

Popcorn Bondage

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



Once there was a beggar. Being extremely tired and weak of hunger he could not stand.



Being extremely tired of hunger, a pauper was leaning against a wide pillar in a travellers' rest house.



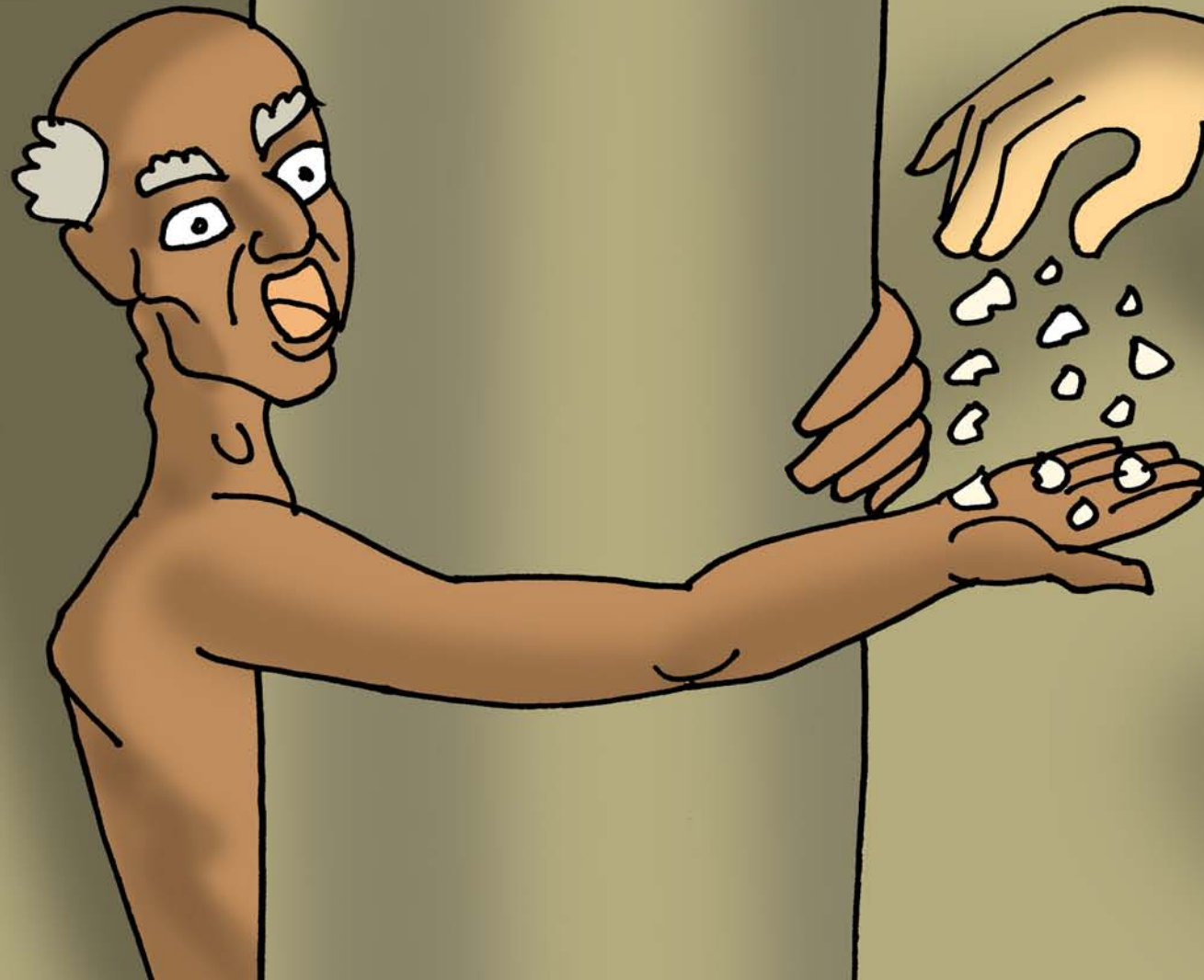
Please give me some food.

At that time a wealthy merchant was passing by after taking his daily bath in the holy Ganges. Upon seeing the hungry person, he felt compassionate.

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



The hungry person was naturally anxious to accept the food and so he promptly stretched out both his hand but without undoing his embrace around the pillar, either out of utter fatigue or lack of intelligence.



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 merchant poured the popcorn into the hands of the hungry person and went away.



The wretched person then started making all sorts of attempts to eat the popcorn but his mouth could never reach his hands around the wide pillar.





*He remained as hungry
and dejected as before.*

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.