

A DROP OF HONEY

by

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FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN

TITLE: DROP OF HONEY.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Honey is dripping from the TOP OF A BANYAN TREE. CLOSE UP OF THE TREE'S BARK AND HONEY DRIPPING DROP BY DROP.

SUPERTITLE: '5000 YEARS AGO'

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDER NEEM TREE - DAY

KANNAN, 34, is sitting under a neem tree and eating fruits. A bullock cart driver, GOVINDAN, 45, passes. His cart has a huge load of sand.

KANNAN

Hi Govinda.

GOVINDAN

Hi Kanna.

KANNAN

What's all that sand?

GOVINDAN

Your dad asked me to dig a specific spot. I have no idea why but he offered me a huge sum to do it. I did it with Mukundan, who dug everything for me. I gave him a part of my money.

KANNAN

Yeah, Govinda. You're getting old aren't you? You can't dig everything by yourself right?

GOVINDAN

Yeah. Didn't your father tell you anything?

Kannan FROWNS.

KANNAN

I don't talk with my father. I fought with him.

GOVINDAN

Why?

KANNAN

None of your business.

GOVINDAN

Hmm.

KANNAN

Today morning, he gave me a letter,
but I didn't even bother to read
it. I don't want anything to do
with him.

GOVINDAN

Oh. I'll take leave then.

KANNAN

Wait.

Kannan takes TWO STONES and a STICK.

KANNAN

The shortcut is blocked, you have
to go through the main road. There
will be a lot of wild animals
waiting to attack you, You might
need these.

Kannan gives Govindan the stones and the stick.

KANNAN

Use these stones and ignite a fire
and lit the stick on fire. This
will help you chase the wild
animals away.

GOVINDAN

Thanks Kanna. I'll take leave.

KANNAN

You might wanna leave fast, it
looks like it might rain.

Govindan leaves. Kannan continues eating fruits.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN ROAD - DAY

Govindan is quietly travelling. He hears a TIGER ROAR. CLOSE
UP OF GOVINDAN. He slowly looks back. A TIGER is standing.
Ready to CHARGE. It is quite far away from him.

GOVINDAN

Shit!

Govindan immediately takes the stones. He STRIKES them.
Nothing happens.

GOVINDAN

Come on!

Govindan STRIKES them AGAIN. A little spark comes. The TIGER
starts running towards him. CLOSE UP OF GOVINDAN. He starts
SWEATING.

GOVINDAN
 (yelling)
 Come on!

The SPARK is big this time and it LITS the STICK on fire.

GOVINDAN
 Yes!

Govindan gets down. The tiger jumps towards him. He hits the tiger with the burning stick.

GOVINDAN
 Get lost you tiger!

The tiger runs back away. Govindan puts out the fire and gets back on his cart. He leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDER NEEM TREE - DAY

Kannan is ASLEEP. He suddenly wakes up hearing a ROAR Sound. He looks towards his right. He sees a Tiger RUNNING towards him. It's face is slightly BURNT.

KANNAN
 Oh no!

Kannan gets up and starts RUNNING. The Tiger CHASES him.

KANNAN
 Noooo!

Kannan runs some distance and finds a BANYAN TREE.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

He climbs it. The TIGER stops under the tree. Kannan sits on a branch.

KANNAN
 Ha ha! No food for you! You dumb tiger! You're starving today!

The Tiger roars.

KANNAN
 Nope. No food here.

SLOWLY PAN LEFT. A SNAKE is SLEEPING on another branch.

KANNAN
 (off screen)
 Thank God!

The Snake WAKES UP. It looks towards Kannan. It gives a HISSING sound. CUT back to Kannan. Kannan's happy expressions suddenly CHANGE. He slowly TURNS towards the

direction of the hissing sound.

KANNAN

Oh fuck!

Kannan LOOKS at the snake and keeps EYE CONTACT.

CUT TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. KANNAN'S HOUSE - DAY

KANNAN'S MOM is TALKING to a young Kannan. She shows him a painting of a snake.

KANNAN'S MOM

Kanna, this snake usually lives on top of banyan trees. These snakes' bites can be poisonous and fatal. When you see this snake. Make sure you maintain eye contact. It won't do anything as long as you keep eye contact. Blinking is ok, but if you close your eyes or turn away, it will strike you. Wait until help arrives. Ok?

KANNAN

Sure mom!

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Kannan maintains eye contact. He doesn't move an inch. CUT TO The TIGER looking at him with anger. CUT TO the Snake. CLOSE UP OF KANNAN staring at the snake.

KANNAN

(mind voice)

Oh God! What do I do now?

A fast WIND blows. SLOWLY TILT UP and ZOOM OUT OF KANNAN. A HONEY COMB is present on a top branch. Honey starts dripping. CUT TO a wide angle of the Honeycomb, Kannan, Snake and Tiger all in one frame. The honey is in between Kannan and the snake. CUT back TO a closer angle with Kannan and the dripping honey in the same frame.

KANNAN

(mind voice)

Delicious honey! Haven't tasted any in months.

SNAKE hissing sound offscreen.

KANNAN

(mind voice)

Fuck! What am I thinking about? My life is in danger from two directions now. Honey can wait.

SLOWLY TILT UP. A deep and huge PIT is behind the tree. Another fast wind BLOWS. CUT TO Kannan. A letter falls down from Kannan's pocket. Kannan quickly looks towards it.

KANNAN

(mind voice)

Oh God!

Kannan quickly looks back at the snake before it strikes. He maintains still. The letter falls down into the PIT.

KANNAN

(mind voice)

So, Govindan was digging right here? The pit looks deep. If I fall, I'm dead. It's three directions now.

The letter is open. SLOWLY ZOOM IN TOWARDS THE LETTER. It reads.

KANNAN'S DAD

Kanna, I'm your dad speaking. I know you're angry on me because I insulted you in front of a huge crowd for not doing any productive work, but listen. I'm not asking sorry. You won't speak to me but atleast read this letter. Govindan is a fraud. He lied to me that a huge gold treasure lied beside the Banyan Tree in the forest. I gave him a hundred gold coins asking him to dig it. But today, neighbor Vasudevan told me everything. Govindan cheated him similarly and got another 100 gold coins for him and his brother Mukundan. You'll spend your day sleeping in that forest. He'll complete his work and leave today. Confront him and stop him. He thinks you wouldn't know anything. But you read this letter and stop him. I blocked the shortcut in order to help you, you must have noticed that by now. Don't hate your father. A kid who hates his parents will face huge consequences. Understand? I'll stop him even if you don't. But I'll be happy if you did so. Yours father.

CUT TO Kannan's perspective. He looks at the snake while also looking at the honey.

KANNAN
(mind voice)
Oh God, please help.

CUT TO the Tiger roaring, CUT TO the snake hissing and CUT TO the PIT.

KANNAN
(mind voice)
Please send help, dear God!

CUT TO a CLOSE UP of the Tree's bark and Honey dripping drop by drop. CUT TO Kannan again.

KANNAN
(mind voice)
This honey looks so good!

He hears the snake's hissing again.

KANNAN
(mind voice)
Fuck it! I'll take honey later.

ZOOM IN TOWARDS THE HONEYCOMB. Honey is dripping faster.

KANNAN
(mind voice)
Hmm. I need that honey right now.
Fuck that snake, fuck that tiger,
fuck that pit, fuck Govindan and
fuck death. This is what I need
right now.

Kannan slowly reaches his hands out towards the honeycomb. He collects a drop.

KANNAN
(mind voice)
Yes!

He keeps it in his mouth.

KANNAN
(mind voice)
Isn't this heaven!

Kannan closes his eyes. The snake charges towards him and strikes him. A fruit seed falls from his pocket towards the PIT. It is in the pit now. He falls down as it starts raining.

FADE OUT