

SHE WANDERS IN THE WILDERNESS

I am Pather Panchali

I roam in the wilderness of dawn

The mystic magic of the woods attracts me,

The silence of the grassy meadows lures me,

I have an existing exile in the region,

I know not any.

I don't own your doubts about me,

I don't care about your suspicions,

I am here to wander in the leisurely hours,

Feeling detached of all and sundry.

Why do you think I am?

Who do you think I am?

I cannot answer your questions,

For I am a response never tread upon,

All those that see me, feel none of my pangs,

They are just there to frown upon my torn and tattered land.

People call me dowdy, trollope and laugh at my misery,

Some even slap my urge to seek solace,

Some negate my identity,

Some call me unfairly keeping funny names,

And some insult me with their horrible words of disdain.

Yet there IS something that keeps me going,
And certainly this one thing helps me survive,
These wild plains I inhabit,
Keep me intact.

I sit and cry here for hours and they hold me tight in
embrace,

They tell me everything would be alright, when I learn how to
fight.

They tell me " YOU are an amazon" do not give up your strife,
For there will be a day when you will be rewarded for all that
you sacrifice.

The right to be treated nicely is what I give up everyday,
And the woods restore my lost spirits comforting my soul each
day.

I know not the language of the rich,
I know not the luxury of the privileged.

But the woods tell me they know I will earn it all some day.

So here I am treading amongst these forests,
Waiting for that one clear call,

That can lead me to my desired destination.

I am the pather panchali,

Thus I roam in the wilderness of the dawn,

In search of a divine messenger,

That can lead me towards the kindly light of the fair morn.

For comments if any please write in the box below:

ROBOTIC THEATER

Two Robots were brought on the stage along with two actors. They were given the same dialogues as the actors. They spoke the dialogues with trained expressions duly. The actors were asked to speak the same dialogue. They looked at each other brought the emotions in and when it was time to begin, one of the actors forgot the second dialogue he was about to speak. So instead of that dialogue, he spoke another one and the other actor had to continue with the new idea as the previous dialogue had been changed.

Now, the entire presentation was changed on the part of the humans.

Next day, the programmed Robots were brought in. One of them encountered a technical error and could not utter the programmed dialogue. The other Robot kept quiet as it was commanded to speak only after listening to the dialogue of the first Robot. Now, the act came to an abrupt halt. Suddenly, both the Robots bowed down to the audiences and left the stage. They were programmed to do so ONLY after the presentation got over. But, they did it beforehand and went off stage. What made them act in spite of the mechanics?

None knows but conjectures are that there's a sixth sense programmed in them which gets activated as soon as their technical glitch occurs.

For comments if any, please write in the box below:

AND...THERE COMES A FOLKTALE

There was a Queen. She killed every 4th husband of hers. None knew the reason she spared 3 and killed the 4th one. One day, a mantri asked her the reason. The Queen replied, " Every 4th MAN reminded me of my mother's 4th husband who killed her. Mantri decided to stop the Queen. He brought a commoner for the Queen on her command to marry the 4th time after she killed her x 4th husband. She killed him. The mantri said, " I consulted a sage. He said this man was the incarnation of your mother's 4th husband. Now no longer is the need to kill anyone else."

The atrocity stopped after that.

The commoner who was last killed was the chief of the Queen's enemy who had encroached upon the territory to kill the Queen.

Since then every 4th day of the month, the people of the village offer 4 things to the Queen's soul who happens to be their deity now and organize a festival in her memory.

It is that it is a day when everything 4 in number is honored. The fourth house, the fourth child, the fourth wife...and anything less than 4 is destroyed. Thus, those that have four houses, destroy the previous three, those that have three children, discard the 1st three and so goes with the wives. Three of them are divorced and 4th one remains. The Queen blesses this ritual. As she likes HONORING FOUR.

For comments, if any, please write in the box below:

RIKSHAW DRIVER AND LADY— AN ABSURD PLAY (ONE ACT)

In the middle of LINTON road, a rickshaw comes and stops in front of the woman. She intends to hire it for going to a destination. The rickshaw driver looks at her and assents to take her to the desired stop.

Sc –I

Woman – Will you drop me at this address?

Driver- Yes madam. Please sit.

Woman- Be quick. I don't have time.

Driver- yes madam..

Woman- Thank you.

Driver- No thanks. I am there to take people to their desired stops. But...

Woman- But? Are you worried about your fare? Do not worry. I will give you cash.

Driver- No. I am not worried about money. I am thinking that YOU are going to give my your life.

Woman: What?

Driver- No madam. Nothing. I just said nothing at all. Don't worry. Come, it's going to be night soon and this road becomes quite isolated. It is not safe to be here for a long time.

Sc II

(The rickshaw starts with a jerk. The woman gets a strong jolt)

Woman- Oh! Driver what's this? Be careful.

Driver- At times, it isn't in our hands madam.

Woman-But it is in our YOUR hands only!

Driver- No. I have to take many abrupt decisions while driving. This was one of them. I did not intend to put sudden jerk otherwise. The road's quite open to receiving jerks when we start off.

Woman- Whatever. Let's go.

Driver (speaks softly)- Go. This word has the implication of going and when I am going, I have to be on the go and when I am on the go, none disturbs me. Get Set Go!

Woman- What are you muttering?

Driver- Nothing madam. Yes, you said go. But...

Woman- But what?

Driver- We cannot GO.

Woman- What! Just a moment ago you said you are ready to go and now you are denying.

Driver- I am ready to go madam. But not ready to go now.

Woman- What? What are you talking?

Driver- Just wait madam, wait for some time. We need to. Or

else, it might get too late.

Woman- What nonsense is this? You said we must start off quickly as it might get isolated here soon and now you are telling me to tarry?

Driver- Life is unexpected madam. The clutch wire just broke when I gave the jerk.

Woman- Oh! Now it would be needless delay. Never mind. I will hire another rick.

Driver- Not possible madam. It is not going to be easy for you to get another vehicle here.

(She stands there and tries to call other rickshaws. None of them stops. Comes back to the same rickshaw driver. Stands there.)

Woman- Ok. I am waiting here. Be quick.

Driver- Am trying my best. At times things are not in our hands madam.

Woman- But the wire is in your hands.

Driver- But its intention to get repaired or not does not lie in my hands madam.

(After almost an hour's time, he is able to repair the clutch wire)

Woman- Now let's go. Enough of waiting here.

Driver- Yes madam. Sit inside the auto.

(As she moves towards the auto, her foot twists unexpectedly while walking and she cries in pain.)

Woman- Oh God! I did not notice this stone in the middle. My foot got twisted! I am feeling awful. I never did think

anything of this sort would happen. Thought I would hire an auto and reach home quickly.

Driver- At times, life shows us what we do not expect madam. Do not worry. I will support you and help you to get in the auto. Come, lean on my shoulder.

(He supports her)

Woman- ok. Now finally should we set off!

Driver- Yes madam.

(He starts the auto and takes it off. The woman sits quietly in the seat at the back. He keeps driving.)

Woman -(calls her friend) I will reach in no time. Actually, I can explain (suddenly, there's a speed breaker and the rickshaw crosses it very quickly. Once again, she gets a heavy jerk.)

Woman- Drive slowly. Will you. Can't you see the speed breaker?

Driver- Madam. At times we are forced to drive quickly. You said you need to reach fast. I thought...

Woman- So that does not mean you drive haphazardly. Drive carefully.

Driver- Ok madam.

(Suddenly stops the auto)

Woman- What? Why have you stopped?

Driver- Madam. It is dinner time for me. I need to eat my food. You need to wait.

Woman- What?

Driver- yes.

Woman- But you drop me first then have your dinner. What are you up to?

Driver- Up to nothing madam. I am telling you one simple thing. I cannot drive ahead without my food. I need to finish my dinner. Wait in the auto. I will come in no time.

(She waits reluctantly and knows well that no rickshaw was available in that area. He comes after almost forty five mins)

Woman- Now should we go?

Driver- If you ask me madam, it means you are taking my permit. I am nobody to decide.

Woman- But you are the DRIVER. Driving me is in your hands.

Driver- No madam. Driving both of us is in someone else's hands.

Woman- What absurdity is this? You drive take me to my destination.

Driver- You think you have a destination. (Laughs.) Everybody thinks so. But none has any.

Sc III

(She looks at him almost frantically.)

Woman- Why are you talking wierd?

Driver- Nobody makes any sense in the world madam. Especially lower class people like us, we often become senseless in front of everyone.

Woman- See right now it is not the time to check whether you are sensible or senseless. Now is the time to drive safely and help me reach my destination. I am wanting eagerly to reach at a place.

Driver- That's what I am doing madam. Helping you reach your destination.

Woman-With the kind of slow speed that you are driving, I do not think we will reach there ever.

(stops the auto. The woman looks at him irritatingly.)

Woman- Why did you stop the auto?

Driver- I need to get the CNG filled.

Woman- Listen, do it afterwards. I do not want to be late.

Driver- Madam. There is no fuel left.

Woman- What? Why didn't you tell me earlier. I would not have hired your auto.

Driver- Madam, it will take 5 mins.

Woman- Ok.

(Gets the fuel tank filled. The woman waits.)

Woman- Now can we get set go?

Driver- Madam, wait. I need to get the change to give them money.

Woman- Wait, here I am giving you change. Take it. Give it to them. Let's leave.

Driver- Ok madam.

(He makes the payment at the petrol pump. They start off and come at crossroad)

Driver- Madam. Two roads diverge. Which one to take?

Woman- The left one. Wait, perhaps, I would have to check on my phone. Ok , here it is the right one. That's the direction

it shows.

Driver- But madam, this road is very long. It will take time.

Woman- My mobile does not lie. It is the most convenient road it shows.

Driver- So I should take this one right?

Woman- Of course.

Driver- So be it.

(He turns right. The road continues and has many lanes. After some time the woman gets annoyed.)

Woman- What is this? Lanes after lanes?

Driver- Madam, I told you this road is long but you did not listen to me.

Woman- Now what to do?

Driver- Let's go back.

Woman- Ok.

(He takes a reverse turn, in just a few mins, they come to a specific point where there is traffic jam)

Woman- O my God! We did not have it while we took this road, now where did this come from?

Driver- It is a procession that has just started madam.

Woman- We are stuck!

Driver- We are often stuck in the middle of roads madam.

(After almost an hour's wait, the traffic heals. They move ahead.)

Woman- I wanted to reach there two hour before. Little did I

know I would get so late!

Driver- We often do not know the future madam. But better late than never.

Woman- What do you mean?

Driver- Meaning, we would reach there some time, some day.

Woman- What? What are you talking?

Driver- Nothing madam. The fact of life. The crux of living this life is an eternal journey that never ends. Right?

Woman- Don't be philosophical. I do not have time.

Driver- None has time. Time has everyone.

(Puts a sudden break. Stage goes dark. The next moment we see bright light on the stage and many people having gathered there.)

Person I – Oh sad, very sad the accident.

Person II- The autowala is dead.

Person III- The passenger?

Person I- Nowhere to be found.

Person II- Let us inform the police.

(They call the ambulance and the police who come and do the needful in the case.)

The next day, a woman stands in the middle of the LINTON road. She stops an auto, hires him.

Woman – Will you drop me at this address?

Driver- Yes madam. Please sit.

Woman- Be quick. I don't have time.

Driver- yes madam.

Woman- Thank you.

Driver- No thanks. I am there to take people to their desired stops. But...

Woman- But? Are you worried about your fare? Do not worry. I will give you cash.

Driver- No. I am not worried about money. I am thinking that YOU are going to give me your life.

Woman: What?

(Next day in the newspaper. Linton road seems to be haunted. A driver with an auto is seen moving around and a lady comes and boards it. They both act as passenger and auto driver. After a while, people hear a loud shriek, an auto driver in the same locality is found dead.)

Lights off stage darkens. After a while there is light all around.

For any comments please write in the comment box below:

Cricket Teams of the World – West Indies

By **Sunil Sarpal**



West Indies Winners and Warriors

Posting this historical article a day after in the INDIA vs West Indies, Women's T20 World Cup match, India beat West Indies by 6 wickets!

That is the see-saw battle of this game. That's what makes it so interesting. There came a phase in the history of men's cricket when all the cricket playing nations boasted of 2-3 genuinely quick and skillful bowlers in their line up. The very sight of these bowlers was intimidating because they were possessing such a variety in their repertoire which even the most accomplished batsmen could not withstand. It took the game of cricket to altogether different level. These quickies were always on the throat of the batsman so that the hapless batsman had no respite. The 6 ft plus barging in from the boundary line with red cherry in hand can lead to shiver down the spine of a batsman. How can a batsman face, put aside, withstand, barrage of bouncers one after the other. This was some sort of suicide type of cricket facing these quickies with 150 plus speed.

West Indies had an unbelievable line-up consisting of

Malcom Marshal

Joel Garner

Any Roberts

Michael Holding

Croft etc. etc.

Pakistan's challenge rests with Cap. Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, and Waqar Younis.

Australia had the fearsome duo of Deniss Lillee and Jeffery Thompson.

England spearheads were Ian Botham and Wills.

New Zealand had the services of undisputed talented Sir Richard Hadlee and Chatfield.

India too had Kapil Dev and Manoj Prabhakar.

When we talk of competition, West Indies were undisputed champs, head and shoulders above in pace and variations. On the face of their battery of fast bowlers, other teams were found just chockers. They ruled the cricket world like roaring lions and their roar was deafning and debilitating for the opposition. West Indies Team was studded with charismatic individuals either with bat or ball. Their line-up challenged all the teams in their own den and humiliated them like never before. They made mockery of opposition on the field of cricket and tasted them dust.

The line-up of West Indies team was :-

GORDAN GRINIDGES, DESMOND HAYNES, VIV RICHARDS, CLIVE LLOYD (C) , LARRY GOMES (OR ALWIN KALICHARAN), JEFFERY DUJON, ANDY ROBERTS, MICHAEL HOLDING, MALCOM MARSHAL, JOEL GARNER, GIBBS AND CROFT.

They were all stars in their chosen field. Perhaps in the history of cricket, such a combination of batsmen and bowlers

never got together in unison.

It was their captain Clive Lloyd who for the first time in the history of cricket introduced 4-pronged fast bowling attack. It paid rich dividend to West Indies so that they ruled the world over a decade or so.

Indian cricket on a high

By Sunil Sarpal



Image: meravote

Indian Cricket is on a high these days. Winning one

tournament after another has now become a routine feature for India. Bringing in just the bench strength to take on the likes of New Zealand team is a milestone that the world is watching with total disbelief. The just concluded 3-match series in 50-over format against New Zealand has left them shaken and outclassed.

The highlight of the Indian Team is that we have discovered one Surya Kumar Yadav whose range of shots takes the game to a altogether different level. As if he just descended from MARS. The short form of his name too is SKY. He hits good balls disdainly and one can imagine the treatment meted out to bad balls. He plays all over with straight bat, horizontal bat, scoop, lap shot and what not. It is just amazing to see the range of shots he has in his arsenal. Bowlers are often left in a mad like situation when up against SKY.

We consider the other legends too, but he is the greatest, head and shoulders above them. His heroics are unparalleled and the whole cricket fraternity is singing his songs.

Opposition too is applauding his batting feat and some kind of relief rends the air when he departs. Then the contest between bat and ball starts anew.

The 'rotation policy' has brought in all the bench strength into play, particularly bowlers.

India's fast bowling strength is unbelievably amazing. We have Bhuvn, Arshdeep, Siraj, Bumrah, Shami, Pandya. They certainly have an edge over Umran Malik and many more.

In batting, the resurgence of Virat Kohli has given new dimension to batting as well. With the likes of Rohit, Ishan Kishan, Surya, Gill, Rahul, Iyer are all in-form batters and rarin-to-go.

Amongst allrounders, Hardik, Ravinder Jadeja, Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Axar Patel, to name a few.

Among spinners, Kuldeep Yadav, Ashwin, Chahal and many more.

Indian fielding standard is second to none. With the intro of T20 test as pre-requisite, every player has to maintain high-class fitness so as to survive and establish his position in the side.

We, in cricket, has reached a stage when others look up to us to emulate the feat and plan their own cricket strategy.