

ENGLISH ASSIGNMENT

NAME: JUJJURI SUDEEPA

DATE OF ASSIGNMENT: FEB 12, 2025

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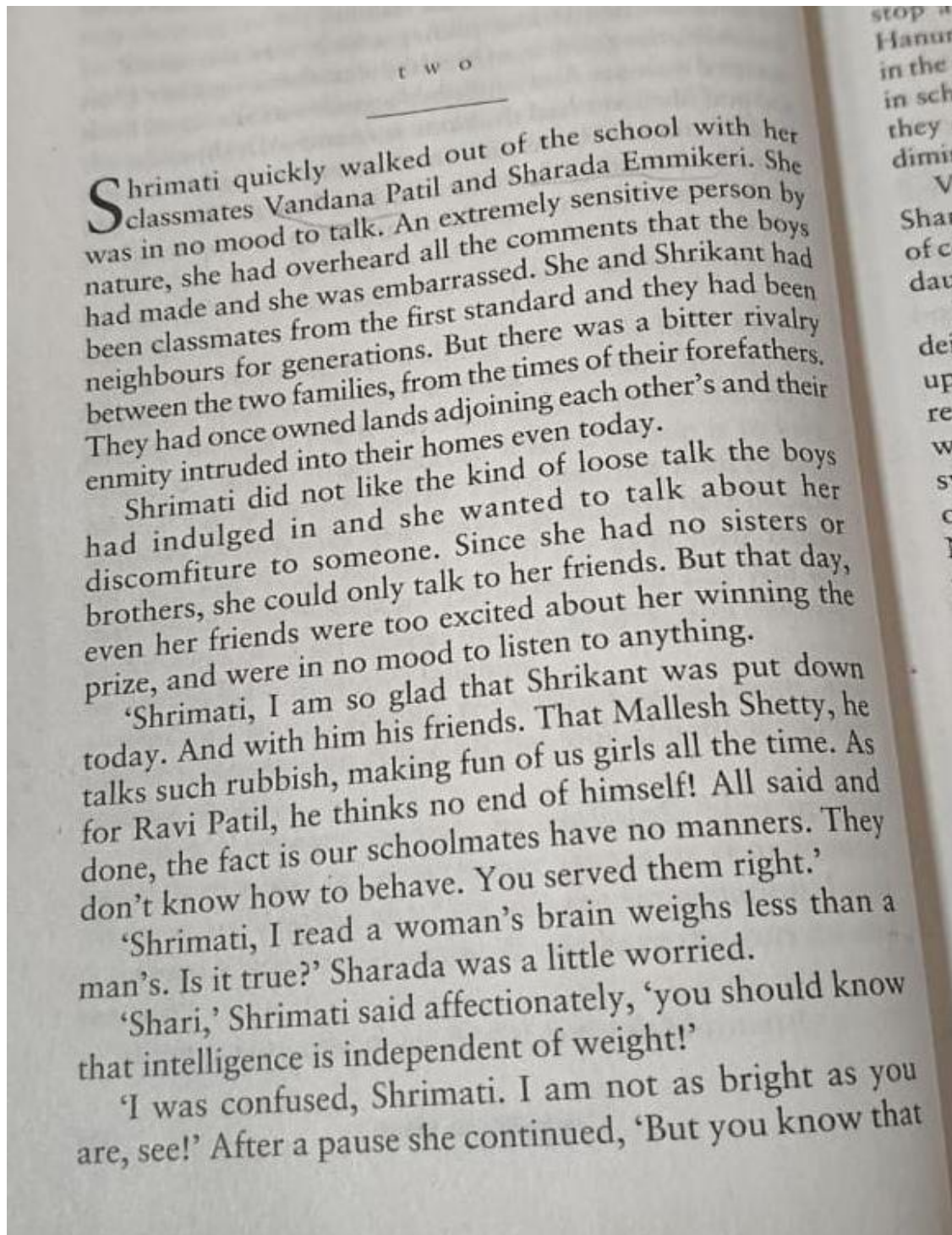
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GENTLY FALLS THE BAKULA

-SUDHA MURTHY



Shrikant's mother Gangakka and his maternal uncle Sheenappa, they think that he is the brightest star in the sky. Sheenappa keeps coming to our shop and talks non-stop about his nephew. I had taken a vow with god Hanuman of Bhandiwad village that if you beat Shrikant in the final exam, I will distribute special pedas to everyone in school. These Deshpandes are too much. Even though they do not have any lands left, their arrogance has not diminished.'

Vandana Patil pinched Sharada's hand to stop her but Sharada was not so bright as to understand that this kind of comment would hurt Shrimati. After all she too was the daughter of a landless Deshpande!

Bhandiwad is a small village near Hubli and the local deity, Hanuman, is very famous for bestowing great boons upon his devotees. There is a strong belief that if someone requested a favour and fasted on Saturdays, their requests would be fulfilled. In return, they just had to offer some sweets to him to thank him for the boon. Since the pedas of Dharwad were very famous, so much so that people of North Karnataka said that if you hadn't eaten the peda your life was wasted, Sharada had promised to offer them, nothing less.

The other well-known temple in that region was the Railway Eshwar temple in Hubli, a busier, more populous, commercial town than Dharwad. The small Eshwar temple was adjacent to the railway station, so the presiding deity came to be known as 'Railway Eshwar'.

People believed that if one prayed to him offering the *bilwathra* with all devotion, their wishes would certainly be granted. However, Eshwar, that is Shiva, expected nothing in return because he is one god who loves his devotees unconditionally.