

# Nal & Damyanti



Long, long ago, in the kingdom of Ayodhya lived a good king called Nal. He was very noble and brave, and his subjects liked him because he was a wise ruler.



The king married the most beautiful Princess Damyanti, the daughter of King Bhim. She was also very wise and kind, and the two were very happy together. The kingdom was peaceful.



King Nal had one terrible fault. He was very fond of gambling, which is a bad habit and it can make clever and wise people make mistakes. Gamblers often give away things that are very precious to them and do not think before they act. One day, King Nal began gambling with his younger brother, Kubar. The young prince Kubar was cunning and jealous that his brother ruled the kingdom as he wanted to be king.



The two brothers gambled for very long, and King Nal began losing but would not give up. He lost all his money, and yet he did not want to stop. So, without thinking, he put his kingdom Ayodhya as a bet. The mean and jealous Kubar won the kingdom from him. King Nal should have stopped gambling, but he was not thinking clearly and wanted to go on. He did not care what would happen as long as he kept playing. The mean brother Kubar asked Nal to leave the kingdom since he lost again, so King Nal agreed.



His wife, Queen Damyanti, went along with him, and together they went to the forest. King Nal did not want his wife to suffer, so he quietly slipped away at night while she was sleeping. He thought because she was alone, the queen would go to her father's palace.



Queen Damyanti was very sad when she noticed that the king had left, so she went to search for her husband. She searched far and wide but could not find him. Her life became even more difficult because many people were very cruel to her. Her father, King Bhim, finally found her and convinced her to come back to his palace.



In the meantime, King Nal had traveled very far and reached the kingdom of Dhathiparye. He pretended to be a charioteer and began working for its king. He kept thinking about his wife, Queen Damyanti. She also kept thinking about him, hoping to get him back.



Damayanti and her father came through with a plan. They arranged a swayamvar for her. A swayamvar is a ceremony in which a princess chooses her husband among all those who are present.



The time given for all the kings and princes to reach the kingdom was very little. Damayanti and her father knew that only a clever charioteer could arrive in such little time. King Nal, the best charioteer of his time, heard the news and raced to King Bhim's kingdom. Finally, King Nal and Damyanti were back together. They regained Ayodhya.



We must think  
before we act.

