

ADVENTURES OF INDIA

The Blue Prince

• VOLUME 1 •

Texts by Isvara Dasa

Produced, designed and published by Isvara Dasa

Original Concept and Artwork Courtesy of

Paramadvaiti Swami

Illustrated by

Varshana Devi Dasi



MADE IN INDIA

Adventures of India
The Blue Prince Volume 1

Texts by Isvara Dasa

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Edited by Sahadeva Dasa

Copy-edited and proofread by Mahashakti Devi Dasi

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His Divine Grace
A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

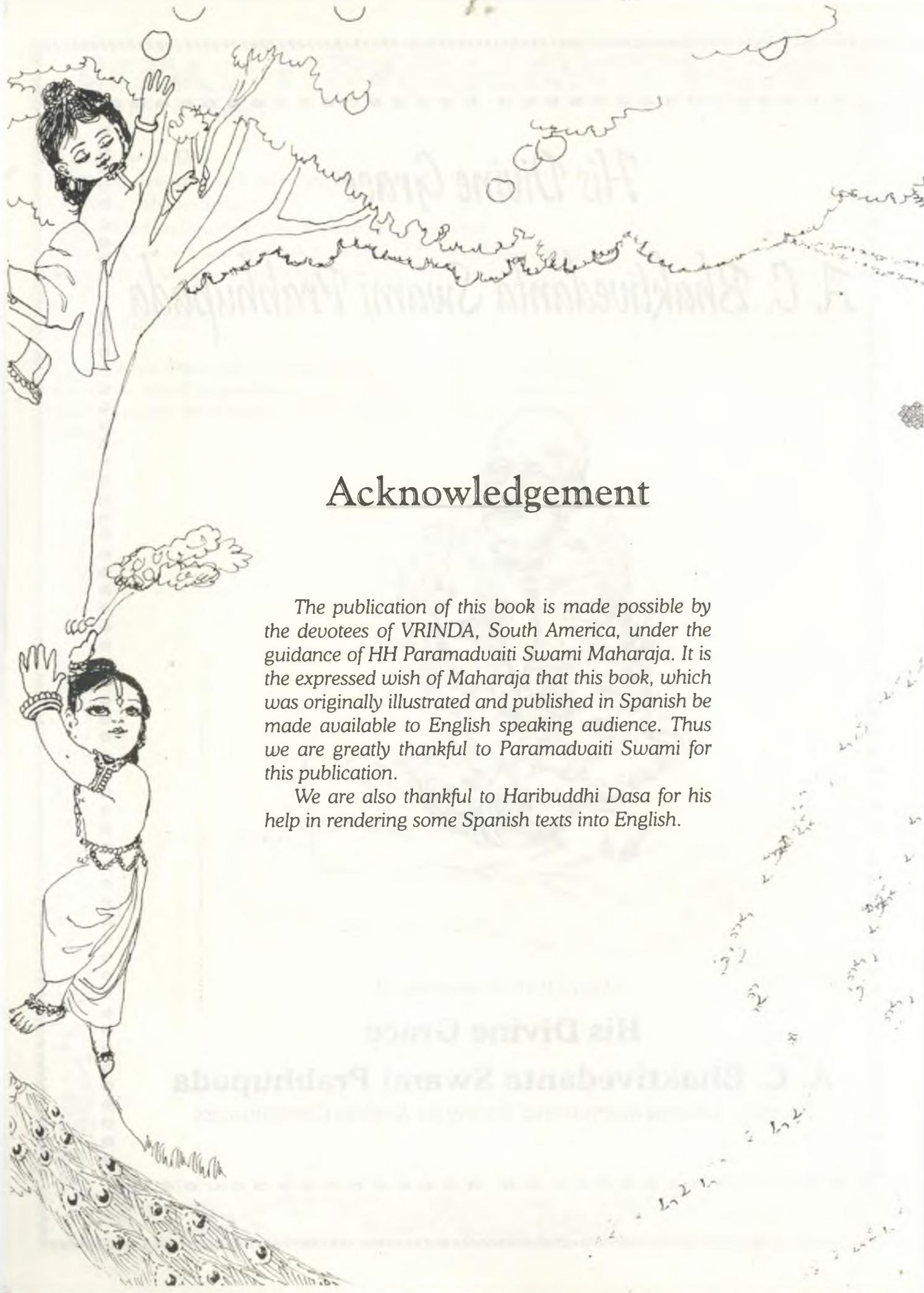


Adapted from the teachings of

His Divine Grace

A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Founder Acharya International Society for Krishna Consciousness



Acknowledgement

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We are also thankful to Haribuddhi Dasa for his help in rendering some Spanish texts into English.



Do You Know Who The Real Heroes Are?

Are they Batman, Superman, the X-men, or Disney stars? Do they give us love, hope and affection? Can they relieve our suffering? No, they can't. They are nothing but commercially marketed characters of this dark age of Kali.

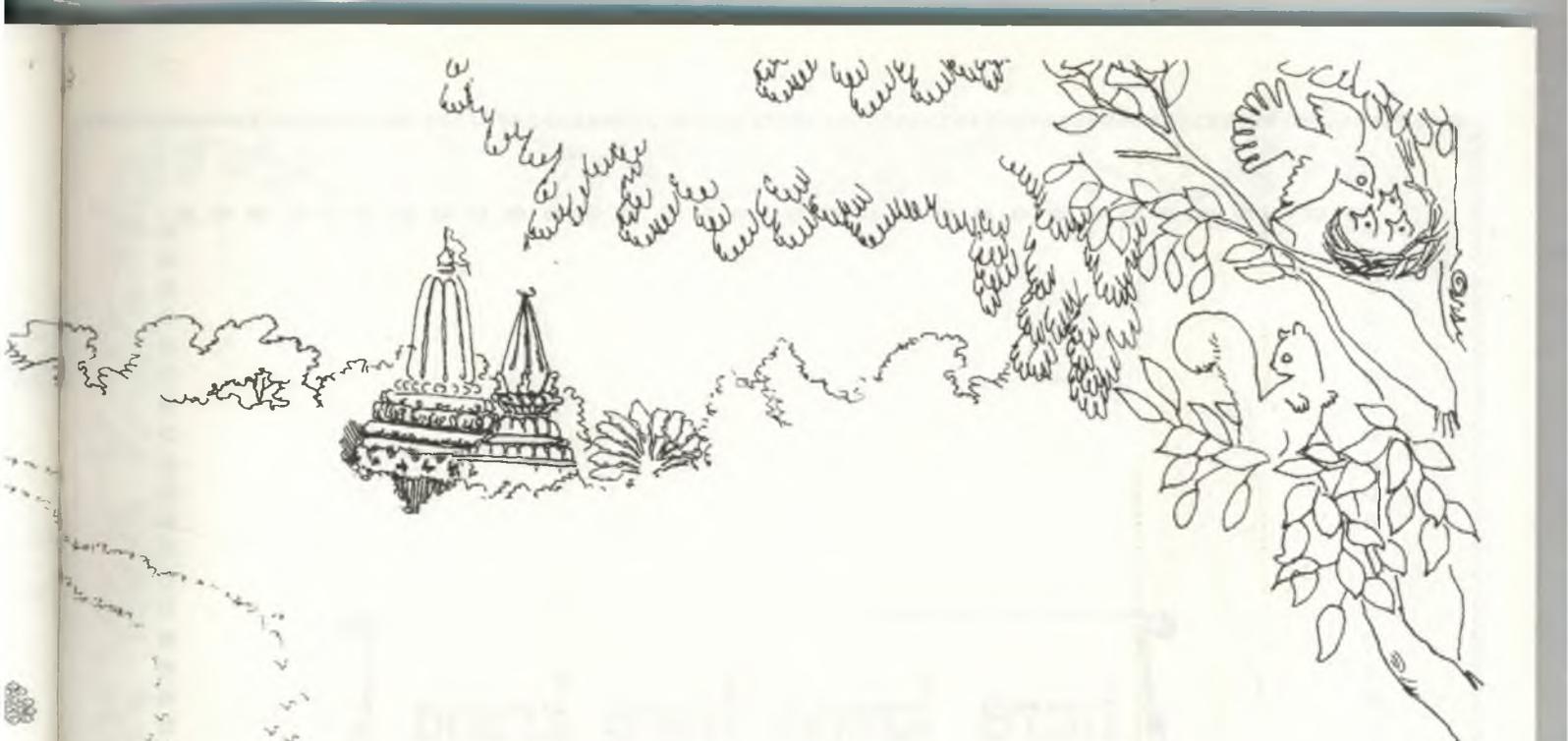
Then, who are the real heroes?

The real heroes are our spiritual masters. Just as Hanuman crossed the ocean to accomplish the mission of his Lord, Sri Rama, in the same way Srila Prabhupada and his genuine representatives, distributed divine love to all corners of the world. Simply by his pure desire to spread the message of Mahaprabhu, he manifested the highest example of compassion. Srila Prabhupada performed the impossible task of giving the world love for Lord Krishna, and love for His most intimate friends.

Without discrimination Srila Prabhupada bestowed love, affection and hope upon all souls; he taught us that we are not the body. He taught us to rise above suffering, to live simply and think highly. He ordered us to follow his example and spread the message of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu to every town and village in the world.

Offering him our humble obeisances, we pray that he protects us from the strong network of illusory energy so that we can continue to serve his mission of delivering the Holy Name of the Lord to each and every heart throughout the world.

Gour Haribol

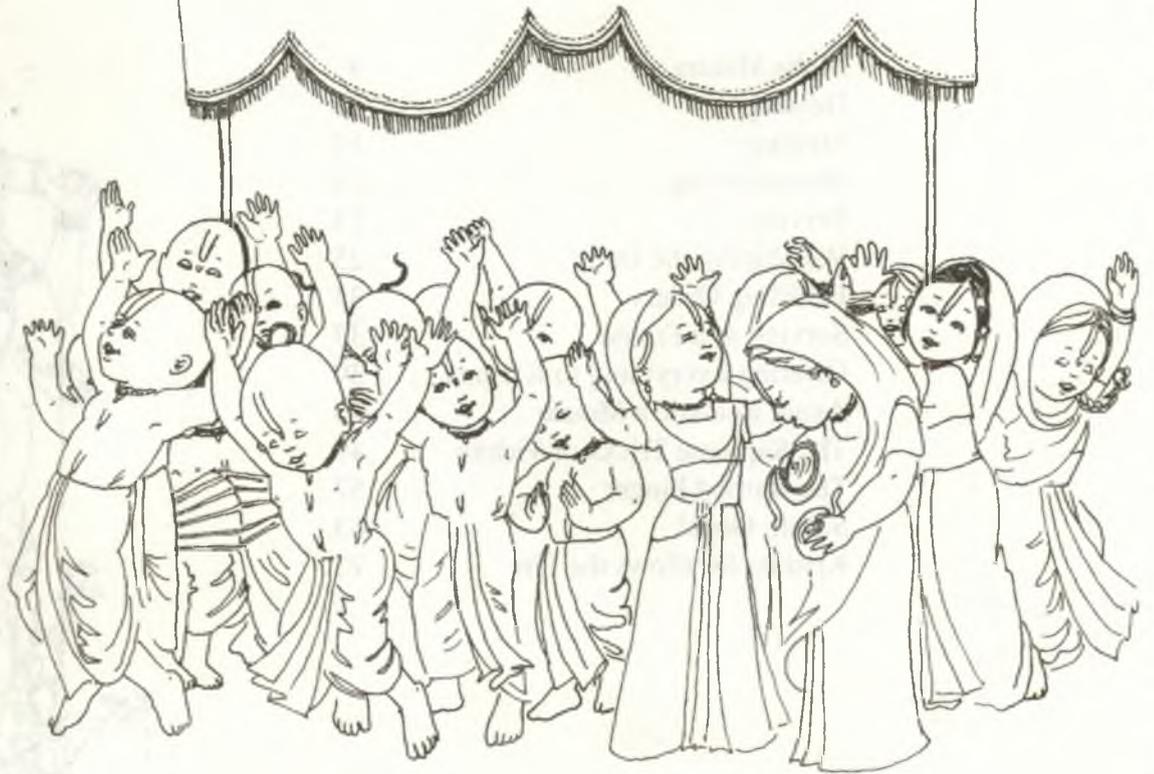


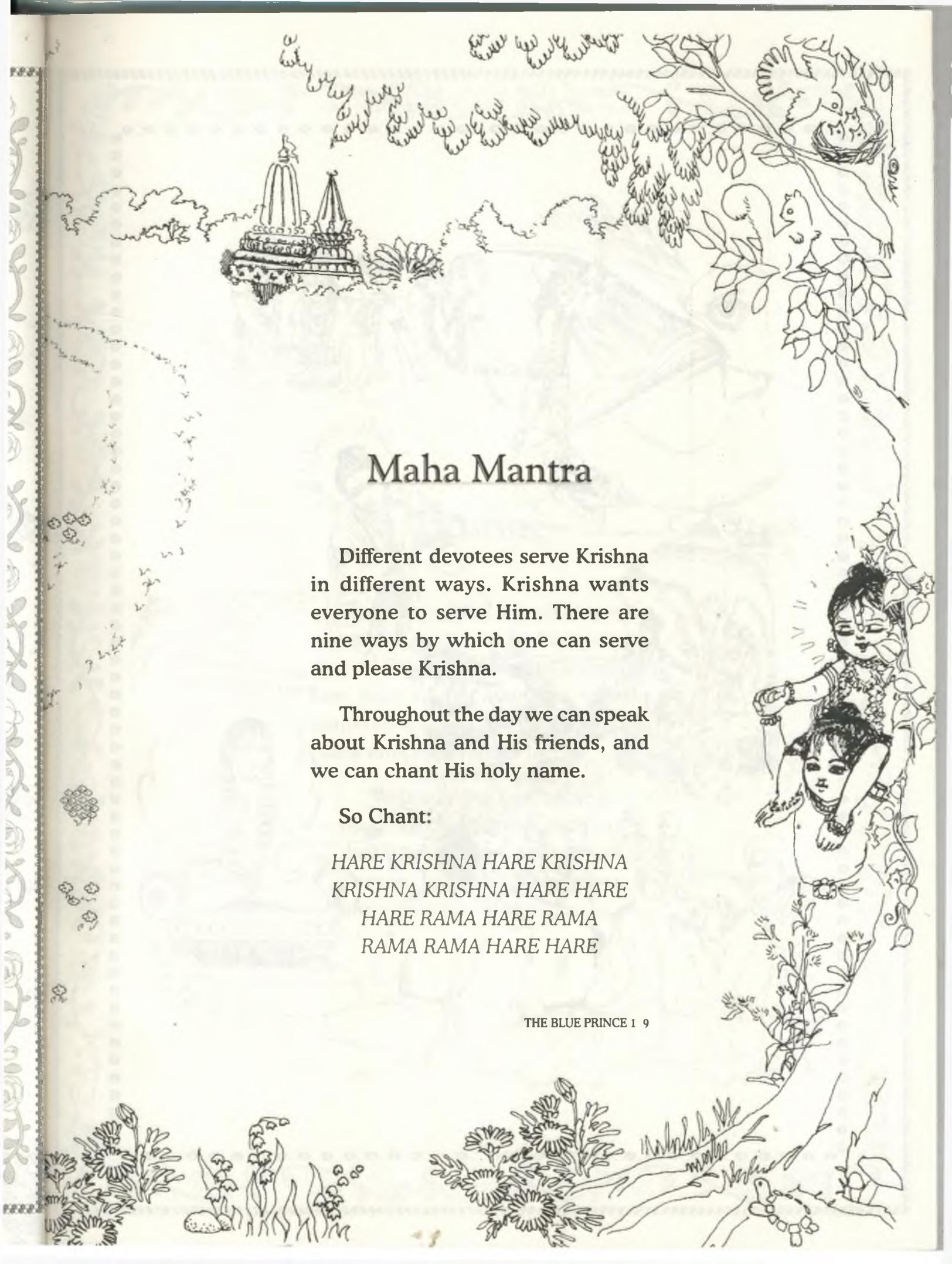
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hare kṛṣṇa hare kṛṣṇa
kṛṣṇa kṛṣṇa hare hare
hare rāma hare rāma
rāma rāma hare hare





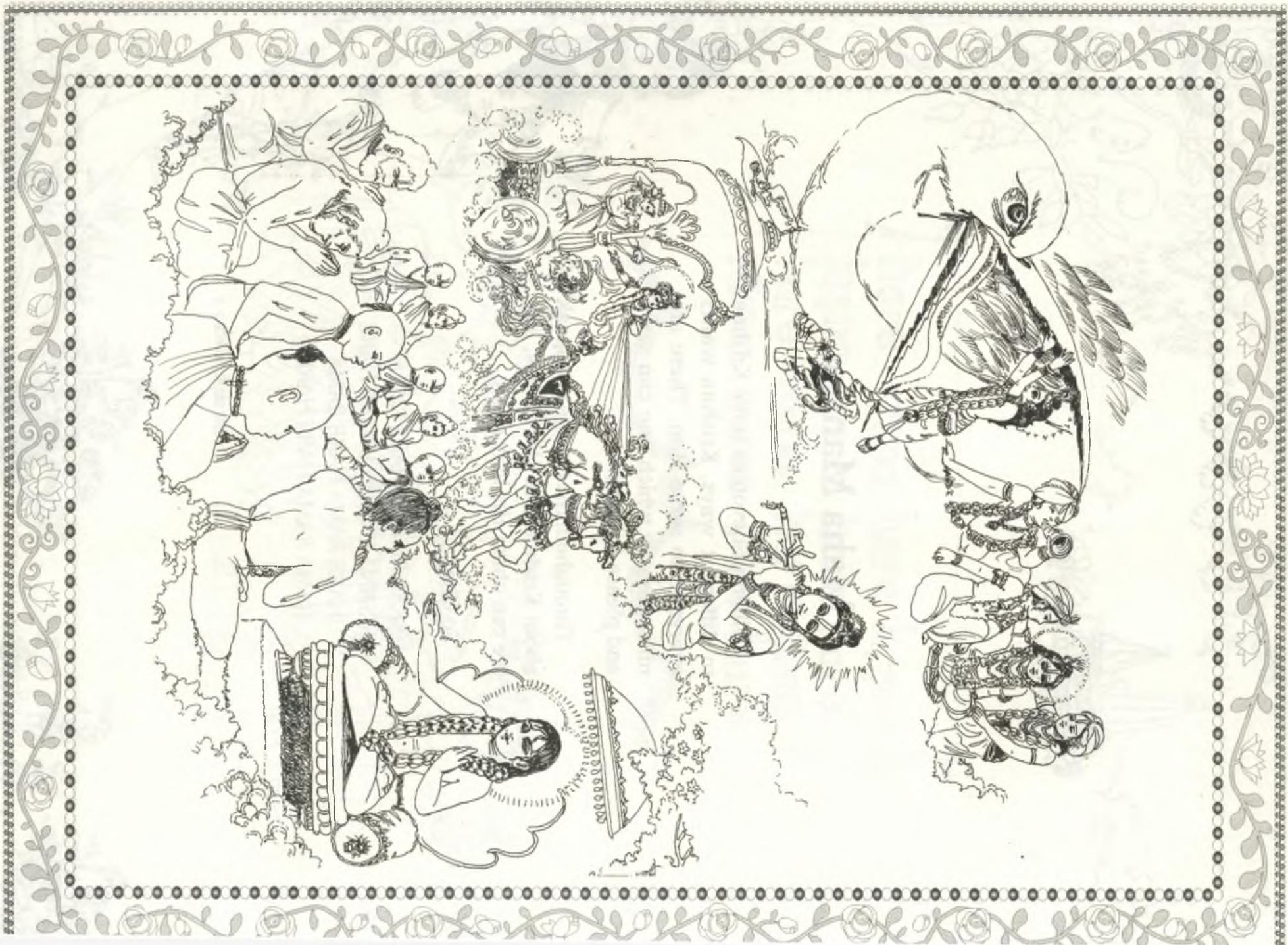
Maha Mantra

Different devotees serve Krishna in different ways. Krishna wants everyone to serve Him. There are nine ways by which one can serve and please Krishna.

Throughout the day we can speak about Krishna and His friends, and we can chant His holy name.

So Chant:

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE

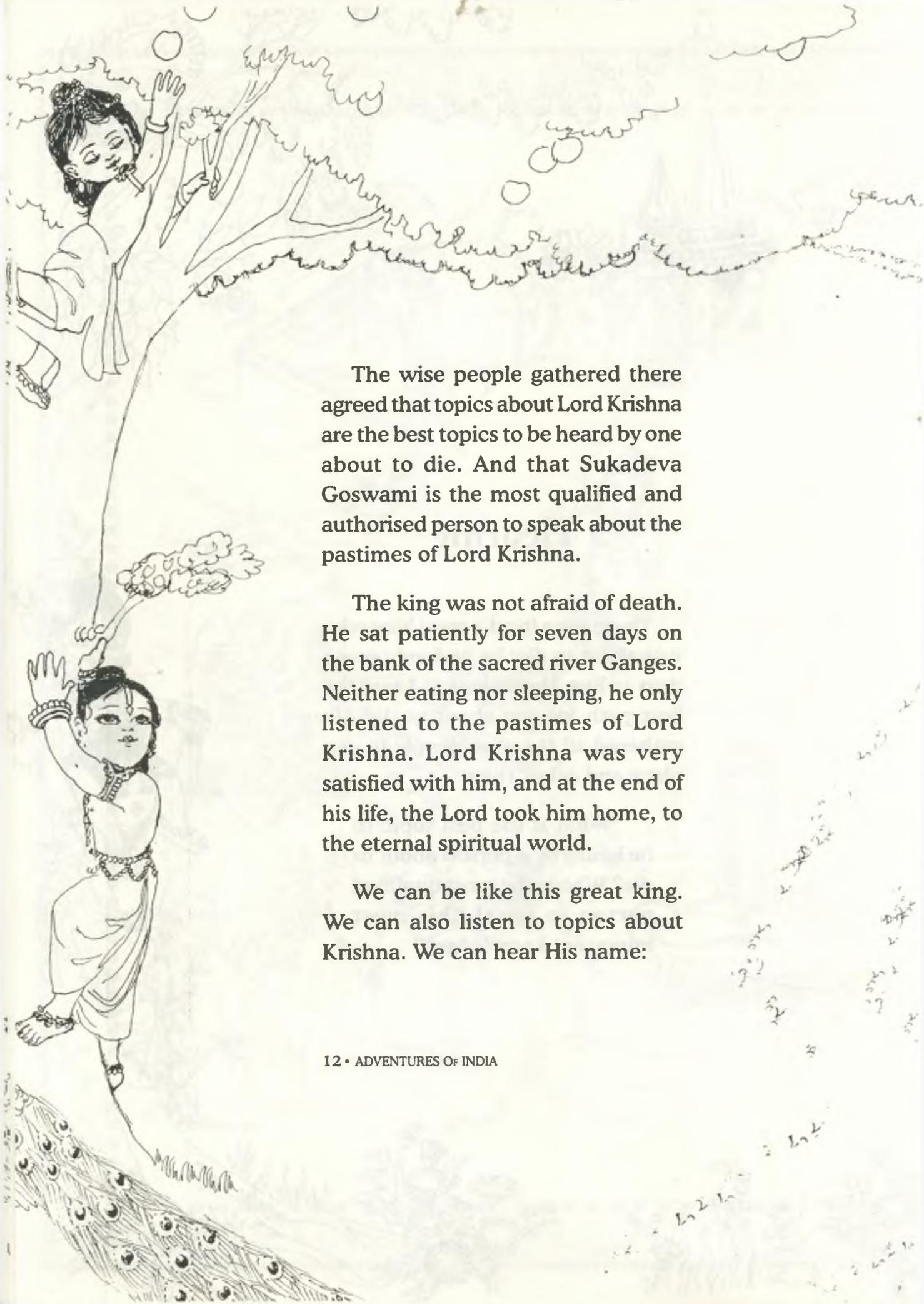




Hearing

There once lived a great king who was about to die; he had only seven days to live. He desired to know the best path for one about to die. He gathered all the wise people in one place and asked them:

“What is the best topic to be heard by a person about to die? Who is the most qualified person to speak this most important knowledge?”



The wise people gathered there agreed that topics about Lord Krishna are the best topics to be heard by one about to die. And that Sukadeva Goswami is the most qualified and authorised person to speak about the pastimes of Lord Krishna.

The king was not afraid of death. He sat patiently for seven days on the bank of the sacred river Ganges. Neither eating nor sleeping, he only listened to the pastimes of Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna was very satisfied with him, and at the end of his life, the Lord took him home, to the eternal spiritual world.

We can be like this great king. We can also listen to topics about Krishna. We can hear His name:



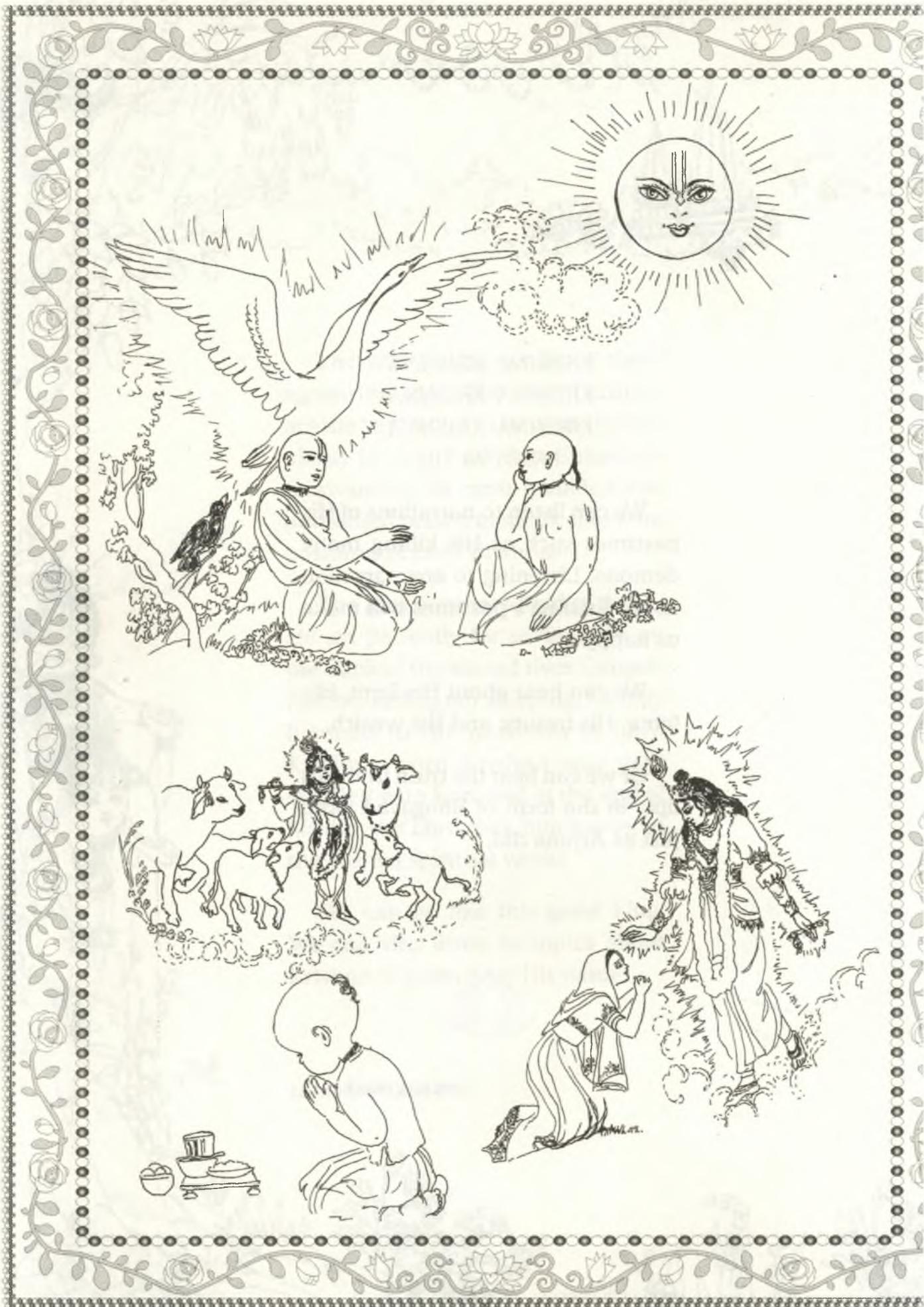
KRISHNA KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA
KRISHNA HE

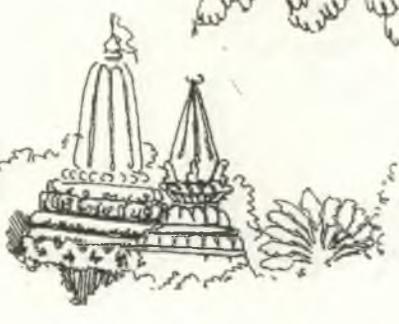
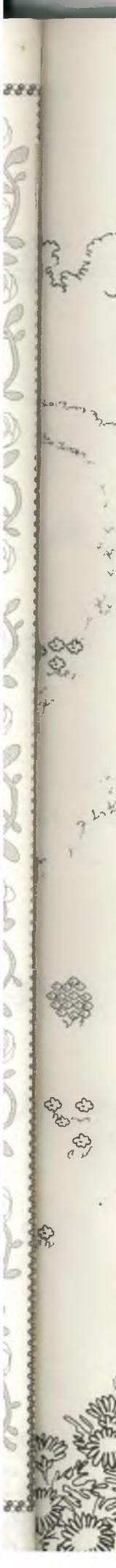
We can listen to narrations of His pastimes such as His killing many demons. Listening to any narration about Krishna's pastimes will make us happy.

We can hear about His form, His fame, His beauty, and His wealth.

Or we can hear the truth from His lips, in the form of Bhagavad Gita, just as Arjuna did.







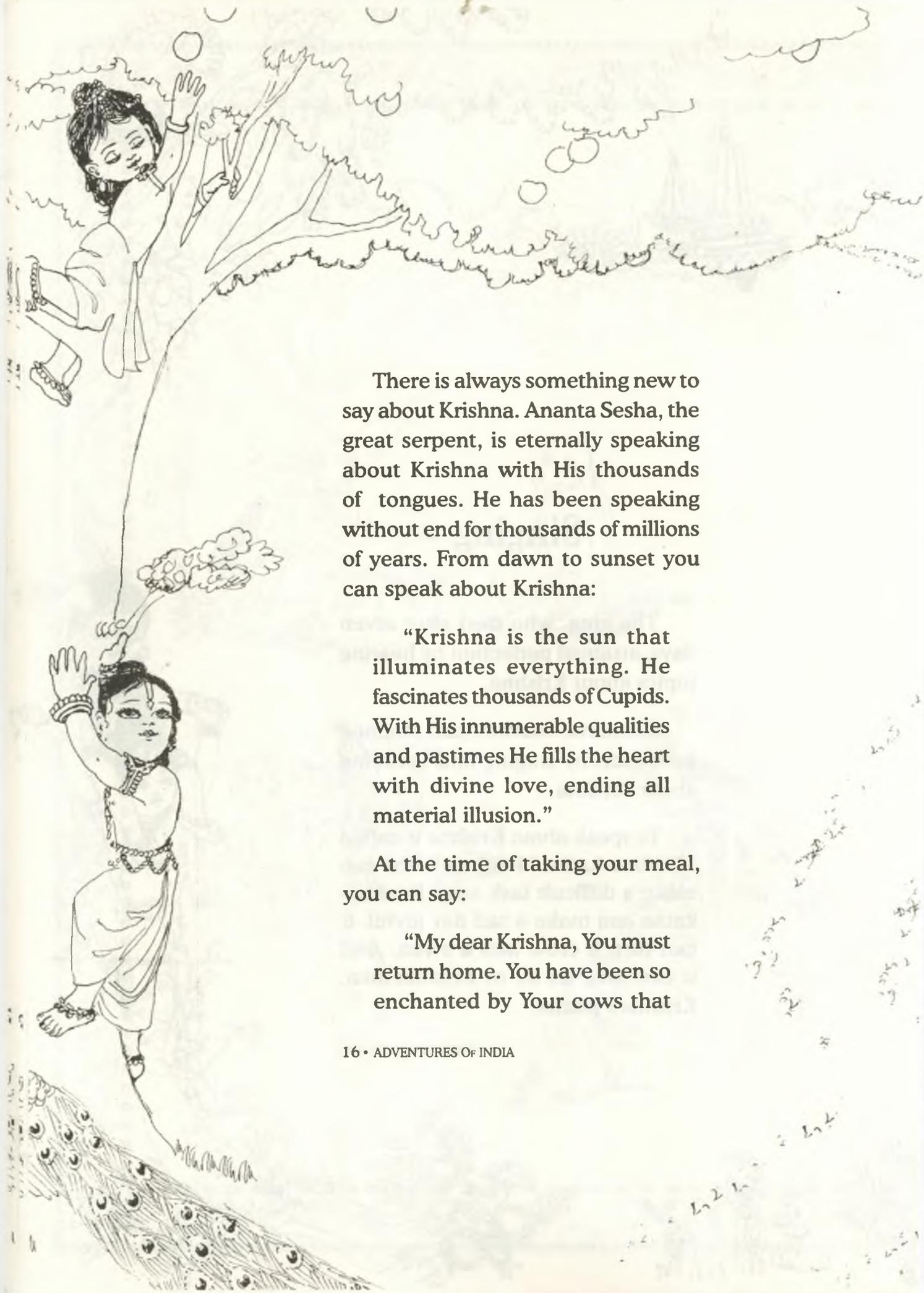
Singing

The king, who died after seven days, attained perfection by hearing topics about Krishna.

Sukadeva Gosvami also attained perfection by singing and speaking about Krishna.

To speak about Krishna is called "Krishna-katha." Krishna-katha can make a difficult task easy. Krishna-katha can make a sad day joyful. It can turn a crow into a swan. And it can take us all to Krishna-loka, Krishna's planet.





There is always something new to say about Krishna. Ananta Sesa, the great serpent, is eternally speaking about Krishna with His thousands of tongues. He has been speaking without end for thousands of millions of years. From dawn to sunset you can speak about Krishna:

“Krishna is the sun that illuminates everything. He fascinates thousands of Cupids. With His innumerable qualities and pastimes He fills the heart with divine love, ending all material illusion.”

At the time of taking your meal, you can say:

“My dear Krishna, You must return home. You have been so enchanted by Your cows that



You have forgotten that it is
time for Your lunch.”

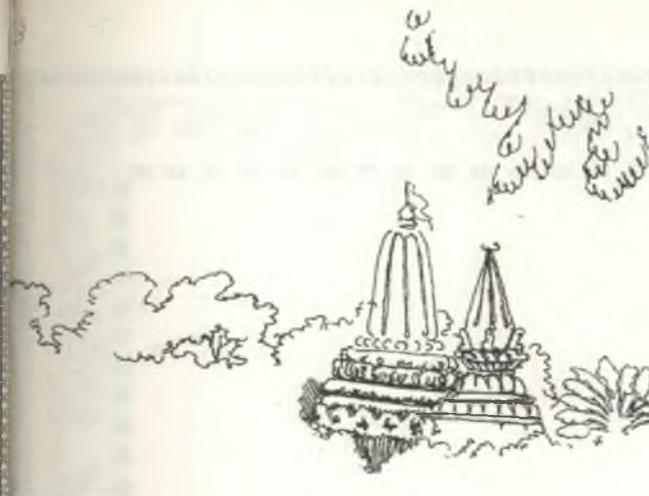
We can pray to Krishna when we
are sad. We can sing:

*HARE KRISHNA,
HARE KRISHNA,
KRISHNA KRISHNA,
HARE HARE,
HARE RAMA,
HARE RAMA,
RAMA RAMA,
HARE HARE.*

When Krishna hears your singing
He blesses you, then you feel great
happiness.





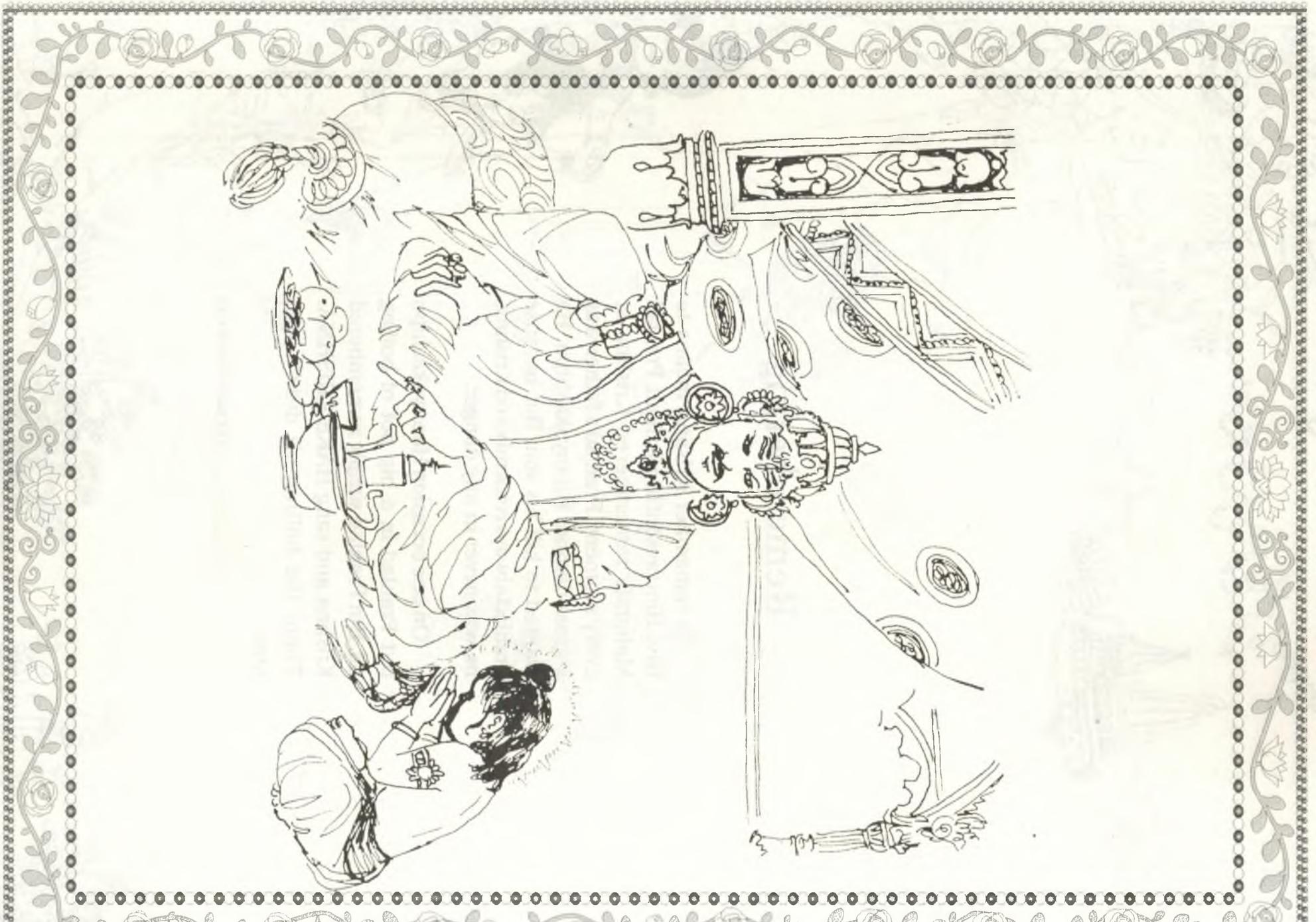


Remembering

To remember Krishna means to have Him present in our mind. Prahlad Maharaja remembered Krishna at every moment. Prahlad's father was a great demon, Hiranyakashipu. He wanted to kill his son. But because Prahlad always remembered Krishna, he was never in any danger.

On one occasion Hiranyakashipu put Prahlad in a big pot of boiling oil. But Prahlad simply remembered Krishna and sang HARE KRISHNA. Then, the boiling oil didn't hurt him.

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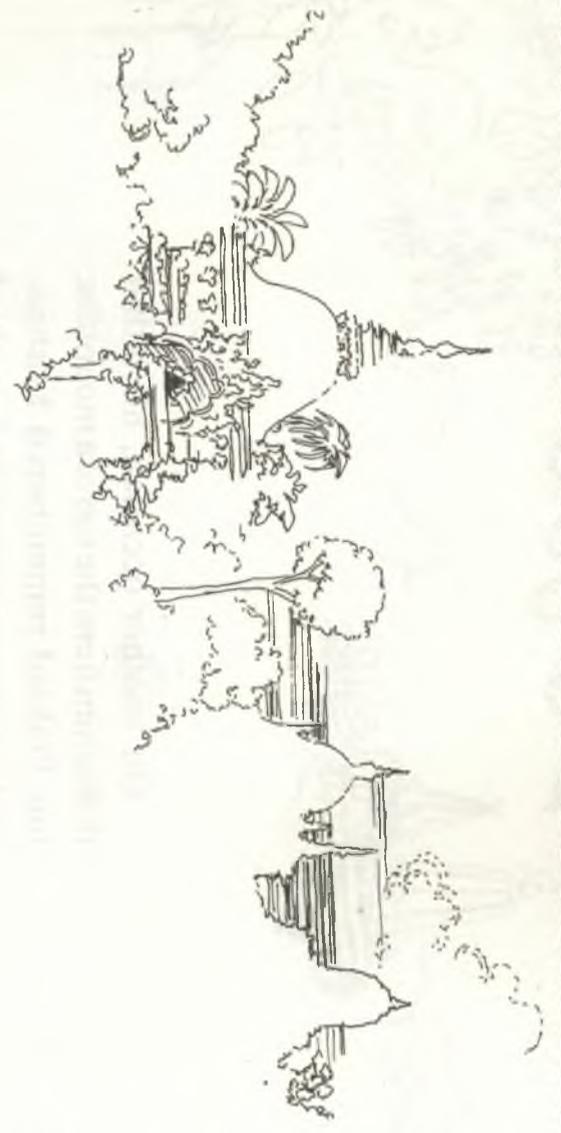
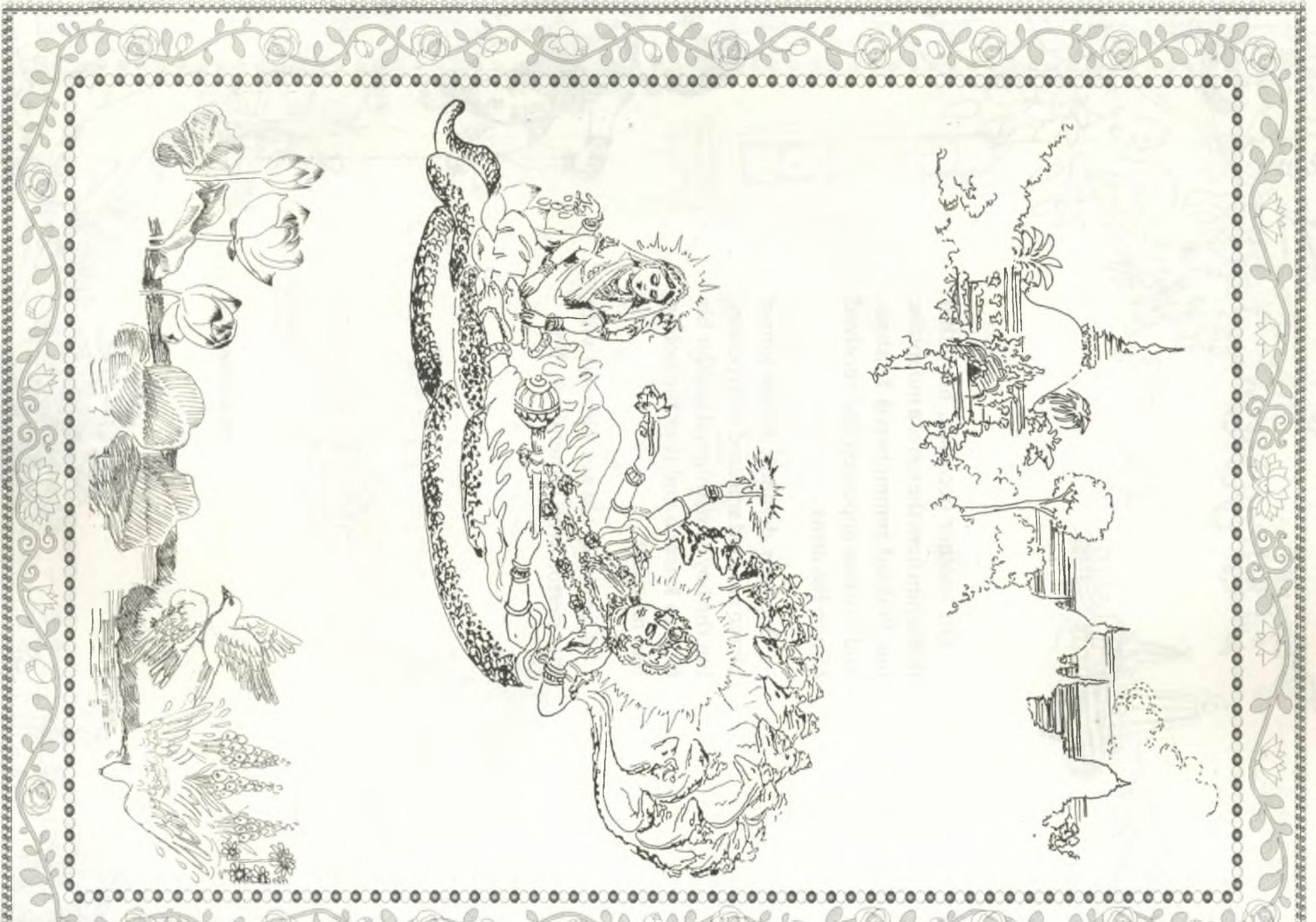


On another occasion, his father threw him from the top of a mountain; but Prahlad remembered Krishna, and Krishna appeared and received him in His arms.

Once his demonic father forced him to eat food smeared with poison, but the boy remembered to offer his food to Krishna and thus the poison had no effect.

Krishna is always pleased with that person who remembers Him.



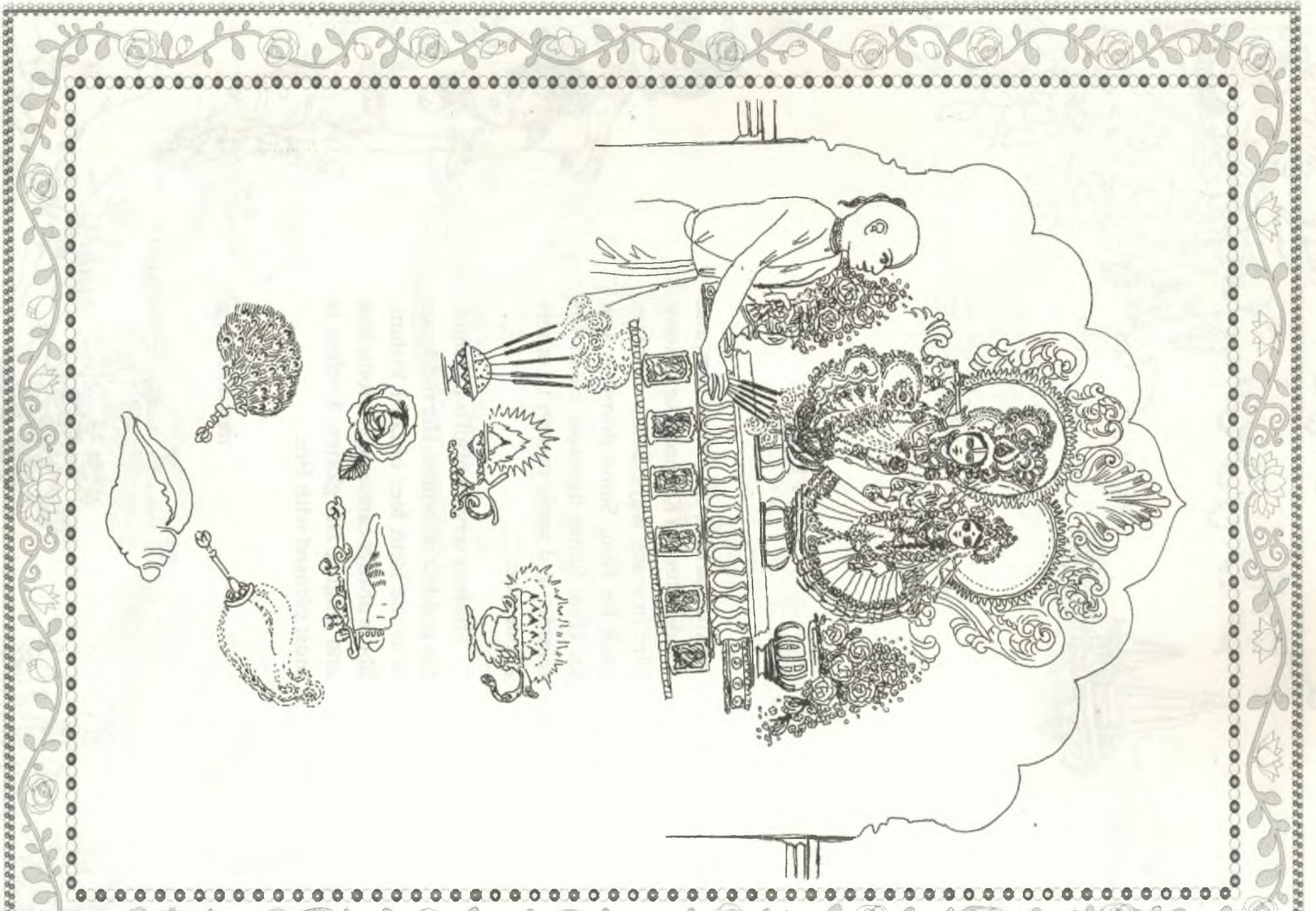


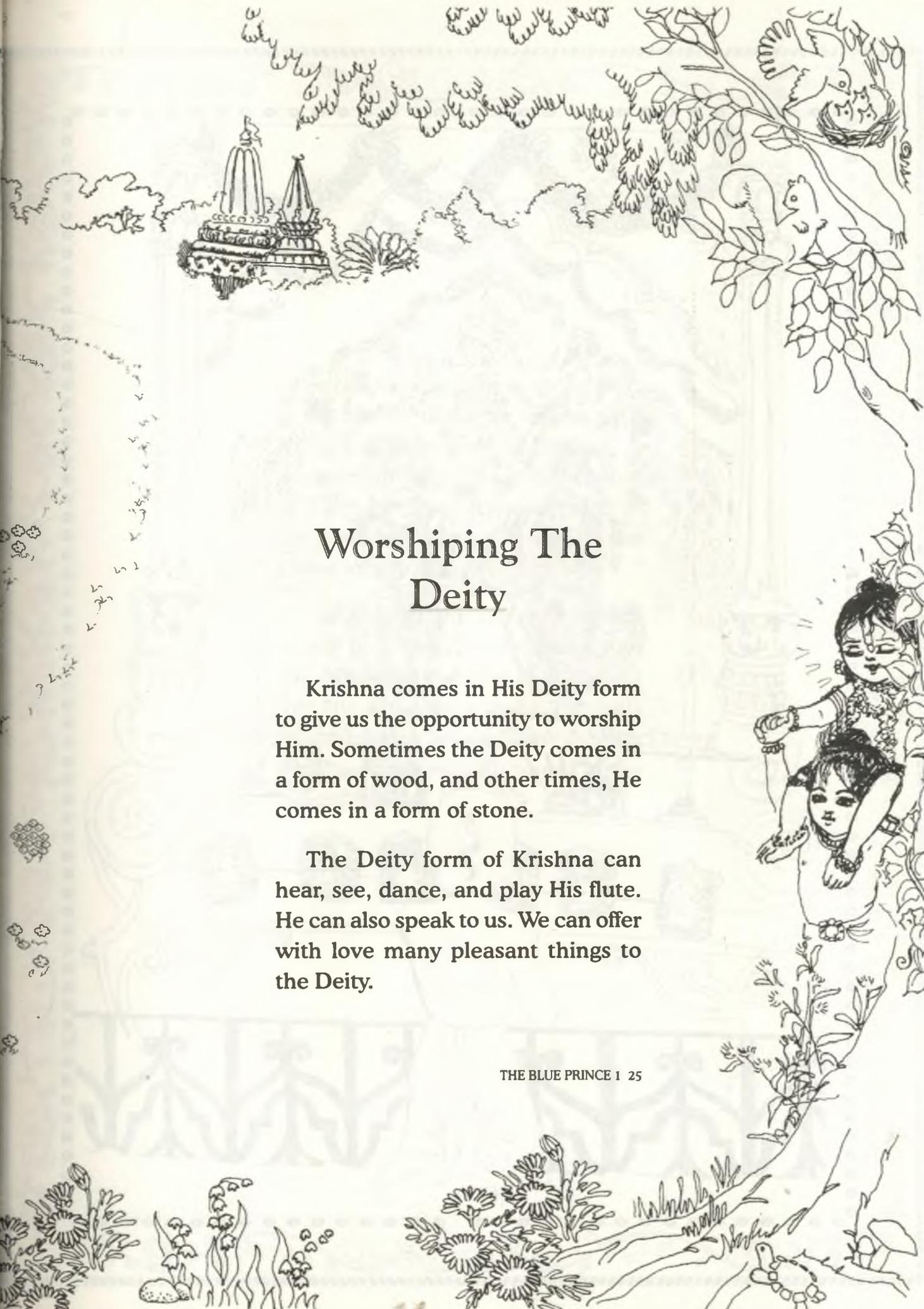


Serving

Krishna likes us to serve Him, and the devotees of Krishna like to serve Him in many ways. Some devotees cook for Him. Some devotees sew for Him. Some devotees clean His temple, and some preach to others about Him.

The best servant of all is Lakshmi, the goddess of fortune. Her residence is at the lotus feet of Lord Vishnu. She is always caressing His lotus feet and singing His glories. Krishna is most pleased with Her.

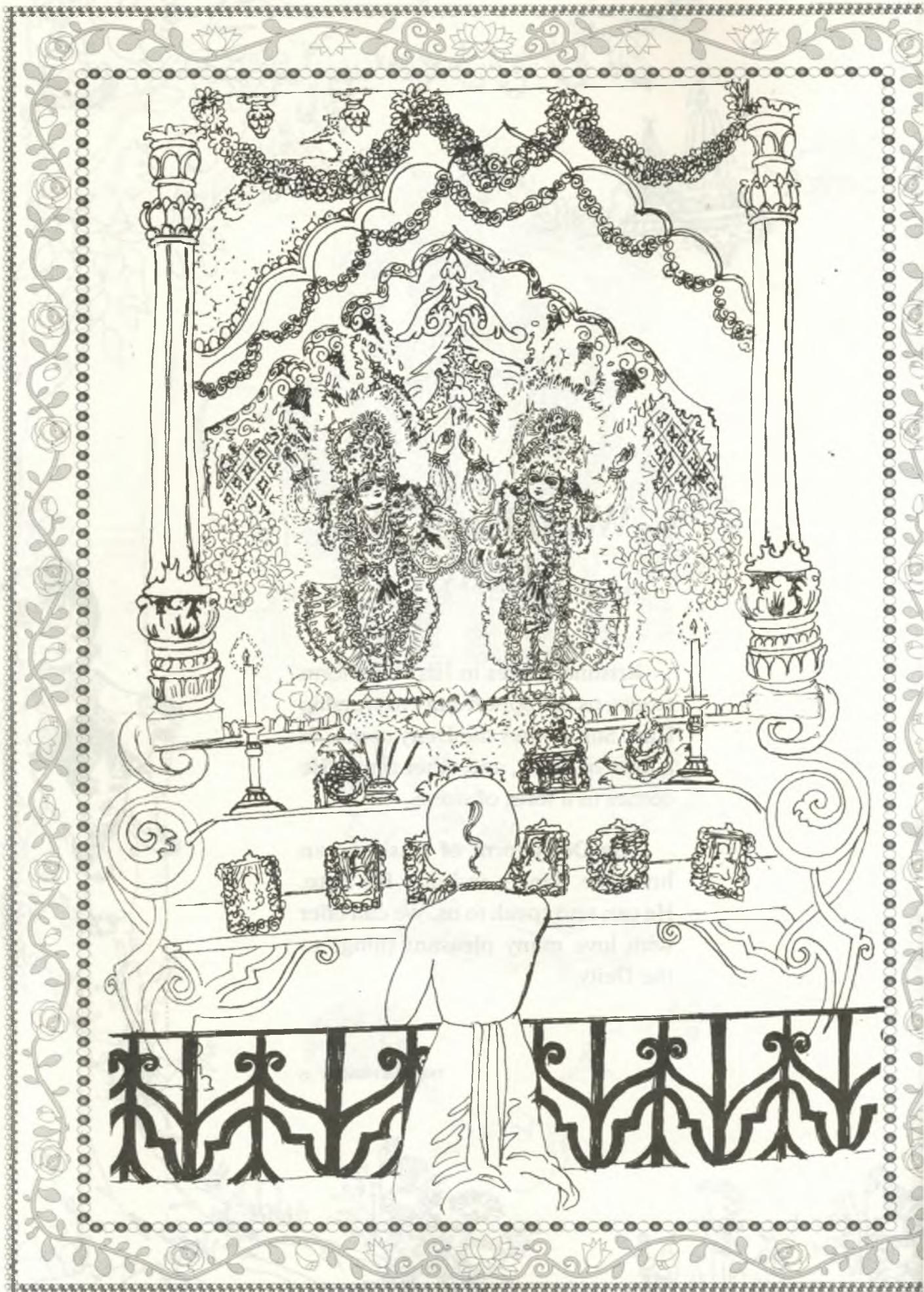




Worshiping The Deity

Krishna comes in His Deity form to give us the opportunity to worship Him. Sometimes the Deity comes in a form of wood, and other times, He comes in a form of stone.

The Deity form of Krishna can hear, see, dance, and play His flute. He can also speak to us. We can offer with love many pleasant things to the Deity.





For the aratik ceremony Krishna is placed on the altar, along with His dearmost consort, Radharani. A devotee offers incense and camphor to Them. Krishna sees the flame of the golden ghee lamp, and smells the sweet aroma of flowers.

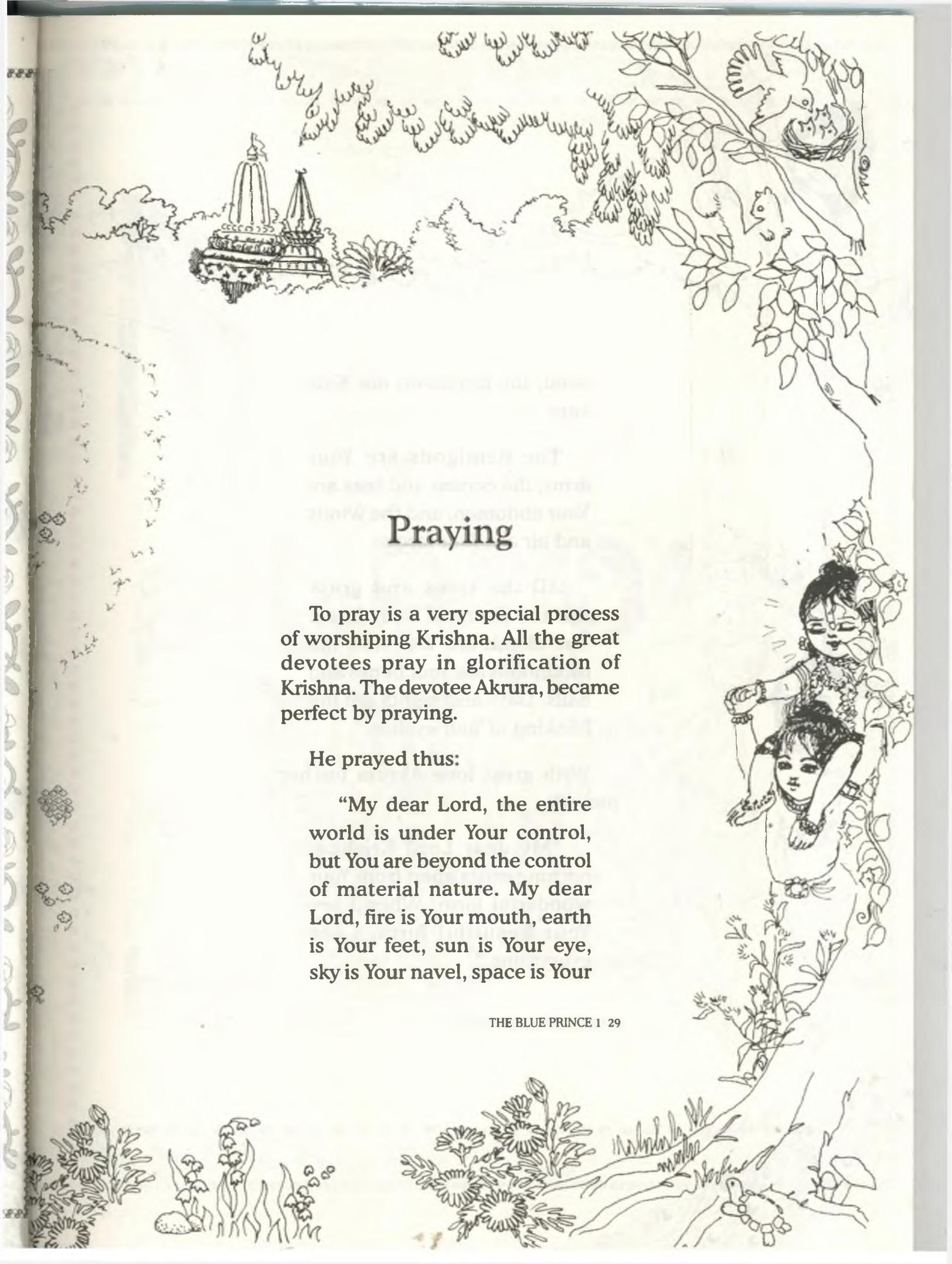
He accepts the offering of pure water in a small conchshell, and He allows the devotee to wash and dry His lotus feet. Soon He feels the refreshing breeze from the fan, and hears the smooth sound of the conchshell.





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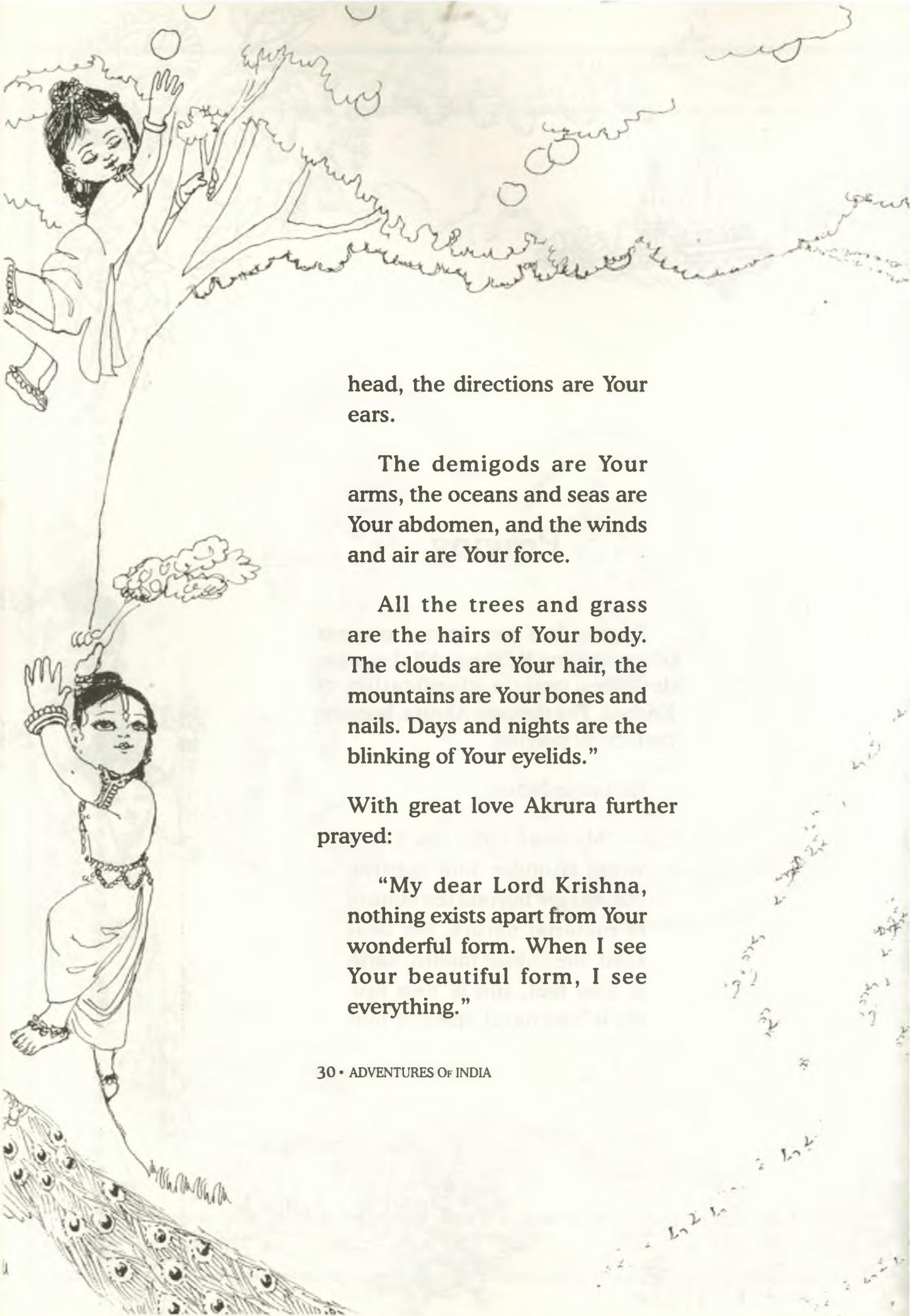


Praying

To pray is a very special process of worshipping Krishna. All the great devotees pray in glorification of Krishna. The devotee Akrura, became perfect by praying.

He prayed thus:

“My dear Lord, the entire world is under Your control, but You are beyond the control of material nature. My dear Lord, fire is Your mouth, earth is Your feet, sun is Your eye, sky is Your navel, space is Your



head, the directions are Your ears.

The demigods are Your arms, the oceans and seas are Your abdomen, and the winds and air are Your force.

All the trees and grass are the hairs of Your body. The clouds are Your hair, the mountains are Your bones and nails. Days and nights are the blinking of Your eyelids.”

With great love Akrura further prayed:

“My dear Lord Krishna, nothing exists apart from Your wonderful form. When I see Your beautiful form, I see everything.”



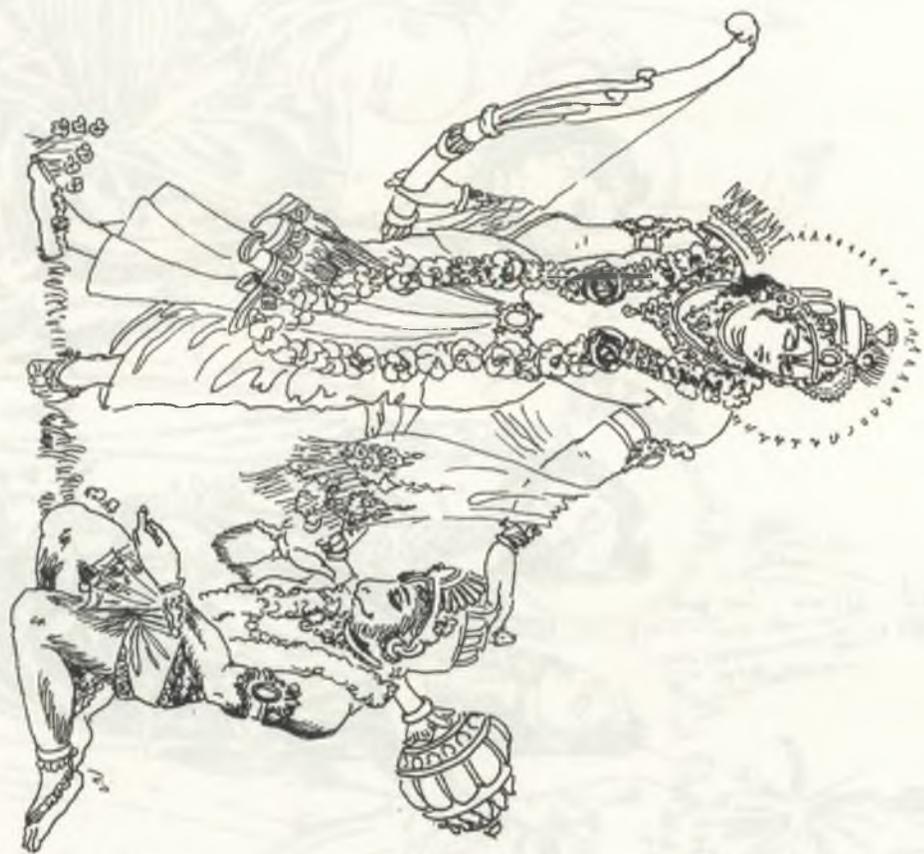
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◆ADVENTURES OF INDIA◆

The Blue Prince

VOLUME 1







Then, with my wing I will
fly over that bridge and fill
that demon.

Hanuman was so powerful that
he could make himself very big or
very small. He could make himself
as big as a mountain or as small
as a fly.

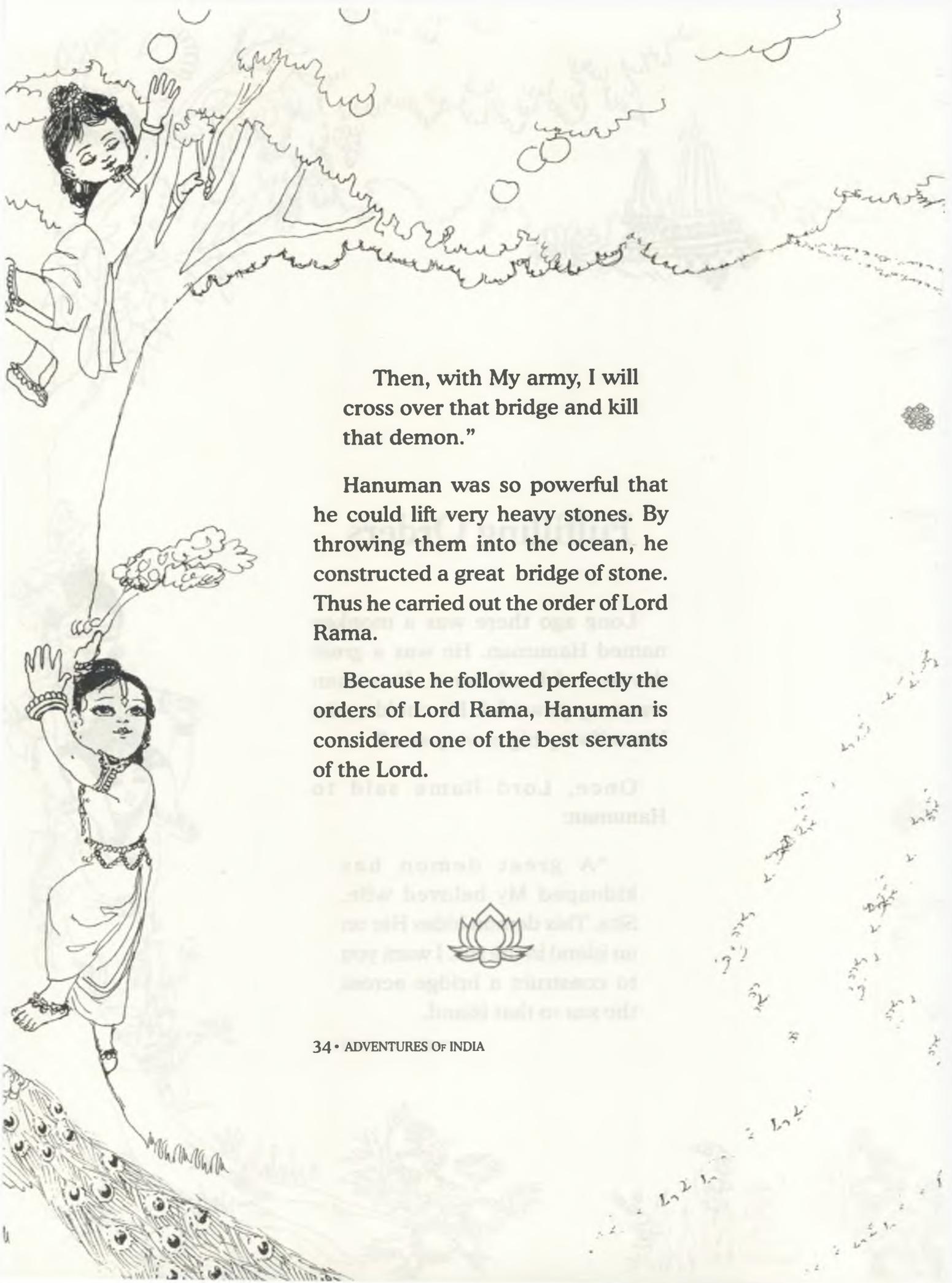
Fulfilling Orders

Long ago there was a monkey named Hanuman. He was a great devotee of Lord Rama. Hanuman was very powerful. He could make himself very big or very small.

Once, Lord Rama said to Hanuman:

“A great demon has kidnaped My beloved wife, Sita. This demon hides Her on an island in the sea. I want you to construct a bridge across the sea to that island.





Then, with My army, I will cross over that bridge and kill that demon.”

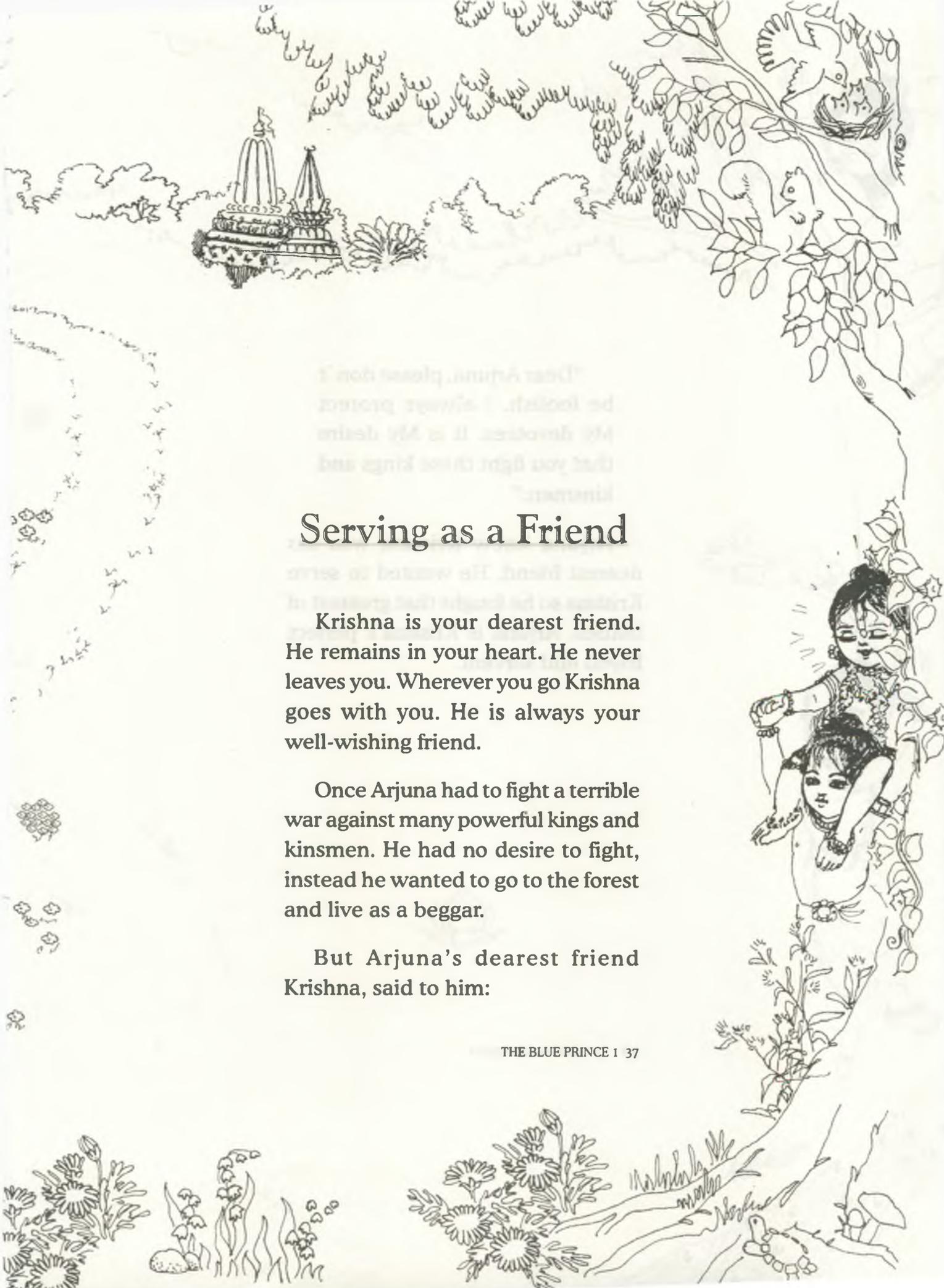
Hanuman was so powerful that he could lift very heavy stones. By throwing them into the ocean, he constructed a great bridge of stone. Thus he carried out the order of Lord Rama.

Because he followed perfectly the orders of Lord Rama, Hanuman is considered one of the best servants of the Lord.







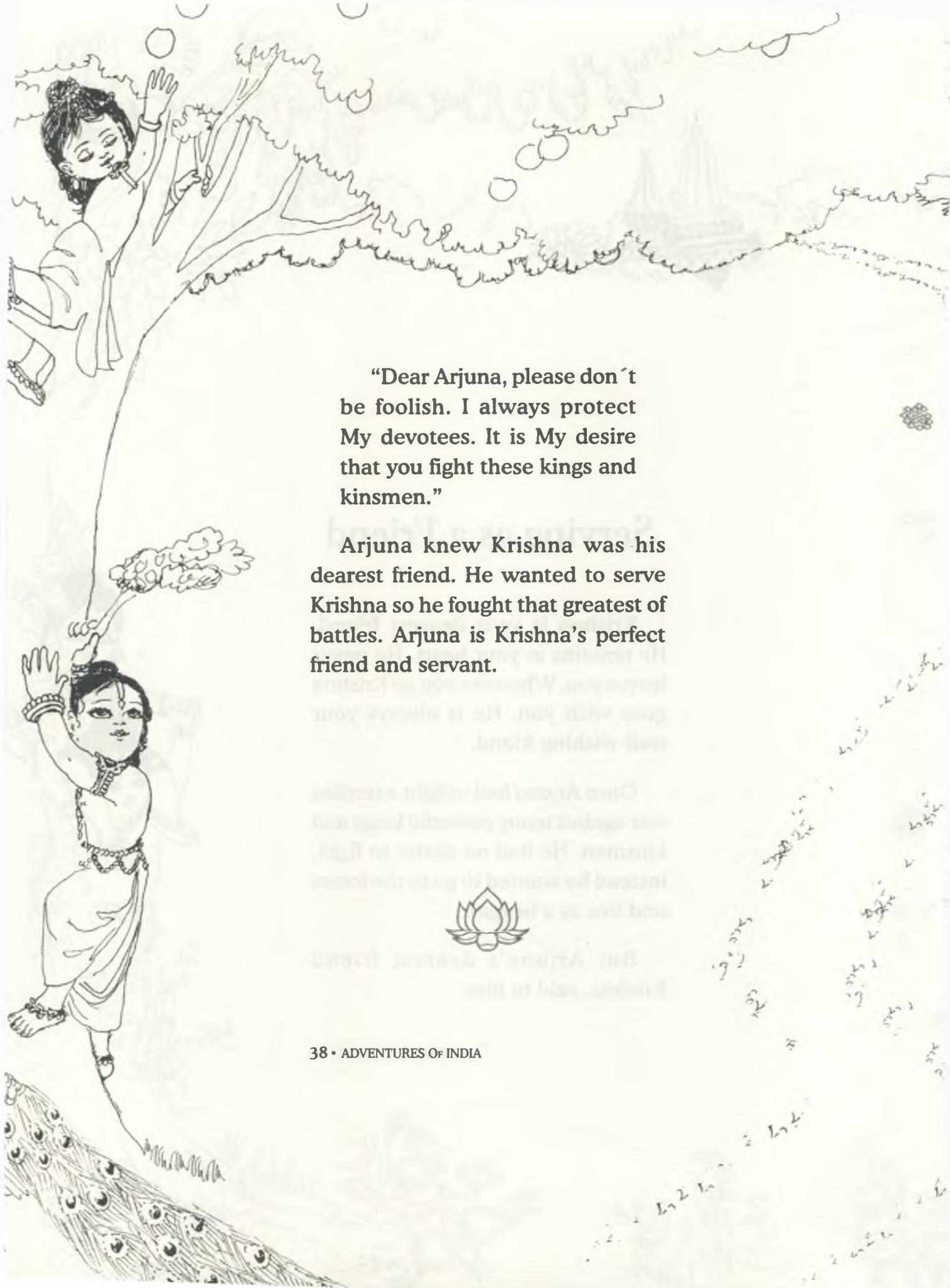


Serving as a Friend

Krishna is your dearest friend. He remains in your heart. He never leaves you. Wherever you go Krishna goes with you. He is always your well-wishing friend.

Once Arjuna had to fight a terrible war against many powerful kings and kinsmen. He had no desire to fight, instead he wanted to go to the forest and live as a beggar.

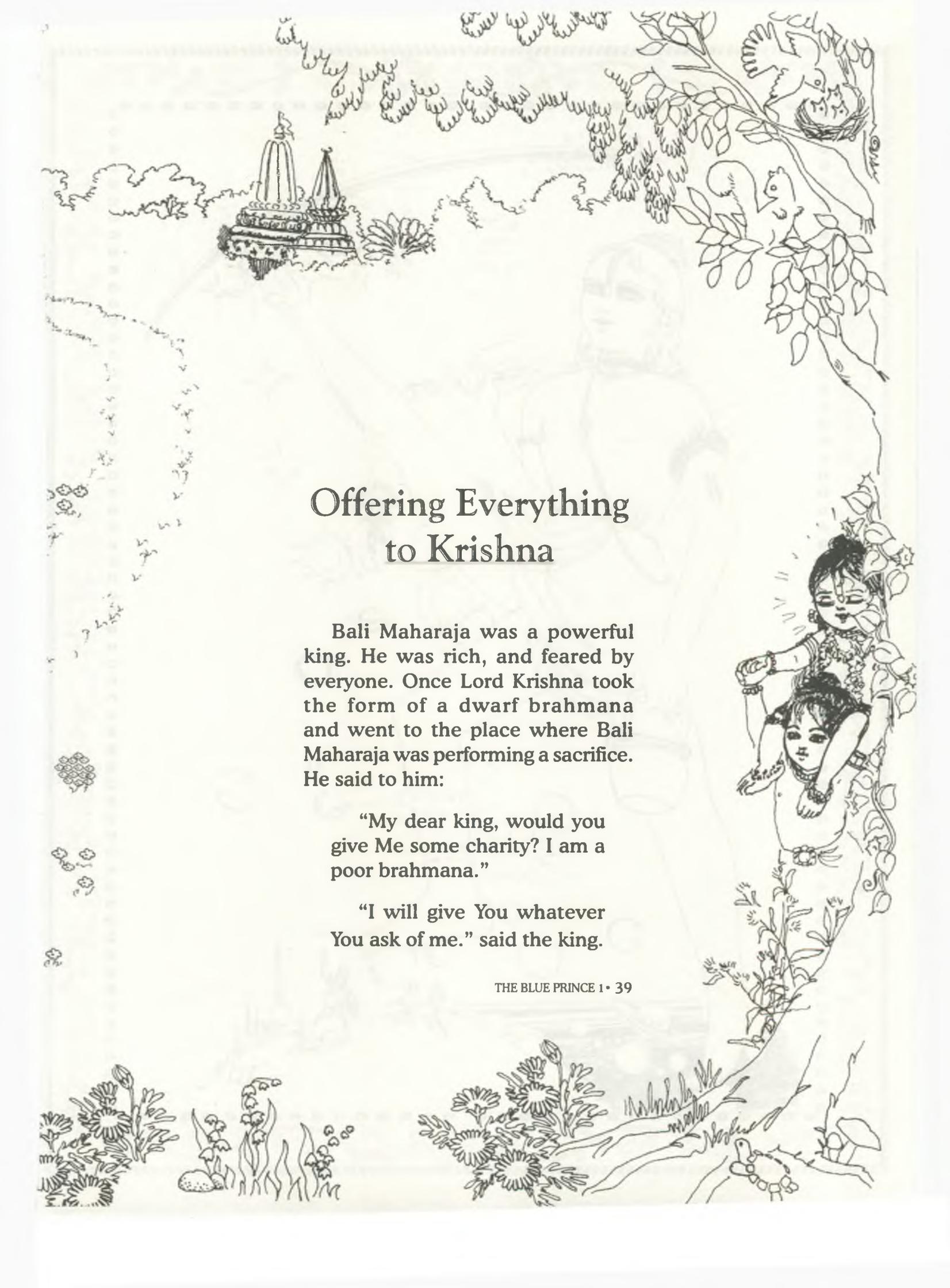
But Arjuna's dearest friend Krishna, said to him:



“Dear Arjuna, please don’t be foolish. I always protect My devotees. It is My desire that you fight these kings and kinsmen.”

Arjuna knew Krishna was his dearest friend. He wanted to serve Krishna so he fought that greatest of battles. Arjuna is Krishna’s perfect friend and servant.



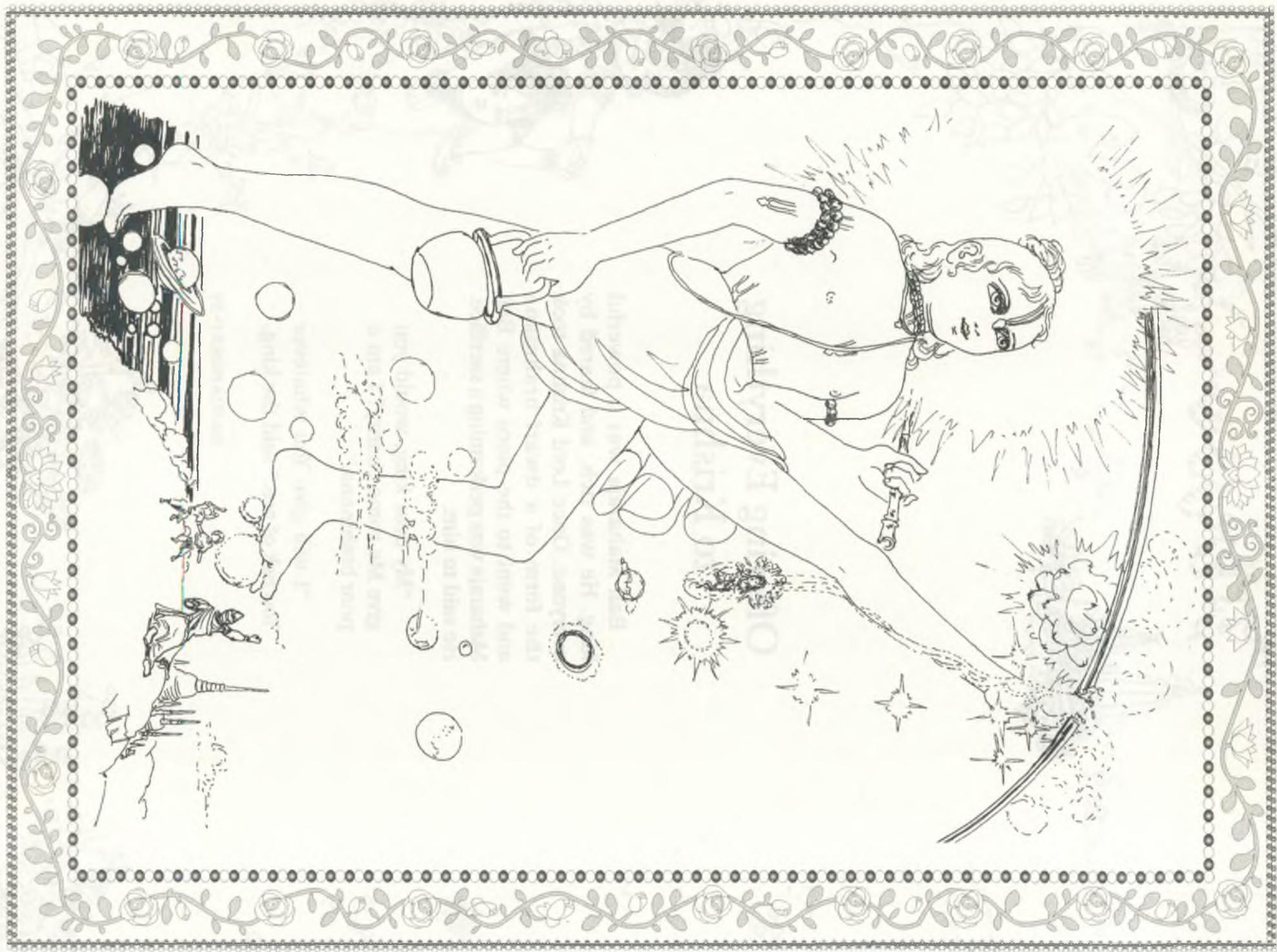


Offering Everything to Krishna

Bali Maharaja was a powerful king. He was rich, and feared by everyone. Once Lord Krishna took the form of a dwarf brahmana and went to the place where Bali Maharaja was performing a sacrifice. He said to him:

“My dear king, would you give Me some charity? I am a poor brahmana.”

“I will give You whatever You ask of me.” said the king.





The tiny brahmana asked,
“Please, give Me three steps
of land.”

As soon as the king agreed the
dwarf grew so big in size that with
His first step He covered all corners
of the lower planetary system. With
the second step He covered upper
planetary system including Lord
Brahma’s planet.

Then the dwarf brahmana said to
King Bali:

“Where can I place My
third step?”

Bowing his head King Bali said:

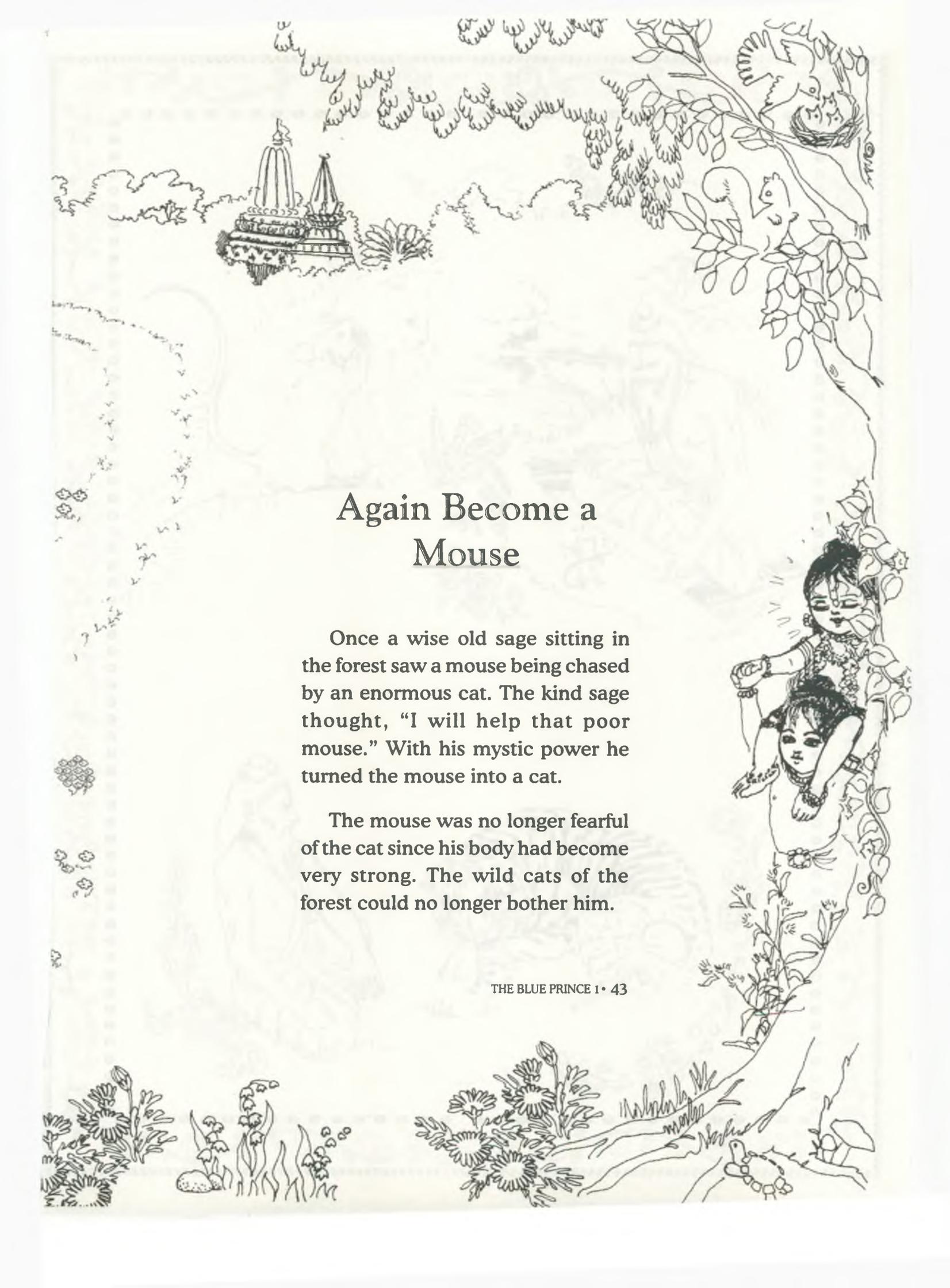
“Please, place Your third
step on my head, dear Lord.
Then everything will be
Yours.”





Since the king gave everything to Krishna, he became the most perfect of devotees.



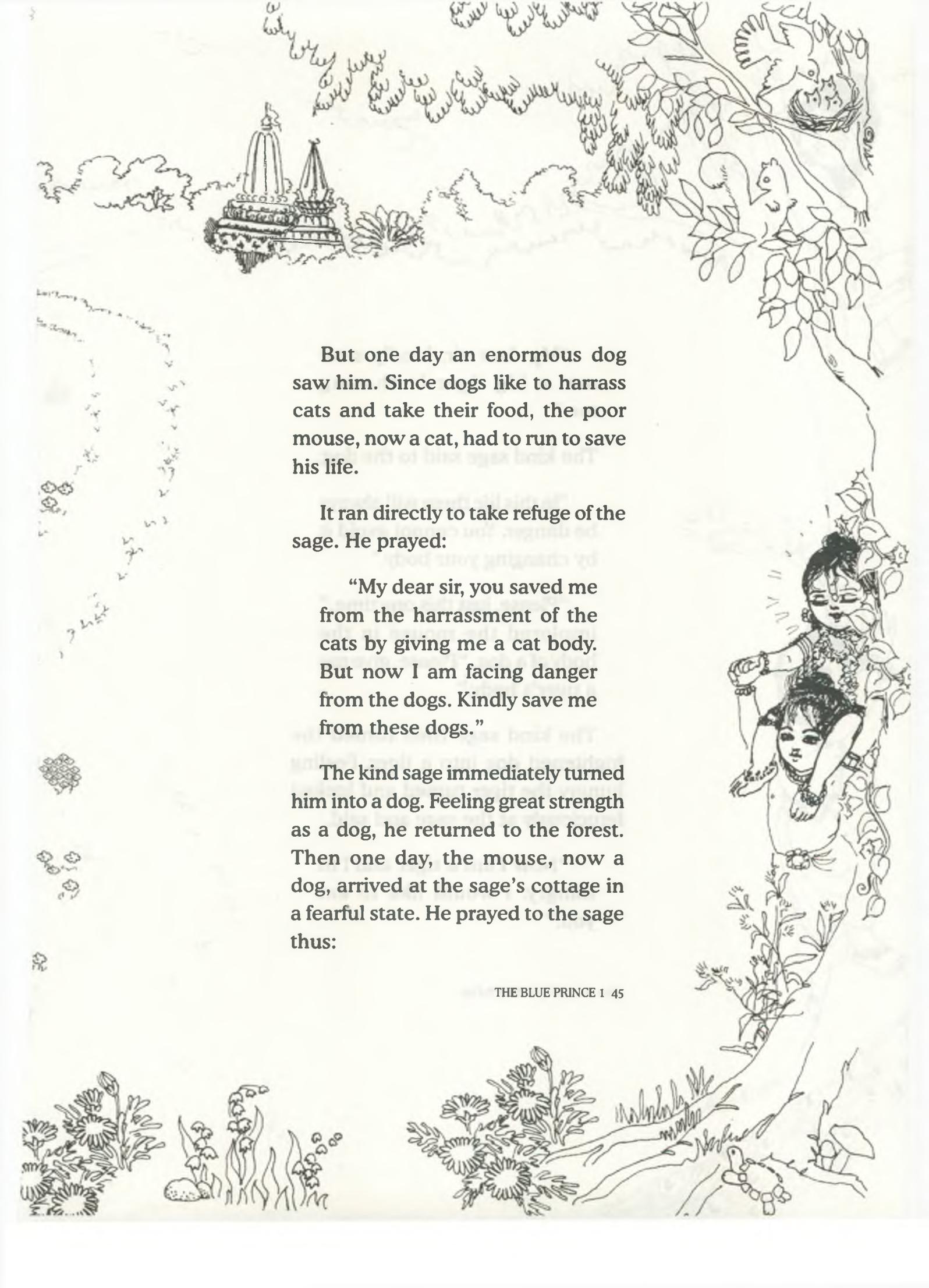


Again Become a Mouse

Once a wise old sage sitting in the forest saw a mouse being chased by an enormous cat. The kind sage thought, "I will help that poor mouse." With his mystic power he turned the mouse into a cat.

The mouse was no longer fearful of the cat since his body had become very strong. The wild cats of the forest could no longer bother him.



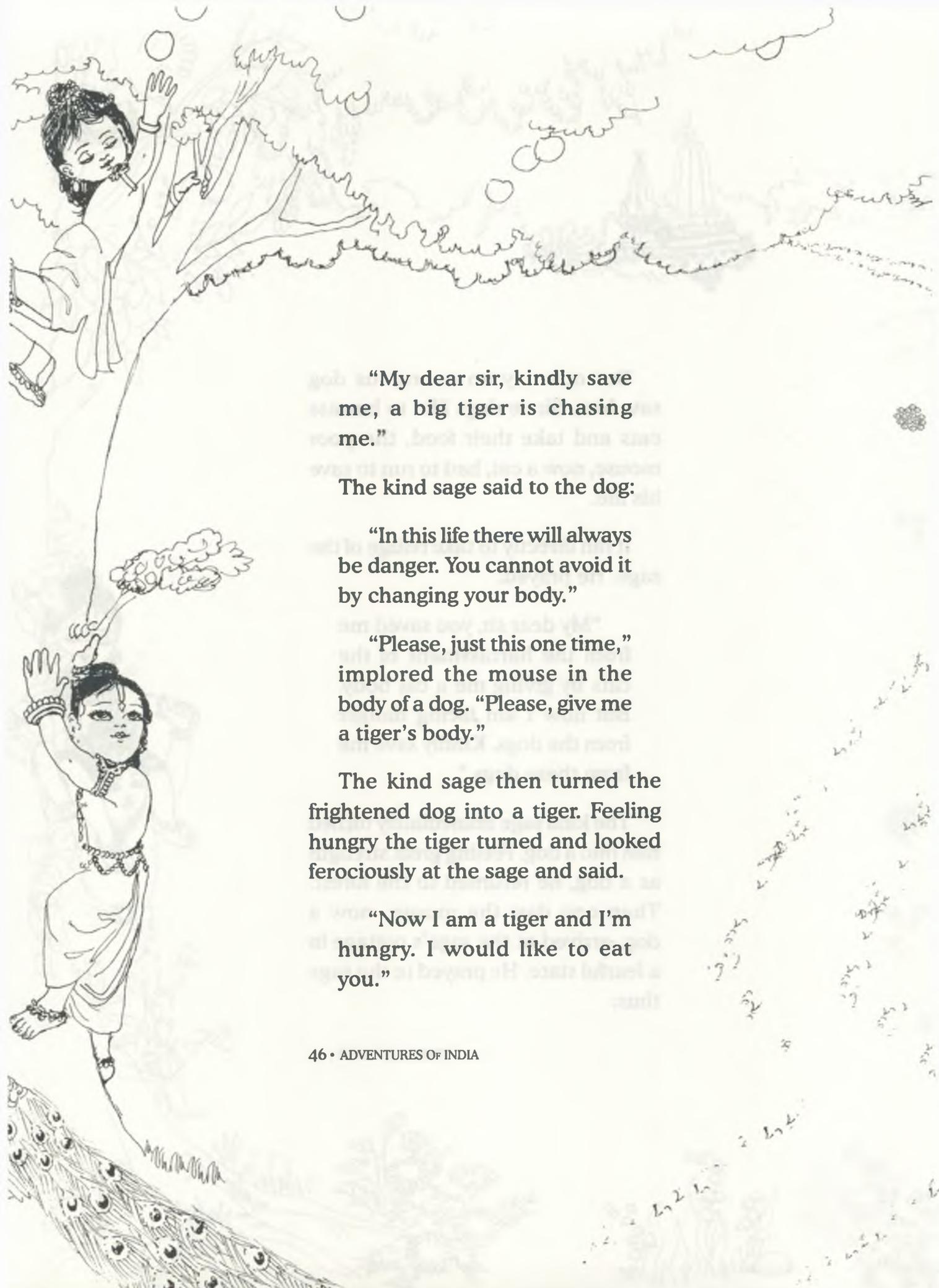


But one day an enormous dog saw him. Since dogs like to harrass cats and take their food, the poor mouse, now a cat, had to run to save his life.

It ran directly to take refuge of the sage. He prayed:

“My dear sir, you saved me from the harrassment of the cats by giving me a cat body. But now I am facing danger from the dogs. Kindly save me from these dogs.”

The kind sage immediately turned him into a dog. Feeling great strength as a dog, he returned to the forest. Then one day, the mouse, now a dog, arrived at the sage’s cottage in a fearful state. He prayed to the sage thus:



“My dear sir, kindly save me, a big tiger is chasing me.”

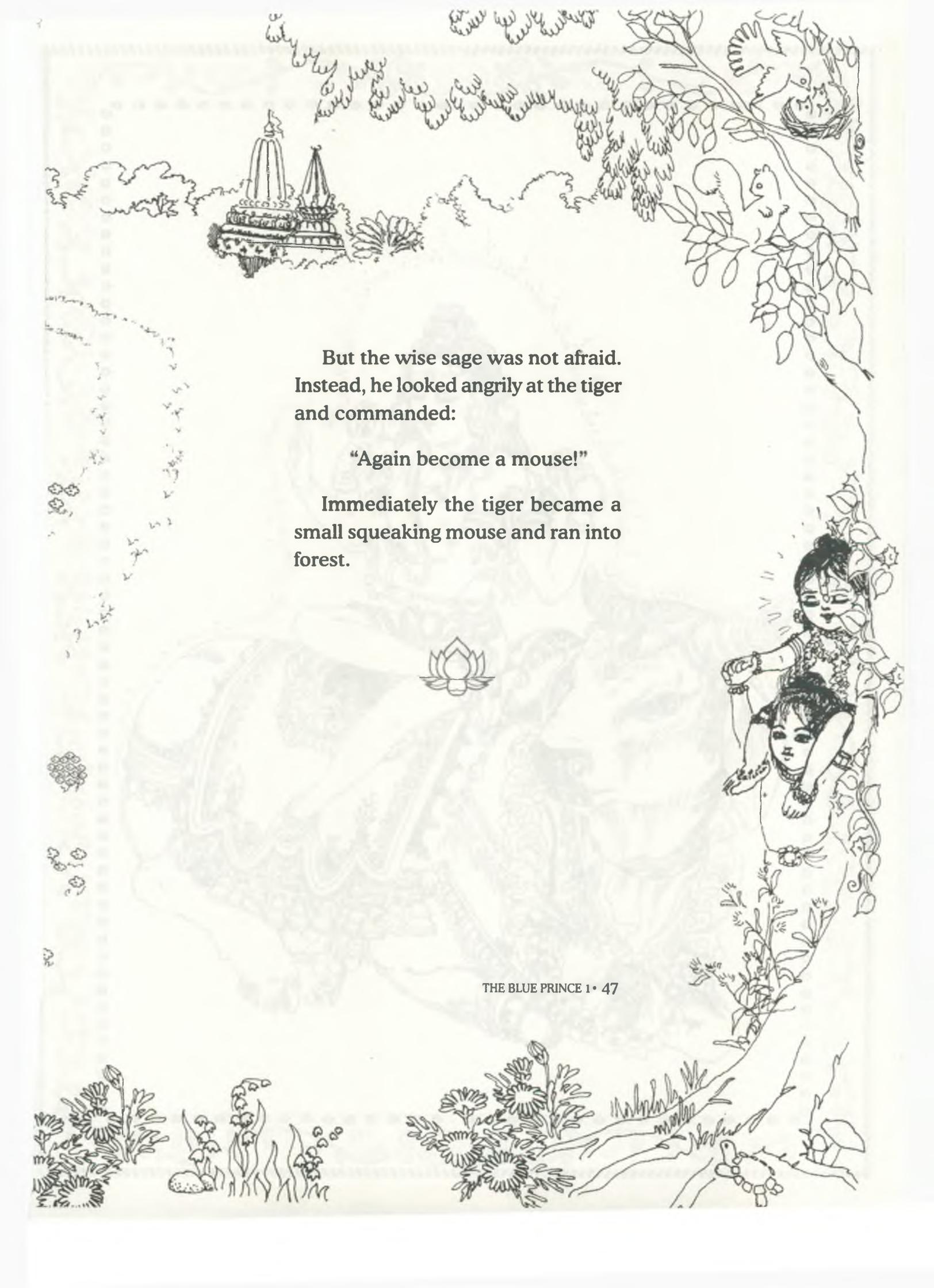
The kind sage said to the dog:

“In this life there will always be danger. You cannot avoid it by changing your body.”

“Please, just this one time,” implored the mouse in the body of a dog. “Please, give me a tiger’s body.”

The kind sage then turned the frightened dog into a tiger. Feeling hungry the tiger turned and looked ferociously at the sage and said.

“Now I am a tiger and I’m hungry. I would like to eat you.”

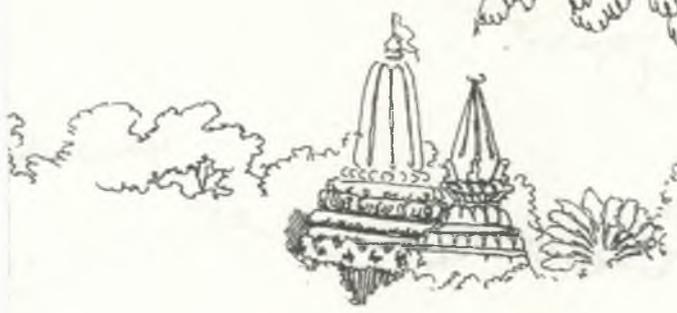


But the wise sage was not afraid.
Instead, he looked angrily at the tiger
and commanded:

“Again become a mouse!”

Immediately the tiger became a
small squeaking mouse and ran into
forest.





The Supreme Tricks of Vishnu

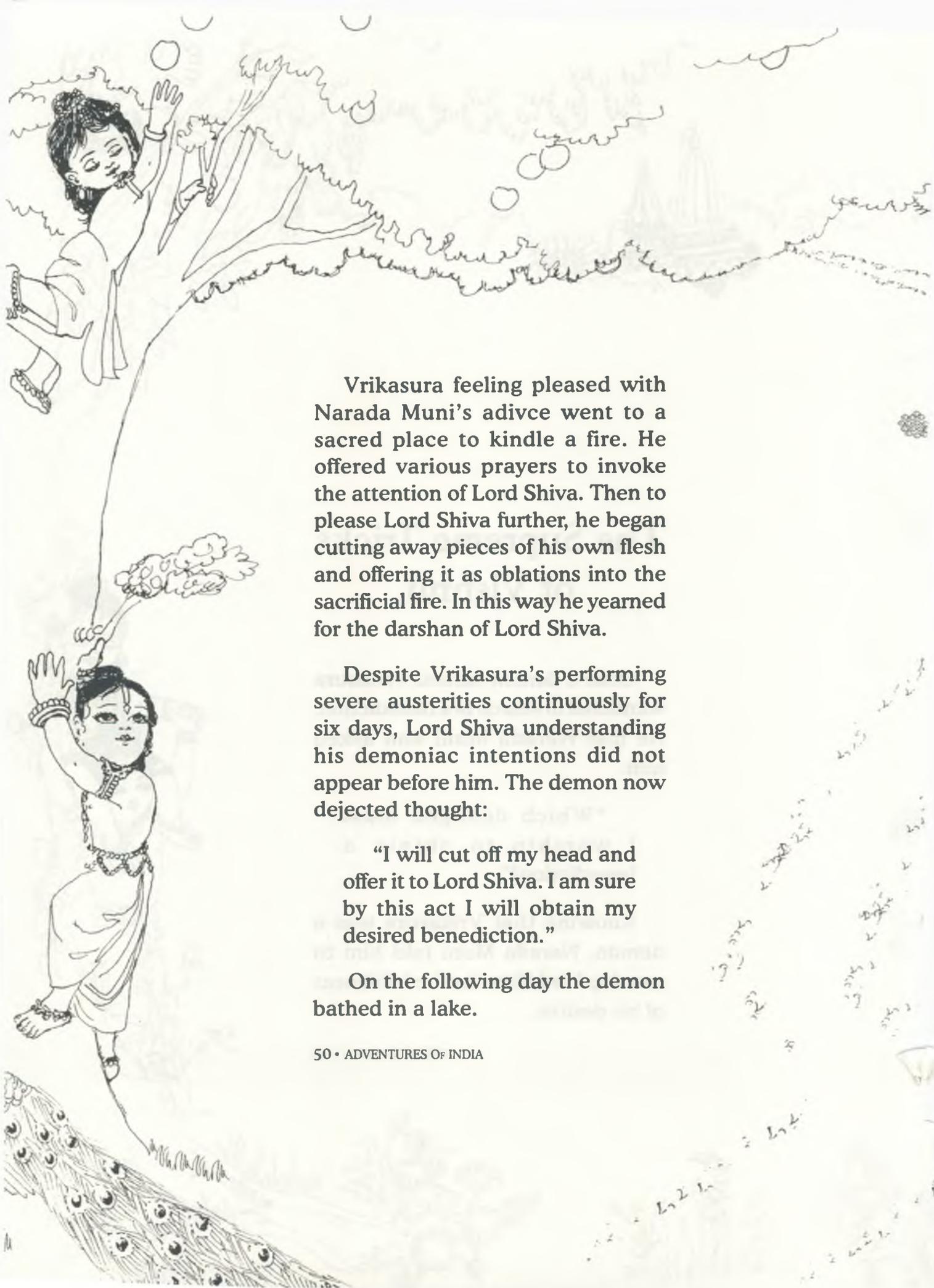
Once a demon named Vrikasura wandered in search of a benediction. He met Narada Muni and asked him:

“Which demigod must I worship to obtain a benediction?”

Knowing that Vrikasura was a demon, Narada Muni told him to worship Lord Shiva for the fulfillment of his desires.

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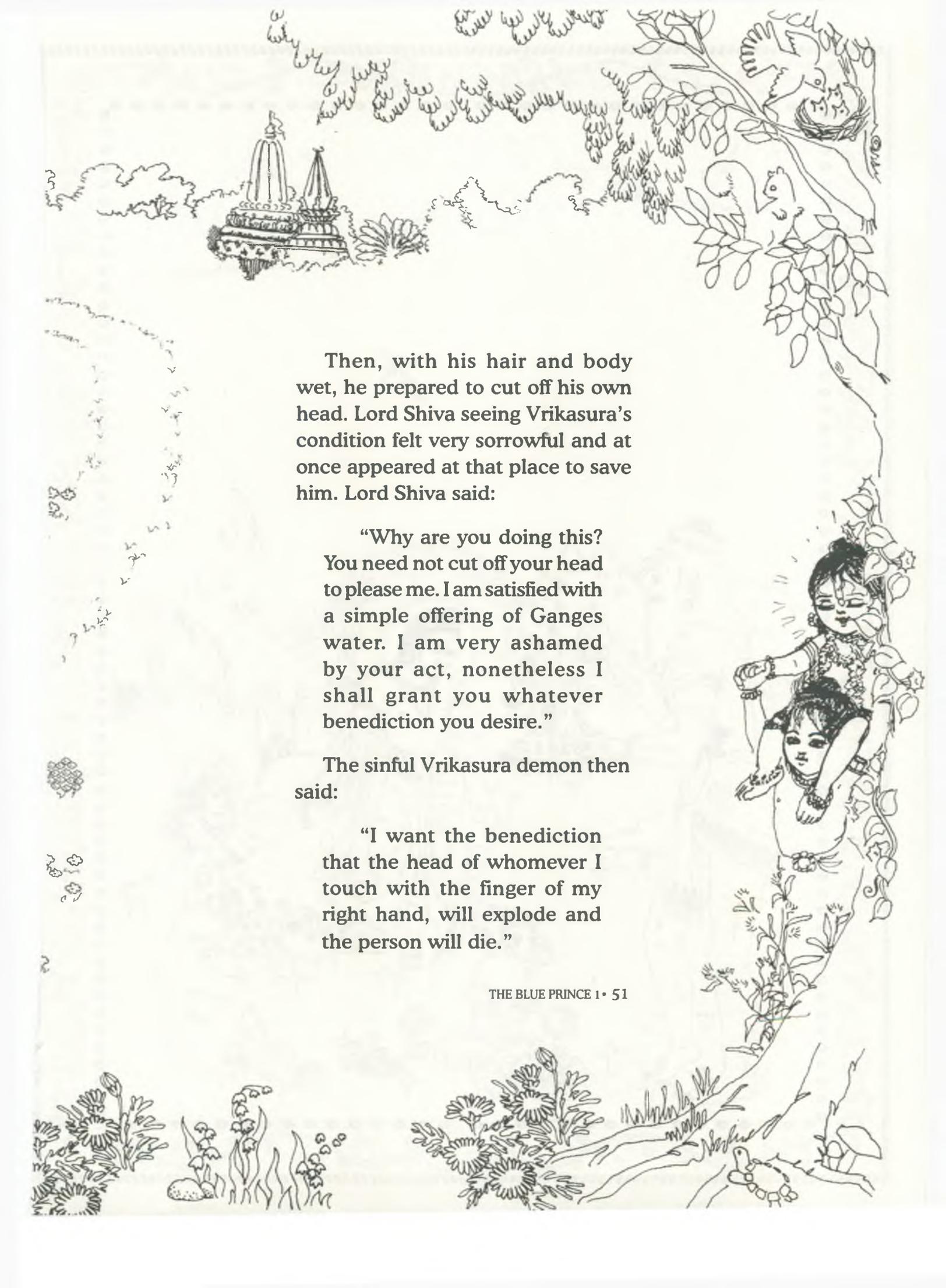


Vrikasura feeling pleased with Narada Muni's advice went to a sacred place to kindle a fire. He offered various prayers to invoke the attention of Lord Shiva. Then to please Lord Shiva further, he began cutting away pieces of his own flesh and offering it as oblations into the sacrificial fire. In this way he yearned for the darshan of Lord Shiva.

Despite Vrikasura's performing severe austerities continuously for six days, Lord Shiva understanding his demoniac intentions did not appear before him. The demon now dejected thought:

"I will cut off my head and offer it to Lord Shiva. I am sure by this act I will obtain my desired benediction."

On the following day the demon bathed in a lake.

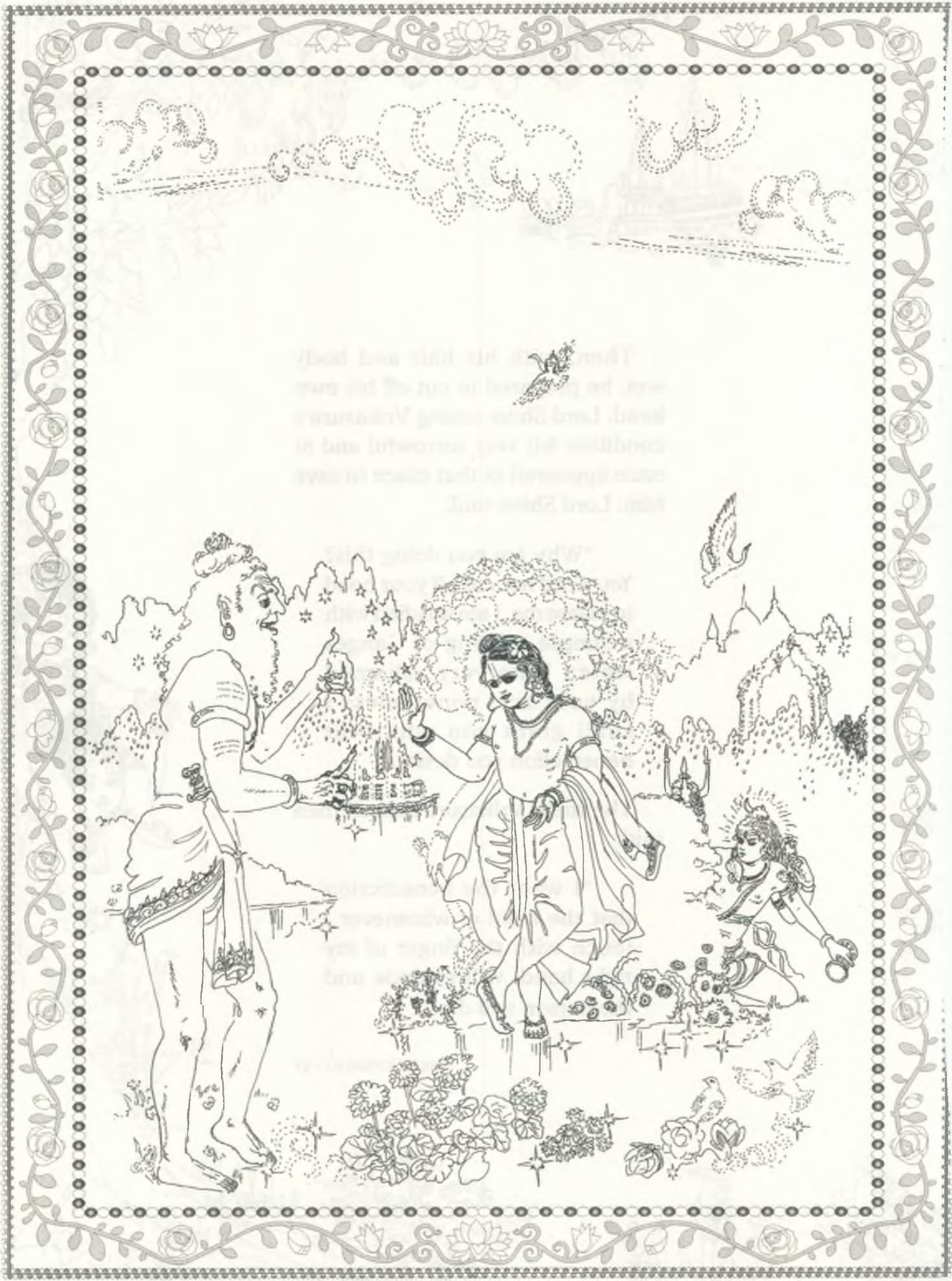


Then, with his hair and body wet, he prepared to cut off his own head. Lord Shiva seeing Vrikasura's condition felt very sorrowful and at once appeared at that place to save him. Lord Shiva said:

“Why are you doing this? You need not cut off your head to please me. I am satisfied with a simple offering of Ganges water. I am very ashamed by your act, nonetheless I shall grant you whatever benediction you desire.”

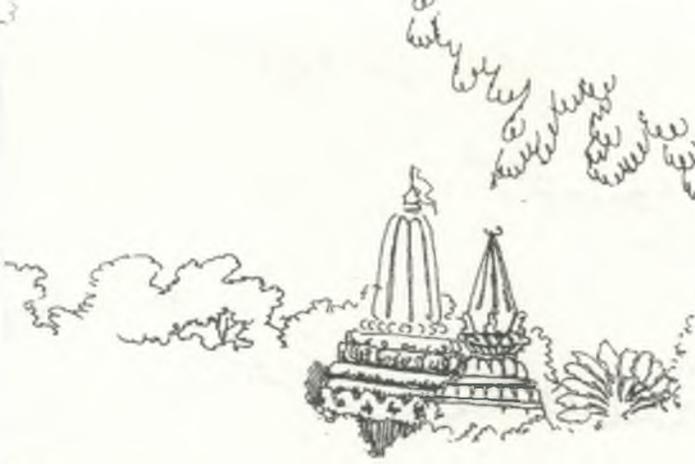
The sinful Vrikasura demon then said:

“I want the benediction that the head of whomever I touch with the finger of my right hand, will explode and the person will die.”



That is the old and best,
we'll be led in out of the west,
and the best of the best,
and the best of the best.





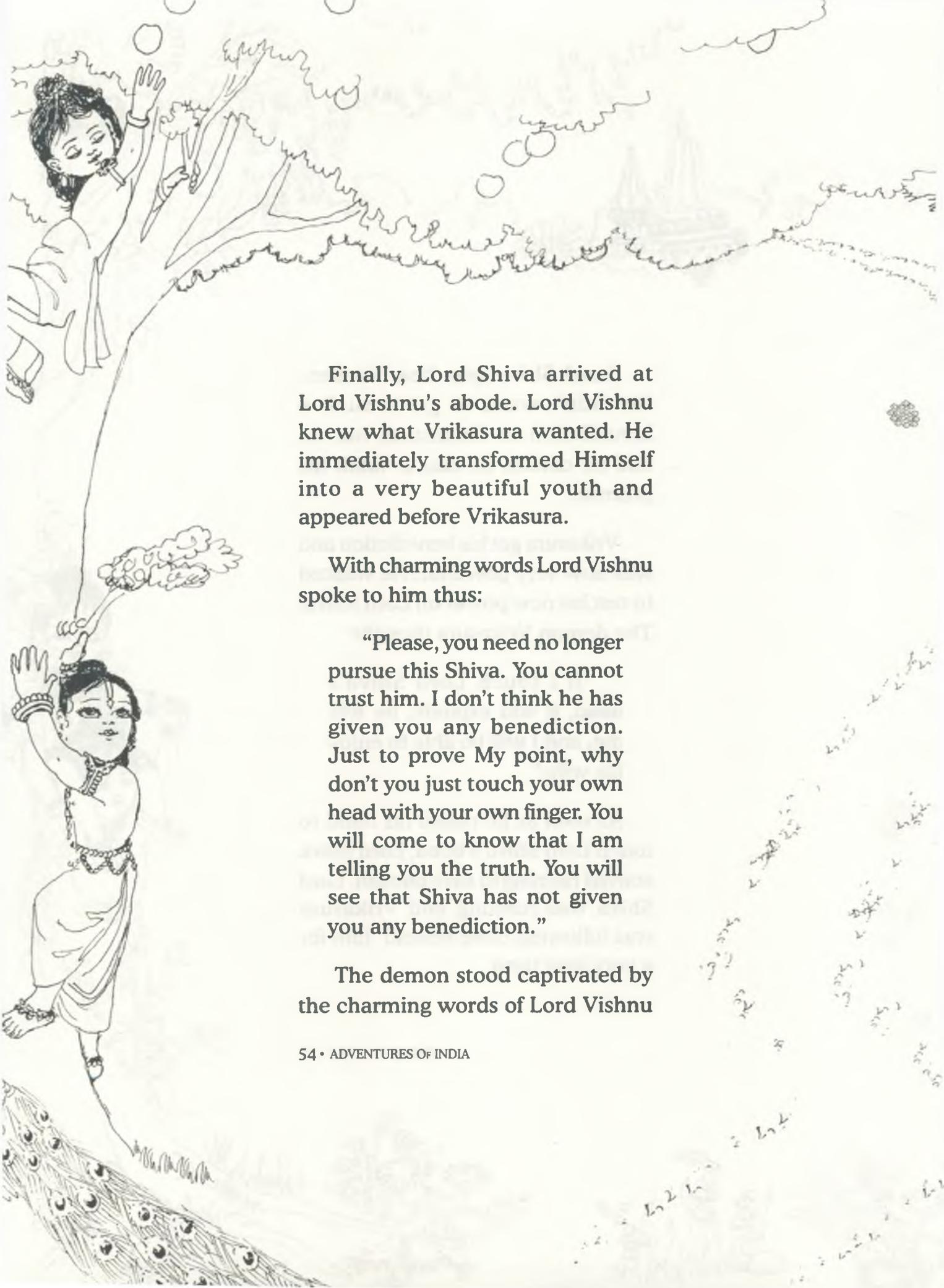
Lord Shiva was heartbroken. He didn't want to grant such a benediction to Vrikasura, but he had no choice; he had to fulfill his promise.

Vrikasura got his benediction and was now very powerful. He wanted to test his new power on Lord Shiva. The demon Vrikasura thought:

“If I touch Lord Shiva's head, it will explode, he will die, and I will be able to enjoy his wife.”

As soon as he raised his hand to touch Lord Shiva's head, Lord Shiva started running to save himself. Lord Shiva was running and Vrikasura was following close behind him for a very long time.



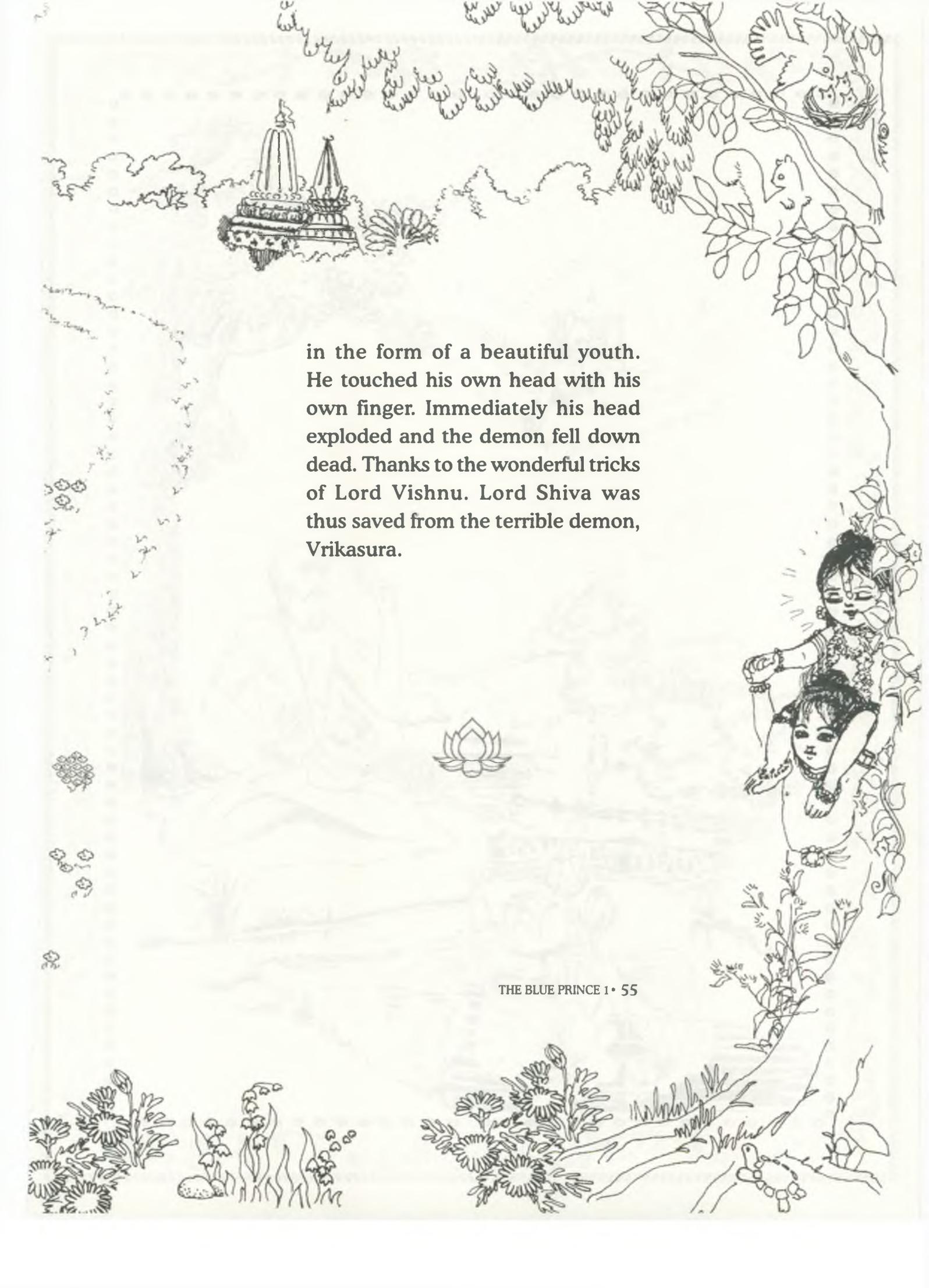


Finally, Lord Shiva arrived at Lord Vishnu's abode. Lord Vishnu knew what Vrikasura wanted. He immediately transformed Himself into a very beautiful youth and appeared before Vrikasura.

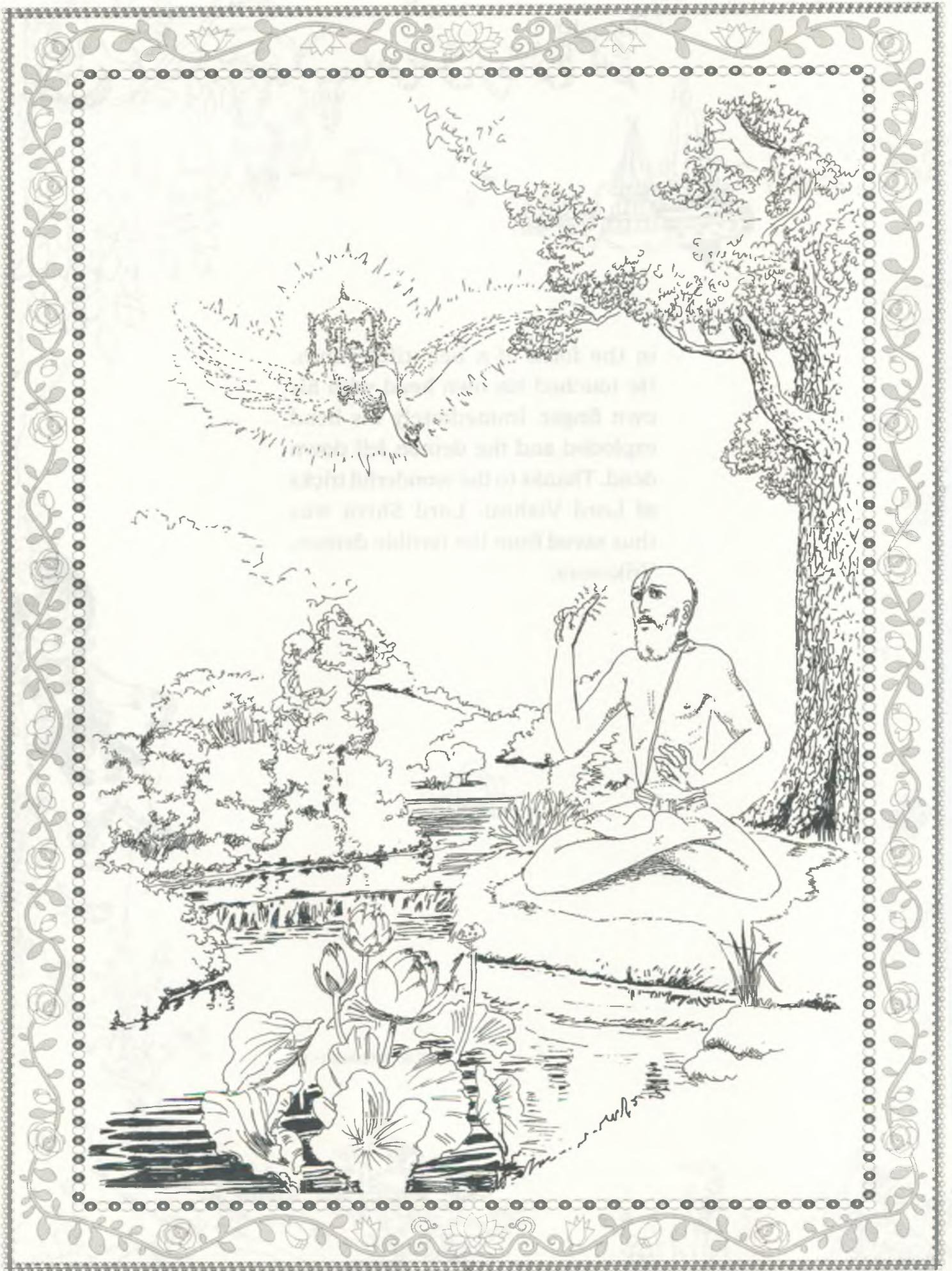
With charming words Lord Vishnu spoke to him thus:

“Please, you need no longer pursue this Shiva. You cannot trust him. I don't think he has given you any benediction. Just to prove My point, why don't you just touch your own head with your own finger. You will come to know that I am telling you the truth. You will see that Shiva has not given you any benediction.”

The demon stood captivated by the charming words of Lord Vishnu



in the form of a beautiful youth. He touched his own head with his own finger. Immediately his head exploded and the demon fell down dead. Thanks to the wonderful tricks of Lord Vishnu. Lord Shiva was thus saved from the terrible demon, Vrikasura.



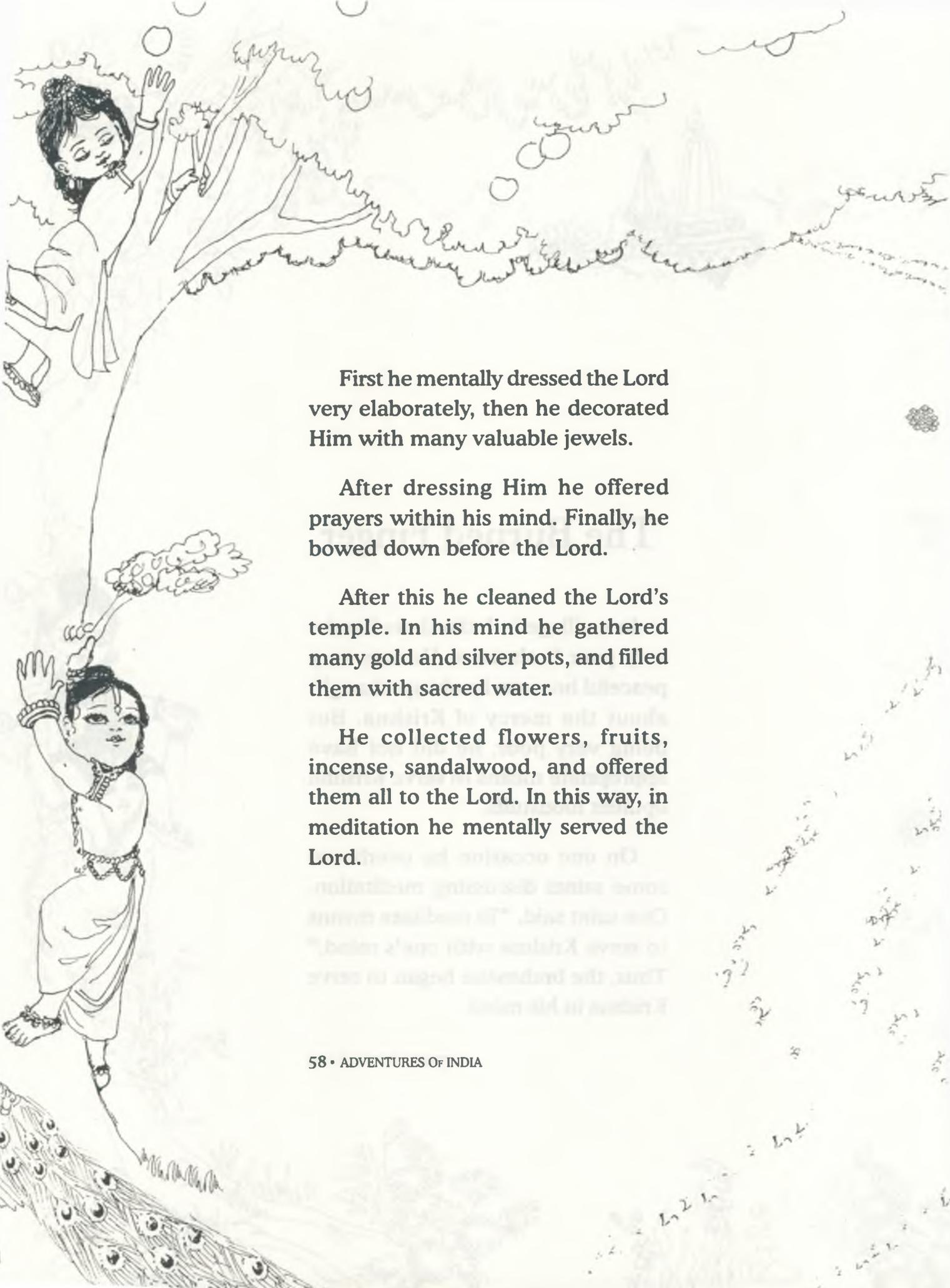


The Burned Finger

In a village in India there lived a very poor brahmana. He was very peaceful because he always thought about the mercy of Krishna. But being very poor, he did not have appropriate means to serve Krishna opulent foodstuffs.

On one occasion he overheard some saints discussing meditation. One saint said, "To meditate means to serve Krishna with one's mind." Thus, the brahmana began to serve Krishna in his mind.



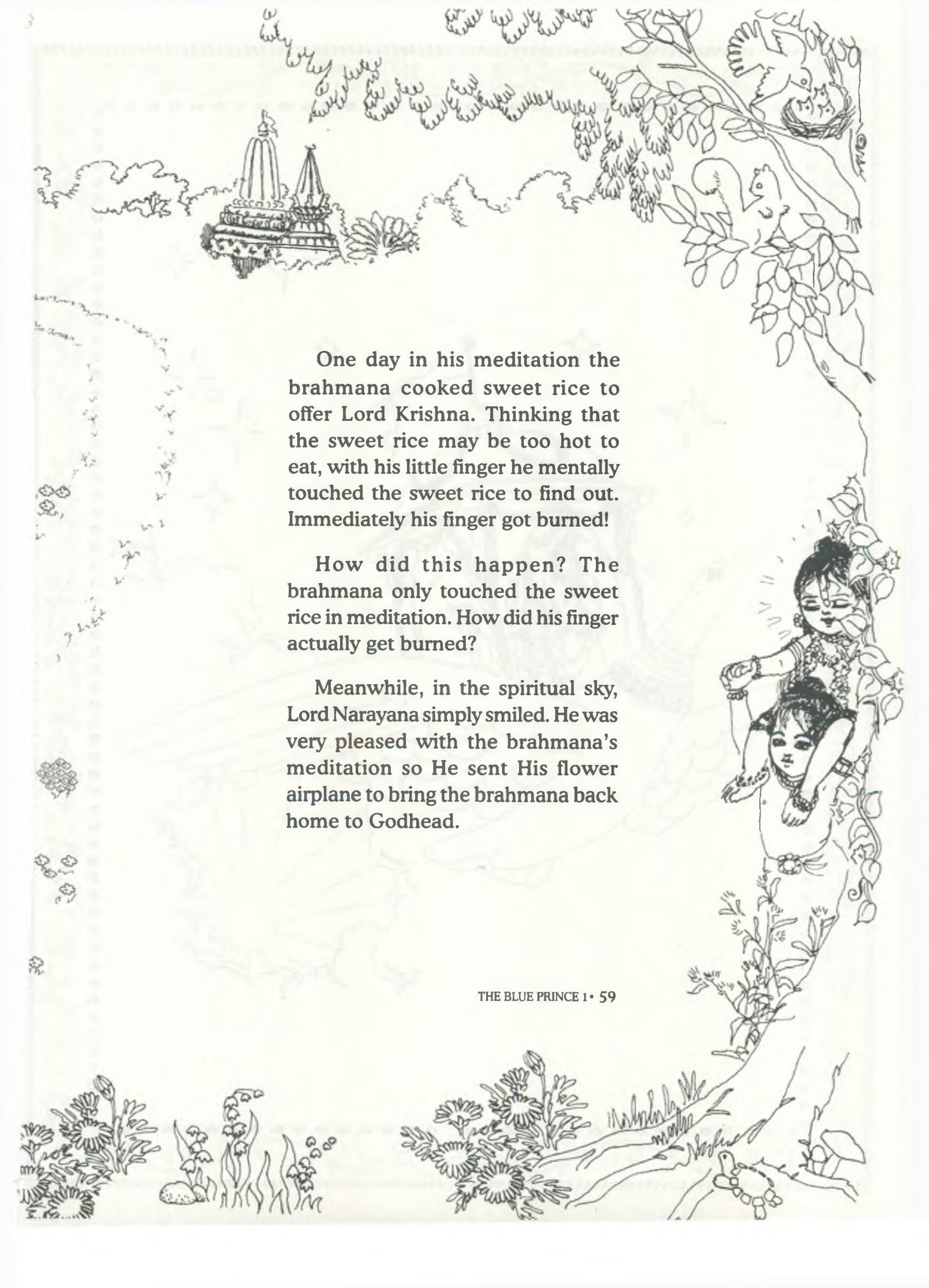


First he mentally dressed the Lord very elaborately, then he decorated Him with many valuable jewels.

After dressing Him he offered prayers within his mind. Finally, he bowed down before the Lord.

After this he cleaned the Lord's temple. In his mind he gathered many gold and silver pots, and filled them with sacred water.

He collected flowers, fruits, incense, sandalwood, and offered them all to the Lord. In this way, in meditation he mentally served the Lord.



One day in his meditation the brahmana cooked sweet rice to offer Lord Krishna. Thinking that the sweet rice may be too hot to eat, with his little finger he mentally touched the sweet rice to find out. Immediately his finger got burned!

How did this happen? The brahmana only touched the sweet rice in meditation. How did his finger actually get burned?

Meanwhile, in the spiritual sky, Lord Narayana simply smiled. He was very pleased with the brahmana's meditation so He sent His flower airplane to bring the brahmana back home to Godhead.

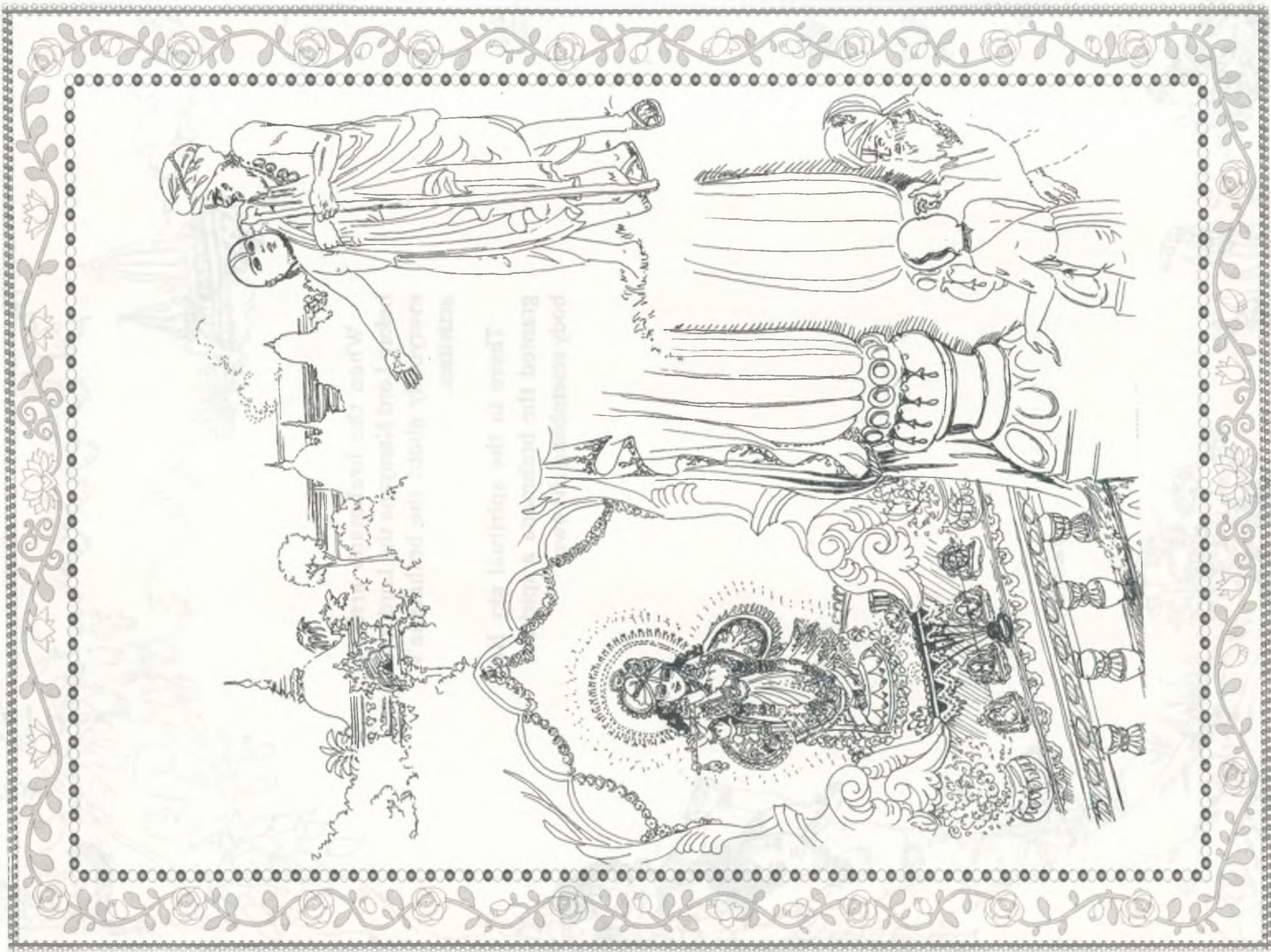




When the brahmana arrived before Lord Narayana the Lord told everybody about the brahmana's activities.

There in the spiritual sky He granted the brahmana a spiritual body resembling His own.







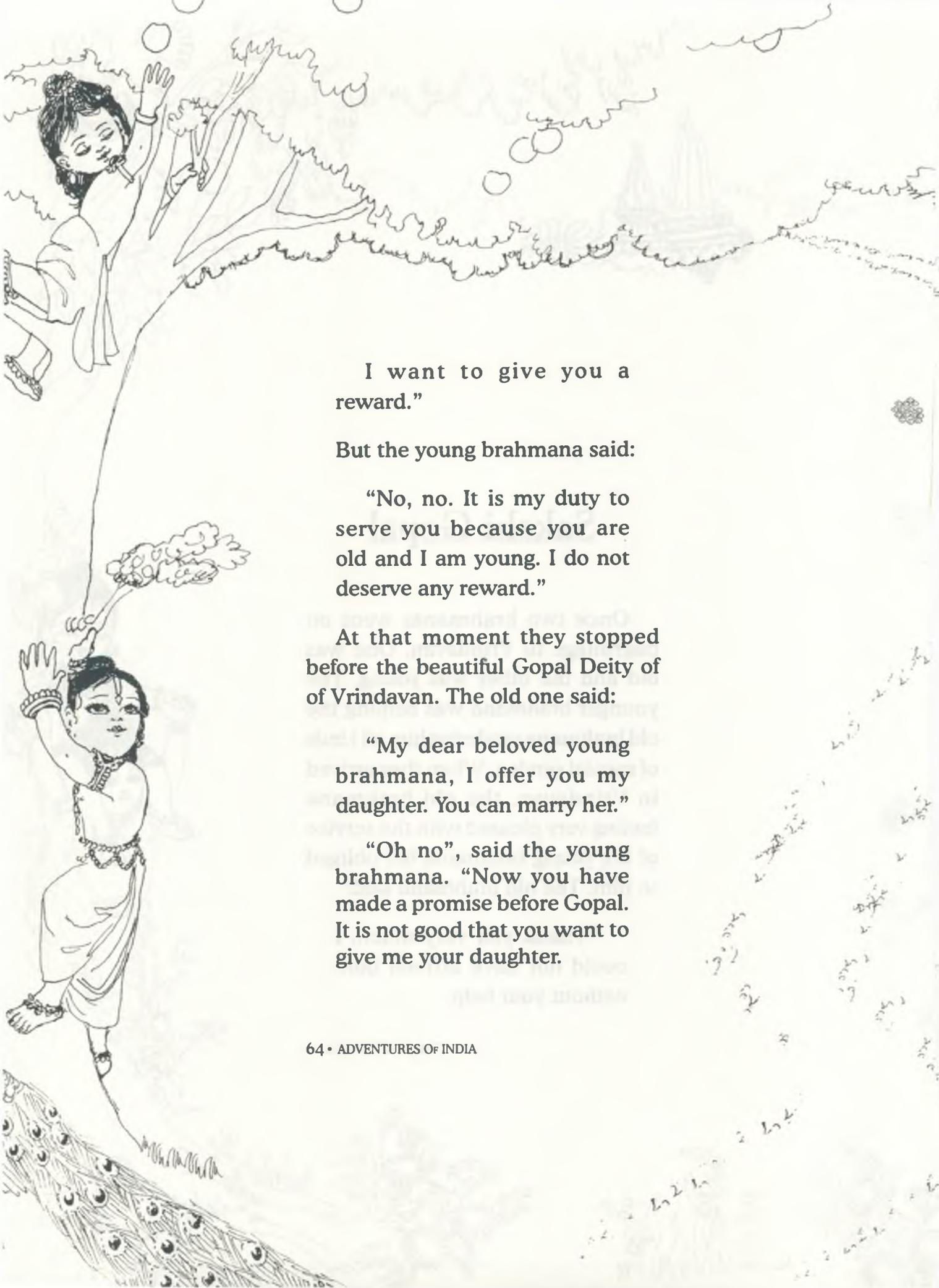
Sakshi Gopal

Once two brahmanas went on pilgrimage to Vrindavan. One was old and the other was young. The younger brahmana was helping the old brahmana rendering him all kinds of menial service. When they arrived in Vrindavan, the old brahmana feeling very pleased with the service of the young brahmana felt obliged to him. The old brahmana said:

“Thank you very much. I could not have arrived here without your help.

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I want to give you a reward."

But the young brahmana said:

"No, no. It is my duty to serve you because you are old and I am young. I do not deserve any reward."

At that moment they stopped before the beautiful Gopal Deity of Vrindavan. The old one said:

"My dear beloved young brahmana, I offer you my daughter. You can marry her."

"Oh no", said the young brahmana. "Now you have made a promise before Gopal. It is not good that you want to give me your daughter."



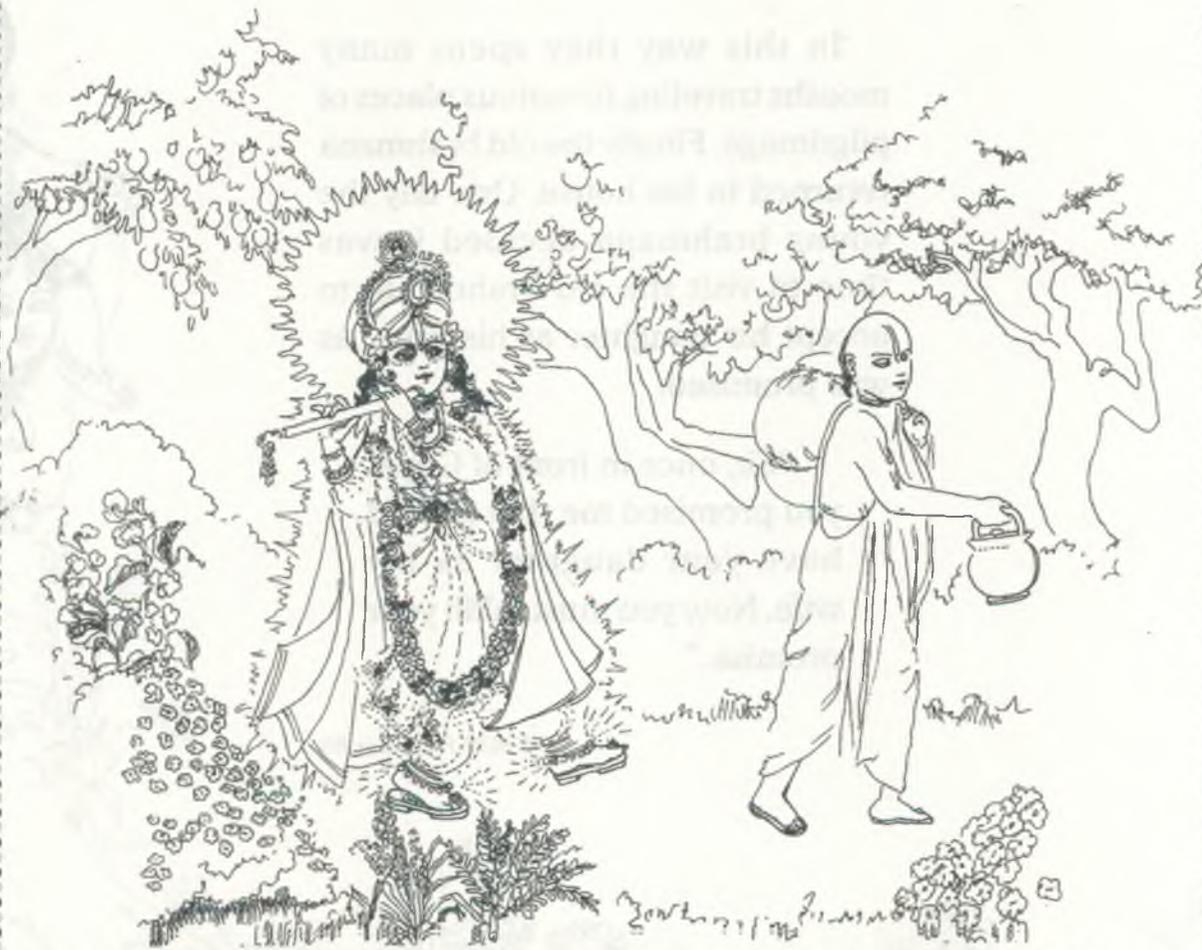
Your son and your wife will not approve of the marriage.”

“But I have already promised in front of Gopal that you will accept my daughter as your wife.” said the old brahmana. “So you must marry her.”

In this way they spent many months traveling to various places of pilgrimage. Finally the old brahmana returned to his house. One day the young brahmana decided it was time to visit the old brahmana, to accept his daughter as his bride as was promised.

“Sir, once in front of Gopal you promised me that I could have your daughter as my wife. Now you must fulfill your promise.”







“Yes, yes,” said the old brahmana, “You will have my daughter as your wife.”

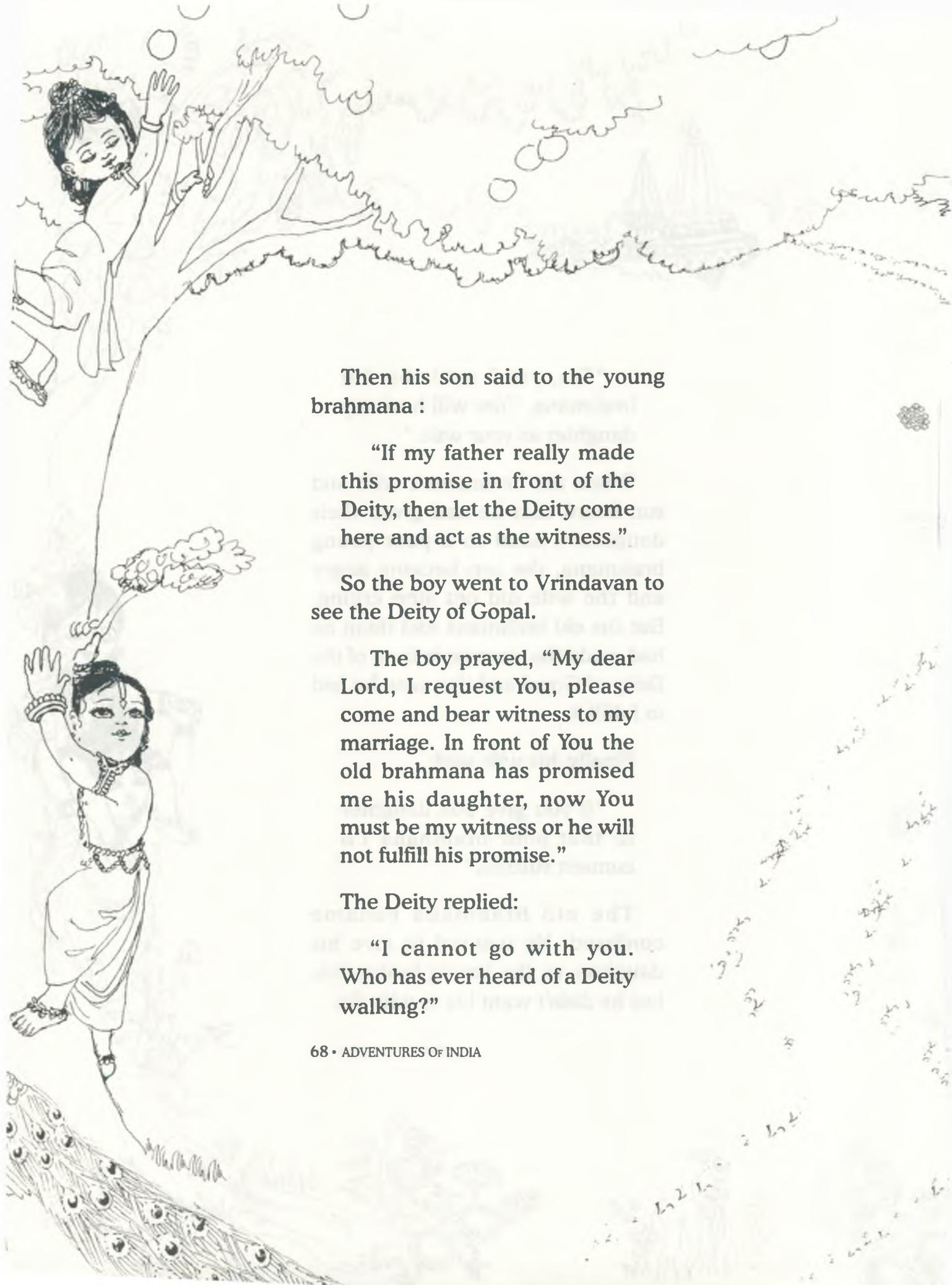
When the brahmana’s wife and son heard that he had given their daughter’s hand to a poor young brahmana, the son became angry and the wife did not stop crying. But the old brahmana told them he had made the promise in front of the Deity of Gopal and that now he had to fulfill it.

Finally, his wife said:

“If you give our daughter to that poor brahmana I’ll commit suicide.”

The old brahmana became confused. He wanted to give his daughter to the young brahmana, but he didn’t want his to wife die.





Then his son said to the young
brahmana :

“If my father really made
this promise in front of the
Deity, then let the Deity come
here and act as the witness.”

So the boy went to Vrindavan to
see the Deity of Gopal.

The boy prayed, “My dear
Lord, I request You, please
come and bear witness to my
marriage. In front of You the
old brahmana has promised
me his daughter, now You
must be my witness or he will
not fulfill his promise.”

The Deity replied:

“I cannot go with you.
Who has ever heard of a Deity
walking?”



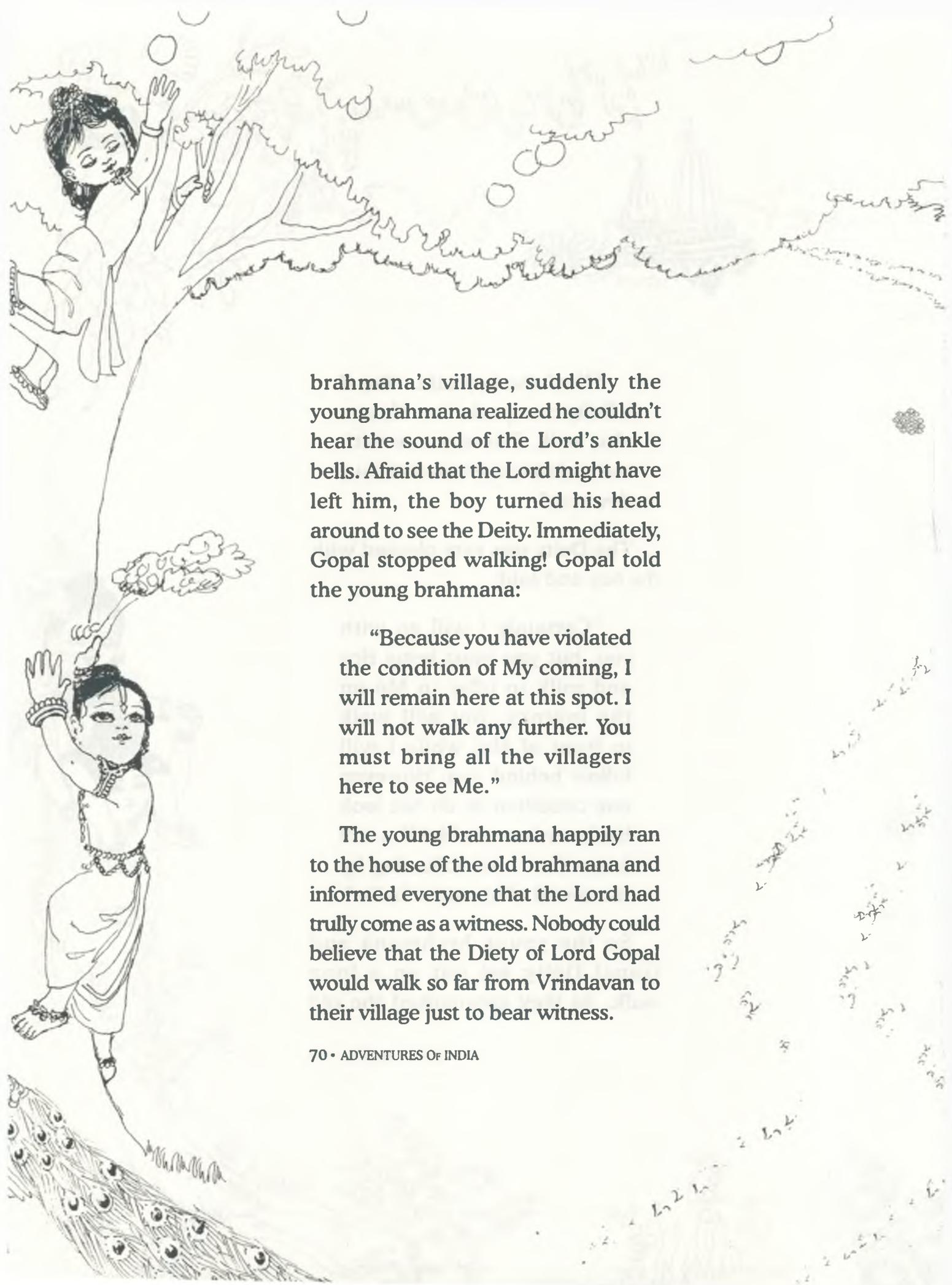
“Yes,” the boy said. “But if a Deity can speak, then He can also walk. Please, come with me and save the honor of Your devotee.”

The Deity was very pleased with the boy and said:

“Certainly I will go with you, but you must bring rice and milk to offer to Me on the journey. You will walk in front of Me, while I will follow behind you. However, one condition is: do not look backwards to see Me! You will know that I am following by the sound of My ankle bells.”

So the young brahmana and Gopal Deity set out on a long walk. As they approached the old

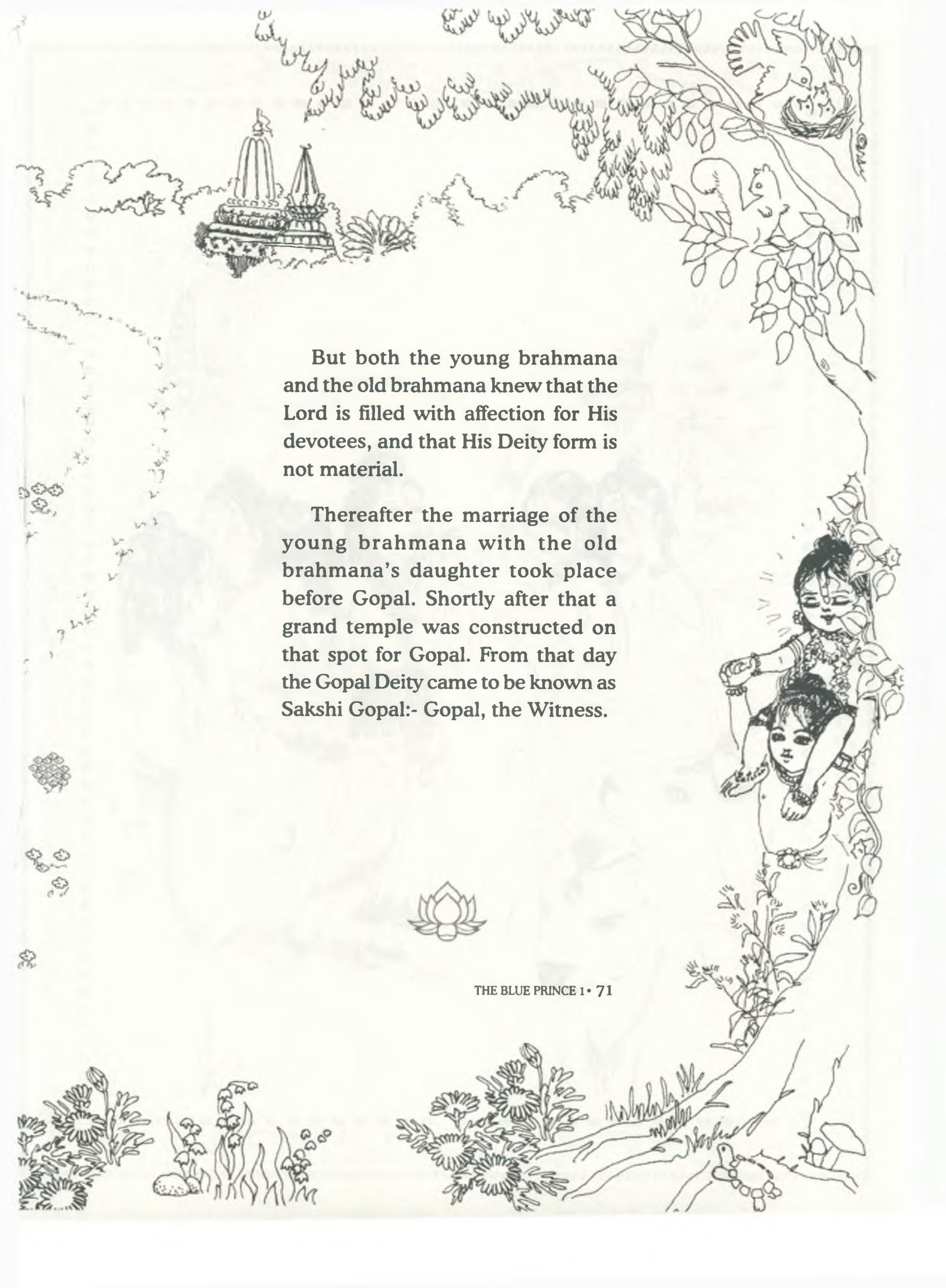




brahmana's village, suddenly the young brahmana realized he couldn't hear the sound of the Lord's ankle bells. Afraid that the Lord might have left him, the boy turned his head around to see the Deity. Immediately, Gopal stopped walking! Gopal told the young brahmana:

“Because you have violated the condition of My coming, I will remain here at this spot. I will not walk any further. You must bring all the villagers here to see Me.”

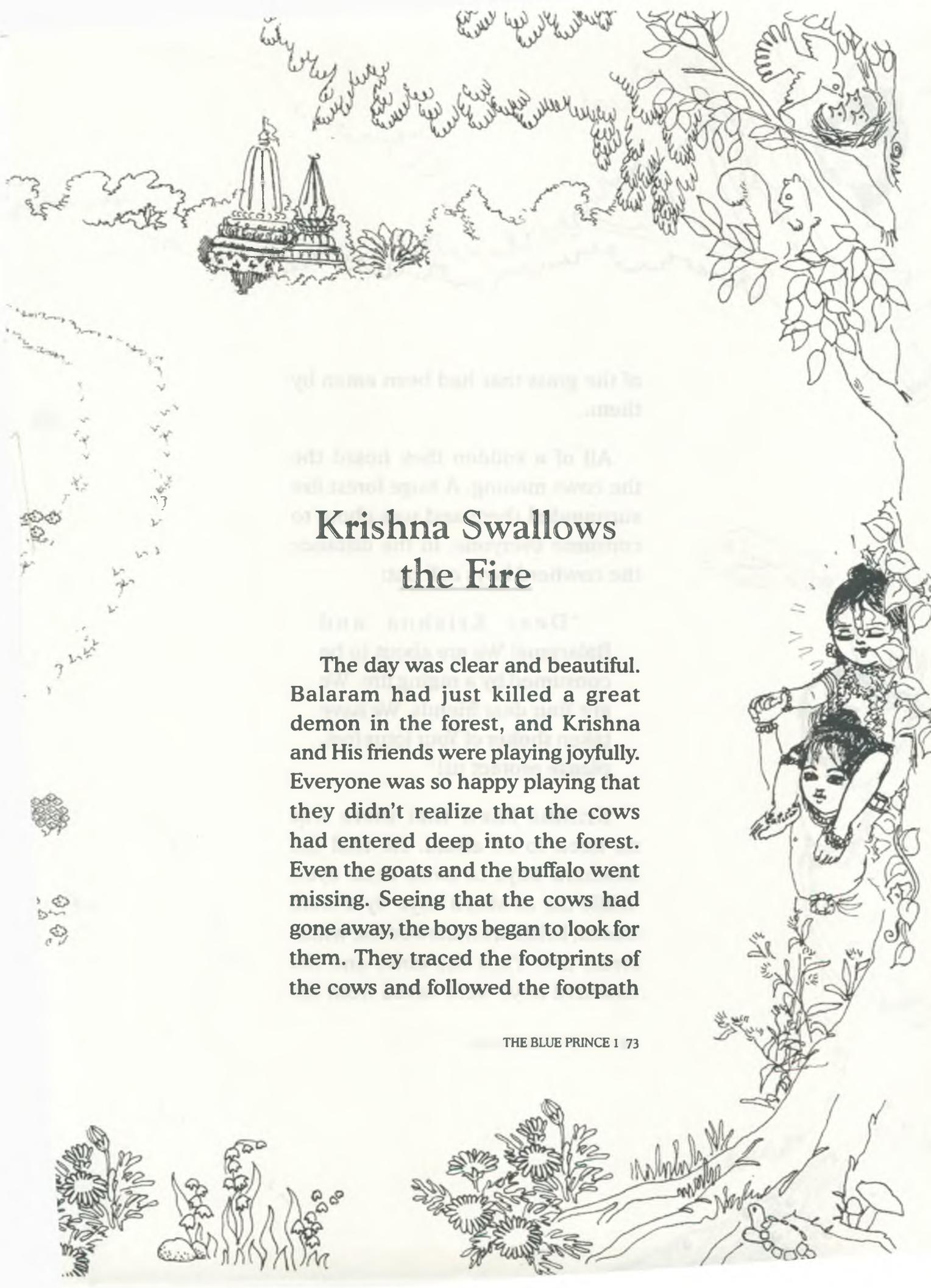
The young brahmana happily ran to the house of the old brahmana and informed everyone that the Lord had truly come as a witness. Nobody could believe that the Deity of Lord Gopal would walk so far from Vrindavan to their village just to bear witness.



But both the young brahmana and the old brahmana knew that the Lord is filled with affection for His devotees, and that His Deity form is not material.

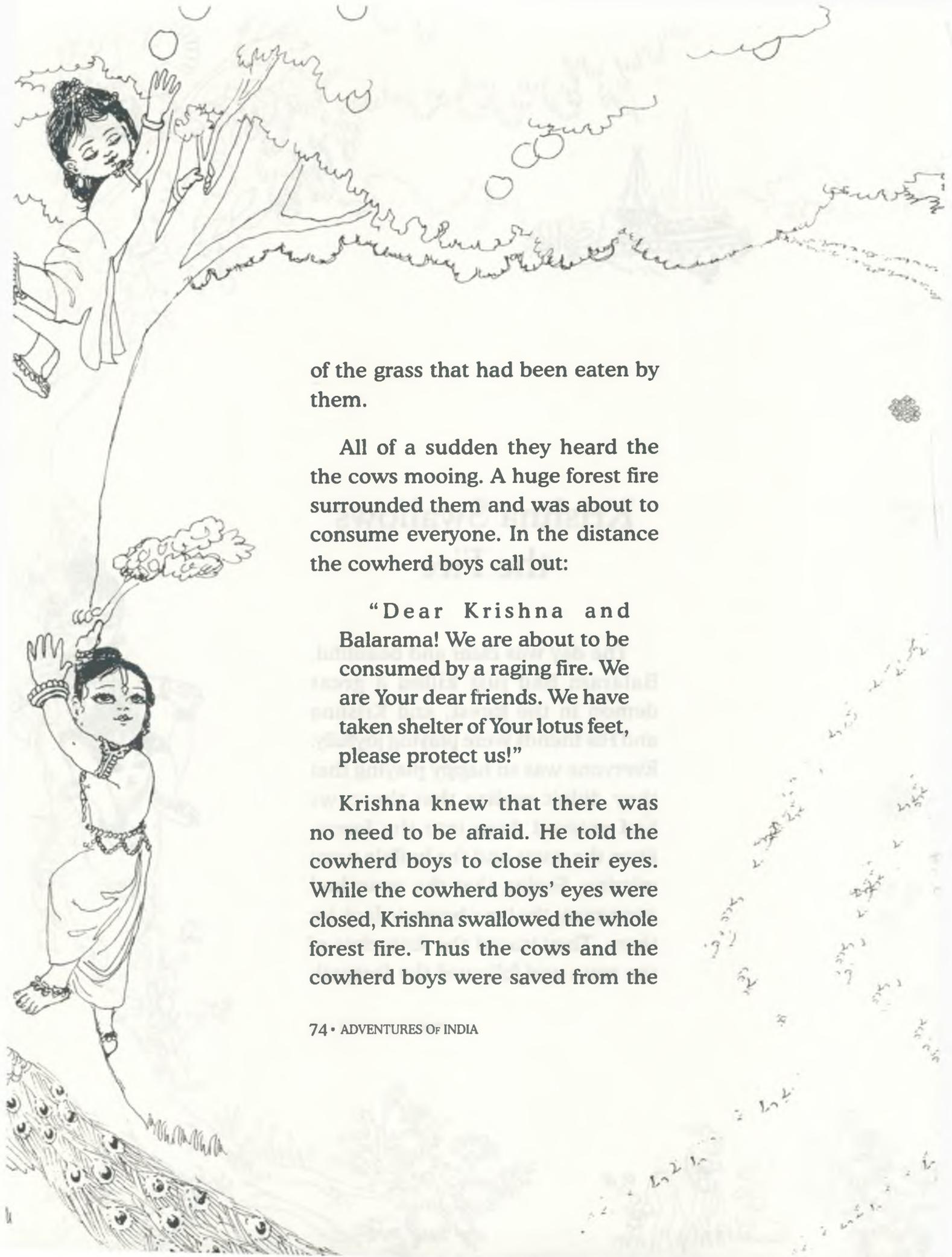
Thereafter the marriage of the young brahmana with the old brahmana's daughter took place before Gopal. Shortly after that a grand temple was constructed on that spot for Gopal. From that day the Gopal Deity came to be known as Sakshi Gopal:- Gopal, the Witness.





Krishna Swallows the Fire

The day was clear and beautiful. Balaram had just killed a great demon in the forest, and Krishna and His friends were playing joyfully. Everyone was so happy playing that they didn't realize that the cows had entered deep into the forest. Even the goats and the buffalo went missing. Seeing that the cows had gone away, the boys began to look for them. They traced the footprints of the cows and followed the footpath

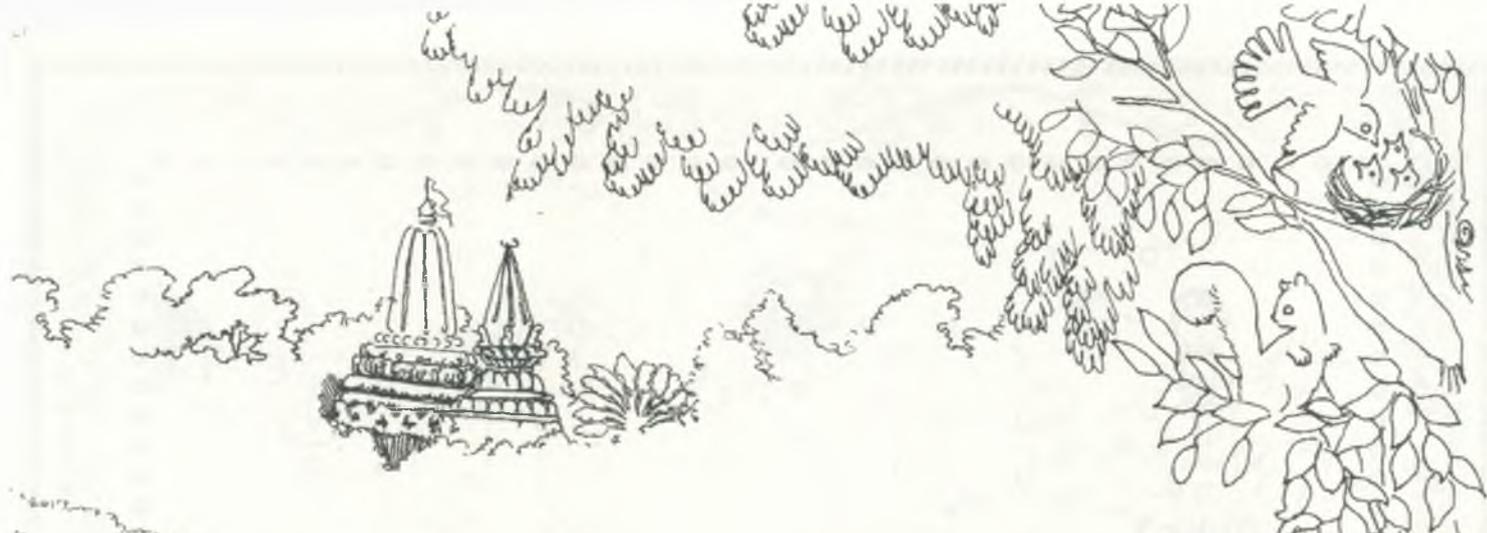


of the grass that had been eaten by them.

All of a sudden they heard the the cows mooing. A huge forest fire surrounded them and was about to consume everyone. In the distance the cowherd boys call out:

“Dear Krishna and Balarama! We are about to be consumed by a raging fire. We are Your dear friends. We have taken shelter of Your lotus feet, please protect us!”

Krishna knew that there was no need to be afraid. He told the cowherd boys to close their eyes. While the cowherd boys’ eyes were closed, Krishna swallowed the whole forest fire. Thus the cows and the cowherd boys were saved from the



forest fire. Upon opening their eyes, they saw that the forest was again green and beautiful, and that Krishna was with them.

Playing on Their flutes, Krishna and Balaram taking the cows and all Their friends, happily returned to the village of Vrindavan.





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