

KING KUMARPAL AND HEM-CHANDRACHARYA

In the first part you read—as soon as Kumarpal took over the reigns of Gujarat he put a ban on violence, alcoholism and other vices. Here is the story after that—

One day King Kumarpal was sitting in his court. A scholar recited a Sanskrit couplet in praise of the king—



Good !

Very Good !

Like clouds, a king is the source of livelihood for the public.

Great ! A cloud as motaphor for the king ? What a beautiful verse ?

At these words the scholarly minister Kapardi was disturbed. The king asked—



Minister ! Why have you suddenly become serious ? Have I said something wrong ?

No, Sire ! Just like that.....

Later, when they were alone, the minister said—

Sire ! In the court you uttered motaphor instead of metaphor. Such defective diction is not a fault to be ignored; it damages your prestige as a king.

So this was the cause of your gloom, minister. I appreciate your concern and will improve my diction.

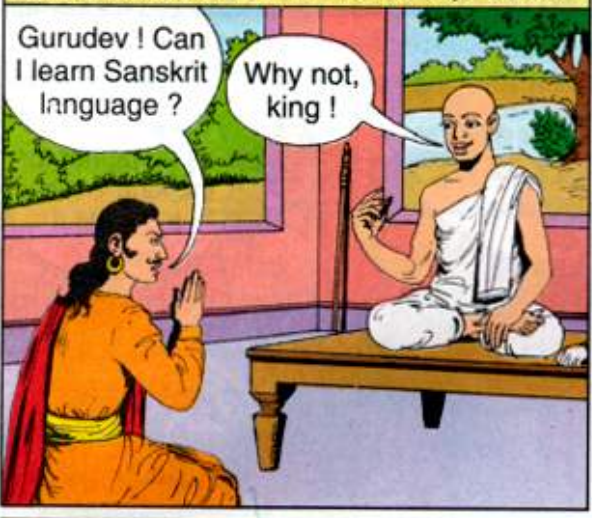


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Next day Kumarpal came to Hem-chandracharya and said-

Gurudev ! Can I learn Sanskrit language ?

Why not, king !



Gurudev ! I have crossed fifty. Would I be able to study ?

It is the body of a man that ages, not his intellect and mental capacity. Begin at once.



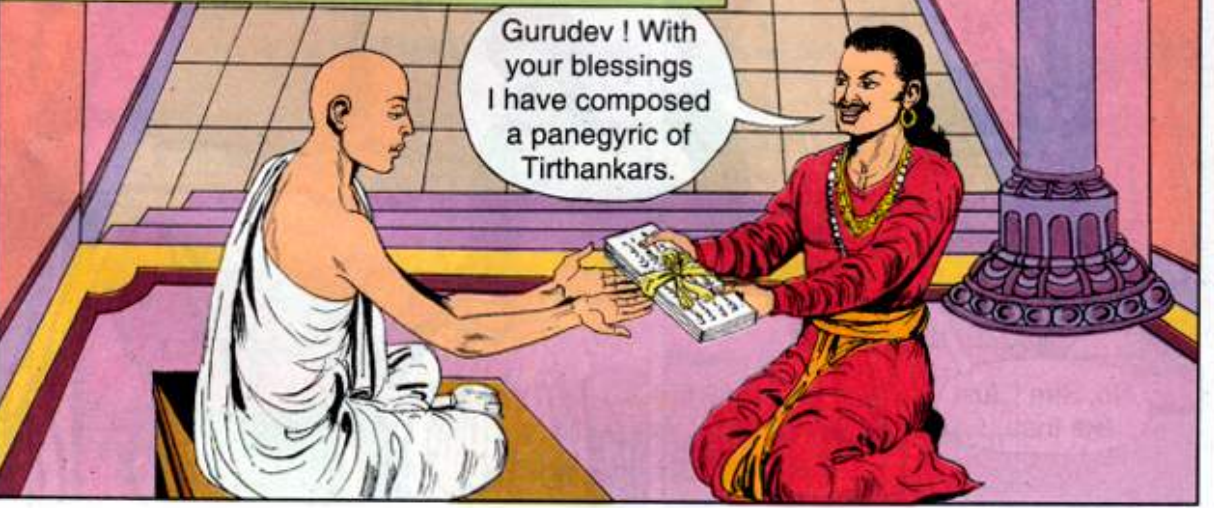
Kumarpal commenced his study of Sanskrit language with a lesson from Acharyashri. Soon he started getting lessons on advanced works like Yogashastra and Vitarag Stotra.

King ! Your keen interest in studies indicates that you will soon become a scholar of Sanskrit language.



One day Kumarpal gave a palm-leaf manuscript to Acharyashri and said-

Gurudev ! With your blessings I have composed a panegyric of Tirthankars.

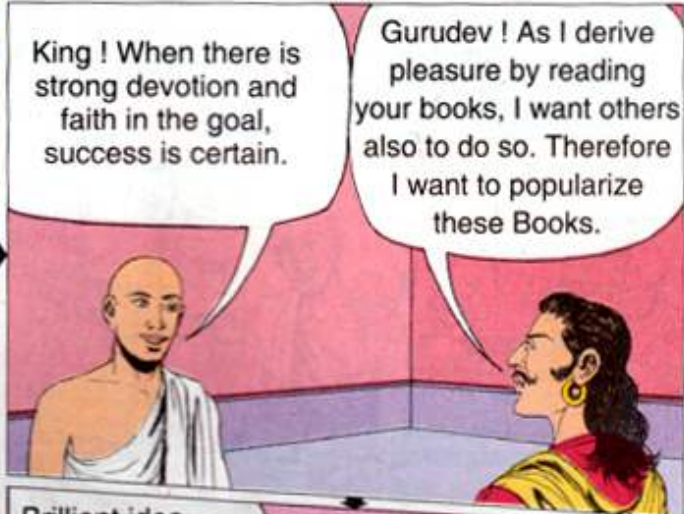


One reading the work Hem-chandracharya exclaimed—



Great !
A highly
devotional
poem ! #

King ! When there is
strong devotion and
faith in the goal,
success is certain.



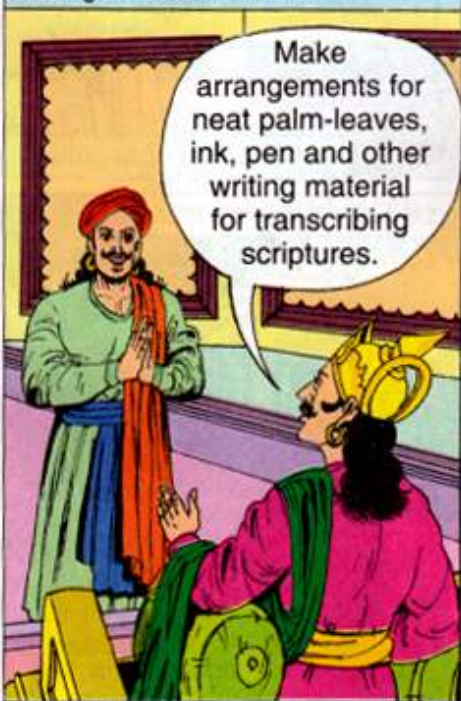
Gurudev ! As I derive
pleasure by reading
your books, I want others
also to do so. Therefore
I want to popularize
these Books.



Brilliant idea,
King ! But for that,
copies of all this
literary work will
have to be
made.

CREATING LITERATURE

After getting permission from Acharyashri, the king instructed an officer—



Make
arrangements for
neat palm-leaves,
ink, pen and other
writing material
for transcribing
scriptures.

Acharyashri Hem-chandra Suri commenced his creative writing. On each side of him 9-10 of his disciples would sit down with pen and palm-leaves. Acharyashri would dictate and after writing, the disciples would pass the sheets on to scribes for making copies.



The first verse of this thirty two verse composition goes like this—"O Jineshvar ! Every goddess of wealth sits at your lotus feet. Beholding you in his vision man certainly attains liberation. I bow every day before the first Lord of this era whose devotion has made me attain success.