

A Strange Wrestling Match

Vijay Singh was a famous wrestler. But boasting was Vijay Singh's weakness. One day he was sitting in the market drinking milk. There were several youngmen surrounding him. Suddenly he boasted, "Why are people afraid of ghosts? I am not. I wish I met a stout ghost.

Thus, he declared his wish to meet a stout ghost. A person told him that ghosts roamed freely in the Haunted Desert. They looted and killed the travellers Vijay Singh felt scared. He felt that his boasting had pushed him into an awkward situation. Outwardly, he showed his disbelief in such fairy (false) tales.

Vijay Singh was told that the Haunted Desert was beyond an ugly black rock on the road to Jaisalmer. Vijay Singh made up his mind to find a ghost in the Haunted Desert. The entire village bade him farewell. An old woman handed him a small packet. Vijay Singh knew that the woman was very wise and not eccentric. Her gift, later on, helped him much to scare the ghost. Vijay Singh started walking. He reached the desert at sunset. It was a moonlit night. The ugly black rock was still a few miles ahead.

The night had advanced. Vijay Singh opened the old woman's packet. It contained a lump of salt and an egg. Vijay Singh stepped into the Haunted Desert. He heard a voice calling him by his name. The voice named itself as his friend, Natwar. It told him that he would get lost in the Desert. Vijay Singh asked Natwar to come near him and show him the way. In fact-Vijay Singh wanted to size up his enemy. Every good wrestler does so before starting the fight.

The ghost appeared. Vijay Singh told the ghost that he had a great desire to meet him. He added that he was just a plain lying ghost. The ghost was taken aback at his insulting words. People generally started back in horror when they met him.

The ghost concluded that Vijay Singh was an unfeeling creature. He was ignorant of the reason why Vijay Singh desired to see him. Vijay Singh called him a stupid ghost. He could not even read other men's thoughts.

Vijay Singh told the ghost that he wanted to fight a ghost. This made the ghost speechless. He could never think of a man who would challenge him to fight. The ghost sized him up. He said, "Vijay Singh, you don't appear all that strong to me."

Vijay Singh told the ghost that he would show him his strength. Wishing to have a psychological victory on the ghost, he said that appearances are often deceptive.