"ROUTES" BY AGE EXCHANGE THEATRE

(ENTER ACTORS WITH DHOL BEAT)

NEELAM: SUNO SUNO SUNO
KALEEM: AAP KE GAON MEIN PEHLI MARTABA AAJ RAT KO YAHAN TAMASHA LAGOO GA. KHEL TE KILARI KHELEN KHUDEN GAY. PYAR TE MOHABAT DIAN GALAAN BATAAN HOWAN GIAN. TE BEHON TE BHIRAHD APNE BACHHEY. BUDHEY SAB NOO LE KE AETHY AE AA JAI AE GA. OH AA GAIE JE OH AA GAIE JE.

(NEELAM STARTS PLAYING THE DHOLAK AND STARTS THE CHANT - VAL GURU VAL GURU VAL GURU.
KALEEM JOINS IN, THEN THE OTHER TWO ACTORS. AFTERTHE PRAYER, THE WOMEN LEAVE. THE MEN TAKE UP THE SCENE IN THE FIELDS AT HARVEST TIME. WOMEN BRING LUNCH FOR WORKING MEN. VILLAGE NOISES)

ROSE: (MILKING) SAT SRI KAL.
NEELAM: SAT SRI KAL.
MONEY LENDER: (COUNTS MONEY OUT LOUD)
TEA WALLAH: CHAI CHAI GARAM
MONEY LENDER: OL CHAI WALLEY CHA PILLA.
TEA WALLAH: JI.
MONEY LENDER: OL THOO THANDI CHA DE DITTY AEY CHAL GARAM CHA L.A.

(TEA WALLAH PUTS HIS HAND OUT FOR MONEY. MONEY LENDER VERY RELUCTANTLY GIVES HIM THE MONEY)

TEA WALLAH: SHUKIRIYA JI. (COOKING)

BARBER: HAJAMET KARA LAO JI AAO CHOUHERY JAHAB. LAO SARKAR AJ TE MOSUM SOHNÁ KIK LEYA OIYA AE SARKAR ZARA AARAM NAL BETHO KHIDEREY SIR EE NA KATWA LENA.

(IRONMONGER GOES OUCH)

BARBER: KION UNDER KARAN LEGEY O MEIN TEY HOONEE VIHA KARA KE LIYA JE LAO SUNHINO.
IRONMONGER: UM UM THAT FEELS GOOD.
BARBER: TE SAN BHI GOOD KAR DEYO.

(HOUSEWIFE CLEANING. IRONMONGER GETS IN HER WAY)

HOUSEWIFE: O BUCH KEYBHAI BUCHEN.
MARKET TRADER: POTATOES, ONIONS, RICE....
WIFE: Bhai
TRADER: YES
WIFE: AEY ZARA
TRADER: POTATOES
WIFE: HANJI
TRADER: ONIONS WIFE: ONIONS BHI DEY DO
TRADER: TOMATOES
WIFE: NA NA. OUTHOON GHobi DE DE
TRADER: TEN RS
WIFE: HAN?
TRADER: OK SEVEN RS
WIFE: NA NA NA
TRADER: OK. FIVE RS FOR YOU. LOOK I HAVE TO RUN BUSINESS. ITS
WHOLESALE PRICE.
WIFE: OK CHANGE JALDI JALDI.

(Temple scene in harvest time. Kaleem goes into picture frame.)

FATHER: (Greets women) SHAWA Bhai SHAWA ROTI LE KE AA GAION
KURIO. THEAK TIME SIR AA GAION. BARI BHUK. LAGI SI. ACHAA JALDI
NAL HATH DHOHA DIO.
SON: I AM SO HUNGRY I COULD EAT A HORSE.
WIFE: AEY LO POTI.
FATHER: SARA PIAZ BHI DEY.
    MEIN KHEA SOHINO AJ KI PAKA KE LEYANDA JE
    (Into Song)
    BARSAT MEIN HUM SE MILAE TUM AUR TUM SE MILE HUM. BARSAT
    MEIN.
SON: THIS IS THE VILLAGE I GREW UP IN AND THESE ARE THE PEOPLE I
GREW UP WITH. MY NAME IS KIRTAR. PLEASE COME INTO MY HOUSE. THIS
IS MY FATHER. A PROUD STRICT OLD ARMY MAN.

(Rose goes into picture frame)

    AND THIS IS MY BEAUTIFUL MOTHER WHO BROUGHT ME INTO THIS
WORLD AND NURTURED ME.

(Vincent goes into picture frame)

    AND I AM IN THIS PICTURE TOO.

(Photo)
FATHER: KIRTArey di MOTHER. MEIN LAND TE WORK KARAN CHALEYA.
achaa.
MOTHER: JAO JI JAO SAT GURU HAWA LEY

(FATHER LEAVES TO GO TO FIELDS. FATHER MIMES TAKING THE PLOUGH AND THE OXEN. FREEZES ON BURYING PLOUGH INTO THE EARTH.)

KIRTA: (READING) MA JI. THIS IS TOO HARD.
MOTHER: CHAL READ KA KA.
KIRTA: (PLAYS WITH HIS TOY CART.)
MOTHER: KIRTArey.
KIRTA: JI MA JI.
MOTHER: Aey LEY PUTUR. Aey KHANA LEY KEY APNE PIO NOO DEY AA.
CHETI CHETI. CHAL SHAWA.

(FATHER UNFREEZES AND STARTS PLOUGHING. KIRTA APPROACHES.)

KIRTA: PAJI PAJI.
FATHER: (RESTRAINS THE OX) KIRTArey WAIT.
    SHAWA RIGHT TIME TEY ROTI LEY KEY ANYA AEN SIT DOWN PUTER.
    (OPENS UP THE TIFFEN WHILST EATING.) MERI DEATH BAAD. Aey WHOLE
    LAND TERI HO WEY GI. MEIN CHANA WAN TOON HUN TO PLOUGH LEARN
    KAR LEY. FULL RESPONSIBILITY TERI HOWEYJI.
KIRTA: ALL LAND WILL BE MINE. FATHER I WANT TO LEARN NOW.
FATHER: MY SON NOW TEY NOW EE SAHEE. (PUTS DOWN FOOD) COME.
    PUT FIRMLY BLADE INTO THE EARTH AND AARAM DEY NAAL OX NOO
    MOVE KAR.
KIRTA: OK DAD LET ME DO IT.
FATHER: SURE MY PUTER. YOU LEARN I EAT.

(KIRTA HITS THE OX HARD AND OX RUNS AWAY.)

KIRTA: PAJI PAJI
FATHER: KHANA KHRAAB
KIRTA: BULLOCK RANAWAY.
FATHER: BULLOCK RUNAWAY. OTY TOON HIT HARD KITA GENTLY KHIA
    GENTLY. ACHARA.
KIRTA: OK PAJI. LET ME DO IT. I AM DOING IT. I AM DOING IT. IT WAS
    HARD BUT I LEARNED IT.

(KIRTA NOTICES FATHER HOLDING HIS LEFT SIDE OF CHEST. NOT WELL)

    PAJI PAJI. AREN'T YOU WELL?
FATHER: YES SON. SUDDENLY I FEEL OUT OF TURN.
KIRTA: I WILL TAKE YOU HOME.
(THEY LEAVE FOR HOME, KIRTAR SUPPORTING HIS FATHER)

MAJI MAJI
MOTHER: KI GAL AEY PUTTER?
FATHER: KIRTAREY DI MA I AM NOT WELL.
MOTHER: OLY CHALO LIE IN BED. I WILL GET YOU MEDECINE.
KIRTAR: WITH MY FATHER ILL, I HAD TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FIELDS. VERY SOON AFTER THIS HE DIED AND NOW I HAD THE FULL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FIELDS.

(WORKING IN THE FIELD. MOTHER APPROACHES)

MOTHER: KIRAREY MERI QAMAR WICH BAHUT DARD AEY. MEIN HOON BUDDHI HO GAEEEN AAN.
KIRTAR: YOU ARE OLD POOR MOTHER.
MOTHER: BUT TOON TEY YOUNG HAEN NA. MEIN CHANIYAN NA - JK BEAUTIFUL KURI NAL TERA VIHA KARA DEYON.
KIRTAR: NAI NAL. I AM TOO YOUNG TO MARRY. MOTHER: NAI PUTTER TOON TEY JAWAN AEN KA KA MERA VI DIL KARDA AY KEY KOI MERE BHI KHIDMAT KAREY. ISS GHAR DI LOOK AFTER KAREY.
KIRTAR: YOU NEED HELP IN THE HOUSE.
MOTHER: HAN KA KA O AAYE JI TOREY LAI SILAI KAREY JI.
KIRTAR: SHE WILL SEW.
MOTHER: TEREY WASTEY ISTREE KAREYGI.
KIRTAR: SHE WILL IRON FOR ME.
MOTHER: HAN TEY TEREY LAI ROTIAN PAKAE GI.
KIRTAR: SHE'LL COOK. GREAT.
MOTHER: TEY HOR TERIAN KHIDMATAAN KAREY GI.
KIRTAR: (LAUGHING) ALRIGHT MOTHER I AGREE. YOU MAKE THE CONTRACT AND I WILL DO IT.
MOTHER: TEY FIR MEIN NAAL DEY PIND JA KE GAL PAKI KAR AANDI HAN.
KIRTAR: MAJI.
MOTHER: KI GAL AEY PUTTER.
KIRTAR: I HAVE NO MONEY FOR THE WEDDING.
MOTHER: LISTEN SON. BANIYI KOL JA UDHAR LE LE.
KIRTAR: OK MOTHER I'LL GO TO THE MONEYLENDER AND GET THE MONEY AND PROMISE HIM TO PAY BACK AT HARVEST TIME. I WILL WRITE DOWN MY LAND AS A BOND.
MOTHER: MEIN CHALI.

(KIRTAR TRAVELS TO MONEYLENDER AND KNOCKS ON DOOR.)

MONEYLENDER: AA JA BLAI. SATSRI KAL.
KIRTAR: SATSRI KAL JI I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK YOU.
MONEYLENDER: FAVOUR TO ASK ME BACHE.
KIRTAR: I AM GETTING MARRIED.
MONEYLENDER: SHAWA VI SHAWA. WELL DONE. VADHAYIAN VI VADHAYIAN.
KIRTAR: I NEED A LOAN FROM YOU TO PAY FOR THE WEDDING. I WILL PAY YOU BACK ON HARVEST EVERY YEAR UNTIL THE LOAN AND THE INTEREST IS PAID FULLY. I WILL PUT UP MY LAND AS A BOND FOR THIS LOAN.
MONEYLENDER: THAT'S FINE BUT YOU KNOW MY INTEREST GROWS LIKE A TREE. PEHLAY AINJ KAR. PUT YOUR MARK ON THE PAPER TO BOND THE LAND. SHAWA. (LAUGHS) HOON AYE LAE PAISEY.
KIRTAR: I PROMISE I WILL PAY THIS LOAN AND THE INTEREST.
MONEYLENDER: SAT SRI KAZ. (LAUGHS TO HIMSELF.)

(KALEEM IS NOW PLAYING FATHER OF THE BRIDE. HE PUTS ON A TURBAN AND TAKES UP THE SCENE AS IF WAITING FOR SOMEBODY.)

KALEEM: HALEY AAEE NAHIN PATA NAHIN KITHAY RAH GAIY.
(HE NOTICES ROSE APPROACHING THE YARD AS A MOTHER AND MATCHMAKER)
OH BEHNI SAT SRI KAL MEIN TEY SUBHA DA UDILDA SAAN.
MOTHER: BHIRAJI MEIN REQUEST LAE KEY AAEE AAN.
FATHER: NAHIN JI TUSSI HUKAM KRO.
MOTHER: MERA KIRTAR HUN AYE JAWAN HO GAYA AYE. HERCULES AY HERCULES. FATHER: SAHDI BANTO BHI HUN JAWAN HO GAI AYE O ASI TEY TEYARINA BHI KAR LAYAN NE MEIN TOOHANO VIKHANDA WAAN ASSAN KITANA SONA BANAYA AYE APNI DHI WASTEY. FATER. (MIMES GOLD BOX)
AEYLO TOLEY TOLEY DIAN TE WANGAAN J. HAR J KARAJ HAANJI SONA. KAN WICH PAN JOGIAN WALIAN J TEY TIKKA TAKO JI TIKKA POORAY CHAR TOLEY DA J TIKKA. AYE JO KUH BHI AETHEY LEERAN LATER SUB KHUCH AYE BANTO LAI HEGA J. AYE KURSIAN MAIZE PALANG SUBKUTCH.
MOTHER: OH HO HO. BHIRAH JI AYE SUB KUTCH KARAN DI KI ZAROORAT SI.
FATHER: SADI TEY IKOO DIH J ASI GHR RAKH KEAY KI KARNA AYE.
MOTHER: TEY FIR MEIN SAMAJHAN GAL PAKI.
FATHER: JI BI KUL GAL PAKI.

(Celebration dance. Shawa rung mahia da into getting the couple ready. Ritual in the temple. After the circle father, mother and guest congratulate the couple. Father showers the couple with flower petals.)

MOTHER: LAMBI ZINDAGI HOYE TOHADI.
FATHER: JOONDEY RAHO.

(PHOTOGRAPH)
FATHER: JALDI PHOTOGRAPH

(PHOTO)

KIRTAR: THE WEDDING OVER, I TOOK MY BRIDE HOME TO BE GREETED BY MY MOTHER.

(KALEEM PUTS ON HIS HEAD A DOPPATA AND COMES INTO THE SCENE AS A BEGGING HEEJRA. HEEJRA SINGING, INTERRUPTS.)

MOTHER: (TO HEEJRA) LEAR PHAR

(VINCENT BRINGS THE BRIDE TO HIS HOME)

KIRTAR: YOU SEE, A NEW ROOF, A NEW FLOOR, A NEW BED.

(TO AUDIENCE) MY BEAUTIFUL BRIDE WAS PLACED IN THE CAPABLE HANDS OF MY MOTHER (MOTHER HELPING BRIDE) AND I RESUMED MY WORK IN THE FIELD.

(KIRTAR WORKING IN THE FIELD. THE MONEYLENDER APPROACHES)

MONEYLENDER: OH KIRTARIA SAT SRI KAL.
KIRTAR: SAT SRI KAL JI.
MONEYLENDER: CONGRATULATION BARE DHOOM DHUMAKE NAL VIHA KARAYA AEY.
KIRTAR: THANK YOU IT WAS A VERY GOOD WEDDING.
MONEYLENDER: SON REMEMBER. JEHRA LOAN LEA GIAN SAYN. MERA INTEREST BARI JALDI BHARA HO JANDA WAY.
KIRTAR: WHEN MY HARVEST IS READY I WILL REPAY YOU.

(MONEYLENDER LAUGHS AND LEAVES)

(SCENE AT HOME. WOMEN SINGING)

MOTHER: AAO JI AAO.
KIRTAR: MA JI I AM VERY HUNGRY. (ACCEPTS FOOD) SHUKERIA (EATS). WORK IS GOING VERY WELL.
MOTHER: SUB THEEK AEY SHUKER AEY.
KIRTAR: I HOPE THE HARVEST WILL BE VERY GOOD THIS YEAR. THE MONEYLENDER CAME BY TO REMIND ME ABOUT THE LOAN.
WIFE: 'LOAN' MONEYLENDER?
KIRTAR: HANJI, I OWE THE MONEYLENDER A DEBT. BUT DONT WORRY I WILL PAY BACK AS SOON AS MY HARVEST COMES IN.
MOTHER: TOON FIKAR NA KAR KARA. KIRTARA SUB THEEK KAR LAVAY GA.
KIRTAR: I MUST GO BACK TO THE FIELD.

KIRTAR: (IN THE FIELDS) THAT YEAR THE MONSOON CAME EARLY AND RUINED ALL MY CROPS. A YEAR AFTER IT FAILED COMPLETELY. IT WAS THE SAME THE YEAR AFTER THAT. IT WAS A DESPERATE TIME AND NOW I HAD TWO CHILDREN TO FEED.

MONEYLENDEER: OH KIRTAREY MORE PAISEY KITHEY A.

KIRTAR: JI I CANNOT PAY YOU MY DEBT. MY CROPS HAVE FAILED FOR THREE YEARS. WHAT CAN I DO. GIVE ME TIME.

MONEYLENDEER: NO TIME. I GAVE YOU ONE YEAR HARVEST BAD. SECOND YEAR HARVEST BAD. THIRD YEAR THE SAME RONA. YOU OWE ME MONEY; YOU BONDED THE LAND. NO MORE TIME.

KIRTAR: THE RAINS ARE NOT IN MY HAND. IF I DON'T HAVE MY FIELDS HOW CAN I PAY YOU? HOW CAN I FEED MY CHILDREN?

MONEYLENDEER: I DON'T CARE. LAND IS BONDED. YOU GO OFF.

(THROWS KIRTAR OFF THE LAND)

(SCENE AT HOME)

MOTHER: AETHER AA PUTER TEREY WAL BANIYE. SOHNI PUTER FiroCK NOO NICHKE KAR. SOHNI KURI. BABY THEEK AEN TOON.

KIRTAR: MA JI.

MOTHER: KI GAL AEY PUTER. TOON BARA PRAY SHAN NAZAR AAWANA AEY.

KIRTAR: THE MONEYLENDEER CAME TO GET HIS REPAYMENTS. I COULD NOT PAY HIM. HE TOOK MY LAND.

MOTHER: TOON KI KHIYAH AEY OHNE ZAMEEN LE LAI. O TUT PENA TERE BERA GHARAK HOWE. (WAILING) O MEReya SONIA PUTERA OH TE MERAY HUSBAND DI ZAMEEN SI OH SADI JADI PUSHTI CHALDI AA RAHI SEE. OH KIDAN LE SAKDA AEY. TERI ZAMEEN (WAILING).

KIRTAR: I AM ASHAMED MOTHER.

WIFE: TAKE ALL MY GOLD AND GIVE IT TO HIM.

KIRTAR: IT WONT BE ENOUGH WIFE.

WIFE: HE CAN GIVE US TIME.

KIRTAR: THERE IS NO TIME. HE HAS TAKEN THE LAND.

WIFE: WHAT ARE WE TO DO THEN, HOW ARE WE GOING TO FEED THE CHILDREN?

KIRTAR: IT IS IN GOD'S HANDS.

(KALEEM RUNS ON FRONT STAGE AS NEWSPAPER BOY)

BOY: HOT NEWS HOT NEWS

KIRTAR: WHAT NEWS?

BOY: VOUCHER FOR ENGLAND TO WORK AVAILABLE. AGENT IN DELHI.

KIRTAR: GIVE ME ONE. (BOY RUNS OFF).

WORKERS NEEDED IN ENGLAND. IF I GO TO ENGLAND I CAN REPAY MY
DEBT AND RECLAIM MY LAND. I WILL WORK TWO THREE FOUR YEARS. I WILL SEND MONEY TO MY WIFE AND MOTHER AND THEY WILL BECOME RESPECTABLE.

(ROSE AND NEELAM MIME BECOMING LADIES OF LEISURE WITH SERVANTS)

MY FAMILY WILL LIVE IN A GRAND HOUSE, SERVANTS LOOKING AFTER THEM. I WILL BECOME RICH AND RESPECTED IN MY VILLAGE, I MAY BECOME A MONEYLENDER MYSELF.

(Addressing the moneylender in his daydream)

HEY COME HERE, JALDI.

(Moneylender comes to him)

GIVE ME THE MONEY YOU OWE ME.

(Moneylender mimes to give money)

HA HA HA MY INTEREST.

(Moneylender once again empties his other pocket)

HA HA HA BHAJ JA HA HA HA.

(Snaps out of his daydream)

I MUST TELL MY MOTHER. MA JI. GOOD NEWS. I AM GOING TO ENGLAND TO WORK.

Mother: Hoon what.

Kirtar: Ji I will go work two three four years and send money to you.


Wife: How can you go away. England is so far away.

Kirtar: My wife if I don't go we will be beggared in our own village. My children will starve.

Wife: We'll manage. Don't go away please.

Kirtar: Wife, wife, I will come back. Wife: No no.

Kirtar: Ma Ji please talk to her.

Mother: Ok puter saber kar sub theek ho jawe ga (Talking to daughter-in-law)
KIRTAR: MAJI, I HAVE NO MONEY TO PAY FOR THE FLIGHT TO ENGLAND.
MOTHER: PUTER IK EE RUSTA EY. BUNYEE KOLON UDHAAR JA KE MUNG.
KIRTAR: BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO PAWN.
WIFE: GIVE HIM MY WEDDING JEWELLERY. TAKE IT.

(KIRTAR TAKES WEDDING JEWELLERY AND KNOCKS ON MONEYLENDER'S DOOR)

MONEYLENDER: OE KOU HAE AA JA. OE KIRTARIA TOOT FIR.
KIRTAR: SAT SRI KAL. I HAVE ANOTHER FAVOUR TO ASK YOU. I AM GOING TO ENGLAND TO WORK.
MONEYLENDER: (INTERESTED) ENGLAND - ACHA.
KIRTAR: I NEED MONEY FOR THE TICKET TO ENGLAND. I HAVE MY WIFE'S WEDDING JEWELLERY TO PAWN.
MONEYLENDER: AH IT'S NOTHING (KIRTAR TAKES HAND OFFERING THE JEWELLERY BACK) O NA NA NA. I WILL CONSIDER THIS. ALL RIGHT I WILL DO YOU A FAVOUR. HAN. PUT YOUR MARK HERE... FOR THE LOAN... AND FOR GOLD. SHAWA. TAKE THIS AND REMEMBER INTEREST GROWS VERY QUICKLY... SHAWA. GOOD LUCK. SAT SRI KAL.

(LAUGHS UNDER BREATH).

(KIRTAR ARRIVES HOME)

KIRTAR: MAJI
MOTHER: KI GAL AY PUTER.
KIRTAR: I HAVE THE MONEY FOR THE FLIGHT TO ENGLAND. I MUST GO.
MOTHER: RUB RAKHA PUTTER. APNA KHIAL RAKHN ROTI PANI THEEK TIME TE KHA LE A KAREEN AY LE MITU PA PA CHALEYA EE MIL LE.
KIRTAR: MITU YOUR FATHER WILL COME BACK.
MOTHER: AAJA BETA AAJA KO BAT NAHIN
(CONSOLING CHILDREN)
KIRTAR: SEVA MY SON YOUR FATHER LOVES YOU.

(WIFE CRYING, CHILDREN CRYING. KIRTAR LEAVES HOME.
SONG - JA WAY PARDESIA)

KIRTAR: WITH A HEAVY HEART I STARTED MY JOURNEY. AT THE MAIN ROAD I LEAPED ON A TONGA.

(TONGA SOUNDS PRODUCED BY THE COMPANY)

I TOLD MY TRAVELLING COMPANIONS MY PLANS TO GO TO ENGLAND TO WORK. THEY AGREED WITH ME IT WAS A VERY GOOD PLAN. SOON WE WERE AT THE STATION TOWN. I BOUGHT MY TICKET TO DELHI. I BOARDED MY TRAIN.
FIELDS THAT WERE SO FAMILIAR TO ME FLED INTO THE DISTANCE. WHAT AWAITED ME IN DELHI, I WONDERED. SOON THE TRAIN WAS PULLING INTO DELHI STATION.

I MADE MY WAY TO THE AGENT. PASSPORT, TICKET, VOUCHER. WITH APPREHENSION I BOARDED THE PLANE BOUND FOR LONDON, ENGLAND.

INDIA DISAPPEARED OVER THE HORIZON. SOON I WAS AT LONDON, HEATHROW. I KNEW NOBODY. I HAD THE NAME AND ADDRESS BUT NO FACE. (LOOKING AROUND)

KALEEM BECOMES RAVI AN OLD VILLAGE ACQUAINTANCE OF KIRTAR. HIS CONTACT IN ENGLAND)

KIRTAR: (SHEEPISHLY) RAVI
RAVI: (RELIEVED) KIRTAREYA

RAVI: SHAWA THEEK TIME TE AA GIAN - MEIN BACHE WORK TE JANA WA. BAG CHUK MEIN TENU HOUSE VIKHA DEWAN.

(A MIMED JOURNEY TO THE HOUSE. SHOWS THE ROOM AND BED THEY'LL SHARE TO KIRTAR. THEN HE INTRODUCES THE TOILET AND THE KITCHEN.)

RAVI: A ROOM SADA HEY. EH BED SADI HEY. PAHLE AETHER AA MEIN TENU KHAS ROOM VIKHA JAWAN. EH JERI SEAT HEGI NA. IS TE ISTRAH BEH JA HOON HOON - TE PHIR EH ZANGEERI KHICH DEY.... SAMAJH AA GAI NA. KHICH KE TE VEH.

(KIRTAR PULLS THE CHAIN AND GOES TO WASH HIS HAND IN THERE)

NO NO. BACHEYA. AETHER AA EH SINK HEGI EH. HOT TE COLD. TE AETHI THEY HATH DHO.
(KIRTAR MIMES TO MIX WATER AND WASH HIS FACE)

HAN KITCHEN VICH AA - AETHEY SARA KUM AAP KARNA PAINDA AY. NO WOMAN.
KIRTAR: NO WOMAN?
RAVI: EH COOKER AY. VEHK AINT AG LAI DI AY. MATCHES DI TILLY. GAS
KHAL TE AY VEKH AG BAL PAI AY.
KIRTAR: GAS. MAGIC. RAVI: HOON MEIN CHALEYA WORK TOON SAIN JA MERE
BED VICH. MEIN FOREMAN NALGAL KAR KE TENU KAL DAY SHIFT TEY
LAGWA DOON GA.
KIRTAR: SHUKRIYA.
RAVI: SO JA BACHE.

(GOES TO WORK. MIMES SHIFTING HEAVY MATERIAL INTO THE FURNACE AND
PRESSING TWO BUTTONS. WHILST KIRTAR SLEEPS HE SAYS BUTTON BUTTON
BUTTON IN BETWEEN SHOVELLING. BUTTON BUTTON FOUR TIMES. FINISHES
WORK AND GOES HOME.)

RAVI: O KIRTAREY CHAL DAY SHIFT TE TERI GAL HO GAI AY. MEIN TENU
KUM SIKHA KE SHIFT TE LA AAOON.

(both walk across to the factory area)

RAVI: HELLO FOREMAN - EH NAWAN BUNDA MEIN TRAINING DEYNDA HAAN
- AETHERON CHUKAYA VICH PAYA OTHERON CHUKIA VICH PAYA TE
BUTTON BUTTON HUN TOON KAR - (KIRTAR PICKS UP WORK)
FOREMAN JI THEEK KUM KAR REHA HAI.

KIRTAR: THANKS RAVI JI.

(raavi goes home to bed)

KIRTAR: BUTTON BUTTON. I CAN DO THIS. BUTTON BUTTON.

(finishes work and comes home)

WAKE UP RAVI - WORK TIME.

(raavi comes to work)

RAVI: SAT SRI KAL FOREMAN JI-
HOON HOON, INTO FURNACE HOON HOON, INTO FURNACE
SHOVEL SHOVEL, INTO FURNACE SHOVEL SHOVEL, INTO FURNACE
BUTTON BUTTON, INTO FURNACE BUTTON BUTTON
(REPEAT THE SEQUENCE. BUTTON BUTTON IS ECHOED BY KIRTAR IN HIS SLEEP. RAVI FINISHES HIS WORK AND GOES HOME.)

RAVI: UTH KIRTAREY AJ PAY DAY AE PAY DAY.

(RAVI GOES TO SLEEP. KIRTAR AT WORK. ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE)

KIRTAR: THE WORK WAS HARD BUT WHEN I RECEIVED MY PAY PACKET, MY TIREDNESS VANISHED. SEVEN POUNDS I WILL SEND HALF TO MY WIFE AND FAMILY. THAT'S ALMOST A HUNDRED RUPEES.

(Finishes work and goes home)

RAVI, RAVI, WORK.
RAVI: BACHEY TERA KHAT AAYA EY. LETTER.

KIRTAR: (Reads) MY DEAR HUSBAND, GOT YOUR LETTER,

(WIFE PICKS IT UP)

THANKS FOR THE MONEY. YOU WILL BE GLAD TO KNOW THAT I HAVE GOT MY JEWELLERY BACK FROM THE MONEYLENDER. WE MISS YOU VERY MUCH. MAJI AND CHILDREN ARE OK. WHEN ARE YOU COMING BACK?

YOUR LOVING WIFE BANTO.

(WIFE SINGS - JANA THA HUM SE DOOR....) ×

KIRTAR: FIVE YEARS WERE TOO LONG. I MUST SEND FOR MY WIFE AND CHILDREN IMMEDIATELY. (WRITES A LETTER) MY DEAR WIFE, I AM IN GOOD HEALTH, WORK IS HARD BUT GOING VERY WELL. I HAVE BOUGHT A HOUSE. I AM SENDING MONEY FOR YOU AND CHILDREN TO COME AND JOIN ME. YOUR LOVING HUSBAND KIRTAR.

(KISSES THE LETTER OVER TO HIS WIFE.)

(Scene back home)

GRANDMOTHER: MITU ETHER AA MEIN TENU KAHANI SUNAWAN. EK MONKEY HONDA WAY TREE TE CHARDA WAY. LAL TOPI PANDA AY SEAB KHANDA AY. AINJ KAR KAY UTE CHAR JANDA AY.

WIFE: MAJI. WE GOT A LETTER FROM HIM.

MOTHER: ACHAA KIRTARA KI KHENDA AY.

WIFE: HE IS WELL AND SENDS YOU AND CHILDREN LOVE. HE HAS SENT US MONEY.
MOTHER: MONEY! SEVA! MITU TERE PA PA NE PAISEY BHEJE NE. ASSI
MELAY TE JAWAN GEI TOYS LAWANGE, MITHAI KHAWANGE NAWAIN
KAPRAY PAWAN GAY. FIR THOHADA PA PA VAPEES AA JAWAY GA.
WIFE: MA JI HE IS NOT COMING BACK.
   HE WANTS ME AND CHILDREN TO JOIN HIM IN ENGLAND.
MOTHER: ENGLAND, EH BACHEY NAHIN KA KA TOON CHALI JA PAR. INA
BACHEYAN NOO MERAY KOL CHAD JA. MEIN LOOK AFTER KARAN GI. TOON
NAHIN LEJA SAKDI (WAILING) NAHIN BILKIL NAHIN. HI MERA KI BANEY GA.
MITY. SEVA.
WIFE: MA JI HE WANTS HIS CHILDREN WITH HIM. WE WILL SEND FOR YOU
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU HAVE YOUR BROTHERS AND FAMILIES.
MOTHER: ACHA PUTER TUSI JAJO MERA RUB RAKHA.

(SCENE ENGLAND)
(UNDER THIS IS A SONG BY MOTHER-IN-LAW - JAA PARDESIA TOON DERAN
KION....) ♪

KIRTAR: (TO AUDIENCE) MY WIFE AND CHILDREN WERE SOON TO ARRIVE. I
RAN AROUND LIKE A MADMAN GETTING THE HOUSE TOGETHER, CLEANING
IT. I EVEN COOKED A MEAL. THE DAY ARRIVED AND I WENT TO THE
AIRPORT. I SEARCHED THE CROWD FOR THREE FACES.
   BANTO

(THEY MEET)

WIFE: MITU! SEVA!
KIRTAR: SEVA! MITU! THEY ARE SO TALL. YOU? YOU ARE WELL?
WIFE: JI TUSSY?
KIRTAR: COME LETS GO. (TO AUDIENCE) THE JOURNEY FROM THE AIRPORT
WAS AWKWARD. MY WIFE WAS SHY. I DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
   (TO WIFE) GO IN. COME ON CHILDREN, PLEASE SIT.
WIFE: TOOSI BETHO.
KIRTAR: NO NO NO NO SIT.
   I HAVE COOKED US A MEAL.
WIFE: I WILL GET IT.
KIRTAR: NO NO NO SIT. TOMORROW YOUR WORK BEGINS. EAT, ITS GOOD.
WIFE: BOHUT ACCHAA HAE.
KIRTAR: YOU LIKE THE HOUSE.
WIFE: HAN JI BOHUT ACCHAA HEH.
KIRTAR: THIS IS THE LIVING ROOM. THAT IS THE KITCHEN. THE
BEDROOMS ARE UPSTAIRS. THIS IS A CARPET. ALL THE ENGLISH HOMES
HAVE CARPETS.

WIFE: BOHUT ACCHAA HEH
KIRTAR: YOU ARE TIRED.
WIFE: JI MEIN BOHUT THAK GAI HAAN.
KIRTAR: (TO AUDIENCE) IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD BEEN WITH MY WIFE. I LONGED FOR THIS DAY. HOW WILL SHE SURVIVE IN THIS STRANGE LAND. I WILL GIVE HER ALL THE HELP I CAN.

(MIME TO RETIRE)

WIFE: O TUSSEY UTH GAI
KIRTAR: YES I WILL GO TO WORK
WIFE: CHALO MEIN NASHTA BANA NI AAN
KIRTAR: NO NO NO I HAVE PREPARED MY LUNCH
WIFE: I SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT
KIRTAR: DONT WORRY, THERE'S PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT. YOU CAN COOK DINNER LATER, OK. THE CHILDREN MUST GO TO SCHOOL.
WIFE: TOOSI JALDI VAAPIS AA NA.
KIRTAR: OF COURSE. DONT WORRY. I HAVE ORGANISED A NEIGHBOUR WILL VISIT YOU THIS AFTERNOON.
WIFE: JI.
KIRTAR: IT WILL BE ALRIGHT. TAKE CARE. COME CHILDREN.

(WIFE ALONE AT HOME. VERY COLD. CANT LIGHT THE FIRE, NOR THE COOKER. IN DESPERATION STARTS CRYING.)
WIFE: MA JI MEIN KI KARAN. MEIN KHTHEJ JAWAN.
NEIGHBOUR: BEHN JI BEHN JI.

(BANTO OPENS THE DOOR)

SAT SRI KAL HI HI ROHN DEY KION O PEY. MEIN SADKE.
BANTO: MEIN KI DASAAN MENU KUJH SAMAJH NAHIN AANDA MEIN KI KARAN.
NEIGHBOUR: PEHILE TE HEATER LAO - AETIYEY BOHUT THAND HEH.
BANTO: MENU HEATER LANA NAHIN AANDA.
NEIGHBOUR: ETHER AAO MEIN TOOHANOO DASNI AAN HEATER KIDAAN LAI DA EH. EH VEKHO AINJ TEELY LAI. GAS KHOWAYA TE EH I.
     TE HEATER LAG GIA. HATH SEKO.
BANTO: TO HADI BARI MEHR BANI. MENU COOKER LANA BHI SIKHA DIO
NEIGHBOUR: AY BHI KOI GAL EH.
     MATCHES DI TILLEY LAD GAS KHOLO TE EH AG BAL PAI.
     HUN TOOSI KARO.

(BANTO TRIES UNSUCCESSFULLY)

NEIGHBOUR: AINJ NAHIN AINJ.

(BANTO LIGHTS THE FIRE. BOTH WOMEN EMBRACE IN TRIUMPH)
NEIGHBOUR: BEHN JI WINDOW CHO VEIKHO. O SAMNE BUTCHER DI DUKAN
HEH. NA UTHEY GOSHT MILDA AY. NAL GROCERY AY. UTHEY BUTTER
BREAD, SABZI, MILK, AALO Leh SAKDAY O.
BANTO: MEIN TE BOLNA NAAIN AANDA.
NEIGHBOUR: TUSI AAPNI UNGI US CHEEZ TE RAKH JO CHAI DEEH. NALEY
KAHO BHAJ PLEASE ONNOO PAISEY DIO TROLLEY RAKHO GHAR AA JAO,
MEIN BHI JADON AAI SI MERA BHI AEO HAL SI.
BANTO: TROLLEY VICH ACHAA.
NEIGHBOUR: AETHEY NAL EE PARK EH. UTHE JHOOLEY LAGEY O HAIN
-SLIDE HEH TARA TARA DEY PHOOL - BACHEYAN LAI BAHUT ACHAA HEH.
BANTO: BETHO! MEIN CHA BANANI AAN.
NEIGHBOUR: NAHIN MEIN CHAL DI AAN.
BANTO: TE FIR JAN TO PAHLEY MENU DASO JHAROO KITHAY RAKH DEY EH.
NEIGHBOUR: BEHN JI AETHEY JHAROO NAHIN HOOVER KARDEY HAIN. LAO
MEIN BASAAN HOOVER KIDAAN KARI DA. PLUG LAYA BUTTON DABAYA TE
BHOON BHOON HO YIA.
BANTO: EH TE BARA ASAAN EY. SHUKERUA.
NEIGHBOUR: ACHAA MEIN CHALI. SUNO MERA GHAR NAL EE HEKA JADOON
MERI ZAROORAT HOWAY MENU DASNAA SAT SRI KAL BEHN JI.
(EXITS)

(BANTO HOOVERS. KALEEM AND ROSE ENTER AS CHILDREN STAGE LEFT.
UPSET.)

MITU: THAR JA THAR JA.
SEVA: (CRYING) MAMA MEIN SCHOOL NAHIN JANAA. MITU: UTHAY MUNDA
KHENDA PAKI PAKI
SEVA: MENOO NAHIN SAMAJH AANDI O KI KHENDEY NE MEIN SCHOOL
NAHIN JANAA.
BANTO: CHUP BETA CHUP HUN PA PA AAWAN GE TE DASNA.
SEVA: (RUNS TO PAPA) MEIN SCHOOL NAHIN JANA INDIA VAPIS JANA.
KIRTAR: AY WHAT IS THIS. YOU MUST GO TO SCHOOL.
BANTO: DAS BETA DAS. PA PA NOO DAS KI HOYA EH
KIRTAR: IF YOU DON'T GO TO SCHOOL YOU WON'T LEARN THE LANGUAGE.
THATS WHY YOU ARE THERE. ONCE YOU LEARN THE LANGUAGE THEY WILL
UNDERSTAND YOU. LISTEN, MY NAME IS KIRTAR, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
SEVA: MY NAME IS KIRTAR.
KIRTAR: NO NO THAT IS MY NAME. WHAT IS YOURS?
SEVA: MY NAME IS SEVA.
KIRTAR: VAH. MITU MY NAME IS KIRTAR WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
MITU: PAPA MY NAME IS MITU.
BANTU: MY NAME IS BANTU.
KIRTAR: WONDERFUL - MY FAMILY SPEAKS ENGLISH.
SEVA: COME MITU LETS PLAY OUTSIDE. MY NAME IS SEVA WHAT IS
YOURS? MY NAME IS SEVA WHAT IS YOURS?

(SEVA AND MITU IN THE STREET PLAYING HOPSCOTCH COME ACROSS TOMMY AN ENGLISH BOY.)

TOMMY: MY NAME IS TOMMY WHAT IS YOURS?
SEVA: MY NAME IS SEVA. THIS IS MY SISTER MITU. LETS PLAY.
   RING A RING O' ROSES, A POCKET FULL OF POSIES,
   ATISHOO, ATISHOO, WE ALL FALL DOWN.
   COME TOMMY TO MY HOUSE.
TOMMY: OK
SEVA: MUMMY MUMMY, TOMMY TOMMY DRINKI.
BANTU: HAN HAN BETHO MEIN LAYANDI AAN.
TOMMY: HAVE YOU A T.V.?
SEVA: NAO
BANTU: LAO COKA COLA. (SEVA SNATCHES COKE) HEY SEVA.
MITU: MUMA SOMOSA
BANTU: LAO SAMOSA (SEVA GRABS) SEVA BEHAVE.
MITU: (TO TOMMY) NICE. NICE.

(TOMMY TAKES IT, HAS A BITE. ITS HOT AND HE HIDES IT IN HIS CAP. HE IS EMBARRASSED.)

TOMMY: I GOT TO GO NOW, BYE.
SEVA: BYE. O MUMMY, TOMMY IS MY FRIEND.

(SCHOOL BELL RINGS)

I AM GOING TO SCHOOL TO SEE TOMMY.

(RUNS TO SCHOOL AND WAITS FOR TOMMY ANXIOUSLY)

TOMMY TOMMY. TOMMY: I AM NOT TALKING TO YOU.
SEVA: WHY NOT?
TOMMY: MY MUM SAYS YOU ARE DIFFERENT.
SEVA: YOU CAME TO MY HOUSE.
TOMMY: I AM NOT TO COME TO YOUR HOUSE.
SEVA: WHY NOT?
TOMMY: YOU SMELL. YOU ARE A PAKI.
SEVA: SORRY MISS, HE IS CALLING ME NAMES MISS.
TOMMY: WHAT YOU GO AND SAY THAT FOR. MISS, I WANT TO MOVE MY DESK.

(SCHOOL BELL. ON THE WAY HOME)
TOMMY: HA YOU STUPID PAKI.

(SEVA VERY UPSET GOES HOME)

BANTU: KI HOYA AY.
SEVA: MUM TOMMY IS NO MORE MY FRIEND. HIS MOTHER SAYS I SMELL, I AM PAKI. WHEN I WAS COMING HOME HE SCARED ME LIKE THAT. I WANT TO SMASH HIS FACE.
BANTU: TOON TEACHER NAL GUL KEETI.
SEVA: TEACHER CAN'T DO ANYTHING. SHE IS USELESS. SHE DOES NOTHING.
BANTU: FIKAR NA KAR PAPA AANDEY EH TOON DAS. PA PA DEKHO.

(VINCENT - PAPA - ENTERS. SEVA - KALEEM - RUSHES TO HIM.)

SEVA: (VERY UPSET) PA PA.
KIRTAR: WHAT IS THE MATTER SON.
SEVA: TOMMY IS NO MORE MY FRIEND. AS I WAS COMING HOME HE SHOUTED RUBBISH AT ME. I WANT TO SMASH HIS FACE IN.
KIRTAR: NO NO NO. IGNORE IT MY BOY, IGNORE IT.
BANTU: TUSSI POLICE NOO KAHO.
KIRTAR: NO NO DEFINATELY NO POLICE. LIKE THAT WE WILL HAVE PROBLEM EVERY DAY.
BANTU: TOON UNOO AGO MAR.
KIRTAR: NO DON'T LIFT YOUR HAND ON ANYBODY. IGNORE IT.
SEVA: (EXPLODING GOES TO HIS ROOM) IGNORE IT. IGNORE IT.
BANTU: IGNORE IT. TUSSI TEACHER NOO NAHIN DAS SAKDEY, AGO MAR NAHIN SAKDEY INDIA CHALO TUSSI.
KIRTAR: WIFE EVERY TIME THERE IS TROUBLE YOU SAY LETS GO TO INDIA. WHAT WILL THAT SOLVE. THE BOY IS TO GROW UP HERE. WE HAVE TO STAND ON OUR OWN TWO FEET HERE.
BANTU: SEVA BAHUT PRESHAN EH. ASSI KUJH NAHIN KAR SAKDEY. ASSI KI KARIYE.
KIRTAR: (TO AUDIENCE) WITH MY BOY WE HAD A PROBLEM. I DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO. WITH MY DAUGHTER IT WAS DIFFERENT. MY WIFE AND I DECIDED THAT SHE WILL TAKE MITU BACK TO PUNJAB TO THE VILLAGE WHERE SHE WAS BORN TO SEE THE FIELDS WHICH WE OWNED, THE WELL WHERE WE DREW OUR WATER, THE TEMPLE WHERE WE WORSHIPPED AND VISIT HER OWN GRANDMOTHER. FOR MY DAUGHTER AND MY WIFE IT WAS VERY GOOD EXPERIENCE. THEY RETURNED TO ENGLAND WHERE MITU SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED HER STUDIES. MY WIFE AND I WERE VERY PROUD OF HER.

(PHOTOGRAPH. SEVA ENTERS INTO ACTING AREA READY TO GO OUT)
BANTU: KITHEY JA REHAHEN.
SEVA: OUT
BANTU: KIS WALEY VAPIS AAWAYNGA
SEVA: DON'T KNOW
BANTU: KHANA KHA KE JA
SEVA: I DON'T WANT YOUR CURRY. I'LL HAVE MACDONALDS.
BANTU: DEKHO MENU KI KHENDA EY.
KIRTAR: HEY YOU ARE GOING OUT. WHAT ABOUT SUPPER YOUR MOTHER HAS COOKED.
SEVA: I DON'T WANT TO SMELL OF GARLIC.
KIRTAR: YOU DON'T WANT TO SMELL OF GARLIC. ARE YOU ASHAMED?
SEVA: YEAH, I AM.
KIRTAR: ALRIGHT, YOU HAVE NO RESPECT FOR US. PACK YOUR BAGS AND GO.
SEVA: RIGHT. (GOES AND PACKS)
BANTU: TUSSI KI KEH REHEY HO. (TRIES TO STOP SEVA GOING)
SEVA: MUM, GET OUT OF MY WAY.
KIRTAR: IF YOU COME BACK HERE I'LL BREAK YOUR NECK.
MITU: PAPA COME HERE, SIT DOWN.
KIRTAR: BRING MY PILLS.
MITU: HERE IS WATER, YOU WILL BE ALRIGHT PAPA.
KIRTAR: I AM ALRIGHT BETI.
MITU: MEIN IK PURANI INDIAN FILM LAGA DEYWAN.
MOTHER: HAN LAGA DEY.

χ (SONG - BARSAT MEIN..)

FATHER: GO AND LOOK AFTER YOUR OWN FAMILY.
MITU: ACHAA. BYE MUMMY, BYE DADDY.

(WATCHING FILM)

KIRTAR: HA HA
BANTU: HA HA, YAD EY HARVEST
KIRTAR: REMINDS ME OF WHEN I WAS A YOUNG LAD.
BANTU: I USED TO BRING FOOD.
KIRTAR: YOU WERE A HUNDRED TIMES MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE ACTRESS HERE. BUT IS HE AS HANDSOME AS I AM? HA HA. WIFE WE HAVE A GOOD LIFE HERE. WE HAVE A BEAUTIFUL HOUSE. WE HAVE A LOVELY DAUGHTER. AND HER CHILDREN ARE THE JEWELL IN MY CROWN.
BANTU: MENU IK EE AFSOOS HAE-MERA SEVA.
KIRTAR: I DON'T WANT TO HEAR HIS NAME.
BANTU: DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HIM. OUR CHILD. TUSSI GHARON KAD DITTA.
KIRTAR: HE MADE HIS CHOICE.
(KNOCK AT THE DOOR)

COME IN.

(OPENS THE FRONT DOOR. SEVA STANDS THERE WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILD, PLAYED BY KALEEM AND ROSE)

BANTU: KON HEY
SEVA: MAJI (TOUCHES HER FEET)
BANTU: MERE BACHE SEVA. TOON KITHE CHALA GIYA SI.
SEVA: MEIN COVENTRY SIGA. EH MERE WIFE TE BACHA EY.
BANTU: AA BETI AA

(GIRL TOUCHES MOTHER'S FEET)

SEVA: BACHE DA NA INDERJIT EY.
BANTU: INDERJIT. MEIN WARI JAWAN MERA BACHA. HOW HANDSOME HE IS.
VEKHO JI NOSE THO HADE TE GIYA EY.
KIRTA: (IS PLEASED TO HEAR THAT) HA HA. HE HAS MY NOSE, BUT HE HAS HIS FATHER'S EYES.

(THEY ARE RECONCILED WITH A LOOK AT EACH OTHER)

HA HA, INDERJIT.
BANTU: LOOK HOW BEAUTIFUL OUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW IS.
KIRTA: COME MY GIRL, WHAT IS YOUR NAME.
GEETA: GEETA, MY NAME IS GEETA.
KIRTA: I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING GEETA. SEE THAT PHOTOGRAPH.
THAT LITTLE BABY IS YOUR HUSBAND. JUST LIKE YOUR SON. AND THAT IS MY WIFE, HIS MOTHER, AND I AM THERE AND THAT IS MY MOTHER. THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN IN THE VILLAGE. WELCOME HOME DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.
BANTU: GEETA COME AND SIT HERE.

GEETA: NAHIN DAD JI TOOSI BETHO
KIRTA: THANK YOU MY GIRL.

(KIRTA SITS ON THE CHAIR WITH BANTU SITTING NEXT TO HIM WITH BABY ON HER LAP. SEVA IS STANDING BEHIND BANTU - GEETA BEHIND KIRTA. BANTU SINGS A LULLABY.

PHOTOGRAPH)