

Mandy and the Malicious Microbe

There are two girls in a field, one sowing the seeds and the other preparing the soil for the seeds to be laid down by feeding it an organic manure. The girl sowing the seeds is Suki, who has a greenish hue to her skin as if the nature itself had been embedded in her body, and is otherwise called Sustainability Suki because of her work in the field of development and conservation of nature and is regarded as a hero. The other girl who is applying manure to the soil is Mandy (Mandakini), who has luscious black hair, bronze-skin, and deer-like eyes with light brown pupils and is a close companion (sidekick) of Suki, whose passion for nature has greatly helped the restoration of the once barren field they were now standing on within a year.

She has an intelligent and affectionate personality with a deep understanding of the nature and its components and is not hesitant to keep her opinions in front of others. She is also well-connected to her roots as she believes that our roots are what we are made up of and has a kind and gentle demeanour towards all being except those who harm the nature even after several gentle warnings.

She had met Suki when they both were working for the cause of conservation of a forest in south India which was being cleared without giving a second thought to the harm the deforestation would cause to the life (people, plants, and animals) living there and to mother earth by contributing to global warming, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. Initially they had worked individually, but after knowing and befriending each other, had gotten together and were still a team, a strong one.

Although people considered Mandy a sidekick, she never felt upset about being called inferior to her best friend and always took every comment about herself with positivity (them being presently in Japan, Suki's home country). For Suki, she was no less than a hero because there were many instances in the past where without Mandy's help, the problem would have not been solved.

In one instance, nearly nine months ago, Mandy had been a great asset in destroying a microscopic organism called Krumi which was otherwise named as ManasGad (poison of mind) by the two of them.

It had happened to be a sunny day when they were watering the plants in the field nearby and news had reached their ears from India that the people were behaving in a sort of weird manner and were harming the environment. After hearing this, they had immediately travelled from Japan to India in a day's time to fulfil their responsibility as conservers of nature and were initially shocked after seeing the scenario there. The people were uprooting small plants and cutting trees; littering waste everywhere (roads, rivers, etc.); polluting the land, air and water; wasting natural resources through deforestation, overfishing, and food wastage; destroying the habitats of various organisms; and hurting the animals. After overcoming the shock, they had tried to speak some sense in the people, but as if something had made them senseless, they paid no heed to them and instead attacked Suki, probably

because her skin had the hue of nature. It felt as if they were being controlled to destroy their own home.

After much struggle, they were able to find shelter in a house in a destroyed farm field and sat to identify the cause of the inhumane behaviour of the people. They had ruled out the causes like brainwash by a group of people, act of protestation, and had reached the conclusion that it was the work of some bio-chemical entity.

They had set out to find any survivors of the attack and after nearly seven hours of searching, found a group of people hiding in a ruined house in a field, just like they themselves had done a few hours ago. After talking to them, they found out that the citizens were acting in that manner from the past two weeks and that the infection started with some thousands of people and then spread to the rest, maybe through contact. In the starting, victims were destroying the greenery and their actions had matured through time. They also got to know that in the start, the victims were mostly charitable people who frequently visited the various places of worship. Through this piece of information, Mandy had suggested that the bio-chemical entity might have been first introduced to the offerings which are often given out at religious places as a form of blessings, especially Hindu temples (prasad), and through it, spread to the people.

To investigate further, Mandy put on her antibacterial suit which she had brought along with her and entered a nearby temple and collected samples of the offerings scattered on the floor and started testing it in the temple complex itself as taking it back to their shelter would infect the people there. She herself being nothing less than a microbiologist, identified the chemicals been used to make the microbe, its life, and the place it might have been made in. She was satisfied with her identification and wanted to share it with Suki at the earliest.

While returning, she felt as if someone was keeping an eye on her and scanned her surroundings with her alert eyes when she spotted a shadow a few feet away, though she pretended to not see it. After walking for a few minutes, she suddenly turned back and launched herself on the person to whom the shadow belonged to and because the person was taken by surprise, was able to get hold of him before he could escape. After confirming that he was not infected by the entity and bounding his hands by the aerial roots of the felled banyan tree nearby, she made him accompany her to their shelter. He had revealed that he was an assistant in a micro-biological lab and was the person who had travelled to the various states of India to spread the bio-chemical entity, and had taken their tail because of the unique colour of Suki's skin after nearly two hours of interrogation at their shelter. He had also told them that the microbe was made in a foreign country and transported to India through smuggling to experiment its effects on the people, and that it was being kept in a laboratory in the western part of India (Gujarat) from where it was supplied to the other regions.

After getting the location of the lab and locking the assistant in a lock-up of a deserted police station, they had travelled to the western region in a day's time and had found a place of hiding some meters east of the lab and started keeping an eye on it with binoculars. After few hours of observing, they had come to a conclusion that there were only a handful of people inside who were mainly the life-givers of the bio-chemical entity. Knowing that the antidote was also inside and that the microbes would spread, straightaway destroying the lab was no option.

They devised a plan that Suki would pelt the windows of the lab with stones so that the people inside could be lured out to come and catch her and when they would, Mandy would make them all unconscious by hitting a log on their heads. Afterwards, Mandy would go inside while wearing her antibacterial suit and would get hold of the antidote and come back and later they would destroy the microbe.

The only problem was that the microbes were not to be left alone as they would multiply rapidly over time and that their destruction from a near distance would make the person doing the work leave his mortal body almost immediately. This problem was solved by Mandy when she suggested that they use a makeshift bow and arrow to destroy the microbe. The arrowhead would be engulfed in flames to put fire to the lab from a distance. Also, with her knowledge of ayurveda, she planned to transplant all the plants with the strength to keep the microbe at bay like the Indian lilac (neem) and the holy basil (Tulsi) from the surrounding areas to form a circle around the lab so that there is no chance for the microbe to survive. Later, they would also sow many seeds of such plants around the area.

After the implementation of the plan, they both were overwhelmed with joy as the execution had gone just as smooth as the plan itself and were making their way through the states while mixing the antidote in a tanker of water and sprinkling it on the people to put an end to the microbes in their bodies. This work was finished in a matter of twenty days as they were travelling at a rapid speed. Later, they had helped the people restore their environment in a flourishing way in three months and had returned back to their normal routine in Japan.

Mandy, with her unique personality and problem-solving skills, has proved in many cases like this that a sidekick is not a person who is just agreeing with the hero on every matter or getting into trouble so that the hero can rescue him/her, but a person who works shoulder to shoulder with the hero and is no less than him/her.