



The Advent of Lord Krishna

Art work by Madhav Priya mataji

Once, about 5000 years ago, it happened that the earth was overburdened by too many demonic personalities having taken birth in the royal families of many kingdoms. They amassed huge armies and made powerful political alliances with one another.



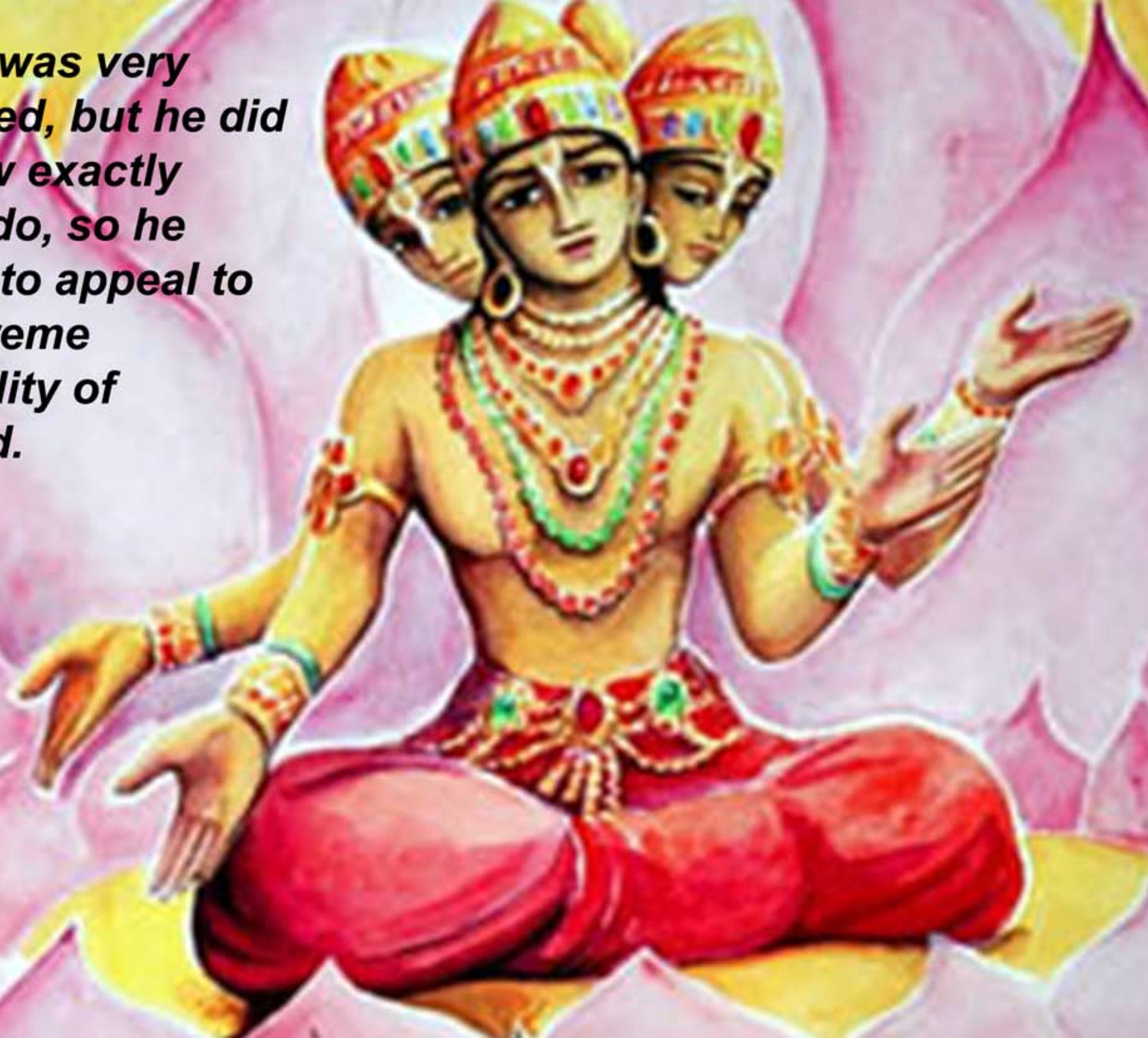
Mother Earth the presiding deity of the earth planet, felt distressed by the burden. She turned herself into the shape of a cow and went up to the planet of Lord Brahma, the topmost of the demigods, to ask for help. The Vedic culture, which is the highest culture throughout the universe, values cow protection, so she felt confident that her chances of success in getting help would be enhanced by her having become a cow.



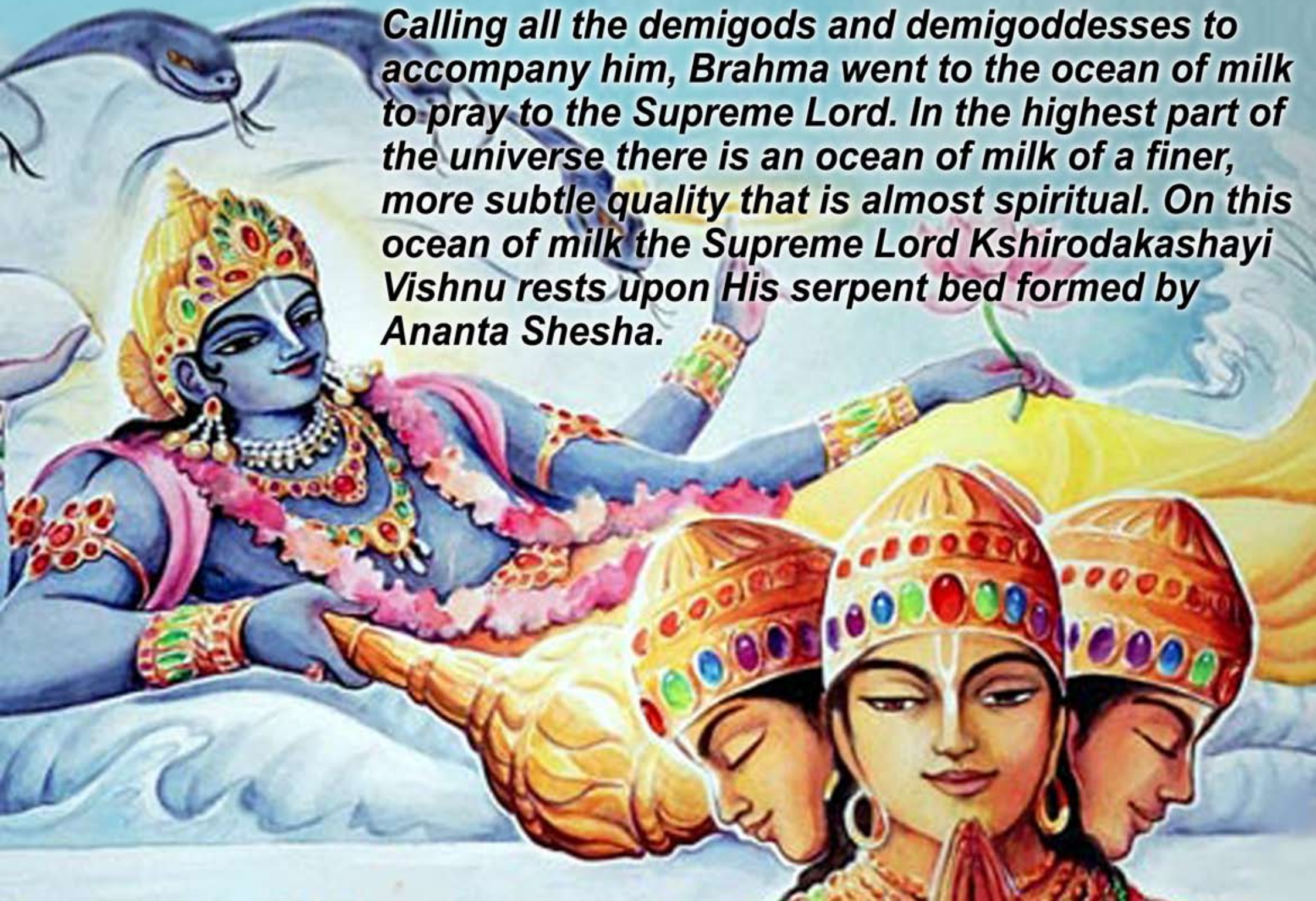


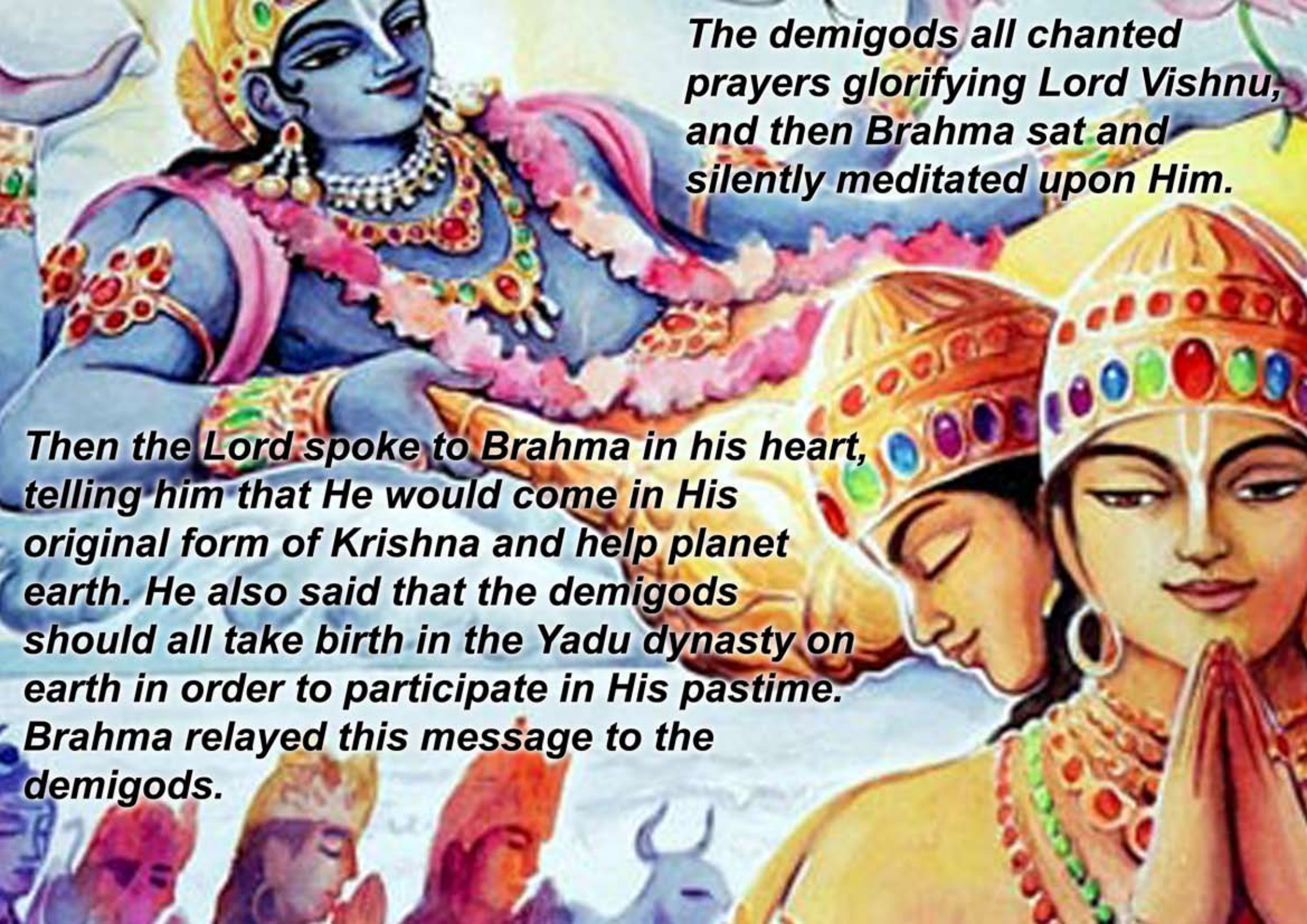
***She appeared before
four-headed Lord Brahma
with tears in her eyes,
telling of her plight.***

Brahma was very concerned, but he did not know exactly what to do, so he decided to appeal to the Supreme Personality of Godhead.



Calling all the demigods and demigoddesses to accompany him, Brahma went to the ocean of milk to pray to the Supreme Lord. In the highest part of the universe there is an ocean of milk of a finer, more subtle quality that is almost spiritual. On this ocean of milk the Supreme Lord Kshirodakashayi Vishnu rests upon His serpent bed formed by Ananta Shesha.





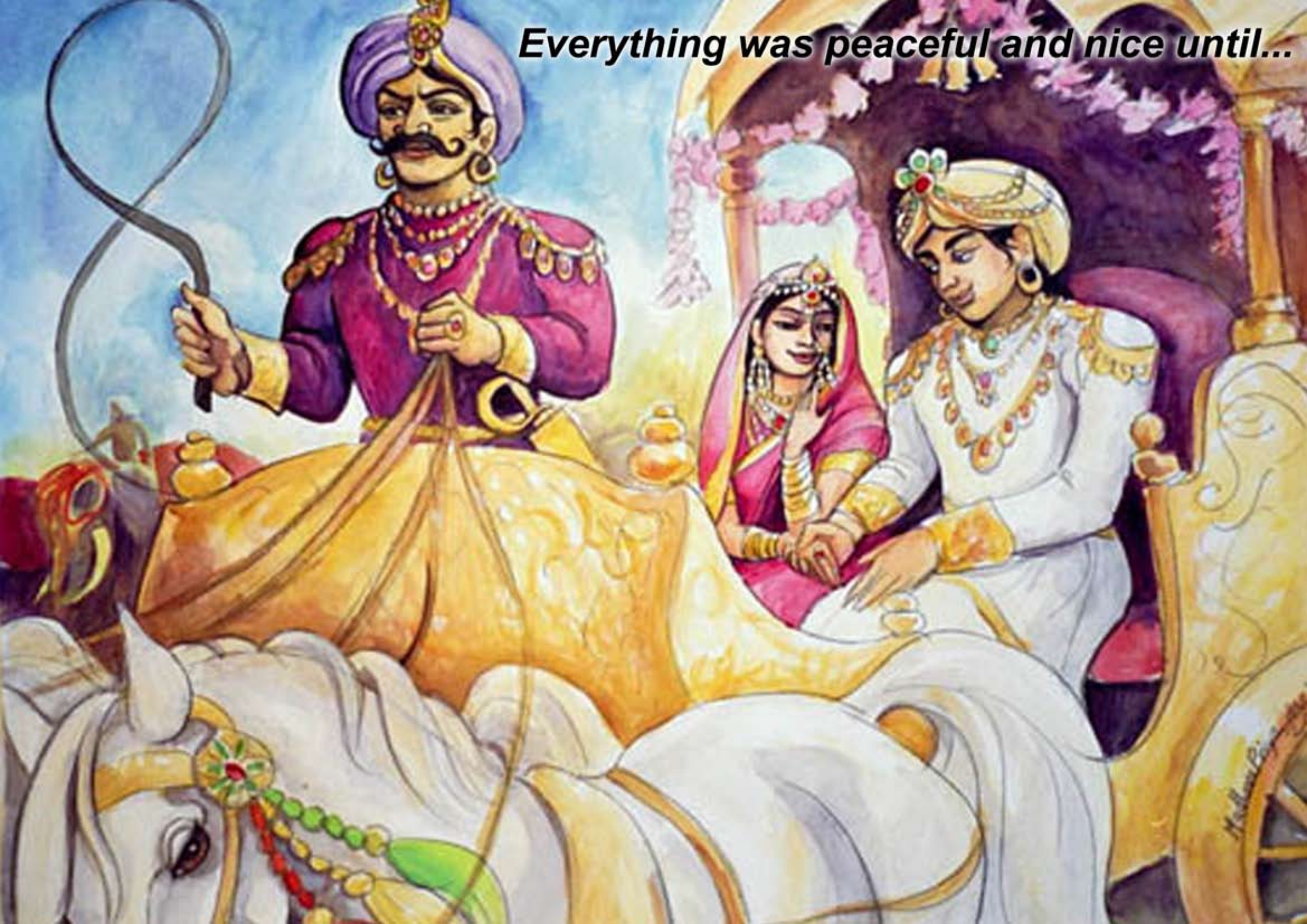
The demigods all chanted prayers glorifying Lord Vishnu, and then Brahma sat and silently meditated upon Him.

Then the Lord spoke to Brahma in his heart, telling him that He would come in His original form of Krishna and help planet earth. He also said that the demigods should all take birth in the Yadu dynasty on earth in order to participate in His pastime. Brahma relayed this message to the demigods.

Back down on earth, it came to pass that Vasudeva and Devaki, who were to become the parents of Krishna, were united in marriage. There was a very great wedding procession after the ceremony, when Vasudeva set out for his home with his new bride Devaki. Devaki's older brother Kamsa drove their chariot.

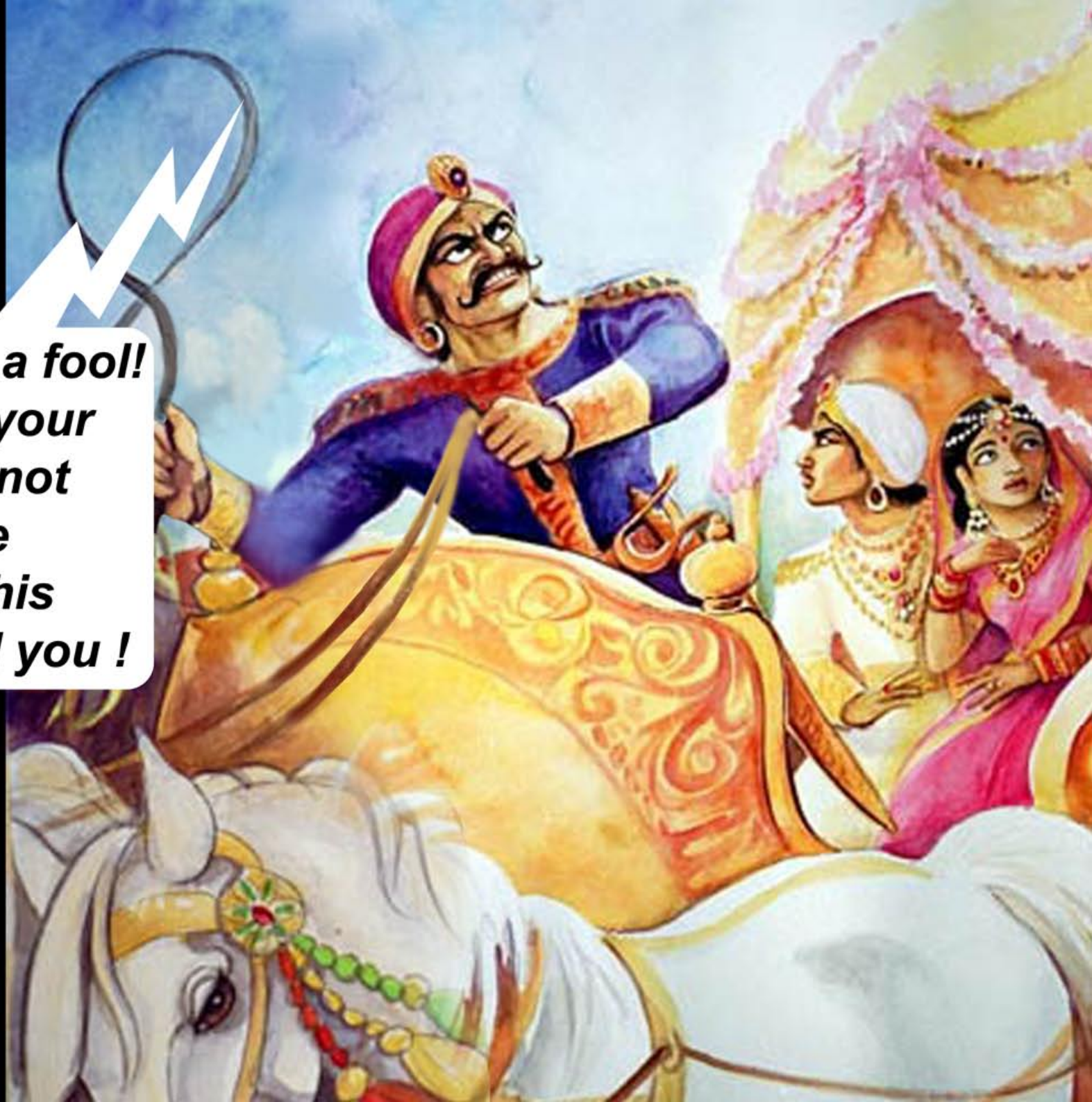


Everything was peaceful and nice until...



Suddenly a voice spoke from the sky for all to hear.

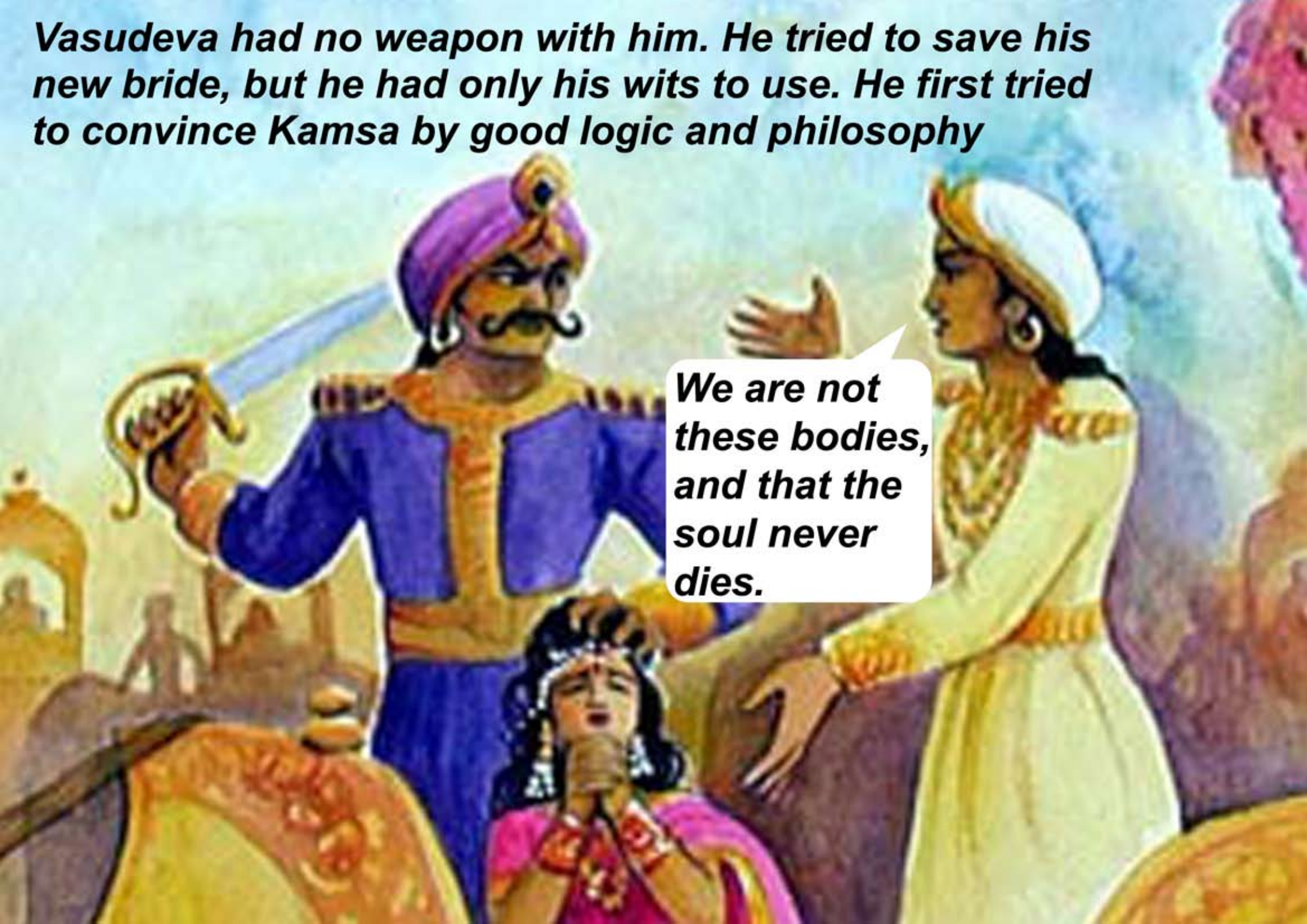
***Kamsa! You are a fool!
You are driving your
sister's chariot, not
knowing that the
eighth child of this
marriage will kill you !***



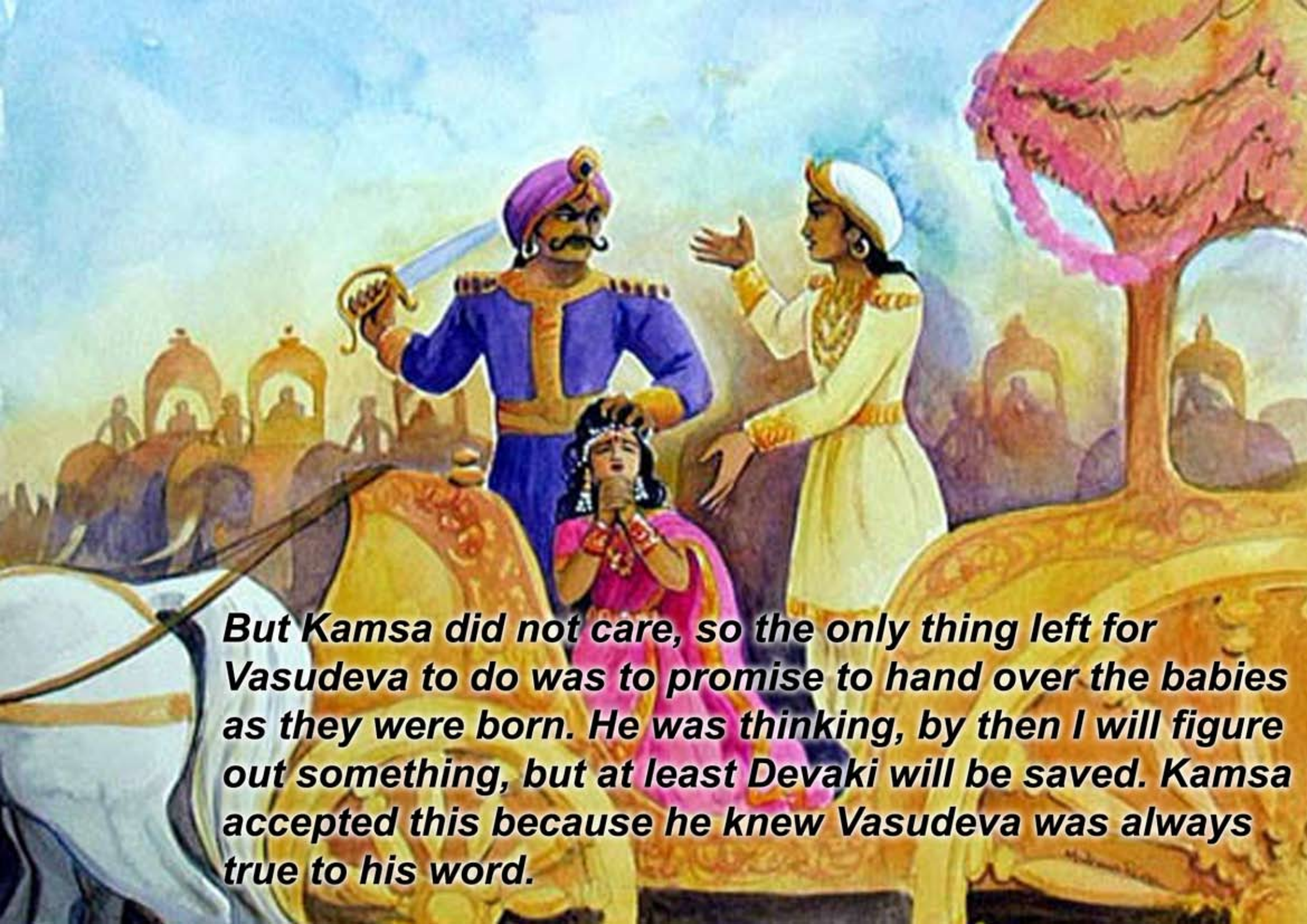
Kamsa was one of the demonic personalities who had taken his birth in this particular family. He did not hesitate; he was ready to cut off his own little sister's head then and there, in front of everyone, just to save himself from a possible danger in the future. He grabbed her by the hair and drew his sword.



Vasudeva had no weapon with him. He tried to save his new bride, but he had only his wits to use. He first tried to convince Kamsa by good logic and philosophy



We are not these bodies, and that the soul never dies.



But Kamsa did not care, so the only thing left for Vasudeva to do was to promise to hand over the babies as they were born. He was thinking, by then I will figure out something, but at least Devaki will be saved. Kamsa accepted this because he knew Vasudeva was always true to his word.

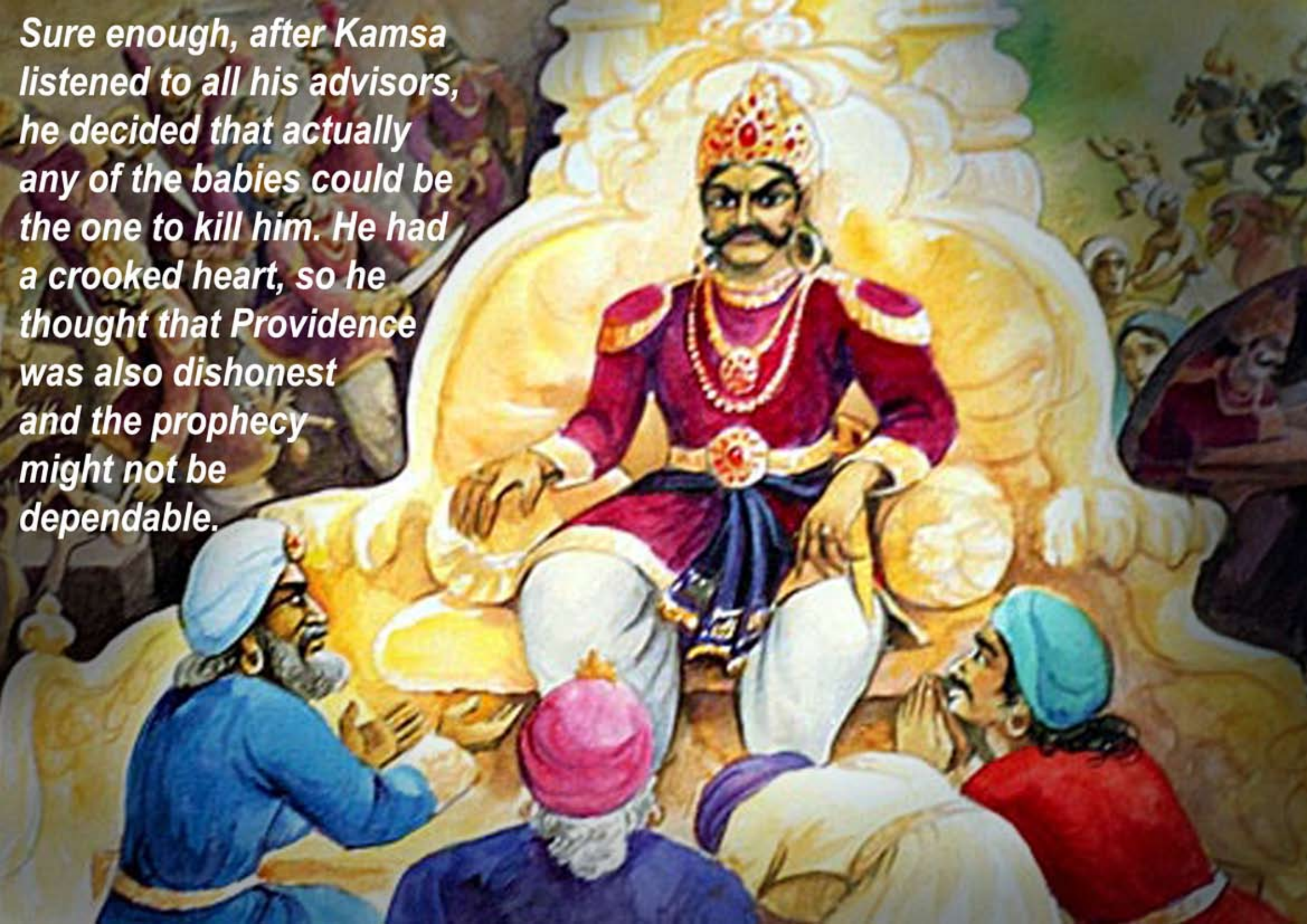
When the first baby was born, Vasudeva, true to his word but with heavy heart, brought the baby to Kamsa. But Kamsa was so pleased with Vasudeva's honesty that he had a rare moment of compassion.



There is no need to give me this baby; the prophecy said it would be the eighth child who would kill me.

Vasudeva took the baby home with him again, but he did not trust Kamsa.

Sure enough, after Kamsa listened to all his advisors, he decided that actually any of the babies could be the one to kill him. He had a crooked heart, so he thought that Providence was also dishonest and the prophecy might not be dependable.





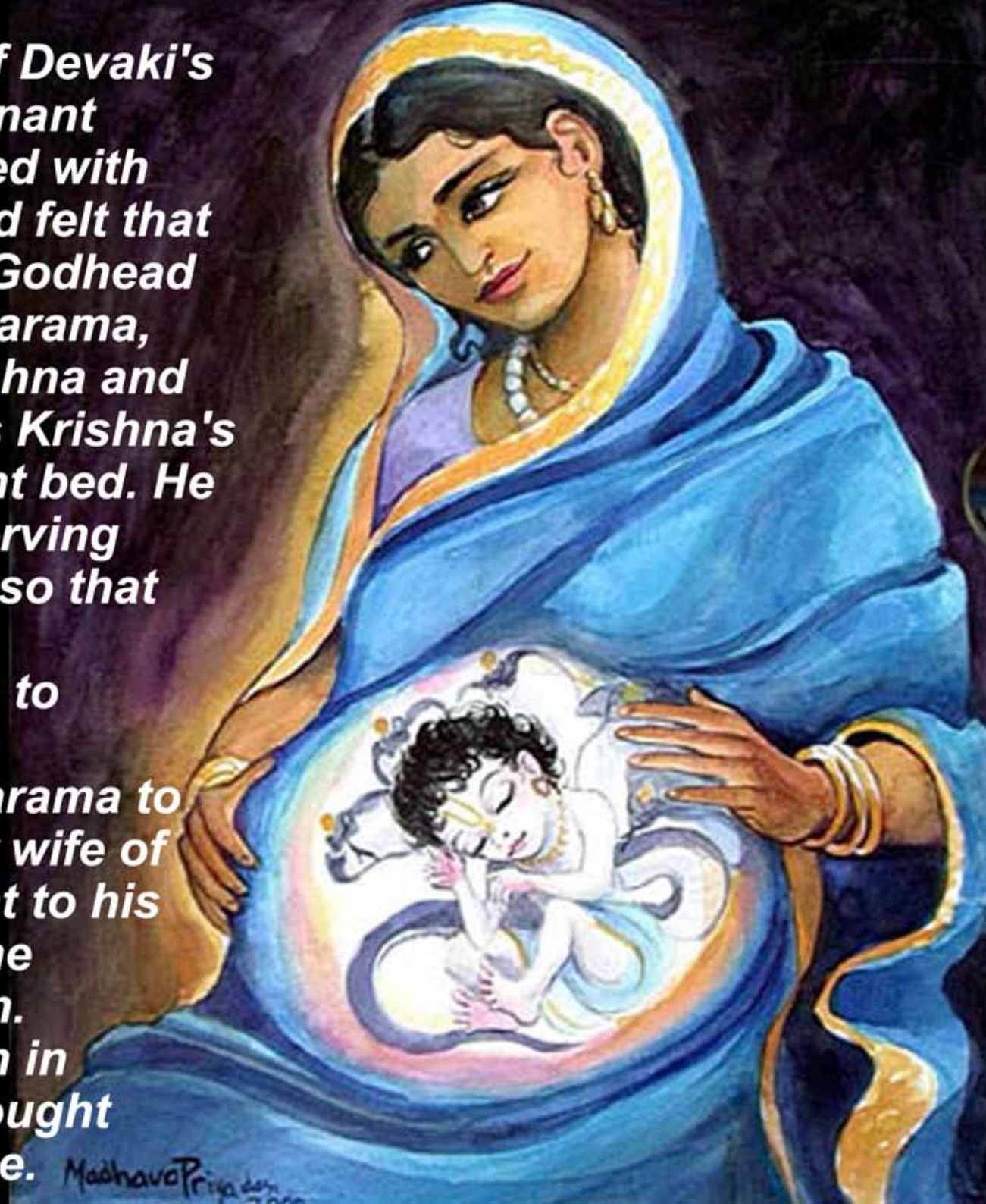
So he went to Vasudeva and Devaki, forcibly took the baby from them and killed it. Then, just to be safe, he also had Vasudeva and Devaki put into prison.

Each year Devaki gave birth to a child and Kamsa killed it. Neither Devaki's tears nor good advice from well-wishing friends could dissuade him from these evil activities.

In fact, it usually happened that people who tried to reason with Kamsa became his worshipers, so strong was his demonic charm. Kamsa also made stronger alliances with other demons, and increased his atrocities against the good kings and princes and the brahmanas.

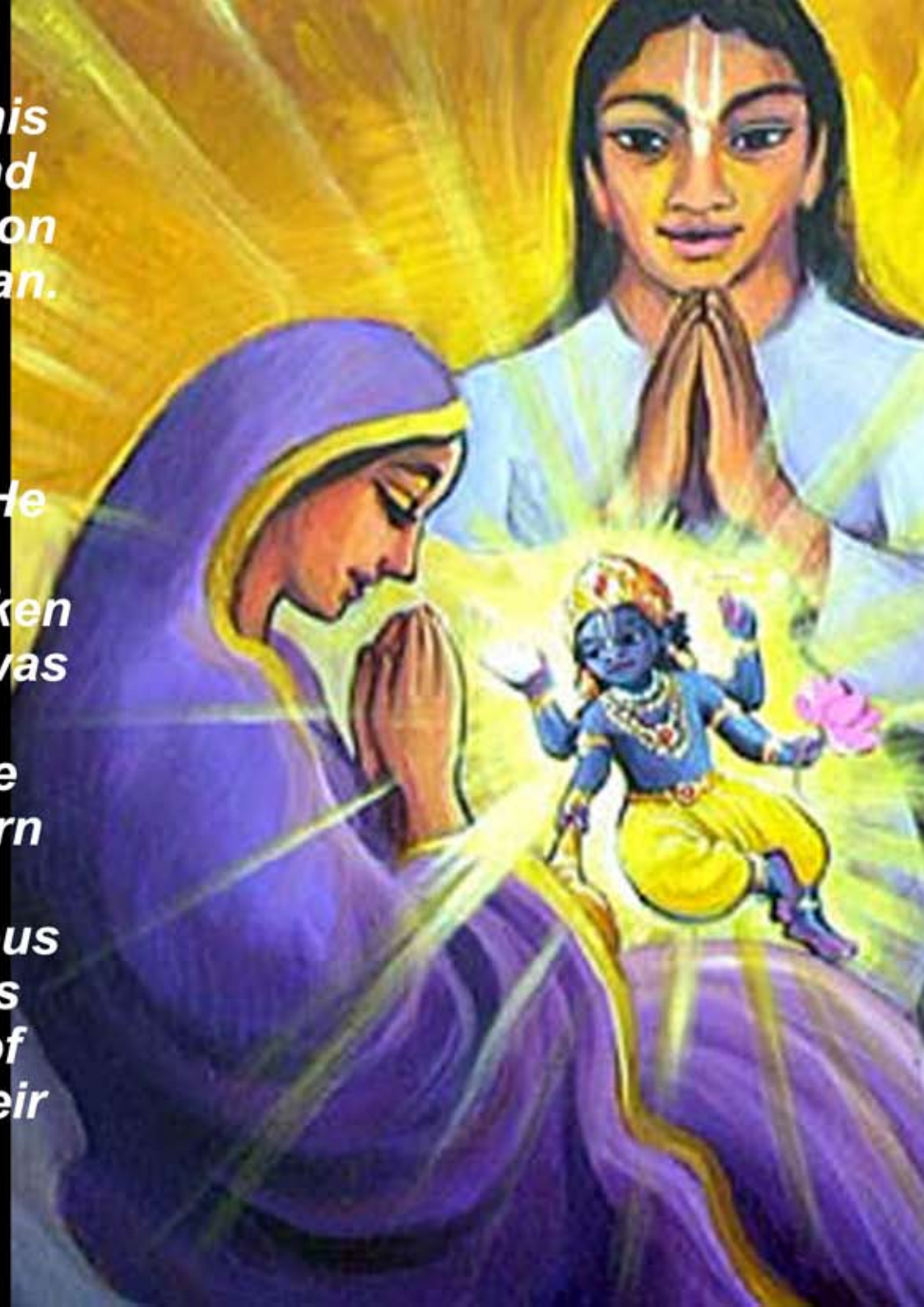


After Kamsa had killed six of Devaki's babies, Devaki became pregnant again. This time she was filled with effulgence and gladness, and felt that the Supreme Personality of Godhead was within her. This was Balarama, who is the expansion of Krishna and who, in another form, serves Krishna's form of Vishnu as the serpent bed. He came first, in the mood of serving Krishna, to purify the womb so that Krishna could come next. But Devaki did not give birth to Balarama. Krishna made an arrangement to transfer Balarama to the womb of Rohini, another wife of Vasudeva who had been sent to his brother Nanda, the king of the cowherd village of Vrindavan. Balarama was therefore born in Vrindavan, and everyone thought Devaki had had a miscarriage.

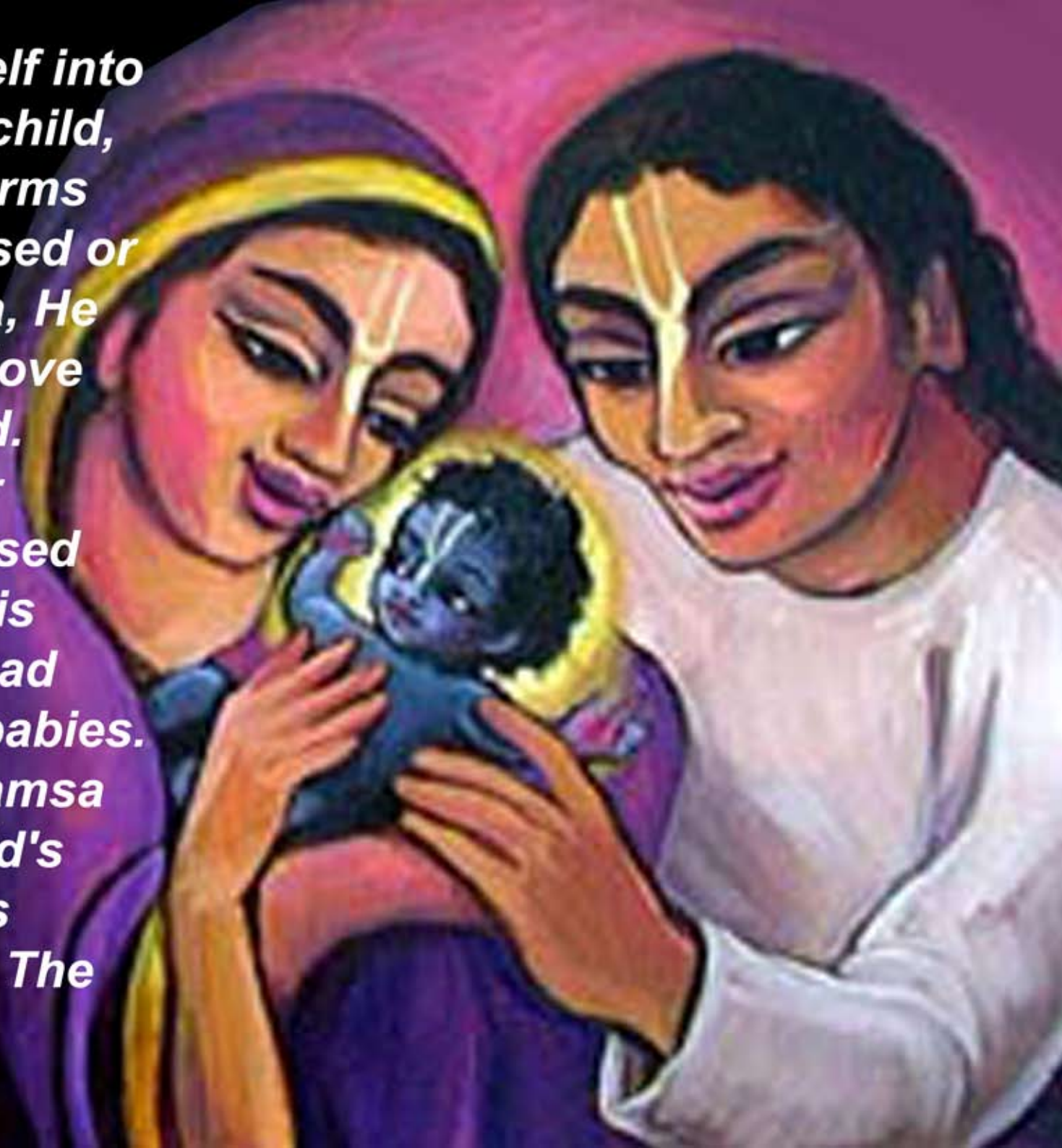


Then Devaki became pregnant with Krishna. It is clearly explained that this conception was pure and spiritual and not by the normal means of conception of a child between a man and a woman. She was radiant and even Kamsa noticed.

His fear increased while Devaki's joy increased. When Krishna was born, He at first appeared with four arms like Vishnu, and with fully grown hair, silken clothes and crown and jewels. This was so that Vasudeva and Devaki would know without doubt that the Supreme Personality of Godhead had been born to them. They had prayed and performed many austerities in previous lifetimes for this blessing, and always they had prayed to the Vishnu form of the Lord. Now they could see that their prayers had been answered. They offered their Lord prayers in a worshipful attitude.

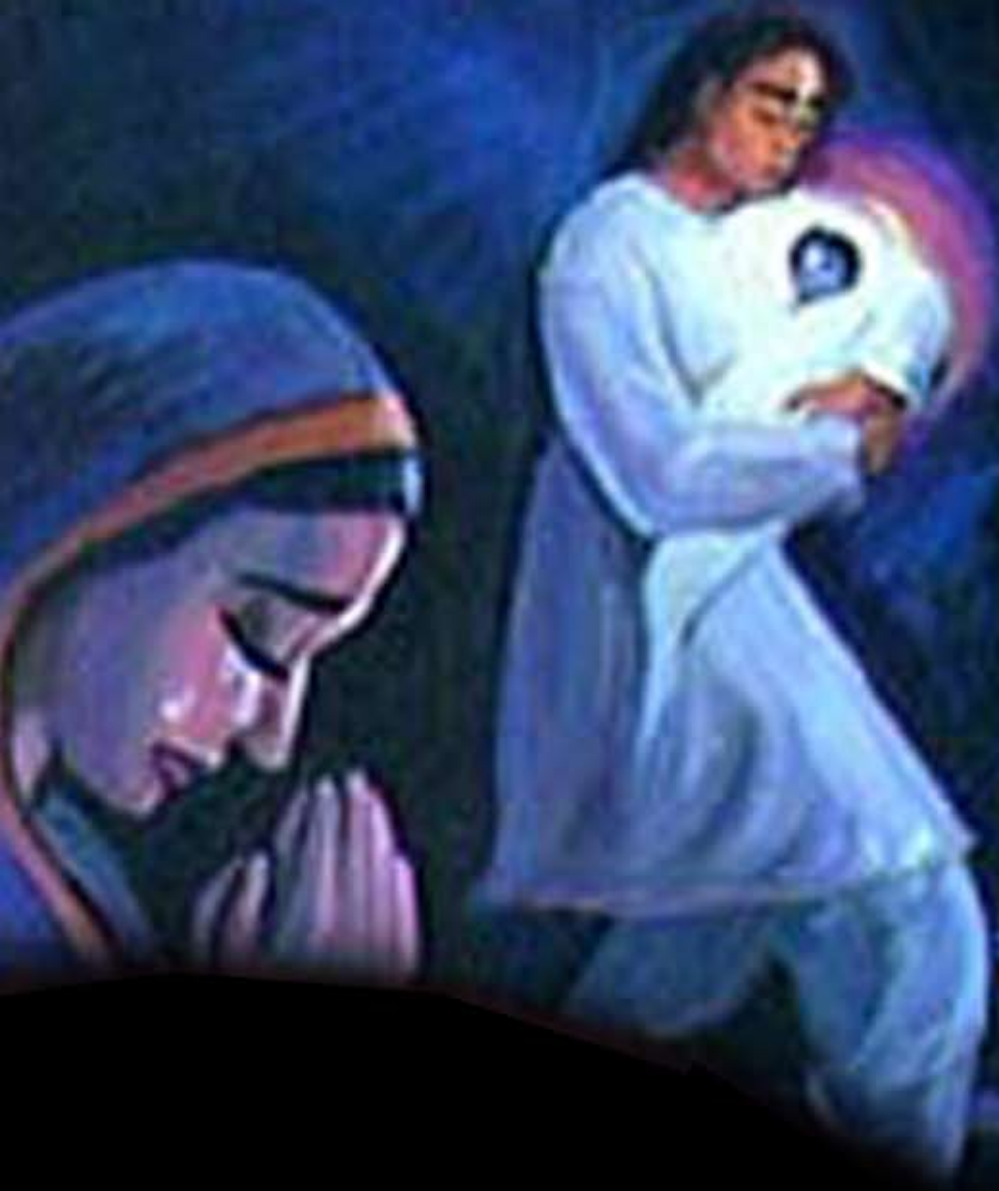


Then He turned Himself into an ordinary newborn child, that is, one with two arms and not formally dressed or decorated. As Krishna, He could let His parents love Him as their little child. But not for long. Their parental affection caused them to feel fear for His safety, since Kamsa had killed so many other babies. In the night, before Kamsa could learn of the child's birth, the prison doors mysteriously opened. The guards were asleep.





Vasudeva carried baby Krishna out into the night, where the flooding Yamuna River gave him safe passage, and he took the baby to the village of Vrindavan. There he left Krishna in the bed of Yashoda, who was sleeping deeply in exhaustion after just giving birth to a baby girl. Vasudeva took the girl baby back with him, and in the morning he presented Kamsa with a girl baby instead of the feared son.



Kamsa was so evil, however, that he tried to kill this girl baby as well, but she slipped out from his arms and rose up into the sky, where she revealed herself as the goddess Durga, with ten arms holding ten weapons. She scolded Kamsa and to make him leave Devaki alone after this, she told him that the child who would kill him was already born somewhere in the world.

Meanwhile, Krishna and Balarama began their lives as children of Nanda and Yashoda in the village of Vrindavan. There are many stories to tell of their adventures there. Later, as youths, they went into the city and Krishna did indeed kill Kamsa. There are many stories to tell of their pastimes after that as well.

***All glories to Lord Krishna!!
Happy Janamshtami!***