

# *Popcorn - Bondage*

*Instructive Stories from teachings of  
Srla Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*





Once there was a beggar who had taken shelter in a traveler's rest house. Being extremely tired and weak of hunger he could not stand.

*Being very weak, he would stand to beg holding himself upright by embracing a wide pillar.*

*Please give me some food.*

*There was a traveler passing by  
with popcorn in his hand.*

*Oh! He is so weak  
and poor. Let me  
give him this  
popcorn and  
satisfy his hunger.*

*The traveler offered food...*

**Please take  
this popcorn**

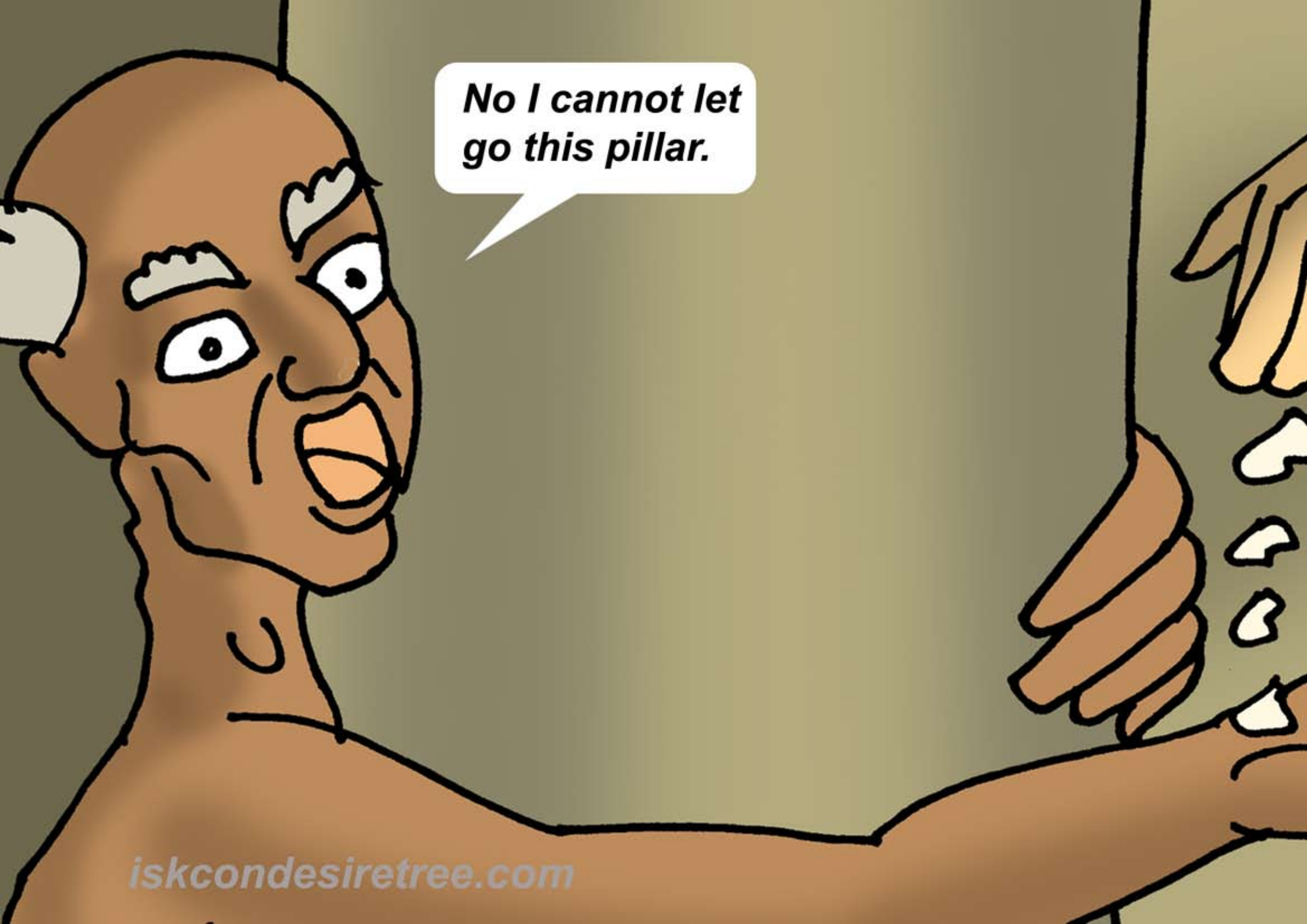


*How will I eat the popcorn?  
I am unable to reach my  
hands to my mouth.*



***This pillar is very wide.  
Please let go the pillar so that  
you can eat with your hands  
comfortably.***





*No I cannot let go this pillar.*



***You cannot feed yourself  
with your hands around  
this pillar. Please let go  
this pillar.***





*No I cannot let go this pillar.*

*Most reluctantly, the kind hearted traveler poured all the popcorn in his hands and tried to convince the beggar to leave his hand.*



*Seeing the foolishness of the beggar and his unnecessary attachment to the pillar, ultimately he went away in disgust.*





***The wretched person made all sorts of attempts to eat with his hands still crossing the wide pillar. In doing so all popcorn fell on the ground and got contaminated with dirty water.***

## **PURPORT**

***All atheists suffer like this. Conditioned souls prefer to embrace the pillar of the material world and the foolish want to take rest, while refusing to accept anything worthwhile. They should rather accept and abide by the valued instructions of the pure devotees so that they can train themselves how to give up the allurements of taking useless rest upon the pillar of this mundane world.***