

OM SRI SAI RAM

SCENE 3 - BHADRACHALA RAMDAS

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This episode of Bhadrachala Ramdas demonstrates the power of faith of the devotee and the all mighty nature of God's grace. The Lord comes to the rescue of the devotee at the right moment. He is ready to go to any extent to redeem His devotee. Just one call from the depths of the heart, and He rushes in with any form, at any time, in any place.

[In one of the chambers of Tanesha, Akkanna and Madanna, the ministers are present along with Ramdas. Ramdas is accused of misappropriating government funds for building a temple.]

Tanesha: I have received reports that you have misappropriated tax money for the construction of a temple. What do you have to say about that?

Akkanna: Remember that you are in the presence of the king. So choose your words carefully before you speak Ramdas, for they may be your last.

Ramdas: Huzoor, all I know is that I have provided shelter to the One who provides shelter to all, including you and me. If taxes could be used for building citadels, forts and tombs in honour of the dead, what is wrong in building a temple for the eternal emperor?

Madanna: Stop arguing with your superiors and accept your mistake. Our benevolent Sultan may be kind enough to pardon you.

Ramdass: Pardon me, for what? Huzoor, the temple of the compassionate Lord shall become an edifice in eternity proclaiming in silence the glory and tolerance of Tanesha, in whose reign it was built.

Akkanna: An an an... Do not try to deflect us from your follies with your irrelevant eruditions. The fact is clear and simple. You have embezzled government funds and it is your responsibility to compensate the loss.

Madanna: Guards, take this defaulter to prison and put him through the course of severe torture until he craves for forgiveness.

Ramdass: Rama! Are you going to watch your devotee being disgraced, in mute silence? Why don't you respond to the piteous cries of your devotee?

Song : Paluke Bangaramayena...

G1: Look Ismail Bhai; look to what levels our administrators are ready to stoop, to make this person speak out. They have given these unpalatable chapattis; even animals would curl in revulsion at the very smell of these. How can we feed the prisoner with such food after torturing him for no apparent reason?

G2: Shhhhh... you are too loud. Peddanna, I too resent such extreme treatment. But remember, we are just servants and we have to follow the orders implicitly. We have no option but to give these to the prisoner.

[As the chapattis are placed, Ramdas tastes them (*Entha ruchi ra...*(alap)]

Ramdass: O Lord, how can I praise thy compassion? Even in these circumstances, you ensure that your devotee is fed with ambrosial delicacies. But Lord, nothing is sweeter than thy divine name.

Song: Entha ruchi raa...O Rama nee nama entho ruchi ra!

(As the song ends Tanesha enters the complex...)

Tanisha: Ramdas, you were the best Tahsildar I ever had. Then why do you put me in such a predicament? Repent over your mistake and return the money, all this shall end at once.

Ramdas: Huzoor, I would gladly pay up if I had the money. But I have nothing with me right now other than the *taraka mantram*.

Tanisha: Your obstinacy and arrogance are testing my patience to the hilt. It is only the veil of my sympathy that acts as a barrier between your life and death. You will have to give the entire account of the expenditure and pay up for your deeds. You leave me with no other choice than to settle my accounts this way.

Ramdas: Rama! He asks me to settle my account with him. It is You who must settle my account as I have spent everything for You.

Tanisha: Guards...

[Rama and Lakshmana enter the bed chamber of Tanisha...]

Tanisha: Ya Allah... (5 second Pause)(He looks at them and accosts) Who are you? How could you enter my chamber with all the security around?

Rama: You called us and here we are. I am Ramanna, and he is my brother Lakshmana. We are servants of the Lord's servant, whom you have imprisoned.

Tanisha: You mean you are the servants of Ramdas? (Laughs) What else could I do? In the first place, he built a temple using the tax money, and then he is so arrogant. The wretched criminal had to be punished.

Lakshmana (angry): Restrain thy tongue, Huzoor. Ramdas has not used the money for self-aggrandisement. His act is for the benefit of the community and there is nothing wrong with it.

Rama: Lakshmana... Tanisha, we understand your discomfiture in losing such a huge amount. So I have come to pay the entire amount with interest. Lakshmana... (Lakshmana hands over a bag)

Lakshmana: Count your money, O king.

Tanisha: I wonder how Ramdas could manage such a huge amount!

Rama: *Srivaari Anda Dorikinaaariki Sriki Takkuvemi?* I owe him much more than this! (looks at His brother) ... Now that your account is settled, please arrange to release him.