

King Sanjay



Sanjay was the king of Kampilya and was very powerful.



Once, he was on a hunting expedition, and his servants were also with him. He saw and chased an antelope and managed to hit it with his arrow. The antelope fell near ascetic Gardhabali. The king, in search of antelope, came near the ascetic.



The monk was in deep meditation, and the king found the antelope lying dead near him. He thought that the antelope belonged to the monk and that he would curse him. The king felt afraid and begged pardon. He was repenting for his unwise hunting, bowed before the monk, and said,

"Forgive me, sir!"



The monk was silent and absorbed in meditation. Shivering in fear, the king said,

"Sir, you can defeat millions of men to ashes with your anger. I am Sanjay. Kindly have mercy on me. Forgive me for my mistake."



Monk Gardhbali looked at the king and said,

"Be without fear, my king, but grant safety to others also. You will have to leave this world one day. Why are you attached to your kingdom? You love sensual pleasures and beauty, but you don't know what will benefit you in your next life. Your wife, children, and relatives are dependant on you, but none will follow you after your death. Only good or bad actions follow a person after their death. The material wealth is enjoyed by others. One has to bear the consequences of his bad karmas."



The king found his true path in the words of the monk. To him, worldly pleasures appeared meaningless. He left the kingdom to become a monk, studied Dharma, and observed austerities.

