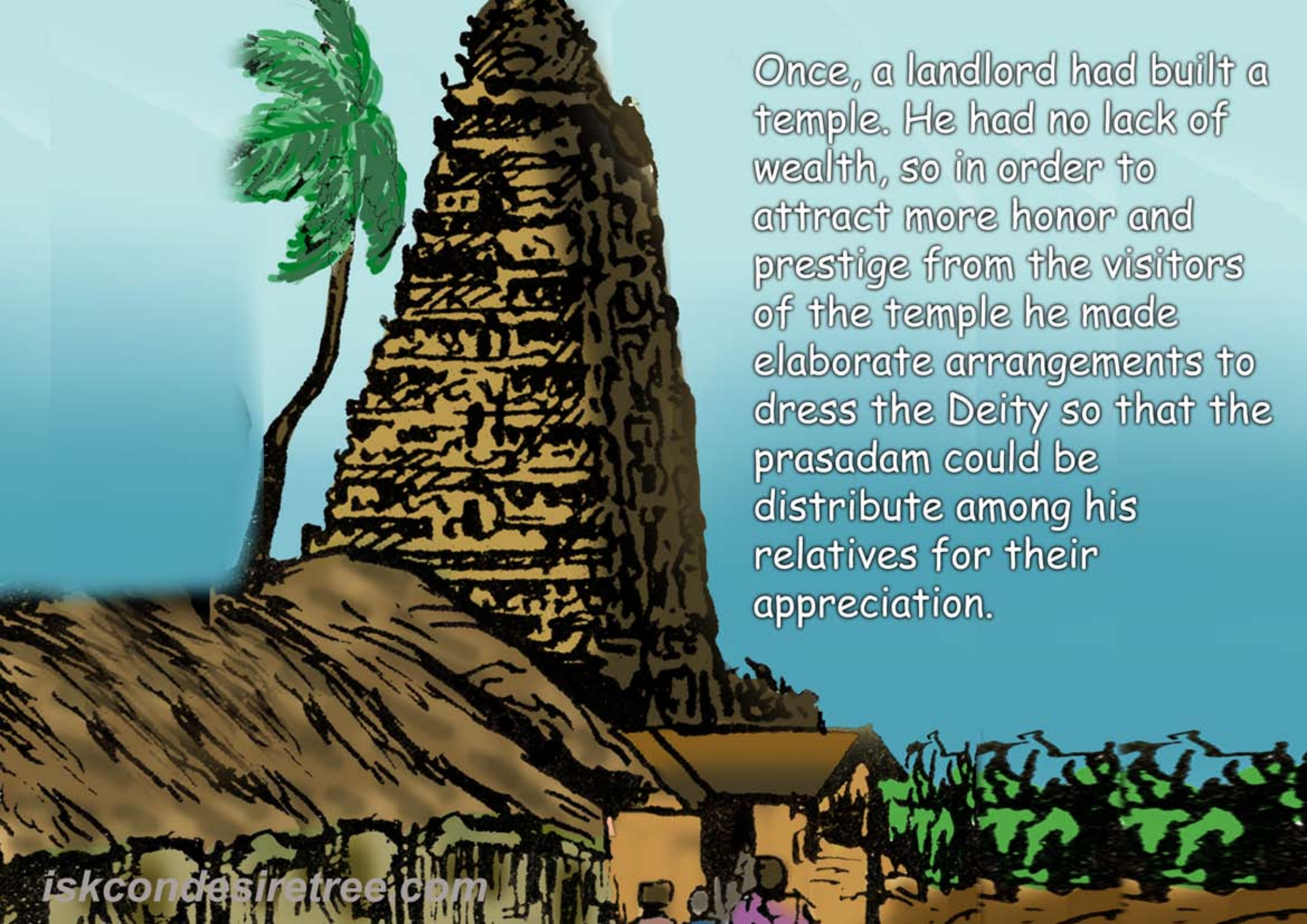




*I'm not
stealing
the bananas*

*Instructive Stories from teachings of
Srla Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*



Once, a landlord had built a temple. He had no lack of wealth, so in order to attract more honor and prestige from the visitors of the temple he made elaborate arrangements to dress the Deity so that the prasadam could be distribute among his relatives for their appreciation.

The landlord appointed a priest




Once the Landlord brought some best quality amrtasagar and agnisvar bananas, and handing them over to the priest

O pujari! Please offer these bananas to the Deity and then send the whole lot to my own private apartment. Some of my friends are coming today and these bananas should be reserved for them only.





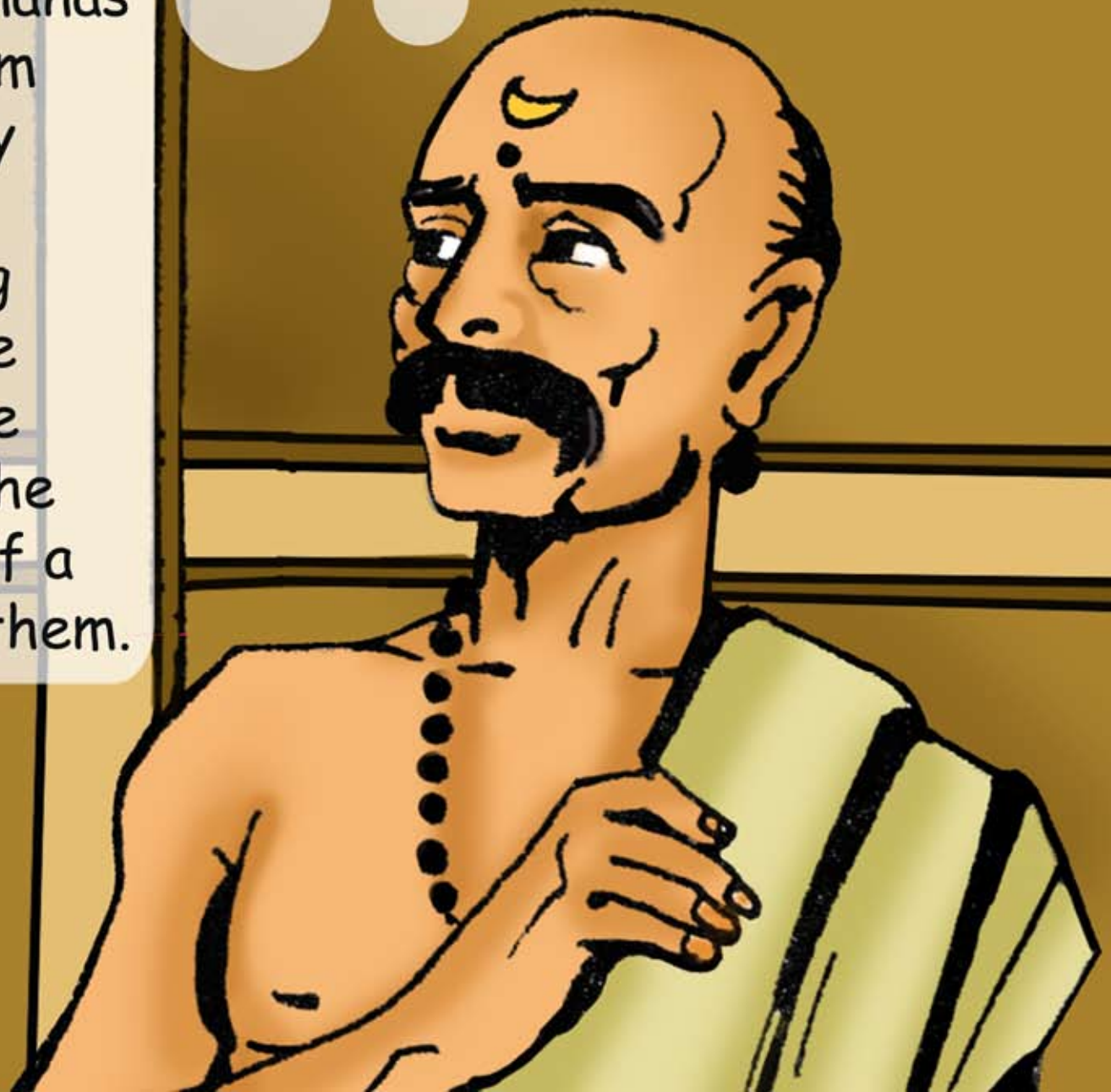
I am eager to check whether the bananas were really being offered to the deity



But when he approached the altar he found that the door was closed from inside

Oh my God, this priest was pretending to offer the bananas to the deity and while eating some of them.

When could I have the chance to eat such a delicious variety of bananas in my life? Getting them now at my disposal, why should I miss this opportunity of enjoying them? I doubt that the landlord counted all the bananas. So I am sure he won't detect the loss of a few bananas if I take them.



While eating the bananas and thinking
thus the priest heard the landlord

Who is in the
deity room?

A thief's mind remains ever anxious so the priest was extremely frightened

I didn't steal the Bananas!

Listening to the choked voice of the priest and his awkward reply, the landlord was sure that the priest was consuming the bananas.



PURPORT :

Those who pretend to offer devotional service to the Lord while in their heart developing an urge for other motives, usually expose themselves without fail in front of real saintly persons and Vaishnavas. Whenever a person starts unexpectedly praising his own activities or makes an attempt to confirm his apparently good conduct just through criticizing others, it may be very rightly assumed that the person concerned has other motives in mind. Even if the entire population of critics criticized a real saintly person or if selfishly-motivated persons start blaspheming him, he never makes an attempt to vindicate himself.

A truly devoted Vaishnava never make any protest against himself, but he never tolerates any criticism against other Vaishnavas or his spiritual master. It is believed that anyone who makes any attempt to vindicate himself must be factually a guilty person and otherwise motivated for name and fame in the general society.