

# Canis Major - Legend from India

Bhima (Buh-HEE-muh), Nakula (nah-KOO-luh), Sahadeva (sah-hah-DAY-vuh), Yudistira (you-DISH-truh), Svana (SFAHN-uh), Indra (IN-druh)

There 4 sisters, who were princesses.

Bhima was the happiest princess.

Nakula the best looking,

Sahadeva the wisest,

and Yudistira the oldest who had a dog named Svana.

They left home together, traveling to seek the Kingdom of Heaven.

They came to a country fair. There were people singing, dancing, and having a party.

Bhima felt right at home and decided staying there would make her happy and she would search for Heaven tomorrow. Her sisters wished her well and left without her.

After traveling all night, they stopped at a beautiful garden to rest.

There was a handsome prince in the garden. When the prince and Nakula saw each other, it was love at first sight!

She decided to stay with the prince and seek the Kingdom of Heaven tomorrow. Her sisters wished her well and went on without her.

They reached a great university where Sahadeva found things she would like to study.

She thought she would stay and grow wiser then go to look for the Kingdom of Heaven tomorrow. So Yudistira and her dog wished her well and went on without her.

Finally, they found the gates of heaven. Indra, the gate keeper, invited her in.

When Yudistira tried to enter the gates with her dog Svana, they were stopped. Indra told them that heaven is not a place for dogs and she would have to leave Svana behind.

Yudistira turned away telling Indra that if Svana couldn't go to heaven, then she would not go either. Indra wondered why if Yudistira could leave her sisters behind, why couldn't she leave Svana. Yudistira told him she did not leave her sisters, her sisters left her to follow their hearts' desires. She said she would not leave Svana for he has given his heart to me.

Indra was impressed and invited them both to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Indra set the constellation Canis Major in the night sky to honor Yudistira and Svana's devotion to each other.