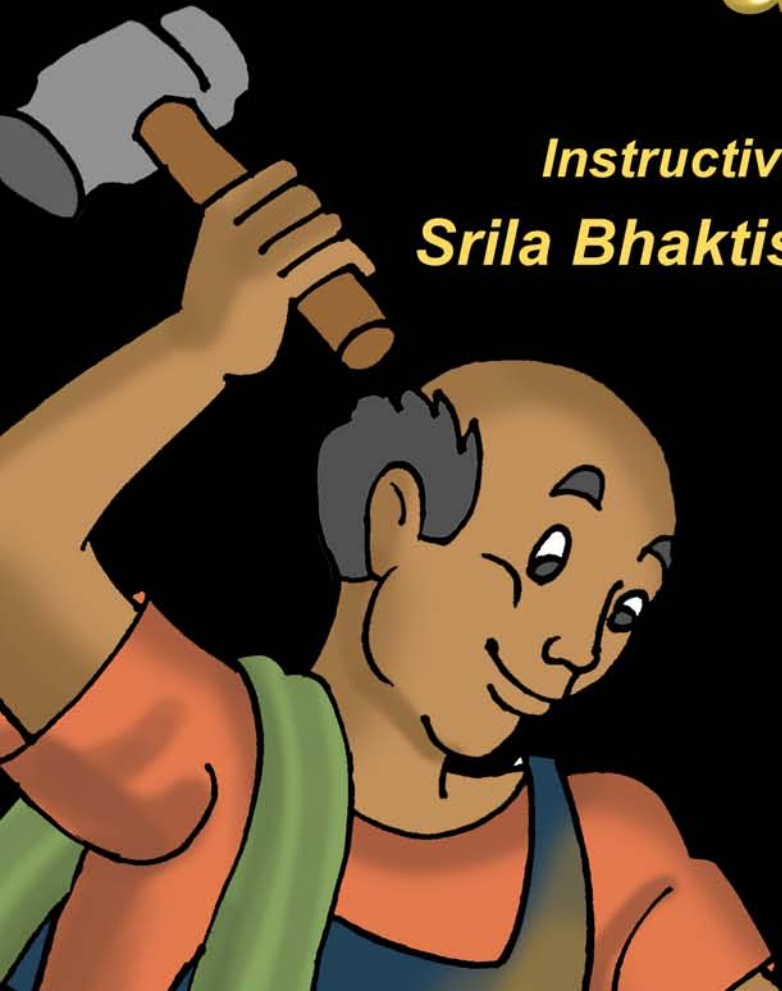


# The Blacksmith and the Potter

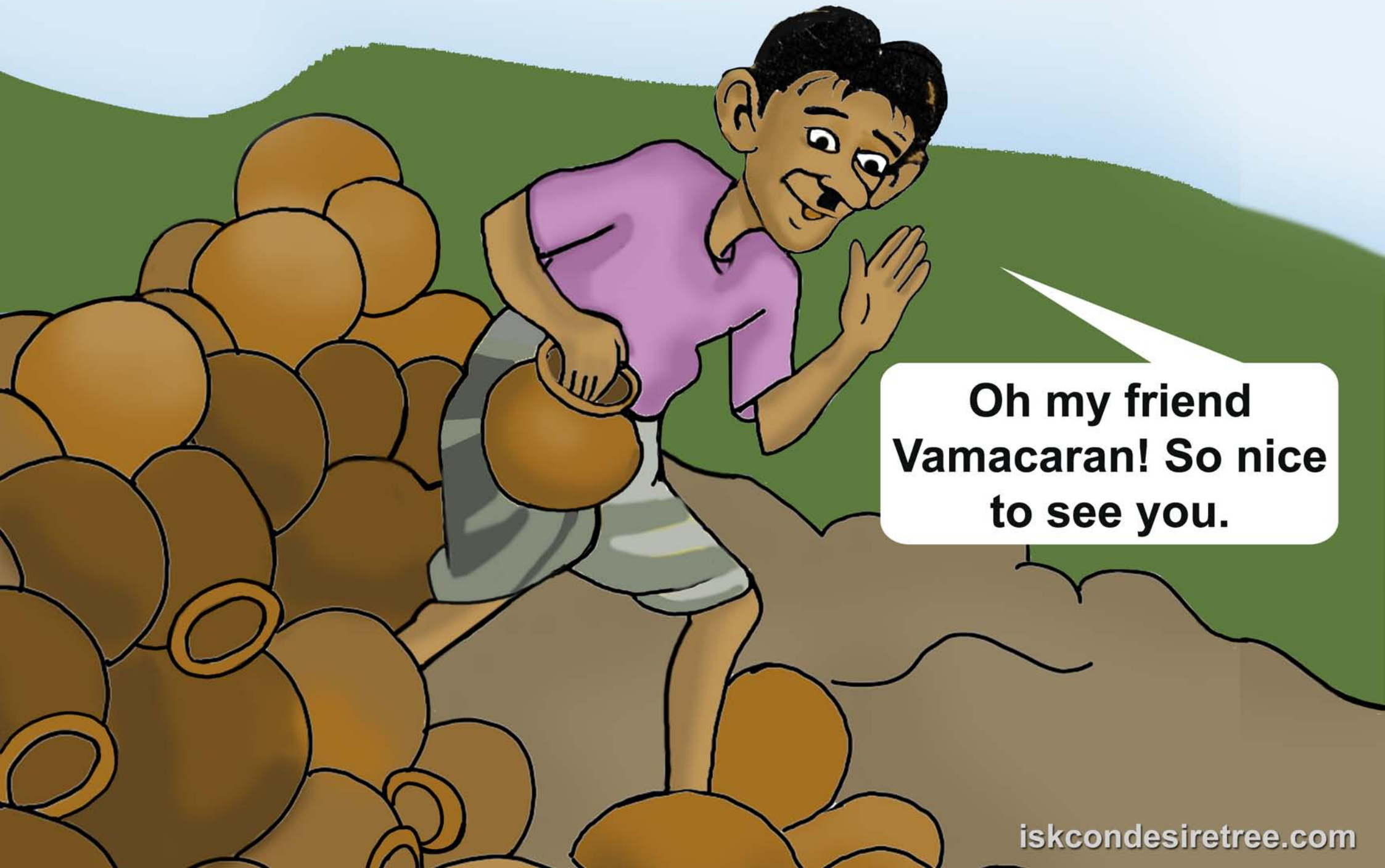
*Instructive Stories from the teachings of  
Srla Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakur*



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



**Once he went to visit his potter friend in Haripur.**

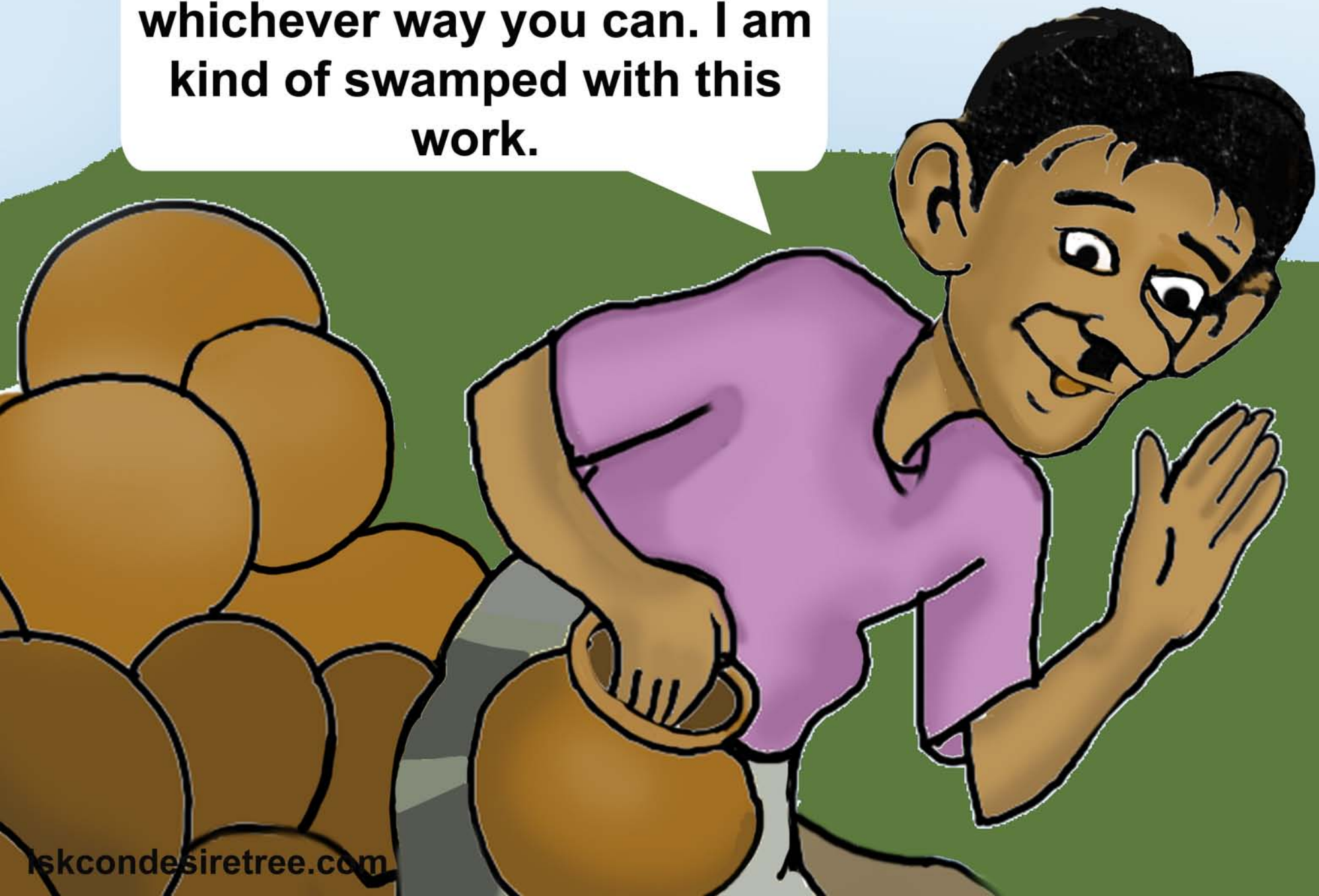


**Oh my friend  
Vamacaran! So nice  
to see you.**

**You seem to be very busy with lots of orders. Let me help you with your work. This way we can finish all the work faster and then spend time together.**



**Ah, so nice of you,  
my friend! Please help me  
whichever way you can. I am  
kind of swamped with this  
work.**



The blacksmith observed the potter working with hammer.





**Let me help my friend  
finish the order faster.**

*He thought.....*

**I can give  
better shape to these pots  
using my expertise. This  
will make my friend happy,  
too!**





Vamacaran began hammering the pots to improve their shape.



While he was trying to help his friend, Vamacaran ended up breaking all the pots.



## ***PURPORT:***

**The manner in which a blacksmith hammers iron is different from the technique which a potter uses to model clay. Although both blacksmith and potter use hammer, their techniques are quite different. A materialistic worker usually develops a conception that the devotional service offered by a devotee for the satisfaction of the Lord is akin to sense - gratification material activities and as such they all belong to the same category.**

**In reality, the process and the objective of devotional activities is different from those of material activities. So - called dispassionate material activities carry no intrinsic value unless they are favourable for the satisfactory devotional service to the Lord. While impersonalist worship five elements without any feeling of surrender to God, pure devotees make God the center of their existence, and therefore, do everything to please the Supreme Lord.**