

## The Shining Shastar

*One day at dusk, a group of Shastar were having fun playing. Soon darkness fell, and the moon came out. The moon beamed down at them and its moonlight bounced off the Shastar as they played, glinting and gleaming. [Sounds of the shastar in children's voices laughing and playing].*

**Moon** [cheerful, booming voice]: Hello, bright little ones! Who are you and what are you playing?

**Kirat the Kirpan**: We're the Shining Shastar! I'm Kirat the Kirpan! My power is to defend the innocent! My blade is always at the ready! [blade being sharpened]

**Khem the Khanda**: I'm Khem the Khanda! I make Amrit to turn Sikhs into Khalsa warriors! [khanda scrapes against iron bowl as Jap Ji Sahib is recited]

**Charan the Chakar**: I'm Charan the Chakar! I can fly through the air faster than the eye can see! [whistling-through-the-air sound]

**Khem the Kataar**: I'm Khem the Kataar! My tip can pierce even the hardest of steel!

**Taran the Teer** [hesitant]: I'm Taran the Teer. I don't think my tip can pierce steel... I don't really think I can do anything special.

**Khem the Kataar** [confident]: Only Kataars can pierce steel. I have the sharpest tip of all the Shastar!

**Kirat the Kirpan** [indignant]: That's not true! My edge is just as sharp as yours, and mine is longer!

**Charan the Chakar** [smug]: Forget just being sharp, none of you can fly *and* be sharp at the same time. [whistling-through-the-air sound]

The moon chuckled and watched the Shastar fighting.

**Khem the Khanda** [measured]: Taran, you are a Teer - an arrow of the Guru! You must be able to do *something*. Everyone! Stop fighting and think about what Taran the Teer can do.

*The Shining Shastar all stopped and thought hard. [Thinking sounds: Hmm, Umm, Oh! No, that won't work..., Uh..]*

**Taran the Teer** [sadly]: See? I can't do anything. [sighs]

**Moon** [cheerful]: Don't worry! All I do is hang in the sky, and yet my very existence provides light to all. But sometimes having a teammate helps! Did you know that the sun helps me to shine?

**Kirat the Kirpan** [incredulous]: The sun?! At night?!

**Taran the Teer** [hopeful]: Maybe a teammate might be able to help me. Who can be my on my team?

**Kirat the Kirpan** [excited]: We're your friends Taran!

**Charan the Chakar**: Yes! We can be on your team!

**Khem the Khanda**: Yes, we're your friends! What can we do to help?

**Taran the Teer** [excited]: Can you help me to fly?

**Kirat the Kirpan** [confused]: Ummm... I'm not sure.

**Charan the Chakar** [hesitant]: How can I make you fly?

**Khem the Khanda** [apologetically]: I don't think we know how Taran.

*All the Shastar were helpless. They didn't know how to help Taran the Teer. The night went on and the moon went to sleep.*

*The sun rose the next morning. All the Shastar were tired from playing all night long and were tucked up, sleeping at the feet of the Guru. [Image of the shastar laid in front of Guru Granth Sahib Ji and a Singhni meditating in front of them. The Singhni awakens from meditation.]*

**Singhni** [observing the Shastars]: The offering of Shastar are pleasing to the Guru. O Guru Ji, please grant me the wisdom to use these wisely for the power of good in the world. [Pause] Hmmmm. [Noticing Taran the Teer] This Shastar cannot be used on its own. An arrow can only be used with a good strong bow.

*The Singhni set about carving a bow [sounds of scraping, tools being used]. At the end of a long day's work, the sun had set and the bow was ready. After doing her evening Kirtan Sohila [insert sound of Kirtan Sohila] she placed the bow before the Guru and switched off the light. Night fell and the moon came out. The Shastar awoke, ready to play.*

**Moon** [cheerful, booming voice]: Hello bright little ones! Who is that beside you?

**Kirat the Kirpan** [gasps]: Who are you?

**Keval the Kamaan**: I'm Keval the Kamaan! I'm a bow of the Guru, and I can fire Taran the Teer as far as can be!

[All the Shastar look & sound awestruck.]

**Taran the Teer** [excited]: Wow! Can you really?

**Khem the Kataar** [excited]: Of course she can! She's a bow of the Guru! Go on Keval - show us!

**Charan the Chakar**: Yes! We can't wait to see!

Keval the Kamaan helped Taran the Teer into her string, and sure enough, Taran flew as far as could be. [Gleeful whizzing. 'Wheeeeeeee!']

**Taran the Teer**: Now I can fly as far as can be!

[All the Shastars and the Moon laugh and giggle.]

**Moon** [beaming]: All you needed was a helping hand, Taran. That's the power of a team. Working together and helping each other, make us much stronger than we were alone!

**All the Shastar together**: Being a team makes us stronger! [The Shastar make strong-man noises and laugh. Keval the Kamaan fires Taran the Teer. The Shastar whoop and giggle.]

*The Moon chuckled and beamed. And that was how the Shining Shastar learned that teamwork makes us stronger.*