



Bhinno

भिन्नो

Written By
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SYNOPSIS

In rural India of 1987, Sagar, a kind-hearted postman, informs Bhinno, a struggling widow, about a government savings scheme and unintentionally convinces her that a single visit to the distant post office is required. Overcoming her travel anxiety and dealing with motion sickness, Bhinno reluctantly boards a bus with Sagar. Their journey is a whirlwind of humor, misunderstandings, and genuine connection. However, Bhinno's world shatters when the Postmaster reveals the truth: monthly visits are mandatory. Sagar grapples with the consequences of his unintentional deception. Despite this, their destinies become intertwined in an unbreakable bond.

1. EXT. TERRACED FIELDS - DUSK

TITLE CARDL: 1987, An Indian Village.

Farmers assemble around the **SARPANCH (50M)** for a meeting. **SAGAR (30M)**, a young postman, stands near the Sarpanch, and the Sarpanch introduces him.

SARPANCH

Sagar ji is the new postman and P.O... What was that?

SAGAR

POMIS, Post office monthly income scheme.

2. INT. A HUT, TERRACED FIELDS - CONTINUOUS

Looking out the window, **BHINNO (25F)**, a widow keeps a water pot on the fire.

BHINNO'S POV: The Discussion is still going on in the field.

3. EXT. TERRACED FIELDS - CONTINUOUS

A villager, smoking a bidi, is paying close attention to Sagar.

SAGAR

Consider 12% interest rate like that.. If you deposit Rs 100, you'll get back Rs 112.

The spark from the bidi falls down, and the smoke comes out of his mouth.

VILLAGER1

You mean we can set up bidis and matches for our old age.

Laughter bursts out.

VILLAGER2

Haha haha... And if you stash it away for a good five years, you could even sort out the booze.

Laughter bursts out again.

4. INT. A HUT - CONTINUOUS

Not even a handful of rice is in the container. As Bhinno watches the boiling water, she drops rice into the same container before putting it back.

She picks up two dry corn cobs from the corner of the house and puts them in boiling water.

HUT'S POV: The meeting is still ongoing outside.

5. EXT. FIELDS - NEXT DAY

Sagar, carrying a postman's satchel, walks past one field after another, but the farmers motion him away from a distance.

LATER - Sweat drips from his face. He swallows his saliva, looking around for water. Spotting a nearby water handpump, he moves the handle from behind. Just as water begins to flow in front, he releases the handle and steps forward, barely touching the water before it abruptly stops.

From a slight elevation, Bhinno watches Sagar, who carries a bundle of hay on her head.

Sagar attempts the handle once more. Bhinno reaches near the hand pump and stuffs a cloth in the water outlet from where water is about to come out. Seeing him stuffing the cloth, Sagar stops moving the handle. Their eyes lock, and Bhinno signals him to continue operating the handle. Sagar complies, moving the handle again. As he approaches to drink the water, Bhinno pulls out the cloth, causing water to gush forth. Sagar quenches his thirst.

SAGAR

Thanks.

BHINNO

Who will get a saving account opened by that person who does not know how to save even a handful of water.

Saying this, Bhinno picks up her bundle again and moves ahead. Sagar also leaves the hand pump and runs after Bhinno.

SAGAR

Madam, you seem quite wise. Why not open an account yourself?

BHINNO

If I can't even earn enough for my bread and butter, what's the use of a savings account?

Both of them walk toward Bhinno's hut and pausing at the wooden gate, crafted from sticks.

SAGAR

This is wrong thinking, has water come out without digging a well? Once the account is opened, savings will also start happening

Bhinno places the bundle of grass down from her head and feeds some of it to the cow.

BHINNO

The rich folks have wells; us poor folks drink from the pump

Bhinno closes the gate on the parapet of her courtyard. Sagar has to stop outside.

SAGAR

By the way, what's your good name?

BHINNO

Bhinno.

She gets in the hut.

6. **I/E. BUS STOP - EVENING**

The bus comes and stops. Sagar boards the bus. **Bollywood song is playing in the bus.**

SAGAR

(to conductor)
Post office.

7. **INT. POST OFFICE - LATER**

Sagar hangs his bag on a peg. While the **POST MASTER (45)** is putting seal on the mail and a **SORTING ASSISTANT (40)** is arranging the mails.

SAGAR

What's the point of the government? They keep rolling out new schemes that don't serve any real purpose.

Sagar watches them both working, then picks up a glass from the water pot, and puts it in the pot.

SORTING ASSISTANT

Now, whatever it is, we'll have to complete the target.

There is no water in the glass because the water in the pot has run out.

SAGAR

I just filled the water pot this morning... Do you take baths with it?

The Postmaster gestures towards the bucket placed under the pot.

POSTMASTER

Your pot has sprung a leak!

Sagar bows down and notices the bucket filled with water, At the same time, a drop of water falls, **SPLASH!**

8. **EXT. HUT, FARM - A FEW DAYS LATER**

Bhinno is sitting on the courtyard wall of her hut, while Sagar is sitting on a cot, having tea.

BHINNO

He was an orphan, so my father thought he'd make a perfect son-in-law. But after a year of marriage, my husband died of TB and two years later, mom-dad also left in turn.

Bhinno says getting up from her seat with a bit of tiredness.

BHINNO (CONT'D)

Now what can one do if one is unlucky?

Bhinno gestures towards a withered plant amidst the lush greenery.

BHINNO (CONT'D)

Now, take a look at this; while all the trees are swaying, this one has withered. Everyone's destiny is different.

Sagar looks around to keep the tea cup, Bhinno goes ahead and takes the empty tea cup.

SAGAR

Seeing you, I never felt that your life is so empty.

BHINNO

(chuckle)

Leave my emptiness aside, I'll be filling out your empty form tomorrow.

SAGAR

(leaving)

Oh, that's all..

BHINNO

Just remember, I'll visit the post office only once.

She gets in the hut without seeing Sagar's gesture to assure it.

Sagar walks and observes the withered plant, the waterway is diverted so he cleans the way to reach water to the withered plant.

9. **EXT. BUS STOP - NEXT DAY**

Sagar is breathing heavily after walking, Bhinno is also with him. He stops at the bus stop.

SAGAR

The bus should be arriving in just five minutes

Upon hearing this, Bhinno becomes a little scared.

BHINNO

Why bus.. Can we not just walk?

SAGAR

15 miles on foot! It will be evening by the time we reach the post office.

Bhinno goes ahead ignoring the bus stop.

BHINNO

No, no, I can't sit in the bus.

Sagar reaches Bhinno in a jiffy.

SAGAR

Why can't you sit?

BHINNO

Well, I...

SAGAR

What's wrong with you?

BHINNO

Don't remind me, or it might happen.

SAGAR

What might happen?

BHINNO

...Vomiting.

Sagar bursts into laughter upon hearing this.

SAGAR

Oh, nothing will happen...
Conductor plays great songs. Just pay attention to the music. You won't even realize when half an hour passes.

At that moment, the bus arrives. Sagar moves towards the bus.

SAGAR (CONT'D)

Let's go, the bus is here.

Reluctantly, Bhinno boards the bus. Sagar guides her to a

window seat.

10. **I/E. BUS - LATER**

Bhinno signals with her eyes, something Sagar doesn't quite understand.

SAGAR

What... Feeling nervous?

BHINNO

(frustrate)

The songs aren't playing.

Understanding the issue, Sagar immediately calls the Conductor.

SAGAR

Hey, Mr. Conductor, why is the tape recorder not playing today?

CONDUCTOR

The cassette reel is tangled.

Bhinno glares at Sagar angrily.

SAGAR

..So what, I too am no less than a singer.

(sing a song)

*Musaafir hoon yaaron, na ghar hai
na thikana, bas chalte jaana
hai...*

11. **EXT. POST OFFICE - LATER**

The bus pulls over in front of the post office.

SAGAR (O.S.)

(humming)

Ye sham mastani ..

Both of them get off the bus.

SAGAR (CONT'D)

Look, there is no vomiting.

At hearing this, Bhinno starts vomiting on the side of the road.

SAGAR (CONT'D)

(rushes)

I get some water.

12. INT. POST OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

He rushes to the post office and struggles to get water from the pot because there is only a little water in it.

SAGAR

Yes..Yes..Come on..

The Postmaster and the assistant are watching him.

13. EXT. POST OFFICE - LATER

Bhinno is staring at him while returning the glass.

BHINNO

You just couldn't sit quietly on the bus, could you?

14. INT. POST OFFICE - LATER

Sagar, after checking the form, hands it to Bhinno.

SAGAR

I've filled out everything. Just take it to the Postmaster.

15. INT. POST OFFICE - LATER

Postmaster checks the form while Bhinno's face turns red with anger.

BHINNO

But Sagar said I have to come once, and after that, the postman would collect the money from home.

POSTMASTER

I have no idea what Sagar told you, but to deposit the money, you will have to come every month

Bhinno storms out of the post office angrily. Meanwhile, as Sagar is about to enter with the new pot, he notices Bhinno rushing out so he quickly follows her.

16. EXT. POST OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Sagar is following Bhinno, who isn't saying anything.

SAGAR

What happened? Won't you say anything?

BHINNO

Why did you lie?

SAGAR

What lie?

BHINNO

That I have to come to the post office only once.

SAGAR

Yes, you only have to come once.

BHINNO

But the Postmaster says that no one will come to collect the money. The account holder has to come and deposit the money.

Sagar, grabbing Bhinno's hand as she's walking away.

SAGAR

I've signed in the account holder's column. I'll silently sign every month and deposit the money. You don't need to come.

Just then, the bus arrives, and Sagar looks towards the bus's door.

SAGAR (CONT'D)

Now tell me, should I take the pot home, or should I keep it in the office?

Bhinno pulls her hand free, steps forward.

BHINNO

(turn and smile)

If you can get home on foot, then take it home.

17. **EXT. A HUT, TERRACED FIELDS - MORNING**

We see that a tiny leaf has sprouted on the withered plant. Adjacent to the hut, there stands a water pot. Positioned on the cot, both the cups are placed inside each other as if their emptiness has merged into each other. While within the hut, the cheerful laughter of a couple fills the air.

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