

OM SRI SAI RAM

SCENE 6 – ASHUTOSH IN AMERICA

(Location: An office-ambience in U. S. A.)

He has heard the call of that voice. When the inner voice is ignored, that voice takes an outer form to remind us to listen to its dictates. An Avatar is the external manifestation of the conscience of the universe. He guides, goads and prods us onto the right path.

After the brief trip to America, let us come back to Anandgram. It is three months since Sudheer has come back from Puttaparthi. He is now hale and hearty. His reinvigorated heart beats with gratitude and an even stronger aspiration to become a doctor somehow and work in Swami's hospital. This aspiration erupts into a song.

Guna: Hello Ashutosh!

Ashutosh: Hello Guna!

Guna: You seem to be pretty busy these days. (Pause) Hey am I disturbing you?

Ashutosh: No. Guna it's all right.

Guna: Something is wrong with you Ashutosh. What happened?

Ashutosh: You know Guna, for the past few weeks, I have been doing some soul searching and every time I find myself groping around in nothingness. After all this achievement, I still feel a vacuum in my heart. Forget all that...you tell me how are you?

Guna: I am fine. You know... Ashutosh. Last week, I called my parents. They said they were missing me. I could sense their loneliness. I am also sorely missing them. Ashutosh, today I feel, even as I am pursuing my dreams, age is catching up with my parents. They need me now.

Ashutosh: So when are they coming here Guna?

Guna: They are not coming here. I am going back home for good....tomorrow.

Ashutosh: (Laughs) Is this some joke Guna?

Guna: I couldn't be more serious Ashutosh!

Ashutosh: Guna, your career is peaking right now. Would you sacrifice your career for their sake? You are crazy.

Guna: Ashutosh, they are my parents. For their sake I am prepared to do anything. They helped me take my first steps, and today when they need my support, can my ambition become more important? They gave me life and now can I just leave them to the mercy of destiny? No. I cannot do that. Ashutosh, they are everything to me. [A longish pause] And frankly, I am not sacrificing anything. I am very happy to go back. Anyways, wish you all the best friend. Take care. [He leaves]

Ashutosh: Oh God! What's this?! How could he do that? Just leave everything and go away like that? Just because his parents miss him... (Laughs) And when my father told me the same thing to me, I told him not to get sentimental. His heart is with his parents...and mine?? (Pause) (Tries to call his parents but a message saying that this number does not exist is heard on the phone.)

Oh father! I felt that you never understood me..... But may be, I never understood your love for me. And Ma, You just tearfully watched me leave.....you never said anything because you thought it would hurt me.... (In tears) I miss you both so much... I miss you both so much...(Cries bitterly) (A longish pause of about 10 seconds. At the end of it, in a state of desperation, he switches on the radio and listens...)

The discourse clip of about 40 seconds on '*Janani Janmabhoomischa Swargaadapi Gareeyasi*' is played.