

Vikram aur Betaal - 6 **(Narration by Soham Shah)**

Doston! Is baar bhi jab Raja Vikramaditya ne Betaal ko pakda aur shamshan ki taraf le jaane laga to Betaal ne shuru ki ...kya? Wahi jo hamesha karta tha, usne shuru ki ek kahani!

Ayodhya nagri mein ek veer raja rajya karta tha. Uska naam tha Raja Veerketu. Pichhle kuch samay se uske rajya mein bahut choriyaan ho rahi thi. Log bahut pareshan lekin chor ka kuch ataa pataa nahin. Shahar ke pramukh nagrik jaise Seth Ratan Sen aur kai vyapari aur nagrik Raja se ja kar shikayat karne pahunche. Unhone kaha agar ye choriyaan nahin ruki to unhein vivash ho kar kisi doosre shahar mein jana padega. Raja ko bahut krodh aaya aur saath mein glaani bhi hui. Usne yeh pran liya ki wo khud raat ko vesh badal kar shahar mein gasht lagane jayega.

Us hi samay shahar ke ek samridh ilaake mein ek ladki deewar par chadh kar ek ped se aam todne ki koshish kar rahi thi. Ek aadmi ne guzarte hue use dekha aur wahi ruk gaya. Aam ke chakkar mein achanak ladki ka paanv phisla aur wo girne lagi. Aadmi ne furti dikhayi aur ladki ko girne se bacha liya. Aadmi ne poochha ki wo kaun hai. Usne bataya ki wo Seth Ratan Sen ki beti Manu hai. Aadmi hairan. Usne poochha ki, "tum itne sampann parivar se ho, to phir chori se aam kyon tod rahi ho?". Manu ne hanste hue kaha ki chori kar ke aam khane mein jo mazaa hai wo aise nahin aata! Aadmi ne bhi kaha, haan chori ka alag hi mazaa hai. Aisa keh kar wo fauran ped par chadh gaya aur Manu ke liye kuch aam tod liye.

Ab Manu ne aadmi se poochha ki wo kaun hai? Usne bataya ki wo ek chor hai aur chori karna uska kaam hai. Manu ko is baat se kuch khaas farq nahin pada. Balki wo to uske kaushal se prabhavit thi. Usne chor se kaha ki wo usko bhi furti se ped par chadhna aur utarna sikha de, jis se ki wo bhi bina gire aam tod sake. Chor ne wada kiya ki wo agle din us hi samay wahi par usko sikhane aayega.

Raat hui. Raja Veerketu ne khud ek chor ka bhesht banaya aur shahar ki gasht par nikal pada. Udhar chor apne kaam par ...yaani chori karne mein laga hua tha. Raja shahar ke alag alag ilaako mein gaya lekin kahin kuch pata nahi lag paya. Tabhi wo ek gali mein muda, usko door wahi chor dikahi diya. Wo kisi ka samaan chori kar raha tha. Raja ke paas ek seedhi thi. Usko deewar ke sahare tika kar chadne alga... kuch is tarah se ki chor ko dikh jaaye. Raja ne jaisa socha, waisa hi hua. Chor ne kisi ko deewar par chaddhte hue dekha to fauran uske paas aaya. Raja ne bhi choron jaisa bartaav kiya. Chor ne Raja se kaha ki use lagta tha ki shahar mein wahi ek chor hai. Lekin ab kyon na dono milkar chori karein. Ek se bhale do! Raja ne baat maan li aur dono nikal pade saath mein chori karne.

Achhe avsar ki talaash mein dono ek kothi par pahunche. Khidki kholi to dekha us kamre mein Manu so rahi thi. Use dekh kar chor pehchaan gaya aur peechhe hatne laga. Raja ne lalach diya ki, "Chalo, uske gehne chori kar lein" Lekin chor ne mana kiya, usne kaha, "shayad main is ladki

ko chahne laga hoon. Agar main chor na hota to zaroor is ladki se vivah karta”. Raja ne uski baat suni par kuch kaha nahi aur dono aage badh gaye.

Raste mein raja ne us se poochha, “tumne kabhi Rajmahal mein chori nahi ki?”. Chor ne bataya ki abhi tak to nahin lekin jald hi zaroor karega, ye bhi bataya ki usne kai baar Raja se milne ki koshish bhi ki kyon ki wo ek sainik banana chahta tha, lekin Raja ke bhrasht karmcharyon ne use milne nahin diya. Raja ye sun kar hairaan hua ki uske karmchari bhrasht hain! Chor ne tark diya ki poore shahar mein wo eklauta chor hai aur raja ke hazaaro sainik. Agar apna kaam inmaandaari se karte to ab tak pakad na lete. Arthat wo bhrasht aur kaamchor hain. Raja bhi bechara sunta raha.

Dono baatcheet karte karte chor ke thikane par pahunch gaye. Chor Raja ko andar le gaya aur chori kiya hua saara maal dikhane laga. Raja dekh kar hairaan tha ki chor ne itna saara maal chori kiya hua hai. Raja ne turant waha padi hui ek talwar uthayi aur chor ko lalkaar kar kaha ki wo Raja Veerketu hai aur chor ko pakadne ke liye bhesh badalkar aaya hai. Chor hairaan hua lekin apne bachaav ke liye usne bhi hathiyaar utha liya aur dono mein ladai aur hathapai shuru ho gayi. Dono bahut der tak ladte rahe lekin akhirkaar apne yudh kaushal se Raja ne chor ko hara diya aur bandi bana liya. Tab tak subah ho chuki thi.

Udhar Manu wade ke mutabik chor se milne ja rahi thi, tabhi uske pita Seth Ratan Sen ne usko bulaya aur poochha ki wo kahan ja rahi hai. Usne sharmate hue bataya ki wo ek ladke se milne jaa rahi hai jo bahut hi sundar, kushal aur bahadur hai aur ye ki wo ek chor hai. Wo us se ped par chadhna aur utarna seekha raha hai. Pita hairaan hue lekin tabhi bahar se shor sunai diya, “Chor pakda gaya, chor pakda gaya” “Raja Veerketu ki jai, Raja Veerketu ki jai”.

Dono bahar gaye aur dekha ki Raja Veerketu chor ko rassi se bandhkar bandi bana kar le ja raha hai. Raja ne aialaan kiya, “ab kisi ko ghabrane ki zaroorat nahi hai. Chor pakda gaya hai aur ab use mrityudand milega!” Itna keh kar Raja apne mahal ki or chal diya aur sainik chor ko bandi banakar karawas mein daal aaye.

Kuch samay baad, chor ko darbar mein pesh kiya gaya. Raja ne chor se poochha, “tumko apni safai mein kuch kehna hai?” Chor ne kaha, “He Rajan, kuch samay ke liye to tum mere mitr bane the aur tum ne bhi wahi kiya jo main kar raha tha – CHORI. To ye mrityu dand kewal mujhe hi kyon? Sazaa to un bhrast sainiko aur karmcharyon ko bhi milni chahiye”. Raja dhyaan se baat sun raha tha. Use bhi laga ki baat mein dum to hai.

Itne mein Seth Ratan Sen waha pahuncha aur Raja se aagrah kiya ki wo chor ki mrityudand ki saza maaf kar de aur uske badle aarthik dand de jo ki wo khud bharne ko tayyar hai. Raja ke poochhne par Seth ne bataya ki chor bahut sahsi aur kushal naujawaan hai aur uski beti chor se vivah karna chahti hai. Raja ko bhi chor ki raat wali baat yaad aa gayi jab wo gehne churane Manu ke kamre mein pahunchte the.

Ye sab sun ka chor se ruka na gaya aur wo zor se rone laga. Raja, darbari aur Seth usko dekh kar chaunk gaye. Lekin tabhi uska rona band hua aur rone ki bajai wo zor zor se hansne laga. Sabhi sochne lage ki ye chor ko kya ho gaya hai. Pehle ro raha tha, ab hans raha hai!

Itne mein Manu waha aa gayi. Usne Raja se vinti ki, “agar aap ise kshama nahi kar sakte to isko dand dene se pehle mujhe is se vivah karne ki anumati de dijiye. Jis se ki main saara jeevan inki patni ban kar bita sakoon”. Raja uski baat se bahut prabhavit hua. Usne chor ki sazaa maaf kar di aur apne rajya ka senapati ghoshit kar diya.

Yaha par kahani ko rokne hue Betaal ne Raja Vikramaditya se sawaal kiya, “ek baat bata raja. Jab Seth ne raja se isko chhodne ki baat kahi, to chor ne bahut ajeeb bartaav kiya jo kisi ki samajh mein nahi aaya. Pehle to wo zor zor se roya aur phir zor zor se hansa...aisa kyon?”

Raja Vikramaditya muskuraya aur bola, “Chor apni paristhiti ko dekh kar hairaan tha. Kahaan to ek ameer seth, us jaise chor ko bachane ke liye raja ke saamne haath phaila raha tha. Aise bhale insaan ka ehsaan wo kaise chuka payega? Ye soch kar wo phoot phoot kar ro raha tha. Aur phir usi seth ki ladki Manu us se vivah karna chahti thi. Poore rajya mein use ek chor hi pasand aaya! Apni kismet ka khel dekh kar us se hansa roki nahi gayi! Is liye wo pehle to roya aur phir hansa!”

Raja Vikramaditya ka jawaab sahi tha. Sun kar Betaal bhi muskurane laga. Usne Raja ki khoob prashansa ki! Lekin...kyun ki Raja bol pada to Betaal ud chala! Phir kya hua?

Thoda to apko pata hai, baaki main sunaunga agle episode mein!