

THE CHALLENGE

It had this muslim family and this Hindu family. The *musulman* (muslim) had a daughter name Zalina.

The Hindu man had a son name Kishan. Kishan and Zalina de really like one another since they was small. The muslim and Hindu parents never like dat. The other part was that Kishan family was poor and Zalina family had plenty money. When Zalina and Kishan finish read in school the two ah dem get wuk. Now they feel that they big they want to get married. But the parents doe want dem to marry. Kishan father say dat Zalina and dem is *madinga* (bastard) people. Zalina father say Kishan and dem is *chamar* (*low caste*) people and dem wound turn muslim.

Kishan and Zalina well like one another but they can't find no solution because they parents too stubborn. Kishan tell Zalina, "Dis eh go wuk, we go ha to run away or something."

Zalina replied, "I go gladly do dat because I love you and I want to be with you all me life."

Kishan say, "Owright, Saturday night you go pack up yuh clothes and climb up over the window, I go wait below for you and then we go run away and live in the *sahar* (city).

The two ah dem well make dey plan good and they waiting for Saturday night.

Zalina start packing all she clothes in the grip, she eh want to leave nothing because she know she eh coming back. She done make up she mind.

musulman - muslim

madinga - bastard

chamar - olow caste

sahar - city



ZALINA CLIMBING DOWN BUT SHE SLIP AND ALL THE CLOTHES FALL OUT OF THE GRIP

Kishan come by the window and whistle she. Zalina take up she grip and she start climbing down but she slip and all the clothes fall out. Zalina father and mother hear de noise so dey put on the light and come down. When they come down below they see Kishan holding Zalina hand and they see the grip open and all the clothes scatter.

Zalina father say, "Buh what really goin on hya?" "Yuh want to make me shame, you trying to run away with dis hoy. Look go inside before ah beat you too bad."

Zalina father take up Kishan and carry him by he father house and call out to Kishan father, "Look wha happening hya, come and see what yuh son doing."

Kishan father come outside and right away he realize what goin on because Kishan holding he grip. Kishan father and Zalina father cya agree they blaming one another. Dey quarrel for a while. It end up dat they decide to neglect they children and let dem do what dey want.

Zalina and Kishan now start to plan for they wedding. They say them old people too chupid so they eh goin to invite no old people. The two ah dem decide dat.

Zalina mother start to tell Zalina father. "Look, the chirren really like one another, we children is not the fust and not the last, let we forget all dat happen and get dem married."

Zalina father say, "I was thinking the same thing, yuh does make chirren but yuh doh make dey mind." He say dat to please he wife but secretly he wish they could break up.

Kishan father and dem eh want to hear nothing. So Kishan make all the wedding plan by jeself, he only invite young people.

The day for the wedding Kishan father and mother left and gone in ah next village by dey family.

Kishan and the *haratians* (guest) set off on dey *baraat* (procession). It had this old man who come by the wedding house and he begging everybody, he saying, "Oh Gawd ah done old aready, this go be me last wedding ah going to, ah want to go, all you carry me nah."

One ah de *haratians* (guests) feel sorry for the old man. "Okay, I go carry you but you ha to remain quiet."

"I go remain quiet, you doh worry," the old man replied.

When the *haratians* (guests) reach by the *jonwass* (assembly) Zalina father come out and say, "Ah welcome everybody and all you ha to accept what I offer you before Kishan could carry he *doolahin* (bride). Ah giving everybody one whole goat, all you ha to eat it out. All you kill it, cook it and eat but all you cya leave until all the goat meat finish."

In the *jonwass* (assembly) it had about one hundred *haratians* (guests), dat mean one hundred goat. Dem start to get frighten because they know dem cya eat ah whole goat. Dem sit down and studying wha to do. All ah dem saying they cya eat ah whole goat.

haratians - guest

baraat - procession

jonwass - assembly

doolahin - bride

The fella who bring de old man gone by he and tell him what happen. The old man think for a while then he say, "Yuh know wha to do, all yuh kill and eat one goat at a time. Share dat for everybody then cook ah nex one and share it again for everybody. If all yuh do dat all yuh could eat all the goat and then all yuh could carry de *doolahin*" (bride).

The fella went back and tell all the *baratians* (guests) what to do. They cook one goat at a time and share it for everybody. So so dey do until all goat meat finish.

So Kishan get to carry home he *doolahin* (bride) because of the old man plan.

Recorded with:
Rajo Sathwine, born 1901,
Palmyra Village,
Princes Town.