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THE TEARS OF KUSA  
THE  
Legend of the Topaz

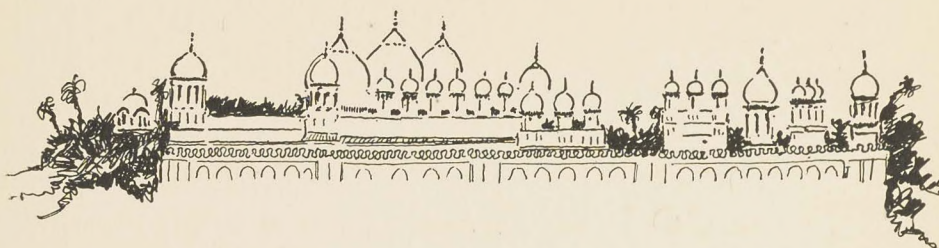
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CARLO DE FORNARO

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To  
*Miss E. Breese*






OF-GEMS-& GEM-CUTTING

MINERALOGY-EMERALD-AND-OTHER-BERYLS-CATALOG

GEMSTONES-OF-NORTH-AMERICA-PROSPECTING-FOR-GEM-

MINERALS-AND



EX LIBRIS

JOHN SIN KAN KAS

For never in this world does hatred cease by hatred.  
—Dhamma-pada.



LONG ago when Deva-datta was reigning in Benares, two Rajahs ruled in Hind.

Rajah Vesali was as strong in power and wisdom and as kind and just as the elephant. The humblest, the poorest among his subjects revered him, praised his many virtues and in their simple love they named him their Great Brother.

His kindly deeds were so innumerable and instinctive in their rapid succession, that they were as the movements of the monkey when he has



RAJAH KUSA





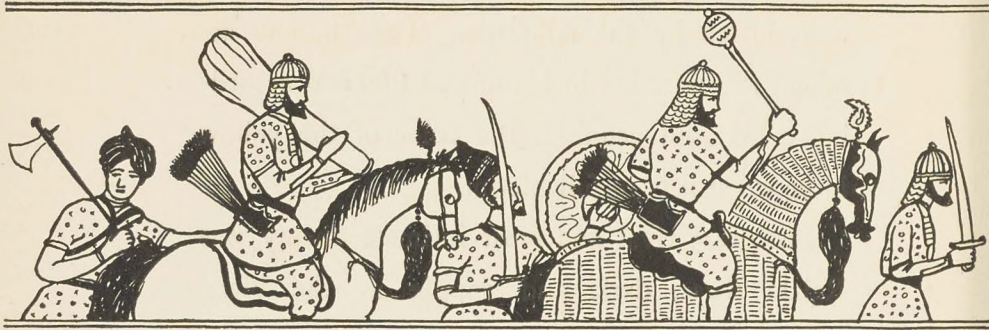
been bitten by the tarantula. Thus he had attained to perfection in his mortal life, and accordingly his soul acquired the color of the yellow lotus when it is in full bloom.

His great rival and most intimate enemy was Rajah Kusa, dark and supple as the black panther and of the cruelty and savagery of the hyena.

Rajah Kusa did not hate his enemy because of any wrong done to himself, but because in his soul hatred seemed to satisfy a craving which, like a great thirst, cannot be appeased by mere drinking, which entails a greater thirst, but by incessant drinking into drowning. Therefore his soul had reverted to a greenish brown, the color it assumes when it emerges from the sixteen Assada Hells.

King Kusa had repeatedly attacked King Vesali in regular warfare, but being constantly and ignominiously defeated in all the battles, he resorted to stratagem and brigandage, allowing his soldiers the excesses and licentiousness of crazed savages, in-





culcating in them the example of his serpent's cunning.

As his depredations did not incite Rajah Vesali to retaliation, but only to greater pity and commiseration, also as Vesali could not be induced to fight but in self-defense, he imagined in his pale rage to break up his enemy's impassibility by an act so infamous, so demoniacal in its perfection that it would reach his inmost being and make him agonize as some snake poison does before reaching the vital muscle.

He coolly planned and feinted an attack on a distant city in the kingdom of Vesali, and while the King was busy defending the stronghold, Kusa, with a numerous body of his own chosen troops, stormed the palace in which Vesali's mother and child lived.

He wantonly tortured, mutilated and then killed every man, woman and child in the palace, but carried away Vesali's mother and child unharmed into the neighborhood of the palace, and



RAJAH VESALI

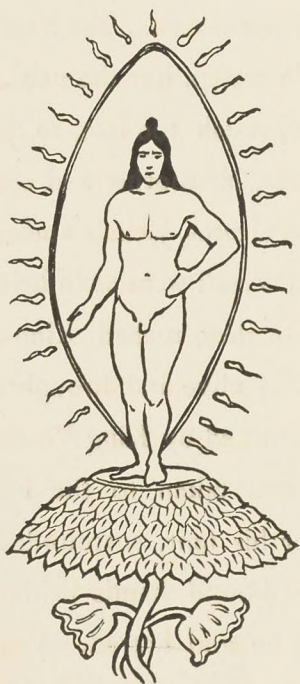


there tied both to a tree, foodless, helpless. He then cut off the noses of the two unfortunate creatures and sent them to Vesali with the message to hasten to the palace to save what was left.

He waited for the return of the Rajah whom he hoped to catch in a trap, but the news of his misdeed reached the Rajah too late, so that when he arrived to the spot, his mother and child were already a prey to vultures, jackals and ants.

The officers of Vesali were so infuriated by this dastardly act that they rushed King Kusa by a ruse, captured him alive and brought him to be judged and condemned by King Vesali.

When Kusa was taken to the camp, Vesali was sitting under his tent, surrounded by his officers. Kusa was bound, hands behind the back, livid with fear, rage and hatred. Vesali ordered him to be freed of his fetters. He looked at his enemy for a long while, deep into the eyes as if in wonder that so much evil could be contained in one single body. He then spoke : “ Kusa, was it



by thine orders that my mother and child, innocent of all evil, were left to die foodless?" "Yes," murmured the trembling Kusa. "O, Kusa! Thou hast committed an evil deed, so ribald, so deep in its cruelty, that verily it must have made the black panther turn pale with envy. But I shall not stain the memory of my mother and child by another cruelty or a vengeance. Go hence! Thou art free!" Kusa looked around, staring wildly; he flung his hands above his head, pressed them to his throat as if to gulp down his bewilderment and then slowly knelt down at Vesali's feet. His countenance seemed to be transfigured by this superhuman act of mercy and immensurable love.

The features became illuminated as the redemptive tears rushed out from his eyes, transforming his dark soul into the divine hue. And as the tears streamed down his cheeks to Vesali's feet, they shimmered and beamed like pearls of gold and became the Topaz.



