

Nidravatwam

### **Scene 1**

*[The sound of the snore can be heard through a wooden flute. As it intensifies slowly, the left side stage lights comes on Kumbakarna who is sleeping. As the snore reaches its crescendo, Kumbakarna wakes up from his sleep. Kumbakarna looks at his watch and excitedly leaps and starts to brush his teeth and when he finishes with his brushing he examines his muscles strength in his arms. Then he proceeds to meet his friends, as he is talking to them Kumbakarna gets distracted by the smell of the food. He sees a pile of food lying in front of him and starts to eat vigorously; the eating is shown through varied rhythms and at different levels. As Kumbakarna is eating he keeps looking at his watch to check the time. In the middle of his eating process, he falls asleep; he wakes up from the sleep as if somebody has woken him and says]*

**Kumbakarna:** Am I awake or am I dreaming of my death?

### **Black out**

*[The actor assumes the role of a narrator and jumps on the cube which is kept in the middle of the stage. The light slowly falls on the narrator who is squatting on the cube]*

### **Narrator:**

They were the same.

They loved their brother, a bit too much.

They asked for the same kind of boon.

He had the talent of hiding his sleep.

And he lacked the gift of wakefulness.

Both their problem was the same, sleep.

*[The narrator jumps on to the left side of the cube and kicks the cube, as he kicks the cube the light cuts sharply]*

### **Blackout**

*[Laxmana is shown on the right side of the stage.*

*Laxmana looks puzzled as if he is looking for an answer to his dilemma concerning his sleep]*

Laxmana: will she wake up as I sleep? our transitions smooth?

*[In an attempt to unravel the answer to his question concerning his sleep Laxmana considers the possibility that perhaps only in the turiya state - can one be truly aware of pure self existence, wherein one has a glimpse of the past, present and future/trikaladrishti.]*

**Black out**

*[Transition to trikaladrishti]*

Trikaladrishti

**Black out**

*[Transition to Laxmana]*

*[Laxmana sees the image of Trikaladrishti, where he assumes lies the solution to his answer concerning his sleep, wheather he would sleep for the next fourteen years or his fourteen years of sleep in one night. As Laxmana is in possession of this new found boon/ curse he finds enormous amount of time at his disposal.*

*Laxmana starts to explore this time by becoming fast with his action. Which in time enables him to do his regular actions with incredible fluid effortlessness. This is shown trough movements. But the acquiring of new skill terrifies him as he finds himself with incredible amount of power which again bring Laxmana to his fundamental question, the mystery of his sleep cycle.]*

**Laxmana:** My sleep what does it mean? That I sleep for the next fourteen years?

Or I get my fourteen years of sleep in one night? Is sleep the only way to find out?

**Black out**

**Scene 2**

*[The meeting of Laxmana and Kumbakarna, the actor assumes both characters.]*

*[Laxmana is standing in a chowk, centre stage, with his back to the audience. He is running as if to get away from somebody who has been following him. At the end of the sequence Kumbakarna pushes him forward and it is followed by a fight between the two characters.]*

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**Kumbakarna:** I need to talk to you. I am...

*[Transition to Laxmana]*

**Laxmana:** I know you. You are Kumbakarna the sleepy one!  
What do you want?

*[Transition to Kumbakarna]*

**Kumbakarna:** sleep. My sleep cycle, it's broken. I feel lost.

*[Transition to Laxmana]*

**Laxmana:** your sleep cycle? What was it? Of incomplete stories within a complete cycle, that is it. [Laughs]

*[Transition to Kumbakarna]*

**Kumbakarna:** why are you laughing? Does it sound that funny to you? You have no idea how it feels, or do you?

*[Transition to Laxmana]*

**Laxmana:** I just remembered something.

*Transition to Kumbakarna*

**Kumbakarna:** what? You know them! You know my stories.  
Which is your favorite?

*[Transition to Laxmana]*

**Laxmana:** mine?! This one.

**Blackout**

*[The conversation between Kumbakarna and Laxmana is in the black out. Here a second voice is introduced as the voice of Kumbakarna]*

**Kumbakarna:** are you sure you want to tell my story?

**Laxmana:** why you are not?

**Kumbakarna:** I could tell my own story!

**Laxmana:** you will fall asleep!

**Kumbakarna:** mmm...you have all the facts?

**Laxmana:** I have all the facts. I just need some lights.

**Kumbakarna:** lights please.

Scene 3

*[The light slowly comes on to Laxmana who is sitting in the center of the stage with his legs spread to the sides. Laxmana as Kumbakarna tells the story of Kumbakarna.]*

This is him.

And this is me

This is his story

But this is not my story.

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Now I am him. If there is any correction to the story, he will come and correct himself, that's me, So the story.

*[Laxmana/ Kumbakarna pulls a small stool, one feet high, from behind him and sits on it]*

So one day when woke up I could not find her, Mrs. Kutty, my secretary, she is a fly. Actually she is a multi colored, multi tasking, multi faceted, multi eyed and multiplying fly. Lately she is been irritating me a lot, not coming on time not taking notes properly, you know very important for a secretary!

Mr. Kutty her husband was the best. A nice, handsome, good looking, attractive and highflying guy fly. Two years back he was sleeping on my stomach. Accidentally my stomach went over him and he was killed. Then comes Mrs. Kutty wearing red hot lipstick and a red sari, asking for his job, I did not have any other option than give her the job.

Anyway, Mrs. Kutty was telling me yesterday that my brother is going for a wedding of a girl called Sita. And they are making this very, very special Laddooo for her wedding and she said, before that you want to hear what Mrs. kutty told me about the Laddooo?

Here I have recorded it.

*[The transition into Mrs. Kutty and she starts speak in a high-pitched voice.]*

It is not orange and it is not red it is a color in between, and it is very soft. It is made of small small, little little, balls balls of perfect shape. The fragrance from its spreads all over the moment it comes into existence. And it is the perfect round shape you can find in the world, after me that is. They are making this very special Laddooo for a wedding in a faraway place.

*[Transition back to Kumbakarna]*

And she said since my brother is also going for the wedding we could go with him without him knowing get into his super cool flight and hang from its third wheel. And as soon as we see the building she will count one two three and we will jump to land on top of

the building. Then she said we should not move for three seconds. After staying motionless for four seconds we should get up and crack our necks and shake our backs. Then walk very, very slowly. Mrs. Kutty said there will be a staircase on the left side and we should be very careful on it because it makes a lot of noise, Mrs. Kutty also said better use Nike shoes. At the end of the staircase on the left side is the kitchen. And as soon as we see it we should run and close the door behind us. Then she said she knows where they have kept the Laddoo!

After saying all this, she is late again!

*[The sound of Mrs. Kutty is heard in the distance]*

**Kumbakarna:** Mrs. Kutty where are you? Come in front where I can see you.

Mrs. Kutty comes and sits on his shoulder and tells him,

**Kumbakarna:** can you stop that irritating bussing sound! I can't hear anything... Now tell me.

Mrs. Kutty tells Kumbakarna that there is a change of plan and his brother is leaving in five minutes.

*[Kumbakarna jumps and squats on the stool and mimes the movement of running]*

**Kumbakarna:** Mrs. Kutty do you remember how many days I have left before my next sleep cycle?

**Mrs. Kutty:** No, I do not. It does not come into the premise of my husband's work.

**Kumbakarna:** Oh!

**Mrs. Kutty:** run Kumbi ... run

**Kumbakarna:** I am running.

**Mrs. Kutty:** look you are not! You are slowing down!

**Kumbakarna:** I tried to run and run with Mrs. Kutty's tiny wings. Then I felt that familiar heaviness in my arms then in my legs and slowly slowly in my eyes. I shouted in my sleep,

Mrs. Kutty tell me the taste of that perfect round Laddoo when I wake up the next time. Please..

**Blackout**

*[Only the voices of Kumbakarna and Laxmana are heard. The musician gives the voice for Kumbakarna.]*

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**Laxmana:** I think I should be a storyteller. I loved the way I told your story. What do you think?

**Kumbakarna:** discrepancies.

**Laxmana:** where?

**Kumbakarna:** it was not Nikkei it was Reebok!

**Laxmana:** Nike, Reebok who cares? Shoes after all.

**Kumbakarna:** forget it. I need to talk to you.

Scene 4

*[Light slowly comes on Laxmana who is standing in the middle of the stage. He is picks up something from his right side and keeping it on his left side. the action continues in through varied rhythms. The voice of Kumbakarna is heard from off stage.]*

**Kumbakarna:** where are we?

**Laxmana:** who we? say I.

**Kumbakarna:** where am I?

**Laxmana:** you are in-between the broad lands of sleep and wakefulness.

**Kumbakarna:** where are you?

**Laxmana:** the only thing I know is that I can't sleep and I am outside of it.

**Kumbakarna:** can you listen to this?

**Laxmana:** is it a poem!

**Kumbakarna:** I don't know yet. Why?

**Laxmana:** because this is going to be the biggest poem of all time. So why waste energy on one more?

**Kumbakarna:** when did you become a fortuneteller?

**Laxmana:** me!

**Kumbakarna:** forget it! Hear this.

There was water.

I was standing on the other side.

Two men stood a little away, both looked like brothers.

It was difficult to tell who shot me first.

Then I saw my head floating away,

Along with my unfinished task and incomplete stories.

Was this my vision of my end? Will it come true?

**Laxmana:** I am not analyzing your dreams. I am going.

**Kumbakarna:** wait a second; I need to talk to you.

*[Lights fades slowly it remains just to suggest that it is not a complete black out. The light comes on and you*

*will see Laxmana standing in the middle of the stage, juggling two wooden balls, and this rhythm becomes the music background for the scene. And Laxmana is trying to concentrate on his action.]*

**Kumbakarna:** Can you take something from me?

**Laxmana:** I don't take anything from anyone.

**Kumbakarna:** but this, this only you can take.

**Laxmana:** what?

**Kumbakarna:** what I have in excess, too much sleep.

**Laxmana:** then what do I do with it!

**Kumbakarna:** I know you did not want to mutilate my sister.

**Laxmana:** who told you?

**Kumbakarna:** I heard you.

**Laxmana:** where?

**Kumbakarna:** there.

**Laxmana:** oh there! Not true my friend, hallucinating!

**Kumbakarna:** I thought the brothers did not lie!

**Laxmana:** who said!

**Kumbakarna:** said? It's written.

**Laxmana:** so?

**Kumbakarna:** to get over your past you need some of my sleep.

**Laxmana:** I don't have the power to do that.

**Kumbakarna:** but you do, you do have the power.

**Laxmana:** how do you know?

**Kumbakarna:** remember the mango the sage gave the queens, it was cut into four equal pieces.

**Laxmana:** so?

**Kumbakarna:** it means all four brothers are equal.

**Laxmana:** why do you want me to do this?

**Kumbakarna:** sleep kills action. Even the desire to kill my worst enemy, the mutilator of my sister

**Laxmana:** that is me.

**Kumbakarna:** you must help me [pause] kill you.

**Black out**

**Scene 5**

*[Laxmana is standing on the right side of the stage and he is trying to take Kumbakarna's sleep. Taking off the sleep is shown through the movement of pulling a rope,*

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*its starts on a slow pace and becomes faster. As Laxmana falls asleep, taking the sleep from Kumbakarna, the connection between the two, through sleep, breaks and Kumbakarna is killed by Ram.]*

*[Eight count blackout]*

*[As the light falls on stage, Kumbakarna is seen standing on top of a cube on the left side of the stage. The cube is tied by a rope, which extends to the right side of the stage. The musician starts to pull the rope, the cube starts to rotate, and it moves towards the centre of the stage. Through each rotation Kumbakarna starts to wake up. When the cube reaches the center of the stage he is completely out of his sleep and he picks up his weapon to kill Laxmana. As he is aiming to kill Laxmana- Ram's arrows kills Kumbakarna and he falls back and slowly sinks down, like he is sinking in the water.]*

*[Kumbakarna is sitting behind the cube with his legs spreading sideways.]*

**Kumbakarna:** am I awake or am I dreaming of my death?

*[He falls back with the cube on his chest, dead. The light fades off very slowly on Kumbakarna.]*

**Quick black out**

*[Transition to Laxmana during the blackout.]*

**Laxmana:** my sleep what does it mean, that I sleep for the next fourteen years? Or I get my fourteen years of sleep in one night? She wakes up as I sleep our transitions smooth, while I slip into his role of unfinished stories within an undefined cycle.  
The end.

