

Why Affairs Happen

ONE ACT-PLAY with six scenes.

by

Jayaprakash Raghavan Pillai

Email: jraghavanpillai@gmail.com

<http://offthewallplays.com>

An island hospital in Maldives.

Principal Persons in the Play are:

Dr. Ahmed---- the chief local Doctor

Dr. Basheer----the doctor on whom the story in the drama revolves.

Dr. Shiny---a Lady Doctor

Dr. Albert.....A distinguished visiting Professor in Medicine

Noor Jahan--- the daughter of a wealthy businessman.

Aleena----wife of Dr. Basheer

Scene one

A Doctor's room

And the time is 10.00 a.m. in the morning

The room is well furnished and air conditioned with a large table, three chairs and a stool near the Doctor's chair. The chairs are vacant since the Doctor has not come yet. A screen is also placed in the doctor's room beside a hospital model bed.

Dr. Ahmed walks into the room and after laying his stethoscope on the table, sits down beside the table. He is the Head of the Department and the other Doctors are foreigners. He is a tall man well dressed in a flashing tie and an expensive shirt and pants. He wears high heeled shoes and makes an impressive appearance as he sits down in his chair. A nurse also appears and the Doctor presses the touch- button and signals the nurse to admit the first patient in. Another patient is seen talking wildly with the nurse at this time. But the nurse doesn't allow him to come in.

2nd Patient: (bursts into the room and cries aloud) “Won’t you allow me inside for a moment. I really can’t endure the pain any longer.

(The nurse hesitates and obstructs his entry.)

Nurse: No! not now. You can’t enter now. You will be called.

Patient: (Gets agitated and shouts) Can’t you see for yourself my present condition?

Nurse: No! No! But you can’t go in, out of turn.

Dr. Ahmed: (notices the Patient): Nurse, it is okay. Let him come inside.

2nd Patient: Thank you, Doctor. (He hurries into the room.)

Dr. Ahmed asks him to sit down on the stool.

Dr.Ahmed : Okay! Okay! Now Tell me what is the matter?

2nd Patient: I feel terrible, doctor! A severe pain in the stomach. Too unbearable!

Dr. Ahmed: Is it so painful?

2nd Patient: Yeah, I can’t stand it any more. I have been waiting outside from early morning.

Dr. Ahmed: Have you eaten anything unusual?

2nd Patient: No, doctor, Nothing out of the ordinary food I usually take in (He groans and looks with his eyes appearing to come out showing deep anxiety.)

Dr. Ahmed then presses the patient’s stomach with one of his hands.

Dr. Ahmed: Do you feel pain? I mean too excruciating to bear it up?

2nd Patient: (The patient gasps in disbelief): Doctor, you don’t mean it is serious. You say-- too ex... cu.....

Dr. Ahmed: It’s all right... Relax. I’ll suggest a cure.

He then writes a prescription on a small piece of paper and gives it to the Patient.

Dr. Ahmed: Take this medicine now itself. You will feel better after a few minutes.
The patient leaves.

Dr. Ahmed signals the nurse to allow the next Patient to come in. The 1st Patient comes slowly and hesitates before the Doctor.

Dr. Ahmed: Sit down.

1st Patient: I can't sit down, doctor.

Dr. Ahmed: What is the matter with you? Sit down in the stool.

1st Patient: A deep swelling underneath, doctor.

Dr. Ahmed: Where?

1st Patient: (points his finger at the back side below the waist): On the underside of my buttocks, Doctor.

Dr. Ahmed: Please show it. Remove your pants.

1st Patient: (Hesitates and looks at the nurse) Exactly what I dread more than the swelling! I can't do it, doctor... not before the public. No! No! No! Not right now...

Dr. Ahmed: (With finality): How do you then expect me to know what it is?

1st Patient: (Looks shamefully at the nurse). She... she is there and I don't want her to see it. It's not decent, you know.

Dr. Ahmed: (Smiling) Oh! Don't worry about that. She has seen a lot of buttocks lately....and don't you wear underwear? (To the nurse): Okay - you can go outside for a minute.

The nurse smiles and goes out and the Doctor gets up and takes the patient to a place behind the screen.

Dr. Ahmed: Oh! It is quite big. You should have checked it before. Anyway, take an injection right now.

1st patient: No! No! Doctor, Please give me a tablet, but not an injection.

Dr. Ahmed: Don't worry, man. It's not going to hurt you. If the swelling increases, a minor surgery is necessary.

Patient: (coming forward): Okay, doc, give the injection then. (slightly raises his voice) No! Doctor! I can't bear an injection. Try some other medicine.

Doctor: But it's nothing, my boy. Don't worry.

The patient finally agrees. At this moment, the 2nd Patient rushes into the room.

Patient: Doctor! Doctor! My stomachburns...Doctor.... And I feel a lot of pain... I think.

Dr. Ahmed rises from his chair and looks alarmed.

Dr. Ahmed: What is it this time? You have taken the medicine, I hope?

Patient: I have taken the medicine, doctor

Dr. Ahmed: Then what is wrong? (He asks excitedly)

Patient: I feel terrible..... as if my stomach is going to burst!!

Dr. Ahmed: (rises from his seat, and looks alarmed.) But I can't understand it.

Patient: You know that I have taken the whole bottle of bitter medicine at one gulp.

Dr.Ahmed: (Looks alarmed) Oh, My good gracious! How stupid of you? You shouldn't have done that.

Patient: Yes, doctor, I'm sorry and the medicine tastes so awful but I somehow manage to swallow the whole damn thing. Now I feel extremely bad.

Dr Ahmed: (looks alarmed) Do you feel uneasy or do you feel any pain?

Patient: (Groans and holds his hands on his stomach) Yes, I feel as if something is bursting in my stomach...

Dr. Ahmed: (After checking him) Nurse! Admit him and take him to the casualty.

Patient: No! No! Sir, I don't want to be hospitalized.

Dr. Ahmed: There is no other way out. No other way! You have brought it upon yourself!

Patient: Me! You mean me!

Dr. Ahmed: How can you be so foolish! Don't worry. I have to drain out the stuff.

Patient: But you are not going to operate on me.

Dr. Ahmed: Don't worry, I am not going to do anything like that.

Patient: You mean that?

Dr. Ahmed: Yes, I mean what I say.

Patient: I believe you and feel some-what okay.

The nurse takes the patient to the casualty ward.

Dr. Ahmed: (rings for the next Patient. Knocking is heard outside the door.) Okay, Come in.

A teenage boy comes in limping. His right leg is covered with a bandage. It is not properly folded and blood spreads out in the bandage.

Dr. Ahmed: Sit down and take off that bandage. Your name, please. (A deep cut is visible, though not serious.)

Boy: My name is Ali, Doctor and a girl hurts me.

Dr. Ahmed: Who?

Ali: My girlfriend.

Dr. Ahmed: What.....? Are you joking?

Ali: No, why shall I? She bites me, doctor as I make love with her. Doctor! She strikes at me before I can prevent her.

Dr. Ahmed: Why?

Ali: Because I promise to marry her and I change my mind, and say that she is not so dashing or something like that. I say I don't want her as my partner. The next moment she turns violent and bites me severely... as if a vampire gets into her body.

Dr. Ahmed: You treat her like dirt. What a foolish thing to say at a moment like that?

Ali: What do you mean, Doctor? You try to defend her!! I am the sufferer.

Dr. Ahmed: Sure! You don't know the psychology of girls. When hurt, they strike back as a venomous snake. You provoke her to act like.... an animal.
(To the nurse) Nurse, take him to the theatre as he needs dressing up. It is a nasty cut...

SCENE TWO

Pregnancy ward with four female patients. A nurse sits in the ward.

(Four beds are arranged side by side. On one bed Aisha lies down. On another bed Anusha sits up. Nisha stands near another bed while the fourth woman Zeema walks

Aisha: (Cries out): Oh! Oh! My stomach pains. Nurse! Nurse!

Anusha: Don't worry. Lie down and try to sleep.

Aisha : Aaah! Nurse! Call the Doctor. I can't stand the pain. Please call the Doctor.

Anusha combs her hair.

Nisha: (To Anusha) Your husband comes today?

Anusha: Why do you say that?

Nisha: You arrange your hair and look at the mirror now and then. I don't see you like this often.

Anusha: He may or may not come. There is a possibility but I'm not sure.

Nisha: Where is he now?

Anusha : He is in Male now. He concentrates on his business and he doesn't seem to care for anything else.

Zeema walks to the bathroom slowly. On the way, suddenly she slips and falls.

Zeema: Oh! Oh! Aaaah!

Nisha: (Shouts for the nurse) Nurse! Nurse!

Nurse rushes and takes Zeema to the bathroom. Aisha gets up and eats from a big packet. She offers some food to Anusha.

Aisha: Take some.

Anusha: No! No! My stomach is full.

Aisha: (Laughs) Our stomachs are always full and big at such moments.

Anusha: (angry) I don't feel hungry now.

Aisha: You, with a big stomach and it looks as if you are about to deliver.

Anusha: (Puts her hands on her belly) Maybe it is a boy.

Aisha: Do you like to have a boy?

Anusha: I don't mind if it is a boy or a girl.

Aisha: My husband always wants boys. If it isn't, then he doesn't care about me.

Anusha: Do you always satisfy his desire?

Aisha: So far it is boys. But now I don't know.

At this time the nurse brings Zeema to her bed. A lady Doctor named Shiny Joseph comes and checks Zeema.

Aisha: (Calling out) Doctor! Doctor! My stomach is aching.

Shiny Joseph: (Examines her) Don't worry, it's all right.

Aisha: I can't bear the pain.

Dr. Shiny: You, being a woman have to bear such pains.

Aisha: Is my baby a boy, doctor?

Dr. Shiny: I can't say right now.

Aisha: My husband wants a boy.

Dr. Shiny: Then pray and hope.

Aisha: He is angry always, Doctor, if it is a girl.

Dr. Shiny: We accept what God gives.

Nisha: Doctor, when is my date?

Dr. Shiny: Within three days.

Nisha: Is it a normal delivery?

Dr. Shiny: Can't really say. Sometimes it may be caesarian.

Nisha: What is that?

Dr. Shiny: A mild operation to take out the baby.

Nisha: (Hearing this, she cries out loudly) No! No! Doctor, I don't want to die.

Dr. Shiny: You will not die.

Nisha: I won't allow you to cut my body, I can't bear the pain.

Dr. Shiny: Don't worry. No need to worry, my dear.

Nisha: But I don't want to die now. I want to live.

Dr. Shiny: You don't have to worry. The operation is safe. Modern equipments are 100% safe.

Nisha: Then I don't have to worry.

Dr. Shiny: No, You leave everything to me.

Zeema: Doctor! Doctor! Is my baby about to come?

Dr. Shiny: Yes, my dear.

Zeema: But I 'm afraid, doctor.

Dr. Shiny: Don't worry; everything's going to be alright.

Zeema: What about the fall just now, doctor?

Dr. Shiny: That is nothing. But be careful from now onwards.

Zeema: Yes, doctor.

The Doctor leaves the room.

The next moment the second screen moves upward and an Operation Theatre is seen.

Close-by in an Operation theatre, two nurses are ready with the operation materials. On another side a big screen is placed. A nurse sits near the telephone. An emergency message comes in from a nearby island.

(Message is loud and clear): Hey! You hear me? We are sending a woman in an emergency.

Nurse: (receives message): Yes, Yes, Receives message. What is the ailment?

Message: Child-birth! A woman and her husband are on the way in a Donnie. They may reach within three hours. This call is from a nearby island.

Nurse: Everything is arranged. Message over, okay, over. (Calls out to the other nurse and relates the message. The two nurses hurry away and call Dr Shiny. Then Dr. Shiny and the nurses hurry into the room to arrange the Theatre.)

Dr. Shiny: Speed up! It is an emergency! Bring the materials.

1st Nurse: Doctor! Everything is ready.

2nd Nurse: The gowns and gloves are all ready, Doctor.

Dr. Shiny: Good, but the operation materials. Are they ready?

1st nurse: (Prepares to put the operation materials over boiling water)
Yes, they are ready.

Dr. Shiny: Be quick! We don't have a moment to lose! We don't know in what situation the patient is at the moment.

1st Nurse: I am trying my best to get everything in order.

Dr. Shiny: We are prepared to meet any emergency situations.

2nd Nurse: (rushes inside with anxiety in her face) the oxygen mask is not ready, Doctor!!

Dr. Shiny: Then don't just stand there. But get it ready.

2nd Nurse (Runs out to get the oxygen mask ready and returns fast)
Doctor! Doctor! We don't have oxygen supply now.

Dr. Shiny: (looks alarmed) My God! Now what can we do?

2nd Nurse: There is no time to get oxygen supply from Male hospital...

Dr. Shiny: But you do have to report that earlier. Once the stock is over, it has to be reported.

2nd Nurse: We rarely use the oxygen mask. So nobody notices.

Dr. Shiny: That is a lame excuse. You have to be alert. Otherwise the blame is applicable to all.

2nd Nurse: Let's hope that the patient does not require it.

Dr. Shiny: That's right. I hope so, too. But a lame excuse if others know.

(While they wait, a man and a woman with a new born baby in her husband's hands appear on the stage.)

Dr. Shiny: Where is the patient?

Man: (Points at the woman who walks beside him) This is the Patient, doctor and she is my wife. She has delivered the baby girl in the Donnie.

Dr. Shiny: (Surprised) Is that so?

Man: It has been so sudden and praise is to the Almighty.

Dr. Shiny: (Examines the woman and baby and takes them to the Theatre.)
Marvelous!!(She says to the husband) Both are safe. It is truly a natural birth.

A Private Consulting room of Dr. Basheer

The scene opens in a large spacious room. The floors are lined with white flashing marbles that one feels that a part of Taj Mahal is fitted in this isolated place. The table and chairs are most suited to the elegant style and taste of the modern elite society. In the doctor's room, his name in bold letters, "Basheer, MD, DCH" is displayed on the door. He, quite young, not above 28 years and extremely handsome and fair is seated on a chair. Two nurses are standing beside him. Then one nurse stands outside the room and calls out to the patients who sit on the bench outside in the room.

Nurse: (calling) "Noor Jahan."

Noor Jahan, a young pretty tall girl in tight jeans and a blouse, lays bare her fair arms and shoulders and comes forward.

The doctor looks up and admires her beauty at first notice. He notices immediately that she does not belong here.

Doctor : Sit down.

Noor Jahan : Thank you.

Doctor : (Looks closely at her) how are you?

Noor Jahan : Not so well, doctor. (She smiles at him as she comes and sits close to the stool placed near him) Doctor, I think I have a slight fever and a disturbance in my mind.

Doctor : Come closer that I may check.

She moves closer and closer till she is too close. Doctor puts his stethoscope on her chest near her breast.

He feels a heavy thumping out of the normal beat. (He looks surprised and he asks) :
What is the matter? Do you feel any heaviness?

Noor Jahan : No, nothing. But I feel excited now.

Doctor : You don't have fever. But something is wrong. Your heart seems to be thumping wildly. An unusual thumping is heard. Take an ECG.

(He writes on a piece of notepad and gives it to her.)

Noor Jahan : Thank you, doctor, I will be back soon.

She leaves the room and turns to smile at him, never for a moment, does she takes away that piercing gaze that puzzles him.

Doctors' room

Saleem and Ismail, Ministry of Health Officials arrive from Male by the morning flight. They are seated opposite the Doctors, and Nurses in the room.

Saleem : Let me wish you all a good day. I'm here from Male to study the situation here in the Regional Hospitals. As you all know, we desire that you are able to give the best in you for the betterment of health for the Maldivian people in this island. You can suggest your ideas for the efficient functioning of the medical service in this region.

Dr.Ahmed : We are the best qualified doctors and we do our best.
But we request more provisions, sir. Oxygen must be available on a daily basis These Medicines for quick emergencies are not available at the medical pharmacist centers

Is mail: We can see to it.

As the meeting is in progress, a lovely lady comes in, pushes aside the guard at the door.

Noor Jahan :Helloooo doctor (pointing at Basheer) I've come with the ECG...

Basheer : (slightly taken back.) (Then to Ismail): It is my patient, sir.

Is mail : Hello, What is your name?

Noor Jahan : Noor Jahan, Sir.

Is mail : Why are you here? You go to the consulting room.

Noor Jahan: How long do you think I can wait? I have the ECG report with me.

Is mail : Show the report to me.

Noor Jahan hands it over.

Ismail: : (studies the report and then says) There is nothing wrong with you. What is your father's name?

Noor Jahan : My father is in Male. His name is Mohammed Saeed.

Is mail : (Rises up surprised): You mean that wealthy merchant in Male, and close associate and Advisor of the President in all matters of the State.

Noor Jahan : Yes, Sir, I think so.

Is mail (surprised that such a distinguished lady is present in this desolate island.) he turns to her politely and mutters: How are you? Dear, you aren't sick, I hope.

Noor Jahan: No, sir, I'm fine.

Ismail: Why are you here, then? You should be in Male with your father.

Noor Jahan : I'm here to visit one of my relatives.

Is mail (Smiles at her): Convey my regards to your father. (Then turns to Basheer) Attend to her immediately. You can go back to your room now. (Smiles at Noor Jahan): Nice to meet you, dear. When are you off to Male?

Noor Jahan: Within two days, I believe. What can I say to my father? I don't even know your name.

Ismail: Ismail, my dear lady.

She smiles at him in acknowledgment and then turns and walks away.

(Basheer sits in his consulting room).

Noor Jahan enters with the ECG Report.

He checks the ECG report and greets Noor Jahan as she enters.)

Basheer: (after some time): Nothing is wrong with you.

Noor Jahan : I don't think so. Why don't you check me once more?

Basheer : Why? Don't you believe me?

Noor Jahan : Because I don't feel perfectly all right as you say.

Basheer : Are you not of your proper mind?

Noor Jahan: I just want you to check me once more?

Basheer : (To satisfy her, puts the stethoscope near her breasts which keep rising forward. He hears the same abnormal sounds as before and looks at her. And says) What can be wrong?

Noor Jahan : Can't you guess? You are a Doctor.

Basher : No, I don't guess.

Noor Jahan (almost in a whisper) you are a children's specialist and I 'm not a child. So you should know better. One more word.... Doctor... you're far too handsome..... We meet again, I hope.

(Basheer hears a commotion outside. He sees three nurses. Dr. Ahmed rushes outside with medical equipments. They hear an announcement.

“Attention, please, Doctors and nurses. A terrible tragedy has occurred. A boat carrying twenty-five students has overturned. The motor boats have arrived with the sole survivors, five students.

Dr. Ahmed : (To the nurses) we must try to save these five students.

Dr. Basheer (recovering to his right senses) : This is really tragic... We must investigate the cause of this accident.

Both the Doctors call the juniors give first aid.

Dr. Ahmed : (Attends to them) be cautious. Treat them with care.

Dr. Basheer (To the nurses) Bring the oxygen masks.

The five students seem to be suffocating and breathe in short gasps, crying: “we don’t want to die. Please save us.”

Dr. Basheer : “Don’t panic. We are here to save you. You’ll be all right.”

After some time, everything is under control.

Dr. Ahmed : “ Congratulations. We have saved the five students. Unfortunately twenty students are feared drowned and the bodies are not been recovered from the depths of the ocean. Is mail and Saleem, the Health Officials are shocked on hearing the news of the tragedy

Ismail : (To Dr. had Ahmed) really shocking! Really unbelievable! What can be the cause?

Dr. Ahmed : Sir, the schools Authorities are directly responsible.

Ismail : What type of boat are they taken in?

Saleem : Where is the Principal of the school?

Dr. Ahmed : Sir, the Principal is here, hello! Satheesh.

Satheesh : Sir, I am Satheesh, the Principal.

- Ismail ; Oh! You are an Indian. Is it you who is responsible?
- Satheesh : The Asst. Headmaster Mr. Saeed has arranged the boat and the trip, sir.
- Is mail : Has he taken your permission?
- Satheesh : No, Sir, he always does it on his own.
- Is mail : That is not an excuse. Give me the details.
- Satheesh : The boat is overloaded. The boat's capacity is only ten.
- Saleem : Really shocking! Where is Saeed?
- Saeed: (Comes and looks down with fear) Sir, I, I, they never tell me the condition of the boat. I'm sorry, sir.
- Is mail : What a remark from you! Sorry, you mean! Have you not accompanied them?
- Saeed : I work in the school, sir.
- Is mail : What do you mean? Why have you not hired two boats?
- Saeed : They are not available.
- Saleem : Stupid!! You should then have cancelled the trip.
- Is mail : What have you to say to those parents who lost their children?
- Saeed : (Trembling in fear) I don't know, sir.
- Is mail : The news has been flashed to the Ministry of Education in Male. They are on their way. You are sacked and the boat owner will be jailed.

(Dr. Basheer is seated in the Consulting Room. Suddenly Noor Jahan enters without notice.)

Noor Jahan : May I come in, doctor?

Dr. Basheer : (Unsteadily says): Yes, please come in.

Noor Jahan : Doctor, I can't sleep as I find it a problem.

Dr. Basheer : Why, do you feel excited or worried about something?

Noor Jahan : Yeah, That is why I come to you.

Dr. Basheer : (Smiling) well, what is it?

Noor Jahan : Doctor, It is my mind.

Dr. Basheer : What do you mean?

Noor Jahan : Love sickness, I'm in love.

Dr. Basheer : Does he know about your love?

Noor Jahan : Who do you mean?

Dr. Basheer : I mean the one whom you love.

Noor Jahan : No, he does not know about it.

Dr. Basheer : Then why don't you tell him?

Noor Jahan : That is what I'm about to do.

Dr. Basheer : (Astonished) what are you suggesting?

Noor Jahan : Only one thing. I love you so much.

Dr. Basheer : (Could hardly believe what he heard) But, but, I don't fit your circle.

Noor Jahan : Why, am I not beautiful?

Dr. Basheer : But you should marry someone who really loves you.

Noor Jahan : You... you don't love me then! Am I not good looking for you?

- Dr. Basheer: No! No! You are more beautiful than any that I have met.
- Noor Jahan: Then why object? I can't let you off that easy. I get what I want. My father knows it. He would never disapprove of his daughter's choice.
- Dr. Basheer : But, but the whole thing is absurd. I'm too old for you.
- Noor Jahan : You don't seem to dislike me after all. I'm pleased that you're putting forward excuses which can't be cast aside.
- Dr. Basheer : No! Please! Let me explain! I'm not the man for you.
- Noor Jahan : OK, sweetheart, I'm now sick at hearing lame excuses... I'm going to tell my father and you can be sure I'll be coming back.
(She leaves in a happy mood weaving to him as she closes his door while he looks speechless in her direction.
- Dr. Basheer: (comes forward and intercepts her by the doorway): wait..... Wait a minute. I want to get everything straightened out.
- Noor Jahan: (looks up at him) what have you got to say?
- Dr. Basheer: I I like you but.....
- Noor Jahan: But what? (She rushes out)You can tell me later.
- Dr. Basheer: Hell!! What keeps me tongue-tied?

Dr, Ahmed comes in.

Dr. Basheer: (greet's him) Hello! Good evening.

Dr. Ahmed : Hello, Noor Jahan appears to be excited.

Dr. Basheer : (Surprised) you know her!

Dr. Ahmed : Know her!! Everyone knows her father. What is the matter?

Dr. Basheer : A lot matters. She has just proposed to me.

Dr. Ahmed : Proposed what?

Dr. Basheer : Proposed for marriage.

Dr. Ahmed : My goodness!! You are lucky, my boy.

Dr. Basheer: It is too quick and sudden. I just don't know what to think of it.

Dr. Ahmed : Once she is set on a thing, she achieves. That I have heard from her father. She has had many suitors, but it is amazing that she has chosen you.

Dr. Basheer : That is really unfortunate.

Dr. Ahmed : (surprised) why?

Dr. Basheer: I'm married and I love my wife.

Dr. Ahmed: Does she know about your family life?

Dr. Basheer: No.

Dr. Ahmed: Why is your wife not with you?

Dr. Basheer: She may come later on.

Dr. Ahmed: Oh! I see. But Noor Jahan doesn't know. It could turn out to be an embarrassing situation.

Dr. Basheer: I.... I try to tell her but she will not listen. Moreover the way she goes about, I think that is not the proper way to behave.

Dr. Ahmed: The sooner you make her realize the truth; it would tip the scales in your favour if she withdraws from the proposal. Serious consequences can befall to people who oppose her. In one way, you can be lucky if she gives in to be a friend rather than a lover.

Dr. Basheer: I will get in touch with her soon. My mind is overburdened with what may follow from this foolish girl.

SCENE THREE

(A Visiting Professor of Medicine from Germany, Dr. Albert studies the situation of Hospitals in the Islands. Well over six feet in height and a dynamic personality and the best known Doctor from his country, he is seated in a large well furnished room in the back room with Dr Ahmed slightly away from the front entrance room. He is conversing on the benefits of modern equipments and Medicine.)

Dr. Shiny: (dashes into the room, shouting excitedly) : Dr. Ahmed, a critical case has come up.

Dr. Ahmed : What has happened?

Dr. Shiny : A man and his wife bring their only son bleeding severely on the head.

Dr. Ahmed : Bring them to the Theatre. (To Dr. Albert) Excuse us; an urgent case has cropped up.

Dr. Albert : (rising)It's all right. Let me accompany you too.

The Attendants wheel a stretcher to the Theatre. On it lay a small boy, his head bleeding on all sides. A lot of anxiety is seen on his parents who are running behind weeping loudly. Doctors, nurses are ready in the operation theatre. Dr. Albert comes forward on seeing the hopelessness on the faces of the Doctors. Dr. Albert then examines the unconscious boy for thirty minutes. He gives an injection to stop the bleeding.

Dr Albert: This is quite a complicated case. Something must be done immediately. Since internal bleeding can't be ruled out, a major operation has to be performed now.

Dr. Ahmed : Doctor, We don't have the equipments for a major operation. Is there time enough to take him to Male?

Dr. Albert : That is entirely out of the question. The patient will not survive till then. The wound is too serious.

Dr. Ahmed : (Questions the father) Tell us about it?

The father remains silent.

Mother of boy: Doctor, My husband quarrels with me. But our son intervenes and in a fit of anger, he smashes my son's head with an iron rod.

Dr. Albert : No need of questioning them now. We don't have enough time to save this boy's life.

Dr. Ahmed : But we are not that much experienced in performing a brain surgery.

Dr. Albert : Tell the parents the severity of the situation and to agree to the operation. I will do it.

Dr. Ahmed talks with the parents. The father and mother fall at the feet of Dr Albert.

“Doctor, Please save our son. We will pray” they cry out.

Dr. Albert : OK, Get the apparatus ready and wait in the Theatre. I will be there shortly. (To Dr. Ahmed) Not much to hope for in the operation if the head injury has delved too deep and if the brain is damaged it would be a hopeless case. But I'm prepared to risk it, for if I didn't; a life will be lost.

OPERATING THEATRE.

(A large special room with all facilities is seen.)

The boy is laid upon the operating table and the nurses are ready with the operation apparatus. Dr. Ahmed, Dr. Basheer and Dr. Shiny stand beside the table, immobile of movement, waiting and watching. Suddenly Dr. Alberts changes into his operation clothes and strides into the room.

He gives the boy a dose of anesthesia to keep him unconscious for at least twelve hours. Dr. Ahmed wonders at the ability of the Doctor to perform a major operation in a place where they are lacking the most modern equipments.

Dr. Albert : (To Dr. Ahmed) don't lose hope. I have performed countless number of operations like this but not in this condition. Let us hope and pray. (Then he says to the other Doctors) You all can stay outside. I need the help of only the nurses to hand over the surgical instruments.

The other Doctors go out.

Father of the Boy: Will our son live?

Dr. Ahmed : We can't say. You're lucky that the best Doctor is here at this moment.

Dr. Shiny : (Says gently) don't weep but pray and hope. We can't do anything by ourselves.

Dr. Albert comes out of the theatre calmly after ten and a half hours. The parents throw themselves at his feet.

Dr. Albert (To Dr. Ahmed): Tell them not to worry. The operation is successful. The brain is unaffected. The patient must not be disturbed for the next twenty-four hours. The patient is still in a coma. He will regain consciousness within one hour.

Dr. Ahmed smiles at the parents.

Father of Patient : (To Dr. Albert): You are truly sent as a savior by God to save our son. We'll never quarrel again in our lives. That I promise.

Dr. Albert can't understand what the man means but he smiles.

