

Scene 1

[Bali is on stage standing amongst the seven saalvriksha trees where he begins to exercise his arms, there is clear vision of his magnanimous strength. These are the last few moments before his death.]

Bali Here we are at last
With a story of battling minds,
With a story that could have ended differently.
I won't tremble before your fixed gaze
As I die many times in your mind.
Keep your eyes open but not too wide
Keep your eyes shut but not too tight
What is right, what is wrong?
That's is for you to decide.
I am here to witness your struggle
And the choices you make.
As for me, I am ready.

[Bali starts reminiscing his brotherly bond with Sugreeva and the events that follow after he disappears into the cave. Bali goes off stage.]

Bali and Sugreeva appear together. Bali and Sugreeva are young. Bali is teaching Sugreeva to tie the mundu. He also challenges the younger one to pick the key before him, a game of sorts. When Bali hears the sound of Mayavi, he goes in to the cave. Sugreeva waits but is shocked to see what comes out of the cave.]

Sugreeva I wait?
Till when?
But how will I know when you are done?
Who is the stronger one?
You are?
That I know.
I am not afraid.
I will wait.
Your blood?
That's my sign?
To seal the cave with stone?

[Suddenly red balls appear from stage right representing blood, Sugreeva gets worried and runs away from it]

Scene 2

How can you throw me out when you and me, share the same space?

2 individuals, Kili & Moli are sitting upstage, face-masked with a small stool in front of them. There are 2 objects on the stool which equally belong to both. Kili wants the objects, but Moli doesn't let her have it. Moli believes she owns the objects and hits Kili hard every time she tries to reach it. This mini battle reaches its peak with Moli getting more and more physically aggressive with Kili. However Kili refuses to give up till she is finally kicked out by Moli. In this case Kili represents Sugreeva and Moli is a representation of Bali.

Sugreeva's perspective

[Bali has been out of Mayavi's cave and is visibly upset. Sugreeva is shocked to see Bali alive. They get into a tussle. Both Sugreeva and Bali are standing. Both are hesitant to take a step forward. Bali knows what his fate is going to be. This is the moment just before Ram is about to shoot his arrow. Sugreeva is waiting for Bali to start because that's what's going to be Rams signal.]

Bali Sugreeva, your lips are dry and you are blinking much. It's not a game anymore is it? And this time you need to play it right. So what are you waiting for?

Sugreeva If you think this to be a game then it should be easy for you. You are always supposed to win... so what are you waiting for?

Bali You don't have questions of your own, is that why you are repeating my questions. Tell me what you are hiding under your peculiar smile?

Sugreeva The knowledge of actions that have already been decided.

Bali If Ram has already taught you my moves, then move first.

Sugreeva You first.

Bali The actions that I have taught you are different from his.... *[Waits for Sugreeva to move. Impatiently tells Sugreeva]* Ok then I will show you mine first. Now remember this and don't forget. *[Bali begins to do his movements]* Right, left, then squat and turn. Now you

know mine. *[Bali looks at Sugreeva this time sarcastically and repeats his movements]* Oh you have always had a poor memory. Here see it and do not forget. Right, left, then squat. Pause here a little, so he can take his aim. Then you take a step, behind me you're most secure place. Till that iron pierces into our memory, wiping it white.

Sugreeva You seem to know how it ends. I don't trust you. You could be very unpredictable with your familiar moves.

Bali *[Laughs]* My death equals your future and my actions are weak against your already decided actions?! So what happens if I move first?

Sugreeva More Power.

Bali For you or for me?

Sugreeva It's obvious isn't it?

Bali Don't counter a question with another question.

Sugreeva So much arrogance. Ram is dejected and angry and that's not good for you.

Bali And you?

Sugreeva Me what?

Bali Are you dejected and angry?

Sugreeva Isolation is an independent choice. I am not some child who can be pushed around. I waited and Ram came.

Bali So what next?

Sugreeva Restore me to my position.

Bali Are you willing to become a traitor for a cause which is empty at its heart?

Sugreeva Your death is precious to the movement of his story.

Bali What about you? Is my death precious to you?

Sugreeva What makes you think you have an absolute right to things that are equally mine as much as yours? Is it just because you are the first-born?

Bali Those are the traditions.

Sugreeva Then consider them challenged.

Bali Broken trust.

Sugreeva Don't be so poetic. It's simple, Revenge.

Bali If its revenge then what are you waiting for, let's begin.

Sugreeva My wait was over the moment Ram arrived. Let's begin.

Scene 3

When you take away my love for your reasons.

Kili and Moli are on stage, with Moli facing the Audience and Kili facing away. Moli is constantly badgering Kili not wanting her to leave. Kili gets angry and stops Moli. Moli is visibly upset. Now Kili wants to solve the issue and make up with Moli. There is a bit of fun and games. Moli finally gives in and rests on Kili. Kili has to leave so she leaves even after Moli's warning. Here, Kili represents Bali and Moli represents Tara.

Tara's perspective.

Tara has just heard about the death of her beloved Bali, thus she sings a tune describing the immense pain in her heart.

Tara To leave your smile so precious, to sit alone.
 To feel the absence of your breath with mine.
 To know I will never see myself in your eyes, so deep.
 To miss this sweat muddled body, so beautiful.
 To know your shadow was caught under a piece of iron,
 so worthless.
 To know your precious breath left you under his foot,
 so unstable.
 We shall die we know, was I ready to see this, I don't
 know.
 Were you ready for this, I wouldn't know.
 Your face so pale cracks my breath, leaving me blind.

[Ram in the background enters and stands next to Tara]

Ram It's not a perfect day.
Tara For you or for me?
Ram But you know what's next?
Tara Yes. The loneliness that Bali has left behind is
 louder than his brother's betrayal.
Ram But you did warn Bali.
Tara Sita warned you too.
Ram Tara, you can limit your tragedy if you are willing
 to look at his brother Sugreeva.
Tara Is that what you intend to do with your wife, quick
 solutions, to limit your tragedy?

Ram Its politics. I had to play my part perfectly.

Tara You did play well. But what makes you think that I will play politics to your liking? How could you shoot him from behind, you could have shown a little bit of respect.

Ram To do harm is often painfully inevitable

Tara To know that my loss is worthless to you makes me numb.

Ram But I had to...

Tara Was it worth it?

Ram I don't know.

Tara Taking his life?

Ram I wouldn't know that yet.

Tara Will it end happily for you?

Ram I don't know.

Tara If it does?

Ram Then I will know that even Gods are, allowed to fail.
(Tara walks out)
Tara Im not.

Scene 4

The story as we know.

Based on the popular story by Valmiki, two Sutradhaars narrate the life events of Bali. This story telling is supported by some caricature movements by the characters. [Lights come on and Sutradhaar is seen running when she spots the Sutradhaar running. She runs faster to reach him and they keep going forwards and backwards for a while. Finally she stops him.]

Sutradhaarin Aye Sahukaar

Sutradhaar Vell Naahi

Sutradhaarin Please Majhi madad karrrr (Hello ... please help me)

Sutradhaar Ushir zhaalay mala Ushir zhaalay (I'm late I'm late),
Hello!! Hi!!! Bhosadyaat jaye (Fuck the hellos and the hi)

Sutradhaarin aare pun malaa ek vishesh jaagya var pahuchaycha
aahe (but I ought to reach somewhere important)

Sutradhaar Kutthe (Where?)

Sutradhaarin Kishkinda forest

Sutradhaar Kutthe (Where?)

Sutradhaarin Tulaa Kishkinda Forest nahi maahiti ? (Haven't
you heard of the Kishkinda Forest?)

Sutradhaar Naahi...(No)

Sutradhaarin Ram? Laxman?

Sutradhaar Naahi Naahi (No No)

Sutradhaarin Raavan ni Sitalaa kidnap kela hota (Ravana
kidnapping Sita)

Sutradhaar Kehwa Kuthe (Who where)

Sutradhaarin Bali? Sugreeva?

Sutradhaar Naahi Naahi (No No)

Sutradhaarin Tara?

Sutradhaar Kon tee (Who is she)

Sutradhaarin Angada?

Sutradhaar Kon to (Who is he)

Sutradhaarin Hai the lords Mhatarya tula kahich nahi mahiti
(Oh good Lord , old man, you know nothing.)
Mee tula dakhawte .. saral saral jaauyaa
(I will show you... lets go straight and only
straight)

*[They together look around for Bali Tara Sugreeva, reaching Kishkinda
and suddenly spot all three relaxing]*

Sutradhaarin Kishkinda Forest!!!

Sutradhaar Kishkinda... Utkrushtt (splendid!!)

Sutradhaarin Attti utkrushtt. (ultra-splendid)

HAWWW hey bagh aambe (oh look at these mangoes)

Hey bagh phoolpakhru (oh look at these
butterflies)

Haryaali haryaali (greenery and more greenery!!)

Sutradhaarin Hi!!! (To the trio)

Trio Hi!!!!

Sutradhaarin Ha aaplaa Hero Bali!! (That's our Hero Bali)

Tyaacha Little Brother Sugreeva!! (His younger brother Sugreeva)

Tyaachi sexy wife Tara!! (His Sexy wife Tara)

Sutradhaarin

HIIII!!!

Trio

HIIII!!!

Sutradhaarin

Two brothers, almost identical in appearance were a handsome pair.

Bali the eldest... had a lovely wife Tara ...and a son Angada.

Sugreeva the younger brother did not have a wife at this point.

Sutradhaar

HAHAHAHAHAH What a beautiful family this is.

Sutradhaarin

One day as they were chilling they heard a call, It was Mayavi, challenging Bali to a mighty fight.

Bali king of Kishkindaaaaa

Bali King of Kishkindaaaaa

Bali King of Kishkindaaaaa

Bali King of Kishkinda, Bali King of Kishkinda, Bali King of Kishkinda

Jumped out of the window

And they fought and fought till the sun went down and the moon came up.

Many babies were born meanwhile in many households of Kishkinda.

Hawww Soon Mayavi got tired and went and hid inside a cave.

Bali closely followed by Sugreeva was about to

Bali turned around and said these very important lines to his Sugru

"You Sugru close this cave with that purple stone, open only when I tell you".

"Huh?!But how will I know it's you and not him since he is the great Mayavi"

"Listen, if you see blood coming out of this cave, you are to understand that I am dead", said Bali

S & S

BHAIYAAAAA

Sutradhaarin Bali went inside like a flash and Sugreeva waited.

He waited waited and waited for many many days.
Then one day, Sugreeva saw blood coming out of the cave, unmistakably his brother's

Sutradhaar Oh NO.

Sutradhaarin Sugreeva fled towards Kishkinda with his hair standing.
Now, based on the information that we have....
Agagaggaga Tare Tare Tare....Bali had killed Mayavi inside the cave and the blood that came out was not Bali's but it was Mayavi's.

Sutradhaar What a terrible misunderstanding this is..

Sutradhaarin Ho naa (Isn't it) So while our Bali dear was trying to come out of the cave
These very important question were asked?
"Who will be king in Bali's absence"?
Sugreeva, came the answer.

Sutradhaar Shouldn't it be Angada?

Sutradhaarin Chhe!!

Sutradhaar What will happen to Tara?

Sutradhaarin She will become Sugreeva's' wife.
Wah wah wah
Aalla aalaa aallaa
Shake that dhungan baby
Pelvic thrust Pelvic Thrust
Now.....As per the information that we have had.
The Family pictures in Kishkinda households changed.
In order to save cost they pasted Sugreeva's' head on top of Bali's.

Sutradhaar What a beautiful family this is.

Sutradhaarin Ekdum (Absolutely)One day, as Sugreeva was looking at the large family picture hanging on his wall
"TAARE"
He heard a call,
"DAA"
A challenge for a fight.

"SUGGRUU"

There was Bali,

"PODAA"

standing with his legs apart, eyes burning like a hot iron.

Sugreeva knew that recounting those events would be pointless and he ran out.

So, based on the information that we have, Sugreeva was banned from ever coming back.

Sutradhaar

This is terrible,

Sutradhaarin

Now Bali had his lovely wife Tara and the family picture changed... again.

Sutradhaar

Again?!?!

Sutradhaarin

Te bagh (look there) Angry and dejected, Sugreeva hopped from place to place restlessly.

Based on the eye witness account, Ram met

Sugreeva at this point and they started to plot to kill Bali.

"But ...No, no no no But I can't fight Mr Bali, he is too strong"

Mr Ram reassured Mr Sugreeva, by saying "I will shoot an arrow from behind at Mr Bali while you and he are fighting."

Mr Sugreeva said, "then, you have to be very precise and quick or else I will be dead.

Sutradhaar

Fully dead!!

Sutradhaarin

Mr Ram said with a smile, "Done deal"

Sutradhaar

This is going to be trouble for Bali.

Sutradhaarin

So Sugreeva went with his newly acquired pride to Bali, and called him for a fight.

Bali jumped out of his window and started to fight with Sugreeva

Ram in the meanwhile, took his position and aimed his arrow but got himself confused, whether is Bali-Sugreeva or Sugreeva Bali

Sutradhaar

This is really confusing.

Sutradhaarin

Poor Sugru, took a lot of beating because Ram did not shoot since Ram himself was not sure who was who.

Angry furious and in pain Sugru shouted "what is taking you so long?"

Sutradhaar

It is too confusing to recognize who is who.

Sutradhaarin

Ram said "Aye Sugru the next time wear a garland, preferably an orange one."

So again Sugreeva called out to Bali for yet another bout.

Bali came out,

And they fought and they fought and they fought and they fought and they fought and they fought

This time Ram took his perfect shot.

SHWOOP went the arrow

KHACHAAK it split Bali's chest.

AAAAH! Said the last breath that came out of Bali.

Sutradhaar

Cheater! Cheater!

Sutradhaarin

As Sugreeva became the king, those family pictures on the walls changed.

Tara was unwilling to be Sugreeva's wife but did she have a choice

Sutradhaar

Aani tyaacha What will happen to Angada

Sutradhaarin

what will become of him?

Sutradhaar

Sumpla

Sutradhaarin

GRRRRR... Ashi sampli balichi goshta (And that's how Bali's story ends)

Sutradhaar

Sampliii (ends)

Sutradhaarin

Bali mela, Naatak urakla (the show ends at Bali's death)

Sutradhaar

mee te-ach bollo (I said the same thing)

Sutradhaarin

SHUSHHH... audience la changla gift wrap karun hawayy (shut up! one should always gift-wrap the story for the audience)

Sutradhaarin

Tumhi aale hardik abhinandan. Pudhchya varshi parat yaa (thank you for coming, please come again next year)

Scene 5

When my future is already decided.

Moli is in her own world of toys. She is busy playing, making imaginary items. Kili stealthily enters stage and tries to destroy Moli's toys with all her might. Not wanting to get caught, Kili tries very hard to camouflage, ultimately taking away Moli's built wonder. Moli tries to be alert, trying to figure the reason for her loss, but she is helpless. Kili who represents Sugreeva is taking away Angada's kingdom-who is represented by Moli- which is left for him by his father Bali.

Angada's point of view

In the black out you can hear Bali's voice, lovingly convincing Angada to sit with him.

Bali Angada.... Angada...come here... don't do that..
Angada Appa please pa last game
Bali No No more games
Angada But I want to play
Bali Sit straight Sit straight
Angada But I want to play... I want to play... I want to play.

Angada is sitting in front of Bali. Bali is teaching his son to write on sand. Angada being playful asks him many questions and they take turns to riddle each other indulging in playful father-son moments. Bali leaves suddenly, leaving Angada alone.

Bali Where are you going ... Where are you going ... Never... never do that again ok? Say sorry..
Angada No
Bali say sorry
Angada Sorry
Bali Louder
Angada Sorry Appa, please ... Please can we play a different game?
Bali What sort of a game is this?
Angada A number game!
Bali OH a number game?
Angada Yes ... You say a number and I make a story.
Bali I see...I need to say number and you make a story.
Angada Hmph
Bali Ok ... ok ... I will... Come Angada, lift me up. Lift me
Angada No... No... No Appa. Not this game.
Bali Then which game

Angada Yes ... I say a number and you make a story.

Bali Oh I need to say a number and you make the story.

Angada Yes, I make stories!

Bali Number 6

Angada Once upon a time there was a 1 and being one he was all alone. So he went looking for friends. He walked and walked and walked and there, at the end of the road he found 5. So 1 and 5 hugged and became six.

Bali 8

Angada A rooster woke up early on Monday morning and asked the Sun, "What day is it?" So the Sun replied. "Sunday". So if I add 8 more days then it will be Sunday again.

Bali 2

Angada I meowed and a cat said, "Me 2"

Bali Okay, 1.

Angada I saw you one-dering yesterday.

Bali 190

Angada After 1 no more number. Now you need to tell me stories.

Bali How many numbers have you learned to count?

Angada 7

Bali 7 that's a lot of numbers. Now say a number

Angada 7

Bali 7? Two ones were walking and when they got tired they sat under a tree. The first one stretched his legs to the north with his head to the south. Seeing this, the second one stretched his legs to the west with his head to the south. And together they became seven.

Angada **Seven**

Okay, 123435678910

Bali Huh!?

Angada 1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...10

Bali 1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...10

One day two big boys started fighting. Then came the third man hiding behind that fourth tree. The third waited and waited and waited and when it was around five minutes he looked into their eyes. 6 leaves fell because it was about time. All his dear seven trees kneeled in mourning at the sound of his the arrow. 8

tears rolled out his eyes, 9th fell silent. While ten pieces of wood were kept in a row for his body.

Angada 1

Bali The perfect one.

Angada Appa ...You my perfect one!

Are you the perfectestest one?

[At this point Bali disappears in the back. Angada hears Tara's wail in the back ground and his demeanour changes.]

Angada: I stand here, alone, with a future that is futile and a memory that is fragile. Who is there to question my outrage to an injustice so casually done? Revenge. It burns. I will crouch under it, waiting for the right moment to strike, just like he did. I am unwilling to be part of Ram's glory. His death... it will be brief and with it the stories shall change. Again.

Black out.

Scene 6

You are my friend and when I lose you war erupts.

Kili and Moli are seen standing on either side of a chair. They both are sportsmen trying to win that chair. There is a polite tussle between the 2. Kili and Moli start to exercise and play musical chair. However hard they try, both are always at the same score. They both win equally. Finally they decide to share the chair since it will save them a lot of energy. Ravana played by Moli and Bali played by Kili were the best of friends. Their strength and valour knew no boundaries. They had a very understanding bond.

Ravana's Perspective.

Amidst the sound of waves created by the ropes Ravana and Ram stand next to each other, walking back and forth. The ropes are a representation of a war or DNA or Lifeline or mental turmoil. Ravana discloses his friendship with Bali to Ram over the tradition of eating pan. This is the moment before Ram kills Ravana.

Ravana Rama...You know what Bali once said about high speed spins?

Ram Tell me Ravana...

Ravana The highest form of adrenaline rush. It's either death or a realization. And after that, a white blindness.

Want to see?

Ram So....

Ravana So why did you kill Bali it? You think it was necessary? If you had requested Bali to return Sita for you, I would have...not for you... for him.

Ram **Ohhhh** so is this what this is about? Bali? His death? There is no friend, my friend.

Ravana That's what you think, because you don't have any.

Ram **Ravana** ...would you have returned Sita to me if Bali had asked you?

Ravana Now you will never know.

Ram In that case, let's begin.

[Ravana and Ram pick the ropes to start the tugging process. Black out in a couple of seconds. The lights come on only to see a slayed Ravana]

Ram: I am not perfect.
'Even the lotus has its petals pale,
The moon has got its spot.
And where is the form of any kind
Without the slightest fault?

Bali enters stage, getting the visuals of the scene 1

Bali As for me, I am ready.

[Bali starts walking towards the sal tree, slowly lights fade into a black out]

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