

## **The Monkey's Paw: Nothing is Free**

*By: Prakash Poudyal*

The Monkey's Paw is a macabre story, written by William Wymark. It is neatly contrived and is capable of inducing us to suspend our disbelief so long as we are in the world of make believe. Father Mr. White and son Herbert are sitting at the right angle of the nearest fire with a chessboard between them to play. Mr. White does not follow the rules and not able to distract the game as he is losing it. He has to pay 200 pounds more for the house. But Herbert, who works in an Electrical Company will take 3 years to pay off 200 pounds, working from midnight to the morning.

Sergeant Morris had his war-experience in the trench at Chitral that lies in Pakistan now. Morris cannot come easily to White's house because they live so far out and the path and road is a bog and a torrent. He also refuses the drink because he thinks that his work does not go with it as he has night duty, and he has to keep a cool head, a steady eye and a still hand. If he drink, the flywheel might gobble him up. Morris describes the rope trick by saying that there was a well-known Fakir, a holly man, who knew about the magic. Morris had himself seen

that magic of Fakir on which he threw the rope up in the air and it vanished clean out of sight. When the Morris calls Herbert a magician, Herbert calls Indian magic a fate thing because he thinks that he can do it himself with a bit of practice.

Once the sergeant Morris comes and tells Mr. White the story of the Monkey's paw. He says that there was an old holy Fakir who sat for 15 years meditating on things and he put a spell on the paw to show that fate ruled people, so that 3 people could each have 3 wishes and wants to throw it in the fire. The third wish of the first owner was for the death. Mrs. White starts back with a little cry of disgust on seeing it because it is an ordinary little paw dried to a mummy. When Morris throws it in the fire, Mr. White picks up and desires to keep it by giving him some money.

Morris also warns Mr. White not to have it. Morris stops Mr. White from saying his wish because White is not properly using the way to demand from the paw. Actually, the proper way to ask the Monkey's paw is that- one should hold it in his right hand and wish aloud. One must wish sensible thing like not wishing

four pair of hands. Morris says 'And with you...turned now?' because he wants to warn them to wish in his presence. The paw fulfills the wish in a bad result so that Morris leaves the white's house because he does not want to be there when Mr. White wishes.

Herbert wants his father to wish to be an emperor then his father cannot be henpecked. Later, Herbert suggests his father to wish 200 pounds as Mr. White is in need of it. When he wishes for 200 pound, he feels the paw twisting in his hand like a snake and he sees something horrible in the fire. Thus he drops the paw. In Mrs. White's view the letter contains the news that the Monkey's paw has sent 200 pounds and she wants to tell Herbert about that when they were waiting for the letter of 200 pounds as they got a receipt for the 200 pound interest of the mortgages. Later, a man named Samson in black dress, looking like a person, from the Herbert's Electrical Company is coming to their house. Mr. Samson means by saying 'he is not in pain' to tell them that Herbert is not in sensible condition as he has already died. When Herbert was telling such story to his mates at his duty he was unable to notice that the machine was coming near

to catch him. The Company has sent Mr. Samson to convey their sincere sympathy with them in their great loss and to present them with 200 pounds from company as compensation in consideration of their son's services.

After the death of their son, they bury in a cemetery where is much cold. In this way it is colder where Herbert is. Mrs. White wants the Monkey's paw because she wants her husband to ask for the other two wishes to wish their son should be alive again. When Mr. White wishes his second wish to get his death son alive and feels someone knocking at the door, he thinks that a rat could have made knock because the house is full of rats. But Mrs. White cannot open the door because his husband is holding her and Mr. White also fears that his wife will not bear the shock of seeing the skeleton of their son who has already died. At the last Mr. White is looking for the paw again because he wants to wish that his son should be dead at peace.

In this way Mr. White get 200 pound as a wish from the paw at the cost of his son's death and the Monkey's paw ruins the White family by killing the only son of them to show that no one can escape from his destiny.