

Vrata Kathas for each Planet (Graha)

Do Note:- VRATA (pronunciation: vrat or brat) denotes a religious practice to carry out certain obligations with a view to achieve divine blessing for fulfilment of one or several desires. It's a Sanskrit word, meaning "to vow or to promise". A vrata may consist of one or more of several actions. Such actions may include complete or partial fasting on certain specific days; a pilgrimage (tirtha) to a particular place or places; a visit, darshan and puja at a particular temple or temples; recitation of mantras and prayers; performing puja and havans. Vratas assists the person doing the vrata to achieve and fulfil his desires as performing vratas are supposed to bring the divine grace and blessing.

Suryadeva's (Sunday) Vrat Katha

Once there was an old lady. She would get up early in the morning and take her bath. She kept her house clean by plastering it with cow dung, and took her meals only after offering food to the Sun Deity. She lived a happy life. This lady used to collect cow dung from her neighbour's house. The neighbour's wife was jealous of her. She tethered her cow inside the room so that the old lady could not collect the dung and as she could not plaster her house with cow-dung, she did not cook her food. She did not even offer food to the Deities. She remained on fast throughout the day and slept with empty stomach.

The Sun Deity appeared before her in her dream. He told, Why did not you take your meals? Why did you not offer food to the Deities? The old lady said politely, My neighbour's lady did not allow me to collect cow-dung from her house so I could not clean my house. I have no cow of my own. Suryadeva said, I am very happy with you because you kept fasts on Sunday for me very strictly and I am pleased with your worship so I shall give you a beautiful cow with a calf. Then Suryadeva disappeared. When the old lady opened her eyes she saw a beautiful cow with a calf in her courtyard. She was so surprised to see them and very quickly she arranged hay and water for them. When the neighbour's lady saw the cow in the old lady's courtyard, she became jealous of her. She also noticed that the cow's dung was of gold and not an ordinary dung. She took the gold dung and replaced it with the ordinary dung of her cow. She continued the replacing practice for a number of days. The Sun God noted that the old lady was being cheated by her neighbour. He caused a storm at sun-set. The old lady tethered her cow inside her room for its safety. She was, however, surprised to see that her cow gave her gold dung instead of an ordinary one. She could see through her neighbour's trick.

The neighbour's lady was constantly jealous and thought of a plan to deprive the old lady of the "wonder" cow. She went to the king and said, "My Lord, a poor old lady in our neighbourhood has a divine cow as the cow gives gold dung. It would be befitting for your graciousness if this cow is with you. She keeps it inside her room. No one can have even its glimpse". The king was a greedy person. He told his courtier, "Go immediately and bring the old lady". The old lady was just about to offer food to Suryadeva when the courtier reached her house. He untied the rope from the peg and took away the cow. The lady prayed and wept, but all in vain. The old lady missed her meals that day. She prayed to her Deity for the safe return of the cow. She could not sleep at night. The king on the other hand, was highly pleased to have that divine cow. That night, he had a dream of the Sun Deity who said, "I offered this cow to the old lady as a token of my affection for her worship of me. You do not deserve this cow".

The king immediately woke up and was badly shaken. He saw that the entire palace was full of cow dung. There was a bad smell all around. In the morning, the king sent for the old

lady with due honour. He returned the cow to the old lady and also gave her some wealth. The neighbour's lady was suitably punished which was a cause of relief to all. The king proclaimed order that all his subjects should observe fast on Sundays if they wanted their desires to be fulfilled. Now, all his people were prosperous. Illness never visited them. They never faced any natural calamity. Everyone enjoyed happiness.

One should read this katha every Sundays if one is observing a Sunday (Suryadeva) fast.

Thus ends Suryadeva's (Sunday) Vrat Katha

Chandradeva's (Monday) Vrat Katha

Once there lived a wealthy merchant. He always had immense wealth and prosperity. But despite all the worldly possessions, he remained sad because he had no son. He regularly observed the Monday fasts to have a son. He used to go to the Lord Shiva temple and worshipped Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati with full faith. Mother Parvati was pleased at his devotion. She implored Lord Shiva and said, "My Lord, this wealthy merchant is your faithful devotee. He regularly observes the Monday fast but still he has no son. Please fulfil his desire". Hearing the implorings of Parvati Devi, Lord Shiva said, "Let your desire be fulfilled. I shall grant him a boon. He will be the father of a son but he will live for twelve years only". Parvati Devi asked "But why, my Lord?". Fortunately, this wealthy merchant could hear their conversation. As time passed on, the merchants' wife gave birth to a beautiful son. He celebrated his sons birth with great pomp and show and distributed food, clothes and money among the poor. All prayed for his sons long and happy life. But the merchant was still sad because he knew that his son would not live beyond twelve years.

Yama, the Deity of Death, spares none. Knowing what the situation was, the merchant started observing the Monday fast with greater zest and there was no let up in his worship to Lord Shiva. He practised all the rites of worship. At the age of eleven, the merchants' son looked quite smart and mature. All desired that he should be married to a beautiful girl. The merchants' wife also wanted her son's marriage and she insisted for it again and again. The merchant did not agree to this proposal. He sent for his brother-in-law and said, "Accompany my son to Kashi (Varanasi). Arrange for his best spiritual knowledge. Take enough money from my treasure. Arrange devotional gatherings on your way to Kashi at every halt and distribute alms among the beggars". The merchant's son started his journey for Kashi with his maternal uncle. They arranged devotional gatherings and distributed clothes at every halting camp. They also arranged the best eats for the Brahmans and made enough offerings to them.

One day they made a halt at the capital of a king. The king's daughters marriage was to take place that day. The marriage party had already reached the city. The bridegrooms party was terribly disturbed because the bridegroom was blind, of one eye. They were in search of a beautiful boy to replace him. The bridegrooms father sent his men in search of a beautiful boy. The men spotted the merchant's son who was camping in an inn with his maternal uncle. The bridegrooms father was a rich person. He said to the merchants maternal uncle, my prestige is at stake. I need a handsome bridegroom in place of my one-eyed son. I shall give enough wealth if your ward agrees to have a temporary marriage with the kings' daughter. He shall be free immediately after the marriage ceremony is over.

The merchants' brother-in-law convinced his sisters son for a temporary marriage. The brides party praised their luck when they saw a handsome bridegroom with the marching band at the head of the marriage procession. The merchants' son and the kings' daughter were married around the holy fire. At the time of departure, the merchants' son picked his

brides scarf and wrote, "Now we are husband and wife. I am not the son of a king. I am the son of a rich merchant. I was on way to Kashi for spiritual studies. Your real bridegroom is blind of one eye". The bride noticed her bridegroom writing something on the scarf. She could not read his message at that time. When the marriage party was about to depart, the bride read the message. She was shocked to know the reality. She refused to accompany with the one-eyed bridegroom. The marriage party returned without a bride. The merchants' son reached Kashi and devoted himself fully to the spiritual studies. His maternal uncle arranged devotional gatherings and gave donations everyday for the well-being of his sisters son. On the last day of the twelfth year, the merchants' son felt pain in the chest. His maternal uncle was performing the religious rites as per his routine. As he went inside the room, he found the boy dead. He was full of grief, but kept silent as the Brahman's would not accept food from such a house. With courage, he completed his routine. When his routine was over, he started crying. Many people gathered around him and shared his grief. Fortunately, Lord Shiva and Parvati were also passing by that house. When Parvati Devi heard the cries and beating of breast, her motherly compassion got aroused. She was a mother, after all. Having known the facts, she said to Lord Shiva, My dear, please ask Lord Yama to return his life. Lord Yama is always at your command. Please do this favour to me. You are the protector of all creatures. Lord Shiva agreed and sprinkled Ganga water on the dead body. The boy got up as if he was making an excuse for sleep.

The spiritual education of the merchants' son was over. They started their journey homeward. They arranged spiritual discourses and distributed aims among the needy throughout their way. Now, they were back in the city where this boy was married. The king recognised the boy immediately. He took him to his palace with full honour and on an auspicious day, he arranged to happy departure for his daughter. He also gave adequate dowry. The merchant's son reached his city along with his bride. His father could not believe it. He was sitting on the roof of a big mansion with his wife, waiting for his son. They had decided that they would not come down until their son supported them himself; otherwise they would commit suicide by jumping down the roof. So the merchant's son along with his bride went up to the roof. They touched their feet. The merchant and his wife were very happy to see the couple.

One should read this katha every Mondays if one is observing a Monday (Chandradeva) fast.

Thus ends Chandradeva's (Monday) Vrat Katha

Mangaldeva's (Tuesday) Vrat Katha

Once there lived a Brahman couple. They were issueless. So their life was very unhappy. The Brahman went to the jungles to appease Lord Hanuman. He would constantly pray for a child in his prayers. His wife used to observe fasts on Tuesdays to please Lord Hanuman. She used to take her food on Mondays only after offering Prasad to Lord Hanuman. Once she observed some special fast for the whole day. So she could not offer Prasad to Lord Hanuman. She was very sorry for it and felt guilty. She decided to observe a fast till the coming Tuesday. She said to herself that she would take her meals only after offering Prasad to Lord Hanuman. She became weak and fragile and even fainted due to the long fast. Lord Hanuman took pity on her and appeared before her in the guise of a child. Lord Hanuman said, I bless you with a beautiful son. He will always serve you, day and night. He then disappeared after blessing the lady.

Fortunately, the lady got a beautiful son. She named him Mangal. The Brahman returned

home after some months. He saw a handsome child playing in his courtyard. He became suspicious and said to his wife, "Whose child is this? Have you indulged in adultery?" The woman said politely, "My dear husband, I am a chaste lady. I used to observe the Tuesday fast in your absence to please Lord Hanuman. He has blessed me with this child. Please believe me". The Brahman kept quiet but deep in his heart, doubts began to curl up every moment. The lady was helpless. One day the Brahman was going to take his bath at some nearby well. The lady told him, "Please take Mangal along with you. He is quite grown-up. He will fetch water for your bath. He will also rub your back".

The Brahman agreed and took the boy along with him. He thought it would be a good occasion to push him into the well and to get rid of a sinful child for good. As the boy was fetching water, the Brahman pushed the boy into the well and returned home. To her great surprise, the woman noticed that the Brahman did not have wet dhoti on his shoulders. She said, "have you taken your bath"? The Brahman said, "Yes". The lady said, "Please give me your wet dhoti to enable me to spread it on the string". The Brahman was nonplussed. He had guilty conscience. He murmured some words and tried to leave the house. The wife said, "Where is my Mangal? Where is my Mangal? O! Mangal, appear before my eyes if I am a chaste lady and you are my true son".

To the great surprise of both the wife and the husband, Mangal appeared at the door. He embraced his mother and touched his fathers feet. That mighty Lord Hanuman appeared before the Brahman in his dreams and said, "O! Poor creature, I blessed you with a son, and you suspect your wife of adultery. You must feel apologetic for this lapse of yours". The Brahman realized his mistake and they both regularly observed fasts on Tuesdays. Thereafter they led a happy life. It's said that whosoever reads or listens to this katha and keeps regular fasts, Shree Hanumanji protects him/her from air evils and bestows all happiness.

One should read this katha every Tuesdays if one is observing a Tuesday (Mangaldeva) fast.

Thus ends Mangaldeva's (Tuesday) Vrat Katha

Budhadeva's (Wednesday) Vrat Katha

Once there was a newly-wed couple. On a Sunday, he went to his father-in-laws house to take his wife with him (Bidaai). It was the first time after marriage and he was welcomed by the in-laws and was provided with best food and bedding. His wife's friends cut jokes with him. He enjoyed their jokes and conversation. He forgot the outside world as he enjoyed the hospitality offered to him by his wife's younger brothers and sisters. Monday and Tuesday were spent in other pastimes. It was now Wednesday. He told his mother-in-law, "I have an urgent piece of work today. Please allow your daughter to come with me". The mother-in-law said "But today is Wednesday and Mercury is not favourable for girls on Wednesday. It's considered inauspicious sending daughters to their in-laws house. I shall not send my daughter today". The son-in-law said "I care about the malevolent effects of Mercury. He cannot harm me. Wednesday is very favourable for the businessmen like me. I have also very urgent piece of work at home". The mother-in-law said "You came here on Sunday. Monday was your hospitality day. The guest should enjoy only one days hospitality. You have over-stayed. This is not our fault. How could we ask you to leave on Tuesday? It was for you to decide. Now, please depart tomorrow for heavens sake".

The son-in-law was adamant. He insisted on leaving the same day. The in-laws read his mood and agreed to send their daughter with him. They arranged a chariot for the couple. Soon, the couple reached near a township. His wife was thirsty and said to her husband, "I

am very thirsty. Please arrange some cold water for me”. The husband agreed and went towards the township. Another young man resembling her husband brought water for her. She could not distinguish between the two. She took him for her husband and had a good chat with him. In the meanwhile, her real husband appeared on the scene. He was surprised to see his wife chatting and cutting jokes with someone else. He was annoyed at her conduct. The wife also felt bemused when she saw the like of her husband standing with a water pot in his hand. Both the males quarrelled among themselves and claimed the lady as their wife. Incidentally a police constable came there and wanted to know what the matter was. He said to the lady, “Who is your real husband”?

The lady said, “I am in a fix myself. They resemble each other so much”. The real husband felt sorry. He remembered his mother-in-laws words. The constable took them to the king and told the whole story. The king asked his minister to administer justice. The minister said to the constable, “It's late now and thus lock them up in separate cells and arrange strict night watch. I will give my judgement tomorrow”. All the three were locked up in separate cells. It was dead of night. Mercury had slept with no incidences. The real husband was very restless. He was repentant. He uttered loudly, “I am suffering for my pride and disobedience to my in-laws. Oh God, forgive me this time”. The guards were marking all these utterings. The next morning the minister sent for the guards and they both the men's behaviour.

The minister said, “The man who had a restless night is the real husband. His wife should be restored to him. He should be freed. Produce the second person in my court”. The guards went to the prison cell. They set free the real husband and his wife. They were happy to be together again. The guards went to fetch the other young man and they saw his cell was empty though locked from outside. They reported the matter to the minister. He was astonished to know that the cell was empty though locked from outside. He went to the senior minister and related the whole story. The senior minister smiled and said, “The missing prisoner is Mercury. Mercury rules on Wednesdays. This man challenged Mercury's authority. He felt offended and disguised himself as her husband to teach him a lesson. Today is Thursday. Jupiter rules on Thursdays. Mercury disappeared exactly at sunrise. Don't be afraid. The guards are not at fault”. The king was happy over his ministers judgement. The husband and wife reached home and related the whole story to their near and dear ones.

One should read this katha every Wednesdays if one is observing a Wednesday (Budhadeva) fast.

Thus ends Budhadeva's (Wednesday) Vrat Katha

Brihaspati-deva's (Thursday) Vrat Katha

Once Lord Indra (the King of the Heavens - Swargaloka), surrounded by many Celestials, Rishis, Kinnaras and Gandharvas sat on his throne in a proud mood. Lord Indra's guru Brihaspati-deva reached Swargaloka, and all of the higher beings except Lord Indra stood up to pay respect. Lord Indra normally pays respects (obeisances) to his guru regularly but he showed discourtesy and disrespect at that particular time. Lord Brihaspati-deva felt offended and departed Lord Indra's palace. As Brihaspati-deva left Swargaloka, Lord Indra realised his folly and repented over his actions. He felt that all his luxurious possessions were due to his Guru's blessings. Guru anger definitely turns all one's good karma to dust. Lord Indra decided to go to Brihaspati and tender apologies for his rash actions as it may pacify his Guru's anger. Lord Indra travelled to Brihaspati-deva's abode (the planet

Jupiter). Brihaspati intuited that Lord Indra was coming to his Ashram. He avoided meeting out of anger and disappeared immediately. Lord Indra returned home disappointed. The mighty demon Vrishvarsha, sensed this situation and went to his guru Shukracharya (The planet Venus – the enemy of Jupiter). He requested his Guru permission to attack Swargaloka, the kingdom of Lord Indra in those circumstances and Shukracharya very willing permitted him. The demon and his army surrounded Swargaloka and made a sudden attack. In the absence of Guru Brihaspati's blessings the Celestials lost all their battles one after the other.

After this defeat Lord Indra and the Celestials went to Lord Brahma and related the whole katha. They begged for safety and requested Lord Brahma(to devise a means to recapture their abodes again. Lord Brahma said, You have performed a maha guru aparadha (very great sin to one's preceptor (in this case, a Guru)) to Brihaspati-deva. My advice is to request the assistance of Vishwaroopa, the learned son of mighty demon Tvashta. Request him to become your priest and his blessings can save you. They went to Tvashta and sought his blessings. Tvashta said, “By becoming your priest I do not want to lessen my virtues. But you can go to my son Vishwaroopa. He will oblige you by accepting your request for priesthood”. All the Celestials went to Vishwaroopa and requested him to become their priest for performing Yajna. He accepted their request. By Vishwaroopa's grace demon Vrishvarsha was defeated and Lord India regained his kingdom. Lord India was very happy and he implored Vishwaroopa to perform a special Yajna (Havan) for further gains to which Vishwaroopa agreed. Vishwaroopa had three mouths. With one mouth he sucked the juice of “Soma rasa”. From the second mouth he used to drink wine. He used his third mouth for eating meals. Vishwaroopa started performing Yajna's and the demon race were very frightened, so they devised a plan to undo the Yajna effects. One of the demons went to Vishwaroopa and implored, “Honourable Sir, do you know that you belong to demon genealogy from your mother side. Your mother is the daughter of a mighty demon. While performing Yajna kindly make some offerings in the names of demons for their happiness”. Vishwaroopa agreed to his request. He made some silent offerings to demon races so that no one may hear it. The result was that the Yajna advantages were divided between the Celestials and the Asuras.

When Lord Indra came to know of this treachery he beheaded Vishwaroopa in a state of extreme anger. One of his mouth from which he took wine, turned into a black bee. The second which he used for sucking Soma rasa juice became a piglion (an extremely sexual being) while the third one used for taking meals was transformed into a partridge. Lord Indra's body was immediately deformed due to sacrilege, due to the murder of a Brahman. All the Celestials made repentance for one year but it had no effect on Lord Indra. They approached Lord Brahma for seeking some remedial measure to redeem Lord Indra from the sacrilege. Lord Brahma accompanied by Brihaspati went to Lord Indra. He decided the sacrilege act into four parts. The earth took some of the sin and thus some part of the earth became deserts, water took some of the sin and manifests that sin as bubbles and froth, trees took some of the reactions which are visible in the flowing of sap from trees, the entire womanhood took some sin and manifest that sin as the signs of menstruation every month. In this way Lord Brahma freed Lord Indra from the heinous crimes by dividing it into four places. Who so ever reads or listens this story is blessed by Brihaspati-deva.

One should read this katha every Thursdays if one is observing a Thursday (Brihaspati-deva) fast.

Thus ends Brihaspati-deva's (Thursday) Vrat Katha

Shukra-deva's (Fridays) Vrat Katha

Once, there lived three friends. They belonged to Brahman, Baniya and a royal family. All the three were married but the Baniyas' son had not brought home his wife after his marriage ceremony. One day, the three friends were together gossiping. They talked about their wives. The Brahmans' son and the prince praised their wives and said, "A home without a wife is the devils abode". They asked the Baniyas' son to bring his wife as soon as he could.

The Baniyas son went to his house and said to his mother, "I will go to my in-laws to bring back my wife". His mother said, "My dear son, the Venus Planet is still set. It is not visible in the sky. Wait for a couple of days. Venus is the planet of love. If you go and bring back your wife now, your married life may not be happy". Her son did not agree and insisted on going to his in-laws. His parents permitted him reluctantly. The young Baniya reached his in-laws house and told them about his mission. His in-laws said, "The planet Venus is still setting. It will be visible after a couple of days. Parents do not send away their daughters during this period. It is inauspicious". He still did not agree. Her parents parted with their daughter reluctantly. The couple had hardly crossed the town when the wheel of their bullock cart got damaged. The bullocks legs were also injured. The young lady was badly wounded. Still, the young man continued the journey despite all the adversities. As they went ahead, they encountered some dacoits. The dacoits robbed the bride of her ornaments and beat up her husband. At last, they reached home after facing many set-backs. The young man was also bitten by a poisonous snake and he became unconscious. The young wife wept bitterly.

The Brahmans' son came to know of the incident. He went to his friends house and said to his father, "arrange a return journey for them as they should not have started their journey during the forbidden period. The planet Venus is invisible in the sky. They will be out of danger if they go back to the in-laws". The businessman arranged their return journey. When the young man reached his in-laws house, he came to and recovered from his illness after an ordinary treatment. He stayed there till the planet Venus became visible in the horizon. Afterwards, he returned to his house with his wife and lived a happy life. He started observing Friday fast regularly thereafter.

One should read this katha every Fridays if one is observing a Friday (Shukra-deva) fast.

Thus ends Shukra-deva's (Friday) Vrat Katha

Shani-deva's (Saturday) Vrat Katha

Once the seven Grahas (planets) (the lords of the seven days of the week) were having an exchange of wit for their amusement. Rahu and Ketu also joined the company. Rahu and Ketu posed a question — who is the most powerful Graha among us all? They could not decide this issue by themselves. They went to Lord Indra for his adjudication. Lord Indra equally found himself in a fix. He thought if he gave judgement in favour of one, others would be displeased with him. He said, "Respected Grahas, I am just one among equals. How can I decide this complicated issue? I cannot give an impartial judgement. Better go to planet earth, as King Vikramaditya rules over there. He is very logical, judicious and righteous. Accordingly, they went to King Vikramaditya".

King Vikramaditya gave due respect to them and begged for any service. They told him about their mission. Though it was a difficult task, King Vikramaditya being a dutiful king

accepted it gracefully. King Vikramaditya decided that he would not pronounce his verdict directly. He therefore arranged seven beautiful thrones. These thrones were made of gold, silver, bronze, brass, tin, zinc, mica and iron respectively. The gold throne was placed at number one and the iron one at the end. King Vikramaditya requested the seven Grahas to grace the throne of their own choice. Sun was in the gold chair while Saturn occupied the iron chair.

When the seven Grahas were in the chairs of their own choice, King Vikramaditya said, "You may please decide your own rank now according to the order to your throne. I have not thrust my judgement upon you. Saturn could see now through the clever judgement of King Vikramaditya. He stood up and said, "King Vikramaditya, you have ranked me the lowest among the seven Grahas. You do not realize my power. Sun can stay on a zodiac or 'Rashi' for one month and moon for two and a quarter part of a day, Mars for one and a half months and Jupiter for thirteen months. Mercury and Venus can rein a zodiac for one month only. The Rahu and Ketu move in opposite directions and pass through a zodiac in eighteen months only. It is only I who can rein a zodiac from two and a half years to seven and a half years. Even powerful Celestials tremble at my sight. When I was angry with Lord Raam, He got exiled instead of a throne. Ravana's family was destroyed by me when I ruled over his zodiac. Now be prepared. It's your turn."

After a short time, the inauspicious period of seven and a half years was occupied by Saturn on King Vikramaditya's zodiac. He visited Vikramaditya's capital as a horse trader. He had very attractive black horses with him. When the king came to know about the strange horses, he sent for the Ashavapaal (groom) to buy the best horse for him. The groom selected one horse. The king was so pleased to see the horse. He could not resist himself from riding it and giving it a kick. He had hardly gone on the horse for a few seconds when it disappeared in the air with a great speed. In no time, the king found himself all alone in a deep and thick forest. He loitered here and there, but of no avail. He then met a cowboy. The cowboy arranged some water for the king and helped him quench his thirst. The king gave him his golden ring.

The king ultimately reached a nearby city and met a respectable businessman. The businessman felt pity on him and arranged food for him. He earned high profits by the grace of Saturn and took the 'king' as a lucky visitor and kept him as a head cashier. Next day the businessman took him to his house. The 'king' saw a precious necklace hanging by a peg. For his great surprise he also saw the peg swallowing the necklace. He could not explain it to the businessman. The businessman took him for a thief and presented him before the court. The court ordered that the king's hands and feet be cut with one stroke of a sword. An executor carried out these orders.

The 'king' was now without hands and feet. A 'Teli' (oil seed crusher) felt pity on him and brought him to his house. He dressed the 'king's' wounds and made him capable of driving the bullocks around the grinding machine with loud voice. Time passed on. The inauspicious period of seven and a half years was about to be over. The 'king' thought of singing the Malhar Raga on a rainy day. His powerful voice broke the silence of the night. The princess was thrilled to hear the song in her bedroom. She got fascinated towards the singer.

The princess sent her personal attendant to know about the singer. The attendant was told that the singer was the helper to the Teli and without hands and feet. Even then she decided that she would marry that man or would remain unmarried throughout her life. She conveyed her decision to her parents. The parents resented the decision. To register her protest, she put on ordinary clothes and moved to a special chamber or Kopa Bhawan and

lay down on an ordinary carpet. The king and the queen ultimately bowed before the princess's decision and said, "If such is your fate, we are reconciled to it."

The king sent for the Teli and said, "Arrange for the marriage of this handicapped help of yours with the princess." The Teli did not believe his ears and took it as a joke. The king resented his behaviour and said, "Do not take it as a joke. This is our final decision." On an auspicious day, the princess's marriage with that handicapped person was solemnized. That was the last inauspicious day of the king.

It was a honeymoon night. At mid-night, the king had a small nap. Saturn visited the king in his dream and said, "You ranked me the lowest among the Grahas. You have undergone enough sufferings for your misjudgement." The king begged his pardon and said, "Please do not inflict such sufferings in future on anyone as you have inflicted upon me." The Saturn accepted the king's request and disappeared. The king opened his eyes and, to his great surprise, found his hands and feet in proper shape. The princess's joy knew no bounds when she saw her husband in perfect shape. Next day, the king also felt happier. And when the king came to know that his son-in-law was no one else but King Vikramaditya himself, he was overwhelmed with joy and praised his stars.

The businessman got this news and felt guilty over his behaviour towards King Vikramaditya. He invited him for dinner and King Vikramaditya said, "I shall dine in the same room where the peg swallowed your precious necklace." The businessman agreed and arranged the dinner in that room. When the invitees were dining, they saw to their great surprise that the precious necklace was slowly emerging from the same peg. The businessman was so much overwhelmed at this sight that he, too, decided to marry off his daughter to Vikramaditya.

When the dinner was over the businessman folded both his hands and offered many Moharas (coins) and requested him to marry his daughter, Shrikanbari. After that the businessman got his daughter married to King Vikramaditya and presented him plenty of dowry and wealth.

This way for some days he stayed there in the city and after that Vikramaditya told the King of that city that he wished to return to Ujjain. Then after a few days taking leave along with the Princess Manbhavani and the businessman's daughter Shrikanbari and along with the dowry from the households with, servants, maids, chariots, palanquins. Vikramaditya returned towards Ujjain.

King Vikramaditya returned to his kingdom. The subjects received him and his two queens with full warmth. The king happily entered his palace. The whole city was decorated like an important festival and in the night lamps were burning everywhere. The king asked his courtiers to make a proclamation by the beat of drum that Saturn is not less powerful than any other Deity. He had judged him as the smallest that is why he got all these troubles and sorrow. From then onwards the whole city fasted every Saturday and did the Puja and heard the katha and all the citizens started living happily. The person who reads this katha or hears this katha on Saturday, with the Blessings of Saturn all his sorrows will vanish. The katha of Saturn must be read on the Saturday fast and that they should keep fast on Saturday as a mark of honour of Saturn.

One should read this katha every Saturdays if one is observing a Saturday (Shani-deva) fast.

Thus ends Shani-deva's (Saturday) Vrat Katha

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Thank you so much for taking the time to read this article. We pray that this article will assist you in some way and we also pray that it helps you to appreciate the beauty and remarkable foresight of our ancient Hindu culture. We wish to educate all readers and demystify the path of Hinduism (Sanatan Dharma). Please feel free to share these articles with friends and family who do not have direct access to our website or articles. If you use the articles in any form including blogs and/or as part of other articles kindly credit our website as a source. We hope that the articles serve as a reference to you and your family when you need clarification of certain topics. Jai Hind... Jai Shree Radha Krsna.

Compiled for the upliftment of Sanathan Dharma
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