



Interpretation Of Jataka Tale: **MATAKABHATTA**

Visual Communication Project 2 by

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Submitted in the partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of

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in Visual Communication

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Bombay.

Approval Sheet

The Visual Communication Project 2, entitled “**Interpretation of a Jataka Tale:- “Matakabhatta”** by **Sachin Jadhav** (05625008) is approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Design in Visual Communication.

Guide:

Chairman:

Internal Examiner:

External Examiner:

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ABSTRACT

The interpretation of Jataka tale :- **Matakabhatta** is an exploration of the human nature, their responses and the great truth that lies behind the life which had been told by Gautam Buddha. This project is an attempt to understand and to interpret the moral of the tale which is still applicable to our life and also try to reveal that message using animation.

INTRODUCTION

The “Jatakas” are an early collection of Buddhist writing. The word “Jataka” means “birth”, so the “Jataka - tales” means birth stories of Buddha. The Jataka stories are built as frame tales, which makes them one of the oldest and most important examples of frame tales in world literature. In each Jataka tale, Buddha is shown in his present life usually speaking with his monks about problems and disputes at the monastery. Then Buddha tells a story about the past life which are at times humorous or at times very serious.

When Buddha finishes telling the story he returns to the present and provides the interpretation of the story, explaining the incarnations and the moral of the story.

The Jataka tales are, as everyone must admit, nobly conceived, lofty in meaning and....many a helpful sermon might preached from them as text,so the Matakabhatta Jataka stories talk about the fact that no good ever comes from taking a life while showing the various aspects of life.

History

Part of the canon of the sacred Buddhist literature, this collection of some 550 anecdotes and fables depicts earlier incarnations--some times as animals, sometimes as a human--of the being who would become Siddhartha Gauthama, the future Buddha. Traditional birth and death dates of Gautama are 563-483BC. The Jataka tales are dated between 300BC and 400AD.

As an embodiment of great compassion, the Awakened One reappears in many forms, in many times and places, to ease the suffering of living beings. The Jataka collections were traditionally transmitted orally for centuries, and when written down, they took a form that combined the verse, story and moral commentary.

Many of the tales are set in or near Benares, now called Varanasi, a city in north central India on the Ganges River, one of the world's oldest cities. According to tradition, Buddha began his teaching at Sarnath, a short distance from this city.

Why Jataka Tales?

Jataka tale celebrate the power of action motivated by compassion, love, wisdom and kindness. They teach that selfishness inevitably brings suffering, whereas selfless action give rise to goodness of such power that influence spreads in ever-widening circles, uplifting all forms of life.

Analysis of Jataka tales

The treatment of the Jataka tales may be analysed in five stages :-

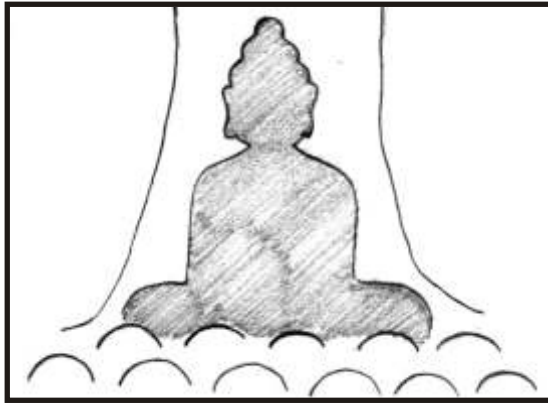
1. Contextuality of the story or the background and the occasion which necessitated the Buddha to narrate the story,
2. Narrative of the past which depicts the narrative of the previous life of the Bodhisattva,
3. Recitation of the original Jataka verse to accentuate and impart the moral of the story,
4. Explanation of the verse,
5. Identification of the characteristic of the stories at the time of the narrator.

Matakabhatta Jataka

The Goat That Laughed And Wept
Jat 18

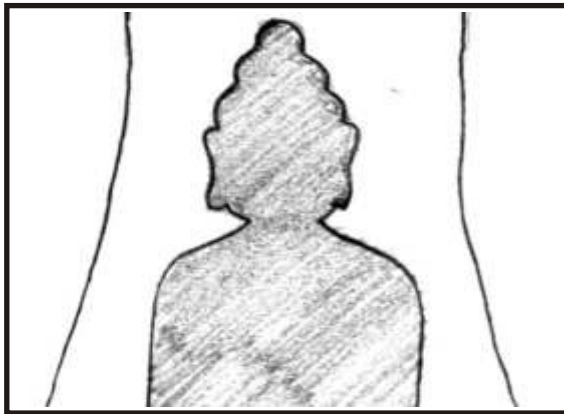


1



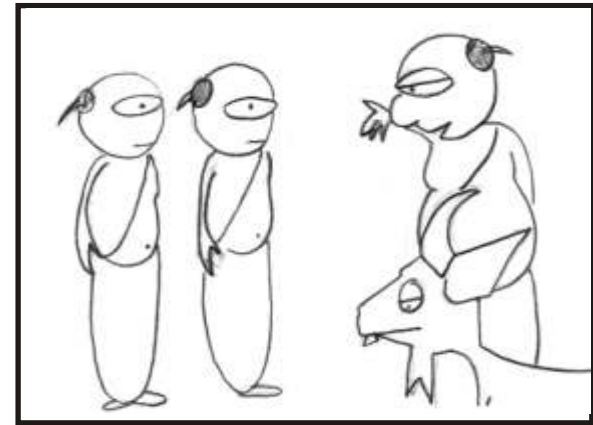
While the Buddha was staying in Jetvana, some bhikshus asked him if there was any benefit in sacrificing animals as offerings for departed relatives...

2



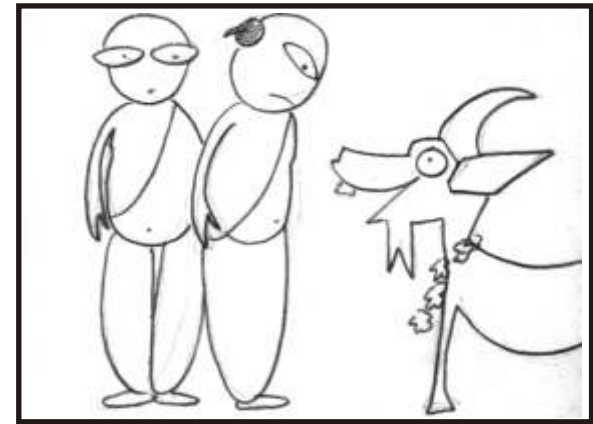
Replied the Buddha "No good ever comes from taking life, not even when it is for the purpose of providing a feast for the dead ". Then he told this story of the past.

3



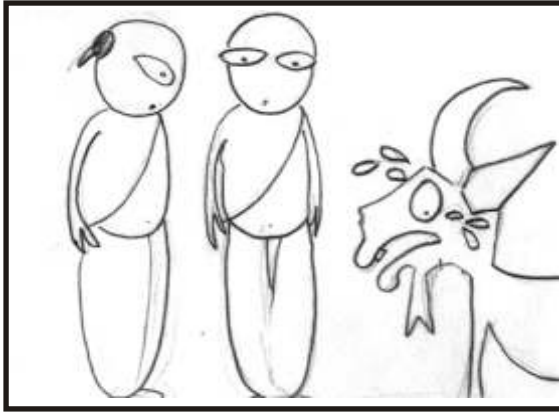
A Brahman decide to offer a feast for the dead and bought a goat to sacrifice ."My boy" He said to students,"Take this goat down to the river, bathe it, brush it, hang a garland around it's neck, give it to some grain to eat and bring it back ".

4



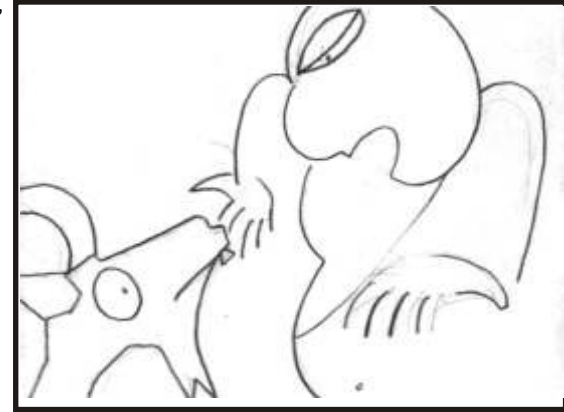
While they were grooming it, the goat started to laugh with a sound like pot smashing...

5



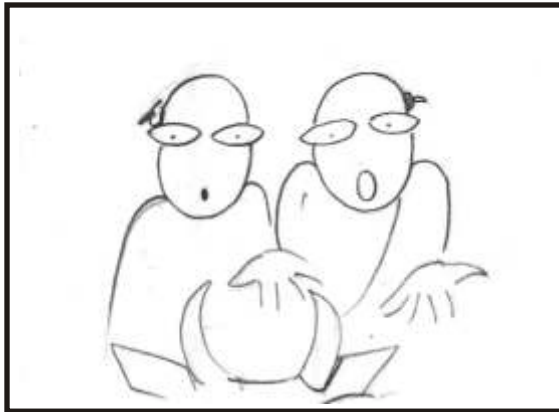
And then the goat suddenly started to cry !

7



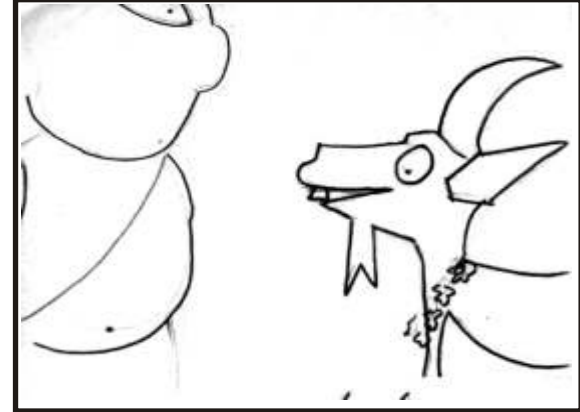
Hearing the story, the master himself asked the goat why it had laughed at first and why it had wept.

6



The young students were amazed at this behavior. "Why did you suddenly laugh and then why did you cry so loudly?" they asked the goat. "Repeat your question when we get back to your teacher" the goat answered.

8



"In past times, Brahman..." the goat began,

9



"I was a brahman who taught the Vedas like you..."

11



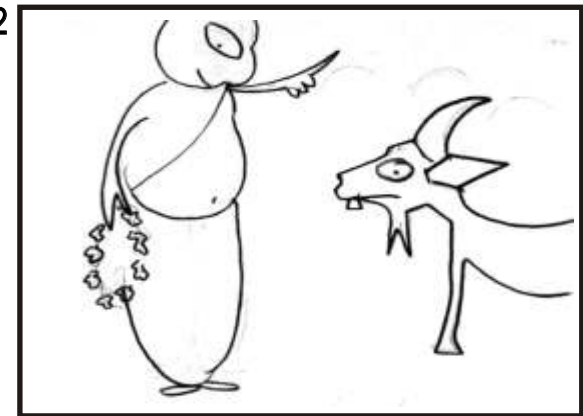
Because of killing that single goat....
I have had my head cut off 499 times,
For a feast for dead.

10



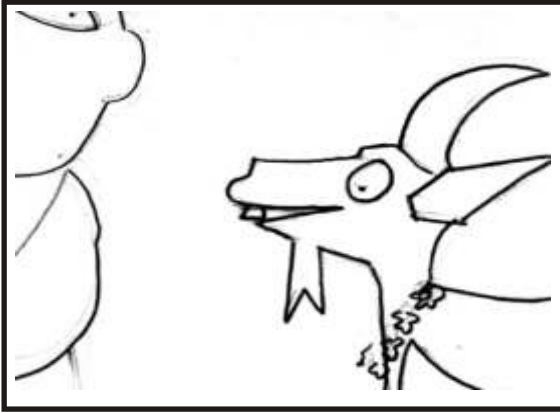
I too sacrificed a goat as an offering
for a feast for the dead,

12



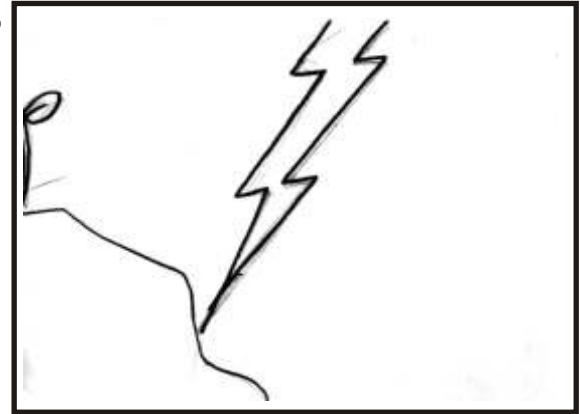
"Well goat", said the Brahman, "In that case ,I
am not going to kill you".

13



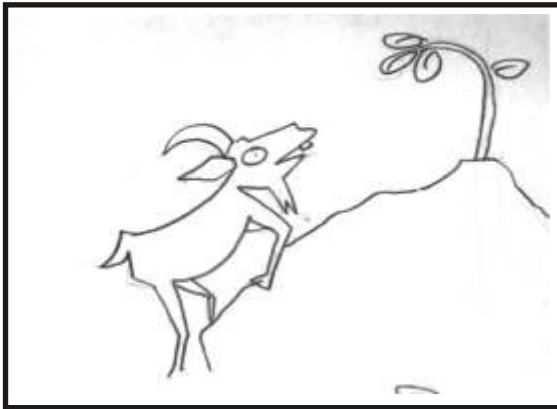
"Brahman!" exclaimed the goat.
"Whether or not you kill me, I cannot
escape death today".

15



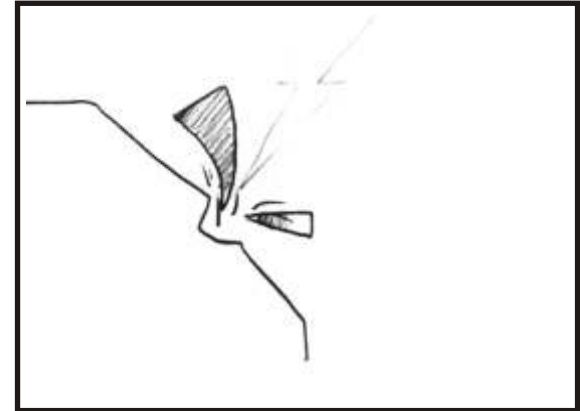
At that very instant a lightening bolt hit
the rock, breaking off a.....

14



After the goat was freed, it began
to graze. It stretched out its neck in
order to reach out to the leaves,
on ash growing near the top of a large rock

16



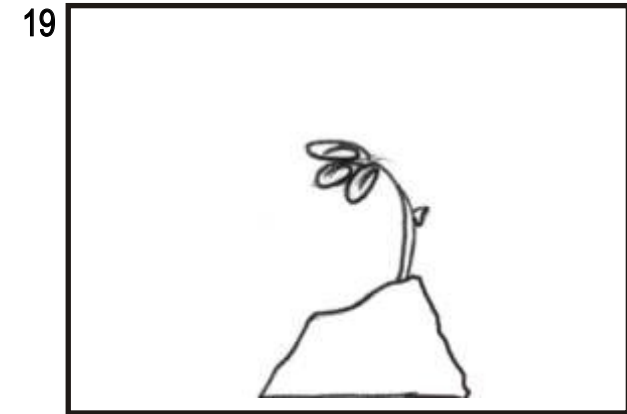
Sharp piece of stone which flew through
through the air and



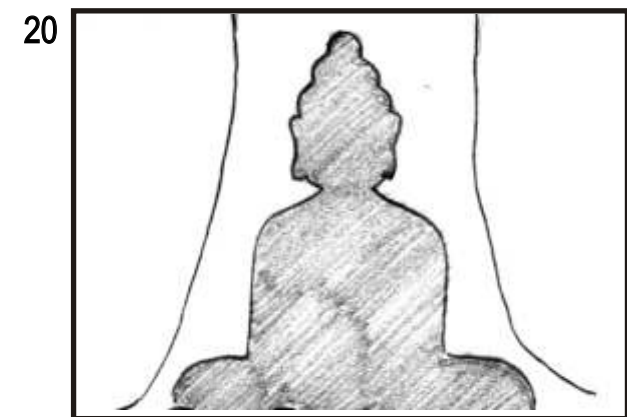
.....And neatly cut off the goat's head.



A crowd of people gathered around the dead goat and began to talk excitedly about amazing accident.



The "*Tree deva*" observed everything from the goat's purchase to its dramatic death lesson from the incident, *he* admonished the crowd "If people only knew that the penalty would be rebirth into sorrow, they would cease from a taking life".



Thus Buddha ended his lesson and identified the birth by saying, "In those days I was that *deva*."

INTERPRETATION

The concept is based on by understanding the character, their characteristics and the environment created to get to the moral of the Matakabhatta jataka

1. Initial concept



2. Final concept



Interpretation

1



Raj, always wanted to explore the ways of life,

3



Seema loves him a lot...

5



Raj, always wanted to explore the ways of life,

2



His mind was not stable, he always wanted to reach the height of his life...

4



But Raj, never really cared for her feelings.

6



He wanted to taste every single flavor of life.



For example he enjoyed everything that was good and bad except.....



Everything there was bathed in a bloody light...
The light which was filled with the beauty and fragrance of madness.....



In the bazaar of love, he forgot his true love.
Love for him would remain the only activity that he was enjoying behind the closed walls of glass...



.....The World of Lust,



Seeing this.....Raj gets attracted to the false World of love.



At last the stage came when he was totally tired of this feeling of emptiness within him, but this take him to.....



.....To the edge of self crucification.



Raj started laughing and.....



Seema asked him the reason of his strange behavior.



Hearing this, Seema came to Raj...



After that started crying.....



Raj said that "I am laughing because I am on my way to Death"...

19



The end of pain....

21



Raj said that he was laughing because if she will be with him...she would have to experience the same pain...

23



And by being with him she would get completely lost in the tempest of hatred,

20



Seema told him that she would take care of him.

22



Which would change the feelings she would be having about him...

24



Seema said that she did not care for the others, she would take care of him.

19



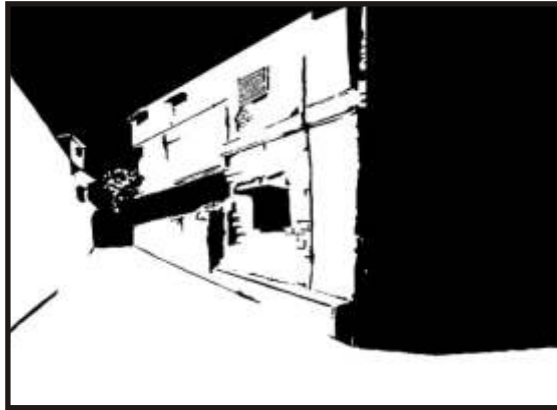
But Raj told her that his destiny was written.....

21



So it was in vain..... that she was holding on his life, that he had already destroyed by taking the wrong way...

Part 1 1



A narrow dingy lane,

Sfx:- sound of crickets.

2



Someone is smoking....

Sfx:-inhaling the smoke.

3



That man is waiting for a prey.

Sfx:-walking ,heart throbing

4



That man grabbed the stranger

Sfx:-thud sound ,heart throbing

5



That man put the knife on that stranger's neck...

Sfx:-sound of heart throbbing

7



And then the Stranger started crying...

Sfx:-sound of crying

6



Suddenly stranger started laughing.....

Sfx:-sound of laughing

8



That man asked the stranger, Why he laughed and cried so strangely...

Sfx:-no sound



The stranger got up...

Sfx:-no sound



That man was still puzzled

Sfx:- air flowing



The tears came out from his eyes...

Sfx:-no sound



Then the stranger started telling a story...

Sfx:-no sound

Part 2 13



The stranger was as happy as anyone around...

Sfx:-no sound

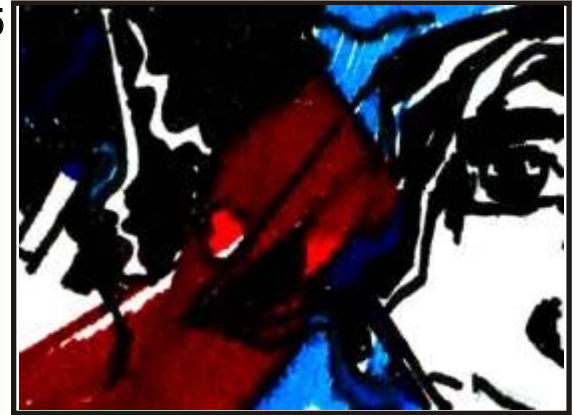
14



He enjoyed life ,lust and.....

Sfx:whistle and air

15



..... Drugs.

Sfx:- sound of smoking and guitar

16



He was entirely addicted to drugs.

Sfx:smoking

17



Without it he couldn't imagine his existence

Sfx:-no sound

18



After some time he didn't have money to spend on it.

Sfx:- sound of paper

19



The only way to get money, was to steal.
From home

Sfx:-crushing of notes sound

20



His mother saw him while he was stealing...

Sfx:- sound of door opening



Mother stopped him from stealing money and told him to avoid the wrong way he followed...

Sfx:- crushing the cloth



His mother begged him not to go...

Sfx:- sound of scratch



But...he was on verge of addiction. He got angry and suddenly.....

Sfx:-no sound



.....He hit her with a bat on her forehead

Sfx:- thud sound

25



.....He ran away leaving his mother in a red pool of blood...

Sfx:- sound of breaking bangles and siren

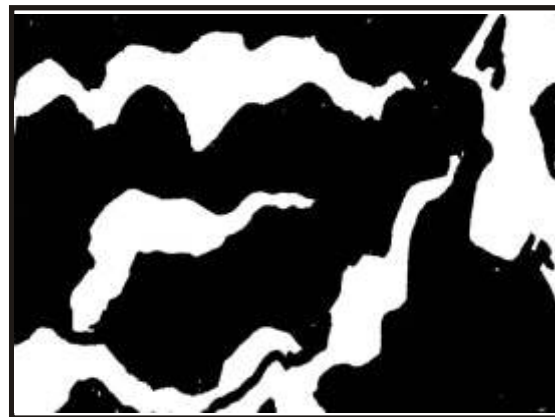
27



Smoke, smoke everywhere....

Sfx:-no sound

26



Now he had what he wanted.....smoke

Sfx:- smoking

28



The smoke suddenly turns into his mother's face, spreading her hand to hug her loved one.....

Sfx:- bangles sound

29



Now he realised what he did with his mother...
was only to fulfill his addiction.

Sfx:-no sound

31



He ran away from that place also ...but the
griminess of the painful feeling didn't leave him,
it still follow him.

Sfx:-sound of running

30



He realised the pain he had given to his mother.

Sfx:-long breath

Part 3 32



The stranger said he laughed on his death to release his pain, & cried because on killing him that man would also go through the pain... he experienced

Sfx:-no sound

33



That man dropped his knife after hearing the incident...

Sfx:-sound of metal falling

34



There remained complete silence.

Sfx:-no sound

35



That man wanted to help himbut the stranger denied.

Sfx:-no sound

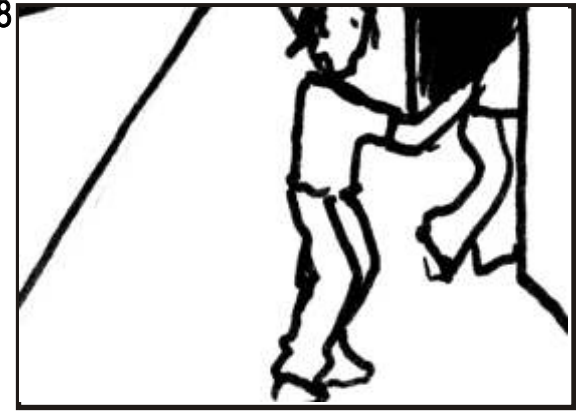
36



They both got up and started walking

Sfx:- sound of walking

38



He threw that man into the another dingy lane and what he saw in front of him was....

Sfx:- sound of thud

37



Instantly the stranger heard something familiar...

Sfx:-low sound of siren

39



...the sound of a siren with yellow light surrounding the entire atmosphere.....

Sfx:- sound of siren and running

TREATMENT

1 Colour

2 Illustration of Characters

3. Background

COLOUR

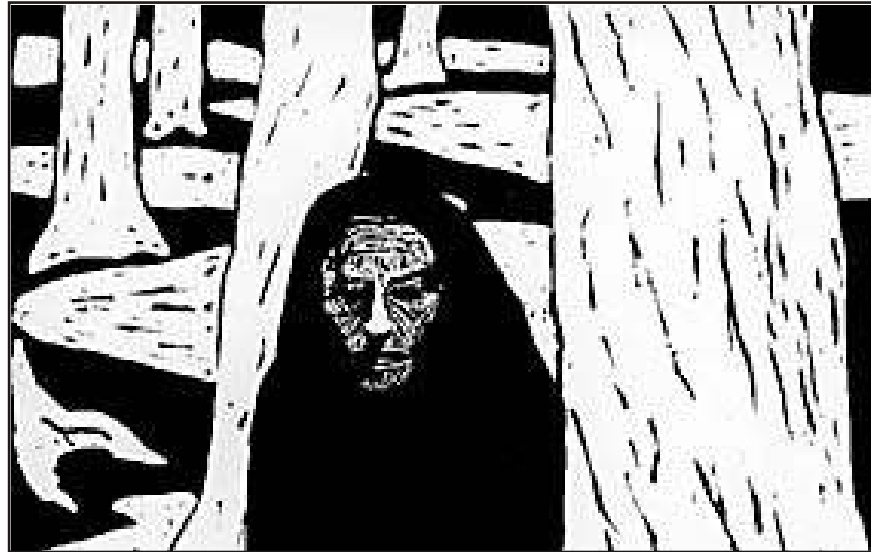
This interpretation tells about the darker side of life and also touches the moments which we can not identify when it is the time of decision and for that we have to pay for life

To judge this story on the basis of colour then the black and white is an apt colour to show the drama and the emotions very well. where as to show the happiest moment in that stranger 's life ,then using bit of colour other than black and white will give the touch of happiness which will after merge into red and then black and white to grab the dramatic situation in the story

The black and white combination of colour used in animated film "Death and mother" by Ruth Lingford and the comic book like Sin City by Frank Miller gives the exact effect which the story wants to tell

Major colour





Death and Mother by Ruth Lingford



Sin City by Frank Miller



That man (robber)



The stranger

Characters



Mother

Characters



Illustrations will be hand drawn and in some scenes in this film ,the photograph which is processed will be used to experiment with media for getting good output such as the woman standing on the door.

Background



This background remain same in part one and part three of the film whereas the background in part two will change continuously merging with the characters and the mood of the light,

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost I wish to thank my Guide **Prof.Raja Mohanty** and Co-guide **Prof. Shilpa Ranade** for suggesting the topic of interpretation and for the guidance and advise I received from them and also for being patient with me.

REFERENCE

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by Ruth Lingford

Comic Book :
Sin City by Frank Miller

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www.illustrationworks.com