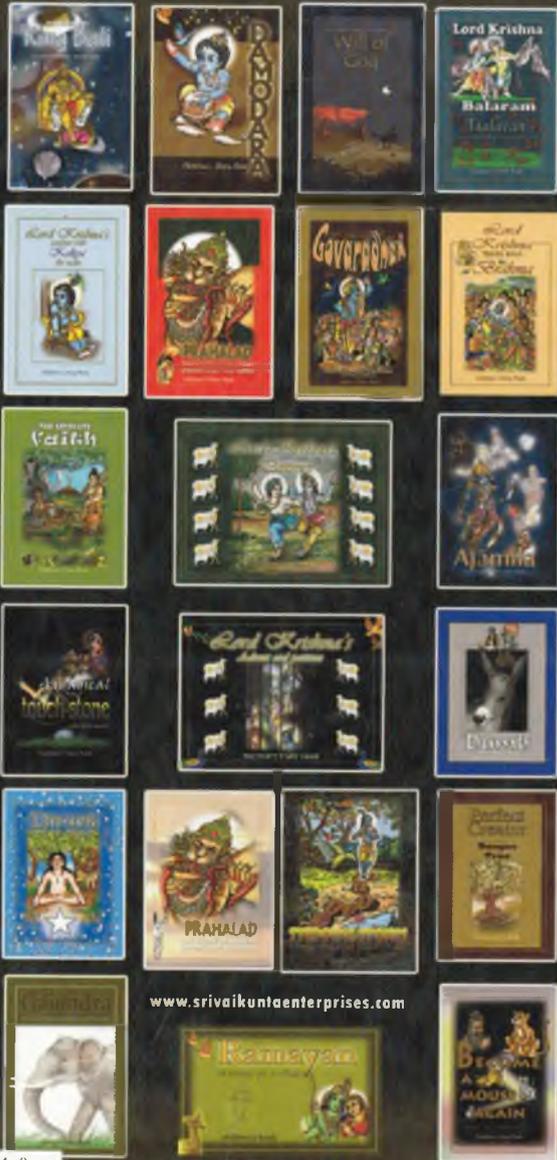


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KING AMBARISHA

the most exalted devotee of the Lord



Children's Story Book

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illustrations: Vijaya Govinda Das
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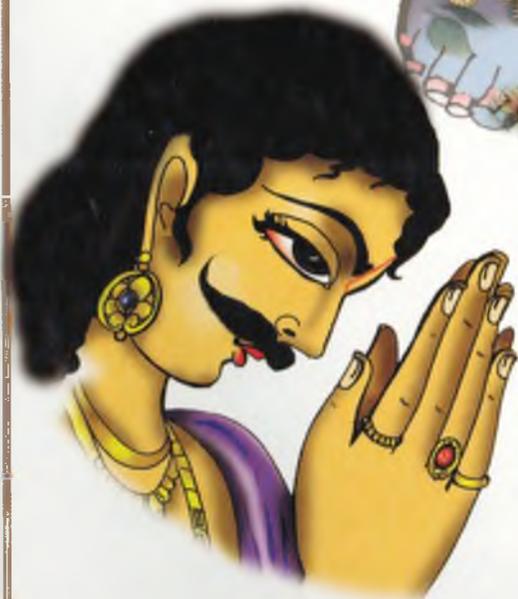
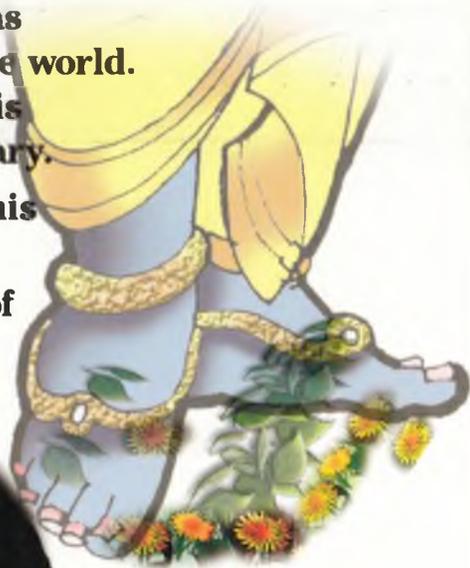
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AN INSTRUCTIVE STORY FROM SRIMAD BHAGAVATAM

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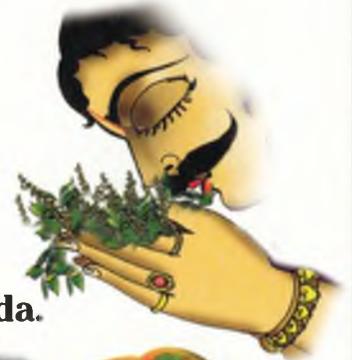
King Ambarisha,

was a powerful and celebrated devotee of Lord Krishna. He was emperor of the entire world. But he considered his possessions temporary. He always engaged his mind in meditating upon the lotus feet of Lord Krishna.

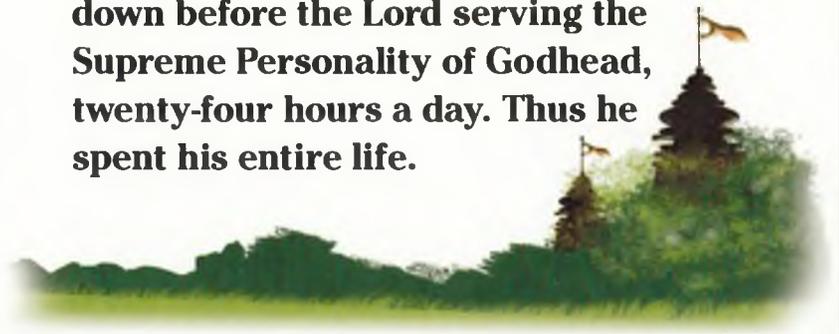


while performing his duties as a king, he offered all the results of his activities to the Supreme Lord.

He used his words for describing the glories of the Lord. His hands for cleaning the Lord's temple, his ears for hearing Lord Krishna-katha, his eyes for seeing the Krishna-murti. His sense of touch for touching the bodies of the Lord's devotees, his nose in smelling the tulasi leaves offered at the lotus feet of the Lord, his tongue for tasting the Lord's prasada.



His legs for walking to the temple and other holy places; his head for bowing down before the Lord serving the Supreme Personality of Godhead, twenty-four hours a day. Thus he spent his entire life.

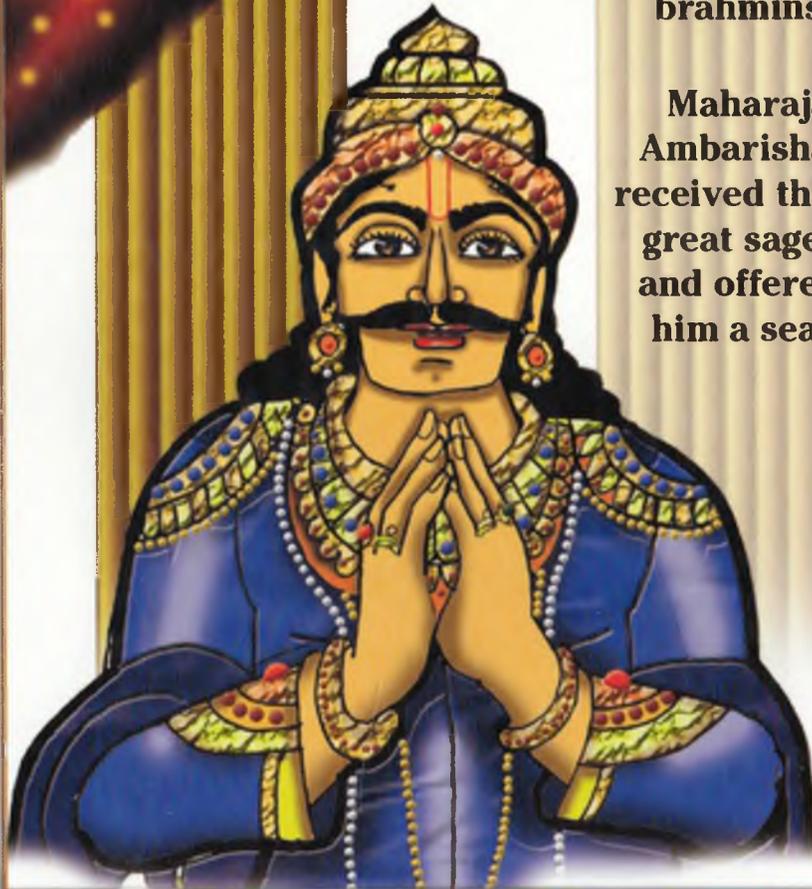




Once Maharaja Ambarisha observed the vow of Ekadashi in Vrindavan for one year, along with his wife. Thereafter, Maharaja Ambarisha gave sixty crores cows, with gold-plated horns and silver-plated hooves, in charity to the brahmanas along with calves.

The powerful mystic, Durvasa Muni appeared when, Maharaja Ambarisha prepared to end the Ekadashi fasting, with the permission of elders and brahmins.

Maharaja Ambarisha received the great sage, and offered him a seat.

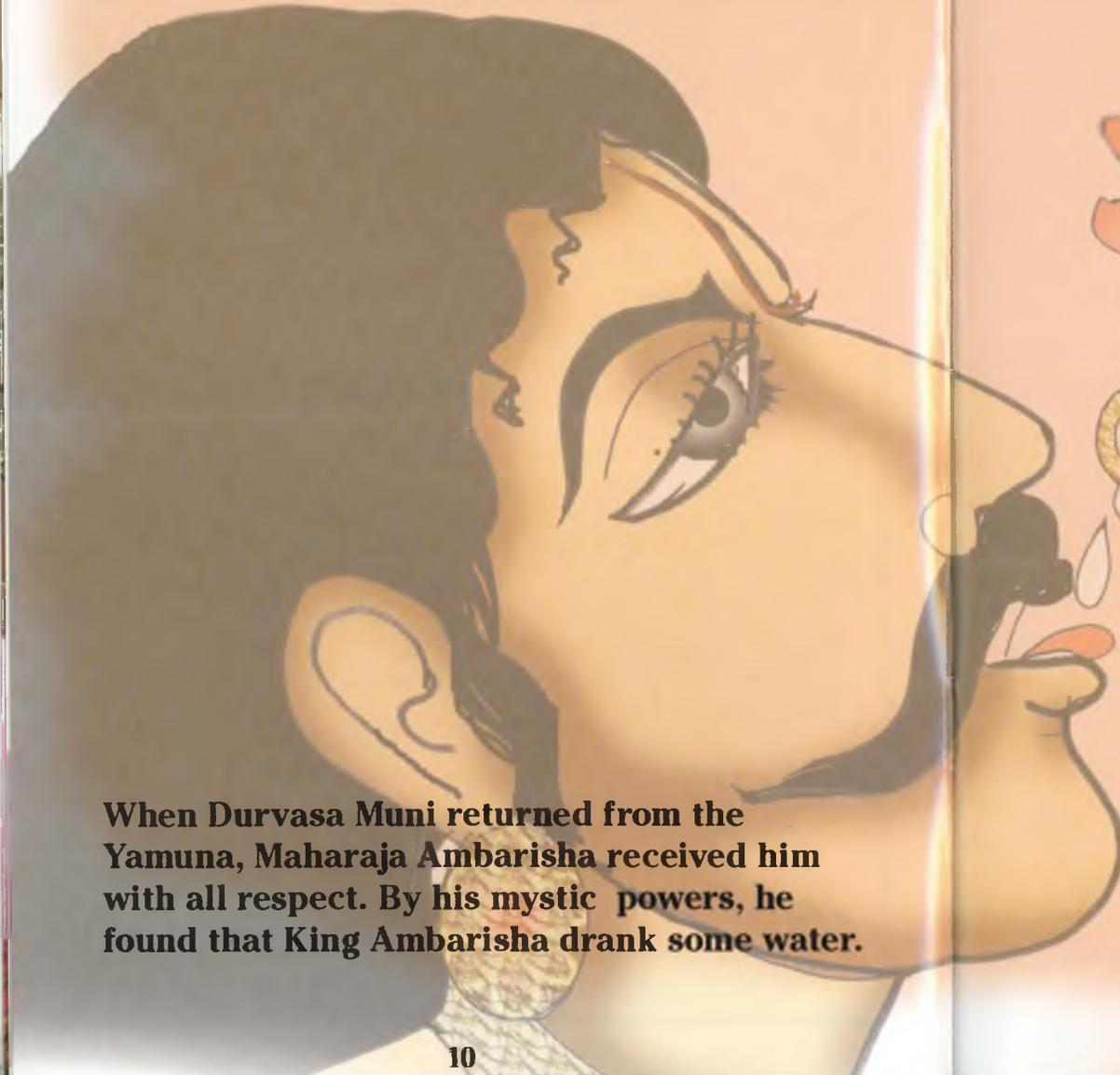


Maharaja Ambarisha requested him to eat. Durvasa Muni gladly accepted the invitation. He went to the river Yamuna to perform his ritualistic duties.



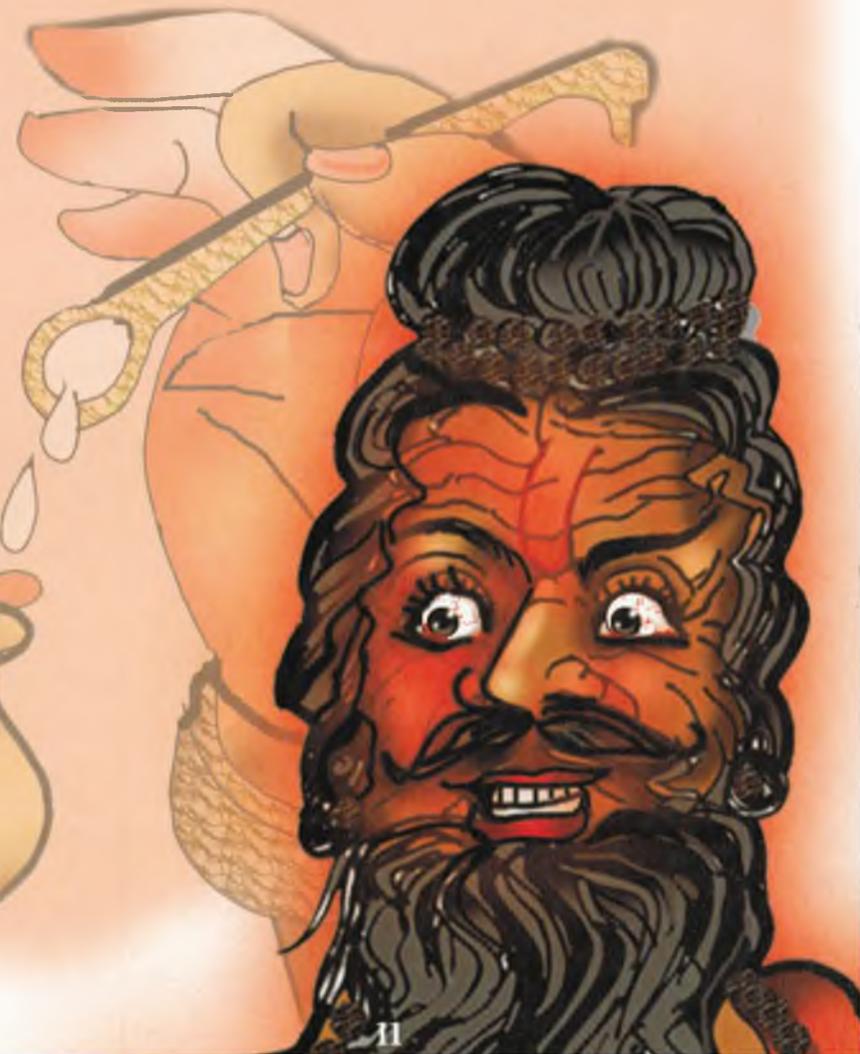
Durvasa Muni did not return for a loooooong time!

Meanwhile, the time to end the fast was passing. Maharaja Ambarisha consulted the learned brahmanas and drank few drops of water. As drinking water can either be accepted as eating, or not eating.

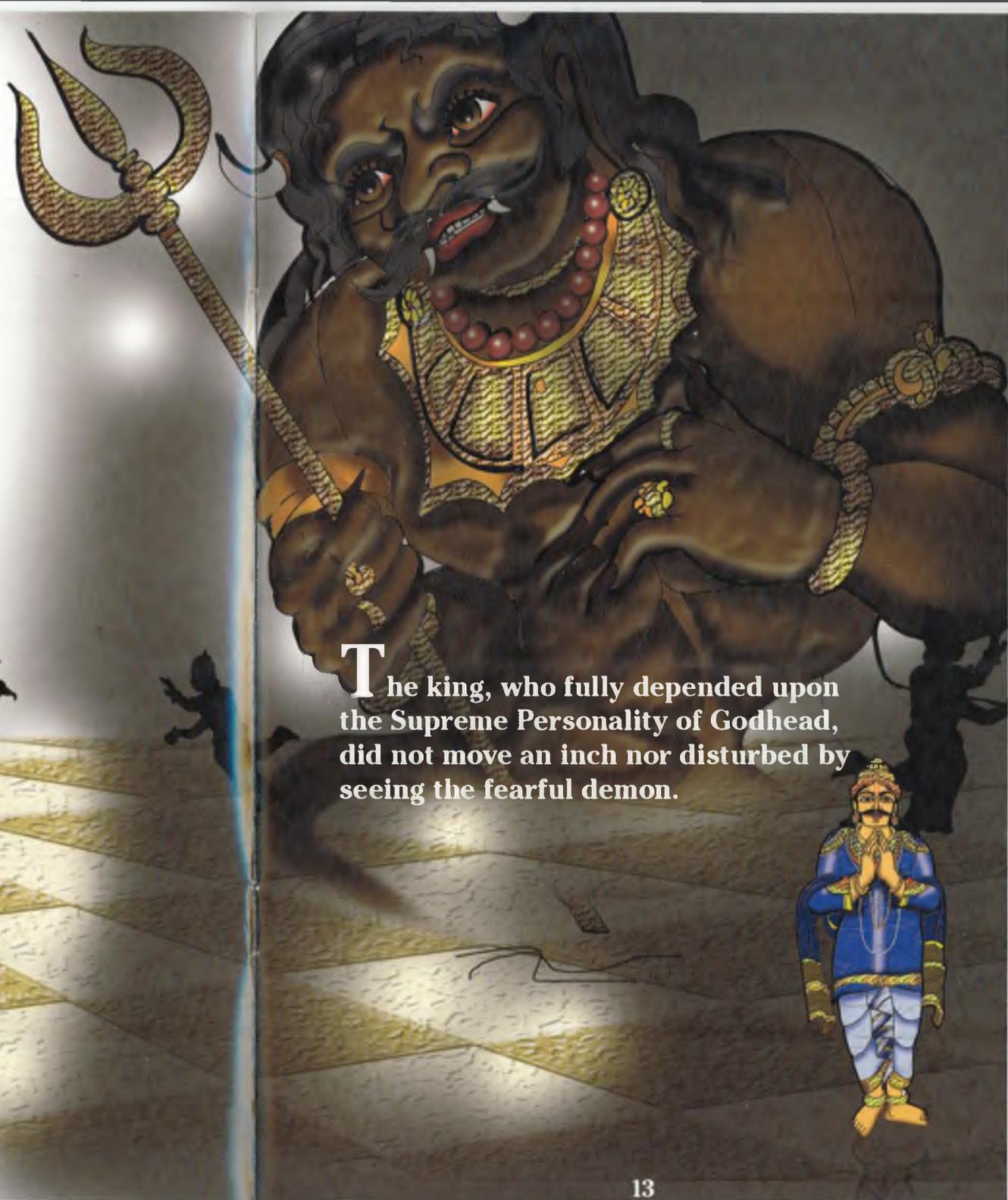
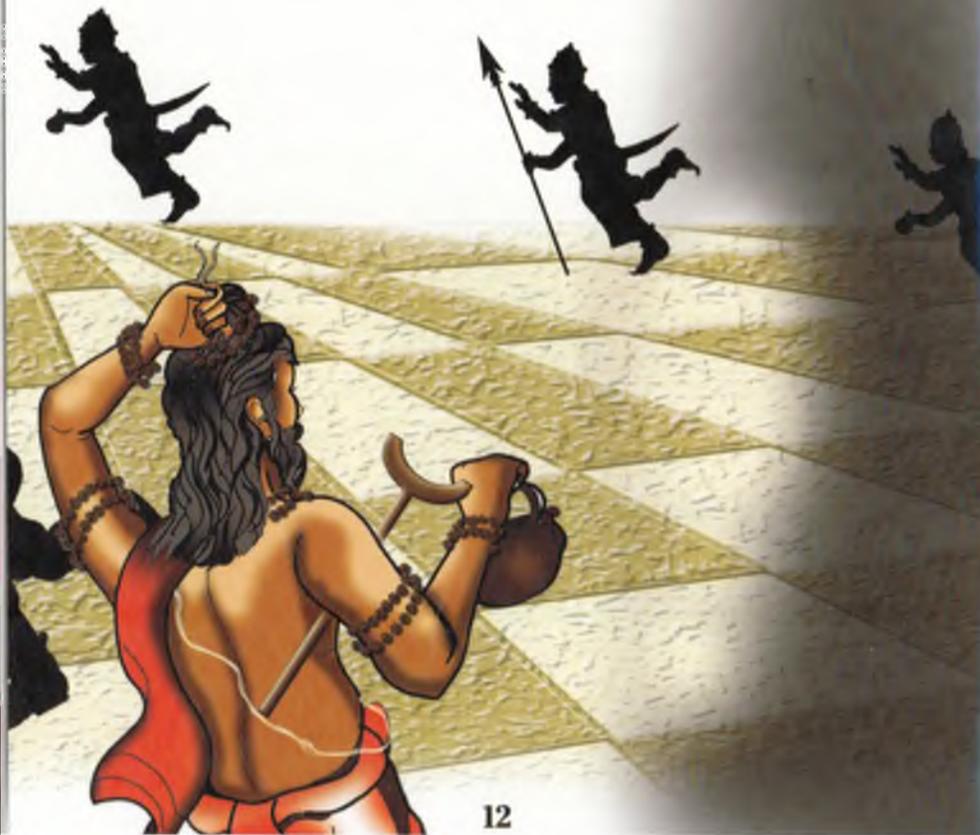


When Durvasa Muni returned from the Yamuna, Maharaja Ambarisha received him with all respect. By his mystic powers, he found that King Ambarisha drank some water.

The sage was very hungry and his face became **red** with anger,



“Ambarisha, you have invited me to eat but you have eaten first. Because of your misbehavior, I will punish you!” said Durvasa Muni. He pulled out a bunch of hair from his head and with it he created a demon. With trident in hand, this creature came toward Maharaja Ambarisha.



The king, who fully depended upon the Supreme Personality of Godhead, did not move an inch nor disturbed by seeing the fearful demon.

To protect His devotee
Lord sent His

Sudarshana Chakra

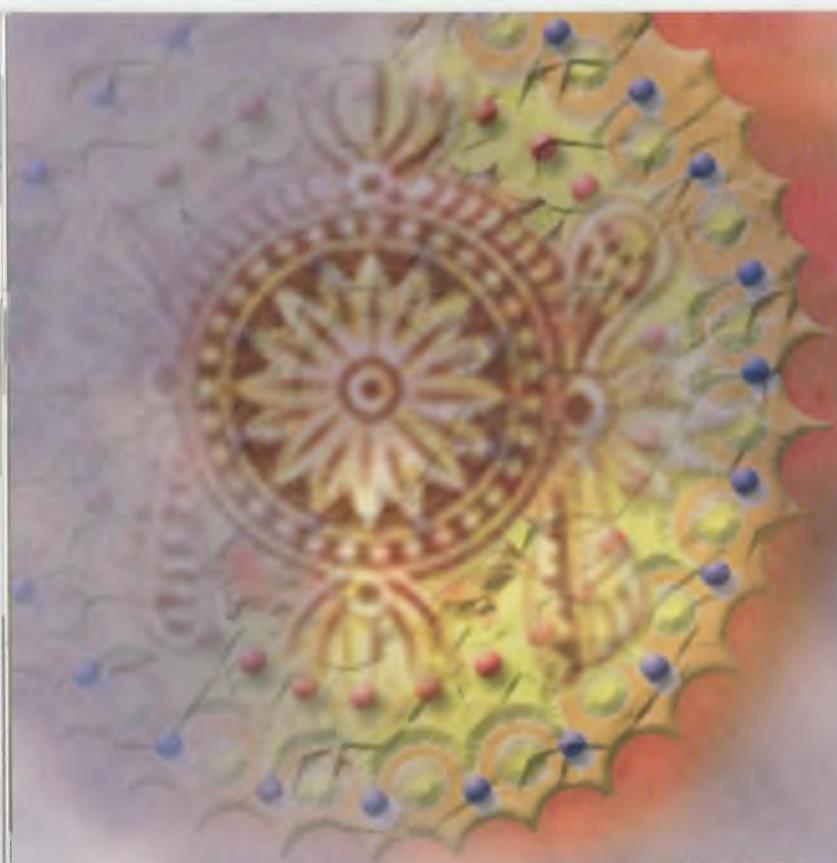
which burnt the demon to ashes
and started chasing Durvasa Muni.



Durvasa Muni became extremely frightened.
He swiftly fled to save his life.



Sudarshana Chakra of the Supreme
Lord practically touched his back as it
chased him, like a blazing forest fire .



**In the hopes of protecting
himself Durvasa Muni
fled everywhere,
throughout the sky.....**



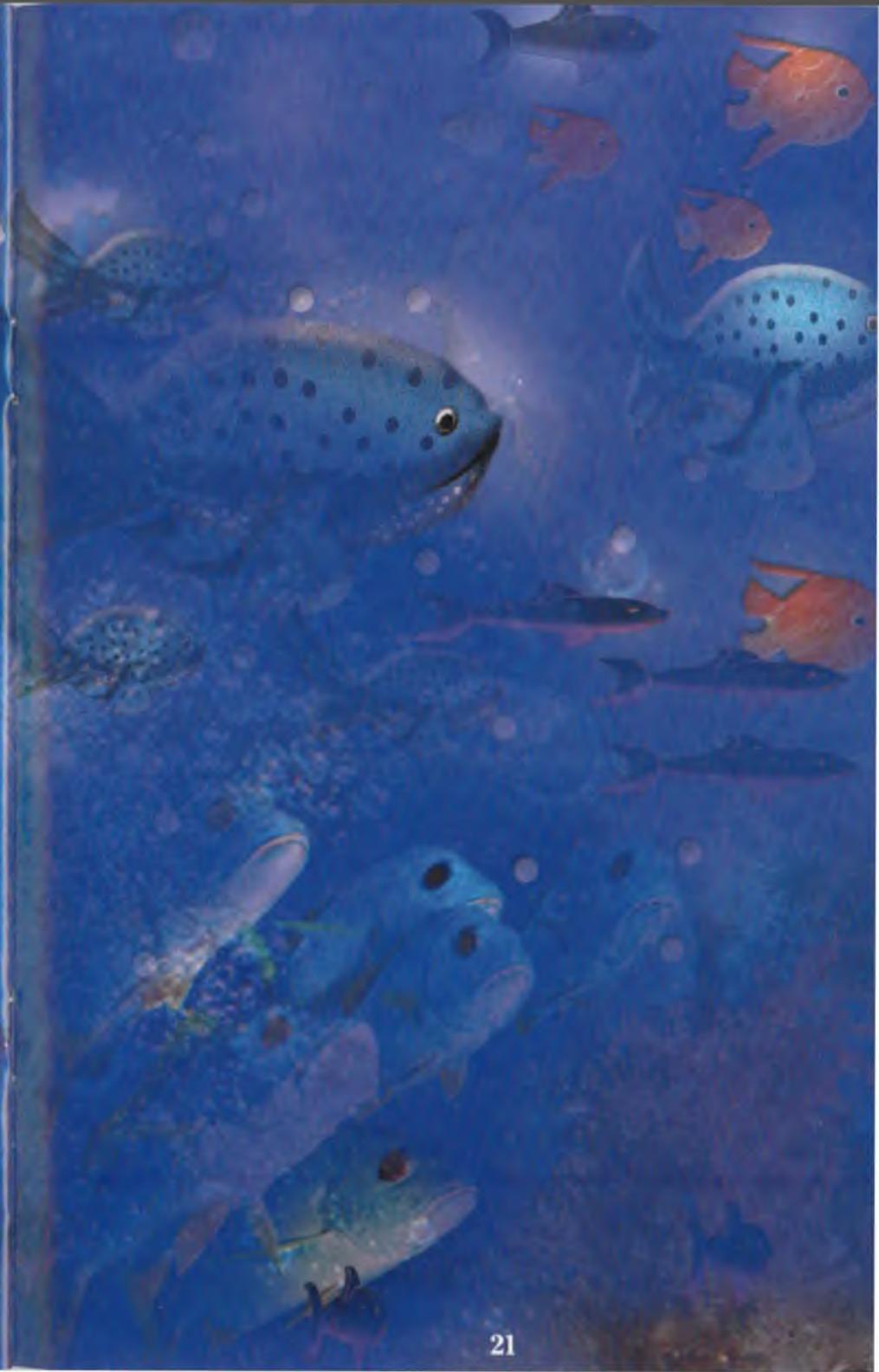
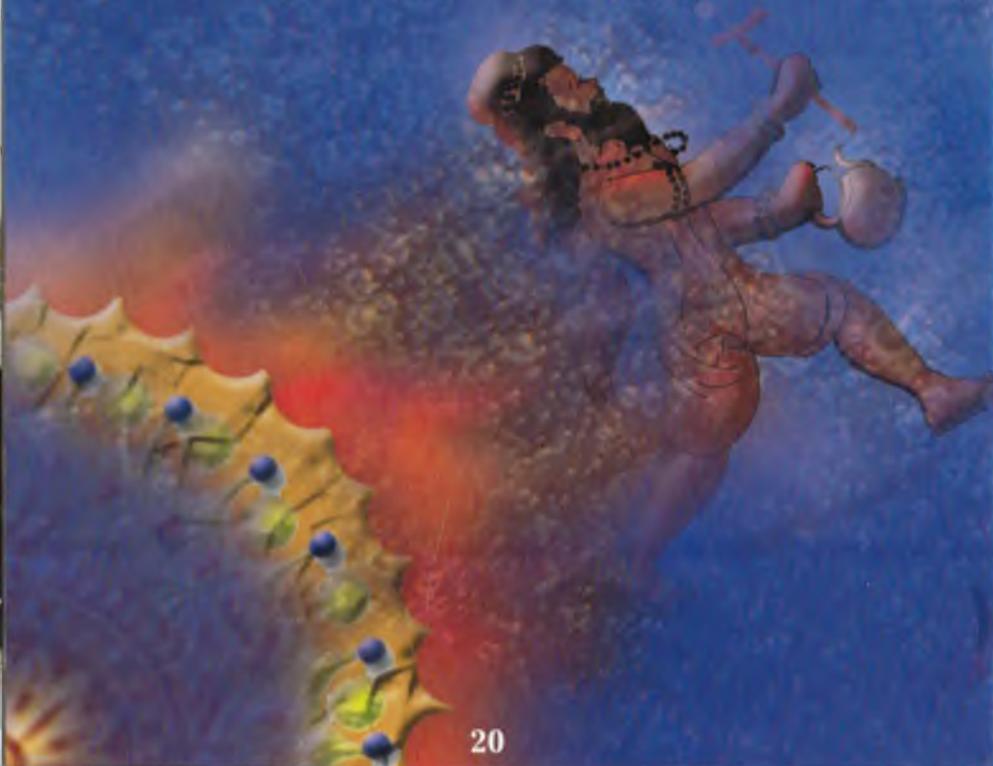
....over the
surface of the
earth, into
caves.....



....over the
surface of the
earth, into
caves.....



..... Within the
Ocean



He ran throughout the planetary systems of the three worlds. But, wherever he went,



Sudharsana Chakra

followed him.....

Durvasa felt the unbearable

HEAT!



Finally he went to Satyaloka and requested Lord Brahma who lives there.



“O my Lord, kindly protect me.”



“I cannot help you. I am under the control Lord Narayana, the master of the Sudarshana Chakra.”

After being thus denied by Lord Brahma, Durvasa Muni, approached Lord Shiva in Kailash to protect him from the Sudarshana chakra.



“You should approach the Supreme Lord Narayana to gain relief. This Sudarshana chakra is intolerable even for me”.

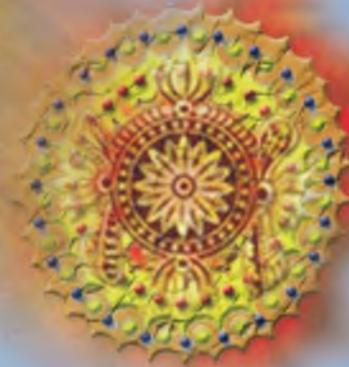
Durvasa Muni proceed towards Sri Vaikunta.....

Durvasa Muni fell at Lord Narayana's lotus feet and begged for protection.

“O Durvasa you should know that I am completely under the control of

My devotees,

so you should go to Maharaja Ambarisha, only he can protect you from Sudarshana Chakra”.



After receiving this advice from the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Durvasa Muni immediately realized his mistake and rushed to Maharaja Ambarisha,

The sage pleaded for his mistake to the devoted King Ambarisha. The King requested the Sudarshana chakra not to harm the sage.

After hearing Maharaja Ambarisha's request the Sudarshana chakra became peaceful and returned to Lord Narayana.

Maharaja Ambarisha fed the sage with varieties of very palatable food.



The sage said, "My dear King, please have your meal. At first, I thought of you as an ordinary human being, but now I can understand that you are the most exalted devotee of the Lord."



...DECLARE IT BOLDLY THAT
MY DEVOTEE
NEVER PERISHES

-Bhagavad Gita.9-31-

Help Sage Duruvasa to reach King Ambarisha

