

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

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'

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

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

jhoñkanā

us par...dhauñs alag
 kalejā

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
sâñs
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
jhapaṭnā	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
ukhaṛnā	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
xāmoṣ
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