

Flame Unfelt



- Arkaprava Das

Her footsteps were falling on the ground under the shimmering radiance of Flames of the Forest. This was her wedding day. Processed by a band of mates and kins, she was taken for the auspicious dip. Merry chants and rolls of laughter were buzzing around pounding her heartbeats. Neepa—a girl of seventeen was welcoming a new chapter of her life. Her marriage was settled with Deep Narayan Rudra, son of Shankar Narayan Rudra, a well known name amongst elites.

The ceremony ended well. Wedding knot was tied. Two eyes met and saw one another. One was cool and the other twinkling. In that celebrated moment, pieces of senses remained unsung. May be because they were abstract. They were easily carried to lush rosy marriage bed through a massively rhapsodic ritual. Neepa and Deep Narayan were elaborately titled as 'Married' by them whom they knew to be closest. Both of them began their first night together following their own sensations and that evidently conflicted in the first place. Still, they slept and spent the night ignoring their hidden questions. They consoled themselves in their own ways.

Neepa's life was changed. She was brought to an urban city. May be, she was destined for it. She never thought why, but she liked the sky that was blue and the road that was busy. She ignored the dark parts and it was useless to be surprised on that point. We may say it as her unwillingness to cross out norms. Rather Neepa got involved in her allotted household. On the other side, Neepa's in-laws sat together one night after dinner to discuss how to launch her before the society. It was somewhat a lengthy debate that took place under shimmering light in the large hall where it was concluded to make Neepa precisely prepared. Of course, there were doubts over the possibility of becoming a silly topic of derision in case the matter went wrong, still it was finalized to showcase her as a statement. Discussion ended and indistinct baronial figures left the shadowy room. Neepa appeared in her first city gathering clad in priceless attire. She received a thorough rehearsal before the occasion which she obeyed with inherent diligence. She stunned everyone. No eyes escaped her. She looked around to

meet eyes that sought her attention with visible desperation tearing the customary conventions of etiquette.

"My-my, I never saw a swan in such an elegant peacock feathers before! From where you caught her?" A fellow asked Deep Narayan.

"Her aunt approached us. I found her good....its like that," Deep Narayan answered with a cool smile.

"On that point, introduce her to us. let's see how she talks," the youth blinked.

"Sure.....," Deep Narayan made his way and came back with Neepa.

"Hello, Mrs Rudra. How do you do?"

"Hi, we all are Deep's buddies. We wished to meet you. Hope you wont mind...."

Neepa was in the middle of them who wished her speak just a word. She was almost made to sit and offered with wine. She was prepared for all this. She spoke and she drank. And she won. Family was pleased to her. Deep Narayan appreciated her that night for her being nice to his friends. He loved her that night for the reason that Neepa never asked. She disposed herself silently. She entered her new society not knowing what to expect from it.

"I want you in the lead role. Never say NO," said Mr Bipin Nath, renowned movie maker, a close person of Rudra family. By that time, Neepa was mother of a girl. She was totally occupied in home-making and never showed any inclination towards any unquoted acts. In that premise, the approach from Mr Nath was evidently a sudden event that was responded by Neepa with numb non-response. But her husband became overwhelmed. "Let me clap you Mr Bipin on this one thought! I must say, it is beyond my imagination to think her as a STAR," Deep Narayan laughed aloud. "You never saw your wife properly then all these years. She has a face made for the screen," said Nath.

"I bet, she'll be a nervous bird for the show," said Deep Narayan. "Leave that to me. Now, Mrs Rudra, you're sitting silent. I need your consent. You're to say something," Bipin Nath smiled and looked at Neepa.

"Are you really serious on whatever you're saying, Bipin Babu?" Neepa spoke.

"Yes, I'm. I need a fresh new face and I see a face in you. You'll be perfect for the role. And I'll be offering you a decent

payment."

"Neepa, now I'm saying you, don't say NO. Its going to be big. I'm sure of it. Since I know Mr Nath a lot more than you and trust me. He's good in his work. I wont let you skip this opportunity. She'll do it Mr Nath. Take my word as hers," Deep Narayan spoke out very clearly.

"But, I don't want to. I'm sorry," Said Neepa.

"What happened to you? It is fine, its a big chance and why on....," Bipin Nath stopped Deep Narayan from his spontaneous outflow.

"But, why not!?"

"It's not possible. Please don't request me anymore," Neepa was unwilling to react on her husband's vibrance and Bipin's endeavour to ease the matter. She remained silent.

"There is no harm Mrs Rudra, I assure you. I think you've seen my films. I make them putting my own heart. Do you think one will be cruel to his own soul? I give you my word that you'll be honoured. Just do one shot for my sake. If you feel bad, I wont request you any more," Bipin said with his maximum honesty. "OK....," admitted Neepa. "Look up to him slowly and deeply as he holds you." Then, smile lightly, instructed Bipin Nath. A garden scene was designed. Players were set on spot awaiting for the shooting. On final command they started their parts. The day ended as a disappointment. Bipin Nath was a person of firm attitude and he still showed no intention to change his mind, rather he made it very clear to Neepa that the work that he had offered her needed equal or more dedication than any others and she should be attentive if she wanted to go ahead with it. Neepa said nothing nor she refused. Bipin Nath gave her time to make herself pre-

pared. Neepa left the studio with Deep Narayan.

"Tell me, my sweet wife, what do you think of yourself?...what are you?" asked Deep Narayan holding Neepa in his arms on their bed, curling her hair strands that night.

"You know, I never wanted to say you this, as its my dishonour to make you feel bad. I'm running through a very severe crisis that I need to cross anyway. Bipin is my friend and he has agreed to take you just because of me. I am in need of money, you know. So...tell me, are you going to help me in this or I've to ignore you from now? Take your time. You've this night to think. Tomorrow, you can tell me," Deeply kissing Neepa, Deep Narayan left her and turned around to sleep.

Neepa remained still. She was voiceless. Her eyes remained opened for long, may be throughout the night. Next morning, she got up and did all her daily tasks. She asked her husband to inform Mr Nath that she was prepared. Her husband did the same and mentioned Neepa when to be present in the studio again. "Its all right," answered Neepa.

Neepa's name was changed before the film was released. "Maalika"—Bipin Nath announced as he offered her the payment. She took it with a smile supported by an earnest reverence from her husband and she passed it to her husband as he drove back home. "Thanks," Deep Narayan happily put the sum inside his pocket. World witnesses numerous spectacles and likewise Neepa's smile never faded away with a single sensational success. It grew and covered as much as possible or may be more. It is not necessary to devote in thinking how it all happened. People took surplus pleasure in dreaming her, talking about

He left Neepa. She watched. She came back to her room and looked at the sky that was slowly getting darker through the window. She stood there till darkness spread everywhere removing everything. She watched it for long. Then she looked around. Neepa looked at the altar where the deity of her devotion was placed. She remained looking.

"I never wished to be worshipped. Then, why are you playing with my life?" She began to laugh.

"Will you listen if I beg? Will you stop this or just finish my life? Will you listen or you've set it to go on," Neepa laughed and came closer.

"People love to play with this doll but, I'm going to end this. Let people worship you, not me," she leaned before the altar and went on laughing. Tears rolled down her eyes. Nothing else was there that she spoke. Then, Neepa went away. She was called many times but received no answer nor any indication came from her side wishing to know what the world said on her. She chose to erase herself one day and never came back to find what else remained for her. What to worry about? Human soul can live and go with their own core wishes. Nothing more is there to dig out and justify from the clutters of 'why', 'how' or 'whats'.

Synopsis:

A simple woman's tale that leads her to quietly remould herself and act as desired from her without asking any question. Finally, she questions and leaves her own reply.

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Author's Bio data

Arkaprava Das, Science Editor and Animation Script Writer for Educational Publishing by profession, has contributed several creative and technical contents of ecards, blogs, articles, for various clients whom she served in her career. Coming from Science and Multimedia background, she is involved in elearning and editing. As an amateur writer, Arkaprava Das has worked on many articles, poetries and short stories. Her creative thoughts explore various corners of world and even more. Personally, she is innovative and adventurous and through her works, she wishes to impart optimism to her readers, of all age groups.

Path of Happiness

-Pranjal Nathaniel

Arjun, Twenty-year old is pursuing B.Sc (Mathematics Hons.) from MLS University, Udaipur. Arjun being born and brought in a remote village, forty kilometers from Udaipur city, completed his 12th from a government school located ten to fifteen kilometers away from the village. He finds that many children interested in studying and having a dream of becoming an Engineer or an Astronaut, but are not able to get proper teaching of the subjects, especially mathematics, because of travelling, difficulty in understanding basic concepts, family problems, etc.

This results in higher dropout rate of students. Seeing this, Arjun along with his friends from the same village decided to voluntarily teach them basic concepts of their subjects and the tricks and techniques they used to memorize or understand their subjects. Arjun and his friends, after their college, went to their village to teach the children.

All the children of the village were divided in three to four groups and Arjun and his friends started teaching them different subjects like Mathematics, English, and also added basics of Science, and General Knowledge and managed the schedule accordingly. They took their class regularly and within a month many children were able to read an English paragraph and solve Mathematics and Science problems. Also all of the children passed their examination.

World Journalism Day, 71 journalists honored

Udaipur: 71 journalists of the country, along with Udaipur journalist and divisional union president Harish Paliwal was honored by the state unit of the International Journalists Association for creating positive journalism in the battle of Coronavirus and to make people aware and alert. The letter and cash award has been conferred through online social media.

This honor was conferred on Udaipur journalist Harish Paliwal by unanimous consent of all the office bearers in a ceremony organized on the occasion of World Journalism Day held online on social media today in the presence of Madan Gopal Tiwari and State President Rajesh Kachhwa. Due to the Coronavirus epidemic, the ongoing lockdown in the entire nation, including the state, is the honor ceremony to be held in Bikaner on Saturday for commemorating Journalism Day with the aim of not doing social gathering and following the government's ongoing advisory. Has been done.



Madan Gopal Tiwari, national president of the International Journalists Association, said that journalists had played an essential role in the Coronavirus war. Journalists assess the news in the global corona

epidemic, publish it in newspapers and show, broadcast news in electronic channels. Has played a major role in this odd situation, journalists are discharging their social responsibility and preparing e-Bhamashah for distribution of free food, water, masks, sanitizers, etc. to the needy people, through newspapers and TV channels and social media for prevention of Corona. It has done outstanding work to bring public awareness and promote security measures.

The state president of the union, Rajesh Kachhwa, said that 19 percent of journalists working in journalism in the state, including the state, are those who have been working for years without any remuneration. In the absence of various government facilities, this journalist is engaged day and night in the service work of the common man; the International Journalists Association salutes and respects such journalists. In this era of an epidemic where people are imprisoned and living in homes. At the same time, journalists, regardless of their lives, are actively exposing the news of the corona epidemic and corruption of various departments.

About 71 journalists of the country, including Rajasthan Pradesh, have been honored.

Landlords are not giving up the rent

Udaipur: Social worker Mukesh Madhwani wrote a letter to the district collector that, despite the government's order not to take rent for the April month, the search in the leprosy is being done by the landlords by demanding rent from the students, laborers, job professionals.

He said that these are the tenants who moved to their village due to Corona, lost jobs, and no means of income. The government had issued an order that the landlord should not take rent for April, but their law is not being fully implemented. The rent is being charged, and pressure is being created by the landlords, as well as the advance month rent was taken in the past due to advance rent in Udaipur.

He urged the Collector to issue an order for such landlords that those who have taken April's rent as advance rent should be adjusted in another month so that the tenants can get relief.

Madhwani said that there is a confusion among the students regarding the outside food and tiffin center. The students are scared to get food from the eateries. Therefore, while ordering the administration and municipal corporation in special areas related to students like Bohra Ganesh, Vivi Marg, Deer Magri, etc., authorize full safe canteen, tiffin center under their supervision, whose employees have got corona test, security with them. Has full resources so that students and other people can get tiffin packed from there.

Congress Committee Speak Up India campaign across the country

Udaipur: To provide immediate help from the central government to the people affected by the Corona epidemic, the All India Congress Committee on Thursday launched a Speak Up India campaign across the country through online medium. CWC member and former MP Raghuvveer Meena, while addressing the press conference, said that AICC ran a cam-

aign called Speak Up India from 11 am to 2 pm online through various social media platforms. In this, 50 lakh Congress workers from all over the country, including 10,000 workers from Udaipur Lok Sabha constituency, came live and demanded from the central government how they faced relief from the Corona epidemic, assisting the severely affected poor, laborers, middle-class families, small entrepreneurs.

Through this campaign, the Congress mainly put three demands before the central government. In which first, direct cash subsidy of Rs. 10 thousand should be given to the families coming out of income tax. The second demand is that all the migrants be brought safely to their homes, and the third demand is that the employment day in Mahanarega should be increased from 100 to 200 days per year.

CWC member and former MP Meena said that it is a matter of misfortune for our country that hundreds of laborers lost their lives on the way during the lockdown. The whole country knows that 16 workers were killed simultaneously in the train accident near Aurangabad recently, and only the Central Government is responsible for this. Like demonetization, the sudden implementation of lockdown across the country caused panic. If these laborers had been given at least seven days to reach their destination, such conditions would not have happened today. Of the trains run to send migrant workers to their home state in the country, 80 passengers lost their way and did not reach the destination. Such care is being taken care of by the Central Government. Running such a big country, but the central government system has completely failed.

CWC member and former MP Meena said that Rahul Gandhi warned the central government by tweeting continuously from January 31 to March 21. Still, the Modi government was busy preparing to welcome the President of America. Taking Rahul Gandhi's tweet lightly outweighed him. Former MP Meena said that it is a ridiculous thing that in the economic package announced

by the Finance Minister of Rs 20 lakh crore, most of the announcements were repeated in the last budget. At the same time, the budget of 30 lakh crore rupees is announced on the same day in the house and came on TV for five days to bring the package of 20 lakh crore to the country, yet there is no special for farmers, poor, laborers, and small entrepreneurs. Did not announce

Praising the efforts of the Rajasthan government in tackling the Corona epidemic, former MP Meena said that in the wake of the threat of Corona, the first lockdown in Rajasthan was imposed in the country. After this, taking care of the poor and laborers, along with facing the challenges of Corona, distributed 10-10 kilos of wheat free of cost to 60 lakh needy families. Apart from this, financial assistance of Rs 2500 was directly transferred to bank accounts. The state government was also shown good work in sending migrants safely to their homes. Talking about Udaipur, so far, 16 thousand 397 workers from 12 trains of different states and 4 thousand 162 workers have been sent to their home states by buses.

CWC member and former MP Meena said that to overcome the employment crisis in the Corona epidemic, more and more workers are being employed in Mahanarega so that those low-income families can get financial support at such times. Currently, 2 lakh 14 thousand workers are working in NREGA in Udaipur district, which is more than 1 lakh 63 thousand last year. At the same time, 3 thousand new job cards have been created. Therefore, we need to work with caution and demand from the Prime Minister to implement Congress's suggestions through the Skip Up India campaign.

He also said that despite the lockdown, if there has been a registry of land anywhere in the district, then its information will be investigated. Negligence by the government personnel in dealing with the Corona epidemic will also not be tolerated at all.

