

THE  
L O V E S  
OF  
CAMARÚPA and CÁMALATÁ,  
AN ANCIENT INDIAN TALE.

ELUCIDATING THE  
CUSTOMS and MANNERS of the ORIENTALS.

In a Series of ADVENTURES of  
*Rajah Cámarúpa*, and his Companions.

TRANSLATED FROM THE PERSIAN  
BY WILLIAM FRANKLIN,  
Lieutenant on the Honourable the East India Company's  
Bengal Establishment.

L O N D O N:  
PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND.

M DCC XCIII.

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ONE OF THE JUDGES OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE IN BENGAL,

AND PRESIDENT OF THE  
SOCIETY INSTITUTED AT CALCUTTA  
FOR INQUIRING INTO THE ANTIQUITIES,  
ARTS, SCIENCES, AND LITERATURE.  
OF ASIA,

THE FOLLOWING TALE  
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY  
HIS OBEDIENT, AND  
FAITHFUL SERVANT,

THE TRANSLATOR.

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## P R E F A C E.

THE Tale presented to the Public in the following sheets, is a work held in much estimation by those natives who have perused the original. An attempt to elucidate the manners and customs of the Orientals will, it is presumed, render the performance acceptable. Since the institution of the Asiatic Society in 1784, Eastern Literature appears to have engaged the attention of the learned in Europe; it may therefore afford satisfaction to the readers  
to

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viii P R E F A C E.

to be informed, that at the recommendation of the President of that Society, the Translator was induced to devote a considerable portion of his leisure hours to the present work; and should the attempt receive the approbation of a learned and enlightened Public, he shall not deem his time and labour inefficiently employed.

RAJAH

RAJAH CÁMARÚPA.

---

HISTORIANS relate, that in the city of Oude, in the empire of Hindostan, there formerly reigned a prince, whose name was rajah Peti. This monarch was renowned throughout the universe for his excellent government, and strict justice; but heaven had not yet granted him a son, who might assist him in  
B the

the cares of the state, and to whom he might transmit the empire after his decease. To obtain this desirable event, the rajah was constantly soliciting the prayers and intercessions of the dervishes, and other holy men of his court; of whom one of the most respectable, on account of the sanctity of his life and the sweetness of his manners; named Gyán Achárya, assured the king, that he should ere long obtain the desire of his heart; and to be short, the rajah's favourite wife discovering signs of pregnancy, in due time a son was born, whom the prince immediately named Cámarúpa.

The

The story relates, that Cámarúpa passed on until he arrived at his fifteenth year, during which time he had made a wonderful progress in every branch of education and science, and was esteemed by all, the most accomplished prince of his time.

Having taken a great delight in the pleasures of the chase, his father the rajah determined to indulge his inclinations; and that he might enjoy his favourite diversion the more pleasantly, he built an elegant hunting-seat for him in the center of a spacious forest, abounding in all sorts

#### 4. RAJAH CAMARUPA.

of game, and adorned with lofty trees, and streams of delicious water. No expence was spared to render this abode as perfect as possible. Here the prince Cãmarrûpa, and six of his favourite companions, young men of his father's court, used to divert themselves in the pleasures of the chase for many days together.

Of these young men, the story informs us, the following were the names: The first was Mitra Chandra, son to the vizier of rajah Peti, a most accomplished young man, who bore an excellent character at court for his  
fidelity

#### RAJAH CAMARUPA. §

fidelity upon all occasions. This youth was more beloved by the prince, than any of the rest. The second young man was named Vidyâ Chandra, the son of Pundit Rajah, a person eminent for his learning, and accomplishments in the polite arts. The third was Dhanwantari Tubeel, who attached himself to the study of physic, and had made a considerable progress in that very respectable profession. The fourth was Chitra Manu, a painter of great excellence. The fifth was Mâniskya Chandra, a jeweller, who professed a wonderful knowledge of precious stones, and was looked  
B 3 upon

upon as a skilful master. The sixth and last was Calávat Raga Ranga, famous for his skill in music. All these young men were attached to Cámarúpa by the strictest ties of friendship and affection, and were never separated from him.

This party having one day spent their time in merriment at the hunting-seat above mentioned, in the evening a most sumptuous entertainment was prepared, where the banquet was enlivened by the choicest musicians and dancers, and wine of the first quality was served up in cups of pure gold  
by

by the hands of youthful cup-bearers, whose cheeks outvied the blushing rose. They continued to a late hour of the night, when, wearied with pleasure, they retired to their repose, each to his separate apartment.

Rajah Cámarúpa, on falling asleep, had the following remarkable dream. He thought that being in company with his beloved friend Mitra Chandra, they on a sudden found themselves at the gate of a magnificent city, fair and glorious as the sun, and of such exquisite splendour as the eye had never seen, nor travelers



lers had ever described. Adjoining to the city walls, was a garden of most elegant appearance, adorned with graceful cypress trees, and fountains of delicious water. Into this garden the prince and his friend entered, but they had not been long there, when the keepers of the place approaching informed them, that the princess Cámalatà, daughter of the sovereign of Serendip, was then in the garden, having come thither for the purpose of taking her accustomed recreation. Upon this intelligence, rajah Cámarúpa and his friend Mitra Chandra, much astonished, were fearful of giving

giving offence; and not having an opportunity of retreating, retired underneath a shrubbery of roses, where they concealed themselves. In the mean time the princess Rana Kama Lettaü, in the bloom of youth and beauty, and breathing forth all the fragrance of the early spring, attended by her damsels, visited the garden, to recreate themselves with the sweetness of the air, and the perfumes of the roses. While they were thus employed, one of the attendants upon the princess happening to approach the shrubbery where the men were concealed, perceived the rajah and his companion sitting

ting on the ground, and immediately going up to them, thus addressed them: "Rude strangers!  
 " from whence do you thus intrude upon the privacy of our  
 " mistress, and who are ye?"

Rajah Camarupa upon this replied, "Fair Lady, the person  
 " whom you see before you, is  
 " the son of Rajah Peti, the  
 " sovereign of the kingdom of  
 " Oude; and this is his friend  
 " Mitra Chandra. Having partaken of the pleasures of the  
 " chase, we chanced to stray towards this delicious garden, and  
 " you coming unexpectedly, we  
 " had

" had no time to retreat; we  
 " accordingly concealed ourselves  
 " under this shrubbery, in order  
 " that we might not, by our appearance, give offence. As  
 " we are therefore strangers here,  
 " we hope the rights of hospitality will not be violated."

The attendant, without replying to this address, hastened back to her mistress, and related the affair to her. Rana Kaam Lettaü upon this intelligence became enraged, and the blush of virgin modesty, heightened with  
 discon-

discontent, appearing in her cheek, a suffusion in colour like the rose overspread it. Looking then on her attendants, she ordered them instantly to go and acquaint the king her father with the circumstance, that he might inflict a proper punishment upon the insolent strangers, who had thus violated the rights and privileges of good manners. But one of her friends then in company, the beautiful Camacata, thus interceded for the strangers:

“Mistress! it were better first  
 “to hear the apology of these  
 “youths; they may perhaps un-  
 “know-

“knowingly have committed this  
 “offence, and mercy and kind-  
 “ness to strangers are ever most  
 “acceptable to the Deity.”

Softened by this address, the princess commanded her favourite to introduce the strangers to her presence; she joyfully obeying, approached them in a most graceful manner, and desired them to accompany her to the Rana her mistress, assuring them that they should meet with the kindest treatment. Camarupa and his friend, elated with joy at this intelligence, followed the young lady, and soon arrived in the presence  
 of

of the Rana Kaam Lettaü, whose beauty made such instantaneous impression upon the young prince, that at the first sight of her he fell motionless to the earth. The princess, filled with grief at the situation of the beautiful young man, who had unknowingly taken possession of her heart, approached him, and placing his head on her lap, she poured upon his cheek the contents of a phial of rose-water, which she happened to have about her. This application restored the rajah to his reason, when casting his eyes upon her enchanting face, and from the bottom of his heart fetching a deep

deep sigh, he at once broke out into passionate exclamations. In short, they immediately became enamoured with each other; while his friend Mitra Chandra became enraptured of the beauty of the generous lady who had so nobly stood up in their defence. These four faithful lovers delivering themselves up totally to their all-powerful passion, the time flew on in the most pleasing manner, when the rajah Cámarúpa suddenly awaking from his dream, found himself in his own chamber.

The

The prince thus undeceived, uttered a loud shout, and instantly swooned away. His friends and companions, alarmed at so unaccustomed a noise, quickly rushed into his apartment, where they found him in the state already described. Grieved at the sight, they set up a loud lamentation, when the prince once more recovered from his trance, and cast his eyes wildly around him; in search of his beloved Cámalatà; but not perceiving her, his grief became excessive, and he again became motionless, until at length, by the assistance of Dhanwantari, who,

who, as above mentioned, was well skilled in physic, they once more brought him to his senses; when, after weeping bitterly for the loss of his mistress, they quitted the forest all together, and carrying him to his own palace, informed the king his father, and the princess Rájá Swarúpa his mother, of the unhappy accident that had befallen him.

The king distracted at this event, assembled the most skilful physicians of his kingdom, and requested them to alleviate the pitiable state of his son's mind. After much consultation, they gave it as their opinion, that from the excessive

cessive violence of the disorder, and his son's perturbed imagination, nothing more at present could be done, than to administer beverages which were of the lightest kind, and pleasant to the palate; and these, with being kept quiet, were all that they could advise.

All this was done, but with no effect; the image of his dear mistress still haunted the mind of the unfortunate young Rajah, who having forgot her name, which he had learned in his sleep, grew quite hopeless and despondent. All remedy and advice were vain and fruitless. His beloved friend Mitra  
Chandra

Chandra never quitted him, but night and day sat by his bed-side, partook of the griefs of his dear master, and endeavoured all in his power to alleviate them.

Rajah Cámarúpa perceiving the affection of his friend, was greatly soothed by his attention; and told him, that his disorder was beyond the power of medicine; that the only thing which could possibly revive him, was to find out his beloved mistress, of whose existence he was assured, as his dream was too remarkable to be fictitious. He then related to him the particulars from beginning to end; and added,  
c 2 that

that he had totally forgot the names of either his beloved princess, her father, or the country they were in; but that he should never more be easy in his mind, until he had again found them out.

Mitra Chandra having heard the cause of his friend's disorder, immediately acquainted his father the Rajah with it; who thereupon assembled all his counsellors, and required them to assist him with their advice in the present juncture. The assembly advised the king, to issue a proclamation throughout his dominions, that the most celebrated travellers and voyagers, who  
had

had visited the different kingdoms of the world, should appear in the imperial presence, and inform the young Rajah of the most remarkable cities and kingdoms through which they had passed. By these means they hoped he would obtain the information wished for, did such a kingdom as his son had described in his dream really exist.

The king approved the advice, and proclamation was made accordingly. Many celebrated and experienced travellers appeared before the Rajah; but he did not gain the intelligence he expected.

At length a learned Brahmin, whose name was Samadhí Pachanan, appeared. This Brahmin, in the early part of his life, while the first dawn had not yet appeared upon his cheek, dis severing the bonds of affection for his native country, and panting with a desire of seeing the world, attached himself wholly unto travel; and year after year revolving, had visited every thing remarkable in various climes and kingdoms, had traced the mazy paths of science and knowledge, and was well-acquainted with the vicissitudes of fortune, and the rise, progress, and fall of potent empires.

Such

Such was the man whom Mitra Chandra on his arrival brought before the Rajah, who thus addressed him: "Learned Brahmin, of the various kingdoms thou hast visited, what is in thy estimation most worthy of praise?" The Brahmin, bowing respectfully, replied, "O prince! may the Almighty Power prolong your days, and add increase of happiness to them! your servant has seen whatever is most rare and curious in the world; has visited many cities, kingdoms, and empires; but of none can he speak with such praise and delight, as that of the most illustrious city of Se-

c 4      "rendib,



24. RAJAH CAMARUPA:

“ Serendib, situated on the borders  
“ of the Duan; the beauty and  
“ magnificence of which city  
“ surpasses the utmost praise that the  
“ tongue of man can utter. A  
“ country, whose waters are more  
“ refreshing than the waters of im-  
“ mortality; and whose air is purer  
“ than the breath of love in the  
“ season of youth.”

Camarupa at this name instantly  
recollecting what had passed in his  
dream, gave a scream of joy, and  
fainted away. Being revived by  
the assistance of his attendants, he  
earnestly requested the Brahmin  
to relate to him every particular  
he

RAJAH CAMARUPA. 25

he could recollect of Serendib.  
On this the Brahmin addressed  
the prince in the following man-  
ner :

“ Know then, most illustrious  
“ sir! that the famous Rajah Chitra  
“ Peti reigns over the kingdom of  
“ Serendib; a prince exalted in  
“ dignity, and supremely fortunate;  
“ at whose feet most potent rulers  
“ do spread the saddle-cloth of  
“ obedience, and at whose nod an  
“ army, numerous as the stars, is  
“ subservient, and ready. This  
“ prince has an only daughter,  
“ bright in beauty as the moon,  
“ on whom the Creator of the  
“ universe

“ universe has bestowed the most  
 “ splendid accomplishments and  
 “ endowments. The name of this  
 “ most perfect princess is Rana  
 “ Cámaláta.”

Again was Cámarúpa deprived of sense and motion; so violent was the effect, that those about him imagined his soul had departed from his body in the excess of joy. But this fortunately was not the case, and the prince being once more restored to himself, with many thanks desired the Brahmin to continue his account, which he did to the following effect:

“ Be

“ Be further informed, O august  
 “ prince! that so transcendent is  
 “ the beauty of this princess, that  
 “ the most illustrious princes and  
 “ rajahs have repeatedly demanded  
 “ her in marriage of the king her  
 “ father; who hath ever determined,  
 “ that the person alone whom she  
 “ approves, shall become the hus-  
 “ band of the all-accomplished and  
 “ lovely Kaan Cata. It is reported  
 “ in the kingdom of Serendib,  
 “ that this princess has refused all  
 “ her numerous adorers, and that  
 “ her heart has been captivated by  
 “ the attractive form and manners  
 “ of a young prince whom she  
 “ beheld in a delightful dream.  
 “ With

" With him only she is determin-  
 " ed to wed ; and not having  
 " been able to find him out, or  
 " the country in which he resides,  
 " she has long pined under a most  
 " violent disorder, which has  
 " baffled every attempt both of  
 " art and medicine. Your ser-  
 " vant was the keeper of a temple  
 " in the kingdom of Serendib ;  
 " and to that temple I have often  
 " seen the beautiful Rana Kaan  
 " Lettaü, and her intimate friend  
 " and companion Cámacála come,  
 " in order to offer up her prayers  
 " to the idols of her country. I  
 " have myself been an eye-witness  
 " of the beauty of that princess,  
 " who,

" who, except my lord, is verily  
 " the most accomplished and best  
 " of the human race. Heaven, no  
 " doubt, hath formed you for each  
 " other ; and you, happy prince !  
 " are the person whom she has  
 " beheld in her dream, and for  
 " the lucky moment of whose ar-  
 " rival she most anxiously looks  
 " forward. Go then, most for-  
 " tunate of mortals, and in making  
 " yourself supremely blest, relieve  
 " the sorrows of that beautiful  
 " mourner."

The Brahmin having gracefully  
 finished his relation, stopped ; and  
 the prince overcome with joy and  
 rapture

rapture at the unexpected event, turning to his companion Mitra Chandra, thus spoke :

“ At length, then, my friend, I  
 “ am indeed happy. The person  
 “ whom the Brahmin has just  
 “ described, is undoubtedly that  
 “ enchanting fair one, who hath  
 “ drawn so many drops of blood  
 “ from my faithful heart !”

Mitra Chandra, overjoyed at what had happened, hastened to the king, and informed him of this unexpected event. The king immediately sent for his son, and embracing him tenderly, told him  
 to

to give himself up to joy and pleasure ; as he would instantly send an ambassador to the kingdom of Serendib, with magnificent presents, and demand in marriage the daughter of Rajah Chitra Peti, his beloved mistress.

The prince returned his most respectful obedience to his father, and departed to his own palace, well-pleased, and reflecting on his good fortune ; but after some days, his love getting the better of his patience, he took his friend aside, and thus addressed him : “ I find,  
 “ dear Mitra Chandra, I cannot  
 “ have patience to wait the return  
 “ of

“ of the messengers from Serendib;  
 “ my affection consumes me like a  
 “ burning flame, and if you wish  
 “ to preserve my life, hasten to  
 “ my father, and obtain his per-  
 “ mission that I myself may,  
 “ without further delay, set off  
 “ for the abode of my beloved  
 “ mistress; and that, by her pre-  
 “ fence alone, I may put an end  
 “ to my grief and misfortune.”

Mitra Chandra, ever obedient  
 to his friend's commands, hastened  
 to the king, and informed him of  
 his son's request; adding, that he  
 feared a denial of it might prove  
 fatal to him, as he was deprived

already both day and night of his  
 natural rest, his thoughts being en-  
 tirely taken up with the idea of his  
 mistress; Mitra Chandra therefore  
 proposed, that the Prince, travelling  
 by land to Mutchelee Bunder,  
 should take shipping through the  
 great ocean, for the island of  
 Serendib.

The Rajah upon this intelligence  
 assembled his ministers and coun-  
 sellors, and laid before them the  
 proposition of his son. They  
 unanimously agreed that the  
 king should consent to it. Having  
 consulted the astrologers for an  
 auspicious moment, preparations

suitable to the Prince's rank and dignity were made for his voyage, and at the appointed time they set out. The king his father, and the Rana Rúpa Swarúpa his mother, accompanied them the two first days. On the third day, they took their leave with the most heart-felt sorrow and affliction, and recommended him to the protection of heaven.

The Prince, inspired with the idea of his beloved mistress, eagerly continued his route, with his companions, and the faithful Brahmin, who was to point out the road.

At

At length, after a very agreeable journey, they arrived safe at the port of Mutchelee Bunder. Here they purchased a ship, and embarked, with the necessary baggage and provisions for the voyage; the anchor being weighed, they directed their course toward Serendib.

For some time they had a pleasant passage; amusing themselves with talking of the kingdom of Serendib; and the enamoured Prince, of the praise of his beautiful mistress; the hours passed away agreeably in mirth and joy. At length, after forty days sailing, and every mi-

D 2 nute

nute expecting the sight of land, on a sudden a violent tempest arose, when the dark clouds poured forth torrents of rain, and the raging billows increased to an enormous height. While they were tossing about at the mercy of the contending elements, to increase their distress, the heavens appeared all on fire; flashes of vivid lightning darted around the vessel, and the awful thunder roared tremendously above their heads. So terrible was the storm, that what with the howling of the wind, and the roaring of the waves, one might have supposed the day of judgment to be at hand. A dismal cry proceeded

ceeded from the wretches within the vessel, expecting that every moment would be their last. This soon too fatally proved to be the case; for while they were in the most horrid anxiety, an enormous wave dashed against the ship, and split her into two parts. The whole company being left to the mercy of Providence, it happened that Rajah Cámarúpa, and the six companions who were with him, fortunately got hold of a small boat belonging to the ship, into which they got, with the faithful Erahmin who was to be the conductor of their voyage. These eight unfortunate people, thus committed

to the fury of the waves, looked around them, and beheld with horror their present dreadful situation. During this melancholy crisis, the unhappy Rajah-Cámarúpa sighed out the name of his beloved mistress, while sorrow sat on his countenance. Fate, however, had not done persecuting the objects of its vengeance, for the rage of the sea still increased, and the boat in which they were seated, by the violence of the waves was dashed to pieces, and every soul plunged into the deep, excepting the Rajah, and his friend Mitra Chandra, who fortunately laid hold of a broken plank,

plank, and for some time struggled against the violence of the storm, which raged with unabated fury. Cámarúpa, in the midst of his misfortunes, preserved both his love and his fortitude, and exclaimed to his friend, " True love  
" is of such a quality, that it re-  
" mains fixed in the heart of  
" man ; and is so deeply impressed  
" there, that the utmost fury of  
" contending elements cannot erase  
" it."

In a little time the storm began to abate, and the sun to shine through the watery clouds, when the raging of the waves was



at length quelled; and Cámarúpa and his friend returned thanks to the Divine Providence for their miraculous preservation from such imminent danger.

While they were congratulating each other on their escape, the waves a second time began to roll, (such was the Divine will!) when the raft on which they floated struck on the back of a monstrous whale, and was instantly severed into two parts; one of which bore away Cámarúpa, and the other his unfortunate friend Mitra Chandra, the waves every moment increasing the distance between them.

Mitra

Mitra Chandra, in the extreme anguish of his soul, would have thrown himself into the water, and at once put a period to his existence and misfortunes; had not Cámarúpa, perceiving his intention, conjured him by their common friendship, not to commit so rash an action, but trust to the care of Providence, and hope for better fortune. While he was thus consoling his friend with streaming eyes and aching heart, the envious waves continued to waft them farther asunder, till at last they totally lost sight of each other.

Cáma-



against the wavering and inconstant disposition of tyrannic fate.

After a few days, the Prince set forward in search of some human habitation; hoping soon to gain intelligence of the object of his affections. At mid-day perceiving at a distance something black, he approached toward it; when to his unspeakable joy he discovered a very handsome and populous city. Praising God for this unexpected discovery, he advanced to the gates, and presently entering, perceived all the inhabitants to be women of ex-  
traor-

traordinary beauty and elegance; not a single man could he discover among them. In the Indian language, these people are called the Tirea Raj.

Surprised at the novelty of the circumstance, Cámarúpa stood musing, when he was suddenly interrupted by the clamours of the women, who began to flock in great multitudes around him. Seizing hold of him, they bound his hands, and brought him before the chief magistrate of the city, who was also a woman. She ordered him to be carried to the vizier,

vizier, and he presently sent him to the queen of the country.

This princess was named Indrawati, and possessed most exquisite beauty and accomplishments. When the young Rajah appeared before her, the seeds of affection were fixed in her heart at first sight, and she became violently enamoured of him. Deeming it however unworthy of her princely dignity, to shew affection for a stranger, whom by the custom of the country she was obliged to punish; she put on a stern air, and turning towards C amar upa, asked  
him,

him, whence he came, and who he was that durst thus insolently enter dominions appertaining to a princess of her rank and dignity? The Prince bowing, respectfully replied: " May thy  
" life, O illustrious queen, be prolonged! the person before you  
" is an unfortunate stranger, struck  
" low by the cruel hand of fate and  
" misfortune. Journeying to the  
" kingdom of Serendib, my ship  
" perished in a violent storm, and  
" a small plank, a piece of the  
" wreck, saved me. After wandering for three days and nights,  
" I was cast upon this island;  
" where, after refreshing myself  
" only

" only one night, in the morning  
 " I set forward in quest of some  
 " human habitation. Espying this  
 " city, so fair and pleasant to  
 " the eye, my heart rejoiced;  
 " and I comforted myself with  
 " the reflection, that I should here  
 " find rest and repose from the  
 " troubles and fatigues which I  
 " had lately undergone ; but, alas,  
 " unhappy mortal that I am, I  
 " had no sooner entered your city,  
 " than I was rudely seized, bound,  
 " and brought hither. Thus, O  
 " queen ! having heard my story,  
 " and considered at once my in-  
 " nocence and hard fortune, you  
 " will, I hope, extend your mercy  
 " and

" and compassion towards an un-  
 " fortunate stranger."

The Prince having finished, the  
 Queen after some consideration re-  
 plied, " As you profess, O ill-fated  
 " stranger ! to have offended un-  
 " intentionally, your life is spared ;  
 " but imprisonment must be the  
 " reward of your folly." So say-  
 ing, she ordered one of her attend-  
 ants, the fair Pudmawati, to carry  
 him to her place of abode, and  
 there in chains confine him a pri-  
 soner. While she issued this com-  
 mand, her eyes plainly belied the  
 utterance of her lips, for the all-  
 accomplished wanderer had taken

full possession of her enamoured heart, and secret orders were given, to treat him with the utmost respect.

The obsequious Pudmawati, agreeably to the commands of her mistress, led Cámarúpa to her habitation; and as she well knew the impression which he had made on the Queen, she determined, in order to ingratiate herself with her mistress, to treat him in the most sumptuous manner. A magnificent banquet was prepared, and every delicacy that the season could produce, together with the choicest wines, were served up to the Ra-  
jah;

jah; who, astonished to find such a reverse of fortune, and such comfort and enjoyment after his late adversity, poured forth his soul in grateful acknowledgments to the Deity; and after the banquet, retired to rest.

In the morning, Pudmawati going to the palace, related to her royal mistress, what she had remarked of Cámarúpa the preceding night. The Queen, on her friend's recital of the melancholy disposition of the stranger, concluded, that the passion of love was centered in his breast, and determined to learn his true situation,

and the real state of his heart. Accordingly she ordered Pudmawati, in the silence of the night, to lead him privately to the royal banquet.

The confidant returning to Cámarúpa, related the commands of her mistress, and her intentions respecting his situation, hinting to him at the same time, the passion with which he had inspired her. The Prince returned thanks for the intended honour, and when night came, followed his kind conductress to the palace, where the Queen received them with much good humour and hospitality. After some  
con-

conversation, surprised to find that the young stranger possessed such uncommon accomplishments, the Queen began to suspect, that he was of no ignoble birth, but rather the offspring of some illustrious prince. An elegant banquet was served up, youthful damsels whose cheeks outvied the blushing rose attended, and goblets of the purest wines were presented by graceful young cup-bearers, elegant in form and easy in manner and address.

After prolonging the feast to a late hour of the night, the young Cámarúpa, delighted and mirthful, intreated the Princess to partake of

the joys of the goblet. Indrawati smiling with ineffable grace replied, "Whilst thou, O amiable stranger, art the cup-bearer, how can I refuse to drink?" Cámarúpa, enraptured at her condescension, presented the cup to the Queen in the most graceful attitude, at the same time reciting some verses in praise of love and wine; upon which the Queen ordered in the dancers to heighten the amusements.

While thus they passed away the time pleasantly, and enamoured of each other, the Queen, in a moment of tenderness, requested that Cámarúpa would

would inform her, who he was, the name of his parents and country, and the reason why he had undertaken the voyage. The Prince, penetrated by the favours he had received, and unable to withstand such powerful sollicitation, immediately related the whole of his adventures from first to last. These were of such an affecting nature, that the Rana and all the assembly were dissolved into tears of compassion at the recital. The Queen then turned to Cámarúpa, and thanking him for his information, assured him that she would take care to convey him to his desired port; and that she would also



make the most diligent search after his lost companions; whom she hoped might be still alive; "but," added she, "in return for this, I hope you will, O amiable Prince! grace my court for a few days with your presence?"

The youthful Cámarúpa and the enslaved Queen passed several days in mirth and festivity. The thoughts of his former mistress, however, would sometimes intrude into the perturbed mind of Cámarúpa, who at those moments reproached himself for his infidelity to his lovely princess, and his forgetfulness of his lost  
com-

companions. One night, while he lay asleep, his mistress, Rana Kaann Lettaü, appeared before him in a dream, when to his distempered imagination she thus began to reproach him: "Ungrateful Prince! whilst I in sorrow and despair am mourning your absence, and impatiently expecting your arrival, is it thus that you are solacing yourself with new loves, and forgetful of your faithful mistress, are listening to the vows of others?" The Prince, awaking from his dream, his mind being agitated and distracted, drew a deep sigh from the bottom of his  
his

his breast, and became lost to all sensation. Indrawati, who slept near him, on hearing the noise, went towards Cámarúpa, and beheld him lying without any signs of life. She instantly applied every means for his recovery, which having happily effected, she asked him the reason of this uncommon accident. He replied, that a frightful dream had sorely afflicted him; but concealed the true reason of what had really happened.

Firmly resolved to quit forever this seat of his inconstancy, the next evening, after the breaking up of the banquet, Cámarúpa

descended by a back stair-case into the palace garden, and throwing himself at the foot of a sycamore tree, began to ruminate upon his unfortunate situation. The reflection of his infidelity to his beloved Kaann Lettaü and his absent friends, pierced his tender heart with such keen anguish, that the tears flowed plentifully down his cheeks. At length, oppressed with grief, sleep insensibly and unwished-for stole upon him, and he obtained a short relief from his troubles.

At this period the beautiful Nárawati, daughter of the king  
of

of the fairies, attended by a train of her friends and women, taking her accustomed tour through the air to view the different parts of the earth, arrived at this garden. As the air was pleasant, and the garden of most exquisite beauty, being adorned with every thing that could render it delightful, she determined to stop a little; and ordered the fairies, her attendants, to place her litter in one of the pleasanter spots of the garden. They immediately obeyed. Adjoining to the spot, where the fairy litter was placed, lay the sleeping youth. A party of the fairies, on a survey of the different places

places in the garden, came unexpectedly to the tree under which the Rajah reclined. Casting their eyes on the young Prince as he lay asleep, they were smitten with astonishment at the exquisite beauty of his person and mien. Such elegant proportions they concluded more than human, and were led to conceive that he must be some angel descended from above for the benevolent purpose of assisting mankind. They immediately acquainted Nárawati their mistress with the circumstance; who, out of curiosity, came to the place, in order to be an eye-witness of the scene which her women had discovered.

ed. As soon as she cast her eyes on the Prince, the passion of love, at the sight of so much beauty, forcibly seized hold of her breast, and she determined to carry off this handsome mortal to her own city. She immediately ordered her attendants to bring her litter, and place Cámarúpa, who was still asleep, gently upon it. He was thus conveyed with amazing velocity to her native habitation, at the top of Mount Caf, the abode of the fairy race.

During this period, Queen Indrawati was anxiously expecting the return of her beloved captive

captive from the garden; but he not arriving, she became very uneasy at his absence, and sent some of her attendants in quest of him. They quickly returned with the information, that they had in vain sought for the Rajah. At which intelligence, the Queen was grievously afflicted, and her late joy was soon turned into the most piercing grief for the loss of her amiable Prince.

The fairy Princess having conveyed Cámarúpa to Mount Caf, ordered her attendants to place him in the apartments of her own palace. Having gently sprinkled his

his face with rose-water, he awoke, when, throwing his eyes around him, and observing that he was in a strange place, he was amazed to find himself transported to an unknown country. The fairy perceiving his astonishment, addressed him in the following terms: "Be not surprised, O amiable son of Adam! at what you behold; you are in the palace of the Queen of the fairies, who seeing you by accident while you were asleep, she became enamoured of your exquisite beauty, and has resolved that you should enjoy the pleasures of this delicious abode."

Camarúpa,

Camarúpa, on hearing that he was upon Mount Caf, was plunged into excessive grief, and his lamentations were unceasing. Well knowing that no human power could ever depart from that place without the permission of the fairy race, Nárawati, in order to comfort him, endeavoured to afford him every amusement that she could devise; and accordingly ordered a magnificent banquet to be prepared. At this feast the bright-eyed cup-bearers assisted, carrying goblets of the purest wine; while fairies, resembling the flowers of paradise, waited on the young lovers in the most obsequious manner; nor was

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there wanting the delights of graceful dancers, to enhance the delight of her guest, and enliven the pleasures of the entertainment.

The Prince, astonished at those honours, and ravished with the splendor of the banquet, which far surpassed any thing he had ever beheld, expressed his satisfaction, and in the most grateful sense became joyous and cheerful; though his heart pined in anguish for his ever-beloved Kaann Lettaü.

It happened that the father of this fairy Princess had already  
pro-

promised her in marriage to the son of a neighbouring Prince, who was of the same race, of the name of Soondaróo. The news of Cámarúpa's arrival, and of the Princess Nárawati being enamoured of him, was quickly conveyed to the ears of Soondaróo, who, filled with grief and rage at the intelligence, determined on punishing the presumptuous mortal who had thus invaded his rights, and supplanted him in her affection. For this purpose, he called unto him two malicious Genii, who were subservient to his commands, and ordered them to go privately to the palace of the fairy Queen, and

use every stratagem in their power to bring off the Prince Cámarúpa. These demons prepared to obey the commands of their lord, and mounting in the air, like two dark clouds portending storms and tempests, they speedily arrived at the habitation of the queen Nárawati, and concealing themselves in the garden, prepared to embrace the first opportunity that should occur, to carry off the Prince, which they soon effected.

The following night the pleasures of the banquet had been prolonged to a late hour, when the youth went forth into the garden,

in order to enjoy the cool air of the night; but, elevated with the wine he had drank, he wandered about some time, until sleep overtook him, when he laid himself down upon a couch that was at hand. No sooner was the unfortunate Prince wrapt in the arms of sleep, than the two demons rushing forth from their hiding-place, seized him, bound him with cords, and conveyed him rapidly through the air to the habitation of their master; where having arrived, they laid the unfortunate Cámarúpa at the feet of his glad rival.

Soondaróo rejoiced that he had thus obtained possession of the man whom his soul abhorred, and with a malicious smile ordered his attendants to awaken Cámarúpa, that he might have an opportunity of indulging his resentment. Accordingly they roughly shook the Prince, and before he was well awake, the cruel Soondaróo began to revile him bitterly for his presumption in aspiring to one of fairy race, and endeavouring to supplant him in the affections of his betrothed mistress. Cámarúpa replied with much modesty, that his situation upon Mount Caf was by no means of his

his own seeking, but against his inclination, having been surprised and carried there whilst asleep; that the fairy Prince therefore should, in justice, deem him innocent. Fortunately the mother of Soondaróo was present; taking compassion on the unhappy Prince, she interceded with her son in his behalf, and requested that he might be liberated from his bonds, and conveyed to some place far distant from the abode of the fairies. Soondaróo, mollified by the representation and desire of his mother, consented to her request, and immediately ordered the two demons to convey the



Prince into a distant island beyond the seas, and there leave him to his destiny. They accordingly laid hold of him, and conveyed him with incredible swiftness through the air, until they arrived at the intended island; where, quitting their burden, they instantly vanished from his sight.

Camarupa returned thanks to Providence for this unexpected release. Casting his eyes around, he perceived that he was on a most pleasant island, which abounded with various sorts of fruit-trees, and cool refreshing streams. Having satisfied his hunger and thirst, he  
wan-

wandered about in search of a habitation; when on a sudden he beheld an old man, seemingly decrepid through extreme age, sitting under the shade of a tree. Approaching him, he made a courteous salutation, which was answered willingly by the old man, who entered into a conversation, and inquired how he came into that island. Camarupa, pleased at his civility, related his adventures, and concluded with requesting him to point out a place of rest and abode; from whence, after a short period, he might return back to his own country. The old man told him, that at a little

little distance from the place they were in, was his own habitation; which he had left that morning; but that as, on account of his extreme old age and imbecility, he was unable to walk, it was his usual custom to be brought hither on the shoulders of his children. At the same time he earnestly requested the Prince to perform this friendly office, and promised him in return, that on his arrival at their house he should be received in the most hospitable manner, and assisted with every comfort that his heart could wish. The Prince, prepossessed already in the old man's favour, thought the request

rea-

reasonable and modest: without further conversation, therefore, he desired him to get on his shoulders immediately, and for that purpose knelt down, in order that the old man might more easily seat himself. Accordingly he mounted; but was no sooner firmly fixed on his shoulders, than he began to squeeze Cámarúpa violently round his neck; when the Prince, now too late, perceived that his legs were supple, and pliant like leather. The old wretch burst into a loud laugh, and gave Cámarúpa a violent kick on the stomach, after addressing him thus:

“ O foolish youth, who art at  
“ length

" length fallen into my snare;  
 " know that this island is the  
 " abode of the men with the  
 " leathern feet, who make it their  
 " business to decoy stupid mortals  
 " into their snare, in order that  
 " they may use them as horses;  
 " which (added he) are very  
 " scarce on this island. Be  
 " assured, thou canst never make  
 " thy escape, but art condemned  
 " to my service and pleasure, until  
 " the end of thy life. Quicken  
 " therefore thy pace, thou vile  
 " rascal; and carry me wherefo-  
 " ever I list, that I may view the  
 " island at my leisure." The ill-  
 " fated Prince at first endeavoured to  
 shake

shake off his troublesome burthen,  
 but finding, from repeated strug-  
 gles, that the cursed old fellow  
 only kept the firmer in his seat, he  
 desisted, and at once resigned him-  
 self to the bitter pangs of grief  
 and despair.

Camarupa continued in this  
 situation many days, constantly  
 carrying about the old deceitful  
 wretch, and devising within him-  
 self every probable means of  
 getting rid of him. One day ob-  
 serving great numbers of men ap-  
 proaching toward him, he con-  
 ceived this to be a favourable op-  
 portunity of effecting his deliv-  
 erance;

ance; but on a nearer view he found them to be a company of old men similar to the one he carried, each of whom rode upon an unhappy prisoner like himself. They had brought with them a quantity of fresh grapes with which they intended to regale. The first old man saluted them as they approached, and desired that they would make some dooshab with the grapes they had brought. This is a beverage composed of the juice of the grape, honey, and dates. At this period it came into the mind of Cámarúpa, to put in practice the stratagem which he had  
medi-

meditated within himself. He desired that the old man whom he carried, instead of dooshab, might make some excellent wine; adding, that if he was ignorant how to do it, he would prepare a specimen for him to taste. The old man, who had never tasted wine in his life, nor even heard of it, asked Cámarúpa what he meant by wine, bid him prepare some instantly, and told him, that if it was a pleasanter liquor than dooshab, he should, in return for his present, receive a reward from the assembly. Cámarúpa instantly began to make the wine, and having prepared it according to his own taste,  
he

he filled a large goblet, and presented it confidently to his old master, who at one draught drank off the whole. The effect was instantly visible, he began to sing and laugh, and demanded another cup; which Cámarúpa also gave him, at the same time filling other large cups, and presenting them alternately to the company; still, in short, they all drank so plentifully, as to become quite intoxicated, and were consequently careless of their prisoners. Cámarúpa now found the long looked-for opportunity, and by repeated potations, soon made the old man whom he himself carried, completely

pletely inebriated; who then, unable to resist the efforts of the Prince, or any longer keep his hold, fell suddenly from his shoulders to the ground. Cámarúpa instantly seizing a weighty stone, dashed out his brains, and freed himself from so detestable a plague.

The other prisoners perceiving the good effects of this stratagem, did the same with those they carried, and by these means they were all liberated. As soon as the old men were dead, the remainder of the company fell at the feet of Cámarúpa, and acknowledged the great obligations they were under

to him, for having released them from so cruel an imprisonment, vowing an everlasting fidelity and affection toward him.

Cámarúpa perceiving one whom he thought he knew, bid him draw near, and desired that he would inform him by what accident he arrived in the island. The man replied, That after a variety of misfortunes and distresses he had come thither; and told him, that originally he was a native of the city of Oude in Indostan, the son of the Vizier of Rajah Peti, sovereign of that country, and that his name was Mitra Chandra. Cámarúpa instantly

stantly recollected his old and faithful friend, and was so affected by the event, that he nearly fainted away. As soon as he had recovered, he went up to him, and embraced him with much affection; then bidding him observe him more narrowly, told him that he was the Rajah Cámarúpa, his prince and faithful friend.

Mitra Chandra, astonished at what he had heard, hesitated for some time, till having viewed the Prince more closely, he knew him, although he was much altered by the distresses which he had undergone. He returned the embrace of his old master with pure affection,

and fell at his feet, overjoyed at having the good fortune again to meet him.

Cámarúpa having dismissed the rest of the assembly, requested his friend to inform him by what accident he had escaped perishing by sea; upon which Mitra Chandra immediately began the following relation.

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*The Adventures of Mitra Chandra,  
Son of the Vizier, and first Companion to Prince Cámarúpa.*

AS soon (my dear Prince) as I had separated from you on the broken

broken plank, I resigned myself up to the most piercing grief, giving over every hope of again beholding my honoured master, as well as of preserving my own existence. Having prepared myself for death, on a sudden a violent wind arose, which exposed me for a long time to the fury of the elements. At last a tremendous wave washing over me, I was removed from my plank, and committed entirely to the ocean. After swimming some time, my feet struck against something which I conceived to be a tree. Overjoyed at this unexpected good fortune, I got upon it, and by some means

other hoped I might possibly gain the land, which was then in sight; but, alas! I had not been long in this situation, when the tree began to move under me, and I perceived that my temporary relief was only the back of an enormous whale. It pleased Providence, however, that what I deemed certain destruction, should prove my fortunate deliverance; for the whale moving with great velocity, made directly for the shore, where having arrived, I threw myself off his back on the beach. Overcome with fatigue, I reclined upon the welcome turf; and immediately began to pay my adorations to the Supreme

preme Being for my miraculous escape. "By means of the Almighty," I exclaimed, "the whale in the ocean becomes a ship, for the preservation of mortals! By the same goodness, the tiger of the desert is converted into a useful horse, for the service of man!"

I now directed my course in search of a dwelling, but had not advanced far, before I met with a most hideous Genius, of a deformed aspect, and of a cruel and sanguinary disposition. The demon no sooner perceived me, than he instantly laid violent hands on me, placed



me on his back, and mounting with me into the air, carried me with vast rapidity to a country far distant, the abode of those accursed Genii who delight in human blood. Scarcely had I arrived here, before I was accosted by another of the same form, and by him carried to a prison, where I found a number of men equally miserable with myself, all of whom were destined to be devoured. The prisoners no sooner fixed their eyes upon me, than they flocked around me, and eagerly desired to be informed by what means I had fallen into the hands of these cruel Genii. My grief was so excessive that I could  
make

make no reply to their hasty inquiries, but retired to a corner of the prison, where I gave myself up to despair; and not knowing what I did, sometimes I sang, at other times I laughed and cried alternately, so that my fellow-prisoners began to imagine that I was disordered in mind. This idea I resolved to encourage, hoping that by this subterfuge I might possibly regain my liberty.

One day hearing a most unusual noise and lamentation in the prison, I enquired whence it originated; and was informed that the demons had resolved to have a  
grand

grand feast that day, and were determined that two of the prisoners should be sacrificed in honour of it. One of the malicious Genii immediately entered the prison, when every one began to croud around him, supplicating with prayers and tears a respite from their intended doom. I alone of the whole assembly appeared totally indifferent. The Genius perceiving this, ordered me to approach, and demanded to know the reason why, when others were so anxious to preserve their lives, I should appear so calm. I immediately made answer, That my heart was overwhelmed

whelmed by the distress and adversity which I had undergone, and that death was to me far more welcome than life; I therefore intreated him instantly to dispatch me. The Demon, surpris'd at my reply, and curious to know the particulars of my adventures, immediately ordered me to be carried to his own habitation; upon which I was instantly separated from my companions. At night, when he returned home, he commanded me to be brought before him, question'd me concerning the misfortunes that I had suffered, and desired me to relate the whole series of my adventures without reserve.

I im-

I immediately obeyed, and proceeded to inform him of all the various situations through which I had passed since I had attached myself to his service, until the day that I fell into his power, and concluded with earnestly intreating that he would grant me the last favour I had to request, that of a speedy and welcome death, which could be my only relief from misery.

My story struck the Genius with compassion. Bidding me be of good cheer, he assured me that I should be conveyed again amongst mortals; and that he would, moreover, distinguish me, by a particular  
mark

mark of his favour and friendship. Saying this, he plucked a few hairs from off his body, and gave them into my hand; telling me, that whenever any misfortune or distress should fall upon me, to put one of those hairs into the fire, when I should find him come immediately, and render me every assistance in his power.

At this instance of unexpected good fortune I was overjoyed, and returned thanks to him for it. He then ordered a Genius who was near him, to take me into his charge, and convey me to some place that was inhabited by mortals.

tals. I was immediately lifted up into the air, and in a very short time transported to an island, where the Genius quitted me, desiring me to seek my fortune in the best manner that I was able. The Genius had no sooner left me, than I returned thanks to the Supreme Being for my deliverance, and walked towards the sea-side, in order anxiously to wait the approach of some ship, which I indulged the pleasing hope of every moment beholding. In the midst of this anxiety, the remembrance of my misfortunes, and my absence from you, added to my afflictions. For some time I remained melancholy,

choly, musing on the shore, when, to my inexpressible joy, my longing eyes were blessed with the prospect of a vessel at a considerable distance. I made signals, and those were fortunately perceived and understood by the sailors on board. The captain instantly dispatched a boat to the shore, which conveyed me on board the vessel.

With an exulting heart I now proceeded on the voyage; but fate had not yet terminated my misfortunes. In the evening a terrible storm arose, when all the fair prospects which I had formed,

ed, were at once blasted in the bud, and nothing but extreme danger presented itself to my view. The sailors, who are ever prone to superstition, broke forth into murmurings and complaints against me, alleging that I had been the cause of the storm, and that they were to be punished for some crime which I had committed. After consulting together, they at last proposed to throw me over-board, and hoped by that means to appease the elements. Before they had time, however, to execute their cruel intentions, a tremendous wave broke over the ship, which instantly sunk her, and every soul

soul on board except myself perished. By good fortune I got hold of a piece of broken plank, and supporting myself on it for some time, it pleased Providence to abate the tempest, when the plank on which I was preserved being driven towards the land, to my great joy I safely reached the beach.

I now perceived that I had been cast on a very pleasant island, and poured forth my grateful thanks to the Supreme Being, for having once more effected my preservation. I dried my clothes in the sun, and set forwards in search of a dwelling. Wandering  
H about,

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 H about,

about, I perceived an old man at the foot of a tree. On seeing me, he arose, and courteously invited me to his house, to which he told me I should be heartily welcome; only that in return he hoped I would inform him of the manner in which I had got to that island. After a plentiful repast, at night I retired to rest on a bed which he had prepared for me; but think of my surprize, when on awaking in the morning, I found the old wretch's feet clung fast round my neck, violently squeezing me. His legs resembled supple leather. I soon understood that I had fallen into the hands of that detested race, who make it their

study

study to ensnare unwary strangers. Suffice it to say, my dear master! that I suffered this cruel treatment, until Heaven sent you to relieve me and my other companions, in the manner which you have so happily effected.

When Mitra Chandra had finished his story, C amar upa tenderly embraced him, and these two friends resolved in future never again to separate. After a few days they began their journey towards Serendib, and travelled some time without meeting any thing remarkable in their way. One day arriving at the foot of a steep mountain, they

H 2                    stopped