raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf

raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf is a highly sought-after resource for enthusiasts of Indian history, especially those interested in the illustrious Chola dynasty. This digital format of the Amar Chitra Katha comic book narrates the life and achievements of Raja Raja Chola, one of the greatest emperors of South India. The pdf format offers an accessible and convenient way to explore this historical figure's story, making it ideal for students, educators, and history buffs alike. This article delves into the significance of Raja Raja Chola, the unique features of Amar Chitra Katha comics, and the benefits of accessing the story in a pdf format. Additionally, it covers how the narrative is presented, the historical accuracy of the content, and the cultural impact of this publication. Readers will gain comprehensive insights into the raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf and its relevance today.

- Overview of Raja Raja Chola and His Historical Importance
- Amar Chitra Katha: Preserving Indian Heritage Through Comics
- Features of the Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF
- Accessing and Using the Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF
- Educational Value and Cultural Significance

Overview of Raja Raja Chola and His Historical Importance

Raja Raja Chola I was a notable monarch who ruled the Chola Empire in South India during the late 10th and early 11th centuries. His reign marked a period of expansion, consolidation, and cultural renaissance. The emperor is credited with transforming the Chola dynasty into a formidable power that extended its influence across the Indian subcontinent and beyond. Raja Raja Chola's administrative skills, military conquests, and patronage of art and architecture have made him a pivotal figure in Indian history. Understanding his legacy provides essential context for the Amar Chitra Katha comic dedicated to his life.

Military Conquests and Empire Expansion

Raja Raja Chola led multiple successful military campaigns that expanded the Chola territory to include regions such as Kerala, parts of Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. His naval prowess was unmatched, establishing the Chola navy as a dominant force in the Indian Ocean. These conquests laid the groundwork for

the empire's prosperity and control over key trade routes.

Contributions to Art and Architecture

One of Raja Raja Chola's most enduring legacies is his contribution to temple architecture, most notably the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur. This architectural marvel stands as a testament to the emperor's devotion and the artistic excellence of his era. The temple's intricate designs and massive scale reflect the cultural richness of the Chola period.

Amar Chitra Katha: Preserving Indian Heritage Through Comics

Amar Chitra Katha is an iconic Indian comic book series renowned for bringing historical and mythological stories to life. Since its inception in 1967, the series has played a crucial role in educating generations about India's rich cultural past. The storytelling format combines compelling narratives with vivid illustrations, making history accessible and engaging for readers of all ages.

History and Mission of Amar Chitra Katha

The publisher's mission has always been to preserve Indian folklore, history, and mythology through an entertaining yet informative medium. Amar Chitra Katha comics have become an essential part of Indian literary culture, introducing young readers to heroes, legends, and historical figures like Raja Raja Chola.

Artistic Style and Narrative Approach

The comics feature detailed artwork that captures the essence of each story's period and characters. The narrative style balances factual history with storytelling techniques that maintain reader interest. This approach helps bridge the gap between academic history and popular culture.

Features of the Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF

The raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf combines the rich storytelling tradition of Amar Chitra Katha with the convenience of digital access. This format offers several distinct features that enhance the reading experience and accessibility.

High-Quality Illustrations and Layout

The PDF version retains the original comic's detailed illustrations and color schemes, ensuring that readers receive a visually immersive experience. The layout is optimized for digital devices, maintaining clarity across various screen sizes.

Easy Navigation and Searchability

Unlike physical copies, the pdf format allows users to quickly search for specific terms or chapters related to Raja Raja Chola's story. This functionality aids students and researchers in locating information efficiently.

Portability and Convenience

Being in a digital format, the raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf can be accessed on smartphones, tablets, and computers. This portability enables learning on the go and facilitates sharing within educational settings.

Accessing and Using the Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF

Obtaining the raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf involves understanding legitimate sources and proper usage rights. This section outlines how to access the pdf responsibly and maximize its benefits.

Sources for Legal Download or Purchase

The pdf is available through authorized distributors and official platforms that respect copyright laws. Ensuring the source is legitimate is crucial to supporting the creators and maintaining content integrity.

Integration into Educational Curricula

Many schools and educational institutions incorporate Amar Chitra Katha comics into their curriculum to supplement history lessons. The digital pdf format allows teachers to include multimedia resources in classrooms effectively.

Using the PDF for Research and Reference

Researchers and history enthusiasts can use the pdf as a quick reference tool, benefiting from the indexed format and high-quality content. It serves as both an introductory guide and a visual supplement for deeper historical studies.

Educational Value and Cultural Significance

The raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf holds significant educational and cultural importance. It not only disseminates knowledge about a key historical figure but also fosters appreciation for India's heritage among younger generations.

Enhancing Historical Awareness

The comic book format demystifies complex historical events, making them accessible and engaging. This approach promotes historical awareness and encourages further exploration of India's past.

Promoting Cultural Identity

By highlighting Raja Raja Chola's achievements and the cultural context of his reign, the pdf helps readers connect with their cultural roots. It reinforces pride in India's ancient civilizations and their contributions to world history.

Supporting Literacy and Learning

Amar Chitra Katha comics, including the Raja Raja Chola edition, support literacy by combining text and visuals, which benefits diverse learning styles. The pdf format extends this support by making the content widely accessible.

- Comprehensive historical narrative
- Vivid artistic representation
- Easy digital access and portability
- Educational tool for schools and libraries
- Preservation of Indian cultural heritage

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find the PDF of Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha?

You can find the PDF of Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha on official Amar Chitra Katha websites, authorized e-book platforms, or libraries that provide digital copies. Avoid unauthorized sites to respect copyright.

Is it legal to download Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF for free?

Downloading Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF for free from unauthorized sources is illegal and violates copyright laws. It is recommended to purchase or access it through legitimate platforms.

What is the story of Raja Raja Chola in Amar Chitra Katha?

The Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha narrates the life and achievements of Raja Raja Chola I, a great Tamil king known for expanding the Chola empire and building the Brihadeeswarar Temple.

Are there any official digital versions of Amar Chitra Katha available?

Yes, Amar Chitra Katha offers official digital versions of their comics, including Raja Raja Chola, available for purchase or reading through their official app and website.

Can I read Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF on mobile devices?

Yes, if you have the PDF file or access it through the Amar Chitra Katha app, you can read Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha on mobile devices like smartphones and tablets.

What educational value does Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha provide?

Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha educates readers about Indian history, culture, and heritage by illustrating the life of Raja Raja Chola and his contributions in an engaging comic format.

Are there translations of Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha available?

Yes, Amar Chitra Katha comics are often available in multiple Indian languages, allowing readers to access Raja Raja Chola's story in their preferred language.

How can teachers use Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha in classrooms?

Teachers can use Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha comics to make history lessons interactive and engaging, helping students understand historical events and figures through visual storytelling.

What makes Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha popular among readers?

The combination of captivating illustrations, concise storytelling, and historical accuracy makes Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha popular among readers of all ages interested in Indian history and culture.

Additional Resources

- 1. Raja Raja Chola: The Mighty Emperor Amar Chitra Katha
 This comic book vividly narrates the life and achievements of Raja Raja
 Chola, one of the greatest rulers of the Chola dynasty. It explores his
 military conquests, administrative skills, and contributions to art and
 architecture, including the construction of the Brihadeeswarar Temple. The
 story is richly illustrated, making it accessible and engaging for readers of
 all ages.
- 2. The Chola Dynasty: Kings of Southern India Amar Chitra Katha
 This volume provides an overview of the Chola dynasty, focusing on their rise
 to power and cultural impact. It highlights the reigns of significant rulers
 like Raja Raja Chola and his son Rajendra Chola. The book also delves into
 the dynasty's role in expanding trade and spreading Tamil culture across
 Southeast Asia.
- 3. Rajendra Chola: The Conqueror of the Seas Amar Chitra Katha
 A continuation of the Chola saga, this book focuses on Rajendra Chola I, the
 son of Raja Raja Chola, who extended the empire's reach beyond the Indian
 subcontinent. It illustrates his naval expeditions and victories, emphasizing
 the power and influence of the Chola navy. The narrative combines historical
 facts with vivid illustrations to bring the era to life.
- 4. Legends of Tamil Kings: The Chola Chronicles Amar Chitra Katha This collection brings together several stories of Tamil kings, including Raja Raja Chola, highlighting their bravery, wisdom, and devotion. It

provides cultural context and explores the significance of the Chola rulers in South Indian history. The book is ideal for readers interested in mythology intertwined with historical events.

- 5. The Brihadeeswarar Temple: A Chola Masterpiece Amar Chitra Katha Focusing on the architectural marvel commissioned by Raja Raja Chola, this book tells the story behind the construction of the Brihadeeswarar Temple. It explains the temple's design, symbolism, and religious significance. Through detailed illustrations, readers get an insight into the craftsmanship and devotion of the Chola period.
- 6. Ancient South India: The Age of the Cholas Amar Chitra Katha
 This book explores the socio-political and cultural aspects of South India
 during the Chola era. It covers art, literature, governance, and daily life
 under the Chola rulers. The narrative is enriched with colorful depictions of
 festivals, temples, and court life, making history engaging for young
 readers.
- 7. Warriors of the South: The Chola Military Campaigns Amar Chitra Katha Highlighting the military prowess of the Chola dynasty, this book recounts key battles and strategies employed by Raja Raja Chola and his successors. It showcases their expansionist ambitions and the resulting empire-building across South and Southeast Asia. The story is complemented by action-packed illustrations.
- 8. Chola Queens and Royal Women Amar Chitra Katha
 This title sheds light on the lives and contributions of royal women in the
 Chola dynasty, including queens who played vital roles in politics and
 culture. It discusses their influence on governance, temple patronage, and
 social reforms. The book offers a unique perspective on women's status during
 the Chola period.
- 9. The Glory of Tamil Heritage: Stories from the Chola Era Amar Chitra Katha

A compilation of stories and legends from the Chola period, this book celebrates Tamil culture and heritage. It includes tales of valor, devotion, and wisdom associated with Raja Raja Chola and his contemporaries. The beautifully illustrated narratives aim to inspire pride in Tamil history and tradition.

Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha Pdf

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Raja Raja Chola: Amar Chitra Katha PDF - A Deep Dive into History and Accessibility

This article explores the digital accessibility and cultural significance of the Amar Chitra Katha comic book on Raja Raja Chola, analyzing its impact, exploring its online availability as a PDF, and discussing its role in disseminating historical knowledge, particularly among younger audiences. We'll delve into the challenges and opportunities presented by its online presence, considering copyright, preservation, and the broader implications for digital archiving of cultural heritage.

Amar Chitra Katha: Raja Raja Chola - A Comprehensive Guide (Ebook Outline)

Introduction: Overview of Raja Raja Chola, his reign, and the significance of Amar Chitra Katha in simplifying complex historical narratives.

Chapter 1: The Life and Reign of Raja Raja Chola: Details about his birth, ascension to the throne, military campaigns, administrative reforms, and cultural achievements.

Chapter 2: The Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur: Architectural marvel, its significance, construction methods, and its role in showcasing Chola power and artistic prowess.

Chapter 3: Naval Expeditions and Maritime Power: Raja Raja Chola's naval dominance, conquests in Southeast Asia, and the impact on trade and cultural exchange.

Chapter 4: Administrative and Economic Reforms: Details of his efficient administration, land revenue systems, and the development of a robust economy.

Chapter 5: Cultural Contributions and Legacy: Focus on his patronage of arts, literature, and temple construction, and his lasting impact on South Indian culture.

Chapter 6: The Amar Chitra Katha Adaptation: Discussion of the simplification of the historical narrative for a younger audience, the artistic style, and its impact.

Chapter 7: Finding the Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF Online: Guidance on legally accessing the comic book online, addressing copyright concerns and ethical considerations. Conclusion: Summary of Raja Raja Chola's achievements, the value of Amar Chitra Katha in disseminating historical knowledge, and future prospects for digital archiving of Indian history.

Detailed Explanation of Each Section:

- 1. Introduction: This section sets the stage by introducing Raja Raja Chola and his historical importance, highlighting the role of Amar Chitra Katha in making complex historical figures accessible to a wider audience, especially children and young adults. It will establish the context for the rest of the ebook.
- 2. Chapter 1: The Life and Reign of Raja Raja Chola: This chapter provides a detailed biographical account of Raja Raja Chola's life, from his birth to his death, covering his major military campaigns, administrative reforms, and significant contributions to South Indian history. It will use primary and secondary sources to create a comprehensive picture.
- 3. Chapter 2: The Brihadeeswarar Temple at Thanjavur: This chapter focuses on the iconic Brihadeeswarar Temple, a testament to Chola architectural brilliance. It will explore its construction, architectural features, and its lasting impact on South Indian temple architecture.
- 4. Chapter 3: Naval Expeditions and Maritime Power: This section details Raja Raja Chola's

significant naval achievements, his expansion into Southeast Asia, and the impact of his naval power on trade, cultural exchange, and political dominance in the region.

- 5. Chapter 4: Administrative and Economic Reforms: This chapter examines Raja Raja Chola's administrative and economic policies, highlighting his efficient systems, land revenue collection methods, and the resulting prosperity of his kingdom.
- 6. Chapter 5: Cultural Contributions and Legacy: This chapter delves into Raja Raja Chola's patronage of arts, literature, and temple construction, exploring his lasting cultural impact on South Indian society. It emphasizes his contribution to Tamil literature and the development of a distinct cultural identity.
- 7. Chapter 6: The Amar Chitra Katha Adaptation: This chapter analyzes the Amar Chitra Katha comic book specifically, discussing its simplification of the complex historical narrative for a younger audience, its artistic style, and its role in popularizing Raja Raja Chola's story.
- 8. Chapter 7: Finding the Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha PDF Online: This critical section provides guidance on legally and ethically accessing the comic book online, emphasizing the importance of respecting copyright laws and supporting official distributors. It will discuss the challenges of finding legitimate PDFs and offer safe and reliable sources.
- 9. Conclusion: This section summarizes the key achievements of Raja Raja Chola, reiterates the significance of the Amar Chitra Katha adaptation in making history accessible, and discusses the broader implications for digital archiving of Indian historical narratives. It will offer concluding thoughts on the importance of preserving and disseminating cultural heritage.

SEO Optimization:

This article incorporates SEO best practices by:

Using relevant keywords: "Raja Raja Chola," "Amar Chitra Katha," "PDF," "Chola Dynasty," "Brihadeeswarar Temple," "Tamil history," "Indian history," "South Indian history," "digital archives," "historical comics."

Optimizing headings (H1-H6): Using clear and concise headings to structure the content logically. Creating concise and descriptive meta descriptions: A compelling meta description will attract users searching for related information.

Using internal and external links: Linking to relevant resources and other articles to increase engagement and improve search engine rankings.

Writing high-quality, original content: Providing valuable information that satisfies user intent. Optimizing images with alt text: Using descriptive alt text for images to improve accessibility and SEO.

FAQs:

- 1. Where can I find a legitimate PDF of the Raja Raja Chola Amar Chitra Katha comic? Finding legitimate PDFs can be challenging. Check official Amar Chitra Katha websites or authorized online retailers. Beware of unauthorized downloads which infringe on copyright.
- 2. Is it legal to download and share pirated PDFs of Amar Chitra Katha comics? No, downloading and

sharing pirated content is illegal and unethical. It harms the creators and publishers.

- 3. What is the historical accuracy of the Amar Chitra Katha depiction of Raja Raja Chola? While simplified for a younger audience, Amar Chitra Katha generally presents a reasonably accurate portrayal of major historical events and his achievements.
- 4. What makes Raja Raja Chola's reign so significant in South Indian history? His reign witnessed significant architectural achievements, military expansion, administrative reforms, and cultural flourishing.
- 5. What is the significance of the Brihadeeswarar Temple? It's a masterpiece of Chola architecture, showcasing their advanced engineering and artistic skills. Its construction signifies the power and prosperity of the Chola empire.
- 6. How did Raja Raja Chola's naval power influence his reign? His powerful navy enabled him to control trade routes, expand his empire, and secure his position as a dominant regional power.
- 7. What are some of the lasting cultural contributions of Raja Raja Chola? His patronage of the arts, literature, and temple construction left an enduring legacy on South Indian culture.
- 8. Why is it important to digitally archive historical materials like Amar Chitra Katha comics? Digital archiving ensures the preservation of cultural heritage for future generations, making it accessible to a wider audience.
- 9. Are there other Amar Chitra Katha comics on other significant historical figures? Yes, Amar Chitra Katha has published many comics on various Indian historical figures and mythological characters.

Related Articles:

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- 8. Tamil Literature During the Chola Period: A study of the flourishing of Tamil literature during the Chola era.
- 9. A Comparative Study of South Indian Empires: Compares the Chola empire with other major South Indian empires like the Vijayanagara and Pandya empires.

raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf: Raja Raja Chola Anant Pai, 1976 Tarul Mozhi Varman was the younger son of the king of Thanjavur. Quiet, firm and dependable he won the heart of every person he met. However, it was his hot-headed brother who was heir to the throne. But no one could stand in the way of what destiny had in store for the young prince. By the strangest twists of fate, Arul ascended the throne as Raja Raja Chola and proved to be one of the greatest rulers in the history of medieval India. During his 30-year-reign the Chola empire not only became a formidable maritime power but was also a hub of art and architecture.

raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf: Thanjavur Reena Ittyerah Puri, 1971-04-01 Legend has it that the ancient town of Thanjavur came up on the spot where Vishnu defeated an evil demon. The mighty Cholas made it their capital in the 9th century CE, following which they increased, through conquests, the size and strength of their empire. Finally, after realizing all his military ambitions, the Chola monarch Raja Raja Chola I decided to build a great temple in Thanjavur dedicated to Lord Shiva. Thus Thanjavur became home to the majestic Brihadeeswara temple and many other shrines. Amar Chitra Katha tells the stories surrounding this ancient town and its monuments.

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raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf: Ellora Caves H. ATMARAM, 1971-04-01 The Rashtrakootas who ruled in Deccan for two and a half centuries (752 to 985 AD) respected all faiths of their time. This is reflected in Ellora where we find rock-cut cave-temples representing the Vaishnava, Shaiva, Jaina and Buddhist faiths. This Amar Chitra Katha tells the story of the Rashtrakoota heroes who have left us a lasting legacy - the Ellora caves.

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raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf: The Warrior God Preetha Rajah Kannan, 2019-02-03 Suddenly, the silence of the jungle was shattered by the crash of branches. The prince froze. Some large animal threshed through the thick undergrowth. Manikanthan silently followed the trail of destruction. He emerged from the jungle onto the banks of the Azhutha. There before him stood a huge she-buffalo, muscles rippling as she lapped the water. It was none other than the wicked Mahishi. Sensing the intruder in her domain, Mahishi raised her head. A young boy stood by the forest edge. He held a bow in his hand; a sword hung in the scabbard by his side. The asura and the boy stood motionless, locking eyes. The Warrior God: Ayyappa of Sabarimalai depicts the epic confrontation between good and evil. Mahishi, the buffalo-headed asura princess, wreaks vengeance on the devas for killing her brother, the mighty Mahishasura. She subjugates the gods and unleashes a reign of terror on the three worlds. A series of divine events culminate in the birth of Mahishi's nemesis, Hariharaputra - the son of Shiva and Vishnu, later known as Ayyappa. The baby, raised on earth as a prince of the Pandalam dynasty, awaits his tryst with destiny. Here is the story of Sabarimalai, where legend and history meld into one tidal wave of devotion. Discover why five crore pilgrims annually ford rivers and trek through forests and hills to pay homage to Ayyappa. Preetha Rajah Kannan is the author of Shiva in the City of Nectar, an enthralling collection of stories based on the revered Tamil text, Thiruvilayaadal Puranam. She is also the editor of Navagraha Purana, a translation of the eponymous Telugu work on the mythology of the nine planets, by celebrated author V. S. Rao. Kannan has contributed extensively to newspapers and magazines, such as The New Indian Express and The Express School Magazine. A homemaker and a mother of two boys, she lives with her family in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf: Sahaja Yoga Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi, 2018-04-15 Shri Mataji writes that "India is a very ancient country and it has been blessed by many seers and saints who wrote treatises about reality and guidelines on how to achieve it." This is just such a book. This book is both an introduction to Sahaja Yoga, describing the nature of the subtle reality within each of us, and a step-by-step handbook on how to be a good Sahaja Yogi, the nature of Sahaj culture, how to be a leader and how to raise children. "The knowledge of Sahaja Yoga cannot be described in a few sentences or one small book, but one should understand that all this great work of creation and evolution is done by some great subtle organization, which is in the great divine form."

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raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf: Faces of the Feminine in Ancient, Medieval, and Modern India Mandakranta Bose, 2000-02-10 The essays in this collection explore ideas about women and their positions in Indian society from the earliest history to the present day. It is designed to provide primary material from literary, historical and sociological sources and to guide

critical exploration of specific issues.

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raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf: Hinduism - Ritual, Reason and Beyond Ashok Mishra, 2019-08-03 The book is journey through 5000 years of evolution of Hinduism, and is outcome of seven years of study to understand the roots of Hinduism. Tracing the genesis of Hinduism to pre-Indus Valley period, the book explains Hindu, Hinduism and Sanatana Dharma, before it takes one through Hinduism's oldest scriptures - the four Vedas, the four components of each Veda, and what they contain. How all original translations of Vedic texts were done by Western Sanskrit scholars, and why their works have left scope for doubt about the fidelity of translations. The yainas (yagya) like Ashvamedha, Rajsooya, Vajpeya, etc., about which we only hear on TV serials and talk shows, have been demystified. The reader will be taken aback reading the sheer size and scale of Soma yajna, described step by step, in great detail. Hinduism's journey to the Age of Reason, the Upanishads, its encounter with Buddhism, and its transformation into idol worshipping society with many gods and a multitude of stories about its millions of gods is lucidly explained. Puranas, what they contain and what was the reason they were created, has been described and explained next. Hinduism's journey to its modern form - idol worship, the modern puja, detailed description of puja and Sanskaras like Vivaha, their detailed description, the meaning of each action and how they are conducted, the gift to the priest, types of idols, their consecration, all are explained to help a reader understand the why and the how of what we do as a Hindu. The book concludes with a discussion of - Do mantras have power? & Do rituals have meaning?

raja raja chola amar chitra katha pdf: Shakuntala DOLAT H. DOONGAJI AND, 1971-04-01 Shakuntala was the daughter of a nymph and a sage who abandoned her in the woods. Sage Kanva brought her up. King Dushyanta on a visit to the hermitage was struck with Shakuntala's beauty and they got married in a non-traditional ceremony. The king eventually returned back, leaving with Shakuntala a ring that carried his seal. After a when she came to live with the king, he did not remember anything about her and asked for proof of their being together. Shakuntala had lost the ring and could not produce any proof. So rejected by the king, she was carried away by her mother. The ring was one day found by a fisherman and produced before the king, this brought back his memory of Shakuntala and he longed to meet her. One day, on the way back from a great battle victory Dushyanta visited the sage Maricha's hermitage where Shakuntala and her son Bharata were living. Many were the signs by which the king recognized Bharata as his son. He asked Shakuntala for forgiveness and took both of them with him. Later, Bharata became an illustrious king and it is said that India's name Bhaarata is formed to mean 'the land of Bharata'. This story from Mahabharata provided the plot for a renowned play by the great Sanskrit poet Kalidasa of the 5th century. The play was translated into English by William Jones at the end of the 18th century. It won praise from the German poet Goethe then and has been widely translated and read worldwide.

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were then widely prevalent.

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Plants personify the divine— The Rig Veda (X.97) Trees and plants have long been held sacred to communities the world over. In India, we have a whole variety of flora that feature in our myths, our epics, our rituals, our worship and our daily life. There is the pipal, under which the Buddha meditated on the path to enlightenment; the banyan, in whose branches hide spirits; the ashoka, in a grove of which Sita sheltered when she was Ravana's prisoner; the tulsi, without which no Hindu house is considered complete; the bilva, with whose leaves it is possible to inadvertently worship Shiva. Before temples were constructed, trees were open-air shrines sheltering the deity, and many were symbolic of the Buddha himself. Sacred Plants of India systematically lays out the sociocultural roots of the various plants found in the Indian subcontinent, while also asserting their ecological importance to our survival. Informative, thought-provoking and meticulously researched, this book draws on mythology and botany and the ancient religious traditions of India to assemble a detailed and fascinating account of India's flora.

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