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patram pushpam phalam toyam
yo me bhaktya prayacchati
tad aham bhakty-upahrtam
asnami prayatatmanah:

If one offers Me with love and devotion a leaf, a flower,
a fruit or water I will accept it.
Bhagavad-gita 9-26



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Sudama

A great devotee and a friend of Lord Krishna



children's book



Dedicated to
His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
founder acharya:
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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A great devotee and a friend of Lord Krishna



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Lord Krishna, the ruler of the Bhojas and Vrisni's was staying at Dwaraka along with His queens. In a small village away from Dwaraka there lived a poor brahmana with his wife and children. He lived in a small hut and barely had enough money even to feed his family.



He was a great devotee of the Lord and spent his time in praying and studying the Vedic literatures. He was poor but a fully contented man. His name was Sudama and he was a gurukul mate of Lord Krishna!

Sudama's wife was dutiful. She was very weak because she had to starve for want of food. She was worried about his health and children. One day she modestly told him....

You always said that Lord Krishna is your best friend and both of you studied under one and the same teacher.

Why don't you approach your friend Krishna to help you? Please go to Dwaraka.

He was reluctant....but she persuaded him.
At last Sudama thought

Oh! Maybe this is a good opportunity to see my good old friend personally.

Yes yes ...
it was all a wonderful time.

Alright I will go ...
do we have anything that I can take to offer my friend? Because, to go empty handed to meet Him is not proper.

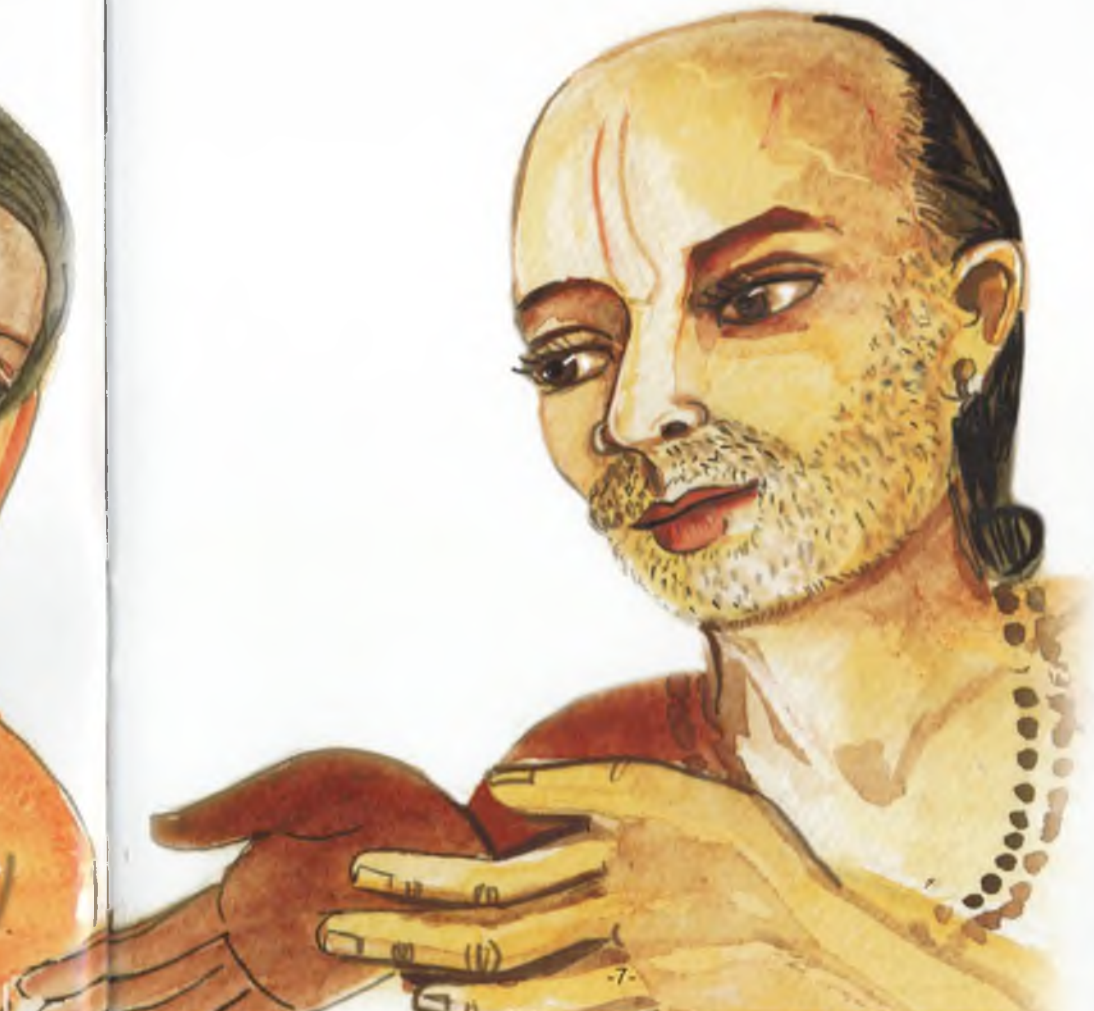


Sudama's wife did not have anything worthy to give from their house. She went to her neighborhood and collected four palms full of chipped rice and put it in a small torn cloth and tied it all up.

Here it is.
Be careful



And this she handed over to Sudama as a gift to be given to Krishna.

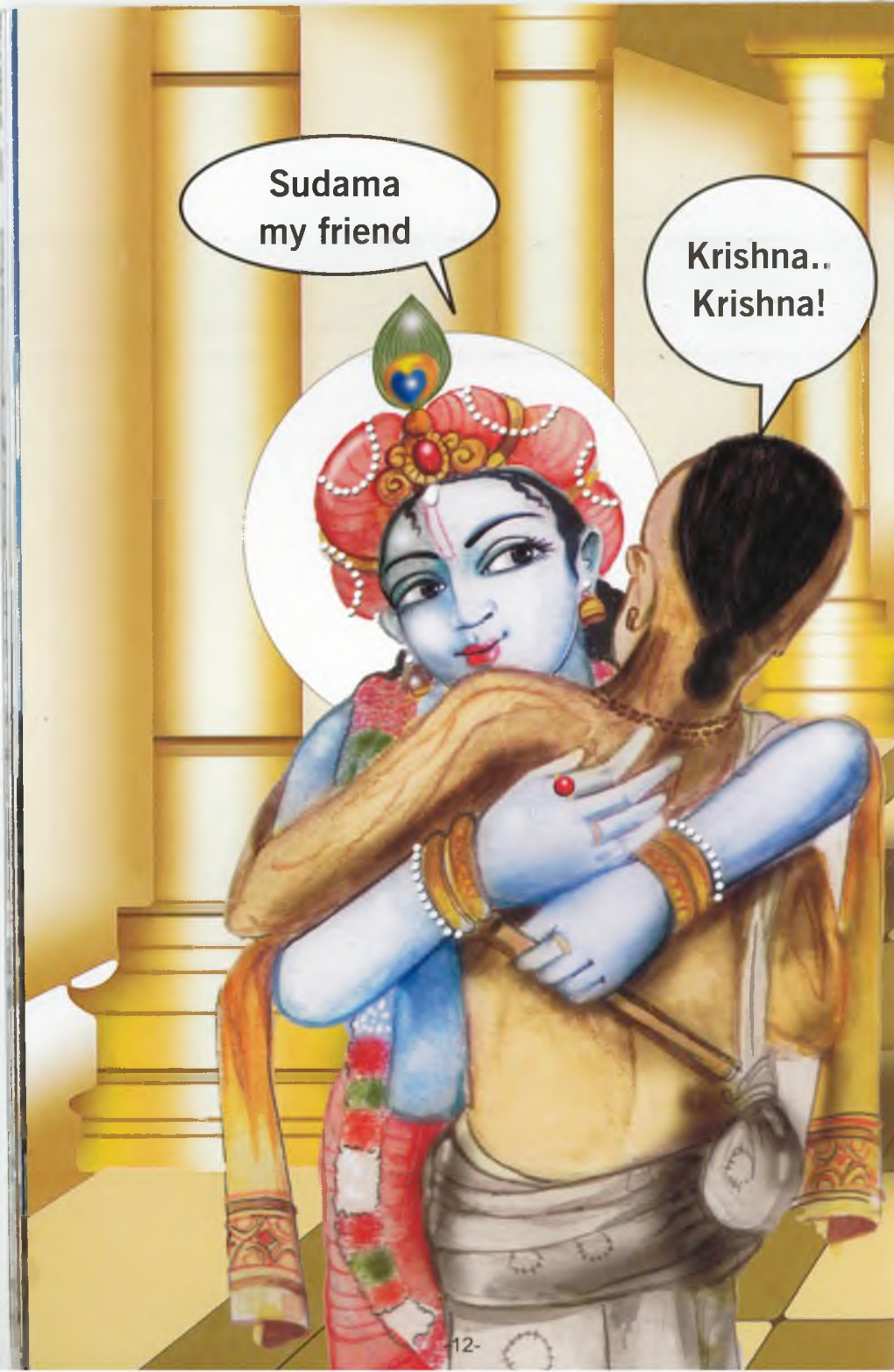


Next day Sudama set off for Dwaraka,
carefully carrying with him the bundle of
chipped rice, very eager to see his friend.



He walked a long way and reached Dwaraka. He was stopped by the gate keepers at the entrance of the great walled city of Dwaraka. When they saw him as a brahmana they allowed him to go through the high raised buildings to the palace.





Sudama
my friend

Krishna..
Krishna!

When Sudama reached the palace he could see his friend seated along with His queen Rukmini. Upon seeing Sudama, Krishna at once recognized him as His friend. He got up, ran towards him and hugged him with great affection.

Krishna received Sudama with utmost respect and gave him a seat on His own bedstead. The *brahmana* friend, being very poor was not dressed nicely. His clothing was torn and dirty and he was so thin that the veins all over his body were visible.



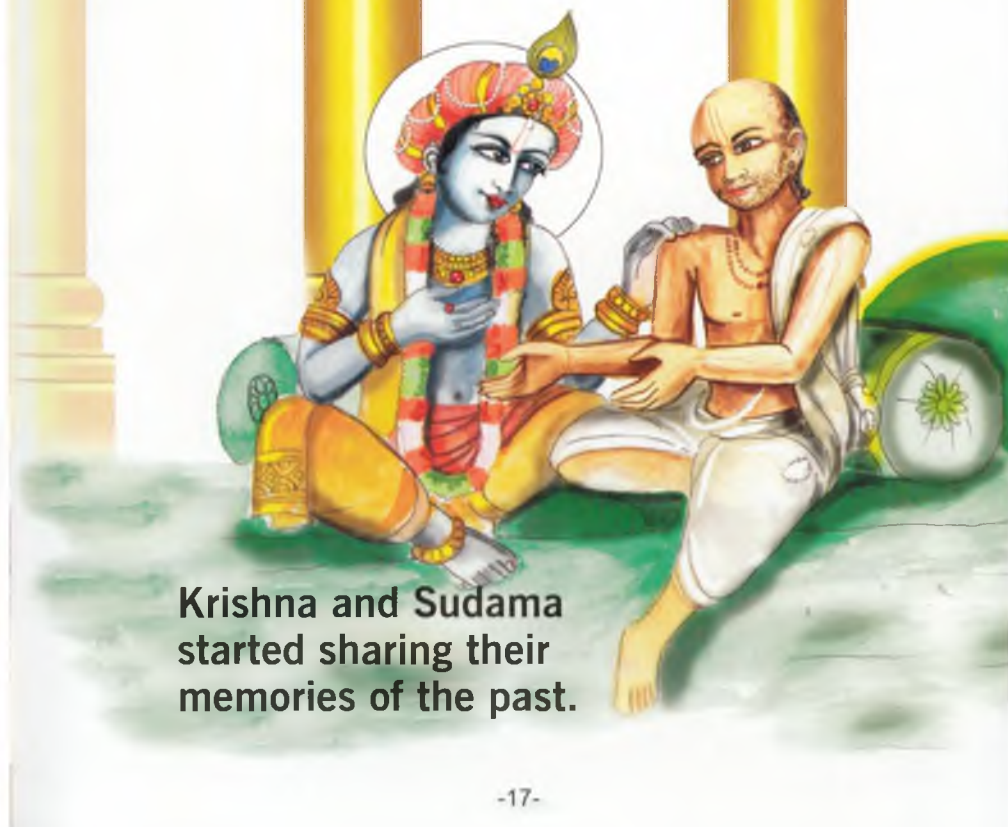
Queen Rukmini was
surprised
to see this!



Lord Krishna washed his feet and
Rukmini fanned him with the
chamara (a hand-held fan).



Krishna sat
next to
Sudama
on the bed
and put His
hand
affectionately
on his
shoulder .



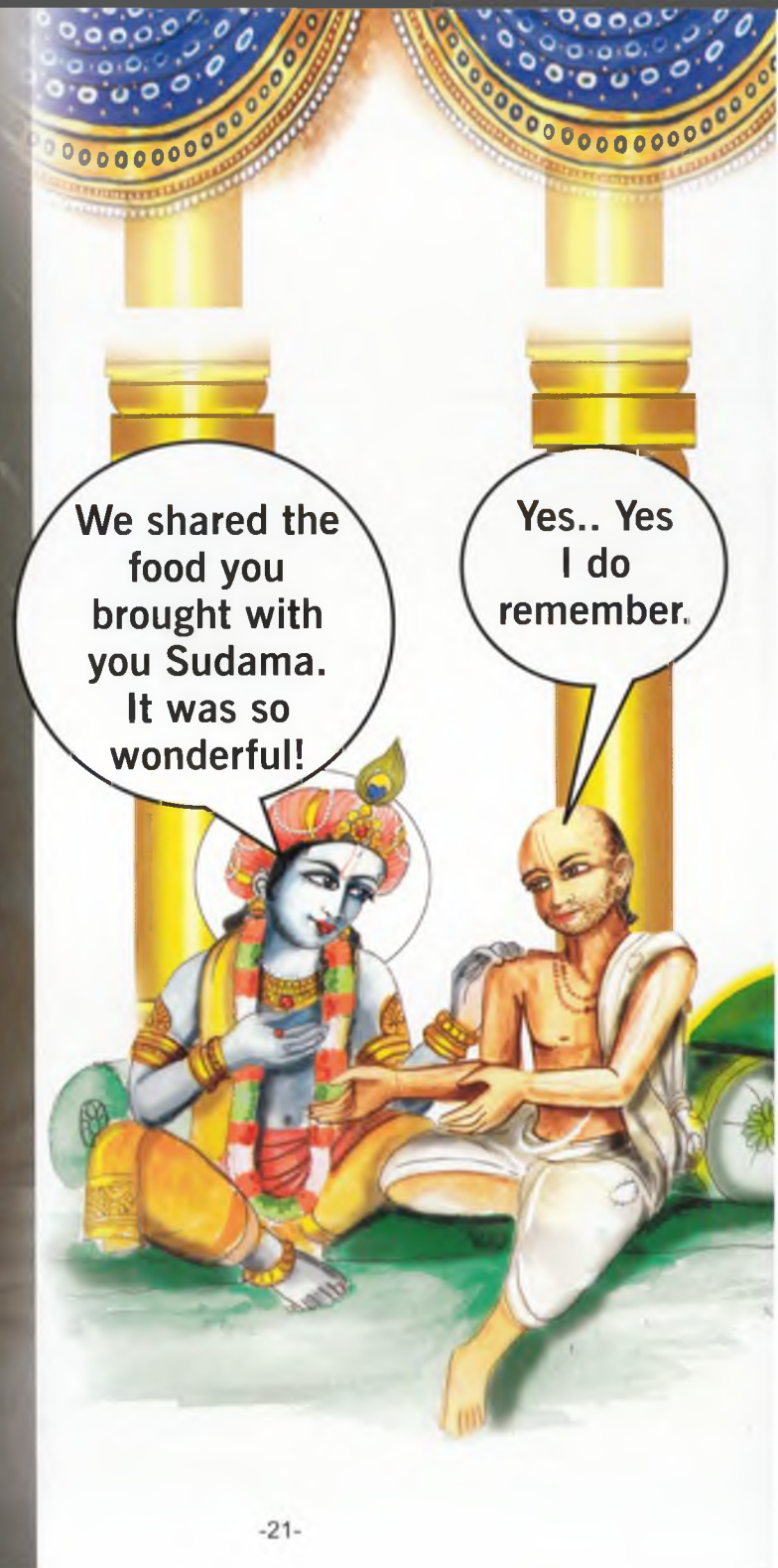
Krishna and Sudama
started sharing their
memories of the past.

Sudama do you
remember that day
when we went to
collect dried wood
for our guru
Sandipani muni's
wife and how we
lost our way?



Yes.. Yes
I do
remember.





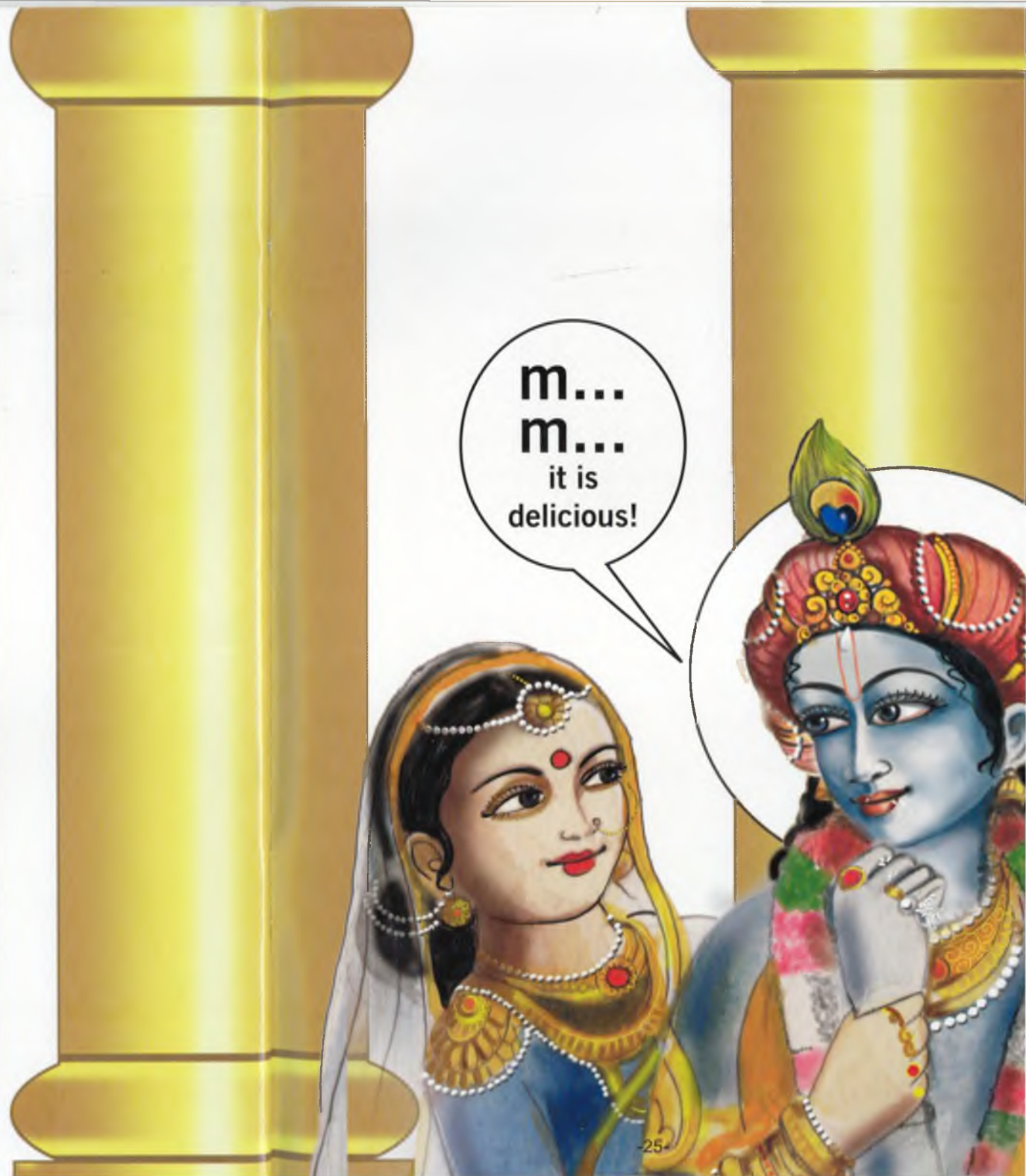
Krishna with a smile,
looked at Sudama
and asked

My dear friend,
what have you
brought for Me?
Has your wife given
you some nice
eatable for Me?

Sudama was feeling shy to give
Him the chipped rice
that he had brought all the way.



But Krishna Himself
snatched the bundle
hanging on his
shoulder and opened
it. He happily took a
hand full of chipped
rice and put it into
His mouth. He ate
one morsel of it. He
was about to eat
another morsel and
at this Rukmini
stopped Him by
catching hold of His
hand saying that even
that one morsel would
suffice to grant all the
prosperity to the
brahmana.



They spent their time talking about their early days and went to sleep.



Next day Sudama took leave of his friend Krishna and left for his home completely forgetting the very purpose of his visit. He was simply happy about meeting his old friend Krishna and walked back to his home, remembering his honored visit all throughout.



When he reached his village, he was surprised to see that his home had now become into a big palace like building. His wife came out of the house, looking like the goddess of fortune, and greeted him.

Can't you recognize me?
I am your wife
This is our house.

Thus, the *brahmana* Sudhama was blessed by Lord Krishna. Sudama was wonder-struck and started praying to the Lord for His mercy.

namo brahmanya-devaya
go brahmana-hitaya ca
jagad-dhitaya krishnaya
govindaya namo namah *

*Let me offer my respectful obeisances unto Lord Krishna, who is the worshipable Deity for all brahminical men, who is the well-wisher of cows and brahmanas, and who is always benefiting the whole world. I offer my respectful obeisances to the Personality of Godhead, known as Krishna and Govinda. (Vishnu Purana 1.19.65)

