

HEER RANJHA



LOVE OVER LAW: THE TRAGIC DEFIANCE OF THE SOUL

A GRAPHIC ADAPTATION



To the soil of Punjab and the Sufi Poets who kept the flame of Ishq alive through the centuries.

اَوَّلُ حَمْدِ خُدا دَاوِرْدِي كِي، عِشْقِ كِي تَا سُو جِگَ دَا مَوْلِ مِيَاں

*"First, let us invoke the praise of God,
Who made Love the fundamental root of the universe."
— Waris Shah (Heer, 1766)*

Preface

The legend of *Heer and Ranjha* is more than a tragic romance. It is a deep journey that explores the human spirit's capacity for defiance against the crushing weight of social tradition.

In creating this graphic adaptation, we wanted to encapsulate the important transformation in Dheedo Ranjha. We follow his path from being a **spoiled son** in Takht Hazara to his spiritual transformation. The story shows how personal tragedy caused by the **greed of his brothers** and the **loss of his father** becomes the spark for his journey toward a higher, **Ishq-e-Haqiqi** (Divine love).

Our version focuses on the powerful symbols found in the original story. We look at the **Wanjhli** (flute), which changes from a simple instrument into a voice of spiritual strength, and the **Kashkul** (beggar's bowl), which represents giving up worldly desires. Through these symbols, we show Heer's **courage** as she chooses her own path over the expectations of society.

The goal of this work is to share this famous legend in a way that respects its history while exploring the theme of **Love over Law**. It is a story of two souls so closely connected that their union at the end represents a victory over time and a reach toward the divine.



The warm home he was once used to had become cold and quiet. Even the walls of his own house felt like a prison, and the harsh words of his family were louder and more painful than any song he could play.



He traveled towards Jhang, the land of the Sial family. Every step took him farther away from his childhood home, where he only felt unwanted and burdened. The flute resting at his side brought him a strange sense of relief.



All the rumours and planned setbacks were only aimed at depriving Heer's father, the leader of the Sial Clan, of his dignity, so that he might be looked upon as the sole real power left.



But this sorrow soon became a search for spiritual truth. He was now searching for a path beyond the harsh limits of his world. Ranjha's path led him north to a famous place of the holy seekers. His journey was becoming a pilgrimage.



He understood Ranjha's pure intention for Heer and reflected the devotion a holy person shows to the Creator. He accepted the sincere devotion immediately. Ranjha bravely faced the demanding trials of the Dervish order.



These hidden whispers were her only lifeline, fueling her desire to know if Ranjha was still alive and if he still held their love as sacred as she did.



The two lovers rode at a canter through the high grass of the Punjab plains. With the beat of the horse and the pulse of their own new life, they left behind the household, rushing wildly to find Sethi.



The silence of the countryside was shattered by the thunder of the chasers' hooves as the chase began for the lovers who had dared to disappear into the dawn.



He was obsessed with his strict adherence to society's rules and his consuming jealousy of Ranjha. He felt that everything he had striven for was breaking down, which led him to make a fatal mistake.



Their grave became an instant and holy site. People came from all walks of life, recognising the power of Ishq-e-Haqiqi. It stood as a silent, powerful testament of 'Love over Law' and a monument to the greatest tragic romance of Punjab.



In the heart of eighteenth-century Punjab, a love was born that would challenge the very foundations of social law and tribal honour. This prose translation brings the legendary saga of Heer and Ranjha to life for a modern English audience, capturing the soul-stirring defiance of two lovers who chose eternity over earthly constraints.



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