

Gopala defeats the Digvijaya pandit

INSTRUCTIVE STORIES BY
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There is a story of Gopala Bhan



He was employed by king Krsnacandra, who lived about 300 years
in Bengal and Gopala was the joker.



Ha ha ha!

He was also very intelligent and very bold

Fantastic idea! You are brilliant!



There was a digvijaya pandita, who came to Bengal



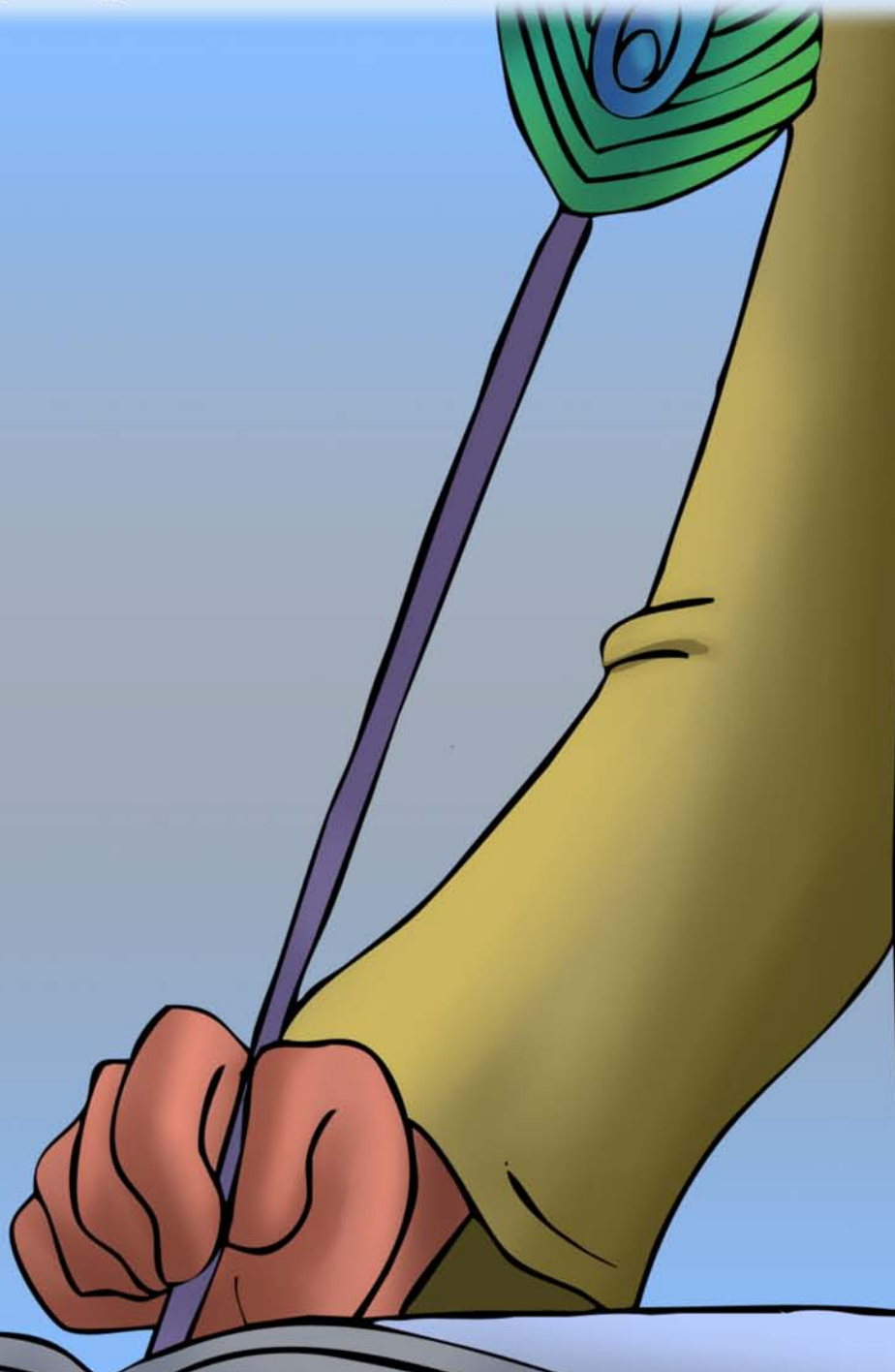
At that time, the main emperor of Bengal was a Muslim, but in some provinces there were also Hindu kings. Maharaja Krsnacandra was one such Hindu king, he was king in the area of Navadvipa



Digvijaya pandita had been going all over India defeating all the panditas...



...and getting it written down, "I have defeated this one... I have defeated that one..."



So he came to the muslim emperor and he made a very strong challenge



I am the great digvijaya pandita, I have come now to Bengal and I'm making a challenge. You bring your best pandita. I will defeat him.

What he expected was that whoever he defeated had to become his disciple



The muslim emperor turned to his adviser and said...

What should we do?




The minister replied...

Well, you know all our best
panditas are down in
Navadvipa.

So a message was sent to Maharaja Krsnacandra that a big pandita has come to the muslim emperor and given challenge





“Send your best panditas
and if I defeat them they
must become my disciples”

So it was very heavy for Maharaja Krsnacandra, because he knew, the muslim emperor is expecting panditas

It is all now on my shoulders

So then, together with his advisers, he decided to bring in the big panditas



They explained to the panditas what was going on



But all the panditas in Navadvipa said...

No. We're not getting involved in this



If we go there and he defeats us then it means we have to become his disciples and then our prestige will be diminished





So we'll just stay out of this

The king was very much worried because he was a kshatriya, he cannot force Brahmins to do his will. He can only ask and if they say no then he's in a helpless situation. So he was very worried



Then Gopala Bhan came in, and saw the king sitting there very morose






Hey king! What's wrong?




Oh Gopala,
look don't bother me now




Oh, come on,
what's the matter

The king was very sober




Look Gopala, we don't want to laugh now. We don't want to hear jokes. Please come back another day

A cartoon illustration of a man with a dark complexion, wearing a green turban with a gold circular ornament and a green tunic with a gold collar. He is pointing his right index finger upwards. A speech bubble above him contains the text "No no, why don't you just tell me?". The background features a blue patterned curtain and a purple wall. The style is simple with bold outlines and flat colors.

No no,
why don't you
just tell me?




All right



All right, then I will go



You?



Yes, I will go, I will
defeat this pandita.
No problem

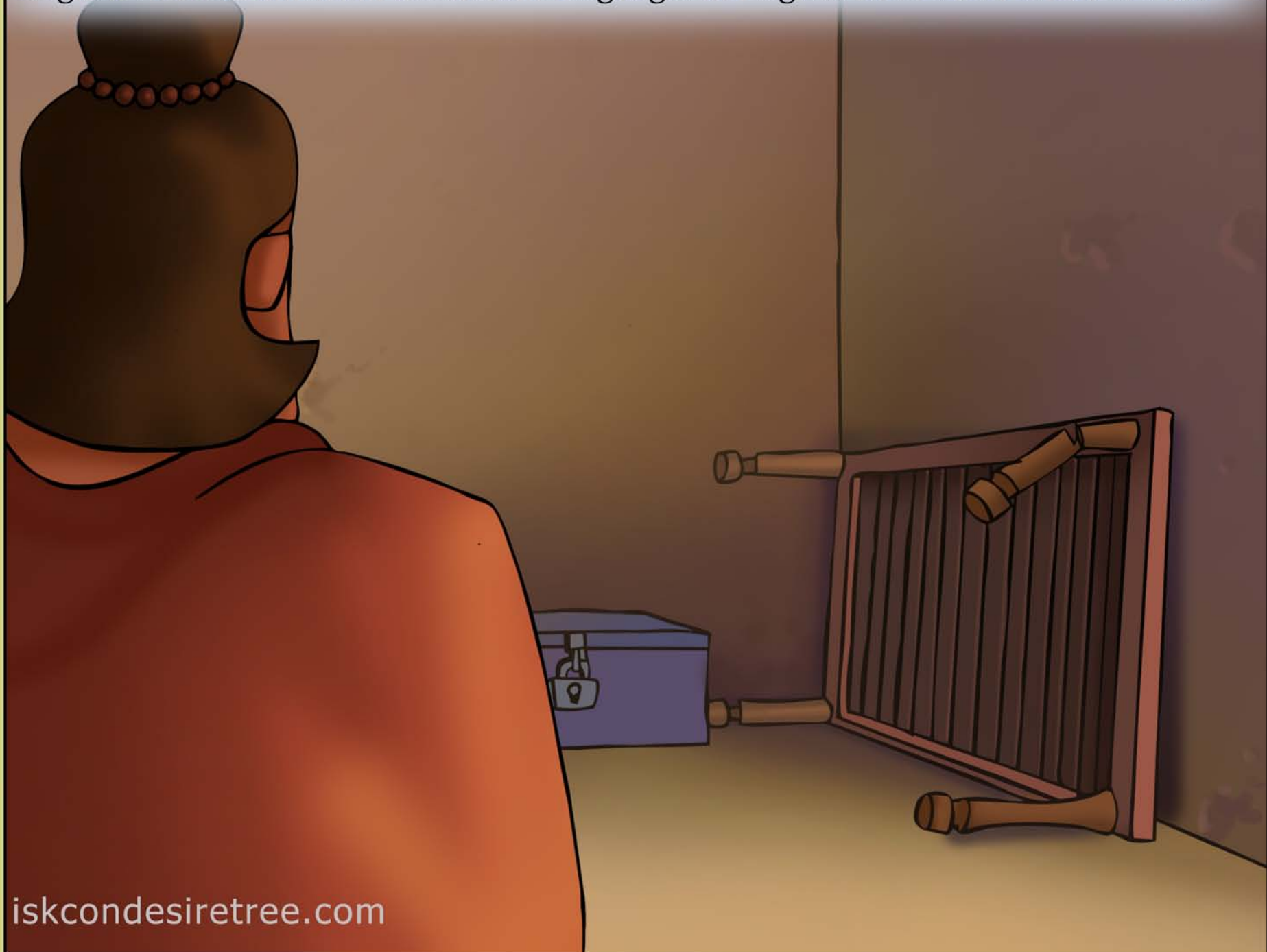
So then Gopala went home, and he dressed himself like a big Brahmin. Cut his hair with a big sikha, huge tilaka and a harinam chadar, looking very bonafide



And Brahmins carry their sastra in a roll, a scroll wrapped in silk cloth, under their arm. So he was looking for something to wrap up



He had in his house one old broken bed. So in Bengal these beds are strips of cloth which are woven together, like a deck chair and in Bengali they call such a bed a kata. English words come from the Indian language. In English such a bed is called a cot




So he took a leg from that old broken bed and he wrapped in cloth



He went back to the king and showed himself. Everyone was astonished






Wow, he looks like a
real heavy Brahmin.
He is really getting
into the role




What is this sastra?



This is my Khatvanga Purana.



But we never heard
of this sastra




When I will come
back, I will tell you

Gopala said and then he left. Actually khata means bed, anga means part of or in this case the leg and purana means old. So it was an old leg of a bed or Khatvanga Purana. So this was his sastra.




Then he went to the emperors palace....






Oh, what
great pandita is this?



My name is Gopala Bhan
Das Pandit Maharaja. I have
been sent by the king Maharaja
Krsnacandra to defeat this
so-called Digvijaya



I am master of the four Vedas
and especially my field of expertise
is the Jyotir-Veda which includes
astrology.

He was speaking very confidently and looking very fearless

Everyone was very impressed



And even Digvijaya pandita was thinking

He's not at all afraid of me. He must be a heavy one.



So the Digvijaya pandita saw this scripture that Gopala was carrying



What is this scripture,
may I ask?



Gopala replied...

Its my Khatvanga Purana,
of which I am a master



Wait a minute, I've
heard of Visnu Purana,
Skanda Purana





May I see this?

Then Gopal Bhan exclaimed


Oh!

He was looking into the sky and gazing






Ohhh!
I have just noticed the angle
of the sun and I am remembering
now the date today. We have just
now entered a most auspicious
moment, according to the
Jyotir-Veda



Anybody who takes a hair from the head of this pandita, will immediately be granted with long life and wealth in this lifetime and liberation in the next



All auspicious result
will come in this life and the next,
simply by taking a hair from such
a great digvijaya pandita as him

So then immediately everyone in the court ran and was taking hairs from the pandita



The pandita was being driven crazy and they were taking from his head, beard and everywhere




He went running and they were all chasing him. He was gone



Gopala Bhan returned to Navadvipa





Don't worry King,
he is gone. That pandita has
run off. He's completely
defeated, completely
finished

Oh! How did you do this?
Please tell us secret of katvanga
purana




And when he opened it he showed a leg of a bed and everyone was astonished



Then he explained the story and they could all understand that he had just played a big joke, that's all




Then they asked him...



How is it that you could go so confidently, so boldly into that courtyard of the muslim emperor, simply dressed up like a brahmin and carrying an old bed leg under your arm. How were you so sure that you could defeat him just by a trick?




As soon as I heard that this pandita was going to the muslim king and declaring that he is a great learned scholar and that he would defeat any other scholar, then I knew that he must have been a fool. He must have actually been a kind of rascal because what do muslims know about Vedic learning



Why did he go to the muslim,
why didn't he come down here or
go to another Hindu king



He was going to the muslim king, so I knew that he was a rascal, trying to make a big show



So I did not think I had
anything to fear when
I went there

MORAL :

The digvijaya pandita was just actually a rascal, which means not really one who's situated on the platform of knowledge, just someone who's trying to gain some name and fame. That's a rascal. Rascals can be defeated by rascal means.

- Srila Prabhupada