

A True Story in Pictures Every Week

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When the Hindu moved the boulder, Stanford and the plank would plunge down and down to shatter against the rocks

The Cup of Satan

By GARNETT RADCLIFFE

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The man on the plank was tied hand and foot with the great abyss yawning below; only his brain was not bound, and only his brain could save him

APTAIN STANFORD of the Baluchistan Police opened his eyes. Immediately he closed them again with a groan. Pain like the hot stab of a dagger had shot through his head. What a hangover, was his first hazy thought. What a devilish variety and inordinate quantity of strong liquors he must have imbibed to have made him feel like this!

Then he made other discoveries that didn't seem to accord with the hangover theory. He was lying on his back on a narrow plank. His arms were tied behind him. His legs hung one on each side of the plank and were tied to it and also bound together loosely at the ankles. He was excessively cold, there was a taste like blood and glue in his mouth. And he felt—

He couldn't define his last sensation. He had never felt anything quite like it before. A feeling of dizziness—of—of swinging in space. An unstable, giddy feeling as if he were hanging precariously at the end of a rope. A rocking, swaying feeling as if the world had dropped away leaving him floating on this plank among the stars.

There was a multitude of stars. When he opened his eyes again he could see myriads all around, twinkling in the vast black bowl of sky in which he hung. But what the devil? His tent, his mosquito curtain? He'd gone to bed the night before in his forty-pounder with the curtain lowered

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