

/BERGER'S VOICE/

Hundreds of people!

Neither woman answers.

/BERGER'S VOICE/

Good night....

Seetha does not answer. Bharani throws her a glance that is a bit surprised. When Seetha smiles, Bharani goes to her, kneels beside her and whispers confidentially:

BHARANI

The white Sahib is also traveling to Eschnapur.

(Seetha does not answer)
Seldom I have seen so strong a man.

Since Seetha still does not answer Bharani gives up hope of talking with her about this matter. She rises, moves to a little charcoal fire and prods with a branch, thoughtfully.

33 CLOSE UP SEETHA

She is smiling a frail, almost tender smile, then she closes her eyes and says dreamily:

SEETHA

His voice, Bharani... His voice is dark like a river and pleasing like the love-call of the divine birds in the mountain forests of Nepāl.

34 CLOSE BHARANI AT THE COAL FIRE

She looks at her mistress and smiles. The camera sinks over the glowing coals.

DISSOLVE

35 JUNGLE (STUDIO) DAY

A bright blazing fire.
The camera draws back, and we see that FIVE LANCERS of the Maharaja of Eschnapur are seated about the fire. They are preparing a meal. Some distance behind them their

horses are grazing. A small path strays into the jungle.

1. LANCER
(peevishly)

Six lancers of the body-guard!
Much honor for a dancer.

2. lancer
Because of the tiger.

1. LANCER
No tiger attacks in daylight.

3. LANCER
They say it is possessed by
the ghost of a murderer.

2. LANCER
Not so loud. He might hear
you.

A /loud call/ catches their attention. They interrupt what they are doing and look skyward.

36 TOP OF A TREE (from below, as seen from the lancers)

In the uppermost branches of the tree the SIXTH LANCER is sitting; gesticulating he points off-scene.

37 JUNGLE PATH EXTERIOR DAY (seen from top of tree)

A small caravan moves forward slowly. Two Zebu-oxen draw a covered two-wheel cart, in which Seetha and Bharani are seated. The valises, rolls, and bundles of the two women are stacked up in the cart. Curtains on the side of the wagon shield them from outside view. An elderly man prods the Zebu-oxen ahead. Beside them Berger is riding, his second horse carrying his baggage.

38 THE OX-CART INT. PROCESS

SEETHA and BHARANI are seated in the jolting ox-cart, which is shaking them to and fro. Seetha draws the half-transparent curtain a bit in order to have a better view of BERGER riding beside them.

39 JUNGLE (STUDIO) (AS SEEN FROM THE TOP OF THE TREE)

The five LANCERS of the body-guard take formation for their greeting.

One hears the cries of the elderly DRIVER proding his oxen.

The attitude of the lancers is a mixture of obedient respect for Seetha and mistrustful astonishment at the European. The first lancer says a few words of explanation. BERGER dismounts from his horse.

40 LONG SHOT

1. LANCER

Your horses should drink, Sahib.
This is the last water-hole before
Eschnapur.

One of the lancer's takes Berger's horses by the halter and disappears with them. The OLD MAN unharnesses the oxen and follows with the animals. SEETHA and BHARANI remain seated in the cart. BERGER stands there indecisively. The LANCERS go to their horses, leaving Berger alone with the two women.

41 MEDIUM SHOT SEETHA, BHARANI AND BERGER

In the ox-cart, SEETHA, uncertain, in conflict with her feelings, turns to BHARANI with sudden decision.

SEETHA
Go to the pool, Bharani. Tell
the driver to hurry.

BHARANI
Yes, mistress.

She climbs down from the wagon and passing BERGER quickly she walks off scene. Seetha follows her with her eyes, but one does not know if she is watching Bharani or Berger.

42 LONGSHOT OF THE PARKING GROUND PROCESS

Through liana plants and bamboo stalks, from above, the camera sees BERGER approaching SEETHA. Foreground the tiger cowers in the bushes.

43 CLOSE UP THE TIGER

It raises, creeps out of the bush and gets ready to spring at the cart.

44

CLOSE IN THE OX-CART

Seetha - sensing the danger, she quickly turns her head. Her eyes wide in terror. She just is able to scream. Then the shadow of the jumping great beast darkens the frame.

45

OX-CART

The cart tips over. The tiger growls and strikes his paws in rage at the wooden roof of the cart.

46

WITH THE HORSES

The horses of the lancers panic. The horses race off in all directions. The lancers flee.

47

MEDIUM LONG SHOT AT THE OX-CART

Standing between the toppled cart and the bright burning fire of the lancers, for an instant BERGER stares at the picture of deadly peril. Then he grabs a burning clump of wood from the fire and springs toward the cart. The tiger has spotted his enemy and sets himself to jump. By then Berger is on him, striking at him with the burning branch.

47 A

BERGER AND THE TIGER

B

Berger and

C

(Reverse Angle) the tiger. Berger tries to drive off the tiger with the burning branch, and the roaring tiger snaps at Berger with his claw.

48

LONG SHOT

The tiger, frightened by this unaccustomed phenomena, turns from his victim and assailant and flees in high flight, disappearing in the jungle. BERGER follows the great cat with his eyes. Every sign of civilisation has fallen from him. Even SEETHA's presence is forgotten, although he risked his life for her. He is like the primeval man. Only slowly, when danger is past, he gradually returns to the present.

49

MEDIUM SHOT

SEETHA, hanging from the overturned cart, half on the ground, watches him in fascination. Not the tiger, not the closeness of death has seemed to impress her, but only this man. The tension in her face slips away, and

again there is the frail, tender smile with which she fell asleep the night before in the carawanseraï.

50 MEDIUM SHOT

BERGER drops the burning branch and turns to SEETHA. He helps her get to her feet.

SEETHA
It was a miracle, Sahib.

BERGER
(disparagingly)
Tigers can't bear fire. In my country we learn that in school during the first zoology lessons.

Seetha looks at Berger earnestly, She is not inclined to let him tear apart with words the mood of this minute.

SEETHA
It was a miracle, Sahib. I have seen two tigers fighting each other. They were fighting for me, for my life... Sahib! Do you know, just now, you were an Indian?

BERGER
(smiling)
And..the other tiger?

SEETHA
The other tiger...was the other India.

QUICK DISSOLVE

51 PALACE COURT EXTERIOR DAY

CLOSE CHANDRA, THE MAHARAJA OF ESCHNAPUR

CHANDRA is dressed in white Jodhpur trousers that do justice to his slim hips, a black Aitchcan shirt with diamond buttons, showing his broad athletic shoulders, and a small red turban. He sits in an elevated chair and as the camera draws back we see that he is surrounded by courtiers and dignitaries.

Somewhat in the background, in the shadows of a colonnade, the step-brother of the Maharaja, Prince RAMIGANI is standing with the HIGH PRIEST YAMA. (Ramigani's appearance is altogether different from that of Chandra. His clothes are pointedly lavish, there is something cunning about his good-fellow manner. He is a bit older than Chandra and was passed over by the succession to the throne.)