

CHAPTER 13
THE ROAD AHEAD



It was the first time that a rail line was laid to Penukonda (a place near Bukkapatnam) and a train service was introduced. The villagers weaved fantastic stories about the train calling it a monstrous one eyed caterpillar. Many people specially travelled all the way to Penukonda to have a glimpse of this eighth wonder.



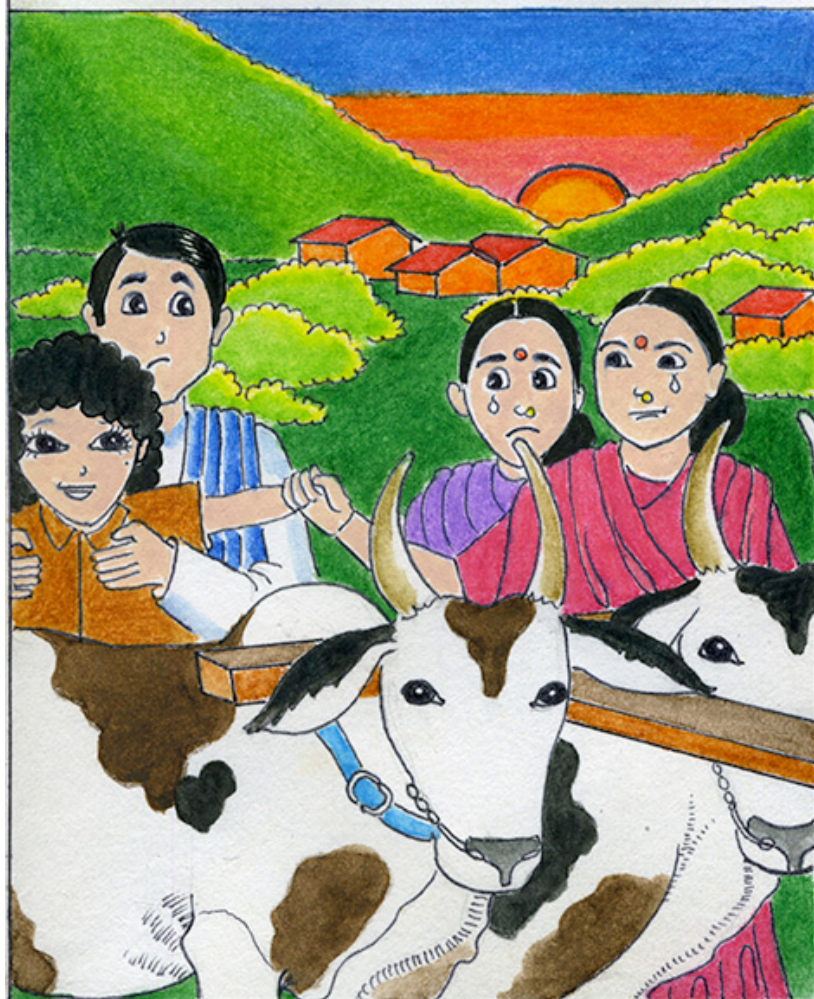
The Public examinations were fast approaching. Sathya and the children had to travel all the way to Penukonda in a bullock cart to appear for the papers. In those days travelling to Penukonda was considered as dangerous as traveling to a foreign country. Parents of all children were very perturbed.



Sathya's family was so anxious that they went along with Sathya up to Bukkapatnam. The journey started as early as five in the morning.



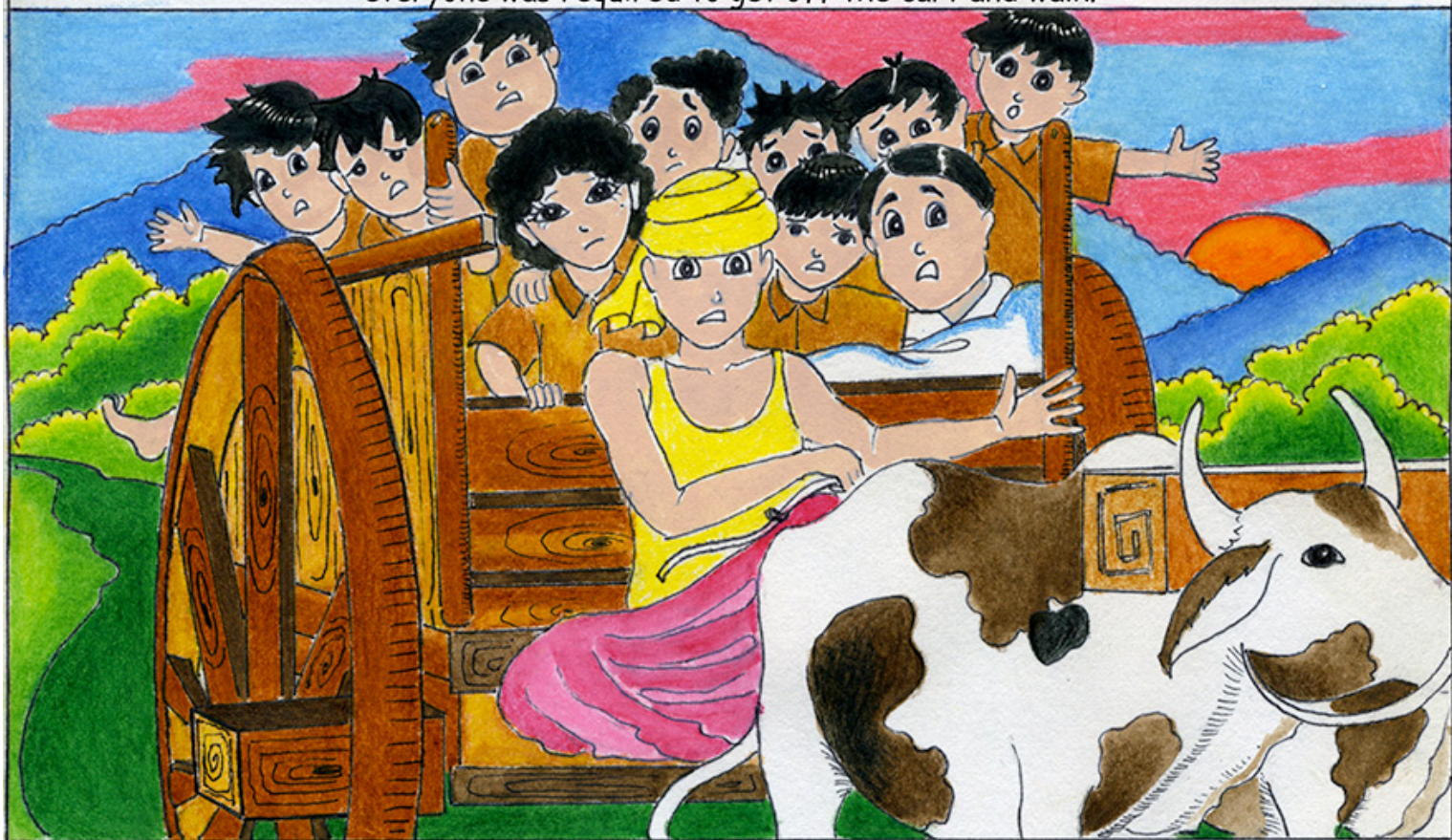
At Bukkapatnam they hired a bullock cart. Sathya's family couldn't control their tears and burst out crying.



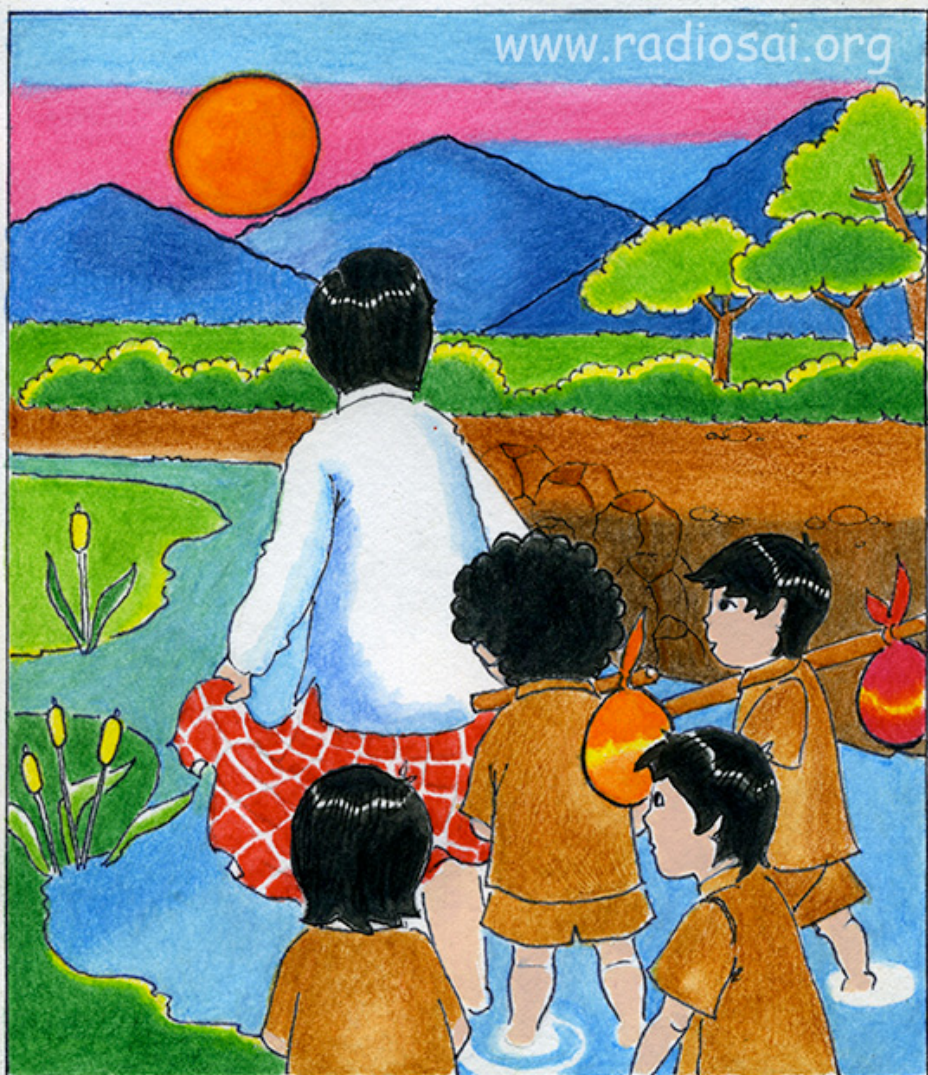
They had no idea how difficult the road was ahead. A teacher who accompanied them suffered the most.



The roads were in such a pathetic condition that if you travelled for one mile in the cart you'd have to walk for the next five miles. Whenever there was a steep gradient everyone was required to get off the cart and walk.



The teacher was responsible for boarding and disembarking the children throughout the journey.



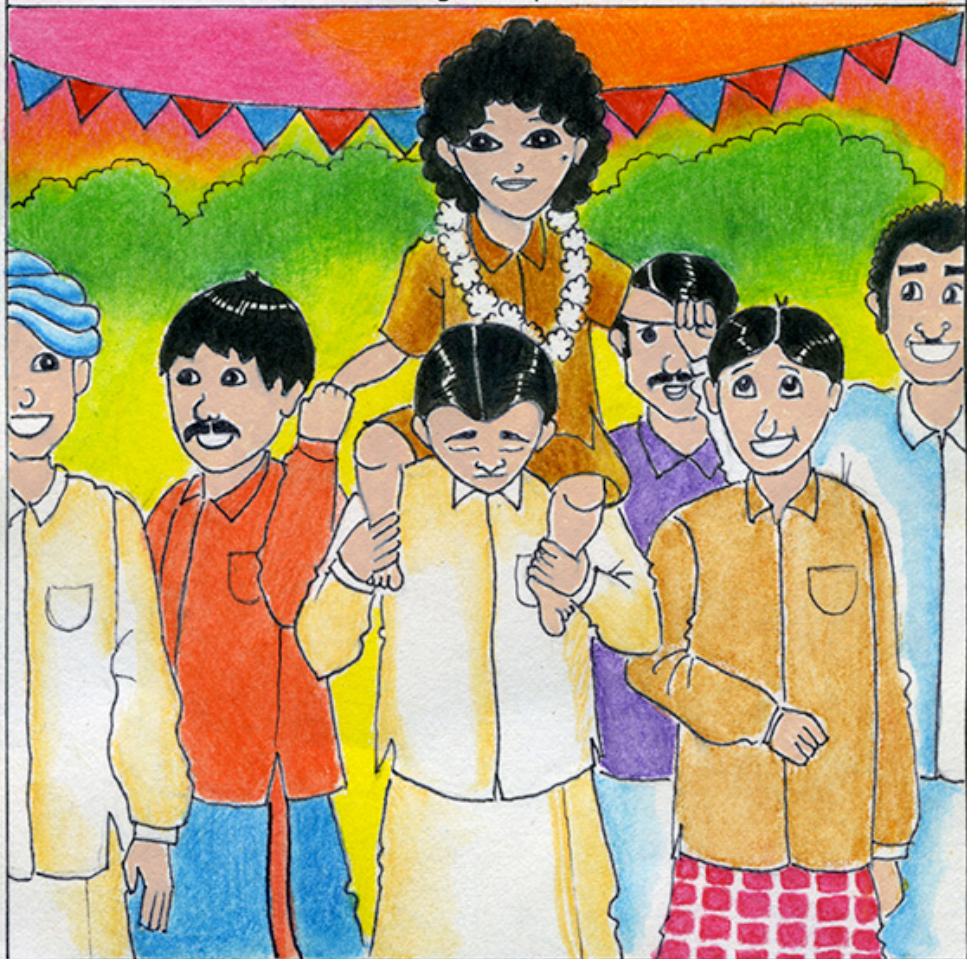
This went on till they finally reached Penukonda at almost nine in the night. Swami later said that it would have been much more comfortable had they walked all the way instead. At the outskirts of the town there was a choultry where they stayed for three days, having a meal comprising of rice and chutney.

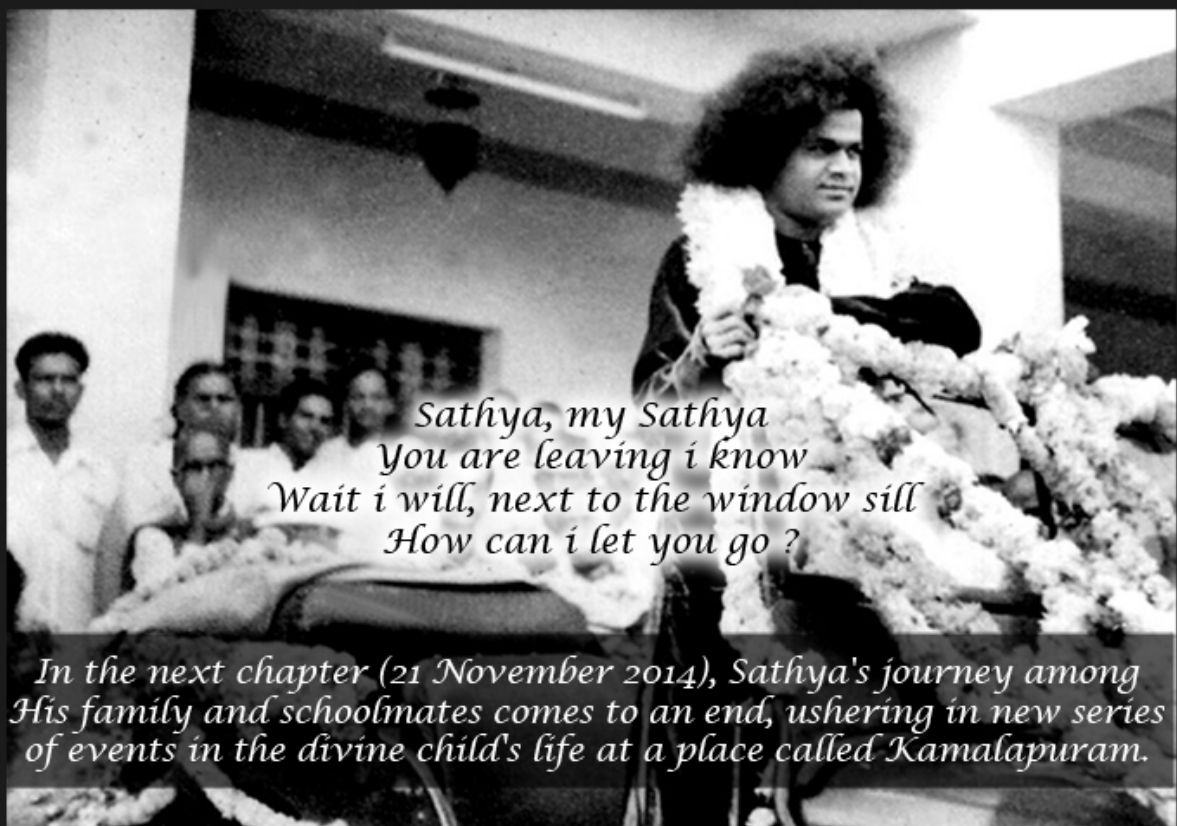


The only person to have passed the exam, in the entire revenue area, was Sathya, that too first class.



Sathya was honoured by each and every one. A grand welcome was organised for Him. He was taken around the streets of the village in a procession.





*Sathya, my Sathya
You are leaving i know
Wait i will, next to the window sill
How can i let you go ?*

In the next chapter (21 November 2014), Sathya's journey among His family and schoolmates comes to an end, ushering in new series of events in the divine child's life at a place called Kamalapuram.

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