
A Ghostly Wife

- Lal Behari Dey (1824-1892)

Story at glance :

1. There was a **Brahman** lived in a village with his **young and feeble wife** and his **older mother** .
2. Their house had a **big pond** and near the bank of the pond there was a **big tree**.
3. In the tree , **a she-ghost** lived in . Her name was '**Sankchinni**' .
4. One day at night Brahman's wife went to the pond to bring water .
5. There **she touched the 'Sankchinni'** .
6. 'Sankchinni' became **angry** and **caught her throat** and **thrust / stuffed her in the tree hole** .
7. Then **Sankchinni took her appearance** and got into / moved into the house.
8. **None could recognise** her then .
9. But next morning , being **a smart and alert / keen observer** , **Brahman's mother** noticed some changes in her daughter-in-law.
10. Mother of Brahman found that her daughter-in-law was **no longer weak as before** . She became **swifter than before**.
11. She started to doubt because one day when the **mother-in-law asked her to bring a container** , 'the ghostly wife **unconsciously stretched her arm to reach the container covering quite a long distance** .
12. So, the mother began to follow / spy 'Sankchinni's' activities **closely but silently** .
13. One day 'Sankchinni' exceeded the mark by **putting her burning legs in the oven while cooking** .
14. Mother confirmed that she was **not her original daughter-in-law** . And told his son .
15. Then they called '**Ojha**' (**an exorcist**) to free themselves from the she-ghost .
16. The 'Ojha' came and used his **trickeries / tricks** .
17. Firstly , he kept some **burnt turmeric under Sankchinni's nose to detect her real identity** .
18. Then eventually , **beaten by shoe** , Sankchinni told **how she came there** and **where was the real Brahmani stuffed in then** . And **promised to leave** the house **immediately** and **would never come back** .
19. The Brahman rescued his wife who was **almost half-dead then** .
20. After that they **lived many years happily with their children** .

Characters of ‘A Ghostly Wife’ :-

1. Sankchinni - She is the main / central character of this story . It is also a popular ‘she-ghost’ in folk-life of Bengal .

She took the Brahmani’s appearance and entered into the Brahman’s house . She showed many supernatural activities unconsciously which were noticed by Brahman’s mother .

2. Brahman - Brahman was a very simple man . He had not notice the changes in his wife before his mother revealed the truth .

3. Brahman’s mother - Brahman’s mother was old. She was also a simple but wise and an alert person. She was a keen observer. She first noticed the changes in the character of her daughter-in-law . She revealed the uncanny supernatural performance of Sankchinni . She noticed the differences in the behaviour of her daughter-in-law .

4. Brahmani - She was a thin , weak and feeble young lady .

5. ‘Ojha’ - in bengali , was an exorcist who was able to free the Brahman family from the grip / clutches / trap of ‘Sankchinni’ by using his professional trickeries and rescued Brahmani .