



















The Story

In ancient India, a grand palace was prepared for the swayamvara of Princess Vishvamohini — a princess whose beauty was said to enchant every being in the three worlds. Kings, sages, and divine beings travelled from every realm, hoping she might choose them.

Among them came Narada, the wandering sage and devoted servant of Lord Vishnu, whose heart had always belonged only to spiritual practice. But the moment his eyes fell upon the princess, something inside him shifted — and the great sage was suddenly overtaken by mortal love.

Filled with longing, Narada hurried to Vishnu and pleaded: "Lord, give me a face as handsome as yours, so that the princess will choose me as her husband." Vishnu smiled gently and granted his wish. Narada returned to the swayamvara, certain of victory.

But as Narada approached the princess and caught a glimpse of himself reflected in the still water of a fountain, he was struck with horror. Vishnu had given him not a god's beautiful face — but the face of a monkey. The princess looked at him and turned away.

In furious shame Narada cursed Vishnu, accusing him of deception. "You have humiliated me before the whole world!" he cried. But in that very moment, Vishnu lifted his veil of illusion.

The palace, the princess, the gathered kings, the ceremony itself — all of it vanished like morning mist. There had been no swayamvara at all. The whole world Narada had stepped into was Vishnu's maya — the divine illusion — all along.

Narada stood alone in the silence, and slowly the truth opened before him: he had let pride and desire pull him away from the spiritual path he had walked for ages. The very things he wanted most had nearly cost him everything he was.

With tears of recognition, Narada asked Vishnu for forgiveness. Vishnu received him not with anger but as a loving teacher who had used illusion only to remind his devoted friend of who he truly was. Narada returned to his devotion — humbler, wiser, and closer to the divine than ever before.