

### **Taxi Driver-K.S. Duggal**

Kartar Singh Duggal was an Indian writer who wrote in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, and English. His works include short stories, novels, dramas, and plays. He also served as the director of All India Radio and received several prestigious awards, such as the Padma Bhushan in 1988 and the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2007.

One of his famous stories, The Taxi Driver, talks about the importance of honesty and the struggles of a poor family. The story focuses on Dittu, a man who works as a taxi driver in India after losing his wealth during the partition of India and Pakistan. The main themes of the story revolve around morality, poverty, and survival.

One day, Dittu finds a wallet left behind by a passenger in his taxi. Instead of feeling happy, he feels uneasy. He believes that keeping money that does not belong to him will bring bad luck.

Dittu has learned a hard lesson about dishonesty during his younger days in Pakistan. Once, he picked up a parcel lying on the street, only to find it filled with layers of packing paper as a test of honesty by shopkeepers. This experience left him feeling ashamed, and he vowed never to take anything that was not his.

Dittu's wife, Banti, argues that they should keep the wallet and use the money to improve their poor living conditions. She is practical and wants a better life for her family. Dittu's honesty and Banti's practicality create a conflict between them.

One night, Dittu has a dream about an accident and wakes up sweating, thinking it is a punishment for keeping the wallet. He finds Banti holding the wallet and tries to take it from her. They argue, and in his frustration, Dittu hits her. He immediately regrets his actions and feels ashamed.

In the end, Banti's practical thinking wins. She starts counting the money and shows it to their son, Gullu. She asks him if he has ever seen rupee notes in denominations of twenty, fifty and hundred. Gullu replies in the negative. Eventually, Gullu falls asleep, and Dittu also goes to bed. Banti holds her son and goes back to bed as if nothing has happened.

The story explores the struggle between morality and survival. Dittu wants to remain honest, even though his family is financially struggling. On the other hand, Banti believes that using the money can improve their lives. The story does not judge their actions but leaves it to the readers to decide what is right or wrong.

The Taxi Driver captures the emotions and challenges faced by a struggling family. It reflects the impact of poverty on human thoughts and actions, making the story relatable and thought-provoking.

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The Taxi Driver is about Dittu, a taxi driver, who lost his wealth during the partition of India and Pakistan. The main themes of the story are morality, poverty, and survival.

One day, Dittu finds a wallet left behind by a passenger in his taxi. Instead of feeling lucky, he feels uneasy. He believes that keeping money that does not belong to him will bring bad luck. Dittu recalls a lesson from his past when he picked up a parcel in Pakistan and found it empty. This incident taught him never to take what does not belong to him.

Dittu's wife, Banti, thinks differently. She believes they should use the money from the wallet to improve their poor living conditions. This causes a conflict between the husband and wife.

In the end, Banti keeps the wallet and shows the money to their son, Gullu. The story does not say who is right or wrong. Instead, it shows the difficulties of living in poverty and how it affects people's choices.

The Taxi Driver highlights the emotional and moral struggles of a poor family.