

## **DREAMS FOR SALE**

While washing dishes, Begum Surraya, got fed up and her hands itching. She grumbled Massi Rehmat is taking advantage of my leniency. This time I shall panelize her and deduct the salary to teach her a lesson. It is too much and quite disgusting as every time she has many excuses for her absence.

Mr. Hashim who seemed watching his wife doing job with lot of grumbling and bad temper said abruptly “Oh Begum Sahiba when she will fleece you and stated narrating a tragic story, you will forget everything and became narrating a tragic story, you will forget everything and became kind hearted. Your instinct will be in full swing you are Hatam Tai DAYAWAN.

BEGUM Surraya was not at all pleased with this style of her husband. Instead she become touchier and said “it is all in my salt. I never get a response of same nature from anyone though I am quite kind and take care of every one even my servants.

Her husband listened patiently and said, “You are lacking in administration qualities. You must adopt the policy of stick and carrot. You are too lenient –forgetting him and send two cups of tea in my study. I want to discuss some matters with Tauseef”.

After saving this he left for study. Begum Surraya becomes more perturbed. She had tears in her eyes and pounded do not want he should help me in dish washing. But it is not possible to prepare tea for him. He could have done so very easily by switching on electric cattle using micro oven,” I have also returned back from office. Firstly I provided him hot meals then I started washing dish and other items, which were awfully scattered in the kitchen. I felt that if my husband has no care for me. Instead of providing a helping hand, he had just ordered for tea and left for study in a relaxed mood.....”

She prepared tea with a bad mood and was towards study. Her husband was chatting on computer in a very jolly mood. Tauseef was also found watching the screen with interest. For a while he was in Norway getting acquainted with some pretty girl, in next while South Africa. Begum Surraya thought men have so much leisure time.

“I have no time much engrossed in office job”. She recalled her conversation with Mrs. Shafiq who complained in the name of Human Liberty. We have overburdened ourselves against overcapacity. If there is any miss-management at home we are held responsible. If the children are not well dressed and not in good education, all the blame is shifted to mother on the prey text that it is due to our belonging to working class. We unscrupulous women are found walking of life but we lose our own balance what a pity. She felt much tired and tried to be relaxed on the bed. Soon she fell asleep.

Sooner she felt the ring of telephone bell. She hurriedly got up and took up the phone. On the other side Munshi was “Madam! Will you come to office? Many clients are waiting. Do you

remember we have to file an important case tomorrow for which necessary preparation is to be made?" she found herself in a room of no return. She got ready and left for the office where another busy schedule was awaiting.

In the morning on getting up she had one and only wishes that Massi Rehmat must come for job. After waiting for sometimes, when she was again thinking of entering into the kitchen. She saw Massi entering in the bedroom with a hot cup of tea. On feeling hot vapors of tea, she forgets the anger of last three days.

She saw the glimpses of anguish and distress on Massi's face. She asked her "What is the matter? Why you are so depressed?" Massi replied "In poor people home we do not have the harvest of well being we have to face sad incidents". "What happened let me know", She asked.

Massi said" Taji Oh! Your granddaughter what happed? Begum Sahiba, my granddaughter is no more. She died after being severely burnt up. "What-Oh God just slipped from her hand. Few days back she took her along with children to Faisal Masjid for excursion. Evening shades have fallen. The glittering lights enslaving the Masjid all around were giving a very panoramic beautiful view.

Taji exclaimed "Begum Sahiba this Masjid is just like me. Look lights are glittering like studded in the earthen lamp. Surrounded by big tall mountains like my father, uncle and brother, whose cover of defense surrounds the Masjid.

Surraya Begum tried to come out of her thoughts and wanted to know the details of incidents, but Massi was very tight lipped. She wishes to share the beautiful thoughts and aspirations of that unbloosemed time thought "God is Gracious". He has bestowed her with so much beauty. How she will manage to keep the same intact.

The age of youth after crossing adolescence age Massi came to her and told her his granddaughter has grown up. Massi had lot of beautiful dreams in her eyes. She asked Surraya Begum to keep her monthly wages with her. My granddaughter is growing up. Whatever I earn is spent. There is no saving. Surraya started keeping aside her monthly wages along with some money from her own expense to built substantial balance for marriage of Taji.

Begum Surraya got up and opened the cupboard. In the box there were some thousands of rupees and some ornaments, which she had shown the earning purchased by her as gift to Taji without disclosing that those were meant for her. She touched them and exclaimed: Begum Sahiba these beautiful earnings will suit you very much. On seeing the glittering dreams in her eyes she disclosed "these are meant for you but I shall retain them till your marriage. "Taji could not believe and Surraya laughed at her innocent thinking.

Next day when Massi came for work, Surraya took out all the money jewelry and cloth from the cupboard set aside for Taji's marriage saying, Massi, the money belongs to you earnings and

these clothes and ornaments. "I got prepared for her marriage. She was now no more. You may take all these things and give to her mother" Massi tried to overcome her grief but soon burst into tears. In a very pathetic voice she cried "Begum Sahiba I will not take these to my home. Those brutal killed her mercilessly Oh my God. They killed her before my eyes and I could not do anything. Why? How? Was Taji not got burned brutally accidentally" Surraya enquired in astonishment.

"No Begum Sahiba- after killing brutally was burnt". She replied in sad tone.

"But why, why so" She was very dear and loving child and was very dear to her parents.

"No doubt" yes begum sahiba. She was a jewel of family. She was crying and loved by all of us. But they killed her mercilessly; oh my God she had to lose her life and met sad fate".

But what happened, tell me all?

Massi looked with blank eye and said "whenever I used to come for job, she accompanied me. Sometimes she helped me and sometimes she used to take my permission for meeting for friends. I do not recall when she got growned-up and when she closed, some one to be her lover.

One evening she left the home to make her dreams come true. Family got worried and his uncle, father and brothers searched for her in each and every hook and corner, at the resident of her friends but all in vein. Late at night when all were sitting in the house very disappointed, dejected and worried.

Some one knocked at the door. Taji was with her lover. He apologized to the father of Taji and said, "she came to me at very the outset we decided to marry in the court but sooner she got very touchy and started weeping bitterly saying that I shall never been able to face and meet my father and brother and other dear ones. I will be all alone to love in a miserable life. We have decided to marry after taking you in confidence and your blessing and permission. I promise you to come next very day alone with my parents to get her lawfully married. I shall remain steadfast, honest and determined. I trust you will please accede to my request, she is now my amanat with you".

All the family members kept their cool at the moment but soon the boy left the house. Her brother an father started beating her. Taji, who was brought up with great love and care, was now treated in a bad manner. They were beating here with vigor and strength. She cried bitterly, fell on their feet and prayed for mercy, telling them that she loved the boy and could not live without him.

That was a dreadful late night; decision was made up by father and brother to kill her. He subsequently pardon him at the time of tawan. In the early hours she was also strangled to death by him in a manner that her last shriek did not reach neighbors house like an innocent lamb. She laid and scarified her life.

They buried her corpse after sparking kerosene oil on her. It was propagated that she had committed suicide in a morning.

A cold-icy wave passed through the body of Surraya Begum. She was stunned and perturbed. She got up and asked “Oh! You remained watching all this crime? You are also cruel. What type of women you are?” If that innocent child had dreamed for love, there was no sin or fault. Why she was killed, I shall fight for her case and would bring the culprits to the books. Will you and your mother give evidence against the brutal? I shall file the case and file it in the court”.

Next day Taji’s mother came; she was looking just like a shadow. Her eyes were bewildered and she was weeping terribly. On the insistence of Surraya Begum, she signed the Wakalatnama. With the great efforts case was prepared and with the help of Deputy Commissioner, grave was got opened up and her dead body was sent for autopsy.

Surraya Begum was quite confident to win the case and get the culprits punished for their heinous crime. She got so much engrossed that her home and children got ignored.

At times she patiently listened to sarcastic tone of her husband. One day he protested strangely, Surraya got in flurried and told her husband through out my life. I have been running like a horse whose reigns were in your hands but now it is a matter of killing an innocent girl. Please excuse me for sometimes.

With the passage of time case entered into the last stage. She was very confident of getting punishment and justice for the evildoers. The last and very important witness was the mother. The moment defense lawyer started argument, the mother of Taji burst into tears and shouted” Begum sahiba is trying to use the ladder of death of my daughter for her own fame. I admit that my daughter worked for begum sahiba and she was very dear to all. My husband and son loved her so much. She was grown up in her lap. How can they kill her so brutally?

My grandmother died due to that accident. Please do not involve our dear ones in this case. Pardon us. This case is a fabrication and imagination. Taji’s uncle was acquitted of all charges. In the court corridor Taji’s father was grumbling. You top class women spoil and consequently exploit our daughter. Thanks God judge was acquitted my brother; otherwise I would have pardoned him under Qasas. Come mother let us go.

Massi while passing through corridor was intercepted by Surraya Begum. She said “Massi you had sold the dreams of Taji, why you have done this thing” Why?

Massi said in cold voice. “in return of her dreams I have got the life of my dear ones. Taji has now left the world for good. She will never come back. Her dreams have been burruied with her. I must worry for the life of others art still alive and not for the dead ones.

Begum Surraya felt very dejected and shattered. While driving back she thought of her own problem of getting bazaar for grocery and for new servant for the house from her friend Rizwana.

She felt as if there was no strength left in her body to look after the responsibilities at home and office. She tried to forget the whole episode and wished not to think or recollect anything related to Taji. She found her down the memory lane, Taji bare footed and distressed with her hair scattered with the play care in her small hands bearing the words.