

## Story 4: The Cursed Prince

Story shared by: *Nisansala*

Representing: *Shri Lanka*

### The Story:

The Black Prince, as it is believed, was the son of a king in Sri Lanka. He was arrogant and frequently harassed women. Influenced by his lustful nature, he would secretly watch women during their baths. Additionally, he was obsessed with the wealth and power his father possessed, which drove him to seek his father's death in order to take his place on the throne. When his attempt to kill his father failed, the Black Prince decided to commit suicide. However, his punishment for his actions did not end with his death. He returned to earth in the form of a handsome demon, known as Kalu Kumaraya. At night, he would wander through dark, watery places, such as baths and lakes, where he would seduce his victims. Kalu Kumaraya was selective with his victims, preferring the most beautiful women of the city of Galle, carefully choosing them to destroy. Despite his beauty, some women were not swayed by his charm. However, if he managed to get close enough to them, he would "taint" their soul. This would result in them losing their dignity, being unable to bear children, and never being loved by any man.

**Story Moral:** The moral reflects the cultural belief in the need to protect women, particularly during vulnerable stages of life, such as puberty, when they transition into young women. The tale emphasizes the importance of dignity, self-respect, and the dangers of being swayed by external beauty or charm.