

## **The Blue Jay and the Prince** **by Mohammed Lodhi Hussain**

A certain prince was traveling through the woods one late night. When all of a sudden he heard noises and blue light coming from the bushes. He drew his sword and leaped over only to find the most beautiful woman he had ever seen lying on the ground unable to stand. As he moved closer he saw that she was a model of beauty and loveliness with symmetry and although she could not stand she exuded grace. Her eyes were like a gazelle, and her lips were coral red and her teeth were like a string of pearls. He steps a little closer. He thinks to himself, that he has never seen a woman that matched her beauty, even though there were many beautiful women in his kingdom. The prince's senses overwhelmed like anything

before, shouts what is wrong with thee. She, in the softest voice, says oh fair sir I was traveling in the forest, as I normally do, tending to the animals and picking flowers. Until I saw this large ruby on the ground and I thought it would make a great gift to my sister. So, I went to grab it. When all of sudden, I heard a brooding, ancient voice coming from the ruby, the ruby starts to glow and a flash of lighting comes down. As the fog settles a man appears with only one eye. He is wearing a polar bear as a jacket and a helmet with horns on it. His white beard reached to the floor. He asked me what “arght I be doing.” I said I was walking in the forest tending to the animals and picking flowers. He says that ruby is mine, and thou has no right to it. I said forgive me, I did not know. He said that if any mortal where to touch upon my ruby eye they

would be turned to stone. The prince, now looking at the beautiful noticed that there was something strange about her feet. They looked like marble. Yes, she said. By dawn, i will be turned into a marble statute in the forest. And her heartache saddens the young prince. He asks I must do something I will find this man and make him change you back. I will be back before dawn. Suddenly, a blue jay lands on the shoulder of the prince and whispers in his ear. He tells him that the one you are looking for has headed north towards the mountain where he resides. The blue jay said that no sword made by man can cut it. The prince asked what should I do? I do not have much time and my fair lady will be stone by dawn. To break this curse you are going to have to smash his ruby eye to break her free from the curse. The prince reaches the

entrance to mountain and lights a fire and cautiously walks inside. Inside there are many statues of soldiers and people lined in a grand hall. The creature is laying asleep in his throne with the ruby eye made into a necklace dangling on his neck. He took a spear found on the floor and started dangling away the necklace by looping it and lifting carefully not trying to wake it. He almost has it when the creatures eye opens and sees the prince. The prince flees running through the grand hall, being chased he dives and slides around the slippery floors. Trying to evade the creature. When all of sudden the blue jay returns and drops a silver arrow and golden bow. The blue jay said that the blacksmith made this for him. And this can pierce the ruby because it was infused with magic. But he had only one shot. And you must

shoot the arrow at the ruby only. The prince near the entrance of the mountain sees that dawn is fast approaching and he almost out of time. The prince realizes that he has no choice but to allow the creature to capture him, because even though he was a great swordsman his archery skills were of lower caliber. So the prince stops and the creature approaches step, step and grabs the prince in one hand lifting his whole body off the ground, and as he does the prince reaches for the silver arrow and golden bow and slams them into ruby eye necklace. And it shatters. And a bright light passes throughout the land. And the curse has been broken. But the prince bones were crushed. He did not have long to live. In the grand hall all the people that were put under the spell were released and the blue jay said to them, that

this prince gave his life for you and requested that he be brought to his beloved so she is the last thing he sees. They carry him and bring him to her. She was waiting and she saw what happened and a tears began to pour all over the prince. And she gave him a kiss. All of sudden the creature returns, he says that this prince has freed me from a curse that broughten to me by nemesis. And that now that he was freed he would use their love and his power to give the prince life once again at a cost to the creatures. He asked the princess to fetch some white oleanders and spread them across and to place her lips onto his and press them. And suddenly, time stops and prince and princess are the only ones not effected. The prince opens his eyes and sees her and says will you be

my queen? And live happily ever after. But for the blue jay  
the story has just begun...