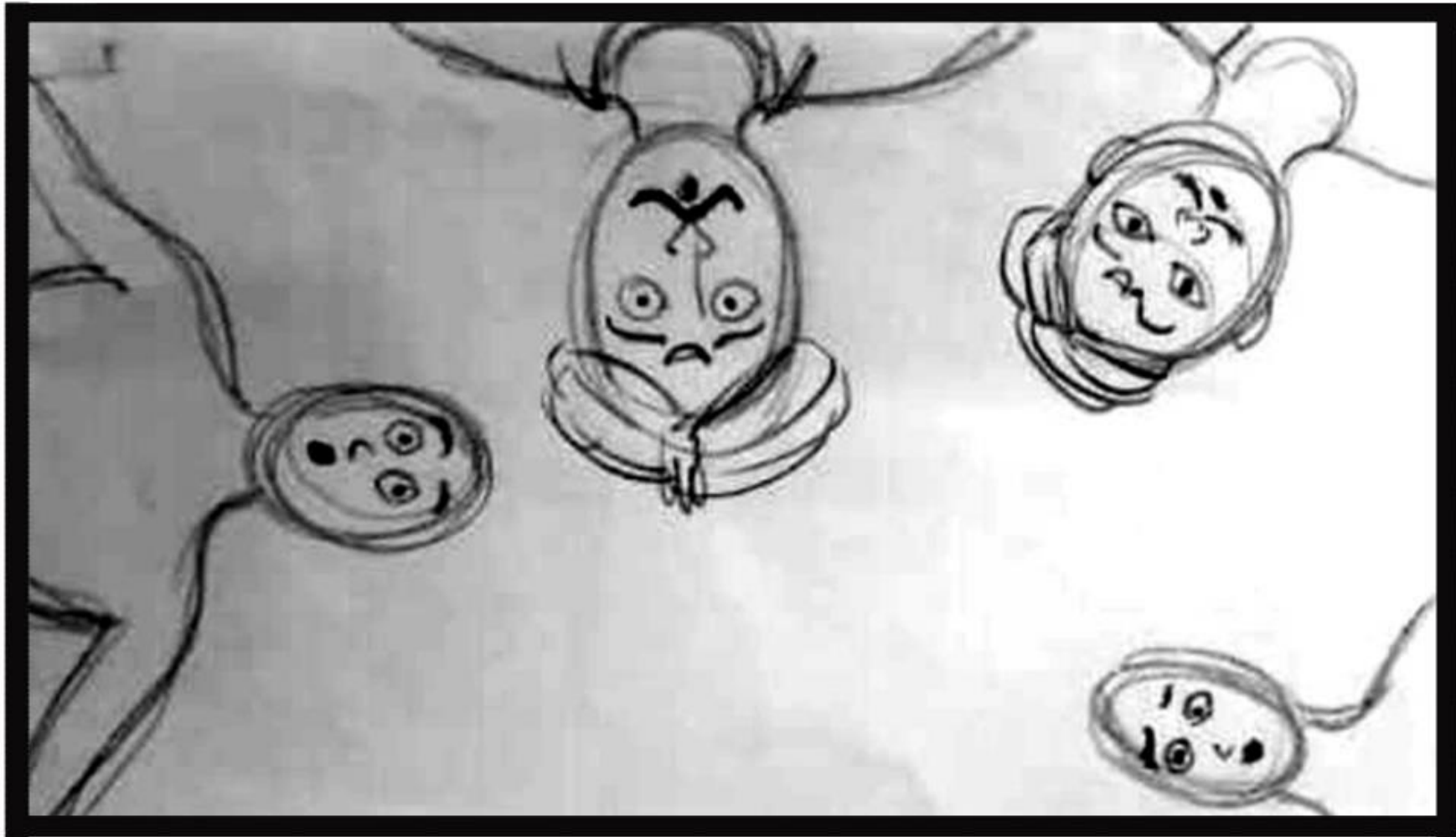
Dialogue - Samoothiri: "Now open it."

SCENE 3



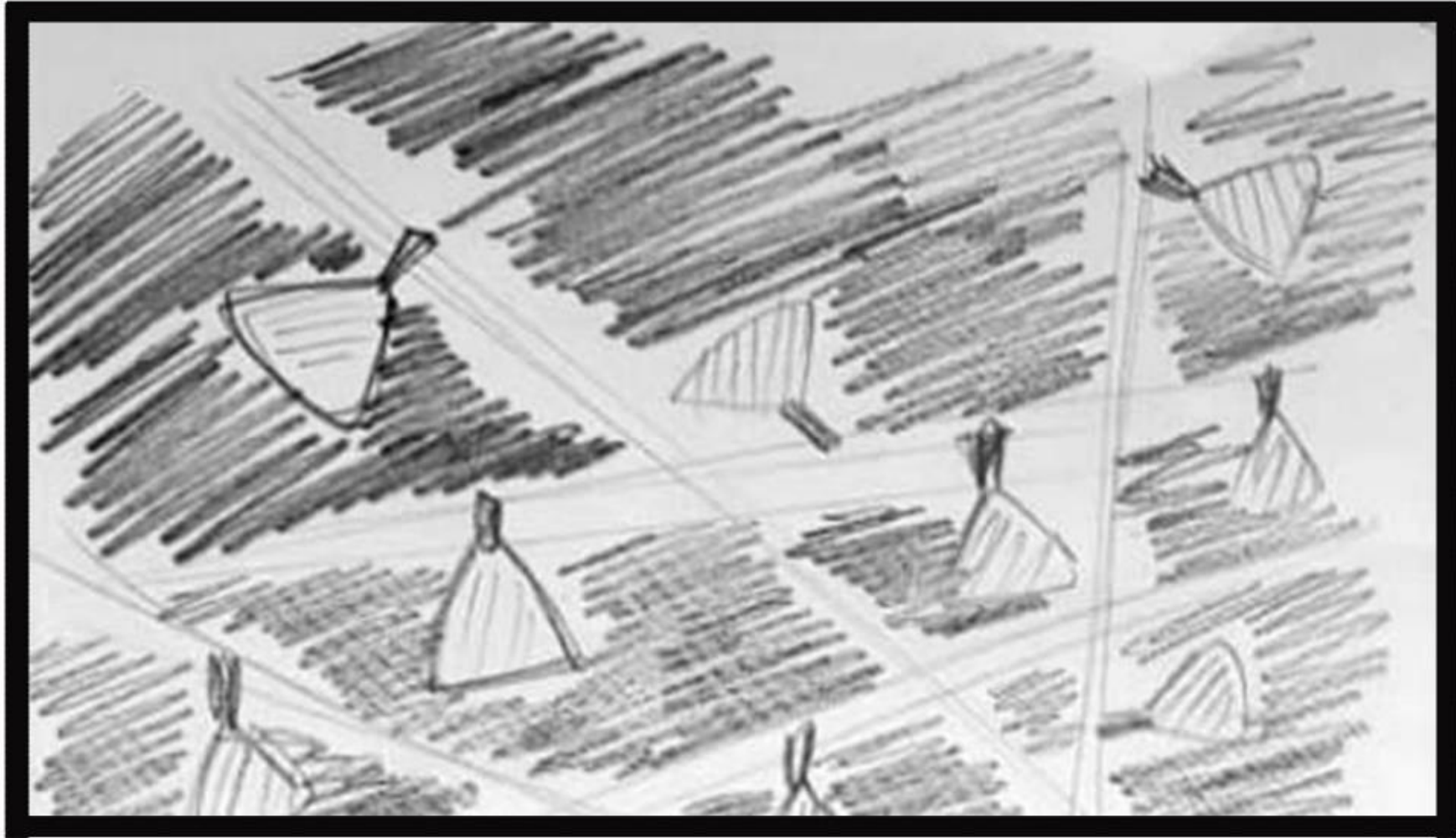
Shot 11: Close-up shot.
The box being opened.

SCENE 3



Shot 12: POV(up) shot.
The men's reaction - All are shocked.

SCENE 3



Shot 13: Close-up shot.

Inside the box - Gun powder set in such a way that it would have gone off, if opened without dipping in water.

Sound - Men: "Oh my god! gun powder!"

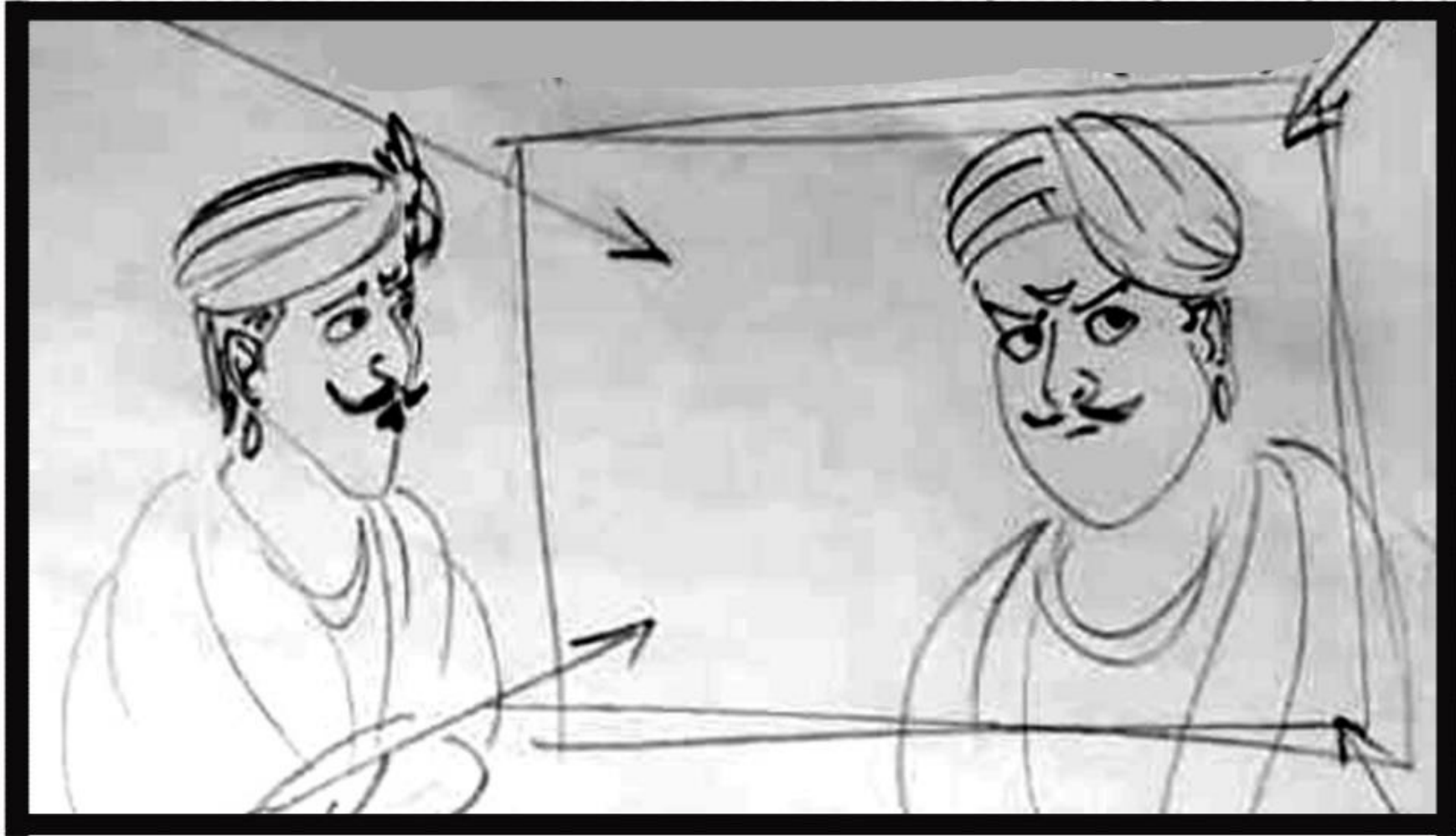
SCENE 3



Shot 14: Medium shot.

Dialogue - Samoothiri: "Oh my god!"

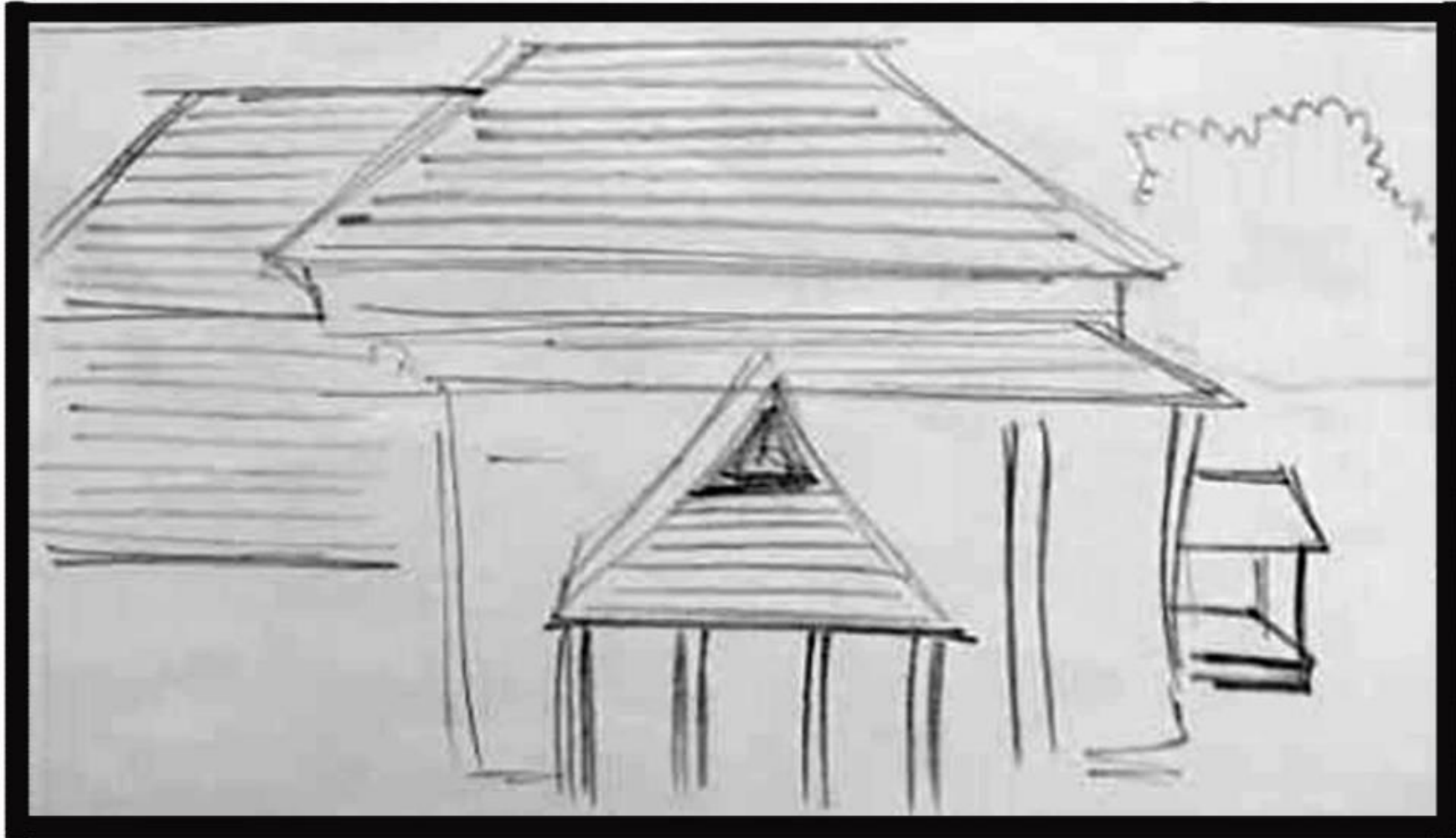
SCENE 3



Shot 15: Close-up shot.

Minister thinking(planning) something. Zoom-in to his face.

SCENE 4



Shot 1: Establishing(down) shot.
Kolathiri's palace, Kolathunadu

SCENE 4

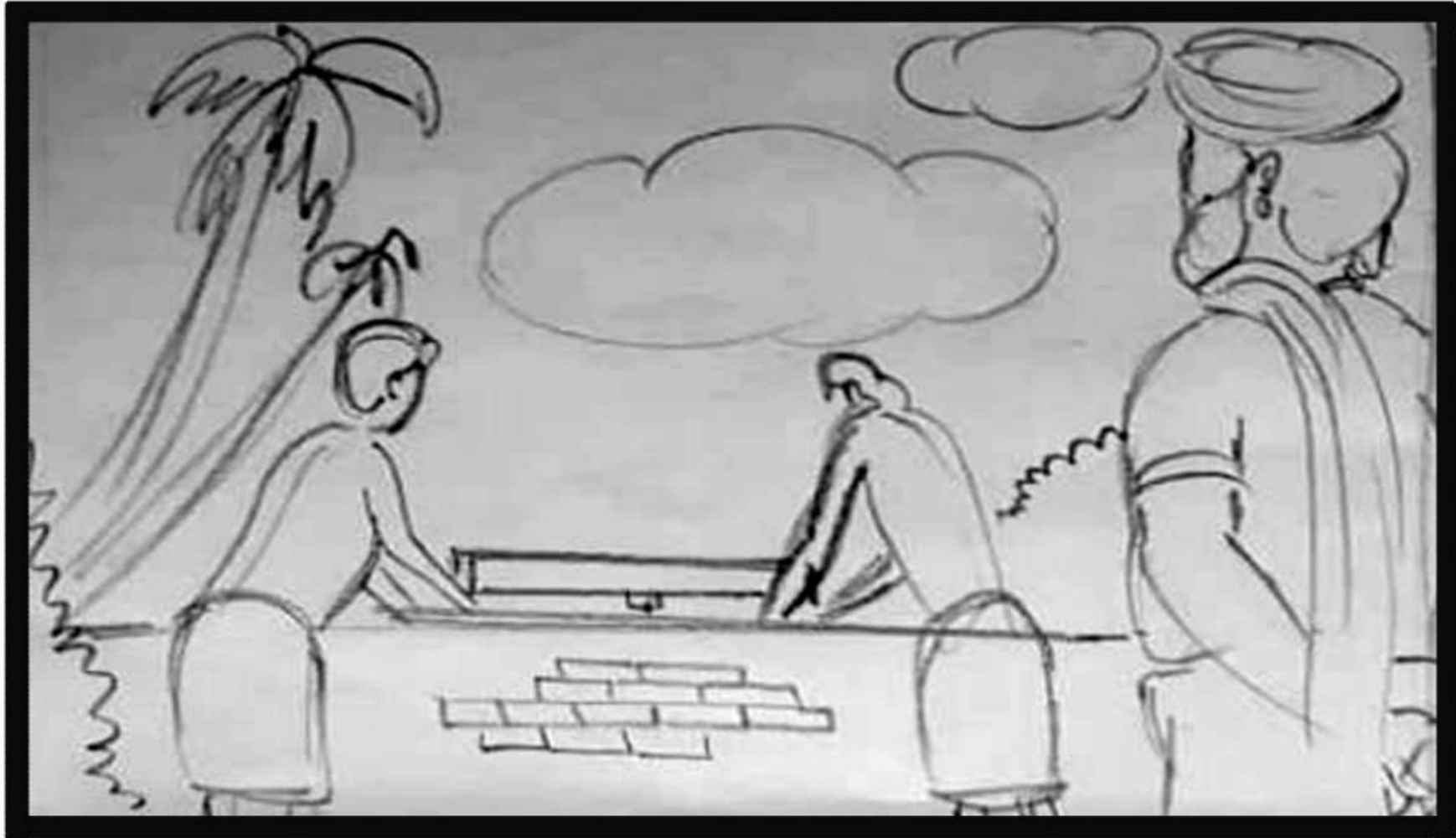


Shot 2: Up shot(medium).

Dialogue - Man1 : “My lord, his highness Samoothiri raja has sent a return gift for you.”

Kolathiri(laughing): “What a fool he is? Applying the same trick on me? Well, let’s dip it in water.”

SCENE 4



Shot 3: Medium shot.

Kolathiri's men dip the box in water in a tank, as he watches on.

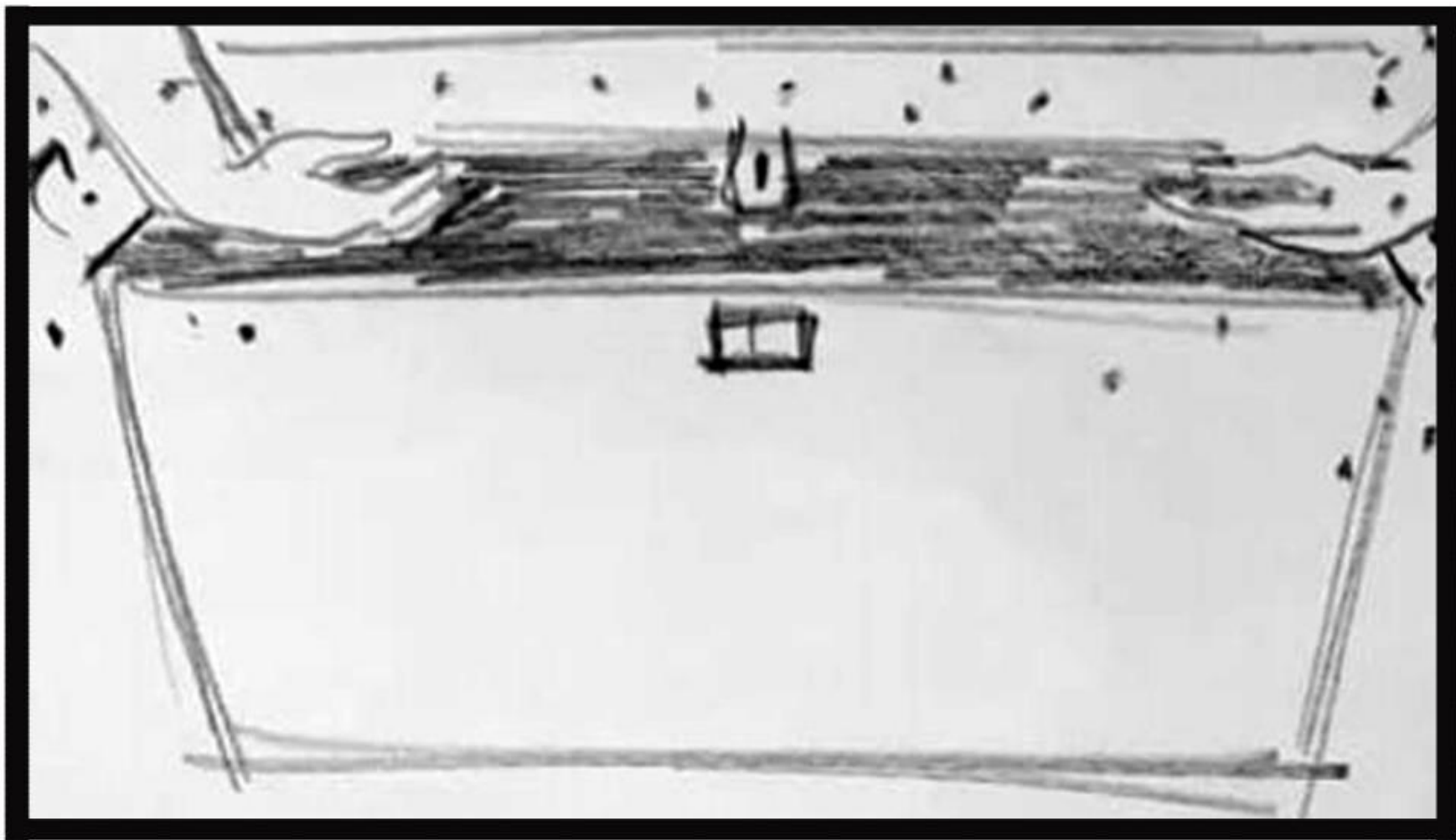
SCENE 4



Shot 4: Close-up shot.

Dialogue - Kolathiri: "Open it."

SCENE 4

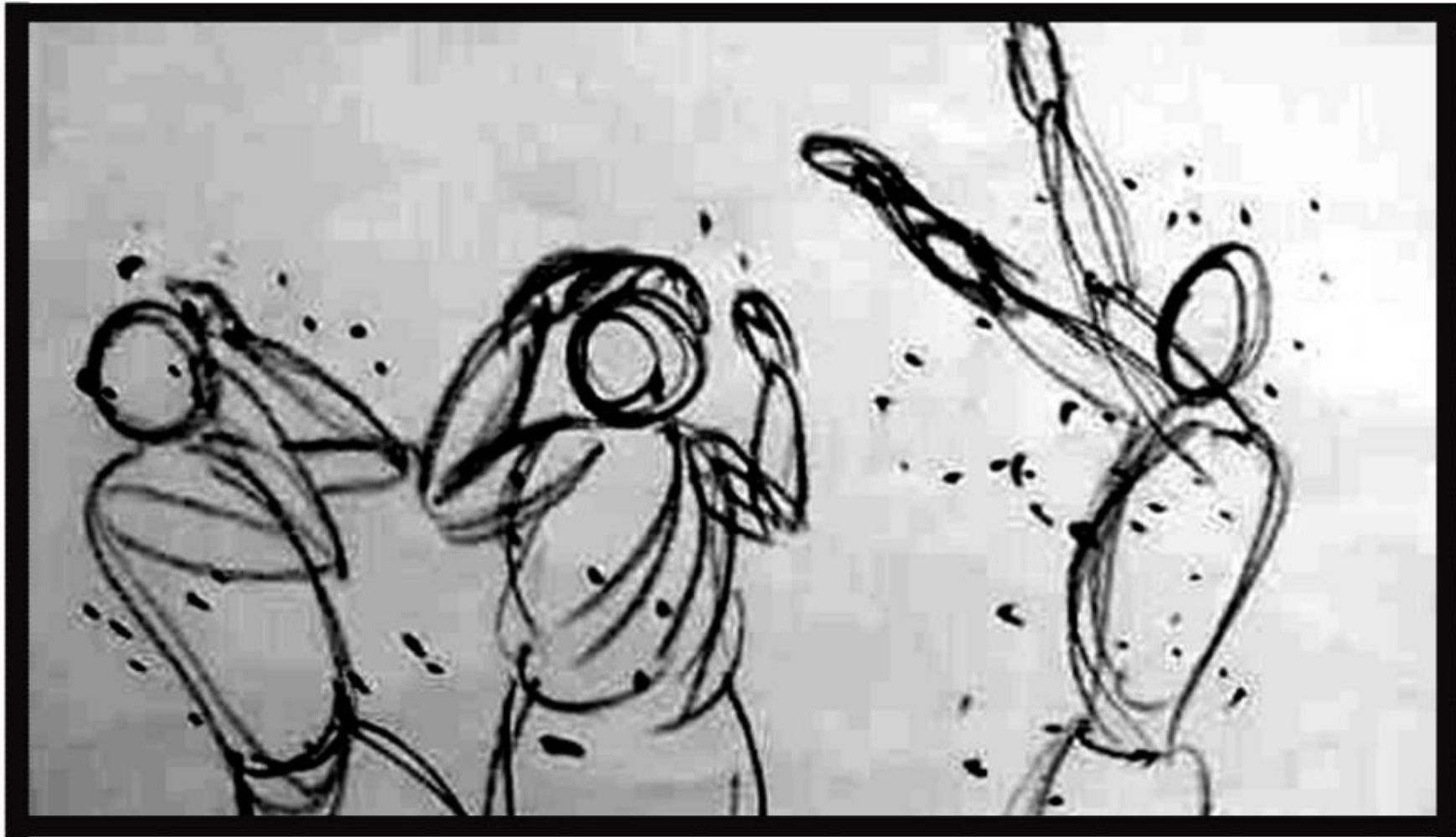


Shot 5: Close-up shot.

The box being opened. A swarm of bees coming out.

Sound - The buzzing noise of the bees.

SCENE 4



Shot 6: Medium shot.

The bees stinging everybody. The men screaming and running for help.

SCENE 4



Shot 7: Close-up shot.

Kolathiri getting badly stung by the bees, screaming for help.

SCENE 4



Shot 8: Up shot.

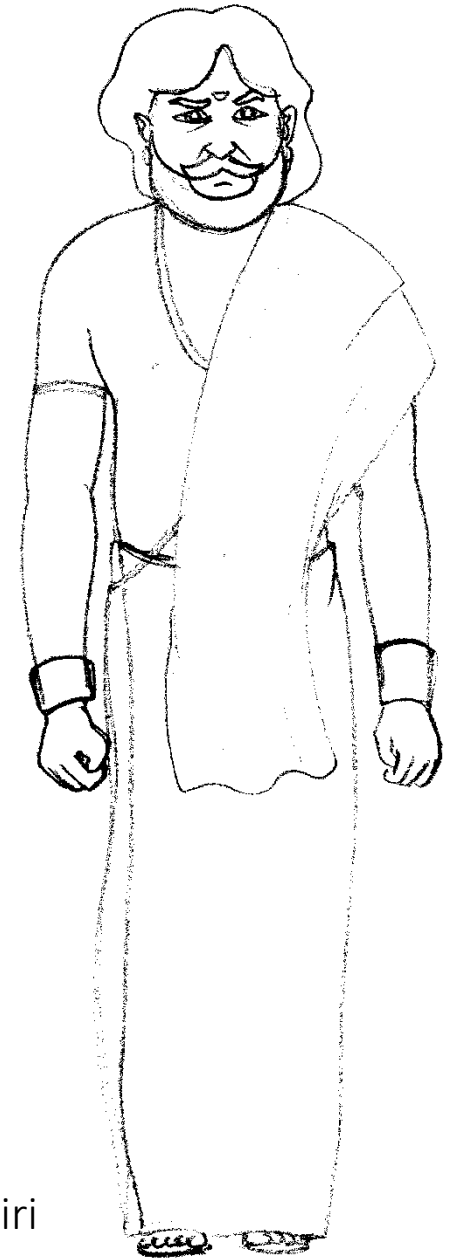
Kolathiri running towards the water tank and jumping into the water. Water splashing. Camera panning up, towards the sky. Fade out.

-THE END

Initial Character Sketches



King
Samoothiri

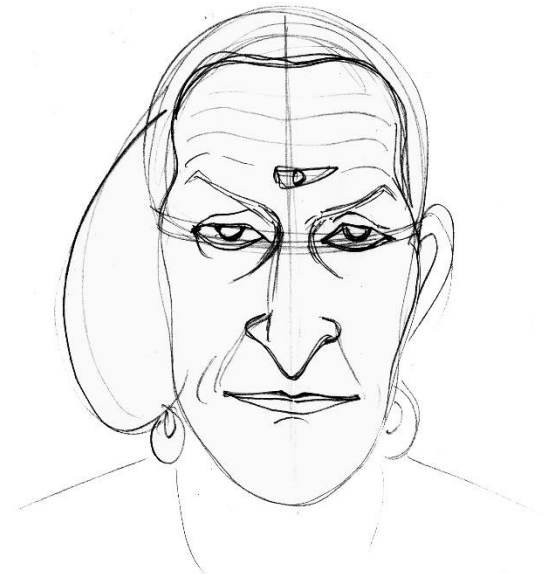


King
Kolathiri

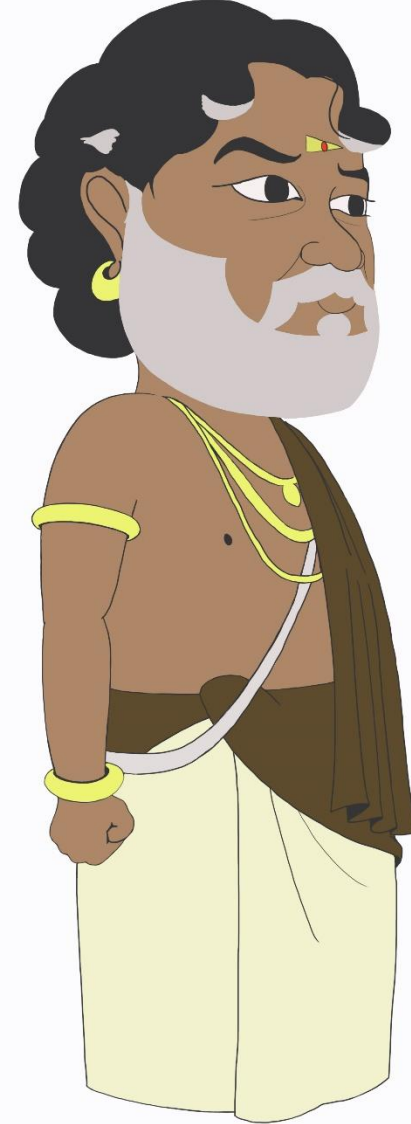
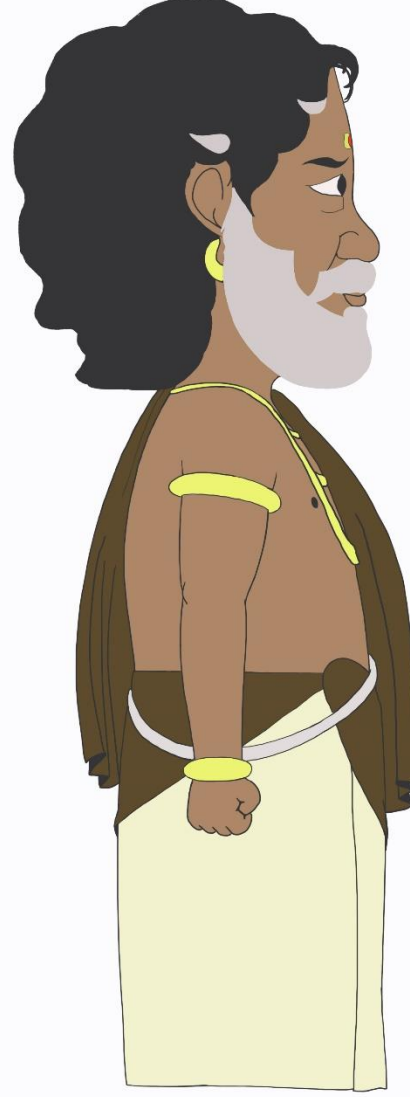
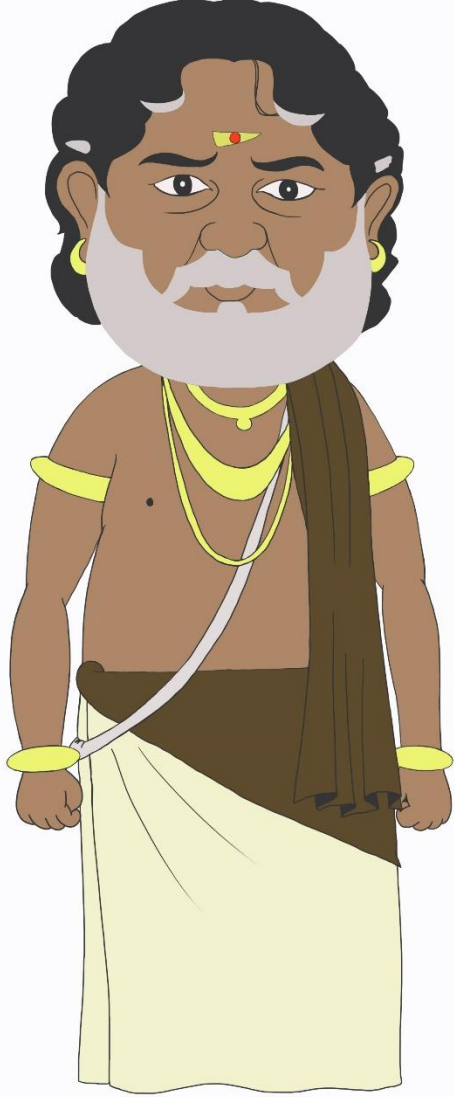
Character Design

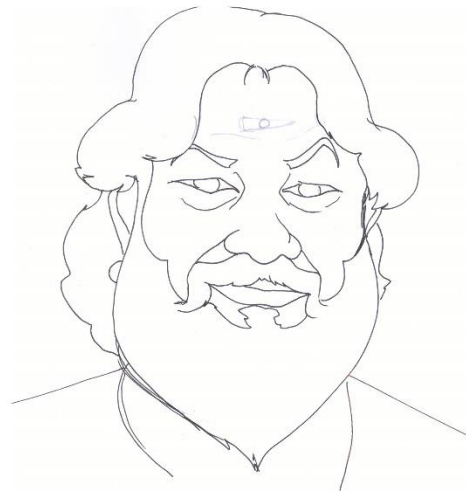
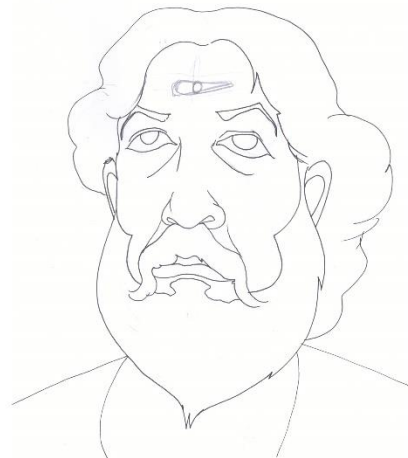
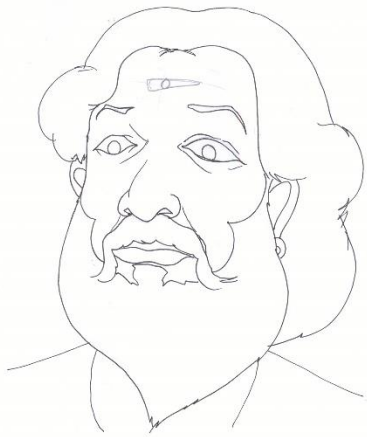
SAMOOTHIRI - The King of Kozhikode





KOLATHIRI - The King of Kolathunādu





Concept Art



Fin