

# Vasavadatta and Upagupta



Long, long ago, in the city of Mathura lived a lovely woman called Vasavadatta. She could sing and talk well, and everybody liked to be with her. She was very proud of her beauty.



One day, a young saint called Upagupta came to her house to ask for alms. She invited him in to live together, but Upagupta refused as he was a saint. All that he was interested in was his religion. He came to her house a second time, and she invited him again,

"We could be together."

she said.

"One day, we will be."

he replied and  
went on his way.



Many years passed, and Vasavadatta started losing her beauty. She became poor as she wasted all her money. Sadly, she had a terrible disease that used to make her smell, so everybody left her. No one liked to be with her anymore, so they threw her out of the city.



Outside she was all alone and scared, but suddenly Upagupta saw her. He picked her body up and took her to his small cottage, where he took care of her.



When she saw him, she tried to run away from him. She said that she was a guilty person and not fit to be taken care of by him. She was a sinner, a bad person. Upagupta just smiled and said she was no longer a sinner.

"You have realized all the bad things that you have done, and now you feel sorry for your actions. You have given up your pride."



He asked her to say that she was no longer a body but a pure soul. Vasavadatta repeated those words, and then she died.



We must not be proud  
of ourselves as it  
makes us do bad things.

