



He quickly becomes  
righteous and attains lasting  
peace. O son of Kuntī,  
declare it boldly that My  
devotee never perishes.

**Bg 9.31**



*Even today if you wish to*

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# Sakshi Gopal

Gopal the Lord who stood as witness



**Children's book**



Dedicated to  
**His Divine Grace**  
**A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada**  
founder acharya:  
**International Society for Krishna Consciousness**

illustrations: Vijaya Govinda Das  
Special thanks : V.Srinivas

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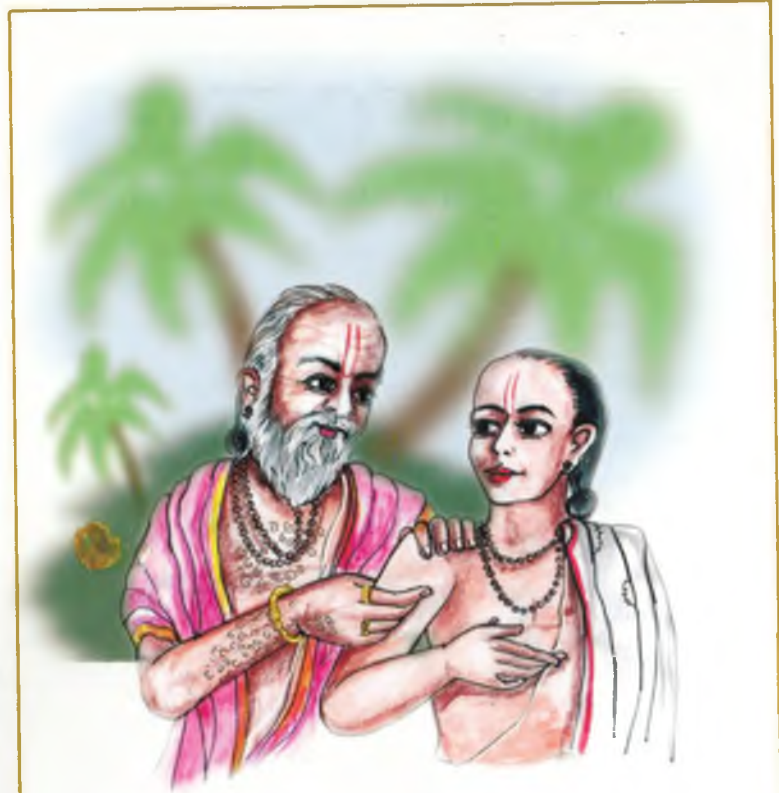
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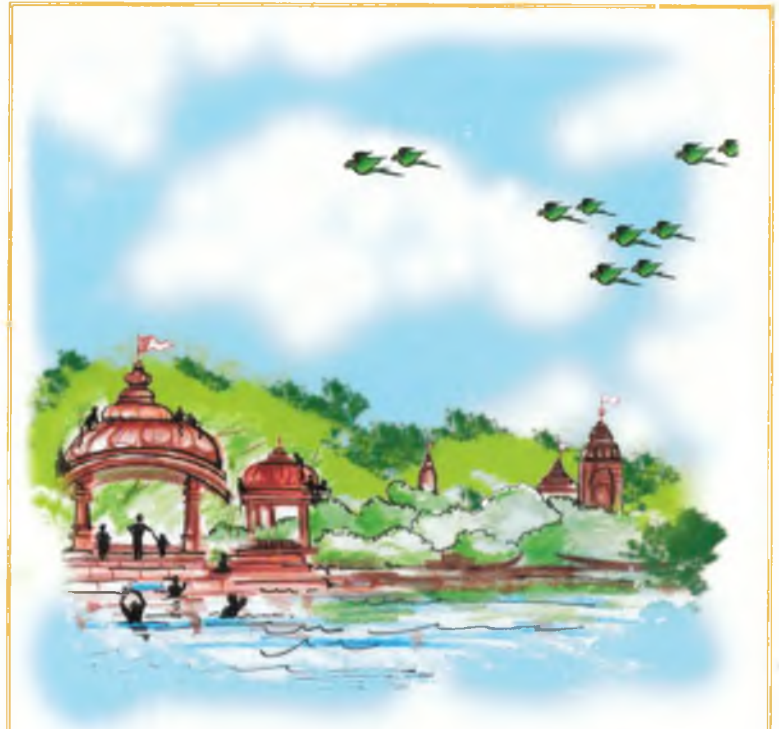


**Children's book**



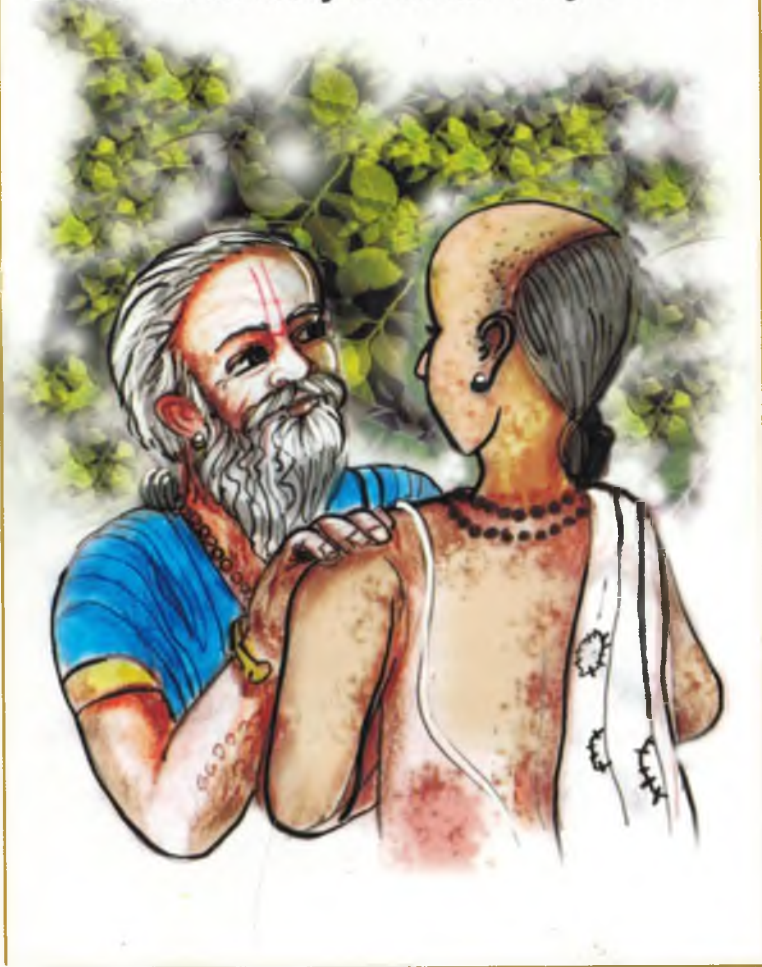


**O**nce there lived in Vidyanagar, two Brahmins. They decided to go on a pilgrimage. One brahmin was young and poor. The other was old and wealthy.



**F**irst they visited Gaya, then Kashi, then Prayag. With great joy they went onto Mathura. From there they visited the twelve forests of Vrindavan and bathed in the Yamuna River.

**T**he young poor brahmin boy took care of the old wealthy brahmin very well.



**T**he old brahmin was very pleased with the young man's services. "You have served me better than my own son", he said. "I did not grow tired during our entire journey".



The old brahmin continued...

"In return I promise you my daughter in marriage."



**"Dear sir,"** the young man said,  
"I am not at all aristocratic or educated,  
and I am very poor. I am not a suitable  
husband for your daughter".



**"I** served you to please Lord Krishna, for He likes to see His devotees serving the brahmins. Besides, you cannot give me your daughter without the consent of your friends and relatives".

**T**he old man assured him that no one could make him change his mind.



The young brahmin turned around and pointed towards Gopal ji temple..

“If you are fully determined to give your daughter to me, please say so, before the deity of Gopal.

**He will be my witness”.**



**S**o together they entered the temple. The old man bowed before the deity and said, “Dear Lord, please witness that I have given my daughter in marriage to this young man”.



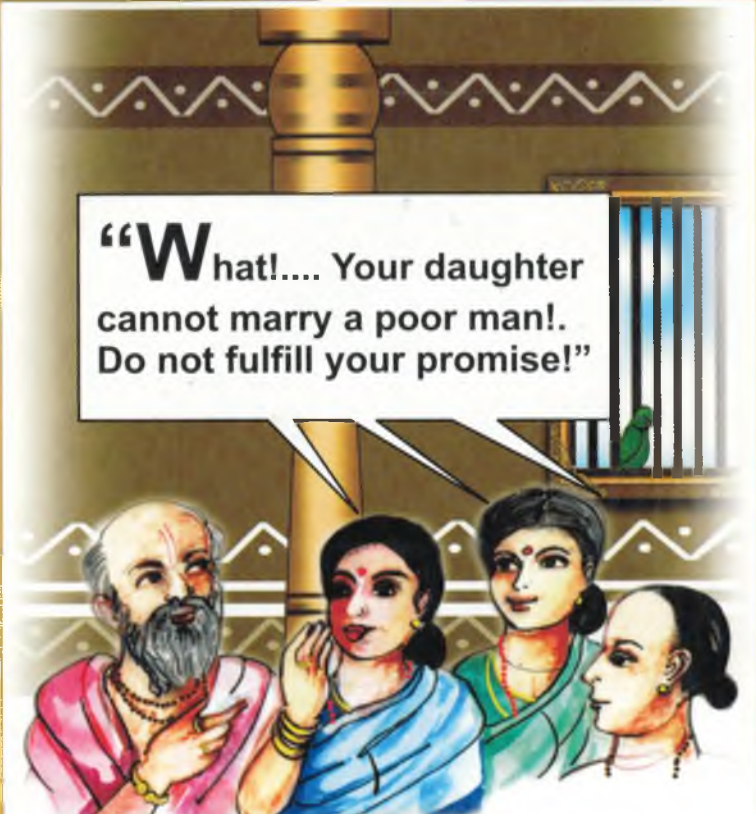


**T**hen the young brahmin spoke.  
“Dear Lord, if it is necessary later on,  
I may call for you to testify as my  
witness”. With that, the two men  
returned to their village of Vidyanagar.

**D**ays passed by...



One day the old brahmin said to  
himself, “I must tell my wife, sons  
and other relatives, and friends about  
my promise”. So he called a  
meeting.

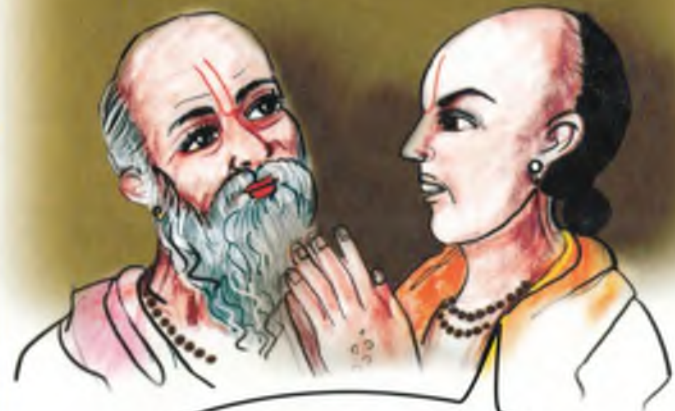


**“W**hat!... Your daughter cannot marry a poor man! Do not fulfill your promise!”

The old man told them about his promise before Gopal deities in Vrindavan.

All the family members protested.

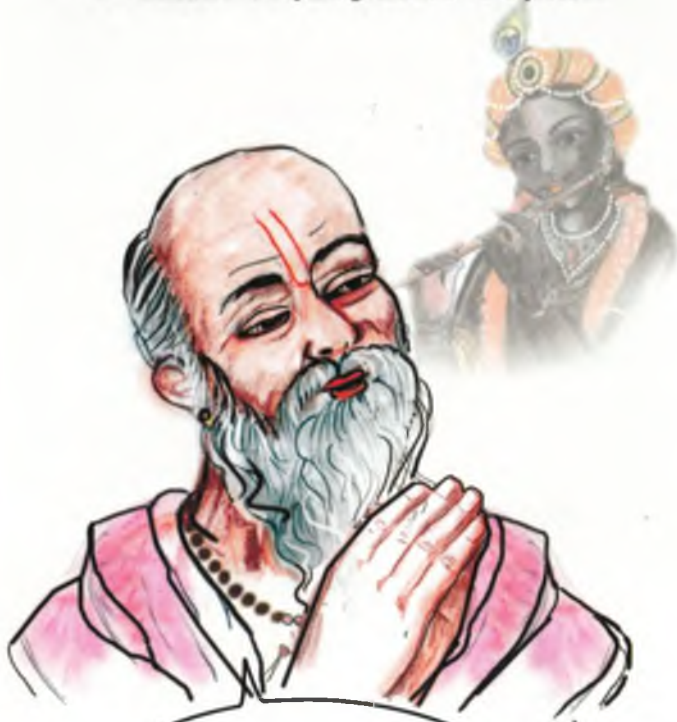
**T**hen the elder son spoke.



“The deity lives far away in Vrindavan. How can He come here? Do not worry. You do not even have to lie. Just say that you do not remember anything. I will take care of the rest”.



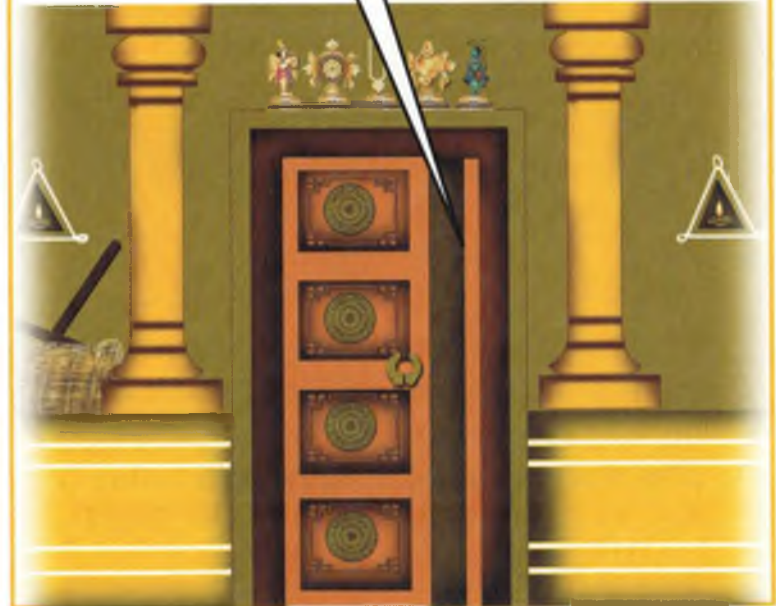
**T**he father prayed to Gopal.....



“Dear Lord,  
please help me to  
not break my  
promise.”

**O**ne day, the young brahmin came to visit. He offered the old man respectful greetings and with folded hands asked about the marriage. The elderly brahmin said nothing, but his son rushed at the young man screaming,

“How dare you want to marry  
my sister? Get out of this house”.

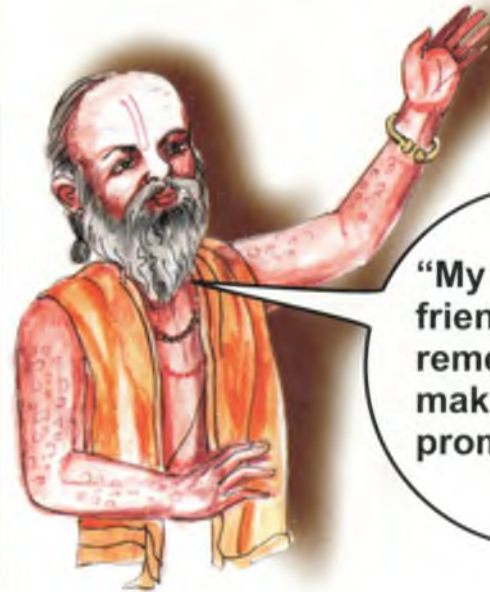


**T**he young brahmin ran and gathered all the people of the village and told them,



“This gentleman promised to give me his daughter in marriage. Now he refuses to do it. Please ask him why?”.

**W**hen the villagers present requested him to answer, the elderly brahmin said,



“My dear friends, I do not remember making such a promise”.

The village people were bewildered. Whom should they believe? The young brahmin explained the whole story and told them of the witness Gopal.

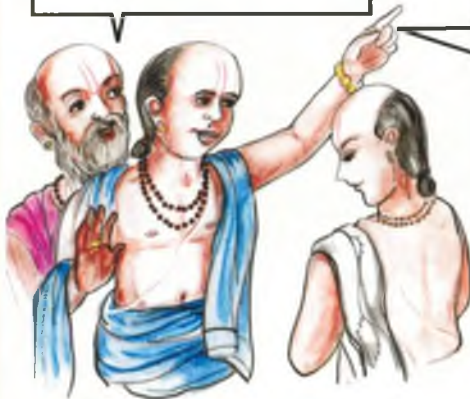


**W**hen confronted by the villagers the elderly brahmin admitted

“Everything this young man has told you is true”.

“If Gopal comes here as your witness, I will give you my daughter without fail”.

“Go, Go, get Gopal your witness”.



He was sure Gopal would help him keep his promise. In fact, everyone liked the idea of inviting Gopal to come - even the old man's atheistic son. He was sure that a deity could never walk or talk.



**S**oon the brahmin started to Vrindavan. As soon as he reached Vrindavan he went at once to see Gopal.



**“Dear Lord, I am not interested in getting the brahmin’s daughter as my wife, but I feel great pain that he broke his religious principle of truthfulness. Please be merciful to us and save us from this sin by acting as my witness.”**

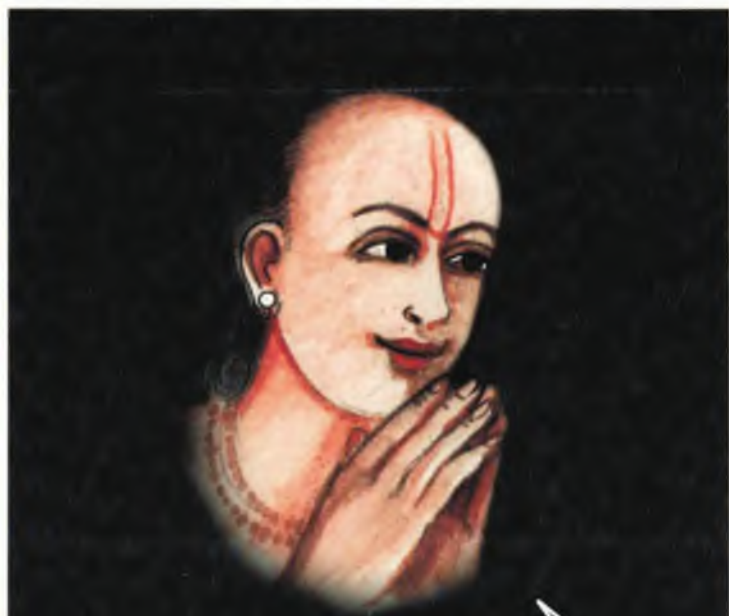
**H**e pleaded Gopal to come with him to his village and stand as his witness.



Gopal said

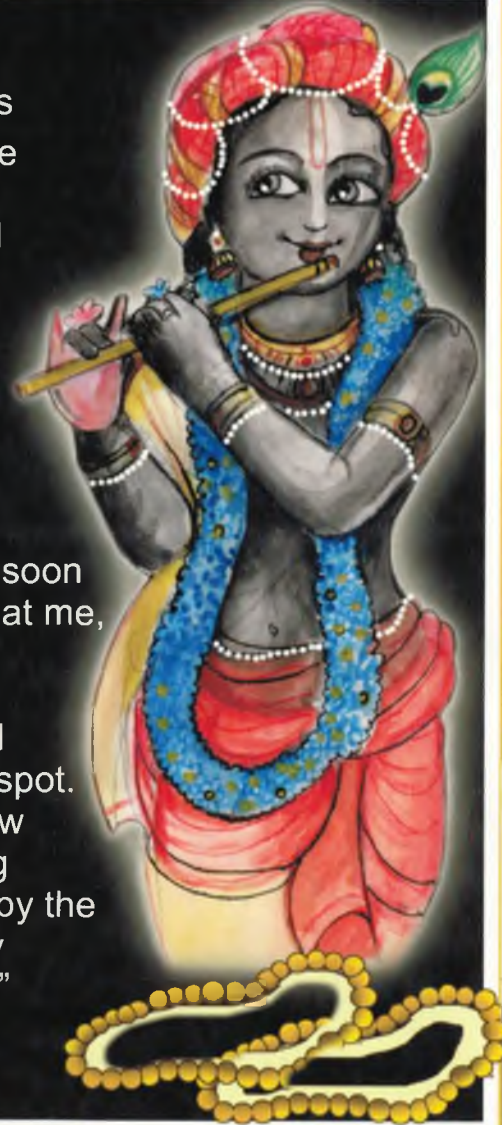
**“But I have never heard of a deity walking from one place to another.”**





**“M**y dear Lord, if you can talk, you can walk. You are not a statue. You are Krishna himself, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Please walk there with me, even though you have never done so before”.

**G**opal was defeated. He smiled and said, “I shall go with you. I shall walk behind you, but do not try to see me by turning around. As soon as you look at me, I shall stop walking and remain fixed in that very spot. You will know I am walking behind you by the sound of my ankle bells.”

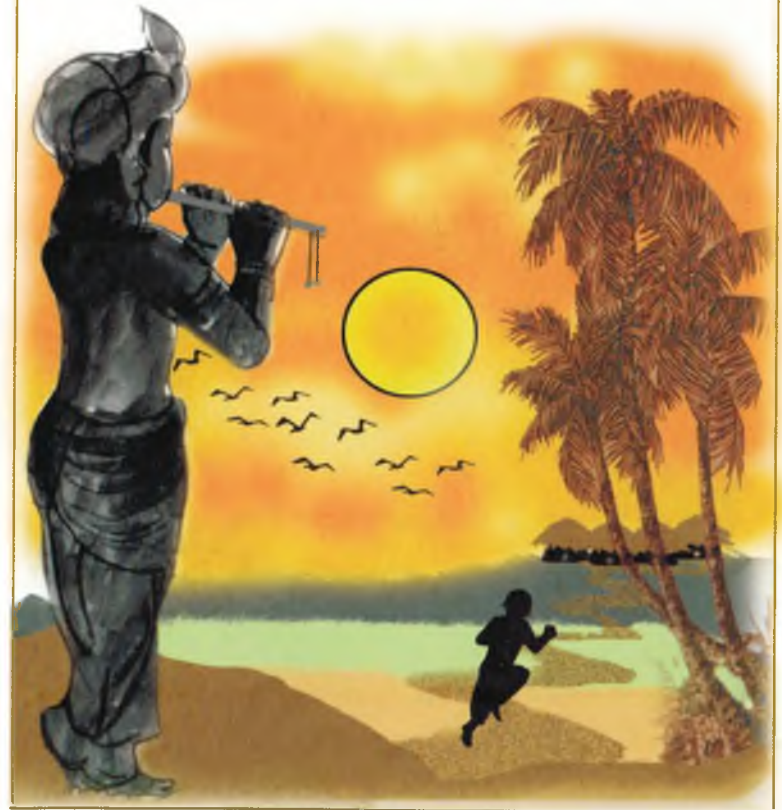


**B**oth of them started walking ...  
the brahmin was hearing the sound  
of ankle bells.



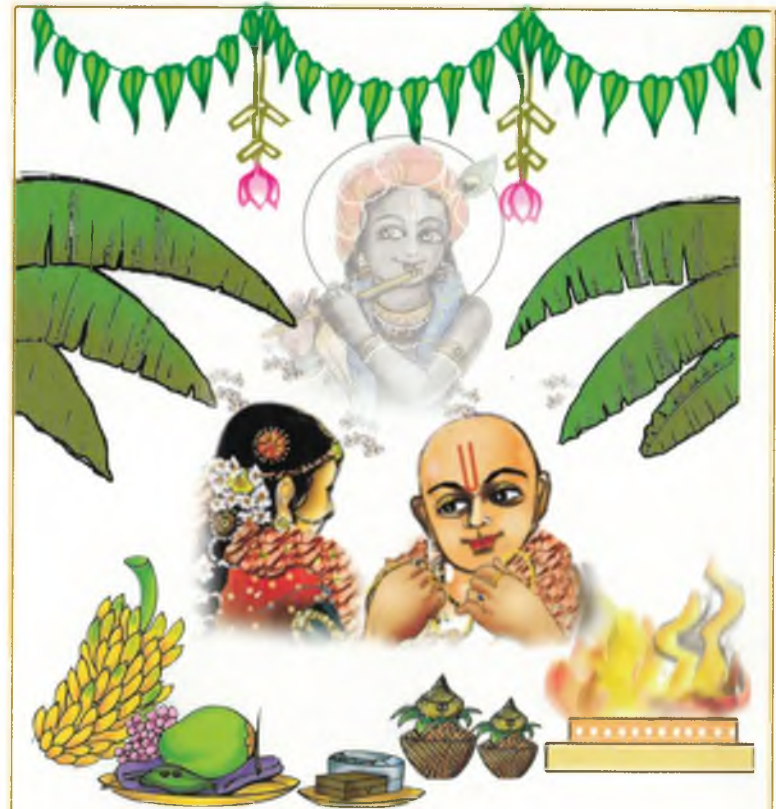
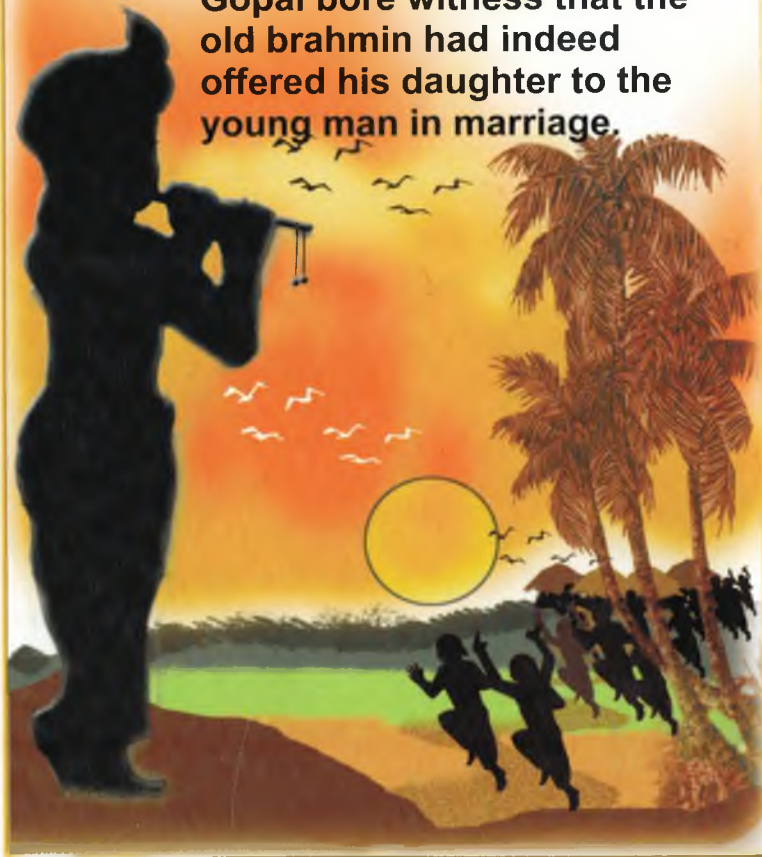
As they neared their village the  
anklet sound stopped so he turned  
around and looked into the smiling  
face of Gopal. "Now you can go  
home," Gopal said. "I shall stay  
here. I will not leave".

**Q**uickly the young man ran to the  
village and told everyone of Gopal's  
arrival. All were struck with wonder  
and came to see the deity.





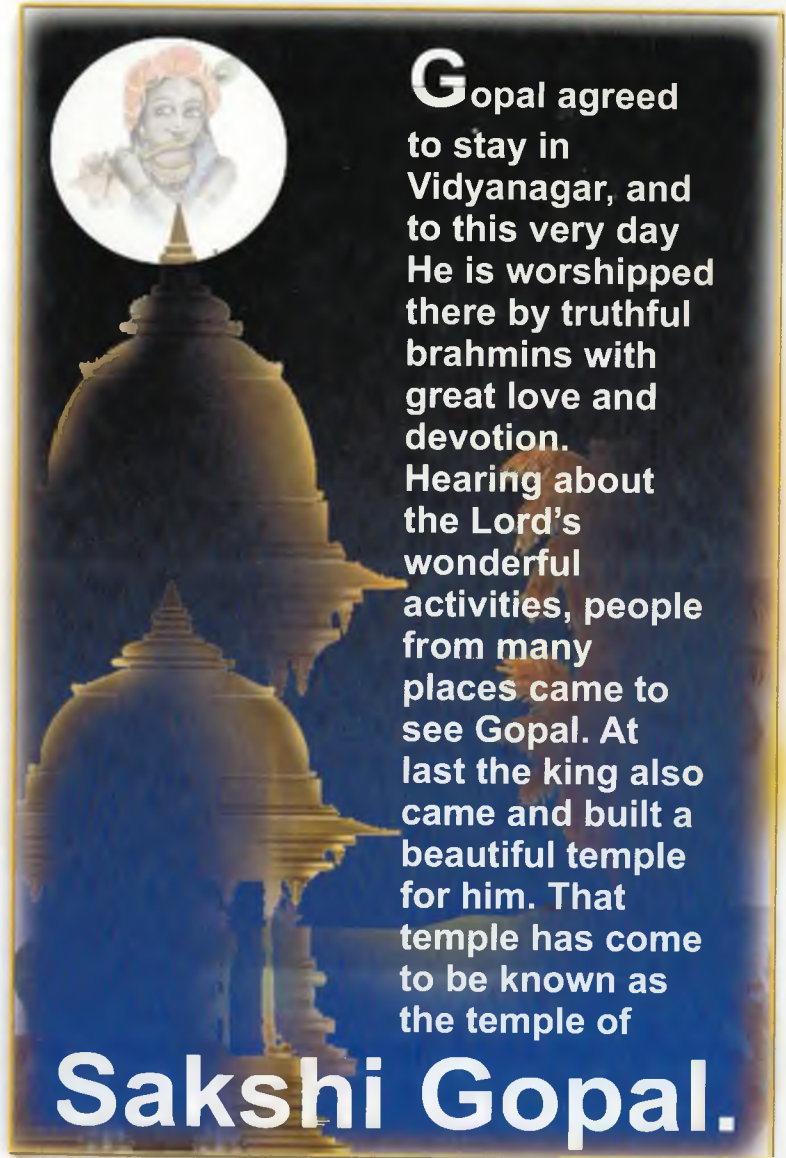
**T**he old man came too, and fell respectfully at the feet of Gopal, offering him his obeisances. Thus in the presence of all the villagers, Gopal bore witness that the old brahmin had indeed offered his daughter to the young man in marriage.



**A**t that very place the marriage ceremony was held. Gopal told both Brahmins, "You are my eternal servants. I am very pleased by your truthfulness. Accordingly, you may ask for a blessing".



**W**ith great pleasure the brahmins replied, “Please remain here so that people all over the world will always know how merciful you are to your devotees”.



**G**opal agreed to stay in Vidyanagar, and to this very day He is worshipped there by truthful brahmins with great love and devotion. Hearing about the Lord's wonderful activities, people from many places came to see Gopal. At last the king also came and built a beautiful temple for him. That temple has come to be known as the temple of

**Sakshi Gopal.**