1. **EXT. THE WOODS – DUSK**

The sun is almost set. The branches rattle in the wind. The thunder rumbles in the distance.

A master shot through the branches of a tree reveals a house in the middle of the woods as the chimes of an old clock echo from inside the house.

The chime continues as a flickering tube light buzzes outside the house.

1. **INT. THE HALL – CONTINUOUS**

Inside the house- An **old** **clock**- Hands stuck at 8 a **portrait of an old man** and **a portrait of an old woman** hangs in the wall.

The clock dings one last time-

**CUT TO:**

1. **INT. LIVING ROOM – EVENING**

A **toy truck** rolls slowly across the floor until it stops against the leg of a pale boy, sitting on the ground with his legs crossed.

The camera pans up to reveal the boy- **Ved (12)** holds the toy- With a blank face.

**VED**  
Dad…!?

**ADI (30s)**, calm, is sitting across in a chair reading the last page of a book.

**ADI**Hmm!?

**VED**Dad…!

**ADI** *(annoyed)*Tch!  
(looks through the book) What?

**VED**What is that?

Adi turns the book to check the title- **GARUDA PURANA**. He gets slightly confused like he has no idea why he was reading it

**VED** (blank expression)Is it a ghost story?

**ADI** *(chuckles)*There is no such thing as ghosts!

**VED**Is there a ghost in our house?

**ADI**  
What? No- I told you there are no such things

The photo of the woman on the wall trembles slightly on the wall. Ved sees it.

**VED**   
I saw Grandma's photo shake!

**ADI** *(confused)*What?

Adi turns to the photo. It’s still.

**ADI**  
Ved… you shouldn’t make fun of the dead

Ved’s mouth begins to stretch into a creepy smile.

**VED** *(creepy smile)*  
I am not!

Ved starts to tilt his head- Abnormally.

**VED** *(tilted head)*She said it is  
TIME TO GO!

Ved freezes. Adi Keeps the book aside and looks at Ved frozen with a creepy smile and tilted head- Still, unblinking, statue-like.

**ADI**  
What are you doing?

**ADI** *(concern)*Ved? Hey... Ved!

Adi leans forward, snapping his fingers. Nothing- Panic creeps in.

**ADI** *(screams)*VED!!!

**CONTINUOUS TO:**

1. **INT. LIVING ROOM – CONTINUOUS**

**KRITI (30s)**, Adi’s wife, wearing an **apron**, rushes in from the kitchen, wiping her hands.

**KRITI**  
Adi! What happened?

**ADI**Something is wrong!  
Our house has a ghost itseems!

**KRITI** *(laughs)*What? Ghost?  
*(gets serious)* Who? Me?

**ADI**No! My mother  
He—Ved—he said he saw my mother  
He said grandma spoke to him  
Then he froze like a—

Kriti, puzzled, looks at Adi.

**KRITI**  
What?

**ADI**  
Ved– Our son- He froze

**KRITI**  
Adi… we don’t have a son yet!

Adi stares at her, stunned. Points at where his son was.

Silence. No sign of any Ved. [No photo of his mother on the wall].

Adi Confused- loses his step. Kriti holds him.

**KRITI**Adi! Are you okay?

**ADI**  
Looks like I’m tired! *(maniac laugh)*

Kriti looks at him- Worried.

Adi takes her support and stands.

**ADI**  
I’m just going to lie down for a while!

He walks towards the bedroom.

Kriti watches him go into the bedroom with concern; Suddenly- a hand touches her shoulder.

She turns— Its Adi standing behind her- Smiling.

She gasps. Her eyes roll back in fear- She faints.

**FLICKER CUT TO (Adi’s face – smile to scared):**

1. **INT. BEDROOM – MOMENTS LATER**

Adi enters his bedroom, dazed and confused. Sweat beads on his forehead.

**ADI** *(V.O.)*It’s the stress. Maybe I’m… just tired…

Adi looks at a **glass of water**. Unaware of it slightly shaking- He Reaches for it.

Just then, he spots a framed photo on the nightstand.

He picks it up and chuckles.

**ADI**  
Oh Kriti!

It is a **family photo:** Him, Kriti and Ved.

**ADI**she is messing with me

He turns to walk out of the room. As he passes by a **mirror**- His reflection lags.

Confused and scared, he stands in front of it. Slowly- he raises his hand and the mirror follows, delayed.

**ADI** *(scared)*What the…!  
*(mirror – What the…!)*

Lights begin to flick. The music rises- The reflection slowly turns showing its back. Rise stops- Reflection now has smoke for head. Suddenly- BHAM!

HIT- The reflection’s head screams with a **Half Skulled- Blood dripping- Red Eyes**.

[Snorri Cam] Everything around Adi begins to spin. He clutches his head- Pain like a migraine.

He tries to reach for the glass of water, but he knocks the glass off.

It falls and shatters. He struggles and sits on the **bed**. Suddenly-

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

Adi flinches. He looks at the door.

**ADI**  
Kriti? Is that you?

No answer.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

The door trembles and shakes. Someone or something is on the other side is pounding the door trying to open it.

The trembling stops and Adi walks slowly towards the door.

With courage- He Opens it.

Nothing. Just Darkness.

He sits back on the bed.

Again. KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

He looks at the door- Wide open. He turns. The knock is coming from the **wardrobe**.

Terrified, he slowly walks to it- And opens the door of the wardrobe in fear.

Inside- Nothing but a **small pill bottle** with a center light focused on it.

He picks it up. Suddenly –

**MATCH CUT TO:**

1. **INT. BATHROOM – SUDDENLY**

Adi, now transported to the bathroom, stands in front of a **mirrored cabinet**.

Holding the pills, he smiles.

**ADI**The pills! Did I take them? Yeah!  
Doctor said they might   
*(looks his reflection)* cause hallucinations!

He moves his hands but- No delay in the reflection this time. He smiles.

He puts the pill into the cabinet- Opens the door- Exits- Closes the door.

**MATCH CUT TO (door close sound):**

1. **INT. LIVING ROOM – IMMEDIATETLY AFTER**

Adi is now in the living room- Holding the closed bathroom door.

He sees Kriti looking at the bedroom door.

He walks behind her. Puts his hands on her shoulder.

She turns— Looks at Adi standing behind her.

She gasps. Her eyes roll back in fear- She faints. *[Callback – Scene 3.]*

Adi catches her. Trembling and panicking- He places her on the **couch with covers**.

**ADI***(tapping her cheeks) Kriti! Kriti!*

He looks around and finds a **water jug** on a **tea-table** but- Its empty.

He keeps the empty jug at the edge of tea-table.

The jug rolls off the edge and-

BAM! The jug falls.

Kriti wakes to the loud sound.

**KRITI** *(snapping)*  
What… happened?

**ADI**  
You fainted!

**KRITI** *(groggy)*  
What are you doing here?

**ADI**  
What?

**KRITI**  
You said you will go to the bedroom

**ADI**  
Bedroom? No. I was in the bathroom

Kriti looks at Adi and gives a creepy smile.

**ADI** *(worried)*Kriti…!?

Kriti looks behind Adi- It’s the shadowy figure with glowing eyes next to a turned off lamp.

Confused- Adi turns as the lamp behind him flickers on- He sees nothing.

Adi turns back to Kriti- She is now back to normal.

**KRITI**  
Can you please get me a glass of cold water?  
I want to tell you something!

**ADI** *(smiles)*  
Sure

Adi gets up and walks towards the kitchen. As he walks-

He sees the handle of a **landline** fallen. He picks it up and places it back.

On the wall behind him, the photo of his father slowly **moves its eyes**, tracking him.

**CUT TO:**

1. **INT. KITCHEN – IMMEDIATETLY AFTER**

Adi stands in the kitchen- Turns on the light switch.

He picks up a **glass**, opens the **freezer** and takes out some **ice cubes**.

As he closes the freezer door, **GIRI (30s)** suddenly appears behind- Startling Adi.

**ADI** *(startled)*  
Giri! What the hell!

**GIRI**  
What are you doing?

**ADI**  
Getting some water for her

**GIRI** *(confused)*What?

**ADI**Water! Fetching some water for Kriti

Giri stands still for a while. As Adi turns to leave- Suddenly-

**GIRI**  
Who?

Adi pauses and turns to Giri.

**ADI**  
What? *(scared laughs)* My… My wife!

**GIRI**  
You’re not married yet!

Adi stares, confused. The glass falls from his hands. The lights flicker.

**ADI** *(muttering)*But… then… outside… on the sofa…!

**GIRI** *(creepy smile)*  
I think you are drunk!

**ADI**You are the one who is always drunk!  
*(smirks)* Drunk? No!   
Who? Me? *(points at himself)*

Suddenly, a **glass of liquor** appears in Adi’s hand.

**GIRI**  
*(toasts)* Cheers!  
*(creepy laugh)*   
IT IS TIME TO GO!

Adi runs out of the kitchen into the living room.

**CUT TO:**

1. **INT. LIVING ROOM – CONTINUOUS**

Adi enters the hall- Breathing heavily.

He stands in disbelief, staring at the couch.

The couch is empty with no covers and- No Kriti.

He looks at the glass in his hand.

**ADI**  
What is happening to me…?  
Am I… drunk?

Suddenly, RING! RING!

The landline rings.

Adi walks to it and slowly picks up the receiver.

A distorted male voice on the other end:

**DISTORTED VOICE** *(O.S.)*Its… (*Muff! Muff! Muff!)*It is time to go…

Terrified Adi drops the phone in fear. The handle drops.

He turns and looks at the portrait of his father on the wall.

The father’s eyes blink and lock on him.

Adi becomes breathless- He looks at his glass.

The glass in his hand starts morphing— Turns into an alarm clock.

**MATCH CUT:**

1. **INT. BEDROOM – DAWN**

The alarm clock rings. Next to it- Adi jolts awake on the bed.

He’s clutching the family photo from before.

**ADI** *(looking at the photo)*Have I been here this whole time?  
Was that… all a dream?

AGAIN. KNOCK! KNOCK!

Adi freezes.

He looks at the wardrobe.

Adi gets out of bed slowly- steps on **broken glass** from when he tried to grab the glass of water *[Callback – Scene 4.]*

**ADI** *(in pain)*   
Ow!!!

Sitting on the edge of the bed. He lifts his foot. He gets shocked-

His leg is unharmed. Not even a scratch.

KNOCK! KNOCK! The knocking continues.

He walks *rapidly* towards the wardrobe and opens the door.

This time- NO PILLS. Just a normal wardrobe with clothes. *[Callback – Scene 4.]*

KNOCK! KNOCK! He realizes that the knock is from the other side of the bedroom door.

**ADI** *(scared)*Who…? Who is it?

The frame transforms from single shot to Adi’s POV [GOPRO].

**WOMAN** *(O.S.)*  
Adi! *(distorts)* Adi!

The bedroom door slowly creaks open.

The scene brightens with a soft glow.

A woman enters— her face unclear due to a **hard back light**.

**WOMAN**Wake up Adi!  
*(music intensifies)*GO!  
*(music stops)*It is time to go to college

Adi looks at the **curtains** of the window open revealing the sunlight.

In the mirror- He sees himself as a teenager- face unclear due to the hard sunlight in the back.

**CONTINUOUS TO:**

1. **INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS**

**POV-** Adi walks out of the room.

Everything is dimly lit.

SLAM!

The bedroom door shuts behind him.

Scared- He turns and bangs on the door. He shakes it and tries to open it.

Morph into the door- On the other side, a scared Adi from earlier scene looks at the trembling door. *[Callback – Scene 4.]*

Morph out of the door back to the **POV**.

**ADI'S MOTHER** *(O.S.)*  
Adi! Come on!   
Breakfast is ready!  
I made your favorite— Dosa!

Adi turns slowly toward the voice.

He sees a **dining table** with a **top hanging light** and a **plate of piping hot dosa**.

He walks towards the dining table.

**10a. INT. DINING ROOM – UNKNOWN**

**POV-** Adi sits at the table. Staring at the hot dosa on a plate before him.

Suddenly-

**FAINT CHILD VOICES** *(O.S.)*Adi! Hey Adi!

The dosa starts to ripple and morphs into a **tiffin box**.

**10b. INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM – NOON**

**POV-** Adi, now in school, sits at his desk. A friend next to him leans over.

**FRIEND**What did you bring today?

Adi opens the tiffin box— Its **hardened cold Maggie**.

A bunch of kids snatch the noodles, devouring it. Leaving the box empty.

The tiffin box morphs into a **birthday cake with candles**.

**10c. INT. BIRTHDAY PARTY – EVENING**

**POV-** Adi, now a little older, is surrounded by silhouettes of people.

**EVERYONE***(sings)* Happy Birthday, Adi!

He blows out the candle. The candle fire into a **lit** **firecracker**.

**10d. EXT. STREET – NIGHT**

**POV-** The firecracker is lit- Panic- He runs

The bomb explodes behind him. He trips and falls— Suddenly.

**CUT TO:**

1. **INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT**

Adi jerks and jolts awake, sitting in front of his **laptop** on a **table** in their bedroom.

Kriti- Lying on the bed- Wakes up from her sleep and turns towards Adi.

**KRITI** *(O.S.)*Adi… it’s 3 AM. You’re still working?

Adi looks at the sleeping Kriti on the bed.

**KRITI**Youare tired Adi!  
You were blabbering in your sleep.

Adi stares blankly. Confused.

**KRITI**Sleep!

Kriti pulls her blanket, turns and goes back to sleep.

Confused- Adi closes his laptop *[showing the time as 8:00]*. Suddenly-

He sees someone standing outside the half-opened door.

He walks out and sees no one.

On the ground he sees a **Marigold**. He picks it up and keeps it next to a photo of him.

He walks back inside and lies down.

He closes his eyes. The camera closes in to his face. Suddenly-

TAP! TAP! TAP!

**Tiny pieces of chalk** begin to fall on his face from the ceiling.

He struggles to open his eyes. The camera arcs to the side of his face.

**MORPH TO:**

1. **INT. CLASSROOM – DAY**

A **chalk piece** hits Adi on the face.

He opens his eyes. The camera pulls out to reveal Adi sitting on a bench in a classroom in his college.

A teacher shouts at him off-screen.

**TEACHER**  
Pay attention, you daydreamer!

**FRIEND**   
*(sitting next to him)*  
Nice nap? Ha?

Adi feels his mouth to be dry. He takes out the water bottle from his bag.

**ADI**  
Yeah… I had a weird dream

**FRIEND**What dream?

Adi opens the cap of the bottle and realizes that it is empty with no water.

**ADI**  
*(swallows)*  
I was in the future

**FRIEND**  
Bro- Look, *(points)*That girl’s looking at you!

Adi turns and looks in the direction where his friend points.

He looks at the girl. She smiles fixing her hair.

Adi gets Shocked-

She looks exactly like a younger Kriti.

Adi stares, stunned, wide-eyed.

Camera zooms into Adi’s eye—

**MATCH CUT TO:**

1. **INT. SPORTS BAR – SOMETIME**

The eye transitions into an **ashtray, full of cigarette butts**.

Ashtray morphs into a **pool ball**.

The camera pulls back to reveal Adi- stuck like a statue- lining up a shot on a **pool table**.

Suddenly- Adi snaps out of his zone.

His friend- standing by the support of a **cue**- Looks at him.

**FRIEND**  
Since college you are smoking a lot   
Your brain’s cells will die

**ADI** *(darkly confused)*  
Wha… What! I think it is already dead

Adi’s pupils dilate. He falls and hits his head on a pool table. Black.

**BLUR CUT TO:**

1. **INT. HOSPITAL – DAY**

**POV-** Adi opens his eyes with a blurry vision.

The first thing he sees with a blurry vision is his wife holding his hands.

**KRITI** *(happy tears)*Adi!

With his vision still blurred- He is now sitting in front of a doctor across a table.

The doctor’s face is not visible due to the blurriness and back lights.

**THE DOCTOR**You have a post traumatic psychosis   
causing Temporal Lobe Seizures

The doctor pushes a pill bottle towards him across the table.

**THE DOCTOR**These pills may cause  
Hallucinations!

**TODO**

The friend smiles creepily while bending his head. The shadowy figure with glowing eyes appears behind Adi. He lifts his fingers— forms a camera gesture. The lights dim down around him.

**FRIEND**IT IS TIME TO GO.

CLICK! The friend gestures like clicking a photo.

A flash. Whiteout.

**A photo of Adi** with a slightly off expression.

When turning the photo at an angle- He looks at the glowing eyes of the shadowy figure behind him in the picture. Which disappears and reappears.

Adi is on the bed, holding the photograph. *[Callback – Scene 9.]*

He gets out of bed slowly- steps on broken glass. *[Callback – Scene 9.]*

CAMERA BOOMS UP and BACK DOWN:

The glass has transformed into **ROSES**.

Adi bends down, picks up a rose, and gently places it on the photo.

He walks out of the room.

Adi steps into the living room- Dimly lit.

As he walks out- An old woman, his mother slowly appears out from the shadows like a ghost, silently watching him walk.

The woman looks away from Ved- Begins slowly drifting backwards towards a door.

The woman continues to drift off into the room. The woman disappears- With the trail of glowing eyes. Ved turns on the light of the room- Empty- No sign of the woman. The camera zooms into a toy truck. Pans. Transitions-

**BLUR MATCH CUT TO:**

1. **INT. BATHROOM/ LIVING ROOM – CONTINUOUS**

Adi is now in the bathroom again- Holding the pill bottle.

He takes a pill out of the bottle and puts it in his mouth.

He puts the pill into the cabinet- Opens the door- Exits- Closes the door. *[Callback – Scene 5.]*

He puts the pill into the cabinet- Opens the door- Exits- Closes the door.

**MATCH CUT TO (door close sound):**

Adi is now in the living room- Holding the closed bathroom door.

The lights are off. It is dark. He finds a **bottle**- Opens it- Empty with no water.

He coughs and suddenly, he sees two eyes glowing in the dark.

He switches on the lights- The glow was from one of his photos with a **Marigold** in front of it.

He switches the lights on and off multiple times- The eyes glow in the dark and get normal in the light. Suddenly-

He sees a shadow move behind the partially closed bedroom door.

He rapidly walks and opens the door but there is no one inside- Suddenly

The curtain flies due to wind. He walks towards the curtain- Slightly missing the broken glass.

He closes the window- Walks back- And steps on the broken glass.

**ADI** *(in pain)*Ow!!!

He sits on the bed- Lifts his leg but not even a scratch. *[Callback – Scene 4.]*

He looks around, coughs, turns off the bedroom light, closes the door and walks back to the living room.

**CUT TO:**

1. **INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Adi walks and sists on a chair. He picks up a book and starts to read. Suddenly-

**VED** *(to Adi O.S.)*Dad! Is our house haunted?

*[Callback – Scene 2.]*

Adi lifts his head. But this time- He is reading a different book.

**ADI** *(confused)*  
Who… who are you?

Ved smiles creepily and tilts his head.

Kriti- wearing an apron, rushes in from the kitchen, wiping her hands.

**KRITI**  
Adi! What happened?

*[Callback – Scene 3.]*

**ADI** *(in shock)*  
Who are you?  
Who are you both?

Both Ved and Kriti stand still- Smiling.

Adi begins to mumble incoherently. Suddenly-

A hand appears on his shoulders. He holds the hand and turns- Its Giri.

**ADI** *(to Giri)*Anna!Who are these two?

A wide shot reveals that there is no one there expected Adi and Giri.

**GIRI**  
What?

A hand grips Adi’s shoulder, and he spins- It's Giri again.

**GIRI** *(smiling)*  
Are you sleepwalking again?

**ADI** *(blank)*  
No! I!

Giri sits in the chair, drinks the last sip from his glass. Give the glass to Adi.

**GIRI**  
Since you are up!  
Go and get me some ice!

Adi takes the glass from Giri’s hand. As he takes a step to go to the kitchen, he stumbles upon an empty water bottle.

He stares at it for a while- Licks his dry chapped lips. He begins to cough, and he holds his neck like he is suffering.

He sees the glass in his hand, and it is empty. Coughs.

He looks at the **jug** on the tea table *[Callback – Scene 6.]*- Its empty. Coughs.

He sees a **kettle**- Runs to it- Shakes it- Opens it- The water evaporates.

He notices at a **tea-set**- Pours the teapot- **Ash** falls out. Coughs.

He looks at a **glass with fizzing soda and a floating slice of lime** - He tries to reach for it. It falls to the ground and turns into **sand**.

He sees the fallen landline dial again- Next to it he sees a **vase**. He takes out the **flowers** and throws them- Flips the vase to drink- **Puffed Rice** flows. Coughs.

Out of nowhere- He hears the echo of the sound of water running from a tap. He immediately realizes that it is coming from the kitchen and runs.

**CUT TO:**

1. **INT. KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS**

Adi enters the kitchen- His mouth extremely dry like a desert. He looks at the water running from the tap- But the water abruptly stops when he gets to it.

He turns the tap, hits it but no luck.

Desperate, he opens the fridge- Empty with no lights.

He opens the freezer- A burst of **fog** with **black pebbles** instead of ice.

He spots a **tender coconut** on the slab- He picks it up- CRACK! It splits into two.

He notices a **whiskey bottle** nearby-Picks it up- Shakes and feels the liquid inside. He Gets happy- Twist opens the cap and tilts the bottle towards his mouth but NO LIQUID comes out. Only thick dark smoke pours from the bottle’s mouth.

TODO – phone or kriti?

He stands frozen with confusion and a dry mouth. Suddenly, he hears a muffled voice call him out.

**KRITI** *(O.S.)*  
Adi!!?

He snaps back to attention and runs back to the living room.

**CONTINUOUS TO:**

1. **INT. LIVING ROOM – CONTINUOUS**

Adi stands in the living room. Holding the empty glass. Lights flicker.

**KRITI** *(O.S.)*Adi!

Camera pans to reveal- Kriti sitting on the couch. *[Callback Scene-6.]*

**ADI***(smiles in confusion)* Kriti?

Adi walks to her. Kriti takes the glass from his hands.

**KRITI** *(playfully)*I asked you to get cold water  
You just got a glass?

She keeps the glass aside.

**KRITI**Anyway! *(excited)*  
I have something to tell you

She reaches out and holds Adi’s hands.

**KRITI** *(smiling)*I’m pregnant!

Adi gets emotional. He smiles with tears running down his eyes.

**ADI** *(teary-eyed smiles)*  
Our first kid

Suddenly- Ved appears out of nowhere.

Adi spins around. No one is on the couch.

Kriti, now in a dress enters from the opposite side

**KRITI** *(to Ved)*  
You can’t come, Ved!  
It is our wedding anniversary!

Adi finds himself in a tuxedo- Sitting on the couch.

He looks around- Dazed and confused.

**KRITI**You’ll stay home with Ajji.

Adi turns to his left and-

He sees his mother on the couch, smiling with her yellow teeth.

**MOTHER**  
GO!

**KRITI**Adi! It is time to go!

**VED**Okay! Dad! Go!

**MOTHER** *(demonic voice)*Go!

**KRITI** *(demonic voice)*GO!

**VED** *(demonic voice)*GO!

Adi sits on the couch- scared.

The mother, Kriti and Ved start to walk towards him.

**MOTHER-KRITI-VED** *(Unified demonic)*GO! GO! GO!

Close into Adi’s face- High beat EDM plays with Epilepsy graphics and Trap music Morphing his face.

His face fades out and the graphics take over the screen.

Suddenly- Everything is radio static.

The camera zooms out of a **TV** screen- Static sound completely fills the air.

**CONTINUOUS TO:**

1. **INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT**

The camera pans. Adi is on the sofa, eyes open, covered in sweat, unblinking — passed out on the floor.

Camera closes on his face. Suddenly— He jolts awake and gasps for air.

He sits on the ground- Coughing with a dry mouth.

He wipes his mouth with his arm- Sees a half-burnt doobie between his fingers.

With a dry mouth- He licks his lips, parched and groggy.

He looks around- Find the **TV remote**-Turns off the TV.

**ADI**What? Ugh! … Water!

He looks around and sees the empty glass, empty jug, vase, broken glass, split tender coconut *[Callback - Scene 18.]*

The TV turns on automatically.

CLICK— he switches it off again. BZZZZ— it switches on again.

CLICK— he switches it off again- Annoyed.

BZZZZ— Louder- it switches on again.

Frustrated, he walks, holds the plug, pulls and unplugs it.

Silence.

To his shock- The TV turns on again- With a faint voice.

Suddenly- The static morphs into a video of a priest performing and explaining the **Tarpana** ritual calmly.

**TARPANA VIDEO** *(V.O.)*  
Tarpana-  
-the ritual of offering water to the ancestors…

**ADI** (mutters)  
What? What is this?

**TARPANA VIDEO** *(V.O.)*  
It is important to offer the water-  
As they will be stuck with no access to it

Adi coughs. Suddenly- the water begins to flow down out of nowhere next to him.

He cups his hands and drinks the water- Content.

Suddenly- An image of a mailbox appears on the screen.

WHOOSH! An envelope flies out of the screen and lands at his feet.

Adi picks it up, opens it. On the paper inside: IT IS TIME TO GO

Adi throws the envelope.

**ADI** *(screaming)*  
NO! NO! NO!

Adi spins and looks at Kriti holding Ved.

They look real.

**ADI** *(babbling)*It is time to go… no… I can’t go… I WILL NOT GO!  
*(crying)* I’ll always be there with you… please…

The lights flicker.

**FLICKER CUT TO:**

1. **INT. DARK SPACE – UNKNOWN TIME**

Sudden DARKNESS.

**ADI** *(desperate)*  
Kriti… Ved…

He falls to his knees.

The air is thick — FOG rolls in.

**ADI**  
*(slapping his face)*Wake up! It’s just a dream!

*(slaps again)*  
No… You're drunk!

*(slaps again)*  
No… Please… I will never smoke again!

Wake up please

*(slaps again)*  
You’re sick  
You're sleepwalking!

*(slaps again)*  
The pills… It’s the pills!  
You are just hallucinating!

*(pulling hairs)*Enough sleep! Wake up!

He facepalms, gasping for breath.

Through his fingers, he sees a door— glowing faintly.

He hears faint chants. He turns to the other side and sees- A massive **PYRE**, with a **SHADOWY PRIEST** sitting in front of it.

Low chants echo across the void. The priest lifts his head.

He has NO FACE- Only glowing eyes and a bold white glowing **NAAMA** on his forehead.

He forcefully puts **ash** into the pyre— The flames roar. FIRE TRASNITION:

Adi gasps, his pupils dilate- Takes a few steps back and runs out of the door.

**CUT TO:**

1. **EXT. RED FIELD – UNKOWN TIME**

A wide, open hellscape. The ground is red. The sky is red. The clouds are red. The thunder is red.

He runs and runs and runs and stumbles into a bush- Looks around and hides.

Gasping- With quite heavy breaths- Attentive. Slowly-

A bunch of **Ghostly hands** emerge behind— pale, translucent, skeletal. Suddenly-

They grip his face, his arms, his chest, smothering and gagging him.

Two hands hold and pull his head back. Another hand holds and burns his arms.

Adi struggles— Choking and suffocating. A hand burns his arm.

With all his might, he grabs the hands and rips them off, freeing himself.

Panting, he gets up and sprints into the endless red field- With two RED SUNS burning in the blood-colored sky- And a swirling dark whirlpool-vortex spinning and eating the space itself.

With caution he looks back while running breathless- Suddenly- He tumbles into a huge tree in the middle of the field hits his face and falls to the ground.

Thunders- He gets up slowly- Scared and confused.

In the distance— ghostly silhouettes shuffle like memories without bodies.

A soft voice echoes through the wind.

**THE VOICE** *(O.S.  
 - echoing with reverse reverb)*  
Adi!

Adi turns towards the voice- Tears fill in his eyes.

It’s his father- Calm and glowing softly. Standing with a welcoming smile.

**FATHER** *(echoing)*Adi...

**ADI** *(teary, weak)*  
Appa? What is happening?

**FATHER** *(gentle)*Don't be afraid  
It is the rule of nature

A huge raven flies and sits on a branch of the tree.

Suddenly, black **sesame seeds** appear around Adi’s mouth.

Confused- He brushes them off, putting them on the ground.

The raven flies and sits next to the seed- Begins to eat.

A loud thunderclap rips the sky.

Adi breathes heavier. His stomach growls.

**FATHER** *(smiling)*If you're hungry… say it.

**ADI** *(childlike)*  
I'm hungry…

CAMERA PANS up from his stomach to his face.

A purple, translucent being appears beside him — tall, divine, with golden armbands, and a radiant crown.

**ADI** *(sacred)*Who are you?

**BEING** *(calmly)*  
I am Vasu  
Pitru Deva Vasu

Adi’s stomach growls again.

**VASU**This was offered to you

Vasu lowers his hands and offers him a **ball of rice**.

Adi hesitates- His stomach growls again. Finally, he takes it and eats it.

**VASU**This is Pitru Loka  
You still have one Samvatsara   
To enter here

Vasu disappears into thin air like vapor. Adi turns to his father.

**FATHER** *(smiling, bittersweet)*  
The law of nature! GO!

Trembling and confused- Adi looks at the ghost of his father. The father gives him a last smile.

**FATHER**We have so much to talk  
Just one Samvatsara

The father slowly tilts his head and opens his mouth wide.

The father’s eyes turn white, and a bright red flash erupts from his mouth. Expanding into a long red beam of light— Forming a portal.

The red portal comes closer and passes through Adi like light through glass.

Adi is back inside the unknown dark void.

*[DN: Plan-B is to transport Adi back to the void with a hit from a red thunder]*

**FLASH CUT TO:**

1. **INT. THE VOID – UNKNOWN TIME**

Adi is now in a dark room filled with purple fog lit with a bluish spotlight.

He watches the red portal drift away, vanishing- As his head spins in confusion.

Ahead of him: a **large mirror** suspended in the air/ placed on the ground.

Adi slowly walks towards it.

He raises his hand- Slowly, trembling.

His reflection mirrors him- With a lag.

He slowly puts his fingertip on the mirror.

With a delay- The reflection’s fingertip touches his fingertip.

Immediately- CREAK! The mirror begins to crack- Slowly. And Suddenly-

BOOM!!!

A jolt— Like a cosmic boom, the mirror blasts. Throwing Adi backward- He flies in slow motion.

CRASH ZOOM INTO HIS EYE

**ZOOM CUT TO:**

1. **INT./ EXT. MULTI - MONTAGE**

His pupil dilates.  
Transition to- A hundred shards of glass- Each representing a strand of memory.

Zoom into one of the shards.

*BEGIN MONTAGE: POV shots*

1. **INT. CRIB – DAY**A POV shot of a rotating cot mobile
2. **EXT. PARK – EVENING**His father lets go of a cycle & smiles as he rides away for the first time.
3. **INT. HOUSE – DAY**His mom applies ointment on his scraped knees.  
   MOM: *This is a magic band-aid.*
4. **EXT. ROAD – EVENING**He is petting a puppy. A young Giri stands next to him.  
   YOUNG GIRI: *Mom will not let us keep it.*
5. **INT. HOME – DAY**

His mother is feeding the dog on her lap.

1. **EXT. GROUND – DAY**He hits a six in cricket in a ground.
2. **EXT. ROAD – EVENING**Him and his friends are holding ice-lolly and cheer.
3. **INT. COLLEGE CLASS – NOON**A teacher throws a chalk piece at him.  
   TEACHER: *Pay attention! You daydreamer!*  
   FRIEND: *That girl is looking at you!*Adi *looks at the young Kriti.* Kriti corrects her hair and smiles.
4. **INT. BAR – NIGHT**Him and his friends are holding beer bottles and cheer.
5. **INT. HOSPITAL – NIGHT**He is in front of Giri. GIRI: *Adi! Dads gone! (cries)*
6. **EXT. HILLTOP – NIGHT**Adi smokes a doobie
7. **INT. RESTUARTANT – EVENING**

He is in front of Kriti. Kriti: *Adi! I like you*

1. **INT. OFFICE – DAY**He is in front of an interviewer.  
   INTERVIEWER: *Congratulations! You got the job!*
2. **INT. BALCONY – EVENING**

He is in front of drunk Giri who is drinking.

GIRI: *You may wonder why I drink much. You are not married yet (flashback) You will know when you do! Now fetch me some ice like you always do.*

1. **INT. PARTY HALL – EVENING**He puts a ring on Kriti’s finger on their engagement day.
2. **INT. CLUB – EVENING**He takes a puff and ashes a cigarette butt.

Friend: *You smoke too much. Your brain cells will die.*Adi falls and goes unconscious.

1. **INT. HOSPITAL – NIGHT**Kriti, Giri and his mother are around him.
2. **INT. DOCTOR’S OFFICE – MORNING**  
   Doctor: *You have a brain condition.*The doctor gives him a pill.  
   Doctor:*You must take this pill. It may cause hallucination.*
3. **INT. BATHROOM – DAY**He is holding the pill bottle.
4. **INT. HALL – EVENING**He holds Kriti as she faints. Kriti is on the couch, and He is sitting in front of her.  
   KRITI: *Adi! I am pregnant!*
5. **INT. HALL – EVENING**He is in front of Kriti.  
   KRITI: *We do not have a son (flashback)*She pulls out a toy.  
   KRITI: *Yet! But you have already brought this!*
6. **INT. ROOM – DAY**He looks at his wife holding a baby sleeping on the bed.
7. **EXT. PARK – DAY**He helps his son Ved ride a bicycle for the first time.
8. **INT. HOUSE – DAY**Kriti applies ointment on Ved’s scraped knees.
9. **INT. BY THE LANDLINE – NIGHT**He picks up a ringing landline. It’s Giri on the other side.  
   GIRI: Adi! Make your heart strong… Mom’s gone!
10. **INT. ROOM – NIGHT**He is in front of the wardrobe in his room. Suddenly a hand taps his shoulder. He turns. It’s Giri.  
    GIRI: *Are you sleepwalking? Did you take pills?*
11. **INT. HALL – EVENING**Ved *(softly)*: *Is this house haunted?*
12. **INT. OFFICE – DAY**He is in front of his boss. The boss is stern and throws a file.  
    BOSS: *Your performance will affect your career and future*
13. **INT. HOME – EVENING**Kriti holds Ved. He looks at a whisky glass in his hand.  
    KRITI: Stop bringing work pressure home. Adi, you’re scaring us! *(flashback)*
14. **INT. HALL – EVENING**Kriti is well dressed and so is he. Kriti looks at Ved.  
    KRITI: *You can’t come, Ved! It is our wedding anniversary!*His mobile phone rings and the call says– *Boss (Work)*KRITI: *Always work!*She walks away angrily.
15. **INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT**He watches Kriti sleeping in bed.  
    KRITI**:** *Adi it’s 3 AM. You’re still working? You were blabbering in your sleep. Enough work, get some sleep.*
16. **INT. HOUSE – MORNING**Kriti kisses Adi goodbye.  
    KRITI**:** *Come back soon. It’s our anniversary.*  
    Adi ruffles Ved’s hair and gets into his car.
17. **INT. CAR – DAY**Adi’s vision blurs. Phone buzzes.  
    TEXT – BOSS: "*Come fast. Don’t you have time sense?*"  
    Adi looks up — BAM. Hits a pole. White flash.
18. **BLACK SCREEN**Shadows overtake the screen from all sides- Pitch black.   
    Chaos of sounds builds-  
     Ambulance sirens.  
     Women crying: “Adi…”  
     Life support beeping.  
     Chanting of mantras.  
     Sounds of gas, rolling gears, metal, heavy breathing.
19. **FIRE**Little sparks of red begin to appear from the sides of the screen. Suddenly, flames roar and blast from all sides, indicating his cremation inside a chamber.  
    The fire glows, grows & covers the entire screen. Chanting of mantras end.

*END MONTAGE:*

Crash Zoom out of Adi’s eyes.

**ZOOM CUT TO:**

1. **INT. VOID – CONTINUOUS**

We’re back in the void filled with fog. NO MIRROR.

Camera pans from the side to the top of Adi, lying on the foggy ground.

He slowly sits on the ground, trembling with no expression, his face half-lit by the dim reflection of the mirror.

Through the fog, the old woman, his mother appears.

She slowly walks and stands in front of the mirror with a Diya lamp.

**MOTHER** *(smiles)*Adi!

**ADI** *(teary)*Amma!

**MOTHER**I know your head must feel like  
It is burning inside out  
All you must do is accept  
It is time for you to-  
-Leave everything behind and go

**ADI**No! I cannot leave my Kriti  
I cannot leave my Ved

**MOTHER**I tried! *(distorts)* I really tried.

The old woman starts to walk to the other side across the mirror. Her voice slowly distorting into something ferocious.

**MOTHER**  
But you too are the same!   
*(angry, demonic voice)*   
All you Pretas are the same

Adi looks at his mother turning into a tall dark figure- **Long** **curly hair**, **silver earrings**, **silver nose ring**, **silver** **armbands** and dark glowing eyes.

**ADI** *(scared)*You are not my mother

**DARK BEING**I used the energy of the-  
Spirt of your mother  
To pull you back

**ADI**Who are you?

**DARK BEING**Naanu *(laughs)*  
Kaala Gharbhadha Chaye Inda  
Dharma Raajana Agney Inda  
Satvakke Bandha Thamakethu  
*(turns)*Dharmajana Dhootha  
Mrithyuvina Ketha  
Yamakinkara Yamabhatta  
Pretha Darshi/Sethu Yamadhootha*(laughs)*

Adi looks at him scared.

**YAMADOOTHA**Aditya! Kashyapa Gotra  
Kumba Rashi- Dhanishta Nakshatra  
You died 13 days ago  
You were allowed to return  
To be around your family for 12 days

But you wandered  
you got stuck in the web of your memories  
Jumping through your life’s timelines  
  
I sent a form of your mother to fetch you  
But it failed

**ADI**This cannot be true  
I am dreaming

**YAMADOOTHS**Today is your 13th day  
And it is time to go

**ADI**No! I will not go…  
I am not dead!

**YAMADOOTHA**Your family has completed your  
SAPINDIKARANA, TARPANA, and PINDA DAANA  
*(flashes of scenes from before)*And they have fulfilled their dharma  
And now the time has come for you to fulfill yours!  
To accept death and move on

**ADI**No! No! No!

**YAMADOOTHA**This is your last chance  
to look at your family

The mirror appears again through the purple fog. Adi looks at his family though the mirror.

The mirror acts as a portal to the real world through **his portrait with garland** next to a burning **brass** **diya**.

**YAMADOOTHA**Accept your death  
And come with me  
Willingly!

Adi cries- Refusing to accept his fate. He touches the frame of the mirror.

**YAMADOOTHA** *(demonic angry voice)*Do not disturb the balance of nature

**ADI***(looking at the mirror)*Kriti! Ved! *(full of courage)*  
I will never leave you!

**YAMADOOTHA**I gave you a chance to come with me willinglyYour time is up *(angry growls)*

Yamadootha raises both his arms- A **thick metallic chain** begins to emerge from his palms. Moving towards Adi like a snake.

**YAMADOOTHA**   
As per the karma of your ANNAMAYAKOSHA (physical body)   
Your PRANAMAYAKOSHA (soul) shall be punished.

The chains wrap around Adi’s legs.

**YAMADOOTHA**On the day of your death  
I took you to Yamalokha in just 2 MUHURTAS  
And as per your karma  
As per the Chitragupta’s PAAPA PUNYA LEKHACHARA  
Your punishments were decided  
And I had brought you back as per the law of Yama

The chains coil around his waist.

**YAMADOOTHA**But on this 13th day  
I will be taking you back to Yamalokha  
But this time, over a period of   
12 AYANA meaning 12 MASAS. 1 Samvat-Sara

The chain locks around his chest.

**YAMADOOTHA**You shall enter Yamalokha-  
-Through the south gate  
Passing through the Maha Vaitarani River  
For 12 Months

The chain wraps around his neck,

**YAMADOOTHA**In the Vaitarani  
All your sins shall be washed away  
*(scary)* But it will be very. Very Painful! *(maniac laughs)*

The chain covers his face.

**YAMADOOTHA**After that you will be permitted  
To meet your PITURS

The chain fully binds Adi. He bangs the mirror in desperation- Calling them out.

As he tries to bang the mirror- One last time- Yamadootha pulls the chain to drag Adi’s soul to continue his karmic journey.

**YAMADOOTHA**AND NOW -  
TIME TO GO! *(laughs)*

In the real world, his son Ved notices the photo of Adi shake.

Ved looks up towards his grieving mother- Sitting on the couch.

**VED**Amma…!?  
Is our house haunted?

Zoom into the portrait of dead Adi with a garland.  
Suddenly- The burning diya lamp next to the portrait- Blows off

WOOSH! The lamp is lit back up.

**--- THE END ---**