

ENGLISH



RANGA'S MARRIAGE

~Summary~

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No Fancy Title of the Story

The narrator comments why he had not given any elaborate title to the present story, like 'Ranganatha's Vivaha' or 'Jagannatha Vijaya'. The reason is that the story is about a common boy, Ranga, and his marriage. He is an accountant's son and native of village Hosahalli.

The Village of Hosahalli

The narrator mentions that this village is very small and it is not mentioned in geography books. Still he speaks highly about Hosahalli. Even the local doctor, Dr Gundabhatta, who has visited many places outside India, finds it an impressive village.

The village is famous for its sour mangoes and creepers growing in the village pond. The leaves of this creeper could serve as good plates for serving afternoon meals.

But the narrator, Shyama, says that real appreciation of the village can be felt only if one visits it personally and gets acquainted with it.

Ranga's Home coming was a Great Event

Shyama recalls an incident that happened ten years ago. The village accountant was the first one to gather enough courage to send his son to Bangalore to study. Not many people knew English then. That was why Ranga's homecoming was a great event. A big crowd went to greet him. The narrator rushed to see him. Everyone was surprised to see that Ranga had not changed. Once they realised that Ranga was unchanged, the crowd of people slowly disappeared. Only the narrator continued to stand there. Ranga had a smile on his face. He still followed the rituals of his caste by respectfully touching the narrator's feet.

The Narrator Decides to Get Ranga Married

The same afternoon Ranga went to the narrator's house with a couple of oranges in his hand. The narrator thought that such a fine and generous boy should get married and settle down. He enquired about his plan to get married. Ranga said that he didn't want to get married soon. He was searching for the right girl who was mature enough. Secondly, he wanted to marry a girl he admired. He was not in favour of the arranged marriages prevalent in society. Till he got a girl of his choice, he wanted to remain a bachelor.

The narrator was distressed to learn about Ranga's views on marriage but he made up his mind that very soon he would get Ranga married.

The Narrator Found a Suitable Girl for Ranga

The narrator found the most suitable girl for him. It was Rama Rao's niece Ratna, a pretty girl of eleven who had come to stay with him after her parents died. She was from a big town, so she knew how to play the veena and the harmonium. She also had a sweet voice.

The Narrator Starts Playing Match-Maker

The next morning, the narrator told Rama Rao's wife to send Ratna to his house to fetch some buttermilk. Ratna knew the narrator as he was a frequent visitor to Rama Rao's place. Ratna came to the narrator's house. When Ratna came, he requested her to sing a song. It was Friday, so she was wearing a saree.

Ranga's Disappointment

Meanwhile, Ranga came to the narrator's house and stopped at the threshold. He didn't want the singing to stop, but he was curious to see the singer. He was enchanted by her and kept glancing at her. After a while Ranga asked she was married a year ago. Ranga was extremely disappointed to hear this. The narrator noticed signs of disappointment on Ranga's face. Ranga left after sometime.

The Narrator's Plan

The next morning, the narrator met the astrologer, better known as Shastri, and tutored him about his plan in Ranga's case. In the afternoon, the narrator met Ranga, who appeared as disturbed as he was yesterday. The narrator suggested to meet Shastri and enquire about what was worrying him. Ranga did not protest and went to meet Shastri with the narrator. Shastri pretended surprise and spoke about meeting the narrator after a long time.

The narrator almost ruined his own plan by saying that he had already met Shastri that very morning but Shastri saved it by changing the sentence.

The narrator told Shastri that something was worrying poor Ranga and they had come to seek his help. After making a pretence of some calculations, Shastri said that it was about a girl. To the narrator's question as to who that girl was, Shastri said that she had the name of something found in the ocean - Kamala, Pachchi, Moss, Pearl or Ratna - the precious stone.

The Narrator's Plan Succeeds

The narrator's plan was bearing fruit. There was some surprise on Ranga's face and even some happiness. On their return, Shyama passed in front of Rama Rao's house.

Ratna was standing at the door. The narrator went inside Rama Rao's house and came back a little later. He had a surprised look on his face. He told Ranga that there was some wrong

information given to him. Ratna was not married. He also enquired of Ranga whether what Shastri had indicated was true. Shyama asked Ranga that he is thinking about Ratna. Ranga admitted that whatever Shastri said about the girl was true. Now, he wanted to get married to Ratna.

Ranga and Ratna Get Married

Finally Ranga and Ratna got married. All the idealism of Ranga was forgotten as he was totally fascinated by Ratna's beauty and sweet voice. They named their first child Shyama, as because of Shyama's (the narrator) efforts they had got married. Years later, Ranga invited the narrator for dinner on the occasion of his 3 year old son's birthday. The son was also named Shyama in honour of the narrator. Thus, Ranga was leading a happy married life with Ratna.