



## A COURTING

by Nabanita Sen

**F**air lady there you go  
Your hair is swinging to and fro,  
Your eyes have the autumn glow  
Your name is what may I know?

**K**ind sir your choice of words  
Make me blush from tip to toe,  
I want to speak but shy am I  
But on second thoughts that's a lie.

**H**onesty and beauty all in one,  
No, (pause) shyness wouldn't make you run.  
Sit on this bench and talk to me,  
Let my curiosity set me free.

**G**enista (pause) that is the name,  
My face is my fortune and my fame,  
My age is sixteen, but I'm a maid  
I have to leave now I'm afraid (getting up).

**W**ait Genista why so fast?  
Make a promise and then walk past,  
Promise to meet me, tomorrow this spot,  
Same time, same bench forget it not.

**(Blushing) T**hen I swear, I'll meet you here,  
Let me go now, for my father I fear.  
Goodbye my lord, now I'll take my leave,  
See you tomorrow if my father I can deceive.

**R**un my fair maiden, I'll be waiting next day,  
Bye sweet princess, my rose of May.  
When will night fall, Oh! when will, sun rise?  
For when I hear your voice I feel in paradise.

**G**ood-morning my princess with hair like hay,  
So you're come my Queen of May.  
Sit down and let me hear your speak,  
For your voice takes me to the highest peak.

**G**ood morning my lord I have come,  
I mixed some pills in my father's rum;  
He wants me to marry some village bum,  
I want some help so, give me some.

**I**'m not the Moorish prince to throw away my pearl,  
Now let me watch the wind to play with your curl;  
Forget about the bum and look through my eyes,  
But since you're worrying let us rise.

**B**ut oh dear sire! where shall we go?  
I'll be a burden to you-don't you know?  
But dear Genista I love you so,  
I can even starve a year in a row.

**T**herefore let us go,  
But where, let me know?  
Where fate takes us lady,  
But it isn't steady.

**T**hink of our lovely future,  
But that is bizarre.  
Your beauty I see and forget to breathe, a hard ear.  
But someday I'll lose my 32 teeth.

**Y**ou have a delightful humour,  
Why thank you sire.  
See, I love you for what you are,  
I think that you want to prove that far.

**S**o what are we waiting for, give me your hand,  
I'll be delighted sive to wear your band.  
So you are mine, my rose of May,  
Amen, to that I will love you everyday.

## THE Poison Rose

by Reshma Haq and Jesmin Haq



**S**o you say there has been three deaths near this flower bed," this was the voice of Mike Cambie a CID Agent. He and his friend, a Botanist, Phillipa Cork, came to a country side of England to investigate mysterious deaths near a very attractive rose bed. "Yes," replied Mrs Martin their friend who called them to look into the matter.

The postmortem report say that all three of them had Mexican rat snake's poison in their blood. "Phil rambled as she walked around the sealed park. "Yes absolutely right, do you have any idea, why?" Mrs Martin rather asked Phil. "No not really, until I take a deep look at the flowers," said Phil. "Since there are no other apparent evidence on the bodies of the flowers, the stems or the grass must be dangerous" commented Mike. "You are right"

Phil agreed. By the way Mrs Martin, do you have any idea, about any body having a snake or something like that around here. At this Mrs Martin felt a little nervous but very calmly she answered. "Yes" Mr Hord used to have a ..... a rattle, but he sold it two months ago".

Why did he sell it. Mike asked quickly. "Oh! I really do not know" she answered. "one more thing, did the police ask or charge this Mr Hord, after the murders" asked Phil. "Not, actually because he had already sold it," answered Mrs Martin. But the first murder was three months ago, didn't the police investigate Hord then?" asked Mike slipping his arm in Mrs Martin's. "Well they did, but I don't know much about it" replied Mrs Martin, a little puzzled.

"You need not to be puzzled Mrs Martin." Phil said as they

## HALE BOPP : The comet of the Century

by Syed Ashraf Uddin

path, the 3.7 arcsecond long trail was surrounded by a faint 0.4 arcminute coma.

Assuming the 1993 image indeed depicts the comet, Brian G Marsden (Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams) issued new orbital elements on IAU circular on 6198 confirming perihelion on April 1 1997, just inside the Earth's orbit but 1.3 AU (AU=Astronomical Unit=9,30,00,000 miles) from Earth itself.

Traveling in a plane perpendicular to the ecliptic, the comet follows a highly elongated elliptical path with an aphelion more than 10 times that of Pluto's orbit. In these respects as well as in its visibility long before perihelion, Hale-Bopp resembles the Great comet of 1811, whose tail grew to 70° and stretched more than 1 AU in length.

Brian Marsden suggests Hale-Bopp's total brightness could reach magnitude — 2 which is same to Jupiter's brightness. From the comet's nuclear brightness, Ignacio Farrin (University of Andes, Venezuela) hypothesizes that it's core may span some 100 to 150 Kilometres — five to ten times larger than Halley's.

### Early Investigation

At first, astronomers thought comet Hale-Bopp was undergoing an outburst that made it briefly visible despite its distance. Comet "Schwassmann-Wachmann-1" had shown similar behaviour, suggesting that Hale-Bopp could fade again as it approaches the sun. Others recall comet "Kohoutek" in 1973, a first time visitor from the oort cloud (where the comets are born) that lost much of its volatile material on its way in. Also after a week of discovery W Offutt took the comet's photograph with charge-couple device (CCD) using 0.6 meter telescope and found that the coma of the comet is very asymmetric. At that time the coma was elongated highly towards the sun which confused the discoverer to think it as a tail. These glum thoughts have been assuaged, however, by an 18th magnitude blur found by Robert H McNaught (Anglo-Australian Observatory) on a plate taken in April 1993 with the 1.2-meter UK-schmidt telescope. Estimated only arcminutes from Hale-Bopp's back-tracked orbital

The devise is said to significantly reduce the weight of any object placed above it. Such has been the enthusiasm generated by the Finnish claim that the US-based NASA has funded research into how the anti-gravity effect could be turned into a lucrative proposition.

An example of the application of the anti-gravity device

would be the lifting of rockets into space without tonnes of smoke that is left behind.

In the experiments, the Finnish team measured a two per cent drop in the weight of objects suspended over the device and double that if one device was placed over the other.

CSE/Down To Earth Features

walked. "Do you know where Mr Hord lives?" "Yes off course," replied the women. "Then lets go" urged Mike. But soon their half mile walk proved useless, as they found the iron gate locked from outside. "Where must he have gone?" muttered Mrs Martin as they walked back.

You seemed worried, why's that?" Phil asked. "No just that he is old and weak and no one to go to" Mrs Martin replied unhappily. "Oh! don't worry I am sure he is fine" said Phil trying to warm her friend up, as they walked past a farm gate. "Not as fine as you think" said Mike suddenly, which gave a leap to their heart. Mrs Martin and Phil to their dismay, found Mike leaning over an old man who lay near the farm's gate.

"Oh! my God, Mr Hord." Mrs Martin cried out in tears and ran up to the old breathless man. Phil followed her, instead of looking at Mr Hord, she started to examine a rose which lay near him. Mike quickly called the police and ambulance, though he knew that Mr Hord was dead. The ambulance came and took poor Mr Hord away from the weeping Mrs Martin while the police took away the answer notes and the rose from the disappointed Phil. After all this they returned home.

After a few days full of anxiety, the Post Mortem report of Mr Hord was known. It was the same as before, they had found a rattle snake's poison in his blood, but just as the detectives expected no marks or bite. Another thing disappointed the detectives was when they heard that the rose which was found near Hord was unfortunately lost. "This is disastrous," wailed Phil as they came out of the police station. "It is sure" agreed Mike. "We could have got a clue from it." "A clue? It killed a man, and you say clue," cried Phil unhappily. "What makes you so sure that it killed Mike?" but was interrupted by Phil. "It is for sure because it is from the same garden I mean bed," Phil simply replied, before Mike could say anymore Mrs Martin broke her silence. "But how could Mr Hord get hold of the rose when the park was closed?" she asked as she tried to keep up with the fast walkers. "Good question" supported Mike. "We as you said before, that there is only one rose bed here and that's in the park isn't that? Mr Hord must had the flower before or sneaked in the park." Phil willingly explained which put little effect

on her comrades. "But why would he be so much eager to get hold of the rose, that he had to sneak in?" suddenly Mike asked Phil.

"How should I know?" grudged Phil then she quickly trotted away. The next day the three sleuths took permission from police to visit Mr Hord's place. "I'll look in his personal collections" said Phil heading towards the big study. While Mrs Martin and Mike checked the entire house, Phil sat herself on easy chair in front of a large table, with piles of half Read Albums. Dozens of stationary things, a photograph stand, which held a photo of Mr Hord and his reptile snake, having a glimpse of this Phil then inspected the large room, with shelves full of books, photos of the snake and Hord's pots with plastic and clothe flowers. Then Phil started to look at the Albums, all the pictures of the reptile with little notes under the pictures.

Suddenly some loose photos fell out of an album on the red carpet with snake print. For the first time Phil noticed this, being quite surprised; Phil continued to look on, soon she found a photo of the reptile with a note under it saying "Two hours before I sold rocco, just for —" Phil was disappointed because the note was incomplete. Keeping the photo in her purse, Phil walked out of the room. The others soon joined her. Then they left the place.

"We better go to the police station" suddenly said Mike getting on his bike. "And why's that?" asked Phil "because of this" answered the boy hanging a white paper to Phil. She quickly read, first she chuckled. "A shopping list" but at the end when she came to the number 8 item, Phil knitted her brows. The No 8 item was written like this, "I need a rose from the park today" Phil quickly looked up for the date and just as she expected. It was the same day Mr Hord died. "Yes, you are right. Let's go," said Phil jumping on the bike accompanied by the puzzled Mrs Martin.

The Detective dropped the note for the chief to examine. Soon they were informed with an unhappy decision, it was known that the park was going to be reopened the next day. "But you can't do that" cried Mrs Martin. "I know that what you're trying to say but ..... started the office.

"No, No. Listen, there have been deaths in the park," interrupted Mike. "And now you say that you're going to open it?"

This is absurd," cried Phil angrily. "Now, now you listen to me, young lady" said the man disturbed. "you can't blame me responsible, 'cause I'm not the one opening the park, and there's no such proof that the roses are responsible for the deaths, and most of all there has been mass demands, by honeymooners to reopen the park."

The next day after a huge breakfast, the sleuths decided to look around the park. "I'll carefully cut a rose out of the bed, with these?" said Phil packing up a pair of scissors. But before Phil could pick a rose, (someone else had cut). The three was just about to enter the gray park gate, when a young pretty lady came up to them frantically. "You've got to help me, my husband, has collapsed," she cried. "You're married, Oh! so young," said Mike calmly. "Oh! shut up, let's go" shouted Phil.

Soon they came to the rose bed, beside it lay a young man with a white face and bleeding fingers, near him lay-rose. Phil and Mrs Martin quickly looked at the man's pulse, then they touched his neck, and tried to feel him breathing, soon they both were quite sure that the poor man had left the world.

While Phil and Mrs Martin were busy, Mike learned what happened. "Oh! it was dreadful" cried the girl in tears. "I told Jo that I would love to get a rose hump — hump," she said. "Oh! it was your fault" comforted Mike. "So Jo broke the rose with his plain fingers, it was quite hard and Jo cut his fingers and they started to bleed — hih, I was just about to bring out an handkerchief of my purse, when suddenly — Jo collapsed."

At that moment Phil shouted to Mike "Call an ambulance and the police" Mike didn't wait to ask why, quickly he sped off. "Oh! God he is dead, isn't he?" cried the distressed wife in tears. "Now come on darling" said Mrs Martin talking the girl in her arms. In the mean time, Phil took out another rose out of the bed and packed it in a polythene. Soon the ambulance came, and declared the young man dead. The police then sealed the park. And as before, the man's postmortem report said that reptile poison killed him. Phil found in her tests that the rose had the same poison. Soon it was proved that the whole bed was poisoned. And it was destroyed. And that was the end of the case.

Phil agreed. By the way Mrs Martin, do you have any idea, about any body having a snake or something like that around here. At this Mrs Martin felt a little nervous but very calmly she answered. "Yes" Mr Hord used to have a ..... a rattle, but he sold it two months ago".

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and some deep sky objects. These will help you to identify the comet in the sky.

These are: February-March '97

March-April '97

These periods are chosen according to the change of comets appearance. While you will read the following description please look at any detail star chart to match it and then search it in sky. We also provide a chart here.

February-March '97

The time is for early risers. Hale-Bopp is now in the morning sky. Already it has crossed Aquila, Vulpecula and Cygnus constellation. It's brightness on early February was +0.9 and at the end of March will be — 1.7. This is the best time for observation as the morning weather is very good and sky is clear compare to evening sky. In naked eye you will be able to catch the comet as a starlike object. But binocular will express the real treasure. At the end of March it will again be back to evening sky. Then the tail of the comet will be the most interesting one. The tail will span 15° to 20° area of the sky. Comet will move in north

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The long marathon of Hale-Bopp ends here. Because on May and June it will remain at constellation Taurus and Orion respectively which will not remain in the night sky at that time.

Note: (1) The description will favour mainly the amateur astronomers. But if you are not connected with astronomy or sky watching please start recognizing the constellations of night sky — at least those are mentioned here. The article named 'The Night' which was published in Daily Star & Bhoror Kagoj Magazine may help you.

(2) We used several designation for the objects. The prefixes are: M= Messier catalogue, NGC=New General Catalogue, IC=Index Catalogue. The numbers after catalogue name indicates the serial no of the object in catalogue.

(3) If you extend your hand forward at full length then the upper face of your pump will cover 10° of the area of the sky.

### Hale-Bopp's orbital elements

Perihelion time : April 1.64155, 1997

Distance at perihelion : 0.9130230 AU

Eccentricity of orbit : 0.994413

Argument of perihelion : 89°4142

Note: For explanation please consult any book on Astronomy

### Hale-Bopp observation committee:

Bangladesh Astronomical Association has established "The Hale-Bopp observation" to observe the comet lead by Astronomer Dr A R Khan. The team had at first observed the comet on 12 June 1996. Using 20x50 monocular they found it near an open cluster "NGC 6774" in Sagittarius. After regular observation on 13 February, 1997 they observed the comet from a dark sky condition at Keraniganj near Dhaka. They observed the tail of the comet elongated some 1°-2° and very bright coma at 0445 BST. They have taken photographs and have drawn its appearance seen through telescope. Persons interested to get any information of observation are requested to communicate at the following address in every Monday and Thursday between 4 pm to 7 pm: Bangladesh Astronomical Association, London House 46, Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda Road, (Former New Elephant road) Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.

Courtesy: Bangladesh Astronomical Association.

