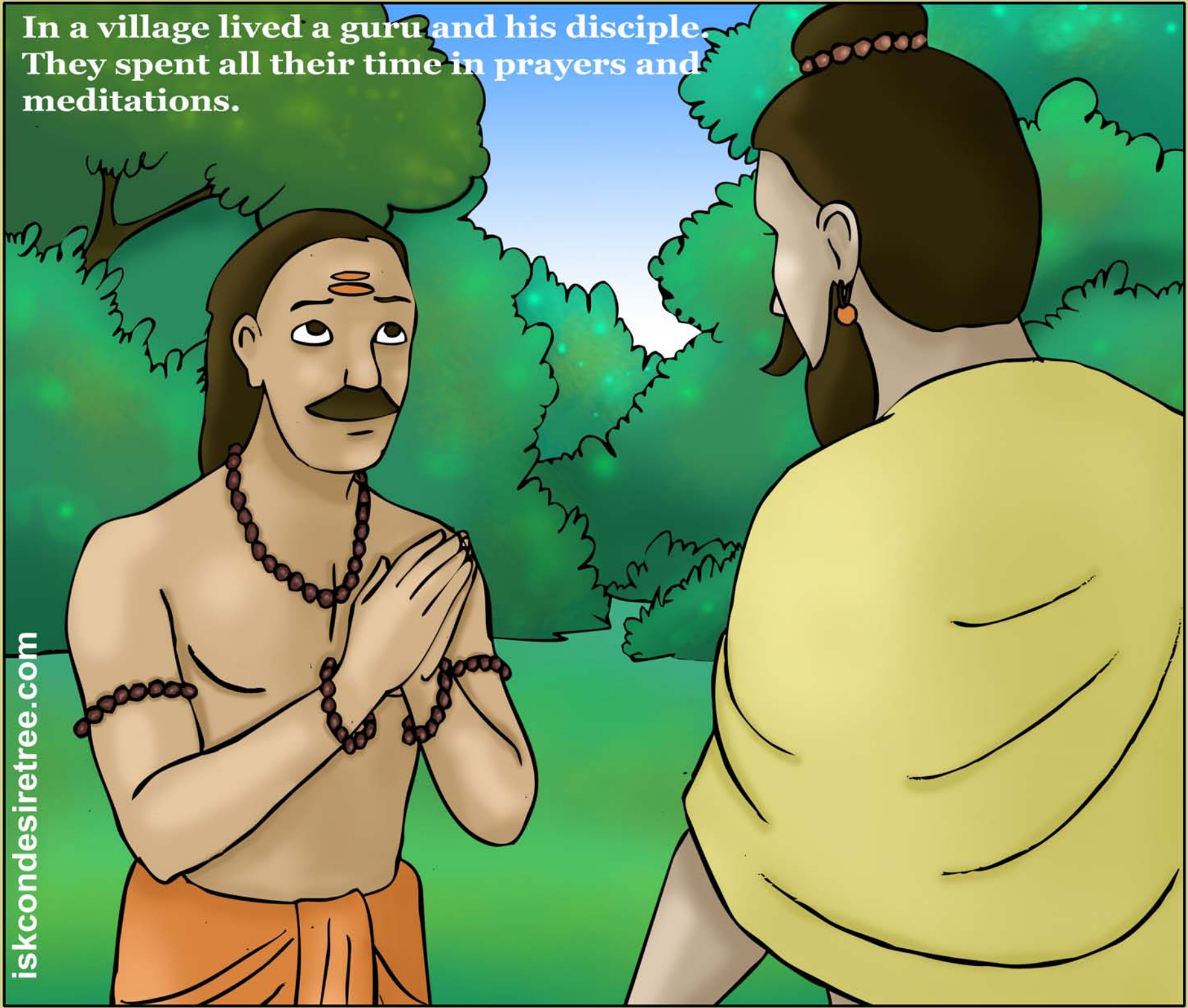


The Ascetic *and the* *Loin Cloth*



**In a village lived a guru and his disciple.
They spent all their time in prayers and
meditations.**



Then one day...

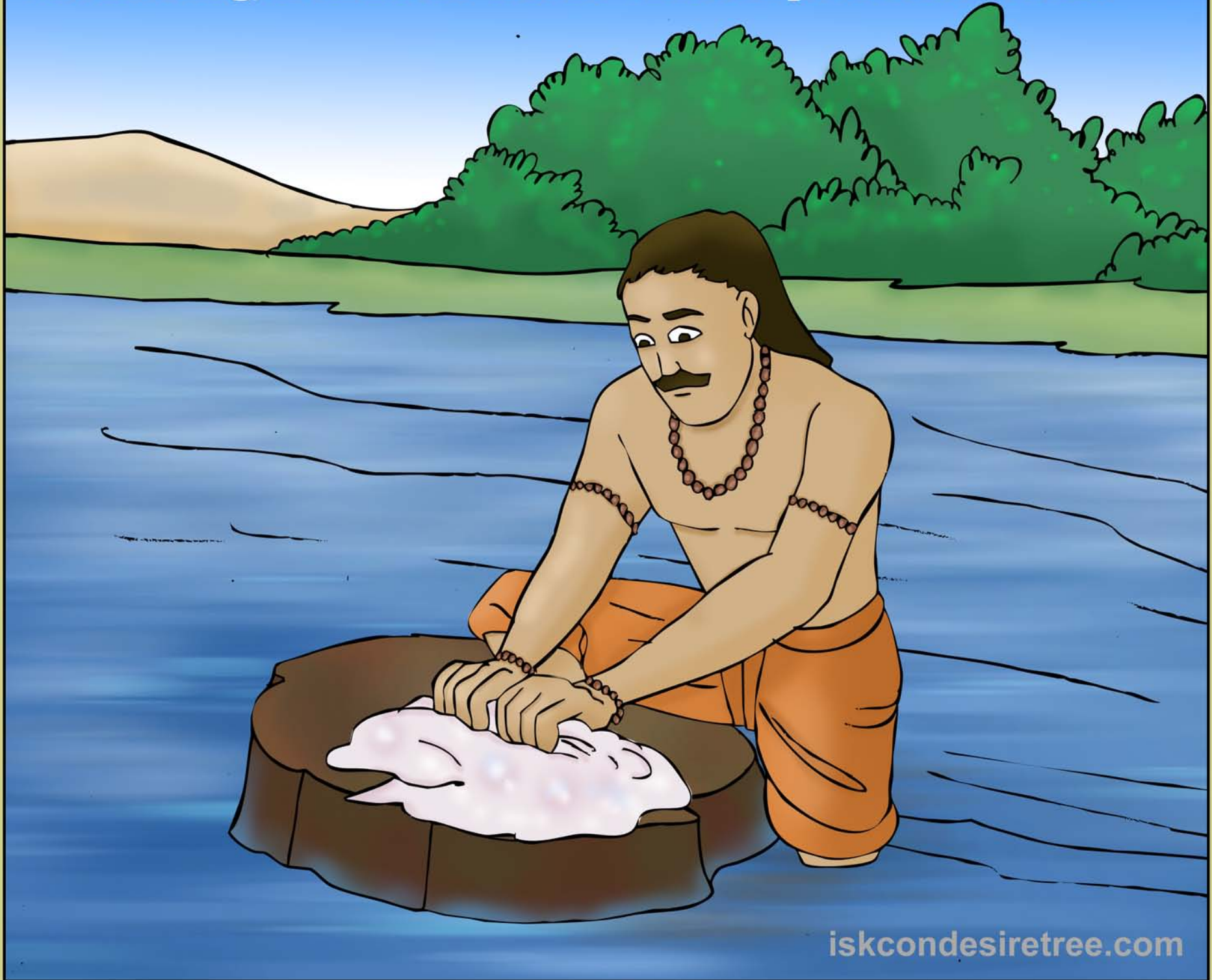
My son I have to leave you for a while as I'm going on a pilgrimage. Remember all that I have taught you and live a simple life.

I will follow your advice, Gurudeva.

...and the guru left.

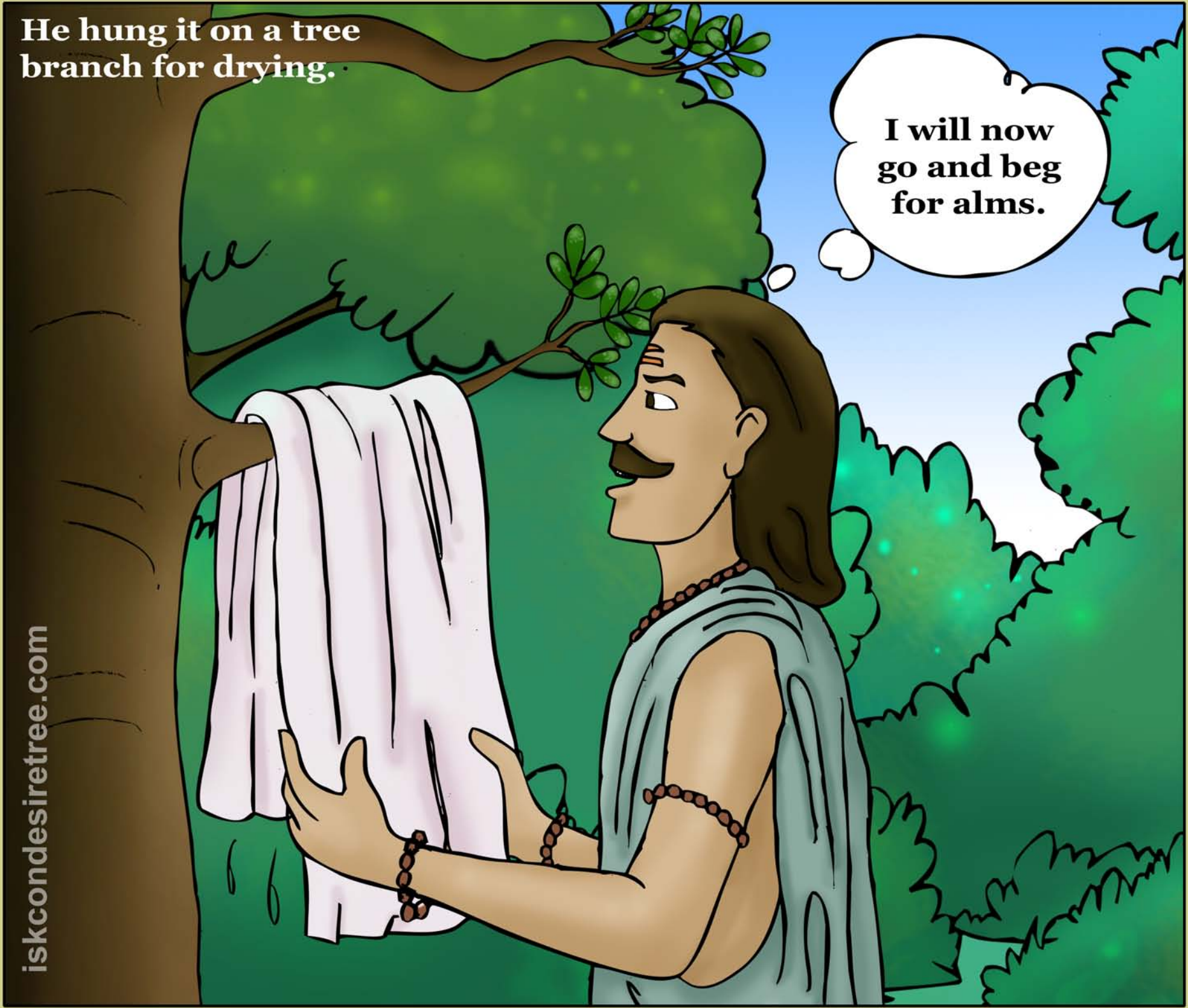


One morning, as usual the ascetic washed a piece of loin cloth.

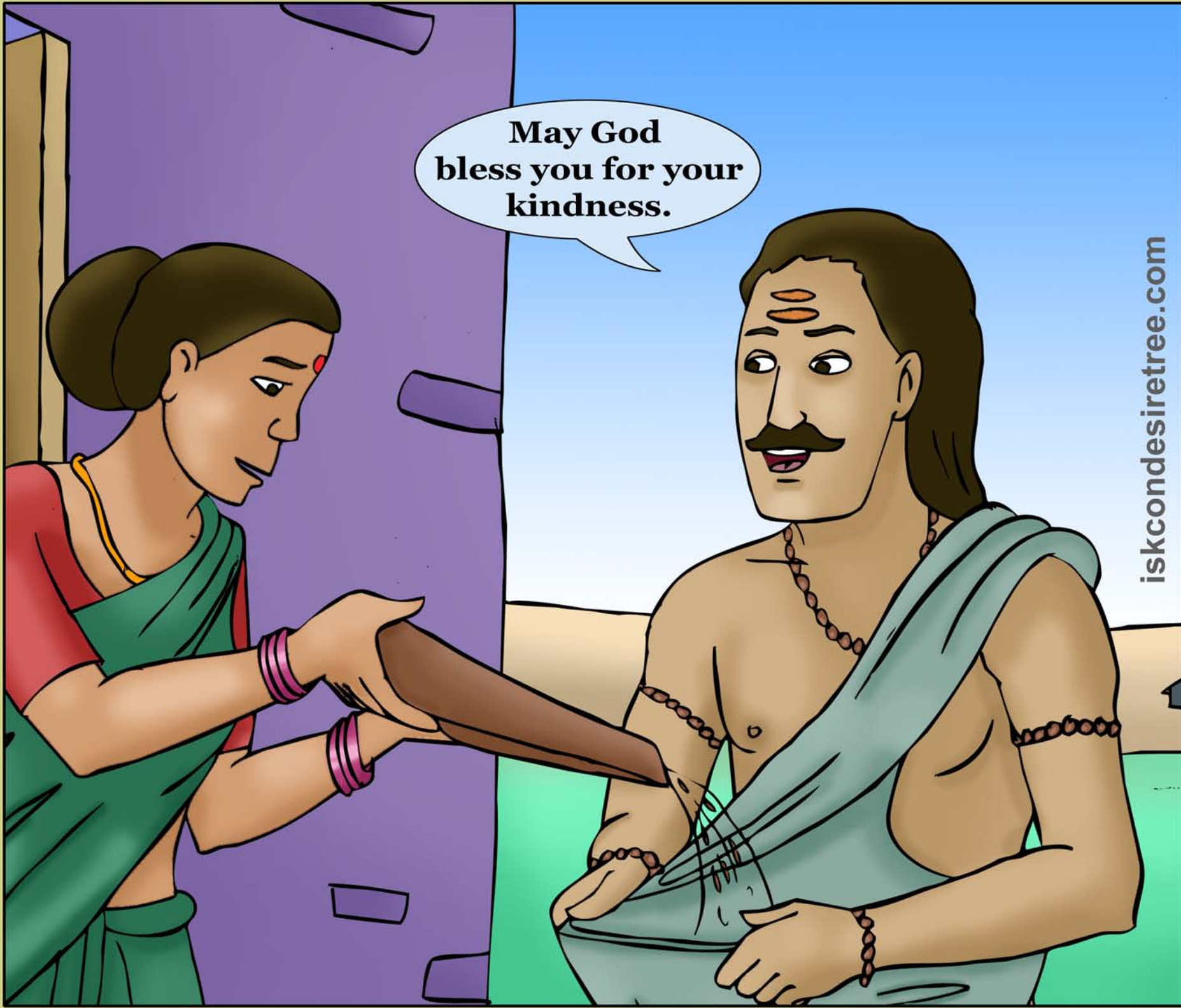


He hung it on a tree
branch for drying.

I will now
go and beg
for alms.



**May God
bless you for your
kindness.**



Latter when ascetic returned to his hut, he found that loin cloth was eaten by rats.


**I will
have to beg for
another.**



Next day at the village...

**Mother I need
a loin cloth. Can you
spare me one.**





I have a new
one. I will give it
to you.

Thank you very
much.

**For the safety,
next morning...**

**Today I will
hang my loin cloth
high on another
branch.**



**However, the rats again
damaged the loin cloth.**

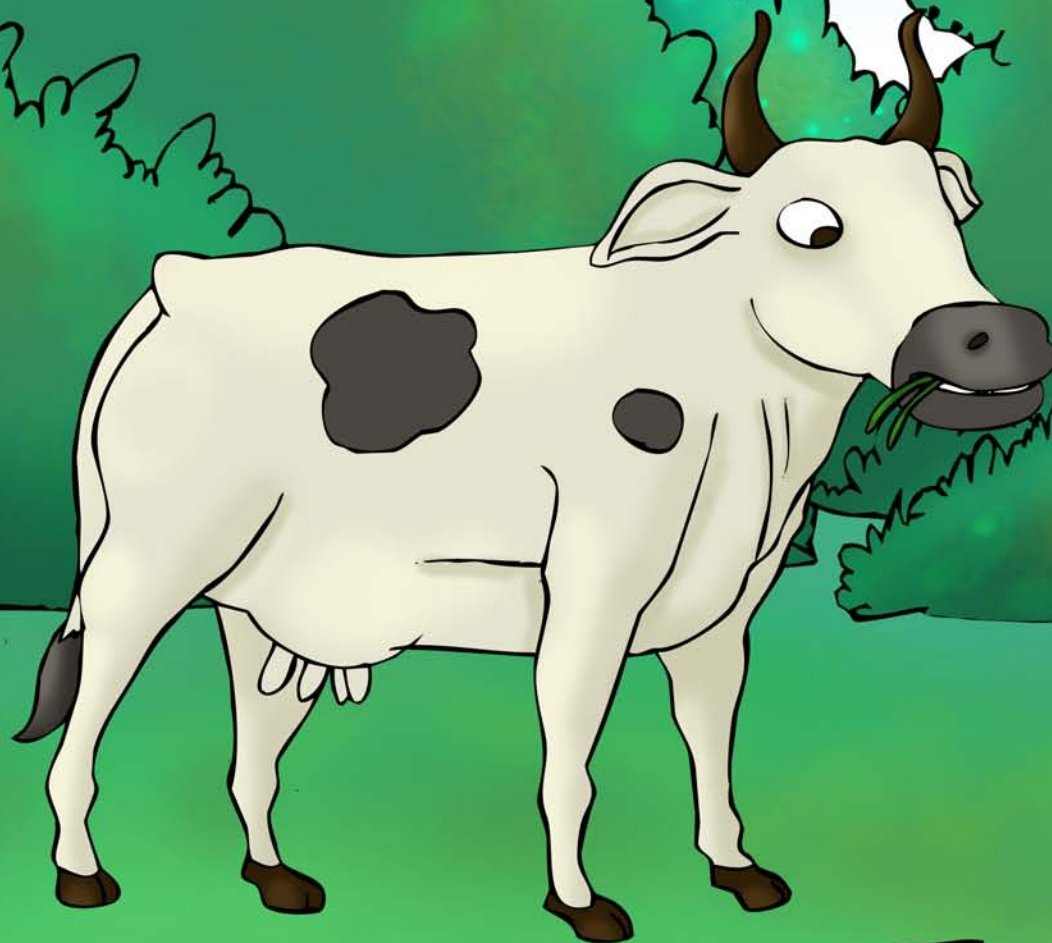
**Only remedy
for this is to get myself
a cat.**



**The cat will protect
my loin cloth.**



**In order to keep my
cat happy, I should feed her milk
daily. I better carry this cow
with me.**



Very soon...:

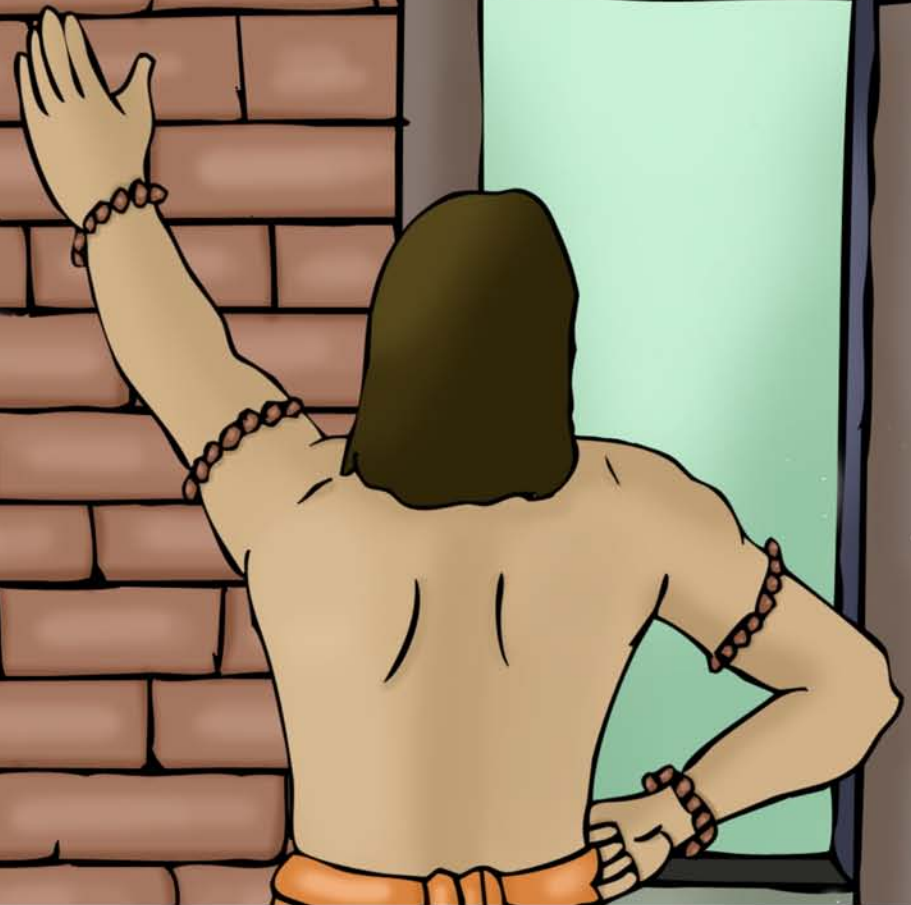
**I need to cultivate
the land around my hut
in order to feed
my cow.**



After some time...

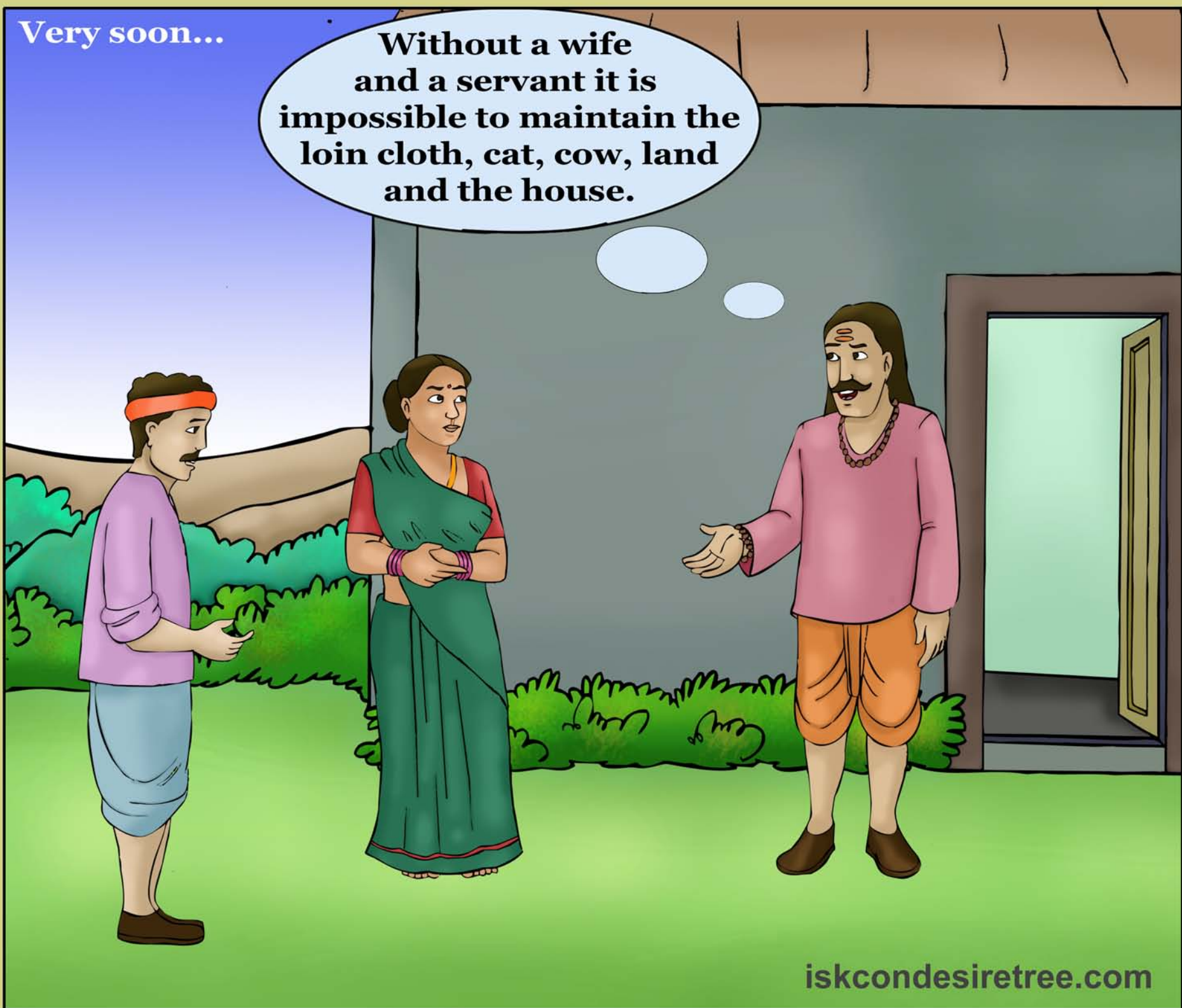


Once this house
is ready, I'll be able to
store my cow's
feed safely.



Very soon...

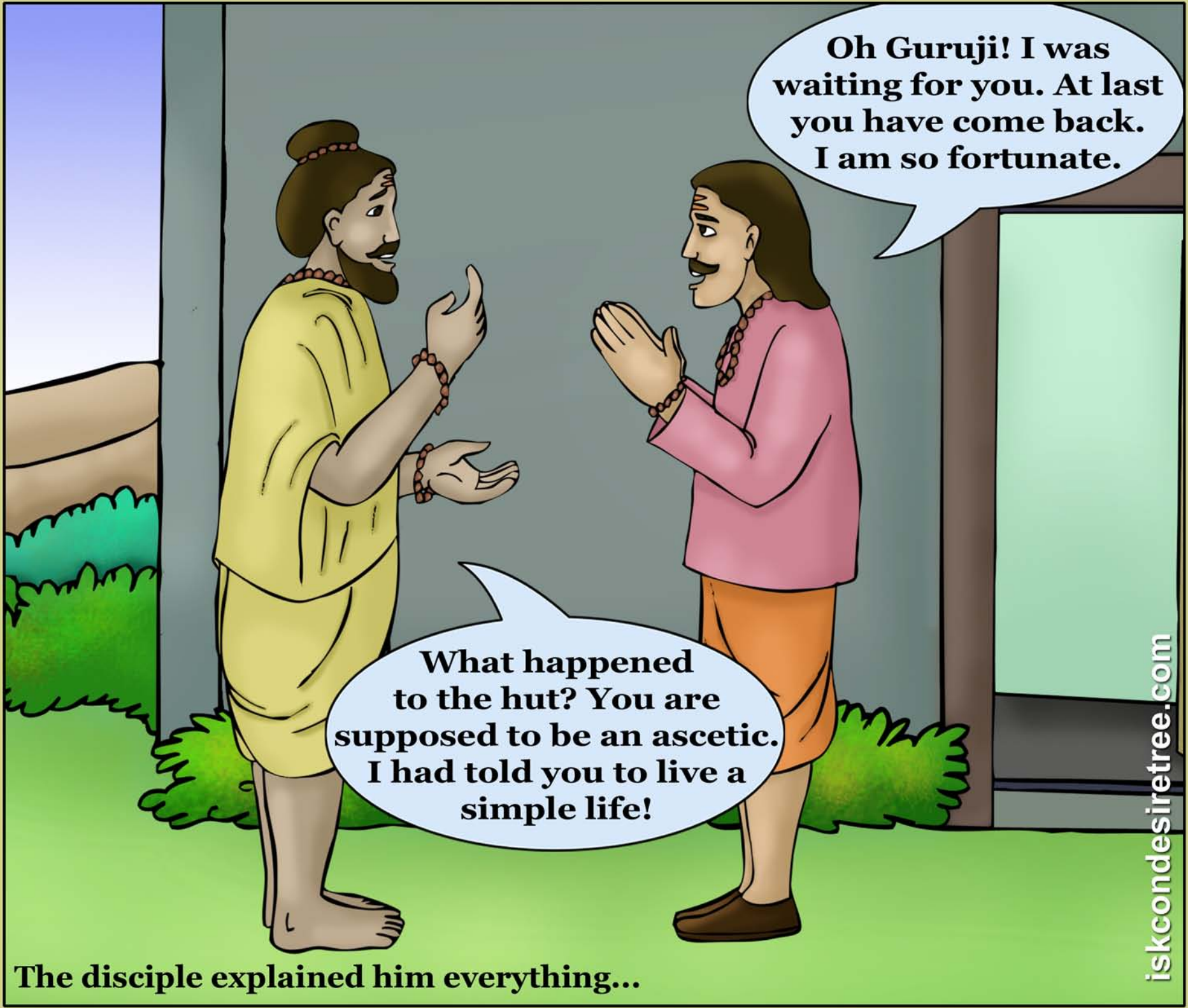
**Without a wife
and a servant it is
impossible to maintain the
loin cloth, cat, cow, land
and the house.**



After a few years, the guru returned to where there used to be a hut.

Do you know about the hut which was here before?


Just wait, I'll call my boss.



Oh Guruji! I was waiting for you. At last you have come back. I am so fortunate.

What happened to the hut? You are supposed to be an ascetic. I had told you to live a simple life!

The disciple explained him everything...



**This is the result
of your desires. It is not
the matter of loin cloth.
There is no limits to
one's desires.**

The disciple realised

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**Forgive me
Gurudeva!**

MORAL:

**Material desires are never-ending.
The belief that once our desires
are fulfilled we can then take a
spiritual path is the biggest lie
one can live.**