Aemocratic Watchman

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THE ROAD TO GALILEE

Rememberest thou the way In sandal shoes He came, Upon that day, that wonderous day They spoke His holy name? Hushed were the land and sea As with an angel's breath-It was the road to Galilee That leads from Nazareth

to earn.

The path was sere and dried. The vines had ceased to cling, And on the dusty roadside cried A bird with broken wing: To bloom the dead leaves stirred Beneath His footsteps pressed And from His hand the wounded bird

Flew to its waiting nest.

As on His Way He went, The fold's losts heep to seek, He healed the arm in palsy bent, And kissed the leper's cheek. And from the city's din. Stoned from the shadows, crept The nameless one He cleansed from

sin As at His feet she wept.

With corn was Canaan green, Yet waited there no bed For Him, the outcast Nazarene,

On which to lay His head. The road to Galilee

Must lead Him, wandering still, Up to the Cross on Calvary

That beckoned from the hill Rememberest thou the hill

To which at last He came, That day of days the world stood still.

No more to be the same? The grave no more to be Victor again o'er death-

'Twas on the road to Galilee That leads from Nazareth

THE PUBLIC WIFE.

In the shade of a tamarind tree beside the dirt road leading to the little mosque old Ahmat Sebam, guide and friend of the village youth sat cross-legged. At his back was the kampong's drab cluster of huts; facing him, three youths, squatted, tracing designs in the dust with their brown fingers.

The boys were just growing into manhood and they listened eagerly to what he said. The residents of Sapaura both young and old, treated Ahmat with respect, for there was a benevolent dignity about him and he had traveled far—to Java, to Bornec to route it to the second se Borneo, to certain of the Moluccas and to simple folks like these he was a superior person.

A portrait painter would have looked twice at Ahmat sitting there beneath the tamarind tree, for he had the tranquil air of a man at peace with his soul. Time and trouble had plowed deep furrows in his face but there was no tired droop to the corners of his mouth: his grizzled hair was plentiful; his eyes—humorous and friendly—were as clear as a boy's. His broadcloth baju and plaid sarong were, as alweys, freshly laundered, and his feet were encased in clean white spatus, for he was a man of means. Occasionally a huge-wheeled dray, loaded with sacks or rice or copra and drawn by a team of cooliesthe people of Saparua were too poor to buy oxen or water buffalolumbered along the road, its rusted greaseless wheels squealing like pigs being leisurely dragged to the slaughterhouse. Old women passed, bearing on their heads flat baskets of fish or sago cakes. One and all called a salutation to Ahmat and he responded in his deep singsong voice without losing the thread of what he was saying to the three youngsters. A man so ancient and decrepit that he was obliged to walk with the support of two sticks shuffled past and Ahmat sent one of the boys after him with a couple of copper coins. The ancient snatched at being. "As I have said." Ahmat con- with him. tinued his discourse "Saparua is a

pleasant an existence or offers the crew, the gems that have been stolen simply, "The five hundred yen I a match. After a brief hesitation, same rewards as that of serving a during the working period.

It is a simple matter to white tuan in his house. "It is a position of honor, for a pearls. The old man, who had once been a lugger hand, told the boys faithful servant becomes his master's friend and if the master is how it was done. When the master good the servant acquires merit is out of sight of the luggers, the the shells are plunged into a bucket from him. He eats plentifully and sleeps always in quarters secure of hot water. This causes them to from the night mists—both food and open, and if there are pearls inlodging being provided by the tuan. side they may be seen and removed. He may, therefore, lay by the After a while the shells close again greater part of his earnings against of their own accord and no one can tell that they have been tampered that day when he is no longer able "But much is expetced of a year in this way.

house servant. He must be clean From the steamer that brings the in his person; he must be honest, women and pearl dealers to Dobo truthful, willing and diligent. He great quantities of bales and cases must see all, hear all-and say are sent ashore for the stores. othing. At all times he is ignorant These contain clothes and food, -except when questioned by his sake, beer and gin. The storekeepnothing. At all times he is ignorant master. Then he knows everything, ers are no longer idle but hasten to and fro in the heat swearing at "My advice to you is to seek employment such as I followed. Be the coolies who do not bring sure that you enter the service of a stuff up from the beach quickly tuan who is upright in habit, for he enough to suit them.

In the stores there is much unwill be generous of heart and his virtues will bring profit to you and packing, and merchandise is laid out in readiness for the profitable seaease to your declining years. son that is at hand. Rooms at the "It was my excellent fortune to serve such a tuan-Allah protect back of these stores are prepared him in health and in sickness- for gambling and cock fighting.

Then, when the muttering monand when he had finished here and returned to England he gave me a soon finally breaks, the pearling thousand guilders. That, added to luggers are beached to be cleaned, what I had saved, made me a painted and repaired. The divers, tenders and crew-Japanesse and man of substance and enabled me to spend the evening of my life in Malays, for the most part-are paid off and Satan comes to Dobo. Seven honor among my own people. "It is said here in the village or eight hundred men who have

the

and

that I squander my money upon the been cooped up on shipboard for decrepit and the unworthy and that many months, each with a pouch of money, swarm over the place and misfortune will overtake me, but the white people have a saying that turn it into hell. bread cast upon the waters will The yoshiwara The yoshiwaras are like mad-

houses. Day and night for the next draw fish, and my master was forever repeating it. It is a fact that two months they are filled with drunken, shouting men. There is Providence rewarded him and I music and merriment, delirium and

death.

it were imaginary.

Ahmat broke into a quiet chuckle; woe. The gambling houses are the boys looked up at him expect- thronged. Money flows like water and fishermen sometimes lose their "Listen earnestly," he said, "and whole year's earnings at a single

you shall hear how great good for - sitting. Needless to say, there are quartune came in a strange manner to Tuan Ross Hewlett in repayment for rels and robberies, stabbing

shootings; one hears triumphant an unselfish act. There can be no harm in telling of it now, for he has laughter, screams of terror and been long gone from this country shouts of despair. Dancing girls, enbeen long gone from this country tirely devoid of covering, perform and it may profit you as it profitsnakelike contortions for those who ed him and me." pay to see them. The illicit pearl Ross Hewlett was in his thirtieth dealers furtively ply their trade. Occasionally the body of a murder-

remember once-'

antly.

year and he measured over six feet, so Ahmat described him; his features were well shaped, his skin ed man is found on the beach, but deeply and permanently bronzed by the tropical sun. One would have

been hard put to it to size the man up at a glance, for a bulldog English jaw was contradicted by gray eyes which might have belonged to a

Hewlett was the owner of several pearl-fishing luggers that worked the waters surrounding the Arus, a small group of islands at no great distance from the west coast of Papua, and at the time of Ahmat's

Inevstigation disclosed the fact story he had experienced a most disastrous season. To begin with, the catch of both shell and pearls had been extremely poor; then acreless divers had grounded two of his boats upon reefs, where they had broken to pieces, and in addihad broken to pieces, and in addition he had suffered from several attacks of malaria which had rendered him incapable of watching operations with the necessary alertness. No matter which side of the islands his boats had gone to fish, there the wind had blown, making it difficult for the divers to work. Misfortune had followed misfortune, so it seemed. Ill luck had made sport of Ahmat and his master. By the end of the season Hewlett was deeply in debt and completely stumped for ready cash; had it not been for a substantial loan made to him by another pearler he would have had to sell some of his boats to meet his men's wages at the "lay-up." Things indeed were bad ... Ahmat shook his head at the memory. On top of all this Hewlett had received a letter from his wife in England stating that she had sold their house in Surrey and had bought a larger one; she asked him to send her a check for twelve them with a clawlike hand, exhorting hundred pounds as soon as possible. Allah, in a high cackle, to send the The white tuan, who adored his blessings of peace and plenty to wife, realized that this request come. his benefactor; then he proceeded on could not have come at a more unhis uncertain way, looking more fortunate time, and the Malay, who bungalow that Ahmat first saw the "Run along! I'm not interested in like a bent skeleton that a human read the letter, after the fashion girl and he described her as very of all good eastern servants, agreed Dobo, where Hewlett lived when small and slender, and her eyes tearfully expressed her gratitude poor place for anyone who is am-bitious to make provision for his the Aru Islands. As described to most Japanese; they were large and He looked after her old age. Observe Haider!" With out- the three youthful listeners, it was thrust chin he indicated the wretch- hardly a town at all but a shabby ed figure retreating down the road. settlement which had grown up on "All the days of his early life he a flat point jutting out from the When his joints streets. The stores belonged to Arabs, traitor he was as poor as though he Chinese, Japanese and Malays-the had squandered his years in idle- dwellings were for the most part ness. So it is likely to be with all Japanese yoshiwaras and the Malay houses of equal ill repute. Near the beach were a few bungalows

gave to my parents. "In Japan," she explained, "it is steal

helped hers.

third of my earnings would be mine, another third would go to the yoshiwara, and the remaining third

would be retained by him until the advance was cleared. After that I would be free to leave his service if I so desired. Most of the girls continue in the houses until they have saved enough money to attract a husband."

wry expression passed across Hewlett's face, but he said nothing.

"On the day of signing the con-tract," Otoya went on, 'I was shiped with other girls to Dobo. At first was ill from the motion of the ship and heartbroken at leaving my people; later, Tuan, when I was less ill terror overcame me. I tried to put it out of my mind but-Oh, sir, I think I shall kill myself!" She fell to plucking her fingers, she began to shake wretchedly.

"When we came to Dobo I wept for many hours, whereupon the old woman in charge of the yoshiwara laughed at me and scolded me. Each day there have been more and more scoldings because I-I am afraid. When the other girls put on their fine clothes, I run away to that step where you found me.

'Ariki's old woman calls me timid and foolish and dishonest: she has threatened to cast me out into the That would force my street. parents to refund the advance and the cost of sending me to Dobo. It is a matter of law."

"Yes, I suppose it is," Hewlett nodded.

"But Tuan," Otoya cried, "we cannot return the money, for it has been spent to repair the farm! I greatly fear Ariki will send my parents to prison. And yet how can I do what is required of me in the yoshiwara? Each day I promise that I will-but when night comes my courage fails." Tears of distress overflowed the speaker's eyes.

In telling the story, Ahmat confessed that he felt a great compassion for the little Japanese girl; she was so young, so dainty, and so deeply agitated, and he could see that his employer was likewise concerned for he sat a long while staring at the bowl of his pipe. son. Through it all, the few white Finally he looked up and asked sharply:

The lay-up was about a week old fernal place?" and Dobo's madness was at its

Otoya calculated rapidly: inheight when Ahmat's tuan, during cluding her passage from Japan, she the course of his customary evening 'estimated that her debt must be

stroll, heard a sound of weeping. close to seven hundred yen. Inevstigation disclosed the fact "Not a lot of money at any other that it came from a girl seated in time," Hewlett growled, as if to

he said: "That's fine, Otoya. I wish you all not counted shameful for a girl to the luck in the world." He took her engage in such an occupation, but tiny hand in his and looked down at I did not fully understand what it her with a smile in his gray eyes, meant. My only thought was to but Ahmat fancied the man was help my parents, as my mother had both disappointed and hurt that she had given way to a grief unuttershould prove so mercenary. Mar- able. She wilted down upon the "With Ariki I signed the customs, riage to a fellow like Horiguchi was floor beside him and for a while she

"And I wish you very much luck,

too," she answered, "Long life and many sons, Tuan, and the richest pearl in the ocean. I shall never forget-" Her voice caught in her throat; she ceased speaking and fixed the tall Englishman with a strange look.

This time when she turned away she did not run: her dancing feet were leaden.

That night she married Horiguchi. The end of the lay-up season was in sight but it brought no relief to Hewlett, for he was having a desperate time to find the money with which to refit his boats. He had been unable to send that twelve hundred pounds to his wife and he was in receipt of a letter from the London firm that supplied his diving gear regretting that they could not execute his last order until he met his indebtedness to them. His local credit was all gone, too. He slept little and his lean face grew leaner daily.

One evening as he sat at his desk casting about hopelessly for a way out of his difficulties a breathless Japanese woman burst in upon him. She was a total stranger but she began excitedly;

"Tuan! In the house of Horiguchi is cruel trouble. He beats Otoya and he threatens to kill her You are her friend-"

Hewlett charged past her and a few seconds later he stormed bareheaded through an excited group of yellow and brown people clustered about the pearl buyer's door. A tempest was raging inside the living room; its cheap furniture was broken; ornaments, table covers, cushions were scattered about the floor.

The hanging kerosense lamp revealed Otoya crouching in a corner; her kimono was torn; there were bruises on her arms and shoulders and red fingerprints upon her throat. Her eyes were distended with terror. Over her stood Horiguchi, shouting and waving his arms. He turned at Hewlett's entrance and his face fell into its usual insolent lines. Wholly ignoring him, the white man bent over Otoya and raised "How much do you owe that in-"How much do you owe that inwife but he goes with other women. When I beg him not to bring shame upon me he beats me. I am afraid he will—"

"She is my wife, not yours." Horiguchi met the Englishman's threat with a scowl. "Is it your business that I go with other women?" "No. But I'll make it my busi-

ness to see that you don't knock ments of peril. Later that day this child about." Hewlett's muscular messed Horiguchi's house, where h hand wrapped itself in the other man's white tunic. He cuffed Horiguchi and shook him until his head flopped drunkenly. The onlookers squealed with amusement. "Now, you thieving rat" —Hew-

"Assuredly. My master would wish it," said the Malay.

At this came a moan from the girl. There was insufficient light in the room to distinguish her features, but Ahmat could see from the sudden drooping of her figure that she ary contract. It provided that one- little better than life in the yoshi-third of my earnings would be mine, wara. rocked to and fro, swaying like a willow wand, whispering Hewlett's name over and over again. It was worse than death for her to leave. Ahmat reached forth and toucned her hair, saying, "Other women have wept for him as you weep little blossom, but he was deaf. It is better for you to go."

Otoya nodded; she swallowed her sobs. Her hands wet with tears, felt for Ahmat's and pressed something into it.

"Give this to him," she murmured, "but tell him not that it came from me."

At this point in his story, the speaker paused, his kindly eyes glowed as in memory he recalled that hour; when he resumed it was in another tone.

"I spoke truly when 1 said that many women had loved my tuan; he had a way that made slaves of them. There was a Dutchman's wife in Amboyna, and a girl from the rubber farms, also a missionary's daughter whose hair was yellower than English gold. In the time I served him there were several, but none I am sure loved him more than little Otoya the public wife.

"For a while we spoke, lip to ear, like a couple of robbers, and the minutes sped by; then I took her by the hand and led her out of there and down to the beach. But it was as if the roots of her being had made themselves fast to that soil and tore the heart bleeding from her breast as I dragged her with me.

"It was a blustery night. The wind god's cheeks were full and he spilled his breath on us as I paddled out to the steamer. My prahu bobbed like a gourd and it spun in circles before I finally drove it along. side the ship and set Otoya's feet upon the steerage companionway.

"We were wet with spray but it was less salt than her tears. She waved at me. 'Ada!' I called softly; then she crept up on deck and I let the wind hurry me back like a soaring gull.

"Tuan Hewlett heard of the runaway the next morning at break. fast and from the lips of Horiguchi, not me. The Japanese was like a madman and I heard him shouting threats and curses as he ran up to "No, Tuan. I have been a good him, but he had a kris and it was only by Allah's mercy that he fail-ed to strike me down.

> "The man was blind with rage and bent upon murder, nevertheless the tuan seized him. He bent his arm back until it all but snapped, then he kicked him like a wet sack out into the street. A giant in strength and swift of action in mopassed Horiguchi's house, where he lay groaning and weeping on his bed, and people laughed because he took the loss of a woman so deeply to heart. "At breakfast the second morning thereafter the tuan sniffed and said: 'Ahmat, there's a bad smell around here. Does it come from your kitchen?" "No, Tuan. It arises from those shells which are spoiling in the storeroom.' "'Of course," said he. 'I meant to open them, but-I've been halt frantic. Fetch me a knife and I'l get rid of the things.' "He was gone for five minutes ten minutes; then he returned, walk ing like one in a sleep. He turned star ing eyes upon me; his face wa: white. "Ahmat! Look!' he whispered. Tel me if I am dreaming.' He opened hi: right hand, which was clenched. "In my travels I have seen many fine pearls; pearls that rajahs have bought at fabulous figures, pearl. that brought buyers from London and Paris, and others that sold or the beach for sixty, eighty thousand guilders but never have I seen ; gem like that in the brown paln of my master's hand. It was enor mous; it was perfect; it shone wit!

toiled honorably with his fishing jungle, and it consisted of three prahu and in the rice fields, but he rows of wood and galvanized iron made barely enough to supply his buildings divided by two sandy immediate needs.

stiffened and his muscles turned who remain here. Ya Allah! It is sad.

"No doubt," he proceeded after a where lived the white men who ruminative pause, Creator put us here for some purpose of His own but He did not Dobo is deserted, for the pearling decree that we stay rooted to this craft are all at sea and they do not very soil. The time has come for return until the monsoon comes you to put idleness behind you and to churn the water and make it listen. to shoulder the work of men.

"I counsel you to journey withplace of your birth, which will be

which the three young men con- down. tinued, without speaking, to make designs in the dust. Silence in the

"Many callings there are to choose The bazaars, ships, rubber from. plantations, the trades of shoemak-ing and tailoring, and a multitude semble to buy secretely and at cause it was the only way—" leived that his little friend consider-or others, but none of them affords so bargain prices from divers and Otoya's voice quavered. She finished ed herself fortunate in making such will help me, Ahmat?"

"our all-wise owned the pearl-fishing boats. During nine months of the year too cloudy for the divers to work.

As this season approaches the out delay to richer countries, where town awakens; it yawns and honorable effort is more justly re- stretches and the blood begins to warded. Having made yourselves course through it. The Dutch secure against old age you may de- steamer brings a hundred or more cide, as I did, to return to the Japanese girls, most of whom have by old Ariki, owner of been sent pleasing to your parents and a rec-ognition of Allah's beneficence." innumerable yoshiwaras scattered like chain stores through every "Tuan" sh Another pause followed during town of importance from Yokohoma

tom.

They come with a happy carefree spirit, these girls, each carry-"public wives." Also come bravely dressed Eurasian and Japanese men, "This I did, not because I wished dressed Eurasian and Japanese men,

He had proceeded no more than a dozen paces, however, before it

people are too busy with life to

concern themselves greatly with

Such is Dobo in the lay-up sea-

men go about their business as

heedless of the pandemonium as if

steps and inquired brusquely: "Why are you crying?"

At the sound of Hewlett's voice the girl looked up. Perhaps she was shook his head. "You see, I'm maraddressed in her own language by game." white man.

"Make haste. Tell me what's wrong," he directed her.

"Oh, Tuan," she said, "everything is wrong. I am most unhappy." Ahmat in telling his story cleverly mimicked his master's voice and the higher-pitched tones of the girl. trouble? Or don't you want to tell me?"

"It is not that, Tuan. It would take so long and-"

better step down to my bungalow me live with you I should not be unand talk it over. Come along." happy. That would be different from Stooping, he raised her up and led the yoshiwara. The other tuans here her by the arm back whereof he have mistresses."

It was when they entered the young and as beautiful as a deli- hand on her shoulder he propelled cate flower newly opened. She was her towards the door, the while she warm and lustrous. Her nose was straight, too, and her nostrils sen-indoors and mixed himself another sitive; her mouth had a pretty pout. whisky and soda. For the next pressed as his servant at this exquisite creature, dressed in a blue kimono that might have taken its

chair for her. She watched him without speaking as he filled and lighted a pipe, the while Ahmat went for whisky and soda.

ing himself opposite her, "tell we she suddenly threw her arms about all about it." her benefactor's neck and kissed

knees bowed her head and humbly away without looking back. thanked him for condescending to

Hewlett lifted her up and put ter back on the chair. Annual in ning. knew that in spite of six years in ning. "I tell you all this," he informed ter back on the chair. Ahmat well embarrassed by certain of its cus- his listeners, "to prove that an sitting position.

"Don't do that," he said. "Sit up and talk to me. I can see you

"Tuan." she began after a moment. "my name is Otoya and I am his vows. From him I learned the I come from a little vil- strength of the strong. seventeen.

lage in the interior of Japan, where designs in the dust. Silence in the presence of elders is demanded of the may not chatter of combs, hairpins and face paints. Scores of Malay girls ar-ter or ask questions unless he is in-vited to do so. for the street of the may not chatter of the matter of the maximum of the girls of my class I and street the maximum of the girls of my class I and street the maximum of the girls of my class I and street the maximum of the girls of my class I and street the maximum of the girls of my class I and street the maximum of the girls of my class I and street the maximum of the girls of my class I and street the maximum of the girls of my class I and street the street the maximum of the streets or at the street or as a dware of five hundred such as both men knew was an saving good-by to friends." my parents are small rice farmers.

buy you out."

The girl was too bewildered to occurred to him that this was not speak. For a while she sat staring the first time he had heard this first at the notes and then at Hewsame girl grieving in this very spot. lett. When at last she found her He hesitated, then he retraced his voice, she murmured: "You wish to buy me for yourself. Is that it, Tuan?"

"Certainly not!" The Englishman more than a bit surprised at being ried and-well, I want to play the

"Then I will work as a servant in your bungalow until I have earned this money."

"Oh, no, you won't." Hewlett laughed shortly. "I never have female servants and I certainly wouldn't risk one as pretty as you are. Take the money as a present 'Yes: but what exactly is the and forget it. Drop in here before the next steamer and I'll fix you up with a ticket home." "But Tuan," protested Otoya, be-

tween whose eyes little creases of worry appeared, "I must repay you. "Well, if it's a long story we'd It is only honorable. If you had

> Hewlett's bronzed face went a shade lighter before he blurted out, what other tuans may do." With a

He looked after her as she ran indoors and mixed himself another Hewlett plainly was as much im- half-hour he sat following with his eyes the spirals of smoke that rose from his pipe.

coloring from a cloudless sky. "Sit down," he said, placing a several times during the next few days and she and Ahmat became friends. She told him frankly that she was urging Hewlett to let her earn the money he had given her, but that he refused. On the last of "Now," the white man said, seat- these visits, just before she left. her benefactor's neck and kissed The girl promptly dropped to her him on the mouth; then she ran According to old Ahmat, the girl

was one of those butterfly-colored,

honorable man can tread a swamp without miring. Dobo was a him in a whisper. "It is Otoya." wicked place; no other tuan in the town would have let that girl go, head, wondering what could have generosity," one of them said, ar but Ross Hewlett was faithful to all his vows. From him I learned the strength of the strong. It was a matter of two weeks be-light the girl to his room. "Listen, Ahmat," she said ex-citedly. "I have come to you for help. Horiguchi beat me again to-"But day what could have "Listen, Ahmat," she said ex-citedly. "I have come to you for help. Horiguchi beat me again to-

guchi, as both men knew was an

illicit pearl buyer and a scoundrel. He was well off, however, a great dandy, and Hewlett doubtless bedandy, and Hewlett doubtless be-leived that his little friend consider-have less than half an hour. You Allah works his will in devio

lett flung the wretch sprawling -"that's only a taste of what I'll give you if you lay hands on her again." Horiguchi's blazing, bloodshot eyes met his, then dropped, and the white man walked out.

Returning home, still in a towering rage, he recited to his servant what had happened and he grew angrier as he told of it. It was an outrage; Horiguchi was a worthless. crooked swine; he was sorry now that he had not warned Otoyatold the poor child what she was letting herself in for. But he had hesitated to do so for fear of-well, complications.

Otoya's flowerlike beauty had caused him enough uneasiness of spirit as it was, and he had figured that she would be much better off married than single. Even married to Horiguchi. Ahmat's master frowned and muttered and shook his head; he roamed through the bungalow with heavy tread until a late hour; plainly the memory of Otoya's kiss was still fresh in his mind.

The monsoon promised to break a magic light from within. up earlier than usual that year. Yamamoto, one of Hewlett's divers, was the first out with his lugger, but he had been gone less than twenty-four hours when the wind ing like a woman and mutterin blew afresh. The following morning he was back in port again, and ing he was back in port again, and with his tender he pulled ashore "Tuan!" I had to shak through the choppy white-capped

waves. Hewlett's veranda. Always a keen worker he was disappointed at having been driven in. Just four shells I catch, master, then come blow. Maybe 'nother week every-thing all right." Yamamoto's tender dropped the wet bag containing the four shells and he and the diver bowed and sauntered off to their favorite haunts.

Hewlett kicked the bag into a room that was used as a store.

Late that night as Ahmat lay on light-footed creatures who dance his sleeping mat he was awakenthrough life; she was always run- ed by a tug at his hair. Automatically, his hand darted to the kris un- he or a servant more loyal than der his pillow, and he started into a

"Be quiet," a voice admonished

fore either master or servant saw day and I am running away from the little Japanese again and she him. The steamer sails at midnight came finally to announce that she and you must assist me to get

> saying good-by to friends." "But your ticket?"

"All the years he had spent i. the islands my tuan had dreame of a pearl like that. He was shak something about the 'nick of time and about its lying there for day

him to make him heed my voice "No good, master," he declared, shaking his head as he came up to Let no eyes in Dobo rest upon it o our lives will not be worth a kipping Jewels of prodigious worth brin either great happiness or grea misery; unless you are more tha careful, this one will be red wit your blood before it leaves the i: land.

"He nodded. Slowly his han closed and he passed into his roon I never saw the pearl again, fo which Allah be praised.

"A month later my master sol his luggers and went home to Eng land. We wept at our parting, fo there was never a better tuan tha Old Ahmat Sebam, guide AL friend of the village youth, watche the faces of his listeners.

"Assuredly the pearl was sent: Ahmat shook the sleep out of his a reward for your noble master the others nodded gravely. The was a moment of discussion which the first to speak interrupted 1

"But Otoya-she gave you a kee sake in her fingers wet with tear I am curious to know what was.'

Ahmat broke into a gratifi chucle. "I commend you as a be of wit. You have a memory for ϵ "That I can secure after the boat sentials. Purposely I withheld t

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