

Chopi and King Samovar Ciopi și Regele Samovar

Bilingual Edition

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If you ever came to the city of Naharan in the fabled kingdom of King Takumi, you would find an amazing concentration of the finest porcelain and ceramic artists that ever lived.

All the vessels in town were eager to be painted and decorated by these master artists. Their beauty gave them the celebrity status they yearned for. Whenever they appeared in public, they would take the time to pose for their fans.

Smiling porcelain tea-cups spread their colourful dresses. Wide-eyed bowls showed off their large brimmed hats. Snobby platters only cared about the perfect tailoring of their pants while long-stemmed glasses proudly wore their gold-buttoned blazers, tastefully done up with perfectly ironed silk blouses peeking from the collar.

They loved all the attention and would prolong it by showing off a skill they had. Some could sing beautifully or dance magnificently. Some were champion athletes while others were eloquent public speakers and orators. They would do anything to please their fans.

Not everyone, however, was beautiful. Those that were unattractive or showed defects were not allowed to come near the decorated and admired ones because Naharan had a strict law forbidding any flawed vessels to live in the city with the skilled designers and artists. No matter how small and insignificant their scrapes were, once they became visible, they lost their value as a vessel. They were cast out of the city to live sequestered in a community called Forseka.

This unfortunate situation began many years ago, when some vessels started showing scratches or cracks on their faces. Everyone in town got scared, thinking that it was a sickness and would spread to everyone. They feared it would devastate the entire kingdom.

A committee of elders who called themselves the Enlightened Pots Assembly, gathered an emergency meeting at King Takumi's palace to figure out what was going on and what needed to be done next.

Even though nobody knew why some of the dishes were getting cracked and chipped, one thing was certain: the more depressed or lonely they were, the more obvious and deeper the cracks became.

That's when the Enlightened Pots Assembly decreed that all scratched, cracked or chipped vessels were worthless and therefore were sentenced to be broken with the Fort's Chisel

in the town's Central Plaza. "What other use would they have anyway?" the elders from the Assembly said.

The drastic new law hit the town's inhabitants like a thunderbolt. In the Naharan kingdom nobody was allowed to argue against a law that was approved and voted on by elders of the Enlightened Pots Assembly. Not even the King himself.

Many pots found their end in those sad times. They were mercilessly crushed into a thousand pieces in the Central Plaza.

But the law could not stop the spreading of cracks. As more and more vases started showing damage, more and more got smashed to pieces. It was a frightening time.





Worried and disturbed at the havoc that the law had wreaked, King Takumi spent all his days and nights in his royal library, searching for a solution. He went over every law that had been laid down from the beginning of his kingdom. Alas, there was nothing in the whole library that gave him the answer he needed. Worn out, he rubbed his tired eyes, ready to give up... when all of a sudden, he spied something in a dark corner. It was an old dusty scroll that had fallen off the shelf, who knows how long ago. He slowly unrolled it, careful not to tear it. And there it was! The solution he needed. A law so old nobody remembered it.

As soon as the sun rose, King Takumi called a meeting of all the elders of the Enlightened Pots Assembly and showed them the scroll. The scroll read that once every five years the King of Naharan had the authority to amend any law the Enlightened Pots Assembly had decreed. The King then proclaimed that from now on any damaged vessel would no longer be smashed into pieces. Although they were still not allowed to live inside the city, at least they were allowed to work there as servants.

This was big news and when it was announced in the Central Plaza, all the vessels that were damaged sang the praises of King Takumi.

