



**Punna Dhai (The Loyal Nurse)**

- Whose picture is it?
- Do you know something about the great sacrifice of her ?

**Let us read the following story to know more about Punna Dhai and her great sacrifice for her motherland .**

Punna Dhai was the loyal maid of Rani Karnavati, wife of Maharana Sangram Singh (Rana Sanga) of Mewar. Before committing 'Jauhar', she called her little son Udai Singh's faithful nurse and said, "Punna, my lord awaits me in 'Heaven'. I entrust the future king of Mewar to your care. You will be his mother here after, not I. Promise me to protect him till he is able to rule his people." Punna accepted the great responsibility with tears in her eyes. "He will be my son hereafter, oh queen!," she said sobbingly.

Prince Vikramajit, an unworthy ruler, was already unpopular in Mewar.

The high spirited and brave men of Mewar could not tolerate his cruelty, insolence and injustice. They murdered him. Banbir, the son of Rana Sanga's brother, Prithviraj, was then choosen to rule during the minority of 'Prince, Udai Singh.' He was both ambitious and cunning. He wanted the throne, so he decided to kill Udai Singh. He was neither noble nor kind. He awaited the approach of night to kill the child (Udai Singh),

Now the night had fallen. Little Udai Singh had just taken his food and gone to bed. Punna had just lulled him into deep sleep, suddenly she heard great uproar in the direction of the women's quarters. An old maid-servant had just arrived to pick up the remains of the prince's meal.



“What is the noise about?”, asked Punna anxiously.

“Banbir, the new ruler, is eager to siege the throne permanently for himself. He wants to murder the young prince, Udai Singh”,whispered the old women in a trembling voice.

Without wasting a moment, Punna took up the little prince. She hid him in a fruit basket. She covered the basket with leaves. She handed it to the woman. She ordered the woman, “Take it and hide it among the bushes of the river bed”. Then she put her own child in the place of Udai Singh. And she was just in time.



Banbir rushed inside the apartment almost the next moment. “Where is the Prince,Udai Singh?”, thundered Banbir.

With a painful heart she pointed to the cradle. With a broken heart she witnessed the cruel dagger thrust mercilessly into the tender body of her own son. Can you imagine her feelings at that time? She saved Udai Singh but sacrificed her son.

Nor could Punna stay to mourn her dead child. As soon as cruel Banbir left the hall, she ran to the river-bed. She carried Udai Singh far into mountains to a spot of safety. Thus Punna Dhai, the loyal nurse, fulfilled her promise to the departed queen.

What a great sacrifice of an unlettered maid-servant for motherland !

### Glossary

<i>jauhar</i>	:	self-immolation of queens and female royals of the Rajput Kingdom when facing defeat at the hands of an enemy
entrust	:	handover for care
insolence	:	insulting behavior
ambitious	:	having a strong desire to have power, etc.
anxiously	:	with uneasiness
mourn	:	to express grief
whispered	:	communicated in a low tone

### Activity I

**A. Tick the correct alternative :**

**1. Punna will always be remembered as a faithful nurse because-**

- a) She was loyal to the ruler, Banbir
- b) She kept her promise to her queen, though at the cost of the life of her own son.



- c) She brought up Udaya Singh with great care.
- d) She killed Vikramajit

2. **“Where is Prince Udai Singh?” this question was put by-**

- a) Banbir to the maid-servant.
- b) Banbir to Punna.
- c) Vikramajit to Punna.
- d) Karnavati to Vikramajit.

3. **The maid-servant informed Punna that Banbir wanted to-**

- a) kill Punna
- b) arrest the maid-servant
- c) murder Udai Singh
- d) kill Punna's son.

**B. Say whether the following statements are True or False. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for false in the brackets.**

- I) Punna Dhai devoted her life to the service of her motherland. (     )
- ii) Prince Vikramajit was a worthy ruler. (     )
- iii) Banbir was both noble and kind. (     )
- iv) It was decided that till Prince Udai Singh came of age, Banbir would be the ruler. (     )
- v) Punna was Udai Singh's faithful nurse. (     )
- vi) Punna hid the prince in a fruit basket, covered with leaves and managed to send him to a safer place. (     )
- vii) Punna had just put her own son in the place of prince Udai Singh when Banbir came in. (     )

C. Answer each of the following question in 20-30 words-

- i) Who was Banbir and what was his ambition?
- ii) What was the alarming news Punna got from the old maid-servant?
- iii) How did Punna manage to send Udai Singh to a safe place?
- iv) What qualities of head and heart are shown by Punna?
- v) What great sacrifice did Punna make to save the prince?
- vi) What was the cruel act witnessed by Punna?
- vii) Why could Punna not stay to mourn the death of her own son?

### Activity II



- A. You have come across the words like hereafter, maid-servant, and river bed. These words are made by putting two words together- here+after, maid + servant and river + bed.

Find some more such words with your friend. Now join two words together from the box below to form a new word-

mother  
butter  
straw  
every  
rain  
grass  
sauce  
house  
black

bow  
pan  
fly  
board  
boat  
where  
berry  
hopper  
land

### Activity III



## A. Read the following sentences carefully-

- i) Banbir was **both** ambitious **and** cunning.
- ii) Banbir wanted throne, **so** he decided to kill Udai Singh.
- iii) Banbir was **neither** noble **nor** kind.
- iv) Punna Dhai saved Udai Singh **but** sacrificed her son.

- 'Both....and', 'so', 'neither.....nor' and 'but' are co-ordinating conjunctions.
- They generally connect sentence elements of the same grammatical class: e.g , nouns with nouns, adverbs with adverbs, phrases with phrases and clauses with clauses.
- We use 'both.....and' when we are talking about two persons, animals, places or things.
- We use 'so' when we express something inferred from another statement or fact.
- We use 'neither.....nor' when we do not mean both.
- We use 'but' when we express contrast between two statements.

Now fill in the blanks using 'both.....and' , 'neither.....nor' , 'so' and 'but' whenever suitable-

- i) Punna Dhai loved.....Udai Singh.....her motherland.
- ii) Prince Vikramajit Singh was.....a good ruler.....a good son.
- iii) Punna Dhai was loyal to Mewar .....people respect her even today.
- iv) Banbir was a ruler ..... he was a cruel man.
- v) Punna Dhai was a common lady.....she performed a great sacrifice.

**B. Read the following sentences carefully-**

- i) **Carry** this basket to the riverbed.
- ii) Hide this basket among the **bushes**.
- iii) **Don't be** greedy like Banbir.

- The above sentences are Imperative sentences.
- The first two sentences are Positive Imperatives.
- The last sentence is a negative Imperative.
- Positive imperatives begin with the first form of the verb.
- Negative Imperatives begin with 'Don't' or 'Do not'.
- These are used to give instructions and for prohibition.

Now fill in the blanks of the following imperative sentences choosing the correct verb from the box given below -

Enrich	Be	follow
Keep	show	lose

- i) .....ready to sacrifice your life for your motherland.
- ii) Don't.....Banbir and Vikramajit Singh.
- iii) .....loyalty for your country as PunnaDhai showed.
- iv) .....your words at any cost as Punna Dhai did.
- v) Don't.....courage even in adverse situations
- vi) .....your life like Punna Dhai.

**Activity IV**

Tell the class about your visit to a historical place -

**Activity V**

Write a short paragraph of 80 words on each of the following-

- i) Heroism of Indian women
- ii) The heroes of Mewar
- iii) Loyalty of Bhama Shah

