1. **EXT/INT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE/ HALL – EVENING**

Thunder and howls can be heard, yet it is a silent night. A master shot through the branches of a tree reveals a house in the middle of the woods as the dings of an old grandfather clock can be heard coming from inside the house.

The clock continues to ding as the camera shows a tube light outside the house flickering with flies.

Inside the house- A **clock on the wall**- Time stuck at 8- And a **portrait of an old man** and **a portrait of an old woman**.

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 is it?

**VED**What are you reading?

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. Suddenly- In the mirror a **shadowy figure with smoke for head and white glowing eyes** appears behind him.

**SHADOW** *(screechy demonic whisper)*  
GO!

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

He walks to reach 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 small rose. 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**  
Yeah… I had a weird dream

**FRIEND**What dream?

**ADI**I was in the future

**FRIEND**Forget about that. 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 rose 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!

TODO

Adi takes the glass from Giri’s hand.

He coughs and holds his neck like he is suffering.

He sees the glass in his hand, and it is empty. He licks his dry cracked lips.

He finds a **kettle**- Shakes it- Opens it- The water boils and evaporates.

He finds a **teapot with a set**- Opens it- Filled with ash.

He finds a **glass with fizzing soda and lime**- It falls to the ground and turns into **chalk**.

He finds a **jug**- tilts to pour- **sand** comes out.

With no water in sight, he walks towards the kitchen.

He again sees the fallen telephone dial- Next to it he sees a **vase**. Takes out the **flowers** and throws them- He flips it- Rice flows and not water.

**CUT TO:**

1. **INT. KITCHEN – CONTINUOUS**

Adi enters the kitchen- His mouth extremely dry like a desert.

He Picks up a **steel glass**. He opens the fridge- Empty with no lights.

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

He finds a **tender coconut**- As he lifts it, it splits into two.

He finds a **whiskey bottle**-Shakes and feels it- Gets happy- Opens it and pours- No liquid instead a thick smoke comes.

He turns on the tap- Not a drop of water.

Silence. Suddenly-

**A WOMAN’S VOICE** *(O.S.)  
(distance echo from memory)*Turn on the motor!

He becomes alert and walks back out with the dry mouth and the empty steel glass.

**CONTINUOUS TO:**

1. **INT. LIVING ROOM – CONTINUOUS**

Adi walks back to the living room. Holding the empty glass. Lights flicker. Suddenly-

**KRITI** *(O.S.)*Hey… Ved!

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** (playful)I asked you for ice cold water  
Not just ice!

Adi looks at the glass he’s holding. It is no longer empty but filled with ice.

**KRITI** *(keeps the glass aside)*Anyway… I have something to tell you.

She reaches out and holds Adi’s hands.

**KRITI** (smiling)  
I’m pregnant.

**ADI** (teary-eyed)  
Our first kid…

Suddenly- Ved appears out of nowhere.

**VED**What about me?

Adi spins around. No one is on the couch.

He turns back- Kriti is now in a dress.

Adi finds himself in a tuxedo- Sitting on the couch, like dressed for an event.

**KRITI** *(to Ved)*  
You can’t come, Ved!  
It’s for grown-ups only.  
Make him understand Adi!

Adi looks around- Dazed and confused.

**KRITI**You’ll stay with Ajji.

Adi turns to his left and-

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

**MOTHER**I’m here to get you!

**KRITI**It is time to go!

**MOTHER**It is time to go!

**VED**It is time to go!

Adi sits on the couch- scared.

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

It’s time to go… It’s time to go. They sing. Unified.

The camera shows a few B-rolls to go with the melody.

Close into Adi’s face-

Epilepsy graphics with Trap music begin playing- Morphing his face.

His face fades out and the graphics take over.

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!

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. Peaceful.

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. Thunders are 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.

Suddenly- Without caution. He tumbles into a huge tree in the middle of the field hitting his face- Falling to the ground.

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)*  
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**I bring you’re the offerings  
That is 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.

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

**FATHER** *(smiling, bittersweet)*  
Adi… Accept it!  
Accept the laws of nature  
It is time to go!

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

**FATHER**We shall meet soon!

The father Slowly opens his mouth wide.

A sudden red flash erupts from the father’s mouth. Expanding into a long red beam of light— Forming a portal.

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

Adi is back inside the unknown dark space.

*[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! SNAP! 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:*

1. **EXT. PARK – DAY**Adi's father lets go of a bicycle as Adi rides away for the first time. The Father smiles.
2. **INT. HOUSE – DAY**His mom applies ointment on his scraped knees.
3. **EXT. GROUND – DAY**Adi hits a six in cricket in a ground.
4. **INT. HOSPITAL – NIGHT**  
   Giri stands solemnly.  
   GIRI**:** Make your heart strong… Dad is gone!
5. **EXT. HILLTOP – NIGHT**Adi sips beer near a bonfire.
6. **EXT. HALL – EVENING**Adi smokes a doobie.
7. **INT. COLLEGE CLASS – NOON**A teacher throws a chalk 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.
8. **INT. CLUB – EVENING**Adi ashes a cigarette butt.  
   Friend**:** You smoke too much. Your brain cells will die
9. **EXT. RESTUARTANT – EVENING**Adi is in front of Kriti.  
   Kriti: I like you, Adi!  
   Adi faints.
10. **INT. HOSPITAL – NIGHT**Kriti, Giri and his mother are around him.
11. **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.
12. **INT. BALCONY – EVENING**Adi and Giri are drinking.  
    GIRI: When you were a kid, you had the sleepwalking disorder and now this. And I became an alcoholic. I don’t want you to remember me as a drunk.
13. **INT. KITCHEN – MORNING**His mother puts a dosa on his plate.
14. **INT. OFFICE – DAY**Adi nails an interview.
15. **INT. ENGAGEMENT CEREMONY**Adi slips a ring onto Kriti’s finger.
16. **INT. HOUSE – EVENING**Adi slaps on the cheeks of fainted Kriti.  
    KRITI: Did I faint? Get me a glass of ice cold please
17. **INT. HOUSE – EVENING**KRITI: (smiles) I am pregnant
18. **EXT. PARK – DAY**Adi helps his son Ved ride a bicycle for the first time.
19. **INT. HOUSE – DAY**Kriti applies ointment on Ved’s scraped knees.
20. **INT. BY THE LANDLINE – DAY**Adi picks up a ringing landline.   
    GIRI: Make your heart strong… Mom’s gone!
21. **INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT**Kriti lies in bed.  
    KRITI**:** It’s 4 AM, Adi. Come to sleep.
22. **INT. OFFICE – DAY**Adi’s boss is stern.  
    BOSS: This might affect your future.
23. **INT. HOME – EVENING**Kriti holds Ved.  
    KRITI: Stop bringing work pressure home. Adi, you’re scaring us!
24. **INT. HALL – EVENING**Ved *(softly)*: Is this house haunted?
25. **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.
26. **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.

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.

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

*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.

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**What is happening to me? 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**Kaalada Chaye Gharbhadinda  
Dharma Raajana Agneyinda  
Bandha Thamakethu *(turns)*Dharmada Dhootha  
Mrithyu Bhaya Ketha  
Yamakinkara Yamabhatta  
Pretha Darshi YamadhoothaI am the bearer of darkness  
The messenger of the lord of death  
I am a Yamadootha

Adi looks at him scared.

**YAMADOOTHA**Aditya! Kashyapa Gotra  
Kumba Rashi- Shathabisha 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 I failed

**ADI**This cannot be true

**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   
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

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

Adi cries- Clinging to his memories and refusing to accept his fate. Adi touches the mirror.

**YAMADOOTHA**Do not disturb the balance of nature

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

**YAMADOOTHA**Your time is up

Yamadootha raises both 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

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!

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**IT IS 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.