

The Ancestral Well

*Instructive Stories from the teachings of
Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*



A village pandita was very much devoted to his departed father.

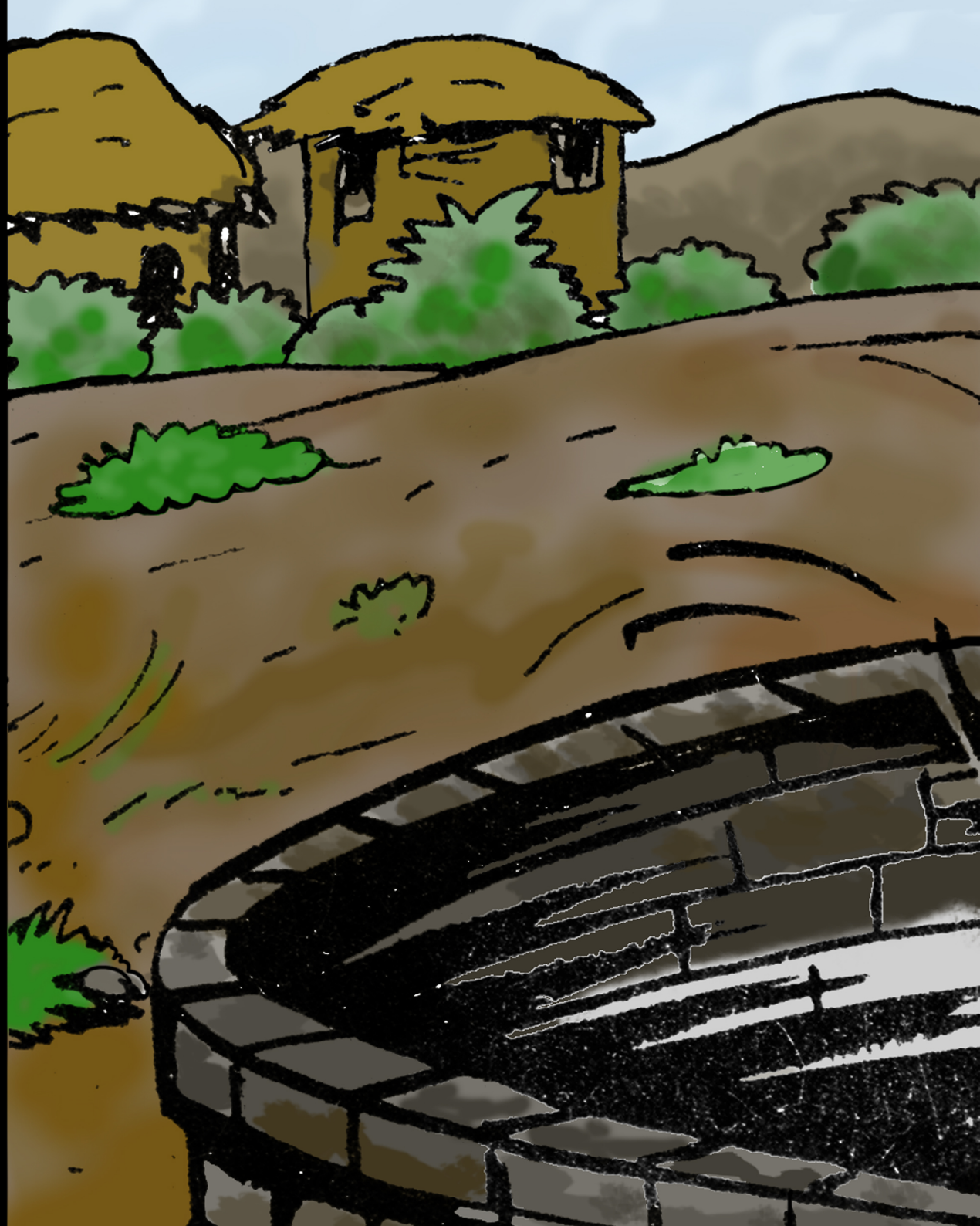
The father is the God incarnate; we are enjoying all earthly pleasures simply by his mercy only. So I do not accept any creator or Godhead except my father.

***Pita svarga pita dharma
Pita hi paramam tapa
Pitari pitimapanne
priyante sarva devata
To chant the name of father,
to meditate on the image of
father and to give offerings to
the ancestral forefathers are
my daily rituals.***

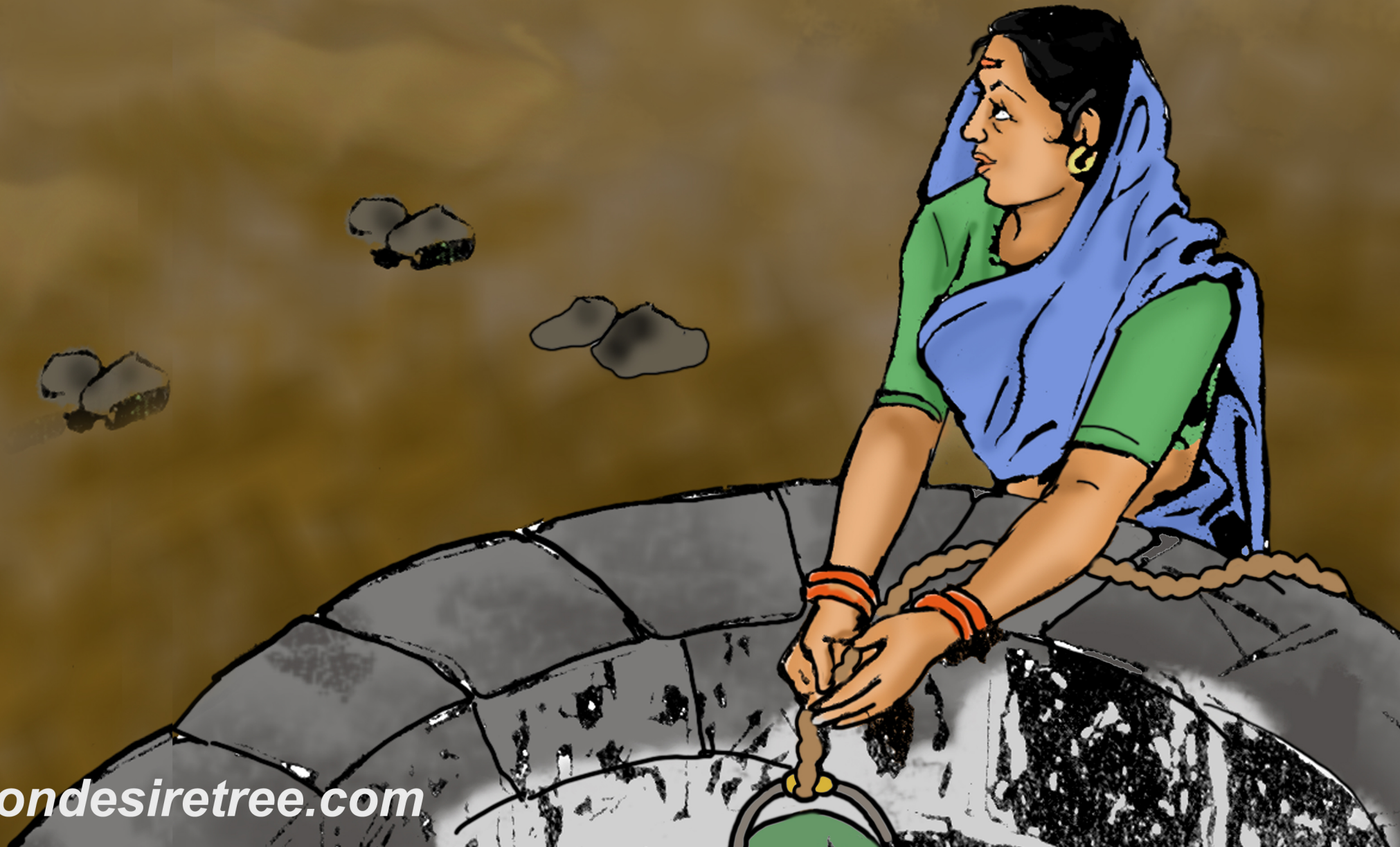
My great-grandfather have build this well. My father had also always used this well water for the family. I will also always use water for my family from this ancestral well. This would be the best way to worship my forefathers.



However, in due course of time, after three or four generation of the family covering one hundred and fifty years or so, the stagnant water of the well had become extremely putrid. It was no longer suitable for drinking or general use as a huge mass of filth, mud and all types of plants had decomposed in it. There were also lots of decomposing dead frogs. As such it has become completely infected with deadly bacteria.



The pandita would never allow his family members to drink any other water except from this filthy ancestral well.





The pandita, so loyal to his father, had a number of sons and grandsons, all of whom died from various diseases. Eventually even his wife died of a contagious disease. The pandita also suffered from many ailments. There were a quite number of tube wells in the village and the river Ganges was also flowing only a few miles away from there.

The villagers would always advise the pandita...

Please stop using the water from that contaminated well and drink water from Ganges or at least from other tube wells.



Our great-grandfather had built a draw well for our family's use. The water drawn from this well happened to be widely known as the sweetest and clearest of all the wells in the village.





Worshipping the forefathers is the perfection of life. I offer my worship to my forefathers by drinking water only from this well. My forefather had declared that this water is even sweeter and cleaner than the Ganges water. Hence I shall always drink water from this well.

But the filthy water of this well has killed your entire family.





***All my family members
have been liberated by drinking
the water of this well. They are
with my forefathers. You call
this water filthy but I call
it nectar.***



***We should destroy
the well to ensure
good health in the
village.***

When the pandita saw them approaching, he bend on the well to protect it in such a stubborn mood of loyalty to his ancestral forefathers, that it appeared to the authorities that not even royal power could ever destroy it.



Purport :

Persons who are adamant in getting initiated from a particular ancestral gosvami, also demonstrate such an obstinate attitude. Anyone claiming himself to be one's ancestral spiritual master may not be truly qualified through continued derogation of dignity and position.

Note :

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada used to say, A doctor's son may not necessarily be a true doctor. Those who are careless about their own welfare, extremely lazy and guided by the pleasure principle, never take the pain to search out their true bona-fide spiritual master.