



Industrial Design Centre,
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Degree Project

Gadbad Gaon - A Film on Blind Faith

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Guide-Prof. Shilpa Ranade

The Making Of An Animated Short Film

Gadbad Gaon

on Topic
“Blind Faith”

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Declaration

The research work embodied in the written submission titled **“Gadbad Gaon- A short animation film on Blind Faith”** has been carried out by the undersigned as part of the Post-Graduate program in the Industrial Design Centre, IIT Bombay, India under the supervision of Prof. Shilpa Ranade.

The undersigned hereby declares that this is his original work and has not been plagiarized in part or full from any source. Furthermore, this work has not been submitted for any degree in this or any other University.

I understand that any violation of the above will be a cause for disciplinary actions by the Institute and can also evoke penal action if need arises.



Jaishrith Udai
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Approval Sheet

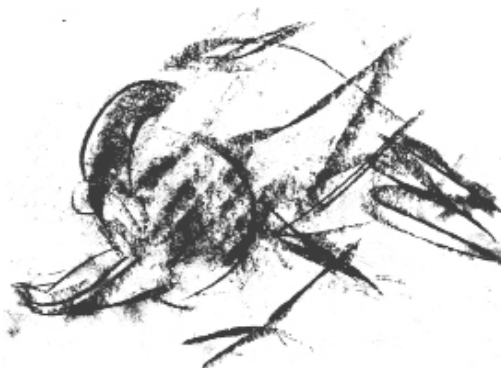
The project entitled “**Gadbad Gaon- A short animation film on Blind Faith**” by **Jaishrish Udai, 136340011**,
is approved in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
Master of Design (M.Des.) Degree in **Animation Design**.


Project Guide:


Chair Person:


Internal Examiner:


External Examiner:



Acknowledgement

I am sincerely grateful to my guide, Prof. Shilpa Ranade for her thoughtful guidance, constant support and patience.
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my friends for their love and motivation that kept me going.



Abstract

The moment a human is born, he/she is enrolled in the religion their parents are following. This thing continues forever without knowing the reason behind.

All this is fine but as soon as the things starts getting violent as people of one group gets offended by some other group and as a result riots happen. Another thing is that people follow religion so blindly that they are fooled by religious leaders and are used as a vote bank. In short, it is a very dangerous political weapon.

I think religion is good. It keeps people in hope and shows the right direction in life, when ever lost. But people should give every thing a thought before following it. Blind faith might lead to complete system failure and deaths of several innocent.

This film is an attempt to understand Religion, it's goods and bads, and how **blind faith** in anything could badly affect anybody's life.

Index

Declaration	iii
Approval sheet	v
Acknowledgement	vii
Abstract	viii

Introduction	1
The need	2
The idea behind	3
Thoughts and theories	4
Methodology	5
Concepts and stories	6
The story	7
The Making of two religions	8
Developing characters	10
Character explorations	14
Storyboard	26
Designing characters and locations	52
Final look and feel	85
Sound and Animatic	92
Animation	93
Conclusion	100
References	101

Introduction

Religion is a sort of group-ism in people, which people choose as a way of being social. This is a natural animal instinct of being in a safe zone and, to be in a safe zone they group together. This unity make it easy for most of the animals to fight every difficulty, every threat they face in their lives.

According to me humans created religions for the same purpose. Due to the religion, people had common beliefs which lead them to a better living as there were less contradictions in their thoughts.

Due to over following of a particular religion, People even forget their own importance, their thought for life almost goes into garbage, and rather a religion helping them to survive better, it becomes their only activity. It can be commonly found in most of the old age people and many other aged people completely drowned in a religion, just for the sake of a better next life or a good life after death. For a thing which doesn't even sure for it's existence, people sacrifice what actually exists!

But the things are a bit serious now as the people get fooled by their religion in some or the other sense and they start doing random humorous things which some times hurt themselves. That is, in some sense, ok to do but when it comes to violence, among themselves or with the people of other religion, it becomes serious.



The Need !

Godhra communal riots between Hindus and Muslims, that lead to death of thousands in Gujrat. Before that, the issues regarding the Babri Masjid, that killed a lot of people.

Then one can look back at the time of partition of India. Partition at the time of independence could be considered as a war between Hindus and Muslims.

There are several stories where the cruelty and inhumanity on the name of religion could be clearly seen. After being raped repeatedly for 10 years, an Iranian Muslim women was sentenced to death just because she removed her *hijab* from her face in the court, in front of men.

There are many incidences of god men raping females in the shadow of religion.

Superstition and black magic being used to fool people around and doing insane things to people for money and the people just blindly agree to whatever they find magical. These extra intelligent people preaches other people and make them belief that they have magical powers and loots them.

Religion is being used as a political weapon. Religion is used to divide and rule over the people in the country.

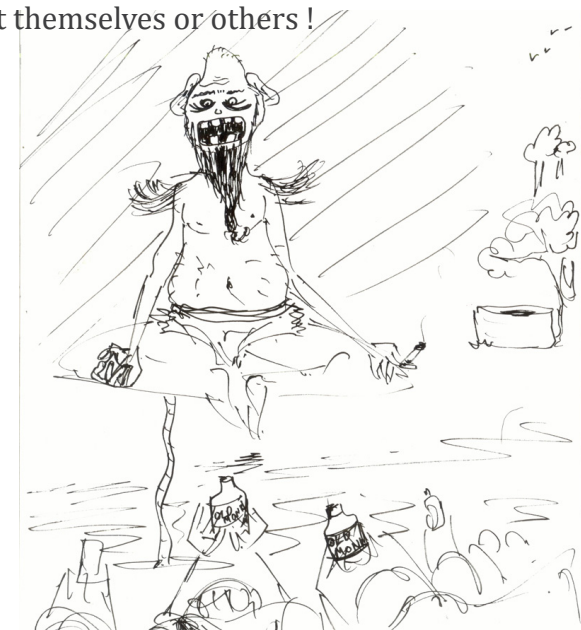
Then what happened in Pune, Maharashtra, was quite shocking. An I.T. Engineer was killed by a religious group because he was a Muslim and someone, not him, uploaded photo-morphed images of Hindu deities on internet.

A page named “Hindu v/s Muslim” on Facebook where people of these two religions abuses each other, and can show all the hatred they have for each other.

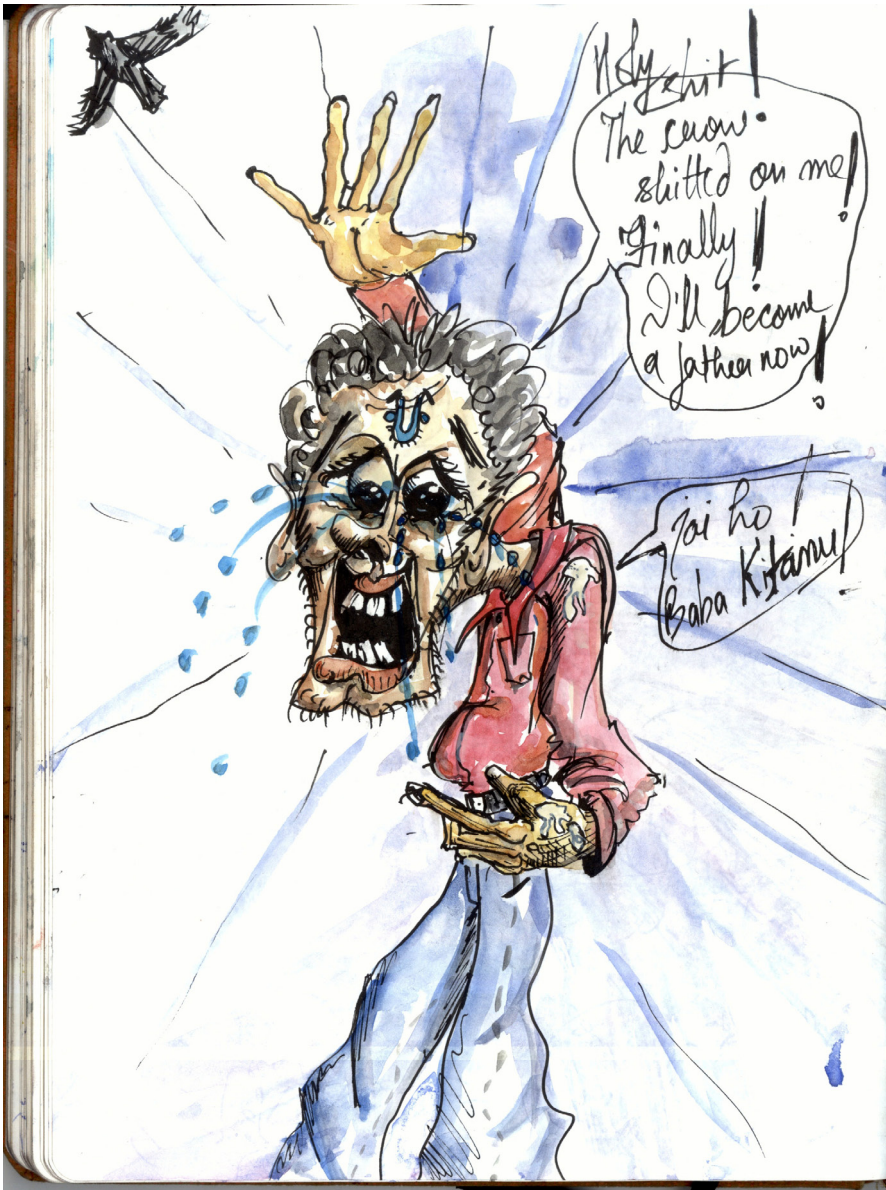
So.....

People should give it a thought when someone tells them to do a particular thing in the name of religion. He/She should not follow blindly what has been written in the religion or whatever someone tells them to do in the name of religion.

I want to tell my audience to follow whatever they want to but do not get fooled by believing in random things and ultimately hurt themselves or others !



The Idea Behind !



People have developed a feeling of hatred for the people of other religions and this thing has become so tense that they are even ready to kill each other, reason being their beliefs being hurt. Fight is a very natural instinct of a social animal. But fighting for such a reason and that too in a nonsensical fashion is weird. Also people believe in a particular religion so much that they have even forgot to value their own thoughts.

The idea of the film is to show the current scenario of the society from the perspective of religion. Meaning what all activities people do in their day to day life being in a religion. Then how their sentiments get hurt even with a small disrespect to their religion and then how they react to

Thoughts and theories

Sigmund Freud:

Religion is an attempt to get control over the sensory world, in which we are placed, by means of wish world, which we have developed inside us as a result of biological and psychological necessities.

If one attempts to assign to religion its place in man's evolution, it seems not so much to be a lasting acquisition, as a parallel to the neurosis which the civilized individual must pass through on his way from childhood to maturity.

Swami Vivekanand:

According to Swami Vivekanand, religion is the manifestation of the divinity already within man.

Religion has been a great healer as well as a cruel killer.

Every man must occupy the highest place.

Vivekanand questions "why people in every nation and every society looking for a God? Why they want a perfect ideal somewhere, either in man, in God, or elsewhere? The idea is within you. It's your own heart beating and you did not know!"

George Carlin:

Religion has actually convinced people about that invisible man, sitting over the cloud, who keeps an eye on people here on earth, always! He has a set of rules, which, if one doesn't follow, he/she will be sent to a place he has made where he/she will be burned, beaten, severely punished and will shout for, scream and ask for help. But there will be no one to help! But he loves you! And he needs money!

Christopher Hitchens:

Why does earthquakes, famine, other such things happen and people die when there is a god to protect?

Methodology

One way could have been like, teaching people what I think about religion, which is wrong according to me, as people should have their own thought for it but the thought should be a little bit more logical.

The other way, the way which I am going to use, is to show people the current scenario, and let them think and react if they feel something wrong, something weird about it. May be it's a safe way for myself, but a better way anytime to leave this film open ended! The idea is to do a satire on the current situation.



Concepts and stories

Andhey

My very first concept was- Andhey- “Chalo aaj hum sab kuvein mein koodengey!” (Today, let’s jump into a well). The concept is about a leader who is followed by a large number of people, who cannot see, and act according to whatever the leader tells them to do. In the end he actually tells them to jump into a well!

Harry Potter Devta

Second concept was to a scenario I thought as, the entire civilization gets over and a new civilization comes into existence. The new creatures have brains and they start to explore the place. One day, while excavating, they find the ‘Harry Potter’ book and after reading it, Harry Potter becomes their God! They start to worship Harry Potter and follow the stories in it.

4 Moorkh

One concept was about 4 people who live under a tree. 2 of them worship crows and the rest 2 worship pigeons but they live peacefully. One day a fifth person puts a photograph of a dead crow under the tree and thus a fight begins.

Harbhajan Baba’s story

Harbhajan baba was a soldier in Sikkim Regiment, Indian Army, at the time of war against China. He died in the year 1969, during the war. Army men in the Sikkim regiment claim that they feel his presence and that he is still protecting the nation. They even claim that even the Chinese army men are scared of him.

He is given promotion from hawaldar to a captain and he still has his room in the regiment! Harbhajan baba is supposed to go on vacation on 13 September for 2 months every year. At that time, his uniform along with all his baggage is carried to his mother’s place in Kuka village in Punjab in a first class train compartment, which is reserved for him. In the train, he is guarded by two soldiers of the Indian army.

Dhongi Baba

Another concept was based upon a real life story in which there is a family which is in some sort of financial trouble. So they go to a ‘Baba’, and feel better. They find a relief there and they continue going there. They had one teenage girl in the family. She had problems in her personal life. After seeing that baba is actually effective in solving problems, she went to the baba. But baba talked to her and called her in the evening when nobody is there at baba’s place and asked her to give her body to him. She was given ‘prasad’ with drugs in it which made her feel unconscious. Baba exploited her and made a sex tape of her. Then he started blackmailing her and repeatedly raped her for months!

Jadu ki dunia

Another concept, which is also the final concept is that there are two baba’s who have made two religions of their own. They survive on people’s money. One day they decide to do something bigger as they wanted more money. So they fight each other (dramatic fake fight) magically, and for that they gather money!

Then, after going through a number of interesting stories on superstition and fake baba’s, I sat and wrote story over

The story

Now I realized, since the religion is a very sensitive subject, let's not put everything straight forward, and realistic. And making a film only on god men is not enough. I wanted to show the complete religion. Idea is to use sarcastic humour.

Hence, I came up to a story about a village in which there are 2 religions and their respective god men use their people for their own greed.

They, in the end plan to do a bigger loot, by fighting a fake fight with each other (a magical fight) and to collect money for the same!

While thinking of the stories, I was doing concept art, characters design and illustrations side by side, which made me think and develop story, scenes and jokes around the two religions that I made and used.



The making of two religions

Laal Kitab

It is a set of 5 books which gives remedies to daily life problems. The remedies are most of the time quite interesting. Some of the remedies are pouring rum in water, not to do sex with the wife during the day time for a problem like bad health!

For the story concept, I needed to build two religious groups who will fight for their beliefs. Hence, two groups with different but similar beliefs were made, along with their leaders.

The 'Kauva' (crow) Religion:

Baba kitanu is the topmost authority of the religion. His preachings through the holy kaali kitab is well followed by his followers who are called 'kauve'. Rum and cigarettes are holy things and are offered to kitanu. Crows are supposed to be worshipped in the religion. Crows are



a Kauva (follower of baba Kitanu)

The 'Mor' (peacock) Religion:

Baba Natkhat is the topmost authority in the religion. The followers are called 'Morpankhis'. They have a similar holy book called 'hari kitab' as is 'kali kitab' in the crow religion. here peacocks are supposed to be worshipped.



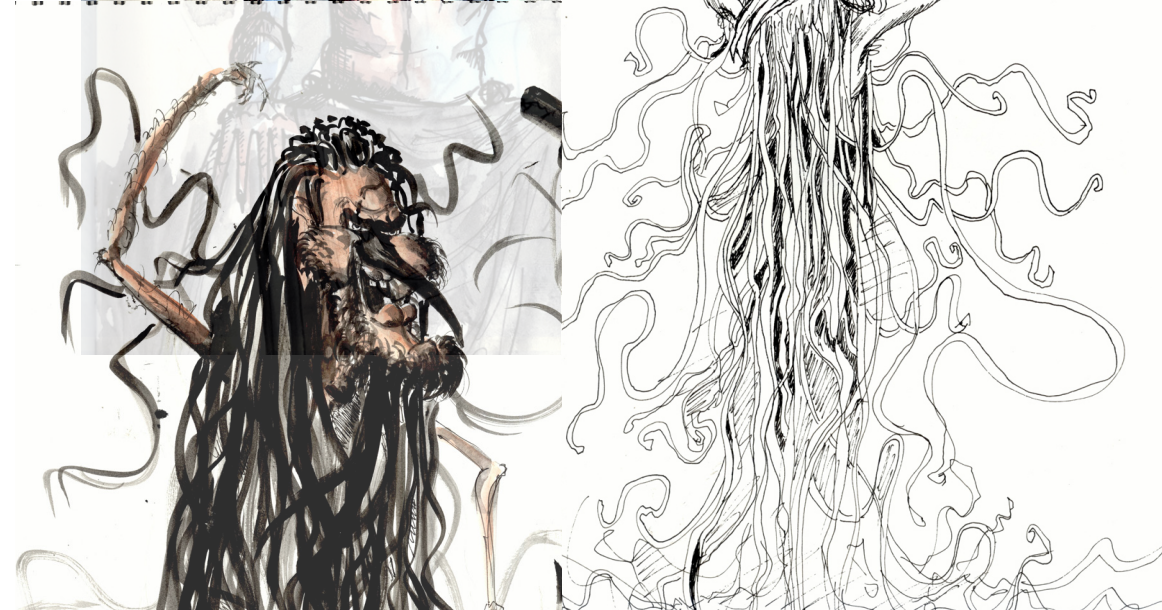
a Morpankhi (a follower of Natkhat)



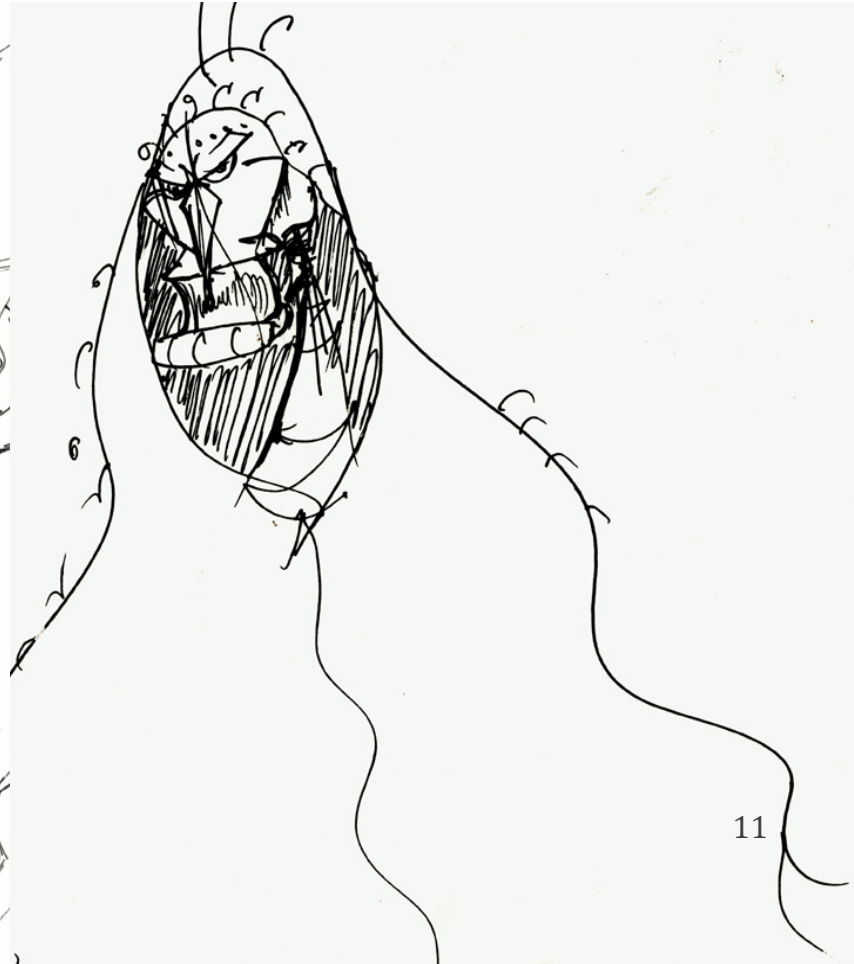
Developing characters

Characters (actors for the story) needed to be developed. I looked upon some of the famous god men in the country. I watched their speeches and read about their doings and about how they got exposed.

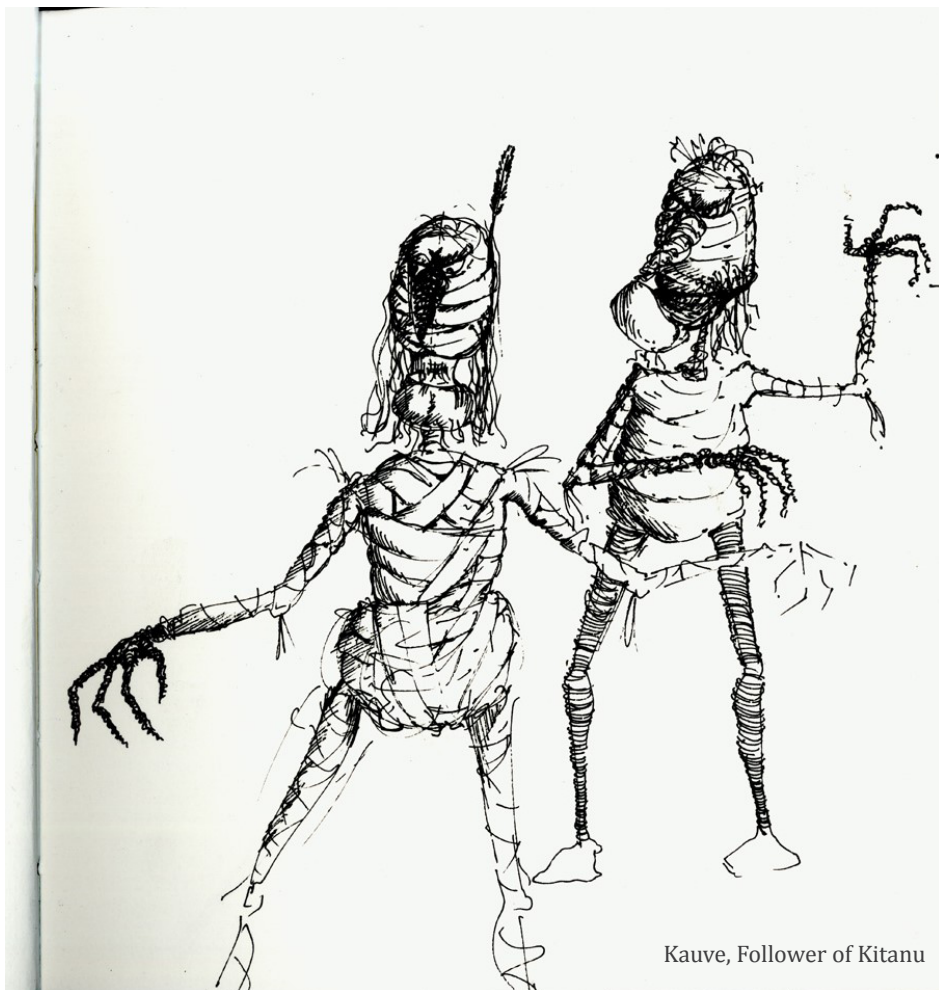
Baba Kitanu: He is the leader of 'kauve'. Appearance has been taken from aghori babas and his character inspired from 'Baba Kripalu'. He is an alcoholic and crazy about rum and cigarettes. So he asks his followers to offer him and crows the same rum and cigarettes. He claims that he found this magical truth of life book called 'kali kitab' in excavation when he was a farmer. The book gave him all sorts of magical powers. But he supposedly a fake baba who uses technology to fly and uses different sorts of coloured powders and lights to create an illusion of flying. He dresses himself with a suit which makes him resemble a crow. In the end he is a cheat and loots people on the name of fake powers and putting misbeliefs in people's heads.



Baba Natkhat: He is a notorious fake God who, similar to Kitanu, claims that he has found the holy book of his religion - 'hari kitab' when he was sitting on the road, begging, and the book fell from the sky! Similar to Kitanu, he dresses like a peacock, which, when not flying, looks like a saree! He is a friend to baba Kitanu.

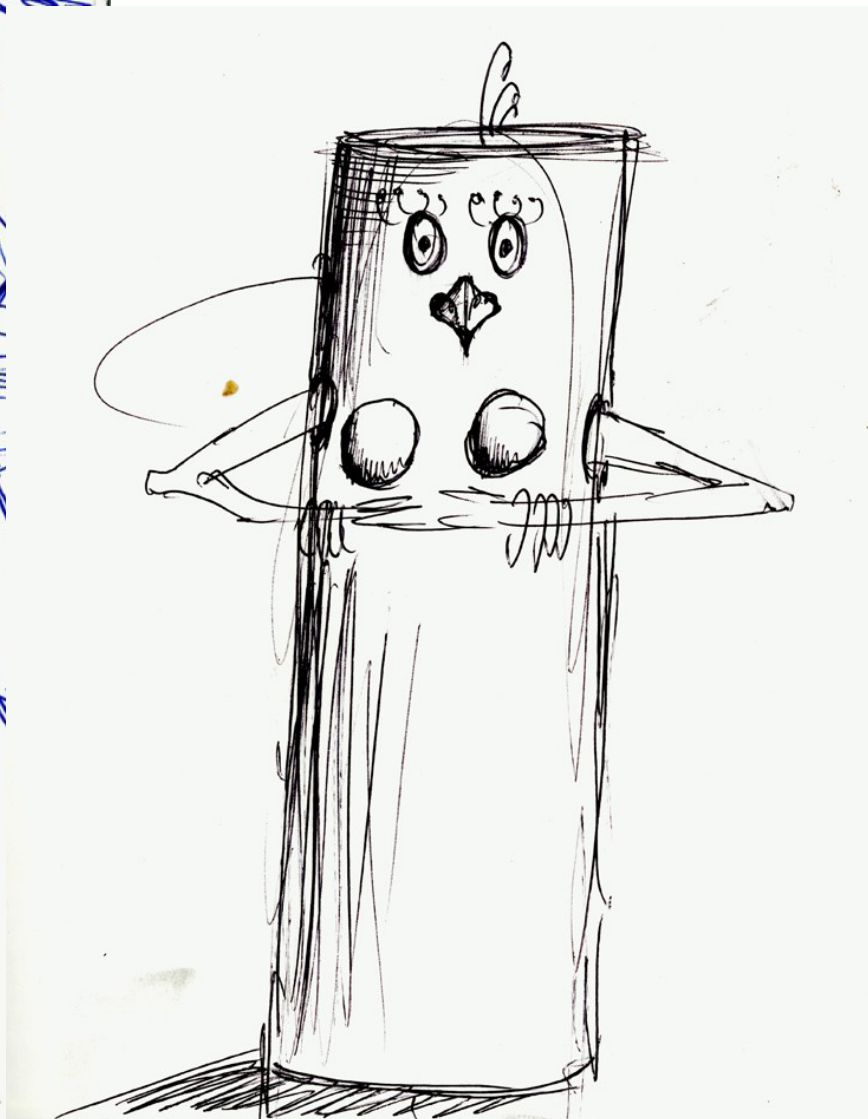


Kauve: The followers of baba kitanu. They are really dark coloured with fingers like that of a crow's feet. They worship crows. They are mostly drunk and are sensitive to their religious sentiments!



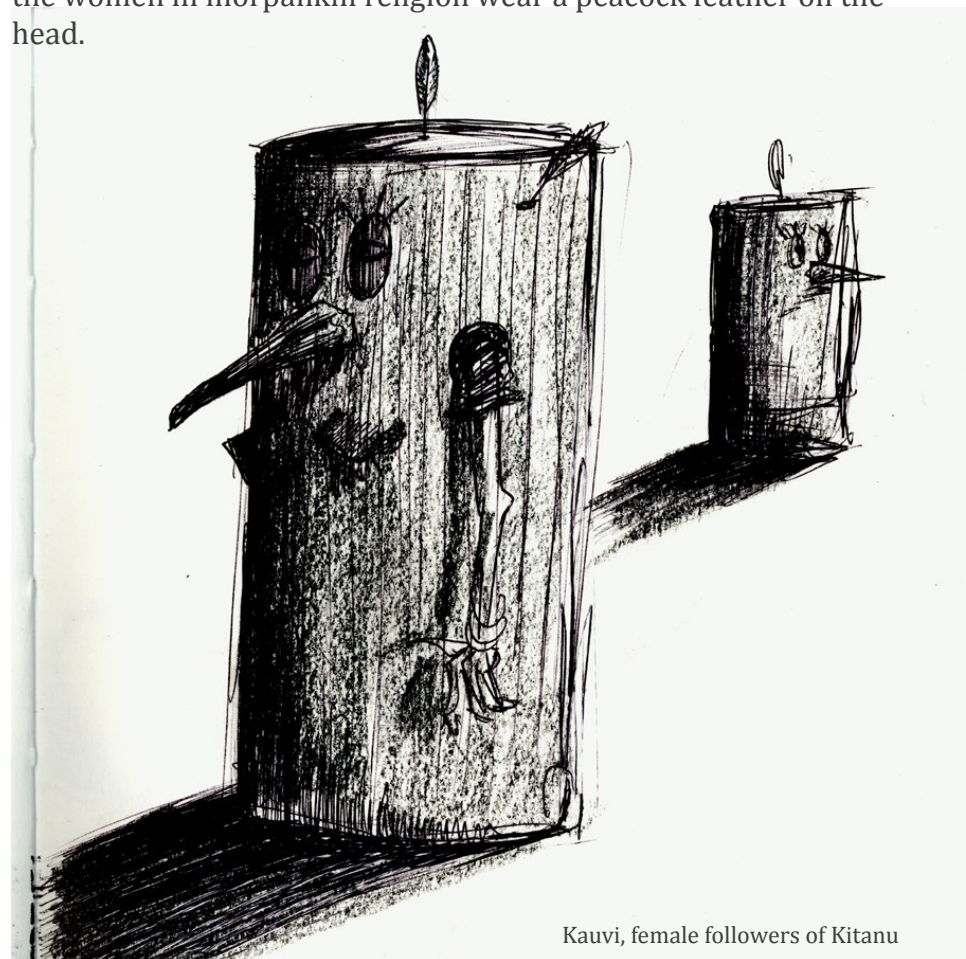
Kauve, Follower of Kitanu





Morpankhi: The followers of baba Natkhat. They are light in skin tone, and they wear a cloth which resembles peacock colours.

Women in both the religions: They are fitted in drum shaped thing. Women in kauva religion wears a crow feather on the head, while the women in morpankhi religion wear a peacock feather on the head.



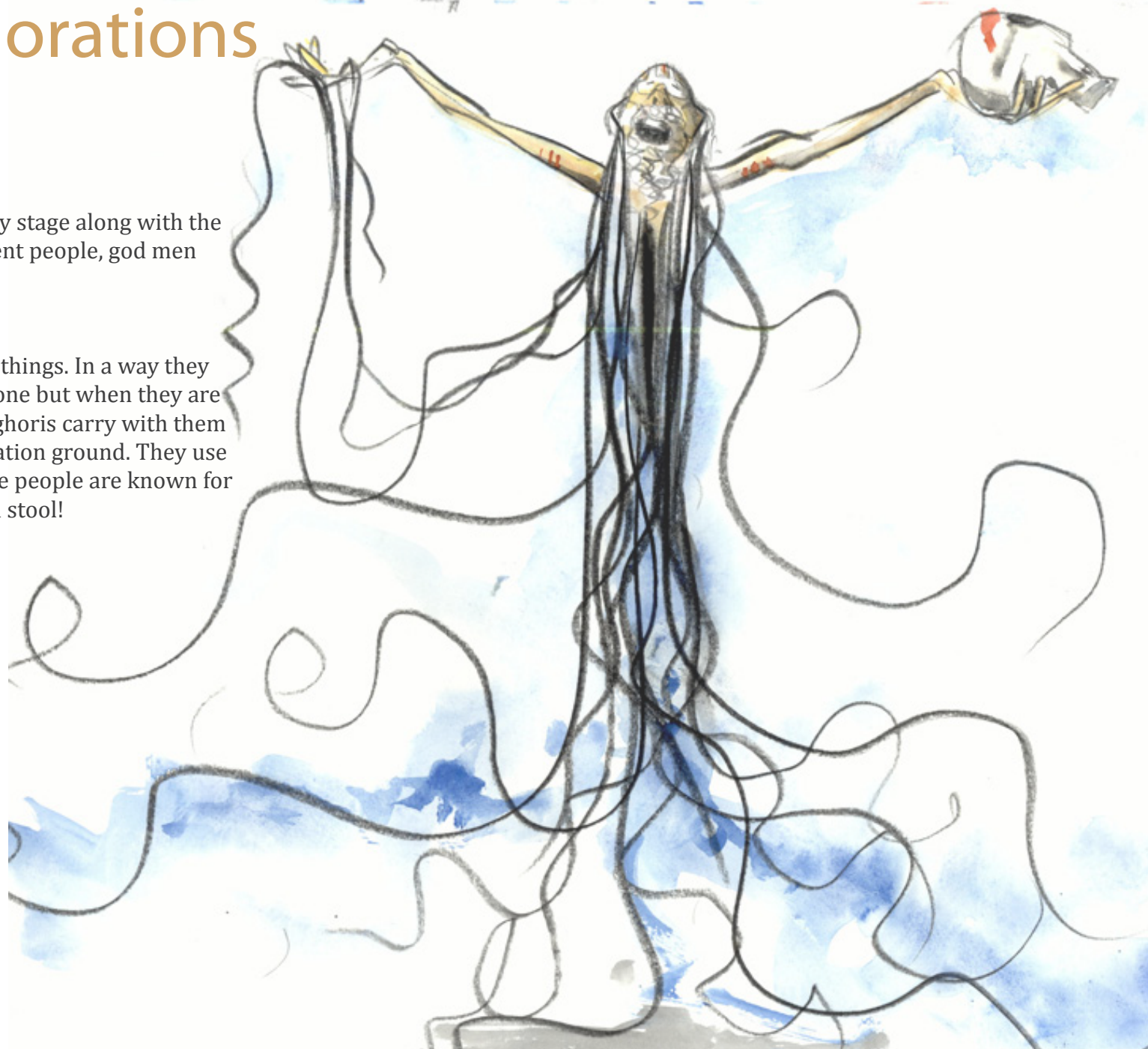
Kauvi, female followers of Kitanu

Character Explorations

Character exploration began at a very early stage along with the study and research as I was studying different people, god men and babas.

Aghori Baba:

These babas do not believe in the worldly things. In a way they are good as they do not intend to harm anyone but when they are fake, the black magic comes to existence! Aghoris carry with them a real human skull, picked from some cremation ground. They use it for every purpose and even eat in it. These people are known for doing insane stuffs such as eating their own stool!

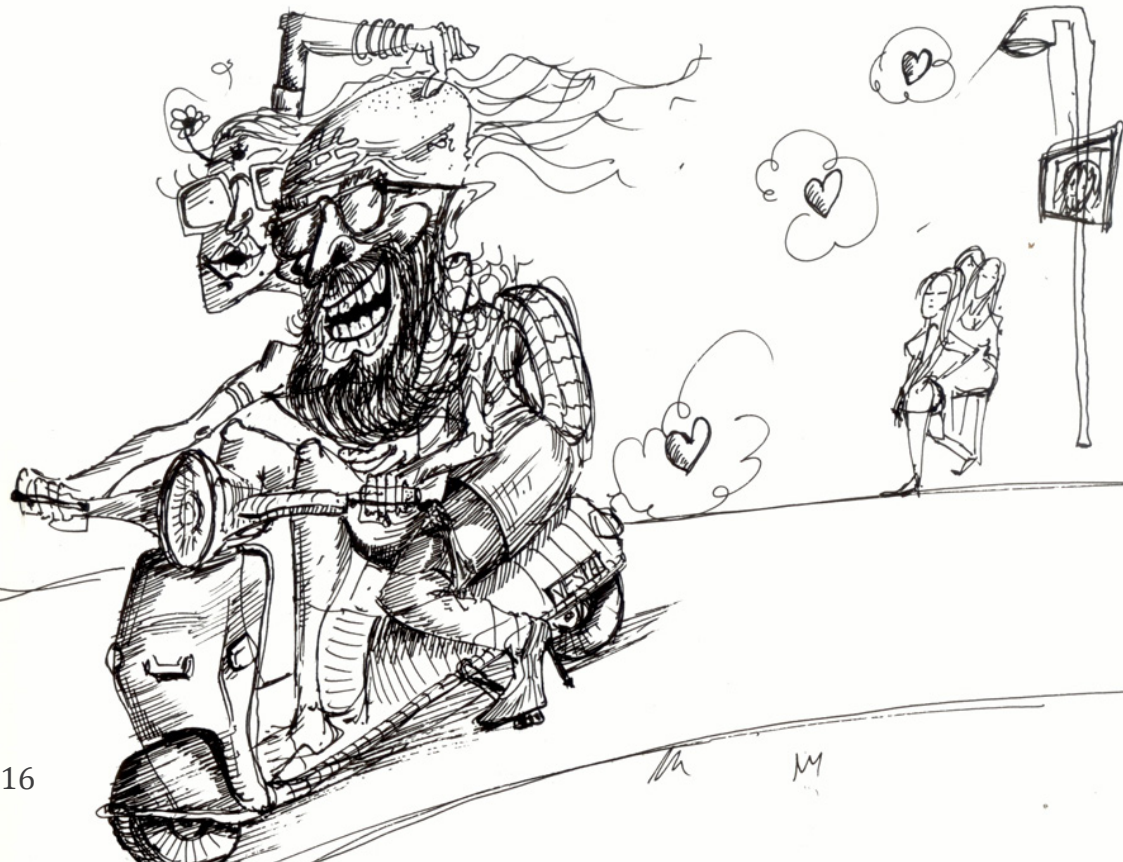




Fake god men:

I read about and watched a number of videos of some of the god men in the country. One of them was baba Kripalu Maharaj. The other one which I followed the most was Asaram Bapu, who is currently in a jail for multiple rape cases.

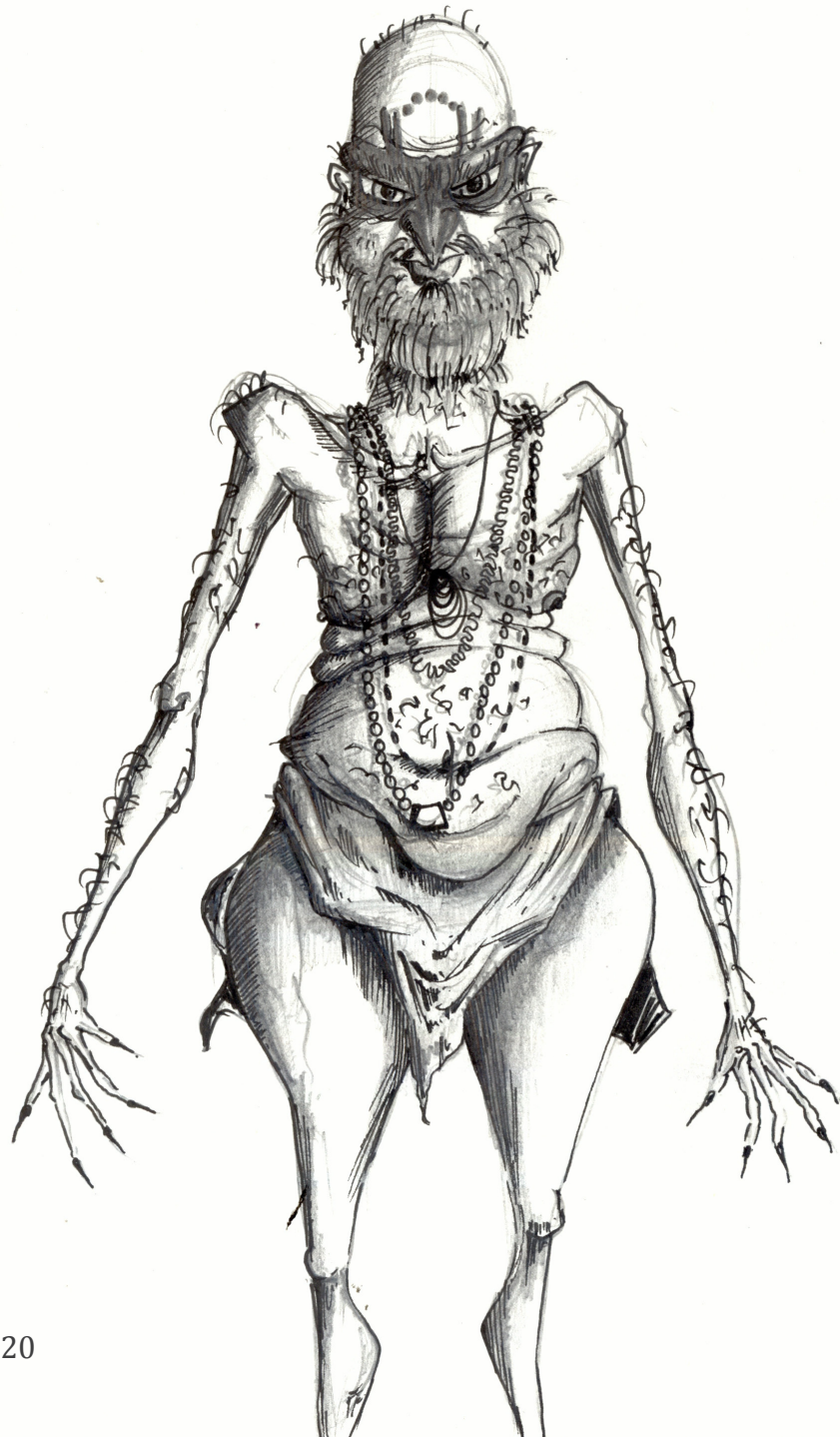
One of Asaram Bapu's famous incidences is when he was coming for a speech for his followers and was about to land, his helicopter crashed. He survived, with not even a single scratch or wound. He came to the stage dancing in front of his followers and declared himself god. And people agreed. This story was covered by major Indian news channels on television.







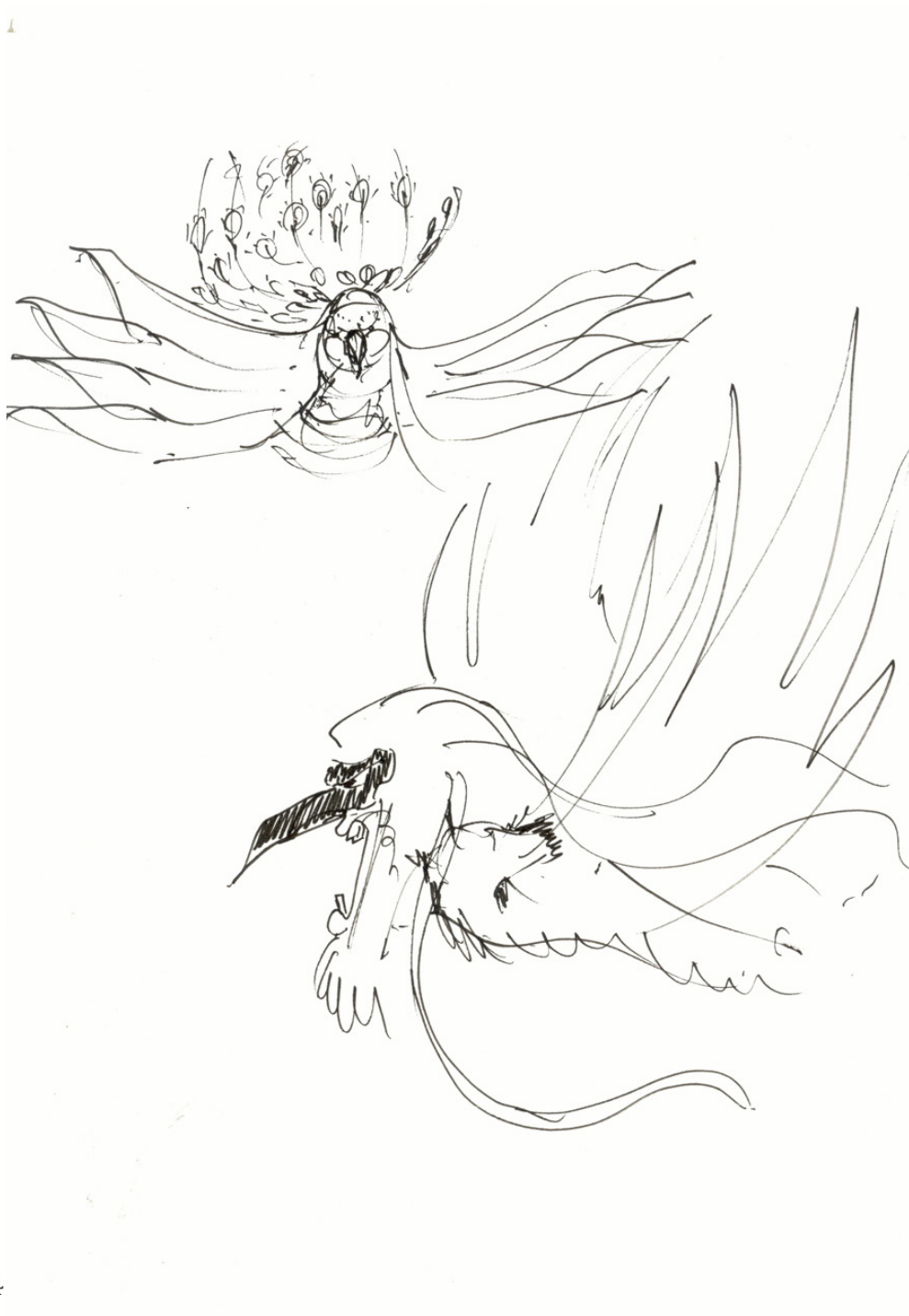










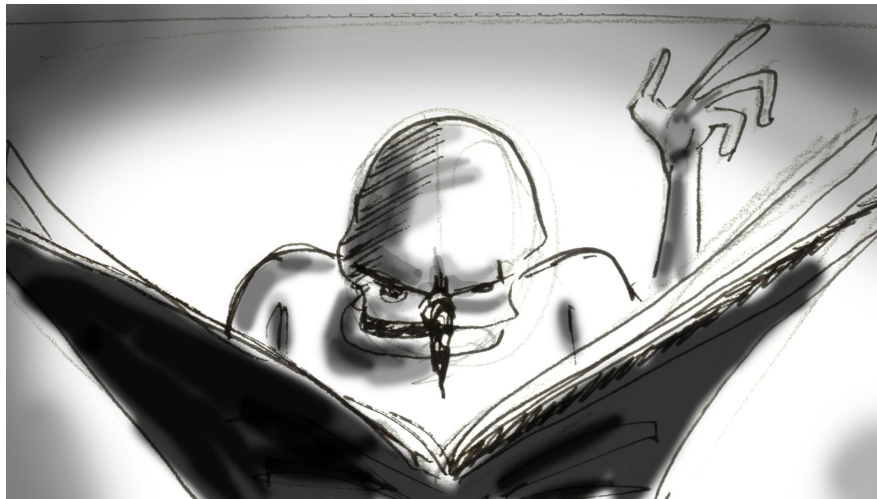




Story boarding & Script

Storyboard was first done on the paper and then was scanned and made digital by re-painting it in photoshop. Following are a few drawings from the storyboard.

1

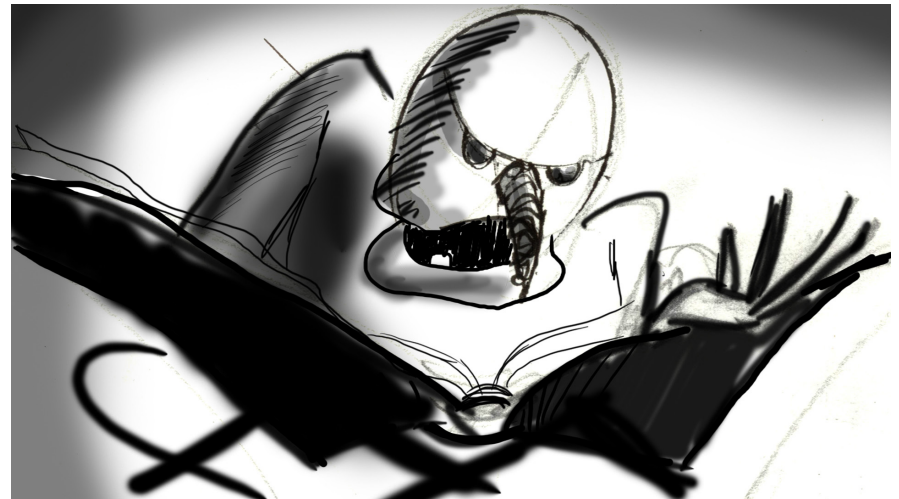


K1 - Haan kauve bol kya musibat hai teri zindagi mein?

K2 - Baba,,, mere sir me kaafi dard rehta hai,, koi upaaya batao na...

K1 - hmmm.mmmm.mmm (panne palat te hue.) kaali kitab kehti hai ki do phool naali me feko,,, aur ,, ek quater rum ka ,, kitanu baba ko bhog chadhao... kaayein kaayein... chalo khade ho jao !

2



3



4



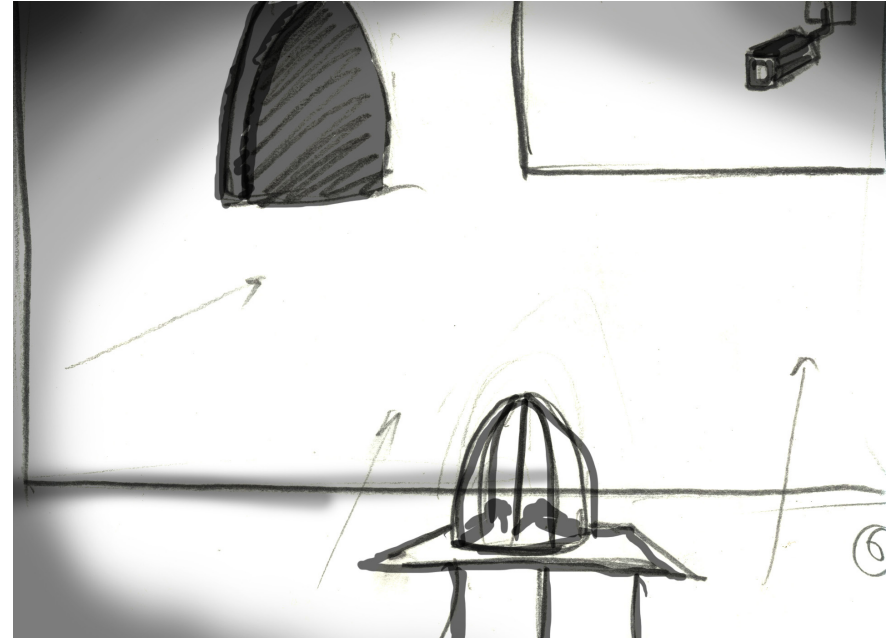
K2 – ji babaji

K1 – udhar kauvo ko namaskar karo pehle

5



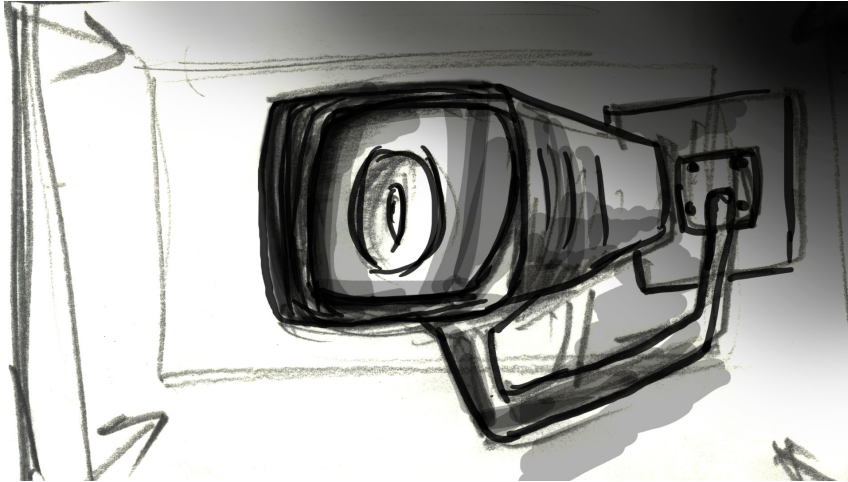
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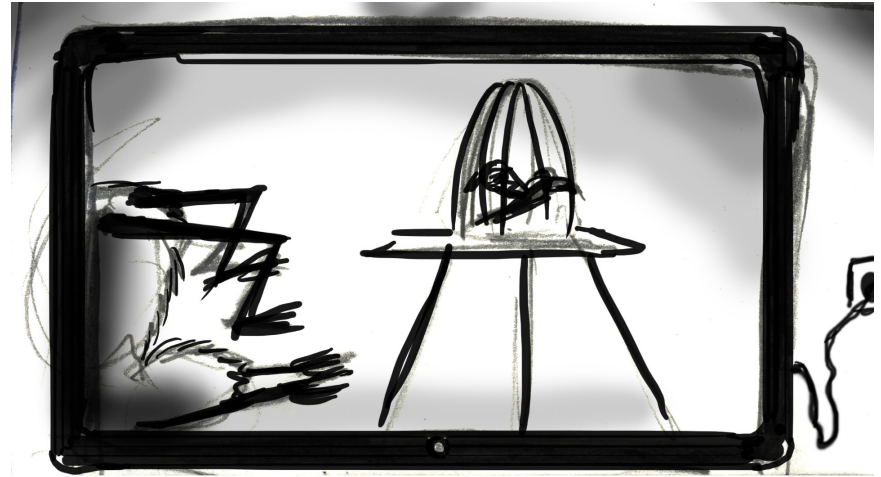
K2 – ji baba,,

K1 – theek se karo ,, shraddha se ... baba kitanu sab dekh rahe hain !!

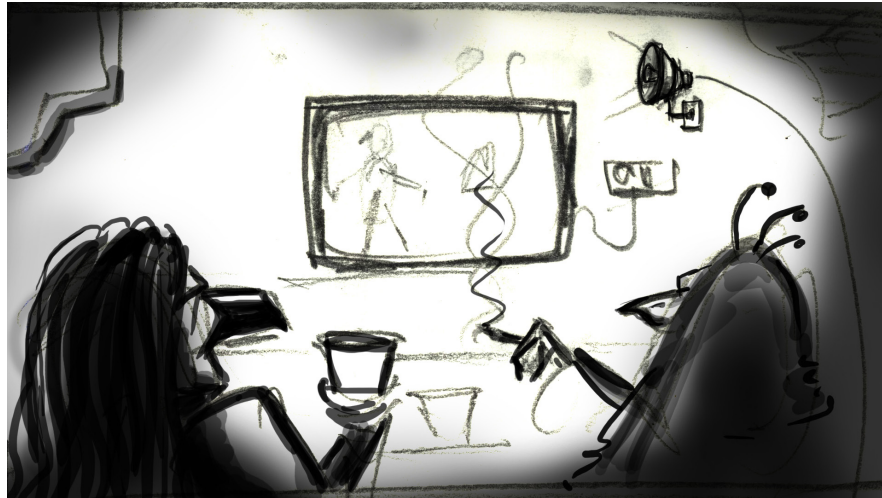
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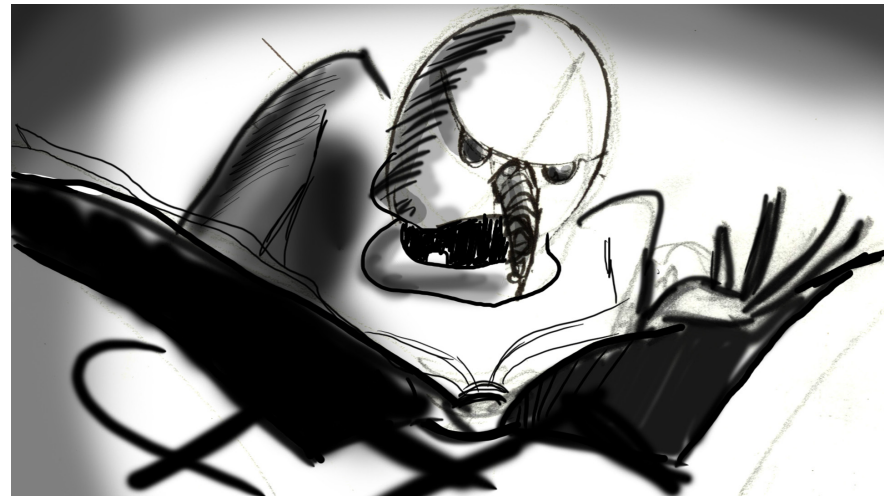
8



9



10



Speaker – chalo bhaai,,, ab 2 fool nali me feko

Kitanu – Abey kiya kar ria hai.. jaldi daru chadhva yahaan peg khatm ho raha hai

Natkhat – yaar,,, dhanda manda chal rela hai

Kitanu – Haan yaar ... baat to sahi keh raha hai... kuch to karna padega ... saala adha ghanta ho gaya hai peg hold kie ... hold the drink hold the drink,,, bhenchod ghanta hold the drink !

Speaker – Chal ab daru ka bhog laga kitanu baba ko,,

Kitanu – Ahhh finally !!

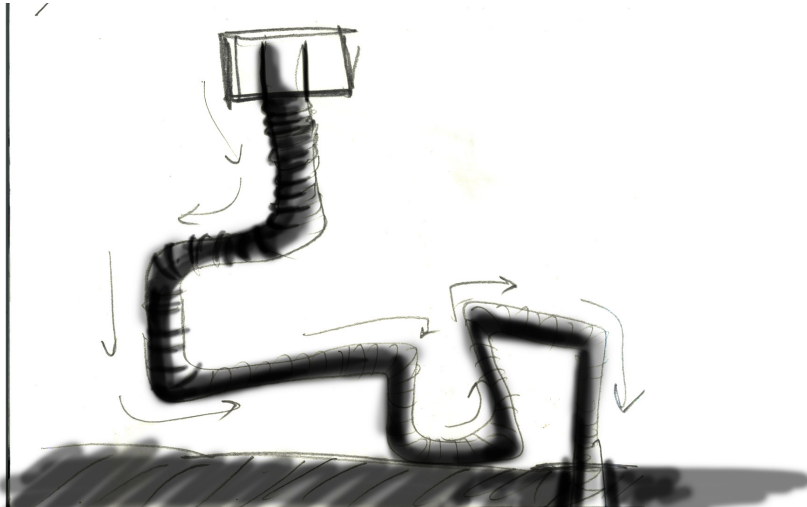
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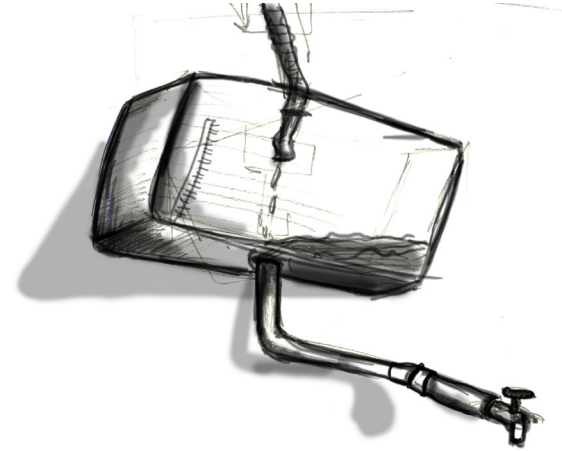
12



13



14



15



16



Natkhat – Chalo daru to ai ...

Kitanu – Haah ... chalo thodi to aai ... gala sookh ke ghosla ho gaya tha... Sutta sutta ... oe tujhe maarna hai ?

Natkhat – Dost !!!! sutta khatm hai !

17



Kitanu – Saale ye bhakt ... ruk inki to band bajata hu...

Natkhat – haan be kuch kar

Kitanu – kuch kar kuch kar ... kutte khud bhi kuch kar lia kar... aur ye tere bhakt kahaan marwa rahe hain apni ? Wo kyu daan nahi karte kuch?

Natkhat – aya aya ek !

Kitanu – ye kya hai ?

Natkhat – Sutta .

Kitnau – arey beti ! Vo mujhe bhi pata hai... lekin sirf ek !

Natkhat – to main kya karu ! Hadd hai... kuch kar yaar ...

18



19



20



C1 – Tune kaha tha vo chicken pasand aega use !
C2 – ab nahi pasand aaya to main kya karu !
C1 – Teri wajah se haath se nikal gai vo laundiya !
C2 – Ab tune chicken theek se nahi banaya to isme main kya karu !
C1 – Recipie teri thi kutriye !
C2 – bana to tu hi raha tha na bhootni....
C1 – teri to .. chup reh madarchod !

Kitanu – grrr ye tum dono kya kar rahe ho beti ?

21



C2 – Hum dono ?

Kitanu – grrrrrr ...

C1 – Hum daru pi rahe hain aur kya !

Kitanu – Tumhari to main... saala chup raho !

Natkhat – Chhod inko ... tu plan bata ..

Kitanu – hmmmm ... ek min ... chal fir aj karna hi padega ...

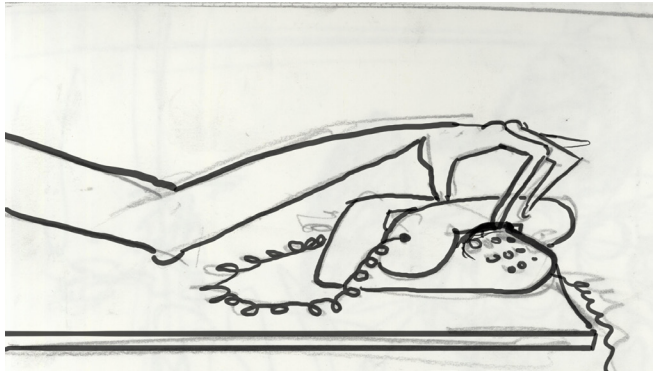
Natkhat – Kya ?

Kitanu – Phone de

22



23



Kitanu – Aur chela 420 ka number ghuma !

Kitanu in telephonic conversation with chela 420.

Chela – hallo !

Kitanu – Who ij dish ?

Chela – 420

Kitanu – haan 420si ... kya haal chaal ..

Chela – Kaun bol raha hai bhosdi ke

Kitanu – Madarchod kitanu bol raha hu ..

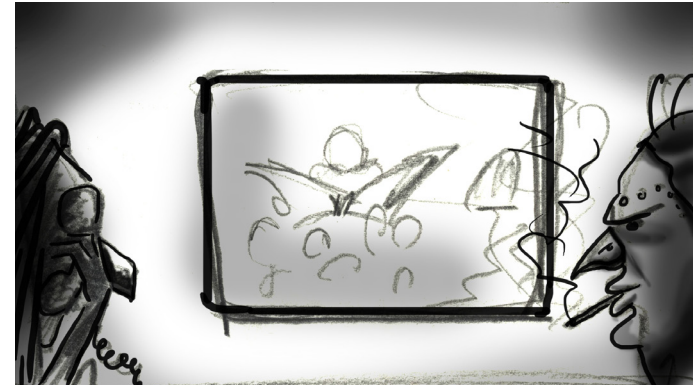
Chela – Oh kitanu madarchod .. sry kitanu ji ... pranaam

Kitanu – sun keel ae crow and throw it beetbheen my bhaktas kauve and morpankhis

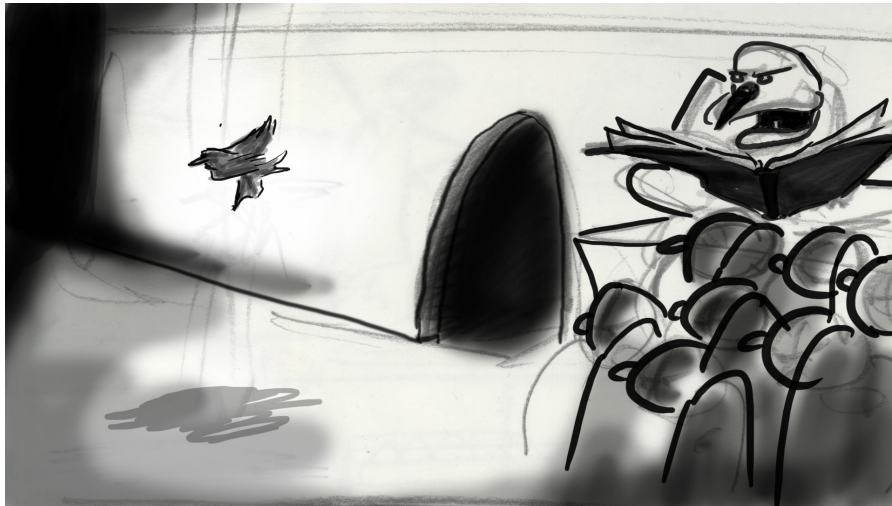
Chela – Kya ?

Kitanu – Arey suvar ... ek kauva maar aur mere bhakt kauvo aur morpankhiyon ke beech fek de... jaldi..

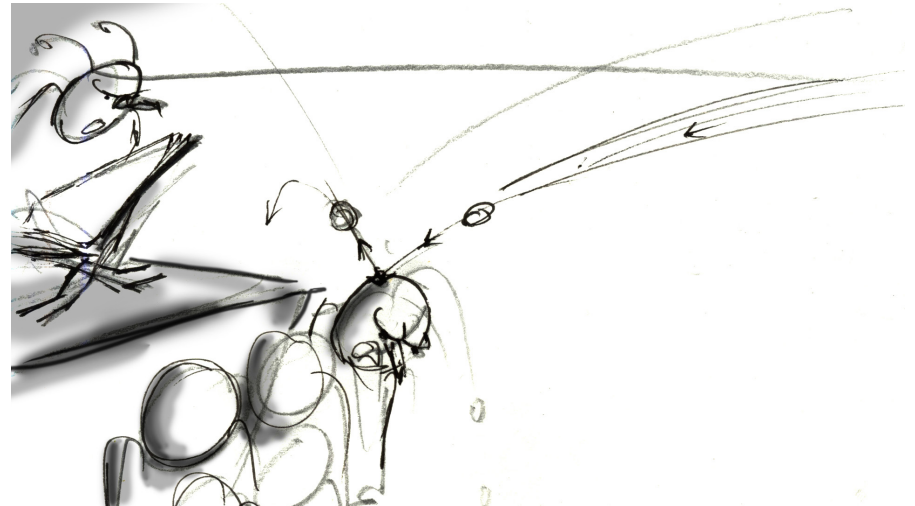
24



25



26



Chela – Feka

Kitanu – Ab ek patthar maar morpankhiyo ki taraf !

27



28



Chela – Laga laga ek ke Patthar pakad ke khada ho gaya ..

Kitanu – Bhou badhiya ..

Chela – ab dono jhund ladai kar rahe hain



Kitanu to C1 and C2 – Chalo be chhappadganjuon... mahayuddh ki taiyaari karo... aur mahadaan peti taiyaar karo... Badi wali . Hehehahahaha !

C1 & C2 together – haan haan is game k baad ..

Kitanu – grrrr. Ok ok



meanwhile up there !

morpankhi - Maara kisne ye patthar ... kisne maara ...

Kauva – Beti .. pehle ye bata kauva kisne maara ...

then they start to fight ...

saala kauva maareng....

betichod humare mor ko maarne ki koshish !

Gaye aj to tum ...



Kitanu appears from bright light ...

kitanu – Shaantiii !!!

Kayein kayein kitanu kayein kitanu

Haan to maine suna hai ki kauva maara gaya ... bhou galt hua !!!

Natkhat appears – Pehle mor ko patthar kisne maara !! mor ko maarne ki sajish !

Nata-Khata-Nata-Khata !!! mayooooooooooooonnn!

Kitanu - Thk hai ladna hi hai to apan dono ladte hain ... ya to tu rahega ya main ... see you in the ring ! Mahayuddhhhhhhh !!!!

Natkhat – Mahadaann !! ... sry Mahayudhhhhhhh !!!

32

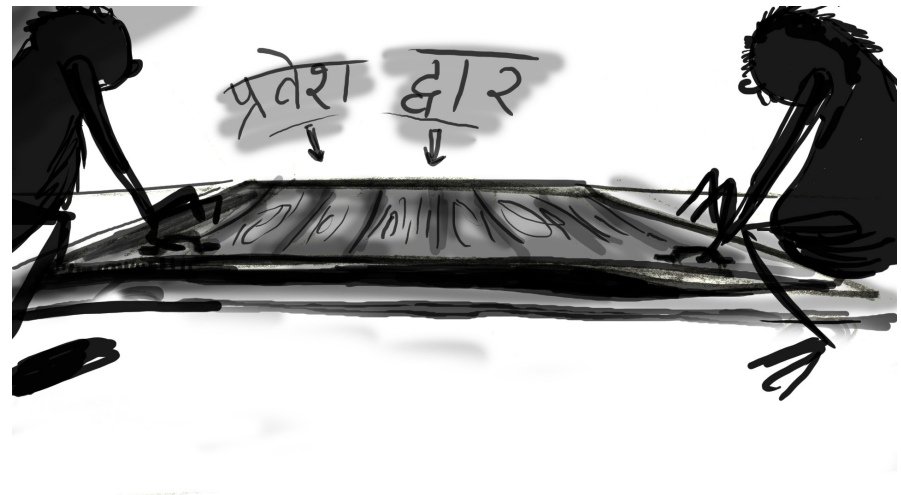


Speaker announcement -

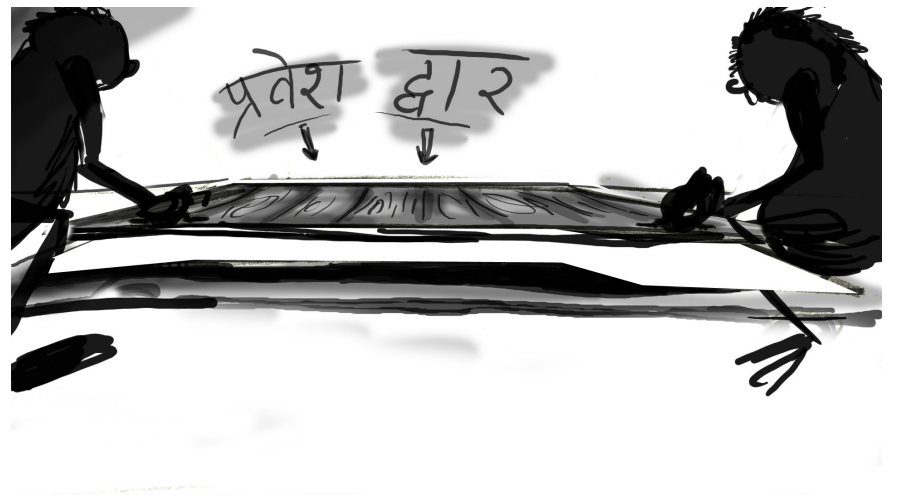
Mahayudhh hoga zameeni kothri mein !... sab mahaadaan karein rum cigarettes aur paise chadhayein taki kitanu baba ki shaktiyaan badhe aur vo jeet jayein...

Speaker 2 announcement – daru aur sutta bhet karein ... khoob bheint karein ... mahayudh ki taiyari karein ...

33



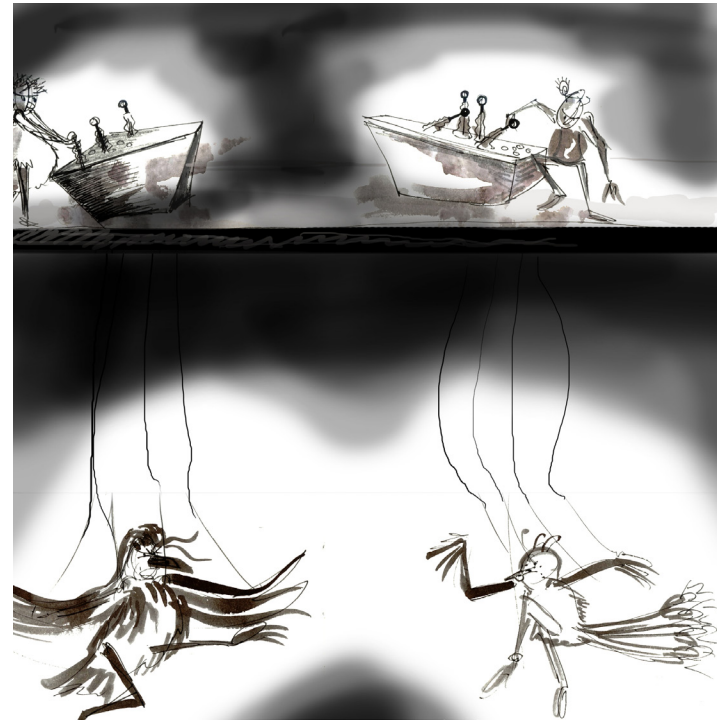
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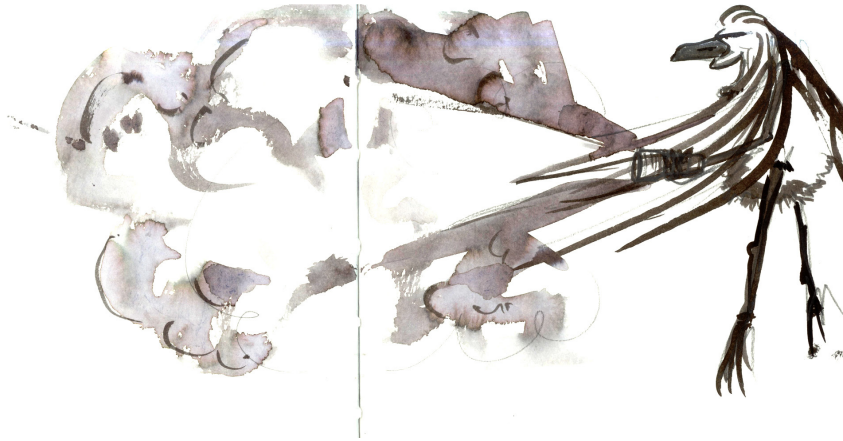
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C1 – Agli baar teri batai hui recipie kabhi use hi nhi karunga

C2 – Haath chhod mera

C1 – Bol sorry bhootni

C2 – Nh bol raha , haath chhod nh to bohot marunga

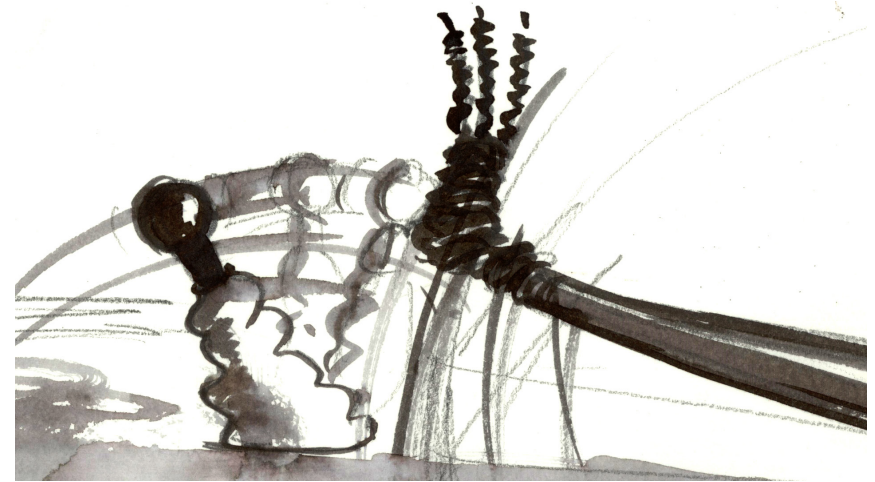
C1 – Tu mujhe maarega ! ... ruk tu ..

C2 – Kyu meri recipie mein kya gadbad hai ?

43



44



C1 – Tujhe pata hai kya..

C2 – Saale tujhe banana nahi aata to main kya karu ... meri recipie mein kuch gadbad nahi tha ... itti hing daalne ko kisne kaha tujhe... use dust lag gaye to tu sambhal

C1 – tu ruk saale... ye teesri ladki thi jise chicken kha ke dust lag gaye ...

C2 – Hahaha... kitna barbad hai tu ... aur chicken bana ke kaun kisi ko impress karta hai beti ...

C1 – main karta hu ... aur tujhe sharm bhi nhi aa rahi na abhi tak ... chal sorry bol ...

C2 – Nahi bol raha kya kar lega

C1 – Bulwa ke hi chhodunga... bol sorry

45

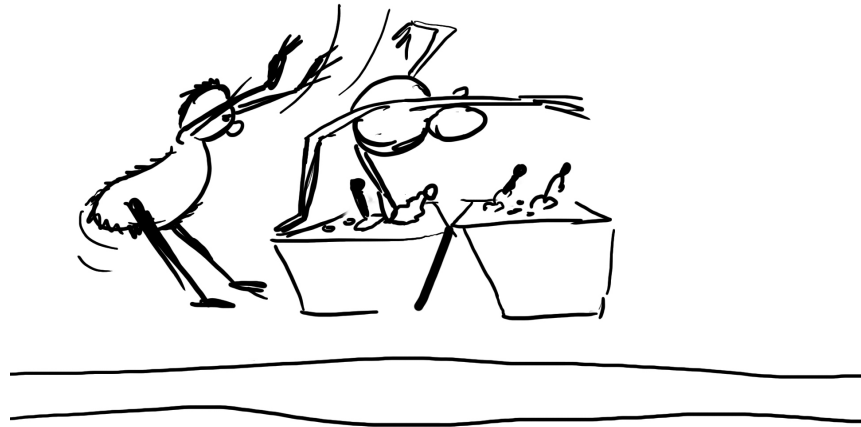


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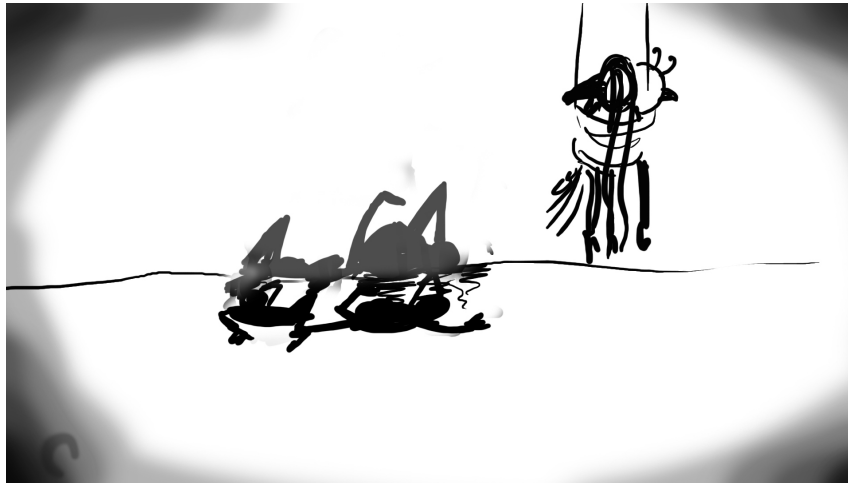
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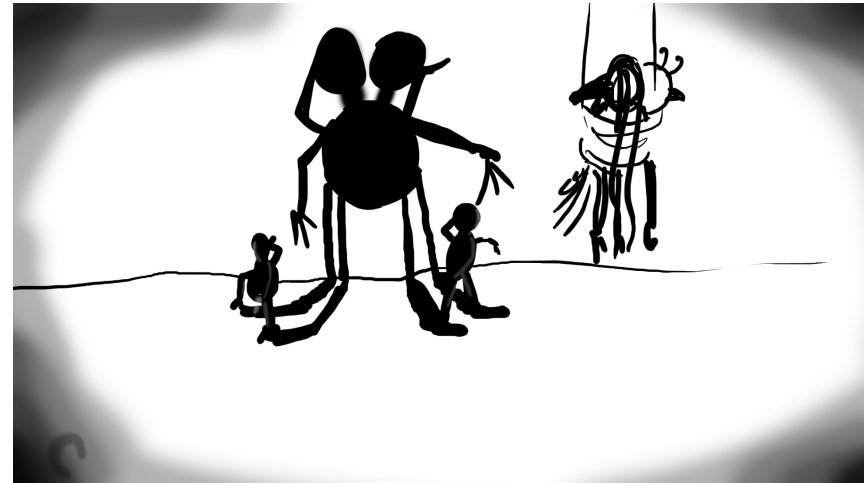
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olle ye kya hai ... oooooooooooooo ... ye hai asli baba !!! babaon
ke baba ...

Designing Characters and Locations

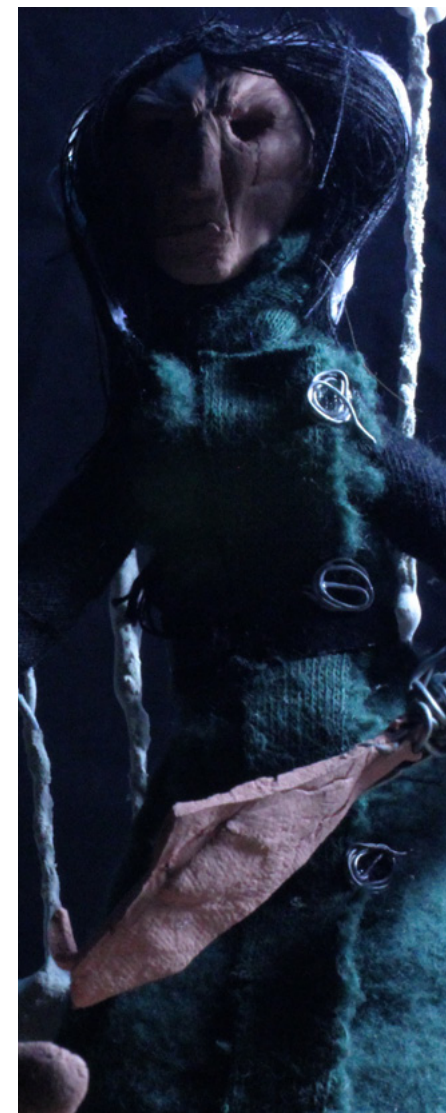
Since I decided to make it a '3d-stop motion- puppet animation' film, characters and sets were to be designed and produced. It took me to a completely new dimension.

Puppet making:

I had an experience making animate-able puppets a few years back. But they were not the perfect due to restricted motion and stiff face. Challenge was to find out and make a proper armature for both body and face! Body armature was fine in making but the face armature was quite difficult. Also the material with which the puppet was to be made was supposed to be finalized.

At the beginning I thought of using Room Temperature Vulcanized Liquid Silicone Rubber for making the body as was used in . Then I came over to cloth for making puppets. Cloth is beautiful in texture and usability and is cheap. It gave me the raw and rough feeling exactly what I wanted.

The problem was the face armature. The jaw is supposed to move freely as there are too many dialogues in the film. Also I wanted the beak like nose to have a elastic feel, so that it can be animated.





So I came up with a new type of armature and hence a new type of look for the puppets. This again made me change or transform the look of the characters according to the type of in the film. Rather it completely changed the look and feel of the film.

The armature is made up of aluminium wire with bones made out of m-seal. For mass, I used thermocol shapes. For the face armature, I again used thermocol with a wire going to an another piece of thermocol which is the jaw part so that it can move.

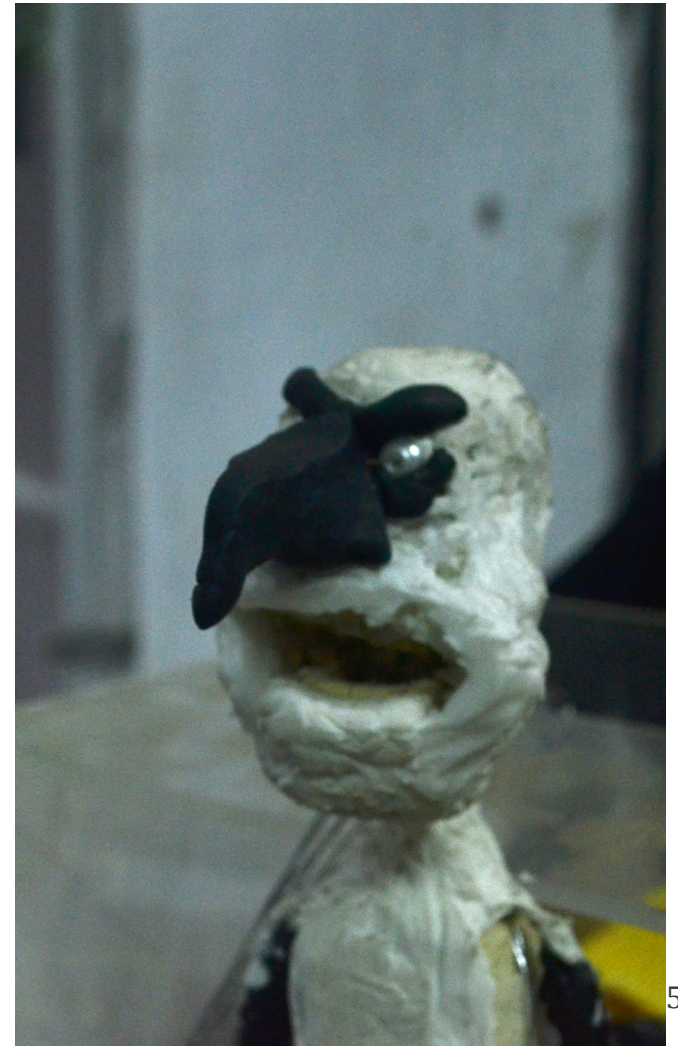
The puppet is then wrapped up with cotton, which actually gives it a shape. final skin is of strips of cloth wrapped around it. The feet is large in size and has nuts fixed in it so that it can stand with the help of a bolt. Hands and legs are made by wrapping with very thin black coloured aluminium wire. The eyes are kind of fixed, glued on the face, and is animated by putting and removing plasticine as eyelids or eyebrows.







In further explorations I sculpted the skull out of P.U. foam with a movable jaw and used latex rubber to cover it. Later rubber is soft but still it doesn't easily let the jaw move . Then I tried acrylic rubber which in the starting worked really nicely but as I progressed using it,, issues arised.



Acrylic rubber is not so soft. Hence I used a blabbering jaw made out of P.U. foam wrapped with cloth or tissue paper soaked in fevicol, connected to the skull with wire. In the lipsync test, it worked really different and well.



Cloth



Tissue paper

Final Characters

Following are the final characters for the film.



5658



Baba Kitanu



Murga (Kukkad)



Mor





A Kauva

Chicken-khor 1





A Morpankhi



Kauva whose problem is being solved



Chicken-khor 2





The problem solver



Set design

The locations and the complete village was planned. References from holy cities like Pushkar, Ajmer(Rajasthan), and Haridwar were used. The name of the village in the film is "Gadbad gaon" which is also the name of the film. Gadbad Gaon means a village in which something is absolutely wrong.

The feel of the village is supposed to be surreal and weird, and not real. So it was well thought before that nothing is going to be well proportioned, and everything should be looking distorted. It should feel like as if there is something wrong in it.



Some reference images for village backgrounds:













An experimental scene





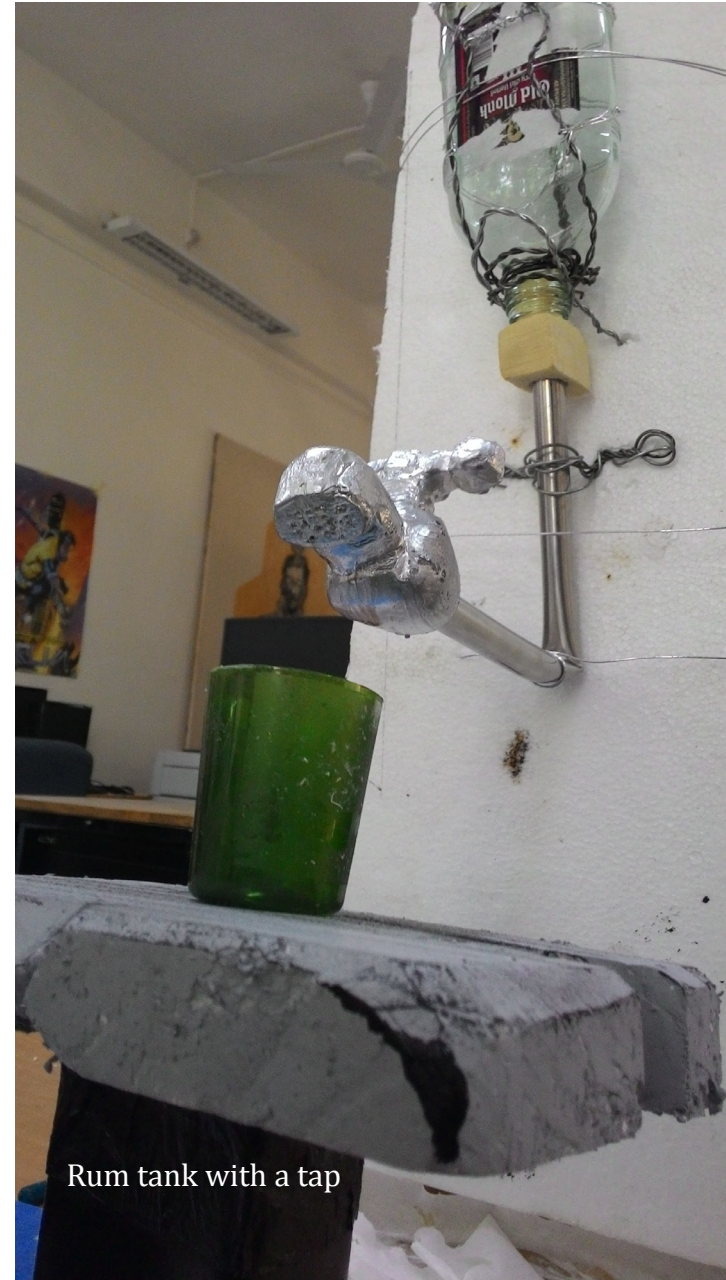
Small little objects were carved out of different materials or just picked from trash which resemble or look alike the required object. Different material finish was given to some of the objects by painting them with different type of colours. For example, walls were painted with poster colours so as to make it non reflective, things like television or electric switch and plug were coloured with acrylic colours to give it a plastic shine and metal objects were painted with chrome metal spray paints.

Some of the walls (walls in the outer set) were given rough finish by sticking toilet tissue unevenly with the help of dissolved glue on thermocol. Later wall putty was sprinkled on it when it was wet. Then wall After joining them all, the final set was developed.





CCTV camera



Rum tank with a tap



Bottles, glasses, tables, chairs, telephone



Babas' monitoring room





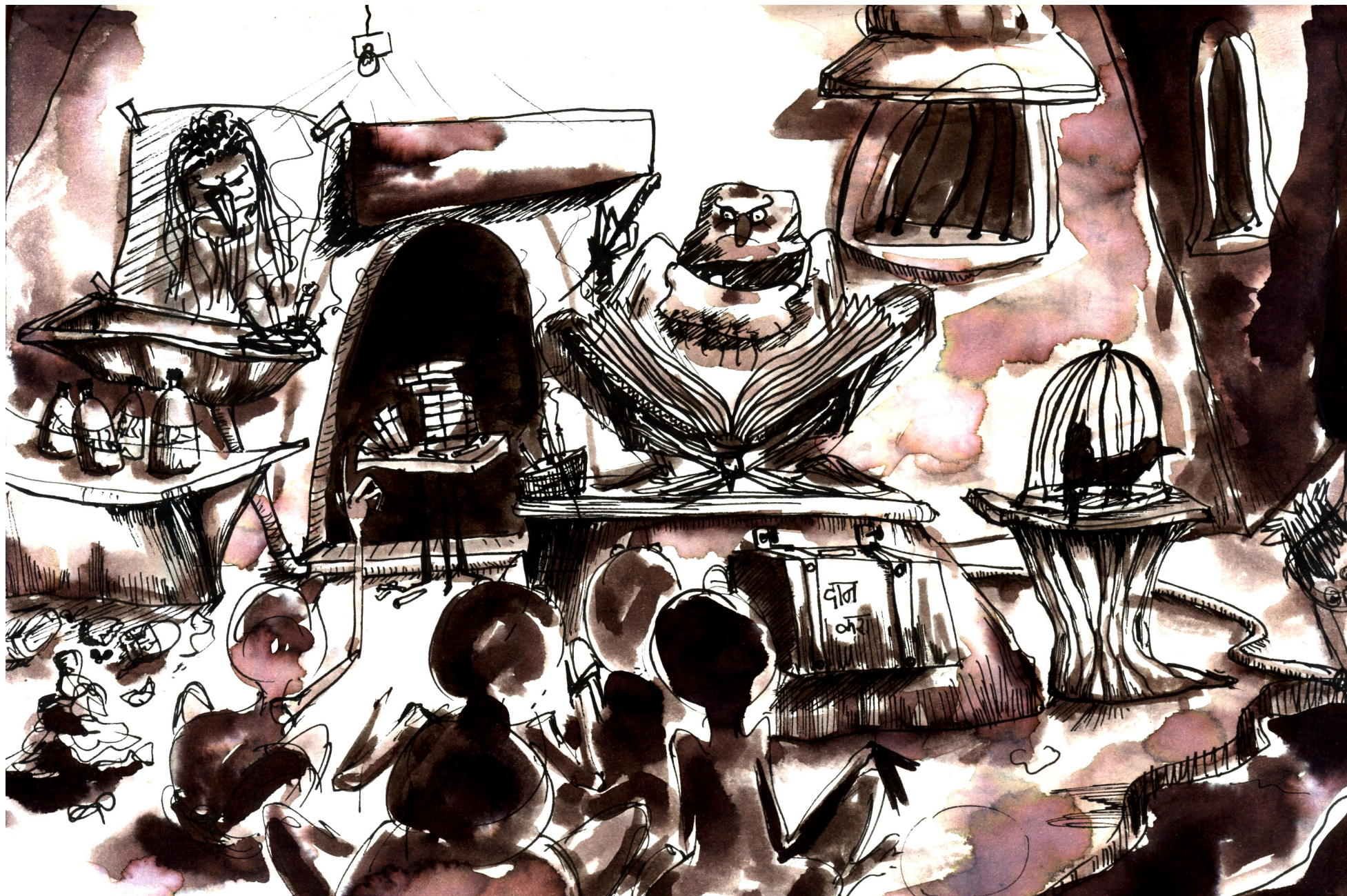
The final look & feel

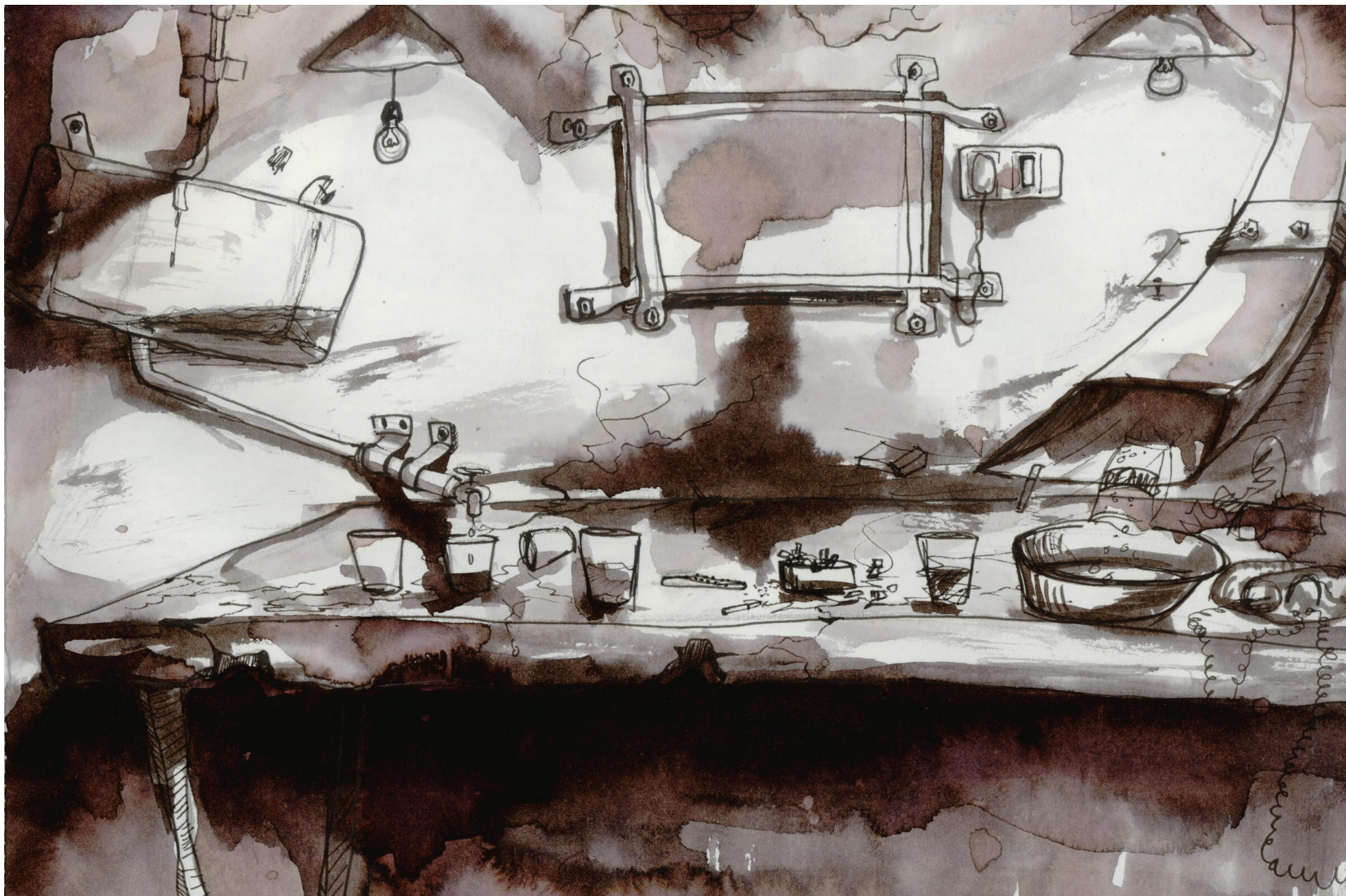
With time and after animating a rough sequence, I went to the desired look and feel of the film. Since the film is on blind faith, there is a blinding light in which people live and believe.

The feel has bright white backlight. Earlier I thought of keeping everything in the shades of grey ! But as I proceeded, unsaturated colours seem more perfect with the picture. Hence, I changed it to that scheme.

Following are the images (from monochromatic to unsaturated schemes)













So the final frame looked the like the following.



Sound

Dialogues: the dialogues of the two baba's (the heads) are very local-ish in language and funny accents have been used. Rest all the people will sound drunk as they all are supposedly made addicted to alcohol and cigarettes. There is a satire here that every follower in the religion has been addicted to it and cannot see beyond it.

There is disturbance and noise in the environment and everybody seems to be confused. Every followers are a hurdle of sheep who blindly follows the same wrong meaningless path shown to them. They just don't have their own individual thinking! The followers of crow are always doing "kayein-kayein", like how a murder of crows sound like. Hence I've created a sound track for the film which incorporate a very raw, off-beat sound-track still rythmical, having a single narrative - "Kayein-kayein". Off-beat because everything is always shaken and is a narrative of something missing and unbalanced. Raw because things have not ripen for sure till now and there is still a boundary between the two group of followers.

Since there are followers of peacock also and involvement of a rooster which then becomes a new religion, I'm planning to create a new track with same music and having a narrative of the voice of a peacock and a rooster.

Soon after the final storyboard, sound was recorded. The music was composed in the studio by beating metal locker, wooden board and a metal bottle with liquid filled inside. It is still not complete as it needs more sounds of different materials so as to create a chaotic sound.

Dialogues were recorded with no one speaking in a normal voice. so the voiceover also adds to the dirtyness and rawness of the film. as the recording got finished I moved over to the animatic.

Animatic

Animatic is supposed to be the first draft of an animated film. All the frames were put into an editing software (Adobe Premire) scene by scene along with sound. Putting the frames with sound gave the timing of the film and made things more clear.

There the unclear scenes were identifiable, hence they were again looked upon and corrected. Also the length of the film was a little long, so It was again cut to make it more compact.

Animation

After completing the set and characters and with the help of animatic and scratch sound, I started animating the shots.

Camera - Canon EOS 550D
Lense - 50mm prime, 18-55mm wide

While setting up the frame for animation and making the set functional for final frame, lighting became an issue as the lights in the studio were more than required. So I had to go for smaller lamps and bulbs for the key light.

I used a 40 watt LED bulb for the key lighting. For the fill light, I used a normal tungsten bulb of 200 watts and 250 volts.

Sooner after deciding the frame I started animating the puppets by positioning and clicking. One of the problems was baba Kitanu, who is one of the main characters in the film. His head went unexpectedly heavy (due to heavy animatable hairs) that he became a very difficult actor. So every time the hair were moved, they were pinned with board pins on the ground.

One problem was that there were too many dialogues

in the script. I wanted to have full movement of the characters because only blabbering for lipsync was boring. Hence I took more cuts and more and movements were involved. The lipsync itself became a problem as there were too many dialogues so the cut shots helped in reducing the efforts.

Another problem was too many characters in a single shot and only one animator (myself) to control each of them. It was really difficult to keep track of each and every one of them and limited the actions of the secondary characters. Hence not more than two characters were in focus at a time.

Frames out of the animation













Conclusion

The sole reason behind making a film to the film maker is to make reach a particular message to the audience. But for me, there's one more. It is to make my own thoughts more clear. I although failed to to convey the message to audience. After showing the film to a number of people, most of them said that they could not get the end, which I suppose was one of the most important part. But the audience liked the dialogues, different visuals, my experiments with puppets and the sets.

Stop-motion animation is one thing I always adore. I love making puppets as it feels more then 'just' sketches to me! When the things starts to move as if they have become alive, you forget your back-aches.

Talking about the religion, I compaerd it with alcoholism in the film. When someone is addicted to alcohol, that person changes into someone who is completely different from what he actually is. Slowly and slowly things starts getting surreal and that person starts believing into it so strongly, that it seems all real to him. For me that is religion. So, both religion and alcohol, in a right amount and with eyes open is good, else ends in an accident.

My overall experience, being an experimental film maker was just un-matchable. If I am right, I failed because I experimented and stuck into things which I would have otherwise done nicely. Also I was really shy in asking for help at the time of animation production. In stop-motion animation, one need to do a lot of physical work. Some help will make the things better.

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