

Since ancient times India has been famous for her amazing sapphires. Her rulers hoarded private collections of the precious blue gem, impressing native and visitor alike.

But Maharajah Jasraj was not satisfied with the magnificent brilliant jewels he owned. He greatly desired to possess the Starlight Sapphire. Pakistani wise men claimed it held mystical powers that could reach the stars and bless one's children for untold generations.



In 615 B.C. Fatima, daughter of the Pasha Bhawal of Pakistan was betrothed to Bhim, son of Jasraj, the Maharajah of India. As part of her dowry she brought the incredible Starlight Sapphire.


Just before the wedding Fatima ran off with a camel driver. Enraged at the humiliation and betrayal, the Maharajah refused to return the Sapphire to Pakistan. This has been a constant source of conflict between the countries.

Alexander the Great accepted the sapphire as tribute from the deposed Rajah intending to pass it on to his firstborn son and that by the luck of the sapphire he would have one. When his dear friend Hephaestion died it was rumored Alexander overcome by great grief threw the sapphire into a well. Other rumors say it was secreted away by his Indian consort, Roxanne, to be given back to India and her children.



The gem reappeared in 1220 when the current Rajah used it to bribe Genghis Khan to expand the Mongol empire toward Pakistan. When the Khan died the Starlight Sapphire was never found among his possessions. The legend began that it had a will of its own

The legendary gem resurfaced in India. Shah Dara placed a Hindu curse upon the gem so that a thief stealing it would suffer disgrace, poverty and infestation by fleas. Caring greatly for his children he blessed it to bring long life and fame to those who would rightfully possess it.

The legend of the luck of the jewel reached the ears of a British Major who seized the sapphire in the name of the Imperial Crown. He intended to send it to his beloved daughter but died from a nasty infection secondary to flea infestation. 

The sapphire remained quiet until a high stakes card game aboard the Orient Express in 1882. The winner of the hand, a slow talking, mysterious man from New Orleans claimed to be the King of the Riverboat Gamblers. He was found dead in his compartment the following morning. The Starlight Sapphire had vanished again.