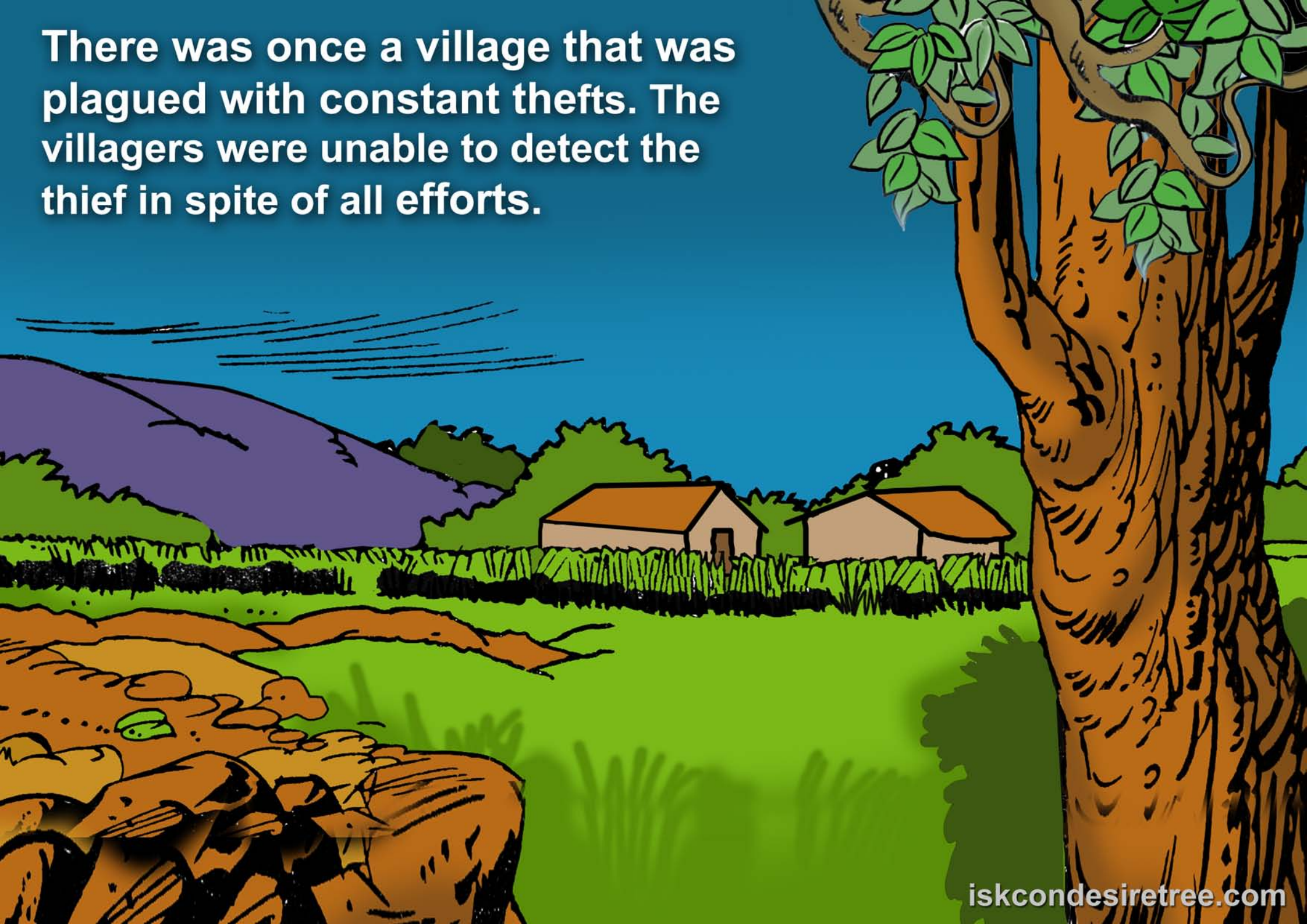




# There runs the Thief!

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

**There was once a village that was plagued with constant thefts. The villagers were unable to detect the thief in spite of all efforts.**



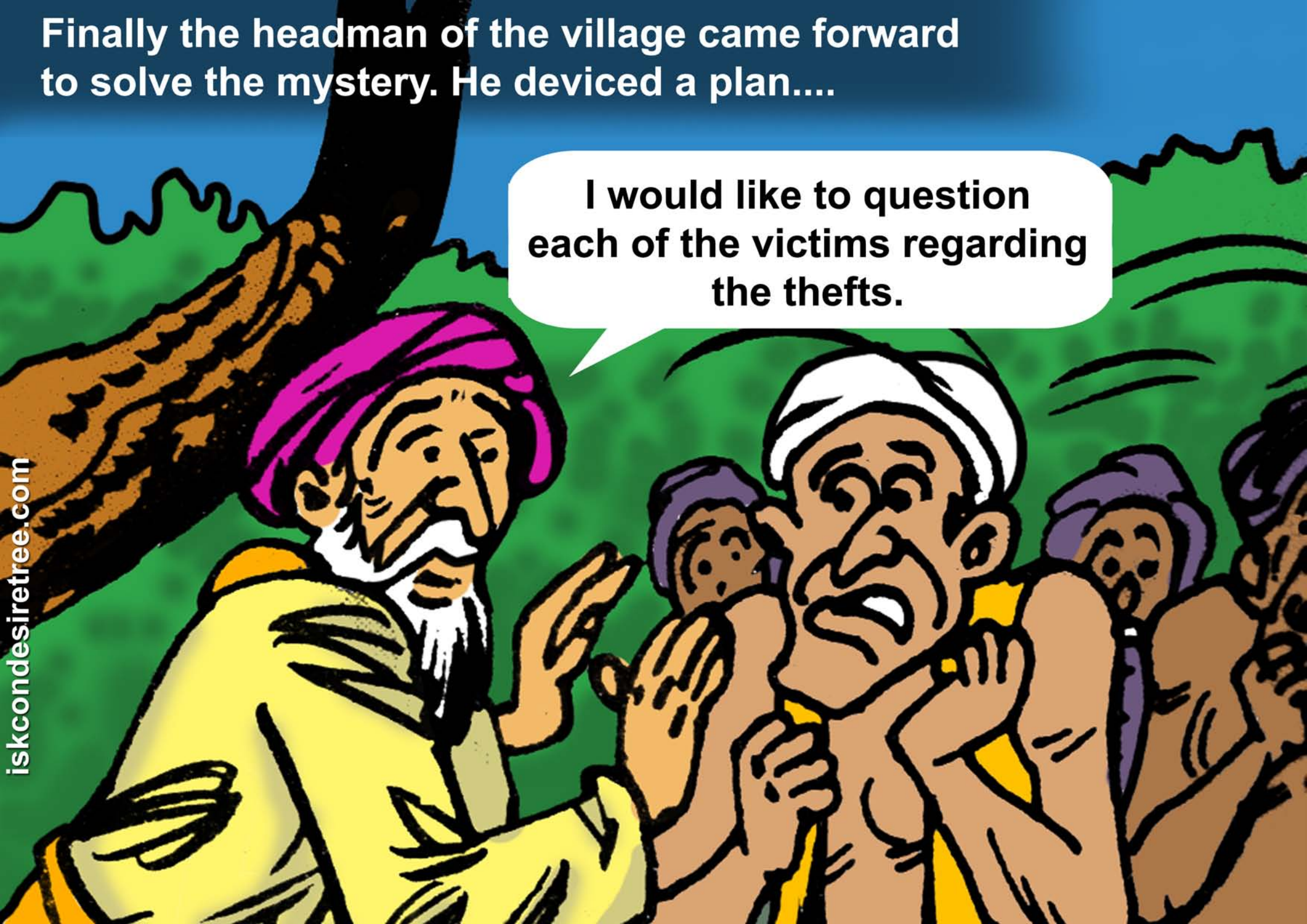
Everytime the thief would run away. The villagers would raise hue and cry and try to catch him only to be disappointed.

Again he  
has escaped!



Finally the headman of the village came forward to solve the mystery. He devised a plan....

I would like to question each of the victims regarding the thefts.





**I have found that one particular person always liked to be present during all my enquiries and anxious to find out the way I was investigating.**

He came up with a plan. He called his guard...

I advise you to keep an eye on the person whom we feel the suspect. We should pay special attention especially during midnight at his house. You have to report his movements every now and then.



**At night the guard was patrolling the suspect's house.**

**Oh the man  
who we suspect is leaving his  
house! The time is exactly  
2 o'clock, the usual time the  
thefts happen.**

**Oh! He is carrying  
under his shawl burglar tools. Let me  
follow him secretly.**






The burglar started to break the house and the guard was watching him from a distance in the darkness.



**Oh! This man  
has come out of the  
house and is now running  
with the booty into the  
jungle.**

**After a while the  
house owner discovered the theft and  
started screaming... HELP!!! HELP!!!  
THIEFT!!! THIEFT!!!**





**Oh! This man is  
coming out and entered  
into the jungle.**

Villagers gathered after hearing  
scream of the house owner.



The thief came out of the jungle after hiding the booty and silently joined the crowd.



**The thief than said...**

**Oh! So sad!  
The thief has stuck  
again! Maybe he has  
gone in that direction.  
Lets find him.**



Saying this the thief started to run.



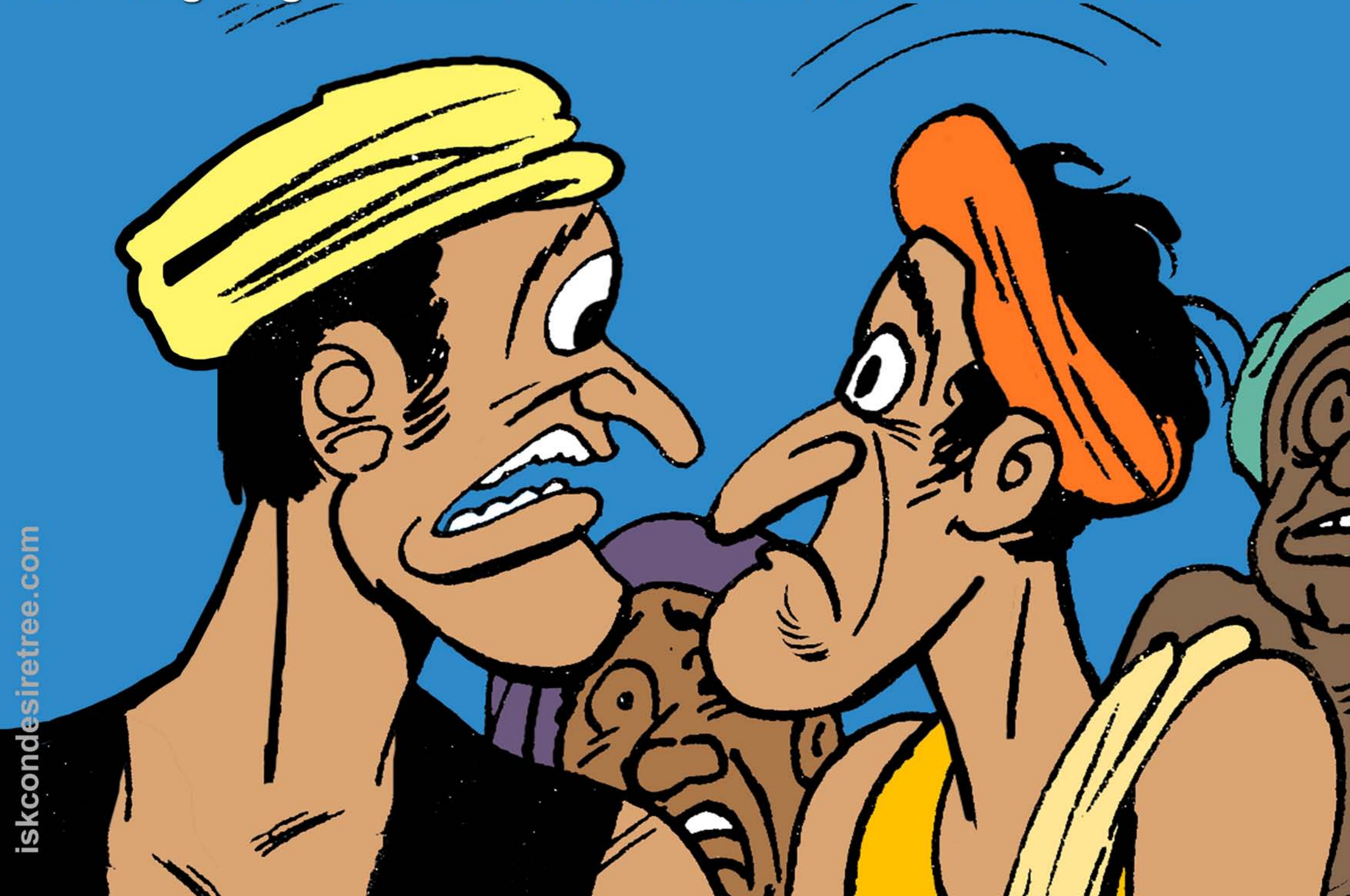


However, the guard caught him...

He is the thief!  
He is the thief!!



The villagers got confused and started to look at each other.



**This guard is crazy!  
Why is he calling this poor  
villager as a thief.**



**Guard, Give me  
the complete report of the  
incident!**



**Sir, he is the thief and  
the booty is hidden in the jungle.  
Let me prove it.**

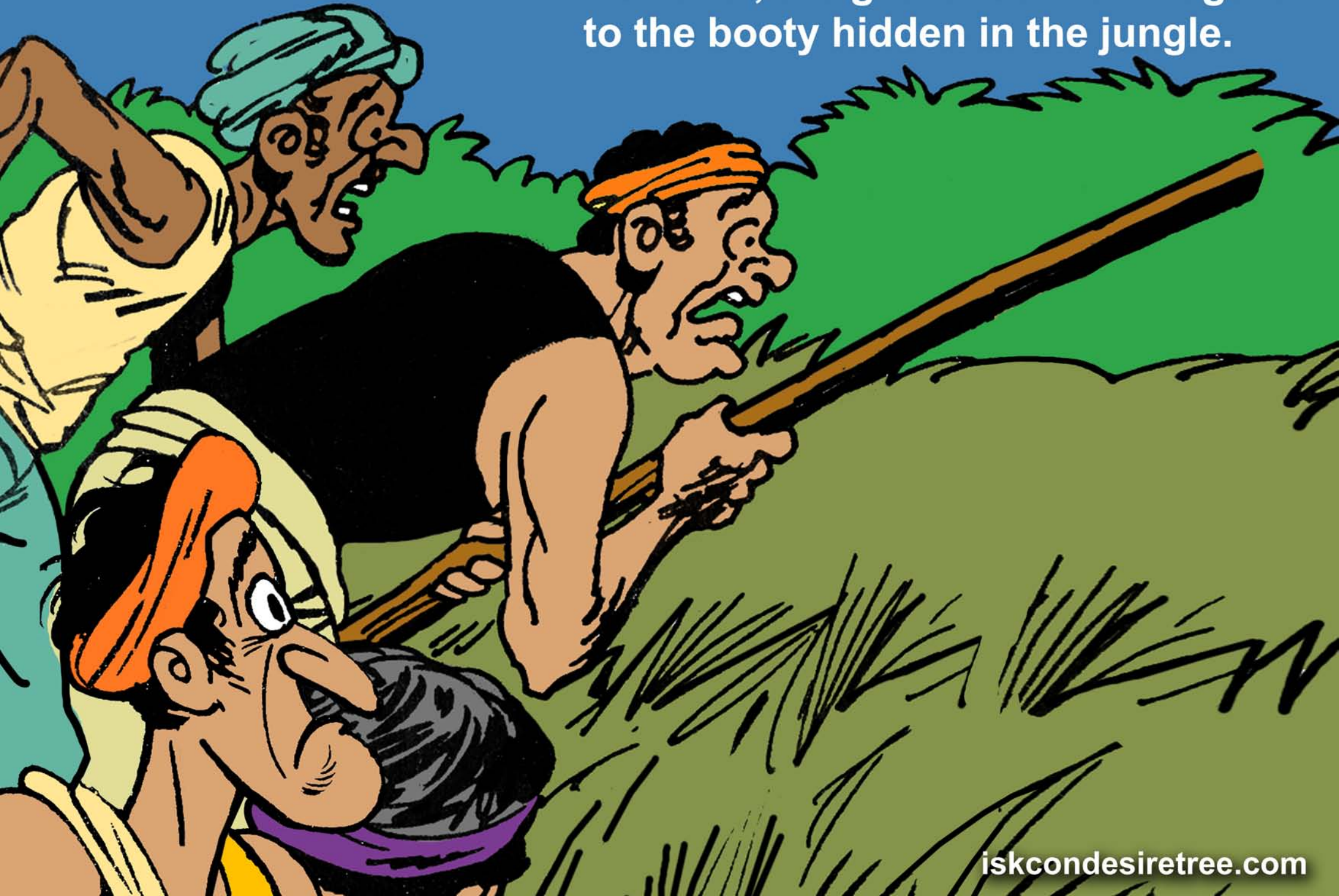


The thief said...



**Why on the earth are you going into the jungle for the booty. On this dark night, that snake infested jungle is most dangerous.**

However, the guard led the villagers to the booty hidden in the jungle.



Here is the jewel box and the burglar's tool.  
Now it is confirmed that the man who was  
complaining was the thief himself.





It was then crystal-clear to everyone present that the man complaining was the burglar himself, and so the crowd ran out of the jungle and started chasing him. As he was running away, they all shouted out...



There goes  
the thief!

There goes  
the thief!



The cunning thief also started shouting while running and pointing to all the innocent passers-by, he got away by creating an utter confusion.

There goes the thief!  
There goes the thief!



## **PURPORT:**

**There is no dearth of such mischievous atheists among the people. they constantly malign the real protectors of the society who are like watchmen, and harass those great souls who are truly and selflessly benevolent to common people, only to tarnish their reputation by a vile attempt to prove those saintly persons as 'thieves' and the like.**

**In all Vedic literature, Gita, Bhagavata, Upanisads etc., it has been specifically advocated that this material world belongs to the Supreme Lord, he is the proprietor of everything, and one who does not offer everything to the Supreme Lord for His satisfaction through preaching His glories and the holy name, simply devours His property for one's own sense gratification, and as such, he is a thief.**

*contd.*

**Such a thief is always endeavouring to indicate that any person who is preaching the holy name of the Supreme Godhead, and going from door to door in order to wake everyone up from their illusory state of living, is only worthless, idle and a thief of social wealth. This is just like the motivated tendency of a thief who points to a sadhu as if he is running away from a burglary. This is the normal practice we find in this age of Kali. the famous poet Tulasi das wrote long ago thus:**

*corko chode sadhko bandhe, pathikko lagaoe phansi /  
dhanya kalijug teri tamasa, duhkh lage aor hasi //*

**“The real thief is released, the saintly person is tied up, and the passer-by is hanged - all glories to Kali yugas, such is your great joke that creates pity as well as laughter.”**

**contd.**

**Some traders who deal in so-called religion, holy scriptures, Gita, Bhagavata, and the Deities of Godhead as their economic profession, try to equate selfless preachers of the holy name of Lord Hari and the preaching of real saintly persons as an illicit greed for money like a professional person.**

**They used to say mischievously that one should not only condemn materialistic persons when even the saintly persons need money. In fact, this is just like branding a watchman as a burglar.**

**Money collected by saintly persons for the welfare of the entire world in favour of preaching the holy name of Lord Sri Hari, is not meant for spending on maintenance of family members like a professional family-man, or for indulging in some illicit misdemeanour, or personal sense gratification.**

*contd.*

**Real saintly persons collect money and use it wisely. That money is very carefully spent in preaching the holy name and opulences of the original proprietor and the Lord of the goddess Laksmi in order to ensure eternal welfare to all atheistic, conditioned living entities of this material world.**

**In fact, persons who try to steal the wealth of the Lord of Laksmi, make an attempt to confuse common people by creating a false hue and cry by pointing at real saintly persons and showing - "There goes the thief, there goes the thief!" The envious impersonalists only make an attempt to hide themselves with their innate polluted character by shouting out at the saintly persons, "thief, thief!"**