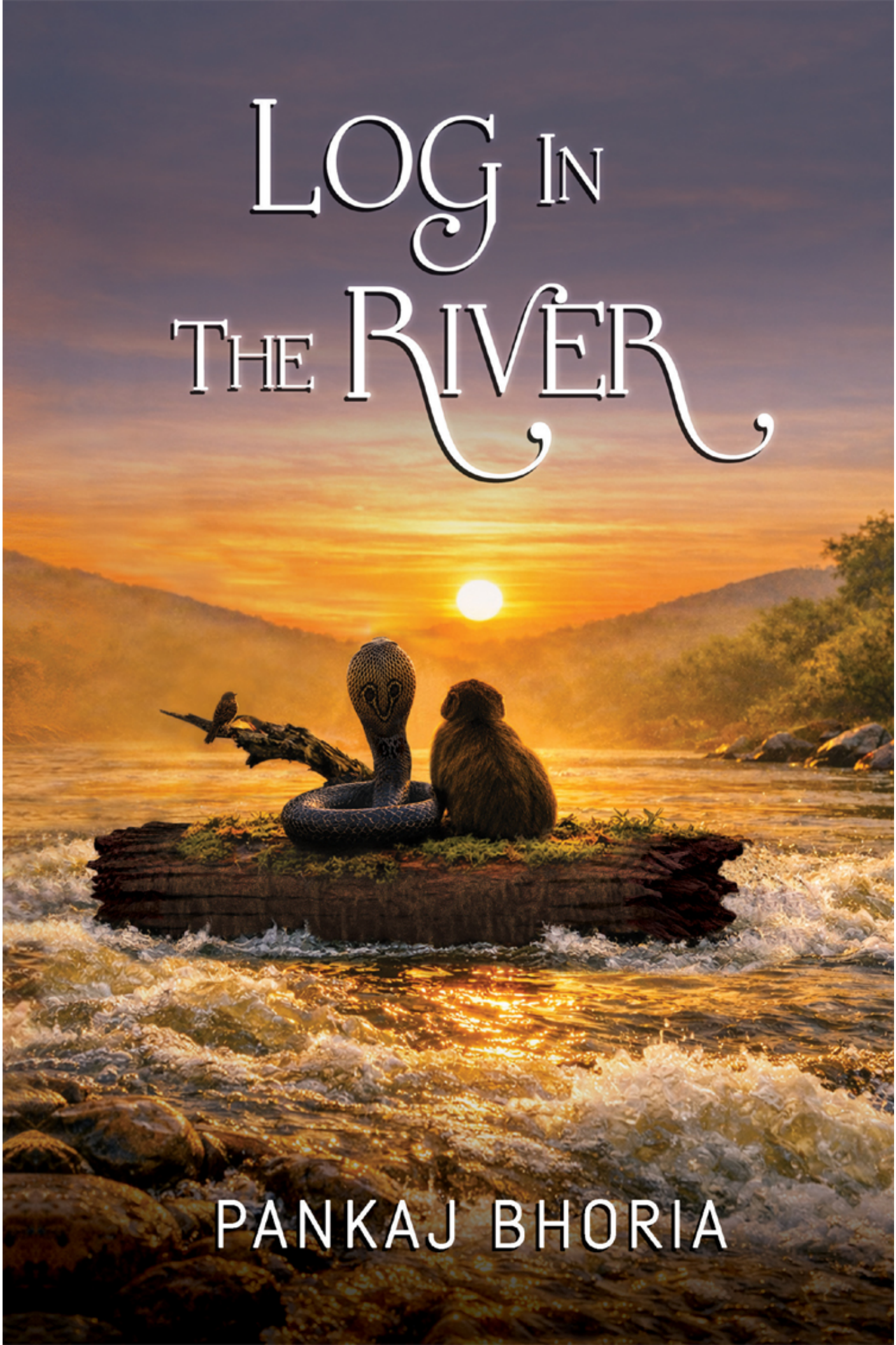
Log In The River



PANKAJ BHORIA

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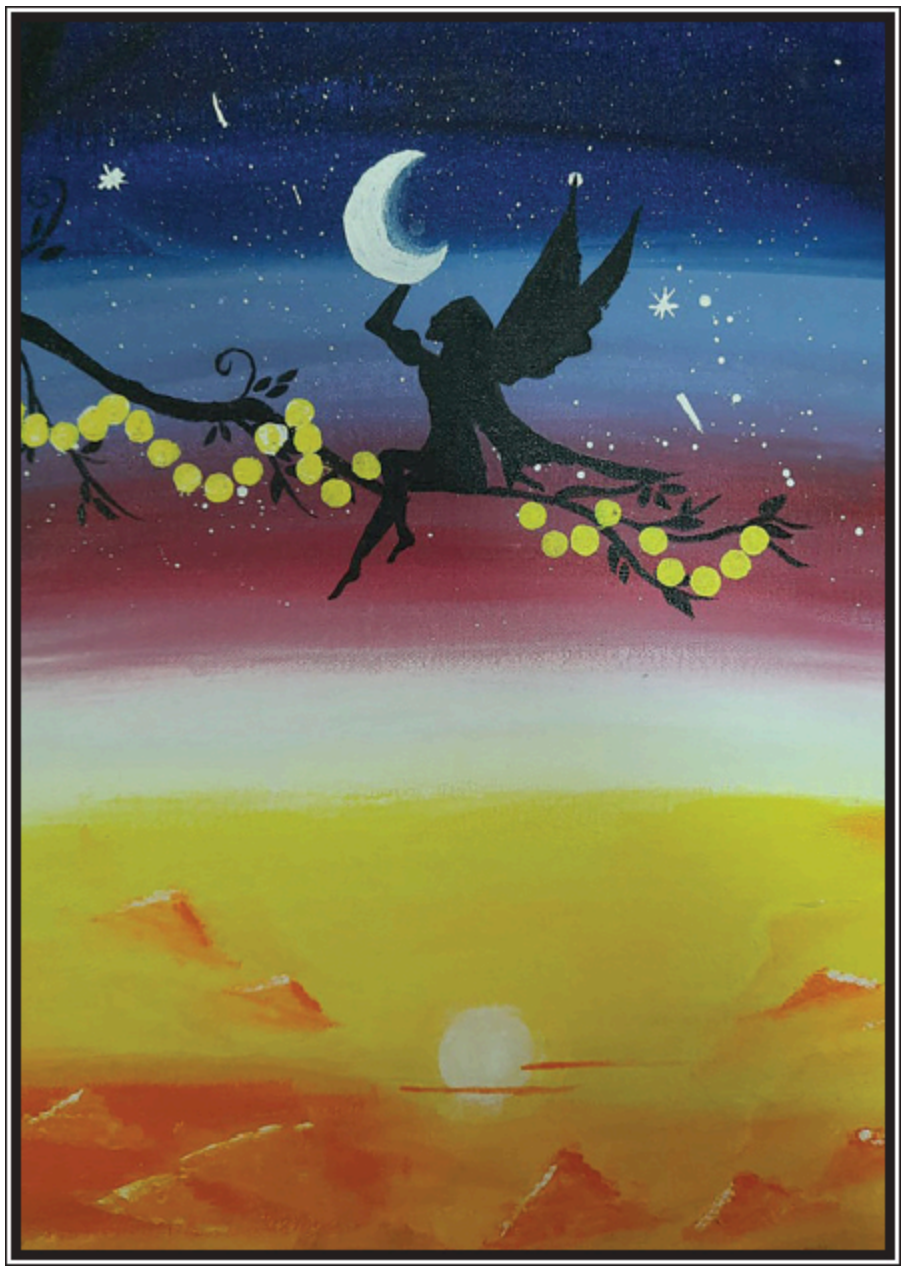
1. Definition of a Miracle



Miracle: by Jignya (acrylic painting on canvas)

After a good, almost an hour morning walk in this Nagar Van, in this south Indian town where we were on an official tour, we sat on the stairs of this half garden half temple, actually, a garden with sculptors of few deities. Our discussion started towards our experience of slowly evolving through the paths we have adopted. She is following the path of ‘Japa’ i.e. Chanting while I am following ‘Kriya’ i.e. working on inner geometry (in simple words). She was telling the story of a lady with whom she used to do chanting and how her friend overcame a dire financial situation which is nothing short of a miracle.

Her friend is not from a very strong financial background and one day her father-in-law had a severe heart attack and she used all her savings in the initial treatment of father in law. But some complications arise and the father in law has to be operated upon for which she has to arrange approximately Rs. 5 lakhs immediately. She was completely broke by that time and had no clue from where to arrange the money. She has lost all hopes of arranging the money. However, on reaching the hospital, she was called in by the Director of the hospital to inform that the surgery will be performed free of cost for some reason which I do not remember correctly. It was nothing short of a miracle for her and yes it is a miracle for which she is very thankful to the path she is following.

I agree with the power of prayer as through the prayer, whether you are invoking your inner powers or repenting for your past deeds or just trying to find the way ahead, in any way you are sort of slowly addressing your Karma. Being aware of that is important.

But why I am sharing this story is down here.

Then during the day, I was with another colleague of mine, discussing random things when the discussion turned towards, how he faced a similar situation and how efficiency of governance saved a life. This involves his father who was travelling to Dubai/Sharjah to visit his elder brother. For a few days during that time, his brother had to go out of the country for some official work and that is when his father got a heart attack. Now, his brother, coordinating through the phone, got him admitted to a hospital and was fervently calling him to arrange the money. They have the money with them but both of them being not present there and transferring the amount was

becoming a huge problem. But then again, the hospital in which his father was admitted has a rule of doing all the surgeries free of cost. They do charge a heavy fee for OPD patients to take care of their expenses but that was not the case with my friend's father.

Now both of these instances are nothing short of a miracle, but the first instance was projected as a miracle, while the second one was the efficiency of procedure or governance. But if in the second instance, if the money or any other issue was a constraint, then it will also be a miracle for the people involved.

So miracles, for the public at large, now-a-days, are not natural happenings but are a by-product of whether you have the wherewithal to face a situation. If one has, then they attribute the success to some other factor rather than a miracle, if they don't, then it becomes a miracle.

2. Lost Soul

Maani: by Jignya (acrylic painting on canvas)

Jo nahin kerta vo kaam hai.....jo kerta hoon vo ishq....

Basya duniya de her bande vicho.....na dikhti vo sh' hai Ishq...

Jer, Sharab, dhuva sab bekaar.....sakoon dilata hai ek Ishq...

Jism, jaroorat sab hai fani.....maani to bus dil da ishq....

Meri kab jug sunya bacche.....sare pher kara ta Ishq....

Qatl kerta berehmi se....bad-kismat na jane Ishq....

Chad ke utare to nasha hai.....aur chade to ishq..
(line credit: Jwalesh Zaveri)

Ba-chain mile to dard hai....be-chain mile to Ishq....

The rich man with scant regard for anything stumble a bit because of the leg of this man and he looked at this "Old seer" and smile jeeringly. The Old fakir oblivious of the gaze and the contemptuous attitude of the man took another big drag of the 'Chillam' (clay pipe used to smoke) nonchalantly. He accosted the seer.

Don't you have anything useful to do?

Without looking at him, he rhyme....

Jo nahin kerta vo kaam hai.....jo kerta hoon vo ishq...

(what I don't do is mundane things.... love is my work.....)

What do you mean? What is ishq?

the monk took another drag and then looking at his Chillam... he sings

Basya duniya de her bande vicho.....na dikhti vo sh' hai Ishq...

(it permeates every single soul .... potent Love is still invisible)

The rich man is taken aback.

You are a drunken idiot? Main intoxicant is money only? And he start to leave

Jer, Sharab, dhuvan sab bekaar.....sakoon dilate hai ek Ishq...

(wealth, liquor, drugs are useless.... Only love provides relief)

The young guy hissing sardonically.

I have everything I need and that's life...understand?

Jism, jaroorat sab hai fani.....maani to bus dil da ishq....

(life and its needs are ephemeral .... only thing that matters is love...)

Youth getting more annoyed.

That is rubbish?

Meri kab jug sunya bacche.....sare pher kara ta Ishq....

(world does not heed to me... but love turns everything topsy-turvy...)

He shrug his shoulders and speak a bit meekly.

I never encountered ishq?

Qatl kerta berehmi se....bad-kismat na jane Ishq....

(it kills ruthlessly.... only lucky one's get to know love...)

Kid submitted for being hit point blank.

Ishq? How do I know what is ishq?

Chad ke utare to nasha hai.....aur chade to Ishq... *(line credit: Jwalesh Zaveri)*

(you get high and then gets grounded, it's a drug.... if there is no limit to getting high, its love...)

Getting interested (for getting a clear definition) the toddler ask.

How can I be sure that someone loves me?

Ba-chain mile to dard hai....be-chain mile to Ishq....

(if at ease then its just pain..... if not then its love...)

He thinks for a bit and then the new born whimpers.

I think I know someone? And for the first time, he smile.

And he closed his eyes while taking another drag.....**waiting for another lost soul.**

3. Your Identity vs My Identity

Together: by Jignya (acrylic paint on canvas)

It was an innocuous fun discussion on whatsapp group among dear friends, which led me to think that the European education system first concentrated only on the intellect part of memory, thereby neglecting the remaining aspects of it and now Technology is even taking the intellect away from us. More about it later first has a look at the discussion:

It was a group chat with more than 100 people in the group but as always only few are active:

*****

Senti: Aha! I'm experimenting with the most versatile food item in the kitchen.

KP: and what is that?

Senti: Egg ... of course

KP: shiv shiv

Me: it cannot be an egg.. humble chana (Gram) is more versatile.

Senti: Naah... egg beats chana in versatility.

Me: Not by any chance, chana is most versatile in all its forms.

Senti: you can have egg as poached, fried, bulls eye, omelette etc etc.

Me: you can have Chana as roasted, boiled, soaked, sprouted, green chana, etc etc.

Ballie: Poori Chhole, Chhole Kulche, uuuummmm Desh ki yaad aa gayi (this reminds me of Bharat) — Ballie is in US.

At this point Senti shared a google link of some great Michelin star chef that as per him Egg is the most versatile.

This being the festival season (nearby Diwali), I showed the picture of four sweets stating that we (me and my wife) made, of besan (grounded chana) at home and added.

Me: just made these sweets.

Jattu: hmmm, that's why so sure of Chana.

Me: Yup

Senti: Another link of recipes you can have with Egg.

Me: Chana Masala, Chana dal, Chhole Masala, Paneer Chhole, Chhole Curry, Punjabi Chhole, Chhole Bhature, Besan Chilla, Pakoda, Aalo Pakoda, Onion Pakoda, Gobhi Pakoda etc etc.

Kunji: Chana Zor Garam .. (with youtube link of Song of movie Kranti)

Senti, conceded the argument with many others supporting humble Chana.

However, now as I think about it, Chana or Chhola is still not that visible but Potato is so much more visible and yet it is not the most versatile. Why So? Simply, because we have mortgaged our intellect to google.

We have, since childhood, at least our generation has seen our moms weave magic with humble ingredients like potato or chana, besan etc., yet when it comes to think about it we prefer to google it rather than just using our own experience. Now coming back to my initial thought about the education system.

As per ancient Indian Education system (not the modern one and not putting a timeline to get into another discussion), Education was supposed to develop the 84 aspects of memory. These 84 aspects are classified into 16 sections and are further consolidated into 4 major parts which are Buddhi (intellect), Ahankara (identity), Manas (memory stored in cells all over the body), Chitt (consciousness — not to be confused with wakefulness). Now, be aware that here we are not talking about the brain but memory and the

memory which our body contains is trillion times more than what our brain is capable of carrying. Now:

Buddhi: is intellect, the sole area of focus of modern education.

Ahankara: is identity, the identity we will assume, intellect is bound to follow it. E.g. RECKer is an identity of the people in the whatsapp group.

Manas: is the memory that our entire body is storing for millions of years.

Chitt: is Consciousness, this I cannot explain, but intelligence forms a part of it, yet it is beyond intelligence which, in turn, is much more than the sum of parts of Buddhi, Ahanakara and Manas.

So we are not aware of Chitt, Manas, Ahanakara and all our education is about how good we are in remembering data (using Buddhi) and then vomit them on a piece of paper during exams.

In the process, we do not know about anything, neither about us (the Being) or anything else. We just have a general idea about things but all the libraries of the world are just a very miniscule part of what "we do not know". And since we do not know, thereby we turned our attention to what we can do best i.e. we use things for our benefits, in other words we just Exploit and the present situation of the world is because all we have done by not Knowing is exploitation.

Had we known that you are not separate from me then we would not have harmed each other.

Had we known that earth without human beings will flourish but without insects will die down we would have been more sensible.

Had we known that intellect is bound to follow identity then we might not have created such strong identities (Osama/Obama, Dems/Reps, Gandhi/Modi and I am not touching the religions at all).

Had we known that the more intellect we use; the more in tatters our wisdom will be.

We know for sure that educated people are doing more harm to this planet than uneducated ones and now the conflicts in the world are not between Saints and Heathen or between Gentle and Savages; it is in between **My Identity vs Your Identity.**

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