

THE KING OF THE DARK CHAMBER

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The King of the Dark Chamber by Rabindranath Tagore

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RABINDRANATH TAGORE

**THE KING OF THE
DARK CHAMBER**

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OF
THE DARK CHAMBER

BY
RABINDRANATH TAGORE

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH
BY THE AUTHOR



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THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1916

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THE KING OF
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I

A street. A few wayfarers, and a CITY GUARD

First Man

Ho, Sir!

City Guard

What do you want?

Second Man

Which way should we go? We are
strangers here. Please tell us which
street we should take.

City Guard

Where do you want to go?

8 THE KING OF

Third Man

To where those big festivities are going to be held, you know. Which way do we go?

City Guard

One street is quite as good as another here. Any street will lead you there. Go straight ahead, and you cannot miss the place.

[*Exit.*

First Man

Just hear what the fool says: "Any street will lead you there!" Where, then, would be the sense of having so many streets?

Second Man

You needn't be so awfully put out at that, my man. A country is free to arrange its affairs in its own way.

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As for roads in our country—well, they are as good as non-existent; narrow and crooked lanes, a labyrinth of ruts and tracks. Our King does not believe in open thoroughfares; he thinks that streets are just so many openings for his subjects to fly away from his kingdom. It is quite the contrary here; nobody stands in your way, nobody objects to your going elsewhere if you like to; and yet the people are far from deserting this kingdom. With such streets our country would certainly have been depopulated in no time.

First Man

My dear Janardan, I have always noticed that this is a great fault in your character.

Janardan

What is?