

DONGATAKAM

By

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Episode – 1

“Dongatakam” means thefts being done again and again in the same area day after day.

There is “dongatakam” in the town for quite some time and people are on the alert. Some people are going on alert duty in the nights by turns. Prakasam is one such.

The preparations of Prakasam for going on night watching – cigarettes, a battery lights, pan. He says patrolling is not an easy job. He says it needs great guts, presence of mind and fighting spirit. Rajyam, his wife, doubts that it is getting on one’s nerves. He should not risk his life for the sake of others. Prakasa Rao gives a long lecture about the need to fight such things unitedly. He is a he-man and must act as a he-man. Rajyam says she is afraid and she does not allow him to go out. He brushes her fears aside. There is a call from outside for the “Sherlock Holmes” of the area and Prakasa Rao is ready to go out for patrolling. But Rajyam calls him back and requests him to stay at home. She asks him to tell his friends that he has fever and cannot go tonight. Prakasam stays at home unwillingly.

Episode – 2

Having stayed at home, Rajyam wants him to tell her a story. Prakasa Rao says that his friends are disappointed. He assured them that if they send him a word on cycle he will be there at once.

Prakasam asks her to see if all the doors are bolted. They go to sleep.

After some time they hear a thundering sound in the backyard. Rajyam is afraid it may be a thief. Prakasam does not want to go out and see. Instead, he puts on a gramophone record. He explains that if it is a thief, he will know that they are awake. He wants to go out and see he sees into the dark and says there is no one. How many guts a thief must have to counter a hero like him, says Prakasa Rao.

Just then a thief enters. He shows a revolver and threatens that they should not utter a word. Rajyam is shivering.

Prakasam asks the thief to take away everything in the house and leave them. He gives away the money he has. He also gives him the silver utensils though Rajyam objects. The thief asks Prakasa Rao to write a will that he is giving away the house to him. Rajyam says no. Prakasa Rao orders her to shut up and is ready to write the Will.

But the thief says that he is sleepy and he will see to the will later. He lies down on the cot. On the advice of Rajyam, Prakasa Rao tries to tie the thief down to the cot. Meanwhile the thief wakes up, abuses Rao and gives a blow to Rajyam. Rajyam starts crying. Prakasa Rao asks her to keep quiet. If she shows her intellect, she is bound to be punished.

The will is to be written. Prakasa Rao starts writing that he is "willfully donating the house to". The thief says that the house is being given away to Kutumba Sastry, that is himself. Prakasa Rao recognizes that it is his own brother-in-law and laughs away. His wife also laughs at the boldness shown by her husband.