



Sati Mrugwati

Long ago in the kingdom of Kausambhi, there lived a king called Shathanik. His queen Mrugwati was very beautiful. They had a son and were living very happy together.

He was a good and kind king and his kingdom was very happy. One day King Chandrapradyot of Ujjain declared war on this happy and peaceful kingdom. On getting the message from Chandrapradyot, Shatnik was very troubled, and soon he fell ill and died.

Queen Mrugavati was very worried and afraid. She knew that the King of Ujjain would trouble her and would try and kidnap her. She was a courageous woman and asked her ministers to shut the gates of Kaushambi. King Chandrapradyot tried to capture the city and Queen Mrugavati. He wanted to take her with him to his kingdom. He sent the message to her that he will leave if she would go with him and marry him. Seeing this Mrugavati sent a message to him, saying, "I have a small

child. I want to protect the kingdom but the fort (castle) is old and enemies will invade it. Send me strong bricks that are produced in Ujjain. Make my fort strong with your bricks. I will then make my kingdom self-sufficient and then I shall be with you." This was just a trick. She wanted to buy time hoping something good might happen. Chandrapradyot agreed to the demands of the queen and the fort was reinforced.

Six months were soon over. A messenger from Ujjain came to warn the queen and remind her that she had to come to the king. This time the Queen sent back a message that she would not marry the King Chandrapradyot. "Tell your king," She said "I can not be his." Hearing this, the king was very angry. In anger he set out with his huge army to fight the kingdom of Kausambhi. They had a terrible battle and many people died.

While this war was going on, Tirthankar Lord Mahavira came in that area. Queen Mrugawati came to know his arrival and saw the hope to escape from this king. She quietly slipped out of the fort to go for Mahavira's darshan (pay homage to him). Meanwhile, King Chandrapradyot who had a high respect for Mahavira also came to pay his homage to him. Mahavira was giving a sermon on Ahimsa and was telling how war kills many innocent people just to satisfy the ego or the whims of one or a few. War brings nothing but sorrow on both sides. King Chandrapradyot was moved by this sermon. Both queen and king were sorry that so many people had died and they laid down their arms and stopped fighting. Queen Mrugawati took this chance and stood up and declared her desire to renounce this worldly life and to take diksha. King Chandrapradyot realized his fault and asked for her forgiveness. The king Chandrapradyot went

back, leaving the kingdom of Kausambhi alone to her young son.

We must not fight. If we follow Ahinsa we can all be happy.