

MOVIE REVIEW: TUMBBAD

MOVIE PLOT

The movie Tumbbad is a mixture of two genre science fiction and horror. The movie begins with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi decrying greed, a strange ploy for a film intending to send a shiver down the spectator's spine; but it is focused on a legend about a deity Hastar who was the firstborn of the Earth Goddess but abandoned when he turned out evil and greedy, cursed with being denied all forms of worship. This secret is with a Brahmin family in western India when the story begins, in the village of Tumbbad in 1918, with the protagonist still being a boy.

The story is divided into three parts:

The beginning is mysterious because there is a monstrously deformed great-grandmother cared for by the mother of the protagonist and we are not told much except that she is somehow connected to the secret. The second part of the movie, which takes place 15 years later, the protagonist Vinayak is grown up and wealthy. His wealth is associated with his occasional trips to Tumbbad, from where he returns mysteriously laden with

gold coins. This second part is associated with British rule. The third part takes place after Independence.

FIRST PART

In the year of 1947, Vinayak Rao tells his 14 year old son Pandurang about the Goddess of Prosperity who gave birth to 160 million gods. Hastar, her first and most beloved offspring, was greedy for her all her gold and food. The other gods attacked Hastar just as he was about to acquire her food, but the goddess saved him on the condition that he could never be worshipped and would be forgotten by history. For years, Hastar has been sleeping inside his mother's womb.

In 1918 Tumbbad, Maharashtra, Vinayak's mother serves the local lord, Sarkar, in his mansion. This includes offering him sexual services in the hopes to acquire a single gold coin kept with his Hastar statue. Meanwhile, at their home, Vinayak and his younger brother Sadashiv worry about having to feed the monstrous old woman, Sarkar's great grandmother chained up in a separate room. Sarkar later dies and the mother proposes leaving Tumbbad for Pune. Vinayak insists on finding the treasure that is rumoured to be hidden somewhere in the mansion. Sadashiv gets badly hurt after falling from a tree, forcing his

mother to take him for help. She tells Vinayak he will have to feed his grandmother that night. She also warns him that if the old woman wakes up, he should say the name "Hastar" to make her sleep. Meanwhile, Sadashiv dies on the way to the doctor.

The mother directs her carriage driver to Sarkar's mansion where she retrieves the gold coin. As Vinayak tries to feed her, the monstrous and hungry old woman attacks and shackles him to eat him who eventually remembers Hastar's name and uses it to make her fall asleep. His mother returns, and the next day she and Vinayak leave Tumbbad for Pune. She forces Vinayak to promise never return to Tumbbad, despite his protests to stay & search for the treasure.

SECOND PART

14 years pass, and Vinayak grows up. Desperate to escape his life of poverty, Vinayak returns to Tumbbad. The old woman, with now a tree growing out of her body, warns him he will be cursed to become immortal and turned into a monster like her if he touches the treasure i.e., Hastar. She explains that a well leads to the goddess' womb where Hastar dwells, in exchange for ending her prolonged suffering. Vinayak keeps his promise and sets her on fire, thus killing

her. Although Hastar stole the goddess' gold, he was unable to acquire her grain. Therefore, being hungry for years, he desires flour. Vinayak physically trains himself to climb up the and down a long rope and makes dolls out of dough to lure Hastar inside the goddess's womb. While he is distracted by the food, Vinayak swipes at Hastar's loincloth containing the gold. Vinayak regularly repeats the procedure to steal dropped coins. He offers his first gold coin to the opium merchant Raghav to pay off a ~~debt~~ debt. Each time he needs more money, Vinayak returns to Tumbbad to steal from Hastar.

Raghav openly wonders about the treasure rumoured to exist in the Tumbbad mansion while also questioning why Vinayak can only retrieve a few coins at a time. Vinayak and his wife give birth to their son Pandurang. When Sergeant Cooper gives him only two days to come through with the money, Raghav sells his widowed daughter in law to Vinayak as a mistress. Vinayak follows Raghav to the Tumbbad mansion and tricks him into descending into Hastar's well. Hastar viciously attacks Raghav, turning him into monster and mutating him into the walls of the womb of goddess. Vinayak burns Raghav alive to end his suffering.

THIRD PART

After the independence, in 1948, Vinayak takes Pandurang to the mansion to train him for the same purpose and is ~~not~~ told not to bring the dough ~~down~~ doll down. But he secretly brings a dough doll and Hastar unexpectedly attacks. They barely manage to escape and Vinayak chides his son for nearly getting them ~~toughed~~ touched. Pandurang suggests stealing Hastar's loincloth and they make dozens of dough dolls to distract Hastar. However, the two of them become trapped inside the womb when separate Hastars appear for each one of those dolls. With no hope of escaping, Vinayak ties the dolls to his body to act as bait. Once the coast is clear, Pandurang climbs back to the surface to see ~~th~~ his father being mutated into a monster outside the mansion. Vinayak presents him with the stolen loincloth, but Pandurang refuses to take it. Sobbing at seeing what his father turned into, Pandurang reluctantly sets Vinayak on fire and leaves.

Aim / PERSONAL REVIEW

The main focus of the movie Tumbbad was on the human's greed & desire. It plays with our morality, by making ~~your~~ ^{our} root for immoral characters and greedy & villains. The movie is based on sin, greed, gluttony. The movie was an attempt to give the audience a message that greed is a curse; one who desires more ~~loses~~ all loses all, as in the movie Pandurang out of his greed suggests Vinayak Rao to make many dough dolls of flour to distract the Master and during that interval they will steal Master's (claw) loincloth but they failed & the Pandurang ended losing his father (Vinayak). We are never satisfied with what we have, we can do anything or go to any extent for our greed. Our greed can never be satisfied, a person is never happy he wants more and more. Greed may be seen in many every individual in many forms, it can be greed for more money, more food, for more marks without actually studying to achieve more marks. Greed in anyway is a curse, one cannot be satisfied with his life if he has notion of greed. So one should remain satisfied with what one gets. Greed is a trap, the more is our greed the more we indulge in a trap.

In movie the greed of that family was so high that they started worshipping the demon i.e., Hastar who was cursed for his greed. Tumbbad not only highlights the issue of greed but also many other issues are there displayed in the movie. The bond of mother & child, the love of mother for her child is so pure, as in movie the goddess saves the life of Hastar even when all the other gods attacked Hastar because of his greed.

The ~~at the~~ movie in the end shows that we can not get out of our greed until or unless we lose something or someone precious in our life. Pandurang when loses his father, then his greed was over. Therefore, greed makes us blind.