ACT 2 SCENE 2

On board a ship out at sea. HARI is hammering up a large written notice. His fellow lascar crewmen crowd around him, worried.

HARI calls out to his fellow crewmen.

HARI: Brothers, we shouldn't put up with these conditions. Day and night we toil and labour. We have to make demands and not allow ourselves to be treated like animals.

LASCAR 1: But Hari...we'll get into trouble. They'll punish us.

LASCAR 2: They'll cut our food rations.

HARI: We're nearly starving to death as it is.

LASCAR 1: I don't even know what your notice says. I can't read.

HARI: The notice is for the Captain. It says:

'Lascar demands:

1. Equal pay with the white sailors

2. Equal food and water rations as the white sailors

3. No more beatings by the First Officer.

4. Rest periods between heavy labour

But most of all

5. We demand to be respected as members of the human race'.

The other LASCARS all cheer.