



Item Code:

951

Participant Code:

417

The News struck him like a thunderbolt.....
at first he couldn't believe it.

"Are you sure about this Rayan, do you really have to do this?" - asked a mother, who was going to send her son away for long, long enough to miss him dearly. "I'm not going to have a second thought on this more. I really want to go!" Rayan shouted at his mother in a very forthright manner. His mother, a middle aged woman of about fifty ^{had} ~~was~~ always wanted to give her children the best education if possible, only that she couldn't afford it. She worked bent over backwards for decades and it was time to send her son for University education.

Rayan had started his preparations to fly to 'The United States' and nothing made his excitement worse. "Rayan has gone insane, hasn't he, mom?" Rayan's younger sister, Reva,

Item Code:

951

Participant Code:

417

He glanced at her more, as if she was expecting an answer. She continued, "What has he got to do with this ostentatious manner? Is he trying to be someone else?" "Do not speak ill of your brother, child. He is the one who will look after you when my time is over. It's just... his excitement, now you go fetch me some clothes." Although ~~from~~ ^{she} she had brushed off Keva's words, ~~she~~ ^{she} had now realised that she had made a mistake, ~~the~~ a cardinal sin that could never be erased.....

Her son, never thought of the consequences of his doings.... He never worried about his mother's sacrifices..... all he wants to do now is to fly away... away from the huge burden, a widowed mother and a sister....

She stared at the creases on the palms of her ~~finger~~ hands..... "It's too late...." She reminded herself.

Item Code:

951

Participant Code:

417

Days passed by and it was the day of Rayan's departure.

"I can't wait to get there" Rayan said while sitting on ^{the} taxi in front of his luggage with his mother and sister. "What's so special about that place? is it like here"? his little sister asked out of her curiosity. "Why would I go there if it is like here? I'm going to gain nothing here.... It's another world Kera.... a place you could never think about"... she never gave a reply for that but instead, she was looking at her mother she has been quiet since a week..... she felt the warmth of her mother's hands as her mother was tightening her grip on Rera's hands.....

Then "If only he knew..... about the hardships I had gone through....." her mother slipped into the past where she would collect

scraps to buy something to feed her children.
"good old times" she muttered

"None, it's time we have arrived.
get down!" Rayan's call woke her up to reality.

"Where shall we go?... the flying thing,....
where is it? will it come here to pick you up?

"Stop none! will you stop spilling out nonsense?
it's embarrassing.... you wait here till I come

back". His mother watched him rolling his
luggage.... he stared^{at} him until he was out of

sight.... she loosened her grip on the wet
five hundred rupees note.... that was the

last thing she could give to her son, the type
of love he would accept.

They waited for him for hours,
and hours, till a security guard asked her
"Madame, are you waiting for someone else?"

Item Code:

951

Participant Code:

417

After ~~one~~ a minute the old widowed lady was walking home holding a hand of her daughter. Her beloved son had gone... gone to 'another world' without telling her a ~~word~~ word.... "wait till I come back" he ~~had~~ had said.... And he has escaped from the hell.... ~~then~~ he has abandoned the burdens... What has he got to do with the living burdens? ... she thought.

Years passed.... Rayan had never once called his mom after getting to the U.S. Although he was behaving like a virilic man, deep inside, he felt a strange regret. His life was filled with the lugubrious gloominess. He was fed up the pressure of his job had it's toll and he thought of the time where life was simpler.... If only I could go back to my mom.....

Item Code:

951

Participant Code:

417

And then he remembered how he treated his mom. Without thinking much, with heartfelt sorrow, a battered feet, he booked his ticket back to his hometown.

He was going to see his mom and his only sister. He wondered how much taller she would have become. He thought of the pristine skies and clear waterfalls, the exquisite landscapes. Everything was majestic there. What have I gained. The thought was enigmatic. He turned the TV on. He saw something similar, ... similar to his hometown ...

A Tsunami had wiped out the entire coast including his hometown.

The news struck him like a thunderbolt... at first he couldn't believe



Item Code:

951

Participant Code:

417

it He turned off the T.V He couldn't
bear the weight of what he had heard
Nothing's left God has My wrongdoings
have payed me right There is no going
back . "I've lost the most precious thing in my
life only that I understand it now!