

Title: The Forgotten Festival of Zarnabad

Zarnabad is a mythical village said to lie in the shadow of the Karakoram mountains. Every spring, the villagers celebrate the *Festival of Sarsabzi*, a ritual honoring the spirit of renewal and mountain fertility.

Key Traditions:

- Villagers wear green robes stitched with silver thread to symbolize rebirth.
- A ceremonial dish called *Chilmakh*—made from roasted snow lentils and yak butter—is served to elders.
- Children release paper birds into the wind, each carrying a wish written in the ancient script of Zarni.

Historical Notes:

- The festival is believed to have originated in 1423 CE, during the reign of the fictional ruler Queen Mehrunissa II.
- Local legends say the festival was inspired by a dream shared by three shepherds who saw the mountain “weep green.”