

NAXOS
AudioBooks

Rudyard Kipling

Kim

Read by **Madhav Sharma**

CLASSIC
FICTION



NA201812D

1	Kim meets the lama	7:35
2	Plans for a pilgrimage	6:03
3	Lama and chela set off	9:44
4	On the way to Umballa	5:09
5	Establishing the pedigree	6:37
6	The Great Road	9:33
7	The Red Bull on the Green Field	5:41
8	Kim's identity revealed	10:47
9	In school	4:46
10	Mahbub Ali gives paternal help	5:45
11	A new school at Lucknow	7:00
12	The journey to Simla	8:22
13	Lurgan Sahib and Hurree Babu	3:06
14	Further education and graduation	4:52
15	Son of the Charm	5:49
16	On the train	7:05
17	E23 survives – Kim is congratulated	6:36
18	Plots and The Great Game	7:10
19	Hurree Babu in action	10:37
20	Documents and letters	4:56
21	Healing and delivery	10:15
22	The lama speaks	10:36

Total time: 2:38:13

Rudyard Kipling

Kim

Kim, probably Kipling's finest novel, was first published in 1901, but was the result of many years' germination and grew in large part from the author's lovingly-remembered time in India, as a boy and later as a young man beginning a career in journalism.

That first job was in Lahore, where Kipling's father was Curator of the Museum. The young Kipling loved to explore the twilight world of the Lahore slums, absorbing the colour and atmosphere which would later inform the opening chapter of *Kim* with its affectionate portrayal of the teeming, noisy, exotic city.

Into Lahore comes the dejected but dignified form of the Tibetan lama who is hoping to free himself from the Wheel of Life by finding the River of Immortality. The lama is helped by the charming, curious, lively-minded figure of Kim himself, the Irish orphan boy who thinks of himself as more an Indian than a sahib. From this moment, the novel becomes a picaresque account of Kim's wanderings across the Punjab and into the Himalayas, accompanying first the lama as his *chela* (disciple) and then as a servant of the British Raj, ostensibly trained

as a surveyor but actually groomed for a life playing the Great Game: spying for Colonel Creighton and the Indian Secret Service.

On one level, then, *Kim* is an adventure story and a very enjoyable one. But the novel transcends its outward form: its two main characters are both on a quest – the lama to find his river, Kim to discover his identity and, perhaps, a parent to replace those he had hardly known. The father/son relationship which develops between Kim and the lama takes both of them by surprise: at first Kim is merely eager to explore the exciting world beyond Lahore, and acting as a *chela* is simply a convenient means to this end; but as the novel goes on Kim discovers in himself the need to love and be loved, faithfully serving his master without thought for himself.

At the same time the lama's feelings for Kim are increasingly paternal, even though such feelings interfere with his yearning for the immaterial, and there can be few more moving conclusions to a novel than the great climax where the lama relates ecstatically how he became one with the Great Soul, yet turned back to this earthly

life 'lest his *chela* miss the Way'. Thus the lama compromises his unearthly idealism for the sake of human love, while Kim discovers that there is more to life than the pleasurable opportunism of the moment: the Great Game, exciting as it is, is ultimately superficial.

So the novel, as well as a being a great love poem to India, embraces and celebrates life in all its diversity and warmth, abolishing distinction by colour, caste or creed: Kim himself is, after all, the 'Little Friend of all the World'.

Rudyard Kipling was born in Bombay in 1865. Educated in England from 1871, he returned to India in 1882 and worked as a journalist, soon acquiring a reputation for cleverly-crafted short stories and skilful verses. Hugely popular in his lifetime, he settled at Bateman's in Sussex and produced a vast body of work, including the much-loved children's tales, *The Jungle Book* and *Just So Stories*. He died in 1936.

Notes by Perry Keenlyside



The Wheel of Life by Aloka, courtesy of Windhorse Publications.

IMRAT KHAN (Sitar) **SHAFATULLAH KHAN** (Tabla) RAG CHANDRA KANHRA
SHIVKUMAR SHARMA (Santur) **ZAKIR HUSSAIN** (Tabla) RAG MADHUVANTI
HARIPRASAD CHAURASIA (Bamboo Flute) DHUN IN RAGA MISHRA PILU

Music by kind permission of Nimbus Records

Cover picture: An Indian Market Scene, Edwin Lord Weeks.
Courtesy of Fine Art Photographic Library Ltd, London.

Rudyard Kipling

Kim

Read by **Madhav Sharma**

Set in the days of the British Raj, Kipling's finest novel is the exciting and touching tale of an Irish orphan boy who has lived free in the streets of Lahore before setting out, with a Tibetan Lama, on a double quest. This eventually leads to enrolment in the Indian Secret Service and a thrilling climax in the Himalayas...



Madhav Sharma, who made his professional acting debut with the Shakespeareana International Company touring such places as India, Singapore, Malaysia, Sarawak, North Borneo and Hong Kong, works extensively on stage, screen and radio in the UK where he now resides.

CD ISBN:

978-962-634-018-9

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Abridged by Perry Keenleyside. Produced by Nicolas Soames
Post-production: Simon Weir, The Classical Recording
Company
Engineer (speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Cassettes

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