

A Midsummer Night's Dream

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Characters

AJUMI (female Bottom): an old herb collector

DOT (female Oberon): wife of GABBI

GABBI (male Titania): a womanizing leader of *dokgabbis*

DUDURI (Puck)

HANG (Lysander): in love with BEOK

BEOK (Hermia): in love with HANG

LOO (Demetrius): betrothed to BEOK

IK (Helena): in love with LOO

The Korean word, *dokgabbi*(*Dokkebi*), can be translated into demon or goblin; however, instead of being considered as evil spirit, *dokgabbi* in Korean culture is a mischievous being who is ugly but more like a fairy in nature. In Korean folklore, they are considered a part of the community and possess a disposition similar to human virtues as well as human vices.

The lovers are named after the four divisions of stars according to Korean astrology which is based on the 28 days that it takes the moon to circle around the sun. The name “HANG” (Lysander) is an eastern star, “LOO” (Demetrius) a western star, “BEOK” (Hermia) a northern star, and “IK” (Helena) a southern star. The stars were believed to be intertwined with the mortal world and reflect or foretell events in the earthly realm.

Prelude

Chorus: Inside ten holes of a thousand year old tree/
On the wall of a nine hundred year old house
Between the crevice of cliffs at the end of nine winding roads
Behind the icicles of a million year old cave
Hiding behind the nine hills far away/
Hiding at the side of a darkened road
Out we go to mislead night wanderers /and to laugh at their harm

Scene One

HANG: At midnight.

Under the totem pole.

BEOK: I can't.
HANG: I won't let you marry him!
Let's run away.
BEOK: My father will have me killed.
HANG: Are you going to do what your father tells you to do?
BEOK: Give me some more time.
HANG: Tomorrow is your wedding.
Will you marry someone without love?
Heaven will help us.
BEOK: At midnight.
Under the totem pole!
I swear on your star, the blue dragon.
Heaven will help us.
IK: Where is Hang?
I don't understand why men fall for a fair face.
My love loves your fair.
BEOK: Is that my fault?
IK: Yes, it is.
Would that fault were mine!
He would not even look in my direction.
BEOK: Hwang and I will fly this place.
We will meet under the totem pole at midnight.
Loo will turn his eyes away from me to you.
Don't tell anyone.
I will pray for Loo to dote on you.
Heaven will help us.
IK: There is not even the dear moon tonight
It is nowhere in sight like my love.
The sun sets and the moon rises.
The moon wanes and the sun rises.
My poor wasted heart
My love loves another.

Scene Two

GABBI: Wild musk roses on a grave
sway the heart of onlookers
And melt this soft heart of Dokgabbi.
When ladies pass by here at twilight

Rolling their hips this way and that way
I go weak in the knees.

DOT: Who is this handsome one?

Why don't you just grab and shake the spirit of these mountains in this godforsaken hour?

GABBI: ...

DOT: Look at your bloodshot eyes.

Who is it this time?

GABBI: At the sight of pretty women,
my hips move this way,
my ass moves that way,
and my you-know-what moves this way.
It's in the nature of Dokgabbi.

DOT: ~

GABBI: Hear me out,
all the Dokgabbis in my neighborhood.
My wife is jealous!

DOT: We are only creatures of this wood
but there are governing laws in everything.
Being a Dokgabbi, how could you chase after a mortal woman?

GABBI: Around the graves, I wander here and there.
Seduced by the poisonous lilies,
led by the spirits of this wood, I can't help it.

DOT: ~

GABBI: I'm scared of my wife, scared of her nagging.
But, there is a saying among mortals;
when a lady-killer moves, he moves like a tidal wave.

DOT: ~

GABBI: Tickle, tickle, ticklish scent of the lilies.
Whom should we seduce tonight?
Look at the eyes of my wife.
They are on fire.
On fire.

DOT: Infidelity is same in mortals as in Dokgabbis.
Tickle, tickle, ticklish lilies?
That's right.
It is your turn this time.
Duduri.

Over the hill around graves,
there are abundant lilies.
They are the cure for his infidelity.
Come mortals or Dokgabbis.
One sniff of them, their hearts swirl,
and their minds twirl.
They will dote on the first creature they see.
I will put it under his nose when he's asleep.
Upon waking, what will he see?
Be it a mortal, corpse, flee, spider, centipede, bat, or earthworm.
Be it something vile.
Duduri, hurry!

LOO: I told you no; follow me no more.

They stole unto the wood!
Here is the totem pole.
My dear Beok, where are you?
Get you gone and follow me no more!

IK: How can I not when we are destined to be together like the two ends of one thread?

LOO: We have shared not a glance nor minced a word.

What do you mean destiny?

IK: Destiny is decided by Heaven.

They say it takes a special karma just for the hem of my skirt to brush by yours.
I am your puppy.
Spurn me, strike me, I will wag my tail.
Treat me like a bone; only give me leave to follow you.
I would be grateful even for something worse.

LOO: I am sick when I do look at you.

IK: I am sick when I don't.

LOO: Where is your modesty?

In the middle of the night with no one around!
Aren't you scared of me?
I might do you mischief.

IK: Mischief? What kind?

What will you do?
If you insist, what can I do but be willing.

LOO: I do not nor I cannot love you!

IK: I am the night and you are the star.

What is there to fear when there is my dearest star in the night sky!

LOO: Then, go and play with demons and spirits without your star.

IK: Even they would not have such a heart as you.

Run if you will.

The story shall be changed:

Tiger flies and hind holds the chase.

The frog pursues the snake.

LOO: Would you please stop!

Do what you like.

Just don't hold me responsible for whatever happens to you.

IK: Beok and Hwang stole unto the wood in the middle of the night!

What good would it do to find them?

She would only enrich your pain.

Where are you going?

Wait! I'll go with you.

DOT: Such a hard-hearted adamant.

Only a turtle can empathize with a terrapin upturned on its shell.

I've been there!

Have you the flower?

Scene Three

GABBI: Here is one star,

I'll put it away in a sack and

hang it on the doorknob.

Here is another star,

I'll put it away in a net and

lock it under the doormat.

GABBI: There is no one. No woman I can see.

I should have waited.

Near the village around the time of twilight.

I am scared to death of my wife, of her nagging.

I'm dying of heat under these straws.

What was I thinking?

Why did I get myself married?

What kind of woman would walk around here at this time of day?

Nothing will happen tonight.

Here is one more star,

I'll put it away under a wrap and

nail it on the casket.

DOT: What you see when you are awake you will see as your true love;
let it be some vile thing.

HANG: I have forgotten our way.

Let's rest there.

When morning comes, I am sure to find the way.

HANG: It's okay.

BEOK: No.

HANG: But we love each other.

BEOK: Do not lie so near.

HANG: I will not move a finger. I swear.

BEOK: There is no need to hurry. I am yours.

HANG: I'm sorry

BEOK: No, I'm sorry. Don't ever change!

HANG: Never. I see only you.

BEOK & HANG:

You are my love, your star is my star.

You are my love, your star is my star.

In the dead of night, across the milky way

I lie here with you, you must be an angel in the sky.

What should I do if this turns out to be a dream.

Even in a dream, my love will never falter.

Our love will never alter till our sweet life ends.

DUDURI: This is he and is this she?

A pretty girl near this lack-love,

this kill-courtesy.

IK: I cannot take another step.

LOO: So, stop following me.

IK: You will leave me behind, really?

No, you can't.

Don't leave me alone here to the mercy of wild beasts and spirits!

LOO: Stand aside.

IK: NO, please, don't leave me here.

LOO: That's your business and I must be going.

IK: You cannot leave behind a helpless woman in this wilderness.

LOO: Stand aside.

IK: Please don't. Don't go.

Are you really going?

How could you?!

We came that way.

Do you hate me so?

Beok's pretty eyes are filled with her love's love

while my ugly eyes are filled with nothing but sorrowful tears.

IK: Hang! What are you doing here?

Hang: Where is Loo, he shall perish by my hands!

IK: Hwang, are you okay?

HANG: Why do you ask?

You're so beautiful.

I will run through fire for you.

IK: Now everyone looks like Beok to you!

Let's say I didn't hear a word you said.

HANG: Didn't hear? You just heard me.

Only now you, the southern star, rose in my night sky.

IK: I thought you of more gentleness.

You do me wrong!

You think of me of one man refuse,

should of another therefore be abused?

I don't deserve a sweet look from one but

deserve this score from another!

BEOK: Hang! Hang!

Scene Four

AJUMI: Here I go deep into the mountains.

The sun has set but I have no place to sleep.

I am starving but there is nothing to eat.

There goes a Dokgabbi deep into the mountains.

The sun has set leaving behind an eerie feeling.

I'm scared stiff and have goose bumps on my back.

AJUMI: I pass this way all the time so why

is it tonight is full of creepy air?

With the money I'll get from these herbs,

I will prepare a feast for you to forget all your grudges.
So, get you gone.
The spirit of the north, of the east, of the south, and of the west,
unshackle your earthly ties and find your way to nirvana.
You, dokgabbis, don't you dare play a trick on me!
Dokgabbis hate pee.
That feels good.
Let me put some pee on my nose, too.
This is the way to chase them away.
Pissing gave me goose bumps but
I feel a whole lot lighter.
The whole mountain smells of my pee, though.
It's pitch dark and I can't see a thing.
Why did my granny tell me to wander
around the mountains from midnight to early morning?
She promised something good will happen to me.
But, I can't see nothing.
What a way to make a living.

Here goes a no good monk in the deep of the mountains.
The sun has set but I have no place to sleep.

GABBI: Duduri!

She must be heaven sent, or is she mortal?

DUDURI: She must be heaven sent.

GABBI: Never seen such a beauty, have I!

DUDURI: You there?

AJUMI: Who, what are you? Are you a spirit or are you a Dokgabbi?

DUDURI: That is....

AJUMI: Who are you?

GABBI: I've lived thousands and thousands of years but

I've never seen beauty like yours, have I!?

You sit like a phoenix,

sing like a cuckoo,

the only one to make my heart throb.

Love you, I will.

From this moment now!

AJUMI: You say this to little old me in this pitch darkness?

I don't know what to say but what's your name?

DUDURI: He is the greatest in all heaven and hell,
he is called Mr. Gabbi.

GABBI: And what are you doing in this wood in these hours?

AJUMI: To begin again from the very beginning, I began....

GABBI: You are the one destined and promised for me by heaven.

AJUMI: Sorry, what did you say?

GABBI: What are you doing in?

AJUMI: I grew up in the hands of my granny
not knowing who my parents were and
since she went to heaven,
I've wandered around to making a living.
But, on her deathbed, my granny said
when the going gets tough, I should come to these mountains at night.
She promised something good will happen to me.
So, I wander looking for herbs as my granny told me to do.

GABBI: Sad, this is so sad.

AJUMI: I came to this village a few months back but I have never seen you before.

GABBI: You are not only wise but your voice is like the sound of rolling jade on a silver tray.
Makes my heart melt, it does.
What's your name?

AJUMI: Everywhere I go, they call me, Ajumi.

GABBI: Ajumi?

DUDURI: A as in Ariel, Ju as in Juliet, Mi as in Miranda

GABBI: You are more beautiful than all of them put together!

AJUMI: Don't know what it means but that's what they call me.

GABBI: It's just the name for you, it is a beautiful name.
How clever of your granny to give you such a fair name.
From now on, you are not to leave my sight,
conjoined in hearts, you and I will be!
You will leave your mortalness behind.

DUDURI: Music, cue!

Scene Five

DUDURI: Dot! Dot!

DOT: What happened?

DUDURI: He lost his marbles.
With a nobody looking for herbs at night.

Who dared to pee.

So, we turned her into a hog.

And that heartless adamant now dotes on the lady he despised.

DOT: There's that heartless adamant!

DUDURI: This is the woman, but not this the man.

LOO: By heaven, who runs away leaving her betrothed behind?

BEOK: Did Ik tell you?

That screw messed everything up!

Where is my Hwang?

No, you didn't slay him, did you?

LOO: If I did, at least I would feel better now.

BEOK: He is such a good man.

You are a beast under this mask of man.

Did you kill him while he was asleep?

Where did you throw his body?

Heaven will punish you. It will!

LOO: Who is slain by whom?

Who should be angry at whom?

BEOK: You didn't? He's alive?

Then where is he? Where is my Hang?

LOO: You spend your passion on a misprised mood.

Please, calm down.

BEOK: Don't ever come near me. You shall see me no more.

LOO: They say sleep owes its debt to sorrow.

Dream about dreaming,

I shall see my love in my dream.

DOT: Something strange is going on here. What happened?

DUDURI: We saw only these two.

Him and her.

He stole a kiss from her.

Strange. But, so is life.

DOT: How many times have I told you, all's well that ends well?

DUDURI: This is their fate, their karma, their destiny.

DOT: This is my fault for asking you to do it.

DUDURI: That's right.

DOT: Out! Bring their true love!

DUDURI: I go, how I go.

DUDURI: Two in love with one?

HANG: Tease you?

How could I?

Look at my eyes.

Scorn and derision never come in tears.

IK: You amaze me with your talent for scorn.

Where is Beok?

HANG: Beok! Don't even bring up her name.

LOO: My dearest Ik.

I am forever in love with you.

IK: Now you must mock me in a pair?

You were rivals for Beok but now....

This poor soul. Can you not hate me?

HANG: Ik, wait a minute.

You are betrothed to Beok.

I am willing, no, more than willing to give her up.

So, step aside!

LOO: You are the one who ran away with her.

Not ripe to reason,

I was once betrothed to her but not anymore.

IK: Am I a thing to be tossed back and forth?

Why are you doing this?

LOO: Look where your love comes.

There is your dear.

BEOK: Hwang, what happened to you?

HANG: I lost reason for a while.

BEOK: Lost reason? Who did?

HANG: I did. I lost reason for a while because of you.

But, it came back and now I love Ik.

No, I've always loved Ik.

BEOK: You speak not as you think. It cannot be.

HANG: It is.

BEOK: It isn't.

IK: You vixen.

Three of you conspired to mock me?

BEOK: What is this now? Who conspired against whom!

IK: If you are not behind this,
why would these two mock me so!
Loo, I can understand, but what about Hang?
Instead of pitying the one begging for love,
you must join with men scorning your poor friend?

BEOK: What does that mean?

IK: You are really good.
Your pretentiousness fools only the men,
we women can see right through it.

BEOK: Are you asking for a fight?

HANG: I love you. By my life, I do.

IK: ~

BEOK: That's enough!

LOO: That's right. You run along to your love now.

HANG: She is your betrothed, not mine.

BEOK: Why are you doing this?

HANG: You stay out of it.

LOO: Loud yelling at the woman proves nothing.
Why don't you take me on?

HANG: Why not.
Today we shall see the end of this.

BEOK: Let's go home.

HANG: Hang off, you leech!

BEOK: You don't even fight well.

HANG: Go away before I step on you!

BEOK: Did someone poison you?

LOO: You coward. Aren't you glad that she stopped you?

HANG: It would have been the end of you only if this pathetic sight wasn't in my way.

BEOK: Pathetic?
Talk of love in the evening and cut it loose at night?
Speak, you. You don't like me?

HANG: I fear I'd see you in my dream.
Not you but it's Ik I love.

BEOK: You thief of love!
You stole my love's heart from him.

IK: What did you say, you dwarf! You midget!

BEOK: Midget, you big old cow!

So, I am small.

So what?

I am not yet so low but that my nails can reach unto your eyes.

IK: Let her not hurt me.

She is a dwarf but mighty in strength.

BEOK: You said dwarf again.

IK: Do not be so bitter with me.

I never wronged you

save that I told Loo of your stealth unto this wood.

He followed you;

for love I followed him.

That's all.

Now I will take my leave.

I will never be near you.

Really. Promise.

Goodbye, my friend!

You see how simple and how fond I am.

BEOK: It's too late!

HANG: Don't be afraid. I won't let her harm you.

LOO: Who are you to say!

You should also be gone!

IK: When she is angry, she is keen and shrewd.

And though she be but an acorn, she is fierce.

BEOK: Acorn!

You're going to stand by while she mocks me?

HANG: Think about it.

Do stars come out during the day?

You are day and I am a star and Ik is night.

Stars come out at night.

LOO: Enough with your day and stars.

Recreant, be gone!

HANG: What? Miscreant?

That's the last straw!

Take your first shot! Ik, please accept my love.

LOO: Come on. My cow, wish me luck!

DOT: This is all your doing. This won't do.

You are only good at mishap.

DUDURI: We thought he was he.

DOT: Enough of this; stop them.

Scene Six

GABBI: You are so beautiful.

This face like a baby, lips like cherry,
forehead like the moon.

Even if you don't want to hear,
I'll say it.

You are like bodhisattva.

With a halo over your head.

Could such a beauty be found in heaven?

There, to there, shall we walk?

Here. Come and sit here, won't you?

Napkin here.

And so frail. Tell me, what would you like to eat?

Ajumi: Avocado, watermelon, ... (**We will choose local food**)

GABBI: So lovely, you are.

So fair and lovely, you are.

Show me how you eat like a little bird.

Smile for me to make me happy.

(A~ A~ Ajumi)

I am the luckiest Dokgabby that ever was.

DOT: What a sight, such a disgrace for Dokgabby.

Now, wake you.

Witness this sight

Take off the hog's head.

When he wakes, all this shall seem nothing but a dream.

GABBI: What visions have I seen.

What a nightmare! Honey, honey, I thought I was enamored of a hog.

DOT: A hog?

GABBI: The hog...

DOT: You and the hog were?

GABBI: In love, can you believe it?

DOT: That woman over there?

GABBI: There she is, in real life.

DUDURI: What fun! She taught you a lesson this time.

Promise for one hundred years.

Happiness of one hundred years.

A life is but a dream.

Let's hurry to the one thousand year old house of Dokgabbi.

Let's hurry and hide, I hear the morning lark.

Let's hurry to the one thousand year old house of Dokgabbi.

Let's hurry and hide, I hear the morning lark.

IK: Am I awake or do I dream?

HANG: It's a dream, isn't it?

LOO: Is it a dream?

BEOK: It must be a dream.

LOO: I forever repent my harsh words to my true love. Please forgive me.

IK: It seems to me that yet we sleep, we dream.

HANG: Bewitched by love or by dream?

BEOK: I dreamt that I was forsaken by you.

HANG: Don't say that even in your dream.

IK: You are my destiny.

LOO: From now on, I am your puppy.

BEOK: Don't ever change.

HANG: Never. I see only you.

AJUMI: Where the hell am I?

Silly me, falling asleep in the middle of the mountains
throwing myself to the beasts.

What a dream, though.

What did it mean?

Humans can be stupid as hogs, but
there was a dokgabbi, for sure.

Bless my dear old granny,
she must have watched over me
although I found nothing good.

What is this? A thousand-year-old ginseng!

This must be the present she told me about.

Thank you, granny.

Heaven be blessed!

CHORUS: A cauldron in the middle of the forest/ A yellow dog on the roof of a house/
A basin in the middle of rice fields/ A bag of rice in front of toilet/
We of the shrewd and knavish spirit/ Casting a spell here, a spell there
We shadows will bewitch you and beguile you.