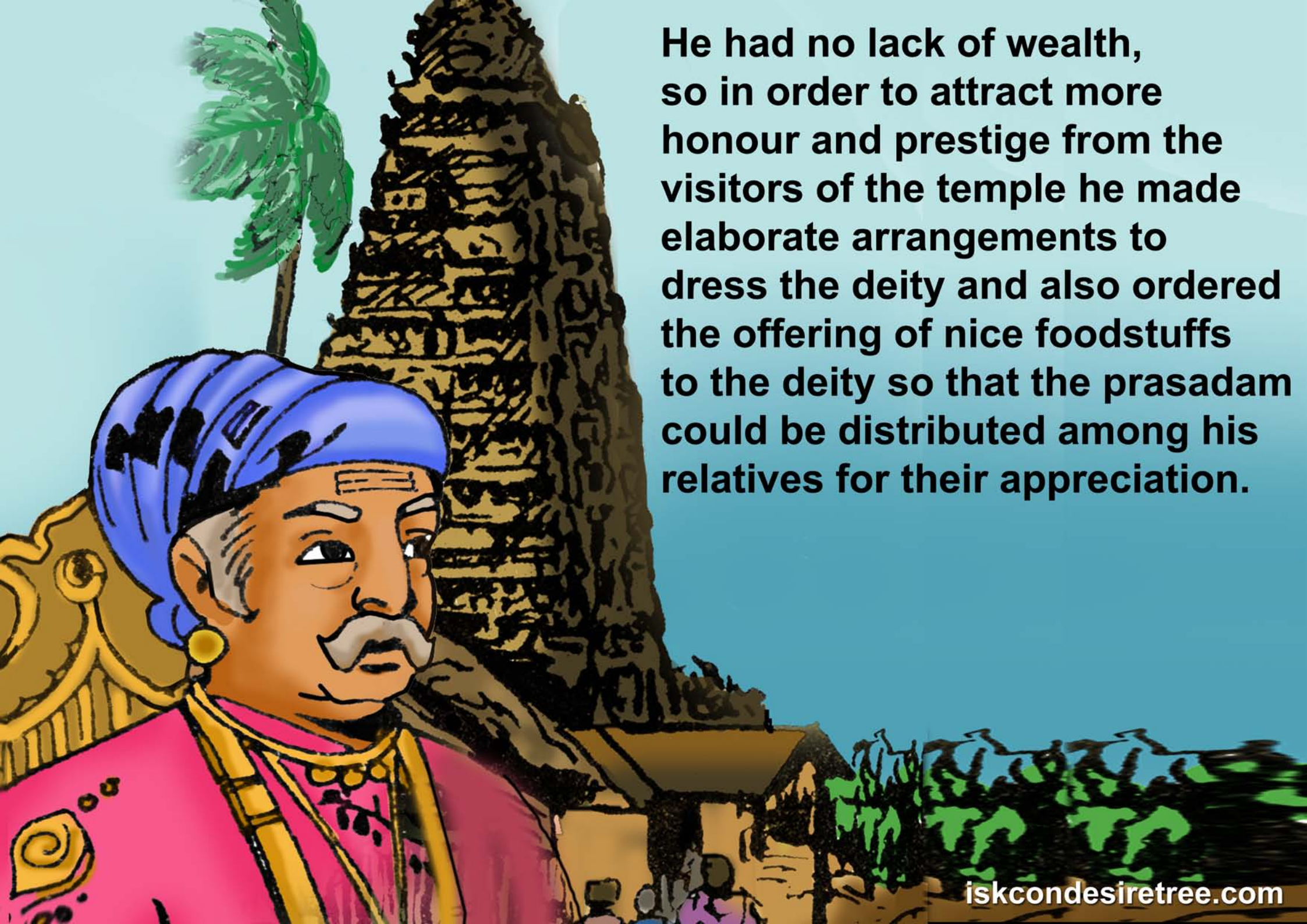


# I'm Not Stealing the Bananas

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

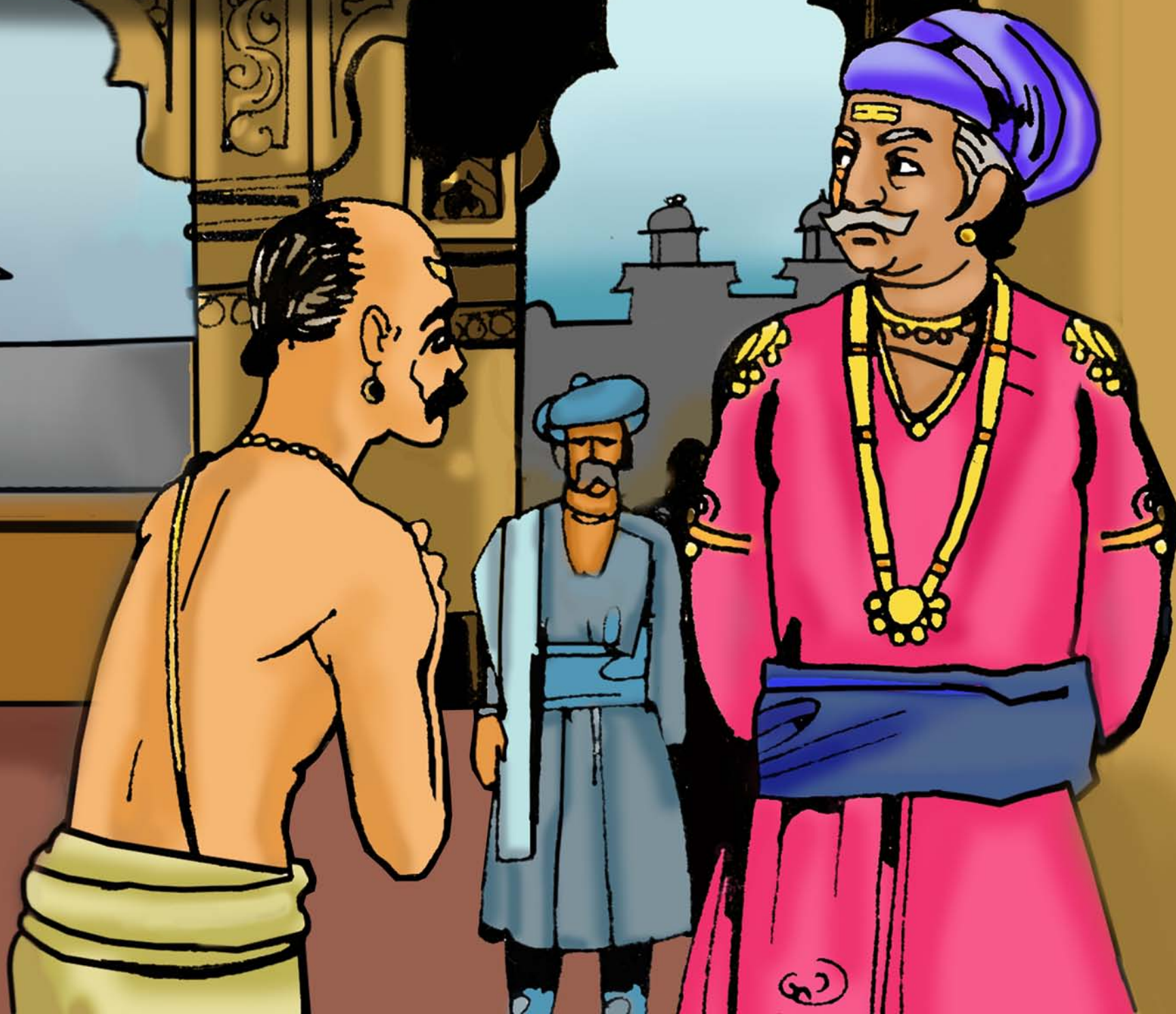
**Once, a landlord had built a temple.**



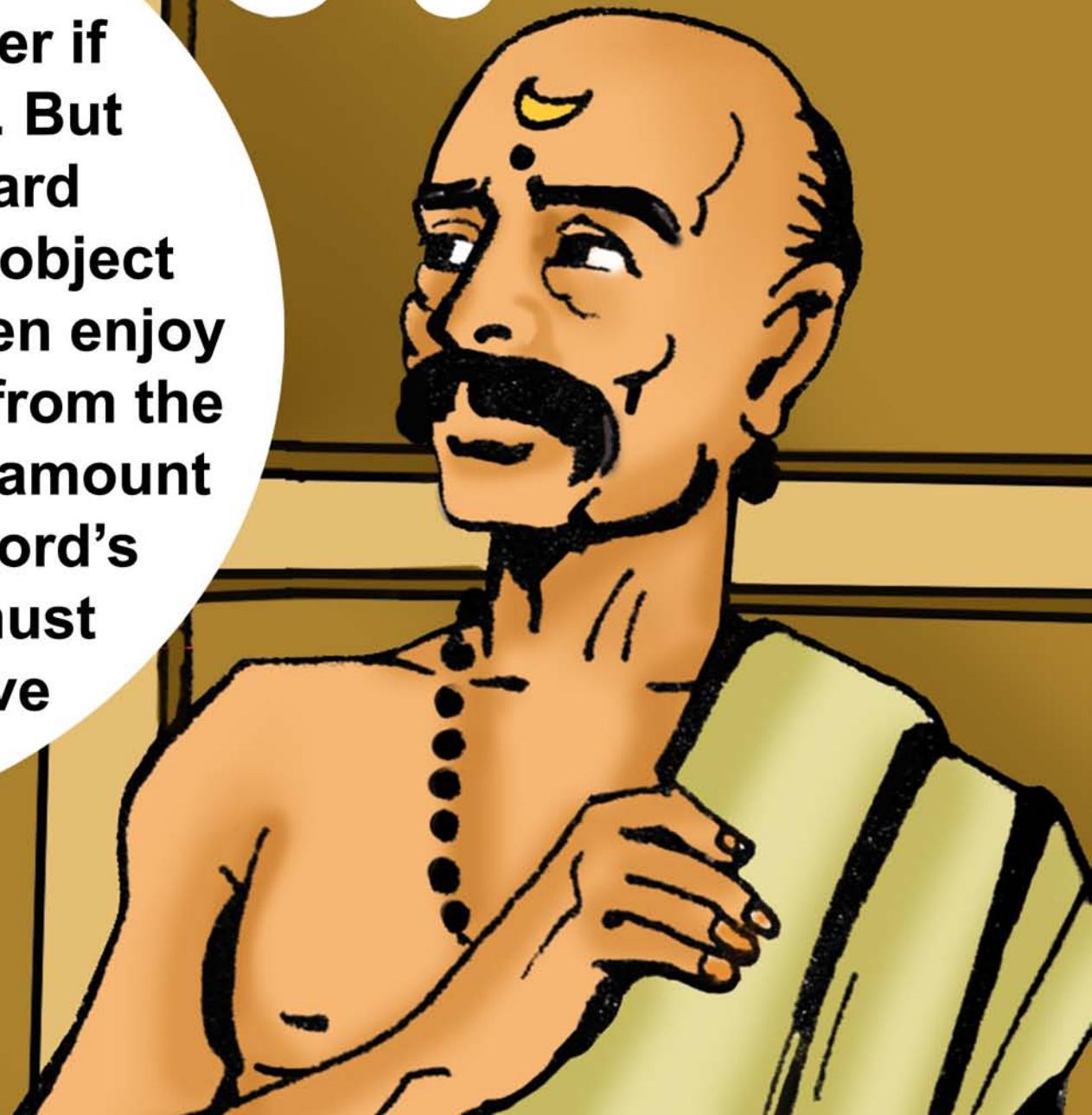


He had no lack of wealth, so in order to attract more honour and prestige from the visitors of the temple he made elaborate arrangements to dress the deity and also ordered the offering of nice foodstuffs to the deity so that the prasadam could be distributed among his relatives for their appreciation.

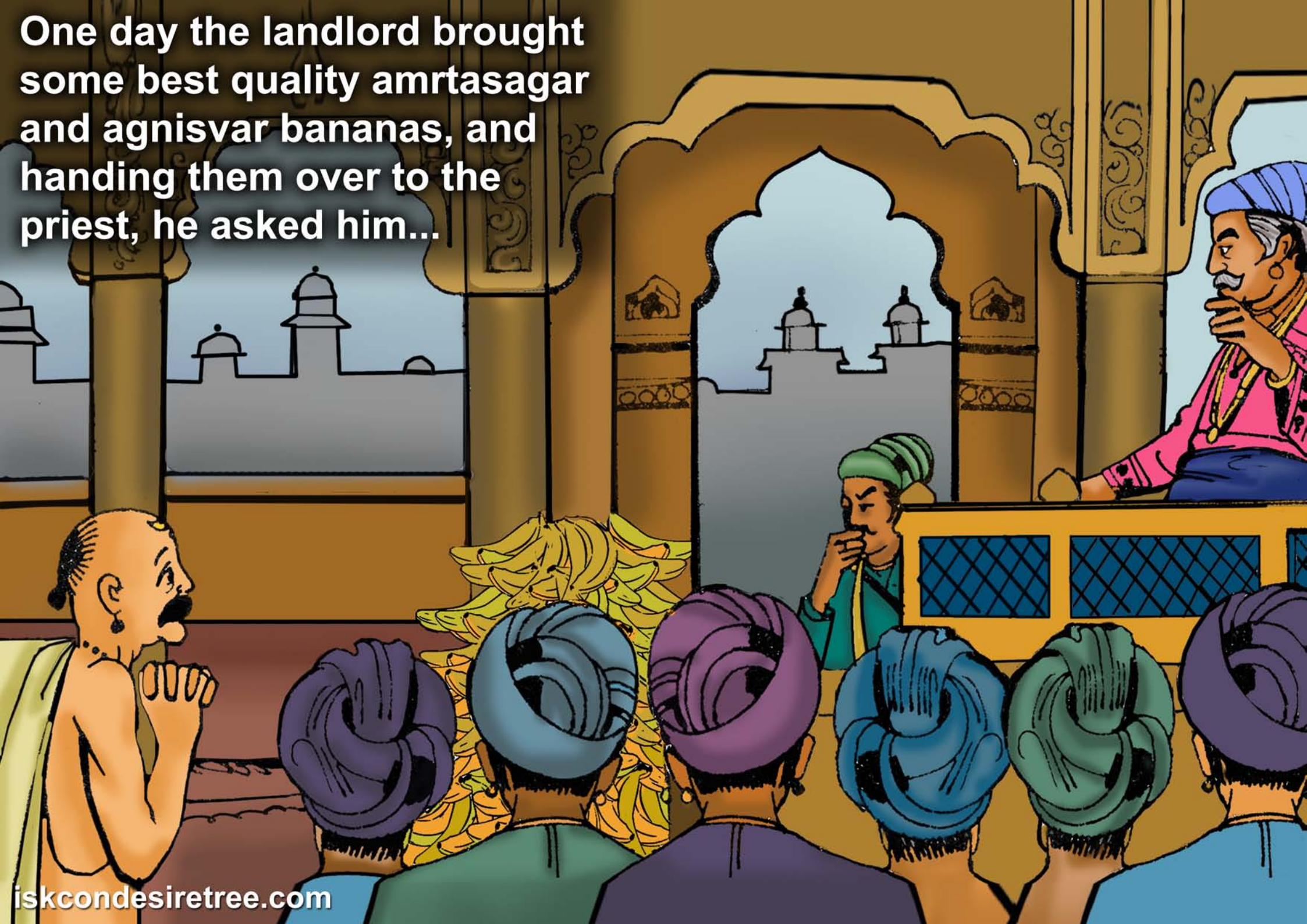
The landlord appointed a priest.



**The Deity has a lot of ornaments and so many dresses; I wonder if I could enjoy one of them. But there are sentries on guard everywhere so not a single object can be taken away! I can't even enjoy any of the best preparations from the offerings because the entire amount of prasadam goes to the Lord's relatives. I guess that I must remain satisfied with five rupees a month.**



One day the landlord brought some best quality amrtasagar and agnisvar bananas, and handing them over to the priest, he asked him...



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



**Before the offering at midday, the landlord himself was anxious...**



**I am eager  
to check whether the  
bananas are really  
being offered to the  
deity.**



**But when he  
approached the  
altar he found...**



**Why is the  
door is bolted from  
inside?**

**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, being extremely frightened replied while still chewing the bananas...



I didn't steal  
the Bananas!

**Listening to the  
choked voice of  
the priest and his  
awkward reply...**

**I am sure that  
the priest is 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 Vaisnavas. Whenever a person starts unexpectedly praising his own activities or makes an attempt to confirm his apparently good conduct just through criticising 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 Vaisnava never make any protest against himself, but he never tolerates any criticism against other Vaisnavas or his spiritual master. It is believed that anyone who makes any attempt to vindicate himself must be factually a guilty persons and otherwise motivated for name and fame in the general society.**