



A Handful of Mustard Seeds

Once there was a young woman by the name of Kisa Gautami. Her only son, an infant died suddenly.



she went to Buddha and cried.





**My only child
is dead. Have pity on
me and bring him back
to life.**



Buddha replied,

**Daughter, i will do
so if you bring me a handful
of mustard seeds from a
household where no one
has died.**



The woman exclaimed,


if that brings
my child back to life, i will
do as you say.



Determined, Kisa Gautami began her search and approached different houses asking for mustard seeds.



She went house to house and begged.



Please give me a handful of mustard seeds, but only if no one has died at your house.

Wherever she went people replied,

We could give you
mustard seeds, but in the
past a death has happened
in our house.



Dejected, she continued her search.



No no.
Then I don't
want it.

She went house to house but could not find a single house where someone had not died.



Everyone was ready to give her a handful of mustard seeds, but when she posed the condition, they were taken aback and were unable to help her.

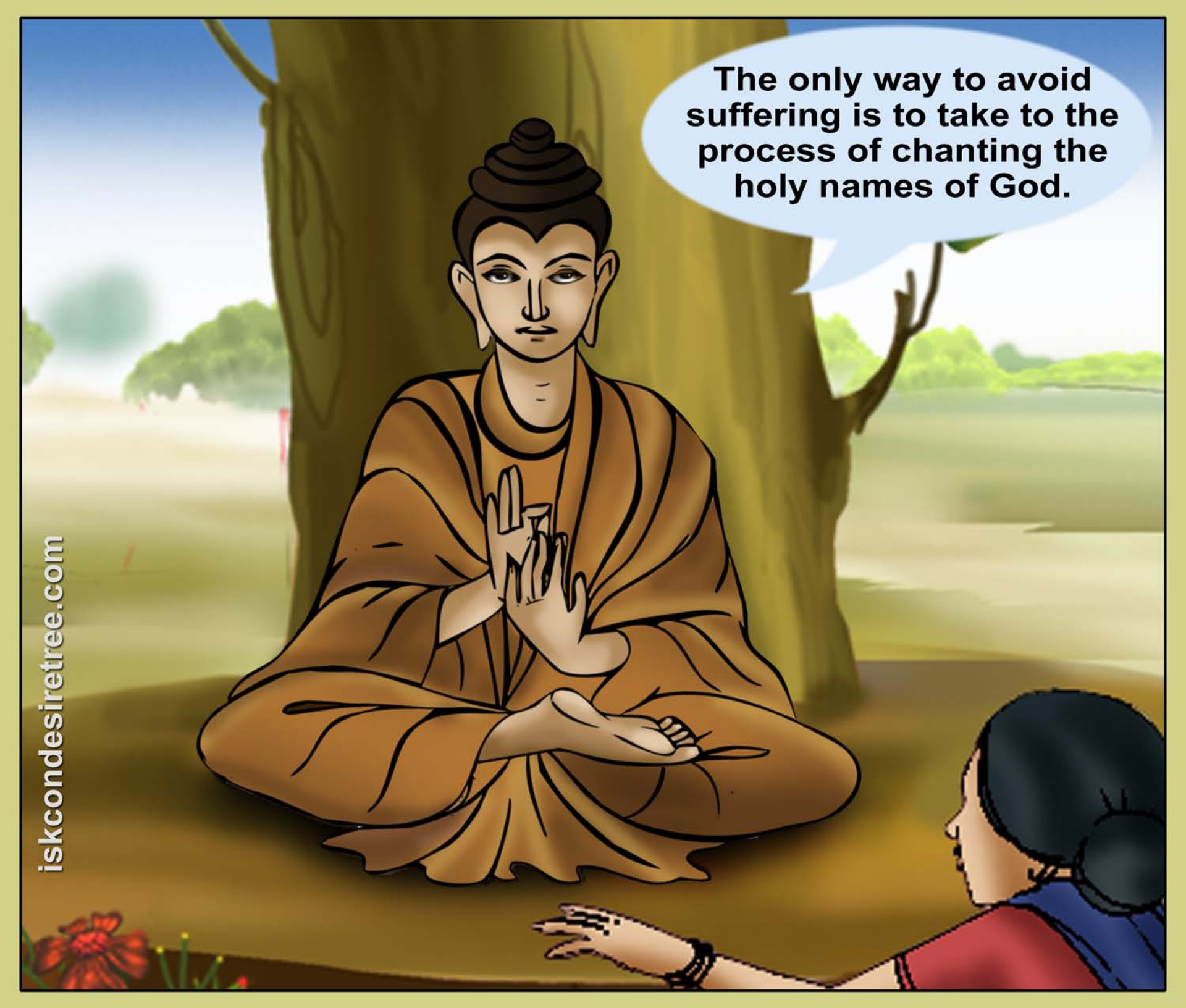
Kisa Gautami understood why Buddha had sent her on such a mission. Her sorrow was lightened. She went back and told him what everyone had said to her.



Buddha replied,

**My daughter,
nothing in this world is
permanent. Everything is instable
and is subject to change, decay
and death. This causes sorrow
and suffering.**





The only way to avoid suffering is to take to the process of chanting the holy names of God.

MORAL:

Everything in this world is subject to change, decay and death. Change, Decay and Death cause Sorrow and suffering. The only way to avoid them is to take to the process of Krishna Consciousness and chant the holy names of Krishna.