

# Ilakumar



There was a wealthy merchant named Dhanadatta who was very happy except he had no sons. After practicing many religious activities, he finally received a son. He named him Ilakumar, after the goddess Ila. Ilakumar grew up very happily.



One day a band of rope dancers came to town, and Ilakumar fell in love with the daughter of the head dancer. His parents tried to dissuade him, but Ilakumar wanted to marry her. His parents told the head dancer they would give him money so the children could get married.



The head dancer said that Ilakumar could marry his daughter on one condition only: Ilakumar had to join the dancers and learn to dance to please the king. Only then he could marry his daughter. Ilakumar's parents thought the idea was ridiculous, but Ilakumar decided to try.



After a while, Ilakumar became an excellent dancer and went to perform for the king. He danced on a rope with seven pots on his head while juggling four knives. The audience was amazed by Ilakumar's performance, however, the king also fell in love with the girl and did not want Ilakumar to marry her. He showed no signs of pleasure at Ilakumar's work.



Ilakumar went up to dance a third and fourth time, but the king was not pleased. The audience could not understand the king's discontent. Even the queen could not figure it out. Soon she realized the king was attracted to the head dancer's daughter.



While Ilakumar was dancing for the fifth time, he looked out the window and saw a young, Jain monk and a beautiful lady.

"This monk is young, and that woman is also young and attractive. Both stand in a lonely place, but the monk is not perturbed at all. I am loafing here leading the life of a beggar under infatuation for the girl."



Right then, he realized his faults. He realized that pleasures are only temporary, and we should not be infatuated with them. He repented for his fault, and all of his past karmas were erased, and he attained Kevalgnan, omniscience knowledge on the rope itself. The rope turned into a royal throne, and angels came from heaven to hail him.



The queen was hurt by the king's attraction for the dancing girl, despite the beauties in the harem. She realized that worldly ways are futile. This light of knowledge spread more and more in her heart, and she also attained Kevalgnan as her Ghati Karmas (heinous acts) were consumed.



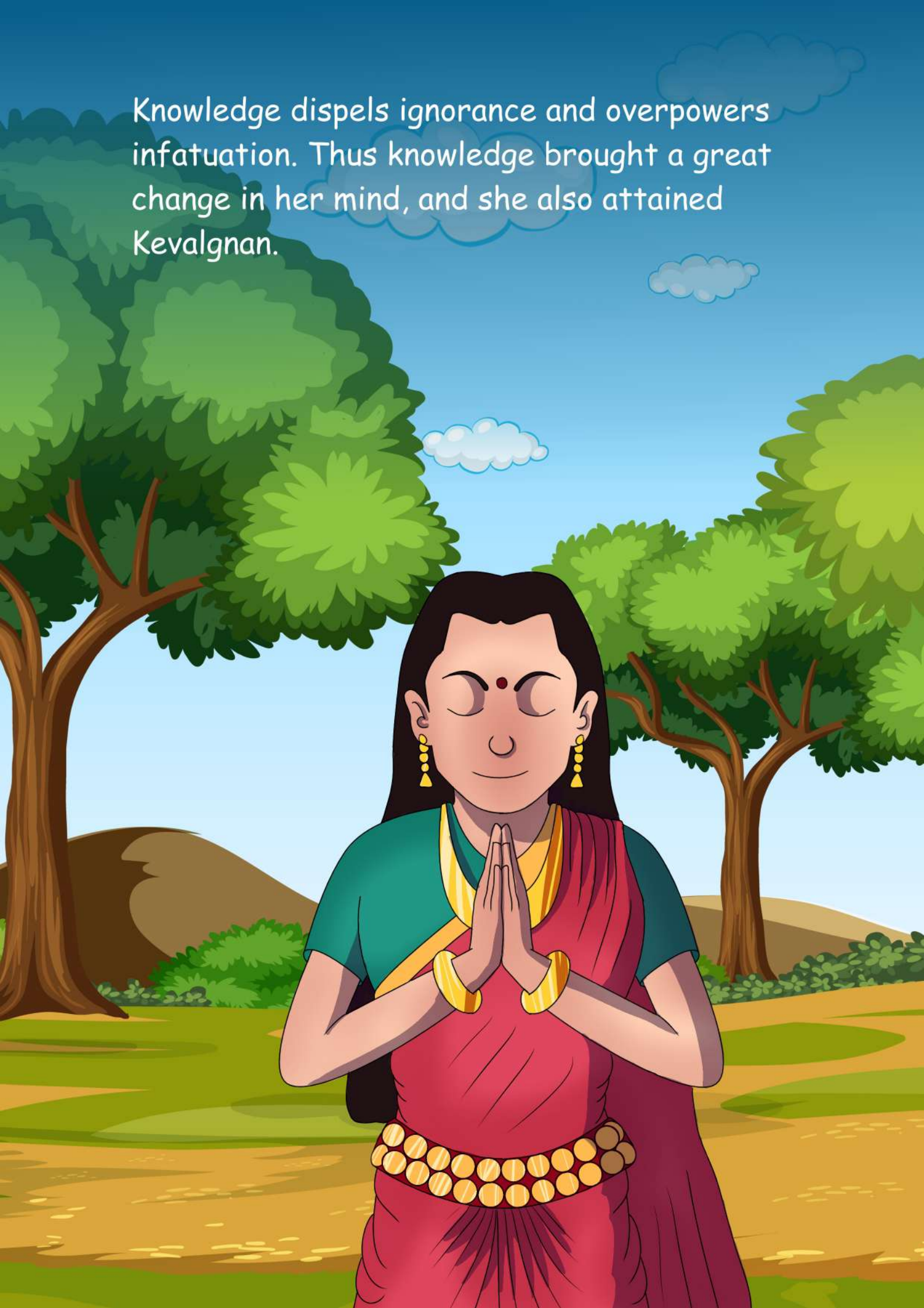
The king realized his error and highly repented and condemned himself for having such mean thoughts for Ilakumar and the dancing girl. Consequently, his Ghati Karmas were consumed, and he also attained Kevalgnan.

The dancing girl also thought,

"I am the root of all this evil. My beauty maddened Ilakumar and infatuated the king. Shame to this beauty of mine! I shall now resort to nunhood."



Knowledge dispels ignorance and overpowers infatuation. Thus knowledge brought a great change in her mind, and she also attained Kevalgnan.



In our excitement for things,  
we often forget our way.  
Knowledge dispels ignorance  
and overpowers infatuation

