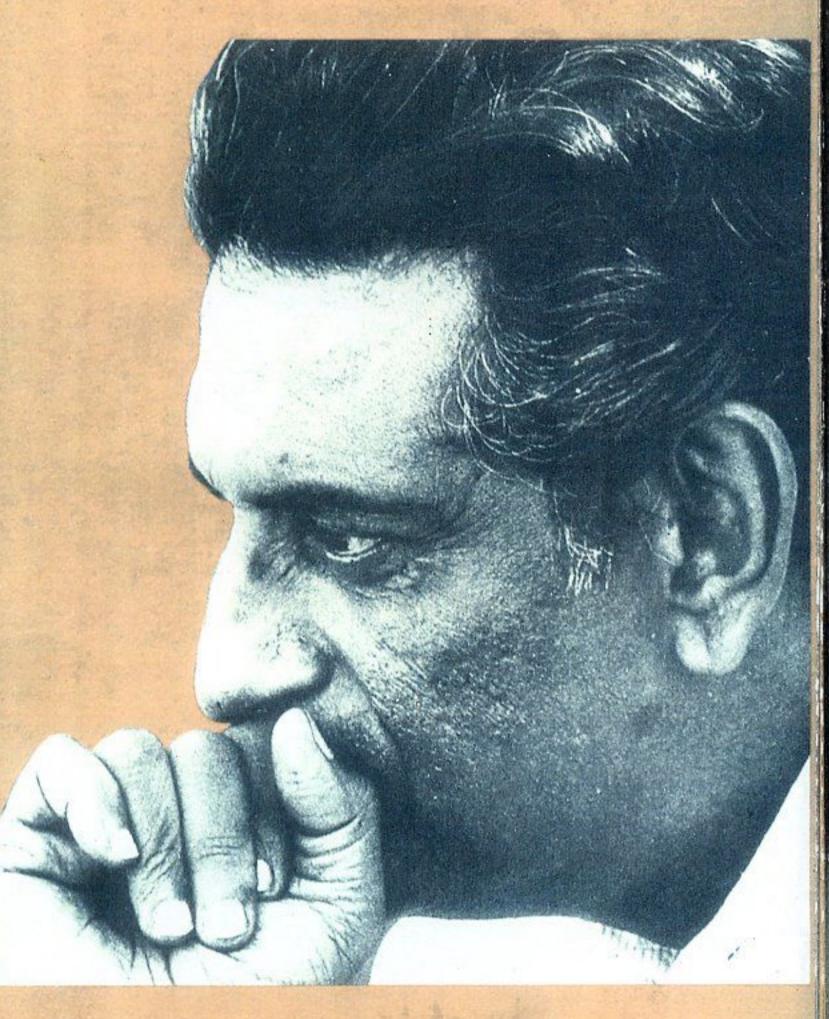
Ashani Sanket means
DISTANT THUNDER

1973

SPECIAL OSCAR FOR SATYAJIT RAY



'Bharat Raina' Satyajit Ray is the first Indian to receive the prestigious Oscar for his 'lifetime achievement' in films from the US Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences. This award is considered to be the highest honour for a film-maker. In 1989 it was awarded to the Japanese Director, Akira Kurosawa.

Satyajit Ray has made many outstanding films in his lifetime. Ashani Sanket is another one of his classics which has won several prestigious film awards.

FESTIVAL s TAWARDS

23rd Berlin International Film Festival awarded the GOLDEN BERLIN BEAR for this film in July 1973, for its outstanding artistic qualities and the treatment of a human situation of universal significance, in a film of the widest appeal.

9th Chicago International Film Festival awarded SPECIAL GOLDEN HUGO to Satyajit Ray for his achievement in cinema over two decades, culminating in his new film DISTANT THUNDER.

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL 1973
remarked: ASHANI SANKET is an outstanding film of the year.

VIENNA FILM FESTIVAL awarded a Diploma of honour for this film on account of its outstanding artistic quality.

ASHANI SANKET won the award for THE BEST FEATURE FILM IN REGIONAL LANGUAGE (BENGALI) FOR THE YEAR 1973 by Government of India.

Award for EXCELLENCE IN CINEMATOGRAPHY (COLOUR) by Government of India.

Award for the BEST MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR by Government of India.

GOLDEN TIGER award by the Cine Club of Calcutta.

REVIEWS & STANDERS

EVENING BULLETIN (USA)

'Distant Thunder' is a moving film about the effects of war and starvation on the social structure. Ray effectively deals with the conversion of two innocents into recognizing and accepting another form of life than the one they were led to expect would be theirs.

THE DAILY PLANET (USA)

The purposely languid pacing of DISTANT THUNDER demands patience, but regards it with a deeply felt and thoughtfully conceived, honestly rendered, artfully photographed, convincingly acted and surehandedly directed work of lasting beauty.

Proof of Ray's mastery can be found during the epilogue caption describing the ensuing 'man-made famine of 1943' with the film's impact and ending so recent, it is absolutely superfluous. (B. W.)

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

Pointed observations, poetic imagery and simplicity of plot development are the hall-mark of Satyajit Ray's 'Distant Thunder', a movie which communicates with unequalled ease.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

The Indian film-maker views with a fine compassion the fate of people who become victims of events they only dimly understand. It is a beautiful sky and a lush landscape, captured with a sense of poetic irony in the photography of Soumendu Roy.

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Satyajit Ray's latest masterpiece was the Grand Prize winner at the Berlin Film Festival. Once again, Soumendu Roy's camera captures the brilliant color, exquisite simplicity and unforgettable images that are the vision of this master director.

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Satyajit Ray's 'Distant Thunder' is one of those very few films which uses simplicity to make a statement about the horrors of war. That it succeeds without illustrating a single drop of bloodshed in battle is not surprising, for it is obviously Ray's contention that the most vulnerable victims are often far from the field of battle without even accurate information of what is causing them pain.

With his excellent cameraman Soumendu Roy and his players, especially Soumitra Chatterji, Babita and Sandhya Roy, he has created one of the more forceful personal statements on man's inhumanity to man (Linda Yellen).

MATERIAN AND TO THE

THE NEW HAVEN REGISTER (USA)

A GIFT FROM INDIA - Ray is the master of the nuance, the particular, and the slow-take. He knows that there is more compressed drama in a sigh or a questioning look than in all the monkies-in-a-barrel action that passes as movement in our most popular films.

What we gain from Ray's work, in the long run, is much more valuable and satisfying in human terms than what we sometimes miss because of blind spots of cultural ignorance.

CHICAGO SUN TIMES

The Ray film, is one of his rare color movies and tells the story, in terms of a handful of people, of the 1943 'man-made famine' that killed 5 millon Bengalis. It's Ray at top form.

LONDON TIMES

'THE DISTANT THUNDER' which won the main prize at the Berlin Festival in June and has since been seen at the London Festival. The 'distant thunder' of the title is the war in Burma in 1942, whose reverberations are felt in a remote Bengali village, where the famine that was ultimately to cost more than five million lives throughout the continent disrupts the lives and centuries-old traditions of people who can have no conception of its causes.

JEWISH NEWS, MELBOURNE

.....An entirely different experience was Indian director SATYAJIT RAY's 'Distant Thunder'. A masterful director in complete harmony with his subject, exhibiting total control with compassion and understanding.

Ray's theme is starvation, yet he avoids all the obvious images and treatments, preferring to concentrate on the human aspect.

Their entire lifestyle changes and the beauty of Ray's film is that not only is the struggle one of survival, but also the maintenance of dignity.

SUNDAY PRESS, MELBOURNE

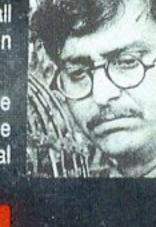
DISTANT THUNDER, directed by the great Indian film-maker Satyajit Ray is an astonishingly beautiful film about the 1942 famine in Bengal.

It is a finely understated film despite all this. Ray's delicate unfolding of events gives them a peculiarly timeless quality. His use of color is extraordinary; every scene is a perfect fresco, the pastel shades have an ethereal purity. The Bengal landscape glistens like a lotus land that could only be plagued by famine under the hand of a very indifferent Deity.

"AGE" MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

RAY'S 'DEWDROP' REFLECT, THE UNIVERSE - We are right back in Pather Panchali country, with a story by the same author. The microcosm is a remote village in wartime Bengal, where the effects of famine break down caste barriers and kindle humanity (Starvation is difficult to suggest on screen; But Ray's story finishes on the fringe of the famine).

Distant Thunder is a deeply felt requiem for three million victims of a famine unnaturally created by war and uncaring economics.







'NATION REVIEW' MELBOURNE

It presents the war-nourished famine of 1943, in which five million died, not as a gothic fresco of ravaged bodies crawling about, but as a series of mild encounters in a beautiful landscape of ignorant, isolated people troubled by the rising cost of rice and incapable because of their caste and village system of dealing with it in a reasonable communal way. The exquisite greens and purples of dreaming Bengal hover over the appalling tragedy; in land as beautiful as this, in land as fertile as this, behold, the people starve.

DAVID ROBINSON IN THE TIMES

Satyajit Ray's second film in colour, DISTANT THUNDER, Grand Prize winner at the Berlin Festival, marks a new departure in the style of the great Bengall film maker. The style here is epic and the delicately nuanced study of private relationships of earlier films here gives place to the grand gesture, stylized forms, a more externalized view of the personages.

The special marvel of Ray has always been his universality the exoticism of setting has never interposed between the audience and the essential human understanding of his characters.

TIME

This one, about the early years of World War II in Bengal and the beginnings of the 1943 famine, shows the grace and calm authority of his best work, as well as his ability to shape great themes into human drama without reducing them.

Better even than its treatment of the reality of poverty is the way Ray handles the subtle shifts it causes in his two main characters, a husband and wife of the Brahman caste. Their gradual and shocked awareness of the unifying desperation of tragedy gives DISTANT THUNDER a piercing social immediacy. (JAY COCKS).

NEWYORK REVIEW

Strong, very moving drama.....by no means as depressing as you might think......A must see film a tale of great urgency and greater humanity. It's a sight worth seeing.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS. CHICAGO

uses our sympathy for people we can understand to make us see a condition we could not otherwise imagine. It's the sort of imagination that war-on-film has always required, and here receives, due to Ray's extraordinary genius.

K. KRISHNA MOORTHY IN "THE HINDU"

'Ashani Sanket' took Ray just 45 days of shooting. Men and women of 'Ashani Sanket' are far away from the din and fury of the Second World War. They do not know who is fighting whom and for what. But the distant wer still does inflict enormous suffering on the people who will not be left fee to live in pastoral innocence. The poignant lesson is on how people can die in the midst of plenty, even though there has been a good crop. Ray ends the film merely indicating the colossal tragedy that is yet to be the horror which is yet to strike.



A film by
SATYAJIT RAY
from the Novel by
BIBHUTI BHUSAN BANNERJI
Direction
SATYAJIT RAY
Scenario
SATYAJIT RAY
Camera
SOUMENDU ROY
Editing
DULAL DUTTA
Music
SATYAJIT RAY

Producer
&
Distributor
SARBANI BHATTACHARYA
Flat No. 904
43, Sarat Bose Road
Calcutta 700 020 INDIA

CAST

★ Soumitra Chatterji	 GANGACHARAN
★ Babita	 ANANGA
* Sandhya Roy	 CHHUTKI
★ Gobinda Chakravarty	 DINABANDHU
* Romesh Mukerji	 BISWAS
* Noni Ganguly	 JADU
* Sheli Pal	 MOKSHADA
★ Chitra Bannerji	 MOTI
* Suchita Roy	 KHENTI
* Anil Ganguly	 NIBARAN
★ Debatosh Ghosh	ADHAR



SYNOPSIS

The time is 1942-43. The place—a remote little village in Bengal.

A world war is on, but to the villagers it only means an occasional pretty sight of planes flying overhead.

Young Ganga and his wife Ananga are the only Brahmins, newly settled, in this village of low-caste peasants. Ganga is respected by all as the priest, the doctor, as well as the only teacher in the school he has himself started with the help of the rich peasant Biswas. Biswas also helps him with a free monthly quota of provisions.

Ananga, childless still, is friendly with the peasant women, particularly with the jolly Chhutki, wife of the peasant Hiru.

Life, on the whole, is pleasant.

One day the old Brahmin Dinu tells Ganga of the sudden rise in the price of rice in some neighbouring villages. 'This is because of the war,' says Dinu. 'Our king is fighting the Germans and the Japanese, and rice is being sent to our fighting men'.

Ganga does not take this seriously at first, but soon signs begin to appear which suggest that in spite of a good harvest, a man-made famine may be in the offing.

As the price of rice goes spiralling upwards, the whole aspect of the peaceful village changes. Peasants sell off their stocks, and then have to go starving; rice shops are looted; the once generous Biswas tells Ganga bluntly that he can't help him any more; the peasant wife Chhutki has to yield to the advances of scarface Jadu for a handful of rice. Looking for edible roots in a forest, Ananga is nearly raped by an unknown man.

At the height of the famine, Môti, the untouchable woman, an old friend of Ananga from a nearby village, comes to Ananga to beg for rice and dies on her doorstep.

In this darkest of hours, Ananga tells her husband that she is going to have a baby—their first child.

Thoughtshop





इंद्रेगानकलात

মূলকাহিনী বিভৃতিভূষণ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়

চিত্রনাট্য সঙ্গীত ও পরিচালনা সত্যজিৎ রায়

প্রযোজনা সর্বাণী ভট্টাচার্য

চিত্ৰগ্ৰহণ : मोत्मन् बाब সম্পাদনা: इनान पख

শিল্প নির্দেশনা : অশোক ঘোষ শৰ্পপ্ৰহণ:

জে, ডি, ইরাণী ভগাদাস মিক ज्ञाशमञ्जा: व्यवस्य माम

ध्यथान कर्ममिवि : অনিল চৌধুরী वावश्राशनाम :

ভামু ঘোষ রি-রেকডিং:

মঙ্গেশ দেশাই আবহদংগীত রেকডিং : সমীর মজুমদার শ্বিরচিতা:

নিমাই ঘোষ, नदान बाब ((डेकनिका)

मन्तीश ताब প্রচার অন্ধন: বিছাৎ চক্ৰবতী

वराम्श्राध्यह । रेस्पूती हे फिल

रेष्ट्रेशान कलातः জেমিনী কলার লেবরেটরী প্রযোজনা সহায়তা : রণজিৎ সেনগুল্প

মুকুন্দলাল পোন্দার

প্রচার ও জনসংযোগ: শৈলেশ মুখোপাধ্যার

সহকারীবৃন্দ পরিচালনা: স্বত লাহিড়ী

ভি, আর, আনন্দ শান্তি চটোপাধ্যায়

সংগীত: অলোক দে

চিত্ৰগ্ৰহণ: পूर्णिम् रेवीम, जब मिज অনিল খোষ, অষুল্য দাস वलाई मान

শন্বগ্ৰহণ:

সিজিনাথ নাগ, নিতাই জানা সম্পাদনা: কাশীনাথ বোস

রাপদক্রা: (कट्टे (बाव

শिল्ल निर्दर्भना : <u> গোমনাথ চক্রবর্তী</u> বাবস্থাপনা:

বলাই আচা, শহর দাস ত্ৰৈলোক্য, স্বভাষ, কেশৰ

कुटकारा :

চিত্ত মিত্র, কেই রায়, অসিত মিত্র, ভকতভাই এও কোং ভারাপাড়া, গোরালপাড়া ও वाहितीत अधिवामीतृत्व ।

অভিনয়ে:

সৌমিত্র চট্টোপাধ্যার, ববিতা সন্ধা রায়, গোবিন্দ চক্রবতী রমেশ মুগোপাধ্যায় শেলী পাল, চিত্রা বন্দ্যোপাধারে ভলা নাথ, ভচিতা রায় ননী গাঙ্গুলী, দেবতোৰ ঘোৰ সন্তোষ মিত্র, স্থনীল সরকার অনিল গাঙ্গলী পরিতোষ বন্দোপাধাার बालक्माब लाहिकी, अलग बाब

শচীন চক্ৰবৰ্তী, স্থবল দন্ত হীকুমার দত্ত

মনোজিত লাহিডী গোৰধ'ন ঘোষ

মনু মুখোপাধ্যায়, বিঞু দেন তপন দত্ত, ডালিম গুহ ও আরও অনেকে।

পরিবেশনা: বলাকা মুভীজ প্রাঃ লি:

🌒 ৯৪২-৪৩ সন। বাংলার একটি ছোট প্রাম। বিশ্বযুদ্ধ চলছে। কিন্তু গ্রামবাসীদের কাছে যুদ্ধের পরিচয় অজ্ঞাত। তারা শুধু "মাঝে মাঝে দূ-একখানা এরোপ্লেন মাথার ওপর দিয়ে যাতায়াত করতে দেখেছে I" যুবক গঙ্গা ও তার জ্রী অনঙ্গ গ্রামের একমাত্র ব্রাহ্মণ পরিবার। নীচু জাতের চাষী সম্প্রদার অধ্যাষিত এ গ্রামে তারা নতুন এসেছে। শুধুমাত্র পুরোহিত ও চিকিৎসক হিসেবেই নয়, গ্রামের একমাত্র শিক্ষক ব'লেও স্বাই গঙ্গাকে শ্রদ্ধা করে। অবস্থাপর চাষী বিশ্বাস মশাষের সাহায়ে গঙ্গা সেধানে একটি পাঠশালা খুলেছে। প্রতি মাসেই বিশ্বাস মশান্তের কাছ থেকে বিনামূল্যে তার আহার্য সামগ্রা আসে। নিঃসন্তান অনক। গ্রামের চাষী বউদের সকে তার ঘনিষ্ঠ

বন্ধুত। বিশেষতঃ হারুর স্ত্রী আমুদে ছুটকার সঙ্গে তার সম্পর্ক অতি মধর। পরম আনন্দেই দিন এগিয়ে চলে—।

কিন্তু অক্সাৎ ঘটে ছন্দপতন। বৃদ্ধ ব্ৰাহ্মণ দীনু একদিন খবর দেয়—পাশের গ্রামগুলিতে হঠাৎ চালের দাম বেড়ে (शए । भीत् काताव, "अ अव श्रवाह युष्कृत करता। আমাদের রাজা জার্মানী ও জাপানের সঙ্গে সৃদ্ধ করছেন তাই সৈনাদের জনো যুদ্ধক্ষেত্রে চাল পাঠানো 交(時 1"

গঙ্গা এ বিষয়ে নিবিকার থাকে। কিন্তু ক্রমে ক্রমে পরিস্থিতি অন্যরূপ নেই। দেশে ভাল শস্য থাকা সতেও মানুষের সৃষ্ট দৃভিক্ষের পদধ্বনি শুনতে পাওয়া যায়। **जालित माम यथत क्रमण** डें डेंप्शामी इल थाक.-(আর) গ্রামের স্থিম্ন পরিবেশও যেন ভিন্নরূপ ধারণ করে। চাষীরা তাদের মজ্ত চাল বিক্রী করে দেয় এবং তারপর শুরু হয় উপবাস। চালের জনো সর্বত্র হাহাকার। গ্রামে গ্রামে চালের দোকান লুপ্তিত হচ্ছে। গঙ্গা নিজেকে অসহায় মনে করে। চালের জন্য ছুটে যার বিশ্বাস মশায়ের কাছে। কিন্ত সেদিনের উদার বিশ্বাস মশায় যেন (রাতারাতি) বদলে গেছেন।













গঙ্গার মুখের ওপর স্পষ্টভাবেই বলে দেন—তার পক্ষে আর সাহায্য করা সম্ভব নর।

শানা গ্রামে বেদে আসে বিপর্বর। দিশেহারা মানুর ভূলে বার নীতিবোধ — সমান্ত পৃঞ্জলা। চালের জভাবে বনে-জঙ্গলে বুঁজে বেড়ার লতা-পাতা—আরও কত কি। ক্ষরনের কাছে মেটে আবু বুঁজতে গিরে এক অচেনা মানুরের হাতে অনক প্রার ধবিতা হর। একমুঠো চালের জরো চারী বউ ছুটকী নিজেকে সমর্পণ করে মুখপোড়া যদুর লালসার আগুরে। করাল দুভিক্ষের প্রলম্ব কুতা চলছে সারা দেশে। প্রতিটি প্রামে উঠেছে আতারোল। এক মুঠো ভাতের জ্বরা দূর প্রাম থেকে অনকর কাছে ছুটে আসে হরিজ্ব ক্রী মোতি। উপবাসারিষ্ট দেহ নিয়ে আর যেন এগোতে পারে না— অনকর দুযারেই শেষ নিঃবাস ত্যাগ করে।
দিশেহারা প্রতিটি মানুষ। আকাশে বাতাসে ওঠে হাহাকার ধরি।

এমনি সমর অনঙ্গ তার স্বামীকে জানায় তাদের প্রথম সন্তানের আগমন-বার্তা।









সৌমিত্র চটোপাধাায



ব্ৰিতা



त्रक्षा वाव



গোৰিল চক্ৰবত



প্রক্ষার দ্র



तती शाक्रला



শেলা পাল



ক্ষতিতা বাষ



চিত্ৰা ব্যানাজী



उदा ताथ



দেবতোষ ঘোষ



সনাল সরকার



जातल जाजूली



ব্ৰেশ মুখোপাধ্যাই

ASHANI SANKET

(Distant Thunder)

From The Novel By BIBHUTI BHUSAN BANERJEE
Screenplay, Music & Direction SATYAJIT RAY
Produced By SARBANI BHATTACHARYA

THE time is 1942-43.

The place -a remote little village in Bengal.

A world war is on, but to the villagers it only means an occasional pretty sight of planes flying overhead.

Young Ganga and his wife Ananga are the only Brahmins, newly settled, in this village of low-caste peasants.

Ganga is respected by all as the priest, the doctor, as well as the only teacher in the school he has himself started with the help of the rich peasant Biswas.

Biswas also helps him with a free monthly quota of provisions.

Ananga, childless still, is friendly with the peasant women, particularly with the jolly Chhutki, wife of the peasant Hiru.

e, on the whole, is pleasant.

one day the old Brahmin Dinu tells Ganga of the sudden the in the price of rice in some neighbouring village.

'This is because of the war,' says Dinu. 'Our king is fighting the Germans and the Japanese, and rice is being sent to our fighting men.'

Ganga does not take this seriously at first, but soon signs begin to appear which suggest that in spite of a good harvest, a man-made famine may be in the offing.

As the price of rice goes spiralling upwards, the whole aspect of the peaceful village changes. Peasant sell off their stocks, and then have to go starving; rice shops are looted; the once-generous Biswas tells Ganga bluntly that he can't help him any more; the peasant wife Chhutki has to yield to the advances of Scarface Jadu for a handful of rice. Looking for edible roots in a forest, Ananga is nearly raped by an unknown man.

At the height of the famine, Moti the untouchable woman, an old friend of Ananga from a nearby village, comes to Ananga to beg for rice and dies on her doorstep.

In this darkest of hours, Ananga tells her husband that she is going to have a baby—their first child.





বলাকা মুহীছের জন-সংযোগ বিভাগের গলে শৈলেশ মুগেপাধাছ কড় ক সম্পাদিত ও একাশিত বেলিক পোল এনা ছবল ছবলন চাটিছে। লেম, কলিকাতা-২ ইউতে মুক্তিত।