



ANANTARA

ANGKOR RESORT



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THE ABDUCTION OF THE QUEEN
(A story part from "Ream Kheh")

As the day drew to a close, the farewell with the wise sage lingered heavily in the air. The King, his loyal brother, and the radiant Queen began their journey home, their bodies weary from the long road behind them. By the time the sun dipped beneath the horizon, exhaustion weighed upon them like stone.

They chose to rest for the night in a quiet clearing beneath towering ancient trees. A modest camp was prepared, warmed by the glow of a small fire. The King and his brother soon drifted into deep sleep beside the fading embers, while the Queen retired to a tent set slightly apart, seeking solitude and rest.

Unseen by the weary travelers, danger stirred within the jungle's shadows. Two giants roamed the tangled forest paths that night. The giant king, burdened by loneliness and restless desire, wandered in search of something to ease the emptiness within him. Fate intervened when his gaze fell upon the sleeping Queen. Her beauty awakened a consuming obsession that eclipsed both reason and restraint.

Though the smaller giant recognized the danger of confronting a king renowned for strength and courage, fear of disobeying his ruler proved greater. Together, they devised a deceitful plan rooted in illusion and cunning rather than force. By dawn, the smaller giant would transform into a magnificent silver deer, luring the King deep into the jungle. In his absence, the Queen would be taken far beyond his reach.

At first light, the illusion took form. The King awoke to the sight of an extraordinary silver deer gliding gracefully between

the trees, its shimmering coat unlike anything he had ever seen. Captivated by the creature, he instinctively gave chase, unaware that every step carried him farther away from those he sought to protect.

While the King disappeared deep into the forest pursuing the enchanted deer, the giant king approached the Queen's tent disguised beneath a harmless appearance. Concealing his monstrous nature through deception, he gained the Queen's trust and drew near before suddenly seizing the opportunity to capture her. Without delay, he carried her swiftly away through the wilderness toward his hidden kingdom.

Far within the jungle, the King continued chasing the silver deer, yet no matter how fiercely he pursued it, the creature always vanished just beyond his reach. At last, realizing the hunt was hopeless, he turned back toward the camp with growing unease in his heart.

But the moment he returned, dread consumed him.

The camp stood in eerie silence. The fire had faded into cold ash, and the Queen was nowhere to be found. Signs of struggle scarred the ground, and in that painful instant, the King understood the terrible truth—he had been deceived. The silver deer had been nothing more than a trap to lure him away, and now his beloved Queen had been captured.

Sorrow weighed heavily upon the King's heart, yet beneath his grief burned fierce determination. Refusing to surrender to despair, he summoned his most trusted and powerful ally—Hanuman, the mighty Monkey King, renowned for his unmatched strength, wisdom, and magical abilities.



“Find my Queen,” the King commanded, his voice burdened with anguish. “No matter where she has been taken, bring word of her safety.”

Far away within the hidden mountain kingdom of the giants, the Queen endured her captivity with remarkable courage. Though surrounded by monstrous guards and imprisoned within towering stone walls, she showed no fear before the giant king. Her heart remained loyal and steadfast, refusing to yield despite the sorrow of separation.

Hanuman wasted no time. Calling upon his divine powers, the Monkey

King soared across forests, mountains, and endless seas in search of the lost Queen. At last, after a long and perilous journey, he discovered the hidden kingdom concealed among jagged cliffs beyond the ocean.

Under the cover of night, Hanuman slipped silently into the giant king's palace. Moving unseen through shadowed halls, he found the Queen resting within her chamber. Revealing himself gently, he reassured her with news from the King.

“Your Majesty,” Hanuman said softly, “the King grieves deeply for you. He has not abandoned hope and will stop at nothing to bring you home.”

The Queen's sorrow eased upon hearing those words, knowing her beloved still fought for her return.

Before departing, Hanuman carefully observed the giant kingdom—the towering gates, the vast armies, and the hidden mountain paths. Once his mission was complete, he returned swiftly to the King and reported that the Queen remained alive and unharmed within the enemy fortress.

Without hesitation, the King prepared for war.

Together with his loyal brother, Hanuman, and a great army of warriors, the King set forth on a daring rescue mission. Yet one impossible obstacle stood before them: a vast ocean separated them from the giant kingdom.

Determined to overcome every barrier, Hanuman used his extraordinary magic to build a mighty bridge stretching across the roaring sea. Massive stones rose from the waters, forming a path strong enough for the King's entire army to cross.

But peace did not come easily. Beneath the waves ruled a powerful Fish Princess, guardian of the ocean kingdom. Furious that the bridge disturbed the waters and disrupted her realm, she ordered her followers to destroy the structure each night, preventing its completion.

Seeing no other path forward, Hanuman descended into the underwater kingdom to confront the Fish Princess herself.

Yet rather than choosing conflict, he approached her with charm, wit, and kindness. Captivated by Hanuman's courage and noble spirit, the Fish Princess soon fell deeply in love with the Monkey King.

Moved by his devotion to the King and Queen, the Fish Princess finally granted her blessing. No longer opposing the bridge, she allowed Hanuman and the army to continue their journey across the sea.

At last, the King and his forces arrived at the giant kingdom.

A great and terrible war erupted beneath the shadow of the mountains. The clash of steel echoed across the valleys as the King's armies battled fiercely against the giants.

Through courage, loyalty, and the unmatched power of Hanuman and the royal warriors, the giant king's forces were finally defeated.

The King himself fought bravely to reach the Queen, and at long last, the two were reunited.

With the Queen safely rescued, the King escorted her home across the great bridge and back to their kingdom.

Peace returned to the land, and the King, the radiant Queen, his loyal brother, and the mighty Hanuman were honored throughout the realm for their courage and devotion.

And so, after enduring sorrow, betrayal, war, and impossible trials, they lived happily ever after.