

# A Dream of India

## & Other Mystic Stories of Radiance and Darkness

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## Short Descriptions of Stories

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1. **“A Dream of India”**— The healing story in which a New York couple visiting the famous erotic Indian temple at Khajuraho is drawn mysteriously into an ancient forest where they discover an ancient hidden holy magical place. At this shrine two enigmatic and beatific mother goddesses anoint the husband and his wife with consecrated food and sacred water from the Ganges River, and when they return home to New York, one lone photograph is the only evidence of their magical illumination and blessing. \*This story is based on the author’s dream.
2. **“Dough”**— A Möbius strip is the metaphor for a San Francisco baker and restaurateur’s enduring memories and love for his grandmother and his wife, and when he is suddenly electrocuted in his own bakery, the dough he has been kneading for decades is mixed mystically forever with his wife’s ashes in the Pacific Ocean.
3. **“The Rodeo Club”**— An Idaho cowboy dance hall and bar is a microcosm of the real world. A poignant story of a club security guard and the patrons who flock there to listen and dance to rockin’ music, drink a lot, flirt a little, and hang out together. His best buddy reveals the beautiful love story of Boe and his beautiful woman, Cheyenne, and her horrific death. A story about human beings’ need to come together for love, companionship, and a good time.
4. **“Spice”**— Young Herbert is brought up in his family’s kitchen in Portland, Oregon. He learned about the wonder of spices from his Grandma Rose, Grandpa Thered, mother, Siona, and his father, Eason. When Eason dies, and his mother remarries a brute, Herbert leaves home and retreats into the world of hoarding spices that eventually takes over his life. He meets two Indian cooks at his dishwasher job, and eventually his personal spice road leads to a young Ethiopian woman, and it is the dark beauty of her heart that welcomes Herbert home.
5. **“Iridescence”** – Teenager Carl recalls the accidental drowning of his father, Rodman, in the Mississippi undercurrent while fishing and the subsequent remarriage of his mother to the local butcher, Chet Hamm. He realizes quickly that his brutish stepfather is ruthlessly abusing his mother, Flora, and him, and he considers the idea of killing Chet with his own baseball bat. Carl moves out, gets a job at a flower shop, unsuccessfully dates an odd assortment of young women trying to replace his mother’s love, but he continues to miss Flora and hate Chet. The story climaxes horribly when Carl uses Chet’s baseball bat and his father’s fishing lures to take his revenge on Chet. A tale of beauty and nobility shining through ignorance and evil.
6. **“Gold Leaf”** – Young soldier, Steele, deals with the horror of a hand-to-hand killing in the Vietnam War by losing himself in the arms of Sumalee, a young Bangkok bargirl. She shows Steele the sights and sounds of Bangkok including many of the golden

Buddhas and how people apply gold leaf to the statues as a form of worship and respect. After six more months back in country, Steele returns to Bangkok to witness Sumalee dying from an overdose of heroin. He forgets the tragedy with a different bargirl each night, and by making the rounds of the Buddhas and laying on more and more gold leaf for Sumalee and his dead war buddies. A telegram from his mother pulls him away from a beautiful bargirl, Champei, to be at the stateside bed of his dying father. Steele witnesses his father die, learns about his mother as a woman, and makes a secret and private lineage of enigmatic golden Buddhas that heal both Steel and his mother.

7. **“In the Darkness of the Dark Night”** – Nathan awakens from a disturbing dream next to his lovely Mayan astrophysicist wife, Azucena. The simple, intimate, day-to-day elements of their life fill his consciousness, along with his plaguing existential worry about the purpose of his life, as he goes to work, parks his car, gets out, and looks up at the sunrise. He is thrust into a sudden, surreal, and grotesque mystical experience about what appears to be the end of the world. He returns from his inner experience to his job, and later to his wife, who counsels him about the dream nature of reality as seen in the stars, the planets, and the looming arrival of the Mayan calendar’s thirteenth Baktun, and feared “End of the World.” \*This story is based on one of the author’s dreams.
8. **“Clay Bodies”** — Contemplative monks arrive at a mysterious juncture of sinuous foothills in the Idaho desert where they build their self-sufficient monastery. They discover a rich aquifer and deposits of clay and sand and decide to produce their own pottery. As they begin to build and throw pots, Brother Claude has a disturbing dream of an alabaster woman welcoming him with a beautiful urn. A flock of thirteen swans arrives in the artesian pool above the monastery, and a mysterious all-white woman arrives to purchase a monastery icon. She prays to the virgin in the icon she purchases, and she joins the swans as they rise into the air and fly away. A story of the dark hidden forces of male and female sensuality in the human body and in the body of the earth.
9. **“Slow”**— Families have been coming to the farmers’ market for as long as there have been towns; they bring their goods, their produce, their hopes, and expectations for a life. The narrator and his wife sit in the many dimensions of a small Japanese café eating and watching the local farmer’s market disband for the day. Before, they had walked through the thronging crowds, and then they stepped into a mysterious market where two Chinese matronly bodhisattvas present the husband with an unexpected gift of enlightenment in his enduring mourning for his wife. A story of presence, awareness, and mindfulness, and human beings’ need to flock to the outdoor market where humanity thrives.
10. **“Gravel and Fern”**— A mystical story of the dark and hidden riverine world of water, fish, animals, and eons of generations of native peoples living again and again throughout history on the same place on the same earth. The Sacred Ganges and the

Piazza San Marco are the settings for a numinous vision that reveals the depth of a man's grief and desperation after losing a wife to disease and his blindness to her faithfulness and beauty.

11. **“Care For Coffee?”**— Set in the 1960's in a summer villa in Cadaqués on the Costa Brava in Spain, this story of food, wine, guitar music, and cuisine presents four married couples and the disintegration of their idyllic summer vacation by the sudden outburst of one of the guests, the theretofore-unknown illegitimate grandson of Generalissimo Franco. A story of beautiful local foods and wines, and the generosity of those who set a table for friends in one of the most picturesque Mediterranean settings in the world where the joys and sadness of life are intense but evanescent.
12. **“Above the Tree Line”**— A healing story about a remarkable climb up a rugged California mountain peak where a sudden storm forces a young TV commentator and his maternal hypnotherapist to make contact with their unconscious forces and ultimately come to terms with their individual psycho-emotional suffering and grief. Not a romantic love story, but a tale of unconscious male-female spiritual intimacy and regard. This story is based on the therapeutic, hypnotic principles of Milton H. Ericson.
13. **“Levees”**— A Trappist monk whose monastic job is irrigator is watching the levees holding irrigation water in the monastery fields collapse and flood the orchards he tends, and he suddenly recalls the woman he once loved and still loves. A true life story about the interface of the love of God with human love, and how long-repressed passion must find its way to the surface of the spirit world if a man is to be human. \*This story is based on the author's *Narcissus and Goldmund* friendship with a fellow Trappist monk.
14. **“The Door Maker”**— The vivid dream of a door encrusted with a galaxy of jewels and precious stones drives a Moroccan carpenter, Prakash, to set out to create this mystical door in his carpenter's shop. In the process he and his beautiful woman accidentally discover an antique store where an old oil painting of a maharaja's palace holds an image of the very same galactic door. The shopkeeper helps them recognize that the door maker's simple loving woman, Doral, is in reality a princess. A story of the regal quality of the simple devotion of a man to a woman and to a dream. \*This story is based on one of the author's dreams.