



Boss Hoga Tera Baap

I was doing residency at a place where there were very few people who spoke my native language. I bonded well with a chap in Nephrology for the sole reason that we shared a common other tongue. We used to swear at each other and use profanities profusely whenever we met and never missed a chance to pull each other's legs.

As it happened, once we were both transplant registrars in our respective departments and this meant that we had to coordinate with each other on a daily basis regarding the work up and status of the kidney donors and recipients in waiting. One evening, after OT was over, I was walking back to my room when I chanced upon him, and he immediately started laughing uncontrollably. It took him a while to settle down when he told me the reason for the mirth.

Apparently, he had tried to call me in the OT earlier that day to discuss a patient. It was the pre-mobile phone era, and all communication was on landlines and intercoms. My boss (the HOD) had picked up the phone and in his typical gruff style had said "Yes! XYZ speaking!". Now thinking that it was me on the line trying to act funny, he had started abusing my boss in our mother tongue using the choicest of expletives with references to various body parts and incestuous relationships. He also said, "If you are XYZ then I am also ABC (the HOD of nephrology)". My boss could pick up a few of the words and was all riled up. "Who's speaking? Who is speaking?". After some time, my friend realized that something was wrong and hung up. Fortunately, my boss could not identify who it had been, and he was



saved. But we had a really good laugh that day and always do whenever we meet, recalling the day when he had royally abused my HOD by mistake.