

ISSN-0976-8165



THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN ENGLISH

Bi-Monthly Peer-Reviewed eJournal

VOL. 15 ISSUE-3 JUNE 2024

15 YEARS OF OPEN ACCESS

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ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
www.galaxyimrj.com

Stationed in Suspense: Three Nights at the Railway Station

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A boy named Vraj lived in the little village of Dharampur. Dharampur is a settlement located inland. At the age of 21, Vraj completed his BA. Vraj had big goals, but no one was capable of supporting him. One of his life mottos was, “I want to be big in life; fly in the sky.” Though he was unsure of how things would work out, he had such unflinching faith in himself that he could find a way no matter where he went. He decided to pursue further studies. He intended to fulfill his aim of earning an MA from Ahmedabad. It was difficult to study in Gujarat’s largest city, Ahmedabad. Expenses constituted a complex and large question for him. However, Vraj believed that everything would be arranged if he reached Ahmedabad, because he had such a strong faith in himself. Vraj had a strong trust in God; he knew that God was with him.

Vraj’s family was unable to provide any financial support for him. Vraj also realized how his family was faring financially and thought it was not worth giving them too much trouble. Vraj received a lot of encouragement from his family. Vraj arrived in Ahmedabad in such a predicament. In his master’s program, Vraj chose English as a major. Despite his lack of proficiency in English, he had a strong belief in hard work, which made everything appear easy to him. By interview and merit, Vraj was accepted into the college. Within his reservation category, Vraj secured the third position throughout the entire department. Vraj didn’t have any other plans for lodging. Due to a lack of available space, admission to the hostel was not possible for Vraj. Permission to remain in the hostel was denied in spite of a lot of efforts. After repeatedly hearing statements like “There is no space; if there is space, you will get it,” with disappointment, he returned to college from the hostel warden office.

Vraj had afternoon classes at college. After his first day of college, he didn’t know where to go after classes because he didn’t have a place to stay or keep his old bag. After thinking a lot, he decided to talk to the college principal about his problem, hoping they could help. Nervously, Vraj went to the principal’s office, but unfortunately, due to a shortage of space in hostels, he had to leave without a solution. Vraj’s college had a library in the MA department. There he sat till 8:00 p.m. He was thinking that he would have to leave the library after 8:00 p.m. While thinking

like this, it was 08:00 in the night. It was time for the library to close. The bell rang, and the few students in the library began to leave. Vraj's feet were going down the steps of the library. With this downward step, there was also the question of where to stay now. After thinking about it with some deliberation, he decided to eat first. Vraj had to take care of his finances and eat tea biscuits from a cabin in front of the campus. There was no other way out of it, Apart from the closest train station, where one may sleep, at last he made the decision to stay overnight at the train station. His college was not far from the train station. After a while, Vraj pulled a book from his luggage and settled down to read outside the train station. How is the night going to go? Vraj was thinking about this all the time. Not only that, but it also instantly occurs to him that thousands of other people are also sleeping outside with him, so why should he be afraid to sleep here? He picked up the book and read it again, but this time he had a million questions.

Vraj had been exposed to the biographies of Bollywood celebrities. They used to claim that they slept at the train station a lot of nights throughout their hard times. That night, such discourse felt really out of place. Although the actors claimed to have slept through the night, in Vraj's case, the railway police forbade him from sleeping on the ground or on benches. How can this be practicable for these actors? Vraj felt these actors were lied to. Vraj continued to keep awake until midnight, and then at 4:30 in the morning, police officers awoke Vraj once more. Vraj had not finished sleeping. Vraj was tired; who would oppose these cops? A short distance separated the train station from the bus terminal. At four in the morning, Vraj departed from the train station and made his way to the nearby bus stop. There, he took a nap on the bench at the bus stop. The security guard woke Vraj up, even inside the bus terminal, at seven in the morning. Vraj awakened from that spot, seeming to have completed his sleep. Vraj spent his first night away from home at the train station. Vraj took a shower in the bus station's restroom before going to his college. He attended lectures and read for the whole day in the same library, where he spent his daytime residence until eight o'clock at night. One thing was that, even though there was no roof to sleep under at night, Vraj did not stop reading. Vraj was so confident that he was determined that no matter what happened, I would not go back home. Night fell again.

This was the second night of Vraj's in Ahmedabad. Vraj ate vadapav from the street in front of the college and reached back to the railway station. For Vraj, it was another terrible night. He was woken up by the police at 4:30 in the morning, and Vraj spent the other half of the night sleeping at the closest bus station until seven. The station's restroom attendant was similarly struck

with thought when he saw the same person come in to take a bath for the second day. Since Vraj was aware of the man's thoughts, he gave him five rupees discreetly and departed without saying anything more. He was scared. Whatever he believed to be normal was not normal. After all, how many nights can a person spend waiting at a train station and a bus station? Vraj made multiple attempts to explain his situation to the hostel's warden. But there wasn't enough room, which was the only response. For Vraj, this third day went by with a lot of worry. Despite Professor Kavita's extensive teachings, Vraj's overnight worry diverted him from understanding anything that was said in the lecture. It's been said that having mental tranquility is essential for studying, and Vraj felt this on that day.

The sun had almost set. In the evening's light, only a few pupils were reading in the library. Seemed to be becoming unsure. Thoughts of returning home entered his mind, but he also recalled his more resolute earlier belief that nothing would go wrong, and he would not return home. But this assurance appears to be decreasing over time. Vraj returned to the train station that evening without even eating. After circling through several ideas, Vraj ultimately decided that it would be best for him to return home and finish his education there. Despite the challenging circumstances, Vraj remained resolute in his determination to pursue his studies in his hometown.

Vraj bought a ticket from the railway station counter and waited for the train. The train that Vraj wanted to take was at 11:33. Vraj was sitting on the bench; he was also hungry but did not feel like eating. Why did I come back, and what will I say when I get home? There was a big query turned in one corner of the heart. Vraj arrived at the platform after having numerous similar ideas. Vraj was racing through his uncontrollable heartbeats. The railroad station's digital clock showed 11:25. Vraj wanted to cry, but he avoided crying after noticing the other travelers. He felt that the earth moved all around him, which frightened Vraj. His train was supposed to arrive in the last seven to eight minutes. Along with this, he remembered a college professor who was with him for seven days in a resident cell. The professor had told him during the camp that Vraj should call him if he needed work one day. His name was Rajiv Sharma. Vraj thought of calling Rajiv Sharma and took out his mobile phone. At this time, Vraj looked at the clock, and it was 11:32, and the train was only one minute away. Vraj decided it was worthless to disturb a college professor who had only known him for seven days at mid night, considering there would only be a minute left to train, and he hung up the phone. Vraj put down his phone, and a second later there was an indication from the railway announcement system about a 20-minute delay for the Purushottam Express for

unknown reasons. Vraj felt a shock at hearing this and wondered what it meant. The tears in Vraj's eyes did not stop, and he cried. Wiping his tears with his hands, he thought of calling Rajiv Sharma. Vraj felt this could be a sign from God. Vraj called Rajiv Sir, but he did not pick up the phone. Vraj was very disappointed, and tears came out again from his eyes. This seemed to be a single ray of light, which was also extinguished. Vraj was still thinking when his cell phone rang. Upon looking at the screen, Vraj saw that it was Rajiv Sharma's phone. As Vraj answered the phone,

Rajiv said, "I'm sorry, but I was driving and couldn't pick up your phone. "Vraj, please talk; tell me why you called, any problem." "Is there any work"?"

Vraj held back his tears and told Rajiv everything.

Rajiv stated, "My sister works in the hostel department; please keep the phone on." After saying this, about 11:30 p.m., Rajiv Sharma called his sister.

Rajiv Sharma's sister, who was on the conference call, picked up the phone. Vraj was thinking in his mind that this was God's miracle. Rajiv's sister picked up the phone, and Rajiv told his sister about the whole incident and finally said, "I want to hear that this boy will get a place to stay. Please understand this as your brother's request and make some arrangements for this boy to stay."

Vraj, are you on the phone?" Rajiv asked.

Vraj said, "Yes, Rajiv, sir."

Rajiv said to his sister, "Talk to this boy; his name is Vraj."

Rajiv's sister Rupal said, "Vraj came with your luggage tomorrow morning, and you shouldn't worry; understand that you will get a room. And now that you should come to my house, where will you stay for the night?"

As soon as Vraj heard this, he sat on the bench on the platform and could not stop the tears from his eyes. Vraj was sitting on the platform when the Sayaji Express train came in front of him, stopped for two minutes, and left. Vraj thought in his mind how life changes in two minutes and how the view of life also changes. Vraj could not say anything; the phone was on.

"Vraj...vraj," the voice came from the phone. Vraj replied, "Madam, two nights have been spent here at the railway station. Now what is the problem with spending the third night?" You said that "I would get a room"; after hearing this, even the board of this railway station will feel like a seven-star hotel room. Both Rupal and Rajiv laugh on the phone, and Vraj talks to them and hangs up with a smile.

Vraj cried a lot; these tears were tears of happiness that could not be wiped away. After these tears of happiness, Vraj was very hungry. Vraj got up from the bench, took tea and biscuits from the railway stall next door, and had a hearty meal. Vraj read some passages from the Bhagavad Gita. And he slept on the bench there. It was 7:30 a.m. when Vraj woke up in the morning. That day, no police officer came to wake up Vraj. Many thoughts started coming to Vraj's mind.

Vraj said, "When no one is helping, they used to come and wake us up at 4:30, and today no one came to wake us up till 7:30." But the reason he was not waking up until 7:30 today was that Vraj had a ticket and was sleeping on the platform inside the railway station.

For Vraj, the morning was filled with happiness and anticipation. Today, Vraj is going to spend his dream nights in the hostel. Vraj went to the railway station to take a bath. And on his way out, he bowed to his three-day home. Vraj reached the stairs. Vraj reached the railway station gate, took a rickshaw, and proceeded to the hostel. Vraj stared at the railway station until the scene faded from his eyes, and when he left, tears fell from Vraj's eyes again. Vraj spoke and laughed; now God listened.