



THE FIRST COMMANDMENT
FROM INDIA

HONOR
THEY
NOTHER
AND THEY
EATHER

DEDICATED TO Kamala
who always dreams of coloring
unlimited varieties of coloring books





According to the Vedic scriptures, there are seven mothers:

1. The real mother,
2. the wife of the spiritual master,
3. the wife of a brahmana (priest),
4. the wife of the king,
5. the cow,
6. the nurse
7. and the earth.

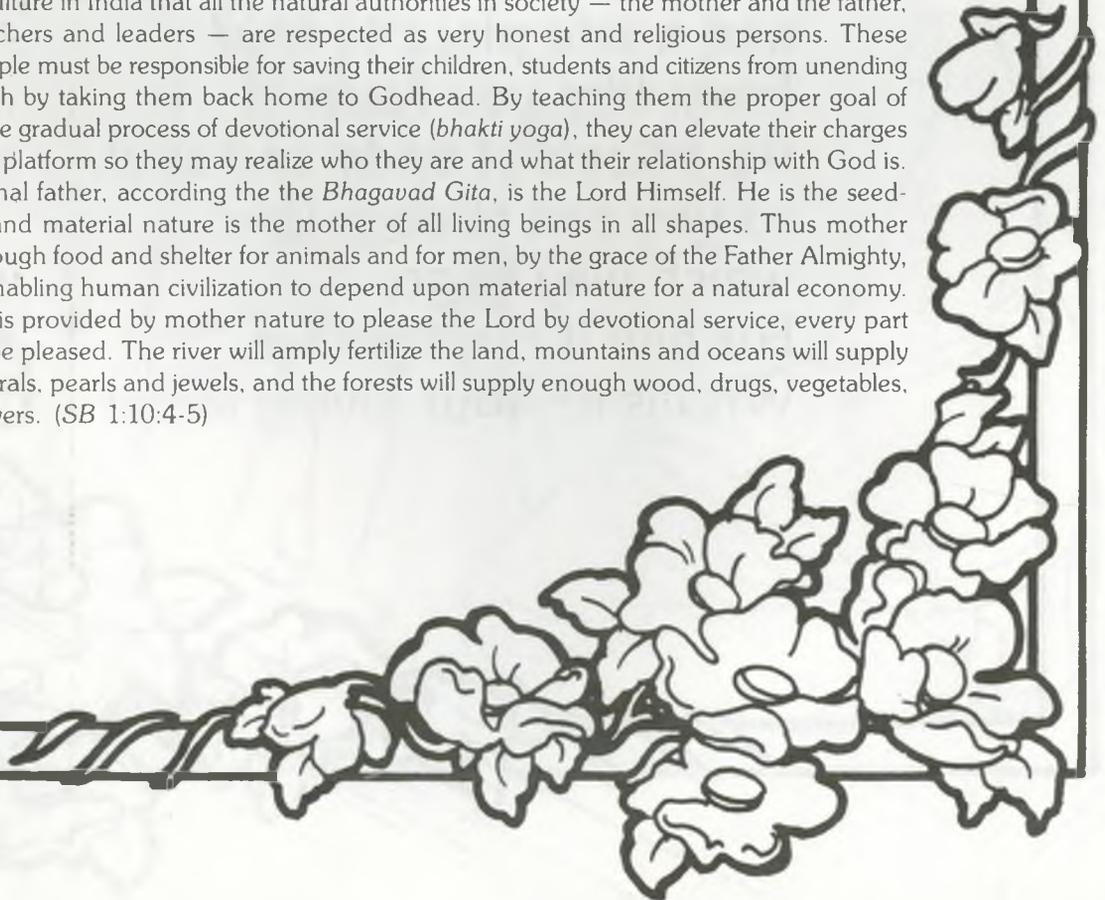
It is further stated in the *Srimad Bhagavatam* (5.5.18), translations and purports by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami:

“One who cannot deliver his dependents from the path of repeated birth and death should never become a spiritual master, a father, a husband, a mother or a worshipable demigod.”

The duties of the guardians of society are described in *Srimad Bhagavatam* (6.2.3). “A king or governmental official should be so well qualified that he acts as a father, maintainer and protector of the citizens because of affection and love. He should give the citizens good advice and instructions according to the standard scriptures and should be equal to everyone. . . or where will the citizens go for their maintenance or shelter?”

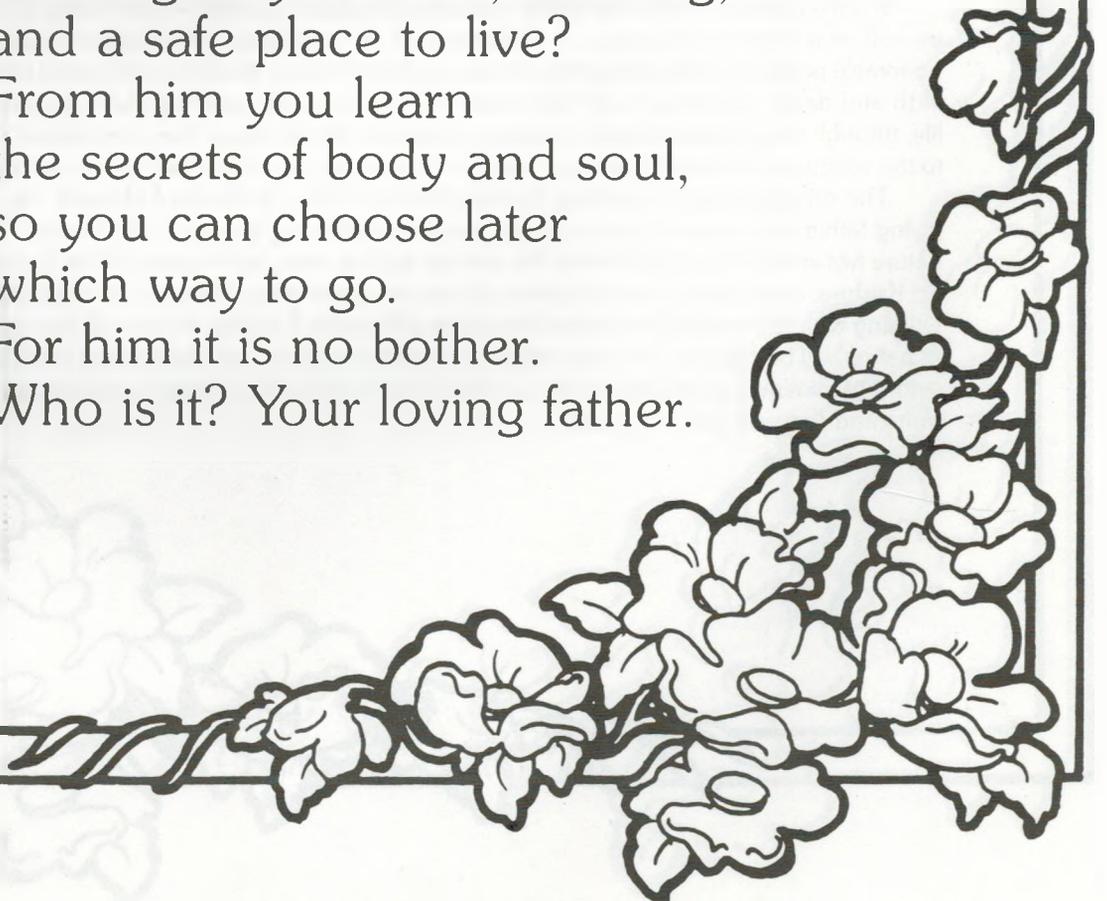
It is the culture in India that all the natural authorities in society — the mother and the father, as well as teachers and leaders — are respected as very honest and religious persons. These honorable people must be responsible for saving their children, students and citizens from unending birth and death by taking them back home to Godhead. By teaching them the proper goal of life, through the gradual process of devotional service (*bhakti yoga*), they can elevate their charges to the spiritual platform so they may realize who they are and what their relationship with God is.

The original father, according to the *Bhagavad Gita*, is the Lord Himself. He is the seed-giving father and material nature is the mother of all living beings in all shapes. Thus mother nature has enough food and shelter for animals and for men, by the grace of the Father Almighty, Sri Krishna, enabling human civilization to depend upon material nature for a natural economy. Utilizing what is provided by mother nature to please the Lord by devotional service, every part of nature will be pleased. The river will amply fertilize the land, mountains and oceans will supply sufficient minerals, pearls and jewels, and the forests will supply enough wood, drugs, vegetables, fruits and flowers. (*SB* 1:10:4-5)

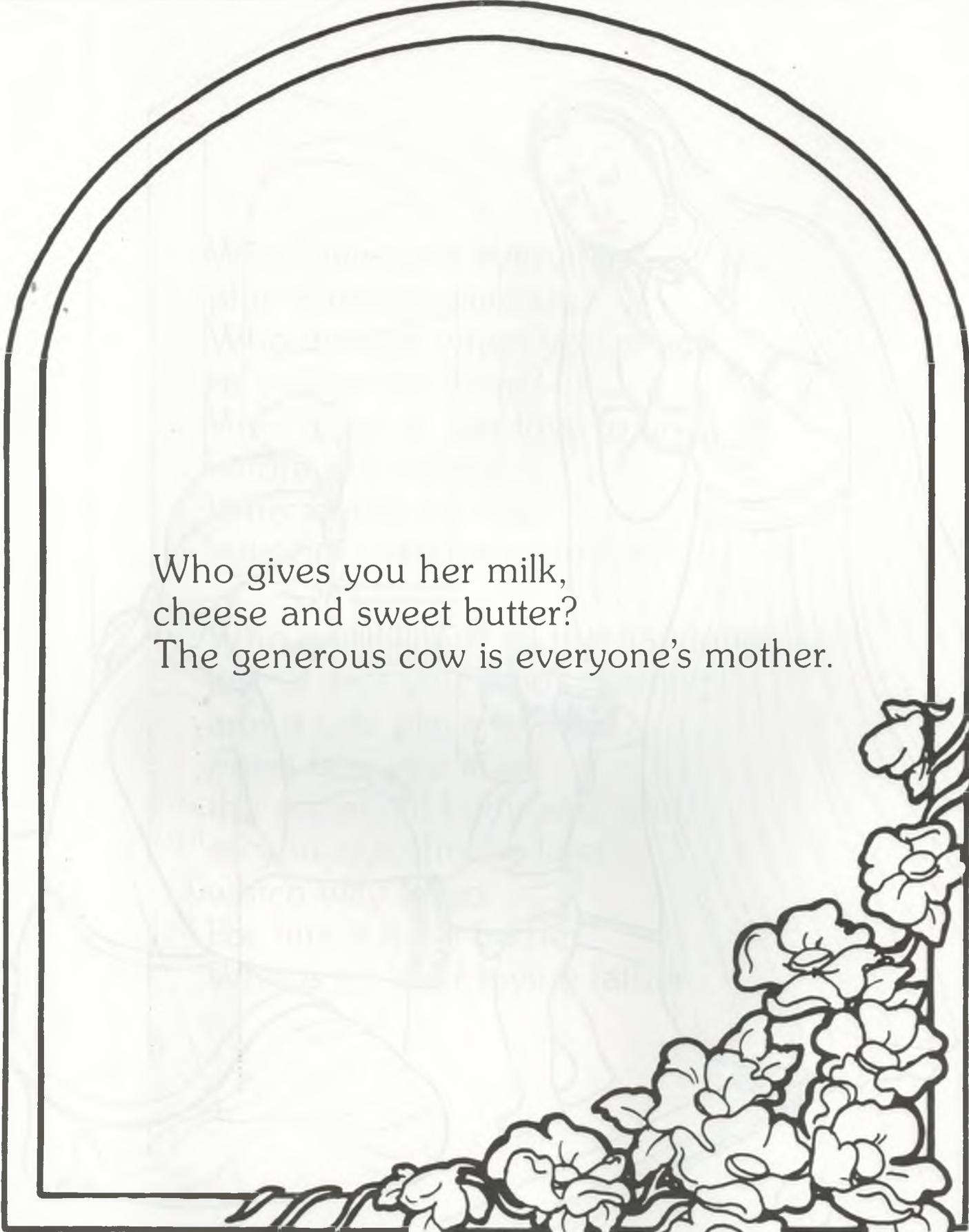


Who gives you everything —
plus extra special care?
Who worries when you're sad
or you're not there?
Who gives all her love to you
before any other?
Who would do this
but your very own mother?

Who works hard all the day long
just to give you food, clothing,
and a safe place to live?
From him you learn
the secrets of body and soul,
so you can choose later
which way to go.
For him it is no bother.
Who is it? Your loving father.



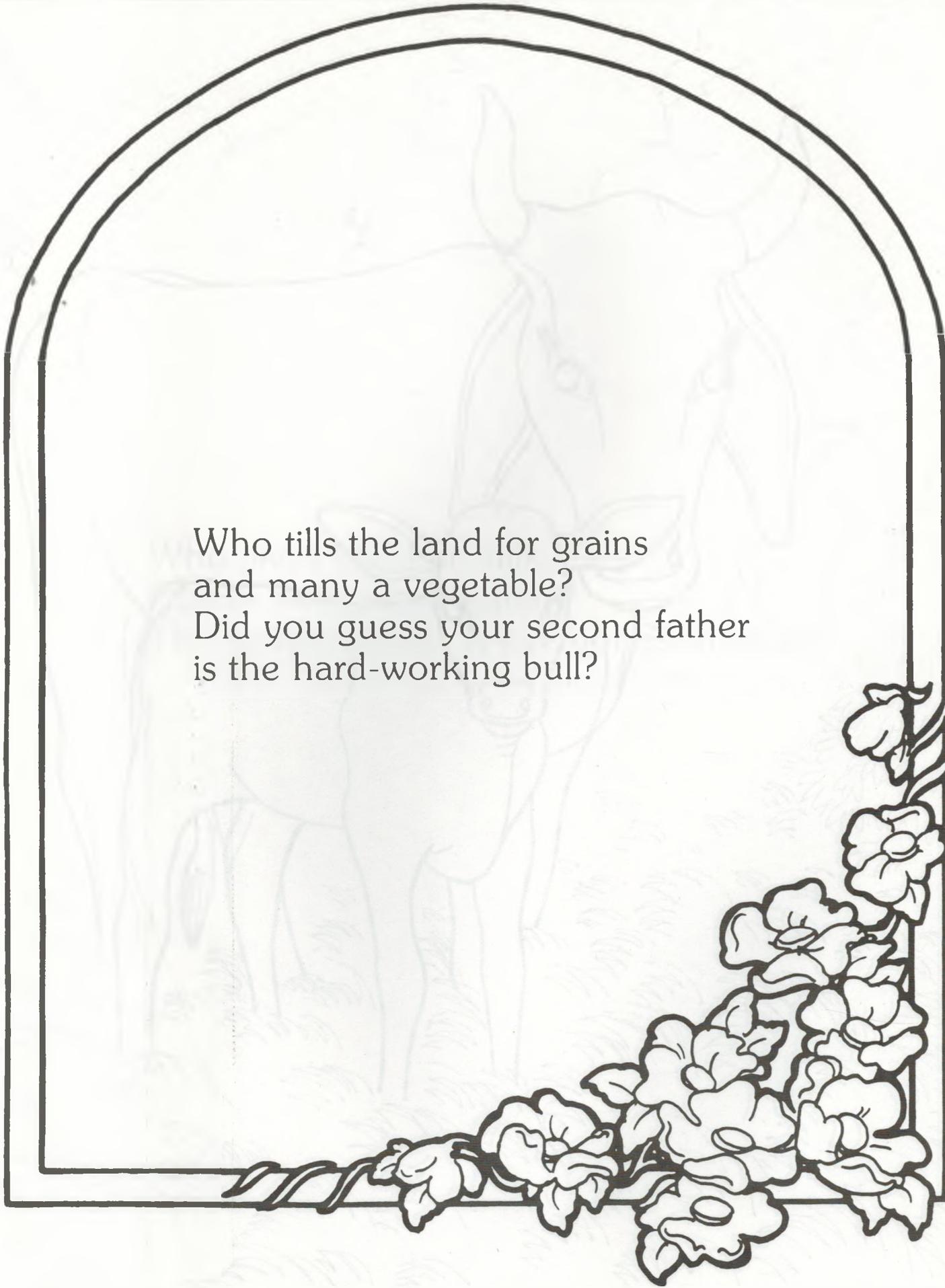




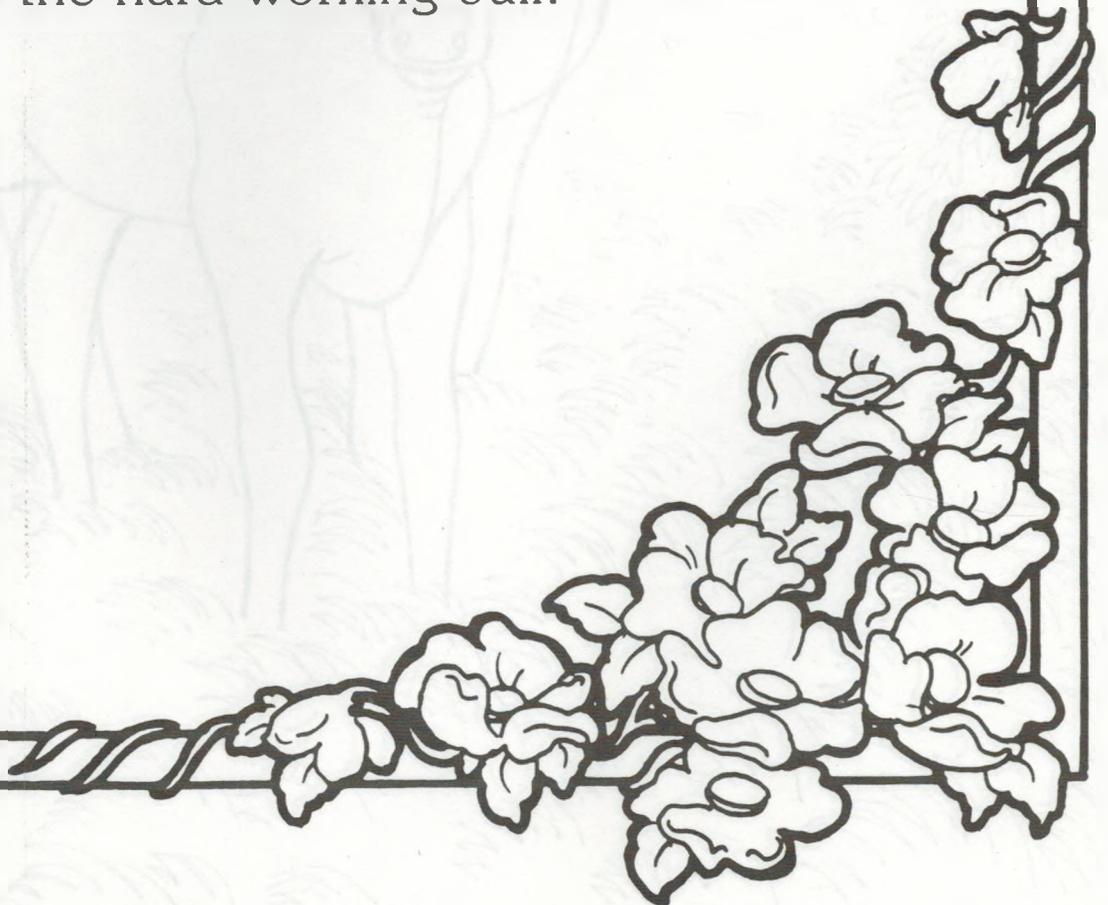
Who gives you her milk,
cheese and sweet butter?
The generous cow is everyone's mother.

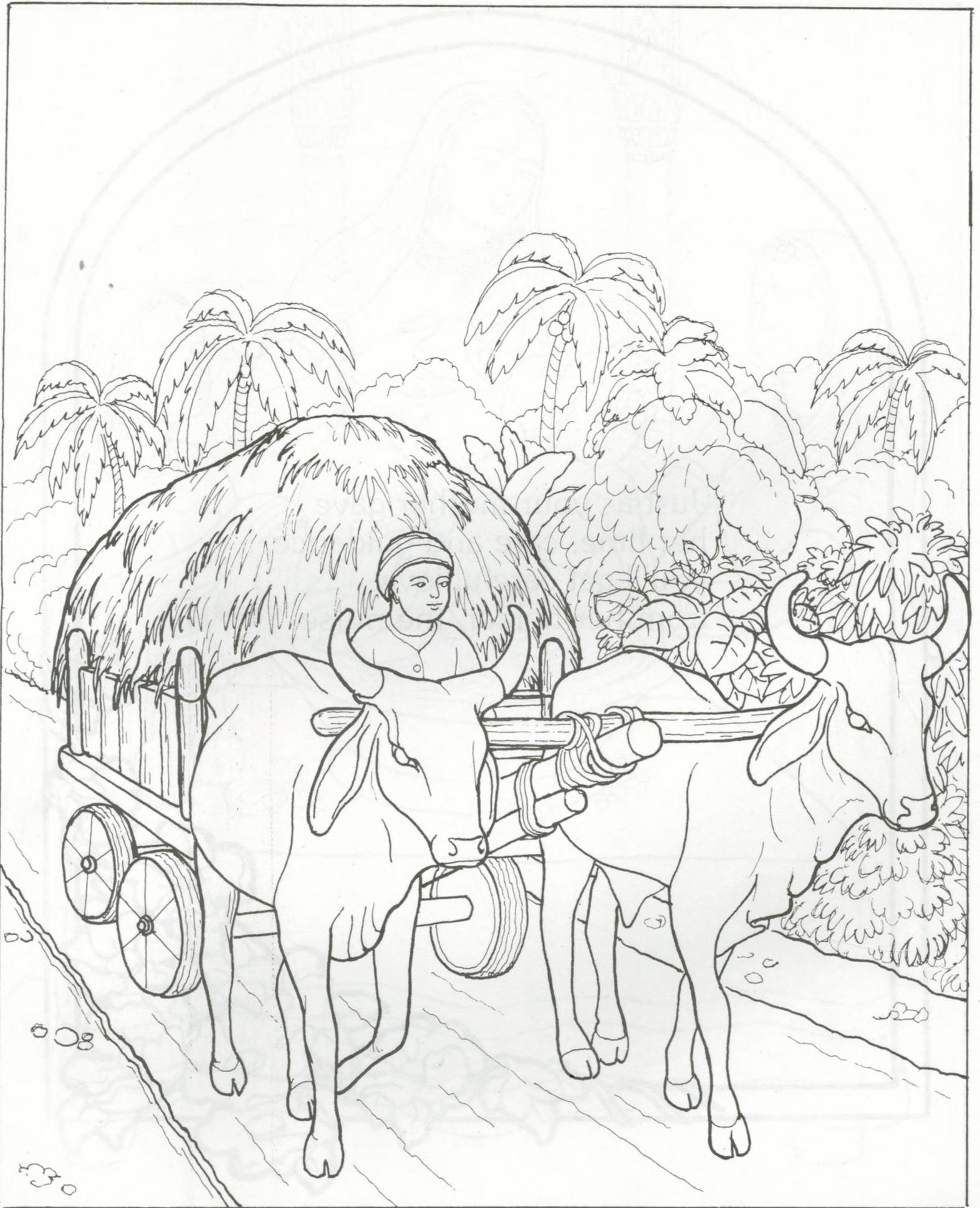


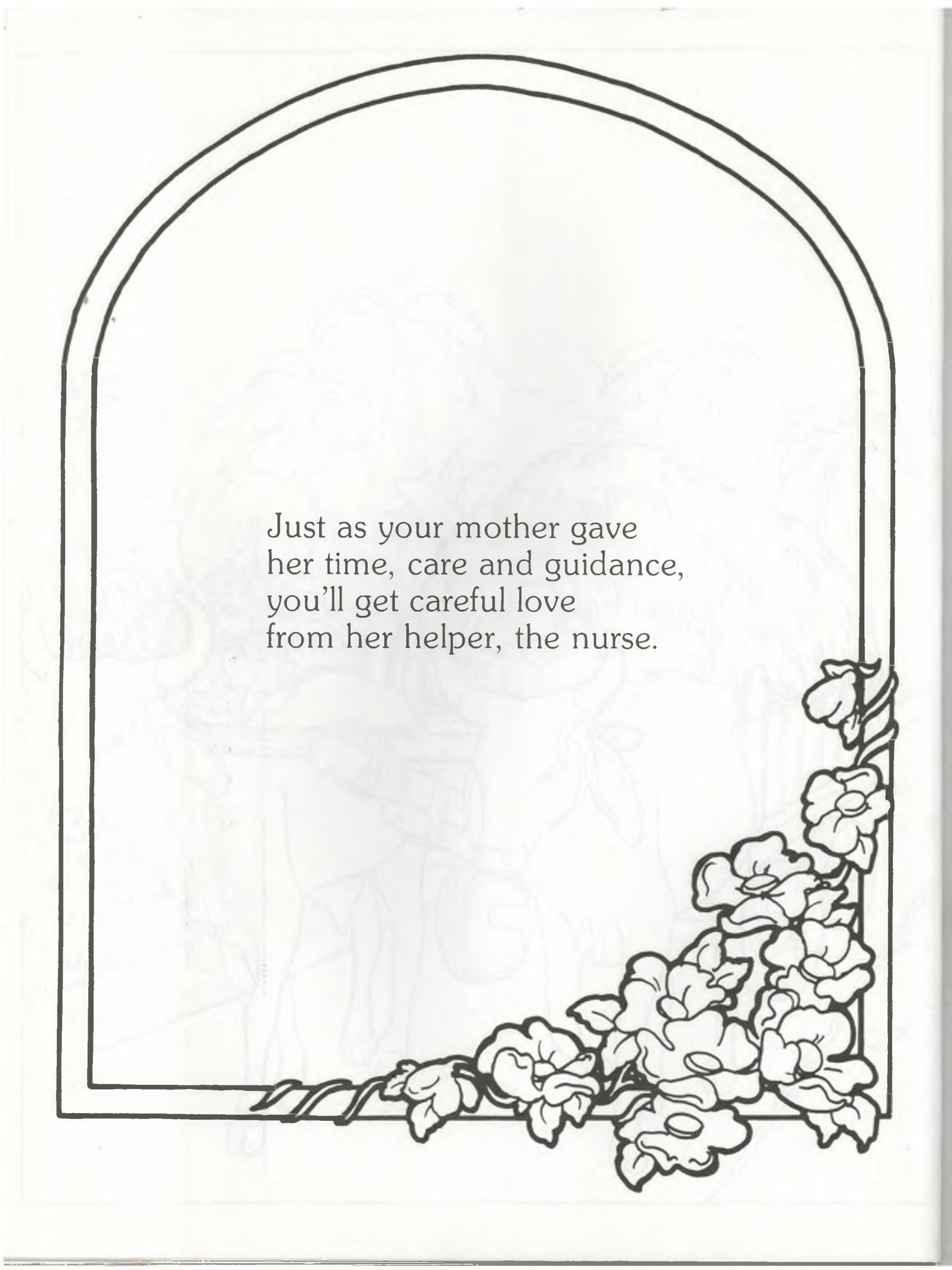




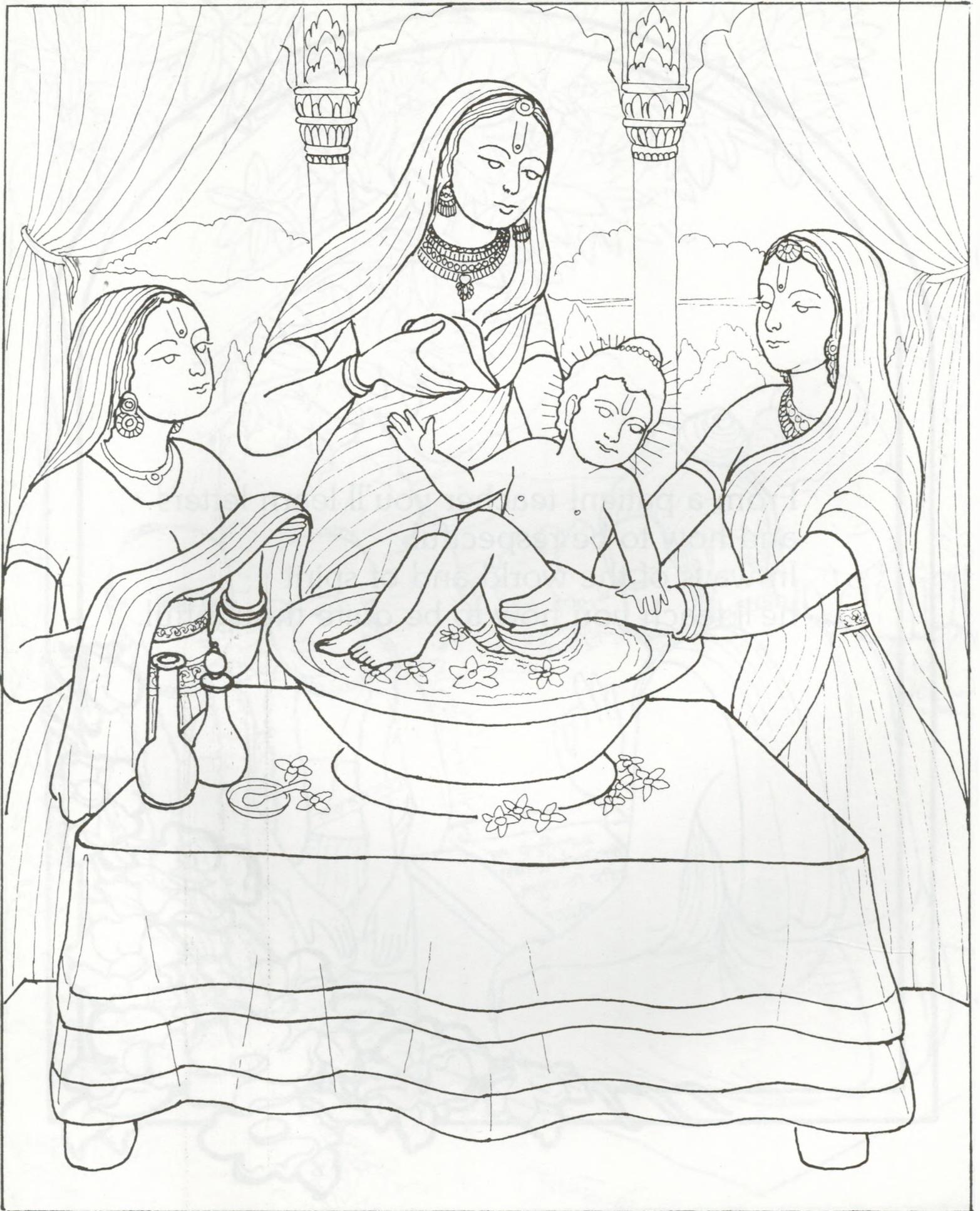
Who tills the land for grains
and many a vegetable?
Did you guess your second father
is the hard-working bull?

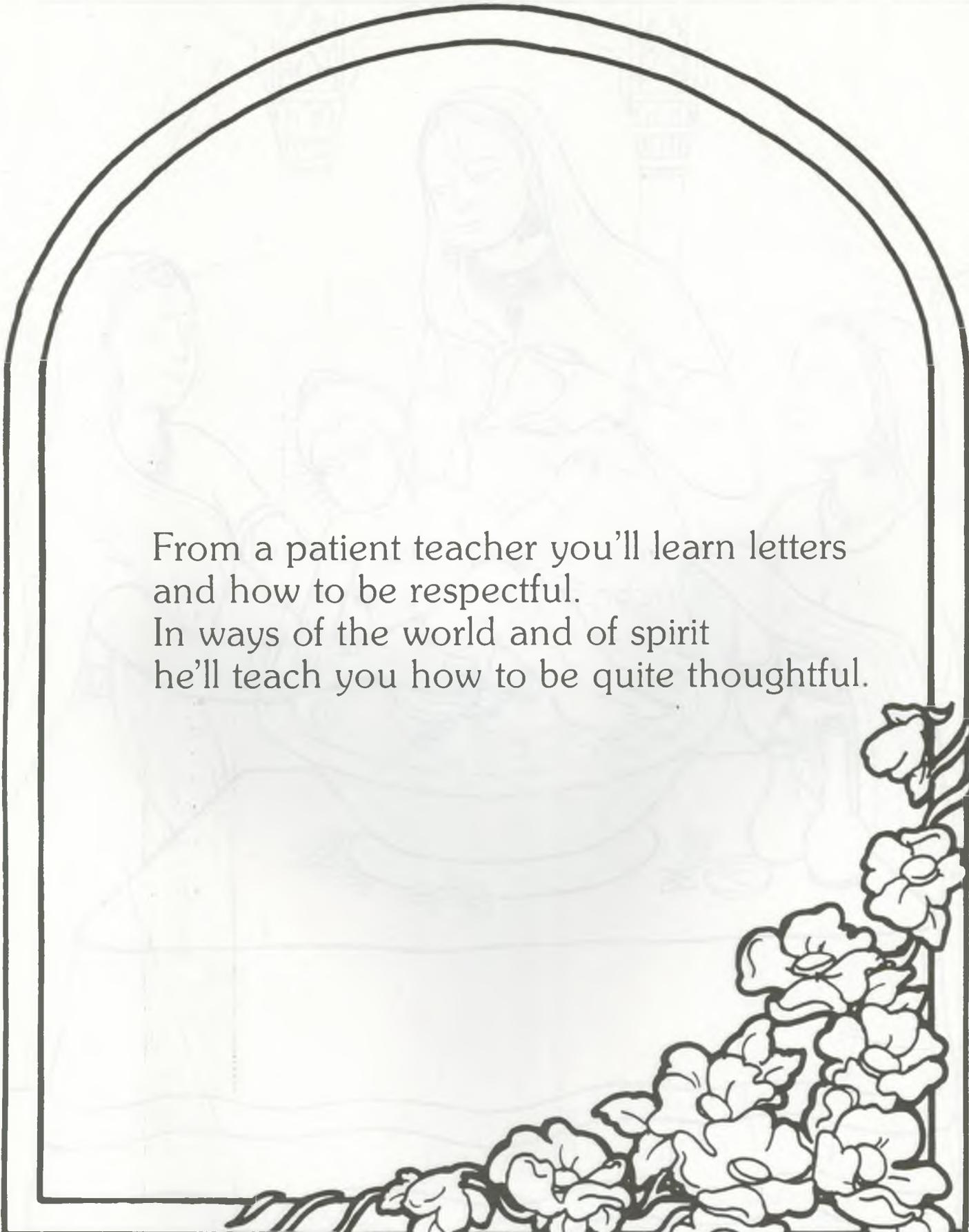






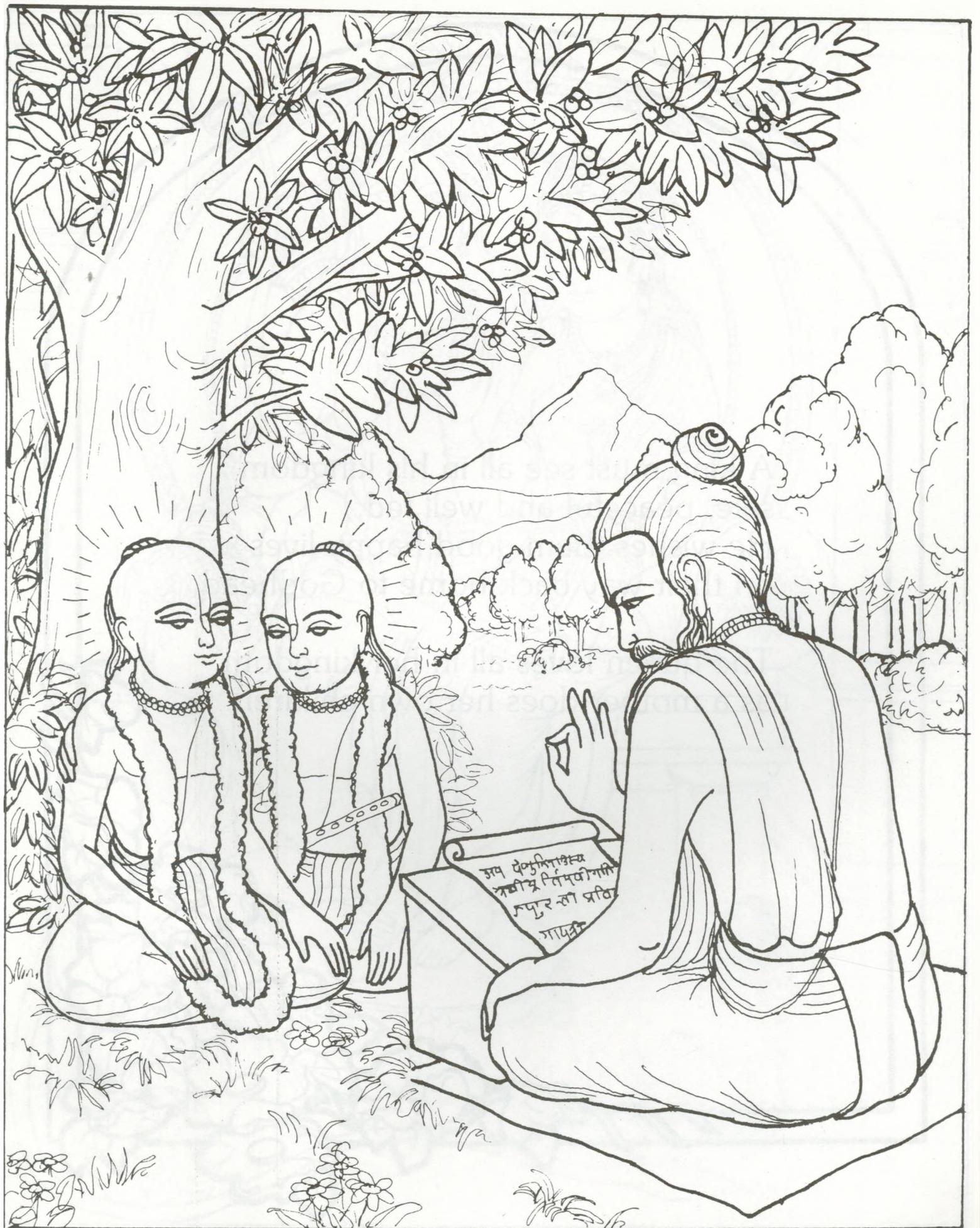
Just as your mother gave
her time, care and guidance,
you'll get careful love
from her helper, the nurse.

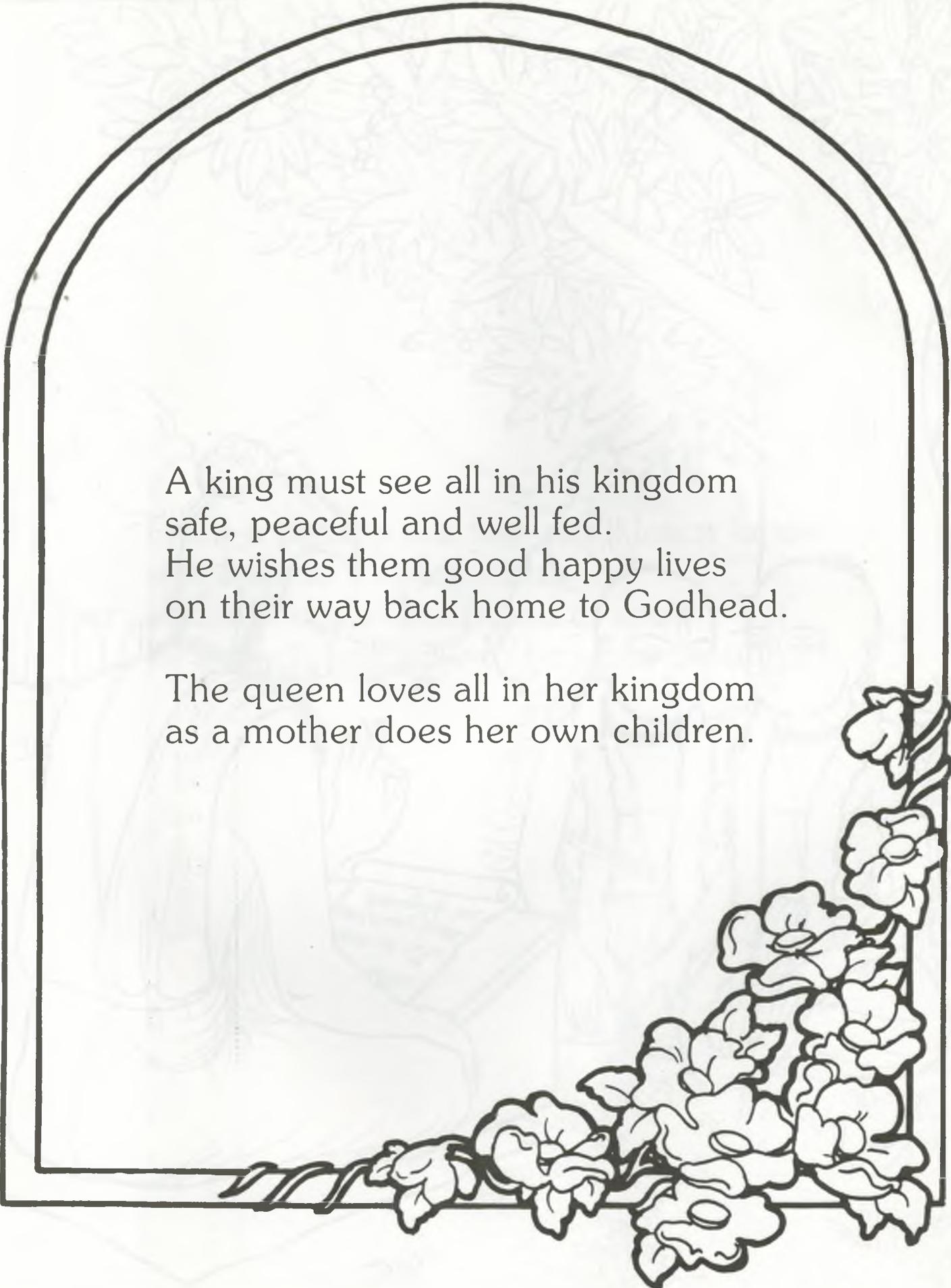




From a patient teacher you'll learn letters
and how to be respectful.
In ways of the world and of spirit
he'll teach you how to be quite thoughtful.





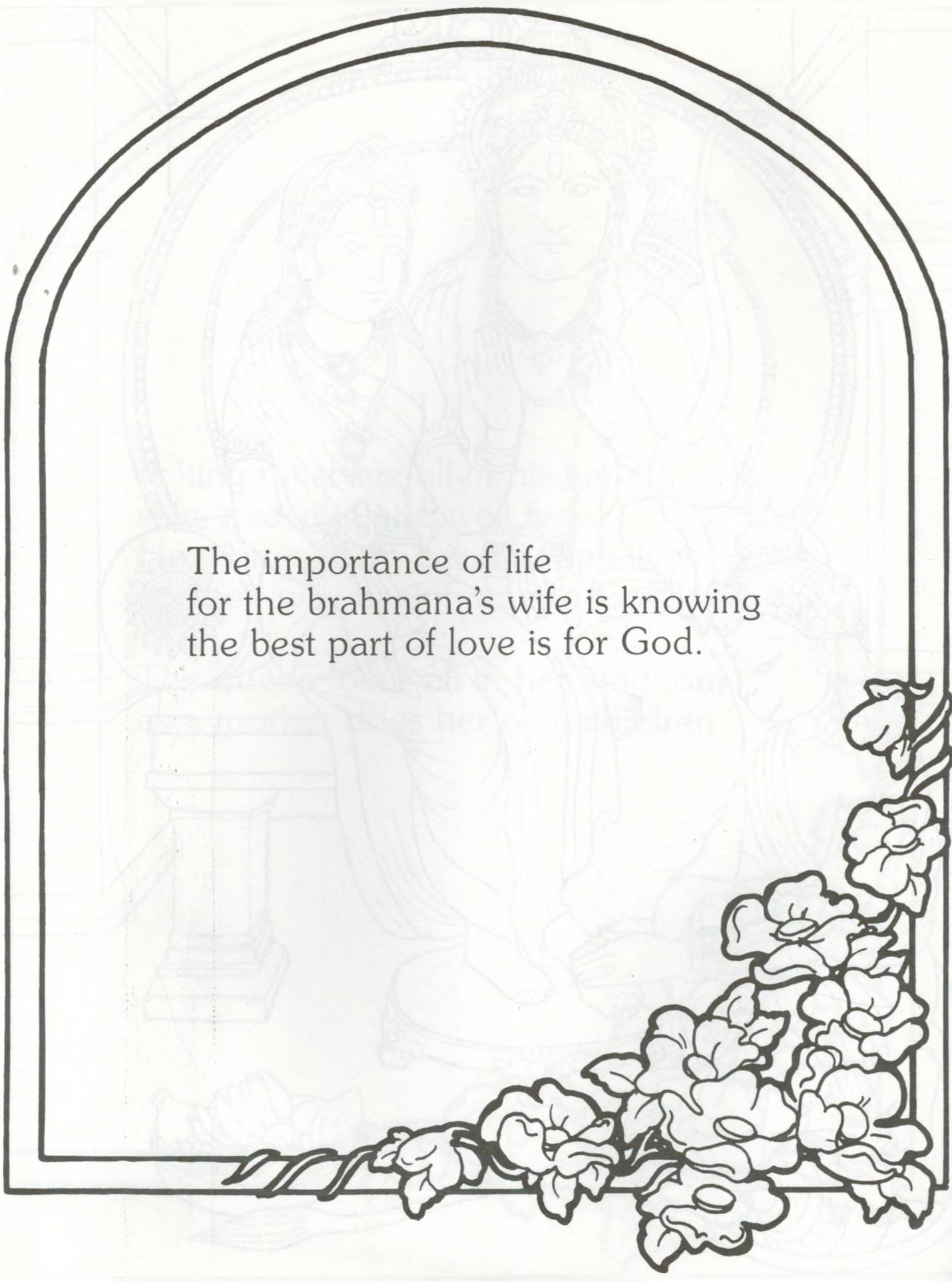


A king must see all in his kingdom
safe, peaceful and well fed.
He wishes them good happy lives
on their way back home to Godhead.

The queen loves all in her kingdom
as a mother does her own children.

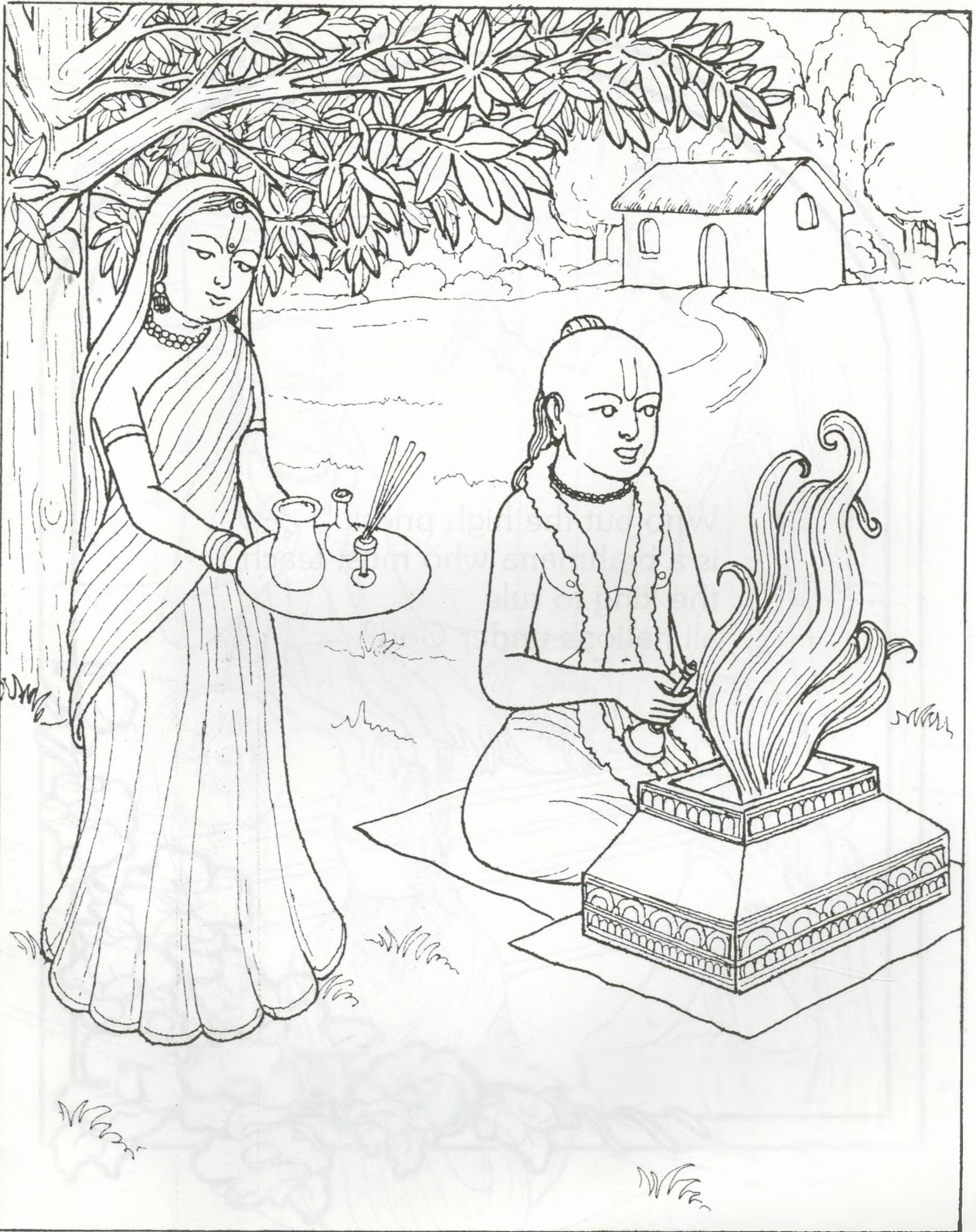


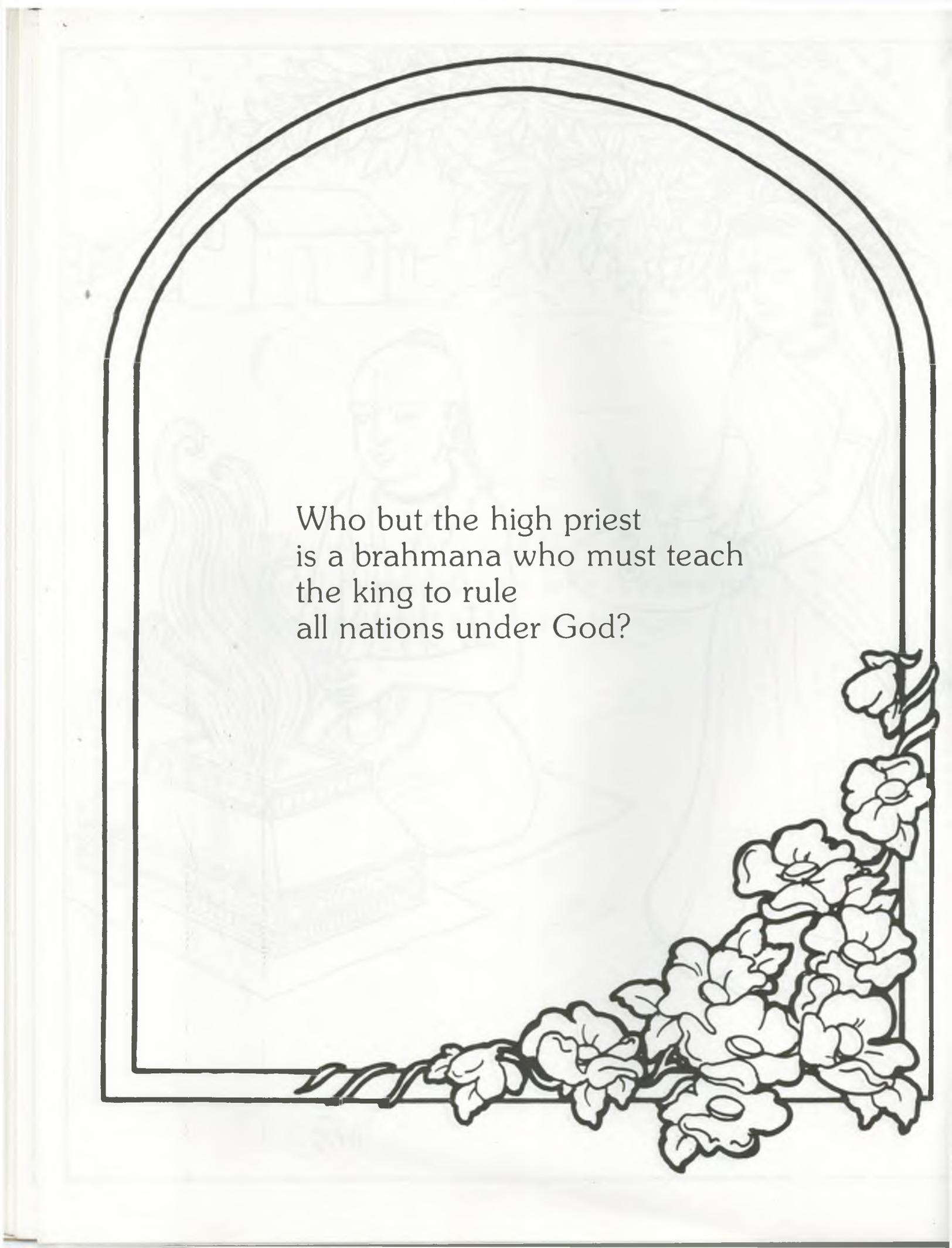




The importance of life
for the brahmana's wife is knowing
the best part of love is for God.

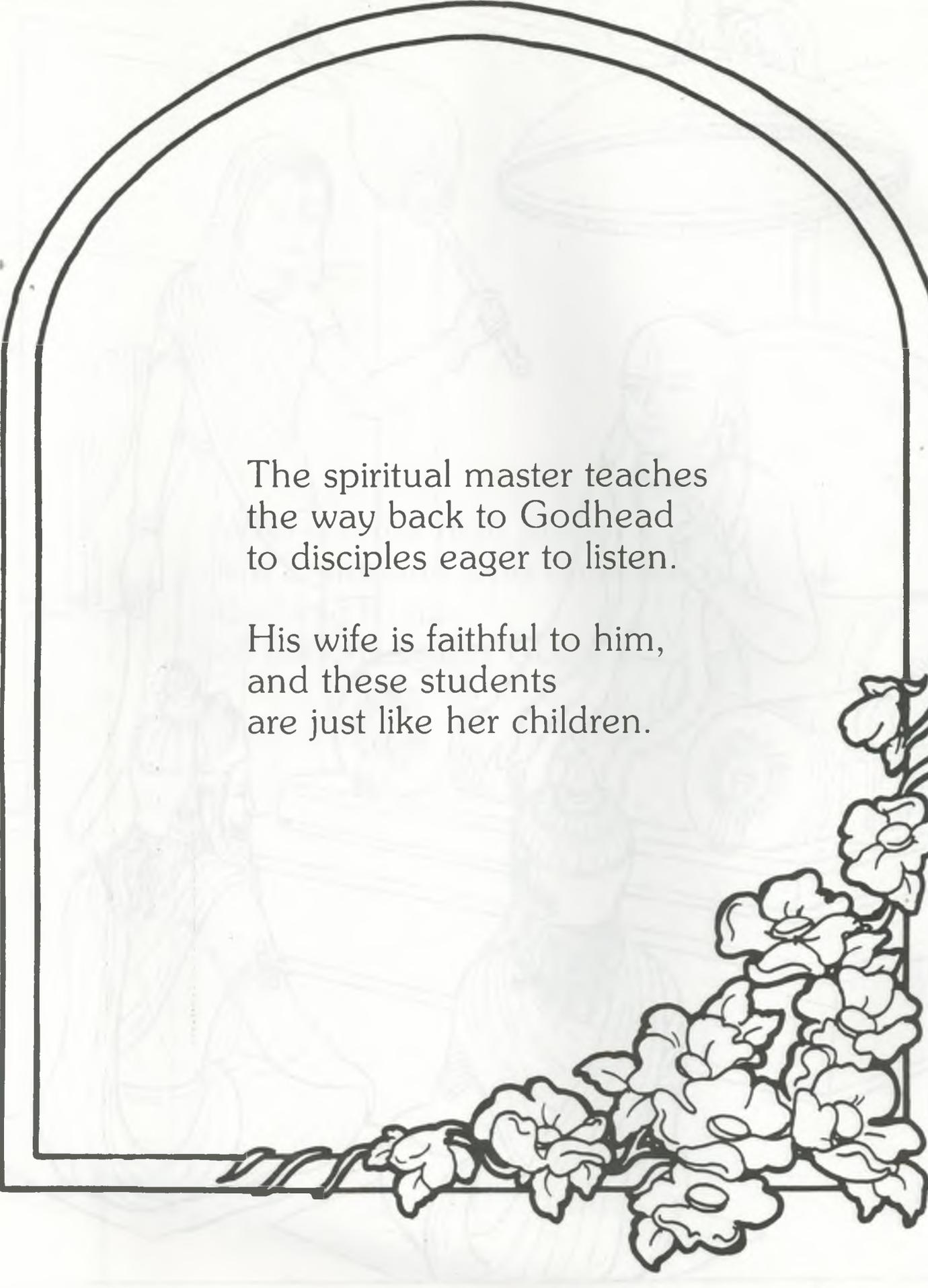






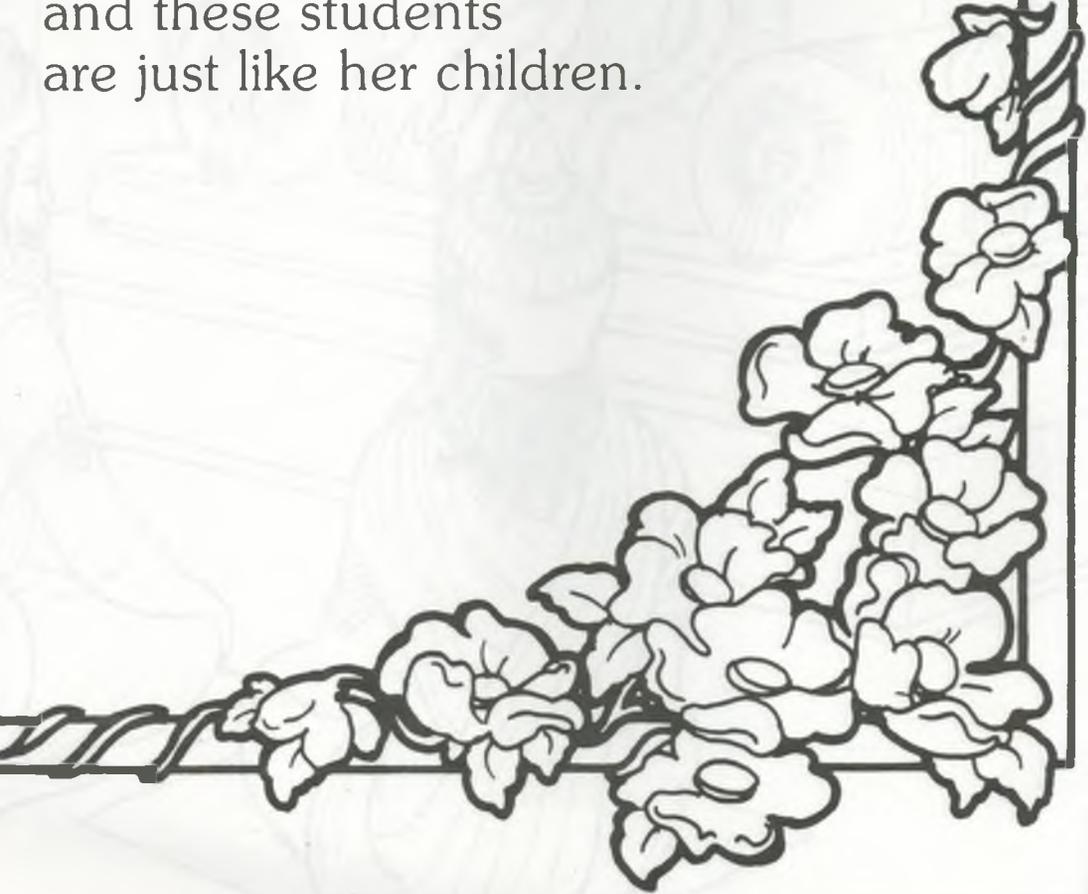
Who but the high priest
is a brahmana who must teach
the king to rule
all nations under God?

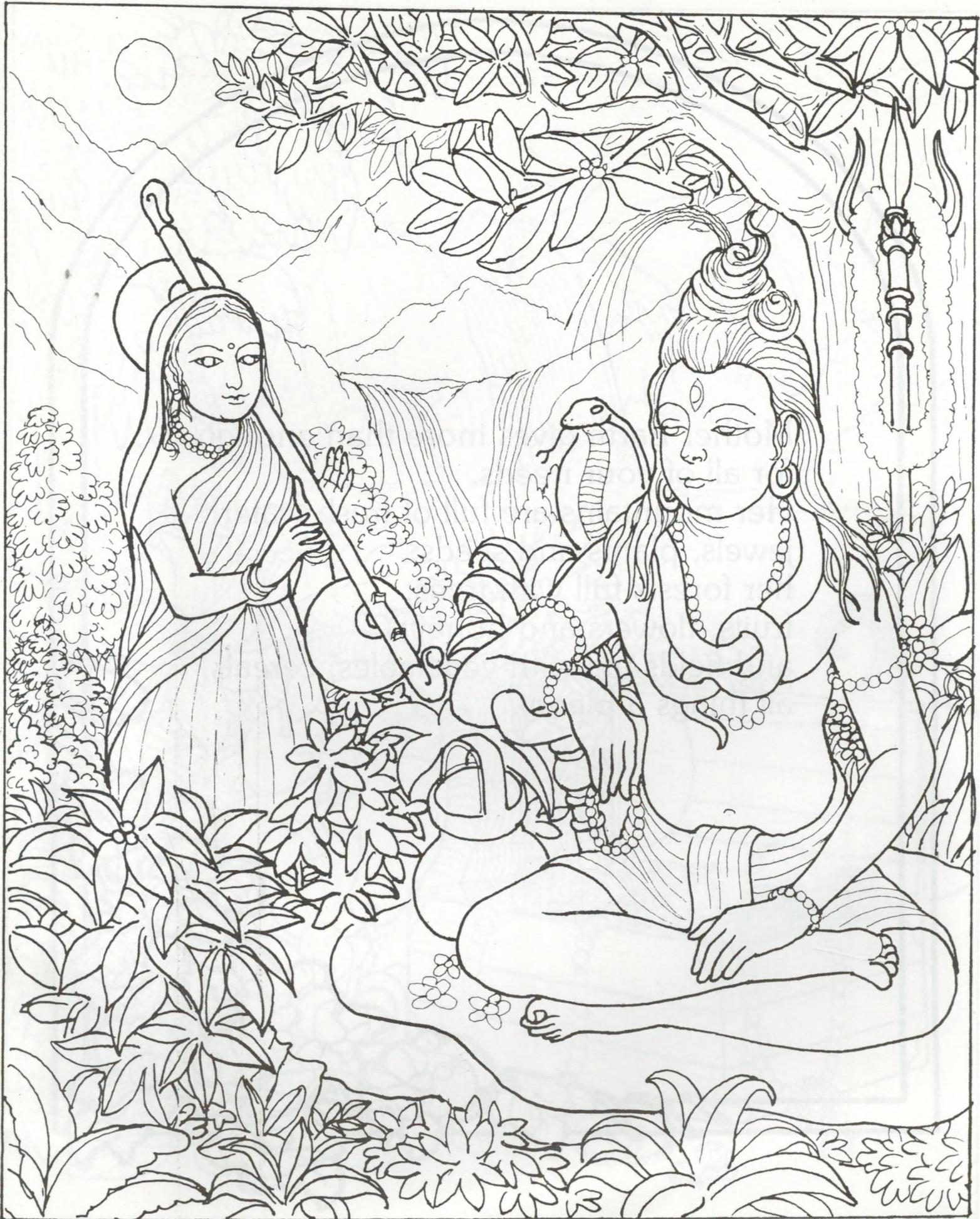


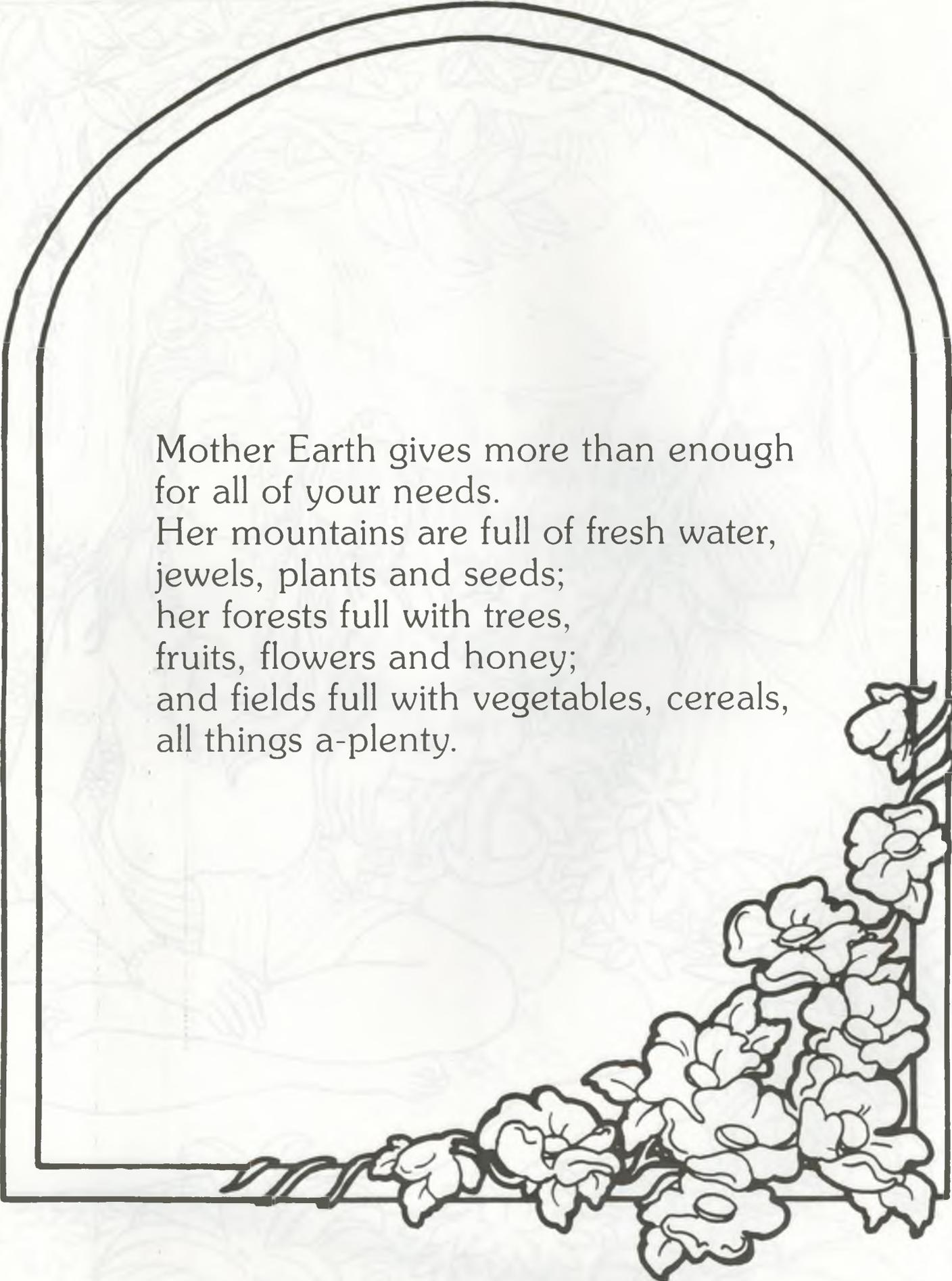


The spiritual master teaches
the way back to Godhead
to disciples eager to listen.

His wife is faithful to him,
and these students
are just like her children.



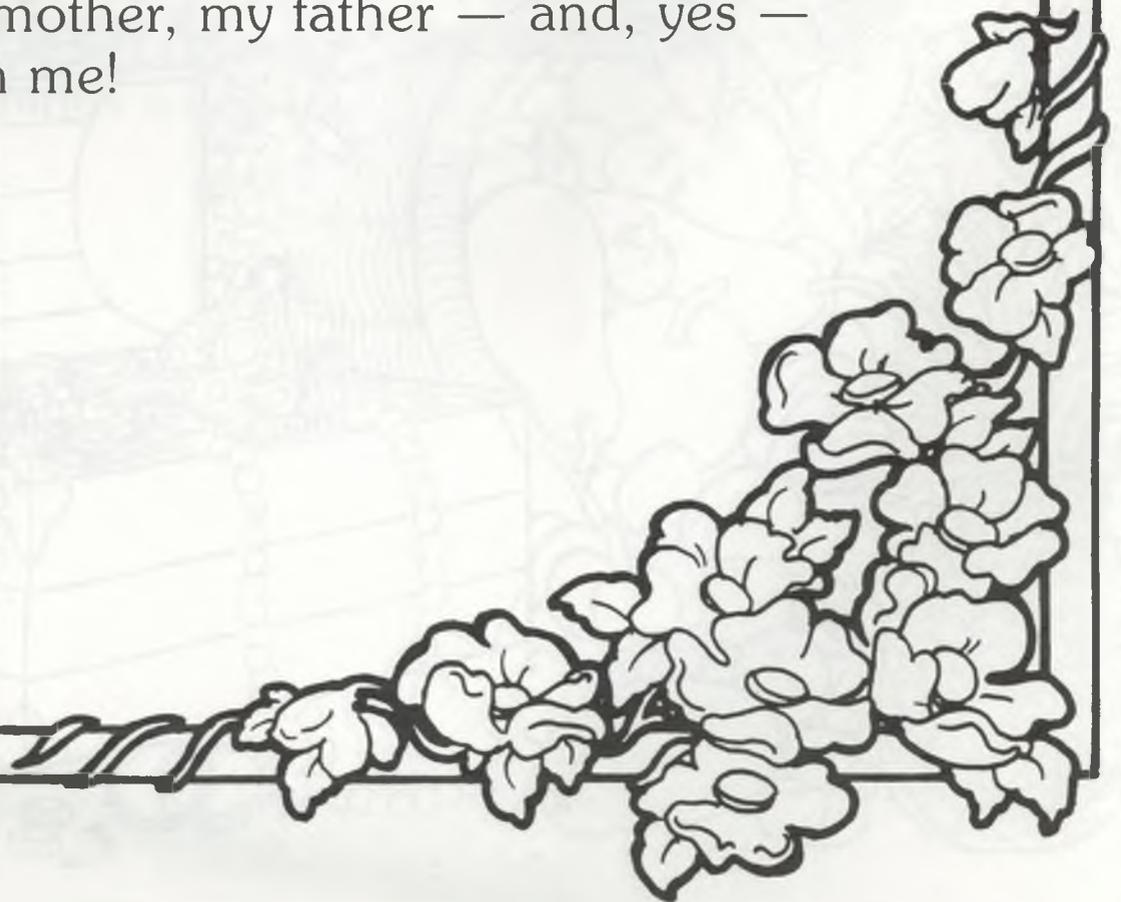


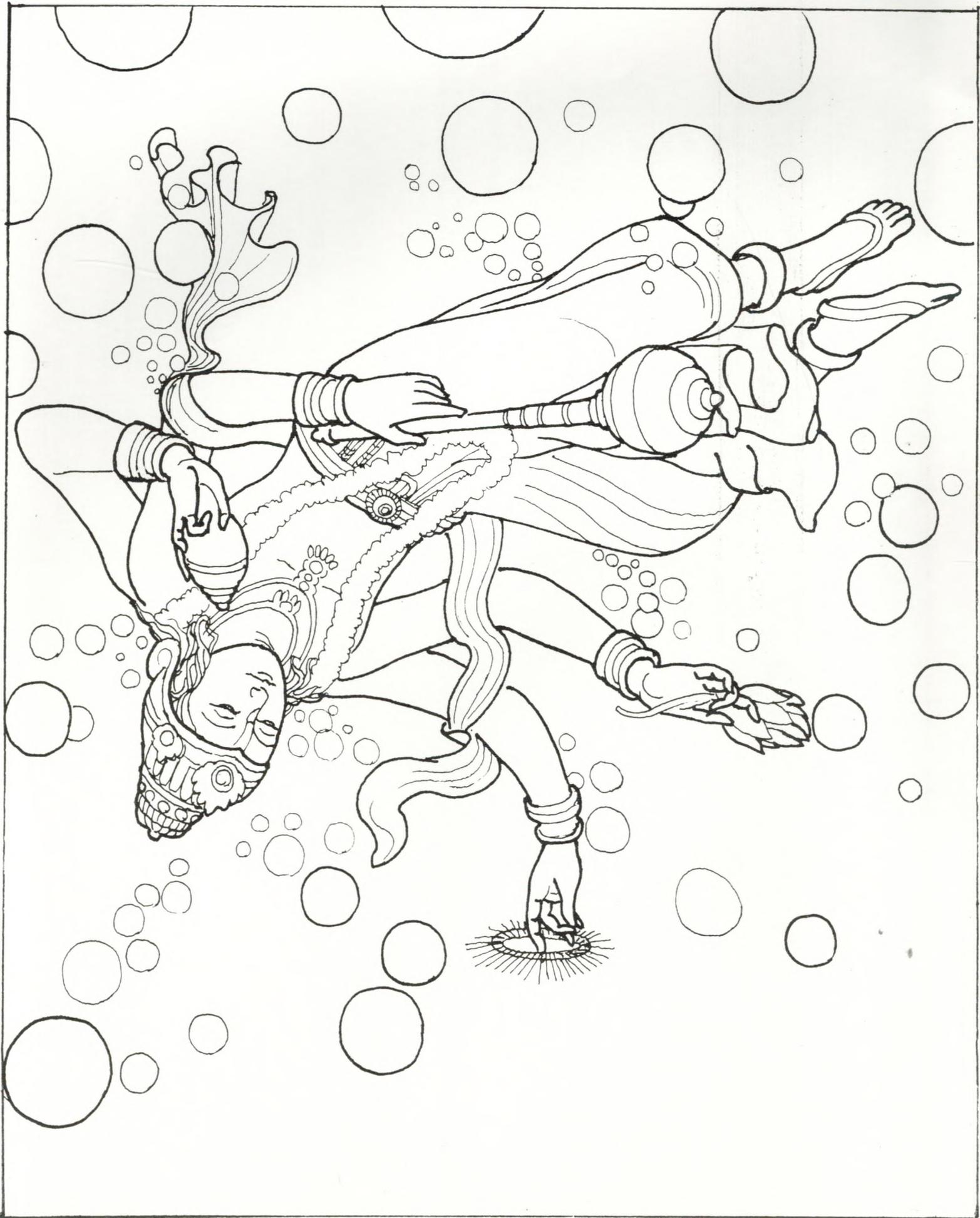


Mother Earth gives more than enough
for all of your needs.
Her mountains are full of fresh water,
jewels, plants and seeds;
her forests full with trees,
fruits, flowers and honey;
and fields full with vegetables, cereals,
all things a-plenty.



And who plants the seed?
The Father of all that be!
The Supreme Lord Sri Krishna
gives shelter and feeds
the elephant, the ant, the flower and bee,
my mother, my father — and, yes —
even me!





WRITTEN BY
PARVATI DEVI DASI

ILLUSTRATED BY
SUKHANANDA DASA

COVER BY
BHARATA DASA

MY LITTLE LORE BOOKS



Copyright 1989 Parvati devi dasi
Printed in Singapore by Entourage