

KRISHNA & BALARAMA GO TO MATHURA

based on KRSNA BOOK vol. II—by His Divine
Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabupada



*Dedicated to His Divine Grace
Srila Bhagavan Gosvami Maharaja*

Illustrations and text by Ananta Sakri das

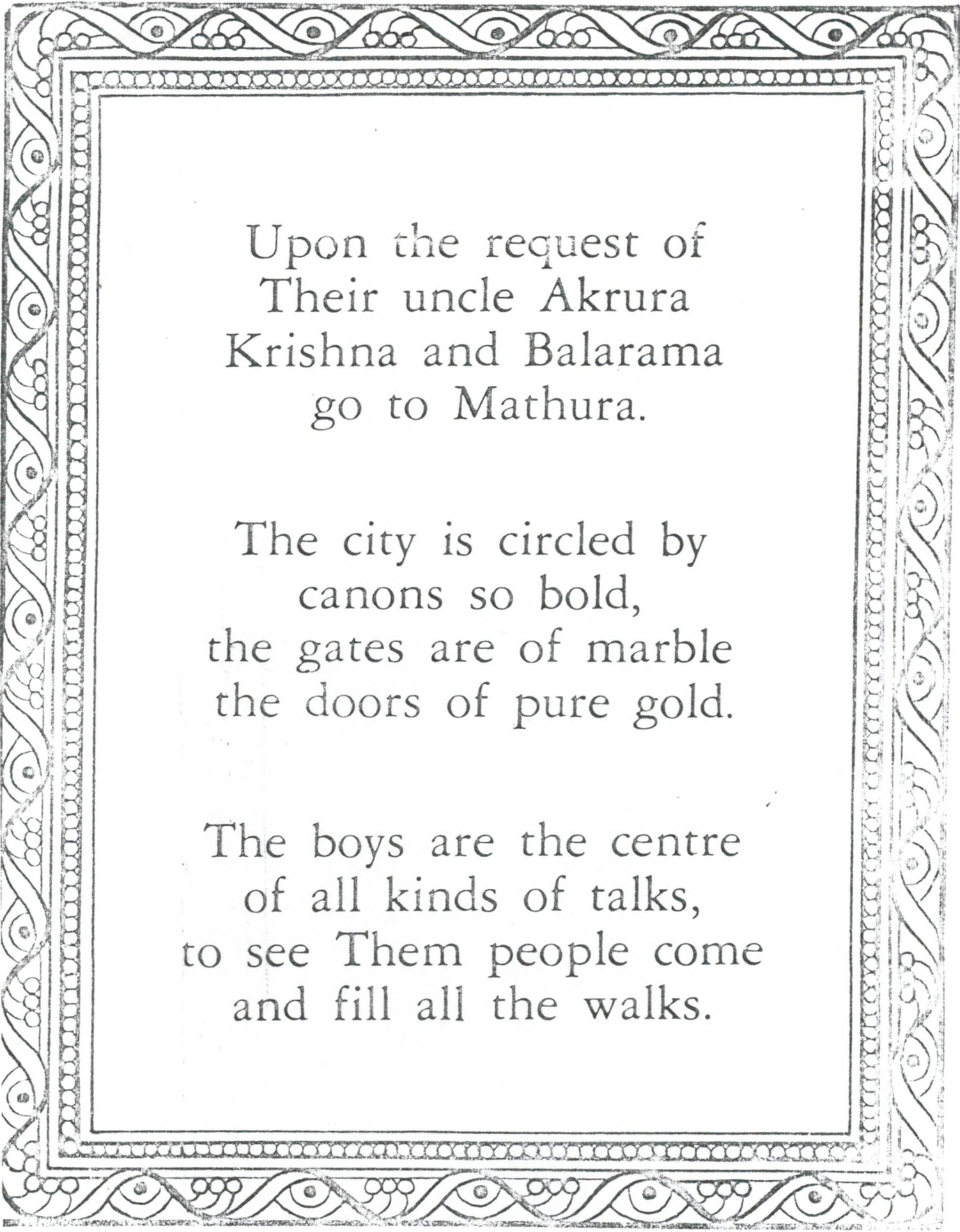
INTRODUCTION

Vedic culture is the original culture of human society and as confirmed by the Vedic literature, in particular Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Krishna is the Supreme Soul and all other souls are His eternal servants. Due to forgetfulness of this eternal relationship with God or Krishna human society is suffering. Real education means drawing out that natural and joyful propensity to serve God by all means and for this purpose His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada has translated the cream of the Vedic literature into classics that are used as standard textbooks throughout the world's leading universities.

His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada has established ISKCON, International Society for Krishna Consciousness in the form of temples, farm communities, and schools throughout the world. In this humble attempt to give some small assistance to his great work we are presenting a range of childrens' books based faithfully on his translations. This makes our presentation both authentic and historic, as well as, we hope, a source of joy for the young and young at heart.

Unfortunately some picture book publishers misrepresent these Vedic histories as charming 'myths' or 'legends'. We are hopeful that our picture books will clearly convey the fact that Vedic literature describe actual historical events going back even millions of years. The saying "fact is stranger than fiction" certainly bears testimony to writings that certainly far surpass the imaginings of any gifted fiction writer or poet. In this way we feel it a great privilege to participate in some way in handing down to the next generation some taste of the original Vedic culture in the form of these books.

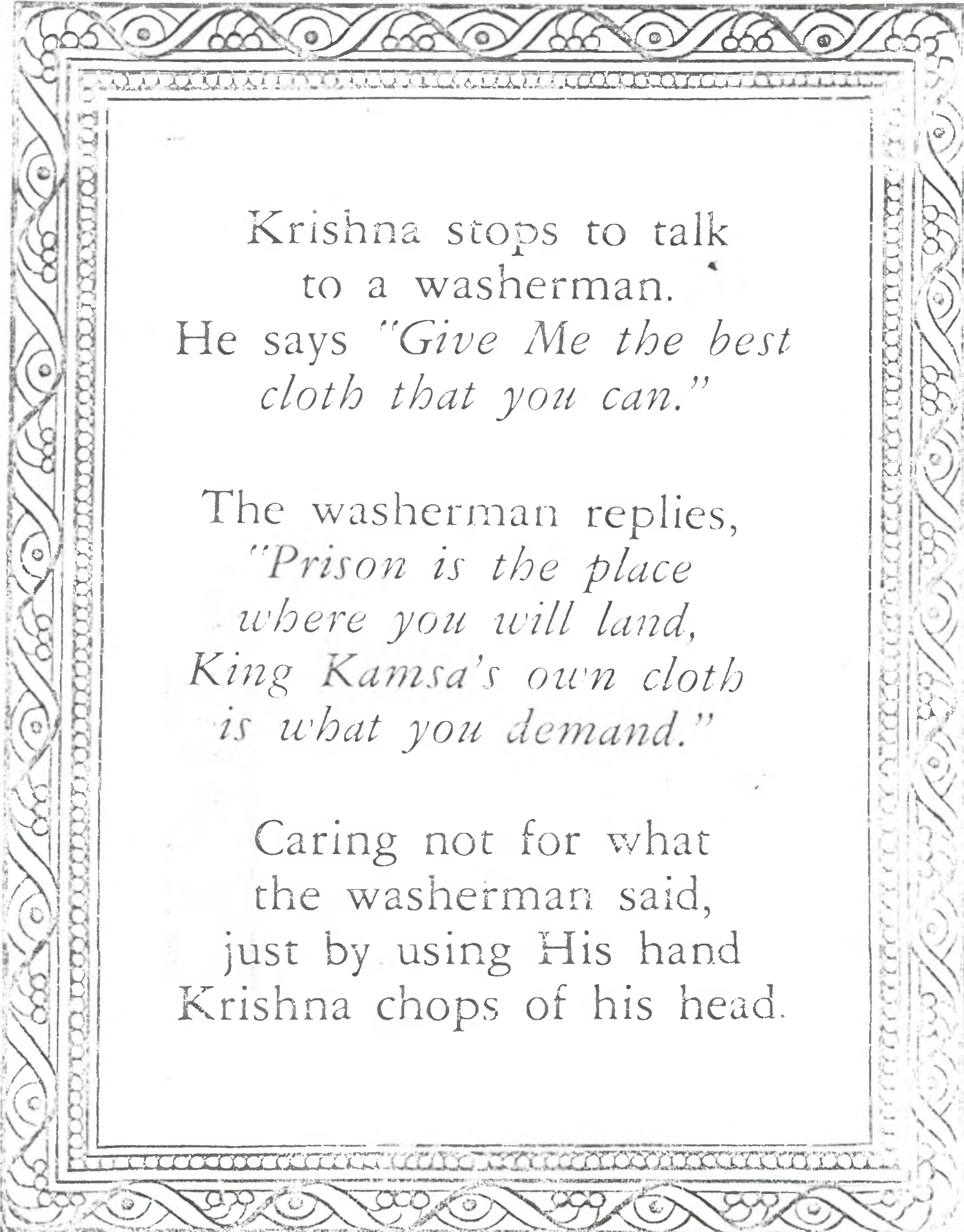
As todays children are tomorrow's leaders, we are optimistic that through this simple introduction of childrens' books the future generation will be influenced to continue their relationship with Krishna and thus achieve the desired perfection of life — love of God, to always remember Krishna and never forget Him. The recommended process in this age is to chant the mahamantra — HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE, HARE RAMA HARE RAMA RAMA RAMA HARE HARE.



Upon the request of
Their uncle Akrura
Krishna and Balarama
go to Mathura.

The city is circled by
canons so bold,
the gates are of marble
the doors of pure gold.

The boys are the centre
of all kinds of talks,
to see Them people come
and fill all the walks.

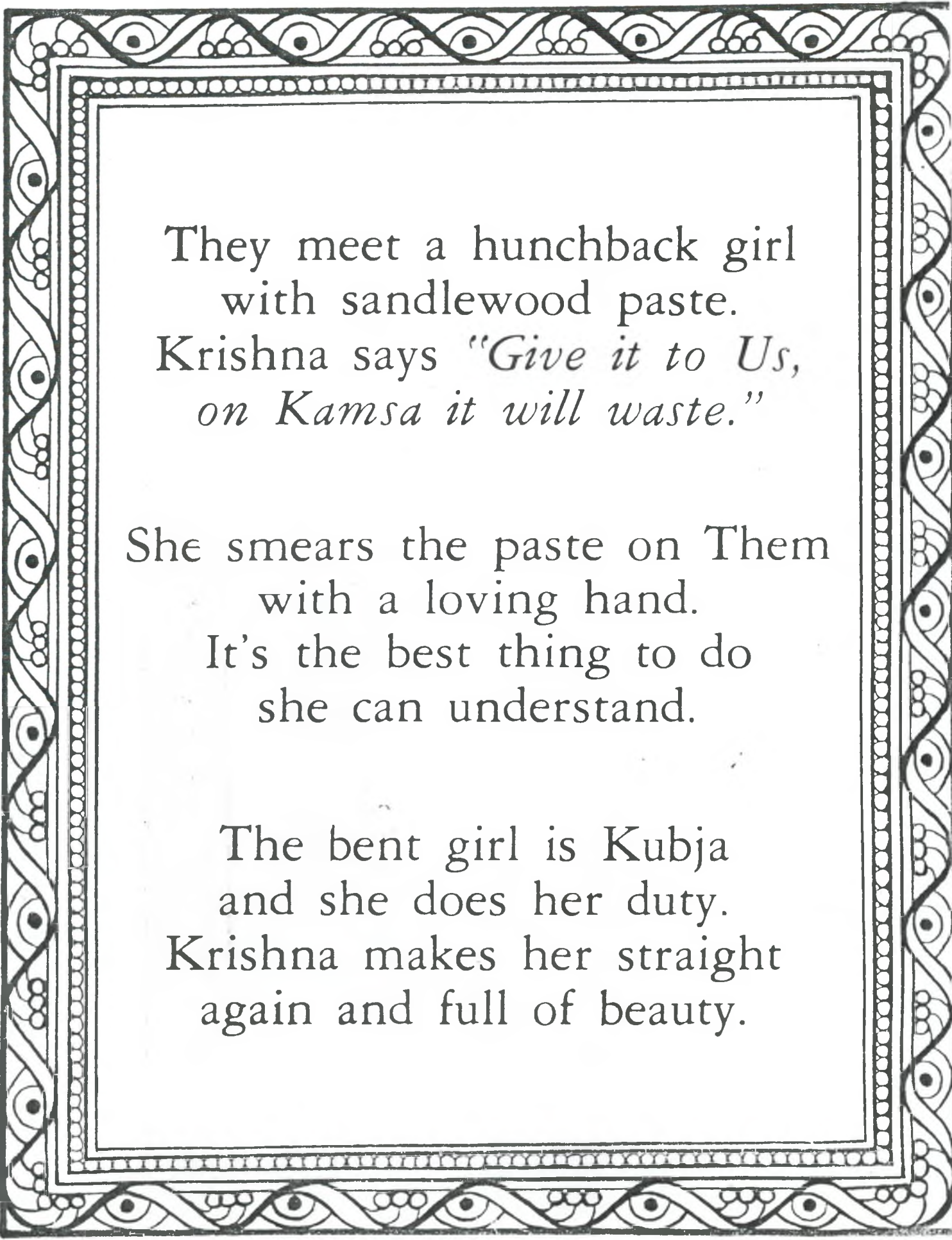


Krishna stops to talk
to a washerman.
He says *"Give Me the best
cloth that you can."*

The washerman replies,
*"Prison is the place
where you will land,
King Kamsa's own cloth
is what you demand."*

Caring not for what
the washerman said,
just by using His hand
Krishna chops off his head.



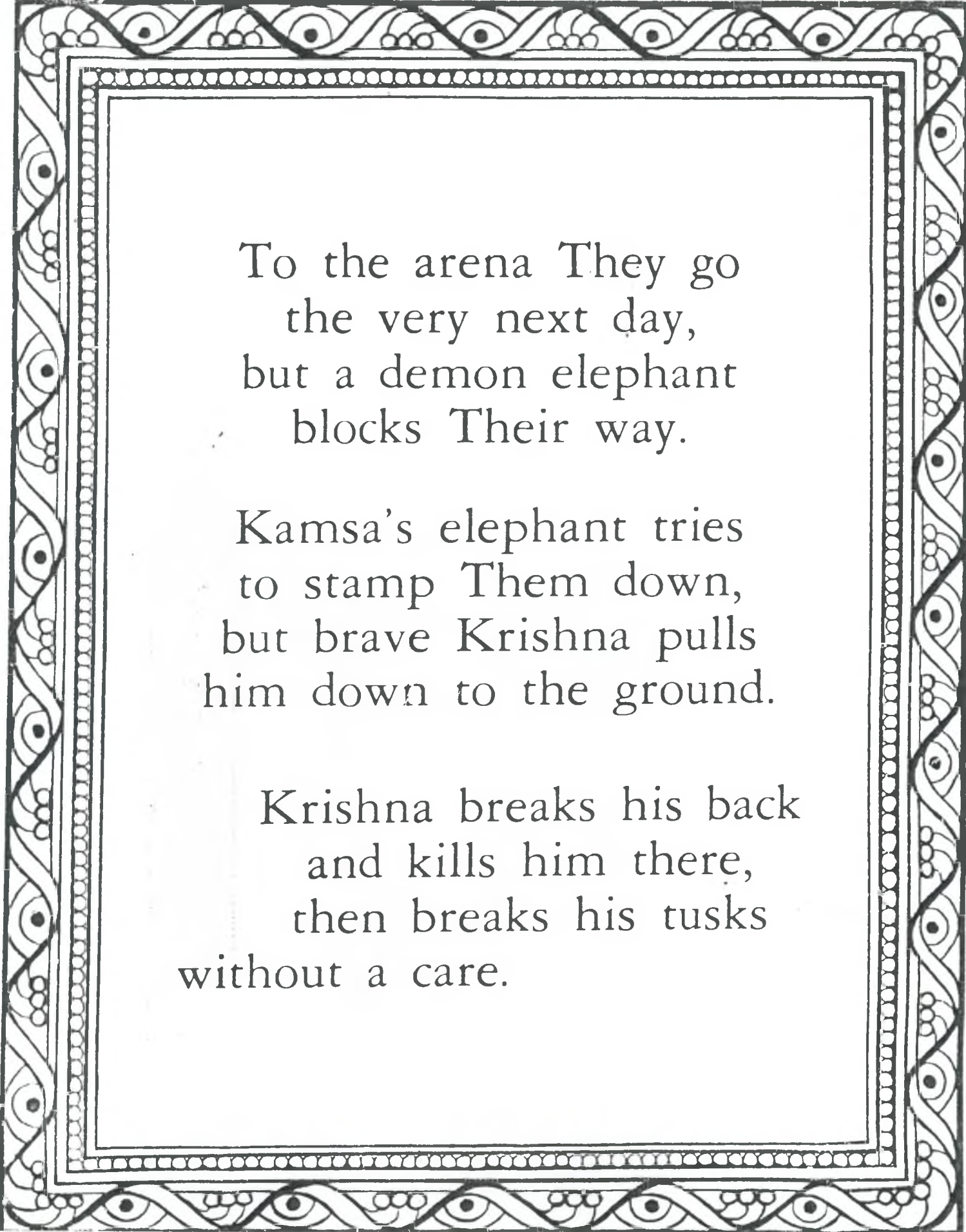


They meet a hunchback girl
with sandalwood paste.
Krishna says "*Give it to Us,
on Kamsa it will waste.*"

She smears the paste on Them
with a loving hand.
It's the best thing to do
she can understand.

The bent girl is Kubja
and she does her duty.
Krishna makes her straight
again and full of beauty.

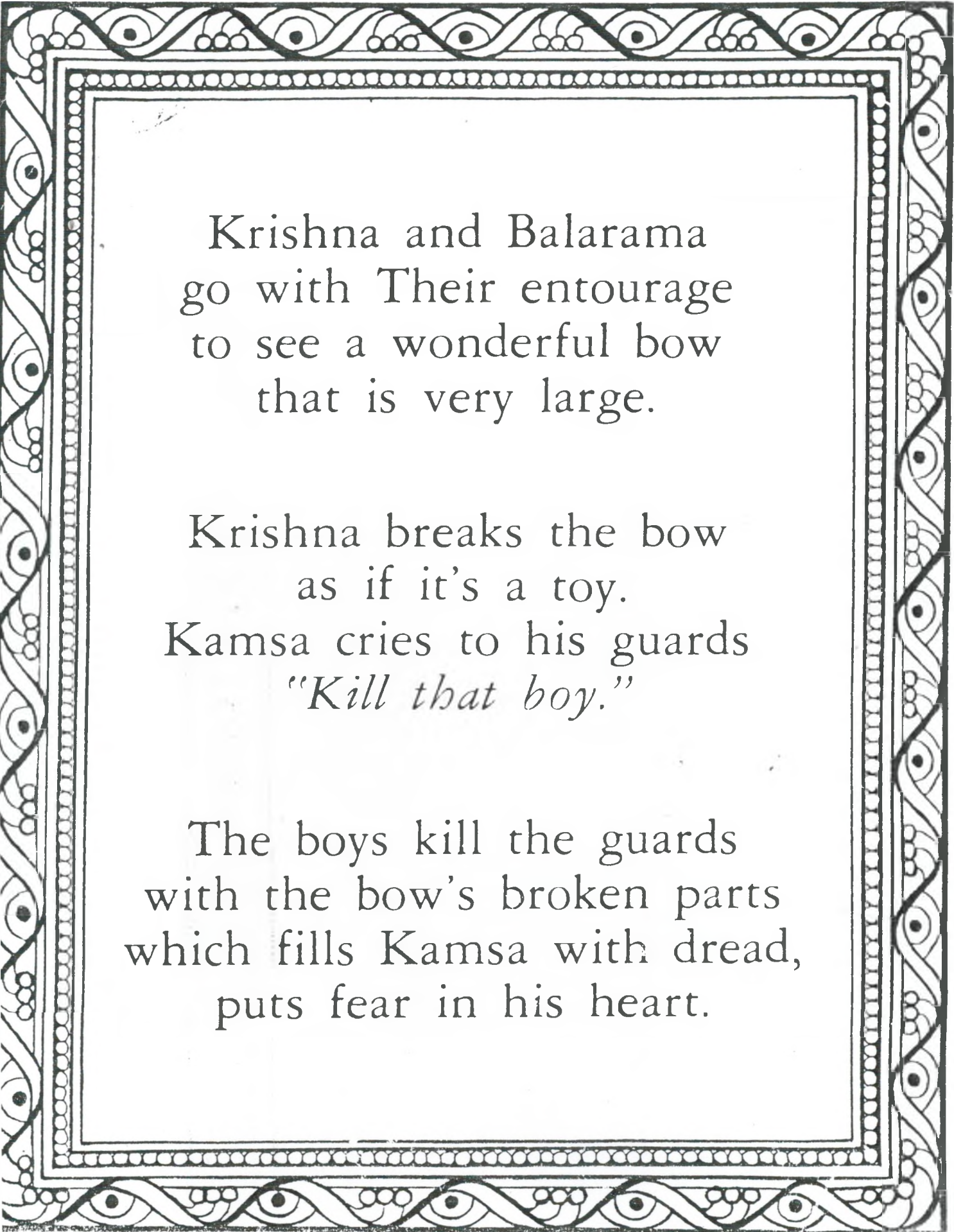




To the arena They go
the very next day,
but a demon elephant
blocks Their way.

Kamsa's elephant tries
to stamp Them down,
but brave Krishna pulls
him down to the ground.

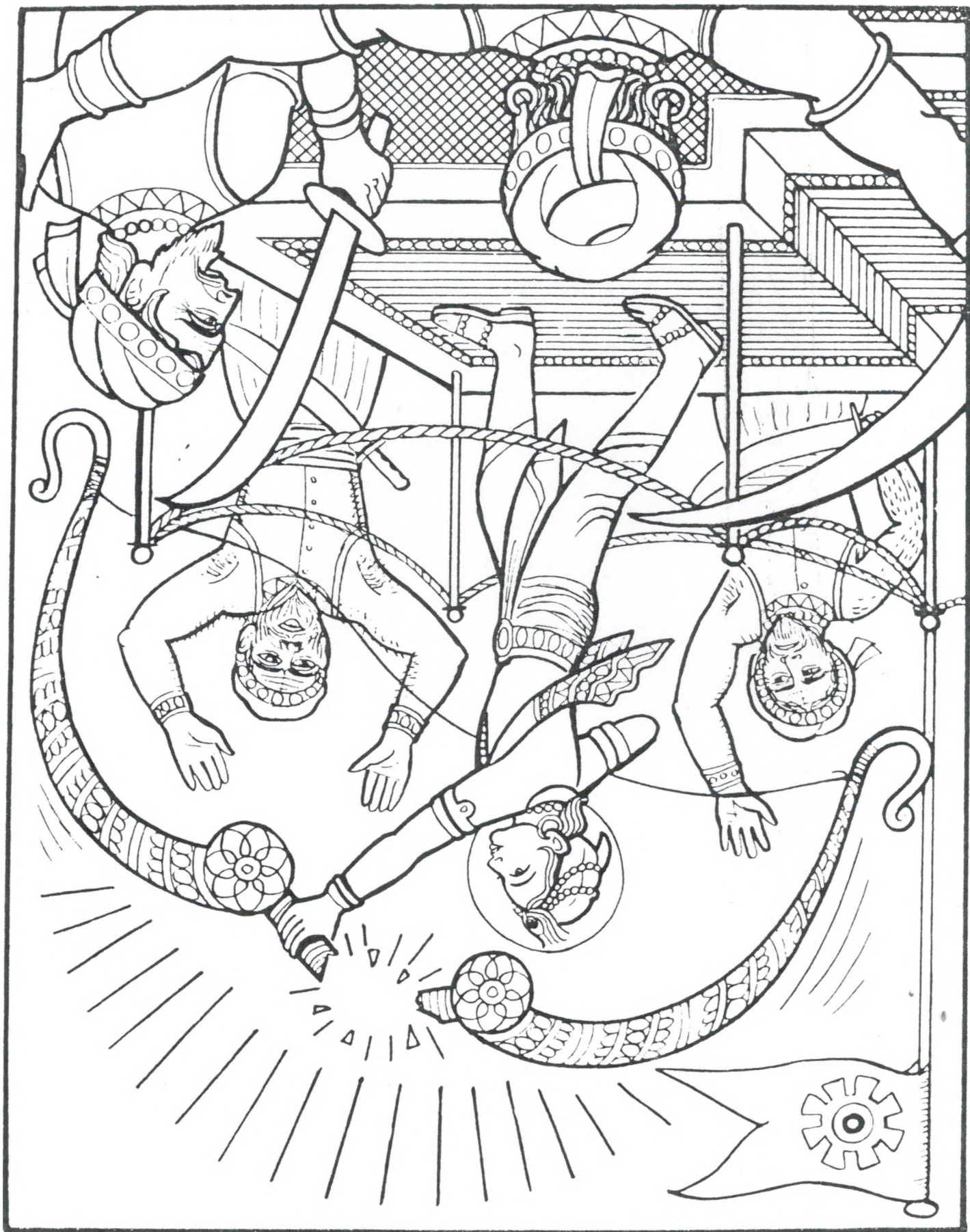
Krishna breaks his back
and kills him there,
then breaks his tusks
without a care.

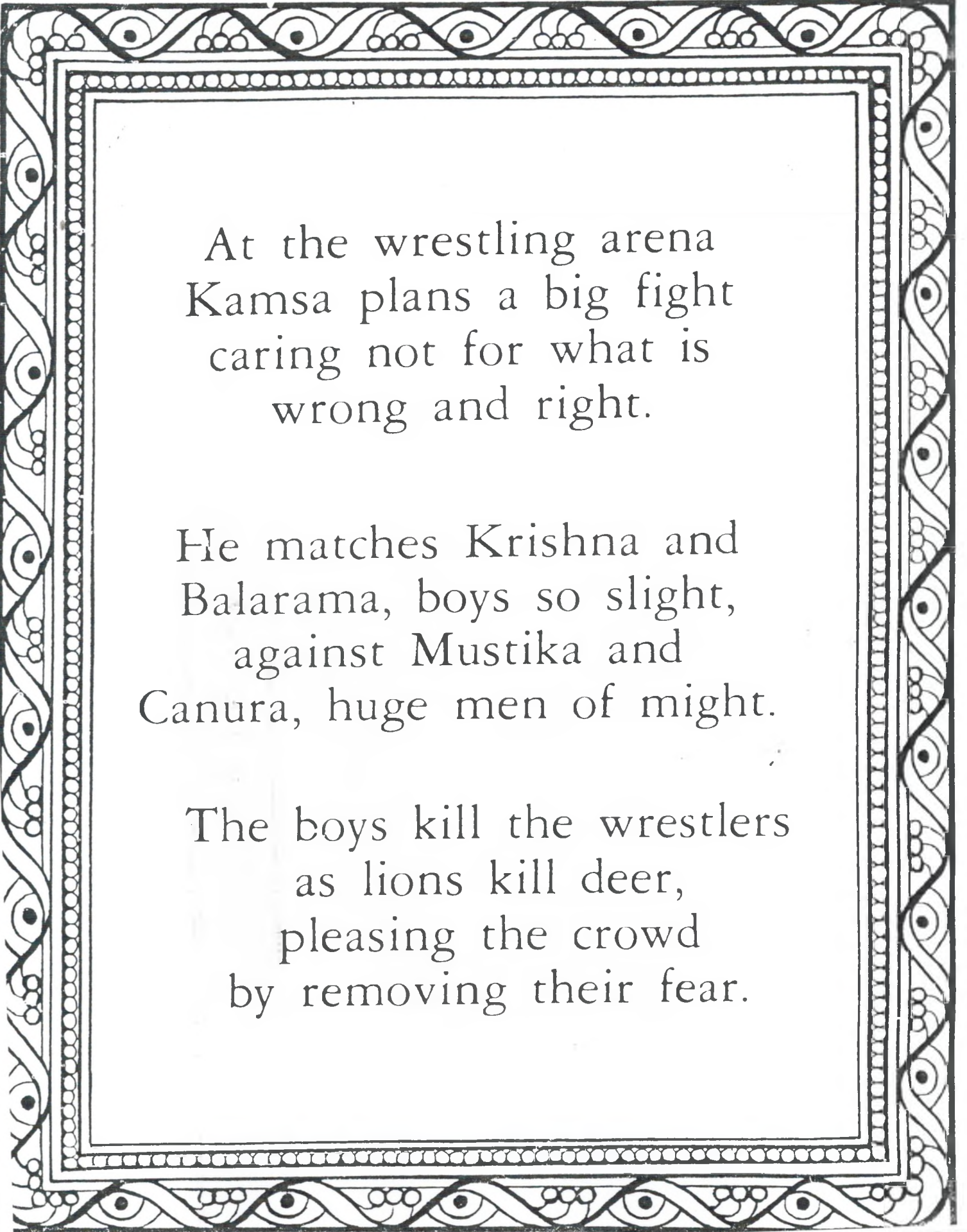


Krishna and Balarama
go with Their entourage
to see a wonderful bow
that is very large.

Krishna breaks the bow
as if it's a toy.
Kamsa cries to his guards
"Kill that boy."

The boys kill the guards
with the bow's broken parts
which fills Kamsa with dread,
puts fear in his heart.

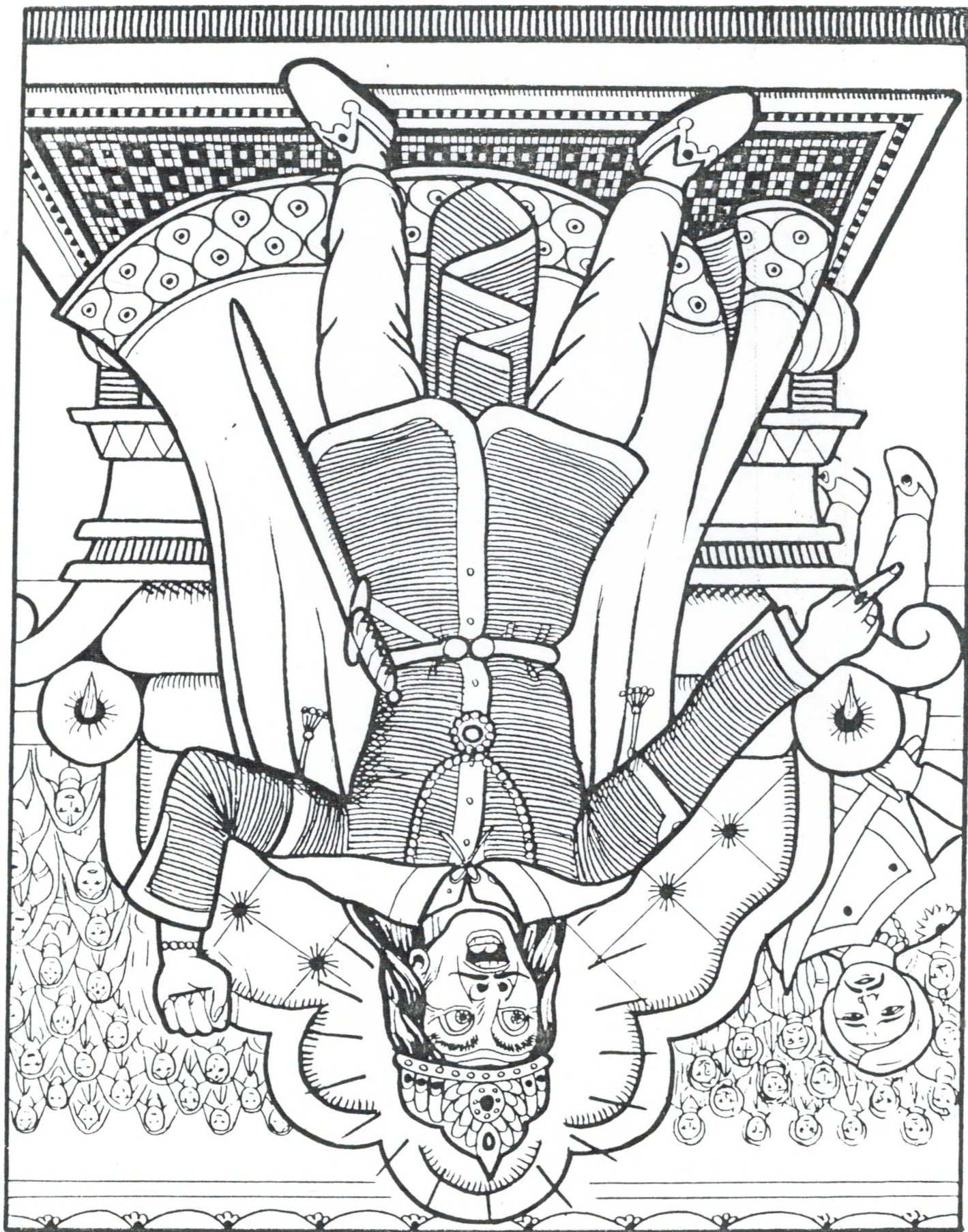


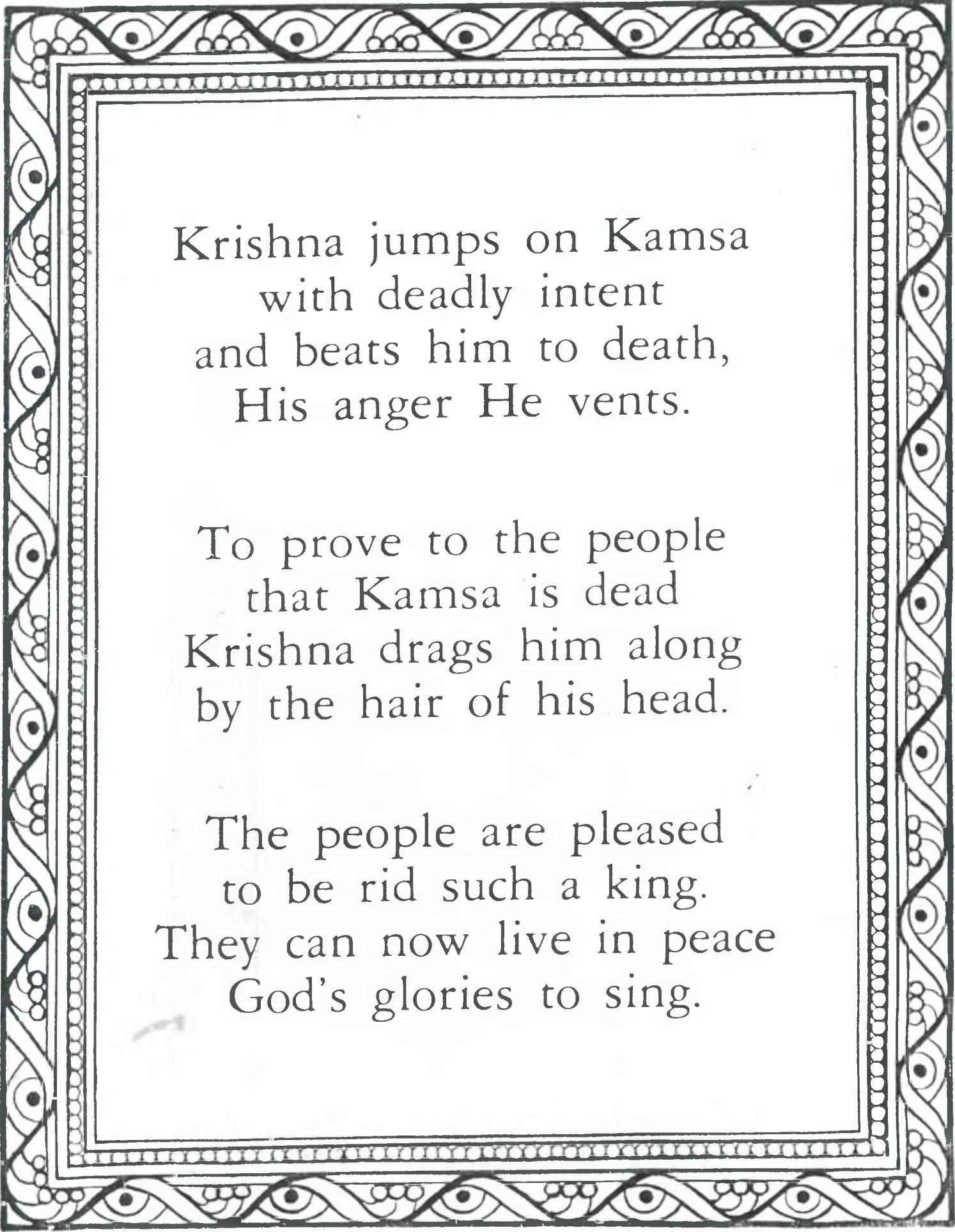


At the wrestling arena
Kamsa plans a big fight
caring not for what is
wrong and right.

He matches Krishna and
Balarama, boys so slight,
against Mustika and
Canura, huge men of might.

The boys kill the wrestlers
as lions kill deer,
pleasing the crowd
by removing their fear.

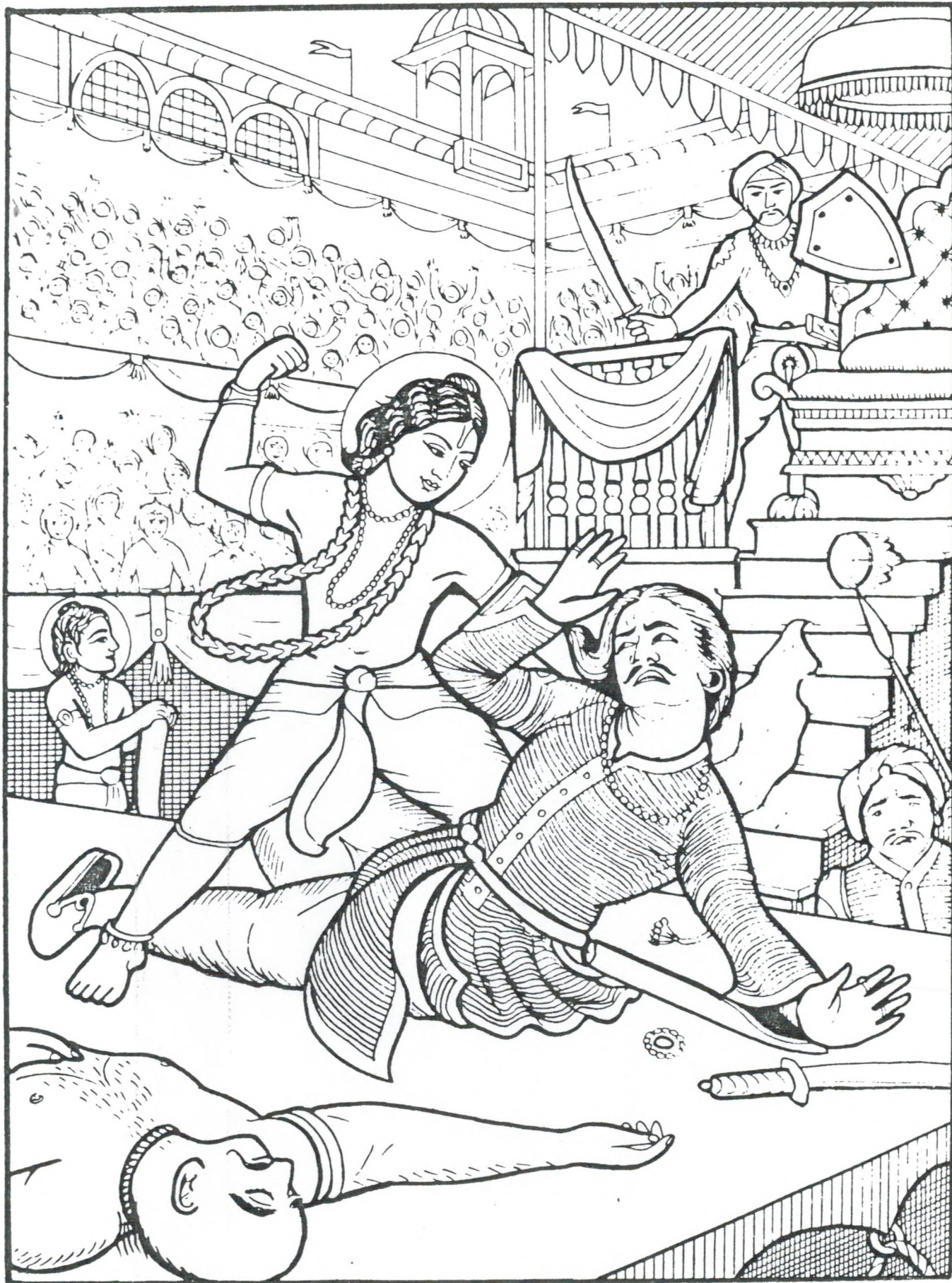


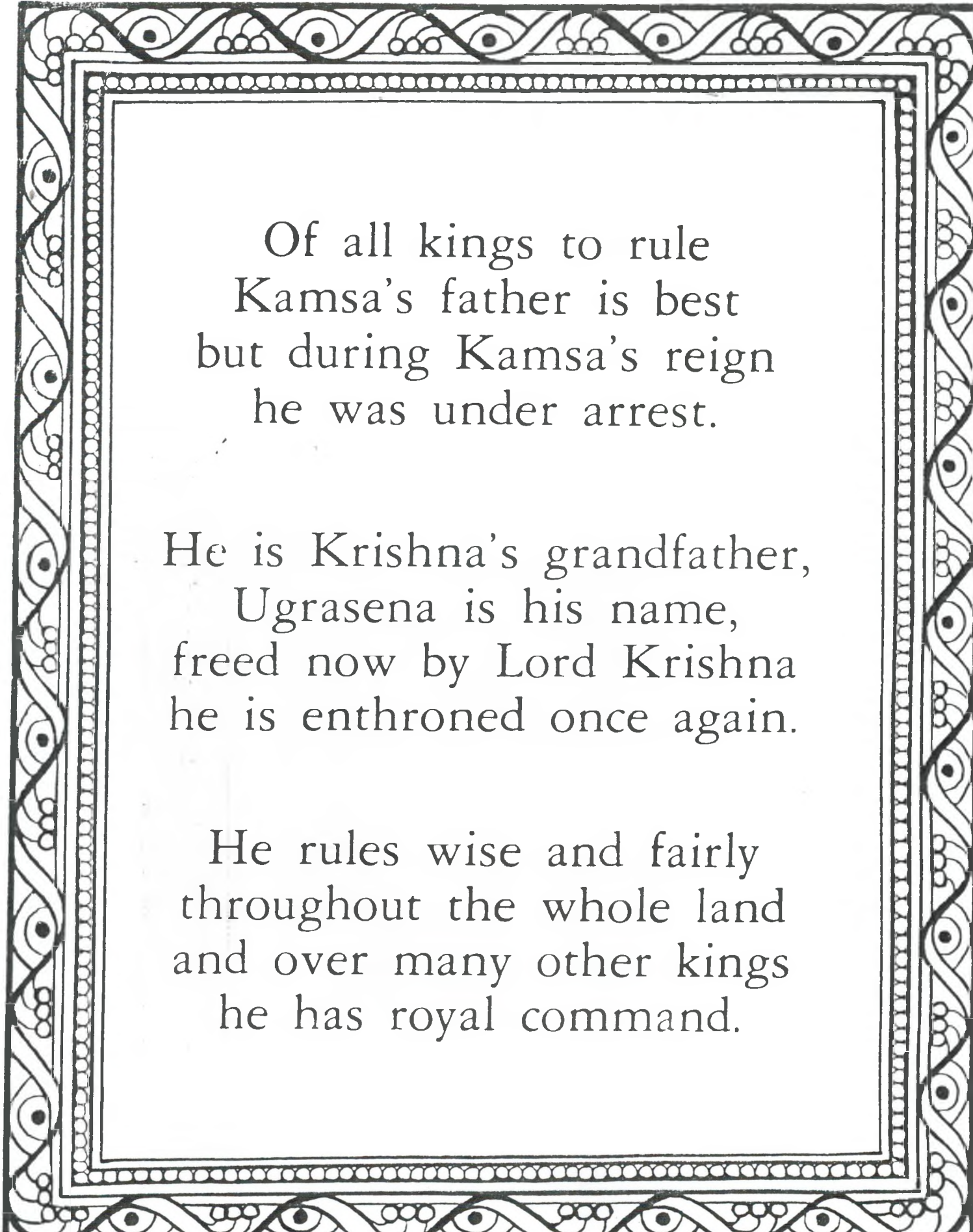


Krishna jumps on Kamsa
with deadly intent
and beats him to death,
His anger He vents.

To prove to the people
that Kamsa is dead
Krishna drags him along
by the hair of his head.

The people are pleased
to be rid such a king.
They can now live in peace
God's glories to sing.

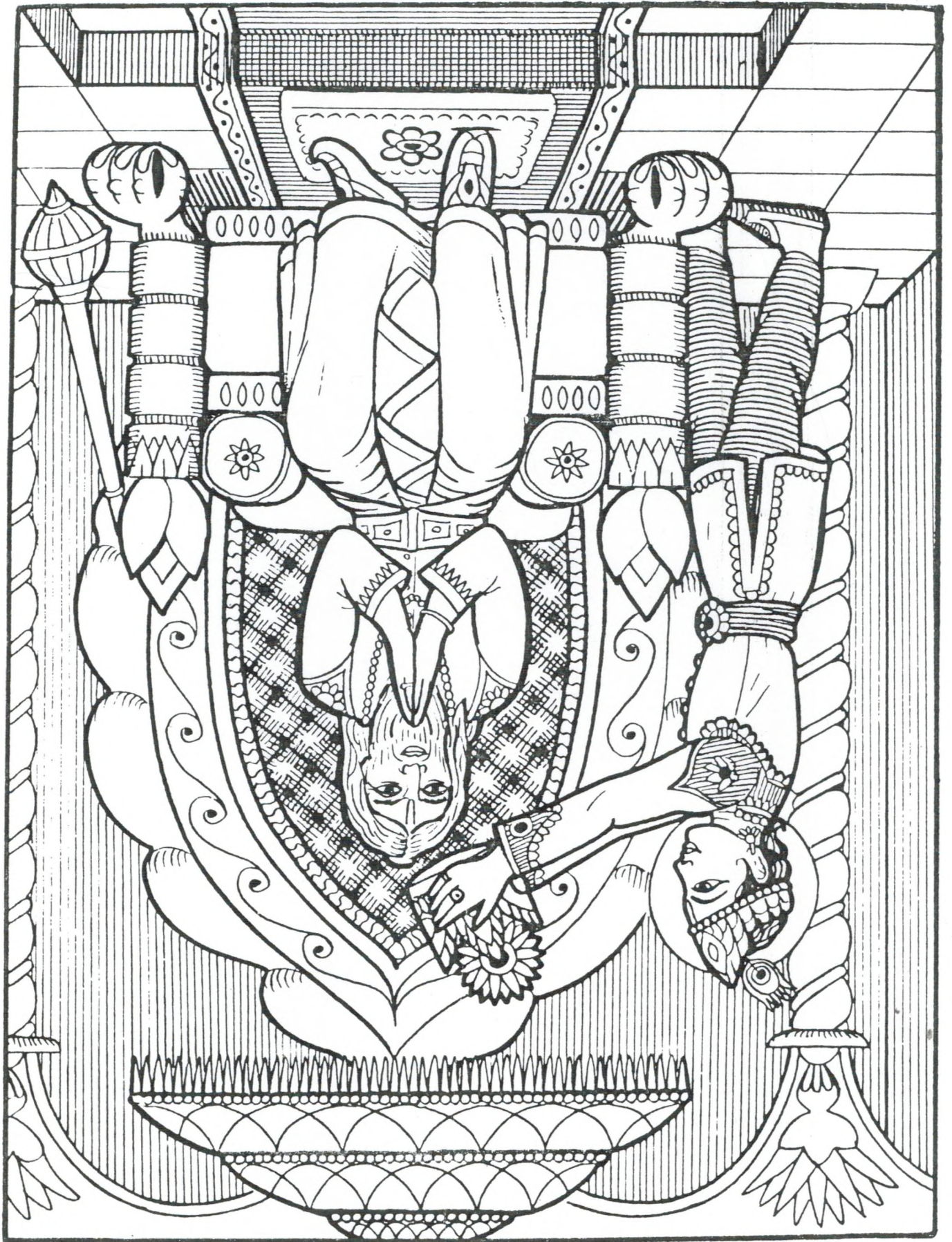




Of all kings to rule
Kamsa's father is best
but during Kamsa's reign
he was under arrest.

He is Krishna's grandfather,
Ugrasena is his name,
freed now by Lord Krishna
he is enthroned once again.

He rules wise and fairly
throughout the whole land
and over many other kings
he has royal command.



Lord Krishna's pastimes are a real inspiration and source of joy and happiness for all mankind. His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, founder-acharya of the 'International Society for Krishna Consciousness' has done a great work in revealing the divine nature of Lord Krishna in simple and easy terms.

I hope that this Krishna colouring book, which is based on Srila Prabhupada's translation of Srimad-Bhagavatam will help provide a true and proper education about Lord Krishna to all persons, specially to children.

I am sure that in the near future my learned friend, Ananta Shakti dasa will produce more books like this, and we will welcome them.

ACHARYA RAVINDRA NAGAR
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TEMPLES FEDERATION

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