



A journey through  
history, heritage, and  
the names that unite us.

# The Many Names of

The Many Names of Home

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The Story of Bharat

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Kabir sat cross-legged on the floor, staring at the opening page of his new history textbook which read, India that is Bharat. He turned to his grandmother, curiosity sparkling in his eyes, and asked how a single place could have more than one name. Dadi smiled, closed her eyes, and invited Kabir to take a journey through the grand hallway of time.



In a flash of golden light, Kabir found himself standing beside a massive, roaring river that stretched as far as the eye could see. Dadi explained that this was the mighty Indus River, known locally as the Sindhu, where ancient travelers first marveled at the thriving civilization along its banks. The ancient Persians mispronounced the river's name, calling the land and its people Hindu.



As the scene shifted, Kabir watched Greek explorers charting the lands under a brilliant blue sky, led by the tales of Alexander the Great. They adapted the Persian name into Indus, and soon, the entire vast land beyond the river became known to the Western world as India. Kabir ran his fingers through the warm river sand, realizing how a single body of water shaped the world's map.



The scenery dissolved into a magnificent Vedic forest, where wise sages chanted hymns around a sacred fire beneath a canopy of ancient banyan trees. Dadi told Kabir of the ancient text, the Vishnu Purana, which described a land south of the snowy Himalayas and north of the ocean. This sacred geography was proudly named Bharatam, the home of the descendants of Bharata.



Suddenly, a grand court materialized around them, vibrant with silk banners and the sound of trumpets celebrating the legendary King Bharata. Kabir watched the righteous king rule with wisdom and courage, uniting diverse tribes under a single vision of peace and prosperity. It was from this noble ruler and the ancient tribe of the Bharatas that the name Bharatavarsa was deeply etched into the soul of the soil.



The magnificent palace faded into a breathtaking view of the snow-capped Himalayan peaks catching the first rays of the morning sun. Dadi pointed to the valleys below, explaining that the land was also once lovingly called Himavat, honoring the giant mountain guard that protected the subcontinent. Kabir felt a deep sense of awe looking at the natural fortress that had watched over his ancestors for millennia.



Walking further into a lush valley filled with sweet-smelling orchards and heavy, purple fruits, Kabir learned of another ancient name, Jambudvipa. Dadi laughed softly, explaining that ancient texts referred to the land as the Island of the Jambu Trees because of the abundance of giant rose apple trees that grew across the fertile plains. Kabir could almost taste the sweetness of history in the gentle breeze.



The golden light of dusk began to settle over the landscape as Dadi brought Kabir back to a time of bustling trade routes and poetic travelers, where merchants called the land Al-Hind. This name echoed through the crowded marketplaces of the Silk Road, carrying tales of spices, philosophy, and endless wealth to distant empires. Kabir saw how every culture that touched this land added a new line to its grand story.



With a gentle swirl of stardust, Kabir found himself back in his cozy living room, looking down at his open textbook with newfound wonder. He realized that his country was not just a spot on a map, but a living, breathing epic written by millions of people across thousands of years. The words on the page no longer seemed confusing, but rather like an invitation to an endless adventure.



Smiling widely, Kabir traced the letters of his homeland's modern identity, understanding that whether it is called India, Bharat, Hindustan, Jambudvipa, or Al-Hind, it all belongs to the same beautiful soul. Dadi patted his shoulder as Kabir proudly wrote down the conclusion to his lesson, knowing that a land with so many names simply means it has that many more stories to love.