

10th Standard - English

Patol Babu, Film Star Summary

Introduction

'Patol Babu, Film Star' is a story of Patol Babu who, once, had been in great demand for stage shows. But now he was hard up due to no work. He had been struggling much to make a living. An offer for a little role in a film emboldened him. But he found it demeaning for his calibre. He disappeared from the shooting site without accepting his remuneration after performing this role almost flawlessly.

Meeting between Nishikanto Ghosh and Patol Babu

One day Nishikanto Ghosh called on Patol Babu, his neighbour. He told him that his youngest brother-in-law Naresh Dutt was in film business. He was looking for a person around fifty and bald-headed for a small role in a film. He told him that since he had acted on the stage he could do that role. Patol Babu desired to talk to Nishikanto's brother-in-law. He was on hard days..

Past of Patol Babu

At one time Patol Babu had a real passion for the stage. There was a time when people bought tickets especially for him. He lived then in Kanchrapara and worked in a railway factory. In 1934 he went to Calcutta (now Kolkata) to join Hudson and Kimberley but was retrenched due to war. Since then he had been struggling to make a living.

His struggle and acting

Patol Babu opened a variety store but had to wind it up. He had a job in a Bengali film but had to leave it up because of the boss's attitude. Then he acted as an insurance salesman. Now he was with an establishment dealing in scrap iron. Acting had now become a thing of the past. He would recall his powerful dialogues and feel their thundering sound.

Meeting with Naresh Dutt

Naresh Dutt called on Patol Babu. He felt a little hesitant to see Patol Babu about the role. However, he told him that the shooting would take place the next day in Faraday House. Patol Babu was to reach there at eight- thirty sharp. On being asked about the role, Naresh Dutt told him that it was of a pedestrian. He would have a dialogue also. This thrilled him greatly.

Patol Babu and his wife

After Naresh Dutt left Patol Babu shared his joy with his wife. He told her that he would grow famous again with that. But his wife told him to be realistic. He should not build airy castles.

Patol Babu reaches the shooting site, waits

Patol Babu reached Faraday House. He saw the shooting equipment spread over there. He searched for Naresh Dutt. He perspired due to the heat and the jacket that he wore for his role. Naresh Dutt told Patol Babu to stand in the shade of a paan shop. He also told him that he would be called for shooting soon.

Patol Babu asked him for his dialogue.shooting

The shooting was soon going to start. There were a lot of people to see it. Patol Babu heard the direction of the director for shooting like 'Running!' 'Camera!' 'Rolling!' 'Action'. He also heard from the crowd that the lead role was being performed by Chanchal Kumar. Patol Babu seemed to have heard that name. He was also told that Baren Mullick was the director who had had three hits in a row.

Patol Babu given his dialogue

Naresh Dutt gave Patol Babu a tea cup. Patol Babu asked him for his dialogue. Sosanko wrote it on a paper. It was only 'Oh!' Patol Babu felt choked at it. He exclaimed that i he found that rather strange. This set his thinking cycle on.

What happens after Patol Babu has his dialogue

Patol Babu's dialogue of 'Oh!' made him think differently. He wondered whether it was to insult his calibre as an actor! When he exclaimed Sosanko added that he was the luckiest that in Baren Mullick film he had a dialogue. Hundreds of people just walked in ! his films without a dialogue.

Patol Babu told the scene and his role

Jyoti came up to Patol Babu. He explained the scene to him that Chanchal Kumar would come and collide with him. He was to act as an absent-minded pedestrian. He went slowly to the paan shop. He threw the paper on which the dialogue was written. He heard the songs in praise of the goddess Kali coming there. He thought why he should waste a Sunday morning in the company of these useless people. He thought that things were better on the stage.

What Patol Babu thinks and does as an artist

At this Patol Babu recalled the words of Gogon Pakrashi, his mentor. Gogon had told him never to consider any sort of role below dignity. He was an artist and it was the duty of the artist to squeeze the last drop of meaning out of the lines. The memory made Patol Babu give it a different meaning and emotion to the single word of his dialogue 'Oh!' when it was spoken differently.

Patol Babu before the collision

At last Patol Babu's turn came. Now he had ceased to be indifferent to his role. The real artist had been born in him. He was made to count his steps when he was to collide with Chanchal Kumar. He told the director that if he had had a newspaper in hand while colliding, the scene would seem more real. His suggestion was accepted. He was given moustache, too, to wear to look more realistic.

Patol Babu before and after the shoot

Patol Babu looked at his face in the mirror. He also cleared his throat. He mixed the emotion of irritation and surprise in his dialogue. The collision occurred at the most appropriate time. Chanchal Kumar had to massage his head due to the impact of the collision.

He also complimented Patol Babu that he was a good actor. After the scene had been shot, Patol Babu went to the paan shop. He felt fully satisfied with his acting. He slipped back home without getting the money for his role.

Patol Babu disappears without being paid

Ten minutes later Naresh Dutt went looking for Patol Babu near the paan shop. He had not yet been paid and needed to be paid.

He wondered what a strange fellow Patol Babu was! The shooting resumed but Patol Babu was found nowhere.

