

# Khargush<sup>\*</sup>-ak and River

## A Tale Play

By: Hosein Fadaihosein

## Characters

Narrator

Khargush-i

Khargush-ak

Khargush-e

*[There is the sound of murmur of water.<sup>†</sup> This sound may remind us many things, like a waterfall, a ditch, or a pool and fountain, even the sound of water flowing in the drainpipe of houses, of course at the rainy days. However, the sound of murmur, that we are hearing now, is from the river that is nearby. Do you want to see there? Do you want to see what may happen there?*

*In the river that is near us, a lot of water flows, and crossing the river is not possible easily.*

*Do you know, what is the best way to cross this river, setting sail, jumping over rocks or passing on a bridge? It's clear that when there is a bridge, the best way is passing on it. Well, these are our river that is full of water and a bridge that has built for crossing river.*

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\*. The word "Khargush" as well as "Rabbit" in the Persian language.

†. Note: All the sentences into the square brackets [...] and by *italic font* can be expressed by a narrator or storyteller.

*Wait; let me see! As though, those rabbits are going to pass over the bridge. By the way, today is the first day of school and the rabbits must pass over the bridge for going to their school.*

*That one, who is coming ahead while is tallest between others, is Khargush-i.]*

**Khargush-i:** Well, guys, we arrived. This is that bridge through which we can cross the river. Follow me!

*[Khargush-i says that and steps on the bridge. As result, the bridge, that has been built of tree trunks and branches, rocks.*

*Khargush-ak who is smallest between others, afraid of rocking the bridge, looks at Khargush-i.]*

**Khargush-ak:** Khargush-i, stop! Don't you see that the bridge is rocking?!

*[Khargush-i while has presided to the middle of the bridge, stops, turns back and looks at Khargush-ak.]*

**Khargush-i:** No problem!

**Khargush-ak:** Is not it important?

**Khargush-i:** No, it is a bridge; it is not like the ground that is fixed and stiff.

*[Khargush-ak looks to the bridge and the ground; maybe she is thinking why the bridge rocks while the ground is fixed and stiff?*

*However, Khargush-i continues his way indifferent to that issue.*

*Now, Khargush-e who is another one of those rabbits and is not as long as Khargush-i and as short as Khargush-ak, goes toward the bridge to pass on it. Khargush-i, who has arrived at the other side of river, looks to Khargush-e.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-e, come to this side of river soon! There will be late.

*[Khargush-e looks to the sky, as if he has remembered something.]*

**Khargush-e:** Yes, the sun is coming up, and our way to school is so long.

*[Then comes on the bridge and starts to walk.*

*Nevertheless, Khargush-ak – that small rabbit – still has stood and is looking to rocking of the bridge.]*

**Khargush-i:** Ahoy, Khargush-ak! Why have you stood yet? As I told there will be late.

*[Khargush-ak stops looking to the bridge and stares to Khargush-i.]*

**Khargush-ak:** Well, I'm looking this bridge over.

**Khargush-i:** Why you are looking that over?

*[Instead of answering him, Khargush-ak looks the bridge over again.*

*Now Khargush-e, who is not small and not big, has arrived to other side of the bridge and is laughing to Khargush-ak's speech.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, Khargush-ak talks in somehow as if she hasn't seen any bridge so far.

**Khargush-ak:** Well, you're right. I haven't seen any bridge so far.

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, really?

**Khargush-ak:** Well, yes, is it funny that somebody hasn't seen a bridge so far?

*[As soon as Khargush-e hears this speech, stops laughing. As if he has understood, he is laughing without any reason.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-ak, you saw the bridge, let's go! It is too late.

*[Now, Khargush-ak comes toward the bridge cautiously, but, when she puts her foot on the bridge, it starts to rock again. Khargush-ak scares and turns back.]*

**Khargush-i:** Why are you standing still Khargush-ak?

**Khargush-ak:** Well... I'm ... afraid!

*[Khargush-e, it means that rabbit that is not small and not big starts to laugh again. Why he is laughing? We don't know.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, what are you afraid of?

**Khargush-ak:** Of... of... the river.

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, for what?

**Khargush-ak:** Well, it is clear; the water may take me away.

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha...

**Khargush-ak:** Is it funny that somebody fears that water takes him away?

*[Again, when Khargush-e hears that, stops laughing. As if he has understood that, he is laughing without any reason.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-ak, there is no reason to be afraid of the river. Because you'll pass over the bridge not through the river.

**Khargush-ak:** But I'm afraid of the bridge too!

**Khargush-i:** For what of that?

**Khargush-ak:** Because it is rocking continuously!

*[Khargush-e starts to laugh again.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, rocking the bridge is not scary.

**Khargush-ak:** But I may fall from the bridge into the river, and consequently the water will take me away!

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha!

**Khargush-ak:** Is it funny that somebody fears of falling from the bridge in the river?

*[This time, Khargush-e instead of stopping his laugh and thinking about Khargush-ak's speech, laughs more and falls about.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, that's really funny.

**Khargush-ak:** It is not at all.

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, you know, it is impossible that somebody falls in the river without any reason.

**Khargush-ak:** There is a reason. Don't you see that the bridge rocks continuously?

*[Khargush-ak – the small rabbit – lifts her foot and knocks on the bridge. Then, when the bridge starts to rock, he points to it to show how dangerous it is!]*

*Although Khargush-e – the rabbit who is not small and not big – has understood the meaning of Khargush-ak, he laughs more and more.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, not only rocking the bridge has not any fear, but also it is very funny!

*[After saying that, suddenly Khargush-e runs toward the bridge and starts to romp and jump up and down. Now the bridge rocks more intensively!]*

*Khargush-ak, that is clearly afraid of rocking the bridge, looks at him surprisingly.*

*However, not only Khargush-e is not afraid of rocking the bridge, but also enjoys a lot.]*

**Khargush-e:** Hurrah, how enjoyable is rocking the bridge!

*[Khargush-i – the big rabbit – becomes impatient clearly, because of Khargush-e romping and jumping up and down.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-e, stop it. As if you have forgotten that it is late!

*[Khargush-e desists from romping, looks toward the sky and immediately runs to other side of the bridge.]*

**Khargush-e:** I'm ready to go to school, but if Khargush-ak don't come, we can't go too, can we?

**Khargush-i:** No, we can't, because we have promised to her mother to take her with ourselves.

*[Then, Khargush-i calls Khargush-ak immediately, but, Khargush-ak is looking the bridge over surprisingly, yet.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-ak, now let's go, it is too late!

**Khargush-ak:** But I fear of the bridge, yet.

**Khargush-i:** What are you telling? You mean, you don't want to come with us?

**Khargush-ak:** Of course, I do, but...

**Khargush-i:** If you want to come, you'll have to cross through the bridge.

**Khargush-ak:** But...

*[Khargush-e laughs again, then while try to mimic Khargush-ak, looks to the bridge fearfully.]*

**Khargush-e:** But, I'm afraid of bridge, it is rocking continuously.

*[Then, he starts to romp and laugh, but Khargush-i looks at him sadly again.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-e, it is better that we help her until she can cross through the bridge, instead of laughing.

**Khargush-e:** That's a good idea, but how?

**Khargush-i:** We should think.

*[As he says that, puts his finger on his temple, semi-closes his eyes and stars to a far place. He pretends that he is thinking. Nevertheless, Khargush-e, instead of thinking, looks to the sky.]*

**Khargush-e:** Look at the sun Khargush-i! It has come up. It is too late.

*[Kahrgushi stops thinking and looks to the sky. Then, he goes toward Khargush-ak. Khargush-e calls him surprisingly.]*

**Khargush-e:** Khargush-i, where are you going?

**Khargush-i:** I'm going to help Khargush-ak to cross through the bridge.

**Khargush-e:** how?

*[As he is going toward Khargush-ak, answers.]*

**Khargush-i:** It is not difficult, I'll take her hand and bring her.

*[Khargush-i that has arrived to other side of the bridge starts to speak with Khargush-ak.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-ak, now give me your hand to pass through the bridge with each other!



*[When she hears that Khargush-i wants to help her, first smiles, then says spoiling.]*

**Khargush-ak:** You must promise that take my hand and don't leave it, you know that I'm afraid of rocking the bridge.

**Khargush-i:** Ok, so come with me!

*[Khargush-i – the rabbit that is big – takes Khargush-ak's hand and steps on the bridge.*

*The bridge starts to rock again.*

*Now, Khargush-ak – the small rabbit – spoils herself more.]*

**Khargush-ak:** Oh, the bridge is shaking. I scare yet.

**Khargush-i:** It is clear that you are spoiling yourself  
Khargush-ak!

Khargush-ak Oh! Why?

**Khargush-i:** You must not be afraid, while I have taken your hand.

**Khargush-ak:** Ok, I won't be afraid.

*[Now, both have come on the bridge and are walking slowly.*

*Khargush-e – the rabbit that is not big not small – starts to laugh again.*

*We don't know the reason of his laughing again. Even Khargush-i and Khargush-ak don't know, why he is laughing again.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, what are you doing, Khargush-i?

**Khargush-i:** Well, it is clear, I'm helping Khargush-ak to...

*[Before he finishes his speech, Khargush-e laughs again.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ...

**Khargush-i:** Why are you laughing Khargush-e?

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, of course it is clear, because you are in the wrong.

**Khargush-i:** Wrong?

**Khargush-e:** Yes, ha, ha, ha.

*[It is clear that Khargush-i has become impatient of his laughing. He looks at him sadly again.]*

**Khargush-i:** Ok, firstly, tell me, if somebody makes a mistake, must you laugh at him?

*[When Khargush-e hears that, stops laughing and thinks about Khargush-i's speech, when somebody makes a mistake, you must not laugh at him.]*

**Khargush-i:** Secondly, tell me, what is my mistake?

**Khargush-e:** In my idea, your action will not help her.

**Khargush-i:** Why?

**Khargush-e:** We should teach her the way of passing through the bridge.

**Khargush-i:** If I pass her once, she'll understand that passing through the bridge isn't fearful.

**Khargush-e:** But I still think that is wrong.

**Khargush-i:** No, it is not.

**Khargush-e:** Yes, it is.

**Khargush-i:** No, it is not.

**Khargush-e:** It is.

**Khargush-i:** It is not.

*[Poor Khargush-ak are looking confusedly to the argument between Khargush-i and Khargush-e.]*

**Khargush-i:** I tell again, it is the best way.

**Khargush-e:** And I tell again, it is not. Because, after this she will wait for somebody to take her hand and convey her to other side of the bridge.

**Khargush-i:** Well, what is wrong?

**Khargush-e:** We planned on to teach her how to pass, so that is not the way.

*[Although Khargush-e is a witty and playful one, but he says some logical speeches sometimes, like this speech that has led Khargush-i to think. Maybe he is thinking that Khargush-e is right.]*

**Khargush-i:** Khargush-e says right.

*[Did you know? The logical speech should be accepted and it is not important, who says that.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-e! Now tell me, do you know how can we teach her to pass through the bridge?

**Khargush-e:** Of course I know!

**Khargush-i:** Indeed?

*[Khargush-e nods to say yes, and then she starts to laugh again.]*

*Khargush-i leaves her hand and returns to other side of the bridge to become aware of Khargush-e's ideas.[*

**Khargush-i:** All right, Khargush-e, what is your idea?

**Khargush-e:** In my opinion, if we are going to teach her passing through the bridge, we must frighten her of something.

*[Khargush-e whispers this speech so that Khargush-ak can not hear him.*

*Khargush-i looks to him surprisingly.]*

**Khargush-i:** Frighten her? For what?

**Khargush-e:** Because she is forced to pass through the bridge.

**Khargush-i:** How?

**Khargush-e:** For instance, we can say that somebody is going to take her on the other side of the bridge; in that time, Khargush-ak will run to this side of the bridge!

*[Now Khargush-i is thinking that this is a good idea or not.*

*However, Khargush-e immediately goes beside the bridge and calls Khargush-ak.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ahoy, Khargush-ak, ahoy! Come on this side of the bridge, soon!

**Khargush-ak:** I won't come. I'm afraid of the bridge!

**Khargush-e:** But you are in danger.

**Khargush-ak:** Why?

**Khargush-e:** Don't you see, a fox is coming toward you from far away.

**Khargush-ak:** A fox?

*[Khargush-ak, that has been frightened clearly, turns and looks around.]*

**Khargush-ak:** But... there isn't any fox hereabout.

**Khargush-e:** Of course, there is, but, because you are short, you can't see him.

**Khargush-ak:** Now ... now, what should I do?

**Khargush-e:** Come on, come this side of the bridge, soon.

**Khargush-ak:** But, as I said, I'm afraid.

**Khargush-e:** You mean, aren't you afraid of fox?

**Khargush-ak:** Yes, I'm afraid of fox too, but I'm afraid of the bridge more.

**Khargush-e:** Why are you afraid more?

**Khargush-ak:** Because... because, I can escape from the fox, but from the bridge I can't.

*[Then, Khargush-ak immediately turns and looks around. Although she has not seen any fox, she decides to escape.]*

**Khargush-e:** Where are you going to run to, Khargush-ak?

**Khargush-ak:** I'm going to run away from fox! You said that he is coming toward me.

**Khargush-i:** Stop, Khargush-ak! There isn't any fox at all.

**Khargush-ak:** But Khargush-e said, there is.

**Khargush-i:** He tricked you in order to you cross the bridge.

**Khargush-ak:** But I had said that I'm afraid of the bridge.

*[Now, Khargush-e brings down his head and peeks to Khargush-ak with shame. Maybe he wants to show that he is ashamed of his own action.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, it would be better that I go and bring Khargush-ak to this side of the bridge.

**Khargush-e:** But, we planned on to act in somehow that she crosses the bridge lonely.

**Khargush-i:** Yes, we planned on, but as you see, she wouldn't come.

**Khargush-ak:** Yes, because I'm afraid of the bridge.

**Khargush-i:** Therefore, we have no other choice, especially now that it is too late for school.

*[Khargush-i looks toward the sky to show that the sun has come up.*

*Then he starts to go toward Khargush-ak.*

*But, another idea occurs to Khargush-e and he calls Khargush-i.]*

**Khargush-e:** Khargush-i, Wait! I have another idea.

**Khargush-i:** Really?

**Khargush-e:** Yes, really.

**Khargush-i:** Are you sure that this one idea is not wrong as before?

**Khargush-e:** Of course, it is not. Come here to tell you.

*[Although Khargush-i – that rabbit who is big – don't trust Khargush-e's speech anymore, but he goes toward him.*

*Khargush-e – that rabbit that is not big not small – talks to him slowly to Khargush-ak can not hear.]*

Kahrgushe: What's your idea about encouraging her to cross the bridge?

**Khargush-i:** Encouraging her? How?

**Khargush-e:** We'll determine an award for crossing the bridge.

**Khargush-i:** Awarding is good, but what we can award her?

**Khargush-e:** Something that she likes it.

**Khargush-i:** Very well, but what?

**Khargush-e:** For instance a juicy carrot.

Kharushi: I have one.

*[Immediately, he goes to his bag and brings a big carrot out of it. Khargush-e again starts to laugh, then takes the carrot and shows it to Khargush-ak.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, hey Khargush-ak! Do you know, what is in my hand?

*[Khargush-ak – the small rabbit – stars at the carrot.]*

**Khargush-ak:** Well... well, it is a big carrot and it seems to be juicy.

*[Khargush-e is laughing more, now.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, do you like to this juicy carrot be yours?

*[Khargush-ak's eyes shin from the happiness.]*

**Khargush-ak:** Of course, I like.

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, so come and take it!

Khargushak: How can I go?

**Khargush-e:** It is clear, through the bridge!

**Khargush-ak:** But, I'm afraid of the bridge, if it is possible, bring it to me, yourself!

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, everybody who wants carrot, he must fetch it himself!

**Khargush-ak:** You mean, I have to come through the bridge!

**Khargush-e:** Yes, through the bridge.

**Khargush-ak:** so, I don't want carrot!

*[Although Khargush-ak says "I don't want carrot", but she wants to have it. Nevertheless, because of fear of walking on the bridge, she pretends that she doesn't want carrot.*

*Khargush-e that has understood her intention, looks to the carrot and suddenly gets a big bite of it to stimulate her.]*

**Khargush-e:** So, I'll eat it all.

*[Then he starts to crunch the carrot.*

*Poor Khargush-ak that likes to eat carrot starts to cry loudly.]*



**Khargush-ak:** Boo-hoo, boo-hoo, boo-hoo, I want carrot.  
Boo-hoo, boo-hoo, boo-hoo!

**Khargush-e:** If you want really, come and take it!

*[He gets a big bite again, and starts to chew noisily.*

*Now, poor Khargush-ak grieves so much.*

*Khargush-i – the big rabbit – first, looks at the sun that is coming up, then looks to his carrot that is coming to end and then looks to Khargush-ak who is crying loudly.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, there is no choice except I go and bring her to this side of the bridge.

*[As Khargush-e is chewing noisily, looks at him.]*

**Khargush-e:** Why?

**Khargush-i:** Because the sun has reached to the middle of the sky and my carrot is coming to end and Khargush-ak will die soon from sadness.

*[Khargush-i starts walking toward Khargush-ak immediately.*

*Khargush-ak gets happy with Khargush-i's decision and stops crying. Instead, he smiles to Khargush-i.*

*As if, Khargush-e has another idea, because he stops eating and calls Khargush-i.]*

**Khargush-e:** Khargush-i wait! I have another idea.

*[Khargush-i goes toward Khargush-ak without any attention to him, because he thinks that his idea is useless, like his other thoughts.*

*However, Khargush-e calls him again.]*

**Khargush-e:** Khargush-i, I said wait! Believe me, this idea is a good one.

**Khargush-i:** Really?

**Khargush-e:** Yes, really, really?

**Khargush-i:** But I don't believe you.

**Khargush-e:** So, just allow me to say my idea. Don't accept it, if it was bad!

**Khargush-i:** Ok, but it is the last time. Ok?

**Khargush-e:** Ok.

*[Now, Khargush-i goes toward Khargush-e for the last time. He wants to hear his good idea.*

*From the other side of the bridge, Khargush-ak gets curious to hear Khargush-e's idea.*

*But this time, Khargush-e speaks so slowly that even we can not hear what he says.*

*For some minutes, the only sound, which is heard, is Khargush-e's whispering voice. But, it is clear that Khargush-i has accepted his idea.*

*What is his new idea? We do not know!*

*Khargush-i – the big rabbit – goes to other side of the bridge immediately.*

*Khargush-ak – the little rabbit – who has not understood their idea, looks at them surprisingly.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, dear Khargush-ak, we planned on to help you to cross the bridge today, but you must promise that you do it lonely tomorrow!

**Khargush-ak:** All right, now, take my hand!

*[Khargush-ak extends her hand toward Khargush-i, but Khargush-i instead of taking her hand, bends and takes a branch from the ground.]*

**Khargush-i:** It is better that we take this branch instead of taking each other's hands.

**Khargush-ak:** Why?

**Khargush-i:** It is a better way for help you.

**Khargush-ak:** Really?

*[Khargush-i nods that means "yes, really", then he peeks to Khargush-e. He has stood at the other side of the bridge and is looking toward the sky.]*

**Khargush-e:** Come on! The sun is reaching to the middle of the sky, and it is too late for going to school.

*[Khargush-i takes one side of the branch and Khargush-ak the other side.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, dear Kharugshak, now take the branch and move! You go ahead and I'll follow you to take care of you.

*[Worried about passing the bridge, Khargush-ak looks to Khargush-i and the branch.]*

**Khargush-ak:** Would you go ahead while I follow you?

**Khargush-i:** No, if you want to learn this action, you should practice what I say.

**Khargush-ak:** Do you promise to take care of me from behind?

**Khargush-i:** I promise, provided that, just look forward! If you look backward or to the river, you may scare again.

*[Khargush-ak looks at Khargush-i.*

*Khargush-i smiles to her. His smiling causes that she forgets her fear, because, she takes the branch immediately and puts her foot on the bridge. Now, the bridge starts to rock again.*

*Khargush-ak is scared, turns back and looks to Khargush-i again.*

*Khargush-i smiles to her again. Maybe he is going to say "Kahrgushak, don't be afraid! I'll take care of you."*

*Now, Khargush-ak turns and stares to other side of the bridge.*

*Khargush-e is looking the sky yet in this side of the bridge.]*

**Khargush-e:** The sun is passing from the middle of the sky. Now, it is so late.

*[Then he stops looking toward the sky to see the other side of the bridge.*

*Khargush-ak proceeds several steps over the bridge.*

*Khargush-i takes easy, slowly puts down the branch, then, stays in his place; it means the other side of the bridge.*

*But, Khargush-ak still thinks that Khargush-i has taken the other side of the branch and are following her. She arrives at the middle of the bridge slowly.*

*But, in this side of the bridge, Khargush-e – the rabbit who is not big not small – starts to laugh intentionally.]*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, bravo, Khargush-ak, bravo!

*[Now, in that side of the bridge, Khargush-i starts to clap for her intentionally.]*

**Khargush-i:** Bravo, Khargush-ak! Continue, you'll succeed!

*[Suddenly, she stops and looks her backward.]*

**Khargush-ak:** Eh, Khargush-i, why have you stood there yet? Why didn't you follow me?

**Khargush-i:** Why I did?

**Khargush-ak:** Because you promised to take care of me.

**Khargush-i:** Well, I am taking care of you.

**Khargush-ak:** But you left the branch, why?

**Khargush-i:** Because you are walking over the bridge very well, so I left it.

**Khargush-ak:** You mean I have come until here lonely!

**Khargush-i:** Yes, of course, isn't it, Khargush-e?

*[Khargush-e, who is laughing yet in this side of the bridge, nods to say "yes, it is".*

**Khargush-e:** Ha, ha, ha, Khargush-ak, now you can continue the rest of the way, can't she, Khargush-i?

*[In the other side of the bridge, Khargush-i nods to say "yes, she can". Then, he starts to clap and encourage her.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, now continue, Khargush-ak, continue!

*[In this moment, Khargush-ak – the little rabbit – not only is not afraid, but also leaves the branch and while she is smiling, comes to other side of the bridge slowly.]*

*Khargush-e, who is waiting for her in this side of the bridge, goes toward her immediately and gives the juicy carrot to her.*

*Khargush-ak, who is very happy, takes a big bite and starts to chew noisily.*

*Khargush-i, who has arrived at this side of the bridge, refers to the sky.]*

**Khargush-i:** All right, let's go, because it is too late for school.

*[After saying that, he starts to move toward the school quickly.]*

*As Khargush-e is laughing, takes Khargush-ak's hand and both follow Khargush-i.*

*Yet, Khargush-ak is chewing the carrot noisily.]*

### **Finish**

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