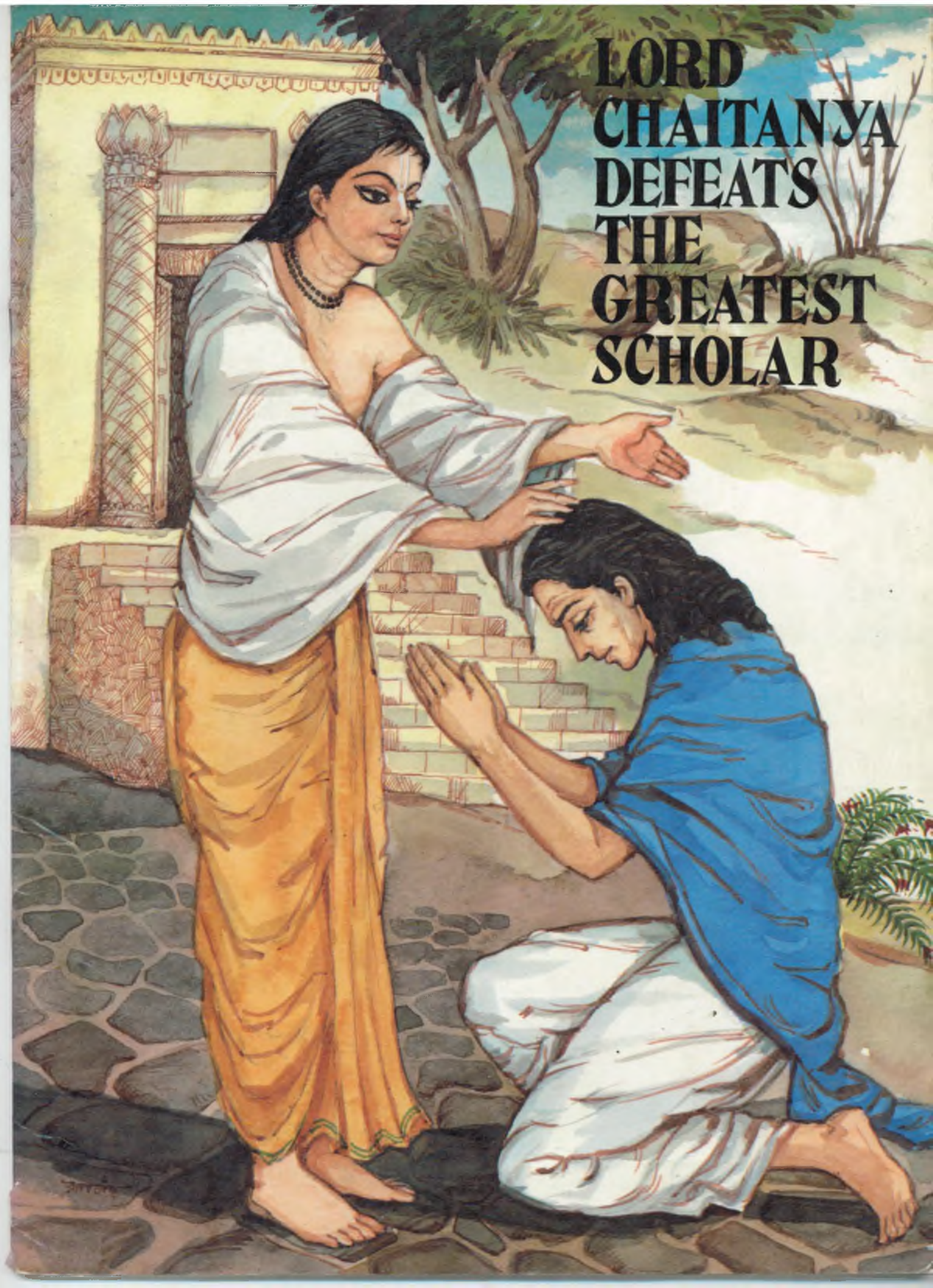


LORD CHAITANYA DEFEATS THE GREATEST SCHOLAR



C/O KIRTAN DAS & BALADEVA DAS

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Alachua, FL
32615

Lord Chaitanya Defeats the Greatest Scholar

is based on the Chaitanya Charitāmrita by Sri Krishnadās Kavirāj. This Bengali epic has been translated into English by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedānta Swāmi Prabhupāda, Founder-Āchārya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

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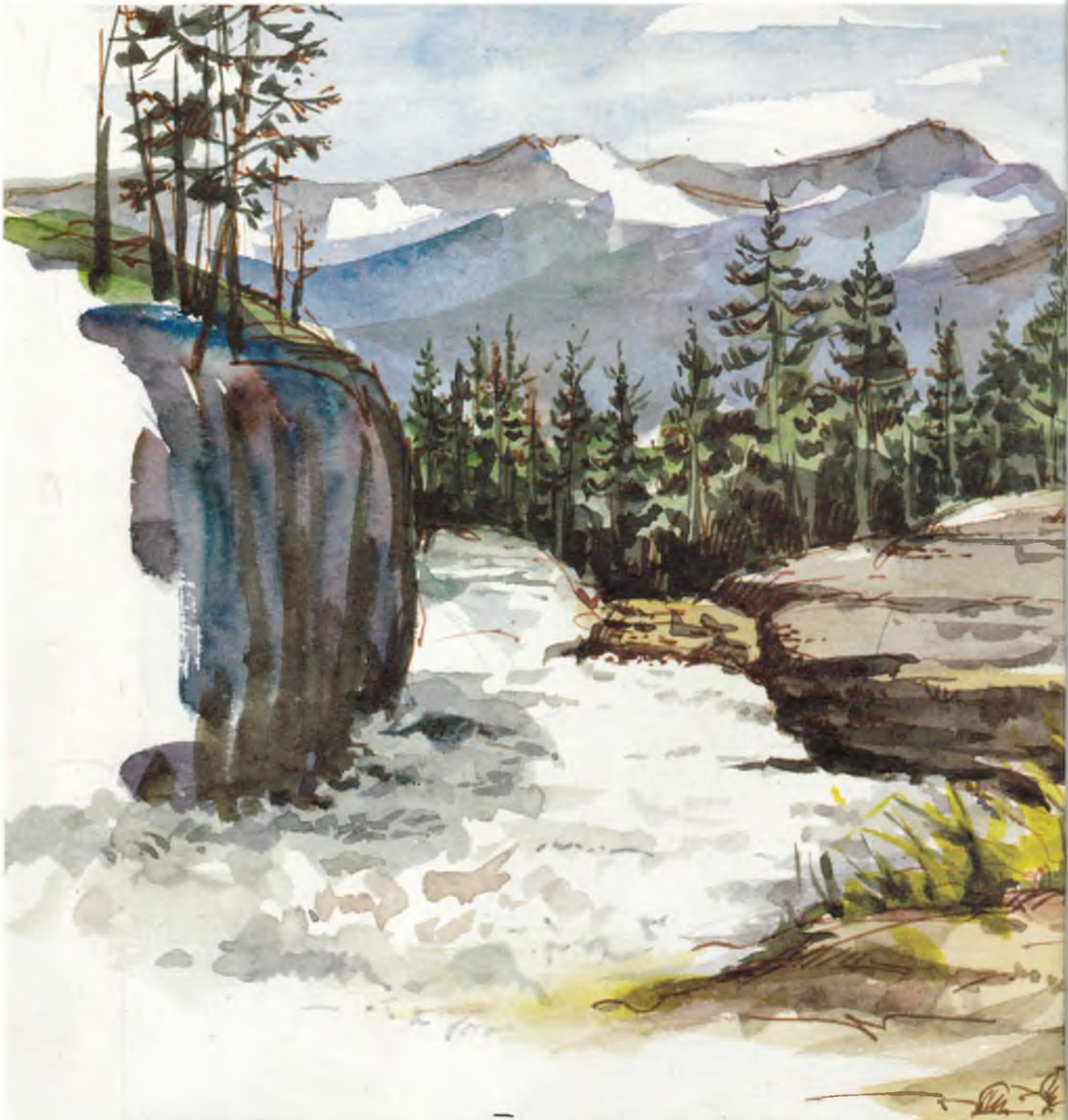
As retold by Sri Chitraketu Dāsa.

Illustrations by Sri Rupchand Kundu.

Painting on opening page by Sri Baradraja Dāsa
(Courtesy of BBT — Los Angeles)

**LORD CHAITANYA DEFEATS
THE GREATEST SCHOLAR**



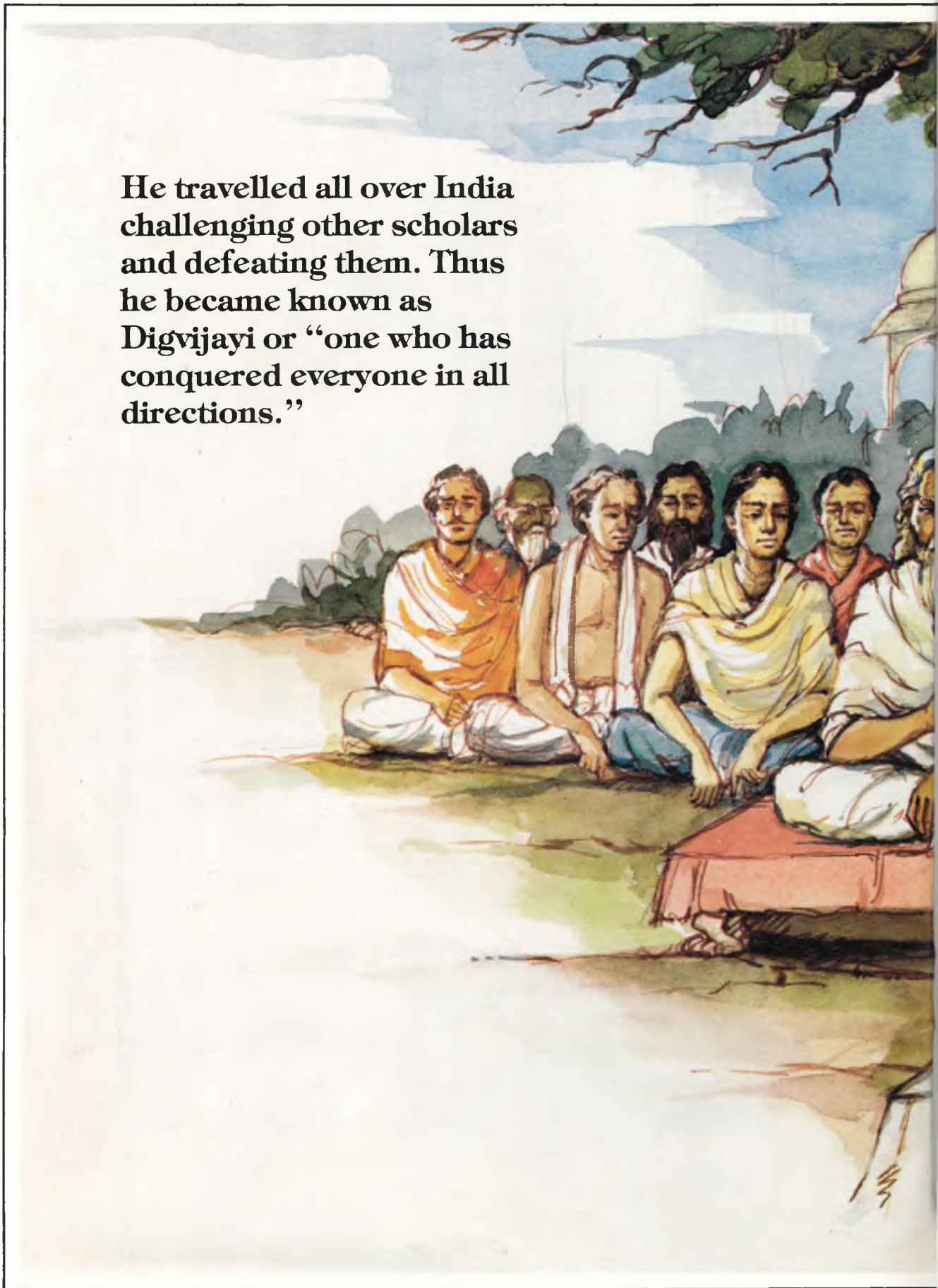


KESHAVA KĀSHMIRI

was a great champion of learning.
He was a favourite devotee of Mother
Saraswati and by her grace became
an extremely learned scholar.



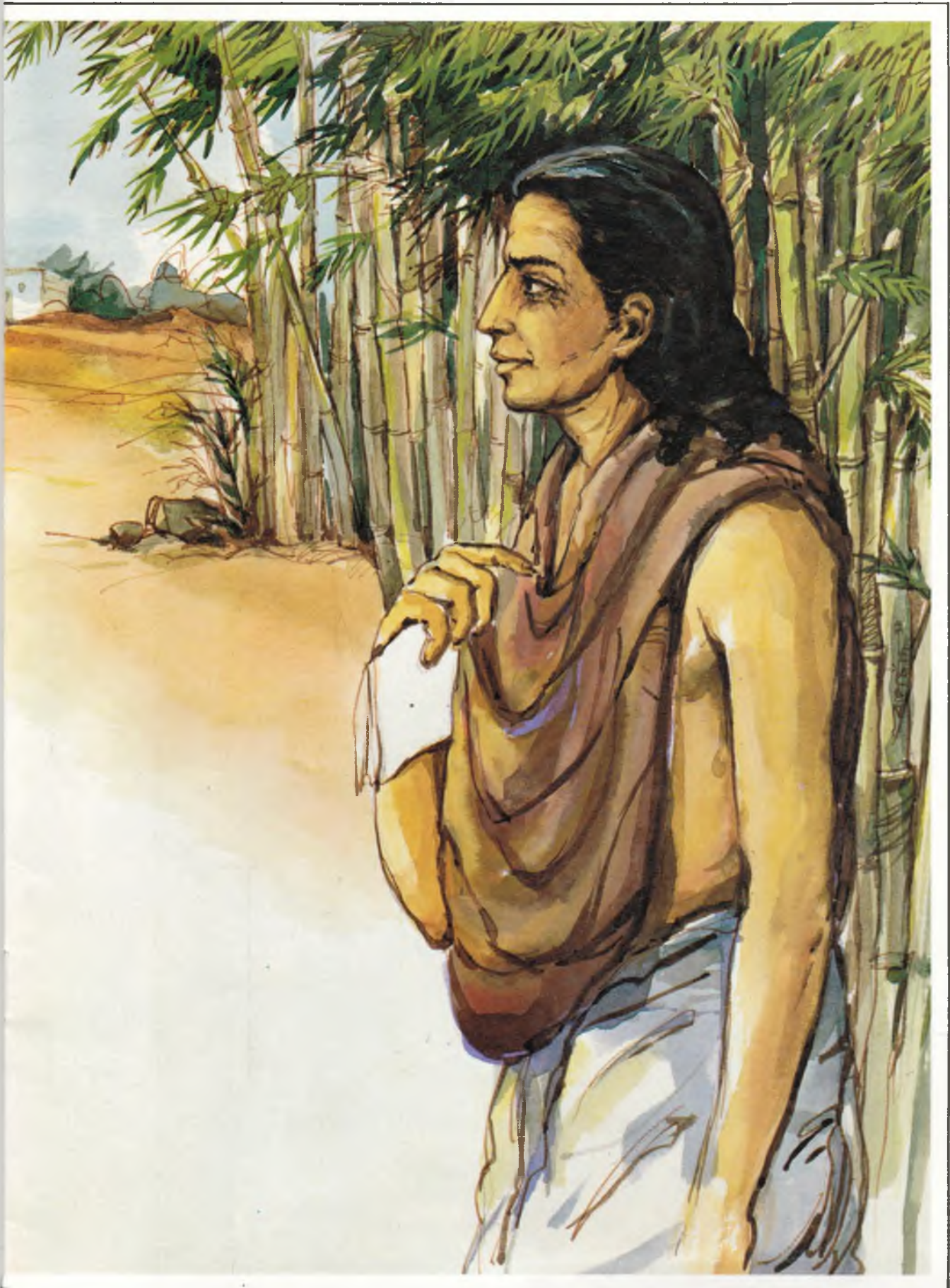
**He travelled all over India
challenging other scholars
and defeating them. Thus
he became known as
Digvijayi or “one who has
conquered everyone in all
directions.”**







Eventually Keshava Kāshmiri arrived in Navadwip, which was at that time a famous centre of learning. There were many highly learned scholars living there, but all of them were afraid of Keshava Kashmiri. When they heard that he was coming, they ran away and hid themselves in fear.





One day, as Keshava Kāshmiri was walking along the bank of the Ganges, he met Sri Chaitanya Mahāprabhu, who was teaching literary topics and grammar to His disciples.



“I understand that you are a teacher of grammar”, said Keshava Kāsmiri, “and that your name is Nimāi Pandit. People speak very highly of your teaching of beginners’ grammar”.

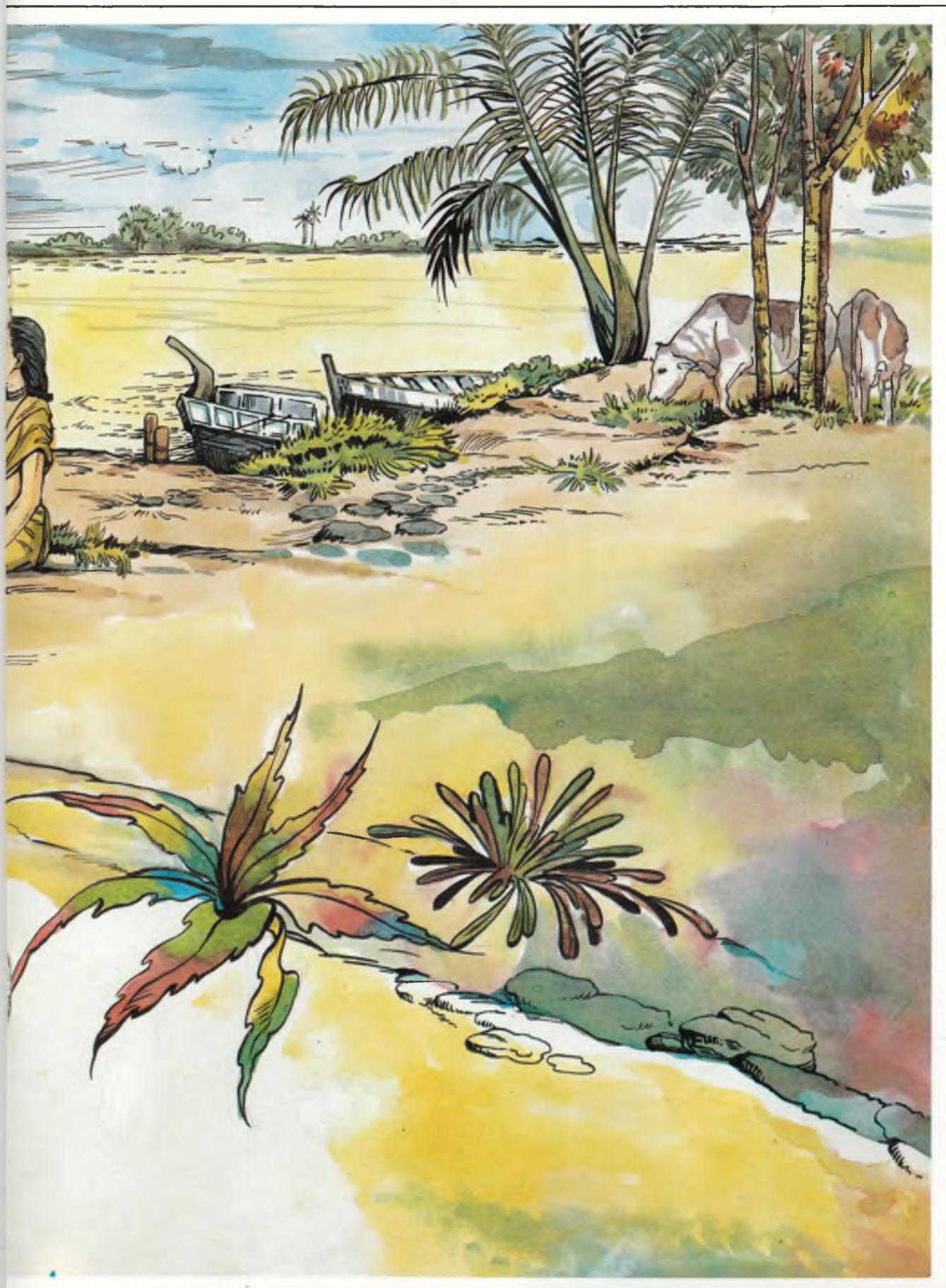
The Lord said, “Yes, I am known as a teacher of grammar, but I am only a boy, a new student, whereas you are a very learned scholar in all the scriptures. If you could compose some poetry for us describing the glories of Mother Ganges, we would be very happy”.







Keshava Kāshmiri became very proud hearing this and within an hour he composed one hundred verses describing the glories of Mother Ganges. Sri Chaitanya Mahāprabhu and His students sat down to hear the great scholar recite.



He recited the verses in a torrent like the blowing
of the wind or the flowing waves of the river.

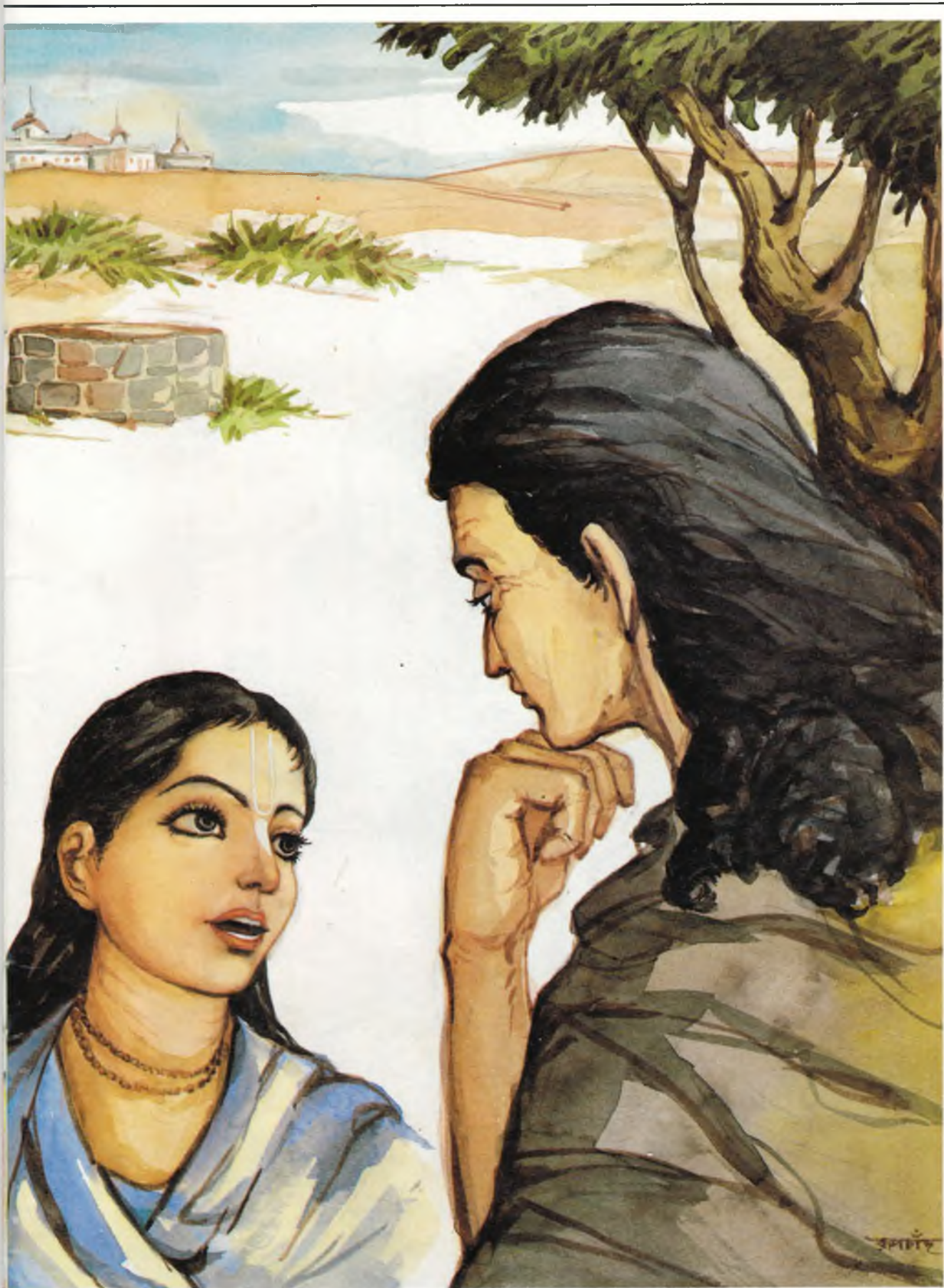


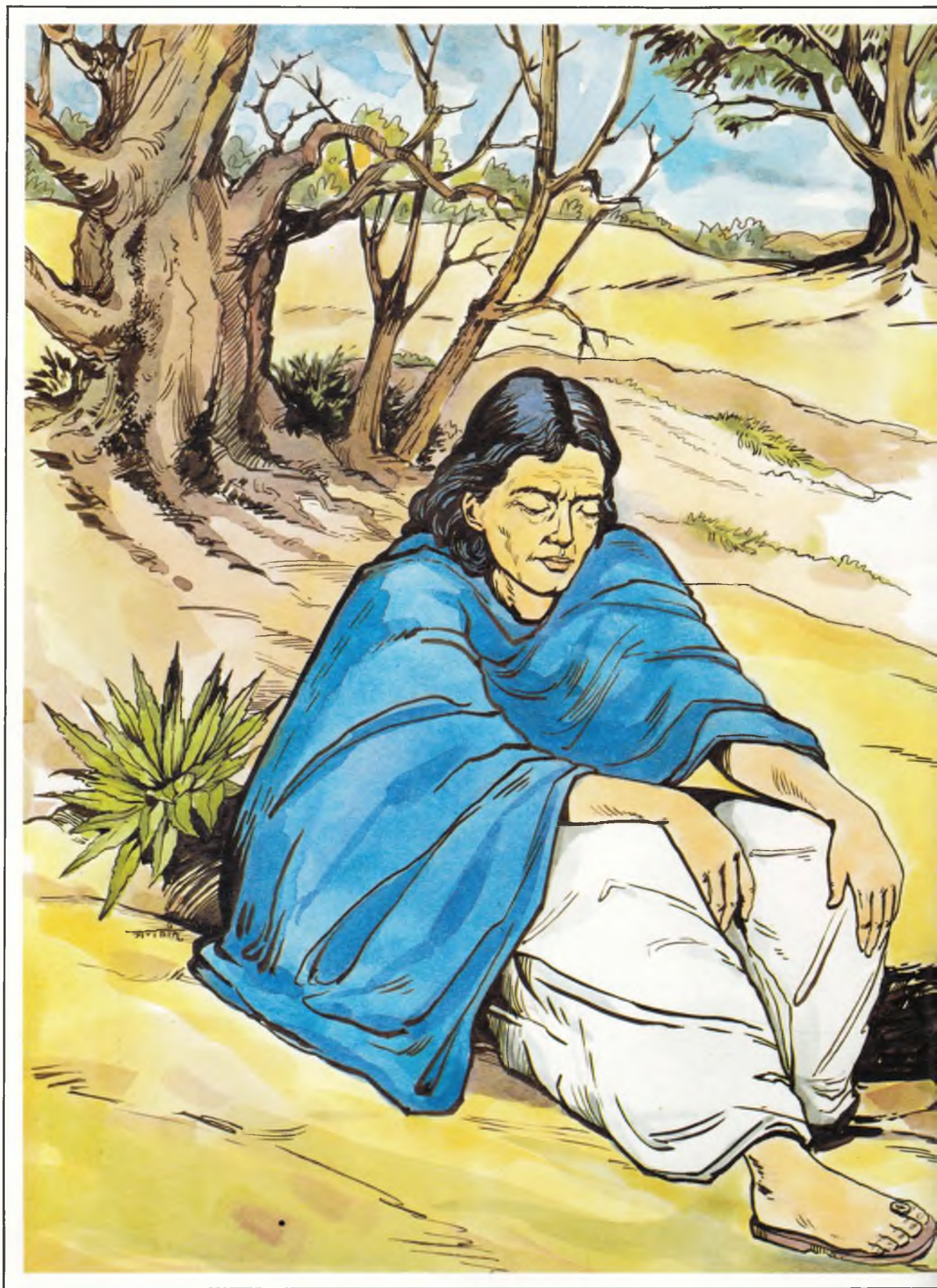
The verses were very beautiful and full of poetic ornaments like metaphors, similes, etc.

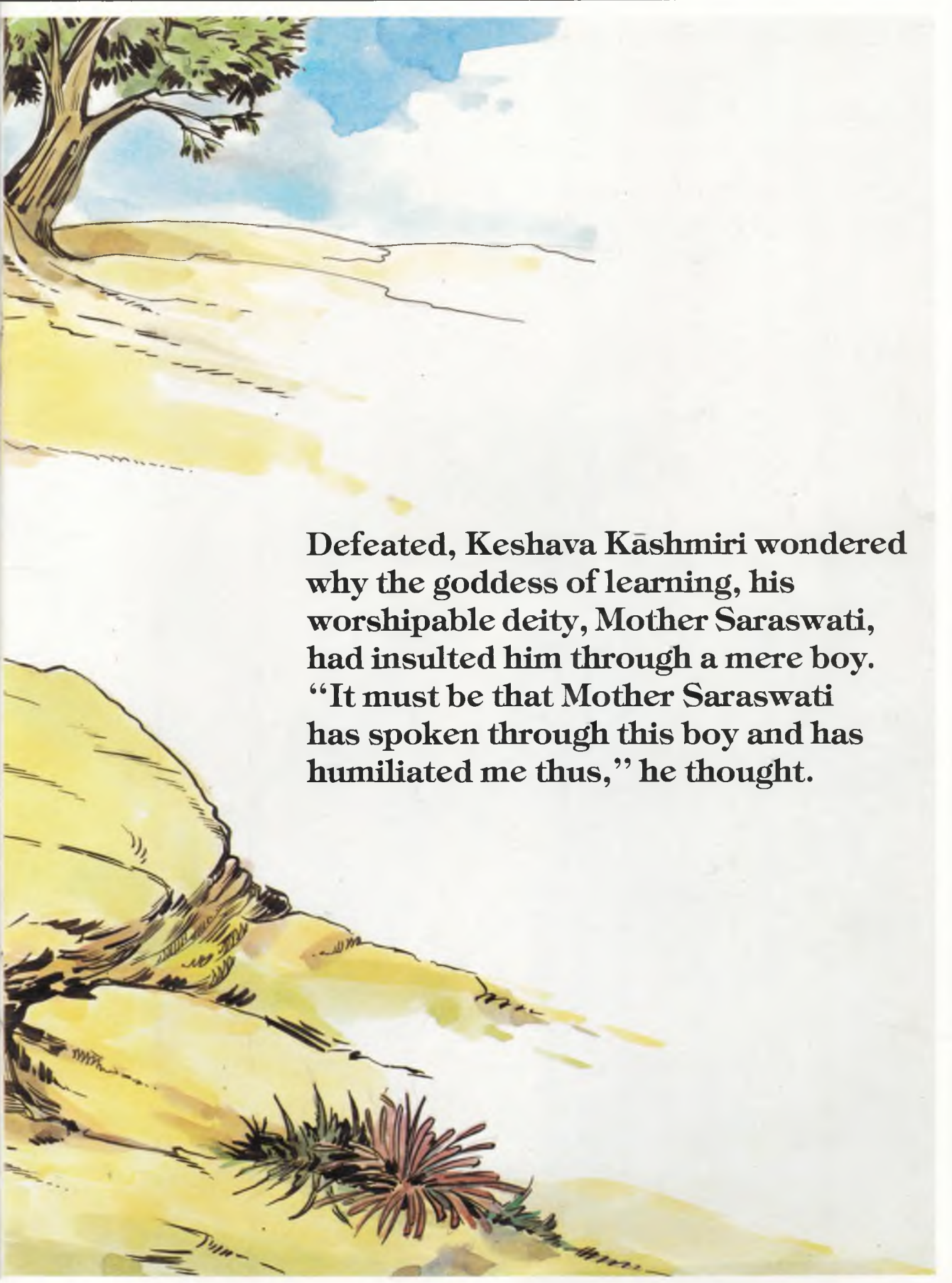




“Indeed”, the Lord said, “there is no greater poet than you in the entire universe. Your poetry is so difficult that only you and the goddess of learning can understand it.” Out of all those hundred verses Lord Chaitanya selected one, completely out of His memory, much to the surprise of Keshava Kāshmiri. The Lord then explained in detail the faults and qualities of the verse and easily defeated the poet.







Defeated, Keshava Kāshmiri wondered why the goddess of learning, his worshipable deity, Mother Saraswati, had insulted him through a mere boy. “It must be that Mother Saraswati has spoken through this boy and has humiliated me thus,” he thought.

That night Keshava Kāshmiri prayed to his worshipable deity, Mother Saraswati, and she explained to him about the supremacy of the Lord, “Sri Chaitanya Mahāprabhu is none other than the Supreme Personality of God head. So you have been defeated by the Lord Himself; do not be ashamed, but realise that this is the greatest honour.”







The next morning Keshava Kāshmiri came and surrendered himself at the lotus feet of Sri Chaitanya Mahāprabhu and thus he became victorious over repeated birth and death within the material world. Everyone, be he a fool or a great scholar, should take shelter at the lotus feet of the Lord, because by the Lord's mercy only can one achieve real success in life by becoming free from material attachments.

Keshava Kāshmiri went to become a great devotee of the Lord in the Nimbārka Sampradāya and he wrote many wonderful books about love of Godhead. Such is the proper use of learning. Still today, devotees study his books in the Sanskrit language and chant:

**HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE,
HARE RĀMA HARE RĀMA
RĀMA RĀMA HARE HARE.**

DIGVIJAYI

Digvijayi, the best in the land;
All branches of learning
Were at his command.
He conquered all pundits
In every direction
And left them defeated
In shame and dejection.

He came, at last, to Navadwip,
Confident that
His knowledge was deep,
Deep as the ocean
And high as the sky —
No-one could make him
Bat an eye.

The scholars all ran,
Afraid of his call,
Fearing this scholar
Would conquer them all;
But when he came
To the Ganges' bank,
His honour was smashed,
His confidence sank.

Defeated, destroyed
By a mere student lad,
The scholar was crest-fallen,
Broken and sad.
Who was this boy
Who had thrashed him with ease
And brought a great pundit
Like him to his knees?

He prayed to his goddess
In utter despair,
Who appeared before him
And stood in the air —
"The boy who defeated you
Is Vishnu Himself,
The Lord of the powers
of learning and wealth.

"All is His; He is all;
Go to His feet
And humbly fall!
Fall down there
And raise not again;
From Him all bliss
And blessings attain"!

Now scholars of learning and bookworms, hear: —
How the scholar of scholars was an object of jeer.
His learning was nothing till he laid down his book
And shelter at the Lord's lotus feet humbly took.
So take it as a lesson that the Lord is the ONE
Without which there are many noughts equalling none!

Vedic culture is the original culture of human society, and all other cultures are the reflections of that original, spiritual culture. As supporting evidence of this statement, one may say that Vedic culture is the culture of liberated persons who are no longer in the bodily concept of life; whereas, the multifarious other cultures of the world only enhance and encourage bodily consciousness. One may also add that anyone who takes to the Vedic culture is gradually liberated from the degrading influence of the material energy.

Modern education is training the children to become materially motivated, whereas the Vedic educational system liberates one from all material attachments. The subject matter of this children's book is the Supreme Personality of Godhead, His pastimes, His entourage, etc. The Lord who is **Sat-Cit-Ananda** – eternal, full of knowledge and full of bliss – is certainly the life and soul of the fully liberated souls, and for those still in the clutches of the material energy, He is the Deliverer from the miserable material existence. By association with Him, therefore, the reader will feel joyful being situated on the spiritual platform.

One may question whether discussion of such high philosophy is actually appropriate while presenting children's books. In answer it can be said that the nature of Vedic culture is so sublime that the children as well as the grown-up intellectuals can relish it equally.

The Vedic culture was nearly lost in India and unheard of throughout the rest of the world. But recently it experienced an unprecedented resurgence. Due to the preaching efforts of one pure devotee of the Lord, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Probhupada, the Founder-Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, Vedic culture spread rapidly throughout the world. In 1966 at the age of 70 he started his preaching in America and within ten years' time he established 108 temples in the major cities of the world. From the Western countries the Vedic culture was brought back to India with renewed vigour and startled many Indians who were trying quietly to forget their spiritual culture in favor of Western materialism. Through these children's books Veda Vision is trying to be of some small assistance to the preaching of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada by encouraging children to associate with Krishna at all times, even in their play.



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