

Children's story Book

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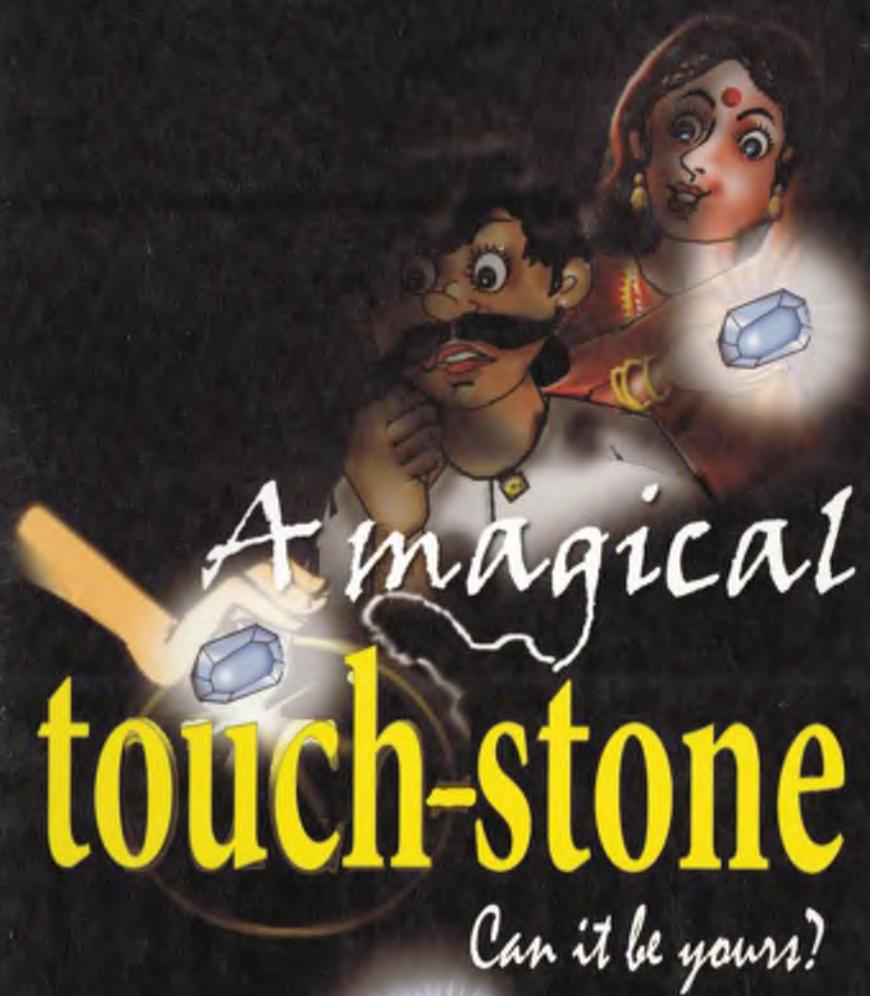
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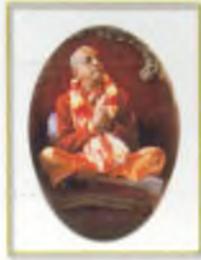
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A magical
touch-stone

Can it be yours?

Children's story Book

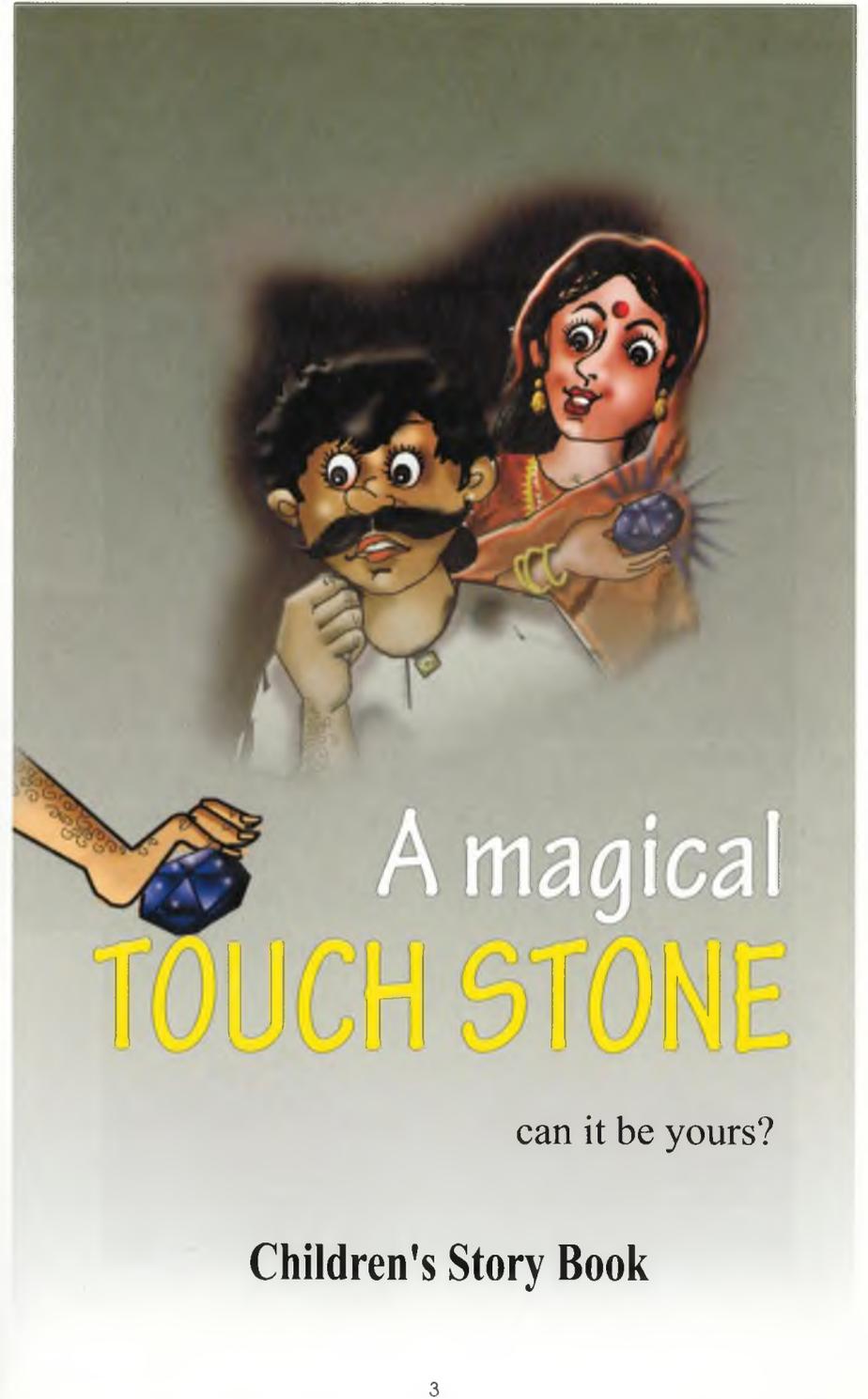


Dedicated to
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Founder Acharya: ISKCON

Text: Gandhari Devi Dasi
Illustrations: Vijaya Govinda Das

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Long ago in a little village of India there lived a man named Gopi. He was a great devotee of Lord Shiva.

He would spend the entire day worshipping Lord Shiva. This made his wife, Laxmi very angry. He did no work and so there was never enough to eat. Laxmi envied the neighbours and wished she had enough money to lead a better life, with good food and good clothes.





One day she got very angry and shouted at Gopi.

'You are good-for-nothing'



She asked him to leave the house and return only when he earned some money.

Gopi was very sad and went far and wide in search of work but since he had never worked a day in his life, he didn't know how to do anything! Forlorn and tired Gopi rested under a tree.



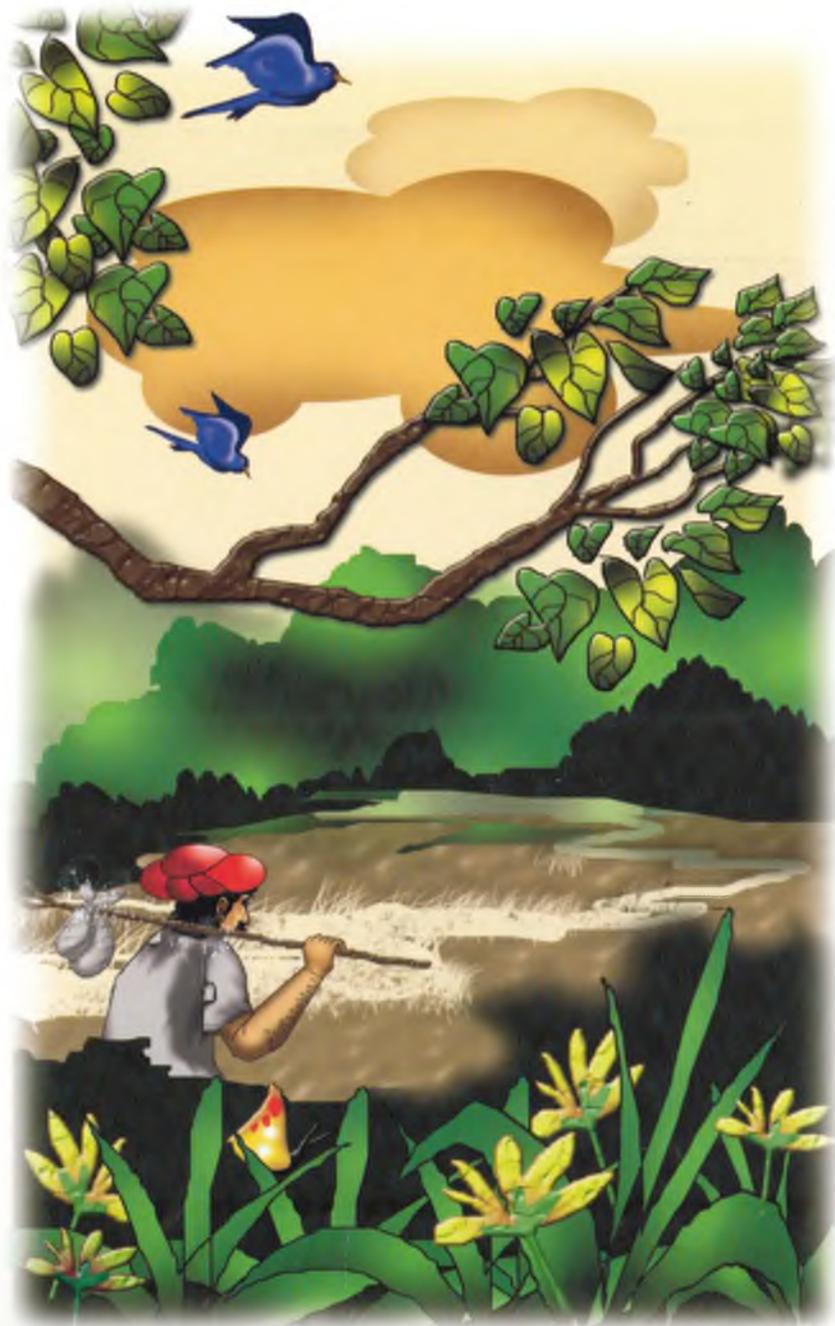
He then prayed to lord Shiva fervently. Lord Shiva is known as “Ashutosh,” or one who is easily pleased. Seeing the devotion of Gopi.

LORD SHIVA

appeared before him



Gopi said, “Oh Lord, please give me that, which is the most valuable so that my wife is satisfied”. Lord Shiva replied “Go to Vrindavan. There you will meet a saint by the name Sanatana Goswami. He will give you that, which is of the greatest value.”



Gopi was very excited and went as fast as he could go to Vrindavan . He thought he would be a rich man without working hard and the richness will bring happiness to his wife.



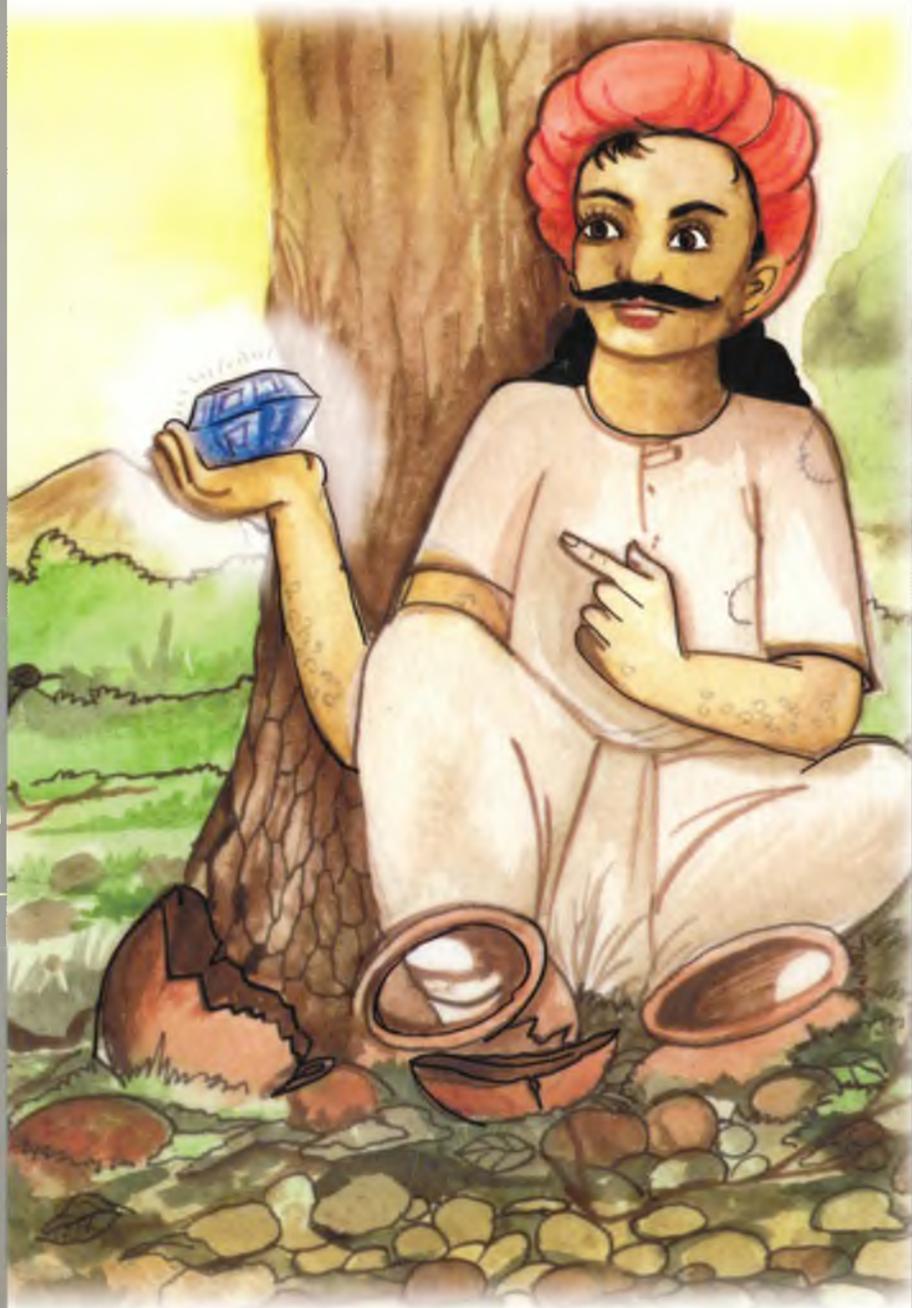
Gopi reached Srila Sanatana Goswami's ashram in Vrindavan and paid respects to him.



Gopi “Maharaj, Lord Shiva instructed me to come to you for the Object of greatest value.”



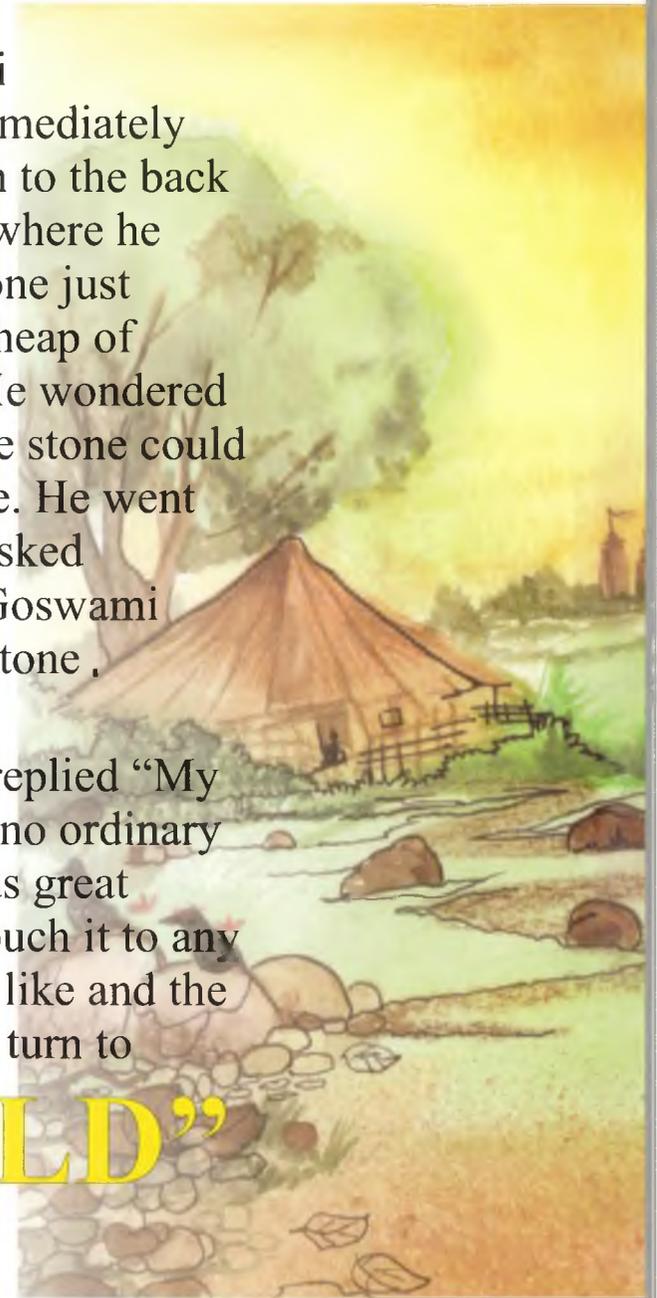
Sanatana Goswami replied, “Go behind this hut. There you will find a heap of rubbish. Just beneath it, you will find what you seek.”



Gopi immediately ran to the back of the hut where he found a stone just below the heap of rubbish. He wondered how a mere stone could be valuable. He went back and asked Sanatana Goswami about the stone .

Goswami replied “My son, this is no ordinary stone. It has great powers. Touch it to any object you like and the object will turn to

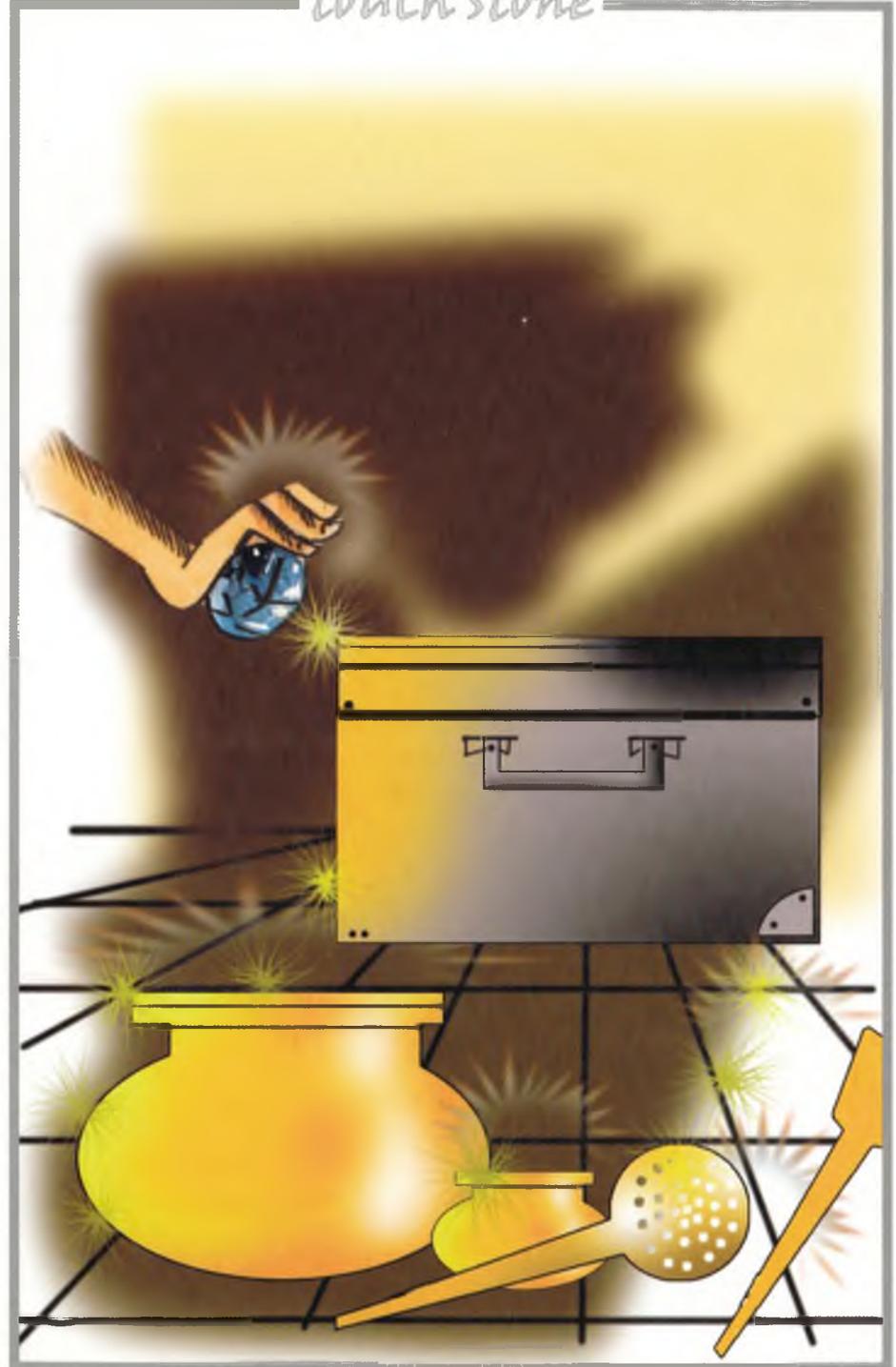
GOLD”



Gopi was very excited and went home to show his wife the treasure. Together they started turning all their household objects to

GOLD

Laxmi was happy at last.





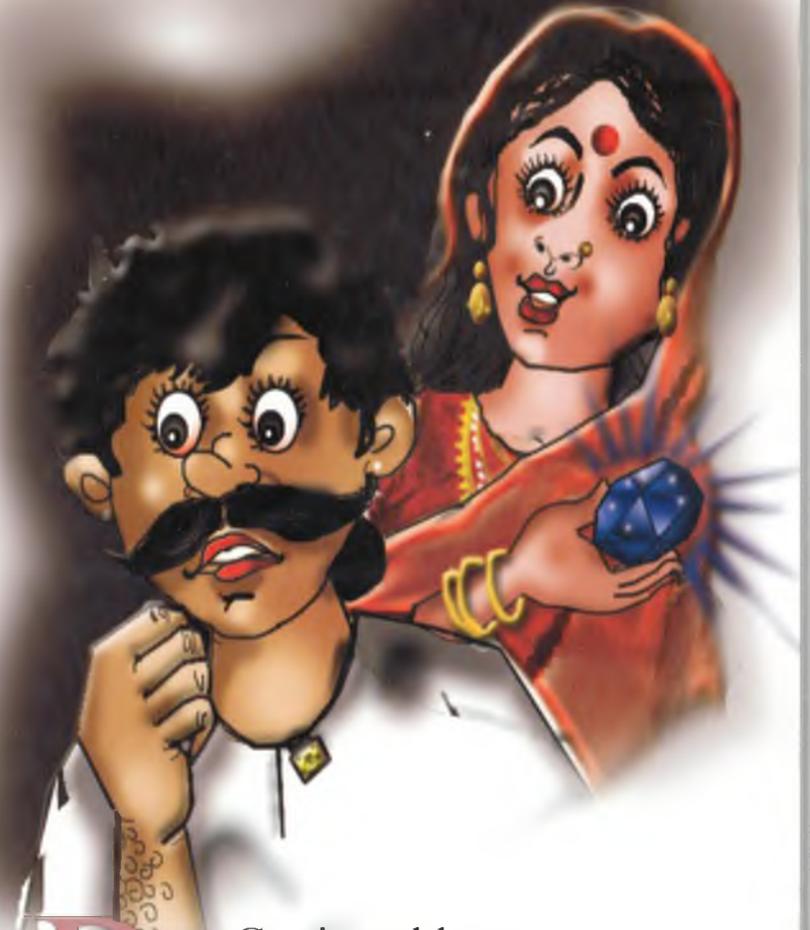
They were
RICH
now



One day suddenly Laxmi had a doubt, 'How many people actually keep valuable thing in a heap of rubbish? If that sanyasi could keep this most amazing stone in the rubbish, it obviously has no value to him. That only means that he has something more valuable than this. And Lord Shiva told you to get the most valuable thing he possesses, but you got this!.



So now go back and get
the most valuable thing!”



Poor Gopi could not understand why his wife was not satisfied with their new-found wealth...

touch stone



touch stone



so, he left for Vrindavan in search for the most valuable thing.



When he reached Vrindavan, he explained his wife's doubt to Sanatana Goswami.



Sanatana Goswami replied, “Your wife is absolutely right. This stone may bring you great riches but it is of no value to me.”



Sanatana Goswami
surprised
Gopi.....



He told him, “First
throw the stone in the
garbage”



When Gopi returned after obeying him, he said, “The most valuable thing I possess is the Holy name of the Lord.....”

**HARE KRISHNA
HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA
HARE HARE
HARE RAMA
HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA
HARE HARE**

“This is the real treasure more valuable than all the riches and wealth in the whole world.”

Gopi was enlightened by this valuable instruction of Sanatana Goswami.





He returned home a changed man, chanting all the way. When his wife saw him, she was dumbstruck, for Gopi glowed as though he was touched by the touchstone himself! Gopi narrated to his wife Laxmi, all that took place.



She realized her mistake in being so greedy. She too joined her husband in chanting the Hare Krishna Mahamantra and danced in great happiness.

And they lived happily ever after.

—END—