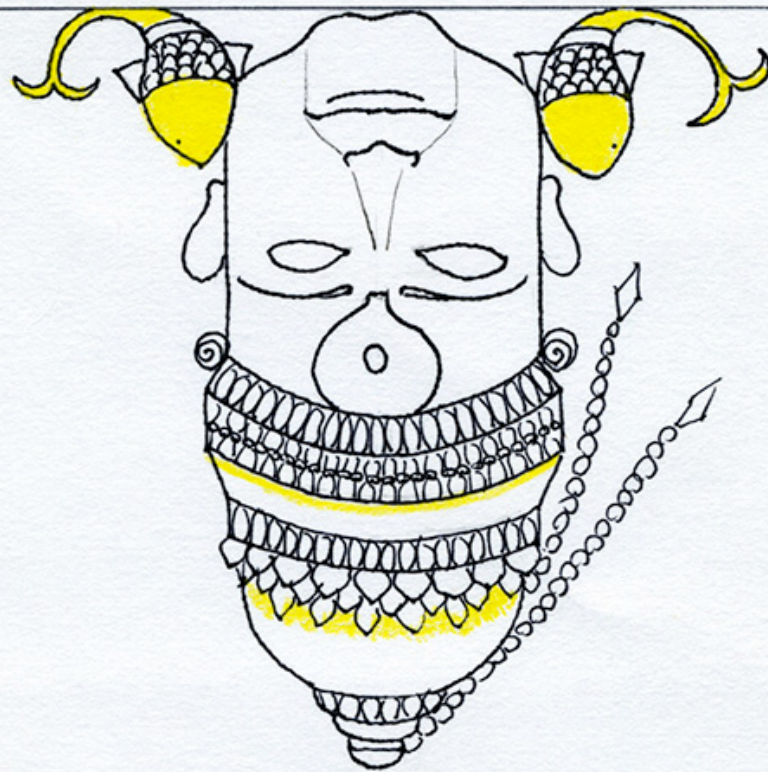


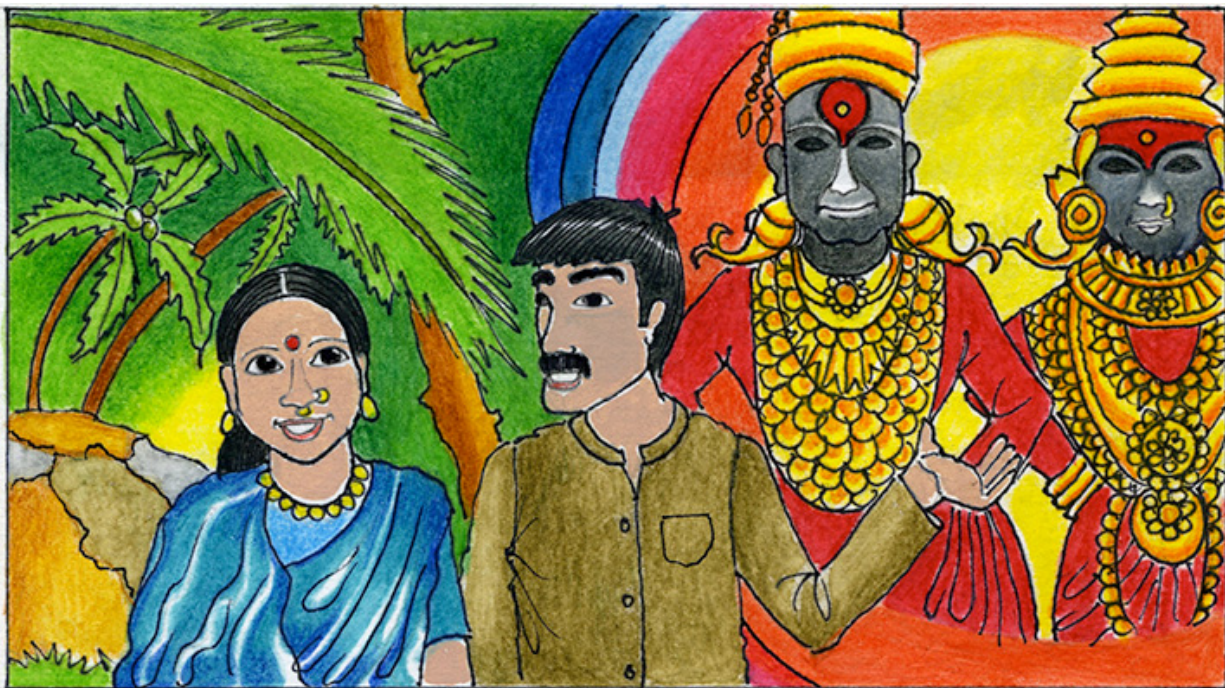


CHAPTER 7
PANDHARI BHAJANS



Karnam and his wife Subbamma were the first in the village of Puttaparthi to start Pandhari bhajans.

Pandhari Bhajans are songs sung in the adoration of Lord Vittala and his consort Rukmini. This tradition started in a village called Pandharpur in Maharashtra.



The couple presented their idea to little Sathya who Himself volunteered to compose some suitable bhajans and also teach it to His playmates and other children. An itinerant cloth vendor called Venkataiah knew many bhajans and also taught these children. Sathya became the central figure of this group as the organizer, teacher, treasurer, composer and lead singer.



The group had 15-20 boys. Being a part of this group was not easy as Sathya was a perfectionist. He made sure every boy played his part perfectly.

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The group then decided a common costume- shirts, shorts, a towel tied around the waist and head, a scarf around the neck and garland, bell anklets and little wood clap sticks in the hands for performance. They carried a harmonium and drum for music and performed even in the surrounding villages.



Sometimes the children walked 10-12 miles on foot and rested under groves on the way.



Whenever the group announced their visit to a village, the people of the village swept the entire village clean and excitedly waited for the young group.

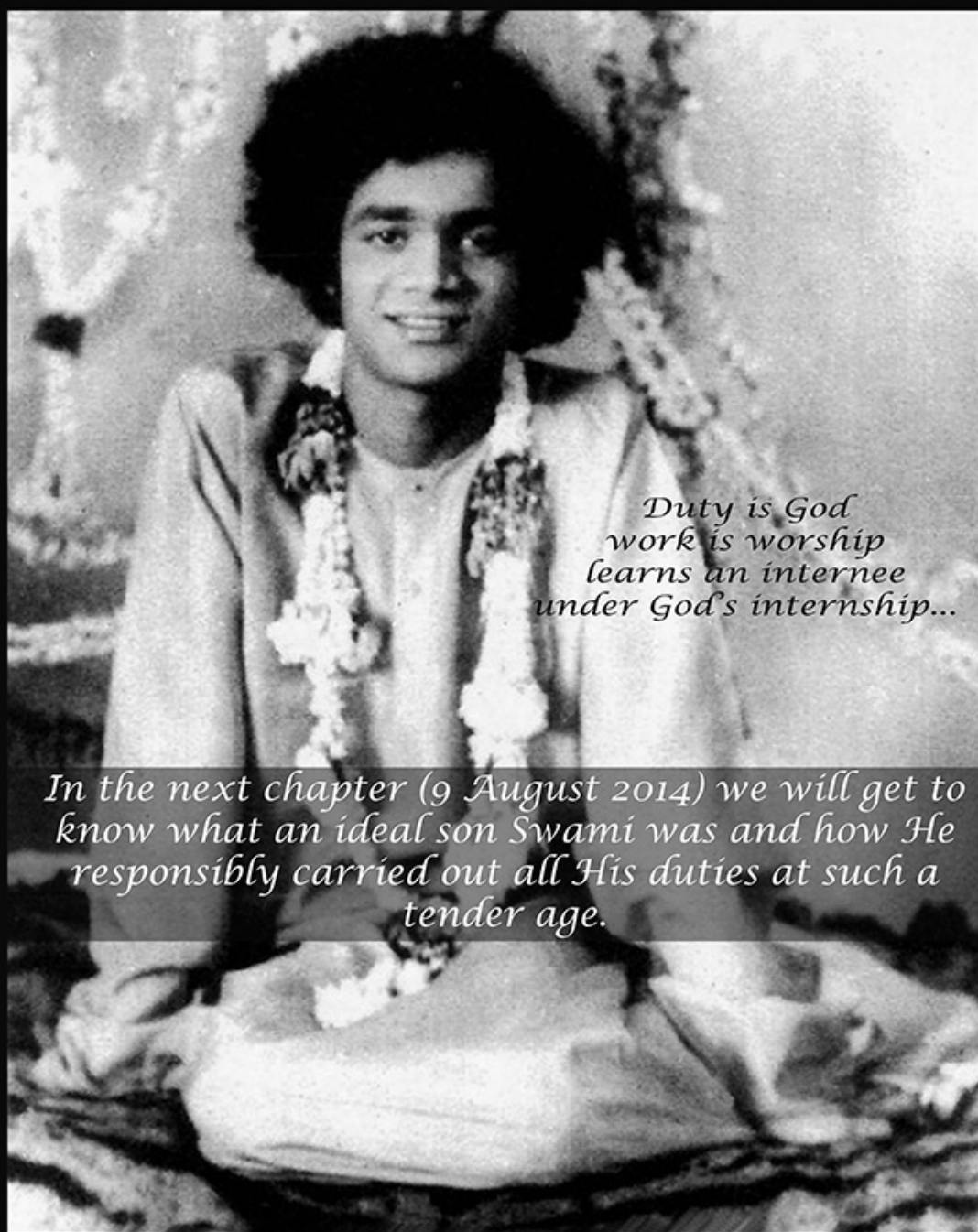


Sathya introduced some Bhagavatha songs of His own in which gopis complain to Yashodha of the unceasing pranks of Krishna. Some songs showed Yashodha scolding Krishna for His mischief and Krishna pleading innocence. These roles were enacted so beautifully that the villagers could see before their eyes Mathura and Brindavan.



Once, the group was depicting the story of Lord Narasimha. Sathya played the part of the half lion half man avatar of Lord Vishnu. When the boys recited the line - 'out of the pillar of steel, the God as lion jumped', petite Sathya leapt like a lion and His face and body took the expression of such ferocity and divine strength that everyone present was overwhelmed with fear.





*Duty is God
work is worship
learns an internee
under God's internship...*

*In the next chapter (9 August 2014) we will get to
know what an ideal son Swami was and how He
responsibly carried out all His duties at such a
tender age.*

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