

Vikram aur Betaal - 1

(Narration by Soham Shah)

Doston hum Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, Batman, Superman ki to khoob baat karte hain par apne desh ki mythology ko yaad bhi nahi karte. To maine socha kyon na apko is khazane mein se ek kahani sunau! Khaas baat ye hai ki ismein sirf 3 central characters hain – ek Raja, ek Pret aur... ek Kahani – You guessed it right - Vikram aur Betaal!

To aiye...shuru se shuru karte hain

Raja Vikramaditya roz subah puja karne ke baad apni praja se milte the. Unke haal chaal jante the. Kisi ko koi takleef ho, koi madad chahiye to wo uski help karte the. Is hi liye janta unki bahut izzat karti thi. Kai log to unke liye bhent bhi laate the. Udaar dil Raja Vikramaditya unko swarn mudrayo ke roop mein apna ashirwad dete the.

Ek baar ki baat hai Raja apni praja se mil rahe the, to unhone dekha ki bheed mein ek Sadhu khada hai. Ye wahi Sadhu tha jo kai dino se roz aata tha aur ek phal dekar chala jata tha. Na kuch kehta, na mangta. Is baar bhi usne wahi kiya. Phal diya aur chala gaya. Raja soch mein pad gaya ... “kuch to baat hai!”

Mahal mein wapas ja kar usne apne mantri se poochha ki ye Sadhu kaun aur roz ek phal kyon deta hai? Lekin Mantri ke paas bhi koi jawaab nahi tha. Raja ne taish mein aa kar us phal ko kaat diya. Par kaatate hi hairaan reh gaya – phal ke andar ek beshkeemti ratn nikla! Usne turant baaki saare phalo ko bhi kaatane ka aadesh diya. Un sab mein se bhi waise hi ratn nikle. Raja ne faisla kiya ki agle din agar Sadhu ayega to wo us hi se ye sawaal poochenge.

Raja ne jaisa socha waisa hi hua. Sadhu aaya aur phal dekar jane laga. Lekin is baar Raja ne use rok liya aur poochha, “Hey Yogi raj, aap kaun hain aur is tarah ratn bhare phal dene ka kya arth hai?”. Sadhu is hi pal ka intezar kar raha tha. Usne turant jawaab diya ki wo Raja ka dhyan akarshit karna chahta tha, is liye is tarah ka phal deta tha. Raja ko kuch doubt hua. Usne kaha, “aap to yogi hain, apko ye sab shobha nahi deta. Apko kuch chahiye to agya karein”.

Ab Sadhu ne apni baat rakhi. Bola ki wo shahar ki seema ke pare ghane jungle mein ek khandahar mein sadhna kar raha hai. Raat ko uski samapti ke samay usko Vikram...Raja nahi...Vikram jaise ek veer aur sahsi purush ki zaroorat hai. Wo bhi akele.

Raja soch mein pad gaya ... par Sadhu ko dekh usne haan kar di. Mantri pareshan, usne kaha, “Rajan aap aise akele ghane jungle mein na jayein. Apke angrakshak to kam se kam saath mein

rahein". Lekin Raja ne use mana kar diya aur apne usulo ka hawala dete hue Sadhu ko ashwasan diya ko wo zaroor ayenge wo bhi akele. Sadhu tareekh aur samay bata kar chala gaya.

Wade ke anusar, Vikram ghode par sawaar hokar akele hi us jungle ki or chal pada. Raat ke andhere mein jungle aur bhi ghana aur bhayanak lag raha tha. Lekin Vikram nidar tha, aage badhta raha. Kaafi door jaane par use finally ek khandahar dikha. Wo ghode se utra aur ahista ahista khandahar ki or badhne laga. Andar se kuch mantr aur jaap ki awaz aa rahi thi. Vikram dheere dheere aage badha aur jaise hi usne sadhu ko dekha wo hairaan reh gaya.

Charo or mashalein jal rahi thi, asthi, panjar, haddiyaan latki hui thi. Trishul, talwar, bhasm, kapaal. Sadhu ek tantrik roopi avesh mein puja kar raha tha aur zor zor se matroccharan kar raha tha "Om aim hreem kleem Chamundaye Viche"

Apni aankhon ke samne ka nazara dekhkar Raja hakka bakka reh gaya. Usne himmat jutai aur Sadhu ko pranam kiya. Sadhu ne uski or dekha aur muskuraya. Ek haath mein samidha li aur yagna kund mein phenki. Achanak bahut zor ki awaz aayi aur charo or dhool aur dhuein ka gubaar phail gaya. Aisa laga jaise bhoochaal aa gaya ho. Vikram nidar khada raha. Sadhu utha aur uske paas pahuncha. Usne kaha, "Dekho Vikram, yahan se dakshin ki disha mein do kos door jungle ke bheetar ek shamshan hai. Us shamshaan mein ek ped par ek laash ulti latki hui hai. Tumhein us laash ko mere paas lana hai"

Wo wada de chuka tha. Isliye Sadhu ki agyanusar wo dikshin disha mein chal diya. Jungle aur bhayanak hota ja raha tha. Andhera badh raha tha. Sayein sayein kar tez hawayein chal rahi thi. Vishaile saanp, bichhu, jungli janwar charo or se bhayanak awaazein nikaal rahe the. Lekin Vikram himmat kar age badhta gaya. Antatah wo shamshan pahunch gaya. Usne charo or dheka par andhere aur ghane pedo ke alawa kuch dikhai nahi diya.

Achanak use laga ki uska haath kisi ne pakd liya hai. Wo turant muda aur ek ulti latki hui laash samne dikhi. Wo ekdam se peechhe hat gaya, lekin samajh gaya ki ye wahi laash hai jiski use talaash hai. Usmein se mrit sharer ki halki boo aa rahi thi, rang peela pad chukka tha.

Vikram ped par chadha aur laash ko neechे utara. Jaise hi khud neechे utra, laash ud kar wapas ped par ja latki. Vikram bhaunchakka reh gaya. Use kuch samajh mein nahi aaya. Usne himmat kari, phir ped par chadha, laash ko utara. Par khud ke utarte hi, laash wapas ped par ja latki. Baar baar Vikram laash utarta aur baar baar laash wapas ped par ulta latak jaati. Vikram ne alag alag tareeke apnaye, par asafal raha. Kaafi koshisho ke baad akhirkar, usne ek baar phir laash ko jaisi hi utara, wahi se us par kood pada aur ek hi jhonke mein usko apni peeth par laad liya. Magar bina ruke turant Sadhu ke Khandahar ki or chal diya.

Vikram laash ko uthaye chal raha tha. Achanak laash bol padi, “Hahaha...Vikram...main tumhein maan gaya. Tum wakai ek Raja hone layak ho. Raja Vikramaditya! Tum veer ho, sahasi ho aur... (pause) budhimaan bhi. Jise tumne apni peeth par utha rakha hai us laash ka naam hai Betaal”.

Vikram us ki baat sunta raha par kyon ki lakshya Sadhu tak laash ko... yaani Betaal ko pahunchana tha, is liye wo bina ruke aage badhta raha. Betaal ne kaha ki uska bojh uthaye chalte chalte Raja thak jayega so uska man behlane ke liye wo ek kahani sunana chahta hai. Lekin ek shart ke saath.

Shart ye ki poore raste Vikram ko ek bhi shabd nahi bolna hai. Agar bola to Betaal ud kar wapas ped par latak jayega. Kahani ke ant mein ek sawaal hoga. Agar Vikram ko uska sahi uttar maloom hai to use batana hoga. Maloom hote hue bhi agar nahi bataya to Betaal yog siddhi se Vikram ke sar ke tukde tukde kar dega. Vikram muskuraya par bina ruke age badhta raha. Aur Betaal ... Betaal ne shuru ki kahani...

Kaun si? Main apko sunaunga agli mulaqat mein...