

THE GOLDEN AGE

VOLUME-III

Srivasa's
Dead Son
Speaks



Tulsi
Books

THE GOLDEN AGE

VOLUME-III

Inauguration of the
Sankirtana Movement

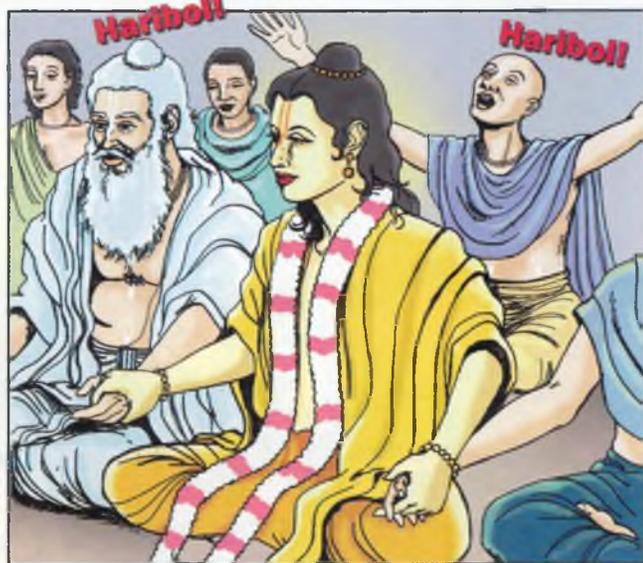
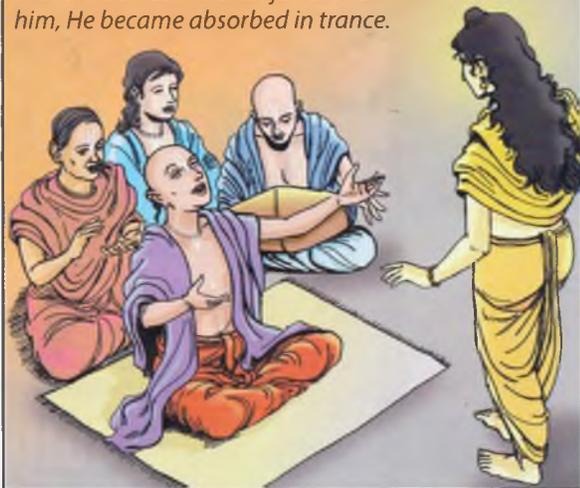


Srila Bhaktisiddhata Sarasvati Thakura starts telling another episode in the Lord's life...

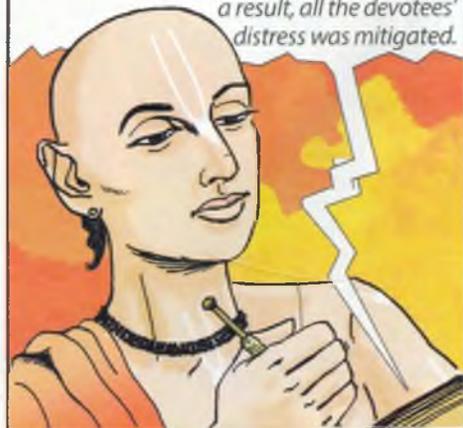
One evening, all the devotees assembled at the Lord's house. At that time Sri Mukunda began to recite various verses glorifying devotional service.



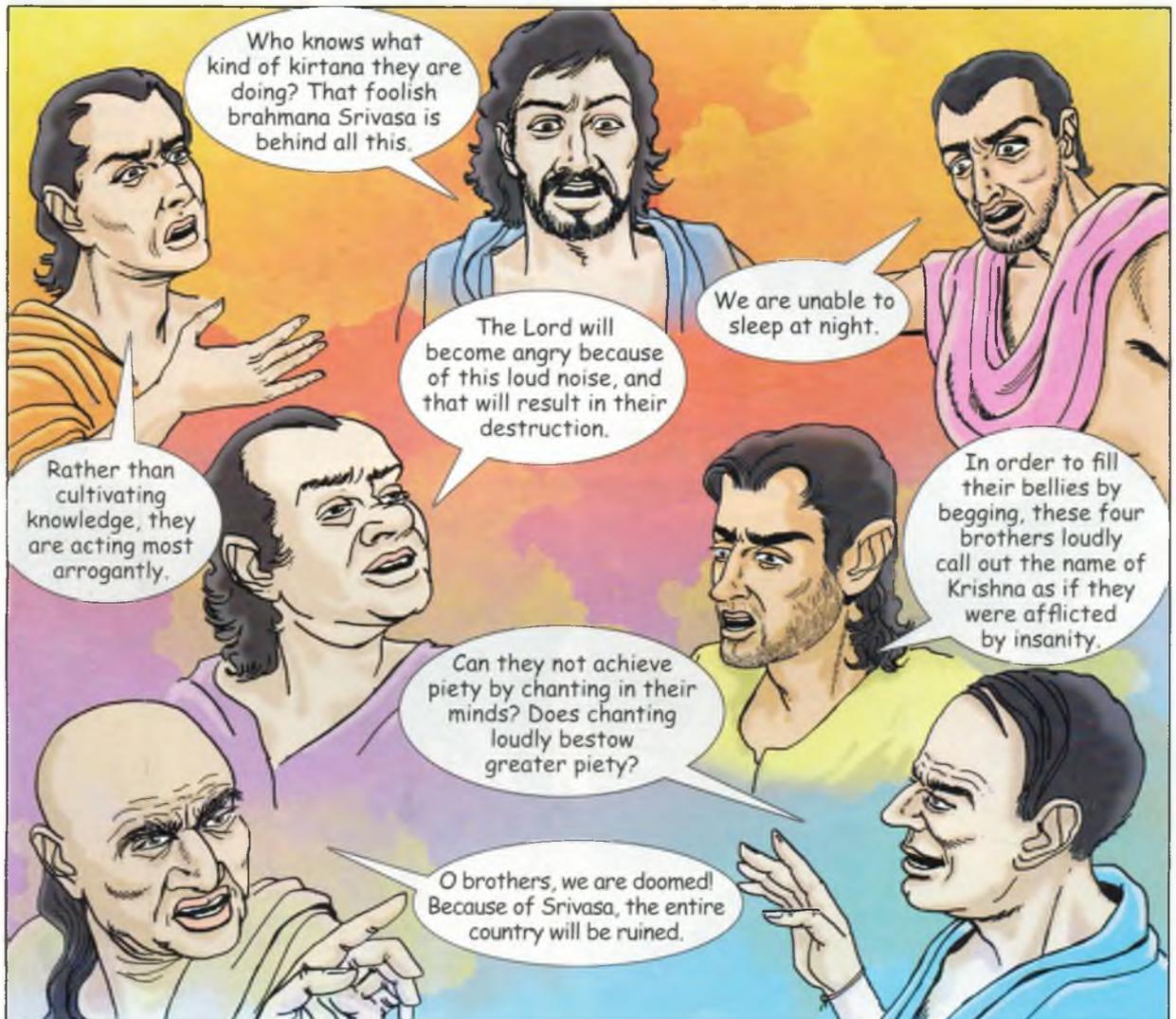
The most fortunate Mukunda had such a divine voice that as soon as the crest jewel of brahmanas heard him, He became absorbed in trance.

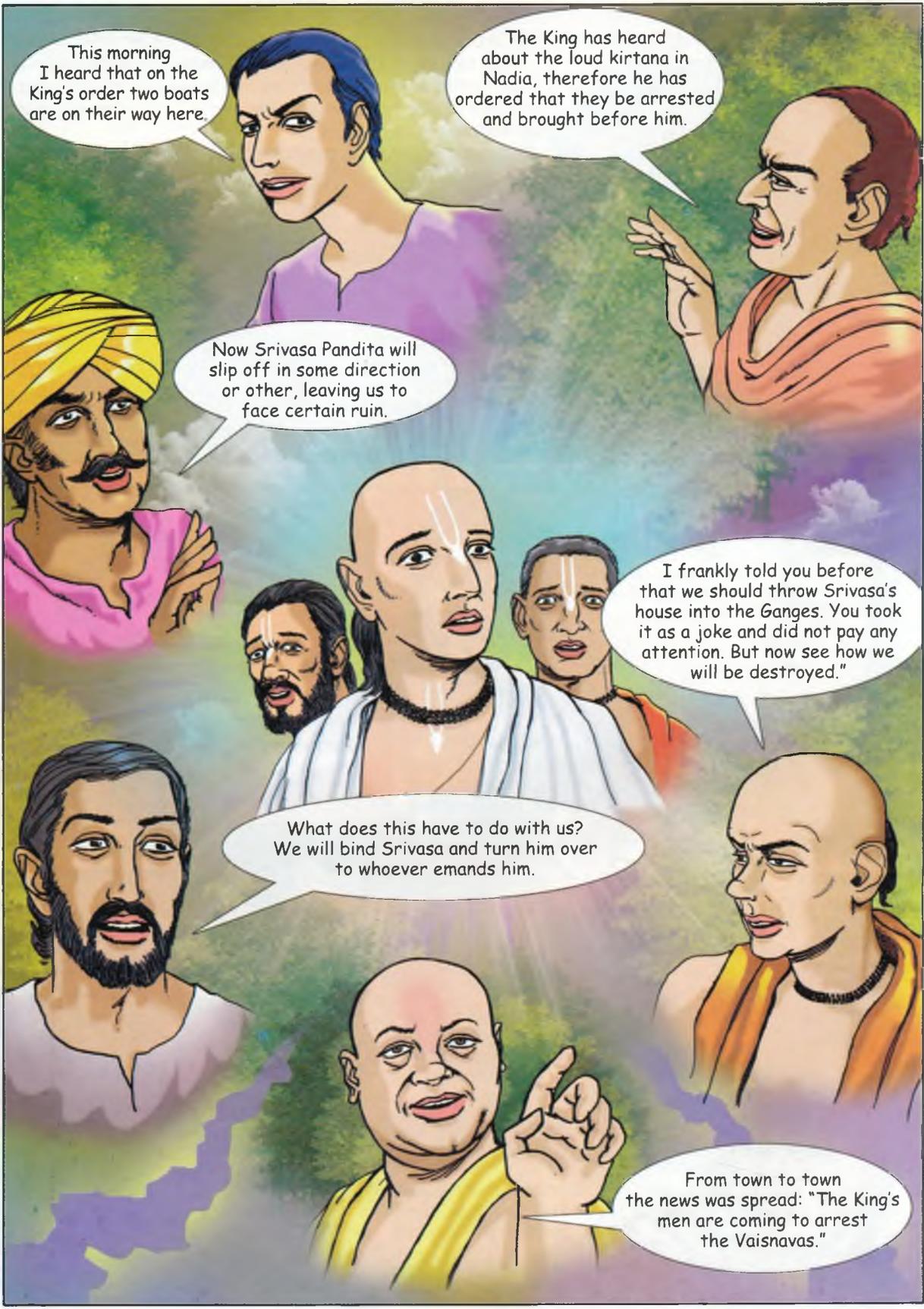


In this way the son of Sachi regularly performed kirtana in His house throughout the day and night. Thus the Supreme Lord inaugurated the performance of kirtana. As a result, all the devotees' distress was mitigated.



As Sri Sachinandana loudly cried out "Hari bol!", the sleep of the atheists was repeatedly broken. The atheists who are averse to the service of Krsna are always awake for enjoying sense gratification, and they are asleep for the service of Krishna — thus they forget Krishna's service. Yet because of Sachinandana's loud chanting of the names of Hari, their sleeping in ignorance was broken and their hearts, which were averse to the service of Hari, became aroused and startled.





This morning
I heard that on the
King's order two boats
are on their way here.

The King has heard
about the loud kirtana in
Nadia, therefore he has
ordered that they be arrested
and brought before him.

Now Srivasa Pandita will
slip off in some direction
or other, leaving us to
face certain ruin.

I frankly told you before
that we should throw Srivasa's
house into the Ganges. You took
it as a joke and did not pay any
attention. But now see how we
will be destroyed."

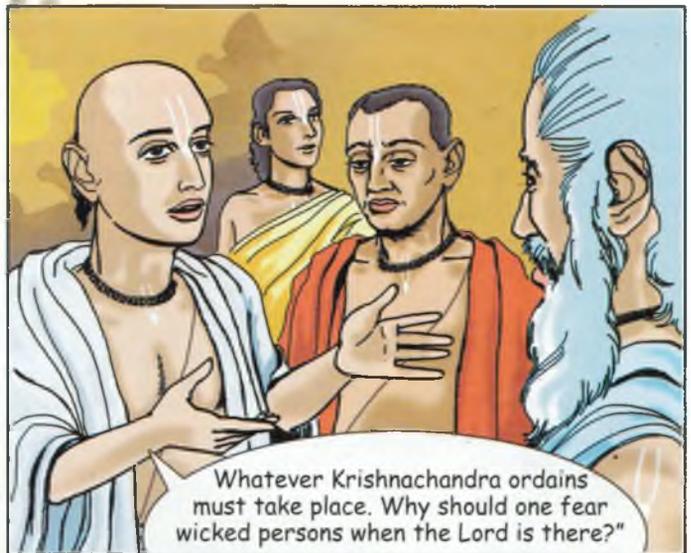
What does this have to do with us?
We will bind Srivasa and turn him over
to whoever demands him.

From town to town
the news was spread: "The King's
men are coming to arrest
the Vaisnavas."

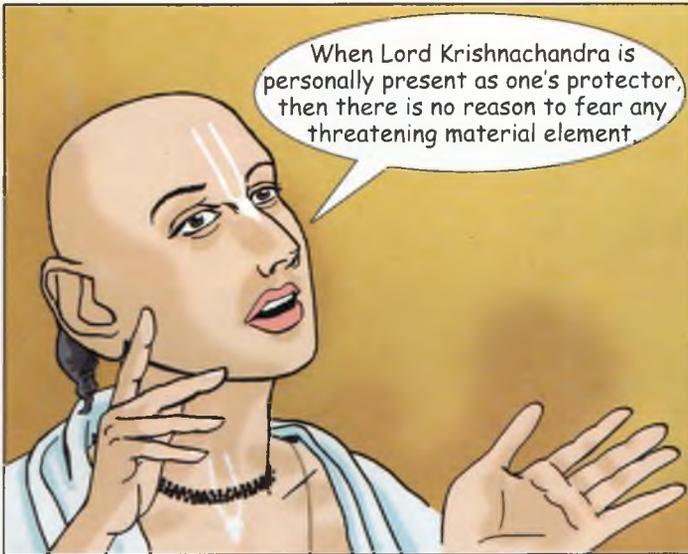


Govinda! Govinda!
Govinda!

When the Vaisnavas heard this news, they all subdued their fears by remembering Govinda.

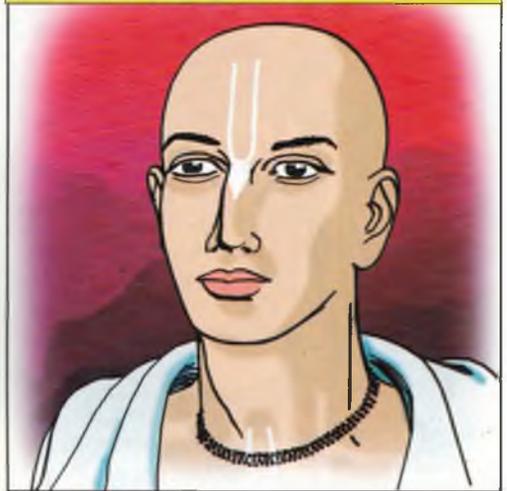


Whatever Krishnachandra ordains must take place. Why should one fear wicked persons when the Lord is there?"

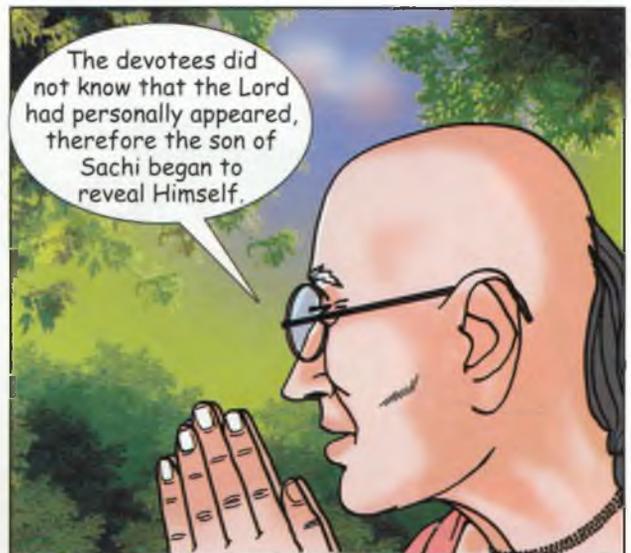


When Lord Krishnachandra is personally present as one's protector, then there is no reason to fear any threatening material element.

Srivasa Pandita was most liberal. He had firm faith in whatever he heard...

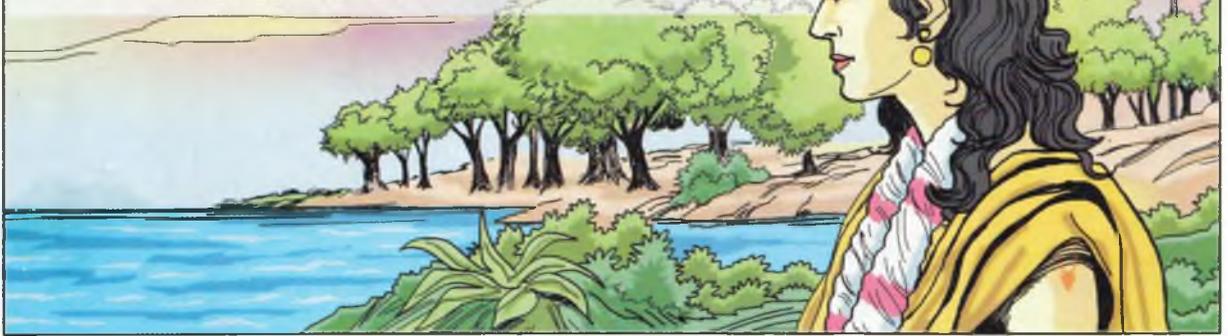


But considering that the Yavanas were ruling the kingdom, he became fearful.

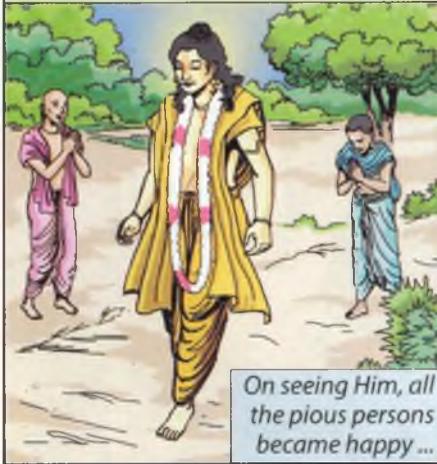


The devotees did not know that the Lord had personally appeared, therefore the son of Sachi began to reveal Himself.

Maharabhu Visvambhara, who was incomparable throughout the three worlds and more attractive than Cupid, fearlessly wandered about Navadvipa. Fragrant sandalwood pulp was smeared all over His body. His lotus eyes and crimson lips were enchanting. His curling hair adorned His face, which resembled the full moon. A brahmana thread enhanced the beauty of His shoulders and His exquisite form. He was dressed in fine cloth, and His lips were tinged with the color of betel. He happily proceeded towards the bank of the Ganges.

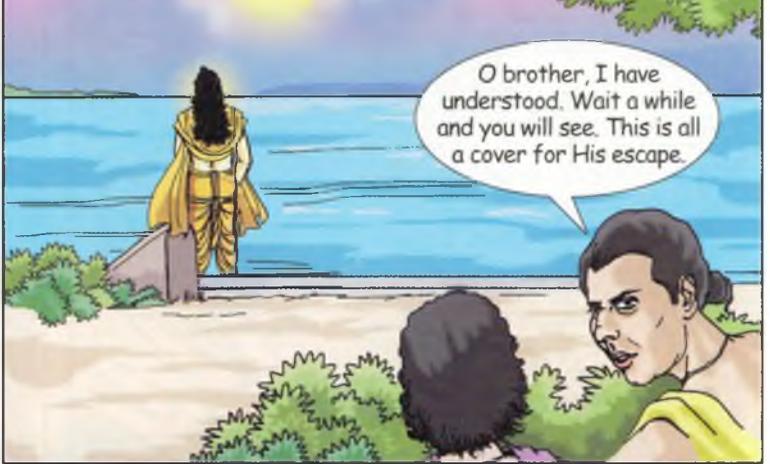


In spite of hearing the rumors, He was not at all frightened. He wandered about the town like a prince.

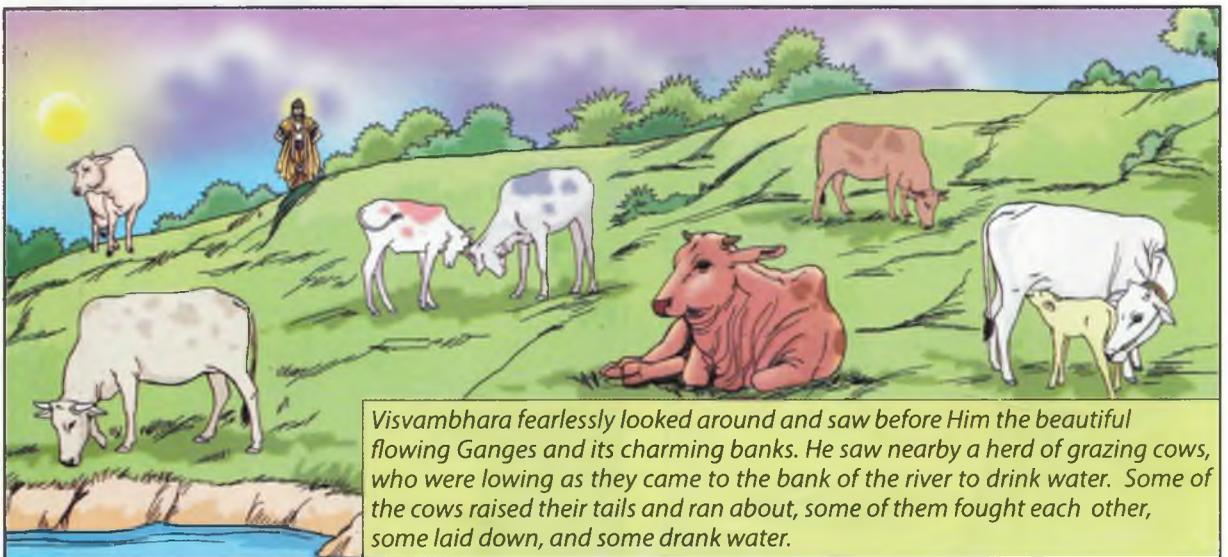


On seeing Him, all the pious persons became happy ...

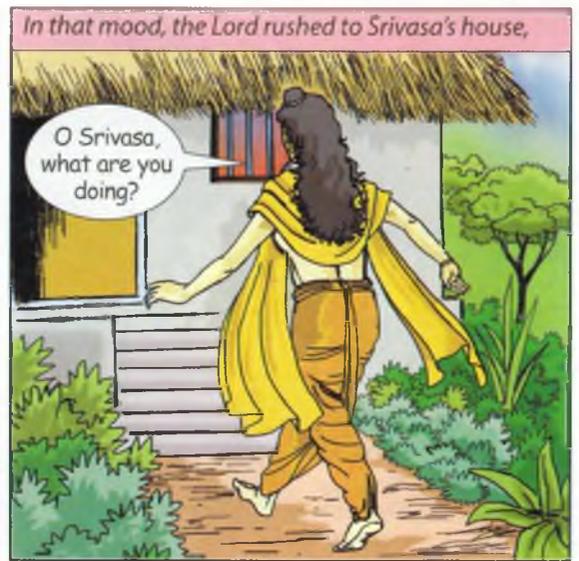
...and all the atheists became morose.



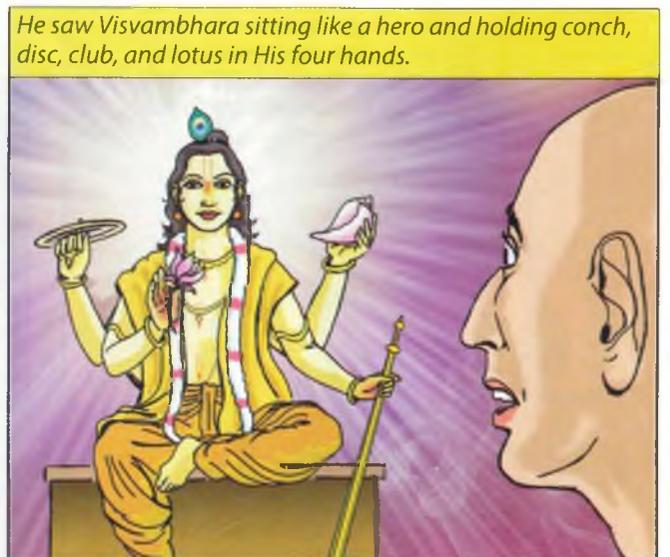
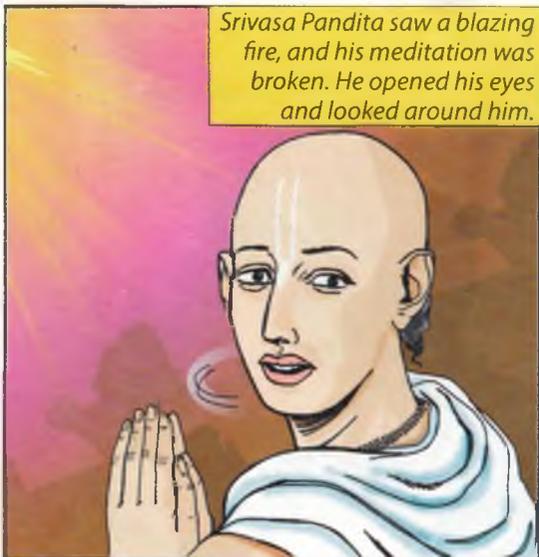
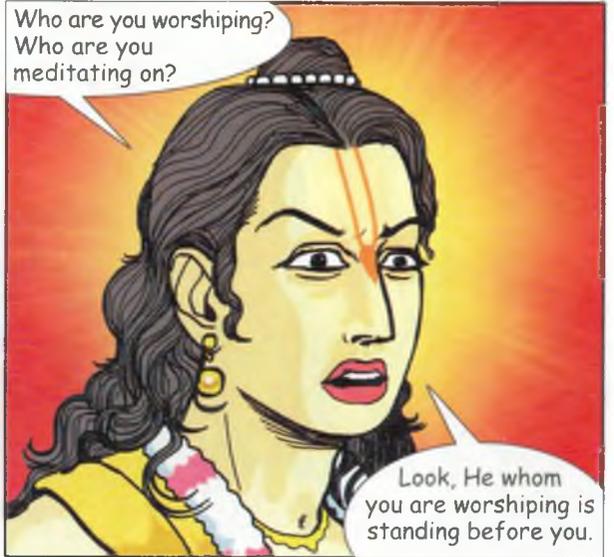
O brother, I have understood. Wait a while and you will see. This is all a cover for His escape.



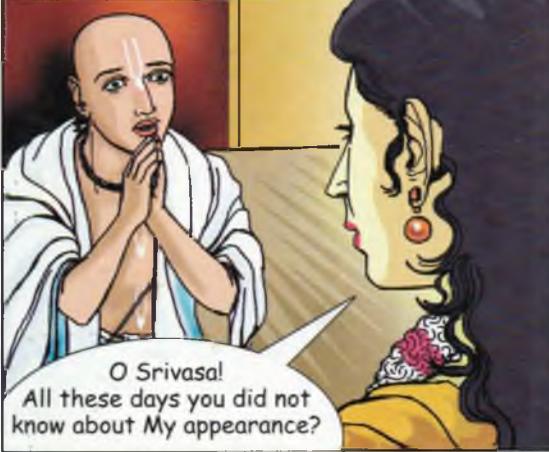
Visvambhara fearlessly looked around and saw before Him the beautiful flowing Ganges and its charming banks. He saw nearby a herd of grazing cows, who were lowing as they came to the bank of the river to drink water. Some of the cows raised their tails and ran about, some of them fought each other, some laid down, and some drank water.



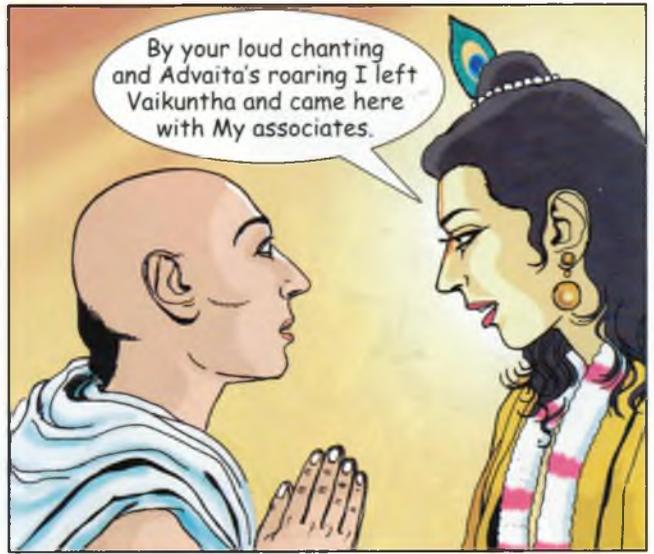
The Lord kicked again and again on the door of the room in which Srivasa was worshipping Nrisimhadeva.



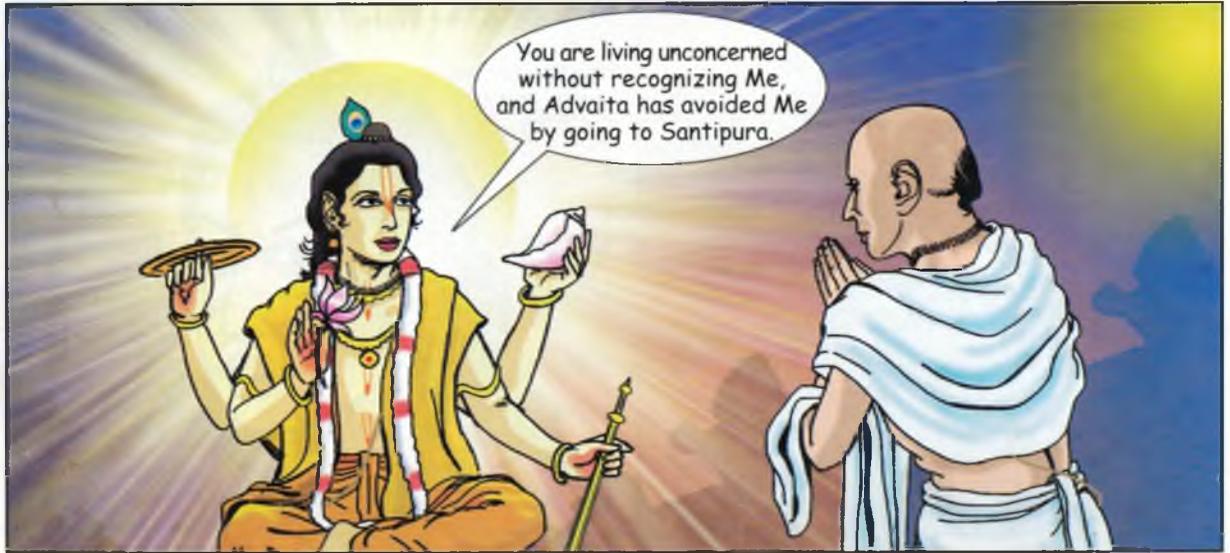
On seeing Him, Srivasa Pandita began to tremble and became completely speechless.



O Srivasa!
All these days you did not
know about My appearance?



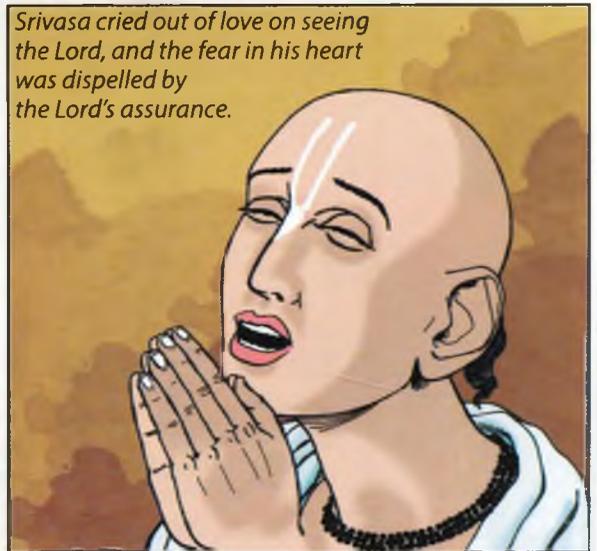
By your loud chanting
and Advaita's roaring I left
Vaikuntha and came here
with My associates.



You are living unconcerned
without recognizing Me,
and Advaita has avoided Me
by going to Santipura.



I will deliver the saintly
persons and destroy
the miscreants. Do not worry.
Offer prayers to Me.



Srivasa cried out of love on seeing
the Lord, and the fear in his heart
was dispelled by
the Lord's assurance.

Srivasa Pandita was a natural scholar and a maha-bhagavata devotee. Having been ordered by the Lord, he offered heart-felt prayers.

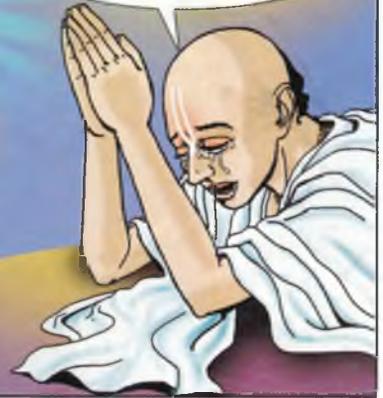
My dear Lord, You are the only worshipable Lord, the Supreme Personality of Godhead, and therefore I offer my humble obeisances and prayers just to please You. O son of the King of the cowherds, Your transcendental body is dark blue like a new cloud, Your garment is brilliant like lightning, and the beauty of Your face is enhanced by Your gunja earrings and the peacock feather on Your head. Wearing garlands of various forest flowers and leaves, and equipped with a herding stick, a buffalo horn and a flute, You stand beautifully with a morsel of food in Your hand.

I offer my respectful obeisances at the lotus feet of Visvambhara, whose bodily complexion is the color of a newly formed cloud and who is dressed in yellow garments.

I offer my respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of Sachi's son, whose head is decorated with strands of fresh gunja and a peacock feather.

I offer my respectful obeisances at the feet of Jagannatha Misra's son, whose attractive form defeats the beauty of millions of moons.

You are that person who is addressed by the four Vedas as the son of Maharaja Nanda. I offer my obeisances unto You.

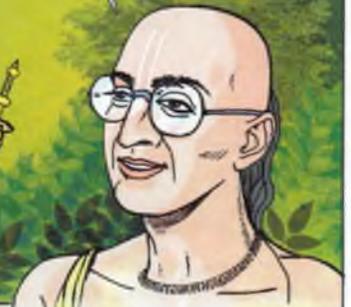
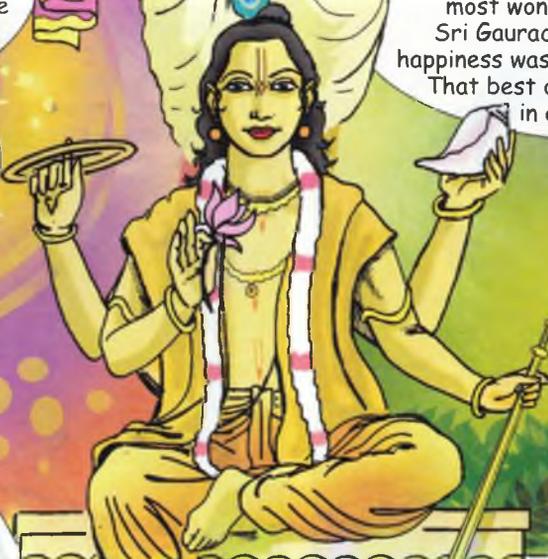


You are Vishnu, You are Krishna, You are the Lord of sacrifice. The holy waters of the Ganges emanate from Your lotus feet.

You are the life and soul of Janaki, and You are Nrsimhadeva. Lord Brahma, Lord Siva, and others are all servants of Your lotus feet. You are the knower of Vedanta, and You are Narayana. It was You who deceived Bali as Vamana.

You are Hayagriva, and You are the life and soul of the entire universe. You are the moonlike Lord of Nilacala and the cause of all causes.

The most fortunate Srivasa rolled on the ground after seeing that most wonderful manifestation of Sri Gaurachandra. What wonderful happiness was felt in the body of Srivasa! That best of the brahmanas merged in an ocean of bliss.



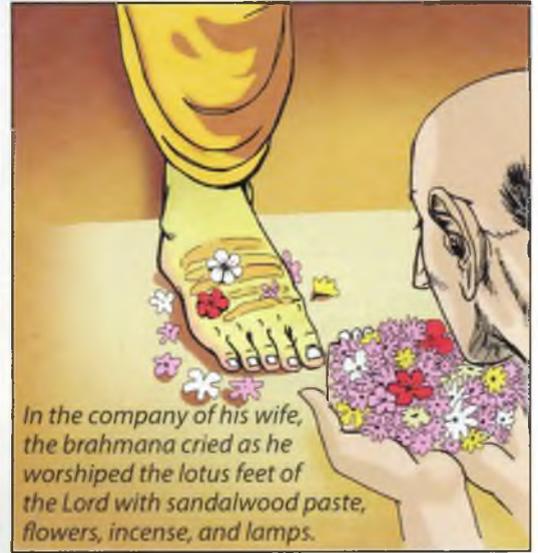
The Lord smiled after hearing the prayers of Srivasa.



Being ordered by the Lord, Srivasa Pandita immediately brought all his family members.

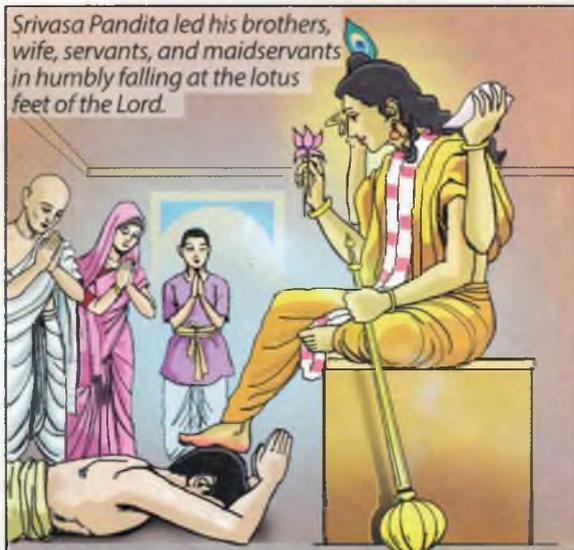


He offered at the feet of the Lord whatever flowers were there for the worship of Vishnu.

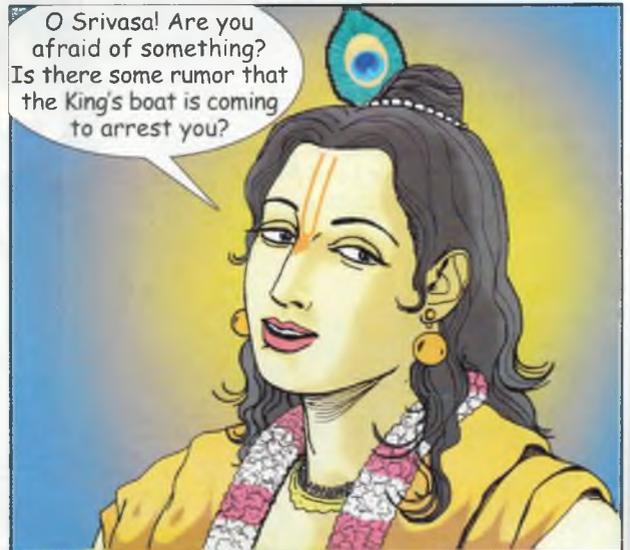


In the company of his wife, the brahmana cried as he worshiped the lotus feet of the Lord with sandalwood paste, flowers, incense, and lamps.

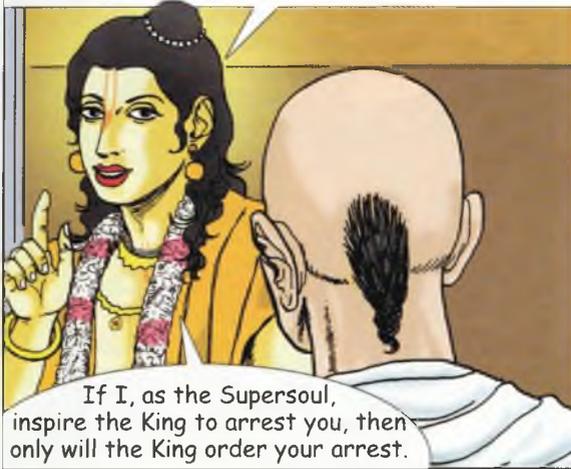
Srivasa Pandita led his brothers, wife, servants, and maidservants in humbly falling at the lotus feet of the Lord.



O Srivasa! Are you afraid of something? Is there some rumor that the King's boat is coming to arrest you?



By My own supreme will, I am the director of all living entities in the innumerable universes. The King will have you arrested only if I make him do so.



If I, as the Supersoul, inspire the King to arrest you, then only will the King order your arrest.

If this were not the case —if he independently ordered your arrest—then this is what I will do. I will be the first to board the boat and present Myself before the King.

If this does not happen and he holds Me for questioning, then this is what I will tell him.

Will the King remain sitting on his throne after seeing Me? I will bewilder him and drag him down.

Listen, O King, bring all your Mullahs and Kazis to ascertain the truth.

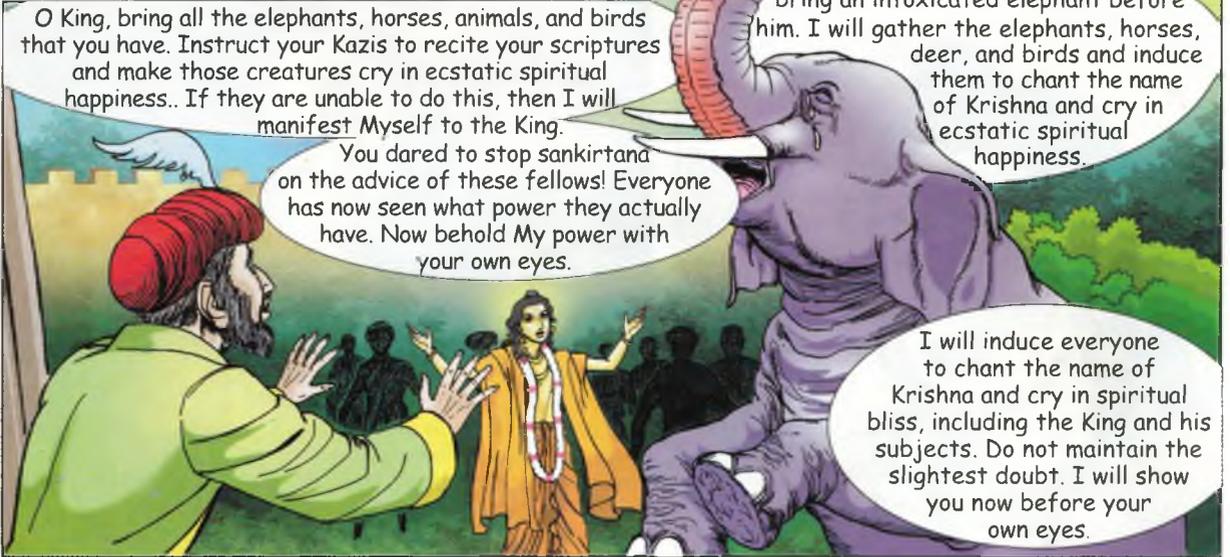


O King, bring all the elephants, horses, animals, and birds that you have. Instruct your Kazis to recite your scriptures and make those creatures cry in ecstatic spiritual happiness.. If they are unable to do this, then I will manifest Myself to the King.

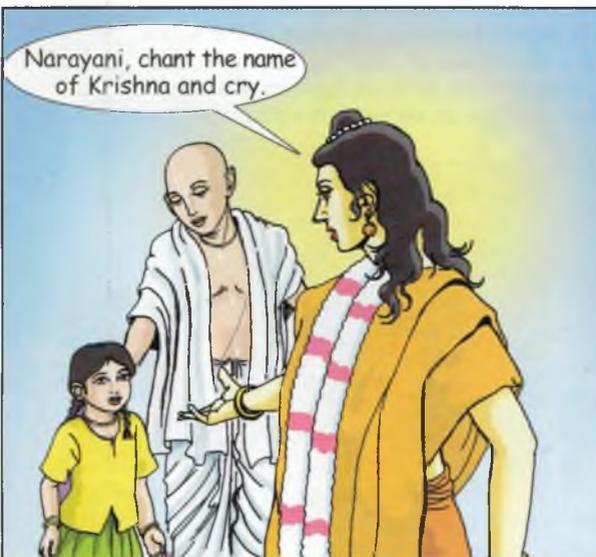
You dared to stop sankirtana on the advice of these fellows! Everyone has now seen what power they actually have. Now behold My power with your own eyes.

After saying this, I will bring an intoxicated elephant before him. I will gather the elephants, horses, deer, and birds and induce them to chant the name of Krishna and cry in ecstatic spiritual happiness.

I will induce everyone to chant the name of Krishna and cry in spiritual bliss, including the King and his subjects. Do not maintain the slightest doubt. I will show you now before your own eyes.

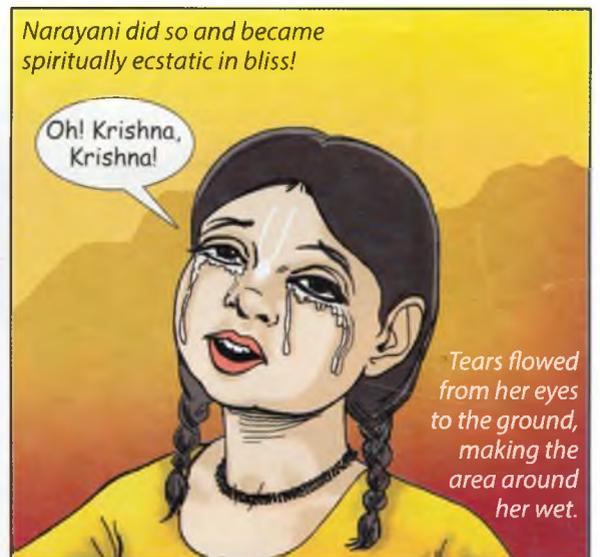


Narayani, chant the name of Krishna and cry.

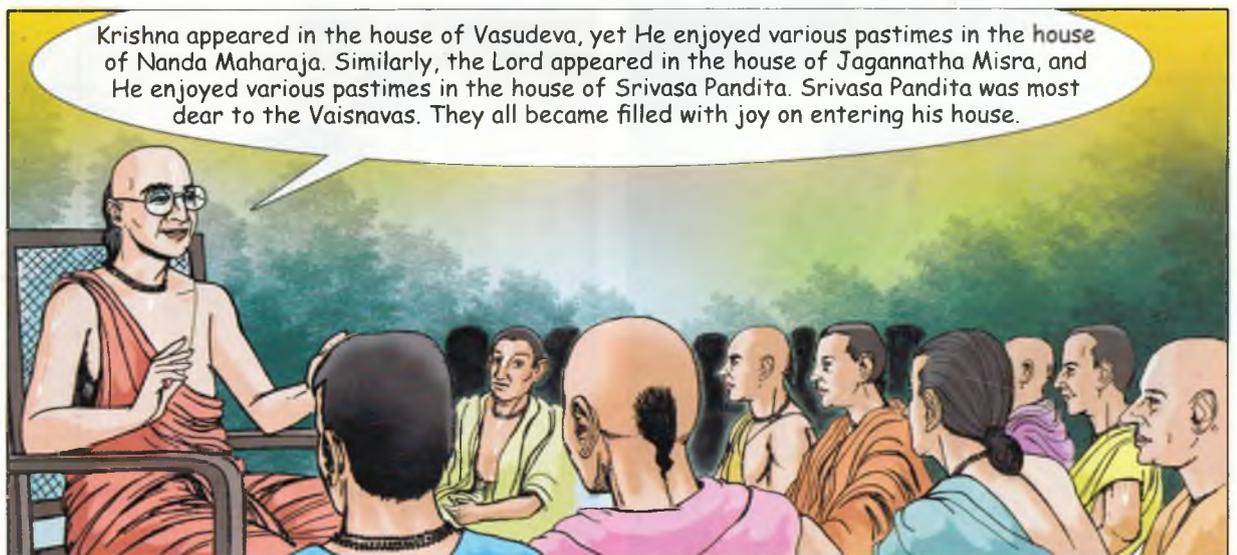
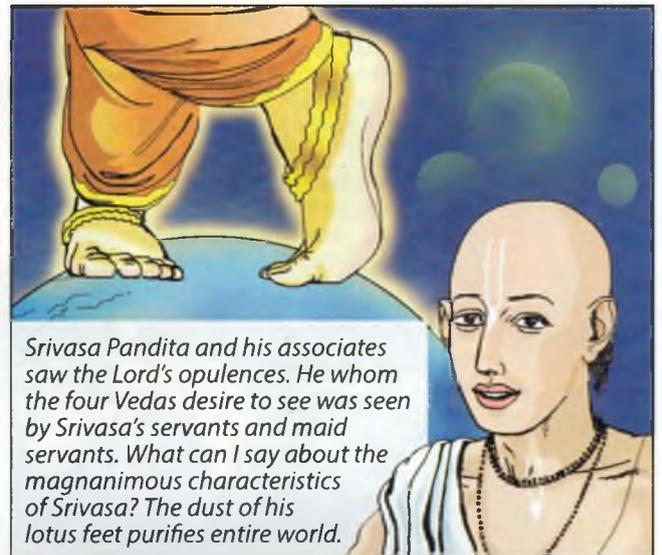
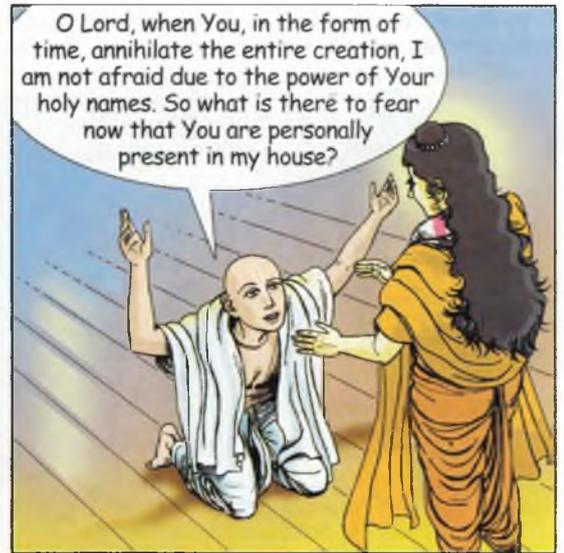
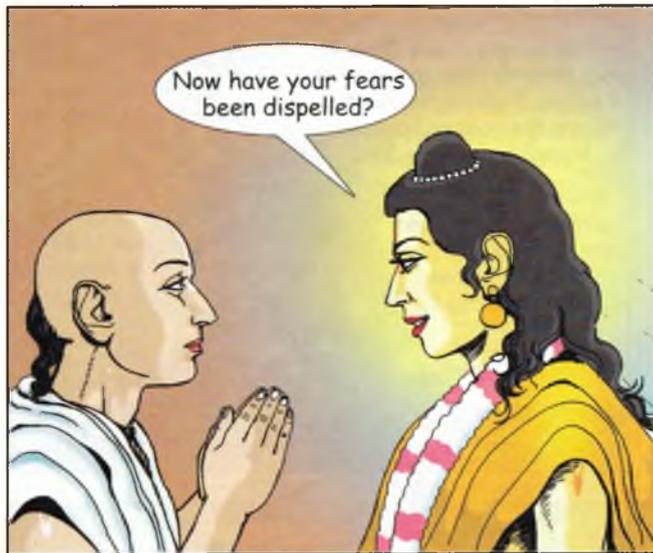


Narayani did so and became spiritually ecstatic in bliss!

Oh! Krishna, Krishna!



Tears flowed from her eyes to the ground, making the area around her wet.

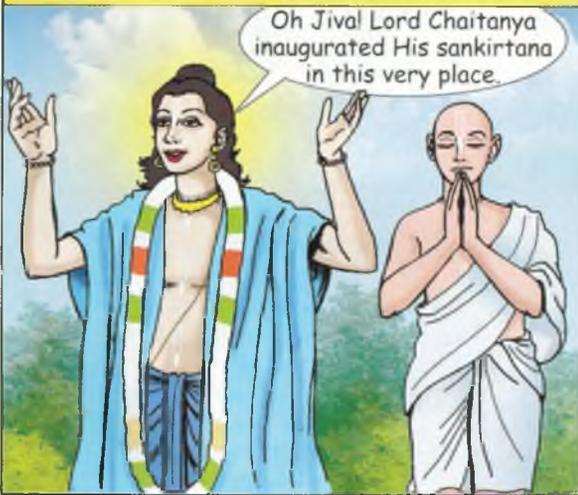


Srivasa Angan

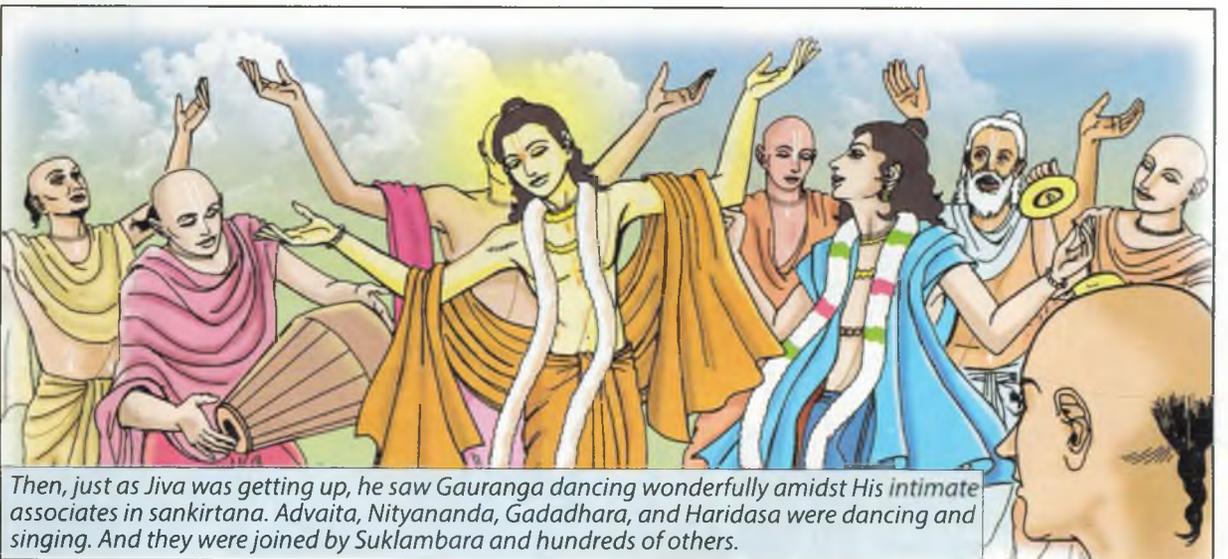


After visiting the house of Jagannatha Misra (Yogapitha), Lord Nityananda took Jiva to the house of Srivasa Thakura (Srivasa Angan).

With a joyful mind, Nityananda Prabhu showed this to Jiva.

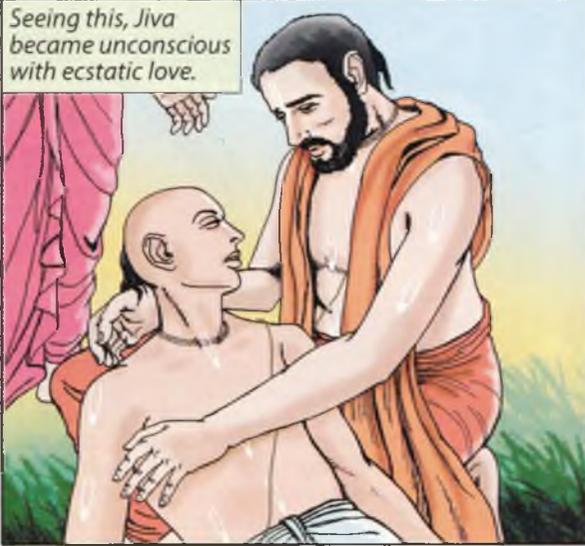


Jiva was agitated with love as he remembered the Lord's pastimes, and he rolled on the ground in Srivasa's courtyard.



Then, just as Jiva was getting up, he saw Gauranga dancing wonderfully amidst His intimate associates in sankirtana. Advaita, Nityananda, Gadadhara, and Haridasa were dancing and singing. And they were joined by Suklambara and hundreds of others.

Seeing this, Jiva became unconscious with ecstatic love.



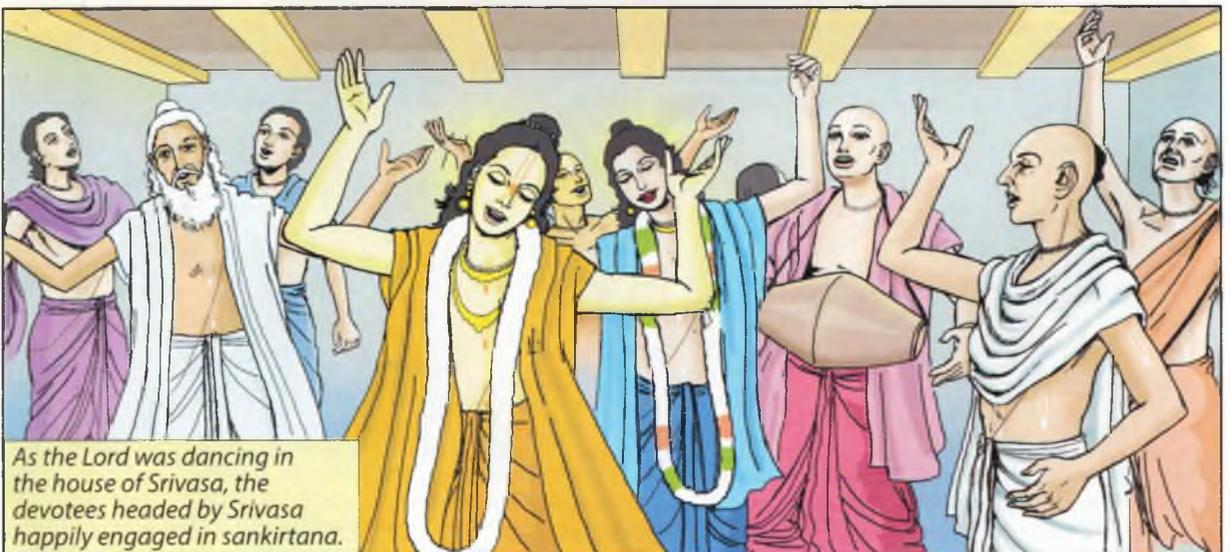
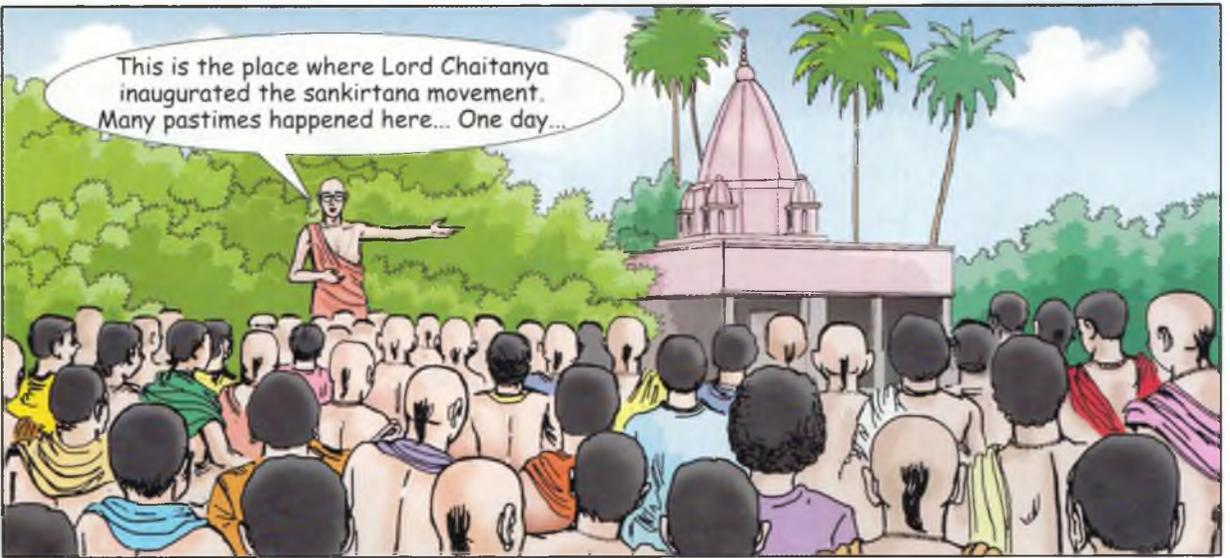
Regaining his consciousness, he could no longer see that pastime. Jiva Gosvami began to cry and lament.

Why couldn't I have taken birth a little earlier? I have not been fortunate enough to enjoy the bliss of such kirtana!

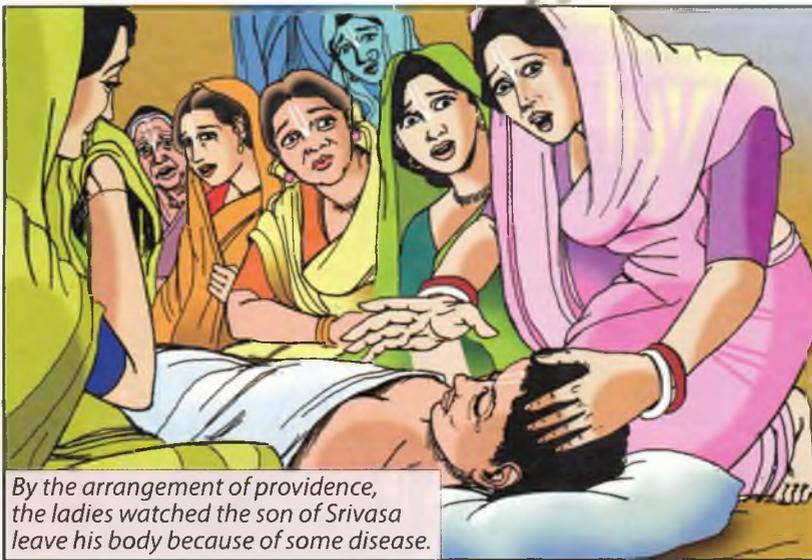


Nityananda's mercy is unlimited, however, for by His grace I have been fortunate for a moment's time. My wish is to stay here forever so that the troubles of material existence will go far away.

This is the place where Lord Chaitanya inaugurated the sankirtana movement. Many pastimes happened here... One day...

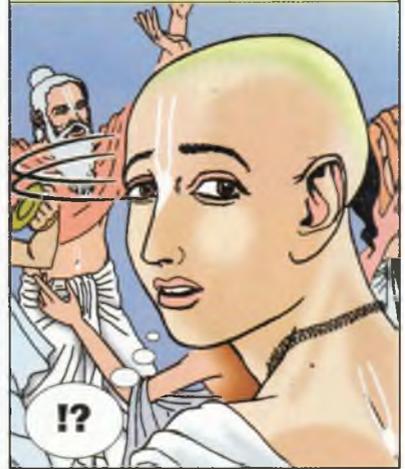


As the Lord was dancing in the house of Srivasa, the devotees headed by Srivasa happily engaged in sankirtana.

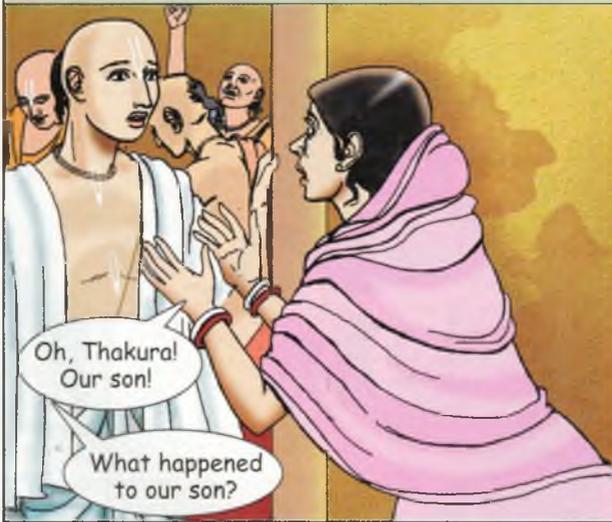


By the arrangement of providence, the ladies watched the son of Srivasa leave his body because of some disease.

As Sri Sacinandana was dancing in ecstasy, the sound of crying filled the house of Srivasa.

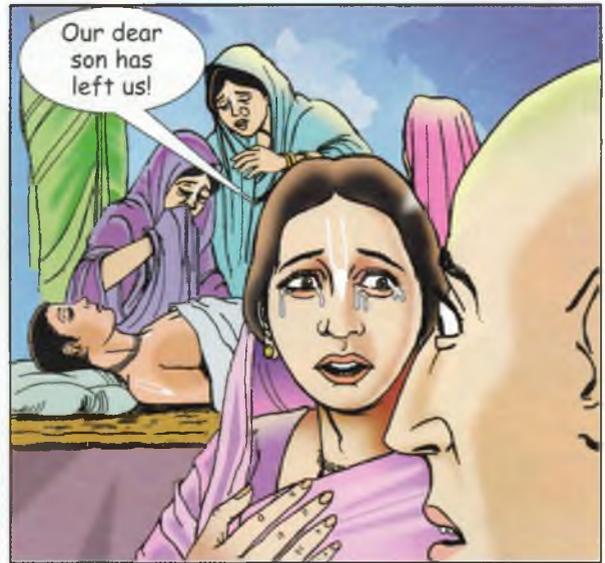


Srivasa therefore immediately went inside the room.



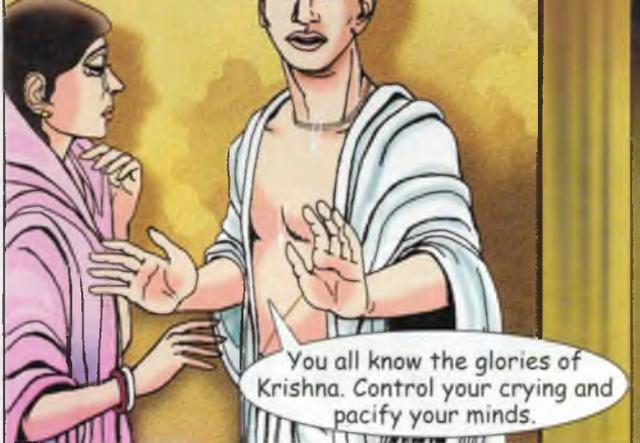
Oh, Thakura! Our son!

What happened to our son?



Our dear son has left us!

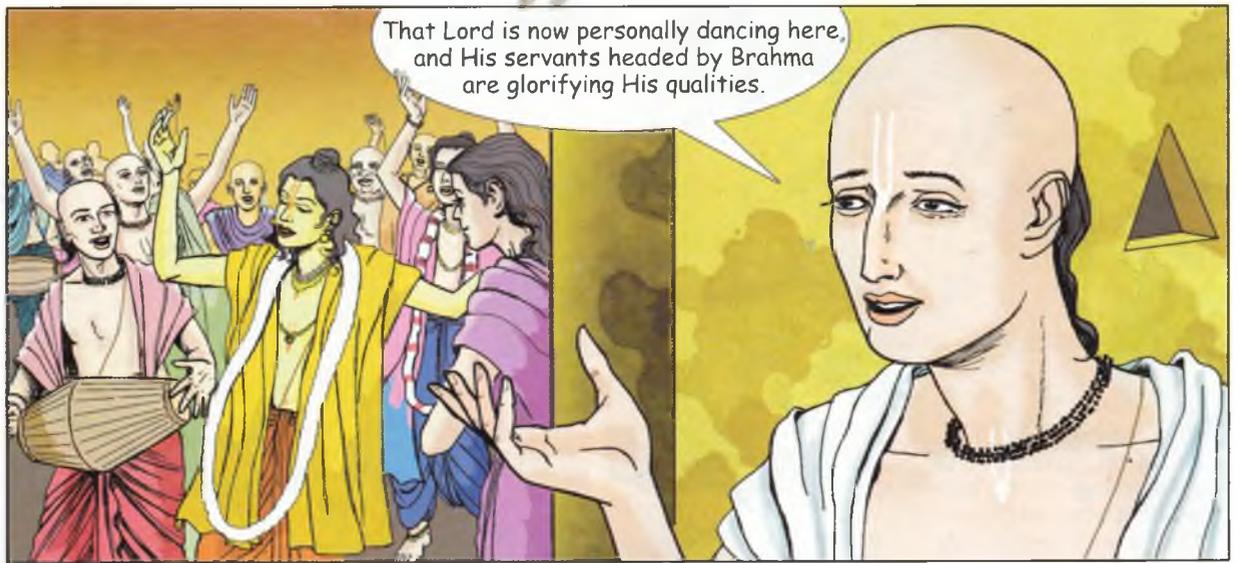
Being most sober and conversant with the intricacies of spiritual science, Srivasa began to solace the ladies.



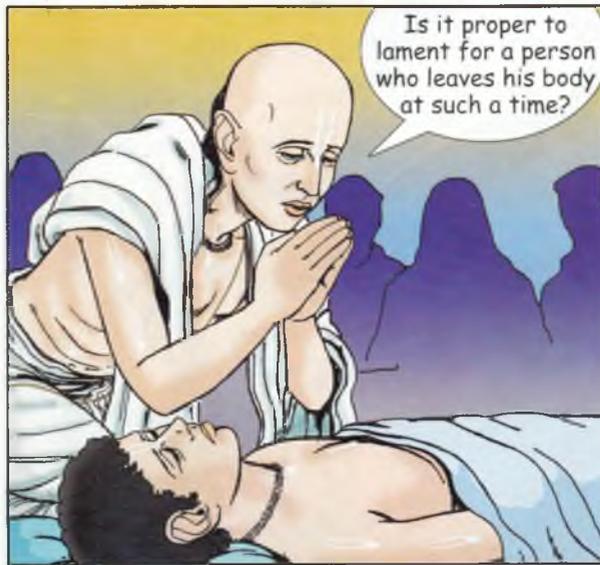
You all know the glories of Krishna. Control your crying and pacify your minds.

A person who even once hears the name of Krishna at the time of death attains the abode of Krishna, even if he is most sinful.





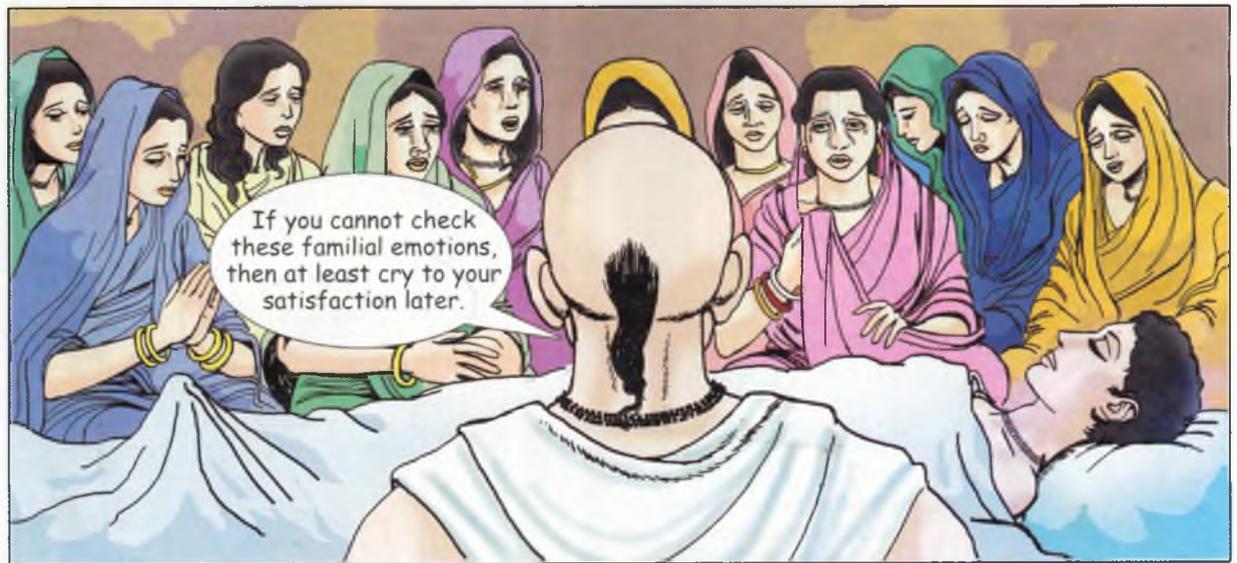
That Lord is now personally dancing here, and His servants headed by Brahma are glorifying His qualities.



Is it proper to lament for a person who leaves his body at such a time?



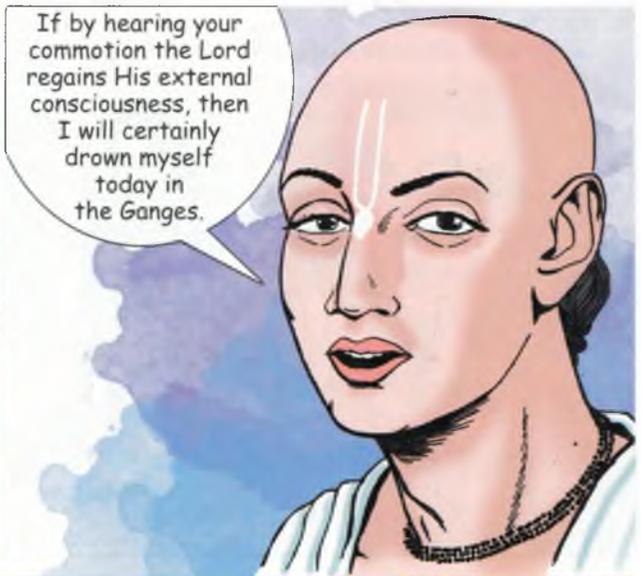
If I can ever become as fortunate as this child, I will consider my life successful.



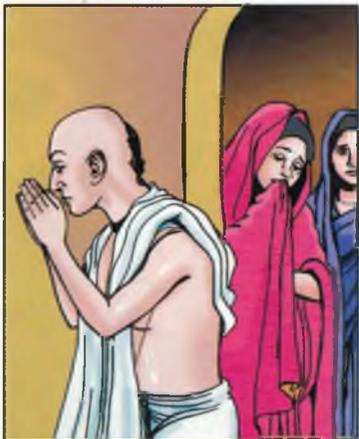
If you cannot check these familial emotions, then at least cry to your satisfaction later.



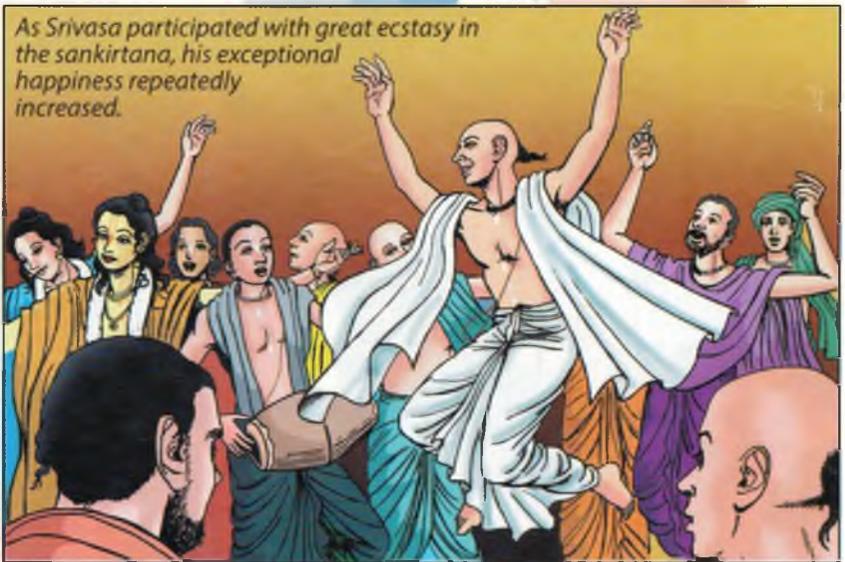
Don't let anyone else hear about this incident, otherwise the Lord's happiness from dancing will be disturbed.



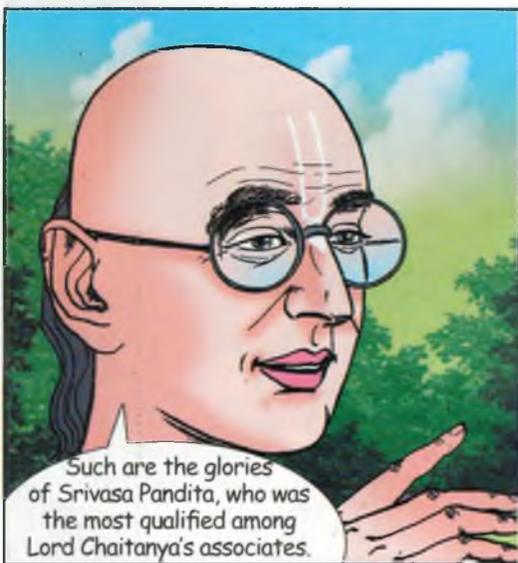
If by hearing your commotion the Lord regains His external consciousness, then I will certainly drown myself today in the Ganges.



After hearing Srivasa's words, the ladies became pacified. Srivasa then returned to the Lord's sankirtana.



As Srivasa participated with great ecstasy in the sankirtana, his exceptional happiness repeatedly increased.



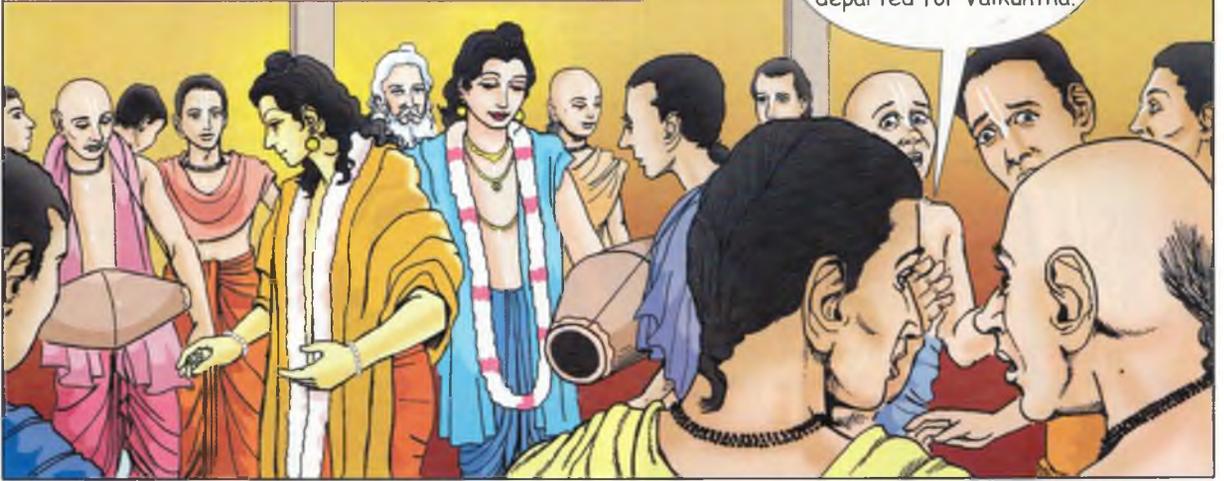
Such are the glories of Srivasa Pandita, who was the most qualified among Lord Chaitanya's associates.



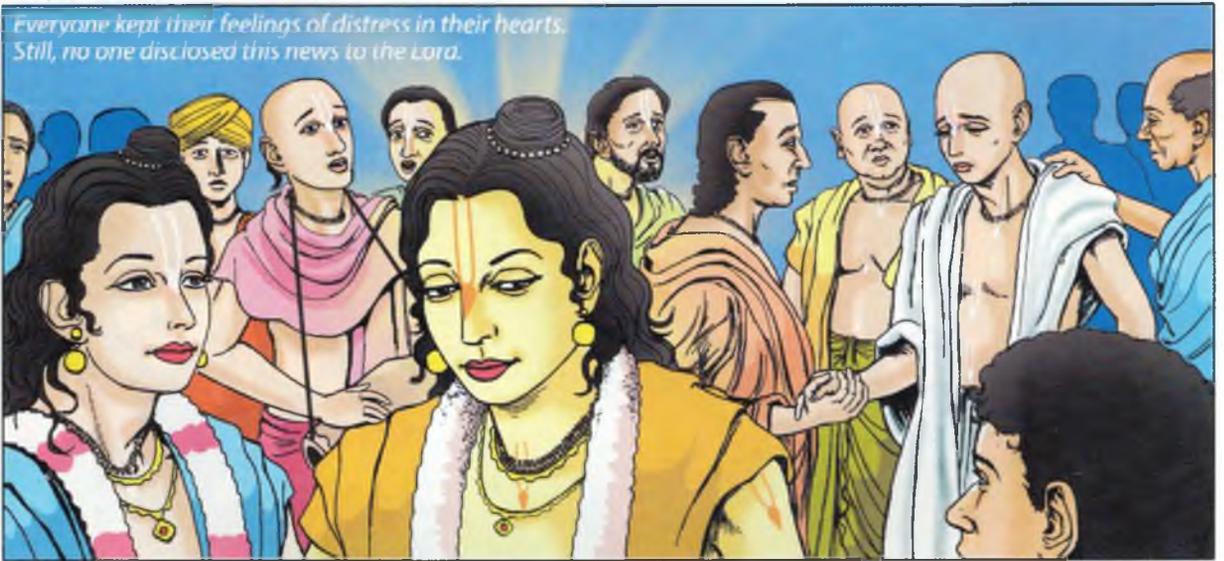
Gaurachandra danced in His own ecstatic mood.

After some time He and the devotees stopped the kirtana. Gradually word spread among the devotees...

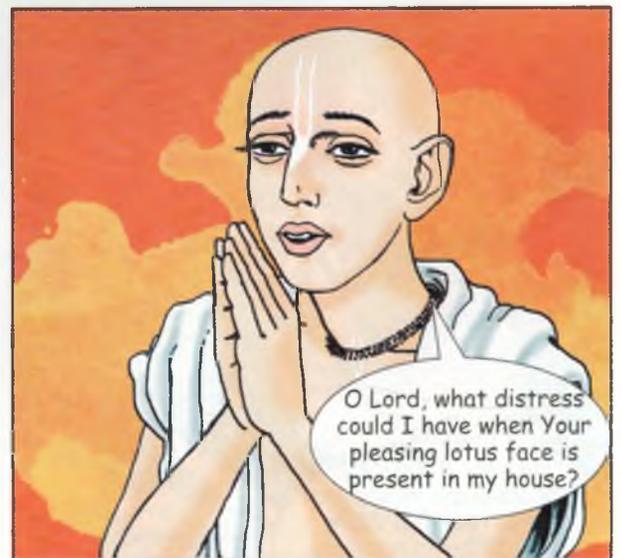
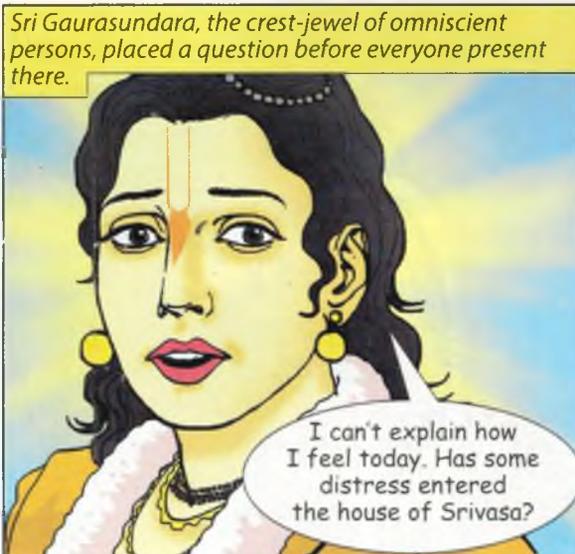
Do you know!
Srivasa Pandita's son had
departed for Vaikuntha.

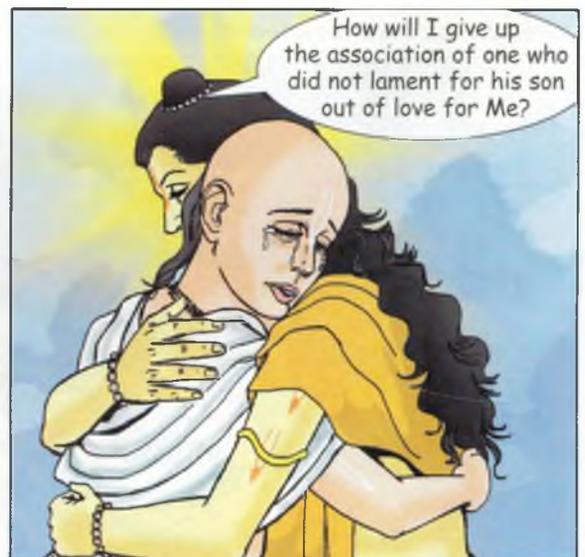
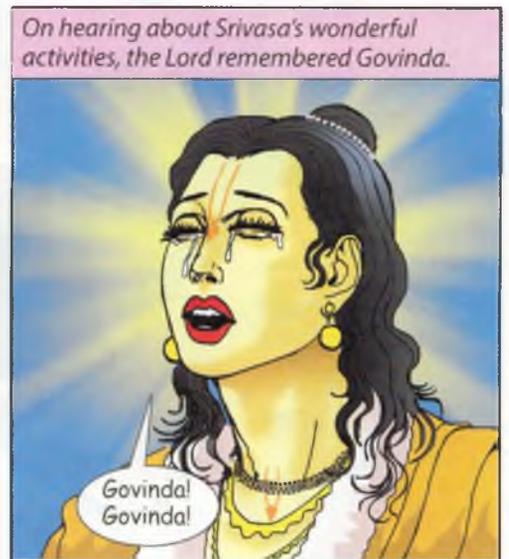
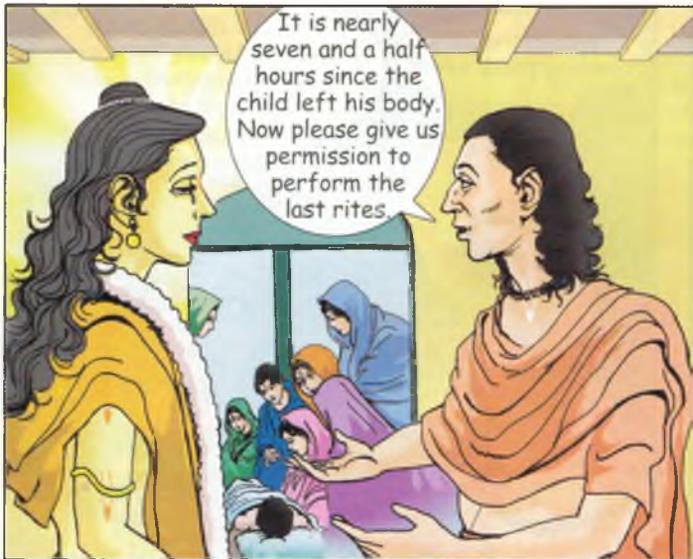
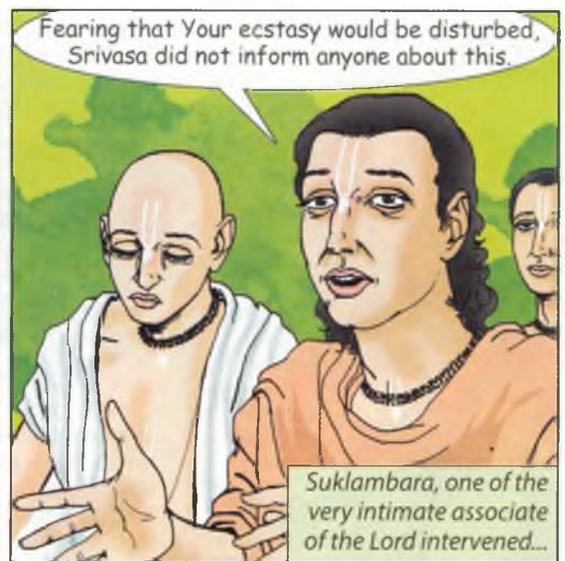
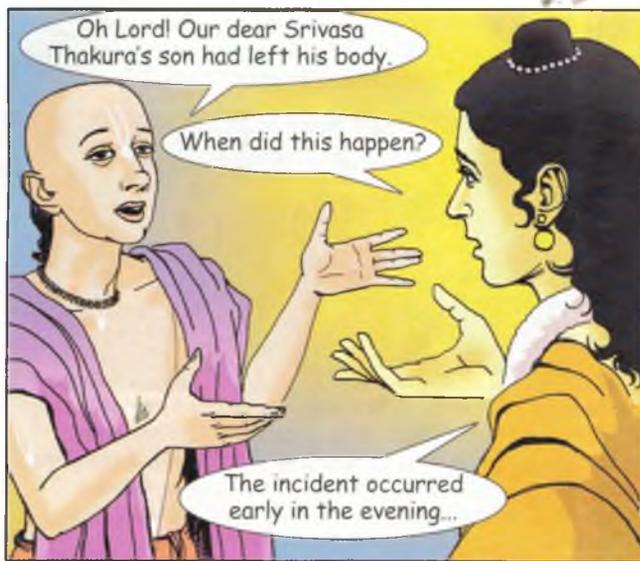


Everyone kept their feelings of distress in their hearts. Still, no one disclosed this news to the Lord.



Sri Gaurasundara, the crest-jewel of omniscient persons, placed a question before everyone present there.

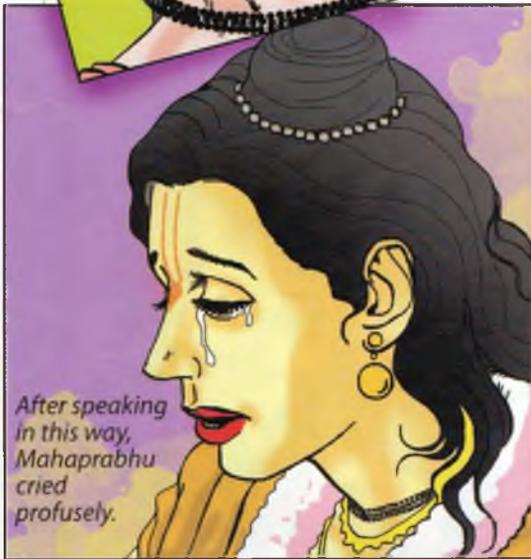




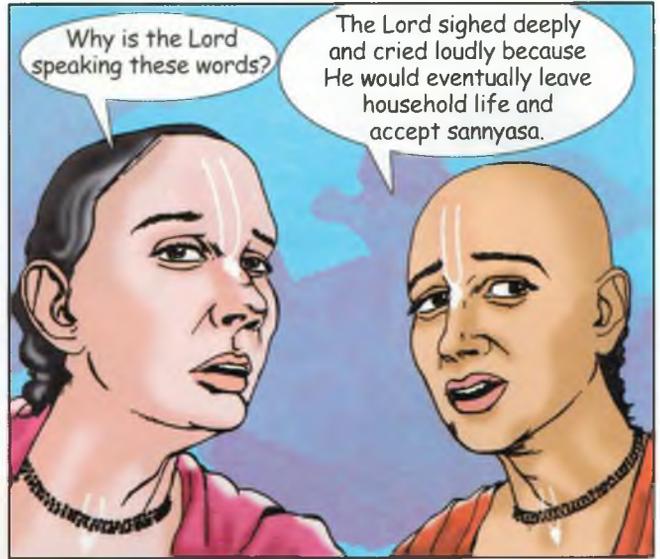
Householders become disturbed with lamentation when a calamity occurs in their family. Yet even the lamentation arising out of a householder's separation from his most beloved child could not bewilder Srivasa because he was in the association of the Supreme Lord.



Therefore the devotees of the Lord are not considered products of matter or counted among ordinary people. There is no possibility for one who is totally intoxicated with love for Krishna to have love for objects not related to Krishna. On seeing the unique example of love exhibited by Srivasa Pandita, the foremost of Sri Gaurasundara's friends in Navadvipa, the Lord had no desire to leave his association and go anywhere else.



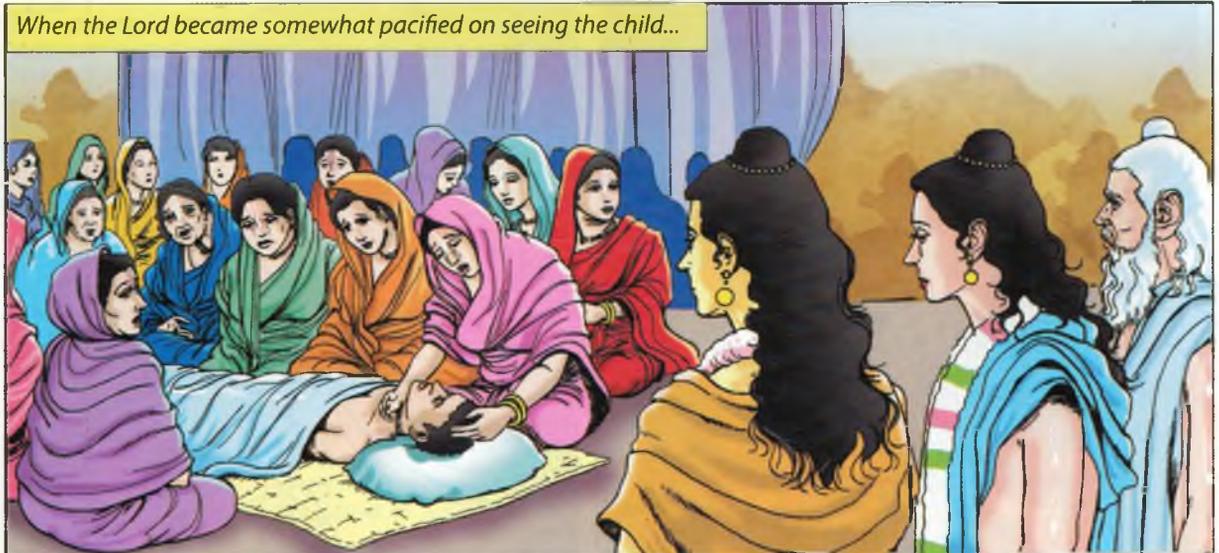
After speaking in this way, Mahaprabhu cried profusely.

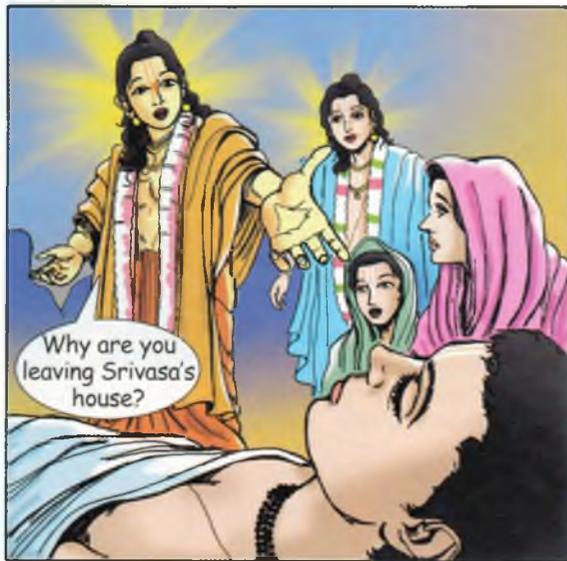


Why is the Lord speaking these words?

The Lord sighed deeply and cried loudly because He would eventually leave household life and accept sannyasa.

When the Lord became somewhat pacified on seeing the child...

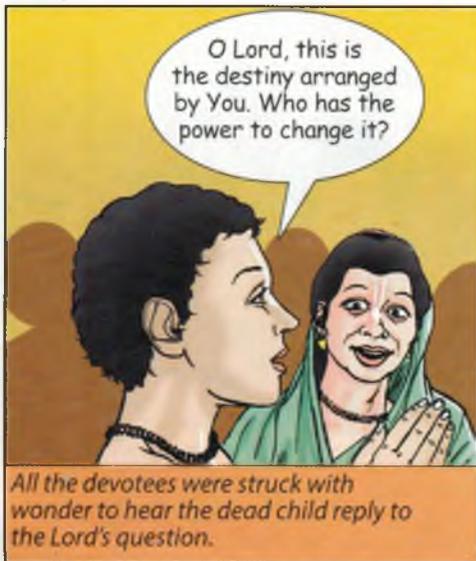




Why are you leaving Srivasa's house?



Immediately the dead son got up and sat down...

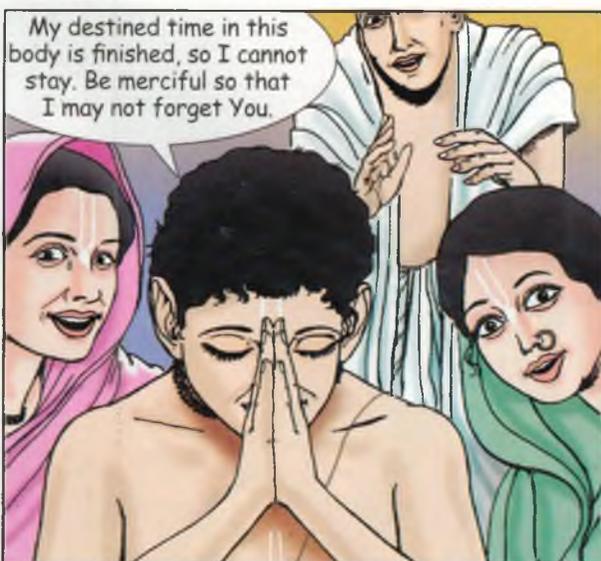


O Lord, this is the destiny arranged by You. Who has the power to change it?

All the devotees were struck with wonder to hear the dead child reply to the Lord's question.



I stayed and enjoyed as long as I was destined to live in this body.

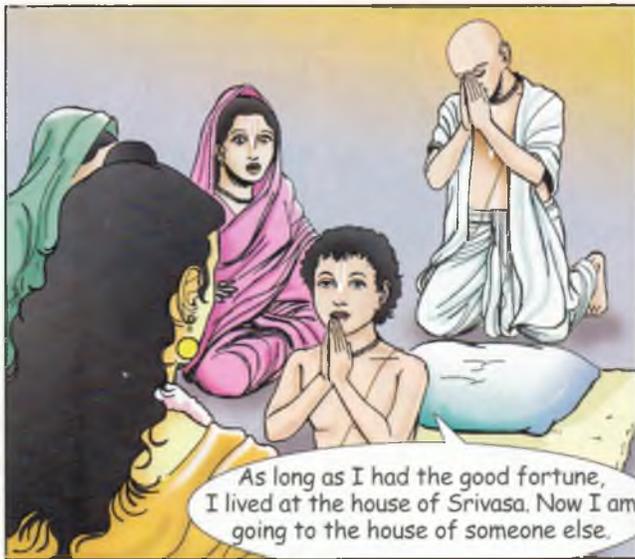


My destined time in this body is finished, so I cannot stay. Be merciful so that I may not forget You.

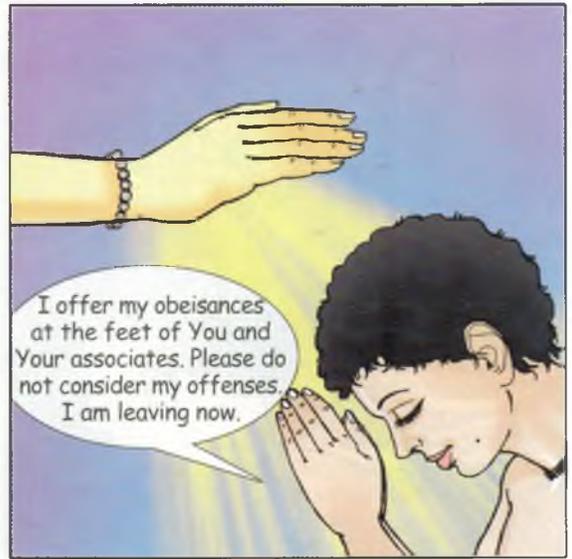


My dear son!

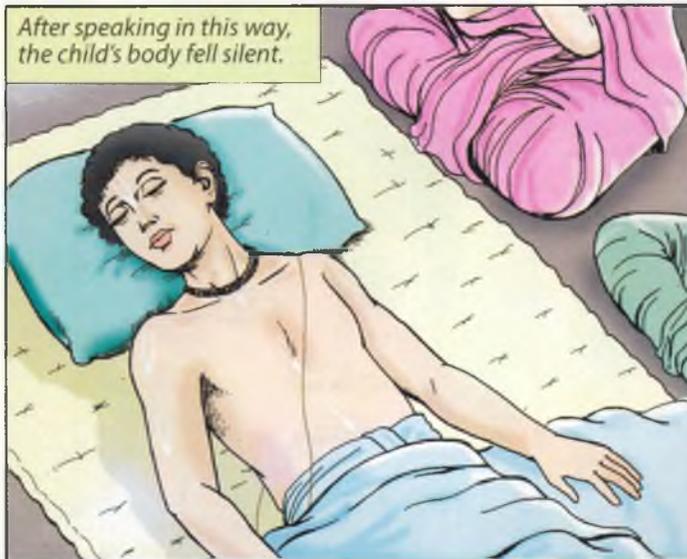
O Lord, who is anyone's father and who is anyone's son? Everyone enjoys the fruits of his own karma.



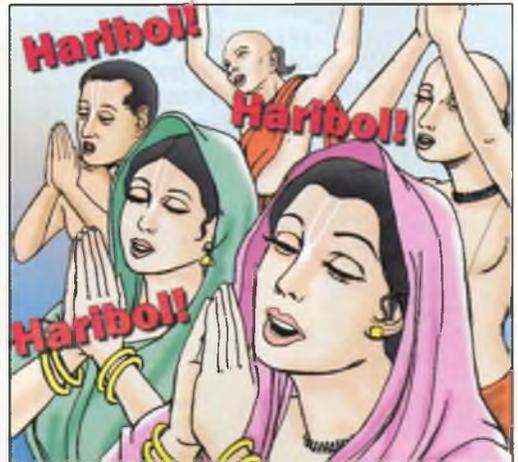
As long as I had the good fortune, I lived at the house of Srivasa. Now I am going to the house of someone else.



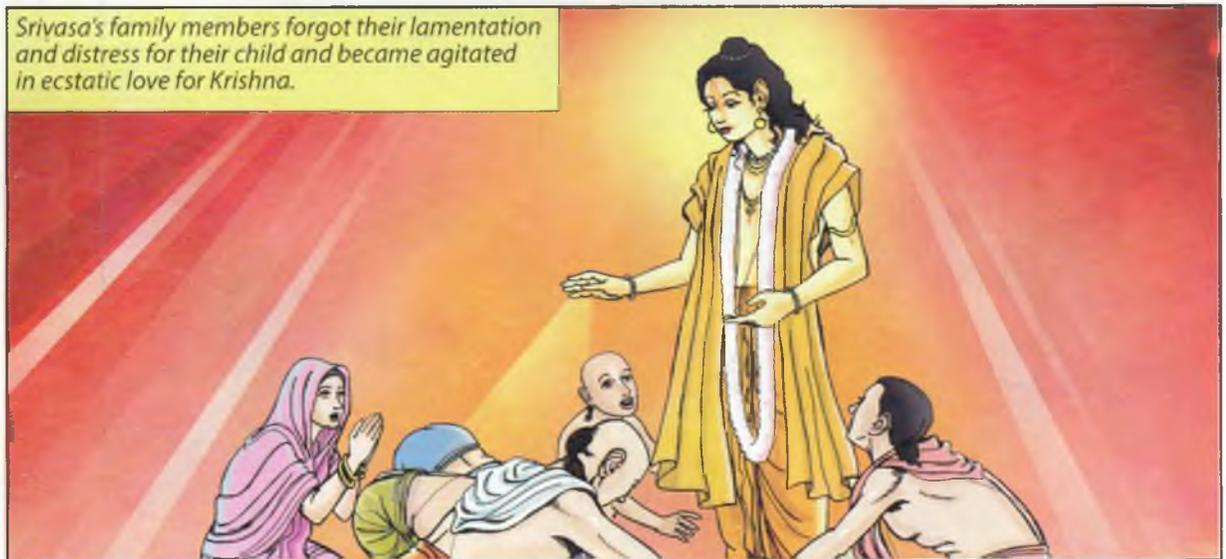
I offer my obeisances at the feet of You and Your associates. Please do not consider my offenses. I am leaving now.



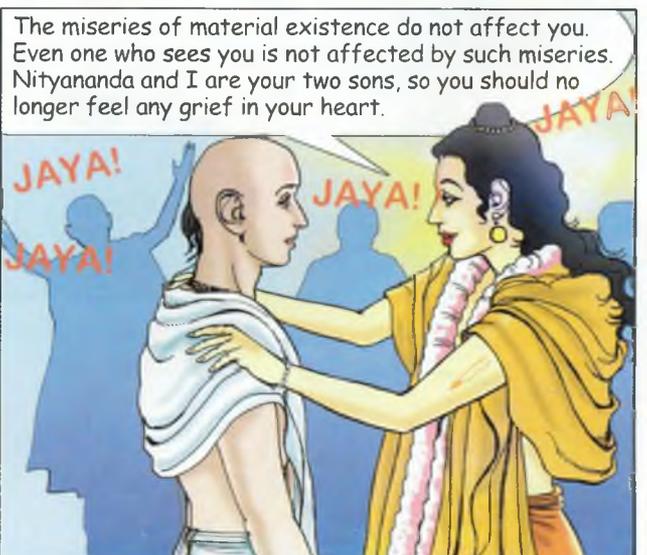
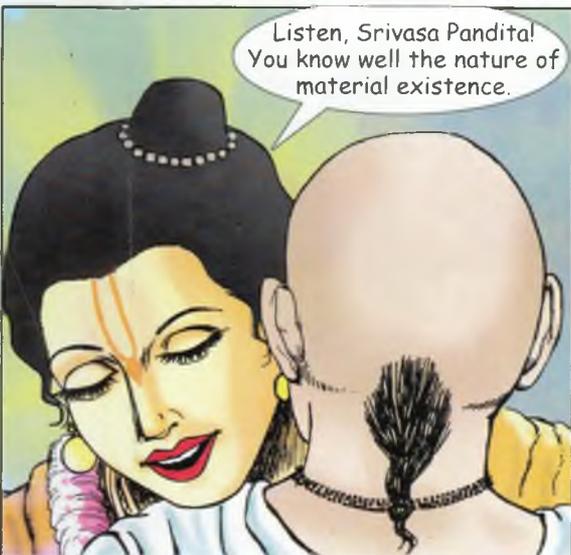
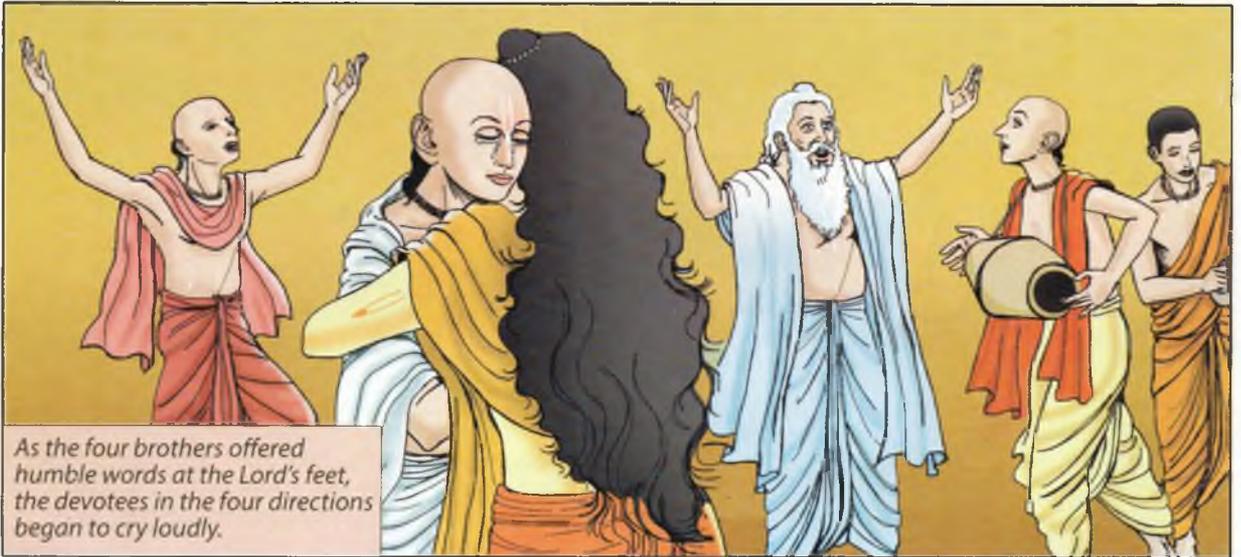
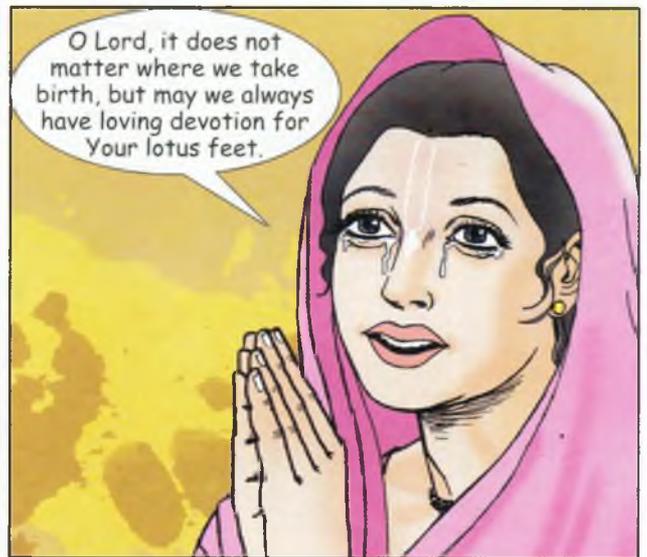
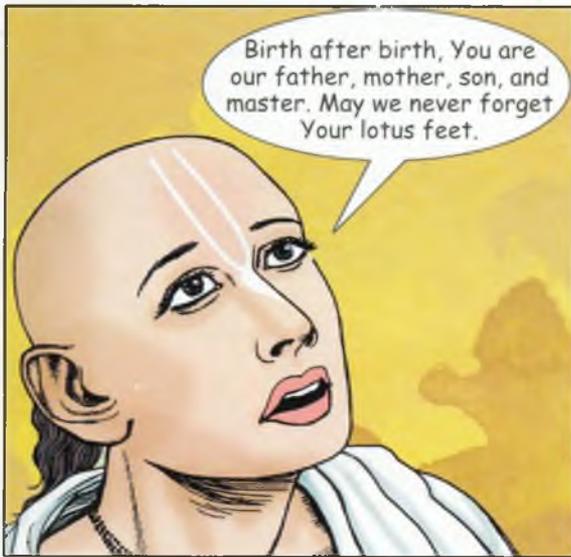
After speaking in this way, the child's body fell silent.



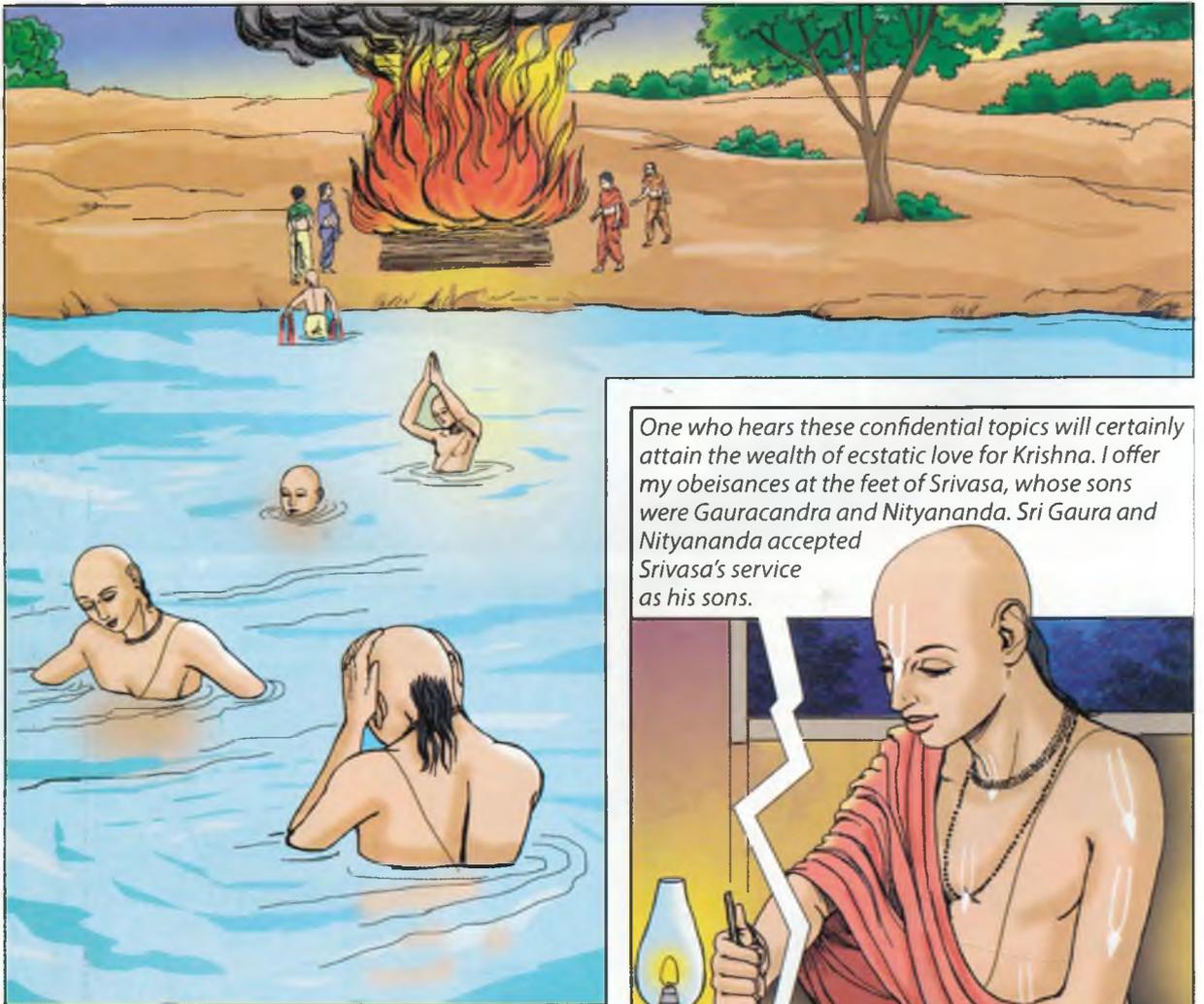
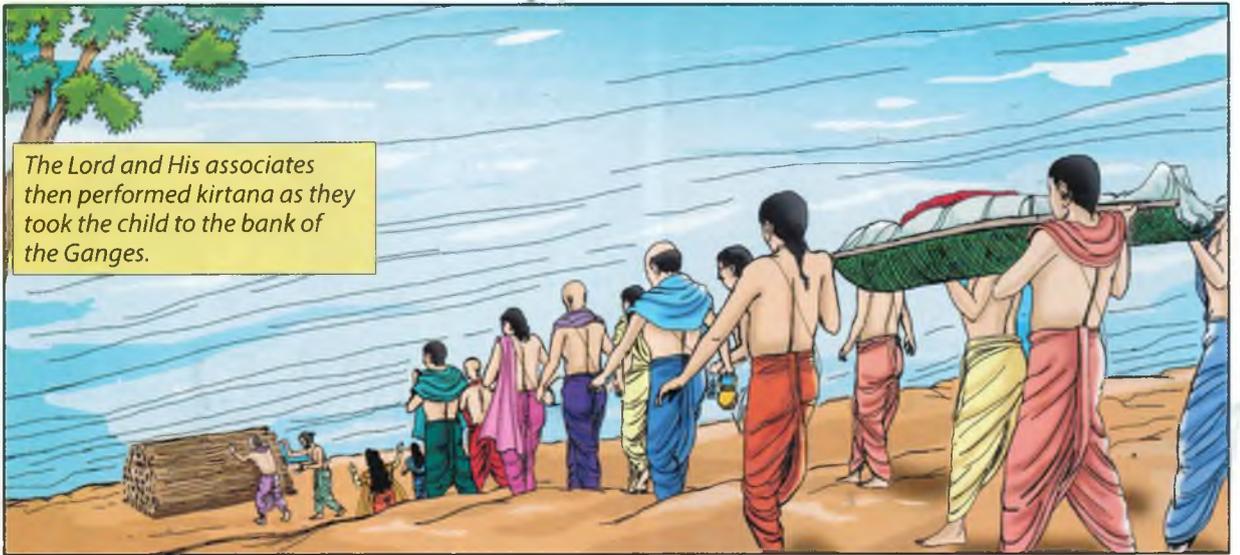
After hearing those extraordinary topics from the mouth of the dead child, the devotees all floated in an ocean of bliss.



Srivasa's family members forgot their lamentation and distress for their child and became agitated in ecstatic love for Krishna.



The Lord and His associates then performed kirtana as they took the child to the bank of the Ganges.



One who hears these confidential topics will certainly attain the wealth of ecstatic love for Krishna. I offer my obeisances at the feet of Srivasa, whose sons were Gauracandra and Nityananda. Sri Gaura and Nityananda accepted Srivasa's service as his sons.



After performing the appropriate rituals they took bath in the Ganges.

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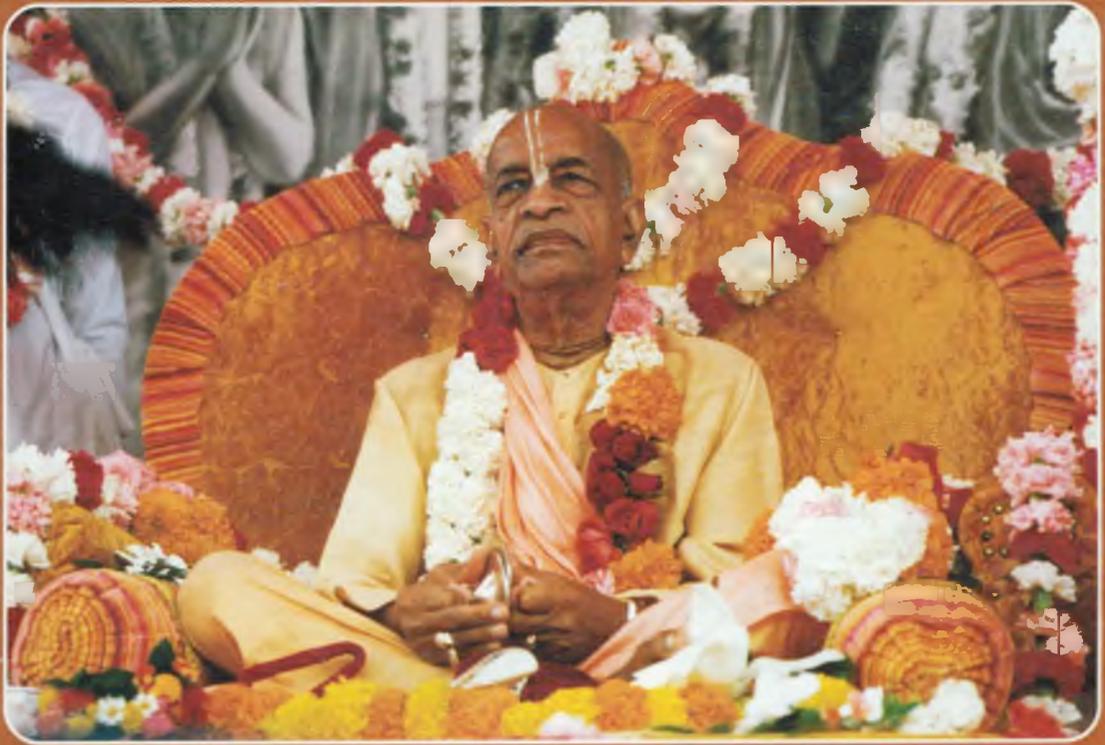
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The members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness should go to India during the birthday ceremony of Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu at Mayapur and perform sankirtana congregationally. This will attract the attention of all the important personalities in India, just as the beauty, bodily luster and sankirtana performance by the associates of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu attracted the attention of Maharaja Prataparudra.

Caitanya-caritamrita Madhya 11.96 purport
- His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

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