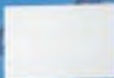




“I was searching for broken pieces of glass, but instead I have found You my Lord, the most valuable jewel. Therefore I am satisfied that I do not wish to ask anything from you.”

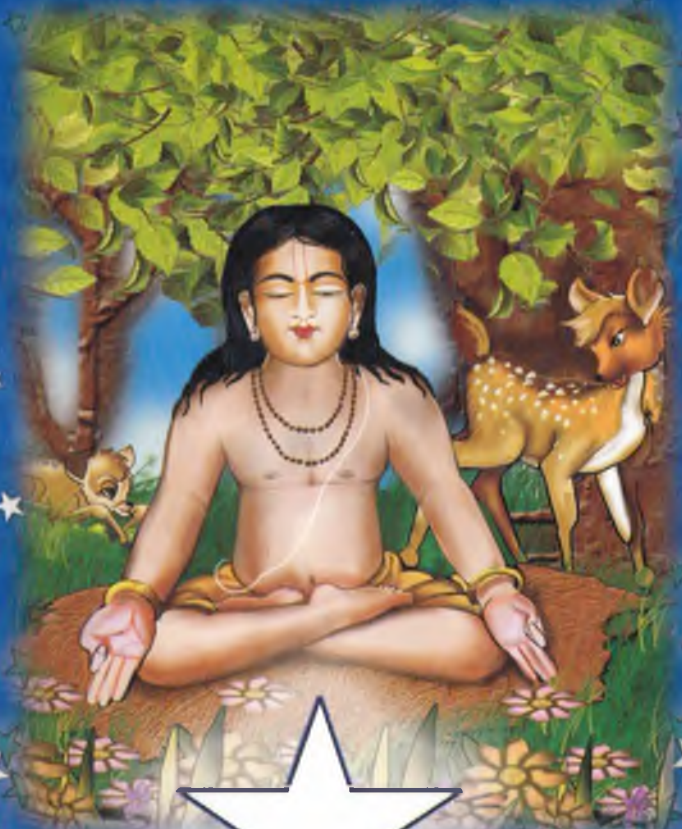
Dhruva

ISBN: 978-81-89564-20-9



Dhruva

the star devotee



Children's Story Book



Dedicated to
His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada
founder acharya: ISKCON

TEXT: Srimad Bhagavatam
illustrations : Vijaya Govinda Das
Special thanks: Ramachandra Deva Das

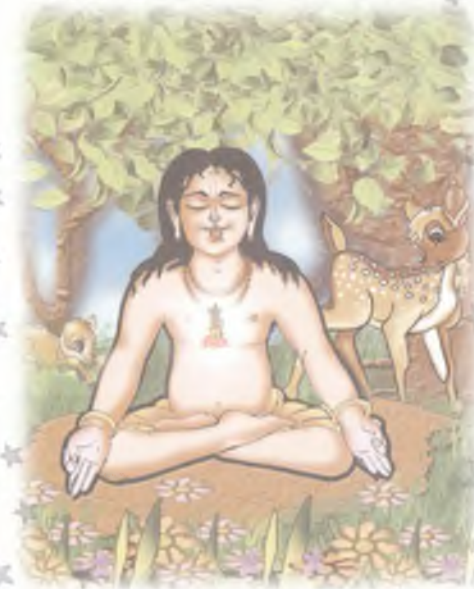
ISBN NO: 978-81-89564-20-9

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

published by:
Sri Vaikunta Enterprises
Chennai
www.srivaikuntaenterprises.in
Printed in India (Chennai)

Dhruva

the star devotee



an inspiring story from Srimad Bhagavatam

Children's Story Book

Once lived a king named Uttanapada, who had two queens, named Suruchi and Suniti. They had two sons, Uttama and Dhruva respectively. King Uttanapada was more attached to queen Suruchi.



One day Uttama was playing on King Uttanapada's lap. Dhruva also wanted to play with his father and tried to get on his lap. Suruchi, his stepmother, stopped Dhruva and said, **“Get down from there, Dhruva!”**



“You are not qualified can't you see my son is playing on the king's lap?”

King Uttanapada looked on helplessly..



Dhruva ran to his mother. His lips were trembling with anger. He was shedding tears. He narrated what took place. Queen Suniti immediately lifted her son onto her lap.

She told her son, “Do not think badly of your step-mother my dear son. To achieve your goal in life, you have to perform great penance for the pleasure of Lord Narayana.”

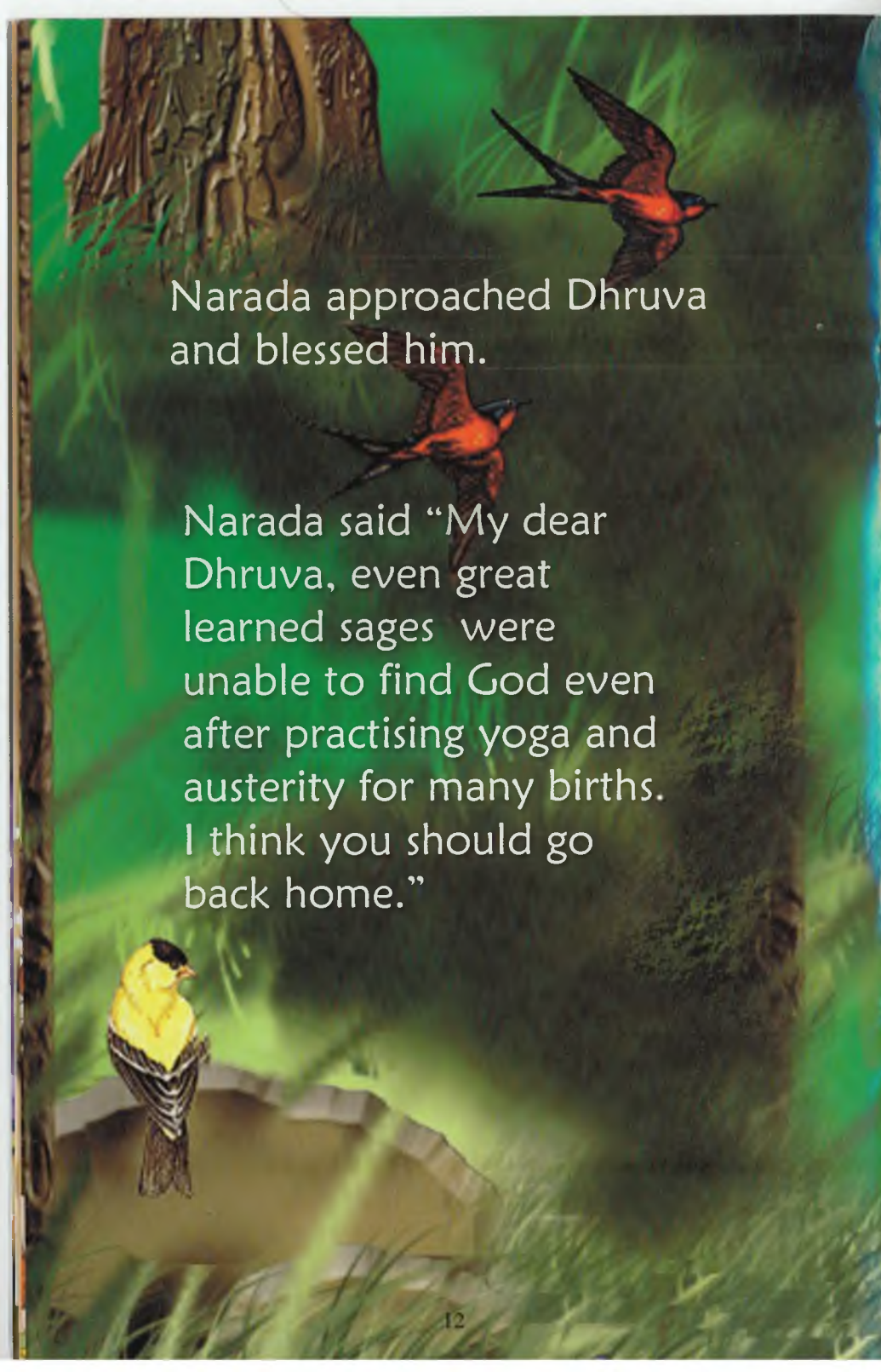
Dhruva asked his mother. “Where can I find Lord Narayana?” She replied, “I heard that great sages go to forest to do penance.”



Although only five years old, Dhruva gave serious thought to what his mother had said? He proceeded deep into the forest to meditate.

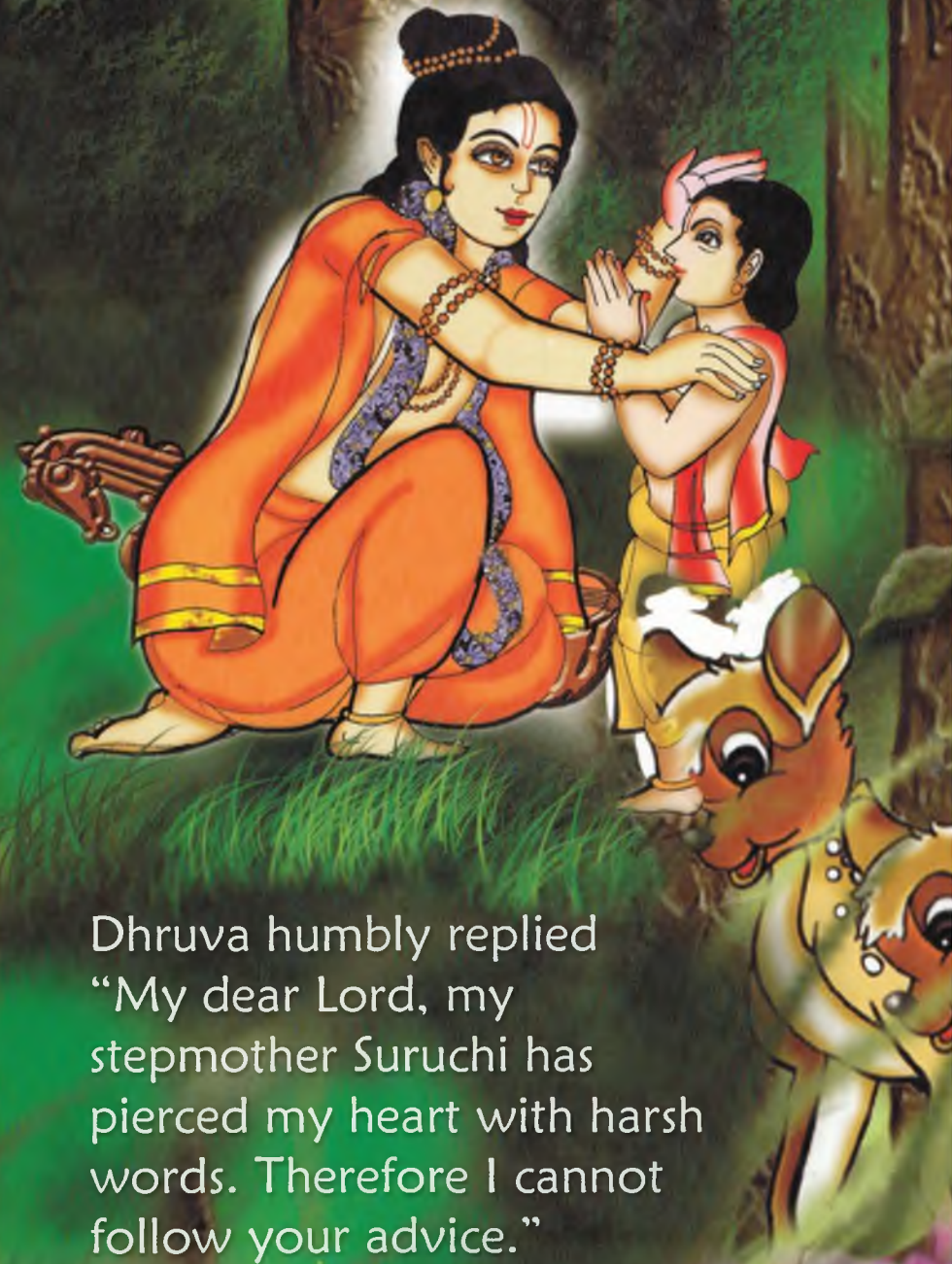


The great sage Narada Muni heard what had happened and was wonderstruck! He came looking for him and found him in the forest. Narada wanted to test his determination.



Narada approached Dhruva and blessed him.

Narada said “My dear Dhruva, even great learned sages were unable to find God even after practising yoga and austerity for many births. I think you should go back home.”



Dhruva humbly replied “My dear Lord, my stepmother Suruchi has pierced my heart with harsh words. Therefore I cannot follow your advice.”

“I want to occupy a more exalted and important position than my father and grand fathers or anyone else had ever achieved. If you wish to help me, then kindly advice me, of a right path to follow, by which I can achieve the desire of my life.”

Narada was happy to see his determination. He said, “ Dear Dhruva, to achieve your desire, you need the mercy of Lord Narayana.”

Then Narada taught Dhruva how to perform penance to please Lord Narayana.

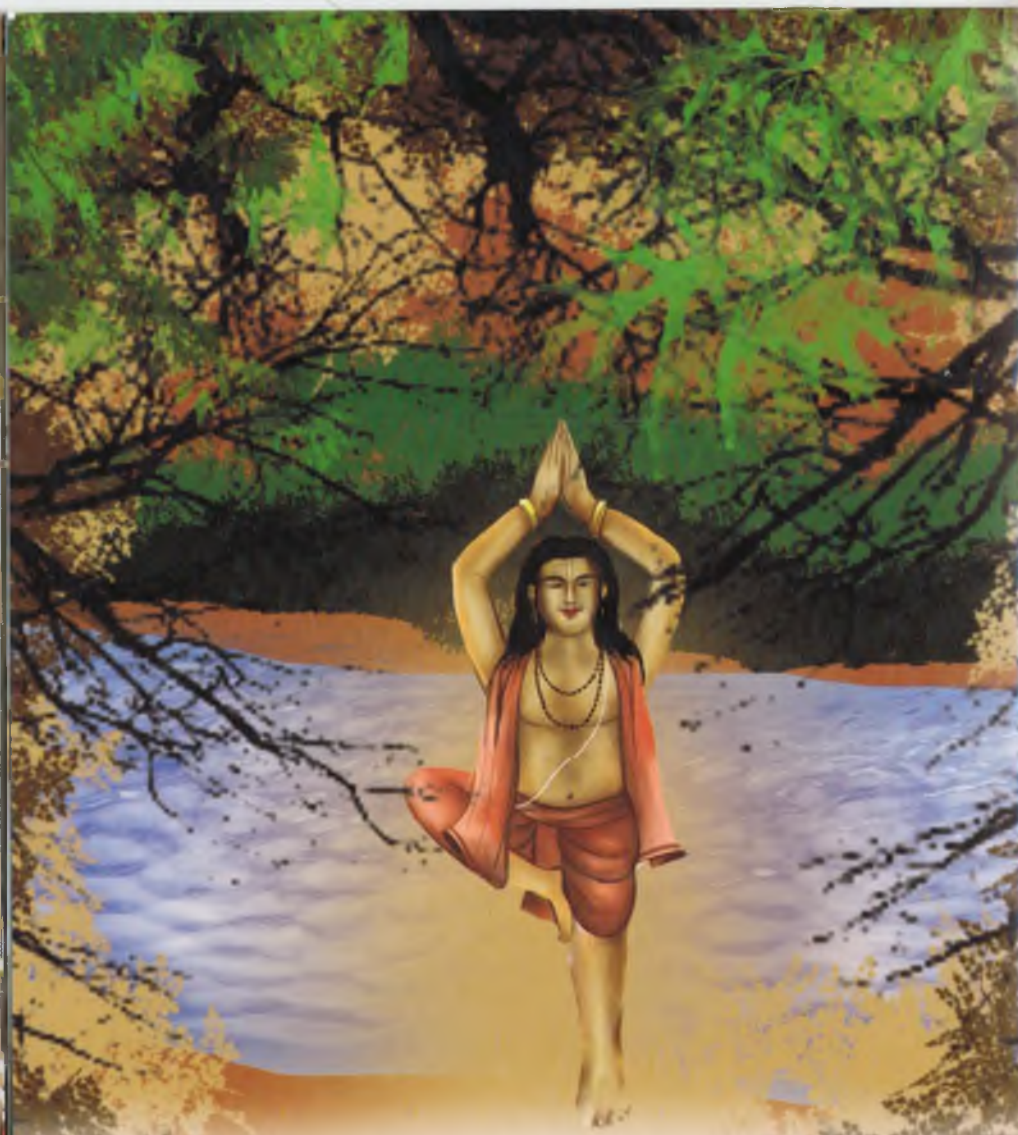


Following Sage Narada's instructions.....

Dhruva reached Madhuvana forest. He took a bath in the river Yamuna. He did not even eat for the whole night. For the **first month**, Dhruva ate only fruits and berries, every third day. He ate just enough, to keep his body and soul together.

In the **second month**, he ate once in six days, only the dry grass and leaves. In the **third month**, he drank water, once in nine days. He remained in a trance worshipping the Lord. In the **fourth month**, he mastered the art of the breathing yoga-pranayam and thus he inhaled air only every twelfth day. In this way, he became completely fixed in his position, worshipped the Supreme Personality of Godhead.





By the **fifth month**, Dhruva had controlled his breathing so perfectly, that he was able to stand on only one leg, like a column.



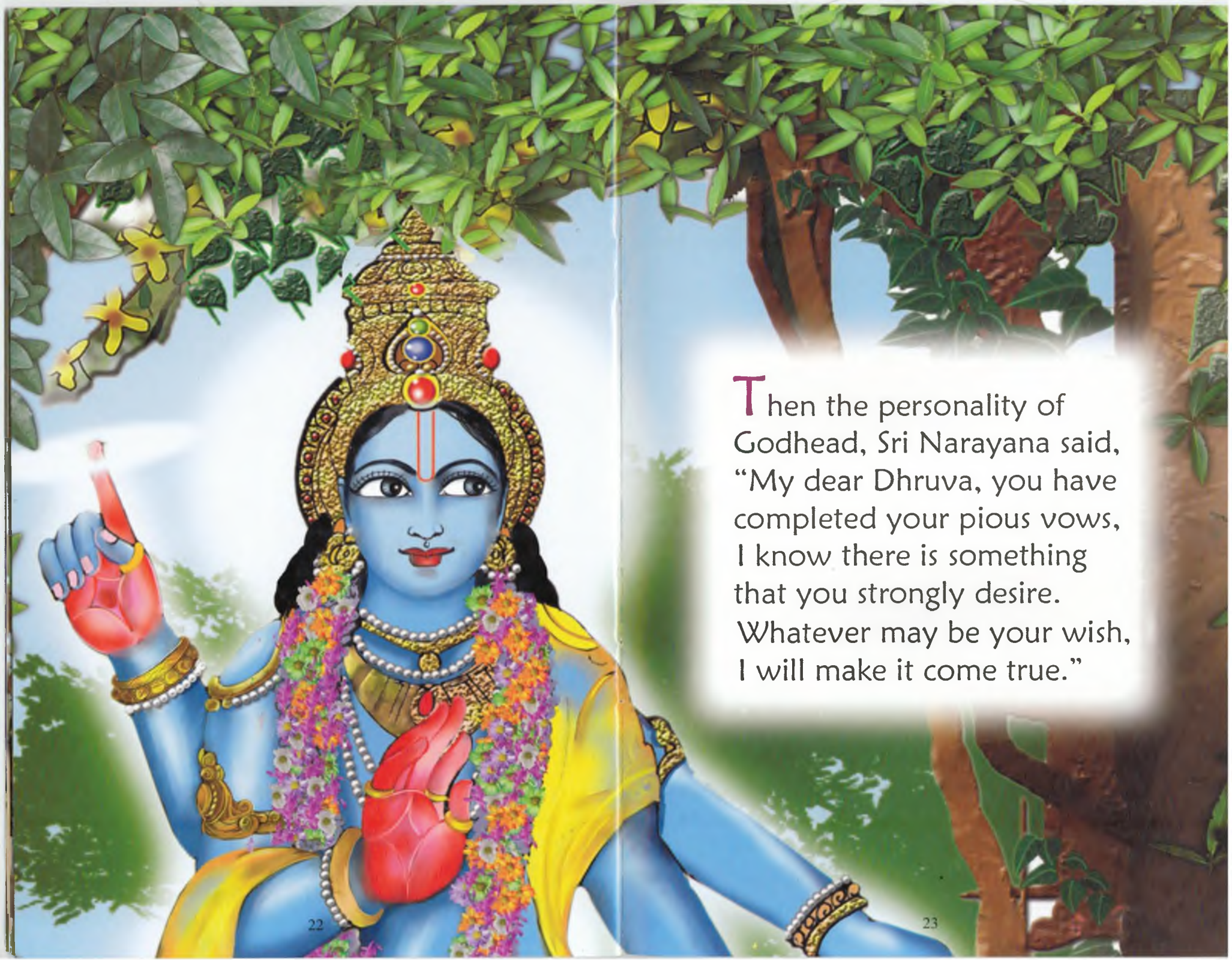
He concentrated fully on the Supreme Lord. He could see the Supreme Lord within his heart.



Dhruva's dedication and sincerity pleased the Lord. He appeared and called out to him. When Dhruva opened his eyes and the Supreme Personality of Godhead, **Sri Narayana**, was standing right in front of him. He looked exactly the same, as He was in Dhruva's heart.

Dhruva immediately offered his respects, by bowing down to the lotus feet of the Lord.





Then the personality of Godhead, Sri Narayana said, "My dear Dhruva, you have completed your pious vows, I know there is something that you strongly desire. Whatever may be your wish, I will make it come true."



The Supreme Personality of Godhead touched Dhruva's head with His conch shell. Dhruva instantly became perfectly aware, of the Vedic conclusions.

Dhruva understood the Absolute Truth and His relationship with all the living entities.



“O my Lord, because I wanted more wealth and power than anyone else in the world, I had performed severe penance and austerity.

As a result I have been purified and I now realize how foolish I had been. I was searching for broken pieces of glass, but I have found You my Lord, the most valuable jewel.

Therefore, I am pleased that I do not wish to ask anything from you. Just to see **YOU**, is a reward by itself.”

The Lord awarded him with the highest planet ‘**Dhruvaloka**’ and disappeared.



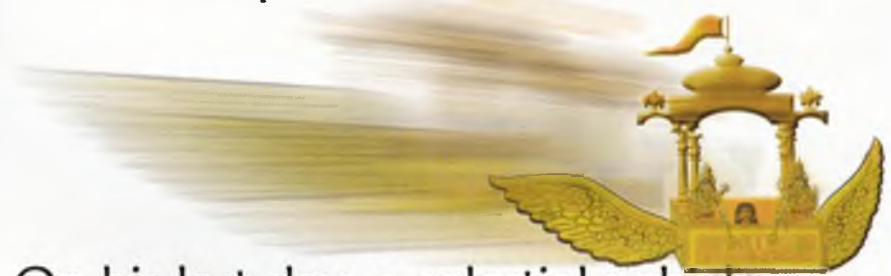
Meanwhile Narada Muni met the king Uttanapada, asked him not to worry about Dhruva.

When Dhruva returned from forest, he was given a grand reception.

The king later retired and handed his kingdom to Dhruva, who became Dhruva Maharaja. He ruled for thirty-six thousand years.

At the end of his life, Dhruva Maharaja left his kingdom. He made his way to the lush forest in the Himalayas, known as, Badarikashrama. There he meditated on the Lord and entered into a complete trance.

On his last day, a celestial vehicle-



He was taken to Dhruvaloka, awarded by the Lord, which would not be destroyed even at the time of universal destruction.

To this very day, Dhruva Maharaja still rules the brightest star in the night sky, the Polestar.

**If you look up
tonight you
will see it!**

