

TO KEEP KIDS OFFMATH  
By Salim Alam

"To Keep Kids off Math"  
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CAST

Mr. Sharma – 40s  
Mrs. Sharma – 40s  
Varun – 17

(Varun's room, he sits doing homework)

MR. SHARMA

What are you doing? What is this?

VARUN

(Startled)

Sorry, I just-

MR. SHARMA

Jaya, come look at this!

MRS. SHARMA

Varun, what are you doing? We talked about this already!

MR. SHARMA

This is heartbreaking. We taught you better than this.

VARUN

I just get a rush, I just feel like I need it. I need to do my calculus homework.

MRS. SHARMA

You're hurting us, but you're hurting yourself more in the long run.

MR. SHARMA

(Yelling)

Calculus destroys lives! No sleep, no eat, no sex.

MRS. SHARMA

(Crying)

We just care about you; we don't want you to get into harder stuff like physics.

VARUN

Mom, you know I would never do physics. I just need a little calculus now and then.

MR. SHARMA

Don't you see calculus is a gateway subject? First you start with a little derivative problem, then integration, and then-

MRS. SHARMA  
(Sobbing)

Oh God!

MR. SHARMA

Then you'll be doing partial differential equations. And it doesn't stop there my friend.

VARUN

What do I do? Please help me. I want to change. Last night, last night, I... I read a chapter on the nature of light.

MR. SHARMA

I feel like you're not our son anymore. Unbelievable, Varun.

MRS. SHARMA

We're willing to help you. But first, give us your books. You know you can do it son. You know you can.

VARUN  
(Hands over books)

MR. SHARMA

Here is a PlayStation 3 with some games.

VARUN

But, but, do I have to?

MRS. SHARMA

Yes, you have to. It's what's good for you.

MR. SHARMA

Once you finish those games, we'll let you use a calculator for some simple arithmetic. Good, clean, fun, with no consequences or unknown variables.

VARUN

Thanks guys, it's good to know I have parents that care.

(They leave him. Then outside in the hall, they close Varun's door while he's inside and they talk in the hallway)

MR. SHARMA

You know, for old times sake, you want to do a quick linear algebra matrix?

MRS. SHARMA  
(Whispering)

Rohan, it's not right.

MR. SHARMA

Come on, Jaya! Just one.

MRS. SHARMA

Fine, but we'll get rid of the evidence right after. We need to lead a good example for Varun.

MR. SHARMA

I have the pencil we used on our first date.

MRS. SHARMA

Oh God, I knew I married the right guy.

MR. SHARMA

You didn't have a choice.

MRS. SHARMA

Neither did you.

MR. SHARMA

You think they hooked us up because of our calculus addiction?

MRS. SHARMA

Let's go in your office, I'll show you what integration by parts really means.

(They go in his home office and shut the door behind them)

(Blackout.)