

Emerging individual artist –
Ravi Varma,



- > Raja Ravi Varma (1848 - 1906) was from the princely state of Travancore.
- > Depicted scenes from the epics of the Mahabharata and Ramayana
- > His father Ezhumavail Neelakanthan Bhattatiripad was an accomplished scholar, and his mother Umayamba Thampuratti was a poet.
- > He was trained in water color by Rama Swami Naidu and later in oil painting by Dutch portraitist Theodor Jenson.
He often modeled Hindu Goddesses on South Indian women

#Growing up within the **paradoxical ideology** of the Indian Renaissance, **at once traditionalist and modern**, he brought himself on par with the more enlightened princes of his time as also with the educated elite that was converting a **diffuse patriotism into a national purpose**.

#a gentleman artist in the Victorian mould and, paradoxically, of a nationalist charged with the ambition to devise a pan-Indian vision for his people.

#Ravi Varma joins the ranks of other anomalous figures in India's nineteenth-century renaissance who see their task in similar terms: of materializing through western techniques the idea of a golden past and then inducting this into a national project.
(Geeta Kapur)

#“Ravi Varma struggled to introduce a great many new elements into Indian painting, elements that were pertinent only to the world of seeing, the world of the visual image. He introduced perspective, having studied its laws according to the new science. European drawing, construction and composition and a new medium altogether: oil. He tried to wield the new tools in the Indian context and what he produced was not European painting at all but a new way of seeing. He introduced large bright areas of colour in his portraits and landscapes, adapted oil to the Indian light.” - Asok Mitra

> governor's gold medal in the **1873** Madras exhibition.

>He won the first prize in the Vienna Art Exhibition in **1873**

>A second gold medal in the **1874** Madras exhibition is topped by royal appreciation.

>When the Prince of Wales visits Madras in **1875**, the Maharaja of Travancore presents him Ravi Varma's painting.

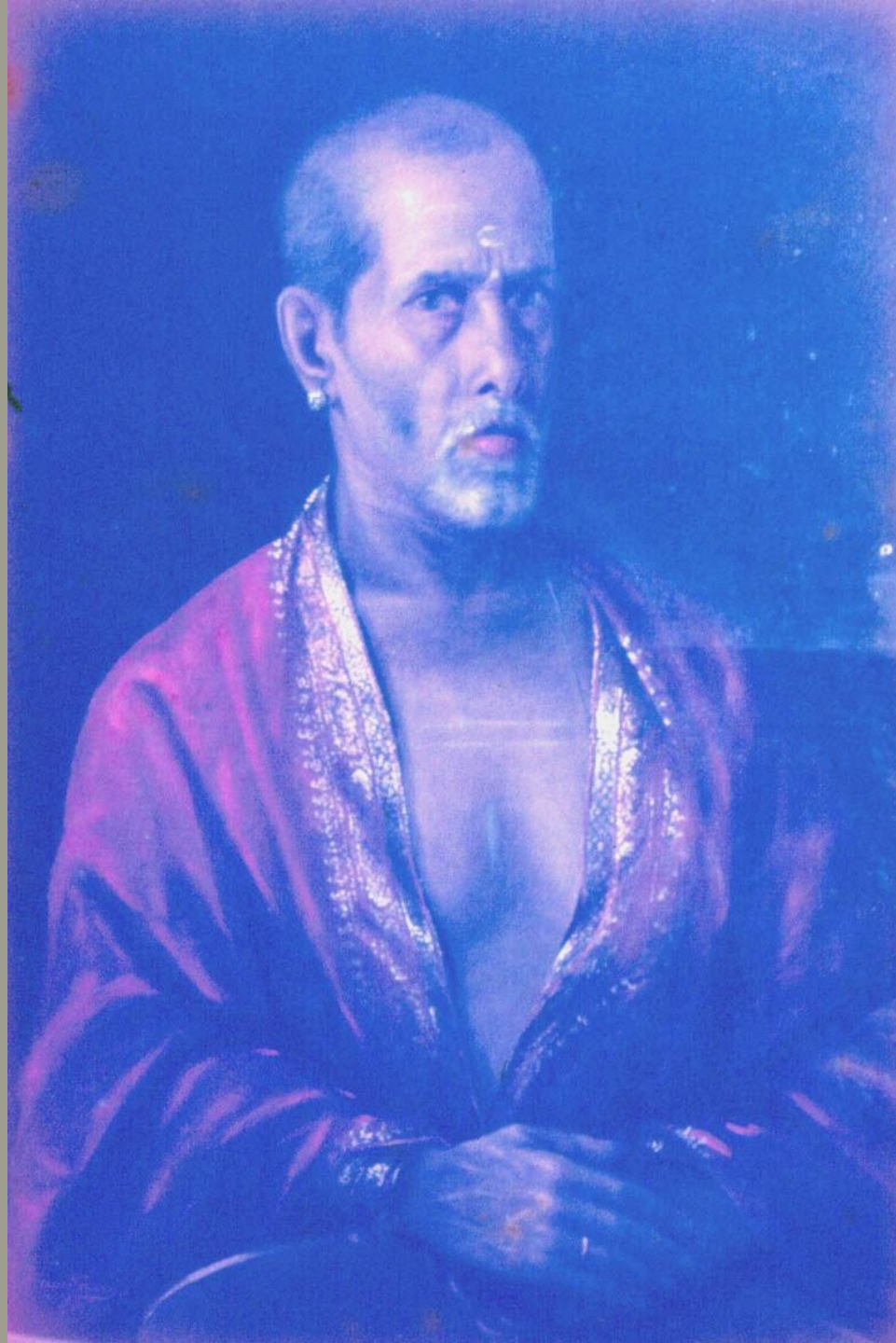
>In **1876** Ravi Varma enters ***Shakuntala Patralekhan*** at the Madras exhibition - gold medal – acquired by Duke of Buckingham. # breakthrough at the iconographical level as well, recommending him to the educated elite of India-orientalists and nationalists alike.

>In **1878** Ravi Varma paints a life-size portrait of the Duke of Buckingham and the patron declares that the painter has equaled, even surpassed, European portraitists.

>In **1888** Sayaji Rao (introduced by Sir Madhava Rao) invites him to embark on a set of fourteen pictures depicting puranic themes. Mysore and Travancore commission mythological works in the coming decades.

>He sent 10 paintings to the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in **1893** and he was awarded two gold medals

> Following the suggestion of Sir Madhava Rao, Ravi Varma and his younger brother C. Raja Raja Varma decide to set up a lithography press near Bombay in the **early 1890s**.

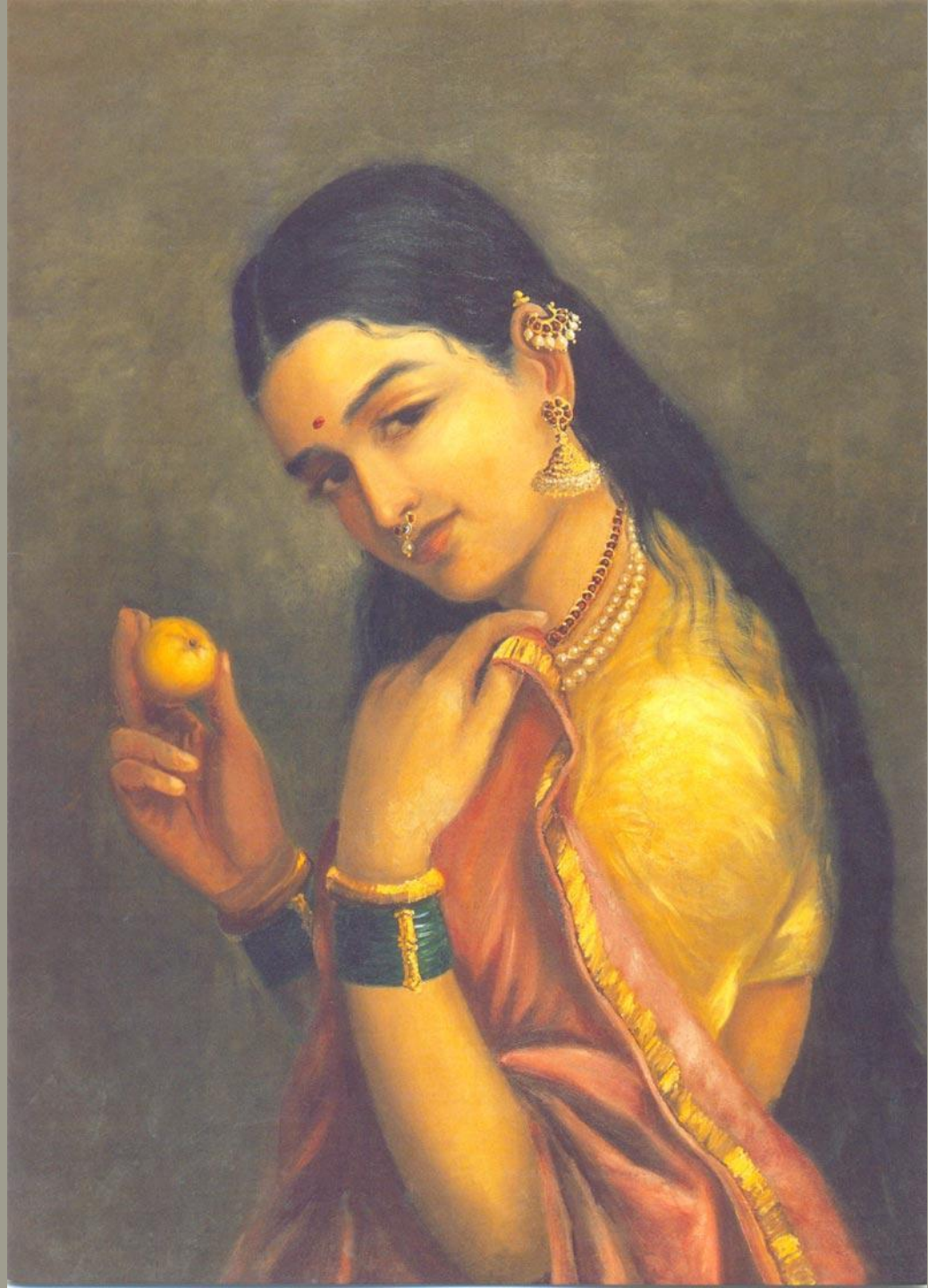


Ravi Varma.
Portrait of his maternal uncle

Ravi Varma,
Portrait of the stately
matriarch of the Nair clan
and her granddaughter.
Oil on Canvas, 1870



Woman with a fruit, 1890



Ravi Varma
Portrait of a Lady
1893







Maharashtrian
Lady





Shakuntala Patralekhan , Oil on Canvas, 1876



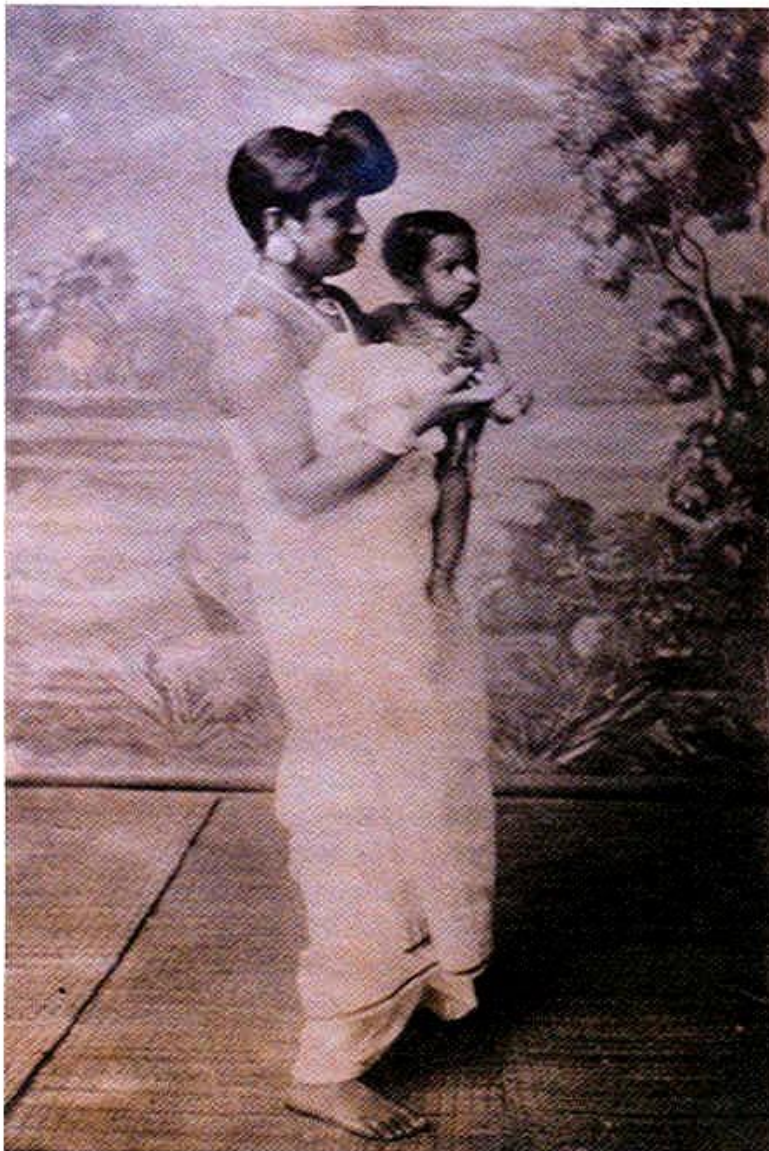


Plate 29a.



Plate 29c.

Mother of H. H. Setu Lakshmi Bai the Senior
Ranee of Vasavancol & her infant son
Martaanda Varma

Plate 29b.

Plates 29a, b and c

Studio photographs for Ravi Varma's painting entitled
Here Comes Papa, 1893 (see facing page).

facing page ▶











Gypsy Family, 1893



Ravi Varma
Judith (following
painting Judith by
French Orientalist
painter J.J. Benjamin-
Constant)
(1845–1902)

Jean Joseph Benjamin Constant (1845–1902)
JUDITH
oil on canvas
25.3 x 13.6 in.







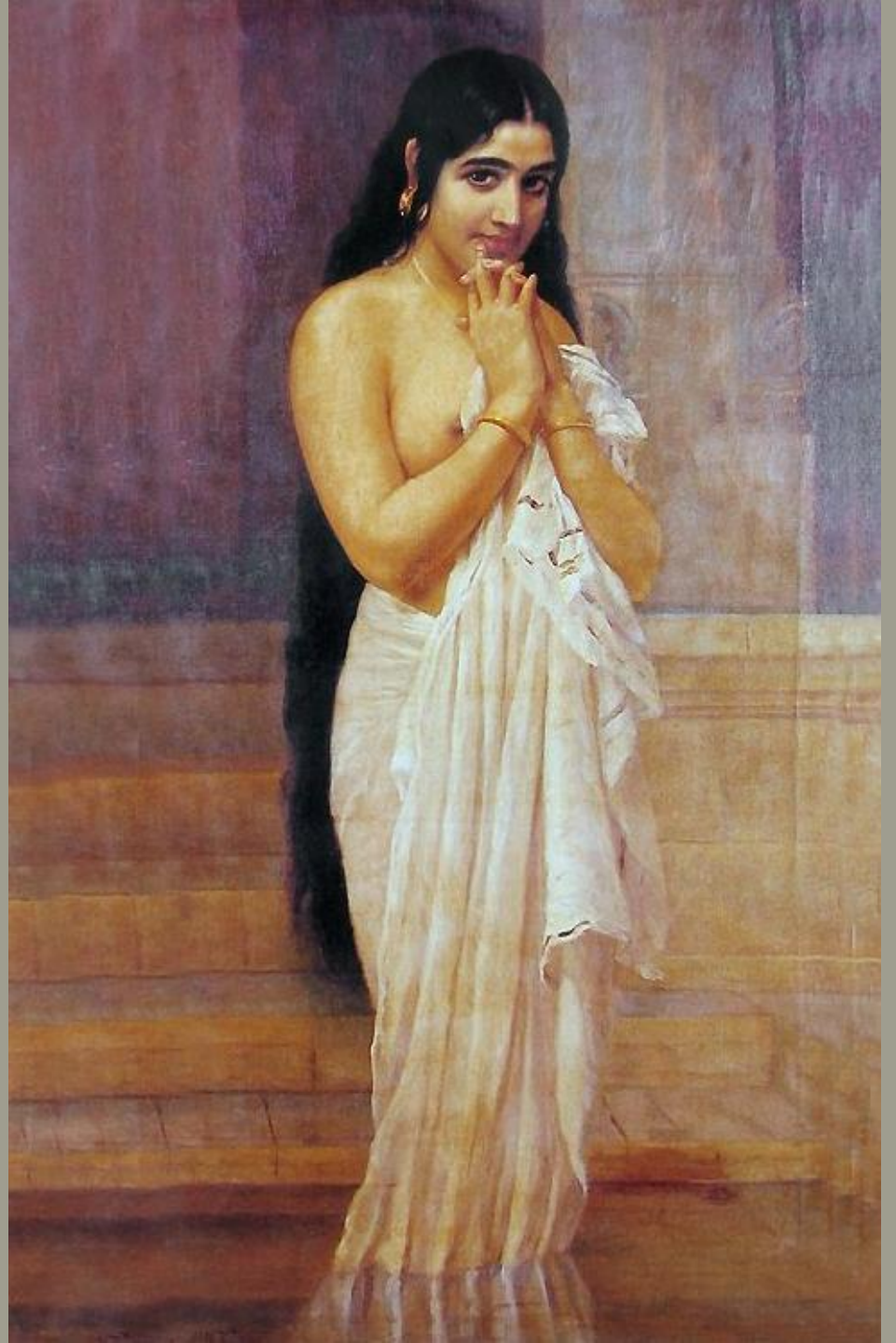
Ravi Varma
Shakuntala Dreaming of Dushyanta
Oil on Canvas, 1898

Ravi Varma, "Reverie". 1905-1906
Oil on Canvas

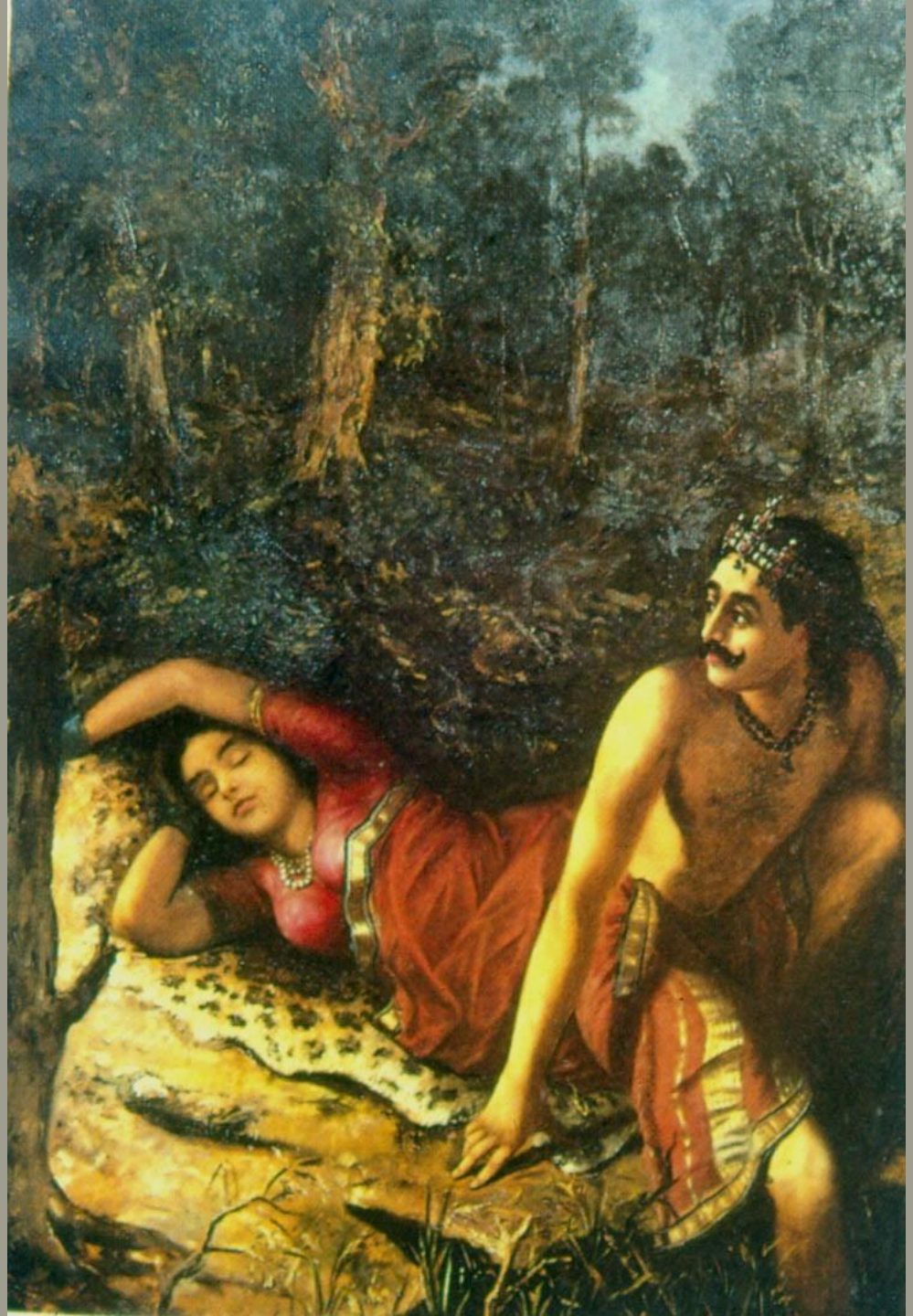


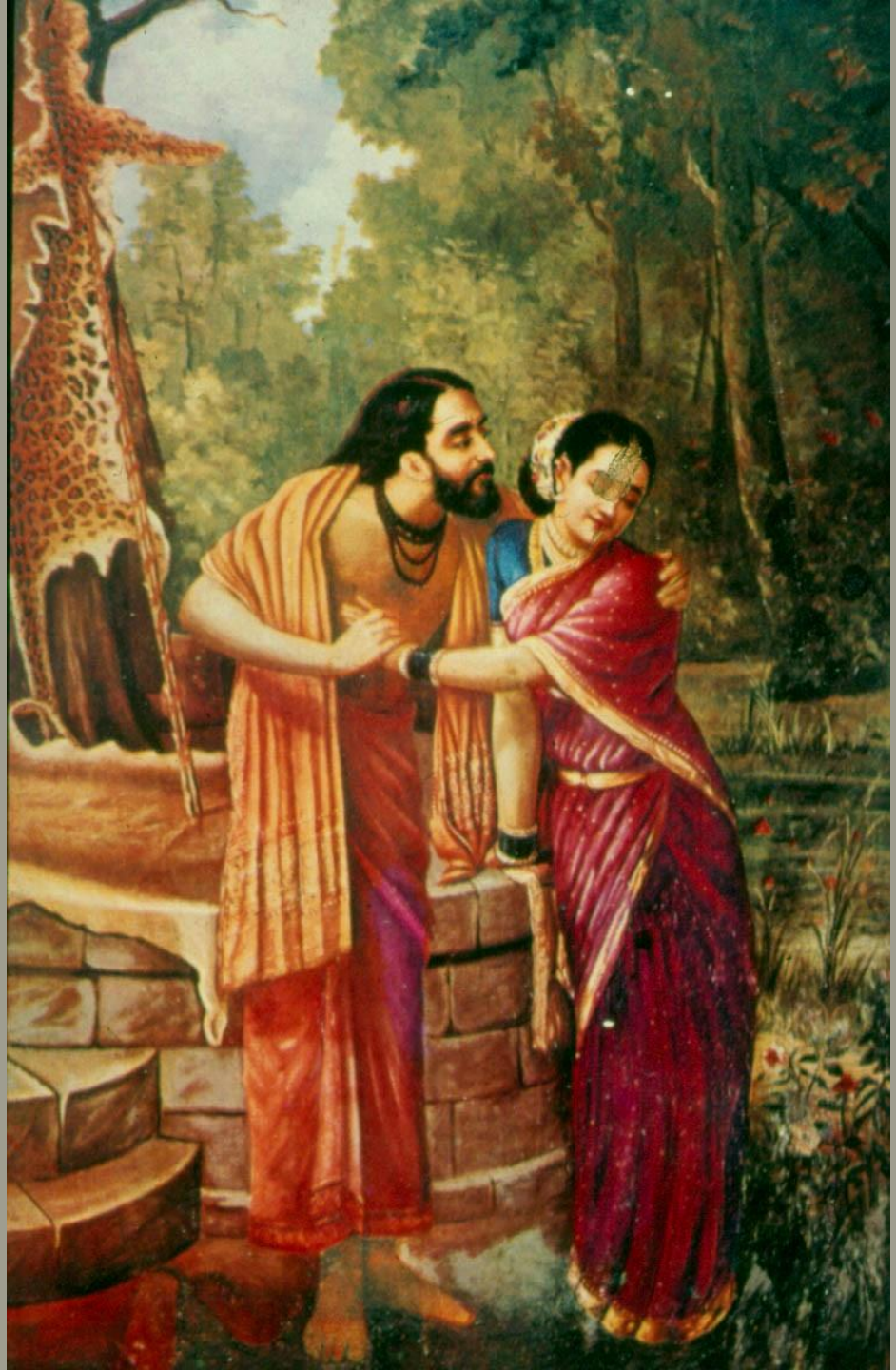


Ravi Varma, 'Mahashweta'
Oil on Canvas, 1905-06



Ravi Varma, Nala Damayanti
Oil on Canvas, 1888





Ravi Varma,
Arjuna and Subhadra
Oil on Canvas, 1888



Ravi Varma, Kamsa Maya
Oil on Canvas, 1888





Shri Krishna
liberating his
parents, 1905

Draupadi humiliated





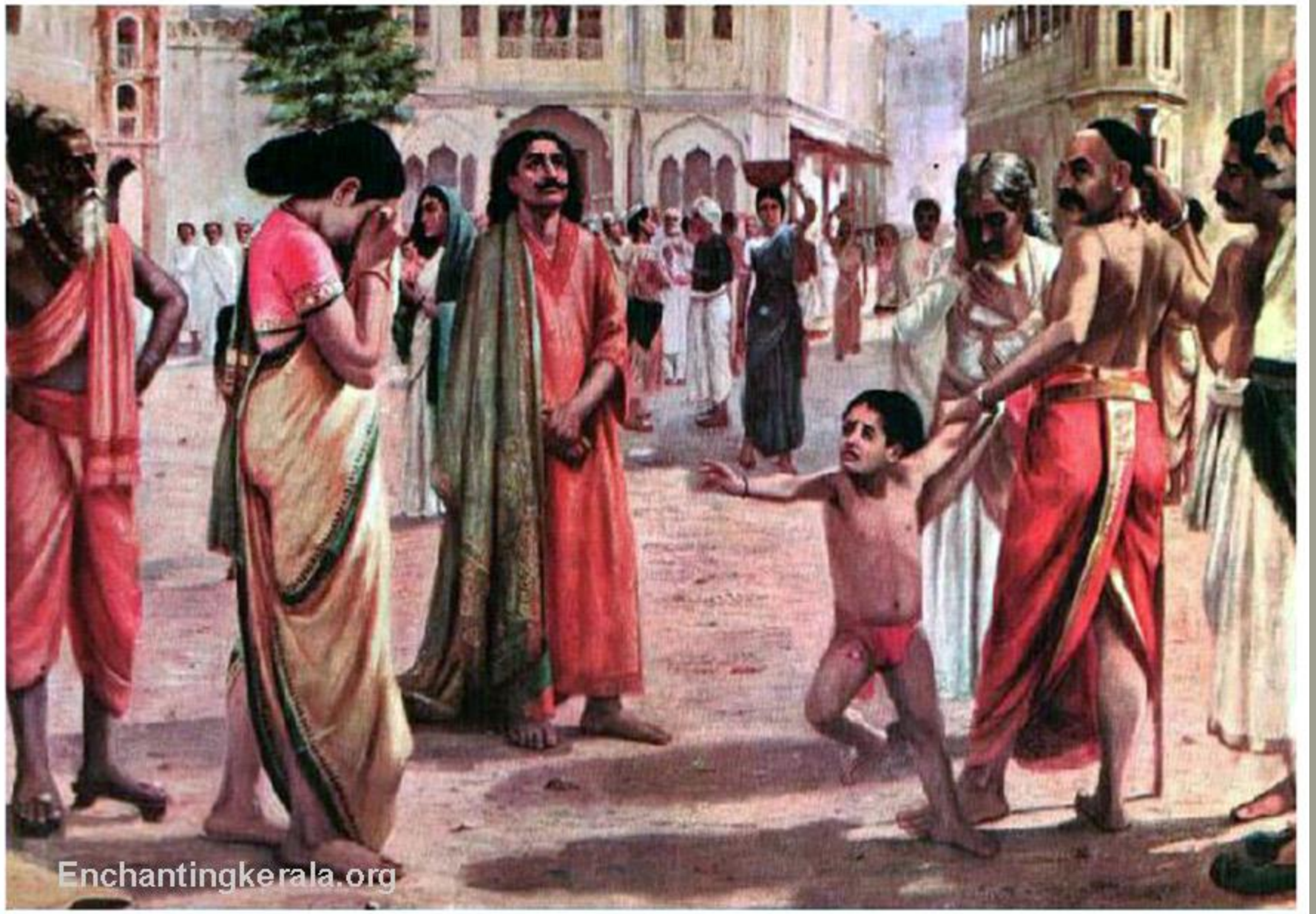
Ravi Varma,
Keechaka and Sairandhri
Oil on Cavas, 1902-03



Ravana Sita Jathayu, 1906



Menaka
Sakunthala



Enchantingkerala.org

Satya Harischandra



Descent of
Ganga



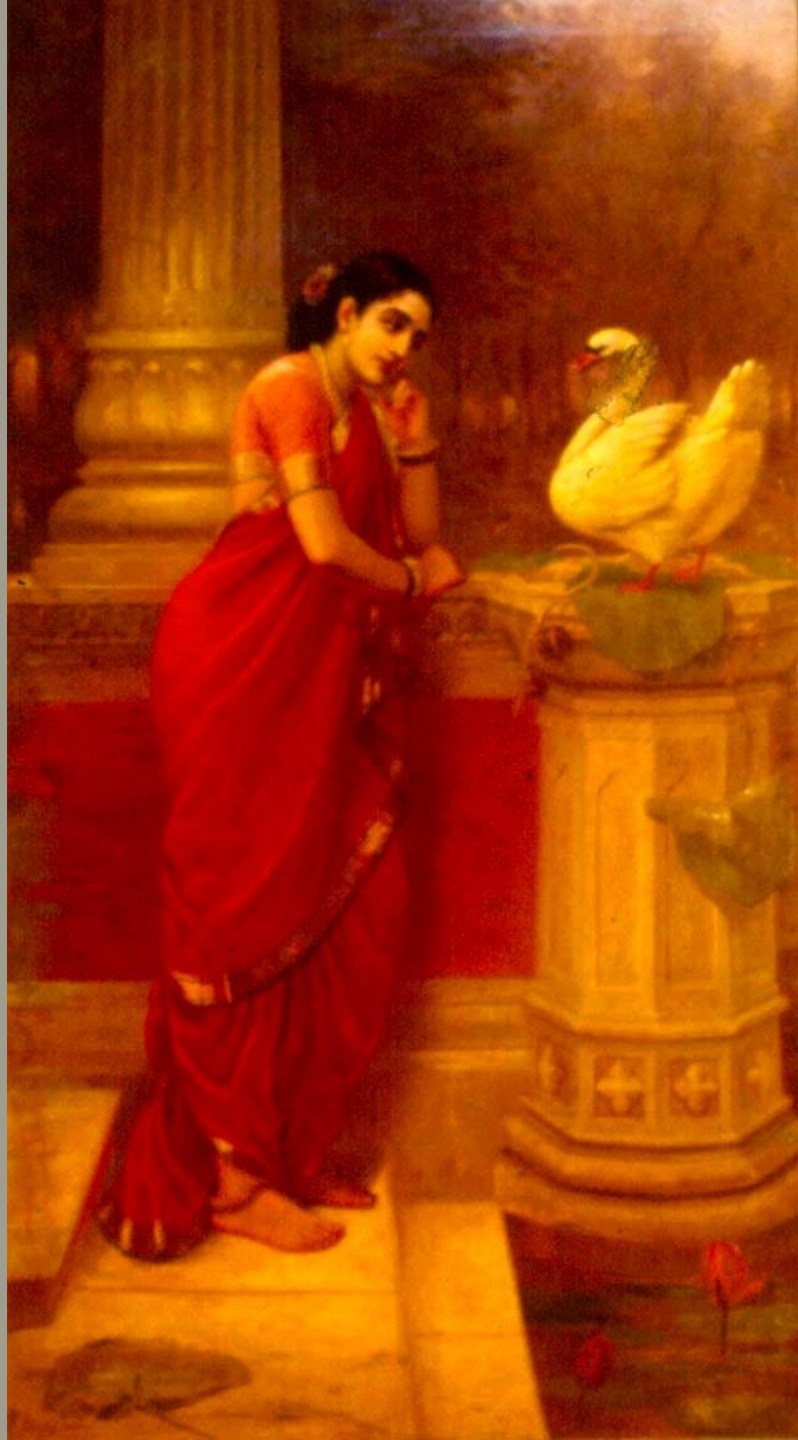
Maharaja Fateh
Singh of Baroda

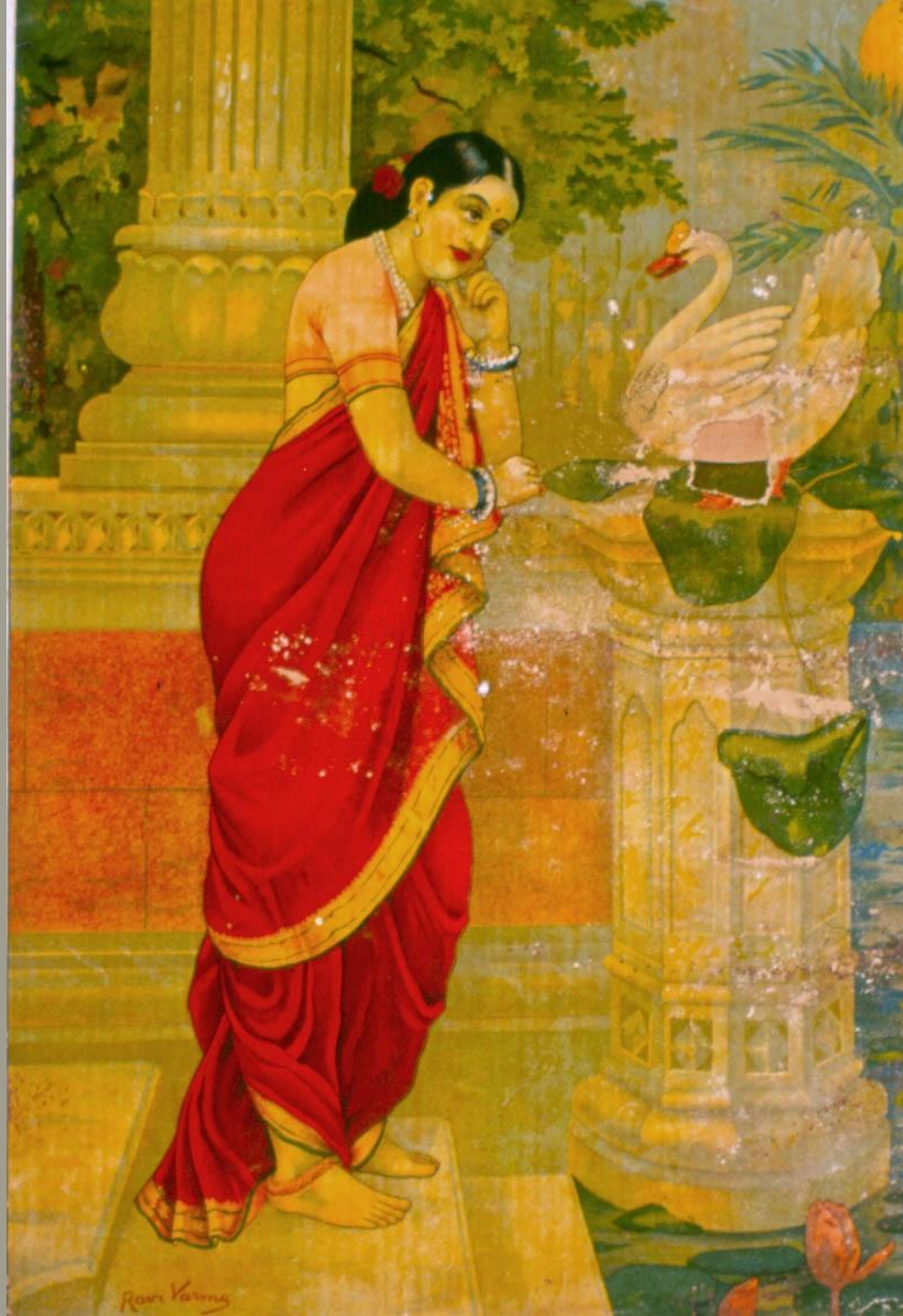


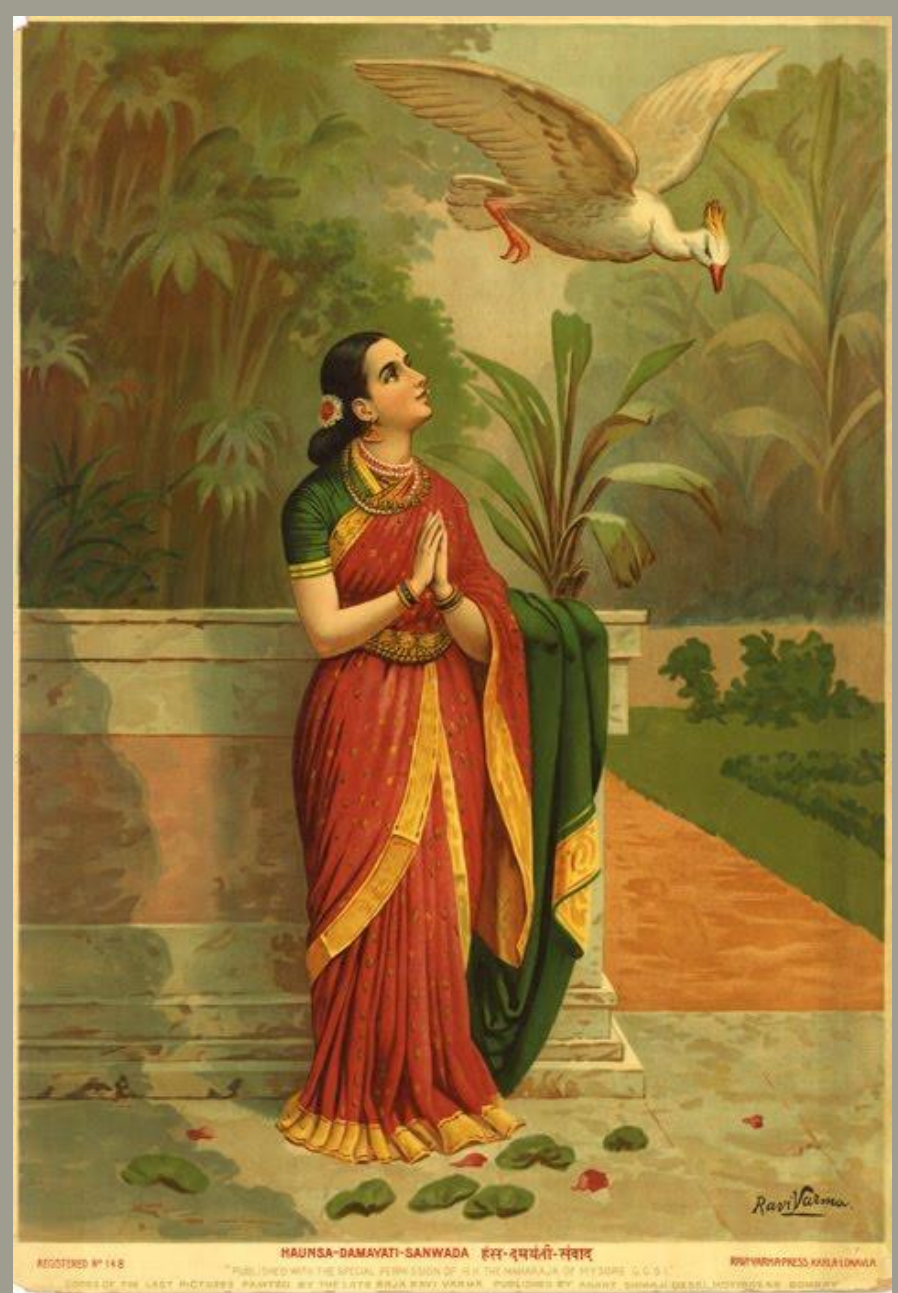
Sir T Madhava Rao



Shakuntala
Looking for
Dushyanta, 1898







Damayanthi sending a message to Nala through a swan



Saraswati







Location of Raja Ravi Varma Lithographic Press, Malavli, Maharashtra, India.



Raja Ravi Varma Archival Museum, Manipal, Karnataka, India.