

Ch. 4 - The Enemy

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It had been the bedroom of Sadao's father, and since his death it had not been used. They laid the man on the deeply matted floor. Everything here had been Japanese to please the old man, who would never in his own home sit on a chair or sleep in a foreign bed. Hana went to the wall cupboards and slid back a door and took out a soft quilt. She hesitated. The quilt was covered with flowered silk and the lining was pure white silk.

*The bedroom belonged to Sadao's father and had not been used after his death. The injured man was laid on the thick mat on the floor. The writer describes the room – everything in the room was Japanese as Sadao's father disliked foreign things. Hana went to the cupboard in the wall and took a soft quilt. She resisted putting it on the injured man. The quilt was made of silk, had a flowery print on it and the lining was made of pure white silk.*

“He is so dirty,” she murmured in distress.

“Yes, he had better be washed,” Sadao agreed. “If you will fetch hot water I will wash him.”

Distress: sadness

*She was sad and spoke slowly that the man was very dirty. Sadao said that the man had to be washed. Sadao asked Hana to get hot water so that he could wash the man.*

“I cannot bear for you to touch him,” she said. “We shall have to tell the servants he is here. I will tell Yumi now. She can leave the children for a few minutes and she can wash him.”

*Hana did not want that Sadao should touch the man. She said that they would ask the servant to wash the injured man. She would call Yumi to leave attending the children for a few minutes and wash him.*

Sadao considered a moment. “Let it be so,” he agreed. “You tell Yumi and I will tell the others.” But the utter pallor of the man's unconscious face moved him first to stoop and feel his pulse. It was faint but it was there. He put his hand against the man's cold breast. The heart too was yet alive.

Pallor: an unhealthy pale appearance

Stoop: bend forward

## Pulse: heartbeat

*Sadao thought for a moment and then agreed with Hana. He asked her to call Yumi while he would call the other servants. Before he could go out, he saw the injured man's face. It was so pale that he stopped, bent forward and felt his heartbeat to see if he was alive. The heartbeat was very faint but it was there. Then Sadao placed his hand on the man's heart to feel it. It was also beating. Sadao concluded thus, that the injured man was alive.*

“He will die unless he is operated on,” Sadao said, considering. “The question is whether he will not die any way.”

*Sadao commented that if the man was not operated upon, he would die. He added that even if he was operated upon and saved, he would die at the hands of the Japanese army. So, either ways he would die.*

Hana cried out in fear. “Don't try to save him! What if he should live?”

*Hana screamed with fear and asked Sadao not to save the man... she feared that if he lived, they would be in danger.*

“What if he should die?” Sadao replied. He stood gazing down on the motionless man. This man must have extraordinary vitality or he would have been dead by now.

But then he was very young — perhaps not yet twenty five.

“You mean die from the operation?”

Hana asked.

“Yes,” Sadao said.

## Vitality: energy, life

*Sadao questioned that what would be the implications if the man died. He looked down towards the injured man and wondered that he had a lot of energy which had kept him alive through such torture. He countered his thought with the fact that the man was very young – he seemed to be twenty five years of age and at that age, people do have a lot of energy. Hana asked him that did he mean the man could die during the operation. Sadao confirmed her question.*

Hana considered this doubtfully, and when she did not answer Sadao turned away. “At any rate something must be done with him,” he said, “and first he must be washed.” He went

quickly out of the room and Hana came behind him. She did not wish to be left alone with the white man. He was the first she had seen since she left America and now he seemed to have nothing to do with those whom she had known there. Here he was her enemy, a menace, living or dead.

Menace: danger, threat

*Hana was pondering over this possibility and as she was taking time to reply, Sadao left. He said that something had to be done with the injured man irrespective of the result. The first thing was to wash him. As he walked out of the room, Hana followed him. She did not want to remain in the room, alone with the white skinned man. Since she had left America, he was the first white man she had seen. She had no contact with the Americans whom she had met as they were her enemies. This injured man was also an enemy and was a threat to them.*