

Bepin Choudhury's Lapse of memory is a humorous story about a man, Bepin Choudhury, who is made to believe himself sick. Perforce, he thinks that he has a lapse of memory. In truth there is nothing wrong with him.

In this story, Bepin Choudhury believes that he has never been to Ranchi but others say that he had been there. It is a well knit story written by Satyajit Ray.

Bepin is the main character of the story who had a habit of visiting book stores and buying books of his interest. On one such visit, a man approached him and told him that he was his old acquaintance, Parimal Ghose from his Ranchi trip. But Bepin's memory played a trick on him. He was sure that he had never been to Ranchi. Parimal was surprised. He gave several instances in his support. Bepin, he said, had fallen down in Hudroo and got a cut on his knee. He had brought him iodine. He had fixed up a car for him to get to Netarhat. But nothing could revise Bepin's memory. He said that he was in Kanpur in 1958. Parimal told that Bepin had no children and his wife had died 10 years ago

Bepin believed that he had an excellent memory. He was working daily in his office and doing a responsible job. He wondered how Parimal knew all intimate details about his wife's death, and his brother's insanity. But at the same time, he was sure that he was not in Ranchi but at his friend Haridas Bagchi's house in Kanpur during the Pujas. He could write to Haridas to confirm his visit, but Haridas had already left for Japan. He found an inch-long cut mark on his knee, but he couldn't recall when and where he had got the cut.

Next day Bepin rang up Dinesh who confirmed him that he was there in Ranchi. He felt that he had lost his memory. After Bepin Babu took lunch, Chuni Babu came to see him. He was his school-mate. He wondered how he had forgotten his visit to Ranchi. He hadn't suffered any injury in the head.

Chuni Babu had been to his school and was requesting him for a job. When Chuni Babu asked him what his last job was, Bepin told correctly that his (Chuni's) last job was in a travel agency. Chuni recalled that he himself had fixed up Bepin's railway booking in Ranchi and gone to station to see him off. He left him without requesting for a job.

Now Bepin Babu became serious about this matter. He consulted a young physician Paresh Chanda. Paresh suggested a plan. Bepin should go to Ranchi once again and might get back his lost memory. Bepin left for Ranchi the same evening. Bepin visited Ranchi with the hope of reviving his memory of the past incident, but to no avail. He returned to Calcutta as the visit to Ranchi left him in a state of utter confusion.

After returning to Calcutta, he received a letter, urgent and confidential. The letter was from Chuni Lal. He said he was down on luck. But he had written a novel which might bring him fortune.

Bepin's memory suddenly came back. He told Dr Chanda that he had pain in the hip from a fall in Ranchi. He asked the doctor to prescribe some painkiller.

