

The Demon and the Dancer

Once upon a time, there was a **demon** who was very clever. He studied and worked very hard. Soon he knew all that there was to know.

However, that was not enough for him. He wanted to be the most powerful being in the world.

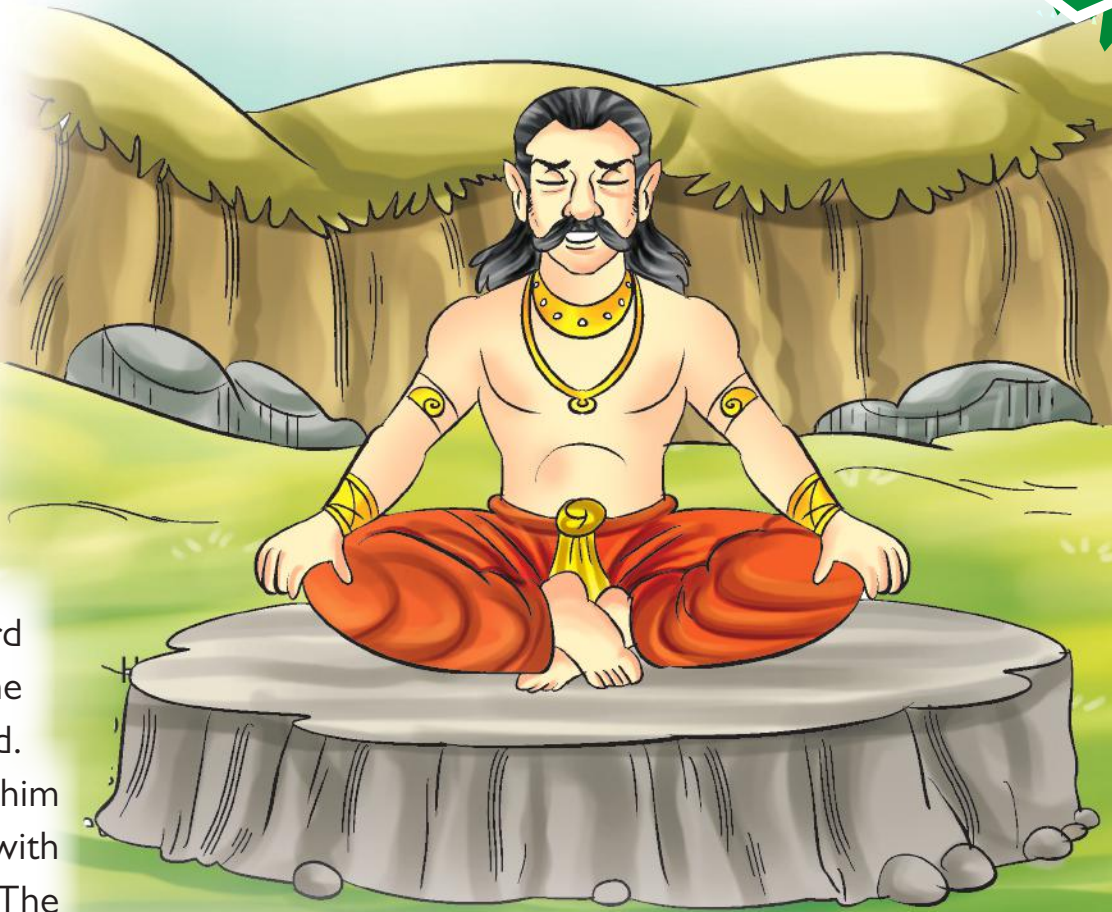
So he went into the forest. He prayed so hard and for so long that the God of power was moved. The God appeared before him and said, "I am pleased with you! What do you want?" The demon opened his eyes and fell at the God's feet.

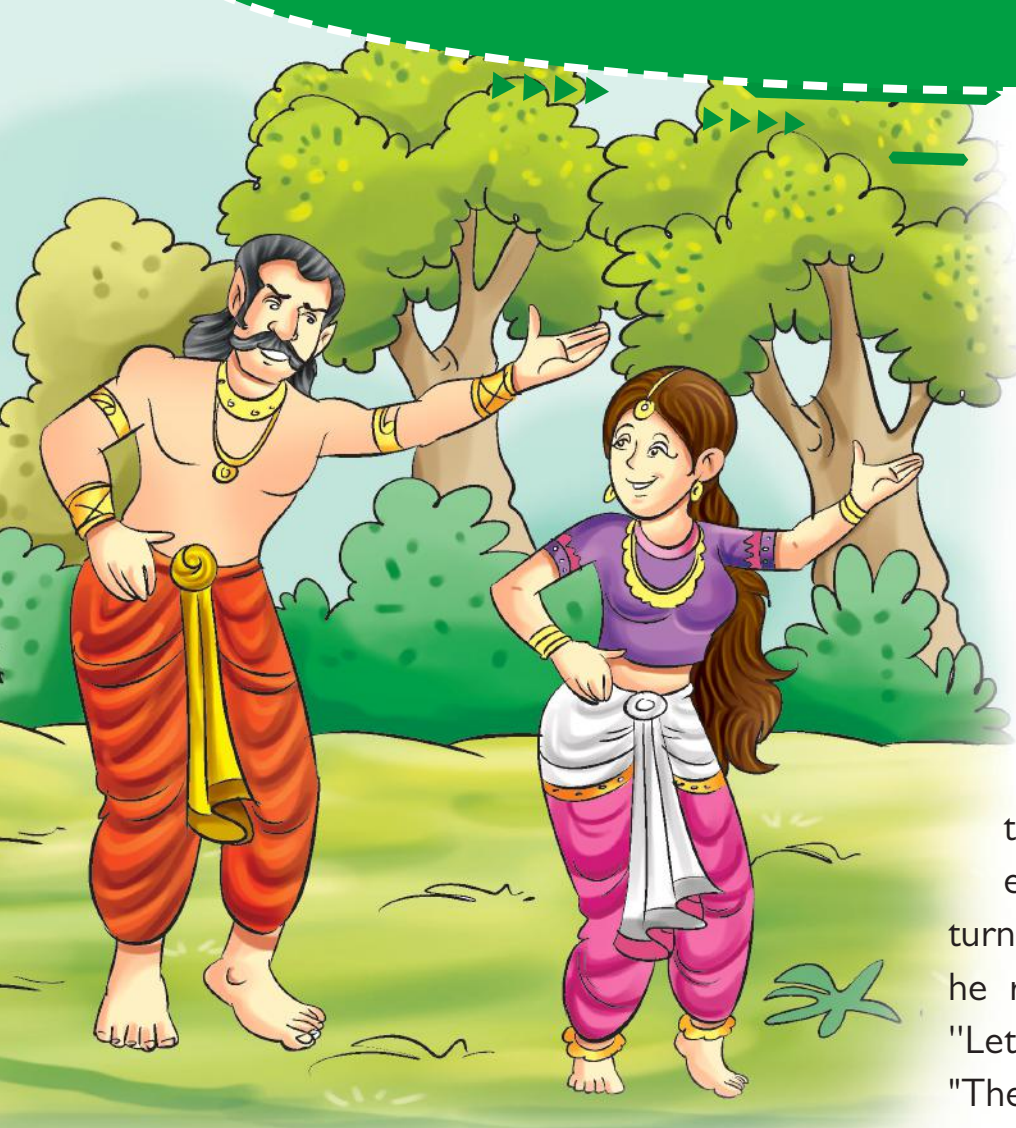
"Not much, my Lord! I just want to be the most powerful person in the world."

"How do you want to be powerful?" the God wanted to know. "Do you want to be the strongest? Do you want to be the wisest?"

The young demon had thought it all out. He wanted to be strong and powerful. He also wanted to live forever and control everyone.

So he said, "Lord please grant me a wish. Whenever I place my hand on someone's head that person should at once be reduced to **ashes**."





The God was worried about giving somebody such a *nasty* and powerful weapon. However, since he had *given the demon his word* he had to grant the wish. So the young demon know as Bhasmasura - the demon of ashes.

Bhasmasura went with his power. He first went around the forest touching animals on the head and reducing them to ashes. Then he began to touch every living being on the head, turning them to ashes. After that he ran around the world shouting, "Let me see who can defeat me." "The people of the world got very *frightened*. They didn't know how to

control this demon. So they hide in their houses and prayed that something would happen to stop him".

Now there was one thing that Bhasmasura enjoyed very much - he loved to dance. One day when he was walking through the town, he suddenly heard the tinkling of *anklets*. Bhasmasura turned towards the sound and stood still.

He saw a young woman dancing most gracefully. The dancer too saw him and instead of running away in terror, she asked, "Can you dance like me?"

"Of course, I can," said Bhasmasura.

"Then do what I do," said the dancer.

That was enough for Bhasmasura. He started dancing as gracefully as the young woman. The dancer whirled around and bent down and so did he. She touched her feet and straightened up. He did the same. She did all kinds of actions and Bhasmasura copied each one of them. Then she put her hand on her head and *twirled* around. Bhasmasura did the same!

What do you think happened next? In a second, Bhasmasura was reduced to a pile of ashes.

People rushed out to celebrate. They wanted to thank the young dancer. They looked around for her but they couldn't find her anywhere! As it was God himself in disguise of a dancer.

Word Treasure

ashes : the powder remaining after burning

given his word : make promised

anklets : a chain or band wore round the ankle

whirled : move rapidly round and round

twirled : turned around quickly and lightly.

nasty : unpleasant

frightened : cause to be afraid



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. Why did Bhasmasura call with this name?

a. He was a good dancer

b. He was the king of fire and ashes

c. Everything he touched turned in ashes

2. What did happen when Bhasmasura got the power?

a. He became dangerous

b. He became mad

c. He became a helpful person

3. In order to defeat Bhasmasura, the young dancer used :

a. Physical strength

b. Magic

c. Trickery

4. Bhasmasura saw a young woman :

a. Dancing

b. Sitting

c. Sleeping

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. The demon got his name Bhasmasura because of his wish.

2. Bhasmasura helped the people with his power.

3. Everything touched by Bhasmasura turned into flowers.
4. Bhasmasura saw a young women sitting in a forest.
5. Bhasmasura was turned into ashes.

C. Who said to whom :

1. "How do you want to be powerful?" _____ said to _____
2. "Let me see who can defeat me" _____ said to _____
3. "Can you dance like me?" _____ said to _____

D. Answer the following questions :

1. What did the Bhasmasura ask to God to grant him?
2. What does the word "Bhasmasura" mean?
3. Why did the people get frightened with Bhasmasura's power?
4. What did Bhasmasura heard while walking through the town?
5. How did the people get rid of Bhasmasura?

Fun with Words

E. Find out differently pattern words :

Tear	Near	Pair	Dear
Power	Tower	Shower	Flower
Dash	Bash	Cash	Splash
Wept	Kept	Crept	Slept

F. Here we have given some qualities. Find these qualities in your friends and write their name in front of the given words.

Angry	-	_____	Weak	-	_____
Simple	-	_____	Shy	-	_____
Rude	-	_____	Polite	-	_____
Naughty	-	_____	Proud	-	_____
Helpful	-	_____	Confident	-	_____

Essential Grammar

G. Choose the nouns in the given sentences and write their types :

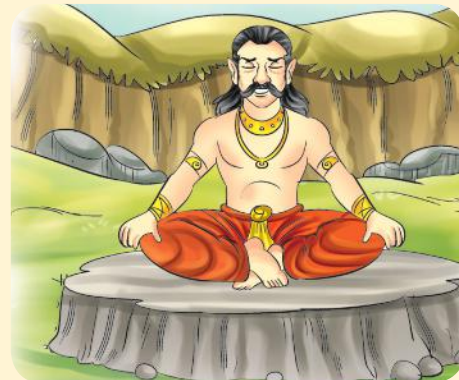
1. The audience listened to the music spellbound. (Collective Noun)
2. The woodcutter's honesty impressed the fairy. _____
3. Sohan lives in a city. _____
4. The shepherd looks after his herd of sheep. _____
5. We fought for our freedom. _____
6. Sachin Tendulkar is a cricketer. _____

H. Fill in the blanks with the Abstract Nouns made with the words given in brackets :

1. Soloman was famous for his _____. (wise)
2. Always speak the _____. (true)
3. We all love _____. (honest)
4. The elephant has great _____. (strong)
5. Without health there is no _____. (happy)
6. I believe in her _____. (innocent)
7. I often think of the happy days of my _____. (child)
8. A slave knows no _____. (free)
9. She accepted our _____. (invite)
10. The headmaster gave him _____ for telling a lie. (punish)

Essential Writing

I. Write four lines describing bhasmasura devil. Write about the dress, ornaments and weapons of the devil.



Essential Speaking

J. Read the conversation :

- Boy : Excuse me, mam.
Lady : Yes.
Boy : Did you drop this money?
Lady : Drop what?
Boy : This money. I've found it. Is it yours?
Lady : Let me check, child.
Boy : Please check.
Lady : Yes its mine. I didn't know how I dropped it.
Boy : It is ok, mam.
Lady : Thank you, child.

Fun to Do

K. Read the clues fill the puzzle :

1. Unable to see
2. Discover
3. Crush into small pieces
4. Treats other well
5. Wrap up tightly
6. Moving air

