



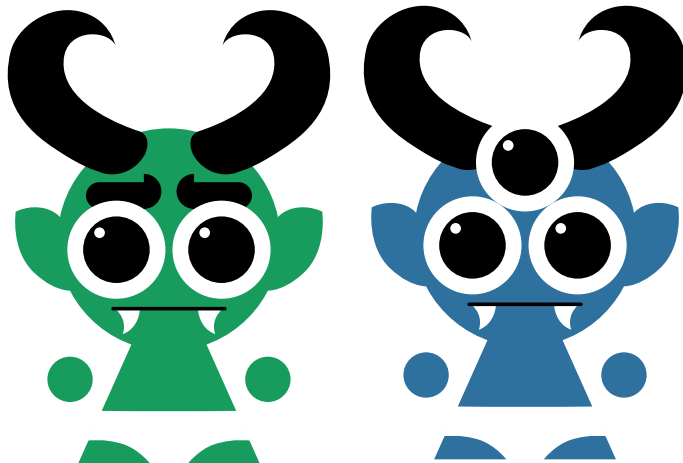
THE LEGEND OF
Mahishasura
Mardini

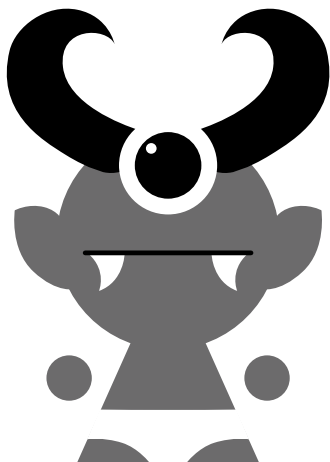


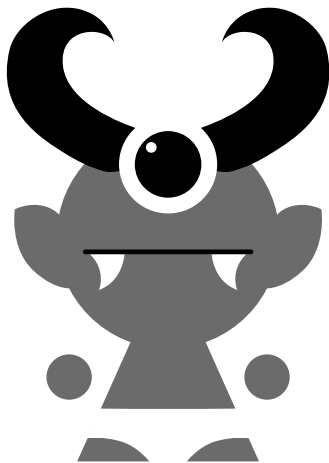


Rambha, the king of asuras, and Princess Shyamala, a demon cursed to be a buffalo, fell in love. Their son was named Mahishasura

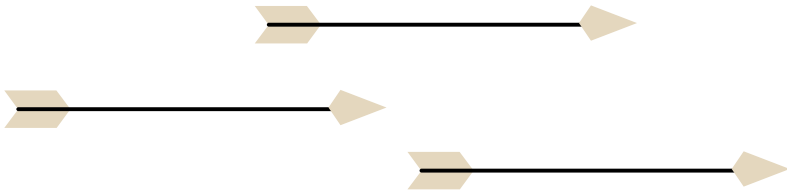
Mahishasura possessed the ability to change forms at will,
a power he used later to battle the devas in heaven

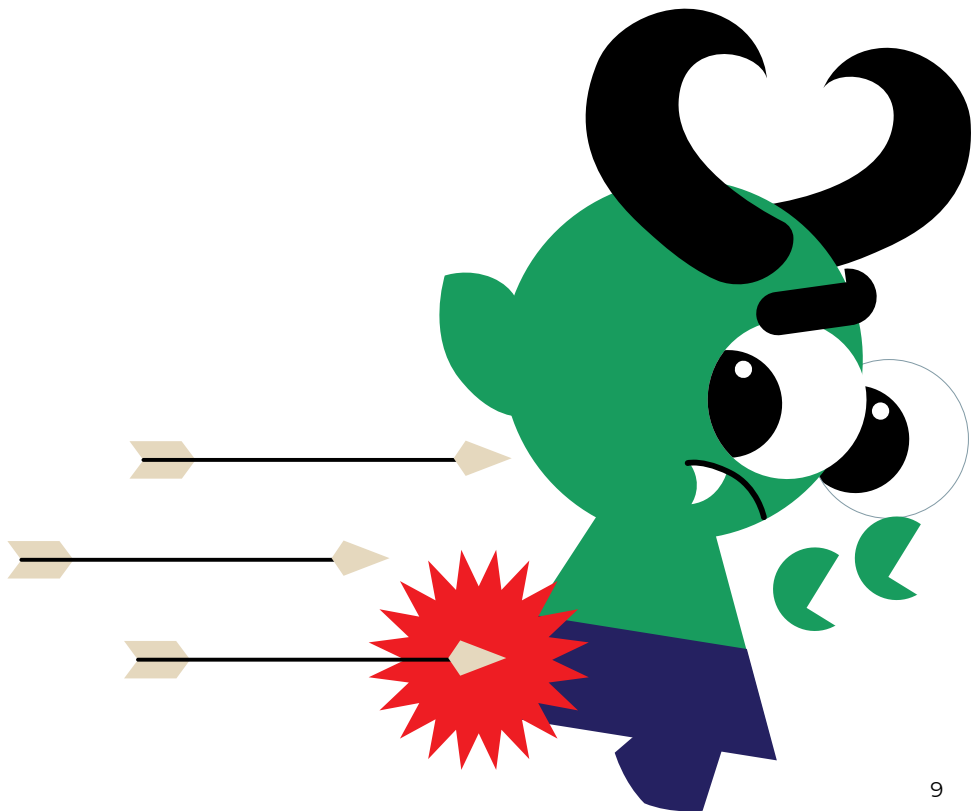






But the devas chased him away
every time



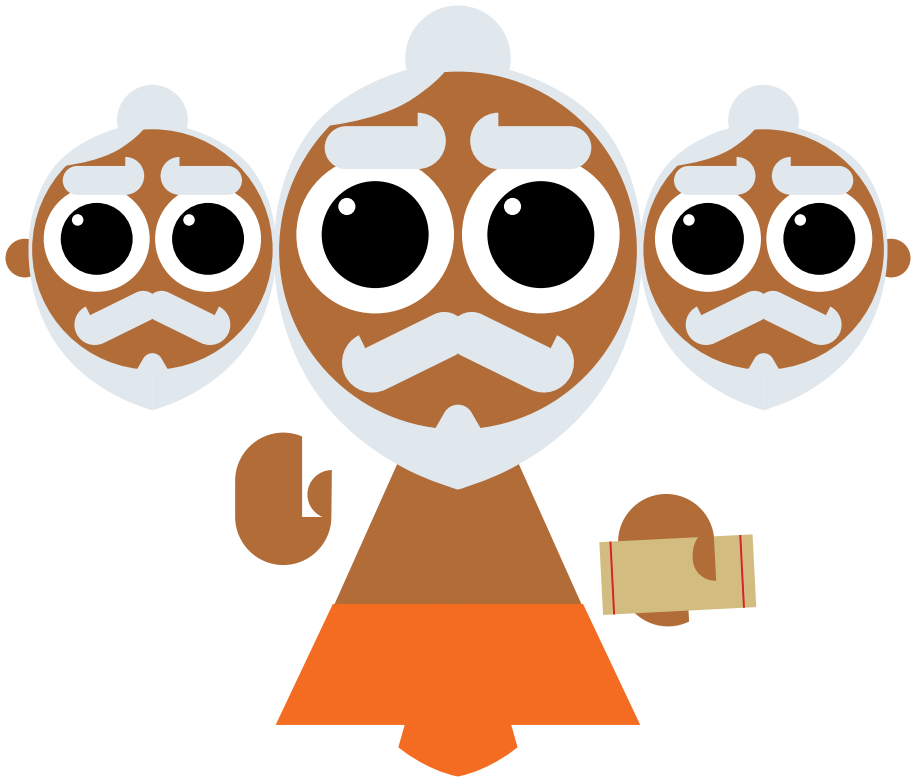






So, Mahishasura began meditating
in the hopes of a boon from Lord
Brahma, the supreme creator





Pleased with his long years of penance,
Lord Brahma agreed to grant him a boon.
Mahishasura asked for immortality







When Brahma said no, the sly Mahishasura asked for a boon that would prevent any male — God, human or demon — from killing him



For, he was too arrogant to believe that any woman could kill him



Brahma agreed. This convinced Mahishasura that he was immortal. Soon began his conquests — first the underworld, & then earth





Mahishasura & his army of demons had
become too powerful



The devas were no match &
were soon driven out of heaven

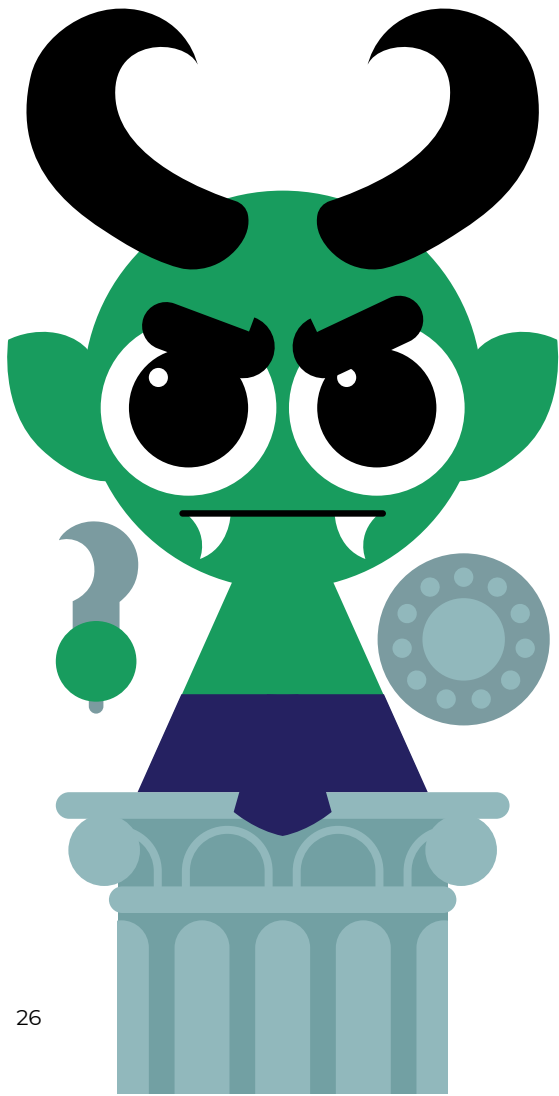







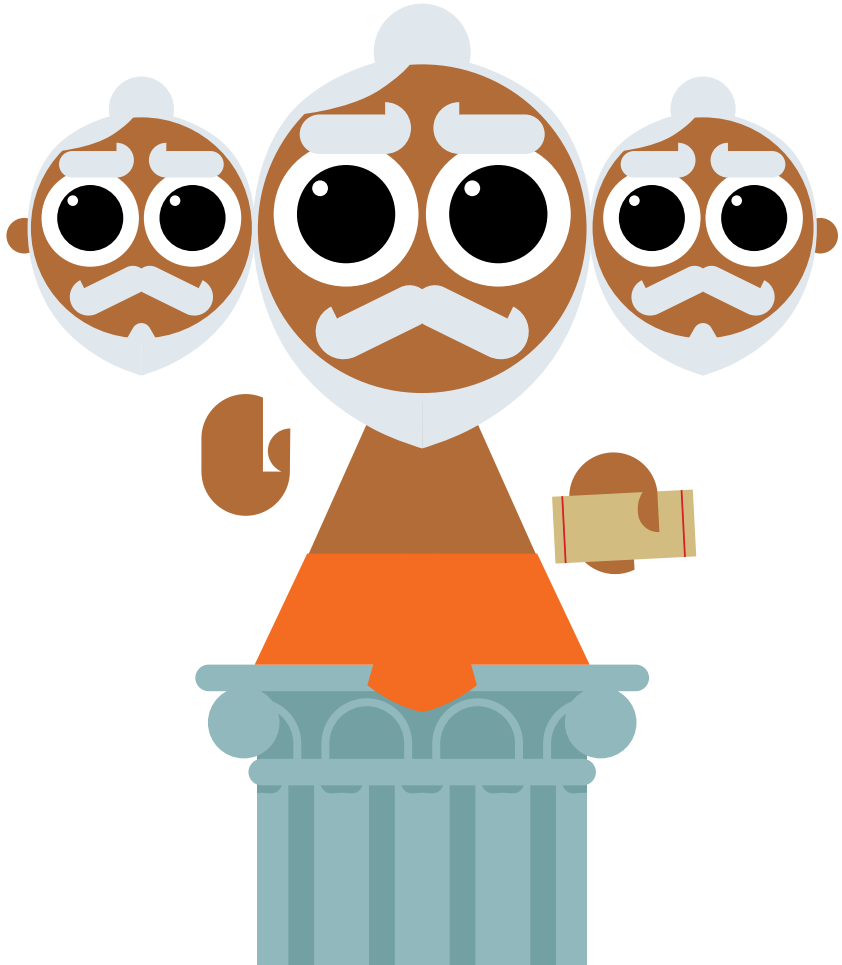
Finally, after having defeated the devas, he became ruler of all the three worlds...





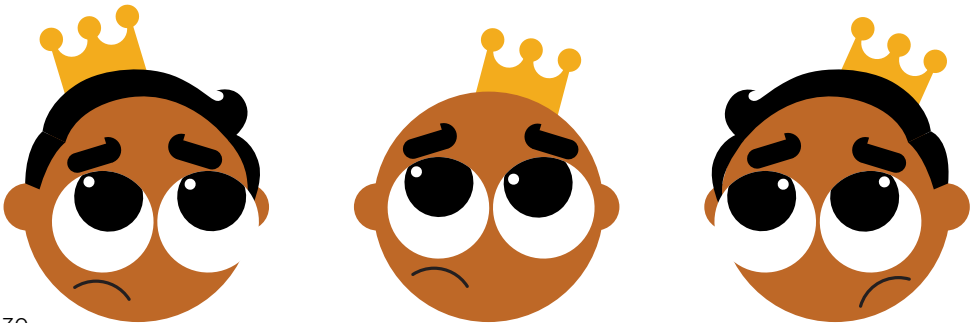
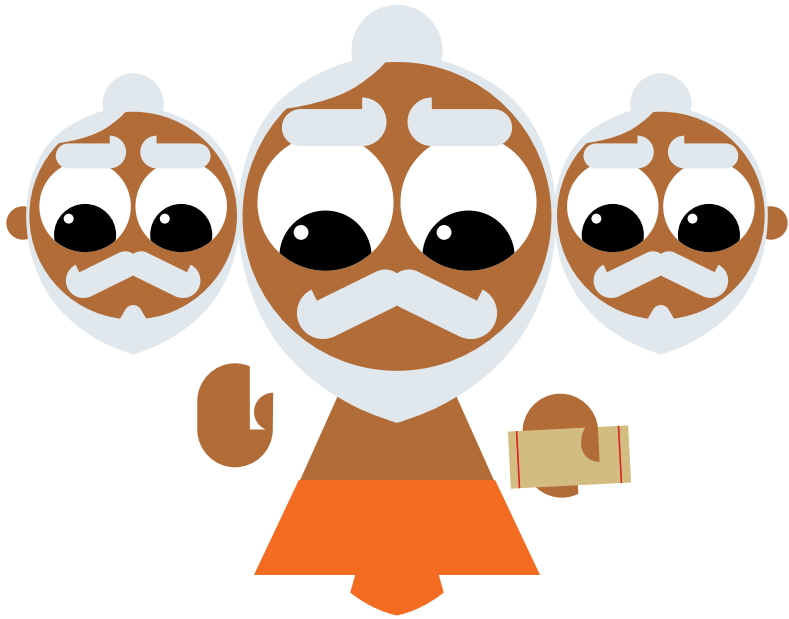


“No deities will be worshipped!
I am the only God,” he
thundered





Not even Brahma, who had granted Mahishasura
his boon, was to be worshipped



The distressed devas turned to Brahma for help to win
back heaven



He, in turn, took them to Lord Shiva, the Destroyer

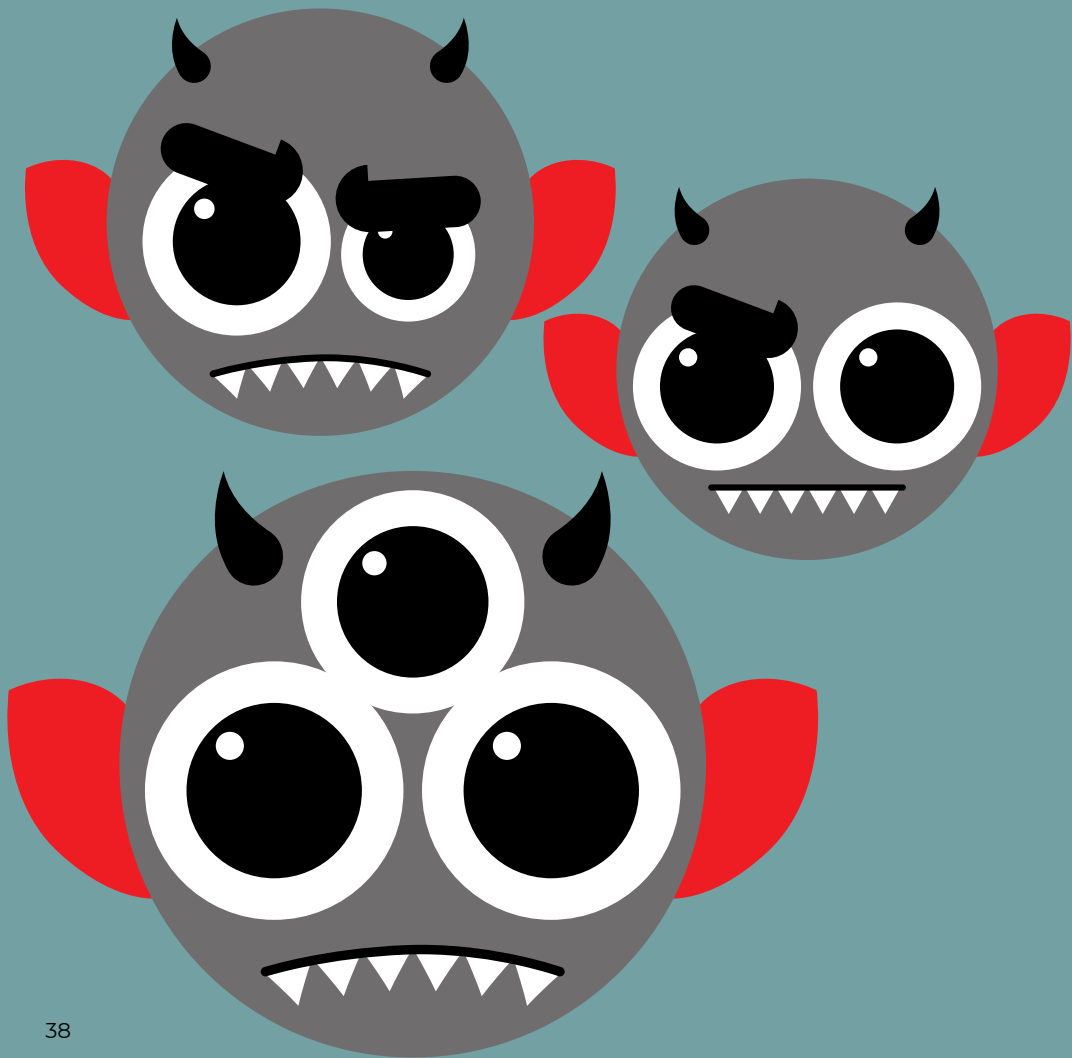


A powerful light emerged from the
faces of the Holy Trinity & the devas to
create the feminine form of
Goddess Durga

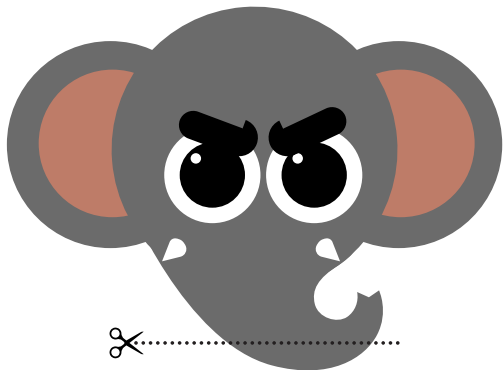
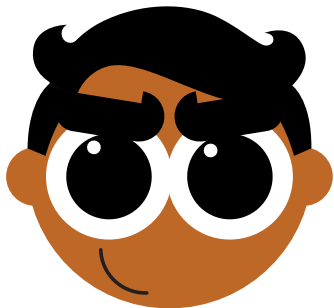




Each of her ten arms held a weapon from the Gods — Vishnu's chakra, Shiva's trident & Brahma's kamandalu among others. A lion was chosen as the vahana, her vehicle

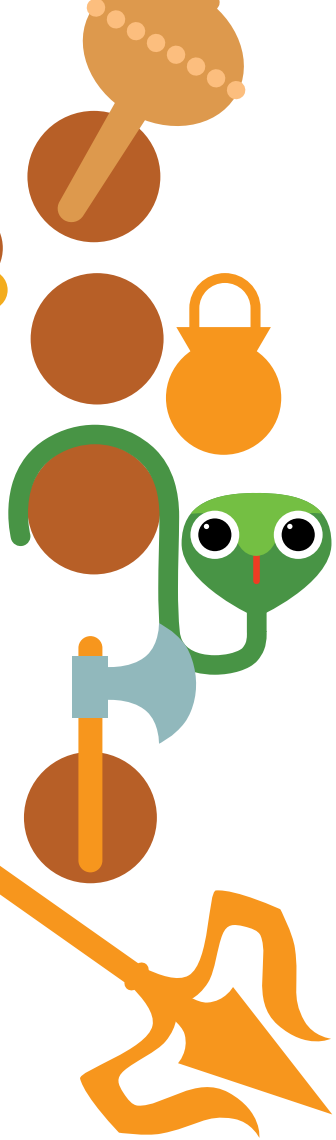


A fierce battle raged. Mahishasura first sent powerful demons like Chanda, Munda & Raktabeej to take on Durga



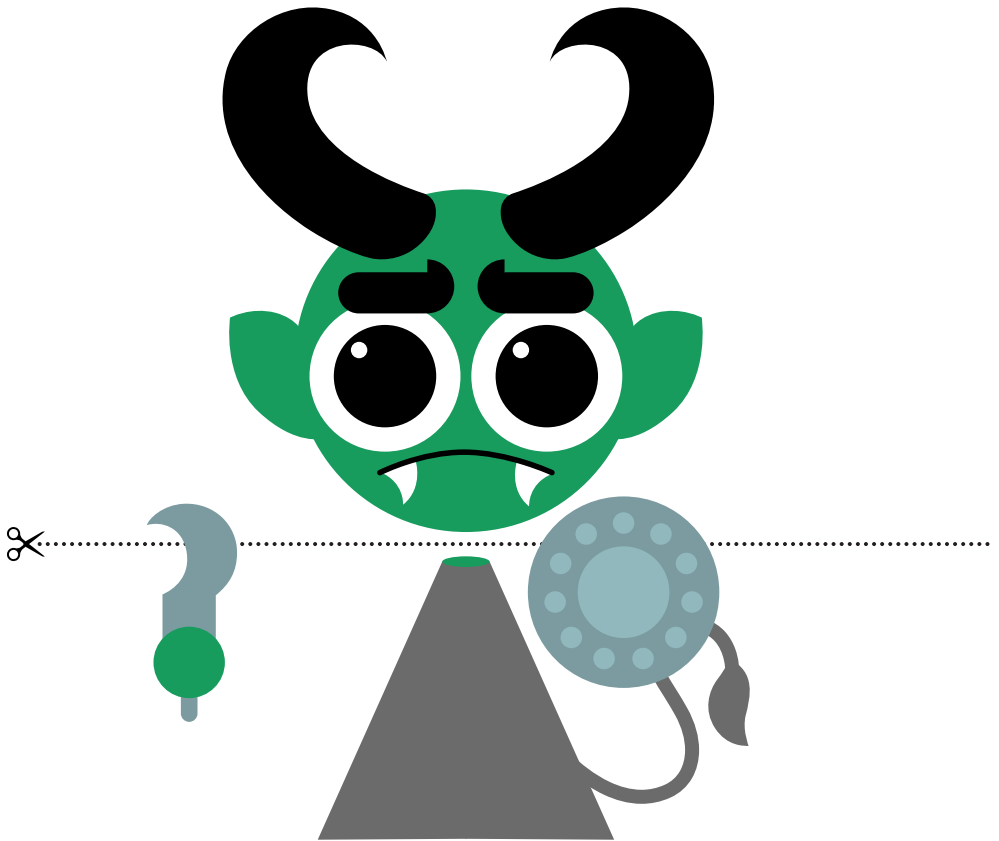


When they failed, Mahishasura confronted Durga himself, changing forms — from buffalo to lion, elephant and handsome man. But still, Durga triumphed



She struck the final blow just when
Mahishasura was emerging from his
buffalo form

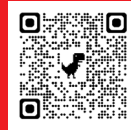




Thus, the king of asuras was slain by Durga —
who now became Mahishasura Mardini
— and, much to the delight of the Gods,
order was restored in the three worlds



HI



I am Raj, an art director based in India. I have always been fascinated with the Indian epics and folk tales. I want to recreate the myths for my kid and all the kids around the world.