

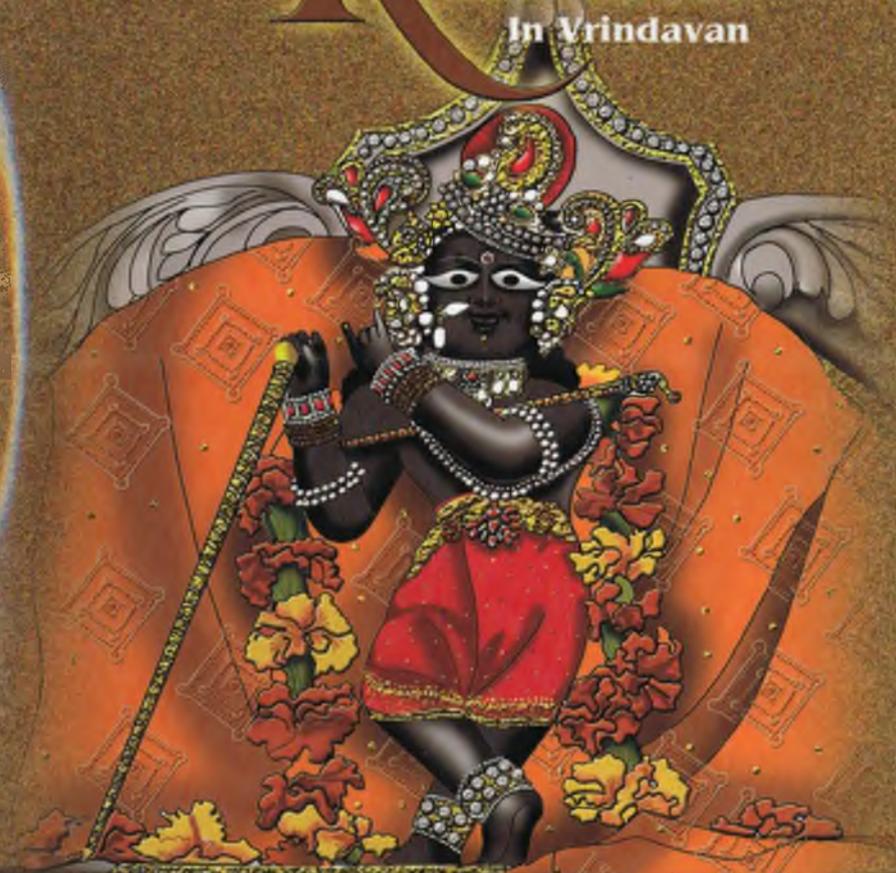


Vrindavan is situated in northern India's Mathura district. It is about 345 square kilometers. When Lord Krishna appeared in this world, He performed many pastimes in Vrindavan. Now there are thousands of temples in Vrindavan. Amongst these, seven temples were established by the six Goswamis or followers thereof. Sri Sri Radha Raman temple is one of the oldest temple established by Sri Gopala Bhatta Goswami in Vrindavan. Even today you can visit this temple and take darsan of Sri Sri Radha Raman and get His blessings.



The story of

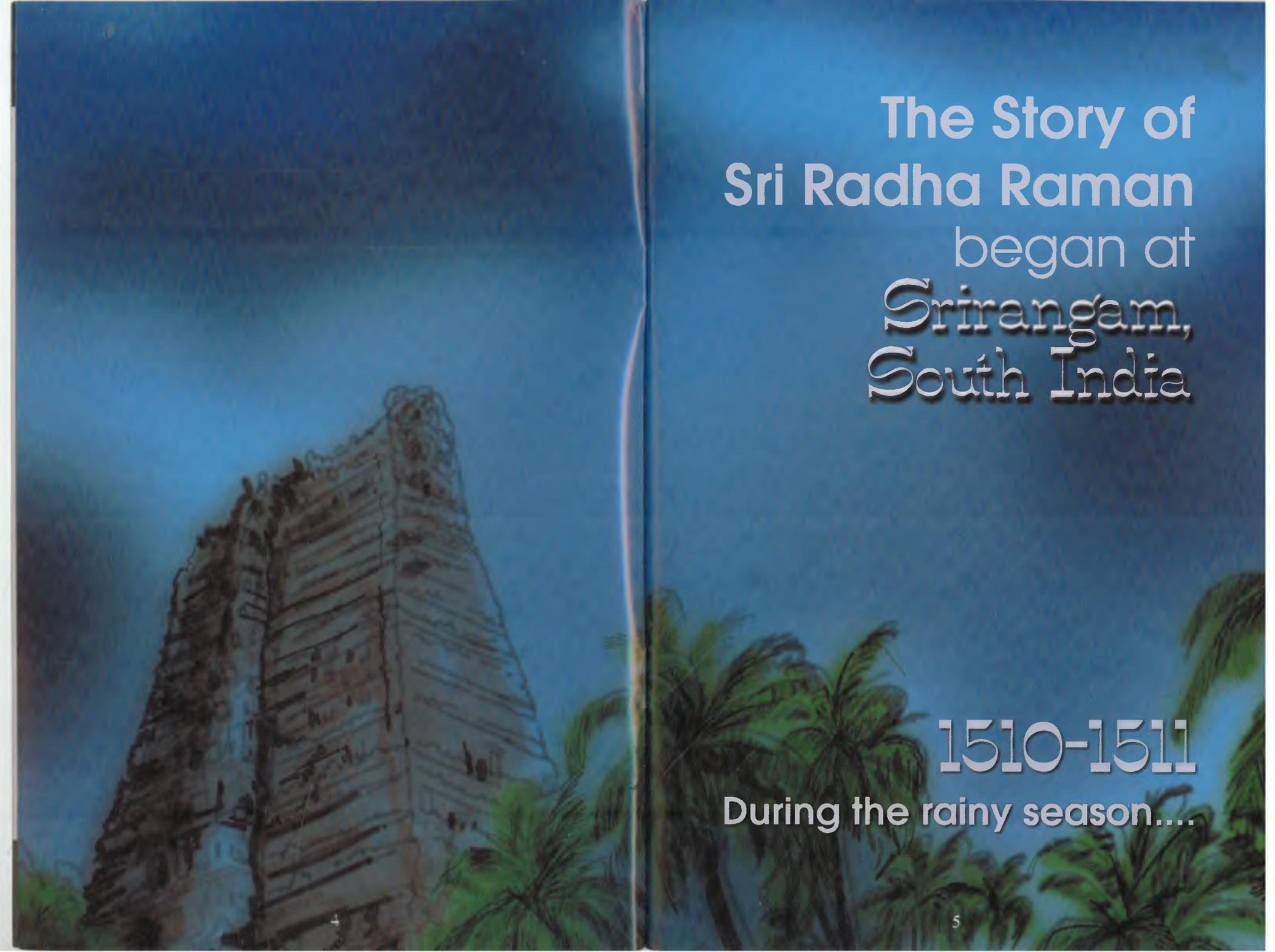
Sri Sri Radha Raman In Vrindavan



Children's story book



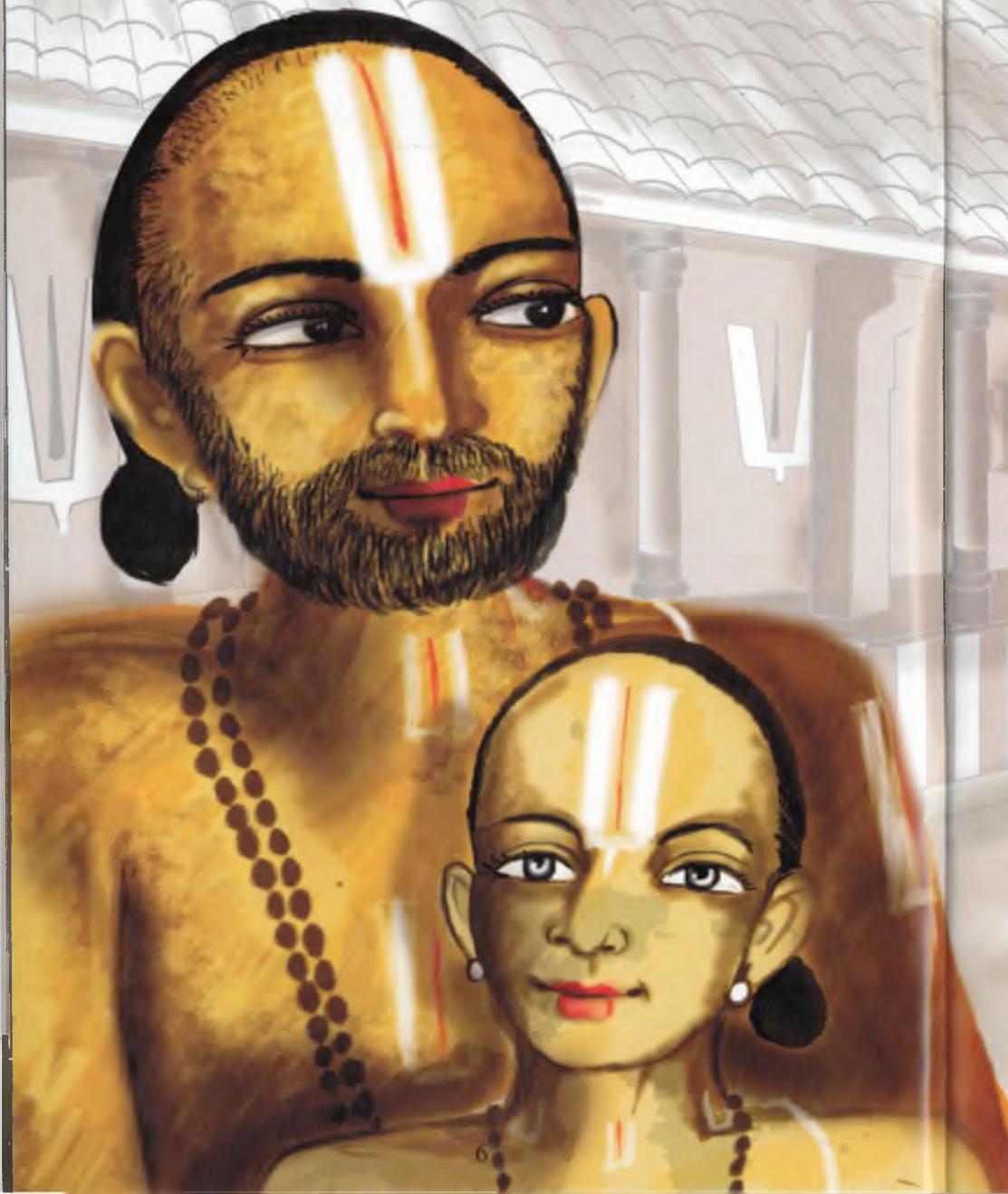
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The Story of
Sri Radha Raman
began at
Srirangam,
South India

1510-1511

During the rainy season....



Venkata Bhattar was a Vaishnava, initiated to the *Sri sampradaya* tradition, in disciplic succession of Sri Ramanujacharya. He was serving as a priest at Sri Ranganatha temple.

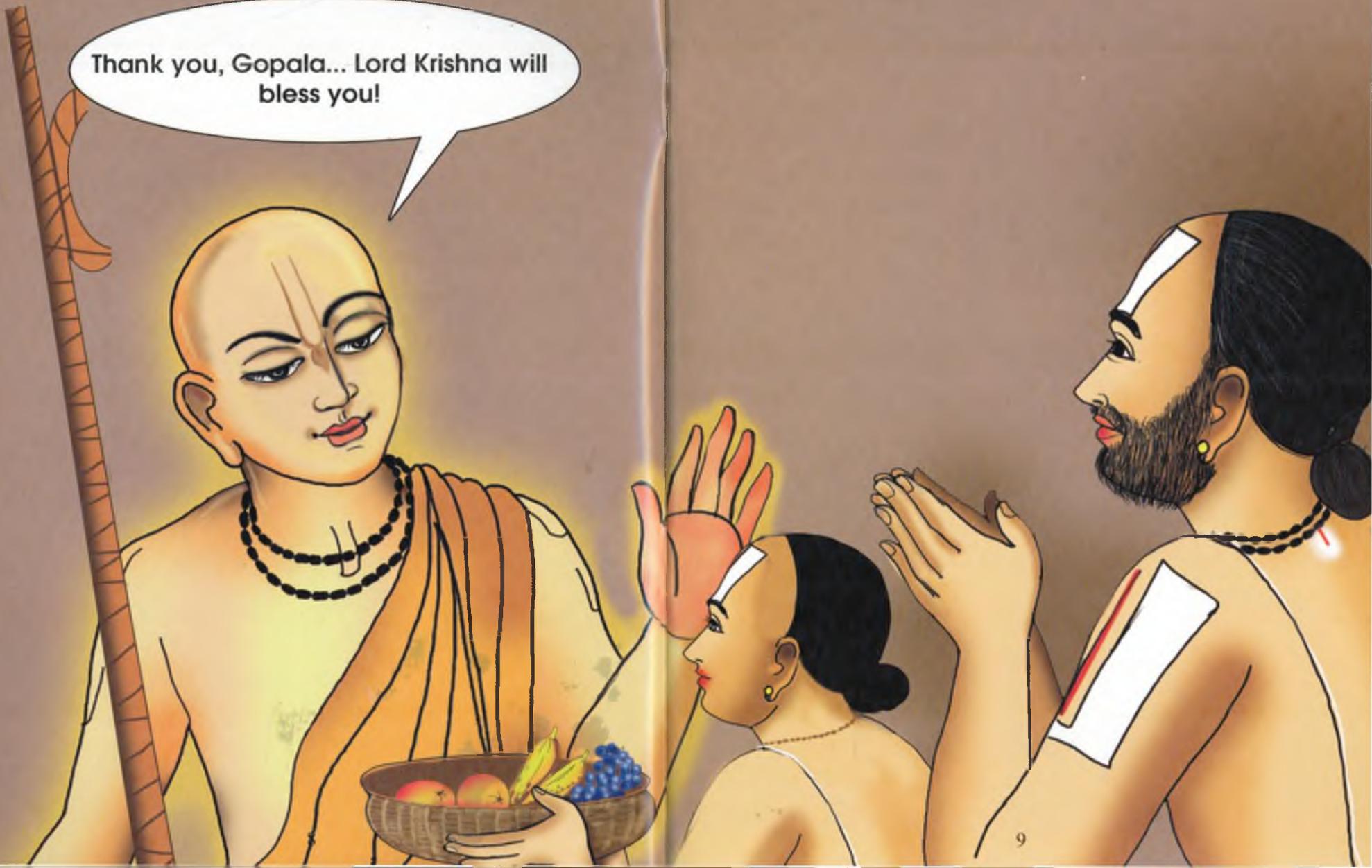
He saw Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who was in the renowned order of life-*sanyasa*, perform the ecstatic *kirtan* and dance at Sri Ranganatha temple.

Sri Venkata Bhattar invited the Lord to stay with him in his house, during the four months of the rainy season. Venkata Bhattar had a son named Gopala.

During the four month stay at Venkata Bhattar's house, Gopala served Chaitanya Mahaprabhu with love and affection

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu gave him the remnants of His *prasad*. He blessed Gopala to become a great devotee in future.

Thank you, Gopala... Lord Krishna will bless you!



When Chaitanya Mahaprabhu spent the four months of the rainy season at Venkata Bhattar's, house.

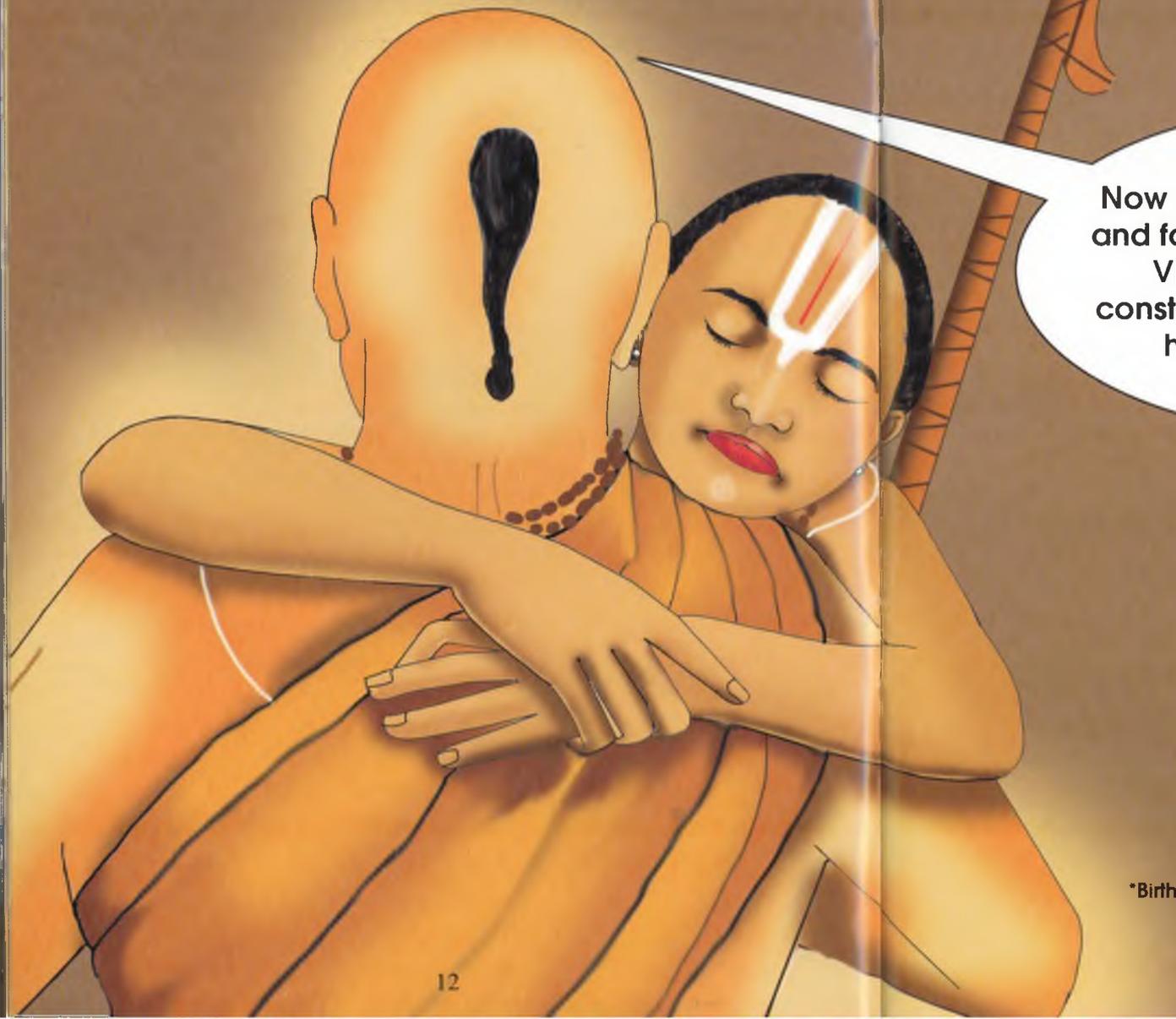
He discussed many things about Lord Krishna and His pastimes with Venkata Bhattar.

Even though, your worship of Laxmi and Narayana is perfect and full of devotion, still the worship of Radha and Krishna is even better. The very best example is set by the gopis of Vraja, whose love for Krishna is beyond compare.

Krishna and Narayana are one and the same. Krishna is one of the forms our Lord takes, in order to enjoy pastimes of a sweet and sporting nature.

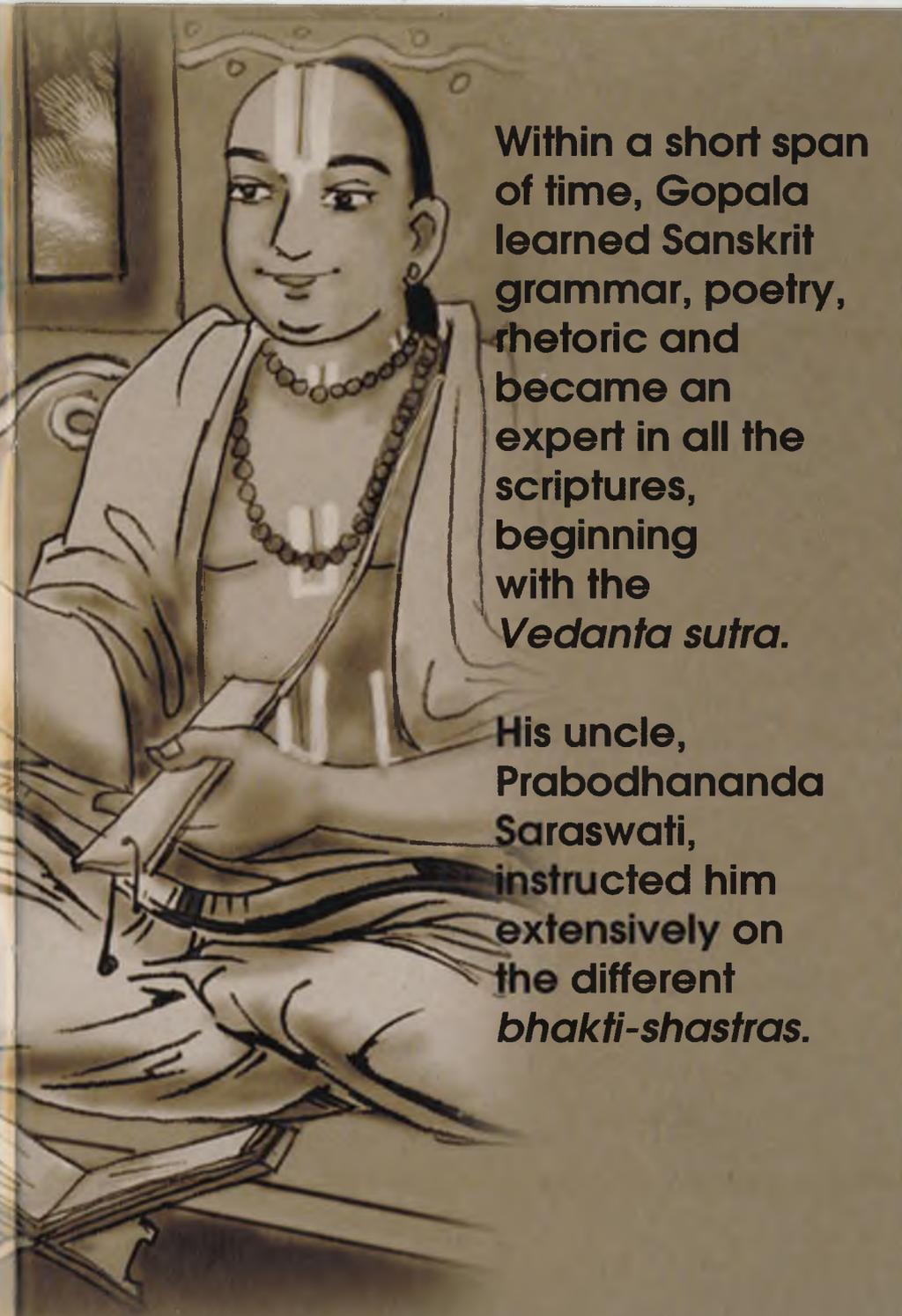


After four months, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu bid farewell. Gopala wanted to go with Him! Mahaprabhu comforted little Gopala.



Now you must serve your mother and father. Later, you will come to Vrindavan*. There you will constantly listen to and glorify the holy name of Sri Krishna.

*Birth place of Lord Krishna in Uttar Pradesh - North India



Within a short span of time, Gopala learned Sanskrit grammar, poetry, rhetoric and became an expert in all the scriptures, beginning with the *Vedanta sutra*.

His uncle, Prabodhananda Saraswati, instructed him extensively on the different *bhakti-shastras*.

After his parents' demise, Gopala Bhatta went to Vrindavan, always remembering the lotus feet of Mahaprabhu.



When Gopala Bhatta reached Vrindavan, Sri Rupa and Sri Sanatana, the close associates of Lord Chaitanya, who were then living in Vrindavan, greeted him and treated him like a brother.

A message was sent to Lord Chaitanya, who was at Puri then, about Gopala Bhatta's arrival in Vrindavan. Lord Chaitanya was very happy and sent the messenger back to Sri Rupa with His wooden seat and some of His personal clothes to be given to Gopala Bhatta as a symbol of his renunciation.



Days rolled by Lord Chaitanya left this world. Gopala Bhatta felt a great separation. One day, Lord Chaitanya appeared in his dream and told him,

You should go on a pilgrimage, to Nepal.



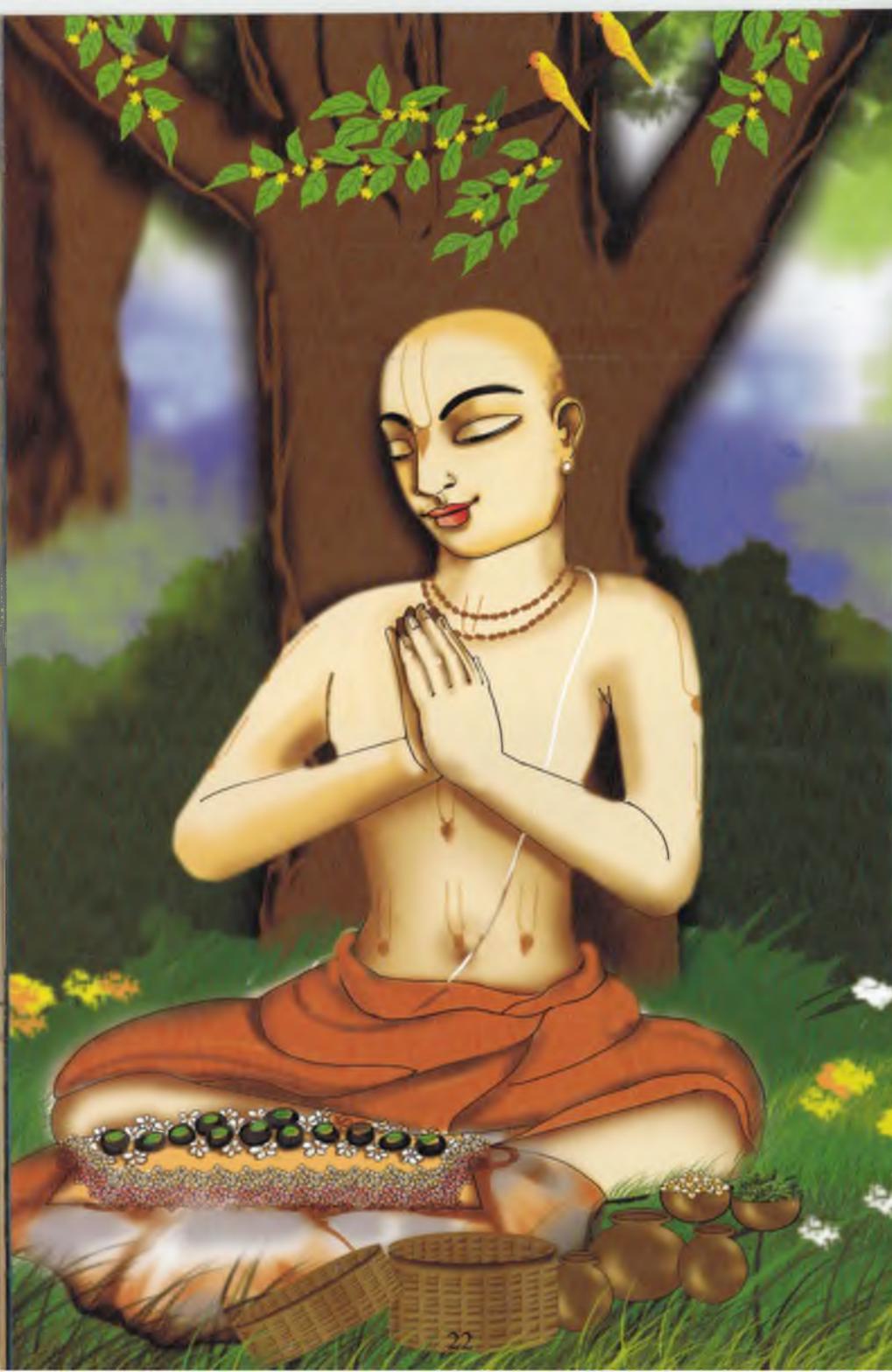
In Nepal, he reached Muktinath *ksetra*. In the Gandaki river, twelve *Shaligram shilas**, or sacred stones, came into his possession.

While Gopala Bhatta was taking bath in the Gandaki river, he dipped his pot and was surprised to see several *Shaligrama shilas** enter his pot. He dropped the *shilas* back into the river but the *shilas* re-entered his pot when he refilled it.



He again dropped the *shilas* back into the river and found twelve *shilas* in the pot when he tried filling water. Gopala Bhatta knew this had to be the Lord's mercy and took Them all to Vrindavan.

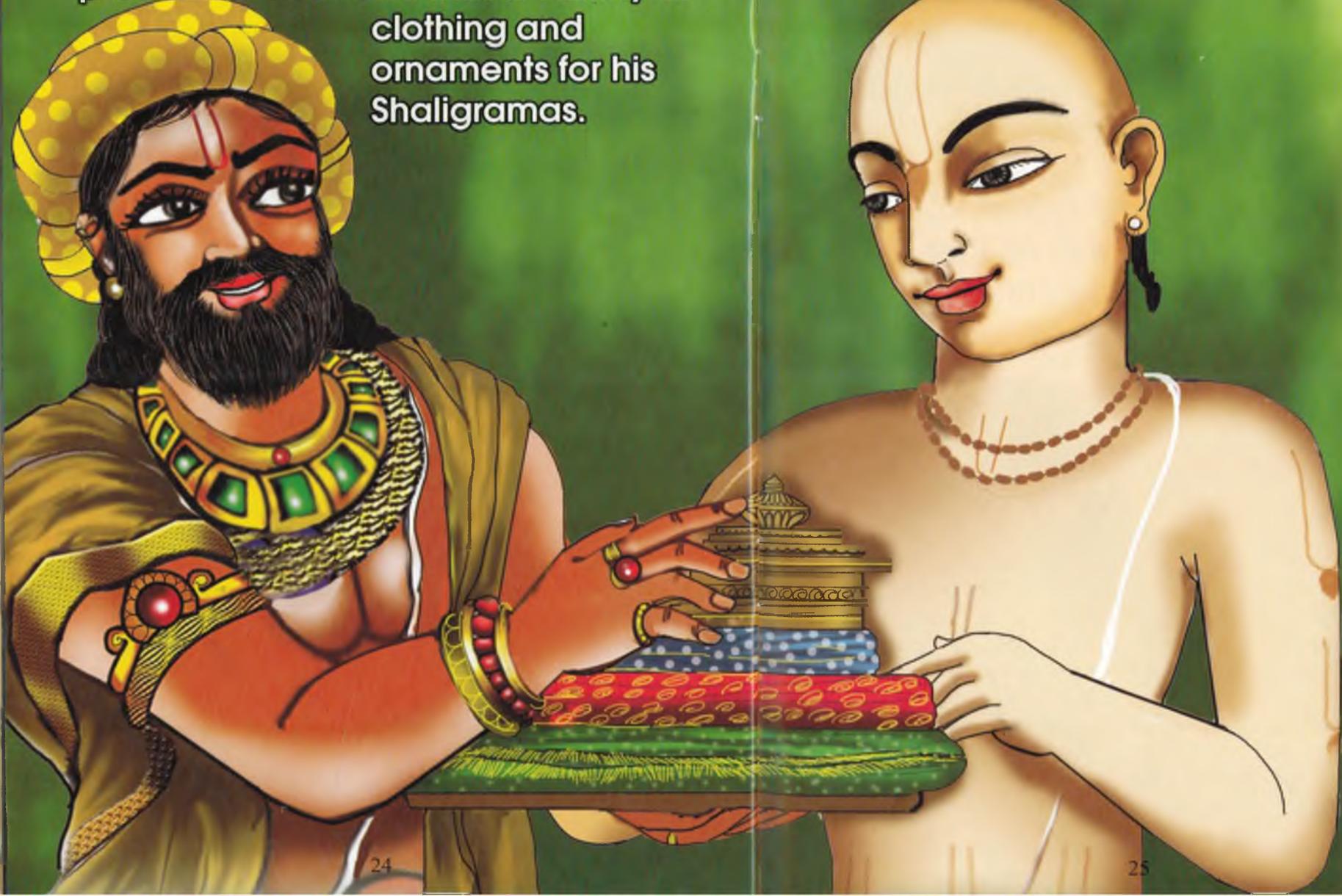
*Muktinath *ksetra* is nearly 12500ft above sea level in Nepal. The Gandaki river originates from Shaligram Mountain which is further above Muktinath at nearly 17500 Ft above sea level. These places always have tough and extreme climatic conditions where humans cannot travel to. Shaligramas get formed in this place. Shaligramas are stones with extraordinary markings through which they can be identified as a particular incarnation of Lord Krishna. It is said that golden colored insects make these golden impressions on the Shaligramas. It is divine work! Only those Shaligramas that fall in the river without insects are collected. The worship of a Shaligrama is considered very auspicious and it is equal to worshipping Lord Narayan. This is also mentioned in several *Puranas*.



Sri Gopala Bhatta used to worship those twelve Shallgrama *shilas*. Wherever he went, he carried the *shilas* with him in a piece of cloth tied at the corner.

One day a wealthy man, came to Vrindavan. Since he was very impressed with Gopala Bhatta, who was then called Goswami, he presented Goswami with a variety of

clothing and ornaments for his Shaligramas.

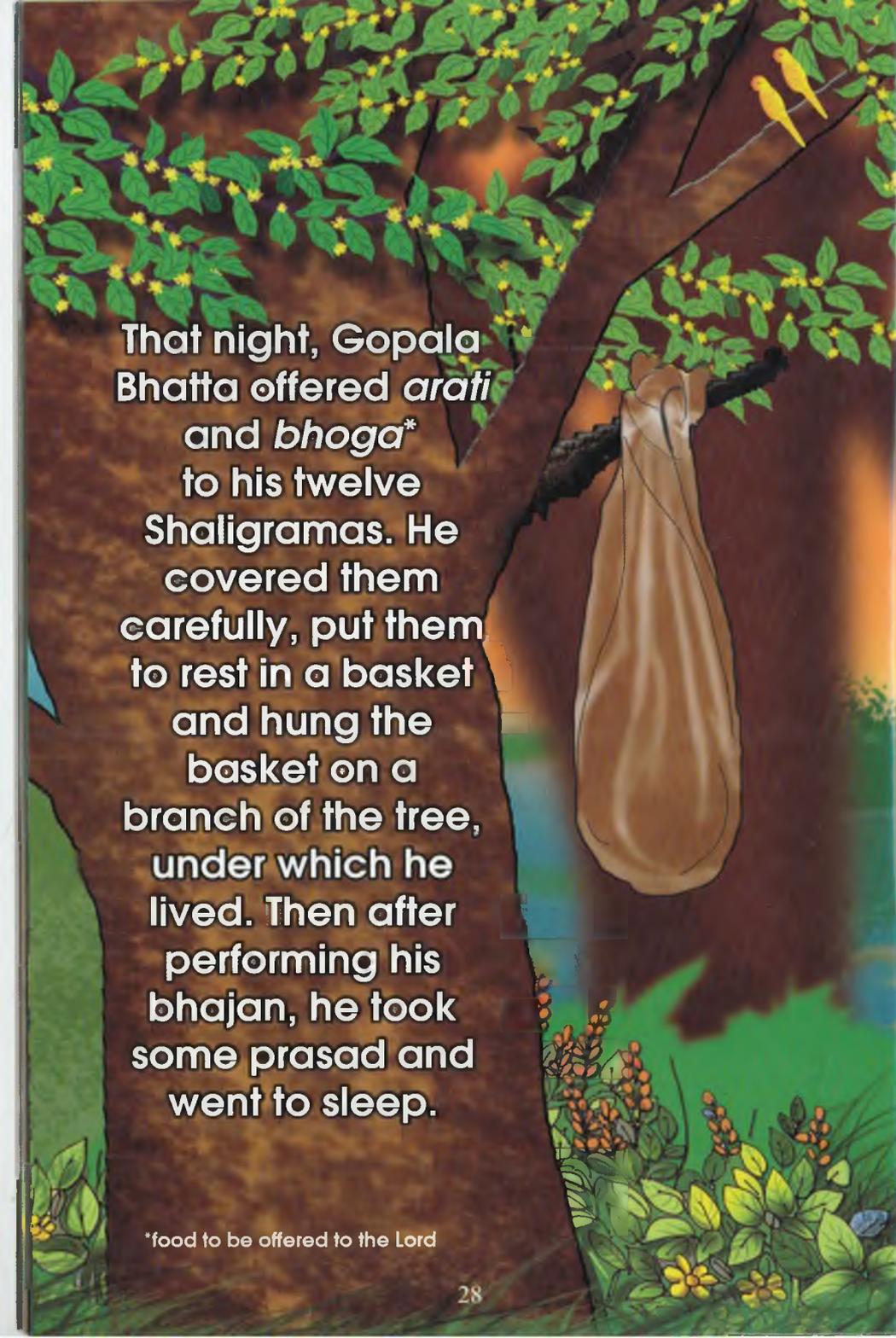


The day was Narasimha Chaturthi -
The day Lord Narasimha appeared.

Gopala Bhatta Goswami placed the
gifts given by the rich man, before his
Shaligramas and prayed with tears in
his eyes ...

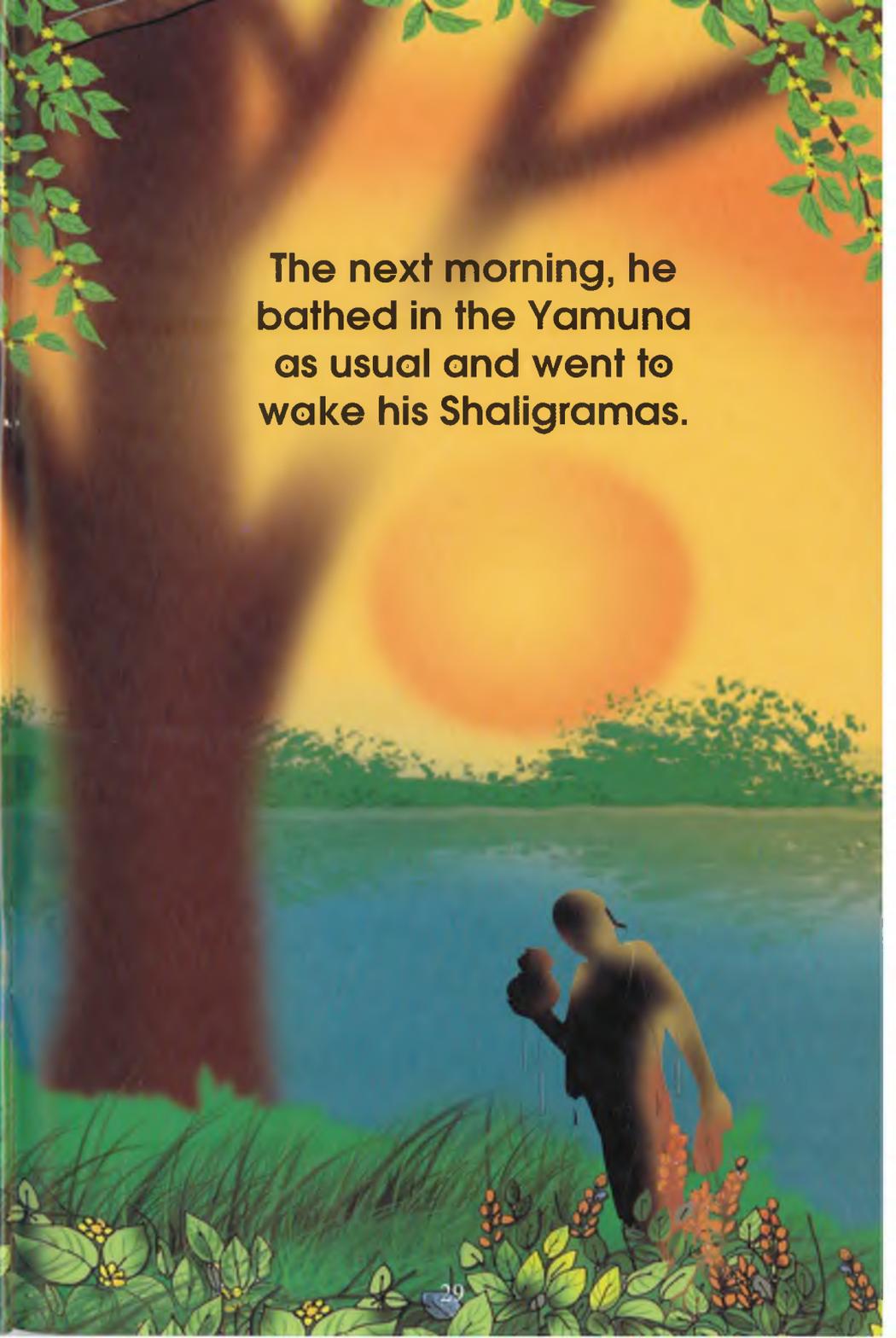
I wish I can adorn You,
my Lord, with all these
nice ornaments and
clothes.





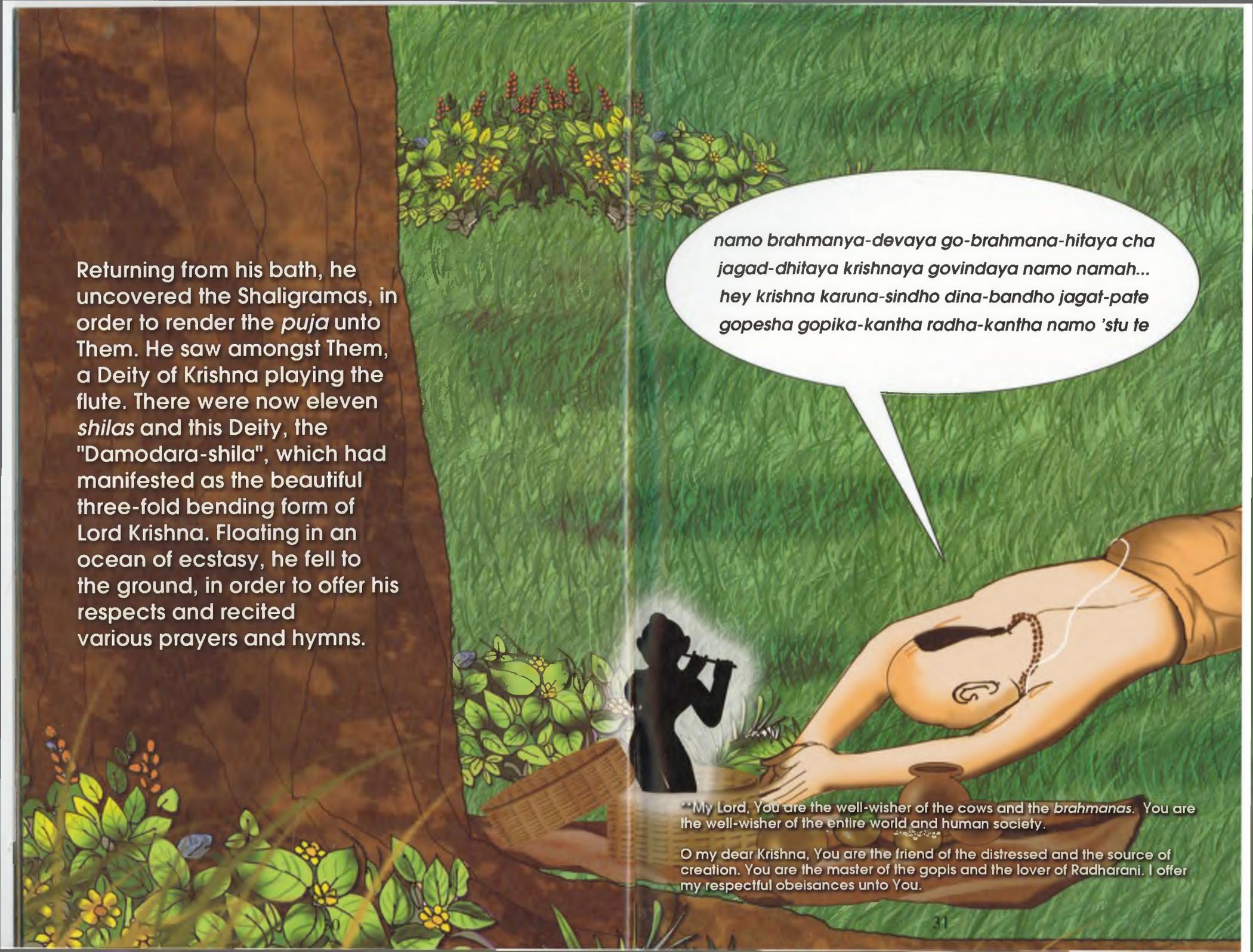
That night, Gopala Bhatta offered *arati* and *bhoga** to his twelve Shaligramas. He covered them carefully, put them to rest in a basket and hung the basket on a branch of the tree, under which he lived. Then after performing his bhajan, he took some prasad and went to sleep.

*food to be offered to the Lord



The next morning, he bathed in the Yamuna as usual and went to wake his Shaligramas.

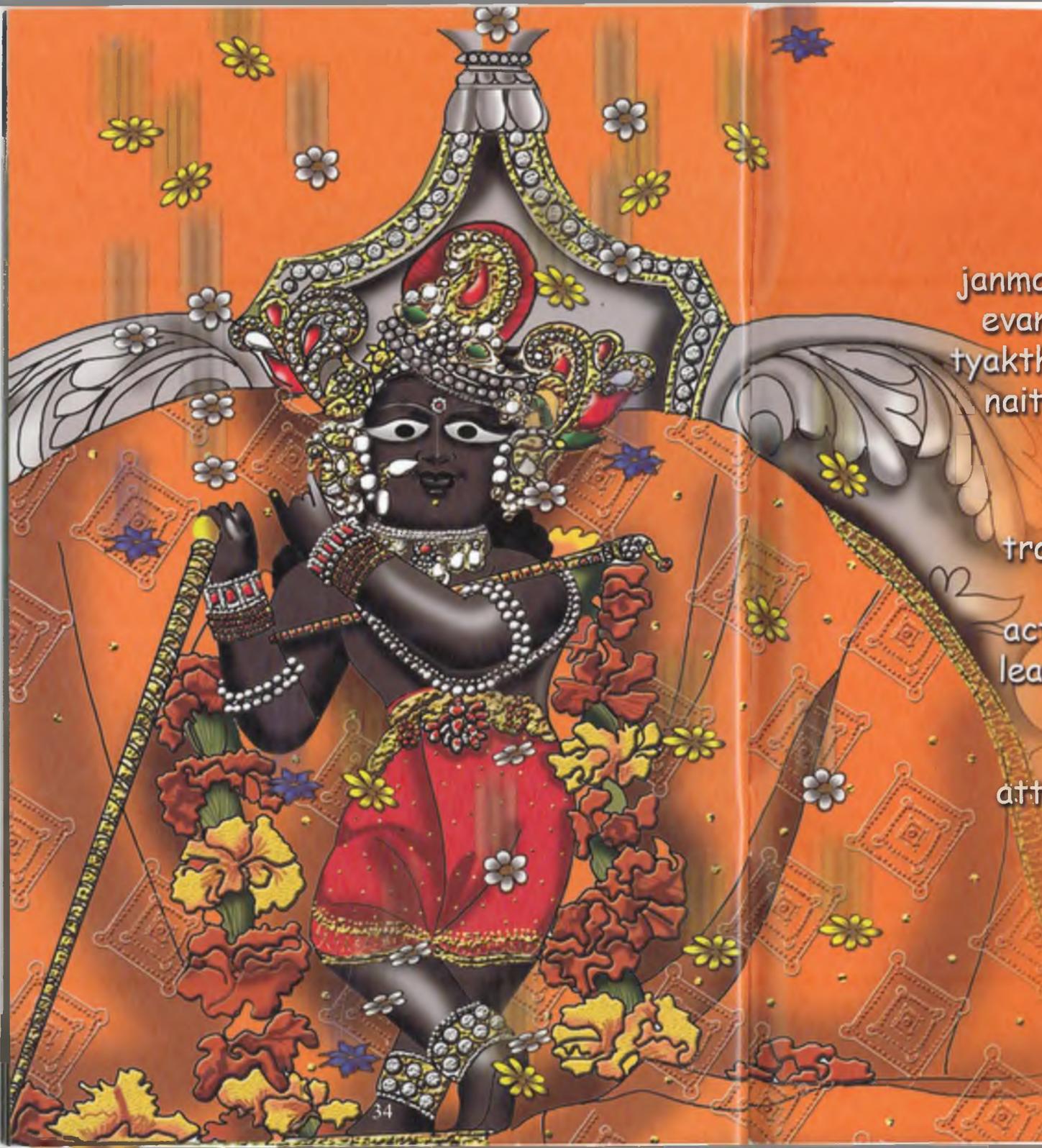
Returning from his bath, he uncovered the Shaligramas, in order to render the *puja* unto Them. He saw amongst Them, a Deity of Krishna playing the flute. There were now eleven *shilas* and this Deity, the "Damodara-shila", which had manifested as the beautiful three-fold bending form of Lord Krishna. Floating in an ocean of ecstasy, he fell to the ground, in order to offer his respects and recited various prayers and hymns.



*namo brahmanya-devaya go-brahmana-hitaya cha
jagad-dhitaya krishnaya govindaya namo namah...
hey krishna karuna-sindho dina-bandho jagat-pate
gopesha gopika-kantha radha-kantha namo 'stu te*

“My Lord, You are the well-wisher of the cows and the *brahmanas*. You are the well-wisher of the entire world and human society.

O my dear Krishna, You are the friend of the distressed and the source of creation. You are the master of the gopis and the lover of Radharani. I offer my respectful obeisances unto You.



janma karma cha me divyam
evam yo vethi tattvatah;
tyakthva deham punar janma
naithi mam ethi so rjuna

"One who knows the
transcendental nature of
My appearance and
activities, does not, upon
leaving the body, take his
birth again in this
material world, but
attains My eternal abode,
O Arjuna."

-Bhagavad Gita 4.9