

# **FROM THE FIVE RIVERS**

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From the five rivers by Flora Annie Steel

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**FLORA ANNIE STEEL**

**FROM THE  
FIVE RIVERS**



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BY

FLORA ANNIE STEEL

(AUTHOR OF 'MISS STUART'S LEGACY,' ETC.)



LONDON

WILLIAM HEINEMANN

1893

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TO MANY FRIENDS AND ONE FRIEND  
SINCE WITHOUT THE MANY  
THESE STORIES COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN  
WITHOUT THE ONE  
THEY CERTAINLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

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## FROM THE FIVE RIVERS.

GUNESH CHUND.

### I.

OUTSIDE the village a man stood alone in the moonless night. Yet it was not dark; for in the unending depths of violet blue the stars hung many-hued and many-sized—each in their order, so clear, so bright, that the simile "as one star differeth from another in glory" stood out in all its vivid truth, undimmed by the mists of a Western atmosphere.

The man, however, neither looked nor thought of the stars. He had seen them shine thus after the winter rains ever since he had been able to see, and his eyes were full of the shadowy stretch of level fields which seemed to rise towards the pale horizon. There was a fresh, damp smell in the air, and close to his feet some lighter shadows surrounded by darker ones showed that the recent rains had been heavy enough to leave fresh pools of water in the hollows whence the village had been