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inema has travelled far over the years, progressing from mere storytelling to imaginative visuals and debatable provocations. But some Tamil films seem to have remained stuck in an archaic grove with one work after another promoting the narrative through gross exaggerations and unnecessary verbalisation. Admittedly, they are probably the only ones in India that still set stories in the countryside, but this is, at best, a poor consolation – as we can see in actor Karthi's latest rural adventure in Muthaiah-helmed Viruman.

Karthi's elder brother, Tamil star Suriya is the producer of the movie. In brief, Muthaiah's film is all about a good-hearted son (Viruman/Karthi) trying to get his arrogantly brutish father, Muthupandi (Prakash Raj), to mend his ways. He is the village chief, who has driven his wife to burn herself to death and shrugs his shoulders when his sister lay dying after ingesting poison.

Where writer Muthaiah goes really overboard, apart from flogging a dead plot, is execution. The dialogues, especially those between the father and son, are remorseless, bordering on the cruel. Viruman never misses an opportunity to shame and humiliate his father in the most public of places, even attempting to push a knife into him.

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About the Author GAUTAMAN BHASKARAN Gautaman Bhaskaran is a movie critic, commentator and an author, who penned the first ever biography of Adoor Gopalakrishnan, and has been covering ma...Read More

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