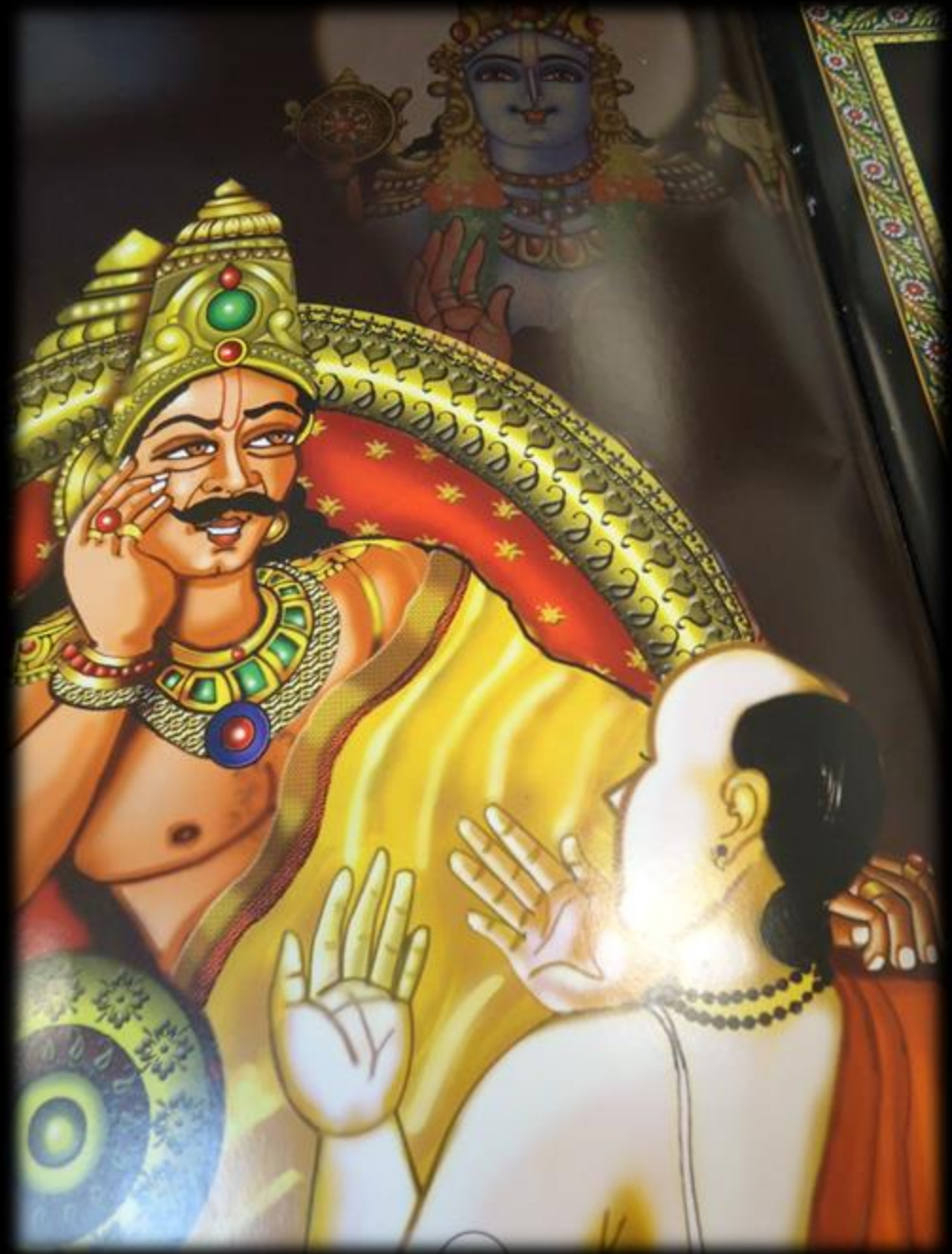
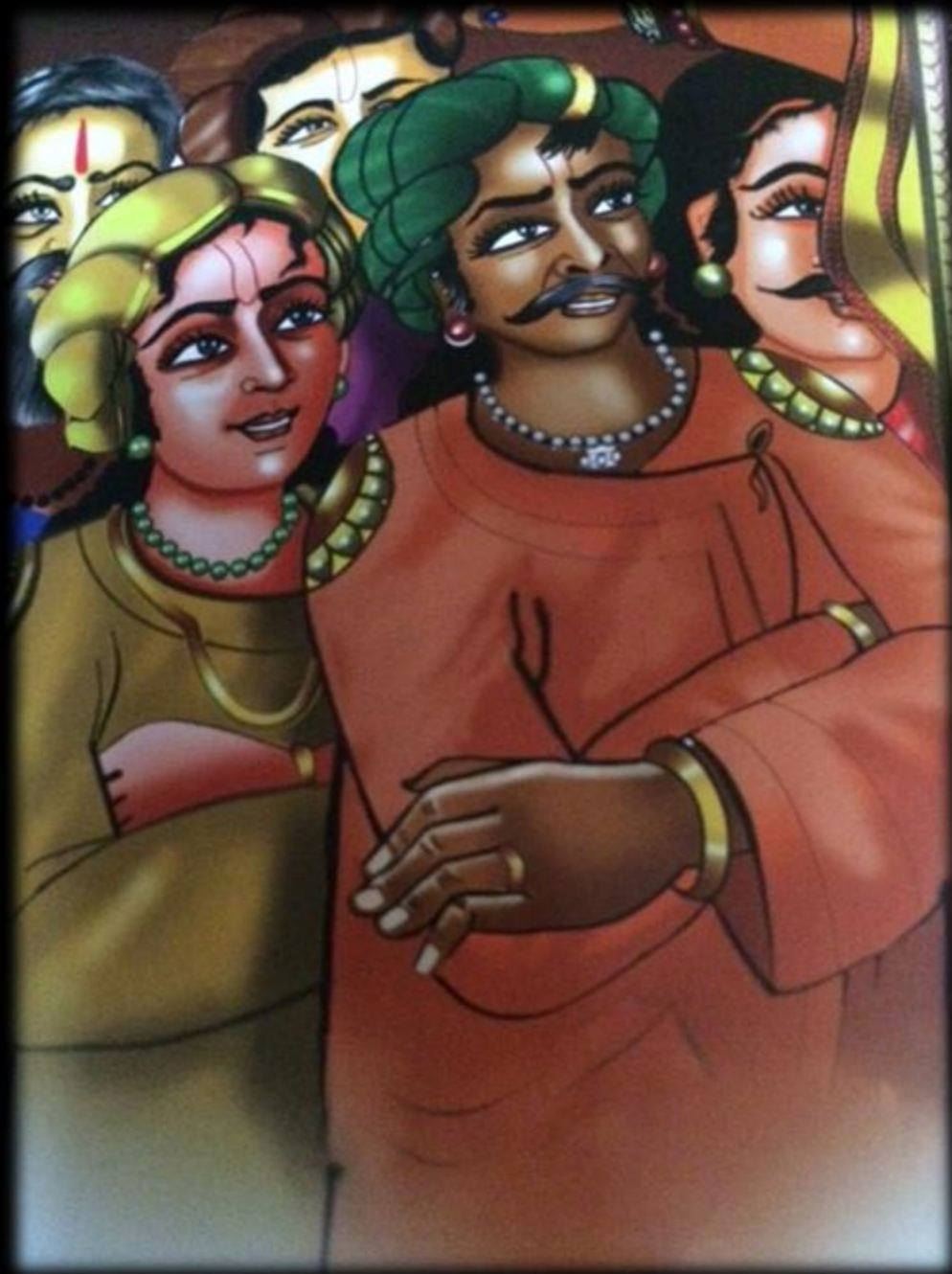


A long time ago, there lived a King called Indradyumna. He was a great devotee of Lord Krishna and always wanted to see the Lord. Once Brahmin visited him and told him about a very holy place called Purushottam Kshetra. In this sacred, special place, a beautiful form of Lord Krishna was worshipped.





Hearing this the King  
was elated.  
Immediately, he  
summoned his best  
men. Among them was  
a simple, humble  
brahmin called  
Vidyapathi. This  
bhrahmin was assigned  
the duty to explore this  
special place and find  
the deity called  
Nilamadava.

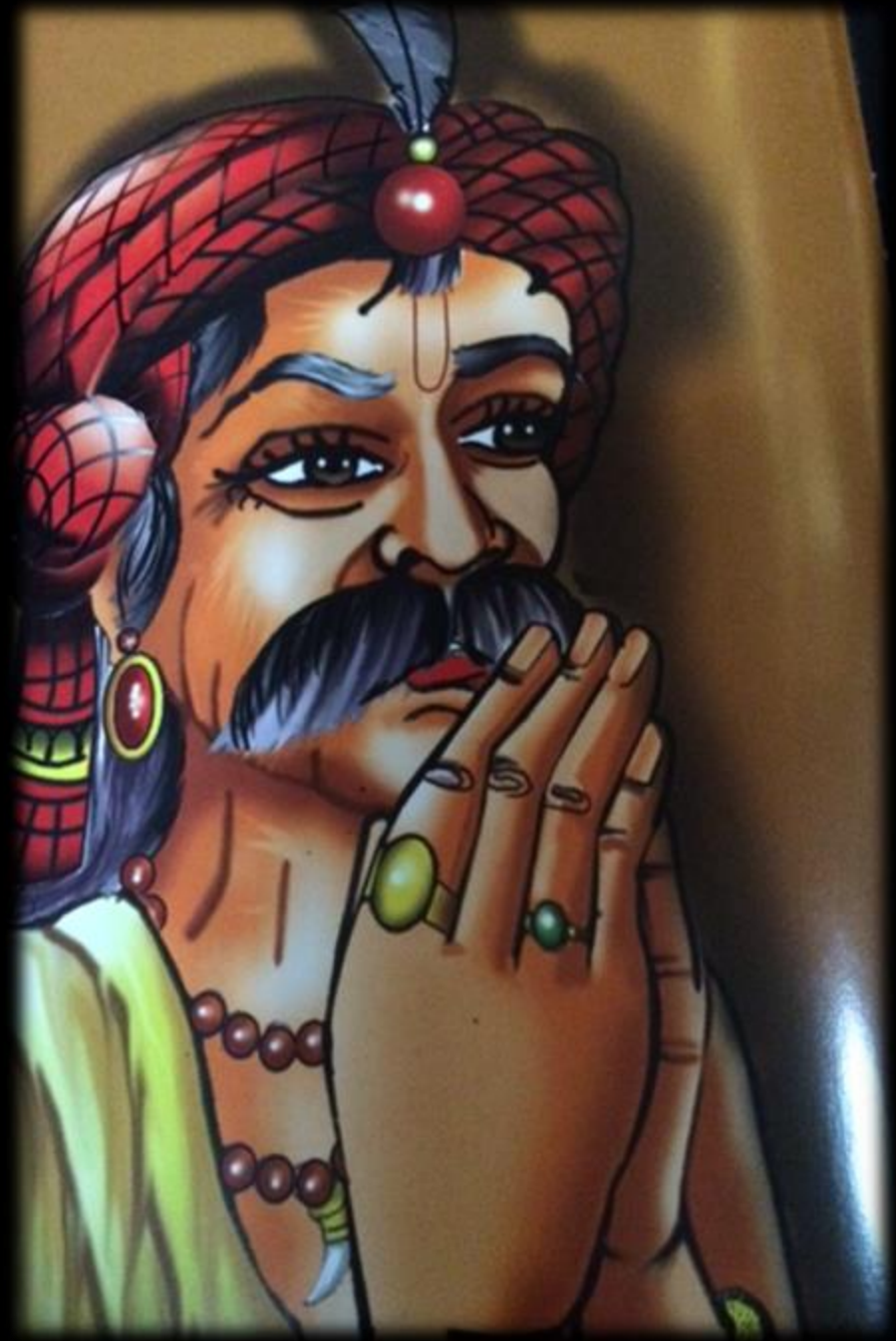




Vidyapati was extremely excited and delighted. He was so lost in devotion and the thoughts of Nilamadhav, that he never felt hungry and thirsty all throughout the long journey.

After days of travelling, Vidyapati met a village chief named Viswabasu. Viswabasu was returning home after worshipping Nilamadhav. His body was giving off a sweet fragrance and shone with blissful peace.

After a pleasant conversations, Viswabasu invited Vidyapati home to offer him some prasham. However, Vidyapati was reluctant to accept anything until he saw the divine form of Lord Nilamadhava.





At first, Viswabasu was quite hesitant to show Vidyapati, but eventually he agreed. He led Vidyapati into a deep dark forest towards the top of a mountain. After a long night's walk, they reached Nilachal dham in the morning.





Seeing the enchanting deity of Nilamadhav,  
Vidyapati rushed towards it in ecstasy.

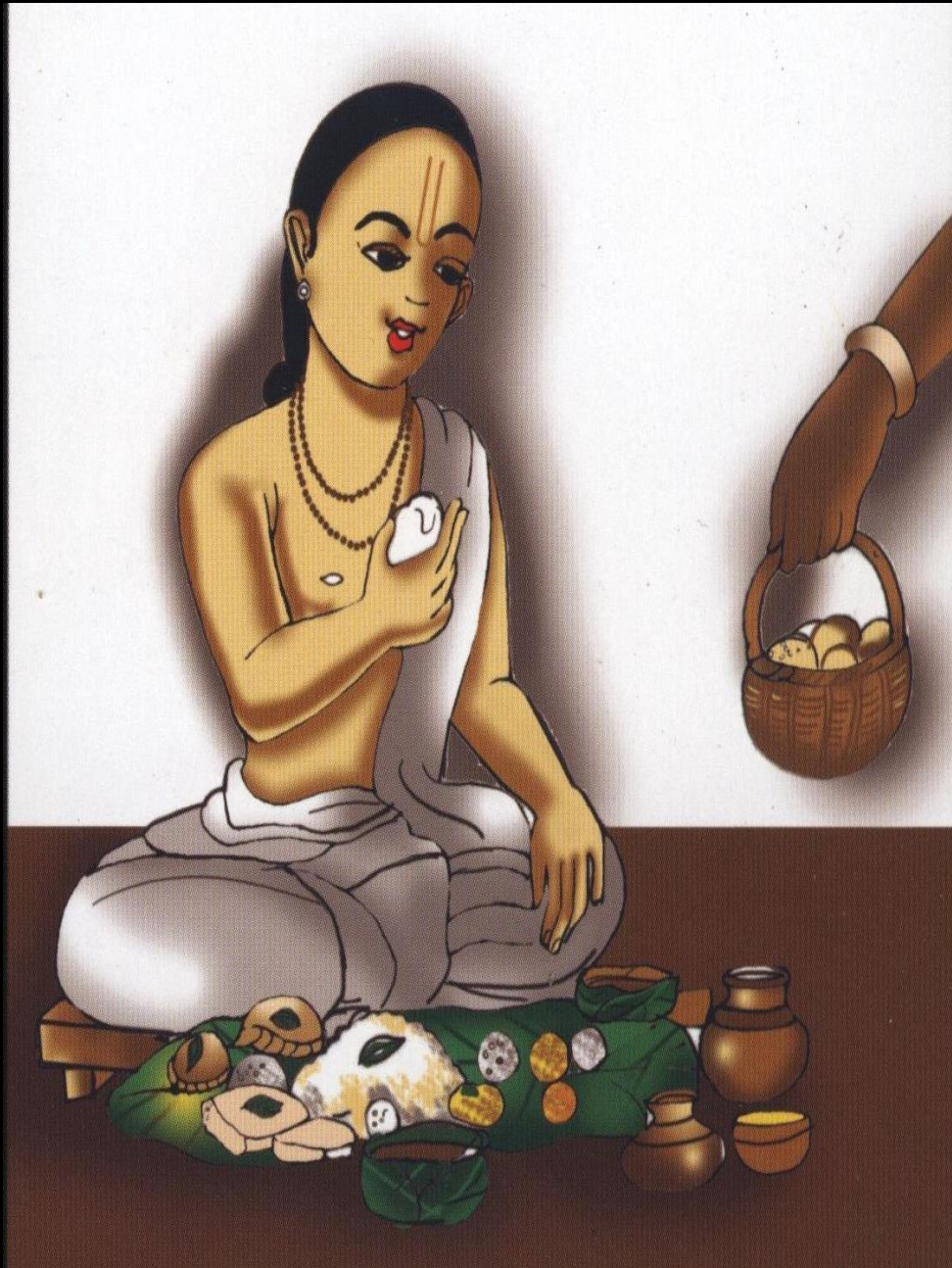


Viswabasu  
prayed for  
his mercy  
and was  
thankful to  
be  
fortunate  
to have his  
darshan.



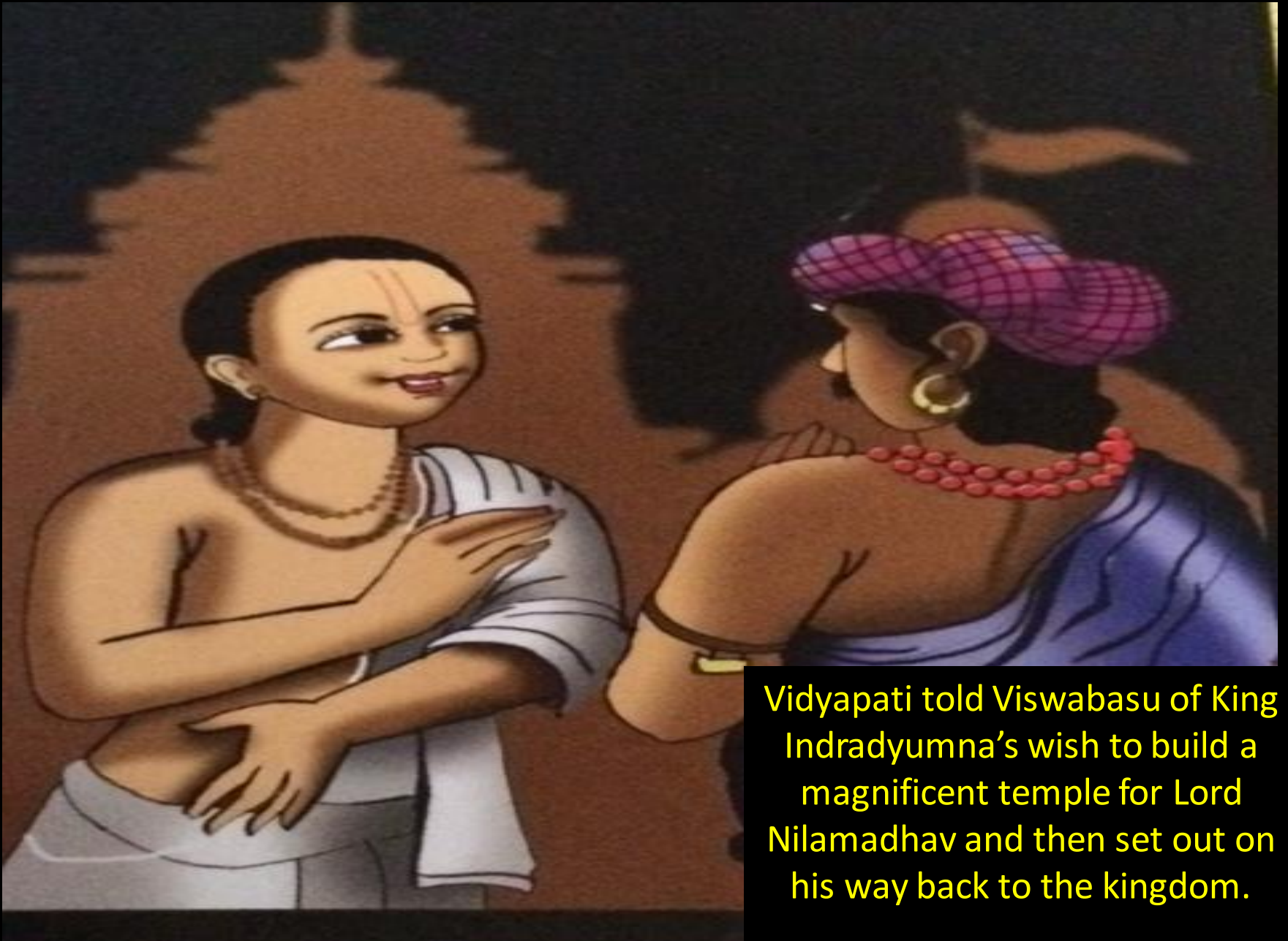
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Later, they returned to the home of Viswabasu. Vidypati was respectfully offered many varieties of prashad. He was very surprised to see the many exotic dishes and asked to find out where it all came from. Viswabasu explained patiently that the prashad was offered by the demifods to Lord Nilamadhav who visited Nilachal dham everyday.





Vidyapati told Viswabasu of King Indradyumna's wish to build a magnificent temple for Lord Nilamadhav and then set out on his way back to the kingdom.

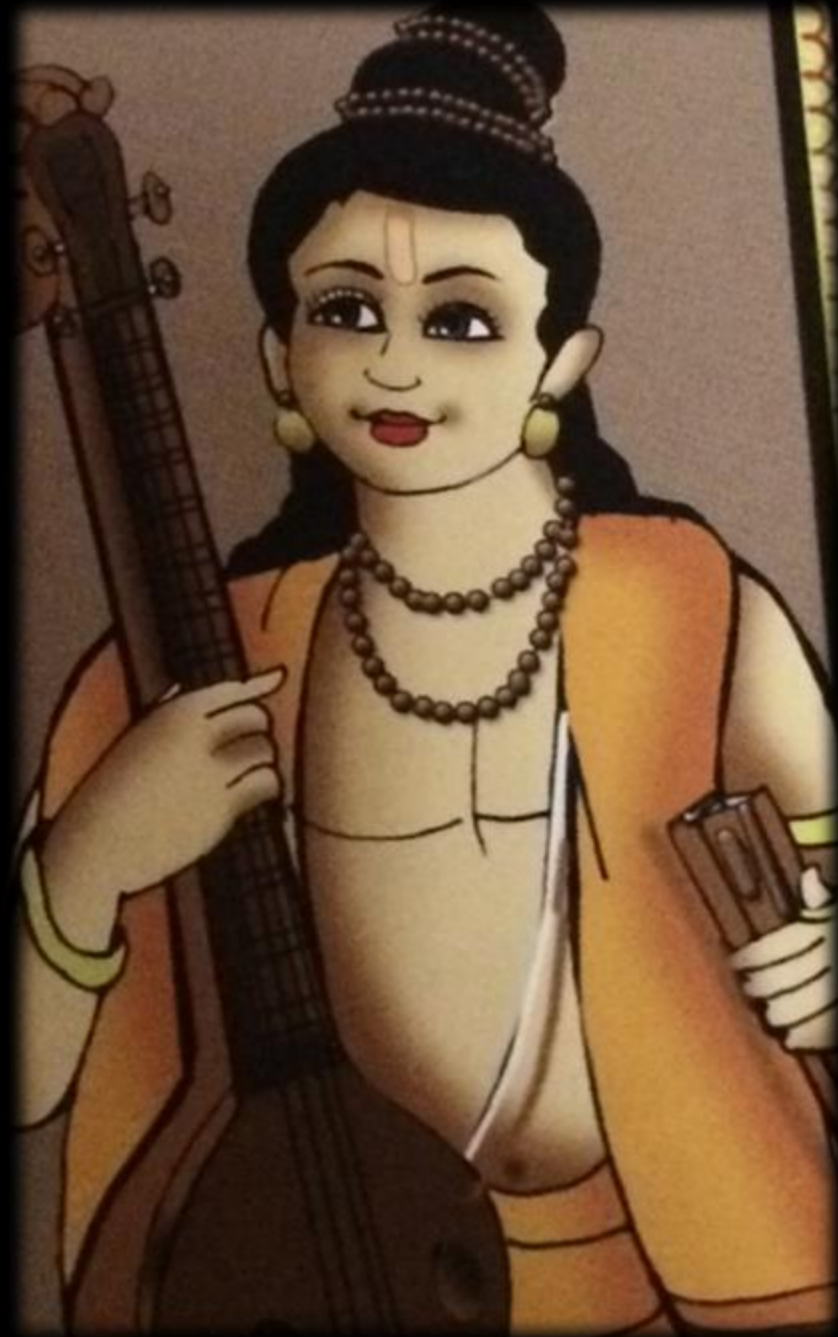
Once the humble priest Vidyapati had returned, he told King Indradyumna about his travels and presented the sacred prashadam of Nilamadhav – a fresh sweet scented flower garland.

Upon receiving the prashadam, the king was ecstatic and immediately started praying to the Lord.





As Vidyapati told the king of his journey, Narada muni –the most dear devotee of Lord Vishnu- arrived there. Narada muni was very pleased and blessed him. The kind king asked Narada muni to advise him on how he can build the best temple for Lord Nilamadhav.





On an auspicious day, King Indradyumna set out for Nical dham with several others to bring the beautiful deity of Nilamadhav. However, upon reaching there, they were shocked to see that the deity had disappeared. Instead of the deity, there was a heap of golden sand. The king became very distressed.

Suddenly they heard a transcendental voice from the heavens informing them that the king would get the Lord's deiving darshan, but through a different form.



Narada muni instructed the king to complete 1000 yagnas and he built a gargantuan, magnificent temple for the Lord.

After the sacred yagnas were completed, it became clear to King Indradyumna that the Lord would appear in the form of a Dardu (sacred log) from the ocean.

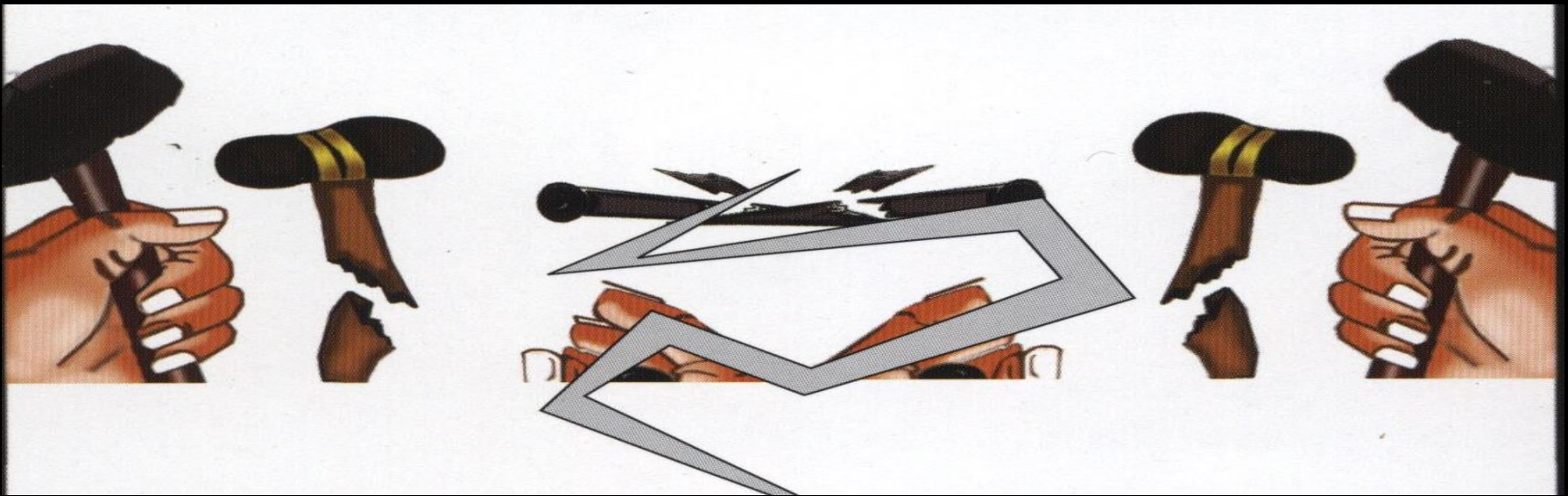
When the sacred log appeared, it had the marks of the chakra, conch, lotus and club which were the divine signs of the Lord. Now the question was, who would carve the deities?



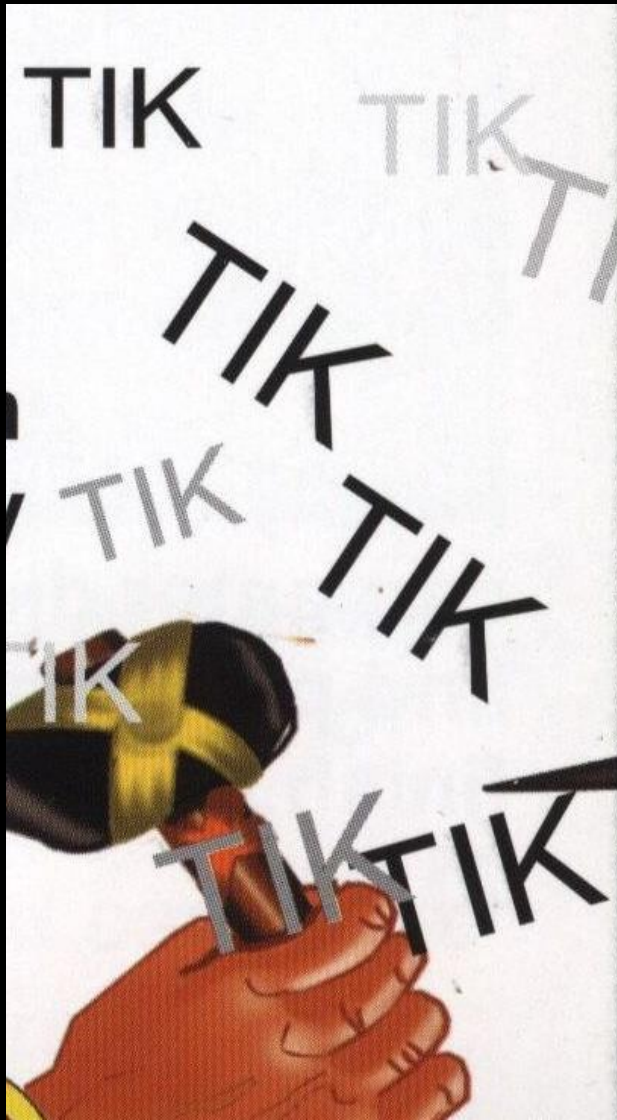
Many of the best carpenters were invited to attempt to carve the deities, however, whenever they would start, all their tools would break.

Worriedly, the King began to pray for a solution. He then heard the transedental voice again, he was told that an old poor carpenter would come to carve the deities.

Once this special carpenter arrived at the palace, he assured the deities will be carved in a total of 21 days, but, he had one condition. He would carev the deities in a locked room and no one should disturb him or he would disappear.







So, the old carpenter began his work. Throughout the palace, everyday, one could hear the 'tik tik tik' of the chisel and hammer. However, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, silence descended on the palace. The king and queen became more and more anxious with every passing silent moment. They were convince that the old man's health had taken a toll on his work and something terrible had happened.

The King found himself outside the locked silent room. With his had on the handle, the King listened through the door. As the door swung open, the old man disappeared.

Inside the room, there  
remained thee deities, with  
no hands and no feet.









Instantly, King Indradyumna regretted his rash decision and began to break down in despair. At that moment, Narada muni appeared and comforted the king. He revealed that it was Lord Krishna's desire to appear in this form as Lord Jagannath, Baladev and Subhadra.



