

ISSN: 2395-4132

THE EXPRESSION

An International Multi-Disciplinary e-Journal

Bi-Monthly Refereed & Indexed Open Access e-Journal

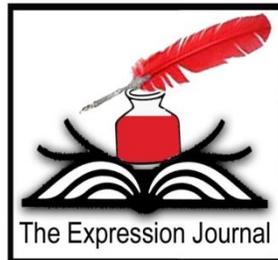


Vol.1 Issue 4 Aug. 2015

Editor-in-Chief : Bijender Singh

Email : editor@expressionjournal.com

www.expressionjournal.com



THE GOLD CHAIN

Fatima Afshan

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



Story

Nancy was the daughter of a poor artisan. She was nine years old when she asked her father for the first time to bring her a gold chain. But her father was not rich enough to buy one for her, still he could not say 'no' to her. He promised her to bring it for her as soon as he could. Nancy was much fascinated with gold chains. Her eyes always got stuck on them whenever she happened to see someone wearing those. Many of her friends wore chains of gold. She used to ask her father frequently if he brought it for her. The poor artisan was in a fix. He could barely earn a living that was enough only to provide food and clothes to his family. He loved Nancy too much. Nancy's wish always echoed in his ears. He became restless. He could not sleep for nights. Once, while working out he saw a man selling artificial jewelry. He had glittering earrings, chains, necklaces etc. Nancy's father asked the price of a chain. It was cheap enough that he could buy it easily. He thought for a moment and bought the golden chain. He came to his house silently. Something was strangling him from inside. He was feeling like a thief. Somehow he could gather courage to call his beloved daughter. Nancy came and her poor father presented her the golden chain. When Nancy saw it, her happiness knew no bounds. She was so thrilled to see the chain. She asked her father to make her adorned with the beautiful chain. Her father asked if she liked it. She nodded positively. She wore that and ran around the room, showed the chain to her mother and hurried out of the house to show the precious chain to all her friends. She called her friends joyfully and showed the chain to them. They came and touched it one by one. The chain broke at once. All of Nancy's friends said that the chain was artificial. Nancy got dejected. She came running towards her home and showed the broken metal piece to her mother. Her mother said that she would bring her a new one. But Nancy was only concerned with the authenticity of the gift of her father. Her mother's silent response was all that she wanted to know. She took the chain and divided it into as many tiny pieces as she could do. Then she gathered the fragments

and kept them on a sheet of paper. She folded the paper so that no piece of the chain might get missed. At night when the artisan came home, Nancy handed over the broken pieces of her dream to him. He felt ashamed and embraced her daughter tightly. Both of them started weeping — one for not being able to fulfill the wishes of his daughter and the other for having betrayed by her own father. This time the artisan did not promise anything else to Nancy. Now her wish of getting a gold chain became a fancy for her. With the passing of time Nancy forgave her father and the bond between them got stronger. As Nancy grew up, she transformed into a beautiful and wise lady. The artisan also got prosperity. He used to bring something for his daughters daily. He cared for them even if he was sick. Nancy's brother got a job abroad and everything changed for good. On the wedding day of Nancy's sister, the artisan took Nancy to a gold shop and asked her to buy anything she liked but she did not buy anything and asked her father to keep a certain amount of money with him as there could be any emergency on that day which was the most important day of her sister's life. The artisan felt very happy to see his daughter's maturity. After some time her brother gifted Nancy diamond earrings and pendent in gold chain. Nancy's mother also brought two sets of gold necklaces for her wedding. By then, Nancy had no desire for any gold jewelry but something was there in the artisan's heart that nobody knew. Because of his deteriorating health, he decided to go on a pilgrimage as he did not hope to live a long life then. He tried to take Nancy with him but she could not go due to late arrival of her passport. Nancy was happy to see her father's wish fulfilled. The whole family accompanied the artisan to the airport. He departed happily. After a month the artisan returned from the pilgrimage. His family arranged for a warm welcome of him. After some refreshment the artisan unpacked his luggage. He brought too many things with him. He started distributing the gifts to all his family members. When it was Nancy's turn, he handed her a beautiful jewelry box containing what?

Obviously a gold chain! However Nancy did not desire that then, still she felt a strange happiness and she was reminded of the gold chain episode of her childhood. She hugged her father dearly. After all it was her long cherished dream that got fulfilled that very day. It seemed to her that she was waiting for that day impatiently. All were happy for a very short time as within a few days the artisan got a stroke that left him paralyzed. He lost his ability to walk, understand and speak properly. He got bedridden and soon learnt to communicate with his tearful eyes. He was no more than a living corpse. The whole family of the artisan tried its level best and provided best treatment for him. Nancy took great care of her father. She prayed at nights for his recovery. But after seventeen months of great suffering, the artisan's soul departed leaving Nancy alone. She was left with some memories of her father and of course a gold chain. Had she ever known that the gold chain will make her fatherless she would not have thought about gold even in her dreams or she would beg God to prolong the fulfillment of that desire of hers.