



# CHAKOR

Language,  
Folklore & Culture

**The Chakor is not only Pakistan's national bird. It also has symbolic connotations in folklore across the country. It is also a part of the larger Indo-Persian poetic and literary tradition.**

**In the Qadir Nama, a dictionary written by Mirza Ghalib in verse, a couplet reads:**

نیولا راسو ہے اور طاؤس مور  
کبک کو ہندی میں کہتے ہیں چکور

**Dilawar Figar, also known as the  
Shehansha-e-Zarafat of Pakistan.**

**wrote:**

نہ مرا مکن ہی بدل گیا نہ ترا پتہ کوئی اور ہے  
یہ جو تیترا اور چکور ہیں وہی پکڑیں ان کو جو چور ہیں  
میں چکور اکور کا کیا کروں مری فاختہ کوئی اور ہے

**In Pakistani folklore East of the Indus,  
in both Sindh and Punjab, the Chakor  
is so captivated by the Moon that she  
flies tirelessly toward it but never  
manages to reach her destination,  
eventually losing herself in its  
admiration.**

**It is also often used to describe the love of a woman - particularly in Punjabi folk music e.g. Tu chann main chakor (You are the moon, and I am the Chakor). Grandmothers often use "Chanda Chakori" as a term of endearment for their granddaughters - implying love similar to that of the Chakor for the Moon.**

**In Sufi poetry, the Chakor's intense love for the Moon serves as a symbolic representation of our yearning for the Divine. Man constantly strives and longs to achieve oneness with the Creator.**



**In Attar's Mantaq-ut-Tayr  
(Conference of the Birds), the Chakor  
is depicted as a greedy bird. Wishing  
to become the master of all jewels, it  
raids one quarry after the next.**

**Eventually, the stones begin to weigh  
it down, so it finds solace in the  
mountains.**

**When the birds decide to fly to find  
their King, the Simurgh, the Chakor  
haughtily refuses to accompany  
them, saying he shall not journey to  
find a bird who possesses no jewels.**

**It implies how our love for material  
wealth holds us back from finding  
true love: God**

**West of the Indus, in Balochi and Pashto, the way the Chakor walks is also used as a metaphor for the walk of the beloved.**

**The Baloch also believe that the Chakor takes the harm intended for the owner unto itself. For example, if someone is doing Sehr (black magic) on the owner, the Chakor will die. Another proverb refers to the Mynah and the Chakor:**

گولو کبگ ۽ رواج ۽ شت وتی هم بیہال کت

**It loosely translates into “The Mynah forgot how it walked trying to imitate the Chakor” - meaning that you shall lose yourself trying to copy others.**

**In Brahui folklore, we find that the Chakor is spotted in bushes along roadsides and pathways. Young boys often try to catch it, sometimes successfully, but should it flutter away, it is believed that no man has ever caught it twice.**

