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## Only Almighty can make or break your career: Iqbal Khan

By A L CHOUGULE



**Your break was supposed to last for about four months. Why did it take almost nine months for you to return on television?**

A good show takes time to materialise. But I did not remain without work. As I had planned, my break from work lasted for about four months and during that time I tried to figure out what I should do next. Then I was offered 'Chhoona Hai Aasman' and it turned out to be exactly the kind of serial I was looking for my comeback. So in a way my break lasted for four months as pre-production work started on the show some time in May end. We went through lot of training and preparation before we started shooting. But yes, as far as my absence from television screen is concerned it went on for nine months.

**Did you get offers for serials during your break? There were rumours that Ekta was trying to sabotage your comeback on Star platform.**

There were lot of offers but all were same — daily family dramas — which I didn't want to do. I was looking for something really different and fresh and I didn't mind waiting for a longer period for the same to happen. Luckily 'Chhoona Hai...' happened sooner than expected, considering that the trend still continues to be in favour of family dramas. As for the rumours about someone sabotaging my comeback on Star I also read about it in papers.

**After quitting Balaji did you worry or felt insecure about finding work?**

I am a firm believer in the Almighty. It's only He who makes or breaks your life and career. He ordains things for you and no human being has the power to deny you what the Almighty has ordained for you.

**Actors take break from work for personal reasons. But not only did you quit 'Karam Apna Apna' for good but also the production house. Why?**

For three years I had worked day in and day out, from morning to midnight all 30 days of month. All Balaji actors work for about 25 days but I overdid and overworked which started affecting my health. After a point I badly needed a longer break and at that point of time the only option available was to quit Karam. Another reason for quitting the show was that I didn't want to do any kind of work that would have gone against my image and belief or which would have attracted criticism.

**Did you part ways with Ekta on an amicable note? Did Balaji approach you for any show subsequently?**

I don't think I left Balaji on a bad note. But let's not talk about what happened in the past. Let's talk about my new show.

**Okay, tell us about 'Chhoona Hai Aasman' and your role in it.**

Essentially, the show deals with emotions and interpersonal relationships. The air force is only the backdrop which serves as a vehicle to unravel the drama in the lives of the six key characters and their families. Besides lending a base for the story and conflict to move ahead, the air force backdrop also provides ground for some mind-blowing action and adventure sequences. In 'Chhoona Hai...' I am playing Flight lieutenant Abhimanyu Adhikari, an expert in guerrilla warfare. Abhimanyu is a man of few words and believes in rules and regulations.

**Will Sameera Singh be Abhimanyu love interest?**

I have no clue. But yes, he has an edgy relationship with her and you will have to wait and watch how their relationship shapes up.