

Grandma's Stories ~ दादी माँ की कहानियाँ ~ नानि हंजु कथु ~ M.K.Raina

Folk Tales of Kashmir

M.K.Raina



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Note : Main aim of this work is to bring old Classic Kashmiri literature closer to our younger generations. Stories reproduced in Kashmiri language in this series are written in Devanagari-Kashmiri Script to reach those Kashmiris who are not well versed with the Nastaliq Script. And those written in English and Hindi are meant to reach those people who can't read Kashmiri. This will be a way to reach our rich Kashmiri literature to people outside Kashmir. It may be noted here that J&K Academy's works are already published in Nastaliq Script and need not be reproduced in that script again.

- M.K.Raina



Folk Tales of Kashmir

Destiny & The First Day *taqdir tû ròzè-azal*

Children came earlier today. Grandma had told them to do so. She was scheduled to go to her brother's place tonight. Her brother had come from America and he had asked her to come for a day or two.

Grandma started her story. Today's story was 'Taqdeer ta Roze Azal', that is 'Destiny & The First Day'.

Dapaan, there was a King once upon a time. One day he ordered his subjects to be confined to the four walls of their houses and not come out. 'Anybody found outside on roads or public places would be caught and offered to hungry wolves', he ordered further.



Same day, the King went to jungle for hunting along with his Vazirs and Counsellors. In the evening they all started their journey back. On the way, there was a stream.



King asked his Vazirs and Counsellors to go ahead but stopped himself to offer prayers. He tied his horse to a tree and went for the prayers.



After his prayers, he returned to the tree but found his horse missing. He was perplexed. It was dark all around and he had no other means to go. He looked all around but found nobody there. People had not ventured out because of his orders.

"What did he do then? Did he manage to return to his palace?"
Asked Pinki.

"No. That is what I am telling you now", said Grandma and continued with her story.

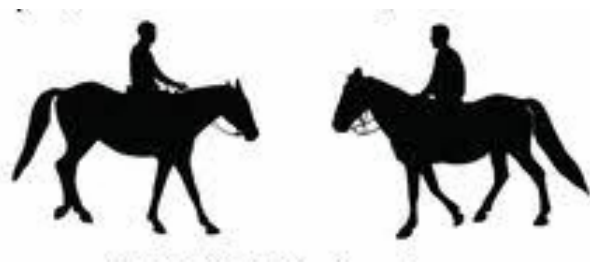
King started on foot. All of a sudden this thought came to his mind. "I am alone and it is pitch dark around. What if some wild beast attacks me? And even if I cry for help, who will listen and who will believe that I am the King?" He thought.



Scared, he ran fast till he saw a cattle shed. He entered the shed and hid himself there, waiting for the morning to come.



Around midnight, he heard a horse's neigh near by. He looked in that direction and saw two horsemen dismounting from their horses. They went into the house behind cowshed and returned after some time. They were about to mount their horses when the King accosted them. They were stunned to see a person in the cowshed at the dead of night.



King said to them, "Pray tell me, who are you and why have you come here at this hour?" One of them said, "I am the Destiny. I had come here to see the landlord of this house. Yesterday, a son was born to him. When he grows up, the Amir of the neighbouring city will give him his daughter in marriage. This is what I had come to tell him."

Kind asked the other one, "And who are you and why had you come here?" He said, "I am the First Day. This child will grow up and marry. On his return to his home along with his bride, a lion will pounce upon him, suck his blood and kill him. This is what I had to tell the landlord."

Both horsemen left and King was gloomy and thoughtful. He said to himself, "Oh my God! Who are 'Taqdeer' and 'Roze Azal'? I have never heard of them."

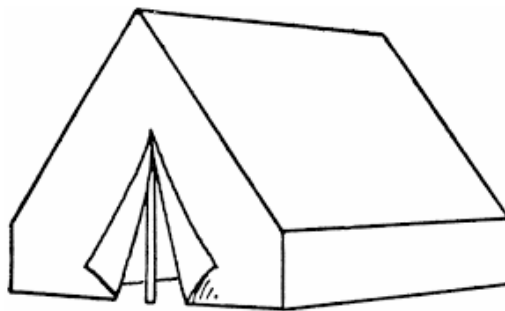
King went inside the house, met the landlord and congratulated him on the birth of his son. Landlord said to him, "Who are you and how did you reach this place?" King said, "I am the king of this country. I had gone for hunting. I went for prayers when I lost my horse. It was dark and I could not go on foot. So I took shelter in your cowshed. Here only I met two horsemen who had come to meet you. What they told you, shared with me as well. Now I want you to promise me that you will invite me on the wedding of your son. I will come with my army, accompany the bridegroom and defend him. This is my promise." Landlord promised him.

In the morning, King left for his palace. His Vazirs and Counsellors greeted him. They were all anxious for him. Kind said to them, "I met the Destiny and The First Day. They told me something which I, if I am alive, have to verify in sixteen or seventeen years.

Days and months and years passed. One day, the King received the invitation he was waiting for. King had to accompany the

bridegroom to the city where his marriage was being solemnized. King left for the place along with his wise people and army.

Marriage was solemnized. Bridegroom was on his way back home along with the bride. King's army was defending them. It was night now and they had to camp. A separate tent was pitched for the bride and the bridegroom. It was guarded from every side. Some distance away, King made arrangements for music and dance. There were celebrations all around but the King was a bit scary. He had made every possible arrangement to defend the bride and the bridegroom from the wild animals, yet he was worried. Horseman's words were still resounding in his ears.



In the night, the bride said to bridegroom, "It is jungle all around. I am very much fond of seeing a lion. Can you allow me?" Bridegroom said, "King won't allow it. But I can show you the lion by drawing its image on the ground here." Bride agreed.



Bridegroom drew the image of a lion on the ground inside the tent. When the image was ready, a mishap happened. Lion in the image took physical shape, jumped on the bridegroom and sucked at his throat. Bride was aghast. She started crying loudly. King and his people came running and saw the bridegroom

besmeared with blood. There was no lion inside. King asked the bride. She said the whole story. "Where did the lion go?" King asked her. "He went back into the image", said the bride, weeping bitterly.

Dapaan, the meaning of 'Taqdeer and Roze Azal' was now clear to the king. He was sure, both of them are there tied to one's fate much before his or her birth.



Children were gloomy. Grandma hugged them and patted them all before they went out to sleep. Grandma left for her brother's place with Nikhil, her eldest son.



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