



Once there lived a great devotee of the Sun whose name was 'Satrajit' and as he sat there meditating, the god of the Sun who was pleased with his devotion, appeared before him. Unable to see his master clearly he requested him to remove his glaring effulgence and so to please his devotee he removed the beautiful jewel hung around his neck known famously as 'Syamantaka'.

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Syamantaka is a word from the ancient language of Sanskrit whose meaning is that which dispels ( antaka ) the darkness ( syam ) that which dispels ( antaka ) the night ( syam ) and so we find the great god of the sky possesses this beautiful jewel which enables him to dispel ( antaka ) the darkness ( syama ).

Surya smiled pleasingly upon his devotee and asked him to request a boon "i am very pleased with your sincere devotions" he said "as for many years during the morning, noon and evening you have made me the object of your worship and so ask and i shall provide whatever your heart desires".



Satrajit had just one thing upon his mind, a desire which consumed his whole being as he contemplated how wonderful it would be to possess such a beautiful jewel, but as he was too ashamed to ask this from his lord and master he simply sat there quietly and bowed his head.

Surya is known as the greatest of all givers as without discrimination he freely distributes his life giving rays throughout this universe and as he could very easily read the heart of his devotee, he placed within the hands of the astonished Satrajit the jewel known as Syamantaka.

Surya had been here many times before offering boons to those who worshipped him and so he offered Satrajit a morsel of wisdom "attachment is the source of all misery my dear Satrajit so use the jewel wisely and do not covet or the jewel will destroy you" a blinding flash of light and Surya was gone leaving Satrajit staring into the palms of his hands and the jewel which could fulfil every conceivable desire.



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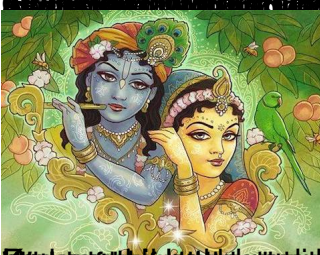




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