

aasha- hope.

scene i:

(there is one man who walks up on to the center. he is our narrator- sutradar.(s))

s: yeh hai meri kahaani, meri mujburi ki kahani, mere mushiklon ki kahaani, mere jeevan ki kaahaani. mera janam hua tha 1980 mein, aur aaj mein hoon 26 saal ka. par meri zindagi ne lagbhag apne saare savere dekh liye hain. meri in aankhon ne apne saare raatien dekh liye hain. mere jeevan ka anth bahut door nahi- par isme kisiki ki koi galti nahi, galti hai to sirf meri hi. ek hi bhool...chalo dekhien...ek minute, main to apna parichay karvana hi bhool gaya- mera naam hai jeevan. jeevan mehta....

{to sing 'yeh hai meri kahaani'- strings- zinda}

scene ii:

(now throughout the play the sutradar will keep coming up and narrating the incidences taking place, while other characters will act them out.)

s: jagah: kamthipura,mumbai. saal: 2005. mein aur mere kuch saathi aa rahe the ek desi daru ke adde se.

jeevan: to saala, maine use bola, abe kuch lagayega to kya maja aayega? to voh bolta hai, sir 'protection comes first.' main hasne laga aur chala gaya.

raju: to tune condom nahi liya usse?abe free mein hi to de raha tha!

rajiv: saala, tu to free mein dega to kuch bhi le lega yaar! bhai saab! yahan pe to paise dene padte hain....free mein kuch nahi milega!

raju: chal na yaar! paav kheechna band karga kya? main to uski bhalai ke liye hi to bol raha hoon!

jeevan: dekh bhai! apan log kitni baar yahaan pe aa chuke hain? kuch hua hai kya? beemari vimaari to lallo panju logon ko hoti hai. yeh aids to upper class mein hota hai, jahaan har koi har koi aur ke saath raat guzarta hai, apne ko to chance hi nahi hai na, apni to contant hai – mina!

(they all laugh and walk away.)

s: par mina ka main constant nahi tha na!(shakes his head) voh ek raat, ek choti si bhool, aur janam bhar ka pachtava. us din se lagbhag das dino baad, hue ek medical camp mein, mujhe pata chala ki mujhe hiv hai- aids nahi, hiv, sirf hiv. phir kya hona tha, vohi puraani kahaani- logon ka muh pher lena, mujhe ek achut ki tarah apne se door rakhna, meri naukri ke mujhe bedakhal karna...par ek baat ke liye bhagvan se mein kush tha, usne mere ma-baap ko kai saal pehle hi bulaliya tha, unhe yeh din to nahi dekhna pada! us waqt ke dauran mein tha bilkul thaka hua, bilkul hara hua. zindagi jeene ki chah hi nahi rahi...

{ to be sung to the tune of 'kahin door jab din dhal jaye':
kabhie raasta jo soona pad jaye,
raah mein koi nazar na aaye
nazar na aaye.

mere jeevan ke saath ye
kya khel, tune khela, khuda ne khela...

scene iii:
(seen are jeevan walking up and down, and a nurse.)

nurse: jeevan sahaab, aap yahaan khush rahenge. yahaan ke ward mein jo rahte hain,
saare aap jaise hi hain..

jeevan(shouting): aap jaison ka matlab kya hua? mein kya kuch alag hoon? mujhe kys
hua hai? bas hiv to detect hua hai na? aids to nahi! is tarah mujhe zalil karne ka matlab
kya hai?

nurse: sir, main to sirf yeh...

jeevan(yelling): mujhe pata hai tum kya kehna chahti ho, ki main zinda rehne ke layak hi
nahi hoon, ki mein ek ayyash kisam ka aadmi hoon, jise dhyaan rakhna nahi aata. tum
yahi kehna chahti ho na ki 'mere jaise' ayyash aur bure log is rehabilitation center mein
hain? main yahaan is liye nahi aaya ki mere paas ghar nahi, main yahaan is liye aaya
hoon ki mujhe is duniya se door rehna hai. maine doctor saab se kaha hai ke mujhe ek
alag kamra chahiye, aur vah mujhe jald hi mil jayega...

nurse: sir, aap ko galat phaimi ho rahi hai. maine aisa kuch bhi nahi kaha tha. bas itni si
baat hai ki aap ke saath saare aapke peeda ke vaakif hain, aur isliye vahaan rehne mein
aapko koi takleef nahi hogi...
(jeevan shakes his head and walks away in a huff.)

s: dekha, kisi bhi baat par chidne lagta tha, koi choti si maachis ki teeli is chingari ko
jalaane lagti thi. main, jo hameshaa khush rahaa karta tha, poori tarah badal gaya, aur iska
karan- meri beemari. main apne aap to kosne laga tha, zindagi ko kose laga tha, aur us
khuda ko bhi... phir ek din, maine ek sharamnaak harkat karne ki koshish ki...

(seen is jeevan trying to slash his wrists. by the time he begins, a lady runs up to stop
him, and throws the knife away.)

woman: yeh kya bewakoofi kar rahe ho? apne jeevan ka anth karne se agar kisi bhi insaan
ko aaram milta to saare haathon mein chaaku liye khade hote. aatma hatya vohi insaan
karta hai jisme jeene ka dum na ho- jo jeevan se darta ho, jo kayaar ho!(smiles)

jeevan(angrily): tumhe kya pata mere jeevan ke bare mein? ha?mere jeevan mein jeene ke liye kuch raha hi nahi...mujhe hiv hain, aise bhi kisi na kisi din marne to wala hoon hi, jald hi sahi...

woman(shakes her head): hiv! sirf hiv aur is ke liye apna jeevan lena chahte ho? tumhe aids to nahi hai na? mujhe hai!

jeevan: par...tum to ladki ho! tum bhi kamathi....?

woman: aids sirf youn sambandh se nahi hota. teen mahine pehle main ek bachche ko janam देने वाली थी. मेरा एक परिवार था, एक पति, उनके माता-पिता, और मैं – और जल्द ही आने वाला हमारा एक नन्हा लड़का. पर hospital में सब गड़बड़ हो गया. उनहो ने बिना sterilize किये हुए injection से मुझे 'sedative' दे दिया. मुझे क्या पता था? दो दिन बाद जब उनहोने release के पहले check किया तो पता चला कि मुझे hiv है...घर से मुझे पकड़ लिया गया..अब मैं यहाँ हूँ. और इसे बदकार यह बात है, कि एक महिने पहले मुझे पता चला कि अब मुझे aids हो गया है. मेरे दिन तुम्हारे दिनों से करीब ही हैं! मुझे चक्कर पकड़ते हुए देखा है क्या?

scene iv:

s: zindagi mein ek mod sab ke jeevan mein aata hai – ek mod jo humein insaan banati hai...voh mod mere jeevan mein us din aaya tha...

woman: ab chalo, tumhe mein ek jeegta jaagta sabot dikhati hoon 'aasha' ki.
(they walk and come across a mother and her child.)

woman: inse milo, yeh hain sheela ji. sheela ji, yeh humare naye sadasya hain. kuch मिनट पहले मैंने उनसे अपने जान लेने की कोशिश करते हुए देखा. आप जरा अपनी कहानी बतायेंगी...

sheela: to, आपको aids है?
(jeevan shakes his head)
sheela: hmm...to hiv- कैसे हुआ?

jeevan: वो क्या है ना...(squirms)

sheela: शमायिये मत. मेरे जो पति थे, वो भी आपकी तरह थे. नतीजा क्या हुआ पता है? खुद तो मर गये, मुझे भी इस हालत में छोड़ गये कि मुझे यह पता नहीं होता कि मैं कल का सुबह देkh पाऊंगी कि नहीं. हर रोज मैं आँखें इसी भरसे खोलती हूँ कि मेरे सामने सफेद कपड़ों वाली नर्स होगी...और वो उपरवाला नहीं होगा.

jeevan:....मैं...हम्म...

sheela: jeevan babu, आप उन सहाब को देख रहे हैं (seen is an old man walking towards the group) उनसे hiv है पछले दस सालों से, पर aids नहीं है. यहाँ इसी

hain ki woh boodhe ho gaye hai, na ke isliye ke unhe hiv hai! arey, aap lucky hain- aur aap apna jeevan lena chahte hain!

(a young boy walks towards the group. he must be about 18)

shirish: kyon, kya chalu hai yahaan? pradhyaan mantri ki hatya karne ki saazish ho rahi hai kya?

sheela: shirish, tumhe aids kaise hua?

shirsh: kyon, tumhe kisi aur ko bhi uska shikaar bana hai kya?

woman: arey, shirish, tu jo bol raha hai na, zyaada door nahi hai such se. is des mein aise log hain jo is tarah ki harkat karte hain. ek syringe mein aids wali khoon le lete hain, aur kisi bhi aur vyakti mein dal dete hain. phir ek note laga dete hain, 'welcome to the aids club'.

shirsh: kya vakayi mein log aisa karte hain!? mujhe to aashcarya hai. main apne dushman ke liye bhi is tarah ka jeevan nahi chahoonga....vasie aapke saval ka jawaab hai sheela ji – main ek baaar gaya tha 'tattoo' lagvane. us parlour mein jo needle use kiya jaata hai, woh kisi mareez par use kiya gaya tha...bas aur kya?

sheela: to jeevan, tumhe aur koi saathi chahiye? hum sab saath milkar apne hatheliyon ko kaant de kya?

(jeevan looks downcast)

(the little girl walks up to jeevan)

girl: jeevan chacha, aap mat dariye, mujhe bhi aids hai, par jitni der ho sake, utni der mein aapke saath rahoongi- aap akele nahi honge.

sheela: jeevan babu, yeh meri beti hai, mere pati ki beti. hamari ek bhool ne iski zindagi bigaad di, par isme ab hi ek aasha hai ki woh kal subah jaagegi aur zooraj ko dekhegi. ke woh baaki saare bachon ki tarah apne jeevan to sahaaregi...kya aapme hai woh aasha?

{to the tune of yeh tara woh tara }

tum ho main hoon, ham sab hain

tum ho main hoon, ham sab hain.

hum sab saath mein, jo hai saath mein,

to darne ki kya baat hai, pyaare...

hum sab saath mein, jo hai saath mein,

to darne ki kya bath hai pyaare!

darna nahi, aaj nahi, kal nahin, kabhi nahi,

darna nahi, ham tere saath hain....

scene v:

s: ek bacchi. keval das saal ki...khuda is tarah se use kaise dand de sakta hai?isme uski ki kya dosh hai? kya galti hai? usne kya kiya hai! main samaj nahi paaya tha, ki meri mulaquat us boodhe aadmi se hui...

boodha: bahut gehri soch mein lagte ho beta, kya baat hai?

jeevan: yahi ke, jeevan ka matlab kya hai- kyon kisi ko gham deta hai khuda itna, aur kisi ki itni saari khushi?

boodha: khushi aur gham jeevan se nahi milti, voh milti hai apne aap se. tum agar chaho to sabhi dukhon ke saath bhi tum khush reh sakte ho...sirf yeh dhyaan mein rakho- har ek din jab tum na khaush rehte ho- apne saare dinon se kush rehne ke din ek se kam kar deti hai- for every day that you are sad, you loose one day on which you could be happy.

s: bas...uso din se meine yeh thaana liya ki, hiv hone se koi aasman sar par nahi toot pada, koi jeevan vyarth nahi hua, koi zindagi barbaad nahi hui. mujhe ab aids hai. main jaanta hoon ke mere paas kam samay hai, aur mein is jag se jaane ke pehle kuch accha karna chahta hoon. isliye maine ek ngo mein bhaag liya hai (put that organization who's nuns are coming for judging's name here- ronnie), aur aaj mein yahaan aaya hoon, aapse kuch baate karne ke liye. aids aur usse bachav ke bare mein :
condom ka istamal har baar karen.

hospitals mein syringe sterilize kiya gaya hai, iska dhyaan rakhen.

hum kaheen bhi jayen – chahe voh tattoo parlour ho, ya public toilet, is baat ka dhyaan rakhen ki humein kahin kuch chub ya lag to nahi gayi!

har do-teen mahine test karvate rahein, taki agar hum iska shikar ho jayen, to hum jaankaar to ho sakein!

aur yeh yaad rakhein ki koi bhi beemari apne jeevan ka anth nahi hoti. jeevan ka anth vahin se hoti hai jahaan se hamari soch use maarne lage...

(to play the song – khulke muskurale from phir milenge.)

-anush moorthy.