

IN THE DISTANT PAST, IRELAND WAS KNOWN AS THE ISLE OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS.

IT WAS SAID THAT THE IRISH MONKS WOULD SIT IN A BOAT, PUT UP A SAIL AND
ASK GOD TO SEND THEM WHERE THEY WERE NEEDED THE MOST.

THAT'S ALL CHANGED NOW.

The Bad Monk

A desperate Irish entrepreneur tries to monetize a lost Indian monk on a cross-country speaking tour, only to discover that the path to enlightenment is paved with utter disaster.





In a monastery in East India, one monk-in-training doesn't follow the path.

Najee is a collector of yak dung with a gift for mischief and a disdain for discipline. Seeing this, his Head Monk makes a radical decision: send Najee to a religious symposium in America. The goal isn't to represent the monastery, but to see if Najee can find his way.

“If he stays here he will not make a monk. If he survives in the land of temptation? He will make a great monk.” — The Head Monk



In Dublin, a struggling entrepreneur sees salvation in the spirituality business.

Gareth is a loving father and partner, but he's drowning in debt. His latest scheme: create a "one-stop-shop for everything spiritual." He doesn't believe in any of it, but he sees a massive, untapped market. He just needs €10,000 to get started.

"I don't have to believe, Brian. I'm a businessman. We're providing a service." — Gareth

A wrong turn leads to a right place.

Najee, armed only with an empty begging bowl, ends up on a cargo ship to Dublin, not Chicago. He arrives lost and penniless, just as Gareth's partner Ciara is leaving a spiritual symposium. Believing it was "meant to be," she brings the monk home.

"He's got no place to go."
— Ciara



A business proposition is made. A partnership is broken.

Gareth sees his chance. He proposes a speaking tour to Najee, a way to “spread his message” and, more importantly, make the money he desperately needs. Disgusted by his exploitation of an innocent man, Ciara leaves him. Now, the tour isn’t just about money—it’s about winning her back.



“You’re taking all the things I hold dear, all the things I hold sacred and you’re exploiting them to make money.”

The first gig is a masterclass in silence.

For their first talk, Najee says nothing. For two and a half hours. The audience is bored, but too polite to complain. Gareth is in despondent hell, realizing silence is not a saleable commodity.

GARETH: "You didn't say a word. For two and a half hours. You didn't say a word?"

NAJEE: "We sit in Satsang. No good?"

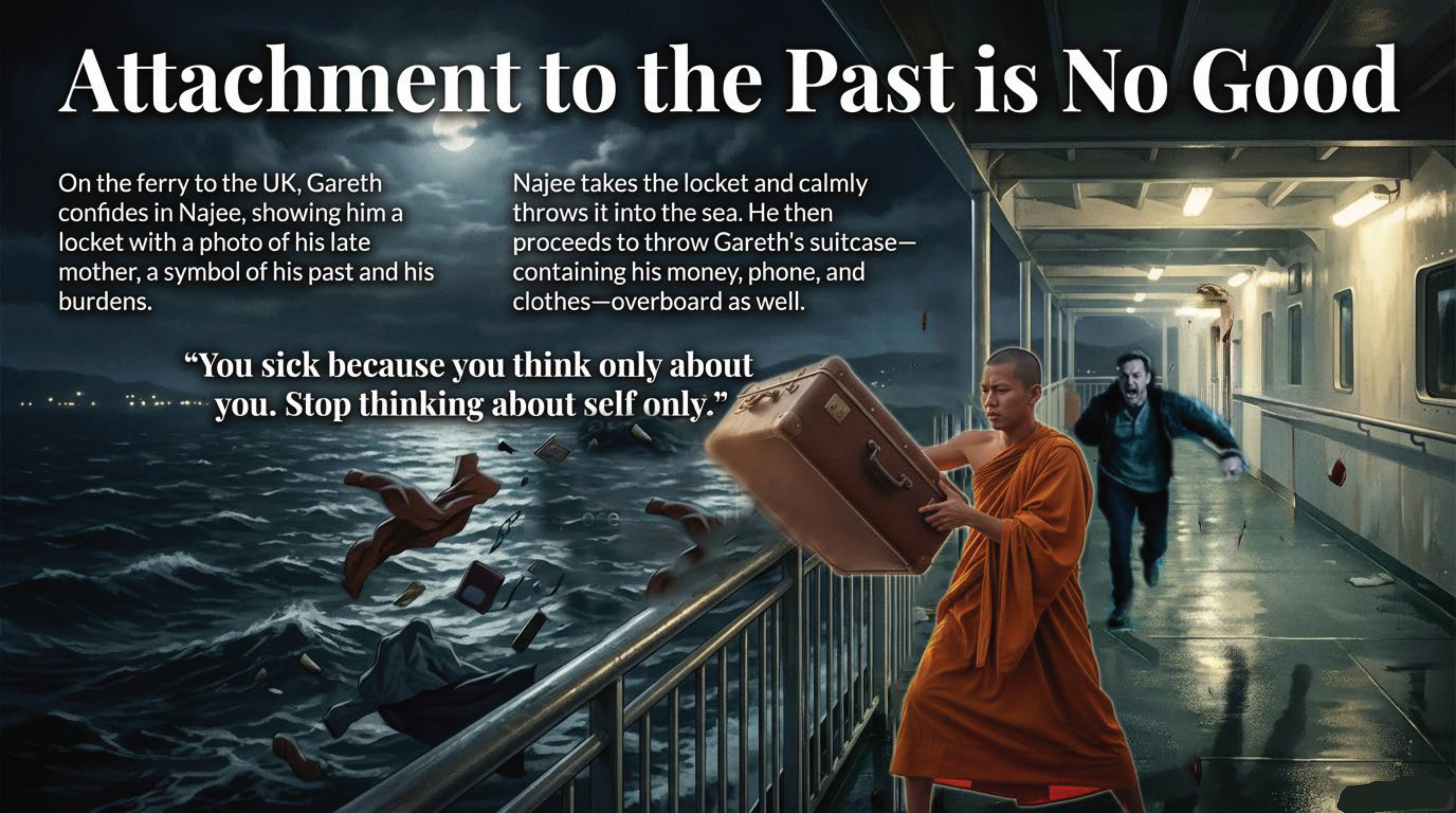


Attachment to the Past is No Good

On the ferry to the UK, Gareth confides in Najee, showing him a locket with a photo of his late mother, a symbol of his past and his burdens.

Najee takes the locket and calmly throws it into the sea. He then proceeds to throw Gareth's suitcase—containing his money, phone, and clothes—overboard as well.

“You sick because you think only about you. Stop thinking about self only.”

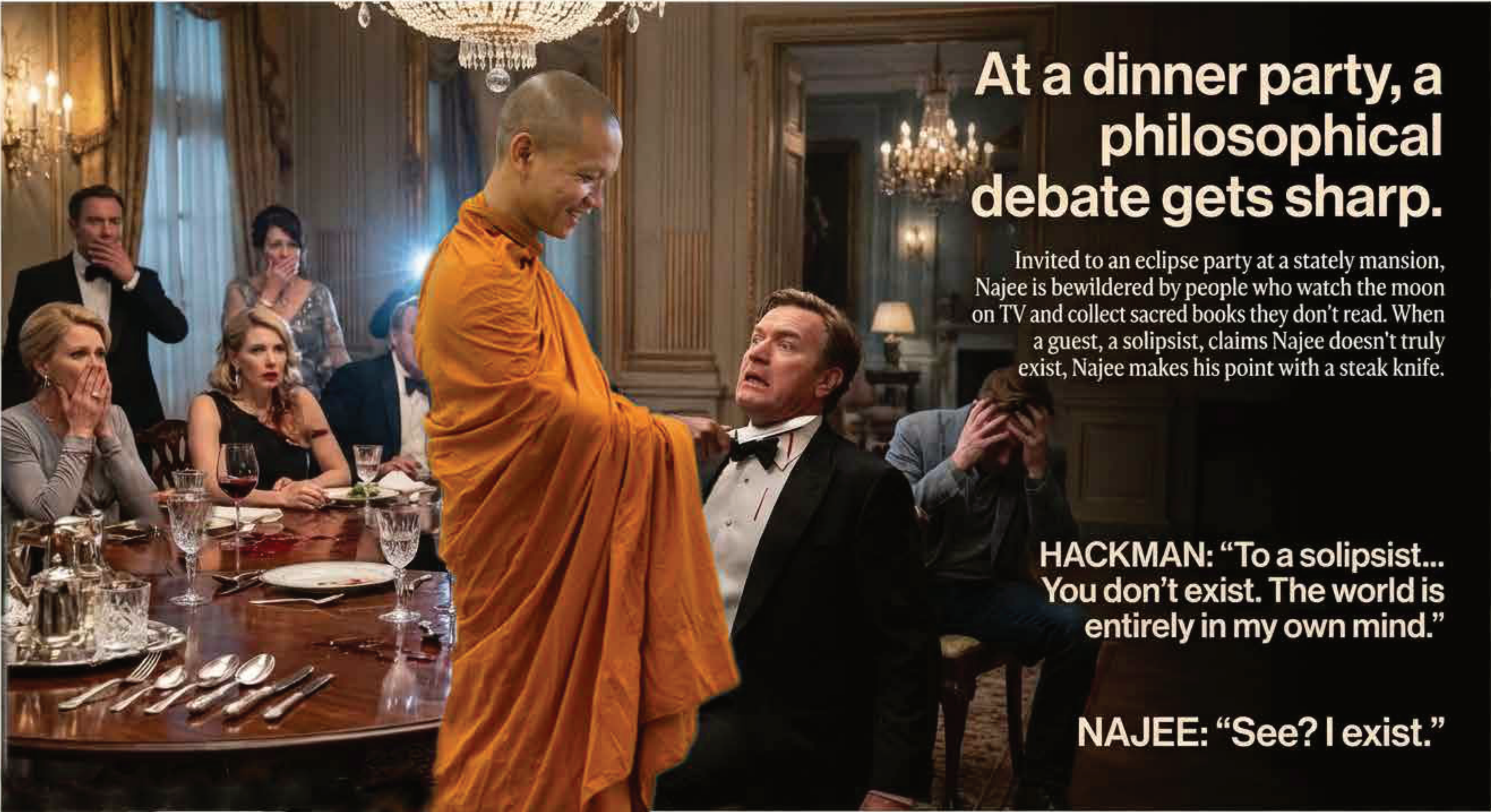




When you stop looking, you see.

Stripped of all possessions, they are forced to walk. Najee leads Gareth to a remote lake to 'see the Goddess of Beauty.' They sit in silence all night. As the sun rises, Gareth, for the first time, experiences the profound peace Ciara has always sought.

“Only when stop looking, you see.” — Najee



At a dinner party, a philosophical debate gets sharp.

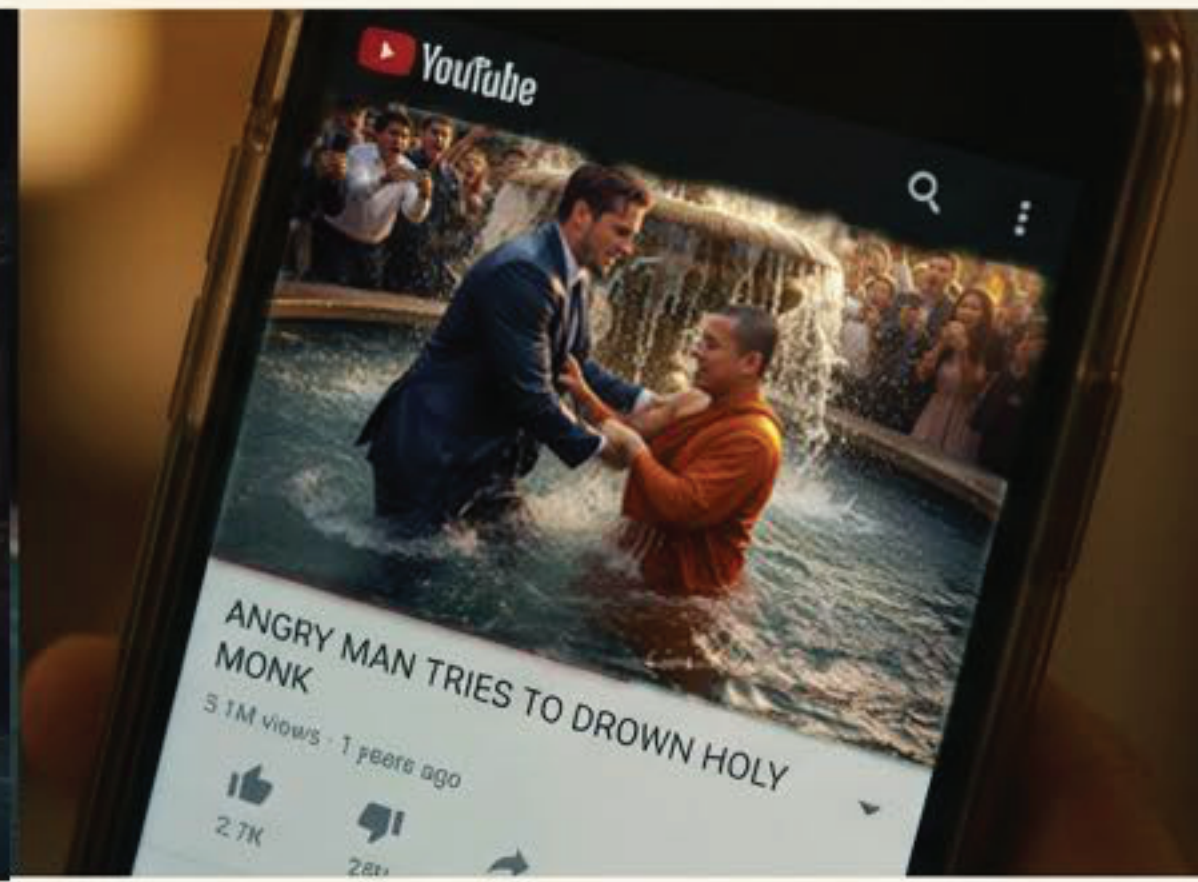
Invited to an eclipse party at a stately mansion, Najee is bewildered by people who watch the moon on TV and collect sacred books they don't read. When a guest, a solipsist, claims Najee doesn't truly exist, Najee makes his point with a steak knife.

HACKMAN: "To a solipsist... You don't exist. The world is entirely in my own mind."

NAJEE: "See? I exist."

In London, they hit rock bottom.

On the eve of their biggest gig, Najee gets drunk, has a fling with an actress, and loses their entire tour earnings. Forced to go on stage himself, Gareth's performance is a disaster. His subsequent attempt to sober Najee up in a hotel fountain goes viral, leading a horrified Ciara to cut off all contact. They have lost everything: money, reputation, and love.



When All is Lost, Truth is Found.



"Your friend left this in the bar... And you're not a yak."



"Attachment to past no good."

The Confession

Najee finally admits the truth:
"I am not holy man. I am not monk... In Ashram, I am yak dung collector."

The Grace

The stolen money is returned by a grip who was inspired by Najee's drunken wisdom. He tells Najee he has a choice yaks don't:
"You can decide to eat the flowers or not."

The Epiphany

With the money no longer the point, they connect. Gareth realizes his own worth isn't tied to his wallet. Najee realizes, "I am not a yak."



The end of one journey is the beginning of another.

Their tour is over, but their friendship is real. Najee returns to his monastery a changed man, ready to be a real monk. Gareth, having finally understood himself, has earned the chance to reconnect with Ciara and his daughter.

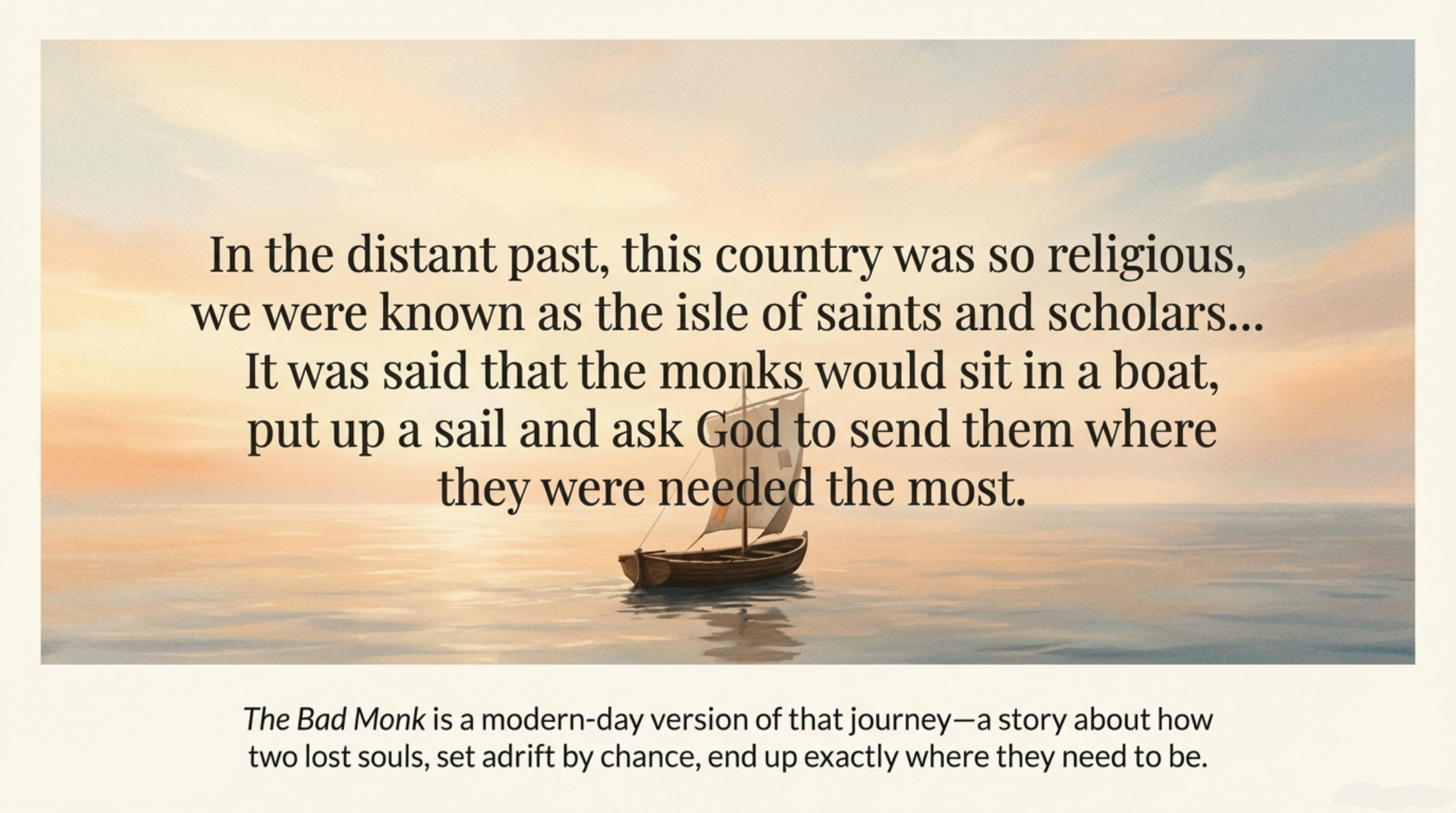
“He said, Gareth, meeting Najee... could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.” — Gareth

A Year Later: Two New Paths.

Gareth's Journey Ends: He has used the money to launch an authentic spiritual community. He's found success on his own terms and is on the path to reconciling with Ciara, who attends his talk.

Najee's Journey Begins: Having faced his demons, he returns to the monastery. He tells the Head Monk, "Discipline in the west is impossible. I will learn discipline here now." He is no longer the "bad monk," but a man ready to begin his training in earnest.



A small wooden boat with a white sail is positioned in the center of the frame, floating on a calm sea. The sky is filled with soft, warm colors of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water reflects the light from the sky, creating a shimmering effect. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

In the distant past, this country was so religious,
we were known as the isle of saints and scholars...
It was said that the monks would sit in a boat,
put up a sail and ask God to send them where
they were needed the most.

The Bad Monk is a modern-day version of that journey—a story about how two lost souls, set adrift by chance, end up exactly where they need to be.

A Grounded, Cinematic Dramedy.

Tone

A heartfelt story with poignant moments and character-based humor that comes from the clash of cultures and personalities, not from jokes. The drama is grounded in real-world stakes: love, family, debt, and the search for meaning.

Visual Style

Photo-realistic and intimate. The natural beauty of the Irish countryside and the gritty reality of its towns contrast with the vibrant, spiritual aesthetic of India. The look is textured and focused on performance. Think Alexander Payne (*Sideways*) meets the early Coen Brothers (*Fargo*).



A Story for a Proven Audience

Target Audience: Adults 25-55+. Fans of smart, character-driven comedies, independent cinema, and uplifting stories of personal transformation.

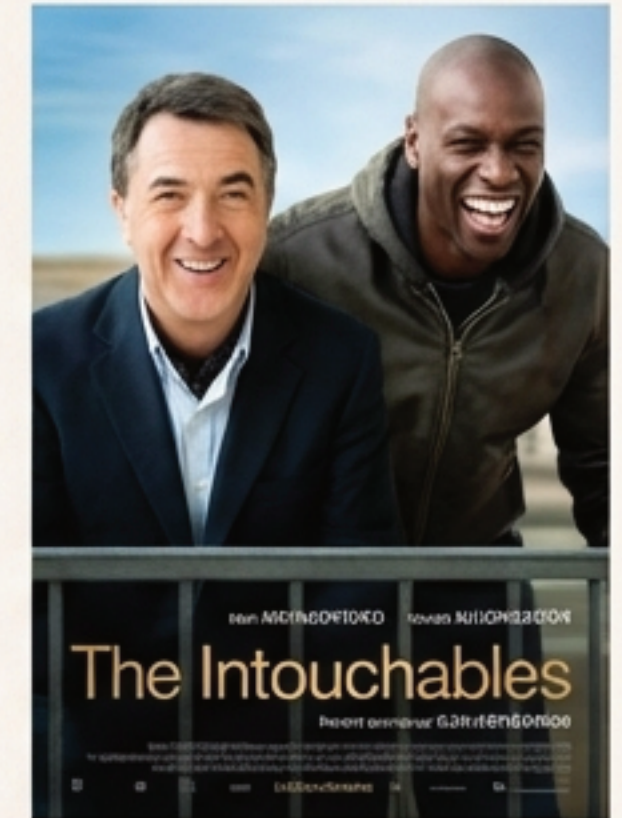
Comparable Films:

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE: The dysfunctional road trip where a new family is forged in chaos.

THE INTOUCHABLES: An unlikely friendship that transforms two men from different worlds.

SIDEWAYS: Two flawed men on a journey of self-discovery, blending comedy and melancholy.

GREEN BOOK: Overcoming prejudice and forming a deep bond through a journey together.





THE BAD MONK

A story about the commodification of spirituality,
finding authenticity in a cynical world, and learning
that the best things in life aren't things.

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