



## **The Beggar**

## **Anton Chekhov**

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904), a pioneer of modern short story and drama, was born in the city of Taganrog in southern Russia. Chekhov had humble beginnings-his father was a grocer and his grandfather was a serf. He studied medicine at Moscow University and wrote stories and sketches to support his family financially. His first collection, *Motley Stories* (1886), was well received and it was followed by two more collections, *At Twilight* (1887) and *Stories* (1888). Beginning with *The Seagull* in 1898, Chekhov established himself as a dramatist through his association with the Moscow Art Theatre. Later, *Uncle Vanya* (1899), *The Three Sisters* (1901) and *The Cherry Orchard* (1904) had a great impact on modern European drama. Chekhov wrote nearly 800 short stories that illustrate his gift as a writer of short fiction, and the present selection is one such story.

### **About the Text:**

Completed in 1887, this story explores themes of struggle, kindness, compassion and alcoholism. Chekhov presents the story of a beggar who lies about his identity in order to extract money from a lawyer, but ends up confessing to him instead? It follows the turn his life takes as he comes to work for the lawyer, comes in contact with his cook Olga and finally learns to take charge of his life and becomes a gentleman.

### **Major characters:**

**Lushkov:** He is the beggar of the title of the story. He is poor and drinks too much. He lies to get money or food. Finally, he changes into a gentleman.

**Skvortsov:** He is a lawyer, kind hearted man and have compassion for the poor. When Lushkov begs to him the lawyer does not give alms but tells him to work for him and get money.

**Olga:** She is the cook of the lawyer. Olga is strict by her nature but full of kindness she scolds the beggar for drinking - but she does his work and causes a change in him.

### **Summary:**

One day a beggar asked Skvortsov to help him. He was poor and hungry. He said that he was a schoolmaster but was discontinued because of false witness. Skvortsov felt that he had seen the man earlier. He soon remembered that he had met him earlier. He had told him that he was a student who was expelled from the college. But the beggar said that he did not meet him earlier. He repeated that he was a dismissed schoolmaster. He would also show the documents to prove his point. The lawyer called the beggar a liar and moved with anger. The beggar again asked for help. But the lawyer did not like him to tell lies. So, he said that he would call police and give him to them. The beggar admitted that he was really lying. He worked in the Russian choir. But they dismissed him because of his habit of drinking. He added that if he told the truth, nobody would give him anything. The lawyer advised the



beggar to work somewhere. But the beggar said that he was not liable to work anywhere. Finally, he became ready to chop wood for the Lawyer. The lawyer called the cook. Her name was Olga. He told her to take the beggar into the shed and get some wood chopped by him. The cook took him to the shed. The beggar could not chop woods properly. The lawyer felt pity for the beggar for giving him hard work. But he did it for the beggar's goodness. After an hour, Olga came to his study room and informed him that the wood was chopped. The lawyer gave her money. He told her to give half a rouble to the beggar. He should be told to come every month to chop wood. He would get money for it. The beggar visited every month and did the work. He also did some other small things in the house. One day the van came and took the chopped Wood.

After the departure of the van, the lawyer called the beggar. He gave him one rouble for his work. He added that he did not need to do that hard work. He told him to go to his friend with the note given by him. He would give him the work of copying. He advised him not to drink but work. The beggar started to go. The lawyer felt pleased thinking that he had put a man on the right path. The beggar took the letter (note) and left the lawyer's house. Two years later, the lawyer was buying a ticket for a film at the window of a theatre. Soon a little man with a cap came near the window. He asked for the ticket of the balcony. He was none but Lushkov, the beggar. He told the lawyer that he worked in a notary's office and got 35roubles per month. The lawyer became glad. He said that he was his godson. It was he who had put him on the right way. He had scolded him harshly. He thanked the man for following his advice. Lushkov too thanked the lawyer. He felt grateful to him and also to his cook, Olga. He added that Olga was a noble - hearted woman. It was really Olga who had saved him. The lawyer could not understand anything. He asked him what she did for him. The man told the lawyer the reality. He could not chop wood because of this drunken condition. So, it was Olga who chopped the wood for him. She scolded him for drinking. She cried for his poor condition. Looking at her concern for him, he gave up drinking. Thus, her words and her behaviour brought change in the beggar's life and life style. The beggar confesses the favours of Olga the cook, and gives thanks to her as well as the lawyer and went for the movie. This shows the beggar becomes a gentleman.



## Black Money and the Black Economy

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### About the Text

The extract is a chapter from Demonetisation and Black Money, a book which focuses on India's decision to demonetise its Rs 500 and Rs 1000 currency notes in an attempt to eliminate counterfeit notes, stop terror funding and fight corruption and black money.

#### A) Black money or Black income: -

This chapter introduces the terms 'black money' and black economy and explains how the two interact with a 'white or legal economy. We know that it is illegal to possess' black money. Black money means the income which is earned through two different processes. One of them is the income created from illegal activities such as drugs and corruption. The other is the income got by legal ways but taxes on it are not paid to the government. Thus, black money is the income earned by illegal way or by legal ways without paying taxes.

In India both kinds of black money are found. Illegal ways in the form of corruption are found among government officers and elected leaders. Similarly, tax avoiding too is found both at central and state levels. It is difficult to estimate the amount of black money. The illegal or uncounted income is stored in different kinds of assets. They include real estate i.e. land, gold, 'benami' bank deposits, or even cash. This too comes in the field of black money.

#### A) The Black Economy:

The black economy contains the activities which generate black money. It is also where the black money is employed in its illegal activities. Black money can be further invested in illegal activities like smuggling or bribes to public officers to get saved from crimes. Black money comes from Black Economy. So, if black money is to be removed from the economy, black economy must be destroyed.

#### B) Interchangeability of the Black and the White:

There is constant flow of money between white and black streams. For example, a real estate developer may use his uncounted fund in a variety of ways. One of its part will be paid to the cement seller. However, the cement seller also wishes to hide his sale from the tax authorities. This part of black money then circulates in the black economy. Thus, a flat is built and sold. In this way the black money is turned into white money.

The second part of the black income of the real estate developer can be used to buy gold. It is not reported to the tax authority. The most part of the income is kept in cash. These remains as uncounted assets. The cement seller can use his cash income to pay the wages of



his workers and servants in cash. He would not mention it in his books of account. The workers may use the cash to buy things like groceries and get receipts on which tax is shown. Thus, the black money of the cement trader is turned into white money. This interchanging of black and white money creates problems in finding out black money. Someone may take his black money in a foreign country. He will invest them in a bank or in an asset. Then he can bring the money back to India through a legal way. He can invest it as legal money In Indian economy. This called the round tripping of black money.

### **C) Forms (kinds) of Generation (creation) of Black Money:**

Various ways in which black money is produced are given in the 2012 White Paper. They are as follows.

- i) The 'Crude Way': The first way is called crude way. In its income generated from illegal activities are hidden from the law.
- ii) The Sophisticated Way: Another way is called the more sophisticated way. It is the activity of generating income from legal activities that is not reported to the tax authorities.

These ways of generating black money have been acquiring an increasing sophistication in financial practices. They include transfer pricing in trade, money laundering in trade and offshore financial centres. The White Paper also speaks about some sectors as more vulnerable (changing) to the creation of black money. They are as follows:

- a) land and real estate transactions
- b) Gold Jewellery transactions
- c) financial market transactions
- d) public procurement
- e) the non- profit sectors
- d) the informal sector with its cash economy.



## THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE ROSE

### Introduction:

Oscar Wilde is a great Irish dramatist of modern age. He is famous for his great wit and brilliance. Wilde tried his hands at various literary activities but he is world-wide recognized for his plays like *The Importance of Being Ernest*, *She Stoops to Conquer* etc. Wilde wrote *The Picture of Dorian Gray* his only novel. Wilde has written fine short stories also. "The Nightingale and the Rose is one of such stories. It is about love.

**Central Theme of the Story-** The main theme of the story is true love. The poet has expressed contrasting views about love. Some people take love as a spiritual thing and even die for it. On the contrary, some people are haunted by material things. The young lover in the story weeps to win the heart of his beloved. He becomes very happy to get a red rose. But his beloved breaks his heart for the material costly things given by another young man. The story is mainly about a nightingale and a rose. They try to help the young man to win the heart of his beloved.

### Characters of the Story

1. The Student: - He is a young man He is in love with the Professor's daughter. He offers rose to her.
2. The Professor's Daughter: -She is the beloved of the student but then rejects his rose.
3. The Nightingale: - The Nightingale is major characters in the short story. She helps the young student to get a red rose by sacrificing her life.
4. The Rose Tree: - It given the student a red rose by taking a toll of the Nightingale's life.
5. The Rose Trees, The Lizard, the Daisy and the Butterfly:-These are minor characters in the short story.
6. The Chamberlain's Nephew: - A rich young man. He gives the professor's Daughter some real jewels.

### Summary: -

The Nightingale and the Rose is a short story about love. Wilde presents that there was a student. He was in love with the Professor's daughter. Once she told him that she would dance with him in Ball Dance arranged by the Prince. The young student becomes very happy. He imagines that he would be with his beloved throughout the night. He also imagines that he would hold her in his arms. However, the beloved demands a red rose. Unfortunately, there was no red rose in the student's garden. The boy gets nervous and expresses his agony.



The Nightingale heard his problem. She thought that he was a true lover. The Nightingale has romantic notions about love. She thought that love is a wonderful thing. What she sings about love hurts the student. What joy is to her is pain for him. The young student said loudly that the Professor's Daughter will not dance with him because he will not be able to give her a red rose. Saying this he threw himself down on the grass and started weeping.

The Green Lizard and the Butterfly could not understand why the boy was crying. Daisy asked the Nightingale why the boy was crying. The Nightingale told her that he was crying because he wanted a red rose to offer his beloved and it is not available in the garden. They laughed at the boy. But the Nightingale came to know the cause of the student's sorrow. She sat silent in the Oak tree and thought about the boy.

Then the Nightingale decided to help the young student. She flew over the garden. She saw a rose plant. She went to the rose - tree and asked it to give her a red rose. But the tree had only white roses. So, he told the Nightingale to go to his brother who is at old sun-dial. The Nightingale went to the sundial and met the brother of the white rose tree. She demands a red rose. She would sing a sweet song in return. However, the tree told her that his roses are yellow. But he told her to go to his brother who grows beneath the window of the house of the

student. The Nightingale went there. She asked for a red rose and she will sing the sweetest song for him. The tree told her that he grows red roses no doubt. But it is the winter season and it has chilled the veins of the rose - tree.

The Nightingale tells the tree that she wanted only one red rose. The tree said that there is one way but it is terrible. So, he will not tell it to her. However, the Nightingale said that she is not afraid of anything. So, he should tell about the way of getting a red rose. The tree told her that she would create a red rose on him. She would have to sing with her chest against his thorn. She will have to do it for the night. The thorn will get her blood in the body of the tree. Finally, the thorn would pierce the heart of the Nightingale. It would create a red rose but at the cost of the death of the Nightingale. The Nightingale said that Death is a big price for a red rose. Life is dear to everyone. But Love is better than Life. Her heart is nothing as compared to a man's heart. The Nightingale then flew all over the garden. The young student was still lying on the grass. Tears had not yet dried.

The Nightingale said to the student:" Be happy young man. You will have your red rose. I will make it out of music by moonlight. I will then colour it with my own heart's blood. What I want in return is only that you should be a true lover. The young boy listened to the Nightingale and stood up. But he could not understand what she said. However, the Oak - tree understood everything she said. She had built a nest in his branches. He was very fond of her. He would feel lonely after her death. The Nightingale sang for the Oak-tree as he wished her to sing one song for him. The young boy only wondered at the singing of the nightingale. He went into his house, lay on his bed, thought about his beloved and slept.

When the moon rose, the Nightingale flew to the Rose-tree. For the whole night she sang with her breast against the thorn of the Rose - tree. The thorn went deeper and deeper into her breast. She sang a love song. And there appeared a beautiful rose at the branch of the Rose -tree. But it was pale not red. So, the Nightingale pressed her breast closer to the thorn. The rose should be completed before the sun - rise. The thorn had not yet reached the heart of the Nightingale. So, the heart of the rose still remained white. Finally, the thorn touched her



heart and she cried loudly. And there appeared a red rose. But the Nightingale's voice became fainter. The white Moon heard her song. The Rose - tree said, Look, Nightingale. The red rose is completed. But there was no reply. The Nightingale was lying dead in the grass with the thorn in her heart.

At noon, the young student woke up. When he opened the window of his bedroom, he saw the red rose. He wondered to see the beautiful rose. He plucked it and almost ran to the Professor's house. The Daughter was sitting in the door way with her little dog. He told her that she had said that he would dance her if he brought a rose. So, he had brought one. It was the most beautiful rose in the world. But the girl said with anger that it may not match her dress. In the same way, the Chamberlain's Nephew had sent her some real jewels. All know that jewels are costlier than flowers. The student became sad. He called the girl an ungrateful woman. He threw the flower into the street. A cart -wheel went upon it. The girl called the student a rude man. She added that he was a poor fellow. She got up and went into her house. The student too turned to go. While going away he said that love is a silly thing. It does not prove anything. It makes us to believe those things which are not true. It is unpractical. And in this age to be practical is everything. He decided to go back and study Philosophy and Metaphysics. He went home and really began to read a big dusty book.

Thus, the writer has expressed two different views to love. One is spiritual. It is represented by the view of the Nightingale. The other is material. It is represented by the Professor's daughter. But the writer wanted focus on the sacrifice of the Nightingale for the



## 4. Muhammad Yunus: An Economics for Peace

Farida Khan

### Introduction:

Dr. Farida Khan has a background in International Trade Policy and works on development in South Asia, primarily on Bangladesh. She has worked on the topics related to capital goods, micro-credit, gender, and more recently environmental issues. She is the Professor of Economics and Co-Director, Centre for International Studies, University of Wisconsin - Parkside, USA. She works for economic development in South Asia. The story is about Muhammad Yunus, the economist who has made great efforts for peace and got Nobel Prize.

### About the Text:

This is a remarkable story about the great efforts made by the economist for peace, Muhammad Yunus, in the building of a new economy with micro- credit systems. The story tells that how Muhammad Yunus was able to reduce the evils of poverty.

### Summary:

Muhammad Yunus: An Economist for Peace:

Muhammad Yunus is the Bangladeshi microcredit pioneer. He is the first economist to win Nobel Peace Prize. He has got it for his Grameen Bank which has put development economics at the service of women's empowerment. It is really wonderful that economics cultivates peace. The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize was given to Yunus and the Grameen Bank for their efforts to create economic and social development from below (level).

### A Banker to the Poor:

Muhammad Yunus belongs to Bangladesh and he came to Bangladesh after completing his doctorate in Economics and teaching at a university in United States. He was guided by Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen who was a great thinker. He had created " Evolutionary Economics ". He told Yunus that without the human side Economics is just as hard and dry as a stone". After coming to Bangladesh in 1972, he started teaching in Chittagong University. During the 1974 famine, Yunus was much troubled by the difference between academic Economics and the reality of people dying of hunger. Then Yunus meets Sufia Khatun a local woman from the village named Jobra. She used to weave and sell cane stools. She had to borrow money for her work from the local money lender. So, she was not able to make a profit in her small business. Yunus decided to increase her income. He lent money to the woman and forty-one other persons for their work. To their wonder, that time, the woman got 25 dollars and she was trembling with happiness. She had never seen such a big amount in her life. She was advised to put the money in a safe place so that it may not be stolen. The above incident led to the establishment of an innovative group lending system.



interest free loans were given and the group members were collectively responsible for repayment of the loans. In the year 1976, the Grameen Bank was formally founded. It was owned by its borrowers. It was notable that 95% clients of the Bank were women who owned less than half an acre of lands. The bank helped to empower women. However, the males and so-called religious leaders opposed to the working of the Grameen Bank. But they could not do anything. The Bank was started with the intention of raising social consciousness. It soon became an instance of economics confronting power.

The success of the Grameen Bank was replicated in rural Arkansas when Bill Clinton was the governor. Since 1970's, the micro credit idea has been used everywhere. It was originated with the Grameen Bank. Probably, in all the developing countries in the world, microcredit has been tried as a measure to counter poverty. Even the World Bank funds many schemes regarding microcredit all over the world. Professor Yunus thus has spread the idea of micro credit far and wide. He has tirelessly advocated the notion that credit is human right. The Grameen Bank now provides various facilities to other areas too. These include business loans, information technology to rural women, introduction of pension schemes and so on. Muhammad Yunus is now a remarkable development economist. This is mainly because of

his work of finding and applying the right business ideas for rural Bangladesh. His efforts to reduce poverty have won him the 2006 Nobel Prize in Economics.

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In this way Muhammad Yunus has shown that with the proper planning and implementation we can reduce poverty and make progress of the country.



## 1. UP-HILL

Christina Rossetti

### Introduction: -

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894) was the sister of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, the influential Pre-Raphaelite artist and poet. She started writing from a very young age, and, as she grew older, experimented with many poetic forms. Her most well-known book of verse, *Goblin Market and Other Poems*, received immediate and widespread critical acclaim. Within a few years she became important female poets of her time.

### About the poem:

Rossetti's allegorical poem *Up Hill* compares life to a painful journey. The poem is in a question-answer form: one voice asks the questions about the journey, while a second voice provides answers to them. It is a metaphoric poem. We learn that the journey will be long, difficult and full of hardship; but we will be rewarded with a peaceful resting place at the end. It is a conversation between the traveller and the guide. The poem is typical of Victorian religious poetry, which counsel goodness, duty and sacrifice in the midst of suffering, and promises a heavenly reward in return.

### Title of the Poem:

The poetess wants to go to the inn (hotel) on the hill. So, the poem has a title like this which is come in very first line of the poem.

### Central Idea of the Poem:

The poem is about the conversation between two persons. However, metaphorically the poem is about life and death.

### Summary of the poem:

The poetess asks her guide whether the road winds up hill completely. The guide replies that it goes uphill till the end. The poetess asks the guide whether the journey will take the whole day. The guide agrees. The poetess (traveller) asks the other persons if there is lodging there. The other person agrees again. He adds that she cannot miss the inn. When asked, the other person informs the poetess traveller that she will meet there the persons who have already gone there. She will be received by them warmly. She will find comfort there. It will be the sum of her labour. Finally, the poetess traveller asks the guide whether all of them will get beds. The guide replies that all who come there get beds.



### Poetic devices:

- i) Style of the poem - common style for poetry
- ii) Rhyming pattern- ab ab
- iii) Figures of speech- The poetess has used metaphor e.g. **“Does the road wind upAll the way? Yes, to the very end.”** This is metaphorical poem.
- iv) Form of the poem – dialogic form

