

Real Superheroes

True Stories of Great Souls



RANI LAKSHMI BAI



Meet Manu

Rani Lakshmi Bai was born in Varanasi and grew up in a town called Bithoor. Her family called her Manu, short for Manikarnika.

As a girl, Manu was bright, brave, and full of questions. She loved to learn, and she loved horses.

She grew up to become the queen of Jhansi, and one of the bravest leaders in India's freedom struggle.

Stories about her childhood have been told for many years. Here are five of them.



1. DETERMINATION: The Ten Elephants



Long ago in the town of Bithoor, there lived a cheerful little girl named Manu. One morning, she saw her friend Nana Saheb sitting high up on a big, gentle elephant. Manu's eyes sparkled.



Manu ran to the elephant. “Nana Saheb, please let me ride with you!” she said. Nana Saheb looked down and shook his head. “Not today, Manu.” Manu’s smile faded. She felt a little hurt.



Manu did not cry. She did not shout. She did not run away. She stood very still and thought for a moment. Then she lifted her chin.



“One day, I will have ten elephants of my own,” said Manu. Nana Saheb laughed. But Manu was not joking. She had made a big dream, and she meant it.



From that day, Manu worked hard at everything she did. She studied, she practised, and she never gave up. When someone said no, Manu did not stop. She just made her dream bigger.



Let's Think!

Manu was told “NO”, but she did not give up. She made a big dream and kept working towards it. This is called Determination.

Has someone ever said no to something you wanted? How did you feel, and what did you do?

What is one big dream you want to work towards?