

Kironmala from Thakurmar Jhuli (Grandmother's Bag of Tales from Bengal, India) – Changing reflections of a brave princess across a century through various channels of media

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ABSTRACT

The Bengali folktale of *Kironmala* from the book (compilation) *Thakurmar Jhuli* (Grandmother's Bag of Tales) from Bengal (India) speaks of a story of a 'homely and dutiful', yet a brave princess who battles all evil to save her two brothers and her kingdom- finally reuniting with their long-lost father- the king. As the story has been transcribed and also adapted across various audio-visual formats over the last hundred years, *Kironmala* speaks of changing times within its patriarchal mould. This paper looks into the original folktale and its format and how it has evolved over the years- incorporating changing roles of the female lead character- *Kironmala*- finally rendering a break away from the stereotypical mould- which is typical in representations across all other folktales from contemporary Bengal.

Keywords: changing reflections, brave princess, representations