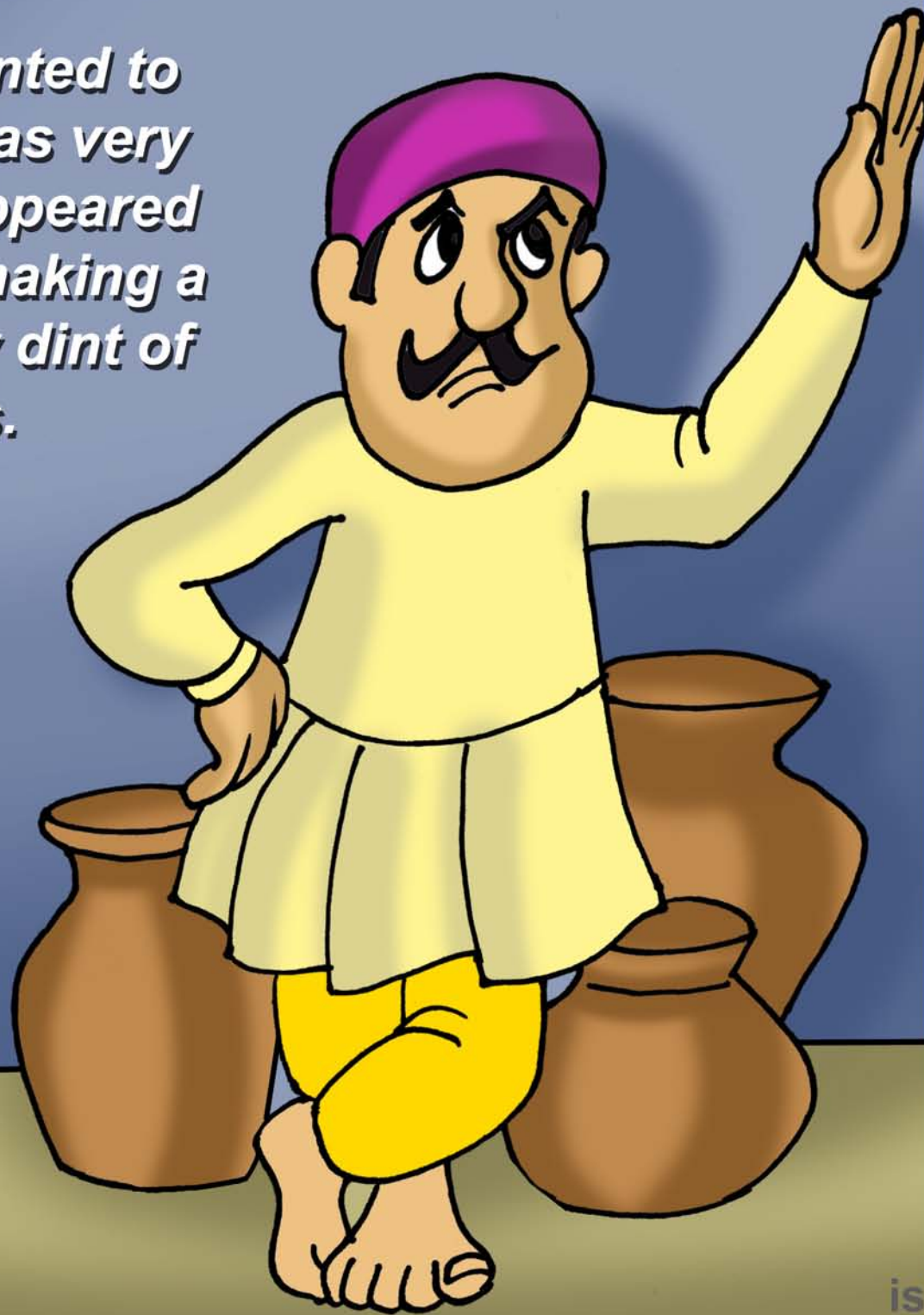


Cheating Blacksmith with Inferior Steel



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

A tradesman wanted to present himself as very intelligent. He appeared to be expert in making a fool of others by dint of his cunningness.




Once he managed to get some coconuts from a vendor through his usual cunningness. Then he wanted a sharp chopper to break them open



Eventually he found a very old and rusty iron in the corner of his room. Taking it to a blacksmith,

**I can reshape this
chopper through a
blacksmith and
make it first class
again**





**Let me
play a game
with him!**

**Oh Sir, I can
make a very
good chopper
for you, if you
give me good
quality steel.**



I am a steel merchant and I have some good quality steel in my stock. Could you forge a chopper for me with that steel



What about the cost of making the chopper ?

You may keep the leftover steel as the labour charge. I assure you that nowhere you can find such excellent steel.

After delivering such artful language, the tradesman in fact sent a condemned third-rate sheet of iron through his son to the blacksmith.



Oh! This is an ordinary piece of iron !

***This steel is
third class and it is
nothing but a piece
of useless iron. Let
me make the chopper
with this steel only.***



The Chopper was made but was ineffective and practically useless.

**Hey!
What have you
done?**

**Cheating
a Blacksmith with
Inferior Steel can only
bring out such a
chopper**

PURPORT

Those who make any attempt to deceive their spiritual master and the Vaishnavas in rendering devotional service will certainly come to an end with something spurious.

Any attempt of deception in the field of devotional service is simple self-deception. It pulls one down into the clutches of illusionary energy, without any benefit. Some people with ulterior motives think that others who have surrendered everything to the Lord are only deceived; and those who are continuing to play the double roles of both devotional service as well as self gratification actually gain more.

In fact, such a double gain is surely tantamount to deceiving a blacksmith by supplying him with an inferior quality of iron while asking him to prepare a good quality steel chopper. No one can ever deceive the Supreme Personality of

Godhead. It is never possible to conquer the domain of the Lord by any sort of deception and quackery. Only one who has candidly surrendered everything unto the lotus feet of the Lord is eligible for achieving all good.