**Screenplay: Scene 1**

**INT. LIVING ROOM – DAY**

A framed **photo of the grandmother** on the wall trembles slightly.

**VED (10)** stares at it, wide-eyed.

**VED**  
Dad... is this house haunted?

**ADI (30s)**, calm but tired, looks up from his laptop.

**ADI**  
Haunted? No, Ved. Why do you ask?

**VED**  
That photo of grandma... it shook.  
(Silence)  
She called me by your name. She said—  
(whispers)  
*"It is time to go."*

Adi puts the laptop aside.

**ADI**  
Ved, don’t joke like that. Your grandma’s been gone for nearly a year.

Ved doesn’t blink. His body stiffens.  
His eyes lock onto Adi. Frozen. Like a statue.

**ADI**  
Ved? Ved!?

Adi moves closer—claps his hands, snaps fingers.

**ADI** *(increasingly frantic)*  
VED!

Adi screams.

**INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS**

**KRITI (30s)**, wearing an apron, rushes in from the kitchen.

**KRITI**  
Adi! Why are you shouting?

**ADI**  
He—Ved—he said grandma spoke to him. Then he froze like a—

Kriti furrows her brows, puzzled.

**KRITI**  
Ved? Adi... we don’t have a son.

Silence.

**ADI**  
What?

**INT. BEDROOM – MOMENTS LATER**

Adi lies on the bed, dazed. Sweat beads on his forehead. He closes his eyes.

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

As Kriti watches from the hallway, a **hand touches her shoulder**.

She turns—sees **Adi** standing behind her.

She faints.

**INT. BEDROOM – CONTINUOUS**

Adi lies in bed, unaware. Reaches for water.

Spots a framed **family photo**: himself, Kriti, and Ved.

He chuckles.

**ADI**  
Kriti, you got me... What a prank.

He gets up.

In the mirror, his **reflection lags** behind him.

Adi raises a hand—mirror follows, **delayed**.

**ADI**  
What the...

Lights flicker.

In the mirror, a **shadowy figure** appears behind him.

**SHADOW** *(whispers)*  
It is time to go...

Adi clutches his head in pain—like a migraine.  
He reaches for water, knocks the glass off.  
It shatters.

**INT. BEDROOM – MOMENTS LATER**

**KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.**

Adi looks at the door.

**ADI**  
Kriti? Is that you?

No answer.

**KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK.**

The door trembles. Someone—or something—is on the other side.

Adi walks slowly to it. Opens it.

Darkness.

**KNOCK KNOCK.**

He turns. It’s coming from the **wardrobe** now.

He walks to it. Opens it.

Only a **small pill bottle** inside.

He takes it.

**INT. BATHROOM – SUDDENLY**

Adi now stands in the bathroom.

He smiles.

**ADI**  
Right. The pills.  
(beat)  
Doctor said they might cause hallucinations...

**INT. HALLWAY – MOMENTS LATER**

Adi exits bathroom. Sees Kriti looking at the bedroom.

He walks behind her. Taps her shoulder.

**KRITI** *(turns)*  
Gasp!

She faints—again.

Adi catches her, panicking.

Places her on the couch.

Sprinkles water on her face.

She stirs.

**KRITI**  
What... happened?

**ADI**  
You fainted. I don't know why.

**KRITI** *(groggy)*  
Wait... what are you doing here?

**ADI**  
What?

**KRITI**  
I saw you walk into the bedroom...

**ADI**  
I was in the bathroom. Are *you* pranking *me* now?

She smiles—awkwardly.

**KRITI**  
Can you get me a glass of water? With ice?

**ADI**  
Sure.

**INT. KITCHEN – MOMENTS LATER**

Adi walks to the kitchen.

On the wall behind him, the **photo of his father** slowly **moves its eyes**, tracking Adi’s every step.

Screenplay: Scene 2

INT. KITCHEN – NIGHT

Adi pours water into a glass.

Opens the freezer. Adds ice.

As he closes the freezer door—

GIRI (30s) suddenly appears behind it.

ADI

(startled)

Giri! What the hell!

GIRI

What are you doing?

ADI

Getting some water. Kriti asked for ice.

GIRI

Kriti? Oh! Your college friend?

ADI

College friend? She’s my wife.

GIRI

Wife? You? You’re a bachelor.

Adi stares, confused.

ADI (muttering)

But... she was on the sofa...

GIRI

Did you drink too much?

ADI

Me? No... I—

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

GIRI

(toasts)

Cheers.

(beat)

IT IS TIME TO GO.

---

INT. LIVING ROOM – MOMENTS LATER

Adi steps out of the kitchen.

The sofa is empty. No Kriti.

He looks at the glass in his hand.

ADI

What the hell is happening to me...?

Suddenly, RIIING!

The landline phone rings.

Adi walks to it, picks up the receiver.

A distorted voice on the other end:

DISTORTED VOICE

It is time... to go...

Adi drops the phone in fear.

He turns to the portrait of his father.

The eyes blink and lock on him.

ADI (breathless)

No... no, no...

The glass in his hand starts morphing—turns into a ringing alarm clock.

---

INT. BEDROOM – MORNING

Adi wakes up with a start.

The alarm clock rings beside him.

He’s clutching a family photo.

ADI

Was that... all a dream?

KNOCK KNOCK.

He looks at the wardrobe.

Then at the bedroom door.

ADI

Who is it?

KRITI (O.S.)

It’s me.

Adi gets out of bed—steps on broken glass.

ADI

Ow! Who put this here!?

He checks his foot. It’s unharmed. Not even a scratch.

The bedroom door creaks open.

A woman enters—her face unclear.

WOMAN

It is time to go... to college, sleepyhead!

Adi turns toward the mirror—

He sees himself as a teenager.

---

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS

Teen Adi walks out of the room.

Everything is dimly lit.

SLAM!

The bedroom door shuts behind him.

He turns—bangs on the door.

Through the frosted glass, he sees a figure knocking from the other side.

(A callback to the earlier scene: Adi hearing knocking after Ved froze.)

ADI'S MOTHER (O.S.)

Adi! Come on! Breakfast is ready!

ADI'S MOTHER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Your favorite—dosa!

Screenplay: Scene 3

INT. DINING ROOM – MORNING

Teen Adi sits at the table.

A hot dosa on a plate before him.

He stares at it.

FAINT CHILD VOICES (O.S.)

Adi! Hey Adi!

The dosa starts to ripple, morphs into a tiffin box.

---

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM – DAY

Adi, now a school kid, sits at his desk.

A friend next to him leans over.

FRIEND

What did you bring today?

Adi opens the tiffin box—steaming Maggie noodles.

GROUP OF KIDS swarm in and snatch the noodles, devouring it.

As the box empties, the Maggie morphs into a birthday cake.

---

INT. BIRTHDAY PARTY – EVENING

Adi, now a little older, is surrounded by smiling faces.

EVERYONE

Happy Birthday, Adi!

He blows out the candle. The cake explodes into a firecracker bomb.

---

EXT. STREET – NIGHT

Adi runs in panic. The bomb explodes behind him.

He trips and falls—just as the fall transitions—

---

INT. STUDY ROOM – NIGHT

Adi jerks awake, sitting in front of his laptop.

KRITI (O.S.)

Adi… it’s 3 AM. You’re still working?

She turns in bed, drowsy.

KRITI (CONT'D)

You were blabbering in your sleep.

ADI

Kriti… do we have a kid?

Kriti opens one eye, annoyed.

KRITI

Sleep. Please.

She pulls the blanket and turns away.

Adi closes his laptop and lies back.

A few moments of silence…

Suddenly, chalk dust falls on his face.

---

INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM – DAY

Adi jolts up. He’s in uniform, at a school desk again.

A TEACHER glares at him, having thrown the chalk.

TEACHER

Pay attention!

FRIEND (next to him)

Nice nap? Weird dream?

ADI

Yeah… dream of the future.

FRIEND

Look… that girl’s watching you.

Adi turns and sees a teenage Kriti.

She smiles. Fixes her hair.

Adi stares, wide-eyed.

Zoom into Adi’s eye—

---

INT. BAR – NIGHT – SURREAL SEQUENCE

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

Ashtray morphs into a snooker ball.

Camera pulls back to reveal Adi lining up a shot on a pool table.

A friend leans in, watching.

FRIEND

You smoke too much. Your brain’s gonna rot.

ADI (darkly)

I think it already has.

FRIEND (creepy smile)

Go on…

(beat)

FRIEND (CONT’D)

IT IS TIME TO GO.

He lifts his fingers—forms a camera gesture.

CLICK!

A flash bursts.

---

MATCH CUT TO:

A photo of Adi, smiling… slightly off, almost forced.

Screenplay: Scene 4

INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT

Adi sits on the bed, holding a photograph of himself.

He steps off the bed.

CRUNCH.

He looks down—glass shards.

But the camera BOOMS up and back down—the glass is now roses.

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

---

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS

Adi steps into the hall.

A dim light. An old woman stares at him from a corner.

She suddenly turns.

Behind her stands Ved.

VED

Ajji... where were you all these days?

The woman just stares blankly.

VED (CONT’D)

I saw your photo shake... Are you a ghost?

She slowly nods, eyes cold.

WOMAN (softly)

It is time to go.

---

INT. HALLWAY – CONTINUOUS

VED (to Adi)

Is this house haunted?

ADI (confused)

Who... who are you?

VED (grins creepily)

You’ll know... if you go.

Kriti enters from the kitchen.

KRITI

What happened, Adi? You look like you saw a ghost.

ADI (in shock)

Who... who are you both?

KRITI

Adi... you're scaring us.

Adi begins to mumble incoherently.

GIRI appears beside him.

ADI (to Giri)

Who are these two? The woman... and the boy?

Giri looks around—confused.

GIRI

What woman? What kid? There’s no one here.

Adi turns — the woman and Ved are gone.

---

A hand grips Adi’s shoulder.

He spins.

It's Giri again.

GIRI (concerned)

Hey... are you sleepwalking again?

ADI (blank)

I... don’t know...

GIRI

Did you take your pills?

ADI

No. My mouth... it’s dry. I need water.

---

INT. KITCHEN – NIGHT

Adi lifts a fallen telephone dial, places it back.

He opens the freezer, takes some ice.

He turns on the tap — no water.

Silence.

---

INT. HALL – CONTINUOUS

Adi walks back.

KRITI sits on the couch, as before.

ADI

Kriti... what are you doing here?

KRITI

I asked you for ice cold water. Not just ice.

(beat)

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...

VED (O.S.)

Then what about me?

Adi spins around.

Kriti is now in a gown. Adi is in a tuxedo.

They're sitting on the couch, dressed for an event.

KRITI (to Ved)

You can’t come, Ved. It’s for grown-ups only.

(beat)

You’ll stay with Ajji.

Adi turns.

His mother is smiling.

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.

---

A haunting melody begins to play in the background, repeating like a nursery rhyme, distorting...

SINGING (V.O.)

 It is time to go... it is time to go... 

Screenplay: Scene 5

INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

The screen is filled with static and muffled sound.

Suddenly, it pulls back — we are inside a TV.

CAMERA PANS OUT.

Adi is on the sofa, eyes open, yet unblinking — passed out.

Suddenly — he jolts awake.

He lifts his hand — a half-burnt doobie between his fingers.

ADI (dry mouth, groggy)

Ugh... damn...

He licks his lips, parched.

The TV turns on automatically.

TARPANA VIDEO (V.O.)

... the ritual of offering water to the ancestors...

ADI (mutters)

Not again...

He walks up and switches it off.

The TV flickers back on.

Adi frowns and plugs it out.

Silence.

The screen goes black.

Suddenly — the TV turns ON AGAIN.

The video of Tarpana resumes.

Adi coughs. Water floods into his mouth from nowhere.

He gasps — choking on the air and the imagined water.

MAN ON TV (loudly)

AAMANTRANA!

A sudden whoosh — an envelope flies and lands at his feet.

Adi bends, opens it.

On the paper inside:

IT IS TIME TO GO

Adi throws the envelope.

ADI (screaming)

NO! NO! I’M NOT READY!

From behind:

KRITI (softly)

Adi...

He turns — Kriti stands, holding Ved.

They look real.

ADI (babbling)

It is time to go... no... I can’t go... I CAN’T GO!

(crying)

I’ll always be there with you... please...

The lights flicker.

Sudden DARKNESS.

ADI (desperate)

Kriti... Ved...

He falls to his knees.

The air is thick — FOG rolls in.

ADI (slapping his face)

Wake up! Just a dream!

(slaps again)

You're drunk...

(slaps again)

It’s just the pills...

(slaps again)

You're dreamwalking...

He facepalms, gasping for breath.

Through his fingers, a door appears — glowing faintly.

He hears faint chants.

He walks through the fog toward it.

---

INT. DARK RITUAL SPACE – UNKNOWN TIME

A faceless man in black robes kneels before a smoldering pyre.

Low chants echo across the void.

The man lifts his head.

GLOWING EYES.

A massive white naama on his forehead.

He drops bhasma (ash) into the pyre — the flames roar into the sky.

ADI (terrified)

NO!

Adi runs.

---

EXT. RED FIELD – NIGHT

A wide, open hellscape. The ground is red. The sky is black.

Adi runs and stumbles into a bush.

Breath quickening.

Ghostly hands emerge behind him — pale, translucent, skeletal.

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

Adi struggles — choking.

Then he grabs them — and rips them off, freeing himself.

Panting, he gets up and sprints into the endless red field...

FADE TO BLACK.

Screenplay - Scene 6: The Red Field & Pitru Deva Vasu

EXT. RED FIELD – UNKNOWN DIMENSION – DAY/NIGHT

Adi runs, panting, across the crimson field.

Above him:

– Two RED SUNS burn in the blood-colored sky.

– A swirling BLACK WHIRLPOOL spins in the clouds, vortexing time itself.

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

A soft voice calls.

FATHER (O.S., echoing)

Adi...

Adi turns. His father stands, calm and glowing softly.

ADI (teary, weak)

Appa? What... what is this place?

FATHER (gentle)

Don't be afraid, kanna...

Suddenly, sesame seeds appear stuck around Adi’s mouth.

He brushes them off, confused.

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, a radiant crown, and a deep presence.

The being holds a glowing ball of food.

PITRU DEVA VASU

Naanu Vasu... Pitru Deva Vasu.

ADI (whispering)

Who... are you?

VASU

You called... I came.

Adi’s stomach growls again.

He takes the offering and eats it.

A moment of stillness.

Adi turns to his father.

ADI (whispering)

Appa... what's happening?

FATHER (smiling, bittersweet)

Accept it. Let go. Go with him...

A sudden red flash erupts from the father’s face, or perhaps a thunderbolt strikes him — and a DOOR forms inside the light.

The red door opens. It passes through Adi like light through glass.

---

INT. PURPLE VOID – UNKNOWN SPACE

Adi stumbles into a foggy room lit with eerie purple light.

He watches the red door slowly drift away, vanishing.

Ahead of him: a LARGE MIRROR suspended in air.

Adi walks towards it.

His reflection feels too alive.

He raises his hand, slowly, trembling.

His reflection mirrors him, fingertip to fingertip...

ZAP!

A jolt — like electricity or cosmic shock — throws Adi backward.

He falls in slow motion.

---

CRASH ZOOM INTO HIS EYE

Adi’s pupil dilates.

The zoom goes inside his eye.

—

FLASH.

— White screen.

— Silence.

—

Screenplay – Scene 7

INT. CLASSROOM – DAY (FLASHBACK)

A young Adi sits in a classroom.

KID

(cheerfully)

What have you brought today, Adi?

Adi opens his lunchbox — steaming Maggi noodles. The kids cheer and dig in.

---

EXT. PARK – DAY

Adi's father lets go of a bicycle as Adi rides away for the first time.

FATHER

(laughing proudly)

That’s my boy!

---

INT. HOUSE – BIRTHDAY PARTY

Adi blows candles surrounded by friends and family. His mom applies ointment on his scraped knees.

---

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS – DAY

Adi’s friend nudges him as Kriti looks at him.

FRIEND

Dude, she’s totally into you.

---

INT. HOUSE – DAY

Father waves Adi’s marks card in anger.

FATHER

Why did you score so low?

MOTHER

It's okay... He'll get an A+ next time.

Giri laughs. Father scolds him too.

---

EXT. GROUND – DAY

Adi hits a six in cricket. Later, he pets a puppy and lights a firecracker.

---

INT. HOME – EVENING

Father enters with cake and samosas.

FATHER

Guess what I got!

---

INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

Giri stands solemnly.

GIRI

Make your heart strong... Dad is gone.

---

EXT. HILLTOP – NIGHT

Adi sips beer near a bonfire.

---

INT. HOUSE – HOLI DAY

Kriti applies color on his face. His mother feeds him sugar.

---

INT. OFFICE – DAY

Adi nails an interview. Kriti gives him sweets.

KRITI

You did it!

---

INT. ENGAGEMENT CEREMONY

Adi slips a ring onto Kriti’s finger.

---

INT. HOUSE – EVENING

Kriti smiles.

KRITI

I fainted, yes... but get me a glass of ice cold water first.

---

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM – DAY

Kriti holds a baby. Later, Adi watches his son walk for the first time.

---

EXT. PARK – DAY

Adi helps his son ride a bicycle. Later, applies ointment on his son’s knee. Holds his report card.

SON

I’ll get A+ in all subjects next time, Dad.

---

INT. LIVING ROOM – DAY

Family photo. Giri says softly:

GIRI

Make your heart strong… Mom’s gone.

---

INT. PUJA ROOM – DAY

Adi stands in front of his mother’s framed photo.

---

INT. CAR SHOWROOM – DAY

Adi receives a symbolic car key.

---

INT. BEDROOM – NIGHT

Kriti lies in bed.

KRITI

It’s 4 AM, Adi. Come sleep.

---

INT. OFFICE – DAY

Adi’s boss is stern.

BOSS

This might affect your future.

---

INT. HOME – EVENING

Kriti holds Ved.

KRITI

Stop bringing work pressure home. You’re scaring us.

---

INT. HALL – EVENING

Adi sits drinking. Ved asks softly:

VED

Is this house haunted?

---

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.

---

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.

---

INT. DARKNESS – UNKNOWN TIME

Pitch black. Chaos of sounds builds.

Ambulance sirens

Women crying: “Adi…”

Life support beeps

Chanting

Sounds of gas, metal, heavy breathing

INT. CREMATORIUM CHAMBER – DAY

Flames surround Adi. He’s disoriented. The fire glows, grows…

---

INT. MIRROR REALM – CONTINUOUS

Zoom into Adi’s eyes as fire transitions into a reflection. A CRASH ZOOM OUT.

Screenplay – Scene 8

Adi finds himself in front of a mirror inside a surreal limbo. His mother appears, softly speaking to him and calling him her dear son. She reveals that Adi is in a state between life and death — a limbo — and that his time among the living has ended. As Adi begs to stay for the sake of his wife and child, his mother transforms into a terrifying dark spirit — a Yamadootha, a messenger of Lord Yama.

The Yamadootha explains that Adi died 13 days ago, and had been allowed by Yama to return and witness his family for 12 days. On the 13th day, after the completion of Sapidikarana, Tarpana, and Pinda Dana, the time has come to accept death and move on.

Adi, still clinging to his memories and refusing to accept his fate, is warned not to disturb the balance of nature. Yamadootha declares that his time is up. Chains begin to emerge, binding Adi as he resists. Each link represents karmic consequences tied to his Annamayakosha (physical body) and Pranamayakosha (life force).

The Yamadootha reveals that Adi’s soul will journey through the southern gate of Yama Loka, crossing the painful Vaitarni river over a period of 12 months (2 ayanas), before he can meet his ancestors (Pitru). As the chains fully bind Adi, he bangs the mirror in desperation.

In the real world, his son Ved notices the photo of Adi shake. He looks up and innocently asks his mother:

"Mom… is our house haunted?"

---

 SCREENPLAY FORMAT (FINAL PARAGRAPH)

INT. LIMBO CHAMBER – NIGHT

A dim purple fog surrounds the room. A GIANT MIRROR floats in front of ADI. His eyes widen as he sees a familiar figure walking toward him — his MOTHER.

MOTHER

(softly, warmly)

Adi… my dear son. I am so happy to see you after so many years.

ADI

(tearing up)

What is happening to me, Mother?

MOTHER

You are in limbo, Adi. Between the world you knew… and the world that awaits.

(pause)

I know your head must feel like it's on fire… but that is the law of nature. I came to guide you.

(softly)

It is time to go.

ADI

No… my wife… my son… they still need me. I can’t leave them now!

His MOTHER slowly walks away, her shape twisting. Her voice deepens, turns otherworldly.

MOTHER / YAMADOOTHA

IT IS TIME TO GO.

ADI

(defiantly)

No! I won’t go!

She fully transforms into a ferocious YAMADOOTHA — eyes burning, skin dark, expression unyielding.

YAMADOOTHA

I am the messenger of Yama. You died… 13 days ago.

(in booming cadence)

I took you to Yama Loka in just 2 Muhurthas — 96 human minutes — and brought you back.

ADI

(staggered)

No… no, this can't be…

YAMADOOTHA

Your punishments were decided. You were given 12 days to walk among your loved ones.

Today is your 13th day. And you… still refuse to accept it.

ADI

My memories… they’re all over… timelines… I’m seeing everything at once.

YAMADOOTHA

Yes. You are unraveling.

(pause)

Your family performed the rites — Sapidikarana, Tarpana, Pinda Dana.

This is your last moment to witness them.

ADI turns to the mirror — through it, he sees his wife KRITI, his son VED, and his brother GIRI standing beside his framed photo.

ADI

Kriti… Ved… Giri! I’m here! I’m right here!

He bangs the mirror — but no sound escapes into the real world.

YAMADOOTHA

Do not touch the mirror! You will disrupt the law of nature.

(sharply)

IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO GO.

ADI

(shouting)

Kriti! Ved!

YAMADOOTHA

I sent your mother's soul to fetch you… and still you defied.

I have no other choice.

The YAMADOOTHA opens both hands. DARK CHAINS emerge from the air and wrap around ADI’s LEGS.

YAMADOOTHA

As per the karma of Annamayakosha… your Pranamayakosha will be punished.

The CHAINS wrap around ADI’s WAIST.

YAMADOOTHA

As per Chitragupta’s Paapa-Punya Lekha, your path is now set.

The CHAINS wrap around ADI’s NECK.

YAMADOOTHA

You shall enter Yama Loka… from the south gate…

(ominous)

You must cross Vaitarni — a river of pain. It will cleanse your sins… slowly… painfully.

ADI

(struggling)

Please… no… no!

The CHAINS wrap around his HANDS.

YAMADOOTHA

Your journey will last two Ayanas — 12 months. Only then may you meet your Pitru.

ADI slams the mirror in rage and panic.

---

INT. REAL WORLD – NIGHT

The framed photo of ADI on a table SHAKES.

VED

(looking at the photo)

Mom… is our house haunted?

Kriti looks at the shaking frame — her expression frozen in disbelief.