

One day, Lord Shiva played a game on Ganesha and Kartikeya. He showed them a

huge mango and said,

"This is a very sweet

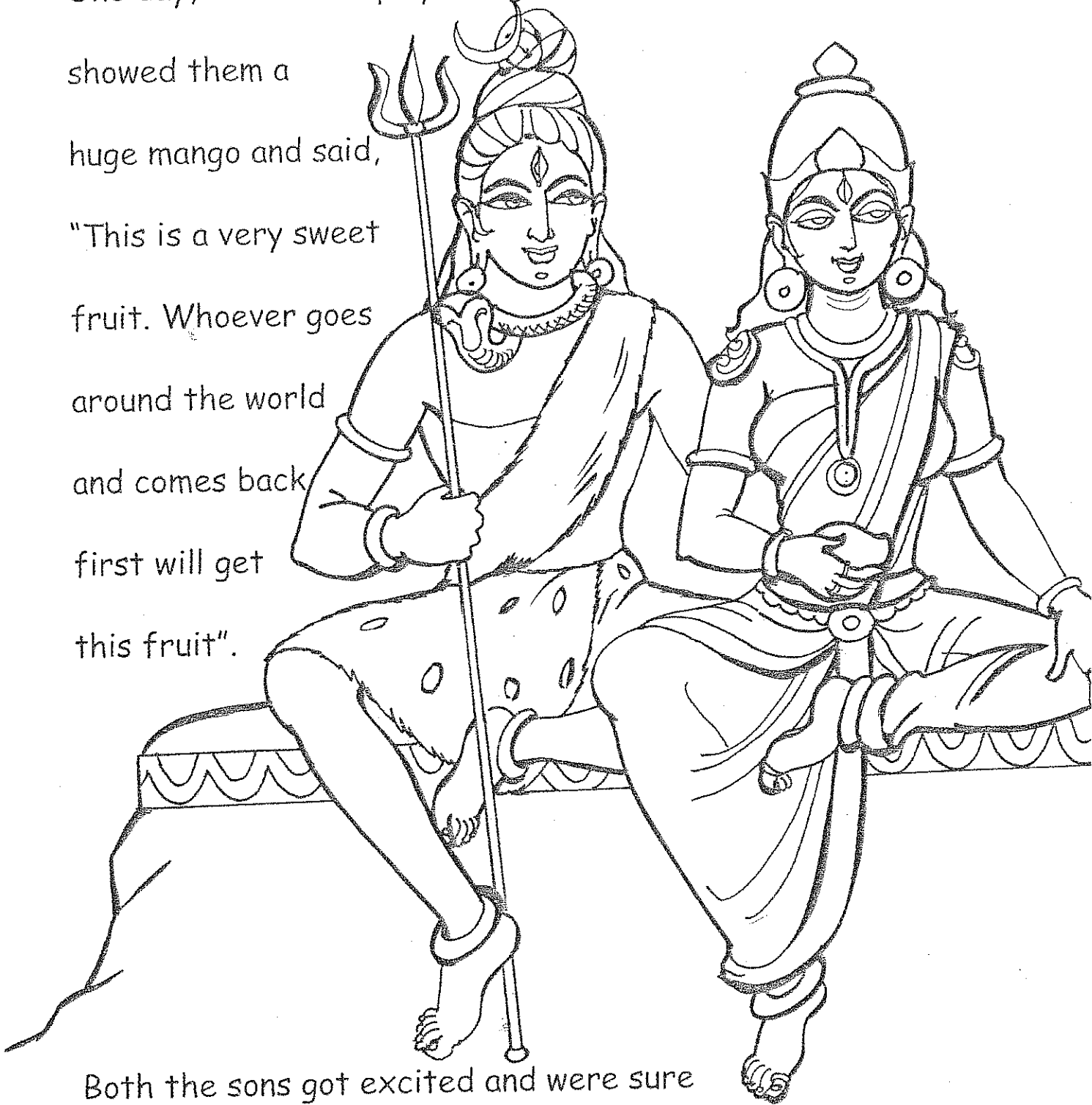
fruit. Whoever goes

around the world

and comes back

first will get

this fruit".



Both the sons got excited and were sure

of winning. Lord Shiva continued, "This place where your mother and

I are sitting will be the starting and the finishing point".

Kartikeya could not wait to get started. He was in a hurry. Being a warrior, he was sure he would win the race. He received his parents blessings, patted his peacock saying, "You have to fly your fastest", and started off. Parvati asked her husband, "Who do you think will win the race?". Lord Shiva smiled and said, "Wait and watch". They saw that unlike Kartikeya, Ganesha was in no hurry. Very slowly he walked around his parents three times. Then

he bowed before them and stretched out his hands for the fruit.



Parvati looked at Ganesha curiously.

Lord Shiva said, "Son, that was very fast! Did you go around the world?"

With a cute smile,

Ganesha replied,

"Mother Parvati

and Lord

Shiva, you are

the whole

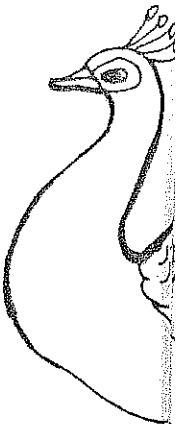
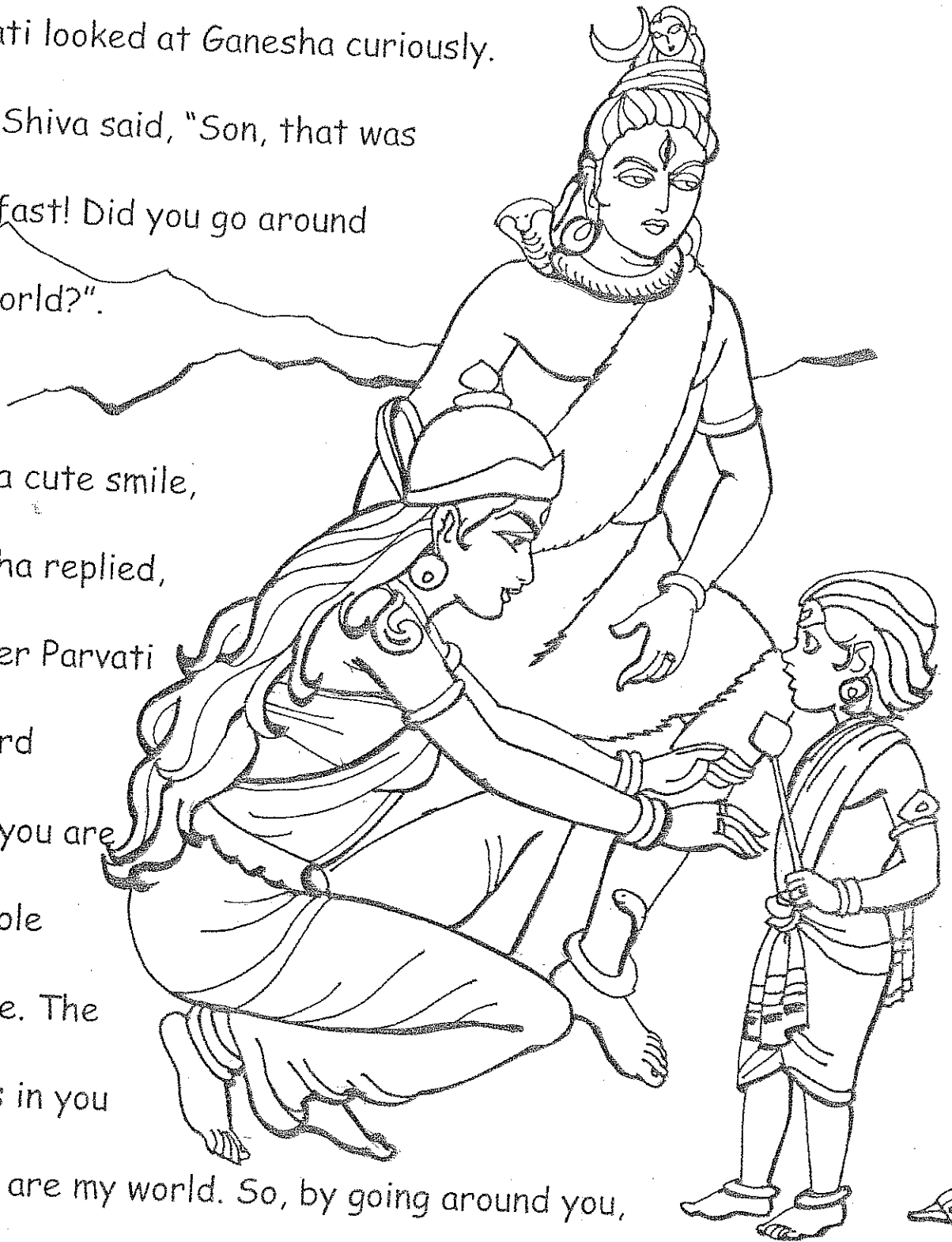
universe. The

world is in you

and you are my world. So, by going around you,

I have gone around the universe. Now I am first and I should receive the mango". Lord Shiva saw how clever Ganesha

was and said, "Alright. You win".



Just then Kartikeya returned feeling very pleased with himself.

He was shocked to see Ganesha eating the fruit. He said, "Ganesha! How can you have the fruit? You did not go around the world! I have won, I should get the fruit". Lord Shiva explained, "Your brother was wise and devoted to his parents. He went around your mother and me as we are his world. You were so sure of winning, that you did not wait to think. Remember, power alone will not lead you to victory in life".

"Oh father! Please forgive me. I thought I was a wise person. But now my brother has taught me that I must think before acting". Kartikeya bowed before his parents and accepted his brother as the winner.

