

Vikram aur Betaal (Narration by Soham Shah)

Opening

Option 1:

Doston, Hindustan ki pauranic kathaon mein, lok kathaon mein, mythology mein kai aise kirdar...aise characters milte hain jo samay ke saath hamari cultural mindspace mein is kadar ghul mil gaye hain ki batana mushkil ho gaya - wo imagination ka hissa hain ya history ka. Aisi hi ek shakhsiyat hain Raja Vikramaditya.

Singhasan Battisi ki kahani ka Vikramaditya aur aitihasic Gupta vansh ka samrat Chandragupta Vikramaditya – kya dono ek hi hain? Kya ye wahi hain jinhone apne desi calendar Vikram samvat ki shuruat ki? Kehna mushkil hai.

Magar ye tay hai ki apne high moral standards, ethical conduct aur wisdom ke chalte Vikramaditya ek aisi legendry figure ban gaye jinko ithiskaro aur kahanikaro dono ne apni baat rakhne ke liye bakhoobi istemal kiya.

To baat karte hain 'Betaal Pachisi' ki. Historically, ye kahaniyaan 11th century yaani aaj se lagbhag 1000 saal pehle ke writer Somdev Bhatt ke story collection 'Kathasaritsagar' mein pehli baar padhne ko milta hai. Ismein do central characters hain Raja Vikram aur Pret Betaal. Pehchana? Main baat kar raha hoon 'Vikram aur Betaal' ki! To Raja Vikramaditya ko to hum pehchante hain. Magar Betaal? (*looking up here and there*) yahi kahi hoga. Aa jayega.

Aiye shuru se shuru karte hain.

Option 2:

Doston, main agar apse poochho 'Superhero', to aap kiske baare mein sochenge. Zaahir hai Batman, Superman, Thor, Spiderman, Avengers vagara vagara. Magar aapne kabhi ye socha hai ki hamare desh mein to is tarah ke characters, inki kahaniyaan sadiyon se suni-sunai jaati rahi hain jo ki unfortunately Harry Potter, Chronicles of Narnia, Star Wars ya Ring jaisi filmo ki kahaniyon ke peechhe chip kar reh jaati hain.

Ramayan, Mahabharat jaise epics; Panchatantra, Hitopadesh jaise story collections, Alif Laila, Singhasan Battisi jaisi fantasies apko kahan milengi? To maine socha, kyon na *aaj* ki generation ko apni is hi rich cultural heritage se mulaqat karai jaye? Wo bhi humare aitihasic tareeke - dastangoi ... bole to storytelling ke zariye.

To baat karte hain 'Betaal Pachisi' ki. Historically, ye kahaniyaan 11th century yaani aaj se lagbhag 1000 saal pehle ke writer Somdev Bhatt ke story collection 'Kathasaritsagar' mein pehli baar padhne ko milti hain. Ismein do central characters hain Raja Vikram aur Pret Betaal. Pehchana? Main baat kar raha hoon 'Vikram aur Betaal' ki!

Interestingly, ye Raja Vikram yaani Vikramaditya jitne historical hain, utne hi mythological bhi hain. Kehnte hain ki Indian calendar Vikram Samvat bhi inhi ki den hai. Vikramaditya apne high moral standards, ethical conduct aur wisdom ke liye popular imagination mein ek ideal raja mane jate hain. Aur Betaal? (*looking up here and there*) yahi kahi hoga. Aa jayega

To aiyee shuru se shuru karte hain.

Apni rajdhani Ujjain se Raja Vikramaditya apne vishal samrajya ka sanchaln karte the. Hamesha ki tarah ek din