**Thanatophobia**

Main character Raj has Thanatophobia- the fear of dying. He is sitting on a chair watching a show- Fear Factor where a contestant-Saniya just performed a stunt from a tall building and is being interviewed.

(Raj is below the stage watching something on his phone while Saniya and the interviewer are on the stage with Saniya’s husband)

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Interviewer- Saniya, tell us about you stunt!

Saniya(out of breath)- Well what can I say? When I came to this show I was scared of heights. I would pass out in planes, bought an apartment on the ground floor and never used lifts. If you told me that I would be doing a stunt like this, from such a tall building, I would have never believed you.

Interviewer- How did you do it? If you were scared of heights?

Saniya- I don’t know. I just knew I had to do it. This is the reason I came to his show, to overcome my fears. Also having my husband watching me made me feel better too.

(Saniya and her husband hold hands and smile at each other)

Interviewer- One last question! Are you still scared of heights?

Saniya- I don’t think so!

Interviewer- Anything to say to the viewers?

Saniya- Face your fears! If you have a fear, face it! Look into its eyes and face it! That’s the only way to overcome your fears.

(Interview ends. The 3 characters get off the stage)

(Lights on Raj sitting below the stage)

Raj(to audience)- Well… I have the fear of dying. If Saniya had the fear of heights and went to a very tall place and faced her fears and lost her fear of heights… Maybe…. if I die, I too will lose the fear of dying!

(Raj goes to his terrace which is the stage)

(Raj gets up on stage and walks to the edge)

(Raj takes a deep breath and is about to jump)

(A man dressed as Yamraj enters the stage behind Raj)

Yamraj: Son!

(Raj is surprised and almost slips. Turns around to see Yamraj)

Raj: Who are you?

Yamraj: Yamraj!

Raj: Whatt??

(Yamraj nods as Raj is even more surprised)

Raj: So you are here to collect my soul right? Well let me tell you something- I am not going to be afraid of you… well at least after I jump from here…

Yamraj: Well about that… you might not want to do that.

Raj: Why not?

Yamraj: Why do you want to do it?

Raj: I saw this show where the contestant was scared of heights and she faced here fear by going to a very tall place and she lost her fear of heights. So just like her I am scared of death. So if I face my fear and die then I will lose my fear of death too!

Yamraj: But if you die, you would not be alive to have a fear right?

Raj: Right!

Yamraj: No I mean if you die, you die! No life!

Raj: But I do lose my fear of death.

(Yamraj is annoyed)

Yamraj: Listen here you…(calms down) son, you should not die.

Raj: Why? So that I keep being afraid of you! Ha its not gonna happen. I am going to jump…

(Raj turns around to jump. Yamraj grabs his hand and pulls him back)

Yamraj: Calm down son. Listen to me. Why do you want to go to death? Let death come to you. Everyone has their time destined already. You only have to wait for it. You will get to die soon… someday. Trust me.

Raj: Why do you care if I die or not? Isn’t this your job to collect my soul? Better do your job and not interfere in people’s personal lives. Or else I will lodge a complaint against you in heaven.

(Yamraj gets angry)

Yamraj: How can you be so certain that you will go to heaven? HUH?

Raj: I don’t know, I am just guessing.

Yamraj: Well let me tell you- you are not going to heaven. I mean you can go to heaven if you die…

Raj: alright cool

(Raj turns around to jump. Yamraj again pulls him back)

Yamraj: Stop! Stop! Please stop. Please

(Yamraj joins his hands and begs Raj to stop)

Yamraj: See, you are destined for heaven. But the problem is heaven is getting full real fast. And the Devtas aren’t very happy with it. They are not liking the fact that all the good people on earth are leaving the planet and filling the heaven instead. There are very few of the innocent, good people left. You need to stay. You can’t die.

Raj: Well I understand your problem but then what about my fear? My phobia?

Yamraj: Hmmm lets see… You said you wanted to face your fear in order to lose it, right?

Raj: Correcto

Yamraj: Well you did technically face your fear then. I am death myself. So you faced death! And let me tell you not many talk to me eye-to-eye the way you have.

Raj: Really?

Yamraj: Yeah, really. You have conquered your fear son.

Raj: Yes.. yes I did it. I faced death, looked him in the eye and made him cry! Yes I did it! Yes.

Yamraj: Well the last part isn’t correct but comedown now. It isnt safe on that wall come here.

(Raj stretches his hand for Yamraj to pull him but instead slips and falls of the terrace(stage) and dies)

(Yamraj bends down to see Raj’s body)

Yamraj(to the audience): Devtas aren’t going to be very pleased with this.

**THE END**