



Kastvam Kastvam

*Instructive Stories from teachings of
Srla Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*

***Once in a village there was a
community of pundits.***





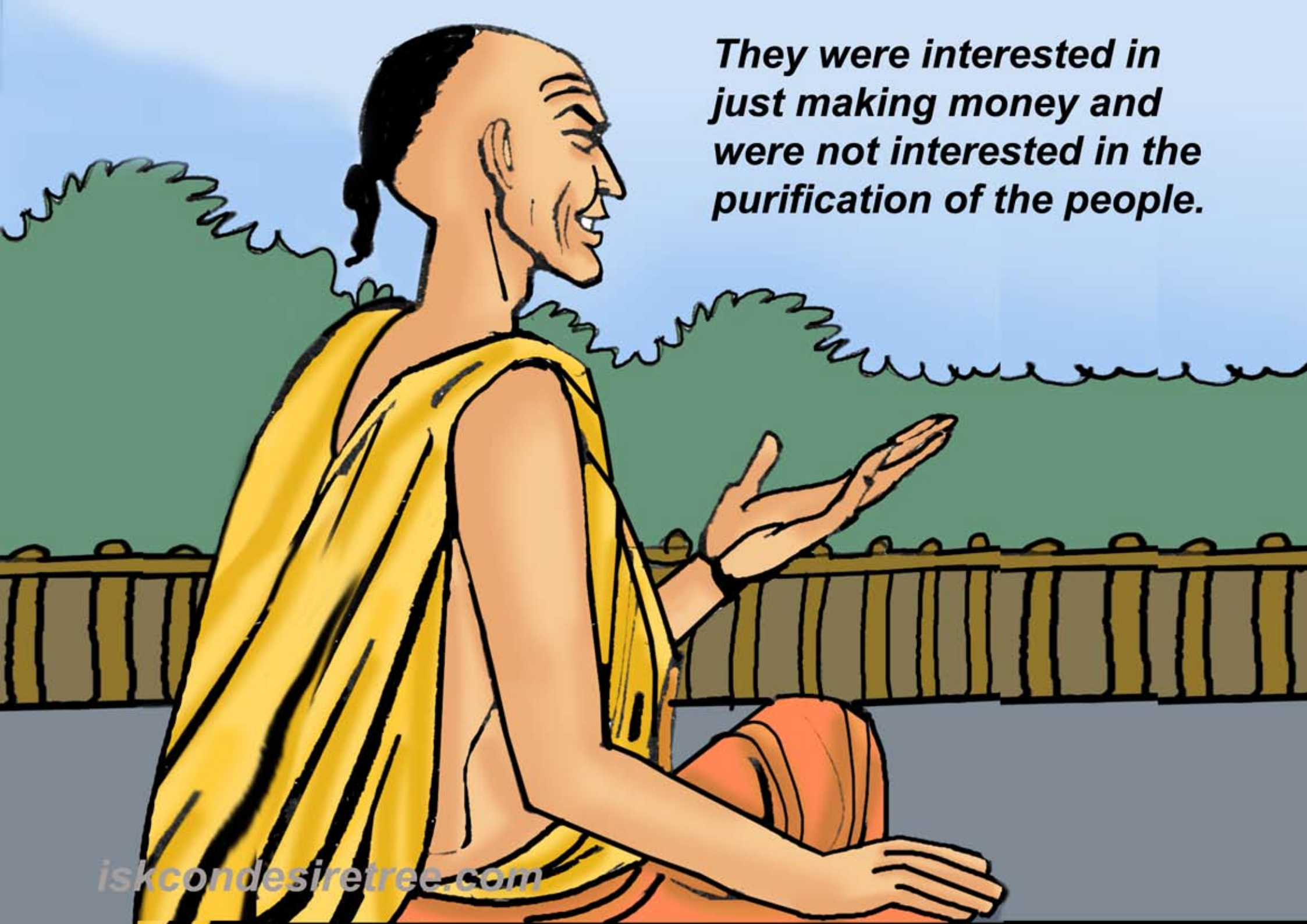
***They were very proud
of their birth.***

***Scholarly persons
like us are very
rare in this world,
because our
bloodstream
carries the
heritage of culture
and the expertise
of many ancient
pundits.***

To earn their living they would go to householders to worship their deities. They would often chant mantras inaccurately. To save their time, they would chant in short form.



They were interested in just making money and were not interested in the purification of the people.





However, they were pundits only by birth. They would waste their time playing cards, dice, chess, etc instead of learning sanskrit & imparting the knowledge of absolute truth to others.



Once a virtuous villager who had been observing these pundits misusing their position thought of correcting them.....

I shall invite a truly erudite sanskrit scholar from another village with a view to smash the vain attitude of those so called pundits.

The newly invited pundit would preach about the absolute truth to the villagers in sanskrit very sincerely. Slowly his knowledge started to influence the villagers.



The so called pundits by birth learned about the arrival of the scholar and felt threatened and nervous...

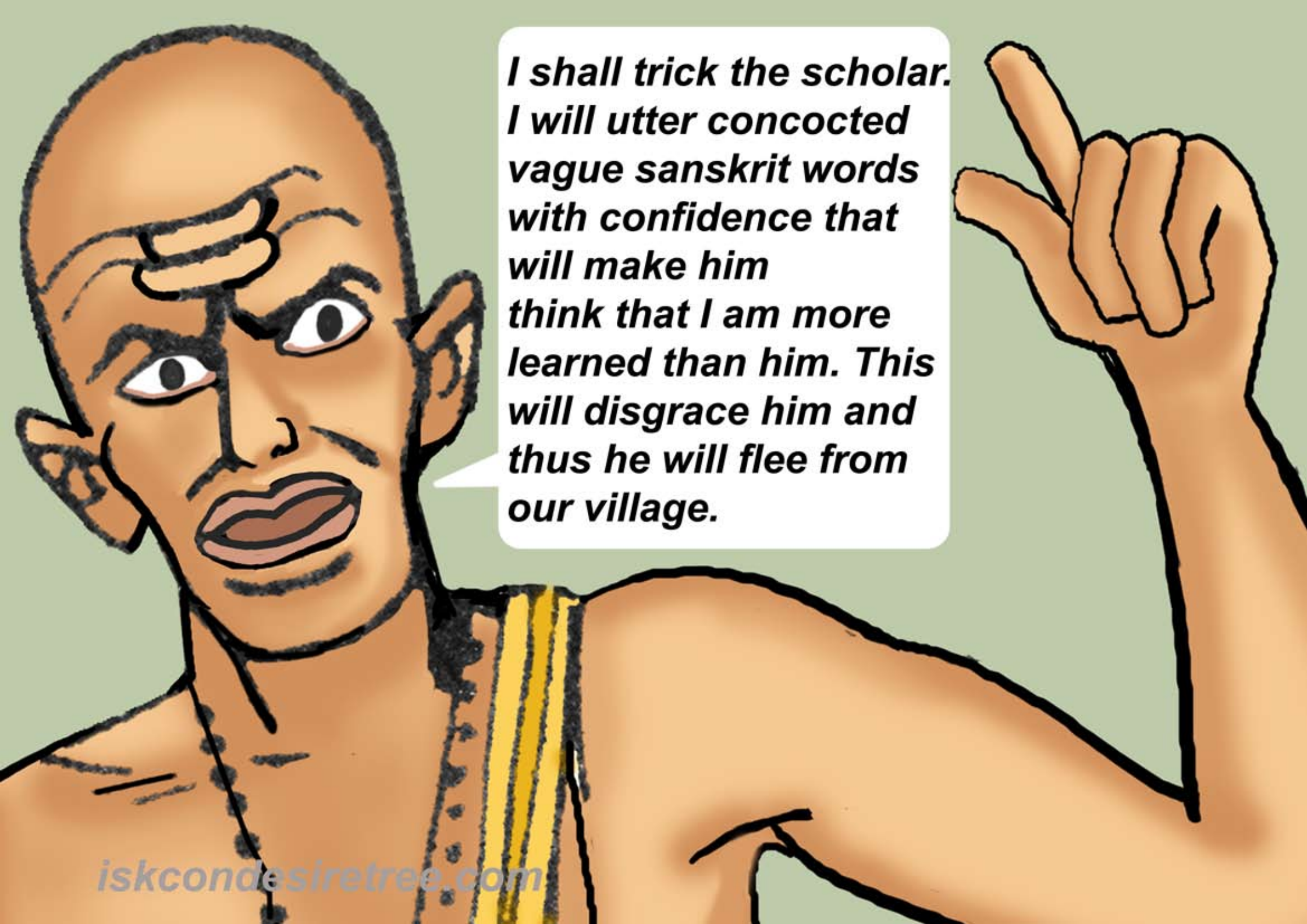
What shall we do to overcome this type of adverse situation?

We should invite this scholar for a debate with our leader Dada Thakur. He is can fool anyone.



Don't worry. With the heritage of our ancestors running in my blood, I will certainly defeat this newly-arrived pandita.

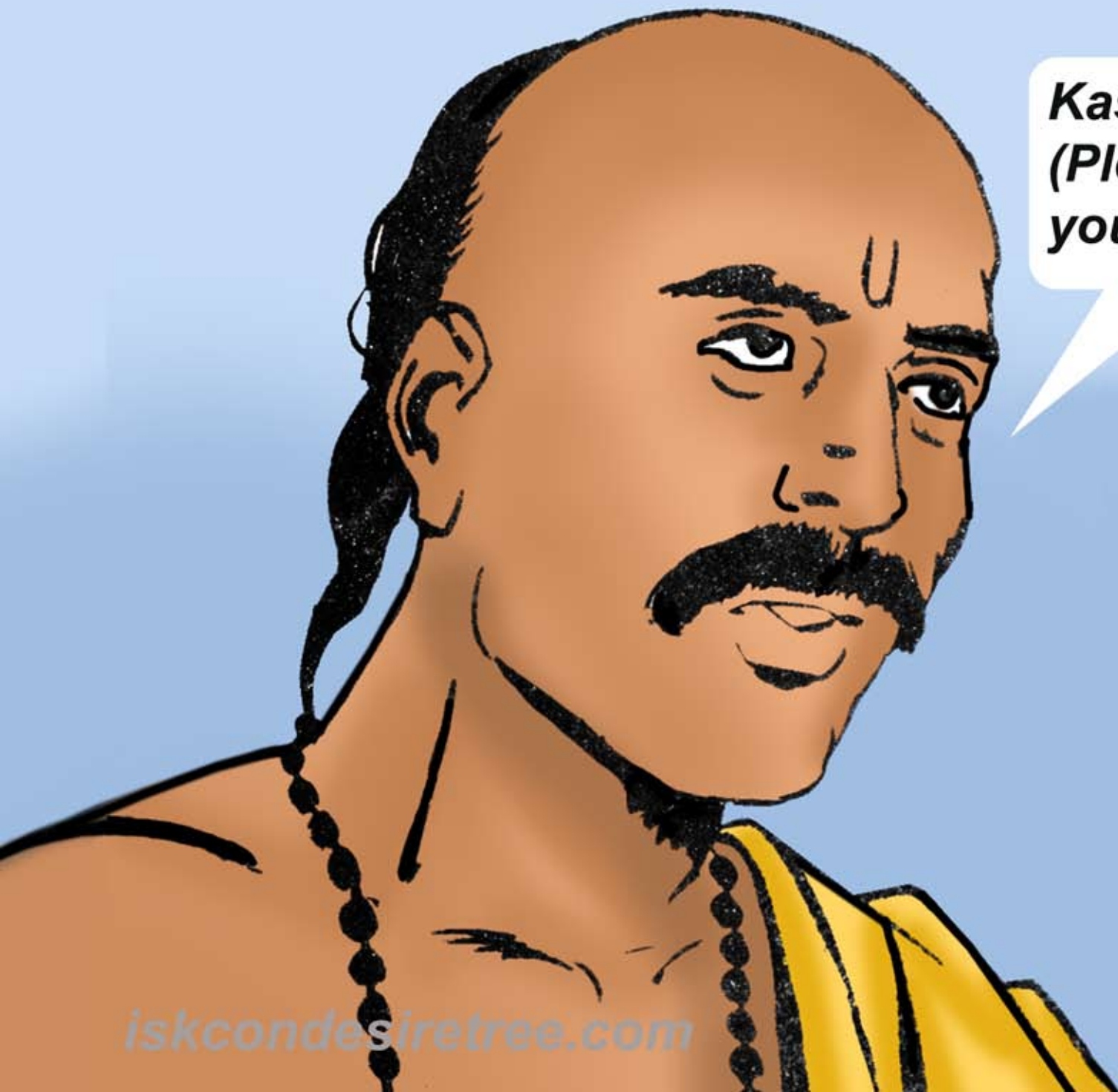




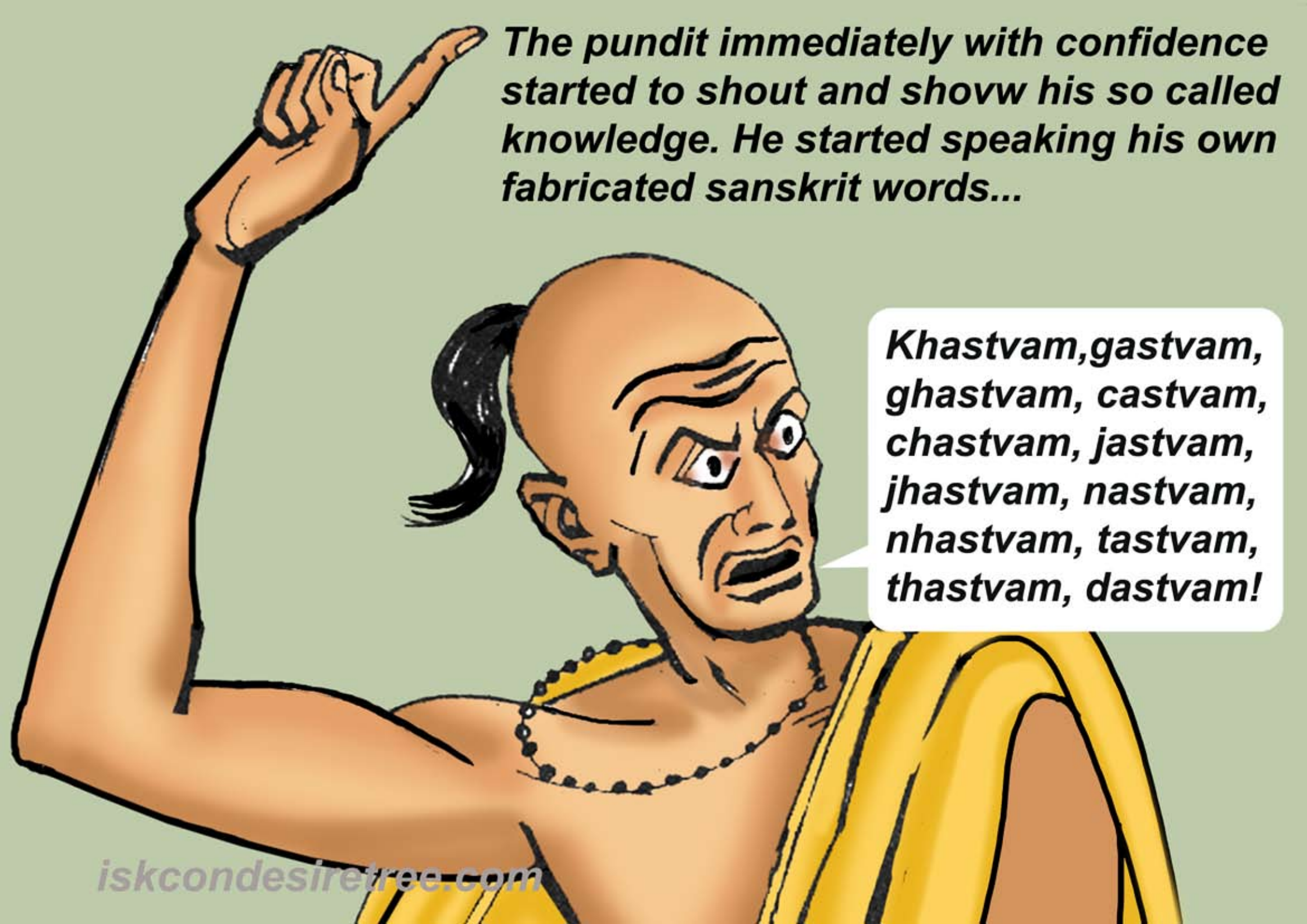
***I shall trick the scholar.
I will utter concocted
vague sanskrit words
with confidence that
will make him
think that I am more
learned than him. This
will disgrace him and
thus he will flee from
our village.***

*The scholar was invited by the
pundits for a debate in public with
Dada Thakur.*





***Kastvam?
(Please introduce
yourself. Who are you?)***

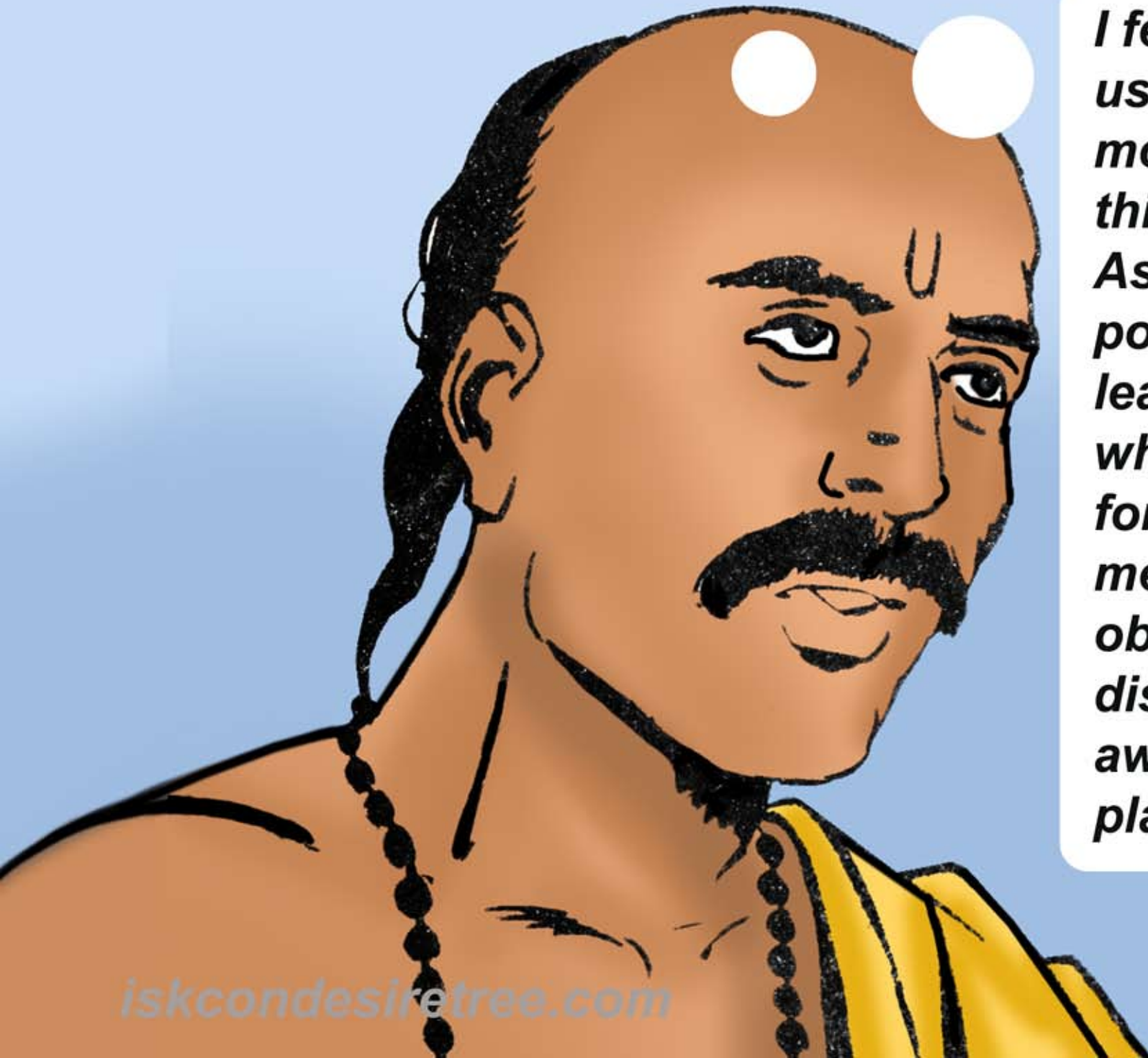


The pundit immediately with confidence started to shout and show his so called knowledge. He started speaking his own fabricated sanskrit words...

**Khastvam, gastvam,
ghastvam, castvam,
chastvam, jastvam,
jhastvam, nastvam,
nhastvam, tastvam,
thastvam, dastvam!**



***hastvam, rastvam,
lastvam, mastvam,
bastvam, dastvam,
fastvam!***

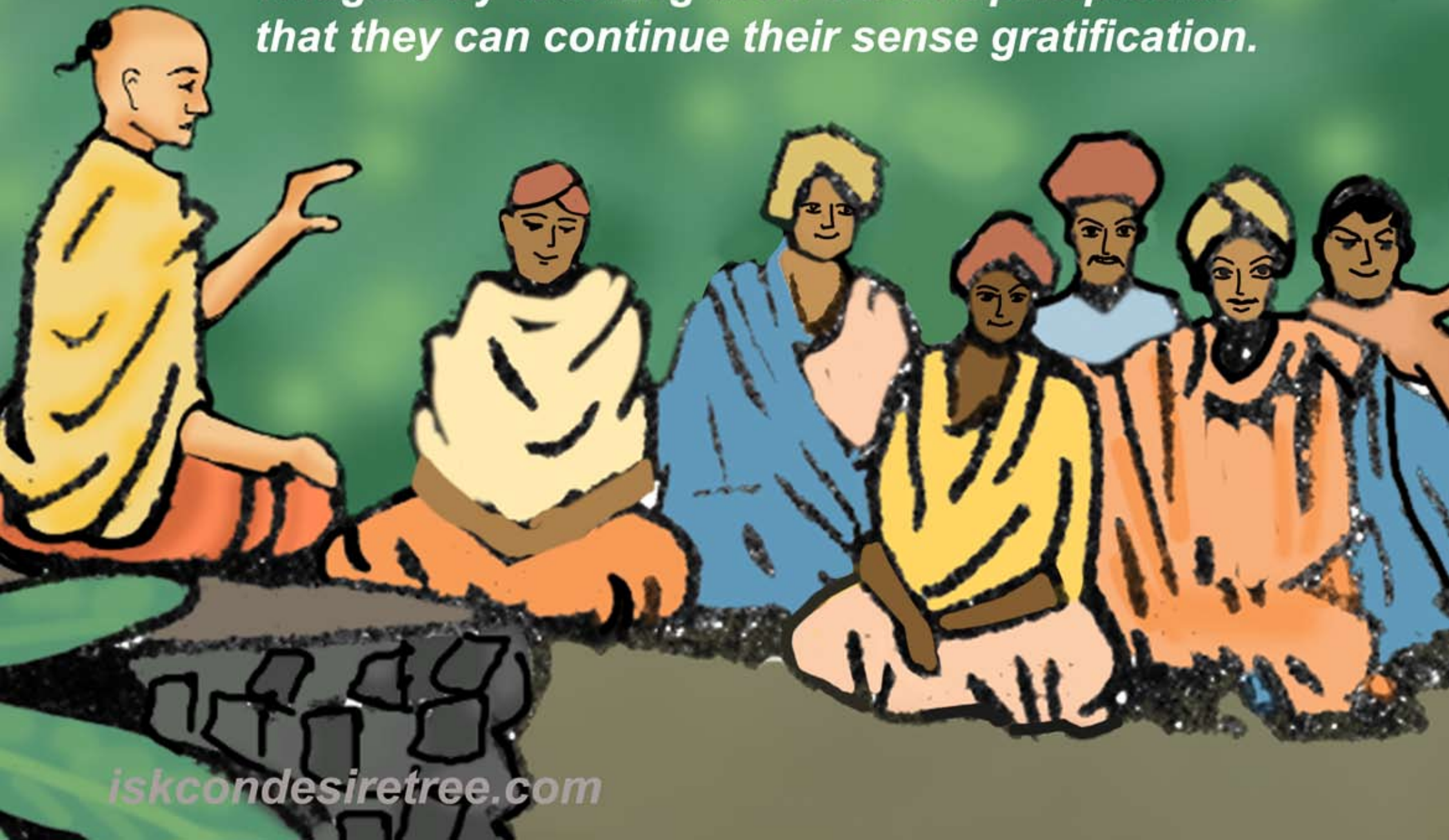


I feel that it is of no use to continue any more dialogue with this type of pandit. As soon as possible I should leave this place which will be better for my dignity. Let me offer my obeisances from a distance and go away from this place.

***Just see! Our Dada Thakur is such a great pandita!
That learned fellow couldn't even open his mouth in
front of him! There must be hardly anyone in this world
who could talk to our Dada Thakur in Sanskrit! How
fluently he can speak in Sanskrit !***



Thus the pundits having gained victory continued to exploit and mislead the villagers by teaching them fruitive principles so that they can continue their sense gratification.



Purport :

Boasting about their traditional family heritage of brahminical erudition and successive association with Lord Vishnu, Vaishnavas, saintly persons and scholars of eminence, some people speculate that there must have been an acute dearth of real Vaishnavas of the regular line of heredity, completely surrendered unto the Supreme Lord through performance of perfect devotional service. Mad with such material vanity, these people audaciously have a challenging attitude towards pure Vaishnavite injunctions and maxims with the help of their abecedarian pedantry.

Whenever they are confronted with a question from a true Vaishnava, Kastvam? or Who are you?, What is your true constitutional position? - then such persons with their materialistic vanity and gross intelligence, considering their

bodies as their selves, pretend to conquer the Vaishnavas by throwing out a materialistically - oriented pedantic reply based on their mundane knowledge and unfounded speculations. These sorts of pedantic deliberations sound simply delirious.

In response to the question, Kastvam? - Who are you? A real scholar should say, gopibhartuh padakamalayor dasadasanudasa or I am the servant of the servant of the servants at the lotus feet of the Lord Sri Krsna, Lord of the Gopis.