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MURPHY, DAVID

PPUUKKKAA S A H I B

(The RECITER walks on to the Stage & prepares to recite.)

RECITER: The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God, by Milton Hayes.  
There's a green-eyed yellow idol to the north of Khatmandu;  
There's a little marble cross below the town;  
There's a.....

COLONEL: (Interrupting) Have you been there lately ?

Reciter: I beg your pardon ?

MAJOR: The Colonel said, "Have you been



BOTH: Khatmandu.

Reciter: No, as a matter of fact I haven't been there for some time.

Major: What were you were there with ? Indian Army ? Indian Civil ?

Colonel: Or the Fol-de-Rols ?

Reciter: Well, to be perfectly frank.....

Major: As a matter of fact I know Khatmandu well. It's a second home

Colonel: I love every inch of the place. I was only there last year.

Major: I came through a couple of months ago on my way home. The  
was changed terribly.

Colonel: Yes. Bad show.

Reciter: That's very interesting. But why are you te

Just to put you right geographically

Colonel: You see, the whole place has been changed under a town-planning scheme.

Major: For instance, there's a large public library and public baths combined erected in the square. The office of Works have moved the idol to the south of Khatmandu.

Colonel: And the cemetery has been moved and there's now a cinema. Hideous thing.

Major: So that marble cross you spoke of is now above the town.

~~Perhaps I'd better start again.~~

Reciter: Perhaps I'd better start again.

Both: But do.

Reciter: The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God, by Milton Hayes.  
There's a green-eyed yellow idol to the.....

Major: South.

Reciter: South of Khatmandu.  
There's a little marble cross.....

Colonel: Above.

Reciter: (Dully) Above the town.

There's a broken-hearted woman tends the grave of Mad Carew...

Major: Did you know Fanny Shannon ?

Reciter: Did I know who ?

Major: Fanny Shannon. You remember, General Shannon's eldest girl.

Colonel: Tim Shannon. Damn good scout.

Major: Yes indeed. You're quite out of order saying she's broken-  
She was naturally upset at Carew's death, but she got over

Colonel: Didn't she marry a rich American ?

Major: Yes, they've got three boys at St.

Reciter: How then shall I describe her ?

Major: Oh. (Whispers to the Colonel) We suggest a comparatively broken-hearted woman.

Reciter: I'd better start again.

Both: But do.

Reciter: There's a green-eyed yellow idol to the south of Khatmandu.  
There's a little marble cross above the town.  
There's a comparatively broken-hearted woman tends the grave  
of Mad Carew, And the little god forever gazes down.

Colonel: Up, sir, up.

Reciter: Up. (Hastily.) He was known as Mad Carew.

Major: Oh ridiculous. The man wasn't mad at all. He was mental  
yes. You couldn't call him absolutely crackers.



Reciter: He was known as Mentally Deficient Carew by the Subs of Khatmandu.  
He was hotter than they felt inclined to tell.

Colonel: Too much curry-powder. Too much Mepharine.

Reciter: (Miserably) But for all his foolish pranks....

Major: Foolish pranks be damned, sir. You don't call writing rude words on  
the walls foolish pranks.

Reciter: Well, I didn't know.

Colonel: No, neither did I.

Major: What, Carew ? Horrible habits.

Colonel: Tell me a couple. (They whisper). No ! Government House !

Major: Government House. I tell you the Viceroy was livid. In front  
Noel Coward too.



Reciter: He was worshipped in the ranks:  
And the Colonel's daughter smiled on him as well.

*THEY BOTH RISE*  
Major: Now that's a cad's remark, sir. If you want to know, my brother  
was engaged to her at the time. I....(attempts to get to stage)

Reciter: I'm sorry. I didn't know. I apologise.

Colonel: I should damn well think so. (To the Major) I'd accept his apology

Major: Would you. Very well. We don't want a scene.

Colonel: We needn't look.

Major: No , turn your back on the blighter. (Picks up a programme) Who  
(Announces Reciter's name) Never heard of him. Local chappie.

Reciter: She was nearly twenty-one.

Colonel: (With a roar of derisive laughter). Twenty-one be damned ! She was thirty-nine if she was a day.

Major: Mind you, she didn't look it. She had everything lifted - or practically everything. All the main essentials.

Reciter: And arrangements had been made. To celebrate her birthday with a ball.

Colonel: Extraordinary. I don't remember that.

Major: No, I think you were away at the time. It was during the rains. You were up at Rumblechellypore - on that sewage commission.

Reciter: He wrote to ask what present she would like from Mentally Deficient Carew. They met next day as he dismissed his squad.

Colonel: Platoon.

Reciter: As he dismissed his squad.

Colonel: Platoon.

Reciter: Squad.

Colonel: The Subaltern commands a Platoon.

Reciter: But it must be squad. It's got to rhyme with yellow god.

Major: We don't give a hoot what it's got to rhyme with, sir. Queen's Regulations. It's a platoon.

Reciter: They met next day as he dismissed his platoon.  
And jokingly she said that nothing else would do  
But the green eye of the.....

Major: Chocolate-coloured coon....

Colonel: (Roaring with laughter) Jolly good !

Reciter: (Hysterically) The night before the dance,  
Mentally Deficient Carew sat in a trance .

Major: Sat in a trance - he sat in a blancmange. I remember it was  
was as tight as a tie.

Reciter: And they chafed him as they puffed at their cigars.

Colonel: Wait a minute. Chafed him ? Are you referring to his underwear or his brother officers ?

Reciter: His brother officers.

Major: Then the word is chaffed - or if you come from the North Country - the 'a' is short and it would be chaft.

Reciter: It might interest you to know that I do come from the North Country. I would prefer the word chaft.

Colonel: Then by all means say chaft.

Reciter: Very well, I will say chaft.

Both: But do.



Reciter: (Lapsing into North Country) And they chaft him as they poofed at their cigars.

(The Colonel and Major laugh and applaud)

Major: Oh come along. We need a drink. Sorry we've got to go, so we'll leave you poofing and chaffing.

Reciter: Gentlemen, please. Gentlemen, will please let me continue. Don't you realize this is my livelihood, my business? May I please continue?

Both: But do. (They both laugh.)

Reciter: (Going mad.) There's a broken-hearted idol  
To the West of Mad Carew;  
There's a cross-eyed yellow woman  
Doing all a Cat Can Doo.....Ha Ha Ha !

(He screams insanely and rushes from the stage.)

C U R T A I N .



