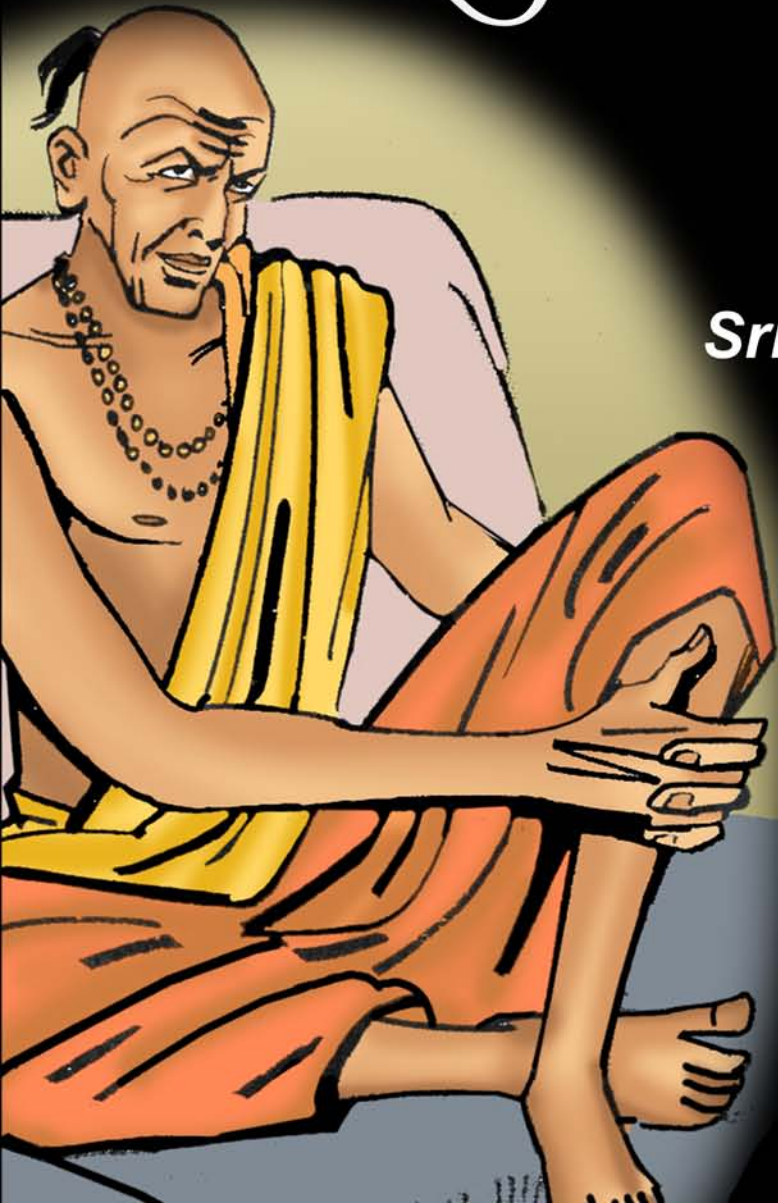
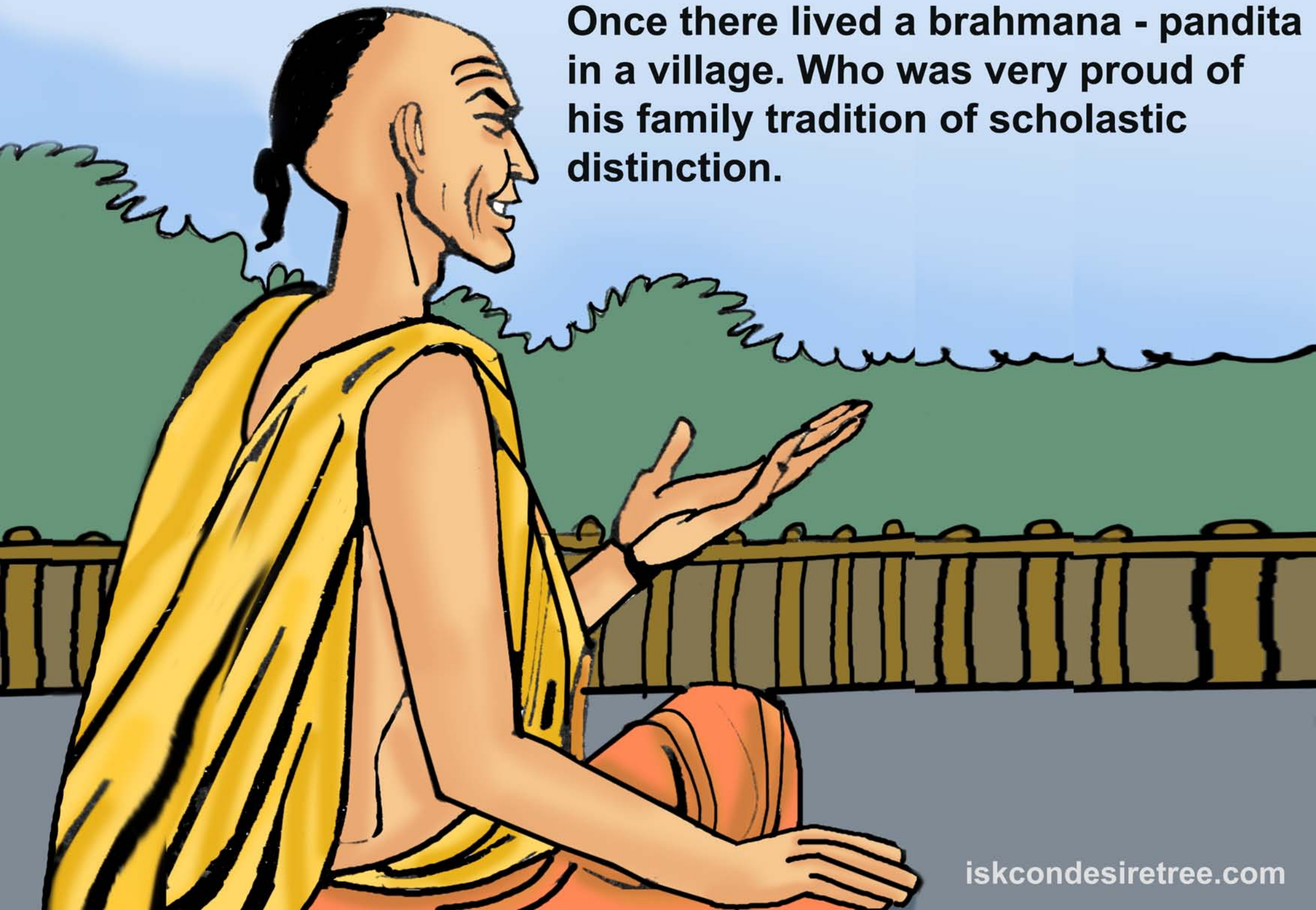


“Kastvam”, “Kastvam”



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

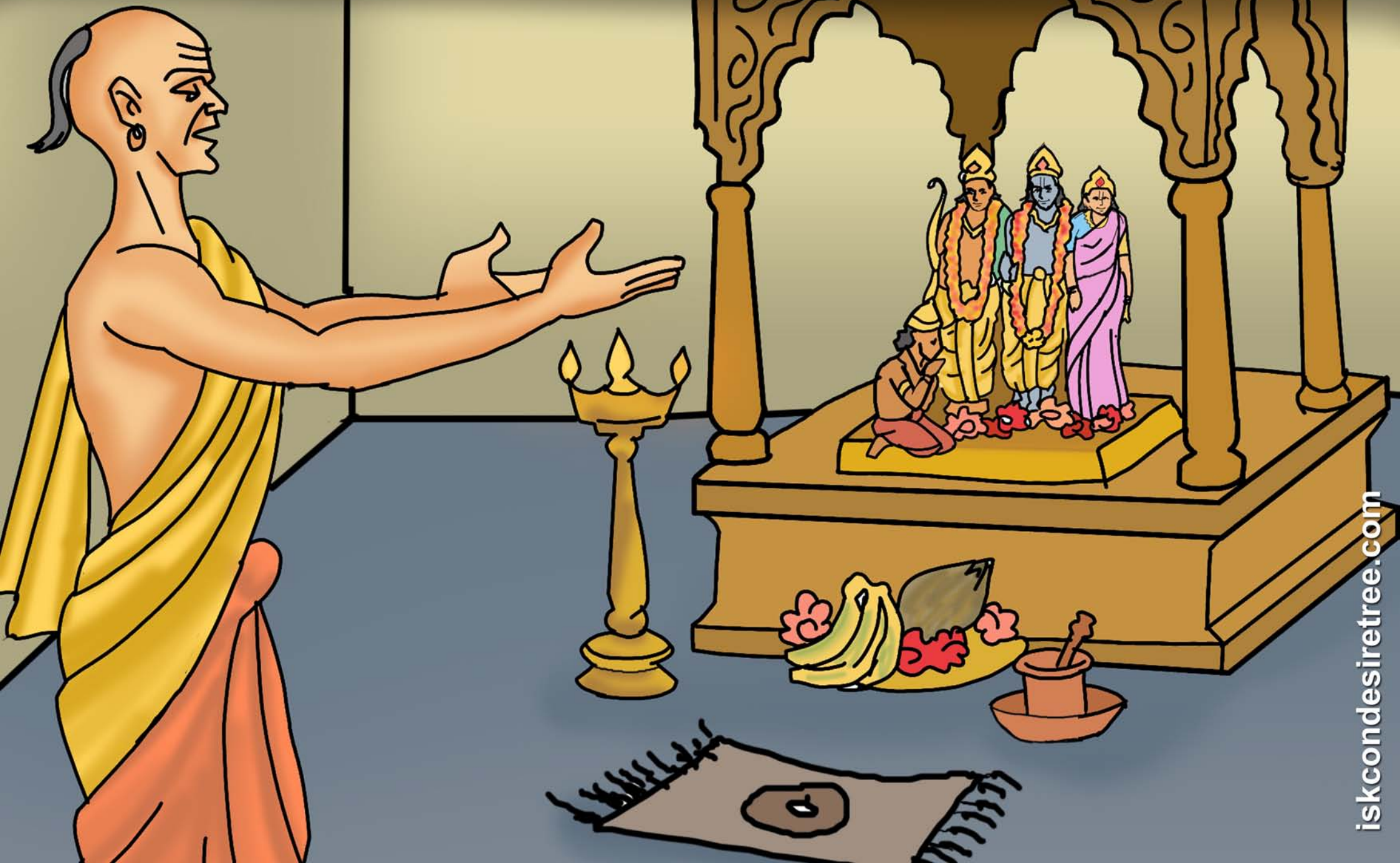
Once there lived a brahmana - pandita in a village. Who was very proud of his family tradition of scholastic distinction.





In course of time, however, successors of that family became so averse to academic pursuits that they used to while away their time in playing cards, dice, chess etc.

To earn their living they would go to householders to worship their deities by chanting inaccurate mantras.





Scholarly persons like us are very rare in this world, because our bloodstream carried the heritage of culture and the expertise of many ancient panditas.

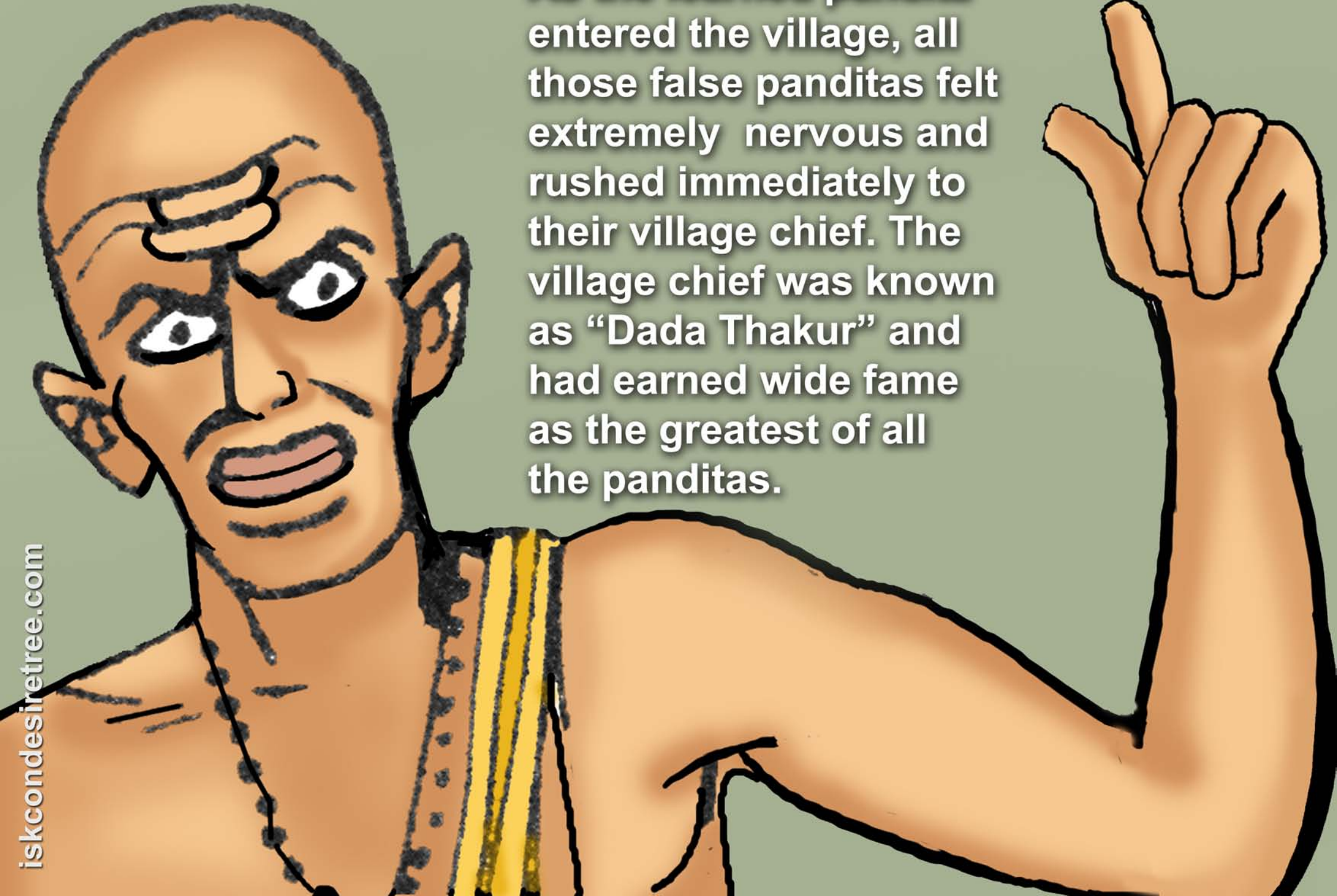


One of the virtuous local people, who was determined champion of truth, once decided to invite a truly erudite personality to his village with a view to smash the vain attitude of those so called panditas.

***What shall we
do to overcome this type
of adverse situation?***

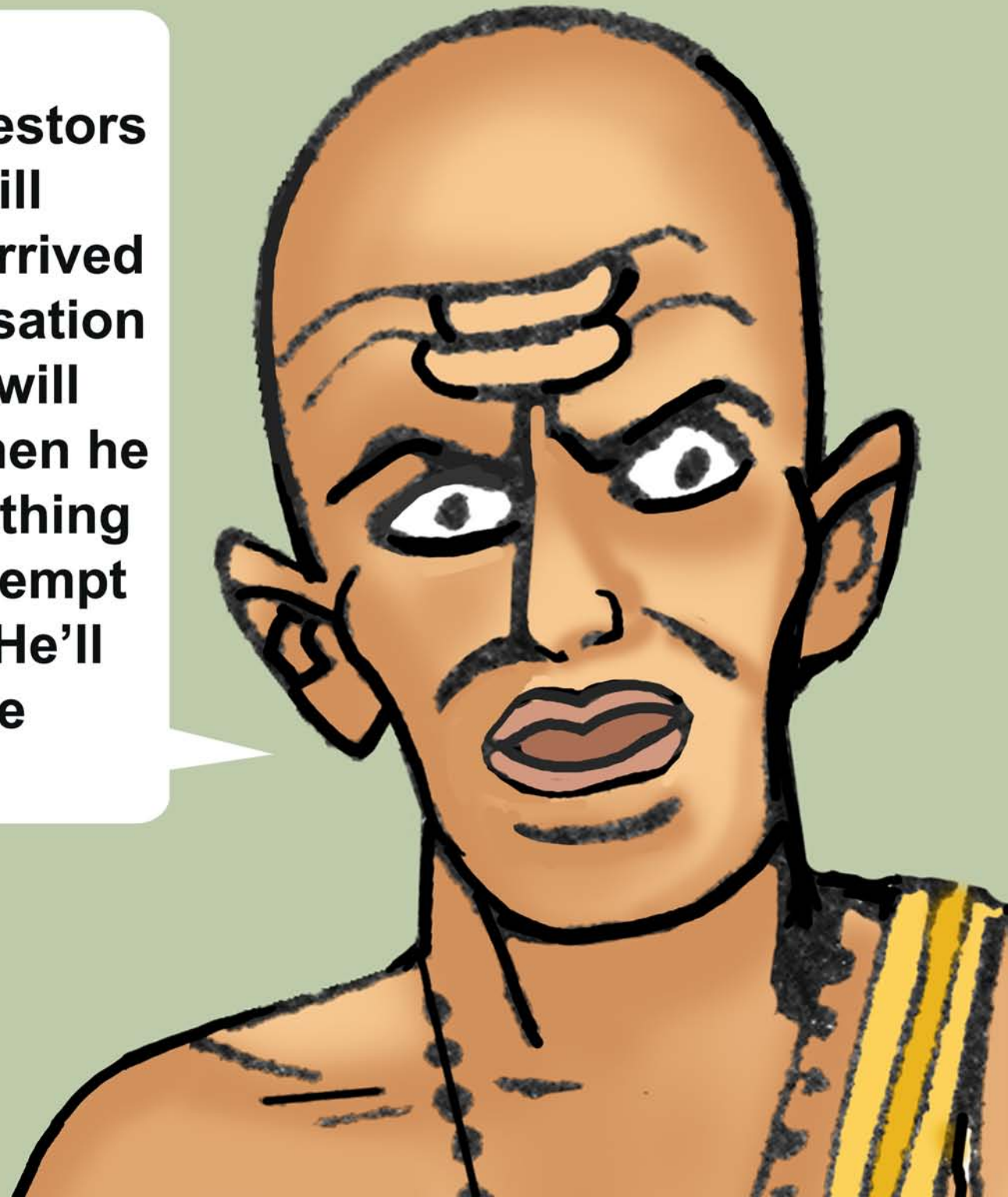


As the learned pandita entered the village, all those false panditas felt extremely nervous and rushed immediately to their village chief. The village chief was known as “Dada Thakur” and had earned wide fame as the greatest of all the panditas.

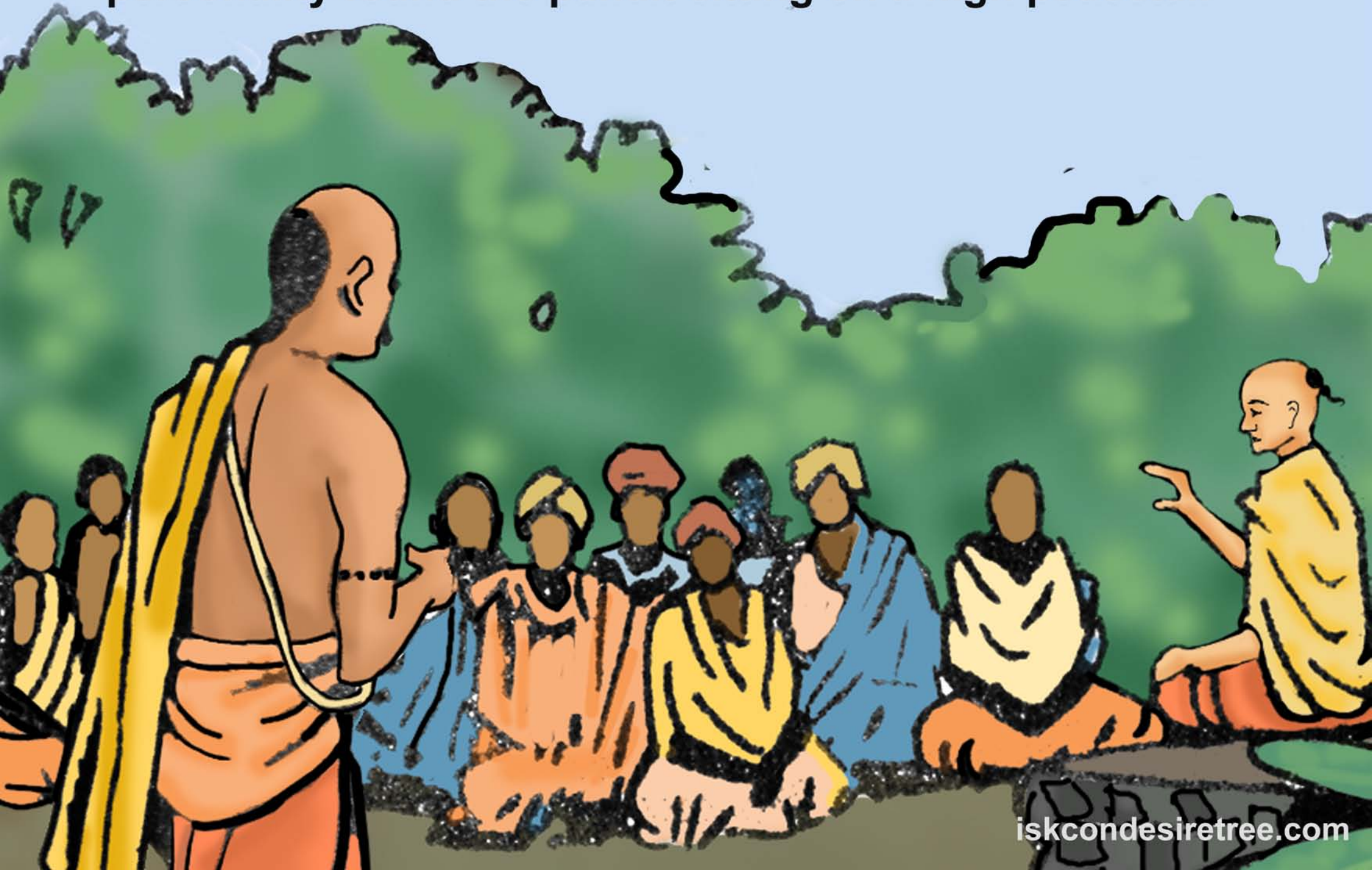


Don't worry.

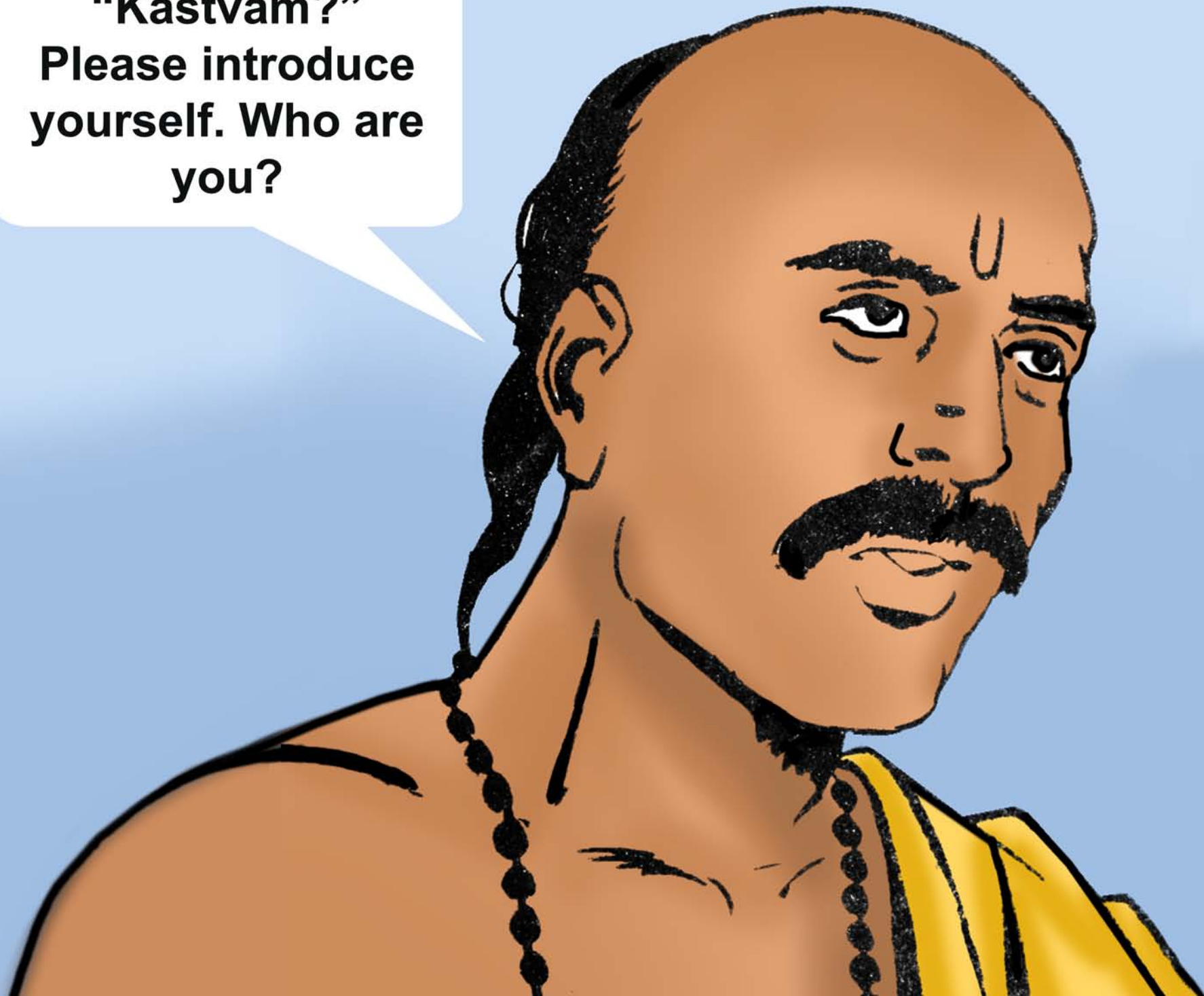
With the heritage of our ancestors running in my blood, I will certainly defeat this newly-arrived pandita. I will have a conversation with him in Sanskrit; this will certainly make him silent. Then he won't be able to assess anything else or make any further attempt to criticize us in any way. He'll have to leave this village in disgrace.



Upon his arrival in the courtyard for the debate, the learned personality found the pandit sitting on a high pedestal.



“Kastvam?”
Please introduce
yourself. Who are
you?



**Khastvam,,
gastvam, ghashtvam, castvam,
chastvam, jastvam, jhashtvam,
nastvam, nhashtvam, tastvam,
thastvam, dastvam, dhashtvam...,
ksastvam!**





***I feel that it is
of no use to continue any
more dialogue with this
type of pandit. As soon as
possible I should leave
this place which will be
better for my dignity. Let
me offer my obeisances
from a distance and go
away from this place.***

***Just see! Our Dada Thakur is such a great pandita!
That learned fellow couldn't even open his mouth in front
of him! There must be hardly anyone in this world who could
talk to our Dada Thakur in Sanskrit! How fluently
he can speak in Sanskrit!***



Purport :

Boasting about their traditional family heritage of brahminical erudition and successive association with Lord Vishnu, Vaishnavas, saintly persons and scholars of eminence, some people speculate that there must have been an acute dearth of real Vaishnavas of the regular line of heredity, completely surrendered unto the Supreme Lord through performance of perfect devotional service. Mad with such material vanity, these people audaciously have a challenging attitude towards pure Vaishnavite injunctions and maxims with the help of their abecedarian pedantry.

Whenever they are confronted with a question from a true Vaisnava, “*Kastvam?*” or “Who are you?”, “What is your true constitutional position?” - then such

persons with their materialistic vanity and gross intelligence, considering their bodies as their selves, pretend to conquer the Vaisnavas by throwing out a materialistically - oriented pedantic reply based on their mundane knowledge and unfounded speculations. These sorts of pedantic deliberations sound simply delirious.

In response to the question, “Kastvam?” - “Who are you?”, a real scholar should say, “gopibhartuh padakamalayor dasadasanudasa” or “I am the servant of the servant of the servants at the lotus feet of the Lord Sri Krsna, Lord of the Gopis.”