



# The Spider's Thread

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## The Spider's Thread Details

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## **From Reader Review The Spider's Thread for online ebook**

**?? ?? says**

A story about selfishness in a simple language for children. I come to know it by watching the anime Aoi Bungaku and ever since I have wanted to read it because of its moral lesson. I like its simplicity and its main idea but it's too short and not having a previous knowledge of Japanese culture and religion I couldn't relate to some of its ideas about heaven and hell.

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**Ami Iida says**

It's one of the best short Japanese story.

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**Ana says**

Terminado: El Hilo de la Araña de Ryunosuke Akutagawa

Es un cuentito cortito y súper interesante, un buen primer acercamiento al escritor que en 4 hojas deja una moraleja al final de su historia, tras mostrar como Buda intenta salvar a un pecador de su padecimiento en el infierno.

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**Nikola Korbuc says**

Kandata is an evil bandit who dies and, naturally, goes to hell. However, he has one good deed to his name: He did not kill spider one day when he was walking through a forest, realising that, although the spider was small and insignificant, it had had its own small life, and it would be wrong to simply kill it. The Buddha lowers a Spider's thread into Hell, for Kandata to reach. However, he becomes arrogant, claiming the thread is his, and once again falls into the depths of Hell. It has an interesting message, in my opinion, and I actually liked the tale a lot, along with its reinterpretation in the anime "Aoi Bungaku"(Blue Literature).

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**Jacklynn Ray says**

Its very short, but I really enjoyed the moral of the story. It's really a less then 10 minute read, but I am going to read more by this author. I think I will enjoy his work just based on reading this.

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**Pet says**

h?i th?t v?ng vì ?ã ??c "rashomon" và "trong r?ng tr?c" nên k? v?ng dành cho t?t c? nh?ng th? vi?t b?i akutagawa ??u ? m?c ng?t ng??ng.

gi?ng nh? "?? t? xuân", "s?i t? nh?n" có tính giáo lý quá nhi?u và ??p th?ng vào m?t ng??i ??c luôn nên ??c xong thì không còn gì ?? chiêm nghi?m.

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### **Mohammed Samih says**

The Spider's Thread is such a fine masterpiece, one of the greatest short stories if not the greatest one that was ever introduced to the world of literature I may not know a lot about Ryunosuke Akutagawa which is too sad because most of his works if not all are not translated to Arabic, maybe because it's mostly short stories that were scattered here and there, so translators will most often overlook him, just as they do with Osamu Dazai, I have watched the Akira Kurosawa fascinating slice of Cinema " Rashômon " which's been written by Ryunosuke but mostly 80% of the credit goes to the directing of Akira.

This story was overlooked by me, I heard about it three years ago and I just didn't care to spend the time reading it with my broken, crippled English, but it absolutely nailed it, it deserved ever second I spent on it. such a masterpiece

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### **Florencia says**

*The Buddha saw there, in the depths of Hell, a single man writhing along with the other sinners. This man was named Kandata, and he had been a notorious thief who had performed murder and arson and other acts of evil. In his past, however, he had performed just one good deed: one day, when walking through the deep forest, he saw a spider crawling along the road. At first he raised his foot to crush it, but suddenly he changed his mind and stopped, saying, "No, small though it may be, a spider, too, has life. It would be a pity to meaninglessly end it," and so did not kill it.*

Jan 06, 17

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### **Jolina says**

One of the greatest short story ever made. I read this story years back for my literature class, I was in my second year of high school then. I remember how everyone in my class thought of it as something they have to read for class recitation. As for me, it was life changing. Up to this day, I still think about the dread, disgust, pity and all the other emotions that this story made me feel. I may forget all other authors out there because of my bad memory, but Ryunosuke Akutagawa is definitely one of the writers I'll never forget.

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### **Camille Joyce Lisay says**

Buddha was included in the story. The narrator (as what I've read) describes Buddha seeing different people from Paradise and Hell. He was in Paradise, one morning, with the calming environment and peaceful mind.

Then he suddenly saw the flower with a vision in the Hell showing Kandata, a great robber and a sinner who was doing a good thing. Before his death, he was in a deep forest and one thing he has done ever in his whole life was; trampling a spider to death.

As Buddha looked down to Hell, he remembered how Kandata had spared the spider's life. And because of that, he was planning to get him out of the Hell. But, he saw the spider in the Paradise spinning a silvery thread and he put it in the lotus flower with a vision and it was gone to Hell.

Kandata was rising and sinking with other sinners, and everywhere, you could just see a dark sight and you could hear the shouts and cries of tortures in the Needle Mountain. By this time, he was starving to death and was choking blood, and all he could do is nothing. Then, he lifted his head above the Pool of Blood and he saw the thread. When he saw this, he clapped for joy. In the thread, he was clinging and going up to as far as it could go with all his might.

He climbed up while shouting "Success!", when he saw the countless sinners climbing up eagerly like a procession of ants. When he saw this, he was just shocked. He shouted, "Hey! This spider's thread is mine! Get down!"

At that moment, the thread broke. He shot down and fell headlong into the darkness. Glittering and shimmering, the spider of the Paradise was hanging in the moon and starless sky.

Buddha had watched it all, and he began to troll again with a sad face. It was noon.

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### **P.H. Wilson says**

Real rating: 7.9//10

The retelling of a fable is done with ease and childlike innocence in Akutagawa's story. There is no heavy handed judgement or syrupy moralism only a simple tale that is for children but should be read by adults every so often as a reminder.

The prose is decent with a poetic essence to it which makes this tiny read a pleasure to reread like a favourite poem.

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### **Rica says**

The Spider's Thread teaches a lesson about selfishness. The Buddha Shakyamuni finds a man named Kandata in the underworld. He was a sinner. But, one day, he did not crush a spider with his foot. Because of this, the Buddha lowered a spider thread into the Hell to send Kandata to Heaven. When Kandata started to climb the thread, other sinners were starting to climb too. He shouted that it was only for him. As a result, the weight of sinners made it to fall apart. All the sinners ended up in the depths of Hell.

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### **Anna Jalipa says**

A good book for sophomores.

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## O?uz says

The best.

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## Abdullah says

In the Buddha-land of Purity, there was a pond with a lot of lotus flowers. They were all as white as snow. Their golden stamens were continuously giving off sweet fragrance. One day in the morning, the Buddha was alone strolling around the lotus pond.

When the Buddha was staying still by the pond, he happened to look down between the lotus leaves and flowers at the dark world of Hell---it was far beneath the pond. He could clearly see the Styx, a bloody-pond and a pin-hill through the clear water of the lotus pond.

The Buddha noticed a man called Kandata squirming around with other sinners. This man used to be a thief who had committed one misdeed after another, such as killing people and setting fires to houses, such a bad man was he. But he had carried out a good deed: it was many years ago when he was walking along in the deep woods, he found a small spider crawling across the path. He tried to stamp it down to death, but he changed his thought, "It is merely a small insect, but it is sorrowful to take its life thoughtlessly." After all, he didn't kill the spider.

Looking down at him, the Buddha thought of saving him out of Hell as he remembered Kandata's only good deed he had done in his life. Just the right time, the Buddha saw a spider spinning a beautiful silver thread between leaves of lotuses. He gently picked it up and hung it down into the water between the white lotuses, as if it was aiming at Hell. It became longer and longer and went down far, far from the lotus pond to Hell.

2

In the meantime, the sinners were floating up and down in the bloody-pond in Hell. It was completely dark out there. The only things that could be seen dimly were pins on the dreadful pin-hill. It was also dumb silent. The only sounds that could be heard were the sighs they sometimes gave off. Since they were down there, they were suffering the torments of Hell and had no more energy to speak with each other. Kandata was also choked with blood in the pond and did nothing but writhed in agony like a dying frog.

In the soundless darkness that day, Kandata happened to look up at the sky above him. He saw a silver thread hanging down toward him from far above the sky. Looking at it, he unconsciously clapped his hands with joy.

"If I hold that thread tightly and climb it up, I could escape from Hell." He thought, "If luck could have it, I might climb up to Buddha land of Purity. In that case, they'd never drive me away onto the pin-hill nor make me sink into the bloody pond."

Just then the thread reached him on his nose; he at once held the spider's thread with his both hands tightly and began to climb up hurriedly. He was good at doing so, as he used to be a thief. He kept climbing the thread up, up, up. But however hard he did, it was not easy to get to the goal which was far away from Hell. On the way he felt too tired to climb up any more and stopped climbing to take a rest. He looked down; the bloody pond and the pin-hill were far below him. He thought he'd reach the goal sooner or later. He chuckled to himself with a voice of "well, well" for the first time in many years. He, however, noticed a huge number of sinners climbing up his thread like ants. He was flabbergasted and said to himself,

"I don't think my spider's thread can bear such heavy weight. If it snapped off, all the people on the thread would fall down headfirst into Hell, including me, who have climbed up all the way." In fact, hundreds of thousands of sinners were crawling up the thread in a line.

"I have to do something to stop them, otherwise the thread must snap off halfway and I'll fall down back into the bloody-pond."

He yelled at them at the top of his lungs,

"Hey, you! This spider's thread belongs only to me. From whom the Hell did you get the permission to climb up the thread? Climb down quickly!"

All of the sudden the thread, which had kept bearing the weight, snapped just where Kandata was holding with both hands. He fell down headlong into the bloody pond spinning like a top in no time.

The shining but shortened thread was still hanging down from the sky. It was still dark---no moon or stars in the sky.

3

The Buddha was staying still by the lotus pond and watching what had happened from beginning to end.

After seeing Kandata sinking in the bottom of the bloody-pond like a stone, the Buddha resumed strolling as if nothing had happened, but he looked so sad. It seemed like the man's merciless behavior made the Buddha sad: trying to escape from Hell only by himself turned out to get him the equivalent punishment.

The lotuses in the pond had nothing to do with this affair. The white flowers were quietly swaying and giving off sweet fragrance from their golden stamens.

It had been nearly noon in Buddha land of Purity. (2009/05/01 With Itaya) The original by Akutagawa Ryunosuke

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