



Handprints:

A Myth about the Moon originating from India from the book *Moontellers** by Lynn Moroney

Astangī Mata was the mother of all that lived and grew on the Earth, but the sky was empty. She loved her children, the twins Chanda and Suraj, and decided to give them everlasting life as rulers of the heavens.

Astangī Mata told Suraj, “You shall be the Raja of the Sky – ever-hot, nurturer of growing things,” and Suraj twirled up into the sky. Then she turned to Chanda, saying, “You shall be the Moon – cool, ever-changing, new, and beautiful.” And Chanda started her journey skyward. Too late, Astangī Mata reached out to embrace her daughter one last time, and she could but caress Chanda’s cheek.



The beautiful Moon bears her mother’s hand-prints even to this time. The people of India pay close attention to the Moon, for it is the moon calendar that determines the dates of their many festivals and celebrations.

**Moontellers: Myths of the Moon from Around the World*

By Lynn Moroney

Illustrated by Greg Shed

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Moon Mineralogy Mapper (M3) / Chandrayaan-1 Education / Public Outreach

<http://moonmineralogymapper.jpl.nasa.gov>

<http://www.isro.org/Chandrayaan/htmls/home.htm>