

Long, long ago, when the world was new and stories were just beginning to bloom, the great Lord Brahmā had a wonderful idea. He wanted to create a new art, a 'fifth Veda,' that would teach and delight everyone, from the mightiest gods to the smallest creatures.





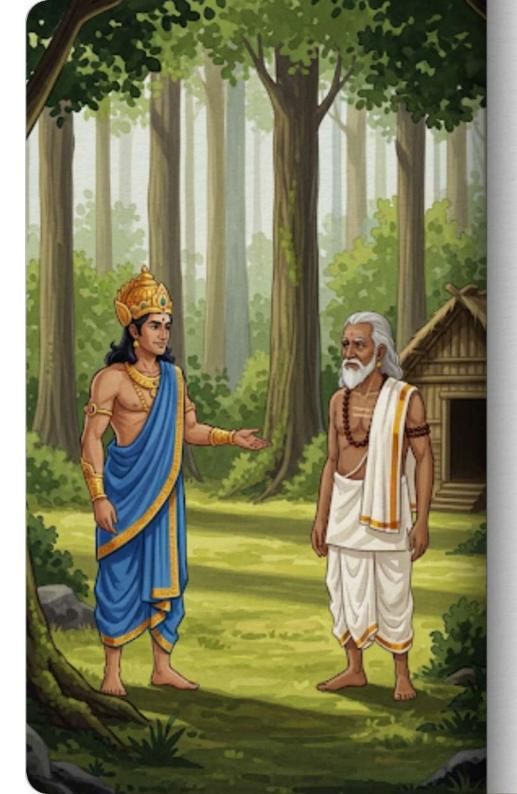
When Brahmā shared his grand plan, the mighty Lord Indra, king of the heavens, listened with respect. He approached Brahmā, hands folded in reverence, and bowed deeply. "Oh, revered Creator," Indra said softly, "we, the gods, may not be the best to bring this art to life."





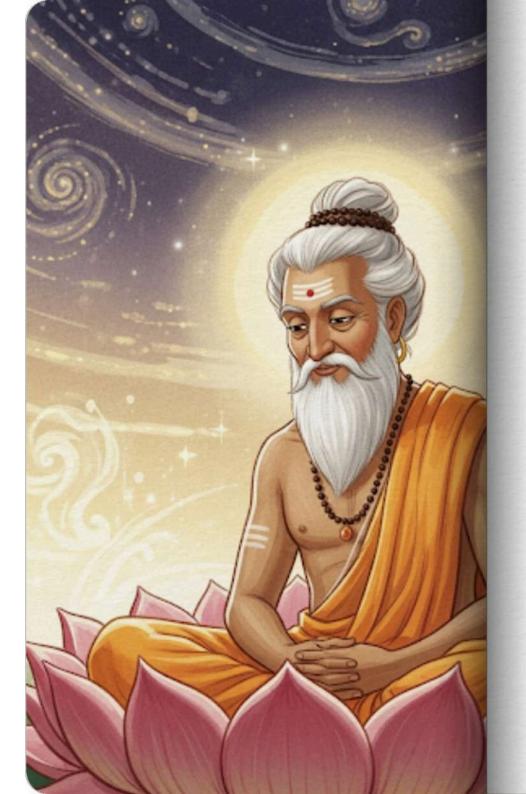
Indra explained, "Our divine powers are vast, but drama needs a different kind of strength. It needs the ability to truly grasp a feeling, to retain it in the heart, to understand its deepest meaning, and then to apply it with grace and truth. It needs emotional intelligence, not just might!"





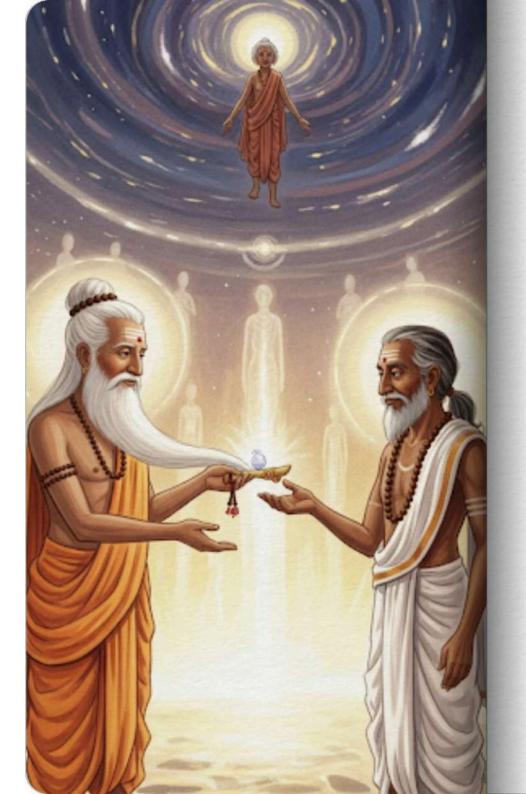
"For this," Indra continued, "we need those who live lives of discipline and deep reflection. We need the wise ṛṣis, who know the inner essence of the Vedas and whose hearts are attuned to the subtle rhythms of life. They possess the aptitude and the dedication, the 'sādhanā', required."





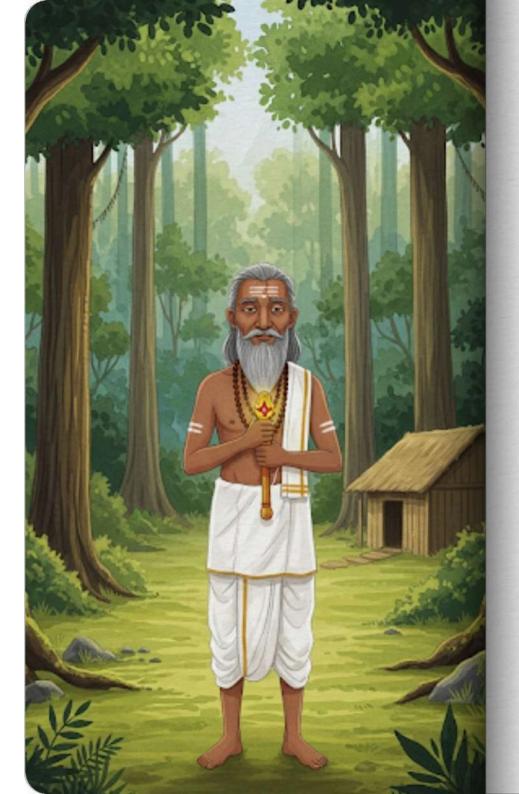
Brahmā listened carefully to Indra's wise words. He saw the truth in them. The new art, Natya, needed human hearts to truly blossom, hearts that understood both joy and sorrow, courage and fear. He knew exactly who could guide this beautiful new creation.





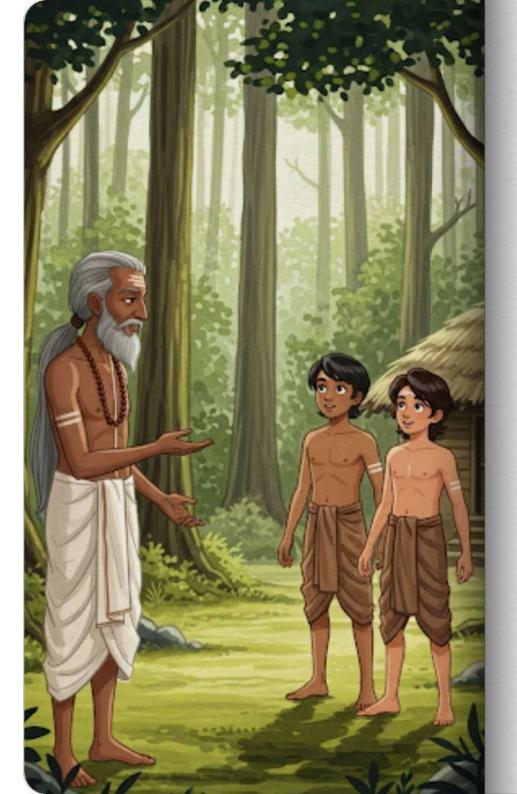
And so, the great Brahmā, with a gentle nod, handed the sacred baton of Natya to the revered sage, Bharata Muni. This was a moment of great significance, as the cosmic art was now entrusted to human hands, ready to be nurtured and shared with the world.



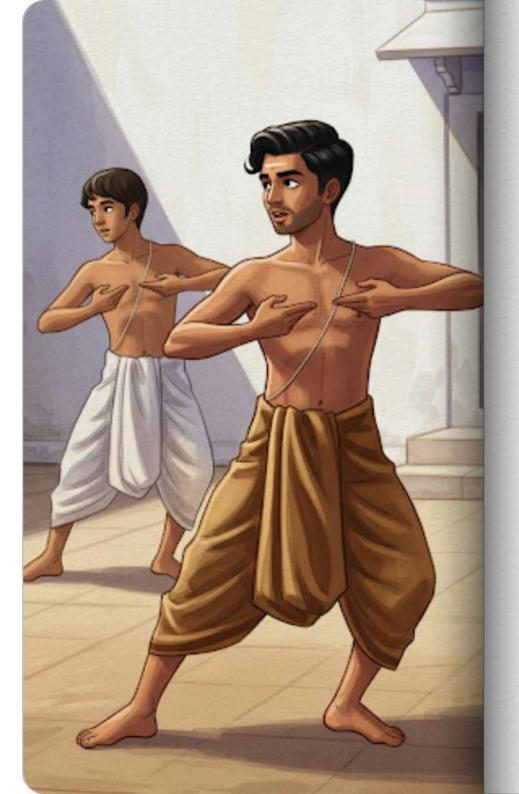


Bharata Muni, filled with humility and purpose, accepted the divine gift. He understood the immense responsibility. He knew that this art would be a mirror to life, reflecting all its colours and emotions, teaching lessons and sparking wonder.



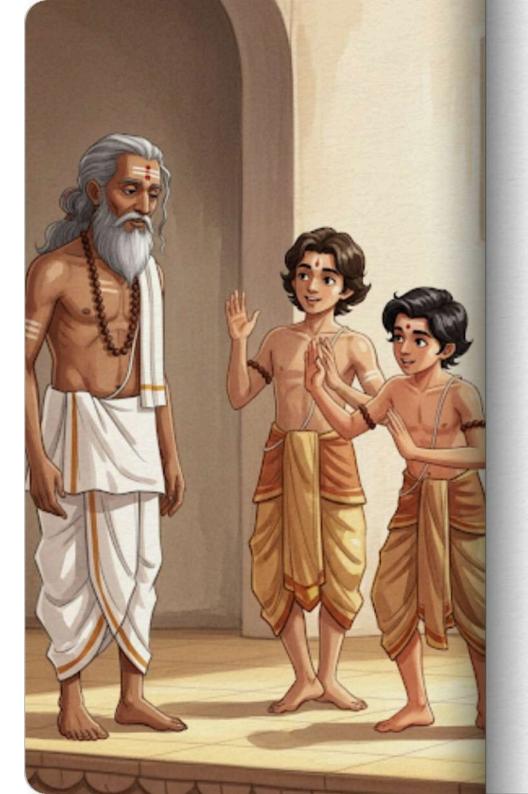


With the sacred knowledge in his keeping, Bharata
Muni gathered his hundred sons around him. They were eager young men, full of energy and curiosity, ready to learn the secrets of this magical new art form.



Under their father's loving guidance, the hundred sons became the very first troupe of actors. They learned to move with grace, to speak with emotion, and to embody characters from ancient tales. They practiced grasping, retaining, understanding, and applying every nuance.





And so, the art of Natya, or theatre, was born. It was a gift from the heavens, brought to life by human hearts, teaching us that true power lies not just in strength, but in understanding, emotion, and the beautiful discipline of storytelling.