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Stories from Srimad Bhagavatam

Level 2



INDEX

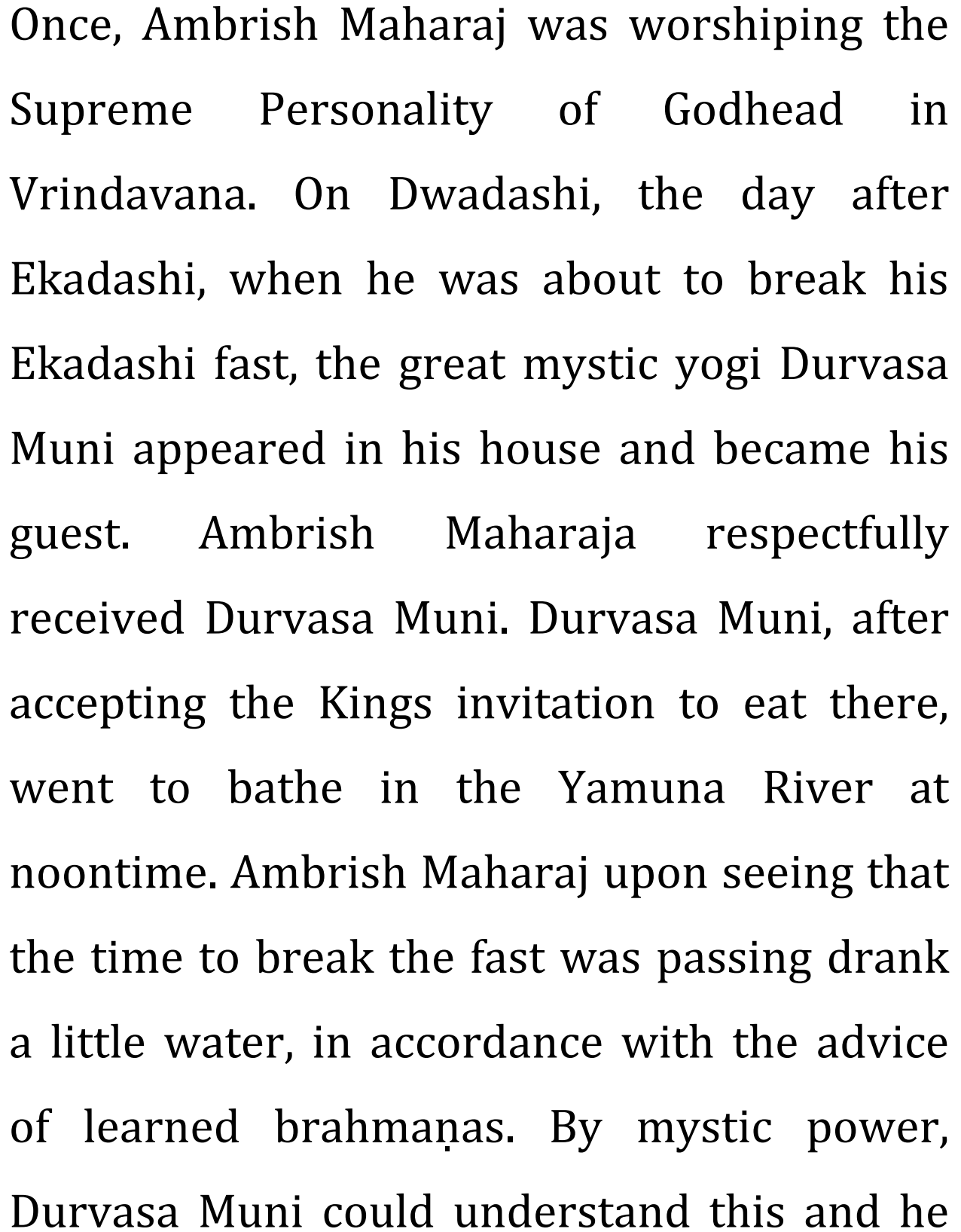
1. Ambrish Maharaj
2. Bharata Maharaj
3. Churning of Milk Ocean
4. Daksha Yajna
5. Dhruva Maharaj
6. Gajendra
7. Ganga
8. Prithu Maharaj
9. Prahlada Maharaj
10. Parikshit Maharaj
11. Vamanadeva
12. Vritasura

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Ambrish Maharaj

Ambarish Maharaj was the emperor of the entire world and also a great devotee of the Lord Narayana. He performed devotional service with great opulence.



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Once, Ambrish Maharaj was worshiping the Supreme Personality of Godhead in Vrindavana. On Dwadashi, the day after Ekadashi, when he was about to break his Ekadashi fast, the great mystic yogi Durvasa Muni appeared in his house and became his guest. Ambrish Maharaja respectfully received Durvasa Muni. Durvasa Muni, after accepting the Kings invitation to eat there, went to bathe in the Yamuna River at noontime. Ambrish Maharaj upon seeing that the time to break the fast was passing drank a little water, in accordance with the advice of learned brahmaṇas. By mystic power, Durvasa Muni could understand this and he

was very angry. When he returned he began to chastise Ambrish Maharaj, and created from his hair a demon appearing like the fire of death.



The Supreme Personality of Godhead, to protect Ambrish Maharaja sent His disc, the Sudarshana chakra, which immediately vanquished the fiery demon.



Upon seeing that his own attempt had failed and that the Sudarshana chakra was moving toward him, Durvasa Muni became very frightened and began to run in all directions to save his life.



When Durvasa Muni could find no shelter, he approached Lord Brahma, but Lord Brahma refused to give shelter to Durvasa Muni.



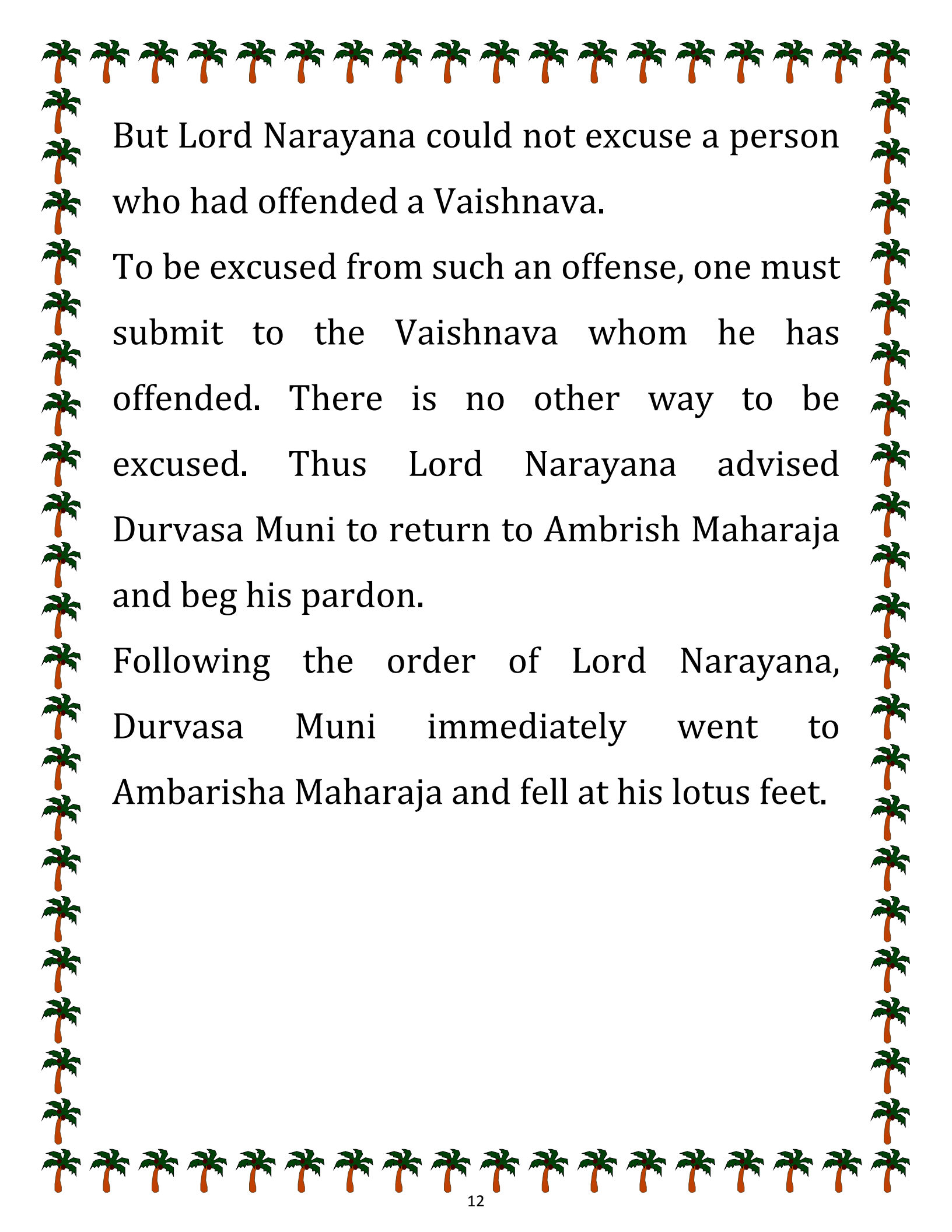
Then Durvasa Muni tried to take shelter of Lord Shiva, who always resides on his planet, known as Kailasa.



Lord Shiva also could not give him any shelter and asked the muni to approach Lord Narayana.

Finally Durvasa Muni went to the spiritual world and surrendered to Lord Narayana.



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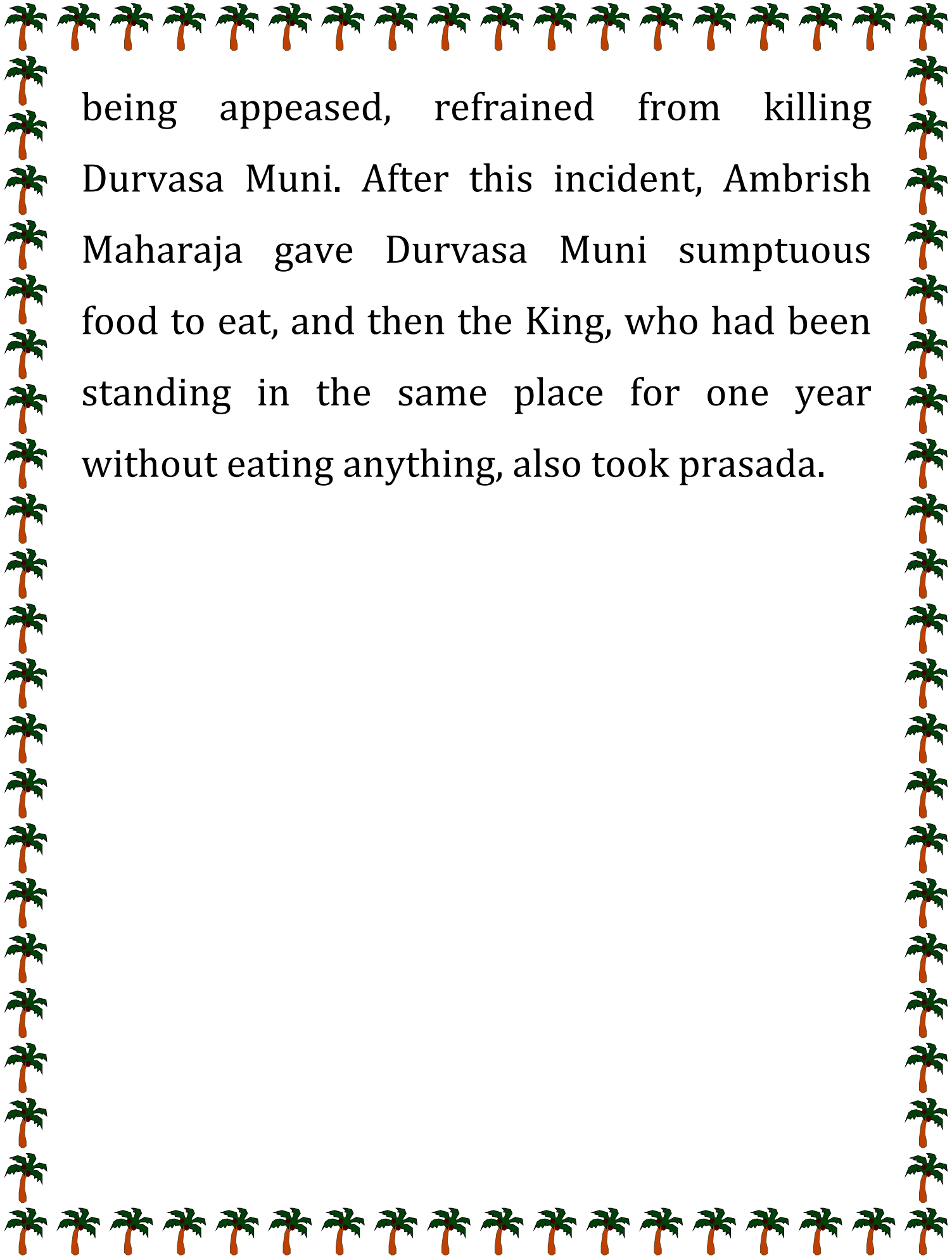
But Lord Narayana could not excuse a person who had offended a Vaishnava.

To be excused from such an offense, one must submit to the Vaishnava whom he has offended. There is no other way to be excused. Thus Lord Narayana advised Durvasa Muni to return to Ambrish Maharaja and beg his pardon.

Following the order of Lord Narayana, Durvasa Muni immediately went to Ambarisha Maharaja and fell at his lotus feet.



Seeing Durvasa Muni at his feet, Ambarish Maharaj prayed that the Sudarshan chakra be merciful to the muni. Sudarshan chakra,



being appeased, refrained from killing Durvasa Muni. After this incident, Ambrish Maharaja gave Durvasa Muni sumptuous food to eat, and then the King, who had been standing in the same place for one year without eating anything, also took prasada.

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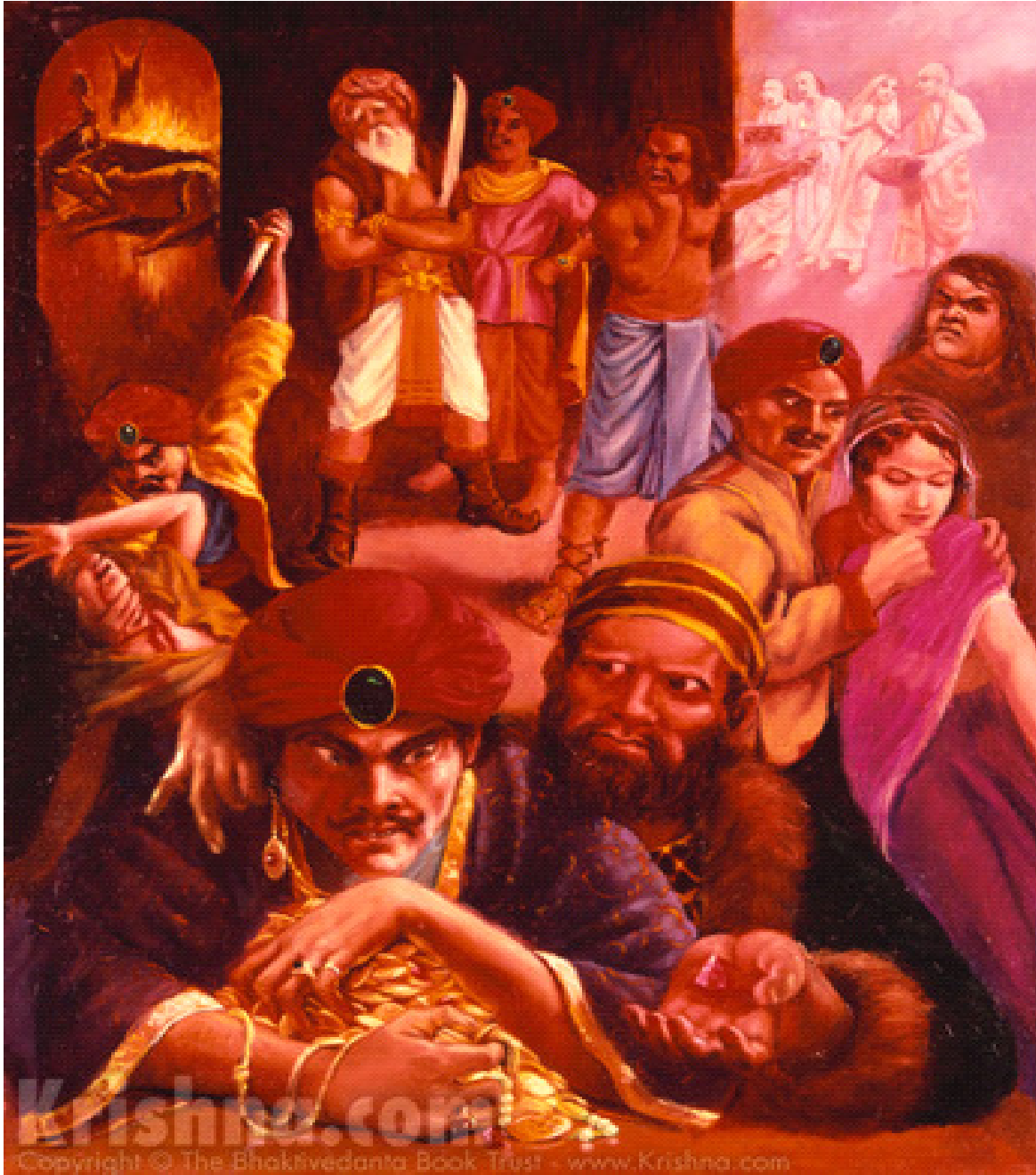
Ajamila

Once upon a time there lived a brahmana named, Ajamila. He was trained by his parents to become a perfect brahmana by studying the Vedas and following the regulative principles.



Ajamila happened to see an uncultured act that led to his fall-down and later he married a prostitute maidservant. Ajamila begot in the womb of the prostitute ten sons, the last of whom was called Narayana.

Ajamila gave trouble to others to earn his livelihood and maintained his wife and children.



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At the time of death Yamadutas came to take him to Yamaraj for punishment. In fear Ajamila loudly called the name Narayana because he was attached to his youngest son.



Thus he remembered the original Narayana, Lord Visnu. Although Ajamila did not chant

the holy name of Lord Narayana
offenselessly, it acted nevertheless.

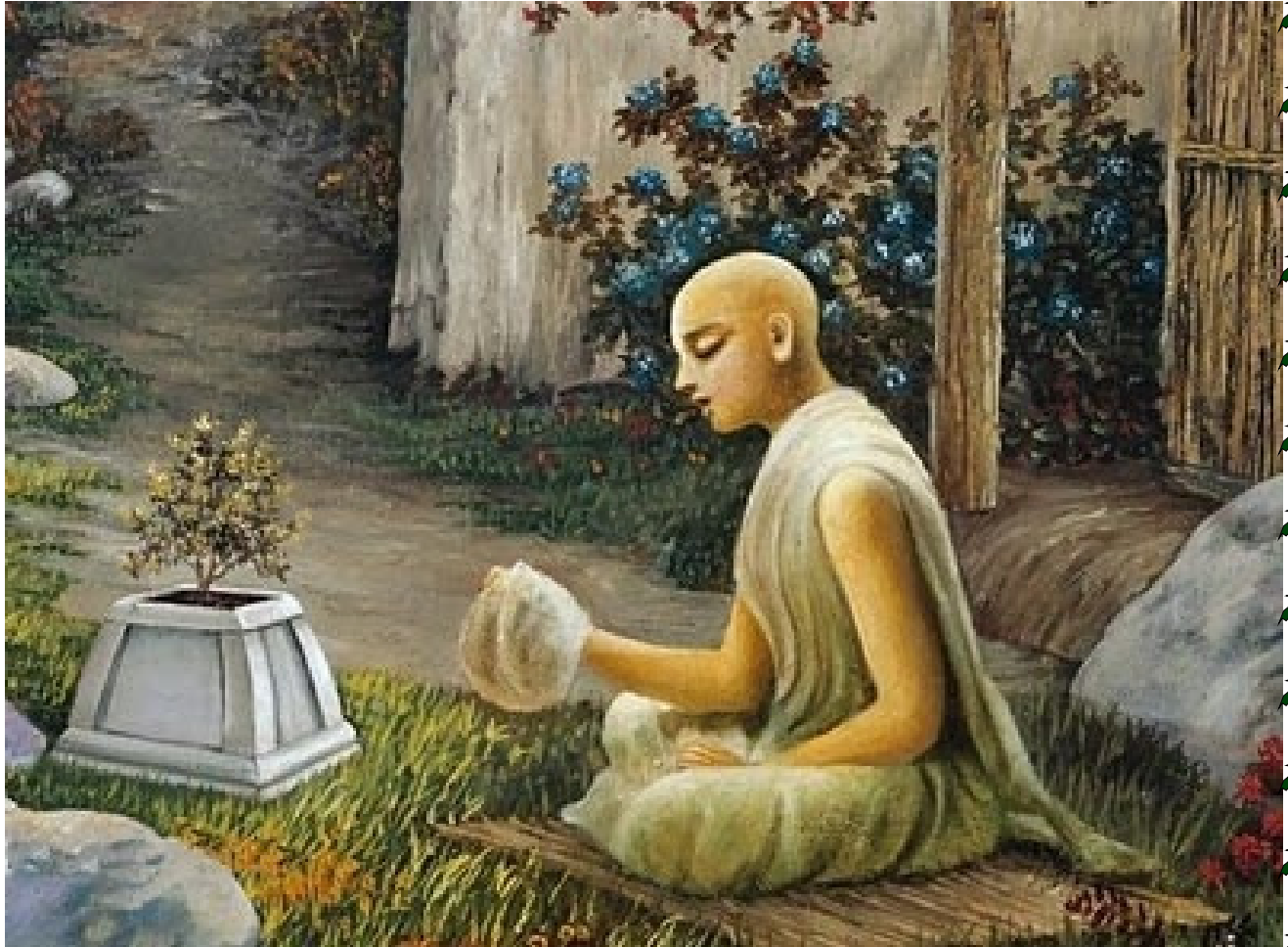
Hearing the name of Narayana, the order
carriers of Lord Visnu immediately appeared.



A discussion ensued between the order carriers of Lord Visnu and those of Yamaraja. The Visnudutas said, "By chanting the name of Lord Narayana one sufficiently atones for the sinful reactions of millions of lives."



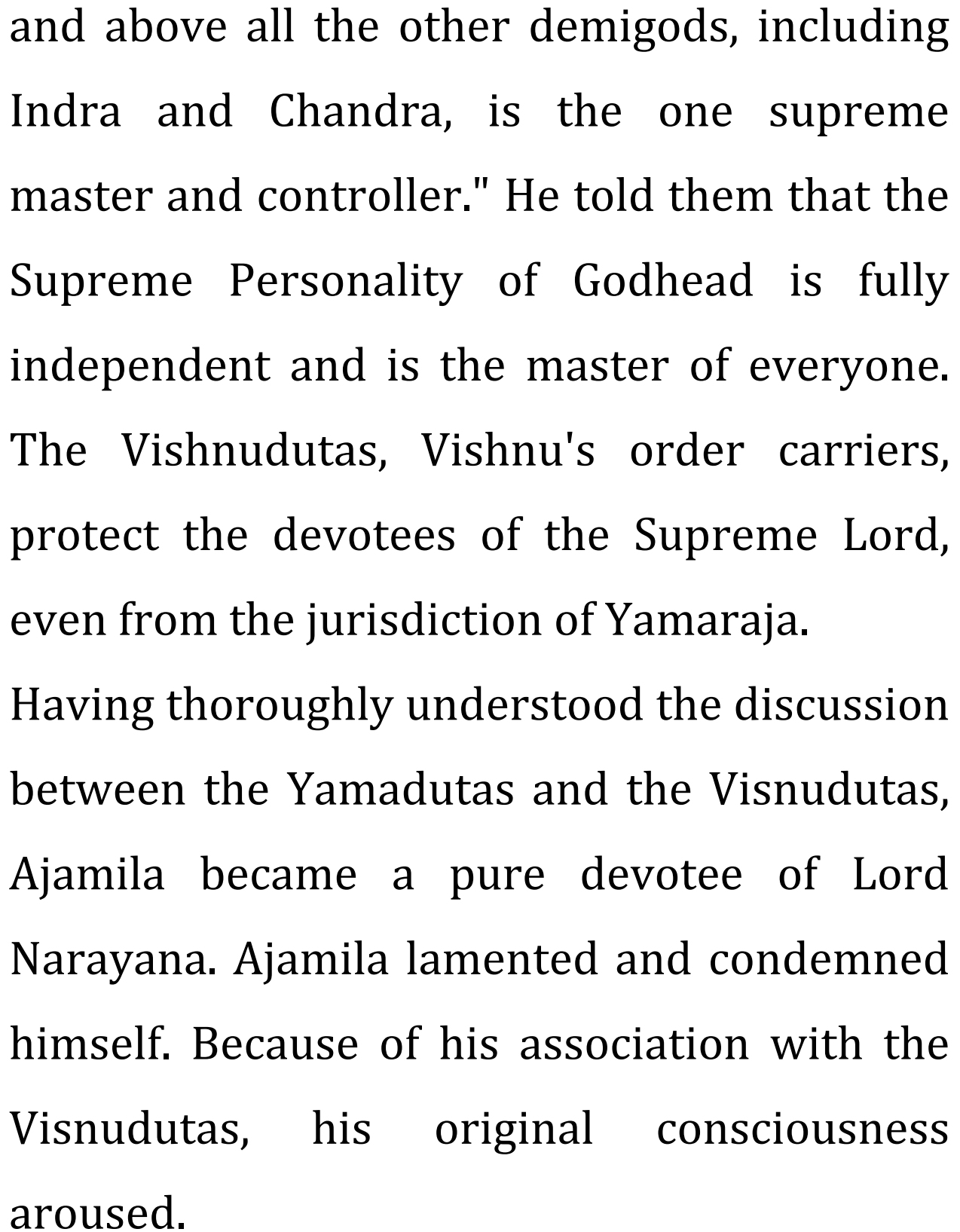
Chanting the glories of the Lord's holy name awakens all good fortune.



When the Yamadutas were forbidden to take Ajamila's soul, they went to their lord, Yamaraja, to tell him what had happened.



They asked him who were the Vishnudutas, how could they stop the order coming directly from Yamaraja? Yamaraja said, "My dear servants, you have accepted me as the Supreme, but factually I am not. Above me,

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and above all the other demigods, including Indra and Chandra, is the one supreme master and controller." He told them that the Supreme Personality of Godhead is fully independent and is the master of everyone. The Vishnudutas, Vishnu's order carriers, protect the devotees of the Supreme Lord, even from the jurisdiction of Yamaraja. Having thoroughly understood the discussion between the Yamadutas and the Visnudutas, Ajamila became a pure devotee of Lord Narayana. Ajamila lamented and condemned himself. Because of his association with the Visnudutas, his original consciousness aroused.

Ajamila gave up everything and went to Hardwar, where he engaged in devotional service without deviation, always thinking of the Lord Narayana.



At the end of Ajamila's life, the Visnudutas went there, seated him on a golden throne and took him to Vaikunthaloka.





Bharat Maharaj

Svayambhuva Manu's first son was
Priyavrata Maharaj.

Priyavrata Maharaj followed the orbit of the sun-god on a brilliant chariot.



Priyavrata Maharaj's son was Agnidhra and his son was Nabhi. Nabhi was a great and devout ruler and to him was born an avatar of Mahavishnu, by name Rishabha.



Rishabha, also called Rishabhadeva, who had one hundred sons of whom the eldest was Bharata. At the end of his life, Lord Rishabha

acted as if dull and finally ended His pastime within the material world.



After Lord Rishabha retired to the forest,
Bharata Maharaj ruled the earth.



After ruling the earth for many years Bharat
Maharaj divided the kingdom among his sons
and retired to the forest.

One day, the king rescued a fawn from the water and cared for it.



Eventually, Bharata Maharaj became attached to the deer.



Bharata Maharaj could not concentrate his mind upon the Lord.



At the time of death, Bharata Maharaj was thinking about the deer instead of the Lord.



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As a result, in the next birth he was born as a deer.



As a deer, Bharata Maharaj remembered his past birth.



He always left his companions and was instinctively drawn to graze near hermitages. After death, he took birth as Jada Bharata. As Jada Bharata, he remembered all his past, and even in his childhood he was determined

not to get entangled in the good and evil of life. So he acted inert and insane.

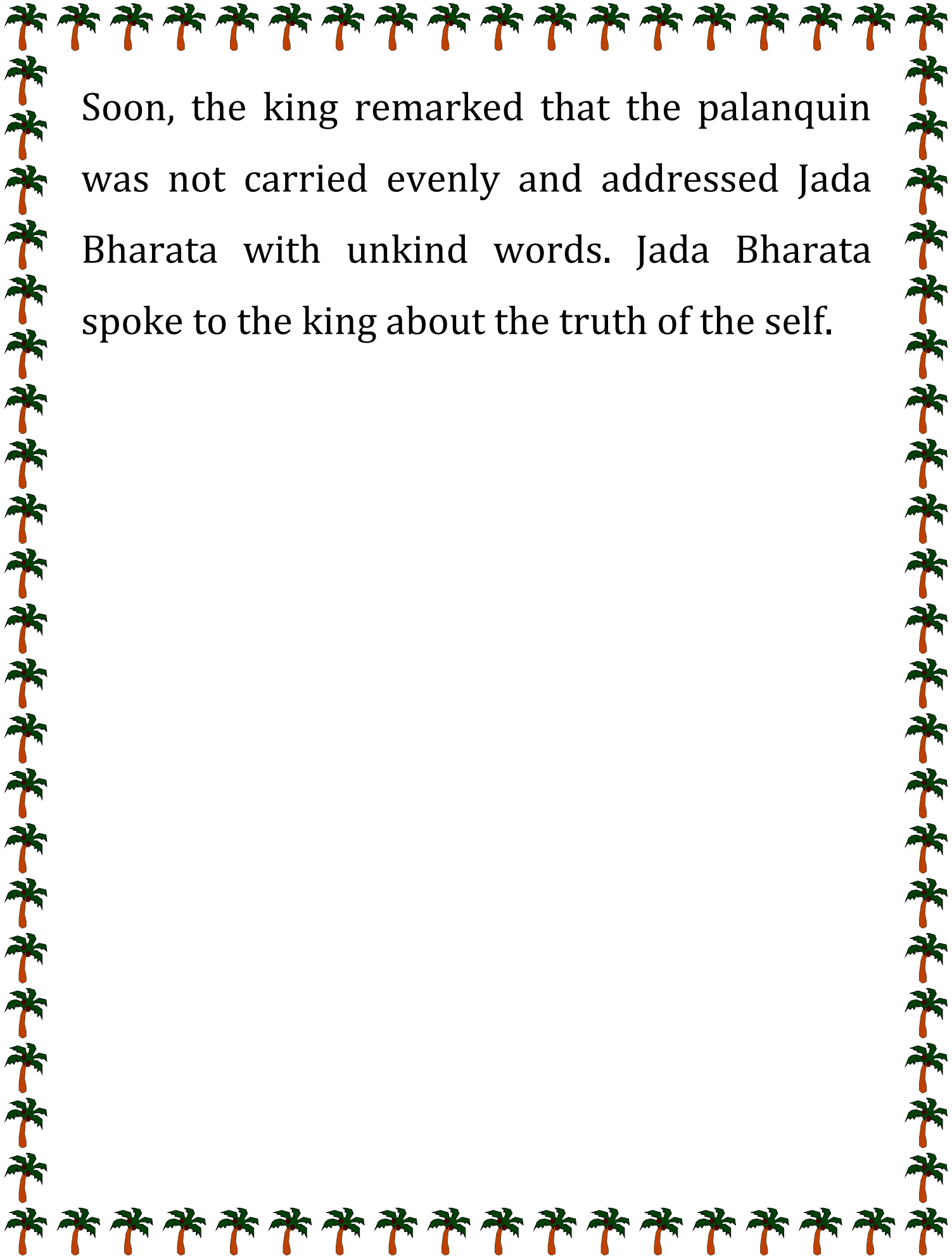


Once, Goddess Kali's worshippers caught him and tried to offer him as a sacrificial animal, but Goddess Kali protected him.



On another occasion, the king's servants forced Jada Bharata to act as one of the carriers of the king's palauquin.



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Soon, the king remarked that the palanquin was not carried evenly and addressed Jada Bharata with unkind words. Jada Bharata spoke to the king about the truth of the self.

The king, who was proud of his learning, knowledge, and philosophy, alighted from the palanquin, and fell at the feet of Jada Bharata.



When Bharata Maharaj, as Jada Bharata left the body, he was freed forever from the bondage of birth and death and returned to the Spiritual world.



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Churning of Milk Ocean

Once upon a time, the demigods, having been cursed by Durvasa Muni, were defeated in battle by the demons.



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When the demigods were deprived of their heavenly kingdom, they went to Lord Brahma.

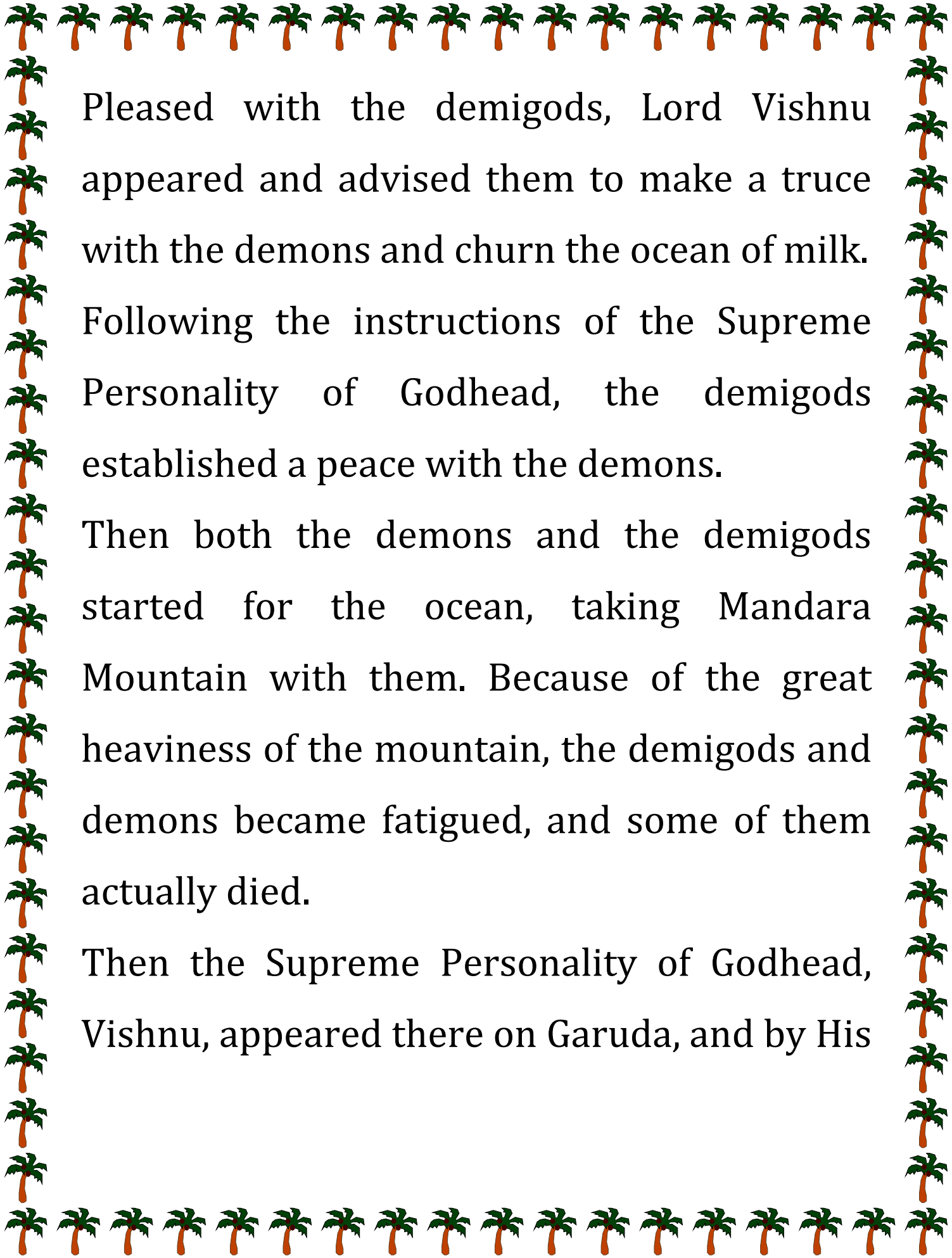


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Then Brahma, along with all the demigods, went to the shore of the ocean of milk and offered prayers to Lord Visnu.



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Pleased with the demigods, Lord Vishnu appeared and advised them to make a truce with the demons and churn the ocean of milk. Following the instructions of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the demigods established a peace with the demons.

Then both the demons and the demigods started for the ocean, taking Mandara Mountain with them. Because of the great heaviness of the mountain, the demigods and demons became fatigued, and some of them actually died.

Then the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Vishnu, appeared there on Garuda, and by His

mercy He brought these demigods and demons back to life.



The Lord then lifted the mountain with one of His hands and placed it on the back of Garuda.



The Lord was carried to the spot of the churning by Garuda, who placed the mountain in the middle of the sea.

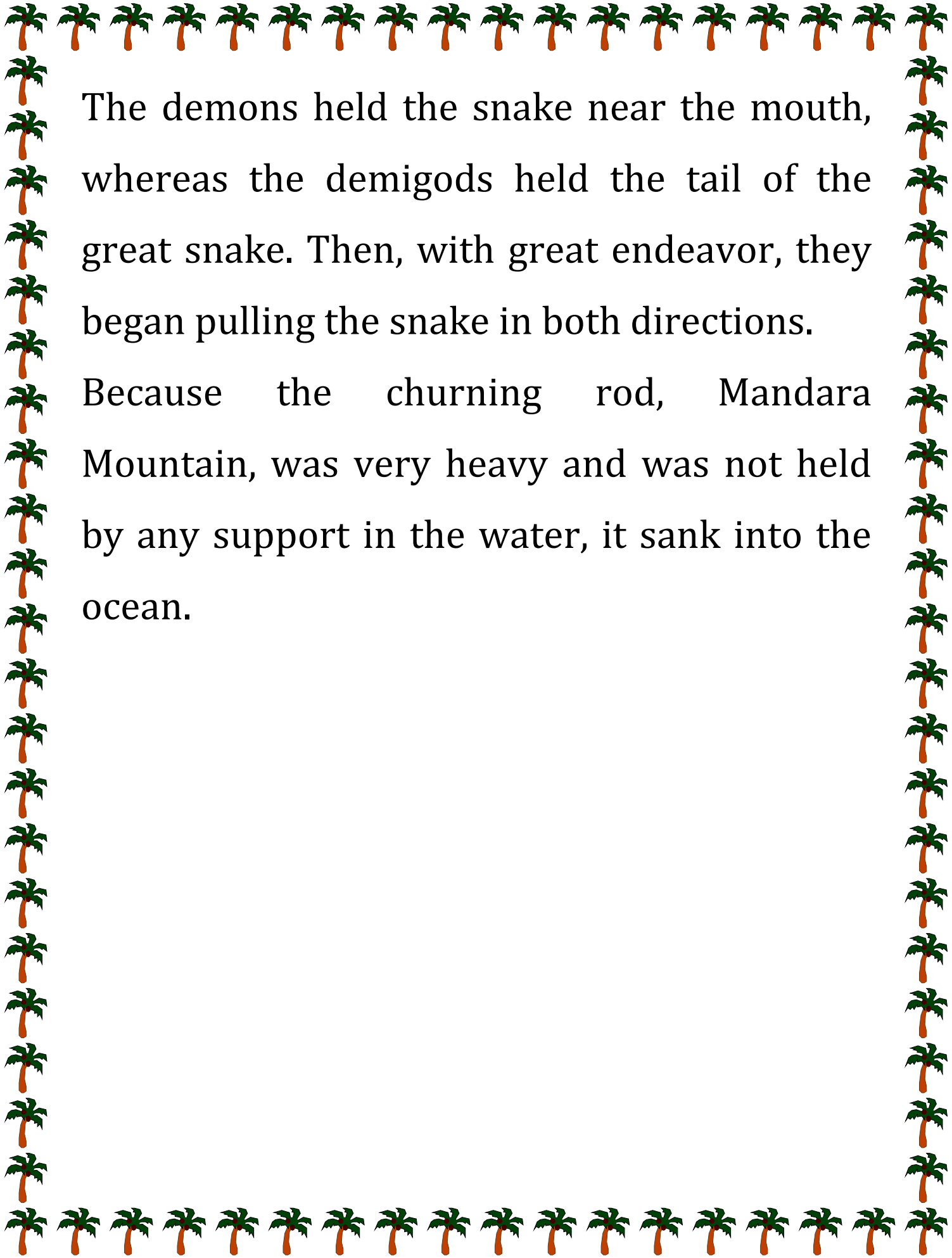


Then demigods and the demons brought Vasuki to be used as the rope for the churning rod.



Vasuki
The King of Nagas

By. Moai



The demons held the snake near the mouth, whereas the demigods held the tail of the great snake. Then, with great endeavor, they began pulling the snake in both directions.

Because the churning rod, Mandara Mountain, was very heavy and was not held by any support in the water, it sank into the ocean.

Then Lord Vishnu appeared in the form of a tortoise, Lord Kurma.



Lord Kurma supported Mandara Mountain
on His back.



Then the churning resumed with great force.



The Lord then appeared on the summit of Mandara Mountain.



As a result of the churning, a huge amount of poison was produced.



The prajapatis, seeing no one else to save them, approached Lord Shiva and offered him prayers.



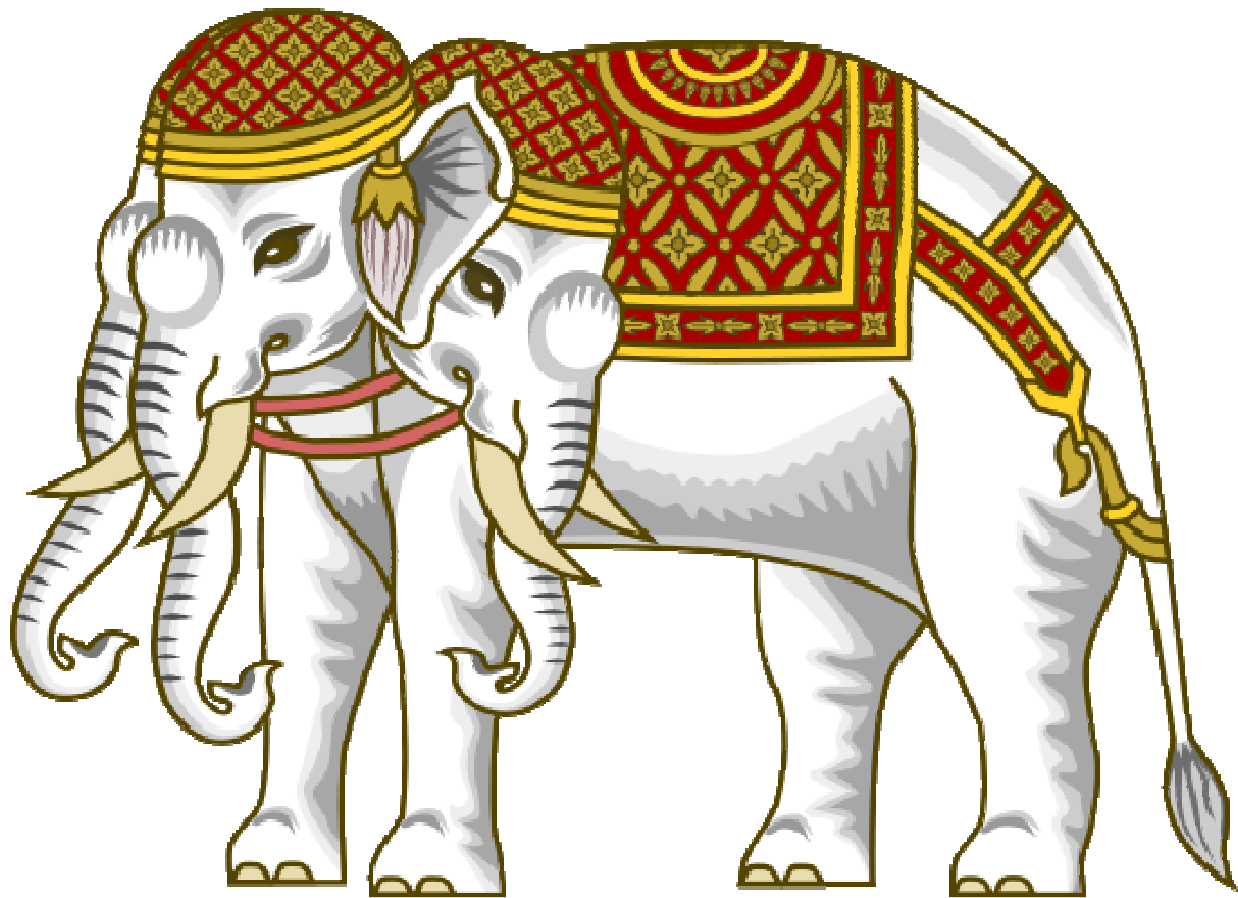
Then Lord Shiva gathered the devastating
poison in his hand and drank it.



Because of the churning, first a surabhi cow was produced.



Thereafter a horse named Uccaihshrava,
Airavata and other elephants.



Next came Kaustubha gem and Lord Vishnu took it and placed it on His chest.



Thereafter, a parijataa flower and the Apsaras appeared from the milk ocean.



As the churning continued Goddess Ramaa appeared.



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She selected Lord Vishnu to be her master.



Lord Vishnu gave her a place to stay
everlastingly on His chest.



As the churning continued, Dhanvantari appeared.



He was very beautiful and carried a jug containing nectar.



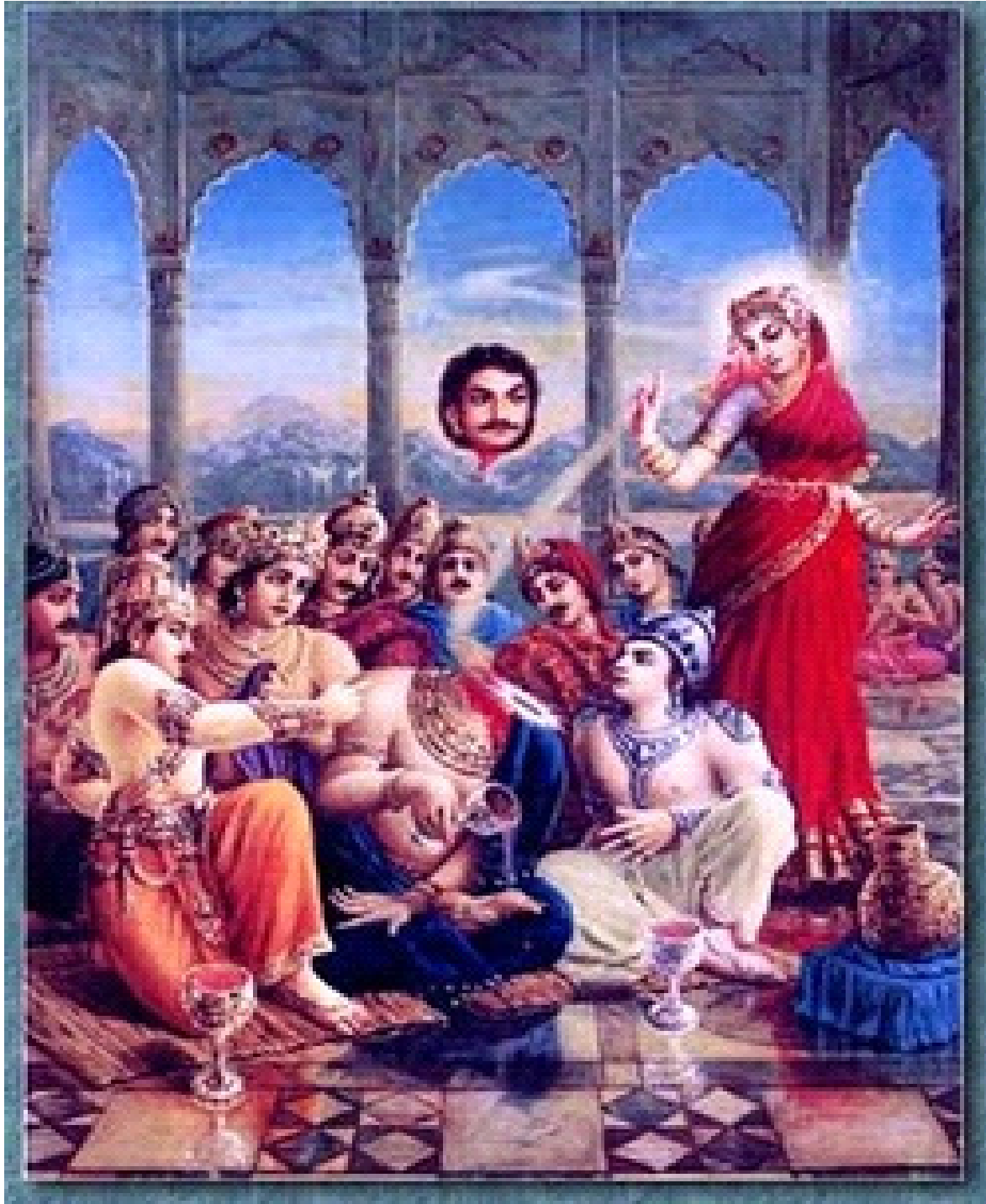
The demons snatched the pot of nectar from Dhanvantari. Then Lord Vishnu appeared as Mohini Murti.



Lord Visnu as Mohini Murti enchanted the demons and gave the nectar to the demigods.



When Rahu demon tried to drink the nectar,
Mohini-Murti beheaded him.



Later, King Indra with the help of Lord Vishnu defeated the demon and regained the heavenly planet.



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Daksha

Jaina

Prajapati Daksha was the son of Swayambhuva Manu. Once during a fire sacrifice, Prajapati Daksha cursed Lord Shiva.



Many years later, Prajapati Daksha organized a fire sacrifice and Mother Sati, the daughter of Daksha was anxious to go.



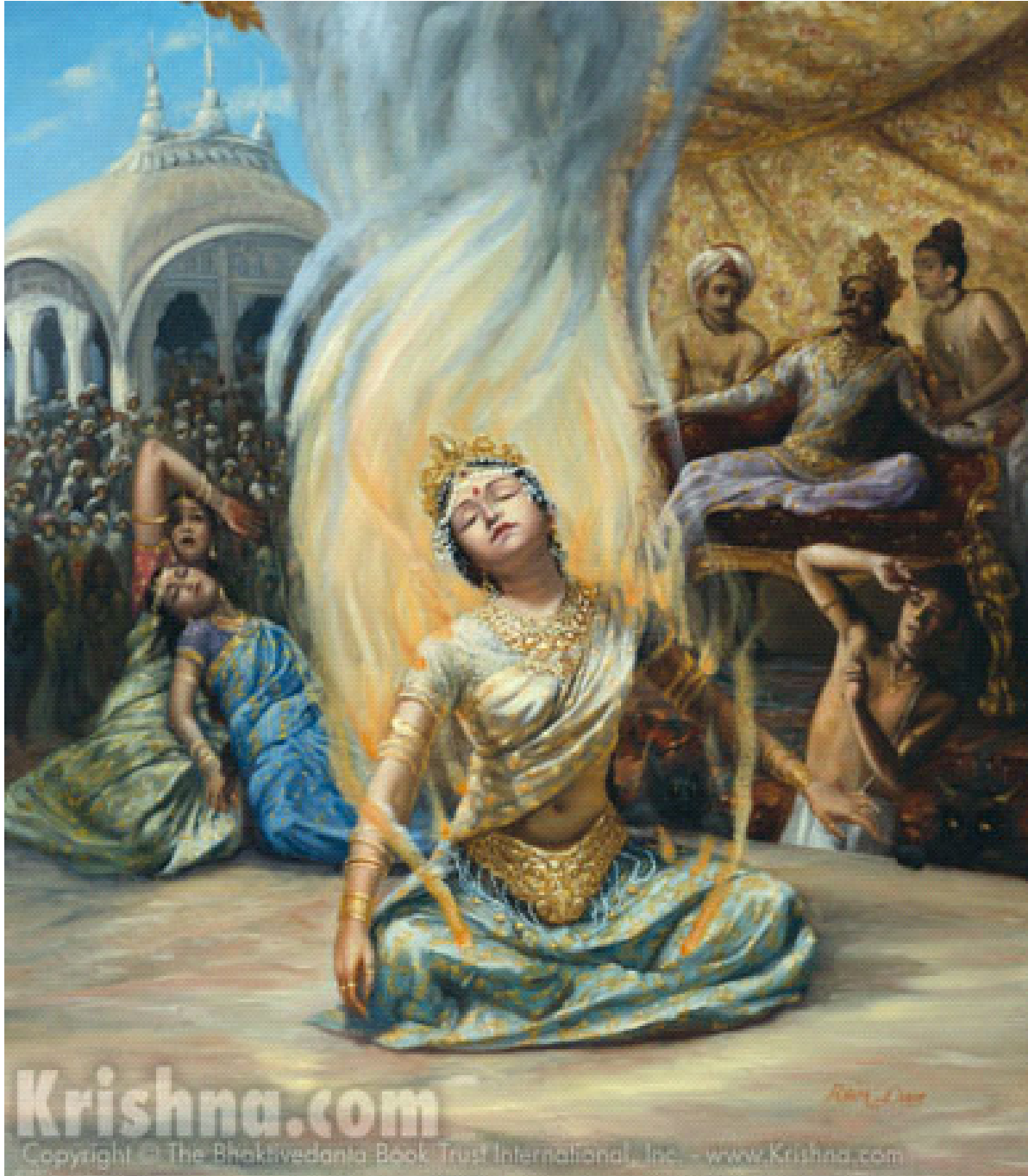
Lord Shiva said to Sati, "You should not see your father because he and his followers are envious of me."



In anger and bereavement Sati went to the house of her father. Thousands of Lord Shiva's followers quickly followed her.



When Sati, with her followers, reached the arena, no one received her well. Feeling humiliated, Sati quit her body in anger.



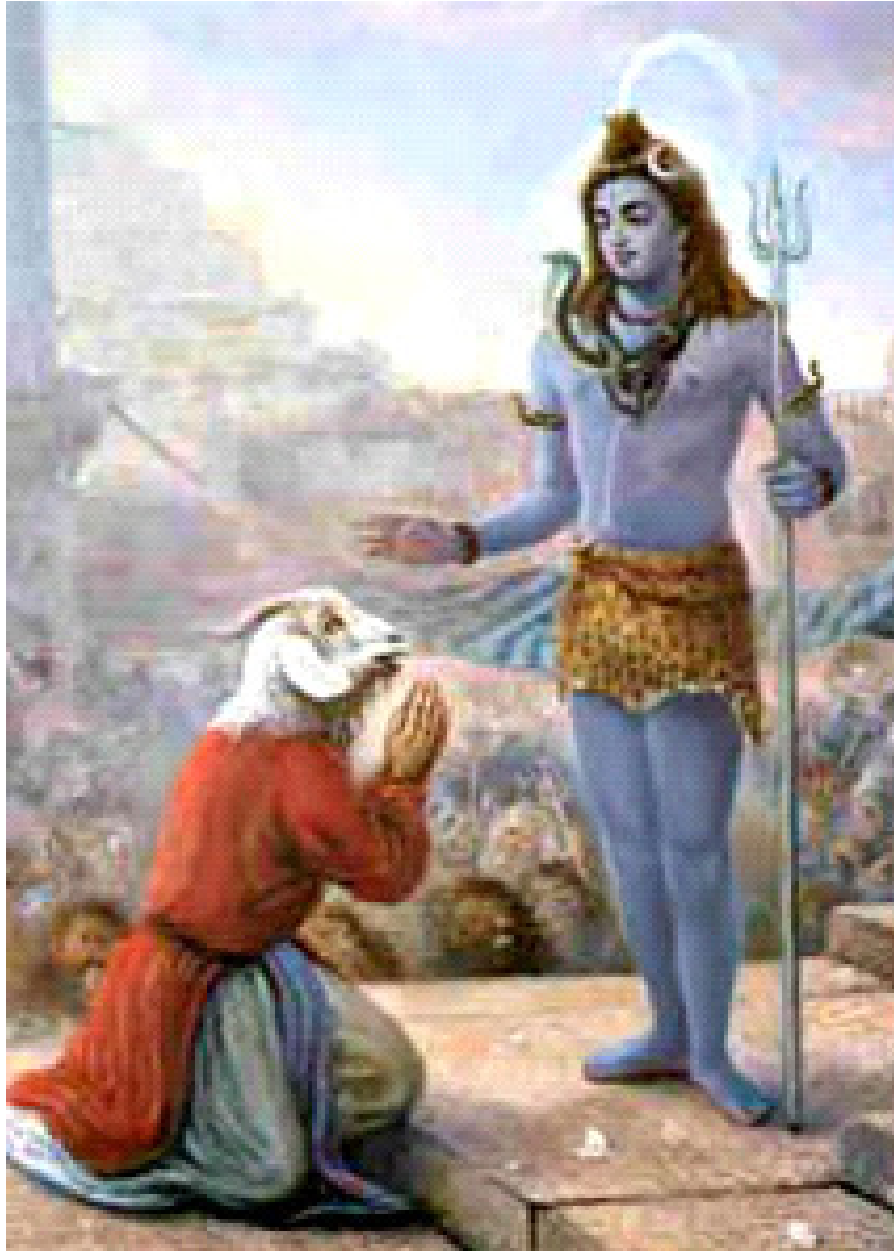
When Lord Shiva heard about the death of his wife, in great anger, he created Virabhadra, who attacked the sacrificial arena.



There Virabhadra beheaded Prajapati
Daksha.



Later, Daksha received a goat head and he begged Lord Shiva for forgiveness.



Being pardoned by Lord Shiva, Prajapati Daksha, with the permission of Lord Brahma,

again began the performance of the yajna, along with the great learned sages, the priests and others. Pleased with the sacrifice, Lord Vishnu appeared at the sacrificial arena there in His original form as Narayana.



Lord Vishnu said, "One who does not consider Brahma, Vishnu Shiva or the living entities in general to be separate from the Supreme, and who knows Brahman, actually realizes peace; others do not.





Dhruva Maharaj

Dhruva Maharaj was the son of King Uttanapada. Once, Dhruva Maharaj, was trying to get on the lap of his father.

Suruci, his stepmother, became very envious of him and said that he was not qualified to sit on his father's lap.



Dhruva Maharaj, became very angry because of the strong words of his stepmother.



He immediately went to his mother who also advised him to worship the Supreme Lord by going to the forest. On the way to the forest, Dhruva met Narada Muni.



Dhruva told Narada muni of his desire to achieve a kingdom more exalted than his father and grandfather. Narada Muni tried to dissuade Dhruva but then seeing his determination, He instructed Dhruva.



Dhruva requested Narada Muni to advise him of an honest path to follow by which he could achieve his life goal. Dhruva meditated as instructed by Narada Muni.



Dhruva completely controlled his senses and their objects, and fixed his mind, upon the Supreme Lord.



Due to Dhruva's intense meditation the living beings felt suffocation. So the demigods took shelter of Lord Vishnu.



On the plea of the demigods, the Lord Vishnu got on the back of Garuda, who carried Him to the forest to see His servant Dhruva.



Dhruva saw his Lord just in front of him.



Seeing Lord Vishnu, Dhruva immediately offered Him obeisance and respect.



Lord Vishnu touched His conchshell to the forehead of Dhruva, who stood before Him with folded hands.



At that time Dhruva became perfectly aware of the Absolute Truth.



Dhruva offered his prayers to the Lord and then returned to his father's kingdom.



Later, when King Uttanapada saw that Dhruva was suitably mature to take charge of the kingdom, he enthroned Dhruva as emperor. Dhruva Maharaj waged a battle against the Yakshas for having killed his brother.



Dhruva Maharaja ruled over this planet for thirty-six thousand years. In due course, Dhruva Maharaj retired to the forest and meditated on the Supreme Lord.



A beautiful airplane carried Dhruva Maharaj and his mother, Suniti, to the spiritual world.

