

## Noble Gift

I have only one more day remaining. Tomorrow will be the day for the departure. Thereafter, I will be fulfilling my paramount ambition. However, I'm still unable to understand this feeling of emptiness in my heart. Have I neglected any kind of duty that I should have performed? What is it that is bothering my mind like this?

"My Lord .... May I come in?"  
While awakening from the stream of thoughts, I looked at the one who called.  
"Maithree .... come and take a seat."  
He sat beside me, looking earnestly at my face.

"Varuna has already announced your arrival. I hope you know." He said.

"Yes I'm aware...the time has finally come it seems..." I smiled at him.  
"Yes it has...Are you ready?"  
"Not yet."

He looked surprised. "What? You know now is the time, then why?"  
"I feel like something is bothering my mind. It seems like I haven't fully performed my duty yet." I answered.  
"What is it?"  
"I have no idea..." I replied and came out of the room to the balcony.

The surrounding was too peaceful and relaxing, exactly the opposite of what I was feeling inside. The fragrance of Madara entered my nostrils while enchanting my body and mind. It brought back the memories of her. The same enchanting fragrance was always there with her. I could still remember the calm and quiet look that I saw on her beautiful face yesterday. What

was she actually writing? Why did she hesitate to show that to me? I could still remember the conversation that took place.

"My lord, you are here ..." She looked at me while putting away the quill and the paper.

I sat on the couch next to her and asked for the paper in her hand.

"No you cannot look at it yet ... I will show you later." She said.

I asked for the reason.  
"I will give it to you later." She repeated smiling at me.

"I want to see it now," I said trying to sound mischievous.

"No way, later."  
"Shall I go back then?" I asked with an unhappy face.

"Alright." She took the paper and the quill back without paying any attention to me. I could not understand her actions. She has never done that before. Was she hurt? Or was she deliberately trying to detach herself from me? She has always been loyal and affectionate. I could still remember how she was trying to do every possible thing for my happiness. She reads, plays the sitar, makes me laugh, accompanies me wherever I went. At times she would dance for me, although she could find thousands of dancers to perform the task without exerting herself. What is this sudden change? Nevertheless, she knows about our fate. I took a deep breath.

"My lord, they have come to bid farewell."

I went back to the room. Maithree and the