

THE SAND PIT

The background of the cover is a sunset over a vast, textured landscape. The sun is a bright yellow orb in the center of the sky, which transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a dark, almost black, sky at the top. The landscape below is a vast expanse of textured, brownish-gold ground, possibly sand or a dry lake bed, with intricate patterns and shadows. In the foreground, a large, dark, triangular object, possibly a piece of wood or a rock, is partially buried in the ground, with a thin vertical stick or pole protruding from its base.

Rachita Rautray

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SAVITRI

Savitri whose name was in the chapter of Indian mythology highlighting the powerful chastity of woman that saved the life of her dying husband was not the same, but was a woman deserted by her husband after few months of her marriage and remained in her father's house which situated in a furthest village. The father and mother having been dead silence long, Savitri's only brother maintained the house with her small family consisting of his wife and two daughters. When deserted she was pregnant two months and gave birth to a female child after few months. In course of time Savitri felt helpless when she was unable to maintain her own daughter and went out in search of any job, which she was willing to do and got one as maid servant in a house situate in the town. Leaving her only daughter in the care of her brother. She came back to the house of one land lord whose name was atop amongst affluents in the town. Though not acquainted with town life, Savitri could manage it a little.

The land lord's house where she was engaged as maid servant situated in the heart of the town just at the road just by the junction. In the town was some hillocks whose tops were seen to the house of the land lord. The sky and the top of the hills were the beautiful sight besides the trees with flowers and foliage stood in row in the front of the house. Inside the house was a large verandah ended with one stoney building whose works still hang up resulting in half finish of the work of windows with outdoor etc. Before the Pucca building once upon a time there stood a thatch house with a window as small as that of a pot hole of the ship viewing the backyard wherein in the end was a small pool used by the family members and other works done like scrubbing of utensils etc. just at the close of the house was a well whose face was larger twice the size of the cave, whoever saw it felt it a small bath pool. For in the rainy days the well was filled with water and whoever got the water just by holding the bucket bowing a little, without

stretching hand could draw the bucketful water and no necessity of drawing it with the help of rope or string or anything else.

In the rainy days the middle daughter in law with a bucket went to the well by bending a low with hand stretching a little dipped the bucket, drew the water by rearing herself up from the bowed posture by putting the bucketful of water on the edge of the well. It was a comical scene of whoever did this act without assistance from any other materials like rope or string. Ahead the well was an oak tree and one coconut tree standing align in the front of the well and so whoever took bath, these part of the tree obstructing the view to the road running at the end so any passerby could not catch sight of any woman except deep colour of the robe that made them think of the flower or any other thing. So whoever took bath there remained undisturbed.

Savitri since her coming to the house felt something different. It was though a zamindar family different inward. The wife of the owner of the house was quite a petty fogging woman. Shyness was not perceptible in the nature and character of the landlady. Since she got her all sons married, no one was allowed to live their except the middle son's wife who was found rather sort nonchalant. Whatever occurred in the house were cast on the head of the middle son's wife who bore all their hands so docilely that never did a word came out from her mouth. She remained mute in all her endeavored efforts at self control, by closing her mouth together with eyes blinking fast and nod of head as if to forget the words used by her mother in law poor as she was, the daughter in law did all the work, after doing up, she went to take her lunch but she just put one mouthful, the quarrel in the house started and continued till the daughter in law got up from her lunch which she silently threw into that stone bowl kept by the pipe line for the purpose of giving the cow fodder and remains of the family's lunch or dinner. From a little distance Savitri saw this but at the blink of the daughter in law whom she called "Bouma", she kept mum or closed her mouth with vice. Her act of closing her lips made her cheek a little dimple which made her Bouma laugh silently. And after she pressed her lips tightly she felt a little depressed as to how long her Bouma remained fasting. Her Bouma lived in the upstairs in a room of not less pretension both as to width and girth than her parents in laws'. The latter that the down stair or ground floor had been built since the owner shifted his practice in the heart of the town through his native place was not far distant but a distance of ten to twelve

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