

A Family for the Gita

*Instructive Stories from teachings of
Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*

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Once a renounced spiritual master presented his disciple with a copy of the holy Gita

Perfect your life by studying this Bhagavad Gita everyday.

I shall study
regularly
Maharaj!

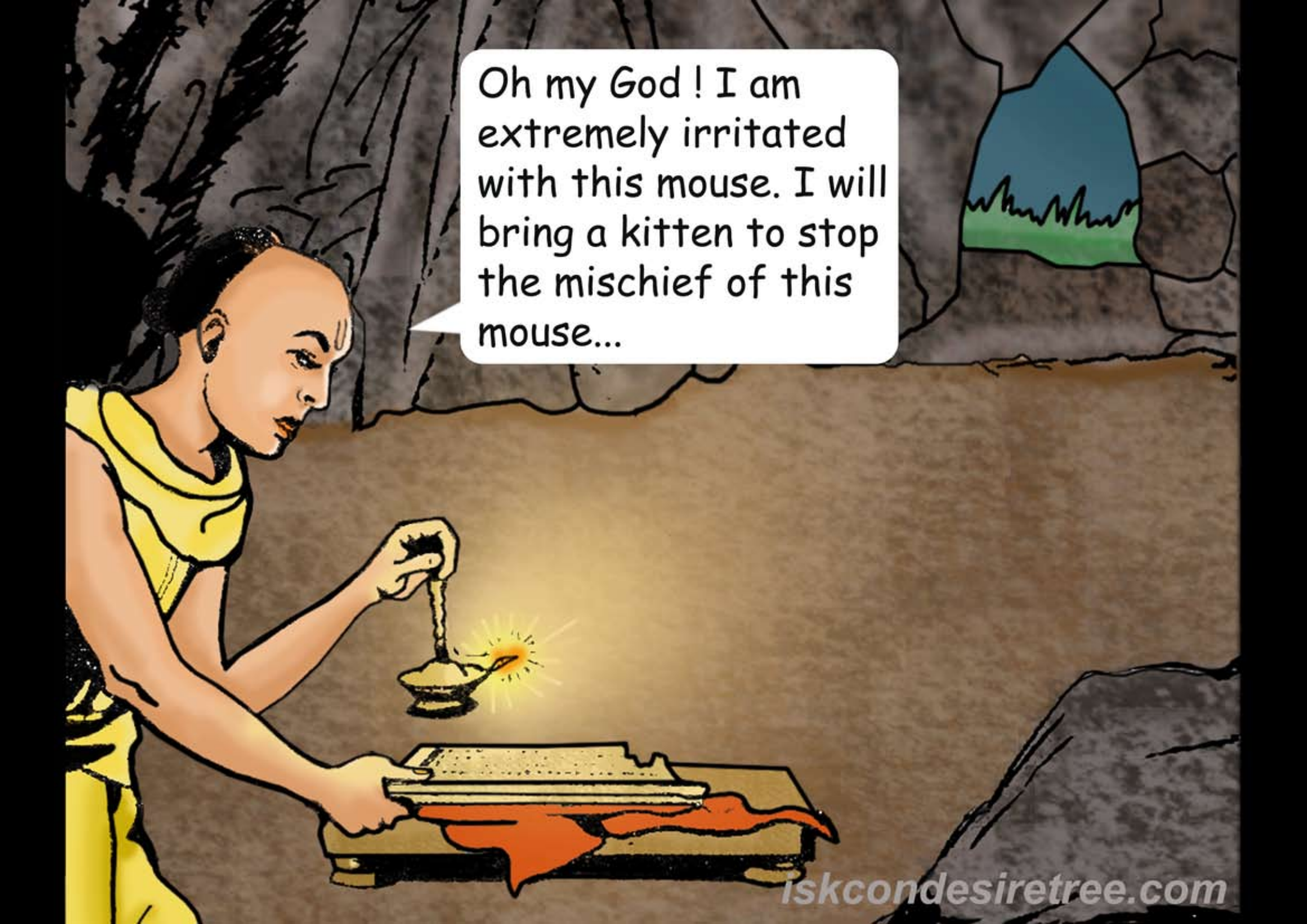


He started studying the Gita sitting
inside a cave on the Vindhya hills

*dharma-ksetre kuru-ksetre
samaveta yuyutsavah
mamakah pandavas caiva
kim akurvata sanjaya*

*A small mouse in the cave started eating
the pages of Gita everyday*

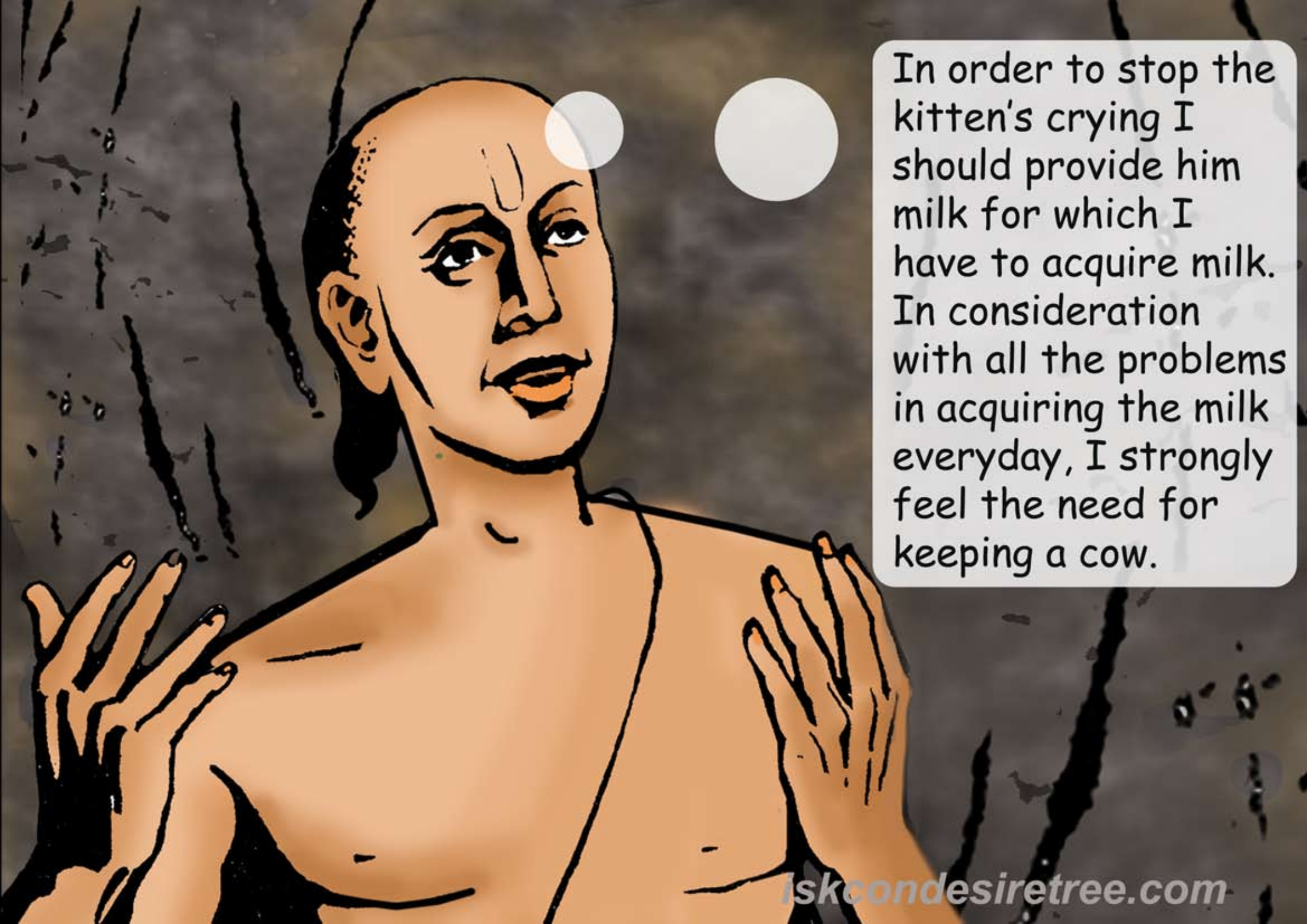


A woman with a shaved head and a yellow sari is shown in profile, lighting a diya (oil lamp) in a cave. She is holding a matchstick to the wick of the diya, which is placed on a small stand. The diya is lit, and a bright flame is visible. In front of her is a wooden table with a red cloth draped over it. The background shows the rocky interior of a cave with a small opening in the wall showing a blue sky and green landscape. A speech bubble is positioned above her, containing text.

Oh my God ! I am extremely irritated with this mouse. I will bring a kitten to stop the mischief of this mouse...

The mouse went away but the kitten started to constantly cry for milk this would cause disturbance.





In order to stop the kitten's crying I should provide him milk for which I have to acquire milk. In consideration with all the problems in acquiring the milk everyday, I strongly feel the need for keeping a cow.

By the grace of the
Lord one kind-hearted
person gifted one cow.




The disciple built a barn with much labor and effort to make the cow stay safely and comfortably.



I am finding it very difficult to maintain the cow, providing her with regular fodder and water. Moreover I am spoiling my devotional performances while caring for this cow, so I think I need to appoint a cowherd.





In spite of getting the cow still I have anxiety of maintaining this cow.

The cowherd took charge of maintaining the cow. But then who was going to feed the cowherd and look after his duties regularly. After much deliberation finally the anxious student got married



Gradually his family grew up. He acquired vast property, manpower and a big palace. The student thus became an out-and-out family man, leaving aside his study of the Gita.



After a long lapse of time, his spiritual master, trying to find out his disciple's whereabouts, happened to come in front of the disciple's palace





What is all these?

O, Master, this family I had to build up for the sake of your Holy Gita

Purport :

Persons undertaking the rigours of celibacy (brahmacarya), seclusion (vanaprastha), and renunciation (sannyasi) as their ways of living (asrama) and so staying in a secluded holy place such as a math, away from home for engrossing themselves in the devotional services to Lord Sri Hari, might also find themselves entangled in such a 'family' for the sake of the Gita, in case they become enchanted with the thoughts of daily wants and requirements, thus deceiving themselves in the name of favouring devotional services to Lord Sri Hari. So, an honest person must be careful. he must not fall under the clutches of illusory energy (maya) while pretending to acquire favourable objects for devotional services to Sri Hari. The material senses are always thirsty for objects of sense gratification.

contd.

Pretending to attain perfection through carefully listening and adhering to myriads of injunctions from great liberated souls, our wicked, mischievous, uncontrollable, extroverted mind along with it's propensities, endeavours to acquire gratifying objects falsely ascribing them as favourable to devotional service to Sri Hari, while taking recourse to hypocritical diplomatic demeanours.

Many of us become highly attracted to material knowledge. In the name of studying scriptures or learning erudition !

We become much attached to physical comfort and to our dependant wife and children through self-deception of undergoing family life with a plea to observe 'yukta-vairagya' (proper renunciation) and offering devotional services to Lord Sri Hari simultaneously.

Even after becoming a sannyasi, a bramhacari, a Krsna conscious grihastha or a vanaprastha, many of us desire to attain material reputation and fame and we try to lord it over everything. This will cause us utter spiritual destruction.

It is therefore most essential to pray for the mercy of pure honest devotees, constantly keeping ourselves in their uncontaminated association with complete loyalty and allegiance and thus exposing before them all our misgivings so that we may be blessed with their inestimable guidance.