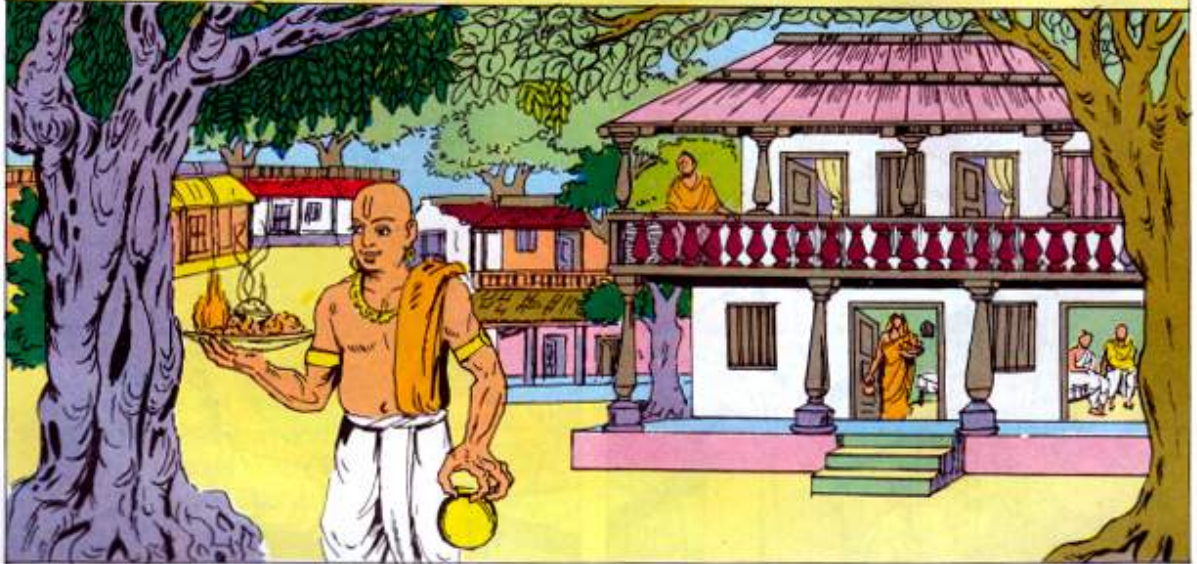


THE FIRST PROPAGATOR OF AGAMS : ARYA SUDHARMA

Kollag, a village in Videh state, was largely populated by middle class ritualistic Brahmin families. On the eastern side of the village was the mansion of a wealthy scholar named Dhammil who went to the river bank for sun-worship every morning. His wife's name was Bhaddila.



One night, Bhaddila saw Saraswati# in her dream. Filled with reverence, she joined her palms and uttered—



The goddess of wisdom

Goddess Saraswati gave her blessings-

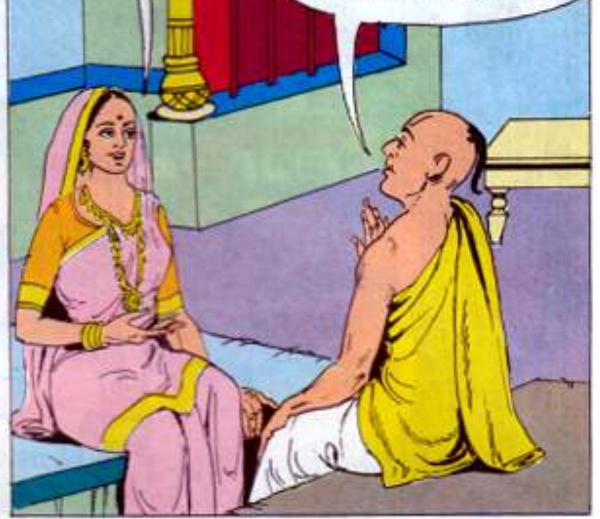
You will soon give birth to a son who will swim across the ocean of Jinavani[#] with the arms of his insight.



Come morning Bhaddila told her husband about the dream and asked-

My lord, what is the meaning of the ocean of Jinavani?

As scriptures like Rigveda and Upanishads are called Vedavani, the scriptures about the spiritualism of Tirthankar Parshvanath are called Jinavani.



Will our son study Jinavani instead of Vedavani?

Devi, truly speaking Vedavani mostly contains ritualistic rules, whereas without the study of Jinavani one cannot acquire complete knowledge of spiritualism.



Bhaddila's face beamed with joy-

Then our son will be a great spiritualist, isn't it?



In due course Bhaddila gave birth to a beautiful radiant boy.*

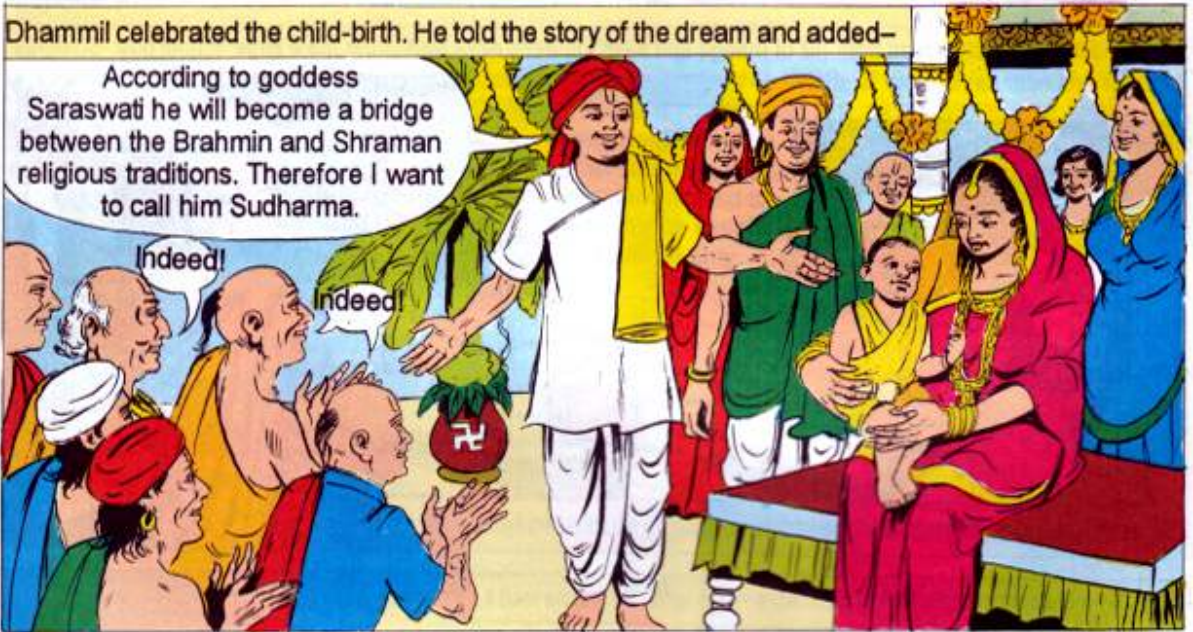


Dhammil celebrated the child-birth. He told the story of the dream and added—

According to goddess Saraswati he will become a bridge between the Brahmin and Shraman religious traditions. Therefore I want to call him Sudharma.

Indeed!

Indeed!



As Sudharma grew he was sent to school.

