

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS india authentic™

# UMA



MOHAPATRA | SUBRAMANIAN

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

india  
authentic™

# UMA

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# URMĀ

## MOTHER OF ALL THINGS

Like many Gōds and Gōddesses in the Indian pantheon, Urmā is often more known by her various associations than for herself. Also called Parvatī or Shakti, Urmā is variously identified as the consort of Shiva, the destroyer, the sister of Viṣṇu, the preserver, and the mother of Gānesh, the lord of knowledge. Her linkage to these iconic Gōds is, however, no coincidence because amongst a vast mythology, Urmā is regarded as the ultimate divine, the primal force in the Universe of femininity, the mother of all things.

It is Uma's connection to Shiva that in my estimation is most relevant to us today. For Shiva is the lord of destruction and it is said that all living things find their end with him. With wars raging all across the globe and weapons of mass destruction proliferating in every direction, it's not far-fetched to say that we live in the age of Shiva. However, according to Indian mythology, this is not the first time we find ourselves in this predicament. For at any time, when Shiva is without Uma, his base instincts take over, his temperament flares, and the rest of us can find ourselves amidst his unruliness. It is Uma's core attributes of grace and gentility, of maternity and renunciation that balance and nurture Shiva. Left alone, Shiva's power leads to a barrenness in which there is no fertility while rejoined with Uma, their combined synergy creates a more wholesome equilibrium, regeneration where previously there was only degeneration.

We need more of Uma's presence in our world. We need more of her nurturing impulse, her instinct for sacrifice and selflessness. The point is not to pray to her or worship her idols, but to remind ourselves of what Uma stands for, to celebrate the primordial forces of the Universe that pulse through her. In knowing Uma, we know those qualities within us that when nurtured will spontaneously manifest in our lives and tame those deeper, destructive impulses that, left unchecked, can descend the world into darkness.

Deepak Chopra

August 2007



UIMA

EVERYTHING IS  
CONNECTED.

SOMETIMES WE ARE TOO CLOSE  
TO THINGS TO SEE THEM.

SOMETIMES WE  
ARE TOO FAR AWAY.

MAYBE WE ARE SO BUSY  
SURVIVING OUR OWN LIFE, THAT  
WE FORGET A SIMPLE FACT.

THAT WHICH WE  
CALL THE *PAST*...

...IS ONLY A *PROLOGUE*.



AND THE PAST DOES NOT  
JUST STOP AT YOUR BIRTH.  
SOMETIMES THERE ARE  
THINGS BEFORE THAT.  
THERE ARE THE OTHER  
LIVES YOU'VE LIVED. OTHER  
BIRTHS THAT HAVE  
MARKED YOUR TIME IN  
THIS UNIVERSE.

IF THAT  
WANDERING HERMIT  
THINKS HE CAN SOFTEN  
MY HEART...

IF HE THINKS  
I SHALL LOOK INTO THE  
EYES OF MY DAUGHTER  
AND JUST MELT...

OR JUST  
FORGET THE PAIN  
IN MY HEART OF SEEING  
MY DAUGHTER *SATI*, A  
*PRINCESS*, THE VERY GRAND  
DAUGHTER OF LORD  
*BRAHMA* WALK BESIDES  
A PENNILESS PAUPER  
AS HIS WIFE...

THEN I MUST  
ADD *STUPIDITY* AT  
THE TOP OF THE LIST OF  
THINGS I HATE  
ABOUT HIM.





I HAVE  
DISOBEYED MY  
HUSBAND AND IN  
STEALTH HAVE I LEFT  
HIS ABODE...



...AND NOW THAT MY OWN  
FATHER HURLS VITRIOL AT  
ME, I AM TRULY WITHOUT  
STATION NOW.

THERE IS  
BUT ONE PATH LEFT  
DOWN WHICH I  
MUST WALK...



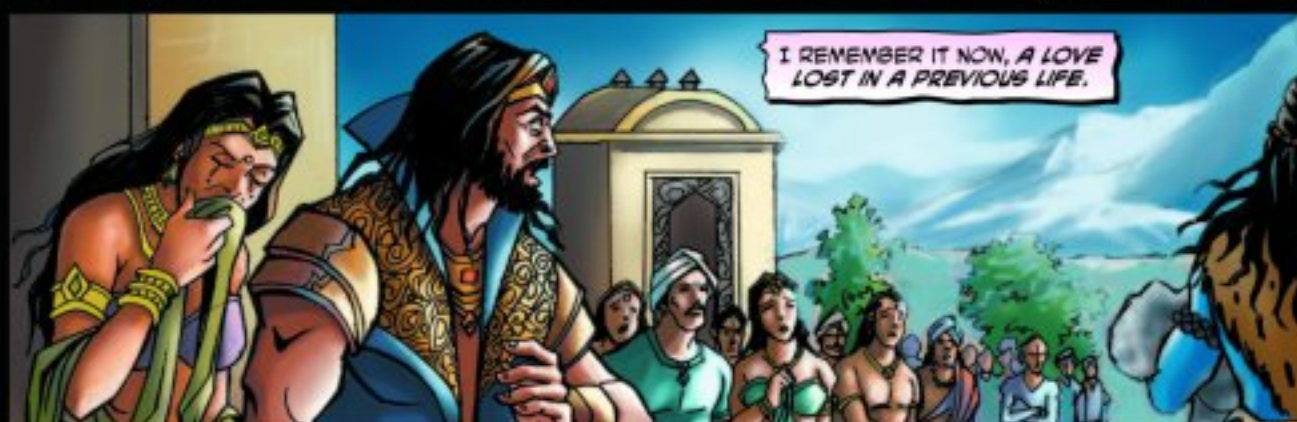
NO, SATI!  
DON'T!



NO!



FAREWELL,  
FATHER! MAY YOU  
SEE THE ERROR  
OF YOUR WAYS...





... MOURN HIS LOST LOVE.

DAYS TURNED  
TO MONTHS.



MONTHS TO YEARS.



AND LORD SHIVA STAYED THERE  
IN THE DEEPEST OF TRANCES, IN  
A SAMADHI OF SOLITUDE.



IT IS HIM THAT  
I SEEK.



FOR I AM UMA,  
SATI REBORN.



SUCH WAS OUR LOVE THAT  
FATE HERSELF BOWED TO US.



I HAVE BRAVED THE ICY  
FROST OF THIS MOUNTAIN...



...AND AT LAST, MY  
JOURNEY IS AT AN END.

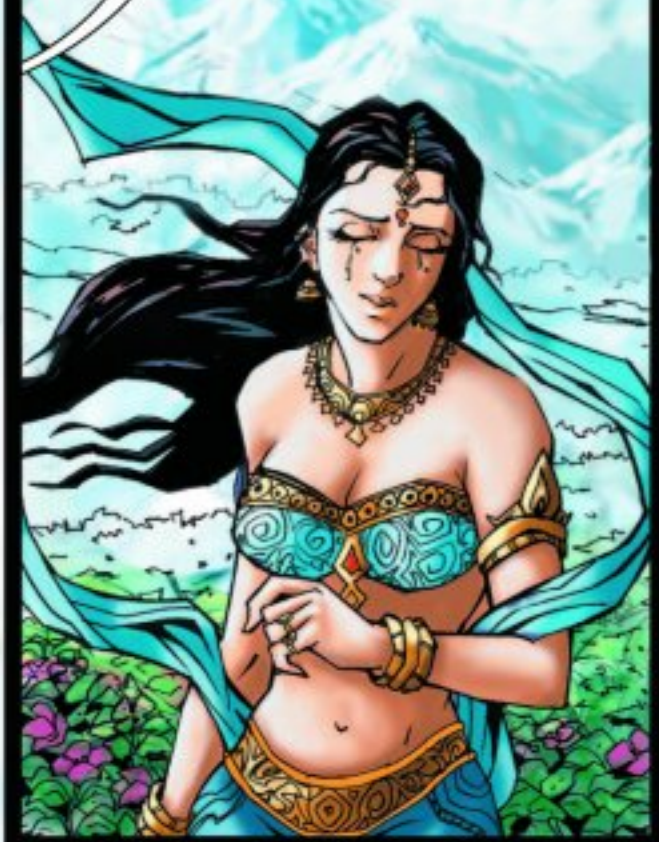


I THANK THE HEAVENS AND MOST  
OF ALL, I THANK LORD NARAD, THE  
MESSENGER OF THE GODS WHO  
REVEALED MY TRUE DESTINY TO ME.

THAT IS HOW IT  
CAME TO PASS, A LOVE LOST  
TO THE NARROW-MINDEDNESS  
OF AN EGOTISTICAL  
DESPOT...



...THAT FOREVER LEFT  
THE PANTHEON BEREFT OF ITS  
MIGHTIEST CHAMPION, LORD  
SHIVA, THE DESTROYER, HE WHO  
IS THE RUDRA OF THE STORM  
WINDS, WARRIOR  
SUPREME.



BUT SUCH IS  
THE MYSTERIOUS POWER  
OF LOVE THAT FATE HAS  
DEEMED THAT A SECOND  
CHANCE BE GIVEN.

YOU, UMA,  
DAUGHTER OF THE  
MIGHTY MOUNTAIN  
HIMALAYA, ARE  
IN TRUTH...

SATI  
REBORN.

AND I TELL  
YOU THIS TALE, FOR  
IT IS TIME THAT SHIVA  
IS NEEDED  
AGAIN...

AND IT IS  
ONLY YOU THAT  
CAN BRING HIM  
BACK.



"A MENACE THREATENS  
TO UNDO THE BALANCE IN  
THE COSMOS YET AGAIN.

"THE DEMON ARMY RAISES ITS  
HEAD AGAIN UNDER THE AEGIS OF  
THEIR MIGHTIEST CHAMPION YET.

"THE DREADED TARAKASUR.



"FOR TWO SCORE YEARS DID  
HE PRAY TO LORD BRAHMA...



"...FOR A BOON  
OF IMMORTALITY."

O DEMON KING! YOU HAVE PRAYED  
LONG AND HARD AND IT IS NOW THE  
TIME FOR ME TO GRANT YOU A BOON.  
ASK WHAT YOU WISH FOR. IF IT IS  
WITHIN MY POWER, I SHALL  
GRANT IT.



O CREATOR OF THE  
COSMOS! YOUR HUMBLE  
SERVANT ASKS FOR A BOON  
OF FREEDOM FROM DEATH.  
A BOON OF SUMMARY  
IMMORTALITY.

I AM AFRAID TARAK, MIGHTIEST OF  
DEMONS, IT IS BEYOND EVEN MY  
POWER TO GRANT YOU IMMORTALITY,  
FOR DEATH CAN ONLY BE DELAYED,  
AND NOT AVERTED. SUCH IS  
THE WAY OF THE  
COSMOS.



"AN EVIL TWINKLE IN HIS EYE, THE CRAFTY DEMON ASKED FOR A BOON THAT ALMOST ASSURED IMMORTALITY FOR HIM.

O HOLY CREATOR, THEN GRANT ME THIS BOON. I WISH NOT TO BE SLAYED BY ANYONE OTHER THAN THE SON OF SHIVA.



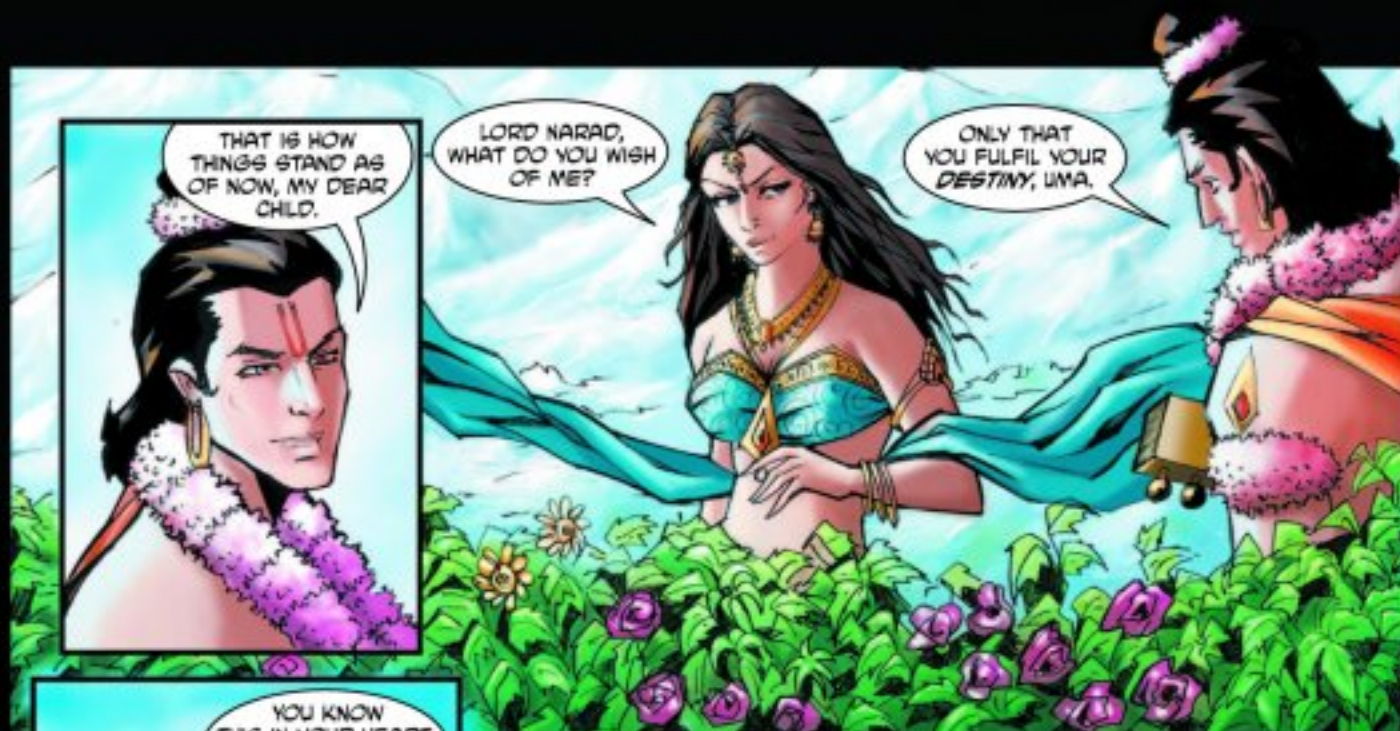
THAT INDEED IS WITHIN MY POWERS TO GRANT, DEMON KING. I BLESS YOU AND DECREE THAT, YOU BE KILLED BY NONE OTHER THAN THE SON OF SHIVA.

"THE DEMON HAD PLAYED HIS DICE WELL, FOR WHAT HE WAS ASKING WAS NOTHING SHORT OF VIRTUAL IMMORTALITY.

"HE WAS SAFE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SHIVA HAD WITHDRAWN INTO HARSH MEDITATION IN THE ICY WASTES OF KAILASH, FOREVER SHUNNING THE WORLD THAT HAD ROBBED HIM OF HIS ONE TRUE LOVE.

"THE CHANCES OF SHIVA'S SON BEING BORN WERE DIM, IN FACT."





THAT IS HOW  
THINGS STAND AS  
OF NOW, MY DEAR  
CHILD.

LORD NARAD,  
WHAT DO YOU WISH  
OF ME?

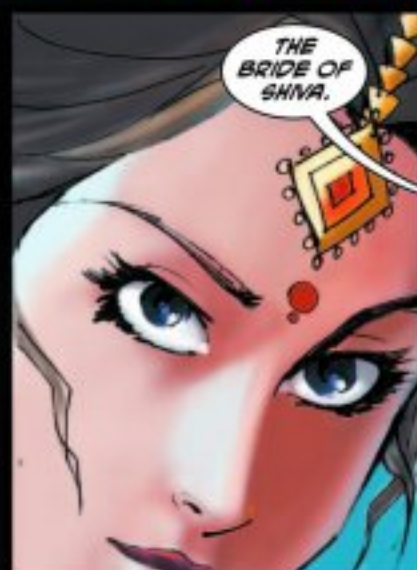
ONLY THAT  
YOU FULFIL YOUR  
DESTINY, UMA.



YOU KNOW  
THIS IN YOUR HEART  
OF HEARTS TO BE  
TRUE...



...THAT YOU ARE  
SATI REBORN, BORN  
WITH THE ESSENCE OF  
SHAKTI, THE POWER  
DIVINE.



THE  
BRIDE OF  
SHIVA.



I ASK OF YOU  
NOTHING BUT WHAT  
FATE HAS ALREADY  
DECREED FOR  
YOU.

GO FORTH, SEEK  
LORD SHIVA AND BREAK  
HIS AUSTERE  
PENANCE.

LET HIM GAZE  
UPON YOUR VIGRA  
AND LET THE FLAME  
OF LOVE BE  
REKINDLED IN HIS  
HEART.

GET OUT INTO  
THE ICY WASTES OF  
KAILASH AND REIGNITE  
PASSION IN THE HEART  
OF SHIVA.

SAVE HIM!

"...AND GAVE US!"





"IT IS DONE O KING OF GODS, UMA HAS SET FORTH ON A JOURNEY TO RECLAIM SHIVA'S LOVE. AS I SPEAK, SHE BRAVES THE ICY WINDS OF KAILASH TO REUNITE WITH HER LOST LOVE OF YESTERBIRTH."



ALL THAT WE HAD WISHED FOR HAS COME TO PASS, LORD INDRA.

YOU HAVE DONE WELL, LORD NARAD.



BUT CAN SUCH A THING LIKE THIS BE LEFT TO CHANCE?



WHO IS TO KNOW THE MYSTERIOUS WORKINGS OF THE HEART AND THE FICKLE WAYS OF LOVE...



...BUT KAMA, THE GOD OF LOVE HIMSELF?

"LORD KAMA, MASTER OF LOVE, WE  
HAVE ARRIVED AT YOUR ABODE AS  
THINGS HAVE COME TO A DIRE PASS.

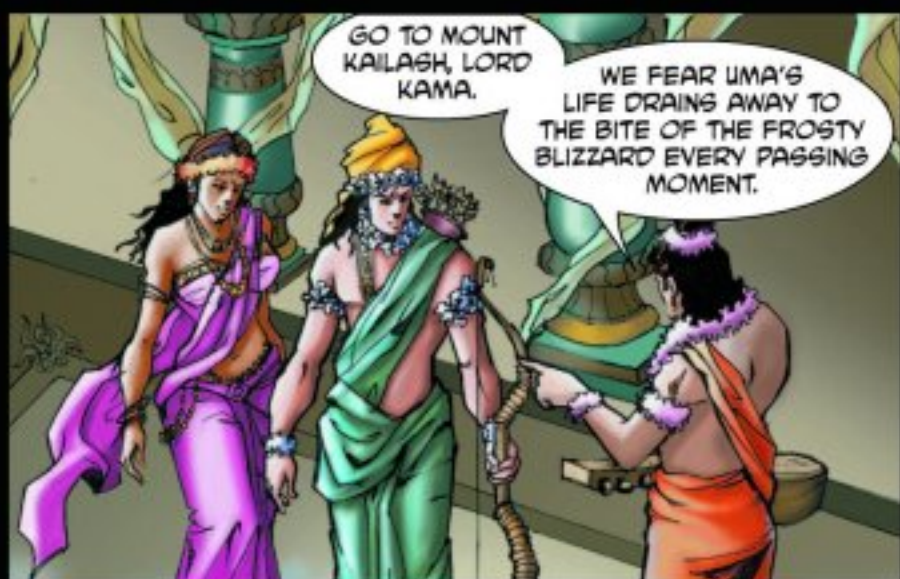
"UMA HAS SUCCEEDED ON  
HER JOURNEY TO KAILASH.

"YET, THINGS HAVE  
NOT TRANSPIRED AS WE  
HOPED THEY WOULD.



"YOU ALONE AMONG THE  
GODS POSSESS THE POWER  
TO AVERT A GREAT MISHAP...

"FOR IF SHIVA IS NOT AROUSED  
FROM HIS AUSTERE SLUMBER SOON,  
WE FEAR THAT ALL OF SWARGA\*  
MIGHT SOON BE AT THE MERCY OF  
TARAKASUR AND HIS DEVON ARMY."





"I FELT MY HANDS SHIVER A LITTLE AS I STEADIED MY BOW AND MOUNTED THE GILDED ARROW OF LOVE ON IT.

"FOR I WAS CHARGED WITH PIERCING THE HEART OF THE MOST MIGHTY LORD SHIVA!



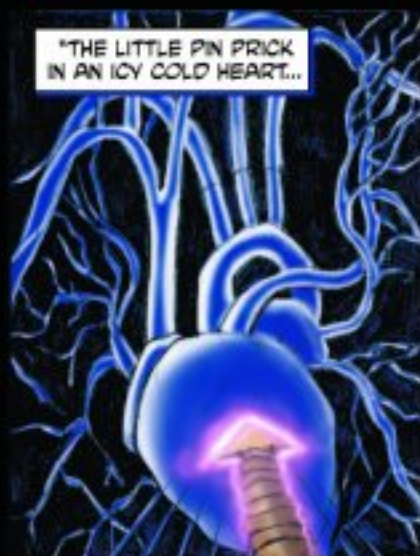
"I LET IT FLY...



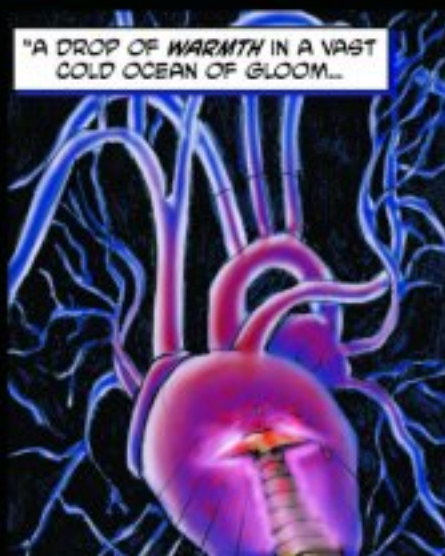
"...AND I WINCED AS IT HIT THE ICE ENCASING SHIVA.



"I FELT IT ALL... AS I DO ALWAYS.



"THE LITTLE PIN PRICK IN AN ICY COLD HEART...



"A DROP OF *WARMTH* IN A VAST COLD OCEAN OF GLOOM...



"...AND I ALLOWED MYSELF A LITTLE SMILE...

"...AS I FELT SHIVA'S HEART FLOOD WITH *FEELING*."

"AND WHAT IS LOVE,  
BUT A SWEET *MADNESS*."

"SO LONG HAD SHIVA LAID  
UNDER THAT ICE, EXCLUDED  
FROM FEELING..."

"...AND INSULATED  
FROM *HIMSELF*..."

"... THAT HIS WHOLE  
BEING *EXPLODED*."

"A REFLEX OF A HEART  
THAT HAD BEEN LONELY  
FOR TOO LONG..."

"...WITH ALL HIS RAGE..."

"...ALL HIS GRIEF..."

"...ALL HIS PAIN."



"BEREFT OF THOSE, ALL  
THAT WAS LEFT IN SHIVA...

"...WAS LOVE.



"HE SPIED THE UNCONSCIOUS FORM OF  
UMA LYING PRONE ON THE ICY FLOOR.



SATI?

"I SAW A SINGLE GLANCE IS  
ENOUGH FOR ONE TO RECOGNIZE  
THEIR TRUE LOVE. ALL THAT THE  
LORD OF LORDS HAD TO DO...

"...WAS REMEMBER.



"AS THE BARRIERS OF TIME MELTED  
AWAY IN HIS MIND, HE REALIZED HE  
HAD BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE.

"THUS, HE SPRANG INTO MOTION.



"NOT WISHING TO LOSE HIS  
BELOVED AGAIN TO THE  
RAVAGES OF FROST, ALBEIT  
THIS TIME IT WAS NOT THE  
COLD OF THE HUMAN HEART,  
BUT THE ICY BLIZZARD OF  
THE MOUNTAINS THAT  
THREATENED TO TAKE  
HER AWAY.



"THUS, HE DREW FOR HER, TEARING  
FROM THE VERY HEART OF THE FROSTY  
SLOPES OF THE ICY MOUNTAIN...

"...A CIRCLE OF PROTECTION!"





THE END

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# SHIVA



ON STANDS SEPTEMBER 2007

