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CHAMUNDI

TALES OF MOTHER
GODDESS





THE ASURA KING MAHISHA, WAS SLAIN BY DURGA. AFTER HIS DEATH, THE ASURAS FLED BACK TO PATAAL-LOK, THE UNDERWORLD. SOON, SHUMBHA, SWORE REVENGE AND BECAME THE ASURA KING. HELPED BY HIS BROTHER NISHUMBHA, HE MOUNTED AN ATTACK ON SVARG-LOK, ABODE OF THE DEVAS AND SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING IT. WHILE THE ASURAS WERE CELEBRATING THEIR VICTORY, CHANDA AND MUNDA, TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS OF KING SHUMBHA, KEPT WATCH ON THE MOVEMENTS OF THE OUSTED GODS.

THE DEVAS MADE A BEELINE TO MOUNT HIMAVAT, WHERE THEY PRAYED TO
GODDESSDURGA FOR HELP. INSTEAD OF DURGA, PARVATI, CONSORT OF LORD
SHIVA CAME OUT OF HER DWELLING TO LISTEN TO THEIR TALE OF WOE. SHE
WAS SYMPATHETIC. A FEMALE FORM TUMBLED OUT OF HER BODY, A WOMAN,
BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD. SHE WAS
AMBIKA, INCARNATION OF DURGA.
"VICTORY TO AMBIKA!" SHOUTED THE DEVAS, OVERJOYED AT THE SIGHT OF
THE DIVINE
WARRIOR.
CHUNDA AND MUNDA WERE WATCHING FROM AFAR, AND THEIR EYES POPPED
WHEN
AMBIKA MADE HER APPEARANCE. WHAT STRUCK THEM MOST ABOUT THE
GODDESS
WAS HER ASTONISHING BEAUTY.



**SHE WOULD MAKE A GOOD
MATCH FOR OUR KING!**



**"YOU TOOK THE WORDS OUT OF MY
MOUTH!" SAID MUNDA.**

**SHUMBHA LISTENED
WITH MOUNTING
EXCITEMENT AS HIS
SPIES GAVE AN
ACCOUNT OF
EVERYTHING THAT
HAD HAPPENED AT
MOUNT HIMAVAT.**

**HE WAS THRILLED WHEN
THEY DESCRIBED THE GODDESS AMBIKA TO HIM. IT
SOUNDED AS IF SHE WERE THE
EPITOME OF FEMININE GRACE.**

**I WILL MAKE HER MY
QUEEN CERTAINLY, IT
WAS FOR ME THAT SHE
WAS CREATED, THE
MASTER OF THE THREE
WORLDS!**



**HE SENT ONE OF
HIS COURTIERS
WITH A
PROPOSAL OF
MARRIAGE TO THE
GODDESS.**



**AMBIKA
WAS
AMUSED.**

**I WOULD BE DELIGHTED
TO BE HIS QUEEN BUT IS
HE THE STRONGEST?**



"STRONGEST?" ASKED THE ENVOY.

**I'VE TAKEN A VOW TO
ONLY MARRY THE
STRONGEST WARRIOR IN
THE THREE WORLDS. IS HE
THE STRONGEST?**



**"STRONG, HE
CERTAINLY IS,"
SAID THE ENVOY.
"DIDN'T HE
DEFEAT THE
DEVAS?"**

BUT CAN HE DEFEAT ME?
ONLY IF HE CAN OVERCOME
ME IN BATTLE WILL I BE
CONVINCED THAT HE IS THE
STRONGEST!



CRESTFALLEN, THE
ENVOY RETURNED
TO HIS MASTER
TO TELL HIM
ABOUT AMBIKA'S
REPLY
TO HIS
PROPOSAL.

HER ARROGANCE
GOES WELL WITH HER
BEAUTY, BUT SHE
HAS TO BE SHOWN
HER PLACE!



HE SUMMONED HIS COMMANDER-IN-
CHIEF, DHUMRA-LOCHANA AND
ORDERED HIM TO
BRING AMBIKA TO HIM. DHUMRA-
LOCHANA MARCHED AT THE HEAD OF
AN ARMY OF BATTLE-HARDENED
SOLDIERS
TO CARRY OUT HIS KING'S ORDERS.
WHEN HE SPOTTED AMBIKA HE
CHARGED FORWARD WITH A
THUNDEROUS ROAR.

THE GODDESS CALMLY
WATCHED HIM COME. WHEN
HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH SHE
PRODUCED A SOUND,

HOOOM!



THE SOUND WAVE HIT DHUMRA-LOCHANA IN THE
CENTRE OF HIS FOREHEAD AND...POOF! HE WAS REDUCED TO A HANDFUL OF ASH!

SHUMBHA WAS FILLED WITH FURY WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THE DEATH OF HIS BRAVEST WARRIOR.

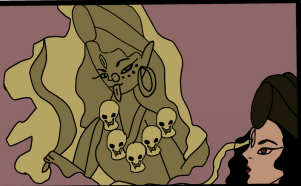
SHE'S MOCKING ME!
SHE'S MOCKING ME!



HE HISSED, GLOWERING AT CHUNDA AND MUNDA.

HE DOES NOT KNOW
WHO SHE IS DEALING
WITH! GO, GET HER!
DRAG HER BY HER
HAIR AND BRING HER
TO ME!

AMBIKA WAS NOT PLEASED TO SEE CHANDA AND MUNDA
COMING. HER EYEBROWS
CAME TOGETHER IN A DARK AND ANGRY SCOWL, AND FROM
HER FOREHEAD, SPRANG
FORTH THE TERRIBLE FORM OF KALI.



CHANDA AND MUNDA FROZE WITH TERROR WHEN THEY SAW
KAALI MAA WITH HER
BLOODSHOT EYES, A GARLAND OF SKULLS AROUND HER NECK
AND HER TONGUE LOLLING,
DESCENDING ON THEM. SHE WRECKED THE ARMY THEY WERE
LEADING, KNOCKED OFF
THEIR HEADS AND PRESENTED THEM TO GODDESS AMBIKA,
WHO HUGGED HER AND
HAILED HER AS CHAMUNDI, SLAYER OF CHANDA AND MUNDA.
FOR NOW, SHUMBHA WAS STALLED. BUT SOON, HE WOULD
AGAIN WAGE WAR ON
GODDESS AMBIKA.



DURGA AND SHAKTHI'S

EACH OF THE CHIEF GODS – BRAHMA, VISHNU AND SHIVA – SENT HELP BY WAY OF HIS SHAKTI (DIVINE FORCE), BUT SHUMBHA WAS NOT UNDULY WORRIED. HAD HE NOT ALREADY DEFEATED THE DEVAS? WHAT COULD THE SHAKTIS DO?



A NEW GODDESS EMERGED FROM AMBIKA. HER NAME WAS DEVI CHANDIKA.

**CHANDIKA SENT A TERSE MESSAGE
TO THE ASURA KING:**

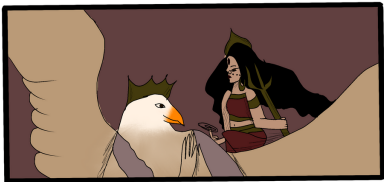
WITHDRAW INTO THE
NETHER WORLD WHERE
YOU BELONG, OR DIE!

**SHUMBHA
RESPONDED BY
ENCIRCLING
CHANDIKA
WITH SEVERAL
DIVISIONS OF
HIS ARMY.**

THE SHAKTIS RUSHED TO HER AID:



**BRAHMINI, WHO HAD COME
THERE IN A CHARIOT DRAWN BY
SWANS, CAST A SPELL ON THE
ASURAS BY SPRINKLING WATER
FROM HER KAMANDALU,
MAKING THEM WEAK AND
VULNERABLE;**



VAISHNAVI FLEW IN ON GARUDA, THE EAGLE, AND THREW HER DISC AT THEM. MAHESHWARI, RIDING ON NANDI, THE BULL, THREW HER TRIDENT AT THEM.





AINDRI, THE SHAKTI OF INDRA, WAS RIDING ON THE ELEPHANT, AIRAVAT. SHE THREW HER THUNDERBOLT ON THE BESIEGING ARMY.

**VARAAHI, THE SHAKTI OF VARAHA, AN
INCARNATION OF VISHNU, HAD COME IN THE FORM
OF A FEMALE BOAR.**



**SHE, AND NARASIMHI, THE SHAKTI OF NARASIMHA, ANOTHER
INCARNATION OF VISHNU IN A HALF-LION, HALF HUMAN
FORM RAN THROUGH THE ASURA RANKS, CREATING PANIC
AND HAVOC. REELING UNDER THE ATTACK OF THE DEVIS, THE
ASURAS SEEMED ON THE VERGE OF DEFEAT.**



AND THEN, SHUMBHA UNLEASHED HIS SECRET
WEAPON, RAKTA-BHEEJ.

RAKTA-BHEEJ WAS INVINCIBLE THROUGH A BOON.
IF EVEN A DROP OF BLOOD FROM HIS BODY FELL
ON THE GROUND, ANOTHER RAKTA-BHEEJ, FULL
GROWN AND FIGHTING FIT, WOULD SPRING FORTH
FROM IT. THAT IS WHY NO ONE TILL NOW HAD
BEEN ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM. THE BLOOD OF THE
CLONES TOO PRODUCED OTHER CLONES.
AS THE FEROCIOUS ASURA FOUGHT, CHANDIKA
TRIED TO STOP HIM WITH ALL SORTS OF
WEAPONS. BLOOD GUSHED FROM HIS WOUNDS
BUT AS EACH DROP TOUCHED THE GROUND, A
RAKTA-BHEEJ CLONE SPRANG FROM IT. SOON
THERE WERE THOUSANDS OF THESE CLONES
RUNNING ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THE TIDE OF
BATTLE STARTED TURNING IN FAVOUR OF THE
ASURAS.

**THEN
CHANDIK
A SAID TO
KALI MAA:**



**NOT EVEN A
DROP OF HIS
BLOOD
SHOULD FALL
TO THE
GROUND!**

**KAALI STRETCHED HER TONGUE AND IT DARTED
ALL OVER THE BATTLEFIELD AT LIGHTNING
SPEED, CATCHING EVERY DROP OF BLOOD
THAT FELL FROM RAKTA-BHEEJ'S BODY OR THE
BODIES OF HIS CLONES.**

**NO LONGER ABLE TO MULTIPLY HIMSELF,
RAKTA-BHEEJ, IN DESPERATION, CHARGED AT
CHANDIKA, ONLY TO MEET WITH DEATH AT HER
HANDS.**

**THE NEXT TO BE KILLED WAS NISHUMBHA,
BROTHER OF SHUMBHA. THE ASURAS WERE
BEATEN BACK. BUT WERE THEY DEFEATED? NO!
SHUMBHA, THE MOST FORMIDABLE ASURA OF
THEM ALL, REMAINED. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER
OF TIME BEFORE HE MADE HIS NEXT MOVE.**



NAVARATRI

- SHAILPUTRI
- BRAHMCHARINI
- CHANDRAGHANTA
- KUSHMUNDA
- SKAND MATA
- KATYAYANI
- KALRATRI
- MAHA GAURI
- SIDDHIDATRI

