

Chapter wise Summary of the novel 'THE GUIDE' by R.K. Narayan Part 1

Published in 1958, *The Guide* is a novel by Indian author R.K. Narayan set in his fictional South Indian town of Malgudi. It follows the life of an Indian man, [Raju](#), as he evolves throughout his life to become one of the most prominent holy men in India.

Narayan wrote the novel on his first trip abroad, staying in a residential hotel in Berkeley, California. However, its source was not American but Indian, and Narayan described the work as “totally Indian” (specifically, it was a drought in Mysore and a group of Brahmins fasting and praying in the river that inspired him).

The protagonist of *The Guide* is Raju, a tour guide living in Malgudi known for his corrupt tendencies. He falls in love with a mistreated married woman named [Rosie](#), and the two begin having an affair together. However, as time goes on and Rosie becomes more and more successful as a dancer, Raju becomes excessively controlling and soon ends up in jail because of his overbearing and greedy actions. After he is released, in a turn of events, he is mistaken as a holy man in a town he happens to be passing through. Because he decides to keep the act up, he eventually gets himself in a situation where he must fast for the length of several days, heavily publicized and lauded for his actions.

The Guide won R.K. Narayan several awards, including but not limited to the Indian National Academy of Letter's Sahitya Akademi Award in 1960 (it was the first novel written in English to win this). The book was adapted into both a movie (1965) and a play of the same name (1968).

Chapter 1

A man approaches [Raju](#) in the lonely temple ruins and he welcomes him. Raju asks him to sit down. Raju is sitting cross-legged on a granite slab as if it were a throne. It is evening and the birds are rustling near the river.

The man responds to some of Raju's companionable questions. Raju thinks to himself how he likes this rambling because he's been alone here for the day. He strokes his chin, and also thinks about how his last shave was two days ago and he paid for it with his money from jail.

The barber could tell he was just out, and told Raju as he shaved his face that he put his business here for a reason. The barber could also tell Raju did not do anything too bad, and asked what he will do next. Raju thoughtfully said he doesn't know.

The villager looks up reverentially at Raju as he sits on the higher step. Raju wishes he could blurt out that he is not holy and is only here because he wants to make sure people don't recognize him. As he is about to try and say he is not as great as the man imagines, the man states that he has a problem. Immediately Raju's old guide mentality comes back and he asks the man to tell him about it. Back in the day tourists always sought Raju out; it was "in his nature to get involved in other people's interests and activities" (4).

At a later stage, Raju will narrate his own story to this man, who is named [Velan](#). He will tell him that his troubles started with [Rosie](#). Interestingly, she called herself that, which is odd because she is just an Indian and not a foreigner. She is a dancer, and an orthodox one at that. Raju always used to praise her dancing. She was married to Marco, a grotesque man. From the moment Raju saw him, dressed like a perpetual tourist, he knew that this man was perfect for a guide like himself. Why did Raju become a guide? It seems like it was fated. The railway was in his life from a young age. His parents' house was near the Malgudi station, and his father had built it long before trains were even thought of. His father had a small shop known as "the hut shop." Raju worked there often.

Raju's father taught him the Tamil alphabet and disciplined him if he messed up. Raju also learned arithmetic. Being confined to his father's company for hours was difficult, but eventually his father went to the shop and he was able to play at the tamarind tree with his marbles, iron hoop, and rubber ball. Sometimes his father took Raju to town when he went shopping, and there Raju marveled at the panorama of life he saw there. He drowsily watched the activities of the marketplace.

The man interrupts Raju's reveries and says he has a problem. Raju states that everyone does. He feels confident that he appears saintly. The man tells Raju his name is Velan and his father's last wife's daughter lives with them. The girl shows no gratitude for all the things he has given her and she does not want to accept the plans for her marriage. She ran away, and Velan had to search for her and bring her back. Now she sulks in her room all day. He asks Raju what to do.

Raju tells Velan to bring the girl to him. Velan is grateful and tries to touch Raju's feet, but Raju says it is not permitted. He is feeling more and more saintly.

That evening, Raju watches the river and listens to the rustling of the trees. He cannot sleep and decides to count the stars, especially as people will be impressed when he can tell them how many there are. He loses count though, and falls sleep.

The next morning, Velan brings his half-sister. Raju is flustered and wants to be alone for his morning ablutions, so he makes them wait. When he reemerges, he sees the food and drink the visitors have brought him. He is not unhappy, having learned to accept any opportunity for food.

Raju begins to feel like this adulation of him is right and normal. He tells the story of Devaka, a man from ancient times but he cannot remember the end. He lapses into silence. Velan is not perturbed; he is a perfect disciple.

Raju's thoughts go back to his mother and her stories. She would tell them while they waited for his father to come home at night. He loved staying out late with his friends and visitors, discussing litigations and prices of grain and rainfall and more. He ignored food and sleep, and would tell Raju when he came to get him to just set some food and milk aside.

Raju would then run back home, but he had to go through a dark patch that always gave him a cold sweat and made him think of wild animals or supernatural beings. His mother would sit with him once inside, and her presence was comforting. He would ask for a story and she would commence telling one.

Back in the present moment, Raju feels a sense of irritation because he'd rather think of his own problems. He tells Velan he cannot think of his problems right now but will do so when the time is ripe. Velan does not protest and stands humbly to leave. Somewhat mollified, Raju asks if this is the sister. Velan assents. Raju says that with time he will have a solution. Time is needed for the proper understanding. He is proud of his words.

He asks himself though, if he has been in prison or some transmigration. Raju looks at the girl and says what must happen will happen.

Velan and the sister cross the river and Raju watches them go.

Chapter 2

There is a great deal of activity in front of Raju's childhood home, and the family soon learns the trains are coming. A mountain of dirt rises and trucks are busy all day. Raju loves the exciting changes, the talk of the workers, and the special metal objects he finds and treasures. He does not like other boys coming near what he

sees as his domain and curses one. His father reprimands him and says he must go to school.

Raju is terribly depressed to be taken from his kingdom. He has no choice, though, and his father enjoys bragging to others that his son is being educated. It is a long walk to the school and Raju is almost always late. He wishes he could go to Albert Mission School, which is closer, but his father insists that they try to convert students to Christianity there.

Raju's school is a *pyol* school, meaning lessons are taught in the *pyol* of an old gentleman's house. The man is stern, abusive, and irritated by the mere presence of his students. He only cares for the money he gets for teaching them and the gifts the parents send. That is when he is most obliging to the boys.

Raju does learn enough to qualify for the first standard in Board High School. He can read and do some multiplication. The old master is actually quite proud of Raju and two other boys for making it that far.

Back in the present, Velan comes before Raju brimming with excitement. He declares there has been a miracle—his sister has decided to comply with everything they ask of her. Her marriage is soon, and the household is happy and light. Raju asks if he is moving quickly before the girl changes her mind, and Velan is impressed with Raju's insight. Raju doesn't want every single thing he says to be considered genius, so he says sharply that it is an ordinary guess.

Raju's own smartness is beginning to unsettle him. Velan invites him to the wedding but he does not go. This does not save him though, for Velan brings the girl and her new husband to Raju. The girl says authoritatively that Raju has to only look at you and you are changed.

Raju's circle gradually widens. More and more people arrive. Raju says nothing. They sit quietly and demurely. Raju is uncomfortable; he has the day to himself but at night the villagers are there. One night, he actually hides from them and he hears them concernedly wondering if he has gone away. He hears their voices trail away. After they leave, Raju finds the food they left and is grateful for it. He hopes Velan and the others will never think he is too good for food.

The next morning, Raju considers his situation. Should he go back to Malgudi? He cannot work out in the real world. How else will he get food? He decides he must stay here.

That evening Raju assumes his pose of beatitude. He has decided to look as brilliant and radiant as he can and not hold back. He even feels a certain

excitement as he anticipates the villagers' arrival. However, there is no sign of anyone. His fears return. He wishes he could go search for Velan but that is undignified.

He spots a boy grazing sheep on the opposite bank and calls him over. He announces he is the new priest of this temple and will give him a plantain. The boy explains that he does not come here usually because of the crocodiles, but that his uncle asked him to in order to see if the holy man was there. Raju gives him the plantain and tells him to tell his uncle the man is back.

Chapter 3

The station building is finally ready. It seems as if Raju's world is neatly divided into one side of the railroad and the other. The building is decorated and people gather to celebrate. Police guard the platform as people flock around. Several important people give speeches. Raju's father's shop has record sales that day.

Over time, the trains bring more prosperity to Raju's father, who buys a horse and carriage. Raju's mother is skeptical about all of this and nags his father incessantly. As they become the talk of the town, she sees them as too vain. Whenever his father is not using the horse, she berates him. His father seems to be less aggressive lately and seriously begins to think about getting rid of the horse.

A blacksmith proposes to rent out the horse, but the horse's groom offers Raju's father another deal: let him ply it for use in the market. This works out well for a few days, but the groom stops finding business and begs for remission. It seems he has misappropriated his funds, and he starts to complain that the horse is getting too skinny. The man offers to buy the horse and carriage and Raju's father, exhausted, agrees. They are all glad to be rid of it.

Raju's father is given the privilege of running a shop at the railway station. It is so spacious that when his father fills it with articles from the hut shop, it looks empty. The stationmaster comes by, and Raju's father is very deferential to him. The man orders Raju's father to fill it up more and Raju's father, seeing the stationmaster as a god-like figure, agrees with alacrity. He purchases more goods and fills the shop.

Raju is put in charge of the smaller shop. He does not know what to do about all the old people who hang around there whom his father used to converse with, and over time his father ends up back at the hut shop and Raju works at the new shop. Raju's schooling drops off unobtrusively.

Chapter 4

Everyone in the village is pleased the holy man is back at his post and they arrive in a great mass. Raju sees young boys and ask what they are studying. They say nothing and an elder says they cannot send their boys to school as they do in town because they have to graze cattle. Raju asserts that boys must read, so perhaps they can gather here in the evenings and learn. He asks to see the schoolteacher.

The next day, a timid man arrives, but it is Raju who is nervous at first when his latent fears of teachers rise back up in him. Raju is not very clear-headed after his sleep and asks the teacher a few questions. The teacher finally asks if Raju had said something about educating the boys here. Raju replies that if he needs a place he can have it. The teacher demurs, but suddenly Raju is authoritative and says it is their duty to make everyone happy and wise. The teacher is struck by Raju's magnanimity and goes back to the village a changed man.

He returns with about a dozen boys. He asks Raju to speak to them and Raju does, marveling at how wise he sounds as he speaks of godliness and cleanliness and the epics. Years ago, Raju had always read a lot during his shopping days. Sometimes schoolboys left books there.

His father died suddenly during the rainy part of the year. His mother adjusted to being a widow; she had enough to live on. Raju closed down the hut shop and worked full time at the station shop. He began stocking newspapers, magazines, and books, and enjoyed talking with people. Students often gathered there.

Everyone is impatient to return in the evenings to the holy man's place. The children extol the merits of what they heard. Raju feels like an actor as the people circle around him in the pillared hall. He tells the teacher to take the boys to a corner to read and learn, and that he must speak to the elders. He is concerned, though, because he does not know what to speak of. The only thing he can speak with authority on is jail life and its benefits, such as being mistaken for a saint. He wishes he could just call them fools and tell them to leave him alone with his food.

Finally, Raju says he will speak to them all another day, and that they ought to spend their time thinking about their thoughts and actions from the day. This confuses some of them, especially as they are just cattle drivers and not philosophers. Raju says simply that if they do it they will know why, and marvels to himself that being a saint seems to be merely saying pithy things. He picks three men and says they must come back tomorrow and repeat six words they said.

The next day, Raju beats a soft rhythm and chants a holy song. Others join in and the ancient ceiling echoes with their voices. Some people have brought little

pictures of gods and women begin to decorate the space. Raju realizes his spiritual status will go higher if he grows a beard and long hair.

By the time he gets this hair, his prestige has grown beyond his wildest dreams. His gatherings overflow into the corridor and to the river's edge. Raju doesn't know names except Velan's, but the people do not care. They bring him sick children and their quarrels and concerns. He barely has a private life anymore and feels the strain. He likes when he can be a normal man for a few minutes.

Chapter 5

[Raju](#) remembers how he used to be known as "Railway Raju." Everyone asked for him and respected his opinion; he never told them he didn't know the answer. He helped people find their way, and enlisted the old man [Gaffur](#) and his car to take the tourists where they wanted to go.

Raju notes that travelers are enthusiastic and don't mind inconvenience as long as there is something to see. Raju doesn't understand this but doesn't care; it is not his place to ask questions. He gets to know the sorts of people who travel in the area. There are scholarly types whom Raju lets do most of the talking. There are more innocent ones whom Raju speaks to freely, making up glorious facts or exaggerating others.

The porter's son now sits in the shop almost all day while Raju acts as a guide. He comes back to check the money. His mother wonders why he neglects the shop and Raju says he does not, and that he likes being a guide because people know him, ask for him, and give him food. He also finds talking to people interesting. She is mollified.

When a train comes into town, Raju knows exactly where to stand and what to do to get a tourist to notice him. He has an eye for them and has his classifications for them. There are passionate photographers whom he helps take to the right places. He waits to figure out how much cash the person will have first, though, and then decides how many hours of places he will show him.

Raju is quite skilled at making calls in a split second. He sees which tourists engage porters and which hook their own bags on their fingers. He sees which ones will want a nice room and which will want one just for sleeping. He carefully scrutinizes those who come to him, knowing they won't be clearheaded right after their journey. He draws out what the person's interests are.

After a long time being a guide, Raju knows no two people have the same interests. Taste differs. Some want to see ruins, others hydroelectric plants, others pretty

vistas. Some want to get drunk, others want to find poetry in nature. Some want Raju to tell them everything, others want to instruct him on the facts. Raju is polite and amenable to all situations. He makes decent money, especially during special times such as the elephant herd trapping.

Once there is a girl who says all she wants to see is a king cobra dancing to a flute. Her male companion chides her, which annoys Raju because he finds the girl very enticing.

The man arrives first. Raju finds him strange but puts him up in the Anand Bhavan Hotel. The man, who Raju learns is named Marco, sightsees for a day and then tells Raju another person is coming. When Raju sees the girl, [Rosie](#), he finds her appealing. She is not gorgeous but she has a lovely figure and dusky skin.

One day, Raju takes [Marco](#) to the caves and carvings he wants to see, and tells the girl he can take her to see the king cobra. Rosie asks her husband and he shoos her away and says he will see her back at the hotel.

Gaffur and Raju take Rosie to a group of huts on the other side of the river. Raju asks for the snake and a man prods it in the basket. It rises up and children run off screaming then return. Rosie calls for the man to play a flute and he complies. The snake writhes about. Rosie is mesmerized by it.

When they return, Marco tells Raju what time to bring the car around tomorrow. Raju is privately annoyed; he hates this man and does not like that he just orders the car and does not say where he is going.

The next morning, Gaffur and his car are waiting at the hotel. Raju asks where the couple is and Gaffur replies that they said they'd be down soon. Something in Gaffur's manner bothers Raju; he thinks Gaffur must be trying to impress Rosie as well, and he feels jealous.

Raju goes upstairs and knocks. Marco opens the door fully dressed and ready to go. He exits and closes it. He informs Raju he wants to study the friezes again, then see cave paintings. Raju calculates how much this will cost in his head. He informs Marco they will probably be gone for a whole day and may not get back before the evening.

Marco sighs that Raju probably has no idea how to deal with women. Raju, feeling bold, asks what the trouble is. Marco is friendlier than he ever has been, and says the fairer sex does not lead to peace.

Raju has an idea, and ventures to ask if he might try talking to her. Marco brightens and tells him he can try. Raju goes back upstairs and knocks. He says it

is he, not her husband. Raju lowers his voice and tells Rosie he cannot get the sight of her dancing form out of his head. She opens the door. With bright, tearful eyes she looks at him. She asks why he wants her to come out with that awful man. Raju leans in and says without her life would be blank. Raju expects her to shut the door on him angrily but she is amused. She tells him to wait.

Raju can barely restrain himself from bursting in. Marco comes upstairs, and is amazed when Raju says Rosie is coming.

Rosie comes downstairs and the three of them join Gaffur in the car. Gaffur warns them they may have to stay at Peak House tonight. Rosie dashes upstairs to get her and her husband a change of clothing. It seems things are better between them, but the air is still a bit tense.

The group reaches Peak House at four in the afternoon. The caretaker is pleased to see Raju since he brings him so much business. Raju asks Marco for money for food and supplies. Marco is hesitant when Raju does that until he tells him he will get receipts.

Peak House is on a cliff in the Mempi Hills and has stunning views of the jungle below. It is “like heaven to those who loved wild surroundings” (57), and Rosie is in ecstasy with all the plants and flowers. Marco merely seems annoyed.

[Joseph](#) the caretaker brings them their food and shows them the coal stove. He warns them to keep their door locked. He says they can sit on the veranda and watch tigers and other animals below. Joseph leaves.

Raju knows his way around the kitchen and serves the food after watching a glorious sunset. Once, his hand touches Rosie’s and he is nearly insensate. He cannot stop thinking about her but wonders if it is wrong because of Marco.

Rosie asks Marco to join her on the veranda but he says she wants to be alone, so she asks Raju to join her. In the dark, Rosie asks about the various animals. Raju can only think of her beauty and wishes he could gush his love for her, but thankfully he restrains himself because Marco quietly joins them.

The next morning, the mood is sour between the two. Marco says he is ready to see the caves and when Raju asks about the lady, Marco snaps not to worry about her. Raju wonders what terrible things happen every night between the two of them that make the mornings so miserable.

Raju is bitter as he leads Marco outside. Marco strides ahead without knowing where he is going, and Raju finally asks if he knows the route. Marco is surprised

and says no, and Raju takes over. At the cave, Marco is visibly excited and talks volubly. It is clear he likes dead and decaying things; how could Rosie be with him?

Inside the cave, Marco examines the cave paintings. Raju is bored as the hours pass. Finally, he says he will go back, and tells Marco to take the same route home. Marco ignores him and keeps up his examinations.

Back at Peak House, Rosie calls out to Raju from a stone wall under a tree. He joins her. She asks if Marco is still cave-gazing and Raju says yes. He asks her what she is interested in, and she says anything but old stone walls.

Raju thinks this must be his moment and asks why she and Marco quarrel. He adds that he cannot fathom how anyone would quarrel with her. She asks what he means, and he pours out his immense love for her. He speaks of that love between comments on her art of dancing. Rosie is pleased but says he is like a brother.

Reckless, Raju asks why she married Marco. She admits it was for money and that she is from a caste of people dedicated to temples as dancers. All women in her family stretching back generations were dancers. When Rosie was young she danced in a village temple; her caste is viewed as public women and are not respectable.

Raju assures her that modern India is different and there is no such thing as caste. Rosie goes on about how she went to college and then afterward thought about what to do. She saw an advertisement asking for an educated, beautiful woman to be a wife to a rich man and decided to take it, especially as there were no caste requirements.

Raju is surprised at all of this but she defends her choice even though she is sad. Raju feels for her, and tells her he would have made her a queen in this place.

The group learns Gaffur cannot come until the following day but they are fine. Marco is pleased to have more time to study the walls. Raju studies the couple. When Gaffur does arrive, Marco says he'd like to stay longer and hopes Raju will go back to the hotel, fetch his things, and then come back here with him. Raju hesitates, but this is part of his job. He agrees. Rosie says she wants to go back as well.

Gaffur watches the two of them in the car but they do not talk or touch.

The next day, Raju takes Rosie all over town and shows her with great zest the sights of Malgudi. She is like an excited child and marvels at everything. Once Gaffur warns him that she is married and he waves him off angrily.

Rosie likes the market, hotel and cinema. It is a lovely, long day and Raju walks her back to the hotel. At the door, he hesitates and asks feebly if he should leave. Equally feebly she says yes. On impulse he gently nudges her aside and enters. She follows.

Chapter 6

Raju loses count of time after trying to heed the cycles of seasons. His beard now caresses his chest, his hair is down his back, and he wears prayer beads. The villagers bring him so many things that he loses interest in getting more; he distributes everything at the end of the day. He asks [Velan](#) to stop, but they love gift-giving. They also begin calling him swami.

Raju loves the evening rains and how cozy they make the gatherings, but one day he notices that the sky never dims with clouds. He asks and Velan says sadly that the rains are not there and crops are beginning to die. Raju gives them comforting words but is disturbed when he goes down to the river to see how it has shrunk.

The signs begin to manifest more. Reports come in of sugar canes wilting. The people float all manner of theories, including science, religion, mythology, weather, and more. Raju tells them not to think of it too much but even his words are offering little comfort. The village wells are drying up and people come in waves to the river. There they quarrel and lament.

One day, Velan tells Raju a buffalo has died. Raju wishes he could say he can do nothing about it, but Velan asks if he can see it. To Raju, the people are “clearly losing their heads. They are entering a nightmare phase” (72). A small crowd follows Raju as he walks to the buffalo. Reports filter in of cholera in a neighboring village.

Raju inspects the buffalo. The people are somewhat relieved it is from a different village, and Raju adds to this by saying it seems to have died from a poisonous bite.

More cattle begin to die. The shopkeeper has to raise prices and people become angry and start fights. The air is filled with curses and shouts. Raju is concerned with their agitation and wonders if he ought to find a new place.

In the morning, Velan’s brother comes to him and tells him Velan was injured. Raju gives advice but privately wonders if maybe this brother himself did it; after

all, the brothers were all involved in litigation. Raju counsels rest for Velan but the brother says that is impossible, as they have to get ready for their big battle tonight.

Raju looks at the brother. He is of lesser intelligence and spends his days grazing cattle in the mountains. He only speaks to the cattle during the day and is very rude and abusive to them. He never visits Raju except for today because he feels like there are no other options, and he should get the swami's blessing.

This man annoys Raju, especially as he tries to say he wasn't the first to hit the shopkeeper, so he sighs that no one should fight. He does not like the idea of so much commotion because what if it attracts attention and the police come? He forcefully tells the boy to go tell Velan and the others not to fight and he will tell them what to do later. The boy is frightened.

Raju adds that he will not eat until they are good. The boy barely understands and out of terror of this wild man runs away.

He goes to the assembly of men gathered under an ancient tree. The elders are discussing the rain and fight. They have misgivings, especially because they do not want the swami to know about it and disapprove.

When the boy bursts in, he starts blubbering and the others can barely understand what he is saying. He says the swami will not eat and says "no fight." The men perk up at this and the boy feels like he should not have said anything about the fight. He lies and says he told the swami that there is no rain. The men laugh and pat his head. He remembers he must be clear about the not eating and reasserts this.

The men buzz with excitement because they think Raju is being like Gandhi and refusing food until things improve. He will fast out of love for them and the rains will come. They forget their troubles and bickering.

The village stirs. A crocodile is found dead. The river recedes and an ancient temple is unearthed. The fight is settled amiably and the people en masse decide to visit the swami.

Raju is waiting for his gifts and food. His mind wanders to new recipes and his old favorite foods and cravings. When he hears voices, he is relieved but a little puzzled at how large the crowd is. Perhaps he prevented the fight and people are grateful.

The people approach and soften their voices. The women get busy cleaning and lights are lit. Raju reads quietly while they work. He reads a passage aloud and

discusses food and God's goodness. They listen politely for an hour but then Velan says their prayers will be answered and the swami will save their village. Raju is puzzled, but thinks these are just normal praises for him.

Women come to touch his feet and when he protests they all say he is not a man but a Mahatma. The crowd presses in and will not leave him alone. They gaze on him with more intensity than normal. They thank him and stumble through their words of thanks. Raju ruminates that perhaps his presence really is that glorious.

Time passes and Raju is confused that they are not presenting food or leaving. He cannot ask though, and all Velan will say is that he is undertaking a great sacrifice and they simply want to be at his side.

Finally, Velan asks if Raju thinks the rains will come tomorrow. Confused, Raju says it might if it is God's will. Velan proceeds to tell him of what he thinks Raju is going to do—stand in the river water, look to the sky, utter prayers for two weeks, and fast the whole time. Raju is stunned; he remembered saying all this long ago to fill an evening. He knows he cannot be surprised and thinks maybe this is the time to be serious and attach meaning to his own words. He “now sees the enormity of his own creation” (85).

Raju turns to Velan and says he must be alone tonight and the day tomorrow and that Velan must come to him tomorrow night alone. This sounds important and Velan agrees. The people depart.

Raju's body aches from sitting. His mind is tormented. He does not know how he can survive without food. He wishes he'd known this scenario he made up would apply to him so he could have tweaked the parameters. He thinks about running away, but then remembers the women and children touching his feet and how grateful they were.

His solution is to dip into his extra food that he kept for a second meal at night; this will help him survive.

When Velan comes the next day Raju asks him straightforwardly what it is about him that makes Velan think he can bring the rain. Velan is perplexed.

Raju calls him to sit and says he must listen to him. He feels terrible that he will have to shatter the illusion but it is the only thing he can do. He begins to speak, admitting he is not a saint and is a normal man. Raju's voice fills the night. Velan listens seriously and says nothing; “there are lines of care on his face” (87).