

Vikram aur Betaal - 5 **(Narration by Soham Shah)**

Har baar ki tarah is baar bhi Raja Vikramaditya ne Betaal ko pakada, peeth par lada aur aage badh chale. Aaiye, hum bhi unke saath saath aage badhte hain. Is baar bhi Betaal ne raja Vikram ko ek kahani sunani shuru ki.

Pavitra nagri Kashi mein ek rajkumar tha Vajramukut. Wahi ke deewan ka beta uska gehra dost tha. Dono ka subah shaam ka uthana baithana, khana-peena ... sab saath mein.

Ek baar ki baat hai, dono dost shikaar khelne ke liye jungle gaye. Paas hi mein ek vatika thi, dono dekhne chale gaye. Dost thoda thak gaya tha so vishram karne laga lekin rajkumar ghoomne ke liye nikal pada.

Waha uski nazar ek sundar kanya par padi. Wo apni saheliyon ke saath khel rahi thi. Rajkumar ne uska naam poochha to kanya ne ek kamal ke phool ki or ishara kar diya. Wo kuch samajh nahi paya. Phir usne uska pata poochha. Kanya ne apne kaan ka abhooshan utara aur paanv se laga kar phir ek ishara kar diya. Rajkumar asmanjas mein pad gaya. Akhir mein usne uske pita ke baare mein poochha. Is par kanya ne apna daant ukharne ka abhinay kiya. Is tarah paheliyon aur ishara mein baat kar ke wo waha se chali gayi.

Rajkumar apne dost ke paas pahuncha aur bataya ki kaise use vatika mein ek kanya dikhi aur pasand aa gayi. Ab usko paheliyon ko suljhana hai jis se wo baat aage badha sake. Dost chatur tha. Usne dimaag lagaya. Naam ke liye kamal ke phool yaani – Padmavati. Ghar ke pate ke liye, kaan ka abhooshan yaani karna aur payal ka ishara yaani nupur, arthaat, Karnapur ki rehne wali hai. Ab aayi pita ki baari. Daant ukharne ka matlab uske pita ho na ho dant vaidya hain. Matlab Padmavati, Karnapur sheher mein rehti hai aur ek dant vaidya ki beti hai.

Bas phir kya tha, mauka dekhte hi, dono Karnapur pahunch gaye. Lekin Rajkumar ke vesh mein nahi, sadharan logo ke roop mein. Waha unhein ek boodhi aurat mili. Unhone kaha ki wo pardesi hain aur sheher dekhne aaye hain aur kuch dino ke liye thehrne ki jagah dhoondh rahe hain. Us aurat ne dono ko apne yaha hi rukne ka aagrah kiya. Dono maan gaye.

Kuch din to Padmavati ko dhoondhate rahe par kuch khaas maloom nahi ho paya. Ek raat jab ghar par khana khate waqt dono is hi baare mein baat kar rahe the to boodhi aurat ne unki baat suni. Wo chaunk gayi. Usne bataya ki wo to Padmavati ko janti hai. Bachpan mein jab uski maa ka nidhan ho gaya tha, tab usne hi Padmavati ko paala tha. Ye jaan kar dono dost bahut khush hue. Unhone ne bhi apne baare mein Boodhi aurat ko sab kuch bata diya.

Agle hi din boodhi aurat Padmavati ke paas gayi aur usko bataya ki Rajmukar uska pata dhoondhate dhoondhate Karnapur aa chuka hain. Aur ab milna chahta hai.

Pamavati bhi man hi man bahut khush hui. Usko bhi Raajkumar pasand to tha lekin wo itni asani se uske saath shaadi nahi karna chahti thi. Usko ek paheli soojhi. Usne chandan ka lep liya, chaar ungaliyon ko duboya aur aurat ke gaal par nishaan laga diya. Usne ye keh kar aurat ko wapap bhej diya ki agar rajkumar samajhdaar hai to wo paheli ka arth samajh jayega.

Aurat wapap ghar pahunchi. Rajkumar aur uska dost dekhkar hairaan ki in chaar ungaliyon ke nishaan ka kya matlab ho sakta hai. Dost ne dimaag lagaya ki chandan ka arth shayad chaand se ho aur ungaliyon ke chaar nishaan ...matlab chaar din baad. Arthat, chaar din baad Padmavati Rajkumar se milegi! Wah!

Rajkumar ne chaar din beetane ka besabri se intezaar kiya. Uske baad dono dost pahunch gaye Padmavati ke ghar. Dost ne seedhi lagai aur Vajramukut chad kar Padmavati ke kamre mein daakhil ho gaya. Rajkumar ko apne kamre mein dekh Padmavati bahut khush ho gayi. Rajkumar kuch dino ke liye wahi ruk gaya aur uska dost wapap budhiya ke ghar. Dono saath mein samay bitate. Rajkumar ne uske haath par ek kamal ka phool bhi chitrit kiya. Dono bahut hi khush the.

Ab kai din beet gaye lekin Rajkumar wapap hi nahi louta. Dost ko bhi uski fikr hone lagi. Wo Rajkumar se milne Padmavati ke ghar jaane ki yojna bana hi raha tha ki achanak bahar sadak par kaafi shor sunai diya. Usne dekha ki raja ke sainik ek aurat ko dhakke maar kar rajya ki seema se bahar khaded rahe hain. Usne budhiya se poochha to usne bataya ki raja ka ye aadesh hai ki rajya ki kisi bhi aurat par agar charitraheen hone ka aarop lag jata hai to use rajya se bahar kar diya jata hai.

Khair, dost Rajkumar se milne raat ko us hi prakar seedhi lagakar Padmavati ke kamre mein pahunch gaya. Rajkumar apne dost ko dekh kar bahut khush hua aur Padmavati se parichay karwaya. Dost ne kaha ki ab chalo aur baraat le kar wapap aao. Tabhi Padmavati ke pita Dant Vaidya kamre mein aaye aur ek dukh bhari soochna sabko di. Wo ye ki Karnapur ke raja ko Padmavati ki sundarta ke baare mein pata chala hai aur wo us se shaadi karna chahta hai. Ab raja ka aadesh to raja ka hota hai, use bhala kaun rok sakta hai. Vajramukut ko gussa ayaa aur usne ladai karne ka faisla kiya. Lekin uske dost ne samjhaya ki koi shantipriya rasta khojte hain. Rajkumar aur uska dost wapap budhiya ke ghar laut gaye aur samasya ko suljhane ke baare mein sochne lage.

Raat hui. Padmavati so rahi thi. Tabhi uske kamre mein koi dakhil hua aur uske abhooshan chura kar le gaya. Kisi ko pata nahi chala. Subah hui to sab hairaan reh gaye.

Usi samay Raja ke mehel mein ek sadhu pahuncha aur usne ek potli raja ke samne rakh di. Raja ne poochha ye kya hai. To sadhu ne jawab diya, raat mein jab wo tap kar raha tha to ek sundar kanya uske paas aayi aur usko rijhane lagi. Sadhu ki tapasya mein bhang ho raha tha to usne krodh mein aa kar uske abhooshan chhen liye aur kanya ko waha se bhaga diya. Pehchaan ke liye saadhu ne bataya ki uske haath par ek kamal ka phool chitrit hai. Bas phir kya tha, raja ke

sainiko ne us kanya ko khoj nikala aur dand poorvak usko rajya ki seemayon ke bahar le ja kar chhod diya.

Ab wo kanya kaun thi...ji haan Padmavati. Rajkumar ne uske haath par kamal ke phool ka chitra banaya tha. Aur wo chor, wo sadhu...wo tha rajkumar ka chatur dost. Usne poori yojna bana kar, kanya yaani Padmavati ko raja ki nazaro mein neecha saabit kar diya aur rajya ke baahar nikalwa diya. Waha Rajkumar Vajramukut uska intezaar kar raha tha. Dono ka milan ho gaya aur sab khush ho gaye.

Ab betaal ne Vikram se poocha, ki in sab mein doshi kaun hua? Rajkumar, isne koi bhi paheli apne aap nahi suljhayi aur dost par aashrit raha, wo dost jisne jhoot ka sahara liya aur Padmavati ko charitraheen thehraya ya Karnapur ka raja, jisne dand dene ka faisla liya?

Raja Vikramaditya ko zyada sochna nahi pada. Usne turant jawaab diya ki doshi aur koi nahi raja hi hai. Rajkumar to apni ichha poori kar raha tha, dost rajkumar ki madad kar raha tha, lekin raja, jiska dharm hota hai sahi nyay dena, usne bina poori jankari liye, bina sahi jaanch padtal kiye, ek nirdosh stree ko charitraheen maan liya aur rajya se baahar kar diya. Usmein kanya ka fayda tha wo alag baat hai, lekin galti raja ki hi hai.

Betaal Vikram ke jawaab se hush hua. Usne kaha, “ Vikram, tu bahut budhimaan aur samajhdaar hai. Tune sahi jawaab diya hai. Lekin kyon ki to bol pada, to main ud chala”. Itna keh kar Betaal phir hawa mein aur Vikram uske peechhe peechhe.

Kyon kaisi lagi apko ye kahani? Agli kahani agli mulaqat mein. Tab tak ke liye alvida!