

Story 3: The Curse of Mohini

Story shared by: *Nisansala*

Representing: *Sri Lanka*

The Story:

The grandmothers and grandfathers of the boys would prepare them to be cautious of women when they grew up, as it was said that there was a woman, Mohini, who had been raped in her previous life. Mohini returned to life with the intent of avenging men. It was said that Mohini would appear at night as an impressive woman in a long white dress, holding an infant in her arms. She would approach men and ask them to hold her baby so she could fix her dress, which was too big for her. This was a trap set by Mohini to lure the men, as she didn't actually need help but instead possessed them, causing them to lose their sanity until they died.

Story Moral: *The moral of the story is that this folktale, while supernatural in nature, was used by the grandparents to teach important life lessons and instill caution in the children. As Buddhists, they believed in the influence of supernatural forces, magic, demons, the afterlife, and curses, so the stories served as a way to guide the younger generation to be mindful of these beliefs and the potential consequences of their actions.*