

KIM

CHARACTERS

TALE TELLER (TT)

KIM

BIG BOY

LITTLE BOY (LIT BOY)

LAMA

CURATOR (CUR)

WOMAN

MAHBUB

PORTER

LADY

WILL

WIFE

COMMANDER IN CHIEF (CC)

SERVANT

BRAHMIN

HILLMAN

WIDOW

SOLDIER 1 (S1)

SOLDIER 2 (S2)

FATHER VICTOR (FATHER)

LURGAN

CHILD

HURREE BABU (HURREE)

RUSSIAN

FRENCH MAN (FRENCH)

American Radio Theater presents Rudyard Kipling's KIM, adapted by
Melinda Mains.

1 MUSIC (INDIAN--FLUTE, BELLS, SITAR, ETC, FADES, BUT CONTINUES
2 AS BACK GROUND AS TT SPEAKS)
3 TT Tales to tell! Tales to tell! I am the tale-teller. What
4 would you, good sir? Lady? Boys and girls? A story of
5 adventure? Humor? Magic? Danger? What?? You smile and
6 nod. You want them all? (CHUCKLES) Very well! I will
7 weave you a story with all of that and more! But first,
8 a token of your interest, if you please! Copper, silver,
9 gold...my little pot welcomes them all.
10
11 EFX (SOUNDS OF SEVERAL COINS RINGING AGAINST METAL)
12
13 TT What? So few?! This is a pittance. You do not want a
14 tale!
15
16 EFX (MORE COINS CLATTERING INTO THE POT)
17 TT Ah! That is better. Yes! Yes, I know just the story. Sit
18 down, my friends, there are cushions for all. Now close
19 your eyes and open your minds while I tell you the tale
20 of Kim. Imagine India as it was not so very long ago
21 when the English reigned. Princes, beggars, farmers,
22 merchants, priests, street rats---for so Kim was---all,
23 all of them jostling together in the vast sub-continent
24 called the British Raj. Yes, close your eyes and imagine
25 a boy brown as a nut, with nothing but a loincloth, a
26 ragged shirt, a dirty turban on his head and...a secret.
27 Despite his poverty, he is a most audacious and willful
28 boy, for against all regulations, he now sits upon Zam-
29 Zammah, the ancient and revered cannon in front of the
30 Lahore Museum, daring his playmates to take
31 possession...
32

1 MUSIC (SWELLS AND SLOWLY FADES)
2
3 BIG BOY Off! Off, Kim, let me up!
4
5 KIM (SING-SONG) Thy father was a pastry-cook, thy mother,
6 all the butter took! (SPEAKING) Besides, all Mussalmans
7 fell off Zam-Zammah long ago!
8
9 LIT BOY Let ME up!
10
11 KIM Ha! The Hindus fell off Zam-Zammah too. The Mussalmans
12 pushed them off! (SING-SONG) Thy father was a pastry-
13 cook, thy... Over there. Who is that?
14
15 BIG BOY Perhaps it is a man?
16
17 KIM Without doubt, but he is no man of India that I have
18 ever seen. His robe looks like a horse-blanket, and what
19 is that odd, flat thing on his head?
20
21 LIT BOY Perhaps he is a holy man? Or a scribe? Only see, at his
22 belt hang a string of wooden beads and an iron pencase.
23
24 BIG BOY Look, he is coming this way!
25
26 LAMA O Children, what is this big house?
27
28 KIM It is the Wonder House. The sahibs call it the Lahore
29 Museum.
30
31 LAMA Ah! The Wonder House! Can anyone enter?
32

1 KIM It is so written above the door---all can enter.
2
3 LAMA Without payment?
4
5 KIM (LAUGHS) I go in and out, and I am no money lender!
6
7 LAMA Alas, I am an old man. I did not know. Thank you, now---
8
9 KIM Wait! Do not go. What is your caste? Where is your home?
10 Have you come far?
11
12 LAMA I come from the mountains, where the air and water are
13 fresh and cool.
14
15 BIG BOY Ah, a Chinaman!
16
17 LIT BOY Nay, a hillman!
18
19 LAMA Aye, child, a hillman from the greatest hills ever seen.
20 Didst hear of Tibet? I am a lama, or as you would say, a
21 guru.
22
23 KIM A guru from Tibet... I have never seen such a man as
24 you. They be Hindus in Tibet, then?
25
26 LAMA Nay, we be followers of the Middle Way, living in peace
27 in our lamaseries. Now I go to see the Four Holies of
28 the Buddha: his birthplace, where he received
29 enlightenment, the site of his first teaching, and where
30 he died. And so now you, who are children, know as much
31 as I do, who am old. (CHUCKLES)
32

1 KIM Have you eaten, holy one?
2
3 LAMA I have my begging bowl, but I do not wish to eat yet. Is
4 it true that there are many images of the Buddha in this
5 Wonder House, this museum of Lahore?
6
7 BIG BOY (SCORNFULLY) It is true. It is filled with heathen
8 pictures. No Mussalman would tolerate them. You must be
9 an idolater too!
10
11 KIM Never mind him! That is the Government's house and there
12 is no idolatry in it, but only a Sahib with a white
13 beard. Come with me and I will show you.
14
15 LIT BOY (WHISPERING) Strange priests eat boys!
16
17 BIG BOY And he is both stranger and idolater as well!
18
19 KIM (LAUGHS) Run to your mothers' laps and be safe! Now,
20 holy one, come with me. Up the stairs, yes, and now the
21 turnstile... (FOOTSTEPS, CLICKING SOUNDS)
22
23 LAMA (GASPS) Buddha, the Lord Buddha everywhere! Only see,
24 here! And here again! Seated on a lotus. Now with his
25 sacred Mother. And over there with his loyal disciple...
26 The Most Excellent Law is here also. My pilgrimage is
27 well begun. And what work! What work!
28
29 KIM Look, holy one, yonder, with the white beard. It is the
30 Sahib.
31
32 EFX (APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS GROW LOUDER, STOP)

1

2 LAMA Ah! One of us who made pilgrimage to the Holy Places
3 told me of your museum.

4

5 CUR Welcome, O lama from Tibet. Here be images, sculptures,
6 carvings, and here am I. Is there something particular
7 you wish to see or discuss?

8

9 LAMA O Fount of Wisdom, I am come here to follow the
10 footsteps of Buddha, from his birthplace to where he
11 died. Therefore, as a pilgrim to the Holy Places I
12 acquire merit. But there is more. Listen to a true
13 thing. When our gracious Lord, being as yet a youth,
14 sought a mate, men said He was too tender for marriage.
15 Thou dost know this?

16

17 CUR Aye.

18

19 LAMA So they made the triple trial of strength against all
20 comers. And at the test of the Bow, our Lord called for
21 such a bow as none might bend. Thou does know?

22

23 CUR It is written. I have read.

24

25 LAMA Overshooting all other marks, His arrow passed far and
26 far beyond sight. When it touched earth, there broke out
27 a stream, which swelled to a river. It is said that
28 whoever bathes in this holy river washes away all taint
29 and speckle of sin.

30

31 CUR (SADLY) So it is written.

32

1 LAMA (DEEP BREATH) Where is that River? Tell me, O Fount of
2 Wisdom, where fell the arrow?
3
4 CUR Alas, my brother, I know not.
5
6 LAMA But surely it is written somewhere! We KNOW He drew the
7 bow! We KNOW the arrow fell! We KNOW the stream gushed!
8 Where, then, is the River? A dream told me to find it.
9 So I leave my mountains. I am here. But where is the
10 River?
11
12 CUR If I knew, think you I would not cry it aloud?
13
14 LAMA By it, one attains freedom from the Wheel of Things. The
15 River of the Arrow! Think again! Some little stream,
16 perhaps...dried up in the heats? But, no, the Holy One
17 would never so cheat an old man...
18
19 CUR I do not know. I do not know.
20
21 LAMA (DEEP SIGH) I see thou dost not know. Not being of the
22 Law, the matter is hidden from thee.
23
24 CUR Aye. Hidden...hidden.
25
26 LAMA (ANOTHER SIGH) We are both bound, thou and I, my
27 brother. But I...I go to cut myself free. Come thou
28 also!
29
30 CUR Alas. I must stay here. But whither goest thou?
31

1 LAMA First to Benares, where else? There I shall meet another
2 Seeker. Mayhap I will learn somewhat from him. Thence,
3 north and west, by foot or by the great steam train, for
4 there will I seek the River. Nay, I will seek everywhere
5 I go! For it is not known where the arrow fell.

6

7 CUR And will you go alone, with no companion?

8

9 LAMA When I left my beautiful mountains, I brought with me a
10 young disciple, a 'chela', who begged food for the two
11 of us as the Rule demands. But, alas, he died of a
12 fever, and so I take the alms-bowl myself. Thus, I allow
13 the charitable to acquire merit. I thank you for your
14 time and wisdom, and now I must go.

15

16 CUR May you find your river, Holy One.

17

18 LAMA May it be so. Farewell!

19

20 KIM Aye, farewell, sahib!

21

22 EFX (FOOTSTEPS, TURNSTILE, STREET NOISES)

23

24 KIM Where do we go now, Holy One?

25

26 LAMA We? Surely, I go on my quest, and you go to your home.

27

28 KIM Ha, the world is my home! I go where I wish and do what
29 I wish. And now, I wish to eat! Rest thee here and give
30 me thy begging bowl. I know the people of this city...
31 all who are charitable. Give, and I will bring it back
32 filled.

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LAMA Take the bowl then, and I will sit in the shade of this awning.

EFX (RUNNING FOOTSTEPS, MARKET SOUNDS, HAGGLING, ETC.)

KIM Oh, good mother, fill me this bowl. A new priest is come to town and he hungers.

WOMAN Bah! New priest! Old priest! They gobble my vegetables like the holy bull of Shiva! That animal already took the best of a basket of onions this morn. Aie, here comes the creature again!

EFX (CLOPPING OF HOOVES, SNORTING, SNUFFLING SOUNDS GROWING LOUDER, SHARP METALIC RINGING SOUND, LOUD SNORT, FAST SHUFFLE OF HOOVES, FADES)

KIM Good mother, you saw it was an accident! I but turned to honor the sacred bull and my copper bowl hit it on the nose!

WOMAN (CHUCKLES) Most assuredly, a clumsy accident! I'll gladly fill thy bowl, Little Friend of all the World. After all, a man eats less than a bull.

EFX (SPOONING SOUNDS OF FOOD INTO METAL BOWL)

WOMAN There! Rice, vegetable curry, a fried cake on top, and a dab of tamarind jam...will that satisfy thy priest?

1 KIM How can it not, mother? I shall ask his blessing for
2 thee!

3

4 EFX (SOUND OF RUNNING FEET AMID MARKET NOISES, FADES AND
5 STOPS)

6

7 KIM Only see, holy one! Thus do we beg who know the way of
8 it! Eat now...and I will eat with thee.

9

10 EFX (EATING SOUNDS)

11

12 LAMA Child, you came to me when I was in need and took me to
13 the Wonder House. And now you care for me like my chela.
14 By these auspicious signs, I know I will find the River
15 of the Arrow.

16

17 KIM Holy one, I...I would go with you.

18

19 LAMA To search out the River?

20

21 KIM Nay, I go to look for...for a bull. A Red Bull on a
22 green field.

23

24 LAMA How is this?

25

26 KIM My mother and father were English, holy one. She died
27 when I was a babe, but I remember somewhat my father. As
28 he lay dying, he gave me this amulet case I wear under
29 my shirt. (PATS CHEST) There are important papers in it,
30 he said, which I should reveal only when I see certain
31 signs.

32

1 LAMA Signs? What manner of signs?
2
3 KIM My father said someday there will come for me a great
4 Red Bull across a green field, then a Colonel riding a
5 tall horse, followed by nine hundred devils. But first,
6 two men will appear, making ready the ground for these
7 matters. (PAUSES)
8
9 I...I heard thy talk in the Wonder House, all those
10 strange places, the search for a river... It came to me
11 that I should go with you. If it is our fate to find
12 those things, we shall find them...thou, thy River, and
13 I, my Bull.
14
15 LAMA (JOVIAL) Well, then, my chela, let us start off for
16 Benares! (RUSTLE OF CLOTHING AS HE RISES)
17
18 KIM (CHUCKLES) Not now, holy one. It grows dark and thieves
19 are abroad. Let us wait till day. We can get good
20 lodging near the railway where the caravans stop. I have
21 a friend there. Come!
22
23 MUSIC (SWELLS--FLUTE, BELLS, ETC, FADES, BUT CONTINUES AS BACK
24 GROUND AS TT SPEAKS)
25
26

1 TT Ah, so THAT is the boy's secret! A bull, a green field,
2 and...devils?! What can it mean? Moreover, despite his
3 clothes and speech, Kim is neither Hindu, nor Muslim,
4 but English! And so he would join his quest with the
5 lama's. You may have already guessed that the boy is
6 called 'Little Friend of all the World' for a reason,
7 for it seems every other person knows him.

8
9 Once at the railway, Kim leaves the lama with some
10 fellow Buddhists, then goes to see an old friend, the
11 Afghan horse trader, Mahbub Ali... Aye, Mahbub buys and
12 sells horses, but more often than not, he also buys and
13 sells information, information which he gives to certain
14 officials of the British raj. Espionage, some call it,
15 but those like Mahbub call it the Great Game...

16
17 MUSIC (SWELLS AND SLOWLY FADES)

18
19 KIM (WHINING) Oh, mighty Maharaja! My father is dead, my
20 mother is dead, my stomach is empty...

21
22 MABUB Away! Go beg from the Hindus!

23
24 KIM (LAUGHS, THEN IN NORMAL VOICE) But, Mahbub, am 'I' a
25 Hindu?

26
27 MAHBUB Hmph! Little Friend of All the World, what is this?

28
29 KIM I am now a holy man's disciple. We are going on a
30 pilgrimage together--to Benares, he says. He's quite
31 mad, but I'm tired of Lahore city. I wish new air and
32 water.

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MAHBUB But why come to me?

KIM To whom else should I come? I have no money. It is not good to go about without money. Thou wilt sell many horses to the English officers. They are very fine horses, these new ones. Give me a rupee, Mahbub Ali, and when I come to my wealth I shall repay thee and more.

MAHBUB Hmm. Umballa is on the road to Benares... If thou wilt carry a message for me as far as Umballa, I will give thee money.

KIM Of a surety, I will carry thy message! What should I say?

MAHBUB The message concerns a horse, a white stallion that I sold to an officer in Umballa some months ago. But at that time, the horse's pedigree was not fully established. So, tell him... Here, stand closer and hold up thy hands as if begging, should anyone come by and see thee. Aye, that's the way. Tell him: "The pedigree of the white stallion is fully established." By that, he will know thou comest from me. He will then say, "What proof hast thou?", and thou wilt answer: "Mahbub Ali has given me the proof."

KIM (GIGGLES) All that for a white stallion?

1 MAHBUB (ANNOYED) Humph! That pedigree I will give thee now...
2 (APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS) Allah! Art thou the only beggar
3 in the city? Thy mother is dead! Thy father is dead! So
4 it is with all of them. (FOOTSTEPS PASS AND FADE) Well,
5 well, take this round of bread and be off.
6
7 KIM A thousand thanks, beneficent one!
8
9 MAHBUB Off, I say!
10
11 KIM (LAUGHS, RUNS OFF) (TO SELF) Ah, here is a torch. Let us
12 see what Mahbub gave me besides bread. Oh, ho! A tiny
13 wad of paper with writing on it, and a tiny map...AND
14 three silver rupees! This is a most important pedigree!
15 I think my lama and I should go to Umballa at once!
16 (RUNS OFF, FOOTSTEPS FADE)
17
18 EFX (TRAIN NOISES, WHISTLE, SLOWING AND STOPPING WITH A
19 SQUEAL AND JERK)
20
21 PORTER (SHOUTING) Umballa! Umballa station. All out for
22 Umballa!
23
24 EFX (MUTTERINGS, CLATTERING OF FOOTSTEPS AS PEOPLE DESCEND
25 FROM THE TRAIN)
26
27

1 LADY (LOUD YAWN) (MULTIPLE FOOTSTEPS THROUGHOUT) The evening
2 is half gone, but here we are in Umballa, at last. Oh,
3 holy one, the fascinating tale of your quest kept me
4 from my sleep, and you from yours. My husband and I are
5 lodging with his younger brother. The house is not far
6 and there is room in the courtyard for you and your
7 chela.
8
9 KIM Holy one! A woman with a heart of gold gives us lodging
10 for the night! Aye, kind lady, we accept your
11 invitation. Ah, only see, they open the house gate even
12 now. Go with her, holy one.
13
14 LAMA You do not enter, my chela?
15
16 KIM I...I go away for a while to...to get us somewhat to eat
17 at the bazaar we passed.
18
19 LAMA But you will return? Is it too late to look for my
20 River?
21
22 KIM Too late and too dark. Rest here, holy one. I will
23 return. (SOUND OF GATE CLOSING) (RATTLE OF PAPER)(TO
24 SELF) Hm! Mahbub's map shows the bazaar and behind it a
25 great house marked with an X. I wonder what will happen
26 when I deliver this message? (LAUGHS AND RUNS OFF)
27 (FOOTSTEPS FADE)
28
29 EFX (RUSTLE OF BUSHES, PIANO MUSIC IN BACKGROUND, MURMUR OF
30 ENGLISH VOICES)
31

1 KIM (TO SELF) Oh, ho! A dinner party! But which is my man?
2 Ah, an officer is coming into the garden. I'll give
3 Mahbub's name and see if he responds. (RUSTLE OF BUSHES
4 GROWS LOUDER) Oh, Protector of the Poor! Mahbub---
5
6 WILL (WHISPERING) Ha! What says Mahbub Ali, oh shadow?
7
8 KIM (WHISPERING) The pedigree of the white stallion is fully
9 established.
10
11 WILL (WHISPERING) What proof is there?
12
13 KIM (WHISPERING) The proof is in this wadded paper. Catch!
14
15 WILL (WHISPERING) I have it! Take you this rupee, shadow, and
16 be gone. (SOUND OF COIN STRIKING STONE) (FOOTSTEPS MOVE
17 AWAY)
18
19 KIM (LAUGHS TO SELF) I'll take the coin... But I won't be
20 gone! (RUSTLE OF BUSHES GROWS LOUDER)
21
22 WIFE (DOOR OPENS) (CALLING) Will! Will, dear! Come to the
23 drawing-room. They'll be here in a minute.
24
25 EFX (FAINT CLOPPING OF APPROACHING HORSES)
26
27 WIFE William Creighton! He's come! I hear his troops in the
28 front drive!
29
30 WILL I'll go round and greet him, darling. Won't be more than
31 a few minutes. See to the others, keep them amused and
32 all that, there's a dear.

1
2 WIFE Hmph! Very well, but I warn you, dinner begins exactly
3 at nine, whether the Commander in Chief is there or not!
4 (DOOR SLAMS SHUT)
5
6 WILL (HURRIED FOOTSTEPS) Sir! (WHISPERS) I just received news
7 of a certain horse's pedigree.
8
9 CC {LOW VOICE) Did you, now? Well, well, well. (ALOUD)
10 Gentlemen! Please go on in and keep Mrs. Creighton
11 company. I'll be there directly. (LOW VOICE) Here, under
12 the porch light. Now show me what you have. (CRINKLE OF
13 PAPER) Hmm. This is more urgent than I thought. It isn't
14 a question of weeks. It is a question of days...hours
15 almost. I've been expecting it for some time, but this
16 message (TAPS PAPER) this clinches it. Grogan's dining
17 here tonight, isn't he?
18
19 WILL Yes, sir. He came a half-hour ago. Macklin, too.
20
21 CC Very good. I'll speak to them myself. Warn the brigades.
22 Eight thousand should be enough.
23
24 WILL What about artillery, sir?
25
26 CC I must consult Macklin. Send off telegrams to the
27 brigades at once. The new code, not the old. Yes...
28 Well, I don't think we need keep the ladies waiting any
29 longer. We can settle the rest over cigars. Yes. Yes, I
30 thought this was coming.
31
32 WILL Then it's war, sir?

1
2 CC No, it's punishment, not war. Come. (FOOTSTEPS FADE AS
3 DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES)
4
5 KIM (RUSTLE OF BUSHES) Ho! All that from a horse's
6 pedigree?! Now a great army goes to punish
7 someone...somewhere. And there are guns! It is big news.
8 But I cannot tell anyone! Ah, well, I shall beg for food
9 at the bazaar and take it to the holy one.(RUSTLE OF
10 BUSHES FADES)
11
12 EFX (LOUD KNOCKING ON WOODEN DOOR)
13
14 KIM Open the gate, I say! I am the holy one's chela!
15
16 EFX (FOOTSTEPS, CREAK OF RUSTY HINGES)
17
18 SERVANT (YAWNING AND ANNOYED) Why come you so late? Everyone is
19 already here and eating.
20
21 KIM Everyone? Who is everyone?
22
23 SERVANT Besides the master's family, his brother and sister-in-
24 law and your foreign lama, there are also several
25 friends and a fortune-telling Brahmin priest. The entire
26 household is begging him for predictions!
27
28 KIM (LAUGHS) Then I am not late. Take me to them.
29
30 SERVANT I have better things to do. Find them yourself! They're
31 all in the courtyard.
32

1 **EFX** (DOOR SLAMS SHUT, FOOTSTEPS, MURMUR OF CONVERSATION
2 GROWS LOUDER, STOPS AS KIM APPEARS)
3
4 **KIM** I return, holy one, with food as I promised.
5
6 **LAMA** Ah, my chela. Thou art good to me. But see, these kind
7 people have already given me to eat. Sit thee down and
8 partake of what thou hast brought.
9
10 **LADY** You are just in time! The priest was about to leave. The
11 lama told him of your prophecy about the Red Bull and
12 the nine hundred devils, but the priest says he can do
13 nothing without your birth-hour.
14
15 **BRAHMIN** Aye, what is thy birth-hour, boy?
16
17 **KIM** Between first and second cockcrow of the first night in
18 May.
19
20 **BRAHMIN** And the year?
21
22 **KIM** I know not, but upon the hour I first cried there fell
23 the great earthquake in Kashmir.
24
25 **BRAHMIN** Ah! None reared in the knowledge forget how the planets
26 stood in their Houses upon that night! Thou hast good
27 claim to half the House of the Bull. Tell me, how runs
28 thy prophecy?
29
30

1 KIM (ENJOYING THE LIMELIGHT, DRAMATIC) Upon a day, I shall
2 be made great by means of a Red Bull on a green field.
3 But first there will enter two men making all things
4 ready...
5
6 BRAHMIN (SLOW AND TRANCE-LIKE) Aye, thus it is at the opening of
7 a vision. A thick darkness that clears slowly. Anon, one
8 enters with a broom, making ready the place. Then begins
9 the sight...(BACK TO NORMAL SPEECH) Two men, thou
10 sayest? Aye! Aye, the Sun, leaving the House of the
11 Bull, enters that of the Twins. Hence the two men of the
12 prophecy. Someone fetch me a stick! I must scratch in
13 the earth the signs in the heavens the night of this
14 one's birth!
15
16 LADY Here is a twig, oh priest. Will it serve?
17
18 BRAHMIN Give it me! Now, silence, all! (MANY SCRATCHING SOUNDS
19 AND MUTTERINGS, THEN A SHARP SNAP AS THE TWIG IS BROKEN)
20 So, and so... Thus say the stars. Within three days come
21 two men to make all things ready. After them follows the
22 Bull. But the sign over him is the sign of War and armed
23 men, a red and angry sign of War to be loosed very soon.
24 What concern hast thou with war, boy?
25
26 LAMA None! None! We seek only peace and our River.
27
28 BRAHMIN Alas, for that wondrous river, brother. Such things are
29 not common. Not common...
30
31 MUSIC (INDIAN--FLUTE, BELLS, SITAR, ETC, FADES, BUT CONTINUES
32 AS BACK GROUND AS IT SPEAKS)

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TT And so, the lama in search of his River and Kim in search of his Bull, the two set out on foot down the Grand Trunk Road. This is not just any road, my friends. It is the backbone of all Hind, running fifteen hundred miles straight across the country, the most of it lined by trees and dotted at regular intervals with police boxes. All casts and kinds of men move here. Brahmins and leather workers, bankers, tinkers, barbers and money changers, pilgrims and potters---all the world going and coming, walking or riding during the day, sleeping on the verge of the road at night. Therefore, it is no great surprise that late one afternoon as Kim and the lama look for a place to eat and spend the night, the boy takes special note of a canopied bullock cart drawing to a stop. He smiles at the cackle of complaints, orders, jests and bad language coming from the woman behind the curtains and approaches...

MUSIC (SWELLS AND SLOWLY FADES)

HILLMAN (ACCENT) You, beggar boy, stand away from my lady's cart!

KIM A hillman tells me this? Since when has a hillman authority in Hindustan?

HILLMAN Thou droppings of a diseased donkey! Thou excrement-eating pig! Thou...thou...

KIM Have a care, brother, lest we--WE, I say--be minded to give a curse in return!

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27

LAMA What is wrong? Can we not rest here?

KIM Of a surety, we can, Holy One. There is room for all.

LAMA It is well, for I am tired. I will lie down for a bit in
the shade and eat later. (SIGHS)

WIDOW (RATTLE OF RINGS ON CURTAIN ROD) You, boy, come here!
Who is that one?

KIM An exceedingly holy man, gentle lady. He comes from far
off. He comes from Tibet.

WIDOW Where in Tibet?

KIM From behind the snows. He knows the stars; he makes
horoscopes, he reads nativities. But he does not do this
for money. He does it for kindness and great charity. I
am his disciple. I am called Friend of all the World.

WIDOW Thou art no hillman!

KIM Ask him. He will tell thee I was sent to him from the
stars to show him an end to his pilgrimage.

1 WIDOW Humph! Consider, brat, that I am a woman and must
2 therefore stay concealed behind these curtains. But
3 although old, I am not a fool! I come from the Hills
4 also, and lamas I know. Therefore, to these I do my duty
5 and give both reverence and food. And when he is rested
6 and has eaten my offering, I would speak with him. But
7 thou... Thou art no more a lawful chela than my finger
8 is the axel pole of this wagon! Thou art a casteless
9 Hindu---a bold and unblushing beggar, attached, belike,
10 to the Holy One for the sake of gain.

11

12 KIM (FAKED FEAR) Oh, Eye of Beauty, it is not so! Not so, I
13 swear it!

14

15 WIDOW (CHUCKLES) Eye of Beauty, forsooth! Who am I that thou
16 shouldst fling beggar-endearaments at me.(GIGGLES) Forty
17 years ago that might have been said, and not without
18 truth. Aye, even thirty years ago! (GETS ANGRY) But it
19 is the fault of this gadding up and down Hind that a
20 king's widow must jostle with all the scum of the land,
21 and be mocked by beggars!

22

23 KIM Great Queen, I am even what you say I am, but none the
24 less is my master holy. He has not yet heard the Great
25 Queen's order that---

26

27 WIDOW Order? I order a Holy One---a Teacher of the Law--to
28 come and speak to a woman? Never!

29

30 KIM Have pity on my stupidity. I thought it was an order...

31

1 WIDOW It was not! It was a...a...petition. Here, does this
2 make all clear? (RING OF A COIN STRIKING STONE)
3
4 KIM Many thanks, beneficent one! However, I am but the Holy
5 One's disciple. When he has eaten, perhaps he will come.
6
7 WIDOW Perhaps?! (CHUCKLES) Oh, villain and shameless rogue!
8
9 KIM (SOOTHING, CONFIDENTIAL) Nay, what is it? Is...is there
10 need of a son in thy family? Speak freely, for we
11 priests---
12
13 WIDOW We priests! Thou art not yet old enough to... Well...
14 (CHUCKLES) Believe me, 'O priest', we women think of
15 other matters than sons. Moreover, my daughter has borne
16 her man-child.
17
18 KIM (SUAVELY) Two arrows in the quiver are better than one,
19 and three are better still...
20
21 LAMA (LOUD YAWN, THEN FEARFUL) Oh! Oh, Friend of all the
22 World, where art thou? Where am I?
23
24 KIM I come! I come, holy one! There, all is well. This
25 generous lady here will share her meal with us, and
26 later, when thou art well-rested and content, she would
27 speak with thee. Moreover, she comes from thy hills and
28 knows them. (LOWERS VOICE) I think she needs a second
29 son for her daughter.
30

1 LAMA (LOW VOICE) That is no part of the Way! (SIGHS) But at
2 least, she is from the Hills. Ah, the Hills, and the
3 snow of the Hills!
4
5 WIDOW (SHOUTING) My pipe! Ho! Where is my pipe! I am still
6 without my tobacco! Who is the one-eyed and luckless son
7 of shame that has not yet prepared my pipe?!8
9 LAMA (SIGHS) A proverb comes to mind: The husbands of the
10 talkative have a great reward hereafter... Well, I will
11 go to her later. But before we eat, I would search the
12 countryside here for my River before it grows too dark.
13 There, is that a gleam of water in the distance? Let us
14 go see!
15
16 EFX (TWO SETS OF FEET TRAMPLING THROUGH GRASS)
17
18 KIM Water? I see a shimmer through the brush, but...but, no,
19 it is soldiers! English soldiers. It is not water, but
20 the sun glittering off their brass buckles! Let us stop
21 here in the shadow of the mango trees.
22
23 EFX (SOUNDS OF TWO PEOPLE TRAMPLING THROUGH BRUSH AND
24 FOLIAGE GETTING LOUDER)
25
26 S1 Let's put the officers' tents in this grove of shade
27 trees. The rest of us can camp out there in the field.
28
29 S2 Right. Shove the flag in here. Hammer it in good, then
30 we'll see what's holding up the rest.
31

1 EFX (SOUNDS OF HAMMERING WOODEN STAKE, THEN RECEEDING
2 FOOTSTEPS IN GRASS)
3
4 KIM Oh, holy one! Holy one, my horoscope! The drawing in the
5 dust by the priest at Umballa! Remember what he said?
6 First come two men to make things ready...in a dark
7 place, at it is always at the beginning of a vision.
8 Then, after them comes the Bull...the Red Bull on the
9 green field...and look! The flag the soldiers left. It
10 is my Bull on a green background!
11
12 LAMA I see, and I remember. Certainly, it is thy Bull.
13 Certainly, also, two men came to make all ready.
14
15 KIM They are soldiers, English soldiers. What said the
16 priest? 'The sign over against the Bull is the sign of
17 War and armed men.' Holy one, this thing touches my
18 Search!
19
20 LAMA True. It is true. The Brahman priest at Umballa said
21 that thine was the sign of War.
22
23 KIM What is to do now?
24
25 LAMA Wait. Let us wait.
26
27

1 KIM Look, the setting sun breaks through the trees, shedding
2 light on all. It is as the Brahman said, even now the
3 darkness clears... See, here comes a man on a white
4 horse...the Colonel! And behind him the nine hundred
5 devils! They are soldiers...soldiers everywhere rushing
6 about, putting up tents like magic! I am going crawl
7 closer, holy one. Rest thou here. (RUSTLE OF FOLIAGE)
8
9 FATHER Ungh! (COLLISION OF BODIES, GASPS AND TUSSLING SOUNDS,
10 PARTIES STRUGGLING TO GET TO THEIR FEET) Begorra, what's
11 this now? Why are you lurking in the shadows waiting to
12 trip up a man of God? (FLURRY OF STRUGGLING TO GET FREE)
13 Oh, no, you don't, boyo! I've got you with the goods!
14 Stealing, were you? Let's see what's in this pouch round
15 your neck so we can return it to its owner.
16
17 KIM (ACCENT THROUGHOUT AS KIM SPEAKS ENGLISH TO THE PRIEST)
18 I do not...did not steal. Oh, give it me! It is my
19 charm. Is it lost? Give me papers. Do not thief it from
20 me! You have hit me kicks all over my body. Now give me
21 my charm and I will go away.
22
23 FATHER A thief talking English, is it? Curiouser and curiouser!
24 Methinks I'll just haul you off to my tent and shed some
25 light on this. (STRUGGLING SOUNDS, THEN STRIKE OF MATCH)
26 There, that's better. Now, let's see... (RUSTLE OF
27 SEVERAL PAPERS) Powers of Darkness below! Do you know
28 what these papers are, boy?
29
30 KIM Yes, they are mine, and I want to go away.
31

1 FATHER This says you're Kimball O'Hara's son! I saw Kimball
2 married meself to Annie Shott. How long have you had
3 these things, boy?
4
5 KIM Since I was little baby.
6
7 FATHER Is that so? Open your shirt, boyo. Hmm. White skin,
8 right enough. What do they call you, lad?
9
10 KIM Kim.
11
12 FATHER Or Kimball?
13
14 KIM Perhaps. Will you let me go away?
15
16 FATHER What else?
17
18 KIM They call me Kim Rishti ke. That is Kim of the Rishti.
19
20 FATHER What is that--'Rishti'?
21
22 KIM EYE-rishti...that was Regiment...my father's.
23
24 FATHER Irish--oh, I see.
25
26 KIM Yesss. That was how my father told me. My father, he has
27 lived.
28
29 FATHER Has lived where?
30
31 KIM HAS lived. Of COURSE, he is dead...gone-out.
32

1 FATHER Oh! That's your abrupt way of putting it, is it?
2
3 KIM My father, he is dead in Lahore city since I am very
4 little. The woman kept junk shop where hire-carriages
5 are.
6
7 FATHER Your mother?
8
9 KIM (DISGUSTED) No! She went out when I was borned. My
10 father got these papers, because he was in... What you
11 call that--'good standing'? So, my father say when I
12 find a Red Bull on a green field, a Colonel on a horse
13 and nine hundred devils shall help me. This is true
14 telling! Two days ago, the Brahmin priest said I shall
15 find this Red Bull, and now I do. The holy man waiting
16 outside heard this prophecy too. Will you hurt him if I
17 call him a shout? He is very holy. He can witness to all
18 things I say, and he knows I am not a thief.
19
20 FATHER Call him, then.
21
22 KIM (LOUDLY) Holy One, canst thou hear? The Search is at an
23 end for me. Come to this tent. The Sahib with a silver
24 cross cannot talk Hindi. He is like an uncurried donkey.
25
26 LAMA It is not well to make a jest of another's ignorance.
27 But I am glad if thou art rejoiced, chela. I come.
28 (RUSTING OF GRASS) Ah, chela, what gift has the Red Bull
29 brought?
30
31 KIM Sahib, the holy one say 'What you going to do?'
32

1 FATHER Send you to school, I suppose. What else? You're just a
2 boy.
3
4 KIM Holy One, the English would send me to 'skoo-well'.
5
6 LAMA Do they give or sell learning among the Sahibs? Ask.
7
8 KIM He wish to know do Sahibs give learning, or sell it.
9
10 FATHER As you're an orphan, the regiment will pay.
11
12 KIM It is not a difficulty, holy one. The nine hundred
13 devils will pay.
14
15 LAMA I know something of schools, chela. Ask if the more
16 money is paid, the better learning is given. Ask how
17 much money do they give for wise and suitable teaching,
18 and in what city is that teaching given. Have him write
19 it all down on paper, his name too, for I will send him
20 a letter in a few days.
21
22 KIM He say if more money give better teaching, what is that
23 school and in what city and how much money. Write all
24 down, your name as well. He will send you letter soon.
25 Write all now.
26
27 FATHER (SOUND OF WRITING) Oh, ho! The best schooling a boy can
28 get in India is at St. Xavier's in Lucknow, for two to
29 three hundred rupees a year. Yes, and I can be contacted
30 at this address. (MUMBLES TO SELF) Fa-ther Vic-tor, care
31 of. . . (SCRIBBLING SOUNDS, STOP, RUSTLE OF PAPER) Yes,
32 here you are, sir.

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LAMA I go now, chela.

KIM Holy one, let me come with thee!

LAMA Nay, thou hast found thy Bull. Now I must find my River.

KIM Then go back to the old lady in the cart. She will feed thee and see that no harm comes to thee.

LAMA I shall do so, chela. Farewell! (FOOTSTEPS FADE)

FATHER Don't worry, little man, the Red Bull will care for you. The regiment's going up to Umballa, then to Sanawar. We'll leave you at the boarding school there.

KIM You will not go to Sanawar. You will go to thee War.

FATHER (LAUGHS) Faith, we hope to go to 'thee War' sometime, but it's not likely now.

KIM I tell you, when you get to Umballa, you will be sent to thee war---thee new war. Eight thousand men, besides guns. You will see. You will see...

MUSIC (INDIAN--FLUTE, BELLS, ETC, FADES, BUT CONTINUES AS BACK GROUND AS TT SPEAKS)

1 TT As you may have guessed, Kim's prophecy to Father Victor
2 came true. How not, since he'd heard all the details
3 when he delivered the pedigree of the white stallion to
4 Colonel Creighton? So the regiment went off to war, and
5 Kim remained with Father Victor in Umballa. But one day
6 a certain horse trader came to town. At Kim's demand,
7 the fellow set the boy before him in the saddle and they
8 galloped off.

9
10 MUSIC (SWELLS AND SLOWLY FADES)

11
12 MAHBUB (CONTINUOUS SOUND OF HORSE HOOVES AT A WALK) But, Little
13 Friend of all the World, there is my honor and
14 reputation to be considered! All the officer-Sahibs in
15 all the regiments, and all in Umballa, know Mahbub Ali.
16 Men saw me pick thee up. We are seen even now from far
17 across this field. How can I take thee away, or account
18 for thy disappearing should I let thee run off? They
19 would put me in jail. Thou art a Sahib now. Be patient.

20
21 KIM I do not want to be a Sahib! Give me money so I can go
22 to Benares and be with my lama. And, remember, I DID
23 deliver that message.

24
25 MAHBUB (HORSE WHINNIES, STAMPS FEET. MAHBUB COUGHS. CLEARS
26 THROAT) That...that was a small matter. You but did it
27 on thy way to Benares. I had all but forgotten.

28
29 WILL (TROTGING HOOVES GROW LOUDER, COME TO A STOP) Hi!
30 Mahbub, you old villain! Nice horse. For sale, I
31 suppose?

32

1 MAHBUB Not this one, Colonel Creighton, Sahib. However, I have
2 a young colt for the delicate and difficult polo game.
3 He has no equal. He---
4
5 WILL Plays polo and walks on water. Yes, we know all that.
6 Who's the boy?
7
8 MAHBUB Ah. His father was a soldier. He died and the boy grew
9 up in Lahore. I knew him since he was a young child. He
10 would come see my horses. Now the boy has been newly
11 caught by his father's regiment of the Red Bull. But I
12 do not think he wants to be a soldier. He was born in
13 the land. He has friends and goes where he chooses. It
14 needs only to change his clothing, and in a twinkling he
15 would be a low-cast Hindu boy, or even a Mussalman lad.
16
17 WILL The deuce he would! Hm...
18
19 MAHBUB Perhaps he *will* make a good soldier. I sent him to
20 deliver a message once, a message concerning the
21 pedigree of a white stallion that---
22
23 KIM (INTERRUPTING WITH A SHOUT) There's Father Victor!
24
25 FATHER (VOICE & FOOTSTEPS GETTING LOUDER AS HE APPROCHES)
26 Powers o' Darkness below, O'Hara! So here's where you've
27 gotten off to!
28
29 WILL Good day, Padre. Meant to make your acquaintance before
30 this. I'm Creighton.
31

1 FATHER Of the Ethnological Survey? I'm glad to meet you,
2 Colonel. Sorry to be in a rush just now. The lad and me
3 are off to the barracks. Cook says he won't wait the
4 noon meal for us. Quick, now, boyo! (TWO SETS OF
5 FOOTSTEPS FADE)
6
7 KIM (DELIBERATELY LOUD, BUT FADING) I'd as soon trust a
8 snake as a horse trader!
9
10 WILL (LAUGHS) It appears the boy knows you well, Mahbub Ali.
11
12 MAHBUB As regards that young horse, I say when a colt is born
13 to be a polo-pony, closely following the ball without
14 teaching---when such a colt knows the game by
15 divination,---then I say it is a great wrong to break
16 that colt to a heavy cart, Sahib!
17
18 WILL So say I also, Mahbub. The colt will be entered for polo
19 only. For is not polo the Great Game?
20
21 MAHBUB It is so, Sahib, a great and dangerous game...
22
23 MUSIC (INDIAN--FLUTE, BELLS, SITAR, ETC, FADES, BUT CONTINUES
24 AS BACK GROUND AS TT SPEAKS)
25
26

1 TT Aye, spying out enemies is a most excellent game,
2 excellent but perilous. Both Mahbub Ali and Colonel
3 Creighton know this well. For the horse-trader travels
4 freely throughout the land selling his animals and
5 buying odd bits of information, which he relays to his
6 British superiors. Meanwhile, the ethnographer Colonel,
7 as a student of human cultures, wanders about, poking
8 around in odd places, making a great show of writing
9 down local customs, languages, and styles of dress. At
10 the same time, he is alert for signs of discontent,
11 rebellion, and indications of those who would destroy
12 the unity and peace that is the British raj. For the
13 enemy would profit more in a land broken apart by war.
14 Aye, they work well together, those in the Great Game,
15 and now, after his first year at school, Kim will begin
16 his training in deception.

17
18 MUSIC (SWELLS AND SLOWLY FADES)

19
20 KIM But Mahbub Ali, I have had nothing but facts and figures
21 drilled into my head the last nine months. My classes
22 are over for the summer, and I would spend this time
23 with thee and the horses.

24
25 MAHBUB Thou doest not know the honor given thee. The healer of
26 pearls himself asked for thee.

27
28 KIM Healer of pearls?
29
30

1 MAHBUB Aye, Lurgan Sahib. Now be off and go up the road to his
2 shop. Thou wilt know it, for it has all manner of
3 beautiful and strange treasures in its windows. The shop
4 is the only one of its kind in Simla. Once there, thou
5 must forget thou hast ever seen or spoken to me, Mahbub
6 Ali, or to Creighton Sahib. Remember this order.
7

8 KIM I shall. But who is this Lurgan Sahib?
9

10 MAHBUB Ah, Little Friend of All the World, he is one to be
11 obeyed to the last wink of his eyelashes! Men say he
12 does magic, but that should not bother thee. Night
13 falls. Now go, for here begins the Great Game.
14

15 KIM I go. Farewell, Mahbub Ali! (QUICK FOOTSTEPS, THEN
16 SLOWING TO A STOP) (TO HIMSELF) Ho! Strange treasures
17 indeed! Devil-dance masks like in the Lahore museum,
18 foreign weapons, paintings of monsters. Daggers and
19 bangles... And these are just in the windows! I wonder
20 what lies within? (TINKLE OF SHOP BELL AS DOOR OPENS,
21 THEN CLOSES)
22

23 CHILD (WHISPERING) He is come, Sahib!
24

25 KIM (CALLING) Hello? Anyone here? It is Kim.
26

27 LURGAN (FOOTSTEPS COME NEAR, THEN STOP) Be not afraid.
28

29 KIM Why should I be afraid?
30

31 LURGAN You will stay with me and my serving boy till it is time
32 for you to return to school.

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KIM (SIGHS) So be it. This place is like a Wonder House!
Where shall I sleep?

LURGAN Here, on this quilt in the corner. Tomorrow we can make
other arrangements, but this will have to do for
tonight. Afraid I have to take the lamp with me also.
Sleep well! Come, little one. (TWO SETS OF FOOTSTEPS
FADE)

KIM (SOUNDS OF GETTING COMFORTABLE ON THE FLOOR) (TO SELF)
Well, I have slept in worse places. At least, it is dry
and... (REGULAR CLICKING NOISES, STRANGE, GHOSTLY
SOUNDS, FAINT SCREAMS, MOANING WHISPERS OF KIMMM, KIMMM, ETC. THROUGHOUT) Who can sleep with such clamor!
(SOUNDS OF MOVING ABOUT, BUMPING INTO THINGS, ALL THE WHILE THE MOANING, ETC CONTINUES) Ah, what is this? A
noise box! Be still! Be still, I say, or I break your
head like SO! (LOUD CRASH AS SOMETHING IS THROWN ON THE
FLOOR. SCREECH OF MACHINERY, NOISE STOPS) Ahhh, that is
better. Much better...(YAWNS, FOOTSTEPS, RUSTLE OF
QUILT, AND LIGHT SNORES)

MUSIC RIFT INDICATING PASSAGE OF TIME, FADES

LURGAN Good morning, O'Hara.

KIM (BIG YAWN) There was a box in the night that gave me bad
talk. So I stopped it. Was it your box?

1 LURGAN Shake hands, O'Hara. Yes, it was my box. I keep such
2 things because my friends the Rajahs like them. It winds
3 up and music, or words, can be set on a wax disk. Thanks
4 to you, that one is now broken, but no matter. Your
5 actions told me what I had to know. (CHUCKLES) My
6 serving boy is already jealous of you.

7

8 KIM Jealous of me? Why?

9

10 LURGAN Because the noises in the night did not frighten you as
11 they did him when he came to me. He's only nine, but he
12 says he will kill you with a knife or poison, so I have
13 put him in the corner. I shall not speak to him today.
14 He has just tried to stab me, so you must help with the
15 breakfast. Come this way to the veranda.(TWO SETS OF
16 FOOTSTEPS) Clear off that table, will you?

17

18 KIM Aiee! There is a fortune here in this bowl! All blue,
19 green, red flashes . . .

20

21 LURGAN Oh, those stones are cheap. It will not hurt them to
22 take the sun. But with sick stones it is very different.
23 No one but me can doctor a sick pearl and re-blue a
24 turquoise. I grant you opals---any fool can cure an
25 opal---but for a sick pearl there is only me. (PAUSE)
26 Would you like some water?

27

28 KIM Yes, my throat is dry.

29

30 LURGAN Here, then, catch this jug!

31

1 KIM But...(CRASH OF POTTERY) Why did you throw it at me? Now
2 it is broken!
3
4 LURGAN (SOFT, SLOW MESMERING VOICE) Broken? Look, the pieces
5 are coming together. First the big piece join the others
6 on the right and the left...on the right and the left.
7
8 KIM (DAZED) On...the...right...on...the...left...on...
9
10 LURGAN (WHISPERING IN SAME SLOW VOICE) See? It is coming into
11 shape...coming into shape...
12
13 KIM (DAZED) Coming...coming...into...shape...
14
15 LURGAN (SAME SLOW VOICE) Yes, now you see it. It is coming into
16 shape...coming into---
17
18 KIM (GROAN, DEEP BREATH) NO! No, the jug is broken!
19
20 LURGAN (HEAVY SIGH, THEN SLIGHT CHUCKLE) Yes, the jug is
21 broken. But you are the first who has ever seen it so.
22
23 KIM (SUSPICIOUS) Was that...was that magic?
24
25 LURGAN No, that was not magic. It was only a test to see if
26 there was...a flaw in the jewel. Sometimes very fine
27 jewels will fly all to pieces if a man holds them just
28 so. Tell me, did you see the shape of the pot?
29
30 KIM For...for a little time. It began to grow like a flower
31 from the ground.
32

1 LURGAN Then what did you do? I mean, how did you think?
2

3 KIM Ha! I knew it was broken, so that was what I
4 thought...and it WAS broken.
5

6 LURGAN Hm. I am pleased with you, O'Hara. And I am NOT pleased
7 with you. You are the first that ever broke free of the
8 illusion. I wish I knew how---
9

10 CHILD (MUFFLED SOBS)
11

12 LURGAN Ah, my boy is jealous! When I tested him, he saw the pot
13 grow together. I wonder if he will poison my breakfast
14 again? Or, perhaps, that of our guest?
15

16 CHILD Never...never. No!
17

18 LURGAN What do you think he will do, O'Hara?
19

20 KIM I do not know. Why did he want to poison you?
21

22 LURGAN Because he is so fond of me. He is jealous, because he
23 thinks I am more pleased with you than with him.
24 However, my boy knows a game you do not. Let us see how
25 quickly you learn it, O'Hara. Boy, play the Jewels
26 against him. I will keep tally.
27

28 CHILD Yes, Sahib! (PATTER OF BARE FEET) Here is the tray. But
29 thou must pick out the pieces, Sahib, or this one may
30 say I knew them before.
31

32 LURGAN Gently, gently! (SOUND OF SEVERAL ITEMS HITTING METAL)

1

2 CHILD Now look on them as long as thou wilt, stranger. Count
3 and, if need be, handle. One look is enough for me!

4

5 KIM But what is the game?

6

7 CHILD When thou hast counted and handled and art sure thou
8 canst remember them all, I cover them with this paper,
9 and thou must tell over the tally to Lurgan Sahib. I
10 will write mine!

11

12 KIM Oah! That's easy! There are only fifteen stones. Cover.
13 I am ready. (PAUSE, TAKES BREATH, THEN IN A RUSH) There
14 are four green stones, and one with a hole in it. A
15 yellow stone I can see through, and one like a pipe-
16 stem. Two red stones, and...and...I counted fifteen, but
17 two I have forgotten. No! Give me time. One...one was of
18 ivory, little and brownish, and...and...

19

20 LURGAN Time's up!

21

22 CHILD (LAUGHING) Hear my count! First, are two flawed
23 sapphires. Three Turkestan turquoises, one plain with
24 black veins, one with the Name of God in gilt, and the
25 last cracked across. Those are the five blue stones.
26 There are four flawed emeralds, a piece of amber, a cut
27 topaz, two rubies, a bit of carved ivory and a ball of
28 crystal as big as a bean set on a gold leaf. (CLAPS
29 HANDS)

30

31 LURGAN He is thy master, O'Hara.

32

1 CHILD Bind my eyes. Let me feel once with my fingers, and even
2 then I will best thee!
3
4 KIM If it were men...or horses, I could do better.
5
6 CHILD (SYMPATHETIC) Do not despair. I myself will teach thee.
7
8 LURGAN And I will see thou art well taught, O'Hara. Not in a
9 long time have I met one better worth teaching.
10
11 MUSIC (INDIAN--FLUTE, BELLS, SITAR, ETC, FADES, BUT CONTINUES
12 AS BACK GROUND AS TT SPEAKS)
13
14 TT For each of three years Kim spent nine months in school
15 where he discovered he had a gift for math. But during
16 the summers, he herded horses with Mahbub Ali, searched
17 for the holy river with the lama, and submitted to more
18 tests from Lurgan sahib. Then, at the age of sixteen, he
19 passed the school's examination in elementary surveying
20 with great credit. Kim's success resulted in a meeting
21 at Lurgan's shop with Colonel Creighton, Mahbub Ali, and
22 agent 32, a chubby little man named Hurree Babu.
23
24 MUSIC (SWELLS AND SLOWLY FADES)
25
26 MAHBUB I tell you the pony is trained, Sahib! Let him go. We
27 need him.
28
29 WILL But he's so young!
30
31 MAHBUB Young? When I was fifteen, I had shot my man and begot
32 my man, Sahib.

1
2 WILL You impenitent old heathen! What do you think, Lurgan?
3
4 LURGAN I should have used him long ago. You had me test O'Hara.
5 I tried him in every way. He's the only one who saw
6 through my illusions. That was three years ago. I've
7 taught him a good deal since, Colonel. I think you waste
8 him.
9
10 WILL Hmm! Perhaps you're right. But, as you know, there is no
11 ...um...Survey work for him at present.
12
13 LURGAN There's that little business in the North that Hurree
14 Babu reported. What was it again, Hurree? Two hunters?
15 Russian and French?
16
17 HURREE Oah, yes. They SAY they are hunters, but they BUY their
18 trophies. I have been keeping my two eyes hard upon
19 them. In the meanwhile, they are drawing maps of the
20 high passes. Oah, yes, they bear guns, but they also are
21 bearing chains and levels and compasses!
22
23 MAHBUB Aye, Sahib! Have the boy and his lama go to the
24 mountains. Let us see what he makes of these two.
25
26 WILL Very well. Mahbub, since you have business in Lucknow,
27 contact him at his school. When classes end for the
28 summer break, tell the boy---
29
30 LURGAN (INTERRUPTS) Tell O'Hara to bring his lama here to
31 Simla. But when they arrive, the boy must come alone to
32 my shop.

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WILL To your shop? Why?

LURGAN Simla's in the foothills, a good starting off place to find these so-called hunters. Besides, he and Hurree Babu must meet. Together the three of us can devise some stratagem. As for the lama, he'll unwittingly serve as an excellent cover. The boy can be his disciple. And you, Hurree, will undoubtedly ingratiate yourself with the spies. (LURGAN, WILL & MAHBUB LAUGH)

WILL (STILL CHUCKLING) True. Very true. That is, if Hurree doesn't save us the job by talking them to death first! (MORE LAUGHTER)

HURREE (OFFENDED) Dear sirs, except that you are telling me different, I should opine that you are pulling my legs. Thees is not jolly-dam professional! (EVEN MORE LAUGHTER)

MUSIC SEIGUE

KIM (HUFFING AND PUFFING) The mountains, Holy One! The mountains! Surely the Gods live here! This is no place for men! (MORE HUFFING AND PUFFING)

LAMA The Gods? Mountains? Look and know illusion, chela. These are but hills! Compared to my country, this land is flatter than a rice-field. Rest a bit with this other traveler, if thou doest wish it, chela. I will see thee on the far side of yon ridge. (FOOTSTEPS FADE)

1 HURREE A very good day to you, Meesta Kim! I spotted our
2 sporting friends last week. They are over that next hill
3 where your lama has gone. The baggage coolies left them
4 two days ago with all of their many luggages cruelly
5 abandoned. It was great fortune that brought me to them.
6 They say as much. I am only hoping they have not already
7 sent back their letters and compromising documents into
8 Russian territory. But I am thinking all of what we seek
9 is in basket with red top. They are very par-ti-cu-lar
10 about this basket. Therefore, we have only to devise how
11 to steal it! So, now that we are connected, if you will
12 so kindly keep the eye on my blue and white umbrella, I
13 am feeling much safer.

14
15 KIM (BREATHING HARD) This is not my country, Hurree Babu. I
16 want to go back to the lowlands. I hope we finish this
17 quickly.

18
19 HURREE Oah! But that is my strong points. There is no hurry for
20 Hurree! (LAUGHS) Please to forgive tiny pun. I am seeing
21 you soon, I think. But now I should return to my so
22 conniving hunters.

23
24 KIM I'll go with you. I must find my lama. (TWO SETS OF
25 FOOTSTEPS IN GRAVEL)

26
27 RUSSIAN Vat is dat fellow do-ink? It is wery curious.

28
29 HURREE (RAPID FOOTSTEPS) Oh, sahib. This is holy man, praying
30 over holy picture. All handwork-ed.

31

1 FRENCH (ASIDE) Look! It is like a painting of the birth of
2 religion. The first teacher and the first disciple. Is
3 he Buddhist?
4

5 RUSSIAN (ASIDE) Of some debas-ed kint. Dere are no true
6 Buddhists in dez hills. But look at folds of hiz
7 draperies! Look at hiz eyes--how insolent!
8

9 HURREE Holy One, these be Sahibs. They wish to see thy picture.
10

11 LAMA Ah, I will enlighten them. This is the Hell appointed
12 for avarice and greed. Flanked upon the one side by
13 Desire and on the other by Weariness. Over here--
14

15 FRENCH Enough. His accent is such I cannot understand 'im, but
16 I want that painting. You! Ask him 'ow much.
17

18 HURREE Sar, this paintings is never for sale. At times, perhaps
19 as gift, but---
20

21 FRENCH A gift? Even better! (SOUND OF PAPER BEING GRABBED, THEN
22 RIPPED)
23

24 HURREE Oh, sar, sar! (SOUNDS OF STRUGGLE THROUGHOUT, GRUNTS AND
25 BLOWS) You have teared the holy picture! Sar, no, you
26 must NOT hit holy man!
27

28 KIM Leave my holy one alone! (SOUND OF BLOWS, GRUNTS)
29

30 RUSSIAN Stand back, Emil! My pistol vill finish diz heathen!
31 (SOUND OF SHOT, 2 RINGING METALIC BLOWS, THEN GRUNTS)
32

1 HURREE Mista Kim! The spies are both knock-ed out! The holy
2 one's iron pen case is most eefecteeve weapon! Quick,
3 take your holy man and basket with red top! I am staying
4 here little bit, making sure they do not follow, leading
5 them in wild geoses hunt. Let us meet in Simla.

6

7 KIM Aye! In Simla! (SOUNDS OF TWO RAPID SETS OF FOOTSTEPS
8 FADING)

9

10 MUSIC SEIGUE

11

12 FRENCH Sacre bleu! A thousand demons are drumming in my head!
13 Why did you try to shoot that priest?

14

15 RUSSIAN (GROANS) Why do you rip apart his cursed picture! Oh, my
16 gut! I am piss-ink blood! If ever I see that young
17 priest again, I KILL heem! And you, fellow, don't just
18 squat there do-ink nossinks! Take us to civilization! We
19 must report dis attack to authorities. A wery important
20 piece of luggage is miss-ink! Basket with red top. It
21 must be return at once! At once, do you hear?

22

23 HURREE Oh, kindly sars, we are all most fortunate to be alive!
24 If my master, the Rajah, knew you struck a holy one, he
25 would surely cast you both in prison!

26

27 FRENCH But the basket! The basket! Eight months of trudging up
28 and down these cursed mountains, mapping, measuring,
29 calculating, enduring constant hardship--- All for
30 nothing! Sacre bleu!

31

32 MUSIC SEIGUE

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EFX (DOOR OPENS, TINKLE OF BELL, DOOR CLOSSES)

CHILD Someone comes, Sahib!

LURGAN Ah, O'Hara! At last. Come with me to the back room.
Hurree and Mahbub are already here. Boy, stay here in
the shop and see we are not disturbed.

CHILD Aye, sahib!

EFX (TWO PAIR OF FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES, FOOTSTEPS
STOP)

HURREE Meesta O'Hara! By Jove, but I am jolly glad to see you!

MAHBUB Ah, the young stallion! Thou lookest a bit the worse for
wear, but a welcome sight to these eyes!

KIM Whuh! (SCRAPE OF CHAIR BEING PULLED OUT, SOUND OF
SOMEONE COLLAPSING ON IT) Those mountains... May I
never see anything higher than a mound of rice!

LURGAN (IMPATIENT) Yes, yes! And the documents?

HURREE (PANICKED) Where is basket with red top?

KIM Oh, the...the basket... It fell down a mountainside.
(THREE GASPS, EXCLAMATIONS OF HORROR) But I took out
these maps and papers first! (SLIGHT PAUSE, THEN
LAUGHTER)

1 LURGAN You had us going there, O'Hara. (RUSTLE OF PAPERS) Now
2 let's see what game our 'hunters' bagged.
3
4 HURREE Oho! This is finest, Mr. O'Hara! You have (LAUGHS)
5 swiped the whole bag of tricks--locks, stocks, and
6 barrels. Our hunter friends told me it was eight months'
7 work going up spouts. By Jove, how those rascals beat
8 me! Ah, look, here is a letter from Hilas!(RUSTLE OF
9 PAPER THROUGHOUT) Mr. Rajah Sahib has just about put his
10 foot in the holes. He will have to explain offeecially
11 how the deuce-an-all he is writing love letters to the
12 Czar. And they are very clever maps!
13
14 KIM You will see to it then?
15
16 HURREE Just you jolly-well bet yourself I will! I am taking
17 them to Creighton Sahib as soon as ever!
18
19 LURGAN Good work, O'Hara. (RUSTLE OF PAPER) The correspondence
20 here neatly implicates three or four Prince Ministers of
21 these parts. You can rest assured the British Government
22 will change the succession in Hilas and Bunar, and
23 nominate new heirs to the throne!
24
25 MAHBUB Aye, the young colt is truly adept at the Great Game!
26
27 KIM (SCRAPE OF CHAIR) It is well, but now I beg leave to see
28 to my lama. He was hurt in the body by those foreigners,
29 and I think...also in the soul.
30

1 LURGAN Go with our blessings, O'Hara. You have done well.
2 Mahbub will contact you later when we have another
3 tricky bit of business before us.
4

5 MUSIC SEIGUE
6

7 KIM Holy one! What happened? You are wet, but you are
8 smiling!
9

10 LAMA Ah, my chela, I have been distraught ever since I
11 battled those strangers. It is not the Holy Way to
12 inflict pain on others. As a result, I felt their pain
13 in myself. When thou left me this morning, I meditated,
14 counting my beads, walking aimlessly as I did so, and...
15 behold! I fell into a little brook! It is the River of
16 the Arrow! I know it! For immediately, did my spirits
17 lift! Come, my chela, I will show thee! Thou hast found
18 thy Bull, now I have found my River!
19

20 MUSIC (INDIAN--FLUTE, BELLS, SITAR, ETC, FADES, BUT CONTINUES
21 AS BACK GROUND AS TT SPEAKS)
22

23 TT So Kim, or agent E-36 as he was later known, followed
24 the lama to the brook. And when the old man died shortly
25 after, a smile on his lips, the boy mourned and honored
26 him as a son mourns and honors a father. Then did Kim
27 throw himself wholeheartedly into his work, ranging all
28 over the vast sub-continent that is India, securing
29 peace and prosperity for the people of the British Raj.
30 His deviltry, his glee, his quickness of wit soon made
31 him a force to be reckoned with in the dangerous,
32 exhilarating Great Game.

1

2 MUSIC (SWELLS AND SLOWLY FADES)