

**Short Fiction in Indian Literature**  
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**Lecture-10B**  
**Hidden Fractures in Ruskin Bond's The Blue Umbrella-III**

Hello and welcome back to the lecture on the blue umbrella. The title is hidden fractures and Ruskin Bond short story.

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Now let us go back to this third conflict with which we stopped the previous session and we realize that Ram Bharosa seems to prioritize beauty over money because if you remember he tells Rajaram that he is not thinking about profit, but he is thinking about the beauty of the thing that he wants to own it. And let us look for a second at the motivation behind his preference for beauty here.

He wants to own that beauty, but there is a kind of a disturbing logic behind that. He thinks that beauty is his prerogative, it is his privilege and it is his right because he is the richest man in that particular area. So even that logic behind his desire is something that is less admirable.

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Third Conflict

- ◆ Binya and Ram Bharosa Similar?
- ◆ “The sun isn't hot enough, and it isn't meant for the rain. It is just a pretty thing for ladies to play with” Ram Bharosa  
to Binya

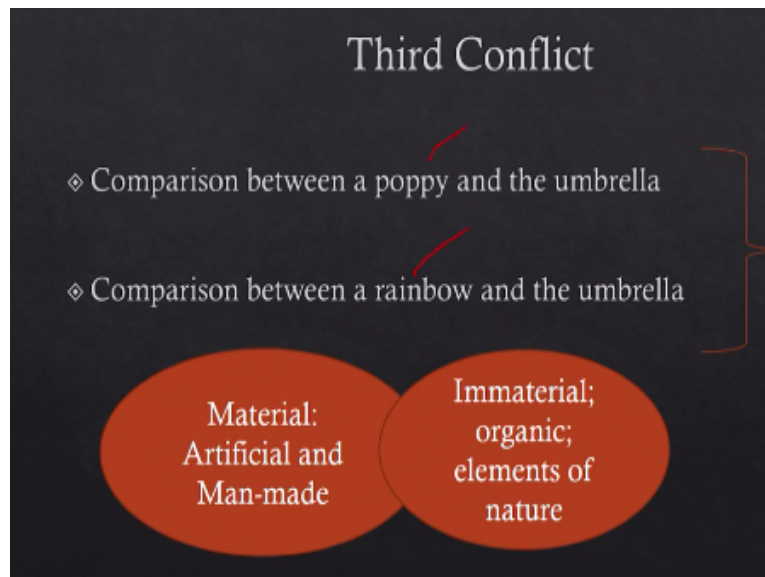
Now as I mentioned briefly before Binya and Ram Bharosa are similar in some respects especially in the way that they persistently desire or appreciate the blue umbrella. Binya constantly has that umbrella open and even when she is within her home she keeps the umbrella open and sometimes Bijju closes it because it is in the way and the desire for Ram Bharosa is also consistent.

And Ram Bharosa makes several attempts to get the umbrella from Binya and if you remember the first exchange between Binya and the picnickers. She is not tempted by the other stuff that they have with them and which they are willing to give the girl for her claw pendant. She is very particular that she wants the blue umbrella. So we see some similar attitude between Binya and Ram Bharosa.

It becomes evident that it is a thing which is not highly functional the blue umbrella is not a very, very functional object especially if the sun is not hot enough in the hilly terrain and the umbrella will be useless. The sun is not hot enough and it is not meant for the rain. It is just the pretty thing for ladies to play with that is what Ram Bharosa tells Binya and he says that it is a pretty thing for the ladies to play with.

So what I am going to do with it here in this particular village on the hills and this non functionality of this blue umbrella is again an attraction not only to Binya, but also an attraction to Ram Bharosa.

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If you go back to the extract the longer extract between the exchange of dialogues between Rajaram and Ram Bharosa where he compares the blue umbrella to a poppy and a rainbow and we realize that the mind of Ram Bharosa is a sharp one, it is a deeper one that we took it to be for and he very subtly says that the umbrella is a thing of beauty just as a beautiful poppy is and he blends these 2 things together as if they are all part of the beauty of life.

But we need to realize a very important difference between the umbrella and the other things the poppy and the rainbow because the umbrella is a manmade artificial object. It is not a element of nature, it is not poppy, it is not a rainbow these are natural elements something that is part of this globe whereas the umbrella is created artificially in industry, in a company run by people.

So that difference between immaterial organic elements of nature and material commodities need to be understood and let me go back briefly to the previous slide because this particular line which says that the umbrella is not a functional commodity in the hilly regions is suggestive of the fact that it has no purpose there. Its purpose there to be just beautiful and both Binya and Ram Bharosa realize the non functional aspect of it and still cling to it, still want to possess it.

So Ram Bharosa says I too have a soul I want the umbrella because I want its beauty to be mine. Again a big logical jump made by Ram Bharosa earlier he compared the umbrella to organic natural elements.

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### Third Conflict

"I, too, have a soul. I want the umbrella, because---I want its beauty to be mine!"

A Venn diagram with two overlapping red ovals. The left oval is labeled 'Human Soul' and the right oval is labeled 'Aesthetic appreciation'. The two ovals overlap in the center.

And now he says that I have a human soul. Since I have a human soul I want this beautiful umbrella to be mine and the connection here is that human souls are supposed to appreciate beauty, human beings are supposed to appreciate the aesthetic side of life. So he makes that connection there and he says that do you think just because I am a shopkeeper I am only interested in profit and loss, I am also interested in beauty and I have a human soul.

So that connection is also a profound connection that he makes and it is fair enough, but the extent to which he is willing to get that beautiful umbrella is what becomes a problematic in this particular story.

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### Ram Bharosa

- ◆ Choice of words
- ◆ Abusive language
- ◆ Significant in a children's work
- ◆ the flaws in the world

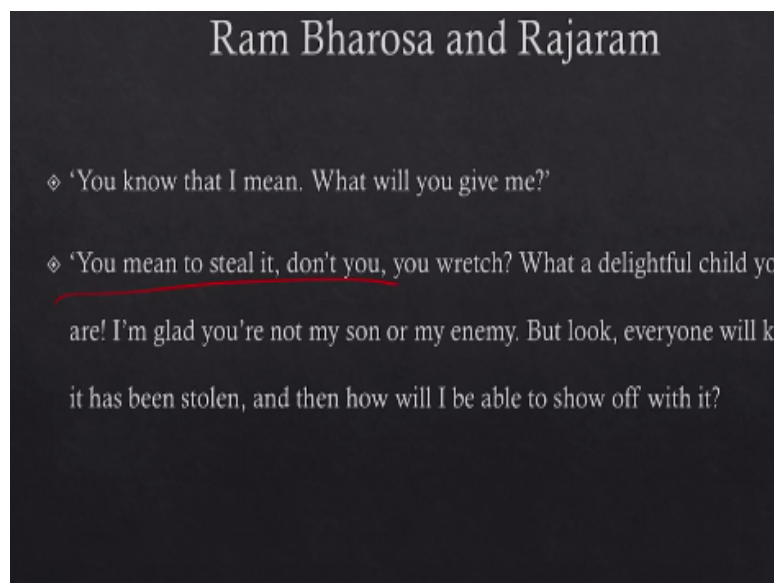
} Symbolic

So some of the things we need to keep in mind in making an assessment of Ram Bharosa are these his choice of words is unpalatable because they contain abusive language and such

abusive language is employed by Ram Bharosa towards his employee Rajaram and the presence of such language is significant in children's work and in this beautiful world, in this world whether our hills and rainbows and poppies and cows of various colors. So what does this suggest? This symbolically suggest that there are flaws, there are problem in the world of that particular village.

And at the language kind of reveals those flaws and the shopkeeper language to his employee suggest the class divide between Ram Bharosa and this poor boy Rajaram. So there are indications, ideological issues in this particular world too.

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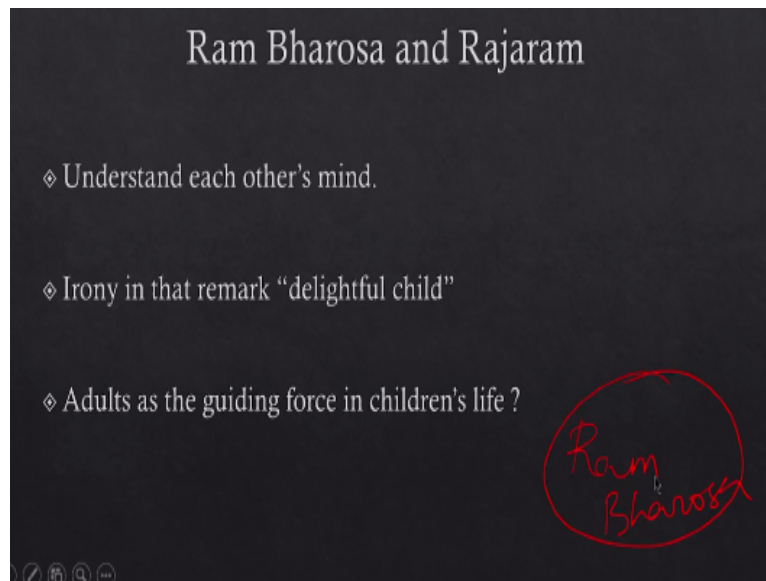
So Rajaram is a clever boy. He kind of works out where this particular exchange of words is heading and he says what will you give me if I get the umbrella for you from Binya and Ram Bharosa is surprised and he asked what do you mean you know what I mean what will you give me. What is the amount of money you are willing to give me if I steal the umbrella for you.

And that particular word steal is not mentioned by Rajaram at all, but Ram Bharosa is the first one to mention it he says you mean to steal it do not you wretch. What a delightful child you are I am glad you are not my son or my enemy, but look everyone will know it has been stolen then how will I be able to show off with it. So it is very interesting that Ram Bharosa wants to get all the solutions from this clever boy.

Rajaram he says if you steal it for me I cannot show it off to the village what will I do then.

So he is expecting Rajaram to provide all the answers to his problems. Let us take one step at a time.

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So what is this extract suggest? The extract suggests that Rajaram and Ram Bharosa know each other minds, they reach each other minds and as I said it is almost as if Rajaram is sort of a mirror of Ram Bharosa. The second thing is that there is great irony in that remark what a delightful child you are. In fact, Rajaram is not a delightful child and his poverty is pushing him to offer to undertake this unethical task of stealing the umbrella from Binya.

So that subtext the poverty of Rajaram is the subtext for this particular exchange and Ram Bharosa is exploiting the poverty of Rajaram subtly by allowing Rajaram to offer to steal the umbrella for a particular amount of money. So again adults as the guiding force in children life has been subverted that narrative has been subverted in this particular episode and we need to remember that in this world of Binya, in this world of blue umbrella.

Ram Bharosa is the only adult figure to appear prominently in this particular narrative and this is the example that he sets for the children around him. His shop is a major presence in their lives and he exploits the children by letting them borrow, letting them eat sweets and toffee on credit and ultimately makes them give away, give up their price possessions in return.

So the only adult in this story is a less admirable figure a problematic figure and an evil one in some respect. One who uses abusive language towards children, one who manipulates

children. So it is a disturbing characterization in this fiction.

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Ram Bharosa

- ◆ We do not hear about his family.
- ◆ No references to his home.
- ◆ Implication: worry about a child's morality in certain circumstances

Rajaram

And we need to also note that we do not hear about Ram Bharosa family, there are no references to his home life and like Ram Bharosa Rajaram home life is also not mentioned. He is a minor character yet there are no references to his family situation or context. We know that he is forced to work in Ram Bharosa shop even the Rajaram Ram Bharosa the name similarity in the name is indicative of their symbolic similarity.

The metaphorical association that they have towards life itself. The subversive aspect, unhealthy immoral attitude that they have in obtaining certain things. So there are no references to either Rajaram or to Ram Bharosa family and if you recall that particular extract he says that I am glad that you are not my son or my enemy. So what is the implication of this particular statement?

The implication is that I would worry about a child morality only if the child is mine. If only if that son is my I will kind of discipline him in terms of his morality. So it is a very, very selfish, self centered attitude that Ram Bharosa has and that is as I said very disturbing.

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## Ram Bharosa's desire

◆ Not only possess beauty

◆ Show it off

*display*

◆ Binya seldom closed the umbrella. Even when she had it in the house, she left it lying open in a corner of the room. ...Whenever Binya went out—whether it was to graze the cows, or fetch water from the spring, or carry milk to the little tea shop on the Tehri road—she took the umbrella with her. The patch of skyblue silk could always be seen on the hillside.

So he not only wants to possess beauty, but he also wants to show it off and that display values that is there in the umbrella is very, very significant because once Binya possesses that particular umbrella she becomes very, very visible. Wherever she goes, she gets the attention of everybody and if you remember as soon as she gets the umbrella she goes by that road to Tehri and all the people around her take a minute or take notice of the girl with the blue umbrella.

So it does give the owner a certain kind of dignity and perhaps that is what Binya loves to have in terms of her possession, but again Ram Bharosa too wants to display it. In that context let us see this particular extract Binya seldom closed the umbrella. Even when she had it in the house she left it lying open in the corner of the room. Whenever Binya went out whether it was to graze the cows or fetch water from this spring or carry milk to the little tea shop on the Tehri road.

She took the umbrella with her the patch of skyblue silk would always be seen on the hillside. So there is associated glory for Binya through this skyblue silk and perhaps for this sturdy girl who does not go to school, who does all the household duties, the various tasks that has been assigned to her by her family this blue umbrella is a kind of a shining badge that she can have all the time and which is perhaps why she clings to it so fiercely.

So that is something we need to kind of try to understand as well.

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### Rajaram's advice

- ◊ Secretly admiration
- ◊ dye it a different colour
- ◊ "do you want it badly enough to pay me three rupees for stealing it without being seen?"

Exposes the reality behind the deal

So what is Rajaram advice to Ram Bharosa. He says that I do not know I do not care about the display, the scope of your displaying it perhaps you can just keep it in your tea shop and secretly admire it or you can take it (()) (15:53) and dye it a different color it red I do not care I will just get the umbrella for you, you can do whatever you want with it and he says do you want it badly enough.

Rajaram says do you want it badly enough to pay me three rupees for stealing it without being seen. So he spells it out at this point, he spells it out for the readers that this is the crime that is going to be committed because Ram Bharosa wants the blue umbrella. So he exposes the reality behind the dirty deal that he is going to undertake for the benefit of Ram Bharosa.

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### Ram Bharosa on Rajaram

◊ 'Wretch! said the old man, 'Evil one! Darkener of my doorstep!  
Fetch me the umbrella, and I'll give you three rupees.'

Who is the evil one?

Superstitious

So again let us look at the comments Ram Bhorosa makes about Rajaram wretch said the old

man. Evil one, darkener of my doorstep, fetch me the umbrella and I will give you three rupees. Let at the appetite, evil one the appetite that Ram Bharosa gives to Rajaram. Darkener of my doorstep or how high sounding appetite with a dark undertone. So we need to ask this question who is the evil one is it Rajaram or is it Ram Bharosa the old man who is pushing a young boy, a school going boy into stealing this umbrella for money.

Again it is almost as if Rajaram is giving a superstitious (( )) (17:30) to the character of Rajaram. He calls him the darkener of my doorstep. It is as if he is evil personified in his decision to get the umbrella by hook and crook.

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And he says you are sharp boy you will come to a bad end. So that is the kind of sarcastic blessings that Ram Bharosa offers Rajaram and it is again a very, very unhealthy discourse that is happening between Ram Bharosa the older figure and Raja Ram the young boy who is working as an employee. Again there is irony in this reference to sharp boy. Sharpness here is about stealing cleverly the price possessions of Binya.

So you appreciate a boy or a kid for cleverness or sharpness if he or she does something very positive and smartly not for stealing. So the traditional moralistic value is turned topsy-turvy between these two Ram Bharosa and Rajaram and what for to get hold of a beautiful object a blue umbrella.

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## Crisis

- ◇ Binya is engaged in picking quills
- ◇ “in southern India, the quills were valued as charms and sold at a rupee for each. So Ram Bharosa paid a tenth of a rupee for each quill brought to him, and he in turn sold the quills at a profit to a trader from the plains.”

So let us come to the crisis and this is the crisis when Rajaram has come to steal the blue umbrella Binya is engaged in picking quills. It is a very, very poignant scene, it is a tragic scene because we see Binya who is picking up all these quills painstakingly and here we have this boy who has come to steal her happiness so to speak and why is she picking quills. The narrator says that in Southern India the quills were valued as charms and sold at a rupee for each.

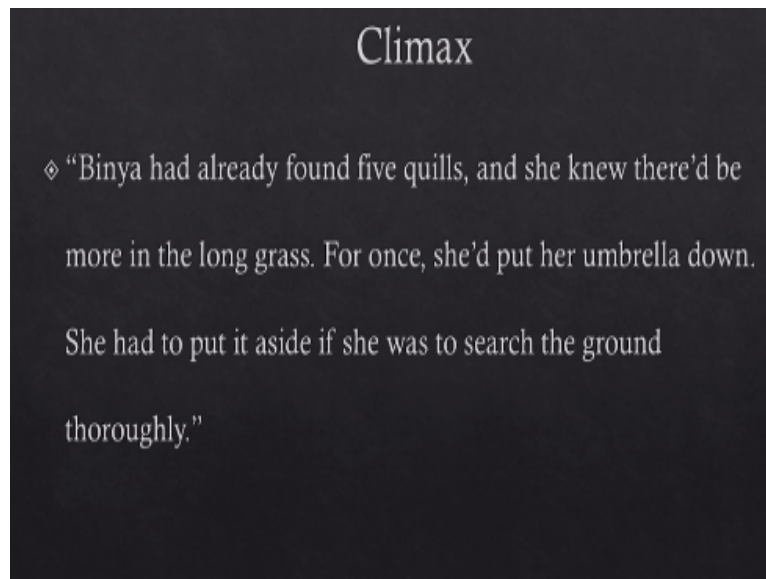
So Ram Bharosa paid a tenth of a rupee for each quill brought to him and he in turn sold the quills at a profit to a trader from the plains. So Ram Bharosa is the one who is behind this painstakingly labor that she undergoes at that point in a narrator when this boy Rajaram comes to steal it and look at the amount that he pays for each quill at a tenth of a rupee such a marginal amount, such a paltry amount for the amount of labor that she collects all the quills, the porcupine quills from the hill side.

And if you remember the hill side can be very dangerous too. So she puts the umbrella by the side in order to look for quills on the grass floor. So Binya hard labor is evident there and what is also evident is the exploitation of middleman like Ram Bharosa who purchase all these quills at a very low amount of time and then sell it for a profit to traders in the town. So that is again highlighted.

And it is in this particular context that we have Rajaram come to secretly get the umbrella from her. So the chance again we have this notion of charms as important objects, we have good luck charms, we have the claw pendant as charms and we have porcupine quills as

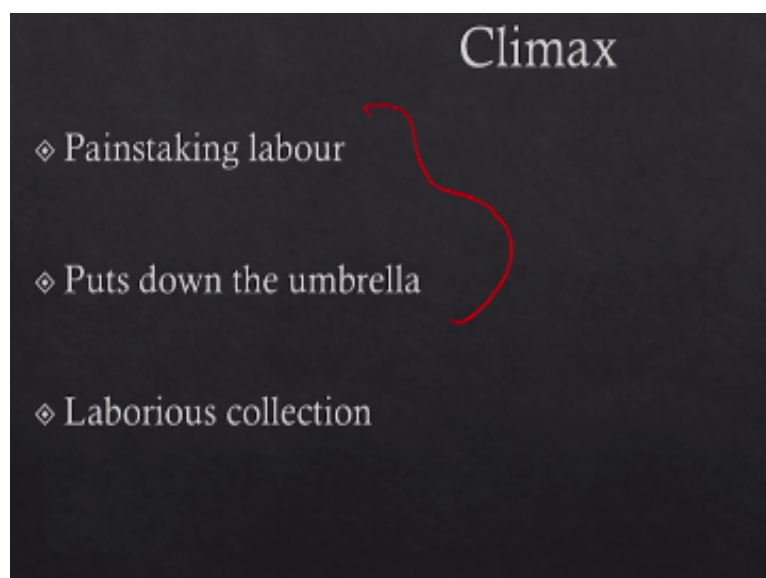
charms and very interesting is that despite all these the people does not seem to be save from bad luck that is going around.

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So Binya has already found five quills and she knew there would be more in the long grass. For once she put her umbrella down for once she had put her umbrella down she had to put it aside if she was to search the ground thoroughly. So for that job to look closely and clearly and carefully she puts the umbrella down by the side in order to engage more carefully with her task.

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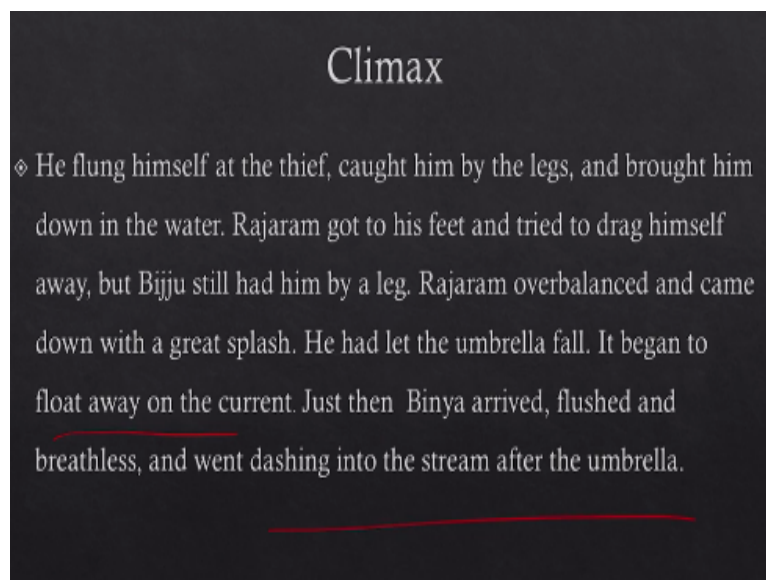
And again you have to put the umbrella down to engage in painstaking labour is a symbolic thing. You cannot hold an object of beauty when you are engaged in productive labor, labor that will give you money. So that association or disassociation of beauty from work is evident

there in that gesture of Binya. So again I would like to highlight the laborious collection of quills. She has just picked up 5 quills and she would have to collect many more to get a decent amount of money from Ram Bharosa.

So Rajaram steals the umbrella, but while he is running away Binya notices because of the sound of his footsteps. So she gives chase and she almost catches up with him, but in the meantime we have Bijju who arrives on the scene and he continues to pursue and he is fresh, he has lots of energy. So he chases Rajaram to a stream and there is a big fight that goes between the brother of Binya Bijju and Rajaram.

And this is the climax we have an actual struggle a big fight scene of sequence as we would have in a movie and this is what is happening and this is very interesting for another particular facet of Binya so let us look what that is.

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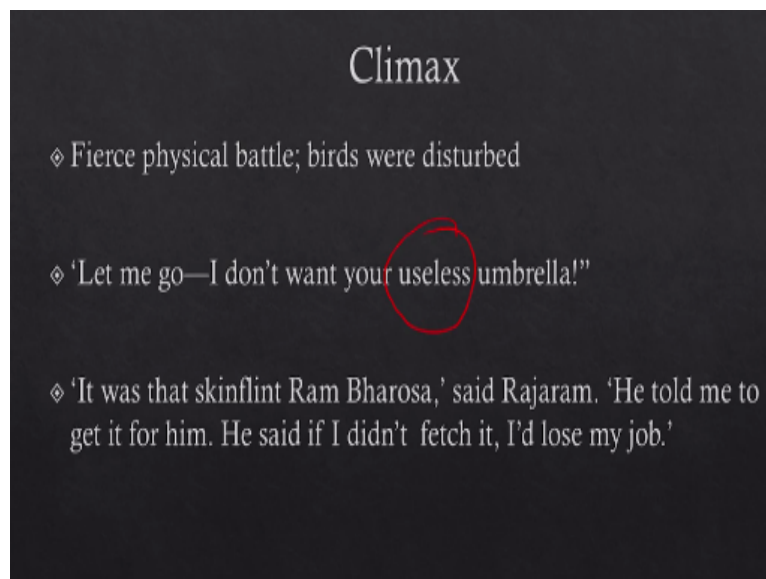
He flung himself at the thieves, caught him by the legs and brought him down in the water. Rajaram got to his feet and try to drag himself away, but Bijju still had him by a leg. Rajaram overbalanced and came down with a great splash, he has let the umbrella fall. He began to float away on the current just then Binya arrived flushed and breathless and went dashing into the stream after the umbrella.

So in that struggle in that physical battle. It is such a big battle between the two a big fight between the two that the birds were disturbed the magpie and bulbuls were disturbed and they begin to fly away and the point that struck me was this when Binya arrives she goes after the

umbrella which is floating away on the current. She does nothing to intervene or put an end to the fight that is happening between the 2 boys and it is a fear struggle.

And Bijju is hitting this boy Rajaram really hard and ultimately Bijju wins the fight. He pins him down on the floor and Rajaram gives up. The fact that Binya does not intervene in that fight between the boys instead she goes after the blue umbrella it is a very interesting thing there what matter most to her is that beautiful umbrella that is kind of going away from her in the water.

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So Rajaram says let me go I do not want your useless umbrella. It is very interesting here he says this were useless. It is not very, very useful for me it is an unproductive thing now for him because he realizes that he will not get any money from Ram Bharosa. So its purpose will not be served for him and he tells a narrative, he tells Bijju that it was the skinflint Ram Bharosa he told me to get it for him.

He said if I did not fetch it I would lose my job again a very interesting narrative that he offers to Bijju the brother of Binya about why he stole the umbrella. He says that skinflint that stingy Ram Bharosa ask me to get it for him. He said if I do not do it he will fire me. So as I said for Rajaram the umbrella becomes useless and the narrative that offer about why he stole the umbrella for Binaya.

It is very interesting because it projects a certain set of ideas about Ram Bharosa which we have not seen in the narrative. We know that Ram Bharosa did not threaten Rajaram with his

job. It is Rajaram himself who offers to steal it for him for a particular amount of money. So we have a falsehood to speak from Rajaram perhaps he is offering this narrative to kind of get out of the (( )) (26:51) that he is in.

And again his mentioning of the fact that Ram Bharosa is skinflint is interesting because that is the truth perhaps everybody knows that he is a skinflint perhaps that truth will make his audience believe in the other narrative that he offers about Ram Bharosa forcing him to steal the umbrella from Binya. So we have a complicated narrative from Rajaram and that is the last that we see of him in the particular narrative.

He is a minor character, he serves the role he complicates the narratives, he brings it to a point at which it has to be resolve for everybody in terms of the umbrella and the desire that is kind of an aura about it.

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The slide has a dark background with the title 'Repercussions' at the top. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: 'He wished he had never set eyes on it. Because of the umbrella, he had suffered the tortures of greed, the despair of loneliness. Because of the umbrella, people had stopped coming to his shop!'. At the bottom of the slide, there are two red ovals. The left oval contains the text 'Bad luck?' and the right oval contains the text 'Problematic intrusion'.

Now let us look at the repercussion for this crisis and this climax that has happened in the story. And everybody in the village ostracizes Ram Bharosa nobody visits his shop, they take the time and energy to go to the shop near Tehri to get their stuff and Ram Bharosa is heartbroken. He says that he wishes he had never set eyes on it because of the umbrella he had suffered the tortures of the greed, the despair of loneliness because of the umbrella people had stopped coming to his shop.

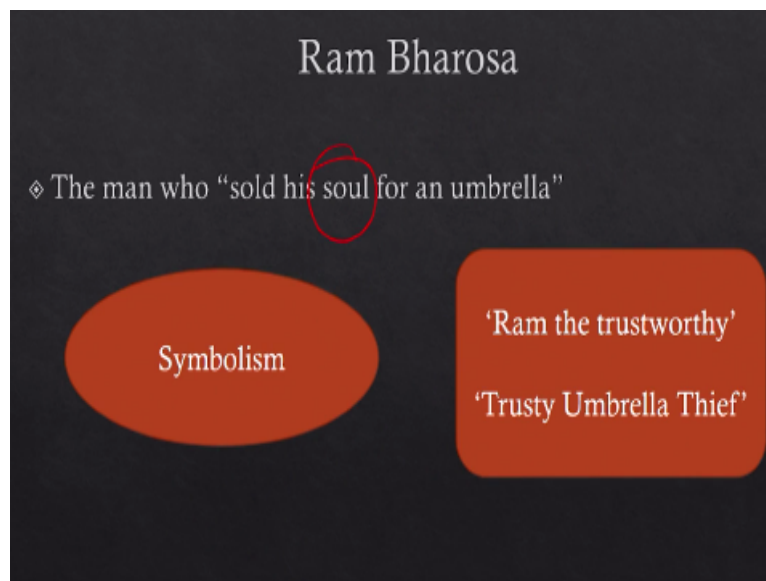
So again we understand that the umbrella is this problematic intrusion of material commodity from the plains and it creates havoc among the community on this particular hill village. So



did it bring bad luck it seems to have brought a bad luck to Ram Bharosa and Rajaram who are very, very proactive in an ulterior sort of way in trying to get the umbrella from Binya. So it seems to have brought bad luck for some of the people here.

And Ram Bharosa becomes identified as the man who sold his soul for an umbrella and it is very significant that this reference to the soul reminds us of Ram Bharosa philosophy where he said that I have a human soul I have soul therefore I would like to own it. So again here it is a different sort of spin on it a man who could sell his soul for just a simple umbrella.

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And again it his name has become mocked about. So Ram the trustworthy he has come to be known as trusty umbrella thief. So the children of the village are playing with his name and he is known by this term the Trusty Umbrella Thief. So there is a lot of symbolism here in the context of the soul as well as in relation to the names. We need to ask this question was he ever trustworthy to begin with.

Was Ram Bharosa ever a man of dignity, a man of integrity so that question needs to be asked too.

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## Ram Bharosa's despair

- ◆ No cash flow
- ◆ Dismisses Rajaram to cut costs
- ◆ Loneliness
- ◆ The shop is desolate and without upkeep

So he is in complete despair there is no cash flow because nobody patronizes his shop. He has come to a point where he might have to dip into his savings in the bank in town and that is a very, very scary prospect for Ram Bharosa and he has also dismissed Rajaram from his shop to cut cost. And as a result he is absolutely lonely and he has no company and this old man has become almost cut off from the rest of the society.

He is all by himself. His shop is desolate and without any kind of upkeep we can see that the corrugated tin roof is leaking. This emotional and physical disturbance are reflected everywhere in and around his shop. So how does Binya relates to the fall of Ram Bharosa and she does it in a very, very interesting manner.

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## Binya and Ram Bharosa

- ◆ Binya crept quietly past the shop, looking the other way, almost as though she was in some way responsible for the misery of Ram

Bharosa.

Summer  
Vacation

Hides the  
umbrella when  
she is near the  
shop

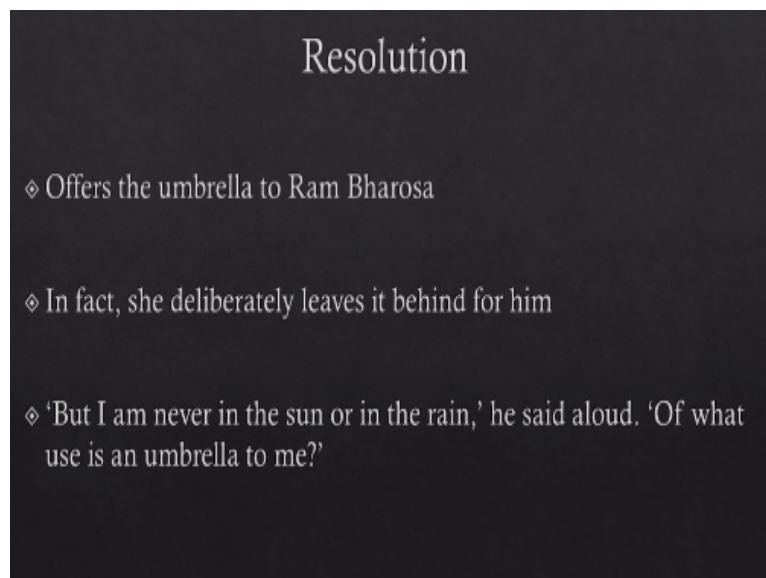
Whenever she goes by his shop Binya crept quietly past the shop looking the other way

almost as though she was in some way responsible for the misery of Ram Bharosa It is a very significant reaction and this reaction of Binya and the fact that she is feeling guilty somehow responsible for the downfall of Ram Bharosa reminds me of the character of Amu in summer vacation.

When she feels guilty for (( )) (32:05) Nani Amma for stealing the Cameron from her grandmother house in fact she does not have to feel guilty, she did the right thing by standing up, but somehow Binya here also feels responsible or guilty about the downfall or the tragedy that has struck Ram Bharosa. So what does is she hides the umbrella whenever she is near the shop she closes it when she walks past it.

We need to remember she never does that thing she always keeps it open and suddenly towards the end of the story she closes the umbrella as if it is the object that needs to be hidden away for some reason when she arrives Ram Bharosa shop.

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Resolution

- ◆ Offers the umbrella to Ram Bharosa
- ◆ In fact, she deliberately leaves it behind for him
- ◆ 'But I am never in the sun or in the rain,' he said aloud. 'Of what use is an umbrella to me?'

So how is the story resolved? The story is resolved when one fine day in October Binya goes to the shop and to buy a toffee she gives him a coin and she is the first visitor in weeks to Ram Bharosa shop and Ram Bharosa does not trust either Binya or the coin that she offers. So what he does is he test the credibility of the coin by biting it by throwing as a flaw and then he realizes that it is a genuine coin and then he offers her the toffee.

In fact, once she has taken the toffee she quietly leaves the umbrella behind in the shop and Ram Bharosa realizes the fact that the umbrella is there for him to take it and it is such a

shock for him and he grabs it, he opens it and then he holds the umbrella and stands in the red and enjoys that moment and it is such a surreal moment when we see this old man holding the umbrella inside his shop in the darkness such a surreal moment.

And he realizes that I am never in the sun or in the rain. He said it loud what uses an umbrella to me this is the moment, this the great realization for him is that this umbrella is in fact useless to him and that realization happens only when he holds it in the shop and he immediately runs behind a Binya a changed man, he becomes a changed man there is a change in his attitude and that is very, very interesting.

Because if we look at some of the stories that we have looked in the story, in this course for example chess players or the shroud, the central capital does not undergo any sort of change, but here in the blue umbrella there is a market change on the part of Ram Bharosa and he returns the umbrella to her. He says you forgot the umbrella and in that moment he belongs to both of them it is a beautiful line by Ruskin Bond.

So when he returns the umbrella to the little girl the child from whom he wanted to snatch it by any and every means possible. He just returns it to the little girl and at that moment the umbrella was shared commodity, a shared object it belongs to both of them and Binya refuses to take it he just says you keep the umbrella and she runs away happily.

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Binya

◆ 'And she left the old man holding the umbrella, and went tripping down the road, and there was nothing between her and the bright blue sky.'

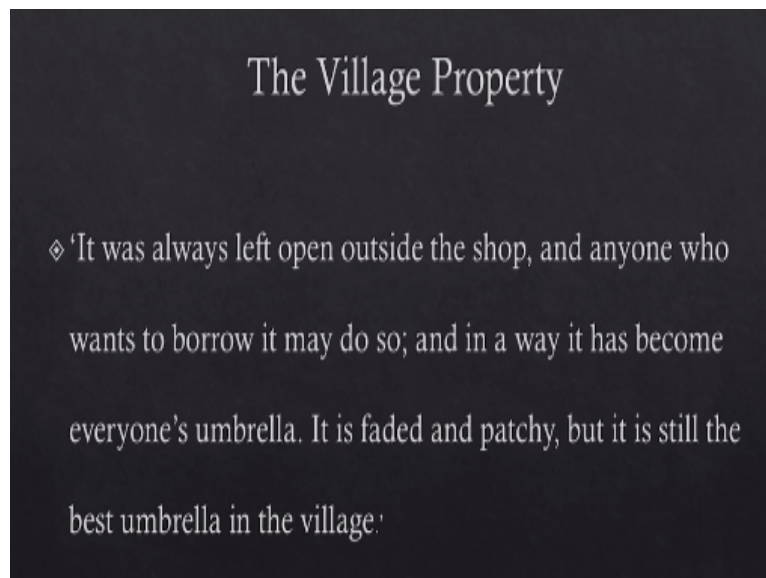
Attraction to man-made materiality gone!

And she left the old man holding the umbrella and went tripping down the road and there was nothing between her and the bright blue sky. So this particular set of ideas is very interesting.

Once she has given away the blue umbrella to this old man she had nothing between her and the bright blue sky. So the relationship between her and nature was perfect with no intrusions and it seems the implications is that earlier this blue umbrella came between her and the bright blue sky and now that intrusion that obstacle is removed and she is in direct communion with nature in some way or the other.

So the other symbolic association is that the attraction to manmade materiality of the part of Binya is completely gone. So she is no longer under the influence of this commodity, she is no longer under the kind of guidance of this particular thing. She is completely free and carefree and happy.

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Now it becomes eventually the village property. Ram Bharosa leaves that umbrella outside his shop and it was always left open outside the shop and anyone who wants to borrow it may do so and in a way it has become everyone umbrella. It is faded and patchy, but it is still the best umbrella in the village. After this old man has enjoyed it he uses it to go for works and the umbrella has a positive influence on this life.

He feels better he is healthier, but after a while he makes it the villages property so everybody is free to borrow it. It is very faded now and it has been patched up, but then it is still the most beautiful thing in the village it is the best umbrella in the village. And we need to kind of note the shifts, the changes in terms of the owner of the umbrella.

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So once it comes to Binya from the lady from the plains it is transferred from Binya to the shopkeeper and the umbrella once again is transferred to everyone in the village. So it has a change owner the blue umbrella had a lot of owners and it ultimately it becomes the property of the entire community of this hilly region while it is such a idealistic thing it is a good thing to own a thing in common.

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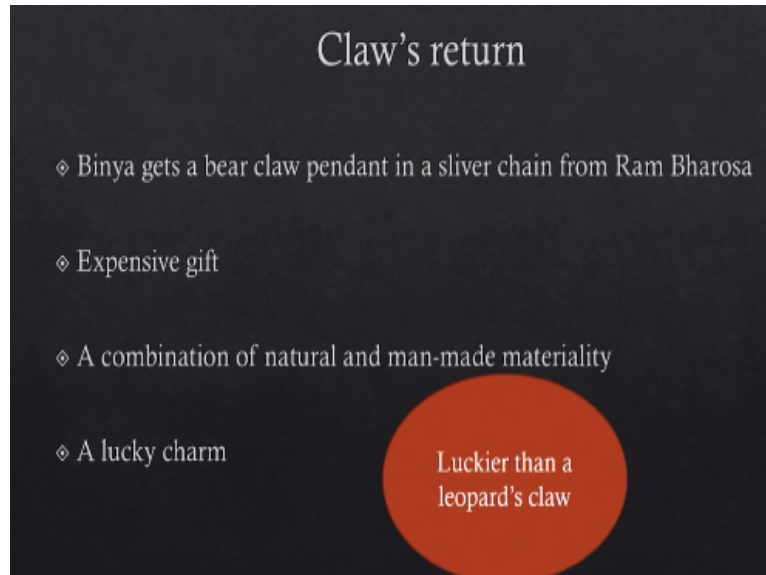
### The Blue Umbrella

- ◆ A poor cultivator's daughter does not have the umbrella forever
- ◆ Everyone gets to share the beauty

What is very clear as well is that the poor cultivator's daughter Binya does not have the umbrella any longer that thing has been taken away from her. The umbrella which was desired by the school master wife which was desired by the pujari, which was desired by Ram Bharosa all these desires ultimately take away the umbrella from her. It is no longer hers it becomes the villager's property.

So we need to understand that too everyone gets to enjoy the share of the umbrella, everyone gets to participate in the beauty, in the glory that the umbrella gives them, but then the girl does not have it anymore. Instead what does she have at the end of the story Ram Bharosa does an admirable gesture.

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He gets a bear claw pendant for Binya and he takes it to the town, he gets the services of a (( )) (39:25) and gets the claw pendant attached to a silver chain and he gives this to Binya. So Binya gets a present at the end of the story and it is almost as if the story has come a full circle because if we remember she parted with a claw pendant a leopard claw pendant at the beginning of the story and that is supposed to be a lucky charm for her.

And she gives that pendant to the lady from the planes and instead she gets the umbrella and now at the end of the story the umbrella has gone from her literally, but she gets a claw pendant in return. So that comes back to her the lucky charm comes back to her and it is supposed to be luckier than a leopard claw.

This is a bear claw and it is supposed to be better than the one that she had before and we need to realize that this gift by Ram Bharosa is a very expensive gift and he is willing to spend that much money to make this girl happy. He says that he will never forget the smile that was there on the girl when she realizes that this is a gift from him. So how do we understand the gift it is a combination of natural and manmade materiality.

The silver chain is material commodity that has come from the town and whereas this claw is



an aspect of nature. So both these things merge together into a perfect gift for Binya. So it becomes a lucky charm at the end of the story for Binya and it ends in a happy high note with Ram Bharosa having a changed mind one which is able to offer things to the others around him. Thank you for watching and I will continue in the next session.