

COCK FIGHT

Shahmal

One of the two main characters of Amin Kamil's short story 'COCK FIGHT' .She along with her adversary-- Jani ' the skinny' carry the entire dramatic action to its logical conclusion in an extremely befitting and flawless manner. She is young lady married to one -- Ghulam Khan, hardly a year or so before. She exhibits all the traits and features of a lower middle class illiterate and uncultured Kashmiri slum dweller. She is ill mannered and ill tempered young woman always hot under the collar and apt let loose a volley of abuses on small pretexts. She is jealous and bent upon competing with her neighbours at all costs. It is quite after a lot persuasion that she makes her husband – perhaps a daily wages earner, to concede to her demand of getting a cock to her house. It takes her atleast a fortnight of persistence to get the demand fulfilled.

She is quite an expert in taunting others and does possess quite some expertise in giving abusive and insulting nicknames to others.

She is always bent upon showing off of her new possessions with a bid to cow down her neighbors and thus to establish her superiority----- an attempt in which she almost always feels except in the drop scene of the story when her new cock trounces Jani's cock and make sit run for life. Needless to remark that Jani's forehead is drenched in beads of sweat ---- certain indicator of shame and defeat.

She is ill mannered to the extent that she visits her neighbor Samad, the clock slaughterer in an un washed Pheran (apron) just soiled by her new born baby.

Like all her counterparts of the lower middle class, she is highly superstitious as is evidenced by her being tortured and troubled on account of her cocks crowing in the night and her insisting her husband to behead it. However, she possesses an appreciable trait namely hospitality which is evidenced by her extending an invitation for dinner to Samad when he asks for it. She is quite boastful and, more often than not, resorts to shameful lies and hyperbolic statements only to cow down Jani. Her fixing the new cock's price, age and pedigree arbitrarily is typical shameless lair.