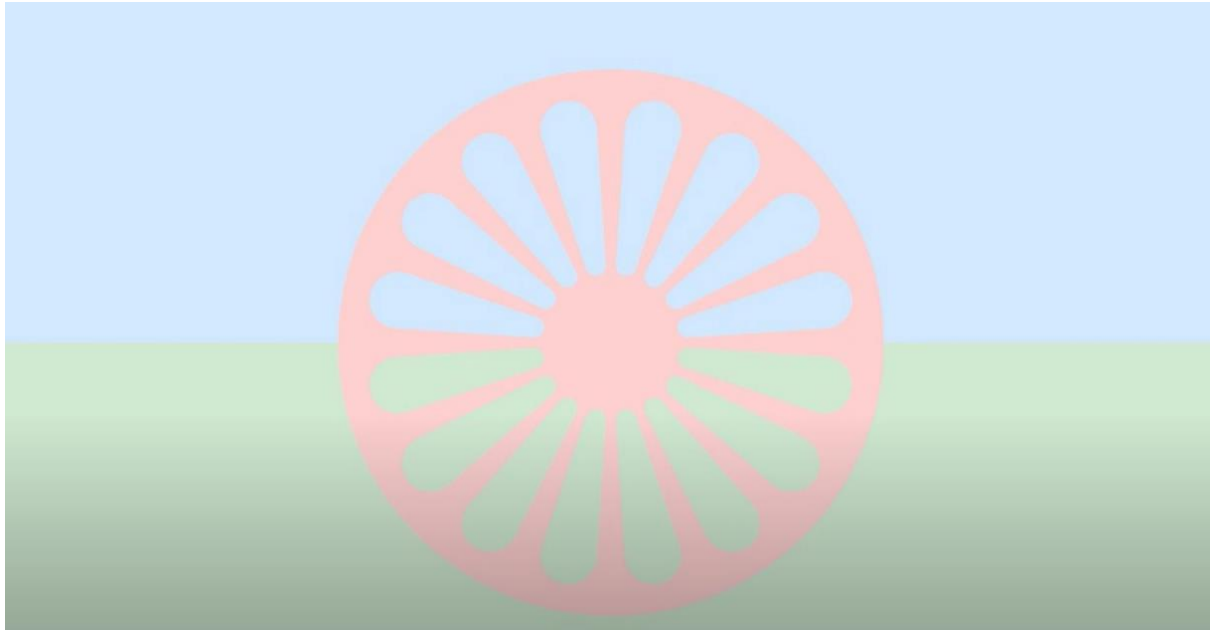


Story 2: The story of two brothers



Story shared by: *Merima*

Representing: *Roma and lives in Belgrade.*

The Story:

This is a story of two brothers - one is crazy, the other is normal. Now, the normal one had his own store and didn't have much love for his crazy brother. And the crazy one, he wandered around, begging, drinking, moving from street to street, but he had a good heart. He gave to everyone and helped everyone, but he had no luck, no children, nothing.

One day, he set off on an old path, and along the way, he came across a giant dragon. It was a giant dragon to whom a young maiden, a virgin, was being offered as a sacrifice, bound in chains. Around the place of the great ritual, there were many people watching and waiting for the dragon to take its victim. The crazy brother saw the crowd but didn't understand why they were gathered. He couldn't get close enough to see what was happening and why people were gathered. He squeezed through little by little and finally made it to the centre of the crowd and saw the girl bound right by the water. Then he saw the dragon coming out to grab her. If the dragon took her, there would be food, drink, and health for everyone. But if the dragon didn't get its prize, nothing would remain. The dragon would destroy everything.

The girl's mother and father wrung their hands, their hearts aching, but they had to give her up, their one and only. What did the crazy one do? He climbed up a tall rock and waited to see what would happen next. Sitting on that rock, he noticed a big branch right above his head. It was a huge branch. He broke off the branch, and being crazy, he started stripping it down just to calm his nerves. He stripped and stripped, and from that branch, he made a big sword. He made himself a sword from the large branch and waited for midnight.



At midnight, the dragon emerged from the water. As soon as it came out, it lunged at the girl. But just as it was about to grab her, the crazy one suddenly jumped and stabbed it in the eye, through the throat, and the dragon released the girl. She fell to the ground, and the dragon started rampaging around. The wounds the crazy one inflicted started bleeding, so the dragon finally thrashed in pain. Seeing the pools of the dragon's blood, the girl dipped her hand in the blood and turned to mark the young man who had just saved her life, marking his back with her handprint. He was now marked by her. They both went their separate ways.

The next day, the girl told her parents, "I must find that boy, wherever he is. I have to find him. He saved my life. If it weren't for him, I would have been the sacrifice." Her parents looked at her and said: "Alright, as you wish." Village by village, village by village, with her mother and father, she eventually found him. They found him in a small hut, sleeping on the side, covered with leaves. The king's soldiers, and the king's daughter, uncovered the leaves and saw the mark she had left on him. Since he was poor and had no clothes, the mark remained on him. "That's him," she said, and the soldiers grabbed him to take him with them.

They took him to the palace and made him kneel right in front of the princess's father. The king looked at him and said, "You're the one!" The crazy one replied, "What did I do?" The king answered, "You're the one who saved my daughter". He looked at him again and said, "You're the one, and you will be my son-in-law!" "I can't be your son-in-law," said the crazy one, but the king replied, "No! Only you can be my son-in-law!" And they took him, bathed him, groomed him, dressed him, and that day he became a prince, and the princess's husband.