

THE BIG VILLAGE

IMAGE

FOOTAGE

SOUND

WAVES ROLLING
ONTO SHORE

000

Film Title
THE BIG VILLAGE

007

Subtitles

027

Where are you going?

I am going to the sea

Children should not go there

Don't worry

I will come back with a big catch

NARRATOR

BOY RUNNING

043

It seems a long time ago that I was
a boy.

But the years have not been many.

The sights and sounds of my boyhood are
still fresh.

I can almost feel the sand and surf
on my bare feet; smell the salt air of
my village by the sea.

CU OF BOY

086 My world was simple then.

My uncles were simple men.

They knew the sea.

They knew how the sail worked, the
winds and the waves.

FULL SHOT OF
SAIL BOAT

097

They did not think, as I do now, how
boats like theirs once carried our
ancestors across the great oceans,
to the islands of the wide Pacific
and the far shores of Africa.

112

My uncles have forgotten how far we
reached in that distant past.

MAN ROWING

116

Today they carry their hopes no farther
than their oars will take them.

MAN PULLING IN
NETS

131

Their lives are trapped in fishnets.

150

Sorrow to them is an empty net.

Subtitles

154

How is the catch?

Bad luck! Nothing.

MS BOY AND MAN IN BOAT 161 How cruel the sea can be.

How hard are our lives.

NET BEING CARRIED 182 Much has changed in my village, but

not this ...

Our lives are spare

We have no luxuries.

BOYS SWIMMING 193 The pleasures we have come free from

nature.

And our enjoyment is unforced. The wind

in the palm trees; our gentle river; the

green shade of our fields; childhood

friends; the slow movement of our days.

BOY DRINKING FROM COCONUT 214 In many ways life is pleasant here.

But there is a meanness in our lives.

Boredom.

223 We have begun to see ...

how our lives are bounded with pettiness ...

how small our dreams have been.

People are not content.

240 Our children are bonded early to rigour.
and they never escape it in all their
lives.

CU OF PLOUGHMAN

264 All their life is work.

Unending work.

The plough runs a furrow unchanged since
mankind was young.

And this is not because we like it;

nor because we know no better;

nor indeed because we will not change our
ancient ways.

CAMEL

285

Because we are poor, we can afford only
the old ways. Even the bullock and the

camel are a burden on our farms, for they
must be fed.

Only our people come cheap.

Their hands and feet and aching backs cost
next to nothing.

310

Women and children are cheapest of all.

Their singing in the field is not merely
beautiful: it is an act of courage.

~~HAY BEING TURNED~~ 333 Nature is bountiful here.

~~Yearly, our land is rich with grain.~~

~~Yet food is a problem.~~

~~Much is lost; much is wasted.~~

VILLAGE SCENE

353

Much is wasted between farm and kitchen.

Much is wasted.

COOKING POT

361

In the kitchen it is not food we waste,
but human beings.

We waste their minds, their talents.

I wonder what our women could do if
they were freed from the kitchen.

Even here, trapped as they are by their
children and the endless grind of poverty,
they have created one of the great arts
of our people - our cooking.

What would they create if they escaped the
sweat and smoke of the kitchen?

TREES

390

Some lucky few have always escaped.

Escaped the merciless labour which is
the common lot.

Through them, over the centuries, we have
known what lies beyond the lush of the
fields and the heat of the blacksmiths' fire.

A hundred generations have left their
mark on beaten brass and chiselled wood.

WOOD SEQUENCE

Long centuries guide the sculptor's
hand and eye.

Our traditions live not only in metal
and wood:

they live in our people; in the ordered
detail of our daily lives.

MAN AT TABLE 420

The past is woven everywhere into the
familiar patterns of our days.

Like birdsong or the colours of the earth
our old arts have been changeless, yet
ever new.

Through them our souls have sung.

In them our spirit dances.

MAN PLAYING FLUTE 463

The earth is rich with music and we are
a part of it - as a flute is part of the
morning song of the wind across the fields.

In other places the music has been
different. Drums instead of flutes.

ROCKET SEQUENCE 486 Men have gone to the moon with the roaring
strength of their minds.

But what they saw from out there was what
we already knew.

That all the great green beauty of this
earth cannot be divided into little
separate parts.

We live in a big village, all of us.

FOREST 501 Across the face of the earth this village
spreads.

It does not matter what continent or people
we look at; whether they are poor or rich.

If they are poor their lives are caught
like ours in rhythms that have
ruled for a thousand years.

The same chores are done.

The same burdens borne.

523 Though we differ in colour and creed,
language and culture, we wear alike
the tattered clothes of poverty.

Close to the tired earth we live, its
flies and its fleas a blight upon
our children.

BIG CITY SCENE 551 The lands of the rich look different, but

they too are part of the big village.

Their huts are high towers and their

lives are ringed with stone and steel.

They eat well and look well, the rich of

this world, but they have built on sand.

For they have forgotten the green earth

and the gentle wind.

They have poisoned their rivers and seas in

their search for wealth.

They have marched to the brave music of

modernity, and wandered into a great

desert of the spirit.

MONKS GOING INTO TEMPLE 590 For the rich, as for the poor, there are

answers in our temple bells.

There are answers in the words of ancient

seers.

625 There are answers from the distant past.

But what do we say to hungry children?

MARKET PLACE 641 What do we say to our crowded poor?

The answers they need are different.

They need food and clothing; a decent life.

They need reasons why in this big village

of the world they are poor and others rich.

LS OF FIELD

665 The reasons for our poverty are many.

They are spun in a story that is old and

violent.

It is a story of our peoples' weakness

and the strength of others.

It tells how our petty quarrels let others

rule our lands.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

681 But a new age is on us now.

In the councils of our small village we

now are masters of our own lands.

Our laws and judges are now our own.

UN GA INTERIOR

708 In the large conclaves of the big village

too a new age has dawned.

In splendid halls, before the gathered

world new voices have been heard.

UN BUILDING

721

Around the globe the poor have been aroused.

The proud flags of our awakening have

changed how the world looks.

It has changed the world's traffic

of people, of ideas and of goods.

It is changing how the world thinks

and speaks.

ZOOM IN SHOT

742

OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

After long centuries of blood and war the

voices of reason begin a fragile rule.

The voices of the poor are weak still,

but the message is important.

Our countries have much of the world's

wealth though we have not used it - yet.

Our people are a vast majority on this

earth but we do not rule it - yet.

But things will change.

It is best they change peacefully.

SPEAKER AT PODIUM

771

The rich do not listen yet with respect.

But others who are poor, do listen.

There is hope that people everywhere, in

all parts of the big village, will

understand how things must change.

VILLAGE SHOTS 784 In the beaten paths of our poor villages
people must understand that our heaviest
burdens are not water or wood.
They are old hate and ancient prejudice.

COLOURED LIGHTS 795 Like the rich in distant lands the rich
amongst us too must look beyond their gates.

FESTIVAL 810 Feasts and festivals are fun for all, but
not if only some have food.
For though fortune's twinkling lights now
smile upon them, who can speak for tomorrow?

DANCERS 830 In the long view of history our age is
young yet.
Its movements, like the dance of children,
promise grace and fullness.
But our hopes are born amidst the decay
of a dead age.

There is much ugliness to endure.

SHORELINE SEQUENCE 852 In the big village of this world we must
 live in hope. Hope for our children,
 hope for the poor, hope for the world
 at large.

TITLES 863

FADE CUT 909

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