

《“低种姓”丈夫被杀，印度女子与父母抗争》

根据BBC的记者比斯瓦斯报道，2016年3月，一名22岁的男子在印度南部拥挤的道路上被砍死，因为他娶了一个更高种姓的女子。他的妻子在袭击中幸存下来，并作证对抗她的父母，反对种姓制度带来的灾难。



On the last day of his life, Shankar and Kausalya woke up around nine in the morning in their village hut. They had been married eight months.

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It was Sunday, and they travelled in a public bus to a local market in Udumalpet, some 14km (8.6 miles) away. They wanted to shop for new clothes for Shankar, who had to attend a function at his college the next day.

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The sun was beating down hard when they entered a clothes shop. She spotted a pink shirt and thought her husband would look good in it. As they walked out, Shankar spotted a mannequin in the shop window wearing a green shirt.

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"I think I like this shirt better," he said.

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Casual murder

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They walked back in again, exchanged the pink for the green, stepped out of the shop and began crossing a crowded road on their way back to take a bus home. But first, Shankar told Kausalya, he would like to treat her to her favourite chilli snack.

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"Another day," Kausalya said.

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She had only sixty rupees (94 cents; 68p) in her purse, and they couldn't afford it. So they decided to return home, where Shankar promised to cook her a special meal.

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"Rest your head on my chest," he rasped. Kausalya moved to his side.

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Minutes later, as the ambulance entered the hospital, Shankar stopped breathing.

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Autopsy surgeons found 34 cuts and stab wounds on Shankar's "moderately nourished body". He had died of "shock and haemorrhage due to multiple cuts and stab injuries".

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Kausalya spent 20 days in the hospital, her face swathed in bandages, and waiting for 36 stitches to heal and a bone fracture to repair. She told the police from the hospital bed that her parents were responsible for the attack.

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"Why did you love him?" one of the attackers kept shouting as he stabbed her. "Why?"

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Shankar and Kausalya had broken what writer Arundhati Roy, in her Booker-prize winning novel, *The God of Small Things*, described as "Love Laws" that "lay down who should be loved ... And how ... And how much".

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Shankar was a Dalit (formerly known as untouchable), and the son of a landless daily wage farm worker, who lived in a single room hut with four family members in Kumaralingam village. Kausalya came from a relatively influential Thevar caste, the daughter of a 38-year-old money lender and taxi operator, who lived in a two-storey house in Palani, a small town.

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When she told her parents she wanted to become an air-hostess, they rejected the idea "saying I would have to wear short skirts." After she finished school in 2014, they took her to a family temple to meet men they wanted her to marry. When she refused, they sent her to her a private college to study computer science and engineering.

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It was hard-earned love. Since she couldn't step outside her home alone to speak on the phone, they exchanged WhatsApp messages on their college bus rides. Every day, for 18 months, they exchanged texts. They spoke about their hopes and dreams.

The next eight months, says Kausalya, were "the freest, happiest time" of her life. She moved to Shankar's hut - which they shared with his father, two brothers and his grandmother - dropped out of college, and began work as a salesgirl, earning a monthly salary of 5,000 rupees.

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