

The Legend of Savitri and Satyavan

《莎維特莉與薩諦梵的傳說》

Synopsis by Oliver Flaherty

(summary n. 大綱; synopsis = summarize v. 做摘要)

Pre-reading

devotion n. (devote v.) = dedication (dedicate v.) to + N/ Ving 貢獻、投入

because of = owing to = thanks to = as a result of = on account of 由於

loyal/ty n. 忠誠; royal/ty n. 皇家

*view/ regard/ think of/ look on (upon)/ perceive 察覺/ refer to/ recognize + as 視 A 為 B

= consider/ deem A (to be) B

im/morality N. 不道德;

bolster V. 提振 their morale N. 士氣;

im/mortal/ity N. 不朽

advocate v. 提倡、擁護

cardinal a. 紅色、主要的

virtuous a. 有美德的

rewarding a. 有利的 / award n. 獎 v. 頒發

3/2

In the Madra Kingdom lived (reside, inhabit, dwell 居住 v) Princess Savitri, who was as brilliant as the sun god (whom/ that/ X) she was named after. Suitors* (sue v. 追求、告; woo/er 追求者, admire/r 仰慕者) flocked to (gather, assemble V. 聚集) the palace to **glimpse**¹ (glance, stare 凝視, gaze, peep, peek 偷看, catch sight of) her beauty and ask for her hand in marriage (propose to 求婚; be engaged 有婚約; get hitch/ed 拴住; tie the knot 結; walk down the aisle 走道; divorce 離婚), but none were her equal (match n. 火柴、比賽、匹配, equivalent a. 對等的 be equal to; in/equality n. 不平等).

(~~Since/Because~~ **she was** (Being) **Determined** to find a **worthy**² (be worthy of/ be worth a. 值得的 + N/ Ving) (matched, compatible) partner (mate, companion 夥伴), she **mounted**³ her chariot* and traveled across the land, (~~and she broke~~) **breaking** many hearts along the way.

Eventually, (Ultimately,/ Finally,/ Lastly,/ In the end,/ At last, 最終、最後) Savitri came upon (come/ run across, bump/ run into, stumble on/ upon/ across 巧遇、偶遇, encounter + 人/ 物 面臨) (物 come upon, occur/ happen to 人) a young man (~~who/that~~ **chopped**) **chopping** wood in the jungle. (~~After/ Since/ As/ Because/ When/ As soon as~~ **she sensed**) **Sensing** (that) he was deeply troubled, (puzzle/d, confuse/d, perplex/ed, bewilder/ed, mystified, confounded, baffled a. 人感到困擾的) she approached him and asked (inquired v. 詢問/ inquiry n.) **why** he looked so unhappy. (dis/pleased, dis/satisfied a. 不愉悅的) The man, **whose** name was Satyavan, revealed (disclose v. 揭露, confess v. 坦承、承認) (**that**) his family had once been **royal/ty**,⁴ (loyal/ty n. 忠誠) (noble/man 貴族 = aristocrat/ aristocracy) but his father had been **blinded** and **overthrown**⁵ (rebel v.n. 反叛(軍)) many years ago. Now they lived in poverty, 貧窮/ **luxury** 奢華 and he struggled to (for + N) (strive to 奮力; manage to 想方設法) support (sustain v. 支撐) them. The princess was moved (touched) by 感動 his **devotion**,⁶ (commit/ment, dedication, contribution to 貢獻、投入; endeavor, effort 努力) and as she gazed at him, she knew (**that**) she had found her husband.

(~~After/ As soon as~~ **she was** (Being) **Overcome**⁷ (overwhelm/ed 滿溢、轟炸) with excite/ment, Savitri rushed (**dash, dart** 衝) home to tell her father. Unfortunately, their joy was to be short lived. (**temporary, transient, momentary** a. 短暫的) Narada, a **messenger**⁸ **courier** 信差) of the gods, had overheard* Savitri's story and shared a terrible prophecy:* (**predict/ion** n. 預言; predictor = prophet 預言家) Satyavan was to die in exactly (**accurately, precisely** adv. 精確地) one year. Savitri's heart stopped. (**beating, pounding** v. 跳動、抨擊) She had waited so long to find her love. Would they really be separated so soon?

3/3

(~~Since/As/Because~~ **she was (Being) Unwilling** (reluctant a. 不情願的) to accept (adopt, take in, embrace, digest) this **tragic**⁹ (pathetic 可憐的, miserable a. 淒慘的/ misery n. 悲慘; tragedy n. 悲劇) news, the princess swore (**swear – swore – sworn**) before the sun god **himself (that)** she would never marry another man. (**except for**) (**She insisted that her life was ~**) Her life, she insisted, **was** forever **entwined*** (tangle, intertwine v. 糾纏) with Satyavan's (**life**). But after a year of marriage, the fated (**doomed, destined a. 命定的**) day arrived, (**fall**) and Satyavan **collapsed**¹⁰ (pass out, faint 昏厥; pass away 去世) in her arms. **Through** her tears, Savitri could just **make out** (recognize, distinguish, identify 辨別/識, spot v. 發覺) Yamraj, the god of death, **who had come to accompany**¹¹ (keep 人 company n. 陪伴; companion n. 夥伴) Satyavan to the afterlife.* (/ aftermath 戰後)

Savitri **was determined not to** leave Satyavan's side, so she followed (tail) Yamraj **until** her feet bled. (bleed) (~~As/Because/Since~~ **he was (Being) Impressed by** (first impression n.; impressive a. 印象深刻的/ express = convey = deliver 表達; depress 使...沮喪 / depression = recession 蕭條; suppress 鎮壓、壓抑 the riot 暴動/ 人's sobs 啜泣; de/compressed file 解/壓縮 – un/zip the file) her persistence,* (persist in = insist on 堅持; insistence = perseverance n. 堅毅 = willpower 意志力) Yamraj offered to **grant**¹² (permit) her one wish—**anything but** (except for/ excluding = exclusive of 排除) her husband's life. (**excluded**) (revival n. 復活; revive v.) Savitri **requested** (**that** her father-in-law's sight (vision 視力) (**should**) **be** returned. (**regain. restore** 恢復; **rehabilitate** 復健) Her wish **was granted**, but Savitri **refused to** (turn down, brush/ push aside, shoot down, deny 否認, reject 拒絕) **depart**.¹³ (depart/ leave/ bound 駛向/ head for 前往; departure n.) (**As soon as** 一...就) **Upon (On) being** offered a second wish, she asked for her husband's kingdom to be restored. (**resume** 繼續~, **retrieve** 取回, **reinstate v. 復權**) Again, Yamraj agreed (**dis/approve**) and continued on his way, but still Savitri refused to leave.

(~~Since/Because/As~~ **he was (Being) Frustrated**,¹⁴ (frustration n.) Yamraj offered Savitri one final (**eventual, ultimate, terminal a. 最終/後的**)

wish. After thinking carefully, she wished to be the mother of many children. Yamraj nodded, but when he tried to (**intend, attempt to** 嘗試、企圖, **aim to** v., **endeavor to** 努力, **make an effort to, strive/ struggle to** 奮力, **manage to** 設法) **dismiss**¹⁵ (the class/ meeting/ case/ appeal 請求/ request 要求; be dismissed from 人's job = get the sack 資遣) her, she asked (**how** she could bear (**expect, conceive** v. 懷) children without a husband. The god considered (**put...into consideration** n. 考量, **contemplate** V. 深思) her clever question and knew (**that**) he'd been bested. (**swindle, tease, fool, trick, hoax, 詐騙** deceive v. 欺瞞; **beat, defeat** V. 擊敗, **outdo, outwit, outfox** V. (智力上)勝過 With (**Having**) Yamraj's **blessing**,¹⁶ (**agreement, approval** n. 贊同; **permission, allowance** n. 許可; **welfare** 福祉, **bliss/ful** a.) the lovers walked back to the land of the living, (~~and they were~~) **free** to enjoy their lifetime together.