

was born to me. Then my husband was killed in a fight with his overlord Kapālasphoṭa, who being kind did not do us any harm; and I live in my house now. My daughter is now a young woman. I was roaming about thinking of a way to find out a man of might and bravery as husband for my daughter. Then I saw you going this way with the King. The moment I saw you I knew you to be the man I was searching for and I decided to give you my daughter in marriage. What you heard as the words of the man on the scaffold was a trick played by me. You brought water to the scaffold and nobody needed water then. With the knowledge I have in Sorcery and witchcraft I put you into a little confusion. I gave you that bangle to bring you again to me and it has served the purpose today. Let us go to my house. It is my earnest wish that you should be the husband of my daughter. And I shall satisfy your immediate need also."

The brave Aśokadatta agreed to the request of the giantess. She, with her power, took him to their city through the sky. Aśokadatta saw the golden city and wondered if it was the sun taking rest after its tedious journey. There he saw the daughter of the giantess and thought her to be the incarnation of his adventurous spirit. She was beautiful in every part of her body. She was called Vidyutprabhā. He married her and lived with them for a while. Then he said to his mother-in-law "Mother! now give me the bangle. I must go to Kāśī. I have promised the King to get the mate of this bangle." Vidyucchikhā gave her son-in-law her bangle and a golden lotus flower which he accepted with great joy. As before he came with the giantess to the burial-ground through the sky. Then she said "I shall be here on every fourteenth lunar night on the root of this tree in the burial-ground. If you want to see me come on that day." "I shall do so", so saying Aśokadatta came away and went to his parents. They were stricken with grief at the departure and exile of their remaining son. They were overcome by joy at the return of their son. Not waiting long he went to the King, his father-in-law, who embraced him with joy. Aśokadatta gave him the two bangles. He presented the golden lotus flower also. The King and the queen were amazed at the daring spirit of Aśokadatta who told them in detail everything that had happened to him. The fame of Aśokadatta grew higher and higher. The King and the queen thought it a blessing that they got so adventurous a son-in-law. Next day the King got a casket made of silver and placed the golden lotus at the mouth of the casket and placed it on the step of his own temple for everyone to see. The white casket and the red lotus were very charming to look at and they glistened as the fame of the King and of Aśokadatta. One day the King looked at it with pleasure and said "If we could get one more lotus like this, we could make another casket and place it on the left side of this". As soon as he heard it Aśokadatta said "If the King orders it shall be brought". But the King said "Ho! you need not go anymore on erranda like this. This is not such an urgent need". After a few days the fourteenth lunar night came. Leaving his wife the princess sleeping in the bed he left the palace and reached the burial-ground. He saw his mother-in-law the giantess and went with her to the city of the giant and lived there happily for a while with his wife Vidyutprabhā. When he was about to return he requested Vidyucchikhā to give him one more golden lotus. She said that there was no more lotus with her and that they grew

in the lake of the giant King Kapālasphoṭa. Aśokadatta requested her to show him that lake. At first Vidyucchikhā dissuaded him from this attempt. But he was stubborn. So she took him to a place away from the lake and showed it to him. The lake was full of golden lotus flowers. It was a pleasing sight. Aśokadatta immediately got down into the lake and began to pluck the flowers. The guards came and opposed him. He killed a few of them. The others went to their master and informed about the theft. Kapālasphoṭa with his weapons came shouting and roaring and saw his elder brother Aśokadatta. He was overpowered by joy and wonder. Throwing away his weapons, with love and devotion towards his elder brother he bowed before him. "My brother! I am Vijayadatta your younger brother. By the will of God I lived as a giant so long. You might have heard this from father. Because we have met now by good luck I remembered that I was a Brahmin. My giantness is gone. On that day something obscured my mind. That is why I became a giant". When he heard the words of his younger brother Aśokadatta embraced him. Both shed tears of joy. At that time Prajñapti Kauśika the teacher of the Vidyādhara came to them and said, "You are Vidyādhara. All this happened due to a curse. Now you and your people are liberated from the curse. So learn the duties and functions of your class and with your people take your proper place in the society." Having taught them everything they required he disappeared. Thus the Vidyādhara brothers, having plucked golden lotus reached the peak of the Himālayas through the sky. Aśokadatta went to Vidyutprabhā who also having been liberated from curse became a Vidyādhara girl. With that beautiful girl the two brothers continued their journey and reached Kāśī where they bowed before their parents. That reunion appeared to be a dream or something nearing madness to their parents. They could not believe their eyes. Aśokadatta and Vijayadatta each saying his name bowed before them. Their parents lifted them up and embraced them and kissed them on the head, and cried for joy. They did not know what to do or what to say. Their minds were incapable of thinking. Everybody heard this and was amazed at it. The King was also filled with joy. He came there and took them to the palace. Aśokadatta gave all the lotus flowers to the King, who was happy and joyful at the achievement of more than he had hoped for. Everybody appreciated them. Govindasvāmī, in the presence of the King asked Vijayadatta to tell his story from the moment he turned a giant in the burial-place; "We are very curious to hear it" he said. Vijayadatta began to say "Father, you have seen how because of my mischief, I had broken that skull and some viscous liquid fell into my mouth and I changed to a giant. After that the other giants gave me the name Kapālasphoṭa. They invited me into their midst. We lived together. After a few days they took me to the presence of the King of the giants. As soon as he saw me he was pleased with me and appointed me as the commander-in-chief of the army. He who was overconfident in his power went to war with the Gandharvas and was killed in the fight. From that day onwards all the giants came under my control. Then I met with my brother who came to pluck the golden lotus flowers from my lake. With this all the previous conditions of my life had vanished.