
OWLFAHC Hall Episode

R. P. Singh Professor of English, Department of English and Modern European Languages, Director ,International Cell and ISA, Coordinator , Mukhyamantri Abhyuday Yojna, University of Lucknow, Lucknow, U P, India.*
Email: rpsingh.lu@gmail.com

Characters

Professor Mangru
Professor Khairu
Volunteer Evergreen
Volunteer On Screen
Volunteer Face Cream
Batuk
Kautuki
Willy
Nilly
Speaker
Head of the Department
Teacher

Scene: 1

(The focus moves to the Owlfahc Hall, Campus de Barbarians)

Owlfahc Hall, Campus de Barbarians. A book reading event is just to start .A big hall is shown where the socialites are sitting in the best of their attires. Focus is shifting from one corner of the building to the other .Volunteers who had been entrusted for the background preparations, stage and crowd management are shown sweating .

Volunteer On Screen : (aside) The campus has become cultural and educational tourists' good pasture. How's that...ha ha!

Volunteer Face Cream: (Taking a puff of smoke in the closed corner) They don't allow us to write about rights , or personal issues or even love. They don't allow us to visit half the sites related to fun and music. They don't allow discussions on some movies . They call the scholars who refuse to comment on corruption in education. They want us to have a censored opinion on everything, and show us our obligations even before ever recognizing our future tracks. Friends, are you still sure, they're housing thousands of odd students of literature and humanities ,who speak the language of love ,and not raising a cattle?

(Volunteer Three smells smoke and reaches the Two)

Volunteer Evergreen Hello bro, how's the environ. Scholars galloping. ...(taking a sigh of relief) Somehow dragged the students out of their classes for attending this programme ...

Article History : Received: 28 Sep. 2025. Accepted: 15 Nov. 2025. Available online: 25 Nov. 2025. Published by SAFE. (Society for Academic Facilitation and Extension) **Copyright**: © 2025 The Author(s). **Licensing** : This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) **Conflict of Interest**: The Author(s) declare(s) no conflict of interest.

Volunteer On Screen: Very difficult to survive ! You know ! A first year student resented saying “How long would you befool us with such forced gatherings

Volunteer Face Cream: (smilingly)What did you answer?

Volunteer On Screen : What will you do ?

Volunteer Evergreen: Hey Macho, I'm not a person who criticizes or hates other but nothing beats the feeling of getting away from this dark hole. The obscenity of censorship. Campus de Barbarians has shown finally where the rot lies. In the basic tenets of the administrative system!

Volunteer On Screen : The voices will not be drowned bro. Rise and assert again. To begin with, your voice cannot be shut down by the Head . You simply have to justify yourself, and, with the kind of your hard work, you will not let that work go waste. So, the idea of fearless expression it not dumped, but, it is in final stage....

Volunteer Evergreen: What do you mean? Head ! Or Headless!

Volunteer Face Cream: To ensure the acknowledgement of your right and corresponding responsibility the starter should be the understanding of the absurd checks and balances.... Friends, I just wanted you to be cautious while taking a stand because then not only you should sound but also mean...

Announcement: Good luck Trust has started a new project; "Amazing Barbarians" through this project Barbarians will show the world how 'Amazing' they are....One and all- your friends and foe, who live here and outside the Campus de Barbarians shall share the words. Please help them and plan the plans!

Volunteer On Screen : Hell with this man. Listen to me. Share your views with this, boys! If someone gets to know why some people use so many smileys while chatting, just tell .If you don't get an idea now; please mail me the reason to my mail.

Volunteers in Chorus: Oh! “Some people” !(A song is heard in the background)

The maroon warns this November day,

Although, it is not the month of birthday

A tint that commands the emotions ablaze

And solaces the vision, that set for long.

Volunteer Ever Green: I know that “Some people” .It is not collective noun....a singular entity that is ... You may love / you may rise/ you may dine/ you may whine...

(Suddenly a phone call ring is heard on the phone of Volunteer Ever Green ...a song is sung ...)

Cuddling, fondling, peddling demon

over the wind across the seas,

Polluting texts and cultures so

Hey, controlling dominating demon ...

(Volunteer On Screen picks the call ,and the song ends)

Volunteer Three : Shit ! Why the hell you picked the call? The ring tone must be better than the message...

Volunteer Evergreen: (smiles) Do you sense some traces of colonization here ...(addressing Volunteer On Screen) When will you end your hibernation and come up to us.

Volunteer On Screen : To you? Are you that...?

(Focus shifts to the book reading function .The Speaker is reading.)

Speaker: The present times have brought many avenues before us, and we are in the state of flux, very difficult to make a choice. There is creative tension in many, with the advent of social media ...many sub cultural spaces are contending simultaneously , yes many .
... .

Volunteer On Screen : Listen to him , the author is offering a piece of life-bread soaked in Amrit....

Volunteer Face Cream : Let him take his own course...our task is over for ...the crowd is settled , and the Chair on work...

Volunteer Ever Green: Yes, follow me and sing.

Chair on work

Hamko kya fark!

Hamko kya fark!

What can ail me

Chair on work

Chair on work !

Scene 2 : The corridor of the Same Hall

(The book reading session is going on . Two Professors are seen involved in a discussion.)

Professor Mangru: Doc. Saab the awkward moment is that when you are a funny person. Most of the people don't know how to take you seriously.

Professor Khairu : So what's the need for it? If you are funny, no harm in looking so.

Professor Mangru : But the urge of the time.

Professor Khairu : The eternal urge for simulation.

Professor Mangru: Yes, the axis of civilization.

Professor Khairu: Who the great orator barks?

Professor Mangru: Ha-ha, well said. Really he does so, and the Owlfahc allows.

Professor Khairu: Owlfahc?

Professor Mangru : Yes, the Head's back connection!

Professor Khairu : What back ?

Professor Mangru : You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours'...so simple...

Professor Khairu: Oh ! I thought some other issue

Professor Mangru: Thank God! You didn't stress 'other'. Yes, your query -Owlfahc!

Professor Khairu: Yes!

Professor Mangru: The simple abbreviation, man!

O=Organizer ,W=who, L=loves, F=flattery, A=and, A=hates ,C=chivalry.(Both of them burst into laughter.)

(Focus shifts to the Owlfahc hall ,and the Speaker is reading)

Speaker : The subjective element, the association of sensibility and the so-called overflow of potent emotions, vis-à-vis modernity of form, would have reduced the collection to the 'old wine in new bottle'; but the intellectual sharpness of the poet, has worked out miracle to belie this surface judgment. The passion and sensibility in the poems have been modified by the creativity of verse and originality of concepts. The inspired writings of the learned poet in this collection, therefore, tinge the tradition with individual talent in its rainbow colours.)

(The focus shifts to a rather dark corner of the corridor)

Scene 3

(A couple is seen in the corner of the corridor)

Batuk: Eventually you realize that some things are just not meant to be.. no matter how much you want it. ...Successful people are not gifted; they just work hard and then succeed on purpose.

Kautuki: Sometimes you just have to cut the connections...in order to forget.

Batuk: But I start to go insane every time that you look at me, I see a sports car attacking the speedo and passing by me, all I feel ,"Never mind I'll find someone like you".

Kautuki: But, I have finally erased the last piece of your memory. It's over now.

Batuk: So... in what light was this entire thing meant to be? You planned something for yourself or not? Or you didn't plan, and someone else planned some crap? Or you could never plan anything? I mean...there has to be some plan!

(A pause)

I love you too much. You were special, and you are special. Just to tell you, I never feel so good when people call me Anaam or Tempest. You gave me these weird names, and I totally love it when you call me by these names.

Batuk: I love you, and you should take this seriously. Sometimes the heart sees what is invisible to the eyes.

Kautuki: Please stop philosophizing about things

Batuk: Please stop assuming things by yourself...

Kautuki: I think you want me to move out of communication.

Batuk: You have continuously been unresponsive to my messages and calls. It is quite unbecoming...It may not be the fact that one cannot find time to even drop a message, even in a week.

Kautuki: I know you are right and that my fault, I admit, but I was busy.

Batuk : I wanted to meet you every day, the first work in the morning...

Kautuki: That obviously isn't possible, but I appreciate the thought. I often come see you at the university .

Batuk : Something that one aspires for, seldom gets completed. And that is my mid-day dream! Do not see any malice or offence involved.

Kautuki: What?

Batuk :You may find the muttering of some baseless mind, yet I mean it...Anyways, let's drop it ... (smilingly) Why don't you consider replacing your DP with a watch or ring, etc

Kautuki :Those are chrysanthemums, they look like that only

Batuk : I know

Kautuki : Yet the objects I mentioned are more personal

Ttyl...HoD is peeping ...

Scene: 4

(Two participants Billy and Nilly, in the book-reading function, are seen whispering. Focus finds two scholars praising each other's hands; one of them is telling the other the procedure for manicure at home)

Billy: Hey, looking sixteen at forty-six!

Nilly: The miracle of detoxication!

Billy: Detoxification!!! Perform daily?

Nilly: The same polluted thought. My sweetie, I am ...(Scholar 1 interrupts)

Billy: 'Okie' , tell me, where ye do all these manicures? So busy schedule! I am lost, yaar.

Nilly: Just home-made, darling.

Billy: Homemade!

Nilly : Yes...okay. I will tell you.

Billy: Tell the process.

Nilly: Of detoxication? (lovingly squeezing the flab on Billy's waist) Or this homemade manicure.

Billy: So simple. (explains the method in whispering tone) Use a Kutta brand nail paint remover. It is very- very good! It works better than others .

Nilly: If it is Kutta brand , must be working like a dog licks off!

Billy: Yes, yes ! it works !

Nilly: Better, find an elderly or Marchbanks gazer for these works.

Billy: Focus on work! Choice is yours! (Suddenly, a very loud ringtone buzzes in the hall)

Dariya paar andhera dikhta

Dariya sirf liye parchhai

Nilly: O! "Dariya paar andhera dikhta,Dariya sirf liye parchhai" .Whose river is being referred here ! Darkness is visible across the river; the river only carries shadows ...(donning thinking cap) . Quite true is stands !

Billy: Focus on our talk ,Nilly

Nilly: I slipped upon the bank of Ishq ka Dariya , the river of longing .

Billy: Okay -okay! Come to the context . Your nails ! Let me tell you more about nail-care! I will tell you how to push back the cuticles. ... You or your Marchbanks or Uncle gazer can Massage cuticles with oil ,and apply some cream. (derisive smile).

Nilly : Okay, please move a head...

Billy : Yes , do give massage to your palm with thumb , for improving blood circulation.

Nilly : So nice ! So nice of you ! Well explained ! Why not to open a parlour than this boring research...

Billy: Now let me give the epilogue;

We must apply colour after our nails are completely dry. We can further use a base coat before applying nail polish. Then apply a colour of our choice, and do not apply a new coat before the previous one dries.

(Another delegate sitting beside them interrupts.)

Fellow Delegate: You must spread over a vibrant nail polish for making your manicure last long ,and now Dear friends, now focus on talk .The Spy is observing

(All chuckle)

Scene:5

The Book reading event is over.

(The focus moves to the chamber of the Head of the Department. The Head of the Department is seen whispering in the ears of a colleague. Two more colleagues are seen. The proximity of communication at public offices is almost being ignored. The cues of their discourse smell some dirty politics around. Suddenly the door is slightly open and peeps a teacher laden with books and files.

Teacher: Sir, may I come in?

Head: If you are in, it's useless to seek permission. Speak up! (Looks at the three colleagues, and shifts the glance sarcastically towards the teacher). So you want to get the paper changed. I have spoken to you earlier... . Just understand you are speaking because I'm giving you freedom to speak.

Teacher: Sir, so, should I call you the Law incarnate? The law of the Land grants us freedom of expression...(The Head of the Department interrupts in between).

Head: Nobody could flourish beyond my pleasure at this Department . The path to success ... (pause...indicates the three colleagues to move, and they depart slowly with a sardonic smile on their faces. The Audience sees them eavesdropping). Yes, the path to success moves through this chamber.

Teacher: Sir!

Head :Of course! Don't you see these guys' smooth sailing? They never teach, and seldom know their subject. But the previous years' records show them at the top. Rather many lucrative assignment too have rolled onto their plates.

Teacher: Why sir?

Head: I manage the things .My research scholars and fellows manage their classes, and they manage better things ...(mischievously lowers his chin).

Teacher: You?

Head: I hope you understood, why not, a great scholar as you are! Just remember the words –Boos never does wrong!

Teacher: But sir, last session, when someone else was the Boss, you were making a rhyme of wisdom. I still recall. “Being Inquisitive with your boss is just fighting a bison when it is in mud: the bison enjoys fighting and you get dirtier”. (pause) But you bring a different adage today!

Head: Time changes the tracks, connotations seldom commit for long. Anyways, here are two roads for you. just two paths: a way to the chamber and a way to the road.

(The teacher smiles and puts the leech up. The Head of the Department finds unfavourable signs. He is seen to be uneasy . The light suddenly gets dimmer, and now the complete darkness. Quarreling and hitting sounds are heard for some 50-55 seconds.)

Teacher: Sir, neither of these roads is meant for a teacher ...knowledge is a burning fire ...with the eternal effulgence of character. It's a burning fire, Sir. How can you oust it? Can you do without burning your fingers? The piety of innocence never bows down the smutty knees. Take care, sir. This is just the preface. (smilingly brings the leech down, comes to her own ,collects the books and files.)Thanks for blowing the ashes away from the cinder. Thanks for showing the way, but I am sure, veracity knows the way itself. Oh! Students must be waiting; it's already 10:36... yes, one small lesson-Keep your poker back home, before stepping into this temple of knowledge. (bangs the door shut saying “Colonialism is vanished ,yet prevails”

Head : Hey , listen ,listen listen !

(The end)