

Birbal Escapes Layoff!



Akbar had a Hindu minister whose birth name was Mahesh Das. Because Mahesh was serving a muslim king, he changed his name to Birbal.




Among all the ministers of Akbar, only Birbal was Hindu, and he was the most clever too. So, other ministers were envious of him. They wanted him out of Akbar's ministry.



**How to get rid of Birbal?
Akbar always takes advise from
Birbal and never appreciates
our intelligence.**

**Akbar wants Birbal
around him always, and so
does Birbal. He is like Akbar's
shadow!**





**We will have to
devise a plan to get rid of Birbal.
Maybe one of Akbar's queens can
be of help ...**



**Good idea!
Let's meet with the
queen and share our
intention with her.**

A queen of Akbar had a brother named Hussein Shah. He was known for his foolishness. However, the queen loved her brother very much.



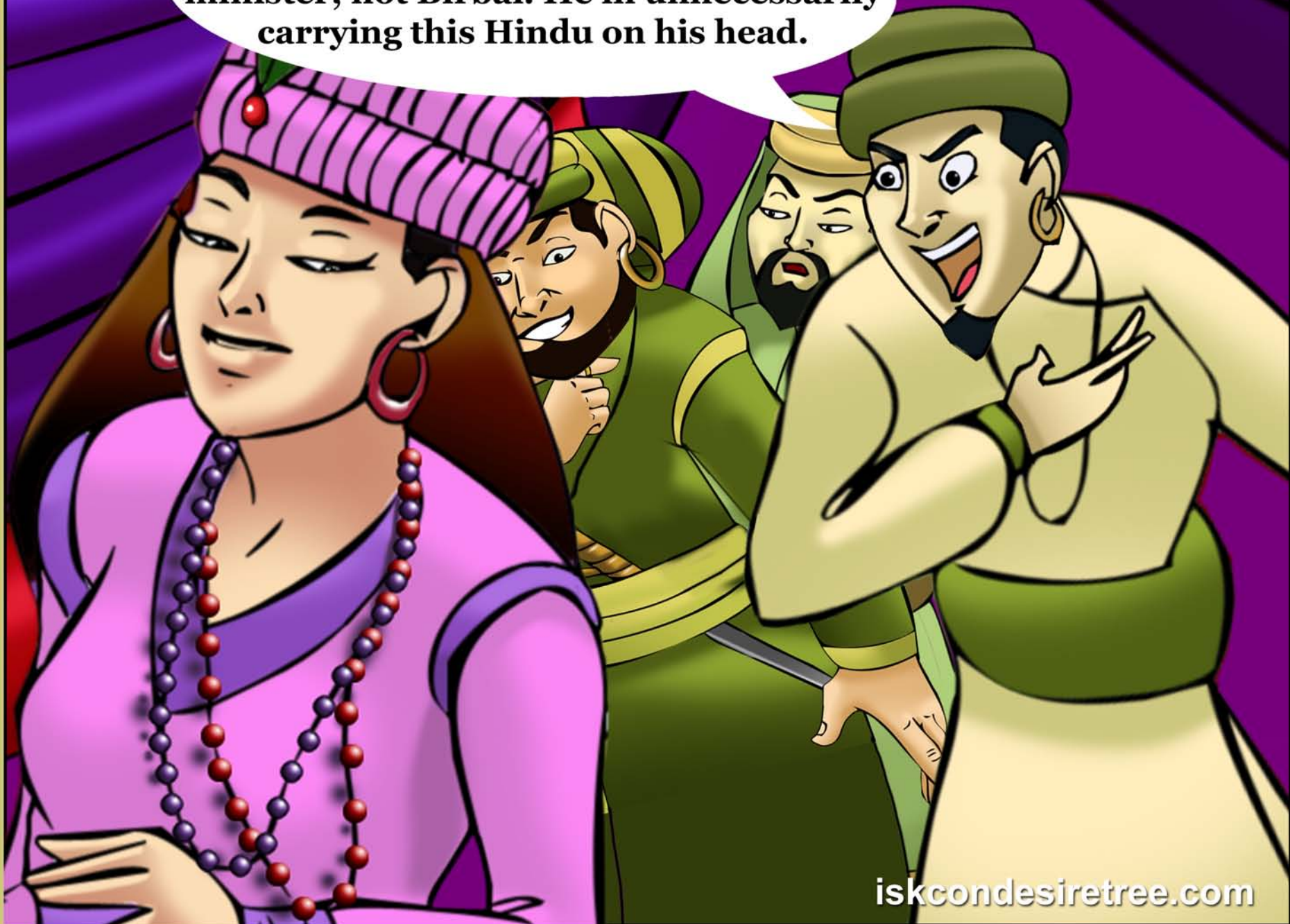
If we go to the
queen and praise her brother,
she may do something.



We want to tell you something. Your brother Hussein Shah is very intelligent. We feel sorry for him.



**We request you to
convince Akbar that he should be the
minister, not Birbal. He is unnecessarily
carrying this Hindu on his head.**





Yes, my brother
is very intelligent.

The queen got puffed up, and their plan was working. Muslim ministers were very happy.





**We definitely
back your brother. He should
replace Birbal.**

The queen was very pleased and she said...

Leave it to me.
I'll work out some scheme.
Tomorrow Birbal will be sacked.
I have a plan.




In the evening when Akbar went to the queen's bedroom to meet with her, she wouldn't talk to him at all. He tried to please her, but she wouldn't budge.






What is the matter?



Hm! I don't
want to talk to you.



Come on,
what's the matter? Please tell me.
Whatever it is, I'll do it.



No you won't.

And in this way it carried on.




It's my brother,
Hussein Shah.

What's the matter
with your brother?





He's very intelligent.



Queen,
with all due respect
I must tell you that he
is dumb.

Again she became very angry and wouldn't talk to him.






What,
what did you
say?

No, no,
your brother is very
clever.







**I am glad you realize
that my brother is clever. All the
ministers say the same thing
about him.**



So, what do you
want me to do?



Well, tomorrow,
you replace Birbal with my brother.
My brother will be your new minister
for all the things that Birbal helps
you with.




Queen, I don't deny
your brother's worth, but i won't
be able to manage my kingdom
without Birbal.



**My brother
is cleverer than
Birbal.**




Queen,
I must tell you that
he's not.




No, no,
You don't understand.
Listen to me.


The queen went on and on finally king gave up.




Alright, but I cannot
just go to the court tomorrow and tell
Birbal that he is sacked. There must
be some reason.



**Just do as I ask you to.
When you go to the court tomorrow,
tell Birbal that you are going to the
market to buy vegetables.**



Queen, you are mad!
There are so many important things to do. Why should Birbal and I go to the market? There are so many servants you can send.



No no,
you just do as
I tell you.

**Alright!
Will do as you please.
What else?**

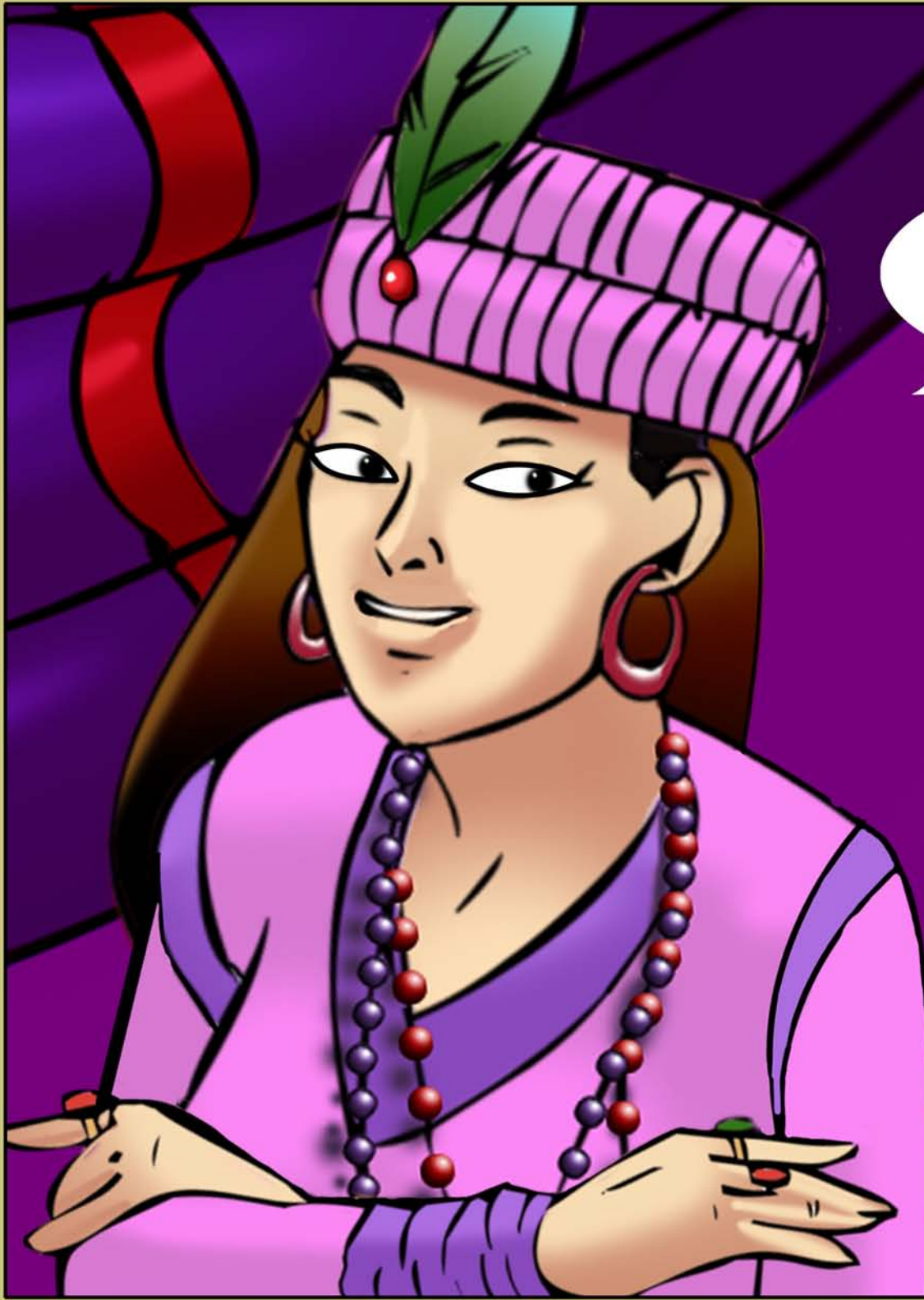


On the half way to the market, just send Birbal back to bring me to you. When he asks me to come along, i will simply refuse. When he comes to you and tells you what happened, get mad at him for not being able to do a simple thing. And then sack him!



Are you sure
that you won't come over...
otherwise the whole plan
will fail.





**No way,
I won't. I assure
you that.**

This plan was put into practice. Akbar went to the court and called Birbal.

**Birbal, we are
going to the market to
buy vegetables.**



**King, are you mad?
There are so many more important
things waiting for us.**

No, we have to go.



So birbal suspected something fishy because he knew that these ministers are very envious.



Birbal asked a friend to follow them ...

**Follow us,
but nobody should see that
you are following.**



Both Akbar and Birbal went to the market.



In the middle of the road Akbar stopped and said...

**Birbal, you go
to the palace and get the
queen. The queen must
accompany us.**




All right.

**Birbal was sure something was wrong, and it had to do with the queen.
He took his friend along to bring the queen.**




He opened the door to the bedroom and the queen was there waiting for him. He said...



**Queen, Akhbar is standing
in the middle of the road waiting for you.
We don't have much time, so please get
ready and come. He wants you
to be there.**

A woman with long brown hair is depicted in a pink sari with a purple border. She wears a pink headband with a green leaf and a red dot. Her jewelry includes large red hoop earrings and two long necklaces of red and purple beads. She is looking towards the left with a slight frown. A speech bubble above her head contains the text "I'm not coming." The background is a solid purple color. On the left, a portion of another person wearing a green and yellow garment is visible.


I'm not coming.




No, no queen,
don't do that. I will be in
difficulty.

The queen was very happy, because she wanted him to be in difficulty.





**You must come
because Akbar is waiting
on the way.**



No, no,
I am not coming.
Tell him that I am
very busy.



Before leaving the room, Birbal gestured for his friend to come in.



**I have a message
from the king. But I can't give you the
message loudly, because it's only for you.
The queen should not hear.**



There was no message, it was just a plan of Birbal.

Birbal was standing in the room. The friend came close to him and started whispering in his ear.



**Psss psss
very beautiful psss psss psss
very beautiful.**



Only the words "Very beautiful" were audible to the queen. And other messages could not be heard.



When he was finished, Birbal looked at the queen and said...

That's alright queen,
you don't have to come.

And he walked off.



The queen was puzzled.

A minute ago he was begging me to come along and after that man whispered something in his ear, he just left. All I could hear was "very beautiful." There must be some very beautiful girl there with Akbar, and that's why he doesn't want me now. How is this possible? I must go!



Queen followed Birbal to the market.



Akhbar was astonished to see the queen. The queen's plan had flopped.

Hey,
why have you
come!

Oh!...

MORAL:

The ministers and queen lost the game because of Birbal. He applied his intelligence at the right time, in the right way.