

## "The Sparkling One"



Up above the world so high, there lived a fairy family in Pink Cloud City. "Ha-ha, you were an unwanted one anyway!" teased Ma Chroma to her son, White Chroma. His sister Green laughed, and his brother Blue gave that usual cunning smile. Though White felt bad, he was quiet.

The Great Golden Tub game was held every five years in Pink Cloud City, where the contestants should have both good minds and bodies to play. The game is about balancing one's body on a polished, hollow, oval ground without falling and the winner will be awarded a sparkling, floating tiara made with crushed diamonds, which will be presented by Gloria, the Queen.

Hearing about the contest, Green is upset because she knows her brother Blue will win the game as usual, and no one will pay attention to her if she fails. The White Fairy, though not sure about winning and tired of many failures in different aspects, is still excited about playing the game. Blue Fairy is confident about winning the game.

Preparations are being made by the citizens of Pink Cloud City. The pink clouds are sprinkled with glitter made with crushed gold. The unicorns, which are to be presented on the grand stage, have their wings painted in rainbow colours. Golden seats are arranged around the wide ground. The menu, with dishes and fruits, each weighing fifteen kilogrammes and sweeter than any earthy fruit, is making the citizens curious.

As the day draws near, Ma and Pa Chroma give more attention to Blue. Though Blue is talented enough, he practises for hours to win the contest. Green gives up easily every day after seeing her brother try a little and then give up. White could not practise as efficiently as his brother, but at least he did it until he was tired and watched his brother carefully while he was practising for long hours. Meanwhile, Ma and Pa arrive.

Ma says, "You two, look! Look at Blue, the glory of my heart. Can you not see your brother working? I doubt you are of the same genes." Pa comments, "I love you three, but who will the champion be"?

The day has arrived, and the Queen is sitting on the great throne, watching the excited audience. Green sends her brother, Blue, to perform first. Blue, with a keen focus, performs and wins as expected. When it's Green's turn, she manages to walk right along half a path but loses due to her

anxiety. Finally, it's time for White to perform. White goes ahead and says to himself, "Calm, it's just a way to cross, and there is no loss." By thinking so, he takes a long breath and slowly crosses the curved path.

Blue is already at the queen's stage, getting bored while waiting to receive his tiara and not bothered about who is still playing the game. When he learns that the contest is completed and his name is announced, he immediately bows to the Queen as she will honour him with the majestic head ring, which is the sparkling tiara. But, the Queen says, "Get me one more, because we've got two winners today." Blue is shocked to know this.

Both White and Blue are crowned with floating, sparkling tiaras. After winning the game, White says to his sister, "Dear Green, bitter is said. Bitter is said by every kin until you win!"

The moral: Do not take it into your heart when others criticise you while you are still at hard work.

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### In the city of Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh)

The day 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009 generated chaos in the lives of kurnoolians (people of Kurnool) as they witnessed the testimony of the catastrophe of environment... **FLOOD**. The calamity broke out as the deadliest nightmare. Some people criticized it as the irresponsibility of the government in power and some mentioned it as a punishment from God.



The flooding of water from up and down (due to continuous heavy rain and overflow of dams) inundated almost half of the city. The clogging of muddy water made the situation more drastic, noticing the zero rate of life and survival. Sequentially, the power cut and the electricity break down made people terror-stricken. Screams out of agony became clamorous. Everyone out of seriousness started praying continuously for the betterment.

Besides the panicking situation, everyone was involved in the race of the survival. Some managed to move out while others couldn't. Some ran bare-feet; some could manage their rides, some in despair and some with hope upon God. All the automobiles were of no use. Everything seemed to be floating like the untied ships.

A massive shortage of necessities was underlined. Mostly people died of hunger and starvation rather than the fear of flood. The harm and deprivation of life reached the peak. Though the conditions persisted for 4-5 days, the effect lasted for 4-5 months. The stacks of mud accumulated far and wide along with the dead bodies of humans and animals. People wrestled and labored day and night.

However, it's been years (13 years), but still the thought of that disaster accentuates the heebie-jeebies (goose bumps) and cold creeps out of shiver in the psyche and body of kurnoolians. The Flood of 2009, in some way prompted the oneness among the mankind and left a never-ending impact.

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Kurnool