

A Bunn's Moon tale...



ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL

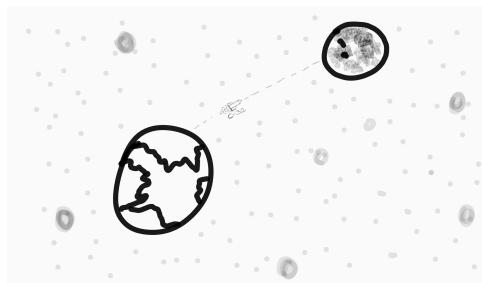
(English Edition)

By  
Bunny Kodaganti

To,  
*The Moon*

## Chapter - I

### Chandrayan 32



June 2nd, 2053... That was the day ISRO launched Chandrayaan 32, a manned mission to the moon. Two previous moon missions had failed. This was the third mission. Everyone was confident that this mission would be a success, because the mission was being led by Sreekanth. He had already successfully completed the Mars mission Mangalyaan 8. In that mission, he had sent a robot to plant a mango tree on Mars, and it was a success. Now we can see a mango tree on the planet Mars. But that's another story.

So, his leading the moon mission gave everyone hope. Three astronauts were on the mission and one of them was a Telugu person. His name was Chandu. There were two others. We don't have much to do with them, so if you think I'm wasting time writing about them, just take it easy.

In another 10 minutes, Chandrayaan would be launched from the launch pad. Everyone was watching to see if this mission would be successful.

The countdown started. The astronauts were ready in the rocket. The countdown reached 30 seconds.

Dr. Sreekanth closed his eyes and silently counted in his mind. The others counted down loudly outside.

-10... -9... -8... -7... -6... -5... -4... -3... -2... -1... 0.

The rocket launched.

1... 2... 3... 4... 5...

The rocket launched without any problems, and the astronauts were doing well. Their feedback was also positive. Chandu told his fellow astronauts that they would land on the moon in three days. (Of course, he said it in English.)

The rocket had enough food and water for 15 days. They had special space suits made for the moon mission. They also had German equipment to study the moon's surface, special Indian equipment to check the gases in the soil, a battery backup that would allow them to communicate for two days even if they couldn't generate solar power, emergency oxygen tanks, a national flag, and a mango tree with enough water, because the mission was led by Sreekanth.

They also had pens that they had signed insurance policies with, in case the mission failed. All these things happened in the one day that I was telling you about.

The second day began. They didn't have to bathe in the spaceship, but they did have to brush their teeth for formality. So, they brushed their teeth and ate their food with some water that had spilled out of a bottle.

They ate and shared their stories. They talked about what would happen to their families if they died on the mission. They talked about things that were completely unrelated to their story.

They talked and talked until they reached the moon. The moon looked very big. They entered the moon's gravity field. They fixed the satellite spaceship in orbit and landed on the moon with the moon lander. They successfully landed, and they immediately told the people on Earth. The people on Earth started celebrating. They posted big stories on Facebook and WhatsApp, saying things like "Proud to be Indian."

Back on the moon, the three astronauts followed the commands they had been given. They drove the first moon rover, talked about the weather, whether it was night or day, the air pressure, and how to set the suits in the right mode and mode. They talked about technical things for 30 minutes.

Then, it was time to go outside. I won't mention who went out first or second, but all three of them eventually went outside. They were to stay on the moon for eight days and collect all the samples they needed.

The first thing they did was plant the flag. They took pictures and sent them back to Earth. The pictures were on social media. Chandu was offered marriage proposals and government jobs.

Three days had passed on the moon while they were collecting samples.

The day-night cycle on the moon is fixed, just like on Earth. One day is completely dark, the other is completely bright.

Chandu was glad that the first three days were dark, because it made their work easier. They couldn't see anything clearly in the bright light.

So, on the fourth day, after 16 hours of daylight, the night began.

They decided to collect samples in another sector overnight.

Chandu didn't have any work that day, so he was taking a rest. The other two astronauts went to collect samples from a small black rock that was 10 kilometres away from their lander.

Chandu went to a small valley that was 2 kilometres away from the lander to plant Sreekanth's mango tree.

There was a well in the valley. He put a shield around it and set up a water tank. He figured the mango tree would have a chance to survive for a few days.

At that time, the other two astronauts saw a storm coming and returned to the lander. They closed the lander door.

Due to the storm, the satellites that were being used for communication were blown away into zero gravity.

Chandu was also blown away into a cave in the valley due to the storm.

He was unconscious for three hours after being blown away.

After waking up three hours later, he tried to contact his friends, but his communicator didn't work because the local communication antenna had been dislocated.

The lander astronauts could not contact Chandu either. They texted the satellite in orbit that the antenna had been dislocated. The satellite in orbit couldn't pass the information to the people on Earth.

So, a situation of zero communication occurred. People on Earth began to worry. They observed the storm in the images and readings from the satellite in orbit. They didn't get any feedback from the astronauts.

So, one of them thought that the astronaut communicator might have fallen off, and they should wait for two days. Another thought the astronauts may have died.

But they were still going through the formalities, and they didn't have much to do with our story. So, they let them do it. Let's take one last look.

Chandu, who was trapped in the cave, was trying to get out. The door of the lander had closed because of the disaster control protocol that was activated when the other two astronauts had gone outside.

Now, in order for the door to open, someone from outside had to access it, or they had to fire the lander and connect it back to the orbital spaceship. In other words, they had to return.

But Chandu controlled the launch and all that. He was the pilot, and the autopilot was also damaged because the antenna had fallen off.

So, the other two didn't have any other option but to wait for Chandu.

Chandu was still trying, and while he was trying, he heard a voice. "Do you want to hear a story?"

Chandu immediately shouted, "Who is that?" Then, the person who said that he would tell a story came out.

"It's me," the person said. "To make it simple so that you can understand, I am Chandamama."

"Who are you? How are you here? What's that suit you're wearing? Are you Telugu? Did you come to this mission?"

"First, I'm wearing a suit, an expensive white suit."

"I'm talking about your space suit."

"Oh, that. I don't need that."

"Why? Who are you, anyway?"

"I'm Chandamama."

"What? Chandamama, you mean the moon?"

"Hey, what's the doubt? I'm the moon."

"And you're speaking Telugu? How do you know Telugu?"(In original version moon speaks in telugu)

"I don't want to ask you any more questions.". "There is no logic in the story, let's just go with the flow."

Okay, "I'll get you out of this cave. Then, you can go back to your friends."

"If you get me out of here, I'll listen to the story you told me."

"What story?"

"The Chandamama story. It's very difficult for me to find company, so I tell these stories when I do."

"Oh, so you're the one who told the Chandamama stories?"

"Yes, and you think they're printed in a book? You're a child."

"Hey, don't insult me."

"I'm not insulting you. I'm just clarifying. How many people have you told these stories to?"

"My first story was to Buzz Aldrin. Then, I told it to one of my friends. And now, I'm telling it to you."

"Okay, tell me the story. I've been wanting to hear a story for a week now. I haven't had much entertainment."

"Okay, I'll tell you a story. What kind of story do you want?"

"I want a story about four heroes. It should have magic, adventure, and treasure hunting."

"I can tell you a story with one hero, if you want."

"I'll take it. But it would be better if there were four heroes. That way, they don't have to suffer alone. They can take turns resting. You know, all the Telugu movies are multi-starrer now."

"I only know stories with one hero. So, I'll combine three of my stories into one big story for you."

"Okay, tell me the story. But if it's bad, you have to stop in the middle."

"Okay, I'll start now.

"Oh, by the way, are you in the story?"

"A Chandamama story without me? Of course I am. Okay, I'll start now. Don't sleep or doze off while you listen."

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## Chapter - II

### King's Fantasy



Once upon a time, there was a king. You might be thinking he had seven sons, but actually, the king wasn't even married yet.

But he had ancestral property, and inside a box, there were diamonds much more valuable than all that property. In a few days, all his family members started dying one by one. Finally, only the king remained.

Seeing the lonely king, many people tried to deceive him and seize all his property.

Understanding this, the king wanted to protect his wealth somehow. At least, he wanted to save the diamonds he had.

Since childhood, our king had a fantasy: to design a mystery treasure hunt that no one could solve.

For that, he learned many tantric practices. Let's just say that those misfired, and everyone in his house died because of them.

After many sacrifices, he learned a moderate amount of that tantric knowledge.

He wasn't sad about letting go of it, but he didn't want to abandon it easily.

He couldn't hide all the property, but he thought he could hide the diamond box, which was more valuable than all his wealth.

He left all his remaining property to the people of his kingdom and went into a forest in South India.

In that forest, he found a place. What kind of place was it? To get there, a person had to abandon all hope in their life. That's how dense the forest was in that area. He

thought that if his magic was added to such a place, he could create his fantasy treasure hunt.

To perform his tantric ritual, he needed some items. For those, the king had to come out of the forest.

Every time he came out, he took a different route. That's how he prepared five maps.

He wanted those maps to go to the four corners of the world before the treasure did. So, before placing the treasure, he tied the maps to four enchanted birds and released them into the air.

He kept one map with himself, so he could come back if he needed to.

One day, all the necessary items were gathered, and he thought it was time to show his skill.

At that place, he built a small pond. In between, he placed his diamond box.

He started his tantric mantras. First, he enchanted the box so it would stay at the bottom of the water. That worked correctly.

Then he placed a lock on the box and bound that lock to the moon. That is, to me.

He enchanted the lock so it would only open when the moon was in a specific phase.

He also placed a tantric spell on the lock, so that if someone touched it at the wrong time, that person would be cursed.

He put all kinds of blood-sucking creatures in the pond.

To get the box out, one had to go into the water and grasp the lock at the correct time. Otherwise, a curse would strike.

But even before the curse, those water creatures would kill you.

But the king's mistake was to bind that curse to me. With that curse, he gave me some responsibilities.

So, I always have to watch over that treasure.

However, the king also placed a spell around the pond. What does it do? It makes you recall all the sad things in your life at once. It makes you feel utterly depressed.

Only those who overcome it can enter the pond.

'Oh my, the king planned well, buddy! So, who finally got the treasure? Did anyone even try?'

Why are you in such a hurry? I'm telling you, just listen quietly.

After the king had placed everything, he wanted to find out if his spell was working.

Without thinking anything, he crossed the bond of sorrow around the pond. All the mistakes he had made came back to him. His family, who died because of him, and the people he had hurt, all came to his mind.

The spell he cast tortured him, but more than that pain, he felt pride that his spell was working.

He took two steps and entered the water. The creature immediately started coming towards him.

In that hurry, the king tried to lift the box without thinking anything. But it wouldn't come up.

He cast a spell on the box for it to come up, but it didn't work.

He went near the box. He cast a spell on the lock. That curse transformed into something else, but the king didn't know that.

The box wasn't opening. The creature was following him. He couldn't even get out of the pond. Opening that box was his only way.

But as the water creature was getting closer, he immediately grabbed the lock, and that was it.

Immediately, an explosion occurred. The creature stopped dead in its tracks.

The box glowed brightly. If anyone was there, their eyes would surely go blind.

The light subsided. Everything became normal. The king's tantric practice became messed up again.

But the king was not there. I don't know what curse befell him. I know he was cursed, but I don't know what happened. I searched the whole earth for the king. But there was no trace of him. The way the curse should work should have been in my hands, but because of the spell he cast again, it changed.

Just once, but now that spell is in my hands. How that curse should work is in my hands.

'So, you haven't found the king yet, buddy? What spell did he use? How come you, who saw everything, couldn't see that spell?'

It was written in fate that way. And only then would this story continue. So, stop asking questions and listen quietly.

While I was waiting for the king, I got bored. I thought, let him go, and I gave up.

Then, a new habit started for me: waiting to see who would come looking for the treasure.

How would they obtain it? A thought began that if someone could open that treasure, perhaps the king would come out.

So, I waited. After many years, someone came.

'I asked for four heroes, and you're saying it's just one again?'

Shush... I'll tell you about them one by one, wait. Don't disturb my story with this italic font.

Okay, I'll continue now. Don't annoy me.

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## Chapter - III

### Men of the show



## The Hero, the Taxi Driver

The hero of our story is a taxi driver named Hero. He drives a taxi to RGI airport in Hyderabad.

He has a reputation for being punctual. He is always up to date on flight timings and adjusts his speed accordingly to avoid delays.

With such a good record, he also gets many tickets. He pays all fines with the money he earns.

The hero has a sad backstory. He had a family, including his mother and sister. His father was also a taxi driver, but he passed away when Hero was in the middle of his Bachelors. His mother also died of cancer years later. Now, he is all alone, except for his younger sister.

He saves all his money to pay for his sister's treatment. He pays the fines, eats frugally, and saves the rest of his money.

But it will take time to save enough money. His sister is only in the sixth grade. He puts her in a hostel and lives in his cab.

Why is he living such a frugal life? Because his sister has also developed the same cancer that killed their mother.

He was determined to start treatment asap. They were able to cure the cancer, but it cost them all their savings. The doctor said that there was a chance that the cancer could return.

So, he decided to be more careful and save even more money. He stopped getting tickets and started saving even more for his sister's treatment.

He has been living like this since. He takes his sister for regular checkups and refuses to let her become a patient. He is so focused on his sister's well-being that he has forgotten to care for himself.

His sister, too, is unable to bear the pain of seeing her brother suffer. She has lost her will to become a doctor. She just wants to help her brother financially.

One day, she collapses while working at her part-time job.

The hero is devastated. He does not know what to do. He has no one to turn to.

He drives his cab aimlessly, lost in thought.

Then, he sees a young boy lying injured on the road. He immediately takes him to the hospital.

The boy is saved because Hero took him to the hospital in time.

This incident makes Hero realize that he should help others too. He sets a new motto for his life: to help as many people as he can.

He continues to work as a taxi driver, but he also donates some of his earnings to a trust.

One day, he receives an offer from a company. They want to hire him as a full-time driver.

He accepts the offer because it will give him a stable income.

As part of his new job, he is assigned to a mission to find a treasure that was hidden by a local king.

Hero does not know what to expect, but he is excited to start his new adventure.

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### The Tale of Fran the Archaeologist

The story begins in England, at a museum dedicated to archaeology. Among the people working at the museum is a young man named Francis Ryder Junior, who goes by the nickname "Fran."

Fran comes from a wealthy family. His father is a successful businessman in England, and Fran is free to pursue his passion for archaeology. He loves studying ancient artifacts and learning about their history.

Fran's team is planning a trip to Delhi, India, where they will be studying several ancient sites. Fran has always been fascinated by Indian history, so he is excited to have the opportunity to visit the country.

However, Fran's parents are not happy about his decision to travel to India. They are worried about the safety of the trip and the possibility that Fran will become homesick.

Despite their objections, Fran is determined to go on the trip. He eventually convinces his parents to let him go, but they impose several conditions. He must return home immediately if he becomes ill, he cannot leave his group, and he must always be accompanied by two bodyguards.

Fran agrees to the conditions, and he sets sail for India with his friends.

The journey to India takes about 20 days. During the trip, the group's professor, Dr. Smith, gives them lectures on Indian history. Fran is fascinated by the lectures, and his interest in Indian history grows even stronger.

After 20 days, the group arrives in India. They first visit Goa city, where they spend a few days exploring the beaches and the local culture.

Then, they take a train to Delhi. Fran is finally able to see the museum that he has always dreamed of visiting. He is overwhelmed by the beauty and history of the artifacts on display.

Fran also befriends some of the other students in his group. They often sneak out at night to explore Delhi without their bodyguards.

Fran begins to feel he belongs in India. He realizes that he wants to stay in the country for as long as possible. However, he knows he eventually has to return to England to finish his studies.

After a month in Delhi, Dr. Smith announces that the group will be going on an outdoor camp in a forest in southern India. He tells them that there is a lost kingdom in the forest, and that the group will be searching for artifacts from the kingdom.

Dr. Smith has arranged for the students to have a six-month internship at the site. After the internship, the students will be able to return to England as professional archaeologists.

The students are excited about the opportunity, and Fran is especially thrilled. He knows this is his chance to find the treasure that has been hidden for centuries.

Fran and the other students set out on their journey into the forest. They are determined to find the lost kingdom and the treasure it holds.

## Samrat the Tribal King

Samrat was the tribal king of a small clan in the African Amazon forest. He was a fiery, impulsive, arrogant man. He was feared by all who knew him.

Samrat's clan was small, but they were fiercely loyal to him. He protected them from dangerous animals roaming the forest.

However, Samrat had a dark secret. He was a smuggler of animal parts. He would hunt the animals and sell their parts on the black market.

Samrat was very careful not to get caught. He would only work with the most dangerous criminals.

One day, Samrat was on a smuggling run when he was approached by a group of men. They told him about a treasure that was hidden in the Amazon forest.

The men had a plan to find the treasure. They knew how to navigate dangerous jungles and handle animals.

Samrat was intrigued. He had never seen a treasure. He agreed to join the men on their quest.

The journey to the treasure was long and difficult. The men faced many dangers along the way.

Samrat was the strongest of the group. He used his strength to protect men from animals.

Finally, the men reached the treasure. It was a vast treasure trove of gold, jewels, and other valuables.

The men were overjoyed. They had found the treasure they had been looking for.

"A while back, in a group, David struck a deal with Samrat. David had this treasure plan. According to his plan, if the treasure wasn't found, he intended to eliminate the rest and take the treasure himself.

Once they found the treasure, Samrat, aside from David, decided to dispose of everyone else using some kind of poison.

After that, David and Samrat went to the place where Samrat lives.

They found the treasure and started squandering it. That's when David said to Samrat, 'Here, in this forest, there are many beasts, and I have many maps. If you stick with me, we can handle it all.'

'I have a plan, you have strength. Trust me, come with me, Samrat. Show me the hidden strength of yours if any creature dares to challenge you,' David said to Samrat.

Samrat contemplated. He thought, 'I know what this forest is. But if I do nothing here, then...'

'This forest, whatever it may be, if anything tries to harm you, Samrat, I'll take care of it. Trust your strength in me, come with me, Samrat,' David said.

Then, the plan seemed good to Samrat. If we do about 5 to 6 hunts, I might settle my life, he thought.

He did just that. But after the 6th hunt, he didn't stop. More than the money, an addiction to adventure took over him.

One after another, he's wandering without stopping, hunting, accumulating, and collecting.

For a few more days, he's pursuing our king's treasure, hoping to strike it rich.

But after a while, it didn't end. Instead of money, an addiction to adventure took him. He's wandering without stopping, hunting, collecting, and amassing wealth."

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#### MANTRA, The magician

Mantra is a unique character in our stories. His birth was also unique. He was born as a twin to his sister Maya. But he was born with a strange disease.

When he was born, his parents were so happy they had two children. But at night, when they saw that one of the children was a boy instead of a girl, they didn't understand what was happening. They thought someone had taken the child and left the boy there.

Mantra and Maya searched the whole neighborhood that night to see who had taken the child.

But when they returned home that morning, they saw both children were there. Mantra didn't understand what was happening. He thought that he should have been with his sister all night.

At 5 pm, he went home and checked on the children. Both children were there.

He held them both in his arms and started walking around.

At exactly 6 pm, Mantra's voice started to change. After about 30 seconds, Mantra changed from a girl to a boy.

Then, Mantra's father took him to a swami. The swami said, "Your daughter was born with a curse. The curse will be lifted when the time comes. Until then, she will be like this."

From then on, Mantra's father bought clothes that could be worn by both boys and girls. Mantra was a girl from 6 am to 6 pm, and a boy from 6 pm to 6 am.

Mantra accepted his curse and started a magic show where he would change from a girl to a boy in front of everyone. By the time he was 15, he had created a unique identity for himself.

Mantra believed that the solution to his curse was hidden in the mantras. He studied tantric arts and became one of the world's greatest magicians. He used his magic to help many people, but he couldn't find a way to lift his own curse.

He wanted to know why he had been cursed and how it had happened. He met a swami who he knew and asked him about it. The swami said, "This curse is the result of your karma from your previous life."

"What is the penance for this?" Mantra asked.

"The time for your curse to be lifted will come soon. Do whatever your heart tells you to do. Your heart will guide you to the path of liberation."

Mantra's sister Maya was always there for him. She did whatever he wanted. She was always by his side, watching over him, and keeping his secret from everyone.

While Mantra was searching for a solution to his sister's problem, Maya learned about the Raja treasure. She told Mantra about it and asked him to find it.

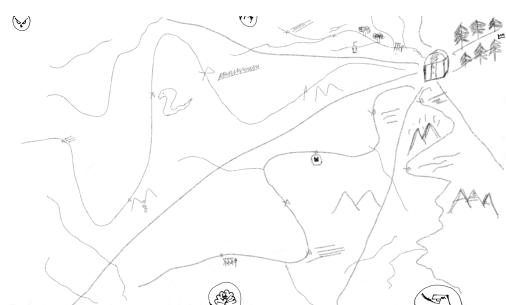
Mantra also felt that his heart was telling him to find the treasure. He thought it might be penance for his curse. So he agreed to find it.

That is how Mantra, the magician, also started searching for the treasure. But he didn't want to find it for himself. He wanted to find it for his sister.

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## Chapter - IV

### The Parchments



"Now, let's talk about those maps. That day, the king gave his maps to four different birds, and sent them out into the world. The birds were an owl, an eagle, a dove, and a peacock. The fifth map, which he kept with him, disappeared with him.

Now, how will the remaining two maps go to their destinations?"

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## OWL

First, let's talk about the map that was given to the owl.

As soon as the king released it, the owl started flying in the northwest direction. Normally, birds have a small compass, but because of the king's spell, they do not have any food or water, and there are only large gaps. And when do they fall? When someone shoots them.

So, our owl was shot by a hunter who was practicing open-air shooting in a forest in a European country without knowing it.

Then, the owl fell into a cave that was nearby.

A professor who had brought his students to the cave saw the owl and tried to save it.

But when he returned, the owl was dead. Then, the professor saw the map that was tied to its leg.

Once he saw it, he realized it was a treasure map.

Based on the language and signs on the map, he learned where the treasure was, how it was, and what obstacles were there.

But he realized that he could not do this alone, and he wanted to take someone else with him.

So, he told his students that they were going on a trip to India, and he took them to a museum for a camp project.

He took his students to the museum and checked the route to the cave.

He told the students that they were going to camp in the cave, and he arranged an internship for them with a company that was there.

After going there and camping, he selected two of his total students.

He called the two of them and said, "We have very valuable items inside the cave. You are the best in your group, and that's why I'm selecting you. We are going to the cave in two days." He then took the card he had.

"If we follow this map, we will go to a magical place. All the items there are magical, and it will help our research. It will help us to do big projects."

The students were also excited to learn, but they did not know that the professor was going there for the diamonds.

They did not know that there was a treasure there. They trusted their professor and were ready to go.

The professor also included our protagonist, "Fran," in the group that he selected. He put the second clue of the story in the cave.

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## EAGLE

No matter how much magic was used to keep the eagle from getting hungry, the eagle was a predator, and its pleasure was in catching its prey.

So, as soon as Raju let go of the map, it started flying over the Arabian Sea.

It flew and flew, and eventually it reached the Nigerian forests. It saw a large snake there, and it thought it would make a good meal.

It swooped down from the treetops and caught the black mamba, which was resting on a branch.

It started to cut the snake's body with its claws, and the mamba fought back. It quickly attacked the eagle with its poison.

The poison entered the eagle's body, and the eagle began to die. But its vision remained clear.

It flew away from the mamba and kept flying.

As it flew, it saw everything in its path. Eventually, it saw a map reader standing in front of it.

The map reader saw the eagle, which was near death.

He saw the map that was tied to the eagle's leg, and he thought someone had given it to him.

He opened the map and read it. He had been a map reader since he was a child, and he had always dreamed of finding treasure.

He was so happy that the map had come to him.

He took the map and went to Hyderabad, which is in South India. He had a company in Brazil specializing in treasure hunts. They would record their videos and upload them to the internet.

Many companies sponsored them to make these videos.

They decided to use the budget they had received from a large company to go to India, where they believed the treasure on the map was located. They decided to base themselves in Hyderabad.

To travel to the location on the map, they needed an excellent driver.

So, they hired a driver named Hero.

When Hero joined the company, they explained his job role to him. They gave him a mini-truck and trained him.

After a month of training, they went to the forest. According to the route map, the distance from the edge of the forest to the treasure was about 800 kilometers.

So, they took enough fuel, food, and weapons with them and set up a small camp at the edge of the forest.

The company had already researched the forest. They knew what species of animals lived there and what diseases were possible. They also had a doctor with them.

They prepared a team of five people to go into the forest, and they had another five people at the edge of the forest to communicate with them.

They had a complete corporate plan for the treasure hunt. They scheduled the hunt to start two days later.

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## DOVE

Raju released a bird, a dove, that was white and beautiful. It was a bird once used for carrying love letters.

Raju released the bird with a map attached to it, and it flew northward. After several years, it found its way to a hunter.

The hunter, without looking at the map attached to the dove, sold it to a pet shop.

The pet shop owner bought the dove and kept it in a beautiful cage.

It stayed in that cage, in the shop, for a year.

Over time, the shopkeeper contracted heart disease and died. After his death, one of his children took over the shop.

Due to lack of knowledge about the business and how to care for the animals, the new owner suffered great losses. Half the animals in the shop died.

The rest were sold to a friend of their father, another shop owner.

This new owner was a magician, enchanted by the dove.

Upon seeing the dove, it instantly charmed him and noticed the small roll box with a map in it.

Being a magician, he knew many languages and magical words.

He became interested in the treasure indicated on the map and told his sister about it. She agreed to help, though not very confidently.

When Maya asked him about it, he would put it off, being busy with other things.

One day, during a show, as he was about to perform a trick, he touched the magical box and something dawned on him. He saw the curse of the moon and the box's connection to King Raju.

He immediately asked his sister where the dove came from.

She told him how the dove had come to her and showed him the map attached to it.

Upon seeing the map, the magician realized it was the key to lifting his curse.

He understood that the moon's curse was powerful, but not harmful. From the stories he heard and what he saw through his divine vision, he knew it wouldn't cause much harm but was immensely powerful.

He then set out on a journey towards the forest with his sister and two assistants, in search of the solution to break the curse.

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## PEACOCK

Raju chose his fourth bird, a peacock. He tied a map to its left leg and released it. Peacocks don't fly much; they mostly walk. This one, too, walked its way forward, flying only occasionally.

After some days, a group of tribals caught the peacock with the map attached to its leg. They carefully hid the map in their scrolls.

This peacock is now with tribes in a forest in Vietnam.

Over the years, this tribal community has become quite updated and started exploring the world.

One of them, while examining the artifacts of their ancestors, found over 100 treasure maps.

He started selling these maps in the market.

David, who happened to visit this market, bought two of these maps from him.

These two maps turned out to be real, leading David to discover a lot of treasure, like a dream come true.

He immediately went back to the seller and bought all the maps he had.

He then started collecting old items and maps from other tribal communities.

During his treasure hunt in Africa, David met Samrat, a member of a tribal community. He took maps and artifacts from Samrat's community, among which were many real treasure maps. They secured these treasures.

For Samrat and David, the joy of hunting and the thrill of defeating animals and humans at the end of it brought more happiness than the treasures themselves.

They went on many hunts, but none gave them the thrill they sought, all seeming too easy.

Then Samrat asked David for a hunt that would be more challenging.

David brought out some maps he had bought in the Vietnam market. "All our dangerous hunts are in this folder. Choose one, Samrat, and we'll embark on that next," he said.

Samrat looked through the maps and chose one from Raju's maps.

David took the map and planned everything - the location, the manpower needed, the equipment, the approach.

After finalizing the plans, he told Samrat, "The map you've chosen is very dangerous. We might not return alive. We've seen a lot of magic in our hunts, but the magic in this hunt is unlike anything we've ever seen."

Samrat replied, "Then let's go for this map. Even if we die, let's die on a great hunt."

David responded, "I knew you would say that. Let's start in three days."

And Samrat began his journey towards Raju's treasure.

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## Chapter - V

### On The Way



"Four heroes began their journey towards the treasure. However, the king of that land had set obstacles on the path. By overcoming these challenges, they could easily reach the treasure. But the king did not place any obstacles in the 5th path and kept the map to that route with himself. The obstacles he set in the other paths include a SNAKE, TRIBES, a MAGICAL LION, and MOUNTAINS. Although the pictures above might look comical, the creatures in the story are quite furious. Let's delve into the story to see which obstacles are in which path and how each hero confronts them."

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## SNAKE

The eagle brought the map for a corporate company to follow, but the hero was unaware of the snake on it.

The map reader also contemplated that the snake on the ancient map might not exist anymore. He didn't mention it until they reached their destination.

They assumed the route was mostly traversable by vehicles.

The hero prepared his truck for the journey, loading it with necessary items.

According to their schedule, it was time to enter the forest. Everyone boarded the truck, with the hero driving, the map reader beside him, and the doctor and two others in the back.

They estimated an 800 km route, which meant 1600 km for a round trip. Knowing about the mountains and rivers, the map reader planned for a 10-day operation.

The map reader used the budget provided by the corporate company for this plan.

They also planned to make vlogs along the way, requiring at least 10 days.

Upon entering the forest, they stopped after 50 km as per the map reader's instruction. Here, the map reader and his video team started vlogging around a tree, broadcasting live on YouTube, talking about the tree, the insects, their trip, and the team.

The vlog received a huge response, trending worldwide.

This response encouraged the map reader and his team, leading the corporate sponsors to increase their budget by 10%.

However, the hero was not very impressed, though he enjoyed the driving challenge, finding a stark difference between normal roads and the forest terrain.

He liked the hills, streams, and trees but was initially not fond of the team's constant filming.

By the third day, the hero integrated with the team, becoming an internet sensation himself through a vlog about his driving experience.

The doctor started sharing knowledge about the medicinal uses of various plants. In the first three days, the team uploaded 15 different vlogs.

They covered 400 km in these three days, becoming good friends and internet stars.

Since it got dark quickly in the forest, they decided not to travel much at night and park to avoid delays.

However, with the increased budget and trend following, the corporate company extended the number of days for their journey.

An additional team member joined on the fourth day, bringing extra supplies and allowing the hero some rest from driving.

As the journey progressed, the hero and the new driver bonded over common interests, and their vlog together received a great response, strengthening their bond.

Around the 600th km, they started a live stream titled "75% Vlog" with the new driver sharing his experience. Suddenly, he disappeared from the camera view, and the team realized something was wrong.

Their truck's antenna broke suddenly.

The last comment on the stream about a CGI snake puzzled the cameraman, who then rewound the video to discover a huge snake had taken the extra member.

The cameraman spotted a 50-foot snake and alerted everyone.

The hero immediately instructed everyone to get into the truck.

Once inside, the hero asked the map reader if he knew about the snake, to which he admitted he did.

The hero suggested reversing the truck, but the map reader stopped him, claiming he knew how to kill the snake, promising great treasure if they succeeded.

Everyone asked how to kill the snake. The map reader suggested striking its head and making a paste out of it.

However, the doctor pointed out the impracticality of killing such a large snake.

One team member suggested escaping in the truck, as the snake wouldn't follow them, but the map reader insisted that the snake, being a guardian of treasure, wouldn't move an inch from its spot.

The hero then took charge, driving the truck towards the snake. As the snake lay in front of the truck, the hero accelerated, trying to crush its head. The truck stopped suddenly, held back by the snake.

The hero then asked if killing the snake would entitle him to half the treasure, which the map reader agreed to.

Taking a large hammer, the hero confronted the snake, seeing it as a representation of his personal demons.

With each powerful strike, he fought not just the snake but his own anger and pain. Finally, he managed to decapitate the snake, which then turned into smoke and vanished.

The hero opened the truck's back door, helping everyone out. The cameraman captured the entire event, immediately uploading the "75% Vlog."

The public hailed the hero as a superhero after watching the video.

Paying respects to his fallen friend, the hero drove the truck forward, continuing their quest for the treasure.

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Maya, taking her assistants, started their journey near the forest...

She bound a book with all the magic spells needed to overcome the hurdles on the map, and some additional necessary spells...

These spells were all in her mind, but she brought the book for her sister assistants to use...

Holding the spells, they bought four horses from a nearby village and started their journey.

Entering the forest, it got dark after traveling about 100 kms.

Using their magic, they created a shelter, food for their horses, and food for themselves.

The assistants ate and set up their beds to sleep, but Maya and Mantra couldn't sleep.

Mantra didn't even eat, pondering if there was a solution to the curse, just sitting there. Then Maya came with a plate of food.

"Mantra, here's your food. Eat and rest; we have a long journey ahead," she said.

But Mantra replied, "No, Maya, I'm not hungry. Look at that moon. My only option is to break its curse. That alone can quench my hunger. You go and sleep; we have to travel faster tomorrow." And sent Maya away.

After Maya left, Mantra looked at the map, wondering how far and what dangers lay ahead. He noticed a tribal village nearby.

They had to pass through a temple near the village. But the tribals were death eaters; he had to protect his sister and assistants from them to reach the treasure.

Thinking all this, he fell asleep on a tree.

In the morning, Maya woke Mantra, who informed his sister about the tribal village and taught her the spells they needed for protection.

Soon, one of the assistants fell off his horse, bitten by a poisonous creature.

Mantra immediately went to him, placed his hand on the bite, and started chanting. He closed his eyes, spoke something internally, then opened them. The assistant was cured but fell into a deep sleep due to the poison.

Turning back, Mantra saw Maya and the second assistant captured by the tribals. Mantra offered them anything in exchange for their release.

But the tribals tied all four of them to their horses and took them to their place, tying them to a tree.

Mantra tried using her spells, but they didn't work. Surprised, she recalled the map mentioning something about this tribal place. The tribals were a part of the treasure's curse, created through tantric means. This place, being tantric, nullified her spells.

The tribals began making strange sounds, saying they would offer the four as a sacrifice to their god.

Mantra felt helpless, asking her sister to free the others, offering to use her magic for whatever they wanted.

But the tribals didn't listen and declared they would sacrifice them in their temple by night.

A while later, some came to untie them and prepare them for the sacrifice, taking them to a lake for a ritual bath.

After the ritual, they were taken for the sacrifice.

Reaching the temple, they placed one of the assistants on the sacrificial stone. As they cut his head off, it rolled towards their deity's statue.

Then they asked Mantra to place her head on the stone. Breathing deeply, she sat in front of the stone and slowly put her head down.

As the tribe raised the knife, a bright light enveloped Mantra. When it faded after 30 seconds, the tribe saw Mantra floating in the air.

They all bowed to her. Mantra, transformed, landed and was confused.

Looking back, she saw their god's half-stone, half-flesh statue.

Realizing the tribals thought she was their god, she spoke firmly, "I am your god. I came to see how you live. From now on, you must not kill humans and must only eat vegetables. I came to tell you this."

The tribal king, calling her divine, apologized for not recognizing her and asked for forgiveness for killing her friend.

"As punishment, perform his last rites. Absorb your sins in it. I came here for another purpose. If you release my remaining friends, I must leave," Mantra said.

The king released them and performed the rites as Mantra instructed, beginning to live as regular humans.

Leaving there, Mantra realized the curse had become a blessing that day.

She felt content, eating the food created with their spells and slept well.

The next morning, Maya woke Mantra, showing him a waterfall in the distance.

Checking the map, Mantra noted that crossing it would lead them to the treasure.

He, his sister, and the remaining assistant resumed their journey on horses.

But this time, Mantra wasn't troubled by the curse; he didn't even feel the need to break it. His focus was now on securing the treasure for his sister.

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## MAGICAL LION

Samrat, ready for a new adventure with David, arrived at the forest. David reminded him that what lies within is dark magic and creatures beyond imagination.

Samrat expressed his eagerness for this unprecedeted hunt, and they prepared to enter the forest. David assembled a team, including Samrat and three others, with necessary supplies and equipment. This time, to keep Samrat safe from bigger threats, David planned to engage him in hunting smaller creatures first.

They traveled by car but had to proceed on foot after a certain distance. David knew of a lion in the area with some unique traits, but he kept this information to himself, not sharing it with Samrat or the others.

After some distance, they continued their journey on foot. David explained the need to rest during the limited daylight and travel mostly in darkness. Although the others didn't fully understand his plan, they followed David's lead.

During their journey, they encountered small animals, which Samrat and the hunter scared away or killed. The hunt seemed ordinary to Samrat, but the others began to feel afraid.

After five days, one of the team members went missing one night. The rest assumed he had run away in fear. Samrat was puzzled, not understanding why anyone would leave the group. David, however, knew what had happened—the lion had taken him. He recalled a previous visit to the forest when three of his companions disappeared in a similar manner, with the fourth witnessing the lion before dying.

David had reluctantly shown Samrat the map of a significant hunt when he expressed a desire for a greater challenge. Now, as another man vanished, David's fear grew. He approached Samrat to explain the situation and describe the lion.

This lion was twelve feet tall, with eyes glowing like the sun in darkness and a body that seemed to turn into lava when it roared. It was visible only at night. Intrigued by this formidable opponent, Samrat decided to face the lion alone, dismissing the others' concerns.

Samrat waited in a treeless area, a good spot for the confrontation. As night fell, he saw a glowing light approaching and prepared himself with multiple spears.

Engaging in combat, he threw five spears at the lion, which now appeared from the forest, injured in the eye and leg. The lion released flames, causing the surrounding

trees to catch fire, blinding itself in the process. The noises in the forest made it difficult for the lion to locate Samrat.

Seeing an opportunity, Samrat threw more spears, but the lion advanced towards him. As the lion opened its mouth to attack, Samrat plunged a spear through its eye into its throat, killing it instantly. The fire ceased, and Samrat's wounds healed as the first morning light touched the lion.

David ran to Samrat, embracing him in relief, suggesting they return. Samrat, however, was determined to move forward, having killed the lion. He insisted they had plenty of treasure and could live happily, but David disagreed, claiming money didn't bring happiness.

In a shocking turn, Samrat killed David with a spear, asking the remaining team members where they would go now. They followed him, carrying the treasure, their future uncertain.

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## MOUNTAIN

Here's the translation from Telugu and Tinglish to English:

"As they held the last map, the owl map, our friends Fran, the Professor, and their companions continued their journey.

Upon reaching the edge of the forest, the Professor began to explain the route on the map to everyone.

'There are some mountains on this map route. They are quite high, but that's not our problem. The problem is the plants on these mountains.'

'Are they poisonous plants, Professor?'

'No, Fran. Nobody knows exactly what these plants are, but from what I've learned, they can transform humans.'

'Isn't there another way, Professor, other than these mountains?'

'No matter which way we go, we must traverse these mountains, so we need to be very careful. There are three mountains on our path, and we don't know what challenges each of them holds.'

They soon saw a lush green mountain that looked incredibly beautiful and tall.

'This is the first mountain we have to climb,' said the Professor. 'Everyone, put on your masks. We must cross this mountain as quickly as possible. Keep your equipment ready. We might rest on this mountain, but it's uncertain if we can even do that. If anyone needs to rest, do it now. We'll start climbing the mountain tomorrow morning.'

The next morning...

'Sir, how many days will it take us to cross these mountains?'

'I guess it might take about three days.'

'Alright, sir. Let's start climbing these mountains. We should at least cross one and a half mountains today.'

Thus, Fran and the group began their mountain trek.

They easily crossed the first mountain, encountering only some itchy plants, which affected only two members of the group.

They began trekking the second mountain, planning to complete at least half of it by the end of the day. However, they achieved their goal by afternoon and decided to cross the entire mountain.

As they reached the halfway point of the second mountain, the temperature started rising, and low boiling point plastics began to melt.

Fran and the Professor realized it was too difficult to rest there and decided they must cross the mountain no matter what.

Everyone suffered fire bruises on their bodies, but they managed to cross the mountain by night.

The group found a safe place, set up camp, and rested.

But Fran was already thinking about how to cross the next mountain and looking for clues.

It was 3 AM, and Fran was reading a book by the campfire.

Sounds were coming from the tent where three students and the Professor were resting. Fran woke the other two students and asked if they heard it too.

One of them mentioned that the three students were severely affected by both mountains. The Professor had numerous bruises and might be crying out in pain.

Fran decided to check on them.

He first opened the Professor's tent and found the Professor in pain, crying out in his sleep.

Then he went to the second tent. As he opened it, a strange smell came out.

He shouted and opened the tent, only to find two of the students, affected by the itchy mountain, had turned into something like cannibals, eating another student.

Shocked, Fran fell backward in fear.

A girl from outside came to Fran and asked what happened. Fran, speechless and wide-eyed, pointed towards the tent.

The tent opened, and the girl saw what was inside. She immediately started running into the forest.

Fran followed her, but then remembered the Professor and went back to bring him and the girl with him. When they returned, the two had already killed the Professor.

Fran didn't know what to do. The cannibals started coming towards them, and they both ran in different directions.

A cannibal caught the girl, and as it was about to bite her, Fran stabbed a stick from the campfire into the cannibal's throat, killing it.

While he was fighting another cannibal, Fran grabbed another stick and killed it.

By 6 AM, as light began to dawn, they could see their surroundings more clearly.

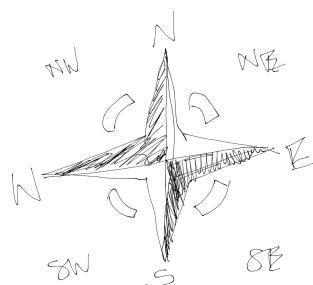
Fran gathered all the Professor's materials, and he and the girl decided to cross the next mountain, hoping for safety. This mountain didn't have any threats and they crossed it cautiously.

After crossing the mountain, they saw a large waterfall. According to the map, the treasure they sought was behind this waterfall.

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## Chapter - VI

### The Arrival



"So, Mama, did those four see each other then?"

"No, the waterfall created an illusion. The pond where the treasure is located also appeared suddenly, and though a hundred people reached there at once, they couldn't see each other."

"Oh, you planned it really well, Mama."

## EAST

Let's first talk about our hero. He tried to cross the waterfall from the east side. But the waterfall only allows one person to enter, as mentioned in the map, says the map reader.

Then the hero says, "Then I will go alone. Tell me what's inside or how to read this map."

"There's no need to rush, because there's one more thing, a monstrous creature inside... If you kill it, the path ahead is yours. As soon as you kill it, the waterfall will stop, regardless of which side you entered from, and then we all can go inside."

"That side of the waterfall, how many sides does it have?"

"One for each direction, so four."

"Then this is not a regular waterfall, it's a magical waterfall."

"Yes, so kill that monster and accomplish your mission.

You are good at talking, but I'm the one who has to do it. What if someone else comes from another side of the waterfall?"

"There's nothing about that on the map, you'll have to figure it out yourself."

Taking everything he needs, our hero enters the waterfall.

As soon as the hero enters the waterfall, the water flow stops and everything turns to stone.

The people outside don't understand what's happening.

After walking inside for 2 minutes, the hero comes out of the waterfall, but not a single drop of water is on him.

Once inside, the hero looks around and there is no waterfall at all.

It seems like a valley built entirely of stone, with a pond in the middle.

According to the map, the monster is in the middle of the pond.

Seeing in the map that there's a treasure in the pond and no monster, the hero decides to go inside.

As soon as he steps into the pond, he's struck by a wave of sadness, recalling past accidents caused by his recklessness, the death of his mother and sister, and the torture by his father.

Confused about how to control his feelings, a monster emerges from his sorrow.

It looks like the snake he killed earlier, but bigger, with wings and extra heads.

Once fully formed, the monster opens its eyes and looks at the hero.

The hero stares back, frozen for a moment.

His heart stops, he takes a hammer from his bag, just as the snake-like creature lunges towards him.

Dropping the bag, he grips the hammer with both hands, shouting and standing on the first step of the pond...

The snake, opening its mouth wide, rushes towards him.

The hero, jumping forward with a strong hit, lands directly in the snake's mouth.

Inside, he hears voices, all familiar to him.

All the words that tormented him, that he wanted to stop, were being said by the snake.

Without a second thought, he starts hitting the snake's body with his hammer, forcing his way out as the snake struggles in pain in the pond.

During the fight, one of its heads starts attacking its own body.

This makes the hero's task easier.

After fighting inside the snake for about two hours, its body is torn to pieces.

The hero emerges and falls into the pond, unconscious for a while...

As he drowns in the pond, the water gradually disappears.

After the water vanishes, the hero opens his eyes and sees a box about 20 feet away.

He gets up, and the moment he stands, all the memories and words heard from the snake's body stop.

The hero steps towards the treasure.

## WEST

Now, let's talk about another protagonist of our story, Fran.

According to the map, this waterfall allows only one person to enter and then seals off. So, we need to decide who should go in.

"But I will go inside," Fran says, "you go back and stay with the professor. If he's alive, good; if not, take the map and leave."

"How can I let you go alone, Fran?"

"Entering this waterfall is a one-way journey, I know I won't come back. If I do, I'll take your path. Go to the professor and do as he says."

"I'll be waiting for you, Fran. You must come back, okay?"

"I know you don't care about the treasure, Fran. I don't understand why you want to go in there..."

"There's something more valuable than treasure inside, knowledge. I'm going for that knowledge, which the world needs."

"Go ahead, I'll enter after you leave."

Fran tells the girl this and enters the waterfall. As he crosses it, the waterfall outside turns into lava.

Inside, Fran looks around.

It's like a huge stadium with an Olympic pool in the middle.

There's a treasure box in the pool water.

Once he sees it, he dives into the pool. But then, the wave of sorrow starts affecting him.

Fran's life doesn't have many regrets, so his sorrows are less, but even his minor sorrows start tormenting him all at once, and a giant shark appears before him.

He swims fast to escape from it, moving from one side to another, up and down, dodging it for about 20 minutes.

Exhausted, he finally gets out of the pool.

The shark keeps swimming inside. The mistake the King made is that the conjured monster, the shark in this case, won't stop until it kills the person it's conjured for or dies itself.

So, the shark dives out of the water towards Fran. Once out of the water, it struggles to breathe, gasps, and eventually dies, turning into mist.

Once it dies, all the water turns to ice.

The box in the middle of the pool floats and settles on the ice.

Fran slowly walks towards the box, his legs freezing due to the ice.

Despite the freezing cold, he continues walking and reaches the box.

As soon as he touches the box, a light shines, and he sees some visions in his eyes.

Suddenly, Fran disappears, just like our king, Raju...

## NORTH

Moving on to the story of Mantra,

He sends his sister Maya and his assistants, deciding to go inside himself.

"Maya, I will get that treasure for you, or else consider that you have lost your brother/sister. Don't wait for me here for more than a day.

I came here to break the curse on me, but now I'm going to get the treasure for you. Today, either your fate or mine will be decided, Maya.

If you don't see me return by tomorrow, go back home. Keep my assets; do what you think is best. If I don't return, don't look for me ever.

Take care, sister; you have to carry forward our family's name."

Saying this, he enters, and as he does, the waterfall outside turns into ice.

Inside, Mantra finds a place like a king's fortress, with a luxurious palace, a pond in the middle, and the treasure right there.

The treasure is just 30 feet away, but Mantra knows about the wave of sorrow. Using his magic, he dispels the sorrow wave.

As he enters the pond, his female form appears before him.

"I knew you would come," says Mantra, "because you are the real demon in my life.

Since childhood, I wanted to grow up as a man, but you dragged me back...

My life was ruined because I couldn't be with the woman I loved or live the way I wanted...

"What will you do, Mantra? Talk your way out or fight me for the treasure."

"I'll win the treasure, and myself," Mantra declares and conjures a sword.

The demon Mantra also conjures a sword, and they start fighting.

It's a battle within himself, a fight to overcome his own challenges. Only the true Mantra would win this battle.

But if the real Mantra loses, both would die.

As they fight, dawn breaks... Mantra leaps into the air, transforming into his female form.

Then she realises that she's not fighting herself, but her weaknesses.

As she descends, the female Mantra throws down her sword to the demon...

A bright light flashes...

Everything changes suddenly, as if there was never a battle... Mantra returns to his male form... He turns and the treasure is still there...

He casts a spell on it, but it doesn't work.

Thinking to open it with a key, he conjures one.

As soon as he puts the key in the box and turns it, he disappears, just like the king did.

## SOUTH

Now, let's talk about the cruel hero in our story, The Samrat.

The Samrat, who was already one of a kind, had no other option but to enter the whirlpool.

He moved forward, and as soon as he took a couple of steps, the water flow stopped and transformed into a large doorway.

He walked inside, and unlike everyone else, the whirlpool did not close on him. It remained open, allowing him to go back if he wished.

But he was the Samrat, so he didn't turn back. He kept moving forward. Once he entered, it looked like a desert with a box in the middle. He started walking towards the box.

The moment he crossed the threshold of sorrow, an unbearable pain hit him, a pain no one had ever known. It felt like his head was being split open. At that moment, a person who looked exactly like him appeared before him.

"How are you, Samrat? Always talking to yourself, aren't you? That's why I came... but not alone... there are three of us." As he said this, two more Samraths emerged from him.

The Samrat couldn't understand what was happening.

As he pondered, the three started attacking him.

The Samrat defended himself and began attacking them in return.

With the sword he had, he killed one of the Samraths. Then another said, "The mistakes you've made are not few, and in every mistake, we are ten percent of it." With that, ten more Samraths appeared before him.

Samrat didn't know what to do... he was terrified of himself. The pain of the past was flooding back to him. He could hear the screams of everyone he had ever hurt.

He couldn't handle it anymore... the number of Samraths in front of him kept increasing, and so did the voices in his head. Unable to bear the pain, he took the sword and stabbed himself repeatedly until he died.

After his death, the remaining Samraths took his body to the treasure and touched the box with his hand.

And just like that... he disappeared into thin air, like everyone else.

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## Chapter - VII



'Cursed'

*What is this, everyone disappeared, and no one found the treasure?*

*Didn't I tell you no one found it? And where did everyone disappear to, the hero is still standing there.*

*But for you to understand this story completely, you need to know about the mess the king made, it's time to reveal that curse.*

## King's Mistake

The curse the king cast was that if anyone touched the treasure at the wrong time, they would die instantly and have no rebirth. However, all those who died in this manner would become his slaves, bound to stay with him and obey his every command.

But when the king himself returned for the treasure map, he used another spell to open it, and that's where he made a mistake. He used a new spell, one he didn't fully understand, as an antidote to his old spell.

That's when a new curse was created. Anyone who touched the treasure at the wrong time would no longer die and become the king's slave. Instead, they would restart their lives from the beginning, as a small child... a baby even, reliving their lives.

This curse first struck the king himself. The moment he touched the treasure, he vanished from that spot and was found in the forest as a baby by a family. They named him Samrat and raised him as their son. They made him their king, a hunter. Without knowing it, he himself, along with David, started his treasure hunt for the very same treasure.

### Samrat's Mistake

The moment **Samrat** learned about this treasure, he felt an undeniable bond—a strange connection that told him it was his and he had to acquire it at any cost, even if it meant killing everyone.

And that's exactly what he did. He killed everyone who came with him, even **David**. His obsession became so intense that he even managed to kill a two-headed lion—a fiery lion. Such was the fire within him that he didn't even feel the lion's heat. Finally, he reached the treasure.

But all the greed, anger, deceit, and other negative emotions within him took form and confronted him. Himself defeated him, who could crush mountains. He killed himself.

Then, his remaining emotions made him touch the treasure with his own hands, hoping for liberation. However, at this point, something else was added to the king's curse. According to the king's original curse, those who touched the treasure would die, but after it was altered, those who touched it would be reborn. But **Samrat** touched the treasure *after* he died, and because of this, when he was reborn, he had a strange affliction: for half the day, he would be a man, and for the other half, a woman.

Thus, **Samrat**, reborn as a baby, ended up in front of a house. That family took the child in, learned about the curse, named the child **Mantra**, and raised them as their own blood.

And so, **Samrat**, now **Mantra**, began the treasure hunt for their sister, **Maya**.

### Mantra's Mistake

**Mantra** became a magician. Because the family who adopted them was a family of magicians, and due to the inherent fascination Mantra had from their time as the king, they too became a magician, earning a reputation as the greatest magician in their family and the world. Seeing their growth, their father even forgot that Mantra was found, not born into the family. He accepted Mantra as his complete son-daughter.

Despite transforming into a woman at times, Mantra knew they were fundamentally a man. Just when they were contemplating how to become like everyone else, their sister **Maya** brought the map. Seeing the map filled Mantra with an unknown joy, a thought that perhaps the treasure would make them normal, and a burning desire pushed them to embark on the treasure hunt.

Taking their loved ones with them, Mantra began the journey. They protected everyone and reached the very end, transforming their curse into a boon. They became a deity for a tribe they had never seen before. Accepting their curse, and wanting to give the treasure to their sister, Mantra fought and won against themselves at the treasure's location. The moment they touched the treasure, they disappeared like everyone else.

Through no fault of their own, a mistake they made subjected an entire generation to a curse. This time, without any curse, they were born as a son into a family with all comforts. This time, they weren't found; they were reborn as **Francis Jr.** in England. As part of his research, he too began a treasure hunt.

## Fransis Jr's Mistake

**Fran** was born during the height of British rule, which gave him ample opportunity to travel anywhere. He started this treasure hunt with his professor for research purposes, but after many of his companions died, he became determined to acquire the treasure at any cost. He figured he could complete the hunt and simply return. Once he entered the waterfall, the tragic bond brought back memories of his former lives. It was then that he remembered he was the king, and that he had come back two more times after that. However, he couldn't recall the curse or how to open the treasure. But his hand, almost on its own, reached for the treasure. And so, he too touched the treasure at the wrong time and fell victim to the curse.

This time, he was born as our "**Hero**," just like Fran—not found, but reborn.

Like everyone else, our Hero also reached the treasure. He stands just a few steps away, something is coming back to him, but it's not clear yet.

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~ Everything's fine, but what was the actual mistake they all made, mate?

They all touched the treasure at the wrong time.

So what's the right time then, mate?

On the day of a total lunar eclipse, the day the moon turns red... if you touch the treasure then, it's yours.

Oh, so that's your connection to the curse then???

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## Chapter - VIII



### The Treasure and The Truth

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*I don't have a connection to the treasure, Chandu, but I do to the curse. The second spell the king cast, which was supposed to be an antidote for my moon bond, actually made me the master of that curse.*

*But I have some limits. I can control where and how they're reborn or arrive, but not their lives themselves. The strange thing is that the king himself has come back four times... as if his name is written on that treasure.*

*~ So, did our Hero find the treasure in the end?*

## **Hero's Fate**

Our **Hero** stood before the treasure, utterly lost. With no desire left, he looked up at the sky... and saw me (\*\*the Moon\*\*) turn red. Everything flooded back to him—all his past lives unfolded before his eyes. An unknown sorrow, a pain a hundred times greater than that tragic bond, overwhelmed him. He didn't know whether to be happy he'd reached the treasure or grieve that all his lives had been devoted to it.

The pain of five lives, 157 years of suffering, his blood relatives, those who raised him, his companions—it all came rushing back.

Just then, a voice echoed from the sky:

"King, your suffering of so many lives is about to find liberation. Only a few moments remain until my eclipse ends. Claim this treasure and live happily."

Live happily? Can one life's treasure erase the pain of five lives? "Besides, I don't want this treasure," he thought. With a hammer nearby, he smashed the treasure box.

"No one else should ever come here for this treasure. Take it, mate. Make sure this treasure reaches all those who are worthy."

"Well done, King! You've let go of your ego, jealousy, and delusion. You've truly proven yourself a real king."

"I'm not a king, mate. I'm just a normal person... a normal person who wishes for a normal life."

"Alright, mate, I'm leaving now. Someone's waiting for me outside. I have many lives to save."

And so, the \*\*Hero\*\* left the place.

Walking out, the \*\*Hero\*\* took the girl who came with him and left the forest. He started his life normally, driving his taxi peacefully.

But one day, the whole world came to his doorstep... he visited every house in the world.

~ How did that happen, mate?

The YouTube videos he made presented him as a warrior to the world.

~ Wow, nice... I wish such a great hero really existed. But why is the hero so stereotypical? He should have been given a good name.

He has a name, Chandu.

~ Oh, really? What is it?

As Chandu asked this, a small light entered the cave. Looking up, he saw his companions had come to save him.

Chandu turned to look, and the \*\*Moon\*\* had vanished.

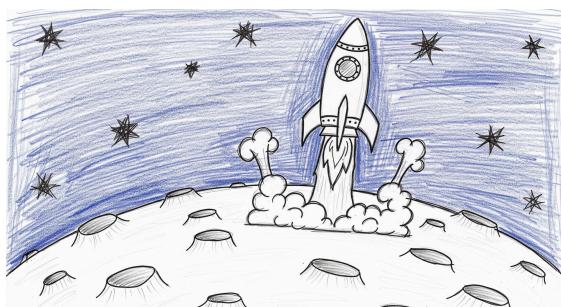
Chandu tried to explain to his friends, but they didn't understand. Being in a closed space, they assumed he was experiencing some trauma.

They took him to the ship and told him to rest. They informed him that he hadn't been seen for two days, and during this gap, their exploration was complete, and it was time to return.

Chandu didn't understand anything; he thought it was all a dream. He took a sleeping pill and fell asleep.

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## Chapter - IX



### Return Journey

The next day, Chandu's companions woke him up, asking if he was okay. Chandu replied that everything was fine and he was feeling good. They informed him that their return journey would begin in another three hours, and as usual, it would be a three-day trip. They also mentioned that the mango plant they'd planted was in good condition and all their data was excellent. So far, it has been a successful mission. The last step was to land on their homeland.

With these discussions, they made all preparations within those three hours and got ready for launch. As the three sat in their seats, Chandu saw the Moon in the side mirror, waving goodbye to him. It was then that Chandu understood: the Moon had wanted to tell him everything directly and only to him, and it had done so. So, it wasn't a dream after all; it was real.

The rocket began its return journey. Throughout the three-day trip, Chandu, excited and lost in thought about the story, narrated it to his friends. They landed on Earth, ready to celebrate.

All ceremonies began and everyone celebrated C-32's success. Chandu immersed himself in the festivities. They lost time in the celebrations. That night, everyone slept and awoke the next afternoon.

Upon waking, the astronauts and Sreekanth, the mission director, were informed that the government planned a felicitation ceremony for them, with other important guests attending. The event began at 5 PM that evening.

The Chief Minister, along with several ministers and Hiran Kumar, a prominent industrialist who had provided significant funding for the C-32 mission and previous Chandrayaan missions, were present as chief guests.

First, the Chief Minister and Hiran Kumar honored Sreekanth with a shawl and awarded him five crore rupees. Subsequently, each astronaut was similarly honored and presented with three crore rupees.

Finally, it was Chandu's turn to be felicitated. The Chief Minister draped a shawl around him, took a photo, and moved aside. Then, Hiran Kumar approached Chandu, draped a shawl over him, handed him a check for three crore rupees, and posed for a photo.

Afterward, Hiran Kumar hugged Chandu and whispered something softly into his ear, inaudible to anyone else. Chandu stood still for a moment, unmoving, after hearing it. Hiran Kumar then excused himself, citing another engagement.

After a while, Chandu returned to normal, smiling. After Hiran Kumar left, the function slowly concluded.

Later, Chandu went home. Sitting in his chair, he smiled with satisfaction, recalling what Hiran Kumar had whispered in his ear:

~ "*The Moon must have told you everything, right? I am the Hero, alias Hiran Kumar.*"

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**Fin**

## AI summary

The document "ETA (Eng version)" is a story written by Bunny Kodaganti, presented in English. It begins with a prologue about the Chandrayaan 32 mission to the moon in 2053, led by Sreekanth, where astronaut Chandu gets stranded in a cave during a storm and encounters Chandamama (the Moon), who offers to tell him a story.

The story then transitions into "King's Fantasy," where a king creates a magical treasure hunt in a South Indian forest to protect his diamonds. He binds the treasure's lock to the moon and sets up various magical and dangerous obstacles. The king himself is cursed and disappears when he tries to retrieve the treasure.

The narrative introduces four "heroes" who eventually seek this treasure, each guided by one of the king's maps carried by enchanted birds. These heroes are:

- Hero, the Taxi Driver: A man saving money for his sister's cancer treatment, who finds a new purpose in helping others and is hired by a company to find the treasure.
- Fran the Archaeologist: An English archaeologist fascinated by Indian history, who travels to India with his professor and group to search for artifacts from a lost kingdom, unknowingly seeking the treasure.
- Samrat the Tribal King: An impulsive tribal king and animal parts smuggler from the African Amazon forest, who, with his associate David, becomes addicted to treasure hunting and chooses the king's dangerous map for his next adventure.
- Mantra, the Magician: Born with a unique curse that causes him to change gender from girl to boy daily, he believes finding the treasure is the key to lifting his curse and embarks on a journey with his sister.

The document then details how each of the king's maps, tied to an owl, eagle, dove, and peacock, reached these heroes, leading them towards the same treasure. The story ends as the heroes begin their journeys, facing obstacles like a snake, tribes, a magical lion, and mountains.