

Story of king Vikramadhithya

There are two versions to this great story. The north Indian version was called “Simhasan Bhatheesi(throne with 32 steps) and the south Indian version was called “Periya ezhuthu Vikramadhithan kadhai(The story of Vikramadhithya in big letters).I have followed the south Indian version,

I have summarized the stories in to a very short form as the original stories are very lengthy , with very many descriptions.

This is possibly the greatest gift to the Indian lads and lasses that I can give

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Bhoja Raja gets Vikramadithya's throne

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

There was a great king called Bhoja in the city of Ujjaini. The city was near a big forest. Lots of wild animals used to come from the forest in to the city and trouble the people. So Bhoja decided to hunt for those wild animals and destroy them. One day he started in the early morning with large number of hunters and other assistants to the forest. They hunted and destroyed lots of wild animals. By noon, they were all very tired and far away from the town. They then started searching for some water, food and a place to take rest. Suddenly they saw a field of sweet corn. There was big well with water also in it. In the middle of the field, its owner called Saravana Bhatta, was standing on a platform and guarding the field from animals and birds. As soon as he saw them, he told them “Oh king, a hearty welcome to you along with your soldiers. Please take as much corn as you want and also use the water of the well. You can all take rest in the garden afterwards.” The king was very happy and he along with the army entered the garden and started eating the sweet juicy corn. At this time Saravana Bhatta got down from the platform. Suddenly he started shouting at them, “Hey cruel king, I am a poor man, some how living with the yield of this corn. If you all start eating the corn, how will I live? Also the water in the well would be taken by you all. Then how will I water my corn plants tomorrow. Go away immediately.” Taken aback, Bhoja said sorry and asked his people to go away from the field. While they were withdrawing, Saravana Bhatta again climbed on the platform. Suddenly he started talking to them, “Oh great king, why are going away. You must be very hungry. Please take as much corn you want and also drink, as much water you want.” Then king Bhoja realized that Saravana Bhatta was completely changing, once he climbs on the platform. He called Saravana Bhatta and told him, “Dear Brahmin, I want to buy this corn field. I would give you ten times its price. “Saravana Bhatta happily accepted the price, gave the land to the king and went away. The king asked his army to dig at the spot, where the platform was there .After some time they found there a majestic golden throne with 32 golden steps. On each step , there was a golden doll. King Bhoja became extremely happy and wanted to take

the throne to his palace.

But in spite of great efforts, they were not able to move the throne even a little bit from that place. Then he called his wise minister and asked him, "Dear Sir, Why am I not able to move this throne to my palace? The minister replied, "Sir, It looks that this throne belonged to a great king. This has been here for a very long time. So you have to worship to the throne before moving it." The king sent for his priests and a proper worship was done to the throne. Then they were able to move it. They then got the throne cleaned and placed it in the chamber of the king. The king wanted to sit on the throne and rule his country. On a good day, after again worshipping the throne, he started climbing it. As soon as he started climbing it, all the thirty two dolls on the throne, clapped their hands and started laughing. The king asked the first doll, "Why are you laughing?"

The doll replied, "King Bhoja, this throne belonged to King Vikramadhithya, You are too small a man compared to Vikramadithya. He was a great valorous, just and efficient king, who was interested in the welfare of his people, we feel that you are not fit to climb the throne."

King Bhoja asked the first doll, "Who was this king Vikramadithya. I would like to know more about him. Then only I can tell you, whether I am as good as a king as he was."

The first doll then the story of "Who was Vikramadhithya?"

Who was Vikramadithya?

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

Once upon a time, there was a very learned man called Samudhra Gupta. He learned all the Vedas and all that is known to all the

teachers of India. He was not satisfied. He felt that there must be some thing more, which I have not learned. So he was wandering all over India in search of teacher who knew more than him. One day he reached a forest near Ujjain. He was tired. So he took bath in a river in the forest and slept in the shade of a big Banyan tree. On the top of the Banyan tree there lived a ghost (Brahma Rakshas). Seeing Samudhra Guptha, the ghost was terribly attracted. It then woke up Samudhra Guptha and asked him, "Brahmin, who are you. Why have you come to this dense forest? On the other shore of the river, there is the town of Ujjain. If you go there you will get food and also proper resting place." Samudhra Guptha replied. "I do not know who you are? My name is Samudhra Guptha. I am in search of a teacher who knows more than me and learn from all that he knows. Till I meet such a person, I am not interested in food or rest."

The ghost replied, "Samudhra Guptha, I know much, much more than you. I am willing to teach you all that I know. It would take six months night and day, for me to teach. But during these six months, you should neither take food nor sleep. I would give you the power not to take food and also not get sleep. But once I finish my teaching and you leave this forest, you would be as hungry as you have not taken food for six months and you will get sleep as if you have not slept for six months. If it is agreeable to you, I will immediately start the lessons." Samudhra Guptha agreed to this. The ghost wrote each lesson on the leaf of the Banyan tree and dropped it down. As soon as he learned one lesson, the next lesson was given. In six months time Samudhra Guptha had learned all that the ghost knew. He thanked the ghost and started towards Ujjain.

But as soon as he crossed the forest, he became a bundle of mere bones covered by a skin and started sleeping as if he has never slept. One lady called Alangara valli who passed by the way saw him. She took him to her home. When the doctor came he told, "This man has not eaten any food for six months. Neither has he slept for six months. If you want to save him, cook lot of rice. Then keep on massaging his body with the

cooked rice. If you do it like this for three months, he would wake up.” Alangara valli agreed and kept on massaging Samudhra Guptha with cooked rice. After three months, Samudhra Guptha woke up. Then he asked, “Where m I? I want to go to my home.” Alangara valli then told him all that happened and requested Samudhra Guptha to marry him.” Samudhra Guptha was not willing. Then Alangara valli complained about Samudhra Guptha to the king. The King after hearing the story of Samudhra Guptha wanted him to marry his daughter also. His minister as well as the king’s priest wanted him to marry their daughters also. Samudhra Guptha married all the four ladies. The priests daughter became mother too a son called Vara Ruchi, the kings daughter became mother to a son called Vikramadithya, the minister’s daughter became mother to a son called Bhatti and Alangara Valli became mother to a son called Bharthruhari.

The king gave his kingdom to Samudhra Guptha and left to the forest .Samudhra Guptha ruled over the country in a very nice manner. After all his children were well grown up, Samudhra Guptha became sick and was about to die. He was seen crying by his sons. Then Bharthruhari who was the eldest son asked him, “Father, why are you crying?” Samudhra Guptha replied, “Being the eldest, you will become king after me. But since you mother is a low caste woman, if you get children, I would surely go to hell.” Bharthruhari then told his father, “Father do not worry at all. I may marry but I will see to it that, I never have any children.” Samudhra Guptha died a happy man.

Bharthuhari the king

Bharthruhari married one thousand queens and was ruling the country in a great manner. Among them he was particular fond of a very pretty Ananga Sena. During this time one Brahmin did great austerity (thapas) to please Goddess earth. At last , pleased with his devotion, she came in person and asked him, “Oh Brahmin, I am greatly pleased with your devotion. What can I do for you?”

The Brahmin replied , “goddess , I am worried that I am getting old and weak. I want you to make me young always and forever,.”

Goddess earth gave him a golden pomegranate fruit and told him, “By eating this you would be young forever” and disappeared.. Then the Brahmin thought, “ I am extremely poor. What is the use of my remaining young forever. Instead of eating this, I would make a present of this fruit to the great king Bhatruhari.” He did like that. The king was pleased and gave him lot of wealth and comforts.

But the king did not want to eat the fruit himself. He thought, it would be great if his queen Ananga Sena was young forever. He called and gave her the golden pomegranate. But the queen had a secret lover- The driver of the kings Chariots. She gave it to him. That driver had another lover. She was the maid servant who was cleaning the horse stables of the king,. He gave it to her. That lady kept the fruit in the top of her basket and was returning home. The king who was passing that way identified the divine fruit.He got dejected with life and decided to become a saint. So he made his younger brother Vikramadhithya , the king and another younger brother Bhatti as his Prime minister.

How Vikramadhithya built his capital

Vikramadhithya was a very intelligent and valorous king. Bhatti was very cunning and wise. They ruled the country well. After some time Vikramadhithya wanted to build a new capital city. So whenever they got time, Vikramadhithya and Bhatti went on searching for a good place to establish their capital city. One day they came across a very suitable spot in a place called Vachana giri. There was a beautiful river called Gunavathi flowing by its side. There was also a temple for Goddess Kali in the adjoining forest. When Bhatti went inside the forest and examining it,, he saw an inscription on a stone in the temple. It was written. “ There is a big Banyan tree near the temple pond. There are seven hanging shelves made of rope on the tree. In the middle of the pond , there is a big and sharp spear. Suppose a man can cut off , all the seven rope shelves in one cut and fall head first on the spear in the

pond, The goddess of this temple would bless him.” He then told Vikramadhithya to climb on the tree, hold on to one shelf, keep his feet on the opposite shelf and rotate. By doing this the rope holding all the shelves would become joined. Then with his sword he can cut the rope and fall on the Spear in the pond, head first. Vikrama agreed . He did as instructed by Bhatti . But when he was about to be killed by the spear, Goddess Kali herself came and saved him. He blessed him as follows.” You would build your capital city , in this place with the treasure buried in this city and call it Ujjain. You would become a great king and become the emperor of all India” . Vikramadhithya Buily a new city in Ujjain and became a great king.

How Vikramadhithya got the throne?

When this was going on, Devendra the king of heavens had a problem. He had several dancers in his court. Of them Rambha and Urvasi were the best. But they were jealous of each other. Since both of them were equally pretty and equally adept in dancing, King Devendra could not decide as to who should be made the Chief Dancer of his court. His minister suggested , “Sir, There is a great and intelligent king in Ujjain called Vikramadhithya. Possibly he can help you in taking the decision” . Devendra then sent his chariot to Ujjain. At that time , it was evening and Vikramadhithya was alone. He immediately accepted the invitation of devendra and came back to Heaven, in the chariot sent by Devendra, First day he made Ramba and Urvasi dance. He was not able to see any difference. He told them ,”I will see you both dance once more tomorrow and then take the decision.” .He went to his lodgings and made two flower Bouquets. Within each bouquet , he put some stinging bees , in both the flower bouquets. Next day he requested Ramba and Urvasi to do a fast dance , keeping the flower bouquet in their hand. When they danced after some time, the dance movements became very vigorous. At that time Ramba shrieked with pain , because the bees in the bouquet, Vikramadhithya stopped the dance competition and told Devendra, “Sir Urvasi is a better dancer , because she was having stylish and soft movement of her limbs and did not hurt the bees.

Ramba , though a good dancer, lost her tender movements when she was dancing vigorously.”

Devendra became happy and presented him with a gem studded throne with 32 steps. Each step was being protected by a divine doll. He blessed him to rule over India sitting on the throne for another 1000 years. Vikramadhithya was greatly pleased and came back along with the throne.

Country six months and forest six months.

When he called and narrated all this to Bhatti he asked him, “That is fine. But I will die early and not live for one thousand years. “

Vikramadhithya became sad on hearing this. Bhatti said that he would find out some method to live for one thousand years. That night Bhatti went to the Kali temple. When he went Goddess Kali had gone out for a walk outside the temple. He waited for her. Goddess Kali returned at mid night. She was surprised on seeing Bhatti and asked him, “Bhatti why have you come here at this time?” Bhatti replied, “goddess, I want to live for one thousand years. Kali told him, “I can give you the boon provided , you bring me the cut head of Vikramadhithya. “ Bhatti immediately agreed and went inside the palace. And woke up Vikramadhithya. He told him, Brother, I want your cut head urgently.” Vikramadhithya agreed. Bhatti cut the head of Vikramadhithya and took it to the Kali Temple. The goddess was pleased, and told him , “You will live up to 200 years.” As soon as he heard the boon , Bhatti started laughing and told the Goddess, “My brother got the boon to live for one thousand years only a week back and now he is dead. I do not really know when I will die?” Goddess got angry and told him, “do not equate me with Devendra. Both you and your brother will live for 2000 years. “ and she gave life back to vikramadhithya.

The brothers now had a problem. Both of them would live for 200 years but Vikramadhithya would be king for only one thousand years. Bhatti found out a solution, Vikramadhithya would rule the country for six months (country six months) and the he would spend the next six months in the forest (forest six months). It was a great idea and they

both ruled India for two thousand years.

Then the doll asked Bhija, “king, do you think you are as great as Vikramadhithya?”

By that time , it was evening and Bhoja went to his palace.

Vikramadhithya and Vetala -I

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the second day king Bhoja again worshipped the throne and tried to climb the steps. Then the doll in the second step started laughing and King Bhoja asked the doll, why it was laughing. Then that doll said, "Are you as valorous as Vikramadhithya to occupy this throne?" King Bhoja replied, "I do not know much about Vikramadhithya. Can you tell something about him?" Then the second doll whose name was Madanabhisheka valli started telling:-

In times of yore, when Vikramadhithya was ruling this country, two miles away from the town of Ujjaini, there used to be a Kali temple. Near the temple was a cremation ground. In that cremation ground, there was a drumstick tree. In that drum stick tree, a corpse was hanging upside down. Inside, the corpse was a great Vetala (ghoul). Any body who controls the Vetala could almost attain anything he wants. Near by an evil sage called Gnanaseela was trying to be very powerful. He went on meditating in the Kali temple. Kali, being pleased came in front of him and asked, "Oh sage, what do you want?", Then the sage replied, "Devi, I want all the wealth of this world and want to be the most powerful man of the world." Kali replied "For getting that you have to do a great fire sacrifice and offer the heads of thousand kings. You also have to control, the Vetala of the drumstick tree."

The sage immediately started the fire sacrifice. He could easily catch hold of 999 kings, cut off their head and put it in the fire. He wanted to sacrifice the head of Vikramadhithya next. So he started going to the court of Vikramadhithya. Daily he would present the king, a

pomegranate fruit. King without bothering about it, asked his minister to store it. One day the minister had gone away. The pomegranate fruit was in the king's chamber. The pet monkey of the king, broke open, the fruit. From inside the fruit red gems started falling. Then the king examined all the fruits given by the sage. All the fruits had invaluable gems inside them. So when the sage came next day, Vikramadithya asked him, "Oh sage, why are you giving me such invaluable presents? What can I do for you? The sage replied, "King, I am giving the fruits because I like you. I have only one request. I live in the nearby Kali temple. Tomorrow at mid night, you should come alone there." The king agreed. The next day, king Vikramadithya went to the temple. When he went there, the devils and ghosts were dancing in the temple. Because Vikramadithya was bold, he did not bother about them. The sage who was in the temple asked Vikramadithya, "Dear king, I want a help from you. Near this temple, there is a cremation ground. In that ground, there is a drum stick tree. On the drum stick tree, a corpse would be hanging upside down. Please go and get it for me." Vikramadithya did not even wait for a moment and went to the cremation ground and approached the drumstick tree. He took his sword and cut off the corpse from the tree. Though he heard sound of it falling, it went back to the tree again. Now he climbed the tree, untied the corpse and holding it tightly started walking towards the Kali temple. Then the Vetala inside the corpse started speaking, "King, I am a powerful Vetala. If you are going to carry me, there is a condition. On the way, I would tell you a story. At the end of the story, I would ask you a question. If you know the answer and do not tell it, then your head will break in to thousand pieces. But if you tell the correct answer, I would escape from you and start hanging in the drum stick tree again." Vikramadithya agreed to this condition. The Vetala started telling its first story.

I The story of the just king.

There was a great king called Vichara, He had only one son. The prince

one day went for hunting in the forest riding a horse. He chased animals deep in the forest. He was feeling very thirsty. He went in search of a pond. At last he found it. He saw a sage sitting there. The prince told the sage, "I am the prince of this country. I want to drink water in the pond. Please hold this horse till I come back." Then the sage told, "do you think, I am your servant? I cannot hold the horse for you?" The prince got very angry and beat the sage with his whip. The sage was wounded and went and complained to the king against the prince. The king immediately ordered the minister, to cut off the hand of the prince. When the minister told that it was not necessary, the king told, "The prince has behaved very harshly with the sage. What he has not done is not proper. Please cut off his hand."

The sage who was listening to all this pleaded with the king to excuse the prince. The king agreed with him and excused the prince.

The Vetala asked, "who is greater-the king or the Vetala?"

Vikramadhithya replied, "Ofcourse, the king, because he wanted to punish the prince, in spite of him being his only son."

The Vetala immediately went back to the cremation ground and started hanging upside down on the drumstick tree.

Vikramadhithya and Vetala –Retold by

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Vikramadhithya and Vetala Stories 2-6

Second story of Vetala

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

There was a Brahmin called Agni swami. . He had a very pretty daughter called Mandarawathi. When she attained marriageable age, three very eligible Brahmin boys sought her hand. Each of them claimed that they are deeply in love with her and would die, if they are not able to marry her. As fate would have it, Mandaravathi, became sick and died. Her body was cremated. One of the Brahmin boys built a hut in the cremation ground and stayed there. Another of the Brahmin boys collected her bones and went on a pilgrimage to dip them in all sacred waters of India, The third became a sage and started travelling all over India.

One day the sage was partaking in a feast offered by a Brahmin. When he was eating food, the baby child of the Brahmin started crying. His mother got very angry with the child and threw the baby in a raging fire. The baby was burnt to ashes. The Brahmin sage refused to eat the food served to him. Then the baby's father chanted a Manthra and sprinkled water on the ashes of the baby. The child woke up as if he was sleeping. The Brahmin sage learnt that Manthra and returned back to the village of Mandarawathi. At the same time, the Brahmin who had gone on pilgrimage also returned with the bones. Then the bones were kept on the ashes and the Brahmin sage chanted the Manthra. Mandharavathi became alive again. All the three Brahmin boys claimed that she should marry them. The Vetala asked, Oh Vikramadhithya, whom should

Mandarawathi marry?"

Vikramadhithya replied, "The man who guarded her ashes would marry her. This is because, the Brahmin sage by giving her life, became like her father and the man who carried her bones had the role of her son."

As soon as Vetala heard this, it freed itself and again to the Drum Stick tree and started hanging there.

Third story of Vetala.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

There was a poor Brahmin. He had three sons. They were connoisseurs from birth. Their father wanted to do a yaga. For performing the yaga, they needed to bring a tortoise from the sea.

The first son said, "I will not touch this tortoise because I am a connoisseur for food. If I touch the tortoise, I will never be able to eat food again."

The second son said, "I am a Connoisseur of woman and my sensibility would be affected, if I touch the tortoise."

The third son said, "I am the connoisseur of sleep. If I touch this tortoise, I will never be able to sleep."

Since they were not able to reach any agreement, the three sons went and approached the king for judgment.

The king wanted to test them. He first took them and asked his servants, to serve the food prepared for him. While the second and third son enjoyed it, the first one refused to eat it saying, "That the rice prepared had the scent of a corpse." the king was aghast. But when enquiries were made, they came to know that the rice indeed was grown in a land which was once upon a time a cremation ground."

Then the king chose one of best ladies from his harem and sent her to be with the second son. But the second son told, "Take her away or I

will die. A goat's smell is coming from her.”

Again the king made enquiries and found that that girl grew up by consuming goat's milk.

That night a special bed was prepared for the third son. Twenty softest beds of the kingdom were arranged one on the top of the other. Over them ten softest bed sheets were spread. But after spending one night, the third son complained that the bed was a little rough in one place. When they examined it, they found that between the first and second bed, there was a hair of the lady.”

Vetala asked, “That king was not able to judge who was the real expert, Can you?”

Vikramadhithya replied, “It is obvious. The first and second so were awake and their senses were sharp when they made the judgment. But in case of the third son he was sleeping. So the greatest expert is the third son.

Immediately the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum stick tree,

Fourth story of Vetala

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

Vikramadhithya again went to the drum stick and caught hold of the Vetala. Along with it he started walking to the Saint's place. Then the Vetala told the following story.

In the southern country there was a wise Brahmin who was the minister to the king. He had a very intelligent son and a very pretty and intelligent daughter. The name of the daughter was Swayamprabha, When Swayamprabha grew up , she told that she will marry a man who is either an expert in science, or a valorous hero or a very wise man. Her parents and her brother agreed to these conditions.

Once the Brahmin minister had to travel to a different country. There one Brahmin boy called Sastri approached him and sought the hand of Swayamprabha. The Brahmin told her condition. Then Sastri told that he was an expert of science. To prove this he constructed a plane which was flying in the sky. The Brahmin was happy and agreed to celebrate the marriage next Monday. Sastri brought the Brahmin in his plane to the southern country.

Meanwhile a Brahmin called Soora approached the brother of Swayamprabha and sought her hand. Her brother told the condition. Then Soora claimed he was valorous hero. He fought bare handed with a lion and killed it to prove his point. Then Swayamprabha's brother promised her in marriage to Soora, the next Monday.

While this was going on a Brahmin called Rishi approached Swayamprabha's mother and requested the hand of Swayamprabha. Her mother told about the condition. Then Rishi proved to her that he knew the past, present and future. So the mother promised to celebrate the marriage next Monday.

On Monday Sastri, Soora and Rishi reached the marriage hall. But by that time Swayamprabha had vanishes. Rishi by his powers found out that she was taken away by a fierce Rakshasa who was staying in a forest one thousand kilometers away. Sastri built a fast moving plane full of weapons. Sastri, Soora and Rishi travelled to the forest. There Soora fought with valour and killed the Rakshasa . They then brought back Swayamprabha to her home.

Now Rishi told that Swayamprabha was his because , without him they would not know where to search. Sastri claimed her as his because without him they could not have gone there. Soora claimed her, because without him, they could not kill the Rakshasa.

Now Vetala asked, "Oh king, to whom should Swayamprabha be given?" The king replied, "Of course to Soora. For love belongs to valour and it is the duty of science and knowledge to serve valour.

The Vetala then freed itself and again started hanging on the drum stick tree.

Fifth story of the Vetala.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its fifth story

There was a young man called Rama in a great city. He was very handsome and a great devotee of Durga. One day when he was travelling on business, he saw a very pretty girl called Janaki. He immediately fell in love with her. Nearby was a temple of Durga. He entered the temple and told the Goddess, "Oh divine Goddess, I am in love with Janaki and want to marry her. Please help me do it. If you help me , next time when I come to this temple, I will sacrifice myself before you."

After this he enquired about Janaki and found out her whereabouts. When he returned back home he was very sad and listless. His father asked him, "Rama what is the matter? After the last trip, you are very sad." Then Rama told him about his love to Janaki. Immediately Rama's father contacted Janaki's father and the marriage was arranged. It took place almost immediately. Rama and Janaki lived a very happy life. Janaki had a brother called Krishna. One day Krishna came to Rama's house and invited Rama and Janaki for a festival in their village. Rama accepted the invitation and accompanied Krishna. On their way was the Durga temple. Rama got the chariot stopped and went inside the temple . As soon as he saw Goddess Durga, he remembered his earlier promise. So he took the sword of the goddess and cut off his own head. When he was not coming out, Krishna came to enquire. When he saw that Rama had cut off his head, he also cut off his head. After some time Janaki came in. Seeing both her husband and brother dead, she also

decided to sacrifice herself. When she took the sword, Goddess Durga appeared before her and told, “Janaki , I am so much happy with your devotion to your husband and brother. Please join their heads to their bodies., they will become alive. “

Janaki thanked the Goddess and did what she was told. But in the hurry she did a mistake. She joined Rama’s head to Krishna’s body and Krishna’s head to Rama’s body.”

Vetala asked, Hey king who should be the husband of Janaki? “

Vikrama replied, “It should be the person having Rama’s head. This is because it is the brain that dictates the actions wishes of a person.”

Vetala immediately disengaged itself and went back to the Drumstick tree.

Sixth story of the Vetala:-

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its sixth story.

In the city of Patna there was a king called Vikrama. He had a parrot as a pet. This parrot was a very wise one and gave him proper counsel, whenever he needed it.

According to its advice he married Princess Chandra of the Magadha kingdom. She had a talking Myna as a pet. This bird was also extremely wise.

After the marriage the parrot and Myna were kept in the same cage .One day after being attracted by the Myna, the parrot requested her to marry him. Then the Myna told, “All males are very bad people. So I do not want to marry.” Then the parrot told , “What you say is not true. On the contrary all, females are cruel people,”

They started fighting with each other and there was a lot of noise. Then after lot of arguments they decided to leave the matter to king Vikrama. First Myna told the king , “All men are cruel”

The king asked “How do you say that?”

Then the Myna started reciting the following story:-

There was a rich merchant who had a son called Dhanadhatha. Dhanadhatha was a spend thrift and a man of loose morals. He used to drink , gamble and spend the money for unnecessary things. , Due to this he lost all his wealth. So he decided for going to some other country , where no body will know about him. He reached a city of Chandanapura and met a rich merchant. That merchant was impressed by the personality of Dhanadhatha and gave his daughter in marriage to him. That merchant gave lot of dowry and also gave very large quantity of ornaments to his daughter .Dhanadhatha then told his father in law that he needs to go to his place along with his wife. On the way he told his wife. “Travelling with so many ornaments is risky. Please remove them and hand it over to me. “ she did it. After travelling some more time , he pushed her in to a well and vanished with all her ornaments. The merchant’s daughter was saved by another way farer and returned home. She did not tell the truth to her father. She told her father that they were attacked by a gang of thieves, who removed all her ornaments and have taken away Dhanadhatha as a slave. The merchant became sad but consoled his daughter.. Dhanadhatha after spending all the money , again came back to the merchant o ask for more money. But the merchant’s daughter saw him first and took him back to her home. That night Dhanadhatha killed his wife and stole all her new ornaments and ran away. “Oh king”, asked the Myna, “does this not prove that all men are cruel.”

Then the parrot to prove his point started telling another story.

There was a very rich lady called Vasudatha. Her father gave her in marriage to another rich man called Samudhra Datha of the neighboring country. Samudhra Datha loved Vasudatha very much and gave her ,

what all she wanted. Once she wanted to visit her father. He sent her to her home as he was busy with his work. In her home town Vasudatha saw a very strong and pretty man. She wanted to make love to him. So they reached an agreement. After some time Samudhra Datha came to take her wife away. That night , after he was asleep Vasudatha , went outside to meet her lover. She was wearing lot of ornaments. One thief who had come to her house to steal her ornaments followed her. When she reached the spot where her lover had promised to meet her., Vasudatha found that her lover had died. But a Vetala which had entered his body , made his limbs move. Thinking that her lover was alive, Vasudatha embraced him. Then the Vetala made her lover open his mouth and bite away the nose of Vasudatha. Vasudatha ran back home. The thief also followed her. After reaching there, she started shouting that her husband had bitten her nose off. The husband was produced before the king who sentenced him to death. The thief then went to the king and told, “Sir Samudhra Datha is innocent. This girl has a secret lover and his body is lying in the garden. You can see her nose in his mouth.” The king sent some people and found that the thief was telling the truth. Samudhra Datha was released and Vasudatha was sentenced to death.

The parrot asked , “Oh king Vikrama, does this not prove that all women are cruel?”

The Vetala then asked Vikramadhithya, “Who is correct-the parrot or the Myna?”

Vikramadhithya replied, “The parrot is correct. The cruelty of a wife to her husband is baser than the cruelty of the husband to his wife.”

Vikramadhithya and Vetala Stories 7-10

Seventh story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its seventh story.

There was a great King. One day a hero called Veera entered his

kingdom along with his wife named Dharma, Son named Surya and a daughter named kavya. He was holding in his hand a sword and a shield. He went and directly met the king and told him, "Sir, I would like to become the security guarding you. I am a great hero. But I need five hundred rupees per day as my salary."

The king was impressed and agreed. Veera was offered the job of guarding the king. The king felt that the compensation he was giving to Veera was very high. He sent his spies to enquire about it. They came and told him that out of the five hundred rupees, One hundred rupees was given to his wife to run his household. He would spend another one hundred to for buying articles of cleanliness and cloth. Another one hundred was given to the temple and rest of the money (two hundred) was spent on poor people.

The king was extremely happy with Veera. Then the rainy season started. There were torrential rains. Veera would stand in the rain and guard the king. As and when he wakes up , the king would check up whether Veera was doing his duty. One day when he woke up , he heard the wailing of a woman. He asked Veera to go and investigate as to why the lady was crying. Veera walked in the torrential rain towards the source of that wail .The curious king also followed. After some distance Veera met the woman who was wailing, he asked her."Mother, who are you and why are you wailing?" The lady replied, "I am the mother earth. I know that the good king of this country is going to die in three days. I am sad because of that."

Veera then asked her," Mother, what can we do to prevent this?"

The lady replied," Only you can prevent it. For that you have to sacrifice your son in the Durga temple here."

Without a moment of Hesitation Veera went to his house and explained the situation. Without any hesitation his wife told, "What is preventing you? The life of our master is more important to us than our son."

Later they woke up their son and told him about what is happening, .

The son did not even think a minute and accompanied his father to the Durga Temple. Veera's wife and daughter followed them. The king was

watching all this, Veera reached the temple and cut off the head of his son Surya in front of the deity. A voice was heard from the temple, "Veera, now your master's life is safe."

But Kavya was not able to tolerate her brother's death. So she sacrificed herself before the deity. Dharma seeing that both her children were no more, died there on the spot. Seeing all this Veera also sacrificed himself.

The king who was seeing all this felt sad and wanted to cut off his head also. When he was preparing for that, The Goddess appeared before him and gave life to Veera and all his family members.

Vetala asked Vikrama, "Whose sacrifice is greatest?"

Vikramadhithya told the Vetala, "Of course, it is the sacrifice of the king. It is the job of the Guard and citizen to sacrifice himself for the king. But it is not the duty of the king."

Vetala immediately disengaged itself and went back to the Drumstick tree.

Eighth story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its eighth story.

In the eastern shore there was a great town called Thamralipthi. This was ruled by a great king called Chanda Simha.

One day a valorous man called Sathya Sheela who belonged to the royal race reached Thamralipthi. He was very poor. He could not get any job in the palace. But he was offered the job of Kaarpadiga. In this job, one has to work but would not be paid any wages. Sathya sheela took up this job. But since he was not getting any wages, daily he used to collect some goose berries from the forest and tie in the corner of his dress. Whenever he felt hungry, he would quench his hunger by eating these goose berries. Life went on for ten years like this.

One day Chanda Simha went for hunting in the forest. Sathya Sheela was one of those servants accompanying him on feet. During hunting

King Chanda Simha started following a wild pig which ran very fast. The king who was riding on a horse back chased him. Sathya Sheela ran behind them. All the followers of the king were left behind. At last Chanda Simha killed the wild pig. Then he saw that he was very tired and had lost his way. The only one accompanying him was the Kaarpadiga. The king asked his servant, "do you know the way back?" Sathya sheela replied "Yes, king, I know it. But since the sun is very hot we would not be able to travel back now. We would go back in the evening." The king agreed but told Sathya Sheela, "I am very hungry as well as thirsty. Suppose I do not take any food now or drink some water, I will die." Immediately Sathya Sheela climbed on a tall tree, located a river and brought water from the river. He also gave him, the goose berries. By eating the goose berries and drinking the water, the king became very much refreshed. Then he asked Sathya Sheela, "you seem to be very poor. Are you not getting any wages?". Sathya Sheela replied "King, I am a kaarpadiga and do not get any wages." After returning back, the king Made Sathya sheela as his commander and body guard. Sathya Sheela also worked sincerely for the king.

One day the king called Sathya Sheela and told him, "I am interested in marrying the princess of Sri Lanka. You please take a ship along with some priests and go to Sri Lanka and request the king for the hand of the princess for my sake. ". Sathya sheela agreed and started the journey. When the ship was mid way to Sri Lanka, suddenly a big flag pole appeared in the sea. Near it there was a horrible whirl pool. The ship was about to be destroyed. Sathya Sheela jumped inside the whirl pool. He slowly reached a big island. In that island there was a very big Durga temple. Sathya sheela entered the temple and offered prayers to the goddess. Then a very pretty lady accompanied by several maid servants entered the temple. The lady was very pretty. Sathya Sheela wanted to marry her. The lady understood his intention and asked her maid servants to take him to the Garden of luxury. In the middle of the garden there was a pond. Sathya Sheela was requested to take bath in the tank. But when he went in to the tank and took a dip, he suddenly

found himself in his town Tahmra Lipthi. He approached the king and told him all that has happened to him. The king told Sathya Sheela.” We would again go to the same place. I would help you in marrying the lady. The king and Sathya Sheela again started the journey. When they reached the middle, the flag post came up. The king and Sathya Sheela jumped in to the whirl pool. They reached the same island and went in to the same Durga temple. Then the lady along with her maid servants came. Seeing the king, the pretty lady wanted to marry him. But the king told her, “Pretty one, It would be better for you if you marry my friend Sathya Sheela.” The lady agreed and by jumping in to the pond in the garden of luxury, the king reached back to his palace.

The Vetala asked Vikrama “ Sir, Sathya Simha gave the goose berry and saved the king’s life. The king made the lady whom Sathya Sheela loved as his wife. Whose sacrifice is greater? If you know the answer and do not tell it, your head will break in to pieces. “

Vikrama replied “ The sacrifice of Sathya Simha was ordinary , because as a servant , it was his duty to protect the king. But the king id not have any duty. So the sacrifice of the king is greater.”

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree,

(In another version the Vetals asks, “Both Sathya Sheela and the king jumped in to the whirl pool. Who was more braver?”

Vikrama replied, “Ofcourse Sathya Sheela was braver , because when he jumped he was not knowing what is going to happen to him. In case of the king, he already knew about it.”)

The ninth story of Vetala:-

Ninth story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its Ninth story.

In the city of Uvisha pura there lived a princess called Mani mala , who

was extremely pretty. She was not very intelligent. Her father decided that she should be given in marriage only to a very wise person. A king called Maniman approached him and requested for her hand, as he had decided to marry only a very pretty girl. Mani mala's father put several tests and found that Maniman was indeed wise. So he gave Mani mala in marriage to him,

One day when Mani maala and Mani man were chatting sweet nothings in their golden cot, a row of ants were passing below the cot. When the soldier ant refused to move beyond the legs of the cot, the king ant asked him, "Why don't you throw away the cot and move?" . Then the soldier ant replied , "Sir the king and his queen are lying on the cot. Suppose I throw the cot away , they would both fall down." . Maniman who knew the language of animals hearing this laughed uproariously. His queen asked, "What was so funny? Why are you laughing?". When the king was about to reply, the king ant told him, "if you tell her, your head will break in to pieces." . Then the king told Mani mala, "Darling, I cannot tell you ,because my head will break in to pieces." Mani mala refused to believe this and started throwing tantrums. The king then told her, "OK, I will tell you. But since I will die immediately, I will lie on the funeral pyre in the cremation ground and then tell you." Mani mala insisted he should do that. A funeral pyre was set up and the king Maniman, was lying on it. At this time one male goat and female goat were grazing in the cremation ground. The female goat wanted the luscious grass in side the well half full of water to eat and told the male goat, "Darling , get me that grass." .Male goat replied, "Foolish girl, I will die , if I try to get that grass. So I would not do it". The female goat became angry and walked away. The king who was hearing all this, suddenly got up from the funeral pyre and told queen Mani mala, "I simply cannot tell you what you want because I will die."

The Vetala asked . OH Vikrama, who was wiser among the two-The goat or the king? If you know the correct answer and do not tell it your head will break in to pieces."

Vikrama replied, "Ofcourse the goat is wiser because, even at the

outset, it was not willing to obey the foolish request by the lady,”
As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the
Drum Stick tree,

[Alternative ninth story of Vetala:-

(Some versions give the following as the ninth story)

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick
tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told
its Ninth story.

There was a great king called Veera deva. He did not have any children.
So he did Thapas(penance) towards Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva appeared
before him and blessed him with a valorous son and a very pretty
daughter. After that he had a son called Soora deva and a very pretty
daughter called Ananga Rathi. Ananga rathi grew up in to a very pretty
princess. Veera deva searched through out the world for a suitable
groom. He could not find any. So he told his daughter, “dear daughter, I
am not able to find any one suitable to marry you. So I request you to
choose some one whom you like.” The princess replied “Papa, I do not
have any specific dreams regarding this. Please choose any one who is
pretty and well versed in any particular aspect of knowledge.”. The king
was pleased and told all his friend kings about his requirement. On a
particular day four youth from South India came to the king.

The first one told, “ My name is Panchaputtiga, I daily weave five pieces
of exquisite cloth. One cloth, I give it to God , one I give it to charity and
one use it for myself. If I marry this princess, I will give her one and the
last one I will sell in the market and manage my day to day expenses. So
please give the princess in marriage to me.”

The second one told ,” I am a merchant and people call me Bhashagna. I
am an expert in languages and even understand the language of birds
and animals. So I can make a living wherever I go.”

The third one told, “ I am called Gadgadhara. I am a soldier. There is
none in the world who can defeat me in sword fight. So please give this
girl in marriage to me.”

The fourth one told, " I am a Brahmin and My name is Jeevadatha. I am an expert in magical chants. I can even give life to a dead man." Since all the four of them were equally pretty and seemed to be experts as they claimed, The king and the princess were puzzled. Hey Vikrama, can you help them to take the correct decision."

King Vikramadhithya replied, "Ananga rathi belongs to a king's family. She cannot be given in marriage to a merchant nor to the weaver and nor to the Brahmin as they would not be suitable husband to her. She should definitely choose Gadgadharahara."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree .]

The tenth story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its Tenth story.

In the city of Anangapura there was a great merchant called Arthadatha,. He had a very pretty daughter called Madanasena. Both Madanasna and Arthadatha never told a lie in their life. Madanasena grew up and attained marriageable age. Her elder brother's friend Dharmadatha , who knew and played with her from infancy fell hopelessly in love with her. But he did not have the courage to tell her. After quite some time , he did told her, "Dear Pretty girl, I love you a lot.. If I cannot even spend a night with you, I would prefer to die.". Madanasena replied, "My dear friend, you have proposed too late. My father who never tells a lie has fixed my marriage with another merchant friend of his called SAMudhradatha. Then darmadatha told, "Dear friend, then I will take out my life as I do not want to live without you.". Madanasena told him." I already love Samudhradatha but since you are also my friend I do not want you to die. So After my marriage, I would ask my husband to give me permission to spend my first night with you. This would make you live.". Dharmadatha agreed to this proposal. After marriage when Madanasena and Samudradatha were

left alone to spend their first night, Madanasena told all that has happened to her husband and asked his permission to spend her first night with Dharma Datha. Though terribly disappointed, Samudradatha agreed to her request. Fully dressed and decorated with several ornaments, Madanasena went to the house of Dharmadatha. However on her way she was caught hold by a very ferocious robber, on seeing her the robber said that he was not interested in her ornaments but her. Then Madanasena told him about the entire story and requested him to leave her without molesting her. She also promised that on her way back, she would make love to him, before going to her husband. The robber agreed. Madanasena went to Darmadutta's house. On seeing her Darmadatta was shocked. He asked her about that night's happenings. She also told him how her husband has given her permission and how a ferocious robber stopped her on the way and how she has promised to spend some part of the night with him on her way back. Dharmadutta was aghast. He felt her feet and asked her to pardon his lust. He promised her that he would never ever behave badly with any other girl. So Madanasena returned unharmed and met the robber on the way and agreed to spend some time with him. The robber also asked as to what happened. She narrated all the details. The robber fell at her feet and craved her pardon and asked her to go back to her husband. At that time Madanasena offered all her ornaments. But the robber told her, "mother, how can I take them. Seeing how good a person you are, I have decided to leave robbery and become a good man. Madanasena went back to her husband and told him everything. He became happy to know how her action has reformed and accepted her as his.

Then Vetala asked Vikramadhithya, "Whose behaviour and sacrifice was great among these three people?"

Vikramadhithya replied, "Ofcourse that of the robber because the other two were noble people brought up with respect and respectability. So such a behaviour was expected out of them. But in case of the robber, this sort of behaviour was not expected."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

Vikramadhithya and Vetala Stories 11-16

The eleventh story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its eleventh story.

Long ago in the town of Villi there was a king called Dharmadwaja.. He had three queens viz Tharavali, Indulekha and Chandana. They were all very pretty and had a very delicate constitution. At times the king used to wonder which of them had the most delicate constitution.

During the spring festival , the king took all the queens to his garden and was engaged in playing with them. At that time the king caught hold of the braided hair of Tharavali. The lotus she was wearing fell on her body, Unable to bear the weight of the flower , she collapsed.. By that time it became night It was a full moon day. The king went for a walk in the terrace along with his second wife Indulekha. As soon as moon light fell on her skin, it started burning and itching. Doctors were summoned immediately. They made her lie down on a bed of lotus leaves and applied sandal paste. Hearing about this the third queen Chandana came out of her palace. She then heard a sound of rice being pounded far away. Her entire body became black because of this.

Dharmadwaja started wondering who was the most delicate and tender among them.

Vetala asked Vikramadhithya, “King , can you help Dharmadwaja? If you know the answer and tell a lie, your head will break in to pieces.”

Vikrama replied, “Ofcourse , it is the third queen Chandana. In the other two cases there was some contact with the object . In case of first queen, the flower fell on her. In case of the second queen moon light fell on her. But in case of the third queen, there was no contact . So she is the most delicate.”

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

The twelfth story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its twelfth story.

There was a king called Yasakethu in the Anga country.. He had a very great and responsible minister called Deergadarsi. He had also a very pretty wife called Chandravadana. The king was passionately in love with his wife. He wanted to spend all the day's twenty four hours with her. So he asked his minister Deergadarsi to look after all the administration of the country. In general people started gossiping that Deergadarsi was after power and had made the king slave to love making with his wife. When Deergadarsi heard this rumour he was shocked. That day he consulted his wife Medhavathi about it. She told him, "This is inevitable. I think you ought to go to a long pilgrimage , so that king will not have any other option but to look after the administration of the country. The people of the country then will also realize that you are not interested in the kingship." Deergadarsi thought , this was a great idea. Next day , he told the king, " Great king, I have been told by astrologers that I should go on a long pilgrimage. I am starting tomorrow. So kindly look after the administration. ". The king tried his best to dissuade Deergadarsi from going on a pilgrimage. When he did not agree, he left in a huff.

Next day Deergadarsi left on a pilgrimage without telling any body. His wife did not join him in his pilgrimage. After spending several days, Deergadarsi reached a town which was a port. A businessman of the town took great liking for Deergadarsi.. He took him home and provided him with all comforts. After a few days , the businessman was going to the island of Sumathra for business. Deergadarsi also joined him. While they were returning, suddenly the entire sea started boiling over. From

the sea arose a tree made of nine gems. On the top of the tree was sitting a very beautiful maiden with a lyre. She was singing very sad songs about the inevitability of fate. After some time she disappeared in to the sea.

After this Deergadarsi returned to his own town. He then met the king, who was very glad to see him. The king was curious and asked him about all that happened to him. Deergadarsi told him in detail . He also told him about his journey in to the sea and how they met the sad maiden . As soon as he heard about the pretty maiden, the king wanted to see her. He entrusted the entire job of ruling the country to Deergadarsi and started his journey. On the way he met a sage called Kusanabha. The sage told him, that he will meet the pretty lady and marry her. He also told him to travel in the ship of Lakshmidatha, a well known merchant. The king dressed himself as a sage and approached Lakshmidatha. He readily agreed to take him to the journey of the Sumathra island. On their way back , again the tree made of gems came up. They also saw the very pretty maiden singing sad songs. The tree , suddenly disappeared. The king jumped in to the sea. Seeing a sage jump in to the sea Lakshmidatha was upset and was about to commit suicide. Then he heard a divine voice which assured him of the safety of the king.

The king who jumped in to the sea reached a very pretty town inside the sea. He saw a palace made of Gold. The pillars and windows of the palace were made of gems. When he entered the palace, he saw the pretty lady of the tree , there. .He immediately fell in love with that lady. That lady thinking he was a sage immediately fell at his feet. She asked him, "Who are you? Why have you come to this town under the sea? Though you are dressed like a sage, you are definitely a king." Then the king explained all about himself Then he asked about her. She said, "I am a Vidhyadhara princess called Mrungavathi. For some reason, my father left me alone in this place and has gone somewhere else. Since I live alone, I feel sad . Once in a while I come out of the sea to see others"

The king requested her to marry him. She agreed but told, "During Ashtami and Chathurthi days, I would go alone somewhere. You should neither enquire where I am going nor follow me.,". The king agreed to this condition .They started living a very lovely life there. But when she went somewhere alone after taking his leave on a Chathurthi day, the king followed her in stealth. She went to another island. There an ogre called Jaladushta came and swallowed her. The king was upset, jumped on the ogre and tore his stomach. Mrungawathi came out unscathed. She then told him, "That was due to the curse of my father. On one Chathurthi day, I starved and came to this spot to do pooja to Lord Shiva. My father who is used to take food with me did not get food on that day. . He became furious and cursed me that on all Chathurthi and Ashtami days, this ogre called Jaladushta would swallow me. Then I would come out tearing his stomach. On the day when some king helps me to come out, I can again go to the land of Vidhyadharas. So king, I would be now flying to my land. I was extremely happy with you. " The king begged her to be with him till he reaches his own native kingdom. Mrungawathi agreed. But due to the passage of time, she lost the power of Vidhyadharas. They reached the town of the king. Minister Deergadarsi received them. But next day, the minister committed suicide.

The Vetala asked, "King , why did Deergadarsi commit suicide.? If you know the correct answer and do not tell it to me, your head will break in to pieces."

Vikramadhithya replied, "Deergadarsi loved his country. He knew that the king did not take any interest in ruling because he was hopelessly in love with the former queen. Due to him, now the king had brought home a more prettier queen. This would mean, he would not take any interest in ruling the country. He felt that this was because of him. Due to this guilt , he committed suicide."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

The thirteenth story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its thirteenth story.

In the town of Ujjaini, there lived a very learned Brahmin called Deva swami. He had an equally learned son called Chandra Swami. Chandra Swami was very much attached to Gambling. One day he went to the Gambling hall and lost all that he had. When he was not able to play his gambling debts, the owners of the gambling joint beat him. At one stage they thought he was dead. So they abandoned him in a forest and went away. After three days Chandra Swami woke up.. He crawled in to a Shiva temple near by. At night one Sanyasi came back with food he has begged from others. He took pity on Chandra Swami and offered him his alms. Then Chandra Swami told him, " Though I am in this pitiable state , I am a learned Brahmin. Since the food that you have is alms, I should not accept it. Then that Sanyasi did some chants. Immediately a golden palace with lot of servants appeared. Some ladies came out of the house and offered food to Chandra Swami. The food was very tasty and the ladies very pretty. Chandra Swami accepted their hospitality that night and slept with them. But when he became morning, he was back in the dilapidated Shiva temple along with the beggar Sanyasi.

Chandra Swami , then begged the Sanyasi to teach him those chants.

The Sanyasi told him, "It is extremely difficult to learn those chants.

Once I teach you with full concentration , standing in a neck deep water you have to keep on chanting. You would be offered with several goodies by evil spirits, when you are doing the chants If in between you listen to them , the chants would not be effective for you as well as me I would warn you at that time. Then a big funeral pyre will appear before you. You have to jump in to the fire, Then the God will give you the power of the chant.." Chandra Swami insisted that he would do the chants with concentration. When he started chanting , he saw in his reverie, him getting married and getting a child. At this time he was

happy and wanted to end it all. The Sanyasi warned him at this juncture. Then the fire appeared before him. His wife and child in the reverie prevented him from jumping in the fire. He was tempted to continue living with them .Anyway with this doubt he jumped in the fire.

Everything disappeared. The Sanyasi also lost the power of the chant. Vetala asked “Oh king, why did Chandra Swami loose the power of the chant?.If you know the answer and do not tell me the truth, your head will break in to pieces.”

Vikrama replied, “Oh Vetala, all meditations should be done with single mindedness and without any doubt. Chandra Swami was attracted by the family life in the reverie and doubt arose in his mind about the need for jumping in the fire. That is why he did not succeed.

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

The fourteenth story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its fourteenth story.

In the city of Vishala there was a rich merchant called Arthadatha. He was extremely rich. He had an extremely pretty daughter called Anangamanjari. During her child hood she was very close friend of a Brahmin youth called Kamalakara. When she was in teens this turned to love. Kamalakara was very poor and could never even dream of marrying Anangamanjari. Her father searched all over the world for a suitable groom for her and gave her in marriage to a handsome merchant youth called Maniverma. Since Arthadatha could not even imagine living away from his daughter, he made Manivarma live along with them in their house. Manivarma loved Anangamanjari totally. Once he decided to visit his parents for one month. At that time

Anangamanjari thought of her lover Kamalakara and became love lorn. One day coming out of her house , she went in to a dense garden and attempted to hang herself. Her friend Malathi found and saved her. When Malathi asked her the reason for such a step, Anangamanjari told to her about her love to Kamalakara. Malathi that day went in search of Kamalakara. She was surprised to find that he was also love lorn and wanted to be with Anangamanjari. Malathi fixed a rendezvous for them in the king's garden. Anangamanjari went to the garden at the appointed time. Kamalakara also came there and he embraced Anangamanjari. Due to the high emotions Anangamanjari died by stoppage of breath. Kamalakara seeing this also died immediately. At this time Maniverma chanced to return. As soon as he saw the dead Anangamanjari , he also died suddenly. Malathi felt very guilty and she prayed in the temple of Goddess located in the garden. The goddess gave back their lives but without the previous emotions of love. Anangamanjari and Maniverma returned to their home.

Vetala then asked, "Here are three people who died because of love. Whose death is the most strange? If you know the answer and do not tell it, your head will break in to pieces,"

Vikrama replied "the death of Manivarma is most strange. The other two people loved each other and died because of that. But Manivarma died in spite of knowing that her wife died because of the love to another man."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

The fifteenth story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its fifteenth story.

There was a poor Brahmin called Vishnu Swami in Pataliputhra. He was

very poor. He had four sons. Vishnu swami died suddenly. His four sons had no other go , except learning some trade and earning money. They fixed a spot where they have to return after one year and one traveled towards east, another towards west, another towards south and the other towards north. Exactly after one year they reached the pre determined spot.

The eldest told, "I have learned the art of creating a skeleton even , if I get a piece of bone of the dead person.

The second one told "If I Get the skeleton, I can remake the flesh and skin."

The third one told, "If you get me an animal with flesh, bones and skin, I can create all its internal organs.,"

The fourth one told, "If you give such a recreated animal to me, I can give life to it."

The four brothers wanted to try out , what they have learnt. They went to the nearest forest. They got a piece of bone. The eldest created the skeleton, the second one, flesh and skin and third one the internal organs. Then they saw that it was a lion. The fourth one gave it life. That lion immediately ate all the four brothers.

The Vetala asked , "Who is the guilty among the four, who was responsible for their death?"

Vikrama replied, "Ofcourse, it is the fourth one. Till he gave life to the animal, very well knowing it is a lion, it could not have harmed them."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

The sixteenth story of the Vetala:-

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its sixteenth story.

In the town of Varanasi , there was a rich Brahmin called Hari Swami . He had an extremely pretty wife. . One summer day when Hari Swami

and his wife were sleeping on a terrace, a Vidhyadhara called Madana Vega saw Hariswami's wife, fell in love with her and took her away. Next day When Hari Swami woke up he thought that his wife has either deserted him or has been kidnapped by some body. Since she was having great love towards him, he thought that she had only been kidnapped. So he decided to go in search of her in all temple towns of India, as she was very religious. He gave away all his property and then started on a pilgrimage. After some time a very horrendous famine made its appearance. Hari Swami could not get any food and was starving. One day he reached a house of another Brahmin, who was giving free food to all., When Hariswami went to his house, the Brahmin's wife gave him sumptuous food in a metal plate., Taking this Hari swami went near a river, kept it on the shore below a huge banyan tree and went to take bath., At that time an eagle caught hold of a poisonous cobra, and was eating it sitting on one of the branches of the great banyan tree. The poison of the cobra fell on the plate kept by Hari Swami. Hari Swami came and ate all the food. Immediately he realized that he has eaten poisonous food. He ran to the Brahmin's house and asked him to summon a doctor and save him, for otherwise the sin of killing a Brahmin(Brahmahathi) would fall on them. But they could not save Hariswami. That Brahmin drove away his wife for supplying poisonous food to Hari Swami.

The Vetala asked ? Whom will the sin of Brahma Hathi affect-The eagle, the snake or the Brahmin couple who gave food?

Vikrama replied, " None of them have committed that sin. The snake did not do any sin, because it spit the poison when its enemy the eagle was eating it. The Sin was not committed by the eagle because it was only taking its normal food. The Brahmin couple had given Hariswami good food and not poisoned food. So they have also not committed any sin.

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

Vikramadhithya and Vetala stories 17-24 and story of Vetala

The seventeenth story

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its seventeenth story.

In the town of Ayodhya there was king called Veerakethu. There was also a very rich merchant called Rathnadatha. He had an extremely pretty daughter called Rathnavathi. When Rathnavathi came to age, several kings and rich people wanted to marry her. But she rejected their proposal. Due to this her father Rathnadatha started getting very worried.

During this time there were a series of Robberies from the homes of rich people in Ayodhya, When the people went and complained to their king Veerakethu, he assured them that he would catch the thief. That night, Veera Kethu dressed himself as a thief and started going round his town. Soon he saw another thief also walking around the town. Both of them got introduced with each other. The real thief invited the king to his house for supper. The king was taken to the deep forest and a Sunken palace there. The real thief asked the king to wait for him and went to take bath. The maid of the thief warned him that he would be killed soon. The king ran away to his palace. Next day he marched with a big army and after a very great war caught the thief. Many of the soldiers of the king were killed. Next day the king decided to hang to death the thief. While the thief was being taken to the place of his death, Rathnavathi saw the thief and fell in love with him. She went to her father and requested him to get her married to the thief.

Rathnadatha approached the king and told about the request of his daughter and offered to give away to the country all his property if the king releases the thief. The king refused.

Rathnavathi decided to die by jumping in the burning fire as soon as the thief was hanged. While he was being hanged the thief was told about this. He cried instantly and after some time started laughing, Eventually

he died. When Rathnavathi jumped in to the fire . Lord Shiva who was there was impressed by Rathnavathi's love and requested her spirit to ask for one boon. She said, "My father does not have any other children except me. Please bless him with hundred sons." Lord Shiva gave this boon and requested to her to ask another boon. She said, "God make me and the thief alive. Let the thief become a good and individual. Please make him marry me." . Lord Shiva , granted that boon also. Rathnavathi and thief came back to life and married each other. The Vetala asked Vikrama, "Why did the thief cry first and then laugh?" If you know the correct answer and do not tell it, your head would break in to pieces."

Vikrama told , "The thief cried because he was not able to properly compensate the great efforts taken by Rathnadatha to save him and he laughed because Rathnavathi who has refused to marry even kings had fallen in love with him."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

The eighteenth story

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its Eighteenth story.

Yasakethu was the king of a country called Shiva Pura.He had a very pretty daughter called Sasiprabha ,One day Sasi Prabha along with her friends, had gone to see a temple festival. A Brahmin lad called Manaswamy happened to see her . It was a love at sight mutually. At that time a elephant started running towards Sasi Prabha. Manaswami, rushed near and carried her to safety. Then Sasiprabha went to her home.

Manaswamy was not able to forget Sasi Prabha. So he approached a

very learned magician called Moola deva for help. Moola deva promised to help him. He put a magic tablet in his mouth and he became a very old man. He gave another tablet to Manaswami and he became a very pretty girl. Moola deva took the girl Manaswami to the king and spoke thus, "This girl is my would be daughter in law and I have brought her from Benares. But when I came back I found that my son was missing. Now I have to search and find him out. I have a humble request. Please keep this girl in your palace." The king agreed and entrusted the Manaswami girl to the princess Sasi Prabha. Soon they became very close friends. One day Sasi Prabha told the Mana Swami girl about her love to Mana Swami. Then Mana Swami revealed himself by taking out the tablet in his mouth..That day itself they got married with each other in Gandharva tradition and started living with each other. During day Moola Swamy was a girl and night he became himself.

At this time the son of the Chief minister of Shiva pura got married. Sasi Prabha and the Mana Sawmi girl went to attend the marriage. Though he was marrying another girl, the son of the minister fell in love with Mana Swami girl. He told his father that he would commit suicide if he is not allowed to marry Mana swami girl also. Becoming very sad the chief minister requested the king for the hand of Mana Swami girl. The king was not willing as Mana swami girl was entrusted for safe keeping by Moola deva. But the learned people who knew that if the chief minister goes away the country would go to dogs, compelled the king to give Mana swami girl in marriage to the son of the chief minister. Mana swami when asked by the king agreed provided , the son of the minister should after the marriage immediately go on a pilgrimage for six months. The son of the minister agreed. After the marriage when the son of the minister had gone away , Mana swami started living with his other wife.

Meanwhile Moola deva came to know of this. He came along with his son to the king and requested for Mana Swami girl. When the king told the truth Moola deva threatened that he will curse the king and his kingdom. Afraid of this the king gave Sasiprabha in marriage to Moola

devas son.

As soon as this was known, Mana swami came back and claimed with the king that he was already married to Sasiprabha in the gandharwa tradition

The Vetala asked "Who is the legal husband of SasiPrabha?.If you know the answer and do not tell it, your head will break in to thousand pieces."

Vikrama told " The leagal husband is the son of Moola Deva as she had been given in marriage following religious traditions for a thief does not have the right to the property stolen by him.."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

Nineteenth story

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its Nineteenth story.

There was a great Vidhyadhara king called Jeemootha Kethu. He was bequeathed a Karpaga Vruksha(wish fulfilling tree) . So he lived very happily getting all that he wanted by asking the tree. A son called Jeemootha vahana was born to him (he as a bodhi Sathwa an incarnation of Budha). When Jeemootha vahana became a lad his father entrusted him with the Karpaga tree. Jeemootha Vahana asked permission to do as he wishes with the Karpaga tree. The king agreed. Jeemootha vahana requested the Karpaga tree to give food and wealth for every one in the world and go to heaven. The tree did this and there were no wants for any one in the world. But the cousins of Jeemootha Vahana who did not like what he did waged a war against Jeemootha

Kethu, Jeemootha Vahana advised his father to give away the kingship to his cousins .Jeemootha Vahana and his parents went in to the forest and started living there.

In that forest he stuck friendship with a prince called Mithra vasu. One day without knowing who she he is, Jeemootha Vahana feell in love with Malayavathi, the sister of Mithra vasu. With the intervention of Mithra vasu they got married and started living happily.

After the marriage the princess started living with Jeemootha Vahana in the forest. Daily Jeemootha Vahana and his friend used to go for trekking. Once they went for trekking by the sea beach and saw a mountain of bones. When Jeemootha vahana enquired about it Mithra vasu told, “ The God Garuda was once fooled by the snakes who were his mother’s sisters’ children. This made them his sworn enemies. So in spite of the snakes hiding themselves in the Patala(nether world), Garuda , started to hunt and eat as many of them as possible. Due to this Vasuki , the king of snakes approached Garuda and agreed to send one snake per day as his food. These are the skeletons of the snake eaten by Garuda. Even today he must be coming to eat a snake,”\ This made Jeemootha Vahana very sad and he sent back his friend and brother in law Mithra vasu on an errand . While he was waiting he spotted a crying old woman and her son Sanga Chooda. When enquired , the old woman told Jeemootha Vahana , that Sanga Chooda was her only son was the food to be offered to Garuda that day. Jeemootha Vahana offered himself to go instead of Sanga Chooda. Sanga chooda did not agree . He went to bid final farewell to his mother. At that time Garuda came. Jeemootha Vahana offered himself as food. Garuda without realizing that he was not a serpent. Carried him to the mountain to top so that he can eat him. On the way the gem that jeemootha Vahana was wearing fell at the feet of his wife Malayavathi. She realized that her husband was being eaten by Garuda. Malayavathi along with her brother and the parents of Jeemootha Vahana started following Garuda’s path. Sanga Chooda , who came to know of this also started following the path of Garuda.

When Garuda started eating Jeemootha vahana, he found him to be smiling and happy. He felt that something was wrong. At that time Sanga Chooda reached there and told Garuda, that he was a serpent and his food for that day and not Jeemootha Vahana and offered himself. Garuda realized his mistake and asked Jeemootha Vahana to request for any boon. Jeemootha Vahana asked him , “Sir , please stop eating the snakes of Patala from today and give back the life to all these snakes whom you have eaten.” Garuda happily agreed and made Jeemootha Vahana the Vidhyadhara king.

Vetala asked, “Whose sacrifice in this story is great? Is it that of Jeemootha Vahana or Sanga Chooda?”

Vikrama replied, “ofcourse the sacrifice of Sanga Chooda is great . Jeemootha Vahana is an incarnation of God and had remarkably kind mind. But Sanga Chooda was an ordinary snake who got back his life. There was no need for him to chase Garuda and offer himself as food.,”

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

Twentieth story

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its twentieth story.

There was a king called Yasodara in a country called Kanakapura. There was a rich merchant , who had a daughter who was called bewitcher. The merchant approached the king and told him, “ I have an exceedingly pretty daughter called Bewitcher. I want to offer her in marriage to you.” The king sent some wise men to see that girl to find out whether she has ill omens. When the wise men saw her stunning beauty, they concluded that if their king married her, then he will forget the country

and would always be with her. They told a lie that she had some ill omens and asked the king to get her married to their commander in chief.

The girl bewitcher was jilted and became angry at this. So one day she purposefully stood in the way of the king's procession. As soon as the king saw her he fell deeply in love with her. But he could not fulfill his wishes as she was the wife of his commander in chief. Slowly he started losing his health and was always moody. His valet guessed the reason for this and informed the ministers of the king. They in turn told the king that the girl bewitcher was his subject and he could make her his wife at any time. But the just king did not agree to this. Hearing about this the commander in chief again and again offered his wife as gift to the king. Slowly the king died. Unable to bear the sorrow the Commander in chief committed suicide.

The Vetala asked, "Who is a better person, the king or the commander in chief?"

Vikrama replied "Ofcourse the king, because though he could have easily accepted the girl, he did not do it due to his high regard for principles. What the commander in chief did was the duty of a servant."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

Twenty first story

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its twenty first story.

There was a king called Chandravaloka in the country called ChithraKoota. One day while hunting he lost his way and reached the hermitage of Sage Kanva. There he met a girl called Indraprabha , who was extremely pretty. With in an instant both of them fell in love with each other and wanted to get married. That day Chandravaloka

approached sage Kanva and made a request for the hand of Indraprabha., The saint readily agreed. The marriage was celebrated next day. After living a week there, the king and his bride left to his capital town of Chithrakoota. On the way , one night they happened to spend below a banyan tree. A Brahma Rakshas who was occupying the tree got very angry with this and was about to kill him. On the request of Indra Prabha, that Brahma Rakshas left them with a condition that they should offer in sacrifice a young Brahmin boy , who was willingly prepared to be sacrificed .Not only that, while he was being sacrificed, his mother hold his feet and the father should hold his hands. The king Chadravaloka should do the act of cutting his head and offering it to the Goddess below the tree. If this was not done within a week, The Brahma Rakshas threatened that he would gobble up them both, in whichever place they hid themselves.

Greatly scared the king and his wife reached Chithrakoota. They confessed their problem to the elderly prime minister of the country. He sent round a notice to all the people that one ton of gold would be offered to the family of the Brahmin boy who would agree to this condition. One Brahmin boy brought it to the notice of his very poor parents and suggested to them that he would offer himself for the sacrifice. Due to the great money that they would get the parents also agreed. The king went along with the boy and , his mother held his feet and father his hands and Chandravaloka was about to cut off his head. At that time the Brahmin boy laughed very loudly. All the people assemble there saluted that boy.

The Vetala asked, “Why did the Brahmin boy laugh?” If you know the correct answer and do not tell it , your head would break in to pieces.

King Vikrama replied” When any person gets into trouble any person will approach their parents for help. If they are not able to help, they would approach the king. When king was not able to help , they would approach the God.

In this case, his parents were helping in the sacrifice, the king was sacrificing him for the sake of the God. Thinking about this the Brahmin boy laughed.

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

Twenty second story.

Again Vikramadhitya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its twenty second story.

Lot of learned Brahmins were living in city called Somavathi in the Kalinga country. Among them one of the greatest was Yagna soma. After a long time he did not get any children but at a ripe old age he got a son. He was called Deva Soma

Deva soma grew up in to a very learned lad. Unfortunately he died at the age of sixteen. His parents became very sad and refused to part with the dead body. The learned people of the village consoled him in various ways and Deva Soma's body was taken to the cremation ground. All people accompanying the dead body were crying loudly.

In the cremation ground there lived a very old sage who had mastered the occult powers. He asked his disciple to go and find out the reason for so much sorrow. The disciple refused to go, because he was angry with his teacher. Then the teacher saint himself went there. The body of deva Soma was pretty but that of the saint was worn out by old age. So the saint decided to leave his body and enter the body of Deva Soma. After deciding this he first cried and then he danced with joy. When his soul entered the body of Deva Soma, he woke up from death. The sage within deva soma told them, "In this brief period of death, I have seen God. He wanted me to lead a life of the sage. People including his parents agreed with sorrow and left the cremation ground.

Vetala asked, "Why did the sage cry first and then dance with joy."

King Vikrama replied, "The sage had got used to his body since birth. He had achieved a lot including mastery of the occult using that old body. So he cried because of the sorrow at leaving that body. But then he realized that by entering the body of the youth, he could master the occult further and live a very healthy life.. Because of this knowledge he danced with joy."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

Twenty third story(first version)

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its twenty third story

There was a king called Nakshtra Raja in the town of Gopura. One day he happened to see a very pretty girl called Avanthikal in the street. He married her , then and there and was taking her to his native place. Here he was attacked by a gang of thieves. Nakshtra raja killed all of them.. Then he told Avanthikal to take rest under a tree and left to bring some food for both of them. There a prostitute got attracted by him and kept him with herself.

When Avanthikal was getting scared , one merchant who happened to go that way was attracted by her and took her with him. One day while they were alone a mouse disturbed them. The merchant caught and killed the mouse. He bragged about this to Avanthikal. Avanthikal then told about her previous lover who had killed several thieves and not only that but she committed suicide. The merchant thought that the king Nakashtra raja would come and trouble him further. So he also committed suicide. By this time the king returned and he also

committed suicide. At that time the prostitute came in search of the king and finding that she was the reason of death of so many people, she also died.

Vetala asked, “whose suicide is the greatest?”

King Vikrama replied., “The death of the prostitute is greatest because she left her life on her principle. In the case of others, they all died due to passion,.”

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

Twenty third story (second version)

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its twenty third story

In the city of Tharalipthi there was a great merchant , His only daughter was Dhanavathi. When she became a lass , the merchant died.. All his relatives stole away all the money of the merchant. Then her mother Hiranyasvathi , took all the money and jewels available and fled from that town with her daughter. When they were walking in darkness through the forest , Hiranyavathi’s shoulders hit against the feet of a thief who was hanged to death. He cried in pain. Hiranyavathi said sorry. Then that thief told her that to get salvation he needed a son. So if Hiranyavathi agrees to marry her daughter to him, he would give all his stolen wealth and also permit Dhanavathi to beget a son from any male of her choice. Hiranyavathi agreed to this proposal and a marriage was performed to the thief. As soon as the marriage was performed , the thief died. After cremating him mother and daughter reached the town of Vakraloka and started living a wealthy life there. One day

Dhanavathi saw a very learned Brahmin in the next house and wanted to beget a son through him. His name was Manaswami. He wanted to spend the nights with a prostitute who used to charge five hundred gold coins for a night. So when Hiranyavathi approached him, he agreed to be with Dhanavathi for a night, provided he was given 500 gold coins. Hiranyavathi agreed. Manaswami spent one night with Dhanavathi. After 10 months when Dhanavathi was about to beget a child, she had a dream in which God Shiva appeared and told her "A son will be born to you. Take him and abandon him in front of the palace along with one thousand coins." Dhanavathi followed the instructions.

That night God told the king about this child and asked him to bring him up and make him the king of the country. The king who was not having any children, rushed and brought the child along with one thousand coins and brought him up. He called him Chandra Prabhan. The boy grew up into a very great king. He was made the king after his father's death. To grant salvation to his father Chandra Prabhan went to Benaras and offered Pinda (rice balls) to the fire. But as soon as he offered the rice balls, three hands were extended to receive the Pinda. The hands were that of the thief, Brahmin and the king.

Vetala asked, "In which hand should he offer the pinda?" and warned Vikrama that knowing the correct answer if he does not tell it, his head will break into pieces.

Vikrama replied, "He should offer it to the hand of the thief because, the Brahmin got money to beget him and the king was given money to nurture him. So both of them were only doing the job of a servant and not father."

As soon as he told this the Vetala disengaged itself and went to the Drum Stick tree

The twenty fourth story

Again Vikramadhithya caught hold of the Vetala from the Drumstick tree and started walking towards the house of the sage. The Vetala told its twenty fourth story.

There was king called Dharma. He had a wife called Chandravathi. They had a daughter called Lavanyvathi. Once relatives of Dharma usurped his kingdom and drove the royal family out. Dharma was carrying with him lots of Gold and money. On their way they had to cross a forest full of thieves. Dhrama asked his wife and daughter to flee. Though Dharma fought with the thieves he was soon overpowered and killed. Chandravathi who was watching all this hiding from a distance started fleeing further.

During this time , the king of a nearby town was walking in the same forest along with his son. They both saw footprints of two ladies fleeing. One feet was small and another big. They decided that the father would marry the girl with large feet and the son would marry the lady with small feet.

Then the found out the story of the queen and his daughter.

Unfortunately the daughter had a big feet and the mother had a small feet. Sticking to their original decision the father married the daughter and the son married the mother. Eventually both of them gave birth to a son and a daughter.

The Vetala Asked “How many type of relations to the children born to the king and his son have? What is their relation? And warned that Vikrama has to tell the correct answer if he knew it and If he does not tell the correct answer, knowing it , his head will break.

Vikrama was completely puzzled and did not tell any answer but continued to carry the Vetala. Then the Vetala addressed him as King Vikramadhithya and asked his pardon and then told its story.

The story of Vetala

Then Vetala told its own story, “I was a priest of a temple in Chozha desa and was called Kalathiyan., I used to offer lord Shiva several food articles daily as Naivedhyam, . One night having forgot to take the food articles offered to the God back home, I reopened the shut doors of the temple. There I saw Goddess Parvathi lying on the lap of Lord Shiva. He was telling all the stories that I told you just now. I returned home late and when wife became angry I told her about the incident and she compelled me to tell her all the stories. I made her promise not to tell the stories to any one . But she told them to several people . Lord Shiva got very angry at this and cursed me to become a Vetala. When I begged him for forgiveness, he asked me to hang upside down on a drum stick tree in this forest. He told that you would one day come to catch me. He instructed me to tell all those 24 stories. He further said that you will answer the questions at the end of the first 23 stories but would not be able to answer the question at the end of the last story. He further told me to serve you all your life and when You go to heaven, I will also get salvation.”

The Vetala then told him, “ The sage Gnanaseela who has requested to bring me is not a good man. He wants to become the greatest person and wants me as his slave. As soon as you take me there he would request you to salute falling on the floor , the fire that he is worshipping with an intention of cutting your head and making it fall in the fire. Please tell him that you do not know how to salute falling on the floor. He will show you. Then cut his head off and put in the fire.”

Vikrama agreed and acted accordingly. Then Goddess Kali appeared before Vikrama and said, “Son, I am happy with you. Request for the boons that you want.”

Vikrama said, “This slave of yours should always have a pure mind and great power and you should come before me, whenever I request. Not only that the 999 kings who have been sacrificed by Gnanaseela should be given their life back.” Goddess Kali gave those boons and disappeared.

Vikrama then returned to his capital along with Vetala who became his slave.

The story of Elalaramba told by the third doll - Komalavalli

The story told by the third doll –Komalavalli

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the third day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya.. He was stopped on the third step by the Komalavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked the Komalavalli doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya.. The dol started telling the following story.

Vikrama was ruling in Ujjaini in a great manner. During that time one Brahmin went to take sea bath in the ocean along with his 7 year old son. When they were taking bath, a huge whale swam near and swallowed the son of the Brahmin. The Brahmin immediately rushed to King Vikramadhithya and told him, “Oh king, there is something wrong with your reign. For a whale became bold enough to swallow my son .Please save him.”

Vikrama immediately assured the priest that he will rescue his son. And as it was time for his departure to the forest six months, entrusted the country to his minister and brother Bhatti and left in search of the Brahmin boy .He prayed Goddess Kali who came before him and gave him sacred ash, magical lemon and sacred water. Vikama also took along with him his regular weapons like the gem studded magic carpet , copper vessel , stick and magical slippers. He spread the gem studded carpet on the sea .It floated on the water. He climbed on it and started travelling on the sea in search of the whale. Then the whale came out and when Vikrama tried to attack it, but it swallowed him also. When

Vikrama went inside the whale , he saw a huge city in the interior of the whale. He saw the son of the Brahmin playing with other children in one of the streets. He caught hold of him, tore the stomach of the whale and came out along with the Brahmin boy. He also repaired the tear in the stomach of the whale by using the sacred ash given by the goddess. He again climbed on his magic carpet and reached an island called Pushkara.. There he entrusted all the magical things he had brought to Vetala and went inside the town with the Brahmin boy.

That island was ruled by a king called Shambhu Natha. He did not have any children for a long time. Then by the grace of God he begot a daughter and called her Elalarambhai. When Elalarambhai reached the marriageable age, Shambhu natha asked her about whom she wanted to marry and she requested him to arrange for a swayamavara(celebration in which the girl is allowed to choose the husband of her choice). The king arranged the Swayavara and invited all the kings of the 56 kingdoms of India to attend the same. The day when Vikrama reached the island was the day of Swayamvara. When Vikrama heard about this, he also wanted to participate in the swayavara.. He entrusted the Brahmin boy to another Brahmin family and also gave them sufficient money to his upkeep. He entrusted the dress he was wearing to the Vetala and with its help dressed himself like a jewel merchant. With the grace of Goddess Kali, he also obtained very many precious and glittering jewels and gems. He opened a shop in the town. Many people purchased jewels from him. The news reached the kings of 56 kingdoms assembled there and all of them reached Vikrama's shop. They were further attracted by the sparkling conversation of Vikrama and were remained there itself. Meanwhile when the princess came out for the Swayamvara, the entire hall was empty. Then searching for the kings they also reached the jewel shop and saw Vikrama the jewel merchant. Seeing them the kings remembered about the Swayamvara and returned back to the hall. Vikrama the jewel merchant also attended the Swayamvara. The princess disregarded all the kings and chose Vikrama, the merchant. The kings were terribly disappointed by

her choice and started blaming her. Even the king Shambhu natha her father felt very sad at her choosing a merchant instead of a king. Then the princess told her father, "Daddy, I feel that this jewel merchant is not an ordinary person. There is still another two hours for sun rise. Bring this jewel merchant to my palace. I will sit there behind a thick screen and stay silent. Let us see what he does."

Shambhu natha agreed to it and took the jewel merchant to the palace of his daughter. He was offered a nice seat but the princess was hiding behind a thick screen and was silent.

Vikrama understanding the situation, made Vetala enter the screen between him and the princess and started talking to it. "Oh screen, You are in between me and the pretty princess. If she were to talk with me , I could have had a nice time. But she chooses to be silent. Will you at least talk to me and tell me any story that you know?"

Then the screen started talking, "Oh sir, I am tied in all directions and am stifling. In this condition how can I tell you a story?"

Hearing the screen talk, the princess asked her friends to untie the screen and placed it on the floor. The screen then thanked Vikrama and started telling the following story:-

There was a country called Chandragiri. It was ruled by a king called Gendheswaran. Though he had 101 wives he did not have any children. So the king prayed God and as a result his first wife gave birth to a pretty son. He was fondly called Kantharooma by the king. When he became a Lad , king Gendeswaranm wanted to search for a suitable bride for his son. He then made a pretty picture of his son and entrusted his very able ministers to search for a suitable bride for his son. They with the picture of Kantharooma started travelling everywhere. One day they were camping in a town called Thanthrapura.

At the same time another king called Maheswara was in search of a suitable groom for his daughter called Kantharoomi and his envoys also reached Thanthrapura.

Both of them met with each other and were satisfied by the prettiness of the groom and bride. The marriage was arranged and went off well.

Kantharooma and Kantharoomi were so pretty that Gendeswaran built a seven floor building and asked them to live in the seventh floor so that no evil eye will fall on them. When they were living happily there, seven Apasara maidens happened to see Kantharooma on the seventh floor terrace and all of them fell in love with him. They by using their magical powers took Kantharooma to their place and started enjoying life with him.

The curtain suddenly stopped telling the story and told that it knows only that much of the story and the rest of the story is known only to the lamp burning in front of the princess. Vikrama then requested the lamp to continue with the story. ,.It agreed and related the rest of the story as follows:-

As soon Kantharooma vanished, Kantharoomi shouted for help. All the kings men and woman searched for Kantharooma but could not find him. The king requested Kantharoomi to stay in the seventh floor of their house. The seven apasara maidens felt a pity for Kantharooma's wife and after every seven days, used to bring Kantharooma and leave him by the side of Kantharoomi and by the spell of magic made her forget what happened at night. After some time when Kantharoomi showed signs of pregnancy , her in laws drove her out of her house into a deep forest. Kantharoomi , wandering in the forest one day reached a cremation ground of her own city. There a prostitute named Chithravalli was cremating her dead pregnant daughter. When she saw Kantharoomi , she gave her shelter in her house and looked after her like her own daughter. When a son was born to Kantharoomi , Chithravalli gave the child to the midwife and asked her to kill it and throw in the forest. She also told Kantharoomi that only an wooden doll was born to her. But the midwife seeing the pretty baby left the baby near the ant hill frequented by a five headed serpent , near the local Devi temple. The lamp in front of the princess stopped telling the story and told Vikrama that it knew only this much. It further told that remaining part of the story was known only to the pillow on which Elalarambai was reclining. Vikrama requested the pillow to continue the story. The pillow

continued with the story:-

The five headed serpent in the ant hill came out and saw the crying child. Due to its divine sight , it knew that it was Gendheswaran's grandson. So it took the child and kept in the sanctum sanctorum of the Goddess. Immediately afterwards Gendheswaran came to the temple, adopted the very pretty child and named him as Madana Kesari. When that boy became around 18 one day he saw Kantharoorpi in the street. There was some great attraction in him to be with her. So he send money to Chithravalli and wanted her make arrangements

to be with the girl for one night. Under duress and punishment, Kantharoorpi was made to go to the bed room. When the prince was going there , he heard a cow telling its calf that the prince was despicable as he was going to make love to his mother. He was shocked. As soon as he saw Katharoorpi, milk burst from her breasts and made him completely drenched. The prince ran away from the room and asked Gendheswara as to who his parents were. When the king told the truth, the police started enquiry and caught hold of the mid wife who abandoned the child near the temple.

The king and Madana Kesari went to the temple and prayed the goddess with tears. The goddess came before them and told all the story. The goddess also told that Kantharoorpi was innocent and can get back her husband by praying on Mondays along with penance to the seven Apsara maidens,. Kantha roopi did accordingly and got back her husband.

Then the pillow continued, "Oh king Vikramadithya, me and the lamp and the curtain told stories like this because you asked.,"

Elalaramba and her father understood that the jewel merchant was none other than King Vikramadhiythy. All the 56 kings begged for his pardon.

Vikrama along with his new wife went to the Brahmins quarters and took the Brahmin boy and returned to his country. The Brahmin was very happy to get back his son.

The doll of the throne then told Bhoja, “ Such was the valour of the great Vikramadhithya . Are you in any way comparable to him. “
By that time it was evening and Bhoja returned back to his palace.

The story of Chamapakavalli as told by fourth doll Mangala Kalyana Valli.

The story of Chamapakavalli as told by fourth doll Mangala Kalyana Valli.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the fourth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the fourth step by mangalakalyanavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

Once after the six months rule, Vikrama and Bhatti started for their six month stay in forest rode on the back of their Vetala. On the way saw a luxury inn and a clear pond. Both of them got down, relaxed, took bath in the tank and got refreshed. Then they started getting the very sweet scent of Champaka flowers.Vikramadhithya send his minister to find out the reason. He went outside and enquired but could not know the reason. They then started wandering in the forest and met four way farers. When the asked the reason for the scent of Champaka flowers, those way farers took them to a great distance and then told, “ In that inn , the smell of a man should never fall and that is why we took you to this long distance. Nearby there is a kingdom of Vijayanagar.

Vijayaranga is the present king. He had a daughter called

Champakavalli who was born with the scent of Champaka flowers. She

is now 22. From the age of 12 she has taken the penance of not having the smell of a man near her. Every Friday she comes with one thousand servants, comes to this pond, plays in water, relaxes in the inn and goes back. One day before the king announces that no man should be anywhere on her way or in the pond or in the inn. Apart from that, the king has built a fort with several series of walls, where she lives with her girl friends. If some man happens to enter the fort he would be beheaded. So please go away from here.”

Then Bhatti expressed the desire to see Champakavalli and of marrying her to his brother and minister Bhatti. Bhatti replied, “King, to do that first we have to find out why she is observing this strange penance. I will dress myself as a girl and mix with her servants and go with her and try to find out the reason. “

He did according to that. After playing and relaxing Champakavalli returned along with her servants to the fort. At every gate large number of servants stayed back. Afraid that he would be found out Bhatti stayed back in one of the gate and returned back very disappointed. When he returned back, on the way, he slept below a banyan tree. At that time a sage came there and saw Bhatti who was very handsome. Afraid that his wife would fall in love with him, he took out a root from his bundle and put it near Bhatti. Bhatti suddenly became a very pretty girl. After some time the wife of the sage came there and saw a very pretty girl. She was afraid that her husband would be tempted by this pretty girl. She took out another root from her bundle and put it on Bhatti. Bhatti conserved both roots and came back to Vikramadhithya.

Then Bhatti got dressed like a king and converted Vikramadhithya in to a girl using the root. Then both of them went to Vijayaranga’s palace. Bhatti introduced himself as Salya king and his wife as Vikrama girl, the sister of Vikramadhithya. He said to the Vijayaranga king, “Sir, though I am the brother in law of Vikramadhithya, he is demanding one thousand gold coins as tribute every year. Since there is famine in my country, I was not able to pay the tribute. But since Vikrama is very strict, I have a request to you. I will keep my wife as mortgage to you.

Please give me one thousand gold coins. I will leave my wife with you and go out and soon earn sufficient money to repay your debt and release from mortgage my wife, and then I will come back and redeem her.”

Vijayaranga said that to Bhatti that there was no need to mortgage his wife and he would give him sufficient money. Thankfully this offer was rejected by Bhatti. The king send Vikrama girl to the fort where his daughter lives and Bhatti returned back with the wealth. He son buried the wealth in the nearby forest. By the help of Vetala he would become in to a bee and hide himself in the fort of Champakavalli daily.

Champakavalli became great friends with the Vikrama girl. After some time when they have become sufficiently intimate, Vikrama girl feigned great sorrow. Seeing that she is sad, Champakavalli enquired for the reason. In spite of her asking repeatedly the reason for her sorrow, Champakavalli told Vikrama girl the following story to emphasize the greatness of friendship:-

There was a town called Chathuragiri ruled by a king named Sainthava. He had a son called Chithrasena. When Chithrasena was studying in the forest with a Guru, he struck friendship with a hunter lad called Villya Singa. They became very close friends. On the day of parting Chithrasena told Villya Singha, that any time he has any problem he can approach him, in spite of his being the king. But things did not work out that way. Villya Singa went several times to the palace but he was not even allowed inside. Days together he waited near the palace gate, Though Chithrasena came out several times he did not bother to talk to Villya Singha. Due to his getting fed up, Villya Singha decided to pursue hunting which was the work being done by his ancestors.

Villya Singha was an expert hunter and one day he lost his way and happened to reach a cave deep inside the forest. There was a cave. He went inside and saw a very uncouth sage sleeping with his head kept on the lap of a very pretty maiden. That maiden warned Villya Singha to go away as she felt that if the sage wakes up he will kill both of them.

After day break Villya singha returned to Chathuragiri. Some how he got

audience to meet the king Chithrasena, then the hunter boy told the king about the pretty maiden. Chithrasena wanted to see the pretty princess. Villya Singha took him to the cave. Chithrasena told Villya Singha, to slowly remove the head of the sage and keep in on his lap. Villya singha did accordingly. Chithrasena and the princess ran away to get married. After some time, the sage woke up. When he was about to curse him Villya Singha told the entire story. Then the sage told that people should not have friends like Chithra sena. He then told a story about two very close friends:-

In the city of Brahmapuri there was prince called Sanmarga and his friend Gunabhadra who was the minister's son. Both were extremely close friends. After they grew up Sanmarga married Suradhavalli the princess of a southern country and Gunabhadra married the princess of Kalinga country. Even after marriage their wives continued living in the homes of their fathers. At a certain time Sanmarga and Gunabhadra both started towards their wives' homes with an intention of bringing both of them to their own country.

Sanmarga was walking in front and Gunabhadra behind him. Then a bird told another bird that the death was waiting to the one who is going in front. Gunabhadra, who knew the language of the birds, started walking in front requesting his friend to walk behind. Then the same birds told, he who walks behind would die soon. Troubled by this Gunabhadra started along with Sanmarga.

Gunabhadra thought that death was waiting Sanmarga in the country of his wife. They soon reached that place. As soon as they reached the boundary of the southern country , they send word to Sanmarga's father in law about their arrival. He received them both and arranged for an ivory palanquin for Sanmarga and a green palanquin for Gunabhadra. Thinking that death was waiting in the Palanquin Gunabhadra travelled in the ivory palanquin and requested his friend to travel in the green palanquin.

When it was night the wife of Sanmarga came along with several

sweets, milk and Thamboola to the room of her husband. Gunabhadra was hiding nearby , afraid that his friend may die. But by that time due to tiresomeness of the journey Sanmarga has slept. The princess became overjoyed and along with the sweets and milk left the palace . She went outside to meet her secret lover , who was a horrible looking lame man. That man chided her for coming late. Then she told him that her husband has come to take her away to his home. Then that lame man gave his sword to the princess and asked her to cut off the head of Sanmarga and bring it so that he would believe that she loves only him. The princess went inside and cut off the head of Sanmarga, Gunabhadra jumped and held her hand . But the princess shouted that Gunabhadra had killed her husband and was trying to rape her. The father of the princess who was the king entrusted his servants to hand Gunabhadra in the four directions of the town. They took him to the ministers in all four directions but left him free . They killed an animal and showed the blood stains to the king. The four ministers believed Gunabhadra and together preserved the body of the prince as per his desire. That night they followed the princess and caught her red handed along with her lame lover and took them to the king. The king got very upset , cut both his daughter and her lover in to two pieces and left for a pilgrimage to Kasi.

Gunabhadra continued with the preserved body of his friend and reached the place of his wife in Kalinga.

That night Gunabhadra's wife also went out of the palace. Gunabhadra followed her. She went to the local temple and as per vow wanted to cut her head off before the Goddess as soon as her husband comes. The goddess prevented her from doing it. She gave her some sacred ash and a lime and told her, "Your husband had brought the dead body of his friend. If he does not come back alive, your husband would commit suicide. So go home . Sprinkle this ash and apply the juice of this fruit on the body of the friend of your husband. He would wake up alive."

The princess went to back to be with her husband. Next day Gunabhadra told all the previous night incidents , as if he has seen them

in a dream. His wife told that it was not a dream and really happened. Both of them went together and helped the prince to live again.

The saint told "This is the way , friends should be and not like your useless friend and went away to do penance.

Champakavalli told this to Vikrama girl and requested her to open up her mind. Vikrama girl replied, "Friend, all over the world, women enjoy married life and never hate men. I am not able to understand why you hate men and waste your life like this. I am sad because of that. Then Champakavalli told,

"Friend that is a big story. It is the story of my previous life. It is as follows:-

There was a forest called Pretty forest. There was a temple for the Goddess there. In the bamboo bushes there lived two pigeons called Salyavan and Sallari. For a long time they did not have any babies. By god's grace at last Sallari laid two eggs. When both of them had gone in search of food, the bamboo bush caught fire and the eggs were destroyed. When Salyavan and Sallari came back, they were extremely sad. So both of them decided to jump in that fire and die. When they were about to jump in the fire , Salyavan ran away and I who was Sallari in previous birth was born with the memory of previous birth. This is the reason why I do not want to have anything with males."

This story was heard by Bhatti who was hiding in the attic in the form of a lizard. He went back and appeared as the father of Vikrama girl along with the 1000 coins. Champakavalli was greatly sad at parting with the friend.

The next day Bhatti took the form of a magician and appeared before the king and showed him several breath taking tricks with the help of Vetala. When the king presented him with a heavy purse Bhatti told the king, " Sir these tricks are like child play to my guru who is the forest. Unfortunately he will not come here to show his magic before you, because , he does not see any woman."

King was particular to see the tricks of Bhatti's guru and arranged for a non women audience. However Champakavalli was very particular on

seeing the tricks. She was also present there hiding below a screen. Vikrama came as Guru of Bhatti and performed marvelous tricks. At the end when king asked him, why he will not see woman, he told, “There was a forest called Pretty forest. There was a temple for the Goddess there. In the bamboo bushes there lived two pigeons called Salyavan and Sallari. For a long time they did not have any babies. By god’s grace at last Sallari laid two eggs. When both of them had gone in search of food, the bamboo bush caught fire and the eggs were destroyed. When Salyavan and Sallari came back, they were extremely sad. So both of them decided to jump in that fire and die. When they were about to jump in the fire , Sallari ran away and I who was Salyavan in previous birth was born with the memory of previous birth. This is the reason why I do not want to have anything to do with females.” As soon as he told this story, Champakavalli jumped from behind the screen and started shouting that it was Salyavan who did not die. The king as well as the learned people heard them both and decided that Both Salyavan and Sallari died in their previous births but not knowing about each other’s death. So they all thought that it is appropriate that Sallari and Salyavan of this birth should marry each other. The marriage was celebrated after their consent. When Vikramadhithya wanted to go back to Ujjain, all people came to know that I was the great Vikramadhithya who has married their princess.

The story of Dhanapathi, Gunapathi and Pesa Madanthai

as told by fifth doll Manthra manonmani.

The story of Dhanapathi, Gunapathi and Pesa Madanthai as told by fifth doll Manthra manonmani.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the fifth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started

climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the fifth step by Manthra manonmani doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story. After the usual sojourn of his six months rule, Once Vikaramadhithya and Bhatti started towards the six month period in the forest. While they were walking through a dense forest path they saw a way two paths were going from there. In the sign board, It was written that "the southern path leads to the town of Azhaka puri ruled by Azhakesan. In that town there are two court girls called Dhanapathi and Gunapathi. They sit with equal status like the king in the court. Before their houses there is a calling bell. Men who want to spend a night with them should ring the bell and pay 1000 gold coins. The way to the north leads to Veemapuri. There in a fort which has seven gates, the queen Amrithamohini guards her daughter Pesamadhanthai (he girl who does not speak). Several kings who wanted to marry Pesamadhanthai by making her speak three words have been driven away after insulting them. If two people come here they should not take the same path." This board attracted the attention of Vikramadhithya. He requested Bhatti to go to Veemapuri and find everything about Pesamadhanthai and he himself will go to Azhakapuri and find out about Dhanapathi and Gunapathi. Vikramadhithya converted himself to look like a very old sage and went to Azhaka puri. First he went to the house of Dhanapathi and rang the calling bell. When Dhanapathi's servants came out, they offered alms to Vikramadhithya. But he refused alms and told them that he has come with the 1000 gold coins and wanted to spend his time with Dhanapathi. When her servants told about this Dhanapathi got very angry at such a weak old man trying for her favors and drove him out. Then Vikramadhithya went to the house of Gunapathi and did the same thing. When her servants informed about a very old holy man at her door, she herself came out, washed the feet of Vikramadhithya and took him in. That same night Dhanapathi also took a rich lover.

Next day when the court assembled, Dhanapathi informed the king that she is married to a merchant and invited the king and cabinet to a feast next day. The feast was a grand affair. Her house was decorated and she had arranged for a 25 course food for the 25 guests. King became very happy and congratulated her. Dhanapathi announced that she was great and her husband is like a fakir like Gunapathi's husband. When the news reached Gunapathi she became very sad. Vikrama seeing her sad asked for the reason. She then related all the happenings of the previous day. Then Vikrama asked her to invite the king along with his army as well as cabinet for a feast next day. Gunapathi, though not very confident invited the king, his cabinet and army for a feast in her house. The king who knew how poor Gunapathi is and tried to dissuade her. But she said that her husband will manage. Next day Vikrama with the help of Vetala arranged a 100 course dinner for the more than 500 guests. Many of the guests had never even heard such great dishes. King greatly appreciated Ganapathi.

Next day Dhanapathi came to the court and said that her husband would go to Veemapuri and get married to Pesamadhanthai. She challenged the fakir husband of Gunapathi also to send her husband to Veemapuri. The merchant husband went to Veemapuri, paid 1000 gold coins and entered the fort of Pesa Madanthai. As soon as he entered he was offered food. And when he tried to enter in side, he was caught hold of, by a few dolls and his head was completely shaved and he was pushed out. The merchant came back like this to Azhagapuri. Vikrama then started to Veemapuri.

There he met Bhatti who was living as a lodger with an old woman. When Vikrama and Bhatti asked the old woman about Pesa Madanthai she told "There are ten gates to the fort of Pesamadhanthai. In the first gate you would be given food. In the next gate there are some dolls which will catch and push you out. If you can cross this gate, you would be thrown before two great wrestlers. They will beat you and push you out. If you survive this gate, you would enter the place of Jumping Gorilla. If you survive the Gorilla, in the next gate you have to face a

lion. Suppose you win over the lion, you would reach the gate of an elephant. If you manage to win the elephant, the next gate would lead to a well spread everywhere. Once you cross the well, there would be a huge slushy canal. You have to enter cross it, clean your feet with the water in the cup containing two spoons full of water seeing to it that you leave one spoonful of water in the cup. Then the next gate would lead you to very slippery hall of crystal. You have to cross it without falling down. Next gate would lead you a dark thousand pillared hall. You have to cross it without hitting any pillar. Once you cross it, you have to recognize the head and foot of a cot and also recognize Pesa Madanthai. Once you recognize her, by day break you have to make her talk three times. If you do all this, she would marry you. However I advice you, not to try this and go elsewhere and marry another girl.” Next day Vikrama and Bhatti , took two sons of the old woman and entered the fort of Pesa Madanthai . Bhatti as usual vanished and was moving with Vetala. Vikrama was first served with several cooked and non cooked food,. He ate all the cooked food and took with him Banana fruit, a piece of uncooked meat, sugarcane and a lime fruit with him. The sons of the old woman were accompanying Vikrama. When the first gate came Vikrama pushed one of them towards the dolls. In the next gate he pushed the other son to the wrestlers and entered the room of Gorilla Vikrama offered the Banana fruit to the Gorilla. When it did not even touch it , he understood that it was only a doll and got it destroyed by Vetala, in the next room, he offered raw meat to the lion. When it did not touch it, he understood that it was not a real lion and got it destroyed by the Vetala. In the next room, he offered sugarcane to the elephant and when it did not touch it, got the elephant destroyed by the Vetala.

The next room was completely occupied by a well. There was very big granite stone by its side. Vikramadhithya managed to roll the stone inside the well. As soon as it went to the bottom, two planks came and covered the well. He easily crossed the well. Then there was the slushy canal. He walked over the canal. There was a piece of Palmyra leaf and

two spoons full of water kept there. By using the Palmyra leaf , he cleaned his and by dipping his hankie in the water , he cleaned all the mud perfectly. More than half the water remained in the cup. Next was the crystal slippery hall. Vikrama asked Vetala to bring wax as well as a fire. He melted the wax and applied on his feet and walked over the hall. Because of this he did not slip and fall. The last one was the dark 1000 pillared hall. Bhatti climbed on the Vetala and went through the hall making sound like a bee. Vikrama followed him easily. Then they reached the palace of Pesamadhanthai. In the entrance a cot was kept. Vikrama placed the lime fruit in the middle of the cot. He identified as the place to keep his leg by the rolling of the lime fruit.

Near the cot one thousand pretty lady assistants were sleeping as they expected no body. Bhatti and Vetala tied the hairs of the assistants with each other and Bhatti who was invisible woke one of them up by pinching on her thigh. When she got up there was a big furor as they all kept falling. Vikrama told them to go and inform Pesa Madanthai about his arrival. Pesamadhanthai and her mother were feeling bad because their regular source of income would dry up. They dressed one assistant called Deepa Nayaki who used to light oil lamps in the palace in a great way and send her accompanied by 1000 friends. Each of them was holding a lamp. Vikrama asked Vetala whether it was Pesa Madanthai. He enquired with Vetala. Vetala told that he would draw the wick of Deepa Nayaki's lamp in side. If she lengthens the wick and cleans it using a towel , she would be Pesamadhanthai. Suppose she cleans it on her hair , she would be an assistant. When Deepa Nayaki cleaned her finger on her hair, Vikramadhithya chided her for trying to deceive him and asked her to go back and send her mistress. He also told her to request her mistress to serve him food as he was hungry.

Then Pesamadhanthai dressed her serving assistant Sampravalli and sent her along with 1000 assistants carrying sumptuous food. When Vetala was consulted he told that he will make the cup of ghee fall down while serving from the hands of the lady. Suppose she orders for a new cup of ghee to be brought, then she is Pesamadhanthai , but if she takes back

the ghee from the floor , she is a serving assistant. When Sambramavalli started taking back the spilled ghee back in to the cup, Vikramadhithya shouted at her and asked her to send her mistress Pesa Madanthai. Understanding that this type of tricks won't work, Pesa Madanthai herself came and sat behind a thick screen. Her friends told Vikramadhithya that he has to make her speak thrice during the night. If he is not able to do it, he would be thrown out.

After a few minutes Vetala entered the screen in between them and Vikramadhithya started speaking to the screen, "Oh screen, it is very boring to sit here as I am not able to see your mistress. Can you tell me a story to while away my time."

The screen replied, " Shall I tell the story of my sufferings or some other entertaining story?"

Vikrama asked the screen to tell both stories.

The screen told, "Someone planted cotton seeds in his fiend. From that plants grew. Eventually the plants flowered and produced cotton. Some spinner harvested all that cotton and spin cotton thread out of it. Someone collected all the thread and wove me in to a cloth. This princess purchased me from the weaver and has tied me on all sides so that you cannot see her. With me tied on all sides how can I tell a story to you."

Hearing this small story Pesa Madanthai asked her friends to untie the screen . Now Vikramadhithya was able to see her and he told the curtain, "the graceful princess has untied you. Now please tell the story."

The curtain told the story as follows:-

There was a great king called Manmatha vassekara in the country called Mandhakini pura. He had a minister called Mangalakara. Madanamohana the son of the king and Thanthralola the son of the minister were great friends. Once the prince and minister's son went for hunting in a deep forest. Deep inside the forest both of them became very thirsty. Their search lead them to a lake , banyan tree and a temple. They drank water and took rest in the shade of the tree. While

the prince slept, the minister's son did not get sleep. He wanted to see inside the temple. There he saw statue of an extremely pretty girl on the northern side of the temple.. He knew that if the prince sees the statue , he will fall in love with it. He returned back to the shade of the tree. By that time the prince had also woken up. He also wanted to see the temple. The minister's son warned him not to go the northern side of the temple. The prince went directly to the northern side and as soon as he saw the statue of the girl and immediately fell in love with the statue. He sat behind the statue and started begging the statue to give some flowers. The minister's son understood that the prince will not come away unless the statue gives him some flowers.

The minister's son was perplexed as to what is to be done. At that time the temple priest came there. On enquiry as to whose the statue is or who made the statue, the priest told, "I do not know whose statue this is but this was made by Kodandam the sculptor who lives in a village called Koodal which is 20 miles from here."

Then the minister's son gave the priest sufficient money to look after his friend and started in search of Kodandam. When he requested Kodandam to tell him whose statue it is , he told, "a few months back I had gone to a forest temple which is about 100 miles from here. At that time a potter called Perumal showed me a gem like thing and asked me to purchase it from him. I did. But when I came back I found out that it was not a gem but a nail of a lady. Using the science of portrait I sculpted the statue of the girl, whose nail, it must have been."

Then the son of the minister went in search of Perumal. Perumal told him, " One day I was selling pots in a village, a hunter called Karkodaga bought pots from me and gave me this and told me it as a gem. But later when I examined it, I understood that it is only a nail. I did deceive Kodandam the sculptor."

Thanthralola started in search of Karkodagan. He told, "Sir , one day when I could not get any animal after hard work, I went and slept below a banyan tree in the forest. When I woke up t night, I saw smoothing shining. I thought it was a gem and brought it home. Later only I came

to know that it is only a nail. I did deceive Perumal the potter.”

Thanthralola went to the forest and slept below the banyan tree, perplexed as to what he should do further. At night 1000 birds came and sat on the tree. They asked, “Oh man, why are in this very dangerous place.?”

When Thanthralola explained his mission, one bird among the 1000 told, “ Once when we had gone hunting food beyond the seven seas, all of us got good food. When I was returning with the food in my beak, one princess was standing on the terrace of her palace and combing her hair. At that time this nail fell down near her. I thought that is a costly gem from her brooch and left the food and brought it here. Next day only I came to know that it is a nail.”

Then Thanthralola asked them, “ Unlike you I cannot fly. Tell me a trick for me to go to Mallikapura.”

The king of the birds told him, “ Ten miles away from here there is a sacred tree. On the tree two Andaberanda birds live with their family. If they help you, you can definitely reach Mallikapura.”

Thanthralola thanked them and reached the sacred tree in the forest. At the time when he went , the little ones of the Andaberanda birds were about to be eaten by a big cobra. Thanthralola killed the snake and saved the little birds. When their parents came , the little birds told their parents how Thanthralola helped them . When Thanthralola told them about why he wanted to go Mallikapura, they agreed to take him there. Thanthralola entrusted his horse with a farmer in a nearby village. Then he caught hold of the neck of the male bird. On the way they were passing through an island full of precious gems. Thanthralola requested the birds to stop a while in that island. He carried as much precious gems as possible from there. The birds left him in Mallikapura and gave him a piece of their wing. They told him, if he shows lighted camphor to that wing, they will come and take him back.

Next day Thanthralola approached the gem shops in that town with his collection of gems. They were terribly surprised for they have never seen such costly gems in their life. At that time the richest person of

Mallikapura whose name was Navakoti Narayana Chettiar came that way. When he enquires as to who he was Thanthralola told that he was the son of Sathakoti Raman chetti of Mandhakini pura. Impressed by him and also knowing that he belonged to his caste , Nava Koti Narayanan chettiar took him to his home and requested him to live with them. He introduced his daughter “Sahithya sarasa sallabha Ullasa Rukhmani” to Thanthralola. As soon as he saw her nails Thanthralola understood that she was the one whom he was searching. She also instantly fell in love with him. Understanding that, he started courting her. As soon as he became very close to him, he told her about his friend who was the prince who was pining away for her. She agreed to come with him. Then summoning the Andaperanda birds, he reached back the banyan tree where they lived. From there he took her on his horse and reached the forest temple where his friend was still requesting for flower from the statue. Next day Rugmani dressed herself well and gave the flower to the prince . When the prince returned to normal he was very happy to see Rugmani and asked her where his friend Thanthralola was. Thanthralola who wanted to test the friendship of prince to him , had told her to tell him that on the way he had died. When Rugmani told like this, the prince took out his sword and committed suicide. Seeing this Rugmani also committed suicide. Seeing that both of them are no more , Thanthralola also committed suicide. The priest who was a witness to all this also committed suicide ,

Next day when the devotees came they prayed to the Goddess who gave back life to all the four of them. Rugmani was married to the prince and they lived happily ever after.

The screen asked Vikramadhithya, “Four people committed suicide in this story. Whose sacrifice was greatest?”

Vikramadhithya with an intention of making Pesa Madanthai talk replied “Ofcourse , the sacrifice Thanthralola is the greatest.”

Pesa madanthai unable to bear this replied, “The prince died because , Thanthralola was his friend. Rugmani died because she loved the prince.

Thanthralola died because of his love towards the prince. But the priest who did not have anything to do with any of these people died because he was sad that these people died. His sacrifice is indeed the greatest.” Vikramadhithya replied, Thank you Pesa madanthai for talking the first time.

Realizing her mistake , Pesa madanthai decided to be doubly careful and kept silent.

Seeing the situation, Vikramadhithya asked Vetala to enter the blouse which was worn by Pesa madanthai.

Then he addressed the blouse as follows, “Oh pretty blouse who is hiding the prettiness of your mistress. I have to spend lot of time. Can you tell me a story?”

The blouse replied, “Dear Sir, how can I do it. My mistress has worn me so tightly that I am not even able to breathe. “

As soon she heard it, Pesa madanthai removed her blouse , threw it in front of Vikramadhithya and covered herself with a shawl.

Then the Blouse of Pesa madanthai started telling the following story:-

A king called Veera verma was ruling over a kingdom called Ranganathapura. He had a very pretty daughter called Mohanangi. His minister had a very handsome son called Mathivallabha. Mohanangi and Mathivallaha fell in love but they both knew that their love cannot be fulfilled. Toiling with emotions Mohanangi once send word to Mathivallabha to meet her after midnight in her private room. When he came both of them knew that they cannot live with each other. So they married according to Gandharwa tradition and started living like husband and wife during nights. After some time Mohanangi became pregnant. Realizing that the king will kill them both , they decided to run away from home. After wandering a lot they reached a town called Godavari Pattanam. The time for delivery came and Mohanangi requested Mathivallabha to bring a suitable mid wife. Searching for a suitable mid wife, Mathivallabha reached the house of a prostitute called Sundari. She fell in love with Mathivallabha. Being an expert on black magic , she converted Mathivallabha in to a buffalo. Whenever

she felt like making love, she used to convert him in to a man. Meanwhile Mohanangi delivered a child and with the child reached the king Dharamangadha of Godavari Pattanam. She told him about the missing husband. The king entrusted the job of searching Mathivallabha to his minister. In spite of his best efforts the minister could not find Mathivallabha. Dejected Mohanangi decided to commit suicide by jumping in to fire. Though the king tried to dissuade her , he was not able to. So public announcement was made a big pit of fire was made. Among the people who had come to see this suicide was Sundari and Mathivallabha,

Mohanangi jumped in to the fire along with her baby. Seeing this Mathivallabha who recognized her also jumped in the fire. Seeing this Sundari , the prostitute also jumped in to the fire. Seeing this, the minister felt guilty of all these happenings and also jumped in the fire. The king then went to the temple and was about to commit suicide before the Goddess. She came before him and hearing his entiresities brought back to life all the people who had jumped in the fire. Sundari lived a chaste life then onwards. Mathivallabha was given the job of minister's assistant and lived happily with Mohanangi.

Now the blouse of Pesa madanthai asked" Out of the so many people who died jumping in the fire, whose suicide is greatest."

Vikramadhithya replied :Ofcourse , it is the suicide of Sundari , the prostitute."

Hearing this Pesa madanthai was agitated and told, "Not at all.

Mohanangi , Mathivallabha and Sundari died because of their love. But the minister died because he felt that he could not serve the cause of justice. So his death only is the greatest.

Vikramadhithya told, "I agree with you and wish to point out to you that you have spoken the second time. Pesa madanthai realized her mistake and decided not to talk anything come what may and sat in her seat, Then Vikramadhithya started talking to the shawl., "Hey Shaw I will you not entertain me by telling me a good story,"

The shawl replied, "How can I because , I am tied tightly around her

body by this girl.”

As soon as she heard this Pesa madanthai threw the shawl on the floor. It started telling the following story.

There was a town called Kundala puri. It was ruled by a king called Koyilaverma. He had a minister called Kolakalan. In the nearby town of Madakipura there was thief called Great thief. He had four sons, Quarter thief, Half Thief, Three fourth thief and full thief. Great thief taught his sons all that he knew about thieving. When great thief became old, he wanted to test the capacity of his sons. So he called Quarter thief and told him, “Son I want to know your capacity in thieving today. So go to Kundala puri and show your capacity. Quarter thief agreed and went to Kundala puri. On the way he shaped several stones similar in size and shape to gold coins and entered Kundala puri. In the town he went to a Barber’s shop. Those days Barbers used to charge 5 paisa for shaving. The Barber was already working on a poor man. Quarter thief told him, “Barber sir, I am in a hurry. If you shave me well and make me up to look nicely I would give one rupee(100 Paisa). The Barber asked the poor man get up from his seat and did a nice job on the Quarter thief. Then Quarter thief told him, “I have only gold coins .Can you give me change after taking your one rupee?”. The barber said that he has never even seen a gold coin in his life and sent his son along with Quarter thief so that Quarter thief can change his gold coin and sent back the one rupee . “ Quarter thief agreed. He went to a very big cloth shop along with the boy. He told the owner, “ I seem to like all cloths here. I am not sure , which will be liked by my wife. So permit me to leave the bag of gold coins as well as my son and take 100 silk Saris. I would return within half an hour. “ The cloth merchant agreed as he was convinced that Quarter thief was a lord. Quarter thief took those 100 saris and gave them to his father. After some time when Quarter thief did not come , the cloth merchant enquired with a barber’s boy about the whereabouts of his father. When he told that his father was only a barber, the merchant opened the so called bag of gold coins. He was shocked to find that it contained

only stones. So he dragged the Barber's boy to the king. The barber also joined him. The king was shocked by the cleverness of the thief. So he called his Inspector general and told him to make all efforts to catch the thief next day.

Next day Great thief called Half thief and prove to him his capacity. Half thief came to Kundala Puri and enquired about the news of the town. People told him that the Inspector general was going to catch the thief that day. On enquiry about the Inspector general they told him, that he had only one daughter. When she was a baby she was married to another child. At that time the child and his parents had gone out . They had not come back. So the Inspector General and his family were very sad.

Half thief bought lot of presents for the Inspector general and his wife as well as his daughter and went to their house. Then he acted as if he was their long lost son in law. He gave them all the presents . They were very happy. At that time the inspector general told that he has to catch the thief who was troubling the town. Half thief also wanted to see the town. So he went along with the inspector general. On the way the Inspector General showed him an automatic jail. He told that as soon as he catches the thief he will put him in the jail and shut the door. It would get locked and to open it he has to bring the key from his house. Half thief wanted to see it for himself. He told the Inspector General to shut him inside the jail , so that he can later get it opened using the key in his house. The inspector general did not want to put his son in law in jail. So he himself entered the jail and got himself locked there. He then requested his son in law(Half thief) to go to his home and bring the key. Half thief went to the house of the Inspector General and told "Aunty, father in law suspects that the thief will come to our home. So pack all costly jewels and cloths and give it to me, so that I can take them to the police station. " They did like that. Half thief went along with all those costly jewels and gave them to his father,. Great thief appreciated Half thief greatly.

Next day people of the town found their Inspector General in jail with

his house being completely robbed. The king got very angry and ordered Kolahala his minister to catch the thief next day.

Next day Great thief called his son Three fourth thief and prove his capacity.

Three fourth thief came to the town and enquired about news of the town. He was told about the great robberies of the two previous days and was also told that Kolahala their minister himself would be catching the thief that day. On enquiry , Three fourth thief came to understand that Kolahala visited a rich prostitute of the town daily at mid night.

Three fourth thief went to a makeup material shop and dressed himself like Kolahala and went to the home of the prostitute around 9 Pm. She was surprised that Kolahala has come so early. Three fourth thief told her that the real thief would come to her house at mid night dressed like the minister. He got thick rope and cotton from the prostitute and was waiting near the main door. Kolahala did come at midnight. Three fourth thief caught him, stuffed his mouth with cotton and tied him to pillar. Then he went to the kitchen and emptied all water pots. He then approached the prostitute and said, "The job was more difficult than I imagined. Now I have done it. When he ran through the kitchen all water pots feel down and got emptied. But I am feeling now very thirsty. Can you give me water?"

The prostitute took Three fourth thief to the well in the garden. Three fourth thief tied her to the post on the well , came back and took away all treasures to his home. Great thief was greatly glad about his second son.

Next day the people of the town were surprised to find their minister tied up in a prostitute's house. The king got very angry and promised the people that he would himself catch the thief next day along with lot of soldiers.

Next day great thief , called his first son full thief and detailed to him about the great robberies done by his brothers. He asked him to show his class. Full thief agreed and went to the same town. He again came to know that the king himself was going to catch the thief that day. He

dressed like a poor village and set up a shop selling food articles as well as alcoholic drinks in the forest adjoining the town. He also kept a map there. The king who was inspecting the town felt that a lap in the forest was suspicious and came there to enquire about it. The Full thief told, "Sir, I am a poor man who sells these things to the thief. For the last three days, he has been coming daily." The king requested for his help. Full thief agreed. He then requested the king to send away his soldiers so that the thief would come without any suspicion. The king sent them away and told them that as soon they hear his whistle they should come to this place immediately. After some time the Full thief told the king that, the thief was not coming because of the presence of the king. He advised him, "Sir, remove your royal dresses and get in to his gunny bag which I would lightly tie. Then seeing only me here, the thief will definitely come. As soon as the king got in to the gunny bag, Full thief tied it tightly, put on the royal dress and blew the whistle., When the soldiers came he asked them to take the thief inside the Gunny bag to the jail. He then rode on the king's horse to his home. Great thief was elated by the greatness of his son.

Next day the king became the laughing stock of his city.

The Shawl asked Vikrama, "Oh sir, who are more able in this story?"

Vikrama replied, "Ofcourse, the king, minister, the cloth merchant and the barber."

Pesa Madanthai laughed and blurted out, "How foolish is your answer. It is definitely Quarter thief, Half thief, Three fourth thief and Full thief."

Vikrama Told her, "Oh lady .Now you have been defeated. So what is the harm in spending the time happily with me?"

The shawl told, "Oh king Vikramadhithya, by your intelligence you gave wrong answers and made Pesa Madanthai speak three times. It is time that you take her with you."

Pesa Madanthai was happy that the person whom she is going to marry is Vikramadhithya. The marriage was celebrated in a grand manner.

After few days, Vikrama dressed himself as an old man and made Pesa Madanthai carry a small bundle of fire wood and reached Azhagapui.

Then the king there ordered Dhanapathi to become a slave to Gunapathi as per their wager.. But Gunapathi said she is not insisting on that . Then Vikrama took his usual form and told all the people there as to who he is. He then started to his capital along with two wives – Gunapathi and Pesa Madanthai. On the way two Brahmins who were about to take Sanyasa requested Vikrama of these girls. He gave the girls to them. But since both of them refused to go with the Brahmins, he gave some money to the Brahmins and took them back. The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing.

The story of Dhana Amaravathi as told by sixth doll Mohana valli.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the sixth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the sixth step by Mohanavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-
Once during the six month period to be spent in forest, King Vikramadhithya started to the forest along with his minister and brother Bhatti and Vetala. He crossed several countries and islands and reached a place with a pretty pond and an equally pretty garden. They reached for the shade of a tree and Vikramadhithya was lying down with his head on the lap of Bhatti. At that time a very pretty girl came to take bath in the pond. She was charmed by the health and handsomeness of Vikramadhithya. After bath when she was returning along with her

friends she smiled at him. Then she took a jasmine flower, pressed it against her chest, lifted it up to the sky and put it on her feet. Then she made a mound out of sand, kept a piece of broken pot on it and cut off one lock of her hair and kept it on it,. Then she smiled at Vikramadhithya and showed him a sign that she loved him and went away.

Vikramadhithya asked Bhatti about the purport of her actions. After a long thought Bhatti told him, “She indicated that she has attained maturity (Pushpavathi) and by her signs told you that her name is Dhana Amaravathi. Because she put the flower on her feet, she indicated that her place of residence is Kalingapuram (Kal indicates leg in Tamil). Since she kept a lock of hair on the mound of sand she indicated that her father’s name is Kesa Manikkam Chetti and just before her house there is a tiled house. By her eyes she told you to follow her.”

Vikramadhithya who had fallen in love wanted to somehow marry her. So Bhatti and Vikramadhithya dressed themselves as Brahmins and went to Kalingapuram. Seeing that they were Brahmins, Kesa Manikkam Chettiar asked them who they were and in what way he can help them. Then they said, “On our way to here, we were all taking bath in a tank. There was a huge crowd and our women who came with us went missing. Searching for them we reached your town. For the past three days we have not taken any food. Then when we enquired who would help us by providing food for us, the people indicated you. Please give us material s for cooking so that we can cook our own food and eat it.”

Kesa Manikkam chettiar immediately sent them to his wife and daughter so that they can provide them with all necessary items. Dhana Amaravathy recognized Vikramadhitya and along with the food, she gave them two pieces of sugarcane along with the sweet.

Bhatti told Vikramadhithya that she had asked them to go and meet a dancing girl called Karimbiniyal (Karambu-sugarcane, Iniyathu-sweet.) Accordingly they went and met Karimbiliniyal and she told them, “The father of Amaravathi is a very strict person. When she was five, he had celebrated engagement for marriage with his sister’s son. According

their caste customs, that boy has gone for business in different foreign countries by ship. At that time Amaravathi had not matured and so the marriage was not celebrated. It is now five years after that boy went for business. Her father feels that she has to wait till he comes back.”

Hearing this both of them stated from there. Bhatti dressed himself like a Chettiar (businessman) and Vikramadhithya dressed himself like a girl. Then both of them approached Kesa Manikkam chettiar and introduced themselves as people belonging to his caste. Bhatti told him, I had celebrated engagement of my daughter when she was wife. Her would be husband has gone on a trip. Meanwhile my wife died. I want to search for my son in law and celebrate the marriage. But going for a search involving long travel cannot be done along with my daughter. Can you please keep her in your house till I come back? “ Kesa manikkam chettiar agreed gladly and entrusted Vikradhithya dressed as a girl to his daughter. He told her, “The story of this girl is exactly like yours. Console her and look after her as a good friend.”

Dhana Amaravathi spent the day time in the normal fashion playing like girls and night time as husband and wife. Bhatti who was attracted by Karimibiliniyal spent his time with her.

During this time that king of that town riding on an elephant through the town happened to see both of them behaving intimately like husband and wife. He guessed that something was wrong. He sent word to Kesa Manikkam chettiar and told , “ I want to marry Amaravathy. “ Kesa Manikkam chettair told that in his family the girl is given to one in their own caste and also his daughter was betrothed. As soon as he heard this the king told Chettiar, “In your caste is it proper for girls to have a secret lover? I have seen her today with her secret lover dressed like a female.” Chettiar replied that his daughter was virtuous. The king said to him, “Oh , is it so? Within a week I will catch hold of your daughter and her secret lover and produce them before you.” Then the king ordered all his police people as well as spies to spy on Amaravathi and catch hold of her along with her secret lover.

This news fell in the ears of Karimibiliniyal and she told it to her lover

Bhatti. During this time , it was summer. So one day , Amaravathi and Vikramadhithya came out during night and were making love in the garden. At that time the spies of the king caught hold of them. They bundled them took them to the Kali temple and were waiting to show them to the king in the morning. At that time the lizard made evil sound in the house of Karimbiliniyal. She understood that there was some problem with her friend. Karimbiliniyal went to the priest and gave him one hundred gold coins and dressed herself like a priest and Bhatti dressed himself like a sage. In the early morning when they went to the temple the spies could not stop them. Once inside, Amaravathi dressed herself like the priest and Vikramadhithya like a sage. They came out after some time and went to their home. In the Morning , the police took Karimbiliniyal and Bhatti bundled up in a cloth in front of the king. The king called all his ministers as well as the father of Amaravathi. When they opened the cloth bundle the king was aghast to see Karimbiniyal with another male. She told the king, “As a dancing girl and a prostitute , it is my job to be with lovers. Why have your people arrested me?” The king asked her pardon . He also asked the pardon of the Chettiar .

Amaravathi and Vikramadhithya were enjoying life as before. At this time the betrothed one of Amaravathi returned . To avoid suspicion, Amaravathi and Vikramadhithya slept in separate rooms. But during day time when the betrothed of Amaravathi was talking to her, Vikrama used to go often there and throw a mischievous glance at the betrothed one of Amaravathi.

One night Vikramadhithya cast the Mohini spell on the betrothed of Amaravathi. That boy fell in love with Vikramadhithya, Vikramadhithya also acted as if he was in love with the boy and asked him to meet her secretly at night. Vikramadhithya cut the nose of the betrothed with the knife used to cut betel nut. Feeling that once this is known his respectability would be gone , he ran away from that city without telling anybody. Vikrama told Amaravathi, that he will go away from the palace to the house where his friend lives. He further requested Amaravathy to

tell her father that her betrothed had eloped with her friend. Amaravathi did like that. Chettiar became very worried and searched for the betrothed of Amaravathi as well as the girl. He could not find both of them. At this time Bhatti came back , with Vikrama dressed like a chettiar youth and demanded for his daughter. When Chettiar told about the happenings , Vikrama told, Hey Chettiar you have sold my wife. I am going to kill all of you.” Fearing for his life and as per the advice of elders of his community , Kesa Manikkam Chettiar gave his daughter Amaravathi in marriage to Vikramadhithya. Vikramadhithya returned home with his new wife. The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing.

The story of Sade Sathi Sani (Ezharai naatu sani) as told by seventh doll Eka Bhoga valli.

The story of Sade Sathi Sani (Ezharai naatu sani) as told by seventh doll Eka Bhoga valli.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the seventh day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the seventh step by Eka Bhoga valli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

When it was time once to go to his six month sojourn to forest, Vikrama entrusted the job of ruling the country to Bhatti and went to the temple of Durga. She told him, “Vikrama, Sade Sathi is going to start from today in your life. Lord Sani is coming to attack you. When you ask him w, why

have you come, he will answer that he has come to rule over you for seven and half years. Then you tell him, "God if you attack me suddenly, I will not be able to bear it. Please tell me what I should do?" Then he will instruct you and you obey it in letter and spirit." Then she gave him sacred ash as well as lime and sprinkled on him the holy water.

As soon as he left the temple, he saw in front of him a black god who was lame. He did as per the instructions of the Goddess. Then Sanaischara told him, "I would agree to your request. All these days you were ruling over the 56 great kings of India. So now you go to Madhurapuri and work under the king of that place called Madhurendra. You should work under him for seven and a half years and at the end be his assistant giving Betel leaf and nut to him for seven and half Nazhigai (three hours)."

Vikramadhithya agreed to do this gave him his ring and requested the God to rule over his country for seven and half years. He called Bhatti and told him about everything and along with Vetala started towards Madhurapuri. While walking, in the forest he met an extremely ugly woman. Surprised by her ugliness, Vikrama asked Vetala about her., Vetala told him that she is one of the dancers in Indra's court called Rathnamala. She had fallen in love with Vikramadhithya when he went to Indra's court to judge a dancing competition. When she requested Indra to permit her to live with Vikramadhithya, he told her, "Vikrama has hundreds of wives who are much prettier than you. Vikrama will be suffering due to Sade sathi and at that time he will be living away from his wives. At that time you can go and live with him. But you take a very ugly form in the day time and your usual form at night."

Then Vikrama requested her to show her real form and was charmed by it. He asked Vetala to stay guard and enjoyed that night with her under the banyan tree. Next day, he dressed himself as a servant and started along with her to Madhurapuri. On the way he went into a lake to take bath. At that time a serpent called Anantha and a frog called Jalandhar were engaged in fighting in the tank. The snake was about to eat the frog. To make it escape, Vikramadhithya cut some flesh from his thigh

and threw it towards the snake. The snake left the frog and moved towards the piece of flesh. Then they both realized that the person who was so generous was a king Vikramadhithya. They told him, “we were both kings and once we insulted sage Narada. He gave a curse that we should become a snake and a frog. He also told us that when a man offers his own flesh, we have to understand that he is Vikramadhithya. We should then become slaves of Vikramadhithya for seven and half years. Later we would regain our usual forms.”

Vikrama accepted them as assistants and reached Madhurapuri. He went and met the king Madhurendra and told him, “Sir, My name is Adhithya, Having heard that you gave proper respect to pure valour, I have come here to offer my services to you.” When the king agreed to take him as servant and asked him what wage he expected, Vikramadhithya replied, “I expect a wage of one thousand gold coins daily as well a palatial house for my stay.” The king agreed.

Vikrama returned to the forest and took along with him Rathna Mala, Anantha and Jalandhara to his new home. Anantha and Jalandhara were requested to guard Rathna mala all the 24 hours. Anantha surrounded the house with his mouth near the main door and Jalandhara lay down like a cap over the house during night. During day time they took the normal human form. Rathna mala took her ugly form during day time and her usual form during night.

Vikramadhithya daily went to the court and helped the king in many ways. Karkodaga and Kodika who were two other servants of the king became very close to Vikrama. They started often coming and visiting Vikrama in his home. Once when they came along with Vikrama at night, they happened to see Rathna Mala in her real form. They then described her beauty to their king. The king wanted to see her. Then they asked the king to dress like Kodika and one night Karkodaga took him inside Vikrama’s home. As soon as the king saw Rathna Mala he was infatuated with her but he dare not do anything against Vikrama who appeared like a greatly valorous Warrior. When he consulted his minister about it, he advised, “The only way is to give a difficult job to

Vikrama and remove him from here forever. About one hundred miles from here, there is a city called Vazhavandan. The king of that place has a daughter called Muthunagai (pearl laughter). Whenever she laughs, lots of pearls come out of her mouth. The king used to collect all that and sell it for a very heavy cost. Since a sage was attracted by the girl, he had put her in to his custody and also cursed the entire town. He has made her like a corpse and she is lying in his cave. Ask Adhithya to bring some of the pearls collected from her laughter. Adhithya as a sincere servant will try to do it but will be killed by the sage,”

The king thought that this is a very good idea and instructed Adhithya to bring the pearls from Vazhavandan. Vikrama(Adhithya asked for 40 days time, collected his wages for 40 days and went home and entrusted the job of guarding Rathna Mala to Anantha and Jalandhara. Vikrama after dressing himself like a king went along with Vetala and reached Vazhavandan. There he found that the entire town including the plants was dead due to the curse of the sage. On enquiry from Vikramadhithya, Vetala told, “The sage is very fearful that you will take the princess away. Whenever he goes out, he cuts off the head of the princess and keeps it in the courtyard. When he comes back, he joins the head and talks to her. He is doing a great fire sacrifice. Once it is over, he hopes to rule the entire world. He feels that at that time, he would get married to this Muthunagai.” On his further questioning him, Vetala told. There is a stick on the bed of the sage. From its joints oil oozes. If this oil is applied and the head joined it will join back.”

Vikrama then brought Muthunagai back to life. She enquired as to who he is. When he told he was Vikramadhithya, she laughed (some pearls fell) and told him. “The sage is scared of you. He always feels that you would come one day. I find it the will of God that you have come. But he is a very ferocious one. Please go away carrying me with you. “Vikrama told, “A real hero should not do like that. I want to save you and give life to your town. I will again cut your head and keep it in the usual place and hide. The sage will come and give you life as usual. You act as if you love him and by saucy talk know from him, how he can be killed and

how your people can be revived.” Muthunagai agreed. When the sage came she acted as if she loved him. She told that she is afraid that someone will kill the sage. Then the sage told that he cannot be killed easily. She also said that she was sad that all people are dead. Then the sage told, “Do not be silly. I can be killed only if my head is cut off with one sweep of the sword without one drop of blood spilling from it, and someone keeps playing with my body so that it does not fall on the ground or one drop of blood falls on the floor for three hours. Also your people can be revived easily. For that you have to catch the elephant roaming in the park and sacrifice in the temple. Then a pot will come out of the sacrificing seat. All you have to do is to open the pot and sprinkle the water all over the town.”

Next day when Vikramadhithya gave her life she told him all this. Vetala gave the following idea, “The sage will come back after twilight. You hide after the second door. I would become a lizard and make sound when he enters the building. As soon he comes in to the second room, I would slam the first door. Then the sage would turn his head to see what happened. At that time, you can cut his head. I will drink all his blood and throw his head in sacrificial fire. You please hold his body erect for three hours.”

The plan was carried out perfectly and the sage was killed.

Vikramadhithya hunted for the elephant, brought it to the temple and sacrificed it in the temple. With the pot of water that emerged, all the people were made alive. The king gave Muthunagai in marriage to Vikrama. When the marriage was celebrated Muthunagai laughed a lot and Vikrama collected lot of pearls. After 40 days, Vikrama returned with Muthunagai, entrusted her to Rathna Mala and went to the court. There he handed over the pearls to the king. King was surprised as well as disappointed.

Next day Karkodaga and Kodika came to Adhithya’s house. There, they saw to their surprise one more very pretty girl. They knew it was Muthunagai. They went and told about this to the king. The king again became lovelorn and sent for the minister. When asked for a trick to

remove Vikrama forever, the minister told, "There is another way. Beyond the seven seas, there is an island called Nagaloka. There is a town called Nagapuri in that island which is ruled by Nagendra. He has a daughter called Nagakanyaka. If she laughs Naga rathna would fall. You ask him to bring these gems. He would not be able to cross the seven seas and even if he does will not be able to go to Nagapura which is surrounded by poisonous fumes on all sides."

The king sent word for Adhithya and told him that he needed some Naga gems to decorate his crown and asked him to bring it. Adhithya then asked for 60 days time, got the wages in advance for 60 days and told his wives as well as his servants, "There is something is fishy in this request. But as a servant it is my job to obey how I do cross the seven seas." Anantha told, "Why worry about it? You go to the shore of the sea and think about Jalandhara. He would come there and carry you in his back and leave you on the other side of the seven seas." Rathna mala told him not to worry and by her magical powers transformed Muthu Nagai in to a doll and kept it in a corner. Vikramadhithya assured all of them that he would return within 60 days and started on his journey along with Vetala. He was transported to a town called Achyutha Nagar Naga Loka by Jalandhara. When he was walking in that place, he saw one old lady crying. , When he enquired she told, "The king of this place has four daughters. The eldest is Achyutha girl. Whomsoever she marries dies on that night. So the king is making all eligible boys of the town marry her. Today it is the turn of my only son. That is why I am crying." Vikrama requested her to send him instead of her son. Reluctantly she agreed. In the evening all new cloths for the bride groom came from the palace. Vikrama dressed himself in the finery and went to the palace. His marriage with Achyutha girl was celebrated and he along with her was left alone in their bed room. After some time, the girl claimed she was sleepy and went to sleep. Then Vikrama asked the Vetala about the reason .Vetala told him, "The prince of Nagapuri is in love with her. He daily comes to her room through a tunnel in the local temple. As soon he reaches the temple the princess

will faint. Then he will come here kill her husband, stare at her for some time and go away. I would take the form of a groom and lie down next to Achyutha girl. Even if he bites me nothing will happen to me. At that time using the magical sword given by Durga, you cut off the tip of his tail. Ashamed, he would run away. We should not kill him, because we are going in search of his sister.”

All the things happened as planned. After the Naga prince ran away, Vikrama awakened his new wife Achyutha girl and enjoyed the night with her. Next day when the corpse bearers came to carry away the corpse of the new groom, they were surprised to see him alive, the king came and met him and Vikramadhithya told who he is and what was ailing the princess. The king also gave the other three sisters of Achyutha girl to him in marriage. Vikrama spent a few days with his four new wives. Then remembering the purpose of his visit, he remembered Anantha who was his servant. Anantha told him, “No human being can go to Naga puri because it is surrounded by poisonous fumes. I would go, meet the king Nagendra and ask the hand of his daughter for marriage with you. He would be elated and withdraw the poisonous fumes so that you can go there,” The things happened as planned and Nagendra gave his daughter Nagakanyaka as wife to Vikramadhithya. Vikramadhithya on his way back collected his other four wives from Achyuthapuri and arrived back to his home. He asked Rathna mala to get food cooked and serve to all of them. Nagakanyaka could not tolerate eating food from such an ugly person. Then Rathna mala as per request of Vikramadhithya took her very pretty form. All of them became happy.

Vikrama went with the Naga gems to his master and gave them. That night again Karkodaga and Kodika saw all the wives of Adhithya (Vikramadhithya), when they visited his house. When they went and told about it, king Madhurendra wanted to immediately see all the ladies. While they were trying to enter the house, all of them were touched by the poison of Anantha and fell down. When Anantha came and told about this, though he Vikrama became angry he excused them

and asked Anantha to remove the poison.

When next day Madhurendra told his need to marry all those girls, his minister told, "Let us take Adhithya to the mercury well which is very deep and full of poisonous fumes. When you are there you drop the ring in to the well and order Adhithya to recover it and come away. "As per this suggestion all of them went to the mercury well. But Vikrama suspected something would happen and asked Jalandhara to hide near the top of the well. When the king dropped the ring, Jalandhara caught the ring and immediately gave it to Vikrama. When the king ordered Adhithya to recover the ring and marched out, Vikrama followed him and gave the ring. The king and others were terribly surprised.

Next day While Adhithya (Vikrama) was in the court an old man came and called him. When Adhithya went with him ignoring the king, the king and others followed them. The old man was Saturn god himself. After some time he told Vikramadhithya who took his usual form, "Your seven and half year Saturn period is over. I am very angry with Madhurendra for troubling you like this. I am going to curse them."

Vikrama requested God Saturn not to punish the king and pardon him.

Madhurendra realizing that his servant Adhithya was the King Vikramadhithya himself went and fell at his feet and asked for his pardon. Vikrama pardoned him. Then retaining Rathna malai Vikrama gave all the other 6 wives to Madhurendra and returned to his place.

Anantha and Jalandhara got rid of their curse and assumed their own form. But Rathna mala was summoned by Indra and she vanished.

When she reached his place, Indra hid Rathna Mala in a very deep and dark cave. Vikrama went to Indra loka and found her out. All the dancing girls of Indra's court fell in love with Vikrama and also came along with him. Realizing that Indra's court will be bare without these dancing girls, the sages of Indra's court, met Vikrama on his way back and requested Vikrama for the dancing girls . He gave all the dancing girls except Rant Mala and went back to his town.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of

Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are

equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Dasi Aparanji and the Neethi Vakya parrot as told by eighth doll soundara valli.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the eighth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the eighth step by Soundara valli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

Once during the reign of Vikramadhithya when the time came for the six month forest sojourn, Vikrama and Bhatti along with Vetala started towards the forest after entrusting the kingdom to Viyoga the son of Bhatti. On their way after crossing the Vindhya Mountain, they reached a town called Rajapuri. In that town there was a very pretty prostitute called Aparanji. She fell in love with a very wise and handsome Brahmin called Abbasi. She was always with the Brahmin and enjoyed her life. But once suddenly due to heart attack the Brahmin died. Being terribly attached to him Aparanji did not bury or cremate the corpse of the Brahmin but preserved it and took it along with her to the local Durga temple. The Goddess who took pity on her, told her "After some time king Vikramadhithya and Bhatti will visit this town dressing themselves as merchants. Suppose you make Vikramadhithya happy, there will be a chance to make this Brahmin live again. Please obey all they say. When they ask you to jump in the fire, you please do it. They would give you back your life. Then you request from them my sacred water. Once you get it sprinkle on the Brahmin. Then he would live again." Aparanji gladly agreed to the words of the mother and saluted her.

As soon as Vikrama and Bhatti reached that town, they dressed themselves like jewel merchants and started selling gems in the market. Vikrama called himself as Big Kanthayar and Bhatti called himself as small Kanthayar. One day Vikrama took a walk alone and happened to the red light street populated by prostitutes. There he saw the palace like home of Dasi Aparanji. Attracted by it, he entered the house. Seeing him, Aparanji understood that he is King Vikramadhithya. She received him well and served him in a great manner. Vikrama was wondering why a prostitute who normally is interested only in only was doing all these. She looked after Vikramadhithya for the entire night. Vikrama who normally used to leave the houses of ladies whom he visits early morning before dawn stayed with her till around 10 Am. When he returned back, Bhatti wanted to know why he was returning so late because, if he returns with yellow and saffron marks from a ladies house, people will jeer at him. Then Vikrama told, "I have seen various ladies in my life but I have never seen a prostitute who is so virtuous and loving like Aparanji." Bhatti replied, "King, no prostitute is virtuous. They would either be interested in your money or on the favours that you only can do." When Vikrama protested Bhatti told him, "If that is so ask her for her curly hair while coming back tomorrow."

Next day Vikrama returned with her curly hair but then Bhatti told, "Still I am not convinced. Please ask for cutting her nose and giving a piece to you, while coming back tomorrow." Aparanji, when asked by Vikrama gave him a tip of her nose. That day Vikrama returned with a piece of her nose. Still Bhatti was not convinced and told Vikrama, "I am still not convinced. Today ask her for a piece of her breast." Vikrama did that and Aparanji gave him a piece of her bread without hesitation. That day Vikrama got very angry with Bhatti but Bhatti told, King, there must be a reason for this. I would prove to you that I am right within another 8 days. Bhatti asked Vikrama not to visit Aparanji's house from then onwards and hid him in a forest nearby. He went back to the town, raised a big fire and started crying. When people asked him why he told that his elder brother is no more and he wanted to cremate his body.

He requested them to pass on this news to Aparanji. As soon as she heard this Aparanji came running and jumped in to the fire and died. When Vikrama got upset and angry, Bhatti requested him to get the sacred water from Goddess Durga and bring back Aparanji to life. As soon as Aparanji woke up, she took the sacred water from Vikrama and ran home. She sprinkled that water on the Brahmin's body and started loving him nonstop. That night when Vikrama went to Aparanji's house he was not allowed inside and driven out. Then only Vikrama was convinced that no prostitute is virtuous like one's own wife. When they were talking about this, Goddess earth took the form of a snake and laughed loudly at Vikramadhithya. Though they did not understand why the snake laughed, they walked further and Vikrama fell fast asleep due to tiredness. When Bhatti went to Goddess Durga and asked her, she told him , " That snake was mother earth. She was laughing at Vikramadhithya because one of his favourite wives Elola Rambha is keeping her secret lover in the shape of a parrot during day time and making him take his normal form at night and enjoy with him. Bhatti told about all this to Vikrama. That night Vikrama, Vetala and Bhatti went to the palace of Elolarambhai, caught her red handed and killer her as well as her secret lover. Since the six month's time was not over, Vikrama went back to the forest. This was seen by a carpenter friend of Vikrama called Vijaya. Being an expert carpenter Vijaya had made a flying doll and presented it to Vikrama. Due to this Vijaya became Vikramadhithya's great friend. His ambition was to learn the art of transmigration of souls. Bhatti advised Vikramadhithya against teaching him this art. Having come to know that Vikramadhithya was nearby and in the forest, Vijaya went and met him in the forest. Vikrama was very happy to see this friend. As per his request Vikrama taught him the art of transmigration of souls. After that one day Vikrama was lying down, with his head on the lap of Vijaya below a banyan tree. At that time two parrots came and sat on the tree. One of them was a male and another female. Due to a stroke, the male parrot suddenly died and the female bird started crying pitifully, With a

view to console the female bird, Vikrama transferred his soul from his body in to the body of the male bird. Seeing Vikrama lying motionless and also seeing the male parrot dancing, Vijaya transferred his soul to the body of Vikramadhithya. He immediately burned his own body. Seeing this Vikramadhithya was helpless and flew away from there. Vijaya in the body of Vikramadhithya returned to his town. As soon as he reached there he sent word to Bhatti to send a palanquin for him. This was very unusual of Vikramadhithya. Besides he had returned earlier than his usual six months. Bhatti suspected that all was not well. He sent word to the queens that possibly the man who had returned was not Vikramadhithya. The first thing Vijaya wanted to do was to go to the palaces of his queens. According to the advice of Vikramadhithya, they sent word that all of them were observing penance for 6 months and because of that, they will not be able to see him. Bhatti provided Vijaya with company of lot of dancing girls and he spent all his time in their company. Bhatti meanwhile started searching for Vikramadhithya. Vikrama the parrot mean while by his greatness became the king of 1000 parrots. One day they were all flying in search of food and all of them were caught in the net spread by the hunter. Vikrama advised all of them to act as if they are dead. Then Vikrama told them that the hunter would take them out one by one and put on the floor. The first bird to fall on the ground should start counting from two from the next bird onwards. As and when it completes 1000, it should screech and all birds should fly away together. Unfortunately before he took the last bird which was Vikramadhithya, the knife of the hunter fell on the ground. Counting it as a bird all birds flew together. The hunter caught the Vikramadhithya bird and was about to kill him. Then Vikramadhithya bird told him, "I am a talking bird. Take me to the market and ask for 1000 gold coins. Someone will purchase me and you would become rich. The hunter obeyed Vikramadhithya. But all people thought that 1000 gold coins is too steep a price. At that time the richest businessman of that town called Manikkam Chettiar came to purchase a birthday

present to the market. He was attracted by the Vikramadhithya bird. When he made fun of the hunter for asking too much, Vikramadhithya bird told him, "Buy and take me to your shop and hang me there in a golden cage. From that time onwards I will manage all your business." Manikkam chettiar felt that the bird was telling the truth and bought him and hung him in a golden cage in his shop, from that time onwards, his profit went up by hundred folds by the intelligent way the bird was handling the business. The people of the town thought that the bird was very intelligent and came in search of the bird to solve their problems. The bird was called as Neethi Vakya bird.

In that town there was a prostitute by the name of Roopasoundari. She was very pretty and greatly talented in the art of love. She used to charge 1000 gold coins to her clients who wanted spend a night with her. Besides the king and ministers, Manikkam Chettiar was also one of her regular clients.

During that time two poor Brahmins called Appa Sastri and Suppa Sastri went to take bath in the river. Appa Sastri told Suppa Sastri that he saw in his dream Roopa Soundari and made love with her. This was heard by one of the maids of Roopa Soundari. She went and told it to her mistress. Roopasoundari made a complaint in the court that Appa Sastri enjoyed her company in dream and was not paying her anything. When the judge could not take any decision, they all came to Neethi Vakya bird. Vikramadhithya told Roopa Soundari that what she was asking was unjust but when she insisted, he asked Manikkam Chettiar to bring one thousand gold coins and tie it on a top of a pillar. Then he asked people to get a big mirror and place it in such a way that the money's image was reflected in the mirror. Once this was done he asked Roopasoundari to take the image of the money reflected in the mirror as charges for making love to her in the dream. All people agreed that it was the most proper judgment. They also laughed at Roopasoundari. She got enraged and told to the bird, "Within a week, I will get your head cut and cook you and eat you," Vikramadhithya bird told her, " Within a month , I will make you shave of your head, and

with an ugly painted face , side on a donkey by the public road.”

When cage day Manikkam Chettiar went to Roopa Soundari, she told him, you can be with me today provided you bring that parrot and give it to me. “Because he was infatuated Manikkam chettiar brought the bird from his shop and gave it to her. Next day morning Roopa Soundari asked her to cook the bird and serve her after her visit to the temple. When the cook tried to take out Vikramadhithya from the caged, he slipped away from her hands and flew away. Realizing that her mistress will punish her, that maid bought a parrot from the market, cooked it and served it to Roopasoundari after she came back from the temple. Meanwhile the Vikramadhithya bird started following Roopa Soundari wherever she went. It understood that the ambition of Roopa Soundari was to go to heaven with her physical body. For this she used to pray God daily. Next day the bird hid behind the God’s idol and told her, “Roopasoundari, we have decided to take you to heaven with this physical body. The devas are very bad people and would not allow you in side heaven when you are this pretty. So shave of your head, wear torn cloths and paint your body with red paint and coal and come to the temple riding on a donkey. I would then take you to my heaven.”He also told her to tell the king to invite all the kings of India to see her going to heaven with the physical body.

Next day Roopasoundari did all those things and came to the temple. The Vikramadhithya bird flew and sat on the top branches of a big banyan tree and told her, “Roopa Soundari, I have won.” This was witnessed by all kings and Bhatti who had come there out of curiosity. Vikramadhithya bird went to Bhatti and told about all the happenings. Bhatti returned to the town of Ujjaini with the bird.

That evening as per the words of Bhatti the queens of Vikramadhithya told Vijaya that they would discontinue their penance if the goat of the king kills their goat in a fight. In the fight, Vetala’s spirit entered the queen’s goat and killed the goat left by the king. Unable to bear defeat and due to his disappointment, Vijaya transmigrated his soul to the goat. Waiting for this Vikramadhithya left the body of the parrot and

entered his body. Later the Vijaya goat was sacrificed in the Kali temple. After this Vikramadhithya lead a life of happiness.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Pavalakkodi as told by ninth doll Navarathnavalli

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the ninth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the ninth step by Navarathnavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

Once Vikramadhithya started along with Bhatti and Vetala on his six month sojourn in the forest. After a long travel they reached the town of Ambalapuri in the banks of river Thungabhadra. They washed themselves and were taking rest below a banyan tree in the bank of the river. At that time people of the town caught a woman who was making love with a man other than her husband, killed her and threw her corpse near the bathing ghat of the ladies of the river. They wanted that the ladies of the town should learn their lesson from this. At that time two sisters came to take bath in the river. The elder was Muthunayagi who was married and knew the ways of the world and younger was Pavalakkodi who had just attained age. On seeing the corpse Muthunayagi wept uncontrollably. When Pavalakkodi asked her why, she replied, “You still do not know the ways of the world. Here is a lady

who could not get happiness from her husband and went with someone else. She has been killed for that.” Pavalakkodi uncontrollably laughed and told her sister, “That is because that lady did not know how to be with a secret lover and not get caught.”

Vikrama who was hearing this wanted to marry her and test her capacity to cheat him. When he told this to Bhatti, he enquired and found out that her father was a merchant called Muthu Manikkam. So Bhatti and Vikrama dressed themselves as diamond and pearl merchants and opened a shop in the town. Muthu Manikkam who came to the shop enquired about them. Then Bhatti told, “We are both merchants of gems. Our father died early and ever since we are going from place to place in search of a bride to my elder brother, Adhithya who was with me.”

Muthu Manikkam invited them to his house and showed them Pavalakkodi and asked Bhatti whether his brother would marry Pavalakkodi. On getting a positive reply, the marriage was celebrated. After some time, Vikrama gave all the rest of the jewels to Muthu Manikkam and started with his new bride along with Bhatti on Vetala. During all that time, Vikrama never even touched Pavalakkodi. On their way, they saw a locked and deserted fort in a town. When the people there enquired told him, that the fort was cursed by a saint who has told that only Vikramadhithya can open it. When Vikrama touched the lock it opened. All of them they decided to stay there. Pavalakkodi was pining in love towards Vikrama. But he never even touched her. In night, in three separate beds they slept with Pavalakkodi in the middle. Whenever Bhatti and Vikrama went out, they locked the door and went. For doing the cleaning of the fort and washing of the cloths they employed a very old woman. When one day the old woman described the beauty of Pavalakkodi, her son felt passionately in love with her. He stopped eating food and left out sleeping. Worried about this that old woman asked Pavalakkodi, “Please pardon me for asking you. My son is hopelessly in love with you. She wanted to make love with you. “. Pavalakkodi then replied, “Only a man with ability can do things.” When

the old woman told about this to her son, that night the old woman climbed a tall tree and entered the fort. He went to the place where the three people were sleeping. He then caressed the feet of Pavalakkodi. She got up and asked him to make love to her. In the process once her leg hit Vikramadhithya who thought that Bhatti was making love with the girl and once her legs hit Bhatti who thought that Vikrama was impatient and making love with the girl. After some times Pavalakkodi hid her lover in one of those rooms.

Vikrama and Bhatti went out and both were not in talking terms. Bhatti guessed the reason and wanted to investigate. When they went near the river, they saw two saintly persons coming there. As soon as they reached the river the saints opened their hair, took out two pretty ladies and left them there and went to take bath. The ladies immediately opened the tips of their dress and released their lovers and made love with them. By the time the sages came back, they tied the secret lovers in their dress. The saints came and tied the ladies on their hair. Bhatti invited the sages to meals. When they reached the fort Bhatti asked Pavalakkodi to prepare food for ten people and put ten leaves. First the guest saints sat, Vikrama and Bhatti sat next. Then Bhatti requested to release their wives from their hair. They were also asked to sit. Bhatti asked the ladies to release their secret lovers. As there was no other go they released them. One leaf was remaining. Bhatti then asked Pavalakkodi to bring her secret lover. As she had no other option she brought him out of his hiding. Then Only Vikrama understood. He pardoned Pavalakkodi gave her to her secret lover and made him the king of that town. He made the secret lovers of the wives of the saints as his ministers. They sages left from there to do penance. Bhatti and Vikrama returned back after their six month sojourn. The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Thangamapuri as told by tenth doll Kanakabhishekavalli.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the tenth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the ninth step by Kanakabhishekavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

There was a kingdom called Umapuri in the valley of Mandharagiri on the banks of River Sarayu. The king there was called Chakravarthi. He had one hundred sons. One day, he went for hunting to a forest called Uchimapuri along with all his sons and all his army. After hunting was over, they all felt very thirsty. The king requested his minister to bring some water. In spite of thorough search, the minister could not find even a drop of water in the forest. When he was returning disappointed, he saw sage Vasishta doing penance in that forest. He fell at his feet and requested him to help all of them by quenching his thirst. The sage took pity on them and requested river Ganga to come to the forest. The river came as per the wishes of the sage and quenched the thirst of the king, his sons and his huge army. Now all of them felt very hungry. They again sent the minister to the sage. Then the sage summoned Kamadhenu who provided food for all of them. King Chakravarthi thought that if he catches hold of that cow all the problems of his kingdom would be solved. When they tried to catch the cow, it flew up in the air and asked the sage permission to fight with them. Once permitted, it blew fire on the army of the king and killed all of his army and went away. The infuriated king and his sons sent several weapons to kill the sage. The holy stick of the sage stopped all their

weapons. Then the sons of the king tried to catch the sage. By one angry look of the sage all of them were burnt to ashes. King Chakravarthi understood that a great sage is much more powerful than all kings. He Entered in to deep penance and after lots of years became Sage Viswamithra. By nature Viswamithra was angry and used to travel all over the world. While travelling one day, he saw the city of Thangamapuri. He was attracted by the city and got down there. When another sanyasin told him about the city and its king Thangeswaran and the queen Swarnakantha roopi, Viswamithra sent the sanyasi to the king and requested him to tell the king to meet him urgently. As soon as the king heard that Viswamithra had come he started making arrangements to receive the sage in a grand manner. But when Viswamithra saw that the king was late, he cursed that al his people should turn in to statues and the king and the queen should die. The queen understood that something bad was happening and ran to the sage. When she told him about the facts, the sage told that he cannot reverse the curse but can give a boon to her. She requested that, "I should be born as a princess in my next birth. At the age of ten, I should attain maturity and should come to Thangamapuri to worship lord Sundareswara. I should also be able to marry my own husband who must be born like me somewhere." The sage gave the boon requested by her.

As per the boon of the sage the queen was born in the great island of Nagapuri as its princess called Sanjeevi madanthai. Her husband was born as a simpleton Brahmin boy called Adhimoolam in the same town to the priest of the king. At the age of ten Sanjeevi madanthai attained maturity. From that day onwards a divine horse came every night to take her to the Sundareswara temple of Thangamapuri. After some time her father thought that the time has come to give in marriage. When some of her friends told about her father's plans, Sanjeevi madanthai approached her father and told him, "Papa, I want only to marry the one who visits Thangamapuri and tell me the truth about that town." The king was overjoyed about this and put a notice about it in his

country and also sent notices to 56 great kings. But nobody seems to have about Thangamapuri. Because of this only very few people came to meet her. One day when she was in her balcony Adhimoolam saw her and was terribly attracted by her. He went to meet the princess. When she asked about Thangamapuri, he was not able to tell her anything. So he was driven out. But he daily went to her and told that he knew everything about Thangamapuri. Once the princess became very angry with him and he was thrown out of the town. Then some of the friends advised Adhimoolam to approach king Vikramadhithya and seek his help. Adhimoolam went and met Vikramadhithya and explained everything to him and requested him to help him. Vikramadhithya agreed gladly but he too had not heard anything about Thangamapuri. He asked Adhimoolam to hide himself somewhere for six months. Then Vikramadhithya started on his six month sojourn in the forest along with Vetala.

Vikrama asked Vetala, "Hey Vetala, you are very knowledgeable. Can you tell me about Thangamapuri?" Vetala told him that though he has been almost all the places in the world, he does not know anything about Thangamapuri. When they were moving about in search they saw a very lonely forest. In the middle of the forest in a huge vessel large amount of ghee was boiling. When Vikrama asked Vetala about he told, "There are seven sages in this forest. They take turns in lighting the fire and boiling it daily. That man will take bath in the lotus pond nearby and jump in to the boiling vessel of ghee. Then the other six sages would take bath in the lotus pond cut seven banana leaves and sit around the vessel. Then they will call the name of the sage who has fallen in the vessel. He will come out with great sparkling body and occupy the seventh leaf. Then they will eat the body that is fried in the ghee. "Vikrama thought of a plan. When the allotted sage was about to jump in the vessel, he prevented him from jumping and jumped him in the vessel of boiling ghee. When the other sages came back after bath with seven leaves, they were surprised to the seventh sage. The seventh sage narrated all that happened. So they brought one more leaf, called

Vikramadhithya by his name. Vikramadhithya came with a much more glorious body and all of them ate the fried body of Vikramadhithya. Then the sages asked Vikramadhithya what he wanted. He told them that, he was in search of a town called Thangamapuri. They told him that they also have not heard about a great saint who was doing penance in a place 500 miles from there. They felt that he may know something about that town. When Vikramadhithya went and met that great saint and enquired he told Vikramadhithya "I have heard about the town but I do not know how to go there. Please go to a deep forest 100 miles from here , where huge gigantic birds called Elephant lift birds live. Please go and hide there at night without their knowledge. They will daily discuss about the places visited by them. Possibly one of them will talk about Thangamapuri. "Vikrama travelled to that deep forest and after entrusting his body to Vetala entered the body of a dead bee and hid among the elephant lift birds. That night one bird told, "We crossed the seven seas and travelled five hundred miles further and searched for food in Thangamapuri. The town is strange. No one seems to live there though the town sparkles like gold."

Then other birds also wanted to go there. Vikrama as a bee attached himself and reached Thangamapuri. He then detached himself from the bird and assumed his own body. He and Vetala then wandered round the town. They could not find any single living being there. But there were three very big sparkling temples there. The night set and a very pretty girl riding on a flying white horse came. She went inside the Sundareswara temple offered worship, cried a lot on seeing the dolls of people and went back. Vikramadhithya assumed that, this must have happened due to the curse of the sage, Next day he returned to the place Adhimoolam and told him about Thangamapuri and asked him to approach princess Sanjeevi madanthai and tell her about it. As per the advice Adhimoolam went to the palace of the princess and rang the calling bell. When she saw it was again Adhimoolam, she thought of driving him out but when Adhimoolam told that he now really knows, she asked him to tell about Thangamapuri. Adhimoolam then gave the

exact description of the town and also gave a good description of her visit to the town. The princess was very happy and told him, “You are my husband of my previous birth, the king of Thangamapuri. We were cursed by sage Viswamithra and have attained this position. We should now together save the town. You please first go there and wait for me. I shall come and marry you there in the Sundaeswara temple.”

Overjoyed Adhimoolam went and sought the help of Vikramadhithya. Vetala carried them both but on the way they happened to see sage Viswamithra. Vikrama went and saluted the sage and requested him to help Adhimoolam. The sage agreed and gave life to all people of Thangamapuri. Adhimoolam and the princess got married there and were crowned as the king and queen of Thangamapuri.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Sargunavathi of Nirjeeva pattana as told by eleventh Vidhwath siromani doll.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the eleventh day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the eleventh step by Vidhwath siromani doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

Once before starting on his six month sojourn in forest, Vikramadhithya send Vetala to locate some very strange place. Vetala after a lot of search came back and told.”There is a town called Varanapuri which

was ruled by its king Koil swaroopa. At his old age he became father of a pretty daughter called Sargunavathi. When she grew up in to a pretty girl she was given great education. She also became a very pretty girl. She was kept under the guard of women. Once when day Koil swaroopa went for hunting he took alcoholic drinks and happened to see the wife of a saint. Attracted by her he tried pulling her by his hand. The sage's wife who was a very chaste and pure lady cursed him, "What you have done is unpardonable. Let you and your country become corpses on all days and come alive at night. Immediately her curse took effect. From that time the princess used to wake up at night and spend all her night time on the terrace thinking about her future. At this time one powerful Rakshasa who used to live in Himalayas came wandering and saw this town which wakes up at night. He was terribly attracted by the princess and took her away by force to his home in the Himalayas. The princess who was intelligent told him that he was willing to be his wife but after a three month penance prescribed for virgins to get a good long living husband. The Rakshasa was overjoyed and permitted her to carry out her penance. Next night when the king and queen were not able to find their darling daughter, they cried a lot and are searching for her. This is the story of Varanapuri."

Vikramadhithya, whose sojourn to the forest was due, immediately left for Varanapuri. He felt extremely sad and prayed his Goddess, the Kali of Ujjain. She immediately came to his presence and told him that the princess was in immediate danger and the curse can be lifted only by the wife of the sage. She also told him how to find the wife of the sage. With the help of Vetala, Vikramadhithya took the form of a very old man, went near the home of the sage, arranged for a big fire to be lit and was about to jump in it. Hearing about an old man committing suicide, the wife of the sage came and asked him, why he was attempting suicide. Then the old man (Vikramadhithya) told her, "I belong to a city called Saraswathi pattanam. For a very long time, I did not have a son and a son was born to me at my very old age, after great penance. I taught him all arts and science and when he came of age, he

married the daughter of Veda Shasthara Bhatta of Varanapuri. I brought the groom and bride to my home. After a few months they went for a visit to Varanapuri. By that time everything has changed there. In the day time all people became corpses. His wife seeing the sorrow of her parents continued to live with them. One day I went to bring them back and came to know of the sorrowful life that they were leading. When I asked them about it, Veda Shastra Bhatta blamed my son for the state of affairs as this state of affairs took place after his marriage. Unable to bear this unjust accusation, my son committed suicide. Due to this his wife also committed suicide. Unable to bear this shock her parents also committed suicide. I am also very sad about all this and want to die.” The sage’s wife then told, “All that did not happen due to your son but because of the curse given by me. Since none of you were responsible for this, I am removing the curse that I put on the town. Now all people would wake up including your son’s family. “

Vikramadhithya profusely thanked her for her gesture and left along with Vetala in search of the princess and the Rakshasa. They found her out easily. They were fortunate to see her alone as the Rakshasa had gone out. As soon as the princess came to know that it was king Vikramadhithya who had come to rescue her she told him, “There is only one day left of my intended penance told by me to the Rakshasa. He wants me to marry him tomorrow. So please take me along with you.” Vikramadhithya replied, “Dear Princess, I do not steal or take away people like that. When the Rakshasa comes back ask him, how you can be safe with him as he would be killed by somebody soon. I will come again tomorrow and then you can tell me what he had told you.” That day the Rakshasa came back happily but the princess acted as if she was very sad. When he asked why she was sad she replied that she was scared and sad for his life. Then the Rakshasa told, “I cannot be killed that very easily. In the bottom of Mallikarjuna Mountain, there is a Vinayaka temple. Below the statue there is a tunnel. That would lead you to a tortoise called Koormathi. In the stomach of the tortoise, there is caterpillar. My soul is on the head of

the caterpillar. If some were to bring the caterpillar, cut it in to half and throw before me, then only I will die. So you need not get worried.” The princess acted as if she was happy and appeared to look forward for her marriage with the Rakshasa.

When this was informed to Vikramadhithya, he went riding on the Vetala to the Mallikarjuna Mountain, located the temple and after praying God, entered the tunnel, killed the tortoise and brought the caterpillar. He killed the caterpillar in front of the Rakshasa and killed him.

While he was returning back, a poor very learned Brahmin fell on love with the princess and requested for her hand. Seeing the intensity of his love, Vikramadhithya took him along with him to the kingdom of the princess and gave her in marriage to the Brahmin and made him the new king of the country.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Amruthakiranakalai of Nirjeeva pattana as told by twelfth Santha Gunavalli doll.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the twelfth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twelfth step by Santha Guna valli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

When Vikramadhithya was ruling the country, he used to send several

of his spies all round the world to find out strange happenings. One of them came back and told him as follows:-

“A king called Dharmaraya was ruling called Thirumalpuri. His wives name is Samudhradevi. They have three sons called Bheemasuran, Lakshmi sooran and Mahasooran and a daughter called Amruthakiranakalai. The king has searched good brides for his sons and a good groom for his daughter and got them married. The king and queen got several grand children, lived happily with them and died after ten years. Once the three princes who were managing the kingdom, went for a routine checkup of their kingdom. In a deep forest they located a pretty garden and a pond. Near boy was a very pretty house with three rooms. The rooms were empty during the daytime. They relaxed in the garden and decided to spend their night in those rooms. Actually the rooms belonged to three deva dancers who used to spend their nights in those rooms. When they found three handsome youths there, they spent the entire night making love to them, turned them in to stone dolls and went back to the deva loka. This continued. One day Mahasoora heard a voice from a statue on a pillar near the pond pitying them. That voice agreed to help them. It gave him seven stones. It advised him, “Today night run away from here. Those three deva maidens will chase you. When they come near you, throw a stone. This would make the distance between you very great. Keep on doing this but never talk to them. If you talk to them they will make you permanently into stone dolls.

It happened as foretold. When the deva maidens saw that these magical stones were only with Mahasoora, they thought that it must have been given to him by his lover Roopakanyaka. So the other two killed Roopakanyaka and went back to the deva loka. Mahasoora was terribly upset and wanted to cremate Roopakanyaka and die himself in her funeral pyre. Though the other two brothers tried to dissuade him, he was firm on his resolve. When he was about to jump in the fire, Lord Shiva appeared before Mahasoora and gave back the life of Roopakanyaka. Roopakanyaka was terribly charmed by the love of

Mahasoorā. She told him, “From now I am taking you as my husband but since I am a deva maiden, I would be in deva loka during your day time and would be with you during night. She gave him a magical Veena to summon her whenever he wants her.

That night When Mahasoorā summoned Roopakanyaka, a sage was attracted by her., He promised to give Mahasoorā a diamond sword which can cut any living being in to two. Mahasoorā took the sword from the sage for testing and killed the sage by using the sword itself. Next day another sage saw her and wanted her. In return he promised him a miracle purse, which will have unending source of money. Mahasoorā took that for testing and killed that sage also by the diamond sword.

Next day another sage offered him a slipper which will take him to any place he wants in a jiffy and next day another one offered him a stick which can give life to dead ones.

Mahasoorā stored these carelessly in a room of his house and used to summon his love Deva daily. One day his sister Amritha kirana came there when he was not there. She started testing all those things one by one and eventually played the Veena for summoning Roopakanyaka. When Roopakanyaka saw a lady playing the Veena she was surprised and asked her,” who are you and why are you playing the Veena?” Amrithakirana told that she was Mahasoorā’s sister and she was playing it without the knowledge of her brother. Infuriated by this reply, Roopakanyaka dashed the veena on the floor and told Amrithakirana to inform her brother that he has lost the divine pleasure forever. When Mahasoorā returned he became very sad and decided to somehow try to bring back Roopakanyaka from deva loka. Though his brothers tried to dissuade him, by using the magical slippers, Mahasoorā reached the dancing hall of deva loka. When Indra told his army of Asuras to kill Mahasoorā, he killed all of them by using his magical sword. Then realizing the power of Mahasoorā, Indra asked him, “Who are you and why have you come here?” Then Mahasoorā related his story. Indra then told him, “In my hall fifty lakh damsels

dance daily. If you can identify your lover, bring her here.” When he correctly identified her, Indra got very angry with those three girls for tempting human beings with their love and told them, “I am giving away you three as slaves to Mahasoora. Go and obey his orders.” He also asked the pardon of Mahasoora and told him, “Because of your killing my guards, half my strength has gone.” Mahasoora asked him not to worry and made all the asuras alive by his stick.”

Indra was pleased with Mahasoora and allowed him to take back Roopakanyaka and the other two deva maidens who tempted his brothers along with him. But Indra forgot the earlier rule that he had made that any one leaving the deva loka along with a deva maiden would be surrounded by fire. So as soon as he reached the earth Mahasoora and Roopakanyaka were surrounded by a great fire. Meanwhile parents of Mahasoora and his brothers asked a great astrologer about what happened to Mahasoora and why he is not returning. He told them about the danger in which Mahasoora was in. So they went in search of him. There they saw a Rathnamala temple. They left their army outside and went inside the temple. In the temple there was a huge pond of raging fire. There it was written that any one climbing on the temple tower and jumping in the pond of fire would be taken to Patala, where there is a great temple of the Goddess. If anyone reaches there and prays her, she would give them boons to save them or their people from all dangers.

None of them dared to do the act thinking that their life would be in danger and are standing inside the temple and Mahasoora and Roopakanyaka are in the ring of the fire which is nearing them fast.” Since it was time for Vikramadhithya to start his sojourn of six months in forest, he entrusted the rule of the kingdom to Bhatti and riding on Vetala reached the Rathnamala temple. He climbed on the temple tower and jumped inside the pond of fire praying Goddess to help him achieve his noble aim of saving Mahasoora. The Goddess there gave him a tablet and asked him to throw it on the raging fire surrounding Mahasoora. That tablet put out the fire and Mahasoora came out along

with the three deva maidens safely.

Then Vikramadhithya brought back to life the sages who had earlier given the Sword, Slipper and money bag and asked them to depart from there. Realizing their mistakes they gave back all the magical materials to Vikramadhithya. Vikramadhithya in turn gave them all to Mahasoora. Mahasoora and his brothers lived happily with their new Deva maiden wives. After spending some more time in the forest usefully, Vikramadhithya returned back to his kingdom.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Vichithrakala as told by thirteenth Prakasavalli doll.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the thirteenth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the thirteenth step by Prakasavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

The king of Thangapuri did not have any children in spite of having all other wealths. By continued penance of Parashakthi, a daughter was born to him. He named her as Vichithrakala and made her master of all arts. She grew up in to a very pretty princess. One day while she was standing on a terrace, she was seen by Mrugangitha, who was a terrible magician doing penance on the Malligarjuna mountain. He fell instantly in love with her and decided that he will take her away and marry her as

soon as his penance of celibacy was over. This resolution was understood by Vichithrakala. So she went to her father and told him, how Mrugangitha was infatuated with her. The king told her, “Mrugangitha is a terrible human being. I do not have the power to defeat him. So please approach the Yellamma Goddess in the boundary of our kingdom.” Accordingly Vichithrakala went to the Yellamma temple. When she went there the goddess had gone out for a walk. So she entered the temple and locked herself there. When the Goddess came back and when she wanted the doors to be opened, Vichithrakala fell at her feet and told her about her problem created by Mrugangitha. Then the Goddess told, “Mrugangitha is a very evil person. I do not have sufficient power to kill him. The only person who can help you out is king Vikramadhithya. So you go and approach him.”

Vichithrakala went to Ujjain the capital city of Vikramadhithya, got the face of the hag by the blessings of the Goddess and started staying with a lady called Annamidum nangai. She used to daily sing and pray the Goddess at night. When one day, Vikramadhithya who was doing inspection rounds in the town heard her voice, he sent his police people to bring her before him; He was intrigued by her youthful body and face of a hag. When he asked Vichithrakala the reason for this, she told him everything about her. Vikramadhithya promised to save her and built a special palace for her to live in till they got married. Once when his six month sojourn in the forest was due, he entrusted her safety to his brother Bhatti and went to the forest.

At this time Mrugangitha’s penance of celibacy was over and he started searching for Vichithrakala. When he felt her presence in Ujjaini town, he dressed himself like a jewel merchant and offered two very pretty bangles for one million rupees. Though everyone wanted the Bangles even the senior most queen of Vikramadhithya thought that the price was exorbitant. But somehow Vichithrakala wanted that Bangle. When Bhatti offered the price on behalf of Vichithrakala, the magician told him that he was the only who can put the bangles on the purchaser. Bhatti thought that something was fishy and refused to buy the bangle

without the permission of Vikramadhithya. So Mrugangitha went in search of Vikramadhithya and told him that his minister Bhatti was not even fulfilling the wishes of Vichithrakala who would become his queen soon. Vikramadhithya thought there was something fishy and asked Vetala about who it was. When Vetala informed him that it was Mrugangitha himself, Vikramadhithya took his magic sword and cut Mrugangitha in to pieces.

After finishing his sojourn, Vikramadhithya returned to Ujjain and made Vichithrakala as his queen and wife.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Dharmaseela as told by fourteenth Chandravalli doll.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the fourteenth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the thirteenth step by Chandravalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

King Vikramadhithya maintained a very enviable system of spies so that he would be able to understand the problems of his people and solve them. They also used to gather reports of strange happenings and inform. Once a spy who returned from Kashmir told him about the following happening. "King, in the city of Kashmir, there is a very rich merchant called Dharmaseela. After multiplying his wealth manifolds by

very hard work, he decided to build a temple to God Narayana and get is surrounded by a huge lake. First the temple was built. Then all round it millions of labourers started digging a lake. With their efficient dedicated work, they did dig a very huge lake around the temple. But strangely the lake did not have even a drop of water. The very sad Dharmaseela continued the digging in the hope of getting water. When he found that water was not forthcoming he prayed the God. He heard a magical voice. "Only if a drop of blood from the neck of a man with all the 32 prescribed qualities falls on the lake bed, then only water will come in this lake." Not able to find any perfect man willing to cut his head, even today the lake is dry. Dharmaseela has announced a prize of 1000 pounds of gold to whosoever helps him get water in the lake." Hearing this strange story Vikramadhithya decided o do something about it. So during his six month sojourn in the forest, he went to Kashmir. There he went to the lake bed, prayer Lord Narayana and began cutting his neck so That blood would fall on the lake bed. God appeared before him and blessed that the lake would be full of water. When the extremely happy Dharmaseela offered him 1000 pounds of Gold, Vikramadhithya gave the entire gold in charity to poor people and reached back his kingdom

The story of a Brahmin who fell in the river as told by Sanjeevavalli doll.

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the fifteenth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the fifteenth step by Sanjeevavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following

story:-

During one of his six month sojourn to the forest, Vikramadhithya resolved to go alone in the garb of sage. He stayed for one night in a village and next four days in towns around. One day after a long travel he reached a village on the banks of a river. There was a temple in the village. In the temple one learned sage was talking about the sacrifices one can make. He told that the greatest sacrifice that one can make is to save a man in danger without even bothering about one's own life. All the people who heard this advice were taken aback, when they heard of cries for help from the river. When they rushed to the bank of the river all of them saw the swift tides of the river dragging an old man and his wife. Both of them were shouting for help but none dared to help them as they felt that getting in to the river was dangerous. But Vikrama though in the garb of a sage got in to the river, fought bravely with the tide and with lots of difficulty saved the elderly couple. Once they came out the old man thanked Vikrama and told him that he wanted to compensate for his efforts. Then Vikrama told the old man that he was the king of the country and it was his job to help and save all the people in his country. Then the old man understood that he was king Vikramadhithya and told him, "Sir, I am thankful to your majesty for helping me out. I simple cannot compensate your efforts in any way but I want to give you two presents. Please accept it." When Vikrama agreed that Brahmin gave him the power to summon the plane of Gods and travel in it and reach any place he wants. And also gave him all the effect of all the good deeds done by him." Vikrama thankfully accepted them and went on his way. He eventually reached a forest which was not cool but very hot. This forest had only horror sounds of bison and such wild animals. The forest instead has only thorny shrubs like the cactus. In the middle of the forest was a thousand branched banyan tree and hanging on his branches a Brahma Rakshasa. As soon the Brahma Rakshasa saw Vikrama it told him, "King, I was a very pious and well known sage but because I insulted sage Narada, he cursed me to

become a Brahma Rakshasa. The only way for me to escape from this torture is to get the two boons given by the Brahmin to you. Would you please give them to me?" King Vikramadhithya gladly agreed and gave the two boons to him. Then the Brahma Rakshasa became a sage and went to heaven.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Courtesan Kamalareka as told by Paripoornavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the sixteenth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the sixteenth step by Paripoornavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

When Vikramadhithya was the emperor of India, a spy from Northern part of India met him and related this story, "King, In the Arya desa of north, there is a courtesan called Kamalareka. She is so pretty that even people without masculinity fell in love with her and want to spend the night with her. But all people who spend the night, die that night and return only as corpse."

Vikramadhithya was intrigued by the story of Kamalareka. So during his

sojourn of six month in the forest he went to Arta desa. When he enquired about Kalalareka, people told him that she was an irresistible beauty and he has to spend 1000 gold coins to spend a night with her. They also told him that he would die that night.

Vikramadhithya went to Kamalareka's home and paid 1000 gold coins, . He was received well and taken to her bed room. He asked for a mat spread on the floor and was preparing to sleep. The courtesan gave him a fluffy pillow. He refused that also. He did not even touch her. The courtesan laughed and told, "By coming here you are ready to embrace death. If you think you can escape by not even touching me you are mistaken." Then she entered in to sleep. Very soon a golden serpent came out of her nose and started biting the pillow near by.

Vikramadhithya took his magical sword and cut her in to pieces. Next day the courtesan was pleasantly surprised to see that Vikrama was alive. When Vikrama showed her the snake and how he killed it, she thanked Vikrama profusely.

Our king Vikramadhithya was such a one that he would help any one who is suffering regardless of the station of his life.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Nava mohini manjari as told by Karunakaravalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the seventeenthth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped

on the seventeenth step by Karunakaravalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

During the rule of king Vikramadhithya one spy who went to Northern part of India reported as follows:-

"A king called Soma prathapa rules over a town called Makarapuri. He does lot of charities and social service daily. Then he rides on his own elephant and gets down in his palace. As soon as he lands there several girls who are as pretty as divine maidens go round him with plates full of coral, pearls, rice etc and empty all those plates in the North eastern part of the city. I just wanted to know why they are doing that. There I saw many ghosts coming and eating all the food placed there and take away all the precious jewels. They climb on a huge Banyan tree which is nearby. I dared not follow them and returned."

Egged by his curiosity King Vikramadhithya went to Makarapuri. He saw the celebrations conducted around the king, followed those ladies and saw the ghosts eating the food. He boldly climbed the banyan tree and saw a huge palace hanging on the air. He entered the palace and saw a bed room. He took bath in warm water and slept on the cot there. Soon the lady of the house called Nava Mohini manjari came there. She became very angry at some man sleeping on her cot. She then ordered one of her ghosts to remove Vikramadhithya. But Vikramadhithya cut the ghost in to two. Then several ghosts came. Vikramadhithya killed all of them. Then he asked Vetala to lift Nava Mohini Manjari along with her cot to Ujjain. When she woke up she realized that Vikramadhithya was no ordinary man. She then begged his pardon.

At that time a poor man approached Vikrama and told him, "Sir, I am so poor that I am not able to get married. Would you please give her to me?" Vikramadhithya gave the lady as present to him and also gave him sufficient wealth.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of division of properties told by Parimala Mohini doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the eighteenth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the eighteenth step by Parimala Mohini valli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

There was a town called Purandarapuri. There was a very merchant there who had four sons. In his death bed, he called all his sons and told them, “Though I want all of you to continue as a single family, I am not sure about it. So when you decided to go your own, dig below this got. You would find four pots buried one over another there. The top most would indicate the share of my wealth for the eldest and so on.” After telling this the merchants died. The four brothers lead a joint family for some time. So when their wives started quarrelling they dug below the cot and recovered four pots. The first post contained coal, the second

mud, the third straw and the fourth some bones. When they could not understand the significance they approached the village elders. When they were not able to understand they approached their king. But the king himself could not understand the significance and requested them to approach King Vikramadhithya. In spite of being a great genius, King Vikramadhithya also could not understand it. So the brothers returned home disappointed. But on their way they went to a town called Prathishtanapura. There was a wise potter called Shalivahana in that town. They approached him. Shalivahana heard them with rapt attention and told, "The eldest one should take the pot of mud indicating the agricultural properties of their father, the second one should take the pot of straw indicating the accumulated grain wealth of their father, the third one should take the pot of bones which indicates cattle wealth and the last one should take the pot of coal which indicates all the metal wealth of their father. The sons were very satisfied and followed the advice and went away. When Vikramadhithya heard about this, he wanted to meet Shalivahana and sent his emissaries to call him. Shalivahana not only refused to come but told the representatives that if Vikrama wants to meet him, he should come. When this message reached Vikrama, he became very angry and started with big army to Prathishtanapura. He reached outside Prathishtanapura and again sent word to Shalivahana that if he does not come outside to meet Vikramadhithya, He would come with an army and crush him. Shalivahana laughed at this and sent word that he would prefer to fight with the army of Vikramadhithya. Then he made lot of dolls using the clay and gave them life. A huge war was fought. Vikrama using his superior weapons destroyed the entire army of Shalivahana. He remembered the words of his father Adhishesha, that in any crisis, he should summon his father. As soon as he thought of his father all the snakes of the world reached there and killed all the army of Vikramadhithya. Terribly disappointed Vikrama returned to his town Ujjaini and did penance to Vasuki the king of snakes. He came before him and gave him a pot of nectar, sprinkling which he can bring back to

life his entire army. So he started to Prathishtanapura along with the pot of nectar.

On the way he was met by a learned stranger who compared Vikramadhithya to Lord Vishnu and praised him. When king Vikramadhithya asked who he is, he replied, "I am from Prathishtanapura and I have heard that you would give anything that is requested by learned people from you." Then Vikramadhithya replied, "Yes. I would give whatever you want." Then the learner stranger asked for the pot of nectar that king Vikramadhithya was carrying. King Vikramadhithya then gave the learned man the pot of nectar realizing fully well that he was Shalivahana himself. Our king Vikramadhithya was like that.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Amruthasanjeevini as told by Sargunavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the nineteenth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the nineteenth step by Sargunavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

Vikramadhithya had a very learned priest serving him called Vasumithra Surasena. He was a very great man and was also wealthy. After thoughtful consideration he decided to go on a pilgrimage to Varanasi and take bath in Ganges there so that all his sins are washed off. He did undertake the pilgrimage and did Sradha to his manes there. On his way back he reached a city which had a Divine damsel as a queen who had become a human being and was not married. She did not invite any one to marry her nor did she invite any one. In that town there was a huge temple dedicated to Lord Lakshmi Narayana. In front of the temple in a very big iron vessel oil was boiling always. There was a big board there announcing that whosoever jumps in that boiling oil will be married by Manmathasanjeevini, who was the divine damsel ruling over the town and that man would be made king of the city.

Vasumithra dared not do this and returned back to Ujjain, the town of Vikramadhithya; He gave the pure Ganges water to King Vikramadhithya and told him about the strange town ruled by Manmathasanjeevini.

Noticing wistfulness in his voice, King Vikramadhithya decided to visit that town. As soon as he reached that town, King Vikramadhithya went to the temple of Lakshmi Narayana, saluted the God and boldly jumped in to the vessel of boiling oil. His body became a cooked piece of meat. As soon as Manmatha Sanjeevini heard this she came running with nectar and sprinkling which Vikramadhithya became his normal self. Then she told Vikramadhithya that since he has fulfilled the condition, she was prepared to marry him. Vikramadhithya then told her that his friend Surasena was an extremely learned man and requested her to marry him. She agreed and married Surasena. He was crowned as king of that town.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of the gambler as told by Sundaravinodha doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twentieth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twentieth step by Sundaravinodha doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

When Vikramadhithya was ruling, Chauthuryvan the king of Chaturagiri died of natural causes. His wife decided to jump in his funeral pyre and die along with her husband. As soon as Vikramadhithya knew about this , he rushed to Chaturagiri and told the queen that he would bring her husband back to life. He took the magical wand given to him by mother Kali and patted the corpse of her husband. He woke up as if he was sleeping. Overjoyed and being greatly grateful, the couple surrendered their kingdom to king Vikramadhithya. However Vikrama returned the kingdom to them and proceeded on his six month sojourn in the forest. He reached a town called Samarapuri. There he was relaxing one day. That day, one lavishly dressed gentleman came with several of his friends and dancing girls and spent all his time in merry making. However the same man came next day in tattered cloths and in a miserable condition. This intrigued Vikramadhithya and so he approached him and asked him as to who he was and why this difference within a day. He said that he was a gambler and this type of complete transformation was very common to him. Vikramadhithya advised him strongly to leave out this bad habit. Then that man replied

that this was the only profession known to him and unless he gets sufficient wealth he cannot leave out this habit.

At that time two sages came to the inn and very conversing each other in a language called Paisachi. Since the language was known to him Vikramadhithya was able to follow their conversation. From it he learnt that if a human being is sacrificed before the Bhairava statue at the inn, he would show them a great treasure. Without hesitation Vikramadhithya went near the Bhairava statue and started cutting his own neck. Lord Bhairava appeared before him and stopped him and gave him the treasure that he was having. King Vikramadhithya gave the treasure to the gambler. The gambler from that time reformed himself.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Indra Jala magician as told by Kanaka Ranjithavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty first day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twenty first step by Kanaka Ranjithavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

One day when king Vikramadhithya was sitting in his court along with his ministers and counselors a man named Soora came to the court and told that he was a magician who was an expert in Indra Jala.

Vikramadhithya told him that he was busy and asked him to come the next day and show his magic.

Next day when they assembled in the court one valorous individual with a great strength and with a flowing beard came to the court along with a lady. He addressed Vikramadhithya and told, King, I am a courtier of Indra of heaven. Once due to disagreement he cursed me to become a human being. As a human being I married this lady. Now I know that there is a war going between Devas and Asuras and I deem it my duty to go to heaven and help my king. Since I cannot take my wife with me I wanted her to be safely looked after till I return. All people told me that you are a gentleman and will look after her like your sister. Would you please help me?" Vikramadhithya agreed and that gentleman immediately travelled towards the sky. From that time all people in the court started hearing the sound of war in the heavens. Suddenly, the cut hand holding a sword of that gentleman who went to heaven fell down from the sky. As soon as she saw this his wife started crying. After another few moments the cut head of the gentleman and body fell down from heavens. Everybody was shocked. His wife started crying and requested that arrangements may be made to cremate her husband. She was particular that she wanted to jump and die in the funeral pyre. Though Vikramadhithya assured her that he will look after her well, she said that she does not want to live without her husband. So the pyre was set up and the lady jumped in to the pyre and was turned in to ashes. The court rose with great sorrow.

Next day when they assembled that Valorous individual came back completely alive and demanded his wife back. With great sorrow Vikrama told that man all that happened. Then the individual told that he was actually the magician who had come two days before and all that happened was due to his power of magic. Vikrama was extremely pleased and wanted to give him a suitable present. At that time the

emissary of Pandya king came with the tribute of fifty elephants, three hundred horses, one hundred dancing damsels and 100 pounds of Gold. Vikrama simply handed over all these things to the magician as a gift. Our king Vikrama was that generous in accepting greatness of any individual.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Dhanadha as told by Pankakajavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty second day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twenty second step by Pankajavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story:-

When Vikramadhithya was ruling over Ujjaini, there was a very rich merchant called Dhanadha in Ujjain. There was no limit to his wealth and so people called him Dhanapathi. Though he was rich, Dhanadha always felt that all this wealth is transient.

So one day he called all learned people of the world and gave away almost all his wealth. At that time he wanted to go Dwaraka temple and worship Lord Krishna there. When he started many of the people of

Ujjaini wanted to accompany him. Along with all those people he arranged for many ships and started his journey towards Dwaraka. On the way, in the sea, they saw a huge mountain and on its top a temple. Dhanadha wanted to pay his respects to the deity of the temple. When he climbed up and went inside the temple, he saw the cut body of a young man and woman lying there. There was a board there in which was written, that this young man and woman would get back their life, if a good man with charitable disposition cuts off his neck and drench the bodies lying there with his blood.

Dhanadha continued his pilgrimage to Dwaraka and after Darshan of the lord returned back to Ujjain. There he presented the Prasad of Dwaraka to King Vikramadhithya and told him about the strange temple on the hill in the sea. On his next sojourn of six months in forest, king Vikramadhithya went to the temple and started cutting off his head so that the unknown young man and woman would be alive again. The goddess appeared before him and gave back the life of the young man and woman. My king Vikrama was that great.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Chiranjeevi as told by Aparanjivalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty third day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twenty third step by Aparanjivalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me

about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

As it was his habit Vikrama once, started for his six month sojourn to the forest. This time he dressed himself like a sage and wandered as he liked. Wherever he went he used to collect strange happenings. One day at sun set he reached a deep forest. He decided to spend his time below a very huge banyan tree in the forest. At night lots of birds lead by their king Sanjeevi came and sat on the tree. Sanjeevi asked all the birds about the strange happenings that they saw during their travel for food. Many of them told several happenings. One of the small bird told, "I do not have any strange events to relate but I want to tell you about a sad happening to my friend,

My friend lives in a country called Saivalaghosha. Near this country on huge mountain lives a great Rakshasa. This Rakshasa likes human flesh to eat. So daily he used to come down and eat any one whom he can catch. Then the elders of the town went and met him and requested him not to eat people at random. They agreed to send one representative per family every day. Tomorrow is the turn of my friend. He has only one son. If he sends his son, his family will come to an and if he goes himself then his wife would become a widow and suffer. This makes me sad." All the other birds appreciated this small bird for his closeness to a human friend. Vikramadhithya who was hearing immediately rushed to Saivalaghosha . In the morning he took bath , went to the temple and was waiting near the place where the Rakshasa eats people. When the Rakshasa came he saw a man with complete happiness. It was strange for him to see a happy man waiting to be eaten by him. When he asked him, why he was happy, Vikramadhithya told him that he never put any value on his life and he was happy because he was getting an opportunity to save someone else. The Rakshasa s moved by this and asked Vikramadhithya to ask for any boon. Vikramadhithya requested the Rakshasa to stop eating human beings. Rakshasa gladly agreed. Like this my king Vikramadhithya never

bothered for his life but tried to save others even though they were not known to him.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Brahmachari as told by Manoranjithavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty fourth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twenty fourth steps by Manoranjithavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

As was his usual practice king Vikramadhithya made arrangements to celebrate the spring festival. This was usually celebrated in a garden of the size of a forest. He took all his queens to that garden, and days and night were full of merry making. Next to this mega garden was a temple of Goddess Chandika. A Brahmachari who observed celibacy was doing worship in that temple. He used to spend all his time in worshipping the goddess at that temple. Hearing the laughter and merry making, the thoughts of marrying a pretty lady and making love with her crossed his

mind. He also wanted to become very rich. So he decided to approach king Vikramadhithya and beg from him a village and decided to get married.

So he went and met Vikramadhithya. He wished him all that is good and prayed Goddess Chamundi to bless him with all that he wants. King Vikramadhithya was impressed and asked him as to who he was and what he wanted from him. Then the Brahmachari told, "Sir, I spend all my time in worship of Chamundi. Yesterday she came in my dream and told me, "Oh Brahmachari, I am extremely happy with your service. I feel that you should also enjoy the life of householder. So I will appear in the dream of the king Vikramadhithya and request him to make a king of a small town and also arrange for your marriage. So you go and meet Vikramadhithya tomorrow. "It is as per her orders that I have come to meet you."

Vikrama was surprised as the Goddess had not come in his dream. He quickly understood that the Brahmachari was telling a lie. He then thought, why the Brahmachari was telling a lie. Then he thought that it is because of his shy nature that the Brahmachari was telling a lie. Then he thought that that lying Brahmachari was also one of his subjects and he is duty bound to help him. So he made him a king of a small town nearby and also celebrated his marriage with a pretty girl in a grand manner. That is our king Vikramadhithya.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of Kamalakara as told by Suvarnakanthavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty fifth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twenty fifth steps by Suvarnakanthavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

When Vikramadhithya was the king, Bhatti his younger brother was his chief minister. Next to him was another great man called Govinda. His commander in chief was Chandra and priest was Trivikrama. Trivikrama had a son called Kamalakara. Kamalakara lead life of luxury. He was very lazy and never even attempted to learn anything. One day Trivikrama, his father called him and told that Kamalakara by not learning anything was a blot to their family. He also told that because of him, he was leading a life of extreme sorrow. This shocked Kamalakara. He promised his father that he would learn all that has to be learned and come back. Kamalakara went to Kashmir and approached a guru called Chandramouli bhatta and told him, "Sir, I am an idiot who is not able to learn anything. If you would teach me all that you know to me I would be grateful to you." Chandramouli Bhatta taught everything that he knew to Kamalakara. He also taught him the great chant called Sidha Saraswatha manthra and told him, "Kamalakara, now you are one of the very great learned man of the world. Both your father and king would be proud of you." Kamalakara was glad with this blessing and started returning to Ujjain. On the way, he went to the town of Kanchi. At that time Kanchi was ruled by a king called Anangasena, in that town there was a courtesan of matchless beauty called Naramohini. People who happened to see her instantly fell in love with her. But any one spending a night with her was killed by an Asura who resided in Vindhya

Mountains that night. Though people were terribly worried about their impending death by the asura, they did try to be with Naramohini.

Kamalakara returned back to Ujjain making his father very proud. His father took him to meet Vikramadhithya. At that time Kamalakara related to him the news about Naramohini of Kanchi. Greatly intrigued, Vikramadhithya decided to visit Kanchi during his next sojourn to the forest. He took Kamalakara along with him. Vikramadhithya directly went to the house of Naramohini. She received him with great hospitality. That night Vikramadhithya did not enter her bed room but was standing outside with his magical sword. That night as usual the asura from Vindhyas came. Not finding any one by the side of Naramohini, he came out of the bed room. Vikramadhithya killed him with his sword. Naramohini fell at Vikramadhithya's feet and wanted to be his slave. Vikramadhithya requested her to marry Kamalakara, which she readily agreed. Kamalakara then lead a life of joy. This was the greatness of our king, who gave away willingly, a very pretty woman to his assistants.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing

The story of long Homa of a Brahmin as told by Sakalavalali doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty sixth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped

on the twenty sixth step by Sakalakalavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

Once when king Vikramadhithya was ruling a spy who was wont to roam in foreign countries reported, "King there is a mountain called Chithrakoota. There is a pretty temple for the goddess there. There is a waterfall there starting from the top of that mountain. This goes as a stream near the temple. It is believed that anyone who takes bath in the stream completely washes of all his sin in the stream and because of this the water of the stream turns black. On the shored of the stream a Brahmin is doing Homa (offering in the fire for a long time). The ask taken from the Homa has already assumed the proportion of a huge mountain. No one knows how long he has been doing the Homa. That Brahmin does not talk to anybody."

Hearing this Vikramadhithya wanted to go to Chithrakoota. So during his next sojourn to the forest he went to that mountain. He took bath in the river and saluted the Goddess. Then he approached the Brahmin and asked him, "Sir, how long have you been doing this Homa? For what purpose are you doing this Homa?" The Brahmin replied, "King, I have been doing this Homa constantly for the past one hundred years. I am doing this so that the Goddess would shower her grace on me."

Vikramadhithya was intrigued. He himself did a Homa. When nothing happened, he took his sword and wanted to cut his head and do Homa. The goddess immediately appeared and told him to seek any boon that he likes.

Vikramadhithya asked her, "Revered Goddess why is it that you have not been pleased with the efforts of this Brahmin for the past one hundred years?"

The Goddess replied, "That Brahmin is doing Homa without mental

concentration. When he is doing Homa he does not think of me but thinks of so many other necessities of his. So even if he does Homa for the next 1000 years I would not be pleased with him. Anyway, ask for your boon.”

Vikramadhithya asked the Goddess”Kindly grant this Brahmin what he wants.”

The Goddess told, “You are very great man, Vikramadhithya. You never ask anything for yourself but ask for the needs of others. I would fulfill all the wishes of this Brahmin “. And then she disappeared.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing.

The story of the gem merchant as told by Manikkavalli doll

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty seventh day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twenty seventh step by Manikkavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

One day a gem merchant visited the royal assembly of king Vikramadhithya. He took a very costly Manikya gem and placed it at the

feet of Vikramadhithya. The king was greatly impressed by the gem and got it examined by experts in his court. All of them were of the opinion that the gem was very rare in nature and very invaluable. When king Vikramadhithya asked the merchant about the cost of the gem, he replied that it was a present to the king from his side. The king told the merchant that he would like to buy similar gems from him at a proper cost. The merchant told that he had ten more similar gems and would like to sell them to the king. The king agreed to purchase them each at a cost of one crore rupees. He summoned one dependable servant of his and told him, "Go with this merchant and bring back the ten gems that he gives. If you return within 8 days, I would give you several presents. " The servant agreed and went along with the merchant. On reaching his home, the merchant entrusted the ten gems to him. On the seventh day, he was about to reach the capital of Voikramadhithya. But a river in between was in severe flood. The only boatman refused to row him to the other shore. Then the servant told him about his problem. Then the boatman told, "Sit , to take you to the other shore I have to risk my life. So if you give me five of those gems as my wage, I am prepared to take you.," The servant agreed and crossed the river successfully. He reached Vikramadhithya's court on the eighth day and gave him five gems. When the king asked him about the other gems, the servant told him about the problems that he faced and his promise to come back from the errand as more important. The king was very much pleased and gave the remaining five gems as a present for the servant. Our king was so much broad minded."

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing.

The story of bad act in return to help as told by Manuneethivalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty eighth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twenty eighth step by Manuneethivalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

When Vikramadhithya was ruling the country there was a very learned Brahmin in his country, though he was devout he did not get any children so he along his wife started the Worship of Rudra. One day God came in his dream and instructed him to start Pradosha pooja. Soon his wife became in the family way and a son was born to him. That Brahmin called his son as Devadatha. He taught him all Vedas and got him married to a suitable girl at the age of sixteen. He along his wife then left for a pilgrimage to Benares. While going he instructed him in the proper method of living in a pious way.

One day when Devadatha went to forest to collect Dhurbha grass, he met King Vikramadhithya who had lost his way in the forest. Devadatha helped the king by bringing out of the forest and helped him to reach his country.

King Vikramadhithya was very pleased with Devadatha, presented him with lots of money as well as a small job in his court. The king never forgot the help rendered by Devadatha and used to mention to his friends, that what little he does can never compensate for the help rendered to him by Devadatha at the proper time.

Devadatha wanted to test the greatness of the king. So one day he took the son of Vikramadhithya to his house and through his servant sent the ornaments of the prince for sale in the market. Since the police were searching for the prince they suspected Devadatha and produced him before the king. Before the king Devadatha admitted that he has killed the prince due to avarice. Though all ministers of the king advised him to award capital punishment to Devadatha, the king left him free citing the great help rendered by Devadatha to him. Then Devadatha went home and brought back the prince and entrusted him to the king. He told the king that he did this only to test the greatness of Vikramadhithya.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing.

The story of Chithrarekha and also four gems as told by Sampradayavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the twenty ninth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the twenty ninth step by Sampradayavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

King Vikramadhithya was so great that he never saw any differences

between beings and helped them all. Because of this the Devas and Gods helped him always. Don't you know that once a man takes a firm decision Gods would help him? Have you heard the story of princess Chithrarekha regarding this? When king Bhoja feigned ignorance of the story of the princess the doll started telling the story of Chithrarekha. Chithrarekha was the pretty princess of the country called Pundravardhanam. In that country lived a great carpenter and weaver. They were very close friends. One day the weaver happened to see Chithrarekha and fell in love instantly with her. But he was told by the people of the country that the princess had decided to marry Lord Vishnu and no one else. When with great dejection the weaver told this to his carpenter friend, he promised to help. The carpenter built a flying doll of garuda, the eagle on which Lord Vishnu rides. The weaver himself weaved remarkably great yellow silk cloth. Then he dressed himself as Lord Vishnu and flew in to the terrace of the palace in which Chithrasena lived. Chithrarekha thought that he was Lord Vishnu and treated him with reverence and informed him her wish to marry him. The weaver gladly agreed and the marriage and it was performed the Gandharwa way. From then on daily the weaver used to visit the princess at night. Due to her bodily changes, her friends informed the king, that there was something wrong with the princess. When the parents confronted her, the princess told that Lord Vishnu was her husband and he was daily visiting her at night. He asked her parents to hide in the terrace and watch coming of Lord Vishnu. When they saw the weaver dressed in silk coming on flying Garuda, they were convinced. But the king started becoming very proud that Lord Vishnu himself was his son in law. So he stopped paying tribute to his emperor. The emperor, who was very strong, came with a large army to attack him. Then the king approached Chithrasena and asked her to request Lord Vishnu to save her father. The weaver readily agreed and started towards the army of the emperor. Seeing this the devas went to Lord Vishnu and appraised him of the situation and also told that if the weaver was defeated all human beings would lose faith in Lord Vishnu.

Lord Vishnu was convinced and riding on Garuda, he exterminated the army of the emperor using his Chakra. The weaver was pleasantly surprised.

Ending the story like this Sampradayavalli doll continued with the story of king Vikramadhithya. Once king Vikramadhithya thought that there was no point in keeping great riches. So he decided to give it all away to the needy people. He sent invitations to all Gods. Among them he sent a poor learned Brahmin to invite the God of the sea. The Brahmin went to the sea, prayed God of the sea and told him that he has been invited by king Vikramadhithya. Nothing happened and was returning. The God of the sea took a human form and approached that Brahmin. He told him that due to his position he cannot attend any function in earth. So he gave him 4 gems to him, which were to be delivered to king Vikramadhithya as his present. The first gem would get all wealth that is desired. The second gem would give the food that is desired. The third one would give a powerful army and the fourth one would give luxurious home, dresses, wealth etc. When he gave them to the king, he told that he was happy with the present but wanted to give one of those to the Brahmin. The Brahmin wanted to consult his family before making the choice. While his son wanted gem giving army, he himself preferred that which would give wealth. His wife preferred that which would give food while his daughter in law preferred that which would give luxuries. Not able to take any decision the Brahmin went and told the king that he does not want any of them. Understanding the reason, the king gave him all the four gems.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing.

The story of the wild boar as told by Rukhmanivalli doll

Retold by

P.R.Ramachander

On the thirtieth day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the thirtieth step by Rukhmanivalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

One day when Vikramadhithya was meeting with several great princes, a hunter rushed in and told Vikramadhithya "Sir, In the Anjana Mountain a huge wild boar has come. We are scared because of it. Please help us and save us."

Immediately the king along with all the princes left for Anjana Mountain in search of the wild boar. With lot of difficulty they found it and started chasing it. All the princes were not able to follow the boar but Vikrama gave a good chase and saw it enter a cave. Vikrama followed the boar in side. There he saw a shining town made of gold. He went on touring the town till he reached a palace. When he entered the palace, he saw a great king sitting there. That king introduced himself as Maha Bali the son of Virochana. When Vikramadhithya introduced himself, king Bali expressed great happiness in being able to receive such an honoured guest. Vikrama told the king that the pleasure was his because he has been able to meet Bali, with whom the Lord Vishnu himself came to beg. Maha Bali enquired with Vikrama as to why he has come. When he said he came simply, Maha Bali told him that he himself wanted to see the great king Vikramadhithya and sent a wild boar to bring him here. Then Maha Bali wanted king Vikramadhithya to ask for any present of

his choice. When Vikramadhithya told him that he needed nothing, Maha Bali gave him a juice drinking which an old man will become a youth and an acid by pouring which everything will become gold. King Vikramadhithya accepted the presents. While on his way back a poor very old Brahmin and his son met him and asked him for wealth. When king Vikramadhithya told that he has nothing except the juice which will make old ones young and an acid which would make all metals in to gold. He asked them to choose one of them. The old man wanted the juice and the Youngman the acid. When they were not able to take any decision, king Vikramadhithya gave both the juice and acid to them and returned to his kingdom. That was the generosity of our king.

The doll then told, “Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing.

The story of eight deva maidens as told by Neethivakyavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the thirty first day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. He was stopped on the thirty first step by Neethivakyavalli doll. It told him that he does not have great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is not fit to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, “Doll please tell me about the greatness of Vikramadhithya. The doll started telling the following story.

Vikramadhithya had a very wise minister called Budhisindhu. He had a son called Anarghala. Like all young people Anarghala was wasting away his time in empty pursuits. So one day Budhisindhu called his son and told him about the need for utilizing his time properly and learn all that has to be learnt. Anarghala realized that what his father was advising was correct and went to the northern part in search of a teacher. He found a good one and learned all that needs to be learned. Afterwards, he was returning to his own country. On the way he found a lake and by the side of it a very pretty temple. Half the lake had warm water and the other half cold water. Anarghala decided to spend his night by the side of the temple. That night eight deva maidens rose from the warm water side of the lake, went to the temple and did pooja. The God came in person and talked with them. Later when they were going back, they invited Anarghala to accompany them and jumped inside the lake. Since Anarghala was afraid of jumping in the lake, he did not follow them. Later when he went to his home and later Visited Vikramadhithya, he told him about this incident. King Vikrama immediately visited the lake and the temple along with Anarghala. He also saw the eight deva maidens and was invited to follow them. Without any hesitation he jumped in to the water and reached along with them to their golden house. All of them were greatly appreciative of the valour of Vikramadhithya and offered him of their services. They told him they were the eight occult powers, Anima, Garima, Mahima, etc. When Vikramadhithya said he was not interested, they converted their powers as eight gems and gave them to him. They said that anyone having those gems will have those powers.

While he was returning he met an old man who was completely neglected by his family members. Taking pity on him king Vikramadhithya gave all those eight gems to him. He was that generous.

The doll then told, "Oh king Bhoja, this is the greatness of Vikramadhithya who occupied this throne. If you think that you are

equal to him, then you can definitely go up. Bhoja returned back that day without further climbing.

The story of Shalivahana as told by Jnanaprakasavalli doll

Retold by
P.R.Ramachander

On the thirty second day Bhoja raja after his morning duties again started climbing on to the throne of Vikramadhithya. There was only one more step guarded by Jnanaprakasavalli doll. It told him that he has all great qualities of the king Vikramadhithya and is fit to occupy the throne. It invited him to occupy the throne. Then king Bhoja asked that doll, "Doll, please tell me how the great king Vikramadhithya died. The doll started telling the following story.

"In the shores of river Cauvery there was a town called Pallandupuri. There was very learned Brahmin called Ramakrishna in that town. At the right age he got married. But the astrologers told him that a son born to him in the month of Chithra on a Friday and with the star Rohini after twelve years would become one of the greatest people on earth. So he immediately left his wife and undertook a pilgrimage for twelve years. He was returning on the appointed night to home to meet his wife. There was a sudden floods and he was stopped in Prathishtanapuri. There he told about his problem to a potter. The potter told him that he has an unmarried eligible daughter who would be willing to bear his child. That night he spent with the potter's daughter and later went home. After ten months the potter's daughter bore a son and he was named as Shalivahana.

The boy Shalivahana was extremely intelligent and had an extreme fascination towards pottery. From the time he was a child he started making dolls of soldiers, cavalry, infantry, soldiers of elephant regiment,

chariots, weapons and so on. When he grew up he became such a wise man that the king Viswanatha Raja appointed him as his second minister. That king was paying tribute to king Vikramadhithya. Shalivahana the minister stopped paying Tribute. When Vikramadhithya sent his emissaries he haughtily replied them, "If emperor is capable let him wage a war against me and take away the tribute."

When he heard this Vikramadhithya got very angry and marched with all his army towards the kingdom of Viswanatha Raja. Shalivahana sprayed magical water on his dolls and crores of them came alive, pounced on the armies of Vikramadhithya and killed them. Realizing that his end was near, Vikramadhithya tried to flee. Then Shalivahana send a mud arrow against him. That arrow cut off the head of king Vikramadhithya and it fell amidst his queens. They all died in the pyre that was lit to burn Vikramadhithya. Afterwards Shalivahana ruled over Ujjaini for a very long time."

Then the doll told king Bhoja to occupy the throne of Vikramadhithya. It also told him that all the 32 dolls are now free of their curse and would return to heavens. King Bhoja asked the doll about the nature of the curse. Then the doll told, "We were all the maid servants of Goddess Parvathi. When once Lord Shiva entered her chamber he saw us and looked at us with passionate eyes. This infuriated Goddess Parvathi, who cursed us to become dolls as we stood in front of Lord Shiva like the dolls. When we begged for forgiveness, she told us to become dolls in the throne of King Vikramadhithya, tell the story of that great king, to king Bhoja and then return to her. Since our job is over we are returning. Do you need any boon king?"

King Bhoja replied, "I personally do not need anything as God has blessed me with all that I need. I request you to bless all those who hear the stories of Vikramadhithya which were told by you to me, to live with peace, happiness and valour." The dolls gave him the boon and vanished.

King Bhoja kept the idol of Lord Shiva on the throne and did pooja to it. As soon as it was over the throne rose up to heavens and vanished.

After that king Bhoja ruled his kingdom in a just manner for a long long time.