The Brahman and the Cobbler

Instructive Stories from teachings of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Founder Acharya of International Society for Krishna Consciousness

iskcondesiretree.com
Srila Narada Muni was traveling to different places on the planet earth singing the glories of Lord Narayan.
During his travels Narada Muni saw a Brahman taking bath in the river.
Seeing Narada muni, this proud Brahman paid his respects to Him and talked to him.

Dear Narada Muni are you going to meet the Lord?

Yes, I will be meeting the Lord very soon.
Then please do me small favour. Please ask the Lord when I am going to join the Lord in the spiritual world. It will be very soon but I still want to know only from the Lord.

All right, I will ask the Lord
After some time, Narada Muni passed a humble cobbler repairing shoes on the roadside.

All Glories to Narada Muni
Dear Narada Muni are you going to meet the Lord

Yes, I will be meeting the Lord very soon

When you meet the Lord, please ask the Lord, after how many more lives will I go to the spiritual world as I am tired of living in this material world.
Yes, I will certainly ask the Lord
Narada Muni goes to the spiritual world and reaches the place of lord Narayan. The Lord receives him with honour and affection.

How are you dear Narada? Is there anything I can do for you?
Narada told the Lord what the Brahaman and the Cobbler wanted to know from the Lord.
The Brahman will come back to me after hundred lives and the cobbler will come back to me after finishing this life only.

They will ask you what I was doing. You tell them that I was threading an elephant through the eye of a needle. On seeing their reaction you will understand everything.
Narada Muni comes back immediately and first meets the Brahman.

Oh! Brahman, the Lord said that you will see him after hundred lives.
I don't believe you even saw the Lord, tell me what the Lord was doing.

Lord was threading an elephant through the eye of a needle.
Impossible. How can anyone thread an elephant through the eye of a needle. You never met the Lord and you are cheating me by saying imaginary things.
Narada Muni noticed his reaction and then went to meet the Cobbler.
Oh! Cobbler, you will see the Lord after finishing this life only.

My Lord is very merciful. What was the Lord doing when you saw him?
The lord was threading an elephant through the eye of a needle.

Wonderful! Wonderful!
Do you actually believe that?
Of course. Look at this big banyan tree, it comes from a small seed. If such a big tree can come from a small seed then the Lord can easily put an elephant through the eye of a needle.
Seeing the difference between the faith of the Brahman and the cobbler, Narada muni understood why they had to be rewarded differently.
MORAL:
So this is called faith. There is reason behind the belief. If Krishna can put a large tree within so many little seeds, is it so astounding that He is keeping all the planetary systems floating in space through His energy?
It is simply meant for the devotees. They can understand. The non devotees cannot understand they'll say, "Oh, these are all bluffs."
-Srila Prabhupada