

IGNITE ME

Gillu was sitting beneath the mango tree witnessing the return march of the flamboyant sun in the west. It was a glorious view. The last golden rays of the sun illuminated the gentle drops of tears over Gillu's lovely cheeks. The ten year old boy couldn't forget the incident of that day.

A school test was conducted that day but Gillu's mark was the least. In other words, he failed. The teacher poured her shower of bad words upon Gillu. She called him 'the unwanted, joblish monkey' in front of the students. Geena who thinks herself as a prodigy teased him the whole day. It was a horrible day.

Gillu's mother was watching her son sitting beneath the tree crying. She felt sorry for punishing him so much. She was at the field behind their house. Gillu saw that his mother was calling him by waving her thin hand. Gillu wiped away the tears and ran towards her. She was waiting with a delicious mango for her son. She was a lovely mother.

Gillu enjoyed the gift from his mother. She patted her son's head.

"Don't cry, my son, she said

"Mom, I am very sorry. I tried, but..."

"I trust you, darling. Let me tell you a small story. Once upon a time there lived a frog who wished to climb a tree. His friends laughed at him. He organised an event for his tree climbing and called everyone to witness it. Everyone came and mocked at him. He began to go near the tree. Every other frogs warned and shouted at him that he couldn't do that. But you know what happened? He climbed the tree."

"How?", Gillu's curiosity arised.

"Actually the climbing frog was deaf. He thought that other frogs were encouraging him. Did you get anything from my story?" Gillu's mother watched at her son for an expected reply.

"I think the frog was lucky", he chuckled

"You mischief", Gillu's mother caught him and tickled him. Both laughed. The sun was setting down watching the loveliest event he saw that day.

x x x

Every students were watching the beautiful girl, ^{who} came with the teacher in class. He introduced her as a new admission to the class. Gillu was looking at her and was attracted by her beautiful smile. She introduced herself. Her name was Lilly who lived in Wakanda village. She was a genius. Gillu liked her smartness. He wished to be her nice friend. He decided to meet her at interval

At interval Gillu approached the girl's side of the class. It was not difficult to find her. She was sitting beside Geena and a bunch of girls were around them.

Aillu approached them. His inferiority complex was almost killing him. Geena saw him coming and called Lilly. She turned and saw Aillu. She smiled at him. Geena stood up suddenly amid the girls.

"Here comes the foolish monkey", Geena chuckled. Every girls laughed at him. Lilly never laughed. Somebody already told her that Aillu was poor scorer. Aillu was shocked by this. He ran out crying. Lilly followed him after scolding Geena for her action. Geena never felt any guilt. Lilly saw the poor boy sitting on veranda.

"Hello, I am Lilly. Don't cry. Forget her words", Lilly's words ~~had~~ had an unusual emotional strength. Aillu and Lilly talked for a long time. Gradually they became best friends. Aillu loved her caring mentality and Lilly loved Aillu's humbleness.

x x x

Lilly was amazed by Aillu's paintings in his study room. It was a holiday and Lilly got a chance to visit her friend's house. She never knew that he was an excellent gouache colour painting artist. She saw that every paintings contained same character, a dark slim boy. She closely examined a painting. She clearly understood that the dark boy was none other than Aillu himself. Another painting contained the same boy crying and other people laughing at him. Lilly understood his problem.

The gloomly and melancholy atmosphere of the room was pierced by the rushing sound of Aillu's footsteps. He introduced his mother to Lilly. Lilly looked and smiled at that poor widow with a semi-sympathetic mind. They talked for a long time.

Aillu led her to her home at the evening. Lilly looked at him.

"You draw nicely. I never knew it", Lilly said

"You saw that! Just time pass. Leave it", Aillu said

"Aillu, you don't understand that you are an eccentric artist. I don't understand why you are kneeling yourself before others"

"I am afraid, Lilly. My future will be a ruined one. I am unwanted."

"Listen me", Lilly put her hand on his shoulder; "Your future is not spoiled. You didn't find the real potential inside you. Be confident."

"How can I rise up?", Aillu felt sad.

"Bring back every pains you had into your thoughts. Mould them into herculian-strong fists and smash the inferiority complex you have inside. Step on them with courage and optimism. Then other's head will fall before you. You should rise by stepping on useless stones others thrown at you. Even if you are not wanted by others I want you", Lilly was like a concerned mother

"You opened my eyes. I will rise high", Aillu held Lilly's palms gently. "You are my fortune". A gentle breeze blew. They continued their walk

x x x

Every body was astounded by Aillu's change. Not only he improved in studies, but he won the National Painting Competition. Geena looked at him with her mouth open.

Everyone participated in the competition. Teacher asked everyone what they ~~de~~ drew.

"I drew the picture of future robotic world", Lilly said.

"I drew my pet's picture", Geena said with pride.

"What did you draw?", teacher asked the champion. Gillu stood up, raised his head, looked at Lilly and turned his head at the teacher. Everyone looked at him.

"I drew my mother's picture", his words contained his infinite love for his mother. He sat down with a huge applause. Lilly looked at him. He smiled at her.

Teacher continued his 'survey'. Gillu fell into deep thought. Suddenly he smiled. His eyes became bright. He told himself:

"That frog was me."