

EXT. SANGRE GRANDE, TRINIDAD - DAY

DHANI (V.O.)
I am 104th Generation Brahmin.

WE SEE the sweaty face of DHANI, a West-Indian Man [21].

DHANI (V.O.)
Dat's a lie. Ah come from a long
line of poor and schupid coolies.

WE SEE a wider shot of Dhani wearing an old SANTA CLAUS COSTUME as he rides his bike through the old colonial streets rammed with people selling anything you could imagine. Other bikes whiz by and cars honk at nothing in particular.

DHANI (V.O.)(CONT'D)
Dey work under de blazing hot sun
for donkey years mekkin English Man
rich rich. Dey make chil'ren dat do
de same ting. Dat is me.

CUT TO BLACK

TITLE CARD - "DOUBLES WITH MEDIUM PEPPER"

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - SANGRE GRANDE - DAY

Setup beside a row of other street vendors, Dhani opens a large BLUE COOLER, which contains the components of Doubles, the Trinidadian street food. He grabs the barras (small round flatbreads), their filling (channa - curried chick peas) and old bottles filled with condiments (hot-sauce, tamarind chutney). He stands waiting for customers, but they all pass by, no one stopping. He spots another doubles vendor, with a long queue doing brisk business. He calls out to them,

DHANI
DOUBLES! HOT DOUBLES!

Finally, TONY [53] approaches. He laughs at Dhani's costume.

TONY
Santa, I in a hurry and dem line
real long. Gimme two wit pepper.

He makes the order quickly and hands it over to Tony. He unwraps the doubles and takes a bite. He chews slower.

(CONTINUED)

TONY (CONT'D)
Gimme some water.

Dhani gives him a bottle of water from a different cooler. Tony quickly swishes the water around in his mouth.

TONY (CONT'D)
Yuh cookin' with a bad mind, Santa!

Dhani ignores the comment, but Tony continues.

TONY (CONT'D)
It does come out in yuh food. It doh taste right.

Dhani gets offended and becomes sarcastic.

DHANI
Look here, Santa doh like naughty chil'ren. He does planasse now...

TONY
...Every doubles man in town have long line up, but you beggin'?

Dhani breaks the conversation.

DHANI
Six dollars. Who's next? Next?

RAGBIR [50's] a West-Indian Man, toting a suitcase moves up. He looks Dhani in the eyes, but Dhani isn't paying attention. Ragbir is meek.

RAGBIR
Two wit' slight pepper.

Dhani quickly makes the order.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)
How de doubles business goin'?

DHANI
It used to be better...

Dhani passes the order to Ragbir. Their eyes lock. Ragbir smiles. Dhani looks away to the next person.

DHANI (CONT'D)
...Six dollars. Next!?

There's no one else there, so Ragbir holds his ground.

(CONTINUED)

RAGBIR

Eh-Eh? Yuh ent make me out?

Ragbir tries to grab Dhani's arms, but he pulls away.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Come gimme a hug up. Ah come back.

Ragbir rummages through his suitcase. He pulls out a cheap tourist t-shirt that says "Toronto, Canada" on it.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

I brought this for you.

Dhani pays no attention to Ragbir or his cheap t-shirt. Instead, he takes the doubles, tosses them into the cooler and quickly begins to pack up.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Come nah. I ent eat all day.

Dhani gets angry and packs up faster.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Jus' gimme a chance.

Ragbir goes around and tries to help, but Dhani refuses as he pulls out his bike.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Wait nah, Boy.

DHANI

The shop go close soon.

Dhani hops on his bike and rides off leaving Ragbir holding his suitcase.

EXT. SANGRE GRANDE, TRINIDAD - MOMENTS LATER

Dhani pulls into an alley. He slowly peeks down the main road to see Ragbir, disappointed, walking in the opposite direction. Dhani exhales and unsure what to do next, tosses the bag containing Ragbir's doubles into a garbage can.

EXT. DHANI'S HOME - FRONT - DUSK

Dhani, props his bike up against the simple home: concrete cinder block walls with a galvanized siding roof. Dhani takes the blue cooler off the bike and calls out to his Mother,

(CONTINUED)

DHANI

Ma?!

He quickly goes to the kitchen holding his bags.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Dhani barges in.

DHANI

Ma?!

He finds his Mother at the table eating with Ragbir. Dhani stops cold and puts down the cooler. Sumintra is sarcastic.

SUMINTRA

The scamp finally come from
Canada!! Sit down and eat wit' we
as we catch up!

She returns with a plate and puts some food on it. Dhani doesn't say a word.

SUMINTRA (CONT'D)

Sit.

Dhani sits down and begins to eat. He stares at Ragbir who looks at Sumintra.

RAGBIR

I miss yuh cookin'.

Dhani abruptly gets up from the table and goes to his room.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dhani takes off his Santa suit, flops on his bed and stares at his walls. They are bare aside from a Canadian Flag and a poster of the 2002 Gold Medal Canadian Hockey Team. Sumintra enters.

DHANI

Why yuh doing this for?

Sumintra sits down beside him.

SUMINTRA

He need a bed for a few days.

Dhani looks at his Mother.

(CONTINUED)

DHANI

So?

SUMINTRA

We need to use dis time to get dis house in we name. We have to get him to do dat.

DHANI

He ent go do dat.

SUMINTRA

He's a scamp, yes. But we have to get dis land. Get wha we deserve.

Sumintra gets up and leaves Dhani staring at the poster. He gets up and turns over a toy Mountie on his dresser.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Sumintra & Ragbir continue eating at the table.

RAGBIR

Yuh have kept dis place really nice over the years.

Sumintra gives him a cold stare, which Ragbir ignores as he takes a drink. Dhani emerges and stands by the door.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

So, how is de business these days?

DHANI

Not good. Yuh ent care anyways.

RAGBIR

If doubles not sellin, den someting' wrong. We used to have long lineups. Remember, Sumintra?

Sumintra barely nods in agreement.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

I build dis house wit all dat doubles money, yuh know.

Dhani tries hard to contain his anger.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

All yuh change the recipe, or what? Because, we did sell out every...

Dhani can't take it anymore.

(CONTINUED)

DHANI

...What de hell yuh doin here? We livin' like yuh dead fo' years. So go and dead. Leave we.

Ragbir, slightly taken aback.

RAGBIR

Ah come to make tings right.

Dhani stays cold.

DHANI

Sign over de house to we.

Ragbir takes another drink. He looks at Sumintra - she's afraid of what he's about to say.

RAGBIR

Yeah. Alright. No problem.

Dhani looks to his Mother, almost confused. She shrugs.

DHANI

Yuh cyan go back on your word.

RAGBIR

I ent go back.

DHANI

Yuh sure?

Ragbir gives him a nod and finally, Dhani sits down and begins to eat in silence.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - BATHROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Ragbir takes out a toiletries bag and removes 5 medicine bottles. They have labels "DO NOT TAKE WITH ALCOHOL".

INT. DHANI'S HOME - KITCHEN - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Dhani drinks a glass of water and notices the PAST DUE bills on the counter. Beside it is a stack of Canadian \$20 bills in a Christmas Card. He picks up the money and counts it.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ragbir takes a pill out of each bottle and downs them with some water. He starts to brush his teeth.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - OUTSIDE OF THE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dhani knocks on the closed bathroom door hard.

DHANI
Eh! Hurry up.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ragbir's still brushing his teeth.

RAGBIR
OK. Hold on.

Ragbir begins to cough.

DHANI (O.S.)
You OK?

The coughing continues and becomes increasingly worse.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - OUTSIDE OF THE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dhani pounds on the door before pressing his ear to it.

RAGBIR (O.S.)
What?

DHANI
You ok?

Dhani turns the door knob. It's locked.

INT. DHANI'S HOME WASHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ragbir, hunched over the sink coughs violently. Blood comes out of his mouth.

RAGBIR
Yeah, Man. This is nothing.

He coughs some more while putting away the medicine bottles. He wipes his mouth and opens the door to find Dhani looking at him, unsure what to say.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)
Sorry I took so long.

Ragbir brushes past Dhani on his way to the --

INT. DHANI'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ragbir heads to the couch and begins to prepare the couch. Dhani follows behind him. They speak in a loud whisper.

DHANI

How long yuh plan on being here
because we ent want yuh here.

RAGBIR

A few more days.

He lays out a blanket and pillow on the couch.

DHANI

Yuh still didn't tell me what yuh
want here.

Ragbir begins to get annoyed.

RAGBIR

Eh, ah given yuh the deed. Ent yuh
want dat? What more yuh want?

DHANI

Why it so easy?

RAGBIR

Yuh want to know? Yuh really want
to know?

Dhani nods in agreement.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

OK, come wit me tomorrow.

DHANI

I have to work. It's Christmas Eve.
A big day for business.

RAGBIR

How much yuh does make in a day?

Dhani looks at him.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Name it. I go double it.

Dhani thinks for a moment.

DHANI

Triple it.

EXT. PRIVATE HOSPITAL - THE NEXT MORNING

Ragbir and Dhani walk in front of a clean Hospital.

DHANI
We goin here?

RAGBIR
Come.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - LATER

DR. VICTOR [50's] is physically examining Ragbir.

DR. VICTOR
So, any changes since you arrived?

RAGBIR
A bit of pain, but I can deal with
it. Blood still there when I cough.

Ragbir looks over to his Son.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)
I feelin' good dat ah with meh Son.

DR. VICTOR
Your Son? So he's the donor?

DHANI
What going on?

Ragbir sits silently but looks to the doctor.

DR. VICTOR
Your Father has Thrombocytopenia.

DHANI
OK.

DR. VICTOR
Basically, his blood is lacking
platelets and can't produce them.

The Doctor looks at Ragbir.

DR. VICTOR (CONT'D)
You haven't told him?

Ragbir looks to the ground. The Doctor looks to Dhani.

(CONTINUED)

DR. VICTOR (CONT'D)
Your Father has a rare blood type.
It's called 'hh' or Bombay Blood.
Donors are very rare. It's a
critical situation. Life and death.

Dhani gets up.

DR. VICTOR (CONT'D)
You're the prime candidate. We need
to test your blood.

Dhani's figured it all out, the reason for him being there.

DHANI
You're a dutty man.

Dhani storms out of the room.

EXT. MEDICAL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Dhani walks out the building with Ragbir running to catch
up.

RAGBIR
I want to spend Christmas with you
and yuh Mother. I want to make
things good between all of we.

They stop.

DHANI
Yuh always out for yourself! Jus'
pack up and go back to Canada.

Dhani leaves him behind. Ragbir calls out to him.

RAGBIR
AH GOING TO DEAD!

Dhani doesn't look back.

EXT. DHANI'S HOME - BACKYARD - LATER

Dhani is tuning up his bicycle. He turns a ratchet, but it
slips and falls.

DHANI
Damn it!

Ragbir comes over holding a beer bottle.

(CONTINUED)

RAGBIR

You puttin' too much pressure.

Ragbir picks up a tool and squats down beside his Son.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Yuh tink I happy to see all yuh
strugglin'? Yuh tink I expect yuh
to help me? Ah ruin everyting for
all yuh. Tings didn't turn out how
I wanted.

Dhani becomes incredulous. He stands up.

DHANI

It didn't turn out how you wanted?!

Yuh tell me to take over yuh

schupid doubles stand for a few

months until yuh send for we. Years
pass and all meh friends gone
America, England, Canada. Me? I
still here sellin' *your* nasty
doubles by that nobody buying.

Ragbir gets up and is matter-of-fact.

RAGBIR

If yuh could look beyond all dat
and help me...

DHANI

...I used to wonder what I would
say to you. Now, all ah want to do
is look yuh in the eye and make
sure ah don't see mehself.

RAGBIR

I'd appreciate it.

As Ragbir leaves, Dhani watches him.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ragbir & Sumintra sit at the table. He signs a long document
as Dhani enters.

RAGBIR

Go and put that in a safe place.

Sumintra folds up the document. On her way to her bedroom
she tries to contain her joy by speaking softly to Dhani.

(CONTINUED)

SUMINTRA

De fool sign over de house.

Dhani looks over the documents. It's all in order. Sumintra takes the documents to her room, as Ragbir comes over.

RAGBIR

It's the only promise I kept.

DHANI

Ah go sell it and get a small house for me and ma in town. Ah go back to school.

RAGBIR

Good. I hope so.

Sumintra comes back to the room - she's in a good mood.

SUMINTRA

All yuh forget dat it's Christmas?

INT. DHANI'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

WE HEAR Parang (Trinidadian Christmas Songs) playing on a radio. Dhani, Sumintra and Ragbir are in the kitchen assembling various baking equipment: bowls, mixer, spoons, pans etc...

RAGBIR

Boy, I miss Christmas in Trinidad.

Sumintra produces a plastic tub and opens it up showing the contents to Ragbir: a mixture of minced dry fruit and red wine. Ragbir recognizes it.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Yuh makin' fruit cake?!

SUMINTRA

Yes, Man.

She looks to Dhani.

SUMINTRA (CONT'D)

But, we need de doubles.

RAGBIR

We need de doubles.

Dhani nods and heads to the cupboards. After some silence,

(CONTINUED)

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

I wanted to open a doubles and roti shop in Canada. It woulda been de t'ree of we runnin' it. And we sellin' to white people only!

Sumintra and Dhani listen as they gather ingredients and start to cook.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Instead, I livin' in a basement with two other people washing dishes in a cafeteria.

SUMINTRA

But we still coulda be together as a family. Ent?

Dhani turns off the stove and puts down the spoon.

RAGBIR

'Next year ah go have de money to bring dem up.' I still sayin dat.

As Ragbir begins to get emotional, he stops himself by taking a spoonful of the cooked channa and trying it.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Honey. Yuh ent put de honey?

Dhani looks confusedly to Sumintra.

DHANI

Dis man really gone mad.

RAGBIR

Sumintra, yuh ent teach dis Boy about we secret ingredient?

SUMINTRA

Yuh did always make the channa.

Ragbir gets up and looks through the cupboards. He finds it:

RAGBIR

Honey.

DHANI

Man, yuh go spoil it.

Ragbir pours a little honey into the pot.

(CONTINUED)

RAGBIR

Ah tellin' yuh. It does give it a sweet taste. Check it.

Dhani takes a small spoon from the pot and tastes it. He blows on it to cool the channa. He tastes it. It's good.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Ah tellin' yuh.

INT. DHANI'S HOME - KITCHEN - LATER

With the food finished cooking and the cake in the oven, Mother, Father and Son are dancing to Trinidadian - Christmas songs. Dhani sips whiskey straight from the bottle. Their dancing becomes more intense and more silly. Dhani hands the bottle to Ragbir and he takes a big chug before passing it to Sumintra. Ragbir begins "grinding" on Sumintra - she has none of it. She pushes him away. He comes back for more, dancing faster as the music gets louder. Dhani pulls Ragbir from his Mother and pushes him away. Ragbir backs off.

Ragbir and Sumintra lock eyes. He's pathetic, sad and alone. Sumintra gives him a sympathetic smile. Ragbir shakes his head "no". He's accepted his fate. Dhani watches this.

Dhani slows down as Ragbir does too. Ragbir's out of breath.

He begins coughing and looks for a seat. Sumintra quickly shuts off the music and Dhani helps his Father sit.

DHANI

Yuh alright?

Ragbir says nothing as he's trying to catch his breath, blood coming from his mouth. He holds his chest.

RAGBIR

Oh God.

Sumintra brings a glass of water to the sick Man. Ragbir refuses it. Dhani turns to Sumintra.

DHANI

He sick. Real sick.

SUMINTRA

Oh gosh.

Dhani turns to his Father.

(CONTINUED)

DHANI

Yuh go be ok. Cool yourself.

Sumintra picks up the phone and dials a number. WE SEE the freshly baked cake and doubles on the counter, untouched.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Ragbir lays awake in the bed, while a nurse checks the I.V. bag. Dhani and Sumintra enter. The Doctor turns to Dhani.

DR. VICTOR

You have to sign to sign the blood test and transfusion forms.

Dr. Victor hands the clipboard over to Dhani who looks through the forms.

DR. VICTOR (CONT'D)

I'll give you all couple of minutes, but we have to move quick.

Dr. Victor leaves.

RAGBIR

Dhani, yuh reach? Look at me: completely useless.

Dhani stares at his Father, then at the forms.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

We going to do dis deal or what?

Dhani looks to his Mother then to Ragbir.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Doh play. I signed the deed over.

DHANI

So yuh go dead if I ent give you de blood, right?

Sumintra is confused.

SUMINTRA

Wha' going on here?

DHANI

Me and ma go get the land anyways?

RAGBIR

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

DHANI

So why I should give you meh blood?

This realization hits Ragbir. He sinks back in the bed and looks to his Son.

RAGBIR

I wanted to try we doubles.

DHANI

You can't have that now. Yuh goin for operation.

RAGBIR

Jus' a piece. Please.

Sumintra sees the desperation on Ragbir's face. After a moment, she pulls out the doubles and unwraps it.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Just a piece. Break off a piece.

She pretends to break off a piece and puts the greasy morsel into her Husband's mouth. Ragbir chews. He smiles.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Yes, Man! It tastin' so good.

Dhani looks over at Ragbir. They lock eyes.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Come nah boy, gimme a piece.

Dhani looks at Sumintra. He looks at the unsigned forms. The life support machines continue to BEEP.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

My Boy. The Doubles Man.

Finally, Dhani comes over. He breaks off a piece of the doubles and puts in Ragbir's mouth. He chews it then squeezes Dhani's hand.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

I did make yuh first doubles yuh ever try. Sumintra, yuh remember?

She shakes her head "yes". Ragbir starts to laugh.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Yuh was a little little Boy, but yuh tell me: "Pa, I want a doubles with slight pepper".

(CONTINUED)

DHANI

That's how I heard you order it.
You teach me to make doubles.

Dr. Victor enters with a PORTER.

DR. VICTOR

OK, I think we're ready for him.

As the porter begins to wheel the bed out, Ragbir looks at Dhani and opens his mouth.

RAGBIR

Gimme another piece. Doubles with
slight pepper, ha.

Dhani breaks off another piece of food and feeds it to Ragbir who chews it.

RAGBIR (CONT'D)

Aye, look me in de eye. Yuh see
yourself?

The Men lock eyes as Ragbir is wheeled out, Sumintra follows. Alone in the quiet room, Dhani finally signs the papers.

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSE'S STATION - LATER

A NURSE draws blood from Dhani's arm. Sumintra watches.

DHANI

Ma, go home. It gettin' late.

SUMINTRA

Nah, I not going. I cyan leave yuh
here. I cyan leave him here.

DHANI

Nuttin' happenin' soon. I could
handle it.

SUMINTRA

I cyan leave him here.

Dhani looks her in the eye.

DHANI

Ent, I is de man of de house?

Sumintra finally gives in. She pulls out a paper bag.

(CONTINUED)

SUMINTRA

Yuh go eat de doubles, right?

He nods.

INT. HOSPITAL - OUTSIDE RECOVERY ROOM - LATER

Dhani stands outside of the room, staring at Ragbir asleep and connected to various tubes. Dr. Victor approaches.

DR. VICTOR

We found the source of the bleeding and stopped it. He's out of immediate danger, but...

Dhani looks at him.

DR. VICTOR (CONT'D)

...Your blood doesn't match his.

Dhani stands there, unsure what to say.

DR. VICTOR (CONT'D)

Is there anybody else we could try?

Dhani shakes his head and begins to step back.

DHANI

I would've given him meh blood.

Dhani looks at Ragbir one last time.

DHANI (CONT'D)

But I won't give him meh heart.

Dhani turns around and walks down the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL - IN FRONT OF ELEVATORS - MOMENTS LATER

Dhani pushes the button and seconds later, the elevator doors open. Dhani gets in, turns around and faces the camera.

DHANI (V.O.)

I am 104th Generation Brahmin. Ah come from a long line of poor and schupid coolies.

EXT. SAN FERNANDO - NIGHT

Dhani walks down High Street, bustling nightlife all around. He opens the paper bag of doubles his Mother left him and eats one. It's delicious. He takes another bite.

DHANI (V.O.)

I work under de blazing hot sun for
donkey years. Yeah Man, dat's me.

CUT TO BLACK - ROLL CREDITS