

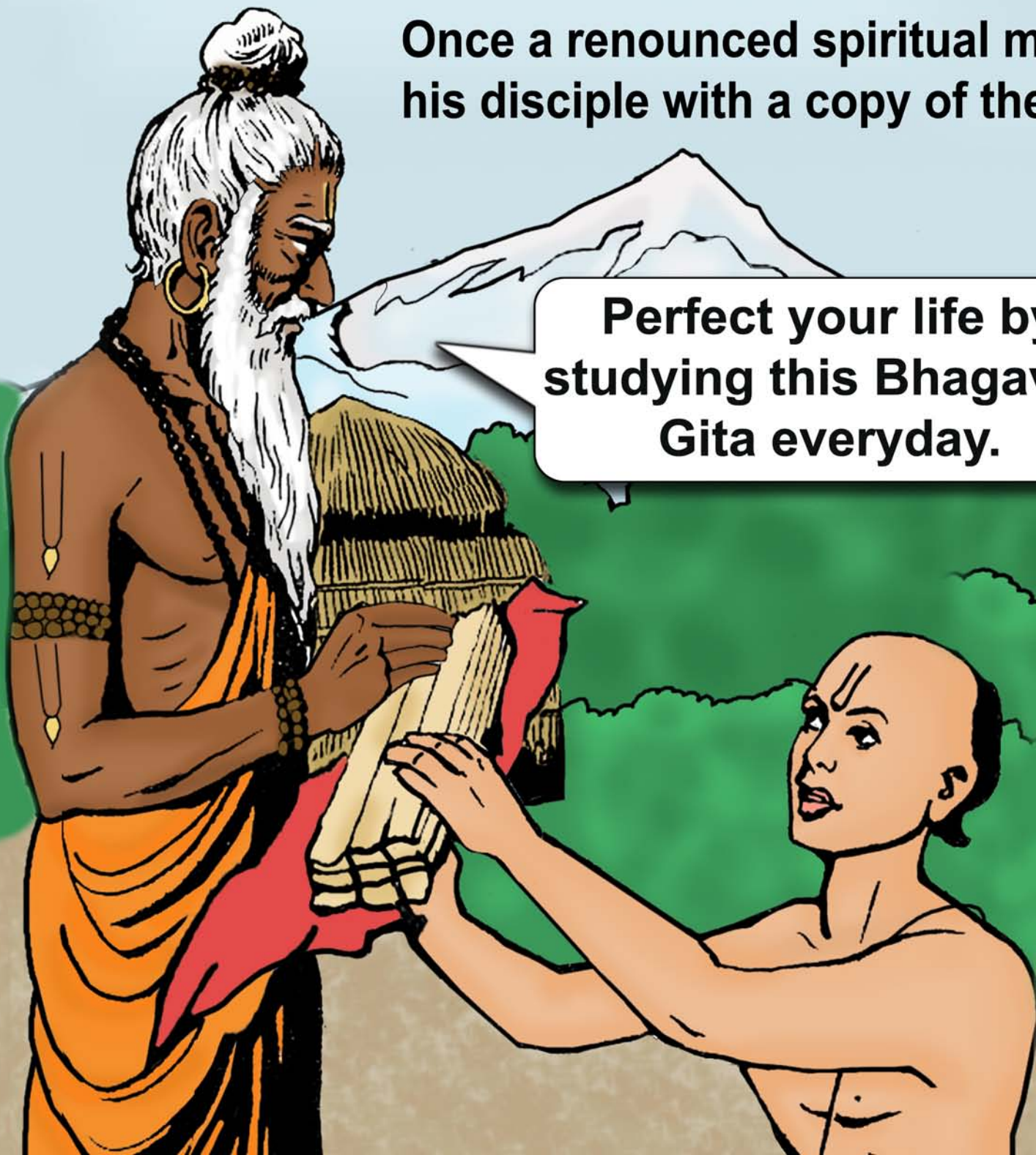
A Family for the Gita

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



**Once a renounced spiritual master resented
his disciple with a copy of the holy Gita,**

**Perfect your life by
studying this Bhagavad
Gita everyday.**





**I shall
study regularly
Maharaj!**

**He started studying the Gita sitting
inside a cave on the Vindhya hills.**

**Dharma-ksetre
kuru-ksetre samaveta yuyutsavah
mamakah pandavas caiva kim
akurvata sanjaya.**

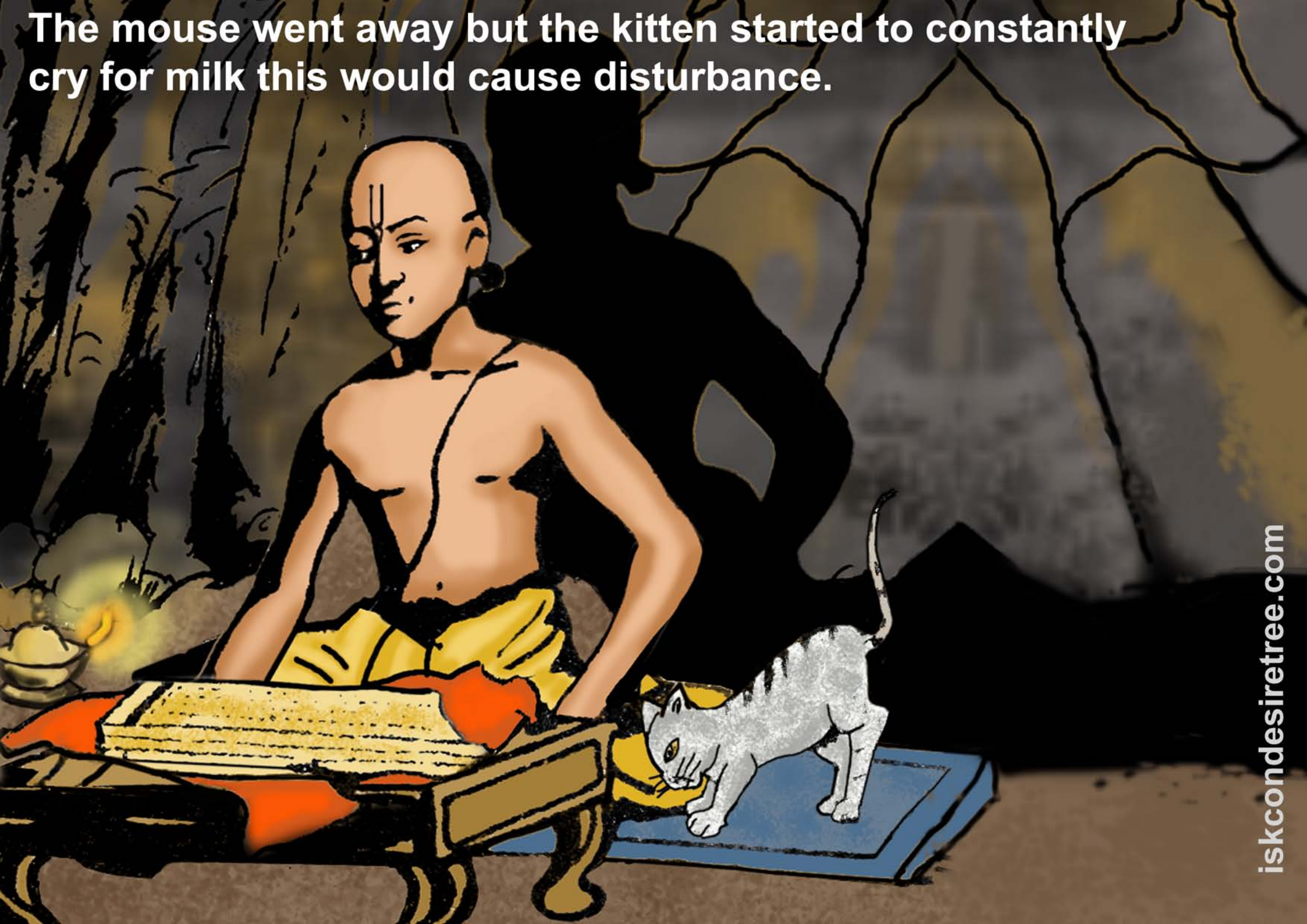
A small mouse in the cave started eating the pages of Gita everyday.




**Oh my God!
I am extremely irritated with this
mouse. I will bring a kitten to
stop the mischief of this
mouse...**



The mouse went away but the kitten started to constantly cry for milk this would cause disturbance.






**In order to
stop the kitten's crying
I should provide him milk for
which I have to acquire milk.
In consideration with all the
problems in acquiring the milk
everyday, I strongly feel the
need for keeping a cow.**

By the grace of the Lord one kind-hearted person gifted one cow.



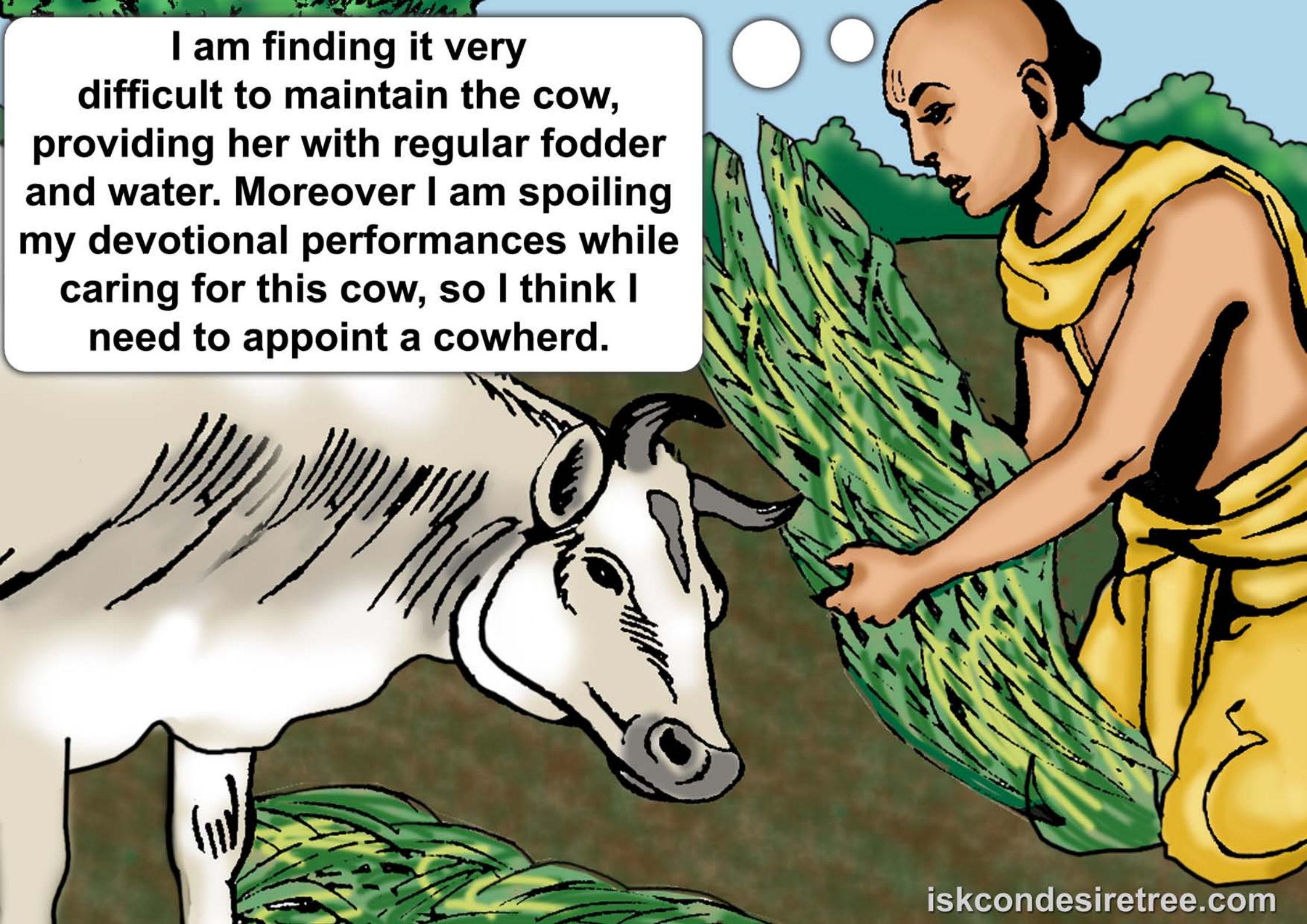


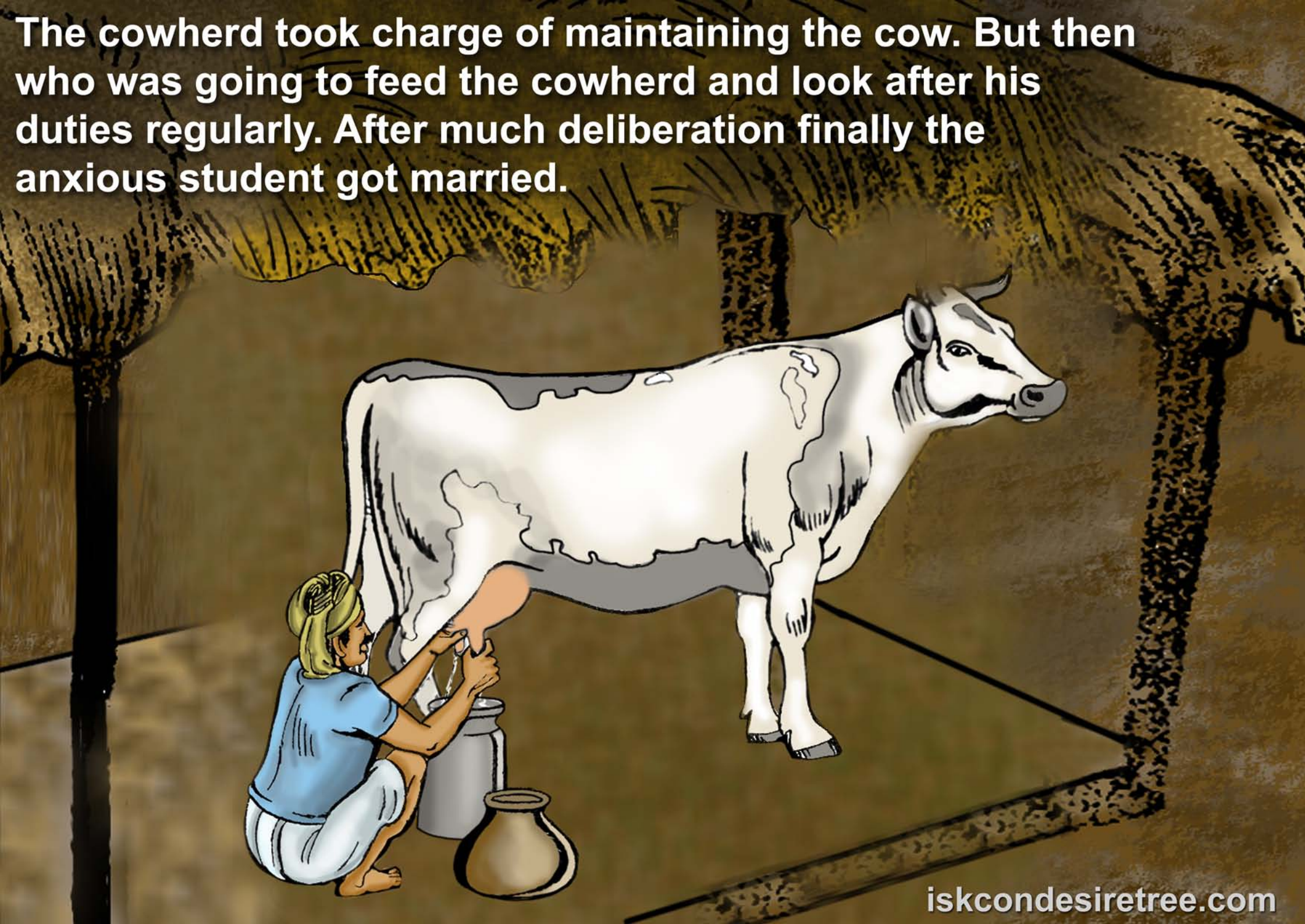
**In spite
of getting the cow
still I have anxiety of
maintaining this
cow.**

**The disciple built a barn with much labor and effort
to make the cow stay safely and comfortably.**



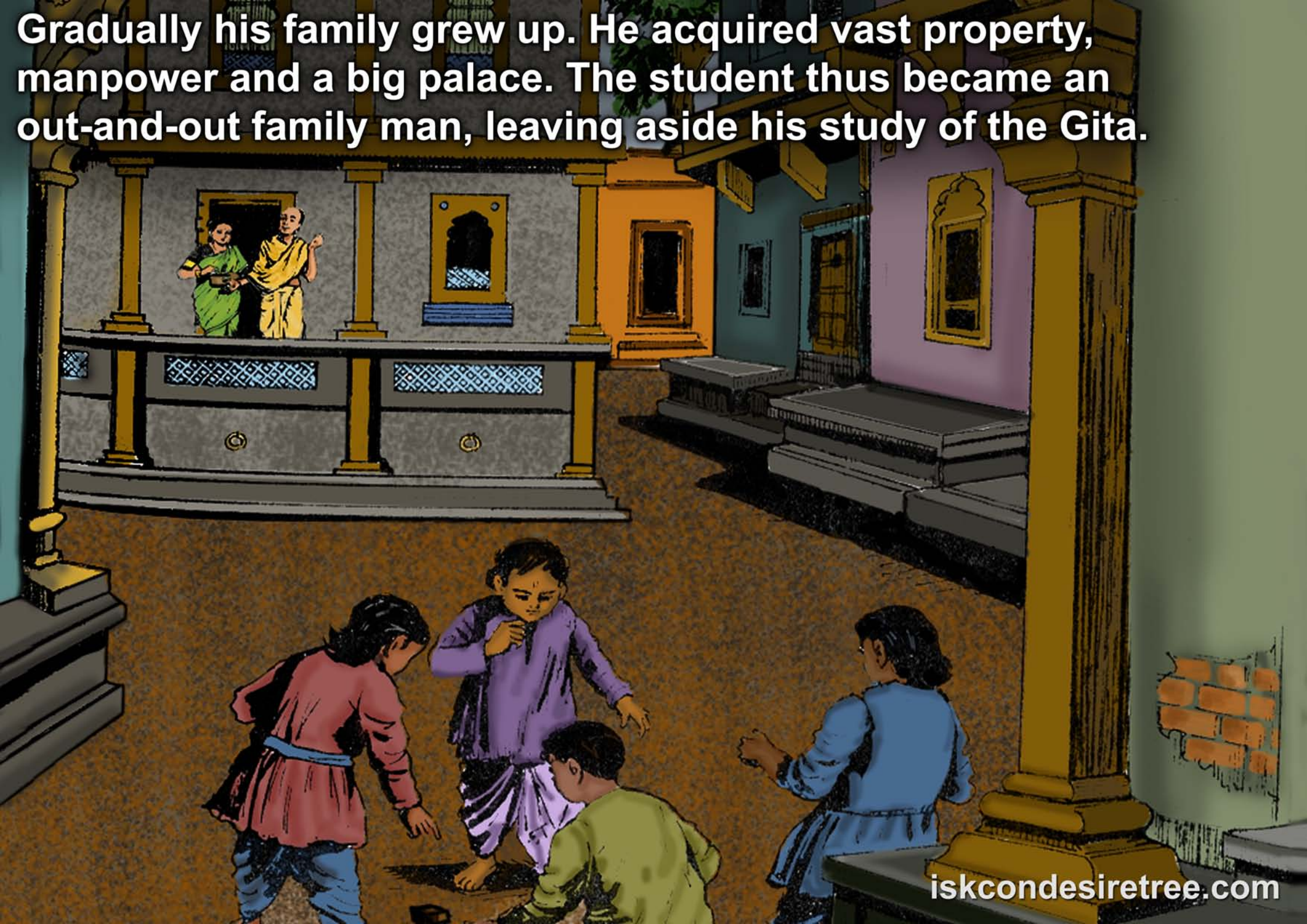
I am finding it very difficult to maintain the cow, providing her with regular fodder and water. Moreover I am spoiling my devotional performances while caring for this cow, so I think I need to appoint a cowherd.



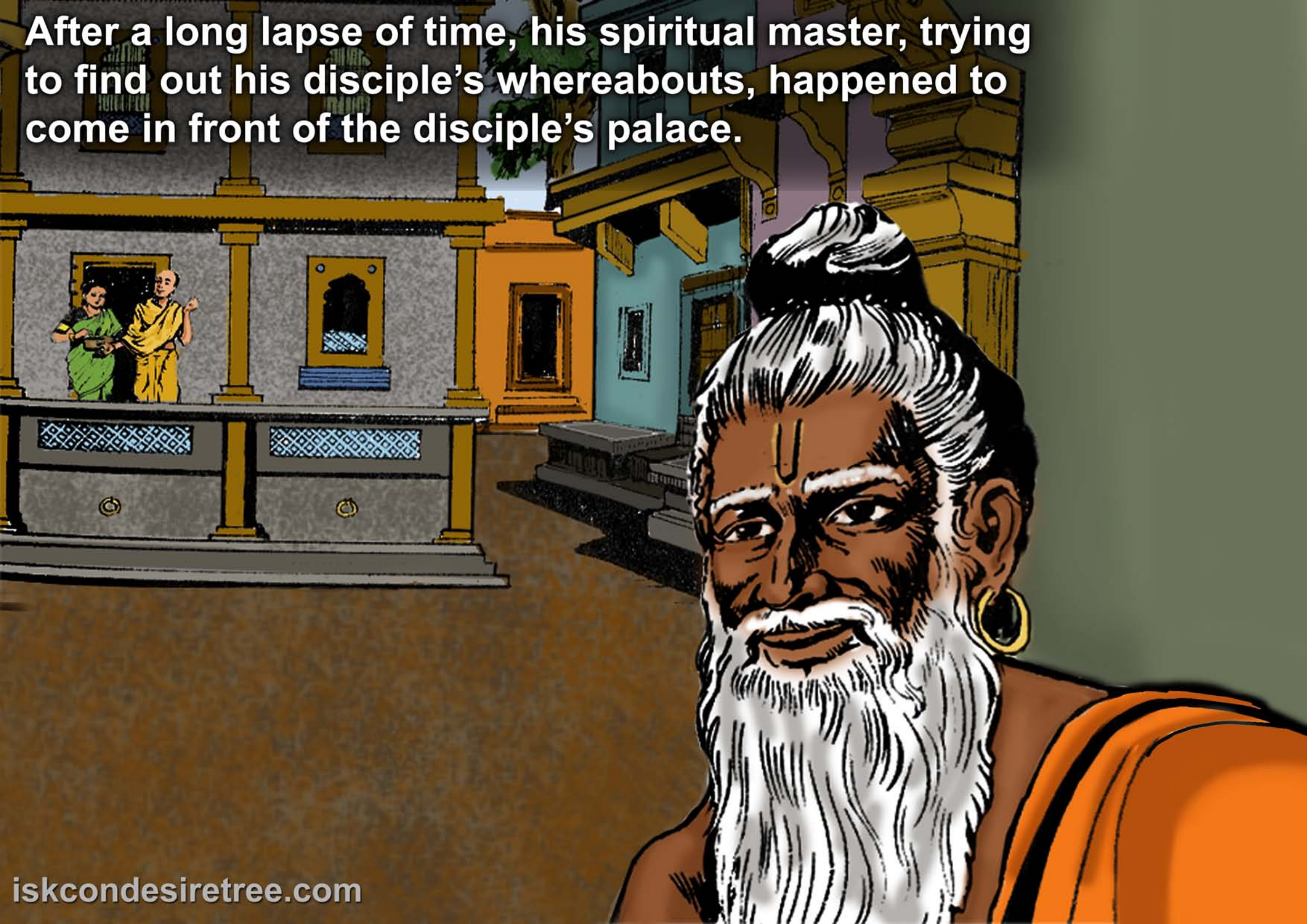


The cowherd took charge of maintaining the cow. But then who was going to feed the cowherd and look after his duties regularly. After much deliberation finally the anxious student got married.

Gradually his family grew up. He acquired vast property, manpower and a big palace. The student thus became an out-and-out family man, leaving aside his study of the Gita.



After a long lapse of time, his spiritual master, trying to find out his disciple's whereabouts, happened to come in front of the disciple's palace.





What is all these?

**O, Master,
this family I had
to build up for
the sake of your
Holy Gita.**

Purport :

A truly Krsna conscious person should not increase the magnitude of his wants and requirements to the name of 'yukta-vairagya' (proper renunciation). A living entity engaged in devotional service should never consider himself to be equal in status and position with a perfectly liberated great soul.

One who is engaged in devotional service, either as a sannyasi or as a grhastha, must adhere strictly to the scriptural injunction which prescribes thus:

'yavannirvaha pratigraha' - he should endeavour only for that much which is essentially required in favour of worshipping Sri Hari. His material activities should neither be excessive, nor very scanty as either of them leads to diversion from spiritual upliftment.

Persons undertaking the rigours of celibacy (brahmacarya), seclusion (vanaprastha), and renunciation (sannyasi) as their ways of living (asrama) and so staying in a secluded holy place such as a math, away from home for engrossing themselves in the devotional services to Lord Sri Hari, might also find themselves entangled in such a 'family' for the sake of the Gita, in case they become enchanted with the thoughts of daily wants and requirements, thus deceiving themselves in the name of favouring devotional services to Lord Sri Hari. So, an honest person must be careful. he must not fall under the clutches of illusory energy (maya) while pretending to acquire favourable objects for devotional services to Sri Hari. The material senses are always thirsty for objects of sense gratification.

Pretending to attain perfection through carefully listening and adhering to myriads of injunctions from great liberated souls, our wicked, mischievous, uncontrollable, extroverted mind along with its propensities, endeavours to acquire gratifying objects falsely ascribing them as favourable to devotional service to Sri Hari, while taking recourse to hypocritical diplomatic demeanours.

Many of us become highly attracted to material knowledge. In the name of studying scriptures or learning erudition!

We become much attached to physical comfort and to our dependant wife and children through self-deception of undergoing family life with a plea to observe 'yukta-vairagya' (proper renunciation) and offering devotional services to Lord Sri Hari simultaneously.

contd.

Even after becoming a sannyasi, a bramhacari, a Krsna conscious grhastha or a vanaprastha, many of us desire to attain material reputation and fame and we try to lord it over everything. This will cause us utter spiritual destruction.

It is therefore most essential to pray for the mercy of pure honest devotees, constantly keeping ourselves in their uncontaminated association with complete loyalty and allegiance and thus exposing before them all our misgivings so that we may be blessed with their inestimable guidance.