

STORIES

The Sheperd and The Wolf

Once upon a time in the colorful fields of Punjab, a cunning wolf set its eyes on a herd of sheep, craving a hearty meal.

Spotting a shed nearby, the wolf discovered the skin of a robust Punjabi sheep, which it cleverly wore to blend in with the flock seamlessly. With plans to enjoy a feast under the cover of the night, the wolf skillfully joined the unsuspecting sheep.

The wise shepherd, recognizing his sheep, welcomed the disguised wolf into his home and securely locked it in the shed. As the sun set, darkness embraced the village, and fate played its cards.

Coincidentally, that night brought unexpected guests from the father-in-law of Azari, adding an extra layer of excitement. Seizing the opportunity, the shepherd instructed his servant to fetch a thick, juicy sheep from the shed for an impromptu feast.

Unaware of the clever disguise, the servant brought the wolf home, thinking it was a plump sheep. To everyone's surprise, the disguised creature met its fate and became the dinner centerpiece for the farmer's relatives.

In this vibrant Punjabi tale, the moral resonates: We should never harbor negative thoughts about others, for such ill intentions can lead to ironic consequences for the one who bears them.

Heer and Ranjha

In a calm Punjab village, Heer and Ranjha, a young couple deeply in love, encountered a difficult situation as their families and the community disapproved of their relationship. Their love story unfolded into a challenging journey, putting the strength of their connection to the test.

Feeling heartbroken by their forced separation, Ranjha chose a different path—to embark on a journey searching for peace. He traveled to various places, carrying memories of Heer in his heart. Concurrently, Heer grappled with the stress of her family pushing her towards an arranged marriage.

Fate intervened to bring Heer and Ranjha back together, but their joy was short-lived. On the night they were supposed to reunite, Heer fell victim to a poisoning scheme by those who opposed their union. Devastated by her death, Ranjha found her lifeless and his emotion took the best. He ended his life by taking the same poison. This way none survived to get justice for the murder of Heer.

The Backbiter and the Farmer

Once, a notorious backbiter, who had been ousted from his previous village for spreading gossip and trouble, approached a farmer seeking shelter and food. The farmer, unaware of the backbiter's history, agreed to provide him with a place to stay and meals.

As the backbiter settled into the farmer's life, he waited for the opportune moment to strike. After six months of seemingly peaceful coexistence, the backbiter hatched a plan. He approached the farmer's wife with a fabricated story, claiming that her husband was hiding a contagious skin disease.

To test this false claim, the backbiter suggested that the wife lick the farmer's skin. The wife, trusting the deceitful information, attempted to do so. In the confusion, the farmer, thinking his wife had gone mad, hit her.

Seizing the chaos he had orchestrated, the backbiter further fueled the fire by approaching the wife's brother. He falsely informed the brother that the farmer intended to harm his sister. Concurrently, he also told the farmer's brother that the wife's brother was planning an attack on the farmer.

The result was a tumultuous brawl involving the farmer, his wife, and their respective brothers. During the chaotic confrontation, the backbiter managed to slip away, leaving behind a trail of discord and confusion. The story illustrates the destructive consequences of manipulation and the havoc that can unfold when trust is betrayed.

Sassi Punnun

In the picturesque land of Punjab, there lived a princess named Sassi. Known for her beauty and grace, she captured the hearts of all who beheld her. Fate took a turn when she crossed paths with Punnun, a sincere young man from a humble village.

As they toiled under the sun, love blossomed between Sassi and Punnun, transcending their differences in social status. However, the king, Sassi's father, disapproved of their love and devised a plan to separate them. He falsely informed Sassi that Punnun had perished.

Heartbroken, Sassi mourned the loss of her love. Unbeknownst to her, Punnun continued to work in the fields, driven by the memory of Sassi. In a twist of fate, Sassi found herself in Punnun's village, and the lovers were joyously reunited.

Learning of their defiance, the king grew furious and sought to punish them. In a bid to escape, Sassi and Punnun fled into the wilderness. Their journey was fraught with challenges—fatigue, hunger, and the unforgiving terrain tested the strength of their love.

Tragedy struck when weakened by the journey, Punnun succumbed to exhaustion and passed away in Sassi's arms. Overwhelmed by the grief, Sassi couldn't endure the loss of Punnun. She decided to live alone for the rest of her life and never met anyone again.

The Special Mill

In the village of Hansipur, two brothers lived – Tepu, the wealthy elder brother, and Farid, the struggling younger one. During a New Year celebration, Farid, who had nothing to eat, approached Tepu for some rice, but Tepu refused to help.

On his way home, Farid encountered an old man with a heavy bundle of wood. The old man comforted Farid and proposed a deal: if Farid carried the wood to the old man's house, he would receive something valuable. Farid agreed and followed the old man. At the old man's house, Farid was given a sweet dish called Malpua. He was instructed to go into the forest and trade the Malpua with dwarves living in a cave for a special mill that could produce anything he desired.

Excited about his newfound wealth, Farid used the mill to generate rice, lentils, and everything else he needed. However, Tepu, curious about Farid's sudden success, discovered the special mill. Driven by greed, Tepu stole the mill one night, planning to use it to become wealthy himself.

As Tepu sailed with the mill, he tried to produce salt, forgetting to bring it from home. The mill, uncontrollable, kept producing salt until the boat sank into the sea, taking Tepu and his family down with it. Legend has it that the special mill continues to churn, making the ocean salty.

The story serves as a cautionary tale about greed and its consequences, emphasizing the importance of contentment and honesty.

FOOD

Sarson da Saag and Makki di Roti:

- A classic winter dish, Sarson da Saag is made from mustard greens, and Makki di Roti is a maize flour flatbread. This combination is a staple in Punjabi villages, especially during the winter season.



Aloo Paratha with Homemade Butter:

- Aloo Paratha, a stuffed flatbread with spiced mashed potatoes, is a breakfast favorite in Punjabi villages. Served with a dollop of homemade butter, it's a simple yet satisfying dish.



Chole Bhature:

- A popular street food that also finds its way to village kitchens, Chole Bhature consists of spicy chickpeas (chole) paired with deep-fried bread (bhature). It's a hearty and flavorful dish.



Lassi:

- Lassi is a traditional Punjabi drink made with yogurt, water, and spices. In villages, it's often served in large steel glasses, and variations include sweet lassi or salty lassi.

