

Aftershock

Short Film by

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EXT. JUNGLE - MID DAY

We see a man with somewhat long hair running in the jungle. He throws an old black helmet in the air with joy. He's free.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

The same man is sleeping on his bed, wearing the same helmet. Then the bed starts to shake. We can hear the sound of people shouting, screaming "Ram Ram! Aayo!! Launa ni" along with children crying. It's an earthquake. Scared, he jumps off the bed and instead of landing on the floor, he falls from space towards Earth like he's skydiving from the space.

[BAM]

Suraj (Mid 20s, lives alone, long hair, thick long beard, dark circles around his eyes, his right leg is plastered, he broke his leg in the first earthquake and has been resting mostly at home for almost a month now.) wakes up, sweating and panting. The helmet is right next to his pillow. He gets up slowly and with the help of his crutch, hops towards the kitchen to drink water. He has his walls covered in printouts about the earthquake. There are news articles and old photos of the Earthquake in 1990BS. There are ropes stringing across the room. The place looks like the headquarter of a conspiracy theorist. There are food wrappers and used bottles of coke and other stuff all over the floor. There is a globe on the table with a thin stick pierced through Nepal. There are articles about CERN and it's Nuclear dumps next to it.

[CUT TO]

He wakes up, scared, due to loud banging in the door.

Suraj opens the door to find his friend Labesh standing outside.

LABESH

Oi muji, hidna sakney bhais?

SURAJ

Salla yo po raichha. Rahat badhera
Kaile farkis? Bhitra aaija.

LABESH

Oyyyy, room the epic bhako raichha
ta. Time travel garla lais ki Kya
ho?

SURAJ

(Paranoid, asking him to speak softly)
Haina muji, maile k k tha pai
sakey. Talai k tha?

[Cut to]

Suraj and Labesh are sitting on the floor, the room is smokey, Suraj passing a bong full of weed to Labesh.

SURAJ (cont'd)

....ani 60 ma 12 jodyo bhane 72saal
hunchha. 12 Barsa ko Machhindranath
jatra bhako barsa. Tyo sab talai
coincidence jasto lagyo? 12 gate ko
bhukampa ta ajha kei haina re.
Tesle ta tala crack matra garako
chha re. Main thulo earthquake
jaile pani aauna ..

He's interrupted by the sound of a Truck right outside his house. Thinking it's the earthquake, he reaches out to the helmet.

Labesh, scared at first, calms down quickly and tells him it's just a truck.

LABESH

Hawa kura nagar muji. Ghar bhitra
matra basera baulais jasto chha.
Kati bho baira naniskeko?

SURAJ

(Looks at the calendar on the
wall, dates are crossed)
4 din agadi pasal gako thiye.

LABESH

Tait. Ani dimag padkidaina ta? Tato
na saro internet ko kura pattyayo,
basyo. Bhuichalo Ni conspiracy re.
Hahaha hasauchha muji. Ma ta
bacheko ma khusi chhu yar. Jhandai
mariyeko thyo hai?

SURAJ

(Gently Pats on the helmet)
Yesaile garda jyaan bachyo dhanna.

LABESH

Ah yar, yo ta tei choreko helmet
haina? Hahaha sahiho.

Labesh's phone vibrates next to Suraj. He's startled. They both laugh.

[CUT TO]

Labesh is by the door about to leave.

LABESH (cont'd)

La dherai nasoch, aaram garr. Kei paryo bhane malai call garr.

Then Labesh remembers something.

LABESH (cont'd)

(Cont'd)

Harey, phone Ni chhaina kyare ta sanga.

SURAJ

Muji, government le sabai monitor garira chha bujis. Ta ni nabok.

LABESH

(Sighs, taking out some cash from his pocket)

La baru khane kura haru liyera aaija. Alikati fresh Hawa Ni khayera aaija.

[DOOR CLOSES]

[Cut to]

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Suraj is sitting on the comode, stretching his plastered leg and resting it on a makeshift stool. His crutch resting on the wall next to him. He has his laptop on his lap, researching about earthquake caused by planets aligning. There's a old and dingy bathtub next to him. There's an old shower curtain hanging halfway on a rusty rod that looks like it's about to break. Some part of the shower curtain is on the floor over a small pool of water.

A subtle Aftershock hits. He takes out his helmet from his side and puts it on.

INT. BED - NIGHT

Suraj is sleeping, peacefully, his heartbeat slowly becomes audible, it slightly moves his body. He gets scared and jumps. Then he changes his position and prays for a while.

[Cut to]

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MORNING

Suraj is standing in a narrow alleyway, there are pillars supporting the old houses on either sides. He's wearing the helmet.

He looks up through the narrow opening between the houses, prays and continues walking.

He reaches a store. The shopkeeper stares at him and smirks.

SHOPKEEPER

Yo aru kei haina Bhai, khate Neta
harule desh bigareko dekhara deuta
risako ho. Hami sojho janata Lai
tension. Tara Bhai ko helmet Wala
idea chai daami lagyo malai.

Suraj pays the keeper who hands him two huge bags of noodles, coke and other supplies.

On his way back, he finds it really difficult to carry everything. He barely reaches his door. It gets worse when he hears his stomach gargling. He really has to go to the toilet.

INT. ROOM - MORNING

After struggling for a while, he takes off his helmet, takes a long breath, puts it on the floor. He opens the door with the right key, takes his bags inside and closes the door. He forgets to take the helmet inside. He rushes towards the bathroom and sits down. He rests his clutch on the wall.

He takes a long breath of relief.

Then suddenly the room shakes once and the clutch falls on the ground. Suraj remembers he left the helmet outside. Then after a short pause, the room starts shaking again, he tries to hold on to the wall next to him. He can hear people shouting and screaming "Ram Ram!! Aayo!" along with children crying. He closes his eyes and prays, crying. After a while it stops and the sounds fade away. He opens his eyes, stands

up on both his feet, puts on his pants and tries to rush towards the door. He steps on his broken leg which is extremely painful. He tries to balance on his able leg but steps on the shower curtain on the floor and slips.

He falls down and hits his head really hard. The shower curtain causes the rod it was hanging on to fall straight to his face.

[Splash sound]

[CUT TO]

EXT. JUNGLE - MID DAY

[Fade in]

Suraj is running in the jungle, no plaster in his leg, he's happy and throws the helmet in the air.

[The End]