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Usha devi

Goddess of dawn

ISSUE 66

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Issue 66

ENJOY IN THIS ISSUE

HINDUISM

Usha devipg 4-7

MATA CHITRALEKHApg 4-7

Ratri devipg 4-7

RELCO JUNIOR

Lilo and her pets mysterious castle : Chapter 2 pg 8-13

THE ASURA KING BANA WAS THE GREAT GRANDSON OF PRAHLADA, THE CHILD DEVOTEE MOST DEAR TO LORD KRISHNA. THROUGH PENANCE AND PRAYERS OFFERED TO LORD SHIVA, HE SECURED A BOON THAT THE GREAT GOD HIMSELF WOULD PERSONALLY GUARD HIS CITY OF SONITAPURA. BANASURA WAS AN ARROGANT KING AND HAD A THOUSAND ARMS WHICH HE WAS VERY PROUD OF. BUT THIS IS NOT QUITE HIS STORY. IT'S HIS DAUGHTER'S....



USHA, THE DAUGHTER OF BANASURA, WAS A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS. ONE NIGHT SHE HAD A DREAM IN WHICH SHE SAW A VERY HANDSOME, YOUNG MAN. IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT FOR THEM AND THEY SPENT MANY HAPPY HOURS IN EACH OTHER'S COMPANY. BUT LIKE ALL GOOD THINGS, DREAMS TOO COME TO AN END. AND USHA WOKE UP TO FIND THAT ALL THAT PASSED WAS NOTHING BUT A DREAM.




A FRIEND, CAME TO FIND HER THAT
MORNING, SHE FOUND THE
PRINCESS TEARFUL AND GREATLY
UPSET.


WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU TODAY?
WHAT HAPPENED
NOW?



SHE ASKED PUZZLED, FOR THEY HAD
PARTED THE EVENING BEFORE IN HIGH
SPIRITS.



YOU MAY THINK ME
FOOLISH BUT I HAD THIS
VERY VIVID DREAM LAST
NIGHT ABOUT THIS
HANDSOME YOUNG
MAN, A PRINCE,
PERHAPS. I REALLY DO
NOT KNOW FOR I'VE
NEVER SEEN ANYBODY
LIKE THAT.



WHO IS THIS
PERSON? YOU
MUST HAVE
SEEN HIM
SOMEWHERE
BEFORE,
SURELY...
THINK BACK.,

"I'M VERY SURE I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE. I
DON'T THINK HE EVEN EXISTS." AT THIS POINT
USHA BROKE INTO FRESH TEARS AND
CHITRALEKHA KNEW SHE HAD TO DO SOMETHING.

OKAY, I CAN PAINT THE LIKENESS OF ANY MAN OR GOD FOR I'VE LEARN'T PAINTING FROM NARADA HIMSELF. LET ME START PAINTING SOME OF THE HANDSOMEST GODS AND MORTALS WE HAVE AND MAYBE YOU WILL SEE YOUR BELOVED'S FACE AMONG THEM



CHITRALEKHA WAS SOON SKETCHING THE FACES OF GODS, DEVAS AND GANDHARVAS WITH AN EXPERT'S EASE. FINALLY, SHE PAINTED LORD KRISHNA.


YES,
THIS
LOOKS
LIKE HIM,
BUT NOT
QUITE.,



SAID USHA FROM BEHIND HER. NEXT CHITRA
PAINTED PRADYUMNA, SON OF KRISHNA.

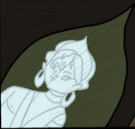
WHAT ABOUT HIM?





UMM HE'S
YOUNGER. BUT
YOU ARE CLOSE

USHA WAS CHEERING UP, HER FRIEND NOTED.
CHITRALEKHA CONTINUED TO MAKE ANOTHER SKETCH AND
WHEN SHE SHOWED IT TO HER FRIEND, THE PRINCESS
SMILED IN DELIGHT AND HER CHEEKS COLOURED.



AH. SO THIS IS THE PRINCE
WHO HAS STOLEN YOUR
HEART! HE'S ANIRUDDHA, THE
GRANDSON OF THE KRISHNA
OF DWARAKA,

LAUGHED CHITRALEKHA, HAPPY TO HAVE
SOLVED THE MYSTERY.



IS THIS
WHO YOU
DESIRE? I
SHALL
BRING HIM
TO YOU
TONIGHT!

WHAT? HOW?



USHA COULD
NOT
UNDERSTAND
WHAT HER
FRIEND WAS
SAYING.



RELAX. DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
ANYTHING.
JUST WAIT
FOR THE
NIGHT TO FALL

CHITRALEKHA'S DARK EYES WERE
SHINING AND USHA KNEW HER
FRIEND HAD A PLAN.

CHITRALEKHA WAS TRAINED IN YOGA AND COULD TRAVEL TO WHEREVER SHE WISHED, IN RECORD TIME. THAT NIGHT SHE FLEW TO THE PALACE OF KRISHNA IN DWARAKA AND MADE HER WAY TO YOUNG ANIRUDDHA'S CHAMBERS. LIFTING THE SLEEPING PRINCE IN HER ARMS, (YES, SOME SUPERGIRL SHE WAS) SHE HASTENED BACK TO SONITAPURA AND GENTLY LAID HIM BESIDE THE SLEEPING USHA.



NEXT MORNING, ANIRUDDHA WAS WOKEN UP
BY A BEAUTIFUL STRANGER AND FOUND
HIMSELF IN SURROUNDINGS UNKNOWN TO
HIM.

WHERE AM
I? AND
WHO ARE
YOU?



HE ASKED THE MAIDEN WHO SMILED AT
HIM. USHA SHYLY RELATED TO HIM HER
DREAM AND HOW HER FRIEND ACTUALLY
WENT AND FOUND HIM FOR HER.
ANIRIDDHA WAS PUZZLED AND THOUGHT
THAT MAYBE HE WAS IN A DREAM TOO.
BUT AS IT SEEMED PLEASANT ENOUGH,
HE WAS HAPPY NOT TO FIGHT IT.

MANY HAPPY DAYS PASSED AND THE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE FELL IN LOVE. AT LEAST ANIRUDDHA TOO, WE CAN CONCLUDE. BUT THIS HAPPY STATE OF AFFAIRS COULD NOT CONTINUE FOR LONG. ONE DAY, BANA'S GUARDS SAW THE YOUNG COUPLE TALKING AND LAUGHING, AND ALERTED THE ASURA KING. BANA WALKED INTO HIS DAUGHTER'S CHAMBERS UNANNOUNCED AND WAS SHOCKED TO FIND ANIRUDDHA THERE. THE PRINCE WAS IMMEDIATELY CAPTURED AND TAKEN PRISONER.

IN DWARAKA, EVERYONE WAS SADDENED AND WORRIED BY THE SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE OF THE YOUNG PRINCE. IT WAS SAGE NARADA, WHO ON AN APPARENTLY 'CASUAL' VISIT THERE, INFORMED THEM ABOUT HOW ANIRUDDHA WAS TAKEN PRISONER.

BALARAMA, KRISHNA'S OLDER BROTHER, WAS AMUSED AND INFORMED ABOUT THE PROBLEM .

SO KRISHNA,
WE HAVE HERE
A CHIP OFF THE
OLD BLOCK,
HUH? NOW WE
HAVE TO GO
RESCUE HIM,
LOOKS LIKE.



IT'S TIME
WE
ATTACKED
BANA'S
CITY



HE SAID FOR ALL OF IT HAPPENS FOR A REASON. THE YADAVA HEROES, BALARAMA, PRADYUMNA, SATYAKI, LED BY SRI KRISHNA HIMSELF, MARCHED TOWARDS SONITAPURA AND ATTACKED THE CITY.

BUT THERE WAS LORD SHIVA HIMSELF THEY HAD TO VANQUISH, FOR IT WAS HE WHO WAS ENTRUSTED WITH THE CITY'S PROTECTION. SO BEGAN THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE GREAT GODS, SHIVA AND KRISHNA. SHIVA'S SON, KARTIKEYA JOINED HIS FATHER AND ENGAGED IN A BATTLE WITH PRADYUMNA.

DIVINE ARROWS FLEW BACK AND FORTH AS DEVAS AND OTHER GODS WATCHED FROM THE HEAVENS IN WONDER. FINALLY KRISHNA SENT FORTH THE JRUMBHANA ASTRA, A SLEEP INDUCING ARROW WHICH STRUCK LORD SHIVA WHO PROMPTLY FELL ASLEEP! BANA, WHO WAS FIGHTING SATAYAKI, CAME TOWARDS KRISHNA. KRISHNA EFFORTLESSLY BROKE EACH OF HIS BOWS AND FINALLY THREW HIS DIVINE DISCUS SUDARSHANA AT HIM, WHICH CUT AWAY HIS THOUSAND ARMS.

AT THAT POINT, LORD SHIVA WOKE UP
AND INTERVENED ON HIS DEVOTEE'S
BEHALF.



DO NOT WORRY. I PROMISED
PRAHLADA THAT I WOULD KILL NONE
OF HIS KIN. WITH HIS THOUSAND
ARMS CUT OFF, HE WILL NO LONGER
BE SO ARROGANT. LET HIM REMAIN
AN ATTENDANT OF YOURS, ALWAYS
BESIDE YOU FOREVER.



HEARING KRISHNA'S WORDS, A HUMBLER
BANASURA FELL AT THE FEET OF THE
GODS.

HE THEN WENT BACK TO HIS PALACE AND
RETURNED WITH THE YOUNG COUPLE,
ANIRUDDHA AND USHA. HE PLACED THEM
ON A CHARIOT AND LET THEM RETURN
TO DWARAKA TOGETHER.

MATA CHITRALEKHA

CHITRALEKHA WAS THE GODDESS OF MAGIC, AND SHE LIVED IN THE PREVIOUS DWAPARA YUGA. SHE WAS A FRIEND OF USHA, WHO WAS THE DAUGHTER OF BANASURA, WHO RULED THE PRESENT DAY INDIA THROUGH HIS GREAT POWERS.

ONCE, USHA DREAMT OF MEETING A LOVELY PERSON, WHO IS NONE OTHER THAN LORD KRISHNA'S GRANDSON ANIRUDDHA. SHE INFORMED ABOUT HER DREAM TO HER FRIEND CHITRALEKHA. CHITRALEKHA DRAWN SEVERAL PICTURES OF YOUNG MEN, AND FINALLY USHA HAD IDENTIFIED HER DREAM BOY.

THROUGH HER MAGIC POWERS, CHITRALEKHA BROUGHT ANIRUDDHA FROM DWARAKA TO THE PALACE OF USHA. USHA MADE ANIRUDDHA TO HIDE IN A ROOM, NEARBY HER PALACE, AND BOTH OF THEM PLAYED GAMES, TALKED ABOUT FUNNY THINGS, AND SPENT THEIR LIFE IN A LOVELY MANNER. IN COURSE OF TIME, BANASURA CAME TO KNOW ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF ANIRUDDHA IN HIS PALACE, AND HENCE HE PUT HIM IN A PRISON. AFTER SOME TIME, LORD KRISHNA FOUGHT AND DEFEATED BANASURA, AND FINALLY BANASURA HAD REALIZED HIS MISTAKE, AND THEN USHA AND ANURUDDHA MARRIED WITH EACH OTHER.



IN HER PREVIOUS BIRTH, CHITRALEKHA WAS A GANDHARVA PRINCESS, AND DUE TO A CURSE SHE WAS BORN IN THE EARTH. CHITRALEKHA WAS AN ARDENT DEVOTEE OF LORD KRISHNA, AND SHE KNEW ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF HIS AVATAR IN THE EARTH. SHE ALSO WAS LIKED BY HER MASTER BANASURA'S GREAT GRANDFATHER, BHAKTA PRAHALADA, AND THROUGH HIS BLESSINGS, SHE LIVED A PIOUS LIFE.

ANCIENT PURANIC WOMEN CONSIST OF VERY GOOD QUALITIES, AND THEY WERE LIKED BY ANYONE. THEY SHOWED MOTHERLY AFFECTION ON OTHERS AND REMAINED AS A CHASTE WOMAN THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE TIME. DUE TO THEIR CHASTITY AND HOLINESS, THEY GOT GREAT POWERS, AND THEY UTILIZED THEIR POWERS ONLY FOR PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES.

AFTER LIVING A NOBLE LIFE FOR MANY YEARS, MATA CHITRALEKHA RETURNED TO HER GANDHARVA LOKA, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT SHE STILL LIVES IN THE GANDHARVA LOKA BY ENJOYING ALL SORTS OF COMFORTS IN HER LIFE.



Ratri devi

RATRI IS THE NIGHT DEITY AND IS OFTEN KNOWN AS RATRIDEVI. SHE IS SAID TO ORIGINATE FROM LORD BRAHMA. THE HINDU MYTHOLOGY AFFIRMS THAT RATRI, THE NOCTURNAL GODDESS AND IS THE SISTER TO USHAS, THE VEDIC GODDESS OF DAWN. RATRI POSSESSES THE CONVENTIONAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE HINDU GODS INCLUDING EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH, LONG LIFE, RESISTANCE TO INJURY AND SEVERAL SUPERNATURAL POWERS.



RATRI IS ONE OF THE PREHISTORIC VEDIC GODS WHO EXISTED BEFORE THE HINDU PANTHEON. THE EPITOME OF DARKNESS, SHE AND HER SISTER, USHAS, THE DAWN-GODDESS, WERE OFTEN PURSUED BY SURYA, THE SUN GOD. RATRI WAS ALSO BELIEVED AS THE PROTECTOR OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE UNIVERSE AND THE WAVES OF TIME. SHE IS GENERALLY A GENTLE ENTITY WHO OFFERS REST AND RENEWED VIGOR AND WHO WAS ALSO INVOKED TO ENSURE SAFETY THROUGH HOURS OF DARKNESS. RATRI PUT DOWN THE GIFT OF MORNING DEW AS WELL AS THE HARBINGER OF A BLEAKER ASPECT OF ONE WHO BRINGS GLOOM AND BARRENNESS. RATRI WAS RELEGATED TO A NEW POSITION AS GODDESS OF LOVE REPLACING LAKSHMI-SRI, THE WIFE OF VISHNU.



A MYTHICAL STORY RELATING RATRIDEVI IS THAT, AN INDIAN REBEL CALLED THE MAHDI, SEEKING TO DESTROY THE BRITISH ARMY, PRAYED TO THE HINDU GODS, DEMANDING THE POWER TO FIGHT THE BRITISH. IN A VISION, YAMA, GOD OF THE DEAD, RATRI GODDESS OF NIGHT, AGNI GOD OF FIRE, MAYA GODDESS OF DREAMS, AND KALI GRANTED MAHDI POWERS AND WEAPONS TO FIGHT THE BRITISH. FROM YAMA, MAHDI GAINED A FIERY SWORD, FROM RATRI THE POWER OF THE NIGHT'S SHADOWS, FROM AGNI SACRIFICIAL FLAME, FROM MAYA THE POWER TO DRIVE HIS ENEMIES TO DESPAIR WITH ILLUSIONS, AND FROM KALI THE WHEEL OF DESTRUCTION. MAHDI THEN USED THESE POWERS IN BATTLE, ONLY TO DISCOVER TOO LATE THAT HE HAD OFFENDED THE GODS BY TRYING TO ORDER THEM AROUND. MAHDI'S WEAPONS WERE ONLY ILLUSIONS, AND HE DIED IN BATTLE.

Chapter 2



LILO AND HER PETS
MYSTERIOUS CASTLE

WHILE ELLIE IS STUFFING HER BRAIN WITH KNOWLEDGE. PICKLE WAS FINDING THE KITCHEN. HE FORGETS EVERYTHING THAT IS IMPORTANT, SOOOOOOOO HE FORGOT WHAT THE MAP LOOKED LIKE. PICKLE WAS WANDERING THE CASTLE, BUT THEN HE SAW ELLIE IN THE LIBRARY READING UNTIL HER BRAIN HERTS. PICKLE SAID,





ELLIE, DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHAT THE
MAP LOOKED
LIKE?



YES, I DO PICKLE,
AND I ALSO KNOW
YOU ARE LOOKING
FOR THE KITCHEN.
FROM HERE YOU
TAKE A LEFT,
RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT,
STRAIGHT .

PICKLE GAVE A THUMBS UP AND SMILED. THEN HE RAN REALLY SLOW. PICKLE TOOK A LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT, RIGHT, THEN A STRATE. PICKLE FOUND TWO BIG DOORS, AND HE OPENED THE DOOR TO FIND THE KITCHEN. PICKLE STUFFED HIS FACE WITH CUPCAKES AND HAMBURGERS.

