ASURA TALE OF THE VANQUISHED The Story of Ravana and His People   
  
(tale **গল্প)** (vanquished **পরাজিত)** (story **গল্প)** (people **সম্প্রদায়)**

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(story **গল্প)** (illustrations **কনটেন্ট কপিরাইট আইনে পূর্বানুমতি)** (publishing **প্রকাশক)** (studio **চিত্রশালা)** (cover **আবরণ)** (design **নকশা)** (layouts **লেআউট)** (printing **মুদ্রণ)** (india **ভারত)** (first **প্রথম)** (published **প্রকাশিত)** (platinum **প্ল্যাটিনাম)** (press **প্রেস)** (imprint **অঙ্কিত করা)** (pvt **প্রা)**

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(trade **বাণিজ্য)** (centre **কেন্দ্র)** (level **উচ্চতা)** (complex **জটিল)** (india **ভারত)** (f **এফ)** (e **ই)** (com **কম)** (w **ওয়াট)** (us **আমাদের)** (office **দপ্তর)** (axis **অক্ষ)** (corp **ক্রপ)** (circle **বৃত্ত)** (wi **ওয়াই)** (usa **আমেরিকা)** (rights **অধিকার)** (reserved **সংরক্ষিত)** (worldwide **বিশ্বব্যাপী)** (part **অংশ)** (publication **প্রকাশন)** (may **মে)** (reproduced **পুনরুত্পাদন)** (stored **সঞ্চিত)** (introduced **উপস্থাপিত)** (retrieval **উদ্ধার)** (system **পদ্ধতি)** (transmitted **প্রেরিত)** (form **ফর্ম)** (means **মানে)** (mechanical **যান্ত্রিক)** (recording **রেকর্ডিং)** (without **ছাড়া)** (prior **পূর্বে)** (permission **অনুমতি)** (publisher **প্রকাশক)** (person **ব্যক্তি)** (commits **করে)** (unauthorised **অনধিকার)** (act **আইন)** (relation **সম্পর্ক)** (liable **দায়ী)** (criminal **অপরাধী)** (prosecution **প্রসিকিউশন)** (civil **বেসামরিক)** (claims **দাবি)** (damages **ক্ষতিটি)** (disclaimer **দাবি পরিত্যাগী)** (work **কাজ)** (pure **বিশুদ্ধ)** (fiction **উপন্যাস)** (characters **অক্ষর)** (depicted **ফোটানো)** (fictitious **কল্পিত)** (resemblance **প্রতিচ্ছায়া)** (real **বাস্তব)** (persons **ব্যক্তি)** (living **জীবিত)** (dead **মৃত)** (purely **বিশুদ্ধরূপে)** (coincidental **সদৃশ)** (author **লেখক)** (used **ব্যবহৃত)** (iconic **প্রতিমাসংক্রান্ত)** (names **নাম)** (dates **তারিখ)** (events **ঘটনাবলী)** (aid **সাহায্য)** (storytelling **গল্প বলা)** (intention **উদ্দেশ্য)** (imply **পরোক্ষভাবে প্রকাশ করা)** (anything **কিছু)** (else **আর)** (content **সন্তুষ্ট)** (book **বই)** (sole **একমাত্র)** (expression **অভিব্যক্তি)** (opinion **অভিমত)** (imagination **কল্পনা)** (claim **দাবি)** (scriptural **শাস্ত্রসম্মত)** (authenticity **সত্যতা)** (represent **চিত্রিত করা)** (views **মতামত)** (endorses **উপস্থাপনা করেন)** (way **পথ)** (makes **তোলে)** (representations **উপস্থাপনা)** (warranties **ওয়্যারান্টি)** (completeness **সম্পূর্ণতা)** (accuracy **সঠিকতা)** (information **তথ্য)** (readers **পাঠকদের)** (requested **অনুরোধ)** (bear **ভালুক)** (mind **মন)** (purport **সারমর্ম)** (religious **ধার্মিক)** (spiritual **আধ্যাত্মিক)** (instruction **নির্দেশ)** (advocacy **প্রচার)** (parents **বাবা)** (late **বিলম্বে)** (ho **ইছ)** (opened **খোলা)** (magical **ঐন্দ্রজালিক)** (indian **ভারতীয়)** (mythology **পুরাণ)** (born **স্বভাবসিদ্ধ)** (quaint **উদ্ভট)** (little **সামান্য)** (village **গ্রাম)** (called **নামক)** (outskirts **প্রান্তদেশ)** (cochin **কোচিনে)**

Located east of mainland Ernakulam, across Vembanad Lake, this village had the distinction of being the seat of the Cochin royal family. However, it was more famous for its hundred-odd temples; the various classical artists it produced and its music school. I remember many evenings spent listening to the faint rhythm of Chendas from the temples and the notes of the flute escaping over the rugged walls of the school of music. Gulf money and the rapidly expanding city of Cochin have, however, wiped away all remaining vestiges of that old world charm. The village has evolved into the usual, unremarkable, suburban hell hole, clones of which dot India. Growing up in a village with more temples than was necessary, it was no wonder that the Ramayana fascinated me. Ironically, I was drawn to the anti-hero of the epic – Ravana, and to his people, the Asuras. I wondered about their magical world. But my fascination remained dormant for many years, emerging only briefly to taunt and irritate my pious aunts during family gatherings. Life went on. . . I became an engineer; joined the Indian Oill Corporation; moved to Bangalore; married Aparna and welcomed my daughter Ananya, and my son, Abhinav. But the Asura Emperor would not leave me alone. For six years he haunted my dreams, walked with me, and urged me to write his version of the story. He was not the only one who wanted his version of the story to be told. One by one, irrelevant and minor characters of the Ramayana kept coming up with their own versions. Bhadra, who was one of the many common Asuras who were inspired, led and betrayed by Ravana, also had a remarkable story to tell, different from that of his king. And both their stories are different from the Ramayana that has been told in a thousand different ways across Asia over the last three millennia. This is then Asurayana, the story of the Asuras, the story of the vanquished. Anand Neelakantan can be reached at: mail@asura.co.in   
  
(located **অবস্থিত)** (east **পূর্ব)** (mainland **দেশের মূল অংশ)** (across **দিয়ে)** (lake **হ্রদ)** (distinction **পার্থক্য)** (seat **আসন)** (royal **রাজকীয়)** (family **পরিবার)** (however **যাহোক)** (famous **বিখ্যাত)** (hundred **শত)** (odd **বিজোড়)** (temples **মন্দির)** (various **বিভিন্ন)** (classical **ক্লাসিক্যাল)** (artists **শিল্পী)** (produced **উত্পাদিত)** (music **সঙ্গীত)** (school **স্কুল)** (remember **মনে রাখা)** (many **অনেক)** (evenings **সন্ধ্যায়)** (spent **অতিবাহিত)** (listening **শ্রবণ)** (faint **ভীরু)** (rhythm **তাল)** (notes **নোট)** (flute **বাঁশি)** (escaping **পলায়নপর)** (rugged **শ্রমসাধ্য)** (walls **দেয়াল)** (gulf **উপসাগর)** (money **টাকা)** (rapidly **দ্রুত)** (expanding **বিস্তৃত)** (city **শহর)** (wiped **অপনোদিত)** (away **দূরে)** (remaining **অবশিষ্ট)** (vestiges **অবশেষসমূহ)** (old **পুরাতন)** (world **বিশ্ব)** (charm **কবজ)** (evolved **প্রসূত)** (usual **চলিত)** (unremarkable **অনুল্লেখ্য)** (suburban **শহরতলিসুলভ)** (hell **জাহান্নাম)** (hole **গর্ত)** (clones **ক্লোনস)** (dot **ডট)** (growing **ক্রমবর্ধমান)** (necessary **প্রয়োজনীয়)** (wonder **আশ্চর্য)** (fascinated **মুগ্ধ)** (ironically **হাস্যকর ভাবে)** (drawn **টানা)** (anti **এন্টি)** (hero **বীর)** (epic **মহাকাব্য)** (wondered **বিস্ময়ের)** (fascination **মোহ)** (remained **রয়ে)** (dormant **সুপ্ত)** (years **বছর)** (emerging **উদীয়মান)** (briefly **সংক্ষেপে)** (taunt **বিদ্রূপ)** (irritate **জ্বালাতন করা)** (pious **ধার্মিক)** (aunts **খালা)** (gatherings **সমাবেশ)** (life **জীবন)** (went **গিয়েছিলাম)** (became **হয়ে ওঠে)** (engineer **প্রকৌশলী)** (joined **যোগদান)** (corporation **নিগম)** (moved **সরানো)** (married **বিবাহিত)** (welcomed **স্বাগত)** (daughter **কন্যা)** (son **পুত্র)** (emperor **সম্রাট)** (would **হবে)** (leave **ছেড়ে)** (alone **একা)** (six **ছয়)** (haunted **ভুতুড়ে)** (dreams **স্বপ্ন)** (walked **পদচারণা)** (urged **আহ্বান জানান)** (write **লেখা)** (version **সংস্করণ)** (one **এক)** (wanted **চেয়েছিলেন)** (told **বলা)** (irrelevant **অপ্রাসঙ্গিক)** (minor **গৌণ)** (kept **রাখা)** (coming **আসছে)** (versions **সংস্করণ)** (common **সাধারণ)** (inspired **অনুপ্রাণিত)** (led **এলইডি)** (betrayed **বিশ্বাসঘাতকতা)** (also **এছাড়াও)** (remarkable **অসাধারণ)** (tell **বলা)** (different **বিভিন্ন)** (king **রাজা)** (stories **গল্প)** (thousand **হাজার)** (ways **উপায়)** (asia **এশিয়া)** (last **গত)** (three **তিন)** (millennia **সহস্রাব্দ)** (reached **পৌঁছে)** (co **সহ)**