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PERFORMANCE TEXTS
The Song of Subanbali

Performer: Kaushalya Bai of Sitapur Village,
Raipur District, M.P.
December 20, 1980

Ram, Ram, Shri Hari Ram.
Ram, Ram, Shri Hari Ram.

Ram, whose vehicle is Garuda,
Who is the son of Kaushalya.

I salute you, Sarla Devi.
I salute you, Mangla Devi.

Be pleased, Sarla,
Be pleased.

First, I bring food from far away.
I bring it from the heaven of Kapil.

Shivshankar is her vehicle, Sarla.
Shivshankar is her vehicle.

At this time, Suban is speaking.
Now, Suban is speaking.

She’s holding small clay dishes.
She’s holding small bamboo dishes.

She went to play, oh Suban.
She went to play.

She was playing in her playhouse.
She was playing in her playhouse.

[She overhears some kings talking; they have camped nearby.]
Performance Texts

There were kings
From the city of Bombay,
From the kingdoms of Bombay and Cuttack,
From the city of Cuttack.

The kings were resting.
They had set up their tents.

They cooked their food.
They ate and drank.

They made comfortable beds,
The kings and their sons.

They spread out their bedding and slept,
Spread it out and slept.

Now they were talking about Bandhiya Raja.
"He is very evil.
He has defeated
Kings from all the four directions.

Losing their wealth and riches,
Losing their wealth and riches,
The kings have been imprisoned.
They have been put in jail."

They spoke like this.
Such were the answers spoken.

The daughter, Suban,
The daughter, Suban,

Suban heard this,
And she understood.

"Listen to the foreigners.
Listen to the kings.

Listen to their answers," she said.
"Listen to their words."

"I'm going to my mother.
I'm going to my father.

I'll take my wealth [dishes] and go.
I'll take my wealth."
Suban was disturbed.
Suban was disturbed.

Her mother is Nila Rani.
Her mother is Nila Rani.

She was watching for her on the path.
She was looking for her daughter.

The daughter was disturbed as she went.
She was upset as she went.

Now, my Suban,
Hearing them, my Suban,

Suban went running.
She went running.

She jumped into her mother’s lap.
She jumped into her father’s lap.

“Listen, my mother,
Listen to my answer.

Give me a boat of sixteen lengths.
Give me a boat of nine lengths.

I’m going to the country of Bandhi,” she said,
“I’m going to the country of Bandhi.”

Her mother, Nila Rani,
Her mother, Nila Rani,

Gave this response.
Nila gave this answer.

“Out of twelve ghāṭ, I chose one.
I prostrated myself at the ghāṭ of Shiva.

As a result, I received you, my daughter.
I received you.

Where is this country of Bandhi and its king?
Where is this country of Bandhi and its king?

Your mother doesn’t know,” she said.
“Your father doesn’t know.”

“Give me a boat of sixteen lengths.
Give me a boat of nine lengths.
I'm the daughter of Shivshankar.
I'm the daughter of Vishtankar.

I won't stay in your house one minute.
I won't stay a moment.”

Her father is Jagya Rishi.
Her father is Jagya Rishi.

She's the only daughter of twelve brothers.
She's the only daughter of thirteen brothers.

Suban gave this answer.
She gave this reply.

“"I have only one daughter.
I have only one wealth.

She says she won't stay a minute.
She won't stay a moment.

Go, go, my servants.
Go, go, my attendants.

Quickly call them,” he said.
“Quickly call them,

The carpenter Kunja,” he said,
“The twelve carpenters.”

At this time, the servants
And the ministers heard him.

They went in a minute.
They went in a moment.

They went to the home of the carpenter Kunja.
They went to the dwelling of the carpenters.

The servants entered.
They entered.

“Come, come, Kunja carpenter.
Come, come, carpenter brothers.

Listen to the answer.
Listen to the reply.

Be quick!
Be fast!
Kunja the carpenter
And the twelve others,
Go to Jagya Rishi.
Go to Anna Rishi.
He’ll give you the answer.
He’ll give you the word.”
At this time the twelve brothers,
The carpenters,
Went on their way,
Went on their way.
Kunja the carpenter and the rest
Entered
And greeted him [Jagya Rishi].
They greeted him.
The carpenters stood there.
They stood there.
“Why have we been called?
For what reason have we been called?”
He [Jagya Rishi] spoke in this way.
He spoke in this way.
“At this time, Kunja carpenter,
Listen, Kunja carpenter.
A boat of sixteen lengths,
A boat of nine lengths,
“Build it,” he said.
“Build it
For Suban,” he said,
“For Suban.”
Hearing him, Kunja the carpenter
And the twelve carpenters
Went on their way,
Went on their way.
They entered their home.
They met at their dwelling.
At that time, the carpenters
Sharpened their axes.

They peeled the bark off.
They sharpened all of them.

They sharpened the other tools,
Everything of theirs.

The carpenters got everything ready,
The rice and lentils.

They tied them in a bundle.
It was midnight.

The night was dark.
The night was dark.

The carpenters were sleepy,
But sleep didn’t come.

The roosters crowed.
The roosters crowed.

At this time, Kunja the carpenter
And the twelve brothers,

The carpenters went on their way.
They went on their way.

The carpenters, outside their home,
Outside their dwelling,

At that moment, with all their hearts,
At that moment, they entreated god.

They went to Mayalgiri mountain.
They went to Citrakuti mountain.

The carpenters went to Hansgiri.
The carpenters went to Hansgiri.

The carpenters went to Candangiri.
The carpenters went to Candangiri.

They went to Hilgiri.
They went to Nilgiri.

The carpenters went to all six mountains,
But they didn’t find a tree.
The carp enters become despondent
And sat down.

"If we don't bring back a boat,
If we don't bring back a boat,
The king will cut us in two.
Jagya Rishi will cut us down.

He'll chase us from the kingdom.
He won't let us stay in the country."

At that time, the carpenters,
The carpenters, saying this much,
Went to the mountains,
Mayalgiri and Kailashgiri.

There were śīśu-wood trees there.
There were śīśu-wood trees.

They left these trees
And went under some other trees.

The carpenters spread out a cloth
And lay down.

They lay down and slept.
They were despondent.

The carpenters,
Yes, the carpenters.

At this time, from Kailashgiri,
From Mount Kailash,

An old snake was coming,
Feeling restless [with hunger].

The mother vulture in the śīśu tree
Had left her children.

She had gone to bring food
For the children.

The snake climbed up the tree
To eat a mouse.

At this time, the children
Began to cry.
Seeing him, the children
Became worried.

At this time, the carpenters
Turned over and saw him [the snake].

"If, as we're watching,
He swallows
The children;
If he swallows them,
We'll be faulted.
We'll have committed a sin."

Turning over, the carpenters got up
And grabbed their swords.

They cut him in nine parts.
They cut him in nine parts.

The snake fell to the earth.
He fell to the earth.

At this time, as his life was leaving,
He spoke this word:

"Oh carpenters, having killed me,
Oh carpenters, having killed me,"

He said, "The boat, as it's leaving,
The boat, as it's leaving. . . ."

Saying this, the snake's breath left him.
Saying this, the snake's breath left him.

At this time, the mother vulture,
The poor mother vulture,

The mother vulture, for her children,
For her children,

Was bringing them food,
Was bringing them their meal.

At that time, she was forcefully feeding
The children.

"Your eyes are closed, children.
Your mouths are closed."
Listen, my children,
It's for you.

I went the distance of twelve *kos* [twenty-four miles];
I went to bring food.

For what reason,” she said,
“Are your eyes closed?
What sorrow has struck you
So that your mouths are closed?
I'm forcefully feeding you, children,
But you aren’t eating.”

“Listen, mother,
Listen to the answer.

Listen to our words, mother.
Listen to our words.

If we had died,
If we had died,

Who would have eaten the food?” they said.
“Who would have eaten the food?

Look below, mother.
Look under the tree.”

At this time, the mother vulture
Looked on the ground.

She looked below.
She looked below.

At this time, the mother vulture,
The vulture heard this.

Her breath flew away.
Her breath flew away.

“What if my two sons had died?
What if the snake had eaten them?”

The vulture spoke like this.
She flew down.

“Listen mother,
Listen to our answer.
What has happened to them,
To the sons from a foreign country?
They haven’t touched anything.
They haven’t cooked.
They’re just lying there.
They’re just lying there.”
The children spoke like this.
They gave this answer.
At this time, the mother vulture
Flew down.
The vulture went to the carpenters.
She went to the carpenters.
She met them.
She went to them.
“Listen, my sons,
Listen to my answer.
What has happened to you?
What misfortune has fallen on you?
You aren’t bathing, my sons,
You aren’t shaving.
You aren’t cooking.
You’re still hungry.”
At this time, the carpenters,
Hearing her, the carpenters,
Getting up, the carpenters sat up
And entreated her.
“We’ve come, having wandered over
Seven mountains, mother.
Over seven mountains, mother,
We’ve come, and are very tired.
We haven’t found a tree,” they said.
“We haven’t found a tree.
If we don’t bring back,
If we don’t bring back,
A nine-length boat,
A sixteen-length boat,
Jagya Rishi, Anna Rishi,
Will cut us in two.
He'll cut off our heads.
He'll chase us from our homes.
He won't let us stay in our homes.
He won't let us stay inside.
He won't let us stay," they said.
"He won't let us stay."
Hearing them, the mother vulture
Gave this answer.
"Go, my sons,
Go to bathe,
Shave your beards," she said.
"Shave your beards.
Cook some food,
And eat the food without worry.
I'll check and give it to you, my sons,
I'll measure and give
A sixteen-length boat,
A nine-length boat."
They heard the words of the mother vulture,
The mother vulture.
They heard her answer.
They heard her words.
Hearing her, the carpenters
Went to bathe.
At this time, the carpenters,
At this time, the carpenters bathed.
Sitting cross-legged, the carpenters
Took out their food and ate without worry.
They were happy.
They ate without worry.
Evening fell.
Evening fell.

The vulture brought,
The vulture brought,

The children from the *sebhili* [cotton tree]
To the *tituli* tree.

“Listen, sons,
Cut the tree, carpenters,” she said.

At this time, the carpenters,
Hearing this, the carpenters
Began to cut the tree, oh look,
Began to cut the tree.

The bark of the tree didn’t give in.
The axe didn’t cut.

“Our carpentry is useless.
Why doesn’t Yama [god of death] eat us?

Of twelve brothers,
There’s only one wealth [descendant; usually reference to son].

What should we do?” they said.
Kunja the carpenter asked,

“What should we do?
We have no plan.”

Saying this, the carpenters
Thought to themselves.

The carpenters thought in their hearts,
Thought in their hearts.

“Go, go, youngest brother.
At this time, youngest brother,

Go to our house,” they said.
“Go to our house,” they said.

“Enter inside.
From inside the house take these things:

Take some white rice.
Take the sweetened milk of the *dhanu* cow [cow of wealth].
Take the wide-mouthed oil lamp.
Go without hesitation.
Go to the house with joy.
Find your son and your sister-in-law.
She'll be holding him on her lap.
Take him in your arms,
Brother, go with joy.
If your sister-in-law asks,
If your sister-in-law asks,
Say you're going to the jungle, to the forest.
Say you're going to the jungle, to the forest.
'Where are you taking our son?' she'll ask.
'Where are you taking our son?' she'll ask.
Your sister-in-law will speak like this.
She'll give this answer.
'Of twelve brothers, there's only one son.
Of twelve brothers, there's only one son.
He'll go to the jungle, the forest,
To learn the skill of carpentry.'
Saying this much, brother,
Bring the son.'
He said this much,
Kunja the carpenter.
Hearing this, the youngest brother went home
At this time, the youngest brother went home.
He walked very slowly.
He reached his home.
He took some white grain.
He took the sweetened milk of the dhunu cow.
He took the wide-mouthed oil lamp.
The carpenter arrived outside his home.
He arrived outside his home.
At this time, Kunja carpenter's wife
Was holding their son.
She embraced him.
She gave him a kiss.

At that time, the carpenter took the son.
At that time, the carpenter took the son.

Seeing him, the sister-in-law asked,
The wife of Kunja the carpenter,

“You went to the jungle, the forest.
You went to the jungle, the forest.

Where will you take our son?
Where will you take our wealth?”

“Listen, my sister-in-law,
Listen to my answer.

Of twelve brothers, there’s only one son.
Of twelve brothers, there’s only one wealth.

He’ll see the jungle, the forest.
He’ll learn the skill of a carpenter.”

The youngest brother
Said this much.

Taking his son,
He went on his way.

The other carpenters, ahead,
Met him there.

At this time, the carpenters,
Seeing their son,

Seeing him, they cried.
Seeing him, they cried,

“Our innocent, innocent son!
Our innocent, innocent son!

Suban caused this to happen;
She’s given this punishment.

Look at him, Suban,
Look at him.

The innocent, innocent one!
Jagya Rishi, look at him.”
Crying out like this, the carpenters
Became despondent.

Hearing this, the eldest
Carpenter, Pandu,

Went to the ocean,
Went to the Ganga.

He bathed his son.
He bathed his dear son.

Having bathed him,
He stood him up.

He went to the ghāṭ and finished.
He finished bathing him.

At sunrise, at the time of sunrise,
He came to the tree.

He brought white rice.
He brought sweetened milk from the dhanu cow.

The carpenter lit the lamp.
He lit the lamp.

He stood their son there.
He stood their son there.

The carpenter drew out his sword.
He cut off the head of their son.

They offered the child to the tree.
They offered the child to the tree.

At this time, to the śīśu tree,
At this time, to the śīśu tree,

They gave one stroke, oh look,
They gave two strokes:

The tree was nine lengths.
It was sixteen lengths.

In one moment, the carpenters,
In the time of one second,

A sixteen-length boat,
A nine-length boat,
The carpenters made it immediately. They made it in a second.

Quickly, quickly, the carpenters
Joined the boat together.

They joined the boat. They joined the boat.

The current of the three-river confluence, The current was fast.

It was the current of the Jamuna. It was the current of the Sarasvati.

It was the river Ganga. It was the river Ganga.

They put the boat in there. They put the boat in there.

The boat went peacefully. It went for sixteen days.

The boat went on the Mahanadi River. It went on sixteen rivers.

At this time, the carpenters, Hearing this, the twelve brothers said,

"The action was worthless. The action was worthless.

How can we go home? How can we go back?"

Saying this, the carpenters Thought to themselves.

They came to the house after walking sixteen *kos*. They came to Suban's house,

The home of Nila Rani, The house of Jagya Rishi.

The twelve brothers, the carpenters Entered that place.

"Oh mother, my Nila Rani, Oh father, my Jagya Rishi."
At this time, Suban,
At this time the stubborn Suban,
My Suban heard this.
She found out.
My Suban came running.
She came running.
“How far is my boat?
How far is the boat?”
She asked, my Suban.
She asked, my Suban.
My Suban came running.
She saw the boat.
“Your son is sitting in the boat.
He’s coming peacefully; he’s coming happily.
Listen, carpenters.
Listen, fathers.
You twelve brothers ran off,” she said.
“You twelve brothers ran off,” she said.
“You offered your son to the boat.
You offered your wealth to the boat.
The water is very deep, carpenters.
The water is very deep, carpenters.
The high waves of the river are striking.
The high waves are striking.
You left your son, carpenters,
And came back.
The water is very deep,
Of the river Ganga.
The waves are high, carpenters,
And you left your son.”
Hearing this, Kunja, the carpenter
Thought to himself,
“We cut off his head.
We cut off his head.
Where will we find our son?
Where will we find him?"

"Go, go, carpenters,
Go bring your son

From the boat which I told you to make.
From the boat which I told you to make.

Go to your son.
Go to your wealth."

[The singer later explained that Suban was an *apsara* (celestial nymph) and thus had power to bring the son back to life.]

The carpenters went to bring him.
The carpenters went to bring him.

They took white rice.
They took the sweetened milk of the *dhanu* cow.

"Take a golden stool," she said,
"Take a golden stool," she said,

"And wash his feet and my boat.
Wash the boat."

They greeted and supplicated him [their son].
They greeted and supplicated him.

They brought the boat home.
They brought it to the house.

They brought back her boat.
They brought back her boat.

As much wealth and as many riches,
As much money [as she had],

She put in the boat, my Suban.
She put in the boat, my Suban.

Cows went in; calves went in.
Goats went in; elephants went in.

Elephants went in; horses went in.
Elephants went in; horses went in.

She was taking all of this, my Suban.
She was taking all of this, my Suban.
She went to her brother.  
She went to her brother.  

At this time, Lalit Raja [Suban’s brother], Lalit Raja heard her.

“Give me my bahū [daughter-in-law] as a companion,” she said.  
“Give me my bahū as a companion,” she said.

I’m going to Bandhi Desh, my brother.  
I’m going to Bandhi Desh, my brother.”

In this way he spoke, my Suban.  
In this way he spoke, my Suban.

“I won’t agree to your request.  
I won’t let her [Tulsa] go with you.

She’s from a woman’s caste [jāti].
Where will you take her?

A woman’s caste is weak.
A woman’s caste is weak.

Father hasn’t seen it [Bandhi Desh],” he said.
“Mother hasn’t seen it.

Where is this country, the kingdom of Bandhi?  
Where is this country, the kingdom of Bandhi?

You’re making up the name, my Suban.  
You’re making up the name, my Suban.

I won’t let your bahū go with you.  
I won’t let your bahū go with you.”

At this time, Suban spoke.  
She gave the answer.

“If you don’t let bahū go with me,  
If you don’t let bahū go with me,

You’ll have burning;  
You’ll have itching.

You’ll have boils;  
You’ll have burning.”

It began; it started to happen.  
The boils appeared.
Lalit Raja
Gave the bahu forcefully!

At this time, Lalit Raja
Let the bahu go with her.

He let her go with Suban.
He let her go.

She called the villagers of the kingdom.
She called the ministers.

"Look after my mother; look after my father.
Look after my brother; look after the kingdom."

In this way, she spoke
To the ministers.

The daughter Suban,
The daughter Suban

Sounded the bell and conch
And took the tipki drum and nagārā [reed instrument].

She went out from the house.
She went out from her dwelling.

She went to Khairapur.
She went to Khairapur.

The king of Khairapur,
Of Khairapur, was her maternal grandfather.

"Give me your clothes, my grandfather [for a male disguise]
And take my clothes."

"Your life is very young.
Your love is very young.

Taking my clothes you’ll do something wrong [impure], Suban.
You’ll do something wrong."

"If I do anything impure, cut off my head.
Cut out my tongue.

My eyes will burst.
My life will leave me."

In this way, Suban spoke.
She gave the answer.
Suban took her grandfather's clothes,
Took her grandfather's clothes, my Suban,
And went on her way.
She went peacefully, my Suban.
She went happily.
She crossed kingdom after kingdom,
With the goats and sheep, elephants and horses.
Suban took all of them with her.
Suban took all of them with her.
They crossed the highland where the *munig* pulse grows.
They crossed the wheat fields.
They went through grain fields, through rice fields,
And destroyed them.
They [owners of fields] couldn't say anything to Suban.
They couldn't say anything to Suban.
They asked, “From which country is this king?
From which country is this merchant?”
Seeing her, they were surprised.
Seeing her, they were surprised.
All the cows and calves went.
All the cows and calves went.
All the goats and sheep,
Grain and wealth, they all went with her.
At this time, my Suban,
At this time, my Suban,
My Suban went on her way.
She went on her way with ease,
To the kingdom of Bandhi Desh,
The kingdom of Bandhiya.
She entered the kingdom, my Suban.
She entered the kingdom, my Suban.
She set up tents, my Suban.
She set up tents.
Tents between the fields,
Tents on the high ground,
She made a protective wall around them.
She made a protective wall around them.
The cows and calves, goats and sheep,
She put them all there.
She was satisfied, my Suban.
She was satisfied, my Suban.
The barber from the kingdom of Udigarh,
The barber from the kingdom of Udigarh
Came to take his bath.
Came to take his bath.
He saw the bahū, my Suban.
He saw the bahū, my Suban.
Her beauty was like the sun,
The beauty that he saw.
“Of the kingdom of Bandhiya,
Of the country of Bandhiya,
She will be made queen.
[Words indistinguishable],” he said.
The barber, saying this,
Went on his way.
He came in front of the king of Bandhi Desh,
The kingdom of Bandhiya.
The barber spoke this word.
He gave this answer.
“Listen, oh king,
Listen, my bābū.
From which country are the foreigners,
From which country are the foreigners,
Who have come here?
Who have come here?
They have set up tents.
They are cooking and eating.
She is brilliant like the sun.
She is beautiful.

She will be queen of this country.
She will be queen of this country.

. . . . . . . . . . . [words indistinguishable]"

Saying this, the barber
Gave the answer.

Hearing him, the king said,
"Take a knife and go.
Cut off the king’s head.
Cut his throat.

Bring the queen
Bring the queen.

I'll give you five villages
And let you leave your barber’s work.”

The king spoke in this way.
He gave this answer.

Hearing this, the barber
Went back.

“Oh king [to Suban], I’ll shave
Your face and head.”

In this way, the barber spoke.
He gave the answer.

Hearing this, the barber spoke.
Hearing this, Suban spoke.

“I’m serving my country.
I’m serving my country.

I’m not the son of a king.
I’m not the son of a bābū.

I’m the son of a moneylender.
I’m the son of a moneylender.

I’m trading marijuana.
I’m trading turmeric.
I've brought on loan
All the cows and calves of the village.

[She's selling them for the village.]

I've brought on loan
All the cows and calves of the kingdom.

I'm the son
Of a poor moneylender.

I have no wealth and riches.
I'm poor,"

Suban said.
Suban spoke.

My Suban declared happily,
My Suban declared happily,

"I won't be shaved
By any barber,

Outside my home," she said,
"Outside my dwelling."

Hearing this, the barber
Was disappointed.

"You're greedy for money.
You're greedy for money.

You're asking for only one rupee.
You're asking for only one rupee.

Take five rupees, barber,
And go away from here."

At this time, the barber
Went to Bandhiya Raja.

He went to the place of the king.
His heart was unhappy.

His heart was saddened, the barber's.
His heart was saddened, the barber's.

He was disappointed, the barber.
He was disappointed, the barber.
He entered the place of the king,
The place of Bandhiya.

“Listen, oh king,
Listen, my bābū.

[He reports what Suban has said.]

‘In my kingdom, I’m the son of a moneylender. 
I’m not the son of a king.’

This is what he [Suban] said.
This is what he said.

‘From the cities of the kingdom, 
From all the landed gentry,

I’ve brought elephants,’ he [Suban] said. 
‘On loan,’ he said.

‘The cows and calves, goats and sheep, 
I’ve brought on loan.

I’m the son of a moneylender. 
I’m going to Banij.

I won’t be shaved 
By another barber.

I’ve brought with me 
The barber of my city,

The one who serves me 
In my city.’

This is what he [Suban] said, oh king.
This is what he said, oh king.

‘To receive one rupee, 
You’ve come here.’

This is what he said, oh king.
He gave five rupees.’

So the barber spoke. 
His heart was not content.

Again and again, three times, 
He went [to Suban].
“I’ll become his [Suban’s] mahāprasād,” he [the king] said.
“This would be good.”

Bandhiya Raja said,
“I’ll seat mahāprasād with him.”

This is what he [Suban] said,
This is the answer he gave,

“A king as great
As Bandhiya Raja,

This Bandhiya Raja says
That he will seat mahāprasād with me.

I’m the son of a moneylender.
I’m the son of a poor man.

How can I seat mahāprasād?” he [Suban] said.
“How can I seat mahāprasād

With a king?” he said,
“With a king?

Listen, barber,
Listen to my answer.

I am poor,” he said,
“I am poor.”

The barber tried to entice him [Suban].
The barber said,

“He has wealth in his house.
He has wealth in his house.

What does poverty matter?” he said.
“What does poverty matter?” he said.

“People go on paths and roads,
From towns and cities,” he said.

“And they form friendships.
They form friendships.

They become relatives,” he said
“They become relatives,” he said.

[People who meet each other while traveling become mahāprasād.]
“Such a great king,
Such a great bābū,
Won’t he give his wealth
To you?
You are poor.
Don’t go begging.
If you seat mahāprasād,
You’ll get respect.”

Saying this much, the barber
Tried to entice him [Suban].

Suban heard this.
She had the four guṇ [attributes/qualities].
[Because of her guṇ, she understands what he is trying to do.]

“Go, go, barber.
You’re saying I must.
I’ll seat [a friendship],” she said.
“‘I’ll seat [a friendship],’” she said.

At this time, the barber,
Hearing this, the barber
Went on his way
To Bandhiya Raja.

He went to the place of the king,
To Bandhi Desh.

Going to the place of the king, the barber,
The barber was happy.

He laughed aloud [at Suban].
He laughed aloud.

“‘I’ll seat mahāprasād,’” he said,
He said happily.

“He [Suban] said, ‘No, no,’
He said, ‘No, no,’
But in the end,
He [Suban] agreed.
'I will seat it [the friendship],’ he [Suban] said.  
‘I will seat it,’ he [Suban] said.”

At this time, Suban  
Went to Mathura bazaar.  
She brought expensive cloth [with gold thread].  
She brought expensive cloth.  

For Bandhiya  
Suban brought expensive cloth.  
She brought two pieces  
Of expensive cloth, my Suban.  
She brought two pieces.  
She brought two pieces.  

Expensive cloth, oh Suban,  
For her friend, Bandhiya.  
She brought it for him.  
She brought it for him.  

_jalebī_ and _pepā_ [two kinds of sweets],  
_jalebī_ and _pepā_,  
She brought a sack full of them.  
She brought a sack full of them.  

One coconut is necessary;  
She brought five.  
One betel nut is necessary;  
She brought five.  
She brought five pieces of _pān_ [betel leaf].  
She brought five pieces of musk.  
My Suban brought these.  
My Suban brought these.  
Look, Bandhiya brought cotton cloth.  
Look, Bandhiya brought cotton cloth.  

A single coconut, Bandhiya,  
A single coconut, Bandhiya,  
Bandhiya brought  
A single coconut.
Two pieces of pān.
Two pieces of pān.

Having decorated it [the brass plate on which the gifts are placed],
Having decorated it, [he said]

“Go, go my servants,
Go, go, my servants.

Servants of the Bandhiya king,
Come to me.

Take these gifts,” he said,
“Take these gifts.

I’m going to seat mahāprasād.
I’m going to seat mahāprasād.”

At this time, the barber
Called out loudly,

“Go, go, Bandhiya Raja,
To the moneylender’s son.

Go, go to seat it [formalize the friendship].
Go, go to seat it.

I’ll send the servants,” he said.
“I’ll send the servants,” he said.

“I’ll go with her [Suban said],
With my wife.

Servants take these gifts,
Take them to that place.

To the city of Bandhiya,
To the house of Bandhiya.

We will enter it,” she said,
“We will enter it.”

At this time, the barber
Went on his way,

When Bandhiya
Said, “Call my servants.”

With four or five servants,
With four or five servants,
She [Suban] went on her way.
She slowly went on her way.

To the country of Bandhiya,
To the city of Bandhiya,

Suban came near.
Suban came near.

She entered it.
She entered it.

At this time, my Suban,
Bearing those gifts,

She took them out
And entered.

With five or six servants,
She prostrated [before the king].

Hearing this, the servants said,
"Tulsa Rani,

He [Suban] brought her with him.
He brought her with him.

She is like the sun.
She is brilliant, like the daughter of fire.

Suban," they said, "is the son of a king.
Suban," they said, "is the son of a king.

Look at the queen.
Look at her beauty.

Seeing her, in city and town,
People are in wonder.

From which country has the king come?
From which country has the queen come?

We have never seen
Such beauty."

City and townspeople came,
And children, too.

Women came,
And men, too.
They looked at her with pleasure.  
They looked at her.  

The servants put down  
The gifts.  

They put them down  
In the courtyard of the king,  

Where there was  
A Brindavati [Tulsi] platform.  

A kalaś [ritual water pot] was installed,  
One holding an oil lamp.  

A Brahmin was reading the Vedas.  
He was reading the Vedas.  

At this time, the Brahmin  
Gave this answer,  

“If ritual friends speak ill of each other,  
They will become tadpoles.”  

Saying this, the Brahmin,  
To the daughter, Suban,  

And to Bandhiya Raja,  
He gave this answer.  

They took the coconuts seven times,  
The coconuts seven times,  

And passed them back and forth.  
They supplicated each other [for friendship and protection].  

They greeted each other.  
They supplicated each other.  

They put cloth pieces on each other’s shoulder.  
They put cloth pieces on each other’s shoulder.  

They supplicated each other.  
They appealed to each other.  

At this time, the coconut,  
The jalebi and small khājur fruit,  

They ate them, sitting cross-legged,  
In the city, in the town.
They were content.
They were satisfied.

At this time, Bandhiya Raja,
Hearing this, Bandhiya Raja,

Fed him pān.

They fed each other pān
And went away happily.

To their own houses,
They went on their way.

"They are cooking
Today in that dwelling, my friend.

Let's go celebrate," she [Suban] said.
"Let's go celebrate,"

Suban said,
The daughter said.

"Today I won't eat [in my house]," she said.
"Today I won't eat," she said.

"Where they're cooking,
Where they're cooking food,

That's where I'll eat," she said.
"Where they are cooking,

I'll eat there.
I'll eat there."

"Greetings, my mahāprasād,
Greetings, greetings," she said.

At this time, Suban
Went on her way.

Her bahū, Tulsa Rani,
Went ahead,

Repeating the name of god, "Hari-Hari,"
She went to the jungle of Brinda.

The tent was set up.
The tent was set up.
Suban went on her way
In a chariot.
To her own house, oh Suban,
To her own dwelling,
She entered, my Suban.
She entered, my Suban.
She was happy, my Suban.
She was happy.

Morning dawned, Suban.
Morning dawned.
Bandhiya was calling.
Bandhiya was calling.

“Go, go, barber,
Call my mahāprasād,” he said.

At this time, the barber
Came there [to Suban].

“Listen, my king.
Listen, my bābū.

[Your] mahāprasād is calling you.
[Your] mahāprasād is calling you.”

Suban went on her way.
She walked there.
She went on her way.
She went on her way.
Oh daughter, my Suban,
Suban devatā [literally, goddess].
She went slowly.
She went there,
To the kingdom of Bandhiya.
To the kingdom of Bandhiya.
Suban entered.
Suban entered.
She greeted and met him.
She greeted and met him.
At this time, my Suban,
Hearing him, my Suban,
Sat down with content, Suban,
Sat down on a chair.
He gave biṣī and matches,
Bandhiya Raja.

"I’m the son of a foreigner.
I’m the son of a moneylender.
I don’t smoke biṣī, mahāprasād.
I don’t smoke biṣī, mahāprasād."

Speaking in this way, oh Suban,
She gave the answer.

Now, now, Suban.
Now, now, Suban.

"Listen, mahāprasād,
Listen to the answer.
A mahāprasād like you
Must surely observe fasts [if you don’t smoke].
You must surely observe fasts.
You must surely observe fasts.
Go bring some tiger milk,
Some tiger milk [for a fast].
You must surely fast," he said.
"You must surely fast."

At this time, my Suban
Hearing this answer,
She came to her bahu.
She came to her wealth.

Lowering her face,
With a despondent heart,
She met her bahu, oh Suban.
She met her bahu.

Her bahu, Tulsa Rani,
Had cooked a meal.
She had cooked a vegetable dish,
Not one, but fourteen.

She had cooked all kinds, Tulsa.
She had cooked all kinds, Tulsa.

"Now, now, Suban,
Listen to the answer.

You went to your mahāprasād.
You went to your mahāprasād.

What happened that, with a sad heart,
You’re coming to me?

You’re coming to me,” she said,
“With a despondent heart.”

“Listen, my bahu
He’s doing a kūṭ kūṇī [kūṭ, literally a plot, scheme] fast.

He told me to bring tiger milk,
To bring tiger milk.

If I go near a tiger,
If I go near a tiger,

I won’t be able to return
To my mother and father’s home.

I’ll be in the tiger’s stomach,” she said.
“I’ll be in the tiger’s stomach,” she said.

At this time, Tulsa Rani,
Hearing this, Tulsa Rani [said],

“You didn’t obey the word of your mother.
You didn’t obey the word of your father.

To the cities and towns, my Suban,
They forbade you to go.

The word of your grandmother, the word of your grandfather,
The word of your brother.

You didn’t listen to the word of anyone.
You didn’t listen to the word of anyone.

You came with one mind.
You came with one mind, my Suban.
Now you’re being punished.
Now you’re being punished.

. . . . . . . [couplet indiscernible]

‘You’ve killed her with hunger.
You didn’t serve her.

Suban has become dried out [thin], my Suban.
Suban has become dried out, my Suban.’

This is what your mother will say.
This is what your mother will say.

Eat this good meal,” she said.
“Eat and be content.

Be content and eat the meal.
Be happy and eat the meal.

Don’t be worried about anything, my Suban.
Don’t be worried about anything.

Now, now, my Suban, don’t worry.
Now, now, my Suban, don’t worry.”

At this time, my Suban,
Her heart was going dhak-dhak [sound of heart beat].

She ate some food,
And she left some food.

“Comb your hair, my Suban.
Eat a piece of pān.”

At this time, her bahū,
Mother Tulsa Rani,

Counseled her, oh Suban.
She counseled her.

Her heart didn’t obey, oh Suban.
Her heart didn’t obey, oh Suban.

It went dhak-dhak, oh Suban.
She went to sleep that night.

The cock crowed.
Morning dawned.
The cock crowed, my Suban.
She took the brass vessel [to bring the tiger's milk].

"Listen, my Suban,
Listen to the answer.

When you meet the tiger, say this:
When you meet the tiger, say this:

'Listen, mother, my uncle's wife,
Listen to the answer.

My mother is fasting.
She's fasting.

She has sent me
To bring milk.'

Saying this, my Suban,
Saying this, my Suban,

Giving this answer,
Giving this response,

She'll give milk in your hand.
She'll give milk in your hand.

Go happily, my Suban,
Go happily."

Hearing the word of her bahû,
At this time, the word of her bahû,

Obeying the word of Tulsa,
Obeying her, Suban

Went happily, my Suban.
She went happily.

She went to Candangiri, my Suban.
She went to Kailash [names of two mountains].

Slowly, slowly, the sun rose.
She came to the tiger.

The tiger saw her.
She saw her.

"My next meal is coming.
My food is coming,
That which I'll swallow today.
That which I'll swallow today."

At this time, Suban,
Hearing her, Suban [said],

"Listen, my aunt,
Listen, my aunt,

My mother is fasting.
She's fasting.

She has sent me
To you for some milk.

I've come for some milk, mother.
I've come for some milk, mother."

Saying this, my Suban,
She gave the answer.

Hearing this, the tiger,
At this time, the tiger [said],

"Listen, my son [Suban in disguise],
Listen, my son.

Stay far away.
Stay far away.

I have a tiger's head,
A head that seizes.

I'll swallow up
Such a beautiful son.

Don't come in front of me.
Stay far away.

Go far away, my son.
Go far away, my son."

At this time, Suban,
Hearing this, my Suban,

Put down the brass vessel.
Put down the brass vessel.

She went far away.
She stayed behind cover.
Hearing this, the tiger,
Put her milk
And called out,
"Listen, my son.
Take the milk, my son.
I'm going away, my son.
Don't fear, my son.
Take it with pleasure, my son.
Go happily," she said.
At this time, my Suban,
Brought it with pleasure.
She brought
The milk in front of Bandhiya.
When she brought
Bandhiya was surprised,
"The tiger didn't eat him.
The snake didn't bite him."
In this way, Bandhiya spoke.
He gave the answer.
Hearing this, he gave the answer.
"Listen to your mahāprasād.
Listen to the answer."
We'll go to the wrestling grounds.
We'll go to the wrestling grounds.

There will be a hole of fourteen *kos*.
There will be a hole of fourteen *kos*.

It will be long,
Fifty feet long.

Having spread a net below,
We'll cross the hole."

At this time, it was sunrise.
It was sunrise when she heard him.

After this, she went.
After this, she went.

Her heart wasn't happy, oh Suban.
Her heart wasn't happy, oh Suban.

Deep, deep, fifty deep,
Such was the hole.

Twelve *kos*, twenty-four *kos*,
What plan should she make?

At this time, Tulsa Rani,
Hearing her, Tulsa Rani

Gave the answer, oh daughter,
Gave the reply.

"Listen, my Suban,
Listen to the answer.

You didn't obey the word of your mother.
You didn't listen to the word of your brother.

You came without worry, Suban.
You came without worry, Suban.

You're receiving the fruit of that, Suban.
You're receiving the fruit of that, Suban.

Don't be even a little afraid.
Don't be even a little fearful.

Don't worry, my Suban,
Don't worry.
Live happily, Suban.
Live happily, Suban.

Salute your dharma [social/religious obligations].
Salute the earth, your mother.

Stand here, my Suban.
Stand here, my Suban.

You'll fly over the hole, Suban.
You'll be standing over there.

Take this whistle
And clap.

Stand there happily.
Stand happily.

Happily, my Suban, happily.
Happily, my Suban, happily.

Upon coming to one side, my Suban,
... . . . . . . . . . . [line indiscernible]

Bandhiya's face will be dark.
His face will be dark.

The mahāprasād you have seated
Is making you sad again and again.

Bandhiya is coming with evil intent.
Bandhiya is coming with evil intent.

At this time, the gods and dharma
Are my witness.

Be happy, my Suban.
Be happy, my Suban.

Returning to the country of your mother and father,
Returning to the country of your father,

Returning to the country of your brother, my Suban,
May you be victorious."

At this time, my Suban,
Hearing this, my Suban,

Bandhiya said, "Look,
On the mūṅg highland
A large measure of mustard seed,
Spread it out and return.”

“A measure of mustard seed,
A measure of mustard seed
Is spread out, oh Bandhiya.
Is spread out, oh Bandhiya.”

The barber went there.
At that time, the barber,

In the evening, went to tell him [Suban].
In the evening, went to tell him.

“Listen, oh foreigner.
Listen to the answer.

Your mahāprasād, one measure
Of mustard seeds has spread out.

[You must] pick them up.
Pick them up.”

At this time, my Suban,
She [Tulsa] called her.

“Come, Suban, eat your food.
Come,” she called.

Her face was downcast.
Her face was downcast.

She [Tulsa] went up to her ear.
She went up to her ear.

At this time, my Suban,
She didn’t hear anything.

“What happened, my Suban?
What happened, my Suban?”

She didn’t hear her, Suban.
She didn’t hear her, Suban.

“Listen, my bahu.
Listen to the answer.

On the munīg highland,
On the urad highland,
He has spread out
A big measure of mustard seed.

He has told me, ‘Pick up
One measure of mustard seed, [or]

I’ll cut you in two.
I’ll cut off your head.’

How can I pick it up, bahū?
How can I pick it up, bahū?

I have no wisdom.
I have no wisdom.”

“Listen, my Suban.
Listen, Suban.

You didn’t obey the word of your mother.
You didn’t listen to the word of your father.

You came without worry, Suban.
You came without worry.

You’re receiving the fruits of this, Suban.
You’re receiving the fruits of this.

At this time, my Suban,
Eat your food in peace.

Be happy, Suban.
Be happy, Suban.”

Hearing this, Suban,
Hearing this, Suban

Ate some food.
Ate some food.

She slept a little, Suban.
She slept a little.

Then she couldn’t sleep, not at all.
She turned from side to side.

Hearing her, Tulsa Rani,
Mother Tulsa Rani

Wrote a letter,
Wrote a letter
To the kingdom of pigeons, my daughter.
To the kingdom of pigeons.

“Listen, father.
Listen, father.

I’m in Bandhi Desh, father.
I’m in distress in this kingdom.

Take pity on my distress.
Be prepared.

Send to me
One lakh [100,000], five lakh pigeons.

Bandhiya Raja
Has spread out mustard seeds.

Send pigeons
To pick them all up, father.”

At this time, she wrote
The letter.

In the pigeon kingdom, at midnight,
They received the letter.

“The daughter is in distress.
The daughter is in distress.

The letter came in the night.
The letter came in the night.

To which country has she gone?
In which place is she staying?

Our daughter is distressed.
Our wealth is distressed.”

Hearing this, Tulsa,
Tulsa sent the letter.

“Go, go, pigeons.
Go, go, pigeons.

Don’t eat them, pigeons.
Don’t eat them.

Fill the measure,
A large measure of mustard seeds.
Put them over there,
Next to the measure,
Two winnowing baskets of mustard seeds.

Hearing this, Bandhiya will see.
At this time, the barber will see.

Coming to the highland in the morning,
They'll see with their eyes.

In the morning,
They'll see with surprise
What has happened, Bandhiya.

"Our daughter is distressed.
Our daughter is distressed.
Quickly, pick them up.
In a moment, pick them up."

In an instant,
The pigeons came and filled it,
A measure of mustard seeds.

$Lākh$ upon $lākh$ of pigeons,
Five $lākh$ came.

They picked them all up
In a moment, all the mustard seeds.

They filled
The measure in an instant.

Taking two winnowing baskets,
They put them on the ground.

They created a whir with their wings.
The pigeons flew away.

The pigeons flew away.
The pigeons flew away.
At this time, it was sunrise.
The sunrise appeared.
Dawn broke.
The sunrise appeared.

At this time, Bandhiya,
At this time, Bandhiya [and]
Everyone from town and city went to see.
Everyone from town and city went to see.

The measure of mustard seeds
Was filled.

Two baskets of mustard seeds
Had been put on the ground.

“Well done! Well done, Suban!
Well done, moneylender!

You picked up
This many mustard seeds.

Our playful son,
............. [line indiscernible]”

At this time, Bandhiya Raja
Looked with astonishment.

“Listen, barber,
Go now on your way.

Tonight, barber,
I will play dice.

Tonight, barber,
I will play dice,

With my mahāprasād.
With my mahāprasād.”

At this time, the barber
Went to tell her [Suban].

“Listen, foreigner,
Listen to the answer.

Your mahāprasād
Will play dice with you.
He'll play dice,” he said.
“He’ll play dice.”

“Listen, barber, 
Listen to the answer.

At what time will we play?” she said.
“At what time will we play?” she said.

“Tonight is the time.
Tonight is the time,

We'll play dice,” he said.
“We’ll play dice,” he said.

At this time, my Suban, 
Night fell.

She ate some food, Suban.
Her mind was at peace.

Taking a thousand, a thousand, 
Five thousand rupees,

She entered the company of Bandhiyar [literally, friend Bandhiya], Suban.
She entered the company of Bandhiyar, Suban.

She threw down 
Sixteen cowrie shells, cowrie shells.

At this time, my daughter, 
She threw down the gamble.

He threw down the gamble, Bandhiya.
He threw down the gamble, Bandhiya.

Hearing this, my Suban 
Was playing.

She lost everything, oh Suban.
She lost everything, oh Suban.

The cows went; the calves went. 
The horses went; [words indiscernible].

The elephants went; the donkeys went.
She lost everything.

Suban lost.
She lost everything.
To her bahu Tulsa Rani,
To her bahu Tulsa Rani,

She went to her platform, Suban.
She went to her platform, Suban.

“I’ve lost everything,
All my riches and wealth, my bahu.

Come, bahu, I’ll stake you in the dicing.
Come, bahu, I’ll stake you in the dicing.”

At this time, Tulsa Rani,
Hearing this, Tulsa Rani

Gave the answer, Tulsa,
Gave the word.

“Your brother is lame.
Who will serve him?

If you gamble with me,
You’ll leave me in Bandhi Desh.

Only one of us will return, Suban.
Only one of us will return, Suban.

What will you tell your brother?
What will you tell your mother and father?

What will you tell the people of your kingdom,
If you stake me in the dicing, Suban?”

She didn’t heed her, Suban.
She didn’t heed her, Suban.

“Come, come, bahu, I’ll stake you in the dicing.
Come, come, bahu, I’ll stake you in the dicing.

I have lost everything,
Wealth, riches, everything.”

At this time, my Suban
Came, bringing her bahu.

She came, bringing her [and said],
“I’m ready.”

“I have a half-cowrie shell.
I have a half-cowrie shell.
Listen, Suban,
Listen to the answer.

When your brother got married,
When your brother got married,

He won me
With this half-cowrie shell.

Take it,
This half-cowrie shell, Suban.

Stake me in the dicing, Suban.
Stake me in the dicing, Suban.”

Hearing this, Suban
Took her.

She took her bahū, Suban.
She took her bahū, Suban.

She seated her in the dicing, her bahū.
She seated her in the dicing, her bahū.

Bandhiya won her.
Bandhiya won her.

He was overjoyed, Bandhiya.
He was content.

“I’ve won her,” he said.
“I've won her,” he said.

“It was my destiny [karm],” he said.
“It was my destiny,” he said.

He was delighted, Bandhiya.
He was delighted, Bandhiya.

The barber was delighted.
The barber was delighted.

Bandhiya was lovesick.
She was beautiful in every aspect, Tulsa Rani.

He took her to his storehouse.
He took her to his storehouse.

Happily, he put her there.
Happily, he put her there.
She [Suban] got up from the gambling, the *mahāprasad*. She got up and threw.

With the half-cowrie, She was ready, my Suban.

She was ready, my Suban, With the half-cowrie.

It was thrown and sounded *phaṭ*. It was thrown and sounded *phaṭ*.

"Listen, *mahāprasad*. Listen to the answer.

Throwing and picking it up, it is one turn. It is one turn.

I have one half-cowrie. I have one half-cowrie.

Throw once, *mahāprasad*. Throw once, *mahāprasad*.”

"Why should I throw a turn For a half-cowrie?"

Bandhiya Raja Asked the question.

The city dwellers, The kings from the city [said],

“You have won *lākh* upon *lākh* of rupees.

You have won All the cows and calves.

You have won All the elephants and horses.

The *bahu*, too, You have won.

Throw once more. You seated a *mahāprasad*.

It [the friendship] was entrusted to you. It was entrusted to you.”
He threw his turn, Bandhiya.
He threw his turn, Bandhiya.

At this time, Bandhiya
Threw his turn.

Suban, with a cowrie in her hand
Came quickly.

She came with a cowrie
In her hand, my Suban.

At this time, my Suban
Had sixteen cowries.

She held them in her hand.
She held them in her hand.

[She had won sixteen cowries with the throw of her half-cowrie.]

She entreated Dharma.
She appealed to Mother Earth.

She threw
Sixteen cowries, her cowries.

She had nine turns.
She had nine turns.

She won everything back from Bandhiya.
She won everything back.

She won the watch from Bandhiya,
His wealth and riches.

Cows went; calves went.
She won everything.

All that was in Bandhiya’s kingdom,
All his riches.

She won everything, my Suban.
She won everything.

He brought his wife
From the storehouse.

He staked her in the dicing, Bandhiya.
He staked her in the dicing, Bandhiya.
He coveted
The *bahū*, Tulsa Rani.

At this time, the barber
Brought the wives.

Then she [Suban] won.
Then she won.

He brought and staked
His seven wives.

“You’ll win in the dicing, Bandhiya.
You’ll win in the dicing, Bandhiya.”

Hearing this,
He staked Tulsa Rani.

He staked
The *bahū*, Tulsa Rani.

She won, Suban.
She won, Suban.

At this time, Bandhiya Raja
Staked himself in the dicing.

Hearing this, Bandhiya Raja
Staked himself in the dicing.

She won him, my Suban,
She won him.

When she won Bandhiya,
When she won Bandhiya,

She put a rope in his nose.
She put a rope in his nose.

She put it in his nose.
She put it in his nose.

She tied him to a tree, Bandhiya.
She tied him to a tree, Bandhiya.

Everyone went to the storehouse,
Everyone went to the storehouse,

In the kingdom of Bandhiyar,
In the house of Bandhiyar.
There were many, many kings,
From the city of Bombay.
From the city of Cuttack.
From the city of Bombay.

Having won the kings [having won their freedom]
Who had been put in jail,

They were happy, oh Bandhiya.
They were happy, oh Bandhiya.

She brought them out.
She brought them out.

Suban, my daughter,
Oh Suban.

"Listen, all you kings.
Listen, all you kings.

How much money did you bring,
Riches and wealth?

Tell the truth, bābū.
Tell the truth, bābū."

Some said,
"I brought a thousand rupees."

Some said, "Ten thousand
I brought."

Some said, "I brought five."
Some said, "I brought ten."

Saying this,
They went in front of Suban.

Hearing this, the daughter Suban
Made everyone happy.

"All your wealth and riches,
All your wealth,

Take it and go, oh kings.
Take it and go.

Your mothers and fathers will be waiting [for you].
Daughters and relatives will be waiting.
Go happily, oh kings.
Go happily, oh kings.”

Hearing this, Suban,
At this time, Suban,

The people of Bandhi Desh [said],
The people of Bandhi Desh,

“We'll make you king.
We'll fasten the crown [on your head].”

Hearing this, Suban,
At this time, Suban [said],

“I won't be king.
I won’t be king.

I won't stay in the city of Bandhi.
I won't stay in the city of Bandhi.

I'll go to my own country,
To the people of my kingdom.

The brother of Bandhiya
Is in the kingdom of Bandhi.

Go bring him.
Go bring him.

I'll give the throne to him.
I'll give the throne to him.

I'll hand over to him,
To his brother, all the wealth.

I'll go to my own country.
I'll go to my own country.

My mother and father will be waiting [for me].
My grandmother and grandfather will be searching.

I'll go without worry, Suban,
I'll go happily.”

At this time, Bandhiya Raja’s
Brother, they brought him.

She gave him red [royal] clothes, Suban.
She gave him red clothes, Suban.
His brother
Took the king's throne.

His brother
Took the king's throne.

She readied a lame horse.
She readied a lame horse.

She bound Bandhiya to it.
She bound Bandhiya to it.

She made it run on the *mung* highland.
She made it run on the *mung* highland.

She took back four times
The wealth she brought.

She took back four times
The number of cows and calves.

There was a single *bahū*;
Now there were three *bahū*.

She took these with her, Suban.
She took these with her, Suban.

She went happily, Suban,
She went back to her country.

She went to her father's country.
She went to her mother's kingdom,

With a content heart, Suban,
[Went] to her kingdom.

She arrived
At her house, Suban.

She arrived, filled with joy.
She arrived, filled with joy.

"Tell my mother and father,
Tell my mother and father,

Tell them I have come;
Their daughter has come.

Tell them Suban has come;
Their *bahū* has come.
In this way, tell them,
The people of the city and town.
Tell them and come.
Tell them and come.

Go, go, young goatherds,
In front of my mother.

Give the news.
Tell what has happened.”

At this time, the goatherds
Went running.

[They came] in front of the queen mother,
In front of her father, the king.

“Your daughter Suban
Is coming.”

Calling the sons and citizens [of the kingdom],
They went to the ministers.

“Go to welcome her,” they said.
“Go to bring her back.”

“Listen, goatherds,
Listen, goatherds,
Tell the truth,
Not lies.”

“I’m telling the truth, mother,
Not lies.”

Hearing this answer,
Hearing this answer,

Jagya Rishi,
Anna Rishi

Sent his servants to the city and town.
He sent his peons.

He called and sent them.
He called and sent them.

Quickly they brought them,
The sons and citizens.
With cymbals and drums,
With cymbals and drums,
They went to welcome her.
They went to bring her.
At this time in her house,
They were all delighted.
She touched their feet,
The feet of her mother and father.
She touched her feet, Suban's mother's.
She touched her feet.

Her bahū
Touched their feet.

She greeted them
And stood in front of them.
They stood and then sat down.
They stood and then sat down.
She had taken her grandfather's clothes.
She had gone to Khairapur.

At this time, Suban
Stood in front of her grandfather.

"Listen, grandfather,
Listen to the answer.
Take your clothes, grandfather.
Take your clothes, grandfather.
Give me my clothes, grandfather.
Give me my clothes, grandfather."

She was a young girl, my Suban.
She was a young girl, my Suban.

She gave back her grandfather's clothes.
She took her own clothes.

With joy, the bahū
Met her.

"Where did my brother go, bahū?
Where did my brother go, bahū?"
“Your brother went home,
Your brother went home,"

Tulsa replied.
Tulsa replied.

At this time, Suban
Went to her mother’s house.

“Go, go, servants,
To where the lame horse is.

Tie Bandhiya in the horse stall.
Tie Bandhiya in the horse stall.

*Kulūd, mūng and urad,*
Boil and give them to him.

Give him horse feed.
Give him horse feed.”

They boiled and gave [to him],
*Mūng and urad.*

They treated the barber like a dog.
Everyone hit him.

Everyone in the city and town,
Everyone hit him.

They treated him like a dog.
The barber was treated like a dog.

At this time, her mother Nila Rani
Gave the answer.

“Listen, daughter,
Listen to the answer.

There's been a birth in the horse stall.
There’s been a birth in the horse stall.

A man has been born.
A man has been born, daughter.

You’ve taken this action.
You’ve taken this action.

You went to play in other lands and kingdoms.
With joy you came back.
In the horse stable, you put
Someone, a man,

And fed him horse feed, Suban.
And fed him horse feed, Suban.”

“I’ll tell you the story.
You haven’t heard it.

Where horse feed is eaten, he’ll eat horse feed.
He’ll stay tied up in the horse stable.

Then he’ll come to his senses, Bandhiya.
Then he’ll come to his senses, Bandhiya.”

“At this time, my Suban,
It is the will of Bedhiri [learned Brahmin, bedi],”

Her mother said,
“That Suban get married.

We’ll call
All the people of the kingdom.

From which country and kingdom
Will you marry?”

At this time, Suban [said],
At this time, Suban,

“Have leaf plates and bowls sewn,
With twigs and leaves [for the wedding banquet].

Buy grain and rice [and]
Fancy clothes.

Buy and bring all these things;
Bring all these for me.

Then I’ll tell you [whom I’ll marry],
Then I’ll tell you,”

Suban said.
Suban said.

All the fancy clothes,
The wealth and riches,

Everything was prepared.
Everything was prepared.
Jagya Rishi,
At this time, Anna Rishi
Gathered everything together.
Gathered everything together.
He quickly brought everything
To the earthen Tulsi platform.

Dhūrī, dhūrī sounded the mṛdanga drum.
The cymbals also sounded.

“A marriage will be performed soon,” they said.
“A marriage will be performed soon,” they said.

“Go, go, my servants.
Go, go, my servants.
Go, and bring him,
The one tied in the horse stable.
Take sweet-smelling soap.
Take warm water.

Untie and bring him,
The one tied in the horse stable.
Bathe him.
Bathe him with joy.”

They heard this, my Suban,
They heard the word.

The servants and attendants,
The servants and attendants
Went running
And untied him.

They untied and brought him
To the steps of the well.

With warm water
They completed his bath.

They massaged him with oil.
They bathed him.

They brought him to the platform, Suban,
And seated him.
They dressed him in
New white clothes.

At this time, Bandhiya,
Hearing this, Bandhiya [thought],

“‘I’m in a king’s house.
I’m in a king’s house.

They’ll offer me in pūjā [as a sacrifice].
They’ll offer me in pūjā.

I won’t survive today,” he said.
“I won’t survive today,” he said.

“Go, go, servants.
Go, go, attendants.

Lift him up and bring him
To the leaf-canopied [wedding] courtyard.”

At this time, Bandhiya
Was brought to the platform.

They lifted him up and brought him.
They entered the leaf-canopied courtyard.

“My father is Jagya Rishi.
My father is Anna Rishi.

My grandmother is Ranna Khairani.
My grandfather is Ranna Khairaja.

He is Barun Raja.
She is Barun Rani.

They are my father’s [parents],
Ranna Khairani.

The king of Khaira
Is my father’s [father].

My mother’s [parents] are Barun Rani,
Barun Raja.”

Their invitations arrived.
Their invitations arrived.

People and riches arrived
At the house of marriage.
From the city and town they arrived. From the city and town they arrived.

At this time, the marriage was performed.

Their hands were tied together, were tied together [in marriage].

From city and town, the riches of the storehouse.

“These are all yours, Suban, these are all yours.

This wealth, these riches, the paper money and coins,

The dry fields and wet fields, the house and courtyard,

These are all yours, Suban. These are all yours, Suban.”

They gave their blessing. They gave their blessing.

They were married with joy. They were married with joy.

The food was cooked. The vegetables were cooked.

Potato curry, banana curry, everything was cooked.

Going to city and town, everyone was called and fed.

They went with joy. They were happy.

At this time, Tulsa Rani, she with a patient heart,

Joyfully she gave her, to her sister Suban,

A cot, to Suban, a palanquin, to Suban.
"Here is your house, sister. 
Here is your dwelling."

Tulsa Rani
Spoke in this way.

With joy in their hearts, all the people,
The wedding guests,

Whoever had come,
Went back to their homes.

They [Suban and Bandhiya] entered
Their home.

The wedding was over.
They lived happily.