

### **A Lake named Shagordighi**

(Continuation from the “Tale about a Lake named Komoladighi”)

**Woman 1:** The king had a brother. The brother wandered off one day without telling anyone. The brother used the sea as a means of travel. At sea, he had a vision in his sleep in which he was asked not to travel by sea. He was asked to go back to his country and float his boat on the lake next to Komoladighi. Float your boat on that lake and take a ride. So he did not get to travel around the world. He was very religious, and he was that kind of person who was eager to find out where Allah’s favorite locations were, all the religious attractions, how Allah created the world, how he made such a gigantic sea. In order to see all that, he had left home. In the dream he saw that he was asked to leave the sea and, instead, go to his homeland, and there the sea will be waiting for him. Then he returned to his homeland, which took him almost a year and a half. When he returned he saw that Komoladighi was overflowing with water but Shagordighi was empty. Upon realizing the dream, he built a small boat from banana trees. After he had made it, he climbed down the steps of the Shagordighi, which was very deep. It was as deep as the river. So when he stood at the bottom, water started creeping up, and then the Shagordighi and the Komoladighi, which were next to each other, looked as if they had formed a sea. This water had never gone down. It was up to the same level.

**Woman 2:** I did not know this.

**Woman 1:** This is the story of Komoladighi and Shogordighi.

**Woman 3:** What is the situation now? Do they still exist?

**Woman 1:** Yes, of course. The water is always flowing, The water is also very pretty.

**Woman 1:** Next to the Dhaka Tongi highway is the Poridighi. The same story.

**Woman 3:** How?

**Woman 1:** Pori was the daughter of a *zamidar*<sup>1</sup> in Dhaka. This was in Hirajheel, Motijheel. In the time of Nawab<sup>2</sup> Siraj-ud-Dowla,<sup>3</sup> Hirajheel was located right next to Motijheel. Both were beautiful lakes. The royalty would go on boat rides on these lakes. Next to the Hirajheel and Motijheel was the palace. There was another *zamidar* who had only one daughter, Pori, who lived next to the lakes. The king had a vision that he would

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<sup>1</sup> *Zamidar* means landlord, and also pertains to the kingly state, warfare, chase. Here *zamidar* and King have been used interchangeably, but they both refer to the King.

<sup>2</sup> Nawab a designation indicating political rank and power in the Mughal administrative hierarchy. In the British period, the term was used for a state-conferred honorary title of rank without any official attachment.

<sup>3</sup> Mîrzâ Mohammad Sirâjud Dawla, more commonly known as Siraj ud-Daulah (1733 – July 2, 1757), was the last independent Nawab of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The end of his reign marks the start of British East India Company rule over Bengal and later almost all of South Asia.

have to cut a lake for the welfare of his citizens. So, when the lake was cut, no water rose. In those times, if a lake was cut and no water showed up, it was a very bad omen for the country. Water has to come somehow. The water did not rise, so the King did not know that to do. The King would always go to the mosque and pray for a solution. The citizens were also angry about the current events and the scarcity of water. They wanted him removed as they considered him to be dishonest. So the King would pray all night and would ask for a sign from God. What could I do to get the lake flowing with water, because if I don't I will not be able to face my citizens. Then he got a vision which showed that he would need to sacrifice his daughter Pori. This was in Tongi. When we go by train, Poridighi is on the way.

**Woman 3:** If I knew, I would have stopped to see it.

**Woman 1:** It is written "Poridighi," very nicely.

**Woman 3:** Is this a true story?

**Woman 1:** Yes, it is a true story. I read it in a book. For example, biographies of 360 saints, biographies of *zamidars*, etc. The names of these lakes are in the books. I had these books.

**Woman 2:** Also, they have similar presentations on the television. The stories behind different rivers, lakes etc are all shown on television.

**Woman 3:** In every channel, they have programs of this type everyday. When they took Pori to the lake, the lake filled up with water.

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