

THE BIG `A`

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- GAUTAM: I wanted to ask all of you, which of us is not a pretender? That's Aditya over there, victim of the Big A thanks to a transfusion and untested blood.
- ADITYA: Hey hey .. wait a minute .. I'm one of the lucky ones ... so far. I'm only HIV positive, I haven't got full blown AIDS.
- GAUTAM: And he's a real pretender, plays games, clowns around, thinks life is the Big Apple!
- ADITYA: And you, Gautam, are the hotline to the next world. After Anand died you couldn't let the poor guy go, could you?
- GAUTAM: Shut up Aditya. This is an AIDS ward. Anything can happen.
- ADITYA: A-a-a-ah! (*Mock shivering*) Anything can happen! I'm scared!
- GAUTAM: Hey Aditya, what are you scared of? Why are you afraid of me contacting spirits?
- ADITYA: Heard that? Heard that ? Hey, anybody wants to chat with their ancestors? Gautam's the guy to contact. He holds a pen in his hand and it talks! Writes down messages from the other world! That's his game.
- AYESHA: Hi guys! It's me. The friendly neighbourhood...
- ADITYA: Spider woman!
- GAUTAM: Chases all the guys, hahn? Gave Anand a tough time..
- AYESHA: Anand was a hunk! I don't know what he saw in you!
- (*Light focus on DOCTOR, his back to the audience, a paper/report in his hand*)
- ADITYA: Hey, what's up with Doc?
- GAUTAM: Oh he's got bruises on the brain!
- AYESHA: He's got all the signs again, he's got to tell someone they've graduated too!
- ADITYA: Yup! All `A's in here! That's what the report card says!
- AYESHA: Hey guys, watch.... we got a visitor!
- GAUTAM: It's Jai Mehtaa friend of my father ... Good Grief! He's come in to meet the Great God Grief!
- AYESHA: Ya, Doc the Duh who's down in the mouth right now.
- GAUTAM: Ahuh! You got a soft spot for Doc, Ayesha, it shows!
- AYESHA: Shut up!
- ADITYA: (*To audience*) Ladies and gentlemen, we ask you all to be pretenders, for a while, and put yourself in our shoes! Because one day it can happen to you.