

VIKRAMADITYA AND VETAL

This is a retelling of *Vetalapanchavimshathi* or *Vetalapanchavimshathika*, a classic collection of twenty-five tales told by a vetal to King Vikramaditya. Kings and queens, ghosts and vampires, mortals and immortals abound in the tales that mirror the brilliant storytelling tradition of India. They celebrate the fantastical and contain much interesting information on the customs and traditions of ancient India.

Accompany King Vikramaditya from Ujjayini on his journey, as he makes sense of bizarre tales, solves knotty riddles and prevails against sorcerers and vampires.



Age: 6+

ISBN 978-81-264-6658-0



9 788126 466580

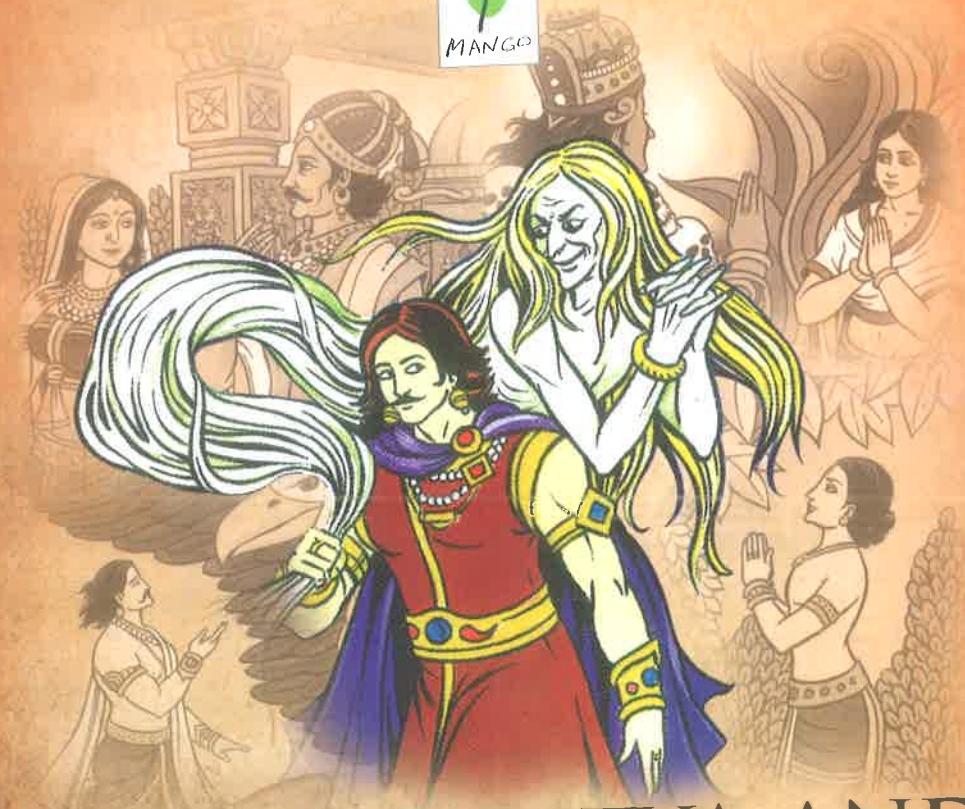
₹ 250.00



www.mangobooks.net
www.mangobooks.net/blog
www.facebook.com/mangobooks

VIKRAMADITYA AND VETAL

SHERYLENE RAFFEOUE



VIKRAMADITYA AND VETAL

Retold by Sherylene Rafeeque
Illustrated by Anil Narayanan



MORE FROM MANGO



www.mangobooks.net
www.mangobooks.net/blog
 www.facebook.com/mangobooks

1719



COLLEGE OF AVIAN SCIENCES & MANAGEMENT
KVASU CAMPUS, THIRUVAZHAMKUNNU

Acc. No. 1719.....

Call No.....

This book should be returned on or before the date last given below.

--	--	--



VIKRAMADITYA AND VETAL

Text copyright © DC BOOKS 2016
Illustrations copyright © DC BOOKS
First published in March 2018

Publisher
DC Books

DC Kizhakemuri Edam, Good Shepherd Street, Kottayam 686001,
Kerala, India

Email: editorial@mangobooks.net
Website: www.mangobooks.net
Blog: www.mangobooks.net/blog
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mangobooks

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any
form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including
photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval
system, without permission in writing from the publisher

ISBN 978-81-264-6658-0
MANGO M0335
₹ 250.00

This is a special price for the Indian subcontinent only.
Available as an e-book through www.thewinkstore.com
DC Books: The First Indian Book Publishing House to get
ISO Certification

Printed in India by
DC Press, Kottayam

Contents

Foreword	5
Vajramukuta and Padmavathi	8
The Sanjeevani Mantra	18
The Three Princes	24
The Three Suitors	28
Tyagasheela	32
Amithrakethu	38
Vidyapathi	41
Tripurasundari	45
The Strange Promise of the Bride	50
The Beauty by the Sea	55
The Island of the Lone Woman	60
The Delicate Princesses	66
The Worthless Mantra	68
The Four Brothers	70
The Death of an Innocent Man	72
Jeemuthavaahana	75
The General's Wife	83
The Poor Brahmin's Son	88
The Prodigal Son	93
The Brahmin and His Paramours	98
The King's Dilemma	100

The Unrequited Love	107
The Reincarnation	110
The Beauty and the Bandit	113
The Story that Puzzles Vikramaditya	121
The Vetala Tells his Story	124
Glossary	127

Foreword

Vikramaditya and Vetala is a retelling of *Vetalapanchavimshathi* or *Vetalapanchavimshathika*, a classic collection of twenty-five tales told by a vetala to King Vikramaditya. The stories orbit this legendary emperor of ancient India, who ruled from his capital Ujjayini (Ujjain in present day Madhya Pradesh). An ideal king known for his generosity, courage and patronage of scholars, he etched an immortal name for himself in Indian literary history. As ancient India has had several kings who adopted the title of Vikramaditya (meaning, valour of the sun), it is also possible that these legends were exaggerated accounts of many instead of one great ruler. Now for the story of how King Vikramaditya met the vetala.

How King Vikramaditya Meets the Vetala

‘It is the rightful duty of a king to eliminate those who desire to kill him.’

King Vikramaditya recollected the very words of a giant, as he prepared for what might be one of the most adventurous missions he had ever assumed as a king. Vikramaditya had given his royal word to Jnanasheela, a siddha, to do his bidding.

‘I am about to perform a homa in a cemetery on the banks of River Godavari. For the oblations to succeed, you need to abide by me for a night. Come armed but without your follower,’ Jnanasheela had whispered, when he had had an audience with the king.

The king agreed thinking not much of it. However, when he cut open the fruit that Jnanasheela had presented and exquisite gems fell out of it, Vikramaditya realised that something was amiss. But a king had given his royal word and it could not be revoked.

the *siddha*'s head. It fell rolling to the ground. Just then, a voice cried out, 'It is the rightful duty of a king to kill he who desires to kill him.'

Celestial musicians played from the heavens above and temple bells rang in the distance. The *vetal*, meanwhile, reclaimed the body and showered flowers on Vikramaditya. At last, Goddess Bhadra appeared to the king. She praised the king on vanquishing the malevolent soul and bade him to ask a boon.

'O mighty goddess,' replied Vikramaditya, his head bowed and hands joined in prayer, 'this is my humble prayer to you. May your divine powers bring back to life the nine-hundred-and-ninety-nine slain kings. May peace and prosperity reign in Ujjayini, and, by your will, may the story of my adventures be known throughout the world.'

'So shall be,' rejoined the goddess and brought back to life the slain kings. She went on, 'So long as Sun circles Earth and Sky looks down upon it, your name and glory will resonate through the world.'

Vikramaditya proceeded to return to his kingdom. By then, the *vetal* had grown fond of the king. He begged to be allowed to accompany the king to Ujjayini as his vehicle. Vikramaditya agreed and the *vetal*, carrying the king on his back, advanced towards the kingdom.

After two-thousand years of prosperous reign, King Vikramaditya retired to the netherworld. His last act was to set the *vetal* free. Having regained his original form of a brahmin, he returned to the temple in Kaalighat and continued to serve Lord Parameshwara until his last breath.

Glossary

apsarakanyaka:	virgin celestial beauty
apsaras:	celestial beauty
amavaasya:	new moon night
balikarma:	paying obeisance to one's dead ancestors
Bhadra/Bhadrakali:	Hindu Goddess of Hunt and one of Lord Shiva's attendants
Bharatha:	ancient India
chamatha:	flame of the forest (a tree)
devi:	goddess
Dharma Shastra:	collection of ancient Sanskrit texts
gandharva:	form of marriage, where man and woman enter into wedlock of their own wish; also, celestial musician
homa:	sacrificial ritual performed in fire altar
ithihasa:	history
Kaali:	form of Goddess Durga
kalpaka:	mythical tree that grants wishes
Kamadeva:	Hindu God of Love
Kshatriya:	second of the four castes of Hindu society; conventionally, warrior caste or ruling caste
mrithasanjeevani:	elixir of life
pathala:	netherworld
Parameshwara:	Supreme God; term referred to Lord Shiva, who is part of the Hindu Trinity of Gods including Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu
Parvathi:	Hindu Goddess of Love and Devotion, termed as Mother Goddess
purana:	Hindu mythology
rajaguru:	king's adviser
rajaputra:	son of a Kshatriya

rudraksha: prayer beads made from seeds of rudraksha tree
sadhu: saint
samudrika shastra: study of face-reading and body analysis
sanjeevani mantra: incantation/spell that brings dead to life
shastras: treatise of sacred writings
Shudra: fourth of the four castes of Hindu society; labourers and artisans by tradition
siddha: sorcerer
tapas: penance or deep meditation
tapasvin: person who practises penance
Vaishya: third of the four castes of Hindu society; merchants by tradition
vanaprastha: retiring into forest to lead life of spiritual recluse
vetal: roughly translates to vampire



Sherylene Rafeeque

Sherylene Rafeeque is a freelance writer-editor, who resides in Kochi, Kerala. She loves to read, think, eat and sleep (not always in that order). Though she finds her inspiration in Nature, art and films, her best inspiration has been Eva, her four-year-old daughter.



Anil Narayanan

A painter, cartoonist and award-winning short film-maker from Kochi, Anil graduated in Fine Arts from RLV College of Arts, Tripunithura and Ravi Varma Institute of Drawing and Painting. Anil and his brother Vinod Narayanan have published three books on drawing and cartoons and above fifty storybooks.

