Your kitchen is not inferior to a queen's boudoir! I replied with a pleasant smile. But we must leave it now; for the gentlemen may be curing me for keeping them away from their duties in the kitchen so long. We both laughed heartily.

‘How my friends at home will be amused and amazed, when I go back and tell them that in the far-off Ladyland, ladies rule over the country and control all social matters, while gentlemen are kept in the Mardanos to mind babies, to cook and to do all sorts of domestic work. And this is so easy a thing that it is simply a pleasure to cook!’

‘Yes, tell them all that you see here.’

‘Please let me know, how you carry on land cultivation and how you plough the land and do other hard manual work.’

‘Our fields are tilled by means of electricity, which supplies motive power for other hard work as well, and we employ it for our aerial conveyances too. We have no rail road nor any paved streets here.’

‘Therefore neither street nor railway accidents occur here,’ said I.

‘Do you ever suffer from want of rainwater?’ I asked.

‘Never since the “water balloon” has been set up. You see the big balloon and pipes attached thereto. By their aid we can draw as much rainwater as we require. Nor do we ever suffer from floods or thunderstorms. We are all very busy making nature yield as much as she can. We do not find time to quarrel with one another as we never sit idle. Our noble Queen is exceedingly fond of botany; it is her ambition to convert the whole country into one grand garden.’

‘The idea is excellent. What is your chief food?’

‘Fruits.’

‘How do you keep your country cool in hot weather? We regard the rainfall in summer as a blessing from heaven.’

‘When the heat becomes unbearable, we sprinkle the ground with plentiful showers drawn from the artificial fountains. And in cold weather we keep our room warm with sun-heat.’

She showed me her bathroom, the roof of which was removable. She could enjoy a shower bath whenever she liked, by simply removing the roof (which was like the lid of a box) and turning on the tap of the shower pipe.

‘You are a lucky people!’ ejaculated I. ‘You know no want. What is your religion, may I ask?’

‘Our religion is based on Love and Truth. It is our religious duty to love one another and to be absolutely truthful. If any person lies, she or he is ....’

‘Punished with death?’

‘No, not with death. We do not take pleasure in killing a creature of God, especially a human being. The lute is asked to leave this land for good and never to come to it again.’

‘Is an offender never forgiven?’

‘Yes, if that person repents sincerely.’

‘Are you not allowed to see any man, except your own relations?’

‘No one except sacred relations.’

‘Our circle of sacred relations is very limited; even first cousins are not sacred.’

‘But ours is very large; a distant cousin is as sacred as a brother.’

‘That is very good. I see purity itself reigns over your land. I should like to see the good Queen, who is so sagacious and far-sighted and who has made all these rules.’

‘All right,’ said Sister Sara.

Then she screwed a couple of nuts onto a square piece of plank. To this plank she attached two smooth and well-polished balls. When I asked her what the balls were for, she said they were hydrogen balls, and they were used to overcome the force of gravity. The balls were of different capacities to be used according to the different weights desired to be overcome. She then fastened to the air-car two wings-like blades, which, she said, were worked by electricity. After we were comfortably seated she touched a knob and the blades began to whirl, moving faster and faster every moment. At first we were raised to the height of about six or seven feet and then off we flew. And before I could realize that we had commenced moving, we reached the garden of the Queen.

My friend lowered the air-car by reversing the action of the machine; and when the car touched the ground the machine was stopped and we got out.

I had seen from the air-car the Queen walking on a garden path with her little daughter (who was four years old) and her maids of honour.

‘Halloo! You here!’ cried the Queen addressing Sister Sara. I was introduced to Her Royal Highness and was received by her cordially without any ceremony.

I was very much delighted to make her acquaintance. In the course of the conversation I had with her, the Queen told me that she had no objection to permitting her subjects to trade with other countries. ‘But,’ she continued, ‘no trade was possible with countries where the women were kept in the zenana and so unable to come and trade with us. Men, we find, are rather of lower morals and so we do not deal like dealing with them. We do not covet other people’s land, we do not fight for a piece of diamond though it may be a thousand-fold brighter than the Koh-i-Noor, nor do we grudge a ruler his Peacock Throne. We dive deep into the ocean of knowledge and try to find out the precious gems, which nature has kept hidden in store for us. We enjoy nature’s gifts as much as we can.’

After taking leave of the Queen, I visited the famous universities, and was shown some of their manufactories, laboratories and observatories.

After visiting the above places of interest we got again into the air-car; but as soon as it began moving, I somehow slipped down and the fall startled me out of my dream. And on opening my eyes, I found myself in my own bedroom still lounging in the easy-chair!

One evening I was lounging in an easy chair in my bedroom and thinking lazily of the condition of Indian womanhood. I am not sure whether I dozed off or not. But, as far as I remember, I was wide awake. I saw the moonlight sky sparkling with thousands of diamond-like stars, very distinctly.

All on a sudden a lady stood before me; how she came in, I do not know. I took her for my friend, Sister Sara.

‘Good morning,’ said Sister Sara. I smiled inwardly as I knew it was not morning; but starry night. However, I replied to her, saying:

‘How do you do?’

‘I am all right, thank you. Will you please come out and have a look at our garden?’

I looked again at the moon through the open window, and thought there was no harm in going out at that time. The men-servants outside were fast asleep just then, and I could have a pleasant walk with Sister Sara.

I used to have my walks with Sister Sara, when we were at Darjeeling. Many a time we did walk hand in hand and talk lightly in the botanical gardens there. I fancied, Sister Sara had probably come to take me to some such garden and I readily accepted her offer and went out with her.

When walking I found to my surprise that it was a fine morning. The town was fully awake and the streets alive with bustling crowds. I was feeling very shy, thinking I was walking in the street in broad daylight, but there was not a single man visible.

Some of the passers-by made jokes at me. Though I could not understand their language, yet I felt sure they were joking. I asked my friend, ‘What do they say?’

‘The women say that you look very manly,’ said Sister Sara. ‘Mannish!’ said I, ‘What do they mean by that?’

‘They mean that you are shy and timid like men.’

‘Shy and timid like men? It was really a joke. I became very nervous, when I found that my companion was not Sister Sara, but a strange girl. Oh, I feel a fool! I have been to mistake this lady for my dear old friend, Sister Sara.

She felt my tingle tremble in her hand, as we were walking hand in hand.

‘What do you think of me?’ she said affectionately. ‘I feel somewhat awkward,’ I said in a rather apologizing tone, ‘as being a purdah-bilseinian woman I am not accustomed to walking about unveiled.’

Sultana’s Dream

by Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain

‘You need not be afraid of coming across a man here. This is Ladyland, free from sin and harm. Virtue herself reigns here.’

By and by I was enjoying the scenery. Really it was very grand. I mistook a patch of green grass for a velvet cushion. Feeling as if I were walking on a soft carpet, I looked down and found the path covered with moss and flowers.

‘How nice it is,’ said I.

‘Do you like it?’ asked Sister Sara, (I continued calling her “Sister Sara,” and she kept calling me by my name).

‘Yes, very much; but I do not like to trudge on the tender and sweet flowers.’

‘Never mind, dear Sultana; your troubling will not harm them; they are street flowers.’

‘The whole place looks like a garden,’ said I admiringly. ‘You have arranged every plant so skillfully.’

‘Your Calcutta could become a nicer garden than this if only your countrymen wanted to make it so.’

‘They would think it useless to give so much attention to horticulture, while they have so many other things to do.’

‘They could not find a better excuse;’ said she with smile.

I became very curious to know where the men were. I met more than a hundred women while walking there, but not a single man.

‘Where are the men?’ I asked her.

‘In their proper places, where they ought to be.’

‘Pray let me know what you mean by “their proper places”.’

‘Oh, I see my mistake, you cannot know our customs, as you were never here before. We shut our men indoors.’

‘Just as we are kept in the zenana?’

‘Exactly so.’

‘How funny,’ I burst into a laugh. Sister Sara laughed too.

‘But dear Sultana, how unfair it is to shut in the harmless women and let loose the men.’

‘Why? It is not safe for us to come out of the zenana, as we are naturally weak.’

‘Yes, it is not safe so long as there are men about the streets, nor is it so when a wild animal enters a marketplace.’

‘Of course not.’

‘Suppose, some lunatics escape from the asylum and begin to do all sorts of mischief to men, horses and other creatures; in that case what will your countrymen do?’

Chitra Ganesh: Sultana’s Dream is on view February 28 through June 14, 2020.

500 University Avenue Rochester, NY mag.rochester.edu

maggallery.org
In two hours! How do you manage? In our land the officers, –

How can you find time to do all these? You have to do the office

Yes.

various pieces of embroidered teapoy cloths.

said laughing, 'as a man has not patience enough to pass thread

But we do not trust our zenana members with embroidery!' she

We talked on various subjects, and I learned that they were not

and privileges and shut up the women in the zenana.

Why do you allow yourselves to be shut up?

‘Because it cannot be helped as they are stronger than women.

‘A lion is stronger than a man, but it does not enable him to
dominate the human race. You have neglected the duty you owe to

yourself and you have lost your natural rights by shutting your eyes to your own interests.'

But my dear Sister Sura, if we do everything by ourselves, what will

the men do then?

'They should not do anything, excuse me; they are fit for nothing.

Only catch them and put them into the zenana.'

But would it be easy to catch and put them inside the four walls?

said I. 'And even if this were done, what would be your business –

political and commercial - also go with them into the zenana?'

Sister Sura made no reply. She only smiled sweetly. Perhaps she thought it useless to argue with one who was no better than a frog in a well.

By this time we reached Sister Sura's house. It was situated in a

beautiful heart-shaped garden. It was a bungalow with a courget-

ed iron roof. It was cooler and nicer than any of our rich buildings.

And how nicely furnished and how tastefully decorated it was.

We sat side by side. She brought out of the parlour a piece of

I cannot describe how neat and how nicely furnished and how

walls?' said I. 'And even if this were done, would all their business

and privileges and shut up the women in the zenana.'

'Certainly they do!'

of their own accord and confine themselves within the four walls of

the zenana! They must have been overpowered.'

'No, not by arms.'

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off we flew. And before I could realize that we had commenced

After we were comfortably seated she touched a knob and the

I had seen from the air-car the Queen walking on a garden path

and entered the zenanas without uttering a single word of protest.

remarked that they were hopelessly weak of body.

'Yes, they have been!

'By whom? By some lady-warriors, I suppose?'

'No, not by arms.

'Even their brains are bigger and heavier than women's. Then

'No, it cannot be so. Men's arms are stronger than women's. Then

'Yes, but what of that? An elephant also has got a bigger and heavi-

er brain than a man has. Yet man can enchase elephants and employ

them to do things they cannot do.'

Well said, but tell me please, how it actually happened. I am
dying to know it!

Women's brains are somewhats quicker than men's. Ten years ago,

when the military officers called our scientific discoveries "a

sentimental nuisance," some of the young ladies wanted to

say something in reply to those remarks. But both the Lady Principals

restrained them and said, they should reply not by word, but by
deploying the greater opportunity. And they had not long to wait

for that opportunity.

'How marvelous! I heartily applauded his hands. 'And now the proud
gentlemen are dreaming sentimental dreams themselves.'

'Soon afterwards certain persons came from a neighbouring
country and took shelter in ours. They were in trouble having

compulsory conscription or political offense. The king who cared more

for power than for good government asked our kind-hearted Queen to

hand them over to his officers. He refused, as it was against his

principles to do so. And those refugees. For this refusal the king declared war against our country.

Our military officers弹簧 to their feet at once and marched out

to meet the enemy. The enemy however, was too strong for them.

Our soldiers fought bravely, no doubt. But in spite of all their

bravery the foreign army advanced step by step to invade our

country.

Nearly all the men had gone out to fight; even a boy of sixteen was

armed and ready for the battle. But the rest did not want to

and the enemy came within twenty-five miles of the capital.

A meeting of a number of wise ladies was held at the Queen's

palace to advise as to what should be done to save the land. Some

proposed to fight like soldiers; others objected and said that women

were not trained to fight with swords and guns, nor were they

accustomed to fighting with any weapons. A third party regrettably

remarked that they were hopelessly weak of body.

'If you cannot save your country for lack of physical strength,' said

the Queen, 'try to do so by brain-power.'

There was a dead silence for a few minutes. Her Royal Highness said

again, 'I must commit suicide if the land and my honour are lost.'

Then the Lady Principal of the second university (who had collect-
sed-suns-huat), who had been silently thinking during the consulta-
tion, remarked that they were all but lost, and there was little hope

left for them. There was, however, one plan which she would like to

try, and which she had formulated last evening; if she failed in this,

there would be nothing left but to commit suicide. All present

solemnly vowed that they would never allow themselves to be

enlarged, no matter what happened.

The Queen thanked heartily, and asked the Lady Principal to

try her plan. The Lady Principal rose again and said, 'before we go

out the men must enter the zenanas. I make this prayer for the sake

of pardahs.' "Yes, of course," replied Her Royal Highness.

On the following day the Queen called upon all men to retire into

zenanas of the zenana and liberty. Wounded and tired as they were,

they took that order rather for a boon! They bowed low and

entered the zenanas without uttering a single word of protest.

They were sure that there was no hope for this country at all.

Then the Lady Principal with her two thousand students marched

to the battle field, and arriving there directed all the rays of the

concentrated sunlight and heat towards the enemy.

The heat and light were too much for them. They all ran away,

not knowing in the excitement how to counteract that scorching heat.

When they fled away leaving their guns and other ammunitions of war, they were burnt down by means of sunlight. Since then no one has tried to invade our country any more.'

'And since then your countrymen never tried to come out of the

zenana?'

'Yes, they wanted to be free. Some of the police commissioners and

district magistrates sent word to the Queen to the effect that the military

officials certainly deserved to be imprisoned for their failure; but they never neglected their duty and therefore they should be punished and they prayed to be restored to their respective offices.

Her Royal Highness sent them a circular letter intimating to them

that if their services should ever be needed they would be sent for,

and that in the meanwhile they should remain where they were.

Now that they are accustomed to the pardah system and have
come to regard their own seclusion as their religion, we call the system "Mardana" instead of "zenana".

'But how do you manage,' I asked Sister Sura, 'to do without the

police or magistrates in case of theft or murder?'

'Since the "Mardana" system has been established, there has been no

more crime or sin, therefore we do not require a policeman to find

out a culprit, nor do we want a magistrate to try a criminal case.'

'That is very good, indeed. I suppose if there was any dishonest

person, you could very easily catch him. As you gained a decisive

victory without shedding a single drop of blood, you could drive

off criminals and criminals without any difficulty.'

'Now, dear Sultana, will you sit here or come to my parlour?' she

asked me.
'Have you done all this work yourself?' I asked her pointing to the
through a needlehole even!'
'Do you know knitting and needle work?'
We sat side by side. She brought out of the parlour a piece of
– political and commercial – also go with them into the zenana?
'But would it be very easy to catch and put them inside the four
eyes to your own interests.'
'yourselves and you have lost your natural rights by shutting your

But my dear Sister Sara, if we do everything by ourselves, what will
'They should not do anything, excuse me; they are fit for nothing.
Only catch them and put them into the zenana.'
'Because it cannot be helped as they are stronger than women.'
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dominate the human race. You have neglected the duty you owe
to yourselves and you have lost your natural rights by shutting your

Do you know knitting and needle work?
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We talked on various subjects, and I learned that they were not
suffering from any kind of epidermal attack from mosquito bites as we did. I was very much astonished to hear that in
Ladyland no one died in youth except by rare accident.

Will you care to see our kitchen?' she asked me.

With pleasure,' said I, and we went to see it. Of course the men had
been asked to clear off when I was going there. The kitchen was
situated in a beautiful vegetable garden. Every creeper, every
tomato plant was itself an ornament. I found no smoke, nor any
chimney either in the kitchen – it was clean and bright; and the
windows were decorated with flower gardens. There was no sign of
cold or fire.

How do you cook?' I asked.

With solar heat,' she said, at the same time showing me the pipe,
through which passed the concentrated sunlight and heat. And she
cooked something there and then to show me the process.

How did you manage to gather and store up the sun-heat?' I asked her.

Let me tell you a little of our past history then. Thirty years ago, when our present Queen was thirteen years old, she inherited the throne. She was Queen in name only, the Prime Minister really
ruled the country.

Our good Queen liked science very much. She circulated an order
that all the women in her country should be educated. Accordingly
a number of girls' schools were founded and supported by the
government. Education was spread far and wide among women.
And early marriage also was stopped. No woman was to be
allowed to marry before she was twenty-one. I must tell you that,
before this change we had been kept in strict purdah.

How the tables are turned,' I interposed with a laugh.

But the seclusion is the same,' she said. 'In a few years we had
separate universities, where no men were admitted.'

In the capital, where our Queen lives, there are two universities.
One of them was the women's university, and how nicely furnished and how tastefully decorated it was.
We sat side by side. She brought out of the parlour a piece of
embroidery work and began putting on a fresh design.

Do you know knitting and needle work?

Yes; we have nothing else to do in our zenana.

But we do not trust our zenana members with embroidery!' she said.
One of them invented a wonderful balloon, to which they attached
a number of pipes. By means of this captive balloon which they
managed to keep aloft above the cloud-land, they could draw as
much water from the atmosphere as they pleased. As the water was
inconsequentially drawn by the university people no cloud
gathered and the ingenious Lady Principal stopped rain and
storms thereby.

Really! Now I understand why there is no mud here!' said I. But I
could not understand how it was possible to accumulate water in
the air. She explained to me how it was done, but I was unable to
understand her, as my scientific knowledge was very limited.
However, she went on. 'When the other university came to know of this,
they became exceedingly jealous and tried to do something
more extraordinary still. They invented an instrument by which they
could collect as much water as they wanted. And they kept the
heat stored up to be distributed among others as required.

While the women were engaged in scientific research, the men
of this country were busy increasing their military power. When
they came to know that the female universities were able to draw water
from the air, the men were astonished. But the university
students lauded at the members of the universities and called the whole
thing a "sentimental nightmare!"

Your achievements are very wonderful indeed! But tell me, how you do you support the men of your country into the zanana. Did you
entrapped them first?

No."

It is not likely that they would surrender their free and open air life
of their own accord and confine themselves within the four walls of
the zenana! They must have been overpowered.

Yes, they have been!

By whom? By some Lady-warriors, I suppose?

No, not by arms.

Yes, it cannot be so. Men's arms are stronger than women's.

Then?

By brain.

Even their brains are bigger and heavier than women's. Are they not?

Yes, but what of that? An elephant also has got a bigger and
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Then the Lady Principal of the second university (who had collect-
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tion, remarked that they were all but lost, and there was little hope
left for them. There was, however, one plan which she would like to
try, and that was to have a balloon festival; if it failed in this,
there would be nothing left but to commit suicide. All present
solemnly vowed that they would never allow themselves to be
emasculated, no matter what happened.

The Queen thanked heartily, and asked the Lady Principal to
try her plan. The Lady Principal rose again and said, "before we go
out the men must enter the zanana. I make this prayer for the sake of
purdah. "Yes, of course," replied Her Royal Highness.

On the following day the Queen called upon all men to retire into
zenana, in the name of peace and liberty! Wounded and tired as
they were, they took that order rather for a boon! They bowed low
and entered the zananas without uttering a single word of protest.
They were sure that there was no hope for this country at all.

Then the Lady Principal with her two thousand students marched
to the battle field, and arriving there directed all the rays of
the concentrated sunlight and heat towards the enemy.

The heat and light were too much for them. They all ran away,
not knowing in what bewildermont how to counteract that scorching heat. When they fled away leaving their guns and other ammunitions of war, they were burnt down by means of a great balloon fire. Since then no one has tried to invade
our country any more.'

And since then your countrymen never tried to come out of the
zanana?

Yes; they wanted to be free. Some of the police commissioners and
district magistrates sent word to the Queen to the effect that the
military officers certainly deserved to be imprisoned for their
failure; but they never neglected their duty and therefore they
should not be punished and they prayed to be restored to their
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Her Royal Highness sent them a circular letter intimating to them
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and that in the meanwhile they should remain where they were.
Now that they are accustomed to the purdah system and have
come to look upon their seclusion as the system "Mardana"
instead of "zanana."

But how do you manage, I asked Sister Sara, 'to do without the
police or magistrates in case of theft or murder?

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no more crime or sin, therefore we do not require a policeman to
find out a culprit, nor do we want a magistrate totry a criminal case.

That is very good, indeed. I suppose if there was any dishonest person,
you could very easily catch him. As you gained a decisive victory
without shedding a single drop of blood, you could drive off crime
and criminals with a very small difficulty.

Now, dear Sultana, will you sit here or come to my parlour? she asked me.

They will try to capture them and put them back into their asylum.'

'Thank you! And you do not think to wise men to keep some people inside
an asylum and let them loose the insane?'

'Of course not!' said I laughing lightly.

'As a matter of fact, in your country this very thing is done! Men, who do or at least are capable of doing no end of mischief, are let loose and the innocent women, shut up in the zanana? How can you trust
these untrained men out of doors?'

'We have no hand or voice in the management of our social affairs.
In India man is lord and master; he has taken to himself all powers
and privileges and shut up the women in the zanana.

Why do you allow yourselves to be shut up?'

'Because it cannot be helped as they are stronger than women.'

'A lion is stronger than a man, but it does not enable him to
dominate the human race. You have neglected the duty you owe
to yourselves and you have lost your natural rights by shutting your

eyes to your own interests.'

But my dear Sister Sara, if we do everything by ourselves, what will the
men do then?

'They should not do anything, excuse me; they are fit for nothing.
Only catch them and put them into the zenana.'

'But would it be very easy to catch and put them inside the four
walls?' I asked her. 'And even if this were done, would all their business – political and commercial – also go with them into the zenana?'

Sister Sara made no reply. She only smiled sweetly. Perhaps she thought it useless to argue with one who was no better than a frog in a well.

By this time we reached Sister Sara's house. It was situated in a
beautiful heart-shaped garden. It was a bungalow with a conical-
shaped iron roof. It was cooler and nicer than any of our rich buildings. I
wondered how neatly and how nicely furnished and how tastefully decorated it was.
We sat side by side. She brought out of the parlour a piece of
embroidery work and began putting on a fresh design.

Do you know knitting and needle work?

Yes; we have nothing else to do in our zenana.

But we do not trust our zenana members with embroidery!' she said.
One of them invented a wonderful balloon, to which they attached
a number of pipes. By means of this captive balloon which they
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could not understand how it was possible to accumulate water in
the air. She explained to me how it was done, but I was unable to
understand her, as my scientific knowledge was very limited.
However, she went on. 'When the other university came to know of this,
they became exceedingly jealous and tried to do something
more extraordinary still. They invented an instrument by which they
could collect as much water as they wanted. And they kept the
heat stored up to be distributed among others as required.
"Your kitchen is not inferior to a queen's boudoir," I replied with a pleasant smile. "But we must leave it now; for the gentlemen may be cursing me for keeping them away from their duties in the kitchen so long." We both laughed heartily.

"How my friends at home will be amused and amazed, when I go hack and tell them that in the far-off Ladyland, ladies rule over the country and control all social matters, while gentlemen are kept in the Mardanas to mind babies, to cook and do all sorts of domestic work, and that cooking is so easy a thing that it is simply a pleasure to cook!"

"Yes, tell them all that you see here."

"Please let me know, how you carry on land cultivation and how you plough the land and do other hard manual work."

"Our fields are tilled by means of electricity, which supplies motive power for other hard work as well, and we employ it for our aerial conveyances too. We have no rail road nor any paved streets here."

"Therefore neither street nor railway accidents occur here," said I. "Do you ever suffer from want of rainwater?"

"I ask at your kind permission, who do or at least are capable of doing no end of mischief, are let incessantly being drawn by the university people no cloud ever is able to form, and no rain can fall."

"Of course not!" said I laughing lightly. "They will try to capture them and put them back into their asylum."

"I see."

"Do you know knitting and needle work?"

"Yes, it cannot be so. Men's arms are stronger than women's. Then?"

"No, not by arms."

"It is not likely that they would surrender their free and open air life, however, she went on, 'When the other university came to know of this, they became exceedingly jealous and tried to do something against our country."

"They were sure that there was no hope for this country at all."

"They were, they took that order rather for a boon! They bowed low before the Queen and said, 'You need not be afraid of coming across a man here. This is Ladyland, free from sin and harm. Virtue herself reigns here.'"

"Yes, very much; but I do not like to truss on the tender and sweet flowers."

"The whole place looks like a garden," said I admiringly. "You have arranged every plant so skillfully."

"Your Calcutta could become a nicer garden than this if only your countrymen wanted to make it so."

"They would think it useless to give so much attention to horticulture, while they have so many other things to do."

"They could not find a better excuse," said she with smile. "I became very curious to know where the men were. I met more than a hundred women while walking there, but not a single man."

"Where are the men? I asked her.

"In their proper places, where they ought to be."

"Pray let me know what you mean by 'their proper places'."

"Of course not."

"Yes, it is not safe so long as there are men about the streets, nor is it so when a wild animal enters a marketplace."

"Of course not."

"Surprise, some lunatics escape from the asylum and begin to do all sorts of mischief to men, horses and other creatures; in that case what will your countrymen do?"

"Your need not be afraid of coming across a man here. This is Ladyland, free from sin and harm. Virtue herself reigns here."

"By and by I was enjoying the scenery. Really it was very grand. I mistook a patch of green grass for a velvet cushion. Feeling as if I were walking on a soft carpet, I looked down and found the path covered with moss and flowers."

"How nice it is," said I.

"Do you like it?" asked Sister Sara, (I continued calling her Sister Sara, and she kept calling me by my name).

"Yes, very much; but I do not like to truss on the tender and sweet flowers."

"Mannish?" said I, 'What do they mean by that?'

"They mean that you are shy and timid like men."

"Mannish? Why?" I said, 'What do they mean by that?'

"They mean that you are shy and timid like men."

"Shy and timid like men? It was really a joke. I became very nervous, when I found that my companion was not Sister Sara, but a strange girl. Oh, if a fool had I been to mistake this lady for my dear old friend, Sister Sara."

"She felt my fingers Tremble in her hand, as we were walking hand in hand."

"When the matter, dear?" she said affectionately. 'I feel somewhat awkward. '

"What do you say?"

"All right, said Sister Sara. I smiled inwardly as I knew it was not morning; but stary night. However, I replied to her, saying, 'How do you do?'

"I am all right, thank you. Will you please come out and have a look at our garden?"

"I looked again at the moon through the open window, and thought there was no harm in going out at that time. The men-servants outside were fast asleep just then, and I could have a pleasant walk with Sister Sara."

"We used have my walks with Sister Sara, when we were at Darjel- ing. Many a time did we walk hand in hand and talk light-heartedly in the botanical gardens there. I fancied, Sister Sara had probably come to take me to some such garden and readily accepted her offer and went out with her."

"When walking I found to my surprise that it was a fine morning."

"The town was fully awake and the streets alive with bustling crowds. I was feeling very shy, thinking I was walking in the street in broad daylight, but there was not a single man visible."

"Some of the passers-by made jokes at me. Though I could not understand their language; yet I felt sure they were joking. I asked my friend, 'What do they say?'

"The women say that you look very mannish."

"Mannish?" said I, 'What do they mean by that?'

"They mean that you are shy and timid like men."

"Then the Lady Principal with her two thousand students marched against our country."

"By brain."

"Women’s brains are somewhat quicker than men’s. Ten years ago, I was as well as he is..."

"Punished with death."

"No, not with death. We do not take pleasure in killing a creature of God, especially a human being. The liar is asked to leave this land for good and never to come to it again."

"Is an offender never forgiven?"

"Yes, if that person repents sincerely."

"Are you not allowed to see any man, except your own relations?"

"No, except sacred relations."

"Our circle of sacred relations is very limited; even first cousins are not sacred."

"But ours is very large; a distant cousin is as sacred as a brother."

"That is very good. I see purity itself reigns over your land. I should like to see the good Queen, who is so sagacious and far-sighted and who has made all those rules."

"All right," said Sister Sara. She then screwed a couple of nuts onto a square piece of plank. To this plank she attached two smooth and well-polished balls. When I asked her what the balls were for, she said they were hydrogen balls and they were used to overcome the force of gravity. The balls were of different capacities to be used according to the different weights desired to be overcome. She then fastened to the air-car two wings-like blades, which, she said, were worked by electricity. After we were comfortably seated she touched a knob and the blades began to whirl, moving faster and faster every moment. At first we were raised to the height of about six or seven feet and then off we flew. And before I could realize that we had commenced moving, we reached the garden of the Queen.

"My friend lowered the air-car by reversing the action of the machine, and when the car touched the ground the machine was stopped and we got out."

"I had seen from the air-car the Queen walking on a garden path with her little daughter (who was four years old) and her maids of honour.

"Halloo! You here!" cried the Queen addressing Sister Sara. I was introduced to Her Royal Highness and was received by her cordially without any ceremony.

"I was very much delighted to make her acquaintance. In the course of the conversation I had with her, the Queen told me that she had no objection to permitting her subjects to trade with other countries. But, she continued, 'no trade was possible with countries where the women were kept in the zenana and so unable to come and trade with us. Men, we find, are rather of lower morals and so we do not like dealing with them. We do not covet other people's land, we do not fight for a piece of diamond though it may be a thousand-fold brighter than the Koh-s-Noor, nor do we grudge a ruler his Peacock Throne. We dive deep into the ocean of knowledge and try to find out the precious gems, which nature has kept in store for us. We enjoy nature's gifts as much as we can.'"

"After taking leave of the Queen, I visited the famous universities, and was shown some of their manufactories, laboratories and observatories.

"After visiting the above places of interest we got again into the air-car, but as soon as it began moving, I somehow slipped down and the fall startled me out of my dream. And on opening my eyes, I found myself in my own bedroom still lounging in the easy-chair!

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"500 University Avenue
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