

SILK ROAD

-NICK MIDDLETON

1. The author started his journey from **RAVU**.

2. **LHAMO**, who was a local girl gifted him a long-sleeved **SHEEPSKIN COAT**, as he was going for **KORA** and she felt his clothes were not warm enough.



3. **TSETAN** was NICK MIDDLETON'S **driver** and along with them was **DANIEL**

[translator] , who was going to **LHASA** so he was tagging along with them to **HOR**.



4. They went along with the **HILLS OF RAVU** where they saw **GAZELLES** who were **NIBBLING the ARID PASTURES** and when they saw them coming, they would rush off.



5. Further on they saw **KYANG** which were the **WILD ASSES** who were galloping and creating a lot of dust.



6. They even saw **SHEPHERDS** on their way who were called **DROKBAS**.



7. They even saw **TENTS OF NOMADS** who had A **BLACK DOG** and the breed was **TIBETAN MASTIFF** which were **FEROCIOUS** and were not **INTIMIDATED** by anyone.



8. As the **CLIMB BECAME STEEPER** and they reached **HIGHER ALTITUDE**, NICK MIDDLETON started feeling its effect and felt the **pressure building in his ears.**

9. They drove to a place where **ROCKS WERE PLACED** IN A MANNER as if to **MARK A MEMORIAL.**

10. They **TOOK TURNS AROUND** AS IT WAS TRADITIONAL PRACTICE.

11. They had lunch inside a tent which has a **DRY SALT LAKE** near it.

12. Labour was at work and was collecting salt. By late afternoon they reached HOR, WHICH WAS A **DESOLATE PLACE** and quite in contrast to the stories that the author had heard.

13. He had heard that **EKAI KAWAGUCHI**, a **JAPANESE MONK** had BURST INTO TEARS upon seeing the lake.

14. **SVEN HEDIN** of **SWEDEN** had felt similar effects of the lake.

15. He considered the STATE OF HOR TO BE UNFORTUNATE because the town was at the SHORE OF LAKE MANSAROVAR, which is considered as the source of **FOUR** great Indian rivers the **INDUS, THE GANGES, THE SUTLEJ AND THE BRAHMAPUTRA.**



16. On the OLD TRADE ROUTE FROM LHASA TO KASHMIR, Daniel got down as he had to go to Lhasa and the author waited for Tsetan to get the puncture repaired.

17. They left for **DARCHEN** and reached by night.

18. The author could hardly sleep as HE FELT RESTLESS, THE **COLD AND HIGH ALTITUDE** kept him awake.

19. He was taken to a TIBETAN DOCTOR by TSETAN.

20. He was given some PELLETS and his perspective changed and he saw a very relaxed town.

21. There were few general stores selling cigarettes, soap and such basic provisions.

22. Men were playing pool and women were washing their hair.

23. He had come a little earlier than the pilgrimage season.

24. He was sitting in a café and trying to think how he would do his kora when he met **NORBU**.

25. He had been **WRITING ACADEMIC PAPERS ABOUT KORA** and its **importance** so he wanted to attempt it once.

26. Nick was happy to have him as his partner but soon realized some problems.

27. Norbu was **FAT AND ALMOST AS ILL-EQUIPPED** as himself.

28. He decided that they should **HIRE YAKS** to carry the luggage and Nick felt it would be best to go with Norbu.



DISCOVERING TUT- THE SAGA CONTINUES

- A.R Williams

GIST

1. King Tut's death a mystery

- King Tut became an emperor when he was only a teenager.
- He died also as a teenager.
- But the reasons of his death are unknown till date.
- Because of this, his body is examined time and again.

2. Damage caused by Howard Carter

- Howard Carter wanted to know more about King Tut and his sudden demise [death].
- He took out his coffin and kept it open under the blazing [too hot] heat of the sun.
- His intention [aim] was to melt the resins which glued [to stick] the body with the coffin.
- But when he could not do so, he tried to chisel [to remove from base] out body parts and caused grave [serious] damage to the body.

3. Things King Tut was buried with.

- King Tut was buried in a three nested coffin.
- He was buried along with gold artefacts, necklace, bracelet, board game, razor, linen undergarments and cases of food and wine.
- Egyptians believed in life after death.
- They believed that the king would need everything even after his death.

4. King Tut's Past

- After Amenhotep III, Amenhotep IV came .
- Amenhotep IV stopped worship of Amun God.
- He started worship of Aten God.
- He changed his name to Akhenaten.
- He changed the capital from Thebes to Amarna.
- He closed temples of Amun God and smashed idols of Amun God.

About the Characters

King Tut: The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries. His preserved body was the first to be scanned.

Howard Carter: The British archaeologist who in 1922 discovered King Tut's tomb. His search caused great damage to the King's preserved body.

Zahi Hawass: The Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. He scanned King Tut's mummy for an accurate forensic reconstruction.

Amenhotep III: King Tut's father or grandfather, was a powerful ruler who ruled for almost four decades.

Amenhotep IV: He promoted the worship of Aten and changed his name to Akhenaten. He outraged the country by attacking Amun, a major God, by smashing his images and closing his temples.

**You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore
- Christopher Columbus.**

**WE ARE NOT AFRAID TO DIE...IF WE CAN ALL BE TOGETHER.
-GORDON COOK & ALAN EAST**

CHARACTERS-

1. Author- Captain of the ship
2. Mary- Author's wife
3. Jonathan- 6-year-old son of the author
4. Suzanne- 7-year-old son of the author
5. Larry Vigil- American crewman picked up from Capetown
6. Herb Siegler- Swiss crewman picked up from Capetown

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- Author wanted to duplicate round the world voyage of James Cook in 1768.
 - Author and his wife, Mary spent sixteen years honing their sea-faring skills in British waters.
 - Their boat- Wavewalker, a 23 metre, 30 ton wooden-hulled beauty, had been professionally built, strong enough to face the roughest weather they could find.
 - Journey started from Plymouth England- July 1976

JANUARY 2, 1977

1. The weather was atrocious; gigantic waves; strong gales.
2. At 6 p.m., there was ominous silence.
3. A wave twice as high as other waves stood just behind the boat.
4. It struck the boat upside down. Another wave made it upright.
5. But lots of water and dried plants entered in it.
6. Decks were smashed; there were gaping holes.
7. Electric pumps were short circuited ; handpumps were choked with debris.
8. Larry and Herb threw water outside the boat with the help of buckets.
9. The Author's head banged against the steering wheel, teeth broke, mouth filled with blood, left ribs broke, he was thrown overboard like a rag doll.
10. His daughter Suzanne had a big bump just above her eyes.



JANUARY 3, 1977

1. One electric pump was found which was working.
2. The auxiliary engine stopped working.
3. There was only one hope to reach any one island in Amsterdam.
4. But those two oceans were so small that they were like pinpricks in the vast ocean.

JANUARY 4, 1977

1. After thirty-six hours, they were able to throw most of the water outside but water continued trickling in.
2. They had their first meal after forty-eight hours.
3. At 4 p.m., there were black clouds again and gigantic waves continued.

JANUARY 5, 1977

1. Situation was still dangerous.
2. Jonathan told that he was not afraid to die when the family was together.
3. The author got determined to save his family at any cost.

JANUARY 6, 1977

1. Suzanne made a card with caricatures of her parents and wrote on it that she loved them a lot.
 2. This boosted the morale of the author and his wife.
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1. The narrator expected to reach the island by 5 p.m.as per his calculation.
 2. Then he dozed off and got up at 6 p.m.
 3. He was afraid that he had missed the island.
 4. But the kids came running to him and told that the island was in front of them.
 5. A tiny island with just twenty-eight inhabitants became the most beautiful in the whole world. for the family.
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Voyage = a sea journey

Set sail = started a sea voyage

Seafaring = travelling on the sea

Wavewalker = was a 23 meter long boat, 30 ton wooden hulled beauty

Crewmen = men working at the ship

Gales = extremely strong winds

Mast = a tall pole in a ship that supports the sails

Jib = a small sail/ a triangular stay sail

Knots = a nautical mile of 6080 feet

Mooring rope = rope with which a boat is fastened with a fixed object

Stern = back end of the ship

Life-raft = life-boat

Hatch = a door in the deck of a ship

Timbers = pieces of wood

Starboard = right side of the ship

Overboard = on the ship

Forestay sail = the front big sail of the ship

Dinghies = small open boats

Anchor = a heavy metal object dropped over the side of a ship to keep it in one place

Bunk = a sleeping berth in a ship

Canvas = a rough cloth

May-day calls = SOS signals for help

SOS = save our souls

VOYAGE	a rough cloth
SET SAIL	a door in the deck of a ship
SEAFARING	right side of the ship
WAVEWALKER	on the ship
CREWMEN	small open boats
GALES	front big sail of the ship
MAST	heavy metal object dropped over side of the ship to keep it one place
JIB	a sleeping berth in a ship
MOORING ROPE	save our souls
STERN	SOS signals for help
HATCH	a sea journey
STARBOARD	back end of the ship
OVERBOARD	started a sea voyage
FORESTAY SAIL	rope with which ship is fastened with a big object
DINGHIES	23 meter ton long boat;30 ton heavy
ANCHOR	a small sail/a triangular stay sail
BUNK	a tall pole in a ship to support sails
CANVAS	extremely strong winds
MAY DAY CALLS	men working at the ship
SOS	travelling on the sea

JANUARY- 2, 1977

1. The weather was _____.
2. There were _____ waves and strong _____.
3. At 6 p.m., there was _____.
4. A _____ attacked the boat turning it _____.
5. Another wave _____.
6. But decks _____; there were _____; water entered; electric pumps _____ and hand pumps _____; _____ threw water outside whole night with _____.
7. The author banged _____; his _____; mouth _____; his _____; he was thrown down _____.
8. _____ took control; _____ was badly wounded _____.
9. The author tried to _____ with _____.
10. No response to _____.

JANUARY 3, 1977

1. Somehow _____ was found working.
2. The _____ stopped working.
3. Only hope was to reach _____ which were like _____.

JANUARY 4, 1977

1. They had their _____ after _____.
2. After _____, they were able to throw water outside but it _____.
3. At 4 p.m., there were _____ and _____ continued.

JANUARY 5, 1977

1. Situation was _____.
2. Jonathan said that _____.
3. The author got _____.

JANUARY 6, 1977

1. Suzanne made _____ with _____ and wrote _____.
2. This _____ of the _____.
3. The narrator expected to _____ but he dozed off and got up at 6 p.m. fearing that _____.
4. but the kids came running to him and told him _____.
5. A tiny island with _____ inhabitants saved their life and became _____.

The Adventure **-Jayant Narlikar**

Q1. Where was Professor Gaitonde going and what was the purpose?

Ans- He was going to give lecture on Catastrophic theory.

Q2. What unfortunate incident happened with him ?

Ans- His car collided with a truck.

Q3. What happened to Prof Gaitonde when the accident took place?

Ans- When his car collided with the truck, the professor went into coma and entered the parallel world.

Q4. Why did Professor Gaitonde enter the parallel world?

Ans- As the professor was going to give lecture on Catastrophic theory, the same thought process was going on his mind when the accident took place. So in coma, he entered the parallel world where his theory proved right.

Q5. Which historical event is mentioned in the story and what was the consequence in the real world?

Ans- The incident is third battle of Panipat in which Vishwas Rao was killed due to gunshot by the Afghans.

Q6. What did Professor Gaitonde find different in the parallel world?

- Anglo Indians.
- Union Jack on carriages.
- Library : catalogue didn't contain his name though he was a historian.
- In the fifth volume , he read the change in the history book.
- Vishwas Rao narrowly escaped the bullet. Marathas won the war; Afghans were chased to Kabul and East India Company restricted to few places.
- In Azad Maidan , there was a gathering without chairman, he sat on the chairman's seat, wanted to speak but was thrown out and he came out of coma.

Q7. How did Rajendra Deshpande explain Professor's transition from the real to the parallel world? [lack of determinism in quantum theory]

- Ans- 1. The behaviour of electrons orbiting the nucleus in an atom cannot be predicted.
2. They can make a jump from high to low energy level and these states can apply to the world too.
3. Professor Gaitonde made a transition from the world we live in to a parallel world.
4. He neither travelled to the past nor to the future. He was in the present but experiencing a different world.

5. At the time of the collision with the truck, he was thinking about the catastrophe theory and its implications in war. Perhaps the neurons in his brain acted as a trigger.

6. Like the electron jumping from one state to another, he made a jump from this world to the parallel world.

7. But only one world can be accepted by us at one time as we live in a unique world with a unique history.

**Q8. How did Rajendra Deshpande explain the twist in the incident?
[catastrophe theory]**


Ans- Catastrophe theory states that a small change in circumstance can bring sudden shift in behaviour.

When the Marathas lost both their leaders-Vishwas Rao and Bhausaheb, the army lost their morale and lost the battle.

But in the parallel world, Prof. Gaitonde saw the bullet missing Vishwas Rao and Marathas winning the battle.

A crucial event gone other way can change the course of history(the bullet missing/hitting the leader).





JAYANT NARLIKAR
(Astrophysicist)



On the 19th of July 1938, Jayant Narlikar is born. He is an Indian astrophysicist. He developed with Sir Fred Hoyle the conformal gravity theory, known as Hoyle-Narlikar theory. It synthesizes Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity and Mach's Principle.

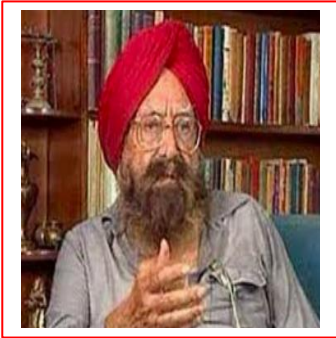
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THINKscienceTODAY

HORNBILL

1. THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY

Written by Khushwant Singh



Khushwant Singh (born Khushal Singh, 2 February 1915 – 20 March 2014) was an Indian author, lawyer, diplomat, journalist and politician. His experience in the 1947 Partition of India inspired him to write *Train to Pakistan* in 1956 (made into film in 1998), which became his most well-known novel.

Born in Punjab, Khushwant Singh was educated in Modern School, New Delhi, St. Stephen's College, and graduated from Government College, Lahore. He earned an LL.B. from King's College London and was called to the bar at the London Inner Temple.

After working as a lawyer in Lahore High Court for eight years, he joined the Indian Foreign Service upon the Independence of India from British Empire in 1947. He was appointed journalist in the All India Radio in 1951, and then moved to the Department of Mass Communications of UNESCO at Paris in 1956.

Khushwant Singh was bestowed with the Padma Bhushan in 1974; however, he returned the award in 1984 in protest against Operation Blue Star in which the Indian Army raided Amritsar. In 2007 he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award in India.

THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY

BACKGROUND:

- This is a biography.
- Khushwant Singh's parents shifted to the city and for sometime left Khushwant Singh, a small boy that time, with his grandmother.
- His grandmother took care of him in every possible way.
- After that, both shifted to the city where their relation underwent changes.
- The story is about grandmother's love, her compassion, her affection, her adjustments, her religious aspect, her satisfied life and much more.
- Grandfather died before.

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF GRANDMOTHER

- ❖ Short, fat, slightly bent; hobbled around in the house with one hand on her waist; other hand counting beads of a rosary
- ❖ Criss-cross of wrinkles on her face running from everywhere to everywhere
- ❖ Her puckered [wrinkled] lips moved in silent prayers; used to wear spotless white saree
- ❖ Her white locks [curly hair] looked like snow on the mountain; there was always a peaceful expression on her face.

2. HOW SHE TOOK CARE OF AUTHOR IN VILLAGE

- ❖ used to wake him up; get him ready for the school
- ❖ chanting prayers as he got ready, so that he would also learn them
- ❖ cleaning his slate; preparing his breakfast
- ❖ accompanying him to the school
- ❖ sitting in the temple reading scriptures
- ❖ bringing him back from the school
- ❖ on the way, giving stale chapatis to stray dogs

3. TURNING POINTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP

- ❖ Author[Khushwant Singh] started going to the school by bus; grandmother didn't accompany him
- ❖ He was taught Math and Science and the grandmother couldn't help him
- ❖ He was given music lessons and grandmother was unhappy as she considered music as the prerogative of harlots and beggars
- ❖ When the author started going to the university, he was given a separate room and the only link of their friendship broke.

4. HOW DID GRANDMOTHER SPEND TIME IN CITY

- ❖ Kept her self busy with her spinning wheel
- ❖ In her prayers and counting beads of her rosary
- ❖ But the happiest half hour of the day for her was feeding bread crumbs to the sparrows
- ❖ Sparrows used to sit on her head and shoulders but she never shooed them away

5. AUTHOR WENT ABROAD AND HIS RETURN

- ❖ Author went abroad for five years and he wondered if he would find grandmother alive when he returned
- ❖ But when he returned, she welcomed him and also collected ladies of the neighborhood and sang songs of homecoming of warriors.
- ❖ It was unusual as she didn't like music.
- ❖ Also first time in her life she didn't pray.

6. GRANDMOTHER'S LAST MOMENTS

- ❖ Grandmother was tired and taken to bed.
- ❖ She stopped talking to everyone but continued chanting her silent prayers and counting beads of her rosary.
- ❖ Then her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her hands, she was no more.

7. REACTION OF SPARROWS

- ❖ The grandmother's body was kept on the floor.
- ❖ Thousands of sparrows sat around her but without chirping.
- ❖ Author's mother felt sorry for them and gave them bread crumbs.
- ❖ But sparrows didn't touch them
- ❖ When grandmother's body was taken away, sparrows flew away silently, as if giving tribute to her, and later the servant cleaned the floor.