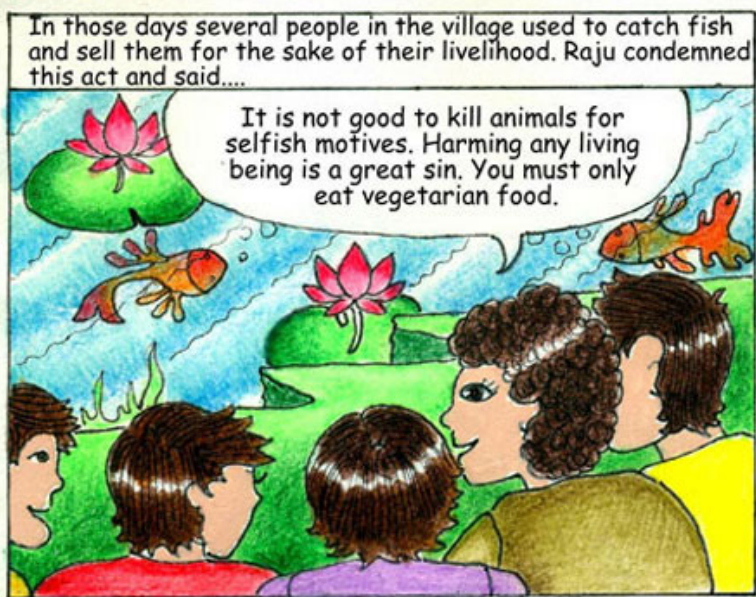
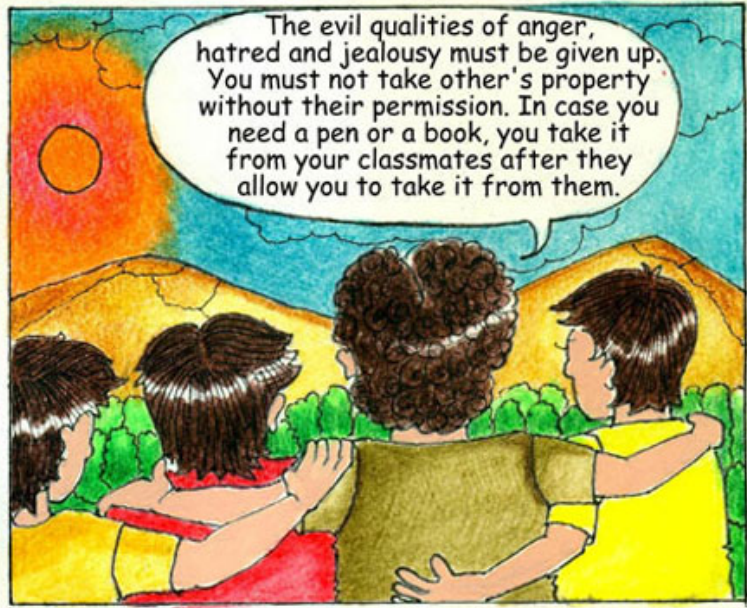
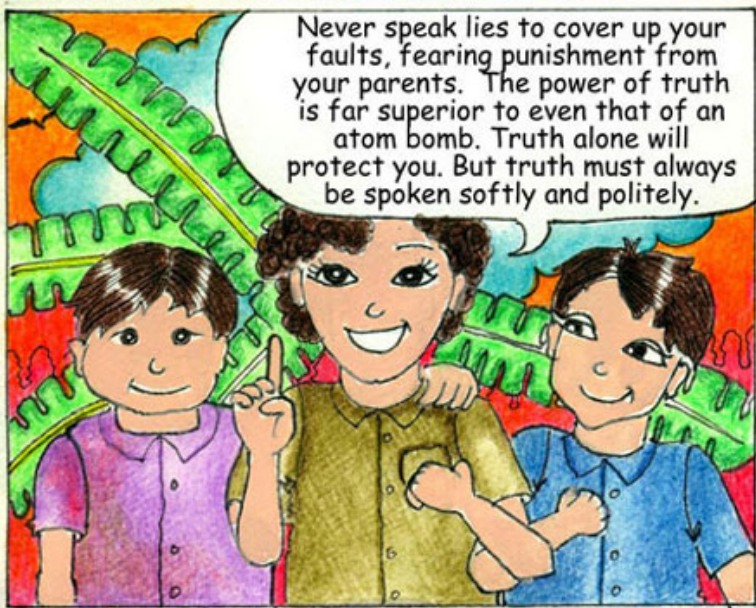
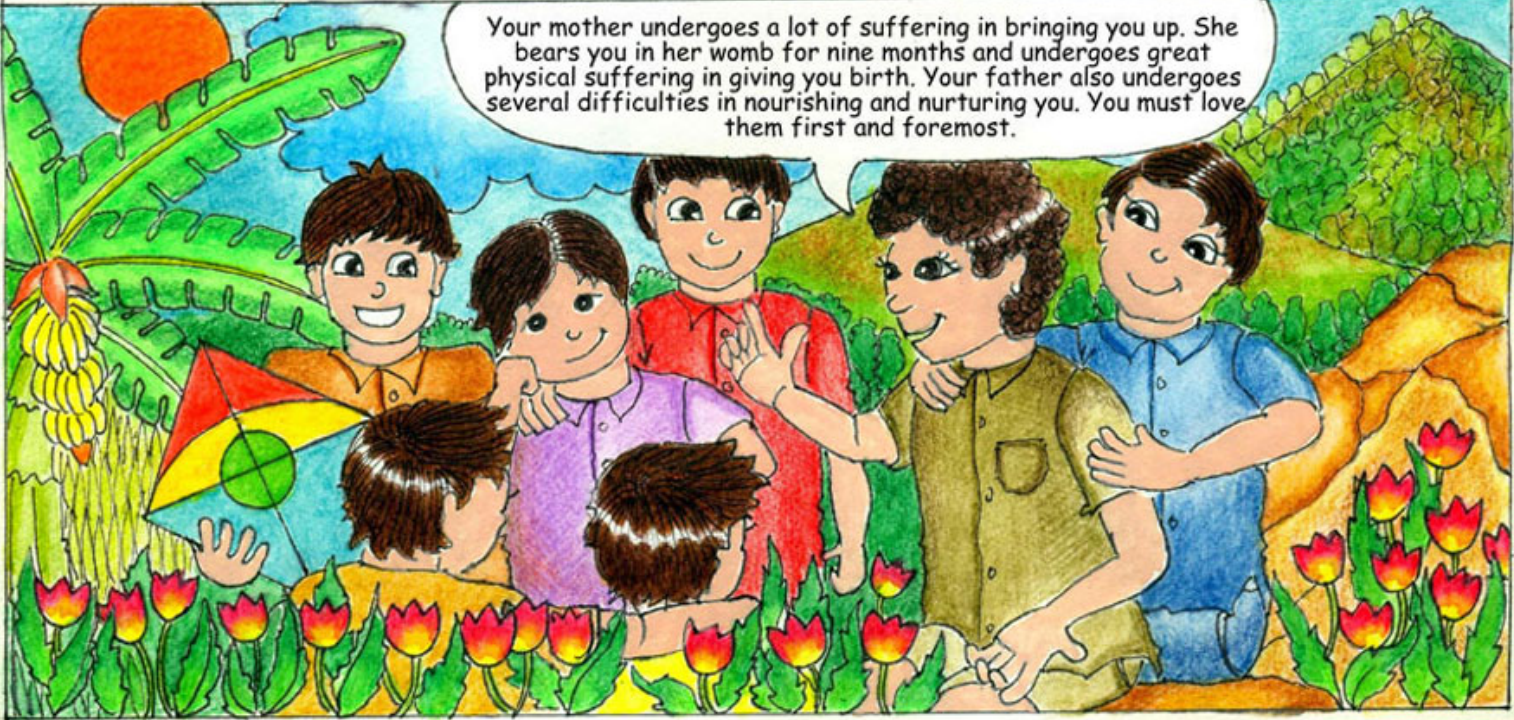


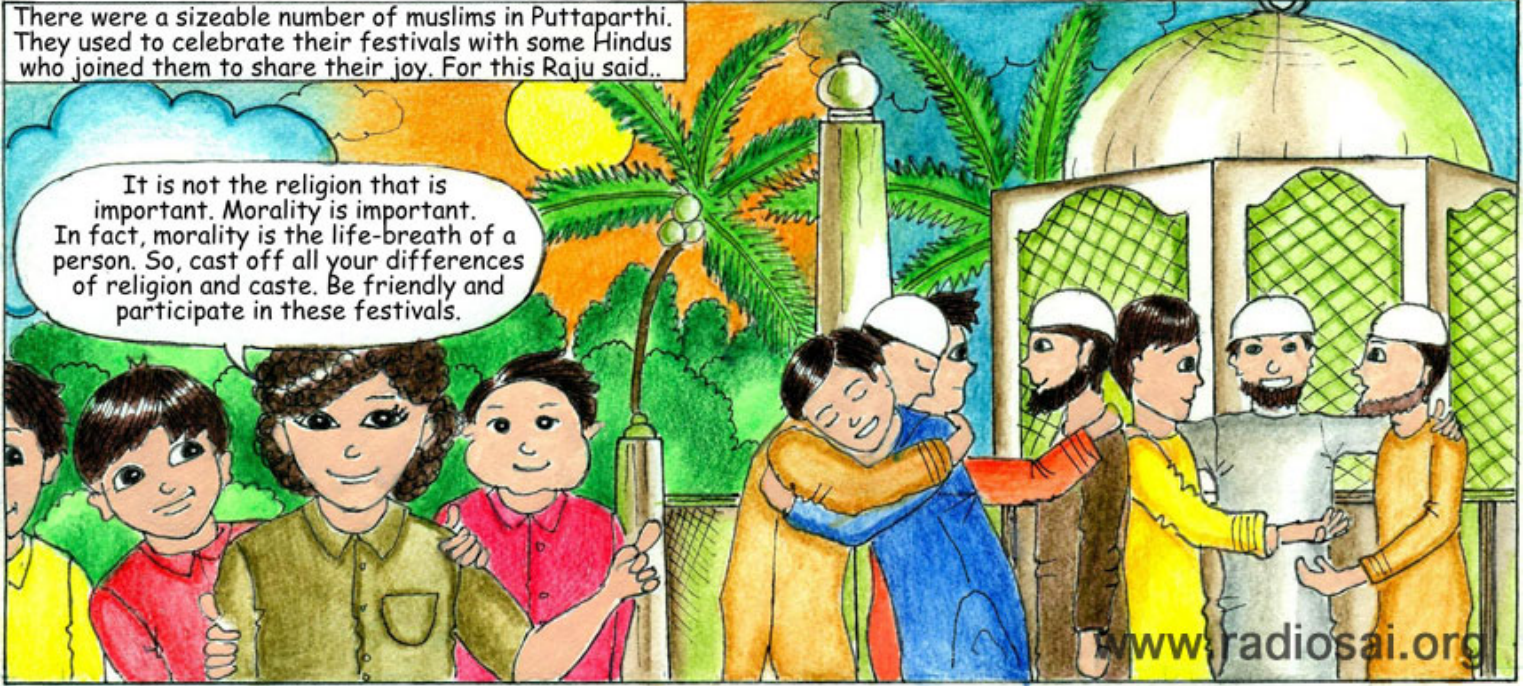
**CHAPTER 4**  
**THE WISE CHILD**



Swami was named Sathyanarayana Raju but was lovingly called Raju. During his childhood, several children of his age used to gather around him, singing and dancing, spending their time happily with their favourite friend. Raju not only played with them but also taught them the following things....



There were a sizeable number of muslims in Puttaparthi. They used to celebrate their festivals with some Hindus who joined them to share their joy. For this Raju said..

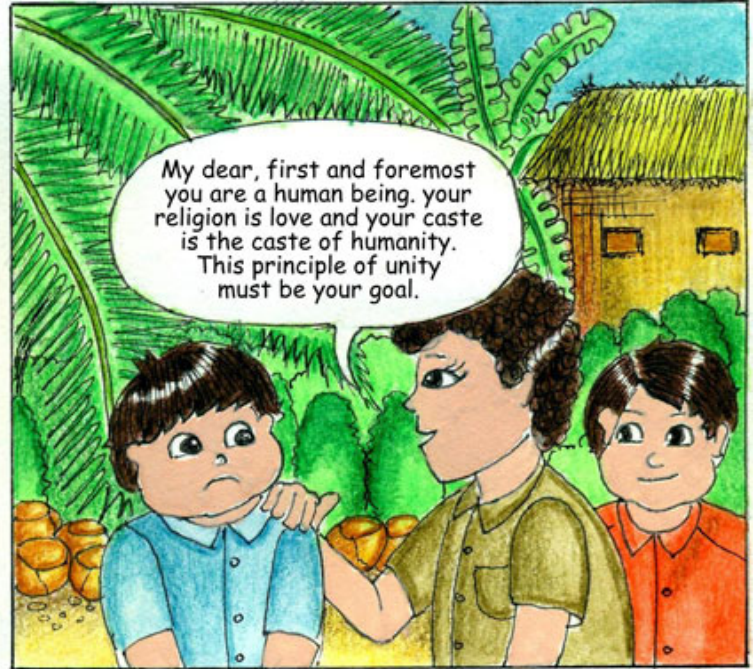


It is not the religion that is important. Morality is important. In fact, morality is the life-breath of a person. So, cast off all your differences of religion and caste. Be friendly and participate in these festivals.

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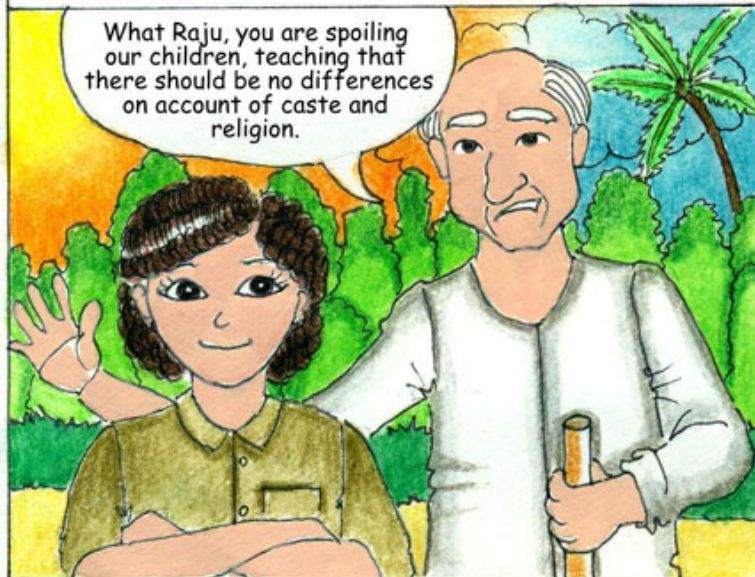


Raju! my parents will not allow my participation in these festivals. I'm a Brahmin boy.

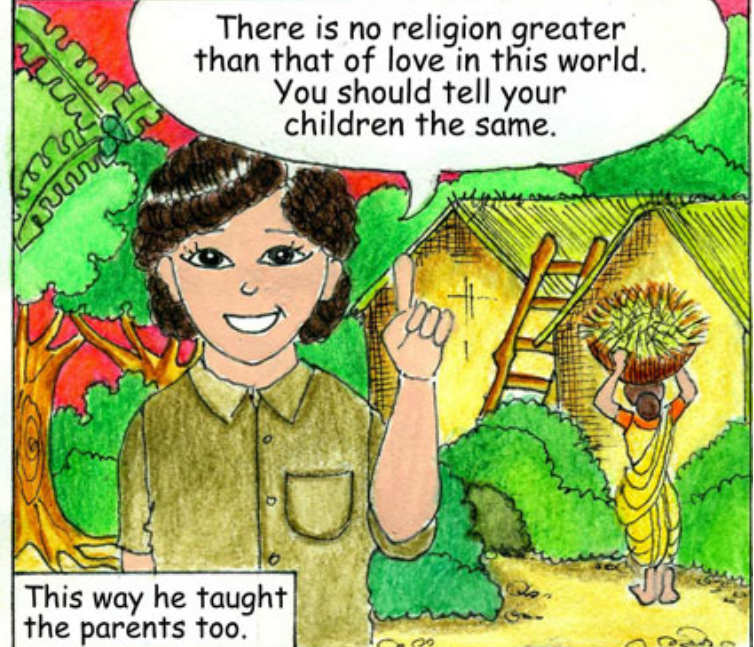


My dear, first and foremost you are a human being. your religion is love and your caste is the caste of humanity. This principle of unity must be your goal.

The parents of these children thought that Raju was spoiling their children's mind. They quarrelled with him saying ..



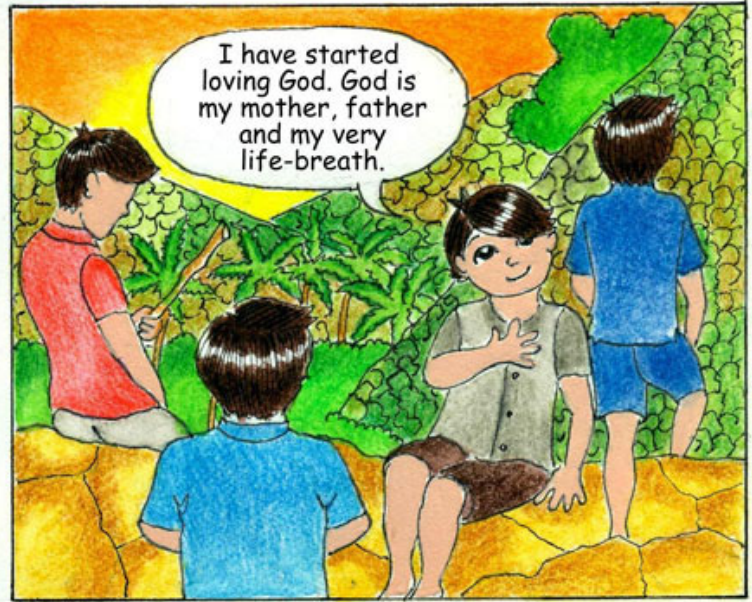
What Raju, you are spoiling our children, teaching that there should be no differences on account of caste and religion.



There is no religion greater than that of love in this world. You should tell your children the same.

This way he taught the parents too.

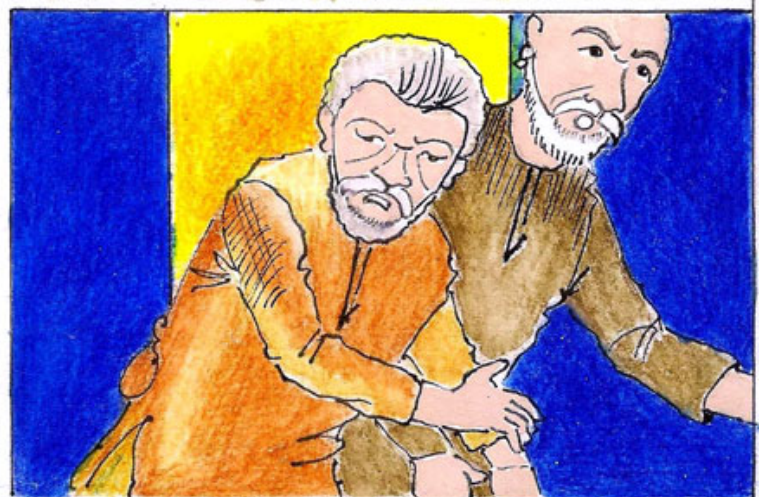
One day, all the children gathered and discussed among themselves how Raju was teaching them so many good things. Then, they introspected among themselves as to what extent each one of them had been able to put into practice His teachings...



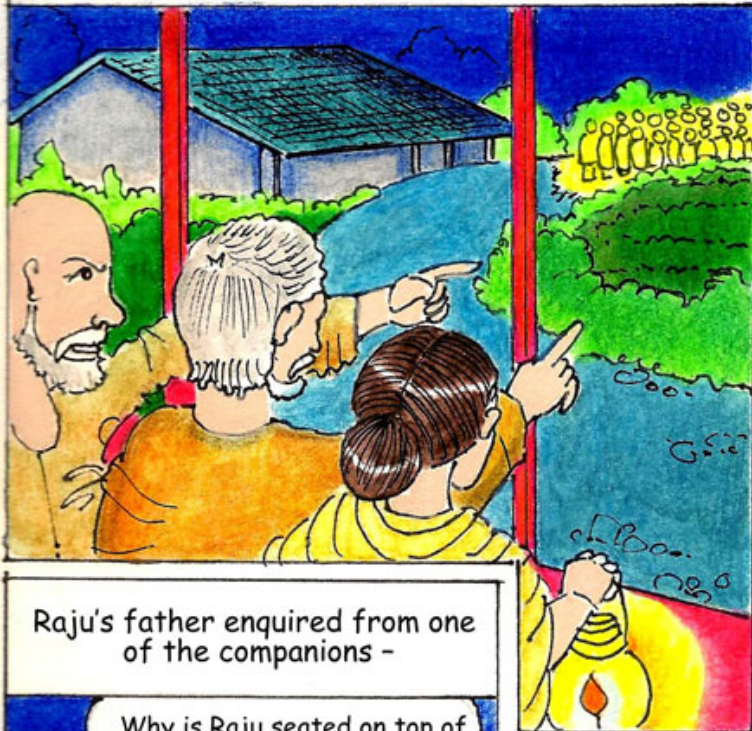
Raju had not only won the hearts of his little friends but also the trust of their parents who considered him an ideal child. This led the children to address little Raju as their 'GURU', a fine example of how purity follows righteousness instinctively. Raju's family was not aware of this. They only found out on the night of Ramanavami. A procession to celebrate the birthday of Sri Rama wended its way, round the village.



Suddenly, the two sisters discovered that their dear Raju was not at home. A search was ordered. Men ran about frantically, for it was already past midnight.



But the attention was distracted just then, by the arrival, outside the door, of the procession with the bullock cart carrying Sri Rama!

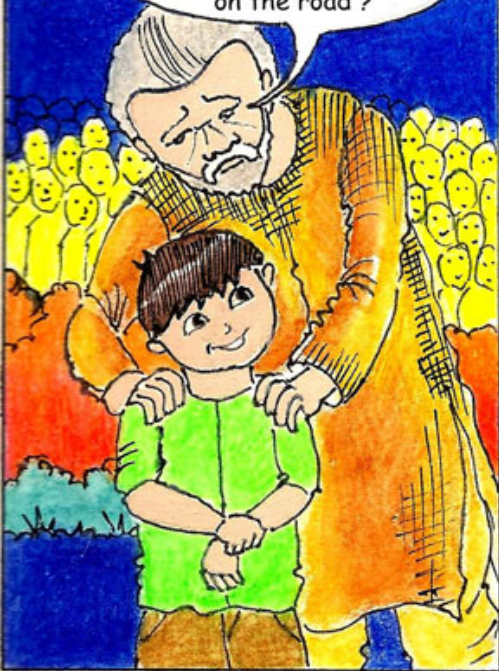


When the bullock cart approached their house, the family members were shocked to see the five year old Raju sitting on the bullock cart, nicely dressed and with evident authority underneath the picture.



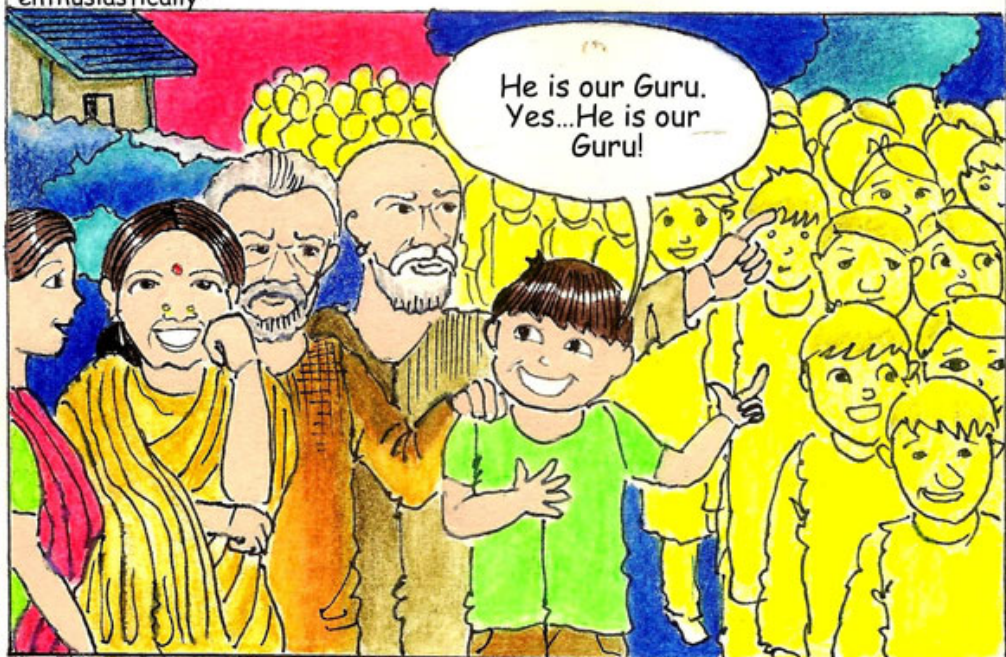
Raju's father enquired from one of the companions -

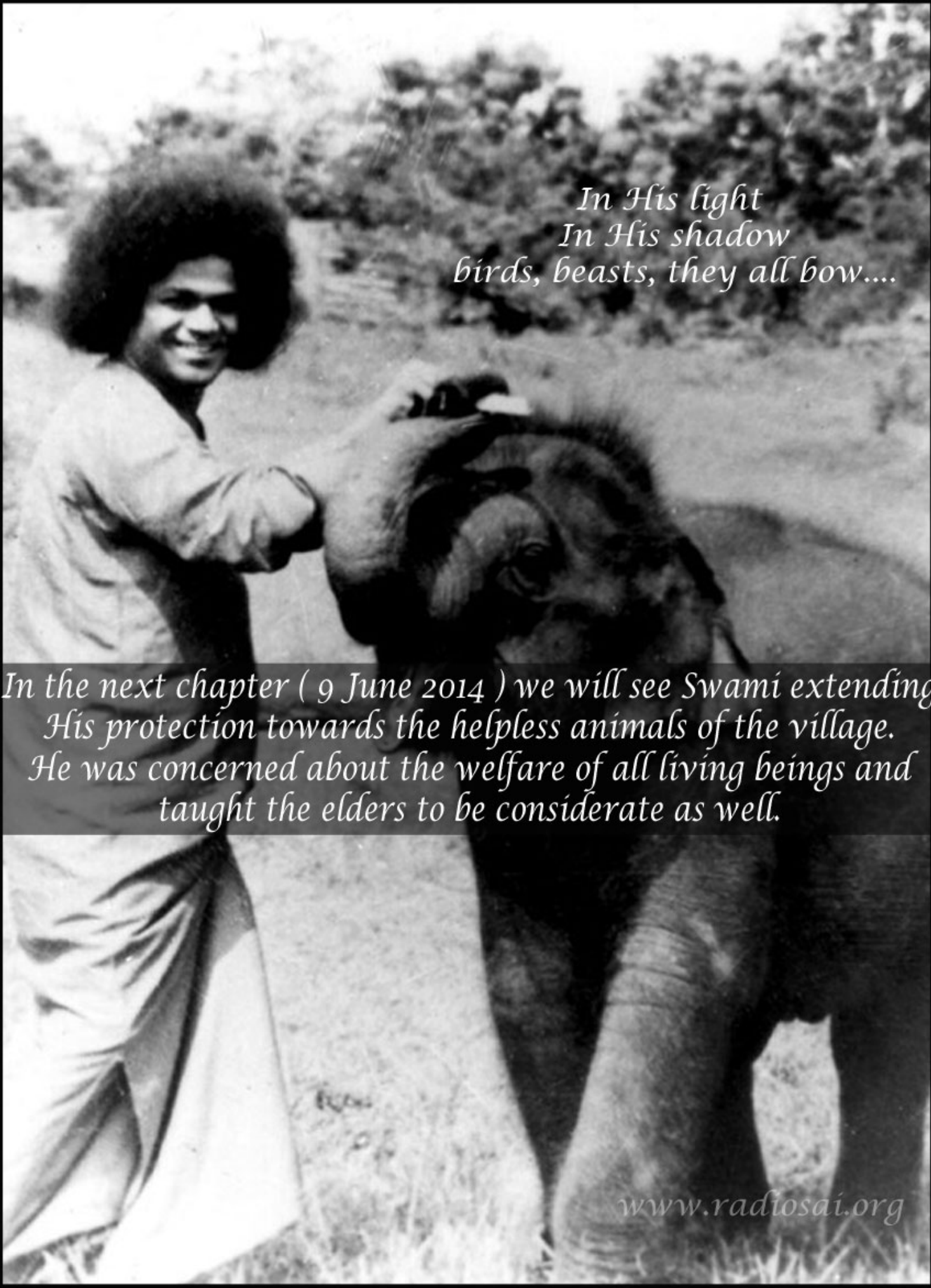
Why is Raju seated on top of the cart and not walking with all of you on the road?



The child's answer startled the family members who never knew what respect their little wonder had already gained in the eyes of the people. The boy said enthusiastically-

He is our Guru. Yes...He is our Guru!





*In His light  
In His shadow  
birds, beasts, they all bow....*

*In the next chapter ( 9 June 2014 ) we will see Swami extending His protection towards the helpless animals of the village. He was concerned about the welfare of all living beings and taught the elders to be considerate as well.*

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