

ENGLISH



<https://jaincomics.wordpress.com>



FREE download

## सम्पादकीय

महापुरुष संसार की अनमोल निधि होते हैं। वे अपने ज्ञान, आचरण एवं कार्यों द्वारा संसार को अमूल्य देन देकर जाते हैं। उनका जीवन मानव के लिए दीपस्तम्भ के समान होता है। एक प्रकाश-पुञ्ज घनघोर अन्धकार को नष्ट कर देता है। उसी प्रकार महापुरुषों का जीवन व उपदेश अंधकाराच्छन्न मानव जीवन को प्रकाश से आलोकित कर देता है। वह अज्ञान रूपी अन्धकार में भटकने वाले मानव को दिव्य प्रकाश देता है। मानव का क्या कर्तव्य है ? मानव-जीवन की सार्थकता किसमें है ? यह सब उस प्रकाश में हमें स्पष्ट दिखाई देता है। यह सब जैन चित्र कथा के माध्यम से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।

ब्र. धर्मचंद शास्त्री

प्रकाशक : आचार्य धर्मश्रुत ग्रन्थ माला

गोध्रा सदन, अलसीसर हाउस, संसारचंद रोड, जयपुर

सम्पादक : धर्मचंद शास्त्री

लेखक : डॉ. मूलचंद जी जैन, मुजफ्फरनगर

चित्रकार : बने सिंह

प्रकाशन वर्ष ३ १९९० अंक २० मूल्य ६/-

जैन चित्र कथाओं के प्रकाशन के इस पावन पुनीत महायज्ञ में संस्था को सहयोग प्रदान करें।

परम संरक्षक

१११११

संरक्षक

५००१

आजीवन

१५०१

प्राप्ति स्थान : श्री दि. जैन मन्दिर गुलाब बाटिका दिल्ली



This English translation and Digital Artwork is not sponsored or inspired or being worked upon under sole guidance or patronage of a specific Person, '*Panth*' or Sub-section of the Digambar Jain Society.

Our only source of inspiration is Jainism and its principles.

This English translation and Digital Artwork would not have happened without the collective efforts from Anonymous ('*Gupt-daan*').

This English translation and Digital Artwork is not necessarily an exact replication of original work. Creative liberty and storyline changes could have been made to enhance the content.

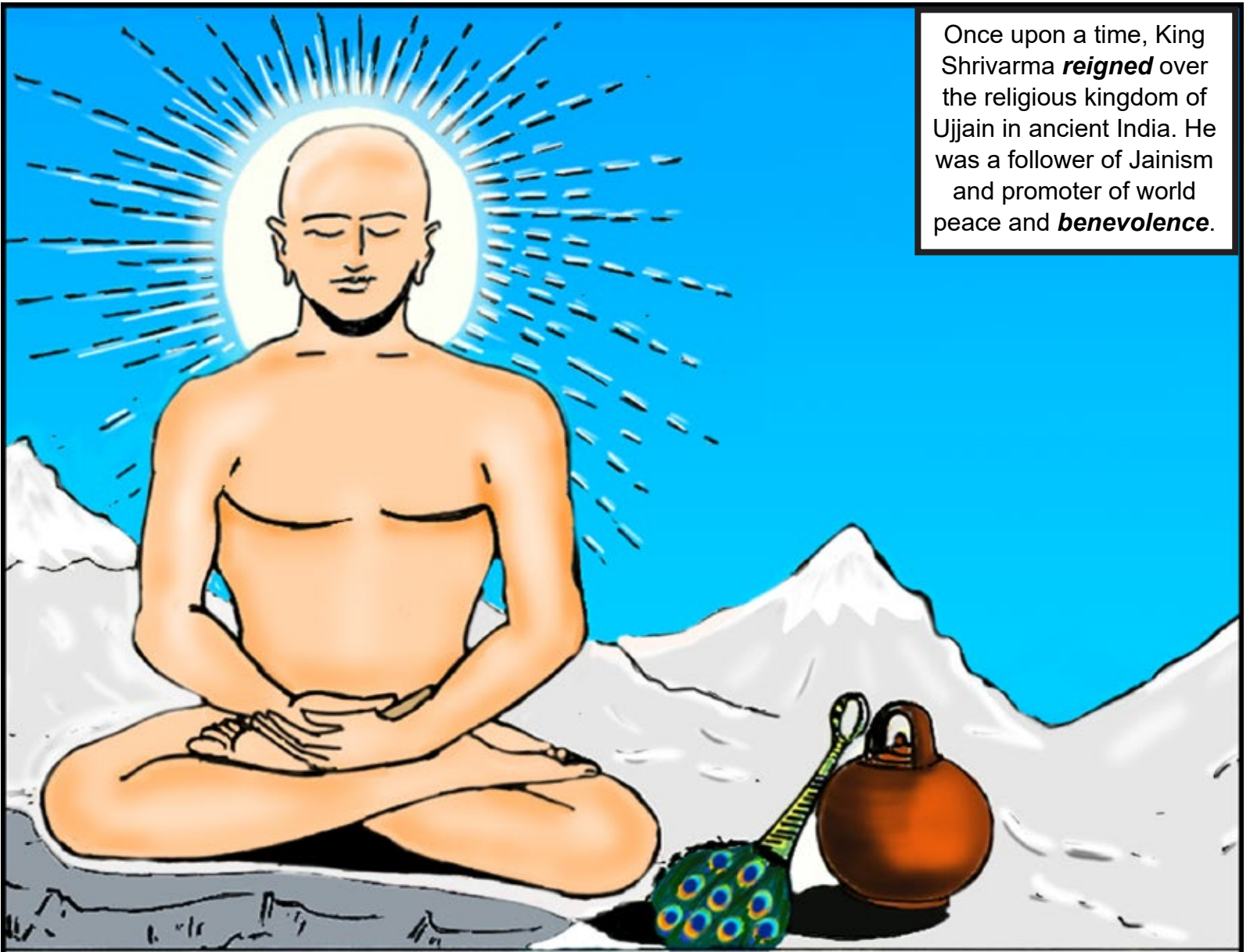
This English translation and Digital Artwork have been done free of cost - without charging or paying or accepting donations or advertisements from anyone.

Use of this English translation and Digital Artwork in this or any other derived form, for Commercial purpose or profit or credits is completely prohibited.

This work is available for FREE and can be shared with others for FREE.

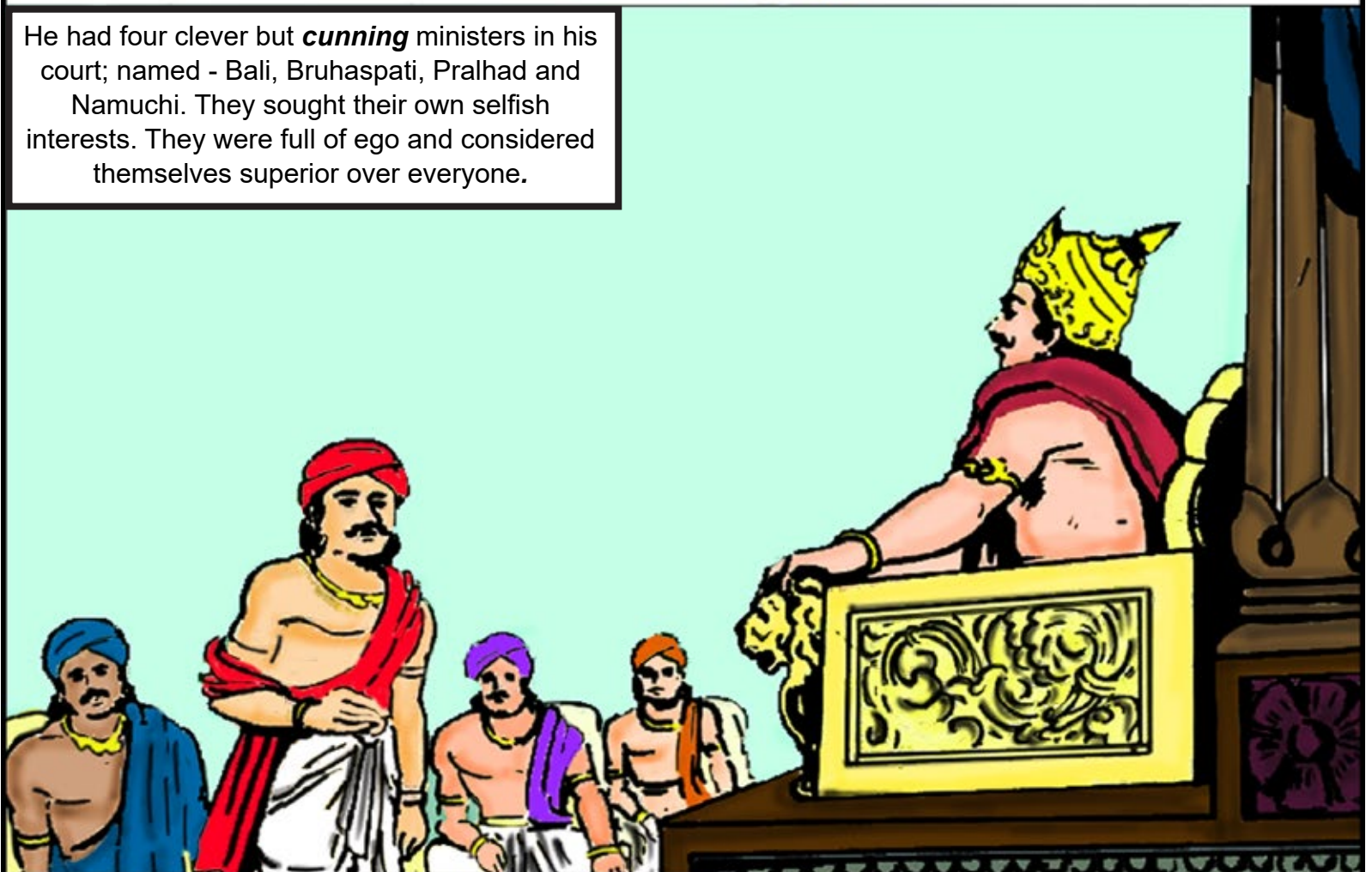
Please feel free to reach us via [jaincomics@gmail.com](mailto:jaincomics@gmail.com) or leave a feedback at <https://jaincomics.wordpress.com/>

© Copyright continues to be with the Original Creator(s).



Once upon a time, King Shrivarma **reigned** over the religious kingdom of Ujjain in ancient India. He was a follower of Jainism and promoter of world peace and **benevolence**.

He had four clever but **cunning** ministers in his court; named - Bali, Bruhaspati, Pralhad and Namuchi. They sought their own selfish interests. They were full of ego and considered themselves superior over everyone.



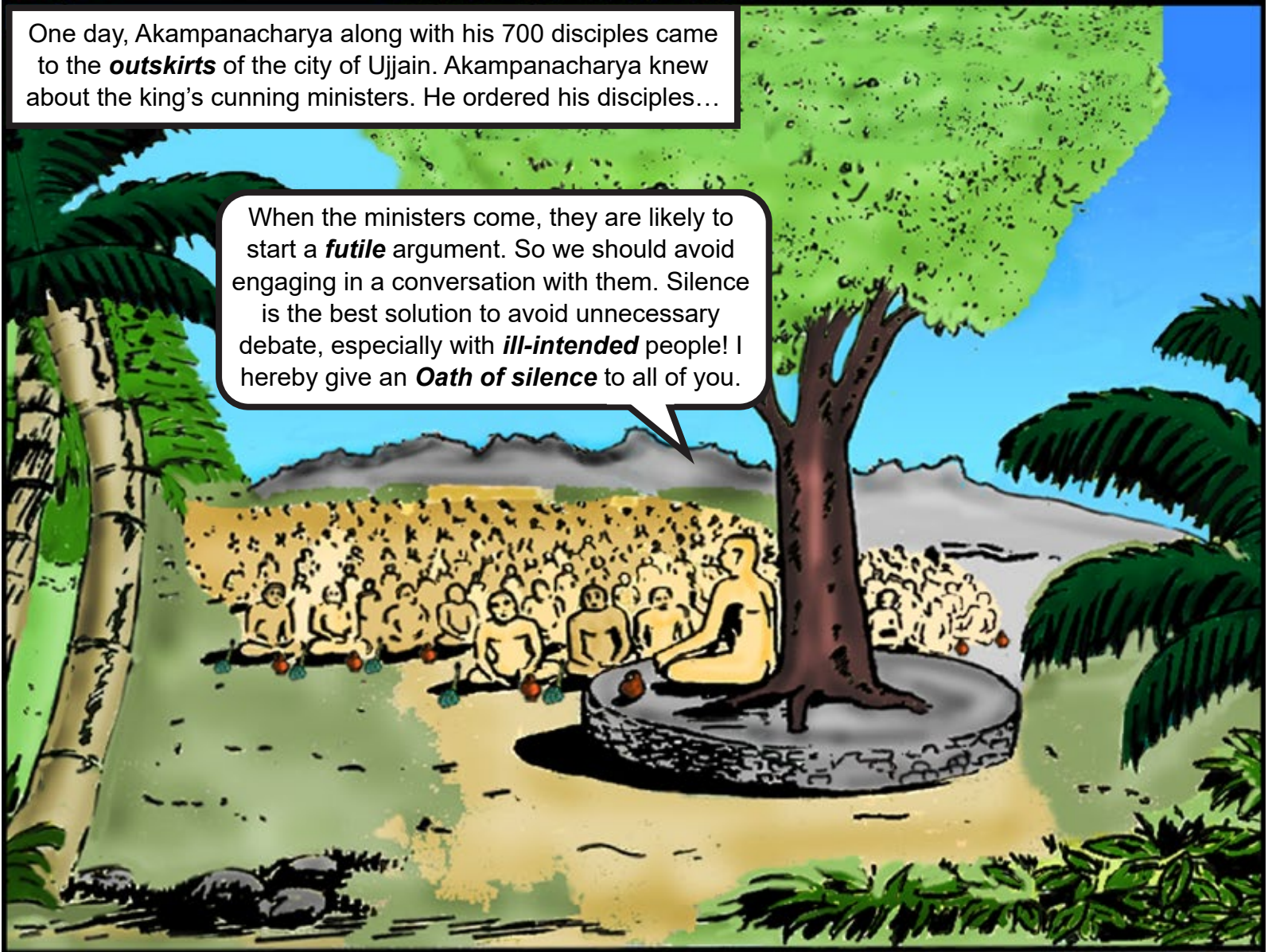
**Reigned** - To rule.

**Benevolence** - Character to do good.

**Cunning** - Clever in a dishonest or bad way.

One day, Akampanacharya along with his 700 disciples came to the **outskirts** of the city of Ujjain. Akampanacharya knew about the king's cunning ministers. He ordered his disciples...

When the ministers come, they are likely to start a **futile** argument. So we should avoid engaging in a conversation with them. Silence is the best solution to avoid unnecessary debate, especially with **ill-intended** people! I hereby give an **Oath of silence** to all of you.



King Shrivarma and his queen decided to visit and pay respects to the **munisangh**. The ministers felt jealous seeing their devotion but could not say a word. They had no option but to follow the king.



The royal couple worshipped and paid respect to the munisangh. Akampanacharya blessed them without saying a word.

**Outskirts** - The parts of a town or city that are furthest from the centre.

**Futile** - Serving no useful purpose.

**Ill-intended** - Having bad intentions.

**Oath of silence** - A vow/oath of silence is a personal, voluntary oath to refrain from speaking.

**Munisangh** - A group of Jain Saints. (Muni - Jain saints, Sangh - Group).

While returning to the palace, one of the ministers **sarcastically** said...

Isn't it strange? None of the munis from the munisangh uttered a single word! Looks like they were **intimidated** by your intelligence.

The other Ministers also agreed and said...

It's true, your majesty! If they were truly knowledgeable, they would have engaged in a conversation.



Before the king could say anything, another minister **mockingly** added...

Behold, O king! Another **dumbhead** is approaching us from the town. Looks like he is one of them! It seems he had gone to take food.

The King got very angry on listening to the words of his ministers. If the king wished, he could have executed the ministers right away!



The king thought someday they might understand the great character of muniraj and become better people.

Before the king could silence the ministers, Muni Shrutsagar Ji reached near them. Shrutsagar Ji had left for the **Aahar charya** and was not present when Akampanacharya had given the oath of silence. So he was not aware of the oath.

With the intention to humiliate muniraj, the ministers started an argument. They posed challenging questions, but Shrutsagar Ji replied to them promptly and aptly.

The ministers were however left speechless at Shrutsagar Ji's very first **rebuttal**. The ministers felt insulted and defeated.



**Sarcastically** - Make fun of (something or someone).

**Intimidated** - Frighten or overawe (someone).

**Mockingly** - Behaviour indicates that you think someone or something is stupid or inferior. **Dumbhead** - A stupid person.

**Aahar-Charya** - Jain monks take food, water, medicines, etc only once a day and that too with discretion about the purity, nonviolence, nine types of devotions and various other factors.

**Rebuttal** - The act of presenting a counter answer.

When Muni Shrutsagar Ji reached the group, he narrated the incident to **Acharya**.

I feel that those **wicked** ministers will come back to take **revenge**!

Should I go back to where I met them? It will protect the entire sangha from any **potential** threats.

Ok. The ministers may change their minds, or they will face consequences for their actions. You will **inevitably** become the **instrumental cause** for teaching ministers a lesson.

Shrutsagar Ji went back to the same place and started meditating.

The ministers arrived in the night. They saw muni standing alone. To avenge their insult, they angrily pulled their swords and got ready to attack!



As they raised their swords to strike... Miracle!

They turned into statues... Unable to move even an inch! They spent the entire night standing as is...

**Acharya** - Head of an order of ascetics.

**Wicked** - Morally wrong and intending to hurt people.

**Revenge** - To inflict damage or injury in return for an insult.

**Potential** - That may possibly become something, happen, etc.

**Inevitably** - In a way that cannot be avoided.

**Instrumental Cause** - Known as 'Nimitta' in Hindi. Nimitta is required for any incident to take place most of the time, but not always. Nimitta facilitates or is helpful in producing the result.

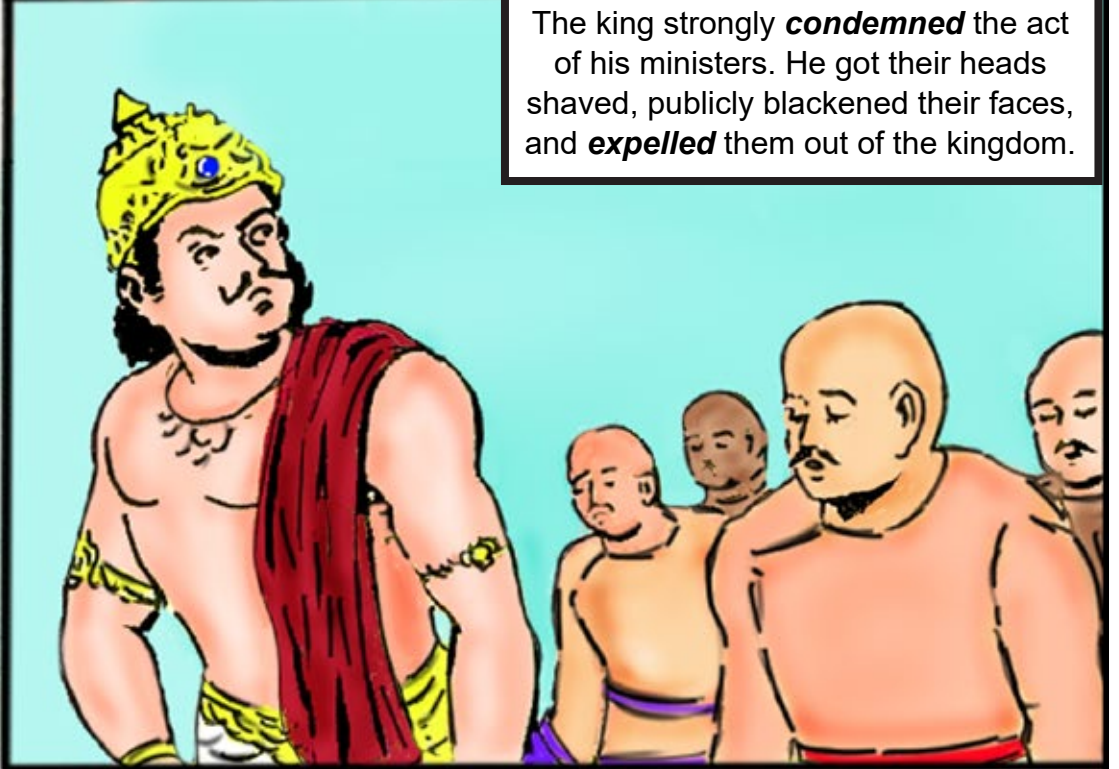
The news reached the king in the morning. He **rushed** to the spot. When he saw his ministers being caught **red-handed**, he got furious!



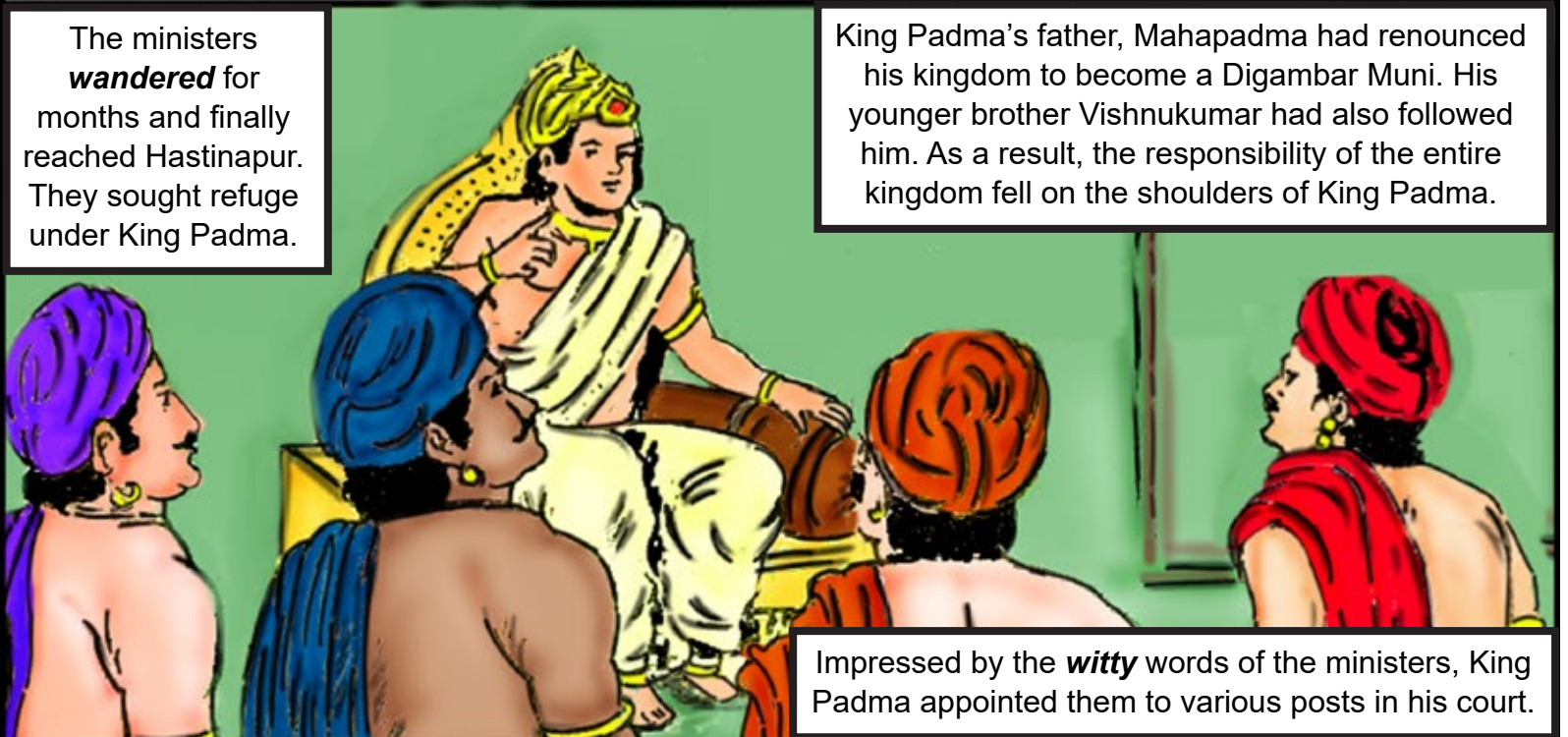
He repeatedly asked for forgiveness from muniraj.



The king strongly **condemned** the act of his ministers. He got their heads shaved, publicly blackened their faces, and **expelled** them out of the kingdom.



The ministers **wandered** for months and finally reached Hastinapur. They sought refuge under King Padma.



King Padma's father, Mahapadma had renounced his kingdom to become a Digambar Muni. His younger brother Vishnukumar had also followed him. As a result, the responsibility of the entire kingdom fell on the shoulders of King Padma.

Impressed by the **witty** words of the ministers, King Padma appointed them to various posts in his court.

**Rushed** - To do something or move very quickly.

**Red-handed** - Used to indicate that a person has been caught in or just after the act of doing something wrong or illegal.

**Condemned** - To say strongly that you think somebody/

something is very bad or wrong.

**Expelled** - To force someone to leave a country, school, etc.

**Wandered** - Travel without purpose.

**Witty** - Using words in a clever way.

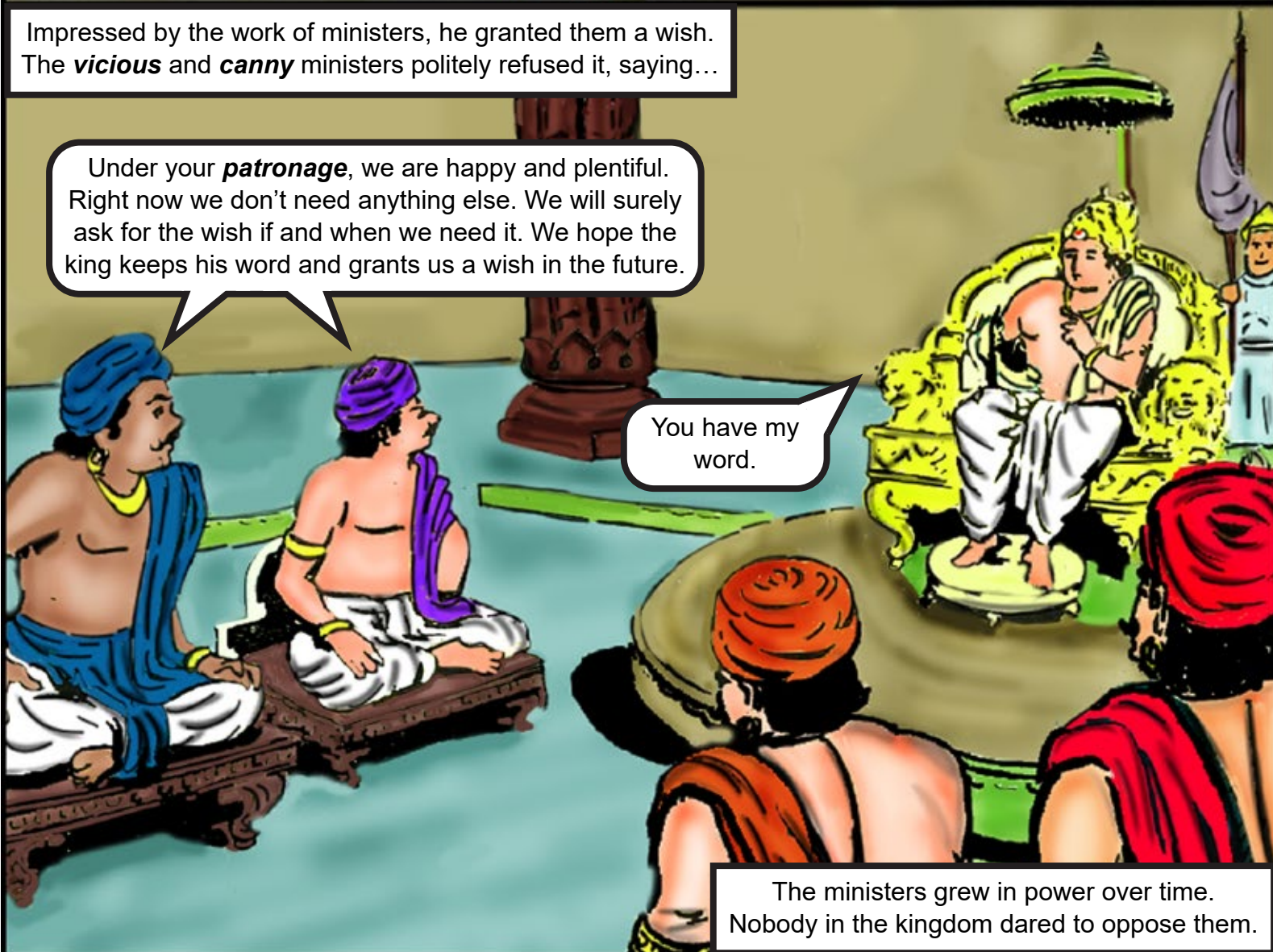
The cunning ministers slowly gained the king's confidence. They **abducted** the powerful enemy King Sinhbal and brought him to King Padma's court.



Impressed by the work of ministers, he granted them a wish. The **vicious** and **canny** ministers politely refused it, saying...

Under your **patronage**, we are happy and plentiful. Right now we don't need anything else. We will surely ask for the wish if and when we need it. We hope the king keeps his word and grants us a wish in the future.

You have my word.



The ministers grew in power over time. Nobody in the kingdom dared to oppose them.

**Abducted** - Take someone away using force.

**Vicious** - Morally bad in principle or practice.

**Canny** - Showing self-interest and sharpness in dealing with others.

**Patronage** - The support, especially financial, that is given to a person or an organisation.

The ministers came to know that Akampanacharya and his munisangh were coming to Hastinapur. This triggered their feeling of revenge. Knowing that King Padma is a **staunch** believer in Jainism; it was impossible to even think of touching the munisangh in his presence.

With an evil plot in mind, the ministers went to the king.

Your Majesty! We have come to ask for the wish you granted us.

We wish to perform **uninterrupted** religious programs. This is possible only if we have absolute power to rule the entire kingdom. We don't want anyone to **obstruct** us, so please grant us the powers of the king for 7 days.

Your wish is granted!

Unaware of the evil intentions of the ministers, the king kept his promise and handed over the kingdom to them for 7 days.

After taking over the throne, they knew that now no one could stop them!

The munisangh arrived in Hastinapur and settled on the outskirts.

But little did anyone know that ministers had already planned to trap the munisangh as soon as the Sangh entered the kingdom.

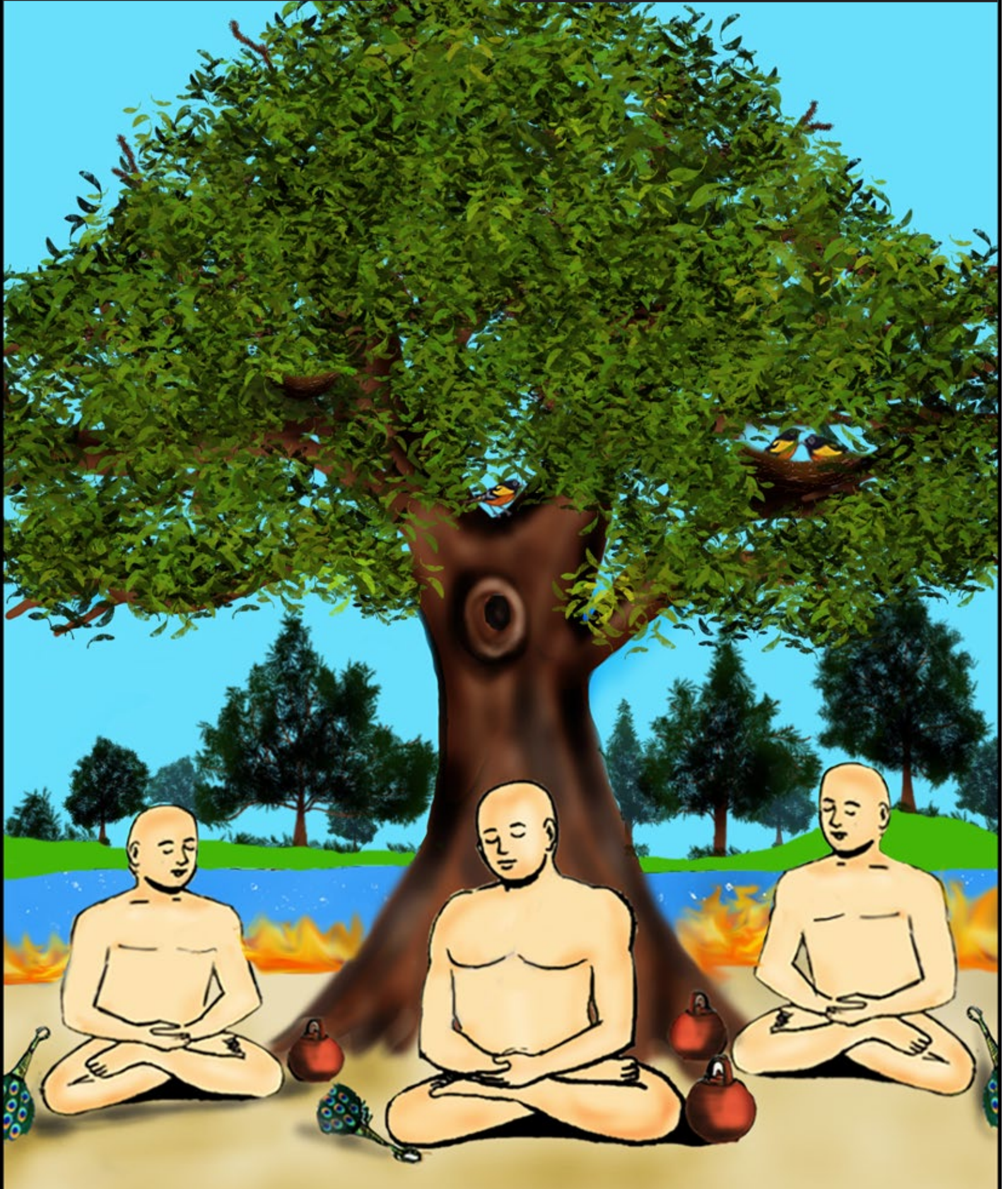
**Staunch** - Very loyal to a person, organisation, or set of beliefs, and supports them strongly.

**Uninterrupted** - Continuing without a break; not stopped or blocked by anything.

**Obstruct** - To block or get in the way of something or someone.

Ministers surrounded the munisangh with thorns and branches of trees. They built a **Yagyashala** near them and started a fire around munisangh.

When people got to know about this, the ministers mockingly said that these **fraudsters** will run away from here in no time. You won't be able to see a single one of them tomorrow morning.



Realising the **Upsarg**, Akampanacharya ordered his disciples to **renounce** food and water until the Upsarg ends. The Sangh shall **endure** this Upsarg peacefully.

**Yagyashala** - It literally means a place of fire. Yajna refers to any ritual done in front of a sacred fire, often with mantras.

**Fraudsters** - Someone who cheats or deceives others.

**Upsarg** - Disturbance or Attack so as to distract a person from

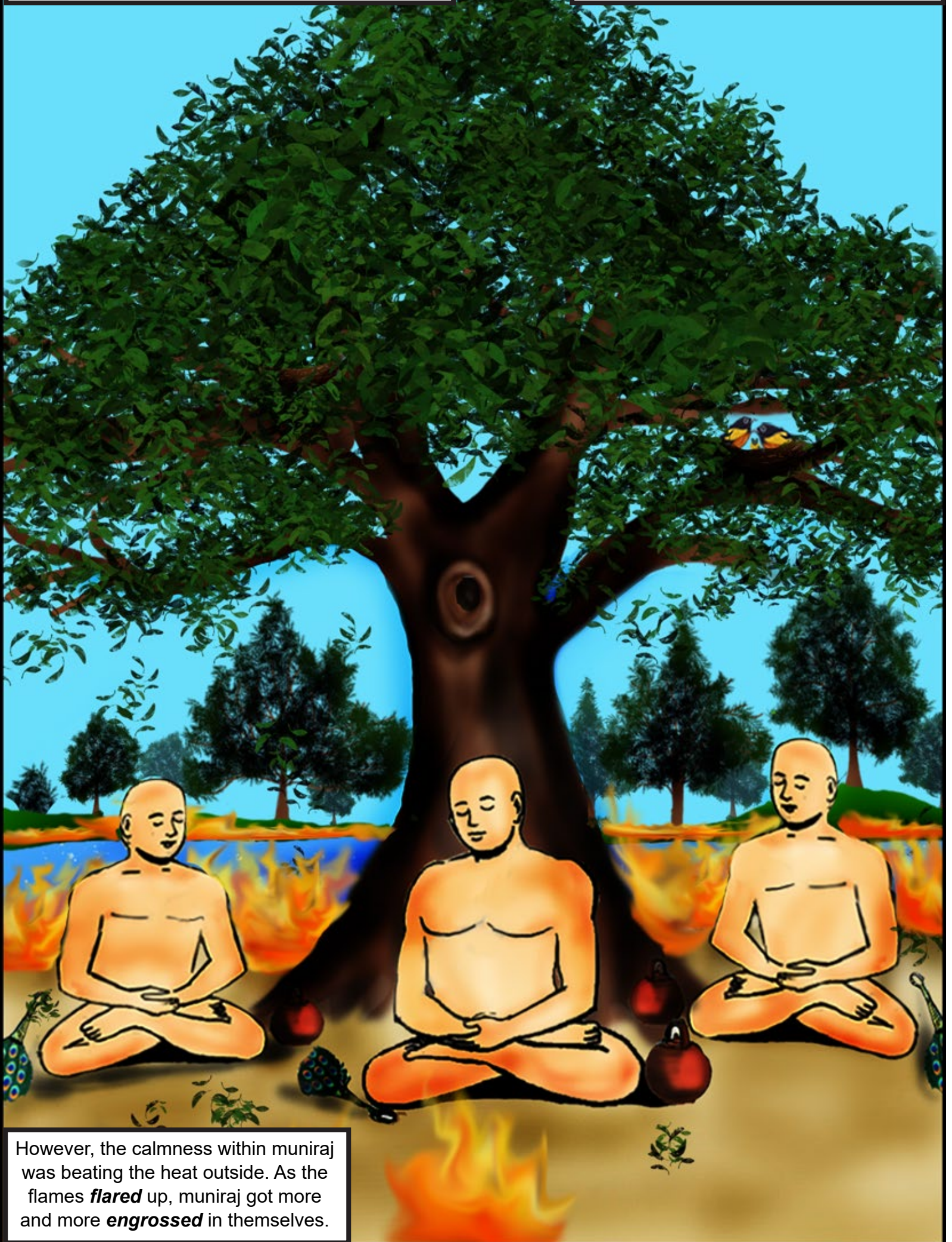
continuing his penance.

**Renounce** - Formally declare one's abandonment of (a claim, right, possession).

**Endure** - To bear something difficult, painful, or unpleasant.

The next day, ministers were **startled** to see that muniraj had not moved an inch! Ministers started adding fuel to the fire, but muniraj remained calm.

As ministers **enraged** further, they kept fueling the fire. The intense heat from the fire began to now reach Muniraj directly.



However, the calmness within muniraj was beating the heat outside. As the flames **flared** up, muniraj got more and more **engrossed** in themselves.

**Startled** - Surprised and slightly frightened.

**Enraged** - To fill with rage or anger.

**Flared** - Become wider.

**Engrossed** - Giving all your attention to something. Completely occupied or absorbed into something.

Next day, the ministers **upped** their efforts to distract the munis by throwing **filthy** objects and dead animals into the fire. As a result **Pungent** dark smoke started spreading everywhere. People were finding it difficult to breathe. Even the birds and animals nearby could not stand the awful smell.

**Progeny** realised the ministers' actions had nothing to do with religious practices. They asked help from the king. However, the king expressed his helplessness because he no longer possessed any powers. No one dared to challenge the four ministers, who had all the powers of the king!



But there was no sign of anger or fear on the face of any muniraj. Muniraj kept diving deeper and deeper into their soul with each breath.

**Upped** - So as to advance or increase.

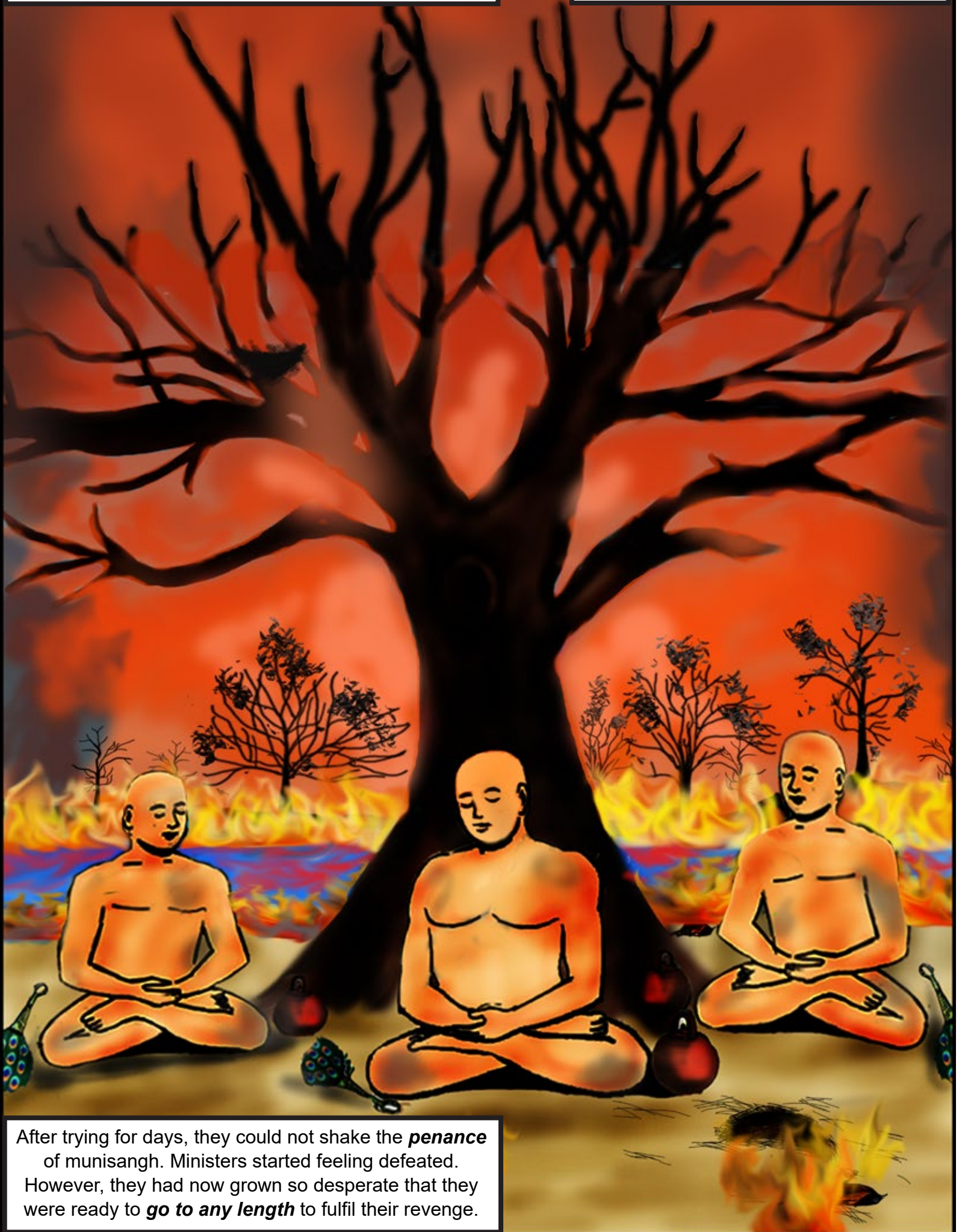
**Filthy** - Very dirty.

**Pungent** - Having a sharply strong taste or smell.

**Progeny** - The people who live in or belong to a particular kingdom or country.

The next day, the ministers began sacrificing alive animals into the flames on the **pretext** of religious customs. The **distress** calls and screams of animals were unbearable. The scenes looked like hell on earth.

In contrast, the Muniraj remained as serene as a still pond. People were **astounded** by their **equanimity (Samta)** in such dreadful circumstances.



After trying for days, they could not shake the **penance** of munisangh. Ministers started feeling defeated. However, they had now grown so desperate that they were ready to **go to any length** to fulfil their revenge.

**Pretext** - A pretended reason used to hide the real reason.

**Distress** - Being in great danger and needing immediate help.

**Astounded** - Feeling or showing great surprise or wonder.

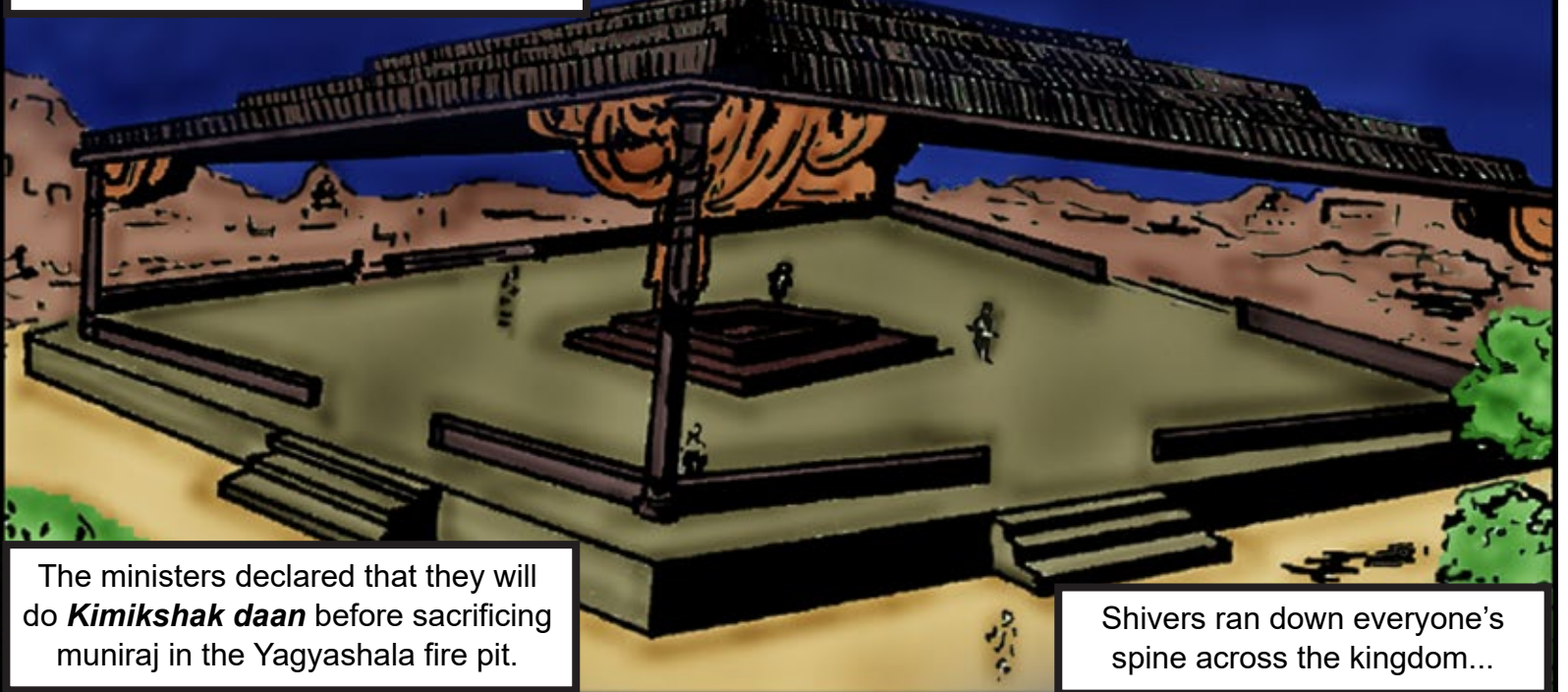
**Equanimity (samta)** - The sense of even mindedness. Muniraj

neither like their worshippers nor dislike their haters. Everyone is the same for them.

**Penance** - तपस्या, तप roughly translates to penance.

**Go to any length** - To make an extreme effort to do something.

With time running out and their powers about to end the next day, they finally decided to perform **Narmegh Yagya**.



The ministers declared that they will do **Kimikshak daan** before sacrificing muniraj in the Yagyashala fire pit.

Shivers ran down everyone's spine across the kingdom...

At the same time in Mithilapuri... A Kshullak Bhrajishnu saw the **Shravana Nakshtra** trembling in the sky. Seeing this unusual sight, he understood that some muniraj somewhere were in grave danger.

He went to **Nimitt Gyani** Vishnusuri Ji, and narrated the incident...

Akampanacharya and his disciples are under life-threatening Upsarg in Hastinapur. You should immediately go to Dharni-Bhushan mountain and find muniraj Vishnukumar. Only he can save the muniraj with the **Vikriya-Riddhi** that he possesses.



**Narmegh Yagya** - An ancient ritual of human sacrifice.

**Kimikshak Daan** - Charity in which the donation is given as requested or as per the wish by the recipient.

**Shravana Nakshatra** - Shravana is the 22nd of 27 constellations.

**Nimitt Gyani** - The person who can predict the occurrence of certain event by

means of characteristic signs.

**Vikriya-Riddhi** - A superpower with which a person can shrink, expand, extend a part of the body, make oneself light or heavy, be invisible or take different forms.

Kshullak Ji asked **Vidyadhar** Pushpadant to immediately go and inform Vishnukumar Muni.

Ohh! What can be done about it?

My lord, can you do something with the Vikriya-Riddhi that you possess?

What are you saying?  
I have Vikriya-Riddhi ?

Oh, great soul! Why don't you check it yourself?

As Vidyadhar said, Vishnukumar Muniraj extended his hand. Ohh!

The hand extended and reached the **Manushottar Parvat**, thousands of **yojan** far away. Mahamuni Vishnukumar now realised his superpower. He **retracted** his hand.

Incredible! Have you ever heard of someone with superpowers and not knowing it? Muniraj are so engrossed into themselves that they **seldom** realise about the super powers they possess. As an effect of supreme penance, Riddhi emerges automatically. There can be up to 64 Riddhis.

**Vidyadhar** - Humans having vidyas (super-powers and abilities).  
**Manushottar Parvat** - A mountain which is the maximum limit of Madhya Lok (the centre of the universe inhabited by humans, animals, etc.) upto where humans are capable of going.

**Yojan** - Unit of distance in ancient times. 1 yojan = 12.8 kms or 8 miles (approximately).

**Retracted** - To pull something back.

**Seldom** - Not often; rarely.

When Muni Vishnukumar reached Hastinapur, he was shocked to see the ***dire situation*** in which Akampnacharya and 700 muni had been trapped for an entire week.

He could not bear the sight and his heart got filled with ***compassion***. Deep compassion won him over and he gave up his position of Digambar Muni. He transformed into a ***dwarf mendicant*** using his Vikriya-Riddhi. He went to Bali early in the morning, reciting verses for alms.



Enough of your ***verses***. Tell me what do you want? I am the King of the earth and I shall grant you anything you wish for.

Oh king! I only wish for three steps of land from you.

Bali laughed at the ***petty*** demand of the mendicant.

Oh mendicant! Your demand is as small as your ***stature***. Come, let us count three steps of land for you. Rather you can take as many steps of land as you wish.



**Dire situation** - Emphasise how serious or terrible a situation is.

**Compassion** - Sadharmi Vatsalya in Hindi. To recognize the suffering of others and then take action to help.

**Dwarf** - A person who is unusually short in stature (height).

**Mendicant** - Someone (such as a member of a religious group) who lives by asking people for money or food.

**Verses** - A paragraph of religious text.

**Petty** - Of little importance; trivial. **Stature** - Height of a person.

After Bali granted his wish, the mendicant started growing in size. Large! Huge!! Gigantic!!!  
And...



What a surprise! He grew so **humongous** that his first step extended till the **Meru Mountain**.

**Humongous** - Exceptionally large.

**Meru Mountain** - Meru Mountain in Jain cosmology is the centre of the world surrounded by the Jambudweep.

He kept his second gigantic step on the **Manushottar mountain**! Consequently, he had taken the whole of **Manushyalok** in just two steps.

There was no place left for the third step. Vishnukumar **ironically** said-

Bali! Tell me where do I keep my third step? There is no place left on this earth!



**Manushottar mountain** - The mountain that limits human habitation. Humans are not born beyond that barrier and can not go beyond it.

**Manushyalok** - Refers to the region in which human beings can exist. It is two and a half continents (dhai dweep) - Jambudweep, Ghatki khand and half of Pushkarardh dweep. It is the world of the mortals.

**Ironically** - In a way that shows that you really mean the opposite of what you are saying.

Bali was terrified to see the gigantic transformation of the mendicant. Visnukumar placed his third step on the back of Bali.



Vishnukumar  
ki Jai ho!

700 munirajo  
ki jai ho!

Jain dharma  
ki jai ho!

O Lord, please forgive me!  
forgive me! forgive me! I  
beg for your *mercy*...

**Mercy** - Act of forgiving or not punishing someone.

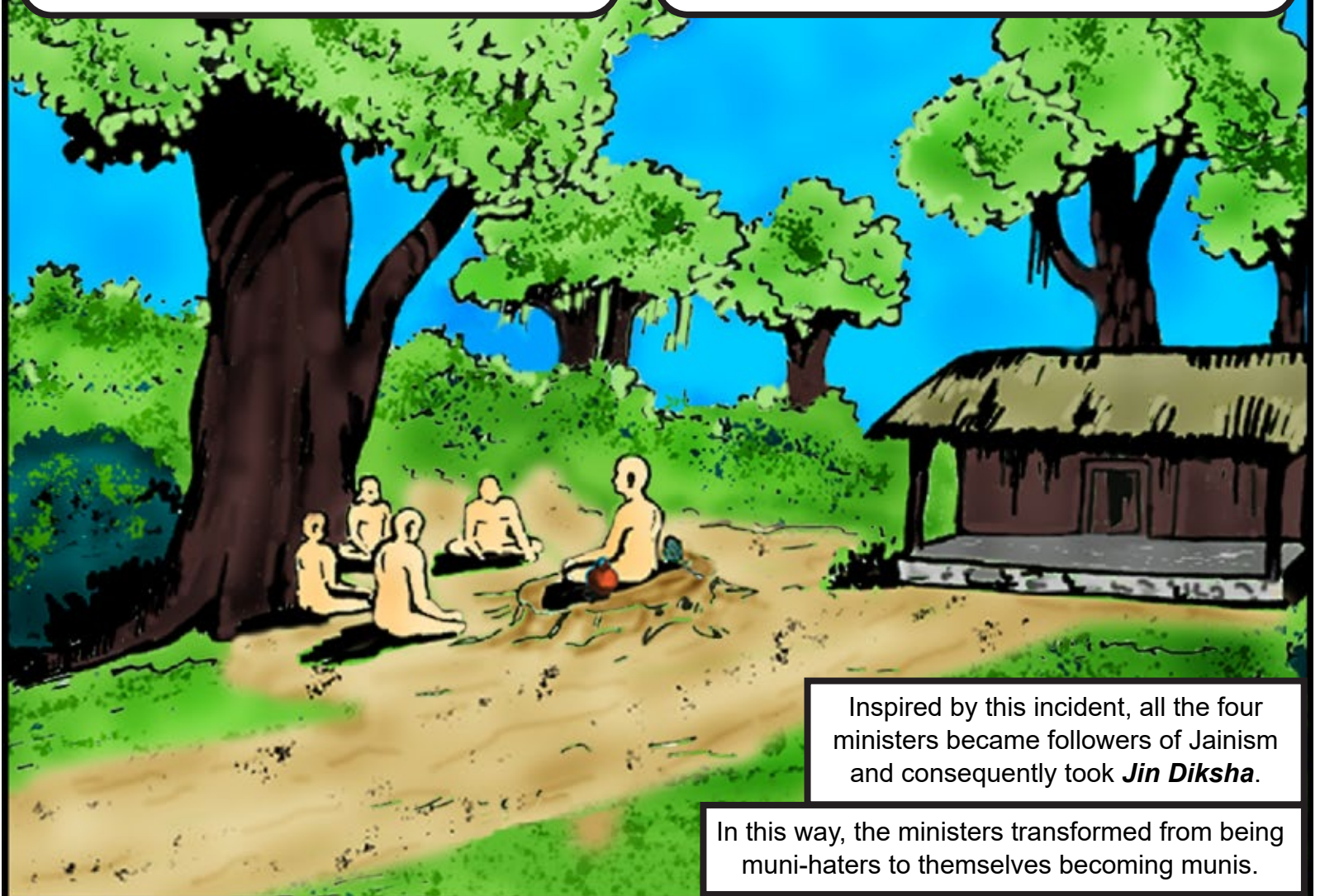
If Vishnukmarji wished he could have simply crushed Bali but his intention was never to kill anyone. So, he forgave Bali and other ministers. Isn't it rightly said in Jainism "Forgiveness adorns the courageous."?

Your compassion towards munisangh will be remembered for generations to come.

We don't deserve any mercy for what we have done. Indeed it is your greatness that you have forgiven **despicable** people like us.

We were dumbheads to not understand the greatness of Akampanacharya and 700 muniraj. We have no words to express the incredible conduct of muniraj that we have witnessed.

We **repent** our deeds. We now wish to leave our past behind and follow your path of Compassion, Non-Violence and Forgiveness. We now realise the essence of true religion.



Inspired by this incident, all the four ministers became followers of Jainism and consequently took **Jin Diksha**.

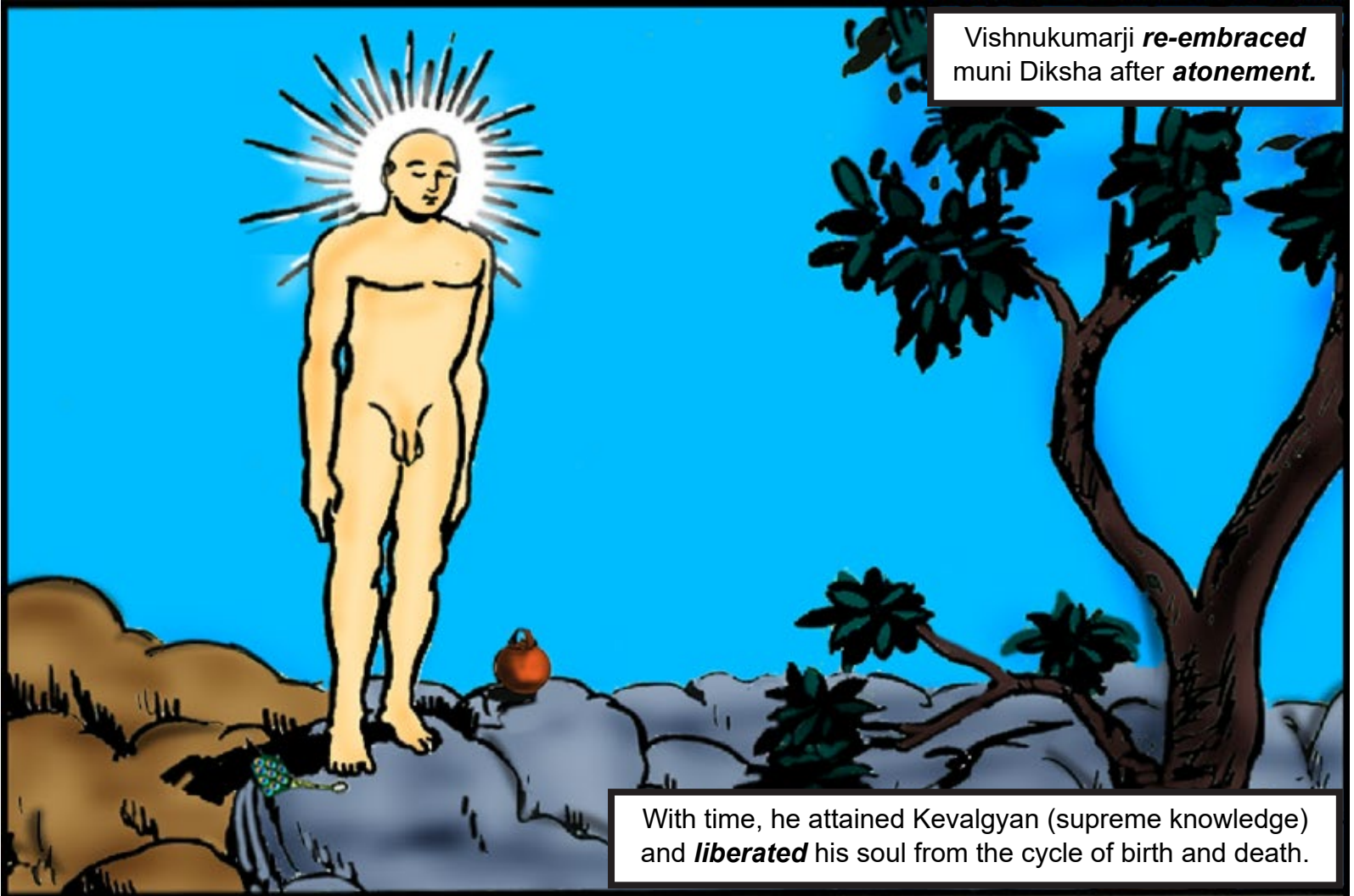
In this way, the ministers transformed from being muni-haters to themselves becoming munis.

**Despicable** - A foul and loathsome person.

**Repent** - To feel and show that you are sorry about something bad that you have done.

**Jin Diksha** - When a person renounces worldly life and all worldly attachments and is initiated into monkhood or nunhood, the man is called Sadhu, Shraman, or Muni, and the woman is called Sadhvi, Shramani, or Arya. The process of renouncing is called Jin Diksha.

Vishnukumarji **re-embraced** muni Diksha after **atonement**.



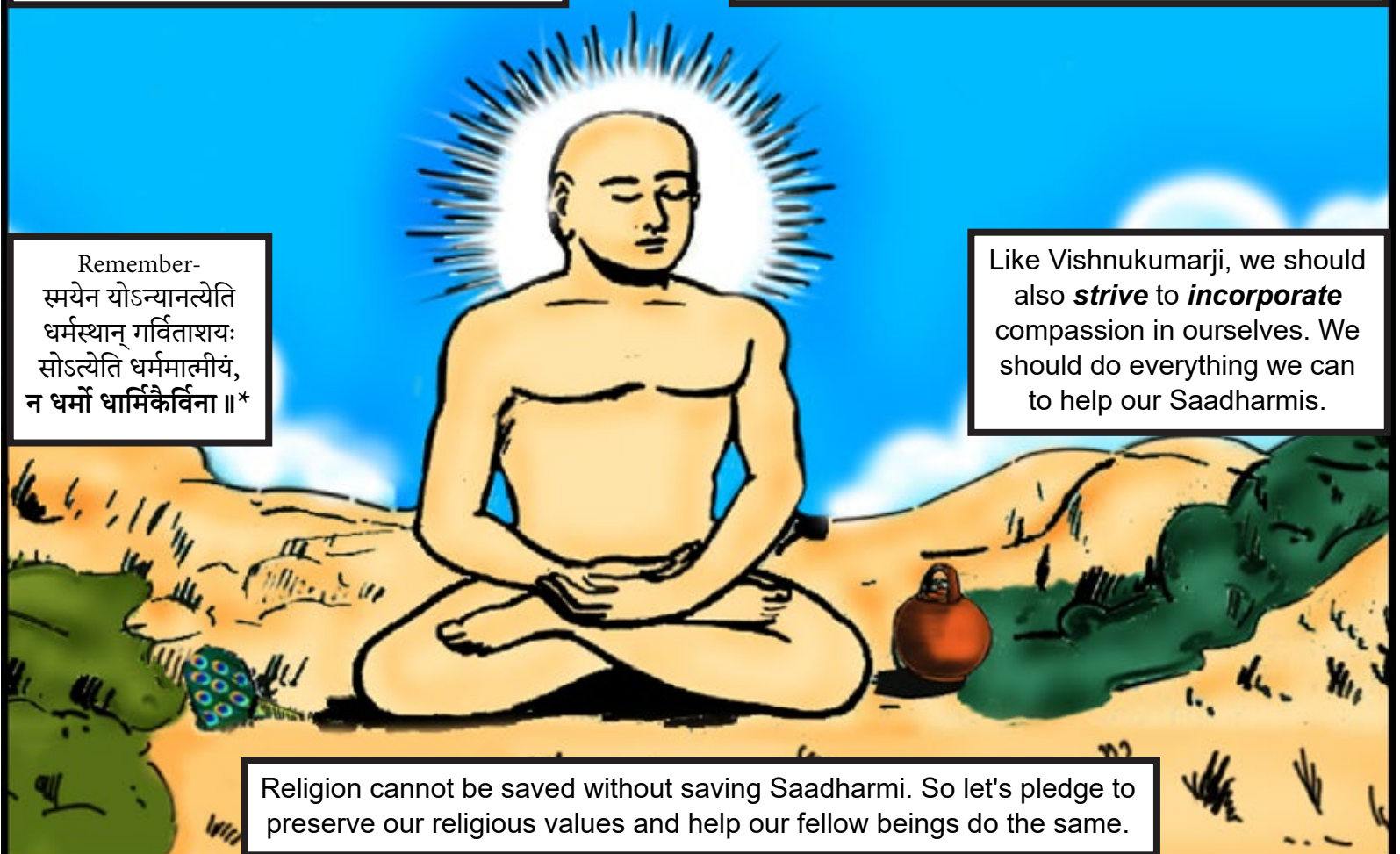
With time, he attained Kevalgyan (supreme knowledge) and **liberated** his soul from the cycle of birth and death.

It was from this day that the full moon day of the Shravan month is celebrated as the Raksha-Bandhan. As a symbol of this, we tie the Raksha Sutra on our hands.

We should take inspiration from Akampanacharya and 700 muniraj who remained unmoved and did not leave their municharya, even in such life-threatening circumstances.

Remember-  
स्मयेन योऽन्यानत्येति  
धर्मस्थान् गर्विताशयः  
सोऽत्येति धर्ममात्मीयं,  
न धर्मो धार्मिकैर्विना ॥\*

Like Vishnukumarji, we should also **strive** to **incorporate** compassion in ourselves. We should do everything we can to help our Saadharmis.



Religion cannot be saved without saving Saadharmi. So let's pledge to preserve our religious values and help our fellow beings do the same.

**Re-embraced** - Accept again.

**Atonement** - The concept of a person taking action to correct previous wrongdoing on their part.

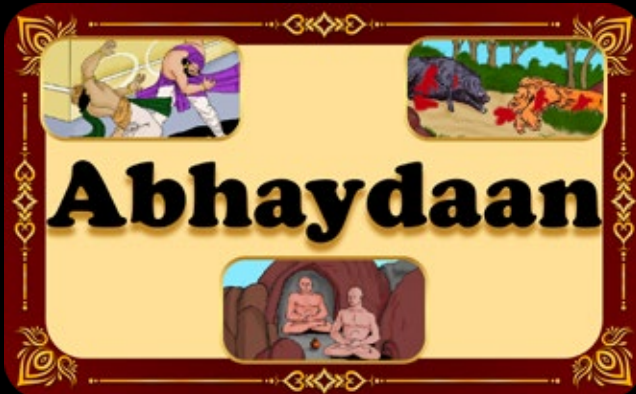
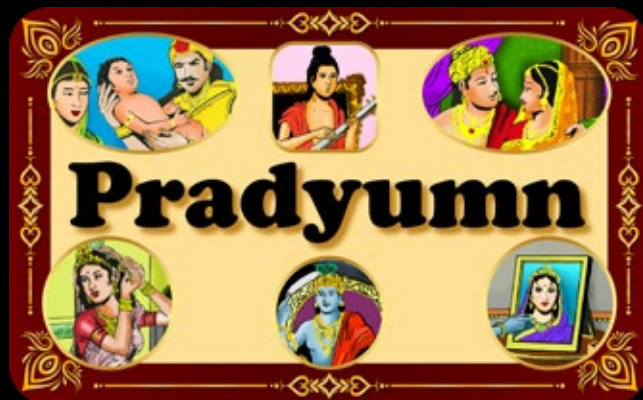
**Liberated** - Freed.

न धर्मो धार्मिकैर्विना - Reference from Shri Ratnakarand Shravakachar, by Acharya Samantbhadra.

**Strive** - To devote serious effort or energy.

**Incorporate** - To include (something) as part of something else.

# Comics in this series



ENGLISH



<https://jaincomics.wordpress.com>



FREE download