

SANTHARA

A LIMITED SERIES BY TAN

Dying with Equanimity

5 × 60' · Prestige Limited Drama · Life of Pi × Terrence Malick



LOGLINE

A dying poet undertakes an ancient ritual — fasting into death with perfect equanimity — to cross back to the wife he lost. His children have five weeks to make peace with the manner of his leaving.

SYNOPSIS

Ram Chugh is seventy-four, a poet, and dying. Refusing a slow medicated undoing, he turns toward Santhara — the six-step vow of a deliberate, painless death — believing it will carry him back to Radha, the wife whose absence hollowed out his every year. As the fast deepens, time comes loose: a childhood shattered by the Partition of 1947, a marriage that became his reason to live, the pyre that took their mother. But his children will not let him go quietly — a son who reads it as surrender, a daughter who blesses the road.

THE FAMILY

Ram 74

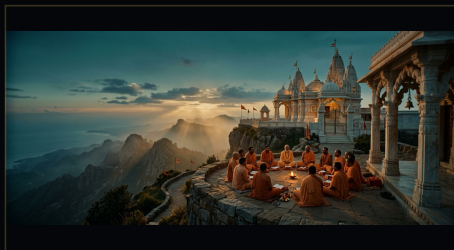
The Poet. A refugee of Partition, muse-widowed, undone by grief — the vow is the last poem he has left to write.

Snehit 34

The Son. Chose the safety his father never had; cannot forgive being asked to watch him leave.

Sannah 26

The Daughter. An artist who remembers only her father's hand at the pyre — and blesses the road.



WHY NOW

An awards-shaped limited series in the auteur-TV tradition — a career-defining lead role, an underserved global appetite for diaspora epics, and a bold, ownable visual signature. Ambitious in memory, contained in production.

One vow, five hours, a century of a life

A self-contained limited run. Each hour advances the ritual in the present while opening another chamber of the past — until the two timelines arrive at the same threshold.

DECLARATION

01 A Decision, Spoken Aloud

A terminal diagnosis. At the family table, Ram announces he will undertake Santhara. The room breaks — Snehit in disbelief, Sannah in silence. A household accident tips him, for the first time, into the spiral. The vow is set.

FORGIVENESS

02 Old Accounts

The drive to the cliffside temple. Ram seeks pardon and grants it, to the living and the dead. As the priests receive his vow, the border of 1947 begins to surface — a boy, a truck, a kite caught in a tree.

THE MUSE

03 The Reason to Live

The fast begins; solid food is surrendered. In memory, an arranged marriage becomes a love story — Radha, the muse who made a poet of a refugee. Snehit's resistance hardens into something like grief for a mother he never stopped missing.

DISSOLUTION

04 The Mind Gives Up Its Dead

Water is the last thing to go. In the deepest fast, the DMT release breaks open: Partition's full horror and the loss of Radha collide in a single visionary movement. Sannah, alone, begins to understand — and to help.

RELEASE

05 Floating Away

The final meditation. A family arrives, at last, at the same threshold as the man they are losing. The soul lets go of the body. What remains is the poem — and the love it was always trying to name.

UNDERNEATH THE RITUAL

Death & Equanimity

Not death as tragedy, but as a discipline — meeting the end awake, on your own terms.

Love Beyond the Body

A marriage that outlives a death — a man willing to unmake himself for one more moment of it.

Inherited Silence

What Partition did to one child, echoing down through a diaspora family that never spoke of it.

Faith vs. Family

A vow the soul demands and the heart cannot bear to grant.

Visual language & structure

A PALETTE FOR EVERY REGISTER



Petrol Dusk
Present Day



Marble & Gold
Radha & Temple



Neon Mantra
Dissolution



Sepia Exodus
Partition, 1947

SIX TIMELINES, BRAIDED

A The Garden

The present frame — Ram beneath the tamarind tree, breath by breath.

B The Diagnosis

Now. The failing heart, the family table, the drive to the temple.

C Radha

The love that made a life — marriage, children, the hospital bed, the loss.

D The Dissolution

A DMT release — spirals, mantra, Kali. The mind gives up its images.

E Partition, 1947

Leiah. The refugee trucks, the checkpoints, a child learning death.

F Before

The world that was lost — the bazaar, the grandmother's temple, the kite.

THE OPPORTUNITY

◆ An awards-shaped limited series

Five self-contained hours in the auteur-TV tradition — a director's showcase and a career-defining lead role.

◆ A global appetite, underserved

Diaspora and South Asian storytelling ascending at the highest tier — a spiritual epic that is also intensely intimate.

◆ A signature that sells

The rotoscoped DMT dissolution is a bold, ownable visual device — festival-ready and unlike anything on the platforms.

◆ Ambitious, but contained

Present-day story lives in a house, a car, a temple. The scale is in memory — flexible to budget without losing the soul.

5 Episodes · ~60' Each · One Limited Run · One Soul, One Vow

The full script, series bible, and production materials are ready for the right partners.