**ISWARAN THE STORYTELLER**

**By- R.K. Laxman**

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**R.K. Laxman**

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Laxman was an Indian cartoonist, illustrator, and humorist. He was best known for his creation The Common Man and for his daily cartoon strip, You Said It in The Times of India, which started in 1951.

[**Born**](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=r.+k.+laxman+born&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDfQEstOttIvSM0vyEkFUkXF-XlWSflFeYtYBYv0FLL1FHISK3IT8xRAYgD1ReLFOQAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4Q6BMoADAkegQIDxAG)**:**24 October 1921, [Mysuru](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=Mysore&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDdQ4gAxs8wMjLXEspOt9AtS8wtyUoFUUXF-nlVSflHeIlY238ri_KJUAAXT1Vo4AAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4QmxMoATAkegQIDxAH)

[**Died**](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=r.+k.+laxman+died&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDfQks9OttIvSM0vyEnVT0lNTk0sTk2JL0gtKs7Ps0rJTE1ZxCpYpKeQraeQk1iRm5inABIDAEjGfGZCAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4Q6BMoADAlegQIDxAK)**:**26 January 2015, [Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital and Research Center, Pune](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=Deenanath+Mangeshkar+Hospital&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDdQ4gIxywpyLM0tteSzk630C1LzC3JS9VNSk1MTi1NT4gtSi4rz86xSMlNTFrHKuqSm5iXmJZZkKPgm5qWnFmdkJxYpeOQXF2SWJOYAAB9DrHVaAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4QmxMoATAlegQIDxAL)

[**Full name**](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=r.+k.+laxman+full+name&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDfQks5OttIvSM0vyEkFUkXF-XlWaaU5OQp5ibmpi1jFivQUsvUUchIrchPzFOASAOXhH05DAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4Q6BMoADAmegQIDxAO)**:**Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Laxman

[**Siblings**](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=r.+k.+laxman+siblings&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDfQksxOttIvSM0vyEkFUkXF-XlWxZlJOZl56YtYRYv0FLL1FHISK3IT8xSgwsUALsF0VkAAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4Q6BMoADAnegQIDxAR)**:**[R. K. Narayan](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=R.K.+Narayan&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDdQAjMNjS2KjLQks5Ot9AtS8wtyUoFUUXF-nlVxZlJOZl76IlaeID1vPQW_xKLEysQ8AGMBK51CAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4QmxMoATAnegQIDxAS)

[**Awards**](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=r.+k.+laxman+awards&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDfQks1OttJPLE8sSoGQ8eWZeXmpRVZgTvEiVuEiPYVsPYWcxIrcxDwFiCgA-9kwQ0IAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4Q6BMoADAoegQIDxAV)**:**[Padma Vibhushan](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=Padma+Vibhushan&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDdQAjONTAyMDbRks5Ot9BPLE4tSIGR8eWZeXmqRFZhTvIiVPyAxJTdRISwzKaO0OCMxDwBDfmeVSQAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4QmxMoATAoegQIDxAW), [Padma Bhushan](https://www.google.co.in/search?q=Padma+Bhushan&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MM4rNDdQAjONTNNyjbRks5Ot9BPLE4tSIGR8eWZeXmqRFZhTvIiVNyAxJTdRwSmjtDgjMQ8AoOKaH0cAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDuPvf17HjAhWQe30KHbqCBP4QmxMoAjAoegQIDxAX).

### Introduction

This is an interesting story about lswaran, a cook. I le served as a cook to Mahendra, a junior supervisor. lswaran was deVoted to his master. He was an expert cook. Another quality of lswaran was that he was a master storyteller. He narrated even the smallest incident of his story by weaving suspense around it. One day, he told his master a story about a mad elephant. On another day, he told Mahendra that the ghost of a woman appeared around the house on the full moon night. One night, Mahendra woke up on hearing some sound. He kicked out of the window. He saw a dark cloudy figure. He began to sweat with fear. The next morning, he hurried to his office and handed in his papers for transfer from that place. Story telling is an art. It can be made interesting by adding an element of surprise and adventure. “Iswaran the Storyteller” is a story about a person who was a master storyteller. He was so good at his craft that the listener would end up believing the story to be true.

**THEME**

The theme of the story is ‘the art of storytelling’. A good story becomes interesting only when the narrator twists and turns the action to make the narrative surprising yet plausible. Iswaran, a master of this art told gripping stories in a graphic and dramatic manner such that his listeners listened to him in rapt attention and bewilderment. Once the story of a female ghost that he recounted so terrified his master that he quit his job and left the haunted place.Another theme is that one must not let oneself be influenced by superstitions like ghosts or spirits unless one has a faint belief in one’s own subconscious. Mahendra believed that he had seen the female ghost because his subconscious seemed to have already accepted the presence of ghosts and spirits.Nobody is free from fears. Everybody accepts the presence of ghosts and spirits but feels hesitant to express this truth openly. If fear lies in our heart, we should try to know the proper cause of this fear. In fear, we may take some wrong decisions and put our lives into problems. Therefore, we have to be bold enough to make good decisions in all circumstances.

**TITLE**

“Iswaran the Storyteller” is a perfectly suitable title for a story that deals with the character ‘Iswaran’ and his mastery of the art of storytelling. The whole story deals with the dramatic manner in which Iswaran made-up and recounted stories, which were admirable more for the style in which elements of suspense, horror, and adventure were added to them than for their contents. Hence, this title stands justified.

**CHARACTER  SKETCHES**

**Iswaran:**Iswaran is the servant of Mahendra. Iswaran cooked for Mahendra, washed his clothes and told stories to his master at night. When he told Mahendra about ghosts, Mahendra called him a crazy man. He was a good storyteller. Most of his stories were full of suspense and thrill. His stories affected his master so much that Mahendra started feeling afraid of ghosts and left his present accommodation.

**Mahendra:**Mahendra was a supervisor in a firm. The nature of his job moved him from place to place. He adjusted in all types of dwellings. His servant entertained him with stories. He did not believe in ghosts initially. But after listening to Iswaran, he too seemed to experience the existence of ghosts. Once he was so frightened of a ghost that he decided to leave the present accommodation where he was staying. He appears to be a man who can easily give in to fear of things like ghosts.

**Value Points**

* The story is narrated to Ganesh by a young man named Mahendra. He was a supervisor in a firm.
* As he was a bachelor, he always had his cook Iswaran with him.
* His job was to supervise the activities at the work site.
* Iswaran used to read the popular Tamil thrilling stories.
* His own description was greatly influenced by Tamil authors.
* He had the power to weave endless stories and played a role of television in Mahendra’s life.
* He narrated the tale of a Tusker, which destroyed everything on the way and how he made him collapse in the end, with a small cane.
* Iswaran linked the auspicious full-moon night to the story of a female ghost.
* Mahendra did not believe such baseless stories and rebuked him.
* One night Mahendra heard some moan near his window.
* He saw a cloudy form clutching a bundle.
* As it affected Mahendra very much he could not sleep properly.
* Next morning Iswaran greeted him and asked him about the last night’s experience.
* Mahendra was determined to leave the haunted place the very next day.

**MESSAGE**

The story gives the message that the unnatural world of ghosts and spirits is merely a figment of our imagination. If we allow our hidden fears to take concrete shape and start believing in ghosts and spirits, our life would get disturbed. Mahendra was good at his job as a supervisor but had to quit because he allowed his fears to overpower his rational self.