

Biography

Jhansi Ki Rani Lakshmibai

बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी।।



Born on 19 November 1835 Lakshmi Bai lived for only 22 years and seven months a glorious life of courage and tremendous valor. She flashed and disappeared like lightning on a dark night of June 18, 1858.

Biography

Jhansi Ki Rani Lakshmibai



[The information, documents and pictures of Maharani Lakshmi Bai have been collected from different books and web sites. I have paraphrased and presented the diversified matter as one comprehensive document so that the readers can have better understanding of this variant woman of India's Freedom Movement who barely lived 23 years. Although I personally feel that popularizing the information and a document regarding this great rebellion heroine is the duty of all patriot Indians].



वन्दे मातरम्
सुजलां सुफलां मलयजशीतलाम्
शस्यशामलाः मातरम्
शुभ्रज्योत्स्नापुलकितयामिनी
फुल्लकुसुमितद्रुमदलशोभिनी
सुहासिनी सुमधुर भाषिणी
सुखदां वरदां मातरम् । १ । वन्दे मातरम्

Born on 19 November 1835 Lakshmi Bai lived for only 22 years and seven months a glorious life of courage and tremendous valor. She flashed and disappeared like lightning on a dark night of June 18, 1858.



Statue at Agra

बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी।।
सिंहासन हिल उठे राजवंशों ने भृकुटी तानी थी,
बूढ़े भारत में भी आई फिर से नयी जवानी थी,
गुमी हुई आज़ादी की कीमत सबने पहचानी थी,
दूर फिरंगी को करने की सबने मन में ठानी थी।।

Introduction

बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी।।

Holding reins of the horse by her teeth, flashing the sword with both the hands, the valiant firebrand, the legendary queen - the Goddess of war, and the epitome of female bravery in India, Maharani Lakshmi Bai had been riding away through the ocean of British soldiers, as if Goddess Durga herself arrived on the earth to demolish the brigade of Demons'. This is not a simple day dream of the patriot Indians, but this was how she fled away from the Gwalior fort when the fort was captured by company regiment. Rani Lakshmi Bai has been established as the icon of Indian independence movement and she is considered to be one of the leading figures of the Indian Rebellion of 1857. She is considered as the embodiment of patriotism. Lakshmi Bai was the queen of a small state, but the empress of a limitless empire of glory.

The enthralling story of courage and valor of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi was captured poetically by poetess Subhadra Kumari Chauhan and this was part of our school curriculum.

Knowing the thrilling story of womanliness, courage, adventure, deathless patriotism and martyrdom, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, another unforgettable legendary hero of Indian rebellion history, created women brigade of his Indian National Army (INA) and it was named after her 'The Rani of Jhansi Regiment'. Lakshmi Bai lived for only 22 years and seven months; she flashed and disappeared like lightning on a dark night.

The maiden name of Maharani Lakshmi Bai was Manikarnika. Lovingly and popularly she was called Manu. She was born on 19 November 1835 at Kashi (previously known as Banaras and now as Varanasi) to a Maharashtrian Karhade Brahmin family. Her father Moropant Tambey was from Dwadashi, District Satara of Maharashtra and worked at the court of Peshwa Baji Rao II

at Bithur. Manikarnika lost her mother at the age of four and thereafter she was educated at home by her father. She was a brave girl since her childhood and practiced horse riding, archery, sword fighting which normally being taught to the boys only. Baji Rao was extremely affectionate to this valiant girl and considered her as one of his children.

At the age of 14 she was married to Maharaja Gangadhar Rao Newalkar, The King of Jhansi. Her father was then given the position of a minister in the court of Raja Bai Gangadhar Rao.



Ulka Gupta
As Jhansi Ki Rani in Zee TV Serial

The TV Serial - Jhansi Ki Rani

With the advent of TV in India and its massive popularity with masses the custodians and the producers have harped on various serials for various reasons. However the recent trend in the Indian TV serial was to glorify the negative characters and exhibit their repeated victory prolonging over the good has been the most disturbing factors representing the modern trends filtering in the stories line. To continue the serial for a longer time for monetary reasons these Serial were prolonged beyond the limits of nagging. As a result I watch these serials in between may be occasionally to see the creativity of the story writer and the characterization.

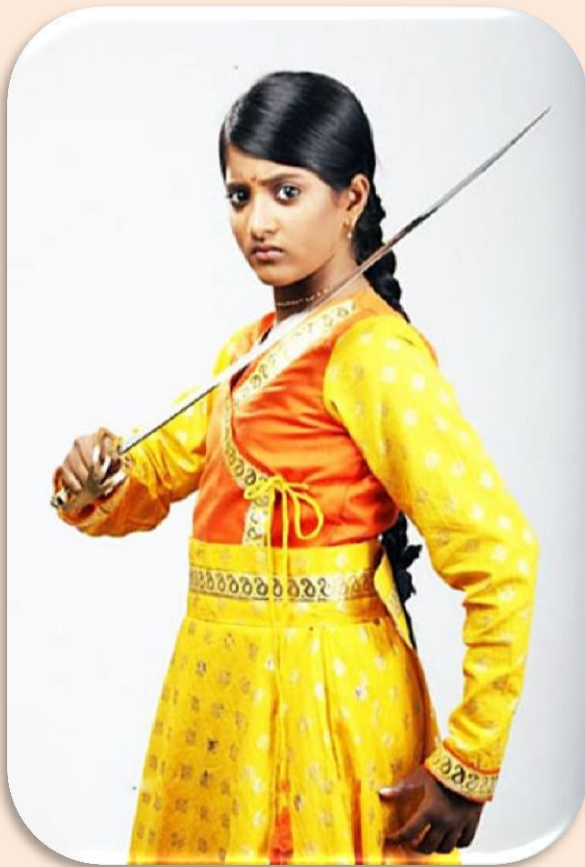
And then incidentally my attention was caught by the TV Serial depicting the life of queen of Jhansi. Although the story was not a cent per cent reflection of the history, still I found most of the historical characters were portrayed as per their image projected in the Indian history. This may be due to the reason that it is dramatized for the viewership. I had read this story as part of our school curriculum. Therefore when I saw this serial when it was aired in India a few years ago I became interested. And I saw a few episodes while I was visiting India. It was only recently this serial is being telecast for the western viewers. Again I am puzzled as to the intensions of producers and the TV Networks. I became immediately a fan of this show 'Jhansi Ki Rani' when it was aired by the TV channel Zee TV.

Ulka Gupta - The Budding Star

It was amazing to watch the role of Manikarnika, the heroine of this show. Ulka Gupta in her early teen is playing this role and each time I watch this show I think that it is not Ulka but Manikarnika herself arrived here from the page of the glorious history of India's Freedom Movement to perform this role. It has been known that she has been trained in horsemanship, archery and sword fighting to play this role in the serial. I respect her dedication and enthusiasm towards the perfection in playing this historical character. I have been lucky with certain pictures of Ulka Gupta in the costume of 'Jhansi Ki Rani' which I am sharing with all.







Ulka Gupta as Jhansi Ki Rani in Zee TV Serial



बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी।।





Queen of Jhansi in warrior costume

बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी।।

Birth and Early Life

The maiden name of Maharani Lakshmi Bai was **Manikarnika**. Her nickname was **Manu**. She was **born on 19 November 1835** at Kashi (previously known as Banaras and now as Varanasi) to a Maharashtrian Karhade Brahmin family. Her father Moropant Tambey was from Dwadashi, District Satara of Maharashtra and worked at the court of Peshwa Baji Rao II at

Bithur. Manikarnika lost her mother at the age of four and was educated at home by her father. She was a brave girl since her childhood and practiced horse riding, archery, sword fighting which normally being taught to the boys only. Baji Rao was extremely affectionate to this valiant girl and considered her as one of his children.

At the age of 14 she was married to **Maharaja Gangadhar Rao Newalkar** - the King of Jhansi. Her father was then given the position of a minister in the court of **Raja Gangadhar Rao**.

After her marriage, she was given the name Lakshmi Bai. Because of her father's influence at court, Rani Lakshmi Bai enjoyed more independence than most women of that time. She formed her own army out of her female friends at court and from nearby villages.

Rani Lakshmi Bai gave birth to a son in 1851; however this child died when he was only four months old. After the death of their son, the queen and the king of Jhansi adopted a boy named **Damodar Rao**. However, it is said that her husband the Raja never recovered from his son's death. He became very weak and finally he died on 21 November 1853 of a broken heart.

Because **Damodar Rao** was adopted and not biologically related to the Raja, the East India Company under Governor-General Lord Dalhousie rejected Damodar Rao's rightful claim to the throne. Dalhousie then annexed Jhansi, saying that the throne had become 'lapsed' and thus put Jhansi under his 'protection'.

In March 1854, the Rani was given a pension of 60,000 rupees and ordered to leave the palace at the Jhansi fort. But Lakshmi Bai was determined not to give Jhansi to the hand of East India Company. She started to strengthen her army.

Meanwhile on May 10, 1857 the Indian Rebellion of 1857 began as a mutiny of Sepoys, the designation given to an Indian soldier in the service of a European power - of the British East India Company's army on 10 May 1857, in the town of Meerut, and soon erupted into other mutinies and civilian rebellions largely in the upper Gangetic plain and central India, with the major hostilities confined to present-day Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, northern Madhya Pradesh, and the Delhi region. The rebellion posed a considerable

threat to Company power in that region, and it was contained only with the fall of Gwalior on 20 June 1858. The rebellion is also known as 1857 War of Independence, India's First War of Independence, the Great Rebellion, the Indian Mutiny, the Revolt of 1857, the Uprising of 1857, the Sepoy Rebellion, and the Sepoy Mutiny.

Other regions of Company-controlled India—Bengal province, the Bombay Presidency, and the Madras Presidency—remained largely calm. In Punjab, the Sikh princes backed the Company by providing both soldiers and support. The large princely states, Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, and Kashmir, as well as the smaller ones of Rajputana did not join the rebellion. In some regions, such as Oudh, the rebellion took on the attributes of a patriotic revolt against European presence.

Rebel leaders, such as the Rani of Jhansi, became folk heroes in the nationalist movement in India half a century later; however, they themselves 'generated no coherent ideology' for a new order. The rebellion led to the dissolution of the East India Company in 1858. It also led the British to reorganize the army, the financial system and the administration in India.

The Mutiny of India started in Meerut. Unrest began to spread throughout India and in May of 1857, the First War of Indian Independence erupted in numerous pockets across the northern subcontinent. East India Company was forced to focus its attentions elsewhere, and Lakshmi Bai was essentially left to rule Jhansi alone. During this time, she proved her qualities and shown her efficiency to lead her troops against skirmishes breaking out in Jhansi. The leadership Lakshmi Bai was able to keep Jhansi relatively calm and peaceful in the midst of the Empire's unrest.

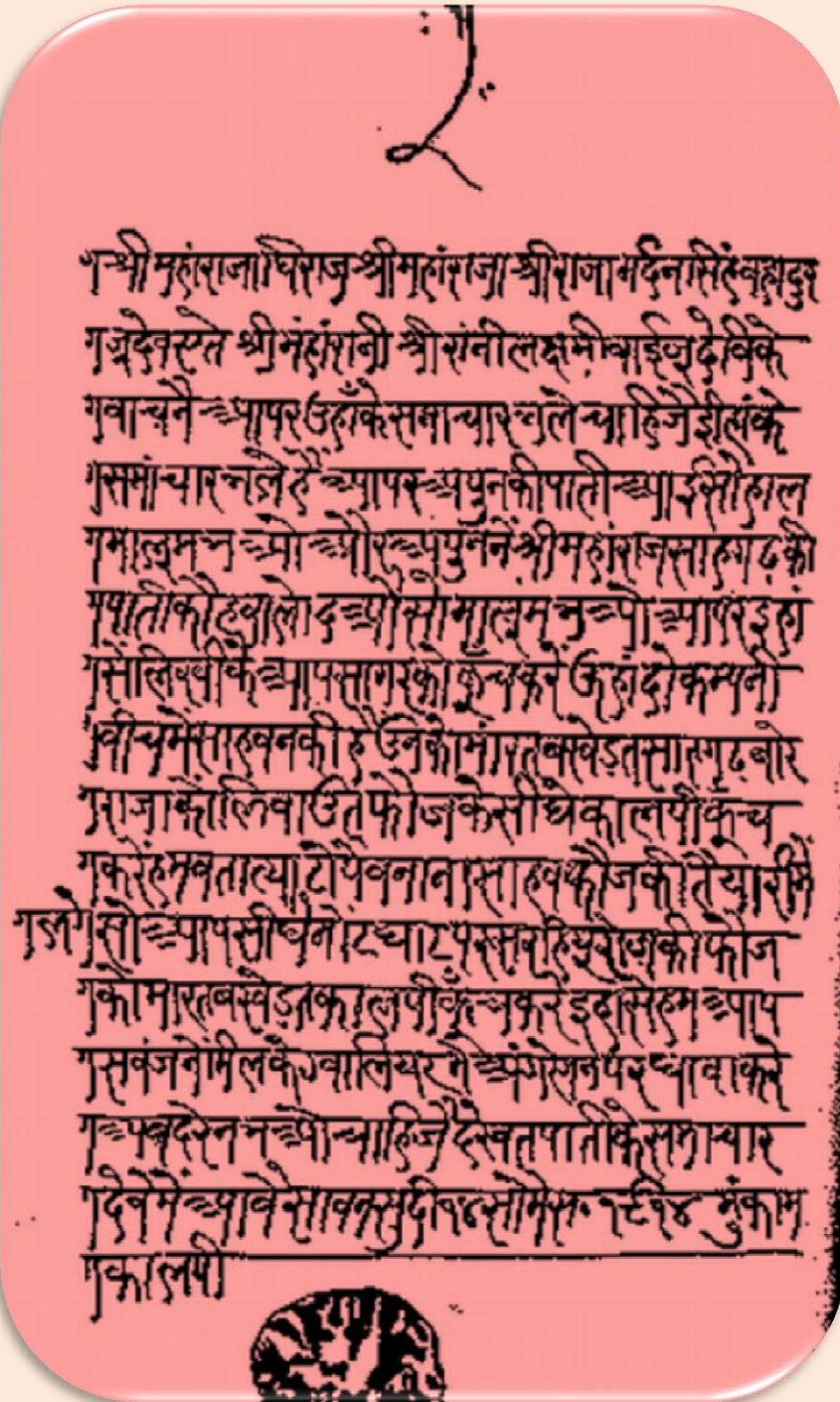
But those peaceful days were ended when the British troops arrived under Sir Hugh Rose and laid cordon to Jhansi on 23rd March 1858. Maharani Lakshmi Bai decided not to surrender. The fierce fighting continued for about two weeks. Shelling on Jhansi was very severe. The women of Jhansi were also involved in the war by carrying ammunition and supplying foodstuff to the soldiers. Maharani herself was very active. She was keeping her personal vigil on the defense of the city, rallied her troops around her and fought fiercely against the British.

A large army of 20,000, headed by the rebel leader Tatya Tope was sent to rescue Jhansi. But before they could reach Jhansi, the well trained and disciplined British army of only 1,540 intensified the attack and Lakshmi Bai was forced to flee away from Jhansi. Rani along with the young Damodar Rao and some of her warrior follower reached Kalpi and joined other rebel forces, including those of Tatya Tope. The Rani and Tatya Tope moved on to Gwalior, where the combined rebel forces defeated the army of the Maharaja of Gwalior after his armies deserted to the rebel forces. They then occupied the strategic fort at Gwalior.

However on the second day of fighting, on **18 June 1858**, the sole of Maharani Lakshmi was departed from her mortal body while she was fighting with the British in disguise of an ordinary warrior. Her body was not found by the British soldiers and it was believed that a quick funeral was done secretly as per her standing instructions to her close followers. And thus the glorious life of this legendary heroine as well as the glorious era of the Indian rebellion history came to an end.

बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी।।

सिंहासन हिल उठे राजवंशों ने भृकुटी तानी थी,
बूढ़े भारत में भी आई फिर से नयी जवानी थी,
गुमी हुई आज़ादी की कीमत सबने पहचानी थी,
दूर फिरंगी को करने की सबने मन में ठानी थी।



Actual Photograph of Maharani Lakshmi Bai



Actual Photograph of Maharani Lakshmi Bai

In the year 1853, Gangadhar Rao fell sick and became very weak. So, the couple decided to adopt a child. To ensure that the British do not raise an issue over the adoption, Lakshmibai got this adoption witnessed by the local British representatives. On 21st November 1853, Maharaja Gangadhar Rao died.

Meri Jhansi Nahin Doongi

On 7th March 1854, the British issued a gazette dissolving the State of Jhansi. Rani Lakshmibai was enraged due to the injustice when an English officer, Major Ellis came to meet Lakshmibai. He read out the official declaration dissolving the State. The furious Rani Lakshmibai told Ellis 'Meri

Jhansi Nahin Doongi (I shall not part with my Jhansi)' when he sought her permission to leave. Ellis heard her and left.

Battle of 1857

The battle for freedom that started from January 1857 engulfed even Meerut on 10th May. Along with Meerut, Delhi and Bareilly, Jhansi also was freed from the British rule. Three years after Jhansi was freed, Rani Lakshmibai took over the control of Jhansi and she made preparations to defend Jhansi from the likely attack by the British. Sir Hugh Rose was appointed by the British to capture Rani Lakshmibai, alive. On 20th March 1858, Sir Huge encamped with his army 3 miles away from Jhansi and sent a message to her that she should surrender; but rather than surrendering, she stood on the rampart of her fort motivating her army to fight with the British. The battle started. Jhansi canons started routing the British. Even after 3 days of continuous firing, the fort of Jhansi could not be attacked; therefore, Sir Hugh decided to adopt the path of treachery. Finally, on 3rd April, the army of Sir Hugh Rose entered Jhansi.

The soldiers started looting people. Rani Lakshmibai decided to join Peshava by breaking the bloc of the enemy. In the night, with her troupe of trusted 200 cavalry, she tied her 12 year old son Damodar to her back and raising the slogan of 'Jai Shankar' left her fort. She penetrated the British bloc and rode towards Kalpi. Her father Moropant was with her. While breaking the faction of the British army, her father got injured, was captured by the British and was hanged.

Fight of Kalpi

After riding continuously for 24 hours covering a distance of 102 miles, the Rani reached Kalpi. Peshava judged the situation and decided to help her. He provided his squads of army to her as per her requested requirement. On 22nd May, Sir Hugh Rose attacked Kalpi. Rani Lakshmibai rushed to the front like lightening whilst holding her sword. Her forceful attack resulted in a setback for the British army. Sir Hugh Rose disturbed with this setback brought his reserved camel troops onto the battlefield. The fresh reinforcement of the army affected the ardor of the revolutionaries and Kalpi was taken over by the British on 24th May. Defeated Raosaheb Peshave, Nawab of Banda, Tatya Tope, Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi and all the

chieftains gathered at Gopalpur. Lakshmibai suggested taking over Gwalior. Shinde, the Ruler of Gwalior, was pro-British. Rani Lakshmibai won over Gwalior and handed it over to Peshava.

Sacrifice of life on the altar of freedom

Sir Hugh Rose had heard about the defeat of Gwalior by Rani Lakshmibai. He realized that the situation could go out of control if time was wasted; therefore, he marched towards Gwalior. Lakshmibai and Peshva decided to fight the British as Sir Hugh Rose touched Gwalior. Lakshmibai took it upon herself to safeguard the East side of Gwalior. The unprecedented valor of Lakshmibai inspired her army; even her maids attired in men's uniform took to the battlefield. The bravery of Lakshmibai resulted in the retreat of the British army.

On 18th June, the British attacked Gwalior from all sides. She decided to break the enemy front and go out rather than surrendering. While breaking the military front, she came across a garden. She was not riding her **'Rajratan' horse**. The new horse started going round and round near a canal instead of jumping and crossing it. Rani Lakshmibai realized the consequences and turned back to attack the British army. She got injured, started bleeding and fell from her horse. Being in a man's costume, the soldiers did not recognize her and left her there. The faithful servants of Rani took her to a nearby Gangadas Mutt and gave her Gangajal.

She expressed her last wish that her body should not be touched by any British men and embraced a brave death. The revolutionaries all over the world, the organization of Sardar Bhagat Singh and in the end even the army of Netaji Subhashchandra Bose were inspired by the valor shown by Rani Lakshmibai. The Queen of Jhansi breathed her last at the young age of 22 years and 7 months.

She inspired many generations of Indian's, thus becoming immortal in the freedom fight. We bow before such a brave warrior, the Queen of Jhansi Lakshmibai. The life history of the Rani of Jhansi Lakshmibai, who preferred to sacrifice her life at the young age of 23 years in battle, is very inspiring. She surprised the British by showing extraordinary fighting spirit and valor in battles fought at Jhansi, then Kalpi and lastly at Gwalior. The British Major Sir Hugh Rose had to come down to treachery so as to be able to win over

the fort of Jhansi. Such an extraordinary lady, who tied her son on her back while fighting the battle, will not be found in the history of the world. The valor and brave death she chose, which gave inspiration to the patriots belonging to the 'Gadar' party in the First World War, the organization of Shahid Bhagat Singh and to all revolutionaries from Swatadntryaveer Savarkar to Subhashchandra, is magnificent. Lot of literature has been written on the life history of Rani Lakshimbai of Jhansi. Heroic poems have been composed in her honor.

Poem - Jhansi ki rani

Poet - Subhadrakumari Chauhan

सिंहासन हिल उठे राजवंशों ने झुकुटी तानी थी,
बूढ़े भारत में भी आई फिर से नयी जवानी थी,
गुमी हुई आज़ादी की कीमत सबने पहचानी थी,
दूर फिरंगी को करने की सबने मन में ठानी थी।

चमक उठी सन सत्तावन में, वह तलवार पुरानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

कानपूर के नाना की, मुँहबोली बहन छबीली थी,
लक्ष्मीबाई नाम, पिता की वह संतान अकेली थी,
नाना के सँग पढ़ती थी वह, नाना के सँग खेली थी,
बरछी, ढाल, कृपाण, कटारी उसकी यही सहेली थी।

वीर शिवाजी की गाथायें उसको याद ज़बानी थी,

बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

लक्ष्मी थी या दुर्गा थी वह स्वयं वीरता की अवतार,
देख मराठे पुलकित होते उसकी तलवारों के वार,
नकली युद्ध-व्यूह की रचना और खेलना खूब शिकार,
सैन्य घेरना, दुर्ग तोड़ना ये थे उसके प्रिय खिलवाड़।

महाराष्ट्र-कुल-देवी उसकी भी आराध्य भवानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

हुई वीरता की वैभव के साथ सगाई झाँसी में,
ब्याह हुआ रानी बन आई लक्ष्मीबाई झाँसी में,
राजमहल में बजी बधाई खुशियाँ छाई झाँसी में,
सुघट बुंदेलों की विरुदावलि-सी वह आयी थी झाँसी में,

चित्रा ने अर्जुन को पाया, शिव को मिली भवानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

उदित हुआ सौभाग्य, मुदित महलों में उजियाली छाई,
किंतु कालगति चुपके-चुपके काली घटा घेर लाई,
तीर चलाने वाले कर में उसे चूड़ियाँ कब भाई,
रानी विधवा हुई, हाय! विधि को भी नहीं दया आई।

निसंतान मरे राजाजी रानी शोक-समानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

बुझा दीप झाँसी का तब डलहौज़ी मन में हरषाया,
राज्य हड़प करने का उसने यह अच्छा अवसर पाया,
फ़ौरन फौजें भेज दुर्ग पर अपना झंडा फहराया,
लावारिस का वारिस बनकर ब्रिटिश राज्य झाँसी आया।

अश्रुपूर्ण रानी ने देखा झाँसी हुई बिरानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

अनुनय विनय नहीं सुनती हैं, विकट शासकों की माया,
व्यापारी बन दया चाहता था जब यह भारत आया,
डलहौज़ी ने पैर पसारे, अब तो पलट गई काया,
राजाओं नव्वाबों को भी उसने पैरों ठुकराया।

रानी दासी बनी, बनी यह दासी अब महारानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

छिनी राजधानी दिल्ली की, लखनऊ छीना बातों-बात,
कैद पेशवा था बिठूर में, हुआ नागपुर का भी घात,
उदैपुर, तंजौर, सतारा,कर्नाटक की कौन बिसात?
जब कि सिंध, पंजाब ब्रह्म पर अभी हुआ था वज्र-निपात।

बंगाले, मद्रास आदि की भी तो वही कहानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

रानी रोयीं रनिवासों में, बेगम गम से थी बेज़ार,

उनके गहने कपड़े बिकते थे कलकत्ते के बाज़ार,
सरे आम नीलाम छापते थे अंग्रेज़ों के अखबार,
'नागपुर के ज़ेवर ले लो लखनऊ के लो नौलख हार'।

यों परदे की इज़ज़त परदेशी के हाथ बिकानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

कुटियों में भी विषम वेदना, महलों में आहत अपमान,
वीर सैनिकों के मन में था अपने पुरखों का अभिमान,
नाना धुंधूपंत पेशवा जुटा रहा था सब सामान,
बहिन छबीली ने रण-चण्डी का कर दिया प्रकट आहवान।

हुआ यज्ञ प्रारम्भ उन्हें तो सोई ज्योति जगानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

महलों ने दी आग, झाँपड़ी ने ज्वाला सुलगाई थी,
यह स्वतंत्रता की चिनगारी अंतरतम से आई थी,
झाँसी चेती, दिल्ली चेती, लखनऊ लपटें छाई थी,
मेरठ, कानपुर, पटना ने भारी धूम मचाई थी,

जबलपुर, कोल्हापुर में भी कुछ हलचल उकसानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

इस स्वतंत्रता महायज्ञ में कई वीरवर आए काम,
नाना धुंधूपंत, ताँतिया, चतुर अज़ीमुल्ला सरनाम,
अहमदशाह मौलवी, ठाकुर कुँवरसिंह सैनिक अभिराम,

भारत के इतिहास गगन में अमर रहेंगे जिनके नाम।

लेकिन आज जुर्म कहलाती उनकी जो कुरबानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

इनकी गाथा छोड़, चले हम झाँसी के मैदानों में,
जहाँ खड़ी है लक्ष्मीबाई मर्द बनी मर्दानों में,
लेफ्टिनेंट वाकर आ पहुँचा, आगे बढ़ा जवानों में,
रानी ने तलवार खींच ली, हुया द्वंद असमानों में।

ज़ख्मी होकर वाकर भागा, उसे अजब हैरानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

रानी बढ़ी कालपी आई, कर सौ मील निरंतर पार,
घोड़ा थक कर गिरा भूमि पर गया स्वर्ग तत्काल सिधार,
यमुना तट पर अंग्रेज़ों ने फिर खाई रानी से हार,
विजयी रानी आगे चल दी, किया ग्वालियर पर अधिकार।

अंग्रेज़ों के मित्र सिंधिया ने छोड़ी राजधानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

विजय मिली, पर अंग्रेज़ों की फिर सेना घिर आई थी,
अबके जनरल स्मिथ सम्मुख था, उसने मुहँ की खाई थी,
काना और मंदरा सखियों रानी के संग आई थी,
युद्ध क्षेत्र में उन दोनों ने भारी मार मचाई थी।

पर पीछे ह्यूरोज़ आ गया, हाय! घिरी अब रानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

तो भी रानी मार काट कर चलती बनी सैन्य के पार,
किन्तु सामने नाला आया, था वह संकट विषम अपार,
घोड़ा अड़ा, नया घोड़ा था, इतने में आ गये सवार,
रानी एक, शत्रु बहुतेरे, होने लगे वार-पर-वार।

घायल होकर गिरी सिंहनी उसे वीर गति पानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

रानी गई सिधार चिता अब उसकी दिव्य सवारी थी,
मिला तेज से तेज, तेज की वह सच्ची अधिकारी थी,
अभी उम्र कुल तेइस की थी, मनुज नहीं अवतारी थी,
हमको जीवित करने आयी बन स्वतंत्रता-नारी थी,

दिखा गई पथ, सिखा गई हमको जो सीख सिखानी थी,
बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मर्दानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

जाओ रानी याद रखेंगे ये कृतज्ञ भारतवासी,
यह तेरा बलिदान जगावेगा स्वतंत्रता अविनासी,
होवे चुप इतिहास, लगे सच्चाई को चाहे फाँसी,
हो मदमाती विजय, मिटा दे गोलों से चाहे झाँसी।

तेरा स्मारक तू ही होगी, तू खुद अमिट निशानी थी,

बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुँह हमने सुनी कहानी थी,
खूब लड़ी मरदानी वह तो झाँसी वाली रानी थी॥

**Poem on Samadhi of queen of Jhansi
Poet - Subhadrakumari Chauhan**

इस समाधि में छिपी हुई है, एक राख की ढेरी ।
जल कर जिसने स्वतंत्रता की, दिव्य आरती फेरी ॥
यह समाधि यह लघु समाधि है, झाँसी की रानी की ।
अंतिम लीलास्थली यही है, लक्ष्मी मरदानी की ॥

यहीं कहीं पर बिखर गई वह, भग्न-विजय-माला-सी ।
उसके फूल यहाँ संचित हैं, है यह स्मृति शाला-सी ।
सहे वार पर वार अंत तक, लड़ी वीर बाला-सी ।
आहुति-सी गिर चढ़ी चिता पर, चमक उठी ज्वाला-सी ।

बढ़ जाता है मान वीर का, रण में बलि होने से ।
मूल्यवती होती सोने की भस्म, यथा सोने से ॥
रानी से भी अधिक हमे अब, यह समाधि है प्यारी ।
यहाँ निहित है स्वतंत्रता की, आशा की चिनगारी ॥

इससे भी सुन्दर समाधियाँ, हम जग में हैं पाते ।
उनकी गाथा पर निशीथ में, क्षुद्र जंतु ही गाते ॥
पर कवियों की अमर गिरा में, इसकी अमिट कहानी ।
स्नेह और श्रद्धा से गाती, है वीरों की बानी ॥

बुंदेले हरबोलों के मुख हमने सुनी कहानी ।
खूब लड़ी मरदानी वह थी, झाँसी वाली रानी ॥
यह समाधि यह चिर समाधि है, झाँसी की रानी की ।
अंतिम लीला स्थली यही है, लक्ष्मी मरदानी की ॥

During that period, Lord Dalhousie was the Governor General of British India. The adopted child was named Damodar Rao. As per the Hindu tradition, he was their legal heir. However, the British rulers refused to accept him as the legal heir. As per the Doctrine of Lapse, Lord Dalhousie decided to seize the state of Jhansi. Rani Lakshmibai went to a British lawyer and consulted him. Thereafter, she filed an appeal for the hearing of her case in London. But, her plea was rejected. The British authorities confiscated the state jewels. Also, an order was passed asking the Rani to leave Jhansi fort and move to the Rani Mahal in Jhansi. Laxmibai was firm about protecting the state of Jhansi

Rani Jhansi was determined not to give up Jhansi. She strengthened its defenses and assembled a volunteer army. Women were also given military training. Rani's forces were joined by warriors including Gulam Gaus Khan, Dost Khan, Khuda Baksh, Lala Bhau Bakshi, Moti Bai, Sunder-Mundar, Kashi Bai, Deewan Raghunath Singh and Deewan Jawahar Singh.

The Rani of Jhansi has often been called the 'Joan of Arc' of the Indian independence struggle.

Academics say the discovery of the letter is significant, because so little historical evidence from the Rani of Jhansi's lifetime exists.

Up to this point, she had been hesitant to rebel against the British, and there is still some controversy over her role in the massacre of the British HEIC officials and their wives and children on the 8th June 1857 at Jokhan Bagh. Her hesitation finally ended when British troops arrived under Sir Hugh Rose and laid siege to Jhansi on 23rd March 1858. Rani Jhansi with her faithful warriors decided not to surrender. The fighting continued for about two weeks. Shelling on Jhansi was very fierce. In the Jhansi army women were also carrying ammunition and were supplying food to the soldiers. Rani Lakshmi Bai was very active. She herself was inspecting the defense of the city. She rallied her troops around her and fought fiercely against the British. An army of 20,000, headed by the rebel leader Tatya Tope, was sent to relieve Jhansi and to take Lakshmi Bai to freedom. However, the British, though numbering only 1,540 in the field so as not to break the siege, were better trained and disciplined than the "raw recruits," and these inexperienced soldiers turned and fled shortly after the British began to

attack on the 31st March. Lakshmi Bai's forces could not hold out and three days later the British were able to breach the city walls and capture the city. Yet Lakshmi Bai escaped over the wall at night and fled from her city, surrounded by her guards, many of whom were from her women's military.

Along with the young Damodar Rao, the Rani decamped to Kalpi along with her forces where she joined other rebel forces, including those of Tatya Tope. The Rani and Tatya Tope moved on to Gwalior, where the combined rebel forces defeated the army of the Maharaja of Gwalior after his armies deserted to the rebel forces. They then occupied the strategic fort at Gwalior. However on the second day of fighting, on 18 June 1858, the Rani died.

The so-called Jumping Point

The Rani is claimed to have jumped her horse from this point on the wall to the ground below and so. The Rani is claimed to have jumped her horse from this point on the wall to the ground below and so make her escape. The figures in red and blue give an idea of the scale. This plus the rough and sloping ground below must surely mean that any horse would have been killed, not to mention the rider. The Rani was a good rider, but physics is physics. It is somewhat more likely that she left by the gate.

She died on 18 June, 1858 during the battle for Gwalior with 8th Hussars that took place in Kotah-Ki-Serai near Phool Bagh area of Gwalior. She donned warrior's clothes and rode into battle to save Gwalior Fort, about 120 miles west of Lucknow in what is now the state of Uttar Pradesh. The British captured Gwalior three days later. In the report of the battle for Gwalior, General Sir Hugh Rose commented that the rani remarkable for her beauty, cleverness and perseverance had been 'the most dangerous of all the rebel leaders'.

Cremation Place of Rani Lakshmi Bai

However, the lack of a corpse to be convincingly identified as the Rani convinced Captain Rheese of the so called 'bravest' regiment that she had not actually perished in the battle for Gwalior, stating publicly that: '[the] Queen of Jhansi is alive!'

It is believed her funeral was arranged on same day near the spot where she was wounded. One of her maidservants helped with the arrangement of quick funeral.

Because of her bravery, courage, and wisdom, and her progressive views on women's empowerment in 19th century India, and due to her sacrifices, she became an icon of Indian independence movement. The Rani was memorialized in bronze statues at both Jhansi and Gwalior, both of which portray her on horseback.

Her father, Moropant Tambey, was captured and hanged a few days after the fall of Jhansi. Her adopted son, Damodar Rao, was given a pension by the British Raj and cared for, although he never received his inheritance.

Rani Lakshmi Bai became a national heroine and was seen as the epitome of female bravery in India. When the Indian National Army created its first female unit, it was named after her.

After the death of their son, the Raja and Rani of Jhansi adopted Anand Rao. Anand Rao was the son of Gangadhar Rao's cousin. He was later renamed as Damodar Rao.

Because Anand Rao was adopted, the East India Company, under Governor-General Lord Dalhousie, had an excuse to apply the Doctrine of Lapse, rejecting Rao's claim to the throne. Dalhousie then annexed Jhansi, saying that the throne had 'lapsed' and claimed the right to put Jhansi under his protection.

Her father, Moropant Tambey, was captured and hanged a few days after the fall of Jhansi. Her adopted son, Damodar Rao (formerly known as Anand Rao), fled with his mother's aides. Rao was later given a pension by the British Raj and cared for, although he never received his inheritance. Damodar Rao settled down in the city of Indore (Madhya Pradesh). He spent most of his life trying to convince the British to restore some of his rights. He and his descendants took on the last name Jhansiwale. He died on May 28, 1906, at the age of 58