

## A pinch of Snuff Summary

The given short story 'A Pinch of Snuff' is taken from 'contemporary Indian short stories in English'. This story is a comical adventurous story which ties reader's excitement until the end.

Initially, the narrator's mother announces the arrival of Nanukaka, her brother who has to stay there for 2-3 days. The narrator asks his mother to give some wrong plees to avoid Nanukaka but she retorts that he must have started his travel. On asking the purpose of his arrival; he was acquainted that it was to meet some minister. The narrator perceives that Nanukaka would stay here for months because ministers do not see people for months but his mother assured him that Nanukaka would manage everything. The narrator is under secretary on probation and has been taught to regard ministers higher than god.

Undesiringly, narrator goes to station and he sees Nanukaka who has an impressive personality with white hairs and moustache. He wears red silk turban and a long black coat with a white anghocha over his shoulder like a deccani brahmin. He hands a basket to narrator to wait outside. He hears the noise of a kitten, from the basket, who was perturbed by the collision, narrator has just suffered it's long time before Nanukaka appears with a ticket checker and explains the matter of travelling with a third class ticket in second class carriage. When Nanukaka asked him the question of arrange of his meeting with minister, the narrator explains that he is only an undersecretary on probation and can't arrange for their interview. Nanukaka takes a pinch of snuff and seems to be lost in thoughts, except for he clucks his tongue registering pity.

Mother was, very excited when Nanukaka arrived home, but to narrator's hard luck, he had to give up his bedroom to Nanukaka. Narrator once took Nanukaka to north block to see the welfare minister but after exactly two hour Nanukaka returned from the office mumbling expletives in his mother tongue Marathi because he could not meet the minister but only could get an appointment with

minister three days later. When they were driving home, a yellow car passed ahead of them and somebody waved to the narrator. Nanukaka inquired about it and was told that he was Ratiam, the son of Sohanlal Ratiram, the party boss in Delhi. Nanukaka was taken by surprise. After staying for a long time at the narrator, he asked narrator that he had any close-collar Jodhpur coat and a turban. As soon as they arrived home, he asked narrator to change to his coat and turban and said that they would go to see Sohanlal. After changing clothes, they went to Sohanlal's office. Nanukaka bragged about his VIP status and contact to big politicians to impress the secretary who immediately went to inform minister about it. Nanukaka now spoke in very loud voice about Hazrat Barkat Ali, the ambassador in such a tone that the ambassador was his best friend and he also spoke many things regarding his business, connection to minister and foreign tours. Just as he mentioned about Hazrat Barkat Ali, the grugling sound of hookah stopped and soon after Sohanlal stepped into the scene with secretary as his heels. Nanukaka was welcomed warmly. Sohanlal and he dropped into conversation about zamindars, votes etc. Sometimes later, Sohanlal said to Nanukaka that his son was in balance ministry but due to some Season some body had poisoned the ambassadors mind against his son. Nanukaka announced that he will manage the problem.

Nanukaka then opened his snuff box and had a pinch of it and started to talk about welfare minister. By the reaction of Sohanlal he came to know that the minister and he were now at daggers drawn because the minister has refused the proposal of her marriage with his son and instead had decided to marry her to the prince of Ninnore. When they came back to home, (the narrator and Nanukaka) Nanukaka was strangely silent but the next morning he was back to usual. This day he decided to pay a visit to minister's house. By using brains, Nanukaka managed to get an enormous, princely and outlandish car and the narrator was made its driver. Nanukaka dressed himself and looked every inch like a pandit from princely state. When the minister's secretary asked his purpose of coming to the place he said that he had no wish to disturb the minister. He asked for visitors book and wrote his name as hereditary astrologer to Maharaja

of Ninnore and gave our address and without delay, he ordered me to get to Sutkatta's palace which he really did not meant, it was to show off. We drove quickly to home. We just had tea when a car with white triangle stopped in front of our house and the welfare minister stepped out. Nanukaka received him respectfully. After the meeting with minister, Nanukaka left next day.

The narrator thinks that if minister comes to know about the reality of Nanukaka what will happen and he also hopes that in situation like this Nanukaka will not let his head down but he wants to be far away from the place when this thing happens.