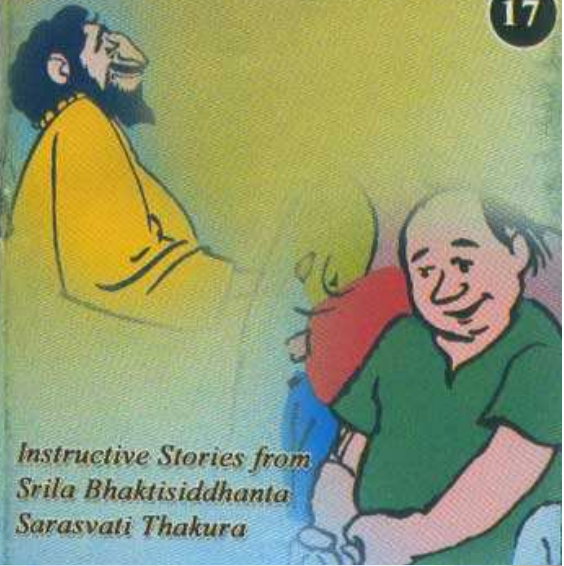


UPAKHYANE UPADESA

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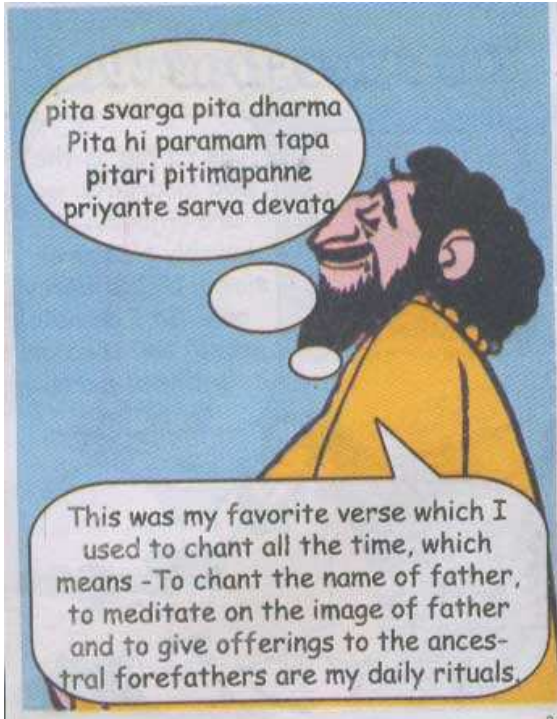
*Instructive Stories from
Sri Bhaktisiddhanta
Sarasvati Thakura*

The Ancestral Well

A village pundit was very much devoted to his departed father.

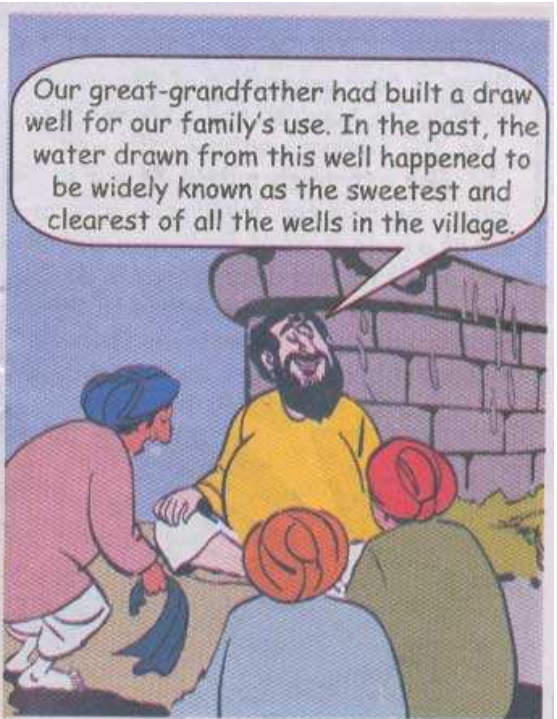
The father is the God incarnate; we are enjoying all earthly pleasures simply by his mercy only. So I do not accept any creator or godhead except my father.



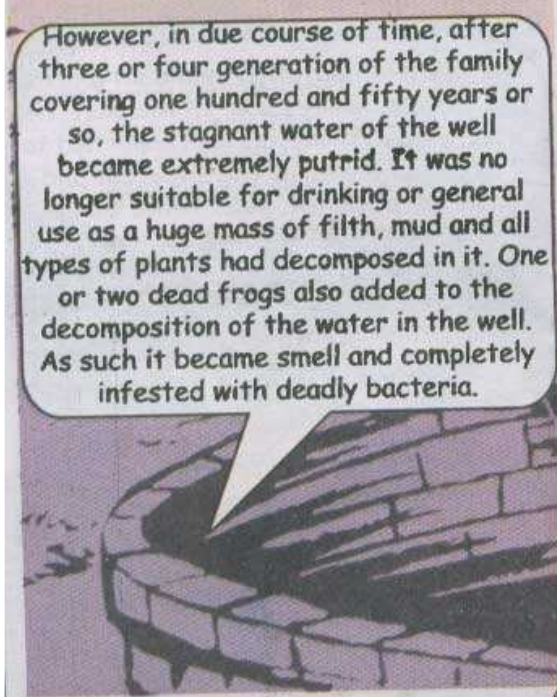


pita svarga pita dharmā
 Pita hi paramam tapa
 pitari pitimāpānne
 priyante sarva devatā

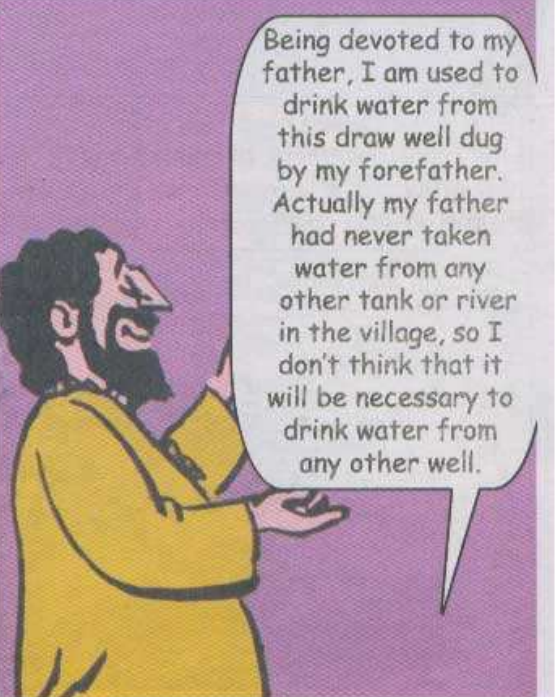
This was my favorite verse which I used to chant all the time, which means -To chant the name of father, to meditate on the image of father and to give offerings to the ancestral forefathers are my daily rituals.



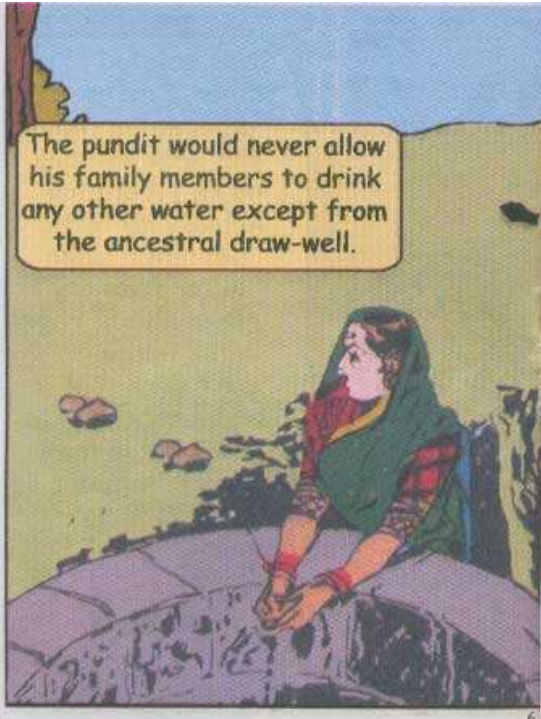
Our great-grandfather had built a draw well for our family's use. In the past, the water drawn from this well happened to be widely known as the sweetest and clearest of all the wells in the village.



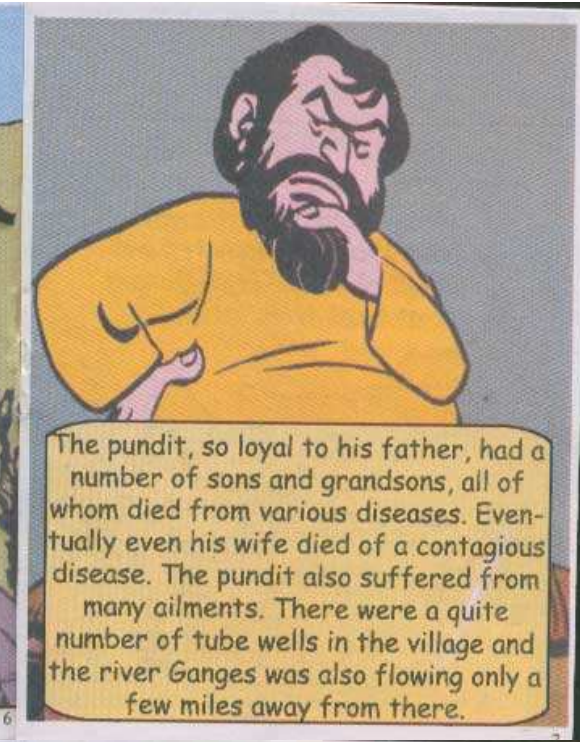
However, in due course of time, after three or four generation of the family covering one hundred and fifty years or so, the stagnant water of the well became extremely putrid. It was no longer suitable for drinking or general use as a huge mass of filth, mud and all types of plants had decomposed in it. One or two dead frogs also added to the decomposition of the water in the well. As such it became smell and completely infested with deadly bacteria.



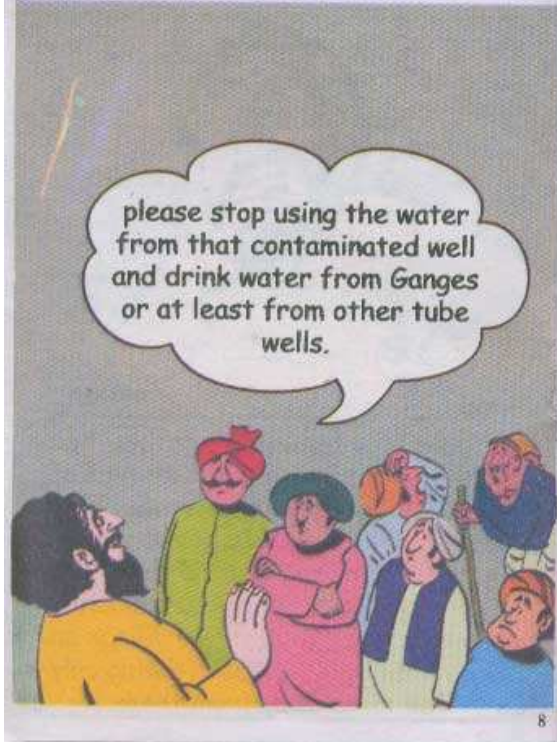
Being devoted to my father, I am used to drink water from this draw well dug by my forefather. Actually my father had never taken water from any other tank or river in the village, so I don't think that it will be necessary to drink water from any other well.



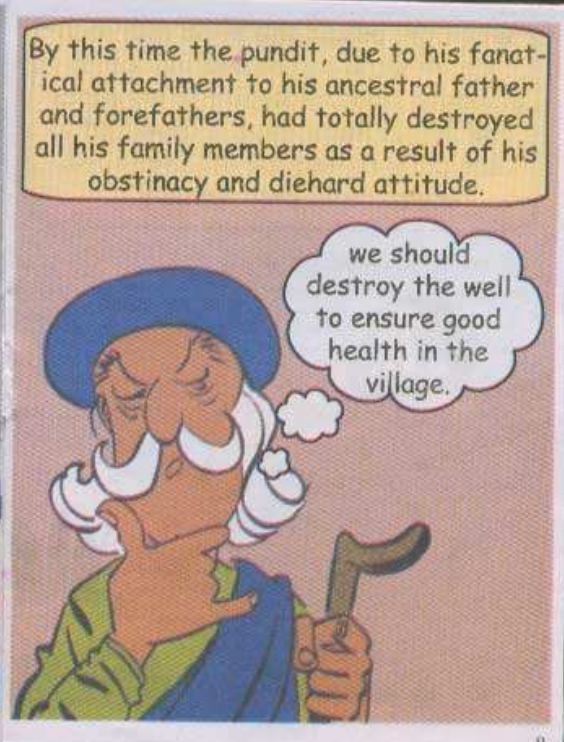
The pundit would never allow his family members to drink any other water except from the ancestral draw-well.



The pundit, so loyal to his father, had a number of sons and grandsons, all of whom died from various diseases. Eventually even his wife died of a contagious disease. The pundit also suffered from many ailments. There were a quite number of tube wells in the village and the river Ganges was also flowing only a few miles away from there.



please stop using the water from that contaminated well and drink water from Ganges or at least from other tube wells.



By this time the pundit, due to his fanatical attachment to his ancestral father and forefathers, had totally destroyed all his family members as a result of his obstinacy and diehard attitude.

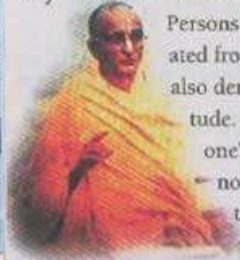
we should destroy the well to ensure good health in the village.

When the pundit saw them approaching, he bend on the well in such an stubborn mood of loyalty to his ancestral forefathers, that it appeared to the authorities that not even royal power could ever destroy it.



PURPORT

By Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura



Persons who are adamant in getting initiated from a particular ancestral gosvami, also demonstrate such an obstinate attitude. Anyone claiming himself to be one's ancestral spiritual master may not be truly qualified through continued derogation of dignity and position.

NOTE :

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Goswami Prabhupada used to say, "A doctor's son may not necessarily be a true doctor." Those who are careless about their own welfare, extremely lazy and guided by the pleasure principle, never take the pain to search out their true bona-fide spiritual master.

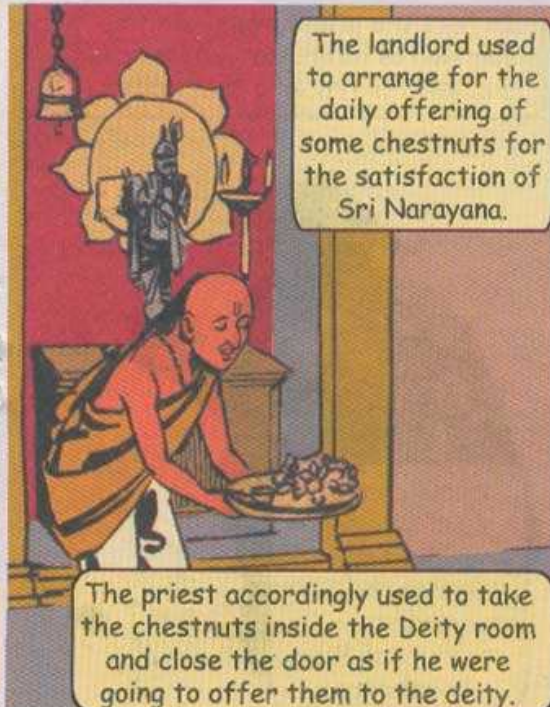


Cracking Nuts with a Salagrama

A landlord once appointed a professional priest for regular offerings to his family Salagram.

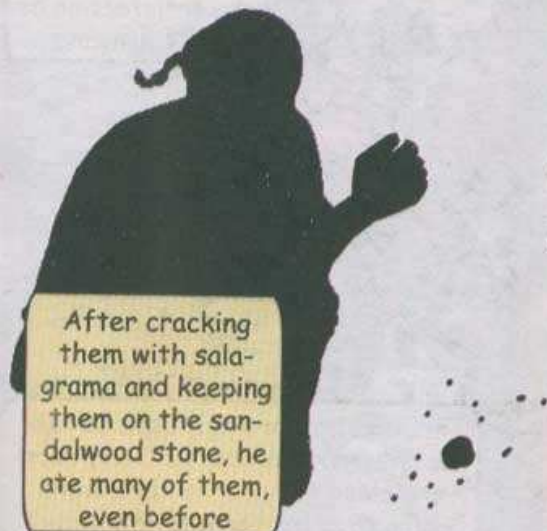


The landlord used to arrange for the daily offering of some chestnuts for the satisfaction of Sri Narayana.



The priest accordingly used to take the chestnuts inside the Deity room and close the door as if he were going to offer them to the deity.

In Fact the priest would use the Salagrama as an ordinary stone, convenient for cracking chestnuts.



After cracking them with salagrama and keeping them on the sandalwood stone, he ate many of them, even before

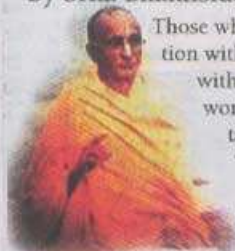
In course of time, his mischief came to light and the landlord then threw him out by the neck.



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Those who desire for some sense gratification with self-interest or for liberation without devotional service, or for women, wealth and prestige, usually take recourse to such habits as "cracking the nuts with a Salagrama". One who plans to earn money and fame by performance of Gita and Bhagavatam lectures relating to religion, through publication and compilation of religious treatises, organising congregational sankirtana or offering esoteric mantras simply for his own sense gratification, may very well be indicated as one who makes an attempt "to crack nuts with a Salagrama".

In fact, all professional narrators of scriptural and mythological anecdotes, and businessman-like glorifiers of the Lord are trying to crack nuts with a Salagrama, which means that they are using everything offered to the Lord simply for their own sense gratification.

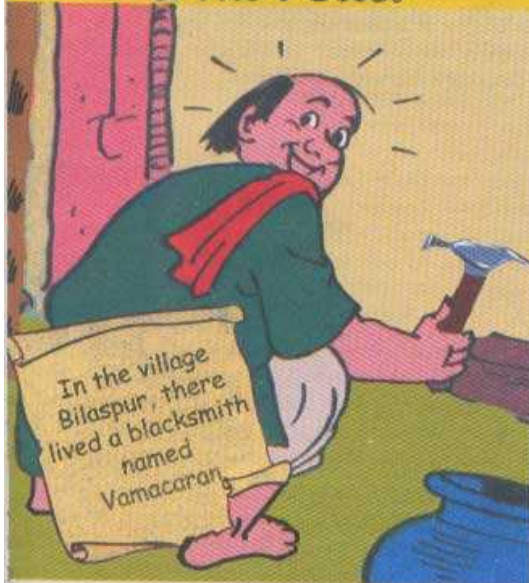
There are persons who pretend to be living in association with devotees in a math, but are simply looking for facilities for their own self-interest and actually make personal use of the society of devotees instead of offering

and enjoy Lord Sri Krsna's property without the slightest interest in offering services for the satisfaction of the Lord.

These so-called devotees are similar to the professional priests who try to crack nuts with a Salagrama, and they practise devotional services that are not considered sincere or honest. It is thus said that any prayer to the Lord for religion, wealth, peace or liberation is tantamount to "cracking a nut with a Salagrama".

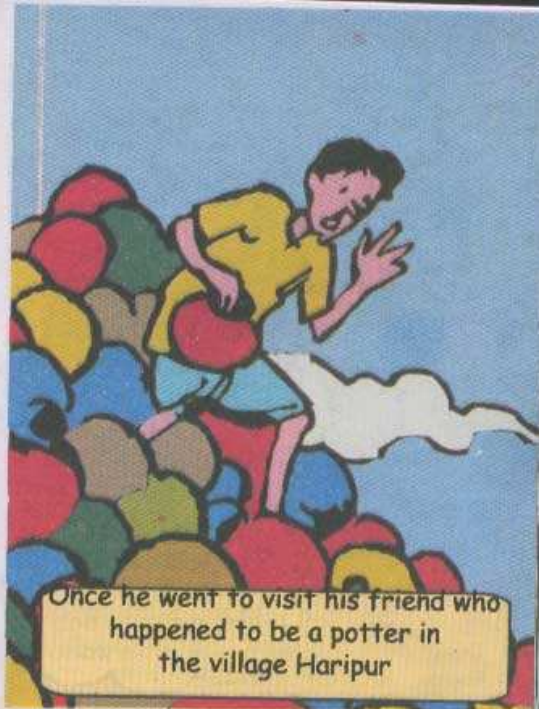


The Blacksmith & The Potter



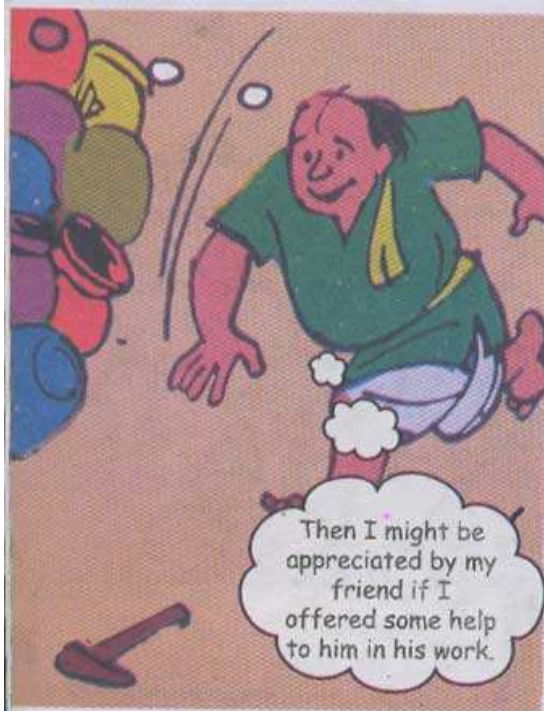
In the village Bilaspur, there lived a blacksmith named Vamacaran.

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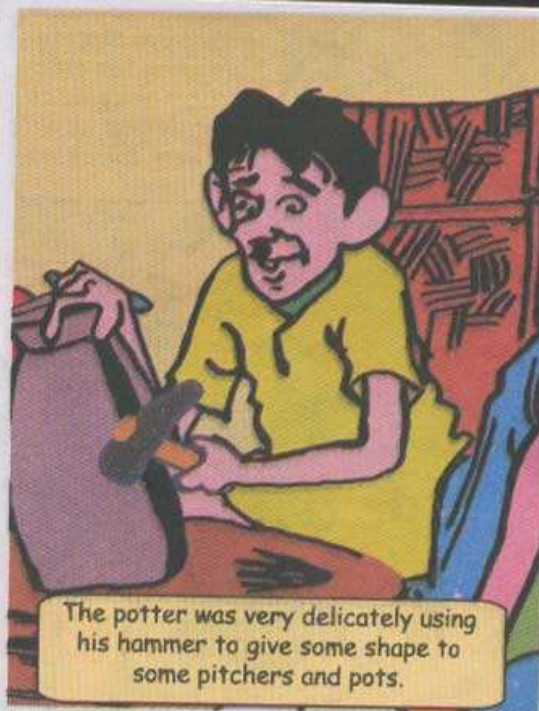
Once he went to visit his friend who happened to be a potter in the village Haripur.

19



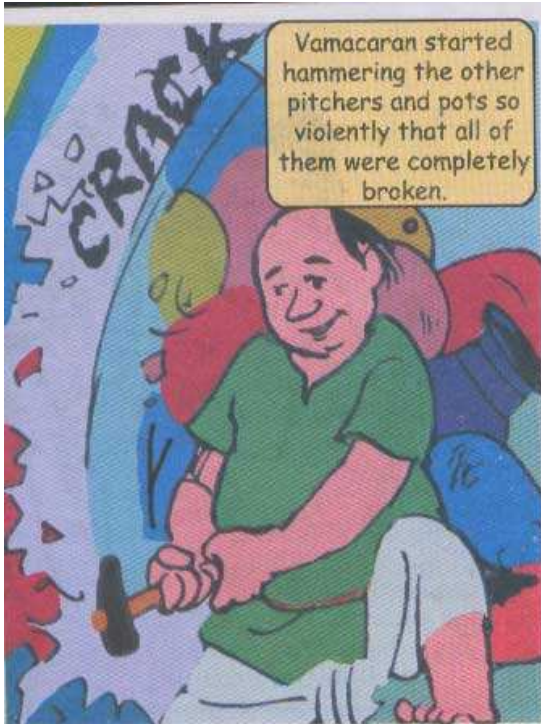
Then I might be appreciated by my friend if I offered some help to him in his work.

20

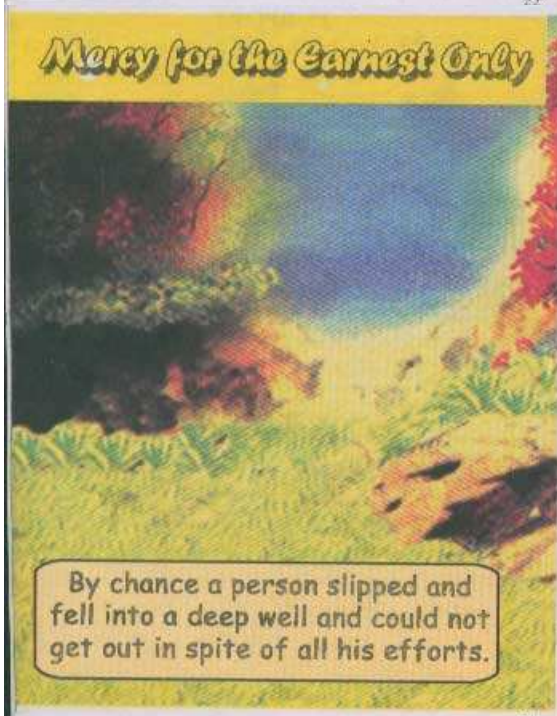


The potter was very delicately using his hammer to give some shape to some pitchers and pots.

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Vamacaran started hammering the other pitchers and pots so violently that all of them were completely broken.



Mercy for the Earnest Only

By chance a person slipped and fell into a deep well and could not get out in spite of all his efforts.

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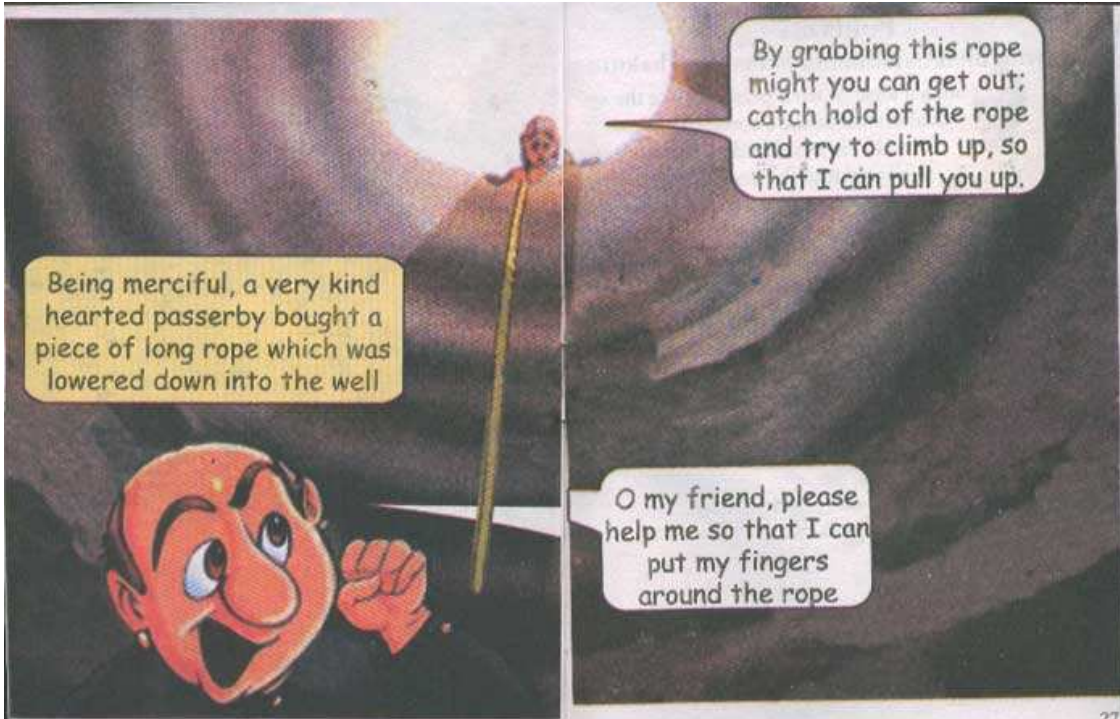
The manner in which the blacksmith hammers iron to give shapes to it is not meant for a potter to model clay. The method and technique of both of them are entirely different. A materialistic worker usually develops a conception that the devotional service offered by a devotee for the satisfaction of the Lord is apparently and externally akin

to sense-gratification material activities and as such they all belong to the same category.

In fact, there is a real difference between the process and the manner in both such activities. So-called dispassionate material activities carry no intrinsic value unless they are favourable for the satisfactory devotional service to the Lord. An impersonalist worshipper of five elements, bereft of devotional surrender, will only create more harm than good than any pure devotee who is sincerely practising the delicate process of satisfying the Supreme Lord.

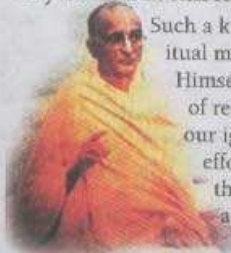


HELP!!!
HELP!!!



PURPORT

By Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura



Such a kind-hearted person is like the spiritual master or the Supreme Godhead Himself. He has already lowered a rope of rescue into the deep darkness into our ignorance. It is only by our earnest effort in catching hold of that mercy that we can be delivered and liberated from material agonies.

Unless we extend our best efforts earnestly, and qualify ourselves for the Lord's mercy, it is next to impossible that we can be rescued from our fallen condition.

