

Vikram aur Betaal - 7 **(Narration by Soham Shah)**

To pichhli baar ki tarah ek baar phir, Raja Vikramaditya ne Betaal ko pakad kar peeth pe laada aur badh chala shamshan ki or! Aur Betaal ne bhi ek baar phir shuru ki ek nayi kahani!

Samudra kinare Taamlipi naam ka ek shehar tha jahan Chandrasen naam ka Raja rajya kiya karta tha. Paas ke ek gaanv se Satvasheel naam ka ek naujawaan Raja ke yahan naukri ki talaash mein pahuncha. Magar darbariyon ne use andar jaane se mana kar diya. Bechara mayoos ho kar idhar udhar bhataкта raha is ummeed mein ki Raja se mulaqat ho sake aur naukri mil sake.

Achanak, use paas hi ke mod par ek budhiya dikhayi di jo chane bech rahi thi. Bhookh se haal behaal tha. Usne budhiya se kuch khane ko maanga. Budhiya ko us par taras aaya aur usne kuch chane aur awle usko de diye. Tabhi Raja ka ek darbaan waha par aaya aur un ko hathne ke liye kaha. Kehne laga "Raja shikaar khelne is raste se ho kar jangal ki or jayenge, to rasta khali kar do". Ye sun kar Satvasheel ne man hi man socha, "shayad jungle mein raja se milna asaan rahega". Usne kuch chane aur awle to kha liye the magar jo bache the, wo jeb mein sambhal rakh liye.

Kuch der mein raja ki sawari wahan se guzri. Sabhi log jai jai kaar kar rahe the. Satvasheel bhi us hi bheed mein shaamil ho gaya aur raja ke peeche peeche chalne laga. Kuch door jaane ke baad, shahar ki seema aa gayi aur praja waha ja kar ruk gayi. Kewal Raja aur uske sainik aage jungle ki or badh gaye. Aur chhupte chhupaate badh gaya Satvasheel.

Raja ghoda daudate daudate jungle mein bahut andar tak chala gaya. Itna andar, ki uske sainik bahut peeche reh gaye. Lekin Sahturosheel milne ki ummeed mein pechhe daudte daudte Raja ke paas pahunch hi gaya.

Raja jab ruka to usne dekha ki uske sainik to peeche hi reh gaye. Use bahut pyaas lag rahi thi. Tabhi mud ke dekha to ek admi to apni taraf bhag kar aate hue dekha. Satvasheel Raja ke paas pahuncha aur usko pranam kiya. Raja ne uska naam pata poochha. Satvasheel ne uttar diya. Raja ne poochha, "kahin aaspaas paani milega?" Satvasheel ne haami bhakar, turant ek ped se kuch bade patte tode, tinke se unko jod kar dona banaya aur paas ke talaab se paani lekar aa gaya. Raja uski chusti phurti dekh gaur se dekh raha tha. Talaab ka thanda paani pee kar Raja ki pyas bujhi.

Satvasheel ne jeb mein rakhe awle aur chane Raja ko bhojan ke roop mein prastut kiye. Raja ne khaye aur prasann hua. Raja ne poochha, "tum daudte hue yahan taka aye, uska kaaran kya hai, tum kya chahte ho?" Satvasheel ne haath jod kar prarthana ki ki wo Raja ki sewa karna chahta hai aur is hi liye gaanv chhod kar Raja ke sheher mein aaya hai. Raja us se bahut prabhavit hua aur usko apni ungli mein pehni rajmudra dekar kaha, ki agle dine wo ise lekar darbar mein aa jaye. Koi darbaan usko nahi rokega.

Satvasheel bahut khush hua aur agle din mudra lekar Raja se milne pahunch gaya. Wahi darbaan jisne use pehle mana kiya tha, rajmudra dekh kar Satvasheel ko aadar sahit andar le gaya. Raja ne usko apne darbar mein naukri par rakh liya. Satvasheel bahut mehnati tha. Kuch hi dino mein wo Raja ka khaas darbari ban gaya!

Ek din Raja ne usko bulaya aur kaha ko wo chahta hai ki rajya ke naujawaan logo ko rozgaar aur kamai ke saadhan dene ke liye aur rajya ki khyati badhane ke liye vyapar badhan hoga aur uske liye naye dweepo par vijay haasil karni hogi. Magar uske liye bahut saahas aur himmat ki zaroorat hai. Satvasheel turant is abhiyaan ke liye tayyar ho gaya.

Raja ko aashwasan dekar Satvasheel samudri jahaz mein ravana ho gaya. Kai din beet gaye, jahaz aage badhta raha. Tabhi ek din, Satvasheel ko paani mein ek jhanda dikhai diya. Usne socha, zaroor ye kisi rajya ka jhanda hai. Usne apne saathiyon aur sainiko ko kaha ki wo khud jaa kar dekhega ki ye kis ka rajya hai. Itna keh kar wo paani mein kood gaya. Jhande ke sahare wo samudra ki gehrai mein utarta chala gaya.

Samudra tal par pahunchate hi wo hairaan reh gaya. Usne dekha waha to ek alag hi duniya basi hui hai. Paani mein neechे ek mahal tha jismein ek sundar rajkumari rehti thi. Satvasheel ne apna praichay diya lekin ek anjaan aadmi ko apne mahal mein dekhkar rajkumari aur uski sewikayein ghabra gayi. Satvasheel ne apni taraf se poori koshish kari ke wo pareshaan na ho aur uske Raja ka sandesh sunein. Lekin rajkumari aur uski sewikayein ka alag hi vichar tha. Himmat rakhte hue unhone Satvasheel ko mahal mein amantrit kiya. Phir usko bhojan karne ka aagrah kiya kiya. Lekin us se pehle snan karne ko kaha. Jaise hi Satvasheel talaab kinare pahuncha, unhone use dhakka de diya.

Rajkumari ne turant apni sewikayon aur sainiko ko mahal ki suraksha badhane ke liye hukm diya.

Waha upar jahaz par Satvasheel ke saathi intezaar karte rahe. Lekin uska naam-o-nishan nahi. Unhein laga ki shayad Satvasheel doob gaya hai aur wapas nahin aayega. Aisa soch kar we sabhi Raja ke paas wapas chale gyaе. Darbar mein pahunch kar unhone Raja ko poori ghatna ki jaankaari di. Raja bahut pareshan – uska priya sewak kahan kho gaya! Vichar karte karte Raja Chandrasen apne mahal ke talab ke paas pahunch gaya. Tabhi achanak talaab mein kuch halchal dikhayi di....aur ye kya...talaab mein se Satvasheel bahar nikla! Raja usko dekh kar bahut khush hua...lekin hairaan bhi hua ki ye is talaab mein kahan se aa gaya. Udhar Satvasheel ko vishwas nahi ho raha tha ki abhi jo kuch bhi ghatit hua wo sach mein hua ya ek sapna tha. Raja ne usko vishwas dilaya ki ye sab sach hai. Satvasheel ne phir poore atmavishwas ke saath Raja ko poori ghatna sunai aur us sundar rajkumari ke baare mein bhi bataya. Uski baatein sunkar Raja bhi us vichitr samudri rajya ko dekhne ke liye utsuk ho utha aur usne faisla kiya ki wo bhi waha jayega.

Raja Chandrasen aur Satvasheel, dono phir wahi pahunche. Pehle Satvasheel aur phir Raja Chandrasen us hi jhande ke sahare samudratil par pahunche. Lekin is baar kada pehra tha.

Dono ne bahaduri se sabhi sainiko se ladai ki aur us sab ko maar giraya. Raja vijayi hua aur usne rajkumari ko haar sweekar karne ko kaha. Satvasheel ne bhi raja ke parakram ka bakhan kiya. Paristhiti dekh, rajkumari ne haar maan li aur Raja ko apna rajya de diya.

Raja Chandrasen ne Satvasheel ko apne pratinidhi ke roop mein waha ka raja ghoshit kiya aur rajkumari ko Satvasheel se vivah karne ki agya di. Dono ne Raja ki ashirwad liya. Tabhi Satvasheel ki jeb se do awle gir pade. Unko dekh kar Raja bahut bhavuk aur prasann hua.

Usko jungle ki wo dopahar yaad aa gayi jab pyaas se wo vichlit ho raha tha aur Satvasheel patte ke done mein uske liye paani lekar aaya tha. Aur saath mein awle aur chane bhi bhent kiye the. Aaj maano us din ke awlo ka udhaar chukka diya.

Itni kahani sunakar Betaal chup hokar muskurane laga. Raja Vikramaditya ne chaunk kar uski or dekha. Betaal ne badi gehrayi se kaha, “dekh raja tu bada budhiamaan hai. Is rochak kahani mein tere hisaab se adhik bahadur kaun hai - Raja Chandrasen jisne ladai kar ke samudri rajya ko apne adheen kiya ya Satvasheel jisne us rajya ki khoj kari? Sacha bahadur kaun hai?”

Raja Vikramaditya ne turant jawaab diya. Uske mutabik, sachha sahsi Satvasheel hai! Betaal hairaan reh gaya. Usne poochha “aisa kyon?” Raja Vikramaditya ne samjhaya ki asli bahadur wo hota hai jo anjaan raste par chalne se nahi ghabrata, wo jo anjaan rahasyon se joojhta hai, peechhe nahi hat ta hai. Jab satvasheel jhande ko dekh kar pehli baar kooda, tab usko maloom nahi tha ki paani ke andar kya hoga, kya milega. Phir bhi wo kooda. Bahadur tha, isliye. Uske muqable, jab Raja Chandrasen waha pahuncha, use sab kuch pehle se maloom tha. To sahi mayne mein sachha bahadur Satvsheel hi hai!

Betaal Raja Vikramaditya ka jawaab sun kar bahut khush hua. Lekin kyon ki Raja bol pada to Betaal...ud chala!

Kya Raja Vikramaditya phir Betaal ko pakadne uske peechhe jayega? Kya phir ek nayi dastaan shuru hogi? Jaanenge agli mulaqat mein!