

**Vasant Utsav**

**Scene 1 – Akash (6 actors)**

**Narrator Sc 1 - Four children, Uttar, Dakshin, Purab, Pashchim are in Mount Meru. There are huge lotuses all around them. Brahmadev is present as Akaash.**

Purab – It is so beautiful and peaceful here. But I don't see Brahmadev. Are you sure we have reached Brahmlok?

Pashchim – Brahmadev is all around us and in us... close your eyes to see and feel Akash.

Uttar – Om Aim Hrim Shrim Klim Sauh Satchid Ekam Brahma.

Dakshin - Brahma is the one supreme and absolute consciousness.

**Narrator Sc 1 - Brahmadev materialises into his visible form.**

Pashchim – O Brahmadev, we have come to you because it is time for Vasant Utsav, but I have looked in all Paschim but we cannot find Vasant.

Purab – And there is no sign of Vasant anywhere in Purab.

Dakshin – I kept looking and went all the way till I met Uttar looking too, but Vasant is nowhere to be found.

Uttar – We thought maybe you have been too busy and have not created Vasant yet from your Akash roop?

Brahmadev – Vasant is not late. There is no longer Vasant.

Purab – How is that possible, Brahmadev?

Pashchim - What will we eat? How will we live?!

Brahmadev – Your deeds have disturbed the universal energies on Bhulok, and this is the result.

Dakshin – Forgive us, great creator! Everything comes from Akash – you are the Creator – you can materialise anything!

Uttar – Please give us Vasant! We will do anything to undo our wrong actions!

Brahmadev - There must always be balance in the Brahman. Humans have already used up almost all the resources I gave for Vasant across the Kaliyug. There is almost nothing left for the centuries remaining in the yuga.

Pashchim – But all living things will die then! There must be some way to bring back Vasant!

Brahmadev - The Panchabhuta are displeased with your actions and will not come together for Vasant. Go to the Panchabhuta and pray for their forgiveness. I will create Vasant if the Panchabhuta agree to participate.



**Vasant Utsav, an Environmental awareness play in one act set in a diverse cultural context.**

### **Scene 2 – Varun (6 actors)**

**Narrator Sc 2 - Ma Ganga is preparing to leave for Swarglok, leaving only a trickle of water on Bhulok. Varundev is supervising the operation. Three children, Arjun, Anunaya, Apavyayaha are in Uttarkhand, and are addressing them.**

Anunaya – O Varuṇadev, you who is the lord of all waters and has the swan as your mount, be pleased along with the seas and rivers, after I have worshipped you all.

Arjun – O pitridev, I have come to request you and Ganga Ma to participate in the Vasant Utsav. I know you will not refuse your children.

Ma Ganga – Balak, your kind have left too few clean spots – where can I step? How do you expect me to flow? I cannot be part of Vasant.

Anunaya – Pranam Ma Ganga. We promise to float 100 diyas at each of your banks!

Ma Ganga – Anunaya, your persuasion is meaningless. You pray to Agni and you pray to Varun and yet you pour your dirty rubbish into me and make all other animals sick! What devotion are you showing through this?

Arjun – But Ma, that is not us – it’s the big factories – don’t punish us for their fault!

Varundev – No Arjun, you are all growing up with the disease of waste. Does Apavyayaha show me respect? No! Pots and pans and bucket fulls... he just pours water down the drain without thinking once, as he washes up.

Apavyayaha – Forgive me Varundev, I won’t waste water...

Varundev – And will you think everytime you use water?

Arjun – Yes pitasri, we will use our brains not only for learning, but to think of how to save water in every way.

Anunaya – Every drop is precious, Ma Ganga – I know how wonderfully lucky I feel when I am hot and tired and I can drink my first sip of water.

Ma Ganga – It is your dharma to save water and you will feel my aashirbaad in every step you take on this righteous path. I will come to the Vasant Utsav.

### **Scene 3 – Agni (6 actors)**

**Narrator Sc 3 - Four children, Yudhistir, Karan, Bheem, Duryadhan, are in Mount Abu, kneeling on the steps beside an empty Agni Kund, a parched, dry basin. They are praying to Agnidev.**

Yudhistir - agnimīle purohitam yajñasya devamṛvijam| hotarām ratnadhātamam||

Karan – Om agneeya namaha

**After some time, there is crackling and a few flames shoot up from twigs in the basin. Agnidev appears.**



## **Vasant Utsav, an Environmental awareness play in one act set in a diverse cultural context.**

Agnidev – Why do you keep praying to me children, when you know I have no answer to your questions?

Yudhistir – Pranam Agnidev. Promise us that you will participate in the Vasant Utsav.

Agnidev – Don't ask me for impossible promises! You know Vasant grows weaker each year – soon there may be no crops.

Yudhistir – But you can stop it, o great pitamaha! Don't burn our food down!

Agnidev – This is the way of the Universe. I told you before, children, I have no answers. Bhulok must burn to balance the other energies.

Duryadhan – Atleast favour our families!

Bheem – Have you no shame, Duryadhan!

Duryadhan – Would you not save your own family first from the flames, Bheem?

Yudhistir – Silence Bheem, Duryadhan! Pitamaha forgive us. What must we do?

Agnidev – It will be one tree every month.

Duryadhan – All my land is full of trees. I don't have land for planting more trees.

Bheem – I've got many acres of land, you can come and plant there.

Duryadhan – I'm not going to plant trees on your land!

Agnidev – That is all you can think of – my land, your land! What will be left of your boundaries and walls, if I burn it all down?

Karan – Forgive us Agnidev. I will not eat a meal till I have planted atleast one tree every day. I will find land for it when mine is gone and I will gather others to also plant like me. Then we will make up for those who are not planting any trees.

Agnidev – Karan, there is no time left for sacrifice. Each of you must find land and plant atleast one tree a month. Only that can restore the balance you seek, for me to participate in the Vasant Utsav.

Duryadhan, Bheem, Yudhistir, Karan – We promise to restore the trees to bhulok. Just bring the balance of light and heat for life to Vasant, we pray to you.

Agnidev – Granted. But remember, it is not in my hands – it is in yours.

### **Scene 4 – Vayu (6 actors)**

**Narrator Sc 4 - Four children, Maruti, Satva, Akriya, Anirmal are in Ramakkalmedu. There are huge windmills all around them, but they are all still. There is one tree that can be seen in the mist.**

Akriya – It's useless! The windmills are all still and not a leaf is stirring in that lonely tree.

Anirmal – We climbed all this way for nothing! I'm not going to leave without getting something out of it – I'm going to sneak into that windmill and see what there is.

Satva – Stop right there! Stop kicking the door!



**Vasant Utsav, an Environmental awareness play in one act set in a diverse cultural context.**

Anirmal – Put me down, Maruti! It's not your windmill – why are you so bothered?!

Maruti – Anirmal, I won't let you disrespect anything.

Satva – Om Vayaye Namaha

**Narrator Sc 4 – The windmills start to whirr furiously as a thousand silver and purple horses appear and a beautiful chariot appears. Vayudev pulls in the reigns and dismounts.**

Maruti – Pranam pitasri. You must help us.

Satva – O Vayudev, we are in great difficulty! If you don't participate in the Vasant Utsav, how will pollen fly, how will we breathe? Will there be no more prana?

Vayudev – Always burning and always me, mine, myself. I am full of the smell, taste and content of your burning...why would I want to stay on bhulok?

Satva – True, Vayudev. We can't even turn off our power for one hour...No.. TV and Kettle has become a habit. But we will try... we can all turn our heating down... we'll think of ways to burn less.

Akriya – But why blame us? Why don't you tell the aeroplanes and big trucks that are burning fuel.

Satva – Akriya!

Anirmal – But what she is saying is true. Why blame us?

Satva – Akriya, you are always buying online! Why don't you walk to your local shops and buy instead of ordering online? Buy local, then there will be less trucks and planes.

Maruti – I beseech you to continue to give prana to bhulok, pitasri. We will think of ways to use less energy and burn less.

Vayudev – Clear your thoughts and actions, and use more of your own energy that your praan grants you and you will find you need to burn less. Maruti, it is up to you to explain that this is the way to Sanjivani. How long I stay at Vasant Utsav depends on how you children live life everyday, how you save and how much you burn.

**Scene 5 – Bhudevi (2 new actors and all previous actors)**

**Narrator Sc 5 – All the children are gathered around Bhudevi on a tiny island of lush green trees and soft grass. Unending warmth and love are flowing from her expression and divine smile; one little girl, Sita, is sitting on her lap playing with her long, black hair.**

Purab – As far as I can see, there is only smoke and rocks, Mother.

Pashchim – And then endless seas.

Uttar – I can hardly see with the glare of the sun against the white sky.



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Dakshin – It is so hot, I could barely put my feet down.

Bhudevi – Close your eyes and rest, children, you have walked long. Keep Agnidev in your prayers.

Arjun – Look! The sun is growing gentle and the sky is turning blue! What is happening?

Karan – And there is a bird! A bird!! They usually soon fall to the ground if they try to fly – there is too little air. How is this possible?

Bhudevi (smiling) - Arjun, what did Varundev say?

Apavyayaha – I will never waste water again, Mother.

Anunaya – Me neither... if I could go back and I had a garden, I would save rainwater.

Arjun – Ma Ganga was also there – we prayed that they stay for Vasant Utsav.

Bhudevi – Arjun, shoot an arrow as far as you can.

**Narrator Sc 5 – Arjun chooses an arrow carefully and shoots it. It flies in a long arc and pierces the ground far away. A beautiful fountain of water springs out and dances towards the children.**

**All the children rejoice! Yudhistir and Duryadhan run towards the spring and start to dance in the water.**

Bhudevi – See how they play together. So much joy and no need for a plastic toy. See the beauty of water and taste how delicious each drop is. Don't let it go to waste.

Satva – Mother, you are so gracious! Then Vayudev must also be here – that is why Arjun's arrow could fly and that's why the bird could fly properly!

Bhudevi – Sita, take Maruti's gada and strike the ground near the spring.

**Narrator Sc 5 – Sita slides down off her mother's lap and runs over to Maruti. Maruti kneels down and places his gada at Sita's little feet.**

Maruti – Ma, here you are. It is now light and small for your gentle hands.

**Narrator Sc 5 - Sita runs to the spring and strikes the ground with all her might. A huge mango tree pushes its way up through the ground. Bheem screams with delight and rushes over to the tree, picking the ripe mangoes and biting into them hungrily. Karan follows him, picks the juiciest mango and gives it to Sita. The little girl runs back to her mother happily. All the children enjoy the mangoes.**

Bhudevi – Vasant is here and its utsav! It's a special present for all of you – remember always this time and what you promised the Panchabhuta. Make sure that you keep your word and do everything you can to make others follow it too.

Sita – Yes Mother, we will never forget how hard we had to work for this Vasant Utsav, and will not let the balance of the Panchabhuta be destroyed again.

