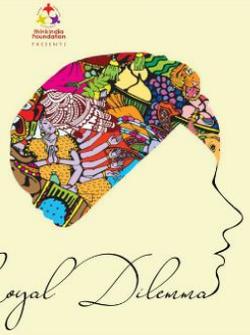


The Royal Dilemma

Anayaa Damle



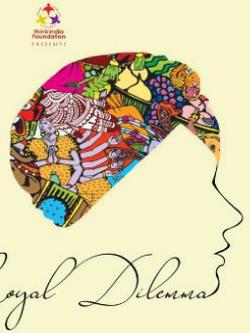
The Royal Dilemma

Lady Jahanara and Lord Saifali are one of the many royal families in India. They live in one of the smaller palaces, but near the Kowdiar Palace in Kerala, with their daughter; Lady Amira. They had a luxurious life until one night. Now they have a dilemma. A Royal dilemma.

The Queen of England, Queen Charlotte, is one of the smartest women in the world and she has sent royalty all over the world a riddle. The riddle is: How can you get a fake lion out of a cage? The cage has no latch or padlock, And the lion seems to be metal. Fortunately, Lady Jahanara has a very smart advisor who had read about Akbar and Birbal as a child and knew of Birbal's intelligence. Countess Safia, the advisor, was very clever and figured out the riddle in no time. She also remembered some of it from Akbar and Birbal. Coincidentally the riddle was in one of the stories. And she spent hours poring through her childhood books filled with memories. Now, Queen Charlotte was very sly and tricky. She had teeny, tiny cameras and microphones made, no bigger than your pinky nail. The messengers who delivered the riddle were instructed to very carefully insert the camera on the main wall of the palace and the queen and advisors chambers. That way she could see everything that was happening. For a

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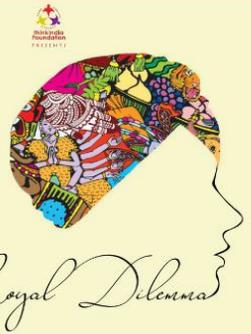


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long time, nothing happened. Then finally Lady Jahanara scheduled a meeting with Countess Safia in her private chambers. They were just starting to discuss the riddle when a calm and clear voice said: "Excuse me?". "Not now!" snapped Lady Jahanara, not bothering to see who had said that. "Can't you see we are working on the riddle?!?! This could decide my reputation!!!" "Well then, you might want to turn around," said the voice again sounding mildly surprised and amused. She whirled around and gasped! Countess Safia stared open mouthed at her. There was no doubt about it. There they were face to face with QUEEN CHARLOTTE! She was stunning in a lavender gown with diamonds and amethysts encrusted on it. She had violet heels on and her long brown hair was swept back into a french braid. But what was most breathtaking of all was the crown of England sitting on her head, an astonishing mass of diamonds, pearls, sapphires, emeralds, and rubies on a gold, silver, and platinum crown base. It seemed as if an eternity had passed. Lady Jahanara finally attempted to get the words out. "B-b-b-but it can't be y-y-you. That's n-n-not ppossible." stuttered Jahanara. "I'm afraid this is all very confusing. Can you please try your best to explain this to us, Your Majesty?"

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said Countess Safia in awe. “Before that, dear let me ask you a riddle.” replied the Queen. As she was speaking, about 10 attendants dragged a huge metal lion in an enormous cage. Once again Lady Jahanara and Countess Safia were speechless. “Bbut that's the lion from the riddle” stammered Lady Jahanara. “

Exactly” said Queen Charlotte. “Now, let me ask you first Jahanara, how would you get this lion out of the cage? Be careful though, it has no gate or padlock and the lion looks like its made out of metal.” “Well, what are you waiting for?! Answer her!” snarled Lady Jahanara to Countess Safia. “Oh no. I’m afraid you’ll have to answer this by yourself” said the Queen. “What do you mean! I can’t solve this riddle on my own!” The queen sighed, Then I’m sorry. You didn’t solve the riddle. Let’s let Safia try. “Thank you Your Majesty. The lion is wax. You heat it up and it melts out of the cage.” remarked Safia. “Bravo” said Queen Charlotte. “You deserve to be my advisor. In fact that is just what you are going to be. Congratulations!” “B-but I need her. I can't be a Lady without her.” stammered Jahanara. “Very well.” Charlotte sighed. “You are demoted to a shoe scrubber.” And all except for the Lord and Lady of course, lived happily ever after.