

WARAYA (Script)

By Arman Koul

Cast:

Ramoo: **Shyan**

Shankar: **Kunal**

Bharat: **Arman**

Shammi the Milkman, Guruji & Trumpet: **Harshal**

Bobji and Trumpet: **Aakash**

Guitarists and Scenes: **Om and Nayan**

Scene 1: (Shankar & Bharat talking on the phone.)

Shankar: Hey Bharat, I haven't seen you in such a long time.

Bharat: Well we have been so busy Shankar; what with our jobs and all!

Shankar: Well anyway, are you ready for Shivratri next week?

Bharat: No, I did not even know that the day is coming. How sad!

Shankar: Now you know. Hey, I heard that this new restaurant SaalBhata is amazing.

Bharat: I heard the same thing. Sundari at last week's party said that their spread was to die for.

Shankar: Yeah; Well I guess that's why I am going to the SaalBhata today. You want to **join me?**

Bharat: Sure, we can get together. I will see you in the evening.

Scene 2: (At the Restaurant)

Ramoo singing at the Restaurant (song with Aakash & Harshal in the Band)

Ramoo: Greetings. Welcome to SaalBhata. Ramoo will be your server today. Also the chef, entertainer, restaurant owner, dish washer....

Shankar: Hey Ramoo! Waray Ha! What are you doing here? Really, we haven't seen you since we were classmates in Kashmir.

(Hug each other)

Ramoo recalls his friendships with Shankar and Bharat. Ramoo wanted to live simple Kashmiri life around Kashmiri food again. So Ramoo just started this restaurant.

Bharat: I see that you still refer to yourself in the 3rd-person.

Ramoo: Yes, Ramoo still refers to himself in 3rd-person, just like in Kashmir. Ramoo remembers the good times in Kashmir.

Shankar: Yeah, remember when we would play cricket after our classes.

(Characters go across stage with message of going backwards in time TO THE PAST. They come out with a cricket bat and ball.)

Scene 3: (At a Playground)

Bharat: That was a tough day of classes.

Shankar: I agree Bharat. What do you think Ramoo?

Ramoo: Easy as always, you know that Ramoo always thinks that school is easy.

Bharat: Yeah Ramoo, we know.

Shankar: Come on; let's stop talking and start playing some cricket.

Ramoo: Ramoo agrees. I bat first.

Bharat: Fine, but I bowl.

(Bowls the ball, can be invisible and they either pretend or watch the ball go out of bounds.)

Bharat: Great job Ramoo. Now you have to go get the ball. You hit -You fetch!

Ramoo: Ramoo will oblige to Bharat's request if both Bharat and Shankar acknowledge that Ramoo is the almighty champion and better than both of you.

Shankar: What? No, Ramoo; just get the ball.

Ramoo: Fine.

(Ramoo walks off of the stage)

Bharat: I thought that exam was really hard. I don't know how Ramoo found that easy.

Shankar: You know how Ramoo is. He is way too cocky with that 3rd-person thing that he has going on.

Bharat: Yeah, that's kind of true.

(Milkman's son Shammi walks onto the stage)

Shammi: Mae tchu dhoodh. Mae tch dhoodh. Kumech gats dhoodh

(Shankar and Bharat walk over)

Bharat: Hey Shammi, would you like to play with us.

Shammi: Really, but I am busy, being the milkman's son. I have to do my chores first and then study. When do I ever get to play?

Shankar: Come on now. You have to play. You have a killer bouncer ball.

Shammi: Wow, thanks guys. I've been waiting to bowl out Ramoo for a while.

(Pretending to clean & get the ball ready). Meanwhile Bobi enters the scene.

Bobji: What are you boys doing here? Paruna Lekhna Kariv. Go and study right now.

Shammi: Chale Byebye. Ramoo has escaped my bouncer ball again. I have to get him next time. (He says this as Bharat, Ramoo and Shankar escape from Bobji)

Bobji: Shammi, what are you doing here still. I will go and complain to your father. Do you not have a job to do? Finish it and do some studies. I have told your father that I can give you free tuitions.

Shammi: Great Bobji. I will be at your house soon. Teach me.

(Characters go across stage with message of going forward in time TO THE PRESENT.
They begin to laugh)

Scene 4: (At the Restaurant)

Bharat: Oh I remember Shammi; He was quite the character.

Shankar: I remember back in Kashmir, when we used to accept everyone, without judging them based on whether they were Hindu, Muslim, rich, or poor.

Ramoo: Yeah, Ramoo agrees. He thinks that Kashmir was a great place, until terrorism happened.

Bharat: I wrote a poem. Let me read it to you.

Poem (**Bharat walks to the front of the stage and reads it to the audience. Others on stage remain attentive and show matching emotions**)

Bharat: It is touching, I know. Anyway pals; We are seeing each other after a long time; we might as well enjoy it. Hey Ramoo, let's have some of your Vegetable mix.

Ramoo: Yeah, Ramoo wouldn't eat that if he were you. They put all sorts of green leafy stuff in that. Half of it, Ramoo doesn't even think is passable as food.

Shankar: Really? Everyone actually says that it is the best.

Ramoo: Well, I guess your friends have a taste for used tissue paper. But Ramoo sure doesn't. Ramoo will be back soon with the **Roganjosh**. It is amazing.
(Ramoo runs off the stage)

Shankar: I need to go to the bathroom. Get the tank ready to top off!
(Walks off the stage)

Bharat: Oh, seeing my friends today; I remember how we used to celebrate Shivratri. Such good times! I would do anything to celebrate Shivratri like we used to back home.

(Characters go across stage with message of going backwards in time TO THE PAST..)

Bharat: Bobji, can I have some walnuts.

Bobji: Of course Bharat.
(Gives Bharat the walnut)

Bharat: Thank you Bobji.

Bobji: You are welcome Beta, but be quiet now. Guruji is coming to bless our house.

Guruji: Namaskar Behiv, we will start the puza now. (Says Bhajan)

(After Bhajan is said, Characters go across stage with message of going forward in time TO THE PRESENT - Ramoo and Shankar come back on stage)

Shankar: Hey Ramoo, what happened to the Roganjosh.

Ramoo: Oh yeah, the **Roganjosh**. Ramoo forgot about the Roganjosh, sorry.

Shankar: (Short chuckle) You haven't changed one bit Ramoo.

Bharat: Yes he has, we all have.

Ramoo: Wait, what do you mean?

Bharat: Well, I was thinking about how we used to celebrate Shivratri and I realized something. When was the last time I celebrated Shivratri, the Kashmiri way? Not since I had to leave Kashmir. I have always meant to but never gotten around to doing it the traditional way; And you know why? Because, this new country has changed us. In our haste to get on with our lives here, we have forgotten about the simple things that we were brought up with; our faith, our food, our work ethic, our cricket. All that was lost when we came to this new country.

Ramoo: Ramoo agrees, he hasn't had normal Kashmiri puza since he left either. But this year is different. How would you guys like to come to my place on Tuesday, and we will have the proper Shivratri celebration.

Shankar: Hey, that is a great idea. And on Saturday, I think I am going to organize a cricket match. You guys want to join?

Ramoo and Bharat: Sure.

Shankar: And lastly, from now on, we will converse only in Kashmiri.

Ramoo: Achaa

Bharat: Paga Melav

Shankar: Namaskar paga melav.