

HOW MUCH LAND DOES A MAN NEED?

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THOUGHTS OF BAHDUR SHAH ZAFAR

लगता नहीं है दिल मेरा उजड़े दयार में
किस की बनी है आलम-ए-ना_पायेदार में

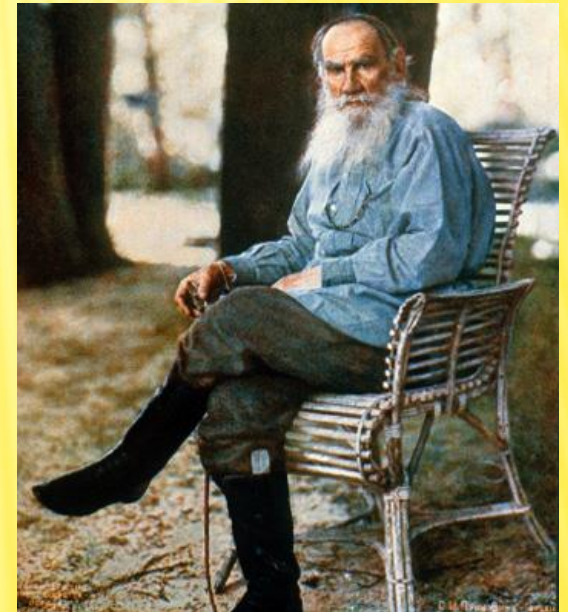
कह दो इन हसरातों से कहीं और जा बसें
इतनी जगह कहाँ है दिल-ए-दागदार में

उम्र-ए-दराज़ माँग कर लाए थे चार दिन
दो आरजू में कट गये दो इंतेज़ार में

कितना है बद_नसीब "ज़फ़र" दफ़्न के लिए
दो गज़ ज़मीन भी ना मिली कूऊ-ए-यार में

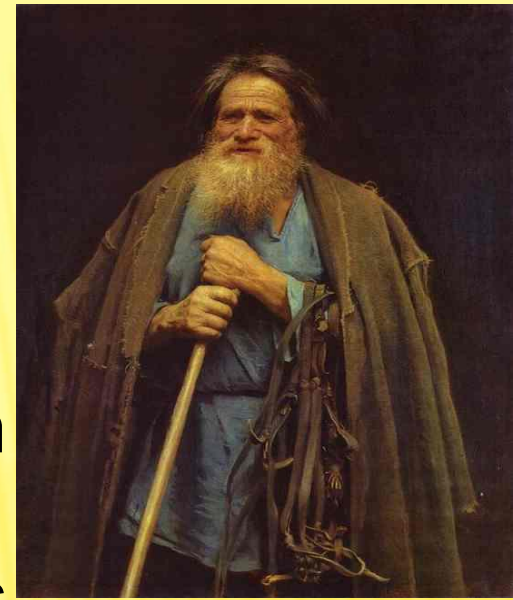
HOW MUCH LAND DOES A MAN NEED?

- A short story by Leo Tolstoy
- A Russian writer, philosopher and political thinker who wrote novels and short stories
- Master of realistic fiction and is considered one of the world's greatest novelists
- Best known for two long novels, *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*



Characters in the story

- Pakhom is main character
- The one who receives land from “devil”
- The short story includes 2 sisters
Elder one is very wealthy, and thinks she has it all, and loves her life
- Another is the poor sister, and knows how to live her life, and is proud of being a peasant and doesn't like her elder sister bragging about being wealthy



Pakhom's pride

- Pakhom was listening to the chatter of women
- His only grievance -he does not have enough land
- He says **“If I had plenty of land, I shouldn't fear no one –not even the Devil himself!”**
- Devil was pleased that the peasant's wife had led her husband into boasting
- ***“All right.”*** *Thought the Devil,*
- **“We will have tussle. I'll give you plenty of land; and by means of that land I will get you into my power.”**

Pakhom became a land owner

- A lady had a large estate and wanted to sell some of her land
- Pakhom managed finance
- He **purchased thirty acres** and gave the undertaking to pay half the price in two years
- First year produce was very good - Debts paid
- Initially polite-soon lost patience with neighbors
- He was full of desire to teach them a lesson
- Believed rumor-people were moving to new parts

THE NEXT STAGE IN TEMPTATION-VOLGA

- The stranger who came from beyond the Volga tells him about the new opportunities
- One could join Commune and get 25 acres per man and extra freehold land can be bought on nominal payment
- Pakhom shifted with family and granted 100 acres, besides use of communal pasture
- Land was perfect
- Was ten times better off than he had been

VOLGA TO BASHKIRS

- A merchant informs about land of Bashkirs
- Merchant had bought 13,000 acres of land for 1000 roubles
- “The land lies near a river, and the whole land is virgin soil.”
- Bashkirs- content and enjoyed their lives
- Bashkirs were ready to provide him the choice of his land

THE DEAL WITH BASHKIRS

- **Price of land-** “one thousand roubles a day”
- We sell it by the day
- **As much as you can go round on your feet in a day is yours!**
- **Condition:** If you don't return on the same day to the spot from where you started, your money will be forfeited

THE INTUITIVE DREAM

- Pakhom could not sleep, lay awake all night and dozed off just before dawn
- In his dream, he saw the **Devil himself**
- Before him lay a dead man
- He saw the lying man was he himself
- **Dawn was breaking-was time to start**

THE RACE OF LIFE

- Bashkir Chief puts his cap to mark starting point
- Pakhom start the race
- After going some distance - takes off his necessary things
- Moves ahead and people on hillock **looked tiny as ants**
- He is in sweat and feels thirsty, sits down, eat bread, drinks water but he does not lie down thinking- A moment's pain can be a lifetime's gain
- His feet were cut and bruised and his legs began to fail
- He thought that he has **blundered trying too much**
- But **fear of not reaching the spot** made him breathless

THE MOMEMNT OF REALIZATION

- I shall never reach that spot!” - Though afraid of death, he thought
- **“After having run all the way they will call me a fool if I stop now”**
- **“There is plenty of land but will God let me live on it?”**
- When he reached hillock he saw cap with elder sitting and laughing his head off. He fell forward and managed to reach the cap with his hands.
- But, blood was flowing from his mouth...
- Pakhom was dead!
- His servant dug a grave and buried him in it
- **Six feet from his head to his heels was all the land he needed!**

THE PROTAGONIST TRYING TO ACQUIRE MUCH MORE LAND THAN HE NEEDS

- If everybody acted like Pakhom all the earth would be monopolized by private owners who would be able to force others to pay them just to live on the earth
- But if everybody only used as much land as they actually needed, there would be enough for everybody to live in comfort and in harmony
- Pakhom is just like all the others who wish to fence off part of the earth and make it inaccessible to others while they have no use for it themselves
- This is not greed for land but greed for power and money
- It is obvious in Tolstoy's story that Pakhom cannot use all the land he covets

PAKHOM'S WIFE

- Believed Devil could only influence city dwellers, saw temptation - only in certain forms at certain places
- Did not prevent Pakhom in his quest for more and more land
- Weak convictions – neighbour's envy owner's pride?

THE BASHKIR'S- HAPPY GO LUCKY ATTITUDE

- Though they had plenty of land, were ready to give it away cheap
- Contentment and sharing nature

SUMMARY

- One must learn to be content with what one has without getting too greedy and grasping
- Pakhom-a man who has a loving family and enough to provide for them
- He and his wife are content to live outside the city and away from temptations; yet, he wishes he had more and more land
- Pakhom acts on this wish more than once, and he eventually gets so greedy (with the Devil's enticing him) that he dies with nothing
- **Nothing but the six feet of land needed to bury him**
- Despite the enticement of the Devil, Pakhom could have chosen contentment .
- Instead, he chose to taunt the Devil and become distracted by his greed for more land by adding just a bit more land
- Pakhom would not have died such an untimely death if he been content with the blessings he had
- **Where is the middle ground? This story examined the glory of success and the evils of greed.**

DILEMMA OF LIFE

We all have this thought, "If I only had a lot of money, I would be happy." We believe happiness is found in more and more money and assets accumulations.

Some questions in our day to day life to understand difference between need and greed..

- How much of anything does a man need to be happy?
- How much is enough? How much wealth does one need?
- How many cars? How big a house...a summer home...a winter home?
- How much money does a man need to be happy? But, loving money too much...can make us a slave

Thank You