

BHAYAM

BY

ACHARYA ATREYA

Episode – 1

The play takes place in the office of a private company. What it does is immaterial, for it does not come in the way of clashes between personalities : their social and official strata are enough. The Accountant is at work and complains that he alone is the victim for he is asked to work during the night also to finish some documents. But the attender also is unhappy for several reasons.

Episode – 2

Meanwhile the proprietor comes in with the P.S. The proprietor calls for the Manager and asks him if the documents are ready. He asks, in turn, the Accountant. The Accountant, all the while thought that the Manager had left all the work to him and was happy staying at home, which is adjacent to the office and can be seen from this room. But when the Manager says that his wife, because of hard life, became insane, the Accountant is nonplussed. Though the preparation of the documents is over, they must be typed. Parvati, the typist, comes and relieves the Accountant from that work.

Episode – 3

The Proprietor was fond of Parvati, Parvati loved Shankar, who was employed in the office recently on her recommendation. But the Proprietor gave him a job only to intimidate him, as Shankar happens to be a labour leader. The astrologer-cashier in the office sees the hand of Shankar and predicts that his wife is pregnant. Parvati becomes pale. As the office atmosphere makes him feel irksome and unsavoury, Shankar wants to resign, but Parvati requests him to

stay on in the job until their wedding because, without a job her parents will not consent to their marriage, and Shankar accepts her requests.

Episode – 4

When the annual balance sheet is prepared, the Proprietor realizes that he has to pay huge sums towards income-tax and so asks the office to prepare fresh accounts and also asks one to sign a receipt as though two months bonus was paid to them. He also asks Shankar to sign receipts of payment of salary for six months. Shankar refuses to sign and also asks the Accountant and the Cashier not to sign. When the Manager reprimands him, he resigns and leaves the office. He also warns that he will not allow the works to sign on any receipts.

Episode – 5

The proprietor finds out that Parvati is pregnant. He insists that Parvati should prevent Shankar inciting the workers against him. Parvati refuses to do so. The proprietor then goes out to bring Parvati's father and demand that unless he uses his good offices with his daughter, he will tell the whole world about Parvati's unlawful pregnancy.

Episode – 6

When the accountant is about to inform Shankar about the proprietor's intimidation the proprietor doesn't allow him to do so. Parvati then takes a knife and attacks the proprietor, but he cleverly escapes and snatches away the knife. The mad wife of the manager looks at all this and puts the office on fire with the help of a match stick. When fire spreads around and the Police and Shankar arrive on the spot, the Proprietor starts running away to escape. The Manager's wife pursues him and throws the knife at him.