

Good But Bad

The day was 24th December, the day just before Christmas. In Kolkata, a grand dancing competition was held at the Town Hall in Dumdum Cantonment for paralyzed people. The first competitor was a teenage girl with a nervous but determined face called Sujata. She danced so amazingly that the judges and the audience including Arko Ganguly thought that she was not at all handicapped. But in respect to her hard-work and dance, the audience stood up in applause. Then the next competitors came and their dance was not as good as the first one but everybody present there could understand that they were physically handicapped.

The competition came to an end and the winner was declared. The winner was, of course, Sujata. But as the judges did not have any hesitations to call a spade a spade, they told Sujata, “We don’t think you are handicapped in any way.” “Are you kidding me or what?”

Can't you see how I limp when I walk? Above all I have submitted all the medical certificates and doctor prescriptions where it is clearly written and certified that my left leg is handicapped." Sujata stammered. She was given a gold trophy, a cheque of Rs. 100000 and a tour ticket to USA. Then she left the place cursing the judges under her breathe.

On returning home Arko called up his best friend and detective accompanier, Sushan as he was also present during the dance competition held in Town Hall that day. Sushan came to Arko's house and they talked it all over. They decided that they would look up into the matter and find out whether she is handicapped or not. They thought of finding out Sujata address. So Arko went to the police station and met his uncle, who was a police officer, Mr. Gourav Ganguly and told him everything and said to him, "Please enquire and tell us her address. We swear we will not use it for illegal and bad purposes." His uncle took out a thick book searched for the address and at last gave the address of Sujata to Arko and Sushan. They went back home happily

thinking that the first step of his investigation about whether Sujata was paralyzed or not, was complete.

Arko and Sushan told each other, “Tomorrow is a red letter day, so, let’s not think about the matter of Sujata. Let’s not spoil the fun of hers and ours this day.”

On 26th, Arko and Sushan discussed and finally decided to follow her everywhere wherever she went and see how she walks- limping or not limping.

Arko and Sushan found out that Sujata was limping always. Arko Ganguly could not understand what to do. He was going to give up and believe in Sujata when suddenly a spark of light came to his head. He said to Sushan, “We are always seeing her when she is at public with her neighbors and with other people but not with her friends. We should try to see her when she is with her friends playing with them. ‘Let’s see’ was Sushan’s reply.

One day Arko saw Sujata running and playing with her friends without limping. He took a video of Sujata, went back home, took Sushan with him and went to the

police station to meet his uncle, Mr. Gourav Ganguly. Arko told him everything and showed him the video as a proof for his statements. Mr. Sinha said, “Arko and Sushan, you both are geniuses!”

Mr. Gourav Ganguly went to Sujata’s house with his police force and Sujata was taken to the police station. Arko and Sushan accompanied them.

On reaching the police station Arko and Sushan told their side of the story. Then Sujata fell to her feet and said, “Please, please, please forgive me. I had to do this...” “Why, for money?” Mr. Sinha demanded. “Yes, my mother was very ill and she needed an operation. The hospital charged me Rs. 85000. As I have lost my father we could hardly make the two ends meet for our earning condition is from hand to mouth. But everyone says that I have the gift of dance. Suddenly I saw the poster of advertisement for participation in the dance competition. Then I thought of this cunning but dishonest plan and according to it I made some fake certificates. I did it just for my mother! I love my mother...” said Sujata crying.

She was taken to the court. As Sujata had spent the prize money already, her other prizes were cancelled. Then the judge ordered the police to arrest Sujata and send her to the jail for ½ years.

The police praised Arko and Sushan and their pictures were printed on the newspaper.

By

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