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WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY...

THE MOST SPLENDID ONE I'VE WOKEN TO IN MY LIFE.
GOOD MORNING TO ALL OF YOU!
O SUN! MAY YOU ILLUMINATE MY WAY!
GREAT SKY, LEAD ME TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!
CLOUDS! WINDS! LAVISH YOUR TRIALS UPON ME!
LIFE AND ALL THAT LIVES, CONSECRATE MY JOURNEY!
FORGIVE ME, COULD YOU SPARE SOME CLOTHES?

MIGHT'VE SAID "HELLO" FIRST...

AH, NOW, DIDN'T SEE YOU'RE JUST A KID. NEWLY SHAVED, TOO.

READY FOR ORDEALS, EH?

YES, I'M HEADED FOR MAGADHA.

WELL, I'M IMPRESSED, BUT...

I BET THE GOING'S TOUGH FOR A YOUNG MONK LIKE YOU.

LISTEN, THIS OTHER MONK HAPPENS TO BE STAYING WITH US.

WHY NOT TRAVEL WITH HIM? HE MIGHT GIVE YOU HEART.

IT'S SETTLED! WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH, BUT YOU'LL COME SLIP WITH US.
CHECK IT OUT, MISSUS! I FOUND ANOTHER ONE!

WELL, I'LL BE DARNED! THAT'S SOME LUCKY STREAK WITH THE MONKS, EH?

AND SO GRACIOUS TOO... THIS BOY'S FROM A GOOD FAMILY, I BET.

AH, BUT LOOK AT HIM, HE'S BARELY EVEN A NOVICE. Piping HOT AND FRESH FROM THE OVEN.

OH, BUT HE'S SO C-u-u-u-u-T-E!

HE'S IN THAT SHED, THE OTHER MONK...

HONEY... HISS...

YUP. DON'T NEED YOU TO PROD ME.
How do you do? My name is Siddhartha. I come from Kapilavastu.

I'm Dhepa, of Kosala. Regards.

I became a monk just yesterday.

Have I heard your name before?

Ah, yes. You're named after your country's prince. Ha ha ha.

Will you teach me? I don't know anything yet.

Certainly, whatever I can.

Come and get it!
So little? And what's to go with it?

Shush! We monks need no more!

If you say so.

Grik

Ech ech

Pick up everything you just spat out and eat it again.

Each and every grain!

But this rice is full of sand...

How dare you spit out your food!

Don't you know the meaning of a meal?

Eat it, damn you! It's what undergoing trials is all about.

Grik
Young monk, all we got are old rags. Want to try this one?

Pew! Smells awful...

I was expecting something a little more --

Ah ha, looking good!

Uh, um... actually, I got a favor to ask...

Truth is, we got, er, 32 kids, and the oldest, he wants to become one of you skinheads, I mean, a monk...

The little snot doesn't know his place!

No monk ever came from poor hunter stock, I tell him.

But in this day and age when actors run for office, I hear poor folk can turn monk.
HE IS MY BRIGHTEST KID, THAT I'LL SAY FOR HIM.

WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL! SO GRATEFUL! HIS NAME IS ASSAJI.

HE'S TOO YOUNG... AND I DON'T THINK HE'S CUT OUT FOR ORDEALS.

I WON'T TAKE HIM.

WHAT? YOU TELLING ME MY SON'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

HONEY, BOLT THE DOOR!

AND BRING ME SOME ROPE. I'M GOING TO TIE OUR BOY TO THAT MONK IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY!

RUN
WAIT! WAIT UP, YOU MONK!

HURRY

LEAVE A KID BEHIND, WILL YOU? HEARTLESS BASTARD, I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN!

MENTOR, WE MUST MAKE OFF THE OTHER WAY.

MINDING A SNOTTY-NOSED KID IS ONE ORDEAL I'M NOT READY FOR.
IF I MAY BE SO RUDE...

MAY I ASK ABOUT YOUR EYE?

AH, THIS? I BURNED IT OUT MYSELF.

YOU DID?

YOUR OWN EYE?

THAT'S RIGHT, IN A DEN OF THIEVES. THEY WANTED TO WITNESS AN ORDEAL.

SO I BURNED OUT MY EYE.

YOU ARE DERANGED...
NO, I WAS LUCID. I JUST WANTED TO HELP THEM GRASP THE MEANING OF AN ORDEAL.

TAPAS (ORDEAL) ALSO MEANS "HEAT."

IT USED TO MEAN EXPOSING YOURSELF TO THE HEAT.

YOU'D SIT UNDER THE BLAZING SUN AND BUILD BONFIRES ON ALL FOUR SIDES. "THE FIVE HEATS," THE TORMENT IS CALLED.

BUT LATER, OTHER WAYS TO PUNISH THE BODY WERE DEvised.

PUNISH YOUR FLESH AND YOUR SPIRIT BECOMES PURER. WHY? BECAUSE YOU LOSE YOUR DESIRES.
BUT, MENTOR...

DON'T THESE ORDEALS WRECK ONE'S BODY?

AH, YOU DON'T LOOK TOO STRONG.

I'M NOT.

I WAS BORN WEAK...

HMM, IF THAT'S TRUE, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENDURE ORDEALS.

I SPEAK OF MY MASTER NARADATTA, HE CRAWLED ON ALL FOURS, NEVER SPEAKING, BLIND IN BOTH EYES. HE ATE INSECTS AND MAGGOTS, AND WAS NOT ABOVE EATING FECES. COULD ANY ORDEAL BE HARSHIER THAN HIS?

IN THE GREATEST ORDEAL I EVER SAW...

A MAN HAD LOWERED HIMSELF FROM MAN TO BEAST.
BUT THAT'S JUST UNREASONABLE. WHY BE SO EXTREME?

NOT FOR THE ORDEAL ITSELF, BUT TO FIND THE COURAGE TO PERSEVERE.

LOOK OVER THERE.

A FIELD OF THORNS. IF YOU WALK THROUGH IT, YOU WILL BE COVERED WITH CUTS FROM HEAD TO TOE.

ARE YOU READY?
DHEPA, WAIT! PLEASE!

DON'T GO...

OUCH!

OW OW OW OW
DHEPA!!

COME ON, YOU CAN MAKE IT.

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND.

OW... DAMN IT, DOESN'T HURT, DOESN'T HURT!

COOL, WET GRASS. COOL, WET...
BATHE AND CLEANSE YOUR WOUNDS.

NO. IT'LL STING.

DO YOU WANT YOUR WOUNDS TO FESTER? STOP BEING A FOOL.

SIDDHARTHA, THAT TRIAL WAS HARDLY EVEN A PREAMBLE.

THERE IS AN ORDEAL WHERE YOU DEPRIVE YOURSELF OF AIR...

ACH... ICK UGH ECH OH-OH

OUCH HELP!

SMART STING
When you stop breathing, first there is ringing in your ears. The ringing starts to pierce your brain. Then comes the pain, like the lashes of a whip upon your head.

Your breath, with nowhere to go, dives into your abdomen. It feels as though you are being gutted alive.

To wit...

Dhepa?

Are you okay?

Dhepa!

Leggo of me!

Let go! Now!! I... can't... breathe! I'll die, I'm dying!!
HOAAAHH!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

WHAT'S THE USE OF SUFFERING LIKE THAT?

YOU BETTER GET USED TO IT. SPIRITUAL PRACTICE BEGINS WITH ORDEALS...

AND ENDS WITH ORDEALS!

THAT'S STUPID! WHY IN THE WORLD SHOULD WE SUFFER AND SUFFER AND SUFFER?

SIDDHARTHA, SHUT UP NOW AND GET BACK IN THE WATER.

NO, I DON'T THINK -

HM?

PLOSH

WE'LL SWIM TO THE FAR SHORE.

SNIF
AH... LOOK! WE'RE COMING TO VAJJ

IN THAT COUNTRY LIVES AN ASCETIC NAMED BHAGAVA. I'M QUITE ANXIOUS TO MEET HIM...

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I MAY FIND THE HERMIT BHAGAVA? THE HERMIT BHAGAVA? OH, YOU MEAN THE FAMOUS MONK.

I BELIEVE HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ORDEAL.
IN HERE? WHAT KIND OF ORDEAL IS HE ENDURING IN HERE?

HE IS HAVING VULTURES PICK AT HIS FLESH.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

INSIDE, THE PLACE IS FULL OF VULTURES. THE HERMIT LIES IN THEIR MIDST.
HEY! WHO SAID YOU MAY GO IN?

AH!!

GAW

THIS IS TERRIBLE!!
These bones are him? What good did it do him if it ended up killing him?

This is what you get for all your suffering?

Tell me, Dhepa.

Now you see why I’m skeptical of ordeals.

You haven’t got a clue, have you?

To die in an ordeal is pure greatness! It is the supreme ideal!

Well, I disagree. Dying doesn’t solve a thing. It can’t be the answer.

You see, I don’t want to die.

Lum

May I remove the corpse?

Or are you telling me that life doesn’t matter?

Bunch of folks coming this way! Could be brigands!
GOOD MONKS, RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

FOUND YOU AT LAST!
REMEMBER ME? A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, WE WENT A-BOATING FROM YOUR KAPILAVASTU ALL THE WAY TO THE BORDER OF MAGADHA. DON'T SAY YOU'VE FORGOTTEN TATTA!

AND HERE'S THE WENCH WHO HAD SUCH A CRUSH ON YOU BACK THEN, MIGAILA'S MY WIFE NOW, AND SHE HAS A GANG OF HER OWN AGAIN!
HOW YOU'VE CHANGED!
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.

HMM, AND ANOTHER FAMILIAR FACE...

SIDDHARTHA, I'VE COME TO FETCH YOU. YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW HARD I LOOKED FOR YOU.

LET'S GO HOME.

DON'T BE DIM, EH?

LOOK AT YOU, REALLY GONE AND TURNED MONK. THAT'S ONE SORRY-LOOKING NOGGIN.

HOME? WHAT FOR?

YOU GOTTA BECOME THE GREATEST KING ON EARTH AND CONQUER KOSALA; I'M COUNTING ON YA.

SO DROP THAT SHABBY LOOK, GROW SOME HAIR, AND PUT ON THAT CROWN OF YOURS, I SAY.

YES OR NO, MY GREAT SIDDHARTHA?
HERE, EVEN FOUND YOU A WIG.

DON'T BE SHY, MEN'S WIGS ARE ALL THE RAGE THESE DAYS.

I'M GOING TO BECOME AN ASCETIC. PLEASE, DON'T GET IN MY WAY!

HEY, HEY... YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT I TAUGHT YOU WAY BACK WHEN.

YOU'VE GOTA ENJOY LIFE. LOVE, POWER, MONEY, YOU NAME IT - LIFE CAN GIVE IT TO YOU.

WHY GIVE ALL THAT UP?

SUCH THINGS HAVE NO POWER OVER ME.

WELL SAID! SAVE YOUR BREATH, BANDIT.

BUTT OUT, CYCLOPS!

WELL, IF YOU'RE REALLY SO FIRM IN YOUR RESOLVE...

I HAVE NO CHOICE. I'M COMING WITH YOU!
I'm gonna follow you, man, wherever you go.

Me too!

Give me a break!

Listen, fellers! We two'll be going off on a journey!

You'll be on your own. Hold the fort and keep it tidy.

Can you ride?

Of course. I was once a warrior. ...Now!!
YOU AREN'T GETTING AWAY, SO DON'T MAKE ME GET ROUGH ON YA!

SHUCKS...
...AFTER HIM, MEN!
I'll make him kick his monk habit for good.

I'll bring him back to the castle.

And if he keeps on saying no?

Ha, then I'll kill him...

Well, I guess Siddhartha isn't too fond of us, the way he split and all. Heh heh heh

Don't get him wrong...

I think he's still in love with me.

With my own two hands!
NOT AGAIN... I DUNNO WHY, JUST CAN'T STAND THAT KID.

I WONDER EXACTLY HOW LONG HE PLANS TO FOLLOW US AROUND?

NO IDEA. SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT.

AT ANY RATE, HE WOULDN'T CUT IT AS A MONK, LET ALONE ACHIEVE ENLIGHTENMENT.

NNH, WUS DAT?
RUN!!

Hey there, lad!!

Did two monks pass this way?

One of them one-eyed, the other young and lean? Come on, fess up, or you'll be sorry you didn't.

Siddhartha, we're trapped! The brigands are back!

Yeah, saw 'em, but wus it worth ta ya?

Snif
HNH

THIS WAY, MATES!

YER SAFE NOW.

SO I GUESS YOU'VE SAVED US, AND WE OWE YOU.

YUP

LET'S RUN!!

I JUST CAN'T STAND THE IDEA OF HIM TAGGING ALONG!

TAKE ME WIT YA?

HMM... I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL...

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

SNIF
HE'S STILL FOLLOWING US...

HE'S STILL FOLLOWING US! WHAT A STUBBORN KID. WON'T HE EVER LET GO?
SO DID ASSAJI, THE ODD COMPANION, FOLLOW SIDDHARTHA AND DHEPA. THEIR ORDEAL-LADEN JOURNEY IN SEARCH OF ENLIGHTENMENT CONTINUES. BUT WE MUST NOW INTERRUPT OUR STORY SO YOU MAY HEAR OF A FATEFUL CHILD. DEVADATTA IS HIS NAME.
CHAPTER TWO

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST
LET US LEAP FORWARD NOW, LIKE A SPIRIT ON THE WINDS OF TIME, TO SEVERAL YEARS HENCE. IN A HOUSE ON THE EDGE OF THE TOWN OF KAPILAVASTU, WE SEE A YOUNG BOY, WEAK AND FAINT OF HEART. HE IS DEVADATTA, BORN OF THE WOMAN BANDAKA HAD TAKEN AS QUEEN.
THERE, THERE, MY LI'L ONE.

YUMMY? YUMMY?

THERE YOU ARE, PEEPING AGAIN! DAMN YOU, DEVADATTA!
BEATING THAT BOY AGAIN...

STOP IT!!

THE KID STARES WITH SUCH ENVY WHEN I FEED MILK TO ANANDA!

BE FAIR TO HIM, EVEN IF HE'S ONLY A STEPCHILD TO YOU.

ARGH! EVERY TIME I LOOK AT HIM, I SEE HIS BRUTE OF A FATHER, BANDAKA. IT CAN GET ON MY NERVES.

ESPECIALLY WHEN MY REAL SON ANANDA IS SO SWEET!

CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THEY'RE BROTHERS.
YES, I BORE THEM BOTH, AND I LOVE THEM BOTH!!

COME, COME, MY POOR DEVADATTA.

YOU'RE GOING ON A PICNIC WITH SOME FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?

YOUR LUNCH IS ALL READY.

THEY PICK ON ME! I DON'T WANNA GO!

YOU JUST THINK SO BECAUSE YOU'RE SO SHY, DEAR.

LOOK, THAT'S DEVADATTA. SPITTING IMAGE OF HIS FATHER, ISN'T HE?

...YOU MEAN HIS REAL FATHER, THAT BANDAKA!

HE'S GOT THE SAME EVIL EYES

LONG TIME NO SEE, MA'AM.

THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE.
HEY! THAT'S MY APPLE!

SO WHAT, SQUIRT? YOU ONLY NEED HALF.

THERE'S YOUR HALF.

DON'T COME HOME LATE, OKAY, DEVADATTA?

I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT SENDING THEM OUT ALONE.

THEY SAY IF YOU LOVE THEM, LET THEM GO.

SO FAR THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE ACCIDENT, I HEAR.

AT LEAST, WHEN THERE'S A BUNCH OF THEM, YOUNG KIDS CAN BE MUCH TOUGHER THAN WE'D CARE TO ADMIT.

I'D FEEL BETTER IF A SLAVE WENT ALONG, BUT THEN THEY'D NEVER LEARN INDEPENDENCE.

BYE MOMMY!

NA-NAA!
THE PIGEON COOED
THE PIGEON COOED
A WHITE PIGEON
THE PARAKEET SANG
THE PARAKEET SANG
A RED PARAKEET
CARRY THIS FOR ME, DEVADATTAA!

MINE TOO.

REALLY? SEE, THANKS.

H-E-E-Y! WHY ME?

I DON'T WANNA! NO FAIR!

CARRY THEM
DEVARATTA, GO GET SOME WATER.

NO

HE'S GOT SOME NERVE!

BUT HASN'T GOT A DAD!

AND YOUR FAMILY'S POOR! MY MOM SAID SO!

HEY, LOOK!

WHINE

WHINE

OOPS, RAN AWAY.

YELP

YOUR DUMB FOOTSTEPS SCARED HIM OFF!

GO FIND HIM!

YEAH! GO CATCH HIM.
WE SAID GO!!
NO LUNCH FOR YOU UNLESS YOU BRING HIM BACK.

HE'S SUCH A CRYBABY. I LOVE HIM.

WAAH! WAH WAH WAAH!

hic...

hic

THERE YOU ARE!

HEY, HEY, DON'T RUN AWAY!
WAAH

HOM HOM

WAIT!
A GIANT SNAKE?
...NO, AN ELEPHANT!

BHOOF!!

HELP!
BHUF FOOF!

AAAH!

AAAH!

IT'S A MAD ELEPHANT! RUNFERRIT!

MOMMY!!

WHOAOH! HELP ME!
PLEASE! I'M SCARED!

THE HOLE! HIDE IN THIS HOLE!
AHH

SNORT!!

QUASH

QUISH

SNORT!!
CALM

I THINK HE'S GONE

THAT WAS SCARY

OH NO, I LOST MY DOLLY...

IDIOT!! DID YOU HAVE TO COME RUNNING OUR WAY?!

LET'S GET OUT OF THIS HOLE.

HOW DO WE CLIMB THIS?

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A TRY, DEVA-DATTA?

IT'S SO COLD DOWN HERE.
DADDY!!
ANYBODY!!
MAMA!
GET ME OUT!!

WAHH WAHH WAHH WEEP
SOB SOB SOB

I'M HUNGRY!
Okay, so they unpacked for lunch here...

But instead of eating, they went off somewhere.

Question is, why?

Who cares why? Hurry and look for them!

These are elephant tracks. A wild elephant.

The kids must've been attacked.

A wild L.F. Aunty?

Search the area!!

Anyone see scraps of clothing, maybe a comb?

I can't believe how thirsty I am.

Me too, I feel like I'm dying.

H-H-hey! That's water dripping over there!

You can't!

I found it first. It's mine. It's only for me!
HOW CAN YOU NOT GIVE US SOME, STUPID!

NUH-UH.

BEAT IT, STINGY. IT'S NOT JUST YOURS, ANYWAY.

CRACK

IT'S MINE! STAY AWAY, OR I'LL DO THAT TO YOU TOO!

LIMP
BALA!!
NAGINA!

WHERE ARE YOU ALL?!
CAN'T YOU HEAR US?

ELEPHANT COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN ALL FIVE. IT'S JUST HARD TO BELIEVE.

EVEN IF THE KIDS DIDN'T ALL GET AWAY, THERE HAVE TO BE SURVIVORS.

THEN FIND THEM! IS MY CHILD ALIVE, OR NOT?
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT!

"PANT" "PANT" "PANT"

COME ON, GIVE US SOME! PLEASEASE!

LET'S TRY TO CATCH HIM OFF GUARD.

PUH-LEEASE? DEVADATTA, WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT? ME AND YOU?

GOTCHA!
GULP...
GULP...

MASH
SHRIEK

MURDER!!

STOP!

2 WEEKS THEY'VE BEEN MISSING NOW.

2 FULL WEEKS. A LONG TIME TO GO WITHOUT FOOD AND WATER. TOO LONG...

WE NEVER CHECKED THAT HOLE.

WAIT A MINUTE!

PERHAPS THEY WOUND UP IN ANOTHER VILLAGE AND WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.
HULLO? ANYBODY THERE?

PRETTY DARK IN THERE.

WHOA!

DEAD BODIES...
SO YOU'RE ADMITTING THAT YOU KILLED THE OTHER FOUR IN ORDER TO SAVE YOURSELF.

MURDERER

BEAST!!

GIVE ME BACK MY CHILD!

NOW, TELL US WHY YOU DID SUCH A TERRIBLE THING.

IT'S MY WATER.

IF I DON'T WANT MY WATER TO BE STOLEN, THAT'S WHAT I'VE GOT TO DO.
DEVADATTA. WHAT YOU DID WAS AKIN TO THE WAYS OF A HYENA OR A WOLF.

TO STEAL PREY, A HYENA WILL BITE EVEN ITS OWN KIND. NO DOUBT, YOU ARE POSSESSED BY A DEVIL.

DO YOU CONCEDE THAT?

I...
YOU'VE LOST ME.

DEVADATTA, TELL HIM IT'S NOT TRUE! BEG FOR MERCY!!

KILL HIM!!

TORTURE HIM TO DEATH!

THERE CAN BE NO MERCY FOR ONE POSSESSED, YOUNG THOUGH HE MAY BE.

WILD BEASTS SHALL BE YOUR EXECUTIONER. YOU SHALL DIE, TORN TO PIECES BY HYENAS AND TIGERS.

THIS WAY, PAL.

DEVADATTA! GIVE YOUR MOTHER ONE LAST HUG!
NOT PERMITTED.

OH... MERCY...

DEVADATTA!

SCATTERED BONES ARE WHAT YOU'LL BE BY MORNING.

DIE SOON, DEVIL.

MOMMY

MOMMY !!!

I WANNA GO HOME!
GRR... GRR...

GR GRRRL...

SNARL

GROWL

GR?!
I REMEMBER YOU! I PULLED A THORN OUT OF YOUR PAW.

HAAH HAAH

PLUMP

HAAH HAAH
MOMMY...
...

I WANNA GO HOME...
THAT'S MOMMY!

OMMY!!

OH DEAR,
DEVADATTA!

MOMYYY

WHAT? DEVADATTA IS BACK?

THE DEVIL! HAD THE GALL TO SURVIVE...

HEAR, THE DEVIL IS BACK!

POISON YOUR ARROWS. REGULAR ARROWS WON'T DO THE JOB.
I beg you!! Please don't kill my boy!!
Devadatta ceased then and there to speak the tongue of men. He thoroughly despised humans and tried to forget he was one of their kind.

Instead he came to love the mother wolf more than his birth mother. It is said that children raised by tigers, wolves, and other wild animals have cropped up time and again in India. Perhaps the region’s harsh climate created a habitat where human and beast could not and did not always eschew each other.
In time, Devadatta learned that the language of wolves isn't made up just of growls, but also of gestures and glances.

Brother, can we play at hunting?

UH- HUH

But new kinds of trials awaited him.

Not today! I sense humans nearby...

We'll be all right, Ma!
ME, I DON'T SMELL HUMANS.

HEY, BROTHER, LET'S SEE WHO CAN CHASE OUT THE BIGGEST PREY BETWEEN HERE AND THAT HILL.

...GET SET... GO!
FOUND ONE!

!!

THIS ONE'S BIGGER

!!

THIS ONE!!

POSH!
Hooey

Cough Cough

YOU STINKIN' ASSHOLE!
Hey, here's mine!

Where's yours?

You did not!
Um... I did.

Scream

Waaah Waaah
MA, FORGIVE ME!! FORGIVE...

I'M SORRY!!

YOU WEREN'T GOING TO EAT IT. SO WHY DID YOU KILL IT?

BECAUSE YOU'RE A HUMAN.

YER STILL ONE OF THEM!

NOW GET OUT OF HERE!

MA... I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

I LOST CONTROL...

WE OF THE WILD KILL ONLY WHEN WE'RE HUNGRY AND WE MUST.

THAT IS OUR LAW!

YOU CAN'T LIVE WITH US.
EVEN THE FIERCE TIGER, ONCE FULL, LIES SATISFIED AND WILL NOT HARM A FLEA.

THE TASTIEST PREY CAN COME NEAR HIM, AND HE WILL NOT BAT AN EYE. TO SHUN ALL SENSELESS KILLING IS LAW FOR US.

THE ONLY CREATURES WHO BREAK THAT LAW ARE HUMANS! THAT'S WHY PEOPLE ARE TERRIFYING.

I'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN.

I'M SORRY.

NO SUPPER TONIGHT. THAT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT.

... 

LET ME STAY, MA...

UM, MA...? YOU AIN'T REALLY SO MAD AT HIM, ARE YOU?

I KNOW YOU COULDA HURT HIM WORSE...
THE DRY SEASON CAME SUDDENLY THAT YEAR, AND IT WAS UNUSUALLY SEVERE. THE HIGH SUN SCORCHED VAST TRACTS OF LAND FOR WEEKS AND WEEKS.

DON'T DRINK IT ALL. LEAVE SOME FOR THAT BOY.

QUICK, OVER HERE!
EVERY LAST RIVER EVAPORATED OUT OF SIGHT.

DREAM AS A MUMMY WENT THE TREES.

THE ANIMALS PRESSED NORTH, EVER NORTH, SEARCHING FOR WATER. THEY SEEMED TO KNOW BY INSTINCT OF THE GREAT HIMALAYAS' SNOWDRIFTS.
YOU MUST LEAVE ME, AND GO. IF WE TRAVEL ON TOGETHER, I'LL SOON FIND MYSELF FEASTING ON YOU TWO...

MA... I'M NOT LEAVING YOU!

GET UP, CHILDREN...
MA!! YOU CAN'T DIE!

MAZ GET ON THIS!

HUP... DON'T FALL OFF NOW.

YOU STILL ARE A HUMAN, AREN'T YOU? MAKING A THING LIKE THIS!
I can't go on.

Silly brother! We're almost there!

Just a bit farther, and we'll be at the foot of those mountains.
They loomed close, true, but seemed only to recede with each of his tiny footsteps.

Still, his almost rapacious nature spurred him on.

Ma, have you noticed? There's not one carcass around here. Whatever made it this far must have lived.

Hang in there, ma, I think we've made it.

I sense water, over that way!

In that valley, let's go!
LOOK!! I THINK WE'RE PRETTY CLOSE!

THERE! WATER!

MA, WATER! HURRY!!

MA!
She... she's dead.

Ma... if you'd only held on a little longer...

Look out! I'm moving this rock.

SPLASH!
GOOD TO BE HERE.

YEAH! NOW WE'VE GOT TO EAT.

LET'S PLAY HUNTING! HEH, I GUESS FOR REAL THIS TIME.

BIGGEST PREY STILL WINS!
BROTHER, LOOK WHAT I - NO...

BYE BYE...

BROTHER!!

WHAT'S THE USE?

YOU CAN STILL GET AWAY! BREAK LOOSE!
BRO

WAA WEEP WAIL

HOWL

WHY DO YOU HOWL WHEN YOU'RE HUMAN? AND SO MOURNFULLY?

HUH ?!
Y- YOU...
YOU SPEAK
THE WOLF
LANGUAGE!

I SPEAK
WOLF AND
MONKEY, TIGER
AND SQUIRREL.

BUT TELL
ME, WHAT
IS YOUR
NAME?

NAME? UM...
I FORGOT
IT!

OH YES...
DE DEV...
DEVADATTA,
I THINK.

VERY WELL,
DEVADATTA.
FOLLOW ME.

WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU LOOK HUMAN,
BUT YOU SMELL
DON'T SMELL
LIKE ONE.

INDEED NOT.
A HUMAN IS
WHAT I ONCE
WAS BUT HAVE
_CEASED TO BE.
DON'T HESITATE TO ENTER. THIS IS MY HOME. THERE IS FOOD, TOO.

REALLY? AND YOU'RE SHARING?

SMELLS WEIRD...

HERE, SOME NUTS. HAVE ALL YOU WANT.

THIS ISN'T FOOD...

WHERE'S MY MEAT?

 Didn't you eat fruits and greens when you lived with humans?

IT'S MORE NOURISHING.

HA! DO I LOOK LIKE A SQUIRREL? THINK I EAT MONKEY FOOD?

MAYBE I'LL EAT YOU INSTEAD.
MA TOLD ME IT'S ALL RIGHT TO KILL PREY IF YOU'RE HUNGRY.

BROTHER'S DYING ON ME PROVED IT!

DO AS YOU PLEASE.

ARGH

GRR GRR

YOUR TEETH CAN'T TEAR MY FLESH.

SHUCKS!

CHOMP

MUNCH MUNCH
ICK... IT'S ALL WATER!

HASN'T GOT A TASTE.

WOULD YOU RATHER STARVE TO DEATH? IT'LL FILL YOUR STOMACH, AT LEAST.

YOU'RE BLIND, AREN'T YOU.

MY NAME IS NARADATTA. I WON'T ASK HOW YOU CAME TO BE RAISED BY WOLVES. IF YOU WISH TO RETURN TO A PLACE WITH HUMANS, I WILL BE YOUR GUIDE. IF YOU WISH TO STAY HERE AND LIVE WITH ME, YOU MAY.

SUCH INNOCENCE.

BRINGS BACK MEMORIES. WHAT WAS HIS NAME? YES, TATTA. ABOUT AS YOUNG HE WAS.
But he was trying to sting me!

Do not move, be as a tree and keep still, or else you will be stung to death.

What?

A terrible thing is about to happen. Watch now...

An entire kingdom is about to perish. Witness a total massacre.
Two tribes built colonies next to each other. There wasn't enough food to support both.

Smaller bees are fighting bigger bees!

Unless one kingdom falls, both are doomed. They resort to war to decide their fate.
THEY ARE DESPERATE! TENS OF THOUSANDS WILL DIE FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR TRIBE.

WHICHEVER SURVIVES WILL PROSPER, BE IT A SINGLE BEE...

NARADATTA, THE SMALLER ONES ARE ALL DEAD! AN' THE BIGGER ONES ARE DRAGGING SOMETHING FROM THE OTHERS' HIVE.
MUST BE THE KIDS.

THEY, TOO, WILL BE KILLED.

BUT THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG...

HEY! NOW THEY'VE FOUND ONE WITH A BIG BELLY!

THAT'S SURELY THE QUEEN.

THE QUEEN IS THE LIFE OF A TRIBE. SHE WILL BE SHOVED, PULLED, AND ABUSED. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, BOY.
Now peace will reign. The weak perish, the strong survive. Hear their wings hum loud with triumph!

Well, it's safe to move again. Let's go.
THE WEAK PERISH, THE STRONG SURVIVE. CUSTOM FOR ALL LIFE, HUMANS AREN'T EXEMPT.

THE WEAK PERISH. THE STRONG SURVIVE.
CHAPTER THREE

THE HAG AND THE WAIF
MEOWW!

UGH

GUH

MEOWW!
CAWWW!

GAW
GAW

GAWK!
GHAW!
S H H H S H H H

SPLASH

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NO NEED TO HIDE IT. I KNOW YOU COME HERE IN SECRET TO HUNT AND EAT FISH.

A CHILD OF YOUR AGE IS ALWAYS HUNGRY.

DON'T YOU GET HUNGRY, LIVING ON JUST FRUITS AND NUTS?

I HAVE SWORN NOT TO KILL, NOT EVEN A BUG.

BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT THE STRONG SURVIVE AND THE WEAK PERISH? ISN'T THAT THE LAW OF NATURE?

YOU KNEW?
I CAUGHT THIS FISH.

IT GOT CAUGHT BECAUSE IT'S WEAK. I'M STRONGER THAN IT, SO I CAN EAT IT, RIGHT?

THAT IS THE LOGIC, YES. YOU'RE A SMART BOY.

HEH HEH

YOU DON'T SAY...

BUT YOU ARE QUITE MISTAKEN.

THE FISH GOT CAUGHT SO IT COULD BE EATEN.

A FISH GETTING CAUGHT SO IT COULD BE EATEN?!

THAT'S FUNNY! HAHahaha. HAHahaha

HA HA HA HA

IT SOUNDS FUNNY, I'M SURE. I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR LAUGHING.

TONIGHT I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU, HMM?
NO LIVING THING LIVES IN A WORLD...

...ALL ITS OWN. FROM THE TIME IT IS BORN, AND UNTIL IT DIES,
IT CANNOT BUT INTERACT WITH OTHER LIVING THINGS. FROM BIRTH TO DEATH, EVERY MOMENT.

FLOWER, TREE, INSECT AND FISH, EACH, IN LIVING, IS CONNECTED TO OTHERS IN SOME WAY.

THIS RELATEDNESS WILL ONLY END WITH THE WORLD ITSELF.
TAKE FISH, FOR EXAMPLE. FISH LAY BILLIONS OF EGGS. IF ALL THOSE BILLIONS ACTUALLY SURVIVED

GETTING EATEN BY YOU IS GOOD FOR THEM.

THE WORLD WOULD BE BURIED UNDER FISH. GETTING EATEN BY OTHERS KEEPS THEM AT A GOOD NUMBER.

AS FOR YOU, CHILD, TORN FROM YOUR PARENTS' SIDE SO SOON, YOU HAVE MET ME AND NOW LIVE IN THE WILD...

IT WILL HAVE A BEARING ON YOUR LIFE; AND THE COURSE OF YOUR DESTINY HAS ALREADY BEEN SET...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO SET THAT THING?

LOOK UP AT THE SKY.
THE GREAT SKIES AND ALL OF THIS EARTH ARE RULED BY THAT SAME FATE...
EVERY NIGHT I SIT HERE AND LISTEN INTENTLY TO THE SOUNDS THE WORLD MAKES...

AND I GRASP HOW SMOOTHLY EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD MOVES ALONG, MESHING LIKE A FINE NET.


BUT HOW STRANGE THAT IT SHOULD BE SO! THE WORLD'S MAKER...

IS TRULY A GREAT BEING!

TO HAVE CONNECTED EACH AND EVERY THING...

HA HA. I'VE PUT YOU TO SLEEP, HAVEN'T I?

TOO HARD, HMM?

WELL, THAT IS THAT. SOME DAY, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.
WAIT, NOW. SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN WALKING ON ALL FOURS?

I WANNA BE LIKE YOU, NARADATTA.

IS THAT WHY?

YOU MUSN'T. I WAS CONDEMNED TO THE REALM OF BEASTS AS PUNISHMENT. NOT SO FOR YOU.

BUT I LIKE YOU, NARADATTA.

AND I LIKE YOU, TOO, DEVADATTA.

BUT YOU ARE A HUMAN.

THOUGH YOU LIVE OUT HERE, SURELY YOU NEEDN'T CRAWL?

BUT I WANNA

I HATE HUMANS!
DEVA DATTYA,
YOUR WORDS SOUND LIKE
A WOLF'S SNARL TO
HUMAN EARS, AND NOW,
WALKING ON ALL FOURS!
NO GOOD CAN
COME OF IT.

I DON'T
CARE!
I'M WOLF
ALREADY
ANYWAY.

GRRROWL
WHAT THE HECK? WHO'S BOY ARE YOU?

RRR

WHAT A SNARL... CREEPY BRAT.

IS HE A WOLF OR WHAT?

JUST LEAVE HIM BE. LET'S CATCH SOME FISH AND BEAT IT.

THIS IS MY TERRITORY!
GARRR

AYE

GLUP
ECH
GLUP

OUCH!
HEY
OW OW OW

GROWL

I-I-I
THINK HE
REALLY IS A
WOLF-MAN.
AHHH! OUCH! ARGH!

DAMMIT. DON'T THINK WE'LL FORGET THIS!

HOWL! HOWL!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

BUT THEY TRIED TO TAKE MY FISH...

YOU THINK HUMANS EVER BACK DOWN?

THEY'LL KILL YOU!

FAT CHANCE! I'LL WHIP 'EM AGAIN.

CHASE THEM AWAY, THEY RETURN. IT'S NO USE.

LIVING HERE IS GETTING TO BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU.
Devadatta, you must return to the human world.

In the long run, that'll serve you better.

Let us part here.

No

No!!

Listen to me. When I was still human, I long sought a man whom, alas, I never found --

A man who is destined to become a god, or perhaps a great ruler, according to my master.

You must find and serve him.

This is a man who may have answers to all the riddles of the world.

I'm not going anywhere! I'll do anything, Naradatta! So please let me stay!!

Don't be a fool.
I SAID NO! NO WAY! NO, NO, NO, NO! TRY TO THROW ME OUT, AND I'LL TEAR YOU TO SHREDS!

WHAT AM I TO DO WITH YOU...?

YOU'RE BOUND TO HAVE A RUN-IN WITH HUMANS. WHEN YOU DO, DON'T COME CRYING TO ME!

HA! NOW YOU FEIGN SLEEP. DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?

THE WEAK PERISH, BUT THE STRONG SURVIVE... NARADATTA DOESN'T KNOW JUST HOW STRONG I AM! HEH HEH HEH

SNIFF

SNIFF

SNIFF
GOTCHA, YUMMY RABBIT!

GROWL
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE!!

WHY WON'T YOU COME AND HELP ME?

NARADATTA, YOU'VE COME FOR ME!
I CAN SMELL YOU! HURRY AND HELP ME!

CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?

I'VE COME TO BID ADIEU.

THAT TRAP WON'T KILL YOU. I'M SURE THE VILLAGERS WILL TURN YOU BACK INTO A HUMAN.

AND A FINE HUMAN AT THAT, I HOPE.

GET ME OUTTA HERE! HELP! HELP ME!
GATHER ROUND, FOLKS!

WE HAVE HERE, CAPTURED UPSTREAM AT THE FOOT OF THE SACRED MOUNTAIN, A GENUINE WOLF-MAN!!

IT SPEAKS NO HUMAN TONGUE, EMITTING WOLFISH HOWLS AND GROWLS!

WHY, IT'S JUST A LITTLE KID!

AH, BUT THE EYES! AND THOSE FANGS!

IT CAN'T BE HUMAN.

WHAT WOLF-MAN IS THIS? IT'S NOT AT ALL LIKE THE MOVIES. YOU KNOW, LIKE, WEREWOLVES?

GRRR ... GRRR

DAMN THEM, THEY'VE JUST KIDNAPPED SOME POOR KID AND ARE MAKING HIM FAKE IT.
HARD TO BELIEVE, I KNOW.
TO DISPEL YOUR DOUBTS, I WILL NOW DISPLAY THE WOLF-MAN AT ITS MOST FIERCE.

THAT WOLF YOU SEE THERE...

SHALL BE SENT INTO THE CAGE.

BEHOLD, A DUEL 'TWIXT WOLF AND WOLF-MAN!

AH, WHICH WILL TEAR WHICH TO PIECES? ONLY THE GODS KNOW...

GRRRRL

GRR... GRR...

GIT 'IM!

RIP HIM APART, WOLFIE-BOY, Y'HEAR?
HEY, YOU CALL THIS A FIGHT?
POOH! WE'VE BEEN HAD!
I WANT M'MONEY BACK!
WE AIN'T PAYIN' FOR NO LOVE MATCH!

ROAR YEAH YES
AARRGH!!

SNAP SMACK
ALL RIGHT! IT'S BROKEN FREE!

MURDER!! SOMEBODY!

FOOL, IT'S PART OF THE SHOW.

WATCH OUT!

GRRR

OH, MAN! HE'S BEEN PIERCED BAD.

AHHH!

HE-HE-HELP

AAAY!
GRRRRRR

WOOOORF

SHOOT TO KILL! KILL THEM BOTH!

GRRRAA....

U-U-U....
LUCY LUCY

UHH!

DARN GOOD MEAT THIS.

URRR
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU UP TO, KID?

GRRR
GRR
GRRH
GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR

YOU DARE ATTACK ME WHILE I'M EATING? EAT THIS!

AAY
AHH

ECK

ULP
PANT PANT

HN?!

GROWL! WOOF!

WHAM

BONK

THWACK

COUGH... COUGH...

THE WEAK PERISH, THE STRONG SURVIVE... TRUE FOR ALL LIFE... HUMANS NO EXCEPTION...
DIRTY LITTLE GOAT THIEF! GET LOST ALREADY!

HAA HAA

WILL YA STOP PEEKING INTO MY HOME?

HEY KID!
GO BEG SOMEONE ELSE!

"WHIMPERS"

DRINK UP NOW...

AND GO TO SLEEP.

ROCK-A-BY BA-BY...
IN THE TREETOP...

MISTER FOX IS FAST ASLEEP.
LAP YOUR MILK AND GET SOME SLEEP.
SOMEBODY HELP!
IT'S A PERVERT!
A TINY PERVERT!
HELP ME!!

WHERE DID YOU HIDE MY BABY?

WAAAH

WAIT!!
HAA HAA
HAA HAA

WHO GOES THERE? A THIEF COME TO PLY HIS TRADE, OR A BEGGAR BOWING DEEP? NEITHER'S WELCOME.
Humph! A boy, a little boy.

Ehh... Covered in blood? Hurt, is he?

Are you Shudra (slave)?

Speak to me.

Well, I have ointment.

There, put it on yourself.

Weird boy just licks the salve, does he?

Here, I'll do it for you. Come, come.

Nary a word...
YOU MUST HAVE QUITE A STORY. I'M READY TO LISTEN?

HO HO! SUCH A CUTE FACE YOU'VE GOT, LIKE A GIRL!

OPEN UP! OPEN THE DOOR!!

OPEN UP, BEGGAR HAG!!

WHAT IS IT, GOOD PATROLMEN? YOUR BEGGAR HAG HAS DONE NO WRONG! WELL, AT LEAST NOT TONIGHT!

DIDN'T A YOUNG BOY TUMBLE INTO YOUR HOLE? HE'S INJURED, RIGHT?

WELL, THE BRAT SERIOUSLY WOUNDED A MAN!

YOU DON'T WANNA SHELTER HIM.

IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE AFTER YOU. HEH CACKLE

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL KEEP YOU TUCKED AWAY.

LIE UNDER THESE BLANKETS. YES, GOOD. NOW PRETEND YOU'RE ILL.
COME IN, COME IN!

WE'RE GONNA SEARCH YOUR PLACE, OKAY?

OPEN THIS!

WHO SLEEPS THERE?

WHY, IT'S MY LITTLE GRAND-DAUGHTER, CACKLE

SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU HAD A GRANDCHILD? CUT THE CRAP, WILL YOU?

TONIGHT'S NOT THE NIGHT TO BE RUDE TO ME, IS IT? WHY SHOULDN'T I HAVE ONE?

YIKES!
LET'S LOOK ELSEWHERE.

CACKLE... THE RUSE WORKED.

SO YOU STABBED A MAN, EH? WHAT AN OUTRAGEOUS BOY.

OR RATHER, A PROMISING ONE.

MY NAME IS GHAGRA.

I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I WAS ONCE THE WIFE OF A RICH MAN, HERE IN THIS VERY COUNTRY.
MY MAN CAST ME ASIDE, LIKE A PIECE OF TRASH, TO BETTER HIS LOT.

I CURSED HIM! I CURSED THE WOMAN, TOO! I SWERE I WOULD ROB THEM OF ALL THEY HAD, AND THEREBY AVENGE MYSELF, EVEN IF IT TOOK ME A LIFETIME.

HE NEEDED TO MARRY A GIRL RELATED TO THE ROYAL CLAN, AND SO HE DID!

BUT LOOK AT ME NOW, DECREPIT. I CAN NO LONGER PULL IT OFF BY MYSELF.

PERHAPS YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE BY HEAVENLY DESIGN. NAY, I AM SURE OF IT!

YOU SPEAK NOT A WORD, SO MUCH THE BETTER.

THIS IS POISON, OF MY OWN BREWING.
I MADE IT FROM WOLFS-BANE ROOT!

WHOEVER DRINKS IT SLEEPS THE SLEEP OF THE DEAD.

AS YOU ARE BLESSED WITH FEMININE FEATURES...

I SHALL SELL YOU AS A FEMALE SLAVE...

TO THE HOUSE OF MY NEMESIS!

YOUR FIRST TARGET SHALL BE...

THEIR FOOL OF A SON.

YOU WILL WIN HIS HEART.

CHARM HIM FIRST, THEN GO FOR THE

KILL!

WHAT? SCARED? YOU WILL NOT DO MY BIDDING?!
HO! HO HO!
A BEAUTY!
WHAT A
FETCHING
MAIDEN!

RISE AND
BEHOLD YOURSELF
IN THE MIRROR.
CHARMING,
EHH?
WHIP!

CRAWLING LIKE A BABE!

LASH

YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!

LISTEN WELL. IF YOU BUNGLE THIS YOU WILL DRINK THAT POISON YOURSELF.

UH... UH
FROM TOMORROW ON,

I'LL DRILL YOU IN A WOMAN'S WAYS.

ENOUGH. SLEEP THERE ON THE FLOOR.

OH-HO... WHAT FOND MEMORIES. THIS USED TO BE MY HOME.
WHOA!
IF SHE ISN'T A CUTIE!

WHOSE SLAVE ARE YOU?

YOU'RE MY TYPE, Y'KNOW THAT?

THAT'S HIM!
THE BESOTTED SON OF THE WOMAN I LOATHE.

I'M BUYING!
YOU'RE TO BE MY PERSONAL SERVANT, HEH HEH.

NOW GO FORTH, SWAYING LITHELY.
NOT A WORD!  YOU'RE A QUIET ONE, AREN'T YOU?

SAY SOMETHING.

TALK, AND
THIS IS YOURS...

THOUGH I HATE TO PART WITH IT.

WE'LL TAKE IT SLOWLY.

CHEERS

T'YOUR LOVELY FACE!
DRINK DEEP FROM THIS GOBLET, DRINK IT ALL, SWEET THING!

Plop

Huh?

WHAT DID YOU DROP JUST NOW?

THE F-FISH... ALL GONE BELLY UP!

...P-P-POISON?!
THE POND'S BEEN FOULED...

YOU...

UH

SOMEBODY HELP ME!
SA-SAS-SASS-ASSASSIN!
HELP ME!!

HIEEE!
YOUNG MASTER?
TH-THE GIRL...
P-P-P-POISON.

THERE SHE IS! CATCH HER!

SOME VILLAIN POSING AS A SLAVE GIRL TRIED TO DO ME IN! SOMEBODY HELP ME OUTTA HERE!

WHAT THE - ? SHE'S RUNNING ON ALL FOURS!

AH SPLASH
'TWAS NO MAIDEN. A WILD DOG?! NEVER DID SAY A WORD!

YOU GO SEARCH THAT WAY.

... "BAM PITPA!"

AH, MY LAD! TELL ME ALL.
YOU'RE QUITE A SIGHT!

SO, DID YOU MANAGE TO KILL THAT FOOL OF A SON, OR NOT?

DON'T TELL ME...

YOU BLEW IT?!

YOU FOOL!

WHIP!

YOU LOOT!!

CRACK!

DUNCE!!

WHAT A BUNGLER!!

ALL MY CAREFUL SCHEMING! ALL MY FINE, HARD WORK DISGUISSING YOU AS A MAIDEN, AND SCHOOLING YOU IN FEMININE WILES!
...I'll let you off for today.

But next time you screw up, lad, don't expect to be forgiven.

Now go to sleep!!

SO YOU SWIPE THIS?

Cackle tee-hee
Tee Hee

Come here, handsome!

Boogie woogie! Swing it!

Ta-ta-ta ta-ta-ta la la la la la la!

Devadatta's eyes opened wide with astonishment; eager for a clue, he stared and stared at the Old Hag. Just what had made her so deliriously happy?

It was those tiny stones that had enchanted her! And so did Young Devadatta learn of the magical power of gems.
WHOA, GRANDMA! WHO'D YA RELIEVE OF THIS PRICEY ITEM? WITH YOUR RUSTY OLD TRICKS, TOO!

HURRY AND NAME YOUR PRICE. IT'S WORTH AT LEAST 30,000!

...AH, BUT IF IT'S HOT, I TAKE THE HEAT... CAN'T SHELL OUT MORE THAN 2,000.

ONLY?!! SCOUNDREL, YOU'D TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A -

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

THERE, 2K!

DON'T JUST STARE! GIVE ME A HAND!

WANT ONE? YOU'D LIKE ONE, TOO? HERE, BOY.

HMM, ALMOST FORGOT...
GRANDMA, HEH HEH, LOOK AT THE KID'S FACE. IT'S LIKE HE'S NEVER SEEN MONEY BEFORE.

DON'T BE ABSURD.

WHAT, YOU'VE REALLY NEVER HELD A COIN?

MY, MY... WHAT A SURPRISE.

DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT COINS!

AMAZING YOU'VE MADE IT THIS FAR...

THAT THING CAN GET YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT.

ANY LUXURY!

STATION AND REPULTE!

KEEP THAT IN MIND.

IF YOU WISH...

TO LIVE THE GOOD LIFE...

GET PILES AND PILES OF THAT!
YESTERDAY:
TINY STONES...
TODAY:
THIS SHINY DISC!
OWNING MANY OF
THOSE "COINS"
MADE YOU A
HAPPY PERSON...
BUT
WHY?

COULD THE DISC
IN HIS HANDS
REALLY HOLD
SO MUCH
POWER?
THAT SEEMED
UNLIKELY...THE
HUMAN WORLD
WAS BIZARRE!
IT WAS...
INSANE.

COME

BLEAGH
LIKE IT?

MONEY ALSO BUYS YOUTH AND BEAUTY.

GAG

BARF

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

I'M GOING TO A HIGH-CLASS RESTAURANT. THAT'S WHY I'M ALL DRESSED UP.

I'LL SHOW THEM THAT I'M...

EVERY BIT AS CLASSY AS I USED TO BE IN THE OLD DAYS!
Naradatta said he really wanted to return me to the human world... I hate it here! The wilds were a hundred times better. Maybe I'll go back.

Money...! Having lots of money makes you strong, in the people world. Or so says the old woman. I wonder if I'd become strong, too, if I gathered more...

Thump! Thunk!
OUCH, OUCH, OUCH, OUCH

WOE IS ME...

THEY THREW ME OUT THE MINUTE I WAS BROKE.

PAMPERED ME AS LONG AS I WAS DOING OUT THE CASH...

BUT ONCE MY PURSE WAS EMPTY, IT WAS, "GET LOST, HAG!"

BOO, HOO, HOO, HOO...

CURSE THEM!

I KNOW!!

WE'LL GET MORE MONEY!

I'LL SHOW THE ONES WHO THREW ME OUT THAT THEY MADE A BIG MISTAKE.

MY LAD, GO BACK TO THAT MANSION.
But this time, not as a maiden. Get hired as a gardener!

You know the mansion well now... go tend their garden, wait for your chance...

Then sneak into that bitch's chamber and steal her gems. Hee, hee!

And while you're at it, mix some poison in her food.

Hmm, I see he's got some spine... better learn to like bugs if you're going to garden...

All right! Don't miss any!

Bag them all and we'll burn...
PUFF!!

ECK

HMM

YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE.

THINK NOW.

WHO WAS IT?

LET ME SEE YOU AGAIN.
WORMS!!

PHEW

WOP
MOMMY!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A PRETTY, SWEET-SMELLING WOMAN.

GRANNY REALLY WANTS ME TO KILL THIS BEAUTIFUL HUMAN?

I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO IT...

IT'S NOT MOMMY, BUT SHE SMELLS THE SAME.
OHH

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING?

AHH!!

WHO ARE YOU?

WHO HIDES THERE?
COME OUT, I WON'T BITE YOU. DON'T BE AFRAID.

YOU WORK IN OUR GARDEN, RIGHT?

HMM... DID YOU COME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW?

HA HA, YOU'RE KIND OF CUTE! WHY, YOU LOOK PRETTY CLEVER, TOO.

YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE A BAD BOY.

BUT TELL ME: WHY DID YOU PUT THAT CATERPILLAR IN MY GOBLET? SPEAK UP!!

I WON'T HAVE MISCHIEF.

IF YOU'VE A REASON, TELL ME.

NOW SAY SOMETHING!

WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE GOT HIDDEN IN YOUR HAND? SHOW ME!

HURRY UP AND SHOW IT TO ME.
POISON

WHY... WHAT IS THIS?

WHY WON'T YOU SPEAK?
ARE YOU DUMB?

HAVE YOU COME TO KILL ME?
HOW... HORRIBLE!

BUT WHY THE CATERPILLAR?

...AND NOT THE POISON?

"MOMMY" DID YOU SAY?
LIKE MOMMY...

I SEE!

YOU COULDN'T KILL ME BECAUSE I REMINDED YOU OF YOUR MOTHER.
SO YOU ARE A SWEET BOY, AFTER ALL, WHICH MEANS YOU’LL TELL ME WHO GAVE YOU THE POISON.

SEE... I’LL REWARD YOU...

CLINK CLINK

NOW TELL ME.

VERY WELL, THANK YOU.

YOU’RE A GOOD BOY.

NOW TAKE THAT AND BE GONE!

G...G... GHA... GRA...

GHAGRA, IS IT? SO MY HUSBAND’S EX HAS BEEN TRYING TO KILL ME USING A KID! THINK AGAIN, BITCH!

GUARDS, QUICK!

TRAIL THAT CHILD WHO JUST LEFT. FIND OUT WHERE HE LIVES, AND KILL EVERYONE THERE. THE CHILD, TOO, OF COURSE.
YOU WANT OIL?
WAIT, WHAT'S HE UP TO?

SOME CRAP.

SPLASH

DAMMIT! THE WHOLE STREET'S ABLAZE!!
SHIT, PAL... WE'VE BEEN HAD.

G... GHA... GRA

WUF WUF GRR GRR GR-WUF OOF
Huh?

GHA...GRA...K-KILL COMING!!..NOW!!

WHAAAAAT?

BUNGLED IT AGAIN, DID YOU, NINCOMPOOP! AND NOW THEY'RE AFTER YOU, IS THAT IT?

TELL ME IN WORDS! WHAT NOW?

RUN NOW... FAST

I I'M TOO OLD TOO OLD TO BE RUN- Running LIKE THIS!

WHAT A FIASCO!!
A HORSE WAGON!
The gods must be on my side!

GIT, GIT!
GIDDYAP!

BEGGAR HAB PASS THIS WAY?
JUST FLEW OUT THAT GATE.

CLUCK! CLUCK-CLUCK!

AFTER THEM!
LAD! RUB MY SHOULDERS! THEY'RE GETTING STIFF.

OOF WLF

DAMMIT... I WON'T LET THEM SLAUGHTER ME. THEY WILL NEVER CATCH GHAGRA!
Looks like it's over for me.

Can't even muster the will to stand. D'rather rest... forever.

'Tis the only thing that no pile of gold's ever fixed.

You're still young, lad... when you grow up, you'll see how life makes you vile, vile.

In the end we all must die.

No use wailing about that...
UHH

REALLY WANNA DIE?

UHH... UHH...

ARGH

HELP! MURDER!!!!

COUGH COUGH

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GRANNY!
GRANNY!

[Panel: Young girl standing on the beach, crying.]

[Panel: Older woman sitting in the water, looking at the young girl.]
I'D HATE TO DIE LIKE THAT.

IF I HAVE TO BE HUMAN AGAIN...

I WANT TO HAVE A LOT OF MONEY. I'LL BE A STRONG HUMAN, THE STRONGEST ONE ALIVE!
Thus Devadatta set to wander, a puppet of fate, homeless despite his noble lineage. One day he would come upon the shores of the Ganges, that majestic flow, and travel downstream as though cradled to its bosom. —But not until some ten years after Siddhartha's first journey as a monk.
CHAPTER FOUR

SUKANDA THE KNIGHT
LET US NOW
TURN BACK
THE CLOCK
AND REJOIN
SIDDHARTHA
ON HIS
JOURNEY.

IS THAT
BOY STILL
FOLLOWING US?

DUNNO.
IN THIS
TORRENT,
HE'LL LOSE
SIGHT OF
US, NO
DOUBT.

I HOPE
HE'S
OKAY.

SO WHAT
IF HE
ISN'T?
LET'S GO.
Siddhartha, don't let it bother you.

Oh, come on!

Hello?
I'M SO SORRY!

THERE, I'LL CARRY YOU.

FORGIVE US... IT WAS VERY CRUEL OF US TO JUST MARCH ON AND ABANDON A CHILD LIKE YOU...

YOU'RE BURNING UP.

WHAT A FEVER!

SIDDHARTHA, THIS IS SOME DISEASE, AND HE'S GOING TO GIVE IT TO US.

DO YOU SEE WHY I DON'T WANT SOME KID WITH ME ON THE ROAD?

BUT HE'LL DIE IF WE LEAVE HIM HERE.

ISN'T IT ENOUGH THAT WE HAVE TO CROSS A SEA OF MUD?

DHEPA, YOU GO ON AHEAD. THE CHILD AND I WILL FOLLOW.

NO... I WOULDN'T DO THAT TO YOU.

WE'LL TAKETurns.
A FEW MILES WEST OF HERE IS THE TOWN OF PANDAWA.

WE'LL SEE HOW FAR WE CAN GO.
WE ARE SAMANNA. PLEASE OPEN THE GATES AND GRANT US SHELTER.

WE HAD TO CROSS A SEA OF MUD, AND THE CHILD IS ILL.
NO MONKS MAY ENTER THIS TOWN!

AWAY WITH YOU ALL! BE GONE!

WHAT?

THE TOWN'S LEADER, VISAKHA, HAS BANISHED ALL THE BRAHMIN.

YOU ARE NOT WANTED EITHER!

BUT WE AREN'T LOCAL PRIESTS. WE ARE TRAVELING SAMANNA.

CLEAR OUT, OR THIS ARROW WILL PIERCE YOUR ONE EYE!

SHAME ON YOU, PIG-HEADED FOOL.
200 LEAGUES
HENCE IS THE
CAPITAL OF
MAGADHA
KINGDOM. GO
THESE IF YOU
NEED ALMS SO
BADLY, BEGGAR
MONKS!

WE’LL NEVER
MAKE IT IN THIS
RAIN WITH A
SICK CHILD!

HAS
HE NO
HEART?
AH, BUT
EVEN SO,
I SHAN’T
RESENT
A MAN.

DHEPA,
THOSE
STONES!

EASIER SAID
THAN DONE...
BUT IT BEATS
TREKKING TO
OUR DEATHS
IN THIS
DOWNPOUR.

LET’S STACK
THEM UP
AGAINST THE
WALL AND
CLIMB TO
THE TOP.
WE DID IT!

AS USUAL, THE DEED WAS LESS DAUNTING THAN THE THOUGHT OF IT.

HUP, THERE WE GO...

LET'S SEE. HOW GOES THE TOWN?

LOOK!!
:::  

THESE ARE ALL GRAVES!

SOMETHING HAPPENED HERE.
DID I NOT WARN YOU? YET YOU HAVE COME, AS I FEARED.

HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS TOWN, PERFUMED WITH DEATH? HOW DO YOU LIKE THE ROWS OF GRAVES?

AND KNOW THAT YOU HAVE LEFT ME NO CHOICE BUT TO SLAY THAT SICK CHILD OF YOURS.

WHAT ON EARTH'S THE MATTER? HAS THERE BEEN A BATTLE? SOME CIVIL STRIFE?

THIS TOWN USED TO HAVE A LARGE TEMPLE, PRESIDED OVER BY A BRAHMIN HIGH PRIEST. IT WAS BUILT AND SUPPORTED THROUGH A DONATION FROM THE PLUTOCRAT VISAKHA.

SO LARGE WAS THE OFFERING THAT THE PRIESTS COULD DO AS THEY PLEASED AND LIVED IN GREAT LUXURY.

BUT A YEAR AGO, AN EPIDEMIC OF FEVER SWEPT THROUGH TOWN, CLAIMING MORE AND MORE LIVES EACH DAY...
Hundreds died! The graves are theirs.

And what did the Brahmin do?

Merely built a fire and held rituals. Not that it wasn't costly!

At last, even Visakha's parents fell ill and died from the fever.

Visakha is wise and clement! The Brahmin were not to be harmed despite their abject failure.

Only, sick of religion,

She banished every last Brahmin from town and destroyed their temple.
I serve His Majesty Bimbisara of Magadha! I am the knight Sukanda!

I came to this town at Visakha's entreaty to aid in the expulsion of Brahmin.

I understand. I am Dhepa, my friend is Siddhartha.

We have nothing whatsoever to do with these local Brahmin. And we are truly exhausted.

Can we not take shelter, if only for the duration of this torrent?

We will quit the town as soon as the sky clears.

Hah! And let the boy's illness spread...

So the stench of death may fill this town yet again?

Seize the child and kill him!
Perhaps his fever is not contagious!

He has cut his leg on grass. Look! His wound is festering.

The fever may be from his wound!

Hmm

Give us one day... no, one night is all I ask.

Let me nurse the boy.

If his fever does not break by dawn, you may go ahead and kill him.

You intend to cure him?

...if you fail, will you die with him?

As you wish.

Very well. We'll let them stay among the temple ruins.
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE PRAYERS DISPEL A FEVER!
HAHAHAHA

I HOPE YOU'RE A DOCTOR OF SOME KIND.

THAT, I'M NOT. BUT AS A CHILD, I WAS ALWAYS SICK, AND I GUESS I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT ILLNESS.

MY BRAHMIN TEACHER USED TO TEACH ME ALL SORTS OF THINGS ABOUT DIFFERENT MALADIES.

PRIESTS ACTUALLY DO MORE THAN JUST SIT AROUND AND PRAY.
When there's swelling like this...

A light malady can be cured with medicine.

I'm quite sure this fever isn't catching. At least we won't come down with it.

The pus has to be drawn out, and the wound seared with hot iron. Eating blue mold helps, too.

Dhepa, could you get a fire going at that hearth?

You better know what you're talking about. That guy meant it about killing you.

Can you get those? I'll collect the mold.

I need a broken spear, a large pot, and some cloths.
ANYONE HOME?

I NEED THE MOLD ON YOUR IRONWARE!

BET THEY WOULDN'T MIND...

...OF COURSE, HELP YOURSELF! I OUGHTA THANK YOU!
PLEASE SET THE WATER TO BOIL, AND THROW IN THE CLOTH.

AND HEAT THE SPEAR UNTIL IT GLOWS RED.

SIDDHARTHA, HOW ARE WE GOING TO DRAW OUT THE PUS? DON'T TELL ME...

SIDDHARTHA

SPEAR
OH NO!

HE'S STOPPED BREATHING!

HE HAS FAINTED, THAT'S ALL...

I HOPE SO...
WHERE AM I? ME DEAD?

ASSAJI. YOU STAND ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE DOMAIN OF DEATH.

BUT YOU HAVEN'T COMPLETED THE LIFE BESTOWED UPON YOU. YOU MUST THEREFORE RETURN TO THE DOMAIN OF LIFE...

HOW MUCH MORE I LIVE?

TEN YEARS MORE. IN TEN YEARS, YOU MUST DIE. AS YOUR SIRE HAS SLAIN COUNTELESS BEASTS...

YOU IN TURN SHALL BE TORN APART BY BEASTS. THAT IS THE KARMIC LAW...

UNTIL THAT DAY, LIVE! WANDER THE EARTH FOR TEN YEARS TREMBLING IN FEAR OF YOUR FATED DEATH!
Siddhartha, he's pouring sweat!

Let me try the trick we use when a monk faints during an ordeal.

...Yes! He's revived, he's faintly breathing!
HAA
HAA

THANK
GOOD-
NESS...

WE'VE
SAVED
HIM!

YESSS!!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA

SHHH

SHHH

SHHH

SHHH
DO YOU THINK THAT MONK SIDDHARThA CAN CURE THE SICK?

HE SEEMS TO THINK HE CAN.

VISAKHA, YOU CANNOT STAND HERE ALL NIGHT IN THIS RAIN. YOU'LL FALL ILL!

OH? BUT I WORRY FOR THE YOUNG MONK. YOUR CONCERN IS UNWARRANTED.

YOU JEST!!

MY, HOW SCARY YOU LOOK.

SIR,
"Snickers" are you jealous?

Nonsense! Why should I be jealous?

Perhaps that Siddhartha is of royal blood.

There was a prince in Kapilavastu by that name.

If he is a prince, how intriguing.

I'd like to hear his story.

I will not stand for this foolishness! Do not forget that you are betrothed to me!

Visakha!!

See. You are jealous, after all.
DAY HAS BROKEN, SIDHARATHA STEP FORTH!
THE BOY!

HE'S CURED?

YES, HE SWEATED BUCKETS, AND THE FEVER SUBSIDED.

IT WASN'T THE CONTAGIOUS KIND.

SO ARE WE REPRIFEVED, SIR KNIGHT?

YOU WON'T BE EXECUTED... BUT I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO STAY IN THIS TOWN.

YOU PROMISED TO QUIT TOWN WHEN THE SKY CLEARED. THE SKY IS CLEAR! NOW TAKE YOUR LEAVE.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? I SAID GO!

BUT WE RARELY SLEPT LAST NIGHT! GIVE US SOME TIME TO REST!

B-BUT VISAKHA...

WHY DRIVE THEM AWAY LIKE THAT, SUKANDA?

YOU ARE VERY KIND.

TRAVELERS, I WELCOME YOU ALL TO MY MANSION. HOW ABOUT SOME BREAKFAST?

COME IN. MY NAME IS VISAKHA.

MINE IS THE WEALTHIEST HOUSE IN PANDAWA.

THE KNIGHT HAS TOLD US OF YOU.
WE ARE MOST PROVINCIAL HERE; I AM EAGER TO HEAR TALES OF OTHER LANDS.

YA WOW!

HAVE YOU EVER? THE JAWS OF DEATH MUST GIVE ONE AN APPETITE.

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

MUNCH MUNCH

Gobble Crunch

CHOMP SLURP CHOMP Gobble

CRUNCH CHAW CHEW

Gulp Gulp Gulp

Munch

Gulp Gulp

Munch

Gobble Crunch

Gulp

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WHERE ARE YOU BOUND?

WE MAKE FOR THE CAPITAL, RAJGRIHA, OF THE KINGDOM OF MAGADHA.

AH, RAJGRIHA. YOU WILL FIND MANY FAMOUS BRAHMIN, AND SAMANNA AND SCHOLARS THERE.

PERHAPS THERE WE WILL FIND WHAT WE SEEK.

AND WHAT DO YOU SEEK?
THE WAY TO HAPPINESS FOR ALL HUMANS.

HAPPINESS

Haha Haha Haha

Oh Hahaha Hohoho Ahah

tsk
tsk

there's no such thing.

...I am rich.

not at the end of the world!
IF THERE WERE SUCH A THING, I WOULD BUY IT...

COME, I HAVE SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

WHAT ARE THESE?

POTIONS. I BOUGHT THEM ALL UP FROM A MERCHANT WHO CAME FROM THE FAR WEST.

THESE POTIONS WORK MAGIC.

THAT ONE TURNS YOU INTO A BIRD.

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!

YET I HAVE FLOWN THE SKIES AS A BIRD! AND NOT JUST ONCE!

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.

SURELY IT ONLY MAKES YOU FEEL THAT WAY?
This one is a youth potion. It turns you into a child for a day.

Swash

Ha ha ha ha

These are mere drugs.

Yes, I know. But life is so cruelly short.

How else am I to cope with that?

Visakha, I have business in Magadha. Fare well while I am gone.

Samanna, prepare to depart! I can guide you to the kingdom if you wish.

Why all the rush?

The monks have no reason to dally.

The troops are lined up and ready to go.
THEN A FAREWELL TOAST.

I DO NOT DRINK!

HOW VERY UPRIGHT! IT'S JUST FRUIT WINE!

MARCH!

WHAT IS IT WITH THE SACK?

LEFTOVERS. LUNCH FOR A WEEK.
OH, DEAR... I'M SUDDENLY... SO... SLEEPY... YAWWWN

NO WONDER. SO MUCH FOOD, AFTER HARDLY A WINK LAST NIGHT.

CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP. PLEASE GO ON AHEAD!

FINE, SEE YOU LATER.

MUMBLE MUMBLE

WELL DONE.
HUNH? WHERE...

WHERE AM I?!
FEAR NOT. I HAD YOU BROUGHT HERE AFTER YOUR COLLAPSE.

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS? WHERE'S DHEPA?

I'VE NO IDEA. MAYBE THEY WENT ON AHEAD?

ACTUALLY, JUST NOW, SOME TROOPS CAME BACK LOOKING FOR YOU. I TOLD THEM YOU WEREN'T HERE.

WHY?

I'VE GOTTA GO...

ACH... MY HEAD'S SPINNING.

YOU NEED TO TAKE THIS ANTIDOTE.

ARE YOU TELLING ME...

I'VE BEEN DRUGGED?

*chuckle* JUST A MILD SEDATIVE.

DON'T GO!! SIDDHARTHA, YOU CAN'T!
PLEASE DON'T GO.

STAY IN THIS TOWN!

I WANT YOU TO LIVE WITH ME. PLEASE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! WHY SHOULD I STAY?

BECAUSE I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.
I know that I'm engaged to Sukanda...

But I can't help myself...

I've fallen in love with you...

Gi-Gi-Give me a break!

Siddhartha, prince of Kapilavastu, heir to King Suddhodana and the Shakya throne...

And yet, you fascinate me not on account of your lineage...

But as a man who has come into my life...

That's enough!

Listen, Visakha! I have both queen and child back in Kapilavastu. I abandoned them just so I could pursue this path and weather hardships.

I am devoted to this life, to the exclusion of all else!
BUT YOU'RE HUMAN, AREN'T YOU? A MAN?
SURELY YOU MUST KNOW OF LOVE!
WHAT PATH? HARDSHIPS?
PLEASE, DON'T BE SUCH A BORE!

DON'T GO, PLEASE!

THIS IS ABSURD!

OPEN THE GATES FOR ME! I WILL NOT STAY!

SIDDHARTHA ...
...
...

SIDDHARTHA, WAIT...!!

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

MEN!

DON'T LET HIM LEAVE! QUICK, AFTER HIM!
HEH HEH
SIR MONK

EXCUSE US, BUT THE MISTRESS WANTS YOU.

AYY UGH
HEY YA FOLKS IN THERE, OPEN WIDE VER GATES! WE'RE A HUMBLE GANG LOOKIN' TO DO SOME WORK IN YOUR TOWN! HOPE YOU LIKED OUR INTRODUCTION!
Hahaha
Hehehehe
Hahaha

THAT'S...!

MY LADY!

THERE ARE SUSPICIOUS MEN ON HORSEBACK OUTSIDE THE GATES.

I'M AFRAID THEY'RE BRIGANDS.

WHAT DEVILISH TIMING... JUST WHEN THE TROOPS LEFT...

OPEN THE GATES, OR WE'LL COME CLIMBING IN!
I KNOW THIS BUNCH.

THEY'RE BANDITS WHO'VE BEEN PURSUING ME.

THEY'LL WRECK HAVOC IF YOU LET THEM IN.

IF I GO WITH THEM, YOUR TOWN WILL BE SPARED.

SO I GO.

NO, YOU DON'T!

I WILL NOT LET YOU LEAVE.

THEN THEY'LL REDUCE THE TOWN TO RUINS.

HIDE, VISAKHA!

THEY'RE USING THE STONE STEPS WE BUILT. HERE THEY COME! HIDE!
AH, SIDDHARTHA, SO WE MEET AGAIN! I HAD A HUNCH YOU MIGHT BE HERE.

WHO'S THE DAME?! I CAN SMELL HER PERFUME.

VISAKHA, A NOTABLE OF THIS TOWN...

YOU MUST NOT HARM HER! NOR THE TOWN! IN RETURN, I WILL COME WITH YOU.

AH HA... PROTECTING THIS TOWN, ARE WE? A FINE PLACE IT MUST BE!

IT'D BE A SHAME TO JUST GO OFF WITH YOU AND NOT EXPLORE IT SOME.

MEN, HAVE A LOOK AROUND. OH, AND HELP YOURSELF TO ANYTHING SHINY. CALL IT A SOUVENIR!

AYE!

MERCY!
TATTA, CALL THEM OFF, I BEG YOU FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE! I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS!

HA, THAT'S RICH! CLAIMING FRIENDSHIP WHEN IT SUITS YOU. NOT THAT I MIND, BUT I'VE GOT A BUSINESS TO RUN.

WHEE, LOOK AT ALL THE STUFF! GRAB EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!

AIEE!

SHUT YER TRAP.

MURDER

MAY I COME IN?

AAAH!

HELP!!
STOP!
TAKE WHAT YOU WANT, BUT DON'T RUIN OUR TOWN!!
I'M SORRY, MISS. MY MEN JUST DON'T KNOW THEIR MANNERS, DO THEY?

GUESSING FROM YOUR VOICE, I BET YOURS IS A PRETTY FACE! MIND IF I MARKED IT SOME?

oh!

MIGAILA
WHAT'S SHE DONE TO YOU?!

HEH HEH, NOW WAIT A SEC. ARE SHE AND YOU LOVERS, SIDDHARTHA? IS THAT IT?

MISS, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WENT HEAD OVER HEELS FOR THIS HERÉ BEAU... AND LOOK WHAT I GOT FOR MY TENDER FEELINGS.

THIS FACE! TAKE A GOOD LOOK!

LOVE CAN MAKE YOU BLIND!
HA HA HA HA
I DON'T ACCEPT ADVICE FROM SHUDRA!
BACK OFF, YOU SLAVE!
WHAT?!
...YOU BITCH!!

ARE YOU CRAZY?

LADY VISA-KHA!!
THANK GOODNESS SHE FELL ON SOFT SAND.
BOSS, WE GOT EVERYTHING WORTH TAKING.
WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE REST?
HMM, HOW 'BOUT SOME FIREWORKS?

STOP THIS!

HOW CRUEL CAN YOU BE?!
TATTA, I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU! THIS IS REALLY IT BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

DON'T BE SOUR, CHIEF.

NOW GET LOST.

C'EST LA VIE, NON?

GUYS, LET'S CLEAR OUT!
SHE'LL BE A NUISANCE, SIDDHARTHA. DUMP HER!

SHUSH. HE LIKES HANGING OUT WITH HER, OBVIOUSLY. LET HIM DO AS HE WANTS.

DO NOT DESPAIR, VISAKHA!

"SNIFF"
"SOB"
"GROAN"
RISE AND SHINE... HA HA HA

TATTA !!

WHERE ARE WE?

INSIDE MOUNT PANDAVA, ON THE MAGADHA BORDER.

HOW COULD YOU SET FIRE TO THAT TOWN? YOU BEAST! YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!

AND WHERE'S VISAKHA? IF YOU'VE DONE ANYTHING HORRIBLE TO HER —

CALM DOWN. SHE'S A VALUABLE HOSTAGE. THE LADS ARE LOOKING AFTER HER.

WHERE IS SHE?

RELAX, RELAX!
SIDDHARTHA, I WANNA HAVE A SERIOUS TALK WITH YOU, MAN TO MAN.

I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT I'M A MONK AND YOU'RE A BANDIT. WE'RE NOTHING TO DISCUSS!

DON'T BE LIKE THAT.

WE DON'T GET THE CHANCE EVERY DAY.

WE USED TO BE FRIENDS ONCE.

SIDDHARTHA... WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO STUBBORN ANYWAY?

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU DROP THIS WHOLE MONK THING?

THAT, AGAIN? WHETHER OR NOT I CONTINUE AS A MONK IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
BUT THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG! IT IS MY BUSINESS! WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR YOU TO QUIT!

I WANT YOU TO BE KING OF THE SHAKYA!

THEN YOU CAN CRUSH KOSALA!

WHAT, YOU WANT ME TO ABANDON MY ROBES SO THAT I CAN WAGE WAR ON KOSALA?

SORRY, BUT I HATE WAR!

THEN THE SHAKYA ARE SUNK.

LISTEN. FOR THE SAKE OF PURSUING THIS PATH...

I CAST AWAY BOTH FAMILY AND COUNTRY. I CAN'T JUST —
Okay, okay! Then how 'bout a deal: if you come back, I'll give up thievin'.

I'll disband the gang, give back all the loot, and let the hostage go.

Don't do this to me!!

Yeah, and I'll do anything else you ask me to do. Wanna see me poke out my eye?

Just let Visakha go... please.

Man, you're a handful... like you've always been... anyway, I'm giving you my word!

I know you'll come around!

Just give it some thought, will ya?
SOLDIERS, BOSS! HEADED THIS WAY!

MAGADHAN REGULARS!

WHAT

MAYBE THEY KNOW WHAT WE DONE TO THE TOWN!

THEY'RE AFTER US!!

SHEE-IT! SNIFFED US OUT LIKE DOGS! THAT'S NO PICNIC. THEY'RE ON.

SO BE IT. WE'LL USE THE HOSTAGE AS A SHIELD AND FIGHT 'EM.
TATTA, THEY'RE SOLDIERS! DO WE REALLY WANNA TAKE THEM ON?

WELL, WHY NOT? JUST HEARING THE WORD "SOLDIER" TICKS ME OFF.

BOSS, THEIR CAPTAIN'S YELLIN' LIKE NUTS.

VILLAINS! I AM SUKANDA, KNIGHT OF MAGADHA!!

WE KNOW YOU'VE SACKED A TOWN AND TAKEN HOSTAGE A LADY VISAKHA!

RELEASE VISAKHA IMMEDIATELY! RELEASE ALSO THE MONK SIDDHARTHA! SURRENDER YOUR LOOT AND YOURSELVES, AND WE MAY SPARE THE LIVES OF SOME OF YOU!

BUT THE GANG LEADER MUST DIE...

AIN'T THAT NICE!

YOU GOT A PROBLEM, JUST COME ON OVER. HAPPY TO FIGHT YOU IN THIS RAVINE!
DAMN BANDITS WOULDN'T BE HALF AS BOLD IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE HOSTAGES!

CAPTAIN! I SAY WE CHARGE INTO THE RAVINE AND WIPE OUT THOSE VERMIN!

WE'D BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS.

BESIDES, I WORRY FOR THE LADY'S SAFETY.

TAKE UP POSITIONS AT THE MOUTH OF THE RAVINE. I WILL GO ALONE.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

I'LL SCALE THE SLOPE AND SNEAK INTO THEIR CAMP.

I'LL FIND THEIR LEADER, DESTROY HIM, AND RESCUE THE LADY VISAKHA.

I LEAVE YOU IN CHARGE.

GOOD LUCK, CAPT'N!
PSST, IT'S ME!
OH, VISAKHA,
POOR THING!
YOU'RE OK NOW.

SHHHH

WHAT A
SURPRISE,
CAPTAIN.

SNICK UP
HERE LIKE
A WEASEL!

MAN,
YOU'RE THE
REAL THING,
COME TO
SAVE YOUR
DAMSEL...

WHOOM!
POW

APPR

CLANK

PANT
PANT
PUFF
PANT
OUT OF THE WAY, MONK. OR DO YOU WANT TO DIE WITH HIM?

STOP THIS

STOP THIS

STAY OUT OF THIS.

ONE OF US HAS TO DIE.

NEITHER, I SAY.

LAY DOWN YOUR SWORDS. OR FACE ME.
PERFECT!
THAT STUPID
FACE OF YOURS
TURNS MY
STOMACH!

WHANNNG
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...

YOU STOPPED MY SWORD... MONK, WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO FIGHT?

AH, YES. YOU'RE KSHATRIYA. ONCE A WARRIOR, HUH?

‘TIS A FAIR FIGHT THEN!

WHO CARES WHAT I WAS? I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT. I SAID STOP!
TATTA, I’VE MADE UP MY MIND. I’M GOING BACK TO MY COUNTRY.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

TEN YEARS.

IN TEN YEARS, I’LL GO HOME.

TO KAPILA-VASTU?

YOU REALLY MEAN IT?

IN TURN YOU MUST DO AS YOU PROMISED. RELEASE VISAKHA AT ONCE, AND FORSWEAR BANDITRY.

SURE!

NOT A PROBLEM.

HA HA! YOU’VE MADE MY DAY!

WHAT’S TEN YEARS? I CAN WAIT!
YOU HEARD, SUKANDA.

YOU CAME FOR VISAKHA, RIGHT? THE BANDIT JUST RELEASED HER.

... ... ROTTEN BASTARDS! FILTHY MAGGOTS!

A PLAGUE ON ME IF I DON'T CHOP HIS HEAD OFF IN THE KING'S VIEW!

CALM DOWN! HE'S AGREED TO GIVE UP BANDITRY AND REFORM.

SHUT UP!!

I HAVE NO TIME FOR YOUR STORIES! YOU, WHO SNUCK BACK INTO TOWN TO SEDUCE MY INTENDED! I'LL HAVE YOU FRAMED, AND EXECUTED WITH HIM!

YOU'RE WRONG!
IT WAS I WHO TRIED TO SEDUCE HIM.

VISAKHA!!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

IT'S TRUE. I FELL IN LOVE WITH HIM.

I DRUGGED HIM SO HE'D FALL ASLEEP, AND I HAD HIM...

BROUGHT BACK TO ME.
IN MY CHAMBERS I CONFESSION MY LOVE TO HIM.

VISAKHA! ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

BUT HE SIMPLY TOLD ME

I HAD NO PLACE IN HIS HEART!

I WAS CALLED A FOOL AND SPURNED.

WITHOUT FURTHER APO, HE TRIED TO LEAVE PANDAWA...

WHEN THE BRIGANDS ARRIVED.

BUT... WHY?

YOU ALREADY HAVE... ME!

YES, I AM BETROTHED TO YOU

AS THE KING SETTLED BEFOREHAND!

BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN, THOUGH, THINGS AREN'T THAT EASY.
YOU ARE A SPLENDID KNIGHT.

BUT... YOUR FORTHRIGHT HEART HAS SO LITTLE ROOM FOR LOVE...

VI SAK HA

MY ADVANCES LEFT HIM COLD. HE WAS LITERALLY UNMOVED!

HE IS A FINE MONK.

WHEN LOVE IS ALL THAT I WANT.

DO YOU STILL WANT TO DRAG HIM TO THE KING?

.......

IF YOU INSIST ON HAVING THEM TRIED BEFORE THE KING,

I WILL SPEAK THE TRUTH!
A CRIMINAL IS A CRIMINAL, NO MATTER WHAT YOU THREATEN TO TELL HIS MAJESTY, I MUST BY LAW APPREHEND THIS MAN!

THAT IS MY NATURE, ...IF YOU DON'T FIND IT ATTRACTIVE...

I RELEASE YOU FROM OUR PLEDGE.

IT WAS UNLIKE ME TO CLING TO A LOVELESS ENGAGEMENT.

WHAT A DAY, WHAT ELSE HAVE I TO LOSE?

HA... HAA

CROOKS, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU BELOW.
...THE BANDITS HAVE RUN OFF. THE HOSTAGES AND THE LOOT ARE SAFE.

YOU MAY WITHDRAW! I SHALL CATCH UP WITH YOU. FORM YOUR LINES!
CAPTAIN, SHOULD A SQUAD REMAIN TO CARRY BACK THE LOOT?

NO! WE ARE SOLDIERS, NOT FREIGHT-BEARING SHUDRA!

QUICK MARCH.
Visakha, I'm terribly sorry about all of this...

Don't be sorry. You're not to blame, Siddhartha. And I don't blame my fate, either...

Listen up!

You heard all that, right?

I have to fulfill my promise to Siddhartha. We disband as of tonight.

Wait a sec!

That's pure whimsy, boss!
BUT I'M A WHIMSICAL GUY! DIDN'T YA KNOW?

YOU CAN'T JUST DO THIS! THIS IS OUR LIVELIHOOD!

AT LEAST HEAR US OUT!

WE DEMAND SEVERANCE PAY!!

WHERE'S MY PENSION?

DESAND MY ASS!

BACK AT THE DEN,

TAKE ANYTHING OF VALUABLE, ALL YOU CAN CARRY! THAT'S VER SEVERANCE.

CLAP CLAP

DEAL!

HORAY BANZAI CHIEF!

LET'S HAVE A FAREWELL TOAST!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU, BOSS?

ME? I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I WENT BACK TO GOOD OL' BEGGING.

SAY, MIGAILA, WOULDJA STILL BE MY LADY OR NO?

OUT OF WORK
I HAVEN'T GOT A CHOICE.

WELL SAID! A WIFE'S GOTTA FEEL THAT WAY.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, JERK!

WHAT'D I SAY?

YOUR ...

BABY ...

MIGAILA?

TAKE A LOOK AT MY BELLY, YOU IDIOT!

BABY

MY BABY? MIGAILA, YOU... WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!

YOU'RE GONNA BE A MOTHER, MIGAILA?
HAHAHA, a baby! I had no idea.

NO FUN BEGGING WITH A BABY TO FEED.

CIAO...

WAIT

DON'T YOU DARE RUN OFF NOW!

I'LL SEND CHILD SUPPORT, I WILL.

YOU IDLE, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING HUSBAND!

YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME FOR LIFE, PAL!!
BOSS, THEM SOLDIERS ARE ALL GONE! NOT A ONE IN SIGHT!

THAT'S WEIRD. THAT DUDE WAS SERIOUSLY HOPING TO CUFF ME, LIKE HE COULD.

SOMETHING'S FUNNY, SIDDHARTHA.

LET'S GO AND SEE.
CHECK THIS OUT!
THE KNIGHT'S GONE AND KILLED HIMSELF!

POOR GUY KNEW ONLY ONE WAY TO LIVE...
CHAPTER FIVE

INTERVIEW AT MT. PANDAVA
AHoy there, monk.
IN'T THERE NO WATER ROLIN' HERE? MY SHEEPS IS NEAR DEAD OF DROUGHT. NOT ENOUGH FOR A FLOCK. TRY THE YONDER RAVINE, A BROOK MAY RUN IN IT.

I'M DYING OF THIRST MYSELF, OKAY? BUT THIS IS MY ORDEAL.

MUST BE GREAT TO BE YOU, ASSAJI.

NO! NO! HIS SHEEP IS ALL DIE! THEY DIE WITH WATER OF POISON!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SOMEONE JUST PASS? A SHEPHERD AND HIS FLOCK.
THERE SOME POOL OF WATER AND THEY DRINK AND GET TUMMY ACHIE AND ALL DIE!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT?

HURRY STOP OR ALL DIE.

A FOOL'S ERRAND! BET THERE'S NO POOL, EVEN.

SEE, THERE IS!!
AND SHEEPS. OH, POOR SHEEP ALL DEAD.

SHEPHERD'S DEAD TOO!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

WATER OF POISON...

LOOK DAT.
The rotting carcass of a tiger, no wonder the water is deadly!

But Assaji, how in the world did you know?

Now come Whirlwind.

What?

Big, big Whirlwind coming.

Cut it out, kid.

You've been weird ever since you nearly died of fever.

We ought to go look for Siddhartha, whatever he's up to now!

Damn your Whirlwind.

Gotta run, Whirlwind come straight for us!!

But there's not a cloud in the sky nor breeze enough to stir a leaf.

Bropper, gotta run!!
WE HIDE IN MOUNTAIN OR WE BLOWN AWAY!

NO GOOD! VILLAGE ALL GONE SOON.

WE'LL REST FOR A MINUTE IN THAT VILLAGE.

ESCA-A-PE!

ALL YOU RUNNN!!

WHIRLWINDER COMING! THIS VILLAGE, IMPERIL!! HURRY RUN TO MOUNTAINS!

LIAR

GA! LOAD OF CRAP!

YOU DON'T MEAN TO PILFER THROUGH OUR THINGS WHILE WE'RE IN A PANIC?
YOU DON'T SAY!

IT'S TRUE. THIS BOY SEES INTO THE FUTURE.

I STILL THINK WE'VE BEEN HAD.

WE'LL BE THE BUTT OF JOKES.

HEIGH HO, HEIGH HO!

HOW FAR MUST WE GO?

LOOK YE NOW! 'TIS GETTING DARK.

GO BEHIND MOUNTAIN.

WHOA! LOOK AT THAT!

OH MY!

WOW
Aye! It's a tornado. Look out!

Ach! I left the wife and kids at home.

Der is crack in rock and we all go into mountain, nobody then blown away.

Assaji, are you sure about this?
THE BOY'S RIGHT!

YA?

YES...
YOUR MAJESTY, I AM APPRISED OF A MOST PECULIAR TALE.

A BOY WHO SEES THE FUTURE.

I'VE HAD MY FILL OF PROPHETS!

BUT THIS IS A CHILD. HE FORETOLD A TORNADO AND SAVED THE BETTER PART OF A VILLAGE.

ALL WHO DOUBTED HIM PERISHED.

THE VILLAGERS REGARD HIM—REVERE HIM—AS A MESSENGER FROM THE GODS.
I HAVE NO USE FOR THE "SPECIAL POWERS" OF SWINDLERS.

MAJESTY, THE BOY IS HERE ALREADY.

THAT SNOT-NOSED BOY IS A PROPHET?

FOR HIS OWN SAKE, I'LL EXPOSE HIS FAKERY AND TEACH HIM A LESSON.

BRING HIM TO ME.
I AM KING BIMBISARA, KING OF ALL MAGADHA. ARE YOU THE PRODIGY WHO SEES INTO THE FUTURE?

I AM DHEPA. THE BOY'S NAME IS ASSAJI.

ONE DAY, ASSAJI JUST HAD THE POWER. I AM STILL STUNNED AND INCREDULOUS MYSELF.
TELL ME, ASSAJI, IS MY FUTURE BLESSED OR CURSED?

KING, YOU GONNA DIE.

DIE KILLED.

NOT SO FAST. HOW SHALL I DIE? FROM ILLNESS?

INSOLENT FRAUD!

SO I AM TO BE KILLED? A GRAVE MATTER. WHO IS THE ASSASSIN?

YOUR SON...

TWENTY YEARS FAR, YOUR SON KILL YOU MAJESTTEE AND HE TOO GET PUNISHED.
VERY WELL. THERE IS A TRAP IN THIS HALL, AND YOU WILL LOSE YOUR LIFE A MINUTE FROM NOW.

UNLESS YOU DIVINE THE TRAP.

IF YOU LIVE, I WILL BELIEVE YOU.

SO TRY AND SAVE YOURSELF, HMM?

THIS IS NO JEST, CHILD!

SNIF
COME ON, PRODIGY. YOUR MINUTE IS ABOUT TO PASS. WHEN IT HAS, YOU SHALL MOST CERTAINLY DIE. THE QUESTION IS HOW...

SNIFFLE
ASSAJI, I FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE, GIVE UP AND APOLOGIZE TO HIS MAJESTY!

TEN SECONDS LEFT.

ONE  TWO  THREE  FOUR!  FIVE!

SIX!  SEVEN!  EIGHT!  NINE!

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TEN!

Snap

crash

FECHA
So, you saw through the trap.

Guessed the course the snake would take.

And placed a sword in its path. I am quite impressed.

And so, your prophecy...

That in twenty years I am to be murdered by my own son...

Is not so easy to dismiss.

Lord, do not believe him!

He is just a two-bit fortune teller!

Throw the wretch in the dungeon!
SILENCE!!

IF YOU CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE,
YOU MUST KNOW WHEN DEATH IS COMING FOR YOU?

YUP

I LIVE EIGHT YEARS, EIGHT MONTHS, EIGHT DAYS MORE.

THAT’S ALL?!

I WONDER HOW THIS CHILD WILL SPEND THE EIGHT YEARS AND EIGHT MONTHS LEFT TO HIM...

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WARNING. I SHALL BEWARE.

YOU DESERVE REST. MAKE SURE THEY’RE COMFORTABLE!
WHAT DIRE NEWS...
I have not been an unjust or inept ruler. The people prosper, and the country flourishes. The kingdom of Magadha, the new center of culture, is the envy of all its neighbors.

Why should I be killed by my own son? The crown prince?

Is that truly my fate?

My own inescapable fate?
THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO PREVENT IT. FIRST: SIRE NO PRINCE.

SECOND: KILL AT BIRTH ANY PRINCE I BEGET.

THIRD: EXILE THE PRINCE TO A DISTANT LAND FROM WHENCE HE CANNOT REACH ME.

I HAVE ONLY TWENTY YEARS LEFT!

WHAT CAN I ACHIEVE IN TWO MEASLY DECADES?

BUT PERHAPS ALL SUCH MEASURES ARE FUTILE.
TELL ME, ASSAJI.

HOW DID YOU GAIN THIS GREAT POWER?

REALLY WANNA KNOW?

VERY MUCH!! TELL ME.

I DIED ONCE.

IN FEVER.

YOU DID?

YUP, I MET GOD IN DREAM.
AND GOD SAY...

I ONLY LIVE TEN YEARS, SO HE GIMME A POWER.

ARE YOU TELLING ME... YOU'VE BEEN TO THE REALM OF DEATH?

ANYWAY I SEE FUTURE FROM THEN.

...I'M SORRY, THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE.

VUP, AGREE!

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I CRAVED THE POWER OF PROPHECY.

BUT I FIGURED THAT SEEING TOO WELL INTO THE FUTURE...

WOULD ROB LIFE OF MEANING.

NO, NO, MASTER ASSAJI!

YOU'RE SO CUTE! PLEASE DO US A FAVOR!
SNIF

TELL US OUR FUTURES!
YOU KNOW, LIKE, WHO
WILL I MARRY?
WILL I LIVE LONG?

DON'T JUST EAT.
PLEASE...

SNIF

SNIF

SAY, HOW LONG WILL
I LIVE?

SNIF

NINEY-TWO

92 YRS
OLD ?!

THAT LONG?
WONDERFUL!

BUT YOU BE DRIED-UP,
GUMMY-EYED,
CRANKY CRAZY OLD HAG, DIRTY SACK-OF-BONES.

WILT

SNIF
I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MY FUTURE HUSBAND!

YOU MARRY SLEAZY SMUTTY EX-CON SWINDLER.

UM, MY PROSPECTS, IN A NUTSHELL.

DIE IN DITCH.

... ...

IT'S A CRUEL THING TO LEARN YOUR FATE. WHY MUST THEY KNOW?

AH... I SEE!

I SEE SIDATHA COME!!

REALLY?
IN ONE MINUTE, HE PASS BY CASTLE.

WHAT'S THE FUSS?

FORGIVE US. A SAMANNA WHO ONCE SAVED THE BOY'S LIFE IS ABOUT TO PASS!

AH HAH

HE IS A WISE AND LEARNED YOUNG MAN FROM THE NORTH.

I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM.
WAHAA! SIDATHA!

SNIF

SIDDARTHAN, UP HERE! IT'S US!

THAT IS NO ORDINARY MENDICANT! PROUD, PURE AND CALM... HE CANNOT BE OF HUMBLE BIRTH!! WHO IS HE?!
GUARD!

FOLLOW THE SAMANNA WHO JUST PASSED! FIND OUT WHERE HE STAYS AND WHERE HE MEANS TO GO!

WAIT, YOU TWO!

I CANNOT LET YOU GO NOW.

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM!

AFTER MY MEN FIND OUT ALL ABOUT HIM, YOU MAY SEE HIM.
WHY ARE WE FOLLOWING THIS NOVICE ALL OVER THE DAMN CITY?

WANNA BE FIRED? THE KING WISHED IT!
WHAT DID YOU FIND?

YOUR MAJESTY, THE MONK SITS ATOP A BOULDER WAY UP MOUNT PANDAVA.

MOUNT PANDAVA? THAT'S TO THE NORTH OF HERE.

PREPARE A CHARIOT, RIGHT NOW. I WISH TO MEET THIS ASCETIC.

KING, WHY THE HASTE?

IT'S NOT PROPER.

DO AS I SAY! I WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY DISSENT ON THIS MATTER.
A WHOLE PROCESSION, ALL FOR AN ALMS BEGGAR.

WE MARCH BY ROYAL WHIM!
YOUR CHARIOT CAN TRAVEL NO FARTHER.

MAJESTY, WE WILL READY A PALANQUIN. PLEASE WAIT.

DON'T BOTHER. I CAN WALK.

PLEASE, WAIT!

HE IS UP THIS CLIFF.

THEN I SHALL CLimb.
WHO GOES THERE?! STATE YER BIZNESS!!

I AM THE KING OF MAGADHA, BIMBISARA. I SEEK THE SAMANNA WHO PRACTICES HERE.

K-K-K-KING OF MAGADHA ?!

JUST A MOMENT.

... THIS WAY, PLEASE.
I WAS RIGHT, THIS IS NO ORDINARY MONK.

I'VE ALREADY TAKEN A GREAT LIKING TO HIM.

WELCOME TO MAGADHA, YOUNG SAMANNA.

I AM KING BIMBISARA. IT IS WITH UTMOST JOY THAT I GREET YOU.

KING, FAR NORTH OF HERE, IN THE HIMALAYAS, LIVE A PEOPLE.

THE SHAKYA ARE A WEALTHY, BRAVE, AND RESOURCEFUL TRIBE. I BELONGED TO ITS ROYAL FAMILY UNTIL I RENOUNCED EVERYTHING TO PURSUE THIS LIFE.

YOU ARE YET YOUNG. YOUR LIFE IS JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN!

DO YOU KNOW HOW GALLANT YOU LOOK? YOU EXUDE THE VIRILITY AND GRACE OF A TRUE WARRIOR!

...I BID YOU REMAIN IN MY KINGDOM...
AND
BECOME
A GENERAL
OF MYTHIC
FAME!

I WILL
ENTRUST
MY ARMY
TO
YOU!

ALL THE
RICHES YOU
DESIRE ARE
YOURS!

HARKEN
TO THE
KING'S
PLEA.

- THESE EYES
HAVE SEEN
DIVERSE
MISFORTUNES
FOLLOW FROM
DIVERSE DESIRES.

I HAVE CHOSEN
TO PUT ALL THAT
BEHIND AND TO
PURSUE THE
ASCETIC'S WAY.

THAT IS
MY ONLY
SOLACE
NOW.

I SEE
HOW
THAT
MAY BE.

BUT...
YOU
HAVE...

THE FACE
OF A
KING!

SUCH
A
WASTE!
WILL YOU NOT HEED MY WISHES? I BESEECH YOU.

I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULD REFUSE...
... VERY WELL...

WILL YOU AT LEAST LEND ME YOUR EARS, NOW AND THEN, AS A HOLY MAN?

YOUR MAJESTY HAS WORRIES?

YES! I... DO NOT FEAR DEATH, BUT...

BUT I WISH TO KNOW HOW TO PREPARE FOR IT.

I WOULD GLADLY HOLD CONVERSE WITH YOU.

AH, GOOD!

THIS WAS WORTH THE TRIP.
I think I've just come up with a great name for you:

"Buddha" (Enlightened One)!
'Til we meet again...