

# Sati Mrugwati



Long ago, in the kingdom of Kausambhi, lived a king called Shathanik. His queen Mrugwati was very beautiful. They had a son and were living happily together. He was a good and kind king, and his people were satisfied.



One day King Chandrapradyot of Ujjain declared war on this happy and peaceful kingdom. Upon getting the message from Chandrapradyot, Shatnik got upset, and soon he fell ill and died.



Queen Mrugwati was very worried and afraid and knew that the king of Ujjain would try to kidnap her. She was a courageous woman and asked her ministers to shut the gates of Kaushambi as King Chandrapradyot was trying to capture the city and Queen Mrugwati. He wanted to take her with him to his kingdom.



He sent the message to her that he would only leave if she married him. Seeing this, Mrugwati sent a message to him, saying,

"I have a small child. I want to protect the kingdom, but the castle is old, and enemies will invade it. Send me strong bricks from Ujjain to make my fort strong. I will then make my kingdom self sufficient and 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, so a messenger from Ujjain came to remind the queen that she had to marry the king. This time the queen sent back a message that she would not marry King Chandrapradyot.

"Tell your king,"

She said,

"I can not be his queen."



Hearing this, the king got angry and set out with his army to fight the kingdom of Kausambhi. They had a terrible battle where many people died.



While this war was going on, Tirthankar Lord Mahavira came into the area. Queen Mrugawati came to know his arrival and saw the chance to escape this king. She quietly slipped out of the fort to pay homage to Mahavira. Meanwhile, King Chandrapradyot, who had high respect for Mahavira, also came to pay respects to him.



Mahavira was giving a sermon on Ahinsa and was telling how wars kill many innocent people, only to satisfy the ego of one or a few. War brings nothing but sorrow on both sides. King Chandrapradyot was moved by this sermon. Both the queen and king were sorry that so many people had died, and they laid down their guns and stopped fighting.



Queen Mrugwati took this chance and stood up to declare her desire to renounce this worldly life. King Chandrapradyot realized his fault and asked for her forgiveness. The king went back, leaving the kingdom of Kausambhi alone to the queen's young son.



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

