



The Mirage of Desire: The Story of Sage Saubhari

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Deep beneath the sacred, shimmering waters of the Yamuna River, the great sage Saubhari sits in absolute stillness. Surrounded by drifting river currents and glowing aquatic life, he remains absorbed in profound meditation for years, his mind perfectly detached from the outside world.



One quiet afternoon, a pair of golden fish swims past the meditating hermit, dancing gracefully together in the water. For a single, fleeting moment, Saubhari opens his eyes and witnesses their joyful companionship, allowing a spark of worldly desire to ignite within his mind.



Breaking his centuries-long meditation, Saubhari emerges from the river and travels to the grand palace of Ayodhya, ruled by King Maandhata. Standing before the royal throne in his simple ascetic robes, the elderly hermit boldly asks to marry one of the king's fifty beautiful daughters.



The king is deeply troubled, fearing the powerful sage's curse if he refuses, yet unable to imagine his daughters marrying an old hermit. Smiling secretly, the king proposes a clever test, promising that if any princess chooses Saubhari willingly the next day, she shall become his wife.



That night, sitting under the starlight, Saubhari uses his extraordinary yogic powers to alter his physical form. By the time the moon reaches its peak, the elderly ascetic has transformed into an incredibly handsome young man radiating divine charm.



When Saubhari steps into the palace courtyard the next morning, the fifty princesses are instantly mesmerized by his breathtaking appearance. Instead of just one bride, all fifty daughters eagerly choose the transformed sage, leaving the stunned king with no choice but to honor his word.



To ensure every wife is perfectly happy, Saubhari summons his mystical powers to construct fifty magnificent, jewel-encrusted palaces. He then manifests fifty identical forms of himself, living separately with each princess so that each one believes she has his undivided devotion.



Centuries pass in a blur of endless luxury, grand feasts, and joyful celebrations within the golden walls of the palaces. Generations of children and grandchildren are born, eventually giving rise to a bustling, prosperous city of descendants surrounding the sage.



One day, amidst the boundless wealth and affection, Saubhari suddenly awakens from his long illusion and weeps for his spiritual downfall. He realizes that despite thousands of years spent feeding his senses with every imaginable pleasure, his desires only grew stronger and more restless.



Leaving the grand palaces behind, Saubhari returns to the quiet wilderness, finally understanding that worldly pleasures are just a fleeting mirage. He closes his eyes to look inward, discovering that true, lasting happiness cannot be found by chasing external cravings, but only by finding peace within the soul.