

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

# Folk Tales of Kashmir

M.K.Raina



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[Content Source: kâshîr talmîh & kâshîr lûkû kathû ~ Publications of J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. Transliteration & Re-written for Children by M.K.Raina]



**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

### wúduâr gâd Fish from the Plateau

kàkañ jígûr, the Grandma was tired today. She had gone to market with her eldest daughter-in-law and had traversed a good distance on foot. It was 6.00 PM. She wanted to skip dinner and go early to bed. But the children did not agree. They started pressing her feet and legs and head to comfort her. She had no chance to say no to children. She asked them to come a little early so that she could be free before 9.00 PM. They agreed and came back at 8.00 PM.

kàkañ jígûr started. Today's story was 'Fish from the Plateau'.

*Dapaan*, there was a couple. Husband once said to his wife, "I have heard women's wiles are very famous. How is it you never showed one to me." Wife was surprised. She thought, why should he have spoken like that? But she did not want to disappoint him. She said, "Don't worry, wait a little. I will not disappoint you". Husband laughed and said, "No problem. I will wait."

"What does this wile mean?" Asked Raju.

"It is the machination of a woman. You may also call it duplicity or imposture. This is a way to ridicule a husband or show him down" said Grandma and continued with the story.



It was the weeding time. Husband had gone to his rice fields. The wife purchased five fish from a fish seller and put them in a small pond on a plateau near by. There was some rain water in the pond.

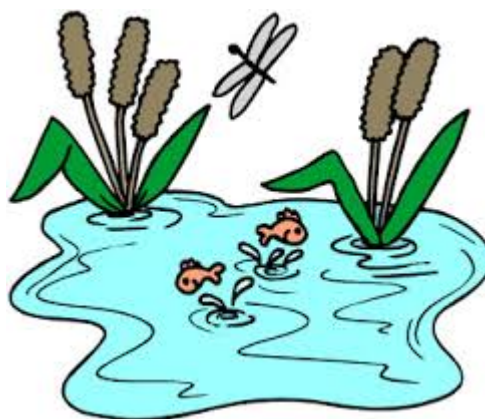


She went running to her husband and said, "All villagers brought fish from the plateau ponds. Only you are busy with weeding. You should have also gone."

Husband replied, "How come? Where is the water at Plateau and how can fish breed there."



Wife caught her husband's hand and pulled him towards the plateau. There she showed him the pond in which she had put the fish. She said to him, "What is this? Is this not fish?"



Husband was taken aback. He had never seen such a scene in his life. Fish at the plateau? He said to his wife, "This is amazing. I have never heard this before. Let us collect them and carry home." Wife put them all in the front skirt of her Pheran and started towards her home. Husband said, "Now cook them full spicy. I will get my friend on dinner. He is so fond of fish."

"What happened then?" Asked Babloo.

"Listen, I am telling you", said Grandma.

Husband returned from his fields in the evening. He had his friend with him too. Both sat for the dinner.

Meals were served. Rice and turnip. Fish did not come. Husband and guest waited for long, but nothing happened. Husband thought, fish might be too hot to serve and she must be waiting for it to cool. Nobody came, so husband called his wife. She came empty handed. He got rash and said, "Where is fish? Why is it taking so much time to get it?" She replied, "Which fish? didn't I serve you the dinner. What are you waiting for?"



Husband got almost mad. "Didn't I get the fish from plateau pond? What did you do with that?"

She said, "Which fish? How could you get fish from the plateau? Are you well?"

He got furious and started abusing her. She too lost her temper. She starting shouting, "Oh my God! What is this man up to? Has he gone crazy?"

Guest got uneasy. He also thought that his friend had lost his mind. How can one get fish from the plateau where there is no water." He ate what was served. Husband felt bad. He got bitterly humiliated in front of his friend.

Some neighbours, who had heard them shouting, came there. When they heard the story from the lady, they went back. They too thought husband had gone mad.

"How did he face his friend?" Asked Kishmish.

"What could he do. He just apologised to him, though the friend was sure that he had lost his senses.

Next day, when the husband sat for dinner, he saw half a dozen pieces of fish in the bowl. He got furious. He asked his wife, "Where did you get it from now?" Wife said smilingly, "Didn't you tell me that you had not seen my wiles? I have shown it now."



Husband had no answer. He smiled back.

Grandma said to children, "Listen, this story is a famous Kashmiri Talmih or allusion. Talmih is the story which carries some sort of reference or a covert passing. When a person is ridiculed by his wife, people say his wife has done 'wudûr gâd' to him.

Children liked the story and left.



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