

# ASSASSINATION

~~MYSTERY~~  
MYSTERY

ARTIST - UNKNOWN  
EMPEROR AURANGZEB ON  
HORSE BACK  
DRAWING ON PAPER 20x26  
COLLECTION - FROM RASAJA  
FOUNDATION  
ACC. NO - 14749

I had gone for hunting with a few of my ministers today. It was unknown all my courtiers to ~~the ministers~~. Hence, no procession. A king should also have his private moments with his friends!

Anyways, I was out hunting and all of us were really still so that we could know when an animal was near. We heard a ruffle in the bushes to our far right and I aimed my arrow ~~at~~ the sound. With careful aim, judging by the sound on where the animal was, I shot the arrow.

In a wink of ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> eye, there was a loud ~~so~~ wail. The arrow had found its mark and I had won a part of the bet.

In order to be safe, I let out one more arrow in that direction. There was no sound this time and I hurriedly alighted from the horse and I walked towards my kill.

I went into the bushes to find the carcass of a tiger with one arrow through ~~its~~ forehead and another through ~~its~~ eye.

I smiled from ~~one~~ ear to ~~the other~~ ear and I started rejoicing inside. This was the first time an animal had died from my ~~hand~~ <sup>arrow</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>piercing the</sup> ~~the~~ arrow had pierced its forehead. My kill always dies with an arrow in ~~its~~ heart.

Honestly, I wouldn't have come to hunt today if I knew that the tiger would become an endangered species in the future.

A friend of mine came in search of me, worried by my absence for a long time. "~~Was Aurangzeb~~ Your highness, we've been waiting for you." I got startled from my thoughts when I heard the voice. I just ~~nodded~~ my head and dragged the carcass out.

And it hit me, that a part of the bet was that if my bill was a tiger, I would get extra money.

So, for so many good happenings, I gave a feast to all my courtiers in the evening. messengers were sent out to everyone of them informing them about the feast and the preparations in the royal kitchen were in full swing. I didn't know, I was in for a surprise.

In the evening, I was in the Royal Dining Hall waiting for the time and my courtiers. To my surprise, at the time of the feast, there was no courtiers in the room, but an assassin who had <sup>not quite</sup> succeeded in his assassination. There was an arrow piercing <sup>the leg of my throne</sup> ~~my leg~~, when it was meant for my heart.

Unfortunately, the assassin had ran away till the time I started looking for him.

For all my life, I was in a ~~mystery~~ <sup>mystery</sup> to who that assassin was as I never bothered to tell anyone.

As for the feast, I cancelled it and pardoned my courtiers for not coming.

— RIDHIEE GUPTA

CLASS VIII