

OM SRI SAI RAM

SCENE 7 – GRAND REUNION

[Song of gratitude and father's feeling of helplessness at his inability to fulfill son's desire.]

Sudheer: Father, what happened?

Purushottam: Sudheer, I have failed... I have failed as a father...

Sudheer: No father, why are you saying this?

Purushottam: You know Sudheer, when as a child you held my hand to take your first few steps; I had promised myself that I will not let you be like me, languishing in poverty. But Alas...

[Knock on the door]

Sudheer: [Opens the door to find a gentleman standing there]

Ashutosh: Good Afternoon. Are you Sudheer?

Sudheer: [surprised] Yes I am ... And you must be Mr. Purushottam, Sudheer's father.

Purushottam: [extremely surprised] Yes, But how do know my name? Please have a seat

Ashutosh: I heard your story on the radio. Radio Sai Global Harmony.

Purushottam: Oh! Oh! And...

Ashutosh: I heard Sudheer's interview on Radio and was deeply touched. I want him to become a doctor.

Purushottam: So do we. But the problem is that...

Ashutosh: That's what I have come to resolve. Please, don't say no. I want him to achieve his dreams. If you permit, I will pay for the entire medical education of Sudheer.

[There is a stunned silence. They don't know how to react]

Ashutosh: Yes Sir, I want Sudheer to work hard and procure a seat in a medical college. You need not worry about the fees and other expenses – it shall be taken care of.

Purushottam: [coming close to Ashutosh] Are you Swami Himself come in this form? Or is all this just a figment of my imagination?

Ashutosh: Sir, I have been sent by the Swami residing in my heart! I am doing this bit for my own solace and comfort.

Purushottam: But who are you and where do you come from?

Ashutosh: Sir, I am Dr. Ashutosh - a physician working in America. When I heard Sudheer's story and dream, I felt that he was calling out to me and here I am...

Purushottam: I don't know what to say. Son, you are truly an angel. You are God sent. Blessed are your parents to have a child like you. They must be so proud that they have a son like you.

Ashutosh: No uncle. Please don't say that. No parent would wish to have an ungrateful son like me. Please, just leave that... I deserve only turmoil and tumult in my life.

Sudheer: After giving me the nectar of life, you yourself drink the poison of pain?

Ashutosh: Sudheer, this pain comes from hollow ambition and an indifferent heart. Don't be like me, brother. The call of duty got drowned into the deafening noise of my ambition. Intoxicated by ambition and blinded by desire, I deserted my parents to fend for themselves. Little did I realize that the dreams I had been chasing were just mirages. And then one day the call came. That voice, commanded me to wake up to my duty. I searched for my parents, but in vain. I enquired about their whereabouts in every nook and corner of Shripuram. I think, I have lost them for ever.

Purushottam: [whispers] Shripuram... Did you say Shripuram?

Ashutosh: Yes Shripuram... That is my native town. I was born and brought up there. [Purushottam is excited and seeing him] But why do you say so?...

Purushottam: I think this belongs to you. [Hands over the letter]

Sudheer: This is his letter

Purushottam: Yes.

Sudheer: But how do you know that?

Purushottam: Sudheer, at the time of your operation, as I sat in Darshan lines at Prashanthi Nilayam, Bhagawan Baba Himself came up to me and handing over this letter said, "*Aye Postman, Shripuram Doctor ko deliver karo*". I searched hard to find the person who suited that description but I think now I have found the right addressee...

Ashutosh: Oh My God! [Reading through the letter] This is my father's letter to Baba, praying for my wellbeing. Even though I deserted them, my parents had only blessings to give me. Oh God! What have I done? What a wretched, ungrateful son I have been! (Sits down in utter disgust) Where are they?

Vishwanath: Sudheer? (Comes in...) Purushottamji? All fit and fine ...?

Ashutosh: (suddenly looks up, his father is standing there) Father!?!

Vishwanath: Ashutosh?

[They run and hug each other.]

Ashutosh: Forgive me Father. I was wrong all along.

Vishwanath: No son, don't worry... don't worry. Past is past.

Purushottam: Vishwanathji... You should be a proud father!

Purushottam: It is because of him that Sudheer will become a doctor.

Sudheer: Yes sir, he is going to pay for my entire medical education!

Ashutosh: I will never leave you and go father...

Vishwanath: I have realized that everything that happens in life, is a stroke of an unseen hand that is sculpting our lives into an image of perfection. Let us bow down to its mastery.

Purushottam: O Divine Director, how beautifully you have scripted our stories! How wonderfully you have pulled the strings and brought everyone together! Can we ever fathom Thy leelas?

Sudheer: Hey *Sutradhari*! You have held our hands and led us through every step of the way.

Ashutosh: O *Hrudayavasi*, all the hearts beat in unison with love, gratitude and devotion to Thee.

SONG OF CELEBRATION