



## RESEARCH PAPER

### Sociological and Cultural Implications of Folk Tales: A Case Study of Shina Society

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## ABSTRACT

This research paper aims to explore the sociological and cultural implications of folk tales in the context of Shina community. The prime objective of the research was to investigate how folk tales influence Shina community and shape the behavior of people so that people, along with entertainment, can learn folk wisdom from folk tales and shape their lives. The study adopts a qualitative approach where data is collected from the book 'Dadai Sheloky', and then translated into English for the research purpose. The data were analyzed through Braun and Clarke's Six-phase Thematic Analysis Model. This model has six steps for the analysis of data and production of themes. The six meticulously selected Shina folk tales from the book Dadai Sheloky for research are, 1. Punishment for Stupidity, 2. An Honest King, 3. Dudushir Gao, 4. Pali Ga Mindok Khatoon, 5. The King and the Beggar, 6. Barayo Bal. The results indicate that traditional stories hold unspoken messages and lessons embedded within their sociological and cultural contexts. This study plays a crucial role in examining folk tales overall, with a specific focus on the Shina community. Folk tales serve as vital source of cultural and historical insights, and inspire us to aspire towards a better future guided by moral values.

**KEYWORDS** Folk Tales, Morals, Thematic Analysis, Culture

## Introduction

The *Shina* are an ethnic group residing in the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Northern Pakistan. The *Shina* people have a rich and unique cultural heritage that can be traced back thousands of years. The article "Traces of Mirativity in *Shina*" by Elena Bashir sheds light on the society and history of the *Shina* people. They are believed to be descendants of the ancient Dardic tribes and have faced various influences from neighboring civilizations over time. The *Shina* society is predominantly agrarian, with farming being the primary occupation. The region's geographical isolation and harsh climatic conditions have contributed to the preservation of their ancient traditions and lifestyle (Bashir, 2010).

Currently, the *Shina* society remains deeply rooted in its cultural traditions, which include language, arts, crafts, music, and folklore. They have a strong sense of communal identity and are known for their hospitality and close-knit communities. However, like many other indigenous communities, they face challenges related to socioeconomic development, preservation of their cultural heritage, and political representation.

Folk tales are a form of traditional story telling that have been transmitted over generations. These stories are typically rooted in cultural beliefs and values that have been shaped by the experiences, beliefs, and practices of specific communities. Folk tales serve as a tool for cultural transmission and serve as a means of expressing cultural identity.

*Shina* folk tales are a rich source of cultural heritage and provide insights into the values and beliefs of the *Shina* people of Gilgit Baltistan. Thematic analysis of a few selected *Shina* folk tales reveal several recurring themes that shed light on the understanding of the world and social norms in *Shina* culture.

### Literature Review

In the realm of literature and cultural studies, folktales serves as timeless vessels of collective imagination, reflecting the values, norms, and ideologies of different communities across time and space. As scholars have recognized, folktales transcend their role as mere entertainment, serving as vital repositories of cultural heritage and socio-cultural insights. Folktales have interested researchers for a long time. They study these stories to understand how they relate to a society's norms, values, traditions, and culture. Even though researchers have studied folktales for many years, there are still some societies like the *Shina* society that haven't been fully explored. *Shina* folktales, like others, show the good parts of *Shina* society, and are intertwined with social structures, identity formation, power dynamics, and intercultural exchanges.

Folktales can serve as a valuable source of insight into different cultures' beliefs and attitudes towards the environment and can inspire new approaches to environmental education and conservation. Folktales are not just entertainment, but also a way of transmitting cultural values and attitudes towards the environment. The study in the article, "The Concept of Environment in Folktales from Different Cultures: Analysis of Content and Visuals" by Berat draws on a sample of 24 folktales from Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, and analyzes how the environment is portrayed in terms of its beauty, abundance, scarcity, destruction, and restoration. Berat also examines how the environment is visualized in these folktales, noting the use of iconic elements such as trees, animals, rivers, and mountains. The study finds that the representation of environment in folktales is shaped by the cultural heritage of each society, as well as by the socio-economic conditions in which the tales were created (Berat AHI, 2014).

In his article, Berat explores the themes of environment and their portrayal in folktales from various cultures. The author uses a theoretical framework known as eco-criticism to analyze the content and visuals of these folktales. The primary theme of the article is the representation of the environment in folktales. The author examines how different cultures depict nature, landscapes, animals, and the interrelationships between humans and the natural world in their folktales. The article aims to analyze the underlying messages, values, and attitudes towards the environment found in these tales.

Through the lens of eco-criticism, Berat considers the relationship between literature and the environment, emphasizing the importance of understanding how folktales reflect and shape cultural perceptions of the natural world. Eco-criticism is a theoretical framework that explores the reciprocal relationship between literature and the environment, examining how literary works inform and influence environmental attitudes and behaviors.

The conclusion of the analysis highlights the diversity of environmental themes in folktales across different cultures. Berat reveals that while some folktales contain depictions of harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, others present themes of environmental degradation or imbalance. The article emphasizes the significance of studying folktales as a means to comprehend cultural perspectives on the environment. Additionally, the analysis reinforces the relevance of eco-criticism as a theoretical

framework for understanding the portrayal of the environment in literature and its implications for environmental consciousness.

Folktales often contain important lessons about human behavior and morality. By exploring these lessons through the characters in the story, readers can gain a deeper understanding of their behavior and the behavior of those around them. Folktales are effective tools for character development because they provide a framework for the reader or audience to understand the characters' motivations and behaviors. Through the use of archetypes and symbolic language, folktales can help readers to connect with the characters in a more meaningful way. Nnyagu Uche in his article, "Folktale as a Tool for Character Development" highlights the importance of folktales as a tool for character development. The author notes that folktales are an important aspect of storytelling, and they can provide valuable insights into complex human emotions and character traits (Nnyagu, 2018).

Nnyagu explores the use of folktales as a means of developing characters in literature. The basic themes of the article revolve around character development, the significance of folktales, and the role of storytelling in literature. The author employs a literary theory called archetypal criticism as the theoretical framework. This theory recognizes the presence of recurring character types and plots in folktales throughout different cultures and explains that these archetypes tap into universal human experiences and emotions (Nnyagu, 2018).

Nnyagu concludes that folktales can be valuable tools for character development in literature due to their archetypal nature and ability to tap into universal human experiences. By incorporating folktale elements into their characters, authors can create more relatable and well-rounded individuals that resonate with readers. This approach enhances the depth and complexity of characters and helps to create a compelling narrative.

The way a language presents folktales can reveal how deeply ingrained these stories are in a culture's collective narrative. The article "Cultural entrenchment of folktales is encoded in language" the authors use the example of the Dutch folktale "The Twelve Dancing Princesses" and compare how it is presented in Dutch and English. They show that the Dutch version is more detailed and specific to Dutch culture, whereas the English version is more general and adaptable to different cultures. They conclude that the presentation of a folktale in a language can reveal how deeply culturally embedded it is (Fonteyn, 2019).

The theoretical framework used by Fonteyn in his article, "Cultural entrenchment of folktales is encoded in language" is the concept of cultural evolution, specifically the idea that culture evolves and adapts over time. They argue that language, as a key carrier of culture, reflects the cultural entrenchment of folktales. By analyzing the linguistic features of different versions of the same folktale across various cultures, the author aims to identify patterns that represent the cultural values and beliefs encoded in the language. The conclusion of the analysis suggests that certain linguistic features consistently align with specific cultural elements found in folktales. The study sheds light on the intricate relationship between language and culture, highlighting language as a powerful marker and transmitter of cultural values.

Despite being rich in oral literature, *Shina* society has not been fully explored by the researchers. Research on folktales within the *Shina* society holds immense relevance from both sociological and cultural perspectives. There are many genres of *Shina* literature but

the researcher aims to conduct a research in *Shina* folk tales, one of the important genres of literature.

These folk narratives encapsulate the collective wisdom, values, and social norms of the *Shina* community, offering insights into their historical, moral, and social fabric. By studying these folktales, researchers can uncover the intricate interplay between societal dynamics and cultural expressions, shedding light on how traditions are transmitted across generations and how identity is constructed.

## Material and Methods

### Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis is process through which researchers can analyse the major and minor themes from any kind of text. Thematic analysis is the method used to identify, analyze, and present themes within a text (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Thematic analysis offers a high level of flexibility, allowing for easy adaptation to the requirements of any study. This approach provides a detailed, enriching, and comprehensive description of data, accommodating the specific needs of the research (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Theoretical analysis is freed from the complex processes of theoretical methodologies of a qualitative approach, and provides a more accessible form of analysis for beginning researchers (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

According to Braun and Clarke (2006), an important consideration for the researcher is whether the patterns of meaning revealed by thematic analysis relate to the topic and the research question posed. Qualitative analysis only reveals the answer to a few specific questions through thematic analysis. When analyzing a text, many patterns can be observed in the data and researcher's job is to identify only those patterns that are relevant to the research question. Thematic analysis has gained recognition as an independent method in the recent years. It has previously been widely used in many fields, often without recognition or distinction (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

### Theoretical Framework

Researcher applied the model proposed by Braun and Clarke for thematic analysis. Six Folk tales are selected from the book *Dadai Sheloky* by Shakeel Ustad and are translated in English. The main words and ideas from the folk tales are coded, and themes are formed from these codes, and a report is formed from the themes.

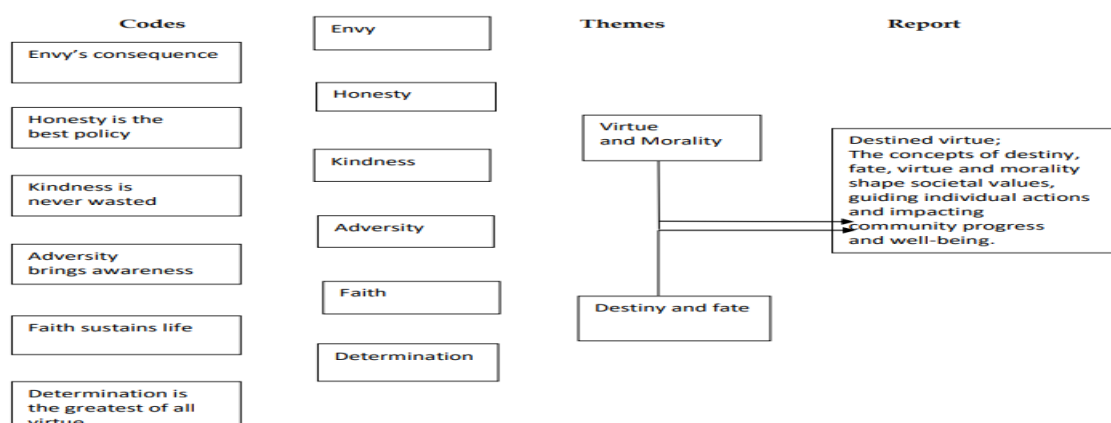


Figure 1 Coding, categorizing, extracting themes, and finally making report through the framework of thematic analysis.

## Data Analysis and Results

The researcher followed Braun and Clarke's Six-phase Thematic Analysis model. This widely used model involves six iterative phases.

### Phases of thematic analysis

The researcher used six stages in conducting thematic analysis to arrive at a conclusion. These are, Familiarization with data, generating codes, searching for themes, reviewing the themes, naming the themes, and finally producing the report.

### Punishment for stupidity

Once upon a time, there were two brothers who were both unemployed. One of them decided to move to the city and start a business. His business flourished, bringing him immense wealth. Hearing of his brother's success, the other brother became envious and decided to emigrate to start his own business. During his journey, he rested under a tree where two parrots sat. To his surprise, the parrots began talking about him, saying that his fate was sleeping like he was. They explained that his destiny wouldn't come to fruition unless he woke it up. Curious, he asked where his destiny was, and one of the parrots replied that it was dormant, waiting to be awakened. Motivated by this revelation, the man continued his journey. Along the way, he encountered a bear, a fish, and a farmer. Each of them had a problem, and they advised the man to seek solutions from his fate. The bear sought a cure for its illness, the fish wished to remove a pearl causing discomfort, and the farmer struggled with barren land despite his efforts. After meeting his fate, which had awakened, the man received guidance. His fate revealed the solutions: a treasure hidden beneath the farmer's land, a pearl inside the fish, and a feast of a fool's brain for the bear's ailment. As he journeyed back, he shared the solutions with each of them. The farmer and the fish were offered solutions to their problems, but both declined, wanting to stick to their path. When he met the bear, he explained the cure, but the bear, seeing the man's foolishness, consumed him.

### Punishment for Stupidity (Envy's Consequence)

### Sociological Implication

This tale seems to emphasize the importance of wisdom and smart decision-making. The story highlights the consequences of foolishness and envy, suggesting that one's actions and decisions have real effects on their life outcomes. In *Shina* society, this might symbolize the significance of learning from mistakes and making informed choices, as well as the dangers of jealousy and making decisions without proper consideration.

"When he met the bear, he explained the cure, but the bear, seeing the man's foolishness, consumed him."

This story touches on the themes of envy and foolishness. It portrays how envy can lead to foolish decisions, ultimately resulting in negative consequences.

### Cultural Implication

The idea of learning from mistakes and making wise choices is a common cultural lesson in many societies. This story underlines the *Shina* society's value for wisdom and informed decision-making. It may highlight the significance of planning, making thoughtful choices, and the consequences of envy.

Envy and greed can blind us to the opportunities in our own lives. Seeking quick solutions elsewhere may lead to unfavorable outcomes. It's essential to recognize and awaken our potential, address our problems wisely, and not let envy drive us to make hasty decisions.

“After meeting his fate, which had awakened, the man received guidance.”

Envy blinds us to our own potential and destiny, leading us to make foolish choices and miss out on our true opportunities.

### **An Honest King**

This is the tale of an honest king. As he grew old, he confided in his minister about his desire to pass on his kingdom to a just and impartial individual, someone capable of rendering fair judgments among his subjects. Following the king's request for counsel, the minister proposed that the king select a relative for the throne. However, the king dismissed this suggestion, asserting that he wished to subject himself to a test. He took wheat and boiled it until it became unviable. Subsequently, he distributed a single grain of wheat to each citizen, declaring that the person who could cultivate a plant from this grain would inherit the entire kingdom. After several weeks had passed, a group of individuals presented themselves, each bearing a thriving plant. Among them was a disheartened farmer who entered the courtyard empty-handed. When the king inquired of the successful plant growers, the discouraged farmer stepped forward. He explained that he had diligently tended to his planted grain for over two decades. He recounted his punctual planting and regular watering, but lamented that the grain failed to sprout due to an inherent defect. Upon hearing the farmer's account, the king discerned his honesty and integrity, recognizing the others as deceitful. Consequently, the king elected the farmer for the royal position, profoundly impressed by his unwavering honesty.

**An Honest King** (Honesty is the best policy)

### **Sociological Implication**

The story highlights the value of honesty and integrity in leadership. The king's unique selection process challenges conventional norms of succession based on lineage and birthright.

“He took wheat and boiled it until it became unviable. Subsequently, he distributed a single grain of wheat to each citizen, declaring that the person who could cultivate a plant from this grain would inherit the entire kingdom.”

This tale might reflect a cultural emphasis on ethical behavior and transparency in governance. By rejecting the idea of selecting a relative and opting for a test of character, the king underscores the importance of meritocracy over nepotism. The recognition of the disheartened farmer's unwavering honesty and his ultimate selection for the royal position highlights the culture's belief in rewarding individuals based on moral character and diligence, making it clear that ethical behavior is highly prized in *Shina* society.

In *Shina* society, it could encourage debates about the qualities that make a just ruler and the role of ethics in leadership. This tale delves into themes of integrity, fairness, and leadership. It showcases the importance of honesty and justice in governance and the recognition of virtue.

### Cultural Implication

This story resonates with the *Shina* community's emphasis on integrity, fairness, and the importance of choosing leaders based on character rather than lineage. The unconventional trial might highlight a value for creativity in problem-solving. Such stories emphasizing the qualities of a just ruler and the consequences of dishonesty are embedded in cultural teachings around the world.

“The king elected the farmer for the royal position, profoundly impressed by his unwavering honesty.”

The story's core moral underscores that honesty and integrity stand as true measures of a just ruler and virtuous leadership.

### Dudushir Gao

In a distant cottage near a forest, two children lived with quarreling parents who made a peculiar promise. Whoever broke their vow to fast for a day would transform into an animal. The father went to gather firewood while the mother cleaned and found a grain, eating it and turning into a red cow. Discovering this, the father set out to find a new wife. On his journey, he encountered a witch who transformed herself into a beautiful lady. Despite strange encounters, they married. The witch mistreated her stepchildren and sought to harm their mother, now a cow named Dudushir Gao. The witch's plan involved killing the cow for its meat, believing it could cure her ailments. The children, aware of this, hid the meat and bones while Dudushir Gao sang a farewell song.

Oh my children, don't fear

You shall lose your mother soon

Oh my children, don't fear

Your mother shall appear as a moon

Pour the gravy inside

Bury the bones and meat outside

As the witch consumed the meat, a mysterious light emanated from the buried remains. Dudushir Gao's spirit emerged, giving her children nourishment and clothes. The witch's daughter observed this and informed her mother, but when she tried to replicate it, nothing happened. Later, the stepdaughter lost her shoe near a prince's castle. He sought its owner, believing her to be a maiden in need. He found her at the cottage, married her, and took her to the castle. Jealous of her, the witch and her daughter caused trouble, eventually turning the princess into a sparrow. The prince, mourning her loss, caught the sparrow and cared for it. The sparrow was eventually made into a stew, but a poor woman collected its pieces, resulting in the girl's rebirth. She thrived with the old woman, and the prince was invited to their home. He recognized his wife and brought her back to the castle, where they lived happily ever after.

**Dudushir Gao** (Kindness is never wasted)

### Sociological Implication

In "Dudushir Gao," the stepmother's jealousy triggers a series of unfortunate events that impact the lives of the characters. Despite being permissible in religion, second marriage is socially least liked because society looks at stepmother as tyrant and oppressor, who takes her husband away from the kids from his first wife. This kind of folk tale reaffirms the belief and practices of the primitive *Shina* society.

"The witch mistreated her stepchildren and sought to harm their mother, now a cow named Dudushir Gao."

The stepdaughter's kindness despite mistreatment suggests the value of compassion even in challenging situations. The story might reflect societal values of resilience and empathy, and the consequences of jealousy and cruelty. It could provoke discussions on familial relationships, empathy, and societal treatment of stepchildren.

### **Cultural Implication**

In this tale, the stepmother plays the classic role of the wicked stepmother, embodying a negative stereotype often seen in folklore and literature. She mistreats her stepchildren and seeks to harm their mother, reflecting a portrayal deeply ingrained in cultural narratives. The stepmother's actions align with the traditional perception that stepmothers might harbor jealousy and ill will towards their stepchildren, viewing them as rivals for their spouse's affection or inheritance.

This story also portrays kindness in the face of mistreatment, perhaps reflecting the *Shina* society's emphasis on compassion and respect. The prince's determination to find his true love might align with their views on the importance of love and connection.

"Later, the stepdaughter lost her shoe near a prince's castle. He sought its owner, believing her to be a maiden in need."

The theme of kindness and compassion is present in "Dudushir Gao," where the children show kindness to their stepmother despite mistreatment. These stories can promote empathy and the importance of treating others with respect and compassion.

The moral of this tale underscores the triumph of kindness, resilience and love over wickedness, illustrating how kindness, perseverance, and unwavering devotion can ultimately overcome adversity and lead to a joyful ending.

### **Pali Ga Mindok Khatoon**

In a distant realm, a king and queen rejoiced when a baby girl graced their lives. The king proposed a challenge: anyone who could correctly guess their daughter's name would win her hand in marriage. The queen was troubled, but the king had secretly named their child "Pali ga Mindok Khatoon." A clever fox eavesdropped on the announcement and shared the news with a lion she encountered. The lion, in exchange for the information, promised to spare the fox's life. The lion confidently approached the palace, successfully guessing the princess's name after two deliberate incorrect attempts. Bound by his word, the king reluctantly married his daughter to the lion. The princess, captive and yearning for freedom, sang her sorrows to the wind.

Oh blowing breeze!

How lucky you are, you could fly,



You could go wherever you want,  
Be my messenger, please!  
Tell my parents,  
Your beloved daughter is encaged,  
With a filthy creature,  
And is sorrowful,  
Her happiness vanished, youth faded,  
Oh blowing breeze!  
How lucky you are, you could fly.  
Be my messenger, please!

She managed to escape one night and sought refuge in a caravanserai. Disguised as a boy, she navigated challenges to maintain her secret. However, her true identity was eventually exposed when she smoked hookah. Taken to a nearby king, she married his son and found happiness. The lion eventually arrived at their kingdom, prompting the princess to flee again. She reached exhausted in a desert, her loyal horse warned that sleeping would cost its life. Despite her vigilance, a moment's rest turned her horse into twin infants. The princess built a home for them and lived in seclusion. Years later, a wandering prince stumbled upon her dwelling. She welcomed him, and as they exchanged life stories, they discovered they were actually a married couple. Overjoyed, they lived together in the desert home, finding everlasting happiness.

**Pali Ga Mindok Khatoon** (Adversity brings awareness)

### **Sociological Implication**

In this tale, the king marry his daughter to a lion, even reluctantly, is likely to be rooted in the number of factors. It could be the result of a vow that the king had made under certain circumstances or due to societal pressure. Honor and integrity were often highly valued qualities for monarchs in traditional tales, and breaking a promise could have serious consequences for a ruler's reputation. The daughter does not complaint on her father's decision, and it could have several reasons. In traditional folklore, daughters often exemplify obedience and loyalty to their parents' wishes, even in extraordinary or harsh situations. Additionally, she might have believed that her father's decision was a matter of fate or destiny, which is a recurring theme in many folktales.

Society's reaction to such decisions would likely be mixed. In traditional tales, communities often accepted unusual or supernatural occurrences as part of the narrative's magical or moral framework. They might view the king's decision as a test of his honor and adherence to his word. Some might sympathize with the daughter's plight, while others could see it as a unique challenge to be overcome.

Pali ga Mindok Khatoon's journey and transformation illustrate how individuals navigate life's challenges while seeking identity and a sense of belonging. In "Pali ga Mindok Khatoon," the titular character navigates societal expectations by disguising

herself as a boy. This highlights the limitations imposed on women's agency in certain societies, cultures, and the resilience required to overcome such constraints.

“Disguised as a boy, she navigated challenges to maintain her secret.”

The story portrays themes of gender identity, self-discovery, and resilience. The protagonist's journey of disguising herself as a boy may reflect the potential limitations imposed by gender roles in *Shina* society. This tale could reflect societal expectations of women and their struggle to find their own paths. It might encourage discussions around gender roles, personal agency, and the challenges women face in seeking their own identities and aspirations.

### **Cultural Implication**

This tale revolves around a girl facing challenges and overcoming adversity. This narrative can inspire the *Shina* society to value resilience, determination, and the ability to navigate difficult circumstances. Such characters may encourage individuals to persist in the face of challenges and find strength within them.

In "Pali ga Mindok Khaton," the heroine's journey reflects the cultural reverence for destiny as she navigates unexpected turns guided by her father's secret name. This reverence for destiny underscores the cultural emphasis on accepting life's twists and turns with resilience. The protagonist disguises herself as a boy to escape societal constraints, highlighting cultural restrictions placed on women's autonomy.

This tale could underscore the *Shina* society's respect for individual journeys and the challenges faced by those who deviate from societal norms. The emphasis on self-discovery and the unexpected twists in the protagonist's life might align with the *Shina* community's appreciation for resilience and adaptability.

“She reached exhausted in a desert, her loyal horse warned that sleeping would cost its life. Despite her vigilance, a moment's rest turned her horse into twin infants. The princess built a home for them and lived in seclusion.”

### **The King and the beggar**

This story revolves around a pious and kind king who trusts in God. He rules his kingdom with happiness. One day, a beggar appears at the court and pleads with the king to allow him to rule the kingdom for a day. Out of compassion, the king agrees and grants the beggar the authority for one day. When the queen learns of this, fear fills her heart. She expresses concern that the beggar might be cunning, seeking to usurp the kingdom. The following day, the beggar returns and humbly requests to rule for a week. After a week passes, he implores the king to relinquish his throne for the sake of the Almighty, offering to rule the kingdom permanently. Placing his faith in God's grace, the king departs the kingdom with his family. In a distant desert, a deceitful man tricks the king, abducting his wife and never returning. Left with his two sons, the king embarks on a journey to another land. While crossing the sea, tragedy strikes, and he loses both his sons. A wolf takes his elder son, and the younger one drowns. Desperate and broken, the king arrives in a place where a grand feast is being prepared to select a new king, following their custom due to the former king's demise. By a fortunate twist of fate, the king is chosen as the new ruler. A sign of an elephant bowing before him and a falcon perching on his shoulders solidify his selection. Meanwhile, the hunter rescues the elder son from the wolf, raising him as his own. Similarly, the king's younger son is saved by a fisherman and raised in their care.

Both sons grow up under their adoptive fathers' guidance, unaware of their royal lineage. One day, the king befriends a man from his new kingdom and asks to stay with him. The man explains that his wife would be afraid, so the two sons are sent to provide security. During their time guarding her, the elder son narrates his life story, leading them to realize their true relationship. The following day, the woman complains about the guards sharing strange stories at night. The two guards are summoned before the king and questioned. As they recount their stories, the king reveals his identity as their father, and the woman as their mother. The deceitful man who posed as the king's friend is exposed and executed. The reunited family begins living joyfully. In time, the king contemplates visiting his former kingdom, where he is welcomed warmly. The beggar reveals that he was sent to test the king, and he has succeeded. The beggar discloses that the kingdom is his reward. Due to his advanced age, the king finds ruling both kingdoms challenging and bestows them upon his sons. They all live happily ever after.

### **The King and the Beggar** (Faith sustains life)

#### **Sociological Implication**

The story underscores the idea of humility and the potential for anyone, even a beggar, to possess qualities worthy of leadership. This may symbolize *Shina* society's emphasis on meritocracy and the recognition of virtues rather than merely inherited status. It could prompt discussions on governance, social mobility, and leadership qualities.

Through unwavering faith, family bonds, and the power of destiny, this tale underscores the rewards of trust and goodness in navigating life's challenges.

"The beggar reveals that he was sent to test the king, and he has succeeded. The beggar discloses that the kingdom is his reward."

#### **Cultural Implication**

The story may reflect the *Shina* society's values of humility, faith, and familial bonds. The theme of deception and eventual reunion underscores the importance of truth and the resilience of relationships. This tale highlights the king's unshakable faith in God and the virtuous outcomes that arise when trust and kindness prevail. The concept of divine intervention might mirror the society's religious beliefs. The story's central theme revolves around the king's steadfast faith in divine providence and the twists of fate that shape his life and those of his family.

"The King and the Beggar," incorporate elements of spirituality and faith. These narratives might reinforce the *Shina* society's spiritual beliefs and practices, encouraging individuals to trust in a higher power and find meaning in their experiences.

"Placing his faith in God's grace, the king departs the kingdom with his family."

### **Barayo Bal**

In a bygone era, an elderly couple yearned for a child, their prayers seemingly unheard by God. Eventually, the old woman experienced a miraculous pregnancy, though their joy turned to shock when she gave birth to a Shuwo-Kapalo, a dog-like creature. Embarrassed and disheartened, the couple found it hard to accept their unusual child. Despite his appearance, the Shuwo-Kapalo grew and demonstrated his worth. When the old man worked in the fields, the boy would assist by delivering his meal, thanks to being tied to a buffalo's tail. He would later plow the fields, tied to an ox's tail, and tend to the

cattle, tied to a dog's tail. His helpful nature endeared him to his parents and the village. As the boy matured, he expressed a desire to marry the king's daughter. Despite the parents' initial fear of the king's reaction, they conveyed their son's wish, leading to a chain of events. The king's daughters scorned the Shuwo-Kapalo, who then transformed himself into a stone, eventually plunging into a canal, causing a famine. The youngest princess agreed to marry the Shuwo-Kapalo to save her kingdom. Their marriage came with a dowry of gold, silver, and more, symbolizing her sacrifice. However, her initial disgust over his appearance faded, and they developed a bond. Despite his unattractive exterior, the Shuwo-Kapalo possessed wisdom and courage, becoming revered in the village. Years later, the Shuwo-Kapalo expressed a desire for the king's daughter to avoid old women. The princess, curious, disregarded the advice and became entranced by a handsome prince she spotted while outside the fort. An old woman exploited her curiosity and said that the prince is her husband, and also told to burn the mask present behind the door. The fairies snatched away princes when princess burned the hideous mask of prince. Desperate to rescue her husband, the princess embarked on a journey and met various creatures and challenges along the way. An old wise woman said to her that she will encounter several things on her way including a dog and a cow. Old woman further said that if she helps the cow and dog, they will pray for her. Following old wise woman's advice, she encountered a cook barae and obtained the means to save her prince. Once she succeeded, the couple returned to their mud castle, where they could finally enjoy lasting happiness together.

**Barayo Bal** (Determination is the greatest of all virtue)

### **Sociological Implication**

The princess's willingness to marry a figure others rejected could symbolize the idea of selflessness for the greater good. It might represent the significance of unity and protecting the realm. This could lead to discussions about cultural ideals of sacrifice, loyalty, and the role of love and commitment in challenging circumstances. The core theme of "Barayo Bal" revolves around the power of love, courage, and determination in overcoming supernatural challenges and rescuing a loved one from the clutches of malevolent forces. This tale also emphasizes the power of love to overcome obstacles, and the protagonist's journey embodies resilience and bravery.

“The king's daughters scorned the Shuwo-Kapalo, who then transformed himself into a stone, eventually plunging into a canal, causing a famine. The youngest princess agreed to marry the Shuwo-Kapalo in order to save her kingdom.”

### **Cultural Implication**

The tale may illustrate the *Shina* society's appreciation for courage, loyalty, and the power of determination. The significance of familial bonds and the willingness to make sacrifices for loved ones could align with their cultural values. The quest might symbolize the journey to overcome challenges and the belief in the eventual triumph of good over evil.

“Desperate to rescue her husband, the princess embarked on a journey and met various creatures and challenges along the way.”

Several of the tales highlight the importance of destiny and fate in shaping the characters' lives. The concept of awakening one's destiny, seeking guidance from fate, or facing challenges that are part of a predetermined path is a recurring motif in these tales.

The individual's actions and choices in *Shina* society are often influenced by their belief in destiny, and the outcomes of their journeys are intertwined with the cosmic forces.

Virtue, honesty, kindness, and moral integrity are emphasized throughout the tales. Characters who exhibit these qualities are often rewarded in the end, while those who lack them face consequences. The stories underscore the idea that virtuous actions, in *Shina* society, lead to positive outcomes, while deception, envy, and cruelty ultimately result in downfall or suffering. The importance of making ethical choices and treating others with respect and compassion is a common thread woven into these narratives which show the values and belief system of *Shina* culture and society.

The report of "Destined Virtue" posits that the interplay between destiny and fate, intricately woven with the principles of virtue and morality, forms a dual foundation that not only influences individual actions in *Shina* community but also shapes the larger societal framework, suggesting that individuals guided by virtuous principles are more likely to align with their destined paths, thereby contributing to the overall flourishing and harmonious development of *Shina* community.

## Conclusion

Folktales are shared with purpose of entertaining and educating people, as well as preserving the cultural heritage of societies worldwide. The research exploring the sociological and cultural implications of folk tales within the *Shina* community has uncovered intricate themes that reflect the values, beliefs, and dynamics of *Shina* society. Through the qualitative approach, the study delved into the depths of six carefully selected *Shina* folk tales, unraveling the messages embedded within them. In conclusion, this research provides a comprehensive insight into the sociological and cultural fabric of the *Shina* community through the lens of folk tales. The themes of destiny and virtue that emerge from the analysis underline the intricate interplay between individual actions, cosmic forces, and societal norms. These narratives serve as vessels of cultural transmission, carrying forward the values, lessons, and wisdom of generations past. The study sheds light on the *Shina* society's deep-rooted beliefs in destiny and the significance of living virtuously, offering valuable insights into their worldview and guiding principles.

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