

# The Lost Child

## *Introduction*

**The Lost Child** is a short story written by **Mulk Raj Anand**. It tells the story of a young boy who visits a village fair with his parents. As he gets attracted to the colorful sights and exciting attractions, he gets separated from them. The story highlights the deep bond between parents and children and shows that a child's greatest comfort is the love and protection of their parents.

## About the Author

### *Mulk Raj Anand*

Mulk Raj Anand was a famous Indian author known for writing stories about common people and social issues. His simple yet powerful writing style makes his stories relatable and meaningful. **The Lost Child** is one of his most popular short stories.

## Summary of the Story

### *The Child at the Fair*

The story begins with a little boy walking happily to a village fair with his parents. On the way, he is fascinated by the blooming mustard fields, colorful dragonflies, insects, and birds. At every stall in the fair, he wants something—a toy, sweets, balloons, flowers, and a ride on the merry-go-round. However, he does not insist because he knows his parents would refuse.

As the child reaches the roundabout, he suddenly realizes that his parents are missing. He becomes frightened and starts crying, "Mother! Father!"

A kind stranger notices the crying child and tries to comfort him. He offers the child sweets, balloons, flowers, toys, and even a ride on the merry-go-round. Surprisingly, the child refuses everything he had wanted earlier. All he wishes for is to find his parents.

The story ends with the child crying for his mother and father, showing that nothing is more valuable than the love and security of one's parents.

## Characters

### *The Lost Child*

The child is innocent, curious, and easily attracted by the exciting things at the fair. His feelings change completely after he loses his parents, showing how much he depends on their love and care.

## ***The Parents***

The parents are loving and protective. They take the child to the fair and quietly guide him throughout the journey. Their absence makes the child realize their importance.

## ***The Stranger***

The stranger is kind and compassionate. He sincerely tries to help the child by offering him everything he desires, but he cannot replace the comfort of the child's parents.

# **Themes**

## ***Love and Security***

The story shows that a parent's love provides children with a sense of safety that no material object can replace.

## ***Childhood Innocence***

The child's curiosity and excitement reflect the innocence and simplicity of childhood.

## ***Family Bond***

The story emphasizes that family is more precious than toys, sweets, or any other worldly attraction.

# **Literary Devices**

## ***Important Devices Used***

- **Imagery:** Beautiful descriptions of flowers, fields, birds, and the fair create vivid pictures in the reader's mind.
- **Contrast:** The child's excitement before getting lost contrasts sharply with his fear afterward.
- **Symbolism:** The fair represents the attractions and distractions of life, while the parents symbolize love, care, and security.

# **Moral of the Story**

## ***Life Lesson***

The story teaches us that the love, care, and protection of our parents are more valuable than material possessions. In difficult situations, emotional support is more important than worldly pleasures.

## Key Points

- The story is written by **Mulk Raj Anand**.
- The child gets lost while visiting a village fair.
- Before getting lost, he desires toys, sweets, balloons, and rides.
- After losing his parents, he refuses everything offered by the stranger.
- The story highlights the importance of parental love and security.
- It reflects the innocence and emotions of childhood.

## Chapter Summary

**The Lost Child** is a touching story that explores the emotions of a young child separated from his parents. Through simple events, Mulk Raj Anand beautifully conveys that while children may be attracted to many things, nothing can replace the love, protection, and comfort of their parents. The story reminds us of the importance of family and emotional bonds.