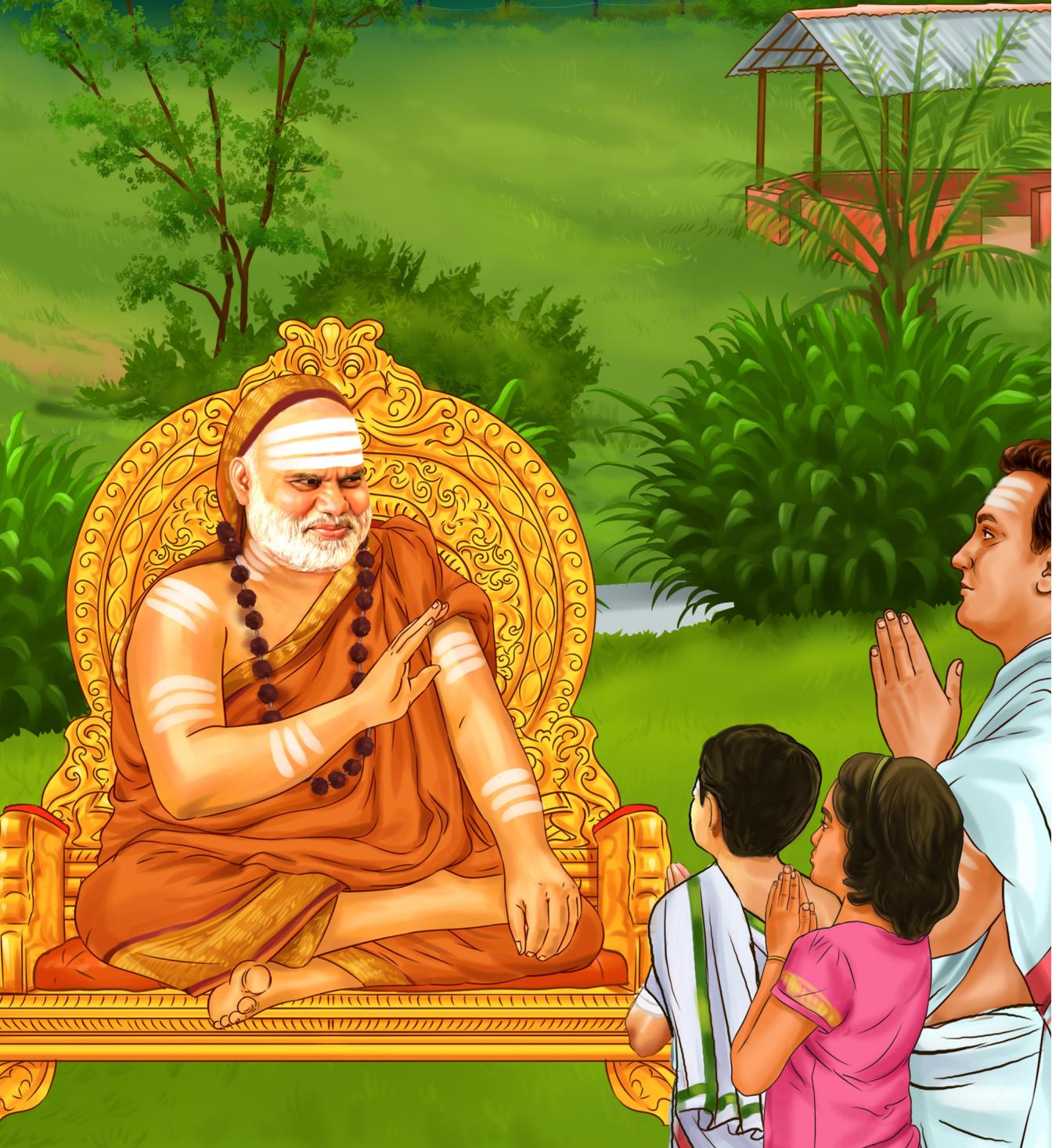


# SHANKARACHARYA OF SRINGERI

His Holiness Jagadguru  
Sri Bharathi Theertha Mahaswamiji



**Book Title:**

**SHANKARACHARYA OF SRINGERI**

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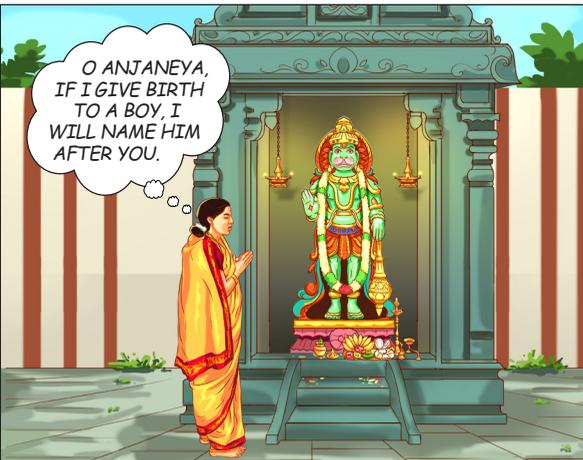
SRI ADI SHANKARA BHAGAVATPADA, THE CELEBRATED EXPONENT OF ADVAITA-VEDANTA\* WHO IS REVERED AS AN INCARNATION OF LORD SHIVA, FOUNDED THE ESTEEMED SRINGERI SRI SHARADA PEETHAM. IT HAS BEEN HEADED BY AN UNBROKEN LINE OF ENLIGHTENED, MONASTIC, COMPASSIONATE GURUS. THIS PICTORIAL BOOK PORTRAYS THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF HIS HOLINESS SRI BHARATHI THEERTHA MAHASWAMIJI, THE 36<sup>TH</sup> AND REIGNING PONTIFF OF THE SHARADA PEETHAM.



THERE LIVED IN MACHILIPATNAM\*\* A DEVOUT COUPLE, SRI VENKATESHWARA AVADHANI AND SMT. ANANTHALAKSHMAMMA. AVADHANI WAS AN ORTHODOX, VEDIC SCHOLAR. THE COUPLE WISHED AND PRAYED FOR A SON.



AVADHANI CELEBRATED SRI RAMA NAVARATROTSAVA\*\* WITH GREAT FERVOUR AND PRAYED TO THE LORD THAT IF HIS WISH FOR A MALE CHILD WERE FULFILLED, HE WOULD NAME THE CHILD AFTER SITA AND RAMA.

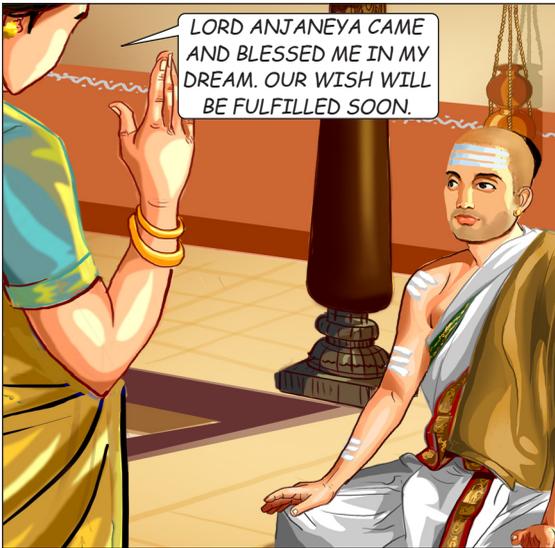


ANANTHALAKSHMAMMA DEVOUTLY WORSHIPPED LORD ANJANEYA AND PRAYED THAT SHE BE BLESSED WITH A SON.



ONE NIGHT, SHE DREAMT THAT ANJANEYA APPEARED BEFORE HER AND COMPASSIONATELY BLESSED HER WITH THREE MANGOES.

# VEDIC NON-DUALISM; \* ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA; \*\* A NINE-DAY FESTIVAL CONCLUDING ON RAMA NAVAMI, THE BIRTH DAY OF LORD RAMA.

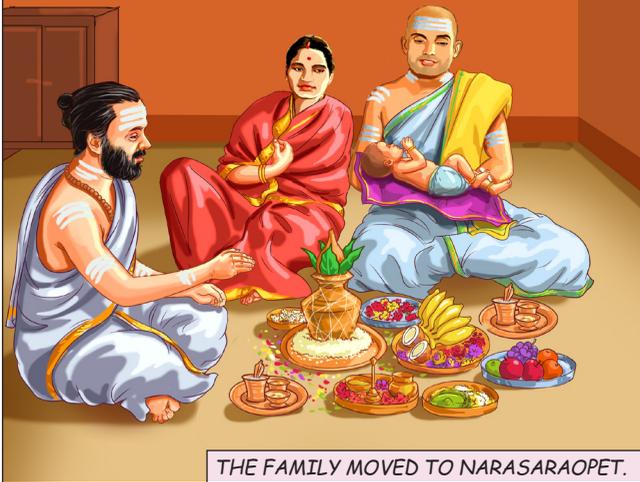


LORD ANJANEYA CAME AND BLESSED ME IN MY DREAM. OUR WISH WILL BE FULFILLED SOON.



THE LORD DID ANSWER THEIR PRAYERS. A MALE CHILD WAS BORN TO THEM ON 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1951\*.

ON AN AUSPICIOUS DAY, THE COUPLE NAMED THE CHILD SITARAMA ANJANEYULU AS PER THEIR EARLIER RESOLVE.



THE FAMILY MOVED TO NARASARAOPET.

EVEN AS A TODDLER, SRI ANJANEYULU SHOWED SIGNS OF HIS FUTURE GREATNESS. ONE MORNING, WHILE HE WAS ASLEEP, HIS MOTHER BEHELD AN ORB OF LIGHT ON HIS FACE.



AH! HIS FACE IS LUMINOUS!

ONCE, WHEN SRI ANJANEYULU WAS THREE YEARS OLD, HE BEGAN TO CRY AND KEPT WEeping INCONSOLABLY.



PHEW! I AM UNABLE TO PACIFY HIM.

HIS MOTHER TOOK HIM TO A SIVA TEMPLE\*. ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE LITTLE ONE NOT ONLY STOPPED CRYING BUT ALSO BEGAN TO UTTER REPEATEDLY...



SHAMBHO\*\* SHIVA SHIVA SAAMBA SHIVA SHIVA...

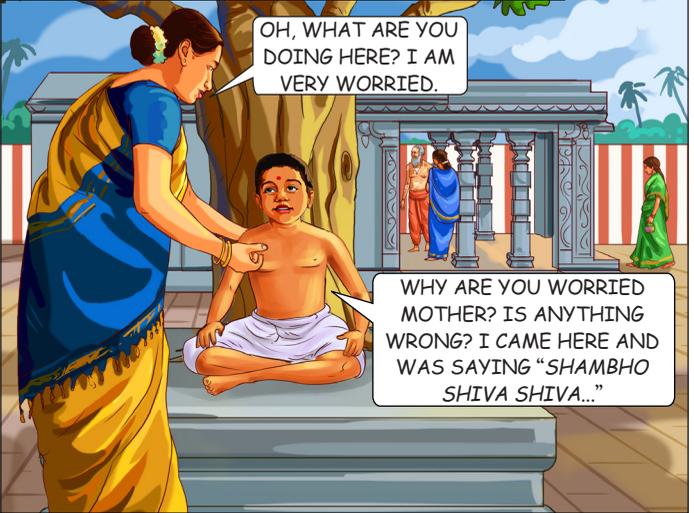
2 # CORRESPONDING TO CHAITRA-SHUKLA-SHASHTI OF THE CYCLICAL YEAR KHARA AND STAR MRIGASHIRSHA; \* SRI BHIMALINGESHWARA TEMPLE; \*\* SHAMBHU IS A NAME OF LORD SHIVA.

ONE DAY, HIS MOTHER DID NOT FIND SRI ANJANEYULU IN THE HOUSE. SHE GREW ANXIOUS AND STARTED SEARCHING FOR HIM.



DID YOU SEE MY SON ANYWHERE?

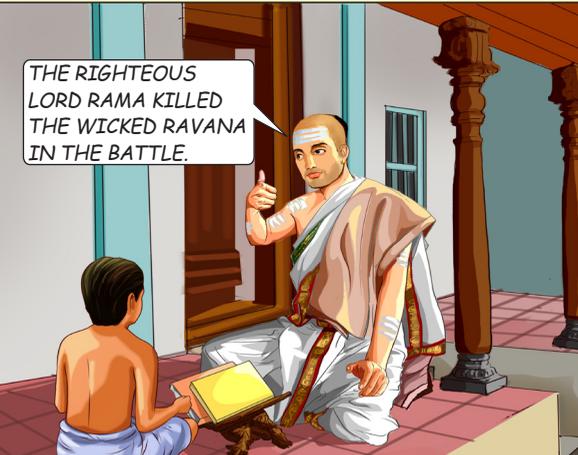
SHE FOUND HIM IN THE NEARBY HANUMAN TEMPLE.



OH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I AM VERY WORRIED.

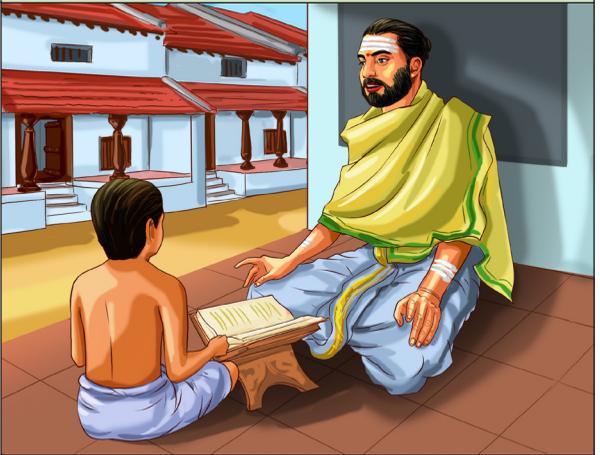
WHY ARE YOU WORRIED MOTHER? IS ANYTHING WRONG? I CAME HERE AND WAS SAYING "SHAMBHO SHIVA SHIVA..."

SRI AVADHANI USED TO NARRATE EPISODES FROM THE PURANAS AND OTHER SUCH TEXTS TO HIS SON. A STORY ONCE HEARD STAYED IMPRINTED IN HIS MIND.



THE RIGHTEOUS LORD RAMA KILLED THE WICKED RAVANA IN THE BATTLE.

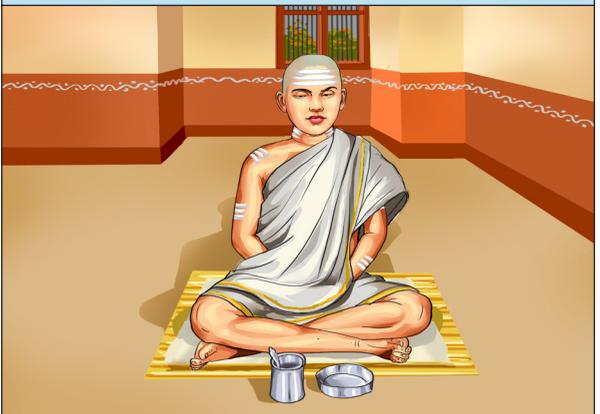
SRI ANJANEYULU STARTED LEARNING SANSKRIT FROM A SCHOLAR. HE CONVERSED FLUENTLY IN SANSKRIT IN A SHORT TIME.



WHEN SRI ANJANEYULU WAS SEVEN, HIS PARENTS PERFORMED HIS UPANAYANA\*.



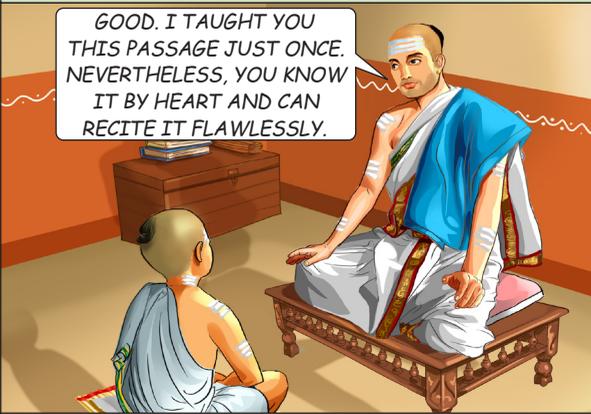
SRI ANJANEYULU SINCERELY LEARNT THE MANTRAS MEANT FOR PERFORMING HIS DAILY RITUALS AND STRICTLY ADHERED TO THE SCRIPTURAL DICTATES PRESCRIBED FOR A BRAHMACHARI. HE FOUND GREAT JOY IN CHANTING THE GAYATHRI MANTRA.



# INVESTITURE OF SACRED THREAD; \* A CELIBATE.

SRI ANJANEYULU LEARNT THE YAJUR VEDA FROM HIS FATHER. HE PROVED TO BE AN 'EKASANTHA GRAHI' #.

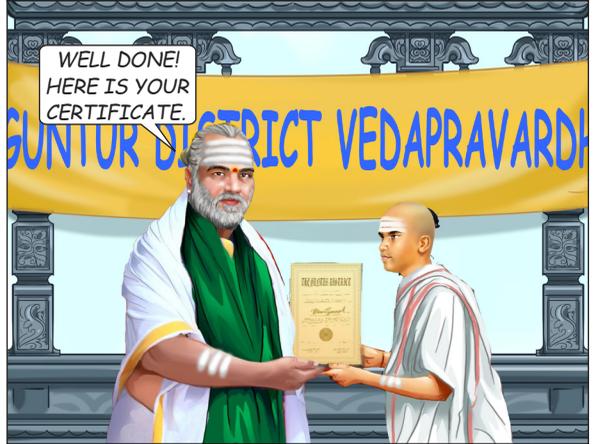
GOOD. I TAUGHT YOU THIS PASSAGE JUST ONCE. NEVERTHELESS, YOU KNOW IT BY HEART AND CAN RECITE IT FLAWLESSLY.



HE WITNESSED HIS FATHER PERFORM SCRIPTURALLY-ORDAINED CEREMONIES IN HOUSES AND ASSISTED HIM WHENEVER REQUIRED.

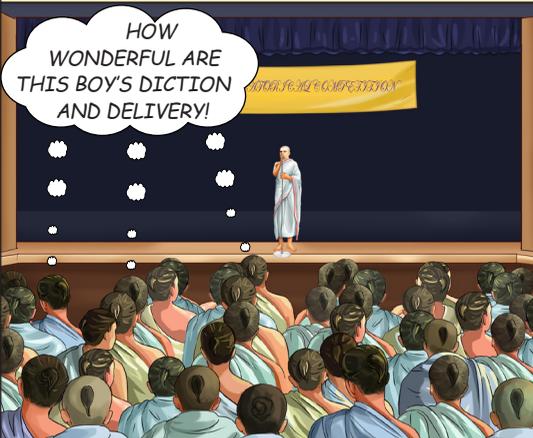
IN DUE COURSE, SRI ANJANEYULU ATTAINED MASTERY OVER THE KRISHNA YAJUR VEDA. HE THEN PASSED, WITH HONOURS, THE GUNTUR DISTRICT VEDAPRAVARDHAKA VIDWAT PARIKSHA\*.

WELL DONE! HERE IS YOUR CERTIFICATE.



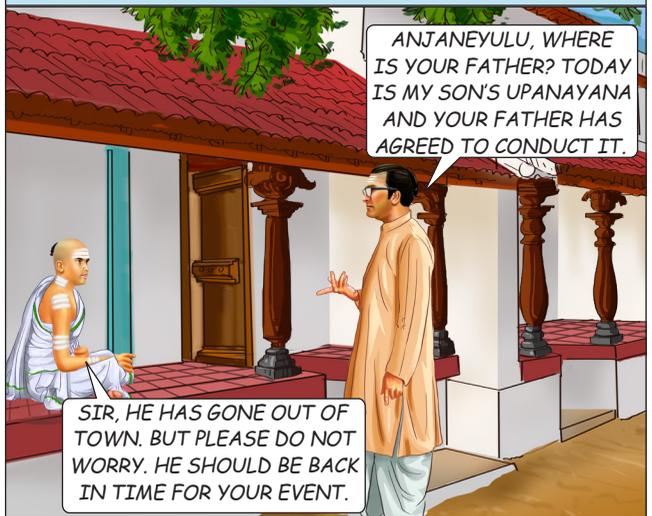
BY THE TIME HE WAS NINE YEARS OLD, HE COULD COMPOSE VERSES IN CHASTE SANSKRIT. HE TOOK PART IN SEVERAL SANSKRIT ORATORICAL COMPETITIONS AND BAGGED PRIZES.

HOW WONDERFUL ARE THIS BOY'S DICTION AND DELIVERY!



ONE DAY A PERSON CAME IN SEARCH OF AVADHANI.

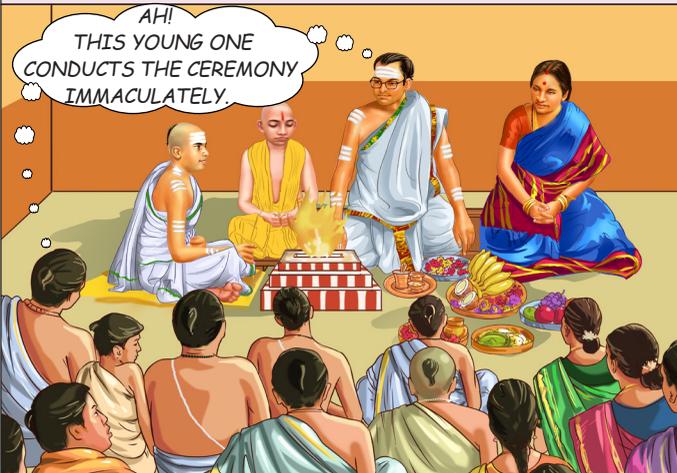
ANJANEYULU, WHERE IS YOUR FATHER? TODAY IS MY SON'S UPANAYANA AND YOUR FATHER HAS AGREED TO CONDUCT IT.



SIR, HE HAS GONE OUT OF TOWN. BUT PLEASE DO NOT WORRY. HE SHOULD BE BACK IN TIME FOR YOUR EVENT.

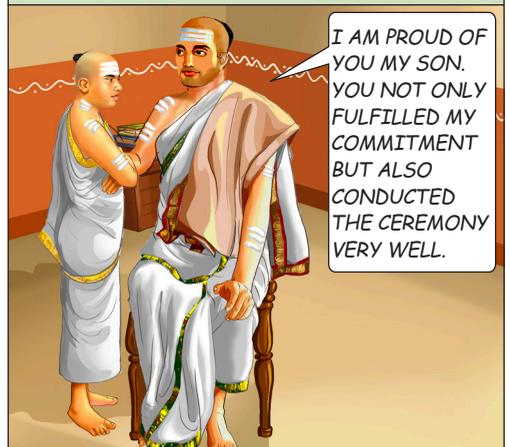
HOWEVER, AVADHANI'S RETURN WAS DELAYED. SRI ANJANEYULU OFFICIATED AS THE PRIEST.

AH! THIS YOUNG ONE CONDUCTS THE CEREMONY IMMACULATLY.



SRI ANJANEYULU HAD, TILL THEN, ONLY SEEN HIS FATHER PERFORM THE UPANAYANA RITES ON A FEW OCCASIONS.

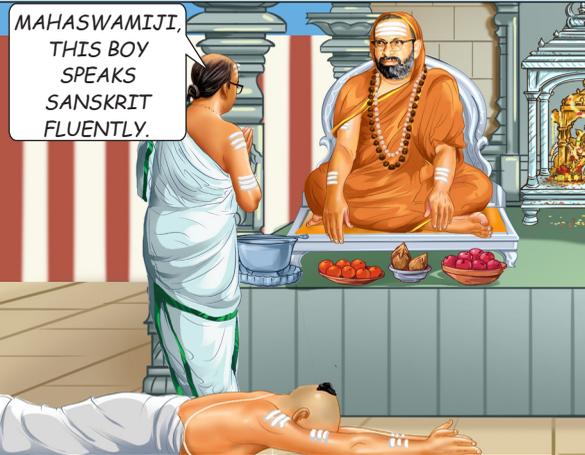
I AM PROUD OF YOU MY SON. YOU NOT ONLY FULFILLED MY COMMITMENT BUT ALSO CONDUCTED THE CEREMONY VERY WELL.



JAGADGURU SRI ABHINAVA VIDYATHEERTHA MAHASWAMIJI, THE 35<sup>th</sup> PONTIFF OF THE SRINGERI SHARADA PEETHAM, WAS CAMPING AT VIJAYAWADA IN 1961. HE WAS A PARAGON OF VIRTUES, AN UNMATCHED AUTHORITY ON THE SCRIPTURES, A CONSUMMATE YOGI, AN IDEAL JIVANMUKTA# AND AN OCEAN OF COMPASSION.

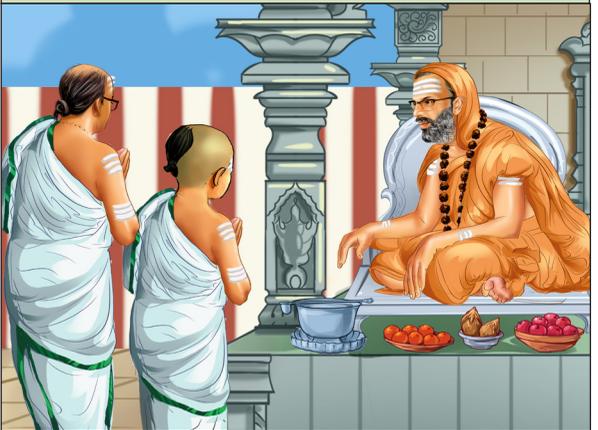


A LOCAL SCHOLAR TOOK SRI ANJANEYULU ALONG WITH HIM TO THE DIVINE PRESENCE OF THE JAGADGURU AT VIJAYAWADA AND INTRODUCED HIM.

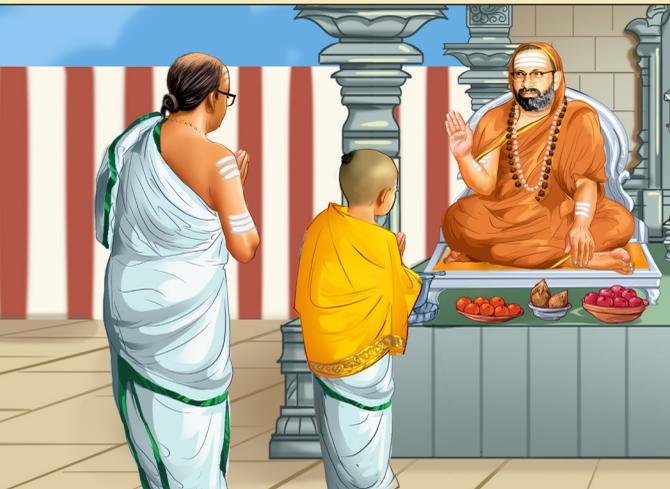


MAHASWAMIJI,  
THIS BOY  
SPEAKS  
SANSKRIT  
FLUENTLY.

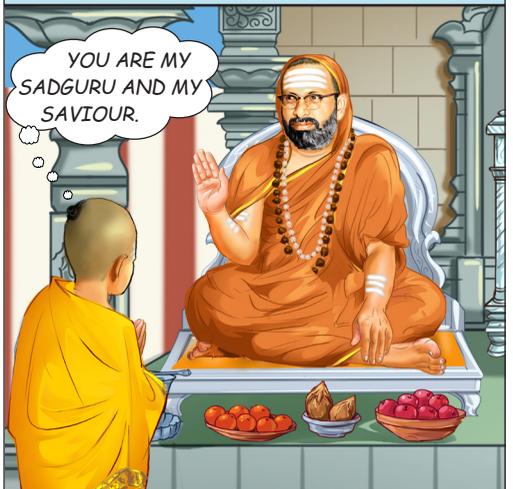
THE JAGADGURU STARTED CONVERSING WITH THE BOY IN SANSKRIT. HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE YOUNG ONE'S COMMAND OVER SANSKRIT AND HIS FLAWLESS RECITATION OF THE VEDA.



THE JAGADGURU BLESSED SRI ANJANEYULU WITH A SILK SHAWL AND CAST HIS DIVINE GLANCE ON HIM.

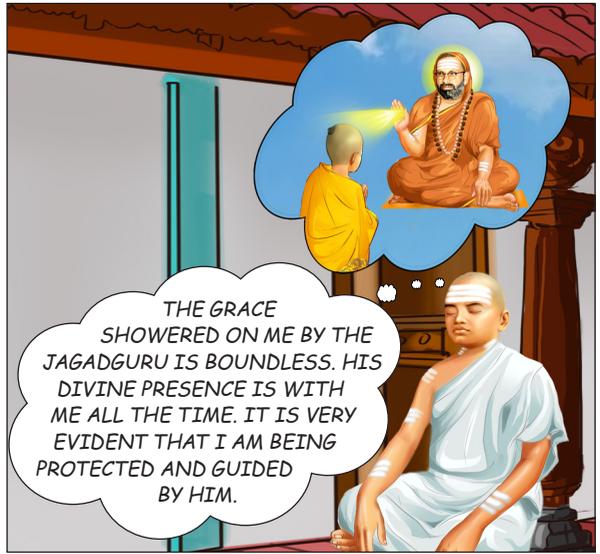
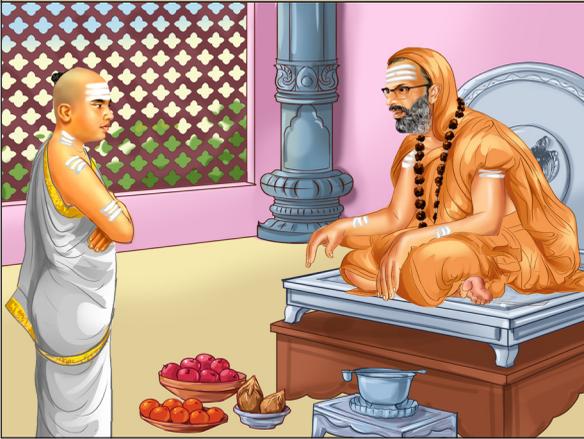


SRI ANJANEYULU WAS DEEPLY MOVED BY THE JAGADGURU'S OVERWHELMING KINDNESS.



# ONE LIBERATED WHILE LIVING.

WHEN THE REVERED JAGADGURU SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED NARASARAOPET, SRI ANJANEYULU WENT FOR HIS DARSHAN. THE JAGADGURU CONVERSED WITH HIM IN SANSKRIT.



SRI ANJANEYULU RECEIVED HIS SECULAR EDUCATION AT THE LOCAL MUNICIPAL HIGH SCHOOL. HE ATTENDED SCHOOL SPORTING A TUFT AND WEARING A TRADITIONAL DHOTI. BEING A BRIGHT STUDENT, HE CONSISTENTLY STOOD FIRST IN HIS CLASS.



SUBSEQUENTLY, THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN HIS SCHOOL WAS CHANGED FROM TELUGU TO ENGLISH. THIS LED TO STUDENTS OPTING TO STUDY ELSEWHERE.

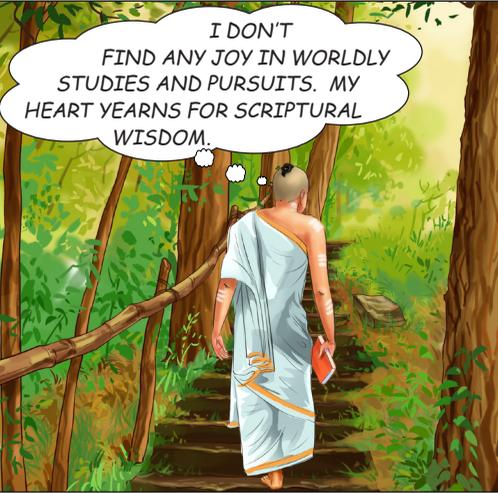


THE HEADMASTER WAS RIGHT. SRI ANJANEYULU CONTINUED TO FARE EXCELLENTLY.

HE ENGAGED HIMSELF IN BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES ONLY. THESE INCLUDED HIS DAILY RITUALS, RECITING THE VEDA, LEARNING SANSKRIT, GOING TO SCHOOL AND STUDYING SINCERELY, VISITING TEMPLES, AND HELPING HIS PARENTS.



FIRM DISPASSION AND AN INTENSE DESIRE TO STUDY THE SHASTRAS STEADILY GREW IN HIM.

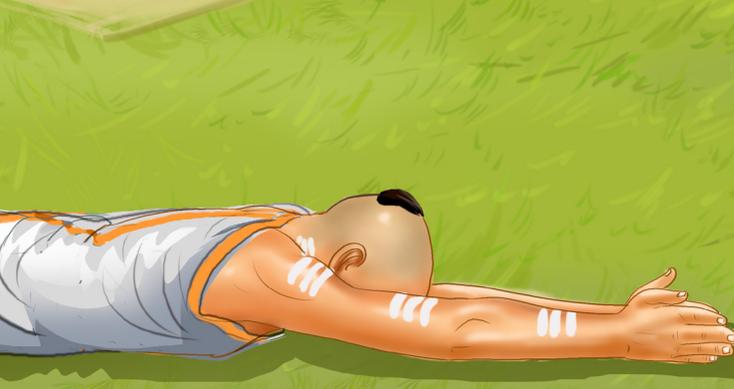
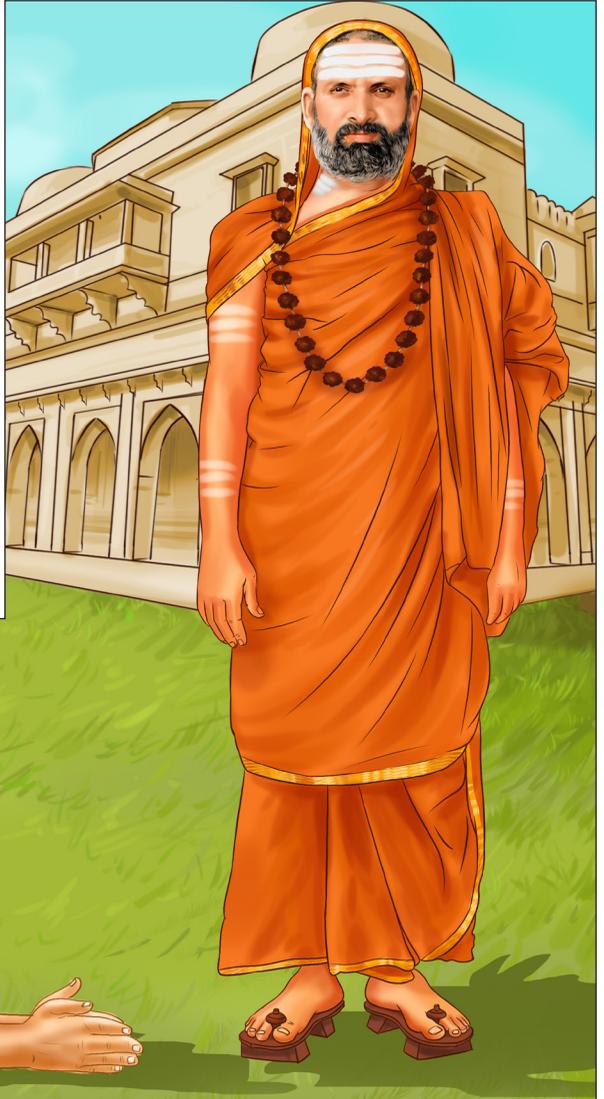


IN FEBRUARY, 1966, THE JAGADGURU VISITED NARASARAOPET. SRI ANJANEYULU HAD HIS DARSHAN. JUST A FEW MONTHS AFTER THIS, SRI ANJANEYULU MADE A LIFE-CHANGING DECISION.

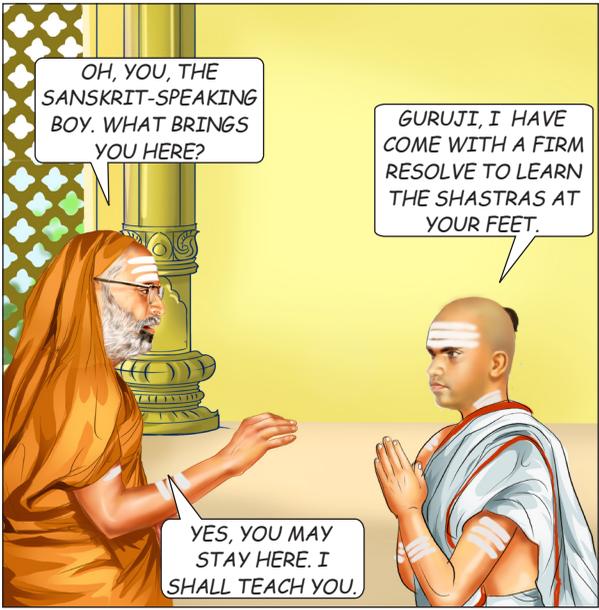


HE BOARDED A TRAIN AT VIJAYAWADA AND TRAVELLED TO UJJAIN, WHERE THE JAGADGURU WAS ABOUT TO COMMENCE CHATURMASYA VRATA\*.

1<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 1966. SRI ANJANEYULU REACHED UJJAIN AND LAY PROSTRATE AT THE HOLY FEET OF THE JAGADGURU.



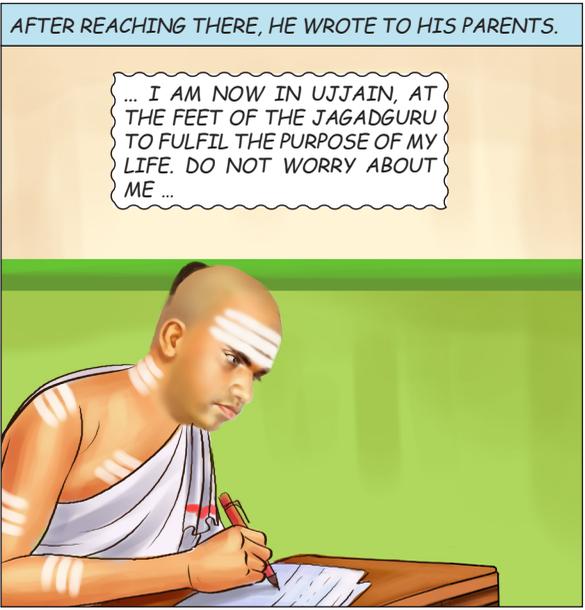
\* A VOW OF SAMNYASIS CHARACTERISED BY THEIR REMAINING IN A SINGLE PLACE FOR TWO MONTHS IN THE RAINY SEASON, CONTEMPLATING ON THE ABSOLUTE REALITY. DURING THIS PERIOD, THEY IMPART SPIRITUAL WISDOM TO THEIR DISCIPLES.



OH, YOU, THE SANSKRIT-SPEAKING BOY. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

GURUJI, I HAVE COME WITH A FIRM RESOLVE TO LEARN THE SHASTRAS AT YOUR FEET.

YES, YOU MAY STAY HERE. I SHALL TEACH YOU.



AFTER REACHING THERE, HE WROTE TO HIS PARENTS.

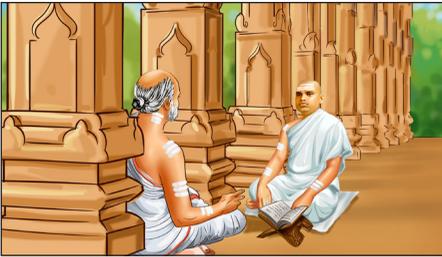
... I AM NOW IN UJJAIN, AT THE FEET OF THE JAGADGURU TO FULFIL THE PURPOSE OF MY LIFE. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ME ...



HIS HOLINESS TOOK SRI ANJANEYULU INTO HIS FOLD AND STARTED EXPOUNDING A TEXT OF THE NYAYA-SHASTRAS# TO HIM.

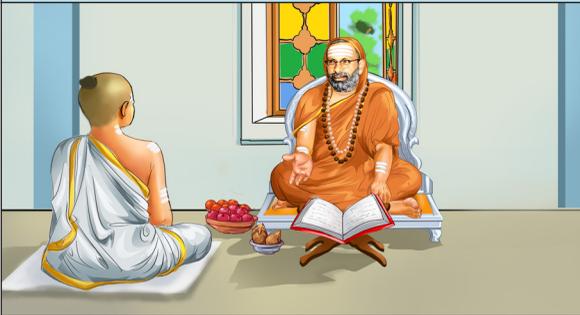


FROM UJJAIN, THE JAGADGURU CONTINUED WITH HIS TOUR OF INDIA AND NEPAL, TAKING SRI ANJANEYULU WITH HIM. THE TOUR COVERED NUMEROUS CITIES LIKE NEW DELHI, KOLKATTA, MUMBAI, HYDERABAD AND BENGALURU AND HOLY PLACES SUCH AS MATHURA, BRINDAVAN, KURUKSHETRA, NAIMISHARANYA, AYODHYA, KATHMANDU, TARA-KESHWAR, GAYA, ALLAHABAD, VARANASI, HARIDWAR, RISHI-KESH, KEDARNATH, JOSHIMATH, BADRINATH, SRINAGAR, PANCHAVATI, NASIK, SRISAILAM AND HAMPPI AMONGST OTHERS.



ON RETURNING TO SRINGERI, THE JAGADGURU ARRANGED FOR A REPUTED NYAYA SCHOLAR TO TEACH SRI ANJANEYULU TEXTS OF THE NYAYA-SHASTRA. SRI ANJANEYULU FLAWLESSLY RECAPITULATED TO THE SCHOLAR EVERY EVENING WHAT HE HAD BEEN TAUGHT THAT MORNING. TO ANY ONLOOKER IT APPEARED AS THOUGH SRI ANJANEYULU WAS TEACHING THE SCHOLAR! SUCH WAS HIS GRASP AND DELIVERY.

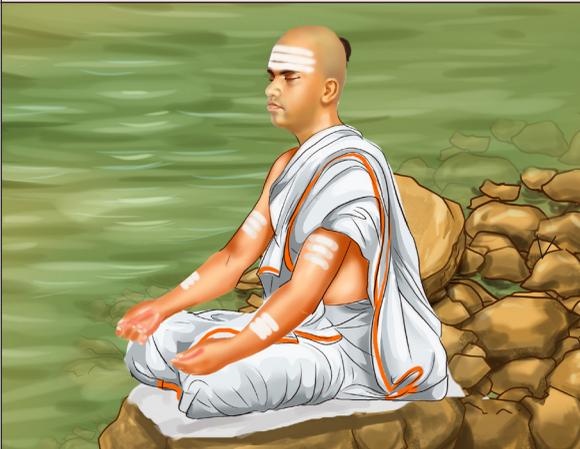
THE JAGADGURU COMPASSIONATELY TOOK CARE OF HIS DISCIPLE AND KEPT TRACK OF HIS PROGRESS. HE HIMSELF TAUGHT SRI ANJANEYULU SELECT, ADVANCED TEXTS OF THE NYAYA-SHASTRA.



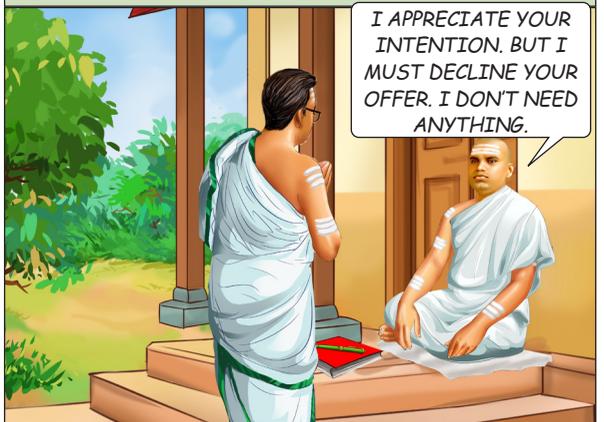
THE JAGADGURU TOLD HIS DISCIPLE TO OBSERVE HIM PERFORM YOGA-ASANAS# AND PRANAYAMA\* AND LEARN TO DO THEM.



THE BRAHMACHARI IMPRESSED ALL THOSE WHO CAME IN CONTACT WITH HIM WITH HIS STRICT REGIME, INTENSE DISPASSION AND UNASSUMING CONDUCT.

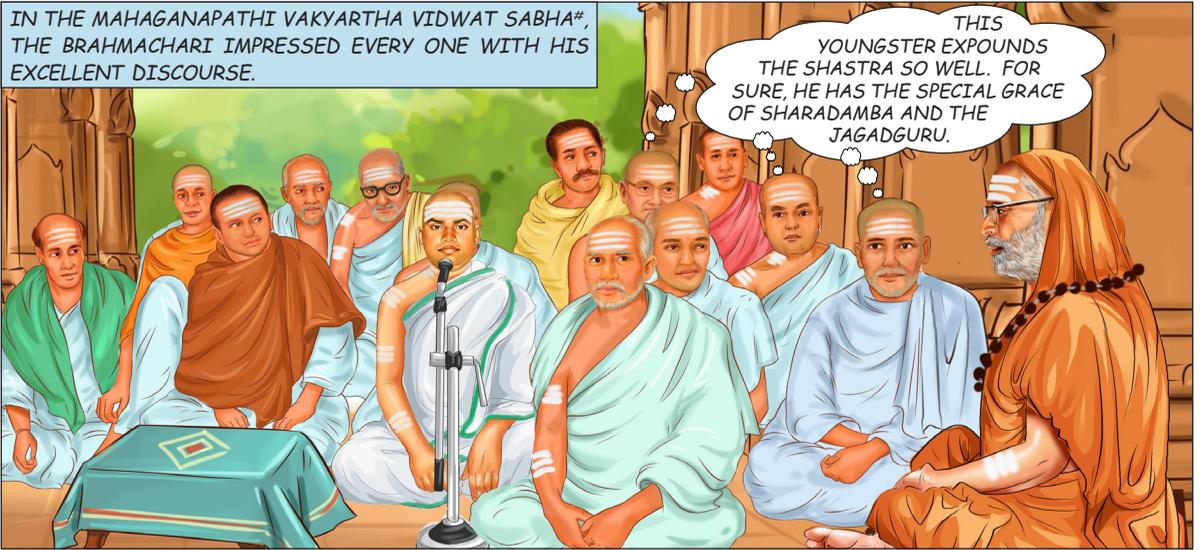


DEVOTEES OF THE MATH APPRECIATIVELY SOUGHT TO OFFER GIFTS IN CASH OR KIND TO HIM. HOWEVER, HIS CONTENTMENT AND DISPASSION WERE SUCH THAT HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANYTHING FROM ANYONE.



# YOGA POSTURES; \* REGULATION OF BREATH.

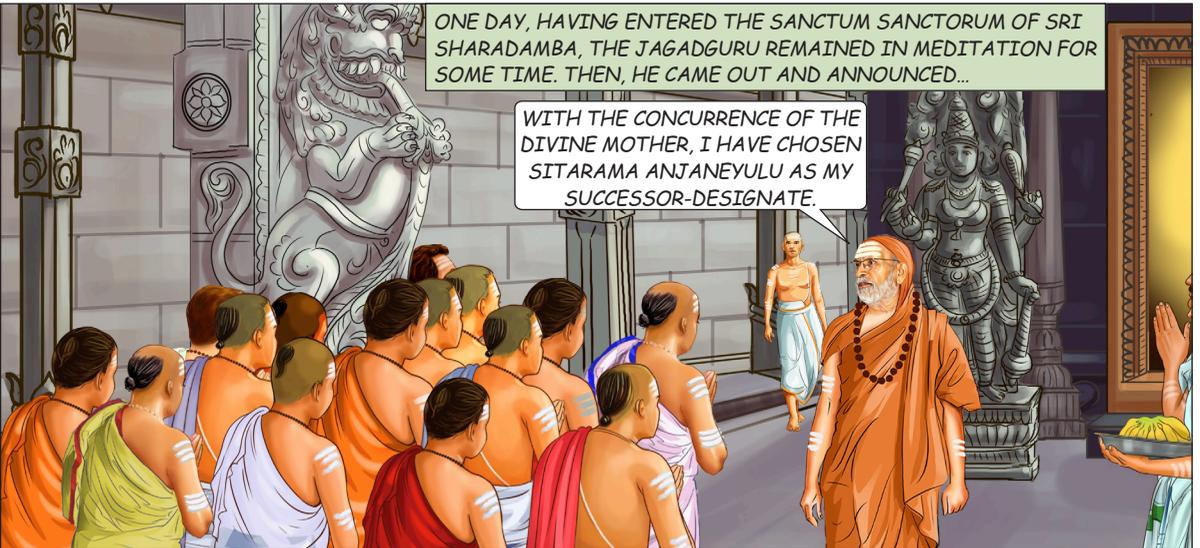
IN THE MAHAGANAPATHI VAKYARTHA VIDWAT SABHA\*, THE BRAHMACHARI IMPRESSED EVERY ONE WITH HIS EXCELLENT DISCOURSE.



THIS YOUNGSTER EXPONDS THE SHASTRA SO WELL. FOR SURE, HE HAS THE SPECIAL GRACE OF SHARADAMBA AND THE JAGADGURU.

ONE DAY, HAVING ENTERED THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF SRI SHARADAMBA, THE JAGADGURU REMAINED IN MEDITATION FOR SOME TIME. THEN, HE CAME OUT AND ANNOUNCED...

WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE DIVINE MOTHER, I HAVE CHOSEN SITARAMA ANJANEYULU AS MY SUCCESSOR-DESIGNATE.



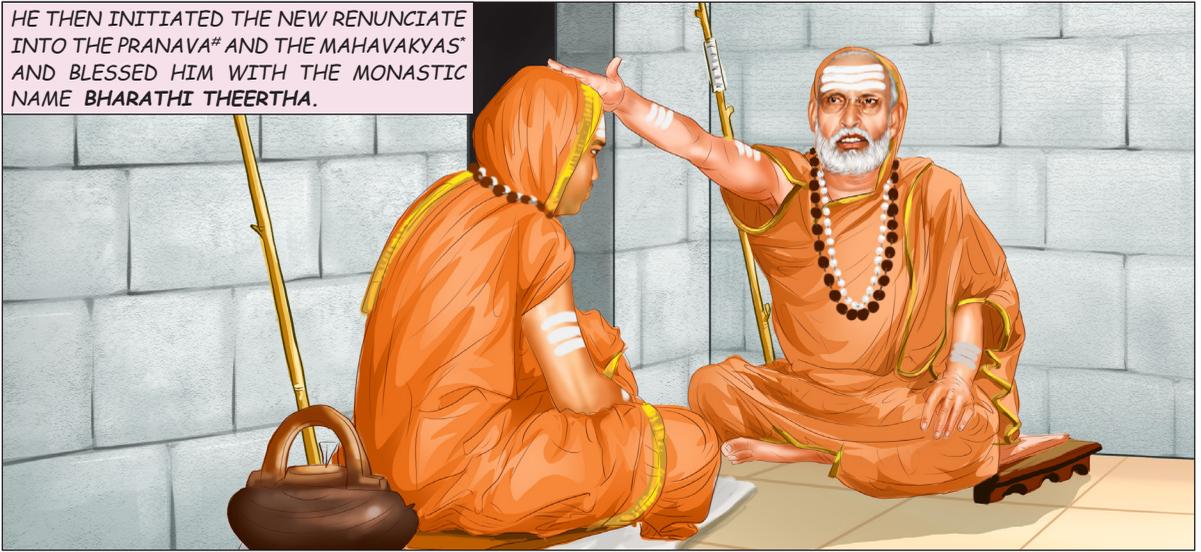
AS PER THE SCRIPTURAL NORM, ON THE DAY PRIOR TO SAMNYASA\*, THE CELIBATE FASTED AND THEN STAYED AWAKE ALL NIGHT.



THE JAGADGURU INITIATED SRI ANJANEYULU INTO SAMNYASA ON 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 1974.

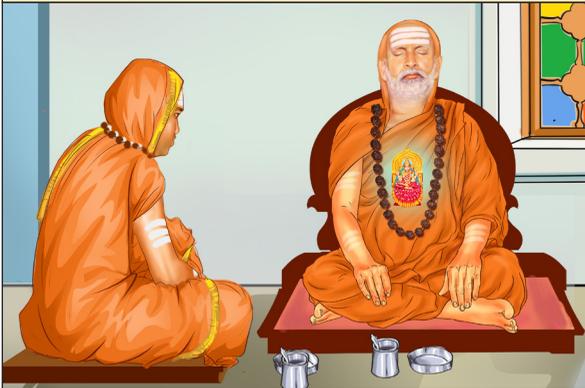


HE THEN INITIATED THE NEW RENUNCIATE INTO THE PRANAVA\* AND THE MAHAVAKYAS\* AND BLESSED HIM WITH THE MONASTIC NAME BHARATHI THEERTHA.

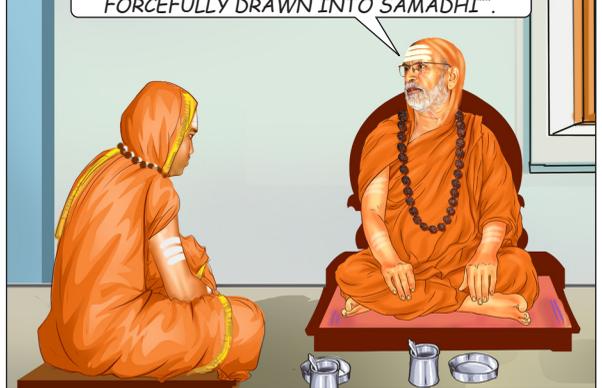


OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, THE JAGADGURU PERSONALLY TAUGHT HIS HOLINESS THE MONASTIC PRACTICES TO BE DONE DAILY AND ALSO INITIATED HIM INTO SEVERAL MANTRAS, SUCH AS THOSE OF NARASIMHA, DAKSHINAMURTHI AND SRIVIDYA.

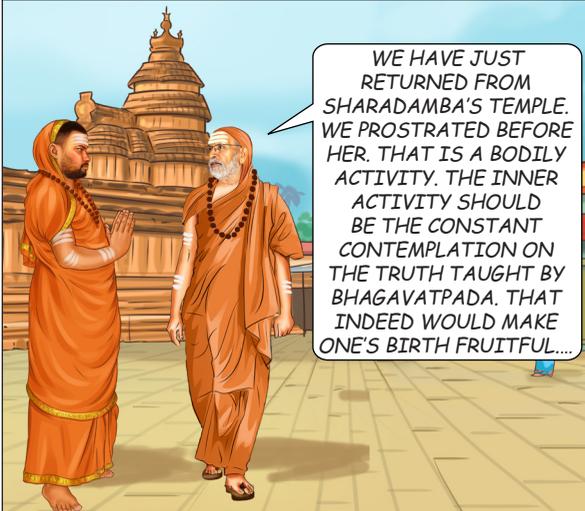
A WONDROUS EVENT OCCURRED WHEN THE JAGADGURU IMPARTED THE SRIVIDYA MANTRA.



YOU ARE FORTUNATE. AS I WAS RECITING THE DHYANA-SLOKA, I HAD A FASCINATING VISION OF THE GODDESS AND WAS FORCEFULLY DRAWN INTO SAMADHI\*\*.



ONE DAY, AFTER DARSHAN AT THE SHARADAMBA TEMPLE...



WE HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM SHARADAMBA'S TEMPLE. WE PROSTRATED BEFORE HER. THAT IS A BODILY ACTIVITY. THE INNER ACTIVITY SHOULD BE THE CONSTANT CONTEMPLATION ON THE TRUTH TAUGHT BY BHAGAVATPADA. THAT INDEED WOULD MAKE ONE'S BIRTH FRUITFUL....

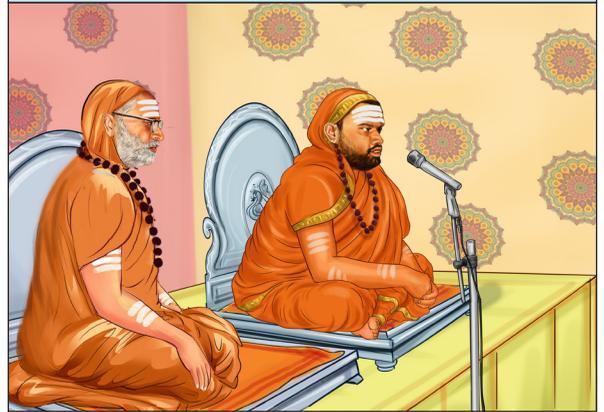
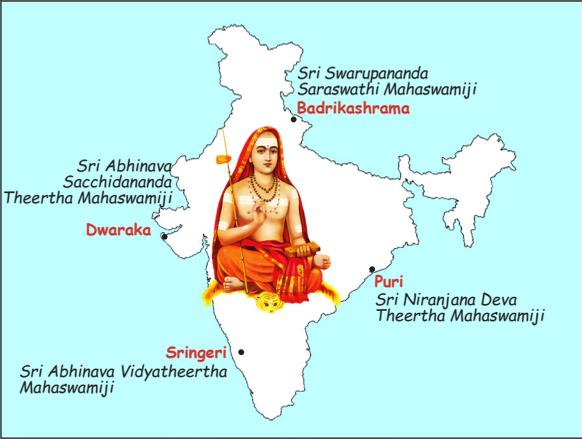
THE JAGADGURU, WHO WAS UNWAVERINGLY ESTABLISHED IN THE SUPREME TRUTH REVEALED BY THE VEDANTA SHASTRA, PERSONALLY AND PERFECTLY EXPUNDED THE VEDANTA SHASTRA IN DEPTH AND IN ALL ITS GLORY TO HIS HOLINESS.



# THE SYLLABLE OM; \* THE MAHAVAKYAS ARE PROFOUND SENTENCES THAT OCCUR IN THE SCRIPTURE AND MAKE KNOWN THE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL SOUL WITH THE SUPREME; \*\* DEEP MEDITATIVE STATE.

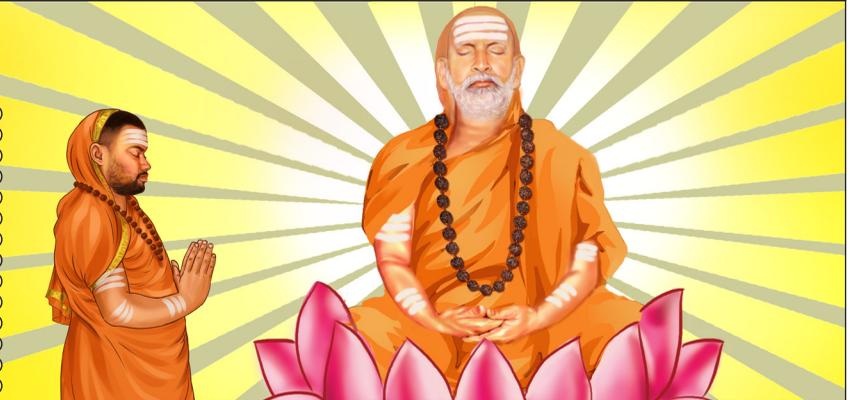
THE YEAR 1979 WITNESSED THE HISTORICAL SUMMIT AT SRINGERI OF THE SHANKARACHARYAS OF THE FOUR AMNAYA PEETHAS ESTABLISHED BY ADI SHANKARA FOR THE PROPAGATION OF SPIRITUAL WISDOM.

AT THE MOMENTOUS EVENT, HIS HOLINESS DELIVERED HIS ADDRESS IN CHASTE SANSKRIT AND IT CAPTIVATED THE HEARTS OF THE JAGADGURU, THE OTHER THREE SHANKARACHARYAS AND THE ASSEMBLED DEVOTEES.



HIS HOLINESS SPONTANEOUSLY COMPOSED TWO HYMNS ON HIS GURU. IN THE FIRST\*, HE DESCRIBED HIS GURU AS THE SUPREME BRAHMAN AND AS GOD INCARNATE IN A HUMAN FORM. IN THE OTHER HYMN\*, HE PORTRAYED HIS GURU AS ABSORBED IN NIRVIKALPA-SAMADHI, THE ACME OF YOGA, AND ENTREATED HIM ...

FOR BECOMING LIBERATED FROM THE STATE OF TRANSMIGRATION, I MEDITATE UPON THE GREATEST GURU, SRI VIDYATHEERTHA, WHOSE MIND IS ESTABLISHED IN THE SUPREME BRAHMAN OF THE NATURE OF ABSOLUTE EXISTENCE AND LIMITLESS BLISS, ... WHO ABIDES IN NIRVIKALPA-SAMADHI...



HIS HOLINESS ACCOMPANIED THE JAGADGURU ON THE VARIOUS TOURS UNDERTAKEN BY THE LATTER TO THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF INDIA FOR THE SUSTENANCE AND PROPAGATION OF SANATANA DHARMA. THE FIRST TOUR AFTER THE JAGADGURU'S SELECTION OF HIS HOLINESS AS HIS SUCCESSOR DESIGNATE WAS UNDERTAKEN IN 1975 FOR THE CONSECRATION OF THE RAMANATHA SWAMY TEMPLE AT RAMESHWARAM. A TRIGGER FOR THE FIRST OF THE TWO ALL-INDIA TOURS WAS THE CONSECRATION OF THE ANNAPURNA TEMPLE AT VARANASI IN 1977. THE DISCOURSES DELIVERED BY THE JAGADGURU AND HIS HOLINESS AT EACH OF THE PLACES COVERED DELIGHTED AND UPLIFTED THE LISTENERS.

DURING THE TRIP TO SABARIMALA IN 1980, HIS HOLINESS EXTEMPORANEOUSLY COMPOSED A HYMN GLORIFYING LORD AYYAPPA AND HIS GURU. IN ONE OF THE VERSES, HE SAID:

IT IS FITTING THAT THESE TWO - THE FOREMOST RENUNCIATE (MY GURU) AND THE DEITY; THE PROTECTOR OF DHARMA AND THE ORDAINER OF DHARMA - HAVE MET FOR THE WELFARE OF THE WORLD.



IN RESPONSE TO HIS GURU'S DIRECTIVE, HIS HOLINESS STARTED TOURING INDEPENDENTLY TOO FROM 1983. HE KEPT HIS GURU POSTED THROUGH LETTERS ABOUT THE HAPPENINGS IN HIS TOURS.

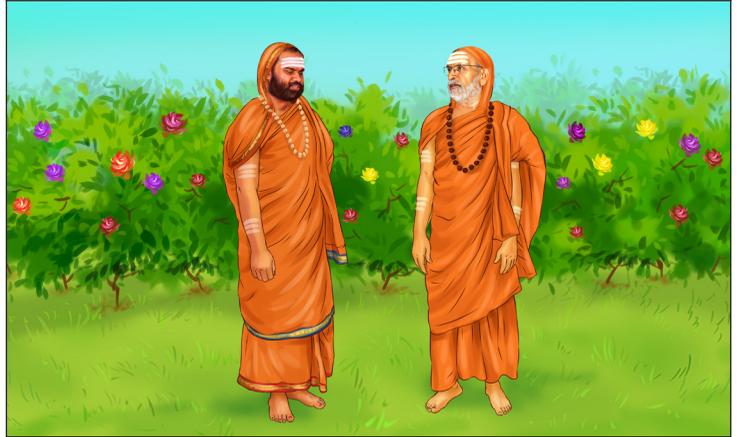


THE JAGADGURU SENT HIS REPLIES...



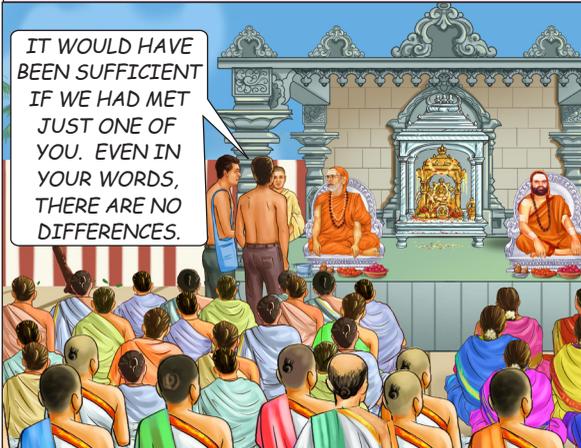
... I FELT PLEASSED ON KNOWING THAT SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED FOR THE BENEFIT OF DISCIPLES. GREAT RITES AND FESTIVALS ARE BEING CONDUCTED...

HIS HOLINESS CONDUCTED HIMSELF STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURAL DICTUM THAT A DISCIPLE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS GURU. PEOPLE NOTICED A COMMONNESS BETWEEN THE WORDS OF THE JAGADGURU AND THOSE OF HIS DISCIPLE.



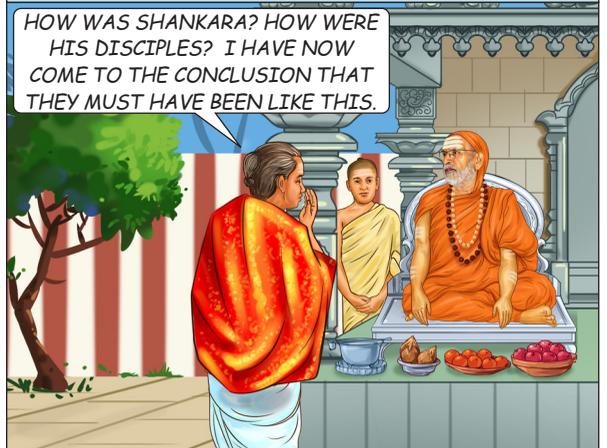
ON AN OCCASION, SOME REPORTERS INTERVIEWED THE JAGADGURU AND HIS HOLINESS SEPARATELY. LATER THEY SAID...

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT IF WE HAD MET JUST ONE OF YOU. EVEN IN YOUR WORDS, THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES.

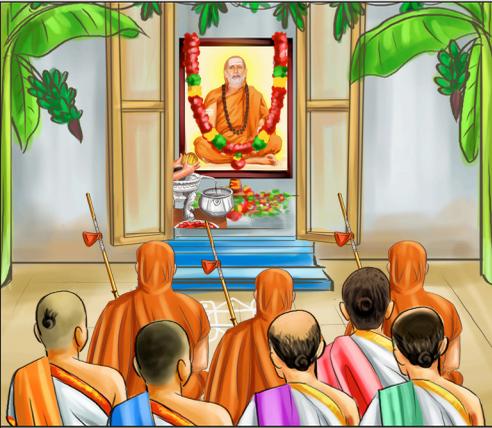


ADMIRING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE JAGADGURU AND HIS DISCIPLE, DR. MANDANA MISHRA, A REPUTED SCHOLAR, ONCE TOLD THE JAGADGURU:

HOW WAS SHANKARA? HOW WERE HIS DISCIPLES? I HAVE NOW COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE THIS.



ON 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1989, JAGADGURU SRI ABHINAVA VIDYATHEERTHA MAHASWAMIJI, THE EPITOME OF PERFECTION, SHED HIS MORTAL COIL WHILE SEATED WITH HIS EYES CLOSED AND BECAME ABSOLUTELY ONE WITH THE INFINITE SUPREME.



IN A PUBLIC ADDRESS, HIS HOLINESS SAID:

OUR GURU HAS NOT GONE ANYWHERE. HE IS VERY MUCH WITHIN OUR HEARTS... IF WE DEEPLY THINK OF HIM, HE WILL CERTAINLY BLESS US WITH HIS DARSHAN. HIS GLORIES ARE BEYOND HUMAN COMPREHENSION ...

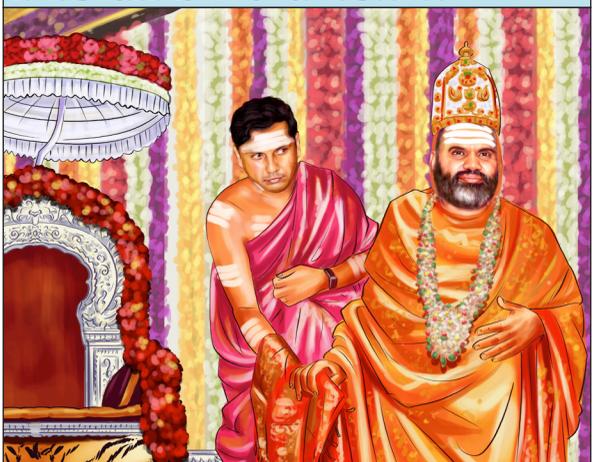
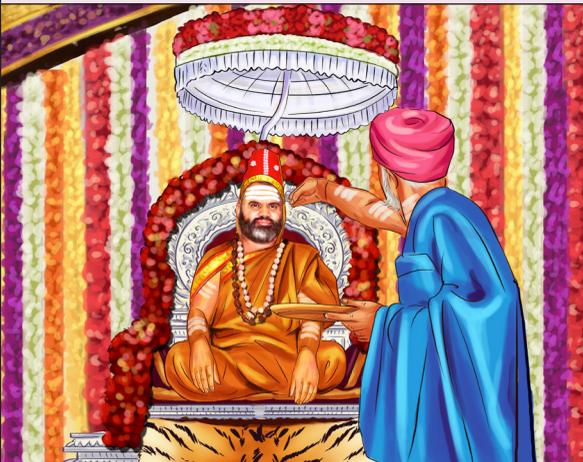


THE NEXT DAY, AFTER INTERRING THE MORTAL REMAINS OF THE JAGADGURU, HIS HOLINESS DULY WORSHIPPED AN EARTHEN LINGA AT THE SAMADHI\* SPOT.

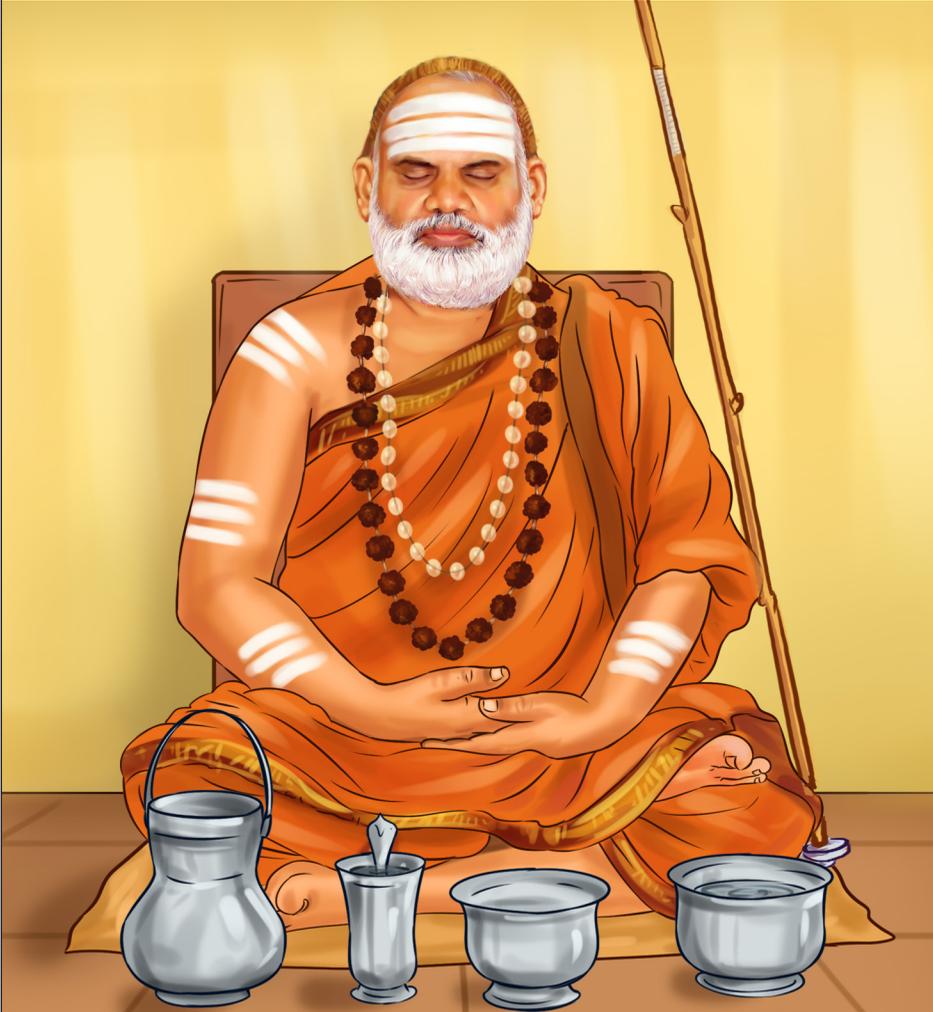
AN INVOCATORY VERSE AND THE ASHTOTTHARA-SHATA-NAMAVALI\* COMPOSED BY HIS HOLINESS ON THE GLORY OF THE JAGADGURU WERE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL DEVOTEES.

ON 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 1989, HIS HOLINESS WAS CORONATED AS THE 36<sup>TH</sup> JAGADGURU SHANKARACHARYA OF THE SRINGERI SHARADA PEETHAM.

HIS HOLINESS WAS REVERENTIALLY LED INTO THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF THE SHARADAMBA TEMPLE BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MATH.



HIS HOLINESS'S DAILY SCHEDULE IS TIGHTLY PACKED. HE BATHES BEFORE 4 A.M. AND DOES HIS MORNING ANUSHTHANA#. THEREAFTER, HE WORSHIPS THE HOLY SANDALS OF HIS GURU AND HAS DARSHAN AT HIS SHRINE. HE THEN DELVES INTO AND REVELS IN THE SCRIPTURE FOR SOME TIME, IN PRIVATE.



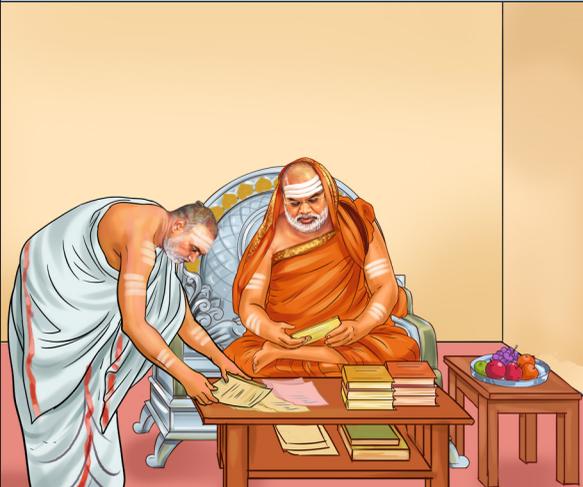
AROUND 10.30 A.M., HE GIVES DARSHAN TO, INTERACTS WITH, AND BLESSES ALL THE ASSEMBLED DEVOTEES.

HE VISITS THE TEMPLES IN THE MATH EVERY FRIDAY. IN PARTICULAR, HE SPENDS TIME AT SHARADAMBA'S SHRINE.

AROUND 12.30 P.M., HE HAS HIS SECOND BATH AND PERFORMS HIS MIDDAY ANUSHTHANA. ONLY AFTER THIS, HE PARTAKES OF BHIKSHA\*.

AFTER A SESSION OF PUBLIC DARSHAN AROUND 5.30 P.M., HIS HOLINESS BATHES AGAIN AND PERFORMS HIS EVENING ANUSHTHANA. HE DELIVERS BENEDICTORY DISCOURSES ON SPECIAL DAYS.

AROUND 4 P.M., HE ATTENDS TO THE LETTERS RECEIVED FROM DEVOTEES AND TO MATH AFFAIRS, IF REQUIRED.



AT 8.30 P.M., HIS HOLINESS PERFORMS THE CHANDRA-MOULEESWARA PUJA. IN ADDITION TO THIS, HE PERFORMS THE SRICHAKRA PUJA ON ALL FRIDAYS. AT 11 P.M., HIS HOLINESS RETIRES FOR THE NIGHT AFTER PERUSING SCRIPTURAL TEXTS FOR SOME TIME.

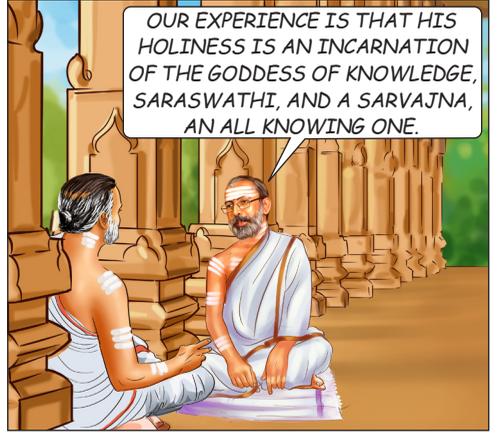


# SCRIPTURALLY-ORDAINED RITUALS; \* MEAL.

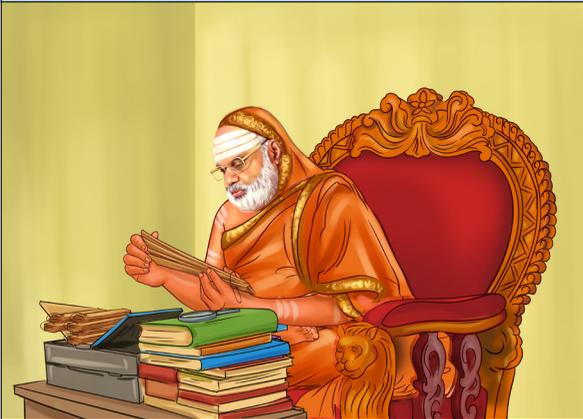
HIS HOLINESS IS WIDELY REVERED AS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY ON THE SHASTRAS. HE PRESIDES OVER AND MODERATES THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE ANNUAL MAHAGANAPATHI VAKYARTHA VIDWAT SABHA CONDUCTED IN SRINGERI, IN WHICH SCHOLARS FROM ALL OVER INDIA PARTICIPATE.



THE ERUDITION OF HIS HOLINESS HAS NEVER CEASED TO AMAZE PUNDITS. A CONTEMPORARY SCHOLAR OF REPUTE ONCE AVERRED:



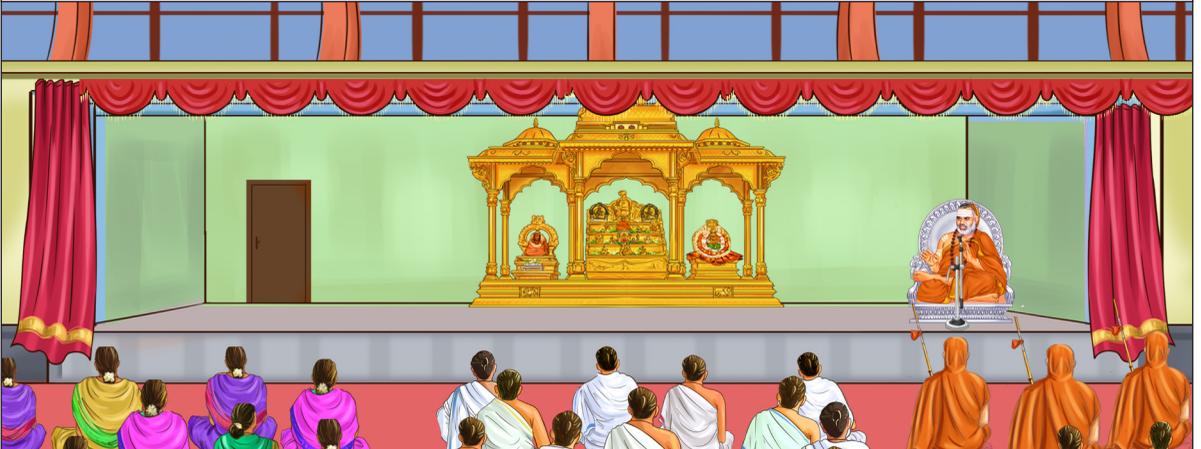
HIS HOLINESS, DESPITE HIS BUSY SCHEDULE, PAINSTAKINGLY EXAMINES OLD AND UNPUBLISHED SHASTRA MANUSCRIPTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ON VEDANTA, CRITICALLY EDITS THEM AND PUBLISHES THEM THROUGH THE RESEARCH CENTRE OF THE MATH.

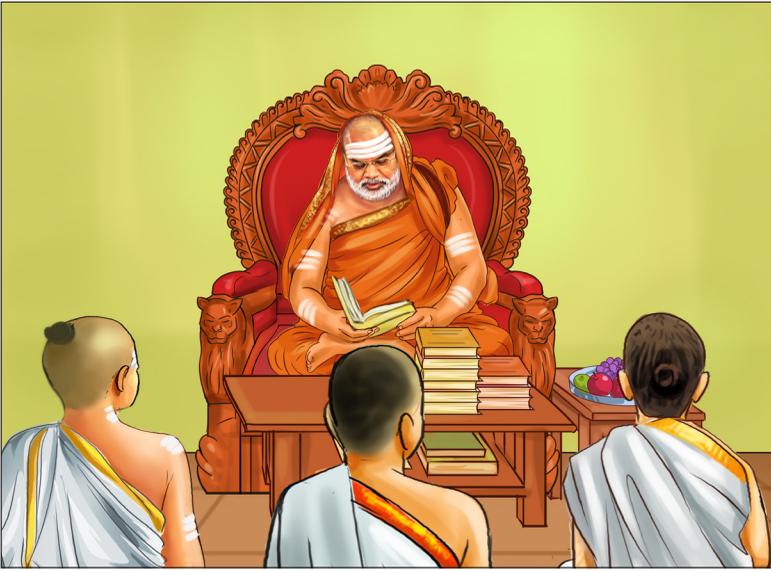


APART FROM HIS HYMNS ON HIS OWN GURU, HE HAS COMPOSED SEVERAL DEVOTIONAL POEMS ON THE EARLIER JAGADGURUS AND DIVINITIES. THEY ARE RICH IN IMPORT AND FULL OF CHARM.



HIS HOLINESS IS A POLYGLOT. HE ELOQUENTLY DISCOURSES IN CHASTE SANSKRIT, KANNADA, TELUGU, TAMIL AND HINDI. HIS TALKS ARE THOROUGHLY LUCID, PREGNANT WITH IMPORT AND DELIVERED EFFORTLESSLY. THEY INVARIABLY BEAR THE STAMP OF HIS EXEMPLARY ERUDITION AND ASTONISHING MEMORY.



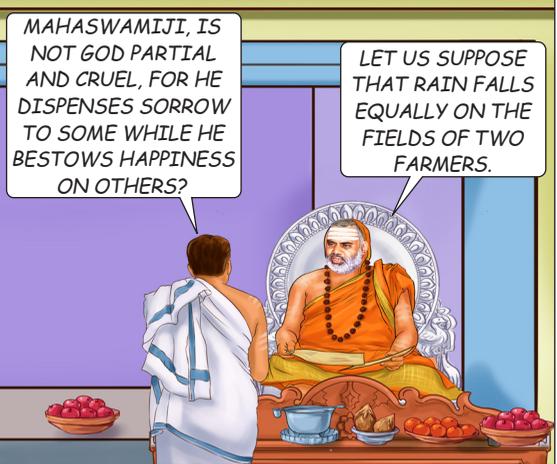


HE HAS TAUGHT THE NYAYA AND VEDANTA SHASTRAS SEVERAL TIMES OVER. TEACHING A SHASTRA TAKES YEARS.

THOUGH PARTICULARLY HARD-PRESSED FOR TIME DURING HIS TOURS, HE CONTINUED HIS CLASSES AND THAT TOO WITH UNFAILING REGULARITY. GREAT IS THE VALUE HE ASSIGNS TO THE IMPARTING OF THE SHASTRAS.

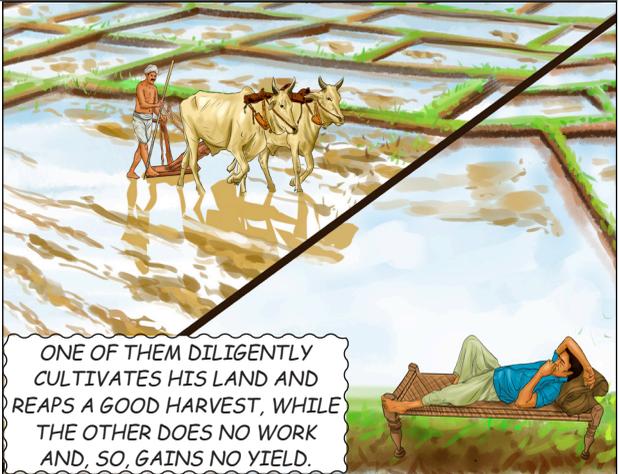
HE CAN CASUALLY PICK UP AND STRAIGHTAWAY ARTICULATE AN ACCURATE TRANSLATION OF EVEN A COMPLEX ESSAY IN SUCH AN ASTOUNDING WAY THAT THE LISTENER FEELS THAT HOLINESS IS JUST READING OUT THAT MATERIAL.

WITH EQUAL EASE, HIS HOLINESS EXPOUNDS PHILOSOPHICAL MATTERS TO PANDITS TECHNICALLY AND IN A SIMPLE WAY, BUT WITHOUT LOSS OF CORRECTNESS, TO LAY PERSONS. A DEVOTEE ONCE ASKED:

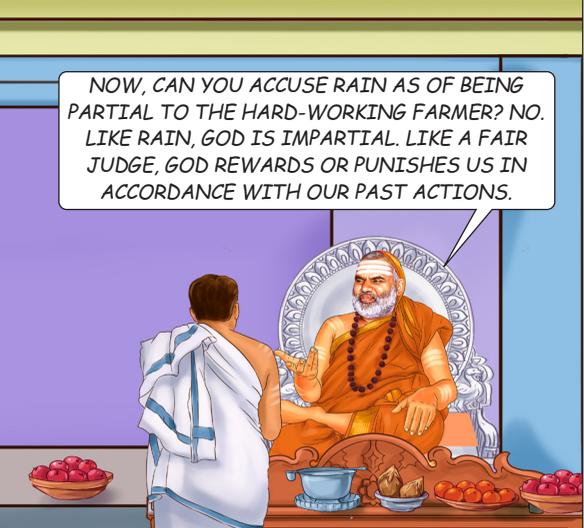


MAHASWAMIJI, IS NOT GOD PARTIAL AND CRUEL, FOR HE DISPENSES SORROW TO SOME WHILE HE BESTOWS HAPPINESS ON OTHERS?

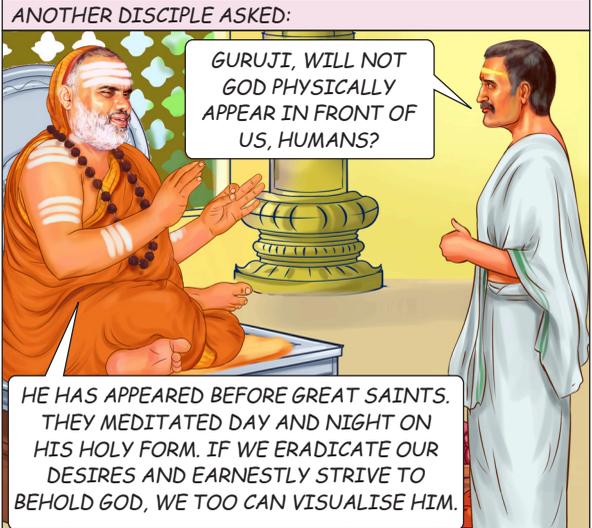
LET US SUPPOSE THAT RAIN FALLS EQUALLY ON THE FIELDS OF TWO FARMERS.



ONE OF THEM DILIGENTLY CULTIVATES HIS LAND AND REAPS A GOOD HARVEST, WHILE THE OTHER DOES NO WORK AND, SO, GAINS NO YIELD.



NOW, CAN YOU ACCUSE RAIN AS OF BEING PARTIAL TO THE HARD-WORKING FARMER? NO. LIKE RAIN, GOD IS IMPARTIAL. LIKE A FAIR JUDGE, GOD REWARDS OR PUNISHES US IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PAST ACTIONS.

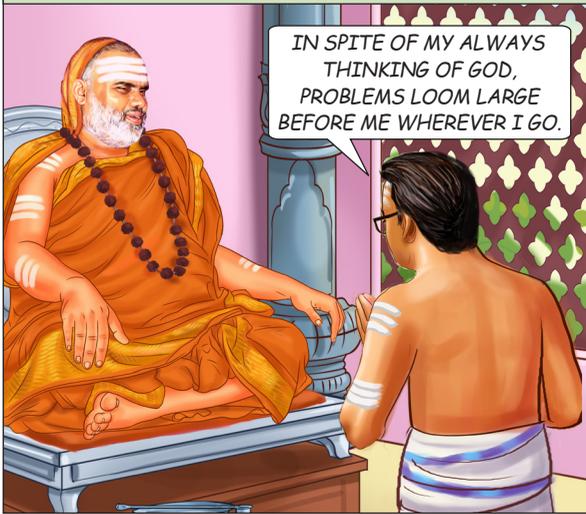


ANOTHER DISCIPLE ASKED:

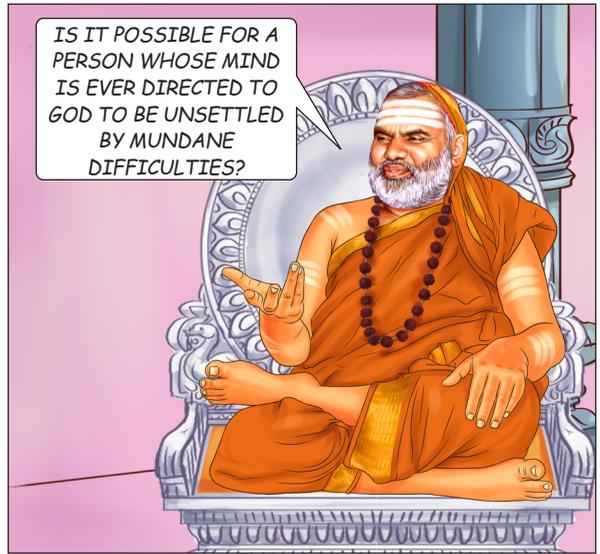
GURUJI, WILL NOT GOD PHYSICALLY APPEAR IN FRONT OF US, HUMANS?

HE HAS APPEARED BEFORE GREAT SAINTS. THEY MEDITATED DAY AND NIGHT ON HIS HOLY FORM. IF WE ERADICATE OUR DESIRES AND EARNESTLY STRIVE TO BEHOLD GOD, WE TOO CAN VISUALISE HIM.

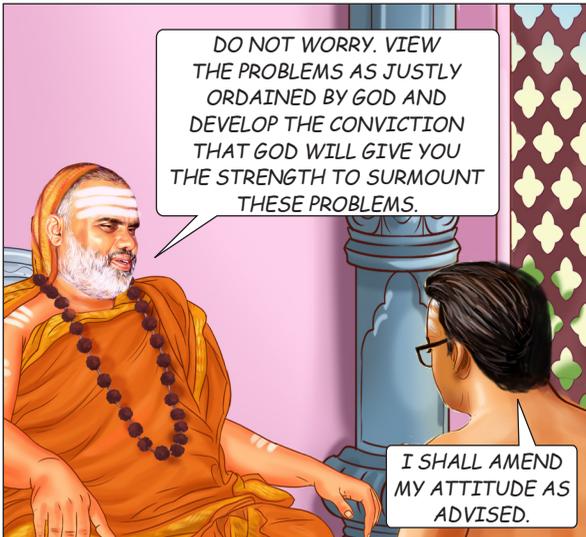
A DEVOTEE PRESENTED HIS CONCERN TO HIS HOLINESS:



IN SPITE OF MY ALWAYS THINKING OF GOD, PROBLEMS LOOM LARGE BEFORE ME WHEREVER I GO.



IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A PERSON WHOSE MIND IS EVER DIRECTED TO GOD TO BE UNSETTLED BY MUNDANE DIFFICULTIES?



DO NOT WORRY. VIEW THE PROBLEMS AS JUSTLY ORDAINED BY GOD AND DEVELOP THE CONVICTION THAT GOD WILL GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO SURMOUNT THESE PROBLEMS.

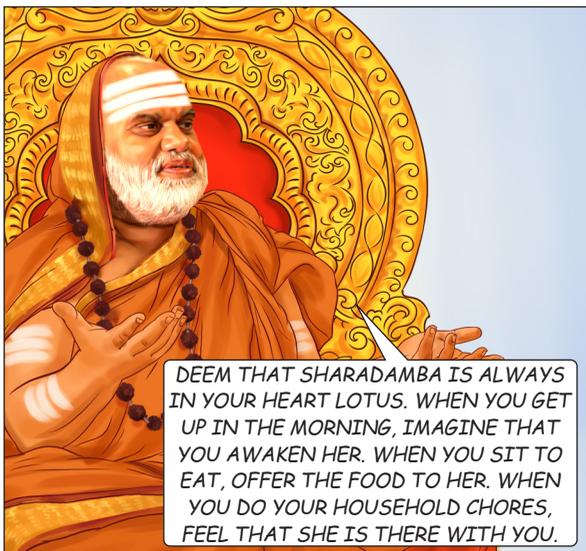
I SHALL AMEND MY ATTITUDE AS ADVISED.

A COUPLE VISITED SRINGERI AND THE WIFE LAMENTED TO HIS HOLINESS:

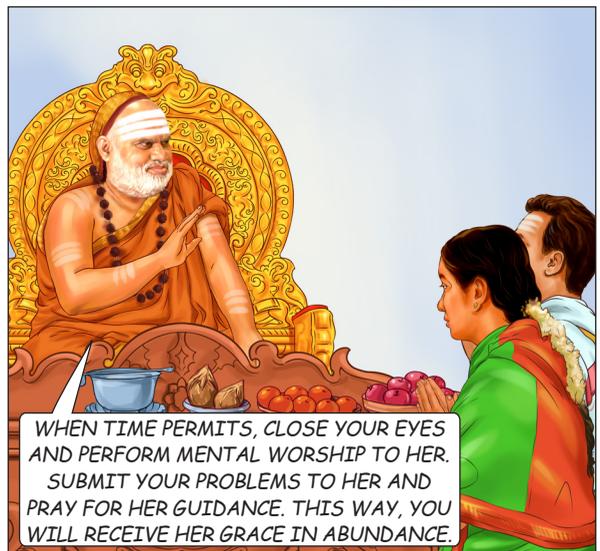


I HAVE TO ATTEND TO A LARGE FAMILY. HENCE, I DON'T FIND TIME TO SIT PEACEFULLY AND OFFER PRAYERS. I FEEL MISERABLE. IS THERE A WAY OUT FOR ME?

WHY NOT? I SEE MUCH OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO WORSHIP GOD.

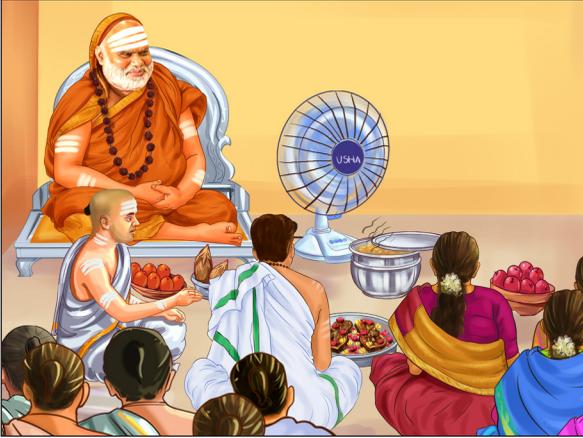


DEEM THAT SHARADAMBA IS ALWAYS IN YOUR HEART LOTUS. WHEN YOU GET UP IN THE MORNING, IMAGINE THAT YOU AWAKEN HER. WHEN YOU SIT TO EAT, OFFER THE FOOD TO HER. WHEN YOU DO YOUR HOUSEHOLD CHORES, FEEL THAT SHE IS THERE WITH YOU.

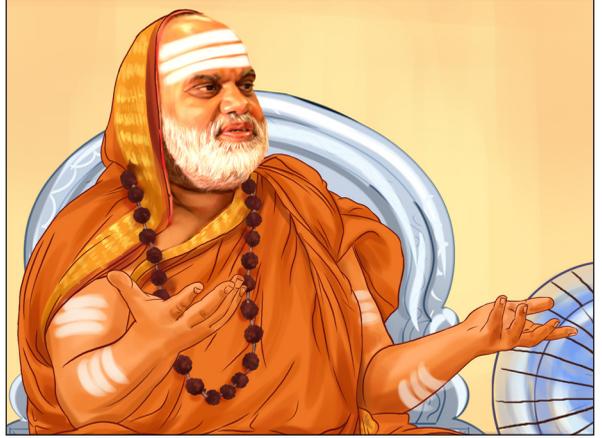


WHEN TIME PERMITS, CLOSE YOUR EYES AND PERFORM MENTAL WORSHIP TO HER. SUBMIT YOUR PROBLEMS TO HER AND PRAY FOR HER GUIDANCE. THIS WAY, YOU WILL RECEIVE HER GRACE IN ABUNDANCE.

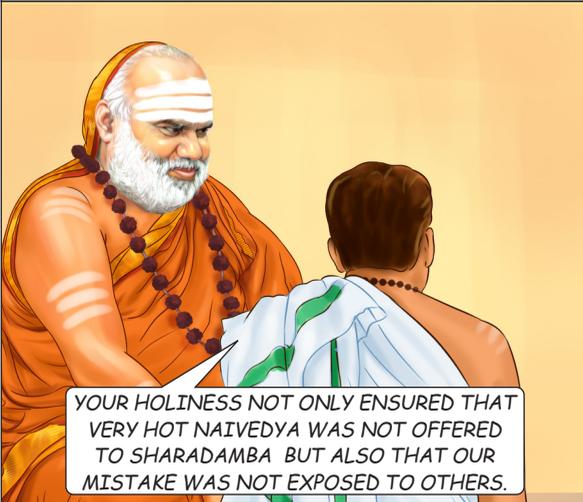
A PADAPUJA# WAS IN PROGRESS AT A DISCIPLE'S HOUSE. WHEN THE NAIVEDYA\* WAS BROUGHT, HIS HOLINESS NOTICED THAT IT WAS VERY HOT. HE CASUALLY TURNED THE FAN KEPT NEAR HIM TOWARDS IT.



WHEN THE BREEZE WAS COOLING THE NAIVEDYA, HIS HOLINESS GAVE A LUCID EXPLANATION OF AN EPITHET OF THE DIVINE MOTHER IN THE LALITHA SAHASRANAMA\*\*.

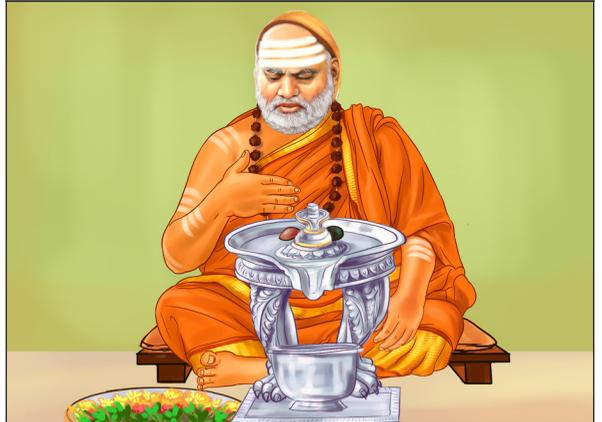


THE DEVOTEE LATER SAID:

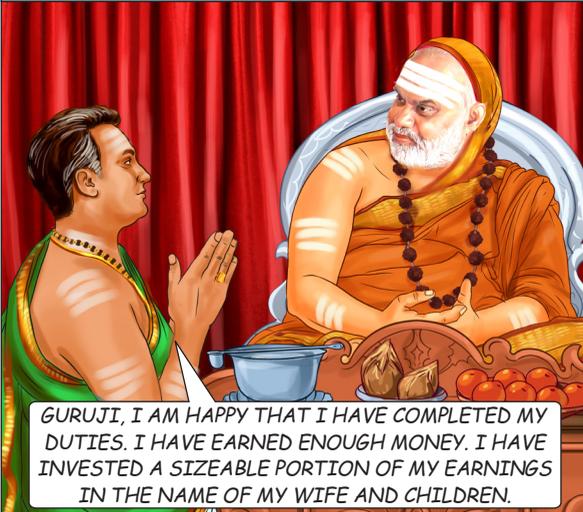


YOUR HOLINESS NOT ONLY ENSURED THAT VERY HOT NAIVEDYA WAS NOT OFFERED TO SHARADAMBA BUT ALSO THAT OUR MISTAKE WAS NOT EXPOSED TO OTHERS.

TO HIM, PUJA IDOLS ARE NOT MERE INERT OBJECTS. HE EMPHASIZES THAT WHEN DOING PUJA, WE SHOULD FEEL THE LIVING PRESENCE OF THE DEITY IN THE IDOL WORSHIPPED.



A PERSON WAS CONVERSING WITH HIS HOLINESS.



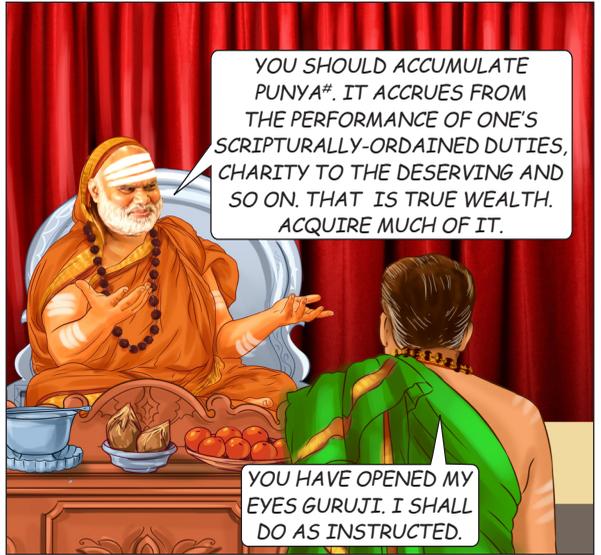
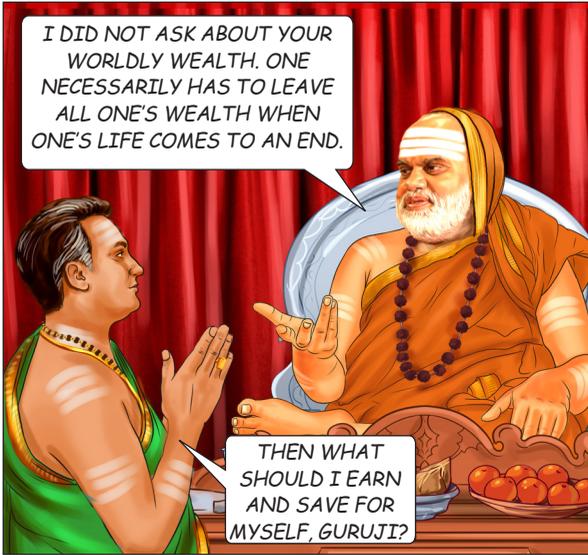
GURUJI, I AM HAPPY THAT I HAVE COMPLETED MY DUTIES. I HAVE EARNED ENOUGH MONEY. I HAVE INVESTED A SIZEABLE PORTION OF MY EARNINGS IN THE NAME OF MY WIFE AND CHILDREN.



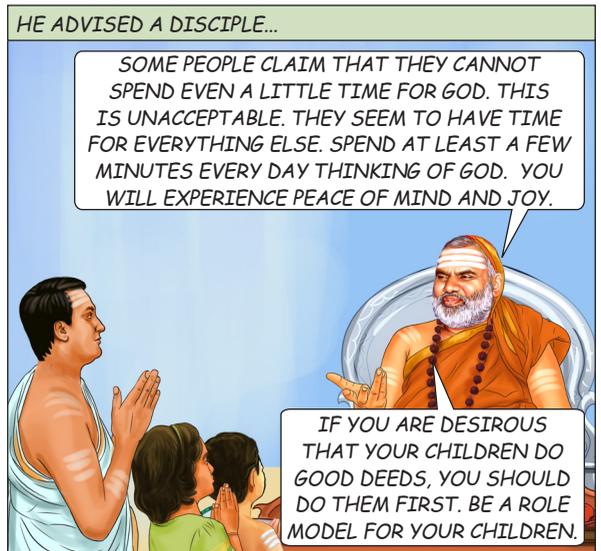
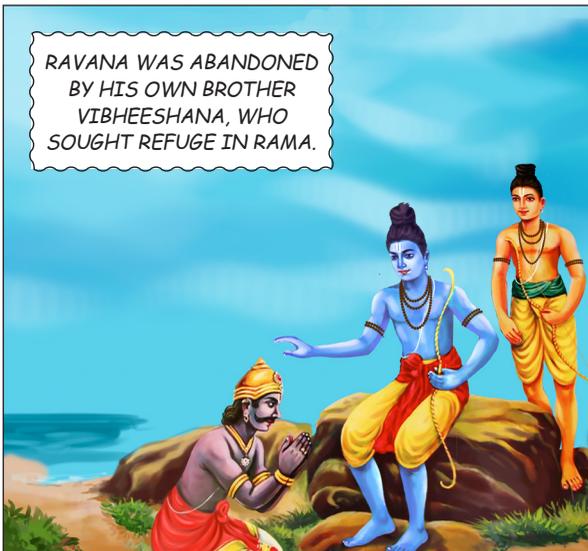
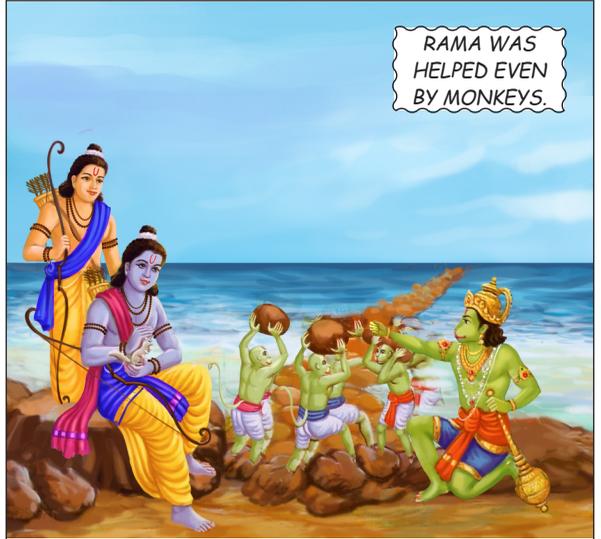
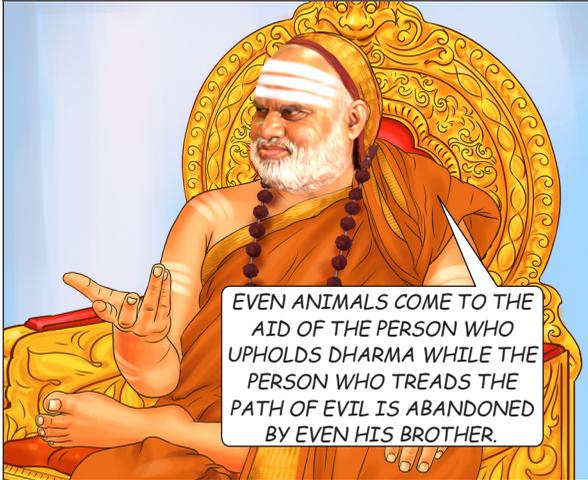
WHAT HAVE YOU SAVED FOR YOURSELF?

I HAVE PROPERTIES AND INVESTMENTS IN MY NAME TOO.

# WORSHIP OF THE DIVINE MOTHER'S SACRED SANDALS. \* OFFERING OF FOOD FOR THE DIVINE; \*\* 1008 NAMES OF THE DIVINE MOTHER.

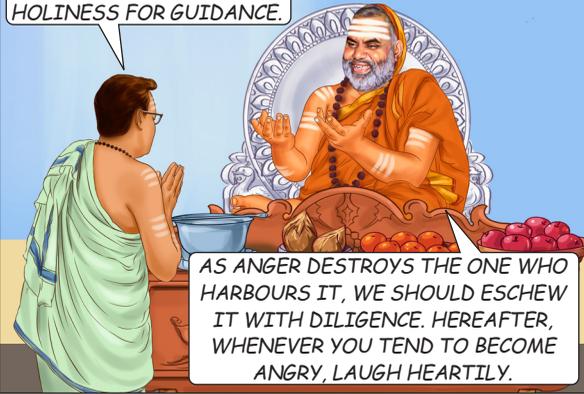


IN A DISCOURSE, HIS HOLINESS TAUGHT, CITING A VERSE, HOW DHARMA\* BENEFITS ONE:



A DEVOTEE ONCE ENTREATED HIS HOLINESS:

I SUFFER FROM A SHORT TEMPER THAT COMPLETELY OVERPOWERS ME WHEN IT ERUPTS. I PRAY TO YOUR HOLINESS FOR GUIDANCE.

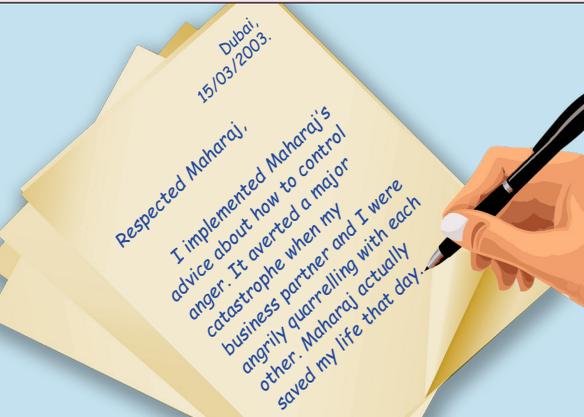


AS ANGER DESTROYS THE ONE WHO HARBOURS IT, WE SHOULD ESCHEW IT WITH DILIGENCE. HEREAFTER, WHENEVER YOU TEND TO BECOME ANGRY, LAUGH HEARTILY.

THIS EPISODE CONTAINING THE PRACTICAL ADVICE OF HIS HOLINESS WAS PUBLISHED IN A BOOK\*. A TRAVELLER FROM DUBAI PICKED UP THIS BOOK THAT HAD BEEN ACCIDENTALLY LEFT BY ANOTHER PASSENGER IN MUMBAI AIRPORT AND READ ITS CONTENTS.

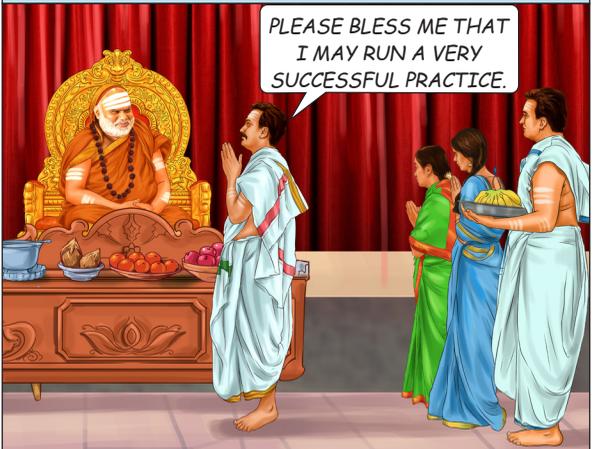


THE PERSON LATER WROTE A LETTER TO THE MATH FROM DUBAI.

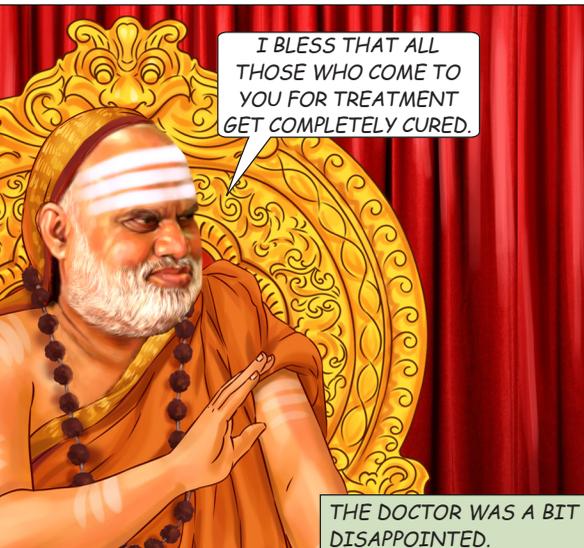


THUS HIS HOLINESS'S ADVICE HELPED EVEN A PERSON WHO ACCIDENTALLY READ IT.

A DOCTOR PAID A VISIT TO SRINGERI. HE TOLD HIS HOLINESS THAT HE HAD RECENTLY OPENED HIS OWN CLINIC.

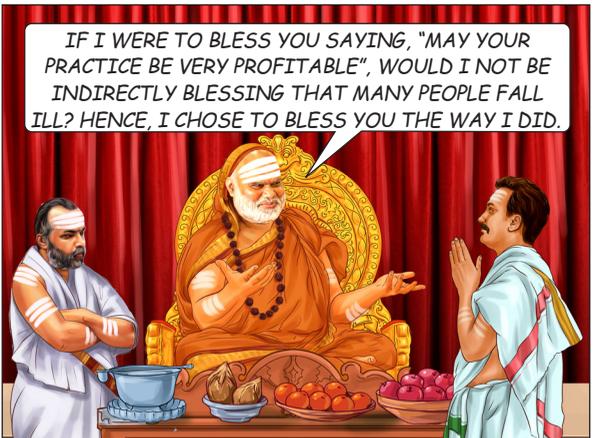


PLEASE BLESS ME THAT I MAY RUN A VERY SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE.



I BLESS THAT ALL THOSE WHO COME TO YOU FOR TREATMENT GET COMPLETELY CURED.

THE DOCTOR WAS A BIT DISAPPOINTED.

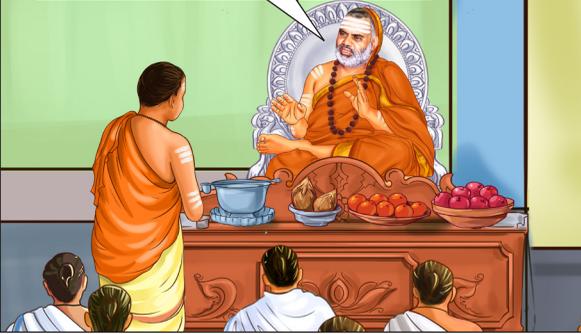


IF I WERE TO BLESS YOU SAYING, "MAY YOUR PRACTICE BE VERY PROFITABLE", WOULD I NOT BE INDIRECTLY BLESSING THAT MANY PEOPLE FALL ILL? HENCE, I CHOSE TO BLESS YOU THE WAY I DID.

EVEN WHILE BLESSING DEVOTEEES, HIS HOLINESS IS PRUDENT. THE DOCTOR WAS DELIGHTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED BLESSINGS BOTH FOR HIMSELF AND HIS PATIENTS.

A DISCIPLE ONCE ASKED ABOUT HOW GOD GRACES ONE.

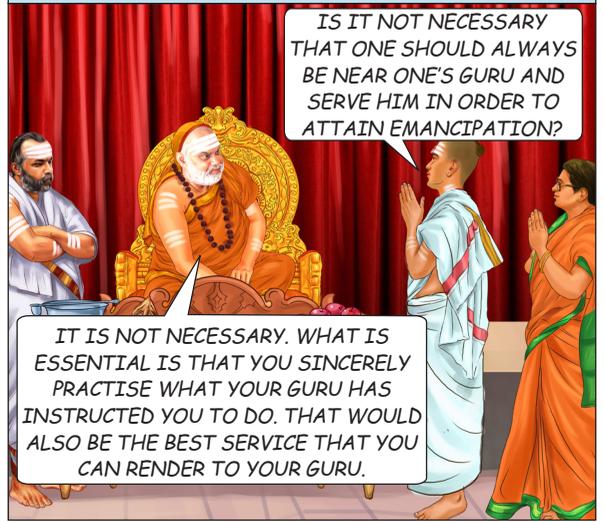
IT IS KNOWN THAT ONE CAN ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN ANY ENDEAVOUR ONLY THROUGH PROPER THOUGHTS. THE SHASTRAS STATE THAT GOD GRACES A PERSON BY INDUCING APPROPRIATE THOUGHTS IN HIS MIND.



ANOTHER DOUBT:

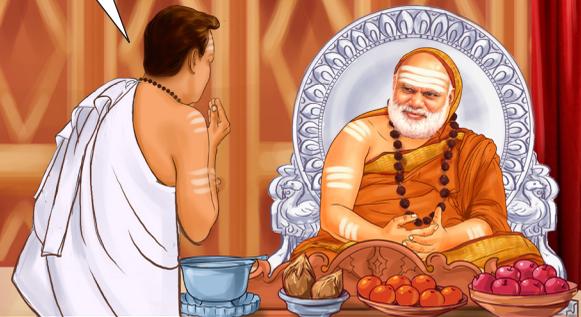
IS IT NOT NECESSARY THAT ONE SHOULD ALWAYS BE NEAR ONE'S GURU AND SERVE HIM IN ORDER TO ATTAIN EMANCPATION?

IT IS NOT NECESSARY. WHAT IS ESSENTIAL IS THAT YOU SINCERELY PRACTISE WHAT YOUR GURU HAS INSTRUCTED YOU TO DO. THAT WOULD ALSO BE THE BEST SERVICE THAT YOU CAN RENDER TO YOUR GURU.

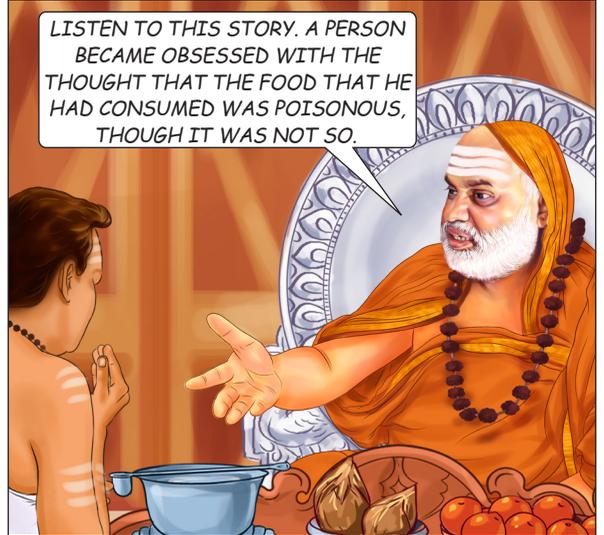


ABOUT THE VEDAS AND LIBERATION:

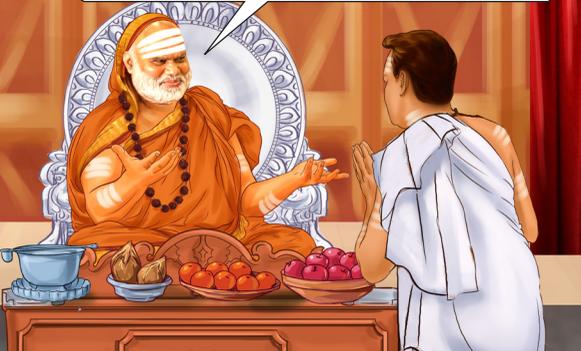
GURUJI, ADAVITINS CLAIM THAT EVERYTHING BUT BRAHMAN IS MITHYA, FALSE. IF SO, THE VEDAS MUST ALSO BE UNTRUE. IF THE VEDAS ARE FALSE, HOW CAN TRUE KNOWLEDGE ARISE FROM IT?



LISTEN TO THIS STORY. A PERSON BECAME OBSESSED WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THE FOOD THAT HE HAD CONSUMED WAS POISONOUS, THOUGH IT WAS NOT SO.

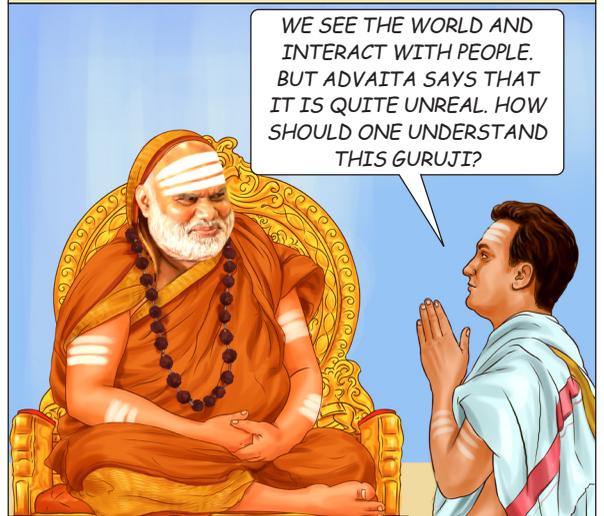


SO INTENSE WAS HIS EMOTIONAL DISTRESS THAT HE SOON COLLAPSED AND DIED. AN IMAGINED POISON LED TO REAL DEATH. SIMILARLY, THE VEDAS, THOUGH NOT CONSIDERED REAL FROM THE ABSOLUTE STANDPOINT, CAN STILL EFFECT LIBERATING ENLIGHTENMENT.



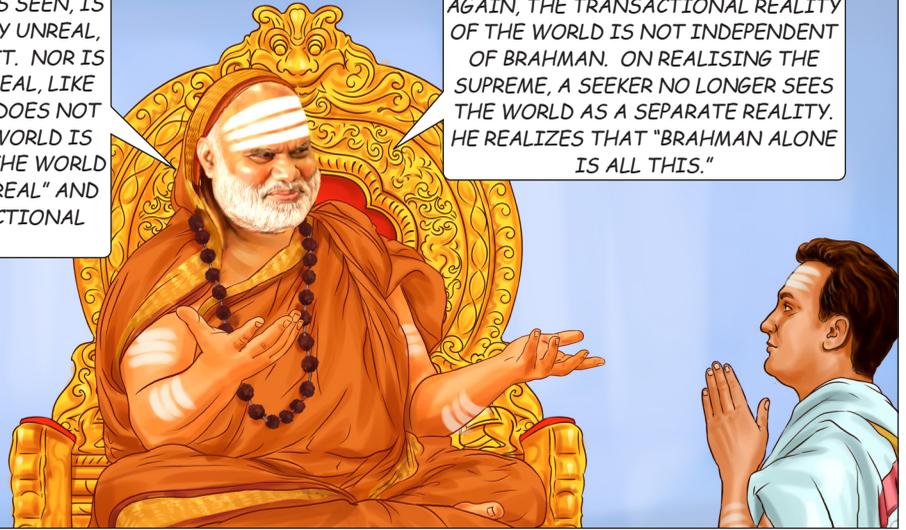
ABOUT THE UNREALITY OF THE WORLD:

WE SEE THE WORLD AND INTERACT WITH PEOPLE. BUT ADAVITA SAYS THAT IT IS QUITE UNREAL. HOW SHOULD ONE UNDERSTAND THIS GURUJI?



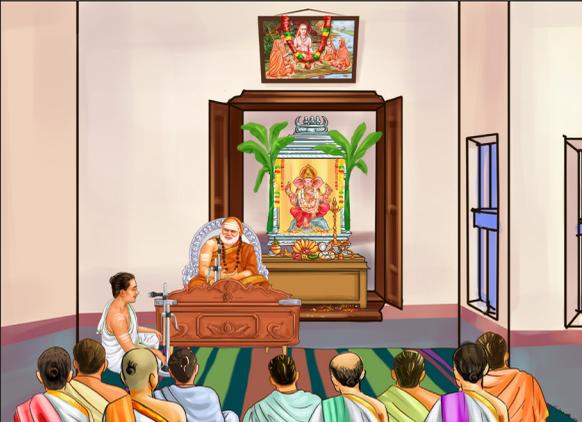
THE UNIVERSE, SINCE IT IS SEEN, IS NOT 'ASAT' OR ABSOLUTELY UNREAL, LIKE THE HORN OF A RABBIT. NOR IS IT 'SAT' OR ABSOLUTELY REAL, LIKE BRAHMAN. WHAT IS REAL DOES NOT CHANGE OR PERISH. THE WORLD IS NOT SO. HENCE, WE SAY, "THE WORLD IS NEITHER REAL NOR UNREAL" AND ONLY ACCORD A TRANSACTIONAL REALITY TO IT.

AGAIN, THE TRANSACTIONAL REALITY OF THE WORLD IS NOT INDEPENDENT OF BRAHMAN. ON REALISING THE SUPREME, A SEEKER NO LONGER SEES THE WORLD AS A SEPARATE REALITY. HE REALIZES THAT "BRAHMAN ALONE IS ALL THIS."

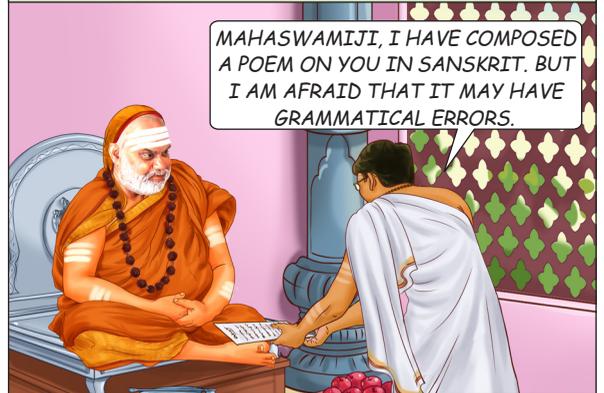


HIS HOLINESS ENCOURAGES BUDDING SCHOLARS IN THE VIDWAT SADAS THAT IS HELD ANNUALLY IN SRINGERI. HE GENTLY CORRECTS THEM WHEN THEY COMMIT MISTAKES BUT NEVER DISHEARTENS THEM.

SUBTLE HUMOUR AND WORDPLAY HAVE BEEN DEFTLY USED BY HIS HOLINESS ON OCCASIONS TO POINT OUT A FACT, CORRECT, ENCOURAGE AND EVEN TO GIVE ADVICE. ONCE, A YOUNG SANSKRIT ENTHUSIAST CAME TO HIM.



MAHASWAMIJI, I HAVE COMPOSED A POEM ON YOU IN SANSKRIT. BUT I AM AFRAID THAT IT MAY HAVE GRAMMATICAL ERRORS.

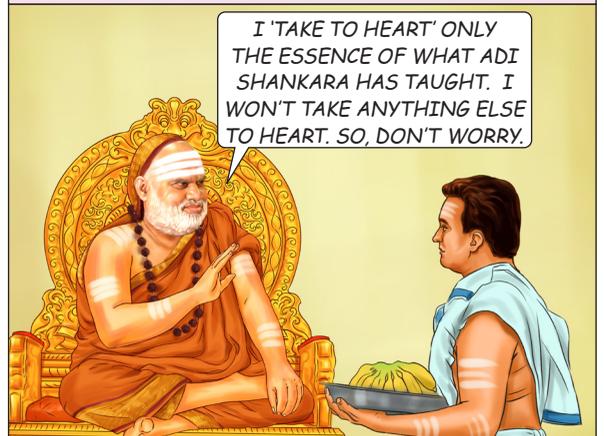
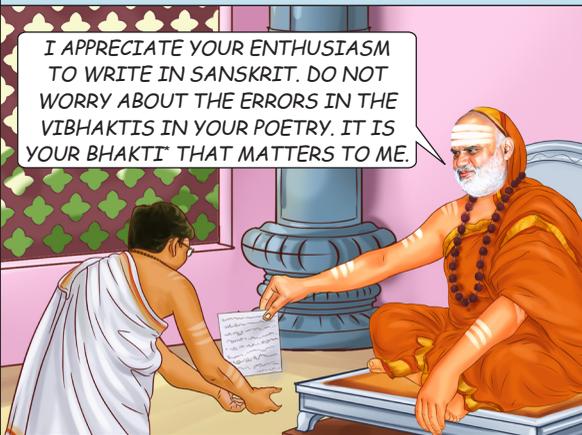


HIS HOLINESS PERUSED THE POEM AND DISCERNED THAT IT HAD MANY VIBHAKTI\* ERRORS. HOWEVER, HE ENCOURAGINGLY TOLD THE YOUNGSTER:

A PERSON APOLOGIZED TO HIS HOLINESS FOR A MISTAKE COMMITTED BY HIM AND REQUESTED HIM NOT TO TAKE TO HEART HIS INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT. HIS HOLINESS COMFORTED HIM THUS:

I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM TO WRITE IN SANSKRIT. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE ERRORS IN THE VIBHAKTIS IN YOUR POETRY. IT IS YOUR BHAKTI\* THAT MATTERS TO ME.

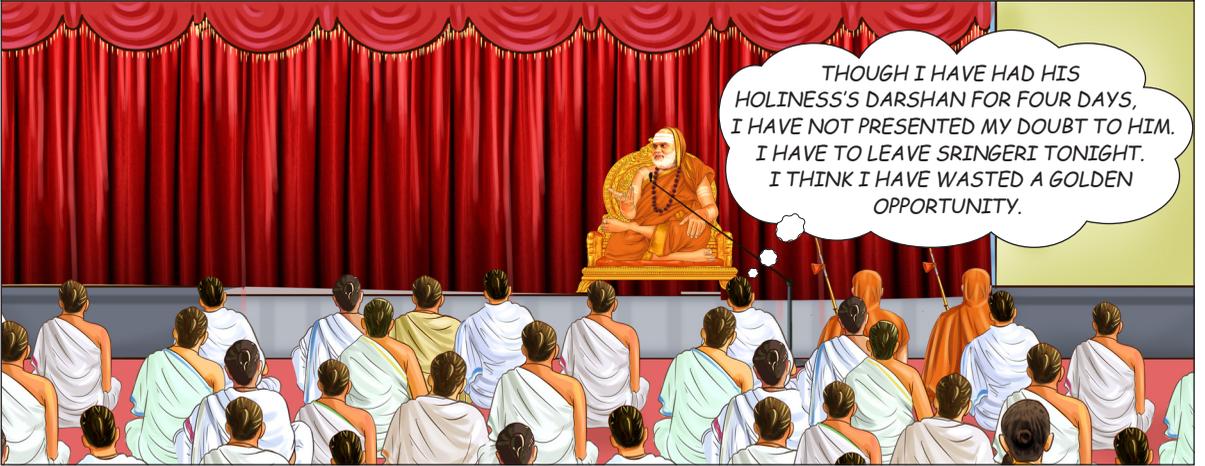
I 'TAKE TO HEART' ONLY THE ESSENCE OF WHAT ADI SHANKARA HAS TAUGHT. I WON'T TAKE ANYTHING ELSE TO HEART. SO, DON'T WORRY.



SAYING SO HE BLESSED THE YOUNGSTER.

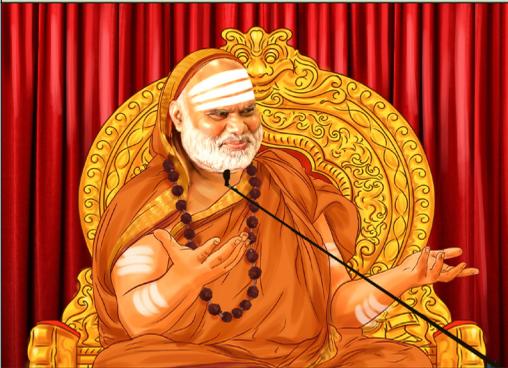
# VERBAL DECLENSIONS; \* DEVOTION.

A SPIRITUAL ASPIRANT FROM NORTH INDIA VISITED SRINGERI. HE HAD A DOUBT RELATED TO HIS SADHANA#. HE WISHED TO POSE IT TO HIS HOLINESS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF HIS DIFFIDENCE, HE FAILED TO DO SO. A LECTURE OF HIS HOLINESS WAS IN PROGRESS.



THOUGH I HAVE HAD HIS HOLINESS'S DARSHAN FOR FOUR DAYS, I HAVE NOT PRESENTED MY DOUBT TO HIM. I HAVE TO LEAVE SRINGERI TONIGHT. I THINK I HAVE WASTED A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

THE SPEECH WAS IN KANNADA, A LANGUAGE WITH WHICH THIS PERSON WAS UNFAMILIAR. HIS HOLINESS UTTERED A SHLOKA\* IN SANSKRIT WHILE TURNING WITH A SMILE TOWARDS WHERE HE WAS SEATED.



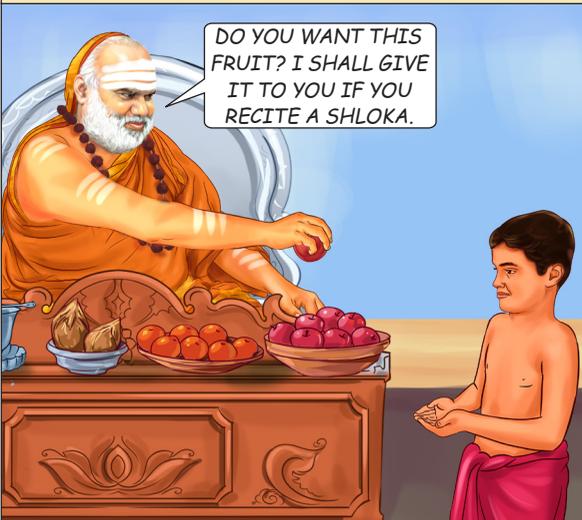
THE VERSE CITED BY HIS HOLINESS CONTAINED, HE REALISED, THE SOLUTION TO HIS UNVOICED QUERY. AFTER THE LECTURE WAS OVER, HE SHARED HIS EXPERIENCE WITH A PERSON WHOM HE HAD BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH IN SRINGERI.



I AM SO VERY BLESSED! HIS HOLINESS RESOLVED MY DOUBT IN HIS LECTURE. THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT TO SRINGERI IS FULFILLED.

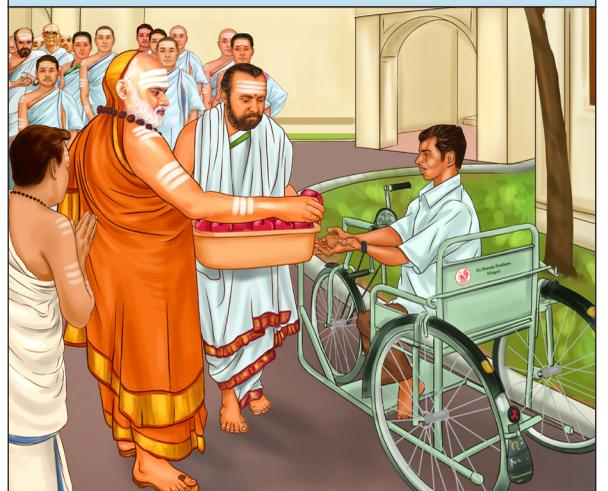
I AM HAPPY FOR YOU. MANY SUCH INCIDENTS HAPPEN HERE!

HIS HOLINESS READILY GRACES AND EVEN GOOD-HUMOUREDLY INTERACTS WITH CHILDREN.

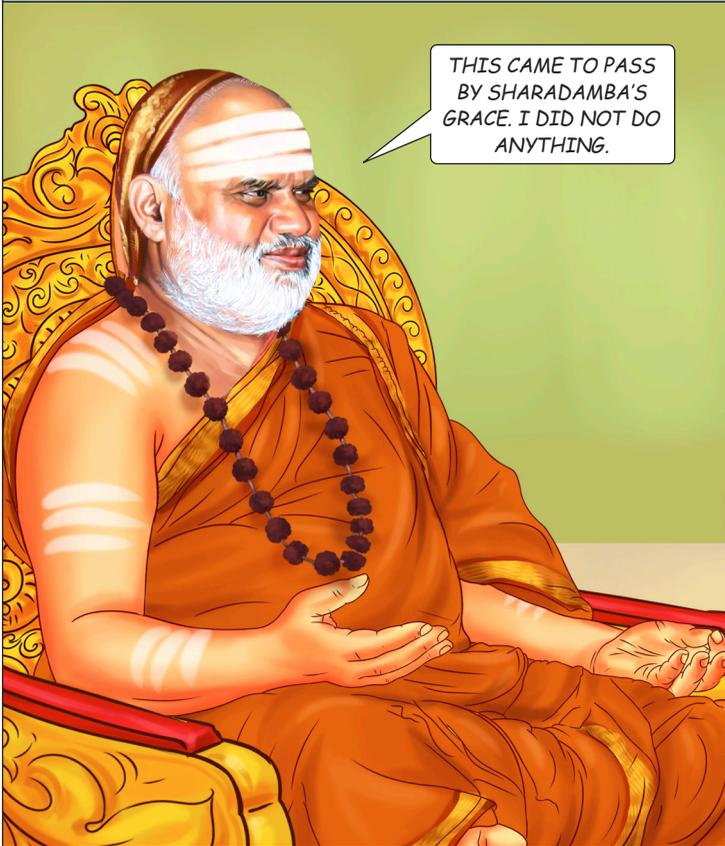


DO YOU WANT THIS FRUIT? I SHALL GIVE IT TO YOU IF YOU RECITE A SHLOKA.

HE HAS SPECIALLY BLESSED THE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED AND PROVIDED ESSENTIAL AID TO THE NEEDY AMONG THEM.



THOUSANDS COME TO HIS HOLINESS FOR BLESSINGS, SUCCOUR AND GUIDANCE. HE GRACES ALL. HOWEVER, BEING EGOLESS, HE NEVER TAKES CREDIT WHEN PEOPLE REPORT TO HIM THAT HE FULFILLED THEIR PRAYERS.



THIS CAME TO PASS BY SHARADAMBA'S GRACE. I DID NOT DO ANYTHING.

SOLELY DUE TO YOUR GUIDANCE AND GRACE, MY SPIRITUAL PRACTICES ARE PROGRESSING VERY WELL



YOUR HOLINESS BLESSED MY DAUGHTER FOR HER MARRIAGE. WE HAVE FOUND A GOOD ALLIANCE FOR HER.



MAHASWAMIJI, YOU BLESSED MY SON LAST YEAR. HE HAS SECURED HIGH MARKS AND HAS NOW JOINED A MEDICAL COLLEGE.



GURUJI, THE DOCTOR HAS SAID THAT MY HUSBAND DOES NOT REQUIRE SURGERY. YOU HAD ALREADY SAID SO.



YOU BLESSED US LAST YEAR THAT OUR VILLAGE WILL FLOURISH AND THE CONSECRATION OF THE TEMPLE WILL TAKE PLACE. YOUR WORDS HAVE COME TRUE, GURUJI.

ON ACCOUNT OF MAHASWAMIJI'S BLESSINGS, WE, FISHERFOLK, ARE LIVING HAPPILY.



MY FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES HAVE ENDED BY YOUR GRACE, MAHASWAMIJI.



MAHASWAMIJI, MY SON RECEIVED YOUR BLESSINGS AND, HAS NOW SECURED A LUCRATIVE JOB.



GURUJI, IT IS ONLY BY YOUR GRACE THAT WE WERE ABLE TO MEMORISE THE ENTIRE BHAGAVAD GITA AND TO CHANT IT HERE.



THANKS TO YOUR BLESSINGS, GURUJI, MY DAUGHTER, WHO WAS CHILDLESS FOR MANY YEARS, HAS NOW CONCEIVED.

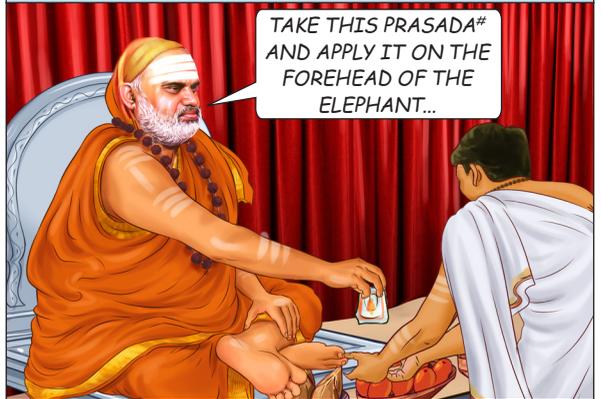


COWS, ELEPHANTS AND DEER ARE AMONG THE ANIMALS THAT HAVE RECEIVED HIS ATTENTION, KINDNESS AND PROTECTION. AS PER HIS DIRECTIVES, NUMEROUS COWS ARE BEING CARED FOR AND SHELTERED IN WELL-MAINTAINED COW-PENS IN SRINGERI AND IN MANY OTHER PLACES IN INDIA.

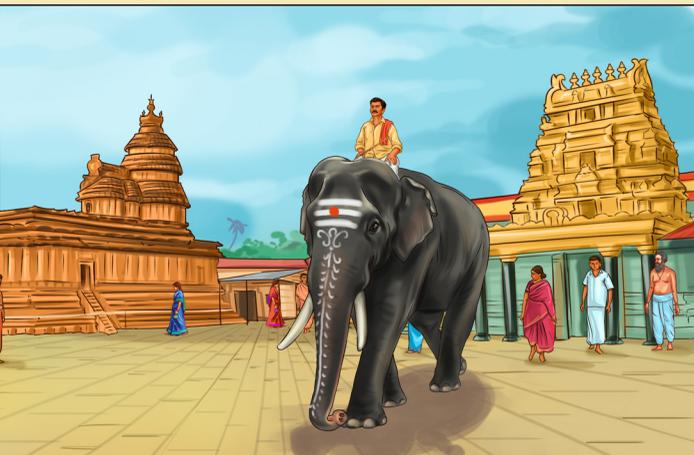


OFF AND ON, HIS HOLINESS PERSONALLY FEEDS FRUITS AND OTHER EATABLES TO THE ELEPHANTS IN THE MATH.

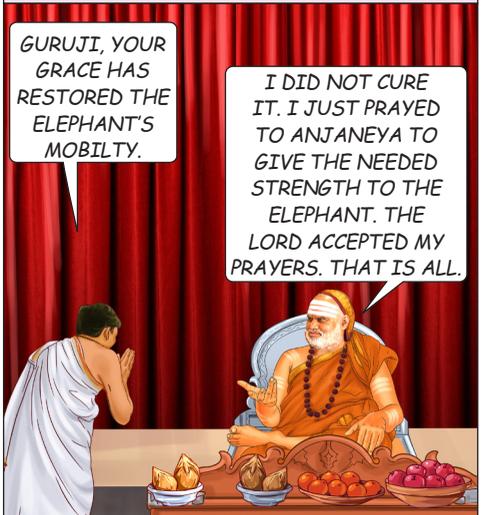
ONCE, AN ELEPHANT SUDDENLY FELL ILL AND LOST ITS ABILITY TO MOVE. THE EFFORTS OF THE MAHOUT AND OTHERS PROVED TO BE OF NO AVAIL. WHEN A MATH STAFF INFORMED THIS TO HIS HOLINESS, HE CLOSED HIS EYES FOR A FEW MOMENTS. HE THEN SAID ...



SOON AFTER THE HOLY PRASADA WAS APPLIED ON THE SICK PACHYDERM'S FOREHEAD, IT STARTED WALKING, TO THE JOY OF EVERY ONE THERE.



THE ATTENDANT RETURNED:



SUBSEQUENT TO BECOMING THE PONTIFF OF THE PEETHAM IN 1989, HIS HOLINESS HAS UNDERTAKEN EIGHT MAJOR VIJAYA-YATRAS\* AND THEREBY WIDELY DISSEMINATED DHARMA, ESTABLISHED SEVERAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSECRATED MANY SHRINES.



HIS FIRST PONTIFICAL TOUR WAS FROM NOVEMBER 1991 TO FEBRUARY 1992 AND COVERED PARTS OF KARNATAKA, KERALA AND TAMILNADU.

THE SECOND TOUR INCLUDED MAHARASHTRA, APART FROM KARNATAKA AND ANDHRA PRADESH AND WAS UNDERTAKEN IN THE PERIOD 1992-93.

THE NEXT ONE, AN ALL INDIA TOUR FROM MAY 1994 TO JULY 1995, STRETCHED FROM KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI.

IN 2001, HIS HOLINESS TRAVELLED TO RAMESHWARAM FOR THE CONSECRATION OF THE RAMANATHA SWAMY TEMPLE.

IN THE TOUR OF APRIL TO NOVEMBER, 2007, HIS HOLINESS COVERED KARNATAKA, MAHARASHTRA AND ANDHRA PRADESH.

IN 2010, HIS HOLINESS TRAVELLED TO KALADY AND NEARBY PLACES ON A MONTH-LONG TOUR.

DURING 2012-13, HIS HOLINESS TOURED THE STATES OF KARNATAKA, KERALA, TAMILNADU AND ANDHRA PRADESH.

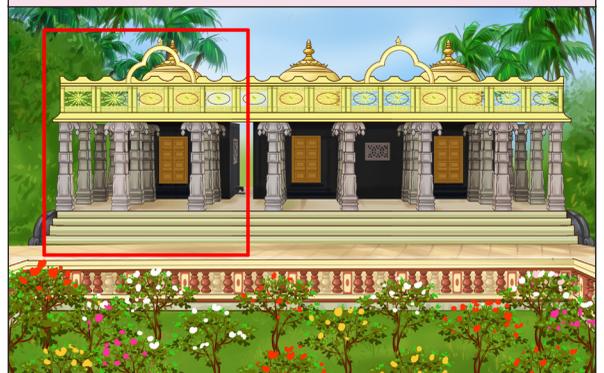
THE TOUR OF 2017 COVERED THE STATES OF KARNATAKA, TAMILNADU AND KERALA.

SEVERAL PRESIDENTS, PRIME MINISTERS, GOVERNORS, MINISTERS OF THE CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, LEADERS OF DIFFERENT SCHOOLS OF THOUGHTS AND FAITHS HAD HIS DARSHAN DURING HIS TOURS AS WELL AS WHEN THEY VISITED SRINGERI.

HIS HOLINESS'S PONTIFICAL YEARS HAVE BEEN PACKED WITH MANY GLORIOUS EVENTS. THE MATH'S PROJECTS IN SRINGERI AND ELSEWHERE HAVE BENEFITTED MANY.

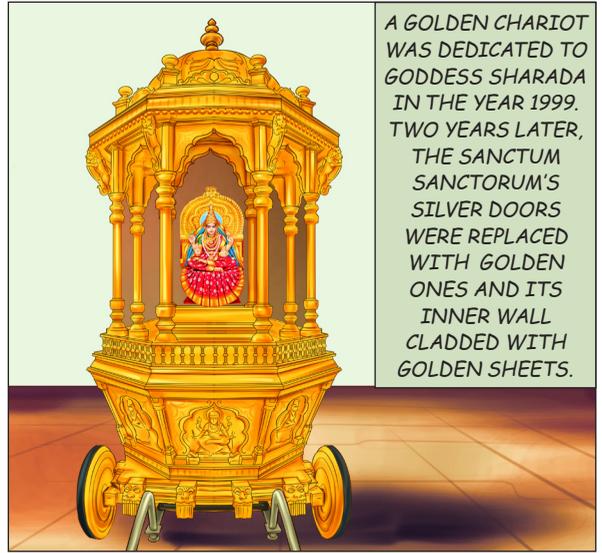
HE INAUGURATED IN 1990 AN IMPRESSIVE BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVER TUNGA. HE NAMED IT 'SRI VIDYATHEERTHA SETHU' IN HONOUR OF HIS TRULY MULTIFACETED GURU WHO HAD PLANNED IT AND OVERSEEN MUCH OF ITS CONSTRUCTION.

AS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO HIS GURU, HIS HOLINESS HAD A BEAUTIFUL ADHISHTHANA\* BUILT FOR HIM AT SRINGERI, ADJOINING THE SHRINES OF THE 33<sup>RD</sup> AND 34<sup>TH</sup> PONTIFFS. HE CONSECRATED IT IN 1993.



# TOURS; \* A SHRINE AT THE SACRED SPOT WHERE THE MORTAL REMAINS OF HIS GURU HAD BEEN INTERRED.

IN 1996, HIS HOLINESS INAUGURATED THE NEW VEDA-SHASTRA PATHASHALA\* BUILDING CONSTRUCTED ON THE PICTURESQUE KALABHAIRAVA HILL IN SRINGERI.



A GOLDEN CHARIOT WAS DEDICATED TO GODDESS SHARADA IN THE YEAR 1999. TWO YEARS LATER, THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM'S SILVER DOORS WERE REPLACED WITH GOLDEN ONES AND ITS INNER WALL CLADDED WITH GOLDEN SHEETS.

IN 1999, A MASSIVE DINING HALL WITH KITCHEN WAS INAUGURATED BY HIS HOLINESS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE MULTITUDE OF DEVOTEES VISITING SRINGERI. OVER 10000 SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE SENT FREE MID-DAY MEALS FROM THIS FACILITY.



SRI SHANKARA ADVAITA RESEARCH CENTRE WAS ESTABLISHED IN SRINGERI IN 2001. ITS ACTIVITIES INCLUDE THE PUBLICATION, AS DIRECTED BY HIS HOLINESS, OF BOOKS ON THE SHASTRAS. IT HOUSES A MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY.



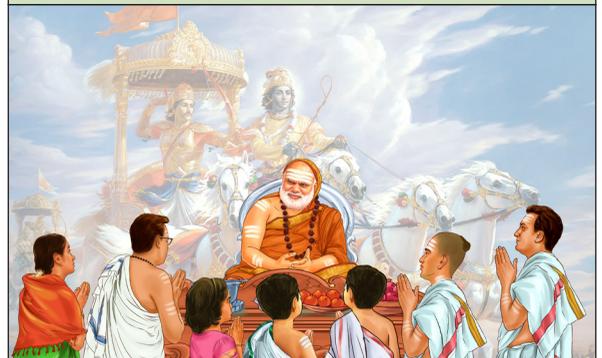
SRI SHANKARA ADVAITA RESEARCH CENTRE, SRINGERI

IN 2003, HIS HOLINESS INAUGURATED 'GURU NIVAS', WHICH SERVES AS HIS ABODE IN SRINGERI AND HAS A HUGE HALL WHEREIN DEVOTEES HAVE HIS DARSHAN AND WITNESS HIS CHANDRAMOULEESHVARA PUJA.



GURU NIVAS, SRINGERI

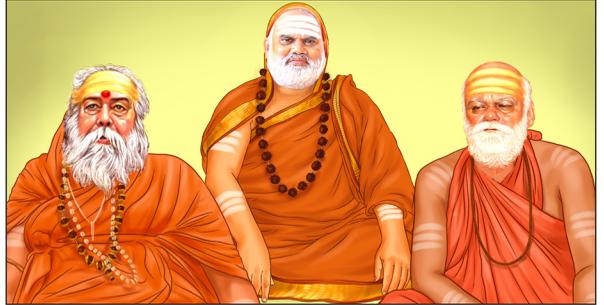
UNDER THE 'GITA JNANA YAJNA' SCHEME STARTED IN 2006 AS PER HIS DIRECTIVE, INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ABLE TO RECITE THE 18 CHAPTERS OF BHAGAVAD GITA FROM MEMORY ARE HONoured WITH A CERTIFICATE AND A CASH AWARD. HE BLESSES THE AWARDEES AND HAS PERSONALLY CONDUCTED THE FINAL ROUND OF THE EXAMINATION.



A SHRINE FOR BHAGAVAN VEDA VYASA AT NARASIMHAVANA IN SRINGERI WAS CONSECRATED BY HIS HOLINESS IN 2007.



A MEETING OF THE SHANKARACHARYAS REPRESENTING THE FOUR AMNAYA PEETHAMS - SRI BHARATHI THEERTHA MAHASWAMIJI OF THE SRINGERI SRI SHARADA PEETHAM, SRI SWARUPANANDA SARASWATHI MAHASWAMIJI OF THE DWARAKA AND BADRI PEETHAMS, AND SRI NISHCHALANANDA SARASWATHI MAHASWAMIJI OF THE PURI GOVARDHANA PEETHAM - WAS HELD IN SRINGERI AND AGAIN IN 2007 IN BENGALURU.



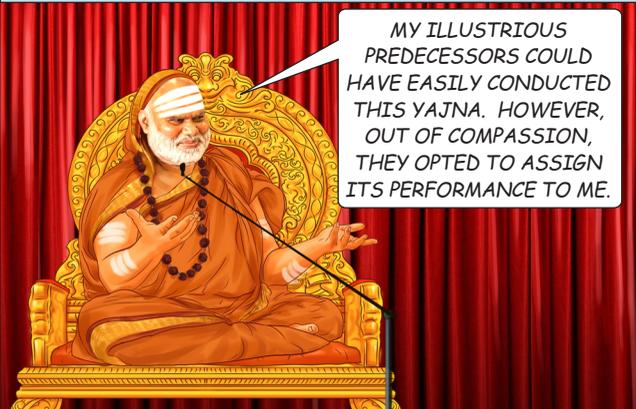
THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE REDISCOVERY OF THE BIRTHPLACE OF ADI SHANKARA BY THE 33<sup>RD</sup> PONTIFF WERE HELD IN KALADY IN 2010. THE TEMPLES THERE WERE RENOVATED AND CONSECRATED.



HIS HOLINESS HAD THE TEMPLE OF ADI SHANKARA IN SRINGERI CONVERTED INTO A MAGNIFICENT ONE AND CONSECRATED IT IN 2011.



IN 2011, A GRAND 'AYUTA CHANDI YAJNA'<sup>#</sup> WAS PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF SHARADA PEETHAM. WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF OVER 1,200 PRIESTS, DIVINE GRACE WAS INVOKED FOR THE WELFARE OF HUMANITY. AT THAT TIME, HIS HOLINESS HUMBLY SAID:



MY ILLUSTRIOUS PREDECESSORS COULD HAVE EASILY CONDUCTED THIS YAJNA. HOWEVER, OUT OF COMPASSION, THEY OPTED TO ASSIGN ITS PERFORMANCE TO ME.

RELEASED BY HIS HOLINESS IN 2014, THE INTERNET-BASED 'ADVAITA SHARADA' ALLOWS USERS TO READ/RESEARCH SRI ADI SHANKARA'S WORKS WITH THEIR GLOSSES. IT HAS HYPERLINKS AND REFERENCES AND ALLOWS FOR ANY WORD TO BE SEARCHED IN THE CORPUS OF TEXTS.



# A RELIGIOUS SACRIFICE INVOLVING THE RECITATION OF THE DURGA-SAPTASHATI MANTRAS OVER 10000 TIMES AND OFFERING OF OBLATIONS INTO THE SACRED FIRE.

A MAJESTIC RAJAGOPURA# WAS CONSTRUCTED AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE MATH AT SRINGERI AND ITS CONSECRATION WAS PERFORMED BY HIS HOLINESS IN 2014.

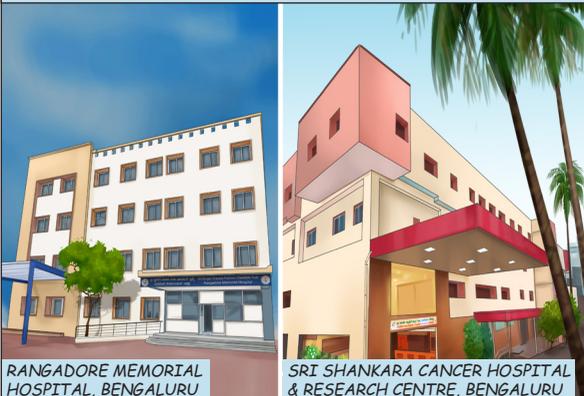


THREE LARGE GUEST-HOUSES - 'SRI SHARADA KRUPA', 'YATHRI NIVAS' AND 'BHARATHI THEERTHA KRUPA' - FOR PILGRIMS, 'TAPASVI KUTEERA' MEANT PRIMARILY FOR RENUNCIATES, AND A HOME FOR THE AGED WERE CONSTRUCTED IN SRINGERI AND INAUGURATED BY HIS HOLINESS.



BHARATHI THEERTHA KRUPA, SRINGERI

THE SHARADA DHANWANTARI CHARITABLE HOSPITAL FOUNDED AND DEVELOPED BY HIS GURU IS BEING NURTURED BY HIS HOLINESS. A CANCER HOSPITAL AND A MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL IN BENGALURU\* ARE SOME JOINT-VENTURE INITIATIVES OF THE MATH.



RANGADORE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BENGALURU

SRI SHANKARA CANCER HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE, BENGALURU

A BEAUTIFUL SHRINE WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR LORD THORANA GANAPATHI. IT WAS CONSECRATED BY HIS HOLINESS IN 2014.



EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH CENTRES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN SRINGERI, KALADY, BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, CHENNAI AND ELSEWHERE. FURTHER, MANY VEDA PATHASHALAS HAVE BEEN SET UP BY THE MATH.

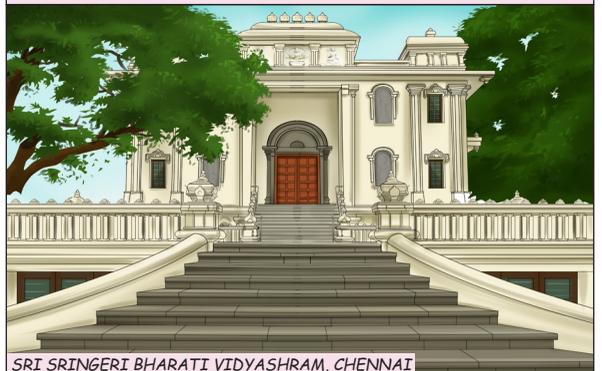


SRI SHARADA INSTITUTE OF INDIAN MANAGEMENT, NEW DELHI



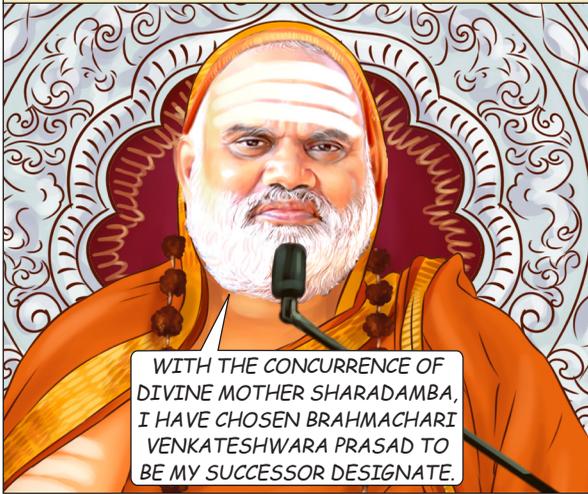
JNANODAYA SCHOOL, BENGALURU

NEW BRANCHES OF THE MATH AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN STARTED. DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN EXISTING BRANCHES. AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE USA AND IN CANADA AND SHRINES IN THEM CONSECRATED.

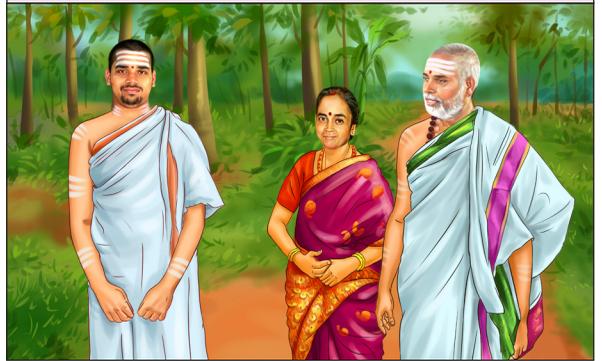


SRI SRINGERI BHARATI VIDYASHRAM, CHENNAI

ON 4TH JAN, 2015, HIS HOLINESS ANNOUNCED IN A PUBLIC DISCOURSE AT SRINGERI:



SRI VENKATESHWARA PRASAD WAS BORN ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 1993 TO A DEVOUT COUPLE, SRI KUPPA SHIVASUBRAHMANYA AVADHANI AND SMT. SEETHA NAGALAKSHMI. EVEN AT A YOUNG AGE, HE HAD FULLY LEARNT THE KRISHNA YAJUR VEDA AND THEN ITS PADA-PATHA\* AND KRAMA-PATHA\* UNDER HIS GRANDFATHER AND FATHER.

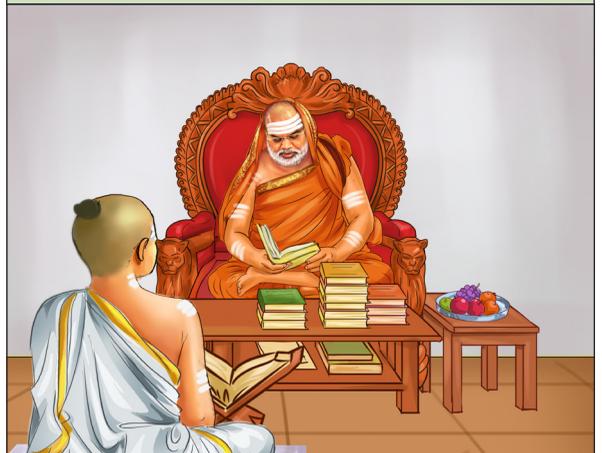


HE HAD THE DARSHAN OF HIS HOLINESS IN SRINGERI IN THE YEAR 2006 AND IT HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HIM. DURING A SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO SRINGERI IN 2009, HE ENTREATED HIS HOLINESS:

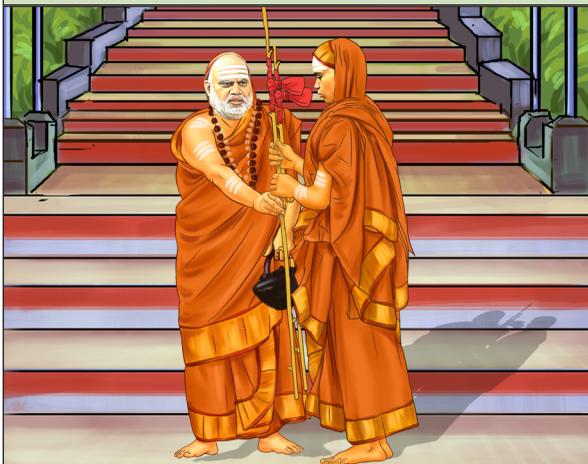


IT WAS A CASE OF HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF.

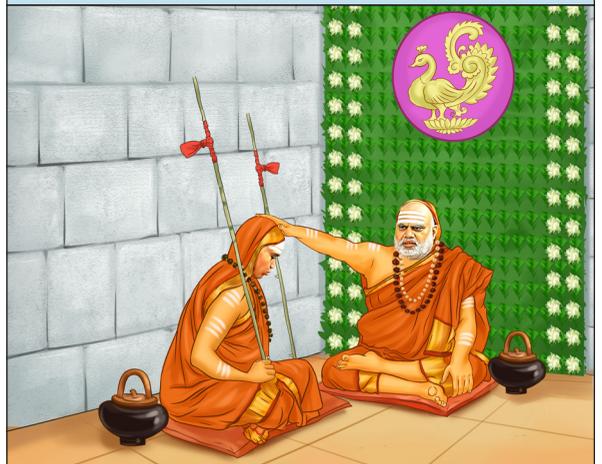
HIS HOLINESS COMMITEDLY AND METHODOLOGICALLY TAUGHT THE NYAYA AND THE VEDANTA SHASTRA TO HIS DISCIPLE.



PLEASED WITH HIS DEVOTION AND DISPASSION, HIS HOLINESS INITIATED THE BRAHMACHARI INTO SAMNYASA ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2015.

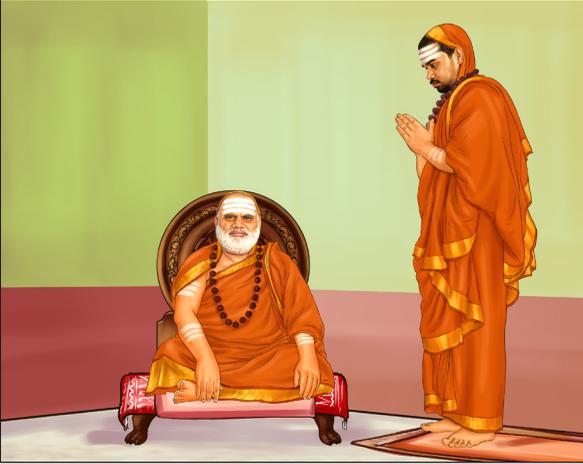


HIS HOLINESS INITIATED HIM INTO THE PRANAVA MANTRA AND THE MAHAVAKYAS. HE WAS GIVEN THE MONASTIC NAME VIDHUSHEKHARA BHARATHI.



# TWO TRADITIONAL, PROGRESSIVE MODES OF VEDIC RECITATION.

HIS HOLINESS COMPLETED TEACHING THE NYAYA AND VEDANTA SHASTRA IN DEPTH TO HIS PERSPICACIOUS, DEVOTED DISCIPLE.



THE GOLDEN TOWER INSTALLED ABOVE THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM OF THE SHARADAMBA TEMPLE WAS CONSECRATED BY HIS HOLINESS IN FEBRUARY 2017.



THE BIRTH CENTENARY OF JAGADGURU SRI ABHINAVA VIDYATHEERTHA MAHASWAMIJI WAS CELEBRATED ON 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017.



CONTINUING THE UNBROKEN LINE OF PEERLESS PRECEPTORS FROM SRI ADI SHANKARA TO HIS DIVINE GURU, HIS HOLINESS JAGADGURU SRI BHARATHI THEERTHA MAHASWAMIJI, AN INSPIRING SAINT WITH INTENSE DISPASSION, IMPECCABLE CHARACTER, MATCHLESS SCHOLARLINESS AND FIRM TRADITIONALITY, HAS BEEN ADORNING THE SRINGERI SRI SHARADA PEETHAM AS ITS 36<sup>TH</sup> SHANKARACHARYA AND SHOWERING HIS CHOICEST BLESSINGS ON THE MULTITUDE OF HIS DEVOTEES.

HIS HOLINESS HUMBLY SAID THIS IN A DISCOURSE:

AFTER GIVING ME MANTROPADESHA#, MY GURU BLESSED ME THAT THE MATH WILL PROSPER IN MANY WAYS DURING MY TIME. THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE MATH ARE SOLELY DUE TO HIS BLESSINGS.

