

SYNOPSIS

In the first four chapters of the novel, the hero was introduced by the omniscient narrator. The hero was Jim, the ordinary young man who, always dressed in white from shoes to hat and he started his career as the water-clerk in a firm of ship-chandler. A water-clerk had to have the abstract skill and demonstrated it practically. It is not only the ability of doing the job perfectly, but he had to be able to serve and please the captain, respect the lady, etc. Because of his ability, he was making much money from it. In west, he was simply called --Jim, but in the East, he was called Tuan Jim as one might say-- Lord Jim.

Actually, he came from parsonage where was not much progress in it. Everything was so old and still. Many ship commanders and merchants also came from this land. Jim's father as if knew that his son could not live in this peaceful land, and he sent him to the training-ship for officers of the mercantile marine. During the training, Jim faced the first test. Unfortunately, he was unprepared at that time because he was having a day dreaming about he himself being the hero in light of literature. Another boy took the opportunity to save the ship and become the hero of that time. The captain reminded him to be smart next time. After two years in the training, he succeeded to become the first mate and even without having been tested. It was because of his talent, skill and his excellent physique. In one of his voyages, he got another accident. His back was injured by the falling spar and he had to be hospitalized. After the recovery, he did not return home, but he sailed as the chief mate in the pilgrim ship, Patna. She was already the old ship and she destined to Mecca to take the pilgrim to their holyland.



In the middle of the journey, in the Red Sea, when Jim enjoyed himself with his favorite dream, Patna ran some floating wreckage and got badly hole in her peak of compartment. At that night, all the pilgrims were sleeping and the officers considered that it was impossible to save them all. They tried to save their own life, and Jim despised their offer. But when he saw a gush of wind and water hit Patna, he became frightened. The sound of thunder, the flash of the light and also the rain added his scare. He finally jumped out of the sea and abandoned the ship and the pilgrim without any direction in the sea.

The case became the big scandal in the port, because another French ship had found Patna with her passengers and no officers. A kind of trial was held to inquire the incident. And Jim had to attend the inquiry alone because the other officers had run away. From this inquiry, the first story teller bestowed the tale to one of the character, named Marlow.

Marlow was the only person who understood Jim. Unfortunately, he could not help Jim in the inquiry. The verdict of the inquiry was that Jim's certificate was canceled. Because of this, Jim became the high tempered person. He could not help himself to accept the reality whenever there was someone brought the Patna accident. Marlow had found him the jobs, but he was quit and let himself jobless.

Finally, Marlow discussed Jim's case with his old friend who had become the successful trader in South East Asia and there, he had the trading post named after him. His name was Stein. He said the Jim is romantic. Jim had felt into his dream, and it was very hard to get out from it. Moreover, Jim is weak and inexperienced young man. Finally, he suggested Marlow to offer Jim the position as trading agent in one of his trading posts in the remote land named Patuan. Jim

agreed to be sent there. And Stein gave him a friendship ring between him and the remarkable chief of the race there. This ring would help him to run his future career.

Two years later, Marlow visited him. Marlow saw that Jim had mastered his life. He saw the fame and love surrounds Jim's life. Jim was recognized as the white lord friend who protected the land. And the people there honored him very much. And Jim had found the girl he loved and loved him. Her name was Jewel and he was the daughter of the person named Cornelius who, was the old Stein's trading agent whose position was replaced by Jim. And he became the big enemy of Jim.

Actually, Marlow's mission to go to Patusan was to ask Jim to return to his real world. But Jim refused this, because he said that he still could not forget his past. He still remembered the reason why he came to this land. Jim took Marlow to the port to say good bye. From the departure of Marlow from Patusan, he did not know the story of Jim by himself, but he collected the story about Jim from people who happened to recognized him. While Jim's absence, a group of bandit came to Patusan and they were attacked by the army of Dain Waris. He was the son of Doramin, the remarkable chief of the race. And the bandits were badly injured. They cooperated with Jim's enemy --such as the sneaky Cornelius, Tengku Rajah, etc-- to take revenge. They want to take the opportunity of Jim's absence from the land. When they were ready to attack Patusan, suddenly Jim arrived. Jim tried to avoid the war and the leader of the bandit had said the thing that incidentally touched Jim's heart. He said it was ridicule for them to attack the bandit who landed in the land just to get the food. Jim should protect the white because Jim is also white. Jim discussed the case with Doramin that he wanted to avoid the war because it would make many victims. And Doramin agreed. They let the bandit pass

the river. But it was not the plan of the bandit. They had to take revenge. By the guidance of Cornelius, they were insist to take revenge. Cornelius had his own motives to do such thing. He was hurt by his replacement. And he wanted to destroy Jim's career by breaking the trust given by the people. He showed the bandit the alternative way which Cornelius was familiar with very much. They succeeded in attacking the Dain Waris' army. In this incident, Dain Waris was killed.

The death of Dain Waris affected Jim very much. He felt that it was his fault to let the bandit free and had a change to take the revenge. He should protect the life of Dain Waris. But in fact, he was the cause of his death. This recalled him to his past guilt. He still could not forget his past guilt and now he had made the similar mistake. He had learnt enough. Although his girl and his servant asked him to fly or run away, he decided something based on his bad experience. He decided to surrender to Doramin to give his life as the atonement of his son's death. Old Doramin took the ring off from his finger and then shot Jim in his chest. Jim was dead.

He left his girl in deep grief and regret. She took a refuge in Stein's house and celebrated her pitiless weeding. Stein was so sad with this. And now the question rose whether Jim was satisfied to let his poor girl in such condition or not. No one knew. Jim had gone. And Marlow kept saying that he is "one of us".