

Members:

Noel Tom (BL.EN.U4CSE23035) - Director

Jnanasagara Srinivasa (BL.EN.U4CSE23019) - Editor, Asst. Director

Parth Pathak (BL.EN.U4CSE23036) - Editor, Asst. Director

Harsh Vardhan Singh (BL.EN.U4CSE23222) - Editor

Atharva Anup Wasnik (BL.EN.U4CSE23209) - Camera Handling

Title: Collapse

Characters: Ajay, Vikram, Nishith, Ram, Physics Professor

Scene 1: Physics Class

Professor: The fact that a particle can exist in different states until we measure it—its just difficult for us to even visualize. So to help with that I'll be taking a little help from my friend Schrödinger here.

Vikram: *[Laughing]* Your friend?

Professor: Yes, we go way back, but that's beside the point. Have you guys heard about Schrödinger's Cat?

(Ajay raises his hand)

Professor: Well, anyone apart from Ajay.

Ajay: Maybe, maybe not.

Professor: Touché, Ajay. Well, that's what we'll be dealing with in the next class so everyone, read up on it. And should be all for today. Anything yall wanna ask?

Nishith: *[Worried]* Sir, will you be asking questions about this next class?

Professor: No Nishith I wont, but regardless do read up on it though.

Ram: Do you get paid to worry all the time?

Scene 2: In classroom after professor leaves

Ram: Dude, I swear, the secret to a long life is to live in physics class.

Vikram: Yes, a superposition of "will this class end" and "this class won't end."
So hard on the soul.

Ajay: More drama than a serial. It's not that bad. Let's head out for a bit, clear our heads before the next period.

Nishith: Dude, what if the next faculty comes before we reach?

Ram: Wait you're right, you stay then.

Nishith: No need, I'll come.

Scene 3: Corridor during break

Ram: God, that was a class and then some. I'm not sure I'm ready for anything with the word "quantum" in it.

Vikram: Oh, you'll be fine. Physics is just a lot of formulae. Remember them and you'll be good.

Ajay: Ehhh, it's so much more than just formulae. Remember sir talking about Schrödinger's Cat? It's genuinely an interesting thought experiment. You wanna hear about it? You don't? Well, anyway, so there's this cat and a box—

Nishith: Dude, we should really go back to class. What if she's already there?

Ram: Leave the cat, put this fellow in a box.

Scene 4: As they are entering the classroom

Vikram: That's more than enough about physics. Switch gears, next subject, please. Thank you. What do we have now?

Nishith: I think Maths.

Ram: Oh god, can we go back to physics class?

Ajay: Haha, be careful what you wish for.

Scene 5: Inside the Classroom

Nishith: What is this? Where is everyone?

Vikram: Well, that's odd. Did we miss an announcement?

Nishith: I told y'all we shouldn't have left! God!

Ram: And we told you to stay in class. But well, an empty classroom, I think this calls for Professor Ram.

Ram: Okay students, let's begin our class. *(Looks at the clock)*

Ram: It's exactly — well, that's an odd clock. What's the point if it doesn't move? Doesn't matter. No late entries, I'm taking attendance, so settle down.

(Ram closes the door and locks it) (When the lock clicks the screen flashes a 20 min timer)

Nishith: Why'd you lock the door!!!???

Vikram: Knock it off, man, you're not funny Ram.

Nishith: Please, Please, Please can we leave.

Ram: The audacity of these kids. No attendance for you!

Vikram: I am perfectly capable of taking attendance. *(Goes toward the register on the table)*

Vikram: Wait... what... look at this. It only has our names on it. This has got to be a prank. This is just weird. Whole class is in on it.

Ajay: Wait, there's more—it's year-wise, and it's only four people every year.

Ram: 50% attendance every year too, that's funny. Not everyone's as diligent as us, it seems.

Nishith: Cut it out, man. What is happening? We should get out of here.

Ajay: Y'all need to check this out. *(Points to the lab records on the tables)*

Ram: I'm not going anywhere near a lab record.

Vikram: Wait, no, actually, check this out:

[Content in the Lab Record:

Experiment: Schrödinger's Box

Apparatus required: Human subjects, one observer, Geiger counter, radioactive material

Theory: [Explains Schrodinger's Cat Experiment]

Procedure: [Procedure]

Conclusion: Observation collapses the wave function.

Duration: Arbitrary

Vikram: Yeah, this is ridiculous. What a dumb prank, man.

Nishith: Guys stop, this does not feel right. I'm leaving. You can stay here. I can't do this anymore.

(Nishith unlocks the door and the door creaks open slightly. A silhouette is visible. The screen blacks out for a second. Nishith disappears. At this point no one is looking at nishith)

Ram: You're such a pain bro. (Tries to grab him before he leaves)

//either cut here while facing the door or when nishith is speaking his dialogue camera should be on the others and their expression change should help understand what happend

Ram: What just happened?! He didn't walk out. He just dissapeared(*Calls out Nishith's name*) Where is he?

Vikram: : What was that

Ajay: (*Rushes to close the door, now locking it shut, then turns to the others, back against the door*)

Vikram: What's wrong, Ajay? What happened to Nishith.

Ajay: I..I don't know..I hope I'm wrong..

Vikram: What?

Ajay: This is not a prank.

Ram: What do you mean this is not a prank.

Ajay: [*heavy breathing*] Nothing about this is a joke, the attendance register, the lab record everything god damn it the clock too, check your watches[*their watches have stopped*].

Vikram: ...Its frozen

Ajay: This is not a prank.

Ram: For the love of god stop talking to us in riddles and explain.

Ajay: Okay, listen to me carefully. I can't wrap my head around this either but we don't have time to waste. We are the subjects of an experiment—Schrödinger's Box. Look at the register, it's always four people a year. This has been happening every year in our college. I can't explain everything right now. We don't have a lot of time. Our lives are being played with.

Ram: By whom, why, I'm so confused.

Ajay: Nishith was just the beginning.

Vikram: Wait, so whatever happened to him... that could happen to any of us?

Ajay: Yes. And it doesn't end there. There's someone—or something—outside that door. In about ten minutes, that door is going to swing open again, and our survival becomes purely based on chance. Observation collapses the wave function. That's what happened to Nishith. Nishith was observed. Luck wasn't on his side. He doesn't exist anymore. If we don't do something, one of us is next.

Ram: *(Panicked)* What do you mean, "do something"? What can we even do?!

Ajay: Calm down. We need to break the system. Let's try this—contact someone. If our existence is proven beyond this system, the experiment fails. Try calling someone. Now!

(Vikram hurriedly dials a number. The phone rings, but the voice on the other end is distorted)

Phone Voice: The number you are calling does not... does... [garbled static] ...exist.

Ram: What the hell does that even mean?! Do something, Ajay!

Ajay: *(Frustrated)* I am trying! We need another approach. Reflections—if the subjects become the observers, maybe that changes the system. Check your phone cameras, check for anything reflective!

(Vikram and Ram check their phone screens)

Ram: Nope doesn't work. Reflections aren't working.

Vikram: The windows too.... Nothing. Reflections aren't working. We're wasting time! Anything else? Think!

Ram: *[close to tears]* Ajay please we don't know how much time we have.

Ajay: I-

Ram: We already lost Nishith. WHAT IF I'M NEXT AJAY. WHAT IF I'M NEXT.

Ajay: *[Raising his voice]* It could be anyone. You're not helping anyone here. Not even yourself.

Ram: *[Stays silent for a few moments] [Heavy Breathing]*

Ram: Half of us are expected to survive? One of us is already dead... and there's three of us...*[Looks at Ajay who now has a terrified look on his face]*I'm not wrong, am I Ajay?

Ajay: ...I didn't want to consider the option.

Ram: The odds are 2 of us will survive, am I right?

Vikram: What

Ram: Two of us survive. Yes or no.

Ajay: *[Silent with a pained expression on his face]*

Vikram: *(Grabs him by the shirt)* What are you implying, you dog?

Ram: If one of us dies, the other two survive.

Vikram: Ajay, you're supposed to be smart, you can't possibly be agreeing with him.

Ajay: Does it even matter if I agree with him. Look at the register. You saw it right 50% attendance every year what do you think that means.

Ram: I don't know about you guys but I'm not dying, i'm not leaving it to chance. It's going to be one of you, i dont care if its at my hands or not

Ajay: Vikram, listen to me, trust me. You won't die actually, this will break the system, I'm certain. Everything will return to normal after this. You won't die in real life. Please, just trust me.

Vikram: Then you volunteer, you coward!

Ajay: Vikram, please just trust me.

Ram: Well i don't blame him, but i really really need to survive

[scene ends with ram walking towards vikram]

(A loud mechanical CLICK echoes. The countdown ends. 0:00 flashes on the screen. The door opens with a creaking sound. Screen cuts to black)

Epilogue:

Two parallel scenes,

Real world:

Nishith and Vikram have returned to the real world. Time moves forward. Their watches are working and they're back in front of their normal classroom.

They have survived the experiment.

The Experimental World:

Ajay and Ram remain, now transported outside the room. Their watches stay still. A black figure looms at the corridor's end.

Chance played its part.

THE END