

TRADITION

(Short Film)

Story, Script & Director

Lanka Bandaranayke

E.mail-lankabandaranayake@ymail.com

T.P-0094766770196

Scene 01 - INT – DRESSING ROOM - PREDAWN

No definition of the location, surrounded by darkness. Male voice chants Paththini Hella (traditional verses praising the virtues of Goddess Paththini). Titles appear on the screen. The scene evolves from blur to a close up. An attractive girl appears in Osariya (A traditional Lankan dress). She sits in a chair in blankness. An elderly happy looking woman dresses the girl's hair. Male chanting ends.

Woman –

What a wonder, Goddess Paththini had seven rebirths. She raised her husband from death with the immense power of chastity. (*Woman is taking an earring from a jewelry box and wears it to the bride*). Jewelry of the powerful Goddess Paththini...

The girl blinks.

Scene 02 - EXT – SCHOOL - DAY

Scene is taken from the girl's point of view. A teenage boy is looking at the girl without blinking in a loving mood. Only the boy appears clearly in the scene.

Boy 01-

Boys in our entire class tried to hitch with you. After we became lovers, some guys are so upset even they don't look at me.

The girl laughing is heard.

Scene 03 - INT – DRESSING ROOM – PREDAWN

The girl's laughing continues. The old woman and the girl are in the same scene. The girl looks slightly withered. The old woman carefully dresses a necklace to the girl.

Woman –

A woman can wear this only once in lifetime.

The girl turns her head.

Sean 04 - INT – HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Scene is taken from the girl's point of view. The camera moves towards boy 2 and the shot freezes near his shoulder. Tear drops fall on his naked shoulder. The girl's cries can be heard.

Boy 2-

Give me a break... you are crying like you did it for the first time. (*The boy walks away*). You were not a virgin when you came to me. I'm the one who should cry.

The camera moves from boy's face to the empty dark floor.

Sean 05 - INT – DRESSING ROOM – PREDAWN

The old woman and the girl are in the same scene. The girl looks more withered. The old woman dresses the two items symbolize sun and moon to the girl's head. The old woman's wrinkled fingers appear in a close up.

Women –

Husbands and wives live together as long as the sun and the moon exist.

Sean 06 - INT – ANOTHER HOTEL ROOM – DAY

Scene is taken from the girl's point of view. The girl is peeling her finger nail polish. In the background, boy 3 sits in a toilet commode. His 'Suraya' (the holy-copper jewelry) can be seen tied to his waist. The girl does not appear on screen though she sits in the bed.

Boy 3 –

Sharing life with a man for one year without knowing him... seems he gave you thrill..... Full of fuck ... shit...(boy 3 walks out of the toilet after flushing)..I don't know why I love you so much...

A decorated necklace appears in the scene hanging in air.

Sean07 - INT – DRESSING ROOM – PREDAWN

The old woman and the girl are in the same scene. The same necklace from the previous scene is worn to the girl. The girl looks more withered. The necklace tangles in the Osariya of the girl. The old woman is making efforts to untangle it.

Woman-

Swan pair The symbol of fortune...

Sean 08 - INT – ANOTHER HOTEL ROOM – DAY

Scene is taken from the girl's point of view. Boy 4 is buttoning a shirt. The girl stays nearby but does not appear in the scene.

Boy 4 –

I'm happy you didn't hide anything from me... for god's sake, how can I believe you have gone through so much in your life... of course we may not meet any of them again... but I have this deep fear of meeting them someday...Somewhere... (He walks to a mirror. Then shapes up his hair with finger-tips) how can I face them having you walk next to me... can you understand my feelings?

Boy 4 stretches his palm towards the girl.

Sean 09 - INT – DRESSING ROOM – PREDAWN

The girl's palm appears as if responding to boy 4 in the last scene. The old woman and the girl are in the same scene. The girl looks exhausted. Old woman wears bangles to the girl.

Woman –
These are worn for good luck.

The girl looks downward.

Sean 10 - INT – BOARDING HOUSE – NIGHT

Scene is taken from the girl's point of view. The girl's arms can be seen packing her belongings to a bag. Boy 5 walks to and fro. He looks desperate and angry.

Boy 5 –
You ruined me. I took a dirty bitch like you to my life... bloody bitch... I opened my heart to you wishing to make your life better... filthy hooker... I don't let you have a happy life after leaving me (*the girl takes the bag and leaves the room*)... at lease leave this month rent for this room...

The camera moves through a dark and untidy corridor. Then it moves through a pebble string curtain.

Sean 11 - INT – DRESSING ROOM – PREDAWN

The previous scene continues until the camera settles in the dressing room. The old woman and the girl are in the same scene. The old woman is dressing a jewelry piece to the girl's wrist and back palm. The girl looks more exhausted.

Woman –
These are like handcuffs for a woman... bonding to family... relatives... and children... there is no escape ...

Sean 12 - INT – ELEGANT HOTEL ROOM – PREDAWN

Scene is taken from the girl's point of view. A mature man sits in a chair eating grapes. He covers nakedness with a small towel.

Man (6) –
I feel I didn't have a life until we met... I'd love to have a child... to embrace my own baby ...I have enough energy... you know it (*slightly smiling*)... if I die, you will have my pension, my house and the car... you can raise the baby... you can remarry if you

want... what do you say??? Will you marry me if I divorce my wife...???

The camera is turning from the man to a white wall while blurring.

Sean 14 - INT – DRESSING ROOM – PREDAWN

The old woman and the girl are in the same scene. The girl looks extremely exhausted. The old woman is dressing the girl in the forehead with a jewelry piece.

Woman –

All evils are gone from head to foot... They are eternally gone...
end of any sins *(The old woman merrily looks at the girl who has now become a fully dressed bride)* What a beauty...
hmmm... it's the time...

The old woman dissolves in to darkness...The girl appears with an empty straight gaze.

The traditional wedding verses sung by male voice can be overheard...

End credits.

END