

***SINDHI FOLK LORE AND SINDHI FOLK STORIES***

**By Tamana Lalwani**

**Abstract**

Legendary Sindhi literature has achieved glorious victory in Sindhi folk lore and folk stories. As Sindh has fame of being the land of seven rivers. Sindhi literature has also fame of being seven Queens of Sindh. Shah Abdul Latif an adroit writer. Suffi poet has reflected seven admirably brave audacious courageous valiant pious & determined Queens of Sindh.

**Introduction**

Folk Lore means the traditional beliefs customs and stories of a community passed through the generations by a word of mouth. Sindhi Folk Lore is the folk tradition which has developed in Sindh over member of centuries. Sindh abound Folk Lore in all forms.

Sindhi Folk plays an important role in Sindhi culture and Pakistani culture. Sindh Province abounds in fairy tales and folk tales that form its Folk Lore.

The seven Heroines of Sindh Folk Lore. The woman of Shah Abdul Latif's poetry are known as Seven Queens, heroines of Sindhi Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. He expressed his mystical ideas and experiences. His seven queens are celebrated throughout the Sindh for their positive qualities like honesty, integrity, loyalty, deep devotion towards love. Their bravery and willingness to risk lives for the sake of their love.

The seven queens mentioned in "Shah Jo Rasalo" are:

Marvi, Mummal, Sassui, Noori, Sohni, Leela and Sorath, Shah Latif has elaborated the way of characters of Sindhi Folk Tales and used them metaphors for high spiritual life. These tragic romantic tales are "Mummal Rano", "Umar Marvi", "Sohni Mahiwal", "Leela Chamesar", "Sorath Rai Diyach", "Noori-Jam Tamachi", "Sasui Punhoo".

### **1. Mummal Rano:**

Mummal Rano is one of the historical tales and is the rich history of the soil of Pakistan.

Mummal was a gorgeous princess, living in a glamorous place named “Kak Mahal”. A magnetic field was spread over the ground, which was giving transitory look like hasty waves of big river, a jungle was fashioned occupied by the ferocious animals like lions and tigers. It was the condition that Mummal would marry with the man who would come to “Kak Mahal” by crossing magnetic field with bravery. Many Princess tried their level best to Marry Mummal but all failed. Ramo was one of the brave prince who has heard about the beauty of Mummal. He tried to win the heart of beautiful lady as he was the wisest of all. So he understood magical strategy of Kak Mahal, he reached to Mummal and got married to her.

### **2. Umar Marvi:**

Umar Marvi a love story set in Sindh Pakistan, has become part of cultural identity of Pakistan.

Marvi was Sindh heroine famous for her chastity, patriotism and simplicity. Phog an orphan boy lived with Marvi family. As children Marvi and Phog played together. At the age of puberty, Phog was enchanted towards the beauty of Marvi. He wished to marry her but Marvi had treated him always like her own brother.

She warned Phog not to expect anything beyond the relation of brother and sister. Phog sulked and withdrew.

Marvi found her ideal in Khetsen, her cousin, who lived in the village called “Malir”. He was brave and handsome, he was deeply in love with Marvi. Marvi lived in Malir the neighbouring village of Khetsen. She was the most beautiful girl of her village was engaged with her cousin brother Khetsen.

One day Marvi was filling the pot of water from a well called “Marvi’s Well” to provide water for her goats was seen by the Prince “Umar Soomro”. He was dazzled by her beauty. Umar proposed her to marry her and tried to win her over jewels and precious gifts but Marvi refused.

She rejected his proposal. As she was deeply devoted to her fiancé Furious in rage by her refusal. Umar abducted Marvi and imprisoned her in his Palace at Umarkot for whole year but Marvi remained faithful and longed for her native place. Finally, Umar was deeply touched by her dedication, so he set Marvi free.

### **3. Leela Chanesar:**

The most popular folk story of Shah Abdul Latif is “Leela Chanesar”. Raja Chanesar was the well-known ruler of Sumro dynasty, who ruled “Dewal”. She was the most beautiful queen called Leela. She was fond of diamonds and Jewellery.

Contemporary to him was Rana Khanghar who ruled over Lakhhat over Kutch. She was engaged to her cousin “Utmadi”. She was the only daughter of Raja Khanghar and his wife Murki, so the deep love for their blind faith on her and deep love had spoiled her. She was proud of her beauty. One day her friend Jamini teased Kaunru that it looks like if she would be Queen of Chanesar. Kaunru was deeply hurt she told her mother that she would Chaneswar. Her parents got worried about her as they knew that Chanesar was married and he loved his queen Leela deeply.

After consulting her husband Murki and Kauru disguised themselves as traders and left for Dewalkot. They managed to consult Jakhru. King’s Minister asked him to help them. He promised that he would convince Chanesar to marry Kaunru.

Jakhru tried to convince Raja Chanesar about Kaunru. The King lost his temper and warned him that he should not talk like that in future in presence of Lila Jakhru apologized the King and informed Murki and Kaunru that there was no hope.

Kaunru and her mother putr ordinary dresses and in disguise went to Lila’s Palace. They begged her to have mercy on their poverty. Leela felt sorry for them and employed them as personal servants. Kaunru was asked to set Chanesar’s bed everyday.

One day Kaunru while preparing Chanesar's bed cried and her tears dropped from her eyes. When Leela entered the room she observed her tears and asked reason for that Kaunru told her that one time she had also been the Queen and lived a luxurious life. Leela didn't believe her, then Kaunru showed her precious necklace. Leela demanded her that necklace. Kaunru asked for a condition that necklace would be Leela's if Leela would allow her to spend one night with her hubby Chanesar.

Leela accepted the condition on the very same day Chanesar came home after party heavily drunk. Leela considered it was the best opportunity and she allowed Kaunru to spend night with him.

In the morning, Chanesar woke up he was shocked to see Kaunru instead of Leela sharing his bed. He was very angry and was about to leave the room but Murki told him that Leela had sold him to Kaunru in return for the precious necklace "Naulakha Har". Chanesar could not bare his insult and humiliation to exchange him for more a necklace.

As his revenge, he deserted Leela and married Kaunru who had given so much sacrifice for him. Leela tried to apologize, cried and begged but Chanesar refused to forgive her, Leela being helpless she left her house and went to her parents. There she spent her days in misery, solitude and repentance.

Jakhru was engaged with one of Leela family girl. They refused him to give her hand to Jakhru after the fate of Leela. Jakhru approached Leela intervened but asked him to bring Chanesar on his wedding Jakhru accepted the condition happily.

On the occasion of Jakhru's wedding Chanesar came along with bridegroom party. Leela and other girls welcomed at the party with dancing and singing but their face was veiled. Chanesar was pleased at their performance. He was specially fascinated at the dancing and the voice of the one whose face was veiled. Chanesar begged the girl to unveil her face as he could not tolerate

the situation any more as soon as Leela opened her face Chanesar fell down on the floor and died when Leela saw this she also fell down and died.

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### **Bio**

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