

Sara is sitting on her bed, crying, hugging Emily.

Sara: I can't bear this. I know I shall die. I'm cold; I'm wet; I'm starving to death. I've walked a thousand miles today, and they have done nothing but scold me from morning until night. Some men laughed at me because my old shoes made me slip down in the mud. I'm covered with mud, and they laughed.
(she bursts into tears)

Suddenly, Sara hears a voice calling to her. It is Ram Dass. He has entered through audience(???) and is sitting on stairs, looking up to Sara's attic.

Ram Dass: Hello Missee Sahib! *(he bows to her)*

Sara: Oh, it's you - Mubarak ho! *(she bows)*

Ram D: Missee Sahib! You know my language. I am astonished. Mubarak ho!

The both laugh

Sara: Oh I only know a little. Can you come across the roof to here?

He moves into attic

Ram Dass: Your attic seems cold and uninviting. It does not befit a young lady such as yourself, Missee Sahib.

Sara: You are kind Sir, but I am an orphan, and I am grateful that I am not on the streets or in the workhouse. I am a servant in this Seminary. I work for Miss Minchin and do everything that all the other maids will not do. Becky and I live in these attic rooms

Ram Dass: I am a servant too, but I do not live like this. It seems that your mistress has a cruel streak if you are forced to live in these conditions.

Sara(laughing): Yes, I am afraid Miss Minchin is not the kindest of Mistresses. We are kept feeling hungry because she does not feed us well and sometimes not at all if she is angry with us. It is very cold in these attics too. But I bear it as well as I can as I know there are many children who live a worse life than this.

Ram Dass: That is terrible! I cannot imagine what it would be like to exist in these conditions. My master is a kind man, but sad and ill. He has a lot to deal with, poor man. I try to bring a little of the bright colours of India into his home. But there seems little that will cheer him.

Sara: Oh, I have seen him in the market, a few days ago, and he does look poorly. But what causes his sadness?

There is a loud shout offstage; Miss Minchin is shouting for Sara.

Ram Dass: My goodness! Who is that?

Sara: That is Miss Minchin – a cruel gaoler! *(Sara laughs as Ram Dass looks quite astonished)*

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Ram Dass: I now realize what you mean Missee Sahib. I had better leave you now.

Miss Minchin is heard calling for Sara.

Sara: I must go. It is so good to meet you. I have often seen you look out of your window.

Ram D: Ah, I am trying to catch the sun! I miss the warmth of my country! Goodbye Missee Sahib. I will come again.

Sara: That would be wonderful. I must hear more about your Master and India.

He leaves (through audience??) looking back to check that Sara is alright.

Miss Minchin and Cook are both calling for her now