

ANKHON DEKHI

BY
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SCENE -1

A house, full of objects that people have left - suggesting an imminent presence of people;
but we don't see anyone.

The camera goes over the objects- out in the court yard- lifts up- higher.

VOICE OVER

*Bus yahi sapna mujhe baar baar aata tha-
ki main udh raha hoon- aakash mein- pakshi ki tarah-
Gagan ko cheerta main chala jaa raha hoon..*

The camera goes higher- sees the terrace of the house.

Higher, sees other terraces- many terraces- then starts moving over the houses.

The city- old Delhi- over trees- buildings.

VOICE OVER

*Aur jab main udh raha hota hoon-
toh saath mein ek khushi ka ehsaas-
Aisi khushi jisko shabdo mein batana mushkil hai-
Aaisi anubhuti jaisi jeevan mein koi aur nahi thi- neerali..*

The camera rises higher- over the clouds- picks up momentum.

VOICE OVER

*Lekin yeh sapna nahi hai- yeh vaastavikta hai-
Yeh hawa jo mere chehre ko choom rhai hai-
Yeh saayn saayn ki awaz mere kano mein..
Yeh yatharth hai- Aaj main wakai gagan ko cheerta chala jaa rha hoon-
jaise makhhan mein garm chhuri..*

Now we see the still of a man- flying. He is smiling ear to ear.

Camera tilts now 180 degree to make him upside down.

VOICE OVER

*Lekin aaj jo main udh paa raha hoon-
Iss safar ki shuruaat hui thi aaj se dedh bars pahle..*

SCENE – 2

We now see a middle class house- lots of people.

There seems to some kind of crisis. The voice over continues for just a minute.

VOICE OVER

*Lekin tab mujhe zara bhanak bhi nahi thi
ki aaj mera yeh naya safar shuru ho raha hai..*

Mujhe toh laga ki aaj bhi baaki dino ki tarah sadharan sa din hai..

The voice over gets lost in the sound of the present scene.

We see Bauji- sitting on a bed- resting on his hands, keeping a calm face in the midst of a storm.

He is a man of 55 years with a white beard, white hair.

The centre of the storm is his daughter- a girl of 20- Rita, sitting on the ground, crying.

Her mother- Pushpa is crying hysterically, sometimes shouting.

PUSHPA

Isliye padha likha rahein hain tere ko? Isliye?

RITA

Kiya kya hai maine? Picture hi toh gayi thi..

CHAHCA

Uss lafange ke saath?

RITA

Aisa nahi hai woh..

CHAHCA

Toh Baooo kya jhoot bol raha hai?

BAOOA

Nahi Chacha kasam se- sab jante hain uske-

Ek dum badmash launda hai-

Har hafte uska koi naya naya kaand shuru ho jata hai..

Kitni baar toh thane ja chukka hai..

RITA

Baooo chup kar jaa tu!

PUSHPA

Tu chup ho ja kalmunhi –Subah ko ghar pe bol ke jaati hai

Ki kalij ja rahi hai. Yeh tera kalij hai? Sab ke munh pe kalikh pot dijo

Ek din!! Upar se jubaan pe jubaan ladaye chali jaa rahi hai..

Enraged, she starts beating Rita- slapping her on her shoulders.

Chachi tries to restrain her.

BAUJI

Achha theek hai na, ho gaya ab..

PUSHPA

*Tum kuchh bolna mati! Baithe rehna- Dekhna aise hi lakshan rahe n tumhari beti ke,
toh ek din main hi gale mein phanda laga ke pankhe se latak jaungi..
Puja karke uthoge, pankha chalaoge toh dekhna Pushpa gol- gol, gol -gol ghoom rahi hai-
Tabhi kaleje pe thandak padegi sabke..*

CHACHA

Tera college jaana band- ghar par hi baithna abhi..

MOTHER

Badhi padhai kar li taine

CHACHA

Bas- aur nahin milogi tum us-se

RITA

Milungi!

Rita is still defiant- Bauji has to step in.

BAUJI

Rita!

He raises his voice for the first time. Rita breaks down- starts crying.
Her cousin, Ashok watches helplessly.

RITA

Aise hi nahi mil rahe hain ussey- pyar karte hain ussey..

PUSHPA

*Arri kalmunhi tu toh pyaar karti hai ussey-
magar uske mann mein kya chal raha hai, woh tujhe thode hi maloom hai?
Kal ko tere saath kuchh oonch neech kar ke maar ke tujhe
phenk dega jamuna ji mein. Phir tasue bahaati rehna..*

CHACHA

Bas abhi ghar se nikalna band tera! Bahut ho gaya tera naatak..

Rita wipes her tears away.

Bauji would like to comfort her, but has to maintain the strict façade.

Ashok watches everything, concerned.

SCENE – 3

Late at night. Bauji washes his hands after dinner- stands outside Chahca's door, knocks.

Chahca opens the door- inside Chachi is making bed.

She covers her head with her pallu.

The two men stand at the doorway and talk.

BAUJI

Kya karna kya hai iska?

CHAHCA

*Kuchh nahi bhai- Do char din ghar pe baithegi
saara bukhari utar jayega..*

BAUJI

Arre bahi ro rahi hai- continue..

CHAHCA

*Bhai woh launda theek nahi hai-
Jisse poochho woh ek naya hi kisa sonata hai uska.
Akela rehta hai yahan pe-
Na kaam na dhandha- na uske oopar koi dekhne wala.
Laundiya baazi mein number ek hai woh-
Ab batao.. Rita toh nahi samjhegi nahin na yeh sab..*

BAUJI

Nahi so toh theek kah rahe ho tum- Baithe bithaye bikar ka..

CHAHCA

*Aap kahe ko pareshan ho rahe ho bhai?
Do din mein sara nazla utar jayega..*

BAUJI

*Arre pareshan nahin hon toh kya hon bhai? Ladki hai...
Kal ko kuchh... ! Chalo, dekhte hain..*

He leaves slowly. Chahca waits at the door.

SCENE – 4

Even later at night.

Shammi comes home- everyone is sleeping. He looks around hears a sound, looks up.

Ashok is on the terrace- calls him up.

Shammi runs up the steps. Terrace is lit by the moon.

ASHOK

Pandit ji ka ladka saala ek number ka phattu hai- bakk dia..

SHAMMI

Rita?

ASHOK

*Kothri mein bandh karke rakha hai-
jaise raat ko bhaag jayegi kahin- (pause)*

Khoob royi didi, khoob royi..

SHAMMI

Yeh saale Baooa ko toh aisa thokunga na mai..

ASHOK

Arre kya toh taayi chillayi hai- aur kya papa ne dhamkaya aaj..

Aapko hona chahiye tha na..

SHAMMI

Mai hota toh kya teer maar leta?

Mai toh pahle hi fail item hoon..

They take long drags on their cigarettes, throw the butt away with a flick of their fingers.

Later.

Rita is seen through the bars of the locked door. She is eating a rolled up chapatti with relish.

She looks up.

Shammi and Ashok are standing on the other side of the locked door. She smiles.

Ashok rolls up another chapatti with some vegetable stuffed inside it, passed it to Shammi who puts his hand through the bars. Rita takes the chapatti from him and devours it.

Ashok drops the lid of the vessel- it makes a sound. Everyone freezes, look behind them.

Bauji and Amma don't move, continue sleeping.

Rita takes another bite, makes thumbs up sign to her brother.

He winks at her- makes a gesture saying- get some sleep.

She nods.

SCENE - 5

Morning.

Bauji has had a bath- he is at the puja, moving the bell and reading from something. The phone rings.

Amma goes up to pick the phone- says 'hello' a couple of times. It gets disconnected.

Rita is seen behind the locked door.

In the other room, Chachi comes to wake Chacha up with chai- He doesn't stir.

She puts her wet hair on his face. He wakes up.

His expression changes almost instantly, when he sees her freshly bathed smiling face up close.

CHACHI

Chai taiyar hai..

He holds her.

CHACHA

Garam hai?

CHACHI

*Haan bahut garam hai- Dheere dheere peena,
nahi toh munh jal jaayega..*

She laughs. He holds her, kisses her. She struggles, gets out of the grip. He tries to stop her.

CHACHA

Ruko na thodhi der..

CHACHI

Arre doosri seetee bol gayi hai cooker ki..

CHACHA

Bhabhi hai na..

CHACHI

Aha ha ha- Bhabhi hi toh kar rahi hai na saara kaam..

She leaves- Chacha gets up slowly- picks up the newspaper. The phone is heard here too.

The phone rings, unanswered. Bauji grunts and makes a gesture with his hand.
Shammi is still sleeping. Mother comes and picks the phone.

PUSHPA

*Hello.. Nahi ji- Rita toh nahi hai..
Aap kaun bol rahe hain?*

Bauji looks at her from his puja- waving his hands. Rita protests from the *kothri*.

RITA

Ajju hai? Amma phone par toh baat karne do..

Chacha comes with the newspaper in his hand, asks with a nod of his head- who is it?
Mother holding the phone, gestures to him wildly. Chacha takes the phone from her.

CHACHA

*Haan boliye!.. Dekho.. Rita tumse nahi milna chahti hai..
Bas keh diya.. Aur tum bhi ussey milne ki koshish mat karna..
Samajh gaye..? Kyun? Kyun ka kya matlab hota hai-
Kyunki hum kah rahe hain isliye.. Hum chacha hain uske.. aur parichay dein?*

Rita shouts from the *kothri*.

RITA

Ajju.. Jhoot bol rahe hain sab!

Shammi sits up, rubbing his eyes- Bauji is moving the bell more frantically.
Ashok comes out of the bathroom. Chachi pours more hot water in the tub.
In the background- Chacha is still talking on the phone.

SCENE – 6

Office.

Bauji gets up from his desk- goes near the water cooler. Dials a number, waits. Somebody picks up.

BAUJI

*Haan main bol rahan hoon..
Khaya kuchh usne? .. Achha?..
Ek baar phir pooch ke dekh lo..*

*Theek hai.. Ab main yahan se kya karoon? Tum hi dekho na-
Achha theek hai phir jo man mein aaye karo, aur kya!*

He disconnects- sighs .

Later- Bauji is in his cabin. Satya, the peon brings him chai- keeps it at the desk.

SATYA

Bauji, chai...

Bauji does not even respond to him. Satya leaves as somebody calls for him.

We see one guy holding the phone, calling out to Bauji.

MAN

Raje Bauji.. Phone..

Bauji hurries to the phone- checks his own mobile phone as he walks to it- takes the receiver.

BAUJI

*Haan.. Kya hua.. Haan bhai silent pe tha-
nahi dekha.. Haan.... Bolo.. Do..
Haan jee Shibbo babu.. Namastey namstey-
Kaise hain sab? Haan wo toh.. Haan..
Nahin jee woh ek number ka gunda mawali hai,
kaise jakar peetein?
Usne apne aur mustandon ko bula liya toh..
Aap toh jaante hi hai na inkey liye kya chaaku chhuri,
kya pistaul.. Haan..
Nahin yeh police waali baat hi theek rahegi..
Aap rahenge na sham ko.. ?
Main jaldi hi aa jaunga.. Theek hai- namaskaar..*

Bauji sighs. Looking really stressed.

SCENE – 7

Evening.

On a street in Chandni Chowk Bauji, Chacha, Shammi, Pandit Ji and his son Baooa, couple of other men are talking to a Police constable, apprising him of the situation as they walk purposefully.

The constable seems the most scared of the lot- keeps fiddling with his cap in his hands.

Shibbo babu leads the way, rolling up his sleeves.

Shammi takes Baooa aside and gives him grief.

Baooa seems to be defending his actions. They turn a corner.

Rishi chacha knocks on a door.

They push the constable in front, he is resisting.

The door opens- a very young man's face is seen.

He sees these three men and tries to shut the door in front of them. The men push and scream.

Everyone is urging the constable to do his duty.

They manage to push through in any case.

Everyone fills into the room- couple of guys stationed at the door.

The young boy goes to the other wall, seeming scared. Awkward pause..

AJJU

Kya..Kya chahiye?

CHACHA

Ajju tum hi ho?

AJJU

Kya chahiye?

Pandit ji's son speaks up from the door.

BAOOA

*Haan chacha, yahi hai Ajju-
Main kah raha hoon yahi hai..*

His identity confirmed, no one is really sure how to proceed now.

They seem scared of the boy who seems terrified of them.

SHIBOO BABU

(To the constable)

Yahi hai jee..

AJJU

Maine kuchh nahi kiya..

Ajju is seriously confused, has no idea what this is about.

CHACHA

Rita ko jaante ho?

Ajju looks at everyone- finally sees Shammi at the door- begins to understand. He nods.
Chacha jumps to him- starts slapping him.

CHACHA

*Saale sharm nahi aati hai? Hain?
Bholi bhaali ladki ko gumraah karte ho? Hain?*

The constable also is less scared now. Shibbo babu joins in. So is Baooa.
Bauji tries to stops them. Ajju is saving his face and head with his arms.
Finally Bauji manages to move everyone away.

BAUJI

Arre bus karo.. Bus! Bus! Ho gaya..

Ajju is still crouching down, waiting for more blows.
Chacha is panting a little, rolling up his sleeves.

CHACHA

*Saale gunda gardi macha rakhi hai tumne!
Apne hi mohalle ki ladkiyon ko barbaad karte ho?*

AJJU

Maine kya..?

CHACHA

Bataoon abhi aur?

SHIBBO

*Aise nahi maanega yeh Rishi-
Isko toh saale ko nanga kar ke isski chutadh pe chappal se maaro..*

BAUJI

*Achha shaant raho sab do minute-
bus do minute ko.. Dekho bhai- main Rita ka..
Rita humari beti hai, samjhe?
Usska bhala bura humein hi samajhna hai..
Ab tum tang mat karna ussko..Theek hai?*

Ajju gets up slowly.

BAUJI

Samajh gaye na?

Ajju nods.

SHIBBO

Nahi samajh mein aaya toh thane jaa ke samajh jaayega..

CHACHA

Sun, aaj ke baad tu Rita ke aas paas bhi nazar aaya na toh..

He raises his hands as if to hit him. Ajju crouches.
Bauji intervenes again..

BAUJI

*Arre theek hai- Kah diya humne-
Nahi karega ab woh.. Theek hai..*

Ajju keeps looking at Chacha- then at Shammi.
Shammi makes an apologetic gesture, silently.

BAUJI

Chalo chalo- sab chalo.. Chhodh do issko..

Everyone leaves slowly. Bauji is the last one.
He turns to look at Ajju. Ajju is seen full figure.
Bauji feels bad for him. He raises his hand up half in blessing- half as a goodbye.
Ajju folds both his hands to say Namastey and tries to smile.
Bauji smiles back- his heart breaking.
He turns and leaves.

SCENE - 8

Night. Home.

Chachi is putting food in a thali. Amma is around, grumbling under her breath.
Bauji sits on his haunches, just outside the kitchen, getting the thali ready.
He gets up with the thali- walks inside the room.
Shammi is sitting on the bed. Chacha stands near the door.
Rita sits on the floor, her hands tied around her knees- her chin resting on the knees.
Bauji goes and sits next to Rita- puts the thali in front of her, looks at her. She looks down.

BAUJI

*Beta kha lo kuchh- 24 ghante se jyada ho gaya hai,
pet mein ann ka ek daana nahi gaya hai-
Kahin tabiyat shabiyat bigad gayi toh..?*

Rita doesn't say anything.
Bauji thinks how to approach this.

BAUJI

Rishi- bhaiya zara ek paan le aaoge humare liye?

Chacha looks at him, a little surprised. Bauji makes a gesture to him to bugger off. He leaves.

Bauji looks at Shammi and indicates with a nod of his head to go. He leaves too.
Bauji is now alone with Rita.

BAUJI

Lo kha lo ab- Abhi koi nahin hai..

She looks at him. Then looks away.

BAUJI

Main khilaoon kya apne haath se?

She doesn't say anything. He breaks a chapatti- offers it to her- she turns her face away.

BAUJI

*Achha theek hai na-
Ab kya maafii maange tumse? Sorry bolein?*

She looks at him. His hand holding the chapatti comes down.

RITA

Woh aisa ladka nahi hai Bauji..

BAUJI

*Haan bhai nahi hai- Ab toh hum khud uss se mil ke aa rahein hain na-
Tum hi theek kah rahi thi- hum sab galat they, bus?
Ab sorry kah rahein hain.. Kha lo kuchh..*

She waits for a moment, and then opens her mouth to be fed.
Bauji quickly feed her- then breaks another piece.
She eats hungrily.

RITA

Aap log koot ke aaye hoge khoob usko?

BAUJI

Nahi- kasam se nahi maara.. Lo khao..

She eats.

RITA

Phone kar sakti hoon usko?

Bauji doesn't know what to say..

BAUJI

Achha kar lena- magar kisi ko pata na chale, hain? Lo khao..

She eats then looks at her father and smiles. He smiles weakly.

SCENE - 9

Night. Rita sleeps. Mother tucks her in- goes out.
Bauji sits- alone.

PUSHPA

Kya hua sona nahi hai?

BAUJI

Sounga.. Baitho na do minute..

PUSHPA

Kya hua?

BAUJI

Arre kuchh hoga tabhi baithogi kya? Baitho na..

Pushpa sits with him.

He holds her hand- she looks at him holding her hand, quizzically. Then frees her hand.

PUSHPA

Kuch bologe?

BAUJI

*Humlog kitne gadhe hai na- Bina kuchh dekhe boojhe
apne dimaag hi dimaag mein kuchh taana baana bun lete hain-
aur usska hauwa bana kar ghumne lagte hain-
Bhale hi assal mein woh ho ya na ho.. Samajh rahi ho?*

PUSHPA

Na!

BAUJI

*Kaise woh Pandit ke launde ne kah diya aur humnein maan liya.
Arre kaise maan liya- kis binah par maan liya?
Sab ne maan liya ki bhai Aju yeh hai, Aju woh hai..
Woh toh bechara ekdum gau nikla..*

PUSHPA

*Loh- aap ne do minute mein pehchan liya-
Baaki ke sab galat ho gaye?*

BAUJI

Toh phir?

*Apni ankho dekhi par yakeen na kare
toh kis pe yakeen karein?
Isliye toh baar baar insaan galti karta hai-
kyunki bina dekhe, jo hai, doosro ki baat maan leta hai..*

She puts a hand on his forehead.

PUSHPA

Badan bhi garam ho raha hai; chalo so jao..

BAUJI

*Arre hatao na.. Suno main badhbadha nahi raha hoon-
Tum bhi uss ladke se milti na, toh yehi kehti- gau!
Usske saamne toh sab humare hi pariwar wale
gunde lag rahe the- Uss bechare ne toh haath toh kya
apni awaz bhi nahi uthayi ek baar bhi..*

PUSHPA

*Wah bhai wah- jaise woh bechara
waisi aapki beti bechari- aur waise hi aap-
Chalo main jaa rahi hoon sone- Aa rahe ho ki nahi..?*

He nods- she leaves.

Bauji sighs.

Continues to sit, looks at the moon.

Clouds make patterns over the near full moon.

It is lovely- and somehow, soothing.

Bauji climbs up the narrow stairs to reach the terrace. Ashok and Shammi are there, smoking.
They quickly hide and then stub their cigarettes and leave. Bauji sits on a charpai.

Later. Bauji seated- we see him bathed in moonlight- the camera turns away from him- 180 degree- and stop frame, we see night turn into dawn.

The day breaks into color.. The camera tracks again on to Bauji- still seated on the charpai, bathed in the early morning light.

SCENE - 10

Early morning activity. Pretty hectic.

Water is heated in a big tub- in another tub, water is collected from running pump. Those going in for a bath, transfer hot water from the tub. There is a usual line in front of the bathroom of people waiting.

Others are coming out- movement all over.

Chachi is the one doing most of the work- mother is at puja.

In the midst of all these chaos, Bauji announces his decision- to nobody in particular.

No one really listens to him either.

Bauji puts toothpaste on his brush.

BAUJI

*Ek baat meri samajh mein aayi hai-
ki hum logon ke saath itna dhokha hua hai-
ki humein maar maar kar duniya bhar ka jhoot
humaare andar thoons dia hai- aur hum ghadhey ke bachchey
sub kuch aankh moond kar sach samajh ke satak gaye-
Pura ka pura- aur uss jhoot ko apna sach maan liya hai..*

Rita comes out of the bathroom, her hair wrapped in a towel.

RITA

Bauji ek minute..!

She pushes him from the washbasin. Takes a bindi from the mirror there, puts it on her and goes in.
Ashok transfers water in a bucket- goes on the bathroom.
Chacha is sitting between two rooms, reading the paper.
Mother finishes her puja. Chachi gives Shammi his tea, who just about wakes up.
Bauji grabs the newspaper from Chacha and throws it away. Chacha is zapped.

BAUJI

*Phir jhoot padh rahe ho- subah subah-
Kuchh nahi rakha hai iss sabmein.*

CHACHA

Arre bhai..

BAUJI

*Yeh khabar nahin hai- khabar woh hai jo tumhari aankhein
dekhti hai- jo tumhaare kaan sunte hain-
baaki sab bekaar hai..*

CHACHA

Bhai do na akhbaar..

Bauji gives the paper back- goes to the washbasin, gargles- puts his brush back.
Chachi looks at Chacha- indicates how mad Bauji really is.
Ashok comes out of the bathroom- wrapped in towel.
Rita is ready to go to college- eats something standing.

BAUJI

*Ab tujhe to school mein padhate hain
Jise tu ratta maar maar ke yaad karta hai,
Woh tera bhoga hua toh hai nahin-
Tu apna sach dhoond-
Tu kyun doosron ki baat par yakeen kare..*

ASHOK

Par tayaji, exam..

RITA

Jaa rahin hoon Amma.. Teen baje lautungi..

MOTHER

Der mat kariyo.. Sidhe ghar aayio college se..

Rita has left; mother shouts after her.
Ashok has put on a shirt, is combing his hair.
Chacha is ready to go for a bath.

BAUJI

*Sun rahe ho- ek hi sach hai- woh jo ki tumhara sach hai-
agar tumhara nahi hai sach-
toh bus jhoot hai.. Samjhe..?*

CHACHA

*Bhai mujhe der ho jaayegi-
Main jaaun nahane..?*

BAUJI

Jao nahao..

He turns to Ashok again.

BAUJI

*Lekin ek baat meri samajh mein aayi hai-
ki jo baat tumhare apne anubhav mein nahi hai,
uss baat par yakin kaise kar sakte ho?
Woh toh kahi suni ho gayi na!
Tumhe kisi ne kuchh kah dia aur tumne maan liya-
(slight pause) Ab jo main bhi kah raha hoon-
usey bhi jhat se nahi maan lo-
kyunki wo toh mera sach hai- tumhaara toh nahin.. hain?*

ASHOK

Sach hai tayaji- Main jaa raha hoon, aata hoon tayaji..

He manages to escape. Bauji continues with Chachi.

BAUJI

*Ab aapka jo kaam hai- woh toh aap jaanti hai-
Usey toh aapne jiya hai- baaki ka kya?
Kya guaranty hai ki woh sach hai..*

CHACHI

Paani garam hai..

She leaves. Bauji is alone for a minute. Puts his finger in hot water. Then, almost to himself.

BAUJI

*Paani garam hai- yeh toh tai hai..
Maine faisla kar liya hai..*

Chahca comes out of the bathroom. Moves away.

The camera goes around Bauji- somebody gives him a towel in one hand, soap in another.

The bathroom door opens. Bauji comes out after a bath.

Wrapped in a towel. Shammi goes in..

BAUJI

Maine faisla kar liya hai..

He says- almost announcing as he puts on his kurta.

BAUJI

*Aaj se- balki abhi se main har uss baat ko maanne se
inkaar kar doonga jisey ki
maine khud nahi dekha ya suna ho-
Mera sach mere anubhav ka sach hoga..*

He continues, combing his hair- getting more and more dramatic, declamatory.

BAUJI

*Aaj se main har baat se sawal karunga-
Har cheez ko dubara dekhunga, sununga,
jaanunga- Apni nazar ke tarazu se toulunga..*

He turns dramatically towards his wife, continues his speech- she tries to say something- to interrupt him, but he is unstoppable in his flow.

BAUJI

*.. Koi aisi baat jisey maine jiya na ho,
mere muh se nahi niklegi..
Jo maine galat seekha tha, ya galat tarike se seekha tha,
wo sab bhoola dunga-
Sab kuchh naye sirey se sikhunga,
naya sikhunga, sachcha sikhunga..
Haan bolo kya bol rahi ho?*

MOTHER

*Main toh yeh kah rahi thi-
sab kuchh abhi sikhoge ki pahle pant pahan loh,
phir baad mein seekh lena..*

Bauji looks down- realizes he has forgotten to wear his pants- he is embarrassed and a little deflated.

MOTHER

*Aap ko toh na nayi nazar se dikhta hai,
nahi puraani nazar se-
Aur dikhta nahi hai toh kum se kum sun toh liya karo..*

She leaves the room.

Bauji sits down on the bed for a minute, defeated.

SCENE - 11

Bauji walks down the lane from his house- looking around.

It feels like, he is walking this way for the first time ever. There is a smile on his face.

We see things in extreme close up. Everything is beautiful- and even the familiar has become new.

Bauji stops at the mandir. Takes off his slippers- goes in, stops himself.

Shakes his head and starts to walk out.

His friend Pandit ji comes out- gives him Prasad.

Bauji takes it in his hand, like every day.

Still full of doubt- he looks at it.

PANDIT

Kya ho gaya? Prasad hai..

BAUJI

Mithai hai..

PANDIT

Prasad hai- Sharma ji ka chadhawa hai..

Pandit ji moves ahead.

Bauji breaks a small piece of the sweet and puts it in his mouth.

BAUJI

Kalakand hai..

PANDIT

Prasad hai bhagwan ka..

BAUJI

Achha hai- Meetha hai..

Bauji eats it, puts on his slippers and walks out.

Pandit looks at his receding figure.

SCENE - 12

Office- day.

The close ups continue in the office too- the computer, phones, wires, files; everything seems to new to Bauji, and beautiful.

Satya comes with his tea. He is the office boy.

SATYA

Bauji, chai

Bauji looks at him. Keeps looking- his smile gets slightly bigger.

SATYA

Kya hua Bauji..?

BAUJI

*Kuchh toh hua hai Satya. Tu Satya hai? Kamaal hai!
Maine tujhe kabhi dekha hi nahin tha theek se-
Kitne achchhe se tu muskarata hai, re!
Kitna sundar hai tu..*

SATYA

Bauji kyon subah subah taang kheench rahe ho meri?

BAUJI

*Mazaak nahin Satya..
Satya tu hi sundar hai, tu hi Shiv hai..*

SATYA

Theek hai Bauji, aap malik ho..

Satya leaves. Bauji turns to his colleague. The man is immersed in his computer.

BAUJI

Tune Satya ko dekha hai? Kitna sundar ladka hai..

The man is busy- he grunts in response to Bauji. Bauji keeps looking at him. Finally the man looks up.

MANISH

Kya hua?

BAUJI

Tu bhi bada hi sundar hai Manish..

Manish

Bauji chai piyo aap...

SCENE - 13

Day. Home. Lots of people are there to celebrate Anil's birthday.

Anil is the 14 years old son of Shibbo babu.

Shibbo babu is married to Bauji's sister- Sarup bebe- and they have two sons- Arun, 16 and Anil 14.

Anil cuts the cake. It is shaped like a house.

Everyone claps and sings.

Later- everyone sits around with their snacks and chai.

In the kitchen women are constantly making more chai.

SHIBBO

Lekin Raje bhai jo cheez ko sab maante hai ussko bhi nahi manenge?

Bauji raises a hand in 'who knows' gesture.

SHIBBO

Jaise ki bharat ke pradhanmantri Manmohan Singh hai..

BAUJI

Honge..

SHIBBO

Honge matlab- Raje bhai- hain!

BAUJI

Honge..

RELATIVE

Yeh kaisi baat kar rahe ho Bauji..

Yeh toh bachcho ko bhi pata hai..

BAUJI

Hoga..

RELATIVE

Arey! Roz subah sham radio- TV par bajta rahta hai-

Baharat ke pradhanmantri Doctor Manmohan Singh..

Aap kaise inkaar kar sakte ho?

BAUJI

Dekho bhai- main inkaar nahi kar raha hoon..

SHIBBO

Lekin maan bhi toh nahi rahe ho na..

BAUJI

Main toh kah raha hoon- honge..

RELATIVE

*Bhai yeh toh aapne bahut bada upkaar kiya
Doctor Manmohan Singh pe..*

Some people laugh- Bauji chooses to ignore it.. A relative makes a gesture of going nuts to another.

PUSHPA

Arey chhodho na- sab ke sab pichhey padh gaye hainge inke..

RELATIVE

*Bauji yeh na- issko kahte hai male menopause,
samajh rahe ho na- jab lagta hai ki abhi zindagi mein
kuchh aur rang nahi raha hai- tabhi aisa hota hai..*

SHIBBO

Mid life crisis hai Raje bhai..

BAUJI

Hoga..

RELATIVE

*Bauji aap toh sab kuch 'hoga' ke haath saunp rahe ho-
Kuchh nishchit hai ki nahi?*

BAUJI

Haan- abhi din hai..

SHIBBO

Very good.. Aur isske baad raat hogi..

BAUJI

Yeh toh nishchit hai!

RELATIVE

Aaj itwaar hai..

BAUJI

Hoga..

The relatives are getting a little agitated now by Bauji's stubbornness, exasperated.
The initial joke and novelty- factor are now wearing thin.

RELATIVE

*Arey hai! Sabki chutti hai- office band hai..
School band hai- itwaar hai aaj!*

RELATIVE

*Bhai SAB maante hain ki aaj itwaar hai,
toh koi wajah se hi na maante hain kisi baat ko..*

BAUJI

*Yeh toh ek suvidha ka sadhan hai- jaise ki bhaasha-
Sabne maan liya ke 'Pha' ke baad 'La' laga ke 'phal' shabd
banega aur phal ka matlab hoga.. so toh tum jaante hi ho na..*

SHIBBO

*Haan theek baat hai- sab phal ko phal bolenge
tabhi toh na baatcheet kar sakege- nahi toh aap bolo phal
aur mai samjhu atom bomb toh baat kaise hogi..*

Everyone laughs a little. Bauji is quiet. Bauji picks up an apple.
Chacha looks at Bauji with concern. Ashok and Shammi share a look.
Bauji quietly takes a bite of the apple.
He chews on it- the sound is audible.

PUSHPA

Meetha hai?

Bauji smiles at her.

BAUJI

Bahut meetha hai! Maza aagaya

SHIBBO BABU

Simla ka hai..

BAUJI

Hoga...

Bauji speaks with his mouth full, gets up and leaves chewing on his apple. Others are kind of stunned.
Slowly they start giggling as laughing or discussing or generally felling bad for Bauji, who seems to be losing it.
The daughter sees everyone- feels bad for her father.

SCENE – 14

Company Baag- Kids are playing. It's evening.
The peanut sellers and others are wailing.
Aiju and Rita walk close together- eating peanuts.

RITA

*Itna bura laga na mere ko sab ke sab hans rahe the bauji ke upar
jaise ki bauji sathiya gaye ho..
man kar raha tha jootey se maaru sab ko..*

Ajju sits on a bench- loojks around, then pulls her on his lap.
She is acandalised. Sits on the bench, next to him.
He takes her hand and kisses it.

RITA

*Kya kar rahe ho? Abki baar tumhari report hui na
toh khoob jamkar kutai hogi..*

AJJU

Toh chal na mere ghar chal na..

RITA

*Chal na mere ghar chal na!
(She imitates him) Shakal dekhi hai apni?*

Ajju's face falls down- she laughs at him.
Then as if to make up, she takes his hands and kisss them. He holds her face.
They look at each other..

AJJU

Chal bhaag chaltey hai..

RITA

*Aa ha ha.. bada aaya bhaagne waala.. dhat!
Koi akl ki baat kiya kar kabhi toh.*

She turns away from him.. He groans out loud.

SCENE - 15

Office. Boss's cabin.
The boss is looking at him. Bauji smiles, shuffles

BAUJI

*Nahin main toh kabhi gaya nahi na Amsterdam..
Toh jitni jaankari thi maine unhe bata diya sab..
Lekin yeh main kaise kisi ko bol sakta hoon ki Amsterdam jo hai
Netherlands mein hai- flight aath ghante mein pahunchegi..*

BOSS

Sadhe aath..

BAUJI

*Ya saadhe aath..
Matlab main yeh yakeen kaise dila sakta hoon sir- kisi aur ko..?*

BOSS

Kyun? Problem kya hai?

BAUJI

Main toh kabhi gaya nahi na Amsterdam..

BOSS

Arre lekin flight ka departure aur arrival time toh hai na- website pe?

BAUJI

Hai- sir..

BOSS

Toh phir?

BAUJI

Sir- aap samajh nahi rahe hai..

BOSS

Kya?

Bauji looks desperate- pitiable.

Almost, begging with his puppy dog eyes- 'don't make me say it'

BOSS

Kya nahi samajh raha hoon main?

BAUJI

Sir- Main toh gaya nahi hoon na Amsterdam..

BOSS

Tum gaye kahan ho? London gaye ho?

Bauji shakes his head.

BOSS

Paris gaye ho? New York gaye ho?

Chicago gaye ho?

Bauji shakes his head in a 'No' faster and faster.

BOSS

Berlin gaye ho? Kahan gaye ho.?

BAUJI

Last Shimla gaya tha.. Do saal ho gaye..

Boss loses it- screams.

BOSS

*Toh kya khaali Shimla ka ticket kaatoge?
International tour bandh kar doon kya?*

Bauji shakes his head again.

BOSS

*Tumhara kaam booking karne ka hai-
raasta naapne ka nahi hai- samjhe? Jaaiye ticket banaiye..*

Bauji stops – as if he wants to say something, then moves out.

SCENE - 16

Night. Terrace.

Shammi has a question paper in hand. He looks at the answers. Ashok is looking at his cousin.

SHAMMI

Yeh?

Ashok shakes his head.

SHAMMI

*Dus mein se saat sawal toh tune kare he nahi-
toh phir mujhe kya dikha raha hai?*

ASHOK

Baaki ke teen?

SHAMMI

Ek sahi hai- do galat..

He gives the paper back to Ashok- lies down on the charpai- on his back- looking at the sky.

SHAMMI

Aisi dhunai hogi na teri..

He lets it hang there. Ashok knows it too well.

SHAMMI

Paper kab milega?

ASHOK

Parson..

Shammi lights a cigarette.

ASHOK

*Mujhe nahi karni hai padhai likhai-
waise bhi kya hoga 10 + 2 kar ke- BA pass?
Phir kya hoga- 12000 ki naukri call centre mein?*

SHAMMI

*Jaa – bata de chacha ko jaa ke..
Teri fees ke paise bhi bach jaayenge..*

Ashok becomes quite. Shammi smokes- looking up.
Tears roll down Ashok's eyes.

ASHOK

*Kyun Padhoon main?
Mujhe koi saala doctor engineer thodhe he banna hai..
Jabardasti ki saali padhai..*

Shammi gets up – puts an arm around his shoulder.

SHAMMI

*Ro mat darling .. ek kaam kar-
ghar chhodh ke bhaag jaa..*

ASHOK

*Gaya tha station..
Saare platform ghoom kar wapas aa gaya..*

SHAMMI

*Kya hua- koi bhi train achhi nahi lagi?
Tere bhi na- nakhre bahut hai.. Hain?*

He squeezes Ashok- Ashok is not really happy.

SHAMMI

Cigarette piyega?

Ashok nods.

SCENE - 17

Morning. Home.

Hectic morning activity- as usual.

Chachi sends off Ashok to school- loving him, straightening his hair- which he hates.

Everyone is going in and out of the bathroom- frantic.

Bauji is ready, moving in the room – looking at the Gods, wondering what to do- decides to leave.

PUSHPA

Kya ho gaya? Puja nahi karoge? Kya kar rahe ho?

Bauji waves his hand and leaves.
Pushpa cries, turns to the Gods and apologises on his behalf.

PUSHPA

*Hey Bhagwan, bura mat manna Bhagwan-
Unka mann saaf hai- Maaf kar dena Bhagwan..
Tum toh daya ke sagar ho..*

SCENE – 18

Office. Day.
The phone rings. Bauji looks left and right, hoping somebody else will take the call.
But all his colleagues are busy. Finally he reluctantly picks the phone.

BAUJI

Hello.. Haan jee.. Hold kijiye zara..

Looks left and right again. Everyone is busy. Bauji sighs and gets back to the phone.

BAUJI

*Hello.. Jee.. Dekhiye Delhi se Colombo ki flight hai-
aisa yahan dikha rahe hain yeh- 21 taarikh ko?
Jee.. Pakka toh sir kuchh bhi nahi hai.. Main nahi kah sakta..
Aisa mera anumaan hai- shat pratishat sach toh main yeh bhi nahi jaanta
ki aap Mr.. Sharma he hain..
Mere paas toh kuch pramaan nahi hai na.. Haan..
Aapki awaaz.. Lekin yeh toh aap hi jaante hain.. Main kaise..?
Dekhiye main pagal hoon ya nahin-
yeh toh kewal aapka anumaan he hai.. hello.. hello..*

It is disconnected.
Bauji waits.
The bell rings for Satya- Satya goes into the Boss's cabin.
Bauji gets up- starts packing his shelf, tiffin and other things that he has collected over years.
Satya comes out of the Boss's cabin- walks forwards him, reaches him.

BAUJI

Haan maloom hai..

Bauji continues to pack. Satya watches, then helps him.
The bell rings again- Satya runs to the Boss's cabin.
Bauji moves out with his bag.

Later- out on the road. Bauji stands waiting at a bus stop. Nearby there is a big tree.
Bauji is bending backwards looking at the tree, completely oblivious of everything else.

SCENE - 19

Night. Home.

Bauji is sitting on the bed- breaking peanut shells and eating them.

Everyone is gathered around in the drawing room- some standing, some sitting.

Awkward silence, looks are exchanged.

Rita is looking down at her toes- she is away from it all but within hearing distance.

Then we reveal Ajju- who is sitting, there – surrounded by all these people.

Ajju puts three spoons of sugar in his cup of tea- Everyone is looking at him.

He stirs the tea with a spoon- and continues it.

The only sound in the room is the spoon in the cup.

People wait- he keeps at it.

Finally Amma almost snatches the spoon out of his hand.

PUSHPA

Pi bhi lo beta- thandi ho jaayegi..

He is unnerved, smiles; Picks the cup and takes a sip, smiles again. Then looks at Bauji.

Bauji is lost in his own world- breaking peanuts, not looking at anything.

The peanut shells fall down slowly.

Mother taps him on the knee. He looks at her- then at Ajju.

PUSHPA

Apsey milne ko aaya hai..

Bauji turns to him, with unseeing eyes.

Rita looks at Ajju anxiously. Ajju wipes the sweat off his brow.

AJJU

Bahut achhi chai hai..

Main banata hoon toh hamesha strong ho jaati hai..

Main.. kah raha tha main shaadi karna chahta hoon- Rita se..

He just blurts it out. Chacha chokes on his chai.

Rita smiles. Mother covers her face with the saree.

Bauji keeps cracking peanuts.

Realizes that everybody is looking at him- waiting for his response.

He raises one hand and makes his favourite gesture that means- 'Whatever'

CHACHA

Tera kaam waam ka kuchh pata nahin hai..

Aamdani ka kuch jariya hai tera..?

AJJU

LIC ka agent hoon chacha..

Woh toh chal hi raha hai..

Aur yes ek exam diya hai.. sales tax department mein..

Gorment job ke liye..

Bauji gets up and leaves, as if he is not involved with any of this. Everyone looks at him.
He passes Rita- She looks at him.
Bauji stops by her- and raises his eyebrows to ask her what she wants. She says yes.
Bauji smiles at her- she smiles.
Bauji goes up to the terrace. Rita has seen something sad in his eyes.
Aju is bewildered by all this. Mother takes away the tea cup from his hand.

PUSHPA

Achha beta- phir aana, achha?

Others clear the table. Aju stands up quickly realizing he has been dismissed.
Rita is pushed into the other room by Chachi.
Aju tries to look for her everywhere as he puts on his chappals. Shammi is with him.
He points to the window. Rita waves at Aju from inside the window. Aju smiles.

SCENE – 20

Morning. Home.
Rita goes to her mom to ask for some money.

PUSHPA

Pagal hai kya?

Abhi pichhle somwar ko toh diye the pachaas rupaye..

RITA

Maa khatam ho gaye- do na bees rupaye..

PUSHPA

Nahi hai mere paas..

Tum logo ko dard nahi hai paise ka..

Rita has moved on to her father, he takes out 20 from his pocket and silently gives her. She leaves.

PUSHPA

College se sidha ghar aa jaiyo..

Mother shouts after her.
Bauji sits on the bed- his clothes in his hand- looking lost, listless.

PUSHPA

Kya kar rahe ho? Taiyaar nahin hona hai?

He gets up. Putting his clothes on slowly.

PUSHPA

*Kaise masar masar haath chala rahe ho?
Phir bhagoge- Yeh lo tiffin.
Bachchon se bhi badtar ho- hunh!*

Bauji is ready, begins to leave.

PUSHPA

Arre aaj toh puja kar lo..

He dismisses it with a wave of his hand. Leaves. She prays for him.

PUSHPA

Bhagwan ji maaf kar dena inko- Inka dimaag toh jaante hi ho na aap?

SCENE – 21

Late morning. Park bench in company baagh.
Aju and Rita are sitting there- She plays with his hands.

RITA

Waise toh tum bade James Bond bante ho- kal kya ho gaya tha?

AJU

Kya ho gaya tha?

RITA

*Kal toh barah baje hue the tumhare..
Haath aise hil rahe the jaise ki August kranti mein baithe ho..*

AJU

Arey nahi re..

RITA

Nahi mane kya? pasiney pasiney ho rahe the..

AJU

Woh toh garmi kitni thi kal..

RITA

*Jhoot mat bolo! Tumhari khisak gayi thi..(she laughs)
Nahi kya.. Bade hi cute lag rahe the tum..*

He looks at her.

AJJU
Sachchi?

She nods. He takes her hands and kisses them.

RITA
Kya kar rahe ho? Dekh lega koi..

AJJU
Toh ghar chal na..

She shakes her head in a 'no'. His face falls- she sees that.

RITA
Picture chalein?

AJJU
Kaunsi?

RITA
Jaunsi bhi chal.
Tere ko picture thode hi dekhni hoti hai..

He smiles. They leave.

As they leave- we reveal Ashok in his school uniform- behind a bush and watching it. He gets up, cigarette dangling from his lips- walks backwards, smiling, searching his pockets for a light. We see Bauji standing in the shade of a tree- buying peanuts- his back to Ashok. Ashok walks backward- bumps into Bauji. Both say 'sorry' without looking at each other. Ashok turns around- 180 degree- and sees Bauji- is zapped, tries to steal away. Bauji turns and sees Ashok, is zapped- tries to steal away. Both of them trying to escape unnoticed. Then they both turn slowly- at the same time and catch each other, now there is no escape. Their half bent bodies straighten up.

BAUJI
Arre Ashok?

ASHOK
Tayaji aap?

BAUJI
Arre main toh.. Main toh..
Office ke kaam se kuchh yahan..

Midway it strikes him that he doesn't have to defensive- He changes his tone.

BAUJI
Lekin tum yahan kya kar rahe ho? Hain? School nahi gaye?

ASHOK

*Nahi Tayaji.. Hum logo ka project report hai-
botany ka- phool patte.. ke liye..*

He looks around desperately. There is nothing close by. He bends and picks up a handful of grass.

ASHOK

*Yeh.. Yehi.. Achha Tayaji- main jaata hoon..
Der ho rahi hai.. Pranam.*

He leaves. Bauji stays- sighs and sits on the bench that was occupied by Rita and Aju some time back. We see Baaba, Panditji's son seeing Bauji- is shocked.

SCENE - 22

Home. Baaba runs up the stairs- panting.

Pushpa and Chachi give him water- he is still out of breath, trying to talk but unable to do so.

Finally he regains his breath. We see him telling the truth. Pushpa drops the steel glass from her hand.

Evening. Home.

Bauji climbs up the steps slowly. Comes in, holds out his tiffin, for his wife- she moves away.

Rita comes and takes the tiffin from him. Everybody is trying to not look at him in the eye.

Bauji wonders what is up- takes off his slippers and pours water on his feet, rubbing one on the other.

Chachi gives him chai. Everyone is silent.

BAUJI

Kya hua kya hai?

Nobody says anything.

BAUJI

Arre koi kuchh boleگا के नही..?

CHACHI

Aapkey office mein phone kiya tha.. woh bole ki..

Bauji understands. Looks at his wife- she looks at him accusingly.

BAUJI

Haan chhodh diya काम हमने..

PUSHPA

*Chhodh diya? Kitney aaram से कह diya chhodh diya-
woh bhi dus din ho gaye chhodhe huye-
kisi ko kaano-kaan khabar nahi..*

BAUJI

Arre jaruri hai kya har baat batana har kisi ko? Nahi bataya..

He is agitated. Everyone gives him space. He calms down soon.

BAUJI

Dekho aisa kaam main kaise karoon jahan logo se baar baar jhooth..

PUSHPA

*Tum kaun se satyavadi Harishchandra ho?
Dus din se jaake park mein baithe rahte ho saara saara din-
apney ghar mein sabse jhoot bolkey- ki office jaa rahe ho-
woh jhooth bolne mein tumko koi taqlif nahi hoti hai..
Aur kaam mein zara sa jhooth bolna padta hai-
toh kaam he chhodh aaye?*

BAUJI

Arre bhai uss jhoot mein aur iss jhoot mein bada phark hai..

PUSHPA

*Haan so toh hai hi na-
Uss jhoot ki tankhwah milti thi tumhe,
mahiney ke mahiney thodha paisa aata tha haath mein,
killat mein hi jitey the lekin, jaise taise kharcha toh nikal jaata tha-
Lekin aap toh khaandani raees hain-
Aapki toh dada pardaada ki zameen hai,
jaaydaad hain, soney ki khan hain- aap kyun naukri karogey?*

Bauji tries to say something but can't get a word in.

Pushpa's anger is fast giving way to tears.

PUSHPA

*Ab khaana sab soney ki intey aur chandi ke sikke? Theek hai?
Ek din main bhi sab chhodh chaadh ke chali jaungi- dekh lena..*

She gets up crying, and leaves the room.

Others are all uncomfortable, odd.

Bauji tries to smile bravely. After a while,

CHACHA

Bhai, chhod hi di, ki chhutti pe ho..?

BAUJI

*Arre bahut kar li naukri chakri-
Ab tum ho, Shammi hai...
Itni kati hai, aage bhi kat hi jayegi, hai ki nahin?*

Chacha does not know what to say- he nods silently.

SCENE - 23

Night. Chacha's bedroom.

Chachi is making the bed. Chacha sits on a chair in one corner.

CHACHI

*Pahle do log kama key lane waale the tab nahi poora padta tha-
Ab kya hoga? Tum kamao baaki sab khayenge?
Yeh achhi hai- khaana sab puri chhe chapati khaate hain-
kaam karne ko koyi taiyaar nahi. Shammi ko sharam nahi aati hai?
Woh kyun nahi naukri kar leta hai?
Sab ke sab muh baaye khadhe rahte hain..
Tum baat kyun nahi karte ho? Bol kyun nahi dete ho?*

Chacha nods.

Chachi knows it is no use- goes to her work and grumbling.

SCENE - 24

Home. Day.

Bauji is sitting on the bed.

There are a couple of guys from the neighbourhood who have come to see him.

As always chai is being served. Bauji picks up a small feather and drops it.

BAUJI

*Yeh maine chhodha aur yeh gira-
ab iskey pichhey kya kahani hai woh mujhe nahi pata..*

MAN

Gurutwakarshan- gravity..

BAUJI

*Woh mujhe nahi pata – tujhe bhi nahi pata-
bus itna pata hai ki yeh chhoota mere haath se toh girega,
aur toot jayega..*

PUSHPA

Lao idhar do glass- chhodh mat dena abhi..

BAUJI

Yeh mera jaancha hua sach hai- mera jiya hua satya..

PUSHPA

Utho abhi- jhadhoo ponchha kuchh nahi hua hai subah se..

The maid starts cleaning up- the men stand with their chai and keep talking.

MAN

*Haan Bauji lekin agar saari cheezein girti hain
toh uska koi karan hoga- sidhant toh hoga..*

BAUJI

Sidhant insaan ke hote hain..

MAN 2

Arre apne sidhant ke chalte toh bauji ne naukri bhi chhodh di..

Pushpa leaves the room grumbling goes to the kitchen where chachi is.

PUSHPA

*Pahle toh din mein ek aadh ghante aram karne ko mil jata tha-
ab toh yeh saara din ghar pe mandli..*

Back to the room. Ashok in his school uniform is also there- so is Rita.

MAN

Lekin kucch toh baatein hain jo ki.. jo ki hain..

BAUJI

Jaise?

MAN

Jaise ki prithvi gol hai..

BAUJI

*Le! Yeh gol dikh rahi hai tere ko? Yeh gol hai?
Bhai sapaat hai- dekh main chal raha hoon..*

Bauji walks with the fruit plate in his hand, dramatic. Some people laugh.

BAUJI

Dekh. Gol hoti toh.. main gir na jaata tha..

MAN

*Arre Bauji- bahut bada gol hai.
Dekho yeh tarbooz dekho- gol hai na?*

BAUJI

Haan bhai so toh dikh raha hai gol na- Uss se bhala inkar kaisa?

The man points to a small insect on the fruit

MAN

*Lekin yeh jo keeda hai, usey toh yeh gol nahi dikhta hai-
Uskey drishtikon se toh yeh sapaat hi hai na..*

Baooa chuckles- his feet on the bed as he rocks on the chair.

BAOOA

Toh Bauji samajh lo yeh tarbooz prithvi hai aur aap jo ho..

BAUJI

*Main keeda hoon- yahi kah raha hai na tu? Theek hai bhai
Ab keeda hoon toh keede ke drishtikon se hi toh dekhoonga na..*

MAN

*Yeh toh bahas ke liye bahas ho gayi Bauji
Jo baat sab sweekar karte hain- aap uss se kyon ulajh rahe ho?*

BAUJI

*Arre chhod- 600 saal pehle sab mante the ki prithvi sapaat hai-
Phir who gol ho gayi. 400 saal baad phir sapaat ho jayegi.
Lekin aadmi tab bhi chalta tha, aur aaj bhi chalta hai.
Chalo maan liya tum jo kah rahe ho who theek hai- Maan liya maine
Lekin uss se mere jeevan par kya asar padhega*

BAOOA

Kya Bauji- kuein ke mendhak jaisi baat karte ho..

Bauji looks up from his fruit.

Baooa is sitting on the chair, his feet on the bed, rocking the chair on its hind legs, looking very smug.

BAUJI

*Hoon- mendhak. Lekin apne kuein se parichit toh hoon.
Use jaan-ne ki koshis toh kar raha hoon.. (looks at others)
Dekh rahe ho? Kabhi saala keeda bolta hair mere ko, kabhi mendhak..
Yehi sikhaya hai tere maa baap ne tere ko, hain?
Jaahil kahin ka! Pair neeche kar ke baith!
Neeche kar pair.. Bada aaya hainga..*

Baooa is taken aback by this direct attack at him, quickly puts his feet down.

Bauji glares at him.

We see Shammi coming in the background, taking off his slippers- He comes into the room.
Takes out some money from his pocket; gives it to Bauji.

BAUJI

Yeh kya hai?

SHAMMI

Paise hain – meri pahli kamai!

BAUJI

Khush raho- Jaa apni amma ke haath mein de de..

He returns the money to Shammi. As he leaves..

BAUJI

Arre sun! Dikha kitne hain?

SHAMMI

Paanch hazaar..

Shammi keeps the money in his extended hand.

Bauji takes out a few notes from it and stuffs them in his pocket.

BAUJI

Jaa amma ko de de..

In the kitchen space.

Mother has tears in his eyes with money in one hand.

She blesses her son with the other hand.

PUSHPA

Jug jug jiyo beta- jug jug jiyo.. Shabaash..

Shammi looks at Ashok and winks at him. Both of them smile.

RITA

Maa sau rupaye toh de do mujhe..

Mother gives her the money happily. Rita jumps with joy.

SCENE - 25

Home. A little later. Evening.

The mandali is leaving after a stimulating session.

MAN

Baavle hain Bauji- lekin kuchh na kuchh naya angle nikal ke laate hain..

In the stairs they pass Chacha who is climbing up, morose.

They greet him but Chacha kind of ignores them and moves.

The two men look at each other, make a face and go down.

Chacha is taking off his slippers, calls out.

CHACHA

Ashok? Ashok hai ghar pe?

CHACHI

Haan hai na- padhai kar raha hai..

ASHOK

Haan papa..?

Chacha is taking off his belt.

CHACHA

Idhar aayiye..

Ashok looks at Shammi as he moves. He knows something is wrong- so does his mother.

CHACHI

Kya ho gaya?

CHACHA

Aayiye, idhar aayiye..

Ashok hesitates then steps out.

Chacha lifts his belt and hits him across the legs- Ashok winces. Then again. Ashok doesn't say anything.

CHACHI

Arre kya kar rahe ho? Kya hua kya hai?

CHACHA

Inse puchho- yehi batayenge- batao apni amma ko.. batao!

Ashok looks up at his father- doesn't say anything. Chacha loses it- hits him three four times- hard.

Everyone comes around but they know better than to stop him.

CHACHA

*Dus din se school nahi gaya hai- ganit mein fail hai-
report sign karana padega humse kar ke-
school he nahi jaa rahe hain-
Hum saale gadhe ke bachche hai
jo inki fees bhar rahe hai har mahine..*

He doesn't stop hitting him.

Ashok doesn't say anything- doesn't make a sound- doesn't even ask his father to stop, doesn't cry.

He looks at his father defiantly. His mother cries.

CHACHI

*Ab bus bhi karo- chhota ladka nahi hai-
itne bade ladke pe haath uthate ho-
bhaag jaayega ek din..*

CHACHA

Arre toh bhaag ja na- naamuraad!

Ashok looks straight into his father's eyes.

CHACHI

*Dekho toh haramjaade ko-
kaise ghoor raha hai dheedh ke jaise- dekho isko!*

Losing it again- Chacha lashes out on Ashok again.
People try and stop him- but he is quite mad.
Finally the belt breaks.
Chacha throws it at him goes into the room- shutting the door.
Everyone tries to comfort Ashok, who stands there like a statue.
Then he breaks free and runs to the terrace.
Chacha is walking like a wild animal in his room.

Ashok sits on the terrace- Shammi a few metres away from him, smoking, not saying anything.
Finally a few tears rolls down Ashok's eyes.

SCENE – 26

Night. Home.
Everyone is sleeping in the big room.
Chachi puts haldi paste on the wounds on Ashok's legs. Rita gets her another bowl of haldi.

Later- in the other room.
Chacha is lying down on his back- staring at the ceiling. Chachi is sitting her back against the wall-
caressing his head, running her fingers through his hair, silently.

SCENE - 27

Day. School. Bauji is with the maths teacher.

BAUJI

Fail kara dia aapne ladke ko?

TEACHER

*Nahi kya karta- dus mein se saat sawal
toh chhodh he diya in mahanubhav ne..*

Bauji shows him the question paper.

BAUJI

Toh aap sawal bhi toh aise tedhe medhe pooch rahe hain na!

TEACHER

*Na koi tedha prashna hai na medha-
Kuchh bhi out of course nahi hai.. Check kar lijiyega..*

The teacher gets up to leave- Bauji also gets up- they come out of the small room.

Ashok is out there waiting-

The teacher locks the room- gives Bauji one look- and starts moving down the stairs.

Bauji follows him, pleading with him. Ashok, embarrassed, follows them.

BAUJI

*Suniye Ramesh sir.. Suniye- yeh ladka hoshiyaar hai-
mehnati hai- baaki saare vishayon mein
number iskey achhe aaye hai- ek aapke ganit mein..*

TEACHER

*Mera ganit? Mera ganit nahi hai yeh sir-
Yeh CBSE ka ganit hai..*

Bauji comes and blocks the teacher's way- standing in front of him.

The teacher tries to dodge him as he speaks- but Bauji won't let him go.

He pushes the question paper at him.

BAUJI

*Ramesh sir- yeh galat sab sikha rahe hain aap bachcho ko-
Do samantar rekhayen infinity pe milti hain- prove karo-
yeh sawaal hai? Sawal hai koi?
Samantar rekhayen to samantar hain-
ek doosre se kabhi nahi mil sakti saath mein..*

TEACHER

Dekhiye main aapse bahas nahi karna chahta..

BAUJI

Kaise karenge bahas- jab aapke ganit ki buniyaad he galat hai..

TEACHER

Jaane dijiye aap..please..

BAUJI

*Pahle aap bataiye agar do rekhayen ek doosre se mil gayi
toh samantar kaise hain woh? Bataiye..!*

TEACHER

*Arey kahne ka yehi matlab hai-
infinity pe milti hai yaani ki kabhi nahi milti hain..*

BAUJI

*Wahi toh main kah raha hoon-
kabhi mil he nahi sakti hain..*

TEACHER

*Arre! Milti hain- infinity pe.. Proof hai kitaab mein..
Agar usne padha hota toh jaanta.*

BAUJI

Rail ki patri dekhi hai aapne?

Teacher manages to leave.

Bauji is by his side again- not letting him go.

BAUJI

*Dekhi hai? Kabhi milti hain do patriya –
Kabhi ek ho jaati hai kya?*

TEACHER

Infinity pe..

BAUJI

*Arre aisi ki taisi tumhari infinity ki!
Baat karte ho! Tumne dekha hai infinity? Kabhi gaye ho wahan pe?*

TEACHER

Yeh ganit hai..

BAUJI

*Yeh galat hai- jab woh do rekhayen mil gayi
toh phir saman antar kahan raha unmein?*

Bauji is banging his fist on the palm of his other hand- proving a point.

They have reached the main gate. There are lots of other kids running around- going home.

TEACHER

Watchman bahar nikalo inko..

BAUJI

*Arre jaa rahein hain- chal Ashok chal!
Lanat hai iss school pe- lanat hai aisi shiksha pe..*

WATCHMAN

Chaliye..

BAUJI

Kitni tankhwah hai tumhari..?

WATCHMAN

Jee?

BAUJI

Kitni pagar hai?

WATCHMAN

Jee 1200 rupaye..

BAUJI

Agle mahine se aadhi ho gayi toh kitni milegi?

WATCHMAN

Kyun sir?

BAUJI

Aadhi ho gayi toh?

WATCHMAN

Sirf 600.. lekin..

BAUJI

*(Turns to teacher) Yeh ganit hai-
isko bhi samajh aati hai- yahin baithe baithe-
kahin infinity pe jaane ki zarurat nahi hoti hai..
Samjhe? (He pulls Ashok)- chal!*

Teacher looks at him. The watchman is zapped.

WATCHMAN

Lekin sir- humne kuchh nahi kiya.. Ram kasam..

Teacher doesn't say anything.

WATCHMAN

600 mein kaise guzara hoga humara..?

SCENE – 28

Home. Day. Chachi is in the kitchen- she takes a pot off the stove- brings it out, pours the boiling liquid into another vessel and takes it back into the kitchen- leaving the hot kadhai outside. Pushpa comes pottering around- picks the kadhai and burns her hand badly- She screams in pain and drops the kadhai. Chachi comes out running.

CHACHI

Kya ho gaya..?

PUSHPA

*Satyanaash! Ek dum garam kadh hai yahan beech mein chhodh gayi!
Dekh zara- haath dekh..*

CHACHI

Tsk- jal gaya kya?

She picks the kadh hai carefully with a cloth.

PUSHPA

*Jal gaya? Chhaala padh raha hai-
Tune yahan bahar kaahe ko rakhi thi?*

Chachi gets some ice-cubes from the fridge.

CHACHI

Arre abhi teel palta tha usmey se..

PUSHPA

*Teel palat ke yahan chhodh diya beech mein-
taaki sab haath senk le apne?*

CHACHI

Lao yeh barf laga lo..

PUSHPA

*Achha abhi rahne de theek hai?
Chhaala padh gaya hai..*

Pushpa takes the ice-cube from her- she is crying in pain.

Chachi moves away- muttering under her breath.

CHACHI

Har cheez mein kalesh!

PUSHPA

*Kya boli? Main kar rahi hoon kalesh?
Main kalesh kar rahi hoon? Zakhm padh gaya hai haath mein-
jitna main chup rahoon, chup rahoon, utna he sab dabao mere ko..*

CHACHI

Achhha theek hai na bhabhi- ho gaya..

PUSHPA

*Haan haan- ho gaya iss baar-
agli baar ubalta tail he daal dijiyo mere sar pe- theek hai?*

Chachi is back to working in the kitchen.

She gives one look to her sister-in-law but says nothing.

SCENE – 29

Day. A barber shop. Somebody is getting a haircut.

Bauji is sitting there- gassing. There are three or four other people discussing. It's an adda.

Outside the shop we see Baooa- pointing towards the shop.

Then Pandit comes and moves towards the shop.

PANDIT

Kyun bhai Raje babu aajkal darshan nahi hote aapke..

Bauji see him and doesn't know where to hide. Everyone greets the Pandit.

PANDIT

*Bhagwaan ki zarurat nahi rahi aapko?
Hain? Ki vishwas hi uth gaya? Kahin naastik toh nahi ho gaye?*

He laughs at his joke. Bauji doesn't say anything.

Pandit stops laughing.

BAUJI

*Nahi Pandit jee- Maine ek phaisla kiya hai-
ki jis sach ko main dekh nahi sakta usey main nahi swikarunga..*

PANDIT

Toh kya chahte ho Bhagwaan swayam prakat ho jaaye tumhare samne?

BAUJI

Aisa kuchh prabandh karwa sakte hain Pandit jee?

Somebody behind Bauji laughs. Pandit doesn't like it one bit. He glares at the man, who shuts up.

PANDIT

*Jyada sayane ho gaye ho Raje babu?
Na dharm mein vishwas rah gaya hai no ishwar mein..
Pachhtaoge... pachhtaoge..*

Bauji tries to hold Pandit's hand. Pandit jerks it away.

Pandit makes a dramatic exit. There is a kind of silence in the room.

Bauji sighs and makes that gesture with his hand.

Ashok enters the shop, running- out of breath- a box in his hand.

He opens the box. He has brought sweets.

ASHOK

Mujhe pass kar diya tayaji..

He is grinning from ear to ear. Bauji jumps up from where he is sitting. Hugs Ashok.

BAUJI

Wah mere bete- wah!

Bauji offers sweets to everyone.

BAUJI

*Khao bhai munh meetha karo-
Itni badhiya khabar sunayi hai mere bachhe ne..*

SCENE – 30

Chacha and Chachi are walking through the small lanes. They pass Pandit ji and Baooa. Baooa greets them. They greet him back but move away with quick steps. Pandit ji seems angry. Chachi looks at Chacha, but Chacha looks determinedly ahead. They turn into a smaller lane to the right. A boy of 14 comes out and leads them. Chachi looks left and right as if she doesn't want anyone to see them. The boy takes them to a door- unlocks it- and opens the door for them. Chacha and Chachi go in.

SCENE - 31

The gambling den.
There are lots of players at many tables.
Shammi stands with a goon- looking just a little nervous.
A door opens- and they are called in.
This is the Boss's room- they tell him this is Shammi- whisper something in his ear.
The man looks at him, gets up comes to him. Shammi is shitting in his pants.

BOSS

Tune udhar liya hua hai?

SHAMMI

Jee chuka doonga...

BOSS

*Nahi chuka toh tu dega hi!
Udhari ka jua nahi hota hai samjha?
Aur main jo hai bank nahi chala raha hoon-
chala raha hoon kya?*

SHAMMI

Nahi..

BOSS

Tere 28,000 rupaye chadh gaye hain.. Kab dega..

SHAMMI

Jaldi..

Boss keeps looking at him.

BOSS

Chal..

Shammi quickly folds his hands- leaves.
He walks out- looking mighty relieved.

SCENE - 32

Night. Home.

They have just finished dinner.

Chacha washes his hands- Chachi is pouring water on his hands. They exchange a look.

Chacha wipes his hand with a hand towel, stand in the inner courtyard, leaning on a door frame.

Bauji finishes washing his hands- sits on the bed with a sigh- picks up a hand-fan and fans himself.

Chacha turns to look into Chachi who is putting things away in the kitchen.

She makes a face at him. Chacha silently tells her to calm down. Turns back to his brother.

CHACHA

Bhai apse kuchh baat karni thi..

BAUJI

Kya hua?

CHACHA

Nahi kuchh nahi.. Main soch raha tha- ki woh..

Hum log doosri koi jagah.. Shayad se.. Dekhne ki soch rahe the..

BAUJI

Doosri jagah? Samjha nahi main..

CHACHA

Nahi woh.. Yahan abhi..

bachhe bhi bade ho gaye hain..

BAUJI

*Kya kah raha hai?
Alag honey ki kah raha hai?*

Everyone is kind of stunned. Shammi looks up.
Ashok is zapped- Rita goes to Chachi..

CHACHA

Haan soch rahe the.. Aisa.. Agar..

Chachi speaks up from kitchen.

CHACHI

*Bolo na soch kya rahe the.. Itne saal toh ho gaye..
Abhi thodha apni jagah ho toh achha hai na..*

MOTHER

*Kya ho gaya Rishi? Kuchh baat huyi hai?
Kisi ne kuchh kah diya hai kya?*

CHACHA

Nahi bhabhi baat kuch nahi huyi hai.. Bus aise hi..

BAUJI

*Arre aise hi thodhe hi kuchh hota hai..
Aise hi ho gaya ? Saath rehne ka ek matlab hota hai-
Sub ko lagta hai pariwaar hai..
Hum ek doosre ke lagte hain kuchh.. Kuchh rishta hai..*

CHACHA

Haan bhai rishta toh phir bhi rahega hi na..

BAUJI

Haan lekin ek chulha hone ka maayne hai koi..

CHACHA

*Bhai lekin woh bhi ek soch hai na!
Aap toh baat karte ho anubhav ki-
Toh apna anubhav dekhe, ki..?*

BAUJI

*Kya taqlif ho rahi hai tere ko achanak?
Itne saal se theek tha-
Abhi kya anubhav ho gaya tera aisa
ki ghar he chhodh ke chale jaaoge..*

Chacha doesn't say anything. Hangs his head down like a small boy who has been reprimanded.
Bauji paces up and down.

Nobody says anything for a while.

BAUJI

*Doosra ghar itni asani se nahi milta hai aajkal!
Aaj tak toh socha nahi na in sab ke bare mein..
Dekhne jaoge toh pata chalega..*

CHACHA

Woh ghar pakka kar liya hai..

BAUJI

Pakka kar liya hai?

CHACHA

Idhar he hai- Hukma halwai ke peechhey wali gulli mein.. Paas he hai..

BAUJI

Kab jaa rahe ho..?

Bauji sits down on the bed, defeated- his hands resting on the bed.

CHACHA

Itwaar ko..

BAUJI

Theek hai phir- sub kuchh soch he liya hai tumne toh theek hai phir- jao..

CHACHI

Poochh nahi rahe the- bata rahe the..

Chacha still stands with his head down.

Bauji makes the famous gesture with his hand- which resignedly says- whatever.

Everyone is silent.

Fade out.

INTERVAL

SCENE -33

Day. Home.

In Chacha's room- hectic. Packing is going on.

Clothes from the cupboard taken out and wrapped in big bedsheets.

Ashok runs up the steps- announces.

ASHOK

Aa gaye thele waale..

CHACHI

Aa he jayenge- kah rahe hain jaldi haath chalao thodha..

The labour guys are standing, tightening their belts.

Labourers are moving the old godrej cupboard- tied with ropes- slowly down the courtyard- trying to avoid the many electric wires. Chacha supervises.

Bauji sits in his room- watching it from a distance.

Rita sits on the ground next to him.

Shammi stands with Ashok- a moment between them.

Mother sits on a patra near the kitchen; hand on her head- watching morosely.

Chachi comes into the kitchen. Suddenly mother pretends to be doing something.

Chachi is collecting her pots and pans.

Mother and Chachi exchange a look for a moment.

Neither says anything- Chachi waits, then – as she is getting up, mother speaks.

MOTHER

Suno bahu..

Chachi stays, not looking at her though..

MOTHER

*Uss din hum tum par chilla diye the,
isliye ghar chhodh ke jaa rahe ho kya tum log?*

Chachi turns to look at her, she melts.

CHACHI

Nahi bhabhi- woh baat nahi hai..

MOTHER

*Toh phir kaun si baat hai bolo..! Dekho koyi galti ho gayi ho,
toh hum haath jod ke maafi maang rahe hain tumse..*

She folds her hands, tears drenching her face.

Chachi, sits down next to her- holds her hands, and then hugs her- speaking in a low voice.

CHACHI

*Arre bhabhi kyun humarey sar pe paap chadha rahi ho?
Maafi hum aapse mangenge ki aap mangogi humse..*

MOTHER

Toh phir kyun jaa rahe ho tum log..?

Chachi doesn't say anything- looks at her- she is still sniffing.

MOTHER

*Pata nahi hai tumko inka kya haal hoga-
Aise koi aadhe mein haath chhodh ke alag ho jaata hai kya?*

CHACHI

*Arey bhabhi- kahan jaa rahein hum?
Idhar hi toh hai na- jor se awaaz bhi dogi toh sunayi padh jayegi-
Bula lena kabhi bhi aadhi raat ko bhi, aa jaayenge..*

Mother is still crying.

CHACHI

Aise ro-key bhejogi..?

Mother wipes her tears- tries to smile. Puts her hand on Chachi's shoulder.

MOTHER

Khush raho tum log- khoob phoolo phalo..

Chachi smiles, hugs her again, gets up and leaves.

Downstairs- the thela is loaded- things tied with ropes.
Ashok and Shammi go with it- meet pandit ji on the way.

PANDIT

Jaa rahe ho? Achha hai, achha hai- khush raho beta..

Shammi and Ashok both glare at him.

At home- Chacha and Chachi both go to where Bauji is sitting. He doesn't look at them.
They don't know how to say bye.

CHACHA

Achha bhai- aata hoon..

Bauji pretends as if he didn't hear anything. Mother comes to him- shakes his knee.

MOTHER

Arre jaa rahein hain..

BAUJI

Toh kya karoon, naachun?

Mother looks at Chacha- Chacha raises a hand to say it's alright.
He comes to Bauji- and touches his feet.
Bauji still doesn't look at him.
Chacha straightens up- looks at Bauji- still no reaction. He turns. Chachi touches Bauji's feet.
Bauji raises his hand and puts it on her head- still not looking at her.

BAUJI

Khush raho beta- khush raho..

Chachi gets up, trying not to cry, turns.
They leave.
Bauji keeps sitting there.

Mother and Rita both look down at the lane, leaning over the courtyard wall.
They see Chacha and Chachi in the lane- they look up, wave at them.
Rita waves back.

Bauji sits where he was.

In the new house. Things are getting unloaded.
Chachi seems excited- Ashok and Shammi are busy.
Chacha is a little lost- goes and sits on the bed there.
After a second- the bed caves in, Chacha falls.
Ashok and Shammi help him get out- Chachi laughs.
A boy serves tea in small glasses from a kettle to the labour and everyone else.

Tea in a steel glass. Rita takes it to Bauji- holds it out to him.
Bauji sits motionless- looks at her and nods.
Rita puts the glass by his side- then holds his head as if he were a child.
Bauji lets her, his face impassive.

SCENE - 34

Night.

Mother is in the kitchen- cleaning up after dinner.

Rita and Shammi are in Chachi's room.

The room looks very empty.

SHAMMI

Chal chal- raasta naap apna! Tera kaise ho gaya kamra?

RITA

Kyunki main pahle thi line mein..

SHAMMI

*Suno- Miss paraya dhan- abhi thodhe time mein
tum bhi chhodh chhaadh ke chali jaaogi..*

RITA

*Toh tab aa jaiyo na yahan- abhi toh rahne de,
please.. Bhai nahi hai tu mera?*

SHAMMI

Chal achha, yeh raag kisi aur ko sunana..

He moves her bed and puts his own there.

RITA

*Main jaake Bauji ko bolti hoon.. (no response)
Ab aaiyo tu chai maangne mere se..*

Shammi does not say anything; lies down on the bed- his arms under his head- smiling at Rita..
She rolls up her mattress and sheet, picks it up and kicks Shammi before leaving the room..
Shammi laughs. Spreads out all limbs- feeling the space- but his face shows no joy.

In the other room- Rita spreads her sheet- and lies down on it- covers her self with a sheet.
Bauji is lying down with his eyes open.
Mother comes into the room- Bauji closes his eyes.
Mother puts a glass of water next to him, looks at him- lies down and switches off the light.
Bauji opens his eyes again. Mother speaks- off screen.

MOTHER

So jao- kal subah uth ke phir matam mana lena!

Bauji sighs.

SCENE – 35

Morning.

The bathroom door opens- Shammi comes out in a towel.

Rita is leaving for college already.

She says bye to Bauji- who is sitting on the bed having chai.

He still looks morose. Rita looks at her mother once and leaves.

A little later- Bauji is filling a bucket of water. The phone rings. Bauji picks it up.

BAUJI

Hello.. haan kaun? Haaan ek minute (shouts)

Rishi! Rishi- phone hai...

Suddenly he realizes, is awkward- gives the phone over to Amma.

She talks on the phone- gives them the new number reading from a diary.

He is back to filling water in the bucket- no expression on his face.

Shammi leaves.

Bauji and Mother are alone for a minute. They look at each other- she tries to smile.

The house really feels empty.

Mother is ready to cry. She looks at Bauji, hoping for some sympathy.

He simply picks up the bucket and and moves away.

Bauji walks up the stairs, slowly- to the terrace- he puts down his bucket and starts watering his plants- one by one, diligently but not really caring.

We see his face through the leaves.

BAUJI

Kyun bhai aaj kya haal hai?

Aap kyun udaas ho bhai? Theek hai na, chalta hai,

sardi phir garmi phir basant-

yeh toh tumsey behtar kaun jaanta hai?

Aur tum Bhaiya..?

He goes on talking as he touches the leaves- till he comes to a plant that has suddenly bloomed- some seventeen flowers have come up overnight. He breaks into some sort of a sad smile.

BAUJI

Wah wah wah- bhai tum toh gold medal le gaye..

Achha yeh jo tumhari prem kahaniya bikhar gayi hai unhe utha loon?

Bahut bahut dhanyawaad..

SCENE 36

Day. A crowded street.

Ajju is walking with his cycle. Rita is looking at some on –the- road jewellery.

AJJU

Kuchh bole tere Bauji?

She waves a hand.

AJJU

Toh tu poochh le na unsey..

RITA

Tere ko samajh mein nahi aata kya kuchh?

AJJU

Kya?

RITA

*Tere ko bataya na-
Chacha ghar chhodh ke chale gaye hain..*

AJJU

Toh?

RITA

*Toh Bauji ekdum akeley padh gaye hain- Samjha?
Aur phir main bhi chhodh ke chali jaoon unko?
Unsey bardaasht hi nahi hoga..*

AJJU

Toh phir humaara kya hoga?

RITA

*Kuchh nahi hoga..
Aise hi shopping kar ke timepass karenge aur kya..*

Ajju looks dejected.

She gives him a look.

RITA

*Abhi sado mat- Jo hai so bata rahi hoon-
Meri marzi nahi chalti hai har cheez mein..
Yeh kaisa hai?*

She shows him some earrings. He is not really interested.

Ajju is unhappy.

SCENE - 37

Late afternoon. At the barber shop.

The mandali is there- Bauji is getting a haircut, not talking to anybody.

Mandali gang is trying to to get something started, talking amongst themselves.

MAN

*Bauji koyi koyi kahta hai- ki ek gyaan hota hai
jo ki paidaish se saath rahta hai- anubhav ke parey..*

Bauji doesn't react.

Others try to create a discussion.

MAN 2

Kaise, kaise?

MAN

*Jaise ki- kachua baalu par nikalta hai andey se-
aur nikalte he samudra ki taraf bhaagta hai..
Cheel aur baaz se bachne ke liye..
Lekin! Usey yeh kaise pata hai ki samudra mein
pahunch ke woh surakshit hoga- Woh toh abhi paida hi hua hai na..*

MAN 3

*Achha jee aisa hota hai..?
Yeh toh achambhe ki baat hai..*

They all look at Bauji from time to time to draw him into the conversation.

MAN

Toh Bauji- Kya kahte ho aap?

BAUJI

Bhai jaisi jiski marzi..

MAN 2

Yeh achhi kahi.. Haan..? Ha ha jaisi jiski marzi..

But Bauji is not laughing. The man falls silent.

Bauji takes off the sheet around him- pays the barber and leaves with heavy steps.

Others don't know how to react.

SCENE- 38

Afternoon. Home.

Once again. There are many people at home. Shibbo Babu's family- other relatives, some mandali members. All standing or sitting around Anil who talks deliriously and in one long continuous sentence.

SHIBBO

*Dekh rahe ho? Teen din ho gaye hain-
aise he chalta ja raha hai- utt patang bakk bakk bakk bakk..*

MAN

Doctor ko dikhaya?

SHIBBO

Haan dikhaya na- dawai di hai..

MAN 2

Kaun si dawai?

SHIBBO

Ek laal hai ek nili hai..

MAN 2

Achha achha..

The camera moves on to Sarup- looking tired- over other people who look at Anil with their mouths open and on to Anil, talking non stop.

ANIL

*Aise thodhe hota hai- jo kah diya usko karna bhi toh padhta hai-
main aapse pyar karta hoon-
kahne se toh kuchh saabit nahi hota na-
pyar karna bhi toh padhta hai-
pyar mein toh Shirin matka lekey chali gayi thi,
usey thodhe hi pata tha matka kachha hai-
phoot gaya matka paani mein- paani ho gaya –
bechari Shirin doob gayi, toh phir kya hua –
dubara janam hoga Shirin ka ..
Phir woh Laila ban gayi- Phir woh Heer bani-
banti rahi mit- ti rahi- pyar usko nahi mila, koi baat nahi hai-
kisi ko nahi milta... Iska yeh matlab thodhe hi hai ki koyi
pyar na kare, ya ki pyar mein khot hai-
ullu raat ko bolta hai- kyun bolta hai raat ko-
usko dumey ki beemari hai-
woh toh bechara saans nahi le paa raha hai-
pata hai ullu kaun hai- apna Jagat doodh wala-
kahta hai milawat nahi karta- milawat toh har cheez mein hai-
aasmaan se jab suraj ugta hai toh uskey laal rang mein peeley ki milwat hai,
neend mein sapno ki milawat hai-
ab aadmi hai to shareer hai- shareer hai toh ichha hai..*

He goes on with unseeing eyes.

Bauji bends in front of him, trying hard to make sense of what he is saying.

Rita also reacts to what he says about love.

MAN

Raat ko sota hai ki nahi?

SHIBBO

*Haan so jaata hai- thak ke-
phir subah uth-te hi shuru ho jaata hai..*

MAN 2

Shibbo Babu iskey na dimag ki nass chadh gayi hai..

MAN 3

*Meri Bhabhi shaadi ho ke aayi thi na-
to usko bhi shuru shuru mein aisa hi hua tha-
teen hafte mein apne aap theek ho gaya..*

MAN 2

Chadh jaati hai nass kabhi kabhi..

Shibbo Babu nods knowingly.

SARUP

*Pata nahi bhaiya- humne toh suni nahi aisi bimari kabhi..
Koyi nahi milta toh baith ke paudho se baat karne lagta hai..*

Bauji looks at her for a second- then back to Anil.

ANIL

*Obama aa raha hai- Obama! Itna shor macha rakha hai-
Obama ko toh English bolni aati nahi- kaise boleگا?
Pahle Hindi sikhega tabhi toh English sikhega-
seedi ek ek karke he toh chadhta hai aadmi- bahut chhalang maarega toh gir jayega-
phir jana kahan hain- jana toh kahin bhi nahi-
jab jana hi nahi toh kyun bhaag rahe ho aap?
Thahar jao na thodhi der- jo hai woh jaa raha hai-
aap kahin nahi jaa rahein hain- jaise ki train nikli hai station se-
train mein aap- bahar main- aap aagey chale gaye main toh wahin hoon-
lekin aapko lag raha hai main peechhey rah gaya-
main toh wahin khadha tha- golgappe kha raha tha-
phir agle din pet kharab ho gaya tha mera- kisi ko bataya nahi lekin maine
ki golgappe khaaye the- nahi toh kalesh hota tha- kyun karna kalesh-
Shirin toh doob gayi na- matka ussaka toot gaya.. Paani ho gaya..*

Bauji is listening to him with deep concentration.

BAUJI

Theek kah raha hai tu ekdum theek..

Some men have started reacting to Anil's delirium with laughter- in a good natured way. Shammi's cellphone rings. He takes it out of his trousers and goes out to the courtyard, talking on it. Bauji is fascinated by Anil.

SCENE -39

The gambling den.

Shammi is playing. He has a good hand- colour.

He bets more- till he is out of money.

Desperately he looks around to borrow some.

Boss's man gives him 2,000/- He bets it.

The other guy continues.

Boss's man puts in another 2,000/- for Shammi- asks for a show. Shammi waits with bated breath.

The other guy has a sequence. Money is gone. Shammi looks crushed. Boss's man gives him a look.

SCENE – 40

The barber shop. Mandali is in full force and Bauji in full form. One barber is cutting someone's hair- another is shaving a guy. Both barbers and customers are also drawn into the arguments.

MAN

Bauji aap kya vigyan ke vipaksh mein ho?

BAUJI

Main toh bhai gyan ke paksh mein hoon.

MAN

Yeh kaisa gyan hai Bauji jo kisi cheez ko manta hi nahin hai?

BAUJI

*Yeh gyan hai indriyon ka- Mann ka gyan hai
Samaj-boojh ka gyan hai*

SHARMA JI

*Bauji, vigyan ke chalte duniya chal rahi hai-
Sari sabhyata usi ki buniyad par khadi haii..
Log soch ke nakshe bana lete hain-pul bana lete hain- rocket bana lete hain..
Flyover, pankha, kapde, car, scooter- yeh sab dimag ki hi toh den hai..
Aadmi ka dimag na hota, toh langoor hota aadmi..*

Bauji gives out a little laugh.

BAUJI

*Sharma ji- Aap pata hai mujhe kiski yaad dila rahe ho?
Ek ganit ke master ji the- apne pariwaar ke saath jaa rahe the doosre gaon-
Raaste mein ek nadi padi, unhone apne pariwaar ki ausat lambai naapi-
Woh chah feet ke the- unki biwi 5 feet ki-
unke teen chhote bachche the.
Toh bole ki humare pariwaar ki ausat lambai 4 feet hai-
Nadi ki ausat gehrai 3 feet- toh hum aaram se paar kar sakte hain-
Chal diye. Phir pata hai na kya hua?
Beech mein jahan nadi 7 feet gahri thi- sab doob gaye..*

People laugh. Sharma ji is the butt of the joke- he doesn't like it.

BAUJI

Isliye kahta hoon ki dimag ki sunoge toh doob jaoge..

SHARMA JI

*Aur Bauji- aap? Aap uss aadmi ki tarah ho
jo ki ek gaon mein jaata hai- jaise he bus se utarta hai-
dekhta hai saamne gobar pada hai..
"Arre yeh kya hai? Lagta toh gobar hai-
Magar main kaise maan loon ki gobar hai"
Soongh ke dekhta hai- "haan bhai- boo toh gobar jaisi hai,
par main yakin kaise kar loo? Chhoo ke dekhta hoon"
Chhoota hai, "haan bhai lagta hai gobar hai-
Magar yakeen nahi karunga jab tak chakh na loon"
Utha ke chakh leta hai-
"Hai hai gobar hi hai- chalo achcha hua pair nahi pada.."*

Everyone laughs even louder. The joke is on Bauji now- he doesn't like it one bit.
The boy comes in with jalebi that was ordered- gives it to everyone.
People are still laughing. Sharma ji extends jalebi towards Bauji.

SHARMA JI

Lo Bauji- Chakh lo..

BAUJI

*Haan- chakhunga- jalebi bhi aur gobar bhi!
Aur jab chakh loonga tabhi manunga ki jalebi aur gobar mein antar hai!!
Tum log sab nasamajh ho.
Main aadimanav hoon-langoor hoon,
jungli hoon- pagal hoon- lekin kum se kum zinda toh hoon-
Jeeta toh hoon- tumhari tarah kaath ka ullu toh nahi hoon.. Zinda hoon..*

He is almost screaming.
Suddenly he collapses- looks like he has trouble breathing.
People make him sit.. They fan him.
Bauji is sick.

SCENE – 41

Late afternoon. Home.

Bauji is at home- doctor checks his blood pressure.

Some of his devotees are also there. So are Shammi and Rita.

Chachi has come home- she speaks with mother, helping her in the kitchen.

MOTHER

Rishi nahi aaye?

CHACHI

Nahi unka toh office mein he der der tak kaam chal raha hai aajkal.

MOTHER

Jab se gaye ho tum log- woh toh ek baar bhi nahi aaye..

Aadhi beemari toh wahi hai unki..

The doctor is prescribing pills to Bauji- in small packets.

DOCTOR

*Yeh subah naashtey ke baad-
yeh dopahar ko – aur yeh do raat ko soney se pahle..*

Bauji is taking the packets when one of the devotees speaks up.

MAN

*Lekin Bauji- jo doctor ne baat kahi usko kaise maan le-
yeh aapke anubhav mein toh hai nahi..*

BAUJI

Hain? Haani.. Sahi kah raha hai..

Bauji's hand freezes. He doesn't take the medicines.

DOCTOR

*Arre yeh blood pressure ke liye hai-
Nahi loge toh heart attack pad sakta hai- BP bahut high hai..*

MAN 2

Hum kaise maan le?

DOCTOR

Arre Doctor hoon main!

MAN

*Honge Doctor- humare Bauji nahi maante hain-
Hain na Bauji?*

BAUJI

Theek kah raha hai tu- Doctor sahib- maine faisla kiya hai ki..

MOTHER

*Arre kya faisla kiya hai? Ki bistar pakad loge?
Bekaar ki oot patang sanak chadha rakhi hai-
Doctor sahib main bataoon kya beemari hai inko-
Bolne ka rog laga hai..
Jab dekho nithallon ke saath baith ke
badd badd kiye jaate hain- uski koi goli ho toh woh de do-
Aur yeh goli hum kha lete hain- lao do humein..*

She snatches the pills from the doctor.
Rita comes and takes the pills from her.

RITA

*Kha lenge- main kah rahi hoon na khaa lenge-
khaoge na Bauji?*

Bauji, trapped in the situation, makes a wave with his hands.
Mother leaves. Doctor shuts his bag.

DOCTOR

250 rupaye..

Bauji digs in his pocket- there is only about 120 there.
Others contribute- Shammi also finds some 50 Rs.

Chachi and mother in the kitchen area.

CHACHI

Bhabhi kuchh paision waision ki zarurat ho toh..

MOTHER

*Arre nahi- abhi toh Shammi ka bhi kaam lag gaya hai..
Chal rahi hai.. Phir inka provident fund ka bhi paisa aane wala hai..*

CHACHI

Bata dena kuchh chahiye ho toh..

MOTHER

*Haan haan- kuchh sharam thodhe hi hai issmein-
apno se nahi lenge toh kis sey lenge?*

Chachi can see she is lying, that all is not well.

SCENE – 42

Night. Chacha's house. He is walking up and down agitated.

CHACHI

Aap jaa ke de aao na..

CHACHA

Arre maine de diya aur unhone le liya?

Tum kya jaanti nahi ho bhai ko?

Mai toh dushman hoon na unka

Chhota bhai thode hi na hoon..

CHACHI

Achha theek hai- mana hi toh kar denge- Mil ke hi aa jaana..

CHACHA

Woh aaye milne? Arre naya ghar liya hai-

uski khushi unhe nahi honi chahiye? Khushi toh door, baat tak nahi ki-

Ek baar gale laga lete the, toh kuchh ghis jaata tha unka?

CHACHI

Tabiyat kharab..

CHACHA

Maloom hai tabiyat kharab hai- maloom hai-

Chala jaunga milne- updesch dena band karo mujhe-

Mujhe bhi maloom hai kya sahi hai kya galat..

Chachi knows it's futile to argue.

SCENE – 43

Morning. Home.

Bauji is up- and on his bed. Shammi in his room, Rita goes in for a bath.

Mother gives Bauji tea.

MOTHER

Biskit khatam ho gaye hain- le aana aur..

He nods.

MOTHER

Neend aayi theek se..?

He nods.

MOTHER

Naashte mein kya loge?

He raises his hand, meaning- anything.

MOTHER

Arre kya ho gaya? Tabiyat theek hai na?

He raises his hand asking her to calm down, still not saying anything. Indicates everything is fine.

MOTHER

Toh phir bol kyun nahi rahe ho kuchh?

Bauji makes a gesture to say that he has decided from today he won't speak.

MOTHER

Pagal ho gaye ho kya?

He raises his hand- whatever.
Mother gets up, exasperated.

MOTHER

*Khud bhi pagal ho gaye ho-
humein bhi pagal kar doge..*

She runs into Rita who has just come out of the bathroom.

MOTHER

Dekh apne Bauji ko- Ab kya naya bhoot sawar ho gaya hai unko..

RITA

Kya hua?

MOTHER

*Arre mujhe kya pata kya hua- dekho-
Roz ka kya natak hai yahan..*

Mother moves away- Rita looks at her father, who seems to be calm.

SCENE - 44

Afternoon. Outside, we see there are more slippers here than ever before.
An indication of the growing Mandali.
Bauji is not talking.

MAN

Bauji.. Aise achanak kyun?

Bauji indicates that it is all useless.
That his wife made him realize how words create an illusion. Others try and understand.

MAN

*Bhabhi ne.. Achha.. Samjhaya? Ki bolna.. Nahi..
Shabd.. Wyarth hain? Nahi.. Achha parda.. Nahi..
Bhram- bhram! Parda karte hain.. Haan sahi hai Bauji..
Toh ab aap bologe hi nahi..?*

He shakes his head.

MAN

Maun vrat? Kabhi nahi bologe?

Bauji raises his hand- who knows.

MAN

Lekin bologe nahi toh cut nahi jaoge?

Bauji explains him he is not cut off from them- on the contrary- he is more attached. He has found another connection with life- with things, with objects- with beauty of objects, with the senses.
Another man starts talking to him silently.
Bauji laughs silently. Explains that he is not talking- but he is not deaf- he can still hear.

MAN

*Bol nahi raha hoon..
Magar bahra nahi hoon.. Sun sakta hoon..*

Everyone laughs.
The man who made the gesture- explains silently that he has also decided to not speak from today.
Bauji is a little shocked by his decision- but raises his hand. Others applaud.

MAN 2

Wah bhai Rakesh- tu nikla asli bhaqt Bauji ka..

Bauji is not sure if it is a good thing.

SCENE – 45

Night. Terrace.

Shammi and Ashok sit there smoking a cigarette.

SHAMMI

*Bura phans gaya re main-
kum hua tha saala 14,000 tak aa gaya tha-
Phir waapis tees ke upar..*

ASHOK

Phir?

SHAMMI

Phir kya- Kabhi toh paltenge pattey mere bhi..

ASHOK

*Chhodh do yeh na juye ka chakkar-
Khai saala..*

SHAMMI

*Gyan mat de!
Tees hazar rupaye chahiye- gyan nahi chahiye!
Waise bhi gyan ki iss ghar mein koi kami nahi hai..*

They sit quietly and smoke.

SCENE – 46

Amma is buying vegetables at the market.

She drags two big bags- gets a rikshaw, is trying to put bags in the rikshaw but they are too heavy.

Somebody picks her bags for her and puts them on the rikshaw.

Amma turns to see who it is. It is Chacha- Amma's face lights up. Chacha also has a big smile on his face.

MOTHER

Arre Rishi, tum, bhaiya?

CHACHA

Kaisi ho bhabhi?

MOTHER

*Theek hi hain..
Tum toh aise gayab ho gaye ki tumhara pata hi nahin..*

CHACHA

Aa jaaonga- aise hi- jaise aaj aa gaya ki nahin?

MOTHER

Aa ke mil lo Rishi-

Aisa na karo bhaiya, hain?

Bada yaad karte hain tumhe, din raat..

Chacha doesn't say anything. Amma sits in the rikshaw with some effort. Chacha helps her. She looks at him, wanting to say many things- but the rikshaw starts moving. She keeps looking back at him, raises her hand slightly. Then turns away, hiding her tears.

Chacha stays minutes after the rikshaw has gone.

SCENE - 47

A busy junction. Cars moving- honking. Chaos.

Amidst all this chaos- Bauji stands holding a placard over his head. The placard says.

"Sab yahin hai

Aankhe khol ke dekho.."

People in their cars and others look strangely at him.

He stands with a quiet poise, at peace.

SCENE – 48

Morning. Home.

The phone rings. Bauji looks around him- there is no one else- he goes and picks the phone.

He hears Chacha's voice- 'Hello', Bauji's face lights up- he breaks into a grin. Chacha says 'Hello' again.

Bauji nods vigorously- then realizes that Chacha can't see him- looks around desperately and makes some gestures at the phone. Chacha says 'Hello' one more time- then disconnects.

Bauji disappointed- puts the phone down.

In a second it rings again.

Bauji panics- runs out to call somebody. Rita enters the bathroom and locks the door. Bauji knocks.

RITA

Ruk jao 5 minute..

Bauji opens his mouth, shuts it- the phone is ringing again- Bauji runs to the terrace.

Pushpa is there- Bauji makes frantic gestures to her.

PUSHPA

*Kya hua? Kahan? Koi aaya hai? Kya?
Arre kya haath nacha rahe ho?
Hain- kya ho gaya- saanp? Saanp aa gaya?*

Bauji shakes his hands desperately- erase. Starts again.
She still can't understand anything.

MOTHER

*Gardan mein kuch ho gaya?
Phir- kaan mein- dikhao.. Phone?*

She finally gets the phone part- Bauji nods enthusiastically.

MOTHER

*Kisko phone karna hai? Doctor ko?
Arre kya ho gaya? Likh ke bata do..*

Bauji gives up. Runs back again.
The phone is still ringing.
Rita comes out of the bathroom- he runs past her.
Reaches the phone. It stops ringing. Bauji picks it up and puts it down.

RITA

Kya hua Bauji? Sab theek..

Bauji makes a resigned gesture.

Chacha's house.
Chacha is sitting next to the phone- visibly upset.
Chachi comes back with vegetables- He gets up, picks a towel and locks himself up in the bathroom.

SCENE – 49

Evening. Barber shop. Bauji and mandali.

MAN

Bauji aap kya punarjanam mein viswaas karte hain?

Bauji thinks- then shakes his head in a no.

MAN 2

Toh phir marne ke baad kya hota hai atma ka?

Bauji talks in gesture- someone interprets.

MAN

*Main.. Tum.. Hum sub.. To yahin hain- naayi ki dukan pe..
Nahi.. Dharti pe.. Main toh zinda hoon.. Murda..
Gala cut ke.. Marne ke baad.. Mujhe kya pata?*

MAN 3

Sahi baat hai- kisi bhoot pishach se he puchho bhaiya..

MAN 2

Bauji lekin swarg narak kuchh toh hota hoga..

Bauji indicates- 'Wait'!

He opens his big jhola- takes out the placard. It says..

'Sub yahin hai-

Aankhe khol ke dekho'

Somebody claps. Another guy touches Bauji's feet.

Night. Home.

Mother is trying to snatch the jhola from Bauji. He resists.

They fight over it. The bag tears. Placard falls out.

MOTHER

*Kya kar kya rahe ho tum?
Hain? Maloom hai kya kah rahe hain sub log?
Pagal kah rahe hain tumko- Pagal!*

He holds her in his arms- She is still agitated.

He gestures- "Look at me- look at me." She looks at him.

He gestures – "Do you think I'm mad?"

MOTHER

*Arre mujhe toh pahle se hi pata hai
kitne pagal ho tum?
Ab toh duniya ko bhi pata chal gaya na!*

Bauji smiles at her. She becomes calmer.

Bauji indicates to her- "Let them talk"

MOTHER

*Tumhe toh koi kuchh kahta nahi-
Sunate toh sab mujhe hain na!*

Bauji gestures- 'Let them'

She becomes quite.

He holds her in his arms. He rocks her.

Road. Chacha is going to office. He stops at the mandir.
Pandit ji gives him prasad. Then picks a newspaper.

PANDIT
Yeh dekha?

There is Bauji's picture in the paper. Chacha nods.

PANDIT
*Baat kyun nahi karte ho tum?
Samjhao! Tumhari baat toh sunenge..
Makhaul bana rahi hai duniya..
Humein toh sharam aati hai..
Bhai sabka hi naam kharab hota hai na..!*

Chacha, ashamed and angry, moves out.

Night. Shibbo babu, Sarup and some relatives are home.
A naked bulb hangs. Bauji is sitting with Anil- looking into his eyes. Anil keeps talking.

ANIL
*..Kahte hain ki baal ki khaal nikaal raha hai-
Nikaalo aap- koi bhi nikaal ke dikhaye,
Baal ki khaal kahan hoti hai-
Hoti toh baal kaat te huye dard nahi hota?
Lekin dard toh dil mein bhi hota hai- log safed jhoot bolte hain-
Aap ki daadhi safed ho rahi hai-
Safed jaise chameli ka phool-
Safedi ki chamarkaar- lagatar- baar baar..*

Bauji holds both his hands in his hands- still looking into his eyes.
Then Bauji closes his eyes, still holding Anil's hands.
After a while Anil becomes quiet.
A classical song starts playing with lyrics talking of love- something like..
*"Agar main jaanti kitni dukh preet mein hai-
Dukh ke dariya mein doob ke preet diwani hoti main.."*

Anil is silent. Bauji opens his eyes and looks at him.
Smiles at Anil. Anil's eyes seem focused now.
After a while- he smiles back at him- as if he has woken up from a deep sleep, looks around.
His family reacts with surprise and joy.
Even Pushpa looks at Bauji, surprised.
The song keeps playing.

SCENE – 50

Home. Early morning. The song continues.
Mother has just woken up. She is in the kitchen- making first chai of the day.
Shammi is still sleeping.
So is Rita. Bauji is awake- sitting next to the radio.
The singer sings of love- Bauji listen to the song with complete attention.
Slowly teas roll down his eyes. He is not sad- but it's like he has understood something.
He keeps crying.
His wife brings him chai. Bauji quickly wipes his tears- can't hide it though.
Wife asks what happened with a shake of her head. He looks at her, and hugs her. She leaves.
Rita is waking up.
He calls her to him.
Tells her something with his gestures. She tries to interpret.

RITA

*Socha.. Aapne.. Kya?
Main.. Kya? Deewar?
Ghar.. Dulhan? Shaadi!!? Sachchi??*

He nods yes.
Rita is happy- but doesn't want to show how much.

RITA

Soch liya na achhe se?

Bauji nods.

RITA

Baad mein pachtana mati!

Bauji smiles. She touches his face- and leaves.
The song concludes.

SCENE – 51

Roads. Day.
Rita is walking very fast- she'd like to run- but dosen't.
She crosses some people she knows- hurrying past them.
Turns into a small lane, runs. People look at her.

She knocks on a door. Many times.
Ajjju opens the door- and draws her in quickly. She walks in non chalantly.

AJJU

Yahan?

RITA

Haan.. kyon?

Ajju looks out at the street, shuts the door .
She takes off her dupatta and flings it on him.

AJJU

Kya kar rahi hai?

RITA

*Kyon? Main teri tarah darpok daddu nahin hoon, samjha?
Jo mere mann mein aata hai woh karti hoon..*

She snaps her fingers at him. Ajju is zapped.
She leaves him and lies down on the bed.
He sits on a chair near the bed, looking scandalized. He gives her dupatta back to her. She lets it fall.

RITA

Kitni gandi chadar hai- Chhee!

AJJU

Kisi ne dekha toh nahin tujhe yahan..

RITA

Dekha bhi toh kya? Kisi ke baap ka dar hai kya?

AJJU

Rita- tu.. dekh, phir meri kutai ho jayegi bina baat ke..

RITA

Arre Ghonchu, Bauji ne haan kar di hai.

AJJU

Haan kar di hai.. Kis ki..?

Haan kar di? Haan kar di?

She is smiling from ear to ear.
Finally he gets it- is super excited, comes to her. She pushes him away.

RITA

*Ae-Kya chahiye tujhe?
Main waisi ladki nahin hoon..
Mujhe kya Sheila ki jawaani samjha hai?*

AJJU

Nahin main toh..

Suddenly she holds him. They kiss and she pulls him on the bed.

SCENE - 52

Traffic junction.

Bauji stands with his placard- a pleasant smile on his face.

Some people in their cars now see him everyday.

They say 'hi' to him, or applaud him.

We reveal- in some distance from him there is one of his chelas standing with a placard.

'Sub kuch yahin hai-

Kaan khol kar sun lo..'

Bauji takes a few steps away from this man.

The man takes a few steps towards him.

We reveal there is a third man, another chela also with a placard.

'Sub kuch yehin hai-

Soongh ke dekh lo..'

Bauji can't get away from his followers.

SCENE - 53

Late evening. Streets.

Shammi is buying cigarettes from a shop.

There are two guys on the other side of the road, leaning on their bicycles- chatting.

Shammi walks through the crowded lanes.

We realize the two cyclists are riding slowly- keeping a distance from Shammi.

Shammi turns the lane.

The cyclists pick up speed and turn the way he had gone.

We see Shammi running- the cyclists chase him.

They close in on him. Shammi dodges them.

Now they are in a deserted kind of a lane.

The cyclists give him a chase- then jump off their bikes and run to grab him.

Shammi is brutally beaten by these two men.

Shammi doesn't protest anymore- just tries to save his face.

SCENE – 54

At home. Everyone is collected.

Shammi has a few broken bones- his face is badly bruised.

Everybody talking at the same time- camera is on Shammi.

MAN

Isney bhi kuchh toh kiya hoga-

Bagair baat ke koi thodhe hi..

MAN 2

Chhokri wokri ka chakkar hai kuchh toh bata deyo bhaiya..

MOTHER

Arre hota toh batata nahi kya?

Hai kya kuchh, beta?

Shammi shakes his head very slightly.

A glass of milk comes in front of him- with haldi in it.

Shammi takes it, starts drinking from it.

MAN

Sabse pahle toh police mein report likhao jee- khatam karo tanta!

Shammi stops drinking his milk. Speaks with difficulty.

SHAMMI

Koi zaroorat nahi hai- Bauji.. maine paise udhar liye the..

Wapis nahi kar paya time pe- issliye..

Now we cut away from his face.

MOTHER

Paise liye the? Kitne?

SHAMMI

Athtees hazar..

Mother sits down, stunned- hand on her head.

Bauji comes forward to Shammi- questions him with a shake of his head.

Shammi can't look into his eyes.

SHAMMI

Woh paise liye the.. (pause) Juwe ki liye..

MAN

Pata tha mujhe!

Aise kyun maarega koi bina baat ke..

MAN 2

Kidhar jaata hai tu? Gopi ke adde pe?

Shammi nods. More chaos and drama unfolds.

MAN

Lo jee lo- ho gaya phir-

Ab chale jao police ke paas..

MAN 2

Police bhi katrati hai Gopi pe haath daalte..

Two men take Bauji away.

MAN

*Yeh kaise phans gaya- aap ka beta.. Aapka beta?
Juye mein! Woh bhi Gopi ke yahan? Tch!*

Bauji tries to calm them down.

MAN

*Woh bada he khoonkhar aadmi hai Bauji..
Dekh hi rahe ho kya kiya hai usney-
Aur uski koi seema nahi hai-
Chakku wakku toh woh aise hi phainkta hai..*

MAN 2

Chaar murder ke case hain pahle hi uske upar..

Bauji seems to lose his balance.

MAN

Bhai doosre ko kya bolna jab khot apne hi yahan pe hai.

MOTHER

*Lo bhai hum toh soch rahein the ki iski naukri lagi hai koi!
Haramkhor tune juya shuru kar diya hai..*

SHAMMI

Juye main mehnat nahi lagti hai kya amma?

MOTHER

Bataoon main tujhe?!

MAN

*Bauji bahut buri latt hai yeh-
aadmi ko ekdum le ke dooba deti hai..*

Bauji listens to everyone, with some anxiety.

Suddenly he turns to one of his chelas and slaps him really hard on his face.

The chela is stunned

CHELA

Bauji.. maine kya kiya..?

But Bauji has left them- he goes to Shammi. Shammi looks at his father.

Bauji makes a gesture- to not worry.

That he'll handle it- that he will go and speak to Gopi. He seems confident.

Only when he turns away from Shammi, we see that he is both worried and scared.

The disciples are trying to deal with the slap.

MAN

Prasad hai beta, Bauji ka..

BAOOA

Abe tere ko toh first prize mil gaya..

Tere ko hi Bauji sabse jyada prem karte hain, isiley Prasad mila hai..

The guy who got slapped, begins to smile.

SCENE – 55

The gambling den. Night.

People playing as usual. In the background we see the door open- and Bauji enters.

Bauji feels like he has entered an alternate reality.

The door opens again and two of his chelas come in- then two more. Then another 6-7.

Gamblers turn to look at this gang.

Bauji and his chelas stay where they are, taking in this world. Two of the goons go to Bauji.

GOON

Kya hai?

Bauji smiles at him. One of the chela speaks up.

CHELA

Jee.. Woh.. Humein Gopi ji se milna tha..

GOON

Koi Gopi Wopi nahi hai yahan..

Bauji nods his head- meaning we know Gopi is here, still smiling.

GOON

Kya kaam hai?

Bauji indicates that they need to see Gopi and can tell him only.

GOON

Ae- goonga hai kya?

CHELA

Suno bhaiya- yeh Bauji hai..

GOON

Bauji ? Kiske Bauji?

CHELA

Shammi ke Bauji..

GOON

Kaun? Achha woh jo bawle ho gaye the?

CHELA

Gopi ji se milna hai..

Goon gives them all a look- and then goes to the other room. Bauji and Chelas wait. Most of them seem scared and intimidated. Not Bauji- who is taking in the sounds and smells of the place- touches the shirt of the other goon. Goon pushes his hand away. Bauji apologises.

The other goon comes back and opens the door for them- Bauji goes in, insists that others are allowed in as well. Gopi gets up to meet them.

GOPI

Kya hai?

Bauji thinks, and then coughs- makes a gesture, and then decides.

BAUJI

Namaste.. Main Shammi ka Bauji hoon..

Chelas are surprised to hear him talk. They exchange smiles.

GOPI

Toh? Dhamkane aaye ho mujhe?

BAUJI

*Nahi Beta.. Main kyun dhamkaoon aapko?
Balki.. Woh usney paise liye hain aapse..*

Bauji digs into his pocket, takes out some money.

BAUJI

*Yeh.. Chheh hazar hai athtees mein se..
Yeh rakh lijiye.. Aapne bade bhai ki tarah aagey aake
uss bechare ko karz diya,
Main bahut abhari hoon aapka.. Kitni ajeeb baat hai..*

GOPI

Kya kah rahe ho- saaf saaf bolo..

BAUJI

*Sab log darte hain aapse-
Aapse milke yeh itna vichitra lag raha hai mujhe-
Aapse kyun koyi darta hai? Aap sabhya hain sushil hain-
Phir bhi log samajhte kuchh hain.. Log bhi na!*

GOPI

Baithiye- chai piyenge aap?

BAUJI

*Dekh rahe ho? Issey kahte hain sanskaar.
Kya kya baat karte hain log bahar-
Kehne lage Shammi ko Gopi ne pitwaya hoga-
Arre bhai dekho-Yeh Gopi hai..
Aisa nek insaan bhala kyun kisi ko pitwayega..
Jaisi aapki tasweer kheenchi inhone,
mujhe laga ki koi badtameez aur badmaash aadmi hoga..
Magar aap.. Aap toh kisi ka bhi dil jeet lo, do minute mein..*

Bauji sits down.

GOPI

Shammi bhi bahut achha ladka hai..

BAUJI

*Bahut! Thodha bachpana hai usmein,
Woh toh khair umra ke saath seekh lega-
Achha toh yeh aapka jo... karobaar hai- kab se chala rahe ho?*

GOPI

*Ho gaye koi 12 saal..
Aap khelte ho teen patti?*

BAUJI

*Maine seekha hi nahi kabhi..
Saari zindagi gadha majuri kiya hai na..*

Bauji laughs. Gopi also laughs. They are having an easy conversation.
Even the chelas are getting relaxed. Some of them also pull up chairs and sit.

GOPI

Toh usmein kuchh nahi-bachcha bhi seekh sakta hai..

BAUJI

Bhai meri samajh kam hi hai thodi..

Chelas laugh. Door opens- chai comes in.

As the chai comes, camera moves out of the door- over the tables and many players- we reach a table where Bauji is standing watching the game, his arms folded over his chest.. He is in a different shirt- its another day. Gopi stands next to him, explaining the game. Bauji seems truly intrigued. Sometimes he asks questions. Gopi explains the rules. Bauji is beginning to get a hang of it.

Bauji says something to Gopi- Gopi nods enthusiastically.
Bauji sits at the table. Takes out 54 rupees from his pocket. Gopi watches.
Cards are dealt.
Bauji picks his cards- looks at them- folds. Watches the game.
Cards are dealt again.
Bauji folds again, his face dropping.
Cards are dealt again. Bauji picks his cards. It is a colour. Bauji plays five rupees.
Another guy is blind. Soon Bauji runs out of money.
Gopi puts 500 of his own- Bauji tries to protest but plays on.
Show.
Bauji wins. He is ecstatic. He jumps for joy.

SCENE – 56

Home. Day. Mandali.
Today even mother is part of it.

BAUJI

*Jhoot bolna bura hai-
juwa bura hai.. Kaun kehta hai bhai?
Main toh kal khela tha juwa, mujhe toh bada aanand aaya-
usmein bura kya hai?*

MAN

Lo ji- aap jhoot bolne ki shiksha de rahe ho logo ko?

BAUJI

*Ek baat kah raha hoon-
Faisla kisne kar diya ki sach achha hai aur jhoot bura?
Main toh din mein 18 baar jhoot bolta hoon- sach mein..
Tumne poochha chai kaisi hai- maine kaha badhiya- jhoot tha..
Tujhe dekh kar maine kaha ki bhai mila karo tumhari yaad aati hai-
jhooth tha.. Teri kameez ki taarif maine ki thi subah, jhooth!
Phir? Woh jhoot sun kar tum log khush the-
Ab sach sun kar dukhi huye na?
Issey kya shiksha mili? Ki- jhooth achcha hai, sach bolna bura.*

MAN 2

Aur Bauji, Juwa?

BAUJI

*Bhai main toh patton se dosti kar ke aa raha hoon-
Anko se dosti.. Ramesh sir aap toh ganit padhate hain-
Aap he batayiye-
kitna saundarys hai- jab teeno patte ek hi rang ke hote hain..*

RAMESH SIR

Yeh toh sambhavnao ka khel hai..

Bauji goes up and kisses Ramesh.

BAUJI

*SamvHAVnao ka khel.. Kitne achhe se aapne vyakhya di hai- wah!
Bhai zindagi bhi toh wahi hai- sambhavnao ka khel..
Patte aapko milte hain- woh aap badal nahi sakte..
Woh aapki takdir hai- magar-
unkey saath khelna kaise hai- woh aapke haath mein hai-
Woh karm hai tumhara.. Samjhe?
Sambhavnao ke iss khel mein jo kam galtiyaan karega woh jeet gaya.. Bus!*

Bauji has had an epiphany.

SCENE – 57

Gambling den.

Bauji is playing. He wins a hand. Broad smiles.

Gopi stands and watches- then moves away to his cabin with his goons.

Another hand is dealt. People play blind.

Bauji goes for his cards.

PLAYER

*Arre Bauji itna mota haath jeete ho-
Ek aadh blind toh chal lo..*

BAUJI

Beta bina dekhe main kisi cheez ka viswaas nahi karta hoon..

Bauji picks his cards- re arranges them.

Bauji puts 100 rupees.

The game continues.

A goon comes to him and whispers in his ear that Gopi wants to see him.

Inside the cabin- Bauji is seated as Gopi makes him an offer.

GOPI

*Bauji main chahta hoon-
Aap company ki taraf se khele..*

BAUJI

Main? Main toh anadi hoon beta..

GOPI

20,000 रुपये mahine ka pagar...

Bauji is shocked, leans slightly forward.

GOPI

*Upar se jitna aap jitoge- uska 25 pratishat aapka..
Haar puri meri boliye..*

Bauji half stands up with folded hands.

GOPI

Baithiye na..

Bauji sits again.

BAUJI

*Beta bada upkaar hai tumhara- tum toh ekdum..
Ekdum hukum ke ikke nikle beta..*

Tears flow from his eyes, voice chokes. Gopi puts his hands on his folded hands.

GOPI

*Bauji main toh business waala aadmi hoon-
Jahan do paise kamane ka sadhan milta hai,
ussi raaste ho leta hoon.. Manzoor hai?*

Bauji smiles through his tears, nods yes.

SCENE – 58

Bauji is at a halwai shop.

BAUJI

Aur sun- yeh imarti kaise di?

HALWAI

160 रुपये kilo..

BAUJI

*Theek hai- adha kilo woh bhi de de..
Achha sun.. Ek kilo de de, tub hi kya yaad rakhega!*

As the halwai packs- Bauji sees Chacha at the shop opposite.
He is suddenly uncomfortable- pays up quickly, gives him one more look, wanting to disappear.
Chacha is getting a paan wrapped.
Turns and sees his brother-equally uncomfortable.
Gives Bauji one more look, wants to speak to him- but by then Bauji leaves with quick steps.
Chacha stays there- suddenly sad and remorseful.
He can't hear the paanwallah who is giving him his change back.
Chacha moves away with slow, tired steps.

SCENE – 59

Home. Late afternoon. Ajju's parents have come over.
There are other relatives, Shibbo Babu's family, Chachi and Ashok- a few of Bauji's chelas.
There is a bit of formality and awkwardness in the air.
In the midst of it all Rita and Ajju find ways to exchange glances and smiles.

AJJU'S FATHER

Our Pandit has.... Decided that the 28th of the next month
Is the most... auspicious day...

SHIBBO BABU

Agle mahine ki 28 tarikh kah rahein hain

BAUJI

Jo bhi din aapko bhaata hai hum taiyaar hai..

AJJU'S MOTHER

Ab toh iski naukri bhi lagva di hai inhone, sales tax mein

Ajju's father keeps standing, looking smug- and out of place in his ill fitting three piece suit and a cap.
Ajju is looking at Rita, trying to catch her eye. She does not look at him at all.

AJJU'S MOTHER

*Bhai ladki aapki bahut hi sushil hai.
Ab ladki dekh li, toh ab janam patri kya dekhna..*

Bauji puts a hand on Rita's head, feeling proud.
A chela whispers something in his ear. Bauji remembers suddenly.is alarmed.

BAUJI

*6 baj gaye? Arre toh bataya kyun nahi..?
Bhai mujhe zara maaf kijiyege.. Main zara.. zaroori kaam se...*

MOTHER

Abhi?

BAUJI

Haan abhi- tumhe bataya toh tha..

Nahi nahi aap baithiye- yeh hain..

Shibbo babu hain- Yahi ghar ke karta dharta hain.. Chalo bhai..

AJJU'S FATHER

So.. it has...been decided!

BAUJI

Haan, haan. Aap chinta mat kijiye.

Shaadi aapke hisab se hi- tip top English hogi..

Ajju's father nods.

Bauji motions his chelas to leave and they rush off in a hurry.

Rita can't believe her father is leaving.

Shibbo babu gives Shammi an earful.

Shammi looks disgusted, but helpless.

SCENE – 60

Gambling den. Night.

GOON

Buska nahi uskey..

GOPI

Arey budhda kar lega- dekhna tu-

Main kah raha na kar lega..

The door opens- Bauji enters. Gopi gets up- puts an arm around him, talks to him as a friend.

GOPI

Aayiye Bauji- aayiye.. Bauji aapse ek kaam hai-

Mera ek dost hai, Harmeet- bada purana dost hai-

Ussne na mere kuchh paise dene hai- karib 40,000/-

Mujhe khud maangte huye itna sankoch hota hai..

BAUJI

Arre ismein sankoch ki kya baat hai-

Paise ke liye sankoch nahi karna chahiye..

GOPI

*Agar aap usey ek baar yaad dila dete-
Meri taraf se toh bahut ahsaan hota aapka..*

BAUJI

*Bus ab aur sharminda mat karo mujhe..
Main jaoon, khelne?*

Bauji leaves. Gopi smiles at his goon.

SCENE – 61

Day. Streets.

A man gets off his two wheeler. As he parks it- Bauji comes to him.

BAUJI

Ji namaskar- Aap Harmeet ji hain?

HARMEET

Haan- Aap kaun?

BAUJI

Ji main aapke dost ka dost hoon- Gopi ka..

Harmeet seems a little at a loss suddenly.

HARMEET

Toh?

BAUJI

*Bhai who badi tareef karte hain aapki.
Aap bade hi khushkismat hain Harmeet sahib-
Itna bada ghar hai, Gopi jaise dost hain aapke..*

HARMEET

Main paise na doon toh?

BAUJI

*Paise? Maine paise ki toh baat hi nahin ki.
Dekhiye aap logon ke beech mein jo hai, woh toh aap hi janein.*

HARMEET

Koi sabot hai kya Gopi ke paas? Hai kya?

BAUJI

*Dekhiye unhone mujhse ek baat kahi, maine unka viswaas kar liya-
Agar aap kah rahein hai ki nahi diye hain, toh..*

HARMEET

*Main kab kah raha ke nahi diye hain..
But does he have a proof?*

BAUJI

*Harmeet ji unhone aap ko court kachahari thodhe hi na le jaana hai
jo ki saboot chahiye hoga.. Woh toh dost hain aapke..
Aap nahi bhi denge, toh main unko bata doonga jaake..*

Everything that Bauji says normally seems like a veiled threat to Harmeet. He looks around the street, takes him inside the house. Bauji sits on the sofa without being invited to. Harmeet stands.

BAUJI

*Harmeet ji doston mein kabhi kabhi kuchh anban bhi ho jati hai.
Magar achha nahin hai yeh- Kal ko ho jaye..
Ek ki maut ho jaye.
Zindagi ka kuchh pata nahin hai- Aaj hai, aaj nahin hai.
Haath hai, pair hai- kal ko toot jaye.
Koi gadhi ke neeche aajaye. Gayi jaan- phir?
Man mein khali malal reh gaya ki bhai apne dost ke
45,000 wapis karne the- who reh gaye..*

HARMEET

Chalis..

BAUJI

*Haan job hi- Aap samajh rahein hain na Harmeet sahib?
Paisa toh aani-jaani cheez hai.
Magar kuchh cheezein hain jo ki jaa kar wapis nahin aati hain-
Jaisi- dosti waqt,jaan...*

Harmeet looks quite pale. He collapses on the sofa.

In the gambling den- a phone rings- Gopi picks it up, talks into it, disconnects and smiles at his goon.

GOPI

Maine kaha than a Buddha kar lega..

SCENE - 62

Night. Home.

Shammi and Rita are watching something on TV in what used to be Chacha's room.
Bauji and mother are alone for once.

MOTHER

Itne paise aaaye kahan se?

BAUJI

*Arre kahin se bhi aaye-
Nahi kamata hoon toh tum dukhi hoti ho,
Kama raha hoon toh bhi dukhi ho..*

MOTHER

Dukhi nahi hoon- Chinta hoti hai..

BAUJI

Arre kaahe ki chinta..

MOTHER

*Beti ki shaadi hai-
Kitna kharcha hoga pata nahi hai tumhe?*

BAUJI

Toh aa raha hai na paisa..

MOTHER

Juwe ka!

BAUJI

*Nahi bhai- juwe ka nahi hai-
Kaam kar raha hoon- naukri lagi hai..*

MOTHER

Tumhe kaun dega naukri?

BAUJI

*Tumhe lagta hai meri koi aukat nahi hai-
Lekin duniya mein bada samman hai mera...
Idhar aao na zara..*

He pulls her. She resists.

MOTHER

Kya kar rahe ho-bachche hain ghar mein!

BAUJI

Arre bachche TV dekh rahe hain.

MOTHER

*Chhodho- pagal ho rahe ho kya?
Itne bade guru ho gaye ho aur harkatein aisi neech ..*

BAUJI

Ismein neech kya..

MOTHER

*Nahi! Yeh taar itne din se nanga padha hai,
Usey toh theek karne ka waqt nahin hai tumhare paas..
Yeh sab ke liye hai..?*

She leaves him and gets busy with some work.
Bauji sighs, lies down on the bed.

SCENE – 63

Evening. A very small printing press.
Bauji and Shammi with Harjeevan, who runs the press- also a chela.
They see the proof of one wedding card. It is the usual card- crowded.

BAUJI

*Bahut sundar hai.. Lekin suno bhai Jeevan..
Yeh jo border aapne lagaya hai.. Iskey bagair ho toh?*

JEEVAN

*Bauji ekdum sahi kah rahe hain aap..
Main bhi soch raha tha- Ae dada- idhar aao.. Dekho yeh..*

He hands the card to the compositor.

The screen is filled with another card- without the border.

BAUJI

*Lekin yeh saare naam waam
likhne ki kya zaroorat hai- hain?*

JEEVAN

Nikaal dein?

Bauji nods.

Another version of the card. Less cluttered.
Bauji looks at the Ganesh- Laxmi on top of it.

BAUJI
Isko agar..?

JEEVAN
Yeh toh Bauji har card mein jaata hai.. Shubh hota hai..

Bauji makes a face, coaxing him to take it out.

Another version of the card. Even simpler.
Bauji takes out more things. The card simply states now.
*"Rita aur Ajju ki shaadi hai
28 february- saandhya 7 baje.
118, gulli tota maina, Fatehpuri, Delhi – 6.
Avashya padharein."*
Bauji sees it.

BAUJI
*Haan behtar hai.. Lekin laal card pe kyun?
Safed pe kyun nahi?*

JEEVAN
*Bauji shaadi ka card toh laal pe hi..
Lekin haan.. safed ki saadgi.. Dhanya ho Bauji..*

He touches Bauji's feet.

SCENE – 64

Home. Mandali plus Chachi and Ashok, Sarup and Anil are all there.

SARUP
*Aye haye- yeh kya hai?
Aisa hota hai kya shaadi ka card!*

Chachi takes it from her- flips it both side, tries to open it, realizes this is it.

CHACHI
*Na border na kuchh-
yeh toh ekdum achha nahi lag raha hai bhabhi..*

MOTHER
*Abhi kya bole koi-
jo inke dimag mein aata hai kiye jaate hain-
Hum toh kuchh kahte he nahi..*

She throws the card down.

SARUP

Achha, inko Rishi ko kya hua hai..

CHACHI

Kuchh bhi nahi- bus kaam mein hi phanse huye hain..

SARUP

Aisa hota hai kya kaam? Pehli shaadi hai ghar mein-

Ek din ghar nahi aaye hain-

Ladai jhagra sub theek hai apni jagah pe..

Lekin aisa thodhe hi na achha lagta hai-

bahar ke sub log haath bata rahe hain-

ladki ke Chacha nadarad hain.

CHACHI

Nahi aayenge na..

SARUP

Tu bol dena Rishi ko- Bebe bahut naaraz ho rahi thi..

Chachi is on the defensive. Mother avoids commenting- folds and unfolds saris.
Camera moves on to Shibbo Babu who is asking Shammi to cure Bauji of his gambling addiction.

In the drawing room- mandali is on.

Bauji is finally attending to the electric wire that has been hanging there.

He is cutting the plastic on the wire with a knife.

MAN

*Achha yeh batao Bauji- Aadmi apne anubhav se hi
seekhta hai ya doosron ke bhi?*

BAUJI

Seekhta hai na..

Batata hoon- aankh band kar..

The man shuts his eyes and moves to him. Others help him along.

Bauji touches the naked wire to the man's wrist.

The man gets a shock- he jumps, screams and opens his eyes wide.

MAN

Oye! Kya kar rahe ho Bauji..?

BAUJI

*Do baatein hain- ek ki jo cheez dikhai nahin deti hai,
Who bhi hoti hai. Jaise ki bijli.*

*Us sey bulb bhi jalta hai aur jhatka bhi lag sakta hai- theek?
Aur yeh seekh mujhe kaise mili? Apne anubhav se?
Nahi! Tere anubhav se.. Hai ki nahi?*

Everyone laughs. The man is still rubbing his wrist.
Bauji puts the wires in a socket- and switches on the light. First light of the evening.

MAN

Bauji badi jor ka jhatka laga hai

MAN 2

Bete, kabhi kabhi jhatka kha ke hi seekhta hai aadmi- Baith ja!

Rita walks in angrily- with the card in her hand.

RITA

Yeh kya hai Bauji?

BAUJI

Yeh- yeh card hai beti shaadi ka..

RITA

*Mazak kar rahe hain kya Bauji?
Yeh card hai ya ishtehar! Aisa hota hai kya card shaadi ka..*

BAUJI

Nahi hota toh nahi hai aisa.. Lekin maine socha..

RITA

*Woh jo kachahri ka notice aata hai woh bhi isse sundar hota hai-
police ke warrant bhi aise nahi hote hain Bauji..*

BAUJI

Bitiya..

RITA

*Kya bitiya bitiya?
Nahi hain paise toh card nahi na chapwate-
Aise he phone utha kar sub ko phone par hi bata dete
ki maaf kijiyege humaari beti ki shaadi hai-
Bulana toh nahi chahte the hum, magar kya kare bulana padh raha hai-
Vyast na ho toh aa jayen- lekin na aaye toh aur bhi achha hoga..*

BAUJI

Nahi beti paise bachane ke liye nahin..

RITA

*Saari bhi safed le aayiga- woh bhi sooti!
Kyunki humare ghar mein toh sab alag he hota hai na!*

BAUJI

Sun toh beti..

Rita throws the card at him- and storms out of the room. There is a stunned silence.
Bauji turns the card around in his hand.
Looks at everyone, and tries to laugh.

BAUJI

*Ha.. ha.. ha.... Dekha? Kkaise sher ki tarah dahadh rahi thi..?
Shaadi hai na.. Thodhi vyatha toh hogi he..*

Some body takes the card from his hand..

MAN

*Bhai humein toh achha hi lag raha hai card-
Ekdum naya style ka hai..*

A small silence.
Ramesh sir looking down at his hands- speaks softly.

RAMESH SIR

Bauji aapne kabhi sher dekha hai?

Bauji looks at him, thinks for a moment.

BAUJI

Nahi kabhi nahi..

RAMESH SIR

Phir aapko kaise pata ki sher dahadhta hai?

MAN 2

*Arre yeh kya kah rahe ho Master ji!
Sher toh dahadhta hi hai na!*

RAMESH SIR

Aapne dekha hai sher?

MAN 2

Nahi.. Lekin aisa.. Kahte hain.. sub..

RAMESH SIR

*Suni sunayi baatein hain- kya pata
sher mimiya ho- ya bhaunkta ho- humein kya pata?*

Bauji is quiet, others come to his rescue.

MAN

Arey massab aap toh shabdo ka jaal bun rahe hain..

MAN 2

*Haan- baat ka matlab samjhiye..
Uski cheerphaadh mat kijiye..*

BAUJI

*Nahi nahi theek kah rahe hain Ramesh sir-
humein kya pata dahadhna kisey kahte hain..*

MAN

Lekin Bauji aise toh..

BAUJI

*Dhanyawaad Ramesh sir..
Aap achhe adhyapak hain.. Chalo..*

Bauji gets up- stats to get out.

BAUJI

Chalo chalo- Sher dekh ke aate hain.. Chalo..

Everyone gets up. They walk out of the house, leaving the family members pretty zapped.
Rita is seen sulking.

SCENE – 65

Zoo. Late afternoon.
The lion moves around in his cage.

MAN

Bauji yeh toh maharaj kuchh bol ie nahi rahein..

BAUJI

Bolega bolegaa- sabra rakho..

A little later.
The men are now all sitting- some on the ground, some on benches- tired of waiting for the lion.
Only Bauji stands.
Bauji and the lion are both walking in sync- left to right, right to left- matching step by step.
From behind him one of the guys calls out.

MAN

Bauji time ho raha hai-

Gopi bhayia yaad kar rahe honge..

Bauji hears him, walks with the lion- and speaks one to one with him, in a low voice.

BAUJI

Bol do beta humlog bahut door se aaye hain..

Bol na- kaam pe jaana hai beta..

The lion looks at him as he walks up and down.

BAUJI

Bol do beta- bol de..

Suddenly the lion opens his mouth and gives out a loud roar.

All the mandali gang jumps to their feet- some scared, some smiling.

Bauji stops walking.

BAUJI

Dahadhta hai bhai, dhadhta hai- dekh liya..

The camera tilts down from his face to his legs.

He has peed in his pants.

They are all leaving; Bauji walking with his legs spread wide.

SCENE – 66

Pandit ji's house. The living conditions are not good.

PANDIT JI

Haramkhor- Haan bol ya na bol-

Tune paise nikale the mere jeb se?

BAOOA

Haan..

PANDIT JI

Suno jee- beta tumhara juwari he nahi hai-

Chor bhi hai chor!

BAOOA

Chori nahi ki hai maine!

PANDIT JI

*Toh phir kya kiya hai beta?
Baap ki pant se bina bataye teen hazar nikal ke uda aaya-
toh kya tha woh?*

BAOOA

Udhaar liya hai paisa! Chuka doonga..

PANDIT JI

*Udhaar! Udhaar liya hai tune!
Main bataoon tujhe udhaar-
Uss budhde ne dimag kharab kar diya hai tera!*

BAOOA

*Bauji ko kucch mat boliye-
Woh bahut pahunchi hui aatma hain..*

PANDIT JI

*Main pahuncha doon teri bhi atma ko?
Chori upar se seena zori, Haramkhor! Bol tu juwa nahi khelta!*

BAOOA

Nahi khelta!

PANDIT JI

Phir jhoot!

BAOOA

*Woh toh anko ka path hai-
Sambhavnao ka khel hai..*

Pandit loses it- this is the last straw.

PANDIT JI

*Idhar aa tu, main batata hoon-
sambhavnao ka khel,
Main dikhata hoon tujhe..*

He slaps Baooa. Baooa tries to run. Pandit chases him.

PANDIT JI

*Ab bol bhagwaan prakat ho kar tujhe bacha le,
iski kya sambhavna hai- Bol! Mere saath bhi khel beta..*

Pandit ji catches his son and gives him two tight slaps.

SCENE – 67

Chacha's house. Chacha is angry. Chachi tries to reason with him.
Ashok pretends to be studying avoiding it all.

CHACHA

*Sub pagal pagal kah ke bulate hain unko, maloom hai?
Muhalle mein nikalna mushkil ho gaya hai-
Mooh chupata phirta hoon main,
ki kahin koi dekh na le- Roz koi pakad ke nyi kahani batata hai..*

CHACHI

Arre toh logon ke bolne se koyi pagal toh nahi ho jaata hai!

CHACHA

*Toh aur kisko kahte hain pagal?
Jo bhi man mein aata hai karte hain-
Maloom hai tumhe aajkal juwa khelne lage hain?
Aur khud akeley nahi- saath mein 15 log aur-
Sub ko saala juwari bana diya hai, thookte hain log hum par..
Pahle sanki kahte the, phir bawla,
phir pagal- Ab kahte hai Gopi ka Gunda..*

CHACHI

Achha theek hai na..

CHACHA

*Ghar ke bade boodhon ka yeh haal hai-
kya asar padega bachcho pe, socha hai?
Ghar mein shaadi hai- Rita ka socha hai?*

CHACHI

*Tumhe bahut padi hai na Rita ke shaadi ki-
Tum gaye ek dafa bhi?*

CHACHA

*Kyun jaaun main? Kyun jaaun?
Woh aaye humare ghar ek bhi baar?
Aaye woh poochhne ki bhai jeete ho ki mar gaye?
Arre apna ghar banaya tha- koyi jurm toh nahi kara tha?
Kaun sa bura kaam kar diya
jiski woh aise khaar khaye baithe hai.. Itne din?*

The voice fades out- Ashok rolls up his eyes as the fight begins again.

SCENE – 68

Home. Day. Bauji is angry. Shammi watches the whole scene without saying anything.

BAUJI

Main kyun jaunga?

MOTHER

Kyun nahi jaaoge?

Baaki jagah bhi toh jaa rahe ho na nyota dene?

BAUJI

Toh nyota doon unhe?

Apne bhai ko nyota dene jaoon?

*Woh kya Pradhanmantri hai desh ke-
ki itne vyast ho gaye hain yakayak?
Bahar ki log sub aa rahein hain haath batane-
madad karne- ladki ke Chcha jo hain,
woh nyota ke intazar mein baithe rahenge!*

RITA

*Aap dono ladte rehna-
aur dekhna woh aayenge he nahi-*

BAUJI

*Arey nahi aayega toh na aaye-
Achha hai ek thali ka paisa bach jaayega!*

MOTHER

*Tum kya kuchh bhi utt patang bolte rahte ho?
Ladke waale poochhte hain sub har baar..
Kitni baar jhoot bolenge?*

BAUJI

*Toh bata do na sach-
Ki ladki ke Chacha ne jab se apna ghar le liya hai-
woh bade sahib ho gaye hain-
aur rishta khatam kar diya hai unhone..*

MOTHER

Aap jaake ek baar mill aaoge toh naak nahi cut jaayegi aap ki..

BAUJI

*Nahi jaunga- bus kah diya maine nahi jaunga!
Sau baat ki ek baat- nahi jaunga..*

SCENE – 69

Chacha's house. Morning. Chacha is in his chair.
Bauji and Shammi are on the sofa.

BAUJI

*Bhai bada hi achha ghar hai-
Putai wutai bhi achhi huyi hai..*

CHACHA

Jee..

BAUJI

Aur bus stop bhi toh paas hi pada hai na yahan se..

CHACHA

Jee samne hi hai..

BAUJI

Yeh sabse achha ho gaya..

There is a silence for a moment. Everyone is awkward.

CHACHA

Arre bhai chai ho gayi ki nahi?

CHACHI

Haan laa rahe hain..

Another moment of silence.

BAUJI

*Bhai tumhe toh pata hi hoga-
Rita ki shaadi 28 taarikh ki nikli hai-
Toh ladke waale Muradabad ke hain..
Tum dekhna agar thodha time nikaal ke..*

Chachi brings chai- in cups and saucers.

CHACHA

Steel ka glass nahi hai?

BAUJI

Nahi koi baat nahi hai..

CHACHA

*Lao badal ke lao-
Tumhe pata hai na, bhai glass mein peete hain..*

Chachi takes the cup back.

CHACHA

Kuchh bata dijiyega agar karne ka ho toh..

BAUJI

*Bhai kaam toh poorey he hain-
Lekin kaam ka toh zariya nikal hi aata hai..*

Chachi brings tea in a glass- gives it to Bauji.

BAUJI

*Lekin tumhari bhabhi.. Rita..
Sub log tumhe bahut yaad karte hai..
Tum nahi rahoge toh khushi aadhi ho jayegi sub ki..*

CHACHI

*Kaisi baat kar rahe hain aap bhaisaab-
Sayenge na- aayenge kyun nahi..*

Chacha doesn't say anything.

BAUJI

*Ab jo bhi kuchh man mutav hai-
usey bhula do.. Aur aao bhai..
Tumhari bhatiji ki shaadi hai aakhir!*

Chacha is still looking down.

BAUJI

*Aur aaoge toh mera bhi manobal badhega..
Nahi toh.. Akele haath..*

CHACHA

Aapne juwa khelna shuru kar diya hai..?

BAUJI

*Haan.. Woh.. Kabhi kabhi.. Chala jaata hoon..
Retired hoon na.. Achha bhai chalo..
Aur bhi bahut jagah jaana hai..
Chalta hain.. Baitho baitho..*

A little later.

Bauji and Shammi are walking in the lanes- slowly.

Shammi knows Bauji is humiliated and hurt and feeling broken.

He catches up with Bauji and puts his arm in his.

They walk silently.

SCENE – 70

Afternoon. At home.

There is Baooa sitting with his head down, face bruised.

BAOOA

*Baba ki samajh mein nahi aaya-
Maine bataya unhe anko ki mahatta ke bare mein-
toh bole nahi- Utha ke de danadan de danadan..*

Bauji is listening to him- even as a tailor takes his measurements- turning him around.

MAN

*Chodhna nahi Baooa-
Kisi ke kahne se mat chodhna-
Samaaj toh hamesha adhchane daalta hai..*

Bauji watches.

Another chela comes up. He is also bandaged and all.

BAUJI

Arre kya hua?

MAN

Kuchh nahi hua Bauji..

He sits- everybody is still looking at him, inquisitive.

MAN

*Nahi, roz ghar pe ghichpich ghichpich ho rahi hai..
Toh maine utha ke do haath dhar diye-
Toh phir woh bhi toh kam nahi hai..
Jo bhi uske haath mein aaya, utha utha ke..
Cut gaya hai zara..*

The tailor is still moving Bauji around- Then writing in his notebook.

MAN 2

*Jisne kabhi khela hi nahi-
woh kya samjhega bhai..?*

Bauji pushes the tailor's hand away.

BAUJI

*Tum sab kya gadhe ho gaye ho?
Roz tumhare gharon mein kalesh ho raha hai-
Roz tum log paise barbaad karte ho juwe mein,
yahan wahan se paise churane lag gaye ho..
Yeh kya samajhdari ki baat hai?*

MAN

*Lekin Bauji ismein galat kya hai?
Aap hi ne to humein di hai budhhi-
anko ka saundarya samjhne ki..*

BAUJI

*Anko ka saundarya toh teri samajh mein aa gaya-
Apno ka dukh samajh mein nahi aa raha hai?
Baooa, Pandit ji par kya beet rahi hai
woh nahi samajh aa raha hai?
Teri biwi ko kitna kasht tu de raha hai Sandip,
woh dikhayi nahi de raha hai?
Tum log kya ekdum hi andhe ho, bahre ho?*

MAN 2

*Bauji aap humpe kyun naaraz ho rahe hain..?
Aap ne hi toh marg darshan kiya tha humara..*

BAUJI

*Main kisi ka..!
Maine kaha tha tumse juwa khelne ko?
Jo main karunga wohi tum karoge?
Arey bewakoof- main joota dhoond raha hoon apne size ka- samjhe?
Jo ki mere pair pe theek pade,
Jis-se mujhe chalne mein aaram mile- samjha?
Tu kyun mera wala joota pahan raha hai?
Woh toh tere ko kaatega hi na-
Aur phir tu palat ke mujhe bol raha hai ki galti mere jooto ki hai..?*

MAN

*Hum toh kuchh bhi nahi keh rahein hain Bauji..
Hum toh bus aapse kuchh sikhne ki lalak liye aate hain..*

BAUJI

*Mujhse kya sikhoge? Mujhe kya aata hai?
Main toh khud apna rasta dhoond raha hoon-
lekin woh rasta mera hai- mera!
Tum logon ne kuchh bhi sikha nahi..
Main yeh thodhe hi kah raha tha ki meri nakal karo-
Main toh kah raha tha, apne anubhav se jiyo-
Apne anubhav se- mere nahi!
Main patte khelne laga toh tum sab khelne lage-
Kal ko main nanga hoke naachunga Ghantaghar pe, toh tum bhi naachna..*

BAOOA

Haan Bauji nachenge na- kyun nahi naachenge..?

Baooa has completely missed the point.

Bauji turns to him slowly. Realises its useless.
Folds his hands.

BAUJI

*Aap logon ne mera bahut saath diya hai-
mere humsafar bane- Aap sab ka bahut dhanyavaad-
Ek aur upkaar kijiye mujh par-
Aaj ke baad yahan mat aayiega- mandali ab khatam!*

MAN

Lekin Bauji aapke paath se hum log..

BAUJI

*Yehi meri akhri paath hai-
ki ab kisi doosre se paath padhne mat jaana-
Apne raasta khud he chunna kyunki usey tai toh
tumhe khud hi karna hai- samjhe?
Ab utho aur jao apne raaste- chalo!*

Nobody moves.

BAUJI

Arre jao..!

Still nobody moves.

BAOOA

*Aap humein bhale he chhodh do-
hum aapko nahi chhodhenge..*

Bauji picks him up and pushes him out.

BAUJI

Uth gadhe- uth- chalo! Jao sab! Be akkal.. Jao!

People realizes he means it- they get up slowly and move out. Bauji keeps pushing them away.
As others are moving out- one man comes near Bauji.

BAUJI

Suna nahi? Jaate kyun nahi ho?

MAN

Main toh darzi hoon Bauji.. Naap lena tha..

BAUJI

Toh lete kyun nahi ho?

Bauji stands with his arms outstretched, face without any expressions- as he takes his measurements.
The wife comes and places a glass of tea in his outstretched hand, leaves.
On the soundtrack we hear firecrackers and a band playing.

SCENE – 71

Night. Streets.

We see a wedding band man- playing on his trumpet.

The camera cranes up to see Ajju on a horse- feeling stupid.

We see people dancing.

A dharamshala.

Rita is finishing the final touches to her dressing up- turns.

Near the espresso machine, Ashok and Shammi share a cigarette.

SHAMMI

Chahca?

ASHOK

Kya pata, yaar..!

Ashok makes a disgusted face.

Last minute chaos. Baraat is very close. Mandali people are also part of the work team.

Somebody tells Bauji that the baraat is here.

He nods- but keeps sitting on his chair, his hands resting on a walking stick. He looks old, forlorn.

Rita and the girls are excited- looking out for the baraat. Then Rita notices her father. She comes to him, kneels besides him and with a nod of her head she asks him what's the matter?

He manages a smile and shakes his head. She puts her hands on his cheeks and pulls them- putting a smile on his face. Mother and other woman take Rita away. Bauji keeps sitting.

Shammi enters running up two steps a time- sees Bauji, stops.

SHAMMI

Chahca aa gaye hain..

Bauji straightens- then looks for his chappals- stands, suddenly feeling active again.

Shammi tells mother and Chachi the same thing.

Bauji is going down the steps- as Chahca comes up.

They pause for one awkward moment.

CHAHCA

Namaste bhai..

BAUJI

Haan.. Namaste.. Woh.. Baraat aa rahi hai..

Aa jao tum.. milni wagairah ke liye..

CHAHCA

Jee- main Rita se milke aata hoon.

BAUJI

Haan.. Aa jao..

Bauji goes down. Chahca stays for a moment, goes up.

Ajju is trying to get off the horse- He is scared and can't do it right- three or four people to help him.

He is led to the door- and has to cut a *chhalni* with his sword- again there is some drama about his sword not coming out.

He gets irritated, complains, finally takes Bauji's walking stick and cuts the *chhalni* with it. Still at the gate. Milni ceremony. Bauji hugs Aju's father- welcomes him. Aju's father says something in his weird English.

Chahca hugs Aju's chahca- others are going. Gopi comes and stands next to Bauji- his goons with him.

GOPI

Aaye nahi aap teen din se?

Shibbo babu hugs someone.

BAUJI

Haan- bus man oob gaya hai mera patton se..

GOPI

Tankhwah deta hoon aapko..

Thodi oob bardasht kiya karo..

Bauji looks at Gopi.

WOMAN

Arre bhai yeh bhi ladke ke chahca hai.. Inki milni..?

Bauji takes Gopi's arm and brings him forward.

BAUJI

Yeh ladki ke chhote chacha hain.. Jao milo..

Gopi- pushed into the middle, has no choice.

Chacha watches this. He is next to Bauji- both looking in different directions.

Later- at the wedding mandap- Pandit ji is conducting the ceremony.

We see Bauji right behind him- and Chacha just a foot behind him.

PANDIT

Vachan deti hoon ki tumse poochhe bina

kisi upawan mein akeli nahi jaungi,

kisi anjaan vyakti se akele nahi milungi..

Rita sits with her hand in Aju's hand. He tries to make eye contact with her- she doesn't look at him.

He pinches her hand - she slaps his hand lightly.

Bauji and Chacha sit through it, almost without expression.

The smoke from the hawan making their eyes water.

The mandali stands- Baooa amongst them.
We see the ceremony in the background. They are some 30 feet away.

ONE

Chhee! Yeh ummeed nahi thi Bauji se..

TWO

*Sachhi- Jin bediyno ko toda tha-
beti ki shaadi mein unhe hi wapis dharan kar liya..*

THREE

Aisa nahi hai- koyi matlab hoga iska bhi.. Jaroor hoga..

ONE

Badal gaye Bauji bhi.

There is silence for a moment.

ONE

*Chalo koyi nahi.. Humein kya..?
Patte laya hai?*

Baooa takes out a pack.

BAOOA

Laya hoon na..

They all go inside- gambling.

Outside the tent. Anil lights a cigarette- all alone. He hears Shammi's voice- "Anil".
Anil throws the cigarette away in panic- turns around.

SHAMMI

Kyun be- cigarette pi raha tha?

ANIL

Nahi toh..

Smoke is coming out of his mouth. Shammi and Ashok laugh- Shammi slaps him on the shoulder.

SHAMMI

La- maachis de..

Anil reluctantly takes out a box of matches from his pocket.
Shammi offers him a cigarette.

The ceremony over- Rita is leaving- last goodbyes.
She holds her mother- who is crying. Rita doesn't.
Then Shammi- after the hug they punch their fists together.
Then Chacha- she whispers- "Thank you Chahca" to him.
He smiles.
She hugs Chahci- Chachi says "Royegi nahi naashpiti?"
Rita shakes her head with a smile.
She hugs Bauji. Bauji holds her face. He is about to cry.
She sees him and her eyes well up. She turns away quickly and sits in the car. Ajju sits after her.

AJJU'S FATHER

Lets be going. The train has.... To be caught

The car leaves. Everyone watches.

The mandali is gambling. Lots of money at stake. The door opens.
Everyone turns back, scared. There is Gopi at the door.
He sees what's going on- smiles big time.
The men relax.

GOPI

Vidayi ho gayi hai- chalo..

Mandali gets up collecting their money etc.

Outside. The very first light of the day. The tent and everything is being taken out.
Shibbo babu is paying the caterer and the coffee guy.
Pandit ji goes up to Bauji- Bauji tries to pay him.

PANDIT

Nahi nahi aapse paise thodhe hi lenge..

BAUJI

Arey kyun nahi logey bhai..?

PANDIT

*Nahi bilkul nahi- ab bus,
nahi toh phir jhagda ho jayega..Chalo jai Ram jee ki..*

Chachi comes to say bye.. Bauji gives her boxes of sweets.

CHACHI

Arre itna kaun khayega ghar pe?

BAUJI

*Rakh lo rakh lo- main aunga tumhare ghar
toh mujhe he khila dena.. Theek hai?*

Chachi laughs- her pallu on her mouth.
Bauji hugs Chahca- he starts to say something.

BAUJI

Tum aa gaye.. Toh..

Suddenly Chacha breaks down- hugging Bauji and crying bitter tears.

CHACHA

Bhai maaf kar.. Maaf.. Main bahut bura hoon..

Chachi is hassled. Bauji tries to console him, hugging him back- smiling through his silent tears.
Mother wipes her eyes. Shibbo babu wants to celebrate.

SHIBBO

*Yeh lo bhai Bharat milaap ho gaya-
arey rasgulla idhar lao- mooh meetha karo sub..*

He starts feeding everyone rasgullas- even Chacha... and mother.

Ashok and Shammi punch their fists together.
Chahca gets a handle on himself- somebody gives him a glass of water.
He laughs as Shibbo babu cracks a joke- spilling water, takes a sip.
Everyone laughs.

SCENE – 72

Simla. Day. A small dhaba.
We start with the close up of a plate. There are a few vegetables, a chutney.
A hand comes and takes some chutney.
It's Bauji and Mother eating at a small dhaba. Both are clad in sweaters and warm clothes.

BAUJI

Arre yeh chutney chakho..

MOTHER

Nahi nahi- humein nahi achhi lagti hai..

BAUJI

Arre kha kar toh dekho. Pehle hi har cheez mein na..

Bauji feeds her with his own hands. Mother chews on it but makes a face. Bauji laughs at her.

Later. Bauji and Mother are walking down a road. Not many people.
There is a mist which engulfs them from time to time.

MOTHER

Kitney baras ho gaye hain?

BAUJI

28!

MOTHER

*28? Tum 28 baras se dhauns jama rahe ho mujh par?
Pichle janam mein bahut achhe karam kiye honge tumne,
jo aisi achhi gharwali mili hai..*

BAUJI

So toh hai..

He smiles at her.

BAUJI

Aur tumney?

MOTHER

*Yeh janam toh cut gaya jaise taise-
Main toh agle janam ka soch rahi hoon- abhi se..*

He puts his arm around her. She jerks it away.
They both walk silently into the mist.
We see them again- coming out of the mist.

BAUJI

*Kaisa halka halka sa lag raha hai na sub..
Sub jhanjhat se parey..
Lag raha hai jaise akash mein udd raha hoon..*

She laughs.

BAUJI

Kya hua?

MOTHER

Kuchh nahi..

BAUJI

Toh phir hansi kyun?

She looks at him and laughs again.

BAUJI

Arre kuchh bologi bhi ki khali kheer-kheer hi karti rahogi..?

MOTHER

Main kya boloon? Tum hi udd rahe ho.. (She laughs again)

Batein toh badi badi karte ho anubhav ki..

Aakash mein udne ka anubhav hai tumhe?

She laughs again, mocking him.

Bauji is silent.

SCENE – 73

Night. Mother is sleeping under the quilts.

Bauji sits next to the fireplace- feeling the warmth on his hands.

Turns and looks at his wife.

Looks at the fire.

Dissolve to fire turned into embers now. Day light outside.

Bauji gets up from his place, goes to his wife, still fast asleep.

He covers her with a quilt, touches her face. Then he shakes her gently by her shoulder.

BAUJI

Suno.. Jaa raha hoon main.

MOTHER

Arre jao na jahan jaana hai- Mujhe toh sone do..

Chutti pe aaye hain. Ab toh neend puri karne do..

Outside. It is morning. Trees sway gently.

Bauji walks leisurely- listening to the birds- looking at the trees, touching flowers with his hands.

He is wrapped up in layers of clothes.

Bauji sits on a rock next to a cliff.

He feels the wind on his face- takes off his shawl and folds it neatly. We hear his voice over.

BAUJI

(VO)

Bachpan, jawani, shaadi, bachhe, kaam kaaj-

kitna sundar jeevan- kitna sukh- kitne saare anubhav..

Sub anubhavo ko jod kar bana mera jeevan,

*Sub anubhavo ka yog- main; Kuchh anubhav abhi baaki hain-
jo ki sirf sapno mein bhoge the-
Jaise ki yeh sapna jo baar baar mujhe aata tha-
ki main hawa mein tair raha hoon-
Nahi udd raha hoon- panchi ke jaisa..*

Bauji stands next to the cliff.

BAUJI

(VO)

Bina pankh ke main hawa ko cheerta chala jaa raha hoon..

Bauji jumps off the cliff.

He falls.

He falls- and a smile spreads on his face.

BAUJI

(VO)

*Aur saath mein khushi ka ahsaas-
Aisi khushi jisey shabdo mein batana mushkil hai..*

He keeps falling. Smiling.

BAUJI

(VO)

*Yeh sapna nahi hai..
Main udd raha hoon..
Main udd raha hoon..*

Bauji keeps falling- arms outstretched. He goes out of frame.

The music soars- celebratory.

We stay on the trees, rocks, birds flying. Cut to black.

THE END