



Savitri

THE TASK FOR THE MIGHTY DEMON



Retold by
Catherine Khoo

Illustrated by
Lai Hui Li

Savitri



Dedicated to my three angels
Patricia, Pamela and Paulina.
May you continue to inspire
your own little angels!

—Catherine

For the heroines, and to all
my friends who believed in me
and supported me all the way.

—Hui Li

Savitri

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Long ago in South India, there were two siblings who were very poor.



Savitri and Mitra worked very hard. As the years went by, they became rich and were able to buy land for farming.





Savitri soon saw a change in her brother. The more money Mitra earned, the greedier he became. He even began to pay his workers less so he could have more money to himself.

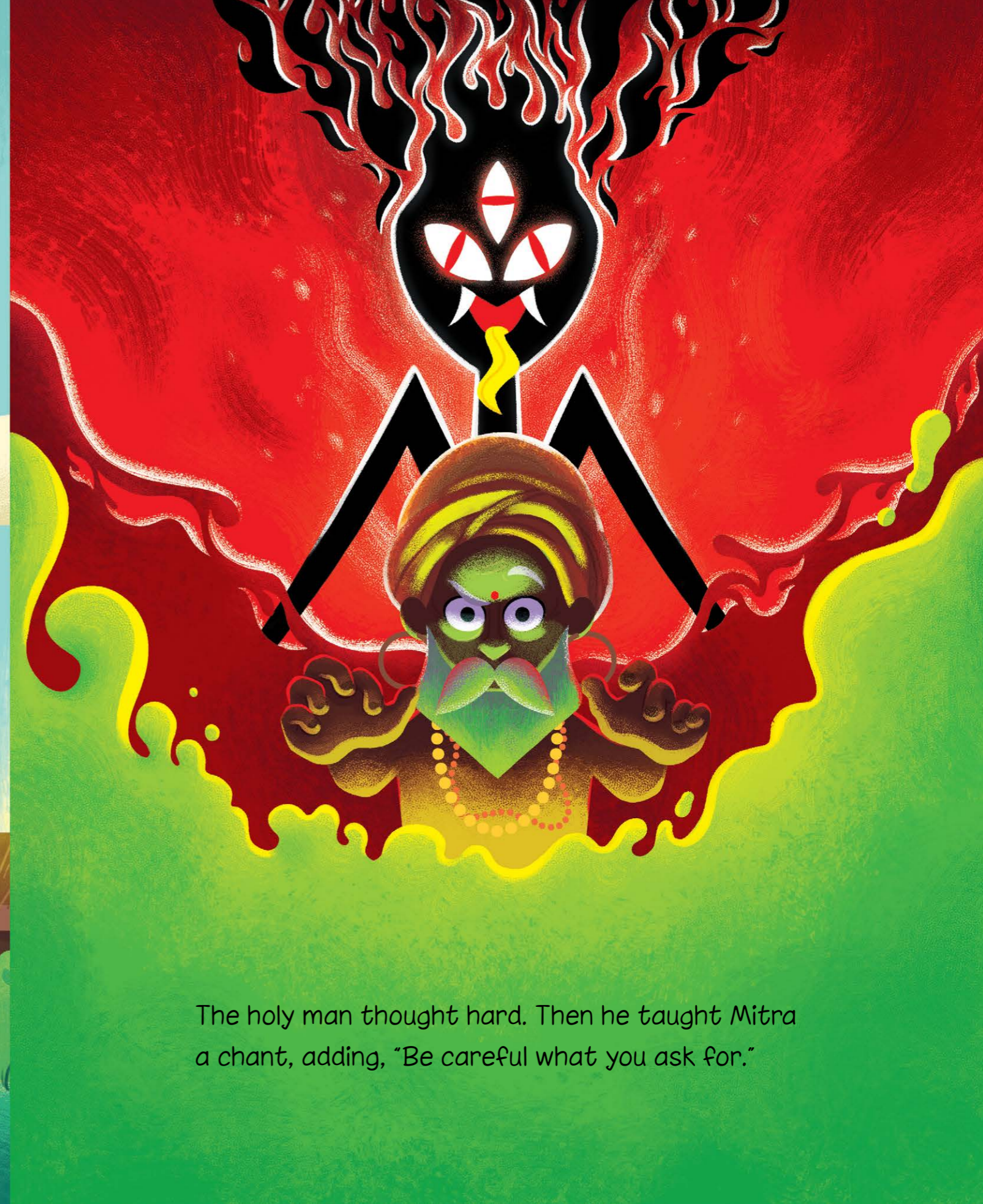
Savitri worried about her brother's greed. And it was not long before the workers started to leave, one by one.



One day, no one was left to take care of the farms.

So Savitri and Mitra went looking for workers. While she asked around, Mitra found the village holy man.

"All our good-for-nothing workers have left," Mitra cried. "Now who will till the land, sow the seeds and water the crops?"



The holy man thought hard. Then he taught Mitra a chant, adding, "Be careful what you ask for."

In a village in South India, Savitri's greedy brother has summoned the mighty demon Rakshasa to work for him. But Rakshasa warns him, "Always keep me busy or I will eat you."

When her brother runs out of work, Savitri must think of an impossible task to defeat Rakshasa.



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