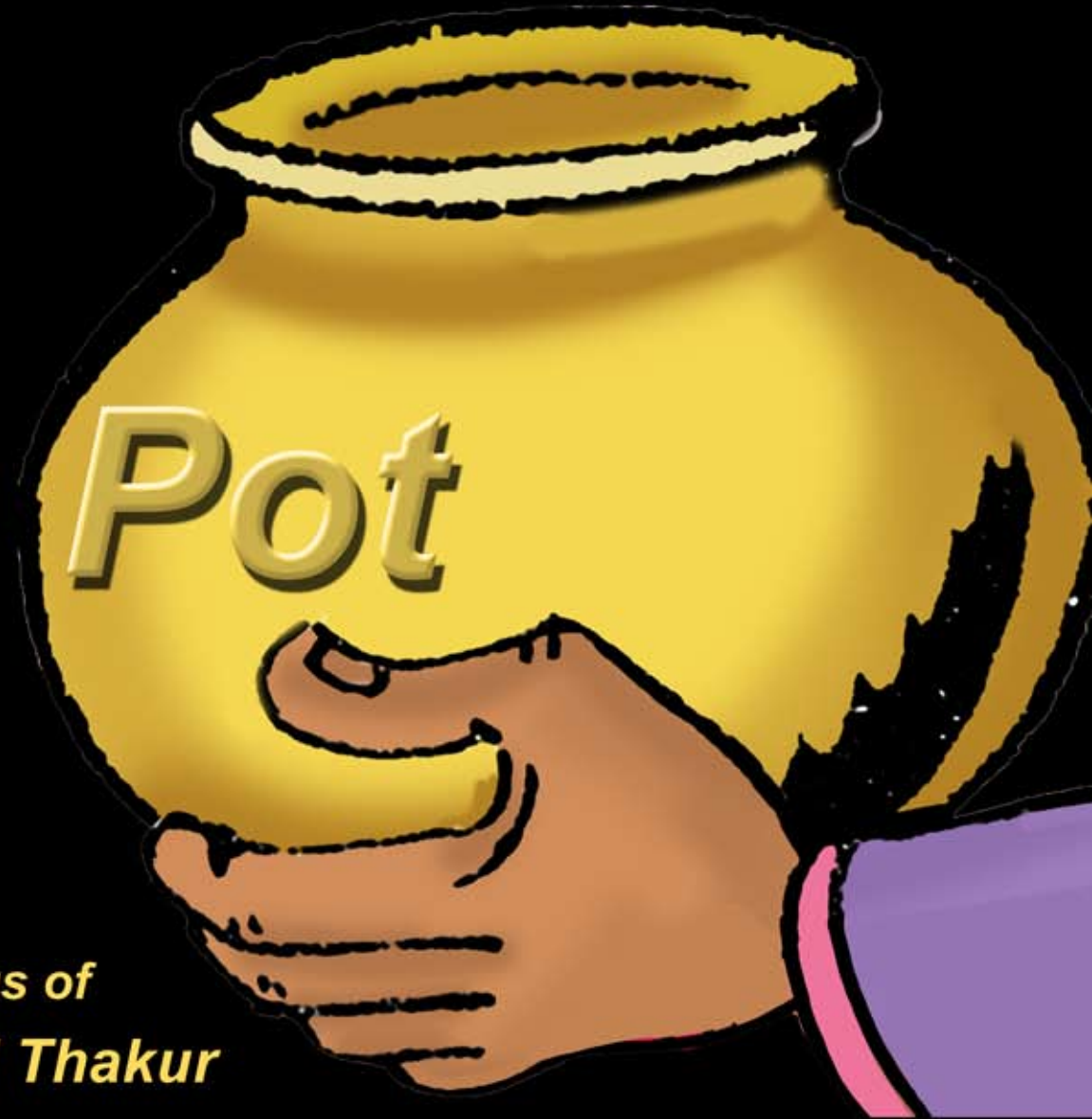


Golden Stone Pot

*Instructive Stories from teachings of
Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*



Once the king called upon a goldsmith.



I desire to have a golden pot made of gold. Please take this pure gold and make the pot without mixing it with any other metal.

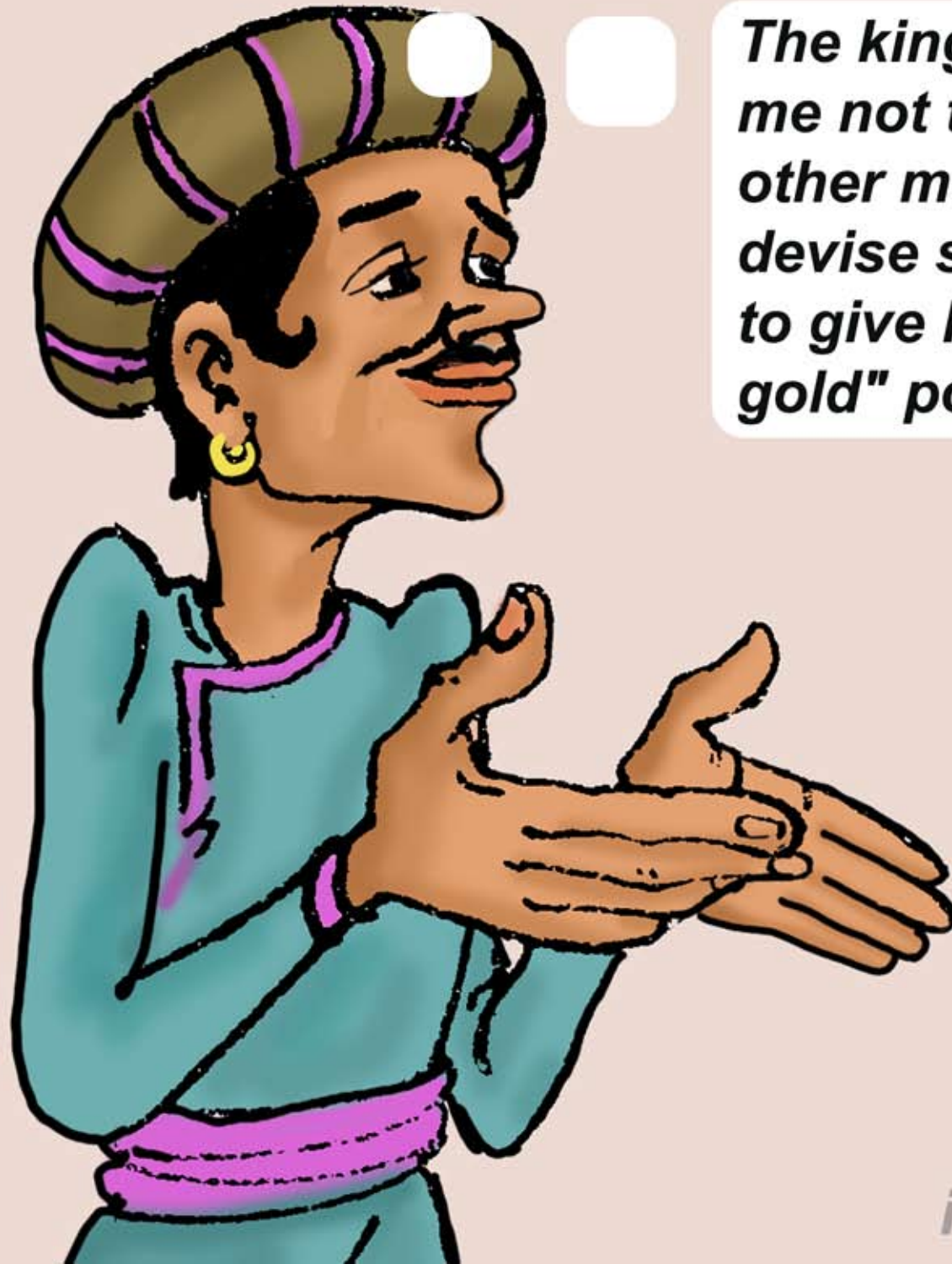


Surely my Lord. I will make a golden pot for you without mixing it with any other metal. I will maintain the purity of gold.

*Thus the Goldsmith
was tempted to steal*

*Ah! My wife
always wanted
gold ornaments.
Surely I will
make a "golden"
pot for the king.*





The king has asked me not to mix any other metal. I have to devise some method to give him "pure gold" pot.

*Thus he devised a plan.
He took a stone pot...*



*..and covered it with
a thin film of pure
gold.*





Ah! I have saved so much gold. I shall use this for making my wife's ornaments

My dear king. I have made your Golden pot. I have not mixed any metal with gold The gold is pure as you desired



**What is this thing
that you have
brought ? There
is something
wrong**



My lord! This indeed is pure gold. This is a "golden" stone pot.



PURPORT

Those who consider casteism among the Vaishnavas, classifying them as brahmana-Vaishnavas, ksatriya-Vaishnavas, vaisya-Vaishnavas, sudra-Vaishnavas, or as chandala-Vaishnavas, simply indulge in a speculative inference as "golden" stone pot. Either one should be considered as `Vaishnava', or as brahmana, ksatriya, vaisya, or sudra. Either one should call it a `golden pot', or a `stone pot.' Mango-cake (amsatva) must be prepared from mango itself, and no one can call something `mango cake' if it is made of `jackfruit' (knathaler amsatva). Similarly, it would be wrong terminology to ascribe the quality of a sudra to a Vaishnava. Whenever one is accepted to be a `Vaishnava', then it is confirmed that he does not belong to any mundane social classification such as brahmana, ksatriya, vaisya, sudra or low-born chandala and the like, nor even Hindu or non-Hindu. Any terminology such as `Hindu-Vaishnava' or `Yavana-Vaishnava' is utterly absurd and also offensive.