

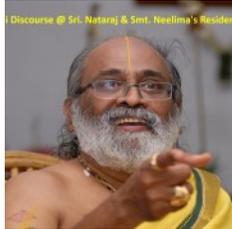


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Words of Wisdom—From our Guruji



AMRUTHA VAKKULU

Life is like a train journey. Not everyone will travel with you till your destination. Some may drop out in the middle. Some may join you in the middle. Even the drivers and guards may change at regular intervals. Even the engines may change. Only the compartments in which you travel may not change. So many who join you may just come to spend some time. Some speak of their stories. Some speak of others stories. Lord keeps you entertained with many things as you travel.

Life moves on!!

Real freedom brings in a great sense of responsibility. A person of freedom becomes a true care giver. In the process of enjoying that freedom, he not only respects others freedom, but also knows when, where to interfere and give care in case of need. While giving care, he also takes care of not tampering with the freedom of the other.

This can only happen when he feels tremendously responsible due to the freedom he enjoys.

You have come to live your life the way you want. You are not answerable to anyone other than yourself.

So live the life the way you want and learn to smile when others are nosy about the way you live. People around you will be curious about your ways and methods. Just learn to ignore their comments and move on. Be gracious to reply to their comments with a smile.

Allowing others to decide for you is not only a weakness but it also means handing over your responsibilities to someone else.

When you don't want to take responsibility for your life, you can at best be a slave to others. You will never enjoy any freedom.

One unless free can never be responsible.

As a slave one can breed only irresponsibility & callousness

When one wants everything in life, he may suffer. You may have to forgo certain things in life to get certain other things in life!

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LORD'S MERCY

&

GRACE !!!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 07/01/2019
Masa Sivarathri
- ◆ 07/02/2019
Amavasya
- ◆ 07/06/2019
Chaturthi
- ◆ 07/08/2019
Sashti
- ◆ 07/10/2019
Ashtami
- ◆ 07/12/2019
Ekadasi
- ◆ 07/14/2019
Pradosham
- ◆ 07/17/2019
Guru Pournami
- ◆ 07/20/2019
Sankatahara Chaturti
- ◆ 07/22/2019
Sashti

Sai Amrutha Jyothi



CHAVADI PROCESSING

Despite Sai interacting with others in a normal way on His daily activities, He was one with the brahman all the time. He treated all males as His brothers and women as His mother or sisters. Let us always keep Him in our thoughts and chant His name daily.

Even though Sai was alternating between the chavadi and the masjid at his bedtime, starting from December the 10th 1909, devotees started to celebrate this as a holy event.

When it is time for Sai to start for the chavadi, all devotees would gather at the masjid footsteps and start singing bhajans along with musical instruments. Some would light the torches and some decorate the palki. Some would hold bamboo sticks in their hands and hail the praise of Sai. Shyamkarna, the horse would be decorated with nice clothes.

Baba would be sitting calmly until Datya Patil would come to raise Him from His seat. Wearing His usual Kafni and holding a sadka in His hand, and tossing the chilim bag on His shoulders, Baba would get up. Wearing a zari shawl, baba would pull

the firewood from the dhuni by His right Great toe and put off the lamp with His right hand.

Devotees would line up to His front and back and with them dancing, singing and playing instruments, the procession would start. Mahalsapathi holding His Right hand and Datya Patil the left and Babu Saheb Jog would hold the decorated umbrella. Shyam karna would be in the front and Kaka Saheb would throw the gulal powder on and off. On reaching the northern corner, Baba would look up peacefully and one can imagine the joy of this beautiful scene even today in their minds.

On reaching the chavadi, which is decorated with lights and glass lamps, Datya Patil would make Baba sit on a pillow and will adorn Him with a coat. Devotees would come in line to offer their own decorations and spray scents on Him but Baba would never object to any of these nor would be delighted. Some would fan Baba with a cloth fan.

Shama would take out the chilim pipe and give it to Datya, who, after himself taking a puff, would give it to Baba who would smoke the chilim calmly. After this the night arti would be performed and people would start taking leave of Sai one by one. Lastly, Datya would once again offer the chilim, scent etc. and would take leave of Sai. At that time, Baba lovingly would say, 'if it is time to go, then go but do come and look after me from time to time'.

Finally, Baba would spread 50-60 clean white clothes one above one to make His bed and start to

take rest.

Let us all remember and visualize this wonderful scene every night at bedtime!

**BOW TO SRI SAI
PEACE BE TO ALL!!**

LIFE APPLICATIONS

- * **Keep SAI always in your thoughts and chant his holy name daily.**
- * **Visualize the chavadi procession and other details daily at bed time.**

Sri Satchitananda
Sadhguru
Sainath Maharaj
Ki
JAI!!!



Saiamrutham — "The life ahead can only be glorious, if you learn to live in total harmony with the Lord. "

THE DOG WHO WENT ABROAD

Chitaranja was a household dog who was pampered by his owners a lot and the children of the family and the neighbors' kids used to play with him and pet him a lot.

The village was hit by a sudden drought and initially people took care of each other. But when the drought continued for months, people started abandoning the village. His own family left the village. Chitaranja tried to survive by himself, but he could not bear to be hungry any longer. He decided to leave the village too.

He went to a town far away. He came upon a house which was left open by the servants. It was a very rich man's house. It had ample food and he had his fill and came out of the house.

When he came outside, the local dogs saw him and smelled that he is from a far off place. They chased him and fought and bit him a lot. He couldn't run faster to come back to his village.

When the local dogs saw him and asked about his adventure, he said, "the village that I went to had enough food and no locks and doors. And no human bothered me, but our own kind chased and bit me".

MORAL OF THE STORY

Outsiders

may

forgive and forget

your

mistakes,

but

your

own

kith and kin

will

not!!!

SRIDHARAAMRITHAM

Fear is the root cause of all your problems. When your master is with you, you need not fear. Master is the representative of the God. He leads you in life. Learn to walk with confidence holding the Master's hands.

"Nrusimha Mama Dehi Karavalam bam"

SERVICES IN THE TEMPLE

Priest's services like Yantra Puja, Gruha Pravesham, Satyanarayana Vratam, Pitru karma, Seemantham, Upanayanam, Vahana Puja etc., are available which will be performed at devotees homes for their good health and prosperity. We also do archanas, abhishekams for all our deities.

Seva (Volunteering) opportunities are also available at the temple.

For more details please visit our website:

<http://www.sriamruthasai.org/services/> or contact the temple at 804-708-0867.

LOVE HIM TO LOVE ALL

Great Saints such as Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda often said that :

“Love Him first and Love for the World will follow”

How that does work?

Let us imagine that there is a boy who loves a girl. The boy would follow her everywhere, would observe every single thing she does, would save even the useless things that she touches or uses, and so on. All the things she loves become the love for him as well. If she likes coffee, even if he was a tea drinker before, he would change to coffee. If she likes a certain food, even if he hated it before meeting her, he would love it now, just because she does.

That is the nature of the world. To a mother, her child is the best. As a saying in Tamil language goes, even for a black crow, her chick is precious like gold. The mother is so proud of everything her child does. Even if it is just couple of scratches on paper, she treasures it like a Picasso painting .

Everything the lover loves becomes the love of the boy. Everything the child loves becomes the love of the mother. So when we love God, everything He loves becomes ours. He loves this World. The World is His. When we love Him, we automatically feel that the World is ours too. Just because it our God’s, we start caring about it and we start loving everything in it.

So, right now if we are not able to love the World as we are supposed to, we do not need to stress about it. All we need to do it to learn to love Him. Then love for His world would follow!

SAIRAM!!!

Guru purnima (pournami) is noted as a very auspicious day in the Indian culture!

It is on July 16th of this year!

It falls in the summer season (Greeshma rutu) , month of Ashaadha (July) , first fortnight (shukla paksham) full moon (Purnima) as per Hindu lunar calendar.

It marks the day when all mankind should pay their respect to all their Gurus!

Yes, we have many “Gurus” in our lives. According to a great philosopher and contemporary of Sri Adi Sankaracharya , named Kumārila Bhaa , anyone who has taught us even a single alphabet, is a “ Guru” and we should always remember them and respect them!

Having said so, Gurus can be classified as those who prepare us for the life here on earth and another set of Gurus who teach us to understand the purpose of life and deliver us from the cycle of births and rebirths!

That is liberation (moksham).

This is the purpose of human life, utilize the knowledge acquired, to know the Absolute Truth! Such a person is immortal. The rest are mere mortals!

This kind of insight is provided by a “Guru” of the latter cadre!

Guru purnima is the day to honor all Gurus in general and this cadre of Gurus in particular.

Let us start with this salutation, a well know Sanskrit verse that depicts a Guru:

**“gurur-brahmA gurur-vishNuH gurur-devo maheSvaraH;
gurus-sAkshAt param brahma tasmai SrI gurave namaH.”**

It states that the Guru is Brahma (the creator), Guru is Vishnu (sustains the universe) and one into whom the universe dissolves, Maheswara.

In fact, he is beyond these three attributes. He is the Para Brahma, the Supreme Being, and The Absolute Truth!

They are what we know as the “Self-Realized” souls, the people who have attained liberation but appear just like us, live among us but their thinking, way of life and state of mind is beyond all human comprehension!

A few examples are Ramana Maharshi, RamaKrishna Parama hamsa, Kanchi Mahaswamy (Periyava), and such great souls.

The two words “Gu” and “Ru” have been defined in the following ways:

“guśabdastvandhakāra syāt ruśabdastannirodhka andhakārnirodhitvāt gururityabhidhīyate”.

The syllable “Gu” means darkness, the syllable “Ru”, he who dispels them,
Because of the power to dispel darkness, the guru is thus named.

—Advayatāraka Upanishad, Verse 16.

The other definition is:

“gukaraaca gunatito ,
rukaro rupa-varjitah;
gunatitam arupamca yat-tatvam sa guru-smrtah.”

Meaning, the syllable Gu stands for gunatita and the syllable Ru stands for Rupa-varjitah(rahitam).

The principle therefore that combines the transcendence beyond the gunas and the absence of form, is what is known as “Guru”.

Guru is not the physical body but the divinity carried by the vehicle, called the body!

The following example will help us understand the concept of a Guru.

We all know that the water from the Ganges is holy and many pilgrims return home with the water in small sealed containers! When we bring those containers home, we perform an auspicious ceremony, at which time we apply vermilion, turmeric and other such sacred products to the container. But the concept is to worship the holy waters of the Ganges. On the same token, we do obeisance to the physical form of the Guru but the concept is to pay that obeisance to the divinity imbibed within.

Guru is considered as God himself, in Hinduism.

The question now arises, how do we find a Guru?

How do we know if the Guru we found, is “real”, especially in this day and age where everyone proclaims themselves to be a Guru, and for a fee, hands out mantras to ward away misfortune!

Well, that is when Providence comes into play.

All we can do is pray to God, who will direct us towards a Guru, or bring a Guru over to us.

Is there any evidence to support the above?

Absolutely!

The story of Parikshit Maharaj is in support of the above statement (Srimad Bhagavatam, Canto 1)

The next question is, what if the Guru we have accepted is “fake”, for lack of words!

Well, the answer to this lies in the explanation given above, that “Guru” is not the physical body but the divinity within, in the form of God. As long as we are true to ourselves and have faith (Shraddha) and patience (Saburi), irrespective of the so called “Guru’s” nature, we will flourish and reach our goals.

In “Datta charitra “it is said when it comes to the matter of deities (Devatas), mantras, sacred places (punya Kshetras), physician (vaidya) and Guru, one will reap the benefits based solely on their unswerving faith and dedication towards them.

Gurus have a lineage too, what is known as “Guru parampara”.

The first Guru is Lord Vishnu / Lord Shiva HIMSELF! (They are ONE and the same):

“SHIVAYA VISHNU ROOPAYA SHIVA ROOPAAYA VISHNAVE”!

HE transferred the knowledge to Brahma, who passed it on to Vashishtha Muni, who relayed it to his son, Sakti Maharshi, who passed it on to his son , Parasara Maharshi, who relayed it to his son, Vyasa Maharshi, who gave it to his son, Suka Brahma, who taught his disciple Gouda Bhagavadpaadulu, who passed it on to Govinda Bhagavadpadulu , the Guru of Adisankaraacharya, who established the four maths (amnaaya peethaa) and the lineage runs as of this day ,as laid down by Sankaracharya.

That is the glory of our tradition.

**“vyAsam vasishta-naptAram Sakteh pautram akalmasham
 parAsarAtmajam vande Suka-tAtam tapo-nidhim”!**

**“sadasiva samarambham sankaracarya madhyamam asmad acharya paryantam
 vande guru paramparam”!**

Guru is a very crucial link between humanity and divinity!

(Continued in next month’s newsletter)

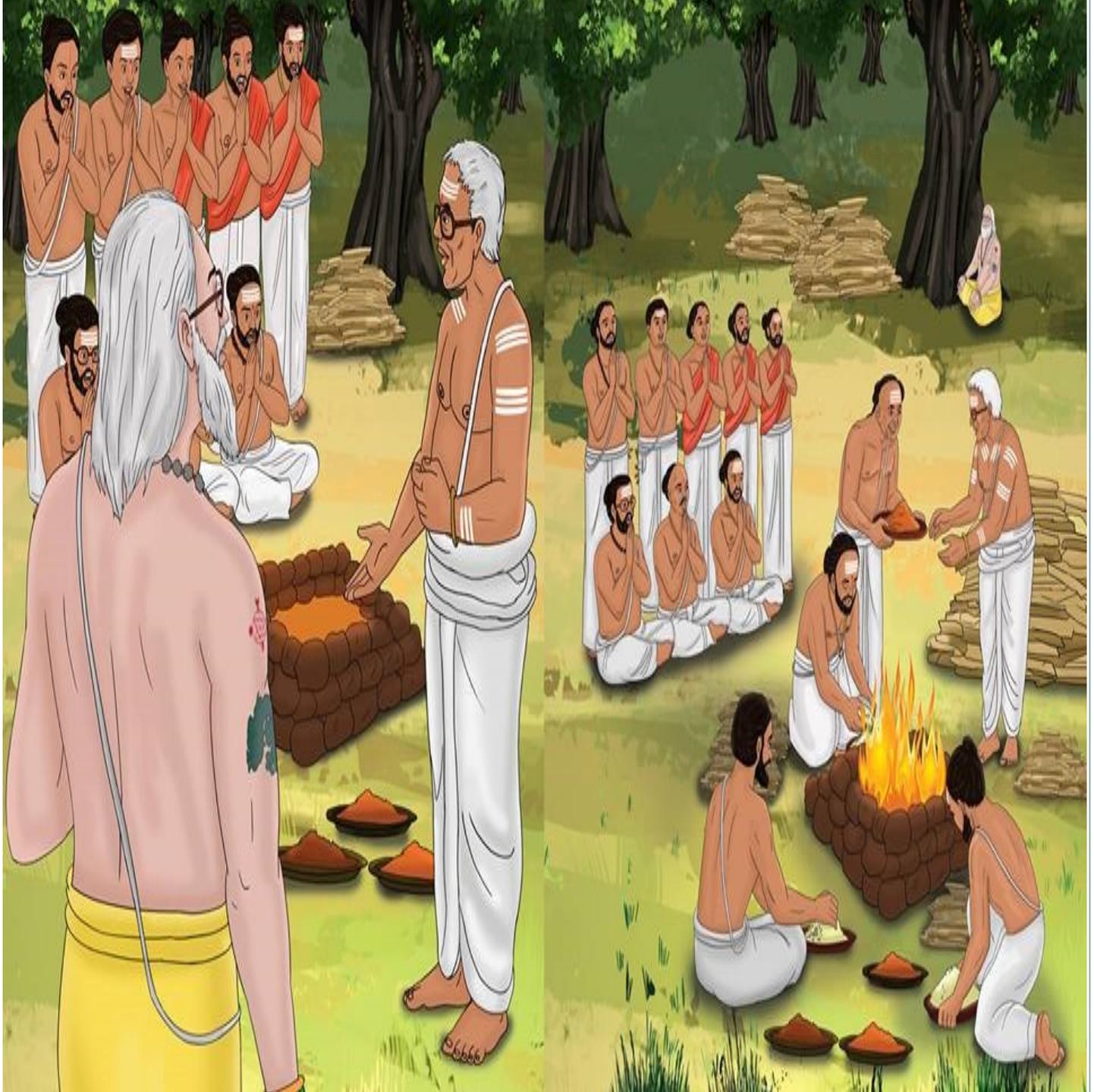
01

JWALA MANGALA GOWRI

PROLOGUE

In 2005, I was in the forest with Balakrishna Sastry and a team of 12 Brahmins.

There was a Prayogam called Jwala Mangala Gowri. The Prayogam is for three days. The second night, I was busy sitting and meditating; Balakrishna Sastry was performing the Homam . . .

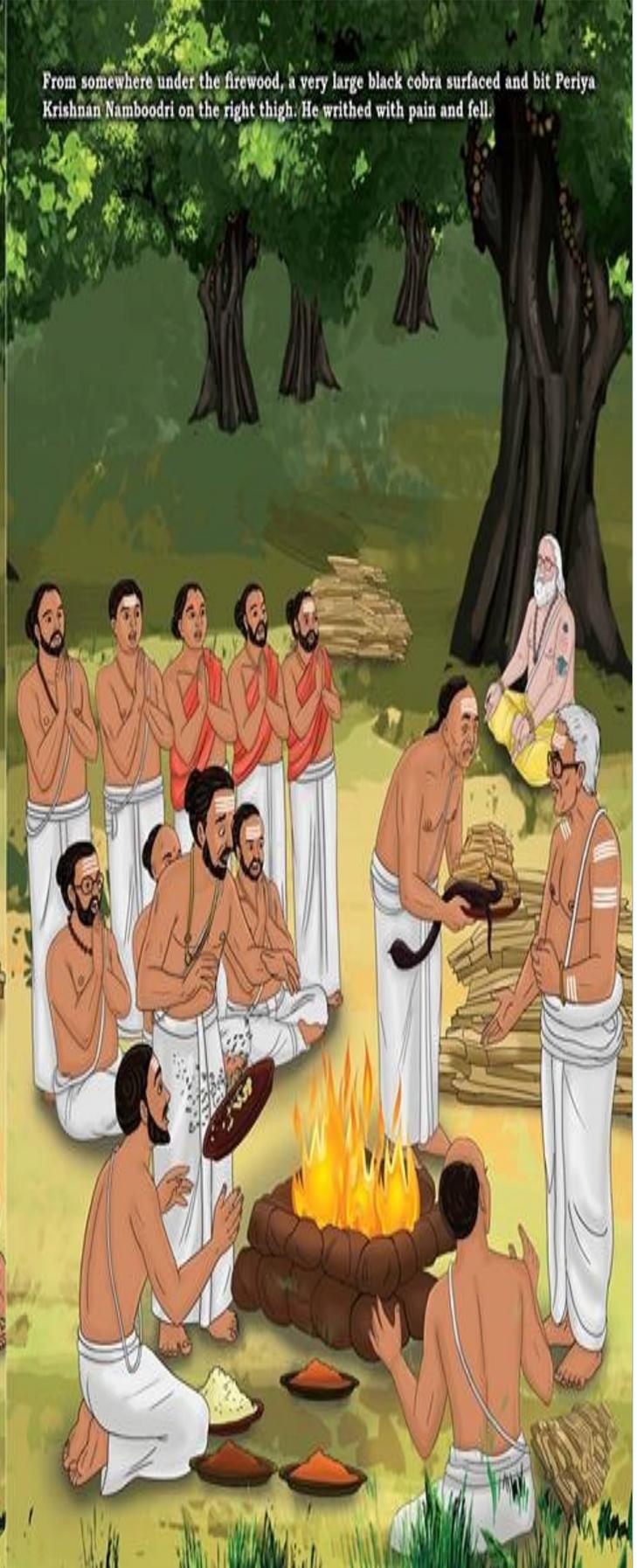
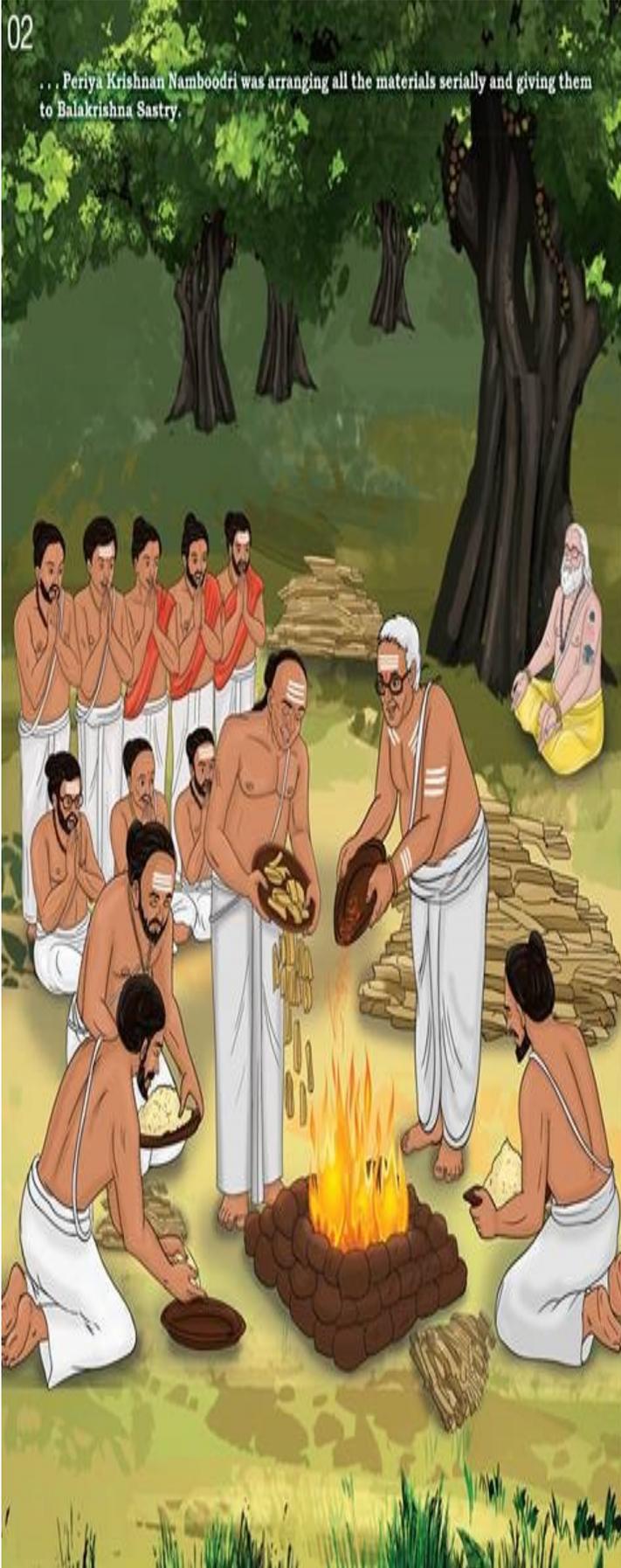


* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

02

... Periya Krishnan Namboodri was arranging all the materials serially and giving them to Balakrishna Sastry.

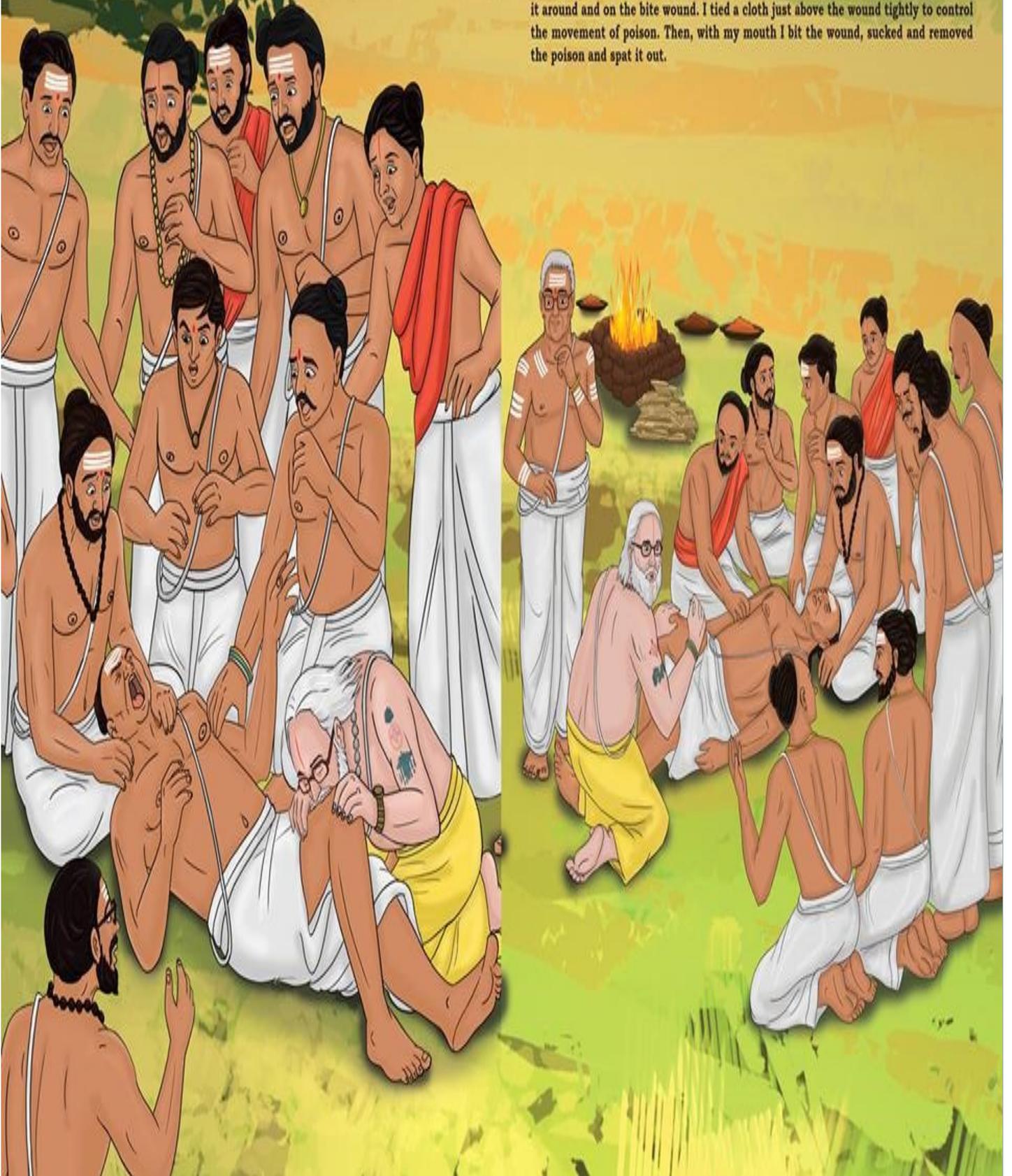
From somewhere under the firewood, a very large black cobra surfaced and bit Periya Krishnan Namboodri on the right thigh. He writhed with pain and fell.



* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

03

I just opened my eyes and saw him in pain. I just asked for some water and sprinkled it around and on the bite wound. I tied a cloth just above the wound tightly to control the movement of poison. Then, with my mouth I bit the wound, sucked and removed the poison and spat it out.



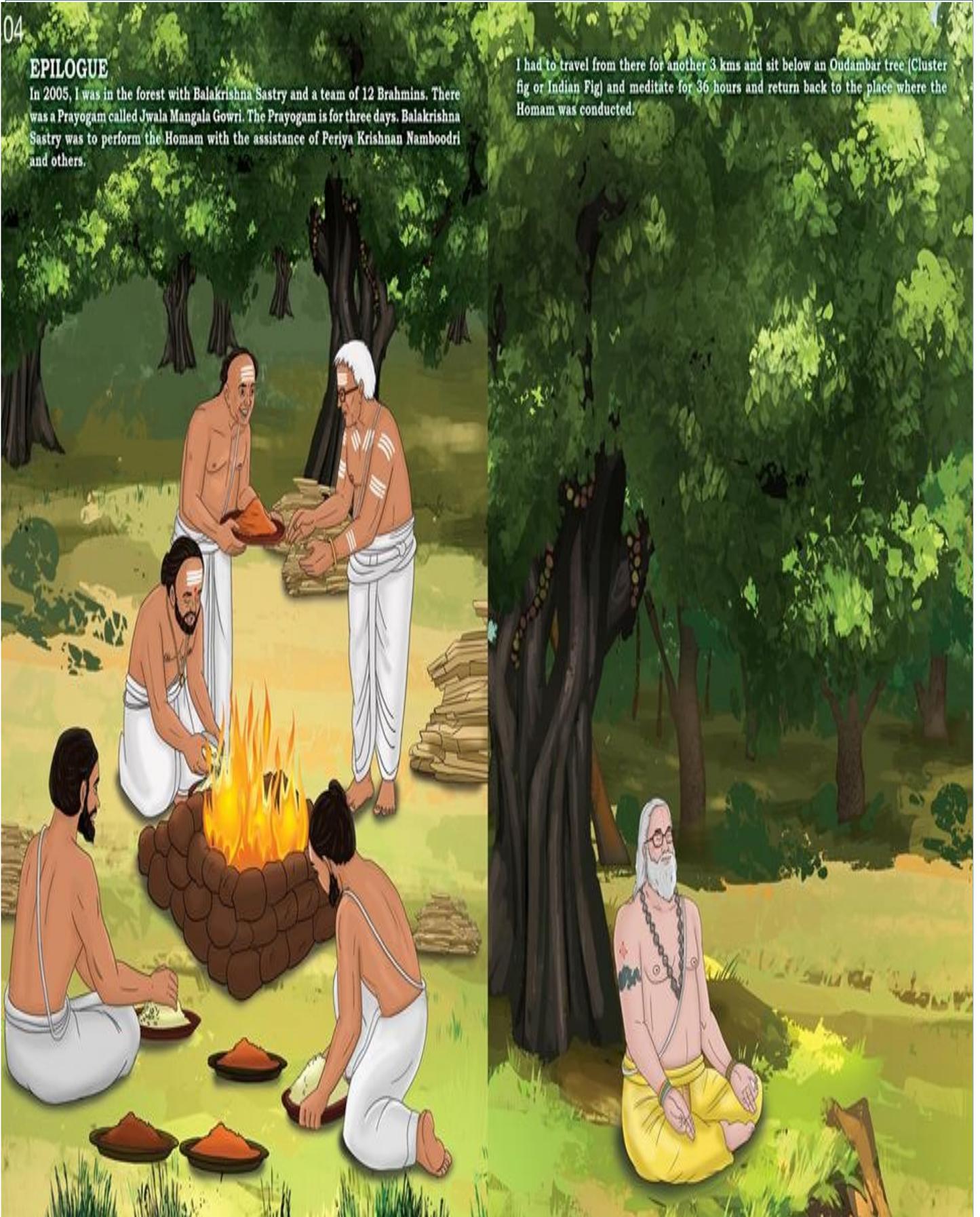
* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

04

EPILOGUE

In 2005, I was in the forest with Balakrishna Sastry and a team of 12 Brahmins. There was a Prayogam called Jwala Mangala Gowri. The Prayogam is for three days. Balakrishna Sastry was to perform the Homam with the assistance of Periya Krishnan Namboodri and others.

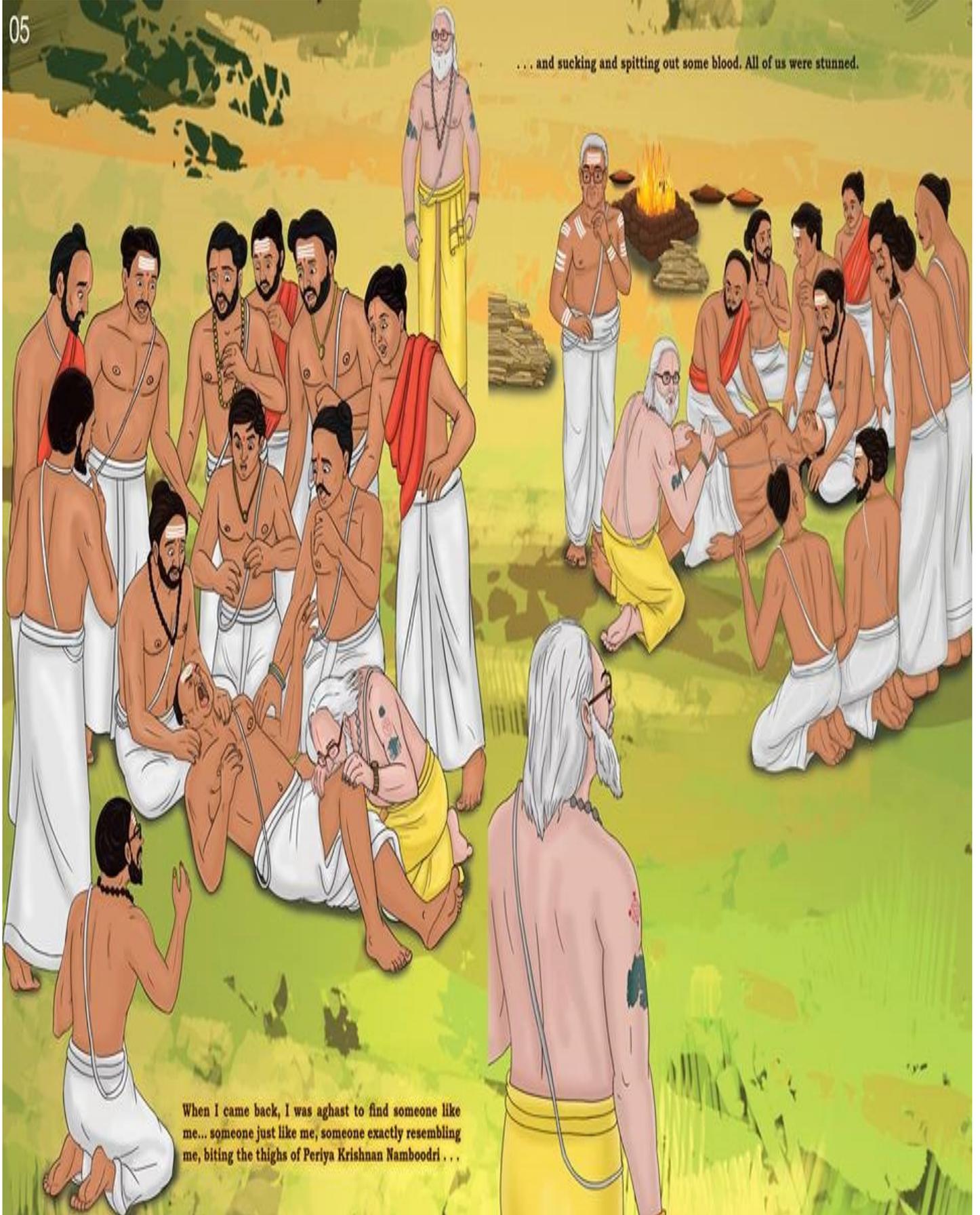
I had to travel from there for another 3 kms and sit below an Oudambar tree (Cluster fig or Indian Fig) and meditate for 36 hours and return back to the place where the Homam was conducted.



* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

05

... and sucking and spitting out some blood. All of us were stunned.

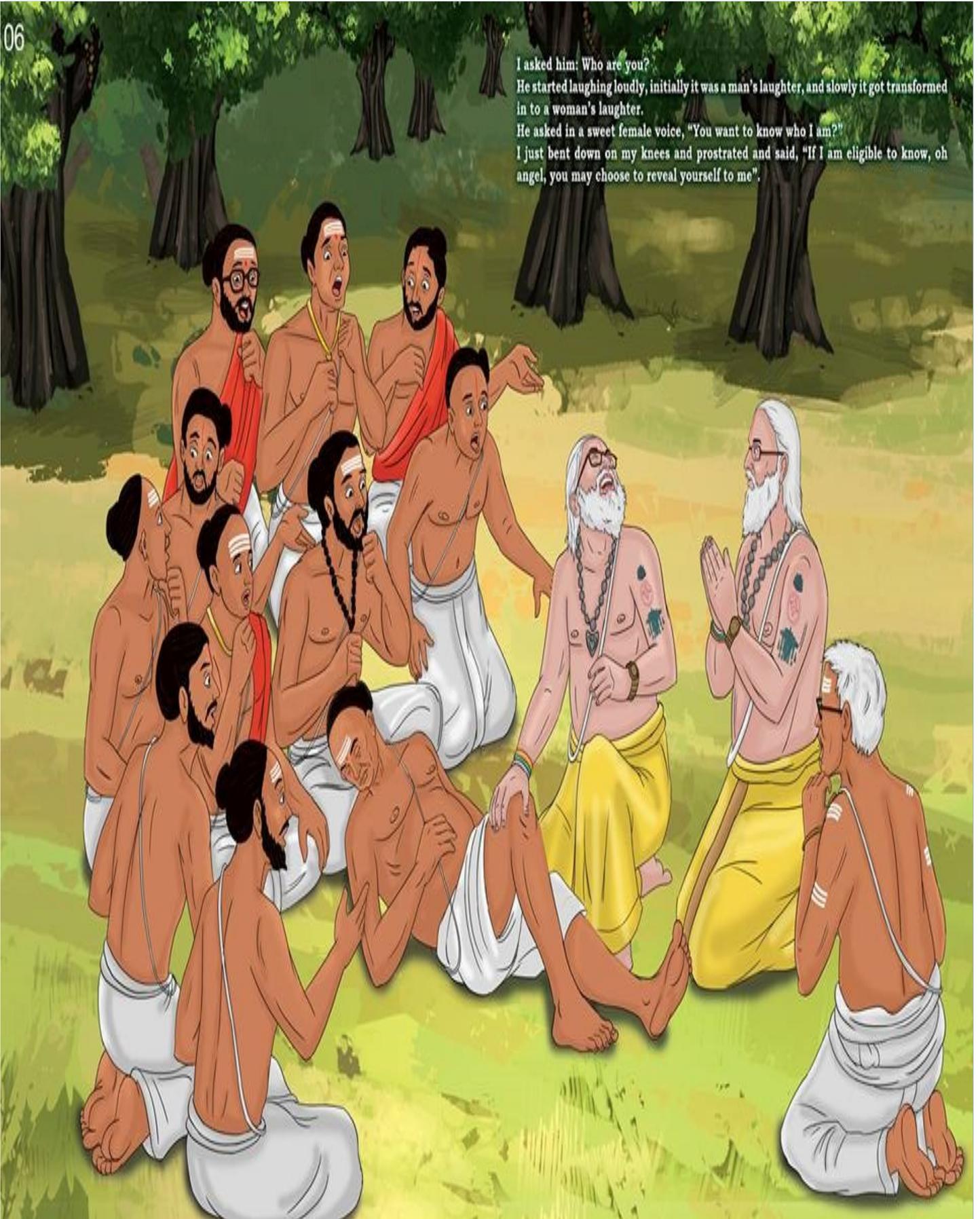


When I came back, I was aghast to find someone like me... someone just like me, someone exactly resembling me, biting the thighs of Periya Krishnan Namboodri . . .

* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

06

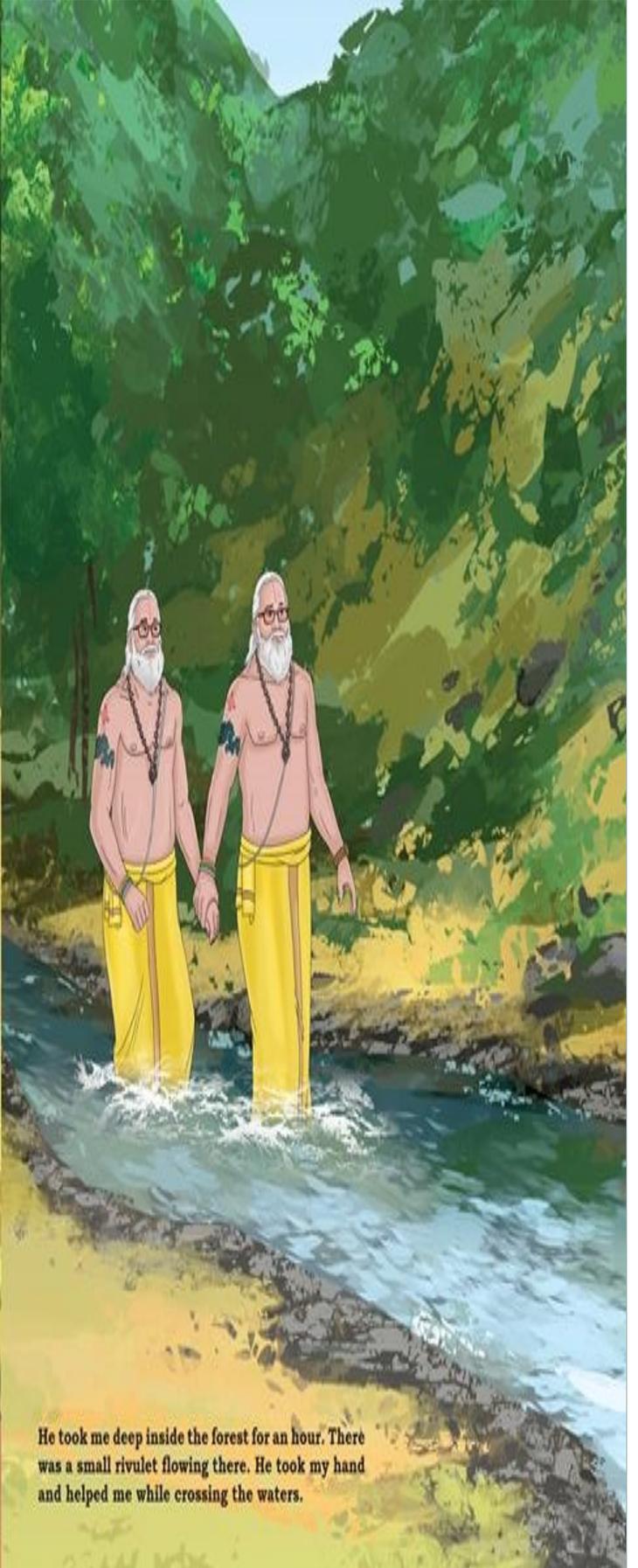
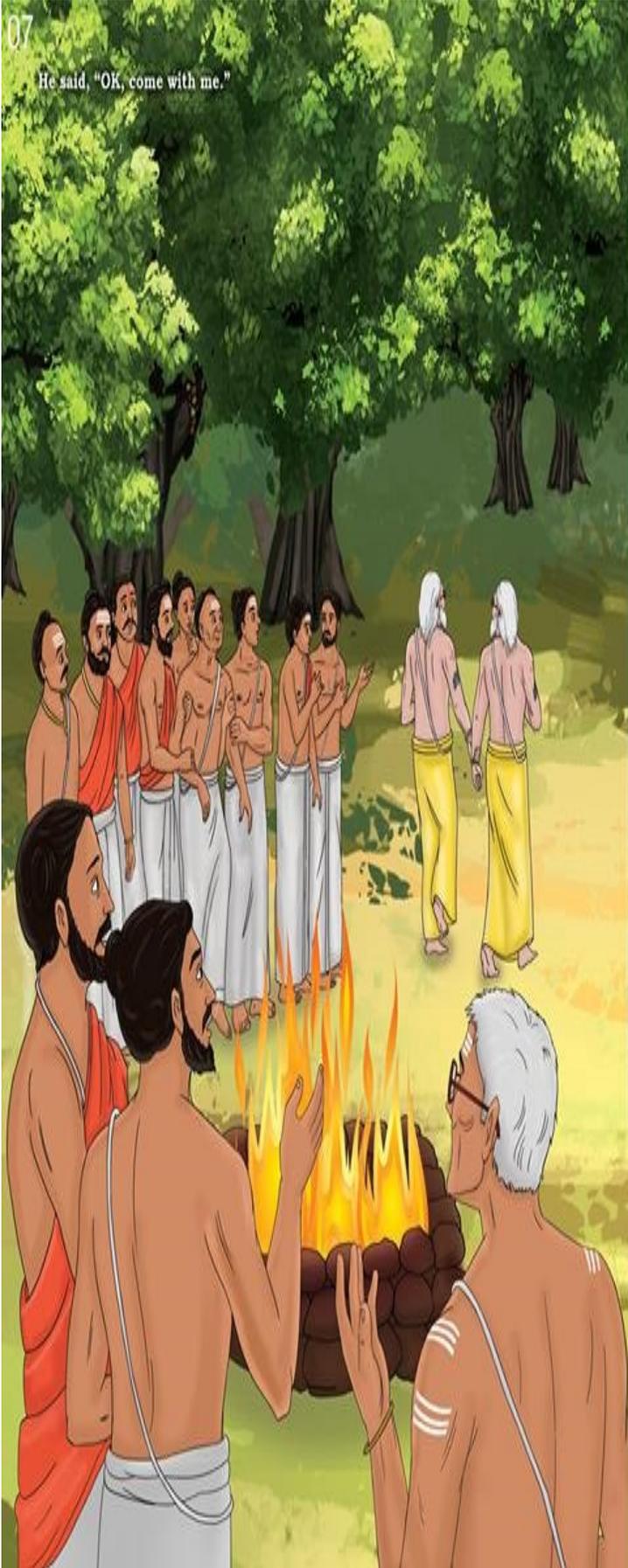
I asked him: Who are you?
 He started laughing loudly, initially it was a man's laughter, and slowly it got transformed in to a woman's laughter.
 He asked in a sweet female voice, "You want to know who I am?"
 I just bent down on my knees and prostrated and said, "If I am eligible to know, oh angel, you may choose to reveal yourself to me".



* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

07

He said, "OK, come with me."



He took me deep inside the forest for an hour. There was a small rivulet flowing there. He took my hand and helped me while crossing the waters.

* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

08

Somewhere in the middle of the forest, he stopped and asked,
"Are you able to see anything?"

I said, "No, nothing but this moonlight in the darkness and the shadows of trees and mountains."

He said, "Now stand opposite to me and look to my left at the hills, do you see anything?"

I glanced in the direction he had pointed but, I couldn't see anything.

Then, slowly I saw a tree on fire, just one tree.

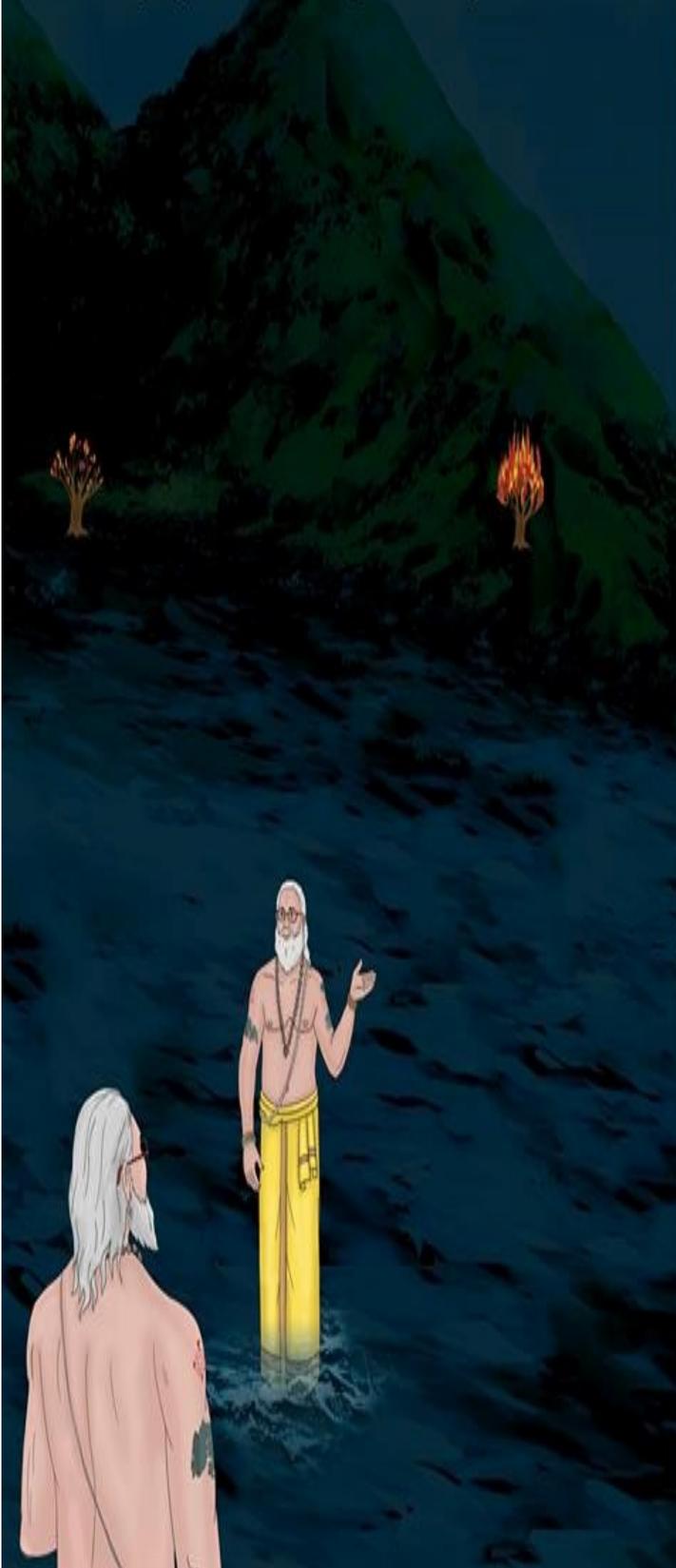
I said, "I can see one tree on fire."



* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

09

He said, "Now look to my right and tell me, what do you see?"
The same thing happened, first I saw nothing and then, a single tree on fire.



Slowly, I could see small bushes here and there catching fire and I could visualise a wonderful Yantram on the mountains. I said, "This is the best wonder I have visualised in my life; it's a beautiful Sri Yantram and on the mountain, I see the Bindu and the entire mountain looks like a Maha Meru Chakram."

* PRAYOGI PARAYANAM *

10

