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Bakwaas Desi Beauty Standards

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BAKWAAS DESI BEAUTY STANDARDS

Zehra Jafri*

My nose is too big compared to the rest of me

Phini si naak

I'm too tall, for anyone to marry me

Aur Kitni Lambi honay tu nein? Bus kar!

My skin, it needs to be lighter

Haldi lagaa, fair and lovely lagaa, kali badsuurat

I need to lose weight, or no one will love me

Gai ki tarha lagti hai tu?

I'm too short, I should've hung on bars when I was younger

Sabji khati, aur duud piiti

I'm too skinny, I'll disappear

Khaana kyu nahii khaati?

What will become of me? What will people say?

Tera kya hoiga? Log kya kahenge?

My nose is beautiful, like that of every Mughal Queen, framed by
my beautiful, black hair

Shehzaadi

I am tall, like a model. I stand above the men, looking down. My
husband can be shorter than me, Love, respect, and loyalty are
more important.

Khoobsoorat

My deep skin, the beautiful brown hues, like rich pools of honey
that people tan and die for

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Pyaari

My gentle curves make me feel like a woman, fierce

Rani

Who said being short is a problem?

The best things come in small packages, like the burst of flavor in
a tiny pomegranate seed gem

Malika

Skinny? I think you're mistaken, I am healthy and feel happy

Jannat ki Huur

No matter what will become of me, I will promise to love me

Sundar