

Golden, Silver and Iron Shackles



*Instructive Stories from teachings of
Srla Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*

Once three friends - a prince, a minister's son and a treasurer's son set out on a journey to a distant land.



On the way they arrived at a royal palace where they happen to see three friends - the princess, the minister's daughter and the treasurer's daughter. However, their parents were absent.



The prince and his two friends exchanged their acquaintances with the princess and her two consorts.

We three like to marry you three!

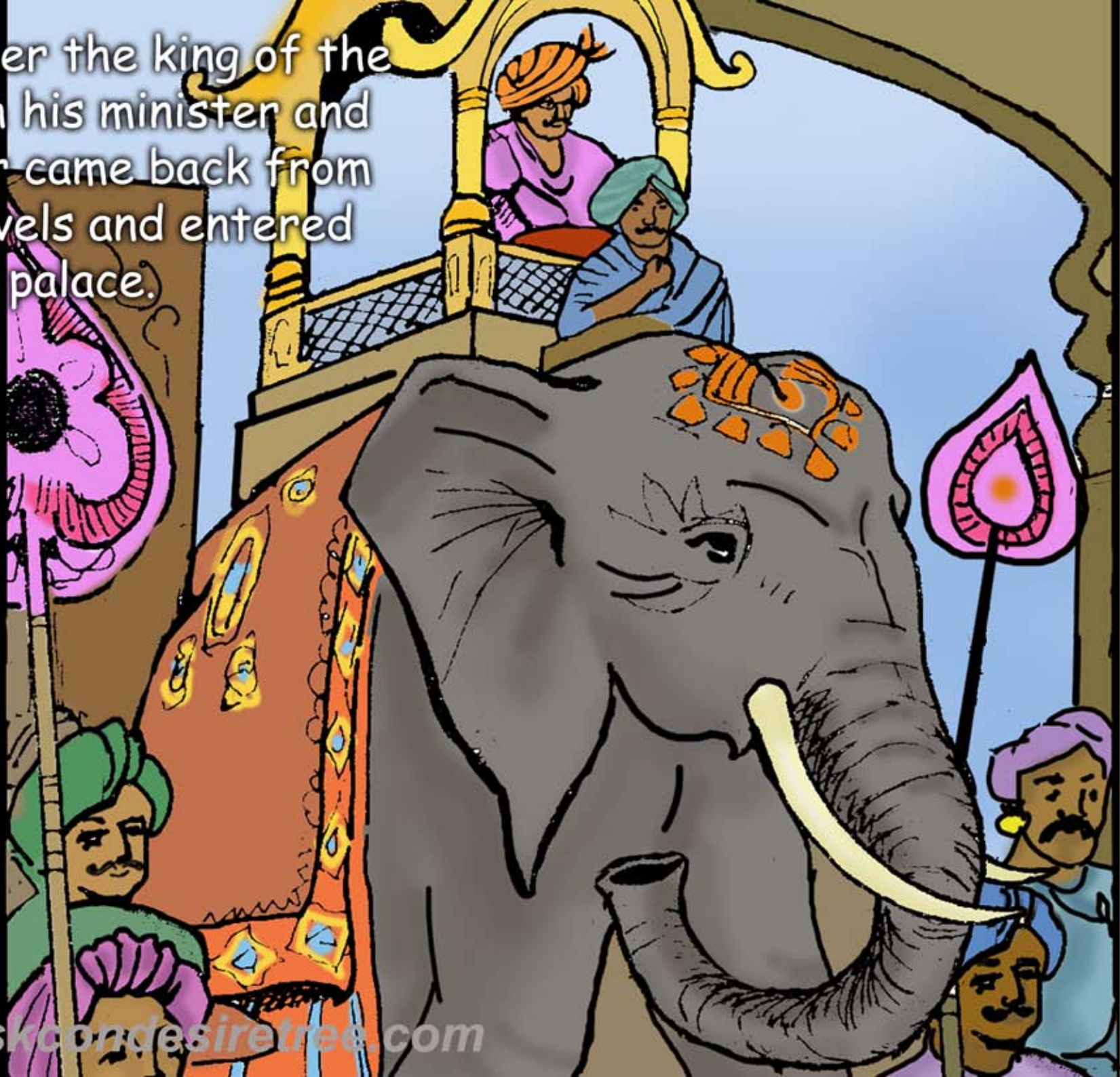
Sorry, we can't accept your proposal as we have to take the permission from our parents.



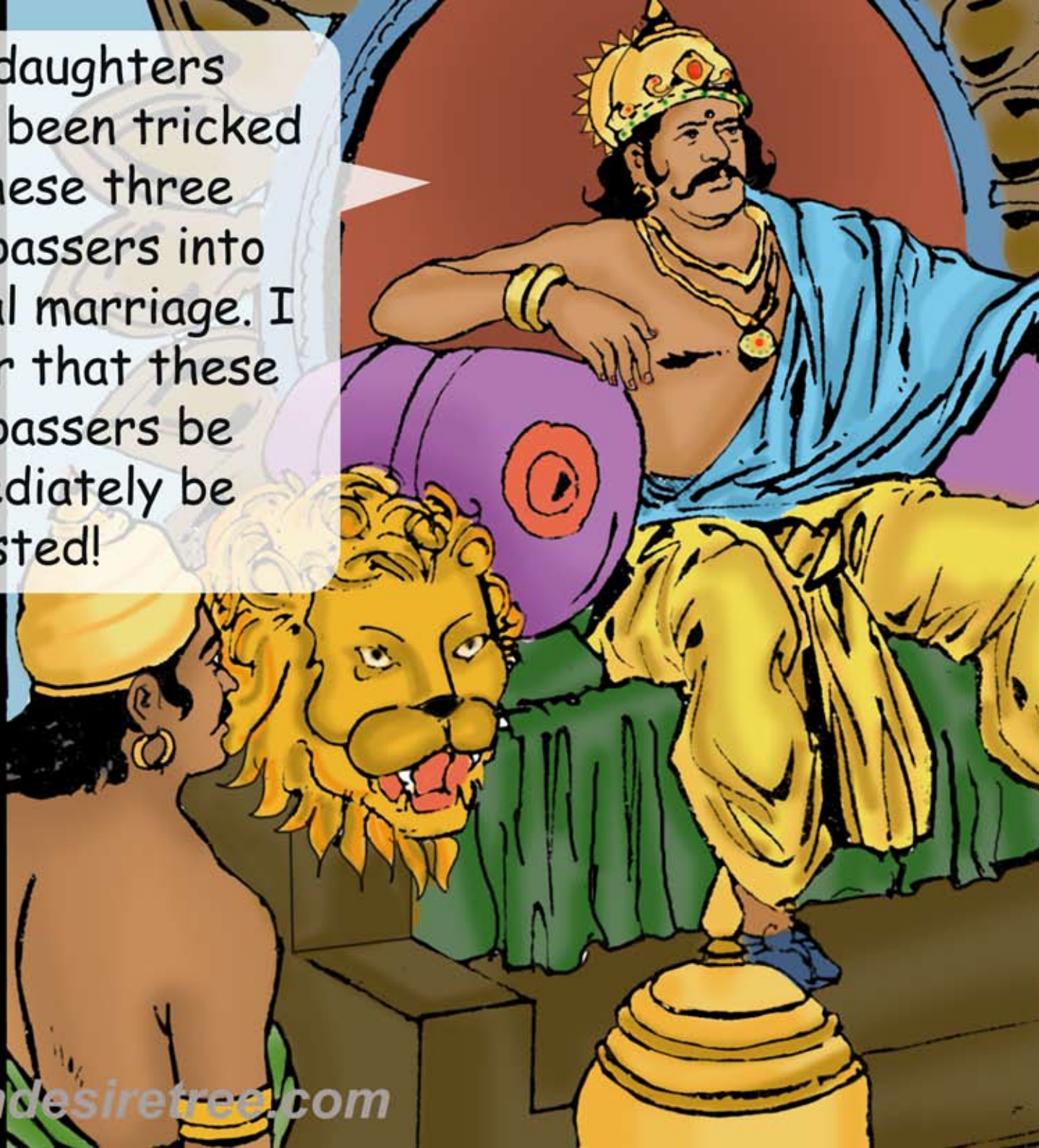
However, due to lot of persuasion, the princess and the daughters of the minister and the treasurer agreed to get married to the respective men without permission from their parents.



Thereafter the king of the land, with his minister and treasurer came back from their travels and entered the royal palace.



Our daughters
have been tricked
by these three
trespassers into
illegal marriage. I
order that these
trespassers be
immediately be
arrested!



The princess and the daughters of the minister and the treasurer begged to the King for the release of their husbands.





I will not release these young men instead I order that they be offered proper respect by binding the prince with golden shackles, whereas the minister's son with silver chain and the treasurer's son should be bound with iron shackles according to their status.

Help ! Help !
Liberate us !



Purport :

The Supreme Lord binds up all living entities similarly in three types of shackles, namely the material modes according to the reactions of their respective fruitive activities. The bondage of goodness may very well be compared to golden shackles, that of passion to silver shackles, and the entanglement in ignorance is tantamount to iron shackles.

Whatever might be the elements or metals with which the shackles are made, they are simply meant for imprisonment. Unless and until one goes beyond these three material modes or entanglements, one can never be considered free and liberated. Only one who completely surrenders unto the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord unconditionally may thus be delivered from such bondage.