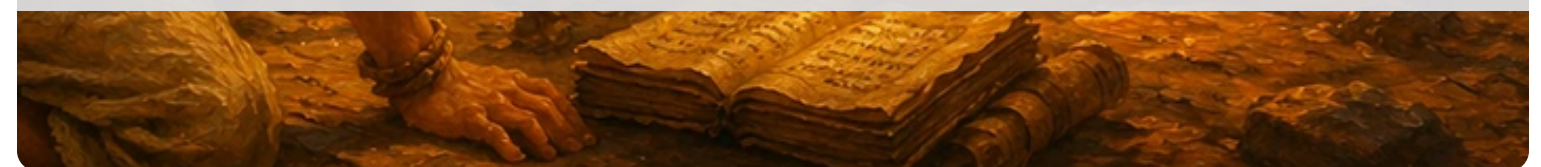


# The Legacy of the Serpent

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In a tranquil courtyard filled with the scent of jasmine, a group of students sits before a heavy, silken curtain. From behind the veil comes a voice of profound wisdom, teaching the secrets of the universe to those who listen with their hearts. Ananda, the youngest student, feels a spark of intense curiosity about the mysterious master who never shows his face.



Driven by a sudden, irresistible urge, Ananda creeps toward the stage while the other students are lost in deep contemplation. His hand trembles as he reaches for the gold-trimmed fabric, slowly pulling it aside to see what lies behind the barrier. He expects to see an old man, but the reality is far more magnificent than he ever imagined.



Behind the curtain, a thousand serpents made of flickering orange and gold flames coil and dance in the air. Each serpent moves with rhythmic grace, yet they all speak in a single, perfectly synchronized voice that resonates like a silver bell. The room is filled with a warm, celestial light that reveals the true, multi-faceted nature of the divine teacher.



In an instant, the heavy curtain vanishes into thin air, and the thousand flaming serpents merge into the form of a man. Patanjali stands before Ananda in his human form, wearing a serene and knowing smile that puts the boy's heart at ease. He explains that the many serpents represent the scattered thoughts of the mind, which must be brought into harmony.



Patanjali sits among his students, showing them how a serpent can hold its body in a perfectly straight, still line. He teaches that the mind, though often wild and slithering like a snake, can find peace through the discipline of breath and focus. The students watch in awe as the master demonstrates the balance between strength and absolute tranquility.



Centuries later, a modern practitioner unrolls a mat in a quiet room, closing her eyes to find her center. The ancient path laid down by the sage who fell from the sky continues to guide every soul seeking stillness. Yoga remains a living legacy, a sacred state of being where the mind becomes as steady and calm as a resting serpent.