

OM SRI SAI RAM

SCENE 2 - THE REVELATION

Scene 2: Revelation

Gopanna or Bhadrachala Ramdas, as he is popularly known in history, was a Tahsildar serving the Sultan of Golconda in the 16th Century. With his intense love for Lord Rama, he was anguished to see idols of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita exposed to sun and rain without any shelter. Without a second thought, Ramdas built a magnificent temple for the Lord with the money collected as tax from the subjects of the Sultan. But Tanesha, the Sultan was infuriated by this act of Ramdas. The Sultan's fury was a test of faith and the power of perseverance for Ramdas.

Sudheer: Purushottamji! How are you feeling today? Aha, the position in which you are sitting is not ergonomic at all. There is a possibility that you might develop a neck strain which can lead onto spondilitis which is not good for you...

Father: Stop it Sudheer...Don't disturb me.

Sudheer: Sorry father... I was just acting... I mean, I am so excited... Ok! Forget it. Here it is, the prospectus of one of the best medical colleges. In no time, your Sudheer will become Dr. Sudheer. I just thought...

Purushottam: That is the problem, Sudheer. You are thinking too much these days. That is why you are becoming a dreamer instead of a realist.

Sudheer: Father, I just fail to understand what you are trying to convey. Since childhood it was you who instilled this dream into me, father.

Purushottam: I was wrong, Sudheer. Chasing dreams is a privilege of the rich and not of the son of a poor man.

Sudheer: No Father, money should not be a hurdle. I am sure someone would definitely help us.

Purushottam: Sudheer, Give up your dreams of being a doctor

Sudheer: Our poverty might have robbed us of all luxuries of life, but let it not take away our perseverance. Condemn not my aspirations. I beg you.

Purushottam: I beg you too, Sudheer.

Sudheer: No father, No

Purushottam: O, God.... Feel the pitiful moaning of this father's heart. I dreamt of you saving the lives of hundreds, but today, I stand helpless at the doors of destiny begging for your life. Mercy, my Lord... Mercy... (Completely breaks down)

Sudheer (Emotionally): What's the matter father??

Purushottam: Sudheer, from your birth, you have a hole in your heart. As you played joyously, studied meticulously, my heart yelled in silence at the cruelty of fate. I spent all my earnings, pawned all my belongings to save your life. Now, doctors say that an operation is inevitable; an operation that would cost four lakh rupees! How would this penniless postman ever raise that amount! I have nothing left except these tears.

(Sudheer is shell shocked... there is a longish pause....)

Sudheer: Father, all these years...!

Purushottam: I am sorry, son.

Sudheer: No father, I feel sorry for you. All these years, all alone, you bore this burden of anguish in your heart so that I could pursue my dreams.

PurushottamHow could I tell you my son? How could I tell you that these hands that rocked you in the cradle will have to...? All I need is money; money to buy your life. That is all I need!

Sudheer (musing): Father, all we need is not money but faith; and that is what we have. Has He not promised refuge to those who surrender to Him? I remember my Principal telling me the soul stirring story of Sri Bhadrachala Ramdas.