

Central Characters in Shudraka's Mrichchakatika=

Charudatta – He is the protagonist of the play, and is portrayed as the perfect human being in terms of generosity, and steadfastness. Charudatta is a Brahmin, who has lost all his wealth due to the charities and sacrifices he made for others. These virtues and his earnest love and admiration for Vasantasena lured her to fall in love with him.

Vasantasena – She comes as a beautiful and desirable courtesan, who yearns for a man to love her the way she was. All the virtues that she wanted in the love of her life, Vasantsena finds those in Charudatta, after seeing him preaching in one of the many temples in the kingdom. She is deeply in love with the “generous brahmin”, and wants to be his, even after learning that Charudatta has a wife and a son. (The character of “Madhu” (Meenakshi Seshadri) in the 1993 film titled “Kshatriya” is quite reminiscent of this.)

Sansthanaka – Brother-in-law of the tyrant king Plaka, he is the antagonist, who is desperately attracted to Vasantasena, and hence, despises Charudatta. Responsible for the atrocities and injustices committed on Charudatta.

Maitreya – Another poor Brahmin, close friend of Charudatta. Maitreya hates the condition he, and his friend are forced to live in by destiny, and blames the gods for his misfortunes.

Rohasena – Charudatta's toddler kid, who unknowingly plays one of the most moving parts in the play. He, interestingly is the possessor of The Little Clay Cart.

Madanika – Vasantasena's maid, almost a friend and trustworthy. The character is one of the primary reasons which move the plot of the play, as the estranged jewelry for the theft which Charudatta is wrongly convicted, comes on the scene due to her lover.

Sharvilaka – Madanika's lover, who committed a theft, which eventually sets the plot towards the climax. Sharvilaka is an honest man, however, commits the crime primarily to set his love, Madanika, free from bondage and eventually marry her.

Aryaka – A revolutionary herdsman, who is captured for treason and is sent into confined imprisonment. Aryaka eventually escapes, kills the tyrant ruler, and fulfills the prophecy by a soothsayer by becoming the king. Rules justly, and reinstates Charudatta's fortune.

Plaka – The tyrant king, on whose backing Sansthanaka committed all the crimes. Plaka is ultimately killed by his destined slayer, Aryaka.