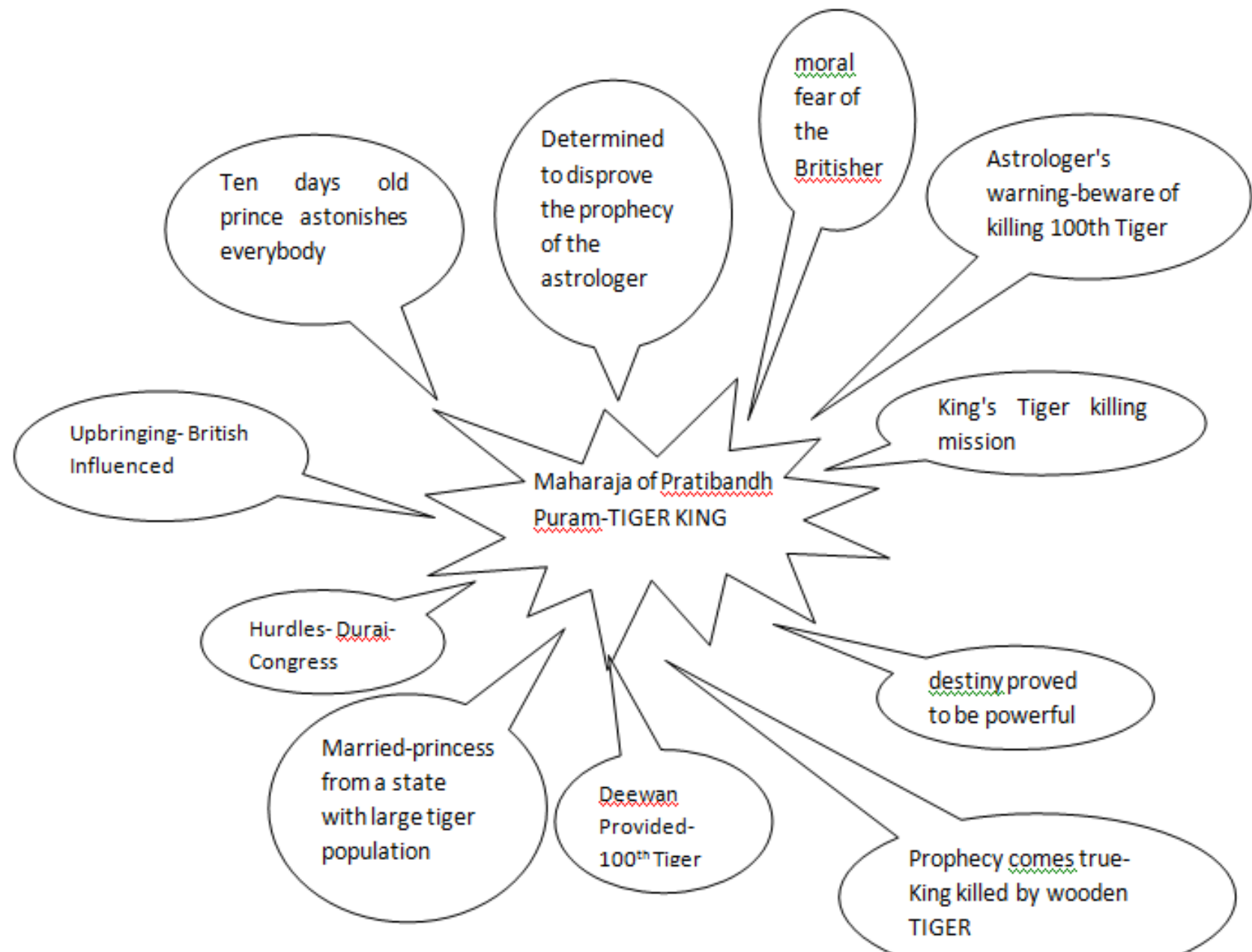


TIGER KING

By Kalki





Irony and Satire in 'The Tiger King'

- irony that reveals the follies of autocratic and wilful rulers who flout all laws and bend them to suit their selfish interests.
- The dramatic irony --Tiger King alone is unaware that his bullet had not killed the hundredth tiger. The other characters and the readers anticipate his doom as he celebrates his triumph over his destiny.
- The King wanted to prove the astrologer wrong and to save his life. Ironically, to avert death he actually invites it.
- The lofty titles used to introduce the Tiger King, suggesting an invincible ferocity are indeed ironic for he is finally killed by a cheap, crudely made wooden toy tiger which became the tool of Nature's revenge.
- Irony is indeed sharp when the surgeons announce the operation successful and declare the king dead.

Instances of Satire

- When the Maharaja of Pratibandhpuram was told that he would be killed by a tiger, he could never imagine the twist in fate where a toy tiger could be fatal.
- The grandeur associated with a king's life proves a mockery.
- The story also satirizes the corrupting influence of power. Just because the Tiger King had power, he felt he could browbeat his subjects and even defeat fate.
- He neglected his responsibility as a ruler. He neglected the welfare of his subjects, his family, increased and reduced taxes at will and sacked his officers. They feared him or else he would have learnt the truth.
- When we see the king gloating over his bravery after killing the hundredth old, weak tiger, we notice that Kalki is satirizing the notions of cowardice and bravery.
- Kalki is also criticizing the King's men and subjects who pander to his whims out of fear or like the shopkeeper manipulate and fool him.

Humour in the Tiger King

- The instance of the Stuka bomber
- The king's offer of mouse hunt etc
- The incoherent blabbering by the Dewan and the Chief Astrologer
- The Dewan procuring an old tiger from people's park and its stubborn refusal to get off the car and the description of its waiting in humble supplication to be shot.
- The shopkeeper quoting three hundred rupees for a cheap two annas and a quarter toy tiger
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