



## CHAPTER 15

(PART 01)

## THE SCOUT CAMP





Seshama Raju, Sathya's brother, admitted his brother in the middle school in a small town named Kamalapuram. Sathya began to live with His sister-in-law and brother. His duty had been fixed. He would get up early morning to fetch water from the canal which was far and repeated the process in the evening as well.



This left Him with practically no time to read His lessons. As soon as He returned from school it was already time to fetch water again.



Sathya would finish the daily chores and run to school with a very humble breakfast of leftover food from previous night.



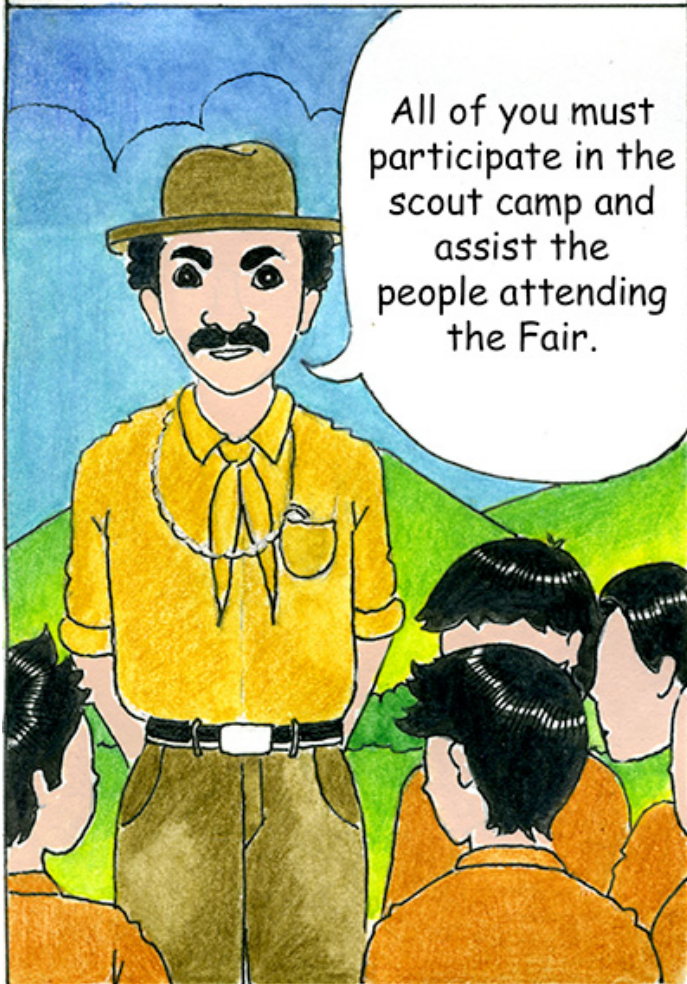




In School, Sathya become very dear to two boys named Ramesh, who was the son of the revenue official of the State government, and Suresh. They always sat on His either side on the same desk.



A Village fair used to be held in a place called Pushpagiri every year. The drill teacher who was also the scout master insisted -



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Sathya's father had given Him two annas with which He had survived for six months. At that time with two annas one could survive. Now He had nothing and His family was poor. There was no way He could purchase anything.





Since Sathya was the monitor, the drill teacher said to Him -

You have to lead the children. You must bring them fully prepared.



Sathya would put live embers in a brass vessel and iron the only uniform He had for the entire academic year.

He was putting His uniform under a solid object so that the little creases that were left could also disappear and thinking to Himself-

I can't tell anyone that I can't procure a new uniform. This will damage the reputation of our family.



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He decided to drop out of the camp as there seemed to be no other solution to the problem. He told His classmates -

I'm not keeping good health; Therefore, I will join you later.



He even selected a suitable boy to lead in His place and said to him -

You must lead these boys in My place. I will join you later.



However, the children refused to go anywhere without their Raju. They said -

We will stay back if you don't come!

Raju, only You can lead us.





Ramesh somehow understood Sathya's predicament. He was of the same size as Sathya. He requested his father -



His father was wealthy. He gave him two sets. Ramesh took the second set and wrapped it in a paper. He kept it on Sathya's desk with a note and thought -



Sathya found the note on the desk that read -

Sathya tore the note and wrote another note for Ramesh. He explained to His friend that in friendship there must never be any give and take of articles...

