

Abhay Charan Comics

*Instructive Stories from
Srila Bhaktisiddhanta
Sarasvati Thakura*

POPCORN BONDAGE

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

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 and purchased some popcorn from a near by shop to give to him.

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 due to utter fatigue or lack of intelligence.

No, I will take the popcorn by being embracing the wide pillar

This hungry person wouldn't be able to make use of the food while embracing the pillar.

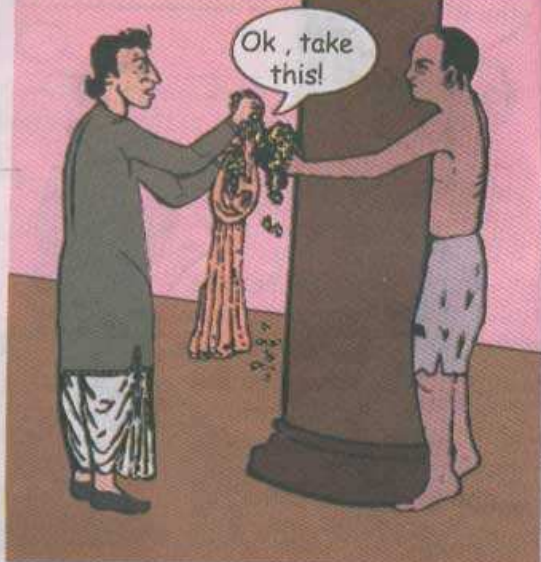


please remove your arms from the pillar before accepting the popcorns.

2

3

Most reluctantly the kind - hearted merchant poured the popcorn into the hands of the hungry person and went away.



Ok, take this!

Oh! What is this? I am trying many ways but still I am getting to eat these popcorns?



The wretched person made 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.

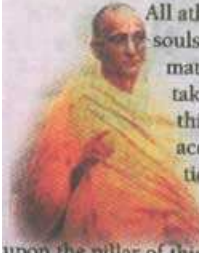
4

5

PURPORT

By Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura

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 any thing 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.



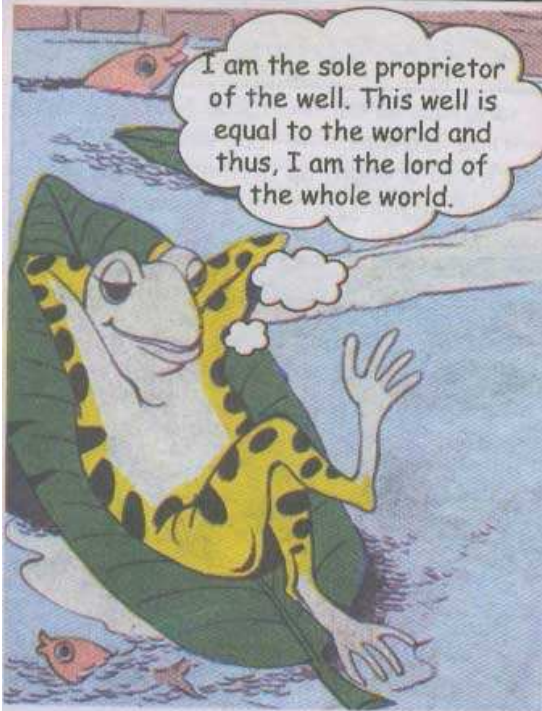
6

Dr. Frog's Thesis

Not far from the ocean there lived a frog in a well. The frog was, in fact, born and brought up within the said well and never went outside it. Nevertheless it was still a puffed-up creature.



7



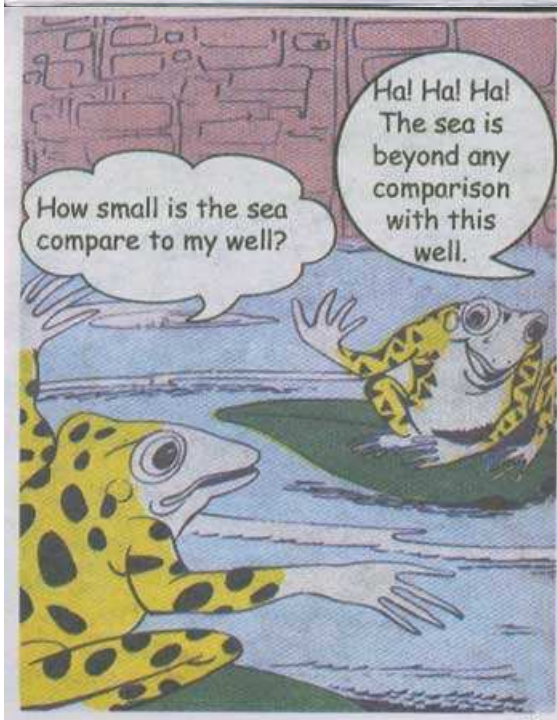
I am the sole proprietor of the well. This well is equal to the world and thus, I am the lord of the whole world.

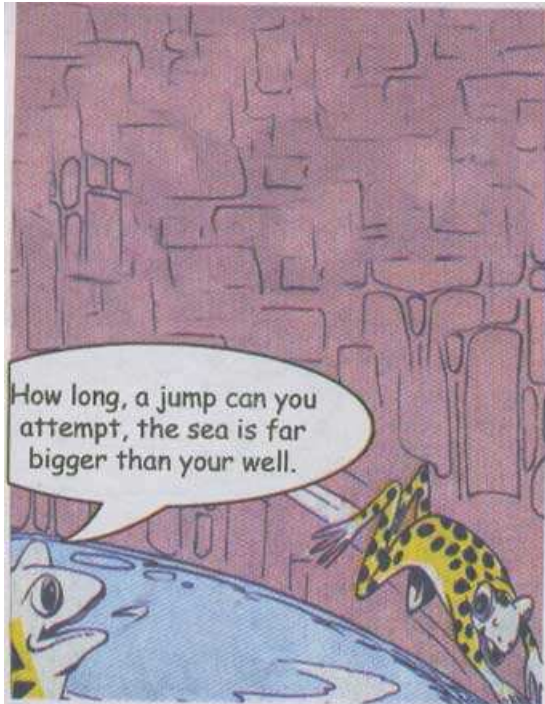
8

One day another big frog from the seaside came across the well and by chance fell inside.



9





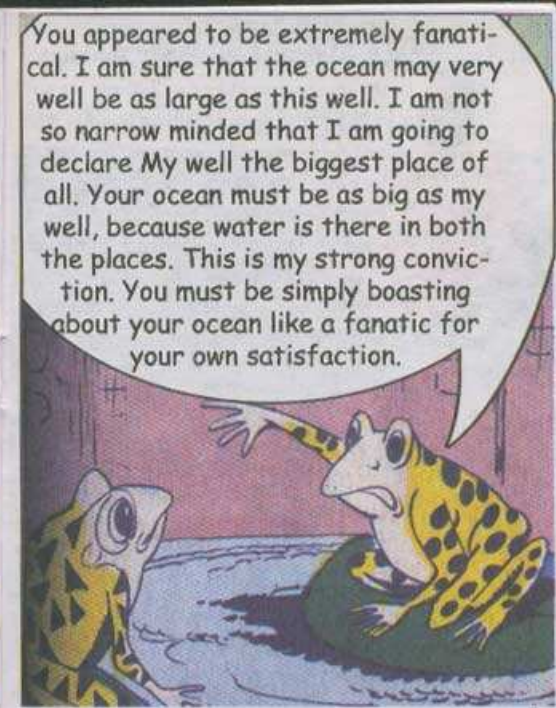
How long, a jump can you attempt, the sea is far bigger than your well.



This much big!
Impossible!
Nothing larger than this can exist.



Please make an effort to look above this well and see how large the ocean actually is.



You appeared to be extremely fanatical. I am sure that the ocean may very well be as large as this well. I am not so narrow minded that I am going to declare My well the biggest place of all. Your ocean must be as big as my well, because water is there in both the places. This is my strong conviction. You must be simply boasting about your ocean like a fanatic for your own satisfaction.

PURPORT

By Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura



In the material world as well, there are so many pedantic compromising pandits who insist their own viewpoints are the best ones but ultimately fail to support their own hypotheses. They finally try to equate devotional service with other types of services. They behave just like highly learned "Dr. Frogs", but in fact their perception about devotional services is far from satisfactory.



Golden, Silver, & Iron Shackles



There was once a prince, a minister's son & a treasurer's son who were all close friends.

Once upon a time, all three of them set out on a long journey of different distant lands.

On the way it happened to arrive at a royal palace where the king of that land was absent but his daughter, the princess, was staying there with her closest friends - one the minister's daughter and the other the treasurer's daughter, whom in turn were close friends like the above three.

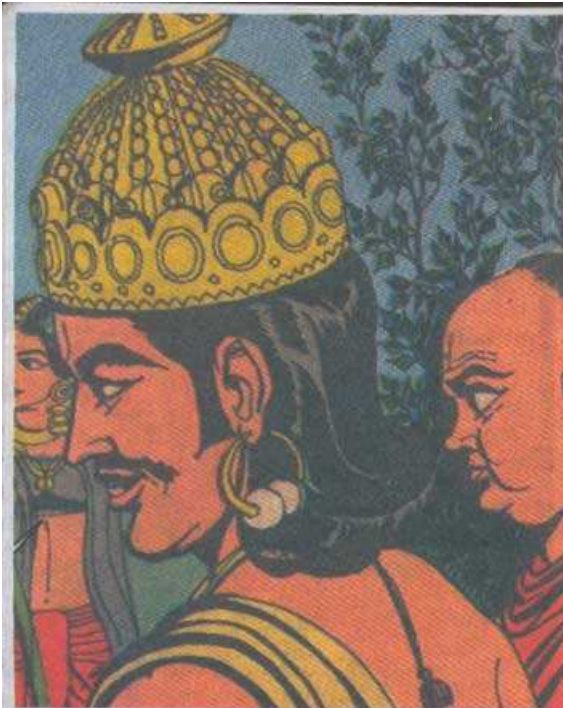


The prince and his two exchanged their friends with the princess and her two consorts and soon proposed

Sorry, we can't accept your proposal, as it is custom to get permission from our parents for marriage....

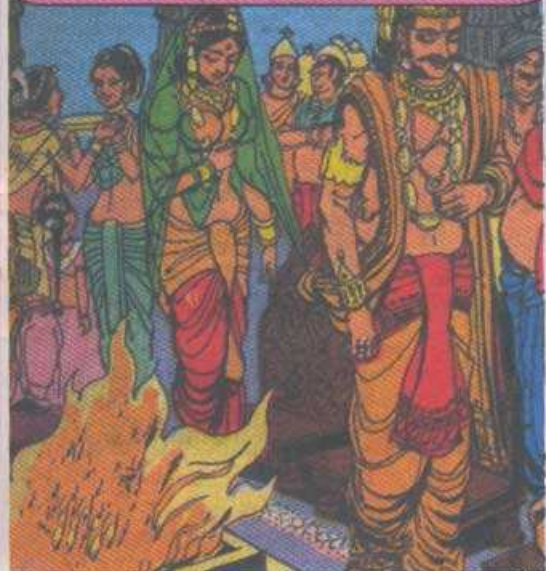


We three like to marry you three!!!!



22

However they decided to marry without further delay according to the old saying anything auspicious should not be hastened." So their happy marriages were celebrated



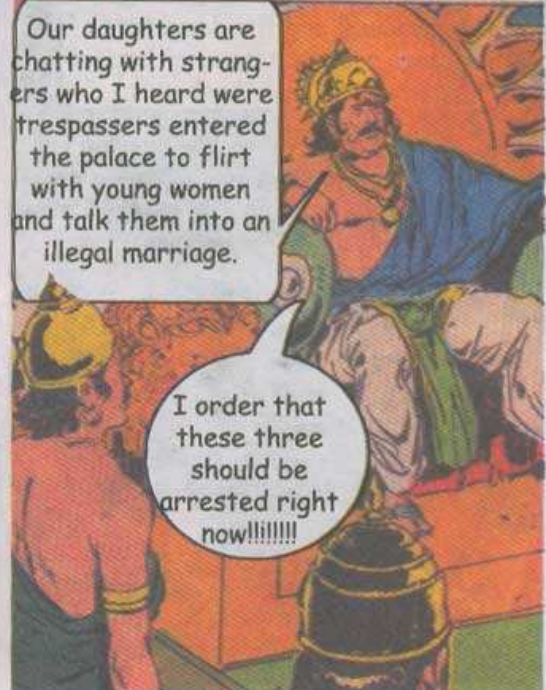
23



Thereafter the king of the land, with his minister and treasurer came back from their travels and entered the royal palace.

24

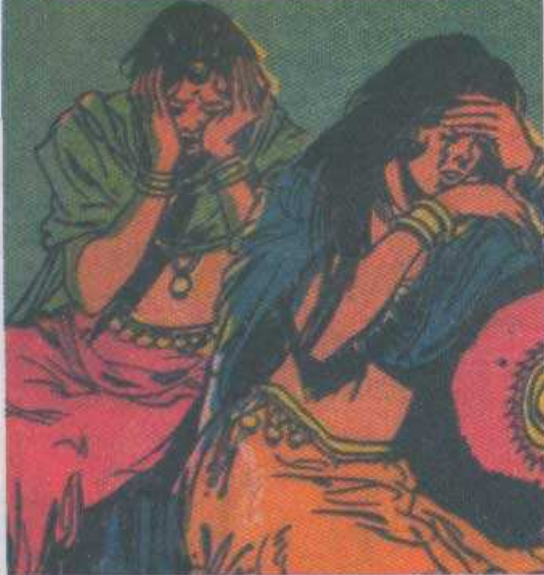
Our daughters are chatting with strangers who I heard were trespassers entered the palace to flirt with young women and talk them into an illegal marriage.



I order that these three should be arrested right now!!!!!!!

25

The princess, and the daughters of ministers and the treasurer begged to release their husbands.



I will not release these young men instead I order that they be offered proper respect by binding the prince with golden shackles, whereas the minister's son with silver chain and the treasurer's son should be bound with iron shackles according to their status.



26

27

PURPORT

By Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura



The Supreme Lord binds up all living entities similarly in three types of shackles, namely the material modes according to the reactions of their respective fruitive activities. The bondage of goodness may very well be compared to golden shackles, that of passion to silver shackles, and the entanglement in ignorance is tantamount to iron

shackles.

Whatever might be the elements or metals with which the shackles are made, they are simply meant for imprisonment. Unless and until one goes beyond these three material modes or entanglements, one can never be considered free and liberated. Only one who completely surrenders unto the lotus feet of the Supreme Lord unconditionally may thus be delivered from such bondage.



28