

TIE UP YOUR CAMEL by Sudha Bhuchar, written for the *Covid and Me – Vaccine Monologues* (Theatre of Debate/NIHR/Leeds University).

Asif, aged 42 Bradford British Pakistani. Lost his father to covid and nearly lost his younger brother, Saif who ended up on a ventilator in an induced coma. Saif was on the RECOVERY trail and is hailed as a research hero- now donating his plasma.

ASIF

Jadon khar da phone bajya main computer tay siga. Lesley nay meri Excel table vich rows vada kay, sab kuch ulta-sidah kar dita. Menu pata si ki Ammi daha phone hovega. Fayre. Mey mobile silent tay rakhda, but Ammi nu pata ki mein kharay ain. 'Remote working' naal saaday kaafi documents 'shared access' hunday, tahin hun meray formula kharab ho gayay si! Aasin kam tay mazaak karday ki 'Leslish' sikhni payegi auda kam theek karan layi. Ammi nu intezar karna payega.

Fayre mainu bura lagaya. Abu thee death, Covid tho, sirf thoray mahinay hoyai, naalay mera chota prah, Saif vi audain jaan ton bach gaya. Ammi halay mushkil vich hay. Abu day Janaazay tay saanu family Whatsapp group ton bahut aasra milya. Kabristan tay siraf das loki jaa sakay, taa saarayan na dua padh kay Abu da savaab vada dita. Par hun jayray messages urdhar-phirday ai, siraf Ammi da dukh vada rahay ai.

Mamu Koki sarayatho vadh ai. Oh Covid day baaray 'fake news' share karday rahenday ai- Ki 'govt hoax ay'; 'Ki 5G naal linked ai': 'Coincidence taani ki Covid audon shuru hoi, jadon 5G day masts lagay ai!; ; Ki "Big pharma" companionia nay shuroo kitha ; 'Ya Trump nay 'Kung flu' bana kay Wuhan payjeya, taaki China 'super power' na banay'!

Main sidha javab group tay post kita ' I suppose China nay **'RETURN TO SENDER' likh kay, vapis Trump nu package payjeya!**

Eh pelee vari main aapnay Mamu naal buttameezi kiti .

Ammi phone tay roh-ray si. Mey Ammi nu kya "mute noifications" tay "clear chat" karoo, jah group nuh chado. Par Ammi nuh khandaani gup-shup sunkay, tay eik dusray di shami kebab recipe compare karan da shauk ai.

Ays dafa, Mamu di zabaan kuch jyada lambi hogayee: Kahenday ki Saif di puri recovery nahin hoi, kyonki 'oona nai' Saif nun induced coma vich paakay, khatarnaakh experimental drugs ditay. Mamu nay Ammi no kaya 'flu jab mana karo, kyonki

'Doctor, binaa puchkay, thanoo Corona naal inject karan gay; Oonaa nu ginnea pigs chayday'.

Mamu Ammi ton baday ay, tha Ammi man gay. Saif nuh pata lagaya, and he kicked off with Mamu, hun Ammi saaday naal naraaz ai. Kahenday assi Mamu di besti kiti.

Main samjorn di koshish kiti.

'Saif hospital gaya ventilator tay, tay vaapis aaya Research Hero, Recovery trial vich hissaa laikay. Ay khabar family WhatsApp tay post karo'

Ammi nay kya **'Mera putar Mount Snowdon chardha si, hun oonu upar bathroom jaanthe, saah chardhda ai'**

Abu ton baad, main Ammi nuh kaya meray khar aakay raho, saaday 'bubble' vich. "Thusi apnay khar kulay ho, nalay har jagaa Abu they memories ai." Ay nahin ki aasi phulna chaunday nay. Ammi ney mannay.

Jadon meray munday vaapis school gayay, tan oh vi 'bubble' phat gayya! Meray chotay, Zain di class vich eik munda bimaar hoya , tan saaray year nun khar pejeya 'isolate' karan. Zain day koi symptom nahin si, alhamdullilah, ta oonu Covid test ve nahin milaya. Bechara aapnay kamray vich band ai, tablet tay khel rayah ai. Aasi saray social distance rakh rahay.

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Ammi auna chaunday si, laad-pyaar karan layi, par main mana kita. Without her flu jab, main risk nahin leynaa, garden vich vi nahin.

Meri Biwi kahendi ki full lockdown hovay, tan behtar ai. Jyondo saaray khar vich si, taan aaram siga ki saaray theekh rahn gay.

Oyyo shaam, main Zain da darvaja kholkay dekheya. Oh Ammi naal face time tay si. Runthay se.

‘What’s the point of school-work Dado, when we can’t beat coronavirus?’

Mayray mundayan nun Abu di kami bahut feel hoi, nalay hun apnee pyaari Dado nuh nahin dekh sakday, nah japhi pa sakday.

Pher main sunaya ki Ammi Zain nu kahani sunaaray si- Jayree mainu tay Saif nu sunaunday si. Oh camel vaali kahani.

Main Masjid de Interfaith Focus Group ton aaya si. Saday area vich vaccine trial horayay, tay oona nu hundreds of volunteers चाहिday. Jayray sign kar chukay, oh 93% goray nai. Saaday loki bharosa nahin karday.

Vaccine Task Force vaalay sarayan day savaala nu javaab day rahay si. Ki vaccine ‘live’ nahin hai; ay vaali vaccine vich koi jaanvar day product nahin hai, ‘halal’ ay; tohaday insurance tay koi pharak nahin payay ga; oh vaccine labrayhay, jeree sarayanoo usser karay, nalay saray protocol follow karay nay. Information lekkay, sab meray vaaray dekh rahay si, salah vaastay. Abu nu pata hunda aasi ki phaisla kariyay!

Zain nu purashaan dekh kay, mera javab samnay siga.

Govt vaalay tan kehnday rahenday ki ‘cavalry aa rahi ai’ par equation oodon badleyga jadon vaccine owgee. Until then aasi eh ‘new normal’ zindagi jeerahay ai.

Aglay din, main Ammi nuh kaya ki main volunteer karna ai. Mey mera naa National Vaccine registry tay likyaa.

‘Ammi nay kya ‘Tainu yaad nahin oh jeray aadmi trial tay si, naalay bimaar pay gaya?’

‘Ammi, mey ai tvaaday vaastay karaya ai. Kyonki lokaa nay trail kitay, taahin twanu flu jab da protection mildi ai. Ta Tusi oh vi nahi laya.

Abu tan chalaygay, aasi twanu nahin khona chaunday’

Pheyr main Ammi nuh kahani yaad karvayi. Jerree Zain nu sanornday see..

Ik din saaday Prophet, peace be upon him, koi Bedouin saathi naal safar karray si. Jadon aapnay makaam tai pahunchay, saathi nay aapnay camel nu rasi naal nahin banya. Saday Nabhi nay puchaya ‘kyon tun unth nu nahin banya?’ Tay saathi na javab dinda, **‘Mainu Allah tay pharosa hai; unth nu koi chori ni karega, nahee oh nataga.’**

Saaday Nabee nay kaya, ‘Paylon unth nu rasi bankay rakho, baad vich Allah thay pharosa karo’.

Imaan da nahin matlab kay tusi Kismet day samnay huth bann kay baith jao. Aapni vi jimmedari ai.

Sada future, Ilam vich ai.

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Jadon mainu vaccine da phaila dose milya, main selfie layi, tay Ammi nay family Whatsapp thay post kita. Bathairay message aayay anti-vaccers thow . Ammi nay saaday Nabih da message bhejeya....
'Paylon aapnay unth nu rasi naal banno, pher Allah tay pharosa karo'.
Chup-chap ho gay. Ik-do cousin nay mainu direct message kitay- Ussi ki kar suck they.

We're riding this 'second wave' together.

Ammi nay flu jab lagvaya, sada milna-jhulna pher shuru hoye, with government guidelines. Inshallah Christmas saaday naal guzaarangay. Ammi di halal turkey zabardast ai!