

Rama and Sita

The story of Diwali



Once upon a time there was a prince called Rama and his wife called Sita.

Prince Rama's wicked stepmother tricked Rama's Father into sending Rama and Sita away to live in the forest instead of in the palace.

Although Rama and Sita lived in a small home, quietly in the forest instead of in a palace with lots of servants and other luxuries, they were happy.



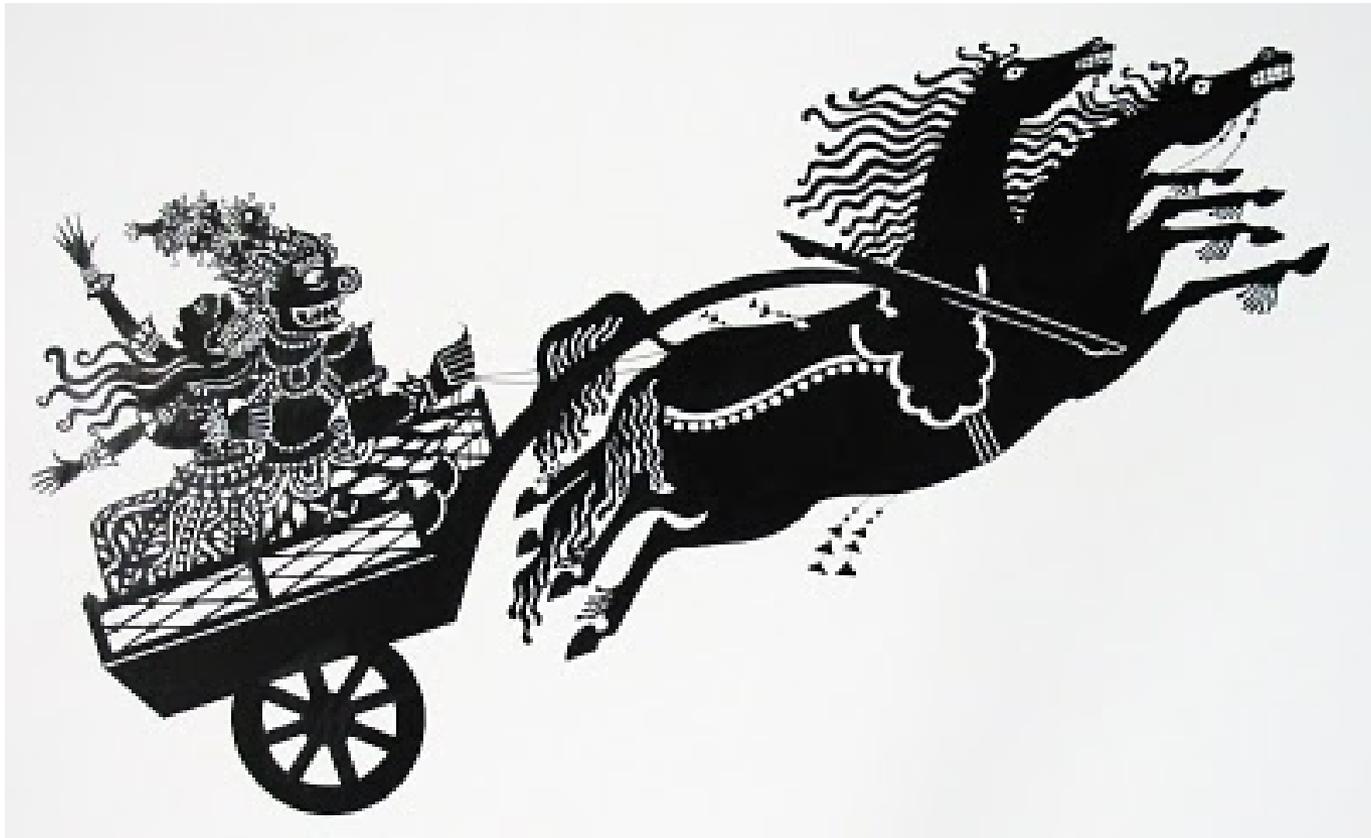
One day the terrible demon Ravana spotted Sita in the forest and decided he wanted to capture her and take her back to his island and make her marry him!

Ravana made a plan to catch Sita.

He sent a white deer into the forest and when Sita saw it she begged Rama to catch it for her; Rama said he would and while he was chasing the deer, Ravana sneaked up and captured Sita!



Sita was thrown into Ravana's chariot and he flew away towards his island. Sita knew that Rama would try to rescue her but was worried he wouldn't know where to find her. Clever Sita had an idea she snapped her necklaces and threw the jewels on the ground one by one, then she threw her rings, and bracelets and her crown.





Sita's jewels fell from the sky like sparkling rain and Rama followed the jewels until he met Hanuman the monkey King. Hanuman took Rama to the monkey city where the other monkeys took messages to all of the other animals to come and help to look for Sita.



Hanuman the monkey King discovered Sita who was being held prisoner on an island that was surrounded by crashing waves. He brought a pearl from Sita's hair to Rama then led Rama and his army to the island, but they could not think of a way to cross the dangerous sea.

Rama and his army arrived at the coast but could not think how to get to the island. The squirrels and all the animals of the forest gathered together and built a bridge that was 100 miles long



The bridge crossed the dangerous crashing waves and all the animals crossed the bridge with Rama. There was then a terrible battle between Rama and his army and that of Ravana.

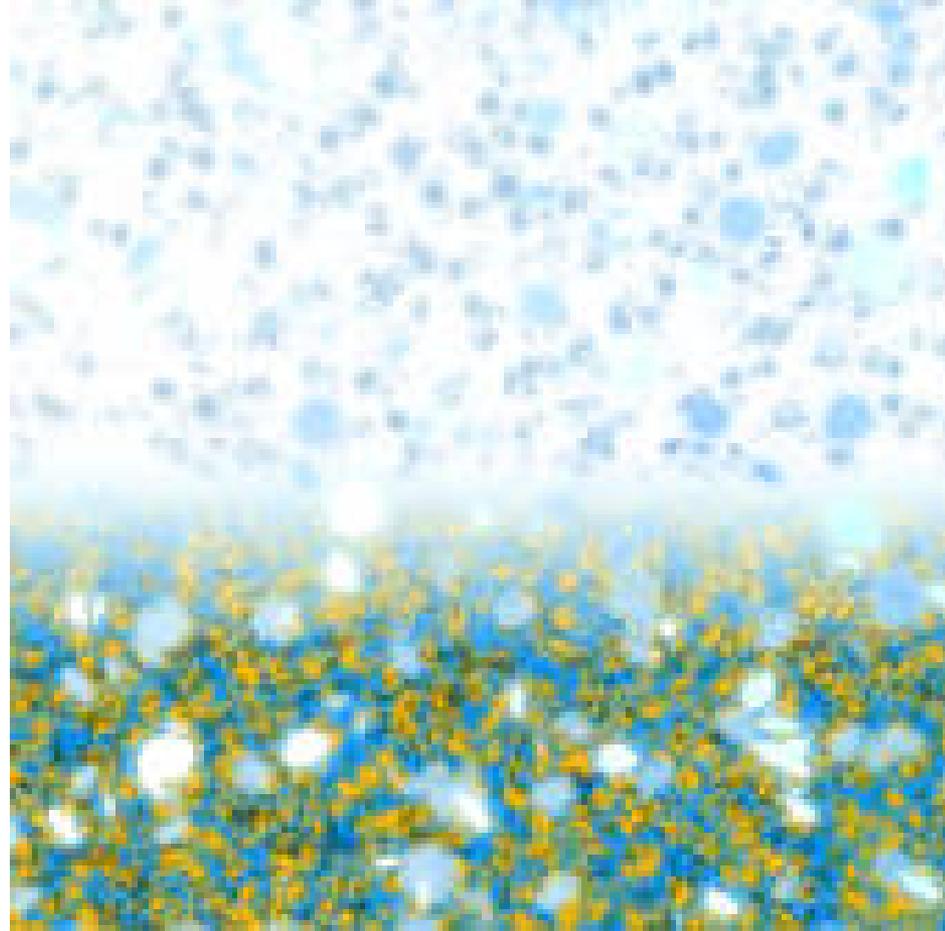


The battle was not going very well for Rama and his army.

Ravana was just too strong for Rama. Ravana had ten heads and twenty arms and eyes as red as fire! Every time Rama chopped off one of Ravana's heads a new one grew.

Then Rama used his magical bow and arrow that had been given to him by the God of the sky. He whispered a prayer and fired it at Ravana who died instantly!

The Gods were
very happy
because the
demons were all
dead and they
sprinkled flowers
upon the earth.





The people lit diya lamps and put them in the windows of their houses to guide Rama and Sita back home.

Rama became King and Sita his Queen.

Hindu people celebrate Diwali every year to remember when good beat evil in the world and they light diwas to remember the story of Rama

and Sita ... **But**

how...?