

Premchand: *Pūs kī rāt*

[From Qamar Ra'īs, *Premchand ke numā'indā afsāne*, Educational Book House, Aligarh, 1981, pp. 110-118. The story was first published in the Hindi journal *Mādhurī*, May, 1930]

[English translation from the Hindi version by David Rubin, *The world of Premchand*, George Allen and Unwin, London, 1969, pp. 53-58; also by P. C. Gupta, *A handful of wheat and other stories*, People's Publishing House, New Delhi, 1955, Madan Gopal, *The shroud and 20 other stories*, Sagar, New Delhi, 1972, Nandini Nopay and P. Lal, *Twenty four stories by Premchand*, Vikas, New Delhi, 1980.]

[p.110]

pūs	m. a month in the Hindu solar calendar corresponding to December-January
halkū	personal name
śahnā	m. landlord
gardan	f. neck
chūṭnā	to be released, let off
munnī	personal name
bahū	f. daughter-in-law; bride
jhārū	f. broom
jhārū laganā	to sweep
pīche phirnā	to turn around
kambal	m. blanket
māgh	m. a month in the Hindu solar calendar corresponding to January-February
khet	m. field
kaṭnā	(of time, etc.) pass; to be cut off
fasl	f. crop, harvest
cup	silent
dīl	m. heart
sir	m. head
sir par ānā	to be on top of
baḡair	without
mānnā	to agree (to)
ghuṛkī	f. rebuke, admonition
gālī	f. abuse, swear word
gāliyañ sunānā	to abuse, swear at
balā	f. affliction, calamity; evil spirit; awful thing or person
balā se	'it does not matter' (cf. <i>merī balā se</i> , lit. it concerns my evil spirit', it does not concern me)
jārā	m. cold, winter
ṭalnā	to withdraw, avert
sir se balā ṭalnā	to escape a calamity
jism	m. body

galat  
 sābit karnā  
 xušāmdānā  
 bacnā  
 tadbīr  
 haṭnā  
 terhā  
 āṅkh terhī karnā  
 kar cuke dūsri tadbīr  
 xairāt  
 bāqī  
 adā honā  
 khetī

wrong  
 to prove  
 m. tone  
 to be spared, escape from  
 f. plan, course of action  
 to draw back  
 crooked  
 to glower  
 'no other plan of yours is going to work'  
 f. charity  
 m. adj. remainder; remaining, outstanding  
 to be paid  
 f. farming

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paidāvār  
 calo chuṭṭī huī  
 cukānā  
 janm  
 janm honā  
 bāz ānā  
 aisī khetī se to bāz āe  
  
 ranjīdā  
 gāliyān khānā  
 tannā  
 bhañveñ  
 ḍhīlā paṛnā  
 hilānā  
 dil halā denevālī saccāī  
 kī jānab  
 tiktikī  
 tiktikī bāñdhnā  
 tāq  
 mazdūrī  
 sukh  
 sukh se  
 ek roṭī  
 cain  
 cain se  
 dhauñs  
 kisī kī dhaiñs to nā rahegī  
 mazdūrī kar ke lāo  
  
 jhoñkanā  
  
 us par...dhauñs alag  
 kalejā

f. produce of land  
 'that is it, that is the end of the matter'  
 to pay off  
 m. birth  
 to be born  
 to refrain from  
 'we had better keep away from this kind of farming'  
 sad; offended  
 to be abused  
 to be stretched  
 f.pl. eyebrows (sg. bhañ)  
 to slacken  
 to shake, jolt  
 'heart-shattering truth'  
 towards  
 f. stare, gaze  
 to stare  
 m. a niche in a wall  
 f. manual labour  
 m. happiness, easiness  
 easily  
 one meal (a day)  
 m. peace, tranquillity  
 comfortably  
 f. bullying  
 'at least, nobody will be able to threaten us'  
 'whatever [money] you bring in working as a hired labourer'  
 throw fuel in an oven; waste over useless venture  
 'on top of that you put up with this bullying'  
 m. heart

kaṭnā	to cut, trim; (of time) pass
ek ek paisā kāṭ kar	'having saved each piece with great difficulty'
jamā karna	to save, accumulate
qadam	m. step
ḍimāg	m. brain
nādārī	f. poverty
bojh	m. weight
dabnā	to be weighed down
tārā	m. star
ṭhitharnā	to shiver
ūkh	f. sugar-cane
pattī	f. leaf (of a plant, tree)
chatrī	f. umbrella
bāñs	m. bamboo
khaṭolā	m. cot
gārḥā	m. a coarse, thick cloth
cādar	f. sheet
oṛhnā	to cover body with sheet
kāñpnā	to shiver
peṭ	m. stomach
kūñ kūñ karnā	to make a whimpering noise
ghuṭnā	m. knee

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cimṭānā	to cause to stick
payāl	f. straw
leṭnā	to lie down
ab khā sardī	'now feel cold, you have to put up with cold'
halvā	m. a kind of pudding
halvā pūrī	m. fine food
nānī	f. maternal grandmother
ab...nānī ke nām ko	'now weep remembering your maternal grandmother'
dum	f. tail
hilānā	to wag, shake
jamāī (jamhāī)	f. yawn
jamāī (jamhāī) lenā	to yawn
cup ho jānā	to go quiet
mālik	m. master, employer, boss
pīṭh	f. back
sahlānā	to pat, caress
ṭhanḍe ho jāoge	'[you] will become cold, [you] will die'
rāñḍ	f. widow; a term of abuse, slut
pachvā	western
barf	f. snow, ice
cilam	f. that part of the <i>huqqā</i> which holds tobacco and the fire
cilam bharnā	to fill the <i>huqaā</i> bowl with tobacco and fire

mazâ  
ye khetî kâ mazâ hai  
bhagvân  
bhagvân kuch...ghabrâ kar bhāge

gaddâ  
lihâf  
majâl  
majâl hai ke  
guzar honâ  
taqdîr  
xûbî  
mazâ lûtñâ  
garhâ  
zarâ sî  
âg  
jarâ to kyâ jatâ hai  
man  
bahal janâ  
panjâ  
sânhs  
tai karnâ  
câhe jo kuch bhî ho  
ab kî [bâr]  
lamhâ  
karvat  
bhût  
kî mânand  
châtî  
dabânâ  
jab...nâ rahâ gayâ  
thapthapânâ  
god  
badbû  
jannat  
rûh  
pâk  
nafrat

m. pleasure, enjoyment  
'this is the pleasure, reward, of farming'  
m. God  
'the ways of the God are such that if the cold  
visits those (who are fortunate) it makes a  
hasty retreat repulsed by the heat', i.e. the rich  
are so well protected that the cold cannot  
affect them  
m. mattress  
m. quilt  
f. power, strength, authority  
'what power has he?'  
to pass by  
f. destiny  
f. quality, characteristic  
to enjoy oneself  
m. pit  
a little  
f. fire  
'the cold really does not go away'  
m. mind  
to be amused, diverted, cheered  
m. paw; the hand with the fingers extended  
f. breath  
to decide  
'whatever else may happen'  
this time  
m. moment  
f. position of lying or sleeping on the side  
m. ghost  
like  
f. chest  
to press down  
'when he would no longer bear it'  
to pat  
f. lap  
f. smell  
f. heaven  
f. the soul, spirit  
pure, innocent, holy  
f. hatred, contempt

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garîbî  
parešân  
anokhî  
zarâ  
haqîqî

f. poverty  
troubled  
unique  
m. atom, particle  
true

rošnī	f. light
munavvar honā	to be illuminated
asnā	m. middle, interim period, meantime
isī asnā meñ	at this very moment
āhaṭ	f. footfall
xālis	pure
rūhānīyat	f. spirituality
tāqat	f. strength
jhoñkā	m. gust of wind
nācīz	insignificant
jhapatnā	to go quickly
jhapaṭ kar uṭhā	'got up quickly'
chappar	m. hut
bhauñknā	to bark
puckārnā	to coax by making noise with lips
farz	m. duty
adā'igī	f. fulfilment; payment
becain	restless
xūn	m. blood
munjamid	frozen, congealed
sitārā	m. star
qutb	m. the polar star
nisf	half
daurā	m. journey
to kahīñ	only then
bāḡ	m. orchard, grove
paṭjhar	m. autumn
pattā	m. leaf
ḍher	m. heap
baṭornā	to gather, collect
tāpnā	warm oneself over fire
arhar	f. a kind of pulse
paudā	m. plant
ukhañnā	to pull out, uproot

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sulagnā	to burn
oplā (uplā)	m. dried cake of cowdung
ṭāñṭā	strong, firm
ittifāq	m. agreement
ghaṭā ṭop	pitch dark
daraxt	m. tree
šabnam	f. dew
būñd	f. drop
ṭap ṭap	in continuous drops
ṭapaknā	to drop (as a liquid or as ripe fruit)
yakāyak	suddenly
mehñdī (meñhdī)	f. henna

xuṣbū  
mahak  
haḍḍī  
cacornā

galnā  
naṅge...gale jate the  
alā'o  
xāk  
lo (lau)  
'ālī šān  
lāintihā  
saṅbhālnā  
tarīkī  
athāh  
nā'o  
baḡal  
phailānā  
goyā  
lalkārnā  
jī  
bepāyān  
fath  
chipānā (chipānā)

f. fragrance  
f. fragrance  
f. bone  
to suck (esp. a dry thing from which nothing  
can be obtained)  
to dissolve; decay; be frozen  
'the bare feet were freezing'  
m. bonfire  
f. ashes  
f. flame  
magnificent  
limitless  
to support, take care of  
f. darkness  
bottomless  
f. boat  
f. armpit  
to stretch out  
as if  
to challenge  
m. mind  
boundless  
f. victory  
to hide

[p.115]

sūjhnā  
nahīn to  
pār karnā  
nikal jānā  
davā  
xauf zadā  
nigāh  
varnā  
larāī  
uchalnā  
sāf  
lapaṭ  
lapaṭ lagnā  
calo calo  
is kī [tarah] nahīn  
kūdnā  
us pār  
chānā  
rākh  
gīt  
gungunānā  
daf'atan

to occur to  
otherwise  
to cross over  
to get away, escape  
f. medicine  
frightened  
f. look, glance  
otherwise, or else  
f. row, fight, quarrel  
to jump  
without difficulty; clean  
f. flame, blaze  
to be singed  
come! come! (this won't do)  
'not like this'  
to jump  
on that side  
to spread  
f. ashes  
m. song  
to hum  
suddenly

gol  
nīl gāe  
carnā

m. herd  
m. a species of deer  
to graze

[p.116]

jabrā ke kote hue  
nocnā  
vahm  
dhokā  
āvāz lagānā  
car car  
freb  
zahar  
garmānā  
garmāyā huā  
pālā  
jārā pālā  
bhagānā  
pichā karnā  
cillānā  
zālim  
satyā nās karnā  
pakkā  
irādā  
cubhnā  
cubhne vālā  
bichū  
ḍaṅk  
bujhnā  
bujhtā huā alā'o  
kurednā  
galā  
galā phārnā  
safāyā  
xāmoš  
afsurdagī  
rassī  
jakarnā  
tum kahān ākar mar gae  
caupaṭ honā

'while jabrā is around'  
to pull apart  
m. imagining  
m. deception, delusion, anything imaginary  
to call out  
f. the munching sound  
m. deception  
m. poison  
to become warm  
warm  
m. frost  
m. cold and frost  
to cause to flee, run  
to chase, follow  
to shout  
cruel  
to destroy  
firm  
m. resolve  
to be pierced  
piercing  
m. scorpion  
m. sting  
to be put out  
'the dying bonfire'  
to scratch  
m. throat  
lit. 'to rend the throat', to bellow, bawl  
m. clean sweep, destruction  
silent  
f. numbness, dejection, depression  
f. string  
to fasten, tighten  
'you are lying there as if you were dead'  
to be ruined

[p.118]

mandiyā  
bahānā  
tujhe...khet kī parī hai  
ḍard  
ḍāṅḍā

f. hut  
m. excuse  
'all you can think of is your field'  
m. pain  
m. field-boundary

cit	lying flat on the back
badan	m. body
udāsī	f. sadness
fikr mand	worried
majūri (mazdūri)	f. manual labour
māl gujārī (māl guzārī)	f. land revenue
lagān	m. land revenue
olā	m. hailstone
māyūsānā	sad
durgat	f. misery
bigarṇā	to spoil