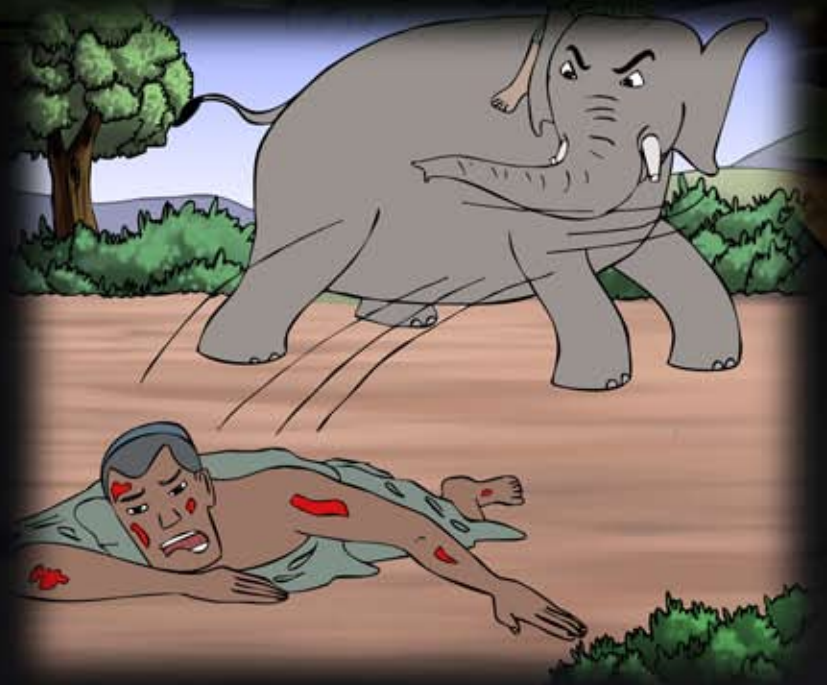


Mayavadi who got trodden on

*INSTRUCTIVE STORIES BY
SRILA PRABHUPADA*



Once, at the hermitage of a venerated guru



A disciple became enlightened after years of penance and instruction at his master's feet




He said...



O master,
I realize what you have been saying
all along, God and I are one. Only by
the power of illusion have I been making a
distinction between myself and God.
By your kindness I am
awakened



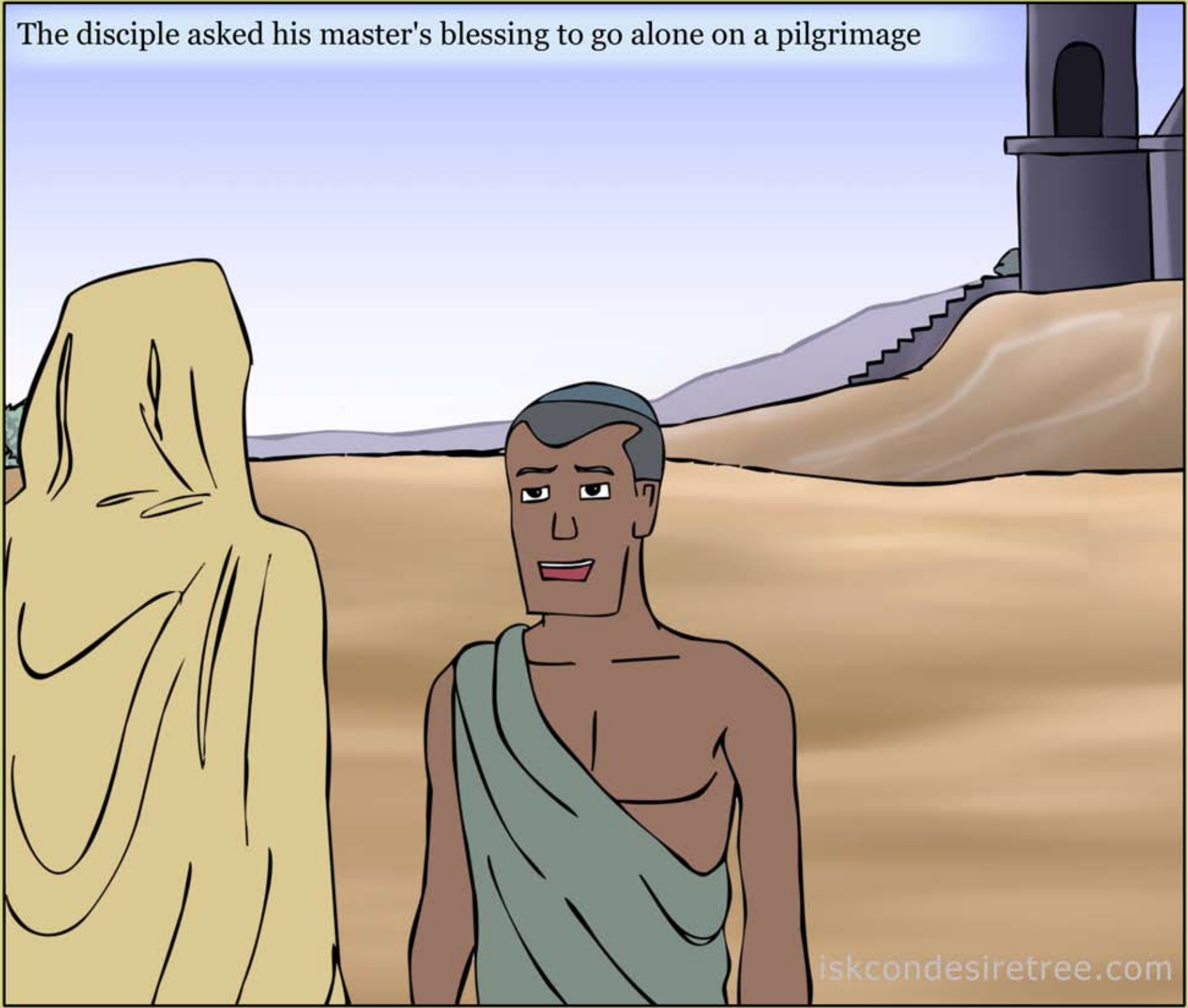


I am in union with the
formless, limitless and ineffable
Supreme

When the guru indicated that the disciple had understood rightly



The disciple asked his master's blessing to go alone on a pilgrimage



On his way, he walked down the middle of the streets, pondering the implications of his recent enlightenment



After some time, he heard an elephant driver shouting from top of elephant

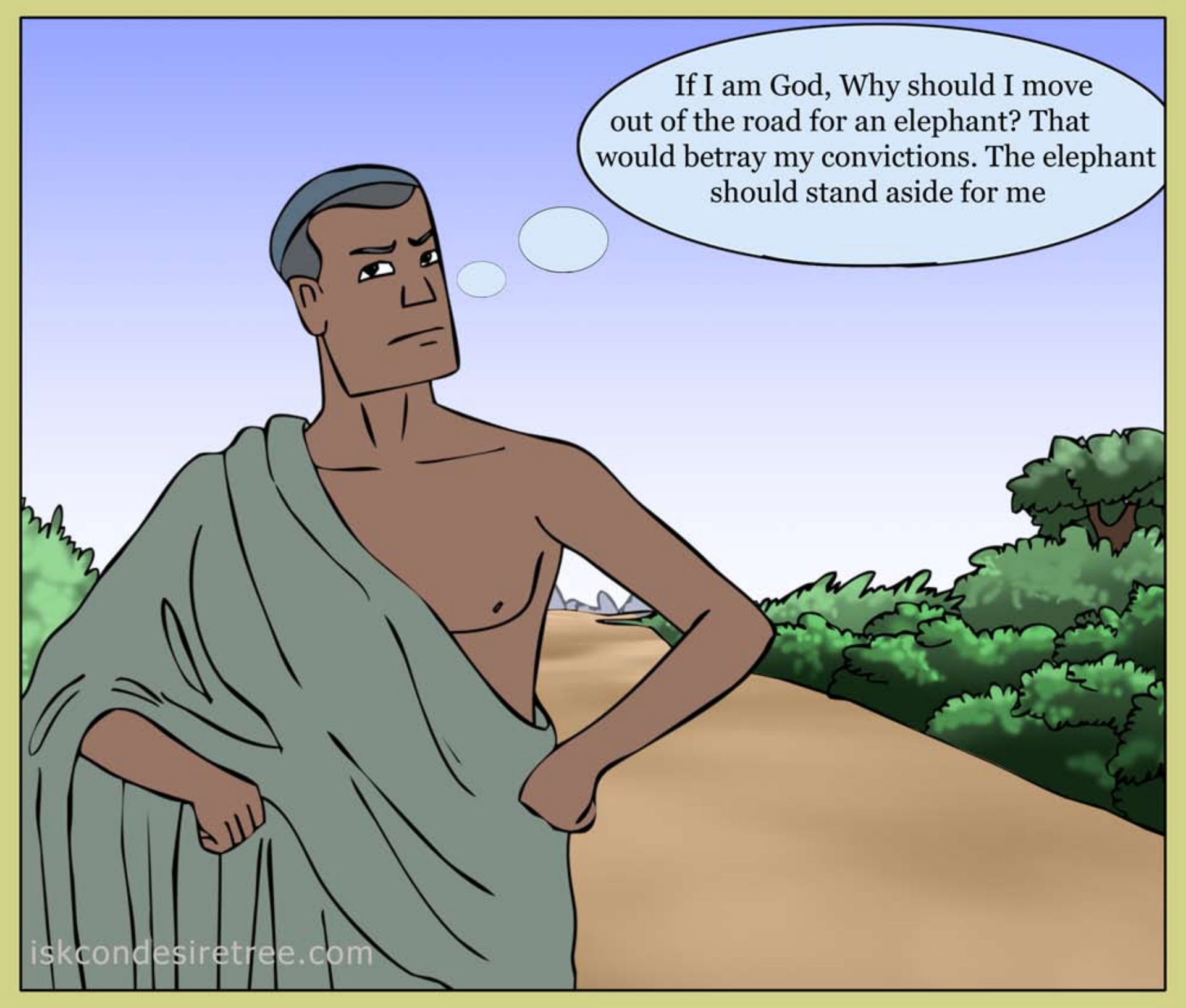
Make way for the elephant! Move out of the road!



After some time, he heard an elephant driver shouting from top of elephant

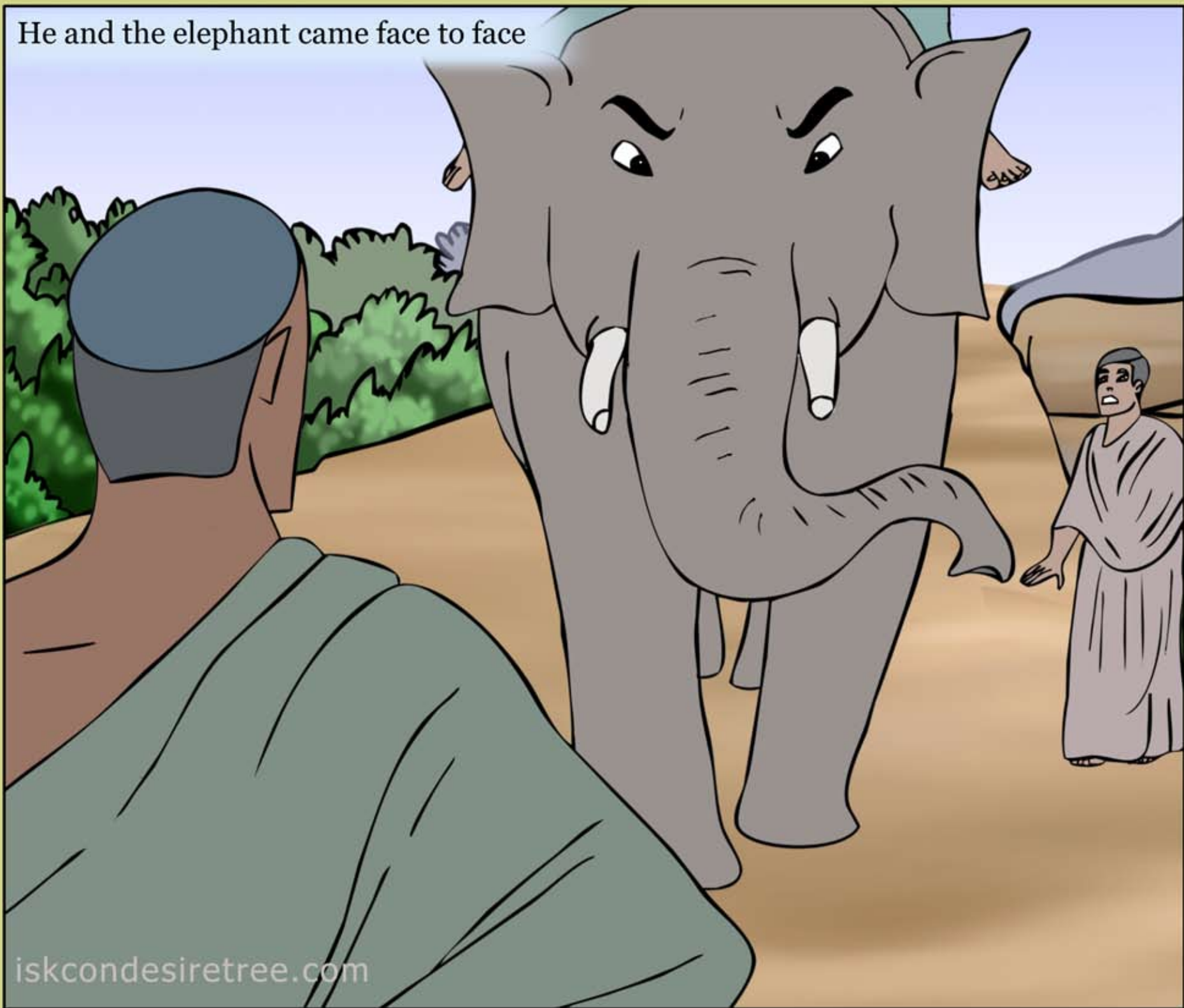
Make way for the elephant! Move out of the road!





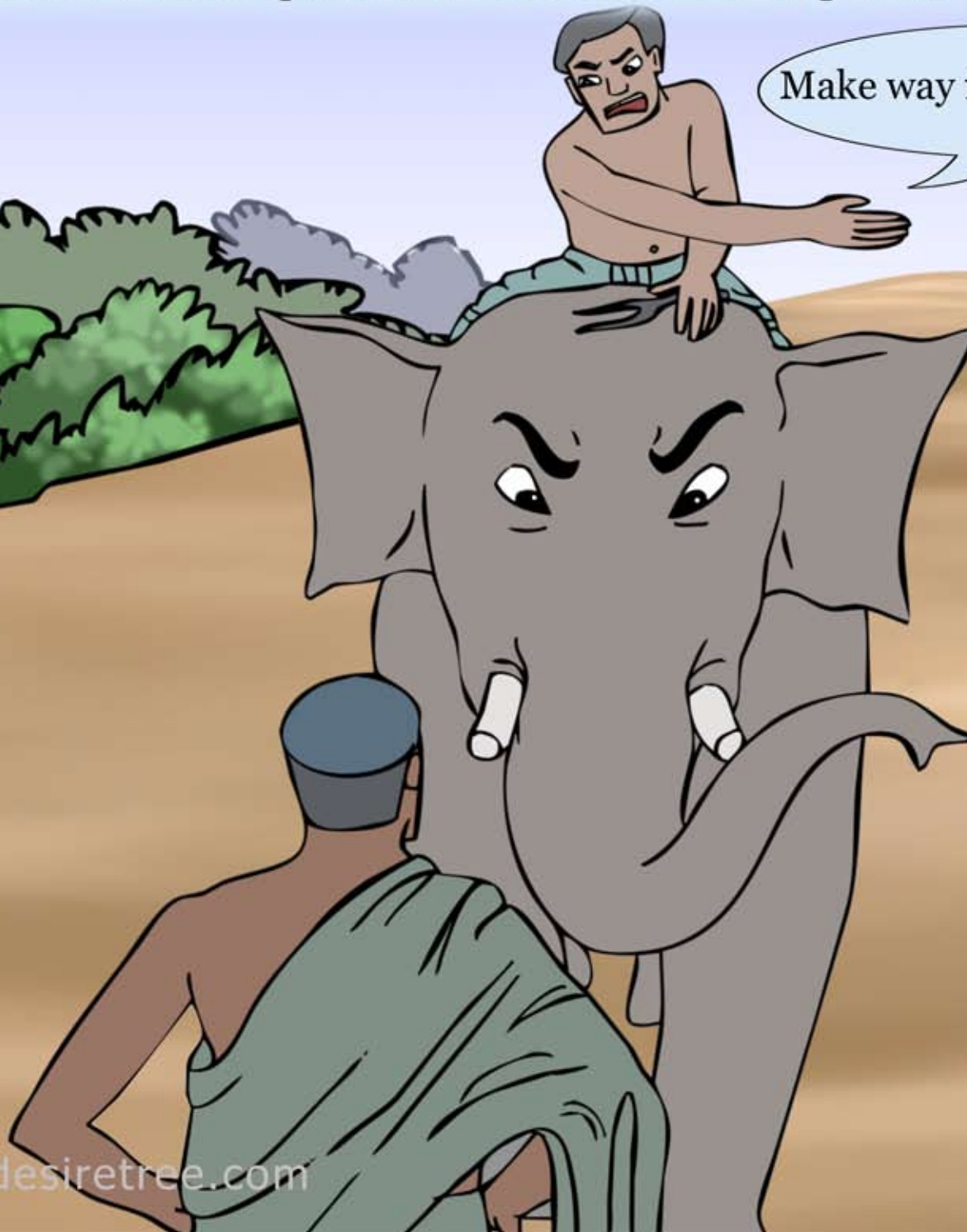
If I am God, Why should I move out of the road for an elephant? That would betray my convictions. The elephant should stand aside for me

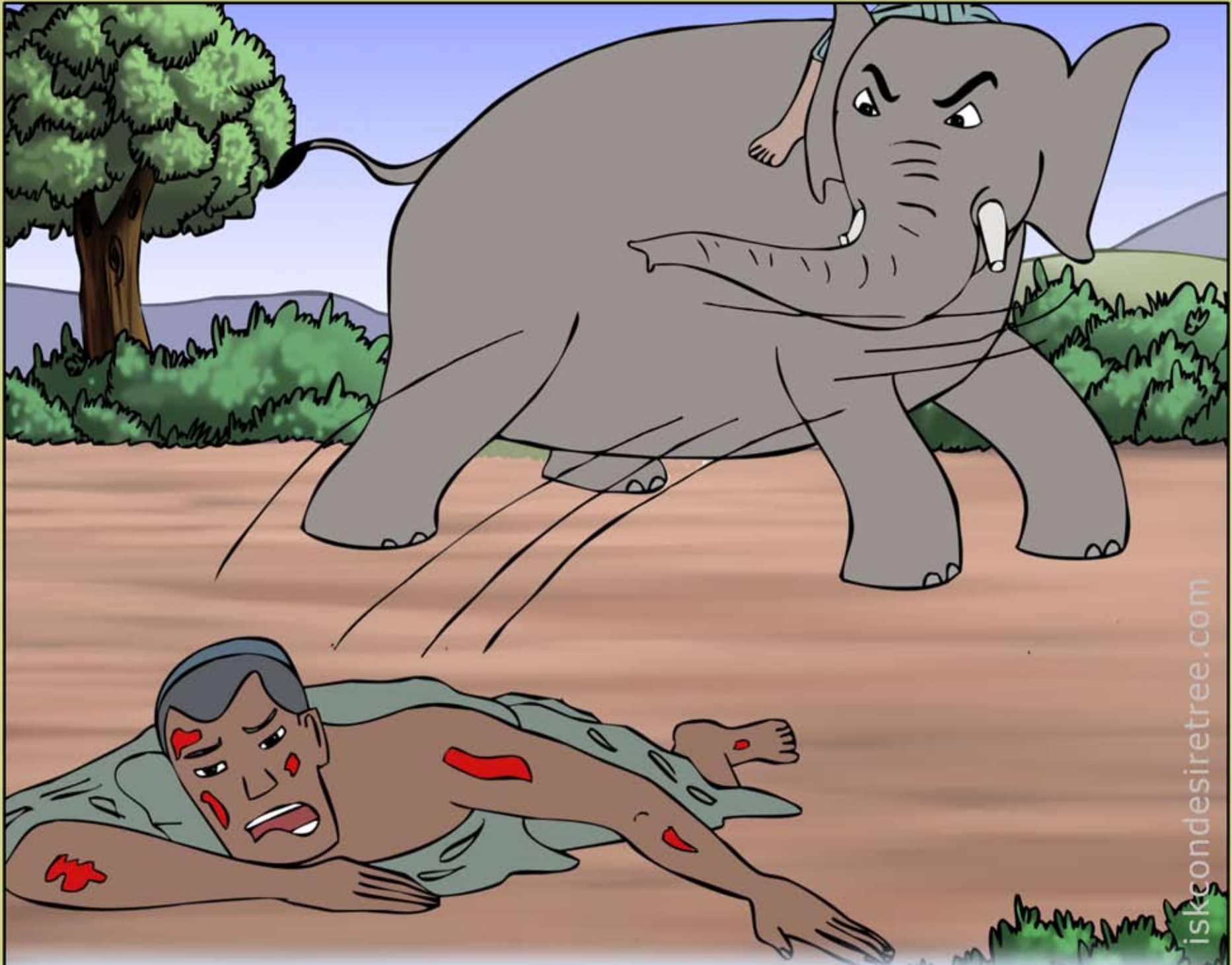
He and the elephant came face to face



The mahout shrieked in panic, but the ascetic stood on ground

Make way for the elephant






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The elephant then grabbed him around the waist and tossed him out of the way. The ascetic sustained a broken arm and some ugly bruises.

Early the next day he hobbled into his spiritual master's presence, where he related the incident

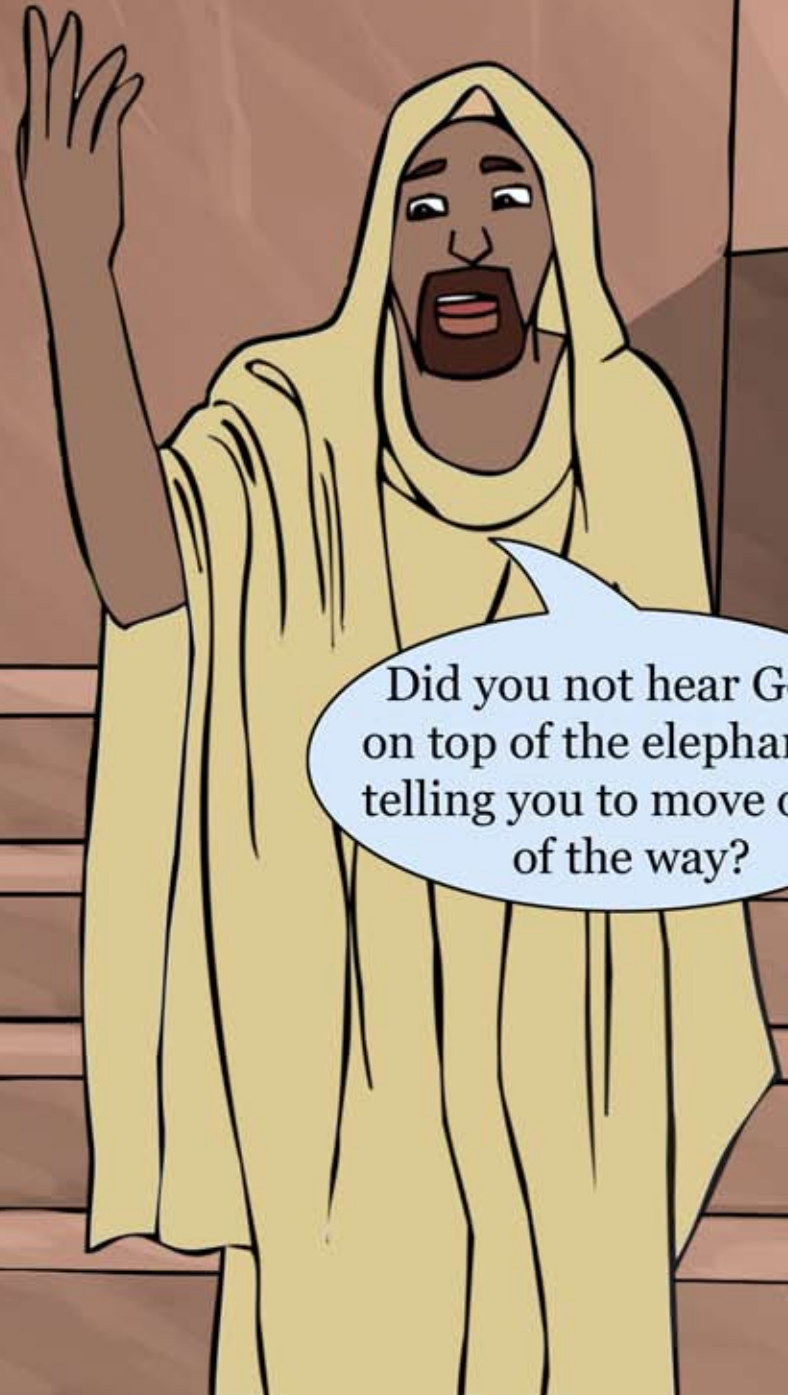
O master, just yesterday I thought, I completely understood your teachings, but look what happened when I applied them





How could such a misfortune
happen to me and on the very day
when I realized your instructions?

With a slight hint of annoyance, the master chided



Did you not hear God on top of the elephant telling you to move out of the way?

MORAL :

This story demonstrates one of the severe flaws in the philosophy of monism, which states that there is absolute oneness - without differentiation - of all beings, including God. As the story shows, if everyone is elevated to the status of God, only calamity can result from the confusion as to who should have the right of way when a conflict of interest arises.

- Srila Prabhupada