

Gopala defeats Digvijaya pandit



This story is of Gopala Bhan.

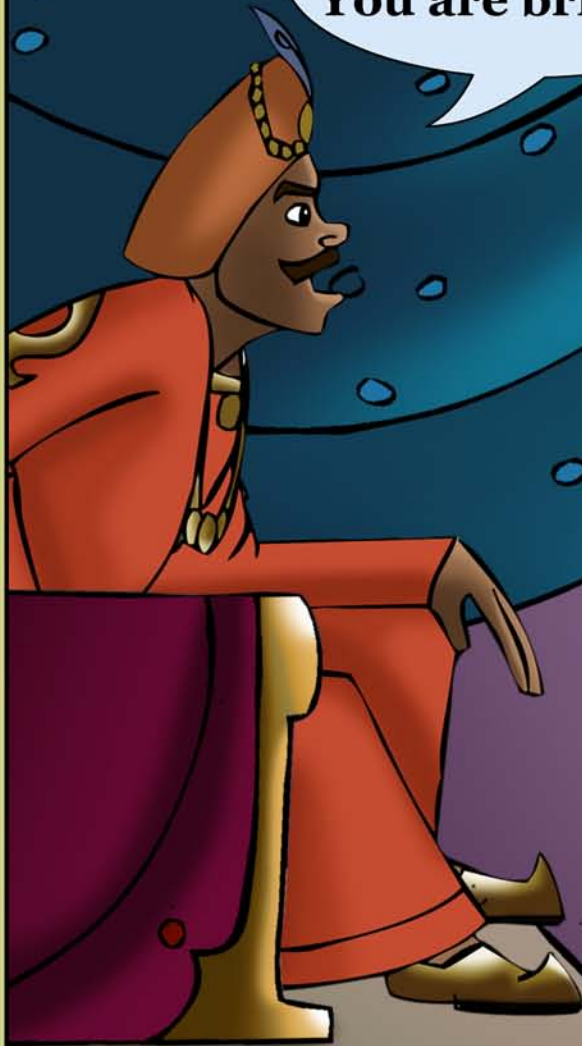


Gopala Bhan was a joker in king krsnacandra reign 300 years ago.

Ha ha ha!

He was quite intelligent and bold.

**Fantastic idea!
You are brilliant!**



A pandit named Digvijaya came to Bengal.



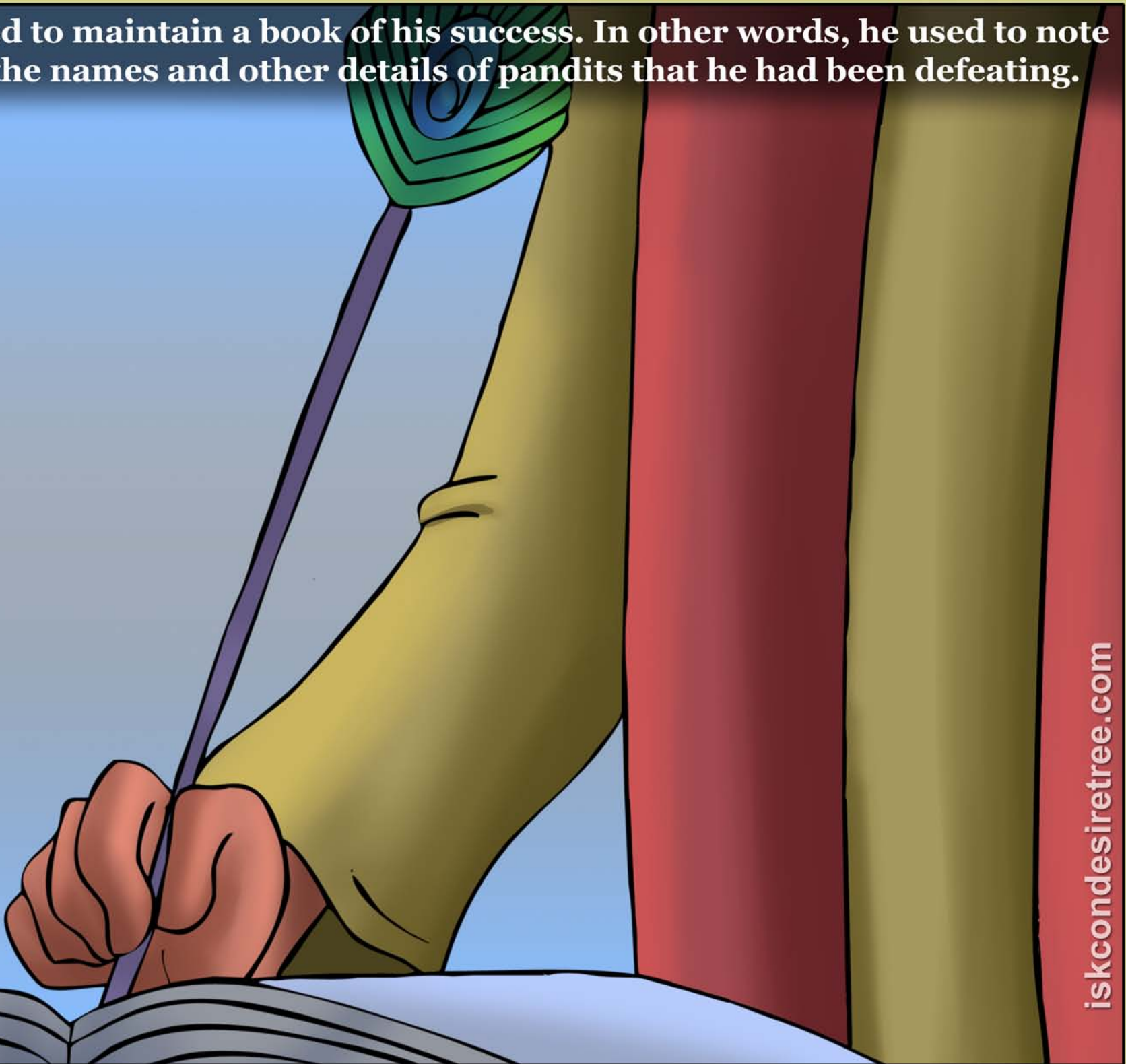
The main emperor of Bengal was a muslim. However, some provinces were ruled by Hindu kings. King krsnacandra was one such Hindu king. He ruled the area of Navadvipa.



**Digvijaya pandit had been going all
over India defeating all the pandits...**



He used to maintain a book of his success. In other words, he used to note down the names and other details of pandits that he had been defeating.



So, he visited the muslim emperor and threw a challenge...



He wanted the defeated pandit to become his disciple.



The muslim emperor turned to his adviser and said...

What should we do?



The minister replied...

**Well, you know all our best
pandits are down in
Navadvipa.**

Navadvipa was the centre of learning.

So, king Krsnacandra was informed that a learned pandit had come over to the emperor's court and challenged him.





**Send your best pandit
and if I defeat him, he
must become my disciples.**

King Krsnacandra became worried. He knew he didn't have any choice but to send his pandits.

**It's on me now.
I have to do something.**



So, he consulted his advisers to identify a learned pandit who could defeat Digvijaya pandit.



They explained to the pandits what was going on.



But all the pandits in Navadvipa said...

**No. We're not
getting involved in this.**



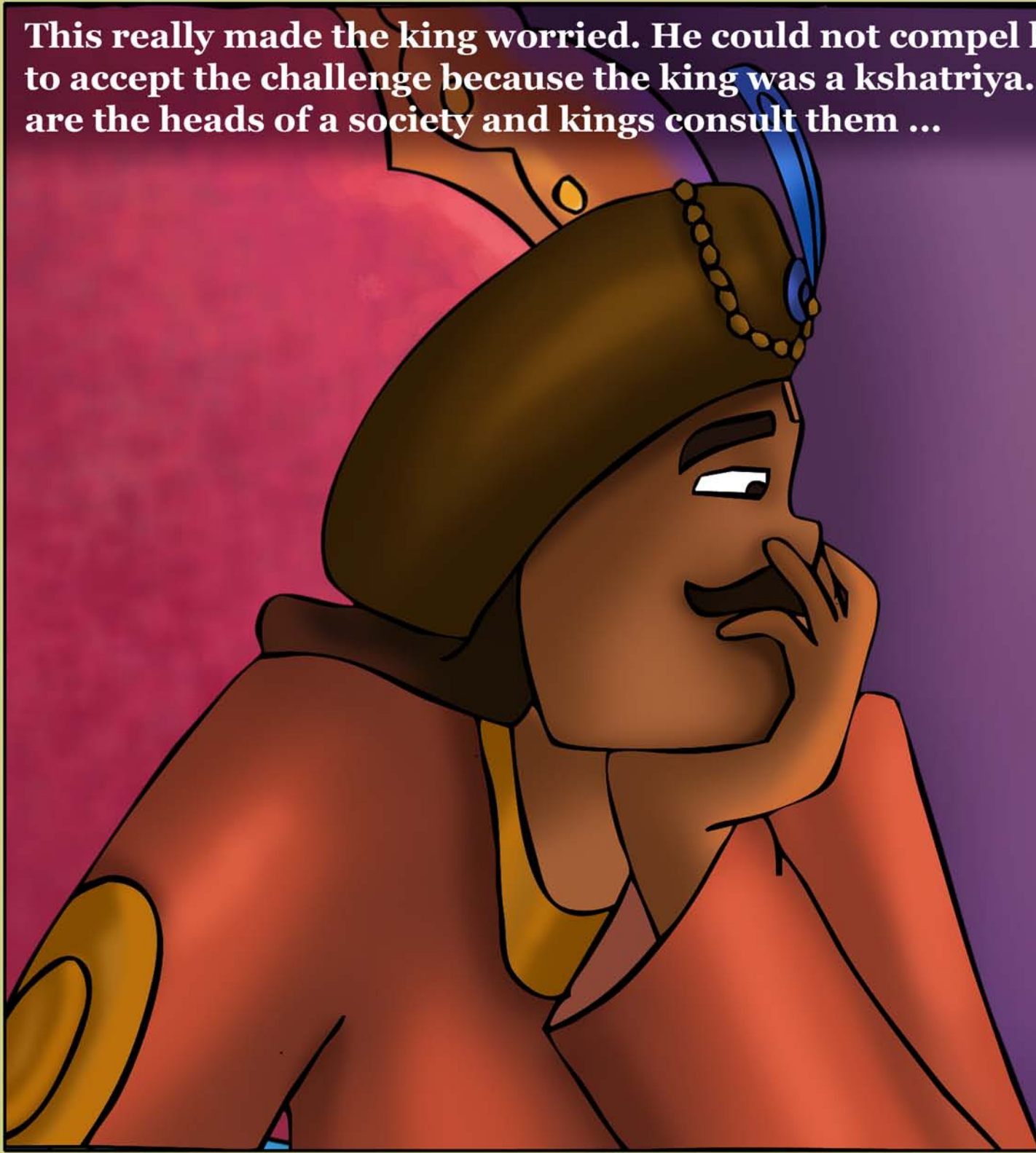
**If we go there
and he defeats us then it means
we have to become his disciples.
This will diminish our
prestige.**



So we'll just stay out of this.



This really made the king worried. He could not compel his pandits to accept the challenge because the king was a kshatriya. Brahmins are the heads of a society and kings consult them ...



After sometime Gopala Bhan visited the king's room and found him morose.





Hey king!
What's wrong?




Oh Gopala,
look don't bother
me now.



Oh, come on,
what's the matter.

The king was very sober.


**Look Gopala,
I'm not in a mood to laugh
or hear jokes. Please come
back another day.**



No no,
why don't you
just tell me?




All right.



All right,
then I will go.



You?

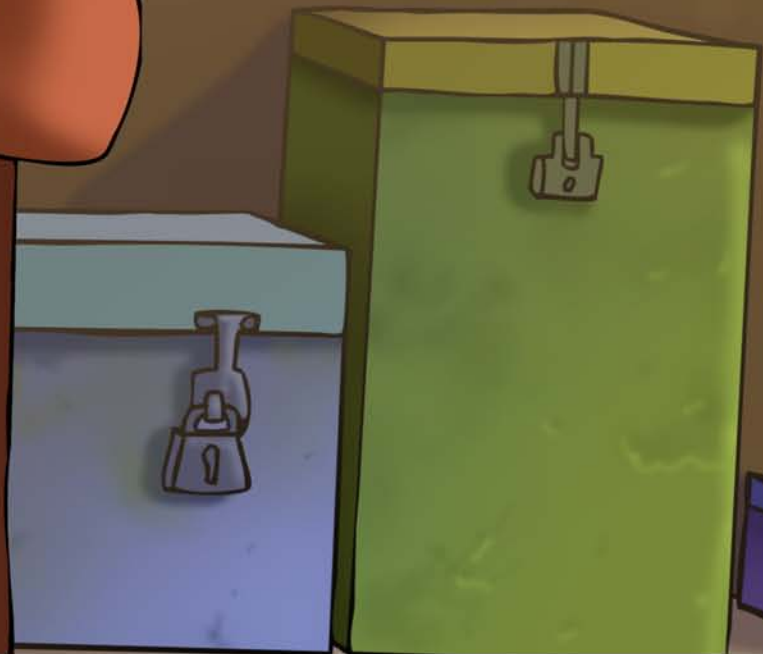


Yes, I will go, I will
defeat this pandit.
Trust me.

Gopala went home and disguised himself like a pandit. He cut his hair to make a sikha as well as wore tilak and hari naam chadar. He looked quite bonafide.



Pandits carry their sastra as a roll (a scroll wrapped in silk cloth) tucked under one of their arms. So he was looking for something to wrap his sastra up.



In Bengal, a bed' base is made of strips of clothes woven together. Like a deck chair. Such a bed is called kata. The English word cot has its origin in this word.



**So he took a leg from that old broken bed
and he wrapped the cloth around it.**



He went back to the king and showed himself. Everyone was astonished.




Wow, he looks like a
real genuine pandit.
He is really getting
into the role.





What is this sastra?

**This is my
Khatvanga Purana.**



**But we never heard
of this sastra.**

Let me
explain you after
I am back.

**Gopal bid goodbye to the king and left for the emperor's court.
(Kata means bed. Anga means part. Purana means old.
So Katvanga Purana was his sastra.)**



Then he went to the emperor's palace...





Ah, who are you
honorable pandit?



My name is Gopala Bhan
Das Pandit Maharaja. I have been
sent by the king Krsnacandra to
defeat this so-called great pandit
named Digvijaya.

He sounded confident and fearless.

**I am the master
of the four Vedas. My field of
expertise is Jyotir-Veda which
also includes astrology.**

Everyone was very impressed.



Digvijaya pandit was thinking.

**He's not at all
afraid of me. He must be
a great one.**



**Digvijaya pandit glanced at the scripture
Gopala pandit was carrying in his hand.**

**What is
this scripture,
may I ask?**



Gopala replied...

**Its my Khatvanga Purana,
of which I am a master.**



**Wait a minute, I've
heard of Visnu Purana,
Skanda Purana...**



May I see this?

**Then Gopal Bhan
exclaimed.**

Oh!




He was looking into the sky and gazing...





Ohhh!

**I have just noticed the angle
of the sun and I am remembering
now the date today. We have just
now entered a most auspicious
moment, according to the
Jyotir-Veda.**



**Anybody who takes a
hair from the head of this pandit,
will immediately be granted with
long life and wealth in this lifetime
and liberation in the next.**

**All auspicious result
will come in this life and the next,
simply by taking a hair from such
a great pandit.**



As soon as Gopala said this, everyone ran towards Digvijaya pandit to grab a strand of hair from his head.



This drove Digvijaya crazy. He was in pain.
Neither his head, nor his beard was spared.



He ran away pretty soon.



Gopala Bhan returned to Navadvipa.





Don't worry king.
Digvijay ran away defeated.

**Oh! How did you do this?
Please tell us the secret of
katvanga purana.**




And when he opened it he showed a leg of a bed
and everyone was astonished.



When he recited the complete incident to the king, he was astonished at Gopala's cleverness and presence of mind.




Then they asked him...



**How is it that you could
so confidently, so boldly go into
that courtyard of the muslim emperor,
simply dressed up like a brahmin and
carrying an old bed leg under your arm.
How were you so sure that you could
defeat him just by a trick.**



As soon as I heard a great scholar was going to a muslim emperor's court to show off his intelligence, I pretty much understood that he was a fool. What do muslims know of the Vedas?



Why did he go to
the muslim, why didn't he
come down here or go to
another Hindu king?



He was just a show-off.



So I did not think
I had anything to fear when
I went there.

MORAL:

Those who show off their knowledge are not self-realized. Knowledge becomes a burden if not internalized or used for the right reasons.