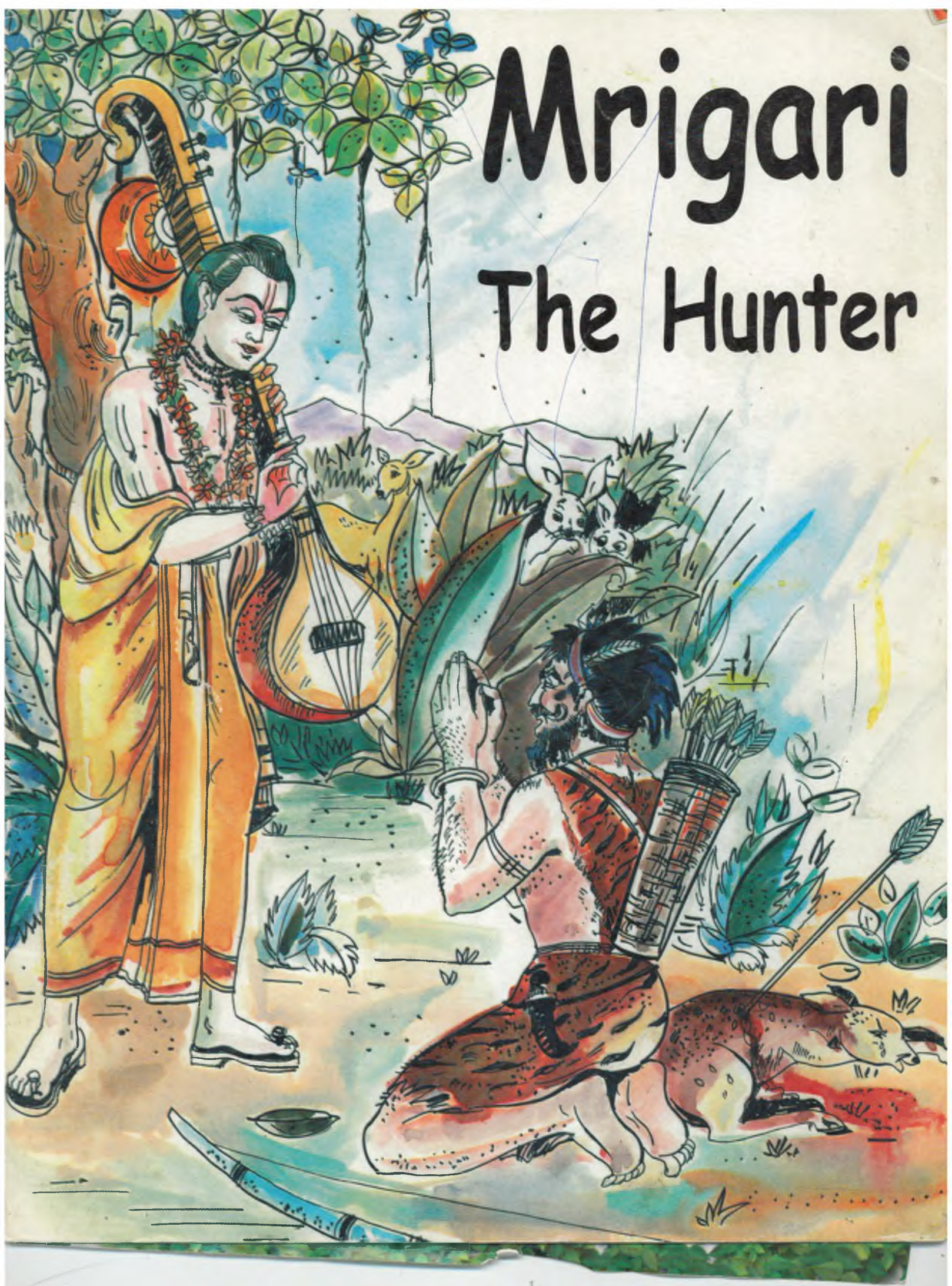


Mrigari

The Hunter





Dedicated to



His Divine Grace
**A. C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada**

Founder-Acharya of the International
Society for Krishna Consciousness

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Design : Jagadish Dasa

Story : Jagadish Dasa, Nayana-ranjana Dasa

Production : Nayana-ranjana Dasa

Adapted from Sri Chaitanya Charitamrita by His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

First Printing : 2,000 copies

Second Printing : 2,000 copies

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Published by Narmada Goswami for Sri Sri Sitaram Seva Trust, Hare Krishna Land, Juhu, Mumbai 400 049 and printed at Magna Graphics (India) Pvt. Ltd., 101-C&D, Govt. Industrial Estate, Kandivali (W), Mumbai 400 067.



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Mrigari

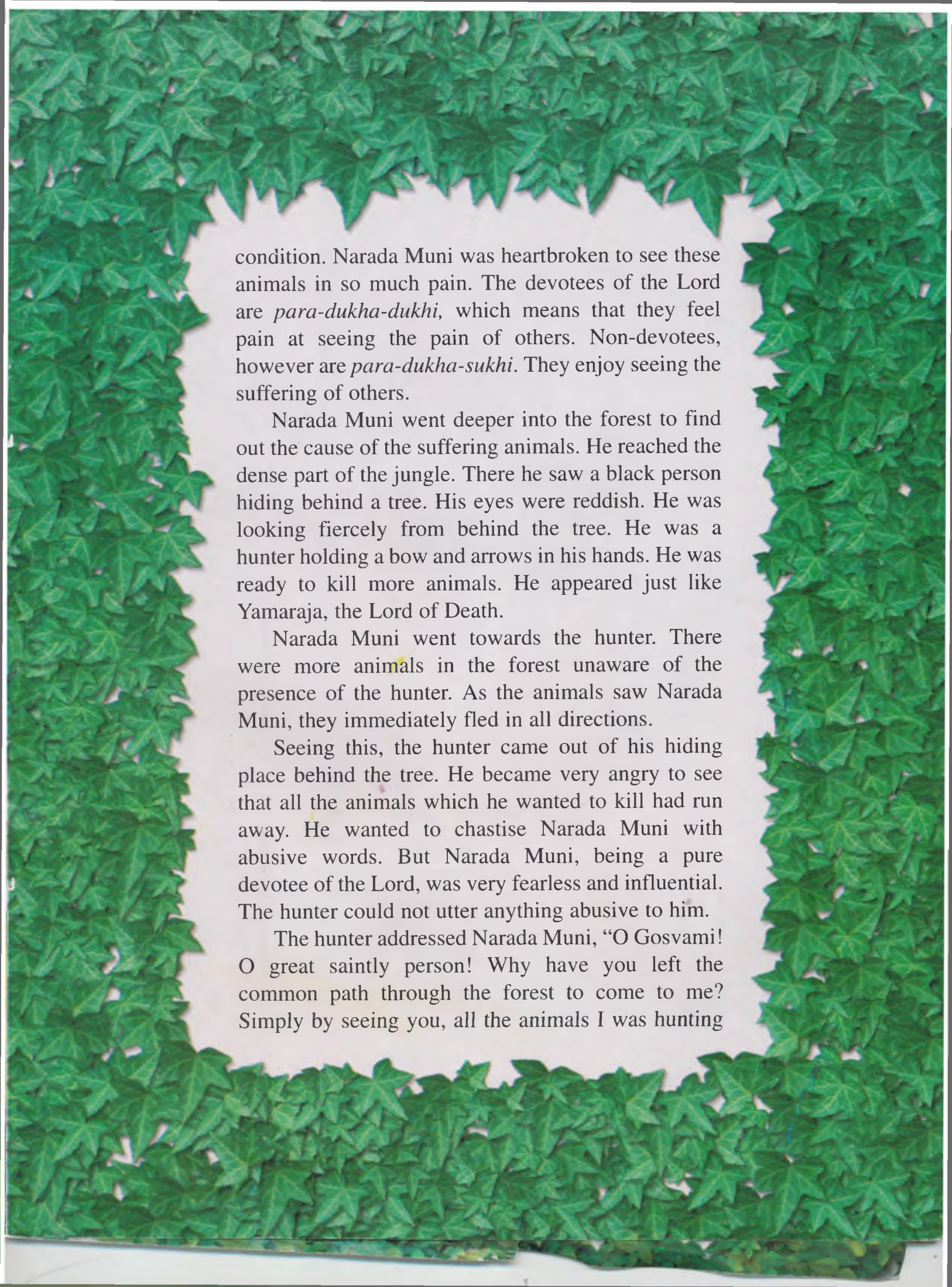
The Hunter

Once upon a time, the great saint Narada went to Prayag to bathe in the holy rivers Ganges, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers, which meet at one place at Prayag.

Narada Muni is a liberated pure devotee of Lord Krishna. By the mercy of Lord Krishna he can travel to any planet in the universe. If we want to go to any other planet, we require a spaceship. But Narada Muni can go to any planet without a spaceship. He can do so because he has a spiritual body. He can even go to the spiritual Vaikuntha planets. These spiritual planets are situated beyond the material universes in which we live. He always travels everywhere to spread the glories of Lord Krishna. His aim is to teach the people how to surrender to the Lord.

As he moved through the forest, he saw a deer lying on the path, shot with an arrow. Its legs were also broken. The deer was suffering in great pain. Farther ahead, Narada Muni saw a boar, also pierced by an arrow. Its legs were broken and it was twisting in pain. Farther still, he saw a rabbit in the same





condition. Narada Muni was heartbroken to see these animals in so much pain. The devotees of the Lord are *para-dukha-dukhi*, which means that they feel pain at seeing the pain of others. Non-devotees, however are *para-dukha-sukhi*. They enjoy seeing the suffering of others.

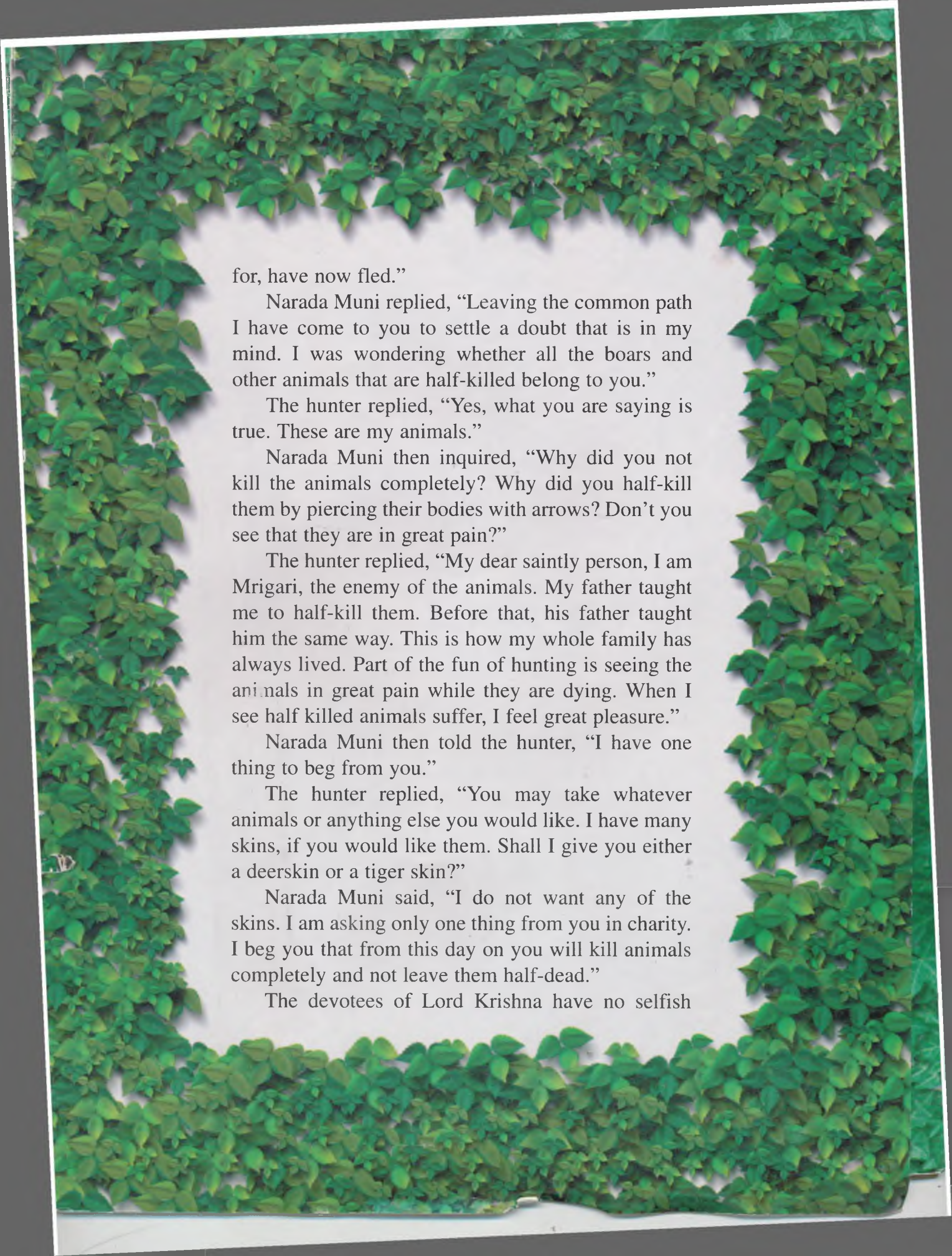
Narada Muni went deeper into the forest to find out the cause of the suffering animals. He reached the dense part of the jungle. There he saw a black person hiding behind a tree. His eyes were reddish. He was looking fiercely from behind the tree. He was a hunter holding a bow and arrows in his hands. He was ready to kill more animals. He appeared just like Yamaraja, the Lord of Death.

Narada Muni went towards the hunter. There were more animals in the forest unaware of the presence of the hunter. As the animals saw Narada Muni, they immediately fled in all directions.

Seeing this, the hunter came out of his hiding place behind the tree. He became very angry to see that all the animals which he wanted to kill had run away. He wanted to chastise Narada Muni with abusive words. But Narada Muni, being a pure devotee of the Lord, was very fearless and influential. The hunter could not utter anything abusive to him.

The hunter addressed Narada Muni, "O Gosvami! O great saintly person! Why have you left the common path through the forest to come to me? Simply by seeing you, all the animals I was hunting





for, have now fled.”

Narada Muni replied, “Leaving the common path I have come to you to settle a doubt that is in my mind. I was wondering whether all the boars and other animals that are half-killed belong to you.”

The hunter replied, “Yes, what you are saying is true. These are my animals.”

Narada Muni then inquired, “Why did you not kill the animals completely? Why did you half-kill them by piercing their bodies with arrows? Don’t you see that they are in great pain?”

The hunter replied, “My dear saintly person, I am Mrigari, the enemy of the animals. My father taught me to half-kill them. Before that, his father taught him the same way. This is how my whole family has always lived. Part of the fun of hunting is seeing the animals in great pain while they are dying. When I see half killed animals suffer, I feel great pleasure.”

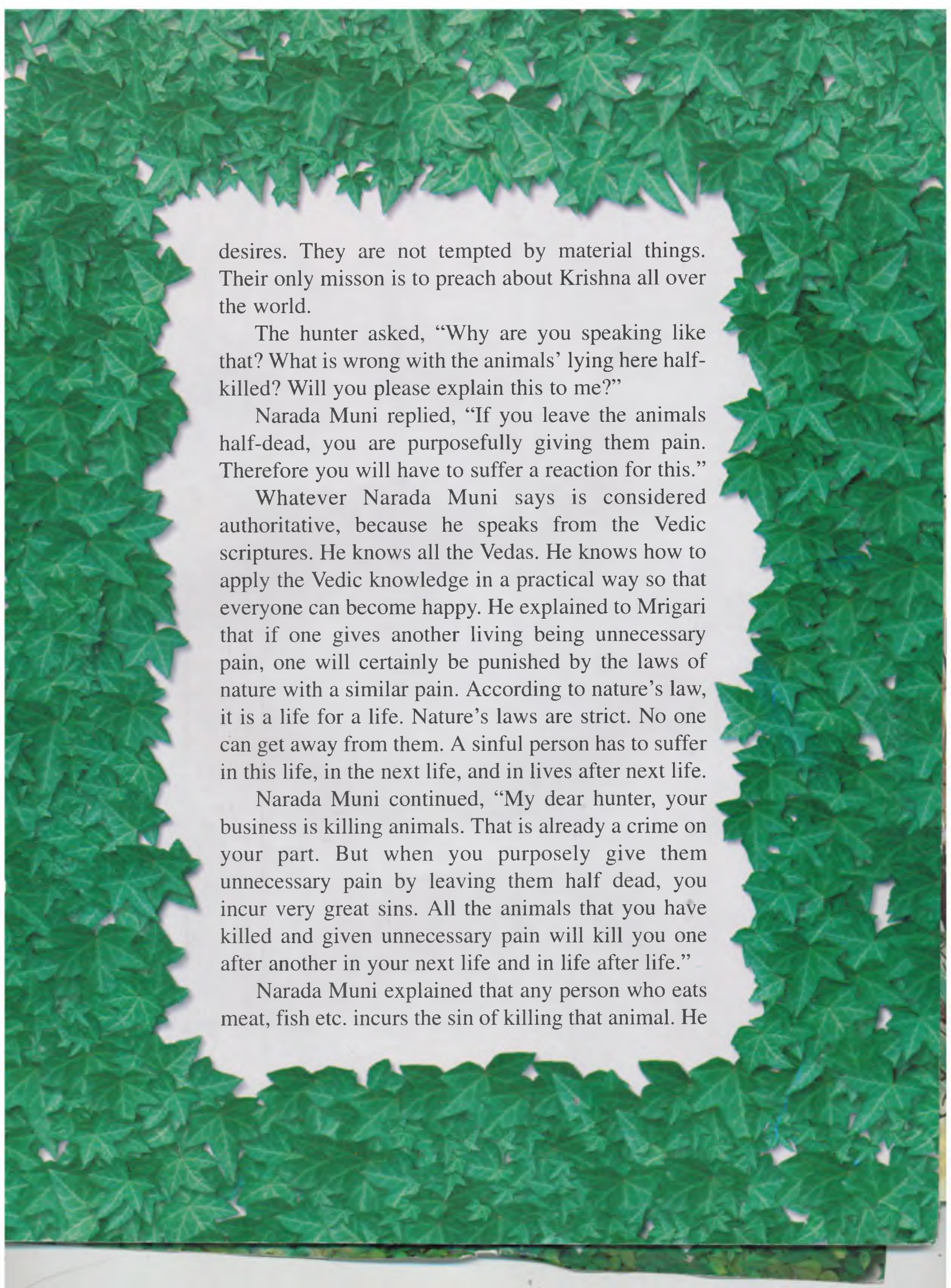
Narada Muni then told the hunter, “I have one thing to beg from you.”

The hunter replied, “You may take whatever animals or anything else you would like. I have many skins, if you would like them. Shall I give you either a deerskin or a tiger skin?”

Narada Muni said, “I do not want any of the skins. I am asking only one thing from you in charity. I beg you that from this day on you will kill animals completely and not leave them half-dead.”

The devotees of Lord Krishna have no selfish





desires. They are not tempted by material things. Their only mission is to preach about Krishna all over the world.

The hunter asked, “Why are you speaking like that? What is wrong with the animals’ lying here half-killed? Will you please explain this to me?”

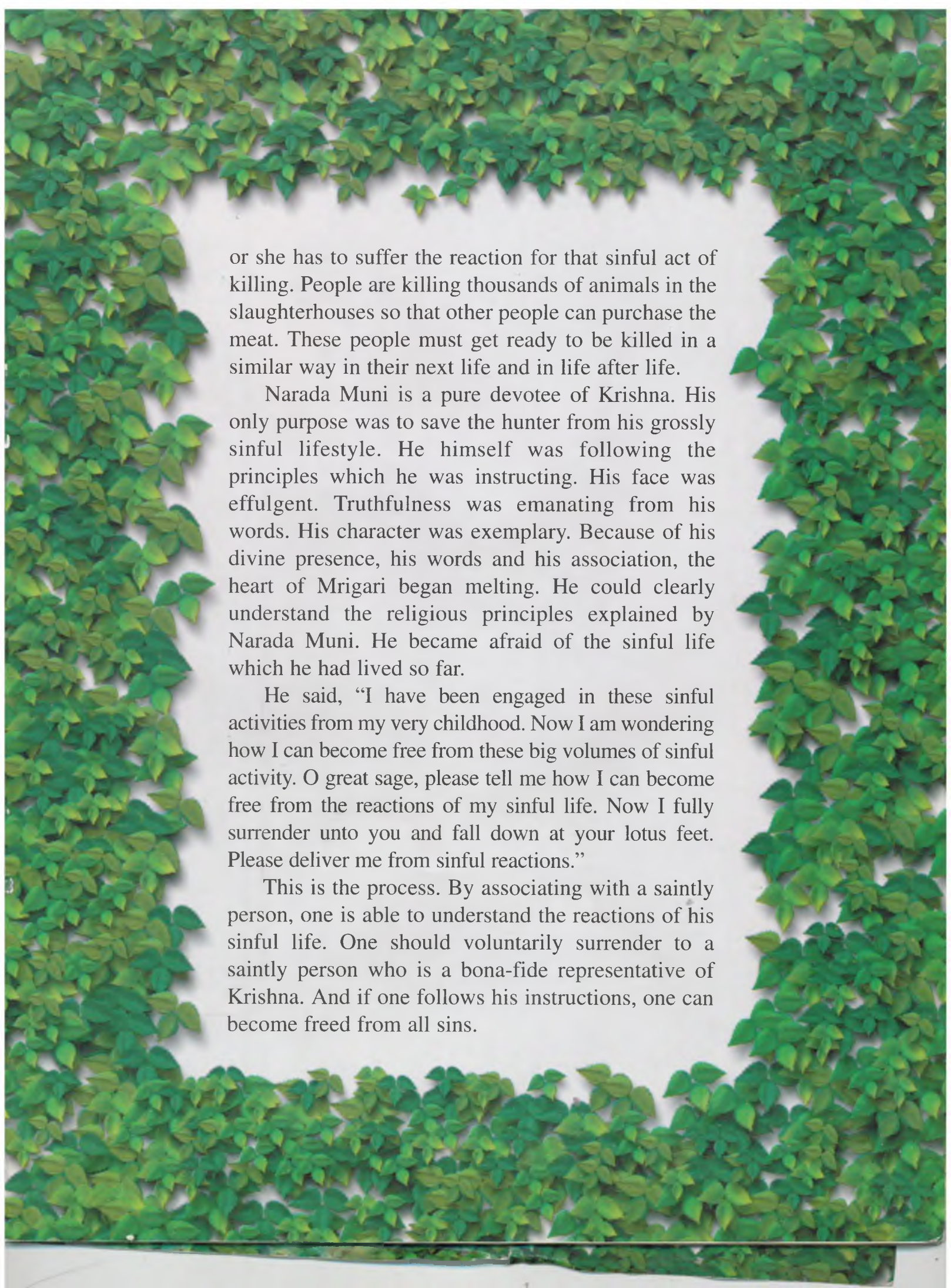
Narada Muni replied, “If you leave the animals half-dead, you are purposefully giving them pain. Therefore you will have to suffer a reaction for this.”

Whatever Narada Muni says is considered authoritative, because he speaks from the Vedic scriptures. He knows all the Vedas. He knows how to apply the Vedic knowledge in a practical way so that everyone can become happy. He explained to Mrigari that if one gives another living being unnecessary pain, one will certainly be punished by the laws of nature with a similar pain. According to nature’s law, it is a life for a life. Nature’s laws are strict. No one can get away from them. A sinful person has to suffer in this life, in the next life, and in lives after next life.

Narada Muni continued, “My dear hunter, your business is killing animals. That is already a crime on your part. But when you purposely give them unnecessary pain by leaving them half dead, you incur very great sins. All the animals that you have killed and given unnecessary pain will kill you one after another in your next life and in life after life.”

Narada Muni explained that any person who eats meat, fish etc. incurs the sin of killing that animal. He





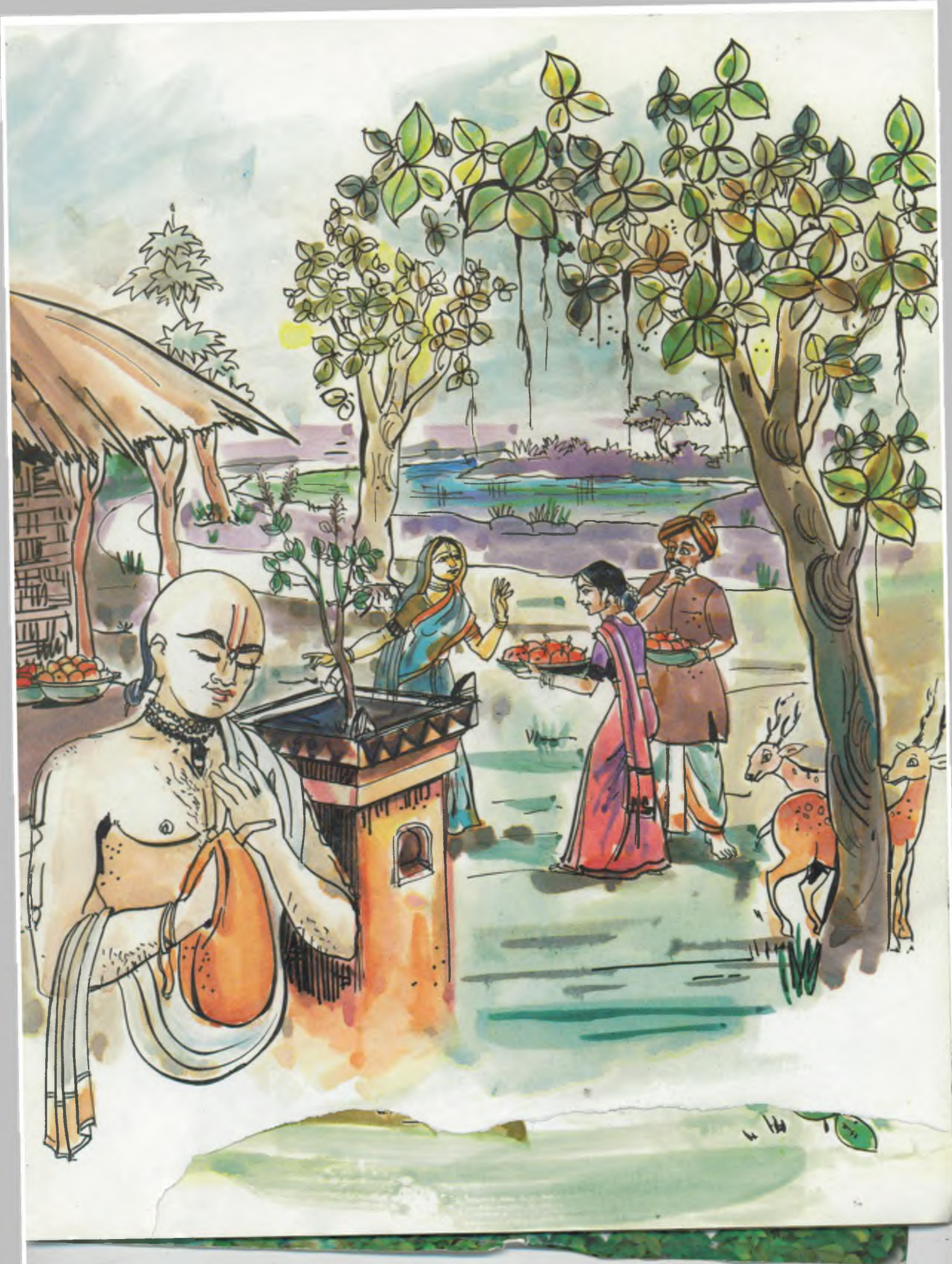
or she has to suffer the reaction for that sinful act of killing. People are killing thousands of animals in the slaughterhouses so that other people can purchase the meat. These people must get ready to be killed in a similar way in their next life and in life after life.

Narada Muni is a pure devotee of Krishna. His only purpose was to save the hunter from his grossly sinful lifestyle. He himself was following the principles which he was instructing. His face was effulgent. Truthfulness was emanating from his words. His character was exemplary. Because of his divine presence, his words and his association, the heart of Mrigari began melting. He could clearly understand the religious principles explained by Narada Muni. He became afraid of the sinful life which he had lived so far.

He said, “I have been engaged in these sinful activities from my very childhood. Now I am wondering how I can become free from these big volumes of sinful activity. O great sage, please tell me how I can become free from the reactions of my sinful life. Now I fully surrender unto you and fall down at your lotus feet. Please deliver me from sinful reactions.”

This is the process. By associating with a saintly person, one is able to understand the reactions of his sinful life. One should voluntarily surrender to a saintly person who is a bona-fide representative of Krishna. And if one follows his instructions, one can become freed from all sins.





Narada Muni assured the hunter, "If you listen to my instructions, I shall find the way by which you can be liberated."

The pure devotees of Lord Krishna are very powerful. Each of them can save the whole world. What to speak of Narada Muni? He is the spiritual master of many pure devotees like Prahlad Maharaja, Dhruva Maharaja, Valmiki etc. If one follows his instructions, one can be delivered from any number of sins.

The hunter then said, "O great sage, whatever you say I shall do."

Narada Muni looked at the hunter with compassion and said, "First of all, break your bow. Then I shall tell you what is to be done next."

The hunter was shocked. "If I break my bow," he asked, "how will my family live?"


Narada Muni replied, "Do not worry. I shall supply your food every day."

Narada Muni knew that Krishna is the actual supplier of everyone's needs. The hunter was actually not maintained by his bow but by Krishna. The hunter would not suffer by breaking the bow. There was no doubt that Krishna would supply him food, because he was following the order of Krishna's pure devotee.

So the hunter, with faith in Narada Muni's words, followed the first order of his guru and broke the bow. He fell down at the lotus feet of Narada Muni, waiting for his next instruction. Narada Muni reached







down to lift the hunter up and said, “Now go home and give away whatever you have to the brahmana priests. Then leave home with your wife taking only the clothes you are wearing. Go to the river and build a small cottage. In front of the house grow a tulasi plant on a raised platform. Every day circumambulate this holy tulasi plant. Serve her by giving her water and offering flowers, and continuously chant the Hare Krishna maha-mantra:

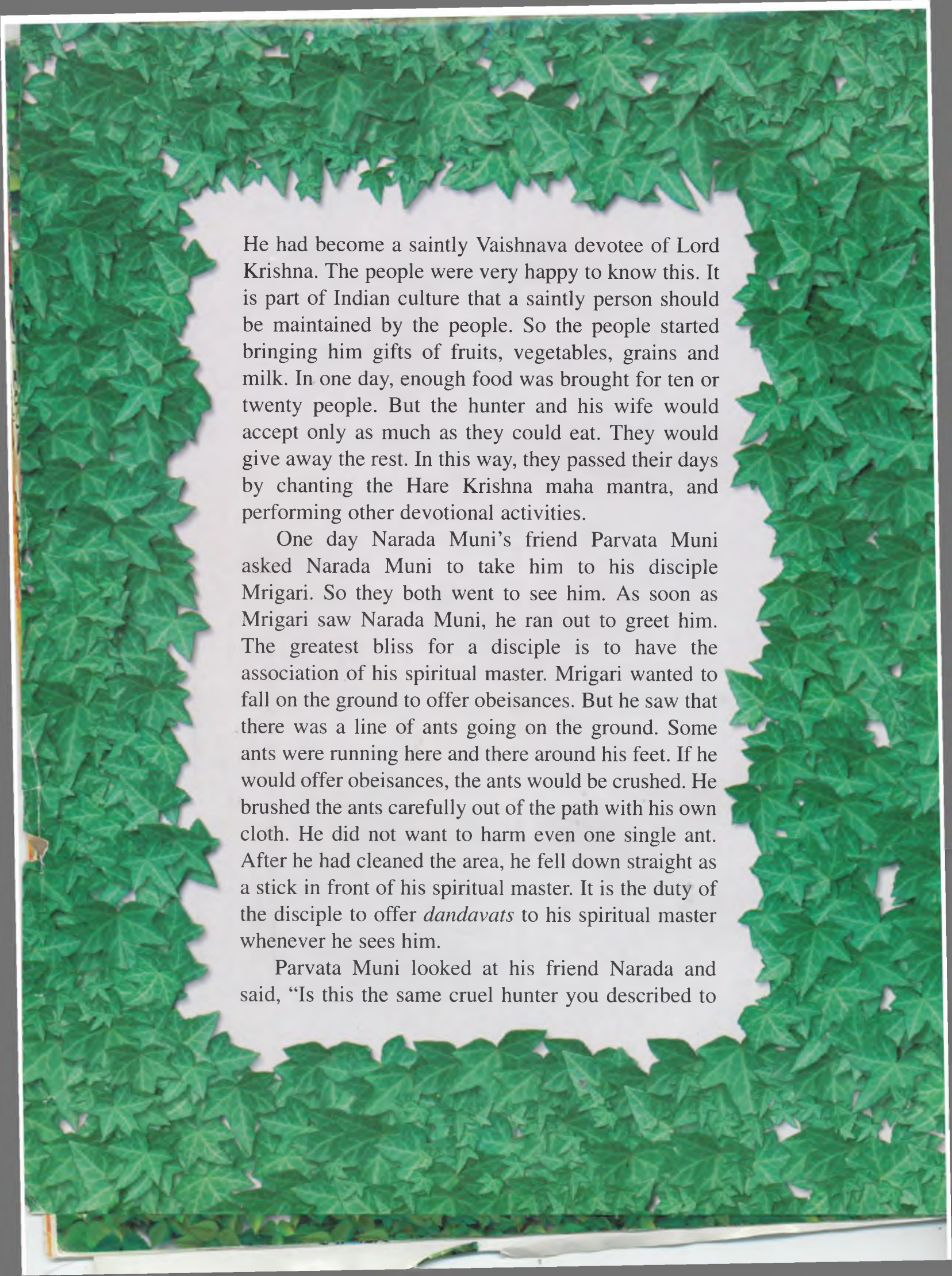
**Hare Krishna Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare**

I will send you both enough food every day. You can accept as much food as you want.”

Then Narada Muni went to the three half-killed animals and made them well. Indeed, the animals got up and swiftly ran away. When the hunter saw this he was struck with wonder. He offered his respectful obeisances to Narada Muni. Then Narada Muni left for Prayag. The hunter returned home and followed all the instructions given by Narada Muni.

The news that the hunter had become a completely changed man spread all over the village.



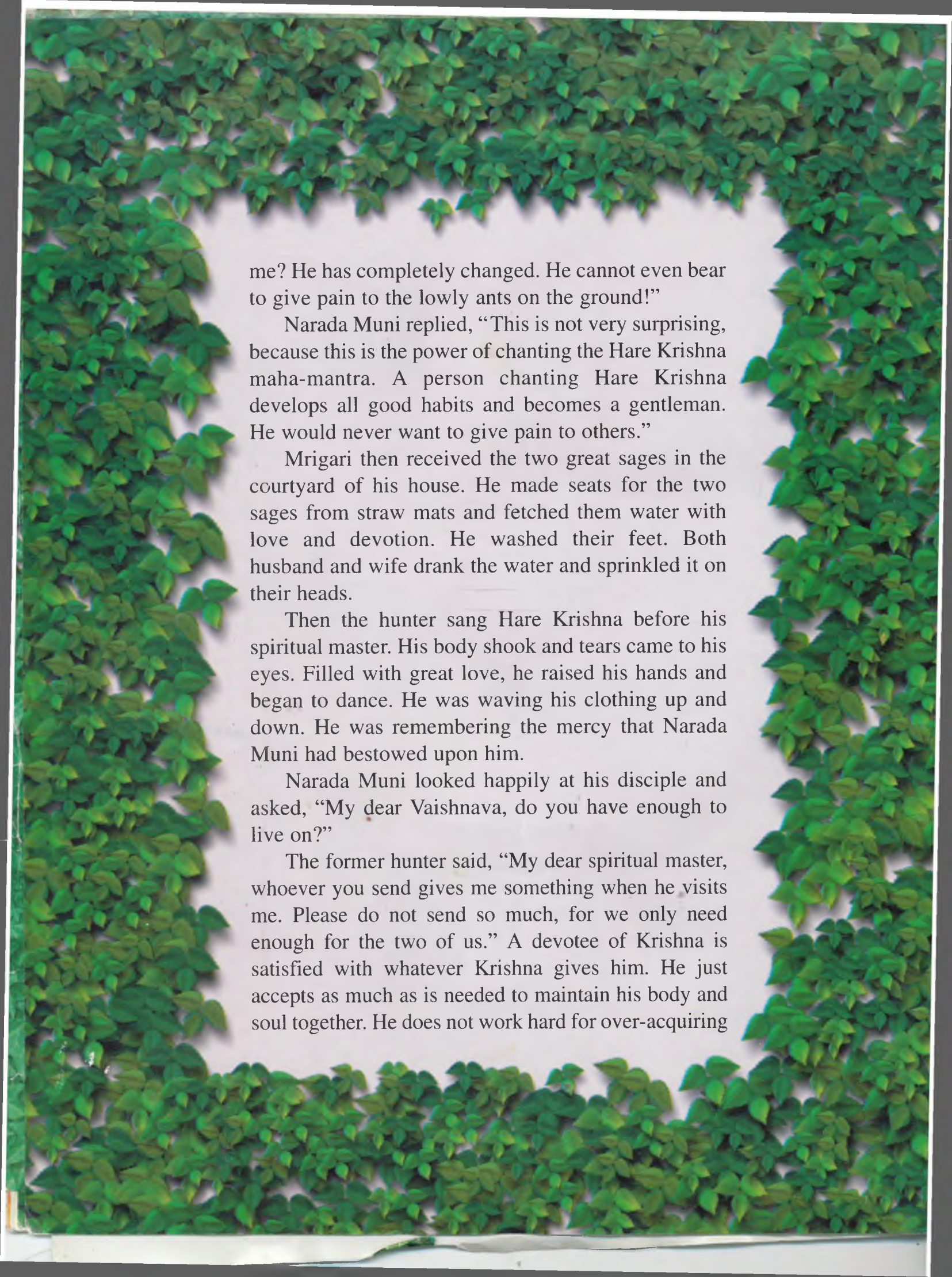


He had become a saintly Vaishnava devotee of Lord Krishna. The people were very happy to know this. It is part of Indian culture that a saintly person should be maintained by the people. So the people started bringing him gifts of fruits, vegetables, grains and milk. In one day, enough food was brought for ten or twenty people. But the hunter and his wife would accept only as much as they could eat. They would give away the rest. In this way, they passed their days by chanting the Hare Krishna maha mantra, and performing other devotional activities.

One day Narada Muni's friend Parvata Muni asked Narada Muni to take him to his disciple Mrigari. So they both went to see him. As soon as Mrigari saw Narada Muni, he ran out to greet him. The greatest bliss for a disciple is to have the association of his spiritual master. Mrigari wanted to fall on the ground to offer obeisances. But he saw that there was a line of ants going on the ground. Some ants were running here and there around his feet. If he would offer obeisances, the ants would be crushed. He brushed the ants carefully out of the path with his own cloth. He did not want to harm even one single ant. After he had cleaned the area, he fell down straight as a stick in front of his spiritual master. It is the duty of the disciple to offer *dandavats* to his spiritual master whenever he sees him.

Parvata Muni looked at his friend Narada and said, "Is this the same cruel hunter you described to





me? He has completely changed. He cannot even bear to give pain to the lowly ants on the ground!”

Narada Muni replied, “This is not very surprising, because this is the power of chanting the Hare Krishna maha-mantra. A person chanting Hare Krishna develops all good habits and becomes a gentleman. He would never want to give pain to others.”

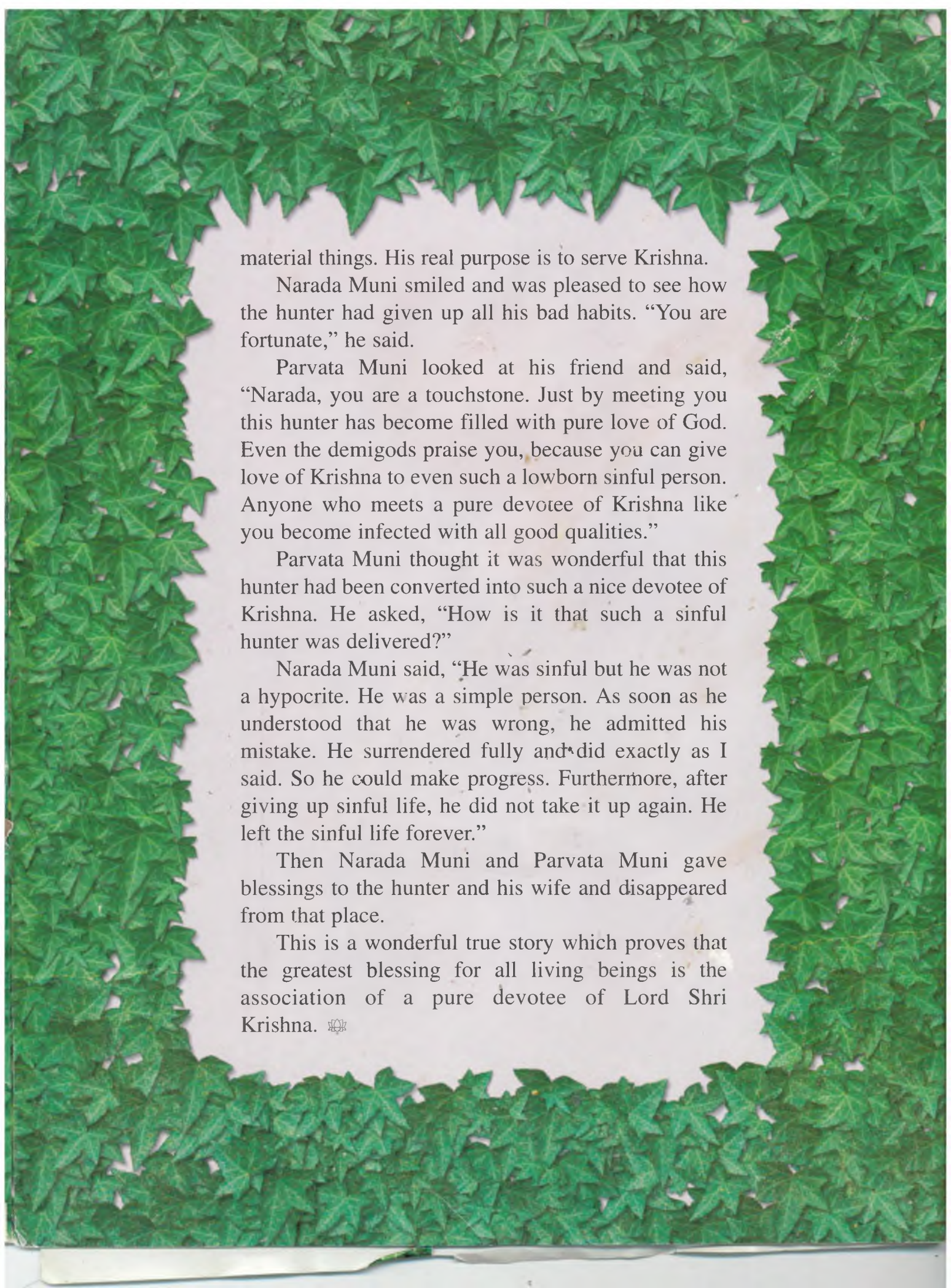
Mrigari then received the two great sages in the courtyard of his house. He made seats for the two sages from straw mats and fetched them water with love and devotion. He washed their feet. Both husband and wife drank the water and sprinkled it on their heads.

Then the hunter sang Hare Krishna before his spiritual master. His body shook and tears came to his eyes. Filled with great love, he raised his hands and began to dance. He was waving his clothing up and down. He was remembering the mercy that Narada Muni had bestowed upon him.

Narada Muni looked happily at his disciple and asked, “My dear Vaishnava, do you have enough to live on?”

The former hunter said, “My dear spiritual master, whoever you send gives me something when he visits me. Please do not send so much, for we only need enough for the two of us.” A devotee of Krishna is satisfied with whatever Krishna gives him. He just accepts as much as is needed to maintain his body and soul together. He does not work hard for over-acquiring





material things. His real purpose is to serve Krishna.

Narada Muni smiled and was pleased to see how the hunter had given up all his bad habits. “You are fortunate,” he said.

Parvata Muni looked at his friend and said, “Narada, you are a touchstone. Just by meeting you this hunter has become filled with pure love of God. Even the demigods praise you, because you can give love of Krishna to even such a lowborn sinful person. Anyone who meets a pure devotee of Krishna like you become infected with all good qualities.”

Parvata Muni thought it was wonderful that this hunter had been converted into such a nice devotee of Krishna. He asked, “How is it that such a sinful hunter was delivered?”

Narada Muni said, “He was sinful but he was not a hypocrite. He was a simple person. As soon as he understood that he was wrong, he admitted his mistake. He surrendered fully and did exactly as I said. So he could make progress. Furthermore, after giving up sinful life, he did not take it up again. He left the sinful life forever.”

Then Narada Muni and Parvata Muni gave blessings to the hunter and his wife and disappeared from that place.

This is a wonderful true story which proves that the greatest blessing for all living beings is the association of a pure devotee of Lord Shri Krishna. ❀

*Coming
soon...*



*The great devotee
Prahlad*

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The Dead Son Speaks



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