

The Hidden Village

Kala Pani - Bharat Ek Khoj

Written By
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Draft #1

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1. **EXT. A DESERT BRIDGE - DUSK**

TITLE CARD: India, 1945.

A British PRISONER VAN pulls over to one end of a deserted bridge. RATTLE! Engine shuts down. We see the woods at the other end of the bridge.

Two gunmen are stationed at the bridge.

Under the supervision of British officer JOHAN (M35). MAANIK PANDEY (M30), a freedom fighter, starts walking on the bridge, his hands tied in handcuffs.

JOHAN

Don't turn back.

2. **EXT. ON THE BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS**

Maanik reaches the middle of the bridge and notices a human skeleton lying in the way.

The bridge is high over a river. He walks a little further and looks slantingly into the river, a crocodile watching him.

As he approaches the halfway point of the bridge, SCREAM! he sees a terrified man enters the bridge from the woods side.

He crosses Maanik and runs towards the British at the opening end of the bridge.

As he reaches the skeleton, A GUNSHOT IS FIRED!, MAANIK CLOSES HIS EYES, the bullet hits the man and he falls over the skeleton. CRACK!

The skeleton disintegrates, and the skull rolls and falls from the bridge towards the river.

An eerie silence takes over till the skull touches the water SPLASH!, Crocodile attacks on the skull.

3. **EXT. THE JUNGLE - NIGHT**

METAL SCRAP! Maanik is rubbing the handcuff against the stone in an attempt to remove it.

ROAR! It makes him frightened so he climbs on the tree and waits till the roar stops.

He descends and walks two steps after the roar stops, but

the roar returns louder, so he runs and climbs back up the tree.

PANTING! Once he descends, the roar returns. This time he realises why the only roar comes when he gets down, so he ambushes the bushes from which the roar is coming.

As soon as he takes steps towards the bushes, the roar is MUFFLED, just as when you take an aggressive step towards a barking dog and it barks tenderly.

He sprints towards the bushes, hoping to catch someone. We can hear running footsteps as someone was hiding in the bushes.

He dashes into the bushes and finds a bone that looks like a musical instrument. He takes it and tries to play it but it makes no sound except HISSING.

4. EXT. RIVER BANK, JUNGLE - LATER

EUPHONY OF WATER as it sounds while flowing in a river. Maanik kneels at the riverbank to drink the water. He takes water with cupped hands, his gaze fixed on a skull shadow in the water.

He fidgets, dares to touch the shadow. A skeleton hand patted his shoulder at the same time. He tries to see from the side view and turns. SCREAM! as he sees a skeleton, falls into the water, and flees.

ROAR! He comes to a halt and realises something has gone wrong. How can a skeleton make a roar?

5. EXT. THE ROCK - CONTINUOUS

A small rock near the river's edge. Behind the rock, Two teenager looks identical same, bald heads, possibly twins, are holding the stick that is connected to the skeleton via threads. In reality, they are secretly using a puppet skeleton.

The first teen taps the second at the head because he realises he made a roaring sound instead of a skeleton laughing. He immediately replaces the bone and produces a laughing skeleton. HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE!

But it is late, suspicious Maanik sees the dancing and laughing skeleton. He walks steadily towards the skeleton in order to capture it.

When they see Maanik, they both run with the puppet. Maanik loses the skeleton in the dark after a brief chase.

6. **EXT. FRUIT TREE - LATER**

Hungry Maanik is on a tree, holding a fruit, sniffing it, observing dimensions as he has never ever seen such kind of fruit.

Finally, he is just about to bite it. An arrow flies, carry the fruit from Maanik's hand and penetrates the branch of the tree.

7. **EXT. THE JUNGLE - NIGHT**

Hands are tied with the creeper over the iron handcuff. Tribal are dressed in ancient clothes, decorated with stones, leaves, and sticks that cover mostly sexual organs. They walk while making sound HIPIP HUP!

Maanik is apprehended, surrounded by the tribal troop, and march the courtyard.

TROOP
(loudly)
HIPIP HUP!

8. **EXT. BUDDHA STATUE, COURTYARD - LATER**

A giant statue of God Buddha is the central attraction of the courtyard.

BUDDHA'S POV: HIPIP HUP! The troops march in the courtyard.

Maanik glances at the statue and walks with the troop and reaches the chief of the clan.

The troops come to a halt and shout once more. HIPIP HIPIP!

Chief PITAMBHARA (M45) raises his hands to calm them.

Note: The tribe speaks in their native language. The dialogues in this movement are written in English, however all italics must be translated into the local language subsequently.

PITAMBHARA
Didn't run?

AARYA (M30), the troop leader, steps forward.

AARYA
We've exhausted all possibilities.

PITAMBHAR

Try the last one.

Maanik gazes at them as if he doesn't understand what they're saying.

9. **INT. RUDIMENTARY HUT - LATER**

We see in the flambeau. Maanik is tied with a wooden trunk in the hut and stripped naked. His lower body is dressed in clothes made of leaves.

He sees through the window of the hut. A feast is taking place in the courtyard. The tribe lights a fireside and keeps a large pot on top of it.

10. **EXT. FIREPLACE, COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS**

A woman chops a vegetable and immerses it in hot water. She is standing on a wooden stool because her height is less than the pot's.

She gets off the stool, hands her colleague an earthen pot, and nods towards Maanik's hut.

The man grabs the earthen pot and walks to the hut.

11. **INT. RUDIMENTARY HUT - CONTINUOUS**

The man enters and applies turmeric paste over Maanik from the earthen pot.

Maanik sniffs the odour and correctly guesses it.

MAANIK

Why are you applying turmeric to my skin?

The man is unconcerned and continues to apply the paste. He covers the upper half of the body.

Maanik notices another man take the earthen pot from another fireside and walk towards the hut.

The first man gives some space to the second man as he enters the hut. He begins to apply the red paste to his left arm.

Maanik sniffing but unable to guess ingredients.