

THE THREE DANCING GOATS
(A Folk-Tale)
Anonymous



Q. What is Folk-Literature?

Folk literature records the beliefs of people as they appear in popular custom, tradition, magic and ritual.

The central figure in Indian folk-tales is a hero or heroine who is usually poor & destitute at the start but who, after a series of adventures attains his/her goal-viz. marriage to a prince or princess- and lives happily ever after.

- The theme of the story is that one who is good at heart and has faith ,patience and ingenuity gets a good fortune sooner or later.
- It tells the tale of a poor & hard working youth who succeeded in marrying the beautiful daughter of the landowner.
- His success was owing partly to the magic of the flute and a stroke of luck.

- Mainly it was on account of his goodness of heart, faith, patience.
- He was lucky enough to come by three dancing goats.
- They brought comfort to his widowed mother and a pretty rich wife for himself.

- Sindhu lived with his mother in a small hut.
- He had a small plot of grazing land and two COWS.
- There was severe drought.
- Poor Sindhu had to go to the market –town and sell his cows.
- On his way to town he met an old woman.
- She was going to the market to sell her goats.

- She offered to exchange her goats with Sindhu's cows.
- She told him that the goats will bring fortune to him some day.
- She drew a flute from her basket and began to play on it.
- The three goats began to dance to its tune.
- Sindhu was greatly amused.

- He believed what the old woman said about them.
- He thought the goats might not bring fortune, but he will certainly earn a few pennies by entertaining the village-folk
- He accepted the offer.
- Sindhu's mother was unhappy at the bargain made by him.

- She felt he had been cheated.
- Sindhu was satisfied with the bargain he had made.
- He believed in what the old woman had said to him.
- Sindhu's landlord's daughter heard of three dancing goats.
- She summoned him to her house to see the dancing goats.

- Sindhu played on the flute and the goats danced merrily.
- The landlord's daughter offered to buy one of the goats.
- Sindhu told her that she should visit his widowed mother and give a barrel of foodstuff in the exchange of one of his goats.
- She accepted his offer and got the goat.

- The goat didn't dance in the landlord's house.
- Sindhu was called again.
- She told Sindhu that village priest had told her that the goat will not dance without a companion.
- She wanted Sindhu to sell his another goat too.
- Sindhu agreed in exchange for the gold ring on her finger and barrel of foodstuffs.

- The girl accepted the offer and got the goat.
- But ,again after few days Sindhu was called again.
- He was told that the two goats would not dance without the third one.
- Sindhu played the flute and the goats started dancing merrily.
- It was the power of the magical flute that made the goats dance.

- He gave landlord's daughter the flute and the third goat.
- But in return ,he wanted to know the meaning of three different coloured stones in the ring that she had given him.
- She was bent upon having the flute and the goat.
- She told him the secret of the three different coloured stones on her ring.

- One day landowner announced his intention of finding a bridegroom for his daughter.
- He declared whoever could name the three strands of hair hidden among her black silken tresses should have her as his bride.
- Many young men from different parts of the country came to try their luck.
- But, no one could make the right guess.
- Sindhu got an opportunity to enter the landlord's house as the servant of a rich suitor.

- He told the secret of the lady's three strands of hair.
- He also showed the ring of the three coloured stones that the lady had given him in exchange for his second goat.
- In this way Sindhu got landlord's daughter for his bride.
- Sindhu in the end said that it was the triumph of faith, love and patience.

Questannaire

- Q1. Why were the peasant and his mother in trouble?
- Q2) Whom did Sindhu meet on his way to the market?
- Q3) Describe the three goats of the old woman?
- Q4) Why did Sindhu accept the goats after seeing their dance?
- Q5) What was the old lady's advice to Sindhu and did he believe her words?

- Q6) Who wanted to be entertained by the goats?
- Q7) Why did landlord's daughter want to buy goat?
- Q8) What price did Sindhu ask for the goat?
- Q9) What price did Sindhu ask for the second goat?
- Q10) What did the girl ask for the along with the third goat?

- Q11) What price did Sindhu ask for the third goat and the flute?
- Q12) What did the suitors have to do to marry the landlord's daughter?
- Q13) What did Sindhu think about the strange offer for marrying his landlord's daughter?
- Q14) How did Sindhu win the hand of landlord's daughter?

Composition

- Paragraph Writing:
 - (1) Describe the various ways of finding a bridegroom in India.
 - (2) The *Svayamvara* kind of marriage in ancient and medieval India.