
The Ghost Brahman

- Lal Behari Dey (1824 - 1892)

1. Many years ago there lived a poor ‘**Non - Kulin’ Brahman** .
2. Being a **poor and not kulin** , he could **not find suitable bride** .
3. At that time , grooms had to give a **good deal of dowry to the Bride’s parents** .
4. Eventually he earned / bagged a great deal of money and got married .
5. After marriage he found **difficulty in maintaining his family** , so decided to **go to city to earn** .
6. On the way to city , he took rest **under a tree where lived a ‘Bhoot’** who took the appearance / outlook / countenance (চেহারা) of the Brahman and entered the Brahman’s house .
7. Neither his wife nor his mother could identify the ghost-Brahman being **exactly same of the original - Brahman** .
8. **After few years** the original Brahman came back .
9. He became surprised to **see his identical / twin in his own house** .
10. **Ghost - Brahman gained the trust** of everyone .
11. Original Brahman went to the king and **asked for justice** .
- 12 . Seeing the both Brahmans the king became confused and failed to decide who was original because both were **indistinguishable / exactly had the same** (হুবহু এক / অভিন্ন) **face** .
13. There lived a **group of cowboys** who often used to play **king-king** .
14. He noticed that the Brahman used to **cry after visiting the king’s court** . He used to cry and mutter for justice .
15. The **king-cowboy wanted to solve the problem** of the Brahman and asked the King’s permission to solve the case in king’s court .
16. The original king allowed to see the case .
17. The king - cowboy told the Brahman **to bring bottle (phial)** (সরু গলাওয়ালা বোতল)
18. Next day all were present at the court and the king cow-boy said that **whoever of them would be able to enter into the bottle would be declared / decided the right person** .
19. Original Brahman got angry after hearing this while ghost-Brahman easily accepted the challenge and **got into the bottle in a shape of an insect** .
20. King cow-boy told the original Brahman **to cocked up / closed the bottle with a cork immediately and asked to throw into the sea** .

21. In this way , the **neat-herd-king / the ‘king cow-boy’** solved the problem .

Q & A

1. How did the Brahman manage to marry ?

Ans - Being a poor and ‘non-kulin’ , the Brahman faced tremendous difficulties to get married . He needed to arrange a good deal of money to give to the parents of the bride and to cover the wedding expense .

He went door to door , begging and wanting , flattering rich people to accumulate the fund for his marriage . After a lot of efforts he managed to succeed in collecting the required money for his marriage .

2. How did the real - Brahman get rid of the Ghost - Brahman ?

Ans - When the real Brahman used to come back from the court of the king everyday without justice or any fruitful result , he used to pass by a place where a group of cow-boys used to play ‘king-king’ . One of the cowboys would be elected as ‘king’ . They also had a court under a tree . One day the king - cowboy noticed the Real - Brahman crying and passing by daily . He gave order to present the real - Brahman in his court . Brahman told the entire story about how the ghost captured / took over his entire household and even his identity . After hearing his whole story , the king - cowboy made a plan . He brought a narrow-necked bottle and told to get into the bottle to prove who was Real - Brahman . Having confidence , the Ghost - Brahman accepted the challenge and used his supernatural abilities . He turned himself into an insect and entered into the bottle. Immediately after that the cowboy corked / closed the bottle tightly and gave it to the Real - Brahman and told him to throw it into the sea . Real - Brahman followed the instructions and thus got rid of the ghost / freed himself from the ghost . In this way , the Brahman repossessed / restored all his possessions and began to live happily with his wife and mother .