

# Bharat and Bahubali



King Rushabhdev had two wives named Sumangala and Sunanda. With Sumangala, he had ninety-nine sons and one daughter. The oldest son was Bharat, and the daughter's name was Brahmi. With the second wife, Sunanda, he had one son named Bahubali and one daughter named Sundari.



All of them had proper training in different arts and crafts. Bharat became a great warrior and a politician. Bahubali was tall, well built, and strong. He was known for his mighty arms.



Brahmi attained a very high level of literary proficiency. She developed the first known script, which came to be known as Brahmi script. Sundari became very proficient in mathematics. After Lord Rushabhdev attained omniscience, both Brahmi and Sundari renounced worldly life and became his disciples.



As a king, Rushabhdev had responsibility for a large geographical area in his kingdom. At the time of his renouncement, he handed over the city of Vinita, also known as Ayodhya, to Bharat and the city of Taxshila to Bahubali. To the remaining 98 sons, he gave different parts of his vast kingdom.



Bharat quickly established a firm hold over Vinita. He organized a strong army, and one day, a divine miraculous wheel, known as Chakraratna, appeared in the army base. When used, it will serve the purpose. Its appearance symbolizes that he who has it should conquer six nations. Then he embarked upon his journey of conquest.



In those days, there was hardly anyone who could withstand his well-equipped army. Therefore he could easily conquer the regions around Vinita. He turned his attention towards his brothers and ask them to acknowledge his superiority. Then all when to Lord Rushabhdev to ask for advice.



Bhagawan explained about conquering inner enemies, such as passions, and not the external ones. He also advised on attaining liberation, a true kingdom. They all realized the futility of fighting with their elder brother, so they surrendered their territories to him, renounced worldly life, and became disciples of Lord Rushabhdev.



Now only Bahubali remained. Bharat approached him. Bahubali felt that if he gave his kingdom to his father, he would live independently of any superiors. Therefore, when he received Bharat's request to accept a subordinate status, he refused to accept that type of status and began preparations to fight. Both brothers were strong and had a large army, and the war between the two was sure to result in large-scale bloodshed.



The ministers on both sides tried to persuade them not to fight, but neither would give up their ground. The war thus seemed inevitable, and both brothers brought their armies face to face with each other. Everyone trembled at the casualties that were going to happen due to the imminent war.



Once again, the ministers tried to persuade the kings advising them, not to go to large-scale war but to fight each other and avoid unnecessary bloodshed. Both of them agreed. They suggested they would engage in a duel, and whoever was superior would be declared the victor. The first fight was to look at each other's eyes without blinking, and whoever blinks first loses.



It lasted for a few minutes, but Bharat blinked.  
He lost that fight.

**WINNER**



The second fight was to get into a pool, splash water at each other, and see who would flinch. Bharat splashed first, but Bahubali did not flinch.



Now was Bahubali's turn. When he splashed, Bharat flinched. Bharat lost again.

**WINNER**



The third fight was wrestling. Bahubali lifted Bharat and, as he was about to drop him, he stopped because he could not do that to his brother.



He put him on his shoulders and then slowly let him down. The crowd praised Bahubali's victory. Bharat could not take it, so in anger, he ordered the miraculous wheel to kill Bahubali.



Bahubali became mad at Bharat's behavior and therefore thought of punching him with his mighty fist. As he raised his hand, the crowd trembled with the idea of Bharat's imminent death.



However, Bahubali thought,

"What am I doing? Am I going to kill my brother for the sake of worldly possessions? My other brothers have given up their kingdom, and what am I doing?"

He could not turn back his raised hand, so he used it to pull out his hair as a symbol of giving up everything and renounced worldly life. He left the scene.



Bahubali thought that if he went to the assembly of Rushabhdev, he would have to bow down to his younger brothers, who had become monks earlier. He could not bow to them, so instead, he went to the forest to meditate by himself. He stood on the same spot for a long time. He was so focused he did not move at all, so creepers grew on his feet and up to his upper body. (About one thousand years ago, a gigantic fifty-seven feet standing statue of Bahubali in meditation had been carved from one stone on the hill of Vindhyagiri at Shravan Belgola, in Mysore State.)



A year passed by, but Bahubali did not attain enlightenment. He could not attain it because he could not give up his ego. At last, Lord Rushabhdev, out of compassion, sent Brahmi and Sundari to bring him to the right path. They came to the place where Bahubali was meditating. Seeing the mighty brother standing like a rock, they calmly asked him to get off the elephant. Bahubali realized a familiar voice. He did not understand what they were talking about.

"What elephant?"

he said.



He then realized that he was riding on the elephant of ego. He immediately let go of his ego and decided to go to the Rushabhdev. As soon he took the first step, he attained Kevaljnan.



We must not be  
greedy, angry, and  
have an ego.

