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THE LEGEND OF THE LAKE - DO U KNOW ?

One of the natural glories of India is Chilika, Asia's largest salt-water lake. Flanked by blue hills and studded with isles and islets, the vast span of this glorious salt water lake spreading over some 1,100 sq. km.

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opens up to the sea, creating an unforgettable sight.

One of the isles has a shrine, dedicated to Kalijai. She is the presiding deity of the lake. All those who ply boats or travel by them pray to her for protection. Once she herself had faced a calamity.

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Indeed, she had been a human being, but a girl with a difference.

Probably she wanted to devote her life to some spiritual cause; she did not wish to lead an ordinary worldly life. However, her parents arranged a match for her.

3/

Kalijai was taken by a small boat to a village across the lake for the wedding. Midway, the sky became overcast with dark clouds. Strong winds broke out and the swelling waves splashed into the now unsteady boat.

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All the passengers were panicky, but Kalijai sat calm, eyes closed. The wind was followed by heavy downpour. So thick was it that those in the boat could not see one another. Suddenly the boat upturned.

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The passengers, thrown into the water, struggled and managed to swim to the shore. The rain stopped and the clouds disappeared.

Well, all were there, but not Kalijai!

6/

It was believed that the spirit of the girl never left the lake. She was keen to protect others. In course of time, people worshipped her and built a temple for her

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