

Script name: Act of Valor

In a small city in India, there was a family having husband, wife and their two daughters. Both husband and wife used to work as maid and servant. Their elder daughter was in 10th standard and younger was in 4th standard. Their life was stable until the news of COVID started spreading. One day, the family was watching news on TV at 8 pm when they saw and heard from the reporters....

In background sound of news channel theme song and the logo appears.

News Reporter: Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Today we are going to show breaking news, Yes breaking news **(repeating it again more loudly)** Today our respected Prime Minister (PM) is going to announce the solution to fight with COVID. Will he impose complete lock down or he will let this virus spread? To know more, keep watching our channel.

After few minutes, the PM came on TV and announced....

PM: Ladies and gentlemen, as we know the Corona virus is spreading very fast and taking many lives. I am feeling sad for those who lost their lives **(bit emotionally)**. We being responsible citizens need to fight with this virus together. Thus, I announce full lockdown from today 12 am. Other guidelines will be shared to you too.

On hearing this, the family got tensed about their own safety. **(Mixed voices of exclamation, shouting from neighboring houses)** Wife in a panicked tone exclaimed....

Wife: (Loudly) Oh no! What will we do now? If our bosses will fire us, how will we manage?

Husband: Even I am confused. If they don't fire us, then also we can't go out according to the norms. **(Sadly)**

Elder daughter: Dad, I guess you should ask your bosses whether you should continue working or not. Get a confirmation from them.

W: Nooo **(She shouted)!** No need to call anybody **(rudely)**. If we will call, they will surely fire us. We will talk to them face to face. What do you say?

H: Okay, let's talk with them tomorrow. **(Calmly)**

After the discussion, they went to bed. At late night, dogs were crying near their house. On hearing those sounds, the wife got tensed as it is a belief or a myth in some Indian societies that crying of dog is a bad omen. Thus, she couldn't sleep whole night. Next day, both husband and wife went to work around 10 in the morning, leaving the daughters alone at home. At house 1, both reached there and started their work. The family was busy in their own routine. Thus, they decided to talk after completing the work. **(wife was more in shivering and looking to husband silently while he gave sign to relax)** After hour or so, both were ready to leave when the lady owner came with the money and said....

Lady owner: Here is your salary of this month **(giving salary to wife)**. Though you came for only 22 days, we are giving you complete salary due to your good work. But now, please don't come from tomorrow. We will manage.

W: But why didi **(sister)?** We can come **(in a requesting tone)**. Why are you firing us?

LO: Even I don't want to, but due to lockdown, I can't do anything. After yesterday's announcement even our society is not allowing outsiders. So, I can't help it **(in a sad and sympathetic tone)**. We will see in future.

Saying this she closed the door leaving both husband-wife in dilemma **(Husband puts his hand on wife's shoulder and press to sign her to relax)**. After that, they went to another house where they completed their work. **(Trying hard to not to show their nervousness)** While leaving, daughter of the house came to them and said....

Owner's daughter: Didi, my mom told me to give you half of your salary. Corona is spreading very much so we decided that we will manage on our own. About rest of the things she will talk on phone call.

W: But why? You should have told us before **(in an emotional tone)**. And why only half money? We came for work everyday.

OD: How can we inform before **(Angrily)?** Lockdown was imposed from yesterday and about money, talk to mom **(arrogantly)**.

Saying this she closed the door. **(Noise of Banging the door)** Now the couple was more tensed. Out of seven houses, they lost job from 2. By the end of the week they were fired from all the houses, some due to government and society norms and some due to having covid patients in their respective houses. This made them tensed about their financial safety. While the wife was cooking dinner, they were discussing the same...

W: Oh my God **(exclaimed)**, now what will we do? How will we manage all the things without money **(emotionally with a tensed face)?**

H: We have some savings. **(Looking at TV news)**

W: But till how many days it will help. We don't know till when there is lockdown.

H: Lockdown will continue till this covid situation doesn't come under control.

W: This Corona will destroy everything **(Angrily)**.

H: There is no use of criticizing Corona. We should think of some solution **(in a positive tone)**.

Their discussion was interrupted by their daughters who came to ask for dinner. While having dinner....

Younger Daughter: Wow mummy, the veggies are very tasty **(enjoying the food)**. You cook yummy food. You should be a cook **(in a funny tone)**.

W: Thanks, but I don't know till how much time we will get food **(with tears in her eyes)**.

H: Why are you behaving like this **(in an irritating tone)?** She is praising you and you are saying negative things.

W: So what should I do **(in a loud voice)**, I am much tensed.

After the younger daughter said about the cook thing, the elder was in deep thoughts. She remembered that it's not the first time her mother got such reviews. Many of her friends had told her to leave those household chores and start doing something in cooking. Also whenever there used to be any function in their houses, they used to ask her mother to cook for them. As she was busy in her thoughts, she didn't hear her mother's call....

W: Why are you not eating your food? Complete it fast (**ordering**). Where are you lost?

As she was not responding, her mother shook her and shouted....

W: What happened to you suddenly (**little loudly**)? You are not responding. You are not eating. Are you OK (**being concerned**)?

YD: Di, what happened. You didn't liked the food (**in a teasing tone**). I loved it.

ED to YD: Shut up (**being irritated**).

ED to W: Don't panic mom, I am completely fine (**in an assuring tone**). And I also loved the food. Actually, I was thinking that you should join somewhere as cook (**hesitatingly**).

W: What! Where will we get job for 'cook' (**in a shocked and sarcastic tone**)? People are firing us for household chores, so they will obviously manage the food.

H: Exactly. No one will appoint cook at such crucial time. Who would prefer to eat from outsider's hand every day and invite virus.

YD: You are a fool Di (**again teasingly**). And she laughs.

ED to YD: I said shut up (**Angrily**).

ED to H&W: I have read somewhere that people are doing charity by distributing healthy food to COVID patients. They are looking for cook who would help them by preparing healthy food with homemade taste. They also pay to those cooks if their food is liked by the people.

H: But who will buy it (**confusingly**)?

(TV news is on and news is going on how some people are helping in their capacities by distributing food, sanitizers, and masks etc. to the needy people in slums)

ED: Dad, if the woman of the house got affected by covid and other members don't know how to cook then they have to order. Also if whole family gets affected by it, then obviously they have to order. In fact, there are very few people who won't order. See they are just showing it up on TV. (**Whole family was watching the news**)

W: But we have to go to different houses. It's not safe. We will also get infected with it **(in a concerned tone)**.

ED: No mom, people from charity association will come to take food. You just have to prepare it. And I think they will provide raw materials too.

H: I think we can go with the idea. We will get money too and we will help others **(with a smile)**.

W: OK, but from where will we contact those charity association **(thoughtfully)**. And how will I manage in bulk alone.

ED: We will help you in small-small work like cutting vegetables, kneading dough, etc.

H: Let me contact one of my friend **(enthusiastically)**. He told me about one such association. **(He also joined in it as driver and told me that their cook recently went for holiday to his native)**

The husband goes to talk with his friend. On call, he asked his friend to recommend them for cooking and he gets the positive response from his friend and the association. So he went to his family to give the good news.

H: I talked with my friend and he said that we can start from tomorrow **(Happily)**. My friend will come with two three people to taste and take the food. So prepare normal food for 20-30 people.

W: Why so less **(in a confused tone)?**

H: First they will taste it, then give you more orders.

All were happy hearing this. They got engaged in the new task to prepare for next day. Younger daughter started cleaning the utensils, elder daughter helped in peeling vegetables; wife was busy in calculation of flour and lentils etc. Husband was arranging for bigger pots to deliver.

Next day they came and tasted the food which included Chapati **(Indian bread)**, potato and cauliflower vegies, lentils, rice with some pickles. They loved it and appreciated the wife a lot....

Men 1: Wow! This is amazing. It is truly a healthy and tasty homemade food.

Men 2: Yes, I never tasted such a good food other than my mom's dishes.

H and W: Thanks a lot. So should we final the deal.

M1 and M2: Sure. We don't want to miss this opportunity to eat and also to help others with such a delicious food. What will be the price for one dish?

W: (Hesitantly) Rupees 80 **(approx. \$ 1).** **(Confidently and loudly)** It will include 5 chapati, quality rice, one dish of lentils or beans or gravy vegetable and one seasonal vegetable based on what is available in the market these days.

While looking at M1, M2 replied: That's good deal. We can go with 30 members for next 3 days for sure but we will inform you daily about the number of orders if it increases.

H: Sure. This will help us to arrange for the stock too. We are thankful to you for this opportunity.

Ending of script:

They confirmed the orders, picked the food and they started distributing. Husband also goes with them to distribute. In 15 days the wife started getting large orders. Thus, they were able to manage the money and expenses of the house. During whole covid period, they helped people by providing food.

*****THE END*****