
STORY OF SHAKARGANI

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9:21

ERUCH: There's a nice story about Farid. Fariduddudin Attar you know. Not Attar, Shakarganj. So he was a very loved son of his mother. And mother was a very pious lady. Pious in the sense not for the sake of piety or washing hands or hygienic but pious. And she wanted her son to meet God face to face. So she tried to develop that way of life in her son like that. As he grew up she tried to tell him such stories that would bring about an urgent need for him about God you know. Wanting to see God and all that.

So then he said, "Mother how is it possible that I will be able to do it?" She says, "You want something so precious and you just want it for the sake of asking. You don't ask for a thing like that. You have to do, you have to aspire for it." "So what should I do?" She says, "For seven years you should go about begging for food." So when the time came he remembered that and he went out begging for food. He did do it. For seven years he never ate.

PILGRIM 1: Because his mother told him to?

ERUCH: Yeah. And then he came back he told mother that, "Seven years passed by and I remained begging for food and nothing has happened." She said, "Which food you begged for?" "Well for my appetite." She says, "As long as you appetite to fill it. Alright you continue. Then might as well cook food, might as

well eat food. I didn't mean that." He says, "Which food?" "Food for your soul. You have to beg for that." He says, "How do I do it?" She says, "Don't eat for seven years." So he went out. Not eating, never ate. He was reduced to a skeleton. And then he went to mother he says, "What's this?" She says, "But you have been eating water. Don't use water also." And that was the end of him. So I remember her. And he was so desperate by that time he didn't. Of course he left off drinking water and food was no question. So then he was so emaciated that he hung himself upside down in a well. Well you know? Upside down mind you.

PILGRIM 1: Hung himself.

ERUCH: Yeah he hung himself.

PILGRIM 1: The story did not end. He was so emaciated.

ERUCH: But he desperate and emaciated. Nothing mattered with him now. So he was. So in his desperation he hung himself upside down. He tied his feet. He sat on a well. There was some trunk of a tree there. Then he tied his both feet with the this and he just took a somersault and hung himself upside down. He didn't care now to live. Without the sight of the Lord. Without meeting the Lord what's the sense? So then it is said that naturally these vultures and crows they started flying around him. So he. They couldn't find any flesh on his

body. So they started going after the eyes. They were still there. So he addresses these crows and says that, "Oh, you can eat anything that you want of this body but leave the eyes alone because they are still longing to have the sight of the beloved." So eyes are. If eyes can be used properly they are too be used only to see Him. Otherwise the eyes have no worth. That's what Farid Sahab told us.

PILGRIM 1: He was a saint or a poet? Who is this?

ERUCH: He was a poet and at the same time he became a Master later on. Then what happened is of course people saw this all what's happening. So they took care of him. They took him. In the meantime he met the Master and all that and then in his desperation he. Master was there. Master comes automatically when the time comes. There's no need for you to go in search of Master. Master is always in search for His disciple. So when he came. When he was freed from all this torture or that life of desperation then of course he regained his normality and he was sitting one day in the desert area. He was in India. Pattan his place was. So he was sitting. There was a caravan passing by. Traders were passing by. And he was so hungry. All of sudden he had the appetite to have something. So he's asking those caravan people passing by. And they were carrying dates you know sugar that. Nowadays we have these sugar but we have you know those candy like things. Crystallised sugar. What do you'll? Do you'll have crystallised sugar?

PILGRIMS: Rock candy.

ERUCH: Ah yeah. So that and dried dates. Which is not dried dates as you call them.

Kharak we call it. More than the dried dates you know and coconuts and all that. So caravan was passing by of these dried fruits in short. So he asked the caravan leader. He was seated quietly. He couldn't even speak out loudly. He says, "Can I have anything to eat?" So he says, "We don't have anything to eat." "But you'll have camel loads like this. You have got." He says, "No it's just sand and rocks we are carrying." "Oh." So he just didn't say anything. Didn't say anything. "Oh", he said, "Oh'.

Then as soon as they start stepping further a step or two they started settling down on earth because they couldn't carry the load that they were carrying you know. Dried fruits is very light load but that whole volume of that became solid sand and rocks you know. And still in that area you find these things. Dried dates and almonds and what do you call?

PILGRIM 2: They grow. [inaudible]

ERUCH: They are. No not grow. The sand formation is like that. The rock formation are like that. They are all scattered like that you see. They are all scattered there. They couldn't carry further. Farid Saheb. His name was Farid Saheb. Farid Saheb. Shakarganj. And this was true at the time. His name is Shakarganj because it is said sugar, store house of sugar. So because his mother would induce him child. As I told you from his childhood mother would be taking care of him. So trying to bribe the child towards the worship of the Lord. So no sooner he would say a prayer then mother would give a candy to the child, "Have it." So like he would be very happy. He was fond of sugar. He had a sweet tooth. So every time it was like that.

Once it so happened that while he prayed mother forgot to. Then mother said that you'll find it underneath this. So she would put it underneath that. But one day mother forgot to put there. Sugar candy there. So then he prayed. And without asking mother he took out one and he ate. He thought that the mother had kept it. Again he put another one. Another day, another day and every time it would come out

from underneath without his knowing. He thought that the mother put it. And mother started. And mother thought that well he has grown up now he doesn't. He now realises what it is. But he didn't lose the habit of having sugar candy. Every time he would have it. As soon as he would unfold this and he would have one piece. So that's why he's named as Shakarganj. A store house of candy. Farid the Shakarganj.