



THREE IDIOTS WITH A FOOLISH MAN

Kumar Transforms as a Godman

RAVI KIRAN

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*Three Idiots with a Foolish
Man*

Kumar's Transforms as a Godman
Series : Kumar's Parallel Timelines
Book 3

By Ravikiran

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Whatever is written in this book is completely fictitious and shows how fake Swamys act and cheat people. The names of Yagnas are used fictitiously.

About the Author

Ravikiran is a Software Professional with many years of experience in Software development, Management, and consulting. These books are based on Kumar's Love Life series. The stories are based on alternate universe theories. These are also spinoffs, based on the previous story in the series, still, they can be read as separate books. Most of the characters in these stories are repeated to show how a small change in life can make life different from what actually is.

This book is a spinoff of Three Idiots and a wise man. Most of the characters in this story speak Telugu the local language of Andhra Pradesh, India. For the convenience of the story, all the characters are shown to speak in English. This is the third book in the series.

Foreword

Each person tells his or her story in the first person. Intertwined stories of Three Idiots and a foolish person. The story starts in the year 1981 after the summer holidays. How the four persons meet and what their experiences in his life are the story.

This series of stories are based on the **Alternate Reality Theory**. What happens when a small detail or event has changed the life of a person, is the main theme of this series.

Cast of Characters

1. Kumar: The Foolish man in the story, was born in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India in 1964. The story starts with him entering college.
2. Sreenivas alias Sreenu: is Kumar's first friend from college, they hit off well from the first day.
3. Pradip: Sreenu's classmate and their close friend.
4. Sneha: Kumar's love interest and classmate.
5. Nimisha: Helped Kumar and Sneha escape to the village.
6. Sahithi: Met Kumar with pregnancy.
7. Atul: Sneha and Kumar's son was born on 21 Jan 1984
8. Reena: Sneha and Kumar's son was born on 21 May 1995
9. Loveleen: Politician's daughter, a victim of impotent husband
10. Molly: Atul's love interest

Prologue

My Name is Kumar. It was my first day in college. I was away for 2 years from Vijayawada. Up to 8th, I studied in Vijayawada, then I studied my 9th in Vizag and my 10th in the village. Due to my father's job postings, we had to go to different places. Now I joined the college in Vijayawada, which is quite a distance from my residence, it took me around 30mins to walk from home to college. I stood at the door of the classroom and looked around the room. It had 3 rows of benches, the last row girls were sitting and the other two were occupied by boys. I have a first bench syndrome if there is one. I prefer to sit on the first bench. I feel if I don't get to sit on the first bench, I would get lesser marks. When in 7th standard when the first bench was not vacant, I used to sit on the first bench without a table. I used to put books on my thigh and used to write. On the 10th even though I joined 1 week late I could occupy 1st bench and be the first person on the bench. I looked around and found no first benches free. Then one person saw me and called me with his hand signs. I went to him, he said his name was Sreenu. I said I am Kumar. He said you can sit with me. I dropped my notebook on the table.

Sreenu and Pradip were my bench mates during the two years I was in Junior college and we became thick friends, another person who came into my life during this time is Sneha. She stays close to our house. If we both come to our terraces we can see each other. After coming back from the village my eyes fell on her when she was taking a walk on her terrace. Our Thatha (grandfather) has a clinic on their street. I used to help him as he is a doctor and runs the clinic alone without an orderly or nurse.

In the beginning, I used to help him in sending the patients on a first-come-first-served basis. I used to sanitize the syringes and needles. Then we don't have disposable syringes. Then slowly I learned to bandage cuts, etc. I used to get medicines for the clinic from Pradip's Medical Distributors.

I used to learn typing from Sreenu's brother's typing institute. Once Sneha came to our clinic as she was suffering from a fever. From that time, we had become acquaintances. Slowly we started to study together, and I made a tent on my terrace and we used to sit there studying and generally have fun. After my first year of college, I went to Bombay to visit my parents. I have a father, mother, elder brother and younger sister. They were all staying in P & T quarters, Santacruz east. I spent my summer vacation there and returned to Vijayawada. I met Sneha after two months and she became emotional and asked me for a hug. And later in the evening another hug. That is all we have been close to during these two years. After completing my junior college, I went back to Bombay for the summer holidays, unable to decide what I should do next.

Note: for the full details of the story between Kumar and Sneha, please read *Three Idiots and a wise man* by the same writer.

PART 1

Kumar Elopes with Sneha

Chapter 1

1981 month of May

Kumar

After a year I am back in Bombay. Nothing has changed. The boy who is staying on the ground floor now has come to the 10th. He called me to play with their cricket team. They made the small pitch in an open place. I brought a tennis ball for them. We played from 5 pm until we can't see the ball. Then one boy took us to the wada pav stall. We all had wada pav there. This is the first time I had wada pav. They break the pav in half put on green chutney and put a wada in between. They also serve Bajji pav. Instead of wada, they put four bhajjis in between the pav. Bajji pav was better tasting than wada pav. He paid for the wada pavs. I was told he works as a lineman in the telecom dept. and extra money he earns, he spends like this.

After a week my father spoke to the grandfather and he said that Sneha remembers Kumar.

My father asked, "who is Sneha?"

I said, "she is my classmate and she also helps in the clinic. I left her to help Thatha, so I could come here. I will come after two days to talk to Thatha."

After two days I went to Prabhadevi and spoke to Sneha. She said, "she is doing ok. Everything working fine at the clinic."

After two days Thatha called and said, "Sneha went to her grandparents' house for the summer holidays, and now I am without a hand to help out."

I said, "I will ask Sreenu to help out a little. Especially in the evenings, when the rush would be more."

Sreenu agreed to go and help. Why she did not inform him before going to her grandparents? She had not returned to the clinic after the holidays were finished.

Now, Thatha asked his other grandson to help in the clinic, Sreenu showed him the work and left.

I asked Sreenu to check with Sneha's parents.

Sreenu went to Sneha's house to enquire about her.

Her mother closed the door on his face saying she will not come back.

Now I am in two minds, if she does not return, there is no use going back to Vijayawada.

Sneha

Kumar went away to Bombay. Now I have only a clinic for my time pass. Also, I wait for him to call, I wait on the telephone. One day by mistake I talked about eating non-veg. My mother caught my word and told my father about my eating non-veg. Father asked the mother if I had non-veg, what else could I have done? Mother asked me, "you said they are brahmins, how come they are having non-veg?"

They made a big issue of this and me to my grandparents' place. When my degree colleges started they got me admitted there and told me not to come to Vijayawada until I finish my degree. I don't have any way of informing Kumar. What would he think of me? He did not give me

his number or address. We never thought this day would come. I don't have any other option but to let it go.

Sreenu

Kumar rang me up and asked to check about Sneha. It seems she has not returned from their village. I went to the clinic and waited outside if Sneha's sister comes out, so I can confirm her details. She said she got admission to college there and she would not be coming home until the completion of her degree. I informed Kumar about this.

Kumar

I booked a ticket to Vijayawada and packed my bag and left for Vijayawada. I went to Thathayya's house and put the bag down and went for a bath. After dressing up I went to Sreenu's shop.

I asked him "what happened?"

He said, "I talked to her sister, and she said that they had a fight in their home about Sneha eating non-veg at your house. And they sent her to the village where her both grandparents stay. It is near Nellore."

I asked him "how did you find all this information."

He said, "I thought you did not know, they were from our caste. Sneha were relatives of Jamuna. I came to know recently when we met at a function, where Sneha's parents were guests."

I said, "oh, ok what should I do?"

He said, "what you will do, forget her."

I said, "I want to see her at least one time."

He asked, "how will you go there? Do you have money?"

I said, "I saved some money to buy books when I was in Bombay. I did not buy books this time."

He said, "then you take a train to Nellore. From there you have to catch a bus to reach their village. At the bus stop if you ask for her grandparent's name. she may be at either of her grandparents."

I said ok and came back home. I had to check the timings of trains to Nellore. I went over to the clinic. There are no waiting patients. I asked, "why there are no patients."

He said, "after you and Sneha left the patient's rush had come down."

I said, "no problem, now I have come back patients will return."

I looked up the telephone book and called and enquired about trains to Nellore. After I cradled the receiver, he asked, "are you going to Nellore."

I said, "I will just meet Sneha and come back, I was told she joined college there."

He said, "we don't have any relatives there, where will you stay." I said, "I will return by the night."

He said, "ok be careful, do you need any money."

I said, "I have some money with me."

He took a 100 rupee note from his pocket and handed it to me, keep this money.

I took the money put it in my pocket and went home and packed a small bag.

The next morning, I got up early, had a bath and went to the railway station by a walk. I took a ticket to Nellore and when the train came went and sat down on an empty seat. After four hours the train reached the Nellore Station. I inquired where is the bus stop and went over there by a walk. I sat on the bus going towards Sneha's village. After one hour the conductor called the village name. I got down and looked around.

There is a paan shop nearby. The following conversation went on in Telugu.

I went and asked him "where is Paramdhamayya's house?"

He asked, "what is your relation to him." I said, "he is my grandfather." If he is Sneha's grandfather he would be my grandfather.

He asked, "paternal or maternal."

He is Sneha's maternal grandfather, so I told him, "paternal grandfather."

Then he said, "he does not have any sons" as if accusing me of lying.

I said, "he is a paternal grandfather in relation to me, I did not say he is my paternal grandfather."

He asked, "so what is your relation to him?"

I said, "his daughter's husband is my mother's cousin brother."

He asked, "so, his daughter is your aunt?"

I said, “yes.” He asked, “so why are you going there?”

I said, “I have some business with him.”

It is getting very hot standing there and talking to him made me thirsty.

I told him to give me goli soda. It is called so because it has a marble (goli) inside the bottle preventing gas from escaping. One has to push the marble inside to drink the soda from it. There is a technique to drinking soda, there is a nook in the bottle mouth, which you have to hold downwards to stop the marble from stopping the opening. He gave me a soda, I picked a stopper from the counter hit the marble and it went inside and drank from the bottle. I gave him five paise.

Then he gave me instructions on how to go to their house. I followed his instructions and had to confirm the way with a passer-by. At last, I reached her house. I looked for her on the veranda. She was not found. Her colleges have not yet started, where she would be.

I went to the back of the house. I looked over the parapet wall. She was sitting on the back veranda holding her face in her hand. She seemed sad.

I called softly “Sneha.”

She did not look at me.

I shouted, “Sneha”, and then she looked at my side. But as someone is coming from inside the house, I ducked.

I heard a woman’s voice asking her “who is calling you?”

She said, “I am trying my name with different voices, see” and shouted Sneha in a male voice.

She told her “don’t shout” and went away.

I raised my head slowly and looked at her. She put her finger on her mouth so as don’t make any sound and came to the wall.

She said, “come with me” and opened a small door and came out. She caught my hand and took me to the nearby fields. We sat behind a mound of grass and she asked, “how come you are here?”

I said, “I came to see you.”

She said, “if anyone sees you, they will not let you live.”

I said, “I don’t care, without you my life is useless.”

She said, “don’t talk like that.”

I said, “what can I do, they sent you away.”

She said, “by mistake, I told them I had non-veg at your home. They scolded me for eating non-veg and told me things like you have spoiled our religion, you have wrongly born in my stomach, and things like that.”

I said, “then.”

She said, “then what, my father brought me here and left me with my grandparents.”

I asked, “grandparents?”

she said, “both my grandparents live here, I stay for some days here and some days at other grandfather’s.”

I asked her “what we will do.”

She said sadly “what can we do? Live our lives like this only.”

I said boldly, “let us elope.”

She looked scared, “what are you talking about, they will send people behind you and they will kill you and bring me back.”

Then there was a sound behind me and I got up, there was a man around 25 years of age, he caught my collar and asked angrily “who are you? Why are you talking with Sneha?”

I said with my head held high, “I am Kumar, her classmate.”

He said sarcastically, “oh, it is you who fed her non-veg?”

I said mockingly, “I did not feed her, she ate herself.”

He got enraged with my words, “now you are talking back also” and he hit me on my ear.

I fell sideways on the grass heap and then on the muddy earth.

There was a saying eating mud, when I came back to conscience, I was on a running train and my mouth felt like I have eaten mud. I looked around and choose a man and asked him where am I.

He looked at me like an ignorant lad, “on a train going to Vijayawada.”

I said, “thank god, at least they put me on the correct train.”

I looked in my pocket and there is a ticket for Nellore to Vijayawada. So considerate of them to buy me ticket also. I know if I return there they will not put me on a train, they will put me on a ghost train. I sat silently bearing the ringing in my ear.

When the train reached Vijayawada, I got down and walked to my house.

From the slap I received, something must have moved in my brain, I went to Chinna Thatha's (grandfather's younger brother) shop and asked him "give me a job."

He jokingly said, "what will you do, make home deliveries?"

I proudly said, "I will do that."

He thought a moment and said, "normally we don't do home deliveries, but some people were asking for home deliveries, will you do that?"

I said without hesitation, "I will do anything."

He asked, "but what about your studies?"

I said, "I want to earn money."

He asked, "by making deliveries?"

I said, "I will do anything to earn money, I want to be a millionaire."

He said, "ok you are going in the right direction, to earn that much you have to start small. Come and sit here, if there are any calls, you take the delivery."

When the tea fellow came he ordered tea for all. I also had tea and waited.

When one of the clerks at the shop went for lunch, I filled his place and packed the products and helped the other clerk. I spent the whole day helping the clerks.

At first, as I was the grandchild of their boss, they did not tell me any work. I took initiative and helped them, one person even told me “you are the owner’s grandkid, what is the need for doing this work?”

I did not hear anything from them and adamantly sat there helping them. When Chinna Thatha wants to go for lunch, he let me sit at the cash counter, which means he has trust in me. He knows my father and he has faith in our family.

So, the day went like this, when he closed the shop and he collected the cash from the counter, I accompanied him to his house on a rickshaw.

I walked back home from his house.

When I reached home Ammamma asked, “where did you go away?”

I said, “I went to Chinna Thathayya’s shop asking for a job.”

Ammamma said, “what is the need for the job, your age is for studying.”

I said, “I want to earn money, I want a million rupees.”

Ammamma asked, “what will you do with a million rupees?”

I said, “I will marry Sneha.”

Ammamma said, “all this to marry Sneha.” She laughed and let it.

When Thathayya came to have dinner, she said jokingly “he wants to earn million rupees to marry Sneha, so he went to your brother’s shop asking for a job.”

Thathayya said, "I didn't have a million rupees with me, otherwise I would have given you. At least you wanted to do a job to earn that money."

I said proudly "I want to earn that money not steal or do anything illegal."

In the morning I got up and readied and went to Chinna Thatha's house.

He took me to the bank with him and showed me how to deposit the money in the bank.

Chinna Thathayya said, "now you are here to help me out, you bring the collections up to the evening and put it in the bank. We will have less cash to carry home in the night."

I said, "ok, I will do that."

We went to the shop and I tried to help them as much as possible.

It is around 2 pm. I got up and said, "I will go home and have lunch and come."

Chinna Thatha said, "after you have lunch, go and deliver these items to the house near our house, with a big gate. You must have seen that house. You tell the watchman, these you have brought for Nimisha madam. He will let you inside."

I said, "ok", picked up the items and put them in a bag and left for the house to have lunch.

After lunch, I picked up the bag, Ammamma asked, "what is in that bag?"

I said, "some item for delivery."

Ammamma said, “now he is making you do deliveries also.”

I nodded my head and walked toward his house. On the way, a little up on the hill was the house with a big gate. Only people with cars have such big gates.

I stood before the gate and knocked on the gate.

The watchman opened a small opening on the gate and asked, “who is it” in Hindi.

I said in my broken Hindi “ I brought some items for Nimisha madam.”

He opened the gate and said, “she told him to expect a parcel, go inside.”

I entered the house. On a sofa, a lady of around twenty or twenty-two is sitting, with a magazine in her hand.

I called from the door “madam.”

She looked up and admonished me by saying “don’t call me madam, I feel like someone else, call me Nimisha, better call me Nimmo.”

I said, “ok, madam.”

She said angrily “you are calling me again madam.”

I stammered, “sorry madam, sorry Nimmo.”

she said, “that is better, and asked how come you are here?”

I said, “I came to deliver these items.”

She said, “oh, Thathayya sent you. Ok, put them here. What will you have.”

I said, "nothing madam, Nimmo."

She said, "I am going to have a cup of tea, will you have one."

I am not the type to reject tea, I nodded my head.

She said I was asking for a long time to have the items delivered, now he got the man to do deliveries."

I said, "I am still a boy, madam, Nimmo."

"It will take some time to get accustomed to calling, what are you studying?" she asked while walking to the kitchen.

I walked behind her and said, "I finished junior college, Nimmo."

She asked accusingly, "why you did not join degree college?"

I said, "I want to earn a million rupees."

She rolled her eyes, "what for?"

I said, "to marry Sneha."

She asked, "who is Sneha?"

I said, "the girl I love."

She asked, "so, to marry the girl you love Sneha, you want to earn one million rupees? Will a million rupees be enough to marry Sneha?"

I said, "I don't know, I thought at least one million rupees is necessary."

She said, "yeh, yeh, at least one million is necessary." She filtered the tea into cups and said, "give this cup to the watchman and come."

I picked up the cup and gave the watchman and returned to the hall. She put the cups on the table and said, “take one.” I picked up a cup and started sipping.

She said, “you are sipping without making any noise, so nice.”

I said, “my parents have taught me to drink this way.”

She asked, “where are your parents?”

I said, “they are in Bombay.”

She asked, “if they are in Bombay what are you doing here?”

I said, “I stayed back to do my junior college. Now I came back for Sneha, otherwise, I would have joined in degree there.”

She asked, “what happened with Sneha?”

I said, “her parents sent her away to her grandparent’s village for eating non-veg.”

She asked, “so, they should not eat non-veg?” I said, “I did not know, otherwise, I would have stopped her from eating non-veg. Now they send her away and I can’t meet her.”

She said, “for that, you stopped your studies and want to earn money by doing deliveries? If you study, you can earn more than a million rupees, go and join college.”

I said ok, madam, Nimmo. I will go and join in college.”

She said, “if I came to know you did not join college, I will come and hit you with this stick”, showing me a walking stick standing on a corner.

I got scared, "I am going to join in college, don't hit me."

She said, "take this money and give your grandfather and tell him you will join college and only you will help him in the evenings, ok."

I said, "ok, Nimmo."

She said, "you are coming into the line."

I said, "thanks" and went back to the shop.

I told Chinna Thatha "that I can't do full-day work, I will join college and only do work in the evenings after college."

The next day, I went to the college and spoke with the principal. I said, "I wanted to join a degree college."

He said, "admissions are closed, and classes will start next Monday."

I said, "I had gone to Bombay to be with my parents, I want to join college here." Seeing I am an old student of the college, he said, "there is a seat in B.Com."

I said, "I want to join in B.Com. only."

He said, "Sreenivas already told me to keep a seat for you, he said you went to Bombay for vacation." I said, "thank you, sir, I will pay the fees tomorrow", and came out of his office.

I went to Sreenu and told him I got admission for B.Com. and thanked him. He said when you returned, when I went to pay the fees, I told him to keep a seat for you. If you are not there, there will be no competition for studies.

I went to my Chinna Thatha and told him I joined in degree, I can only help them in the evenings.

He said, "ok, I will tell the customers to expect the deliveries in the evening only."

After two days I got delivery for Nimisha. I took the bag and went over to her house.

I knocked on the gate, the watchman opened the small window seeing me he opened the gate. I went in and knocked on the open door.

She looked out of the room and asked angrily, "come in, you have not joined college, you are still doing deliveries?"

I said proudly "I got admission to B.Com."

She cooled down, "then come and sit I will prepare tea."

I sat down and looked at the magazine on the table, it is a fashion magazine. I looked through the book. She came with the tea and told me to give one cup to the watchman.

I took the cup and handed it to him and came back.

She asked, "you are looking through this magazine?"

I said, "I like to read books, I used to bring books from Bombay, but this time I could not get books."

She asked, "why?"

I said, "I wanted to save some money, so I did not get books."

She asked, "why do you want to save money?"

I said, "I told you no, I want to save million rupees."

She said, "so, you did not leave the idea for a million rupees."

I proudly said, "no."

She handed me the bill amount. I put them in my pocket and came out.

In the beginning, it was only Nimmo who ordered. Slowly others with phones at home started to order by phone. As time passed Nimmo used to order something or other items daily. I used to go to her house daily and she would give me tea.

If I said I don't have time for tea, she would say then finish your rounds and then have tea and pick up your bill. At least for the sake of collecting bills, I used to sit and had tea and collect the payment and leave her house.

From her behaviour, it seems that she is feeling alone in her house, which is why she used to order daily so I would give her some company. If I don't have more deliveries, I would sit and chat with her.

One day I asked her "do you feel alone here? Don't you have anyone?"

She said, "I have everyone, but still, no one is here."

Chapter 2

Sneha

One day Suresh came running to me and said, “your mother met with an accident, uncle and aunty are going on a scooter, and a tempo hit them from behind and ran away. Uncle is ok but your mother is seriously hurt, they are asking you to come home immediately.”

I packed my bag hurriedly and left with Suresh to Vijayawada.

He took me to mom at the hospital. She was with all the bandages.

Seeing me she started crying, “I thought I will keep you away from Vijayawada, but fate keeping me away now. I will not live long. I am sorry for whatever I did.”

I said, “don’t talk like that nothing will happen to you, now I have come back, so you will recover fully.”

Hearing my words, she drifted off to sleep with help of medicines.

I thought she asked for forgiveness, that is enough for me. What happened to Kumar? That day Baava hit him and put him on the train. Did he reach his home that day? I have to go and find what he is doing.

I told Suresh to look after mom, I will go and change and come.

He said with concern, “go home and have something to eat and come back, we might be here the whole night, someone has to be with her in the night.”

I said, "ok" and came out of the hospital.

I got down from the bus at the Gandhi Park bus stop and started walking home.

I saw Kumar walking toward me with a bag in his hand.

He must be surprised to see me. He stopped and looked at me.

I went to him and said, "what happened?"

Kumar said, "I could not believe my eyes; how come you are here?"

I said, "my mother met with an accident and she is very serious, so they called me here."

He asked, "where are you going?"

I said, "home, what is this in this bag?"

Kumar said, "I am going for delivery, come with me."

I walked with him and I was telling him about my experiences in the village. I told him I was so scared when my brother hit him.

Kumar said it is nothing. He went to a house, handed over a packet and took the money and came out.

I asked accusingly "you stopped your studies and doing this work?"

Kumar said, "I joined in B.Com. and this is for earning extra money, I want to save one million rupees."

I asked, "what is with these one million rupees?"

Kumar told me "I wanted to earn that and throw the money on your father's face, and ask for your hand."

I could not contain my laugh and said, “you want to throw money on my father’s face and ask for my hand.”

Kumar said proudly “yes, that’s why I am doing this work while studying.”

While walking we came to a big gated bungalow.

Our parents said never to go near that bungalow. When I asked why I should not go there, are there ghosts there?

They said yes.

I asked, “Kumar why are going in there? Aren’t you scared of ghosts?”

He laughed and said, “who told you there are ghosts in there, come with me I will show you.”

I was reluctant to go inside, but being with Kumar I can do anything.

Kumar knocked on the gate and a watchman looked through a hole and opened the gate.

Kumar said, “see there is a watchman too.”

We went inside directly without knocking on the door. He put the bag on a table in front of the sofa and called Nimmo. One lady looked through a door and said coming.

Nimmo came after two minutes when she came over and looked at me questioningly.

Kumar said, “this is Sneha, I was telling you.”

Nimmo asked, “how come you are here?”

I said, “my mother met with an accident and my brother brought me here.”

Nimmo asked, “what are you gonna do?”

Kumar said, “I don’t know.”

Nimmo asked, “do you want to elope with Sneha?”

Kumar asked, “where would I go?”

Nimmo said, “I know someone will give you work and you will be away from all these people, you go and get some clothes and whatever money you saved, and I will tell you how to go there.”

I showed the bag in my hand and said, “I have my clothes with me. I directly went to the hospital from the bus stand.”

Kumar said, “I will go and get some clothes.”

Nimmo said to me “you can stay here until he comes back”, I was scared but I said “ok”, he went and came back after half an hour.

I asked him “what did you tell them at your house?”

Kumar said, “I told them I am going to Bombay”, and showed me the money he saved.

Nimisha gave him some money and said “this is for the delivery and this is for the travelling” and handed him an address and gave instructions, “You go to Vizag by train. I think the train will be coming in one-hour time. Then from there you go to Seethamma Dhara by bus and go to this address. There will be a man named Naanamma you go to him and say, you were sent there by Purushotham Garu, to work in his fields. He will take you to the fields where you will be given a house for staying in, and you have to look after the fields at night as a watchman. Can you do that?”

Kumar said, “for being with Sneha I will do anything.”

Nimmo said, “you must go now else you might miss the train.”

We both caught our bags and hurried to the railway station.

We took tickets to Vizag, and after 10 minutes the Vizag express arrived. We went and sat on the train.

The train started and by the time we reached Vizag, it was around 6 am on the next day.

We came out and enquired about the bus and caught the bus and got down in Seethamma Dhara.

We enquired about the address and when we said the Name Naanamma, he said, “the milkman, you go straight and turn right and you can’t miss the buffaloes.”

We reached the Naanamma place and enquired about him. Someone pointed him out.

He is fat and short with a big stomach.

We went and told him we were sent by Purushotham Garu for a job in the fields.

He looked at us and asked, “are you husband and wife?”

I showed him the Mangal sutra with a yellow thread and said, “yes.”

Kumar whispered, “where did you get that?”

I said, “shh.”

Naanamma said, “come and have breakfast we will go there after half an hour.”

When we were having breakfast Kumar asked, “where did you get that?”

I said, “I flicked it off on the train.”

Kumar asked angrily “you stole that?”

I said soothingly, “We needed that to get the job, don’t you understand that? How did he not say anything when I showed him this.”

Seeing someone coming, Kumar kept quiet.

Kumar

After one hour he took us by bus to a village which took us more than 2 hours. We got off the bus. There is nothing around only a road and fields. He took us on the walk to his fields.

It must have taken us more than half an hour. There is a small tiled house at the edge of the fields.

He took us there and opened the lock with a key with him.

There is a room and a kitchen there. We put our bags aside. There is a woven cot in the corner. He put it on the floor and put some bedsheets, blankets, and pillows.

He said you seem to have come with only clothes.

I said, “for marrying her our families throw us out.”

He asked, “is it a love marriage?”

I said yes.

He gave us instructions on how to look after fields.

He looked out and saw some workers coming towards the fields.

He told us, “come, I will introduce them.”

He went to a man, addressed him as Ramulu and told him. “this is Kumar and Sneha, from now on they will be looking after the fields. You help them settle down, they seem to be recently married. They don’t have anything except a few clothes.”

Ramulu said, “we will provide what they need.”

Naanamma looked at his time and said, “I will be moving else I will miss the return bus.”

Ramulu enquired about us. We told our story ending with, our getting married and our families throwing us out for marrying outside the caste.

He told us “you will not have any problem here, you can stay peacefully.”

They started to work in the fields. I sat outside our house and looked at them working.

One person said, “why don’t you sleep, you need to keep awake at night.”

I said, “it will take some time to get accustomed.”

Sneha brought me a cup of tea.

I asked, “where did you get milk for the tea.”

Sneha said, “one of them brought milk with them. I am making tea for them also.”

I started sipping and they came and sat on the floor. Sneha brought them tea and gave them.

She told the person who brought the milk “Anna, get some curd next time, I will make curd, he can’t eat food without curd.” He nodded.

I tried to catch their names. Ramulu is their head. Seethamma is his wife an apt name, then there is Rosayya and his wife Gowramma, and Achayya and his wife Appallamma. Every one of them has ‘ayya’ or ‘amma’ at the end of their name.

I asked, “are you the only ones working in the fields?”

Ramulu said, “no we are here for tilling the land. Once we sow the fields more people will be required. Normally we don’t drink tea, last time Naanamma’s son stayed here for one year, he habituated us to tea, now if we don’t have a cup in the morning, we can’t start off.”

I asked, “where did Naanamma’s son go?”

Ramulu said, “he had married and went back to the city, it is the opposite with you, you married and came to the fields. Until sowing starts you don’t have to keep a watch on the night, but once they start sowing you have to keep awake at night, you should not doze off.”

I said, “I don’t sleep heavily, if I hear a small sound, I get awoken.”

Ramulu said, “that is good for you.”

I asked, “where do you stay?”

Ramulu replied “we stay in the nearby village. It is called Rama Kutiram. We have a small Rama Temple there and

We have around 50 families. If you need anything tell me, we will get them when we come in the morning.”

I said, “thanks, I will come with you in the evening and see where the village is, we can get ourselves the items if we require them urgently.”

He said, “you do that. Completing their tea break they started tilling the fields.”

I looked at them working came back inside and asked, “Sneha, what are you doing.”

Sneha said, “I am checking what is available in the house. There is rice, dal, salt and Mirchi. We don’t have any fresh vegetables.”

I went out and shouted, “where can we get some vegetables?”

He shouted back, “look behind the house.”

We went and there is a patch of land where vegetables are grown. Seeing them Sneha said, “I feel like I am back in my village.”

I said, “this is also like a village, only there are no houses here. If you think it’s yours, then it will be your village.”

She went and took some vegetables and Mirchi came back to make lunch for us.

I came and shouted, “what are you going to do for lunch?”

Ramulu said, “we brought lunch.”

I said ok and came back and lay down on the cot.

Then seeing the position the cot is in, I thought we have to tighten the threads on the cot to sleep properly.

As we travelled the whole night sitting, I slipped into sleep.

I was dreaming We are standing at the edge of the green fields. The plants have grown to my height and they started to flower.

I awoke with a touch on my shoulder. Sneha awoke me to have lunch.

I sat down and she put the food on a plate and handed me the plate.

I sat there and had my lunch. It was all a new experience for me.

I looked at Sneha after working in the kitchen, she is perspiring.

I finished lunch and put the plate in the kitchen washed my hands and came back to the room.

I said, "you must be having trouble cooking."

Sneha said, "what is the problem with cooking, I used to do cooking in the village, and my grandmother used to make me do all the cooking. Here it is better, I can do the cooking for you. My grandmother used to say, a girl has to learn cooking, otherwise, what will she do when she marries and goes to her in-law's place? Now it has come for use for me here."

I kissed her on the cheeks and came out looking at them working.

They stopped the work and came and sat on our veranda. They removed their boxes and started to eat.

I asked, "where do we get drinking water."

He said, "start the bore and fill the water. Now the water is not needed, otherwise, except at the time of rain, we would be running the bore when there is power. Before starting check if the power is there or not. There are two lines of power here. One is for the bore and one is for the house. House current would be twenty-four hours, but the bore only works for six to eight hours, keep the timings in mind when you want to run the bore."

I said, "I had to learn a lot to stay here."

He said, "it is nothing for a person like you, who has studied in the city. How much have you studied?"

I said, "we both completed Inter."

He said, "that must be good studies."

I understood he might not know much about studies. At least they will respect us for our studies.

After completing his lunch, Ramulu came and asked me to write a letter to his son who is in the city.

I asked, "do you have his address?"

He said, "there is a book inside which has all our addresses."

I went and searched for the book, found it in a cupboard and brought it out.

I asked him "what is your son's name?"

He said, "Lovekush", I said, "like Ram's sons."

He said, “exactly.” I searched through the addresses and said, “does he also stays at Seethamma Dhara, where Naanamma stays.”

He said, “yes.”

I said, “you could have passed the message through Naanamma.”

He said, “They both had a fight on a trivial matter and they don’t speak with each other.”

I asked, “whose lands are these, Naanamma’s?”

He said, “no it’s Zamindar Purushotham’s lands, Naanamma is only a caretaker With the Zamindar.”

I said, “oh, ok.”

So, what is Nimmo’s relation to Purushotham? Why did she use his name for us to get this work? Does she know there is a place available for us? Whatever it may be we can hide out here for the rest of our lives away from Sneha’s grandparents. I feel that if Sneha is with me, I can live the rest of my life here with her.

I wrote him a letter from what he dictated, wrote the address, and gave it back to him.

Ramulu said, “I will post it in the post box in our village.”

I asked him “is there a post office in your village?”

Ramulu said, “no, for that we had to go to Chodavaram.”

I said, “it is ok, I wondered if the postcards were exhausted, what should we do?”

Ramulu said, “if they are exhausted, tell me someone will get them for you. All these people don’t know how to write, they will come to you for writing letters.”

I said, "it is ok, I don't have any problem writing for them, Sneha can also write for them, her writing is better than mine."

After they all left for work, I looked inside, Sneha is sleeping on the cot.

I came out and sat on the veranda looking at them working.

Sreenu

Kumar's grandfather came to our typing institute looking for me.

I was practising typing and he came and asked my brother, "is Sreenu here?"

He knows me as Kumar's friend and I went and helped him in the clinic when Kumar went to Bombay and Sneha was taken to her village.

I asked him "Thathayya, what happened?"

He said, "I am looking for Kumar, he said he is going to Bombay and put some clothes in a bag and went away. When his father called me, and I asked him how is Kumar, he said he never turned up there, where he could have gone?"

I said, "I don't have an idea, he did not come to the college for the last two days. I assumed he is working or something. I will check if Sneha came or not."

As it was on his way I took him with me to Sneha's house on our rickshaw. I got down and went to her house and knocked on their door. Sneha's sister opened the door.

She asked me “where is my sister?”

I was taken aback and asked, “Isn’t she in your village?”

She said, “my parents have met with an accident and my mother is seriously ill and she is in hospital, so Suresh Anna brought her here. She told him she is going home to change and disappeared.”

I said, “sorry about your mother” and came down to the rickshaw.

I told Kumar’s grandfather, “Sneha came back from the village and she is also missing. Do you think they ran away together?”

He said, “where will they run away, they can only go to Bombay. Do they have enough money to go there? Let us go to the clinic and see.”

I told the rickshawala to take us to the clinic a little further down the lane. We got down and he unlocked the door and he went and called his younger brother where Kumar was working. He asked about Kumar and told him that “Kumar has not come home, he told your vadina (sister-in-law) he is going to Bombay and he had not gone there either.”

He cut the call and said, “he is checking where he is gone for deliveries before disappearing.”

The phone rang again, he said spoke and cut the call.

He said, “my brother says he has gone to the bungalow on the way to his house for delivery. Let us go and check there.”

We went to the bungalow indicated by him. I knocked on the gate, and a watchman opened a small window and asked, “who is it?”

I said, “I came for Kumar, I understand he came here for delivery two days back.”

The watchman said, “he had come with a girl and he spoke with madam and they both went away.”

I said, “can we speak with the madam.”

He opened the gate and took us to the door and rang the bell. A lady looked out from the door and seeing us came over.

I said indicating Kumar’s grandfather, “he is Kumar’s grandfather. He is looking for Kumar.”

She said, “Namaste Thathayya, I understand they eloped. They came to me and delivered and took the money and said they are going away together.”

“Did he say where they are going?” I asked.

She said, “I have no idea, he said he is going to catch the train, I assumed he is going to Bombay to his parents.”

He said, “they did not reach his house there.”

She said, “I don’t have any idea where they would go.”

I thought she is lying about them, but I don’t have any proof to question her.

I said, “let us go”, to grandfather came out and I dropped him at his house and returned to our shop.

Kumar

I saw a commotion and went running to the workers. Ramulu was injured and they were bringing him to the house. I looked at his leg. He had a gash on his foot. I told them to put him down on the veranda. I shouted to Sneha, she came out and saw what happened and went inside and brought a piece of clothing and some water.

I cleaned the wound and tied the cloth to his wound. It seemed to stop his bleeding.

Achayya asked, "how do you know to do that?" I said, "we practised with our Thathayya for two years. Our Thathayya's are doctors."

Rosayya asked, "you have learned doctor also?"

I asked, "yes, where is the medical shop around here?"

He said, "for that, we have to go to Chodavaram."

Do we have any transportation here? A scooter perhaps a cycle?"

Ramulu said, "if we go to our village maybe we will get a cycle."

I asked, "will one of you come with me?"

Achayya said, "I will come with you."

We started to walk to his village, if anything Sneha can manage Ramulu's injury.

We walked for twenty minutes and we reached his village.

He went to a tea shop and asked for the cycle. The shop fellow asked, "what happened?"

Achayya said, "Ramulu is injured and this fellow wants to bring an injection from Chodavaram."

He said, "it is in the back, go and take it."

He brought the cycle and I sat behind, and he cycled to Chodavaram. It must have taken us fifteen minutes of a cycle ride to reach the medical shop.

I asked, "for the TT Injection and syringe and a needle."

He gave them and I paid for them and we cycled back to our house. Sneha boiled the water and sanitized the syringe and needle. And she gave him the injection. I let her do it because by getting it from a girl he would feel less pain. Exactly what I thought happened, he said, "I did not feel any pain."

I said, "Achayya, take him back to your village on the cycle."

They all went away with their instruments.

I sat on the cot and said "Sneha, give me a cup of tea."

For the first time, we slept together on the bed as we are underage and not officially married we kept our backs to each other and slept. In the middle of the night, we were holding each other due to the cold. Because of the open spaces around, it was very cold.

I heard the knock on the door and looked at the time it is not even 7 am. I got up and went and opened the door. It is Rosayya at the door.

I asked him "what happened?"

Rosayya said, "the village head's daughter is suffering from stomach pain."

When he said daughter, I thought Sneha should be present and we went together with him on a walk. He took us to a tiled house like us but a much bigger one.

We went and they guided us to her room.

I said, "Sneha, check where she is having the pain."

She checked and asked the girl's mother "is she matured?"

The girl's mother replied "no."

Sneha said, "she could be about to mature", and said to me "get some painkillers." I wrote the medicine on a piece of paper and told Rosayya to send someone to get it from Chodavaram medical shop.

I went to the village head and told him "nothing to worry about, she is about to mature."

He asked, "Then, why the pain?"

I said, "some girls get pains during their periods. She is about to start to get periods."

He said happily "it is time for functions" and ordered to make room for her to be placed in a separate room.

When Rosayya brought medicine and Sneha gave her one and told her to take one after 6 hours if her pain persists.

We came back to take leave and he asked me my name.

I said, "I am Kumar and she is Sneha, my wife."

He said, "my name is Balayya" and asked, "do you practice medicine?"

I said, “we both helped my Thathayya with his clinic and learned from him.”

Balayya asked, “so, you know what medicine to give for what ailment.”

I said, “I certainly know for common ailments, we could not do surgeries and things like that.”

Balayya asked, “what are you doing in the fields?”

I said, “I was put to look after the fields at the night as a watchman.”

Balayya said, “you seemed to be a knowledgeable person. Why did you come to do this job?”

I said, “when I married Sneha against our parents’ wishes, they threw us out of the house and someone sent us here to lay low for some time.”

Balayya thought for some time, and said, “in the daytime, you spend your time here if anyone has any problem they will come to you. Then you can be back at your house at the night.”

I said, “I don’t have any problem.”

He asked, “what age are you?”

I said, “19”, two years more than my actual age. I wanted to say 21 but decided against it.

So, this way my journey as a village doctor started.

I went with Rosayya and brought some common medicines, which I used to get for my grandfather. Then some cotton and gauge for treating cuts and bruises.

Balayya gave me a small cupboard to place the medicines. He arranged for a table and some chairs and benches for the people to sit on his veranda.

I said, "I will have a bath and come."

He showed me a cycle and said, "you can use the cycle for your transportation. You need it for going home, sometimes people come to take you to their homes. You may also need to get medicines from Chodavaram."

I said, "thanks", and took Sneha and rode back to the house.

Within a month our lives have changed totally. There is a small Rama Temple in Rama Kutir, an old Pujari, who was looking after the temple died recently and I took over the pujas of the temple. I would take bath and the first thing I would go to the temple and light a lamp and would return.

Then whatever breakfast we made, I would take and offer as prasadam. This prasadam I would take to this our clinic and distribute it to the patients along with the medicines. I went to Chodavaram and brought some religious books and some sacred thread, which I started to wear. I started to advise people on religious matters.

I did manage to do puja for Balayya's daughter's saree ceremony and required ceremonies.

So, people started to consult me not only on medical problems but on religious matters too. I used to read those books with my Thathayya, so I remember some things.

Then as I am sitting in their house, I used to advise Balayya on other matters but discreetly. Even if anyone asks about problems other than medical or religious, I used to refer them to Balayya, saying he only should decide on those matters.

This brought me some more goodwill with Balayya and he used to consult me on these matters but discreetly, then later on he would ask me my opinion openly.

So, in a year, I had become his right-hand man. This year on a cold night, we had our first night and from that day we started to live as husband and wife.

People from Rama Kutir started to call her for their house functions, what they would call her 'Amma' or the mother of the village.

I started to act like a brahmin and would put red and white coloured lines on my forehead indicating a Vaishnava Brahmin. I may not have read Vedas but I was born into a family of both vegetarians and non-vegetarians. After coming here, we did not touch non-veg and became brahmins by practice.

When the Rama Navami came, we brought Small statues of Rama, Laxman, Seetha and Hanuman and performed Rama and Seetha's marriage in Balayya's courtyard.

We had storytelling at night at the mandap where the statues were kept. I told them, in short, the story of Ramayana. They must have heard them from their forefathers, but I told the story differently, why they

should follow in his footsteps, then next day we took the statues to Rama's temple and put them there. Now Rama was not alone, he had his family for company.

Every Saturday I would give them Abhishekam, a kind of bath to them. Then I would dress them up and people would come to have darshan on that day.

Daily I would distribute the prasadam at my clinic, and on Saturday I would put a boy to distribute prasadam to the devotees at the temple. It has become a ritual for Rama Kutir villagers to have a bath on Saturday and come and visit the temple.

It has been rumoured all around the villages that if they come and visit the temple on a Saturday their wants are fulfilled.

One person said after visiting the temple he had got a son, he was without children for 10 years.

Then another person got a job in the city, so the stories grew exponentially. From then on every year on Rama Navami we would take out the statues, perform the marriage of Rama and Seetha and have a night of storytelling and would return them the next day to the temple.

PART 2

Kumar becomes Father

Chapter 1

Kumar

Slowly the word reached the ears of Purushotham, that the man he sent had become 'all-in-one' in the village. When he came to Vizag for collecting the money, he called me to his house.

He asked me for my details as he could not recollect sending me to Naanamma.

I told him all the details truly what happened with us except the non-veg matter with Sneha's family.

He thought for a minute and said as you are doing good for the village and neighbouring villages, I don't want to take away their well-wisher, I will go check with Nimisha, if I find you told any lies to us, I will not spare you.

I said catching the sacred thread on my body and said, "I would never tell lies."

He said, "you don't have to look after the fields anymore, I will appoint someone else for that, you can start staying in Rama Kutir. I will speak with Balayya about your living quarters."

I told him thanks for whatever he had done for me and returned to Rama Kutir. We packed our bags and shifted to a house beside Balayya's house.

After six months of shifting our house, Sneha became pregnant. After another six months, she gave me a son and we named him Atul.

During all this time we never attempted to contact our families. After Atul is born we decided to tell my family we are safe and living well off.

So, I went over to the Chodavaram post office and called my Thathayya and informed him we are safe and sound and doing well and a respected person in our village and we had a son named Atul.

Thathayya said happily, “you did take your time to inform us of your well-being.”

I said, “we had feared for our lives because of Sneha’s Baava. So, we did not inform anyone. I will make a call later and cut the call.”

After another month I called Thathayya once again. He said, “your mother is worried sick and wants to see you and your family, she wants to take your son in her hands.”

I said, “I will take some time off to go and visit them.

Thathayya told me to note down their number and call them at their home.”

I noted down the number and called and spoke to my mother.

I said, “we were scared for our lives from Sneha’s family, so we have hidden in this village. We will come and visit them.”

I went to Balayya and told him “my parents have forgiven us and wanted us to come to them so they can see their grandson.”

He asked, "where are they."

I said, "they are in Bombay."

He asked, "if they are in Bombay and you are here so far away."

I said, "I will go and see them and return."

He asked, "are you sure you will return?"

I said, "I will just show them their grandson and return. I will only take our clothes with us."

He said, "I will send someone to Vizag to book a ticket for you."

I said, "thanks", and went to my house.

During these three years, we have accumulated a good number of household items.

Thinking about shall we return or stay there, I locked the house and caught our bags and asked someone to drop us at the bus stand. We caught the bus and reached Vizag station and waited for the train to arrive from Bhubaneshwar.

It was one hour late and we went and sat in our seats. We reached Dadar at 11 am, the train was late and we got down and crossed over to the local train section. Took the tickets and went and stood on platform no.1 to go towards Santacruz.

The train is entering the platform and a girl, about 16 years of age, was walking absentmindedly and walked to the edge of the platform. Other people on the platform

were shouting at her to get away. I went and pulled her away from the coming train.

She looked at me and said, "Kumar, you came for me."

I am surprised by her calling me Kumar, as I have never laid my eyes on her.

She looked around and caught me and started crying.

I looked at Sneha helplessly, Sneha caught her and sat her on a bench.

The train went away, we are not worried as another train would come in a few minutes.

Sneha asked, "What is your name and where do you stay?"

She said, "I am Sahithi and we stay at Vakola."

Sneha said, "we are going there only come with us."

Sahithi looked at me and said, "Kumar you have aged and look 21."

I said, "my age is 21 only."

Sahithi looked at Sneha and asked, "who is this lady with a boy in her hand."

I said, "she is Sneha, my wife."

Sahithi said, "you told me she was taken away by her parents and when you went to see her, her brother gave you one on your ear and you fell down, and they put you on a train."

Sneha asked, "how do you know all that?"

Sahithi asked, "when did you marry her?"

I said, "three years back."

Sahithi said, "oh, so much time has passed."

Sneha asked, "what happened you were walking in a trance."

Sahithi started crying and said, "I am three months pregnant."

Sneha asked, "did he reject you, that's why you are walking into the train."

Sahithi said, "I have not told my family, I am scared of what they will say."

Sneha looked at me and said, "let us take her to Vakola and see what we can do."

We took her on the next train and from the station, we caught an autorickshaw and reached home.

We got down and Suri came out after hearing the sound of our auto.

He looked at me and asked, "how are you, Kumar?"

I said, "I am fine meet my wife Sneha, I told you about her."

He said, "yes."

"And who is this lady" indicating the girl with me.

I said, "She is Sahithi, we met her at Dadar, and she seems to have lost it", making a circle on my head indicating a screw loose.

He said, "oh."

I said, "she stays at Vakola, so we brought her with us."

Our mother was listening to all this from the balcony.

She shouted, “how long will you stand there, come up we have to give you aarti.”

I showed my hand and said, “coming.”

We went and stood in front of her.

She has given aarti and we went inside.

She took Atul from Sneha’s hand and started to kiss him.

He awoke and started to cry.

Sneha took him and said, “he must be feeling hungry, I will give him milk” and went and sat on the bed.

Now my mother’s eyes fell on the girl with us, “who is this girl?”

I said, “We saw her at Dadar station, she was about to slip, so I caught her and she told me she stays at Vakola and we brought her with us and will take her house once she feels well.”

Mom asked her, “do you want to eat lunch?” in Hindi.

She must have remembered she is hungry she nodded her head. Mom put some food on a plate and gave it and she started to eat.

Mom told us you have a long train journey go and have a bath, then you can have lunch.

I took my towel and went over to take bath.

I came and told Sneha to go for a bath, I will hold Atul.

Mom took Atul from her and said I will look after him.

She caught him and started to rock him to sleep. He slept on her shoulder.

Sneha asked, “what is her story? She is behaving as if she knew you. But she says you have aged.”

I said, “must have seen me when I last came here. But I don’t seem to recollect seeing her. In the evening I will take her to her house. She says she is three months pregnant and is scared that her family will scold her.”

Mom said to Sahithi “come sleep for some time, you seemed to have become weak.”

Mom put her to bed and asked, “why did you bring her here, you could have taken her directly to her house.”

I said, “how can I go there first, we want to have a bath first and we are getting hungry, I can’t eat anything without taking a bath.”

Seeing the thread hanging from my shoulder, Mom asked, “when did you get the sacred thread.”

I said, “I am the official purohit of our village. To live in that village, I have transformed into a brahmin doctor. Now I am next to the village chief there. People greet me with a namaste when I go around Rama Kutir. Around 10 villages people come to me for medicines. They say my hand is excellent, any kind of disease will run away from me.”

She said, “so, you got a lot of fame there for yourself.”

I said, “Sneha also got a name there, she is like the village’s mother. Everyone calls her first for their functions. She should be the first one to be given turmeric or bindi or fruits. They don’t even let their elders get that before Sneha. If she did not attend their function they treat it as a bad omen and they would be ready to cancel than do the function without her.”

Sneha came after the bath, she said, “the credit should go to your son only. He took charge of the situation and used it wisely.”

After lunch, I said, “we will sleep for some time, we did not have good sleep on the train.”

Mom said, “ put those mattresses on the floor and sleep off.”

We put Atul in between and slept off.

I got up with a touch on my shoulder. It is the new girl, I forgot her name.

I asked her, “what is your name?”

She said, “I told you no, Sahithi.”

I said, “ok, Sahithi, what do you want?”

Sahithi said, “you told me you will take me to my home in the evening.”

I said, “when did I tell you, I told my mom.”

Sahithi said, “I heard you saying it, so you told me also.”

I said ok, I will take you, go and freshen up. If they see you like this they will scold me.”

Sahithi got up and said, “I am getting ready.”

I thought her childishness has not gone. If I had been here three months back she would have convinced me, I was her child’s father. I woke Sneha and told her to get ready and we will go and see her parents.

I opened the door and said, “outside it has cooled down.”

Sneha

It was an experience coming to Bombay. We got off the train and had to walk for ten minutes to reach another platform. On the way Kumar took tickets.

I asked him “we had taken tickets to come here, what are these for?”

Kumar said, “they are for the local train.”

What is this local train?

We came to the platform and stood there. I was holding Atul and Kumar was catching our luggage. He put the luggage down on the platform and was looking towards the train coming. I looked around so many people running around. Everywhere it is crowded. I looked at the opposite platform, it is chock a block with people. Where did all these people come from?

A train was coming from our right side. People have moved back to let the train pass. One girl possibly 16 years of age was walking on the edge of the platform. People are shouting for her to get back, but nobody has attempted to pull her back.

I saw a streak from the edge of my eyes, it was Kumar who went and pulled back by hugging her. I was about to shout at him for hugging her. But it was the technique that in a split second he could remove her from the path of the train.

In the most turn of surprising events, she recognized him and called him Kumar. Another surprise is that she even knows me and our story. It is apparent she knew him and our story before we even set foot in this city. But the story she was telling, I could not fathom. If I had not

known Kumar was with me for the last three years, I would have believed her story.

Sahithi is telling us she is three months pregnant and Kumar is responsible for her pregnancy. Any other person can believe her, but how can I believe her? Kumar told me yesterday that Bombay from our house is 1500 km in distance, how can he go and impregnate her?

By the time I looked back the train left the station. I told Kumar the train went away.

Kumar said, “don’t panic, another train will come in a few minutes” and I heaved a sigh of relief. Now I have put my attention on the girl, what did she say her name? Sahithi. She was telling us she thought she might be pregnant and went and got checked with the doctor and the doctor confirmed her pregnancy. Then she was walking down the road thinking Kumar did not reply to me.

I asked, “did you write to him?”

Sahithi said, “yes.”

I asked, “what address?”

Sahithi said, “Vijayawada’s address.”

We left Vijayawada three years back, if she writes to him now, how he will get her letter?

Sahithi was continuing her story, “then a jeep came in front of me, I shouted Kumar and found you in front of me.”

I asked her, “where were you when the jeep came in front of you?”

Sahithi said “Vakola.”

I asked her “do you stay at Vakola?”

Sahithi said, “obviously.”

Then Kumar said to me “ as we are going to Vakola, let us take her with us and drop her at her house.”

Sahithi seems scared to go home.

I said, “ok, what will we lose? We can’t leave her at the station.”

We came home and mom that’s what mother-in-law told me to call her, gave aarti and we went in and sat down.

I fed Atul and he slept. We had a bath, lunch and slept off.

Now he is waking me to go leave Sahithi at her home. I got up freshened up and took Atul and we went with her by a walk to her home.

It took us ten minutes to go to her house. It is an independent house but the door was locked. She turned around looking where they went. Kumar went to their neighbours and enquired about them.

Kumar came back and said, “they are saying they have all gone abroad three years back. They did not give for rent or anything.”

Now how that could be possible, she must be lying. But seeing her condition, I concluded she has gone mad, she must have a nut loose in her head.

I whispered to him the same.

Kumar says “don’t talk rubbish, there must be some reason.”

Kumar asked her, “do you have any relatives around here?”

She said, “Uday is my cousin, he stays in D block.”

Kumar said, “it is beside our house only. Let us go and check.”

We walked back to the colony and went to D block and knocked on the door.

Some lady opened the door. She said to her aunty, “where are my parents?”

She said, “Sahithi, when did you come from America?”

Sahithi said, “I did not go to any America.”

She said don’t play with me your father came and informed us that you are all going to the USA.”

Sahithi asked, “where is Uday.”

She said, “he went to the office.”

She said, “he is already started working, tell him I am at Kumar’s house”, and came out.

Kumar said, “we are in the E06 block” and came out.

We all went back to our house.

Mom asked, “what happened?”

Kumar replied, “no one is at her place, and everyone went over to America.”

She said surprisingly “America? Then how come she is here? Did they deport her or something?”

Kumar said, “I don’t know, I can’t understand anything.”

After 7 pm, Kumar said he will go and check with Uday. He went down and called Suri and they both went away. He came after half an hour and said, "he is confirming that they all went over to the USA. Then how did she come here? I will take her to the doctor and get a confirmation of her pregnancy."

Kumar

I took her to the doctor indicated by Sahithi. We went and asked the nurse for a consultation.

She asked, "what is the problem", I said, "pregnancy."

She asked, "did you get her urine sample checked."

I looked at Sahithi, and she said, "no, but the doctor confirmed."

She said, "better get your urine checked, there is a diagnostic centre nearby."

She wrote a prescription and gave directions and we went over there. She gave her urine and the nurse said, "come tomorrow morning for the results."

We went back to the clinic and informed the nurse. She said then come after collecting the results.

We came back home. We had our dinner and sat down. They were asking questions about how we landed in the fields. I told them about the deliveries and Nimisha who had given us the address and sent us there.

Sahithi interjected and said I know about Nimisha also, you told us that story.

I asked what story, you said you took a delivery to her house. The watchman opened the door and you went inside and placed the items on the table. You did not see

Nimisha anywhere. You went to her room and pushed the door. It opened with a sound, Krrrrr. Then someone said you opened the door and looked in, Nimisha was sleeping on the bed.”

Then Sahithi stopped. Someone said then. She said, “that’s all he said, he told us he did not read the story and when he reads it he will tell.”

Because of her, the topic we were talking about was side-tracked. My sister said playfully, “so you went into Nimisha’s bedroom.”

I said, “whenever I went there, she was never sleeping.”

Sneha said, “that if she had been sleeping you would have gone to her room.”

I looked at her, there is a twinkle in her eyes. I thought after all these years, she is happy.

I said, “I might?”

She hit me on the shoulder and asked, “if she is sleeping you would have gone to her room?”

I said, “she is like an elder sister to me and I did not say that story to anyone.”

Sneha said, “you did not speak ill about her anytime.”

“So, what did you do after reaching Vizag”, my mother asked.

I said, “we went and met Naanamma at Seethamma Dhara. He does the milk business. He took us to the fields and put us there and left.”

“In the evening when Ramulu, he is the worker’s head, got hurt and we treated him and gave him an injection.”

“The next day the village head’s daughter complained of stomach pain and they called us. We went and gave her medicine and we settled as village doctors.”

“Then I went and brought some books and started to do purohityam.”

My sister asked, “but when did you marry?”

I said, “we did not marry officially.” Showing Sneha I said, “she flicked a yellow thread on the train and she was wearing that. And then Balayya presented her with a gold chain for treating his daughter. So, she was wearing that from that time.”

Sahithi said, “he, he, he, you are not married and clapped.”

When it is time to sleep mother told Sahithi to sleep with my sister, and they all slept in the big inside room and we slept in the outside small room.

We got up in the morning, I took a bath and dressed, had breakfast and took Sahithi to the diagnostic centre.

We collected the results and took them to the doctor. The nurse said to wait a minute and took the results to the doctor and said, “ come in.”

We went inside and the doctor looked at the report and took her to the checking room and came out and said, “she seems to be 13 weeks pregnant.”

I said, “that means around 3 months.” She wrote some medicines on a prescription and gave them to me.

She asked her, “what is your age?” I looked at Sahithi, she said, “17.”

The doctor said, “you are pregnant at a very young age, be careful.”

She even scolded me “what is the urgency.” As it was the normal practice then, she did not say much.

After coming out Sahithi said, “she was not the doctor I consulted.”

The nurse asked “what?”

Sahithi repeated.

The nurse said, “how is that possible, who did you consult with?”

She said, “an older woman.”

The Nurse showed a photo on the wall and asked, “is she the one you consulted?”

She looked at it and said, “yes, it was her.”

The nurse said, “she was dead three years back, a jeep hit her outside the clinic. The doctor you visited is her daughter.”

From the time I met Sahithi, she is giving us shock by shock. I took her back home in a trance.

Sneha asked, “what happened” and I narrated what the doctor told us and the incident outside with the nurse.

I said, “I don’t understand anything. It was like I am reading a mystery novel. I will go and book tickets for our return journey. We might not get an immediate reservation.”

Mother asked, “what will you do about her?”, indicating Sahithi.

I said, “you tell us, what to do?”

She said, “you better take her with you. We don’t have much space here. Over that, your brother is with us. If they see her with us, they will start rumours that he had impregnated her without marriage, even if he marries her, still there will be rumours. That Sharma’s wife is the one who will start the rumours. I don’t think he would want to marry her. He is refusing to marry anyone.”

I said, “ok, I will take her to our house in Rama Kutir, I will tell them something.”

I went to VT station to book the tickets and brought three tickets for after two weeks journey. I thought at least we will have some help in the house, what with our religious and doctor activities.

I explained to Sneha “we don’t get any educated persons there, she will look after Atul, and we can concentrate on our work.”

She agreed and from that time gave Atul to Sahithi to look after. Sahithi also took him to look after as a practice.

We sat on the train to go to Vizag, at Vijayawada, Sreenu and Pradeep visited us at the station and he handed me some books and said my grandfather told me to give you these.

I looked at them there are some religious books and a Homeopathy book.

I thought it is an alternate way to treat patients. We said goodbye and they went away.

We reached Vizag, and from there we caught the bus and reached Rama Kutir. Nowadays the bus goes through our village.

Now I have to inform Balayya about Sahithi. I thought for some time before going to him.

I went to him and explained to him truthfully what happened. As he knew I was there the whole time, he had no reason to doubt me.

Balayya said, “you can let her stay with you.”

I said, “she will be helpful in the house also. Sneha could not attend to anything else with Atul.”

He said, “I was getting complaints that she could not attend all the functions, they were miffed and complaining that she attended others’ functions and did not attend their function. I will also tell our maid to help her out in the house.”

As it is not about the money in Rama Kutir, if we ask someone to help out others might take objection to that, why I did not ask them to help out? It is the mentality of our small villages. Everybody knows everyone. They feel they have a right to be miffed with me. In reference, they call me Bapanayya which means a practising brahmin. It is their way of giving respect.

Chapter 2

Sneha

It was an evening two days after our return to Rama Kutir. Neighbourhood women came over to see who is this girl came to stay at our house.

They started asking her questions, but she could not answer them because she could not understand them.

She looked at me, I was working on cleaning utensils. I had to leave them and go and sit with them.

So one woman went to the sink to clean them and listened from there.

They were asking in Telugu and I was translating them with my broken Hindi.

One lady asked, “how did she get pregnant?”

She already told her story, so I narrated it to them. One of them asked, “if it was really Kumar who had taken you to the room?”

She said, “yes, why would I not recognize Kumar? But he was not like this, he did not have a proper moustache also.”

Then someone asked, “what year is it?” She said, “1982.”

I thought why none of us thought to ask her that. Someone said, “you are still in 1982, this is 1984.”

Sahithi said, “how is that possible.”

I started to think about how is that possible. They asked her to narrate what happened at the clinic.

She told them “I went to check with the doctor, and the doctor informed me that I might be three months pregnant. Then I was thinking about what my parents would say if I tell them I am pregnant. Then I was walking on the road absentmindedly. A jeep was coming fast and it was coming onto me. I thought I could not see my Kumar again. Then I am standing on the railway station platform and Kumar pulled me to safety.”

I explained to them what she said in Telugu. They started to whisper to each other and got up and gave her a namaste and went away. I was scared of what rumours they would spread about this. When Kumar came home I explained what has transpired. He said everything is God’s wish and started eating dinner.

Kumar

When Sneha said what happened when the village womenfolk visited, I was concerned. What could that mean?

She was impregnated in 1981 and she was in front of us in 1984. When we visited the doctor, the nurse said the doctor died in an accident in 1982 and the present doctor is her daughter. Did God save her and took the doctor instead? What was the doctor doing outside instead of looking after the patients? It was like the science fiction movie we watched while in Bombay. They travel in time in a car and try to change the events that lead to them. I don’t remember the name of the movie. Maybe Sahithi’s children or grandchildren from our future did that to save her and they get to exist in this world. But I can’t remember ever being with her, so why is she taking my name? Maybe someone who looks like me came from

the future to impregnate her? It's all so confusing. Is it all a plan by the future generation?

I slipped off to sleep thinking about this. I got up with a jolt and thought about what had I dreamt about. I was with Sahithi, Suri and one short guy we made rounds of the Vakola, and we went and sat on the ground behind our colony near the old airport. Then we left Sahithi at her house. The short guy came to me and handed me a key, then we went to her house and she came with us and went to a house and opened the door and entered a flat, then I woke up with a jolt.

Does my dream remind me of what happened or did I do all that in my dream in 1981?

I went to the bathroom and was about to urinate then I felt a little wet down there, did that happen in my dream? How is that possible? Does that mean Sahithi is pregnant with my child?

I took a bath and went to the temple to perform the daily puja. I lit the oil lamp and came back for the prasadam. Sneha did not wake up, rather it was me who got up earlier than daily.

I put some rice on the stove and when the rice cooked put some jaggery, milk and ghee, and took it out and put it in a steel box and took it to the temple.

I let God bless the prasadam and took it and went back home.

Daily I would take it to the clinic, today I was early so, I took it home. I saw Sahithi having a bath and dressed and coming, I gave her some prasadam and blessed her to get a baby as was normal practice.

She gave me a namaste. I went and put the prasadam in the kitchen.

Sneha came over and asked, “what is the urgency of preparing the prasadam, I would have done it.”

I said, “I got up early, so I prepared it. Have a bath and take prasadam.”

I came and sat in my chair reading a book given by my grandfather. When Sneha brought me breakfast, I had it and went to sit at the clinic.

There were more people than daily, waiting at the clinic. They know my timing, today I came earlier than my daily time. Why they are waiting for me in this many numbers? Most of them came did a namaste, took prasadam and went away.

It seems they all had a bath before coming to me. The practice of Saturday, they were doing today. What happened with these people, did they miss me during the time I was in Bombay?

Routinely I was passing on the prasadam and they went on to their work.

Then Balayya came from inside. I got up and greeted him with a namaste and gave him prasadam. He did a return namaste and told me to sit down.

He seemed more sincere in his approach than daily. Why are these people behaving like that with me?

Now people are greeting me, took the prasadam and then would greet Balayya before going away. I thought Balayya would get angry with their attitude, daily they would greet him first and then would greet me. But he

did not seem to mind them. When one person tried to greet him first, he stopped him and said first you should greet the doctor. I find it strange, that the person who would take protocols seriously has changed the protocol.

There were no patients today, everyone came to me for prasadam. When the prasadam finished I keep sugar chips as a backup for the prasadam, and I started to distribute them. Still, people are coming, it seems they are coming from surrounding villages also. I thought is there a festival and looked at the calendar, there is no festival that day, instead, it was a bad day for festivities.

When the sugar chips finished I said I will get more prasadam and went to the nearby shop. He said, "I have given all the sugar chips yesterday only; did you finish them all?"

I asked him for some puffed rice, sugar and mixed them in the bag and brought it to the clinic. I put them in a vessel prayed and continued distribution.

When Sneha came over I handed her the distribution and went home laying on the bed tired from all the distribution. Then Sahithi came and handed me a cup of tea.

I told her to sit on a chair in front of me. I told her sorry and asked for pardon.

I said "I could not remember what happened between us. Now you are a member of our family, your son or daughter would be my son or daughter. I give you my word that I would look after them like one."

Slowly it has come to my knowledge that they started a rumour that I had picked Sahithi from certain death and gave her the life of the doctor instead. The way I caught and pulled her from the train has been described as I went to her at the time of the accident when she uttered my name and brought her to us.

Some people even went to the extent of comparing me with Lord Rama, their village God. Like Rama brought Seetha from the flames of fire at the time of returning from the forest. They used the stories I used to tell them against me.

When Sneha started to distribute the prasadam, the lines thinned and people were returning from the gate itself.

Sneha came and asked, “what they were saying in the village?”

I asked, “what did you hear.”

She replied, “They twisted what happened yesterday, I thought they would tell bad stories about you, instead, they made you equal to God.”

I said, “everything is God’s wish.”

After lunch, I had a brief rest and after having tea I went over to the clinic. I sat on my chair and some people were waiting for Balayya, they got up and greeted me and sat down.

I said, “everything is god’s wish.” I made that my latest slogan for the people.

When Balayya came from inside I got up to greet him, he stopped me instead he greeted me and told me to sit and then he sat on his chair.

I only listened to them absentmindedly, when Balayya asked me something I did not reply immediately, he said, "he must be in meditation, come tomorrow and send them away."

From that day instead of calling me Bapanayya like everyone else, he started to call me Swamy. Slowly others started to call me Swamy.

Then one day, Zamindar Purushotham called me to come to Vizag.

Balayya said, "I will accompany you there."

As Purushotham sent his jeep for bringing us there, we went there by Jeep.

He gave me a chair and asked me to sit. The last time I remembered him talking to me while I was standing. He showed Balayya another chair and they sat down.

I asked, "what can I do for you?"

Purushotham addressed Balayya and said, "as you knew I have no children, I was keeping a girl in anticipation of getting a son, but she would not give me any children."

I asked, "who is the girl you are keeping at your house?"

Purushotham sent a servant to bring her. To my surprise it was Nimisha.

Nimisha came and greeted me with a namaste. I blessed her to get a son in the near future.

I closed my eyes and thought, if he is keeping her in Vijayawada, then where is he staying? I have to know all this before I can advise him.

I asked, “are you keeping her at Vijayawada?”, and he replied “yes”.

I asked, “Then where are you staying?”

Purushotham said, “I am also staying at Vijayawada but in a separate house with my wife.”

I closed my eyes and thought He may be staying in Vijayawada, but he seems to hardly come to meet her. I never saw him there at her house. Even when I went there in the night-time, he was never there. So without sleeping with her how would he expect to get children with her? She must be 25 now. Prime of her life to give children.

I looked around and said, “I want to speak with her in private. I have to find her Kundali, where can I sit?”

Purushotham told the servant to take both of us to her room.

I went with her murmuring under my breath. It seemed like I was reciting some mantra to their benefit.

I closed the door and sat in front of her.

I asked her “how are you doing?”

Nimisha said, “I am fine, what is this dressing?”

I said, “I am now village pandit, pujari, purohit, everything religious. First, tell me your problem. Do you use some medicine to not get pregnant?”

Nimisha asked, “why would I do that, I want to give him a son and would like to see his back.”

I asked, “Then what is his problem?”

Nimisha said, “he does not visit me as much as needed.”

I asked, “is that the only problem?”

Nimisha said, “as much as I know that is the only problem at present.”

I thought for this problem I have to use homoeopathy. I think I saw a homoeopathy medical shop nearby.

I came out and told them I will come back, and went to that shop and brought some medicines and some blank pills. This medicine is made with pills mixed with one or two drops of liquid medicine. I brought them to their house.

I sat down on the floor, mixed some medicine on the pills and prayed for some time and gave it to him.

I said, “this is the first level of treatment. You take this medicine half an hour before going to sleep with her. This treatment will run for three months, you should not miss a day unless it is her period. Then we will see after five months. If she is not pregnant by then we will perform Putra Kamesti Yagnam.”

Balayya asked, “isn’t it the Yagnam performed by Dasharatha?”

I said, “yes, it would be the last resort to get children. It would be a difficult and most pious thing to do.”

Purushotham looked at Balayya.

Balayya understood his looks and asked, “why can’t you do it now, Swamy?”

I said, “It is not a pious time in our house. There is a lady who is seven months pregnant in our house. I can’t perform this Yagnam now. That is why I asked for five months. By this time I will make his body fit for the

Yagnam. For doing this Yagnam, I had to keep away from my wife also. Then I had to keep the girl in a puja room and do daily puja to her to invoke Durga Devi. Then there should be a fire burning outside of the house for 24 hours until the completion of the Yagnam. I need a fridge to store some things. Then I will tell you my requirements personally before the commencement of the Yagnam.”

Purushotham asked, “do I need to be present at the time of Yagnam? I can’t stay for such a long time from my businesses.”

I said, “I will give you instructions when we start the Yagnam. You don’t have to worry about the time it will take. I can manage without your presence and I will make alternative arrangements for that. You take these medicines and do as I told you and we will see after five months.”

Purushotham said, “he will follow these things” and asked his driver to drop us at our house.

On the way, Balayya did not discuss anything for the fear of the driver listening to our talks.

When the driver dropped and went away Balayya called me inside the house and asked “is it possible to do the Yagnam?”

I said I have studied this Yagnam from multiple sources. We can’t do it on the scale of Dasharatha, but we can do it on a smaller scale, I know what are the requirements for that Yagnam. I am confident of completing the Yagnam and she would bear the children. She is at an ideal age for the Yagnam. It will be difficult to perform the Yagnam on a woman over 35. As per the Ramayana,

Dasharatha was over age when it was performed. But in those days people lived beyond 100 years, nowadays if they cross 60 it would be a miracle. So, based on that I am saying below 35. The requirements are that I should be able to isolate myself, and I need to meditate the whole time. I can't even have my wife nearby. I can't even touch her which will make the puja a failure. The girl needed to be treated like a Devi, seat her on a pedestal and worshipped to invoke Devi into her. People can worship her only on Fridays. On other days no one should set their eyes on her. If anyone can work around the house, they also should strictly follow the rituals I am following. They can't speak anything except the 'Om'. Anything can only be asked by sign language. If anyone comes to give anything they should place it outside only."

Balayya said, "it seems like a tough ritual to do."

I said, "that is true, to get a son like Rama, Dasharatha performed it. If a son is born he will be like Rama or Krishna, if a daughter is born she will be like Seetha or Parvathi. We have another five months before we can take any decision on this matter."

I went home and Sahithi came to hand me a mug of water. I washed my legs and entered the house. Her stomach is prominent and she is walking slowly.

I asked her "why don't you take some rest?"

Sahithi said, "it is no problem I will serve you dinner."

I sat on a chair and she sat on another chair and served me dinner.

I asked, "did you have your dinner?"

Sahithi said, "one hour back."

After dinner, I took a stethoscope and checked her stomach. Everything seems normal.

I nodded my head and asked, “where is Sneha?”

Sahithi said, “They have taken her to some function.”

I nodded my head and told her “go and take some rest.”

Sahithi lay on the bed, I went and put my hand on her forehead and read a mantra and said, “sleep peacefully.”

Sahithi closed her eyes and I came out and closed the door ajar.

I went and sat on the veranda waiting for Sneha to return.

Sneha returned with turmeric on her face and a big red bindi on her forehead. I smiled at her.

Sneha asked, “what happened?”

I said, “Zamindar was concerned about having a son.”

“What did you say?” Sneha asked.

I said, “you have to do exercise to get children.”

Sneha asked, “what did he say?”

I replied, “he said he will follow my advice.”

I asked, “did you have your dinner?”

Sneha said, “the function includes dinner.”

I said, “Go and wash your face.”

Sneha went inside, I closed the door and bolted and went and lay on the bed.

Sneha came and lay on the bed beside me, she put her hand on my chest and asked, “what you really said to him?”

I said, “my first advice was the exercise differently. Then I gave him five months, if she is not pregnant by then I offered him another alternate.”

Sneha asked, “what is it?”

I said, “Putra Kamesti Yagnam.”

Sneha asked, “can you perform it?”

I replied, “I told them it can be done, but a little tricky.”

Sneha asked, “did he not ask to go for Yagna immediately?”

“He did suggest”, I said, “I can’t do it now because we have a pregnant lady in our house. That’s why I needed the five months for her to give birth, then I can do it. If he had no problem with him, he should be able to impregnate her, else we have to think of the alternative.”

I slipped into sleep and got up with a jolt. Nothing around and I went back to sleep.

I got up and had a bath and went to the temple and performed puja and came home for prasadam.

Sneha was preparing prasadam, I sat on the easy chair and thought about the jolt I got in the sleep. Was it a warning for me?

Sneha came with the box of prasadam and I took it and went to the temple for offering the prasadam. I completed the ritual and came back and sat on the chair at the clinic. Now the rush of devotees decreased and the only patients were coming to the clinic except the

occasional person coming for blessings or advice. Now people refer to me as Swamy.

I spent the next three months in this daily routine. Now Sahithi is in full-term and she is expected to go into labour any day. I informed the midwife from Chodavaram to be ready, she could give birth any day.

When Sahithi's pains started I sent a man to fetch the midwife from Chodavaram. She came after one hour and she went inside and closed the door. Sneha went into the room. After one hour Sneha came out and announced that Sahithi has given birth to a girl. I asked for the sweets to be distributed the next day, and we declared Maha Lakshmi has entered our house.

On the 21st day after Sahithi had her bath and I and Sneha sat down to name her.

I said, "we should name her Leena."

We named her and I asked Sahithi "hold the baby with both of her hands", and before she could hold the baby, Sahithi disappeared into thin air.

Everybody was surprised as she disappeared in front of their eyes.

Everyone is asking, "where is she?"

I said, "she returned back by the god, from where she came from."

Now everyone started to fall on my legs. I told them not to fall on my legs and showed them the god's photo in front. They were discussing this for the next one week and slowly the news died down.

It was not a shock to me as I expected something like this would happen.

Sneha was talking as she has to look after two kids.

I told her “think of this girl as your baby only. If you had to leave your baby in someone else’s care what would you expect? Do the same to the baby.”

After two weeks Zamindar sends his jeep to fetch us. This time I took Sneha with me. We left babies in the care of our maid and Balayya sent his maid to help her.

We three of us went to his house and I sent Sneha to be with Nimisha, enquiring about her experiences with him. We sat down, and he showed us seats.

I enquired about his health and things like that.

Then he asked, “about Sahithi?”

I said, “she was sent back by God where she belongs.”

He asked, “did the god take her to his abode?”

I said, “God decided where she belongs and sent her there. Everything is God’s wish. Sarvam Krishnarpanam. Everything belongs the god. God is omnipotent. God is omnipresent.”

I said something mumbling and asked him “what can I do?”

Balayya was about to say something. I stopped him with a show of hand, “Let him say what is in his mind. It has to come from him. It has to be his wish, not his wish from your mouth.”

I never spoke to Balayya like that and he kept silent.

I said, "I know what is on your mind, come let us talk in private."

Purushotham took me to a room, I put some white powder on the door frame and closed the door.

I said, "I sealed this door to the outside world. You tell me what is your wish."

Purushotham said, "I have used your medicine for three months and waited for it to show some results. Now it is six months from the time I started using the medicine. Still no results."

I asked, "you did not miss a day in between?"

Purushotham said, "no, Swamy." It is the first time he used the word Swamy for me.

I asked, "is it your wish to do Yagnam?"

Purushotham said, "it seems there are no other options."

I said, "yes, do you know even though knowing this Yagnam can be performed for children, why did Dasharatha get it performed as a last resort?"

Purushotham said, "I don't know."

I told him some mumbo jumbo about performing the Yagnam and its bad results if the Yagnam is not a success.

Then I explained to him how the Yagnam is performed. "The girl will be kept in isolation for three months. First five days she will be purified, one day with turmeric water, the second day with ghee, the third day with honey, the fourth day with milk and the fifth day with water. When she is purified she will be put on a wooden pedestal and puja performed during the day. At the night

we have to invoke each goddess on her for each day except when she is in periods. We don't know which goddess gives results. Then when the goddess is invoked I will put some things in front of her and close the door. I will tell you about those things in a minute. When she completes those things. She will cool down and she will accept your offering. Now the problem is that she can be so violent she can kill anyone in front of her. Or she can be so peaceful and cool she might give you another life. I know you don't want to take the risk of sitting in front of her. So I have to be pious and didn't have touched another woman from the start of the Yagnam. I have to be constantly chanting the mantra, so she can't even touch me leave alone kill me. So, you understand how difficult this process is. If she gets out of the house in that condition, she can kill entire villages. She will not spare any livestock also. It has to be in an isolated place like the house in the fields. No one should be around the house at night time. If someone is around the house during that time she invoked or leaving she will not spare him. I am not saying it can happen any night. It depends on the goddess visiting. Some are soft peaceful goddesses and some are violent like Durga Devi. So, we have to assume violence and keep people out of the area. So, you understand the difficulty of the Yagnam."

He said, "I thought Yagnam means fire and pouring ghee and things like that."

I said, "to perform that kind of Yagnam we need Rishis who knows these Yagnam. There are specialists for these. For Putra Kamesti they had to call special Rishi. So, we can't go to their level. We can do it at this level only. A fire will be lit and it should be burning for those three months. Now I will tell you what I will need from you. I

will need your semen every week. You need to put it on ice and send it to me. I need your hair from the groin area, hair from your head. Your fingernails and toenails and your saliva. These are needed to be provided only once. But I need the semen every week. You understand me here.”

He said, “I understood you clearly, how the puja is performed, how the goddess is invoked and I will do the needful from my side.”

I continued “every day you will send fruits for the puja or Balayya can send them. Our food I make myself. Only a cleaning person is required in the morning. He needs to sit at the fire and feeds the logs. During the night while I am performing the puja he will go far away and will only return after I give him a signal.”

He asked, “how much money should I give you Swamy?”

I said, “I am not doing this for money. I don’t need any money.” So by those words, I had cleared his doubts about whether I am doing this for money.

I asked him “shall we go ahead?”

He thought for a minute and asked, “shall I get a son, Swamy?”

I said, “that I can’t guarantee, there is a chance of 99 per cent of a son, sometimes the goddess thinks she needs to give you herself. Then it will be a daughter. If it is a daughter, it will certainly be of the goddess. Most possibly, Lakshmi, Saraswathi or Parvathi does that. So don’t get disappointed if you get a daughter, she will be like none other. She will either give you money like Lakshmi or go to great heights in Studies and become

someone to be revered like Saraswathi. Or a great fighter like Parvathi. Think about it, I looked at the Panchangam and said tomorrow at 10:15 am you can tell me.”

I got up and opened the door rubbed the white powder on the door frame and came out. He sat there thinking. I went over to Nimisha’s room and knocked and when she opened the door went inside the door and put the white powder on the door frame and closed the door.

I asked, “tell me what happened?”

I don’t want to tell her about what I am going to do for her to get a child.

She shook her head as if nothing happened. I read some mantra and put the white powder on her forehead and opened the door and rubbed the white powder and came out and sat on the chair.

Balayya asked what happened. I said, “I explained to him the procedure of how the Yagnam is performed and the safety checks to be undertaken. I gave him time until 10:15 tomorrow.”

After some time, Zamindar came over and was about to tell, I stopped him and said, “if you are going to tell anything about what we discussed, tell me only tomorrow at 10:15 and if it’s any other matter you can discuss now.”

He asked, “why do you think I could not get any children until now?”

If he wanted the scientific reasoning I could have told him about his infertility, but I have to let him think there is no problem with him and the problem is with the women or wives.

So, I went on some mumbo jumbo about women and their goddesses who are behind them or devils who could be behind them preventing them from giving children.

If I had told him he is infertile to get children he would have gone to someone else. Here I am not looking at money I might gain, I want to gain political mileage from him, and money will come behind that. Instead of giving cash to me if he gets children, he would give me in kinds like land or a house or something like that. Then the mileage I would get in his circles would be enormous.

We went into the discussion about who could be behind his wife.

I said, “until I see her I can’t say anything. As she will not be participating in the Yagna I would not like to lay my eyes on her. But from what I could see from Manisha it seems like a shadow is behind her, I could not see clearly what kind of shadow it is, to know certainly I need to do some specific puja. I don’t want to discuss those things now.”

He said, “why don’t you stay back the night Swamy.”

I said, “we left two children in the care of villagers. At least send my wife back.”

Balayya said he also would like to go back.

Zamindar called his driver and send them away.

I already saw him signalling Balayya that he wants to go ahead with the Yagnam. I know it’s yes from his side. He was asking questions and I was patiently answering him.

He asked me “at this young age how do you know all this Swamy.”

I said, “I was born with this knowledge. I knew from birth all these things. Like how Abhimanyu learned about the fighting techniques in his mother’s womb, I learned them.”

He said, “I have not met any learned man like you”, and gave me a namaste.

I blessed him with a son and said, “Krishnarpanam.”

He asked, “why did you say that Swamy?”

I said, “I don’t keep any Paap or Punya with me I offer everything to Lord Krishna. In this world nothing is mine, I live a frugal life.”

I live frugal life because I don’t have anything, which I did not mention to him. I am living this life because of the anticipation of the future. I am just 21 and next April I will be 22 and my whole life is ahead of me. I am Ram on the outside and I could be Krishna inside or if the time comes I could be Ravan. I know I will go to any lengths to grow in life. I know how much we have endured because I don’t have any money. We used to walk for 1 hour daily because we could not spare five rupees for a month. How we had to run away from our houses with a few rupees in our hands. It was through Nimisha’s generosity that we could reach this village and start our life.

He asked, “why don’t you give away Paap and keep Punya.”

I said, “I give away everything because I don’t want to be reborn. I want to attain Moksha Salvation. This is the only

way to do that. If I keep back Punya I might go to Swarga, Heaven. But after the complete use of my Punya, I would have to be reborn. If I don't offer everything to Lord Krishna, I might be left with something in my account and it will not let me attain Salvation."

He said, "Swamy, now I understood why Rishis do what they do, to attain Salvation they spend their entire life's in the Himalayas doing Penance. Don't they know this way they could attain Salvation?"

I said, "everyone has their own way of doing things. They do Tapasya in anticipation of seeing God and not to attain Salvation. Salvation is secondary for them. There are many ways to do things in this world. You choose your route and do things in that way. I have chosen to help people and live life this way. Doing Samsara is also a part of that, we have to do our part in this world and depart to where ever God takes us."

He asked, "what is the story of the girl you brought with you and she gave birth and went away."

I said, "there are mysteries in this world we know nothing about. If I started to tell her the real story, people will start calling me a madman. If you want to hear with a pure mind, pure heart and pure soul I can narrate her story. You can narrate this story to anyone but they also have to listen with a pure mind, pure heart and pure soul. If they heckle the story or say something that may hurt the god, they will burn in hell for 1000 years."

He said, "I am ready to hear her story with purity in me."

I said, "she is from another world and her name is Sahithi. There are many worlds like this in our universe. In those

many worlds, many worlds have people identical to us. There is a saying there are 7 identical people in this world.”

He said, “I have heard it.”

I continued “now it means they are not living among us, they are scattered all over the universe, and they live in an alternate dimension. There you will be, I will be there, and others we know of. The thing is that they don’t all live as you or I do here on earth. I am a Pujari and you are Zamindar here, there you might be a politician, and I might be a businessman. From her age, I would say they both were students. Now I don’t want to go into the details of how he impregnated her. She became pregnant and he was not there for her to tell him about her condition. Then when she came to know that she was pregnant she was scared about how to tell her parents. She was walking on the roads of Bombay, yes, she was from Bombay and she is a Maharashtrian, she was about to be hit by a Jeep. Then Instead of thinking about god, she thought I could never see the face of my Kumar. She closed her eyes and I caught her at the railway station when I went to Bombay. Now we have to see the timing also, she was about to be hit by a jeep in 1982 when I rescued her in 1984. Now I went to her place of living and I was told they went away to America, three years back. I had no other option than to bring her here with me. When she gave birth and had her bath and naming ceremony, she was sent back to her parents. Now they would have missed her for a few moments, but here more than 7 months have passed for us. This is the way time runs in this universe. Can you believe this story?”

He said, “the way you explained, it is believable. But why she was brought to you?”

I said, “One reason is that God knows I will look after her until she gives birth. The second point is the time she came from 1982 of her time into our 1984 and at the exact time, I entered Bombay. The third point is that the Sahithi of our world is not in Bombay, so there is no chance of both of them coming in front of each other. What would happen if they both come in front of each other? The word for that is a paradox, anything can happen in those situations. The paradox can destroy the world. So, God chooses his actions wisely. If there is a fair chance of things going well, then only he interferes. You might ask why it happened in her case and not others. Some people are born for certain things, she might have a purpose in her world, which God wants her to achieve.”

Then the servant came and announced the time for dinner.

He called us for the dinner. He said, “for you Swamy, I got the food prepared piously.”

I did not reply and ate my food and got up and washed my hand and walked around the veranda. After some time, I came and sat down.

Then he came and said, “I will show you your room, Swamy.”

I went with him, he showed me a room and I went and lay there.

What did I say to him about Sahithi? Is what I said correct? I think I have answered the question truthfully.

That is what I feel happened. But I don't know anything about paradox. It is all that I read coming back to me.

I woke up and took a bath and wore a dress sent by Sneha through the driver and performed puja in their puja mandir.

Came out and had breakfast and waited for 10:15.

He came just before 10:15 to me and said, "I agree to the Yagnam and I am ready to perform my part in that."

I said, "I will give you the requirements in writing. You follow them meticulously."

He said, "ok, Swamy."

He brought me some paper and a pen. I wrote the things to be followed.

I said, "I am going to shop for some items I require."

He said, "I will send his man, I said I would like to do the shopping myself."

I went and brought a double tape recorder with some blank tapes and some batteries. It would record and play two cassettes continuously and also can record from tape to tape it also had battery backup running on power. I want to record and play 'Om' continuously.

Then I brought some items which I don't want to give him on the list and returned with the items packed in a cardboard box. I put it aside and told him to collect the things I have written and keep them ready.

I asked, "Which house would you like to be used for this Yagnam."

He said, “the house in the fields would be ideal.”

I said, “ok then send a fridge immediately to the house. I would go and store things there. I will arrange for a fire pit to be built and would start the process. He needs to Send Nimisha after the fifth day of her period, then the Yagnam will start from my side.”

He sent me back to my village on his jeep with the items I had purchased and some items he could procure immediately. He told me to use the jeep until I start performing Yagnam and he won't need it any longer.

I took a construction man and got a fire pit prepared from bricks and mud. As it will be winter coming up there won't be a problem with the rains extinguishing the fire. I got another smaller fire pit made inside the house for performing pujas. I installed the fridge in the house and got a carpenter to make a pedestal for sitting her on, and another bigger pedestal to put a statue of Durga.

I made all the arrangements and waited for Nimisha to be brought.

Chapter 3

Sneha

I did not understand what Kumar is planning to do. But it seems something big, if he succeeds in this, there could be some big changes that can be foreseen. He told me I had to understand why he is doing all this. It is for our and our kids' future. He says our children should not look for five paise or ten paise. They should live in a Mahal and spend the life of a Maharaja. I know he means it in a literal way not exactly mean like Mahal and Maharaja.

Now he will be away for three months with that woman. What will he do with her? He told me what he told Zamindar, what he is going to do in the house in the fields. But I feel all that is Mumbo Zumbo, he is planning something else, possibly some scientific experiment. He has brought some science journals, which he was reading. In the guise of Yagnam, he is going to perform some science experiment to impregnate her. That could be the reason he told Zamindar to send his semen weekly in the icebox. What else would he need that for? Is he mixing Puranas with science? Will he be successful in his endeavour? Only time will tell.

Kumar

It was the time Nimisha was brought to Rama Kutir. The whole village came to see her. I got her bathed by the village woman for five days. Starting with turmeric water, the second day with ghee, the third day with honey, the fourth day with milk and the fifth day with water.

Then I took her to the house in the fields and I started the fire outside the house by reciting mantras. Then I put her in the house and closed the door from outside. I recited more mantras for the sake of people looking at the house. Then with white powder used for Rangoli, I made a circle around the house. I called the helper, his name is Seenayya who came to clean and help me in the house with preparing food and things like that.

I told him except you none of the people should cross this white circle. You tell them that and, in the night-time, no one should come anywhere near the house, not even near the circle. I will mark the boundaries. If anything happens to cross them I am not responsible. I secretly brought a fierce dog and kept it in the house. I planned to release the dog in the night-time.

I showed him the dog and said, “he is a follower of Shiva. Bhairava is his name. It has been sent by Shiva himself, he is a part of his army. If anyone comes around in the night, it will not leave them. Most of the Devi we are invoking are part of Shiva’s army. So everybody to be careful around here.”

I was making the rounds of the fields with Bhairava for the last week, so he would not go away further than the fields and venture into the villages.

Even if he entered the village I can say someone had broken the rule and entered the fields at the night. Naanamma has suspended the works in the fields after the last harvest. So, at present no one works in the fields. I know occasional youngsters would try to see what we are doing, so I had to take the precaution of employing the dog.

I told Seenayya, I am going to teach Nimisha, the mantra for her recital and closed the door keeping him outside. I know he would go and tell Balayya everything that is happening around the house and what he sees in the house.

I have already given him instructions that he should not enter the white circle without having a bath in the morning. If he used the bathroom for urine he should wash properly and if he uses the latrine, he should have a bath and come. At the night, at the time of puja, he should stay away from the house and should stay on the Manche erected for watching over the fields. He should not keep any company there, if he is scared to stay alone he could go back to his house.”

I told him all this to keep him scared, so he will not interrupt what I am going to do with her.

I closed the door and asked her to sit in front of me.

I said to her, “we have two ways of doing this. One is the normal way another is the abnormal way. I will explain both ways and it is up to you to choose what way you want me to follow. Remember all this I am doing is for you to get pregnant and give a son or daughter to him. The first way is for me to have a copulation with you and get you pregnant. Another way is to use my semen to impregnate you. First is the natural way of getting pregnant, second, we have to use a scientific way of doing that. Which may or may not get the required results immediately. Because we don't have a proper lab we can only do it in a test and miss the way. You think about it and choose an option. We will start with that option, if you want to change it anytime you tell me and I will change the option. From what you said about

Zamindar, he has a problem with giving children, the correct word is impotent. We have tried that for five months. Now we have only left with this option.”

She asked, “why did you ask him to give semen weekly.”

I said, “I will use it in the scientific method to try to impregnate you, if it works, it is okay. I will come back after some time” and come out and closed the door.

I told Seenayya she is reciting the mantra.

When I thought I gave her enough time to think it over, I opened the door and entered and closed the door and sat in front of her.

She said, “I think the first method is appropriate for getting results fast.”

I asked, “what is your relation to the Zamindar?”

She said, “He is my mother’s younger brother. When he could not get children from his wife, he made my mother marry me to him secretly. He did not want his wife to know about me. From the time of our marriage, he is behind me for giving him children but would not spend enough time with me. I thought that could be the problem, but after five months of his courtship, when the results were none, I came to the conclusion as you have, that he is impotent. Now if I give him a child he would leave me and go back to his wife, I want to see his back. I hope he won’t come back to me.”

I said, “so, we will fix a time of 11’o clock in the night for our operation.”

She said ok.

I made tea for us and washed the utensils. I made a show of doing some religious things and called Seenayya to make lunch for us and I will help him. I made a show of washing the vegetables with mantras and gave him to cut. I washed the rice and put it on the stove. He cut the vegetables and I made a curry with the vegetables After completing the cooking we all had our lunch and I had a shut-eye.

Then after 3 pm, I made tea and both of us had it.

In the evening I had Seenayya make dinner for us and then after dinner, I told him, "you can go home or stay at the Manche in the fields. If someone comes over warn them. I will give you a warning sign when the Yagna is about to start by increasing the fire in the fire pit by putting extra logs."

Before 11 pm I let Bhairava go out of the house to roam in the fields. I put the logs in the fire, so the flames rose. Then I waited 15 minutes.

Then closed the door and entered the room. I played the tape recorder to contain any other sounds escaping the room. If anyone stood outside the house, they would only hear the Om sound.

She was sitting on a bed made of the mattress on the floor. I said I will be gentle with you and mounted her and started to move rhythmically. Having satisfied myself and I got up and rubbed his things on her and told her to dress up.

Then we slept in separate places. After some time, I came out of the house and gave him an all-clear signal and went in and slept myself.

I woke up and made tea for both of us and then went and had a bath.

Then told her to have a bath and come.

When she dressed, I sat her on the wooden pedestal. I took her vitals and noted them down in a notebook.

I did puja to the Devi statue brought for this purpose.

I went and opened the door to let Seenayya and Bhairava come in. When he came in I told Nimisha to get up and go and sit there on the bed made on the floor. I told him to clean up around the house. Sat in front of Nimisha chanting mantras. After completing my mantras, I played the tape recorder. The sound of Om reverberated around the house. So, this way we have gone through 2 months.

After the second month, she seemed to have missed her monthly period. I kept constant watch over her health and from the city I brought a chemical composition used in the diagnostics lab for confirming the pregnancy. I waited for another fortnight and started to check her urine for pregnancy. After another week the urine showed positive. I waited until the completion of the three months and brought her out of the house with puja and other things. I sat her on the veranda and called for Balayya.

I told him to call Zamindar to take her home and let her have a bath and take her to the doctor for a check-up.

I closed the door and told Seenayya not to let anyone enter the house, or else they will cough up blood.

I came back later and took the Devi statue and placed her in the temple specially made for her beside the Ram temple. Did pujas and came home.

Now I ordered Seenayya to clean the house and there won't be restrictions on anyone.

Now I named the Devi statue Santana Laxmi. She is the fertility god, those who suffer from infertility can visit her and can get children.

Now people from surrounding areas come to visit her to get children.

Slowly her popularity increased and people started to visit from long distances.

Some people would ask me to perform special pujas for them to get children early. I would perform some puja for them. I noted down some mantras for this purpose and learned them by heart.

They would give some money and would go away. I never asked anyone for money. Never insisted on anyone paying. Even after special pujas, if they go away without offering a single paise I would not say anything. But I would remember those faces, lest when they return I could say you have not offered anything to Devi, why would she offer you children? As if it is their fault for not getting children. Then I would bless them with children. Slowly the word spread that Devi would bless you as your offering.

Those who have got children would come back with an offering of their status. Those poor people get offerings beyond their means, I would bless the offering and return to them. When they ask why am I returning their offering, I would say you would have brought these with

loans, so Devi would not take anything beyond your status. This way the people's beliefs increased manifold.

One section of poor people believed the Devi is for them, the poor. Another section of rich people believed Devi is for them because she accepted their offerings. So both sections of people started worshipping her.

When the Dussehra came Rama Kutir people decided they should have a Jathara for the Devi. They went to Balayya and requested him to consider holding the Jathara for the Devi.

He consulted Zamindar, who accepted the idea and provided the required money for holding the Jathara.

Now Nimisha is full-term and expected to go into labour any day. The first Jathara of the Devi was a full success and people from surrounding villages came to visit her.

After the conclusion of the Jathara, the next day Nimisha went into labour and gave birth to a son.

Now Zamindar believed that due to Jathara only she gave birth to a son. The only worry was that his son seemed to be a little dark.

I told him to wait for some time and as I expected the baby turned less dark.

I told him, "he must be born when a dark Devi was invoked and as she blessed him he would be little black until her blessing wears off. Over time he will turn fair and handsome. He would be fierce and you should try to contain his anger for his own good."

So, when the next year Jathara was to be celebrated he had borne all the expenses and over that, he had invited some of his associates. One of them is the minister of the state assembly. When the Zamindar narrated his story of Yagnam to him he was impressed with the outcome.

And he was told the Santana Laxmi Devi was the deity for the Yagnam and she attained the powers to bless the children due to the Yagnam.

So, the minister was not alone to attend the Jathara and asked one of his colleagues who had a problem with having children to visit the Devi.

Within a year of attending the Jathara and having a special puja performed for him, he got a daughter.

Now for those without a child daughter would be better.

When he visited I blessed him he would get a son next time. Belief is so powerful that it makes impossible things possible.

So, the word has now spread to the whole state. Now the minister had decided to have a temple built for the Devi.

Not to let Rama behind I suggested having two temples built for both of them. Now I have become a person to be consulted for starting with childlessness to how to attain the power to be a minister. How to win elections. They started to consult me and would get their wishes fulfilled.

I always said to them Krishnarpanam. When someone asked why I am chanting that, the surrounding people would explain. Either people called me Swamy or Krishnarpanam Baba.

The breakthrough in my life happened when one politician, a certain Reddy, came with the wish of becoming CM. he wanted a kind of Yagnam I have done for the Zamindar to be performed.

I told him “that Yagnam is Putra Kamesti, this has to be Ashvamedha Yagnam. A horse had to be given in the offering, I don’t think that kind of Yagnam can be performed in these times. I said we can do a simple Yagnam with a goat offering, but with the same outcome.”

Reddy asked, “how?”

I said, “it has to be done similarly to Yagnam I conducted for Zamindar. You take the information from him and come again.”

Reddy came back the next day and asked me “what is needed.”

I said, “one Kanya or virgin is needed for this and she should be above the age of 18 and below 30 to perform this.” I planned for her to disappear after the Yagnam.

He agreed and the same instructions were issued for the Yagnam only difference now is that one goat was allowed to roam the fields. No one should restrain the goat and one bodyguard should be present with it for 24 hours. I took the girl to the house allotted for the purpose. In the daytime, I actually performed some pujas. And this time I got a statue of Indra made for this, Indra being the king of gods. A girl of 21 was brought for this purpose. I sat her on the wooden pedestal and performed some pujas.

Now after the puja in the night I gave her some milk laced with drugs and I literally raped her. Then the same routine the next day.

On the third morning, I could not find her, she has disappeared from the locked room. I continued the pujas without interruption. When the caretaker asked where is the girl, I said she is sitting on the pedestal in a sookshma roop, she is invisible to the naked eye. Only those who can see with the third eye like Shiva only can see her. I got one of my students to enact the act after doing some meditation, he could see her. Nowadays I have an entourage of students of both genders.

I performed this yagna for thirty days and at the end of the thirty days, we offered the goat to the Indra statue by bringing it out into the open. In the presence of the politician Reddy, Balayya, Zamindar and people from the surrounding villages come to watch the offering. We called a butcher to cut the neck of the goat and collect the blood and offered it to the Indra statue.

When the ritual was completed the girl came out of the house walking, she said, "she had been to Heaven and back."

I don't know where she was taken, she was thinking it was heaven. But why did she was sent to another dimension? It did not want me to continue that with her. Maybe it did not want me to use drugs on them or a third day could have meant something to her.

I asked her, "what Indra told you?"

She said, "your wish will be fulfilled."

I looked at Reddy, the girl's disappearance and re-emergence and her saying that Indra has told her his wish will be fulfilled had made the Yagnam more authentic.

Now we put Indra's statue in a makeshift temple. Now he has become an attraction for anyone who wants to attain power. In due course the politician became CM. He had allotted a piece of land for our Ashram. A piece means around 10 acres of land. We have built a big hut for ourselves and huts for the visitors.

Then slowly foreigners started to visit our ashram and would stay over for some time. Their contributions would be in dollars and I started to send these dollars to a Swiss bank account.

Nowadays they would directly transfer the amount to swiss bank accounts and would give me information to stay at the ashram.

I never objected to anyone staying at the ashram.

In due course, some people who had nothing to do, and had fed up with life started to live at the ashram and they would work for free at the ashram. Like cleaning the grounds, and preparing food in the kitchen according to their liking.

I never told anyone to do this or do that or don't do that.

When some foreigners started to go naked, I put them in a separate place, away from the public glare. I never objected to anyone's actions, and let them live as they like. It has become an added attraction for people who want to run away from home or would like to live as they want.

Now I had to segregate the ashram according to the people who wants to stay there. There were rumours about the ashram, but no one acted on them. Because the people staying there were living as per their wishes they would not complain. There is no outside society interfering in their day-to-day activities. As the political pressure mounting on the CM, he has requested us to do something about it.

Now we have shifted our ashram to an Island and no one can interfere with our activities. Our original ashram is for those with religious beliefs and pious actions.

I stayed with the original ashram and ran the ashram as was at the beginning. If they want to stay at the island ashram, they would pay to the numbered account and would stay there. It became a separate setup.

In the year 1992, I got a call from home to come urgently. I went to Rama Kutir taking a jeep from the vehicles available. It would be easy to drive on those muddy roads in a jeep.

When I reached home Sneha was crying. I asked her, "what is the problem?"

She said, "Leena disappeared from school. Other students said they were playing hide and seek after school, she went to hide and then she was not found. We have searched everywhere. Where could she go in this small village? Balayya went to give a report at the Thana."

I said, "ok, let them check. Maybe her mother came and took her back. After seven years, her problems might have been mitigated so she must have gone with her mother. Otherwise where she will go? There is no Jathara

also at present time, and she will go missing there. Let us wait and see.”

Sneha said, “if her mother took away, at least she could have informed us.”

I said do you remember in what condition Sahithi came to us. She was three months pregnant and her family missing from her home and then she just disappeared on the 21st-day function in front of all the guests. Leena also might have disappeared like that. Everything is God’s Magic, who are we to question him.”

Chapter 4

The year 1994.

Kumar

By this time, we have grown so much, that I don't have an idea. Its finances are managed by a trust. We manage two accounts for our trust. One is managed in Indian currency and the money is saved in banks. The second account is saved in swiss banks and is in dollars. Most of the dollars are brought by foreigners. Nowadays some foreigners are leaving the island and coming here to live a simple life.

One of them is Joy. She has come to our ashram in fear of her husband. She said she was in the USA and her husband was torturing her and she escaped and reached her parent's place. He had reached there and with the help of her friend who works as an air hostess, she reached our ashram. She wanted to have security. I told her there will be no fear in our ashram. She can stay here freely without fear.

After one week she approached me and said the fear is not getting suppressed, and she can't stay peacefully. I thought for a moment I have not been home for the last six months, I was only speaking on phone with Sneha and Atul. I told the driver to start the car and asked Joy to pack her bags and be ready. I took her to our village.

Now due to the temples, Rama Kutir has developed so much, it has all the facilities and it may be will be declared a town in some time.

Now we have our own house and the land was provided by one of the devotees and was built by another devotee.

The temples are run by a trust and the trustee is Balayya, all the members were devotees who had profited somehow from the gods present there.

I took Joy to our house and introduced her to Sneha. I said she was running away from her husband and would like to stay here to hide from him.

I said, "Joy, you can do many things here. I don't think looking after the temples is against your religion. You can teach at the school. Or you can take up any work like social awareness programs or things like that. No one will object to you. This is the speciality of this village, there are no castes or religions here. Everyone is equal as it is equal before god. Every one of them is a god-fearing person. I have inculcated such an ideology in them. They don't go against my orders and I don't order them, I only request them. Sneha will take you around Rama Kutir, I have come to see the children they should be back from school now."

After two days I went back to the Ashram,

Then there was a cyclone and the whole island which was part of the Ashram cleaned up and there were no survivors. When someone asked me, I said, "God has cleaned up the muck of the earth. Those who were staying there brought our country disrespect and nothing else."

When I got my dollars, why should I care what happens to them, they are just some foreigners with no respect for fellow human beings. They become so violent after someone introduced them to drugs.

In my next discourse with the residents of the Ashram, I showed them an example of what would happen if you leave the path of dharma and take to lawlessness. So, every one of them should take it as a lesson from God and refrain from going on the path of Adharma. Which will only anger god. Did I ever refrain anyone from doing anything? Everyone chooses their own path. If their path is dharma God will lead them to salvation or else he will lead those who chose Adharma to the path of destruction as had happened on the island.

I got a call to come home as Zamindar had come and wanted a puja performed by me only.

So, I took a jeep reached Rama Kutir and went to Balayya's house directly. Zamindar greeted me with a namaste and told his son standing beside him also to greet me. I blessed him, long life with the grace of God. And we all sat down.

Zamindar said, "I wanted to perform a sacred thread ceremony on my son."

I did not know that they had the sacred thread but agreed to do it for his son.

At one time I thought he suspected, he thought his son might be born to me. But he wants to have the thread so he will study Vedas and become a scholar. There is a school for these children who wants to study Vedas. So, he had come to me with the request for a sacred thread ceremony. I performed that and they went away and I came home.

I enquired about Joy and she is involved in many things to the upbringing of the people of Rama Kutir. She teaches them whatever she could. Then she would help

other women in their daily routines explaining to them how to do things smartly rather than using force or hard work.

I sat and called her and enquired about her and her work.

She said she is happy here and she would like to help the villagers.

Then one young lady came and sat beside Joy after greeting me with a namaste. I looked at Joy.

Joy said, “she is a friend who has sent me to your ashram. Her name is Sunitha.” I blessed her and asked, “what do you do?”

She said, “I work for Indian Airlines as an air hostess and came to visit Joy for the holidays.”

I asked her “how long she would like to stay.”

She said, “I got a month’s leave and liked the environment here.”

I asked, “if she likes to visit our ashram, she is welcome.”

She said, “I wanted to come to your ashram, I was looking for transportation and you come visiting, can you take me to the ashram.”

I said, “certainly. But I would like to stay for 2 days before returning.”

She said, “I don’t have a problem waiting for 2 days.”

I spent two days checking the temples and reporting to Balayya about what needed to be done and then enquired about the next Jathara to be performed at Dussehra. I told him I will visit Rama Kutir then.

I enquired about how joy is doing in Rama Kutir.

He said, “she is trying to learn Telugu, but she teaches Hindi, English and Maths. Then she meets with the women with the help of Sneha she manages to help them out. In some time, she would be part of Rama Kutir.”

I took his leave and left for the ashram with Sunitha.

On the way to the ashram we chatted and I asked her about her details, where did she study and things like that.

She asked me, “how did you marry Sneha?”

As Rama Kutir people already know our story she must have heard something or the other about us. So, as we have time to reach the ashram, I told her my story about bringing her to the fields and then coming to Rama Kutir to help Balayya and how we settled down in the village.

Then she inquired about Sahithi. I told her whatever I knew about her and asked her to check on her when she goes to Bombay, I will give her the address.

She said, “before going back I will take the address.”

We reached the ashram and I took her to my hut and asked if she would like to have something.

She asked where do you prepare your food?

I said I have a small kitchen. I showed my kitchen with a gas stove, fridge and all the required items.

She asked, “don’t you scared of the cooking in this hut?”

I said, “this looks like a hut but the material is not combustible. There is no fear of fire here.”

She said, “you sit there Swamy, I will prepare tea and bring you.”

I said, “there is no need to call me Swamy, call me Kumar that is my name.”

She said, “Kumar, I feel like I have heard that name before.”

She went into the kitchen area to prepare tea.

She came with two cups and placed them in front of me.

She sat down and asked, “how do you sit on the floor Swamy.”

I said I have been habituated to sitting on the floor.

She asked, “if I want to lie down, where can I sleep?”

I said, “take one of the mattresses from there and put it on the floor and you can lay there. If you feel the light is too much, you can pull the curtain aside.”

She asked, “why you don’t have doors for the hut?”

I said, “we don’t hide anything here. The way you want live life, you can live, and no one objects to anything. Earlier we used to have nude people here, but they started having drugs here, so I sent them to the island in the sea. Now only the people who follow dharma stay here. Still, we don’t object to anything. You can do anything to help here. Prepare food or clean the grounds or go shopping and get the required items for the kitchen. Whatever way you want to contribute to the ashram, you can do it. Even if you want to keep idle and sleep the whole day no one will object.”

She said I don’t want to sleep the whole day.”

I said, "I am just giving an example, you are our guest and you don't need to do any work."

I lay on the floor and put my hand under my head.

She asked, "you are sleeping on the floor, Swamy."

I said, "I am not sleeping on the floor; these bedsheets were placed all over the floor. Anyone can come and sleep here, or they can pick the mattress and put it on the floor and can lay here."

She asked, "is this hut not your own, Swamy?"

I said, "as I told you nothing in this world is mine. I have given everything to God. 'Krishnarpanam'. Do you know the meaning of the word Krishnarpanam? Everything is given to Lord Krishna. I don't keep anything with me. Either Paap or Punya is given back to the Lord. So, this hut is everyone's property and no one's property."

She asked, "how can you live like this you have a wife and a son and I heard you had a goddaughter. Whom you have raised for 8 years and she disappeared."

I sat up and said, "everything is god's will. I was given an opportunity to look after her for such time as I was entitled. I hope she is back with her mother."

She said, "there were also rumours about you."

I said, "when 10 people talk good about you, there will be one person who talks bad about you. Because he could not get what he wanted. Because he did not have faith in the god or goddess he was praying for. One thing is you have to keep faith in God and be patient."

I lay and put the hand under my head and closed my eyes. I don't know how long I slept, I woke with pressure

on my hand. I looked at my side, Sunitha sleeping on my hand making it her pillow. I got up put a pillow under her head and slept a little far from her.

When I woke up again it was getting dark.

I slipped on chappal on my feet and went on rounds of the ashram. Whoever greeted I greeted back with a namaste. I don't keep a greeting also, I give it back.

There is a military hawaladar in there, he always gives a military salute and I salute him back.

If anyone wants to give any money they can go to the office and give it there and if anyone wants some money they can go and ask them, they note down the name and gives them money. Because no one keeps any money here if they want to go visit someone or go shopping for such things they go and get some money and do their work. There is no value for money inside the ashram, it is only outside.

Sunitha stayed for one week and decided to go back to Bombay.

I inquired how she will be going to Bombay.

She said she will go to the airport and she would get a free ride to Bombay.

I said, "I will take you to Rama Kutir and from there, someone will drop you at the airport. If she wants she can confirm the flight details from the office, there would be a phone available."

She asked, "will they let me call?"

I said, "I told you there are no restrictions here, you can call whomever you want to call, even you can make an international call freely."

She asked, "why do I need an international call?"

I said, "everything is free here, nothing is personal in this ashram."

She went and made a call and came back "I need to leave for the village and then to the airport."

I took her to Rama Kutir and got the driver to drop her at the airport. He came and reported she caught the flight and gone away.

I said, "Krishnarpanam."

I asked Joy to confirm Sunitha reached safely to her house. Joy came back after two hours and informed me that Sunitha reached her house and she spoke with her.

I nodded my head. She looked at me and must have thought I was in meditation sat before me and started to meditate herself. I closed my eyes.

I heard the word dad and opened my eyes, it is Atul standing before me. Everything he normally asks his mother, as I am mostly not in the home. I looked at him enquiringly.

He hesitates and said, "nothing dad" and went over to his mother.

I thought why he is hesitating to talk to me, I never scolded him let alone make him feel uncomfortable in my presence. What could be hesitating to ask me?

I looked at joy who is looking at me, "go and see what he wants."

After coming to live with us she has come close to him and she teaches him also. She is like a teacher and friend to him. After Leena went away he misses his sister.

That is when Joy entered our house and he came closer to her. He calls her 'Anty' as jokingly as she is opposite to him. If Sneha scolds him she would come in between and Joy had to listen to Sneha's scolding directed at her, but she hardly understands her so it won't be a problem for her.

Sneha would shout at her and then at last would say "how can I talk to you?"

She would forget other languages when scolding him. Joy would smile and take Atul to his room. He would tell them his problems and she would listen patiently if she thinks she need to add something then she would speak.

Joy came back and said it is nothing, he wanted to ask about Leena and then decided that it would be futile to ask you.

I told Joy to call him and sat him and told him under what conditions Sahithi had come to us, how when we went to her found her house locked and I had to bring her to Rama Kutir. Then how we found that she has come from 1982 to 1984. Then how after giving birth to Leena she had gone away or disappeared as she appeared in front of us. Then like her mother, Leena also went away. It seems she must have gone to her mother or father. Sahithi used to tell how her Kumar, Leena's father used to look like me, the only difference is he wears trousers and I wear a dhoti and wore all these showing him my neck.

After hearing the story, Atul says thanks dad for letting me know all this, hope she is happy with her father and mother. Gets up and goes away.

I asked, "Joy, did I do correctly to let him know the truth?"

She said, "truth never hurt anyone, lies which come back again and again to hurt you."

I said, "thanks for your insight."

As I find it very hot and it would be the end of summer in a few days, I decided to stay back at the house and give discourses to the villagers in the evening.

They would come and ask their questions or doubts. I would clarify their doubts as much as possible if I can't give an immediate answer I would tell them that I need confirmation from God, and I will answer later.

So, on one such day, Joy asked, "why do some people go towards violence and do such horrible things?"

I said, "if you see our Puranas and even in history there are always two opposite things in this world like two sides of a coin. If there is violence in one person and another person would be kind. If there is horror on one side and there is peacefulness on another side. This universe is made of dual things, like men and women. Then if there is an angel, there is a devil or beast. We will not know the meaning of one without knowing the other. If there is no violence in this world, how would you know peace? If there is no devil why would you care for an angel? So, God made the universe in such a way, that is the duality of the world. There is light and then darkness. Then males and females might contradict each other but they are required by the world to continue generations

and humankind. Without that what would be our world? Just barren lands which are overgrown by maybe trees and forest. What God tells us is that abstain from violence and bring peace into the world. Praise the lord and denounce the devil. Fill light in everyone's heart and drive out darkness."

Joy said, "well said Swamy."

I said, "Krishnarpanam."

Seeing the heat outside increasing year by year, I called the trust and asked them to prepare a big room to be prepared with an air conditioner in it for the summer.

Sunitha returned after a few days. I asked, "what happened?"

Sunitha said, "I was suspended from duty and my records were destroyed during last year's bomb blasts and they have not given my job back. I could not stay there without any work and thought I would return to Ashram. So, I came over here first to meet Joy and then go to Ashram."

I said, "you are always welcome here. You can stay here or at the ashram. I will be here until the first rain."

Sunitha said, "then I will also stay here for some time."

Seeing Sunitha, Atul's face lit up, he went to her and hugged her. I did not know he was so close to her.

As the rains were delayed we stayed in Rama Kutir longer than thought.

Joy joined Sunitha and would ask questions and her doubts. And they would listen to me attentively when I am trying to explain them.

When the rains started it rained for two days continuously and stopped.

But the weather becomes pleasant enough for us to go back to the ashram.

I packed my bag with some clothes and readied for going to the ashram.

Now Sunitha already decided to go to the ashram with me and now Joy also thought she can go to the ashram for some time before coming back to teach students.

So, we took a car and reached the ashram around 6 pm. We put our clothes in the hut and I went for a bath and changed and went to the temple in the ashram and prayed there and gave aarti and visited the ac hut.

It looked like a big indoor stadium from the outside, after looking after the arrangements, I returned to the hut.

I told the ladies I am going for dinner.

They also came with me to have dinner. I had my meagre meal and we returned to the hut.

After praying for some time, I lay on the floor and felt uneasy sleeping on the floor. It seems, I have accustomed to laying on the mattress at home or maybe I am becoming old, I picked up a mattress and lay there and went to sleep.

When I turned in my sleep I touched someone. I opened my eyes and found Sunitha sleeping beside me on a mattress and Joy is sleeping on the other side of her.

I turned and went back to my sleep.

got up and had a bath and went to perform puja at the temple and came back and sat meditating.

I felt a touch on my feet and opened my eyes, it is Sunitha looking expectantly at me to bless her. I blessed her so all her wishes would be fulfilled. Then I told her there is no need to touch my feet.

She said, "sorry to disturb you, Swamy, I wanted to give greetings to you."

I said, "don't be sorry, I told you there is no need to touch the feet, a simple namaste would be enough."

She said, "I will keep that in my mind, Swamy."

I nodded to her. She sat with me to meditate. This went on for a week then Joy went back to Rama Kutir saying the students are calling her.

Then two days went by with the same routine, then on the third night after Joy went away it was raining heavily. Everyone went to the ac hall to sleep. I and Sunitha were left in my hut.

I took a mattress lay it on the floor and took a pillow and slept.

In the middle of the night I felt a weight on me and opened my eyes, it is Sunitha who put her mattress close to mine and slept by putting her legs on mine. I removed her legs and turned to the other side and went back to sleep.

She might have felt the cold due to the incessant rains, and she came closer to me and hugged me. I did not want to disturb her anymore, so I went back to my sleep with her chest touching my back. The next day when I woke up the rains are continuing to pelt over. I took an umbrella to go to the temple for puja and returned. There is no one moving around the grounds due to the rain. Only those who have some work are using umbrellas and going on their work. I sat in my hut and mediated.

Sunitha came and said, "Swamy, I am feeling cold."

I told her to pick up a bedsheet and put it around her. She looked under the mattresses and found a fresh set of bedsheets and took one to put around her body.

Sunitha asked, "don't you feel the cold Swamy?"

I said, "I am habituated to all the climates, I don't feel much heat or cold. I just want to stay back in Rama Kutir for some time, so I said it is hot out and we will go after the rains start. I told you for your benefit, we will go later."

Sunitha said, "thanks, Swamy."

I told her, "come near", and I put my thumb on her forehead and read a mantra and said, "within five minutes you will feel the heat rise from within you."

After some time, Sunitha threw the bedsheet aside and said, "you are correct, Swamy, I am not feeling the cold anymore."

I thought I am removing the cold for her, but I did not expect the effect it would have on her.

Chapter 5

Sunitha

I did not expect Kumar's mantra would have this kind of effect on me. I call him Swamy, but in my mind, I call him Kumar. I feel I have known him for a long time, like a long-lost lover. To keep close to him, I did not attempt to clear my name on the suspension matter. Those files were destroyed and I am getting half pay without doing any work. They are depositing the money in my bank account.

So, I decided to go and be with Kumar. As long I was in his village, he would be sleeping in his room and I had to share the bed with Joy. When he said we will go to Ashram, I thought I would be closer to him. But Joy had come with me to the ashram. Nothing is lost, I tried to be closer to him during the night. Even when I put my legs on him, he did not scold me, he just removed my legs from him and turned to the other side. Once he told me he would not restrain anyone from doing anything. So later I came closer to him and hugged him and slept. He must have thought I was hugging him due to the cold. But I wanted to feel his body. Even though he is just a pujari, he has a strong body. I heard from Joy that he is just thirty and running this ashram. When someone told me about this ashram, I thought about Joy, who want to get away from Bombay fearing her husband. I thought she would be safe here. She came and then Kumar took her to his home and gave her a place there.

When she called me to tell me about her, I thought what is his intention in taking her home? But he did not lay his hand on her, instead, he tried to keep her away by keeping her at his house. Then when I visited Joy because

I have free time, Kumar came there for some work and he called me to speak. That is when I saw his personality. I understood why all these people listen to him. They named it divinity, but I could see what it is. It is his magnetism that is what is pulling people to him. I heard some stories about him from Joy and I also heard some rumours from some people in Rama Kutir who were against him. But they don't understand him, because of him they could eat three meals a day. Without him, the villagers had to work in the fields. Now they are running businesses and they are kept throughout the year busy. During Jathara they don't even get time to go to the toilet. They could appoint assistants to run their shops. Still, some people spread rumours. Like he took Zamindar's keep to the house in the fields and raped her to give her son. Then when the CM aspirant brought a girl to him he drugged her and raped her and on the third day, she ran away and only came back after the completion of Yagna. To check on him I slept near him. Then I tried to put my legs on him, he just removed them and went back to his sleep. Then I hugged him and slept. Still no emotion from him. He must have thought I am suffering because of the cold weather, so he put a mantra on me, which brought a hotness raise from within me.

It seems unknowing, he seemed to have awoken my sleeping lady in me. All these years I have put her to sleep thinking I have not found a man to my liking. Even some colleagues and even pilots have approached me seeing I am single. I could keep them away easily. I don't know what caused it my testing of Kumar or the heat he has risen in me or the connection I am feeling with him. I felt a feeling for him to keep close and do those things I have missed for all these years. I felt like I have been waiting

for him all these years. I felt he was the man for me. I did not think he is running an ashram or he is a pujari with a wife and a son. I felt I had to have him to myself. In his own words, he does not refuse anyone anything. Let me see if he refuses my advances.

I meditated for some time, I opened my eyes and looked at Kumar, he has already laid on his mattress and was sleeping. From his rhythmic breathing, he must be sleeping for some time. I picked a mattress and laid it beside his mattress, so he will be facing me, and lay on the bed facing the ceiling. I waited for a minute and picked up his hand and put it on my chest. I felt a thrill run up in me from his touch. After some time, he pulled his hand and put it to his side. This time I loosened the buttons on my nightdress and opened up my shirt, I was not wearing anything underneath, I put his hand on my chest again, then pulled the bedsheet up over his hand. His cool touch on my chest was enticing. What did he think, I have no idea, he pressed over my boob. I looked at him, his eyes seem closed in the dim light from the night bulb. Boldened by his reaction I moved the hand to my crotch area after loosening the thread on the pyjama. His touch on my pussy has brought the hidden lust in me. His hands caressed my pussy and then played with my lips. A little moan escaped from my mouth. Then after a minute he mounted me and started riding me with his rhythmic movement. Spent, he rolled aside and went back to sleep. I had never had this kind of experience before. Satisfied I fixed my dress and slipped into sleep.

Kumar

I have been sleeping, I felt Sneha come and slept beside me and she was arousing me as usual. Normally I would keep her away and she would try to come close in the night. When she aroused me, I satisfied her and went back to sleep.

When I got up, sat down on the bed and called Sneha and looked where she normally sleeps. But instead of Sneha, Sunitha is sleeping beside me. Then I thought about what happened last night.

Did I have a dream last night? I could not decide what happened and I went for my bath. After the bath, I went over to the temple for my daily puja and returned to the hut and sat down to meditate.

But my mind could not concentrate on meditation. I was thinking about what happened last night. Previously I never had that kind of dream. I opened my eyes and Sunitha is sitting in front of me.

I asked her, “did something happen last night?”

She asked back, “what could have happened?”

I asked, “it was raining, and if you had some problem with the rain?”

She said, “no problem, I had a good sleep.”

I thought if I had done something to her she would know, so, it must be a dream. Am I missing Sneha so much, that now I am getting dreams about her? I think I better go back to Rama Kutir and stay there for some time.

I got up and packed my bag and Sunitha asked me, “are you going somewhere, Swamy?”

I said, “I am going back to Rama Kutir.”

She said, "I am also coming."

I said, "then pack your bag, we will leave now."

One devotee brought breakfast for us.

I told her "I am going to Rama Kutir tell them to get me a car."

She nodded her head and went away.

Sunitha while packing her bag asked, "Is there some problem, Swamy?"

I said, "I feel like I am needed in Rama Kutir. Come have breakfast and we will leave."

After completing breakfast, we left for Rama Kutir in a car.

Sunitha

From his demeanour, it seems he did not understand what happened last night. It seems he thought Sneha came into his dream and had sex with him, so he might be thinking that he is missing her and want to go home.

What shall I do, tell him the truth and then see what happens or go with him and let him do whatever he wants to do in Rama Kutir and then come back later and resume my relationship with him? What should I do? Should I tell him and stop him from going to Rama Kutir or just go with him and come back, take my chances with him and try again later?

Kumar

We took the car and reached home by two pm. I have already phoned I am coming. So, Sneha prepared lunch for us. We completed lunch and then after some time lay on the bed. Sneha came over and asked what happened you have returned after just two days, have you any urgent work you need to attend to here?

I said, "nothing like that, last night I remembered you so, I came back home. I think I am keeping you away, and God told me you are needed at home. So, I came back home. I will stay here for some time. Maybe Lord Rama has some work for me."

I managed to stay the whole rainy season in Rama Kutir. There were some problems at the ashram due to heavy rains a rivulet was overflowing and the water entered our ashram, and the new ac hut was built at a higher ground and the people living there and sleeping there did not face any problems. If we stayed at my hut we would have faced much inconvenience.

I thought Lord Rama must have brought me to Rama Kutir to relieve me from the inconvenience.

I enquired about the hut, they said it will take some time to repair the hut, as I don't have any immediate idea of going back I told them to take their time preparing my hut.

Maybe due to the dream, my love for Sneha increased and we used to spend the nights daily in our beds. By the time winter came, Sneha became pregnant. So, I stayed back for a further time.

At this time, I got a call from Delhi about a Politicians daughter. You know how things move in political circles. The CM aspirant who had visited me had told them about Zamindar getting a son even after trying to have children for many years and failing. So they called me to come to Delhi to visit them and discuss what can be done to help them.

Now I have never been to Delhi, so I asked Sneha to accompany me. She is nauseous and said she would better stay home. Then Joy said she had teaching, which she can't avoid. Then I am left with Sunitha.

I asked Sunitha if she would like to accompany me to Delhi, and she immediately agreed to come with me, she also has been there and stayed for six months for training there.

Sunitha said, "it would be very cold there, you might need hot clothes there."

I said, "I don't need any hot clothes as I don't feel cold and she can take her hot clothes."

Sunitha said, "I would better buy them when we reach Delhi."

I said, "it is up to you, I will get them to get the tickets for both of us."

I told Balayya about our decision to go to Delhi.

Balayya said, "I will inform them and arrange for the travelling arrangements."

We went over to Vizag and stayed at Zamindar's house and then from there we caught the train and reached Delhi.

There we were put in a house and we were given a car with a driver.

The driver said we had to wait two days for us to see the lady as she was not allowed to visit.

I said to the driver that we should have a tour of the city. He took us on a tour of the city and the next day he took us to see the Taj Mahal.

Then the third day the politician, Mr. Rajveer Khanna came with his daughter, Loveleen Kaur. After the introductions, I asked him, "what is his problem."

Rajveer said, "my daughter could not conceive. We had her checked and she was not having any problems. As you had given a son to the Zamindar, can you do something for her too?"

I looked at her and she looked beautiful. That time I had done that to help Nimisha to return her favour. Now can I do that to her? I asked her to show her hand. I took her hand and closely looked at the lines on her hand. She seemed to have children and she had two lines on the side to indicate her having two relations.

I asked, "when she was married?"

Rajveer said, "four years back."

I said, "I need to speak with her privately."

They must have already been informed about the way I do things, he said, "you can go and speak in a room."

I took her to the room, sat her on the bed and came to the door and put the white powder on the door frame, closed the door.

I came back and sat in front of her.

I said, "I need to have clarity about your personal life. Please tell me if you have any boyfriends or other physical relations. Based on that only I can decide on what way I can help you out."

Loveleen said, "I never had any relations."

I caught her hand and looked into her eyes. I could see the heat in her eyes. In the cold of Delhi, I felt the heat getting to me and I felt hot all over my body. I got up and switched on the fan and sat down.

I asked her "what is your relationship with your husband."

Loveleen said, "I did not have a proper night with him since our marriage."

I asked her, "do you think your husband is impotent."

She replied, "it seems so."

I asked her "what kind of behaviour he had with you on the first night."

Loveleen said, "he had come fully drunk. Then he made me undress and touched me and slept off. I felt so hot with his touch, that I did not know what to do and went and sat in the shower for an hour. Then he did not even touch me the next time."

I asked, "did you try to arouse him at any time."

Loveleen said, "I had taken advice from friends and tried to arouse him but he would not get aroused by my touch."

I seem to get an idea and asked her "what he was like with other girls. Would he follow them or try to flirt with

them or any kind of indication that he did not like you but have other relations.”

Loveleen replied “he does not seem to have any relations with girls but I heard he uses girls in his business, like supplying them for others and things like that. So that they would help him with his business. Once he took me to a party and tried to attach me to a businessman. I got away from there and when he came home he started to hit me. I complained to my father and they gave him a warning if he does such a thing again, they would put him in a grave. Then he did not try to hit me again.”

I asked her, “how was he with other men.”

Loveleen said, “I had no idea about that.”

I thought he is either impotent or gay. Nowadays more and more people coming out as gay. Earlier they were just discreet. Now how to find out about him?

I asked her “what are you expecting from me? Do you want to go back to your husband or just have a child with him or what?”

Loveleen could not answer that.

I said, “think about what I asked, it all depends on what you want. If you want just peace of mind, you can come and stay at our ashram. There are no restrictions in our ashram. Whenever you want to return, you can go back. Think about what you want and tell me. I will wait for your answer.”

Loveleen nodded her head. I opened the door and rubbed the powder on the door frame and went out.

I sat down and said to her father, “she seemed unsure of herself. I gave her some time to think about what she wants, then I can decide what to do.”

Rajveer said, “she wants to have a child.”

I said, “let her say that. If she needs more time to think it over, she can come and stay at our ashram. If she gives me an answer when I am here, then accordingly I can advise what can be done. You can come back when she has an answer for me.”

They got up and took her away.

I asked Sunitha “what do you think of them.”

She replied “it seems the politician wants some political favours, that’s what I feel. From your interaction with Zamindar, they might have got an idea of what you may require, instead of asking for political favour like you have given to the CM aspirant, they might want to show the lady and ask for the child. They may later ask for any political favours also.”

I said, “that’s what I thought. Let us wait and see. We will stay in the house for today, we will decide if they are returning tomorrow.”

I sat down to meditate and Sunitha also sat down with me. After completing my meditation, I asked the driver “what about our lunch.”

He said, “he is arranging.”

We completed our lunch and sat on the sofa and I asked her what did he say her name was.

She said, “Loveleen.” I said I think I heard the name somewhere. Where could it be?

I thought about her if what she says is true, she might be a virgin and she might be useful for performing the Indra Yagnam. But first I have to confirm and then plan accordingly.

We had our dinner and readied for our night. In the bedroom, there are two single beds I slept on one bed and Sunitha slept on another. For the last two days, we were going around the city and come tired. I meditated for some time and lay on the bed.

Thinking about what can be done in her case. What she is expecting from me? Or her father expecting some ministerial position. What would be her age, what did he say her name, Loveleen? She is really like her name, Lovely. It seems she is made for love and what her husband made her, trying to make her sleep with someone else, what for, Some business contract? Would people go so low to act that way? In my line, I have seen lots of kinds of people. One fellow wanted to become CM and brought a girl to me. If I think about what I am, I am not that much of a good man. I have done some bad things in the name of religion. I tried to take advantage of people's weaknesses. But when she was taken away from me after two days, I turned a new leaf and left all those things behind and tried to do good for the people. I give shelter to those who come for some shelter and some food to stay alive, without asking for anything in return. But those on the Island? They have taken advantage of my leniency in maintaining the ashram. If they want to roam without clothes it is ok, but they brought drugs and things like that which cannot be pardoned. But I kept my principles and send them to the island, where they will not disturb anyone else. Whatever happened to them is gods will.

Thinking about that I slipped into sleep.

I felt a little weight on my leg and I felt it and moved it aside and turned. It is very cold in Delhi, normally I would not use blankets but I had taken a blanket. I turned and felt beside me, and I felt a hot body in the blanket without clothes on. Again, like that night I thought Sneha came to me and I kissed her and I received a return kiss. It is dark in the room, there is no night lamp or it is switched off. I felt her body, did not feel like Sneha. She has given birth and she was different and now who could be beside me, the only person in the room is Sunitha. I called softly "Sunitha."

She replied in a sexy voice yes.

Are you the one in my bed?

She replied, "yes, please don't stop, I have been waiting for months."

I asked, "what are you saying?"

She said, "I thought I would have many nights with you and you went back home and I could not have time with you there. I thought this tour came as a godsend for me. From that night I had been waiting for this night."

Sunitha

I saw him sleeping, and I could not get sleep with the cold of Delhi. I switched off the bed lamp and stripped and slept beside him. He has turned to the other side, sleeping. The bed is small and I could slip in beside him. If he wants to turn, he might have enough space just to make a turn. I touched and aroused him. He must have thought as before Sneha had come to his bed. He turned

and kissed me and I kissed back, and then he touched my body, this time he must have felt the difference and said Sunitha, I said yes, I have been waiting for this night. Don't stop, go on. I thought he would get up and go, but instead, he continued kissing me and then he entered me and satisfied me.

He said, "go and dress up, you might catch a cold." I got up and dressed and satiated I went back to my bed.

Kumar

I got up and looked at Sunitha who is sleeping on the bed beside my bed.

It seems she wanted to have me, then why couldn't ask for it? I always told her to ask what you want. I don't reject anyone. I don't restrict anyone. There are a few foreign ladies who come to me requesting a night. I would never object to anyone, so I would oblige. When I saw her with Joy, I felt something in me, that she was something to me once. I know I was married to Sneha. But I indulge myself once in a while. When I did the Yagna with Nimisha, it was consensual. She had agreed to have sex with me for getting herself a child. Then when the CM aspirant brought the girl I made the mistake of not taking her consent and god punished me by taking her away mid-puja. But when I realized my mistake he did not punish me by spoiling my Yagna and had fulfilled his wishes and made him CM.

Now, what do these people want? Do they want Loveleen to have a child or does her father wants to become CM? We have to wait and see.

I had a bath and did puja on a small Rama statue I keep with me when I go on tours like this. Then had meditated for some time.

Then when Sunitha asked for coffee I opened my eyes. Seeing me opening my eyes, she said, “sorry, Swamy.”

I nodded my head and got up and sat on the sofa.

The driver came with coffee for Sunitha and asked me, “do you want one cup, Swamy.”

I nodded and he put a cup in front of me.

I asked him, “what is your name?”

He said, “Vishal.”

I said, “I don’t reject anything. I won’t object to anything. I don’t eat non-veg, but if Sunitha wants to eat it I don’t object to her eating. It is our principle at our ashram. We don’t object to anyone or anything. Everybody is equal at the ashram. They can come live with me at my hut. They don’t normally do that, because we have better places than my hut. I am a simple man, I take a frugal amount of food, keep my mind clean and whatever I earn is not mine, it is all gods own. That is why I always say Krishnarpanam. Everything belongs to god, nothing is mine. We don’t come with anything and we go with nothing. Then there won’t be any kind of negative thoughts like jealousy, gluttony, etc.”

He asked, “for just a cup of coffee, is this discourse necessary?”

I said, “it is not about coffee, even if you offer me whiskey I had to take it as Teertha. So I hope you understand my philosophy.”

He said I got it, you will only ask what is necessary for you then if anyone offers you drinks or mutton or sex you won't reject it because that is god's gift to you."

I said, "you caught my philosophy very well. You can become my disciple."

After two hours the party returned to their flat.

I asked them "what they decided?"

He said, "we can't decide what to do at this time."

I said, "you send Loveleen to our ashram. Whatever you may decide, I can't perform any pujas or Yagnas at this time as my wife is pregnant and I can only perform any pujas only after a period of five months. So, I feel this is a better option at this juncture."

After consultation among themselves and consulting with their advisor, they agreed to send her with us.

We returned with Loveleen and her driver Vishal to the ashram.

I went and had a look at my hut which was redone. Now the hut was built on an elevated platform, still keeping the look of the hut. The outer walls and ceiling were protected from heat, by placing heat-protecting materials inside the walls, which were made from some kind of hard plastic. Then one side of the hut on small elevated platform mattresses was placed, making it a big bed. It can be sat in the daytime or slept on at the night. Discourses can be given sitting on the mattresses and people can sit around on that. For the remainder of the hut, thick carpets were placed. These things have changed the look of the hut. Toilets and washrooms and

a changing room were placed outside the hut with a door leading to them from the hut.

There were cupboards on one side of the hut. I went in and looked around, put my bag inside a cupboard and came and sat in the centre of the bed.

Sunitha and Loveleen also put their bags in the cupboard.

I told Vishal “if you like to stay with us you can stay here or there are other huts and an ac hall where most of the devotees stay. Here as I told you before, no restrictions.”

He said, “I will go and have a look and went away.”

I looked at the watch on the wall. It is nearing 7 am. I told Sunitha to acclimatize Loveleen about the ashram and where she can get what she wants. They both went away.

In the meantime, I had my bath and completed puja and came back to the hut.

After half an hour Sunitha returned with breakfast and a flask of coffee.

She gave me breakfast. Then she poured me a cup of coffee. Completing my breakfast, I sat back on the bed.

I asked Loveleen “can I call you Love.”

Loveleen said, “certainly, Swamy.”

I told her “you see this is a free zone, you can stay here as you like, you can ask whatever you like or refuse whatever you don’t like. Don’t force other people is one of my policies. If you want money you can go to the office and collect it, and maybe go shopping. If you want food, there is a kitchen, Sunitha must have shown you. If you

want some work. There are different works around the ashram. If you don't want to do anything that is your prerogative. If you want to speak or attend a kind of group session where everyone gets to speak about their life experiences, you can do so. Or you can start your kind of group activity if anyone wants they can come and join you. Things like that you can take up. Until you are not infringing on others' rights you can do whatever you want here. You can't hit another person and say I want to do it. Instead, take permission from that person, if you get permission then only you can hit them. All I am saying is if you take permission from that person, you can enter their personal space. Like you want to kiss Sunitha here, you take permission and kiss her. I hope you understood what I am saying. The things of your personal nature you can do, if it involves others you need to take permission."

Chapter 6

The year 1995

Kumar

A member of the ashram brought a girl of probably 14 or 15. I told her to sit.

She sat in front of me. I asked her what is her name.

She said, "Stephanie."

I caught her hand and looked into her eyes. I saw lots of endurance and pain.

I asked, "did you have to endure lots of pain?"

She said, "yes, Swamy. My father was a very abusive person. He killed my mom and with the help of a group of people who were visiting India I came here. Someone told me about your ashram and brought me here."

I said, "from today you will be a new person, I am naming you Preethi and you will be my daughter from now on. You go to Rama Kutir and study there. I will make arrangements for you. Stay for the day and tomorrow I will send you there."

He took her away.

Sunitha asked, "why did you do that?"

I asked, "changing her name or accepting her as my daughter?"

She said, "both."

I replied "when I saw her, I felt the name Preethi for her. She is still young and she has not seen anything of the

world, she needs to study, so I am sending her to Rama Kutir to study.”

I called Vishal and told him “I am sending Preethi, the new girl to Rama Kutir, you also go with the driver and drop her at Rama Kutir and come back. If you want you can take madam along with you.”

He said, “ok, Swamy, I will confirm with madam.”

After having lunch, Preethi came and sat down.

She asked me “how do you know about my pain, Swamy.”

I said, “I read the pain in your eyes. I feel eyes are the opening to a person’s heart. I can understand a person from their eyes.”

She showed me Sunitha, “tell her about it from her eyes.”

I told her “I don’t need to look into her eyes to tell you about her, she has a soft heart. She is intelligent but she doesn’t know her own strength. Someday, she needs to take over the reins of a big organization. She accepts it fearfully but she will excel in her endeavour. She will go to great heights.”

She asked, “then what she is doing here?”

I said, “for everything, there is a time. She has to come out of her previous work relations. She is thinking there is still some chance to go back to her previous employment. When she realizes that she can never go back, she will think about what she needs in her life, then she will get an opportunity get to head an organization.”

“What is the organization,” asked Sunitha.

I said, “when the time comes, I will let you know. It has something to do with this ashram.”

Now Preethi asked, “what about her,” showing Loveleen?

I said, “she is a lost soul. She has fire in her. Which might burst anytime, she is trying to contain it.

Preethi asked, “what happens if it burst, Swamy?”

I looked at Loveleen and said to Preethi, “I can’t tell you what could happen, you are still a child.”

I put a pillow in front of me and told Loveleen to lie there. When she lay on the pillow I read the reverse mantra I used on Sunitha to cool Loveleen. After some time, I asked her to open her eyes, but still, the heat has not come down, I continued with the mantra, checked her, found her to be normal and asked her to sit down.

Preethi asked, “why did you do that, Swamy?”

I said, “by asking about her and me replying about her, we have disturbed her chakra, so I have to cool her down.”

Preethi got up and said I will help in the kitchen and come. When she went away Sunitha asked, “what would happen to Loveleen, Swamy?”

I said, “she is like about to burst into a volcano. What will happen when the volcano bursts?”

Sunitha said, “it spews lava.”

I said, “then whatever in her path burst into flames, correct?”

Sunitha said, “yes, Swamy.”

I said, “she is like that, if any man puts his hand on her, she would burst and pull the heat from him and he will become cold as ice. That is the reason I brought her here. She would be safe here.”

Sunitha

What Kumar told about Loveleen, is it correct? If she had such a fire, is there nothing to contain it rather than some temporary solution he provided her? Maybe he is waiting for their reply to his question about what they want from him. That could be the reason, he might have something planned for her.

Vishal came over to me and asked, “shall I take madam with me or not.”

I said, “you better not take her with you. She is at present very volatile, she may burst out at any time. If any man even lays his hand on her, she might burst out. When her father might come over?”

He said, “I will call him and find out.”

He asked me, “why Swamy is not doing anything for her?”

Then I remembered his wife is pregnant.

I said, “it might have something to do with his wife being pregnant. He can’t perform any Yagnam until she gives birth. That is why he might be waiting.”

It could be the reason he let them decide, and instead of forcing their hand.

Kumar

Vishal dropped Preethi in Rama Kutir and came back.

I asked him “how is everything in Rama Kutir.”

Vishal told me whatever is happening in Rama Kutir.

He told me about Joy and asked me “why you are letting so talented a person teach in Rama Kutir.”

I asked, “what did you mean by talented?”

Vishal said, “she studied in the USA.”

I said, “so what?”

Vishal said, “she studied computer engineering there, those people are very rare in India.”

I asked, “how do you know about that.”

Vishal replied, “I have a nephew who has gone to the USA to study computer engineering, so I know about that.”

I asked, “Then what should be she doing?”

Vishal said, “something in software engineering or at least teaching software, they are very few people who are so learned here.”

I asked him, “did you enquire with her if she wanted to do that? She told me she ran away from her husband in the USA. That is why she came here to hide, I thought she would be more secure in Rama Kutir and sent her there. If he comes as a devotee we will not know about him. In Rama Kutir, any new person will mostly be known except at the time of Jathara. I will speak with her when I go to Rama Kutir.”

Vishal asked, “your wife is six months pregnant, how is that possible?”

I said, "I am a pujari, not a Sanyasi. God told me after Leena went away, I should have a girl in my house, Atul misses his sister. So, I stayed back and she is pregnant. Then I will go back to Rama Kutir in the summer. After she gives birth I will think about how I can help your madam. Your masters have until then to decide what they want. I can't perform Yagnam when a pregnant lady is present in the house."

He said, "oh, is that the reason for your dillydallying to do anything."

By the time of Summer, I am back in Rama Kutir with Sunitha and Loveleen and also Vishal.

Sunitha got to stay with Joy and Loveleen I provided a separate room to sleep in.

I took Loveleen to the Devi temple and got her to perform puja with the priest there, so at least some of her heat will be reduced.

While coming to Rama Kutir I stopped in Vizag and procured homeopathic medicines, especially for Loveleen to reduce her heat. After searching through lots of books, I could get the medicine for Loveleen. I started administering the medicines at night time before she goes to sleep. I know homeopathy medicines would take time to work, and that could be the reason lots of people don't believe in them. I hoped by the time Sneha would give birth to a baby, Loveleen would get cured and at least would show some improvement. I got the house extended in the front and back by installing shades and had some vines grow over them to keep the extended part cool. Over that, I got coolers placed for sitting in the

daytime. In the backside, the girls can sit and in the front yard, I would sit and advise the people coming to me. They would be coming for medical advice or regarding timing the various functions at their houses. They could go to the pujaris at the temple but they still prefer me if I am available in the village. Some even wait for me to come to Rama Kutir or call me at the ashram.

Balayya came over to me to see his daughter's kundali. Whatever matches come for her are not getting finalized.

I told him to give his daughter's date and time of birth. I prepared her kundali, it seems she had some dosha in her kundali.

I told him that due to dosha in her kundali she is not getting matches, so we need to do remedial pujas for them. The first one is we have to marry her to a peepal tree. Then we have to take her to Shree Kalahasthi and get puja performed there. If we do both of them the dosha will reduce their strength and she will be ready for marriage.

I got the pujari who does marriages in the village to perform the marriage with a peepal tree. Then we all went to Tirupati had a darshan of the Lord Venkateshwara and proceeded to Shree Kalahasthi we got the puja performed by her there and returned to Rama Kutir.

By the time everything is finished Sneha was full months pregnant and we decided to go to Vizag for her delivery.

Zamindar offered us to stay in his house for this.

So, with the group, we shifted to Vizag. I asked Joy does she wants to teach computers in Vizag, and she agreed happily.

When someone from the USA offered donations, I asked them to send computers to us. Vishal's nephew coordinated with them and shipped them to Vizag by ship.

Joy appointed a person to look after the hardware of the institute and one fine day we started Kumar Swamy Computer Institute in Vizag for teaching computers. First, we started with limited students as Joy alone was teaching and we could not get any other teachers to teach computers.

She said, "from the first batch I would select suitable candidates to appoint as teachers."

Now on May 21, Sneha gave birth to a baby girl and we named her Reena in memory of Leena.

Joy identified some candidates for teaching computers and started them to give special coaching to absorb as teachers in the institute.

When we got some laptops from the USA we gave some to the teachers and I took one for my personal use. Even though I don't know how to operate it, I thought I should keep one myself and asked Sunitha to learn from Joy and teach me how to use it.

We stayed a month in Vizag and returned to Rama Kutir. Through Vishal, I sent a message to Loveleen's father to take some decisions about his daughter.

After a week we received a reply through Vishal.

Loveleen's father, Mr. Rajveer Khanna wants to become CM of the newly made state of Delhi. He had already consulted the previous CM aspirant and he asked, "shall I get a girl for the Yagnam."

I said, "his daughter would be sufficient for the Yagnam we can combine both the Yagnam for him to give a child for his daughter and allow him to contest to the CM of Delhi." It is like hitting two birds with one stone.

Rajveer asked, "would it be any danger for his daughter?"

I told him, "this would be different Yagnam than what was performed for Zamindar, which was quite a difficult one."

Rajveer agreed for the Yagnam to be performed. This Yagnam he asked to be performed at his farmhouse near Delhi.

So, with my entourage of Vishal, Loveleen and Sunitha I travelled to Delhi.

Vishal took us to the farmhouse from the house we were housed the first time we went to Delhi.

This farmhouse has a pleasant atmosphere. Even though it is the rainy season the hot weather has not receded like in Andhra. We put our baggage down and I gave him a list of items to be brought for the Yagnam. I decided to do this Yagnam in the name of Lord Krishna. First, we went to Madhura the birthplace of Lord Krishna and got a statue of him and returned.

I placed him in a corner with a covered cloth. Then I asked Rajveer Khanna to get Loveleen's husband Guru in front of me. How so ever they brought him to the farmhouse.

I took him and Loveleen to a room and put the white powder on the door frame and closed the door.

I asked him "what is your problem?"

Guru said, "I don't have any feelings for Loveleen."

I asked, "then why did you marry her?"

Guru replied, "family pressure to marry, they only fixed our wedding."

I asked him "are you gay?"

Guru asked, "what is it?"

I said, "do you want to sleep with men?"

He said, "I am not that kind of a person."

Now I am in quandary, what kind of person he is? I made him lay on the bed and asked Loveleen to arouse him. There is no reaction in him. It seems he is a kind of impotent person who is incapable of sex.

I asked him, "now her father is asking for a child for his daughter, and what shall I do?"

Guru said, "for that purpose only I had taken her to some of my friends, so she will get impregnated with them, but she ran away from them."

I said, "if you do that without informing her, do you know what are the consequences of that?"

Guru said, "I did not think of that."

I told him “you made her so hot, she is simmering like a volcano inside. If anyone had put her hands on her without permission, I don’t know what she could do to that person. So, what do you want me to do?”

Guru said, “you tell me what to do, and I will cooperate with you fully.”

I said, “I am going to do Yagnam with her and you. This would take a time of three months. If you can spare that time in the nights well enough or I will think of an alternate.”

He thought for a minute and asked, “what time I am required?”

I said, “after 10 pm.”

He thought for a minute and said, “I am ready to do what you require.”

The whole day I was performing the puja to Lord Krishna for Loveleen’s father’s improvement in his political career.

On the night after Guru, that is the name of Loveleen’s husband, Gurvinder Singh came, I took both of them into the room, I had Guru arouse Loveleen, when she was asking for sex, I rode her and satisfied her. She was a virgin as proven by the leaking of blood from her vagina. So the puja would be a success from both points. I told them both to sleep off together and went to the other room to sleep. This went on for two months. Due to his constant arousal of Loveleen and also the medicines I provided to him, he seemed to have some improvement in his arousal, by the time of three months he could perform a little and would release a small amount of

semen. I was checking her vitals and started to check her urine samples from the third month of our starting pujas. After 15 days it was confirmed that Loveleen is pregnant. I sent her with Vishal to get checked for pregnancy in Delhi, where it was confirmed. Now I told her father that Yagnam is successful and he could start his campaign to sit on CM's chair.

We took Loveleen and with our entourage, we returned back to the Ashram.

After looking at the affairs of the ashram we went to Ram Kutir. I got a small temple prepared for Lord Krishna and put him in the temple and started to perform pujas. Now people came to know about the installation of Lord Krishna and they started to visit him for praying for various wants.

Now Loveleen has become our responsibility and her father has provided all the required support for her. He was busy with his elections and we were busy with our day-to-day routines.

By the time Loveleen is full months, we shifted to Vizag. Now Joy also stays in Vizag, so we have a house for staying over there. There is a hospital close by, we got Loveleen checked in there and took time with the hospital for delivering Loveleen there.

Her father was busy with the elections and Loveleen started having labour pains and her father's election results were being broadcast over the tv. By the time she gave birth to a baby boy, her father's party had won with an absolute majority. We named the boy Dhruv in a small ceremony.

Now with the computer institute, Joy started computer software development also.

She took her best students and gave training in the development and started to develop software.

Using my name she started to get projects and she would develop and deliver the software.

Now I have to show a way for Sunitha, she is sitting idle and I decided to purchase a supermarket and Named it Kumar Swamy Super Bazar and handed over it to Sunitha to supervise.

Zamindar handed his bungalow to us to use for our residential purpose.

So, I have shifted our residence from Rama Kutir to Vizag. So Atul would not have a problem attending college.

Once in a while, I would go and visit the ashram to see how it runs. I don't want them to repeat the fiasco that happened with previous foreigners. I told the trustees to see that the ashram is run piously. I checked the accounts, and we are not into collecting huge donations by the Ashram, for that we use Swiss accounts, where people can donate their black money. Now after the washout of the island, those incoming donations have been reduced. But we are not worrying, we are increasing our political clout. From Hyderabad to Delhi our reach has penetrated. Now we are looking after the Delhi CM's daughter too.

We have brought another super Bazar and named it Kumar Swamy Super Bazar. Now all our requirements at the Ashram are met by these super bazaars. Sunitha is busy running these super bazaars. Whereas we started

another computer institute in Hyderabad and Joy went over to look after that. After coming to Vizag Sneha became a little free as the villager's invitations came down. Now they would only call her on important matters. So for the summer holidays, I sent Sneha with the kids to Bombay to spend their holidays.

Until now in Rama Kutir, they were away from relatives. After coming to Vizag they connected with our relatives when they went for a marriage of a relative's boy. I sent them one day before the marriage and I reached there by the time of muhurta. I presented the couple with a honeymoon package to Switzerland.

That could be the reason people started to invite us to all kinds of functions. Sneha also called her parents to visit our house and took them to see the ashram. And showed how pious way we do things. Seeing us living the life of brahmins they have forgotten their differences and decided to stay back at the ashram as their younger daughter also got married and lived with her husband.

They found the ashram atmosphere to their liking and were told they can live there as long as they want without any restrictions. There they found a small boy who came to live there after his parents were killed in an accident, he was homeless and someone brought him and left him there. So Sneha's parents decided to adopt him and would keep him with them, he was also their caste only.

Now as the saying goes money brings more money, our super bazaars and computer institutes were a hit and we are getting good profits from them. I kept these business ventures' accounts separate and wanted to invest in more businesses.

One day one devotee came to me for help. He was working in an oil mill and its owner died, his widow does not want to run the mill and doesn't want to hand it over to any relatives as she feared they would cheat her out of her share.

Now, this devotee did not get salaries for the last three months and is at his wit's end.

I went with the workers of the mill and met the widow. I heard her problems and made an agreement with her, I will pay her some compensation and the mill will run as a cooperative and she would get 50% of the share of the profits and workers would get salaries and would share the remaining 50% of the profits. I would get the oil supplied to our super bazaars at discounted prices and I would transfer the benefit to the customers.

Everybody is happy and I would get goodwill from this.

Seeing this another devotee approached me with his factory owner. Now this owner wants to sell his factory outright and he doesn't want to have a share of the profits.

I inquired about the price he wants to sell the factory. The price he offered the factory seems reasonable. I have to check the finances, so I told the owner to come the next day and asked the devotee if any of the workers would like to invest in the factory. Check with others and let me know. As per their investment, I would like to offer the profits. They had their meetings and came up with 50% of the price of the factory.

I said, "I will put the remaining 50% of the price but I will take my 50% share and would use that share for the betterment of the workers as I see fit."

This way I would have some control of the factory and the workers would work in their own interest for the betterment of the factory. I don't want to give anything free, because everybody will come for a free handout. I took an exclusive dealership of the factory and got a godown and started to supply the items produced by the factory to retailers. With these ventures, I am hitting two birds with one stone. I am gaining respect as a people person and earning a good income in the process. The profits, I am using to help more people.

With that, I am taking over neglected temples and creating an environment for poor people to have food and shelter attached to those temples. Now, where ever possible I started to give it back to the people, by providing facilities in poor people's localities. Whatever I spent I would get back in the form of donations. People started to trust my initiatives and would voluntarily work with me.

I started to expand my initiatives to more and more places and got a good response from the people. If I started to show sudden initiative, people would doubt my outlook. But once my initiatives reach people's expectations, they would invite me with open arms.

Slowly I started to build ashrams for old people, where they can spend the rest of their lives in peace. Every care is taken for them from food and shelter in a pleasant atmosphere away from the cities and the expenses would be borne by the ashram trust. This way I started to use the ill-earned money for the good of the people.

Then I started ashrams for old and sick people, where they can get the required treatment. These ashrams are built separately for the sake of maintenance, to treat sick people who need to be near the cities. Where doctors can come and visit the patients. Where specialists are available on call. Seeing the charitable nature of these ashrams, many doctors have come forward to help freely or at low fees.

All the companies and factories overlooking I gave to Sunitha and Joy would look after the education of the poor and she started schools in various locations for the upliftment of the poor. Loveleen took up the management of the ashrams. Sneha on her part would help other charitable institutions with funds and management.

I started a marriage bureau for these poor people. Now we fix the marriages and conduct the ceremonies too for them. Some people would want to have weddings in their own caste only, some don't have any preferences. So according to their preferences, we would select and perform weddings. In this endeavour Joy's software has come to good use.

Chapter 7

The year 2010

Kumar

By the year 2010 we not only were running many factories and companies but we were also involved with many charitable institutions and ashrams for the upbringing of the poor.

Atul is now a software engineer and looking after the software division with the help of Joy. Reena is in intermediate now. Loveleen's son Dhruv is in 10th.

Sneha started to lose weight and was not feeling well. I had taken her to the hospital for a thorough check-up and it was found she had breast cancer, and the doctors started treatment for her.

Then they did surgery and removed the cancerous part. Then other treatments started. Due to this, my activities took a hit. I have not taken up any Yagnam recently and no one approached us. So I was not busy and would only concentrate on my daily pujas and things like checking the business activities.

Now software business is looked after by Joy and Atul, and Sunitha looked after other businesses with help of Loveleen.

Then one day a minister by the name of Kishore Kumar Yadav approached me with a request to get himself to be elected as the next chief minister.

I was in two minds as the present CM was to be removed from the post and he wants to be made CM, for that he had to unseat the CM. There is no way for him to win in

elections and come to the power after the elections, as the elections have just concluded. He has already spoken to the previous candidates and he said he will provide a girl also. I was not that much interested in the Yagnam but he said he will get a girl and he showed the photo also. He said they have selected the girl for this purpose and she was ready to participate in the Yagnam when she heard the previous girl went to heaven and came back. I had my reservations about that but agreed to do the Yagnam, maybe it would be my last Yagnam.

I said I will consult the books and let them know which Yagnam can be performed.

Whenever I performed Yagnam and brought statues of the gods, it has done some good for Rama Kutir and those villagers and devotees who visited the temples.

Finally, as it is for good of the village, I decided to do a Yagnam without getting a deity. I wanted to use the girl and do puja to her as a Goddess. This way I won't be doing anything wrong as far as the girl is concerned. This Homam would be performed in the open in the Mandapam of the temple used for functions. Everyone can attend and I will put her up in the temple room at the night.

After two days Yadav brought the girl to the Ashram. We brought the girl named Ashritha to Rama Kutir and put her in the designated place.

The news about the Yagnam is already spread through the surrounding areas.

As it is open Yagnam people from surrounding areas started to come to Rama Kutir. Whatever available

places to stay were occupied by the people. We have to keep VIPs visiting at our house and Balayya's house. We have made temporary sheds in our backyard for those people who are known people without any accommodation available around. We made arrangements for the Yagnam outside the Durga Devi temple. Around the temple, Shades were provided for people to sit and watch the Yagnam. The atmosphere in Rama Kutir is no less than that for Jathara.

On an auspicious date, we started the Yagnam by bathing the girl and taking her and sitting her on a small pedestal in front of the temple entrance. Then the fire started in the centre of the mandapam where arrangements were made. Another 11-member Pujaris have arrived for managing the Yagnam. At a time four Pujaris would start performing the Yagnam by reciting mantras appropriate for the puja. After the second day of the puja, the girl was taken to her room and I slept outside her room on a mattress. Around midnight I heard the sound of knocking on the door and after some time, the opening of the door. I went and looked at the opened door. Ashritha was speaking with a man whose back was towards me. I entered the room and closed the door and switched on the light.

It was Zamindar's son Harshith. I asked him "what are you doing here?"

He said, "I came to take Ashritha with me, uncle." He calls me uncle and I am his real father and I could not punish him for doing that.

I told him to sit down and tell me what happened. He said they had both been in love for the last 3 years. She is not

a virgin as they thought and we are having a physical relationship.

I said, "it does not matter as I am doing this Yagnam for the good of the village and she is not really required for the Yagnam. You don't have to worry about her. If you have trust in me you can leave her here. If you want to take her away, you can do so, without anyone's knowledge but you have to bring her back on the completion of the Yagnam. If you want you can stay at our Ashram for the time being. Our car will take you and bring you back. After the Yagnam I will tell your father and get you married to her telling him that she is purified. Is it ok with you?"

He said it is ok with me uncle, I am ready to listen to you."

I called the driver and send them to Ashram to bring them back at the time of completion of Yagnam. It is your responsibility to bring them back at that time. To accompany them I sent Vishal along. In the morning I let someone else check the room and not finding her they made some noise.

I said she went to heaven and will return by the time of completion of Yagnam.

When the Yagnam was completed Vishal brought Ashritha back and put her in the room and locked it from the outside. I let him open the door in front of the villagers and she came out of the room as if she awoke from sleep and said she went to heaven and returned.

So this way the Yagnam was completed and Harshith came to pay respects I blessed him with marriage.

Zamindar said he is not agreeing to marry. I said here is your daughter in law she came back from heaven purified, make her your daughter-in-law and your wealth will increase ten folds. He agreed to their marriage and Harshith is happy with the outcome.

Now the minister boldened by the Yagnam went and created some problems for the CM and sought to be made CM and he became CM in just 25 days after the Yagnam.

Now Zamindar's Son Harshith's marriage is fixed with Ashritha. They wanted the marriage ceremony performed at our Ashram. I said if they are ready for vegetarian food to be served, we can perform at the Ashram. They agreed to that and I performed the marriage standing beside the couple.

Now our son Atul is 26 years of age and I asked him did he have any girl in mind for marriage. He said No.

Atul was sent to Mumbai for a software project in a Hospital.

Atul

I went and took a hotel room and put my luggage there and went to the company which is offering the software project. It is a hospital and I went and met the IT person.

The IT manager called his assistant and introduced us. Her name is Molly and seeing her for the first time in my life I am smitten with her. After getting the information from her I noted down the details and send them to our office for the preparation of documents. After completing my work I left for the hotel.

After refreshing, I went out for a walk. As I was crossing the road a motorcycle hit me from behind and ran away. I asked the cab which stopped there, to take me to the hospital where I went for the project, as I would have some known people there. They treated me and took x-rays to verify nothing is broken, told me to come the next day and sent me to my hotel in an ambulance. I went to the hotel room and lay down on the bed.

Kumar

Preethi came and told me some foreigners have come to visit me. I said to her to bring them. They came and sat down on the mattresses putting their legs under them.

I said sorry we don't have chairs here. If you are uncomfortable we can go somewhere else. One man who looked Indian said, "no problem. I am Bob, these people have come to you with a request."

I said, "if it is reasonable I will never say no to anything."

Bob said, "you have an island in the Bay of Bengal."

I said, "yes."

He said, "They want to build an underground bunker on the island."

I said, "ok, now it is not occupied by anyone, you can do it."

Bob said, "they will get all the equipment, along with your permission, they need financial support. I know what is your worth. If you can release a million dollars from your Swiss bank accounts, it will be to your advantage. Don't think we are blackmailing you to give the money. After building the bunker they will hand it

over to you. They will also be handing over to you an equipment manufacturing company. This will also come to use in future. You need to build some futuristic equipment in that company. When the time comes, you will get the details.”

I asked, “who are you?”

He asked, “do you remember Sahithi?”

I said, “she was here for seven months and she gave birth to a girl and disappeared and then later her daughter also disappeared.”

Bob said, “it is me who sent her to you and send them back also. We know you were worried about Sneha’s cancer. These people will take her abroad and will cure her completely. I think for her sake you won’t hesitate to spend the amount.”

I said, “yes if she is cured of cancer, I will give you double the amount.”

Bob said, “so, it is agreed you will provide the money. Now we don’t have a problem with money, but this bunker has to be made with your money only. So you transfer half a million dollars to this account and we will start the work.”

I asked Preethi “get me my laptop.”

She went and brought my laptop and I transferred the amount to the account given by Bob.

Bob said, “now we are taking Sneha with us, you come and say goodbye to her. When she is cured she will return.”

I asked, “do you want anyone to accompany her.”

Bob said, “we are taking Preethi with us to accompany her. Now sign these papers to build the bunker, you are handing over the Island to this company.”

I read the documents and signed them. It was mentioned that after the building of the bunker is completed the Island will be returned to me.

We went over to where Sneha is resting. Bob made a call and a medical helicopter arrived and landed at the ashram. They put her on a stretcher and with Preethi to accompany her, they took Sneha on the helicopter.

Atul

Getting ready after having breakfast, I went to the hospital to get a check-up first. As I was entering the main door Molly came in front of me.

I said, “hello.”

Molly said, “hi, I heard you met with an accident.”

I said, “someone riding a bike hit and run away.”

Molly asked, “now where are you going?”

I said, “yesterday they took some X-rays, I am going to check the reports.”

She said, “come with me, I will take you there and she went and spoke with the technicians.”

She said, “there is no problem you can rest assured.”

I said, “thanks and let us see what information is received from our office.”

Both of us went to her cabin and she logged in and said, "I received an email from your office and they said they will send a demo copy of the software."

I said, "I will download the demo copy and install it for you. Can you turn the laptop towards me, I left my laptop in the hotel room."

She gave me the laptop and I logged in to the FTP server and downloaded a copy of the executable and database backup. I asked her, "do you have an SQL server installed."

She said yes.

I asked can "you connect it for me." She opened the management studio and I restored it from the backup copy downloaded.

I installed the setup file from the downloaded executable and said, "you can check it out."

I sat with her and showed her how to run the application.

We worked for an hour and she said, "I will speak with our manager and come back to you."

I asked her "Is there any good restaurant nearby for having lunch?"

She said, "if you want to have a good south Indian restaurant I will show you, come with me."

She got up and I also got up and followed her. She went to the parking and took a scooter and told me to sit behind her. I tried to sit behind her and don't know how to sit.

She rebuked, "sit properly, haven't you sat on a scooter before?"

I said, “no, we always travel in cars.”

She said, “ok, then catch me on the shoulder.”

I caught her and put my legs on the stand she showed me and she drove us to a restaurant 20 minutes away. I got down and she parked the scooter and said come, and we both entered the restaurant. We sat down at an empty table and she said “I will order, I know what items are good here.”

I nodded my head.

After ordering she asked, “what your father does, business?”

I said, “no, he is a philanthropist.”

She asked, “what is that?”

I said, “he helps people in need. All our businesses are for helping people only. We run many charitable institutions. Dad runs many old age homes, ashrams, Dispensaries, etc. Most of our businesses we run because of the workers. When the businesses become sick, the workers come to my father and he helps them by paying the owners and letting them run the factories or businesses. You might have heard the name Kumar’s.”

She said, “I heard it is run by some kind of swami.”

I said, “when you hear the name swami, your first impression is that he is some kind of cheat, who does magic and takes money from gullible people. But my father is not like that, he never asks for money. His motto is to help people in need. Anyone can come and stay for free in our ashrams. We run some ashrams for sick

people too. We give free treatment. Whatever we earn in our businesses we give back to people only.”

Then my mobile rang. I looked at the phone and said, “it is dad, he never calls me.”

I took the call and said, “what happened, dad?”

Dad said, “mom is going abroad for treatment, so I called for you to say goodbye.” I said, “I will make a video call and dad showed me mom being taken on a stretcher to a waiting helicopter.

I asked, “why they are taking on a helicopter dad?”

He said, “they are taking her to the airport.”

I said, “bye mom, will see you after you come back.”

Molly said, “let me speak with her.”

I turned the phone towards her and Molly said, “namaste aunty, I am Molly I work in a hospital here.”

She must have folded her hands, molly also folded her hands. She came and sat beside me to look at the call, when the helicopter lifted off dad came back on the line and said, “I heard you are in Bombay.”

I said, “I came here for a software project.”

He said, “they wanted to build an underground bunker on our island. They said it is required for our future.”

I asked, “Are there going to be some problems in the future?”

He said, “I am not sure, after building it they said they will transfer it back to us. First, they are going to treat your mother, that is why agreed to their proposal.”

I said, "it is ok."

He said, "I will speak with you when you return."

Molly asked, "what happened with your mother."

I said, "she had cancer and they operated on her and now it seems they are taking her abroad for treatment."

Molly asked, "don't you stay with your parents."

I said, "we stay in the city and they stay at the ashram. She finds it peaceful there."

She asked, "what he is talking about an Island?"

I said, "we had an island, he must be referring to that."

She asked, "how can you own an island?"

I said, "it is been given by the government for some work. You should come and see our ashrams, you will understand. I will tell your boss, you are required to get trained at our head office for running this software and you can come after training and visit our ashram."

She nodded, 'I would like that.'

After lunch, we both went back to the hospital and I went and met the IT Manager. We talked about the pricing and I assured him of competitive pricing and asked him to send Molly to our HO for training in software coding. So, she can maintain the software herself."

He agreed to send her if she had no objection.

I told him "to confirm with her" and went to Molly's cabin.

I told her about my discussion with her manager. I said, "I will go and meet my grandparents and come."

She asked, "are your grandparents here in Bombay?"

I said, "yes."

She said, "I would like to meet them."

I said, "then we will go in the evening."

She said ok.

Around 5 pm, Molly came to me and said, "let us go to your grandparents. Where do they stay?"

I said, "in Bhandup."

Molly said, "then we can go on my scooter. I sat behind her on the scooter and we rode to Bhandup and then I directed her to their building. We parked outside their compound and went by lift to their flat and rang the bell.

Then my mobile phone rang, I said one minute to Molly and took the call from Dad.

I said, "hi dad, we are at grandfather's house."

He said, "I am coming by the first available flight there, you be there only. After reaching there I will call you."

I said to molly "it is daddy, he is coming to Bombay. After a long time he is coming here, he must have remembered his parents now."

Seeing the door opened by my grandmother, I went in and hugged her and molly gave her a namaste.

She said, "come in, and who is this girl with you."

I said, "she is molly, I came to their hospital for software installation. She brought me here."

She said, "come sit, I will call your grandpa. She went and brought him to the hall. He came and sat on the sofa and

we chit-chatted for some time and I told them about dad coming to Bombay.

Granny said. "he remembered us now."

I said he is very busy with all the charitable things he is doing. It must be something very important, for him to come here on such short notice."

After dinner, Molly said, "I will come in the morning to pick you up."

I said, "I will drop her at the parking and come."

Chapter 8

Kumar

I sat down in my hut and started to meditate. I felt someone is telling me something. Then someone said to come to Bombay and find for yourself.

I opened my eyes and thought what is in Bombay, why do I need to go to Bombay?

I remembered Atul went to Bombay for some work.

I called him and said, "I am coming to Bombay and you stay at your grandfather's house."

I checked the schedule for the flight to Bombay. The first available flight to Bombay would be at 11 am. I told them to book the flight, took my bag and went over to Vizag for the night.

I reached home and informed them about Sneha being taken to the USA for treatment, and said, "I am going to Bombay."

Reena wanted to come with me.

Seeing her Dhruv asked, "I also want to come to Bombay."

Seeing their enthusiasm I called and said to book tickets for these kids also. We got down at the Sahara Airport and booked a cab for rent. So the cab will be with us.

First, we went to Bhandup and after visiting Mom and dad and dropping off these two kids, I took Atul and Molly and came to Vakola, where I was instructed to come.

I remember Sahithi's house when we came to check up on Leena's mom Sahithi took her to her house. We looked at the house and it was in a dilapidated state.

I inquired about them in the surrounding houses, they said they went away abroad long back. No one has come to claim the house and no one goes near the house as sounds come from there in the night and they declared it a ghost house.

I went and stood near the door. I felt a presence in the house. Someone is asking to release them from this hell. I thought what is the message I received? It says to go to the Maharashtra Sena Pramukhs office.

I asked, "where is the Sena Pramukhs office." Seeing us coming by car, one boy said, "he will take us there."

We went inside the office and a man of around 50 years is sitting behind the table. The nameplate in front of him has become old and the name was not visible. I stood before him and said namaste.

Seeing my dress, he said, "come and sit, what can I do?"

I said, "I am Kumar, you might remember Mr. Krishna from P and T colony, he must have come to you with Mr. Pawar."

He said, "Mr. Pawar, yes, what can I do?"

I said, "do you remember Sahithi and her family who used to stay half a mile down the road."

He said, "yes, I remember her, she was coming to the type institute nearby, I heard they went away abroad."

I said, "they did not go abroad, if they had gone abroad, they would have come at least after two-three years as

required by the law. I have received a message they might have been murdered and were buried in the house.”

He asked, “how do you know that?”

I said, “god came to me and told me, how would I know? Their souls are calling and I understood them now and came here.”

He asked, “who are you really?”

Atul said, “he is Kumar Swamy and we have many charitable institutions all over India. We also know many people in power, but we don’t use their names.”

I stopped Atul and said, “when I first came to Bombay in 1984, Sahithi came to me with a request for help. She was three months pregnant then and she was scared to go home. I took her to her home and found the door locked. Later we came to know she came to us from the year 1982. We took her to our house and she gave birth to a girl and disappeared. Then later her daughter too disappeared. As per our understanding then she was not from our universe, she came from somewhere else and they returned them at appropriate times.

Now recently someone sent me a message that in some other universe similar thing happened and there they found the bodies of Sahithi’s family buried in their house and Sahithi was sold out to a person in Calcutta. He has taken your help and found the bodies. So he asked me to contact you, and you will take appropriate action regarding this.”

Deshpande asked, “Did he say who might have murdered them?”

I said, "he said a person named Suresh who is involved with a certain gang head named Dolly, and he is involved in her kidnap and their murder."

Deshpande sat there thinking for some time and said, "we have got some reports of suspicious activity around that house. Let us go and see."

We went to the house and he broke the lock on the door and we looked inside. The floor stones were removed and the floor seemed to be dug out and filled. As the bodies must have been buried, no one suspected anything, because there was no foul smell. He called someone on his mobile phone. After twenty minutes SI came there.

Deshpande introduced him as Vakola police station SI.

He told him "this man is Kumar has come from Andhra Pradesh, he has known Sahithi who stayed in this house a long back. He says he has received some information that someone killed and buried her parents here."

He went to the jeep and called the concerned department. They came after 45 minutes and they dug up and found five bodies of adults and one child. They went and checked the inside rooms and found traces of dried blood on the floor and walls. The SI said, "it seems they are murdered here and buried in the hall."

Atul who was standing outside asked, "what happened?"

I said, "their whole family was killed and buried here."

Atul asked, "who is she?"

I said, "do you remember Leena's mother's photo we had in our house."

He said, “yes, Sahithi Aunty.”

I said, “it seems she and her family were buried here.”

Atul asked, “you mean to say Sahithi Aunty is dead?”

I said, “I am not telling that, I came here with Sahithi Aunty in 1984, at the time we were told they have gone abroad. So it must be some other Sahithi.”

I went to the SI and asked him “can I do small puja to release the souls trapped here?”

He said without disturbing the crime scene, if you can do your puja, you may go ahead.”

I stood outside the house and read some mantras and poured water on the floor. I tried to feel for any souls in the surrounding. There do not seem to be any souls.

I said to Atul and Molly “let us go” and gave my card to Deshpande and told him to call me if any information is available.

He said, “I will check for Suresh and find out what really happened here.”

We sat in the car and drove to Bhandup where my parents are staying.

On the way I struck up a conversation with Molly, I said, “sorry I could not speak with you earlier, I was disturbed by the news received.”

She asked, “where did you get the message from?”

I said, “it must be some other Kumar, I was told Leena’s father also looks like me. Sahithi first thought I was Kumar and was asking me about this dhoti and all. Then I did not understand what she is telling. Now after Bob

came to take Sneha to the USA, I started receiving communications from him. He was telling someone my story. I don't know how he could know my story. He was telling someone about us. From the time I and Sneha went to Nimisha's house and how she gave us some money to elope and go and stay in the fields. How we became doctors and how I became pujari and all that story. Then when he came to the story of my visiting Sahithi's house and finding it locked as they have gone abroad. He seemed to correlate the story and told them how he had found Sahithi's dead parents' bodies buried in their house with the help of Shakha Pramukh Deshpande. So I decided to follow his advice and went to Deshpande. Then he went on to tell how they found Sahithi was kidnapped by Suresh and sold to someone from Calcutta and they had to take the help of police to smash the gang that kidnaps girls and sells them. He said the gang is run by one Dolly and one Rakesh Khanna."

Atul asked. "but, how could you hear him telling the story?"

I said, "Bob coming to take your mother has something to do with that. That Kumar seems to get connected with Bob, he was telling about developing products which were given by Bob to someone else."

Molly asked, "what kind of products he had developed."

I said, "he was talking about a transporter, invisible cloak and shape-shifting machine."

Atul asked, "I understand what the other two but what is the transporter?"

I said, "he was telling with the help of a machine from Bombay to Delhi one could go in a second."

Molly said, "wow! Bombay to Delhi in a second. Can we develop them here?"

I said, "I don't know we were not given anything by Bob, only he was asking for the Island we used for foreigners."

Atul asked, "what will he do with the island?"

I said, "maybe he will develop those products there. He said he went to Manali to meet Sunitha. What is she doing there? I will let you know if I receive any more information."

We reached home and Molly went and met Dhruv and Reena. They all sat down and are exchanging stories.

I sat with mom and dad and told them about Sneha's cancer and her being taken away to the USA for treatment.

Mom served lunch and we finished I lay on the sofa and closed my eyes.

I saw Kumar speaking with Loveleen about our stories. He said, "another Kumar married Loveleen and he had a son named Atul, and Atul married Molly and they both worked in their father's company as software developers, and his daughter Joy took divorce and looked after her mother's firm.

Then same Kumar's timeline split and he divorces Loveleen and he meets Joy, who is killed by her husband, and then he meets Pauleen and he offers her to work with him as PA, then Loveleen comes back into his life

and he remarries her and he has two kids with her Atul and Joy and Loveleen dies in an accident. Here Atul meets Molly in his college and during the virus pandemic, she comes and stays with them. Nothing further is known about them.

Then he tells about another timeline and another Kumar. He shifts to Bombay after his SSC and studies for five years of college in Bombay with the Neighbours Suri and his sisters. After Suri's sisters marry and go away, he meets Sahithi and learns typing and shorthand with her and he joins the courier company as a steno typist and later with Sahithi goes to Delhi for an interview, where he had one nightstand with Sahithi. She goes missing and he meets Sunitha when he goes to Madras for office work, and when they were about to marry, Sunitha goes and brings Sahithi's son Atul. Sunitha joins the airline as an air hostess and becomes busy with work he meets Loveleen and he has a relationship with her. and on her insistence, he helps her get a child Dhruv. Later Joy joins his firm and he is troubled by her past with her husband and tries to save her from his clutches. Later he meets Nandini when he goes to develop software for their hospital and she comes and joins him in the software firm and she seduces him when they go to the USA. Later when Sunitha gives birth to a girl, Nandini and Joy go and file an insolvency petition to dissolve the company to get back their share in the capital. That Kumar safeguards his investment by transferring the software licenses to a company set up in the name of Atul and Dhruv and they purchase the servers and computers by a third party. Later Joy was killed by her husband who came from the USA."

I felt a touch on my shoulder and a voice calling Daddy, I opened my eyes, it is Dhruv. He handed me a cup of tea. I took the cup and nodded my head. I completed my cup and put it in the kitchen and went to look at the kids sitting and chatting in the bedroom. After seeing Molly, I remembered what he was telling them about Molly. It seems their friendship extends to many timelines.

I sat down with them and asked for Molly's family details.

Her father is a software professional and her mother is a homemaker and she has an elder brother, who moves in political circles.

I thought I should meet her parents and fix their alliance now when I am in Bombay. I don't know if I could make time to come again immediately.

I called Atul aside and told him I would like to meet Molly's parents.

Atul asked, "what is the need for meeting them now?"

I said, "I had seen your future with Molly and I want to bring her as a daughter-in-law. By the time your mother comes back from treatment, I want to fix everything and surprise her."

Atul went and spoke to Molly and explained to her my request. She went out into the balcony and spoke on her mobile and returned. She said, "dad told me to come after 5 pm."

I looked at Panchangam and said, "we will visit them at 5:35 pm."

Molly went away to make arrangements for our visit.

In the evening we took the car we rented and another cab and went over to Molly's house. They have a house near Andheri East, near Keerthi College. When we parked in front of the society and entered the gate. I felt a déjà vu, I have visited this place many times. I never came this way the few times I had visited Bombay.

They have a one-hall kitchen flat.

We met Molly's family and introduced ourselves.

When enquired about how long they are staying here, Molly replied, "we brought this house some two years ago from the owner's nephew. The owner's whole family died one after the other. First owner's adopted son died and the son's wife followed and then the owner's wife and himself. Then his nephew and son's brother took over the financial matters in his hand and sold this house to us."

Dad enquired about their family and finally fixed the next day for a simple engagement ceremony.

We had a simple engagement ceremony with exchanging of fruits, flowers and new clothes and later with exchanging of rings by Atul and Molly. After the ceremony, we returned to dad's house. Normally we don't have lunch or dinner at the time of engagement. So, after lunch, we sat around and exchanged stories.

My mobile rang and it is Sneha calling from Rao's hospital in Hyderabad. After curing her of cancer they brought her to Hyderabad and joined her in a private ward there.

I said, “we will come by the first available flight” and cut the call.

We caught the first flight to Hyderabad and we called Joy to get us an office car. The car was waiting outside arrivals and we sat in the car and told the driver to go to Rao’s hospital. We went to the reception and enquired about Sneha. They told us she is in PR3.

We all tramped to PR3. Sneha is sitting on the bed, she seemed younger by at least 10 years. She was not only cured of Cancer she must have been refreshed.

I stood behind them and let the children speak with her.

Sneha was telling her experiences when she went for treatment. She said, “she was not taken to the USA for treatment. I was taken to another Rao’s hospital and it was run by another Kumar, who is younger and a doctor by name of Mithali Sharma, who is his 10th classmate. They have given me some experimental medicine. When I was cured, Kumar brought Sahithi and Leena and showed me. Sahithi thanked me for helping her and looking after Leena for 7 years. Kumar explained to me that I am in their 1995. I was taken to the past for treatment. After that Bob brought me and dropped me here and called you and informed you about me being cured and all that.”

After they all hugged her and went out saying will come after 5 minutes.

I sat on the chair and enquired, “what she has encountered?”

She asked, “how much did you spend on treatment?”

I said, "I would say not for treatment, I promised to pay 1 million dollars for building a bunker on our island. They said they will build it and will transfer it to me. I paid half the amount and I think Bob will come for the balance now."

I called Joy and asked her to book flight tickets on first class for the journey to Vizag.

We reached our house and made Sneha comfortable on her bed.

Dhruv came and told me, dad someone came to meet you.

I went to meet them. It is Bob. I told him to sit and told Dhruv to get my laptop.

I asked, "so, what is the news? From what Sneha tells me you did not take her to the USA, instead you took her to a hospital in Hyderabad."

Bob replied, "I took her with an intention of taking her to the USA, but at the last minute I came to know of the experimental treatment developed by Rao's Hospital. So, I got her joined there."

I asked, "but what Sneha says she has seen me another Kumar and also met Sahithi and Leena."

Bob said, "I came to tell you about him. He is another you, and you were split after coming back from Nellore after meeting with Sneha. He has taken another route and you with the help of Nimisha took another route. After meeting with his daughter Leena and Sunitha, he had taken a vow to put his life in order and went to Bombay. He has become an industrialist with sheer hard

work, and you with your ingenuity and hard work rose to be in this position. Now my boss has called me to bring the best person for some job. I am taking him with me to meet our boss and after returning I will come and meet you. For the time being you transfer the balance payment. If you want to see the work in progress with regard to the island bunker I will take you there.”

I said, “Sneha just returned, I would like to spend some time with her. I will look at the island bunker later.” I took the laptop from Dhruv and sent the amount to the number Bob provided. I handed the laptop to Dhruv and said to Bob, “are you satisfied now?”

Bob got up and said, “I will meet you after 2 years. Then we will discuss further on this”, and went away.

Dhruv asked, “what is he talking about?”

I said, “he was talking about Leena’s father and mother. He is telling me he will take Leena’s father to meet with his boss and after coming back, will come and meet us. I don’t know why should we be concerned about his affairs.”

I took Sneha to the dining hall and we had our lunch.

After lunch, I lay Sneha on her bed and lie on a sofa to take a nap.

I saw that Kumar was being facilitated by the Chamber of Commerce and after that, he threw a party for Loveleen’s birthday. There were many VVIPs present. It seems he has married Loveleen and she is carrying a baby in her hand. I learned that his name is Dhruv. At the party he was speaking with Mithali Sharma, she was in our 10th class. Then he took her to the hospital. He was standing in a type of lift and they reached the hospital in

Hyderabad. He introduced her to Sneha and told her that she has come for cancer treatment, she should look after her like a family member. Later he took Sahithi and Leena to visit Sneha. Then he sends her with Bob when she is fully cured.

Bob returned to him and said I will show the Island Bunker and took him there and explained to him the purpose of the Bunker.

Bob said, “this is where we are operating from at present. We were trying to read the future, but we can’t move forward from 2021 September. So, we don’t have any idea of the future of this earth. There are going to be life-changing events after September 2021. We decided to merge all the timelines we have split your life into. At present we have seven timelines running and seven Kumars with their families, which are slightly different in each timeline.”

“Each Kumar is also into different occupations with different assets he accumulated. We will shift all of you into a single place in the original timeline and would merge these timelines. When these timelines are merged each of you will also be merged and become one person with the abilities of many. After the merging, we will check each of you and find your abilities and as per the situation at the time we will inform you what your role in the world would be. “

“We hope you will take appropriate decisions at the required time and bring the world from the turmoil.”

Kumar asked, “why do you think the world is going into turmoil and who would be responsible?”

Bob said, “you must have read the story of Lord Krishna, how he with the help of Pandavas went and destroyed the Rakshasas. Somewhere someone is leftover or hidden by them. They are working underground and are trying to destroy the world. If you have seen the history of the 20th century, it started with the first world war and then Spanish Flu hit the world. Then there is the Wall Street crash of 1929. Then world war 2. Now some countries in Africa are reeling under famine. But all over the world, it is cyclones, floods and loss of life and crops. Then there is a war in the air. Then we don’t know what they planned.

Kumar asked, “who are they?”

Bob said, “I told you they are whom you refer to as Rakshasas or Demons. They must be planning something huge. They have links to a lot of terror organizations. Whenever a major event happens in the world they would have some hand in it. Like the twin towers attack, and the Mumbai terror attacks to name a few. Now the world is inching toward the Great Pralayam, that is ‘The Great Flood’. If it happens there is no way the world could recover from it and the total earth and its life forms would be destroyed. There is no way we can recover mankind from such an event. We don’t have the manpower to do that. We have requested extra manpower but our heads have refused to provide help saying this has to happen now or later. Our hands are tied, so we are left with doing our own experiments to save mankind.”

“Now our representative Kalki is supposed to be raised at this point, but we could not get our Boss to send the required DNA for doing that. So, we created you and to

make you stronger, we have created timelines and will merge them to make you a stronger person. Then on, you will be called Kalki. You will be the saviour of the world.”

Kumar asked, “but what can I do to stop all this?”

Bob replied, “You are the most read person of all. I have made sure you have read all the Puranas to understand what was the past and how they all have worked to bring the world into order. You are also the most knowledgeable person of all the Kumars. You have already read all the timelines and their effects on the world.”

“I have seen how you changed the atmosphere in the world with your knowledge of the future. By stopping the assassination, how you changed the future by stopping the Babri Masjid demolition, had preponed the nuclear testing. You have used the knowledge acquired through the mind-reading machine, by putting it to good use. You could come with big companies, which no other Kumar could do. With your efforts, you have changed the world order and made India one of the most advanced countries in the world.”

“Now our superiors have asked me to bring you to them to have some consultations. You hand over the company to Loveleen to look after while we visit my Boss.”

He asked Bob, “how long will it take to go and come.”

Bob said, “it might take around a year.”

Kumar asked, “where are we going, which will take a year to travel.”

Bob said, “we will be going to Mars and my boss would be reaching there. We will consult him and will return, so the total time would be two years.”

I asked, “you mean to say, I should keep away from these businesses for at least two years?”

Bob said, “do you doubt they can’t take care of the businesses when you are away?”

Kumar thought I am not dead Kumar who left his partners to fend for themselves. I have given them enough training and a free hand to run the companies. Can’t they look after the companies for two years? I can delegate authority to Loveleen to look after the companies. She can check the blueprints prepared by the AI and then send them for production. The board can appoint someone to take charge or let Loveleen look after the companies until I return. If I go with Bob at least I will have an idea of what I can expect in the future, which I have no idea about at present time. Instead of worrying about what happens after 2020, I can prepare myself for that period. I am already ahead of 20 years in technology.

Kumar said, “I know they can run the companies without my intervention. AI can take care of the products for many years coming. I don’t think there will be something to care off immediately, either politically or personally.”

Bob said, “that is the spirit, let us go back to Bombay and you prepare for the journey. I make arrangements to travel to Mars.”

So, that is what Bob is telling about that Kumar, he is taking him to meet his boss on Mars. What is his boss is

doing there? I think he will come back and give me the details. I don't have to worry about that anymore.

My next plan is to get Atul and Molly's wedding preparations. Now Sneha is returned, she would be happy to look after the arrangements. She must be a little tired from travelling, but she should be ok in a week's time.

We fixed a date for Atul's wedding and went over to Bombay to attend the marriage ceremony. With us Sunitha, Joy and Loveleen and our children have come to Bombay. By this time I have purchased a three-bedroom flat for the new couple to stay at Bhandup near our parent's house.

After the wedding, I arranged for them to go on a honeymoon to Switzerland and we returned to Vizag.

Chapter 9

Kumar

The year 2011

I was in the ashram enjoying my time with the people I love. Dhruv came to me to inform me that Mr Bob has come to meet me. Dhruv has come to the Ashram for his holidays.

I went and sat on my place in the hut. I enquired about Bob's trip to meet his boss.

Bob said, "I came to inform you about that only. We had a meeting with Indrasen, who is my direct boss. Indrasen asked Kumar about his plans to develop the country. Kumar has come up with some Ideas. Indrasen offered him a grant of 10 billion dollars for improving the country in the next 15 years. Based on that he will take further decisions.

I asked, "so what do you think I should do?"

Bob replied, "you can challenge that Kumar by doing your bit by developing the country using your own money. I think you have enough money for doing this."

I asked, "what if I don't try to beat that Kumar?"

Bob said, "our boss may decide to keep that Kumar and write you off."

I asked, "what do you mean by writing off?"

Bob said, "while merging your timeline, you may vanish and that Kumar's timeline may become dominant. About money, you have surpassed Kumar's wealth. But he is

coming up fast in life. He is more than 10 years in the past. You have only 7 years to complete your mission. Whereas he has 15 years and he will be just reaching your present. If he is successful, all of your wealth will be transferred to him. I can't say about the people in your life. They might be merged and I can't guarantee they would recognize you."

I said, "ok if you insist I do something for the people I am ready to do my bit. However, I am trying my bit to the uplifting of the poor. I will try to put in more effort. Can you elaborate on what is he doing in his quest?"

Bob said, "he has put a billion dollars each in Education and Sports. And a billion on farming improvement."

I asked, "what is the farming improvement he is suggesting?"

Bob replied, "he is buying farming equipment and giving for a low rent. The so freed up manpower he wants to use for the factory workforce. He will start training centres for absorbing them."

I said, "so, that is where he is going to spend the amount set aside for education. But what about Sport grant?"

Bob Said, "he is going to start sports training facilities and he wants to send the largest contingent to the next Olympics."

I asked, "How will he use the balance of the grant?"

Bob replied, "he set aside 2 billion for natural calamity management, and 5 billion is invested in businesses and the income from that he is going to use for people upliftment."

I asked, “are you sure he is going to use the 5 billion for people or his own?”

Bob replied, “how he uses the money is his prerogative and we will not involve ourselves until the completion of 15 years given to him.”

I asked, “what is this giving 15 years to him?”

Bob replied, by that time his children would finish graduation and I could retrieve them and return them to him.”

I asked, “why the need to retrieve them?”

Bob replied, “they are placed in another timeline into the future.”

I said, “oh, ok.”

Bob asked, “so, what are you going to do from your side?”

I said, “I will do what is in my power, the rest is Krishnarpanam.”

Bob got up and said, “ok, I will see you. I will keep an eye on your activities.”

I asked, “is there a way to communicate with you? I think you gave that Kumar your office number.”

Bob gave me a visiting card and said, “you can contact me on this number.”

I got up and shook his hands and he went away.

I called a meeting of the members of the house. We sat around Sneha’s bed to discuss what Bob told me.

Chapter 10

Kumar

Sneha is out of bed and looking after the house as before cancer struck her. Now she is as good as cured of cancer. Bob assured me that recurrence would not happen.

Sunitha was looking after the companies, Joy was looking after the education and Loveleen was looking after the charitable institutions.

I called Sunitha, Joy and Loveleen to discuss the challenge we have been offered. I offered Loveleen to look after the charitable side of the challenge. See how she can improve charitable institutions. Joy will look after improving the education and sports side of the challenge. Sunitha will provide financial support for running these operations. I don't have much knowledge of running these operations like Kumar. I have to see what he does to improve the conditions as mentioned by Bob. I only know about these religious matters. I have earned all this money from these activities only.

I told Sunitha, Joy and Loveleen to cooperate among themselves to run this operation. I told them to continue their work.

Put a mat on the floor and sat down to meditate.

I started seeing Kumar's planning. He planned to use a billion each for Education, Sports and agriculture fields. And 2 billion for natural calamities. Now the balance of 5 billion he wanted to use for space research. He was telling something about Bob telling him about developing space technology for their spaceships. It

seems Bob is pressuring him to develop this technology. As I suspected he is going to use half of the grant for his own investments. I am in a better position, I am going to use the money from my own earnings. Over that Bob took the money from me to develop the Island.

Why did Bob give him 10 billion dollars as a grant? It must be to develop space technology, which they can use in their space travel. They did have such a technology; didn't they have advanced space technology? They even have time travel and splitting time technology. We don't know where they came from and what kind of technology they have. It must be to make Kumar develop the technology on his own for the future. He was talking about sending a probe to Mars and sending manned spacecraft to Mars. Selecting the candidates and nurturing them. He must be having a big plan with respect to space travel. Kumar is working on the assumptions of the future.

I got up from the mat and sat on an easy chair.

Dhruv came over and said, "dad, Preethi came to meet you."

I said, "bring her here."

They both came and Preethi came and touched my feet, greeted me, and sat before me. I blessed her and asked, "where did you disappear? I thought you would accompany Sneha for her treatment."

Preethi replied, "we were supposed to go to the USA. But at the last minute, Bob changed his mind and sent me to the USA. He put me in the marines. I served for five years and now Bob sent me to you, serve you as security."

I said, “good”, called Dhruv and told him to show her living quarters. They both went away.

What is the need for security now?

I was in a meeting with all the members of the house including Preethi.

I explained to them what happened in the past few days and asked them to help each one. Joy should upgrade her education system to help more talented people from the poor and increase the sports facilities in our schools and colleges. I told Sunitha that she should help financially with our endeavours. Loveleen should strengthen our people welfare System. She can ask others for financial assistance.

Preethi would look at our security and upgrade them. We can expect some problems in the near future.

They all went away. I sat on the easy chair and closed my eyes.

Kumar was reading some other timeline’s story. There Kumar reached the year 2020 and this Kumar’s wife Nandini went to him to give him information about her and their twins. Then he went to Manali and met Sakshi Singhania. He is already using the transporter for travelling. Bob said he will give us those blueprints for development. What is he waiting for?

Reena came over and said, “dad, mom is calling you.”

I got up and went behind Reena to the kitchen where Sneha is supervising lunch preparation.

I asked. "what happened?"

Sneha replied, "we have to do a baby shower for Molly."

I asked, "when do you want to perform the baby shower."

Sneha said, "that is why I called for you, you will check a date and we need to inform near and dear."

I said, "then we will plan it in Bombay, Mom and dad also can attend. However, Molly's family is also from Bombay."

Sneha said, "that is better, I have also not been to Bombay for a long time. I saw your mom and dad at Atul's wedding only."

Chapter 11

Kumar

We got down at the Sahar Airport, booked a cab, and reached Bhandup. We had lunch and went to Molly's parent's house.

After the festivities, we returned to dad's house.

I left Atul, Molly and Sneha there and returned to Vizag.

We started accepting scholarships from eligible students and students excelled in sports.

I instructed Joy to improve sports facilities. Sunitha would provide financial support from the companies she runs to both educational institutes and Ashrams.

Atul rang up from Mumbai, there is urgency in his voice. I could not understand what he is saying.

I told him to slow down and tell me what happened.

Atul said, "Molly has been kidnapped."

I asked, "how that happened?"

Atul said, "she was coming out of the doctor's office. There were two people that were trying to kidnap a girl, they were forcing a girl into a Maruti van and when Molly intervened they also pulled her into the van and sped away."

I asked where were you?

Atul said, "I was at the Pharmacy and when I turned Molly disappeared. When I asked around, some passers-by told me about the kidnapping. They thought Molly

was with the girl kidnapped. What shall I do? I don't know anyone here."

I thought a minute and said, "you better contact Vakola Shakha Pramukh, he has connections with the police department. We can expect a quick response."

Atul

After speaking with dad, I got a little confidence. We went to Vakola Shakha Pramukh to enquire about Sahithi and her family's death.

I took Molly's scooter and drove to Vakola. I stopped outside the Shakha office and went inside. Mr Deshpande sitting in his chair listening to two persons sitting in front. Seeing me showing a chair he said, "please be seated."

He told them one second and asked me, "what can I do?"

I said, "I and my dad came regarding Sahithi's family death."

Dinesh said, "I remember, your dad is some Swamy."

I said, "yes, today my wife Molly has been kidnapped outside the doctor's clinic at Andheri. My dad said to go to you, you will help us out."

Dinesh said, "why did he tell that? Did he have any insight into that?"

I said, "I don't know that, but he said you have some influence with the police so you can help me out."

Dinesh said, "ok I will speak with the Vakola SI." He lifted the phone and spoke to the Vakola police station and said, "they will look into that. You go to the Andheri west police and explain your problem."

I called dad and told him what Deshpande told me.

Dad said, “it seems there is a link between Sahithi’s murder and this kidnapping. Ask Mr Deshpande about any information received on that murder case.”

I cut the call and asked, “did you get any information about Sahithi’s family murder? Dad said there seems to be some link to this kidnapping case.”

Dinesh asked, “how there can be a link to this kidnapping?”

I said, “do you remember dad was talking about Suresh and Dolly? He was telling us they kidnap young girls and they auction them off. When they returned, she would put them up for prostitution.”

Dinesh said, “I heard about young girls being kidnapped. Their parents have come to me for support. Let us go to the police station and see what they are doing.”

They came out and Deshpande said, we will go in my car.

First, they went to the Vakola police station. There they met the SI Sirish Pilgaonkar and enquired about the pending cases of kidnappings.

Sirish asked his constable to remove the pending kidnapping cases from Santacruz east area.

Constable came up with a bunch of files.

He said, “sir these are pending cases of kidnappings including missing persons perceived as kidnappings.”

Dinesh asked, “did any names come up in the investigations?”

Sirish replied, “we came across two names Raaj and Suresh. We don’t know what are their second names.”

Dinesh said, “Suresh might be Suresh Navlekar, he is from Vakola. He stays close by to that murder case where they were put in a grave in their own house. Did you find anything on this case?”

Sirish said, “we did not get any clues, except for the blood in the other room could be their only. It happened long back and neighbours have no knowledge about the murders. Otherwise, they would have reported. They did not have any idea the bodies were buried in the house. They were thinking they went away to the USA.”

Dinesh said, “you check for Suresh there, he was staying there at the time. Some people came to me with complaints against him. I think there is some conflict between them. That could be the reason for their death.” Showing Atul, “his dad was telling something in those lines. You check his history in the police files.”

Sirish said, “I will check on those lines. I will send a constable to enquire about him in the neighbourhood. Someone will have an idea where he is staying if not there.”

They shook hands and came out and drove back to the Shakha.

There I picked up the scooter and returned to my in-law’s house in Andheri.

He told his in-laws about his police station visit.

Molly

The van we were travelling in stopped outside a house. The man who kidnapped us caught the girl and pushed her inside the door. Seeing her a lady came and took her inside.

One middle-aged man came and asked him, "Raaj, why did you bring this lady with you, she seemed pregnant."

Raaj said, "when I am bringing Diana, this lady interfered. I also had to put her in the van."

Another older man came from inside hearing this and said, "immediately you return her home. Take her on a scooter, no one will interfere. Drop her near her house. Suresh, bring the bike and give it to Raaj."

Another middle-aged man brought the bike from behind the house and handed it to Raaj. Raaj started the bike and asked me for the address. I sat behind him and told him the address and he started to drive. I told him to stop at a furlong distance from our house and told him thanks and walked home.

Atul

Seeing Molly coming by walk, I felt immense pleasure and went ahead and caught and hugged her.

I asked, "what happened? I thought you were kidnapped."

Molly said, "yes, I was kidnapped, seeing me, their head told them to drop me off at home."

I said, "I was scared, there were lots of kidnappings of young girls. I went to the police to complain also. There were lots of complaints of girls either kidnapped or

missing at the police station. They were telling of two members' names Raaj and Suresh Navlekar."

Molly said, "I heard exactly the same names, Raaj and Suresh at their house. Raaj brought me dropped at the house and Suresh brought the bike from the back of the house. That girl's name they were telling as Diana."

"Can you tell where they are living?"

Molly replied, "yes, I have a friend who lives close by."

"Ok you take a rest, we will see tomorrow what to do."

Atul

I called Shakha Pramukh and explained Molly's experiences.

Dinesh said, "we better go and check them out. I will call Andheri Shakha Pramukh to meet us there. It will be easier if he makes the enquiries.

We went with Deshpande to Andheri Shakha by car and met their In-charge Mr Rane and went with him to the house they took Molly.

When Molly showed the house, it was locked. I asked her, "is it the house they took you to."

Molly said, "I am sure this is the house. He brought a bike from the back of the house."

We went to the back and checked. There is no vehicle there.

We came back to the front. By this time few of the neighbours came out and recognised Rane one of them asked what happened Dada?

Mr Rane said, “we came to meet the people living in this house.”

One of them came forward and asked, “I am Kulkarni, you came to meet Rakesh Khanna.”

Dinesh asked, “is there a lady by name of Dolly, and two men Raaj and Suresh?”

Kulkarni replied, “yes, there is a girl by the name of Ruksana too.”

Molly said, “that must be the girl they brought here with me.”

Kulkarni said, “it seems she ran away from home when they fixed her marriage without her consent.”

Molly asked, “did she love anyone?”

Kulkarni said, “I don’t think so. They were trying to marry off to an old fellow. He is a widower and had two daughters.”

Molly said, “that could be the reason she ran away from home, but where they are?”

Kulkarni said, “maybe they went to get her married.”

Rane asked, “where they could be performing at the wedding?”

Another man said, “they gave me a wedding card, let me get it.” He went inside his house brought the card and handed it to Mr Rane.

Rane looked at the card and said, “the wedding is for today evening. I will call the police and inform them.”

Rane made a phone call and informed him about the situation and told them to send a team and arrest them all and bring them here.

Dinesh said, "come, I will drop you off and go to my office. Mr Rane will do what is necessary."

They got down at Molly's house and went inside.

Atul said, "we will go to grandpa's house.

They took molly's scooter and went to Bhandup.

Police called Molly to come and check if it is the girl kidnapped by the RK and gang. They brought Diana and asked is she the one kidnapped with you?

Molly said, "yes"

I asked, "what are you going to do now?"

The SI said, "we are looking into their history. From what Mr Deshpande said we are trying to understand their operations."

I said, "my dad was telling me they had the hand in the homicide of Sahithi's family a few years back. My dad came and uncovered their bodies. He was telling their neighbour Suresh had a hand in their death. Did you arrest them?"

SI replied, "Raaj and Suresh escaped in the nick of time. We are combing for their whereabouts."

I said, "according to my dad, Dolly and RK are masterminds in a series of gang-related activities. They were kidnapping young girls and auctioning them off. Then they have a hand in cheating banks and companies

with their novel methods. He was telling about their modus operandi of cheating the banks. They would set up a factory and pay an advance and order the machinery and then put the machinery as collateral and get a bank loan. Instead of paying the suppliers of machinery, they would return the machinery and escape with the bank loan.”

SI said, “yes, we will look into these kinds of cases from all over India and see if their gang has any links to these cases.”

We thanked the SI and came back home.

“I think we better go back to Hyderabad or Vizag.”

Molly said, “I think it is better there.”

I booked the next flight to Hyderabad.

We landed in Hyderabad, put our luggage at our house and went to the software firm run by Joy.

Molly had a baby girl. When I called Deshpande to inform him of this, he told me about Raaj and Suresh being caught by the police and their cases going on in court.

When I told dad about this, he said, “they avoided arrest for so long, at last, they are behind bars.”

Kumar

We went to Hyderabad to see Atul’s daughter.

After the 21-day function, we all sat around in the house. Everyone in our family has come to the function.

Dhruv came to say that Mr Bob has come to meet you.

I said, "I am coming."

Dhruv said, "he wants to meet all of us."

I said, "then call him here."

Bob came in and greeted each one by name and sat down.

Bob removed some papers from his briefcase and gave them to Sunitha. Bob said, "these are blueprints for some of the futuristic items you need to develop. For this purpose, you need to acquire a US company. I will do the needful for acquiring the same. We will go to the USA and finalize the pricing and pay and get the required technology from them."

I said, "ok, who should come with you?"

Bob said, "you should come with me Kumar, you will be making the payments to them."

I asked when shall we leave?

Bob said, "I booked for tomorrow night's flight, if anyone else wants to come, please let me know, I have a few extra tickets."

Sunitha said I will also come.

Bob said, "let us go to the Passport office to pick up passports, then I have to send them to the US to get a travel visa for you.

Sunitha asked will all these procedures completed in a day.

Bob replied, “you don’t have to worry about them, everything is ready. We just have to go and collect passports.”

We went to the passport office, Bob went inside and came out and we signed for the passports and came out.

Bob collected the details of the passport and went away saying to be ready with luggage for the trip.

We got down at New York airport and a car was waiting for us. Bob took us to a hotel and told us to freshen up, we will go and meet the company representatives.

After having breakfast, we went to the company that is producing electronic items. We paid the price suggested by Bob through my swiss account and signed the agreement. Bob handed them the blueprints and asked them to produce these items and send them to India.

After that we had lunch and Bob arranged for a trip to visit the places in New York.

We spend two days in New York and returned to Hyderabad.

In a month’s time, we started receiving products from the company in the USA. On instructions from Bob, we started to install transporters at our Ashrams and at our business centres.

At some of the places, we built strong rooms with Bio-metric locks to store the items being brought from our company.

This way we fulfilled Bob's requirements and awaited the final results.

To Be continued in the Sequel "The Raise of Kalki"