

RUSKY'S DREAM

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The time was around 9.30p.m. All the houses in the roman street of *Mexico* were quite silent and dark, except the door no.7. People could hardly believe that big *Indian family* was living there. They were nice people who minded their own business and followed their tradition. That family was mine with my parents, Grandparents and my little brother. My parents were cute couple and most lovable. They were working in a famous IT company, busy with their daily schedules. So my grandparents took care of us and they were still steeped in their native tradition and culture even in Mexico followed them, and tried to impose it on us too. My brother was a big chatter box and mischievous, who always was playing computer games. He was fully brought up in the *American culture*. But '**Rusky**' it's me, I had grown up in the mixed culture of both *India* and *America*. On that night usually my chatter box brother '**Joshba**' used to narrate his whole day's story to us with a loud voice and he suppressed me. So I got very angry and soon we both started to fight with each other, but my mom and grandma separated us. So fell asleep. The next morning, my mother woke me up, but I didn't wake up. I realized that I was in a different world with a wonderful drama for the past night. As soon as I woke up, I came to my grandma and told what I had seen in the past night.

I was near a mountain, in the little hut it was surrounded by some place belonging to us, with the boundaries. The hut is situated near by the small Zigzag beautiful river. I wanted to cross the small wooden bridge to step in to the hut, I heard the sweet melody of Carnatic song which was sung by two young girls in the temple and with the next step I realized the chill breeze of air smiling me. The house was fully filled with our elder generations wish and faith. The house was built with traditional beliefs. It was very pleasant to step into the house. I felt a vibration and an unknown happiness in myself, when I entered the house. It looked like a kind of a *temple*. I just loved the structure of the house. I saw a *Veena* in the middle end of that room covered with silk cloth. At the other end I saw playing instruments like *Pallanguli*, *Dhayam*, *Kozhi-Kundu* and *Paramapatham* were kept, in a specially designed box. Then I saw the heaven bringing cot that has four wooden legs. In the middle it was connected with the strong thread and it was marvelous to sleep in it. In the kitchen all the utensils were made of *mud* and natural items like *banana leaf* as plates, *coconut shells* as bowls, *papaya leaf* as straw for drinking, etc... Then I came to the front door and said to myself. "I can't believe my eyes".

In the left side I saw amazing beautiful flowers; it was planted in the circular form in the order of small plants to larger plants. In that sequences the four petal different colour flower, *Table rose* and the *Decorative tiny flowers* with the mustard colour and *Bachelor's button* with a delicate colour and *Dry flowers* which looked like artificial flowers was placed first. Then in the

second row wonderful violet, white, pink coloured *December flowers*, the *Cassandra* with the mixed colour [mainly orange coloured petals without fragrance] and the Evening flowers [*four o'clock flower*] which blossoms only in the evening from 4 to 6p.m, its life time is only for 12 hours were placed. Then another evening flower with yellow and white colour called *Wild Chamomile* was arranged. The third row was arrayed with the symbol of love, the Rose plant. There were many varieties of Roses like *Gallica*, *Rosa Rugosa*, *Rosa moschata*, *Rosa elganteria*. Then in the next row I saw the *Hibiscus* of different colours- red, pink and white colour and along with it there was a flower called the *Changing Rose*, its specialty was that it will be white colour in morning, then pale rose in the afternoon and pink in the evening. "How nice it is to change with the day". Then beyond these flowers garden I saw a very tiny pond. I thought I was surrounded by a pond which was full of life with many kinds of fish jumping here and there like musk Deer, with two *Swans* which were the symbol of purity compared with the women's quality, moving and nodding its head like a Tanjore doll. Then a few Ducks, some were eating small fishes and insects and some were moving gracefully like a baby down from the pond. And with the fishes there were *Lotus* and on its leaf were the misty drops from the heaven, with it there were few bell shaped lavender colour Lilies.

In the right side of the house, there were two Dogs, one was brown and white of mixed colour named as *Raja*; another with buzzy hairs in black named as *Rani*. They both were the best friends for me and Joshba. Then there were cute and chubby cheeked *rabbits* in white, the colour of peace. They were playing and one came at its food, the tiny pieces of vegetables. And I saw few *Cock* and *Hens* of different varieties one was tall with a long neck, another one was too small, then the others were varied in their colours, after that, I saw some *Chickens* following their mom, pecking at grains on the ground. There were separate shelters constructed in the form of little houses. There were four *Cows* called '*Gomatha*'. Then there were four *sheep* with their small ones at the side of the cows. The small one was jumping like deer leaping here and there. They were the ones who were feeding the family daily. They were settled in their shed beyond these *Raja*, *Rani*'s little house.

Oh! I'm sorry, I forgot to say something and I missed my *singers*. In front of the house there was a dry tree of 5fts high. It was like a dining table for my singers. There comes all my singers like *Humming birds*, *Hoopoes* *King-Fishers*, *Wood Pecker*, *Passerine*, *Pigeons*, *House Sparrow*, *Parrot*, *Cuckoos*, *Love Birds* and the *Crows* and sometimes the *eagle* also come as guests and have their food. The sounds they produce are amazing. We have never heard such music in our lives. This lovely music was never composed by any music directors till now such an extraordinary music. I tempt to that music.

In the sides of the house, the vegetables and plants were planted for our daily uses such as *Brinjal*, *Ladies Finger*, *Ginger*, *Turmeric*, *Potato*, *Radish*, *Peas*, *Green Bean*, *Spinach*, *squash*. In a small place was grown the *grass* for the cows. At the back of the house, I saw the *Paddy* fields that gave pleasure to my eyes with their greenish yellow stalks loaded with grains for both human beings and cows, the grains like *Bulrush* (or) *Millet Rice* in green with white, the red round *Ragi* and the *Jawar* (flavoring) spread an aroma around everywhere healing at the goodness of nutrition contained in them.

The most beautiful thing was the compound of the house; it was in a square shape. In that square shape one of the "L" shape was the *coconut* tree which were all tall and they were standing in the slanting position. The scene of the mountain house with nearby pond and coconut trees with tender coconuts were amazing to see and one needs a thousand eyes to see them. Another "L" shape tree was surrounded by two *Guava* trees. The *Guava* was red in colour inside-

it was, special: it cures the teeth and lowers our heart beat. The next four to six *Banana* trees, standing like mother with her children, cured stone problem and stress. Then *Custard Apple* tree with fruits like joining the nuts together as a ball which cures T.B. and weakness. Then two *Sapota Plums*, a small brown ball with yummy sweet. Besides these, four big Reddish yellow *Mangotree* with sweet taste which cures skin problem and piles. Then a set of *Papaya* tree which has lot of medicinal uses in it, with a curative property to rectify digestion problem and teeth diseases. Then a solo *Black Cherry* tree which gives dark violet colour fruits which cures body heat and cools the eye. A *Pineapple* tree it seems hard to see but soft and sweet to eat which cures germs in stomach and body pain. Then a set of *Pomegranate* trees with fruits that contain a collection of ruby pearls which gives sour taste first and a very sweet taste after you finish eating. Then in a small place the *creepers like*, the fox catching *Grapes* in a small place, then a *Betelleaf*, *Jackfruit* tree and red fruit of *Common Creeper*.

How wonderful *dream house!* I had in my dream, is it Grandma and Grandpa? I love that very much. I wish to live there with my people. Grandma replied that, it was not a dream, my sweetie; it was a real world in our *Nativeland* where we lived for so many years with lots of nature's creature and beauty.

My mom, asked me to get ready to school. So, I walked away from there sadly. Then we all went back to our regular activities. Grand pa switched on the television for the news update. The main headline news was about the '*Urbanization*'. On seeing those Grandma said that "*I think Rusky's dream will become dream itself*". Our tradition and natural life will soon become only a dream of the past. She prayed to the lord to save the world and all...