

Aligkhujon and Pfukhan.

1 Once upon a time there was a husband and wife called Aligkhujon and Pfukhan who had two children called Khullunan and Khajon.

2 And they used to send Khullunan and Khajon to scare birds away from their many ricefields.

3 They said to Khullunan, <<You go to scare birds in our lower ricefields, while Khajon can be the one to scare birds in our upper ricefields. Just sleep there in our house and we will bring your food.>>

4 So Khullunan and Khajon said, <<Yes, alright, we'll scare birds in our ricefields so that the rice birds won't eat all our rice.>>

5 So in the morning, they gathered a few clothes and their blankets and the brothers each went his own way.

6 Khullunan went to their lower ricefields and Khajon went to the upper ricefields.

7 When they went to the fields, they began to scare birds from morning until dusk.

8 Then Aligkhujon said to his wife Pfukhan, <<You please take food to the children there in the ricefields because I am going to work. So you will be responsible to cook and take them packed meals.>>

9 So Pfukhan said, <<Yes of course.>>

10 As the days went by, Pfukhan saw a certain man friend of hers who owned a house on the path she used to pass when taking the boys' food.

11 Meanwhile, as for Aligkhujon, when he had some earnings, he would send them to Pfukhan, <<Use this to buy some chicken so that you have something to feed the children as viand while they are scaring birds.>>

12 So Pfukhan was receiving what Aligkhujon earned and using it to buy chickens and salted meat so that she could give it to the children for their viand.

13 But after some time passed, she was discriminating against Khullunan regarding his food.

14 As for Khajon, Khullunan's brother, she was regularly taking him good food and viand.

15 But as for Khullunan, she was only taking the hard burnt parts of the rice and chicken bones for his share of the rice and viand.

16 Actually, it was her man friend she was taking the good rice and viand to.

17 So Khullunan was becoming thinner, while Khajon was quite plump because his food was all good.

18 He thought that what his brother Khullunan was eating was also good.

19 So Khullunan was at the point of death from hunger.

20 But when his mother came, she didn't even see Khullunan, she just opened the door and said, <<Here is your food again, Khullunan!>>

21 But when Khullunan looked up, it was just the tail bones and hard burnt rice.

22 Then there was one morning, Khullunan slowly came down from the house.

23 He was thinking to himself.

24 He said, <<What shall I do? Because I shall die of hunger and father hasn't come home to see me yet.>>

25 So when a sparrow passed by, Khullunan said, <<Little sparrow, just drop one of your wings so that I can have a wing too to fly up into the sky.>>

26 So the sparrow shook off one of his feathers.

27 Then Khullunan went to get it and he stuck it in the eaves of the house.

28 Then when it was mid morning, a pigeon passed and he said, <<Little pigeon, please just drop one of your wings so that I can have a wing too to fly up into the sky.>>

29 So the pigeon also shook off one of his feathers and Khullunan went to get it again and collected it.

30 When it was noon, Khajon heard Khullunan singing.

31 So he said to himself, <<I wonder why my brother Khullunan is singing? Maybe he is homesick so I'll go to see him.>>

But just as he decided to go, the number of birds eating the rice increased, so he didn't go because there were many birds and they were all eating at the place where he was scaring them away.

33 So on another morning, Khullunan came-down from the house again and he saw a crow flying also.

34 And he said, <<Little crow, just drop one of your wings so that I can have a wing too to fly up into the sky.>>

35 Then the crow shook himself and lots of his feathers fell down.

36 So Khullunan went over and he was very glad to collect them because the crow dropped many feathers.

37 Then Khullunan took them inside and he was trying them on saying to himself, <<Yes, that's enough for my feathers but I must also have a beak and clawed feet.>>

38 So he went out into the yard again and saw a dove.

39 So he said, <<Little dove, just drop one part of your beak so that I can have a beak to to come-with you to the sky.>>

40 So the dove shook its head and its beak fell down.

41 Then Khullunun went to get it quickly but he saw his mother coming along with her man friend.

42 They were laughing together.

43 So Khullunan hurried to put away the beak and the feathers he had gathered.

44 Khullunan said to himself, <<Yes, that's mother's man friend who is the reason she is discriminating against me.>>

45 Then Pfukhan and her man friend arrived where Khullunan was and they were laughing at him. Pfukhan said, <<Khullunan, why are you curled up on the sleeping shelf? Why don't you come out to scare the birds.>>

46 So Khullunan replied, <<Yes, I'm coming out.>>

47 Then his mother put down Khullunan's food of burnt rice and bones.

48 Then she and her man friend left.

49 Khullunan got up and he looked at the burnt rice and bones his mother said he should eat.

50 Tears were rolling down his cheeks as he said to himself, <<Why is my mother like this, discriminating against me?>>

51 So he went outside again and he saw a stilt bird passing.

52 He said, <<Little stilt bird, just drop your clawed feet so that I can have clawed feet too to come with you to the sky.>>

53 Then the stilt bird shook his feet and his two clawed feet fell down.

54 Then Khullunan said to himself, <<Yes, this is enough for me to use to fly so that I could also go to the sky.>>

55 Then he said, <<Oh, I really must go and take my leave of my brother Khajon before I fly away.>>

56 So he went to where Khajon was and he was shouting, saying, <<Where are you, my brother Khajon? I'm coming to visit you because I'm missing you.>>

57 Khajon was very happy and he said, <<Yes, please come because I have missed you. We haven't seen each other for a long time.>>

58 So Khullunan went to him and when Khajon saw his brother, he was very thin!

59 So Khajon said, <<Why are you thin? Were you ill?>>

60 And Khullunan said, <<Yes.>>

61 Because he didn't want to tell him that their mother was only bringing him burnt rice and bones.

62 So Khajon said, <<Goodness, you have been ill and I didn't know.>>

63 Then Khullunan said, <<Yes, but I'm better now.>>

64 After a little while, it was getting dark and Khullunan said to his brother Khajon, <<Well I'll go now so we'll meet again another time.>>

65 And his tears were rolling down his face.

66 So Khajon said, <<Yes, but don't cry because I'll come tomorrow to bring some of my food because you might not be eating enough.>>

67 And Khullunan replied, <<Yes, that will be fine.>>

68 So Khullunan went home and he began to try on his feathers straight away.

69 In the middle of the night, he was covered in feathers and he said to himself, <<How can I attach my beak?>>

70 Then without any delay, he attached it to his mouth.

71 And it fitted exactly!

72 Then he said, <<What is missing still?>>

73 He looked down at his feet and he said, <<Oh yes, I have no clawed feet!>>

74 Then he took the clawed feet and tried them on his feet, and they fitted exactly.

75 He went down to the yard and he was trying to fly.

76 Suddenly, many, many birds were coming with fluttering wings.

77 They said to Khullunan, <<Come along so that we can fly away to find food, because there is plenty of food there on the mountain, not like your mother who is discriminating against you.>>

78 So Khullunan flew away with them.

79 The birds took him to a place where there were many fruits.

80 They said, <<Here you are! Let's eat these so that you can also get fat because you have become so thin.>>

81 In a short time, Khullunan's body filled out again.

82 After a while, his mother, Pfukhan said to herself, <<I had better take some good food for Khullunan to eat because he might have become very thin. And Alighujon will come home tomorrow, so he might kill me if he sees that Khullunan has become thin.>>

83 So Pfukhan took the food to the place where Khullunan was scaring birds.

84 When she got there, she said, <<Where are you, Khullunan? I have brought you some good food.>>

85 But nobody answered.

86 So Pfukhan went up into the house and she saw all the feathers on the floor.

87 She said, <<Where can Khullunan be? Where has he gone?>>

88 She shouted to Khajon, saying, <<Where has Khullunan gone? Why isn't he here?>>

89 Khajon said, <<I don't know. He came here one day and he was very thin, saying he had been sick.>>

90 Then Pfukhan set off to look for him and Khajon went to take Khullunan's place.

91 And when he saw the bamboo container, it was full of burnt rice and pork and chicken bones.

92 Khajon said to himself, <<So that's it, this burnt rice is what mother has been bringing for my brother Khullunan to eat. That's why he was becoming thinner.>>

93 Just then, Aligkhujon, his father, arrived.

94 Khajon told him what happened, saying, <<Mother has neglected Khullunan and her man friend is the one she has taken care of. So Khullunan has flown away.>>

95 So Aligkhujon didn't give Pfukhan any food, he just shut her up in the house.

96 So she also became very thin.

97 Meanwhile, Aligkhujon was looking for Khullunan.

98 But he couldn't find him

99 So he said to Pfukhan, <<I'm not going to give you any food until I find Khullunan.>>

100 One night, around midnight, Khullunan said to his companion birds, <<Let's take some of these berries to our house so that father can eat them too.>>

101 So they said, <<Yes.>>

102 Now his family were sleeping soundly when they took the berries.

103 Khullunan slowly opened the door and he put down the berries, then they left.

104 And Khulluwan said, <<When mother eats these berries, may they turn to stone.>>

105 Next morning, his family woke up and they saw the berries lying on the threshold.

106 So they were eating them.

107 And Pfukhan said, <<Please let me taste them too.>>

108 But when she ate them, they turned to stone!

109 So Aligkhujon said, <<There you are, because these berries were brought by Khullunan and you were neglecting him. That's why that happened.>>

110 So Aligkhujon was thinking.

111 Then he said to himself, <<What can I do to catch Khullunan so that he doesn't become a bird forever?>>

112 Then one night, Aligkhujon said, <<Hopefully, Khullunan will come again today to bring berries. So I won't sleep until he comes.>>

113 So Aligkhujon stayed awake and, in the middle of the night, many birds came fluttering and landed on the yard wall.

114 Then Khullunan went over and was slowly opening the door.

115 When he had opened it, he went inside to put the berries down on the sleeping shelf.

116 Then his father quickly shut the door and caught Khullunan.

117 Then he tied him to a nail.

118 But Khullunan was shouting and shouting, saying, <<Don't catch me, father!>>

119 Then Khajon woke up.

120 And Aligkhujon said to Khullunan, <<It's not right that you should become a bird.>>

121 So Khajon went over.

122 And they removed all the feathers.

123 Khullunan kept crying, saying, <<Don't take all my feathers off.>>

124 But Khajon and his father kept removing them.

125 He took off the beak and clawed feet, and Aligkhujon said, <<There. You have become a person again. Why did you become a bird?>>

126 Then he revealed everything his mother, Pfukhan, had done.

127 So Aligkhujon said to Pfukhan, <<There, just because of your man friend, this boy became a bird because you were neglecting him. So we will separate today and you can go to your man friend.>>

128 But Pfukhan was crying because she didn't want them to separate.

129 However, Aligkhujon left her anyway and Pfukhan's life was miserable.

130 Meanwhile, Khullunan and Khajon lived happily.

131 The end.